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The LOON

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LARID BREEDING POPULATIONS IN THE WESTERN TIP OF LAKE SUPERIOR

Thomas E. Davis
Gerald J. Niemi

In recent years the gull and tern populations in the western tip of Lake Superior have undergone some significant changes. This paper discusses these changes and some of their implications.

Introduction

Information regarding the breeding populations of gulls and terns on the Great Lakes is of interest not only because these data can serve as valuable indicators of general water quality, but also because some major and perhaps important changes have occurred in recent years. At present, three larid species (the Ring-billed Gull, the Herring Gull, and the Common Tern) regularly nest in the western portion of Lake Superior. The Black Tern does nest in the marshes of the lower St. Louis River, but is not considered here since it does not habituate Lake Superior itself. Both the Ring-billed Gull and Common Tern are of special interest — the Ring-bill due to its continued population explosion and expansion of range into the Upper Great Lakes (Ludwig, 1974; Southern et al., 1976) and the tern due to its declining populations and therefore precarious status. The latter species is now classified as endangered in the State of Wisconsin.

Prior to the present study, no comprehensive investigation of the breeding gulls and terns of the western tip of Lake Superior had been conducted. Harris and Matteson (1975) reported 1974 breeding populations in a portion of the area, and Scharf (1978)

conducted an aerial survey of the colonial birds on the U.S. Great Lakes. However, due to the large areas involved, both of these efforts were limited to one or two cursory examinations of the colonies. All other investigations regarding these populations have been sporadic and directed at single colonies rather than overall population levels within this portion of Lake Superior.

From July 1976 through June 1979 we conducted a comprehensive investigation of the birdlife of the lower St. Louis River and associated Duluth-Superior Harbor (Niemi et al., 1977, 1979; Davis et al., 1978). As part of this work, all gull and tern colonies in the area were censused. This paper reports the results of these censuses. Population trends, recent management efforts, and special problems pertaining to these birds are also discussed.

Study Area

The principal study area was the Duluth-Superior Harbor. The harbor lies at the extreme western tip of Lake Superior and includes the lower portions of the St. Louis River which adjoin the lake (Figure 1). The area is sheltered from Lake Superior by two large sand spits commonly known as Minnesota and Wisconsin Points. The waters are shallow (less than 2m deep) and slow moving, and the environment is essentially estuarine.

The physical features of the harbor have been changed appreciably by man during the past 100 years. Much of this reflects efforts to make the area

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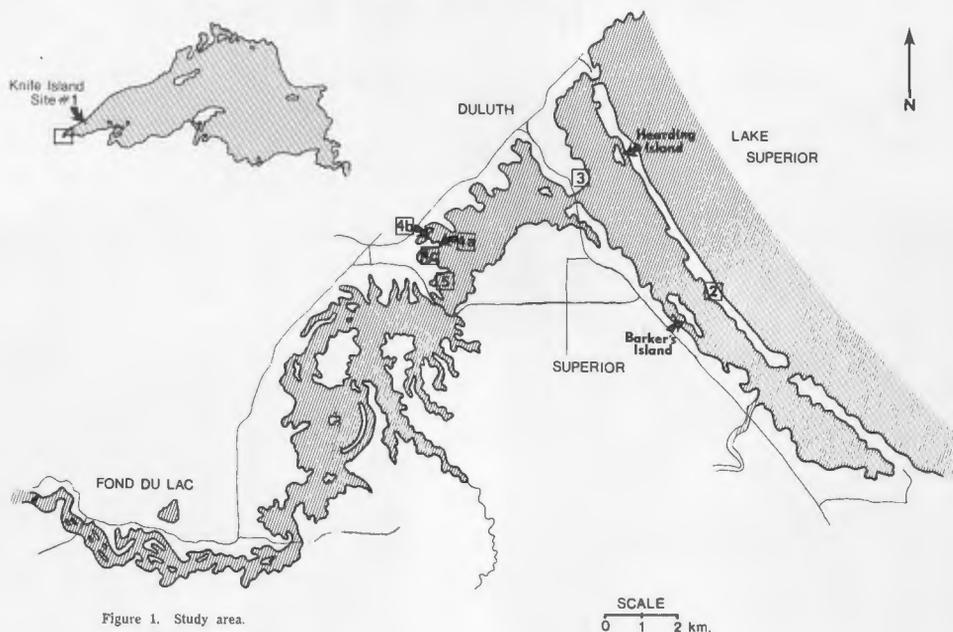


Figure 1. Study area.

more suitable for industrial uses . . . in particular shipping. The most noticeable alterations have been related to the dredging of shipping channels and construction of docking facilities. These operations have not only resulted in a considerable loss of wetlands, but also in the formation of a number of "dredge islands." Most of these islands were created in the early 1900's through deposition of dredge materials, and, while this activity has since been terminated, the harbor still features several of these landforms.

The only study site outside the immediate harbor area was Knife Island, which is located approximately 37 km northeast of Duluth. This island is an exposed rocky area lying just off the Lake Superior shoreline and near the mouth of the Knife River. It was included in the study since it has been an historic Herring Gull nesting location and the major nesting site for this species in this portion of the lake.

Methods

We estimated the gull and tern nest-

ing populations during three consecutive breeding seasons (1977 through 1979). Colonies were located by repeated searches of the entire Duluth-Superior Harbor made during the spring and early summer months of each year, with special attention being given to historic nesting areas. The breeding populations were determined by counting all nests at each colony. The counts were made via intensive ground surveys conducted during the peak of incubation. In general, each colony was searched only once, but in the case of multi-species sites, repeated counts were made in accordance with the peak incubation period of each species present. Survey data included the number of nests as well as the number of eggs and/or chicks per nest for each species. Fresh scrapes, although recorded in the survey, were deleted when calculating breeding populations and average clutch sizes. We made no attempt to quantify nesting success, but the colonies were repeatedly observed throughout the sum-

mer months and subjective evaluations of success made. We also documented the nesting phenology of each species.

Estimates of what percent of the U.S. Lake Superior population nested within the study area were made by comparing our data for 1977 with those compiled for the U.S. Great Lakes (Scharf, 1978). The data reported in the latter study are only gross estimates since the majority of the work was done through aerial surveys, but they do represent the only figures available for comparison.

Results

A total of seven colonies and/or sub-colonies were located and censused (Figure 1). The nesting population and mean clutch size for each species at each site are presented in Table 1, and the total number of breeding birds and cumulative mean clutch size of each species in the study area are given in Table 2. The nesting phenology of the three species studied is summarized in Figure 2.

Herring Gull

The arrival and departure of Her-

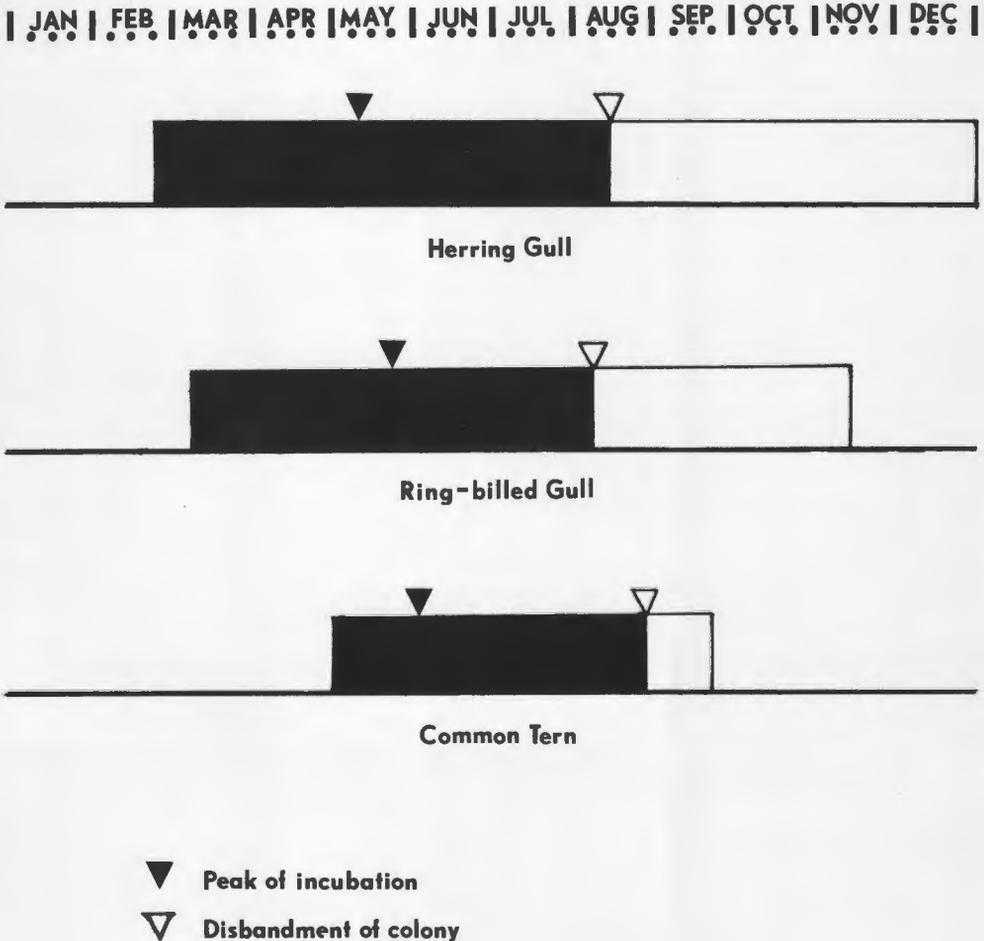


Figure 2. Approximate arrival and departure dates of species studied.

ring Gulls in the study area was primarily related to the thawing and freezing of the harbor and adjacent portions of Lake Superior and varied by as much as three weeks from year to year. Typically, the first adults arrived at their nesting sites in late February and by early April most breeding birds had returned (Figure 2). Incubation activity peaked during mid-May and hatching occurred in late May or early June. The offspring remained near the colonies until mid-August, but by September the colonies disbanded. Herring Gulls remained in the area until freezeup (late December to early January).

The total nesting population of Herring Gulls was about 1200 each year (Table 2) and represented approximately 9% of the reported Herring Gull population of U.S. Lake Superior in 1977. Nearly all these birds nested at Knife Island (Table 1). The few pairs found in the Duluth-Superior Harbor nested on the edges of Ring-billed Gull colonies.

The average clutch size (2.83) was comparable to that reported for the Granite Island colony in northern Lake Superior in 1975 and 1976 (Ryder and Carroll, 1978), but was significantly higher (p less than .05) than those presented by Gilman et al. (1977) for colonies on Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario in 1975.

Herring Gulls have nested at Knife Island for many years. The colony was first reported in 1941 (Jones, 1942) and it is likely that the gulls have nested continuously at this site since that time. The island was censused periodically during the 1940's and early 1950's (Hofslund, 1952), but no information is available regarding 1953 through 1977. The number of breeding birds on the island has varied considerably from year to year, although our recent figures have remained relatively constant (Table 2). The breeding population during the present study was nearly 100% larger than the previous high reported in 1950 (Hofslund, 1952).

This species has a short nesting history in the Duluth-Superior Harbor. The first record was reported in 1973 (Green, Pers. Comm.) when a single nest was found in conjunction with the first multiple nesting of Ring-billed Gulls in the area. Herring Gulls have continued to nest in the harbor since that time, but only in small numbers, and always in association with Ring-billed Gulls.

Ring-billed Gull

The breeding chronology of the Ring-billed Gull was similar to but slightly later than that of the Herring Gull. Adults began arriving in the harbor during late March. At the present colony (site #4a), incubation peaked in late May and hatching occurred during early June. This colony remained intact until early August. Disbandment took place over a two to three-day period. The chronology at the more recent Ring-bill colony at the Port Terminal (site #3) was one to two weeks later.

The first record of Ring-billed Gulls nesting in the harbor was reported by Cohen (1958). This single nest was found on Barker's Island (Figure 1) within a Common Tern colony. No further breeding attempts were observed until 1973 when about 30 nests were found at an industrial site along the Minnesota shoreline of the harbor (Janssen, 1974). These nests were later abandoned and therefore no successful nesting occurred. There was a large influx of birds in 1974 when approximately 1000 individuals nested on a small spit of land extending from the Minnesota Power and Light Hibbard Power Plant (site #4a) (Harris and Matteson, 1975). This power plant was converted from coal to oil power in 1973. Prior to that time, the spit had served as a coal handling area and the gulls apparently invaded in large numbers once this operation was ended. A single Ring-bill nest was also reported at the Port Terminal in 1974 (Janssen, 1974). Although Ring-bills continued to nest in the harbor after 1974, no further quantitative informa-

Table 1. Breeding populations and average clutch sizes for Common Tern, Ring-billed Gull, and Herring Gull at seven colony sites in western tip of Lake Superior, 1977-1979.

Site No.	Location	Species	Breeding Adults			*Average Clutch Size \pm s.d.		
			1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
1	Knife Island	Herring Gull	—	1130	1154	—	2.84 \pm .44	—
2	Sky Harbor Airport	Common Tern	16	14	18	3.17	2.43	2.81
3	Port Terminal	Common Tern	370	296	356	2.84 \pm .49	2.76 \pm .53	2.62 \pm .71
		Ring-billed Gull	468	1946	2954	2.44 \pm .40	2.64 \pm .65	2.57 \pm .67
		Herring Gull	10	12	0	2.20	3.67	—
4a	MP&L Hibbard Plant	Ring-billed Gull	1146	2454	2546	—	2.84 \pm .54	2.73 \pm .58
		Herring Gull	6	12	14	—	3.00	2.43
4b	No. Hibbard Plant	Common Tern	8	6	10	4.00	—	—
4c	"Islands" near Hibbard Plant	Ring-billed Gull	360	722	354	—	2.82 \pm .60	2.32 \pm .53
		Herring Gull	8	22	16	—	3.00	2.25
5	Grassy Point Islands	Common Tern	22	40	36	3.09	2.55	2.72
		Ring-billed Gull	112	152	156	—	2.23	2.28

* s.d. computed only for major colonies.

Table 2. Total breeding populations and clutch sizes of the Common Tern, Ring-billed Gull, and Herring Gull in the western tip of Lake Superior, 1977-79.

Species	Breeding Adults			Mean Clutch Size \pm s.d.		
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
Common Tern	416	356	420	2.85 \pm .53	2.74 \pm .55	2.63 \pm .69
Ring-billed Gull	2086	5324	6010	—	2.74 \pm .61	2.64 \pm .65
Herring Gull	—	1176	1184	—	2.83 \pm .44	—

tion was obtained until initiation of our study.

During our investigation Ring-bills nested in three areas: 1) the parent colony at the M. P. & L. plant (including the nearby pilings), 2) two small islands near Grassy Point (site #5), and 3) the Port Terminal (site #3). With the exception of 1979, the major-

ity of these birds nested at the parent colony (Table 1).

The Ring-billed Gull population in the harbor underwent a significant increase during the investigation (Table 2). In 1977 the estimated number of breeding adults was 2086. This was an increase of more than 100% over the published figures for 1974 (Harris

and Matteson, 1975). Similar growth (+155%) was observed in 1978. These large increases were reflected in a higher nesting density at the parent colony, overflow onto the pilings adjacent to this site, and initiation of a new colony at the Port Terminal. In 1977 many sub-adults had been observed participating in mating display at the latter site, although no actual nesting occurred. In 1979, the growth of the harbor's breeding population slowed considerably (+13% from 1978), but there were some changes in distribution. While the parent colony showed only a slight increase in nests (+4%), the population on the nearby pilings dropped considerably (-54%) and the Port Terminal site showed another large increase (+52%) (Table 1). The latter colony also covered a much larger area in 1979 than in previous years, and included sites formerly used by Common Terns. In that year the Ring-bill population at the Port Terminal became the largest in the harbor also. The parent colony continued to be almost exclusively adult birds, while the younger Port Terminal site included a large number of sub-adults. A number of non-breeding sub-adults were observed at both colonies also.

The Ring-bill population in the harbor represented approximately 35% of the reported breeding population of U.S. Lake Superior during 1977 and ranked second only to that of Round Island, the first Lake Superior Ring-bill colony recorded during the recent invasion (Ludwig, 1974). Since complete data for the lake are lacking for more recent years, it is not known whether the increase in the harbor represented a larger portion of the total Lake Superior population, or if the entire population grew during this time. However, the number of breeding Ring-bills in the harbor during 1979 exceeded the total Lake Superior population reported for 1977.

Average clutch sizes ranged from 2.6 to near 2.8 in the major colonies during all three years (Table 1). How-

ever, in 1979 there was a considerable drop (p less than .05) in average clutch size on the piling islands near the parent colony. This accompanied the significant decrease in breeding population at this site already noted. There also was noticeably higher mortality at this site than in previous years (i.e., a number of "bad" eggs and dead chicks were found). We do not know the cause of these events, but suspect some type of disturbance occurred.

Common Tern

Of the three species studied, the Common Tern was the last to arrive in the spring and was present in the study area for the shortest time span (Figure 2). Adults began arriving in the harbor during late April — more than a month later than the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Incubation peaked in early June and hatching occurred during the first half of June. The tern colonies remained intact until late August, but the majority of the birds left the area during early September.

The nesting history of this species in the area is one characterized by one main colony which has periodically moved from site to site within the harbor. With few exceptions, these sites have involved dredge deposition landforms — usually islands. The birds typically have used a given location until encroaching vegetation has made it unsuitable for nesting.

The first known nesting of this species occurred in 1939 when a single pair was observed near the airstrip on Minnesota Point (Engstrom, 1940). The terns have continued to use this site (site #2) although the numbers have fluctuated. During much of the 1960's this location was probably the major tern nesting site in the harbor, (Harris and Matteson, 1975) but encroaching vegetation has now reduced the suitability and therefore the population at this location considerably.

With the above exception, the Common Tern has primarily used dredge deposition sites for nesting since 1939.

During the 1940's and early 1950's, the major colony was located on a dredge island (Hearding Island). By the mid-1950's invading willows and aspen apparently caused the birds to relocate on another dredge island (Barker's Island) (Finseth, 1957). Little is known about their nesting status during the late '50's and early '60's, but by 1966 the terns had begun using yet another dredge site — the Port Terminal area (site #3). The Port Terminal has served as the major Common Tern nesting site in the harbor since the early 1970's.

Common Terns nested at several locations within the harbor during the present investigation (Figure 1). The largest colony was located at the Port Terminal. This area held from 450 to 600 breeding birds (Table 1) and represented the largest known Common Tern colony on Lake Superior. This species was found at three other sites — the historic nesting area near Sky Harbor on Minnesota Point (site #2), on two small islands near Grassy Point (site #5), and near the major Ring-billed Gull colony (site #4b). These latter locations accounted for less than 20% of the harbor breeding population (Table 1).

The Common Tern population in the harbor was noteworthy in two respects. Firstly, it appeared to be consistently larger than in previous years, although this may only reflect the incompleteness of earlier censuses. Secondly, the 1977 population in the harbor represented 63% of the known U.S. Lake Superior population. Since we are aware of no major Common Tern colonies in the Canadian portions of Lake Superior, it appears that the fate of this single colony is quite important to this species' status on all of Lake Superior.

Although the population at the Port Terminal remained relatively constant during our investigation, some of the terns used what we considered sub-optimum habitat (heavily vegetated) as a result of the displacement by the Ring-bills already mentioned. This

may have affected nesting success, particularly in 1979, although we have no data to support or refute this hypothesis.

Discussion

The tremendous increase observed in the Ring-billed Gull population within the study area was similar to that which has occurred at other sites on the Great Lakes since the 1930's. This phenomenon has been reviewed in a number of papers (Ludwig, 1974; Southern et al., 1976). Several factors have been implicated as underlying agents in this invasion, but the two most often mentioned are: 1) Ring-bill utilization of the exploding alewife population of the Great Lakes, and 2) Ring-bill use of island sites periodically exposed as a result of fluctuating lake levels. The first major Ring-bill colony reported on Lake Superior during this invasion was recorded in 1967 on Round Island which lies in extreme eastern Lake Superior (Ludwig, 1974). The present findings seem to represent the predictable expansion of this species' range to the head of the Great Lakes system.

While the above may account for the overall growth in the Ring-billed Gull population of the Great Lakes, additional factors such as immigration and reproductive success appear to be important in determining when and where increases occur on a local basis. It is not clear what role these factors have played in the population explosion in the Duluth-Superior Harbor. Ludwig (1974) presented data showing that large numbers of breeding age Ring-bills can and do move from colony to colony, and that inundation of colonies due to rising lake levels can be a major factor in initiation of this behavior. During the mid-1970's Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior rose to record levels (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1977). This may account for the initial influx of Ring-bills into the Duluth-Superior Harbor as well as subsequent increases in their population, although water levels dropped by 1977 (Scharf, 1978). The harbor col-

onial sites are man-made areas which are relatively immune to fluctuating water levels.

An alternative and/or contributing explanation for the increase in Ring-bills regards reproductive success. Ludwig (1974) estimated that stable colonies require a fledging success of about 0.52 birds/pair. This was corroborated by the findings of Emlen (1956) in which a fledging rate of 0.67 was documented for such a colony. Fledging rates as high as 1.74/pair, corresponding to colony growth of 30%/year, have been recorded for Ring-bills (Ludwig, 1967). Thus high reproductive success could account for a portion of the increases seen during the present investigation. The large number of sub-adults breeding at the newer Port Terminal colony also seems to support this hypothesis since Ring-bills do have a strong tendency to return to their natal colony or nearby areas for their first breeding (Ludwig, 1967). However, recruitment cannot account for all of the increases observed. Using Ludwig's revised life tables and his figures for mortality (Ludwig, 1966), a fledging rate of at least 2.60 would have been required to account for the growth from 1974 to 1977, and a fledging rate of **6.77** would have been necessary for the growth rate between 1977 and 1978 (if no immigration occurred). These figures clearly are not attainable and either Ludwig's survivorship data do not apply to this population or a large number of birds continued to immigrate into the area after 1974. The more moderate growth recorded in 1979 could have been due to reproductive success only (required fledging rate = 1.04) and thus may signal the end of immigration into the harbor. In order to properly interpret these data, information on actual fledging rates and inter-colony movements is needed.

The more immediate concern with the Ring-bill explosion in the harbor regards the impact it may have on other species — especially the Com-

mon Tern. Since the Ring-bills arrive much earlier in the spring than do the terns, they have first choice of nesting sites. Although the preferred nesting substrates of the two species are slightly different (Scharf, 1978), the gulls, should their population continue to grow, may displace the terns. Similar occurrences have been documented in the past (Crowell and Crowell, 1946; Nisbet, 1972; Ludwig, 1976). While the tern population in the harbor showed no serious declines during our study, the fact that the Ring-bills have already displaced them from some areas within the Port Terminal site indicates that they may have an adverse effect in the near future. Since the Common Tern is considered an endangered species in the State of Wisconsin, this situation should be monitored. A gull control program may be necessary to ensure the continued success of the Common Tern in the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

The Piping Plover, another species considered endangered in the State of Wisconsin, may also be affected by the Ring-bills. This species has nested in the Duluth-Superior Harbor for a number of years, and has bred almost exclusively in association with the Common Tern (Niemi and Davis, 1979). It appears that the plover may depend upon the tern in some way for nesting success. Therefore, this species may be adversely affected if the Common Tern population declines.

Compounding the above problem is the fact that the major tern and plover nesting site, the Port Terminal, is a designated industrial area and is subject to much disturbance including egg-collecting by sailors from docked ships. In response to this situation, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources have undertaken habitat alterations programs intended to provide alternate nesting habitat for these species. These programs involve clearing portions of two dredge islands which are historic nesting sites. It is hoped that the birds will eventually re-locate at these island

sites. Should this be successful, other dredge islands are under consideration for similar efforts. The Ring-bill problem may again have to be confronted since the gulls may attempt to colonize these areas also.

Summary

We studied the breeding populations of gulls and terns in the western tip of Lake Superior during three consecutive breeding seasons (1977 through 1979). During the first two years the Ring-billed Gull population grew at a tremendous rate (greater than 100%/year), indicating large-scale immigration was occurring. However, in 1979 this growth slowed considerably, perhaps marking the end of immigration of this species into the area. The Common Tern population in the Duluth-Superior Harbor represented 63% of the entire recorded Lake Superior breeding population. Although the number of breeding terns was relatively constant during the investigation, their status was considered tenuous since Ring-bills invaded their primary nesting site and appeared to be displacing some of the terns from preferred substrates. The terns were also subjected to much human disturbance and the main colony, being a designated industrial development area, appears unsuitable for long-term use. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop alternate nesting habitat for this species. Competition for nesting space between the Common Tern and the Ring-billed Gull should be further examined. The Herring Gull population was primarily restricted to one major colony located at Knife Island. The size of this colony remained near 500 breeding pairs throughout the study.

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**Adult female (left) and male (right) Herring Gull — Knife River, Lake Co., April 23, 1971
(photo by M. M. Carr)**

Note: bill and head size and shape differences in this mated pair.



First winter Herring Gull — Duluth, November 1, 1965 (photo by J. C. Green)

Note: light base of bill — lighter in this individual than in most first year immatures.



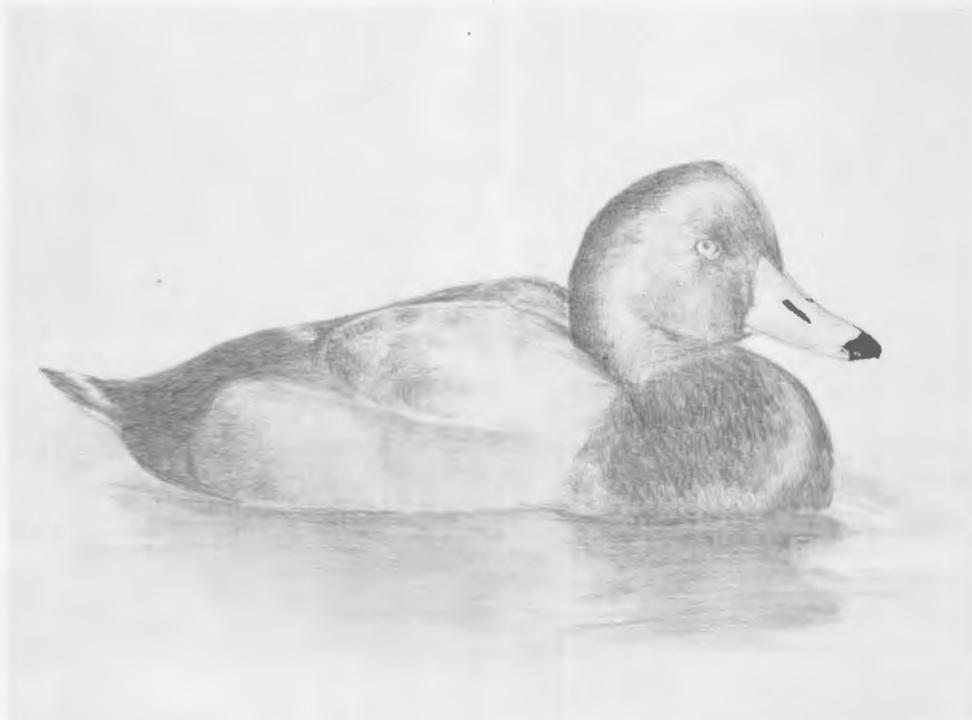
Adult Ring-billed Gull — Duluth, September 20, 1979 (photo by J. C. Green)
Note: beginning of winter-plumaged streaking on head and frayed primaries.



First winter Ring-billed Gull — Duluth, September 20, 1979 (photo by J. C. Green)
Note: similarity in pattern to immature Herring Gull but smaller head and bill.

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Department of Biology, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Duluth, MN 55812.



HERRING GULL NEST COUNTS ON THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR

Don Goodermote

As a result of the federal land inventory conducted in the early 1970's, several islands in Lake Superior were found to be federally owned and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Although the initial land inventory was conducted in March, the presence of large numbers of Herring Gulls indicated some of the islands had potential as high quality nesting sites and further investigation was needed.

Efforts to conduct an inventory of Herring Gull nesting sites under the Coastal Zone Management Program did not materialize but in 1976 the BLM programmed for and received funding to do this work the following year.

The objective was to visit each BLM island, and as many others as time permitted, counting the number of nesting Herring Gulls. These counts would then be used to identify the major rookeries. Physical data was collected on each island in an attempt to identify the characteristics most sought after by nesting Herring Gulls.

Following a mid-May start, inclement weather forced us to suspend activity for a period of time during the 1977 nesting season. When the inventory resumed, hatching was at its peak and because of the continued cold, damp, and windy weather, it was felt our presence in the rookeries would have a drastic effect on chick survival. An attempt was made to estimate the number of nesting birds from shore or from the boat, however, this proved very unreliable. Except for 18 islands, which we feel yielded reliable counts, the 1977 data has not been used. An

analysis of the 1977 data identified several large rookeries which were not administered by BLM and it was decided to include all nesting sites between Pigeon Point and Knife River in the next year's inventory.

Of the 84 sites inventoried, 37 appear to be major rookeries and account for 97% of the Herring Gull nesting found in Lake Superior between Pigeon Point and the Knife River. These 84 sites can be further broken down to 11 distinct island groups. Table #1 shows the inventory results for 1978 and 1979 within each island group and the percentage of nests found within each group.

During the 1977 inventory, less than 50 immature gulls were seen around the islands and along shore. This number increased slightly during the 1978 inventory but remained below 100 immature birds. The 1979 season showed a great increase in the number of both one and two year old birds which congregated in large groups along the shore and at the mouth of rivers. (Estimated between 1000 and 2000 birds).

No attempt was made to determine nesting success of North Shore birds and, therefore, it is impossible to determine whether the increase in immatures was a result of North Shore nesting success. They may be an overflow from other colonies outside the North Shore system.

A closer look at the physical data collected allows us to make some inferences about the ideal Herring Gull nesting site:

- When available, Herring Gulls will select islands over mainland sites.

Table 1. Total Number of Nests Within Major Groups

Group	Two Year Average	Nests 1978	Nests 1979	Plus or Minus	Plus or Minus Percent	Percent of Total Sample
Susie Island	1037	1029	1045	+ 16	+ 2%	16
Blueberry Island	590	553	629	+ 76	+14%	10
Marr Island	337	329	344	+ 15	+ 5%	5
Grand Marais	174	160	188	+ 28	+18%	3
Lutsen	63	61	65	+ 4	+ 7%	1
Taconite Harbor	1332	1318	1346	+ 28	+ 2%	21
Illgen City	59	64	53	- 11	-17%	1
Silver Bay	1377	1408	1360	- 48	- 3%	21
Split Rock	263	239	286	+ 47	+20%	4
Encampment Island	525	457	592	+135	+30%	9
Knife Island	577	569	584	+ 15	+ 3%	9
TOTALS	6334	6187	6492	+305	+ 5%	100

Table 2. Three Year Nest Counts on Eighteen Islands

Group Island No.	Number of Nests			1977-1978 Difference		1978-1979 Difference	
	1977	1978	1979	No.	%	No.	%
Susie No. 5	12	24	24	12	100	0	0
No. 9	20	42	45	22	110	3	7
No. 10	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
No. 12	37	35	31	-2	-5	-4	-11
No. 13	13	21	18	8	62	-3	-14
No. 14	70	103	114	33	47	11	11
No. 16	61	54	60	-7	-12	6	11
No. 18	1	4	3	3	300	-1	-25
SUB TOTALS	215	284	296	69	32	12	4
Blueberry No. 23	38	41	44	3	8	3	7
No. 24	76	89	84	13	17	-5	-6
No. 25	174	188	216	14	8	28	15
SUB TOTALS	288	318	344	30	10	26	8
Marr No. 28	35	36	38	1	3	2	6
No. 29	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
No. 30	14	13	8	-1	-7	-5	-39
(early in 79)							
No. 31	264	278	295	14	5	17	6
No. 34	2	1	1	-1	-50	0	0
SUB TOTALS	316	329	343	13	4	14	4
Grand Marais No. 36	69	78	80	9	13	2	3
No. 37	27	40	49	13	48	9	23
SUB TOTALS	96	118	129	22	23	11	9
GRAND TOTAL	915	1049	1112	134	15	63	6



Marr Island, Lake Superior, Cook County, 1978 - 278 Herring Gull nests.
Photo by Don Goodermote

• If mainland sites are used, they must be predator free — found in cliffs or at the base of cliffs.

• The channel between the island and shore must have adequate depth and width to discourage predators.

• Be free of trees and brush (gulls will use vegetated islands, but will nest most often in the non-vegetated areas). Within the very large, well established colonies, birds do spread out and nest under trees, however, the open areas appear to be the most desirable locations. Good examples of this are: Knife Island, Gull Island at Silver Bay and Blueberry Island.

• The site should be over ten (10) feet high. Nests were found to the waters edge in some of the large colonies, however, the greater percentage of nests were seven feet or more above the water.

• The site should be free from human harassment during the breeding season; April - August.

• The site should have some rough surface to eliminate wind and to isolate birds.

The availability of nest building material close by does not seem to be a factor as birds were observed carrying material long distances. Where mate-

rial was in short supply, the nests tended to be skimpy, and this may have had an effect on hatching success and survival of young birds.

Gulls on the North Shore chose nesting sites which had the above physical characteristics, except in a very few cases. The one thing that appeared to cause them to deviate from normal selection and accept substandard islands, was the presence of large amounts of food very close to the nest site. The availability of food may well be the limiting factors for North Shore birds.

During the inventory period, the gull population was on the increase and the number of nesting birds may represent a peak population situation. The inventory on 18 islands in the four northern groups which were counted all three years, shows an increase of 15% between 1977 and 1978. This increase slowed to 6% during 1979.

In an attempt to monitor population fluctuations, twelve islands in eight island groups will be checked annually. These twelve islands represent 29% of the nesting formed in the inventory.

Bureau of Land Management, Federal Building, Duluth, MN 55801.

NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM

1979 Summary

Carrol L. Henderson

The Department of Natural Resources' nongame wildlife program for 1979 was characterized by a wide variety of both new and ongoing activities that hopefully benefitted many nongame species.

Funding for this program, now three years old, is derived from hunting, trapping, and fishing license revenues through the state game and fish fund. During the past three years, sportsmen have contributed at least \$70,000 for non-game work directly. Another \$10,580 was provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for a Bald Eagle study and \$1250 has been donated by sportsmen's clubs and bird clubs. The Evansville Sportsmen's Club donated \$50 for the Trumpeter Swan project, the Willmar Sportsmen's Club donated \$600 for the otter restoration project in southwest Minnesota, and the St. Paul Audubon Society donated \$600 for the otter project.

Staff assistance has been provided by Diane Vosick, Betty Kennedy, and Julie Reitter through the Young Adult Conservation Corps Program. Steve Hennes, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, is employed on contract to carry out the Bald Eagle study. Lisa Hall from Colorado Mountain College in Colorado worked on the eagle project as an intern, and Mary Miller is now working in the nongame program as an intern from Metropolitan State University. Anita Manders, an intern with the Minnesota Heritage Program, has also assisted with data analysis.

Nongame species include 490 vertebrates which are not traditionally

hunted or harvested in Minnesota. The nongame program is designed to carry out data collection and analysis on these species, to assign priorities to species which require intensified data collection and research, to plan and implement conservation program for priority species, and to provide nongame data and literature to individuals and agencies which need such information.

Priority Species

The state has been divided into ten nongame regions and a list of priority species has been compiled for each region. These lists were developed in consultation with authorities throughout Minnesota. These regional lists are available from the nongame supervisor.

DATA COLLECTION

Sandhill Crane Survey

Thirty-seven volunteers submitted 97 Sandhill Crane cards and reported seeing a total of 4908 cranes in 1979. Sightings documented the presence of at least 60 pairs with 30 young. Land clearing in northwest Minnesota continues to pose the greatest threat to the habitat required for this species. A separate report on this survey will be prepared in early 1980.

Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site Inventory

Nesting locations for 16 species of colonial waterbirds were checked by volunteers throughout the state. All volunteers were provided with standard forms for reporting heronry data. Over 220 nesting sites are now included in this inventory. New heronries

located in 1979 included the Howard Lake heronry in Anoka. This colony includes about 400 nests of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons. A new Double-crested Cormorant colony was found on south Heron Lake in Jackson County, and new colonies of Forster's Terns and Black-crowned Night Herons were found on the Coon Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lyon County. Copies of this inventory will be available in early 1980.

Uncommon Wildlife Reports

There were 170 volunteers who contributed 569 reports of uncommon wildlife in 1979. Many of these reports represent new county records for species whose ranges need better documentation. Other records give the details for occurrences of rare species like the Great Gray Owl, Merlin, Bobwhite, Burrowing Owl, blue racer, and mule deer. This data is compiled by county and species to facilitate data retrieval. The information accumulated by this volunteer program has made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of nongame wildlife in Minnesota. It is also an indication of the broad public support being provided to the nongame program.

Common Loon Survey

A new effort began in 1979 with a volunteer survey of Common Loons. By the end of the year 255 observations had reported 857 loons. This is undoubtedly just a small portion of the total number of loons breeding in the state. Of the total number of loons observed, at least 240 pairs were seen with 215 young, and the remainder were apparently nonbreeders. This effort will be intensified in 1980. A summary of the loon records will be available in 1980.

Breeding Bird Survey

The United States Department of Interior annually sponsors a nationwide June breeding bird survey that includes 52 random 25-mile routes in Minnesota. In 1978 and 1979, Robert Janssen of the Minnesota Ornitholo-

gists Union coordinated the survey and 47 routes were run each year. The nongame supervisor helped find volunteers for the routes and has compiled the resulting data for about 170 nongame bird species. The results will be published in 1980 in a report entitled "Minnesota Birds: A Quantitative Assessment of Distribution, Relative Abundance, and Diversity, 1975-1979."

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Bald Eagle Research on Lead Poisoning

Bald Eagle research on the potential for lead poisoning at the Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Refuge continued in 1979. In 1978, four Bald Eagles were captured. X-rays and blood samples were taken. In 1979, nine more Bald Eagles were captured. About 450 dead Canada Geese and 100 dead Mallards have also been picked up for lead analysis. Some of the waterfowl being eaten by eagles at Lac Qui Parle contain toxic lead shot and this in turn can create lead poisoning in the eagles. Steve Hennes, a University of Minnesota graduate student, is doing the research under the supervision of Dr. Dan Frenzel. The project is also being coordinated with Drs. Gary Duke and Pat Redig of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Minnesota.

As a result of this study, the MDNR has announced that steel shot will be required for waterfowl hunting in the Lac Qui Parle goose zone in 1980.

Bald Eagle Restoration in New York

Through coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, four 8 to 9-week-old eaglets were provided to New York for rearing and subsequent release. That state is down to one nesting pair, and this project is part of a restoration effort for Bald Eagles in the northeastern United States.

Hearding Island WMA

Hearding Island has now been designated as a Wildlife Management Area.

It is the first to be designated primarily for nongame purposes. Last summer the island was posted and vegetation was cleared on the area selected as a potential colony site for Common Terns and Piping Plovers. The project is being carried out by Area Wildlife Manager (AWM) LeRoy Angell.

Prairie Chicken Restoration at Lac Qui Parle WMA

On September 27, 1979, 29 Greater Prairie Chickens were released to augment the release of 34 chickens in 1977. On January 6, 1979, two prairie chickens were seen on the Chippewa Prairie near the 1977 release area. Repeated sightings of up to four birds, including booming cocks, were seen on the Chippewa Prairie during the spring of 1979. Prescribed burning on the Chippewa Prairie last year resulted in one of the most impressive responses by prairie wildflowers and grasses that has been seen in recent years.

Trumpeter Swan Restoration

On August 30 1979, a meeting and field trip were held at Fergus Falls to discuss the restoration plan for Trumpeter Swans in western Minnesota. Officials from the MDNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trumpeter Swan Society, Fergus Falls Izaak Walton League, West Central Bird Club, and Hennepin County Park System were present. The Evansville Sportsmen's Club had donated \$50 for this project and this money was used to help cover meeting expenses.

Several wetland areas were visited and evaluated as potential swan rearing sites. Strategy was discussed for proceeding with the plan. Nongame funding will be necessary for implementation.

River Otter Restoration on the Minnesota River

The river otter once occurred on the Minnesota River in southwest Minnesota, but it disappeared from there about 100 years ago. A proposal has been implemented to transplant up

to 12 river otters from northern Minnesota to the upper Minnesota River Valley from Odessa to Watson. The Willmar Sportsmen's Club donated \$600 which was used to purchase 6 Hancock live traps and the St. Paul Audubon Society donated \$600 to pay a trapper to capture otters. Trapping attempts in the fall of 1979 were unsuccessful, so another attempt will be made in the spring of 1980.

Marshall Lagoons

Current opportunities for acquisition of the Marshall lagoons are not good. The City of Marshall did finally decide it would be alright to sell one lagoon for a Wildlife Management Area, but now there are insufficient funds for acquisition. It appears that other means will be necessary to preserve and manage this area.

Pig's Eye Heronry

The Pig's Eye heronry in St. Paul is the largest heronry in the metropolitan area and also one of the most threatened in the state. Current plans by the St. Paul Port Authority call for construction of a barge fleeting area near the heronry. Reports and testimony from the nongame program have been provided during the past year to the Pig's Eye Coalition and the Metropolitan Council to help preserve this heronry. Although the barge fleeting proposal exists, Pig's Eye Lake and the heronry itself are now proposed for preservation as a park, and the heronry is proposed as a state Scientific and Natural Area.

Cliff Swallow Nest Structure Experiment

When two old buildings were recently removed from MDNR land near Grand Rapids, a special pole shelter was constructed to provide an alternative nesting structure for a large colony of Cliff Swallows which had nested on the sides of the buildings. The structure will be evaluated for use in 1980. Jay Janacek, Regional Wildlife Manager planned and carried out the project with Bob Chesness, Area Wildlife Manager.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Field investigations on nongame wildlife resources were carried out to collect data on several important areas. Sites visited were the Long Lake heronry in Hubbard County, Howard Lake heronry in Anoka County, Coon Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lyon County, Shaokatan Wildlife Management Area in Lincoln County, Talcot Lake Wildlife Refuge in Cottonwood County, and Heron Lake in Jackson County. Bob Janssen accompanied the nongame supervisor on the visits to Talcot Lake and Heron Lake.

Assistants in the nongame program also checked Pelican Lake in Wright County, Lake Jefferson in LeSueur County, Shields Lake in Rice County, and Swan Lake in Nicollet County with the respective area wildlife managers.

PUBLICATIONS AND AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Four papers were written and presented in 1979. "Nongame Bird Conservation Programs in Minnesota" was presented at the workshop on Management of North Central and Northeastern Forests for Nongame Birds in St. Paul. "Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) Distribution, Management, and Harvest Analysis in Minnesota, 1977-79," was presented at the Bobcat Research Conference at Front Royal, Virginia. A paper on "Colonial Nesting Birds of Minnesota" was given at the 1979 spring meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences. A presentation on wetland birds was also given at the Avian Ecology and Habitat Management Symposium at Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Minnesota Volunteer articles included "Last Call for Cranes" (June-July), and Old Baldy (Sept.,-Oct.). New DNR Reports on nongame were "Look at Shorebirds," "Minnesota's Prairie Wildlife," "The Lynx Link," "Prairie Plants of Lac Qui Parle and Vicinity," and "Birdhouses in Minnesota."

Twenty-six other pamphlets were issued by the nongame program last year, including "The Occurrence, Distribution, Legal Status, and Utilization of Reptiles and Amphibians in Minne-

sota-1979," and "The Taxonomy, Distribution, Legal Status, and Utilization of Nongame Mammals in Minnesota-1979." A complete list of these publications and an order form is available from the nongame supervisor.

A new edition of "The Uncommon Ones" was written in 1979 and will be available early in 1980. It covers the status of threatened and endangered wildlife in the state and discusses the status of other priority species.

A new 80-slide presentation has been prepared which explains the nongame program. This one hour program will be presented to groups on request.

A television program on building houses for birds was filmed for the North Star Report on KSTP-TV.

SALVAGE OF SCIENTIFIC SPECIMENS

Dozens of specimens of protected wildlife species were turned in to the nongame wildlife office in 1979. Crippled birds, including hawks, owls, eagles, pelicans, and swans, were given to the bird rehabilitation clinic at the University of Minnesota. Salvageable dead specimens were donated to the Science Museum of St. Paul, the Bell Museum of Natural History, Mankato State University, Bemidji State University, and other institutions. Among the most important donations were Minnesota's first specimen of a Ross' Goose, a Boreal Owl, a Burrowing Owl, and several pine martens.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

In December, 1979, a cooperative agreement was signed with the USFWS which will provide for funding of recovery activities for the threatened Bald Eagle and gray wolf and the endangered Peregrine Falcon.

WILD GINSENG

Wild ginseng is a wild herb of Minnesota's hardwood forest region. The roots are reputed to have medicinal values and are mainly exported to the Orient. Recent prices are up to \$150 per pound of dried root. The federal government informed the

State of Minnesota in 1978 that a regulated harvest season would need to be established by 1979 if future exports of wild ginseng from Minnesota could be approved by the Endangered Species Scientific Authority. The State also needed to show that the season would not be detrimental to the species' survival. Prior to 1978 from 2000 to 2200 pounds of roots were dug annually in Minnesota.

The nongame office provided coordination for drafting the necessary legislation and gave testimony in the legislature. The bill passed, and a public hearing was held in Rochester on July 17. Commissioner's Order 2030 was then drafted, and Minnesota's first ginseng season began on August 15. The wild ginseng management program will be coordinated by the nongame office.

NONGAME LEGISLATION

As of January, 1980, the federal nongame bill has passed in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3292) and is pending in the Senate (S. 2181). The Senate bill is preferred and would provide \$24 million for three years of

nongame planning. It would allow some projects to be implemented immediately. The bill would be funded by an 11 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on bird seed, bird feeders, bird houses, and bird baths. The Carter administration is reported to favor passage of the nongame bill.

Strong public support will be necessary to help achieve passage in the Senate before this Congressional Session adjourns.

Without passage of this legislation, Minnesota's nongame program cannot achieve its full potential.

SUMMARY

The nongame program represents cumulative interest and effort of hundreds of volunteers across the state. Grateful appreciation is extended to those volunteers who have contributed sightings, to the organizations which have donated money, and to Minnesota sportsmen who have financed this program through the game and fish fund.

**Department of Natural Resources,
Centennial Office Bldg., St. Paul,
MN 55155.**



THE BIRDS OF OLMSTED COUNTY

Joan Fowler

The County

Olmsted County is in the southeastern corner of Minnesota separated from the Mississippi River by Goodhue, Wabasha and Winona Counties; from the Iowa border by Mower and Fillmore; and bounded on the west by Dodge County.

The county covers an area of 656 square miles and is basically a landscape of rolling plains and hills dissected by numerous streams and rivers. The highest elevation, about 1360 feet, is in the southwestern part of the county, in Rock Dell Township; the lowest elevation, 850 feet, is on the eastern edge of Quincy Township where the Whitewater River leaves the county.

Geologically this landscape is largely the result of glaciation during the Pleistocene Epoch. As the last glacier melted, a layer of unsorted debris and soil was spread over the flattened uplands, and an enormous amount of glacial meltwater poured into the streams and rivers. Force generated by the large drop in elevation between the headwaters and the outlet into the Mississippi, enabled the water to carry off most of the glacial debris and cut deep rugged valleys through the underlying bedrock. Some of the steep bluffs this produced can be seen at Fugle's Mill on the Root River and around the dam at Lake Shady.

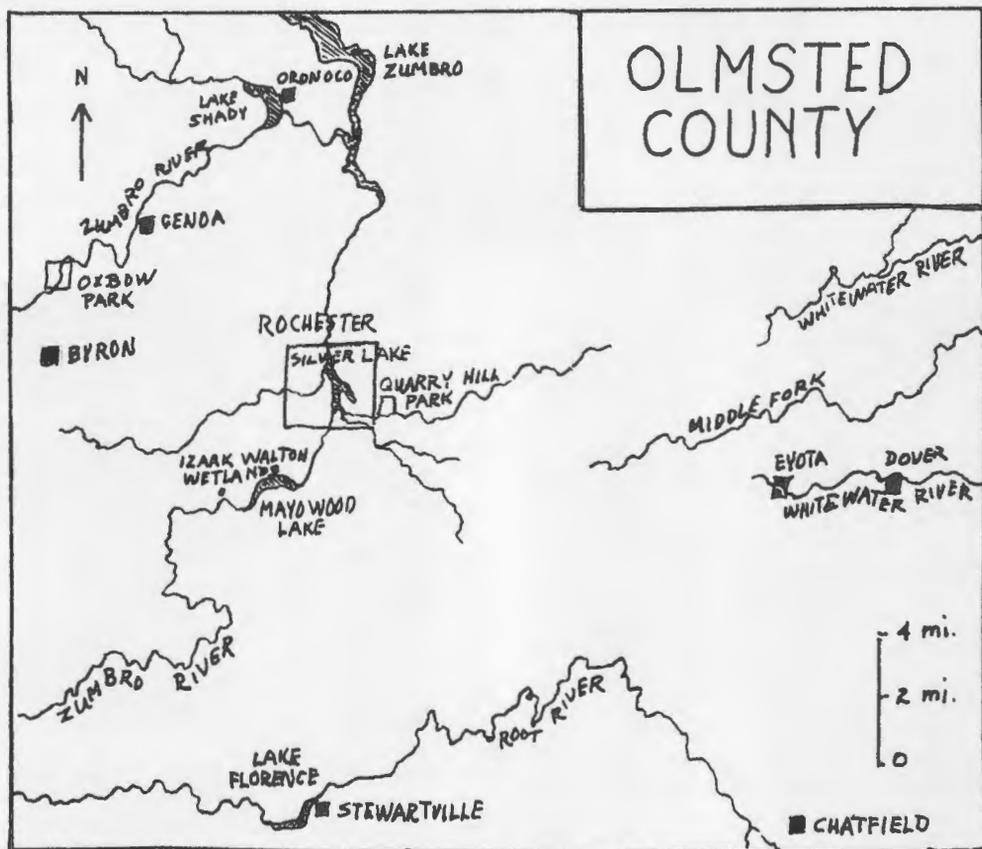
Three different watersheds provide the drainage of the county. The largest is the Zumbro River whose South Fork and Middle Fork drain northwards from the western and central areas of the county. The eastern region drains eastward into the White-

water River. A narrow strip along the southern edge of the county drains southeast into the North Branch of the Root River. The only large bodies of water are artificial lakes created by dams. On various branches of the Zumbro lie: Lake Shady at Oronoco; Lake Zumbro, northeast of Oronoco; Silver Lake within the city limits of Rochester; and Mayowood Lake, southwest of Rochester. On the Root River, there is Lake Florence, in Stewartville.

According to Marschner's Map of "The Original Vegetation of Minnesota" the predominant vegetation of Olmsted County in presettlement days was about equally Prairie and Oak-Savanna with small areas of vegetation transitional between the two. River Bottom Forest covered a very small area along the river valleys, and there were three tiny patches of Wet Prairie in the southwestern part of the county.

This vegetation has been tremendously altered in the last 125 years by clearing for farming and settlement. Now 80%* of the land in the county is farmland (65% crops and 15% pasture). No original prairie now exists except possibly along railroad right-of-way, or on steep "goat prairie". Only 6% of the land remains in woodlands which are largely confined to the steep hillsides along the river valleys. Most of the marshy areas have been tiled, drained and are under cultivation; only 1% of county land is new wetland. As of 1974, urban areas,

*Based on figures obtained from the County Assessor's Office.



field, Dover, Eyota, Oronoco, Rochester, and Stewartville, cover 6% of the county land area. Most (82%) of the county population of 89,700 (1970) is concentrated in the middle of the county in Rochester and the four contiguous townships.

There is enough diversity of vegetation to produce a variety of bird-life. Grassland species predominate due to the abundance of grassland habitat — in hayfields, pastures, along roadsides. Woodland birds are present in the few areas of fairly extensive deciduous woods such as Oxbow Park, Mayowood, Oronoco Park, Quarry Hill Park, and woods along the valley of the Root River. Waterfowl are attracted to the man-made lakes — in particular to Silver Lake where the water,

warmed by discharge from the municipal power plant, remains open all winter. The masses of migrant and wintering Canada Geese are a spectacular sight and there is always the possibility of finding other interesting geese and ducks among them. The bird species which thrive in urban areas are doing well. Marsh birds can be found in the few remaining shallow marshes: the Izaak Walton Wetlands, an artificially enlarged backwater area of the Zumbro; marshes around Lake Shady and Lake Florence; and two bits of “natural” wetland owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR hereafter) in High Forest and Rock Dell Townships. The existence and productivity of these marshes varies from year to year as the waterlevel changes. the incorporated towns of Byron, Chat-

THE LIST

An up-to-date list of the 262 species of birds recorded in Olmsted County is set forth showing in what season they are present and how abundant they are, based on sources available to the author at this time. For species occurring every year, abundance is based on the number of birds a single observer going out one day (or 8-10 hours) a week has seen. For species not occurring every year, the classification is based on all combined observations of multiple observers. A separate list of four "hypothetical" species (species for which there is a single unverified sighting by one observer) follows. Nomenclature follows the "Daily Field Checklist of Birds" published in 1978 by the Minnesota Ornithologists Union (MOU).

Nesting is based on records in MOU files and includes nesting records for 1979. These records distinguish between "positive nesting" and "inferred nesting." "Positive nesting" means that a nest was found, with eggs, young, or a brooding adult; or downy young or young still unable to fly were seen. "Inferred nesting" means that some behavior specifically related to nesting was observed: nest building, distraction display by adult, adult carrying food to nest or fecal sac from nest; or recently fledged young were seen. There are records of positive nesting for 79 species, of inferred nesting for seven species.

The annotations following the list give the dates of existing records for species whose occurrence in a season is casual or accidental, and present additional details about species which are rare or are of special interest. When there is only one published record of the species for the county, or only a few records of the species in the state, **The Loon** reference is cited.

Sources

The sources which have been used are MOU seasonal reports and "Notes of Interest" published in **The Flicker** and **The Loon** (1929-1979); **Minnesota Birds, Where, When and How**

Many by Green and Janssen; personal records submitted in seasonal reports to the MOU, of Joel and Sandy Dunnette, William R. Evans (WE), Vince Herring (VH), Carl Johnson (CJ), and of the author including observations reported to her; personal records not reported before this of Jerry Bonkoski (JB), Dr. Samuel F. Haines (SH), Jack Heather, Area Wildlife Supervisor, DNR; Dr. Ann McKenzie (AM), Dr. Alden Risser (AR) and Alice Searles (AS).

Field checklists of the late Dr. F. Ray Keating (FRK) were available covering the period 1939-1950 which contained sightings of five species that are the only records of the species in the county (Indicated by ** on the list). Unfortunately Dr. Keating's field notes have not been found so the sightings are not documented.

Seasons:

Sp - March-May F - August-November

S - June-July W - December-February

Nesting:

* - Positive Nesting + - Inferred Nesting

Abundance:

C - Common or abundant, more than 25 seen in a season

U - Uncommon, 5-25 seen in a season

R - Rare, less than 5 seen in a season

Ca - Casual — seen in 3-4 of the last 10 years

A - Accidental, seen only once or twice ever in each season

	Sp	S	F	W
Common Loon	R		A	
Horned Grebe	C		A	A
Eared Grebe	A			
*Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	U	A
White Pelican	A		A	A
Double-crested Cormorant	U		A	
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	A
*Green Heron	C	C	U	
Little Blue Heron	A			
Cattle Egret	A			
Great Egret	U	R	R	
Black-crowned Night Heron	U			
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	A	A		
Least Bittern	A			
American Bittern	R	A		
Whistling Swan	A		Ca	A
*Canada Goose	C	C	C	C
Brant				A

	Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W
White-fronted Goose	A		Ca	Ca	Common Snipe	U		U	A
Snow Goose	U		U	U	Whimbrel	A			
Ross' Goose			A	Ca	Upland Sandpiper	R	R	A	
*Mallard	C	C	C	C	*Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	U	
Black Duck	U		R	R	Solitary Sandpiper	C	U	C	
Gadwall	U				Greater Yellowlegs	U		U	
Pintail	U		A	A	Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	
Green-winged Teal	C	A	A	A	Willet	A			
*Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		Pectoral Sandpiper	C	U	C	
American Wigeon	C	R	C		White-rumped Sandpiper	A		A	
Northern Shoveler	C				Baird's Sandpiper	U		U	
*Wood Duck	C	C	C	A	Least Sandpiper	U	U	C	
Redhead	C		A		Dunlin	A			
Ring-necked Duck	C			Ca	Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	U	C	
Canvasback	C		R		Western Sandpiper	A		R	
Greater Scaup	Ca				Sanderling	A			
Lesser Scaup	C		A	Ca	Short-billed Dowitcher	A		Ca	
Common Goldeneye	U		Ca	U	Long-billed Dowitcher	Ca		R	
Bufflehead	C		A	A	Stilt Sandpiper			R	
Ruddy Duck	C		A	Ca	Hudsonian Godwit	A			
Hooded Merganser	U		A	Ca	American Avocet	A		A	
Common Merganser	C			Ca	Wilson's Phalarope	R		A	
Red-breasted Merganser	C				Herring Gull	R		A	Ca
Turkey Vulture	R	R		A	Ring-billed Gull	C		A	
Mississippi Kite	A				Franklin's Gull	A			
Goshawk	A			Ca	Bonaparte's Gull	Ca			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R	A	Ca	R	Forster's Tern	A	A	A	
*Cooper's Hawk	R	A	R	Ca	Common Tern	Ca		A	
*Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U	Caspian Tern	A		A	
*Red-shouldered Hawk	R	Ca		Ca	Black Tern	U		A	
*Broad-winged Hawk	C	R	C		Rock Dove	C	C	C	C
*Swainson's Hawk	R	R	R		*Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C
Rough-Legged Hawk	R		U	R	Passenger Pigeon (Extinct)				
Golden Eagle			A	A	*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R	U	U	
Bald Eagle	A		Ca	A	*Black-billed Cuckoo	R	U	R	
*Marsh Hawk	U		R	A	*Screech Owl	R	R	R	R
Osprey	R	A	R	A	*Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
Peregrine Falcon**	A				Snowy Owl	A		A	Ca
Merlin**	A				Burrowing Owl	A			
*American Kestrel	C	U	C	U	*Barred Owl	U	U	U	U
+Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U	Long-eared Owl	Ca			A
Bobwhite	R	R	R	R	Short-eared Owl	A			A
*Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	Saw-whet Owl				A
*Gray Partridge	C	C	C	C	Whip-poor-will	Ca	Ca	A	
Sandhill Crane**	A				+Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	
Virginia Rail	U	A	A		+Chimney Swift	C	C	C	
Sora	U	A	Ca		*Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
American Coot	C	A	C	R	*Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	R
Semipalmated Plover	U		U		*Common Flicker	C	C	C	R
Piping Plover	A				+Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
*Killdeer	C	C	C		*Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
American Golden Plover	A				+Red-headed Woodpecker	C	C	C	U
American Woodcock	U	R	Ca		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	R	U	A

	Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W
*Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	White-eyed Vireo**	A			
*Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	Bell's Vireo	R	A		
+Eastern Kingbird	U	C	U		Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	R	
*Great-crested Flycatcher	U	C	U		Solitary Vireo	U		R	
*Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U		*Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	U	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	A	A		Philadelphia Vireo	R		A	
Acadian Flycatcher		A			*Warbling Vireo	U	U	R	
Willow Flycatcher	R	U	R		Black-and-white Warbler	C		U	
Alder Flycatcher	A				Prothonotary Warbler	A			
Least Flycatcher	U	A	Ca		Worm-eating Warbler**	A			
*Eastern Wood Pewee	U	C	U		Golden-winged Warbler	R			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R	A	R		*Blue-winged Warbler	R	U	Ca	
*Horned Lark	C	U	R	C	Tennessee Warbler	C		U	
Violet-green Swallow			A		Orange-crowned Warbler	U		R	
*Tree Swallow	C	U	C		Nashville Warbler	C		U	
*Bank Swallow	C	C	C		Northern Parula	R		A	
*Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		*Yellow Warbler	C	U		
*Barn Swallow	C	C	C		Magnolia Warbler	C		R	
*Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		Cape May Warbler	R		A	
*Purple Martin	C	C	C		Black-throated Blue Warbler			Ca	
Gray Jay			A	A	Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
*Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	Black-throated Green Warbler	U		R	
*Common Crow	C	C	C	C	Cerulean Warbler	A		A	
*Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	Blackburnian Warbler	R		Ca	
Tufted Titmouse	R	R	R	R	Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
*White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	Bay-breasted Warbler	R		R	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R		U	U	Blackpoll Warbler	C		R	
Brown Creeper	U		U	U	Pine Warbler	Ca		Ca	
*House Wren	C	C	C		Palm Warbler	C		R	
Winter Wren	R	A	A		*Ovenbird	U	U	U	
Carolina Wren			A	A	Northern Waterthrush	U		R	
Long-billed Marsh Wren	A				Louisiana Waterthrush	Ca			
+Short-billed Marsh Wren	U	U	U		Kentucky Warbler	A			
Mockingbird	Ca				Connecticut Warbler	Ca		A	
*Gray Catbird	C	C	C		Mourning Warbler	U		Ca	
*Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	A	*Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
*American Robin	C	C	C	U	Yellow-breasted Chat	A			
Varied Thrush				A	Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
Wood Thrush	U	U	A		Canada Warbler	U		U	
Hermit Thrush	U		R		*American Redstart	C	C	U	
Swainson's Thrush	C		A		*House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U				*Bobolink	C	C		
Veery	U	R	R		*Eastern Meadowlark	U	U	A	
*Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	Ca	Western Meadowlark	C	C	U	
*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	R		Meadowlark, species				R
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	R	Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	A		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	A	*Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	Ca
Water Pipit	A				Orchard Oriole	A			
Bohemian Waxwing				Ca	*Northern Oriole	C	C	U	
Cedar Waxwing	C	U	C	C	Rusty Blackbird	C		Ca	Ca
Northern Shrike	A		A	U	Brewer's Blackbird	A		A	
Loggerhead Shrike	Ca	A	A		*Common Grackle	C	C	C	U
*Starling	C	C	C	C	*Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	A

	Sp	S	F	W
*Scarlet Tanager	U	U	R	
*Cardinal	C	C	C	C
*Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
*Indigo Bunting	C	C	U	
*Dickcissel	R	C	A	
Evening Grosbeak	Ca		C	C
Purple Finch	C		C	C
Pine Grosbeak	A			Ca
Hoary Redpoll				A
Common Redpoll	Ca		Ca	C
Pine Siskin	C	Ca	U	C
*American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
Red Crossbill	Ca			Ca
White-winged Crossbill	A		Ca	Ca
*Rufous-sided Towhee	U	Ca	Ca	A
*Savannah Sparrow	C	C	U	
*Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	A	
LeConte's Sparrow	A		R	
*Vesper Sparrow	C	C	U	
*Lark Sparrow	Ca	Ca		
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
*Chipping Sparrow	C	C	U	
*Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	Ca	
*Field Sparrow	C	C	U	A
Harris' Sparrow	U		U	Ca
White-crowned Sparrow	U		R	A
White-throated Sparrow	C		C	Ca
Fox Sparrow	C		U	A
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
*Swamp Sparrow	C	U	U	
Song Sparrow	C	C	C	R
Lapland Longspur	A		A	C
Snow Bunting	A		A	C

**From the records of FRK
Hypothetical Species: Harlequin Duck, Barn Owl, Common Raven., Bewick's Wren.

ANNOTATIONS

Loons (Family Gaviidae)

There is only fall record of a **Common Loon** - 11-15-46.

Grebes (Family Podicipedidae)

The **Horned Grebe** is not seen every spring at Silver Lake, but is common some years; was reported once in fall - 9-11-49 (SH); and once in winter - 12-26 and 12-27-75. The **Eared Grebe** has been recorded once - 3-30-67 (Loon 39:86, 1967). There is only one winter record of the **Pied-billed Grebe** - 1-26-70.

Pelicans (Family Pelecanidae)

One injured **White Pelican** wintered at Silver Lake in 1966 (AS). A single bird was seen several times in and near Rochester between 11-12 and 11-16-77. A flock of 13 pelicans stopped at Lake Shady in April 1979.

Cormorants (Family Phalacrocoracidae)

Between 1940 and 1946 the **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen regularly at Mayowood and Silver Lake. The records of FRK contain many sightings between April 8th and May 15th of small groups of birds and even flocks of up to 45-50; and also one fall sighting of two birds in October 1942. There had been no reports since April 1950 until April 1979 when a flock of 24 cormorants were spotted at Riverside Sand and Gravel Co. (on County Road 25, 1-1/4 miles west of the junction of US 52 and County 8 in southwest Rochester). Later in April cormorants were seen at Silver Lake and Lake Shady too; and in fall 1979 two cormorants were seen at Mayowood - 11-23-79.

Hérons and Bitterns (Family Ardeidae)

One winter record exists of the **Great Blue Heron** - 12-5-78. The **Little Blue Heron** has been recorded once - 4-24 and 4-25-75. (Loon 47:161, 1975) when two birds were seen for a few days in the Izaak Walton Wetlands (IWW) (on County 25, three miles west of the junction of County 8 and US 52 in southwest Rochester). A pair of **Cattle Egrets** were seen by W. Searles, 5-11-78, in a freshly plowed field near Elgin. There are no summer records of the **Black-crowned Night Heron** but in August 1976 an immature night heron, species undetermined, was seen by several observers at Silver Lake. There are two spring records of **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** - 4-15-62 and 5-30-66; and three summer records - two in July 1976, one in July 1977. The **Least Bittern** is reported once - 4-29-78 (JB). The **American Bittern** has been reported several times in the spring, but only once in summer - 7-11-45 (FRK).

Swans, Geese, Ducks
(Family Anatidae)

A crippled **Whistling Swan** has been recorded at Silver Lake since 1971 and was possibly there for several years before that. **Whistling Swans** probably pass regularly over the county in migration - in November 1973 Bill Stark and Tony Steegan saw a flock of 70 flying over Oxbow Park; but at ground level, swans are seen infrequently. In April 1979 a flock of 35-40 was seen at Lake Shady (J. W. Harwick); single birds have been reported twice in fall - 11-30-65, 11-24-79; and twice in winter - January and February 1968, 12-15-79.

Wild geese were first attracted to this area after 1924 when Dr. Charles H. Mayo began raising **Canada Geese** at Mayowood. In 1936, shortly after Silver Lake was created, six Canada Geese were bought and released there. No dramatic increase occurred until after 1947 when 12 "large" geese from Nebraska were released, and 1948 when the new power plant began operation, obtaining cooling water from Silver Lake and returning heated water which kept the lake free of ice all winter. Then geese began to overwinter in increasing numbers: 1948 - 500, 1949 - 1,000. At the same time Silver Lake began to be used as one of the traditional stops by geese moving down the Mississippi Flyway, and became a popular stop. Now huge populations, 22,000-29,000 birds, build up in the fall (record - 33,000 on 11-25-76), but by the time severe cold weather arrives, most have continued on to wintering grounds further south, leaving an overwintering flock of 10,000-13,000 geese. In spring, migrants heading north to their breeding grounds begin arriving in late March, numbers increase, but instead of concentrating at Silver Lake, they spread out into the surrounding countryside making it difficult to estimate the numbers present. By mid-April the migrants, and most of the overwintering birds, have departed leaving a summer population of 150-200. The

non-breeding birds tend to summer at Silver Lake. A few breeding pairs use the island in Silver Lake, but most disperse for nesting to Mayowood, IWW, and occasionally to Lakes Florence, Shady and Zumbro.

A single **Brant** was seen and photographed at Silver Lake from 10-7-73 to 12-8-73 (**Loon** 46:58, 1974). One **White-fronted Goose** has been reported four times in fall - 10-9-73, 11-19-74, 10-13-75, 10-29-79; four times in winter - 1968-69 an overwintering bird, January 1970, 1-2-72, 2-22-74; and once in spring - March and April 1974. There are four records of a single **Ross' Goose** in the wintering flock at Silver Lake: from 10-20-46 to 1-8-65 (**Loon** 37:79, 1965); 12-2-68 to 3-1-69 (**Loon** 41:42, 1969); 12-20-69 to 1-11-70 (**Loon** 42:36, 1970); and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC hereafter) 1973 (**Loon** 47:116, 1975).

There is one record of **Green-winged Teal** in summer - 6-30-76; one in fall - 8-16-77; two in winter - 1-19-73; 2-12-77. The **Wood Duck** was recorded once in winter - 12-14-69. **Greater Scaup** has been reported several times in spring but not in the last ten years: 4-1-39, 4-2-49, 4-16-50 (all FRK); 3-25-68. There are three reports of **Lesser Scaup** in winter - 12-14-69, 1-1-70, CBC 1979. Many species of ducks which stop regularly in spring have not been reported in fall, and some have been reported only once: **Pintail** - 11-8-42; **Redhead** - 11-5-79; **Lesser Scaup** - 11-17-76; **Ruddy Duck** - 10-21-79. There exists: one record of **Bufflehead** in fall - 11-16-79; two in winter - 12-17-77, 1-27-78; two winter records of **Pintails** - 2-16 and 2-23-69; three of **Ring-necked Ducks** - 1-11-70, CBC 1975, CBC 1979; three fall records of **Common Goldeneye** - 11-24-74, 11-17-76, 11-16-79; one record of **Harlequin Duck** - 4-14-72 (**Loon** 44:55, 1972); three records of **Ruddy Duck** in winter - 12-9-67, 12-14-69, CBC 1979; one fall record of **Hooded Merganser** - 11-15-78, and three winter records - 12-6-64, one overwintering 1965, and 12-27-74 to 1-2-75. The **Com-**

mon Merganser has been reported three times in winter in the last decade - 12-18-76, 2-8-77, 12-17-77.

American Vulture (Family Cathartidae)

There is one winter record of the **Turkey Vulture** - 12-16-78.

Hawks, Eagles and Harriers (Family Accipitridae)

The **Mississippi Kite** was recorded once - 5-24-75 (Loon 47:130, 1975). The **Goshawk** has been reported three times in winter - 12-30-72, December 1975, and CBC 1979; in spring it has been seen twice - 4-27-73 (AS), and 3-5-74. Only one summer record exists of the **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - June 1978 (AM) and three in fall - 9-8-65 (CJ), 10-23 and 10-26-75, 11-24-76 and two summer records of **Cooper's Hawk** - in 1975 a pair seen near Oxbow Park several times; 7-24-76 and three winter records - 7-6-77, 7-7-78 and 12-15-16-78. The **Red-shouldered Hawk** was formerly more numerous and a pair nested near Mayowood in the 1940's. In recent years there has been at most, one report a year, until spring and summer 1979 when one was seen frequently along the Root River (M. S. Snyder). In winter it has been seen three times - 12-30-72, 2-10-73, 12-29-73. There are two records of the **Golden Eagle** - 11-28-76 (AR) and 12-7-76. The **Bald Eagle** has been reported twice in spring - 3-19-75, 4-14-78; and had only been seen twice in fall - 10-10 to 10-14-75 and 10-5-76 and once in winter - 12-17-77 until November 1979 when a group of immatures and one or two adults were seen daily southwest of Rochester in the Riverside Sand and Gravel-Mayowood area. The eagles were first seen 11-13, the peak number, 7-9, was seen 11-25, and at least three were still present on CBC day - 12-15. The **Marsh Hawk** was reported once in winter - 1966-67.

Ospreys (Family Pandionidae)

The **Osprey** has been reported in summer only during the first days of June - 6-1-78, 6-2-79; in winter only once - CBC 1975.

Falcons (Family Falconidae)

There is one report of the **Peregrine Falcon** - 3-4-39 (FRK), and two of **Merrill** - 4-21 and 4-22-45 (FRK).

Quails and Pheasants (Family Phasianidae)

On 5-6-73 two **Bobwhite** were sighted in the southwest corner of the county, High Forest Township, Section 19, by Ted and Phyllis Lindquist; and in 1974, on his Breeding Bird Survey route, Dr. Don Mahle recorded **Bobwhite** in the southeastern part of the county, Orion Township, Section 15/16. These two sightings may be remnants of the wild population. In 1977 and 1978 the DNR released some Bobwhite on land just east of the State Hospital and they have been seen and/or heard in that area several times since the release. The **Ring-necked Pheasant** which was introduced in Minnesota in 1905 was most numerous in the early 1940's. In recent years there has been a drop in numbers due to loss of suitable habitat, but the species is still common. **Gray Partridge** was introduced in the late 40's and early 50's, but only in the last six to eight years has there been a sizable population in the county. The birds are easily overlooked except in a winter with a light snow cover when they are conspicuous feeding in fields of corn stubble.

Cranes (Family Gruidae)

Two **Sandhill Cranes** were sighted at Mayowood - 5-22-44 (FRK).

Rails, Gallinules, Coots (Family Rallidae)

There are: two summer records for **Virginia Rail** - 6-7-79, 6-23-79, and one fall record - 8-17-75; two summer records for **Sora** - 6-2-45 (FRK), 6-19-71, and four fall records - 8-18-73, 8-17-75, 8-3-78, 8-19-78; one summer record of **American Coot** - a pair, 6-25-79.

Plovers and Turnstones (Family Charadriidae)

There is one report of **Piping Plover** - 5-11-74, and one of the **American Golden Plover** - 5-10-76, a flock of 30.

Woodcock, Snipe, Sandpipers (Family Scolopacidae)

There are several summer records of the **American Woodcock**, its mating ritual has been seen and heard in May and June, but no evidence of a nest has been found. The only fall records of **American Woodcock** are - 11-1-75, 9-26-77, 11-18-77. **Common Snipe** has been reported in two winters - 1969-70, 12-12-76 to 1-15-77. The **Upland Sandpiper**, seen infrequently in recent years, once nested behind Longfellow School before the ball fields were built there (AS). The only fall report of **Upland Sandpiper** is of three birds on 8-6-79. By the middle of July many species of **Sandpipers (Solitary, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Least, Semipalmated)** which nest further north are seen almost further north are seen already migrating southward. The **White-rumped Sandpiper** was first reported in May 1979 when a few were seen between 5-18 and 5-30; a single one was seen in fall 1979 three times between 9-2 and 11-4. One record apiece exists for **Whimbrel** - 5-20-65 (**Loon** 38:37, 1966) and **Sanderling** - 5-11-76. Two records exist for **Willet** - 5-2-67, 5-16-79; **Dunlin** - 5-11-76, 5-16-79; and **American Avocet** - 5-1-77, 9-2-79. The only times **Western Sandpiper** has been reported in spring were in 1976 - 5-9 and 5-11. **Short-billed Dowitcher** has been recorded once in spring - 5-13-78, and three times in fall - 8-8-76, 7-30-78 and 8-11-79. **Long-billed Dowitcher**, three times in spring (May) - 1973, 1974, and 14 in 1979. Two **Hudsonian Godwits** were seen in May 1976, two on 5-5-79. There is one fall report of **Wilson's Phalarope** - 8-15-78 (AM).

Gulls and Terns (Family Laridae)

The **Herring Gull** has been reported three times in winter - 12-30-72, 1-19-63, December 1965 and once in fall - 11-7-79. **Ring-billed Gull** was reported once in fall - 10-5-77. There are three records of **Bonaparte's Gull** - 5-7-66 (AS), 5-6-76, 4-25-78; one of **Franklin's Gull** - 6-12 birds

on 5-7-76; and three of **Caspian Tern**, one in spring - 4-16-79, two in fall - 9-15-58 (AS), 9-23-77. Between April and July every year there are sightings of terns, but because of the difficulty of distinguishing between **Forster's Tern** and **Common Tern** in the field, frequently the species is not decided. **Common Tern** is recorded four times in spring - 4-18-75 (AS), 4-9-78 (AM), 4-29-78, 5-20-78; and once in fall - 10-2-65. **Forster's Tern** is recorded four times in April and May 1979; once in summer - 7-29-79; once in fall - 9-2-79. There are two fall records of **Black Tern** - 8-11-74, 8-3-78.

Pigeons and Doves (Family Columbidae)

A species once abundant in Olmsted County, is now extinct - the **Passenger Pigeon**. One of the largest nesting areas in the state was near Genoa, and another was southwest of Chatfield in Fillmore County. For ten years beginning in June 1863, people gathered from miles around for a "squabbing celebration" in Chatfield. Pigeons, too young to fly, were simply picked or shaken off the branches of trees. An estimated 10,000 squabs were eaten or carried off in one week-end in 1865. Market hunting also took its toll on the pigeon population. According to T. S. Roberts (1936), "The large spring flocks ceased arriving about 1880 and after that date (the species) diminished rapidly in numbers. There are no reliable records for the state since 1895."

Barn Owls (Family Tytonidae)

Observations of two to four **Barn Owls** were made between 1973 and 1976 (JB) in the barn of an abandoned farm near Byron. The last sighting was of two owls on 1-25-76.

Typical Owls (Family Strigidae)

Most sightings of the **Snowy Owl** have been in winter - 1-14-68, 2-21-75, 2-28-75 (AS), but there is one fall report - 10-20-64 (AS), and one in spring - 3-12-77. A **Burrowing Owl** and a burrow were found northwest of Eyota in the last week of April or

first week of May 1965 (Loon 38:37, 1966). The **Long-eared Owl** has been reported once in winter - 2-18-78, and three times in spring: 4-17 and 4-25-70, 4-12-75 when a freshly dead specimen was found, and 3-25-78. The **Short-eared Owl** has been seen (many times) by AR, one date he recorded - 12-12-39; there are two more recent reports - 2-2-76 (AS), 3-13-78 (AS). The only record of the **Saw-whet Owl** is a photograph taken in Quarry Hill Park, 2-18-77, by Jerald Werre and entered in the Quarry Hill Nature Center Photography Contest 1977.

Goatsuckers (Family Caprimulgidae)

The **Whip-poor-will** has been reported in spring three times - 5-4-64, 5-12-66, 5-20-77; in summer, three times - 1976, 7-6-77 and June 1979; in fall, twice - 9-25-65, 9-5-75.

Woodpeckers (Family Picidae)

There are two reports of wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in winter 1956-57 (SH).

Tyrant Flycatchers (Family Tyrannidae)

The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** has been seen twice in summer - 6-4-79, 6-8-79; and twice in fall - 8-24-75, 9-18-79. The **Olive-sided Flycatcher** has been recorded twice in early June - 6-9-45, 6-4-79. One sighting of **Acadian Flycatcher** is reported - 6-28-79; and one of **Alder Flycatcher** - 5-8-75 (AS). **Least Flycatcher** has been reported in summer in June and July 1945 (FRK), and June 1979 when it was seen and heard in two locations; in fall, three times - 9-26-65, 9-9-74, 8-24-75. There are many records of Empidonax flycatchers for which the species is uncertain, in early spring and fall when Willow, Least, and possibly Acadian and Alder could be present. When the birds are not vocalizing, the observer lacks a reliable way of separating the species.

Larks (Family Alaudidae)

In late winter through March huge flocks of migrating **Horned Larks** are seen.

Swallows (Family Hirundinidae)

The **Violet-green Swallow** has been recorded once - 10-25 and 10-26-42 (FRK) (Auk 60:455, July 1943).

Jays, Magpies, and Crows (Family Corvidae)

In 1976, an "invasion year" in northern Minnesota, the **Gray Jay** was seen at a feeder near Rochester - 1-7 and 1-30, 11-12. There is one report of a **Common Raven** - Winter 1976 (AR).

Chickadees and Titmice (Family Paridae)

The **Tufted Titmouse**, a rare year-round resident for many years, was not reported in Winter 1978-79, was reported only once in Spring 1979, not at all in Summer 1979, and only once in Fall 1979.

Wrens (Family Troglodytidae)

There is one record of **Winter Wren** in summer - 7-25-76; two in fall - 10-8-65, 10-10-76. **Bewick's Wren** was seen once "about 1961" (AR). The only records of **Carolina Wren** are from November and December 1976 when at least one sojourned in southwest Rochester (Loon 49:49-50, 1977). Usually it is impossible to find a **Long-billed Marsh Wren** in the county due to lack of suitable habitat. However in the wet spring of 1979 there were at least three at Libby's old settling pond (middle of Section 13, Rochester Township) and they were seen and heard for ten days until the water dried up.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Family Mimidae)

In three of the last ten years **Mockingbirds** have been seen in spring - 4-30-73 (AS), 5-10-74, 4-24-75. The **Brown Thrasher** has been reported twice in winter - December 1978, and 1973-74 when one attempted to over-winter.

Thrushes, Solitaires, Bluebirds (Family Turdidae)

The **Varied Thrush** was first recorded at a feeder in Rochester in January 1979 and was seen until February 16. On record are: one fall sighting

of the **Wood Thrush** - 9-17-75; two fall reports of **Swainson's Thrush** - 10-4-73, 9-14-75; three winter sightings of **Eastern Bluebird** - 12-9-67, 12-3 and 12-17-75.

Gnatcatchers and Kinglets (Family **Sylviidae**)

The **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, usually common in migration, was not reported at all in 1977, was rare in 1978, but was common again in 1979. The **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** has been seen twice in winter - 2-2 and 2-15-75, and 12-9-79.

Pipits (Family Motacillidae)

There is one record of the **Water Pipit** - 4-1-72.

Waxwings (Family Bombycillidae)

Bohemian Waxwings have made a few appearances: a large flock (83) in February 1959 (SH and CJ); a single bird 12-18-76; and a small flock (30) 2-21 and 2-28-77 (Dr. Al Orvis).

Shrikes (Family Laniidae)

The **Northern Shrike** was recorded once in fall 10-24-77 (WE) and once in spring - 3-28-76. In the last ten years there are four spring records of **Loggerhead Shrike** - 5-8-71, 3-9-74, 4-7-77, 5-28-79. The only summer report is from Summer 1979 when a pair were seen several times in one area of Willow Creek Golf Course and may have nested there. They were seen as late in the fall as September 17.

Vireos (Family Vireonidae)

There are: two sightings of **White-eyed Vireo** - 5-17-41 (FRK) and 5-23-43 (FRK), and one fall record of **Philadelphia Vireo** - 9-30-79. **Bell's Vireo** has been reported several times in spring at IWW, in summer only twice - 1974 from 6-7 to 6-30, and 6-4-75.

Wood Warblers (Family Parulidae)

The **Prothonotary Warbler** has been reported twice - 5-10-72, 5-6-75, the **Worm-eating Warbler** once - 5-23-44 (FRK). There are no fall or summer reports of the **Golden-winged Warbler**, and no more than three records any year in the spring. The statement in

a letter from Dr. F. Ray Keating dated August 24, 1954 (quoted in Green and Janssen, 1976, p.151) "Golden Wings nesting in the immediate vicinity of Rochester," is a challenge to birders to look harder for this species. The **Blue-winged Warbler** has been reported three times in fall - 8-29-76, 8-27-78, 9-8-79. Only one fall record exists - 9-17-78, of **Northern Parula**, two - 10-9-75, 8-29-76, of **Cape May Warbler**. There are three fall records of the **Black-throated Blue Warbler** - 8-24-75, 8-29-76, 9-15-77; none in spring. The **Cerulean Warbler** has been seen and heard in riverbottom woods along both the Zumbro and Root Rivers, twice in spring - 5-14-74, 5-25-79; and in two summers: June 1977, one in the Mayowood area; June 1979, again one near Mayowood, and also six singing males on the Root River. There are only four fall reports of **Blackburnian Warbler** - 8-31-75, 9-16-75, 8-22-76, 8-26-78. The **Pine Warbler** has been recorded in spring - 5-1-58 (AS), 5-21-68 (AS), 4-23-75, 5-18-79, and there are three recent fall records - 10-4-75, 8-30-76, 8-24-77. There has been only one recent sighting of the **Louisiana Waterthrush** - 5-17-78 (AS), although FRK recorded it in May 1943, 1944, 1945, 1948; and SH, on 5-15-51. The **Kentucky Warbler** was banded and photographed by J. Feehan on 5-29-63 (**Loon** 35:104, 1963). There are four spring records of **Connecticut Warbler** - 5-22-65, May 1975, 5-10-79, 5-19-79; one fall record - 10-27-76. The **Mourning Warbler** has been sighted in fall three times - 8-21-76, 9-24-77, 8-19-78. Two sightings of the **Yellow-breasted Chat** are reported: 5-18-48 (FRK) at Mayowood, 5-15-74 near Cummingsville (**Loon** 46:156, 1974).

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds Orioles (Family **Icteridae**)

The **Bobolink** has not been reported later than July 28th. Meadowlarks have been seen in six of the last seven winters, but the species is uncertain for all winter and for many fall sightings because of the difficulty of dis-

tinguishing between **Eastern** and **Western Meadowlark** except by song. Two fall records exist of **Eastern Meadowlark** - 8-12-78, 8-11-79. In 1973 and 1974 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were seen in the IWW in spring and summer and may have nested there. They have been sighted but have not stayed for any extended period since 1976 when the water level dropped. There are three winter records of **Red-winged Blackbird** on CBC's - 1974, 1976, 1978. The **Orchard Oriole** has been sighted once - 5-7-79. There are astonishingly few reports of **Rusty** and **Brewer's Blackbird**. FRK recorded flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds** regularly in April and May (1940-50), and twice in October, 1940 and 1942. Recent records include: two flocks in April 1979; two fall reports - 10-15-60 (CH), 10-23-79; and three winter reports of one or two birds - 12-30-72, 12-29-76, CBC 1979. For **Brewer's Blackbird** there are two spring reports - 3-20-65, 4-22-79; and three fall reports in one year - 8-17-79, 9-8-79, 9-22-79. **Brown-headed Cowbird** has been reported twice in winter - CBC 1975, CBC 1976.

Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows, Buntings (Family Fringillidae)

The number of **Dickcissels** seen in summer has declined from 79 in 1974 to eight in 1979 (author's records). There are four fall records of **Dickcissel** in two years - 8-30-75, 8-4-79, 8-8-79, 8-11-79. Presence of any of the "winter finches" is extremely variable and so are the numbers if the species does appear. **Evening Grosbeaks** have been seen in fall (November) and in winter in five of the last ten years; in spring (April), in three of the last ten years - 1975, 1976, 1978. Some winters (1974-75, 1976-77) sightings of only one or two individuals are reported and others, (1975-76, 1977-78) small flocks of 12-25 birds are seen. There are four records of **Pine Grosbeak** in winter - 12-20-57 (SH), 1-24-72, 12-17-77, 12-21-77; and one in spring - 3-16-78. A single **Hoary Redpoll** has been reported twice - 2-23-74, 2-4-76 (AS). Large invasions of the

Common Redpoll occurred in the winters of 1973-74, 1975-76, 1977-78; none were reported in Winter 1974-75, and only a few in the winters of 1976-77, and 1978-79; in fall there are records in November 1975, 1976, 1977; in spring in April in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978. There have been some interesting records recently of a single pair of **Pine Siskins** lingering into June (1977 and 1978) and through July in 1979. **Red Crossbills** have been seen in three of the last ten years; 2-21-73 through spring to 5-10-73; 1-12-75; and 12-31-75 through spring to 5-7-76. There are three fall records - 10-5-68, 10-23-69 (SH), 11-19-77 (AR) of **White-winged Crossbill**; three winter records - 2-21-72; 12-22-73 through 2-26-74, 12-17-77 through 1-10-78; and one spring record - 4-2 - 4-17-74. The **Rufous-sided Towhee** has been seen in three summers: 1975, 1978, 1979; four times in fall - 10-4-42 (FRK), 9-24-49 (FRK), 8-4-78, 9-8-79, and twice in winter - 2-14-77 and 1-21-78. Two fall records exist of **Grasshopper Sparrow** - 8-14-75, 8-4-79. **Le Conte's Sparrow** has only been reported twice in spring - 5-12-45 (FRK) and 5-6-76. The **Lark Sparrow** has only been seen three times in recent years - 5-2-69 (AS), 5-4-76, 5-6-76, yet it has been recorded as nesting in Olmsted County (Green and Janssen, 1975), and in the 1960's Nels and Flo Barker recorded its song a few miles southeast of Rochester. There are three fall records of **Clay-colored Sparrow** - 10-20-70, 9-20-71, 8-4-79. Several species of sparrows have been reported in winter a few times: **Field Sparrow** - CBC 1978; **Harris' Sparrow** - 12-1-71, CBC 1973, CBC 1976, and one overwintering 1976-77; **White-crowned Sparrow** - CBC 1963, and one attempt to overwinter 1963-64 (Green and Janssen 1975); **White-throated Sparrow** - CBC 1974, CBC 1975, CBC 1977, CBC 1979; **Fox Sparrow** - CBC 1963, CBC 1976. In winter both **Lapland Longspur** and **Snow Bunting** are regularly seen a few times, usually in large flocks of 76-300. For **Lapland Longspur** there is

one fall report of 50 birds - 11-10-76, and two spring reports - 75 on 3-7-76, one on 3-18-76. For **Snow Bunting** there are two fall records - 10-25-76, 11-17-78; and three spring records in two years - 3-27-62 (AS), 3-7-76, 3-9-76.

Comments

The list presented is not intended to be the final word, but rather the opening statement, pointing out to other birders the gaps existing in our present information and the need for more observations. Good information is available on dates of first sightings in the spring, less is available on departure of spring migrants; few of these records include the number of birds seen. Comparatively little information is available for the fall; the occurrence in the table is based largely on the records of one person over a five-year period which is not enough to give an accurate picture of the situation. Anyone with additional information on Olmsted County birds is encouraged to send it to the MOU, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55455.

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NOTES OF INTEREST



POSSIBLE HYBRID AND LONGEVITY RECORD FOR THE NORTHERN ORIOLE IN RAMSEY COUNTY — While banding birds in my yard on May 9, 1979, I noticed three Northern Orioles in my large decoy trap. Upon examining these orioles, my attention was drawn to one of the birds, which was already banded and had some interesting plumage variations. A quick check of my banding records indicated that I had banded this particular oriole on May 23, 1972 as an adult male, at least two years old. Thus this oriole was at least nine years old when retrapped on May 9, 1979. Kennard (Bird Banding 1975) lists the longevity record for the Northern Oriole as seven years. An examination of the oriole's unusual plumage showed the following interesting characteristics. Head: Two narrow stripes of orange interspersed with black on each side of the head above the eyes, extending about one inch back from the bill. Neck: orange and black mottled feathers extending up into the black hood on each side of the neck. Wing:



larger amounts of white on the wing patch than is normally seen on the adult male Northern Oriole (Baltimore). Unfortunately no plumage notes were taken at the time of banding in 1972. A picture of this oriole was shown to Richard Oehlenschlager, Robert Janssen and Harrison Tordoff, all of whom agreed that this oriole showed phenotypic expression of a Baltimore X Bullock's hybrid or intergrade ancestry. But since very few if any orioles of this age are ever retrapped, the possibility that some older Northern Oriole (Baltimore) might show plumage variations towards Northern Oriole (Bullock's) should be considered. This might account for no notes on this bird when I banded it in 1972. **Dennis Meyer, 2874 Western Ave., St. Paul, MN 55113.**

A POSSIBLE HYBRID COMMON GOLDENEYE X HOODED MERGANSER —

As part of the Excelsior Christmas Count on December 15, 1979, I checked the Blue Lake Sewage Lagoons in Scott County. The Lagoon was covered with waterfowl, mainly Mallards but mixed in with them were a number of Common Goldeneyes. I was checking these with my 20x Bushnell scope when I noticed a strange looking duck in with a group of the goldeneyes. At first glance the bird appeared to be a female goldeneye, but something was "wrong." The head, dark brown, had a crested appearance on the back (nape), the eye was dark and the bill, rather than the "stubby" appearance of a goldeneye was long and narrow and looked like the bill of a Hooded Merganser. Checking further I noted the following characters: chest white with a few flecks of brown, a sharp cutoff between white of chest and brown of head and neck; on each side of the chest there was a white "comma-like" mark separated from the white chest by a brownish-black line and from the lighter brown sides by another brownish black line. This reminded me immediately of the side pattern of the male Hooded Merganser. The back and tail were a blackish-brown, the sides were a lighter brownish color than the back. The tail was held at an angle similar to a goldeneye. The belly, what I could see of it, was white. The feet, seen when the bird scratched its head, were grayish, not the bright yellowish-orange color of the goldeneyes near it. I am not sure exactly what the bird was, it appeared to combine plumage characters of a Common Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser but that of a male Hooded Merganser and a female Common Goldeneye. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

AN EXPERIENCE WITH A RUFFED GROUSE —

I had decided to make the most of one of those sunny fall days in mid-September 1979 by going for a walk in the woods behind our house south of Limestone Lake in Wright County. As I was walking along I heard a rustling in the leaves next to me and I froze. I examined the vicinity of the noise and there, about two feet away was a Ruffed Grouse. He was crouched down, motionless, believing to be camouflaged by the spindly undergrowth along the path I was on. We stared at each other for a few moments and then I decided to sit down. The grouse watched me carefully, then in slow motion raised himself and began to walk along the edge of the brush. Fixed on me, he began to walk in a large slow circle. He hurried across the path I was sitting on and slowed down when he got into the brush again. He circled a few times. I noticed he was getting more "comfortable" with my presence, so I rearranged myself for a longer stay in order to take in the actions of this bird. His vigilance continued, pausing occasionally to pluck at the grass. As he fumbled with it, he watched me. I noticed as his "confidence"



grew his circles were getting smaller. Sometimes he would stop and puff himself up in front of me. He presented an unusual sight. He started a soft clucking sound so I clucked back at him the best I could, thinking I could establish some kind of meaningful "discussion." My clucking seemed to cause a response from him. I was leaning back with my arms locked behind me and the grouse on one of his revolutions quickly passed under my arm. I couldn't believe it! This was certainly peculiar behavior for a bird. I decided if he got aggressive I would leave. But he just kept walking about so I kept watching. On his way around in front of me he decided to take the shortcut across my legs. While he perched on my lap I could feel his feet balance his weight as he stood there. He hopped off and then came around again. When he perched on my lap he would lean towards me. We were both pretty curious. This lasted about four hours or so and it was about time I left. I took my last long look and got up slowly. The grouse watched from the brush as I began to walk back. To my surprise, he began to follow me. When I stopped, he stopped. I sat back down just to see what would happen and he came right up and sat on my lap. I didn't know what to do. He stared at me as usual and then pecked at my hand. This startled me. He jumped back and we were both taken off guard. That was it. I was leaving. He followed me as before but I knew I couldn't stay. I could hear him rustling leaves through the woods as he followed me to the clearing. As I left, I looked back and there was the grouse posed on a downed tree. He was all puffed up and in complete control of his territory. As I walked home, the realization settled in that I spent the day with a Ruffed Grouse! **Jacque Rosenau, Route 2, Maple Lake, MN 55358.**

CONFIRMED NESTING OF MOURNING WARBLER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY — In *The Loon* (49:236-237), I described and recorded the banding of two After Hatching Year Mourning Warblers, a male and female in full breeding condition. The banding date was June 22, 1977; the location was near Boot Lake at the junction of Oldfield Road and Washington County highway 55, on the western edge of Camp Wilder property. On June 29, 1977, a third Mourning Warbler, a banded After Hatching Year male was recaptured at the same location. This individual was banded by Bernard Fashingbauer, Director of the Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center as a migrant adult on May 23, 1974. The bird was at least four years old when I recaptured him. From late June to July 20, 1977, no nest or young were found. During the same period in 1978, no activity of the Mourning Warbler was recorded on my weekly visits to the Boot Lake banding site. On June 27, 1979 a After Hatching Year male was caught, banded and released at the same site at 11 a.m. On my next visit to Boot Lake on July 3, 1979, three males were caught: one unbanded, one banded which was the previous week's catch, and the third was the return of the male which I had banded on June 22, 1977. On July 3, 1979, this individual was at least three years old. At 12 noon on the same date, Richard Ohlenschlager, staff member of Camp Wilder, and I saw an unbanded female (with a caterpillar in her bill) perched in a Red elder. She was darting below into a thick tangle of blackberry and raspberry. Dick crawled carefully through and around this tangle and saw what he called one "bobtail young." The female stayed close by and was last seen with caterpillar five feet off the ground in the same Red elder. This sighting was on a sandy ridge, 40 feet west of my mist net nearest Oldfield Road. The entire location is described in detail in *The Loon*, Vol. 49, No. 4. The mist net setup is the same as in 1977. Dick Oehlenschlager saw a "bobtail young" with a female Mourning Warbler in the same area on July 9, 1979. Roger Eberhardt, Camp Wilder staff saw a male on July 11, 1979. Roger did not know whether or not the bird was banded when he saw it on the north side of Oldfield Road at the edge of a thick wooded area. On July 12, 1979 from 1-3 p.m. I had my nets set up as usual in same location on south side of Oldfield Road and did not see or hear any Mourning Warbler. Six days later on July 18, 1979, I heard a male singing at 8:45 a.m. as I was setting up my nets. Between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. three Hatching Year (unknown sex) Mourning Warblers were mist netted and banded. All flew into the net nearest Oldfield Road. At the time the first youngster was caught, I retrapped the After Hatching Year male which had been banded on June 27, 1979. At 10 a.m. Dick Oehlenschlager appeared with several young campers and confirmed the identification of this first young Mourning Warbler. (He had seen them previously at the University of Minnesota's Lake Itasca Station). The bird fit exactly the description in Thomas Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States* Key. Careful measurements were taken as Dick supervised, and several close-up pictures were taken before it was released. At 11 a.m. after Dick left with his troupe, I caught and banded two more Hatching Year birds. Measurements and pictures were taken and are on file. On this same date at 12:30 p.m., the "Return" male banded in 1977 "Repeated" and I noted that he was having a complete post-nuptial moult. Remiges, retrices, wing coverts, feather tracts on his body were all in various stages of new growth. On July 25, 1979 at 9 a.m. I heard a male Mourning Warbler in song east of my net nearest Oldfield Road. It was coming from a thick stand of birch saplings and tall grasses. I did not see the bird. No further activity was noted at the Boot Lake site in the summer of 1979. In 1977 Dr. Harrison B. Tordoff, Director

of the Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, stated that if nesting of the Mourning Warbler at this site in Washington County proved to be successful, the finding would confirm the southern-most nesting record of this species in Minnesota. **Jane C. Olyphant, 8609 Hidden Bay Trail, Lake Elmo, MN 55042.**

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER AT SIBLEY STATE PARK — Returning from the Spring MOU field trip to Fergus Falls last May, we stopped at Sibley State Park, north of Willmar for a couple of days. On May 20, 1979 at 4:30 P.M. we were birding near the boat ramp parking lot. Although the sun was shining brightly it was quite cool. There is a marsh across the road and standing, at the edge of the marsh we observed a number of warblers, Canadas, Tennessees, Yellowthroat and Yellows. One was different from the others and we immediately noted its all yellow underparts and white wing bars. A closer look as it flitted about revealed a black eyeline. Surprised to find a Blue-winged Warbler this far north, we consulted "Birds of North America" to be certain we were right in our identification (Blue-winged Warblers are not new to us having observed a pair over a period of two days as they were building a nest in Forestville State Park, Fillmore County on May 21 and 22, 1975). We watched the Blue-winged Warbler at Sibley State Park for approximately thirty minutes using Bushnell Custom Instafocus 7x35 and Jason 8x40 binoculars at various distances from 40 to 50 feet until it moved on. **Phyllis and Ted Lindquist, 5600 Zealand Ave. N., #6, New Hope, MN 55428.**

CAROLINA WREN AT FRONTENAC — On May 12, 1979 I was birding at Frontenac, Goodhue County, with Doug and Betty Campbell, Boyd and Helen Lien and Fred Kedney. At about 2:00 P.M. we saw a Carolina Wren in a brushy area along the Mississippi River near the Methodist Camp. The shape, tail cocking and actions placed it in the wren family. The bird had a plain, unmarked brown back, good-sized rounded tail also smooth brown with no white tips. The breast and belly were light buff and unmarked. A light eyeline was also noted as was the slim, slightly curved bill. Even without comparison, the bird immediately appeared to be larger than any of the local wrens. The unmarked tail eliminated a Bewick's Wren. **Richard P. Ruhme, 9655 Upton Road S., Bloomington, MN 55331.**

MORE PRAIRIE FALCONS IN WESTERN MINNESOTA — October 7, 1979. Overcast, 10-15 mph wind from the NW, temp. in the 50's. Diane Hastings and I had been birding the open farmland of Otter Tail, Wilkin, and Traverse Counties for several hours. We had seen three Rough-legged Hawks (the first of the season), and several Red-tails and Harriers. At 3:00 P.M. we saw an immature Golden Eagle a few miles NE of Browns Valley. From there we began working our way back home via Wheaton. At 4:15, approximately seven miles east of Wheaton on Minnesota Highway 27, I spotted a raptor close to the road high in the dead limbs of a cottonwood tree in a farmyard. As I drove past the bird I got just a brief look at its backside, and thought it was probably only a Red-tail. Slowing the car to turn around, I realized the bird had seemed somewhat slimmer and smaller than any buteo likely to be encountered in the area. I stopped the car within 150 yards of the bird, which was perched about seventy feet high in the cotton-

wood. Ten-power binoculars revealed the side profile of a Prairie Falcon: long tail, dusky brown dorsal color, large head with distinct facial markings. After identifying the species, we got out of the car and watched it for another minute or so with the spotting scope (Bushnell 20-45X). The falcon didn't seem the least bit disturbed by the roar of a chain saw which someone was using at the farm. After two to three minutes it took flight, passing within thirty yards of us and flying right to left. The dark axillars and wing linings were noted at this time. We hopped in the car and pursued the bird east. We temporarily lost sight of it. When we next saw the falcon, it was chasing a robin-sized bird, species undetermined, into another farm grove. That was the last we saw of the Prairie Falcon. October 21, 1979. Heavy overcast, N-NW wind, 39 degrees at mid-day. Diane and I had birded the Maplewood State Park area and from there we decided to try the Rothsay Prairie, some twenty-five miles to the west. If there was anything good at Rothsay, it eluded us. I decided to drive south on some Wilkin County township roads that I hadn't been over before. For a birder, this is some of the most monotonous and boring country in the state to drive through, since it is part of the intensively cultivated Red River Valley. But Prairie Falcons are where you find them, and there are plenty of larks, longspurs, and Snow Buntings in the sunflower fields for falcons to feed on. About seven miles SW of Rothsay, we came upon a field that had been so thoroughly worked over with tillage equipment that it looked like a tennis court. Every visible stone in the field stood out sharply, and I noticed one rather large one that looked suspicious. When I stopped and put the binoculars on it, it turned out to be another Prairie Falcon. It was standing on the ground about 125 yards from us, but flew within eight to ten seconds. The medium brown color, falcon shape, and choppy, effortless flight were noted as it flew south and east toward a farm, rising to perhaps 200 feet. A large flock of longspurs arose as the falcon leisurely flew around the area. It mingled with the smaller birds but did not chase them. It came back toward us, dropping nearly to ground level and flying against a background of harvested sunflowers, which are the same color as a Prairie Falcon. It blended so well with the sunflowers, that even as I watched it, I lost it. We didn't find it again. **Steve Millard, 503-1/2 W. Spruce, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

SAY'S PHOEBE IN BIG STONE COUNTY — On September 10, 1979 at the Bonanza Unit of Big Stone State Park, I saw a Say's Phoebe. The time was 1:00 P.M., it was clear with little or no wind. I was using 8x24 Nikon binoculars. Just as I opened the door of my car, as I parked in the parking lot, I heard a very familiar chu-weer, rather plaintive and drawn-out. A Say's Phoebe, I thought. Sure enough here it was sitting on a lower dead branch of a small tree at the edge of the parking lot. I looked at it for several minutes as it sat, only occasionally uttering its haunting notes and jerking its black tail. Then it flew off over the woods toward the lake. My first Minnesota record, #299. I have always maintained that the first glimpse of this bird suggests a small robin. I have made the acquaintance of this bird on numerous occasions in North Dakota and Montana. Last summer a pair had their nest built over an old Barn Swallow nest under the eaves of an old barn by the bunkhouse where I stayed for a week near Finley, North Dakota. **Nestor Hiemenz, 705 - 18th Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

PRAIRIE CHICKEN INVENTORY 1979

SUMMARY BY COUNTY OF 1974-79 MINN. PRAIRIE CHICKEN INVENTORY DATA

COUNTY	NO. OF BIRDS OBSERVED — (.) NO. OF BOOMING GROUNDS					
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Becker	66(5)	50(5)	47(4)	54(5)	26(4)	102(9)
Cass	—	—	—	13(1)	9(1)	14(2)*
Chippewa	—	—	—	—	8(1)	2(1)
Clay	263(24)	277(25)	248(24)	197(14)	261(21)	205(17)*
Lac Qui Parle	—	—	—	—	1(1)	—
Mahnomen	49(6)	39(5)	61(4)	107(8)	71(4)	81(7)
Norman	134(11)	123(10)	145(10)	136(11)	130(9)	213(13)
Otter Tail	12(2)	1(1)	6(1)	8(2)	8(2)	19(5)
Pennington	—	—	—	—	—	8(1)
Polk	94(14)	93(11)	103(13)	141(13)	140(16)	192(18)*
Red Lake	11(2)	9(2)	5(1)	3(1)	7(1)	8(1)
Wadena	—	—	—	—	??(10)**	27(3)*
Wilkin	196(18)	189(17)	230(19)	216(12)	180(14)	77(4)
Totals	825(82)	781(76)	825(77)	875(67)	841(74)	948(81)

*These figures include only booming grounds on which counts were made. In a number of counties booming grounds were located by sound but counts were not made. They are not included in this summary

**Wadena County figures were not used in 1978 totals as counts were not made on most grounds.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRAIRIE CHICKENS OBSERVED PER BOOMING GROUND

1974	— 11.46
1975	— 10.55
1976	— 10.71
1977	— 13.06
1978	— 11.36
1979	— 11.70

COMMENTS:

In this sixth annual prairie chicken census 948 chickens were counted on 81 booming grounds. This is a record number of chickens counted. Attempts are made to count only cocks but in some cases total counts were made. Comparison from one year to the next is becoming increasingly difficult. Each year we seem to add at least another county. This year Pennington County on the north end joined the list as Keith and Shelley Steva of Thief River Falls found 1 chicken booming on top of a gravel pile with 7 others nearby on the Pembina WMA. In a number of counties known booming grounds weren't tallied due to manpower and gas shortages. Minnesota is still in the enviable position of having more prairie chickens than we can count — and we do a lot of counting as shown by the totals. **Terry Wolfe, 706 Pine St., Crookston, MN 56716.**

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE AT MANKATO — On December 21, 1979, I had started from Mankato alone, at 7:30 A.M. on this clear, relatively calm day. Temperature rose to 48 degrees at 1:00 P.M., wind was south at 5 MPH. My route was up the river road towards Judson and Courtland, on the Nicollet County side of the Minnesota River. About 5-1/2 miles out of North Mankato, I was on foot in an area of mixed deciduous and coniferous

woods. A grayish bird, about robin-sized, flew out beside the roadway. I had no idea what it was, although it looked somewhat like a Mourning Dove. The tail was completely dissimilar, however. The bird cooperated by flying to a perch in a small tree, and sitting on a conspicuous branch about six feet off the ground. I approached to about 20 yards, then studied it through my binoculars. It had an obvious white eye ring, was slightly smaller than a robin, an unstreaked breast, light coloration. I consulted my Robbins field guide as I looked at it. My conclusion was Townsend's Solitaire. I then cautiously moved closer, and it sat still. I continued to move up until I was no more than 15 feet away. I could clearly see the white edge on the outer tail feathers. I compared back and forth between the bird and the picture in Robbins. It was undoubtedly an adult Townsend's Solitaire. The following week, December 28, 1979, I went to the same place. I couldn't see it, so I went up the side of the hill into a coniferous grove. A bird was making a ruckus, and calling a loud note. I found the Townsend's Solitaire again, flying from tree to tree. On December 29, 1979, we had our first Mankato Christmas Bird count. Bill Thompson of Mankato accompanied me into the Nicollet County quadrant. We looked for the bird, but couldn't find it at first. I suggested we sit and wait at the same place I last saw it. After about a five minute wait, the Townsend's Solitaire suddenly appeared in a cedar right in front of us. **John C. Frantz, 316 Oak Knoll Blvd., Mankato, MN 56001.**

RAPTOR NESTS IN CROW WING COUNTY — On 28 April 1979, Randy "Leroy" Schoeneck and myself went to inspect a Great Horned Owl nest I had found one month previously. The nest was 49' from the ground in a 13" D.B.H. Jack Pine, located amidst a conifer/hardwood forest. The 20 and 21 day-old owlets were just getting flight feathers on their wings. On the way back to the car we spied another nest, which turned out to be that of a pair of Red-tailed hawks, not more than 400 yards from the owls nest. The hawk nest was 44'9" from the ground in a 14" D.B.H. lone Red Oak, and contained two eggs. Both nests were in Sec. 25, T 134 N. R 29 W., Crow Wing County. After this we went to check on an area where we suspected Red-shouldered Hawks to be nesting. About 300 yards into the woods we came across a Barred Owl, who was soon joined by a second, which we saw fly out of a cavity nearby. The cavity turned out to be a nest, which was in a 23" D.B.H. Red Elm, some 21'6" above the ground, with cavity facing the northwest, containing one egg. With hearts still pounding, we continued our search. We found another nest, which had been recently abandoned (looked to be that of a Red-shouldered), and on heading back to the car we heard a couple of screeches, not unlike that of the Red-shoulder! What we saw leaving still a different nest was not Red-shoulders but a pair of Broad-winged Hawks! This nest was 49' above the ground, in a 14" D.B.H. Trembling Aspen, completely lined with Balsam Fir sprigs, contained three eggs, and was about 150 - 175 yards from the Barred Owl nest. Back at the car we tried to relax, but it was not to be as we heard some more screeching about 1/4 mile to the west of us. Arriving on the scene we found a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks and at a nest none-the-less! This nest was in a 13" D.B.H. Red Oak, 39' above ground, completely lined with Norway Pine needles, contained some pieces of Red Oak bark and a single egg. The Barred Owl, Broad-wing and Red-shouldered Hawk nests were located in the hardwood bottoms along the shore of Chandler Lake, in Sec. 21, T 44 N. R 28 W., Crow Wing County. **David H. "D.J." Johnson, R.R. 6, Box 410, Mankato, MN 56001.**

COMMON SNIFE IN CASS COUNTY IN LATE JANUARY — On January 29, 1980, Jerry Lewanski and I were studying animal tracks along the Shingobee River in Cass County when Jerry flushed what he thought was a woodcock from near a rivulet of open water. The bird flew only about thirty feet and settled behind a mound of snow. With my field glasses we studied it at that distance for about ten minutes. What we saw was a dark brown bird standing about six inches high with an enormous straight bill (our estimate was about three inches). Its face and crown were very clearly streaked with several dark and light streaks all running from the bill toward the back of the neck. Its back was a slightly mottled dark brown with hints of dark reddish brown and traversed from neck toward tail by about four widely spaced (approx. 1") thin light bands. It had some barring on the sides and flanks beneath the wing area, and its belly, as much as we could see of it, was a dirty gray color. The throat and chest were slightly darker and more mottled brown than the belly. It was in an open, treeless area along the river bank where several springs were trickling water down through snow covered grass tussocks to join the river. We watched it wade in these areas of trickling water probing with its beak in the unfrozen sediment and up under the tiny overhangs of snow. It appeared alert and healthy. Upon flushing a second time the bird flew about fifty yards in an erratic, fluttering style which I noted was weaker than the flight of the woodcock, a bird with which I am more familiar. We later checked my field guide (Robbins, et al." 1966) and decided we had seen a Common Snipe. We returned the next day (to resolve those doubts which had crept in overnight) and flushed the bird from exactly the same spot. Incidentally, the temperature these two previous nights had been in the range of -25° to -35°F with one local resident recording -38° on the morning of the 29th. This time with field guide in hand we observed the bird feeding at the shallow unfrozen river's edge. We compared its coloring, head shape, bill characteristics, leg length and color, and general dimensions with those of several birds in the guide before becoming convinced that we had found a Common Snipe. The bird was located immediately north of where the Howard Lake Road crosses the Shingobee River about eight miles south of Walker. Because the Shingobee River area is noted for its many springs and consequent winter open water areas it may be that snipe will attempt to overwinter there again at some future time. **Steve Young, 3718 Columbus Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

Editor's Note: This is the first winter record for the Common Snipe outside of southeastern Minnesota.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Guide to North American Waterfowl by Paul A. Johnsgard. Indiana University Press Bloomington, Indiana 47401. 274 pp. with 60 plus line drawings, 31 color illustrations, 90 head profiles and an identification key \$15.95. 1979.

This is a "sorted version of" **Waterfowl of North America** produced "for the majority of Waterfowl enthusiasts" who have no real need for the detailed monographic treatment provided by a work of that size, but nonetheless are interested in learning more about each species than simply how to identify it." Being unfamiliar with that book, I cannot say what faults the present book may have inherited from it. Most objectionable, I find are the frequent and repetitious illustration materials which, had they been omitted, could have reduced — perhaps substantially — publishing costs and ultimately the sales price. Collectively, the multiple sketches (pp 68, 72 and a color plate of Wood Ducks) serve neither useful nor supplemental purposes, as is also the case for Mallards (pp 76 and 97). Furthermore some (a minority, fortunately) illustrations are of such poor quality that they should have been excluded even though they are not duplicative. The black and white line drawings of the swans, Snow Goose, female Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser and, perhaps Buffleheads are prime candidates of this class. Among the 31 colored plates we see the qualities range from very good (Canvasbacks, King Eiders) to mediocre to poor (Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser) among others. Again, the

poorest offerings should have been rejected. The gravest case of duplicity however, involves the presentation of both written descriptions of species ranges and full page distribution maps for each species. While breeding and wintering ranges are shown, virtually no information - written, implied or mapped - is given to indicate where migrants occur. It should be noted that each full page distribution map is well embellished with diminutive, artistically well-drawn, but undoubtedly costly line drawings which lack informative value. In total, many pages could have been eliminated from the book. The book does have merits. It is attractively done, of comfortable size and provides a useful format for discussing the natural history, social behavior, reproductive biology and present estimates of current North American population and trends for each species. But I suspect it meets the needs more of novice waterfowl students than those of "serious waterfowl enthusiasts." It seems somewhat ironical that the very good reference section contains a number of titles which would be more appropriate selections for most readers, even if price were the major consideration.

—Richard Oehlenschlager
Naturalist, Camp Wilder,
14189 Ostlund Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047.

A Guide to Hawk Watching in North America by Donald S. Heintzelman; Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, PA 16802; 200 photos, 284 pages; 1979; \$12.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper.

Hawks and Owls of North America by

Donald S. Heintzelman; Universe Books, 381 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016; 87 photos (including 8 in color); 194 pages; 1979; \$18.50.

A Manual for Bird Watching in the Americas by Donald S. Heintzelman; Universe Books (address above); 147 photos (including 16 in color); 256 pages; 1979; \$17.95.

There's nothing really wrong with Don Heintzelman's books — they're no better and no worse than any other of the growing number of bird books geared to the general (i.e. uninformed) reader. They probably sell well, certainly better than quality works which are worthy of informed and discriminating birders (a much smaller audience, alas). The only problem is that there are too many people (apparently including the author and his various publishers) who are under the mistaken impression that Heintzelman is an expert on birds and who mistakenly consider his books authoritative works.

A Guide to Hawk Watching is one of six books by this author on raptors, a subject he apparently feels he is most expert in. This book is far more factual and informative than the other two reviewed below, but that's not saying much. The opening chapter gives species accounts for all hawks found in the U.S. and Canada. The "Field Recognition" segments of these accounts are in many cases more exhaustive than the standard field guides, but this section must still be considered disappointing since it offers little or no help with difficult identification problems (e.g., accipiters, imm. Red-shouldered Hawk, atypical Red-tailed/Ferruginous Hawks). The 96-page section of plates, both photos and drawings, certainly includes a lot of pictures, but too many of them are only mediocre or even poor in quality (especially those uninspiring and not-very-helpful drawings). Heintzelman does have a talent for photography, but these photos are poor evidence of that, not only because

of their dubious quality but also because most of them were not taken by the author. The bulk of the book includes a directory of hawk migration lookouts and Bald Eagle wintering areas. Certainly there is a lot of useful information here, but there are a few serious flaws. Too many lookouts are rated "Poor" or "Information unavailable," and one can't help but wonder why these spots are included at all — were they thrown in for quantity's sake like the photos to impress the gullible readers? Duluth's Hawk Ridge is included, of course, but it's rated "Fair" in the spring when "Poor" or "None" would be far more accurate. And while it is deservedly rated "Excellent" in fall, what justification can there be for giving 32 other lookouts this same rating when in reality only two or three other spots are as good as Duluth in the fall? That seasonal migration chart for fall migrants on p. 148 bears little resemblance to the true situation in Minnesota, and finally, Hastings is listed in the wintering eagles section (why?), and Read's Landing is sort of mentioned although the directions will get you only to Red Wing.

Hawks and Owls is far less factual and would be of little value to anyone wishing extensive and authoritative raptor information. At least the preface admits the book is not intended to a "a source of original information" but is aimed rather at (who else?) "a general reading audience." However, few readers pay much attention to prefaces and too many are likely to be fooled by the somewhat ponderous and misleading title. The 17 chapters superficially cover a broad and diverse range of topics and none of them really have anything new to say. Chapter 13 is a woefully inadequate discussion on owl migration, including only information on Barn Owl banding returns, Snowy Owl movements, and vague data on Saw-whets — nothing is said of the heavy migration of Saw-whets or Long-eareds at Hawk Ridge. At least the photos are of

better quality than those of the preceding book and are better evidence of Heinzelman's photography skills; however, the birding world could have survived quite well without this book and, for that matter, his other five works on raptors.

Manual for Bird Watching has even a broader scope and a more uninformed readership in mind. A whole lot of ground is covered for the benefit of the novice, everything from "What is Bird Watching?" to how to watch shorebirds, from brief mentions of birding equipment and activities to "Antarctic Birding." So much is included in too few pages that everything is too superficial to be of much real value. But the photos are good, better even than **Hawks and Owls**. Chapter 3 offers a fairly complete bibliography, and the last four chapters give a pretty good introduc-

tion to birding in the West Indies, Central and South American and the Antarctic, areas unfamiliar to most experienced birders. On the other hand, Chapters 16 and 17 on Arctic and United States are so brief and so superficial as to be virtually useless, and the list of organizations in Chapter 4 inexcusably omits the Cooper Ornithological Society (publishers of **The Condor**), South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and the Illinois Audubon Society (plus a few others that I probably didn't catch).

Without doubt, Heinzelman has talent. He's good at taking pictures, good at throwing books together that will sell, good at passing himself off as an expert birder, and good at coming up with pretentious titles for his shallow efforts.

—Kim Eckert



PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** 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 Kim Eckert. See inside front cover.

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PAP

The LOON Minnesota's magazine of birds, 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 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: Paul Egeland, 12 East 67th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55423. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send \$7.50 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$10.00 yearly; Supporting \$15.00 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$10 yearly. Also available: 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 the treasurer.

EDITOR OF THE LOON: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). 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,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804. (phone 218-525-6930).

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ITASCA BIRDS

Black-throated Green Warbler

David F. Parmelee

Although not nearly so abundant as many of Itasca's breeding warblers, the Black-throated Green's song descends the tall conifers in so many places that we consider the species a fairly common spring and summer park resident. I have noted it most often at the southern edge of the University of Minnesota's Forestry and Biological Station, and on adjacent Bear Paw Point — that broad peninsula of floating bogs and forested uplands that juts boldly into Lake Itasca at the juncture of its north and east arms. Even though Black-throated Green Warblers often occur in the upper story of high firs and spruces, its favored overall Itasca habitat appears to be a mix of mature deciduous and coniferous trees bordering persistently wet bogs.

One would expect the birds to have exceptionally well-hidden nests high above the ground in their accustomed living quarters, and no doubt some do. The two Itasca nests that I have seen were, however, fairly low down; one was five feet above ground and midway out on one of the lower, drooping branches of a huge balsam fir, the other about nine feet up on a horizontal limb next to the trunk of a slender elm. Both were clearly visible from so far away as 10 meters and, even more conspicuous, were the incubating females with their golden cheeks. The brighter males flitted about near

their nests seemingly indifferent to my stares.

The watercolor of the pair with its nest on the droopy limb had its conceptual beginning on 8 June, 1972. (See front cover.) That day I spotted the nest in the big fir beside one of the station service roads. The neat little structure saddled precariously yet so artistically, I thought unusually attractive. It held two warbler eggs that appeared to be Black-throated Greens, but I couldn't be certain for the adults were off somewhere. Early the following day, the female was on the nest; the clutch of four was completed by her on 10 June when the nest also held a Brown-headed Cowbird's egg.

The painting I put off until later for reasons unknown to me now. I vividly recall that when Professor Dwain Warner captured a pair of adults in his mist nets on 9 July that year, I thought the opportunity to use living models too good to pass up. For several hours I studied and sketched the banded captives in my Itasca office before releasing them to the wilds. Soon afterwards I constructed the watercolor from the sketches and the then empty nest attached to the balsam limb.

Field Biology Program, Bell Museum
of Natural History, University of
Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

ITASCA BIRDS

David F. Parmelee

Itasca State Park is a favorite locality for many Minnesota birders. Itasca sits at the junction of three of North America's major Vegetational Components — the boreal forest, the deciduous forest and the prairie. Its birdlife is complex and fluctuating and most interesting.

Tourists crowd the north shore of Minnesota's Lake Itasca only to stare impassively at one of the great attractions—the cradle of the mighty Mississippi, the Father of Waters. Most contemplate a truly spectacular sight, but find instead a tiny stream, a lowly trickle of water that before flowing northward very far leaves Itasca State Park and immediately enters resort and farm lands. It is unfortunate that the headwaters lie nearly outside this Nation's finest state park, for sprawling southward some fifty square miles from the famous outlet is a unique meshing of lakes, bogs and uplands, virtually a biologist's paradise and, if you are a birder, a must in your bag of important places to visit in the Upper Midwest.

What makes Itasca State Park special? No doubt scholars of recent history dwell on the colorful period of European expansion that reached an explorational zenith in our country during the past century — one that included an exhaustive search for the source of the Mississippi and finally achieved by the adventurer Schoolcraft. Our native Indians were at the headwaters long before then; some 9,000 years earlier they hunted the now extinct giant bison in southern parts of Itasca near beautiful Elk Lake. Today, University of Minnesota geol-

ogists and paleoecologists sift the lake's sediments in reconstructing the region's history from glacial times predating the Indian hunting parties. These scientists paint a scene quite different from what we see; instead of spruce bog, pine and deciduous forests, the rugged Itasca moraines at one time were upgrown to oak savannas that survive only in isolated spots.

For birders in search of birds the present is important. It matters little to them what the historic events were that led to the very habitats so vital to their birds. Nevertheless, for one to understand Itasca's birds and its myriads of other living organisms, one must consider the uniqueness of the park's habitats. Itasca sits at the juncture of three of the continent's major vegetational components — the northern boreal forest, eastern deciduous forest, and great plains prairie. Few areas the world over show so dramatically the transitions among these ecosystems.

The great convergence gives rise to diverse aquatic and terrestrial habitats which in turn support diverse flora and fauna. Itasca can be likened to a high mountain slope with many transitional zones and habitats except that it lies at much lower elevations and traps more lakes and bogs than one usually finds on the side of a

mountain. The converging influences from all directions set the stage for exceptional birding experiences.

At the height of the June breeding season one might encounter singing Connecticut Warblers and Olive-sided Flycatchers typical of northern boreal forests while at the same time hear Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Hooded Warblers that somehow creep in from the south. Imagine my surprise when informed that standing on the lawn beside my Itasca cabin was nothing less than a male Lark Bunting in boldly black and white feather: Here was a new bird for the park, a species I had not seen since those windy days afield long ago on the high prairie plains of Kansas. Imagine, a short grass prairie inhabitant among the pines of Itasca!

Many unusual Itasca sightings occur from time to time, but few so spectacular as a recent one by Paul Rundell, one of our Minnesota foresters with an exceptional eye. On two occasions in 1976, he saw a Swallow-tailed Kite, perhaps the same individual each time. Before the turn of the century this strikingly handsome bird of prey migrated regularly up the Mississippi River into Minnesota; long since it has been restricted mostly to Florida and other Gulf states. Could it be that once again this hawk-like kite is following the Mississippi all the way to Itasca where it bred so long ago as 1886? Reintroductions of this sort can be expected since Minnesotans have learned to preserve some of their best native habitats.

Rediscovering birds or finding new ones for the park is a lot of fun, but such observations are only one piece of Itasca's ornithological puzzle. The complexity of Itasca birds became apparent to me when, several years ago, I was asked by Ben Thoma, the park naturalist, to update a simple checklist of the area's birds. This was a reasonable request by the Department of Natural Resources: All of my summers and most springs are taken up at the University of Minnesota's Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station

where annually carried on are a variety of courses and research activities in field biology. Faculty and students from all parts of the United States explore the many park habitats and often penetrate their inner cores, not excepting tricky floating sedges and mosquito-dominated spruce bogs. Data banks of biological information gathered by these people prove invaluable when we attempt to put together even the simplest of checklists.

What first appears simple may prove anything but. Most bird checklists assist the uninformed by stating which species for a given region are common (C), uncommon (UC), and rare (R); more sophisticated ones differentiate between abundant (A) and common, also between vagrant (V) and rare. Used in conjunction with these codes are others that refer to seasonal status: spring (Sp); summer (S), fall (F), winter (W). The checklist has a useful function when bird life is fairly stable and appears to change little from year to year; its usefulness is diminished where bird life is unstable. It didn't take me long to discover that a good many of Itasca's birds are anything but predictable.

Certain species, such as Ruffed Grouse, show predictable peaks and lows in their numbers over large areas, and wildlife researchers work hard to unravel the underlying causes of their apparent cyclic behavior. Other species are predictable by the very fact that they are notorious nonconformists that show up some years, often remain long enough to raise broods, then disappear suddenly, sometimes for years. Cone-eating crossbills and other finches fit this category well, but none so neatly as that great wanderer, the Bohemian Waxwing. When lemming and other prey populations drop precipitously in the Canadian tundras and muskegs, Minnesota birders eagerly await those cyclic winter invasions of Snowy, Boreal and Great Gray Owls, and look for more than the usual numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes. Some species

are so finicky about their insect foods during breeding that they show up in force in areas plagued by infestations. Black-billed Cuckoos often converge during outbreaks of tent caterpillars, while that little gem of a warbler known as the Cape May seeks out spruce bud worms ravaging local forests and stays to raise an exceptionally large brood on the super-abundant food. All these birds are easy to code because of their peculiar, highly visible behaviors.

Other kinds appear to be more stable, occupying the same territories in a given area year after year, seemingly not fluctuating much in numbers and, thus, also are predictable, though in a different context. If these species have cycles, and conceivably many do, they are subtle cycles that are not highly visible. During my years at Itasca certain waterfowl, birds of prey, woodpeckers, and particularly song birds were often in so many places that I couldn't picture them as being anything but common. Now, after a decade of birding, I admit that many of those same species can be accurately coded only as common some years and downright scarce in others. At Itasca we simply see more clearly the ups and downs in numbers of those species usually regarded elsewhere as stable.

Examples are numerous. One that comes to mind involves Itasca's two nuthatches — the little Red-breasted Nuthatch and the somewhat larger White-breasted Nuthatch. Even though the two have similar "yank-yank-yank" calls, body shapes, and upside-down, tree-creeping habits, the red or white breasts quickly distinguish the species. In the early seventies Itasca's Red-breasts greatly outnumbered its White-breasts. The former were so common that one could hear and see them most any time when looked for. On the other hand, one had to look for the White-breasts, and one still does, though they are fairly common in many places. The big shift in numbers befell the Red-breasts. By 1978 the

White-breasts were encountered more often than the then decidedly uncommon Red-breasts. The latter were so scarce by 1979 that our students questioned the wisdom of my coding them common (C) in the checklist.

The unstableness of many Itasca birds probably is partly attributable to the converging ecosystems. Birds at the outer edges of their ranges are thought by some ornithologists to be more unpredictable than those residing closer to their distributional centers; the fringe birds also appear to be more skittish and less approachable. Another possibility is that the noticeable drops in numbers of certain song birds in recent years may be the result of the rapid destruction of winter habitats, especially in tropical areas. Only time will tell whether such a gloomy hypothesis has substance.

Not all Itasca birds appear unsettled. Fortunately, for the park's managers and visitors, certain of Itasca's prize species — the Common Loon, the Great Blue Heron, the Osprey — seem to maintain their numbers at expected levels. Even the park's one pair of Bald Eagles usually fledge a youngster or two each season, though not without mishap; when the pair's huge nest came down from a high pine during stormy weather in 1979, the birds lost an egg and Itasca a famous lakeside landmark. On the ground the nest of sticks and twigs measuring some eight feet across easily could have accommodated a sleeping man. The pair renested that same year.

Spring is a good time to bird at Itasca, and unquestionably the time of the year best suited to teaching field ornithology. While the lake ice retreats stubbornly during those last days of April, our students gather at the station for an intensive five-week term. Always they bargain for an earlier than usual spring, and almost always the last vestiges of Itasca's ice and snows dispel their hopes. Not many birds sing then either, though the students soon discover the loud, musical warblings of Purple Finches,

and the grouse and sapsucker drumming that begin to shatter Itasca's winter silence. Above all there is that hard to describe early spring excitement that ripples through an awakening forest. Harmless insects appear mysteriously, frogs stir, and tiny rodents scurry and scamper. And, best of all, birds are on the move. Lakes and ponds long repressed come alive with vanguards of loons and Red-breasted Mergansers splashing down in their leads and melt pools. Twilight biased Barred Owls whoop it up and, if you are a night stalker, you will surely hear volleys of abbreviated whistlings from the little Saw-whet Owl.

During the warmer days that follow our students experience remarkable transformations in Itasca's aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Little by little the stark openness of winter fills with greenery, but shortly before the all concealing broad leaves burst forth, the first big warbler wave hits Itasca. These are moments when the still naked aspen and larch glow with gaudy feathers. Often I have counted upwards of a dozen warbler species at once outside my cabin window; a stroll then along most of the many park trails is even more rewarding.

These migrating throngs are short lived. By the time they disappear, as suddenly as they appeared, the leaves unfurl and the easy sightings end.

The migration usually peaks in mid-May at a pleasant time before the mosquitoes emerge. Occasional late springs keep the pests at bay, but they also cause disrupted bird schedules. During the much retarded spring breakup of 1979, our students were dismayed by the delays and inactivities of birds. We tried to explain to them that biologists need to study their subjects under all conditions; besides, adverse conditions often lead to unusual sightings. The students were not long disappointed: We began to witness migratory swans and cormorants in unexpected large numbers, and the many flying Horned Grebes

were marvelous to behold. The birds of the year proved to be three stray White-winged Scoters that remained for nearly a week offshore from the Itasca station. Outside of Lake Superior, these strange looking ducks unquestionably are uncommon most any time or place in Minnesota.

By the time our spring ornithology students leave and the summer ones arrive, birds have all but settled down to nesting. Of the nearly 30 species of migrating warblers that arrived earlier at Itasca, at least 19 species remain to breed. These and other summer residents soon become ensconced in their respective, hidden habitats, their presence known mostly through vocalizing males — reason enough why our summer students work especially hard at learning bird songs. They spend many a night in the ornithology laboratory going over and over the records and tapes. All is worth the effort if only to recognize that wonderful bubbling Winter Wren song deep within the spruce bog; or those high-pitched Blackburnian Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglet notes that filter down from the uppermost swirls of tall spruces; or those enchanting flute-like vesper calls of the Hermit Thrushes that ring through the jack pine barrens.

Much of the singing is over by the end of our first summer term classes, including ornithology. Though Itasca's habitats are stilled by lack of song, bird activity continues. Solitary Sandpipers and other shorebirds depart from the northern tundras and muskegs earlier than most birds; by mid-summer they are probing Itasca's shores and marshy spots.

Less conspicuous shifts in the local bird populations also take place. While banding bog birds one late summer day, our researchers were dumbfounded when they began to catch in their nets species that should have been in the drier uplands. We can only guess why these late summer shifts take place. Perhaps the adults take their broods to better feeding

grounds, perhaps also to molt in the boggy places that remain cool during the summer highs.

We know so little about late summer birds in so many places that it is a pity that most ornithologists and their classes end their activities when other field biologists have only begun to reach toward the apex of their season's work. Not only do our botanists and ecologists do justice to their own data banks, they also contribute to the pool of ornithological data. How I tried to pin down a Turkey Vulture breeding record for the park without success; and how chagrined I was when later I learned that our plant communities class found the vulture's nest in a great pine stump a long hike back in Itasca's virgin forests. The instructor and students had come upon the pair with their two nearly fledged young one very hot mid-summer day — when most birders had long given up the season.

A checklist quickly discloses the deficiencies of one's knowledge of a flora or fauna. Soon it was apparent that despite our many spring and summer records, we knew very little about Itasca's fall and winter periods. We had few records for those species presumed common let alone uncommon or vagrant. With a stepped-up winter program at the station, it didn't take long to fill some gaps.

Wintering Hoary Redpolls surely have visited Itasca in company with the more abundant Common Redpolls for a long time, but until we had a positive sighting we were compelled to exclude the former species. Little did we know that Common Crows so conspicuous in spring and summer disappeared in winter when Common Ravens and Black-billed Magpies put in an appearance. Certain species showed up as expected, but also there were surprises, perhaps none so great as a wintering Belted Kingfisher. Because of nationwide Audubon Christmas bird counts, the kingfisher was recorded at the headwaters of the Mississippi — one of Itasca's few open

water spots when temperatures plunge to a minus 40 degrees.

Upwards of 50 Audubon counters gather annually at Itasca, usually between Christmas and New Years, and look for as many birds as humanly possible to find during one day from sunrise to sunset. At Itasca's latitude they do well to find 25 winter species, at that not many of one kind. In true Itasca tradition they usually come up with a rare find: Not long ago they reported a Townsend's Solitaire — a kind of thrush that summers in the far western mountains and drifts across the Great Plains in winter, casually to southern Minnesota.

One might get the impression that all we do is count birds. Frankly, I prefer to observe single or at most a few birds for long periods, rather than chase around the country quickly listing species. So much is to be learned from concentrated study, and I suppose why, in addition to maintaining a species notebook in which daily entries are kept, I insist that my students tackle a simple field problem of their choosing. Some prefer to work within designated areas already staked out into study plots; others zero in on certain species that appeal to them. A favorite project has been one concerned with territorial boundary disputes among the Song Sparrows occupying Lake Itasca's Schoolcraft Island—that less than an acre-sized island commemorating the park's famous explorer.

Spying on loons or trying to get a handle on the 300 or more pairs of Great Blue Herons deep within the park's big pine forests have been popular pursuits as well. Since most of our spring-term students are wildlife majors preparing for careers in game management, a fair share of the studies relate to important game species, especially grouse, Wood Ducks and American Woodcocks, or their predators.

The value of such studies lies in the experience the student derives from observing wildlife firsthand, checking

pertinent literature on the subject, and writing up the results of his or her efforts scientifically. Not much significant research can be expected of an individual during a brief five-week term, but the accumulative effect of many short-term observations adds substantially to Itasca's data base. Copies of the unpublished reports are filed in the station's library.

Original observations surface despite time limits. When this happens, we encourage our students to publish their findings in some appropriate journal, preferably Minnesota's official bird publication, **The Loon**. Not long ago one of our students reported on little-known nesting behaviors of the Brown Creeper; another had such good observations on vocalizations of Boreal Chickadees that we encouraged her to publish in a national journal of broader coverage. Catching our attention most recently was fresh material on that much studied flight-singing display of the American Woodcock.

Our most valuable studies are long-term ones covering several seasons and carried out largely by graduate students with masters or doctoral dissertations in mind. The Malvin and Josephine Herz Foundation Fellowships have sponsored such studies for many years. Visiting scientists and independent investigators also conduct important research at the station, and I am reminded of the priest who came all the way from Missouri to study Itasca's Swamp Sparrows. A German scientist planned a comparative study of our three American Accipiter hawks — the Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Goshawk — since all three occupy Itasca's forests. It proved to be one study, unfortunately, that failed to materialize.

A goodly number of birders from all parts of the United States come to Itasca seeking special birds; often they stop by my office for advice as to where they can find their specials, and their chances of seeing one or more of them. Experienced birders

invariably list as their number one choice our resident Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers which occur in small numbers throughout the park, principally in mature red or jack pine stands. A sure bet for seeing these woodpeckers is to locate their nesting holes which occur from four to forty feet up in living pines, at times conspicuously close to park roads and foot paths. We try to find at least one each spring simply to give our visiting birders a treat. Often our Black-backs are so approachable that our visitors leave Itasca thrilled by the experience.

The Spruce Grouse is another species high on the birder's list. Directing visitors to one of them is, however, no simple task. We have few records for the park itself; nearly all are referable to the Lake Alice region — a complex series of spruce bogs and jack pine forests located a few kilometers east of the park. One bent on finding these grouse should be prepared to put in long hours under very trying conditions because at Lake Alice only the hardest and luckiest birders succeed. We have seen so few of these resident birds that we long have considered them rare; now we're not so sure. Our graduate students have been trapping and banding more of them than we thought possible; by employing radio-telemetry techniques, they have tracked some hens to nests, and later followed the hens with their broods.

Less difficult species suffice for the not-so-hard-to-please birders. A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird provided many a thrill with its pretty spiderweb-bound lichen nest on a drooping birch branch overlooking our cabin stoop. By attaching a partly tilted mirror to the end of a five-foot pole, my wife and I were able to show scores of curious visitors the bird's two immaculate, bean-sized eggs, and later its also tiny young.

A more daring Itasca adventure for our visitors was a climb of a dozen rungs of a sturdy ladder propped

against the broken-off top of a pine stump; earlier I had removed a small section of the stump to expose the feathery nest of Red-breasted Nuthatches. One standing atop the ladder could, after having removed the plug from the artificial opening, peek in on the incubating bird a scant finger's length away. I especially wanted to sketch one of the nuthatch fledglings shortly before it left the nest cavity, but at the critical moment when I tried to remove one of the five youngsters to serve as my model, all five bolted. All shot from the natural opening one after another in rapid-fire succession, then each headed in a different direction. I caught not one.

Visitors to Itasca are puzzled by an apparent lack of certain birds that occur commonly elsewhere in Minnesota, for example, Mourning Doves that seldom are seen within the park. We attribute such discrepancy largely to park managerial control of natural calamities, such as forest fires; consequently, many forest openings gradually fill in and no longer attract open-country species. One doesn't go far outside the park, however, before encountering doves, Killdeers, Bobolinks, House Wrens, Vesper Sparrows and others that prefer the open spaces; this is why we extended the boundaries of our checklist a full kilometer

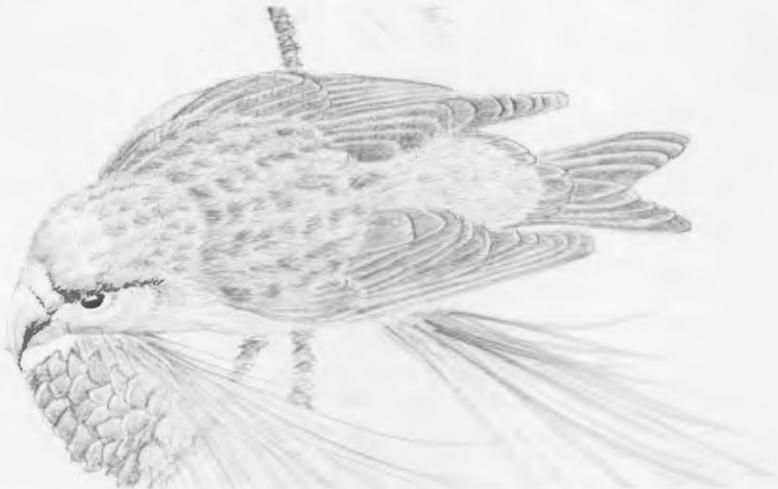
beyond the park in achieving a realistic picture of the area's birds.

Not all gaps in the Itasca ornithological puzzle are explained so easily. Why Whip-poor-wills of all birds are so rare in our Itasca forests remains a very vexing question; there are others, to be sure. One should not get the impression that little is left to be learned about Itasca birds. We have barely scratched the surface.

The already out-dated checklist¹ provides clues to some of the gaps needing attention, but any observation large or small that you feel worthy of preservation should be reported to Mr. David Bosanko, Resident Biologist, if not in person at the station office, then in writing at: University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station, Lake Itasca, Minnesota 56460. Pertinent information should include date, locality within or near park, numbers of individuals, activity (nesting, etc.), and name and address of observer. Even if you don't have a record to report, stop by our office for a chat. We love to talk birds.

Field Biology Program, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

¹Obtainable from the Department of Natural Resources at Douglas Lodge, Itasca State Park, Minnesota 56460.



THE ARCTIC LOON IN MINNESOTA: A REVISED LOOK AT ITS STATUS AND IDENTIFICATION

Kim R. Eckert

The majority of Arctic Loon records in Minnesota are of birds in non-breeding plumage. Birds are difficult to identify in this plumage and a number of previous state records have proven to be unacceptable. Means to identify non-breeding plumaged birds are given.

Until recently, there had been 12 acceptable Arctic Loon records in Minnesota which had been published in **The Loon** and/or deposited in the permanent M. O. U. files in Duluth. (Another record from May of 1973, previously accepted for publication in **The Loon**, was later judged to have been unacceptable.) However, in response to an Arctic Loon Note of Interest printed last year (**The Loon** 51:51), Joseph Morlan, a birder from California who has considerable experience with Arctic Loons, wrote me and suggested that our identification criteria for this species may have been deficient. Since identification of Arctic Loons in non-breeding plumage can be very difficult and since Minnesota observers have limited contact with this species, I asked Mr. Morlan to evaluate some of our past records. As a result of his comments (and some further research on our part in Minnesota), it was decided to have the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee reevaluate several past Arctic Loon records. Five of these records were then judged to be unacceptable, leaving Minnesota with seven acceptable records.

Before itemizing and commenting on each record, however, it is first necessary to summarize criteria used to identify the Arctic Loon in non-

breeding plumage. Some of the field marks mentioned below will be seen to be helpful ones and others to be misleading. Since I have no personal expertise in this field, the points discussed below come not from my experience, but are distilled from two sources: Mr. Morlan's communications with me, and the article "Identification of Arctic Loons" by J. T. Leverich which appeared in the October 1979 issue of **The Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts**. It will also be seen that the identification problem lies not in confusion with Red-throated Loon (this species' upturned bill seems a consistent, safe and diagnostic feature), but with the Common Loon, especially young first-fall birds and individuals of the so-called Lesser race.

a) black "chin-strap" — although difficult to see, apparently a very diagnostic mark never present in Common Loon (see illustration in Godfrey's **The Birds of Canada** or the photo in **The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds; Western Region**).

b) head shape — top of head more evenly rounded than in Common Loon which has a more angular profile with a "bump" above the eye; said to be another valuable and diagnostic mark (both Robbins' and Peterson's guides show this).

c) transverse bars on back — not present on all Arctics, but some fall/winter adults still have remains of this from breeding plumage, and diagnostic if present (see same photo mentioned above).

d) very pale nape — also not present on all Arctics, but diagnostic only if there is a strong contrast with both the darker crown and back.

e) white flank spot near tail at water line — first mentioned in **British Birds** 71:225 and considered by Leverich to be diagnostic, although both he and Morlan mention that if the loon is riding low enough in the water this mark would not be visible; Morlan is not enthusiastic about this as a diagnostic mark, although the Common Loon apparently never shows this (see illustrations in Robbins' guide or in **Audubon Water Bird Guide** by Pough).

f) lack of eye-ring — Leverich says almost all Common Loons show an obvious eye-ring and that Arctics never do; Morlan apparently feels that many Commons lack this eye-ring and that some Arctics can have some white around the eye; perhaps a helpful mark, then, if not a diagnostic one (difference shown in all standard field guides).

g) coloration of sides and back of lower neck — a complicated point which I don't fully understand is mentioned by Leverich as diagnostic; rather than trying to interpret this, I suggest the reader consult this portion of the article; Morlan makes no specific reference to this part of the plumage.

h) smaller bill and body size — probably the most unreliable and overrated field mark, according to both Morlan and Leverich, even when direct comparison is available; apparently first-fall and "Lesser" Common Loons have bill and body measurements which approach and even overlap Arctics; clearly Minnesota observers have overemphasized the importance of thin bills.

With the above discussion of identification in mind (also bear in mind

the possibility that the interpretation and condensation of my two sources may be imperfect), the following seven records were recently judged acceptable by the Records Committee:

1) November 22, 1969; near Stoney Point, St. Louis Co.; description in **The Loon** 43:19, and original field notes in M.O.U. files (transverse barring on back noted).

2) September 17-24, 1972; Duluth, St. Louis Co.; description in **The Loon** 44:116 (individual in breeding plumage).

3) September 10, 1973; Duluth Township, St. Louis Co.; description in **The Loon** 46:39 (black chinstrap noted).

4) October 3-4, 1973; Duluth, St. Louis Co.; unpublished field notes in M.O.U. files (individual in breeding plumage).

5) October 22-23, 1973, Duluth, St. Louis Co.; unpublished field notes in M.O.U. files (black chinstrap, rounded head shape and transverse barring on back noted).

6) November 1, 1974; Mille Lacs Lake, Mille Lacs Co.; unpublished field notes in M.O.U. files (rounded head shape noted).

7) June 13 - August 1, 1976; Minneapolis, Hennepin Co.; description in **The Loon** 48:184, photo on cover same issue, original field notes and original photos in M.O.U. files (black chinstrap, rounded head shape, and pale, contrasting nape noted).

The following five records, formerly accepted for publication in **The Loon** and/or for inclusion in the M.O.U. files, were also recently judged to be unacceptable:

—October 19, 1972; Mahnomen Lake, Crow Wing Co.; unpublished field notes in M.O.U. files (identification based primarily on thin bill and small body size, direct comparison with Common Loon was available).

—September 15-20, 1973; Stoney Point, St. Louis Co.; record published in **The Loon** 46:58 (published record includes no description, and no field notes are known to exist, although

many observers saw this individual).

—November 3, 1974; Mille Lacs Lake, ? Co., record published in **The Loon** 47:78 (published record includes no description, and no field notes are known to exist, two individuals reported one of which may have been same individual as acceptable record #6).

—September 11, 1978; Duluth, St. Louis Co.; description in **The Loon** 51:51 (identification based primarily

on thin bill and small body size, direct comparison with Common Loon was available).

—September 23, 1978; Duluth Township, St. Louis Co.; description in **The Loon** 51:51 (same situation as September 11 record, except this individual was photographed and the photo suggests angular head shape of Common Loon). —9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.



HAWK OWL — Photo by Warren Nelson of Aitkin. At least four of these owls were present in the area just north of Aitkin during the winter of 1979-80.

THE 1979 MINNESOTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Kim R. Eckert

A record 40 Christmas Bird Counts were conducted in Minnesota in 1979. 111 species were recorded. Duluth and Rochester tied for top honors with 51 species. The Double-crested Cormorant was recorded for the first time in winter on the Big Stone N.W.R. count.

The popularity of Christmas Bird Counts continues to increase in Minnesota. Forty CBCs were run this year, four more than in 1978 (there was also a 41st count from Afton which did not indicate how many of its 59 species were in Minnesota). Brand new CBCs came from Lac Qui Parle, Lamberton and Mankato, and Northwoods reappeared after a year's absence. Unfortunately not all the 40 counts were "officially" submitted to **American Birds** for publication — it would be nice if all compilers did so which would make Minnesota one of the top CBC states (in 1978 only five states had 40 or more CBCs published in **American Birds**).

This year's CBC season was strikingly similar to last year's — cooperative weather, a relative scarcity of birds, and some excellent CBC species totals. Except for the Sunday of opening weekend, December 16, weather was unseasonably mild with few counts recording below zero temperatures and almost all counts with little or no snow cover. And, like last year, many complained of the poor quantity of birds during the month, especially winter finches. In spite of this, there were some CBCs with their best counts ever as increased coverage resulted in high species totals. The best examples of this were Duluth and Rochester which each tallied their best-

ever 51 species and tied for the top spot in the state. Close behind were Bloomington with 50, St. Paul N. E. with 47, and the newly revived St. Paul CBC with an excellently organized 46 species.

A composite total of 111 species was recorded from all counts (there were 106 last year). In addition there were six questionable species which may or may not have been valid: Great Gray Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow. (Afton also recorded three species missed by all other CBCs — White-fronted Goose, Red-shouldered Hawk, Tufted Titmouse.) But in spite of this above average total of 111 plus, the list of highlights seems somewhat disappointing: a late Common Loon up at Duluth, two White Pelicans returning to Albert Lea, very late (but not all that unexpected), Double-crested Cormorants at Big Stone N.W.R., Ruddy Ducks at Rochester, a Golden Eagle at Marshall, Merlins at East Grand Forks and Big Stone N.W.R. (seems to be increasing in winter), a Townsend's Solitaire on the new Mankato CBC, increasing numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets which had been down (especially 41 at Itasca St. Pk.), a well-documented Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Austin, a carefully studied Loggerhead Shrike at Duluth, excellent numbers

of American Goldfinch all over (to make up for the lack of winter finches — Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll and both crossbills were especially scarce), and Field Sparrows at Hastings-Etter, St. Paul and during the Cedar Lake CBC week.

Albert Lea

33 species, 2500 individuals, Rose Foss compiler, Dec. 30; noteworthy — 2 White Pelicans, Wood Duck, 9 Song Sparrows.

Austin

30 species, 2973 individuals, Terry Dorsey compiler, Dec. 16; noteworthy — Brown Thrasher, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Brown-headed Cowbird.

Bemidji

28 species, 1919 individuals, Jim Mattsson compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Hooded Merganser, Golden-crowned Kinglet, 265 Bohemian Waxwings, Common Grackle, 70 American Goldfinch, 50 Red Crossbill, 30 White-winged Crossbill, 2 Bald Eagles (count week).

Big Stone N.W.R., Minn. portion

27 species, 6208 individuals, Robert Berger compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 4500 Canada Geese, Lesser Scaup, 2 Merlins, Glaucous Gull, Cardinal, 250 Tree Sparrows, Pied-billed Grebe and Red-head (both count week).

Bloomington

50 species, 10,643 individuals, Richard Hale compiler, Dec. 29; noteworthy — Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, 2540 Mallards, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot, 13 Ring-billed Gulls, Hermit Thrush, 458 Tree Sparrows, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck (both count week).

Cedar Creek Bog, Anoka Co.

33 species, 2321 individuals, Boyd Lien compiler, Dec. 16; noteworthy — Long-eared Owl, 458 Black-capped Chickadees, 341 American Goldfinch.

Cedar Lake, Scott Co.

21 species, 1245 individuals, Robert Leis compiler, Dec. 22; noteworthy — Field Sparrow (count week).

Cottonwood

30 species, 1876 individuals, Paul Egeland compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 35 Canada Geese, Great Horned Owl (Arctic race).

Crookston

23 species, 1646 individuals, Thomas Feiro compiler, Dec. 16; noteworthy — 78 Greater Prairie Chicken, Common Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch.

Crosby

26 species, 1595 individuals, Jo Blanych compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 13 Red-headed Woodpeckers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, 327 American Goldfinch, 12 Red Crossbills, 13 Dark-eyed Juncoes.

Duluth

51 species, 8298 individuals, Kim Eckert compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Common Loon, Bufflehead, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, 14 Mourning Doves, 12 Snowy Owls, Hawk Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, 505 Black-capped Chickadees, Varied Thrush, 5 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 72 Bohemian Waxwings, Loggerhead Shrike, Cardinal, 7 Pine Grosbeaks, 78 American Goldfinch, 33 Red Crossbills, 65 Dark-eyed Juncoes, White-throated Sparrow, 150 Snow Buntings, Bald Eagle (count week).

Excelsior

42 species, 9047 individuals, Jack Mauritz compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 3031 Canada Geese, Pintail, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot, Bohemian Waxwing.

Fargo-Moorhead, Minn. portion

29 species, 2525 individuals, Ron Neller-moe compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Saw-whet Owl, 78 Red-breasted

Nuthatch, 14 Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, 30 Common Redpolls, 52 American Goldfinch, 58 Dark-eyed Juncoes, Lapland Longspur, Cardinal and White-throated Sparrow (both count week).

Faribault

24 species, 1190 individuals, Orwin Rustad compiler, Dec. 15; no unusual species noted.

Fergus Falls

38 species, 4347 individuals, Paul Anderson compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, 7 Greater Prairie Chicken, American Coot, Belted Kingfisher, 10 Common Redpolls, 44 American Goldfinch, 155 Dark-eyed Juncoes, 114 Tree Sparrow.

Grand Forks - East Grand Forks

Minn. portion

17 species, 1064 individuals, Frank Kelley compiler, Dec. 16; noteworthy — Merlin, 56 Mourning Doves, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, 22 American Goldfinch, 11 Dark-eyed Juncoes, Harris' Sparrow.

Grand Marais

32 species, 1727 individuals, Dale Peterson compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Bald Eagle, 14 Boreal Chickadees, 14 American Robins, 40 Bohemian Waxwings, 23 Cedar Waxwings, Common Grackle, 310 Purple Finch, 34 Pine Grosbeaks, 377 Pine Siskins, 10 White-winged Crossbills, 10 Dark-eyed Juncoes, Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Hawk Owl and White-throated Sparrow (both count week).

Hastings-Etter

32 species, 2596 individuals, Joanne Dempsey compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Varied Thrush, Field Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

Hibbing

24 species, 1270 individuals, Selena McCracken compiler, Dec. 29; noteworthy — Brown Creeper, American Robin, 16 Pine Grosbeaks, 17 Common Redpolls, 6 Red Crossbills, 117 Snow

Bunting, Short-eared Owl (count week).

Itasca State Park

27 species, 1240 individuals, Dave Bosanko compiler, Dec. 31; noteworthy — Bald Eagle, 3 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, Brown Creeper, 41 Golden-crowned Kinglets, American Goldfinch, 2 Red Crossbills, 18 White-winged Crossbills.

Lac Qui Parle

28 species, 25,546 individuals, Micki Buer compiler, Dec. 29; noteworthy — Snow Goose, 20,000 Canada Geese, 4000 Mallards, 10 Bald Eagles, 268 Tree Sparrows.

La Crosse - La Crescent, Minn. portion

31 species, 11,621 individuals, Fred Leshar compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Wood Duck, Canvasback, Ring-billed Gull, 9606 Red-winged Blackbirds, 1024 Common Grackles, 10 Common Redpolls.

Lamberton

26 species, 1749 individuals, Lee French compiler, Dec. 29; noteworthy — 4 Harris' Sparrows.

Mankato

35 species, 3966 individuals, Merrill Frydendall compiler, Dec. 28; noteworthy — Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, Townsend's Solitaire, Harris' Sparrow (count week).

Marshall

39 species, 1198 individuals, Henry Kyllingstad compiler, Dec. 16; noteworthy — Common Merganser, Golden Eagle, Short-eared Owl, 16 Common Flickers, Harris' Sparrow.

Minneapolis

41 species, 7353 individuals, Oscar Johnson compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 1846 Mallards, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Brown Thrasher, 65 Snow Buntings.

Mountain Lake - Windom

27 species, 2831 individuals, Edna Gerber compiler, Jan. 1, 1980; note-

worthy — 23 Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrush, Brewer's Blackbird, Harris' Sparrow.

Northwoods, Pine Co.

10 species, 211 individuals, Mike Link compiler, Dec. 28; noteworthy — 48 American Goldfinch.

Owatonna

26 species, 4081 individuals, Darryl Hill compiler, Dec. 29, noteworthy — 23 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 436 Tree Sparrows.

Rochester

51 species, 29,552 individuals, Vince Herring compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Whistling Swan (free-flying), 22,600 Canada Geese, Snow Goose, Lesser Scaup, 2 Ruddy Ducks, American Coot, Hermit Thrush, 230 American Goldfinch, White-fronted Goose and Ring-necked Duck (both count week).

St. Paul

46 species, 8746 individuals, Kiki Sonnen compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 2452 Mallards, Wood Duck, American Coot, 220 Herring Gulls, 10 Ring-billed Gulls, 2 Pine Grosbeaks, 220 American Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, 10 Song Sparrows, Common Redpoll (count week).

St. Paul Northeast

47 species, 9005 individuals, Persis Fitzpatrick compiler, Dec. 29; noteworthy — Snow Goose, American Wigeon, Wood Duck, 24 Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Common Snipe, 18 Great Horned Owls, 510 Blue Jays, 590 Black capped Chickadees, 399 American Goldfinch, 472 Dark-eyed Juncoes, 358 Tree Sparrows, 126 Snow Buntings.

Sherburne N.W.R.

32 species, 682 individuals, Wendy Anderson compiler (always wondered what became of our former governor), Dec. 15; noteworthy — Marsh Hawk, Bald Eagle.

Voyageurs National Park

2 species, 15 individuals, Mark Johnson compiler, Dec. 17; no unusual species noted.

Wabasha

37 species, 6,728 individuals, Don Mahle compiler, Dec. 22; noteworthy — Whistling Swan, 5000 Mallards, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Snipe, Common Redpoll.

Walker

18 species, 339 individuals, Harold Hanson compiler, Dec. 17; noteworthy — Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, 28 Bohemian Waxwings, 6 Common Redpolls, 19 American Goldfinch.

Warren

22 species, 1346 individuals, Gladwin Lynne compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — 12 Mourning Doves, Red-winged Blackbird, 46 American Goldfinch, 47 Dark-eyed Juncoes, White-crowned Sparrow.

Wild River, Chisago Co.

32 species, 2084 individuals, Tom Anderson compiler, Dec. 15; no unusual species noted.

Willmar

22 species, 529 individuals, Ben Thoma compiler, Dec. 15; noteworthy — Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Winona, Minn. portion

24 species, 3639 individuals, Don Mahle compiler, Dec. 19; no unusual species noted.—9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

MIGRATION INCIDENCE AND SEQUENCE OF AGE AND SEX CLASSES OF THE SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Robert N. Rosenfield¹
David L. Evans²

Thousands of Sharp-shinned Hawks migrate southward over Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth. Over 11,000 were trapped, banded and released between 1973 and 1978. Periods of peak migration are shown and reasons given as to why immatures migrate earlier than adults.

INTRODUCTION

Autumnal Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) migration is well documented for much of North America (Allen and Peterson 1936, Murray 1964, Mueller and Berger 1967), but there is relatively little published on Sharp-shin migration along the western shore of Lake Superior. Green (1962) and Hofslund (1966) reported on raptor migration near Duluth, Minnesota, but these analyses were based on irregular observations of different observers. This paper reports migration incidence and sequence of age and sex classes of migrating Sharp-shins at the Hawk Ridge Research Station during the autumns of 1973 through 1978. We hypothesize that the effects of age and reversed sexual dimorphism influence temporal distribution of Sharp-shinned Hawk age and sex classes during migration.

METHODS

A total of 11,515 Sharp-shins were caught from 1973 through 1978 during raptor banding operations at the Hawk Ridge Research Station, located in the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth, Minnesota. A general descrip-

tion of raptor flights at Duluth can be found in Hofslund (1966). Trapped hawks were examined, marked with USFWS leg bands, and released. The earliest and latest dates we caught Sharp-shins was 17 August and 6 November; the relatively small numbers caught after 18 October are excluded from analysis.

Migrating Sharp-shins were lured into the trapping area by the use of the following bait birds: domestic pigeon (*Columbia livia*), Ringed Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*), Starling (*Sturnis vulgaris*), and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Sharp-shins were caught in three types of traps: mist net, bow net, and dho-gazzas (discontinued after 1976 due to poor efficiency). Details of trapping techniques can be found in Mueller and Berger (1970) and Fuller and Christenson (1976).

Figures 1 and 2 contain the mean number of hawks caught per trapping day by age and sex class for all study years. August trapping data represents only 1975 and 1977-1978 observations. These data, along with results from other studies, are the basis for our conclusions.

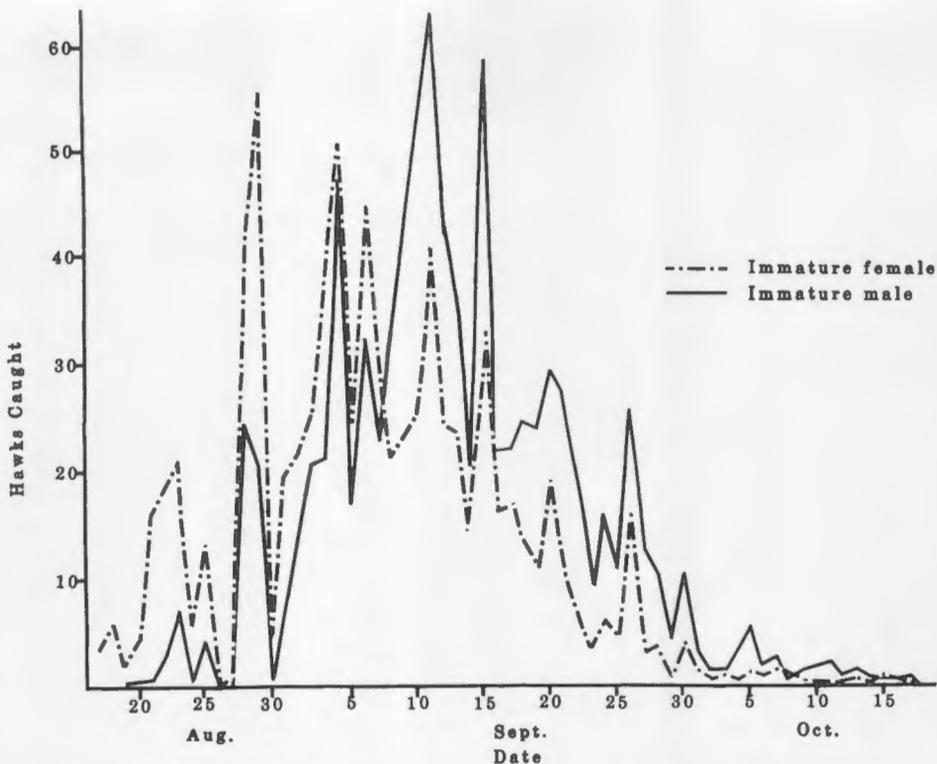


Figure 1 Mean number of Immature Sharp-shinned Hawks caught per trapping day at the Hawk Ridge Research Station during the autumns of 1973 through 1978.

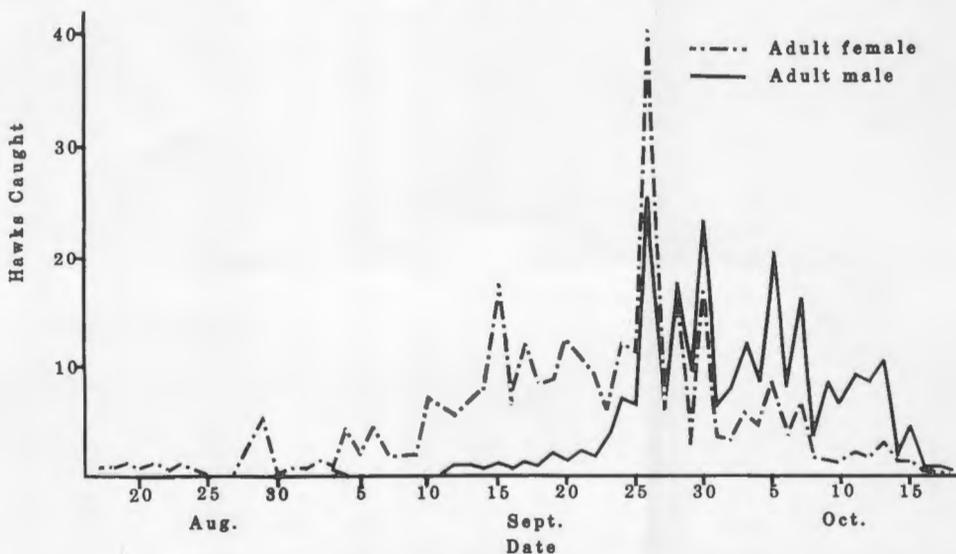


Figure 2 Mean number of Adult Sharp-shinned Hawks caught per trapping day at the Hawk Ridge Research Station during the autumns of 1973 through 1978.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our analysis of the presented data is based on the assumption that, although adult Sharp-shins were generally less responsive to lures, both sexes of both age groups were equally likely to be caught.

Peak flights of raptors usually occur on days of westerly winds with clear to partly cloudy skies which usually follow the recent passage of a low pressure area (Mueller and Berger 1961, Haugh 1970); peak migration days at Hawk Ridge typically occurred on days of this type weather.

Two peaks were observed in the fall migration of Sharp-shins at Hawk Ridge (Figs. 1 and 2); one from early to mid-September composed of immature birds, and one from mid-late September to early October composed of adults. Since our number of study years is small, some high peaks in Figures 1 and 2 represent the effects of one exceptionally good trapping day. Mueller and Berger (1967) also found two peaks in the fall migration of Sharp-shins near Cedar Grove, Wisconsin; one in mid-September composed of immatures, and one in mid-October composed of adults.

Immature Sharp-shins predominated early in migration and adults later. We believe this is due to the role that experience plays in the capturing of prey. Immatures, being inexperienced hunters, are affected before adults by migration of the avian prey base in that encounters with accessible prey are reduced. Adults, being experi-

enced, are yet able to select appropriate prey and thus delay their migration till somewhat later.

The female Sharp-shin migrates in great numbers earlier than the male of the corresponding age group. We suggest that the effects of sexual dimorphism (males approximately 1/3 smaller than females; Mueller et al. 1979) influence this observation.

Many authors (e.g., Storer 1966, Reynolds 1972, Snyder and Wiley 1976) have shown that Sharp-shins depend almost entirely on avian prey and that the male, on the average, took smaller prey than the female. Mueller and Berger (1970) reported that migrating male Sharp-shins had a stronger preference for small prey than did females. Storer (1966) and Reynolds (1972) hypothesized that since there are greater numbers of species and individuals of smaller avian prey (Eltonian pyramid of numbers), a decrease in size would result in an increase of encounters of optimal accessible prey; thus, compared to the male, the female would have less encounters of optimal accessible, though larger, prey. We suggest that as avian prey move southward, female Sharp-shins would have less chances for energy-efficient encounters with accessible prey and thus would migrate in larger numbers earlier than males.

Therefore, given that immatures predominate early in migration, immature females, believed to be the least energy-efficient hunters, migrate in greater numbers first; immature males then migrate followed closely

Table 1. The total number of Sharp-shinned Hawks caught during the autumns of 1973 through 1978 at the Hawk Ridge Research Station, Duluth, Minnesota. Trapped hawks are listed by age and sex class.

Year	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Immature male	240	700	810	1478	801	673
Immature female	170	542	636	957	691	726
Adult male	148	168	245	382	192	267
Adult female	150	165	227	362	370	415
Total caught	708	1575	1918	3179	2054	2081

by adult females; adult males, being the most energy-efficient hunters, are last to leave in large numbers.

Our conclusions concerning the effects of reversed sexual dimorphism on Sharp-shin migration are purely speculative. Snyder and Wiley's (1976) data, though inconclusive, casts the most doubt on our conclusions by suggesting that, in fact, there is more biomass available for the female Sharp-shinned Hawk; thus, questioning the validity of the Eltonian pyramid of numbers. But we believe that diet and sexual dimorphism is correlated and present our data as further support for such a contention.

Financial support is supplied in part by the Duluth Audubon Society and private contributors. We gratefully acknowledge the field assistance of L. Carson, G. Christensen, D. Gilbertson, M. Kohlbry, D. Meier, A. Rosenfield, and D. Scheer.

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- ¹College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481
- ²Department of Zoology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota 58102 (Present address: 2928 Greysolon Rd., Duluth, MN 55812)

THE FALL SEASON (Aug. 1 thru Nov. 30, 1979)

Don Bolduc, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

This year eighty observers plus additional observations reported via the Audubon Rare Bird Alert provided data on 288 species, down three species from the Fall of 1978. Casual or accidental species reported include Ferruginous Hawk, Parasitic Jaeger, California Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ancient Murrelet (in hunters bag), Say's Phoebe and Townsend's Solitaire.

Once again readers will find this report in the same format as the Fall 1978 and Spring 1979 reports. With the expanded format of observation dates and observers listed the compilers once again solicit the cooperation of reporters in submitting their individual reports. It is urgently requested that all reports be submitted on the MOU Seasonal Report forms. Seasonal report forms may be obtained by sending a request for same to Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804.

Common Loon

Late north 11-20 Hubbard FH and St. Louis JG, 11-22 St. Louis DA, 11-25 St. Louis KE; late south 11-22 Anoka KL, 11-23 Hennepin PF, 11-24 Wabasha OJ.

Red-necked Grebe

Late north 10-4 St. Louis KE, 10-17 Grant NH, 11-24 Otter Tail GMO; late south 9-8 Hennepin OJ, 10-16 Washington DS.

Horned Grebe

Early south 8-18 Renville RJ, 9-13 Anoka JH; late north 11-2 St. Louis DGW, 11-3 Pine RJ, 11-5 and 11-11 Cook KMH; late south 11-11 Goodhue JSD, 11-24 Wabasha DB, OJ.

Eared Grebe

8-4 Waseca RJ, 8-1 Wilkin GMO, 8-19 Pennington KSS, 9-28 Nicollet JCF, 11-11 Otter Tail GMO; only reports.

Western Grebe

Peak 9-7 Nicollet JCF (100); late north 9-29 Grant RJ, 10-15 Marshall KSS; late south 10-7 Big Stone RMA, 11-3 Nicollet JCF.

Pied-billed Grebe

Late north 10-30 St. Louis KE, 11-11 Itasca DB, 11-24 Otter Tail GMO.

White Pelican

Peak 9-3 Murray HK (600+); late north 9-27 Otter Tail GMO, 10-5 Marshall KSS, 10-16 Roseau JH; late south 10-24 Wabasha PF, 11-1 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-13 Lac Qui Parle OE.

Double-crested Cormorant

Late north 11-3 St. Louis BL, RJ; late south 11-13 Lac Qui Parle OE, 11-18 Hennepin SC, 11-23 Olmsted JB, JSD.

Great Blue Heron

Late north 11-1 Otter Tail GMO, 11-8 Clay SM, 11-25 Hubbard Julie Probst fide TL; late south 11-11 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-12 Hennepin SC, 11-18 Hennepin SC.

Northern Green Heron

Late north 9-4 Aitkin TL, 9-12 St. Louis KMH, 9-13 Otter Tail GMO; late south 10-10 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 10-13 Dakota MW, 10-23 Ramsey BL.

Little Blue Heron

9-6 Lac Qui Parle CMB; only report for this period.

Cattle Egret

Late north 11-3 St. Louis BL, RJ, 11-4 Itasca RBA (specimen) and St. Louis KL, 11-7 Lake Marge Carr; late south 10-31 Hennepin RBA, 11-6 Anoka RBA.

Great Egret

Late north 10-16 Otter Tail GMO; late south 10-5 Hennepin VL, 10-7 Big Stone RMA and Wabasha WDM, 10-24 Winona PF.

SNOWY EGRET

8-14 Jackson RJ and 9-25 Lac Qui Parle CMB; only reports

Black-crowned Night Heron

Late north 8-26 Koochiching RJ, 9-19 Otter Tail GMO; late south 10-1 Dakota MW, 10-6 Ramsey BL, 10-14 Washington DS.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

8-11 Ramsey DGW, 8-14 Jackson RJ, 9-6 Lac Qui Parle CMB; only reports.

Least Bittern

8-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB and Otter Tail GMO, 8-5 Anoka KL, 8-11, 12 Washington RBA, 8-24 Nicollet JCF, 9-9 Ramsey DGW; only reports.

American Bittern

Late north 9-25 St. Louis RA, 9-27 Marshall KSS, 10-11 St. Louis KE; late south 9-11 Anoka KL, 10-7 Chisago RJ, 10-14 Nicollet JCF.

Whistling Swan

Early north 8-28 Marshall KE, 9-29 Crow Wing RBA; late north 11-10 Beltrami SL, MV and Itasca TL, 11-24 Otter Tail RJ, GMO; late south 11-24 Olmsted JF and Wabasha DB, OJ (5000+), 11-27 Wabasha WDM.

Canada Goose

Peak 11-15 through 18 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle CMB, OE (61,000). Reported from 22 counties.

ROSS' GOOSE

One bird shot by a hunter at Twin Lakes, Kittson County; specimen at Bell Museum.

White-fronted Goose

10-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB; only report.

Snow Goose

Early north 8-14 St. Louis HC, 8-28 Marshall KE; early south 10-6, 7 Anoka JH, KL, 10-7 Lac Qui Parle CMB; late north 11-3 St. Louis RJ, 11-6 St. Louis KE, 11-14 St. Louis KL; late south 11-7 Olmsted JF, 11-23 Washington DS. Peak 10-21 Otter Tail SM (500).

Mallard

Peaks 10-3 Marshall ANWR (29,900), 11-16 Hennepin OJ (2,000).

Black Duck

aLte north 11-3 St. Louis RJ, 11-22 St. Louis DA, 11-26 Cook KMH; late south 11-11 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-23 Ramsey DGW, 11-24 Wabasha OJ.

Gadwall

Peak 10-3 Marshall ANWR (18,800). Late north 10-28 Marshall KSS, 11-7 Becker TNWR, 11-24 Otter Tail RJ, GMO; late south 11-8 Hennepin RMA and Wabasha WDM, 11-24 Wabasha OJ.

Pintail

Peak 9-26 Marshall ANWR (6,700). Late north 10-26 Marshall KSS, 11-2 Becker TNWR; late south 10-29 Wabasha WDM, 11-2 Hennepin OJ, Wabasha and Winona JSD, 11-17 Washington DS.



Green-winged Teal

Late north 10-15 Polk KSS and St. Louis OJ, 11-3 St. Louis RJ; late south 11-3 Olmsted JSD and Washington DS, 11-9 Nicollet JCF, 11-24 Wabasha DB, OJ.

Blue-winged Teal

Peak 8-26 Lac Qui Parle CMB (1400). Late north 10-7 Itasca DB, 10-13 Roseau KSS, 10-26 Backer TNWR; late south 11-3 Olmsted JSD, 11-4 Stearns NH, 11-23 Washington DS.

American Wigeon

Peak 8-26 Marshall ANWR (7,790). Late north 10-26 Marshall KSS, 11-7 Becker TNWR; late south 11-17 Anoka KL, 11-24 Wabasha DB, OJ, 11-26 Hennepin PF.

Northern Shoveler

Peak 10-13 Freeborn RJ (100s). Late north 10-5 Marshall KSS; late south 10-27 Hennepin OJ, 11-2 Nicollet JCF, 11-3 Dakota RMA and Olmsted JF.

Wood Duck

Peak 8-14 Cottonwood (100s) RJ. Late north 10-20 Pine RJ, 11-5 Becker TNWR, 11-22, 24, 29 Otter Tail GMO, SM.

Redhead

Peak 11-10 Otter Tail DS (500). Late north 11-11 Pennington KSS, 11-24 Otter Tail RJ; late south 11-17 Washington DS, 11-8 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-24 Wabasha DB, OJ.

Canvasback

Peak 11-2 Wabasha WDM (8,000). Late north 11-7 Becker TNWR, 11-10, 12 Beltrami SL, WL, MV, 11-24 Otter Tail GMO, RJ; late south 11-29 Sherburne EH and Wabasha WDM, 11-30 Scott JCF.

Greater Scaup

11-3 St. Louis RJ, 11-5 Beltrami SM, 11-24 Winona OJ. Only reports.

Lesser Scaup

Peak 11-1 Marshall ANWR (14,560). Late north 11-24 Cook KE and Otter Tail RJ, GMO, 11-26 Cook KMH; late south 11-24 Wabasha OJ and Washing-

ton DGW, 11-30 Hennepin JCF.

Common Goldeneye

Late north 11-24 Hubbard HF, 11-26 Marshall KSS, 11-30 Otter Tail GMO; early south 10-13 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-3 Hennepin RMA and Pine RJ, 11-4 Olmsted JSD.

Bufflehead

Early north 10-1 Otter Tail GMO, 10-4 Becker TNWR; early south 9-30 Washington DS, 10-20 Hennepin OJ, VL; late north 11-24 Cook KE and Otter Tail RJ, 11-30 Otter Tail GMO; late south 11-24 Hennepin BSH and Wabasha OJ, 11-28 Washington DS, DGW.

Oldsquaw

10-25 Crow Wing EC, 11-29 Becker TNWR, 11-11 Aitkin BL, 11-17 St. Louis KE, JG, 11-24 Cook KE, JG. Only reports.

White-winged Scoter

10-20 Cook DGW, 11-4 Beltrami SM, 11-10 Crow Wing BL, Otter Tail DS, 11-11 Crow Wing RBA, 11-14 Crow Wing RJ, 11-20 Beltrami JM, 11-24 Cook KE, 11-28 Winona Bob and Jean Bilder.

Surf Scoter

9-25, 26 St. Louis KE, 10-7 St. Louis BDC, 10-20 Cook DGW, 10-24 Marshall ANWR, 10-25 Beltrami JM, Otter Tail RBA, 10-26 Marshall KSS, 11-10 Crow Wing BL, 11-14 Crow Wing RJ.

Black Scoter

10-18 Lake JG, 10-20 Cook DGW, 10-30 St. Louis KE. Only reports.

Ruddy Duck

Peak 10-7 Grant SM (3-4000). Late north 10-26 Marshall KSS, 11-21 Otter Tail GMO; late south 11-3 Hennepin OJ, 11-4 Dakota MW, 11-21 Otter Tail GMO.

Hooded Merganser

Late north 11-2 Becker TNWR, 11-20 Otter Tail GMO, 11-26 Itasca TL; late south 11-11 Hennepin OJ, 11-25 Anoka KL, 11-30 Scott JCF.

Common Merganser

Late north 11-2 Becker TNWR and St. Louis DGW, 11-3 St. Louis RJ, 11-24 Otter Tail RJ, GMO, 11-29 Hubbard HF. Peak 11-24 Wabasha DB, OJ (1000+).

Red-breasted Merganser

9-29 St. Louis OJ, 11-3 Nicollet JCF, St. Louis RJ, 11-22 St. Louis DA. Only reports.

Turkey Vulture

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 492, peak Sept. Late north 9-16 Carlton LJF, Cook CMB, 10-7 St. Louis JG; late south 10-14 Fillmore RRR, 10-19 Nicollet JCF, 10-20 Anoka KL.

Goshawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 326 peak first week of Sept. Other reports: 9-14 Cook CMB, 9-15 Carlton OJ, 9-29 Pine OJ, 11-25 Chisago EH.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 10,795, peak Sept. Late north 10-12 Hubbard HF, 11-2 Lake JG; late south 11-10 Washington DGW, 11-12 Sherburne EH, 11-13 Olmsted JF.

Cooper's Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 66. Late north 10-5 Itasca TL, 10-12 St. Louis DA, 11-11 Itasca DB; late south 10-24 Stearns NH, 10-28 Cottonwood RG, 11-12 Sherburne EH.

Red-tailed Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 3,176. Late north 11-18 Cass RJ, 11-24 Lake SW, Marshall and Roseau KSS.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Late north 8-18 Carlton DB, 10-23 St. Louis, banded at Hawk Ridge by Dave Evans, 11-25 Becker WL. Late south 10-5 Hennepin OJ.

Broad-winged Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 55,448, peak Sept. Late north 10-4 Otter Tail GMO; late south 10-10 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 10-23 Lac Qui Parle NH and Olmsted JF, 10-28 Anoka OJ.

Swainson's Hawk

Late north 9-9 Wilkin SM, 10-3 Otter Tail SM and St. Louis (Hawk Ridge); late south 9-22 Renville RJ, 10-3 Otter Tail CMB, 10-4 Blue Earth EB.

Rough-legged Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 409, peak Oct. Early north inland 9-24 Roseau DGW, 10-6 Hubbard HF, 10-7 Otter Tail SM and Wilkin SM; early south 10-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 10-12 Lyon HK, 10-13 Mower RJ.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK

10-2 Marshall NH, 11-11 Aitkin RBA (unconfirmed).

Golden Eagle

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 19. 10-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 10-7 Traverse SM, 11-15 Otter Tail GMO, only other reports.

Bald Eagle

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 86. Late north 11-20 St. Louis JG, 11-22 Hubbard HF, 11-27 Itasca TL; early south 8-5 Wabasha WDM, 9-1 Houston FL, 9-29 Anoka BH.

Marsh Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 562, peak Sept. Late north 10-28 Marshall KSS, 11-10 Beltrami SL, MV and St. Louis KE; late south 11-10 Cottonwood RG, 11-11 Lac Qui Parle OE, 11-18 Wadena RJ.

Osprey

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 193, peak Sept. Late north 10-6 Polk DS, 10-21 Lake DGW, 11-2 Lake KMH; late south 10-28 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-4 Olmsted JF.

GYRFALCON

One report from Kelsey, St. Louis County fide KE.

PRAIRIE FALCON

9-2 Roseau Ray Glassel, 9-30 St. Louis (Hawk Ridge) KE, 10-7 Traverse SM, 10-21 Wilkin SM.

Peregrine Falcon

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 14. 8-26 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 8-29 Marshall JM, 9-1 Otter Tail SM, 9-7 Lake SW, 9-16 Becker TNWR, 9-18 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 9-20 Winona John and Ann Peterson fide FL, 9-29 Stearns NH, 10-14 Lyon HK.

Merlin

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 23. Late north 10-2 Marshall NH; late south 10-20 Hennepin DB, OJ, Pine RJ.

American Kestrel

Duluth Hawk Ridge total 944. Late north 10-9 Hubbard HF, 10-23 Otter Tail GMO, 11-11 Beltrami SL, MV.

Spruce Grouse

Reported "resident" Lake County SW. Other reports: 9-21 Beltrami SL, MV (15), 10-21 Cook DGW, 11-11 Beltrami SL, MV.

Ruffed Grouse

Permanent resident; reported from 17 counties.

Greater Prairie Chicken

9-5 Clay SM, 9-29 Wilkin RJ, only reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

9-10 Beltrami SL, MV, 10-20 Pine RJ (12), 11-4 Koochiching SM, 11-8 Roseau SM, 11-10 Beltrami SL, MV (20), only reports.

Bobwhite

10-2 Chisago RBA (escapees?). Only report for this period.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Permanent resident; reported from 20 counties.

Gray Partridge

Permanent resident; reported from 21 counties.

Sandhill Crane

Peak 10-13 Norman (10,000) Jo Blanch. Late date: 10-21 Marshall KSS. Also reported from Anoka, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Pennington, Roseau, Stearns and Wilkin counties.

Yellow Rail

8-25 Anoka KL, 10-7 Itasca TL; only reports.

Virginia Rail

8-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 8-16 Hennepin VL, 8-22 Hennepin OJ, "present" Sept. Otter Tail GMO, 9-15 Ramsey DGW, 9-29 Washington DS, 10-2 Anoka BH.

Sora

Late north 9-27 Itasca DB, 9-30 Otter Tail GMO, Pennington KSS; late south 9-28 Anoka KL, 9-30 Sherburne EH, 10-14 Washington DS.

Common Gallinule

8-7 Anoka RJ, 8-20 Houston DGW, 8-22 Wabasha WDM, 9-8 Washington SC, 9-9 Ramsey DGW, 9-24 Wabasha WDM, 10-5 Wabasha WDM.

American Coot

Peak Becker TNR (43,000). Late north 11-18 Lake KE, 11-24 Lake JG and Otter Tail RJ; late south 11-24 Hennepin BSH, 11-26, Wabasha WDM, 11-30 Scott JCF.

Semipalmated Plover

Late north 8-22 St. Louis KE, 9-15 Beltrami JM, 9-29 St. Louis OJ; late south 9-6 Carver RMA, 10-5 Waseca RJ.

Piping Plover

All reports St. Louis County, 8-7 OJ, 9-5 KL, 9-6 KMH.

Killdeer

Late north 10-14 Otter Tail GMO, 11-1 St. Louis JG, 11-8 Lake KE; late south 11-9 Murray AD, 11-11 Cottonwood RG, 11-18 Mower RRK.

American Golden Plover

Early north 8-11 Wilkin GMO, 8-29 St. Louis KMH; early south 8-8 Dakota JD, Douglas SM (200); late north 11-4 Beltrami SM, 11-7 Roseau SM; late south 11-3 Anoka KL.

Black-bellied Plover

Early north 8-9 St. Louis OJ, 8-17 St. Louis KE; early south 8-8 Dakota JD, 8-11 Mower RRK; late north 10-16

Lake of the Woods JH, 11-2 through 6 St. Louis KE, JG, RJ, BL, DGW; late south 10-7 Anoka KL, 10-9 Hennepin PF.

Ruddy Turnstone

8-6 Wilkin GMO, 8-18 Wilkin SM, 9-18 Cook KMH. All other reports from St. Louis County; late dates **10-31 KE, 11-2, 3 BL, RJ, DGW.**

American Woodcock

Late north 10-23 Kanabec DB and St. Louis DA, 10-26 St. Louis KMH; late south 10-29 Washington DS, 11-2 Anoka KL, 11-5 Sherburne EH.

Common Snipe

Late north 10-13 Beltrami SL, MV, 11-2 Otter Tail GMO, 11-4 Marshall KSS; late south 11-5 Nicollet JCF, 11-6 Olmsted JB, 11-12 Hennepin SC.

Whimbrel

8-22 to 9-3 St. Louis KE, KMH, BL. Also reported 9-30 St. Louis RBA.

Upland Sandpiper

8-5 Otter Tail GMO, 8-6 Olmsted JF, 8-15 Murray LJF, 8-26 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 8-29 Sibley LJF, 9-2 Clay LCF.

Spotted Sandpiper

Late north 9-20 Itasca TL and St. Louis KMH, 9-26 Otter Tail GMO, 10-16 St. Louis KE; late south 9-18 Olmsted J-F, 9-21 Nicollet JCF, 9-25 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Solitary Sandpiper

Late north 9-1 Itasca TL, 9-12 St. Louis KMH, 9-23 Marshall KSS; late south 9-6 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 9-22 Hennepin OJ, 9-29 Washington DS.

Willet

8-11 Douglas RJ, 8-18 Wilkin GMO, 9-5 St. Louis KL, 9-12 Redwood LJF; only reports.

Greater Yellowlegs

Late north 10-16 Roseau JH, 11-4 Marshall KSS, 11-6 St. Louis KE; late south 10-19 Nicollet JCF, 11-7 Big Stone RMA, 11-11 Cottonwood RG.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late north 10-16 Otter Tail GMO, 10-21 Grant SM, 11-6 Itasca MS; late south 10-14 Washington DS, 10-27 Washington DS, 10-27 Washington BL, 11-7 Big Stone RMA.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late north 10-24 St. Louis KE, 10-26 Marshall KSS, 11-5 Beltrami SM; late south 11-2 Ramsey BL, 11-4 Cottonwood RG and Olmsted JF.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Late north **10-20 Pine RJ, 10-29, 30 St. Louis JG (40) and KE;** late south **11-4 Olmsted JF.**

Baird's Sandpiper

Late north 9-5 Itasca, balance all St. Louis County: 9-10 KMH, 9-14 DA, CMB, 9-16 KSS, 9-27 KE; late south 9-2 Anoka KL.

Least Sandpiper

Early north 8-2 St. Louis KE, Otter Tail GMO; early south 8-5 Mower RRK, 8-7 Hennepin OJ; late north 9-20 Pennington KSS, 10-4 Wilkin GMO; late south 9-3 Hennepin OJ, 10-5 Waseca RJ.

Dunlin

Early north 9-6 St. Louis KSS, 9-7 St. Louis KE; late north 10-20 St. Louis DGW, 10-30 St. Louis KE; late south 10-9 Hennepin PF, 11-7 Dakota SC.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early north 8-2 Otter Tail GMO, 8-3 St. Louis KE; early south 8-8 Dakota JD, 8-11 Olmsted JSD; late north St. Louis 9-16 LJF, 9-30 JG; late south 9-11 Hennepin OJ, 9-22 Lyon RJ.

Western Sandpiper

Early north 8-6 Wilkin GMO; early south 8-6 Anoka KL, 8-13 Olmsted JF; late north 9-29, 30 St. Louis JG; late south **10-13 Freeborn BL, RJ.**

Sanderling

Early north 8-3 St. Louis KE, 8-6 Wilkin GMO; early south 8-4 Washington DMB, 8-6 Hennepin OJ; late north 9-30 St. Louis JG, 10-5 Marshall KSS; late south 9-15 Washington DS.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Eight reports; late north 8-27 Clearwater RJ, 9-15 St. Louis RMA (sp?).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Early north 8-2 Otter Tail GMO; early south 8-4 Waseca RJ, 8-11 Olmsted JF; late north St. Louis 9-29 OJ, 9-30 JG; late south 10-5 Waseca RJ.

Stilt Sandpiper

Early north 8-2 Otter Tail GMO, 8-12 Clay LCF; early south 8-5 Olmsted JF, 8-8 Dakota JD; late north 9-15 Beltrami JM, 9-16 St. Louis DGW; late south 9-22 Lyon RJ, Renville BL.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Early north St. Louis 8-2 KL, 8-3 KE; early south 8-7 Anoka RJ, 8-12 Washington DGW; late north 9-16 St. Louis KE, JG; late south 9-24 Anoka KL.

Marbled Godwit

Only report Otter Tail GMO.

Hudsonian Godwit

Only report 10-4 Duluth KE.

American Avocet

Two reports, 8-2 Otter Tail GMO, 9-2 Olmsted JF.

Wilson's Phalarope

Late north 8-18 Marshall KSS, 8-28 Marshall KE, RJ, 8-6 Marshall (200) GMO.

Northern Phalarope

Three reports 8-4 Blue Earth RJ, 8-6 Wilkin GMO, 8-28 Marshall KE.

PARASITIC JAEGER

St. Louis 9-18 fide KE (sp?), 9-20 fide KE.

Herring Gull

Reported from these counties: Cass, Cook, Beltrami, Hennepin, Itasca, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Ramsey, Stearns, Wabasha, Washington.

Thayer's Gull

Three reports 11-17 St. Louis KE, JG, 11-20 St. Louis JG.

CALIFORNIA GULL

8-9 Mille Lacs Lake TS. Hopefully there will be some documentation of this record.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 23 counties; late north 11-26 Itasca TL, 11-28 Hubbard HF; late south 11-26 Hennepin OJ, 11-28 Wabasha WDM.

Franklin's Gull

Three reports from Duluth 8-1 JG, 8-8 OJ, 8-25 BL; late north 9-26 Pennington KSS, 10-24 Otter Tail WL; late south 11-3 Lyon HK, 11-6 Murray AD.

Bonaparte's Gull

Late north 11-4 Mille Lacs RJ (30+), 11-11 Aitkin DB; late south 11-11 Blue Earth JCF, 11-22 Anoka KL.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIIWAKE

11-24 Cook (Grand Marais, 1 im.) JG, KE. (no documentation)

Forster's Tern

Late north 10-7 Traverse SM; late south 9-2 Olmsted JF.

Common Tern

Late north 8-29 Cass HF, 9-15 St. Louis OJ; late south 8-20 Wabasha WDM, 8-25 Anoka KL.

Caspian Tern

Early north 8-3, 8-17 St. Louis KE; early south 8-19 Big Stone CMB, Anoka KL; late north 9-15 St. Louis RMA, KE; late south 10-5 Rice RJ, 10-13 Washington DS.

Black Tern

Late north 8-26 Morrison RJ, 9-22 Pennington KSS; late south 9-11 Jackson LJF, 9-14 Nicollet JCF.

ANCIENT MURRELET

Oct. Itasca (Lake Winnibigoshish) shot KE fide B. Teft.

Mourning Dove

Late north 11-12 Beltrami WL, 11-17 Polk KSS.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Late north 8-7 St. Louis JG, 8-13 Otter Tail GMO; late south 9-22 Renville RJ, BL, 9-30 Houston EMF.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Late north 9-1 Lake SW, 9-14 Pine CMB; late south 9-9 Anoka BH, 10-3 Houston EMF.

Screech Owl

Reported from the following counties: Cottonwood, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Ramsey, Wabasha, Washington.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 23 counties.

Snowy Owl

Six reports, 10-16 Blue Earth MF, 10-17 Clay LCF, 11-4 Hennepin (Art Hager), 11-12 St. Louis KE, 11-24 Cottonwood LF, 11-28 Clay LCF.

Hawk Owl

Four reports, 11-4 Itasca KE fide M. Carr, 11-9 Beltrami MV & SL, 11-13 St. Louis DA, 11-11 Aitkin RBA.

Burrowing Owl

Only report 9-28 Blue Earth D.O.R. by Mary Wagenknecht.

Barred Owl

Reports from 18 counties.

Great Gray Owl

Three reports, 10-25 St. Louis KE fide M Carr, 10-29 Esko KE fide K. Sundquist, 10-13 Pine RBA.

Long-eared Owl

Six reports, 8-5 St. Louis DA, 9-2 Hennepin SC, 10-13 St. Louis KMH, 10-28 Otter Tail GMO, 11-20 St. Louis DA, 9-18, 19 Duluth 5 banded Dave Evans.

Short-eared Owl

Late north 9-23 St. Louis KMH, 9-29 Wilkin RJ, 10-7 St. Louis KMH.

Boreal Owl

11-15 Hawk Ridge 1 banded Dave Evans.

Saw-whet Owl

Six reports, 10-15 Afton DMB, 10-28 Otter Tail GMO, 11-14 Le Sueur HC, 11-19 Otter Tail GMO, 11-20 St. Louis DA, 9-18, 19 Duluth 5 banded Dave Evans.

Whip-poor-will

Seven reports 8-3 Houston EMF, 8-22 Washington DS, Rock CMB, 8-26 Benton RJ, 8-30 Houston EMF, 9-17 Houston FL, 9-28 Cass CMB.

Common Nighthawk

Late north 9-20 Clay LCF, 9-21 Pennington KSS; late south 10-1 Washington BL, 10-7 Lyon HK, 10-12 Hennepin SW, 10-20 Ramsey MO.

Chimney Swift

Late north 9-15 St. Louis LJF, 9-27 Clay LCF; late south 9-27 Hennepin WKE, 10-1 Hennepin VL, 11-14 Lyon HK.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Late north 9-11 Lake SW, 9-15 St. Louis DGW; late south 9-19 Hennepin WKE, 9-21 Hennepin ES.

Belted Kingfisher

Late north 11-4 Beltrami SM, 11-17 Otter Tail GMO, St. Louis KE.

Common Flicker

Late north 10-13 Hubbard HF, 11-15 Roseau DGW; late south 11-26 Cottonwood LF, Olmsted JF, 11-30 Cottonwood RG.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 23 counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from 12 counties, north to Crow Wing.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Late north 9-24 St. Louis DA, Crow Wing 11-8 EC, 11-14 RJ.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Late north 10-4 St. Louis DA, 10-7 Clay LCF, 10-9 St. Louis JG.

Hairy Woodpecker

Permanent resident.

Downy Woodpecker

Permanent resident.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

Reported from the following counties: Beltrami, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Roseau, St. Louis, Wadena.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker

Two reports 9-19, 20, 23 Cook Rick Olson, 8-5 St. Louis BDC.

Eastern Kingbird

Late north 9-16 St. Louis LJF, 9-30 Pennington KSS; late south 9-30 Sherburne EH, 10-4 Stearns MC.

Western Kingbird

Late north 9-2 Clay LCF (31 seen on 8-12), 9-7 St. Louis KE (rare in Duluth); late south 10-18 Dakota banded by R. J. Christman (details submitted).

Great Crested Flycatcher

Late north 9-15 Cook KMH, 9-27 St. Louis DA; late south 9-20 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Houston EMF.

Eastern Phoebe

Late north 10-13 Roseau KSS, 10-20 Otter Tail RG; late south 10-23 Houston EMF, 10-29 Ramsey EC.

SAY'S PHOEBE

One report 9-10 Big Stone NH.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Seven reports, 8-21 Hennepin SC, 8-22 Anoka KL, Hennepin DB, OJ, 8-23 Washington DMB, 9-7 Nicollet JCF, 9-18 Olmsted JF.

Willow Flycatcher

8-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 8-8 Anoka KL, 8-25 Anoka KL.

Alder Flycatcher

8-7 Marshall KSS, 8-10 Anoka KL, 9-14 Hennepin OJ.

Traill's Flycatcher (sp?)

Late date 9-23 Houston EMF, Washington DMB.

Least Flycatcher

Late north 9-17 St. Louis KMH, 9-21 Pennington KSS; late south 9-21 Houston EMF, 9-29 Washington DS.

Eastern Wood Pewee

Late north 9-8 Clay LCF, 9-24 Pennington KSS; late south 9-29 Anoka JH, 10-8 Houston EMF.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Late north 8-28 Kittson RJ, 9-10

Lake SW; late south 9-14 Hennepin VL, Nicollet JCF, 9-28 Stearns NH.

Horned Lark

Late north 10-13 Beltrami MV & SL, 10-15 Marshall KSS, 10-18 St. Louis JG. Resident south.

Tree Swallow

Late north 10-6 Polk DS, Douglas RMA; late south 10-13 Steele BL, Freeborn RJ.

Bank Swallow

Late north 8-27 Pennington RJ, 9-3 Itasca TL; late south 9-14 Nicollet JCF, 9-17 Murray LJF.

Rough-winged Swallow

Eleven reports, late south 9-16 Olmsted JF, 10-10 Hennepin VL, Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Barn Swallow

Late north 10-6 Douglas RMA, 10-17 Otter Tail SM; late south 10-13 Steele RJ, BL.

Cliff Swallow

Late north 9-9 Itasca TL, 9-24 Marshall KSS; late south 9-22 Lyon RJ, BL, 10-10 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Purple Martin

Late north 9-21 Clay LCF, 10-5 Clay DS; late south 9-8 Olmsted JF, 9-19 Olmsted JSD.

Gray Jay

Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Roseau and St. Louis counties.

Blue Jay

Permanent resident.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from 9 northern counties and 11-6 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Common Raven

Reported from 14 counties as far south as Morrison and Pine.

Common Crow

Permanent resident.

Black-capped Chickadee

Permanent resident.

Boreal Chickadee

North reports from Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Lake and St. Louis.

Tufted Titmouse

Five reports 8-2 Houston EMF, 10-4, 7, 8 Olmsted JF, 11-19 Houston EMF, Le Sueur HC, 11-30 Le Sueur HC.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Permanent resident.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from seven counties and early south 10-10 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11-18 Anoka JH.

Brown Creeper

Reported from about 20 counties. Early south 9-21 Nicollet JCF, 9-22 Houston EMF, 9-27 Anoka JH.

House Wren

Late north 9-26 St. Louis KMH, Pennington KSS, 9-30 Clay LCF; late south 10-13 Freeborn RJ, BL, 10-16 Houston EMF.

Winter Wren

Early south 10-2 Anoka RBA, 10-15 Anoka JH; late north 10-7 Itasca DB, St. Louis KMH; late south 10-25 Hennepin ES, 11-3 Winona JSD.

Long-billed Marsh Wren

Late north 9-7 Polk KSS, 9-12 Itasca TL; late south 10-9 Ramsey BL, 10-29 Nicollet JCF.

Short-billed Marsh Wren

Late north 9-29 St. Louis DA, Wilkin RJ, 11-9 Beltrami MV & SL; late south 11-4 Washington DS.

Mockingbird

Only report 10-7 Cottonwood (Mt. Lake) RG.

Gray Catbird

Late north 10-6 Clay DS, 10-21 Wilkin SM; late south 10-11 Cottonwood LF, 10-20 Hennepin SC.

Brown Thrasher

Late north 9-16 St. Louis JG, OJ, 9-29 St. Louis DA; late south 10-19 Houston EMF, 10-23 Le Sueur HC.



American Robin

Late north 11-24 Otter Tail RJ, 11-26 Cook KMH, St. Louis DGW.

Varied Thrush

Two reports 11-5 Beltrami SM, 11-24 Dakota JD.

Wood Thrush

Two reports 9-21 Washington DMB, 9-30 Hennepin ES.

Hermit Thrush

Late north 10-7 St. Louis JG, 10-13 Pennington KSS; late south 10-23 Redwood LJF, Sherburne EH, 11-15 Mower RRK.

Swainson's Thrush

Late north 10-7 St. Louis DA, KMH; late south 10-21 Houston EMF.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Only two reports 9-15 St. Louis DA, 9-16 St. Louis KMH.

Veery

Five reports 8-6 Anoka KL, 8-24 Anoka BH, 8-29 Beltrami MV & SL,

8-31 St. Louis KMH, 9-20 St. Louis DA.

Eastern Bluebird

Late north 10-20 Pine RJ, 11-2 St. Louis DA; late south 10-27 Hennepin OJ, 10-28 Olmsted JF.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

One report 10-30 Itasca MC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Seven reports, latest are: 9-7 Mower RRK, 9-8 Goodhue BL, 9-20 Houston EMF.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early south 9-22 Houston EMF, 9-27 Anoka JH, Sherburne EH; late north 11-10 Roseau WL, 11-17 Wadena RJ, 11-25 Otter Tail SM.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 9-7 Nicollet JCF, Anoka JH; late north 10-13 Beltrami MV & SL, Roseau KSS, 10-21 Lake DGW; late south 11-19 Anoka JH, 11-20 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Water Pipit

Early north 9-5 Cook KMH, 9-9 Beltrami JM; early south 9-23 Anoka KL; late north 10-15 St. Louis JG, 11-6 St. Louis KE; late south 10-14 Anoka KL (120), 11-4 Cottonwood RG.

Sprague's Pipit

Two reports 8-13 Hennepin OJ, 9-29 Wilkin RJ.

Bohemian Waxwing

Four reports 11-3 St. Louis KE, RJ, 11-4 Beltrami SM, 11-10 Aitkin BL.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 26 counties.

Northern Shrike

Early north 10-12 St. Louis DA, 10-17 Beltrami John Herman fide JG; early south 10-23 Anoka KL, 10-26 Benton EC.

Loggerhead Shrike

Five reports 8-2 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 8-3 Mower RRK, 8-15 Sherburne EH, 9-17 Olmsted JSD, 10-12 St. Louis DA, 10-28 Olmsted JF (sp?).

Bell's Vireo

One report 8-5 Wabasha DGW.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Late north 9-1 Aitkin RJ, 9-27 Marshall KSS; late south 9-22 Anoka KL, 9-30 Hennepin VL.

Solitary Vireo

Late north 9-26 St. Louis DA and KMH, 10-9 St. Louis JG; late south 10-2 Houston EMF, 10-7 Chisago RJ.

Red-eyed Vireo

Late north 9-20 St. Louis KMH, 9-22 St. Louis JG; late south 9-25 Washington DMB, 9-27 Anoka JH.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 8-15 Anoka KL, 8-25 Hennepin OJ; late north 9-23 Clay LCF, 9-26 St. Louis DA; late south 9-26 Hennepin, 9-30 Anoka RMA and Olmsted JSD.

Warbling Vireo

Late north 9-2 Clay LCF, 9-5 Cass TL; late south 9-9 Anoka KL, 9-28 Houston EMF.

Black-and-white Warbler

Early south 8-15 Anoka KL, 8-16 Murray AD; late north 9-22 St. Louis JG, 9-26 Pennington KSS; late south 9-28 Nicollet JCF, 9-30 Houston EMF.

Golden-winged Warbler

Late north 9-8 Aitkin RJ, 9-14 St. Louis DA; late south 9-13 Hennepin DB, Washington DMB.

Blue-winged Warbler

Five reports: 8-27 Mower RRK, 9-8 Goodhue BL, Olmsted JSD and JF, 9-14 Houston EMF.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 8-5 Washington DMB, 8-22 Hennepin OJ; late north 10-4 Pennington KSS, 10-7 St. Louis JG, 10-25 St. Louis K. Sundquist fide KE; late south 10-17 Washington DMB, 10-18 Houston EMF.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early north 9-6 Otter Tail GMO, 9-6 St. Louis KMH; early south 8-31 Anoka

JH, 9-2 Hennepin KWE, 9-3 Ramsey DGW; late north 10-14 St. Louis KMH, 10-21 Lake DGW; late south 10-19 Ramsey BL, 10-25 Hennepin ES.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 8-18 Anoka JH, 8-21 Dakota JD; late north 10-4 Pennington KSS, 10-6 Otter Tail GMO, 10-7 St. Louis DA; late south 10-15 Houston EMF, 10-19 Nicollet JCF.

Northern Parula

Six reports: 8-26 Morrison RJ, 9-3 Ramsey DGW, 9-5 Lake SW, 9-8 Houston FL, 9-15 St. Louis KMH, 10-7 St. Louis JG.

Yellow Warbler

Late north 8-26 St. Louis KMH, 9-1 Itasca TL; late south 9-13 Anoka BH, 9-15 Washington WL, 10-2 Cottonwood LF.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 8-27 Anoka JH, 8-29 Anoka KL; late north 9-26 St. Louis KMH, 10-7 St. Louis JG; late south 10-4 Ramsey BSH, 10-9 Stearns MC.

Cape May Warbler

Late north 9-20 St. Louis KMH, 10-4 Pennington KSS; one report south 9-3 Washington WL.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Late north 9-14 St. Louis DA, 9-16 Lake CMB, 9-18 Cook KMH; late south 9-30 Sherburne EH, 10-2 Cottonwood LF.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 9-8 Houston FL, 9-12 Washington DS, 9-13 Washington DMB; late north 11-1 Otter Tail GMO, 11-11 Otter Tail SM; late south 11-11 Kandiyohi EB, 11-16 Anoka JH.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 8-18 Anoka JH, 8-26 Hennepin KWE; late north 9-30 St. Louis KMH, 10-7 St. Louis JG; late south 9-29 three reports Anoka BH, Houston EMF, Washington WL, 10-2 Hennepin SW.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 8-18 Anoka JH, 8-22 Hennepin OJ; late north 9-17 Cook CMB, 9-21 Pennington KSS; late south 10-6 Olmsted JB, 10-10 Cottonwood LF.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Late north 9-22 St. Louis JG, 9-23 Marshall KSS and St. Louis KMH; late south 9-29 Ramsey BL, 10-6 Olmsted JB.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 8-18 Anoka KL; late north 9-22 St. Louis JG, 9-23 Marshall KSS; late south 9-28 Nicollet JCF.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early north 8-19 St. Louis DA; early south 8-25 Anoka, 8-27 Anoka JH; late north 9-18 Cook KMH, 9-21 Pennington KSS; late south 9-13 Hennepin DB, 9-18 Anoka JH.

Pine Warbler

Early south 9-3 Washington WL; late north 9-22 Hubbard HF; late south 9-14 Hennepin VL, 9-15 Washington DS, 9-26 Hennepin VL.

Palm Warbler

Early south 9-3 Washington DS, 9-13 Hennepin DB; late north 10-15 St. Louis DA, 10-19 Carlton KMH; late south 10-13 Freeborn RJ, 10-15 Anoka JH.

Ovenbird

Late north 9-21 St. Louis JG, 9-23 Marshall KSS; late south 9-28 Sherburne EH, 10-10 Hennepin DB.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 8-11 Hennepin DB and OJ; late north one report 10-23 St. Louis DA; late south 9-20 Hennepin DB.

Louisiana Waterthrush

One report 9-8 Hennepin SC.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 8-25 Anoka KL, 8-27 Mower RRK; late north 9-21 Itasca TL, 9-23 Marshall KSS; late south 9-19 Anoka KL, 9-20 Hennepin VL.

Mourning Warbler

Late north 9-16 St. Louis DA, 9-17 Cook and Lake CMB, 9-23 Marshall KSS; late south 9-25 Washington DMB, 9-29 Washington WL.

Common Yellowthroat

Late north 9-26 St. Louis JG, DA, KMH, 10-4 Pennington KSS; late south 10-2 Hennepin RJ, 10-3 Houston EMF.

Wilson's Warbler

Early north 8-18 Otter Tail GMO; early south 8-18 Anoka KL, 8-20 Hennepin VL; late north 9-18 St. Louis KMH, 9-21 Pennington KSS; late south 9-21 Houston EMF, 9-30 Hennepin SW.

Canada Warbler

Early south 8-19 Anoka JH, 8-20 Hennepin VL; late north 9-26 Clay LCF and St. Louis DA; late south 9-19 Houston EMF, 10-13 Lac Qui Parle CMB (latest date on record).

American Redstart

Late north 9-22 Otter Tail GMO and St. Louis JG, 9-25 St. Louis KMH; late south 9-28 Houston EMF and Sherburne EH, 9-29 Ramsey BL.

Bobolink

Late north 9-2 Clay LCF, 9-7 Polk KSS; late south 8-19 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Eastern Meadowlark

Late north 9-14 St. Louis KMH, 9-15 St. Louis DA, 10-20 Pine RJ; late south 11-1 Le Sueur HC.

Western Meadowlark

Late north 10-31 Clay LCF, 11-3 Pennington KSS and St. Louis RJ; late south 11-23 Cottonwood LF.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Late north 9-28 Cass CMB; late south 11-11 Lyon HK, 11-17 Cottonwood.

Red-winged Blackbird

10-20 peak of 100,000 Anoka KL, late north 11-22 St. Louis DA.

Orchard Oriole

Five reports: 8-2 Lac Qui Parle

CMB, 8-5 Wabasha DGW, 8-17 Nobles JCF, 8-18 Brown RJ, 8-27 Red Lake RJ.

Northern Oriole

Late north 9-16 St. Louis DA and KE; south remained at feeder throughout period, Hennepin Robert Lorentzen.

Rusty Blackbird

Early north 9-15 St. Louis LJF; early south 9-22 Lyon RJ; late north 11-11 St. Louis JG.

Brewer's Blackbird

Late north 10-15 Polk KSS and St. Louis DA; late south 11-30 Nicollet EB.

Common Grackle

Peak of 400,000 10-20 Anoka KL; late north 11-24 Cook KE and JG, 11-24 Otter Tail RJ, 11-30 Itasca MS; late south 11-30 Olmsted JSD.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Late north 10-2 St. Louis DA; late south 11-4 Redwood LJF, 11-11 Lyon HK.

Scarlet Tanager

Late north 9-15 Carlton DGW, 9-21 St. Louis KMH; late south 9-27 Hennepin KWE, 9-28 Nicollet JCF, 9-29 Ramsey BL.

SUMMER TANAGER

10-23 through 11-1 St. Louis K. Sundquist, KE, JG, BL, Paul Egeland, Jerry Gresser, Marj Carr.

Cardinal

Reported from 11 southern counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Late north 9-13 Pennington KSS, 9-29 St. Louis DA; late south 11-21 Hennepin, immature male RJ, 11-22 Hennepin, female OJ.

Indigo Bunting

Late north 10-12 St. Louis Tom Hargy; late south 9-29 Washington DMB, 9-30 Olmsted JSD and Washington WL, 10-3 Houston EMF.

Dickcissel

Five reports: 8-4 LeSueur RJ, 8-11

Mower RRK and Olmsted JF, 8-12
Olmsted JSD, 9-18 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Evening Grosbeak

Reported from 11 counties north;
south 10-27 Benton DB, 10-31 Waba-
sha WDM.

Purple Finch

Reported from 18 counties; seven
north and 11 south.

Pine Grosbeak

Five reports: 10-25 St. Louis M.
Carr, 11-9 St. Louis DA, 11-24 St.
Louis DA, 11-25 Lake SW and St.
Louis JG.

Common Redpoll

Two reports: 11-13 Sherburne EH,
11-20 St. Louis JG.

Pine Siskin

Eight reports north 9-2 through 11-
25; three reports south 10-6 Anoka
JH, 11-29 Washington EC and Ramsey
DGW.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 20 counties through-
out the state.

Red Crossbill

Six reports north 8-26 St. Louis DA,
10-1 St. Louis KE, 10-14 St. Louis JG,
10-28 St. Louis JG, 11-13 St. Louis DA,
11-21 Lake SW; one report south 11-
26 Ramsey, Manley Olson.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Six reports: 9-8 Olmsted JSD and
JF, 9-27 Blue Earth MR, 10-5 Nicollet
JCF, 10-19 Houston EMF, 10-28 Mur-
ray AD.

Savannah Sparrow

Late north 10-21 Clay LCF and St.
Louis JG, 10-23 St. Louis DA; late
south 10-13 Freeborn RJ and Lac Qui
Parle OE, 10-18 Hennepin OJ.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Late north 9-29 Wilkin RJ; late
south 8-12 Mower RRK.

LeConte's Sparrow

Six reports north: 9-12 Itasca TL,
9-22 Beltrami SL, 9-23 Wilkin SM, 9-

25 St. Louis KMH, 9-26 Pennington
KSS, 9-29 Wilkin RJ; one report south
9-29 Carver RBA.

Henslow's Sparrow

One report: 8-5 Houston DGW.

Vesper Sparrow

Late north 10-12 St. Louis KE, 10-13
Otter Tail GMO; late south 10-13
Steele RJ, 10-14 Isanti DS, 10-20 Red-
wood LJF.

Lark Sparrow

Two reports: 8-3 Nicollet JCF, 8-22
Cottonwood CMB.

Dark-eyed Junco

Early south 9-13 Houston EMF, 9-27
Hennepin KWE and VL.

Tree Sparrow

Early north 9-25 St. Louis DA, 10-12
Beltrami SL; early south 9-18 Anoka
BH, 9-30 Hennepin RMA.

Chipping Sparrow

Late north 10-15 St. Louis JG, 10-
28 St. Louis BL; late south 10-19 Nicol-
let JCF, 10-21 Winona JSD.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Late north 10-7 Otter Tail GMO, 10-
15 Polk KSS; late south 10-5 Lac Qui
Parle CMB, 10-13 Mower RJ and BL.

Field Sparrow

One report north: 8-11 Otter Tail
GMO; late south 10-19 Washington
DMB, 10-22 Houston EMF, 10-27 Ram-
sey BL.

Harris' Sparrow

Early north 9-23 St. Louis KMH,
9-23 Wilkin SM, 9-25 Roseau DGW;
early south 9-27 Mower and Murray
AD, 9-28 Nicollet JCF; late north 11-4
Clay LCF, 11-16 Polk KSS; late south
11-24 Cottonwood LF, 11-29 Redwood
LCF.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early north 9-9 Beltrami JM and St.
Louis KMH, 9-10 St. Louis KE; early
south 9-21 Lyon RJ and Washington
DGW; late north 11-1 thru 11-3 St.
Louis JG, DGW, RJ and KE; late south

10-4 Washington DMB, 10-6 Olmsted JB.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 8-16 Dakota JD, 9-14 Washington WL; late north 11-11 Otter Tail GMO, 11-30 Hubbard HF; late south 11-18 Dakota MW, 11-30 Anoka BH and Houston EMF.

Fox Sparrow

Early north 9-18 Lake SW, 9-20 St. Louis KMH; early south 9-20 Hennepin DB, 9-26 Washington DMB; late north 10-27 St. Louis KMH, 9-28 Clay LCF; late south 11-12 Hennepin SC, 11-18 Houston EMF.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 9-1 LeSueur HC, 9-9 Lac Qui Parle CMB; late north 10-8 Otter Tail GMO, 10-15 St. Louis KMH; late south 10-20 Hennepin DB, 10-25 Mower RRK, 11-2 Nicollet LCF.

Swamp Sparrow

Late north 10-21 St. Louis KMH, 10-23 St. Louis DA; late south 10-19 Nicollet JCF, 10-27 Hennepin OJ.

Song Sparrow

Late north 10-17 Pennington KSS, 11-4 St. Louis JG; late south 11-11 Mower RRK, 11-30 Houston EMF.

Lapland Longspur

Early north 9-15 St. Louis JG and DGW, 9-16 St. Louis KSS; early south 9-8 Hennepin OJ, 10-7 Anoka KL; late north 11-3 St. Louis RJ, 11-10 St. Louis JG.

Smith's Longspur

Three reports: 9-19 St. Louis KE, 10-17 Clay SM, 10-27 Otter Tail GMO.

Snow Bunting

Early north 10-2 Beltrami JM and St. Louis DA; early south 10-22 Sherburne EH, 10-27 Hennepin OJ.

OBSERVERS:

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge,
ANWR

Daryl Anderson, DA
Renner and Martha Anderson, RMA
Don and Mary Beimborn, DMB

Don Bolduc, DB
Jerry Bonkowski, JB
Ed Brekke-Kramer, EB
Chuck and Micki Buer, CMB
Betty and Doug Campbell, BDC
Elizabeth Campbell, EC
Steve Carlson, SC
H. F. Chamberlain, HC
Mable Coyne, MC
Mrs. Arnold DeKam, AD
Joanne Dempsey, JD
Joel and Sandy Dunnette, JSD
Whitney and Karen Eastman, WKE
Kim Eckert, KE
Mrs. O. L. Eckhardt, OE
Laurence and Carol Falk, LCF
Mrs. Loren A. Feil, L
Herbert Fisher, HF
Eugene and Marilyn Ford, EMF
Joan Fowler, JF
Lee and Joann French, LJF
John C. Frenz, JCF
Merrill J. Frydendall, MF
Pepper Fuller, PF
Randy Goertzen, RG
Janet C. Green, JG
Edmund A. Hibbard, EH
Nestor Hiemenz, NH
Bill Hilton, Jr., BH
Bruce Straden-Hitman, BSH
Ken and Molly Hoffman, KMH
James L. Howitz, JH
Robert B. Janssen, RJ
Oscar L. Johnson, OJ
Ron and Rose Kneeskern, RRK
Henry Kyllingstad, HK
Ken LaFond, KL
Tim Lamey, TL
Violet Lender, VL
Fred Leshner, FL
Bill Litkey, BL
Wm. H. Longley, WL
Scott Loonsbury and
Mary Beth Nevers, MV and SL
Wynn and Don Mahle, WDM
Jim Mattsson, JM
Steve Millard, SM
Clare Mohs, CM
Gerald Niemi, GN
Gary and Marion Otnes, GMO
Madeline Schuller, MS
Gary Simonson, GS
Dave Sovereign, DS
Evelyn Stanley, ES

Tom Sobolik, TS
 Keith and Shelley Steva, KSS
 Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge,
 TNWR
 Dick and Gloria Wachtler, DGW

Ernest Weidner, EW
 Steve Wilson, SW
 Mark Wright, MW
 Rare Bird Alert, RBA

THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

Almost everyone added at least one bird to their Minnesota life list during the last six months. The Yellow-throated Warbler helped a lot of us and a reliable place to see Bobwhite helped several others. I was finally able to secure Brother Theodore's Minnesota list with the help of Grace Dahm Backus. Nestor Hiemenz of St. Cloud becomes the 29th member of the Club with 301. Please report any new totals to the editor. The totals below are those reported as of June 1, 1980.

Ray Glassel	345	Jerry Gresser	316
Bob Janssen	343	Evelyn Stanley	314
Kim Eckert	339	Gary Otnes	311
Harding Huber	339	Bro. Theodore (deceased)..	310
William Pieper	338	Ruth Andberg	309
Paul Egeland	335	Wally Jiracek	308
Ron Huber	335	Dick Wachtler	305
Terry Savaloja	332	Henry Kyllingstad	304
Dick Ruhme	331	Doug Campbell	304
Liz Campbell	330	Oscar Johnson	303
Jan Green	328	Gloria Wachtler	302
Karol Gresser	324	Betty Campbell	301
Bill Litkey	324	Nestor Hiemenz	301
Don Bolduc	323	Violet Lender	300
Jo Blanich	322		



THE 200 COUNTY CLUB

Jackson County joins the growing list of Minnesota Counties in which 200 or more species have been recorded. Please advise Bob Janssen of changes in the totals. There are many other counties in which 200 species are possible, hopefully we can add a few in the near future.

County	Observer	# of Species	County	Observer	# of Species
Aitkin	Terry Savaloja	255	Marshall	Sarah Vasse	235
	Jo Blanich	237	Morrison	Pete Ryan	207
	Bill Pieper	212	Mower	Ron Kneeskern	216
Anoka	Ken LaFond	248		Rose Kneeskern	206
	Bill Pieper	221	Nicollet	John Frentz	204
	Ruth Andberg	220		Ray Glassel	201
	Ray Glassel	201	Olmsted	Vince Herring	217
Becker	Gary Otnes	214		Joan Fowler	216
	Marion Otnes	213		Ted Lindquist	213
Carver	Kathy Heidel	218		Phyllis Lindquist	213
Clay	Carol Falk	208		Anne Plunkett	210
	Lawrence Falk	206		Joel Dunnette	205
Crow Wing	Terry Savaloja	233	Otter Tail	Gary Otnes	268
	Jo Blanich	222		Marion Otnes	249
Freeborn	Charles Flugum	212	Ramsey	Liz Campbell	230
Dakota	Ray Glassel	237		Bill Pieper	224
	Bob Janssen	208		John Fitzpatrick	209
Goodhue	Ray Glassel	228		Ray Glassel	205
	Bob Janssen	224	Rice	Orwin Rustad	222
	Bill Pieper	221	Rock	Kim Eckert	238
Grant	Kim Eckert	214	St. Louis	Jan Green	280
Hennepin	Bob Janssen	270		Kim Eckert	266
	Alvina Joul	263		Bob Janssen	259
	Ray Glassel	262		Ray Glassel	247
	Oscar Johnson	258		Bill Pieper	243
	Violet Lender	252	Scott	Ray Glassel	207
	Bill Pieper	251	Stearns	Kim Eckert	235
Jackson	Ingeborg		Wabasha	Ray Glassel	203
	Hodnefield	202	Wadena	Dick	
Lac Qui Parle	Micki Buer	231		Oehlenschlager	241
	Chuck Buer	223	Washington	Liz Campbell	206
	Marion Otnes	213	Yellow		
	Gary Otnes	212	Medicine	Gary Otnes	220
	Bob Janssen	207		Marion Otnes	220
	Ray Glassel	203			
Lyon	Paul Egeland	251			
	Henry Kyllingstad	251			



NOTES OF INTEREST

SHORT-EARED OWLS IN AITKIN COUNTY — On January 24, 1980 I was told that there was a pair of Short-eared Owls seen about three miles north of Aitkin along Highway 169. The next day after work I checked it out and confirmed that they were still in the area and hunting along the road even though it was too dark to really watch them closely. On the following Saturday afternoon near dusk I went back out to get a better look at their hunting tactics and to try to photograph them. Highway 169 is heavily used by grain trucks on their way to terminals in Duluth and there was enough grain spilled along a three-quarter mile stretch of it to attract a large number of meadow voles and mice. About 4:00 p.m., they came out from their roost to the highway and began patrolling this 3/4 mile stretch. They started at opposite ends of the area and headed towards each other. They would cross paths narrowly missing each other and then continue on. They kept close to the ground (approximately three to four feet). Intermittently, they would cross the highway to patrol the other side. This highway is heavily used and every time they crossed they narrowly avoided being hit. When prey was spotted, the owl would hover briefly then plunge quickly into the snow. Once the prey was caught the owl would fly either to a fence post or to the top of a mound of dirt near by to eat it. During one twenty minute period the owls combined to catch six voles. In the hour and fifteen minutes that I watched them, they caught eleven voles and mice without a miss. Who could ask for a more effective mousetrap? One of the owls moved out of the area after about ten days and the other left after about seventeen days when the prey began to run out. **Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St. N.W., Aitkin, Minn. 56431.**

ROBIN DEFENDS MOUNTAIN ASH FOOD SUPPLY — In the late afternoon of April 19, 1980 while working in my yard I heard the arrival of 25-30 Cedar Waxwings, announced by their wispy "zees". They had landed high in a maple tree, but after a couple minutes three of them glided down to a mountain ash tree and began to feed on fruit left from last fall. In less than thirty seconds an American Robin flew from another nearby maple and drove them from the tree. Satisfied the waxwings were gone, the robin flew about 50 yards away and began to feed on the ground. Within a few minutes four Cedar Waxwings returned to the Mountain Ash and began to feed. Again it took less than thirty seconds before the robin returned to drive them from the Mountain Ash. For about 15-20 seconds the robin remained in the tree, even feeding on a fruit this time. The robin then left

to feed elsewhere on the lawn. About five minutes later three waxwings returned and after 45 seconds the robin flew back driving two from the tree. The robin then made a pass at the third waxwing which at that time also flew away. At about the same time the waxwings left the yard. The robin continued to feed on the lawn near "its" tree. **Robert E. Holtz, 2997 N. Chatsworth, St. Paul, MN. 55113.**

A BARROW'S GOLDENEYE NEAR LILYDALE SERVED UP TO ORDER —

As every birder knows, when you're looking for rare, casual or accidental species to add to your state list, you succeed only with a great deal of help from your friends. Late in December, 1979, I mentioned to Bill Litkey my hopes for finding a Barrow's Goldeneye among the wintering rafts of Common Goldeneyes along the rivers south of the Twin Cities. Bill promised to keep an eye out for me, and within 24 hours he delivered a new state life bird "to order." At midday on Saturday, December 29th, I received his call and joined him within half an hour along the south bank of the Mississippi River near Lilydale. Earlier, he had spotted a Barrow's among a group of at least 100 or more Common Goldeneyes, male, female and immature. We approached the shoreline of the river very carefully and did not frighten the ducks floating near shore, but the Barrow's was not among them where he had seen it close at hand. Then, scanning the river southward about 100 yards, Bill found a likely looking possibility among a number of dark-looking females and immatures. As I, too, found it, the bird turned sideways to our line of vision and we noted the elongated profile of the back of its head. Even at that distance, I was 90 percent sure of identification, but then luck gave me a better look. The duck turned towards us and floated slowly down the river in our direction. As we stood and watched, it neared and passed within 100 feet of us. We noted all the remaining field marks of an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye: the white facial crescent, definitely not a spot, the stubby bill and upright forehead and the black mark extending down from the back into the white area between the breast and side. We watched the bird for ten to fifteen minutes with 7-power binoculars and my 20-power spotting scope remarking on the overall darkness of the bird when seen at a distance, especially when its white breast was not visible. It is easy to understand why other birders could not find it later among the hundreds of other ducks on the river south of St. Paul. I consider myself doubly lucky; first, in being able to reach the area while the bird was still present, and second, in having an excellent and helpful birder, Bill Litkey, as a friend. **Dick Ruhme, 9655 Upton Road, Bloomington, MN 55431.**

Editors Note: You will note that we did not publish the Summer Season (June 1 to July 31, 1979) in this issue of "The Loon." Unfortunately the manuscript was not ready when this issue went to press. We will publish the Summer Season in the next (Fall) issue. Bob Janssen

HAWK RIDGE, 1979 SUMMARY

Composite from East Overlook and Banding Station

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Number of Days	13	30	29	24	95
Total Hours	118	332	274	191	915
Turkey Vulture	4	323	165	0	492
Goshawk	8	62	218	38	326
Sharp-shinned	390	8,206	2,195	4	10,795
Cooper's	1	44	21	0	66
Red-tailed	23	746	2,070	337	3,176
Red-shouldered	0	0	1	0	1
Swainson's	0	0	1	0	1
Broad-winged	200	55,217	31	0	55,448
Rough-legged	0	10	334	65	409
Golden Eagle	0	2	11	6	19
Bald Eagle	1	34	16	35	86
Marsh	62	348	130	22	562
Osprey	13	173	7	0	193
Prairie Falcon	0	1	0	0	1*
Peregrine Falcon	0	12	2	0	14
Merlin	0	19	4	0	23
American Kestrel	123	782	39	0	944
Unidentified	0	77	79	16	191
TOTAL	844	66,056	5,324	523	72,747

*New Hawk Ridge record

EIGHT YEAR COMPARISON OF HAWK RIDGE DATA

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Number of Days	71	69	101	87	91	95	92	95
Total Hours	432	514	753	762	891	896	942	915
Turkey Vulture	280	304	246	368	352	472	487	492
Goshawk	5,382	3,517	1,400	312	308	110	166	326
Sharp-shinned	6,672	9,348	10,924	10,763	21,974	15,373	14,293	10,795
Cooper's	95	82	68	54	40	31	71	66
Red-tailed	3,619	4,064	2,927	7,279	6,738	3,194	3,957	3,176
Red-shouldered	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	1
Swainson's	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Broad-winged	26,912	20,853	32,277	44,220	30,010	16,049	53,027	55,448
Rough-legged	148	168	375	739	418	363	636	409
Ferruginous	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Golden Eagle	26	15	19	19	19	11	13	19
Bald Eagle	31	44	93	60	80	68	79	86
Marsh	403	464	560	771	1,207	602	614	562
Osprey	99	86	83	73	114	145	203	193
Gyr Falcon	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Prairie Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peregrine Falcon	11	5	8	20	25	5	8	14
Merlin	13	11	17	15	41	22	32	23
American Kestrel	544	478	593	510	776	782	758	944
Unidentified	151	187	326	1,285	359	442	221	191
TOTAL	44,389	39,627	49,918	65,531	62,463	37,671	74,568	72,747

Summer 1980

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LITTLE BLUE HERON AT DULUTH — On Sunday, May 11, 1980 while reentering Wisconsin from a trip into north-central Minnesota birding and for other business, my friends Jan and Ken Luepke of Spencer, Wis. and I were to really get the surprise of our trip as we crossed the 39th St. wooden bridge over the St. Louis River. Since our observation was made near mid-stream it seems imperative that we mention our observation both to the MOU and WSO and thusly both 'Hot-lines' were notified. As we crossed the wooden bridge and had gotten two thirds of the way across when Ken said, "There is a large shorebird landing near the middle." Hurriedly we turned around after crossing the bridge and since there was no traffic we stopped. I glassed the little spit to the north and there standing was what I then said, "Louisiana Heron," as this was looking strictly from the back. When the bird turned around and we saw that the bird had a solid blue neck there was no doubt that we were observing not a Louisiana but an adult plumaged, Little Blue Heron. We watched the bird for approximately five minutes during which time it took short flights up toward the end of the spit and sat on logs that were sticking out of the water. Upon reaching the first gas station and in need of gas anyway I called Jan Green to report the Little Blue Heron that helped to get us over the 100 species mark and we ended up with 104 after also seeing three Black Scoters north of the Superior dump. **Don G. Follen Sr., Route 1, Box 96, Arpin, WI 54410.**

AN EARLY BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO — On April 22, 1980 at my home in Falcon Heights, Ramsey County, at 6:50 A.M. I observed a Black-billed Cuckoo. The bird flew into a tree in the backyard about 15 feet away. It was obviously a cuckoo, slim shape and long tail. I got within six feet. The bird remained perched for about 30 seconds. The red eye-ring was very clear. Bill dark, small amount of white in tail. I then flushed the bird and saw no rufous in the wings as it flew. The bird was not present the next day. **Manley Olson, 1974 W. Summer St., St. Paul, MN 55113.**

Editor's Note: There is only one other April date for the Black-billed Cuckoo in Minnesota. Cuckoo's do not usually arrive in this area until mid-May or even later so the above record is most unusual.

A PRAIRIE FALCON IN LAKE COUNTY — On April 19, 1980, Dick Ruhme and I were birding at the Castle Danger Landfill in Lake County. At approximately 1:00 P.M. a large falcon flying north, passed through the circling Herring Gulls. Dick and I made the following notes on the sighting: only seen from beneath, it was flying down-wind and moved through viewing area quickly (20 seconds) without turning. Sandy color, faint mustache, dark axillars (not greatly extended). One thick dark band towards end of tail. Two or three thinner and lighter bands towards base of tail. Longitudinal streaking on breast and belly was brown. We identified the bird as a Prairie Falcon before consulting the field guides. **William Pieper, 11731 Evergreen Circle, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.**

IMMATURE FERRUGINOUS HAWK — Otter Tail Prairie (Nature Conservancy tract), Western Township, Otter Tail County, 4-23-80; 10:00 A.M., sunny, 50's, N-NW wind 12-18 mph. Large buteo — first seen approximately 500 yards north of me over two plowed fields which borders east edge of Conservancy prairie. Bird was soaring in circles in typical buteo fashion. From above, large white "windows" were very prominent at base of

primaries. The tail was very light (white) with what appeared to be a medium to light rufous tip. The upper tail surface was well-seen only once and seemed reddish-brown at several hundred yards. If it was barred, as young Ferruginous Hawks are supposed to be (according to several sources), I couldn't tell at that distance. To me the color appeared "solid." The remaining dorsal area was a uniform medium brown. Ventrally the bird was very white, with a few small dark flecks, mainly on the border of the wing-linings. The bird approached and passed directly overhead at approximately 200', and I then noticed a "V" formed by the leg feathers. This "V" was not especially prominent, but definitely noticeable at this closer range. The "V" didn't seem reddish, but brown, black or any medium to dark color would have looked the same in this instance — e.g., it contrasted with the white underparts and looked darker. No belly band was noted. Wing-tips were dark. The head was very light, and the wings, although fully fanned out for optimum soaring, didn't seem as deep as a Red-tail's. Field guides mention that the dark "V" is lacking in immature Ferruginous Hawks. A bird coming into adult plumage but still retaining certain juvenal features could, I believe, be patterned as this bird was. Oddly enough, most field guides don't mention the white patches in the outer portion of the upper wing, a key field mark in both young and adult birds. I talked with Bob Stewart of Jamestown, N.D. and he indicated I'd undoubtedly seen an immature Ferruginous in transitional plumage. He also told me that young birds are more apt to wander, which, of course, is true of many species. The time of observation was 2 - 3 minutes, conditions excellent, used Leitz 10x40s and 20x scope. Bird last seen several hundred feet high, moving S-SE. **Steve Millard, 503½ Spruce W., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

UNUSUAL BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT BEHAVIOR — On May 20, 1980, at 8:20 A.M., I stopped at Thomas Beach on the south shore of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis. Initially, the area was disappointing but I noticed what I assumed was a large gull resting on the surface about 200 feet from shore (the water is 10 to 15 feet deep in that area). When I focused my binoculars upon the bird, I was quite confused. Although the bird had a gull's coloration, its bill was quite long. Almost immediately the bird flew up from the surface and to my surprise I saw it was a Black-crowned Night Heron. I've never seen a heron of any kind at rest on the surface of a body of water and none of the literature available to me mentions this phenomenon. However, Robert's **Birds of Minnesota** does contain a report of this species picking dead fish off the surface of a lake. This particular heron had no trouble getting off the surface and flew off with normal wing beats. There was nothing to indicate that this bird was sick or injured. I'm wondering if any other **Loon** readers have ever seen similar heron behavior. **Charles L. Horn, 9078 Hyland Creek Road, Bloomington, MN 55437.**

PRAIRIE FALCON IN ROSEAU COUNTY — On Sept. 2, 1979 while driving west on Roseau Co. Rd. 12 a medium sized brown hawk flushed from a mowed oats field just across the ditch from my car. The location was Laona Township (Sec. 3) about ½ mile north and two miles east of the town of Swift. It rose rapidly about 50 feet from the car and before I got stopped I could see the pointed wings, black axillars and narrow mustache markings and I knew I had a Prairie Falcon. I jumped out and watched it wheel about, dip to about six feet off the ground, cross the road, skim over the field, again cross the road

and disappear behind a large quonset type machine shed. I turned the car around and started driving back east and my wife spotted the bird across the road flying toward us. It passed by about 20 feet in front of my windshield and attempted to land on the powerline alongside the car. It fluttered there briefly, trying to maintain its balance, then left and flew to a grove of spruce trees surrounding a farm yard where it perched on the tip of a spruce about 20 feet tall and 200 yards from me. I observed it thru a 20 power scope for about 10 minutes as it sat there. Although it was cloudy the light was good and I could see the buffy edges of the back feathers and wing coverts. The white area behind the thin mustache marks gave the bird the appearance of two white spots behind the head as it turned its head about. After I watched it perched for about 10 minutes it rose and circled the grove, sending a group of Mourning Doves into a panic. It then flew over the grain field and landed on the ground with wings extended in the "manteling posture" of birds of prey. It apparently caught nothing and got up and began hunting over the field, occasionally hovering "kestrel style." When it hovered the black axillary region was very conspicuous. It shortly returned to the spruce top and perched for awhile and then flew off. I had spent about 30 minutes watching the bird sitting, flying and hovering at distances of from 25 feet to 300 yards, a truly magnificent show for my first observation of a Prairie Falcon in Minnesota. **Ray Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

UNUSUAL PLUMAGED SHORT-EARED OWL — In early March, 1980 I was in northern Aitkin County looking for a Hawk Owl I had seen a week earlier. When I was about one mile from where I had last seen the Hawk Owl a very light medium sized bird flew in front of my truck and lit on a stub fence post. I could immediately see it was an owl, but what kind? Its flight looked like a Short-eared Owl but its whole breast was perfectly white. It also had a lot of white on its face and down its back. According to Peterson's Guide there was no owl this light with the exception of the Snowy and this bird was much smaller than a Snowy. Through the process of elimination and watching its flight once more I positively identified this owl as a Short-eared Owl. It was apparently just an extreme color variation of this species. **Jerry N. Barringer, Quadna Mt., Hill City, MN 55748.**



BOOK REVIEWS

Birds of the Great Plains, Paul A. Johnsgard; University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th St., Lincoln, NE 68588; 1979; 316 range maps, 30 color photos, 50 plus line drawings, 5 black-and-white habitat photos, 539 pages; \$25.00.

Paul Johnsgard is certainly a respected authority and author who has produced several impressive looking works; his books on waterfowl and gallinaceous birds are probably his best known. And **Birds of the Great Plains** looks as if it will enhance his reputation. For all you prairie lovers, including myself, a title such as this is hard to resist, and almost everything in the text is very attractive. The clear and concise introduction captures and defines the spirit of the plains with its discussion of climate, topography, vegetation and associated birds. The informative accounts of some 330 breeding species found within the scope of this work — all of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, a slice of western Minnesota and Iowa (west of 95°), a corner of extreme northwest Missouri, the Texas Panhandle, and the parts of northeast New Mexico and eastern Colorado east of 104° — includes sections on Breeding Status, Breeding Habitat, Nest Location, Clutch Size and Incubation Period, Time of Breeding, and Breeding Biology. Easy-to-read range maps accompany all but the extirpated birds, and the text concludes with helpful appendices on some representative birding locations and an extensive section of references.

Certainly Johnsgard has made an impressive attempt at compressing so

much information on such a large subject within a manageable book, and I suspect no one could have done a better job. But perhaps a treatise on the breeding birds of the Great Plains is too large a task for anyone to accomplish satisfactorily, and this work has some nagging shortcomings. Among the minor problems are: the generally good color photographs include a Goshawk that not only barely looks like a Goshawk but also is hardly a representative Great Plains species; the quality of Johnsgard's own line of drawings is uneven, with some making positive contribution to the text's appearance and others almost detracting from it; and Johnsgard unfortunately adds to the already confusing issue of constantly changing common bird names by dropping the 's from possessive names (e.g. Cooper Hawk, Say Phoebe, Bell Vireo, etc. — why not make it Chuck-will-widow, Paul?).

A more significant drawback is that the boundaries of the territory within the scope of this work could have been better chosen. With the Great Plains a large enough area already, the book might have done better by simply leaving out the parts in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico and Colorado. As it stands now, about 40 species are included which have little or nothing to do with the Great Plains — mostly birds from coniferous areas of northwest Minnesota, plus several species from Southeast woods and swamps and from montane areas of the West. For example, 14 species of vireos/warbblers are covered which are strictly confined to the boreal for-

est of northern Minnesota (hardly a "Great Plains" habitat), and the three selected "representative" Minnesota birding spots in Appendix A are Itasca State Park and Agassiz and Tamarac N.W.R.'s (only Agassiz is appropriate).

But the most serious problem I found is that the ranges of too many species are inaccurately plotted in Minnesota. It is easy enough to overlook minor imperfections in the range maps since, as previously mentioned, the scope of the book is so large, but at least 25 range maps have significant inaccuracies as far as this state is concerned: Eared and Western Grebes, Black-crowned Night Heron, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Turkey Vulture, Bobwhite, Sandhill Crane, King and Yellow Rails, Common Gallinule, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Whip-poor-will, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wood Thrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lark Bunting, Henslow's Sparrow and Chestnut-collared Longspur. A few mapping errors would certainly be tolerable, but 25 or so within just one of the states covered is excessive. And what about the other ten states included in the book — if Minnesota's treatment is typical, are there then 250 other mistakes?

I repeat, **Birds of the Great Plains** will probably be an asset to Johnsgard's reputation, and I still recommend the book to those interested in Great Plains birding on a general scale. If you can overlook the inadequacies about Minnesota and if similar mistakes in the other states are minimal, this book will also be an asset to your birding library.

—Kim Eckert

Research is a Passion with Me by Margaret Morse Nice. Consolidated Amethyst Communications Inc., 60 Barbados Blvd., Unit 6, Scarborough, Ontario. M1J1K9 335 pp. Illustrated with a few photographs and small line drawings. \$9.95; available in hard cover, \$12.95. 1979.

Passion expresses rather weakly the intensity with which Margaret Morse Nice pursued her many interests in life. Many of those interests involving travels, foreign languages and observations on child development became outstanding and numerous publications that, unfortunately failed to attain fame equal to her classic study of the Song Sparrow, **Melospiza melodia**. As remarkable in quality and number as these publications were, it is just as amazing they could have been produced at all under the prevailing paternalistic masochism of her era. **Research is a Passion with Me** is an eloquent reflection of her keen senses of observation, interest, inquiring mind and her unusual talent in converting them into scientific prose that is, to paraphrase her own words, "not so stiff, matter of fact and technical" that "all feelings and atmosphere have been banished from" it. Although very philosophical and anecdotal in tone, this autobiography is also inspirational and informative. It describes in a "Nice" (vivid) way her perceptions of and contributions to the rapid and often contrasting developments in American and European Schools of ornithology and the principals of their prominent scholars. It would be futile to attempt analyzing here her life as she has done so well in each chapter. A few "errors" are scattered in the text but they are mostly minor omissions or additions. Application of Latin nomenclature is inconsistently applied with most birds having their binomials introduced as footnotes on the bottom of the page where the common name of the species first appears in the text. Other birds and all plants have theirs presented immediately following the common name in the text. Such flaws as do exist do not, however, affect the otherwise excellent and entertaining qualities of this book. I recommend this book to anyone — birder or not; in particular, I think it should be required reading for elderly silver haired ornithology professors who are losing their grips on orni-

thology and young aspiring PHD's who don't yet know ornithology beyond the titles of a few articles which bear their names as junior co-authors. This narrative signals, I believe, three salient points of interest. First, when one is a child, he should for convenience if nothing else, request his parents to have a maid for housekeeping so that he need not waste time washing dishes when he can be birding; secondly,

when one has a child, he should immediately train it to become a birder, thereby ensuring that child rearing will be fun rather than work; and thirdly, the ever present bird list can be a valuable ornithological tool for anyone to use whether or not he is or will be a PHD.

—Richard Oehlenschlager
Naturalist, Camp Wilder,
14189 Ostlund Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047.



PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** 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 Kim Eckert. See inside front cover.



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The
LOON

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MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Paul Egeland, 12 East 67th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55423. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send \$7.50 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$10.00 yearly; Supporting \$15.00 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$10 yearly. Also available: 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 the treasurer.

EDITOR OF THE LOON: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). 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,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804. (phone 218-525-6930).

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A NORTHERN GREEN HERON COLONY

Mike Link

In June, 1979, I was driving an unnumbered road in St. Croix State Forest, Pine County, and my attention was aroused by a blueish "rock" in the branches of a diamond willow. The willow was in the midst of a beaver flowage that is dissected by the road. I stopped, and the "rock" raised its head, hopped to a branch below its stick nest, and flew away. It was a Northern Green Heron.

I got out of my vehicle and climbed on its roof to gain a better view. From there I saw two blueish green eggs in the nest and saw other Green Herons taking off from similar nest sites in the same flowage. I had not realized that they were colonial nesters so I began investigating what was written on them.

Bent, *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*, 1926, offered the fact that they nest singly or in colonies and, though they prefer water, they will even use orchards. Most nests are 10-20 feet above the ground and may be in the tops of high trees or on low bushes and occasionally even on the ground. One colony was described in Massachusetts near a salt marsh.

In the *Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, First Report of the State Zoologist*, accompanied with notes on the birds of Minnesota, by Dr. P. L. Hatch, Henry Nachtrieb, State Zoologist, published in 1892, I found that they commence building, as early as the 1st of May, a loose, bulky, flat nest of sticks, twigs and leaves, placed in the tops or branches of small trees in thickets. They rear two broods, usually. Hatch states that

though they are communal in breeding, they are solitary in feeding and select territories that they return to each day to hunt. Hatch states, "The most frequent locality I have known for this small heron is a low boggy marsh through which Minnehaha Creek flows, by which are thus connected Lakes Amelia and Mud, the former of which is partly and the latter entirely within the city limits. I wish to say that they do not universally breed in communities in Minnesota."

He then described their breeding versatility, including one nest on a muskrat lodge.

T. S. Roberts' *The Birds of Minnesota*, 1936, states, "It nests in bushes or small trees along the water's edge or it may choose a poplar grove, willow thicket, or clump of tamaracks near a slough or marsh, usually only a single pair but occasionally two or three pairs loosely associated."

In his notes he records that T. Surber found a nest in Pine County in 1919. If anyone is familiar with Surber and his studies in this area, I would be interested in learning about him.

A Natural History of American Birds of Eastern and Central North America, by John May, 1939, states that the Green Heron are abundant and nest in small colonies and adds that white pine is its favorite nest tree.

Headstrom, *Bird Nests, A Field Guide* 1949, describes the nest as being so frail, so loosely put together, and so thin, that the eggs may be seen from below and appear in danger of being dislodged by any disturbance to

the nest. Headstrom states that they commonly build alone rather than in colonies like other herons.

Green and Janssen, *Minnesota Birds*, 1975, state that they are primarily residents of the southern half of the state with breeding confirmed as far north as Pine County (1919) and Crosby, Crow Wing County (1969).

We returned to make our own observations on June 11 and found seven nests located in diamond willows above the waters of the beaver flowage. These nests were much better constructed than the reports would indicate, except for three which were not active. In the remaining four nests, one could not be checked, but three were active.

One nest had three chicks and one egg; another had four eggs; and the third active nest could not be checked for eggs or young. The eggs are blue-green in color.

On June 18 we took a canoe into the rookery and found eleven nests, seven of which were active. They ranged in height above water from three to eight feet. An Eastern Kingbird had its nest among the herons.

On June 26 I found three nests with eggs and two nests with young which were on the branches out of the nest. The nests with eggs had four, four, and five in them. The remaining nests were empty. If disturbed, the young took to the water and swam away.

On July 7 I found that one of the nests containing four eggs was now empty and another one still had four eggs. The nest that had five eggs the previous visit was now empty. The most startling revelation that I found was that two nests that had been empty the previous visit and one nest that had young the previous observation each held two, three or four eggs, with the nest that previously had young, holding two eggs.

My last visit in 1979 was on July 19. All nests were empty now, except for one with five eggs. The birds seemed to be very nervous and all observations were made as quickly as possible with the least disturbance.

All nests were between the beaver dam and road in a stream that enters Graces Lake. To the north of the flowage is a pine plantation and to the south is an aspen woods. The

TABLE OF OBSERVATIONS

NEST	NEST HEIGHT	1979				
		6-18	6-26	7-7	7-19	6-8-80
1	4.5'	5e	5e	E	E	E
2	6'	E	E	E	E	destroyed
3	8'	E	E	E	E	destroyed
4	6'	4y	E	2e	5e	E
5	4'	4y	4y	E	E	destroyed
6	X	E	E	E	E	destroyed
7	8'	4e	4e	4e	E	destroyed
8	3'	4y	3y	2e	E	eggs
9	X	E	E	destroyed		
10	7.5'	4e	4e	E	E	destroyed
11	4'	3y, 1e	E	3e	E	E

Nest height is calculated from water surface to top of nest.

E = empty

e = eggs

y = young

beaver dam is active and the lodge was in the midst of the colony. As mentioned above, a kingbird nest was found within the colony and Red-winged Blackbird nests were found at the edge of the colony. There were also signs of mink and deer.

Adult Green Herons would usually fly to three tall trees that stood in the streambed below the dam.

Observations have continued in 1980 with the following results. A Green Heron was first sighted on May 19. It was observed in a nest that had

been used the previous year and there were two eggs. No other herons were present. On June 8 the same bird still had eggs and no other herons were present.

Further observations will be made in this area. In addition, the author would like to know of other Minnesota Green Heron colonies that have been observed. I could not find any records other than the ones mentioned.

**Director, Northwoods Audubon Center,
Sandstone, Minnesota 55072.**

WINTER SEASON

(Dec. 1, 1979 - Feb. 29, 1980)

Kenneth J. La Fond

Since this is my first attempt at a seasonal report, perhaps a few comments are in order. First, no attempt has been made to change or alter the format of past reports. Since, however, the CBC's have already been reported, (*The Loon* 52:59-61), they are given no special treatment and only species otherwise absent or unusual for the season are included.

Working on this report in July and August, I find it difficult to recall last winter's weather, perhaps because it was more or less normal and actually seemed mild compared to the preceding three record breaking seasons of cold and snow. December was mild with only a few cold days and Duluth recorded its warmest December in 20 years. January started out about average but had its usual share of cold,

snow and winds (80 mph gusts in Worthington on the 6th). February also was mostly average with cold temperatures in mid-month and near the latter part of the month.

A total of 77 seasonal reports were received. They were submitted by a total of 93 observers and undoubtedly represent a record number of contributors. The observers were based in 37 different counties. The east central region (Twin Cities Area) was well represented but definitely did not have a monopoly on the number of contributors. The northeast, southeast and southwest regions were also well represented. For perhaps the first time, the extreme northern part of the state (Angle Inlet) was also represented.

A total of 134 species were report-

ed. This is not a record, but is an increase from the past few years.

Many observers seem to judge the season by the abundance of winter finches and, since they were quite scarce for the second year in a row, there were many adverse comments such as "poor season," "dull," "uninteresting," etc. American Goldfinches, again seemed to fill some of the void and they were present throughout the state in what is probably record numbers, particularly in the northern half.

Completely unexpected observations included a Common Snipe in Cass County in late January and an American Bittern photographed in Carlton County in late December. Both represent the first winter records for the northern half of the state.

Unusual water birds consisted of White Pelicans again overwintering at Albert Lea, a White-fronted Goose in Washington County and a Barrow's Goldeneye on the Mississippi River in St. Paul.

Harlequin Ducks were represented by December reports from the Duluth area. Chukars made a completely unexpected appearance between Aurora and Biwabik. Gyrfalcons were found in Roseau, Aitkin and St. Louis counties, and Boreal Owls were again present along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

A Hermit Thrush overwintered at a feeder in Mountain Lake and a Rufous-sided Towhee overwintered near Lutsen. Lingering migrants included a Loggerhead Shrike in Duluth, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Other unusual observations included Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Hennepin Co. on Feb. 1st and Crow Wing Co. on Jan. 21st.

Common Loon

A late migrant, (12-15) on the Duluth CBC.

Pied-billed Grebe

Three reports: Overwintered at Fergus Falls (GMO). Also reported from

Hennepin 1-20 (BJ), 2-23 (VL) and Big Stone 12-15 (CMB).

WHITE PELICAN

Again overwintered at Albert Lea, Freeborn Co. (fide BJ).

Double-crested Cormorant

Late migrants at Big Stone; until 1-1 at Ortonville (BJ), latest date on record.

Great Blue Heron

Two reports: 12-2 Rock (NB) and 12-29 Bloomington CBC.

AMERICAN BITTERN

An individual photographed in Carlton Co. 12-28 (JL), provides the first documented winter record for this species in the northern half of the state and is one of very few winter records for the entire state.

Whistling Swan

Late migrants in Wabasha, 12-9 1500 (KE) and Washington 1-1 (DGW). Overwintered in Otter Tail (GMO) and Wabasha; two individuals from 12-22 until 2-6 (DWM). Early migrants (?) in Big Stone 2-10 (CMB).

Canada Goose

Reported from 18 counties north to Itasca. Peak numbers include 22,000 on Rochester CBC, 20,000 in Lac Qui Parle (12-31) and 5000+ in Otter Tail. Late migrants in Nicollet on 12-29 and early migrants on 2-29.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Lake Elmo, Washington Co. 1-1 (DMB), Afton CBC. Very few winter records for this species.

Snow Goose

Two reports. Kandiyohi 12-8 (DdA) and Washington 12-29 until 1-6 (DS).

Mallard

Reported from 32 counties north to Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami and Becker.

Black Duck

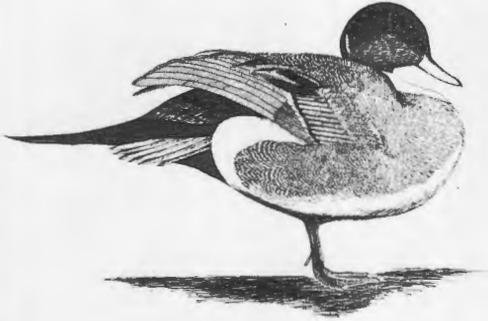
Reported from eight southeastern counties and Cook and St. Louis in the northeast.

Gadwall

Reported from Lac Qui Parle and Big Stone on 12-30 (CMB) and 1-1 (BJ) and in Scott until 1-19 (m.ob.).

Pintail

Two reports: Late migrants in Scott 12-15 (BJ) and Carver 1-5 (SY).

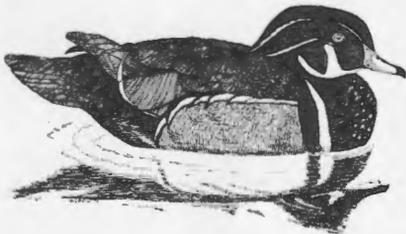


American Wigeon

Late migrants in Anoka 12-25 (KL), Big Stone 12-30 (CMB) and Washington 1-3 (DS).

Wood Duck

Fewer reports than normal. December migrants in Stearns, Nicollet and Anoka. Early January in Washington and Ramsey.



Redhead

Three reports: Scott 12-9 (RSA), Nicollet 12-7 (JCF) and Hennepin 12-24 (PF).

Ring-necked Duck

Five December and early January reports from Washington, Hennepin, Dakota, Scott and Olmsted.

Lesser Scaup

Late migrants in Beltrami 12-15

(NB), Big Stone 1-1 (BJ) and Hennepin 12-29 (DB); early migrants (?) Big Stone 2-10 (CMB) and Olmsted 2-24 (JB).

Common Goldeneye

Reported from 15 counties.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Lilydale, Ramsey Co. 12-30 until 1-4 (B. Litkey).

Bufflehead

Two reports, almost identical with last year: Duluth CBC (12-15) and Stearns 1-20 (NMH).

Oldsquaw

Reported only from Cook 1-19 45 (DGW), and St. Louis 1-19 (KE).

HARLEQUIN DUCK

Female or imm. present until 12-9 at Duluth (m.ob.).

Hooded Merganser

Three reports: Dakota 1-5 (RSA) in the south and Otter Tail 1-13 until 2-27 (GMO) and Beltrami 12-15 and 1-31 (NB) in the north.

Common Merganser

15,000 migrants in Wabasha on 12-3 (KE). Also reported from 16 counties north to Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca and Hubbard.

Red-breasted Merganser

Four reports from Lake Superior, St. Louis Co. including a flock of six females/imm. and 1 male 1-1 (KH) and 1-5 (KL).

Goshawk

Fourteen reports: five counties north including Marshall 1-1 and 2-9 (SKS) and four counties south to Olmsted 12-15 (JB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Reported from eight counties north to St. Louis and Otter Tail.

Cooper's Hawk

Three reports: Stearns, overwintered (NMH), Le Sueur 12-23 and 1-7 (HFC) and Duluth Feb. 1, banded (fide KE).

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from 23 counties north to Lake, St. Louis and Itasca.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Reported from Hennepin, Winona and Whitewater State Park.

Rough-legged Hawk

Reported from eight counties north and 12 counties south, including 124 in Aitkin on 12-2 (TS) and 34 in the Sax-Zim area on 1-2 (KE).

Golden Eagle

Three February reports from the Winona-Whitewater area and a report from Lyon 12-18 (HK), 2-17 Sax-Zim (KE).

Bald Eagle

Reported from 20 counties north to Lake, St. Louis, Itasca and Becker. This included 20 adults, 14 immatures and 49 with no age given.

Marsh Hawk

More reports than usual. Reported from Kandiyohi, Lyon and Swift in the southwest and Aitkin 12-2, 11 (TS), 12-26 (SC) and St. Louis 1-2 Sax-Zim (KE) in the north.

GYRFALCON

An immature in Roseau 2-21 (KE), one in Aitkin 12-7 Steve Blanich, and a gray phase immature in Duluth, St. Louis all winter (m.ob.).

Merlin

Four reports: Roseau 2-21 (KE), one adult St. Louis (DB), Big Stone 12-15 (CMB) and Ramsey 12-31 (OJ) and 1-5 (BJ).

Spruce Grouse

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

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 17 counties.

Greater Prairie Chicken

Two reports from Wilkin and also present on the Crookston CBC.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Kittson and Clay 2-29

(SY) (Need details).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reports from 28 counties are down from last year's 42 counties.

Gray Partridge

Reported from 13 counties eastward to Sherburne, Washington 12-14, near Forest Lake (WHL) and Olmsted.

CHUKAR

Two were seen 12-7 along railroad tracks near an abandoned open pit mine between Aurora and Biwabik, about 35 miles from their last known location at Ely (J. Gross).

Turkey

Reported only from Houston (MEF).

SANDHILL CRANE

Late migrants reported on 12-2, 50 individuals, from Lac Qui Parle Lake (P. Joyce).

American Coot

Three individuals overwintered in Otter Tail (GMO, GW), and stragglers present in Washington, Hennepin, Martin and Scott 1-19 (BJ) and Itasca 12-9 (TL).

Killdeer

A late migrant in Houston 12-12 (MEF) and an early migrant in White-water State Park 2-25, (D. Palmquist).

Common Snipe

Southeast reports from Mower and Sibley. Also, what is apparently the first north record from eight miles south of Walker, Cass Co. on 1-29 and 1-30 (SY).

Glaucous Gull

Only one report: Big Stone 12-9 until 12-31 (CMB). No reports from Lake Superior.

Herring Gull

Down in numbers in the three Lake Superior counties. Also reported from Sherburne, Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Ramsey and Wabasha.

THAYER'S GULL

An adult reported from Duluth on

12-9 (P. Egeland and B. Pieper).

Ring-billed Gull

December migrants reported from St. Louis, Hennepin, Dakota and Wabasha, and a report from Ramsey on 1-1 (REH).

Rock Dove

Reported from 30 counties throughout the state.

Mourning Dove

Reported from 24 counties north to St. Louis and Marshall.

Screech Owl

Reported from five south counties and Aitkin and Otter Tail in the north.

Great Horned Owl

Reports from 32 counties including an Arctic subspecies in Hennepin on 12-18 (PF) and a nest with eggs in Stearns on 2-5 (fide NMH).

Snowy Owl

Numbers down from last year with 12 on the Duluth CBC, reports from eight north counties and only Dakota 1-27 (JD) in the south.

Hawk Owl

Reported from St. Louis, Alden Twnshp. 12-9 until 2-10 (DA), Sax-Zim area (KE), three individuals near the Village of Cook 2-17 (DP). Also reported in Aitkin 12-16 until 2-9 (m.ob.), Carlton 2-13 (DB), Cook 2-3 until 2-16 (KE) and Polk 1-27 (SKS).

Barred Owl

Reported from 12 counties.

Great Gray Owl

Numbers down from last year. Reported from St. Louis: Aurora Dec. (NLB), Sax-Zim area 2-6 (KE) and Duluth Twnshp 12-4 (KH). Also reported from Lake of the Woods (TD), Chisago 1-5 (KL) and 2-20 Roseau (KE).

Long-eared Owl

Only one report: St. Louis 12-4 and 12-21 (DA).

Short-eared Owl

More reports than usual. North reports: Marshall 1-27 (SKS) and Aitkin, mid Jan. to mid Feb. (TS, WN). South reports from Lyon 12-18 (HK), Murray 12-29 (AD), Sherburne 2-6 (ES) and Wabasha 1-14 until 1-24 (DHJ).

Boreal Owl

Above average numbers along the north shore of Lake Superior. Up to seven individuals in the Duluth area from 1-19 to 2-9 (m.ob.), and three in Cook Co.; two at Grand Marais 1-29 (JL) and one at Tofte 2-18 (GS).

Saw-whet Owl

More reports than usual. North reports include St. Louis: one dead on Hwy. 61, Lester River 12-3 (DA), one in Duluth Twnshp. 2-22 (KH), Itasca, Squaw Lake, one at feeder 1-22 (MS) and Carlton, north of Nickerson 1-29 (DGW). Only south report: Le



Sueur 12-15, one heard (HFC).

Belted Kingfisher

Nineteen reports: Late north migrants in St. Louis 12-3 (DA), 12-28 (fide Jan Green) and Otter Tail 12-4 (SM). An early north migrant (?) in Cass 2-25 (SY). Eight Dec. reports, two Jan. reports and six Feb. reports in the south.

Common Flicker

Overwintered in Clay in the north with south overwintering reports from Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Hennepin, Redwood, Murray, Cottonwood, Nicollet and Wabasha. Also reported from Wilkin, Lyon (16 on the Marshall CBC), Dakota, Le Sueur and Mower.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 30 counties west to Lac Qui Parle.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from 18 counties north to Aitkin and west to Yellow Medicine and Redwood.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Numbers up sharply from last year. Overwintered in Anoka, Blue Earth and Olmsted. Also reported from 20 additional counties north to Aitkin, Crow Wing, Cass, Wadena and Otter Tail.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Reported from Nicollet 12-14 to 1-4 (JCF).

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 40 counties.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 42 counties.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

Sixteen reports from Cook, St. Louis, Itasca and Hubbard Counties.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker

Three reports for this elusive species: Cook, Gunflint Trail 2-5, 2-16 (KE), 2-10 (NB), Lake, two individuals at Isabella 2-16, 2-18 (SW) and Babbitt, St. Louis 2-6, 2-29 (TH).

Horned Lark

This harbinger of spring was reported from 34 counties. December migrants or wintering birds were reported from nine counties, principally in the southwest. Returning migrants, however, seem predominant in the reports. In the south 17 counties reported early arrivals: earliest Wabasha 1-17, Mower 1-19 and Olmsted 1-25. Early north arrivals were reported from eight counties, including Aitkin 1-26, Cook 2-25 and Pennington 2-26.

Gray Jay

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

Blue Jay

Reported from 43 counties throughout the state.

Black-billed Magpie

Numbers apparently down in the northwest although reported as fairly common at Angle Inlet, Lake of the Woods (TD). Reports also from Aitkin 12-8 to 1-20 (WN) and 12-28 (SC).

Common Raven

Reported from 17 northern counties.

Common Crow

Reported from 40 counties. Apparently more common than usual in the northern regions with reports north to Cook, Lake, Itasca and Pennington.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 41 counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Seven reports from Cook, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods and Hubbard.

Tufted Titmouse

This species, which is apparently withdrawing its range southeastward along the Mississippi River Valley, was reported only from Le Sueur, Houston and Chisago 12-28 (DB).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 39 counties.



Black-capped Chickadee
— by Dana Gardner

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from eight northern counties and Hennepin, Anoka and Swift in the south.

Brown Creeper

Again quite common. Reported from 33 counties with overwintering individuals as far north as Pennington.

Mockingbird

Two reports, both from the north: Lake, Two Harbors 1-18 (KE) and Clearwater 2-16 (SY).

Gray Catbird

One at a feeder in Little Marais, Lake Co., through Jan. (fide KE).

Brown Thrasher

One in Hennepin Co. from 12-15 until 1-26 (OJ, BJ).

American Robin

Common along the North Shore of Lake Superior, apparently due to a Mountain Ash berry crop. Also overwintered in Crow Wing and a late north migrant in Pennington 12-28 (SKS). Also reported from ten counties north to Otter Tail. Early migrant in Anoka, Carlos Avery area on 2-19 (BH).

Varied Thrush

One in Theodore Wirth Park, Hennepin Co. from 12-22 until 2-22 (m.ob.), Duluth 12-13 until 1-31 (KE), Dakota 12-2 until 1-18 (JD, KG), Brooklyn Park, Hennepin (OJ) and one in Bovey, Itasca Co. (J. Newstrom).

HERMIT THRUSH

One overwintered at a feeder in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood Co. from 12-21 on (LAF).

Eastern Bluebird

One report: Nicollet 1-4 (JCF).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

Minnesota River Valley 12-21 through 2-8 (JCF).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Reported from 12 counties in the south and north reports from Lake

1-20 (KG), St. Louis, Roseau, Clearwater, Clay, Becker, 50, 2-10 (TNWR), Otter Tail and Crow Wing.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Two reports: Hennepin 12-10 (SC) and Olmsted 12-9 (JF).

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from five north counties plus Ramsey 1-1 (REH) and Hennepin 12-15 (BJ) in the south.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 24 counties north to Cook, St. Louis, Beltrami and Pennington.

Northern Shrike

Reported from 29 counties, numbers down somewhat.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

One in Duluth 12-3 (MC).

Starling

Reported from 23 counties.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

One in the Twin Cities area on 12-7 (fide KE).

House Sparrow

Reported from 29 counties.

Meadowlark sp.

Two reports: Chippewa 12-12 (BJ) and Blue Earth 1-15 (DHJ).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Two reports this winter: Big Stone 1-1 (BJ) and 1-5 (DB) and Nicollet 1-25 (JCF).

Red-winged Blackbird

Reported from 13 counties north to Clay, Otter Tail and Pine.

Northern Oriole

One report from Hennepin, early Nov. until 1-12, Robert Lorentzen Residence on 42nd Ave. NW, Mpls.

Rusty Blackbird

Reported from six counties in the south and Douglas 1-4, Evansville in the north.

Brewer's Blackbird

Two reports: Nicollet 12-14 (JCF) and Cottonwood 12-30, 1-1 (RLG).

Common Grackle

Reported from 22 counties north to Norman, Becker (overwintered), Crow Wing (overwintered), St. Louis (overwintered) and Lake.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Reported from Redwood 2-14 on (LJF).

Cardinal

Reported from 23 counties north to Otter Tail and St. Louis.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK

Two reports: Hennepin, one female 2-1 (BJ) and Crow Wing, Deerwood 1-21 (TL).

Evening Grosbeak

Numbers down for the second year in a row. Reported from 14 counties in the north, common only in Cook and Crow Wing, plus Swift County in the south.

Purple Finch

Reported from 23 counties north to Cook, Lake of the Woods and Marshall.

Pine Grosbeak

This species was also way down in numbers. Reported as common only in Cook (m.ob.). Additional north reports from Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Becker and Hubbard. Only south report from Carlos Avery, Anoka County 12-23 (KL).

Hoary Redpoll

Only report: Lake 1-20 (DGW).

Common Redpoll

An article in *American Birds* several years ago indicated that this species is common in the northern United States on an every other year basis. Such was not the case in Minnesota this season since, for the second year in a row, this species was quite scarce. Reported from only 10 counties, six of which were in the north.

Pine Siskin

Although this species was reported as abundant in Cook Co., it was apparently down in numbers in the balance of the state with reports from only 15 additional counties.

American Goldfinch

Another excellent year for this species with reports from 37 counties including 14 in the northern half of the state.

Red Crossbill

Numbers up somewhat with reports from nine northern counties.

White-winged Crossbill

Reported from Cook (common, JL), St. Louis, Beltrami, Hubbard and Cass.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE

Two reports: one overwintered at a feeder near Lutsen, Cook Co. (TRB), and one at an Anoka Co. feeder on 1-30 (RBA).

Dark-eyed Junco

Reported from 35 counties north to Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami and Otter Tail.

Tree Sparrow

Reported from 27 counties north and northwest to Aitkin, Crow Wing, Todd, Otter Tail, Polk, Pennington and Marshall.

Field Sparrow

Overwintered at a feeder in Webster, Scott Co., photographed on 1-12 and 2-10 (R. Leis). Also reported on the Hastings and St. Paul CBC.

Harris' Sparrow

Overwintered again in Murray (AD). Late migrants in Lac Qui Parle 12-4 (AE) and Blue Earth 12-31 (JCF). Also reported from Redwood and the Mountain Lake, Marshall and East Grand Forks CBC.

White-crowned Sparrow

Late migrant in Nicollet 12-7 (JCF).

White-throated Sparrow

Overwintered in Hubbard, Anoka

and Houston. Also reported from Hennepin, Redwood and Nicollet.

Song Sparrow

Overwintered in Houston (m.ob.). December migrants Hennepin, Goodhue and Marshall. January reports from Cottonwood 1-1 (RLG) and Mower 1-19 (RRK). February migrant in Olmsted 2-27 (JF).

Lapland Longspur

Reported from feeders in St. Louis 1-10 and Cook 2-16 in the northeast. Also reported from Otter Tail, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Redwood, Lyon, Nicollet and Mower.

Snow Bunting

Reported from 33 counties throughout the state.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Darryl Anderson (DA)
Donald Anderson (DdA)
Renner S. Anderson (RSA)
Mpls. Audubon Society
Rare Bird Alert (RBA)
Don and Mary Beimborn (DMB)
Noel Benson (NB)
Frank and Kathi Berdan
Nancy L. Berlin, et al (NLB)
Thomas R. Biebighauser (TRB)
Don Bolduc (DB)
Jerry Bonkoski (JB)
Ed Brekke-Kramer
Chuck and Micki Buer (CMB)
Steven Carlson (SC)
Marj Carr (MC)
H. F. Chamberlain (HFC)
Jane Cliff
Mrs. Arnold De Kam (AD)
J. Dempsey (JD)
Thomas Amble and Sharon Dufur (TD)
Joel Dunnette
Kim Eckert (KE)
Mrs. Alpha Eckhardt (AE)
Gary and Bobby Erickson
Laurence and Carol Falk (LCF)
Mrs. L. A. Feil (LAF)
Herbert J. Fisher
Marilynn and Eugene Ford (MEF)
Joan Fowler (JF)
Lee and Joan French (LJF)

John C. Frentz (JCF)
Pepper Fuller (PF)
Randall L. Goertzen (RLG)
Karol Gresser (KG)
Tom Hargy (TH)
Helen Hatlelid
Ed Hibbard and Sharon Sarappo (ES)
N. M. Hiemenz (NMH)
Bill Hilton Jr. (BH)
Ken Hoffman (KH)
Robert E. Holtz (REH)
James L. Howitz (JH)
Bob Janssen (BJ)
David H. Johnson (DHJ)
Oscar L. Johnson (OJ)
Ron and Rose Kneeskern (RRK)
Henry C. Kyllingstad (HK)
K. La Fond (KL)
Tim Lamey (TL)
Jeff Larson (JL)
Violet Lender (VL)
William H. Longley (WHL)
Mary Beth Nevers and
Scott Lounsbury
Don and Wynn Mahle (DWM)
Jim Mattsson
Nel Marie Melville
Steve Millard (SM)
Clare Mohs
Warren Nelson (WN)
Gary and Marion Otnes (GMO)
Don V. Potter
J. Rustad
Terry Savaloja (TS)
Madeline Schuller (MS)
Gary Simonson (GS)
Tom Sobolik
Dave Sovereign (DS)
Evelyn T. Stanley
Shelley and Keith Steva (SKS)
Bruce Stranden-Hitman
Forest and Kirsten Strnad
Tamarack NWR (TNWR)
Al Theis
Dick and Gloria Wachtler (DGW)
Steven G. Wilson (SW)
Gerald B. Winkelman (GW)
Mark Wright
Steve Young (SY)

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

THE LOON, Vol. 52, No. 2, the fall season - page 71, add: Snow Goose,

early south, 8-14, Sharon Township, Le Sueur County, Mr. Silverius Wacker; 11-25 **Becker** WL, should be 10-25 Otter Tail WL.

THE LOON, Vol. 51, No. 4, the spring season - page 182, delete: Greater Scaup, 3-11, Scott, and page 183, Rough-legged Hawk, 5-27, Itasca,

and Virginia Rail 4-19, Ramsey. Also CHANGE: Sanderling, 5-31, Bonapartes Gull, 4-23 and Forster's Tern, 4-21 (all Marshall County) to DMB, and Eastern Meadowlark, 4-7, Cass and Clearwater to TOS.

11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, Minnesota 55434.



NOTES OF INTEREST

MINNESOTA'S FIRST YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER — At about 10:45 on May 6, 1980, in a wooded area on the west side of Roseville, Ramsey County, I heard a song that sounded worth investigating. When I located the bird a few moments later, it was partially hidden by foliage, but a bright yellow throat bordered laterally by black stripes was plainly visible. My first thought was Blackburnian, but the throat didn't look right, and the song was like no Blackburnian I had ever heard. As I was puzzling over the bird, it suddenly hit me that I had heard the song before, over 20 years ago, at Turkey Run State Park in central Indiana, and I realized that I was looking at a Yellow-throated Warbler. By this time the bird was in full view, and several features were immediately obvious: a striking white line over the eye and a black cheek patch continuous with the single heavy black streaks on each side of the yellow throat. There was also a white area on the face behind the black cheek patch. The several bold black streaks on the sides became rather faint as they neared the region of the legs. The belly and two wing bars were white. Although the bird was 20-30 feet high much of the time, its angle on 8-10 occasions enabled me to see that the entire top side of the bird — crown, nape, and back — was a uniform medium dark gray, with no trace of streaking of any kind. Except for the crick I got in my neck, observing conditions were close to ideal, with the bird in full sunlight (the sun was in back of me) most of the time, and nearly all its feeding taking place in a nearby oak tree that had barely leafed out. Fortunately, this portion of the woods was rather sheltered

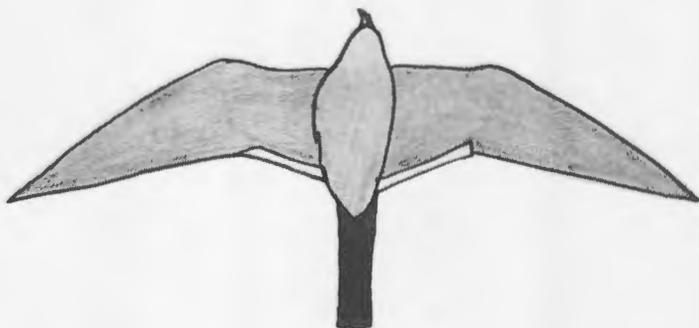
from the day's gusty winds. A further bonus was the bird's frequent singing; it must have sung at least 30 times in the 20-25 minutes I observed it. Although there was some variation, most songs were of the same pattern: 8-10 rather clear, fairly loud notes, trending slightly downward in pitch overall, with the last note frequently rising a bit in pitch. On several occasions the bird became involved in chasing (or being chased by — it was hard to tell which) a Yellow-rumped Warbler. I found the bird in the same location several more times in the next few days, seeing it last at about 3:30 on May 8. I know of at least 12 additional people who saw it during that three-day span. **Thomas K. Soulen, 1725 W. Eldridge Ave., Roseville, MN 55113.**

WHITE-EYED VIREO AT OXBOW PARK, OLMSTED COUNTY — On May 23, 1980 at 8:45 a.m. I was birding in Oxbow County Park in Olmsted County, three miles north of Byron. I was walking along the interpretive trail when I heard an unusual bird song in a plum thicket to my left. At first I thought I was hearing a Whip-poor-will as the song was a very loud 'chirp-whirr-weep' sound. The singing was loud and distinct. I worked my way into the plum thicket and located the bird about 20 feet away in a plum tree. The bird had a light unstreaked throat and belly with yellow on the flanks and white wingbars. The most notable feature of the bird was its head. The eye of the bird had a very white iris with a black pupil. The eye also had yellow around it and the yellow went forward over the bill to form yellow spectacles. I had my Robbin's 'BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA' with me and I compared the bird to the White-eyed Vireo and the picture was the same as the bird I was watching. I observed the bird for about five minutes at about 20 feet. The sky was clear and I had an unobstructed view of the bird. I was using 7x-15x X 35mm binoculars and could see the detail of the eye and yellow spectacles very well. When the bird flew a short distance I worked my way to the edge of the plum thicket where he was again singing. In a nearby tree was another White-eyed Vireo about 30 feet away from the first bird. On Sat. May 24 I led Bob Janssen and Ray Glassel to the same area but we were unable to find the White-eyed Vireos. **Jerry Bonkoski, R.R. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

A 1944 RECORD FOR THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER — The following notes are from the notebook of Nestor Hiemenz, dated May 22, 1944, at St. Cloud, Stearns County: "The prize find of the day was a male Kirtland's Warbler (first) seen at T. Park. I was standing on the steps watching the warblers in the tree-tops when I spotted this bird. A first I thought it was a Magnolia Warbler but it puzzled me by its deliberate movements and tail-wagging, as though it was an oversize, yellower Palm Warbler. The black face patch was very noticeable as was the yellow underparts, sharply streaked along the sides only. The bluish striped upperparts were also noted. The white in the tail wasn't very noticeable in contrast to the flashy white of the Magnolia Warbler. After watching it for five minutes, I turned to the car and got my field guide to check for certain and then I again watched the bird. There is absolutely no doubt of the identification, needless to say my first record of this species." **Nestor Hiemenz, 705 18th Ave S., St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

Editor's Note: The only other acceptable record of this rare species in Minnesota is a specimen that was collected on May 13, 1892 in Hennepin County.

A MISSISSIPPI KITE OBSERVED IN TRAVERSE COUNTY — At 3:15 P.M. on May 25, 1980, a medium-sized, falcon-like raptor flew over my car as Steve Schon and I drove into Brown's Valley near the Minnesota River in Traverse County. Steve got out of the car and we watched the bird for about 15 seconds in excellent light through 7x35 and 9x35 binoculars as it flew over us, about 10-15 meters high, until it disappeared over trees in a residential area perhaps 60 meters away. The exact location was immediately south-east of the intersection of Minnesota Highways 27 and 28. The bird was mostly unmarked gray below, and about 50% larger than



an American Kestrel. Before looking at field guides, we made the following notes: Straight, narrow, square-cut tail, black; Pointed wings, gray. White trailing edges before the bend of the wing - secondaries and tertiaries (see diagram); Gray back; Twisting and flapping (tern-like?) flight, strong, agile, buoyant. The white edge of the wing and the black tail were very obvious to both of us as it flew away. We quickly drove through the area to the south to which the bird had flown, but were unable to find it again. The bird was clearly a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Neither of us had seen one of this species before, but I had seen several dozen of the closely related Plumbeous Kite (*I. plumbea*) two months ago, and this bird was similar in appearance and flight. Stephen Greenfield, 4000 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.

A CINNAMON TEAL IN PIPESTONE COUNTY — The duck was in a pond with about 20 Blue-winged Teal on April 20, 1980 at 5:00 P.M. near Ruthton, Pipestone County. It was about equal in size with the Blue-winged Teal. We were looking into the western sky so the first thing I noticed was that it was separated from all the other ducks. All the Blue-wings were paired. With binoculars I noticed it had a dark cinnamon color so I backed the car up to get a better angle for observation. From this point we could see that the head, breast and belly had a dark cinnamon color. The bird did not fly or flap its wings so we did not see the speculum or wing color. Lee and Joan French, 306 W. 6th Ave., Lamberton, MN 56152.

GREAT HORNED OWL RECOVERED IN ILLINOIS — On April 29, 1978, Dr. Al Grewe and I visited four active Great Horned Owl nests located a few miles northeast of St. Cloud. We banded a total of seven young at the four sites. One of the nests was located approximately five miles southeast of Rice, on property now part of Englund Ecotone, a Nature Conservancy Area in Benton County. The nest, an artificial platform I had erected during the previous summer, contained three large, five to six week old owlets. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently notified me that one of the young from this nest was recovered on January 18, 1980, in Harrison Township, Illinois, near the town of Durand. It was found on a roadside and probably had been struck by a vehicle. The recovery was made approximately 350 miles from where I banded the owl, the greatest such distance involving the Great Horned Owls that I have worked with. As is often the case when banded birds are recovered, more questions are raised than answered. For example, how long had the owl been in the Durand area? Was it just wandering, or was it territorial? Questions such as these are interesting to speculate upon, and are perhaps more appropriately answered by marking and tracking techniques such as radio telemetry, rather than leg banding. Except for the arctic subspecies, Great Horned Owls are generally considered to be fairly sedentary. It would be interesting to know just how unusual this incident is. **Robert T. Bohm, 1376-20 Highland Village, Duluth, MN 55811.**

A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT IN SCOTT COUNTY — On June 2, 1980 Larry Conroy discovered a Yellow-breasted Chat in an overgrown pasture containing low thickets and brush along County Road 16 near Savage, Scott County. Ray Glassel saw the bird on June 3 and I saw the bird on June 4 in the same area. Between June 2 and June 20 the bird was seen by a number of observers in the same area, being last seen on June 20 by Jon Peterson of LaCrosse. A thorough search of the area after the 20th, in hopes of finding a nest, by a number of people including myself ended in failure to find the bird. When I first visited the area I heard the bird in a low thicket. I listened to a mixed number of calls, whistles, chucks, etc., typical chat-like sounds. I saw the bird fly from thicket to thicket. It was smaller than a male Cardinal which was nearby, brown back, white eye-ring and lores (upper), dark cheek and lores (lower) deep lemon-yellow chin, throat, breast and belly, white under tail, an obvious Yellow-breasted Chat. There are only four other records for the chat in the Metropolitan Twin City area, one on May 24, 1969 at Lake Harriet Refuge, Minneapolis; one banded in Dakota County on June 17, 1974 (*Loon* 47:50-51); and one at Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka County on May 15, 1977 and another in Anoka Co. on May 10, 1970. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

CINNAMON TEAL AT THE FULDA SEWAGE PONDS — About one o'clock on May 11, 1980, I returned to the Fulda Sewage Ponds, Murray County, to continue to observe the large variety and quantities of shorebirds located the day before. The wind speed had gone down considerably and light conditions were excellent. From a distance, I noticed a large concentration of shorebirds in a patch of sedge hummocks located just beyond one of the pond dikes. The area around the hummocks varied from mudflats to ten inches of water. I used the pond dike to sneak within one hundred feet of

the area. I planned to scan the area with my Swift No. 841 Zoom spotting scope from the top of the dike. At first glance I saw a male Cinnamon Teal perched on one of the hummocks. The cinnamon color of the head and body, which seemed fluorescent in the bright sun, left no doubt in my mind as to its identity. It was positioned near a female teal and two pair of Blue-winged Teal were near by. The female near the male Cinnamon was different from the female Blue-winged. I checked Robbins for identification of this female but the female Cinnamon was not shown or described. I observed both male and female several times over the next three hours, both with and without the spotting scope. **Jerald Hegdahl, Box 135, Clear Lake, MN 55319.**

LONG-BILLED CURLEW AT COTTONWOOD, LYON COUNTY — May 20, 1980, 7:00 P.M. calm and clear. I was on my hands and knees planting flowers in my mother's garden. The bird had apparently flown directly over me coming from the southwest over Cottonwood Lake. It was the call that drew my attention to the bird, and I thought of curlew immediately even before I heard the second call. I ran into the house for my binoculars. I immediately picked it up again as it flew toward Sham Lake a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away. Unfortunately the direction of its flight was such that its bill could not be seen. I watched it fly over Sham Lake until it was a speck in the northeast. I was fortunate that I had brought to Cottonwood my Peterson's records for tuning up my ears for our upcoming "Big Day." I played the call of the Long-billed Curlew and was happy to confirm that what I had seen and heard was a Long-billed Curlew. I also played the call of the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwit and Whimbrel to make sure I wasn't confused. A description of the bird is as follows: the underside was very rich brown, particularly the underwings. It appeared to be the size of a medium to large sized duck. I could not see the sickle bill because it was flying directly away from me to the northeast. The principle feature used to identify the bird was its call. I find it hard to verbalize how it sounded. It was loud, yet musical, with part of the call being somewhat similar to an Upland Sandpiper. It gave a full extended call twice. The back of the bird was relatively light colored appearing brown flecked with gray or mottled. The wing beats were very shallow and it was flying quite slow. **Paul Egeland, 12 E. 67th St., Minneapolis, MN 55423.**

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS AND GREAT BLUE HERONS — In a recent issue of *The Loon*, 52:91, a birder commented on the observation of a Black-crowned Night Heron floating about on the surface of a lake. The question was raised regarding other sightings of such odd behavior. This is somewhat routine behavior, we've noted, of a very few individuals of both the Black-crowned and Great Blue Heron groups. On Pelican Lake near Ashby, Grant County, both species occasionally settle onto the water to pick up food. At Wall Lake, Otter Tail County, a single Great Blue Heron has done this for years. We have no idea if this is the same bird each year, or not. Then, a couple of years ago, a Black-crowned Night Heron began the same routine. They also circle fishing boats on the same lake, watching for discarded minnows and perch. This year, 1980, the two unusual birds refined their tactics, and occasionally float in the water a couple hundred feet from fishing boats, quite obviously trying to mooch minnows. Fishermen sometimes toss them some.

Only a few of these two species do this; apparently the majority of herons either haven't caught onto the act yet, or simply won't lower themselves to such behavior. **Gary and Marion Otnes, Route 1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

BURROWING OWLS, CLAY COUNTY — While driving through Clay County on 1 May 1980 on business, I noted a Burrowing Owl standing in a livestock pasture several hundred feet to the east of the road I was traveling, State Highway No. 9, about 2½ miles south of the town of Downer. I stopped and looked at it with 10x35 binoculars for a couple of minutes, then left. Later that day it turned out that two owls were present. In the weeks that followed, many birders viewed the owls, watching them as they moved about, called, and utilized their burrow. On 1 July 1980 a staff member from my office checked the area while traveling by and reported two adult owls and one downy young. Of interest was the statement by a local rancher that the owls have utilized the same area "for years!" **Gary L. Otnes, Route 1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

A BLUE GROSBEAK IN DAKOTA COUNTY — While gardening in the back yard on May 27, 1980, about 7:20 a.m., I heard an unfamiliar bird song from the front yard. Upon investigation I found what was identified by my husband, Jerry, and me as a male Blue Grosbeak. The bird was near the top of a cherry tree about 50 feet high. I noticed the blue-black color, size about like a Starling only chunky, large slate-gray bill and large dark tan wing bar. The bird was rather sluggish and moved only once in the top of the tree — staying always half hidden in the leaves (don't they always!). We viewed it from various positions in the yard with 7 power binoculars and tried to get it in the scope but the angle was impossible. After about 20-30 minutes from our first notice of the bird, it flew to a lower bare branch on an oak and I watched it eat a large green worm. Then it flew off to the south and was not seen again. While it was in the oak the large wing bar was very evident, as well as the large bill, size and color. The conditions of viewing were: sunny, clear and no wind. **Karol Gresser, 13508 Grand Ave., Burnsville, MN 55337.**

HOODED WARBLER AT ROBERT'S SANCTUARY — At 7:30 a.m. on May 17, 1980 I observed a female Hooded Warbler in the trees along the cemetery fence outside the eastern edge of T. S. Roberts Sanctuary in Minneapolis. Less than a minute after spotting a male Wilson's Warbler I noticed nearby another predominantly yellow warbler with a light brownish yellow back and a dark crown. The bird constantly flitted about from branch to branch in a small tree, staying five to six feet off the ground, about fifteen feet in front of me. While moving restlessly about, it repeatedly opened and closed its tail, flashing the conspicuous white spots of a Hooded Warbler. With 7x35 binoculars I noticed that the bird was slightly larger than the Wilson's I had just seen, with a relatively larger bill. After about two minutes she disappeared into the thicket and could not be relocated. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

MUTE SWAN INFLUX IN THE DULUTH AREA — Since Mute Swans are widely kept in captivity and sometimes are released or escape, Mute Swan sightings in Minnesota can usually be dismissed from consideration for our purposes. However, when a Mute Swan appears on Lake Superior the chances are it is a truly wild bird wandering across the lake from long-

established feral populations in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan and the Ashland, Wisconsin vicinity. This has occurred three times previously: three in Duluth May 1974, three individuals in Grand Marais Jan.-Feb. 1975 (perhaps the same birds?), and one in Duluth Mar. 1978 (an unpublished but reliable sighting by Tom Davis). During the spring of 1980 there was a flurry of sightings in the Duluth area, some of these undoubtedly representing the same individuals and some representing unidentified swans that were probably Mutes. Chronologically these records are: March 8, Park Point, two unidentified swans first reported by local residents but verified as Mutes by me (orange bill with black knob at the base clearly seen); photo of these swans appeared March 9 in the Duluth News-Tribune, incorrectly captioned as Whistlings, although the bill on one swan is clearly visible; March 16, Duluth Township, seven Mutes seen by Ruth Andberg (orange bills seen; description in M.O.U. files); March 25, Knife River (Lake Co.), two unidentified swans reported by local residents; probably Mutes since Whistlings had not yet arrived and are rare this far up the North Shore in spring; March 30, Brighton Beach (Duluth), five Mutes seen by Carol Copeland (no written description exists, but orange bills reportedly seen); May 23, Brighton Beach, one unidentified swan seen by Glenn Maxham; probably a Mute because of late date and North Shore location; May 31, Park Point, one Mute seen by me (orange bill seen). Although some of these sightings were probably of the same birds, it is interesting that after a sighting was reported none of the swans could be located by other observers the following day. Incidentally, investigation by Koni Sundquist revealed that there has been only one or two unrestrained pairs nesting at Ashland for about twenty years, that the young are driven from the area after fledging, and that neither the adults or young have ever been banded. In Michigan an expanding population of scores or even hundreds of pairs are present, the original swans were introduced about 80 years ago, these swans are known to wander widely throughout most of the state and frequently across Lake Michigan to Wisconsin, and many of these swans have been banded (presumably with standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife bands). Therefore, if and when Mute Swans are again seen on Lake Superior, the observer should make an attempt to entice the birds on shore with food to see if they are banded — the origin of unbanded birds would be unknown but a banded swan presumably came originally from Michigan. **Kim R. Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

DIET OF A MINNESOTA HAWK OWL — For a period of approximately seven days, ending 6 April, 1979, a Hawk Owl roosted in an isolated grove of Paper Birch and Northern White Cedar in a predominantly agricultural area, north of Waskish, Beltrami Co., Minn. I was alerted to the owl's presence by Cindy Hagley, and when I visited the site on 6 April I observed the bird and collected all pellets and pellet fragments that I could find. A total of seven individual mammals and one bird were represented in eight whole and partial pellets, as follows: **Microtus pennsylvanicus** (Meadow Vole) 6; **Blarina brevicauda** (Short-tailed Shrew) 1; **Bonasa umbellus** (Ruffed Grouse) 1. **Microtus** was represented by 5 skulls, 4½ pelvic girdles, 12 femora, 11 fibulae/tibiae, 11 humeri, 11 ulnae, 7 radii, and 8 scapulae. **Blarina** was represented by 1 complete skull, 1 pelvic girdle, and 2 femora. **Bonasa** was represented by 7 bone fragments, the two largest being 28.0mm and 22.9mm in length, the remaining pieces between 8.0mm and 13.9mm, and by feathers found near the pellet. Pellet sizes ranged from 14.7mm to

23.9mm in width, and from 19.6mm to 44.8mm in length, the largest being 18.1mm by 44.8mm, and the smallest 15.1mm by 19.6mm. Some pellets were too weathered to tell with certainty whether they were whole or partial, however several humeri, fibulae/tibulae, and pelvic girdle bones from different pellets formed matched pairs in such a way as to suggest that 6 complete castings are represented by these 8 pieces. There are, then, 8 prey items contained in 6 castings. I found 95 "large" recognizable bones (limb bones, skulls, etc.), for an average of 15.8 per pellet. Total weight of all mammal hair separated from bones was approximately 9 grams. The presence of Ruffed Grouse remains is noteworthy. Fisher and Henderson (in Bent, 1961) both reported that the main prey items of the Hawk Owl are small mammals and small birds, particularly mice, voles, lemmings, and ground squirrels. Fisher noted that Hawk Owls will take ptarmigan in winter when other food is unavailable. Henderson assumed that the portions of Snowshoe Hare and Sharp-tailed Grouse that he found with Hawk Owls were the remains from kills made by larger predators. Forbush (Bent 1961), however, does report that the Hawk Owl "has been seen to kill and carry off a Ruffed Grouse" (p.379). In the case I report here, the pellet containing grouse bones was the freshest pellet found, and was surrounded by Ruffed Grouse feathers that were on the whole not yet spread by the wind. While all of the other pellets were found together in one place, this pellet was 20 meters away, under the tree upon which the owl was perched when I arrived. Though the evidence is not sufficient to determine whether this grouse was killed or merely scavenged, Ruffed Grouse was clearly a part of this Hawk Owl's diet. Literature Cited: Bent, Arthur Cleveland 1961, **Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey Part 2** Dover Publications, Inc., New York. Miriam Axelrod, P.O. Box 618, Artesia, NM 88210.

PROBABLE COMMON EIDER, BATTLE LAKE, OTTERTAIL COUNTY —

The large lakes of Otter Tail County have always intrigued west central birders with the possibility of unusual migrants sneaking through the area. Finally, on 9 November 1979, among a large raft of American Coots and Redheads, my wife Marion, and I spotted what we believed to be a female Common Eider. Even when the raft was ½ mile away, we could note the presence of a larger duck, when using 10 x 50 binoculars and 30x scope. The raft then made its way towards the southwest shore of Battle Lake. We drove to an overlook and identified the eider, now about 1,000 feet offshore. The duck was larger than a Canvasback or Redhead, heavier and longer bodied; it was brownish overall, darker on the back; its head was markedly sloped, with a noticeable long frontal shield which reflected in the light as the bird turned on the water as well as when it surfaced after a dive; dark barring on back and flanks was quite noticeable. The head profile was much more representative of the Common, rather than the King Eider. **Gary and Marion Otnes, Route 1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

Editor's Note: The above record was submitted to the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee for verification because of the Casual and/or Accidental occurrence of eiders in Minnesota. The Committee, while concurring that the bird described above was an eider, because of the distances involved and the close scrutiny needed to separate King from Common Eiders concluded that the observation could only be recorded as an eider species.

HERMIT THRUSH WINTERS IN COTTONWOOD COUNTY — During a mild spell toward the end of December 1979, a thrush-like bird showed up at the birdbath on our patio. We first noted the bird on December 21st. We saw him again the following day and after closer observation noted the typical spotted breast and the very rusty tail which he bobbed up and down. Several other local birders were notified to come and see "our" bird. They all verified our foregone conclusion that it was indeed a Hermit Thrush and a very healthy-looking one at that! The thrush stayed around throughout our CBC period and continued coming to our birdbath almost daily for the next several months. The problem he created for us was his demand for water every day — all through the -10° to -20° below zero days. It was a bit inconvenient but he got his water. His visits to the patio were brief but frequent so we had opportunities for taking several telephoto pictures of the bird. The Hermit Thrush sat in a Concolor Fir tree, next to



the patio, quite often and seemed to watch the other birds — mostly House Sparrows — feeding on top of a tree stump and soon joined them there. He also learned to eat suet from a suet log hanging nearby. By mid-April he seemed to get restless and more secretive but apparently none the worse for wear, having battled through the snow and cold of a Minnesota winter. His last appearance at the birdbath was on April 17, 1980. We really missed his daily visits after that date because he had become very special to us and to other birders in our community. About 10 days later we again saw a Hermit Thrush in our backyard but it was not "our" thrush because we had thoroughly learned to know his ways and habits, colors and markings. We hope he will pay our birdbath a visit this fall on his way south. **Loren and Buddy Feil, 1300 2nd Ave., Mountain Lake, MN 56159.**

GREAT BLUE HERON FEEDING BEHAVIOR — In the *Loon* 52:91, Charles L. Horn comments on unusual feeding behavior for Black-crowned Night Herons. We have observed similar behavior for Great Blue Herons and find that it is rather common in May and June to see 10-15 Great Blues swimming in water depths of 10' - 15' on Centerville and Peltier Lakes in Anoka Co. At first glance they look like large blue swans. They land feet first and simply settle into the water. They don't move around much but when they leave they all seemed to have a fish. They don't appear to have any difficulty in lifting off the lake surface, and, in the Centerville area this appears to be a fairly common practice. **Kenneth J. La Fond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

LATE PINE GROSBEAKS IN ANOKA COUNTY — Winter finches were virtually non-existent in Anoka County during the winter of 1978-1979 and also into the spring of 1979. Thus, we were quite surprised when, on April 12, 1979, a large flock of Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Common Redpolls flew into the yard. They were first present in mid morning and again in the late afternoon. The flock contained four male and eight female or juvenile Pine Grosbeaks, 25 Purple Finches and one Common Redpoll. Where had they been all winter? The grosbeaks were readily identified by their larger size, conical bill and white wing bars. This represents one of the latest south spring dates for the Pine Grosbeak. **Ken and Pat La Fond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

BOOK REVIEWS

The Complete Birds of the World by Michael Walters, 340 pages. David and Charles, Inc. North Pomfret, Vermont 05053 U.S.A. 1980. \$35.50.

This volume is an exhaustive list of all species of birds known to have existed since the close of the Pleistocene epoch, including those known only from bones or non-fossil remains. Despite the amazingly detailed content, however, it is not an overly massive book. A general description of each Family is given under which the more salient ecological and behavioral data are identified. The Fa-

milian sequence is essentially that of J. L. Peters' **Check List of Birds of the World**, and all avian Families are listed in the preface. Each species is identified by its Latin and English name and the names of the authority (ies) who originally described it. The author then records other data in codified form for distribution, habitat, food, nest site, clutch size, incubation — share of sexes and period — and fledging period when they are known by him. In those instances where doubt exists as to the taxonomic status of a species, Walters states the

nature of that doubt.

I laud the efforts of the author in producing this very useful and attractive work. Because of its very comprehensive nature, I have not sought intensively for errors but some do exist as in the case of the Northern and Southern Giant Petrels (*Macronectes halli* and *giganteus* respectively) whose common names have been switched and mismatched with the associated distributions.

An outstanding credit to this author is his contempt for the practice "of changing established common English names to others which are both ugly and cumbersome," an attitude with which I believe most rational bird students would strongly agree.

I would have liked a more expanded introduction dealing with the numbers of species and their distributions among continents and a more inclusive bibliography for it seems many authoritative references have not been cited, even though they might have been consulted.

The only unattractive feature this book has, in my opinion, is its selling price of \$35.50, although I think that for those whose interests in birds are cosmopolitan, purchasing this book should prove to be a very worthwhile investment.

—Dick Oehlenschläger
Naturalist, Camp Wilder
14189 Ostlund Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

The Island Waterfowl by Milton W. Weller. The Iowa State University Press, South State Ave., Ames, Iowa, U.S.A. 1980. 122 pages, cl. ill. \$10.95 (+ \$1.00 per book for postage and handling).

This is a very neat product by an outstanding waterfowl specialist who also happens to be a professor and head of the Dept. of Entomology,

Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. Milton Weller provides a comprehensive yet clear and compact ecological assessment of the various species of waterfowl — mostly ducks and a very few geese, swans and others — which inhabit the far flung islands of the globe. The opening and closing endpapers of the book identify conveniently the major islands and island groups so that one can have an instant grasp of the geography involved in the text.

Chapter I outlines the description and characteristics (mostly plumage) of insular species of waterfowl, discusses their taxonomic differentiation under individual species accounts and includes maps depicting their specific ranges. Chapters 2-4 deal with factors influencing colonization, responses to island living (including breeding, territoriality and adaptations) while chapters 4, 5 and 6 elaborate respectively on development of island faunas (each island group is briefly analyzed), conservation of their waterfowl, and perspectives on the isolated island inhabiting waterfowl as a whole.

The book seems as flawless as any book could be. My only lament is that Weller refers the reader to other texts for viewing color illustrations of the island waterfowl, although this book does include a few generally excellent black and white photos. I suspect, though that utility of "The Island Waterfowl" as a "field guide" will be limited to a very few millionaire, jet set birders. Still, the information alone concerning such a unique and little known avifauna is ample reason to purchase it.

—Dick Oehlenschläger
Naturalist, Camp Wilder
14189 Ostlund Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

Summer Season

(June 1 - July 31, 1979)

Janet C. Green

This year 259 species were seen and 158 of them had nesting evidence. The most noteworthy breeding discovery was the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Otter Tail County and the most interesting observation was the Black Rail in Hennepin County for three weeks in June.

The number of people turning in report forms has grown steadily during the last five years to a high of 56 observers in 1979. This effort is producing good coverage of the breeding birds in the state with the total species seen this year (259) and those with breeding evidence (158) slightly below the highs of 1978. The best find of the season was the Black Rail in Hennepin County in June. It is not inconceivable that this species might nest in the state. How many years will it be before we find out?

Again this year several breeding species on the regular list were not seen at all in their nesting areas — Turkey, King Rail, Sprague's Pipit, Philadelphia Vireo and Baird's Sparrow. The vireo was undoubtedly overlooked because its song is so similar to a Red-eye's. The Turkey and the rare prairie nesters were probably not visited by persistent birders at their known breeding locations. It is more difficult to assess the absence of the King Rail. This is the second year they were not found and they may be more marginal than we have previously supposed.

Several people doing intensive field work in Anoka County produced a very good list for that area including some northern surprises — Alder Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Waterthrush. Summer investigations in the wooded parks and valleys in the southwestern region is turning up forest species that are not usually seen on the prairie — Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Ovenbird, Cardinal. Breeding for a few species at the margin of their

range was confirmed this season — Swainson's Hawk in Wright County, Common Gallinule in Todd County, Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Duluth and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Otter Tail County. We need a lot more evidence like this for accurately mapping breeding ranges. Single summer observations can be very ambiguous. For example, were the Tennessee and Cape May Warblers seen carrying food in July in Duluth township nesting there or had their broods dispersed from a more northerly location?

Investigating new localities can also be rewarding by discovering new sites for the rarer species whose abundance and distribution is poorly known. Bell's Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher and Louisiana Waterthrush were found this season in places other than the "usual spot." Also, the list of northern warblers on the fringe of their range in Becker and Otter Tail Counties is growing. The complex of natural vegetation in those counties has the potential for producing a varied avifauna with elements of northern, southern and western regions.

Two rare owls, the Great Gray and Boreal, were again found nesting in the state. Their numbers fluctuate from year to year and whether they are regular breeders is still uncertain. The evidence for regular nesting for the Great Gray Owl is much stronger than for the Boreal Owl (or for the Hawk Owl which has not been seen in summer for a number of years). Two other permanent residents at opposite ends of the state were very scarce this summer — Tufted Titmouse and Boreal Chickadee.

cies and used in other distributional studies. Otherwise, the data get buried and are unretrievable. Additional cards can be requested from Kim Eckert or me.

Common Loon

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Anoka, Sherburne, Stearns, Beltrami, Lake, Otter Tail; also seen in 19 other counties south to Ramsey, Meeker, Lac Qui Parle (non-breeders, Big Stone NWR) and west to Marshall (non-breeders).

Red-necked Grebe

Breeding reported from Anoka, Todd; also seen in Marshall, Beltrami, Becker, Otter Tail, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Nicollet, (Oakleaf Lake).

Horned Grebe

Seen in Marshall (Thief Lake WMA, Agassiz NWR), Becker (Tamarack NWR). Visitants reported from Duluth (6-2, 6-9) and Lake (7-31).

Eared Grebe

Breeding reported from Nicollet, Lyon, Yellow Medicine; also seen in Wilkin, Becker, Marshall, Beltrami (Lake Movil).

Western Grebe

Breeding reported from Todd, Wright, Nicollet, Murray, Lac Qui Parle; also seen in Marshall, Pennington, Becker, Grant, Douglas, Pope, Traverse, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Hennepin, Lincoln, Lyon, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Goodhue (Lake Pepin, 7-3, one), Pine (6-2, three, Oak Lake, RBJ).

Pied-billed Grebe

Breeding reported from Marshall, Todd, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Stearns, Sherburne, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington; also seen throughout the state except the Northeast.

White Pelican

Seen throughout the West Central plus Marshall, Beltrami, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Blue Earth, Nicollet, McLeod, Meeker, Chisago (25 over Rush Lake, 6-21).

Double-crested Cormorant

Breeding reported from Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Wright, Ramsey; also seen throughout western regions, Central, East Central plus Blue Earth, Hubbard, Beltrami.

Great Blue Heron

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Cass, Hubbard, Beltrami, Marshall, Grant, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Wright, Stearns, Morrison, Sherburne, Anoka, Chisago, Rice, Le Sueur; also seen throughout the state.

Northern Green Heron

Breeding reported from St. Louis (rural Duluth), Lac Qui Parle; also seen in 30 other counties north to Itasca (Grand Rapids, Bass Lake, Prairie Lake), Marshall (E. Polk WMA, Thief Lake), Kittson (T161R45).

Great Egret

Breeding reported from Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Wright, Sherburne, Anoka, Chisago, Rice, Le Sueur; also seen throughout the south half plus Douglas, Grant, Traverse, Otter Tail, Becker (Tamarack NWR), Hubbard, Cass (Gull Lake), Pine (Snake River at I-35).

SNOWY EGRET

Seen in Nicollet (5-28 to 6-5), Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone NWR, up to 6), Grant (7-15, Ashby).

Little Blue Heron

Breeding reported from Ramsey (Pig's Eye); also seen in Grant (6-3, Ashby), Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone NWR, up to 2).

Cattle Egret

Seen in Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone NWR, up to 25).

Black-crowned Night Heron

Breeding reported from Marshall (Thief Lake), Grant, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Kandiyohi, Anoka; also seen throughout the western and central regions plus Nicollet and Duluth (6-2, two, Minn. Point. RBJ).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Seen in Ramsey, Dakota (Thompson Lake), Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone NWR), Becker (Tamarack NWR, 6-21).

Least Bittern

Seen in Anoka, Hennepin, Wright, McLeod, Nicollet, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Otter Tail, Marshall (Agassiz NWR), St. Louis (Duluth harbor, G. Niemi).

American Bittern

No breeding reported; seen throughout the state north of the Minnesota River.

Whistling Swan

One crippled, 7-12, McCarthy Lake WMA, Wabasha.

Canada Goose

Breeding reported from Lac Qui Parle, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey; also seen in Houston, Olmsted, Dakota, Martin, Cottonwood, Stearns, Grant, Otter Tail, Becker, Pennington, Beltrami, Itasca, Pine, St. Louis (Duluth).

Snow Goose

One, 7-14, Hancock, Stevens (RBJ).

Mallard

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Marshall, Wadena, Todd, Morrison, Benton, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota, Goodhue, Lac Qui Parle; also seen throughout the state.



Black Duck

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Marshall, Becker, Meeker (6-24, one, Litchfield), Hennepin (6-11, OLJ).

Gadwall

Breeding reported from Lac Qui Parle; also seen in Lyon, Meeker, Swift, Stevens, Grant, Otter Tail, Becker, Marshall, St. Louis (pair, Duluth harbor marshes, KRE).

Pintail

Seen in Kittson, Polk, Pennington, Beltrami, Becker, Otter Tail, Stevens, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Faribault, Nicollet, Sibley, Hennepin, Sherburne.

Green-winged Teal

Breeding reported from Anoka, Lake (Isabella, SW); also seen in Beltrami, Polk, Becker, Otter Tail, Stevens, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Nicollet, Dodge, Hennepin, Meeker, Stearns, Sherburne, Cook (6-2, male, RBJ).

Blue-winged Teal

Breeding reported from Martin, Goodhue, Washington, Anoka, Sherburne, McLeod, Lac Qui Parle, Otter Tail, Lake of the Woods; also seen throughout the state except the Northeast excluding Duluth.

American Wigeon

Seen in Marshall, Beltrami, Itasca, Becker, Otter Tail, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, Hennepin.

Northern Shoveler

Breeding reported from Stearns, Lincoln; also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Otter Tail, Stevens, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Hennepin, Anoka.

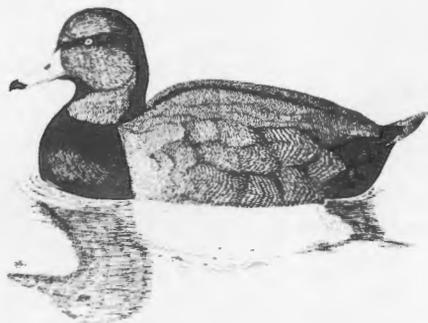
Wood Duck

Breeding reported from Goodhue, Anoka, Sherburne, Wright, Lac Qui Parle, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake (Isabella River, SW); also seen throughout the state except Cook.

Redhead

Breeding reported from Anoka, Hennepin; also seen in Blue Earth, Nicollet, Sibley, Meeker, Lyon, Lincoln, Lac Qui Parle, Big Stone, Stevens, Douglas, Otter Tail, Becker, Mar-

shall, Itasca (7-30, four, Bass Lake).



Ring-necked Duck

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Sherburne, Anoka; also seen in Marshall, Pennington, Clearwater, Becker, Otter Tail, Todd, Douglas, Kanabec, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Nicollet, Blue Earth.

Canvasback

Breeding reported from Otter Tail, Murray, Hennepin (French Lake); also seen in Marshall, Beltrami, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Blue Earth (Pemberton).

Lesser Scaup

Seen in Marshall (6-20), Cook (6-2), Hennepin (up to 5 males, June & July), McLeod (6-24), Lac Qui Parle (pair, June), Winona (6-4, male).

Common Goldeneye

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Hubbard, also seen in Cook, Beltrami, Marshall, Becker, Otter Tail.

Bufflehead

Late migrant in Cook (6-2, male, RBJ).

White-winged Scoter

Late migrant in St. Louis (6-2, pair, Stoney Pt., RBJ).

Surf Scoter

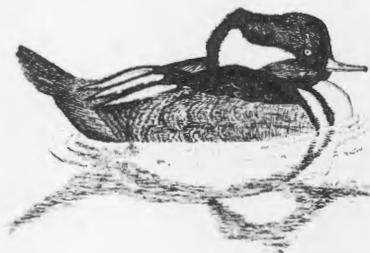
Late migrant in St. Louis (6-14, N. Shore, Hoffman).

Ruddy Duck

Breeding reported from Anoka, Sherburne, Lyon, Lac Qui Parle, Stevens, Pope; also seen in Marshall, Otter Tail, Todd, Big Stone, Swift, Lincoln, Stearns, Meeker, McLeod, Hennepin, Washington, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Faribault.

Hooded Merganser

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone NWR); also seen in Beltrami, Becker, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Sherburne, Nicollet.



Common Merganser

Breeding reported from Lake, Lake of the Woods; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Dakota (7-8, injured? male, RBJ).

Red-breasted Merganser

Seen in Lake, Marshall (Thief Lake); very scarce.

Turkey Vulture

Breeding reported from Aitkin; also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Becker, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Nicollet, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Houston, Fillmore.

Goshawk

Breeding reported from Beltrami; also seen in St. Louis, Cook.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Beltrami, Marshall, Becker, Hubbard, Isanti, Chisago, Watonwan (6-2, Mrs. LAF), Houston (Eitzen).

Cooper's Hawk

Seen in St. Louis (rural Duluth, 6-2, DA), Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Houston.

Red-tailed Hawk

Breeding reported from Stearns, Sherburne, Wright, Meeker; also seen in 39 other counties throughout the state.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Breeding reported from Hubbard (Loon 51:148), Crow Wing (Loon 51:43), Otter Tail; also seen in Becker, Stearns, Chisago (Co. Rd. #16, TS), Wabasha, Houston.

Broad-winged Hawk

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Crow Wing, Wadena, Beltrami, Stearns, Anoka; also seen in Cook, Lake, Carlton, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, Clearwater, Roseau, Marshall, Becker, Otter Tail, Sherburne, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago, Wabasha, Olmsted, Houston.

Swainson's Hawk

Breeding reported from Big Stone, Wright (pair at nest, Silver Creek Twp., EAH); also seen in Marshall, Clay, Becker, Wilkin, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Mower, Olmsted, Dodge, Washington (Cottage Grove).

Bald Eagle

Breeding reported throughout the Northeast and North Central plus adjacent counties to the west and south (Loon 51:177) and Houston and Chisago Counties; also seen in Big Stone and Stearns.

Marsh Hawk

Breeding reported from Anoka; also seen in 20 other counties in the six northern and central regions plus Olmsted (only county in the southern regions).

Osprey

Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Becker, Hubbard, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Wright (7-29, Sugar Lake, ES), Washington (7-8, St.

Croix River, WHL), Olmsted (6-2, Rochester, J&SD).

Merlin

Breeding reported from St. Louis (Burntside Lake); also seen in Lake.

American Kestrel

Breeding reported from Pennington, Wadena, Stearns, Anoka, Olmsted, Lac Qui Parle; also seen throughout the state.

Spruce Grouse

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis; also seen in Beltrami (Waskish).



Ruffed Grouse

Breeding reported from Cook, Lake, Itasca, Crow Wing, Marshall, Otter Tail, Pope, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Goodhue, Olmsted (Marion, JF); also seen in St. Louis, Cass, Beltrami, Clearwater, Roseau, Kittson, Becker, Pine, Rice, Houston.

Greater Prairie Chicken

Seen in Polk, Wilkin, Otter Tail.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Breeding reported in Lake of the Woods; also seen in Aitkin, Beltrami, Pennington, Kittson.

Bobwhite

Seen in Fillmore, Houston.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Breeding reported in Benton, Sher-

burne, Anoka, Hennepin, Olmsted; also seen in 21 other counties in the southern and central regions plus Duluth in the northern regions.

Gray Partridge

Breeding reported from Lyon, Steele, Olmsted; also seen in 14 other counties throughout the western and southern regions plus Sibley and Sherburne (Becker).

Sandhill Crane

Breeding reported from Anoka, Polk; also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Marshall, Pennington, Sherburne.

Virginia Rail

Breeding reported from Anoka, St. Louis (Alden Twp.); also seen in Crow Wing, Otter Tail, Lyon, Hennepin, Washington, Olmsted.

Sora

Breeding reported from Anoka; also seen in 30 other counties throughout the state except the Northeast (Duluth only).

Yellow Rail

Seen in Mahnomen, Hubbard, Cass, Aitkin.

BLACK RAIL

Seen in Hennepin (Minnetrista Twp., 6-11 to 6-30, Loon 51:142).

Common Gallinule

Breeding reported from Todd (Lake Osakis, NMH), Anoka; also seen in Wright, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Nicollet, Houston.

American Coot

Breeding reported from Otter Tail, Todd, Pope, Stearns, Lyon; also seen in 20 other counties in all regions except the North Central and Northeast.

Semipalmated Plover

Late migrants South: 6-4, Anoka, Nicollet; North: 6-16, Duluth (D&GW). Early migrants South: 7-14 Stevens, 7-23 Hennepin.

Piping Plover

Breeding reported from Duluth (3

pair) and Lake of the Woods (7-5, 20-30 pair, Pine and Curry Islands).

Killdeer

Breeding reported from Lake, Itasca, Wadena, Pennington, Otter Tail, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Goodhue, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Ruddy Turnstone

Late migrants South: 6-1 Anoka, 6-4 Nicollet; North: 6-2 Cook.

American Woodcock

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami, Clearwater, Wadena, Goodhue; also seen in Cook, Itasca, Crow Wing, Becker, Otter Tail (Erhard), Lac Qui Parle (Yellowbank), Sherburne, Anoka, Le Sueur, Brown (Mulligan WMA), Martin (Exceder WMA).

Common Snipe

Breeding reported from Wadena, Goodhue; also seen in 25 other counties throughout the northern and central regions and Lyon in the southern regions.

Upland Sandpiper

Breeding reported from Clay, Wabasha, St. Louis (Duluth airport); also seen in 17 other counties in the South plus Otter Tail, Polk, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson, Roseau in the North.

Spotted Sandpiper

Breeding reported from Lake, Lake of the Woods; also seen in 23 other counties throughout the state. Early migrants 7-14 (11) Wilkin.

Solitary Sandpiper

Late migrants 6-3 Lac Qui Parle, 6-5 Lyon. Early migrants North: 7-4 Otter Tail, 7-5 Lake of the Woods; South: 7-14 Stevens, 7-18 Olmsted, Hennepin.

Greater Yellowlegs

Early migrants South: 7-7 Hennepin, 7-8 Mower; North: 7-14 Wilkin.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late migrants 6-9 Lac Qui Parle,

6-11 Hennepin. Early migrants North: 6-28, 7-4 Otter Tail, 7-11 Todd; South: 7-7 Hennepin, Kandiyohi.

Willet

Late migrant 6-16 Duluth (D&GW).

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late migrants 6-3 Lac Qui Parle, 6-5 Lyon. Early migrants South: 6-30 Ramsey, 7-14 Stevens; North: 7-11 Todd, 7-14 Wilkin.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Late migrants 6-9 Lac Qui Parle, 6-10 Faribault, Traverse (100).

Baird's Sandpiper

Late migrants 6-3 Lac Qui Parle, 6-4 (100) Lyon. Early migrants 7-9 (5) to 7-16 (4) Dakota (MW) — only report.

Least Sandpiper

Late migrants 6-4 Hennepin, 6-4 Lyon (200). Early migrants North: 7-5 Lake of the Woods, 7-14 Wilkin; South: 6-30 Ramsey, 7-8 Dodge.

Dunlin

Late migrants South: 6-3 Nicollet, 6-9 Lac Qui Parle; North: 6-15 Lake of the Woods.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Late migrants South: 6-10 Faribault, 6-11 Hennepin; North: 6-10 Traverse, 6-15 Lake of the Woods. Early migrants 7-8 Dodge, 7-14 Wilkin.

Western Sandpiper

Late migrants 6-5 Lyon (HCK). Early migrants 7-14 Wilkin (GO), 7-31 Anoka (P&KL), Steele (RBJ).

Sanderling

Late migrants 6-2, 6-16 Duluth.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early migrants 7-14 Meeker (RBJ), 7-29 Otter Tail (GO).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Early migrants 7-18 Otter Tail (GO), 7-28 Marshall (S&KS).

Stilt Sandpiper

Late migrant 6-7 Lyon. Early migrants South: 7-14 Meeker, Stevens; North: 7-24 Otter Tail.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Early migrants 7-10 Lyon, 7-28 Pipestone, 7-31 (5) Anoka.

Marbled Godwit

Breeding reported from Clay, Becker, Lac Qui Parle; also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods (KRE), Pennington, Otter Tail, Wilkin, Stevens, Swift. Early migrants 7-14 (16) Otter Tail (GO).

Hudsonian Godwit

Late migrants 6-3 (3) Wilkin (GO).

RUFF

Early migrant 7-9 Lyon (Loon 51: 197).

American Avocet

Late migrant 6-5 Lyon. Early migrant 7-29 Otter Tail.

Wilson's Phalarope

Breeding reported from Lincoln, Polk; also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Pennington, Becker, Otter Tail, Lac Qui Parle, Hennepin (all summer jct. 152 & Co. 13; 6-30 French Lake). Late migrants 6-7 (6) Lyon. Early migrants 7-14 (47) Wilkin, 7-21 Chisago.

Northern Phalarope

Early migrants 7-14 (2) Wilkin (GO).

Herring Gull

Breeding reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Mille Lacs; also reported from Itasca, Lac Qui Parle, Dakota, Wabasha.

Ring-billed Gull

Breeding reported from St. Louis (Duluth), Mille Lacs (Mille Lacs Lake); also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Beltrami, Hubbard, Otter Tail, Traverse, Douglas, Pope, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Kandiyohi, Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota.

Franklin's Gull

Seen in Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Grant, Traverse, Stevens, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, Cottonwood, Jackson, Nicollet, Mille Lacs, St. Louis (6-2, two, Duluth, RBJ).

Bonaparte's Gull

Late migrants 6-9 (25), 6-16 Duluth. Early? migrants, late June-July (100+) Mille Lacs Lake (TS), 7-5 (4) Lake of the Woods.

LITTLE GULL

One adult, Duluth, 6-6 (KRE), 6-9 (KRE; JCG).

Forster's Tern

Breeding reported from Marshall, Todd, Lyon, Anoka; also seen in 18 counties from Anoka, Todd and Marshall westward plus St. Louis (7-2, two, Duluth, DA).

Common Tern

Breeding reported from Duluth Harbor, Mille Lacs Lake and Lake of the Woods (50 pair, Pine and Curry Is.); also seen in Marshall, Pennington, Otter Tail, Itasca, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington.

Caspian Tern

Late migrants South: 6-10 (40), 6-12 (10); North; 6-6 (350), 6-9 (75). Seen also in late June, July in St. Louis, Itasca, Otter Tail, Stevens, Todd, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Ramsey, Dakota, Carver, Blue Earth.

Black Tern

Breeding reported from Marshall, Pennington, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Goodhue, Washington, Anoka, Stearns; also seen throughout the state except the Northeast where reported only from Duluth.

Rock Dove

Present throughout the state.

Mourning Dove

Breeding reported from Marshall, Pennington, Clay, Big Stone, Rock, Cottonwood, Olmsted, Goodhue, Hennepin, Stearns, Morrison, Carlton; also seen throughout the state with the exception of Cook, Lake, Koochiching.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Breeding reported from Clay, Goodhue and St. Louis (Duluth, K. Hoffman); also seen throughout the South plus Otter Tail, Beltrami (Waskish).

Black-billed Cuckoo

Breeding reported from Marshall, Lac Qui Parle, Jackson, Goodhue, Anoka, St. Louis, Lake; also seen throughout the state.

Screech Owl

Breeding reported from Cottonwood, Martin, Olmsted; also seen in Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Otter Tail (Fergus Falls).



Great Horned Owl

Breeding reported from Lake, Crow Wing, Stearns, Olmsted; also seen in 18 other counties throughout the state.

Barred Owl

Breeding reported from Wadena, Crow Wing, Ramsey; also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Otter Tail, Wright, Anoka, Olmsted, Mower, Houston.

Great Gray Owl

Breeding reported from St. Louis (Makinen); also seen in Lake, Carlton (Barnum), Pine (Bremen).

Long-eared Owl

Breeding reported from St. Louis (two nests, Duluth Twp., KRE, M. Hoffman).

Short-eared Owl

Seen in Roseau, Marshall, Polk

(Pembina WMA), Becker (Waubun), Lake of the Woods (Pine and Curry Is.).

BOREAL OWL

Breeding reported from Cook (Loon 51:198-199).

Saw-whet Owl

Breeding reported from St. Louis.



Whip-poor-will

Seen in Lake (Tomahawk Trail), St. Louis (Alden), Crow Wing, Otter Tail (Aurdal), Anoka (Bunker Hill), Wabasha, Olmsted, Houston.

Common Nighthawk

Breeding reported from Lake, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state.

Chimney Swift

Breeding reported from Stearns; also seen throughout the state.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Breeding reported from Goodhue, Houston; also seen throughout the state.

Fall 1980

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Seen in St. Louis on 6-16 (Loon 51:197).

Belted Kingfisher

Seen throughout the state.

Common Flicker

Breeding reported from Cook, Lake, Benton, Stearns, Hennepin, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Pileated Woodpecker

Breeding reported from Olmsted; also seen in 22 counties, including Redwood, Lac Qui Parle along the Minnesota River but not further south.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Breeding reported from Stearns, Wright, Anoka; also seen in Lyon (T111R42), Nicollet, Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Houston, Carver, Hennepin, Chisago.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Morrison, Benton, Anoka, Olmsted, Rock; also seen in 32 other counties throughout the state except Lake, Cook, Koochiching.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Stearns; also seen in 23 other counties including as far south as Lyon (Camden State Park), Blue Earth (Mankato).

Hairy Woodpecker

Breeding reported from Lake, Anoka, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Downy Woodpecker

Breeding reported from Big Stone, Cottonwood, Stearns, Hennepin, Anoka; also seen throughout the state.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

Breeding reported from St. Louis (Babbitt), Lake; also seen in Cook.

Eastern Kingbird

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Goodhue, Washington, Anoka, Hennepin, Sherburne.

Western Kingbird

Breeding reported from Sherburne, Anoka, Wright, Rock, Big Stone, Clay; also seen in 11 other counties in the western regions plus Hubbard (Duck Lake).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Seen in Clay 7-8, 7-22 (Loon 51:199-200).

Great Crested Flycatcher

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Stearns, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state.

Eastern Phoebe

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Crow Wing, Clay, Morrison, Stearns, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Late migrants 6-1 Hennepin, Washington. Early migrants 8-3 Washington. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin, Itasca (Big Fork).

Acadian Flycatcher

Seen in Chisaco, Rice (Nerstrand Woods, RBJ), Olmsted (Marion, JF); breeding reported from Houston.

Willow Flycatcher

Seen in Houston, Fillmore, Winona, Olmsted, Martin, Meeker, Hennepin, Dakota, Ramsey, Anoka, Chisago, Otter Tail, Becker (Tamarack NWR), Clay (Moorhead), Marshall (Thief Lake WMA).

Alder Flycatcher

Breeding reported from St. Louis, also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Clearwater, Beltrami, Otter Tail, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Pine, Lake, Cook, Anoka (Cedar Creek, JLH).

Least Flycatcher

Breeding reported from Lake, Stearns; also seen throughout the state.

Eastern Wood Pewee

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Stearns, Sherburne; also seen throughout the state.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Late migrants 6-10 Murray, 6-11 Hennepin. Early migrants 7-31 Isanti. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Clearwater, Beltrami, Roseau.

Horned Lark

Breeding reported in Clay, Stearns, Hennepin; seen in 27 other counties as far north as Duluth, Hubbard, Roseau.



Horned Lark nest with two cowbird eggs, May 11, 1980 St. Cloud, Stearns County.

Tree Swallow

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Hubbard, Morrison, Stearns, Lac Qui Parle, Cottonwood, Olmsted, Hennepin, Anoka; also seen throughout the state.

Bank Swallow

Breeding reported from Morrison, Grant, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Olmsted, Goodhue, Anoka; also seen throughout the state except Lake, Cook.

Rough-winged Swallow

Breeding reported from Otter Tail, Stearns, Anoka; also seen throughout the state except Lake, Cook.

Barn Swallow

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Morrison, Otter Tail, Clay, Traverse, Rock, Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Cliff Swallow

Breeding reported from Lake, St.

Louis, Carlton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Wright, Hennepin, Olmsted, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Big Stone, Pennington; also seen throughout the state.

Purple Martin

Breeding reported from Clay, Crow Wing, Lac Qui Parle, Rock, Hennepin, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Gray Jay

Breeding reported from Cook, Koochiching; also seen in Lake, St. Louis (Duluth Twp.), Itasca (Grand Rapids, Squaw Lake, Big Fork), Beltrami (Waskish).

Blue Jay

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin, Goodhue, Cottonwood, Otter Tail, Clay; also seen throughout the state.

Black-billed Magpie

Seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Beltrami (Waskish), Lac Qui Parle (7-9 to 7-13, Bib Stone NWR, C&MB).

Common Raven

Breeding reported from Lake, Roseau; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Kittson (T161R46).

Common Crow

Breeding reported from Clay, Stearns, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state.

Black-capped Chickadee

Breeding reported from Lake, Stearns, Anoka, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state.

Boreal Chickadee

Only report: 7-14, family group, Clearwater (Iron Springs Bog), D&MB.

Tufted Titmouse

Only seen in Houston (Eitzen, Beaver Creek Valley).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Breeding reported from Pennington, Clay, Stearns, Anoka, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state except the Northeast where reported only from Duluth Twp.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, Beltrami.

Brown Creeper

Breeding reported from Anoka (7-7, family group, Cedar Creek, JLH); also seen in Lake, Itasca, Beltrami, Marshall, Clearwater, Hubbard and in the **Minnesota River Valley** (Lac Qui Parle, Renville).

House Wren

Breeding reported from Clay, Otter Tail, Stearns, Anoka, Goodhue, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Winter Wren

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Beltrami, Clearwater.

Long-billed Marsh Wren

Breeding reported from Duluth (*Am. Birds*, Jan. 1980); also seen in 25 other counties throughout the state except the Northeast and Southeast.

Short-billed Marsh Wren

Seen in 31 counties in every region of the state.

Mockingbird

Seen in early July in St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (*vide* RBJ).

Gray Catbird

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Otter Tail, Big Stone, Stearns, Anoka, Washington, Houston; also seen throughout the state.

Brown Thrasher

Breeding reported from Morrison, Stearns, Hennepin; also seen throughout the state.

American Robin

Breeding reported from Lake Pennington, Clay, Otter Tail, Wadena, Morrison, Stearns, Big Stone, Sherburne, Anoka, Ramsey, Hennepin, Goodhue, Olmsted, Rock; also seen throughout the state.

Wood Thrush

Seen in Houston, Olmsted, Rice, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Hennepin,

Wright, Stearns, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami (Waskish), Clearwater, Becker (Tamarack NWR), Clay (Moorhead), Polk (Red River), Kittson.

Hermit Thrush

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Pine (Bruno, Ellson), Itasca, Beltrami.

Swainson's Thrush

Late migrant 6-1 Houston. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Becker (July, Tamarack NWR).

Veery

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis; also seen in 21 other counties in the wooded portion of the state west to Olmsted, Nicollet, Stearns, Otter Tail, Kittson.

Eastern Bluebird

Breeding reported from Wabasha, Goodhue, Anoka, Sherburne, Stearns, Morrison, Otter Tail; also seen throughout the state except the Northeast.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Breeding reported from Goodhue, Hennepin, Washington, Otter Tail (Maplewood State Park); also seen in Houston, Olmsted, Rice, Nicollet, Stearns, Chisago (Co. Hwy. 16).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami.

Cedar Waxwing

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Stearns, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state in all regions.

Loggerhead Shrike

Seen in Wilkin, Otter Tail, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Rock, Sherburne.

Starling

Breeding reported from Stearns,

Anoka, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Bell's Vireo

Breeding reported from Wabasha; also seen in Dakota (Burnsville, *vide* RBJ).

Yellow-throated Vireo

Breeding reported from Sherburne; also seen in Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, Washington, Anoka, Hennepin, Crow Wing (TS), Otter Tail, Becker, Clay, Clearwater, Beltrami (Waskish), Marshall, Kittson.

Solitary Vireo

Late migrant 6-10 Swift (C&MB). Seen in Cook, Lake, Itasca, Otter Tail (6-15, Aurdal, GO).

Red-eyed Vireo

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Pennington, Pine, Morrison, Stearns, Anoka; also seen throughout the state.

Philadelphia Vireo

Late migrant 6-10 Swift (C&MB).

Warbling Vireo

Breeding reported from Big Stone; also seen in 34 other counties in all regions.

Black-and-white Warbler

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Pine, Mille Lacs, Anoka (Cedar Creek), Itasca, Cass, Clearwater, Otter Tail (Maplewood SP), Clay (Moorhead, 6-14, L&CF).

Prothonotary Warbler

Seen in Houston, Hennepin (Long Meadow Slough, Nine Mile Creek).

Golden-winged Warbler

Breeding reported from Anoka (JLH); also seen in Otter Tail (Maplewood SP), Becker (Tamarack NWR), Clearwater, Beltrami (Waskish), Itasca (Big Fork), Crow Wing, St. Louis (Duluth Twp., Alden, Elmer, Lavell).

Blue-winged Warbler

Seen in Houston, Winona, Olmsted, Goodhue.

Tennessee Warbler

Late migrants 6-2 Clay, 6-21 Murray; early migrants 7-16 Duluth. Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Clearwater, Beltrami (7-17).

Nashville Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake, Anoka (Cedar Creek); also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Kanabec, Crow Wing, Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, Roseau, Clearwater, Becker, Otter Tail (Maplewood SP). Late migrants 6-1 Houston, Hennepin.

Northern Parula

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Becker (Tamarack NWR).

Yellow Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake, Marshall, Lac Qui Parle, Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin, Olmsted; also seen in 23 other counties in all regions except the Southwest.

Magnolia Warbler

Late migrant 6-1 Clay. Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater.

Cape May Warbler

Seen in St. Louis (7-1, carrying food, Duluth Twp., M. Hoffman).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake (Grouse Lake, SW); also seen in Cook (Lima Mtn. Rd., Heartbreak Ridge), St. Louis (Babbitt).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Pine (Kerrick), Itasca, Hubbard, Clearwater, Beltrami, Roseau.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Beltrami, Clearwater, Becker (Tamarack NWR).

Cerulean Warbler

Seen in Houston, Wabasha, Goodhue, Anoka, Chisago (Co. Hwy. 16), Stearns (Grand Lake), Otter Tail (Ma-

plewood SP, Long Lake).

Blackburnian Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis; also seen in Cook, Carlton, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Becker (Tamarack NWR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Late migrants 6-1 Houston, Nicollet, Hennepin. Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Carlton, Anoka (Carlos Avery, Cedar Creek), Stearns (Rockville, Grand Lake), Aitkin, Crow Wing, Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Becker (Tamarack NWR), Marshall (Thief Lake WMA), Kittson.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (6-4 Alden).

Blackpoll Warbler

Late migrants 6-1 Cook, 6-2 Duluth.

Pine Warbler

Seen in Ramsey (Lake Vadnais), Isanti (Dalbo), Crow Wing, Itasca, Cass, Becker, Clearwater, Beltrami.

Palm Warbler

Seen in Beltrami (Waskish).

Ovenbird

Late migrants 6-2 Cottonwood. Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Anoka; also seen in Cook, Itasca, Cass, Beltrami, Clearwater, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Becker, Otter Tail, Mille Lacs, Pine, Ramsey, Rice, Wabasha, Olmsted, Lyon (6-25 Camden SP), Chippewa (6-10 Crate Twp.).

Northern Waterthrush

Breeding reported from Anoka (carrying food, Cedar Creek, JLH); also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Seen in Chisago, Olmsted (Marion), **Blue Earth** (Minneopa SP, 6-17, R. Glassel).

Connecticut Warbler

Late migrants 6-4 Clay, 6-7 Duluth. Seen in Roseau, Beltrami, St. Louis, Carlton.

Mourning Warbler

Late migrants 6-3 Otter Tail, 6-10 Swift. Breeding reported from St. Louis, Anoka (Cedar Creek, Centerville), Washington (Camp Wilder); also seen in Cook, Lake, Pine, Chisago, Crow Wing, Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater.

Common Yellowthroat

Breeding reported from Lake, Marshall, Stearns, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, Olmsted; also seen in 30 other counties throughout the state.

HOODED WARBLER

Seen on 6-7 Sherburne (Loon 51: 156).

Canada Warbler

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Beltrami.

American Redstart

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Stearns, Sherburne, Olmsted, Houston; also seen in 20 other counties west to Nicollet, Otter Tail, Kittson.

House Sparrow

Breeding reported from Rock, Stearns, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Bobolink

Breeding reported from Stearns, Brown; also seen throughout the state.

Eastern Meadowlark

Breeding reported from Anoka; also seen in 18 counties from Mower, Stearns, Clearwater eastward.

Western Meadowlark

Breeding reported from Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka; also seen in 32 other counties in the southern and central regions, the Northwest plus Beltrami, Clearwater in the North Central and St. Louis (Cedar Valley Twp.) in the Northeast.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Breeding reported from Todd, Stearns, Anoka, Goodhue, Lyon, Lincoln; also seen throughout the southern and central regions, the Northwest plus Crow Wing, Itasca (Lake

Winnibigoshish), St. Louis (Alden, Duluth harbor).

Red-winged Blackbird

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Marshall, Morrison, Stearns, Anoka, Olmsted, Houston; also seen throughout the state in all regions.



Red-winged Blackbird nest, June 6, 1980, Gilman, Benton County.

Orchard Oriole

Breeding reported from Otter Tail (Western Twp.), Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Rock, Goodhue; also seen in Clay, Wilkin, Murray, Nicollet, Dakota, Wabasha.

Northern Oriole

Breeding reported from Pennington, Morrison, Stearns, Isanti, Anoka, Ramsey; also seen throughout the state including the Northeast.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD

Seen on 6-1 (1) Fiddle Creek Rd., Cook Co. (KRE).

Brewer's Blackbird

Breeding reported from Lake (Isabella), Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd, Stearns, Benton; also seen in 12 other counties in the North plus Pope, Meeker, McLeod, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington, Wabasha in the South.

Common Grackle

Breeding reported from Lake, Morrison, Big Stone, Stearns, Anoka, Hen-

nepin, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Breeding reported from Polk, St. Louis, Morrison, Stearns, Anoka, Cottonwood, Rock; also seen throughout the state.

Scarlet Tanager

Breeding reported from Anoka; also seen throughout the state.

Cardinal

Seen in 20 counties in the Southeast, East Central, Central and South Central regions plus Redwood, Jackson, Rock (6-26 Blue Mounds VL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Sherburne, Hennepin, Goodhue, Lyon; also seen throughout the state.

Blue Grosbeak

Breeding reported from Rock; also seen in Murray (Moulton Twp.).

Indigo Bunting

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Stearns, Anoka; also seen throughout the state.

Dickcissel

Breeding reported from Rock; also seen in 18 other counties north to Hennepin, Grant.

Evening Grosbeak

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Pine (Oak Lake), Crow Wing, Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater.

Purple Finch

Seen in nine counties in the Northeast and North Central plus Pennington (Thief River Falls), Becker (Tamarack NWR), Anoka (Cedar Creek).

Pine Siskin

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami, Clay (Moorhead), Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin, Nicollet (Mankato), Olmsted (Rochester).

American Goldfinch

Breeding reported from Rock, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Red Crossbill

Seen in Lake, St. Louis (7-9 Alden), Otter Tail (6-2, 30), Ramsey (6-29 TS).

White-winged Crossbill

Four seen on 7-8 Perent Lake, Lake Co. (SW).

Rufous-sided Towhee

Seen in Marshall, Clearwater, Becker, Hubbard, Cass, Pine, Anoka, Nicollet, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Houston.

Lark Bunting

Late migrants 6-2 Traverse (file RBJ), 6-8 Lake (SW). Early migrants 7-25, two males, Pipestone (NMH).

Savannah Sparrow

Breeding reported from St. Louis; also seen throughout the state.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Seen in 17 counties in the South plus Wilkin, Otter Tail, Clay, Pennington, Kittson, St. Louis (Elmer, KRE).

Henslow's Sparrow

Only reported from Kipp State Park, Winona Co. (FZL).

Le Conte's Sparrow

Seen in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Beltrami, Mahnomen, Wilkin (Rothsay), Aitkin.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Seen in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Mahnomen, Aitkin (McGregor).



Vesper Sparrow nest, June 20, 1980, Gilman, Benton County.

Vesper Sparrow

Breeding reported from Polk, Clay, Lyon, Sherburne, Anoka, Dakota; also seen in 27 other counties in the southern and central regions and the Northwest plus Clearwater, Hubbard.

Lark Sparrow

Breeding reported from Clay, Anoka, Le Sueur (Kasota Prairie); also seen in Roseau, Otter Tail, Lyon, Nicollet, Hennepin, Wabasha.

Dark-eyed Junco

Seen in Lake, Beltrami, Crow Wing (7-21 Markee Lake, DS).

Chipping Sparrow

Breeding reported from St. Louis, Morrison, Stearns, Anoka, Olmsted, Cottonwood, Lyon, Pope, Clay, Pennington; also seen throughout the state.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Breeding reported from Stearns, Sherburne; also seen throughout the state.

Field Sparrow

Breeding reported from Sherburne, Anoka, Goodhue; also seen in 14 other counties in the South plus Morrison (Royalton), Otter Tail (Maplewood SP, Fergus Falls), Becker (Tamarack NWR).

White-throated Sparrow

Breeding reported from Lake; also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Marshall (Thief Lake WMA), Stearns (6-30 Grand Lake, NMH), Pine (Kerrick, RBJ).

Lincoln's Sparrow

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami (Waskish).

Swamp Sparrow

Breeding reported from Lake, Goodhue; also seen throughout the state.

Song Sparrow

Breeding reported from Lake, St. Louis, Marshall, Stearns, Olmsted; also seen throughout the state.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Seen in Clay (6-10, D&GW).

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS REPORTS:

White-rumped Sandpiper

Fall, 1979 - Late north should read 9-29, 30 St. Louis JG (4).

Wilson's Warbler

Fall, 1979 - change to Canada Warbler for 9-30.

OBSERVERS

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Evelyn T. Stanley
Shelley & Keith Steva

Forest & Kirsten Strnad
Dick & Gloria Wachtler
Steve Wilson
Gerald Winkelman
Mark Wright

Drawings by Gary Ritchison
Photos by Clare Mohs
10550 Old North Shore Road,
Duluth, MN 55804



Dickcissel
Drawing by
Jacque Rosenau

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** 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 Kim Eckert. See inside front cover.

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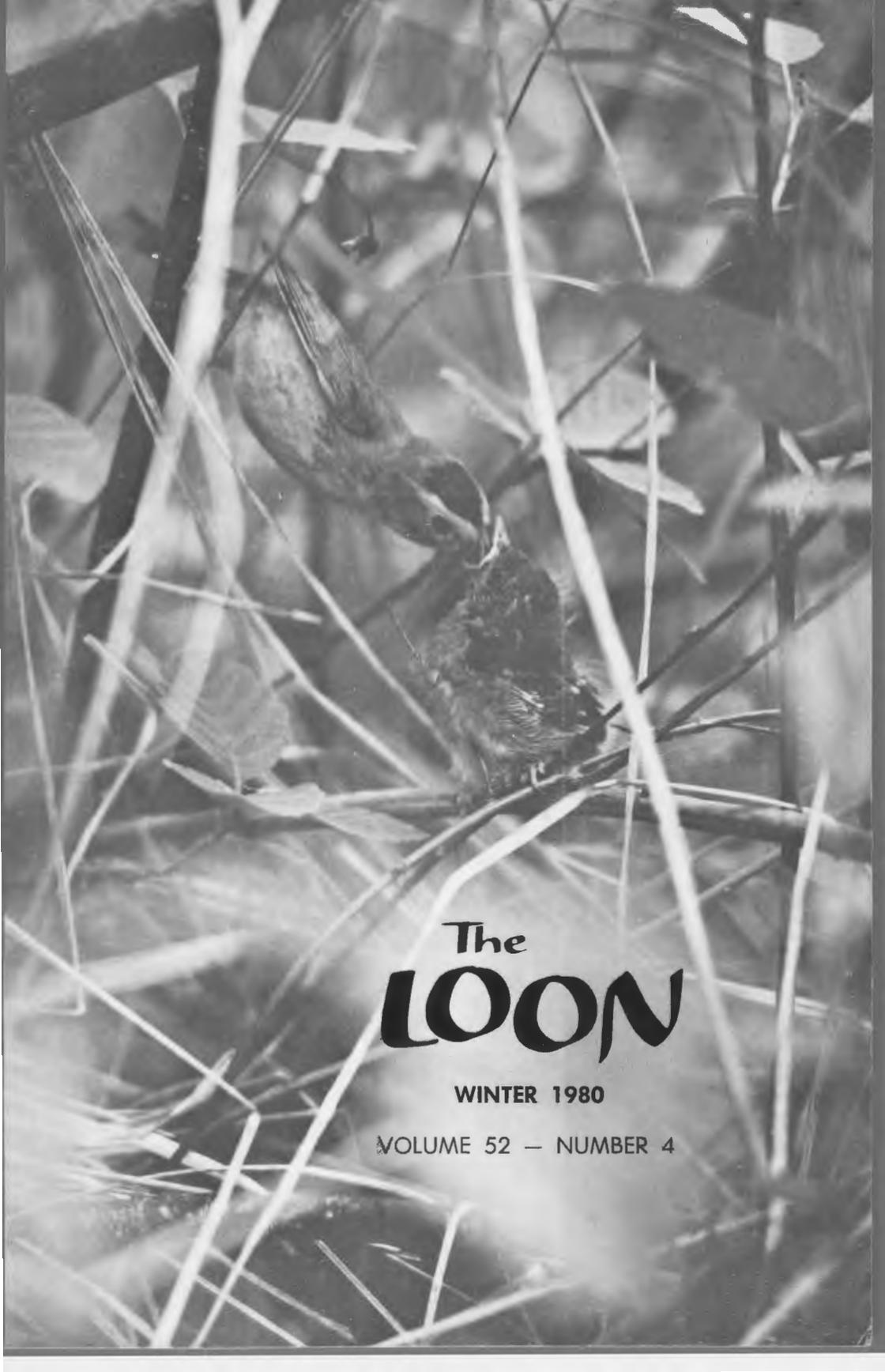
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A black and white photograph of a bird feeding its chick in a nest of twigs. The adult bird is on the left, leaning over to feed the chick on the right. The nest is built with a complex structure of thin, light-colored twigs and branches. The background is filled with more twigs and some leaves, creating a dense, textured environment.

The
LOON

WINTER 1980

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The LOON Minnesota's magazine of birds, 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 may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: **The Loon** and the **MOU Newsletter**.

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EDITOR OF THE LOON: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). 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," Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804. (phone 218-525-6930).**

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BEWARE THE IDES OF OCTOBER

Kim R. Eckert

Soothsayer: Beware the ides of March.

Caesar: What man is that?

Brutus: A soothsayer bids you beware the ides of March.

Caesar: Set him before me. Let me see his face.

Cassius: Fellow, come from the throng. Look upon Caesar.

Caesar: What say'st thou to me now? Speak once again.

Soothsayer: Beware the ides of March.

Caesar: He is a dreamer. Let us leave him — pass.

—**Julius Caesar**, Act I, Scene 2

Never in the history of Minnesota birding had so many rarities appeared in one place in so short a time. During October 1980, a month which climaxed on the 15th (called the ides in the ancient Roman calendar), Duluth experienced a spectacular surge of birds. Four accidentals (a second state record, two fifth state records and a sixth state record) showed up during the nine-day period October 7-15, with three of these four present in just a three-day period. Four casual species were also seen, with three of these seen during that same October 7-15 period, and six "rare or very local" regular species (marked with * on the field checklist) also appeared during the month, four of these during October 7-15 as well. And sprinkled liberally throughout the month were nine other species which were either rare for Duluth or very late. By the time it was all over ten members of the 300 Club had added a composite total of 18 lifers to their Minnesota lists in just five days. But also, by the time it was all over, just as many other top listers were unable to respond in time to advice which urged them to Duluth for the spectacle — like Julius Caesar on that fateful March 15, they were

done in by the ides of October.

While the real excitement may have started October 7, there were plenty of good birds earlier in the month. On the night of October 1-2 the banding station at Hawk Ridge netted a record total of 111 owls. On October 2 the first Golden Eagle of the season passed over the Ridge, and a lone Ruddy Duck, a very rare or casual migrant in Duluth, was at Park Point. On October 3 a Vesper Sparrow, another Duluth rarity, turned up at my feeder for the first of six days. Two White-rumped Sandpipers, very rare or casual in fall, appeared at Park Point October 5, and a very early flock of Bohemian Waxwings showed up in my yard October 6. But again, the real excitement started the next day:

October 7. It's one of those beautiful Indian summer days, notorious for dull birding, so I'm not optimistic when I set out with my bird identification class. But we head up the North Shore to my yard to see if the waxwings and Vesper Sparrow are still there. They are, but so is an immature Black-throated Sparrow picking at some dead grass in the gravel driveway. Duluth Hotline members are alerted but everyone it seems had seen the one at Stoney Point a few years ago and only a few people drive out for a look. (This has to be the least excited birders ever got over a second state record.) The sparrow stays in virtually the same spot feeding all day right up until dusk, but he is gone the next morning.

October 8. At the time nothing seems to be happening, but a few weeks later Koni Sundquist will call to report an adult male Summer Tanager in the yard of a Mrs. Decker on or about this date. The most interesting aspect of

this record is that it's within a few blocks of where Dick Green had spotted a Summer Tanager August 24, presumably the same bird.

October 9. Nothing of interest, although this could have been the day when a falconer in town for the Raptor Research Conference catches a Gyrfalcon in the vicinity of Moose Mountain before it has a chance to reach Hawk Ridge.

October 10. One of many Parasitic Jaegers to be seen this fall at Park Point is spotted by Tex Sordahl of Iowa. It's a light-phase adult with pointed central rectrices clearly visible.

October 11. An immature Thayer's Gull is discovered behind the Bayside Market by Paul Egeland and others while on the way out to Park Point. It doesn't stay put long enough for anyone else to see, nor does the pair of Harlequin Ducks found by Dick Green on the lake off 42nd Ave. E. As was the case in September when presumably this same male was seen, the plumage seems to be of an immature male, but a belated report by a non-birder of an adult male Harlequin off the French River last summer suggests birders have actually been seeing this male in eclipse plumage. Meanwhile Janet Green and Bob Janssen find a very early Pine Grosbeak at Stoney Point, and the first of four Short-eared Owls flying south in mid-day during the weekend is seen.

October 12. More Short-eareds plus a Peregrine at Hawk Ridge sound good, but they will pale by comparison. An adult Sabine's Gull in summer plumage flies over Terry Savaloja's car at Park Point, lands in the water for at least a half hour not far out in the harbor, and eventually takes off towards Superior. It's no less than the fifth Minnesota record, and as Terry watches it disappears from view. The assumption is it will not be seen again.

October 13. It's a beautiful day for Duluth birding — cold, cloudy, rainy and a strong east wind off the lake. Anything can happen and it does.

Dean Schneider is at Brighton Beach about 1:30 p.m., and what has to be that same Sabine's Gull comes flying up the shore. And yesterday Terry had been about seven miles away when he watched the gull heading in the opposite direction. When I hear about Dean's sighting later, I decide to check the next spot where the Sabine's might appear. Clearly the odds are poor, but sure enough two and a half hours later and eleven miles farther up the shore here it comes flying past Stoney Point. Luckily it stops for a swim just up the shore from Stoney, so that when Janet Green arrives a few minutes later we have excellent views of this the most striking of all the gulls.

October 14. Bob Janssen felt bad enough when Terry had called to report the Sabine's Gull Sunday night, but he must have felt even worse when I called Monday to say it was seen again. When he calls this Tuesday evening to see if it's worth a trip to Duluth tomorrow for the Sabine's, my response is, "No, but would you settle for a Long-tailed Jaeger?" This morning's weather is just as miserable as the day before, when a full adult Long-tailed Jaeger twice flies within a few yards of me and my bird identification class at Canal Park and Park Point. It's Minnesota's sixth record, numerically perhaps not as significant as a second state record sparrow, but just as dramatic and striking a bird as that Sabine's Gull. The weather forecast for the next day is just as inviting so Bob decides it's worth the trip. Calls to Terry Savaloja in Deerwood prompt he and Jo Blanich to also take a day off from work and to Steve Millard in Fergus Falls confirm my guess that he already has the day off.

October 15 (The Ides of October). Bob had passed on the warning to other Twin Cities birders that for the sake of their lists they'd better get to Duluth. But only Dick Ruhme is able to get away with him, and they meet Terry, Jo, Janet Green and I at Canal Park about 8 a.m. All three scoters are found here during the next hour,

something that's seldom done in Duluth, but the lack of jaegers is disappointing and we decide to head for Park Point.

Caesar: The ides of March are come.
Soothsayer: Aye, Caesar, but not gone.
—Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene 1

When we arrive at the Point, there's Steve Millard who's already driven over two hundred miles and already found an adult Pomarine Jaeger. It may not have been the Long-tailed, but Steve says its tail feathers seemed almost as long, projecting a good five or so inches. (None of the other six or seven Pominines seen previously in Minnesota had tails nearly this long.) The Pomarine, however, flew out of sight several minutes earlier, so all we can do is scan the lake for something else. Sure enough, before long along comes the Long-tailed flying down the beach, and during the next hour or so it is in view at various distances flying over and swimming in the lake. During this time an immature Thayer's Gull also flies by, probably the same one seen four days ago, and at one point the Long-tailed Jaeger is joined by a dark-phase Parasitic. All three jaegers in one day — a feat hard enough to accomplish even on a Pacific Ocean pelagic trip! The day is far from over, however. We then decide to hike to the end of the Point to see if the Pomarine might be down at the Superior entry — we see a female Harlequin Duck flying by but no jaegers and we return to the Recreation Area. But Janet decides not to hike out as far as the rest of us and returns earlier. While waiting for us she sees three jaegers, one of which is presumably the same Pomarine Steve had seen earlier, but just after they fly off and just before we return she sees one more for the list swimming just offshore — Minnesota's fifth Red Phalarope. For the rest of the day the phalarope stays put, giving us as many close looks as we need

to make sure we are not just seeing things. It is the climax of a remarkable day — the rest of the afternoon is "uneventful": just a group of three light-phase Parasitic Jaegers and a group of four unidentified jaegers, that's all.

During the rest of the month the pace barely slackened, but compared to what happened earlier it was almost routine. Don Bolduc, Bill Litkey and Oscar Johnson were lucky enough to see both the Long-tailed Jaeger and the Red Phalarope October 16, Paul Egeland and I spotted the phalarope again the next day (it showed up three days in a row around noon!), and also on the 17th a Cattle Egret was seen on the UMD campus. Several Twin Cities birders tried their luck on the weekend of October 18-19, but managed no more than a dark-phase Parasitic Jaeger. Also that weekend were a Swainson's Hawk and two Townsend's Solitaires at Hawk Ridge, and a very late Rough-winged Swallow flying down the North Shore. On October 24 the pair of Harlequin Ducks reappeared, this time the male was in almost full plumage, and a day later they were joined by another female. Another Townsend's Solitaire and a very late Cape May Warbler were found at Stoney Point on the 26th, a Boreal Owl was banded at Hawk Ridge and a White Pelican was seen around Canal Park on the 28th, and two more Thayer's Gulls turned up at Eagle Lake October 30. Not a bad ending to an unforgettable month in Duluth.

Oh, by the way, did you hear the one about this Rufous Hummingbird that shows up at a feeder in Bloomington in October? **9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

Editor's Note: One more outstanding record which must be added to the above is a White-eyed Vireo banded in Dakota County on October 21. All of these records will be documented in the Notes of Interest section of **The Loon.**

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE BREEDING BEHAVIOR OF THE BLUE JAY IN ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

*Bill Hilton Jr. and **Jean M. Vesall

Although the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) occurs commonly across most of eastern and central North America, much of its breeding behavior and other habits remain unknown to ornithologists. In an attempt to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge of the Blue Jay, we began a study of the behavioral ecology of the species in the spring of 1980. This article summarizes briefly some of our findings in the first field season.

Previous researchers who have dealt with the Blue Jay have often given up on field studies because the species presents several problems. Blue Jays are sexually monomorphic, wary of traps and nets, difficult to age, and especially secretive during nest-building and incubation. This latter behavior seems to have created the most difficulties for researchers, such that sufficient numbers of nests could not be located.

No such problem occurred in the Cedar Creek Natural History Area of the University of Minnesota in northern Anoka County, Minnesota, where we were able to find 121 nests within a 275 hectare area (about one square mile) which included a housing subdivision adjoining the Cedar Creek preserve itself. Of these nests (all located between 14 April and 15 July 1980), 88 were either never completed or deserted and/or preyed upon, with only 33 broods surviving to banding age (8-14 days), and four of the latter were preyed upon after banding but before fledging. Local predators probably included the Common Crow, chip-

munks, red and gray squirrels, bull snakes, raccoons, weasels, and feral cats. The only "predation" which was actually observed occurred when a young boy took his pet cat up a tree and allowed it to knock a clutch of eggs from the nest.

Most of the nests in the Cedar Creek study area were located in northern pin oaks (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) or bur oaks (*Q. macrocarpa*), typically about five meters up and along the main trunk, or a few feet out on a major horizontal branch. Nests begun in April and May, before most of the leaves were out on the oaks, were placed lower in the trees than later nests, some of which were as high as 15 meters. A few nests were also found in the interior branches of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and white spruce (*Picea glauca*). Nests elsewhere, such as at an alternate study site at Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area just south of Cedar Creek, occasionally were located in other hardwoods such as Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*).

Once we had found the first nests, finding others became easier as we got the "feel" for where to look. Some nests were found by accident, but the most successful method consisted of letting an adult jay lead us to the right location following its foraging trips. During incubation, the male Blue Jay occasionally feeds the female at the nest, and both parents become more and more active as the hatched young mature; these habits sometimes led the



MAN-MADE NESTING MATERIALS — Blue Jays often include light-colored natural materials such as birch bark and dried weeds in the outer stick portions of their nests. Many nests in suburban areas also contain a variety of man-made materials. This photograph illustrates an "extreme" case of the latter in that the nest contained several tissue paper and cloth strips, three long white polyethylene ribbons, and two of the plastic "thingamajigs" used to hold six-packs of canned drinks. None of these human discards interfered with incubation by the female (shown here on the nest) or with the feeding of the young. Although this aboreal trashpile quickly attracted the attention of the photographer, it apparently did not serve as a signal to predators, and three color-banded young fledged on about 9 June 1980. (Photo by Bill Hilton Jr.)

observer directly to the nest itself. Probable nesting areas were also determined by listening for the "kueu-kueu-kueu" vocalization, a conversational call used by mated pairs. This sound was almost inaudible in even the slightest wind, especially by comparison to the loud, raucous "jay-jay" and the clarion "wheedle-ee" which are usually associated with Blue Jay vocalization. This call was worth listening for because it was often given in the vicinity of an active nest.

Still other nests were easily spotted because of the jay's habit of placing white material along with the dark sticks that make up the bulky outer layer. Many jay pairs incorporated birch bark into the exterior construction, while others stuck in bits of tissue paper, white rags, string, and other man-made materials. Several of the nests even contained one or more of the plastic "thingamajigs" which are used to hold six-packs of canned drinks; one nest actually contained four of these items stuck in among the more natural twigs. Another unusual nest was placed in the top center surface of the abandoned bulky leaf nest of a gray squirrel; several squirrels were also known to have built their leaf nests on top of deserted Blue Jay stick nests.

All the jay nests were lined with soft rootlets woven into a cup which contained from 2-6 eggs. April and May nests contained four or five eggs per clutch, while most later nests held two or three. In the majority of nests, at least one egg did not hatch. Although many of the adult jays in the study area were trapped and color marked with plastic leg bands, we were able to identify both parents for only five of the nests. Thus we could not determine in the first field season whether the later nests were re-nesting attempts following predation or desertion. It seems unlikely, however, that the later nests were second clutches following successfully-fledged first broods. Double brooding is common among Blue Jays in the southern U.S.,

but it has never been documented in Minnesota, probably because of the relatively short breeding season, and especially since parent jays are kept busy responding to begging attempts by the offspring for up to two months after they leave the nest.

The average incubation period for the Cedar Creek nests was 17-18 days, somewhat longer than the 15-17 days cited by Roberts (1932). Incubation apparently does not begin until the clutch is complete, since synchronous hatching was the rule. Young remained in the nest for 17-20 days after hatching; by banding and color marking the nestlings at about 9-10 days we probably avoided causing premature fledging.

Early dates for nest-building, egg-laying, hatching, and fledging for the Cedar Creek birds coincided with those of the earliest nests mentioned by Roberts (1932), with the first nests being completed on 23 April and the first eggs being laid one day later. [One 1980 nest in Roseville was somewhat ahead of these early dates, with a clutch of five eggs already complete by 20 April, and hatching occurring on 9 May.] The last nests at Cedar Creek had hatch dates slightly later (8 July) than the latest of Roberts (5 July).

In all, 113 Cedar Creek nestlings were banded with numbered aluminum U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service bands and an individual combination of colored plastic leg bands. Another 32 fledglings whose nests we did not locate were also captured and banded. These birds, when added to the 219 "adults" trapped at nests or at feeding stations, brought the total to 363 Blue Jays which had been marked as of 1 October 1980. Some of these were migrants that moved on out of the Cedar Creek area, but many may be resident birds that may breed in the vicinity in future years.

Pitelka (1946) and others have suggested that most hatch year birds do indeed migrate during their first fall, so that birds seen in Minnesota in win-

ter are either permanent resident adults or possibly migrant birds from farther north in Canada. Our preliminary results indicated that considerably more hatch year birds overwinter than Pitelka had suspected, but the evidence is still strong that a differential migration based on age does exist. With a differential migration, we might expect four potential breeding classes of jays in spring: 1) permanent resident adults, 2) permanent resident hatch year birds, 3) migrant hatch year birds, and 4) possibly some adult migrants. By the time the migrant birds return to these northern latitudes (about the second week in May), the overwintering adults have already begun nesting, and we will be interested primarily in determining in 1981 whether these new arrivals can compete successfully as later breeders, and whether the relatively few young birds which overwinter are able to breed in simultaneous competition with adults. By trapping intensively during the winter of 1980-81, we hope to be able to color mark the majority of resident birds so that we can identify most of the breeding jays in the spring of 1981, thereby coming closer to answering the question of breeding success based on age class.

Because Blue Jays appear to make use of a fairly large winter feeding range, it is possible that some of the color banded Cedar Creek birds will wander away from the study area. One jay already has been recovered from Stacy, about 16 km east, and birds have been spotted up to 5 km away at feeding stations. Observers of these birds are asked to report the following information: location, date and time of sighting; color band/aluminum band combination (most birds have two bands per leg, including the aluminum; colors used include

red, yellow, light blue, light green, white, black, orange, and lavender); general habitat type; activity of the bird. If the jay has been captured by another bird bander, please measure the wing chord, culmen, tarsus, tail, and weight, and release the bird. Dead birds should be frozen immediately with the bands intact.

Please report sightings to Hilton at the address or phone numbers below, and inform the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel MD 20811. We would also appreciate information about active nests in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area in 1981-83 so that nestlings can be banded, and would like other information about Blue Jay breeding habits and success during past years. Nests found in future seasons can be reported to Hilton or to the Minnesota Rare Bird Alert number.

This study was funded in part by the Dayton Natural History Fund of the University of Minnesota, and by the Cedar Creek Natural History Fund. We would like to acknowledge the assistance of James L. Howitz, David J. Vesall and Millie Hayes, the cooperation of the residents of the subdivision adjoining Cedar Creek, and the advice of Dr. Harrison B. Tordoff.

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*Bell Museum of Natural History, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. (612) 464-2566 or (612) 373-3192.

**4225 233rd Lane NE, Bethel, MN 55005.

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE: An Update of Its Policies and Proceedings

Kim R. Eckert

In 1974 the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) was formed. Its first members were, and still are, Kim R. Eckert, Paul M. Egeland, Janet C. Green, Robert B. Janssen (Chairman), William R. Pieper and Harrison B. Tordoff. In 1979 a seventh member, Richard J. Oehlenschlager, was added.

The Committee was formed with five principal functions in mind: 1) to determine the acceptability of unusual bird sightings for inclusion in the permanent record of Minnesota birds; 2) to maintain the official list of Minnesota birds and to define the status of each species on that list; 3) to design the forms used in gathering information on Minnesota birds (e.g., the Seasonal Bird Observation Report forms, the Request for Details form, the Field Check List of Minnesota Birds), 4) to provide information on Minnesota birds as requested by other organizations for use in special projects (e.g., the American Birding Association compilation and standardization of state checklists, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program list of species of special concern) and 5) to educate birders in methods of keeping records and documenting of rare species.

At a meeting of the Committee on July 26, 1980, much of the discussion dealt with clarifying our voting procedure with regard to (1) above. Following is an outline of this procedure and some guidelines which were discussed.

— Unless there is an identifiable specimen or photograph involved, all records of accidental and casual species are voted on, as are records of regular species occurring on a very unusual date or at an unusual location. The Chairman is responsible for obtaining the necessary written documentations, having copies made and mailing them out to the members.

— Voting on all records is done by mail. Members vote either Acceptable or Unacceptable, indicate reasons for their vote and return their vote to the Chairman within two weeks.

— For regular and casual species, the record is Acceptable if the vote is 7-0, 6-1 or 5-2 in favor of acceptance, the record is Unacceptable if the vote is 2-5, 1-6 or 0-7 in favor. If the vote is 4-3 or 3-4, the Chairman resubmits the record for a second vote: i.e., copies are made of all the members' votes and reasons, these are sent out to all the members, and based on the comments of the other members, each member either reaffirms or changes his vote. Then if the vote is 4-3 or better in favor the record becomes Acceptable, and if the vote is 3-4 or less in favor the record becomes Unacceptable.

— For accidental species or species which would be first state records, the record is Acceptable if the vote is 7-0 in favor of acceptance, the record is Unacceptable if the vote is 4-3, 3-4, 2-5, 1-6 or 0-7 in favor. If the vote is 6-1 or 5-2 in favor, the Chairman resubmits the record as described above.

Then if the vote is 7-0 in favor the record becomes Acceptable, and if the vote is 6-1 or less in favor the record becomes Unacceptable.

— After the voting is completed, the Chairman will, in most cases, notify the observer of the Committee's decision. Every three or four months the Chairman will also send to each member a summary of all records voted on and the results of each vote.

— Any member may appeal the results of any vote which he strongly feels was wrong when the Committee has a meeting. The record in question is then discussed, a new vote is taken at the meeting, and the record is judged Acceptable or Unacceptable according to the criteria described above. Any record which occurred before MORC began voting in 1974 may also be brought up for discussion and vote in the same way if a member feels it is improperly included on or excluded from the permanent record of Minnesota birds.

— Any change in the criteria used for judging the acceptability of records is not retroactive to previous records (e.g., before 1980 records of accidental species could be Acceptable without a unanimous vote). However, such records are also open to appeal in the same way as other records.

— The Committee votes only on whether or not a record is Acceptable for inclusion in the permanent record of Minnesota birds; whether or not a record voted on by MORC is included in the observer's personal records or list is not the concern of the committee. (However, the Editor of *The Loon* has the editorial right to have MORC votes binding on the list totals published under the 300 Club or the 200 County Club.)

The Committee also has discussed several aspects of the manner in which records are documented and how these might influence votes: 1) Field notes written or sketches drawn by the observer while the bird is in view and **before** a field guide is consulted is

most desirable, but the Committee recognizes this is not always practicable and is not required for the record to be Acceptable (although a member may be influenced in his vote by the presence or absence of such); 2) If possible, the observer involved should write up and submit documentation of a record, although another person who did not observe the bird can submit acceptable details based on what the observer reports to him (the acceptability of the record is then based both on the details and on the reliability/experience of the observer and reporter); 3) For whatever reason, an observer may submit acceptable details of a sighting which took place several months or years previously (the acceptability of such a record is then based not only on the description but also on the time lapse involved and how obvious/unmistakeable the species is); 4) The reliability/experience of the observer may be taken into account by a member when voting, but this should not be the only criterion considered (the actual documentation is always most important, regardless of the observer); and 5) Additional details may be requested by the Chairman or volunteered by the observer after a record is voted on, however such details normally will not carry as much weight as the original details (unless these details consist of original field notes).

With regard to the Committee's responsibility of maintaining the official state list and the status of each species, an official Checklist of Minnesota Birds was prepared by MORC in 1978 and included with the March 1978 issue of *The Loon*. Since that time there have been changes in the definitions of status terms and in the status of some species:

— The term Extirpated has been redefined to read as follows: "Formerly occurred regularly in the state, but disappeared, and is not expected to recur." Using this definition, the Eskimo Curlew and McCown's Longspur are the only Extirpated species on the

list, the Kirtland's Warbler becomes Accidental, and the Chukar is close to being placed on the Extirpated list, although presently it is still considered Regular.

— The term Hypothetical is no longer in use, and species formerly defined as Hypothetical are now placed in the Accidental category. The term Hypothetical was dropped because the MORC usage of this classification was not the generally accepted definition of the term in the birding community. Accordingly, the term Accidental is redefined as follows: "Species for which there are specimens, photographs, or Acceptable sight records in three (or, in some cases, four) or fewer of the past ten years. Accidental species fall into three categories:

- Aa) Species for which there exists a preserved specimen or photograph taken in the state.
- Ab) Species for which there is no specimen or photographic record that have been substantiated by documented sight records unanimously accepted by MORC.
- Ac) Species for which there is a question as to the origin or wildness of the bird (does not include obviously escaped exotics)."

— Because the distinction between Hypothetical and Accidental has been dropped, the issue of how to determine

the number of Acceptable sight records (discussed under "Number of Records" on the 1978 Checklist) is dropped since that number was only needed to determine when a Hypothetical species would become Accidental.

— The numerical distinction between Regular, Casual and Accidental species has been clarified and revised. Species for which there are records in nine or ten of the past ten years are Regular; species for which there are records in five, six or seven of the past ten years are Casual; and species for which there are records in three or fewer of the past ten years are Accidental. Species with records in eight of ten years are discussed at meetings of the Committee and by consensus are defined as either Regular or Casual; likewise, species with records in four of ten years are discussed and defined as either Casual or Accidental.

Because of the changes discussed above, because the ten-year base period changes annually, and because additional records of several species have occurred in the past three years, the status of several species has changed and will be continually monitored and periodically redefined at future MORC meetings.

**9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN
55804.**



Spring^{*} Season

(March 1 - May 31, 1980)

Dick Ruhme, Don Bolduc,
and Oscar Johnson

For this report 81 observers reported 297 species. The temperature for the month of March averaged 1° below normal and the average precipitation was .56 inches below normal. There were snowstorms in the north central part of the state during this month, the southern half of the state was mostly free of snow.

It seems certain that the many early sightings for this season were weather related, i.e., a mild winter and an unusually warm April.

The following observations were noteworthy for March: Mute Swans at a few locations around Duluth, very early Broad-winged Hawks in Aitkin and Anoka counties, Gyrfalcons at Duluth and Lake of the Woods, Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers at Ely, Townsend's Solitaire from Nicollet County, Varied Thrush from Hennepin County, an early Hermit Thrush from Cottonwood County and a White-throated Sparrow from Hubbard County.

In April the temperature averaged 4.1° above normal with a record high of 95° on the 21st, precipitation was 1.21 inches below normal. Observations included a Little Blue Heron in Lac Qui Parle County, Cinnamon Teal in Pipestone County, Oldsquaw in Big Stone County, Surf Scoter in Scott County, Prairie Falcon in Washington County. Very early were Caspian Terns in Minneapolis, Eastern Kingbirds at Duluth and Stearns County, Eastern Wood Pewee in Sherburne County, Veery in Martin County, Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher in Murray County, Yellow-throated Vireo in Meeker County and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Stearns County.

In May the weather was cool, proof being that the temperature was 4.4° below normal, precipitation was 1.08 inches below normal.

Fewer than expected warblers were seen during the MOU weekend, May 10-11 at Winona. Small groups were seen in scattered locations only.

A Yellow-crowned Night Heron appeared in Hennepin County, Cinnamon Teal in Anoka County, Peregrine Falcon in Otter Tail County, Whimbrel at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Burrowing Owl in Clay County, Boreal Owl in Cook County, Mockingbird in St. Louis and Clay Counties, Sprague's Pipit at Duluth, White-eyed Vireo in Olmsted County and a Blue Grosbeak in Dakota County. The real shocker was a Yellow-throated Warbler in Ramsey County. This was a first record for Minnesota.

Miscellaneous scraps of paper that are used by some observers easily get misplaced or lost in the constant shuffle, therefore an item or two may inadvertently get omitted from these reports. —DAB

Common Loon

Early south 4-4 Sherburne JH, 4-7 Anoka KL, Kandiyohi AT; early north 4-3 Itasca TOS, 4-8 Cook TB, 4-16 Grant GMO, Otter Tail GW.

Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4-18 Nicollet JCF, 4-27

Hennepin OJ; early north 4-15 St. Louis KE, 4-18 Marshall ANWR, 4-19 Pine RJ.

Horned Grebe

Early south 4-4 Murray RJ, 4-12 Anoka SC, GP, 4-18 Nicollet JCF; early north 4-19 St. Louis KE, SNF, SW, 4-20 Beltrami JM, SY, 4-23 Grant SM.

Eared Grebe

Early south 4-6 Lyon HK, 4-24 Freeborn DG, 4-25 Mower RRR, Nicollet JCF; early north 4-17 St. Louis SNF, 4-23 Grant SM, 5-13 Pennington KSS, Marshall SY.

Western Grebe

Early south 4-14 DG, 4-19 Kandiyohi BSH, 4-25 Lac Qui Parle KE, Nicollet JCF, McLeod RJ; early north 4-24 Grant SM, 5-13 Marshall ANWR, 4-21 Pennington KSS.

Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3-8 Hennepin ES, 3-15 Anoka KL, Nicollet JCF; early north 3-9 Otter Tail GMO, 4-5 Cook KE, 4-6 St. Louis KMH, Marshall ANWR.

White Pelican

Early south 4-16 Le Sueur MF, 4-17 Freeborn DG, 4-20 Cottonwood RG, Martin EB; early north 4-18 Marshall ANWR, Lake of the Woods TA, 4-19 Otter Tail GMO.

Double-crested Cormorant

Early south 4-3 Blue Earth MF, 4-6 Anoka KL, Dakota JH; early north 4-13 Otter Tail SM, 4-16 Grant GMO, 4-17 Marshall ANWR, Wright DCF.

Great Blue Heron

Early south 3-16 Ramsey BDC, 3-17 Dakota RJ, 3-19 Anoka KL (100+); early north 3-27 Otter Tail GMO, 3-30 Hubbard HF, 4-1 Marshall ANWR.

Northern Green Heron

Early south 4-19 Wabasha WDM, 4-20 Cottonwood LF, RG, Le Sueur EK, Mower RRR, Washington JD; early north 4-28 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-3 Mille Lacs RJ, 5-4 Marshall ANWR.

Little Blue Heron

4-26 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4-11 Duluth D. Follen fide KE, 4-13 Marshall SY.

Cattle Egret

5-11 Wabasha OJ, WDM, 5-26 Rock JH, only reports.

Great Egret

3-29 Washington BL, 4-6 Anoka BH, KL, 4-8 Nicollet JCF; early north 4-16 Grant GMO (50), 4-18 Marshall ANWR.

Black-crowned Night Heron

Early south 3-29 Hennepin ES, 4-6 Anoka KL, 4-10 Washington DS; early north 4-16 Grant GMO, 4-19 Duluth KE, 4-25 Marshall ANWR.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

5-15 Hennepin RBA, 5-22 Otter Tail GMO, only reports.

Least Bittern

5-17 Olmsted JSD, JF, 5-22 Marshall ANWR, 5-23 Nicollet JCF, 5-24 Lac Qui Parle JS, 5-29 Grant GMO, 5-31 Swift BSG.

American Bittern

Early south 4-13 Blue Earth JCF, 4-17 Sherburne JH, 4-22 Wright DCF; early north 4-20 St. Louis DA, 4-24 Becker TNWR, Marshall ANWR.

Whistling Swan

Early south 3-28 Le Sueur HC, 3-29 Houston FL (85), EMF, Kandiyohi AT, Olmsted JB, JSD; early north 3-30 Wilkin FKS, Otter Tail SM; peak 3-30 Wabasha (5000+) ES.

MUTE SWAN

Many reports from St. Louis and Lake counties 3-8 (2), 3-16 (7), 3-25 (2) sp?, 3-30 (5), 5-23 (1) sp?, 5-31 (1), several observers.

Canada Goose

Early north 3-26 Marshall ANWR, 4-4 Lake of the Woods TA, Aitkin WN, 4-16 Cook TB. Reported from 38 additional counties.

White-fronted Goose

Early south 3-22 Faribault RJ, 3-23 Wabasha DGW, 3-26 Blue Earth JCF;

early north 4-16 Otter Tail GMO, 5-6 Marshall ANWR, 5-19 Roseau RJ.

Snow Goose

Early south 3-15 Nicollet JCF, 3-18 Freeborn DG, 3-19 Mower RRK (130); early north 3-25 St. Louis P. Stelenski fide KE, 4-11 Pennington KSS, 4-12 Traverse AT.

Mallard

Permanent resident. Reported from 38 counties.

Black Duck

Early north 3-1 Sherburne JH, 3-2 Ramsey JD, DGW, Scott KG; early north 4-3 St. Louis KMH, 4-10 Lake SW, 4-13 Otter Tail GMO.

Gadwall

Early north 3-2 Scott KG, 3-19 Anoka KL, Olmsted JB; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-6 Marshall ANWR, 4-17 Beltrami JM.

Pintail

Early south 3-16 Martin EB, 3-18 Nicollet JCF Olmsted JB; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 3-31 Marshall ANWR, 4-2 Pennington KSS, 4-3 Beltrami JM.

CINNAMON TEAL

5-11 Murray JH, 5-18 Anoka KL, 5-20 Pipestone LJF.

Green-winged Teal

Early south 3-2 Ramsey JD, 3-21 Nicollet JCF, 3-22 Faribault RJ, Watonwan JB; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-8 Marshall ANWR, 4-15 St. Louis KE.

Blue-winged Teal

Early south 3-16 Martin EB, 3-19 Olmsted JB, 3-22 Faribault RJ; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-8 Lake of the Woods TA, Marshall ANWR.

American Wigeon

Early south 3-16 Martin EB, 3-17 Dakota SC, GP, 3-19 Blue Earth DJ, Dakota RJ; early north 4-2 Marshall ANWR Otter Tail SM, 4-10 St. Louis KE.

Northern Shoveler

Early south 3-16 Olmsted JSD, 3-19 Mower Bob Jessen, 3-22 Faribault RJ; early north 4-1 Otter Tail GMO, 4-2 Marshall ANWR, 4-9 Becker KSS.

Wood Duck

Early south 3-15 Freeborn DG, 3-16 Anoka KL Dakota BDC; early north 3-31 Otter Tail GMO, 4-2 Becker TNWR, 4-4 Clay LCF, Itasca TL.

Redhead

Early south 3-16 Martin EB, 3-19 Dakota RJ, Olmsted JB; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-2 Grant SM, 4-7 Becker TNWR.

Ring-necked Duck

Early south 3-3 Olmsted JB, 3-15 Nicollet JCF, 3-16 Martin EB, Mower RRK, Wabasha WDM; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-6 Marshall ANWR, St. Louis KMH.

Canvasback

Early south 3-3 Olmsted JB, JSD, 3-16 Martin EB, 3-23 Olmsted JF Wabasha DGW; early north 4-1 Otter Tail GMO, 4-2 Grant SM, 4-15 Marshall ANWR.

Greater Scaup

Early south 3-20 Dakota ES, 3-28 Houston FL, 4-1 Washington RJ; early north 4-3 St. Louis KE, 4-17 Beltrami JM, MBH, JH, 4-18 Pennington KSS.

Lesser Scaup

Early south 3-3 Olmsted JB, 3-16 Houston FL, Martin EB, Wabasha WDM; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-3 St. Louis KE, 4-5 Marshall ANWR.

Common Goldeneye

Late south 5-2 Anoka KL, 5-9 Washington DR; late north 4-18 Otter Tail GMO, 5-4 Hubbard HF, 5-13 Pennington KSS.

Bufflehead

Early south 3-16 Washington DMB, Olmsted JF, Sherburne JH; early north 4-7 Marshall ANWR, 4-9 Otter Tail GMO; late south 5-18 Washington

DR; late north 5-16 Lake SW.

Oldsquaw

4-17 Washington BL, 4-27 Big Stone L. Thielke fide KE.

White-winged Scoter

5-20 Cook TB, 5-6 St. Louis KE, 5-11 Wabasha EW, 5-14 St. Louis KE.

Surf Scoter

4-14 Scott RJ.

Black Scoter

5-2 Cook KMH, 5-12 St. Louis KE, 5-17 Cook KE.

Ruddy Duck

Early south 3-3 Olmsted JB, 3-16 Dakota BDC, RJ, Martin EB, Sherburne JH; early north 3-23 Otter Tail SM, 4-18 Marshall ANWR, 4-19 Pope BSH.

Hooded Merganser

Early south 3-2 Dakota JD, KG, 3-15 Mower RRK, 3-16 Martin EB; early north 4-3 St. Louis KE, KMH, Otter Tail GMO, 4-6 Aitkin WN.

Common Merganser

Early north 3-19 St. Louis AE, 3-23 Becker SM, 3-28 Beltrami JM; late south 4-13 Winona GBE, 4-15 Stearns, 5-25 Washington DS.

Red-breasted Merganser

Early south 3-22 Martin RJ, Washington BL; early north 4-8 Marshall ANWR, 4-13 St. Louis KE; late south 4-13 Winona GBE, Wright DCF.

Turkey Vulture

Early south 3-24 Houston EMF, 3-30 Olmsted JB, 4-5 Dakota JD, Fillmore RRK, Goodhue KG; early north 4-12 Itasca TOS, Lake SW, St. Louis SNF.

MISSISSIPPI KITE

3-25 Traverse S. Greenfield, S. Schon.

Goshawk

Late south 3-19 Hennepin RH, 4-1 Washington RJ, 4-24 Dakota JD; late north 4-4 Beltrami JM, 4-29 Roseau TA, 5-16 Otter Tail GMO.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Early south 3-1 Anoka JH, Isanti OJ, 3-12 Washington DMB; early north 4-1 Otter Tail SM, 4-15 St. Louis KE, 4-16 Marshall ANWR.

Cooper's Hawk

Early south 4-2 Stearns NH, 4-5 Hennepin VL, 4-11 Sherburne EH; early north 3-29 Otter Tail GMO, 4-11 Itasca TL, 4-18 Marshall ANWR.

Red-tailed Hawk

Winter resident south; early north 3-3 St. Louis TH, 3-18 Lake of the Woods TA, 3-29 Otter Tail SM, Marshall KSS.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Early south 3-14 Sherburne EH, 3-22 Goodhue BL, 3-30 Chisago RJ; early north 4-2 Otter Tail SM, 5-10 Crow Wing OJ, 5-21 Aitkin WN; also 4-25 Swift KE.

Broad-winged Hawk

Early south 3-16 Anoka SE, 3-29 Fillmore OJ, 4-5 Mower RRK (125); early north 3-30 Aitkin WN, 4-1 Duluth KMH, 4-6 Otter Tail GMO.

Swainson's Hawk

Early south 3-29 Dakota JD, 4-18 Big Stone SC, 4-26 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Lyon HK; early north 4-24 Traverse SM, 5-11 Otter Tail GMO.

Rough-legged Hawk

Late south 4-22 Houston EMF, 4-24 Hennepin BDC, 4-26 Lac Qui Parle ES; late north 4-19 Aitkin RJ, 5-22 Clay LCF, 5-28 Aitkin WN.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK

4-23 Otter Tail SM.

Golden Eagle

3-6 Otter Tail, GMO, 3-29 Wabasha BDC, 4-2 Pennington KSS, 4-3 Wabasha JD, 5-10 Chisago RH.

Bald Eagle

Peak south 3-23 Wabasha (18) DGW; early north 3-4 Beltrami JM, 3-11 St. Louis SNF, 3-20 Cass TOS.

Marsh Hawk

Early south 3-7 Nicollet JCF, 3-15 Redwood LJF, 3-18 Stearns NH, Wabasha WDM; early north 3-15 Otter Tail GMO, 3-20 Mille Lacs TL, 3-21 Pine KE.

Osprey

Early south 4-1 Mower RRK, 4-13 Olmsted JF, Winona FL; early north 4-19 Aitkin WN, 4-20 St. Louis SNF, 4-22 Cook TB.

GYRFALCON

Two Duluth reports: 3-1 KG, DGW, 3-9 KE, KL; also 3-31 Lake of the Woods JHMN.

Peregrine Falcon

3-22 Sherburne JH, 4-11 St. Louis DA, 4-21 Itasca TL, 4-22 Otter Tail SM, 4-26 Lac Qui Parle ES, 5-5 Marshall ANWR, 5-9 Otter Tail GMO, 5-11 Anoka RBA, 5-28 St. Louis DA.



PRAIRIE FALCON

4-19 Lake Bill Pieper, Dick Ruhme, 4-27 Washington DS.

Merlin

3-9 Stearns Robert Chapel, Jeanine Polk, 3-22 Sherburne JH, 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-2 Grant SM, 4-10 Marshall ANWR, 5-7 Lake NH.

American Kestrel

Winter resident south; early north
Winter 1980

3-4 Clay SM, 3-8 Clearwater KSS, 3-16 Otter Tail SM.

Spruce Grouse

4-16 Cook (10) TB; also reported as permanent resident Lake of the Woods TA.

Ruffed Grouse

Permanent resident; reported from 28 counties.

Greater Prairie Chicken

4-13 Polk KSS, 4-21 Pennington KSS, 4-25 Wadena DJ; also reported as permanent resident Otter Tail SM, GMO.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

3-1 Aitkin WN, 3-25 Lake of the Woods TA, KE, 3-31 Beltrami MBN, JH, 4-19 Pine BL; also reported, no dates, Marshall ANWR, Pennington KSS.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Permanent resident; reported from 30 counties.

Bobwhite

5-17 Houston KG, only report accepted; others probable escapees.

Gray Partridge

Permanent resident; reported from 25 counties.

Turkey

4-5 Wabasha JB, 5-17 Houston BL; only reports.

Sandhill Crane

Early south 3-21 Anoka BH, 4-4 Houston KSS, 4-5 Anoka KL; early north 4-5 Marshall ANWR, 4-11 Becker TNWR, Otter Tail GMO, Polk KSS.

Virginia Rail

Early south 4-28 Mower RRK, 5-4 Olmsted JF, 5-8 Stearns NH; early north 4-21 St. Louis KE, 5-1 Marshall ANWR, 5-9 Red Lake KSS.

Yellow Rail

5-20 and 5-23 Lake of the Woods JHMN; only reports.

Sora

Early south 3-18 Mark Johnson fide OJ, 4-19 Le Sueur EK, 4-24 Freeborn DG; early north 4-26 Otter Tail GMO, 5-2 Beltrami JM, 5-3 Clearwater SY.

Common Gallinule

5-17 Houston KG, 5-18 Ramsey BL; only reports.

American Coot

Early south 3-2 Scott KG, 3-9 Hennepin ES, 3-14 Olmsted JB; early north 3-30 Otter Tail, SM, GMO, 4-3 St. Louis KMH, 4-6 Aitkin WN.

Semipalmated Plover

Early south 4-25 Lac Qui Parle ES, 4-27 Le Sueur EK, 5-3 Cottonwood RG, early north 4-21 Otter Tail GMO, 5-13 Marshall SY, 5-17 Morrison DCF.

Piping Plover

4-21 Otter Tail GMO, 5-3 Big Stone SC, Lac Qui Parle GP, St. Louis KE, 5-11 Dakota KG, 5-21 Pennington KSS.

Killdeer

Early south 3-1 Blue Earth DJ, 3-6 Winona JB, JSD, 3-15 Nicollet JCF; early north 3-25 Otter Tail SM, 3-29 St. Louis DA, 3-30 Aitkin WN, Hubbard SY, Marshall ANWR, KSS.

American Golden Plover

Early south 4-4 Le Sueur HC, 4-5 Stearns Ken Palmersheim fide NH, 4-20 Big Stone SC; early north 5-2 Otter Tail GMO, 5-5 Marshall ANWR; late date 5-25 Wilkin DGW.

Black-bellied Plover

Early 5-2 Otter Tail GMO, 5-12 Hennepin ES, 5-19 Roseau RJ; late 5-27 St. Louis SM.

Ruddy Turnstone

Early south 4-16 Nicollet JCF, 5-15 Hennepin ES; early north 5-13 Wilkin GMO, 5-19 St. Louis KE; late 5-27 St. Louis SM.

American Woodcock

Early south 3-26 Le Sueur, 3-28 Anoka KL, 3-31 Dakota MW; early north 4-1 Cook TB, 4-2 Lake SW, 4-3 St. Louis TH.

Common Snipe

Early south 3-8 Winona JB, JSD, 3-28 Hennepin ES, 3-30 Washington RJ; early north 4-3 Mahnomen JM, 4-5 Cook TB, 4-6 Otter Tail SM, GMO, St. Louis KMH.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

5-20 Lyon Paul Egeland.

Whimbrel

5-3 Marshall RBA; only report.

Upland Sandpiper

Early south 4-26 Lac Qui Parle ES, 5-3 Big Stone SC, GP, 5-8 Sherburne EH; early north 5-2 Pennington KSS, 5-6 Marshall ANWR, 5-8 Clay SM, Wilkin GMO.

Spotted Sandpiper

Early south 4-20 Washington DR, 4-25 Nicollet JCF, 4-26 Lac Qui Parle ES; early north 5-1 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-3 St. Louis KE, 5-4 Hubbard SY.

Solitary Sandpiper

Early south 4-16 Lyon HK, 4-18 Nicollet JCF, 5-1 Cottonwood LJF; early north 5-6 St. Louis TH, SNF, Lake SW; late dates 5-23 Nicollet JCF, 5-25 Lake SW.

Willet

Early south 4-27 Martin EB, 5-8 Lyon HK; early north 4-29 St. Louis KE, 5-19 Marshall John Herman, Roseau RJ; late date 5-24 Wilkin GW.

Greater Yellowlegs

Early south 3-27 RBA, 4-5 Rock RJ; early north 4-6 Otter Tail GMO, 4-17 St. Louis DA; late dates 5-14 Big Stone NH, Olmsted JF, 5-15 Washington DR, DS.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Early south 3-21 Mower RRR, 4-1 Anoka KL; early north 4-13 Otter Tail SM, 4-20 Kittson KSS; late dates 5-20 Lake SW, Lake of the Woods RJ, TA, 5-28 Cook TB.

RED KNOT

5-19 Pennington KSS, JH, 5-27 Duluth SM.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Early south 4-7 Dakota JH, 4-16 Lyon HK; early north 4-23 Otter Tail SM, 5-1 Lake of the Woods TA; late dates 5-20 Lake of the Woods RJ, 5-21 Lake SW.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Early south 5-11 Martin EB, 5-17 Olmsted JSD, JF; early north 4-15 Pennington KSS, 5-16 Marshall ANWR; late 5-24 Rice RJ.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early south 4-5 Goodhue BL, 4-25 Lac Qui Parle BDC, 4-26 JH; early north 4-15 Pennington KSS, 4-21 Otter Tail SM; late south 5-18 Dakota MW.

Least Sandpiper

Early south 4-16 Lyon HK, 5-3 Lac Qui Parle SC; early north 5-5 Marshall ANWR, 5-14 Otter Tail SM; late south 5-27 Stearns NH.

Dunlin

Early south 4-26 Lyon HK, Lac Qui Parle BDC, JH, BL, ES; early north 5-7 Marshall ANWR, 5-17 St. Louis KE; late south 5-24 Rice RJ.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early south 4-26 Lac Qui Parle BDC, FAE, JH, RJ, ES; early north 4-23 Otter Tail SM, 5-6 Marshall ANWR,

Western Sandpiper

Early south 5-7 Anoka KL, 5-11 Murray JH, 5-13 Lyon HK; early north 5-21 Pennington KSS, 5-27 St. Louis KE. Also Big Stone, Stearns and Washington counties.

Sanderling

Early south 5-11 Dakota JD, 5-12 Sherburne JH, 5-13 Olmsted JB; early north 5-17 St. Louis KE, 5-21 Pennington KSS, 5-22 Otter Tail GMO.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early south 5-11 Martin EB, 5-13 Stearns NH, Olmsted JB, JSD, JF; early north 5-7 Marshall ANWR, 5-13 Otter Tail GMO.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Early south 5-10 Murray JH, RJ,

5-13 Swift JS, Olmsted JB, JF; early north 5-13 Otter Tail GMO, Pennington KSS.

Stilt Sandpiper

Early south 5-10 Murray JH, 5-14 Cottonwood RG, 5-15 Stearns KP fide NH; early north 5-12 Marshall ANWR, 5-13 Otter Tail GMO.

Marbled Godwit

Early south 4-13 Swift AT, 4-15 McLeod Ray Glassel, 4-16 Lyon HK; early north 4-13 Wilkin SM, 4-15 Otter Tail GMO, 4-16 Marshall ANWR, 5-19 St. Louis KE, Roseau RJ (50+).

Hudsonian Godwit

Early south 4-19 Pipestone LJF, 4-25 Lac Qui Parle JD, 5-10 Winona BDC; early north 4-22 Otter Tail SM, 5-10 Beltrami JM, 5-14 Big Stone NH (35+), 5-21 St. Louis TH.

American Avocet

Early south 5-12 Lac Qui Parle JS (28), 5-13 Cottonwood LF, 5-14 RG, Big Stone JS; early north 5-2 Marshall ANWR, 5-13 Wilkin GMO, 5-21 Becker TNWR, Pennington KSS.

Wilson's Phalarope

Early south 4-25 Nicollet JCF, 4-26 Lyon HK, Lac Qui Parle KE, JH, RJ; early north 4-21 Otter Tail SM, 5-9 Red Lake KSS, 5-19 Roseau RJ (500+), 5-23 Lake SW.

Northern Phalarope

5-11 Murray JH, 5-20 Wilkin GMO (50), 5-22 Pennington KE, KSS, 5-24 Rice RJ, Otter Tail DGW, Wilkin GW; only reports.

Glaucous Gull

3-20 to 4-12 St. Louis KMH, KL, KE (1 Im.).

Herring Gull

3-1 to 4-26 reported from 16 counties.

Ring-billed Gull

Early south 3-16 Dakota RJ, Martin EB, Winona FL; early north 3-30 Otter Tail DM, GMO, 4-2 Clay LCF, Marshall ANWR.

Franklin's Gull

Early south 4-5 Murray RJ, 4-11 Cottonwood RG, 4-12 Martin EB; early north 4-5 Marshall ANWR, 4-6 Otter Tail SM, GMO, 4-15 Pennington KSS.

Bonaparte's Gull

Early south 4-19 Washington DR, Lyon LJF; early north 4-21 Otter Tail GMO, 4-22 SM; late south 5-17 Olmsted JF, 5-29 Anoka KL; late north 5-16 St. Louis DA (200+), 5-30 SM.

Forster's Tern

Early south 4-13 Hennepin TL, 4-16 ES, 4-17 RJ; early north 4-11 Pennington KSS, 4-16 Grant GMO, 4-24 Traverse SM.

Common Tern

Early south 4-16 Washington DR, 4-26 Lyon HK, Anoka KL; early north 4-24 Douglas WL, 4-27 Pennington KSS, 5-3 Crow Wing RJ.

Caspian Tern

Early south 4-16 Hennepin VL, 5-3 Anoka KL, 5-11 Dakota KG; early north 5-12 St. Louis KE, 5-14 Otter Tail SM, 5-17 Cass DMB; late south 5-29 Anoka KL.

Black Tern

Early south 5-4 Blue Earth MF, Le Sueur JCF, 5-5 Ramsey FKB; early north Otter Tail 5-11 GW, 5-13 GMO, 5-13 Marshall ANWR.

Mourning Dove

Early north 3-30 Marshall ANWR, Otter Tail GMO, 4-2 SM.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5-21 Winona FL, 5-22 Stearns NH; early north 5-18 Red Lake RJ, 5-24 Otter Tail GMO, 5-28 Marshall ANWR.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5-4 Le Sueur, EK, 5-18 Cottonwood RG, 5-19 Houston EMF, Lyon HK; early north 5-18 St. Louis KMH, 5-21 AE, 5-20 Lake WL.

Screech Owl

Permanent resident. Reported from Fillmore, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle,

Martin, Otter Tail, Washington and Wright counties.



Photo by Warren Nelson

Great Horned Owl

Permanent resident. Reported from 33 counties.

Snowy Owl

Reported 3-1 Aitkin WN, 3-1-30 St. Louis DGW, SC, RJ, GP, KL, AE, FKB, 3-8 Dakota JD, 3-24 Stearns GMO, 4-14 Hennepin VL.

Hawk Owl

Reported 3-1 St. Louis KE, Carlton KG, 3-8 RJ, 3-9 Aitkin SC, GP, 3-22 WN, 3-31 Beltrami JHMN.

Burrowing Owl

Seen in Clay County 5-1 through 24 by GMO and M.Ob.

Barred Owl

Permanent resident; reported from 20 counties.

Great Gray Owl

4-11 Lake SW, 4-15 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-1 St. Louis SNF, 5-7 Bel-

trami JHMN, 5-26 Koochiching SY.

Long-eared Owl

Reported from Aitkin, Blue Earth, Carlton, Hennepin, St. Louis and Sherburne counties. Three nests within ½ mi. radius in Duluth Twp. KE.

Short-eared Owl

Early south 3-22 Goodhue BL, 4-1 Faribault DJ, 4-20 Anoka KL; early north 4-7 Otter Tail GMO, 4-24 Marshall ANWR, Beltrami JHMN, 4-13 Polk KSS.

BOREAL OWL

St. Louis 3-1 M. Carr, 3-10-12 E. Fox, 5-2 Cook KMH.

Saw-whet Owl

Reports from Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Roseau, St. Louis, Sherburne and Winona counties. 4-4 1 nesting Cook KE, 5-17 adult at nest hole Norman RJ.

Whip-poor-will

Early south 4-25 Houston EMF, 4-28 Winona FL, 4-29 Wabasha WDM; early north 4-22 Otter Tail SM, 5-21 St. Louis DA, 5-22 Lake of the Woods KE.

Common Nighthawk

Early south 4-4 Nicollet MF, 4-18 Hennepin BDC, 5-4 Stearns NH; early north 5-14 Otter Tail SM, 5-17 Aitkin WN, Pennington KSS.

Chimney Swift

Early south 4-24 Stearns CM, 4-29 NH, 4-29 Dakota BL, 5-1 Anoka BH; early north 5-2 Marshall ANWR, 5-3 Mille Lacs RJ, Otter Tail SM, Wadena KSS.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Early south 5-4 Murray AD, 5-6 Stearns MC, 5-10 Hennepin SC; early north 5-17 Beltrami SY, St. Louis KE, Becker RJ, 5-18 Lake of the Woods TA.

Belted Kingfisher

Early north 4-1 St. Louis KMH, 4-2 Crow Wing SE, Otter Tail GW, 4-16 LCF.

Common Flicker

Early north 3-30 Kittson KSS, 4-6 St. Louis KMH, Otter Tail SM, Todd GW, 4-7 Becker TNWR.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reports from 31 counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reports from 25 counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from 15 counties. Many overwintering birds.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Early south 3-29 Ramsey RBA, 4-2 Redwood LJJ, Le Sueur, EK; early north 4-7, St. Louis AE, KMH, 4-8 Otter Tail GMO, 4-9 Cook TB, St. Louis KE.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

9 reports from Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca and St. Louis counties.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker

3-1 St. Louis TH, 5-10 Lake SW; many reports RBA.

Eastern Kingbird

Early south 4-14 Stearns KP fide NH, 5-3 Goodhue BL, 5-6 Redwood LJJ; early north 4-19 St. Louis SNF, 4-20 SW, 5-13 Otter Tail GMO.

Western Kingbird

Early south 5-8 Sherburne JH, 5-12 EH, 5-9 Washington DR, Stearns NH; early north 5-4 Otter Tail SM, 5-12 Clay LCF, 5-15 Wilkin GMO.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Early south 4-29 Washington DR, 5-4 Blue Earth JCF, 5-8 Anoka JLH; early north 5-10 St. Louis KMH, Otter Tail 5-16 GMO, 5-17 GW.

Eastern Phoebe

Early south 4-2 Fillmore GBE, 4-4 Watonwan RJ, Houston EMF, Olmsted JSD, Washington DMB; early north 3-29 St. Louis DA, 4-2 Morrison SE, 4-6 Otter Tail SM.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 5-11 Wabasha OJ, 5-13 Anoka KL, 5-17 Hennepin ES; early north 5-19 Cook KMH, 5-20 Otter Tail

GMO, 5-22 Aitkin WN.

Willow Flycatcher

Reported 5-17 Houston EMF, 5-23 Anoka KL, 5-24 Ramsey DGW, 5-25 Olmsted JF, 5-26 Dakota MW, Washington BL.

Alder Flycatcher

Early south 5-11 Hennepin ES, 5-17 Anoka JLH; early north 5-10 Otter Tail GMO, 5-19 Lake of the Woods RJ, 5-23 St. Louis DA.

Least Flycatcher

Early south 4-19 Lac Qui Parle FAE sp?, 4-20 Pipestone LJF, 5-4 Ramsey BL, 5-8 RJ, Washington DR; early north 5-11 Otter Tail GMO, 5-14 DM, 5-13 St. Louis KE, 5-14 AE, 5-14 Marshall ANWR.

Eastern Wood Pewee

Early south 4-16 Sherburne JH, 5-9 Le Sueur JM, Olmsted JSD; early north 5-14 Marshall ANWR, 5-20 Morrison NH, 5-21 Pennington KSS, Otter Tail GMO.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 5-10 Winona RG, Hennepin SC, 5-11 ES, Winona OJ, Anoka BH; early north 5-20 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-21 RJ, Lake SW.

Horned Lark

Reported from 35 counties.

Tree Swallow

Early south 3-31 Dakota BL, 4-3 JD, 4-1 Anoka KL; early north 4-1 Cook TB, 4-6 Otter Tail GMO, 4-7 Beltrami JM.

Bank Swallow

Early south 4-5 Wabasha WDM, 4-26 Lac Qui Parle ES, Lyon HK; early north 4-14 Beltrami JHMN, 4-23 Grant SM, 4-26 Otter Tail GMO.

Rough-winged Swallow

Early south 4-5 Wabasha WDM, 4-6 Martin EB, 4-13 Hennepin TL; early north 4-19 St. Louis SNF, 4-23 Otter Tail GW, SM.

Barn Swallow

Early south 4-3 Wabasha WDM, 4-18

Lyon HK, 4-19 LJF; early north 4-19 Morrison DCF, 4-21 St. Louis DA.

Cliff Swallow

Early south 4-26 Lac Qui Parle JH, 4-27 FAE, KE, Lyon HK; early north 4-19 Itasca TOS, Beltrami JM, Pine RJ, 4-20 St. Louis TH.

Purple Martin

Early south 4-5 Wabasha WDM, Murray AD; early north 4-10 Cook TB, Otter Tail SM.

Gray Jay

Reports from Aitkin, Beltrami, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods and St. Louis counties.

Blue Jay

Permanent resident. Reports from 36 counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and St. Louis counties.

Common Raven

Late south 3-2 Anoka JLH, 3-30 Chisago RJ.

Common Crow

Permanent resident. Reports from 37 counties.

Boreal Chickadee

3-1 St. Louis TH, RBA 75, 3-14 DA, 4-5 Cook KE, 4-17 Lake SW, 5-9 Koochiching JHMN.

Tufted Titmouse

3-9 Hennepin RBA, 3-28 Le Sueur HC, Houston EMF, 4-17 St. Louis R. Ulvang.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 8 northern counties and these southern counties 3-3 to 15: Fillmore, Freeborn, Hennepin, Washington and Wabasha.

Brown Creeper

Early north 3-1 Otter Tail GW, SM, 3-18 Crow Wing WN. Reported from 18 counties.

House Wren

Early south 3-5 Olmsted JSD, 4-17 Murray AD, 4-21 Wabasha WDM; early north 5-2 Otter Tail GMO, 5-4 SM, 5-3 Morrison RJ.

Winter Wren

Early south 3-17 Winona D. Palmquist, 4-2 Hennepin GP, SC, 4-4 Olmsted JSD; early north 4-15 St. Louis SNF, 4-16 DA, 4-17 KMH.

Long-billed Marsh Wren

Early south 4-28 Ramsey RH, 5-10 Washington DS, 5-13 Hennepin OJ; early north 5-18 Pennington RJ, 5-20 Marshall ANWR, 5-21 Otter Tail GMO.

Short-billed Marsh Wren

Early south 5-8 Stearns NH, 5-10 Anoka KL, 5-11 Dakota KG; early north 5-17 Mahnommen RJ, 5-20 Marshall ANWR, 5-28 Aitkin WN.

Mockingbird

4-3 Hennepin RBA, 5-3 St. Louis KE, 5-7 Clay LCF.

Gray Catbird

Early south 3-23 Winona F. Clark, 5-2 Fillmore GBE, 5-4 Washington DS, Nicollet MF; early north 5-16 Clay LCF, Otter Tail GMO, 5-17 GW, Morrison DCF, KE, DA.

Brown Thrasher

Early south 4-1 Hennepin OJ, 4-9 Sherburne EH, 4-17 Dakota JD; early north 4-22 Pine SW, 4-28 St. Louis DA, 5-1 KMH, Otter Tail GMO.

American Robin

Early south 3-9 Ramsey RH, 3-10 Washington DR, 3-13 Lac Qui Parle FAE; early north 3-2 Cook DG, 3-15 Clay LCF, 3-16 Otter Tail. Overwintered north and south.

Varied Thrush

3-4 Hennepin RJ, 3-25 SC, 3-29 ES.

Wood Thrush

Early south 5-6 Freeborn DG, 5-9 Olmsted JSD, 5-11 JB, Hennepin SC; early north 5-17 St. Louis KMH, KE, Aitkin WN, 5-19 TOS.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 4-10 Olmsted JB, Hennepin ES, BDC, 4-13 TL, 4-11 Sherburne EH, 4-13 Ramsey FKB; early north 4-7 Becker RG, 4-20 St. Louis KMH, TH, 5-1 Wilkin SM. One in yard from Dec. 21, '79 to Apr. 17, '80 Cottonwood LF.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 5-3 Cottonwood RG, 5-5 Hennepin OJ, 5-6 Wabasha WDM; early north 5-9 Koochiching JHMN, 5-11 Otter Tail GW, GMO, 5-12 Clay LCF.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early south 5-1 Blue Earth MF, 5-5 Hennepin VL, 5-7 OJ; early north 4-27 St. Louis DCF, 5-10 Otter Tail GMO, 5-11 GW, Clay LCF.

Veery

Early south 4-18 Houston EMF, 4-19 Martin EB, 5-11 Hennepin ES, Olmsted JSD; early north 5-8 Beltrami JHMN, 5-10 Clay LCF, 5-13 St. Louis JG.

Eastern Bluebird

Early south 3-17 Houston EMF, 3-21 Nicollet JCF, 3-22 Wabasha JSD; early north 3-30 Otter Tail SM, 3-31 Cook TB, 4-3 Morrison DCF. Reports from 31 counties.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

3-18 Carver L. Burmeister.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

3-7 Nicollet JCF.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Early south 4-17 Murray AD, 4-20 Anoka KL, Olmsted JSD, 4-26 Houston FL; early north 5-3 Mille Lacs R. Glassel.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Late south 4-12 Olmsted JF, 4-19 Dakota MW; early north 3-2 Otter Tail SM, 3-23 Hubbard GP, 4-2 Polk KSS.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 3-16 Le Sueur HC, 4-1 Freeborn DG, 4-2 Houston EMF; early north 4-7 Clay LCF, 4-9 Otter Tail GMO, 4-11 Polk KSS, Becker EH; late south 5-26 Houston EMF.

Sprague's Pipit

5-23 Clay NH, 5-26 Duluth KE, BL, M. Ob.

Water Pipit

4-20 Big Stone SC, 4-23 Grant SM, 5-3 St. Louis KE, 5-10 DA, 5-7 Wilkin GMO, 5-10 Wright JM, 5-14 Waseca JCF, 5-21 Lake SW.

Bohemian Waxwing

Two reports this period: 3-6 Otter Tail GMO, 3-25 St. Louis DA.

Cedar Waxwing

44 reports from 24 counties.

Northern Shrike

Late south 3-28 Houston EMF, 3-31 Anoka BH; late north 3-23 Wadena DB, 3-30 St. Louis DA.

Loggerhead Shrike

3-23 Anoka KL, 4-23 Stearns NH; early north 5-3 Morrison RJ, 3-13 St. Louis KE.

Starling

Permanent resident reported from 33 counties throughout the state.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

5-23 Olmsted JB (see *The Loon*, Vol. 52, No. 3).

Bell's Vireo

Three reports: 5-20 Winona JSD, 5-22 Cottonwood RG, Houston FL, 5-31 Olmsted JF.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Early south 4-20 Meeker AT, 5-9 Hennepin DB; early north 5-15 Otter Tail GMO, 5-19 Marshall ANWR.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 5-9 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JF, Wabasha JSD, 5-10 report from eight counties; early north 4-19 Aitkin WN, 5-4 Otter Tail SM, 5-10 Clay LCF, St. Louis DA.

Red-eyed Vireo

Early south 5-8 Washington DR, 5-9 Freeborn DG; early north 5-11 Otter Tail GW, 5-14 Cook TB.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 5-5 Olmsted JF, 5-9 Washington DS; early north 5-13 St. Louis SNF, 5-24 St. Louis KMH.

Warbling Vireo

Early south 5-4 Dakota JD, Wabasha WDM; early north 4-28 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-9 Otter Tail GMO, 5-12 Itasca TOS.

Black-and-white Warbler

Early south 4-4 Anoka BH, 5-2 Hennepin OJ, Olmsted JB; early north 5-1 Cook TB, St. Louis AE, 5-4 Otter Tail GMO.

Prothonotary Warbler

Four reports, 5-9 Houston GS, 5-11 Goodhue JB, 5-17 Le Sueur MF, Freeborn DG.

Golden-winged Warbler

Early south 5-9 Anoka JLH, 5-10 Dakota DGW, Washington DMB; early north 4-30 Otter Tail GMO, 5-14 St. Louis DA.

Blue-winged Warbler

Early south 5-4 Dakota JD, 5-8 Ramsey DGW; also reported from Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Nobles, Olmsted and Winona counties.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 5-3 Murray AD, 5-6 Washington DS; early north 5-4 Otter Tail GMO, 5-9 St. Louis KMH; late south 5-23 Nicollet JCF, 5-28 Lyon HK; late north 5-23 Clay NH, 5-31 Aitkin WN.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early south 4-19 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4-21 Anoka JLH; early north 4-23 Clay LCF, 5-3 Morrison RJ; late south 5-18 Stearns NH, 5-21 Blue Earth JCF; late north 5-11 Otter Tail GW, 5-27 St. Louis SM.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 4-22 Hennepin BDC, 4-26 Ramsey RH; early north 5-2 Pennington KSS, 5-4 St. Louis JG; late south 5-24 Washington DS, 5-25 Lyon HK, Winona FL.

Northern Parula

Early south 5-11 Hennepin SC, ES, 5-14 Hennepin BDC, Mower RRK; early north 5-10 Lake SW, St. Louis SNF, 5-12 Otter Tail SM; late south 5-16 Nicollet JCF, 5-18 Anoka JLH.

Yellow Warbler

Early south 5-4 Anoka KL, 5-6 Wabasha WDM; early north 5-4 Hubbard SY, 5-8 St. Louis JG.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 5-10 Hennepin SC, Cottonwood RJ, Winona OJ, 5-11 Fillmore RRK; early north 5-10 Clay LCF, 5-13 Cook KMH.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 5-11 Olmsted JSD, 5-13 Nicollet MF; early north 5-12 St. Louis KE, 5-17 Otter Tail SM; late south 5-17 Hennepin SC, 5-18 Olmsted JF.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Four reports: 5-14 St. Louis SNF, 5-19 Otter Tail GMO, 5-23 Cook KMH, 5-25 Itasca FKB, all north.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 4-4 Houston EMF, 5-7 Wabasha WDM; early north 4-1 St. Louis KMH, 4-5 Beltrami JM, St. Louis AE; late south 5-18 Blue Earth JCF, Washington DS, 5-19 Washington DR.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 5-1 Mower RRK, 5-3 Cottonwood RG, Washington BL; early north 5-10 St. Louis DA, KMH, 5-11 Otter Tail SM; late south 5-22 Olmsted JF, 5-25 Winona FL.

Cerulean Warbler

Early south 5-16 Dakota KG. Nine additional reports from the following counties: Anoka, Goodhue, Hennepin, Nicollet, Olmsted and Stearns.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 5-4 Anoka KL, 5-10 Hennepin SC, Meeker JM, Murray RJ, Wabasha OJ; early north 5-15 Lake SW, 5-16 Crow Wing RH, St. Louis JG, TH; late south 5-21 Sherburne EH, 5-22 Olmsted JB.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

5-6 Ramsey T. K. Soulen, DB, RJ (see **The Loon**, Vol. 52, No. 3, First record for Minnesota).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Early south 5-10 Murray RJ, 5-11 Fillmore RRK; early north 4-20 St. Louis J. Kotar, 5-1 Cook TB.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 5-10 Hennepin SC, 5-14 Hennepin SE, Mower RRK; early north 5-18 St. Louis JG, 5-19 Lake SW; late south 5-19 Dakota JD, 5-20 Dakota KG.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early south 5-4 Washington DR; early north 5-10 Otter Tail DCF, 5-11 Clay LCF, Otter Tail GMO, GW; late south 5-21 Sherburne EH, 5-22 Olmsted JF; late north 5-21 St. Louis AE, KE.

Pine Warbler

Early south 5-4 Washington DS, 5-10 Houston BDC; early north 4-20 Cook TB, 4-21 Itasca TL; late south 5-19 Redwood LJF.

Palm Warbler

Early south 4-26 Freeborn DG, 4-29 Murray AD; early north 5-3 Mille Lacs RJ, St. Louis KE; late south 5-17 Anoka GS, 5-20 Hennepin VL.

Ovenbird

Early south 5-4 Anoka JCH, 5-5 Olmsted JB; early north 5-1 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-7 Cook TB.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 4-27 Washington DS, 5-2 Olmsted JB; early north 5-8 Clay LCF, 5-10 Lake SW; late south 5-17 Houston KG, 5-26 Olmsted JF.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Two reports 5-11 Hennepin ES, 5-14 Anoka KL.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 5-11 Fillmore RRK, 5-21 Hennepin DB, SC; early north 5-17 St. Louis DA, 5-24 Itasca FKB; late south 5-31 Cottonwood LF.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 5-10 Lyon HK, 5-17 Anoka SC; early north 5-7 Lake of the woods JHMN, 5-19 Lake WL, 5-20 Otter Tail GMO; late south 5-26 Anoka KL, Hennepin ES, 5-30 Houston EMF.

Common Yellowthroat

Early south 4-29 Hennepin SE, 4-30 Dakota KG; early north 5-14 Marshall ANWR, 5-15 Lake SW, Pennington TSS.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

One report: 5-24 Houston EMF.

HOODED WARBLER

5-17 Hennepin SC (see **The Loon**, Vol. 52, No. 3), 5-23 Scott RJ.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 5-5 Anoka KL, 5-9 Washington DR; early north 5-14 Pennington KSS, 5-16 Marshall ANWR, Otter Tail GMO; late south 5-23 Olmsted JF, 5-31 Washington DR; late north 5-23 St. Louis DA, 5-25 Lake SW.

Canada Warbler

Early south 5-14 Hennepin SE, 5-17 Goodhue JD, Le Sueur EK, early north 5-17 Otter Tail GMO, 5-18 St. Louis TH; late south 5-23 Nicollet JCF, Scott RJ, 5-28 Redwood LJF.

American Redstart

Early south 5-9 Goodhue JD, Ramsey OJ, Washington DR, 5-10 reported from eight counties; early north 5-6 Cook TB, 5-14 St. Louis DA.

House Sparrow

Reported from 28 counties throughout the state.

Bobolink

Early south 5-2 Lac Qui Parle JD, 5-3 Freeborn DG; early north 5-15 Marshall ANWR, SY, Otter Tail GMO, SM, St. Louis TOS.

Eastern Meadowlark

Early south 3-18 Blue Earth DJ, Olmsted JSD, Washington DR; early north 3-8 Aitkin WN, 3-29 Becker TNWR.

Western Meadowlark

Early south 3-14 Nicollet MF, 3-15 Fillmore GBE; early north 3-2 Marshall ANWR, 3-16 Wilkin SM.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Early south 4-7 Redwood LJF, 4-11 Nicollet JCF; early north 3-29 Otter Tail GMO (male seen with a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds), 4-13 Otter Tail SM. Two reports from Northeast 5-22 Lake JG, 5-23 Cook TB.

Red-winged Blackbird

Early south 3-1 Le Sueur HC, EK, 3-7 Nicollet JCF; early north 3-1 Clay LCF, 3-9 Aitkin WN.

Orchard Oriole

Reported from 5-15 through 5-28 from the following counties south: Blue Earth, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Nicollet, Olmsted, Redwood, Rock and Washington; three reports north 5-23 Otter Tail GW, 5-27 Clay LCF, Otter Tail GMO.

Northern Oriole

Early south 4-30 Dakota BSH, 5-2 Le Sueur HC, Wabasha WDM; early north 4-11 St. Louis K. Sundquist, 4-25 Beltrami JH and MN.

Rusty Blackbird

Early south Le Sueur HC, Olmsted JB, 3-15 Redwood LJF; early north 3-30 Otter Tail GMO, 4-5 St. Louis AE; late south 5-9 Washington DR, 5-19 Ramsey FKB; late north 4-28 St. Louis DA, 5-5 Morrison BSH.

Brewer's Blackbird

Early south 3-18 Olmsted JB, 3-24 Mower RRK; early north 3-31 Koochi-ching JHMN, 4-4 Wadena KSS.

Common Grackle

Early south 3-7 Nicollet JCF, 3-8 Goodhue OJ; early north 3-6 Pennington KSS, 3-17 Otter Tail GMO.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Early south 3-8 Redwood LJF, 3-12 Houston FL; early north 4-2 St. Louis KE, 4-12 Aitkin WN.

Scarlet Tanager

Early south 5-9 Washington DR, 5-10 Goodhue FKB; early north 5-13 Marshall SY, 5-16 Crow Wing RH.

Cardinal

Reported from 20 southern counties and from north in Hubbard County.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Early south 5-2 Le Sueur HC, 5-3 Houston EMF, Ramsey FKB; early north 5-3 Lake of the Woods TA, 5-10 Clay LCF.

Blue Grosbeak

One report, 5-27 Dakota KG (see **The Loon**, Vol. 52, No. 3).

Indigo Bunting

Early south 5-4 Washington DR, 5-6 Anoka BH; early north 5-19 Becker TNWR, 5-22 Crow Wing DB.

Dickcissel

Five reports 5-18 Murray AD, 5-24 Olmsted RJ, 5-25 Olmsted JF, 5-26 Dakota KG, 5-30 JCF.

Evening Grosbeak

Late south 4-6 Freeborn DG.

Purple Finch

Late south 5-8 Washington DR, 5-31 Sherburne DB singing male, GS.

Pine Grosbeak

Two reports: 3-7 Becker GMO, 5-14 Lake of the Woods TA.

Common Redpoll

Three reports south: Lac Qui Parle 3-1 and 4-4 FAE, 4-22 Houston BDC; late north 3-15 Lake of the Woods TA, 3-30 Becker JH and MN.

Pine Siskin

Reported from the following counties: south Lac Qui Parle and Stearns; north Becker, Clay, Cook, Hubbard, Otter Tail, Pennington, Red Lake and St. Louis.

American Goldfinch

Reported from throughout the state for the entire period.

Winter 1980

Red Crossbill

Four reports south: 3-30 Chisago RJ, 4-5 Anoka BH, 4-29 Sherburne RBA, 5-18 Anoka KL; reported from eleven counties north.

White-winged Crossbill

Nine reports from the following counties north: Becker, Beltrami, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Early south 3-1 Sherburne, wintered RBA, 3-29 Fillmore JF, 4-17 Washington DR; early north 5-9 Beltrami JC, 5-11 Otter Tail DCF.

Savannah Sparrow

Early south 4-18 Lac Qui Parle SC, 4-19 Chisago RJ; early north 5-19 Otter Tail GMO, 5-20 Pennington TSS.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Early south 4-27 Lac Qui Parle JD, 4-30 Nicollet EB; early north 5-10 Otter Tail GMO, 5-11 Pennington KSS.

Baird's Sparrow

One report: 5-23 Clay NH.

LeConte's Sparrow

Five reports: 4-30 Beltrami JH and MN, 5-1 Marshall ANWR, 5-17 Mahnomen RJ, 5-22 Mahnomen KE, 5-31 Aitkin WN.

Henslow's Sparrow

Two reports: 5-20 and 5-21 Winona JSD, FL.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

One report: 4-23 Stearns NH.

Vesper Sparrow

Early south 4-5 Stearns NH, 4-6 Blue Earth DJ, Nicollet JCF; early north 4-16 Grant GMO, 4-17 Clay LCF.

Lark Sparrow

Early south 4-25 Nicollet JCF, 4-30 Nicollet EB; early north 5-5 Beltrami JM, 5-18 Red Lake RJ.

Dark-eyed Junco

Late south 5-8 Hennepin OJ, 5-14 Olmsted JF; late north 4-27 Clay LCF, 5-1 St. Louis JG.

Tree Sparrow

Late south 4-26 Lyon HK, 5-8 Wabasha WDM; late north 4-21 Otter Tail GMO, 5-3 St. Louis KE.

Chipping Sparrow

Early south 3-29 Hennepin DB, 4-2 Redwood LJF; early north 4-17 Lake of the Woods TA, 4-18 Pennington KSS.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Early south 5-3 Isanti RJ, Olmsted JD, 5-4 Big Stone SC, GP, Goodhue JD; early north 5-1 Otter Tail GMO, 5-2 Otter Tail SM.

Field Sparrow

Early south 3-8 Ramsey BL, 3-19 Houston EMF; early north 4-22 Otter Tail SM, 5-12 Otter Tail GMO.

Harris' Sparrow

Early south 3-1 Lac Qui Parle FAE probable wintering bird, 3-7 Redwood LJF probable wintering bird; early north 5-3 Clay LCF, 5-8 Otter Tail SM; late south 5-15 Washington DGW, 5-26 Lyon HK; late north 5-15 Pennington KSS, 5-28 Aitkin WN.

White-crowned Sparrow

Earl south 3-1 Le Sueur EK, wintering?, 5-3 Olmsted JB, JSD, Redwood LJF; early north 5-4 Clearwater SY, 5-5 Becker TNWR; late south 5-20 Washington DGW, 5-25 Olmsted JB, 5-31 Cottonwood LF; late north 5-21 Clay LCF, 5-25 St. Louis DA.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 3-1 Houston EMF, probable wintering bird, Le Sueur EK; early north 3-2 Hubbard HF wintered?, 4-19 St. Louis KMH; late south 5-19 Dakota LF, 5-20 Lyon HK, Ramsey DGW.

Fox Sparrow

Early south 3-20 Houston EMF, 3-25 Mower RRK; early north 4-1 Otter Tail GMO, 4-5 Beltrami KM; late south 4-20 Lyon HK, 4-29 Ramsey FKB, Washington DR; late north 4-25 and 4-27 St. Louis DA, KMH.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 4-25 Mower RRK, 4-26

Lac Qui Parle BL; early north 4-23 Otter Tail SM, 4-24 St. Louis KE; late south 5-11 Dakota KG, Hennepin ES, Nicollet JCF, Ramsey RH, Redwood LJF, 5-16 Stearns NH.

Swamp Sparrow

Early south 3-30 Hennepin DB, 4-2 Anoka BH; early north 4-1 Lake of the Woods TA, 4-20 St. Louis DA, KE.

Song Sparrow

Early south 3-1 Houston EMF, 3-3 Hennepin DB both probably wintering; early north 3-31 Otter Tail SM, 4-1 Otter Tail GMO.

Lapland Longspur

Early south 3-7 Nicollet JCF, 3-18 Redwood LJF; early north 4-4 Pennington JM, 4-21 St. Louis KMH; late south 4-26 Lac Qui Parle KE, 5-12 Lac Qui Parle JS; late north 5-8 Wilkin GMO, 7,000 plus, 5-19 St. Louis KE.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Three reports all from Clay County 4-16 SM, 5-23 NH, 5-24 DGW.

Snow Bunting

Late south 5-12 Redwood LJF; late north 4-25 Beltrami JH and MN, 5-1 Beltrami JM.

OBSERVERS

TA, Thomas Amble
ANWR, Agassiz National Wildlife
Refuge

DA, Darryl Anderson
DMB, Don and Mary Beimborn
FKB, Frank and Kathi Berdan
TB, Tom Biebighauser
DB, Don Bolduc
JB, Jerry Bonkoski
EB, Ed Brekke-Kramer
BDC, Betty and Doug Campbell
SC, Steve Carlson
HC, H. F. Chamberlain
JC, Jane Cliff
MC, Mable Coyne
AD, Mrs. Arnold DeKam
JD, Joanne Dempsey
JSD, Joel and Sandy Dunnette
KE, Kim Eckert
FAE, Frederick and Alpha Eckhardt
SE, Steve Elfelt

GBE, Gary and Bobby Erickson
AE, Audrey Evers
LCF, Laurence and Carol Falk
LF, Mrs. Loren Feil
DCF, Dave and Carol Fiedler
HF, Herbert Fisher
EMF, Eugene and Marilyn Ford
JF, Joan Fowler
LJF, Lee and Joann French
JCF, John C. Frentz
MF, Merrill J. Frydendall
RG, Randall L. Goertzen
JG, Janet C. Green
DG, Doris Gregerson
KG, Karol Gresser
TH, Tom Hargy
JH, Jerry Hegdahl
EH, Edmund A. Hibbard
NH, Nestor M. Hiemenz
BH, Bill Hilton, Jr.
BSH, Bruce Stranden Hitman
KMH, Ken and Molly Hoffman
RH, Robert E. Holtz
JLH, James L. Howitz
RJ, Robert B. Janssen
DJ, David H. Johnson
OJ, Oscar L. Johnson
RRK, Ron and Rose Kneeskern
EK, Erllys Krueger
HK, Henry C. Kyllingstad
KL, Ken LaFond
TL, Tim Lamey

VL, Violet Lender
FL, Fred Leshner
BL, Bill Litkey
WL, Wm. H. Longley
WDM, Wynn and Don Mahle
JM, Mattsson
SM, Steve Millard
CM, Clare Mohs
JHMN, Mary Nevers, Joanne Hanowski
WN, Warren Nelson
GMO, Gary and Marion Otnes
GP, Greg Pietila
DR, David Reynolds
JS, John Schladweiler
GS, Gary Simonson
TOS, Tom Sobolik
DS, Dave Sovereign
ES, Evelyn T. Stanley
KSS, Keith and Shelly Steva
FKS, Forest and Kirsten Strnad
SNF, Superior National Forest
AT, Al Theis
TNWR, Tamarac National Wildlife
Refuge
DGW, Dick and Gloria Wachtler
EW, Ernest Weidner
SW, Steven Wilson and Mary Shedd
GW, Gerald Winkelman
MW, Mark Wright
SY, Steve Young
RBA, Rare Bird Alert
M.Ob., Many Observers

VOLUNTEER BIRD WATCHERS NEEDED

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is seeking bird watchers willing to volunteer their services in performing systematic bird counts throughout the Valley. These counts will be designed to assist refuge biologists in monitoring bird populations and habitat trends on the newly established refuge. Counts will be conducted on a monthly basis and will be increased during peak migration periods.

"This is an excellent opportunity," said Refuge Biologist Paul Schneider, "for the people who enjoy birding as an avocation to also assist us in making important management decisions." Schneider added that the lower Minnesota River Valley supports over 230 kinds of birds, many of which serve as critical indicators of environmental quality. "A sustained volunteer effort could enable the refuge to conduct much more intensive surveys than government funding would allow, while providing a greater degree of consistency over the years."

Persons interested in helping the refuge conduct bird studies should contact Paul Schneider at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters in Bloomington (854-5900).

A SURVEY OF BIRDS ON SELECTED PRAIRIE TRACTS

Kim R. Eckert

During the summer of 1980 I was contacted by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program to survey the population of birds in several prairie areas in western Minnesota. As stated in this contract, the focus of the survey was "compiling bird species lists for several prairie tracts . . . that provide important habitat to diminishing prairie avifauna of our state."

With the contract budgeting for a total of 30 days (of which 25 days were ultimately spent in the field), project coordinators Barbara Coffin and Lee Pfannmuller and I selected 15 areas for study. These areas were either Nature Conservancy tracts, state or private lands nominated as Scientific and Natural Areas, or larger generalized locations with potentially good prairie habitat unfamiliar to the Heritage Program that I was familiar with. Except for areas of the last type for which time limitations required more superficial coverage primarily from roadsides, tracts were generally hiked throughout at estimated 1/8-mile intervals, so that on the average I was able to cover a half section (320 acres) between dawn and about 9 a.m. when singing is at its peak.

The reports on each area included a description of the type and condition of the habitat, a list of species expected or possible but not found, comments on its avifaunal significance, and an annotated list of the species observed indicating the presumed number of nesting pairs (normally determined by singing males), which species were considered visitants, and the significance and behavior of uncommon/rare species. Because of space

limitations here, following are abridged versions of these reports on the 15 areas.

MILLER PRAIRIE WEST

Location:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 33, T127N, R45W (Clifton Twp.), Traverse Co.

Size:

160 acres

Coverage:

June 4, 1980 (half hour follow-up visit on June 11)

Habitat:

Tract flat, grass relatively short and dry

Significant species:

Upland Sandpiper — 1 pr.

Marbled Godwit — 3 prs.

Brewer's Blackbird — 3 prs. (near southern limit of range)

Lark Bunting — 1 singing male visitant

Chestnut-collared Longspur — 1 pr. (singing male and female carrying food or nest material)

Comments:

A tract of obvious value, not only because it lies within the sterile, over-cultivated Red River valley where native prairie is virtually non-existent, but also because of the bunting and longspurs. Although the Lark Bunting was singing in full display flight June 4, it could not be found June 11. The male longspur was still present and singing June 11, but the female was not found (presumably she was concealed on the nest). The Lark Bunting is barely regular in the state and has not nested here since 1964, while the Chestnut-collared Longspur is known to nest only at the Felton prairie.

CLINTON PRAIRIE

Location:

SE¼, Sec. 16, T123N, R47W (Prior Twp.), Big Stone Co.

Size:

160 acres

Coverage:

June 5, 1980

Habitat:

Tract slightly rolling, grass relatively short except longer around potholes; 13 potholes present, 12 quite small (one relatively large with many cattails), 4 with open water; several small rock outcrops scattered throughout, presumably granite

Significant species:

Green-winged Teal — 1 male (possibly a visitant)

Upland Sandpiper — 1 pr.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — 1 male (a non-singing individual flushed from the grass, possibly just a visitant)

Comments:

Except for the longspur, the grassland species were somewhat disappointing. Although there was a good variety of wetlands species, this part of Big Stone Co. has many lakes, potholes and marshes, so that the potholes on this tract are not unique.

CHIPPEWA PRAIRIE

Location:

Portions of Sec. 1, 12 and 13, T119N, R43W, Chippewa Co., and SE¼, Sec. 35, T120N, R43W (Appleton Twp.), Swift Co.

Size:

Approximately 720 acres

Coverage:

June 6 and 7, 1980

Habitat:

From middle of Sec. 13 north, grass short where apparently burned recently; south of here grass relatively long; trees, brush and woody plants invading in several places, especially along west edge; tract dry and mostly flat, except quite hilly along southwest edge.

Significant species:

Upland Sandpiper — many prs.

Marbled Godwit — 4 or 5 prs.

Winter 1980

Brewer's Blackbird — visitants (near southern limit of range)

Savannah Sparrow — 2 prs. (see below)

Comments:

No introduced Greater Prairie Chickens found, although this species is unusually difficult to find in summer. Low number of Savannah Sparrows apparently because the species is locally uncommon in this part of the state; low numbers also found in surveyed area of western Yellow Medicine Co., although the species was common farther north in Traverse and Big Stone Co's.

WESTERN YELLOW MEDICINE CO.

Location:

Portions of T115N, R46W (Florida Twp. — primarily in the southwest half) and T114N, R46W (Fortier Twp. — primarily in the northern two-thirds)

Size:

Approximately 12 square miles (scattered throughout 30 sections)

Coverage:

June 8 and 9, 1980 (mostly from roadsides; there was time for four brief hikes away from the road into better-looking areas)

Habitat:

Mostly hilly prairie, almost all of it pastured; much of it is over-grazed, but parts are still in relatively good condition with several prairie wildflowers present; the best grassland is an ungrazed W.M.A. tract in the west half of Sec. 17, Fortier Twp.

Significant species:

Upland Sandpiper — many prs.

Wilson's Phalarope — 1 pr.

Willow Flycatcher — visitants

Savannah Sparrow — 3 prs. (see Chippewa Prairie comments)

Comments:

No Chestnut-collared Longspurs found, although there are two previous spring/summer records here and the species is fairly common 5-10 miles west of the state line in the Coteau des Prairies of Deuel Co., S.D. Since the primary purpose of covering this area

was the strong possibility of nesting longspurs, it proved a disappointing visit (it is possible, however, that longspurs were present since many of the pastures are extensive and I was mostly limited to roadsides).

HILLSIDES ALONG LAKE TRAVERSE AND LITTLE MINNESOTA RIVER

Location:

Portions of T127N, R47W (Lake Twp.), T126N, R47W (Walls Twp.), T126N, R48W (Windsor Twp.), and T125N, R49W (Folsom Twp.) in Traverse Co.; and portions of T124N, R49W (Browns Valley Twp.) in Big Stone Co.

Size:

Strips of land totalling approximately 12 mi. in length and averaging approximately ¼ mi. in width (extending north to Minn. Hwy. 117 and south to the point where Minn. Hwys. 7 and 28 turn east from the river valley about 3 mi. s.e. of Brown's Valley).

Coverage:

June 10 and 11, 1980 (mostly from roadsides; there was time for two brief hikes away from the road into better-looking areas).

Habitat:

Hillside pastures fragmented in several places by heavily wooded areas; mostly overgrazed, but some prairie vegetation was found in the two locations hiked.

Significant species:

Upland Sandpiper — 3 prs.

Willow Flycatcher — 1 visitant

Savannah Sparrow — 2 prs. (see Chippewa Prairie comments)

Comments:

Missing were Marbled Godwits (pastures too narrow and hilly). Although this area looks impressive as one drives along Hwy. 27, it was disappointing to find the pastures apparently too steep, too narrow, and fragmented too much by trees for good populations of prairie birds. It is possible that significant birds were missed since most of the birding was done from roadsides, but it appears the

birding potential is good along these hillsides only in migration.

MILLER PRAIRIE EAST

Location:

Eastern third of SW¼, Sec. 35, T127N, R45W (Clifton Twp.), Traverse Co.

Size:

Approximately 50 acres.

Coverage:

June 11, 1980.

Habitat:

Tract flat, grass relatively short and mostly dry (apparently burned recently).

Significant species:

Bobolink — 2 prs. (in a low wet spot; missing at Miller West)

Brewer's Blackbird — 1 pr.

Comments:

Upland Sandpiper and Marbled Godwit were missing probably because the tract is too small. This tract is not nearly as significant as Miller West because of its small size.

FOXHOME PRAIRIE

Location:

NE¼ and eastern half of SE¼, Sec. 24, T133N, R45W (Andrea Twp.), Wilkin Co.

Size:

240 acres

Coverage:

June 18, 1980

Habitat:

Grass relatively long and mostly dry, except for six small marshes; five stands of trees/brush present.

Significant species:

Greater Prairie Chicken — a visitant heard southeast of tract

Upland Sandpiper — 1 pr.

Marbled Godwit — 1 visitant

Willow Flycatcher — 1 visitant

Long-billed Marsh Wren — 5 prs. (unusually high number for an area without large cattail marshes)

Savannah Sparrow — many prs. and abundant

Grasshopper Sparrow — 1 pr. (see below)

Le Conte's Sparrow — 3 prs. (see below)

Comments:

Relative lack of Upland Sandpipers, Marbled Godwits and Grasshopper Sparrows hard to explain unless they prefer more uninterrupted stands of shorter and drier grass (the last species also may be unable to compete with the unusually abundant Savannah Sparrow). Large size of tract and presence of Le Conte's Sparrows (probably at extreme southern limit of Minnesota range — previous limit thought to be at Rothsay W.M.A. 12-15 miles to the north) makes this a good significant prairie.

TOWN HALL PRAIRIE

Location:

Portions of W½, Sec. 15, T134N, R45W (Akron Twp.), Wilkin Co.

Size:

160 acres

Coverage:

June 19, 1980

Habitat:

Grass relatively long with many low, wet spots; more extensive marsh along western edge.

Significant species:

Marsh Hawk — 1 pr.

Greater Prairie Chicken — 1 male (heard booming)

Upland Sandpiper — 1 pr.

Marbled Godwit — 1 pr.

Wilson's Phalarope — 1 pr.

Willow Flycatcher — 1 visitant

Savannah Sparrow — many prs. and abundant

Grasshopper Sparrow — 2 prs. (see Foxhome Prairie comments)

Le Conte's Sparrow — 3 prs. (this area is about halfway between Foxhome Prairie and Rothsay W.M.A.)

Comments:

The Le Conte's Sparrows may not be as far south as at the Foxhome Prairie, but the three pairs are significant since this is a smaller tract. It is conceivable that Yellow Rails could nest here, especially in wetter years (see Anna Gronseth Prairie).

Winter 1980

KETTLEDRUMMER PRAIRIE

Location:

NW¼, Sec. 12, T133N, R45W (Andrea Twp.), Wilkin Co.

Size:

160 acres

Coverage:

June 19, 1980

Habitat:

Grass long, tract mostly wet (almost a continuous shallow marsh)

Significant species:

Marsh Hawk — 1 pr.

Upland Sandpiper — 1 pr.

Marbled Godwit — 1 visitant

Willow Flycatcher — 1 visitant

Comments:

Missing were Grasshopper Sparrow (tract probably too wet) and Le Conte's Sparrow (habitat seemed better than Foxhome Prairie 2 miles to the south — absence suggests species is still rare and local here at the edge of its range.) Yellow Rail also seems a reasonable possibility here (see Anna Gronseth Prairie).

ANNA GRONSETH PRAIRIE

Location:

Sec. 9 and SE ¼ of Sec. 8, T134N, R45W (Akron Twp.), Wilkin Co.

Size:

760 acres

Coverage:

June 20 and 21, 1980

Habitat:

Tract mostly low and wet, but with some extensive long and drier grass mostly in Section 8; much of Section 9 a continuous cattail marsh with numerous areas of brush, tall weeds and small trees.

Significant species:

Marsh Hawk — 1 pr.

Greater Prairie Chicken — 8 individuals (flushed)

Yellow Rail — 6 individuals (heard calling; see below)

Common Snipe — 2 prs.

Upland Sandpiper — 1 pr.

Marbled Godwit — a few visitants

Wilson's Phalarope — 1 pr.

Willow Flycatcher — many prs.

Alder Flycatcher — 4 prs. (seen and heard; see below)

Le Conte's Sparrow — many prs.
(at least 36 counted)

Comments:

Missing possibilities were American Bittern (favorable habitat but species has been uncommon in recent years), Marbled Godwit (as nesting — plot possibly too wet), Sora, Virginia Rail, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow (would be a significant find, but presence of Yellow Rails makes it a possibility). The Yellow Rails represent a very significant find, since the nearest known location has been at the Waubun marsh, about 50 miles to the north. This rail is obviously overlooked in the state and probably occurs throughout sedge-type marshes in the northern third of Minnesota. The Alder Flycatchers were unexpected since it had been assumed that only the Willow Flycatcher bred in prairie thickets in western Minnesota.

BLUESTEM PRAIRIE

Location:

Portions of Sec. 15 (all but 80 acres in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$), E $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 22 and W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 23, T139N, R46W (Riverton Twp.), Clay Co.

Size:

1200 acres

Coverage:

June 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1980

Habitat:

Tract mostly dry and grass mostly long; several stands of brush, aspens and sweet clover present (tract in great need of burning); old gravel pit and stock pond at south end of Sec. 23.

Significant species:

Green-winged Teal — 3 males (possibly visitants to stock pond — no females or nesting cover present)

Upland Sandpiper — many prs.

Willow Flycatcher — 2 prs.

Alder Flycatcher — 4 prs. (see comments below and under Anna Gronseth Prairie)

Veery — a few prs. in aspen groves (see below)

Chestnut-sided Warbler — at least 1 pr. in aspens (see below)

Henslow's Sparrow — 2 singing males (see comments below)

Le Conte's Sparrow — many prs. (at least 60 counted, many in drier areas)

Field Sparrow — 1 singing male (see comments below)

Comments:

Possibilities not found were Greater Prairie Chicken (known to nest here but difficult to find in summer), Marbled Godwit (grass probably too long and brushy), Sprague's Pipit / Baird's Sparrow (both very rare in the state but could occur), and Chestnut-collared Longspur (grass too long). It is interesting to note all four Alder Flycatchers were heard in thickets among aspens while the Willows were in bushes in more open areas. The Henslow's Sparrows are very surprising and significant since the species is normally limited to extreme southeast Minnesota with only occasional records farther north or west. The Veery is probably at the southern limit of its prairie aspen range here, and the Chestnut-sided Warbler has never been documented from prairie aspen groves. The Field Sparrow is apparently expanding its range north since it traditionally was known to be regular only as far as Pope Co., but recently has been regularly found in the Fergus Falls area; there were also two other Field Sparrows heard just beyond the tract's boundaries.

BLAZING STAR PRAIRIE

Location:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 5, T141N, R45W (Keene Twp.), Clay Co.

Size:

160 acres

Coverage:

June 24, 1980

Habitat:

Tract flat, grass relatively long and dry; a few bushes and one stand of small aspens present.

Significant species:

Upland Sandpiper — 3 prs.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — 3 visitants (singing males in pasture east of tract)

Comments:

Possibilities not found were Greater Prairie Chicken (known to nest here — an adult with 3 half-grown young flushed from tract July 8), Marbled Godwit (reason unknown), Sprague's Pipit / Baird's Sparrow (although both found later in this vicinity — see Glacial Lake Agassiz Beach Line report), Chestnut-collared Longspur (abundant in vicinity but grass on this tract too long — see Glacial Lake Agassiz Beach Line report). In view of the ornithological history of this area, this was a disappointing visit, although nearby areas proved very productive.

WESTERN ROSEAU COUNTY MARSHES

Location:

Primary emphasis along a four-mile stretch of Co. Rd. 7 in T162N, R43W (Soler Twp.) and T162N, R44W; superficial scouting and mapping also revealed similar habitat south of Roseau River W.M.A. in T163N, R44W (Blooming Valley Twp.) and T163N, R43W extending south to Co. Rd. 7.

Size:

Approximately five square miles within hearing and hiking range of Co. Rd. 7 (2½ miles of dikes were hiked away from the road)

Coverage:

July 2, 1980 (scouting and mapping along edges of area outlined above also done July 1)

Habitat:

Almost continuous sedge-type marsh; however, because of severe drought conditions, virtually all the marsh covered along Co. Rd. 7 appeared dry; several stands of alder and aspens were also present; several square miles of marsh formerly present in townships south and east of area have been drained and cultivated; freshly dug ditches were a common sight here; no upland prairie grasslands could be found.

Significant species:

American Bittern — 2 prs.
Marsh Hawk — 2 prs.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — 1 individual (flushed)

Sandhill Crane — many prs. (10 heard)

Upland Sandpiper — many prs.

Short-eared Owl — 1 individual (possibly a visitant)

Le Conte's Sparrow — 10 prs. (which seems low)

Sharp-tailed Sparrow — 1 singing male

(All the above found along the four miles of Co. Rd. 7; nothing of significance found in other scouted areas)

Comments:

Yellow Rail was expected but not found — a few may have been present but not calling, and it seems certain this species occurs here during years of normal moisture. Although several species of interest were found, especially the rare and local Sharp-tailed Sparrow, little time was spent here because access was limited to a relatively small area along Co. Rd. 7, because no upland grasslands were present, and because the drought dried up the marsh. Prairie marshes may have a lower priority than grasslands, but it is very disturbing how rapidly such large expanses of marshes are being drained in this part of the state.

PEMBINA TRAIL

Location:

A narrow strip along the beach line of Glacial Lake Agassiz in extreme western Pennington Co. — portions of T154N, R45W (Numedal Twp.), T153N, R45W (Bray Twp.), and T152N, R45W (Polk Centre Twp.)

Size:

Approximately 14 miles long and an average of ½ mile wide

Coverage:

July 3, 4 and 5, 1980

Habitat:

Most of this area is sedge-type marsh (mostly dry because of the drought) with cattails predominate through the center of the marsh south of Co. Rd. 8 (some water present here); open water also found at Goose Lake in Section 20 of Bray Township; up-

land grasslands also exist in places in very narrow strips along the outer edges of the marsh.

Significant species:

Sharp-tailed Grouse — 8 individuals (flushed from a possible booming ground)

Sandhill Crane — 1 individual (heard)

Yellow Rail — 2 individuals (heard just north of Goose L.)

Upland Sandpiper — many prs.

Wilson's Phalarope — 4 prs.

Willow Flycatcher — 1 individual (3 other non-singing Alder/Willows also seen)

Le Conte's Sparrow — many prs.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow — 2 singing males

Comments:

The very small amount of grasslands present precluded the possibility of any upland prairie specialties. The Yellow Rails and Sharp-tailed Sparrows here are probably well within their normal range, although neither had been found here previously, and both are significant because of their rare and local status. The extent of this area, its historical significance (the Pembina Trail is still visible at several locations), and the fact that this is the most northerly visible significant prairie area along Glacial Lake Agassiz warrant further attention here.

NORMAN-CLAY CO. BEACH LINE OF GLACIAL LAKE AGASSIZ

Location:

Portions of T144N, R45W (Lake Ida Twp. — south of Co. Rd. 27), T143N, R45W (Rockwell Twp. — eastern half) and T143N, R44W (Home Lake Twp. — southwestern quarter) in Norman Co.; and portions of T142N, R46W (Felton Twp. — extreme southeastern part), T142N, R45W (Hagen Twp. — southwestern quarter), T141N, R46W (Flowing Twp. — extreme eastern part), T141N, R45W (Keene Twp. — northwestern half) and T140N, R46W (Spring Prairie Twp. — eastern half)

Size:

Approximately 40 square miles (10 in Norman Co. and 30 in Clay Co.); within this area much is under cultivation, but generally all the sections here are predominantly unplowed.

Coverage:

July 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1980 (mostly from roadsides; Blazing Star and Bicentennial Nature Conservancy tracts not included)

Habitat:

Norman County portion predominantly sedge-type marsh (relatively dry but wetter than areas surveyed farther north); some lightly grazed pastures with relatively good grasslands also present; Clay County portion predominantly lightly grazed pastures, with some sedge and some ungrazed grasslands (most of it either mown for hay or disturbed by gravel pits); several aspen stands and brushy thickets also scattered throughout.

Significant species:

Marsh Hawk — 4 prs.

Greater Prairie Chicken — 2 prs. (incl. 6 half-grown young)

Upland Sandpiper — many prs.

Marbled Godwit — 3 prs. (most apparently had migrated south)

Willow Flycatcher — 1 pr.

Sprague's Pipit — 2 singing males (Sec. 15, Rockwell Twp., Norman Co. and Sec. 8, Keene Twp., Clay Co.)

Baird's Sparrow — 2 singing males (Sec. 5 and 8, Keene Twp., Clay Co.)

Henslow's Sparrow — 1 singing male (Sec. 11, Spring Prairie Twp., Clay Co.)

Le Conte's Sparrow — many prs. (at least 38 counted)

Chestnut-collared Longspur — 65 prs., (Sec. 36, 13, 12 and 1 in Flowing Twp. and Sec. 19, 18, 8 and 4 in Keene Twp.).

Comments:

Not found were Alder Flycatcher (non-singing birds may have been present, but none have ever been reported from the Felton area) and Loggerhead Shrike (the Felton area is one of the few reliable spots for this species in

the state). Both Sprague's Pipits and one of the Baird's Sparrows were found in lightly grazed tracts that are not often checked by birders. The Henslow's Sparrow was quite unexpected but compares nicely with the two at Bluestem Prairie — habitat of all three was ungrazed and slightly wet grasslands where Le Conte's Sparrows were common. All the longspurs were singing males seen/heard along roadsides, and more could have been pres-

ent. At a distance a longspur sounds like a meadowlark and can easily be overlooked. Preferred habitat seems to be lightly or even moderately grazed pastures — ungrazed long-grass prairies seem to be avoided. This large and always productive prairie area is threatened by increasing cultivation, overgrazing and gravel pits.

9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

BOOK REVIEWS

A Field Guide to the Birds, Roger Tory Peterson; 4th edition; Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1980; 123 color plates plus 13 in black and white, 390 range maps, 384 pages; \$15 hard cover, \$10 paperback.

Amid rave reviews and even some hype by the media, the new Peterson finally came off the presses. And there is plenty to rave about and to get hyper over. The author's reputation as artist and author and birder over the past 45+ years made it certain the book would be a success no matter what it looked like. Witness the undeserved popularity of those "Audubon Society" field guides — just put the word "Audubon" on any book and people will buy it. Fortunately, Peterson's credentials as a birding authority are far superior to the Audubon Society's, and there is no question he turned out a better product. And, with one possible exception, this edition is clearly better than his last effort in 1947. But whether or not it's better than the successful Robbins field guide is hard to say.

The most obvious improvement of

this edition over the old Peterson is the abundance of less crowded color plates which face the verbal species accounts. Of course Robbins, Singer, et al. accomplished this 14 years ago, so that this novelty is anything but novel. But Peterson's paintings are probably better than Singer's — for years authorities have in many cases preferred Peterson's 33-year-old, crowded and less colorful plates as being more accurate, and his new plates are certainly better looking than his old ones. I especially prefer his treatment of fall/female/immature warblers over Singer's, and I tend to like his sparrow plates, especially the immatures, better. On the other hand, Peterson does an inferior job on some of his hawk plates: the heads of several species, especially the Everglade (Snail) Kite, Cooper's Hawk and Krider's Red-tailed, are downright unnatural; the immature Goshawk has too much emphasis on the eye-stripe and zig-zag tail banding (neither feature approaches being a reliable field mark in real life); the white patches in the primaries of the Rough-legged Hawk

is another overemphasized mark of no use in the field; and the adult female and immature Marsh Hawks (Northern Harriers) are downright appalling — the immature is far too orange and the female far too white underneath.

The text in Peterson's old guide may have been inconvenient with the verbal species accounts pages away from the corresponding plates, but at least it had far more to say than Robbins. About 180 pages of words covered about 440 species, while Robbins covers some 700 species in only about 150 pages of words. The new Peterson is still superior to Robbins in this respect, but not by as much margin since almost all the species accounts were condensed to fit on pages facing the plates. As a result, some 50 pages of text have been lost in this translation. One thing not lost, however, are Peterson's verbal descriptions of calls and songs, and this has always been a plus over Robbins' Sonagrams which have been virtually useless to the vast majority of birders. Peterson's new range maps are also far superior to Robbins' which tried to cram too much information into too small a map. While Robbins' maps may be more convenient by being placed right with the species accounts, Peterson wisely sacrifices convenience for clarity and accuracy by placing large and very legible range maps in the back of the book. And not only are they easier to read, but also they appear to be more than satisfactory in their overall accuracy. There are only a relatively few maps which are off only slightly when it comes to Minnesota, and I could find only one map significantly in error (the Barn Owl is shown as a permanent resident in the southern third of the state).

Another clear advantage the new Peterson enjoys over either his old edition or Robbins is the addition of eight new plates of accidentals and exotics. They will be of great service in expediting the identification of many oddities which heretofore had only been pictured in books not as

available or little known. It is disappointing, however, that 18 accidentals are mentioned with these plates but not illustrated, and it is confusing and misleading that many species are pictured on the wrong plates. For example, the Muscovy, Scarlet Ibis, King Vulture, Ash-throated Flycatcher, European Goldfinch, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Tufted Duck, Barnacle Goose, Cahow, Corn Crake and Ross' Gull are all placed in the plates of regular species when all would be far more appropriate on an accidental or exotic plate in the back; also the Band-tailed Gull (p. 290) and many of the waterfowl on the plate on p. 297 should have been listed under the exotics rather than the accidentals.

With only a couple of reservations, everything covered thus far seems to indicate Peterson is the clear choice over Robbins, but there are some features of the book which are more than a little troublesome. It is unfortunate that only the East is included as in the old edition. I would be far more enthusiastic about the book had it included all the U.S. and Canada, East and West both, as Robbins does. This is even more disappointing when you consider that Peterson costs twice as much as Robbins, even though Robbins covers 200-250 more species. Peterson also makes what I consider to be a poor decision by using A.B.A. names. Many birders have been having enough trouble adjusting to the revised nomenclature introduced in 1973 by the A.O.U. (why call the Dark-eyed Junco the Northern Junco when many birders still think of it as Slate-colored?). True, these A.B.A. names may eventually be adopted by the A.O.U., but until they are we are left with confusing dual identities for many species. Also confusing is Peterson's scrambled order of families in the first half of the book. Instead of herons before ducks before hawks before grouse before shorebirds before gulls, he goes ducks - gulls - herons - shorebirds - grouse - hawks! Anyone used to the standards "checklist order" of Rob-

bins or the old Peterson will often be left fumbling when searching for the right page. This system of "visual categories" is mentioned but not justified in the introduction. Suffice it to say that those Audubon Society field guides used a similar system, and we all know how wonderful those books are! A final disappointment is that Peterson does nothing to clear up some challenging difficulties of bird identification that birders have become more aware of in recent years. You simply cannot use this field guide to separate winter-plumaged Arctic Loons from small Commons, to identify an immature Thayer's Gull, to identify peeps with any efficiency, to separate streaked-backed immature Red Phalaropes from Northern, to correctly learn caution with accipiter identification, to learn the call of the Boreal Owl (for the last time, it does **not** go "ting, ting, ting!"), to find the best way to separate Northern from Loggerhead Shrikes and Northern from Louisiana Waterthrushes, or to become aware of the relatively buffy and unstreaked underparts of immature Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Peterson's reputation as an author and artist may be well deserved, but he simply is not **the** expert on bird identification any longer.

In any event, it goes without saying that the new Peterson belongs in every serious birder's library. Media hype and rave reviews to the contrary, however, the casual birder will survive quite well with Robbins or the old Peterson.

—Kim Eckert

Bird Island in Antarctic Waters, by David F. Parmelee; University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414; 1980; 19 colorplates; many photographs, 140 pages; \$18.95.

Reviews of books that are not ostensibly "picture books" usually have little to say about illustrations until the final paragraph or two, but the pictures in this scholarly, eminently read-

able account are so important that I consider them deserving of attention right off. I have in mind not only the photographs, many of which are remarkable, but also the drawings, every one of which brings important facts to light.

Consider first the photograph on page 31 of the "quarter million" Macaroni Penguins (**Eudyptes chrysolophus**). To be sure we have all seen photographs of great numbers of penguins packed together, but this particular shot somehow has forced me to think, as never before, of the food required by such a dense population of animals. All must eat. Each must somehow obtain enough nourishment to keep itself going and reproducing, this without expending too much energy. The food must, in other words, be readily available. Here, in one of the least "comfortable" parts of the world, are thousands upon thousands of big, robust, hungry birds, so jammed together that they hide the very ground on which they stand. Inevitably, they alternate. But their difficulties iron out . . . and they survive. The term "biomass" seems peculiarly apt, whether applied to the penguins themselves or to what they feed on. They and their lowly prey, consumer and consumed, comprise an incalculably big tonnage of living matter in a part of the world designed — so it seems at first glance — to prevent rather than encourage existence. The phenomenon is the more impressive when we recall that what the penguins depend on is eaten by many other species, not only of birds but of mammals. Marvelling as we must over the coexistence of the several forms on this tiny bit of land, we come to envision the encircling cold ocean as a vast fluid larder simply packed with protein. No doubt this has been said before, and perhaps more effectively, but the repetition does no harm.

The albatross pictures, both photographs and drawings, are exceptional. Throughout my career as a teacher I

have given much time to the Family Diomedidae, never failing in my talks to mention someone's pithy comment to the effect that the "world's hardest job is being an albatross," and quoting at length from the classic works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Cushman Murphy, without realizing (1) that the plumage of a young Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) is dark nearly all over (p. 55); (2) that some albatrosses spread their tails in display — note, especially, the standing Black-browed Albatross (*D. melanophris*) in the photograph taken at Elsehul, South Georgia; and (3) that the spreading wide of an albatross's wing reveals the fact that the distance (a) from body to elbow, (b) from elbow to wrist, and (c) from wrist to tip are much the same, declaring the proportionately great length of the humerus (see colorplates opposite pp. 4 and 5). The photograph of the adult Wandering Albatross that looks as if it is weeping (p. 46) may well be unique; the "tear" is probably an exudation from the salt gland.

The photograph of the two Yellow-billed Pintails (*Anas georgica*) "feeding on a seal carcass" is almost shocking (p. 71). The shock comes from realizing that circumstance has forced this duck, whose bill is not designed for tearing flesh, to become a carnivore. Our puzzlement is mixed with admiration: how do the birds manage it all — with that soft, blunt bill of theirs?

Of special interest to me is Parmelee's drawing of the heads of the two Blue-eyed Shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*). Here we perceive at once that it is not the eyes or eyelids that are blue but rather the extensive featherless area surrounding the eye. The brightness of the blue brings to mind an idea that may seem a bit fine-spun, but I offer it none the less. Does blueness or green-ness of eye serve cormorants in ways not at present even guessed at, or is the color a mere foible of evolution? I shall never forget the clear blue iris of the only living Great Cormorant (*P. carbo*) that I have ever

held in my hands. The bird was fully adult and the blue of those big eyes, though pale, was almost fiery in its intensity. Nor can I forget the clear greenish blue of the eye of an adult Olivaceous Cormorant (*P. olivaceus*) whose head I sketched in watercolor recently from a freshly shot specimen. I have gradually come to think of cormorants as being green-eyed or blue-eyed; yet here is a subantarctic form whose brown eyes are **surrounded by blue**, almost as if the process of evolution had been obliged to come up with some sort of blue or green if not in the eye itself, then in close proximity to the eye. I know that there are brown-eyed cormorant species whose eyes are not encircled by blue or green bare areas, but the feeding habits of such species may, for all I know, differ markedly from those of the green-eyed or blue-eyed forms. Is it not remarkable that among the world's 29 or 30 species of the genus **Phalacrocorax** not one is red or yellow or orange of eye?

I have known David F. Parmelee for many years. He and I have spent months together in the New World arctic. I could write a book — a very readable one, too — about him. When he mentions the difficulties of fieldwork in such far away places as this Bird Island of his, he is given to under-statement, for that is his way. I think I have never known a tougher, more durable man. As I say this there comes to mind an Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) that I shot on a Baffin Island lake in the summer of 1953. The wind did not blow that floating specimen to shore. I decided against even trying to swim for it since a limp that had been bothering me all season threatened cramps. The redoubtable Dave stripped, told me not to worry, and **swam** a long way for that loon. There was ice in that water, lots of it. The sun may have been out, but the air was not warm. As Dave pulled himself out, loon in hand, he was not even shivering. He glowed all over. I felt as if I were in the presence of some

hero of history or mythology — some Leander, Odysseus, or Telemachus!

Just read his book. You will find him there — banding birds by the hundred, washing the dirty windows at Lonnberg House where he and his

“Fid” companions lived, laboriously working his way through the tussock, enduring the fog, enduring the cold . . . but never shivering.

—George Miksch Sutton

THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

During October 1980 many 300 Club members added birds to their Minnesota Life Lists (see pages 143-145). Our newest member is Steve Millard. The totals below are those reported as of December 31, 1980.

Ray Glassel	346	Evelyn Stanley	314
Bob Janssen	345	Gary Otnes	311
Kim Eckert	343	Wally Jiracek	311
William Pieper	338	Bro. Theodore (deceased)..	310
Paul Egeland	336	Ruth Andberg	309
Ron Huber	336	Oscar Johnson	309
Terry Savaloja	335	Gloria Wachtler	307
Jan Green	333	Dick Wachtler	307
Dick Ruhme	332	Doug Campbell	305
Liz Campbell	329	Henry Kyllingstad	304
Bill Litkey	328	Betty Campbell	302
Don Bolduc	326	Nestor Hiemenz	301
Karol Gresser	325	Steve Millard	301
Jo Blanich	324	Violet Lender	300
Jerry Gresser	318		

THE 200 COUNTY CLUB

Three new counties were added to the growing list of Minnesota counties in which 200 or more species have been seen. The counties are Blue Earth, Houston and most surprising, little Pennington County in northwestern Minnesota. This brings the total number to 33 of the 87 counties. The totals below are as of December 31, 1980.

County	Observer	No. of Species	County	Observer	No. of Species
Aitkin	Terry Savaloja	255	Freeborn	Charles Flugum	212
	Jo Blanich	237		Goodhue	Ray Glassel
	Bill Pieper	212			Bob Janssen
	Bob Janssen	201		Bill Pieper	221
Anoka	Ken LaFond	253	Grant	Kim Eckert	214
	Bill Pieper	221	Hennepin	Bob Janssen	273
	Ruth Andberg	220			Ray Glassel
Becker	Ray Glassel	201		Alvina Joul	263
	Gary Otnes	214		Oscar Johnson	261
Blue Earth	Marion Otnes	213		Violet Lender	252
	Merrill Frydendall ..	211		Bill Pieper	251
Carver	Kathy Heidel	218	Houston	Fred Leshner	215
Clay	Carol Falk	217	Jackson	Ingeborg Hodnefield ..	202
	Lawrence Falk	215	Lac Qui Parle ...	Micki Buer	231
Crow Wing	Terry Savaloja	233			Chuck Buer
	Jo Blanich	222		Marion Otnes	213
Dakota	Ray Glassel	238		Gary Otnes	212
	Joanne Dempsey	212		Bob Janssen	207
	Bob Janssen	209		Ray Glassel	203

County	Observer	No. of Species	County	Observer	No. of Species
Lyon	Paul Egeland	251		Bill Litkey	218
	Henry Kyllingstad	251		Ray Glassel	210
Marshall	Sarah Vasse	235		John Fitzpatrick	209
	Shelley Steva	200	Rice	Orwin Rustad	222
Morrison	Pete Ryan	207	Rock	Kim Eckert	238
Mower	Ron Kneeskern	216	St. Louis	Jan Green	280
	Rose Kneeskern	206		Kim Eckert	277
Nicollet	John Frenz	216		Bob Janssen	261
	Merrill Frydendall	206		Paul Egeland	259
	Ray Glassel	201		Ray Glassel	247
Olmsted	Joan Fowler	228		Bill Pieper	243
	Vince Herring	217		Bill Litkey	210
	Ted Lundquist	213	Scott	Ray Glassel	207
	Phyllis Lundquist	213	Stearns	Kim Eckert	235
	Anne Plunkett	210	Wabasha	Ray Glassel	204
	Jerry Bonkoski	207	Wadena	Dick Oehlenschlager	241
	Joel Dunnette	205	Washington	Liz Campbell	206
Otter Tail	Gary Otnes	268		Bill Litkey	206
	Marion Otnes	249		Ray Glassel	205
Pennington	Shelley Steva	206	Yellow Medicine	Gary Otnes	220
Ramsey	Liz Campbell	233		Marion Otnes	220
	Bill Pieper	224			



NOTES OF INTEREST

MINNESOTA'S FIRST BREEDING WILSON'S WARBLER — On the morning of May 25, 1980, Lynden Gerdes and I canoed down Hog Creek into Perent Lake, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Lake County (T61N, R6W, Sec. 5). As we reached the mouth of the river, we paused to rest before paddling across the lake. We sat in the canoe listening to Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, Alder Flycatchers and one unfamiliar song in the thick alder along the banks of the stream. A short wait was rewarded by the sight of a beautiful Wilson's (no relation) Warbler singing from the tops of the alder. Knowing that lowland brush bordering streams was a preferred habitat for this warbler, I was curious as to whether this fellow was a resident or just passing through. The fact that he stayed and sang in that area during our half-hour lunch break and that we discovered another singing male while canoeing back up Hog Creek at 3:30 p.m., when almost no birds of any kind were singing, made me think that these might be resident birds. On June 13, Mary Shedd and I paddled down Hog Creek and found no less than six singing male Wilson's Warblers along the two mile stretch of creek above the lake. Three of these had adjacent territories near the mouth of the river. Although we spent the entire morning in the territory of the previously observed male and watched him from as near as three feet, we saw no female and found no nest. Two weeks later (June 29) Mary and I returned to the same territory. This time the male sang

softly and much more infrequently than on our previous visit, making us think it might be busy feeding its young. Again we spent the entire morning in the now familiar patch of alder, but failed to even glimpse our bird. We were beginning to appreciate why no breeding records existed for this species in Minnesota. Although we weren't familiar with the adjacent territories, we decided to cross the river and check an area where we'd seen another male singing on our previous visit. After mucking around in that alder thicket for a spell, I decided to call it quits. I had abandoned my "stalking behavior" and was crashing through the brush on my way back to the canoe when in front of me up popped a pair of Wilson's Warblers, each carrying an insect in its mouth. By watching and following the adults, we were soon able to locate three tailless, recently fledged chicks within a 10' radius of us. The adults were quite tame, as they allowed us to approach within one foot to watch and photograph them while they fed the young. While paddling out that afternoon, we encountered two additional singing males as well as a female carrying food and giving alarm calls. It seems reasonable to conclude that a breeding population of Wilson's Warblers resides in the alder thickets along the banks of Hog Creek. Does the same hold true for any of the other streams in the area with similar habitat? The answer awaits only birders willing to penetrate the depths of the "alder jungle." **Steven G. Wilson, Grouse Lake, Isabella, MN 55607.**

SABINE'S GULL OBSERVATION — On October 12, 1980 Terry Savaloja reported seeing an adult Sabine's Gull at Park Point. The next day, October 13, Dean Schneider saw what was presumed to be the same Sabine's Gull flying up the North Shore past Brighton Beach about 1:30 p.m. After hearing of Dean's observation, I decided to drive up to Stoney Point since the gull appeared to be heading in that direction. To my surprise, just as I arrived at the east end of Stoney Point about 4 p.m., there was the Sabine's Gull flying by within 50 yards of shore. Its black head, unique pattern of black, white and gray triangles on the wings, notched tail and small size (about that of a Bonaparte's) made identification easy. It flew northeast and landed in the water about 1/4 mile away. I decided to drive to Janet Green's house so she could see the gull, but she had also heard of Dean's sighting and was already on her way to Stoney Point. Together we relocated the gull in the water and eventually were able to approach as close as 20-30 yards of the gull as it swam just offshore. At that range we could also see the yellow tip on the black bill, and that the hood was in reality dark gray with a black edge (Peterson's new field guide illustrates this quite well). We could also see a trace of whitish on the top of the head, indicating the bird was just beginning to moult into winter plumage. Neither Terry or Dean had been close enough to see these finer details, so we can only assume we had all seen the same individual; however, up until a few days previous there had been a Sabine's Gull at Grand Forks, N.D., and if observers there were able to get as close as Janet and I were to see the same trace of white on the hood, it would seem that we had traced the flight of a Sabine's Gull across the width of northern Minnesota. In any event, no one was able to find this gull later that week. These sightings represent the fifth Sabine's Gull record for Minnesota. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER AT GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

— At 2:00 p.m. on August 3, 1980, I flushed a sandpiper while walking across the overflow parking lot at Grand Portage National Monument, a dry, mowed grassy area about the size of a football field. The bird darted off in a zigzag pattern, circled twice and landed again about 100 feet away. It had an upright posture and immediately called to mind an Upland Sandpiper (which I have observed in northern Michigan and in North Dakota) except that it was much smaller. Its breast was unmarked and a soft buff in color, its legs were yellow, and as it flew overhead I saw that its wings were white underneath with a narrow line of black on the fore edge and black marks at the wrist. I studied it for 4-5 minutes, and because of its appearance and its short grass habitat I suspected it might be a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. At that time I ran to my home (about 100 yards away) for a bird guide and a telescope. I then observed the bird for another 20 minutes in bright sunlight, using Bushnell Custom Compact 7x26 binoculars (within 15 feet) and a Bushnell Spacemaster II 25x spotting scope within 50 feet). The white eye-ring was easily seen, as were the beautiful broad buffy edges on the feathers of the back. The buffy breast was unmarked except for a few haphazard black specks, and the buff color extended underneath the belly to the tail. The face was also a soft buff color. The crown was finely dotted with dark spots, and the feathers extended a short way out on the base of the bill. The wing tips extended to the tip of the tail. The bird was quite tame, preferring to run ahead of me as I approached instead of flying off. It darted here and there in fairly quick motions, its head moving with its feet, snatching insects from the grass. In one instance it ate an earthworm, which it swallowed with a bit of difficulty. The bird's size was slightly smaller than a Killdeer, and it was silent throughout my observations. It was also alone, the only other birds observed in the short grassy field at the time were an American Robin and four Common Crows. After work, at about 4:45 p.m., I returned with my 35mm camera and 300mm lens, and spent 35 minutes photographing the bird at distances from 25 to 50 feet. I pointed the bird out to Jim Peters, who had seen an injured Buff-breasted Sandpiper previously, and to Tamara Meyers and Louise Elser, fellow Park Rangers at the Monument. The Overflow Parking lot is located only about 100 yards from Lake Superior's Grand Portage Bay, and was virtually empty at the time. It is the largest of a very few mowed grassy areas in a predominantly forested area. I observed the bird again for about five minutes at 9:00 a.m. the following day, August 4, 1980. **David H. King, P.O. Box 426, Grand Portage, MN 55605.**

STORM DAMAGE TO EGRETS AND WATERFOWL, GRANT AND WILKIN COUNTIES

— On June 13, 1980, a severe line of thunderstorms with winds clocked at 90 miles per hour struck Pelican Lake near Ashby, Grant County. Mobile homes in the area were rolled over and docks torn from the water on the east shore of the lake. The following day Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Winkelman, my wife, Marion, and I visited the rookery on Egret Island, located on Pelican Lake. While most of the trees withstood the winds, large numbers of nestlings fell to the ground. On just one portion of the west side of the 30-acre island we counted the following dead young: 150 Double-crested Cormorants, 45 Black-crowned Night Herons, 50 Great Blue Herons, and 120 Great Egrets. Approximately 100 nestlings comprising the four species were found alive, but in bad shape. We did not count the losses on the

entire island as the young begging food at our feet was, in today's jargon, too much. Local bird and sportsman's clubs volunteered help in a rescue operation of the young; however, the cost of feeding the young was estimated at over \$250.00 per day, retail price for minnows. So we reluctantly let nature take its course. It was much later, August 9, 1980 to be exact, that we witnessed yet another natural disaster, this time to waterfowl. On August 6, 1980, an intense hailstorm struck western Wilkin County, leveling sunflower fields and completely denuding trees and bushes. The storm also struck the Breckenridge Lagoons. Three days later Jerry Winkelman, Tom and Cindy Richels, my wife, Marion, and I checked the lagoons, which are comprised of four stabilization ponds. Along two shores of only one of the ponds we found 71 dead waterfowl of many different species, plus American Coot and Sora and Franklin's Gull. In the same area 35 additional waterfowl were found alive, but badly injured, i.e. blinded, broken wings, legs, backs, etc. No dead nor injured shorebirds were found. On the northeast side of the east pond there used to be a large stand of bullrush and cattail used by Eared Grebes for nesting. It virtually no longer exists! **Gary L. Otnes, Route 1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

A KENTUCKY WARBLER AT NERSTRAND WOODS — On June 8, 1980 at approximately 11:00 A.M. under clear skies, while birding at Nerstrand Woods State Park, Rice County, I observed a Kentucky Warbler. I first heard the bird and wasn't sure if it was a Carolina Wren or warbler. I had a very brief view of the bird, enough to eliminate the wren and identify it as a Kentucky Warbler. The bird was bright yellow below and dark green above; it had a black mask and yellow spectacle. It was very secretive, didn't respond to squeaking and kept retreating before me as I stalked it through the woods. **Don Wanschura, 1997 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.**

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF A CARDINAL — On June 10, 1980, I was out looking at one of my breeding bird study areas in Sherburne County about two miles northeast of Becker, when I happened to glance at my car — a bright blue, freshly washed Mercury Monarch. The car was parked along County Road. 8. I noticed something unusual in that there appeared to be something red on it. When I looked through my 7x35 Bushnell binoculars I saw that it was a male Cardinal and he was sitting on my side view mirror. I walked through some brush in order to get a closer look without being detected. I sat down in the grass, behind a tree, about 40 feet from my car, and watched the bird without binoculars as they were not needed. The Cardinal looked at himself in the mirror, then perched on top of it and sang. He pecked vigorously at the image in the mirror. Another male Cardinal was heard in the distance while this was going on. Cars passing by scared the bird off into some nearby lilac bushes, but as soon as they were past he came right back. I sat and watched this for about 30 minutes before approaching my car. I examined the side-view mirror and noticed that there were marks where the bird had pecked it. I have no idea what attracted the bird to my car or how long he was there before I noticed him, but in the four years I have been studying birds this was some of the most unusual behavior I have seen in a wild bird. **Mrs. Sharon Sarappo, 1546 11th Ave S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

A GROOVE-BILLED ANI IN STEARNS COUNTY — On July 17, 1978 on the way back from Lake Johanna, between Brooten and Belgrade in Stearns

County, I saw what at first appeared to be a Common Grackle perched on the telephone wires. As I came up to it I almost "flipped" when I saw its very thick ridged bill. I slammed on the brakes and got out of the car with my binoculars in hand and viewed the bird for an instant before it flew, with its tail flapping up and down, not keeled like the grackle. I had a side view and was particularly impressed by the grooves on the bill. It could be nothing but an ani, my first sighting of this species. The bird flew across a field and was lost from sight over some trees. My first sighting of the bird was not over 15 feet away. **Nestor Hiemenz, 705 18th Ave. So., St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

LONG-EARED OWL NESTS — On May 18, 1979, before the trees were fully leafed out, we observed a Long-eared Owl sitting on what appeared to be an old Common Crow or Broad-winged Hawk nest. About two weeks later a member of Kim Eckert's bird class found a second Long-eared Owl occupying an old crow nest one-half mile from the first nest. These nests were in Duluth Township about 15 miles N.E. of Duluth. Both nests were vacated by about July 13, producing a combined total of three young. The following spring, 1980, we were anxious to see if the owls would return. On April 14 we observed an owl on an old crow nest about 200 feet from one of the 1979 nests. The 1979 nest, which did not look stable in 1979, had deteriorated still further over the winter. On April 25 an owl was occupying the other 1979 nest. Meanwhile, on April 20, we found what proved to be a third nest site. The locations of these three 1980 nests formed a triangle with sides about one-half mile each. The three nests were vacated by about June 20, producing a combined total of seven young. All nests were 30 to 50 feet up in deciduous trees in woodlots with thick Balsam Fir stands nearby where the second bird would roost during the day. All nest sites were neat with very little evidence of feathers, droppings, or prey remains on the ground. The owls were all tight sitters and in two years we never flushed a bird from the nest even while at the base of the tree. We were able to find the nesting owls by checking stick nests for the two feather tufts, "ears," projecting just above the nest rim. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Star Rt. 2, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

TREE SWALLOW NEST DESTROYED BY RED-HEADED WOODPECKER — On June 13, 1980 Eleanor Burkett and I were conducting a breeding bird census at the Red River Valley Natural History Area, near Crookston, Polk County. At 7:25 a.m., we were in a cottonwood lowland habitat when we heard a Red-headed Woodpecker. The woodpecker was calling from the top of a snag where an active Tree Swallow nest had been discovered the previous week. The pair of Tree Swallows were perched on an adjacent cottonwood. The woodpecker moved down the trunk to a cavity in the snag. At first, it appeared to be searching for food. As the woodpecker approached the hole, the swallows became disturbed and flew from branch to branch. The woodpecker's head disappeared into the hole to emerge later with wood chips in its beak which it would then dispel with a shake of the head. This activity continued for about ten minutes as more chips, plant material and feathers were pulled out of the cavity. All the while the woodpecker was constantly calling. It was rather humorous as the woodpecker got farther into the hole it became more excited. Its calls were more frequent and sometimes it was trying to call as its mouth was jammed with material. Periodically one of the swallows would circle a couple of feet above the wood-

pecker. When it appeared the nest was completely destroyed, the woodpecker flew to the top of the tallest branch and proclaimed its victory. A careful examination of the area below the tree showed no evidence of eggs or young. The Tree Swallows never did re-nest in that area. **Thomas A. Feiro, Natural Resource Dept., Univ. of Minn. Tech. Coll., Crookston, MN 56716.**

MONK PARAKEET SIGHTED IN RICE COUNTY — A Monk Parakeet was reported to me by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Gillen, R.R.1, Dundas, Minnesota, located about five miles north of Faribault near U.S. Highway #35. The bird was first seen by the Gillens on their farm on Saturday, August 16, 1980. On Monday, August 25, Mrs. Gillen called me to describe a parrot-like bird that had been at their farm for over a week and wanted to know if I would like to come out to see it. By her description I gathered that it was the Monk Parakeet. At 5 p.m. that same day I drove out to verify the identification, and found it to be correct. The afternoon was clear and sunny with excellent light for easy identification, both with the 7x35 binoculars and without. The bird being relatively unafraid was rather easy to get quite close for detailed identification. It was about the size of a Mourning Dove or Rock Dove with a fairly long tail, with the green color very conspicuous in the bright light. The front part of the head and upper part of the chest being gray, with the primaries quite blue in color. The bill a yellowish orange color. The racious chattering of the bird made location very easy a short time after my arrival. It sits on a bare limb in the Black Sugar Maple tree in the front yard much of the time, then flies to a Box Elder tree in the side yard near the barn. At times it will fly over to a board fence in the barn yard. Then for feeding it flies over to a nearby apple tree to feed on apples. **Orwin A. Rustad, 1134 East Division Street, Faribault, MN 55021.**

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN BLOOMINGTON — On 13 October 1980 I received a message over the Audubon Rare Bird Alert from Mrs. Bernice Young of 9319 11th Ave. S. in Bloomington, Hennepin County, stating that she had seen a Rufous Hummingbird at her feeder. I called Mrs. Young on 14 October and she told me that the bird was first seen at 9:00 A.M. on the 13th and was coming to the feeder at regular intervals. I arrived at the Young's house at about 3:15 P.M. on the 14th and was invited into their home to wait for the bird to come into the feeder. The feeder was on the back of the house hanging from the roof overhang and was easily viewed from the dining room windows. At 3:30 P.M. the bird came briefly (10 seconds) to the feeder, just enough time for me to identify it as a male Rufous Hummingbird. At approximately 3:40 P.M. the bird landed on a nearby clothesline giving me a head on view. It then flew to the feeder and fed for about 30 seconds, then returned to the clothesline, giving a back view. The following is a description of the bird written from notes taken at the time of the above observations: top of head, nape and back, rufous brown tail above brown, bib bright rufous, white throat under bib, sides a rosy-tan, less strong than back color. The primaries were dark brownish or light black when folded. When viewed head on the white from the throat (under bib) extended to the breast, belly and under the tail. The top of the head and the bend of the wing were an emerald green. When the bird gave me a back view I could see that the tips of the tail feathers were dark, almost a black when compared to the brown of the rest of the tail. The bird came regularly to the Young's feeder until Saturday, October 25th, when it disappeared rather abruptly in the after-



Rufous Hummingbird - Bloomington, Hennepin County — Photo by Oscar Johnson

noon. Mrs. Young stated that on the 25th it fed more often and more rapidly than on previous occasions. This behavior possibly indicating that it was getting ready to continue its migration after a 13 day stay. Over 60 birders from the Twin Cities area were able to observe the Rufous Hummingbird during this period. There are at least three other records from the Rufous Hummingbird in Minnesota, see **The Loon** 46:167-168 and 51:9-15. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

CINNAMON TEAL IN ANOKA COUNTY — On May 18, 1980 Pat and I were on our "big day" in Anoka Co. About 1:00 P.M. we were taking our second look at Rice Lake and as I was scanning the lake with the scope, a teal flew into the field of view. It was headed diagonally away from us, but as it turned somewhat and flew low over the water the blue patches on the leading edge of the wing were visible. The body appeared dark. I followed it across the water until it landed perhaps 1000' away. We observed this individual for the next 15 minutes as it swam around actively, passing quite close to American Coots and Pied-billed Grebes, Two canoeists finally moved into the area and the teal swam out of view behind some reeds. Several times it flapped its wings and rose somewhat above the water. The following notes were taken at the time of the observation: same size as coots, slightly larger than Pied-billed Grebes, head, neck, sides and belly reddish brown, wings brownish, blue wing patch, dark bill. Light conditions were good with the sun to our south and the teal slightly north of east. **Kenneth J. LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

PARTIAL ALBINO GREATER YELLOWLEGS — On September 6, 1980 at about 7:00 A.M. Dick Ruhme, Bill Pieper and I were birding the Paynesville, Stearns County Sewage Lagoons. There were numerous birds in the area, ducks, swallows, hundreds of Franklin's Gulls, American Coots, but relatively few shorebirds. We did see a few Least, one Semipalmated and one Stilt Sandpiper, a few Lesser Yellowlegs and on one of the lagoons we saw 21 Northern Phalaropes feeding on the surface of the water in their typical "spinning" fashion. As we were returning to the car Bill spotted a light colored large shorebird on the opposite side of one of the lagoons. I put the scope on the bird and my first thought was that the bird was a Willet because of the size, but almost immediately I noticed the bright yellow legs and the almost totally white body. The bird was standing near a typical plumaged Lesser Yellowlegs. Both birds took off and flew in front of us. The light bird flew in typical yellowlegs fashion, and it was then that we identified it as a Greater Yellowlegs. The body was entirely white, especially on the head and tail, the wings showed some darkening in the primaries and secondaries. The eyes were dark and as I mentioned above, the legs were yellow. This was the first albinistic shorebird I had ever seen, so a few days later I mentioned the sighting to Dr. Harrison Tordoff of the Bell Museum. He mentioned that the survival of an albinistic shorebird would probably be very low due to the high selection of an obvious albino individual by predators such as falcons. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

A SUMMER Tanager in Duluth — Date: August 24, 1980, 2:00 P.M. Location: Lakeside, Duluth, St. Louis County. Description: An all red (except for black shading in lower part of wings) plumaged bird. About large finch sized, quite plump, fairly (but not excessively) shy, brisk flight. Good plumage (good uniform color, feathers possibly not perfect in tail), some black in red wings, tail red. No crest, no black on face — black eye stood out alone. The bill appeared shadowed, it was not dark but it did **not** appear as light (chalky or creamy) as pictures in books. This was the point that puzzled me. I now think that the most important thing is this, the bird flew back and forth (from low in fir to high in maple some distance away, then back toward me to land on a wire, then off again in vigorous flight — like a little car with a big motor) and, while I didn't see it catch anything on the wing, when it landed it seemed to eat something it had caught (or carried with it from maples, I doubt this) flycatcher like. **Dick Green, 4501 Cambridge, Duluth, MN 55804.**

BARN OWL IN WABASHA COUNTY — Date: 26 March 1980. Time: Dusk. Location: T110N R9W Sec. 32, Wabasha County. Description: No barring, no ears, had "monkey" face, slender, buff colored. About as tall as a Barred Owl, but much more slender appearance, delicate and more graceful. Flew across the road in front of me. Had ample time to observe bird after it landed in a tree near the road. **George Meyer, Whitewater Wildlife Management Area, Altura, MN 55910.**

Editor's Note: The most recent previous record of the Barn Owl in Minnesota was on 14 March 1978 at Mankato, Blue Earth County (**The Loon** 50:211-212).

CALIFORNIA GULLS IN NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA — On April 20, 1980 I observed a California Gull at Bemidji, Beltrami County. The bird was in adult plumage, standing on the edge of the ice about ten feet from a pair of adult Ring-billed Gulls and a pair of adult Herring Gulls. I observed the bird for about one hour, between 7:30 and 8:30 A.M. under bright sunny skies at a distance of 200 yards with a 15-60X spotting scope. The bird was nearly Herring Gull size with leg color yellowish like a Ring-billed Gull. There was a distinct black spot near tip of the lower mandible, not as contrasting in darkness as black of Ring-billed Gull. The spot appeared to overlap slightly onto upper bill. I could not positively see a red spot adjacent to the black spot; the red spots on the bills of the Herring Gulls were also nearly invisible as a result of the intense morning sunlight. In addition to the Bemidji sighting I also observed at least **two** and possibly a **third** California Gull during my first two weeks tenure at Agassiz NWR, Marshall County. I first observed two adult plumaged California Gulls near the west gate road on May 6, 1980. The time was 8:00 P.M., good light, sky clear, used 15-60X spotting scope, distance 150 yards. Birds were compared with both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls in the immediate area. Yellow legs and black spots clearly seen. The pair was engaged in courtship behavior (bill waving, head and body bowing, etc.). Two California Gulls were seen off and on for about 12 days and during this time a single California Gull was observed in the general vicinity. **Jim Mattsson, Agassiz NWR, Middle River, MN 56737.**

A LATE ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW — On Sunday, October 19, 1980 while my wife, Fran, and I were bicycling along the Scenic North Shore Drive, north of Duluth, we saw a Rough-winged Swallow. The bird was seen at about 3:00 P.M. flying and feeding along the road about 0.3 miles north of the French River. This is about 6.5 miles along the Scenic North Shore Drive. The bird appeared to be flying and feeding normally and in good health. After about two minutes of observing the bird in flight, we then were able to see it for two more minutes as it landed on a telephone wire and gave us an excellent view from about 20 feet. The brown back and brown throat were clearly visible. The swallow flight is unmistakable. I observed it with Bushnell 9x36 binoculars. About one hour later as we reached our car about six miles south of the French River, we saw another Rough-winged Swallow. Due to the unusual late sight of this bird, I assumed this to be the same bird. **Larry A. Weber, 12 Chester Parkway, Duluth, MN 55805.**

Editor's Note: The Rough-winged Swallow is an uncommon species in northeastern Minnesota, especially in the fall. There are no previous October dates for northern Minnesota and only one previous September date (Sept. 10).

PURPLE MARTINS FEEDING ON TENT CATERPILLARS — During both the 1979 and 1980 seasons the tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) caused severe defoliation of the aspens and other trees as far south as Cloquet in northeastern Minnesota. In the course of this infestation these lepidopteran larvae became exceedingly numerous, both in the aspens and other trees, and on the ground moving from tree to tree. It was with some surprise that we observed Purple Martins alighting in the uppermost branches of the two trembling aspens growing in our yard in Cloquet to consume these

insect larvae. This was a commonplace occurrence and was repeated time and again during the last two weeks in June 1979, and during the middle two weeks in June 1980. In June 1980 we also watched martins land on our driveway to feed on caterpillars crawling across the blacktop surface. The only other birds which seemed to utilize this food resource with any frequency, and then not enough to have any impact on insect numbers, were the Northern Oriole, Common Grackle and Brewer's Blackbirds. **Gordon W. Gullion, Forest Wildlife Project, Cloquet, MN 55720.**

BEWICK'S WREN IN ROBERT'S SANCTUARY — Although numerous at one time in southeastern deciduous forest, most records for this casual migrant, *Thryomanes bewickii*, are from the spring migration in southeastern and east central Minnesota. Having seen Bewick's Wren in six or more states, British Columbia and Mexico, I recognized it as an old friend when it darted across the path and into the shrubbery in Robert's Sanctuary, May 13, 1980. I was about eight feet from the bird, the light was exceptionally good, the position of the sun in the southeast and to my back was ideal. Unfortunately, few of the members of Minneapolis Audubon Society saw the wren, since they were not beside me. The brown bird had a long tail with white spots in the corners, a white eye-stripe and white underparts which ruled out all other wrens. **Frances S. Nubel, 2000 Cedar Lake Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55416.**

AN IBIS IN LYON COUNTY — Date: 10 October 1980, 8:30 A.M. Location: Amiret WMA, Lyon County. Description: A large bird about the size of a cormorant or slightly smaller. It was flying directly over us at about six feet and circled the marsh once. It was dark colored over its entire body and had a long decurved bill at least eight inches in length. It flew with its neck stretched out in front of it and had a peculiar flight pattern of flapping and sailing. It was the color of an American Coot or darker and was solid color. There was no distinguishing white marks or other colored patches or feathers observed. **Bob Meyer, Box 111, Marshall, MN 56258.**

Editor's Note: Although Mr. Meyer felt the above bird was a Glossy Ibis because of the lack of white on the face, the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) accepted the record as an ibis (species ?) only. The White-faced Ibis is much more likely to occur in Minnesota (it breeds in South Dakota) than the Glossy Ibis. The white-face markings of the White-faced Ibis are lost in the winter plumage, making separation of the two species very difficult. This is the reason for the MORC decision on ibis (species ?).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT AT DULUTH — Location: Grassy area about a block from the end of Park Point. Date: September 7, 1980, 2:00 p.m., Sunny day. As Leata Pearson and I were walking along the trail toward the Superior entry a small sparrow sized bird flushed from the grass near the trail and flew approximately twenty feet ahead of us and stopped right in the middle of the trail. We were able to study the bird at our leisure and noting all the field marks: Color - brown and buff with streaked back. Had a long slender bill and light, flesh colored legs. When we had time to study him we moved closer to him and he flew back into the grass showing the white outer tail-feathers. We referred to both Peterson's *Field Guide of Eastern Birds and Birds of North America*. I have seen several Sprague's Pipits and many Water

Pipits, but it was a "life lister" for Leata. Optical equipment: Bushnell Custom 7x35, Bushnell Regular 7x35. **Melba Wigg, 19009 Hwy. 31, Greta, Nebraska 68028.**

1972 RECORD OF BLUE GROSBEAKS IN DAKOTA COUNTY — I was birding with two other persons on the morning of May 17, 1972 in the southwest part of the City of Hastings, Dakota County. It was a bright, warm sunny day and the birding had been exceptional. The particular area that we were covering consisted of fields under cultivation, a woods of several acres with the Vermillion River running through it. Warblers and thrushes had been present in good numbers that morning, plus vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, several species of swallows along the river and some field birds, such as Western Meadowlarks, Horned Larks, etc. Shortly before we were to leave the area I heard a song of a bird that I was not able to identify. It was coming from a large oak tree directly over my head. I looked up overhead with 7x35 binoculars and could see two birds perched together about 30-40 feet above. I moved away from the tree and then using 10x50 binoculars brought the birds into sight and could see the following field marks: Male: Color, Dark purplish blue; Size, Oriole sized, but plumper; Wings, Very evident bright brown wing bars; Song, Long, loud warbling song. The bird was singing part of the time as I was observing it; Bill, Large, slaty color. Female: Color, Plain brown, some lighter brown could be seen on upper wing, but bird was partially obscured by male. No blue noticed at all; Size, Same as male; Bill, Large grosbeak size, color not noted. The birds were not moving around on the limb at all, but just seemed to be "resting." I momentarily checked *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*, looking first at Indigo Buntings and then at Blue Grosbeaks to make sure of my identification. I was positive the birds I was observing were Blue Grosbeaks. Only minutes earlier I had seen and heard Indigo Buntings singing, and the song of the birds I was now watching was completely different, more melodious and not as harsh as the buntings'. These birds were also much plumper and the color tended more toward purple than the periwinkle blue of the Indigo Bunting. One of the other persons with me also saw them, and although she was an inexperienced birder, concurred that the bird under observation looked more like the picture of the Blue Grosbeak than the Indigo Bunting. After we watched the birds for several minutes they flew off suddenly and were lost in the treetops. Subsequent visits to the area during the next two weeks failed to turn up the birds again. **Joanne Dempsey, 1017 W. 14th St., Hastings, MN 55033.**

BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS IN WOLSFELD WOODS — While performing a breeding bird census in Wolsfeld Woods, a DNR Scientific and Natural Area located near Long Lake in western Hennepin County, I encountered a singing Blue-winged Warbler. This was in early June, 1980 and was not that unusual for I have heard and seen male Blue-wings in the area the past three years but have never found any evidence of nesting. On June 18, I was again in Wolsfeld Woods, this time for an early morning walk. I was watching a group of various small song birds mobbing a Blue Jay when I noticed a male Blue-winged Warbler in the group and that it was carrying food. I followed it when it left the group to a small bog where it flew down into a clump of sedge, ferns, Jewel weed and Arrowhead. When it flew out the food was gone. I sat and watched what I assumed to be a nest site for the next several minutes and saw both a male and a female Blue-winged

Warbler carrying food to the site. I returned the following day and again found both adults carrying food. This time however the female was taking food to a fledging in a small shrub on the edge of the bog while the male continued to carry food to the same spot as the day before. On subsequent trips into Wolsfeld I both saw and heard singing Blue-winged Warbler males but could never find any further evidence of the female or the fledging. A more rigorous search, concentrating solely on Blue-wings, may find several pair nesting in the area in and around Wolsfeld Woods. As further notes of interest, Wolsfeld Woods also has a small breeding population of Cerulean Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and an abundance of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. **Jerry A. Sivets, 468 Virginia Ave., Long Lake, MN 55356.**

1980 BALD EAGLE, OSPREY AND BLUE HERON NESTING, SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST — This was an exceptional year for Bald Eagle, Osprey and Great Blue Heron nesting success on the Superior National Forest. Each year, Forest Service biologists conduct aerial surveys of eagle and Osprey territories and heron colonies in the Superior National Forest to determine nesting success and the number of young produced. These surveys are coordinated statewide by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and nationwide by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This year, 39 young Bald Eagles were produced with an average nesting success of 1.1 young per nest. To maintain a stable population, the average minimum production per nest should be 0.7 young. The 1980 figures represent a consistently high number of young produced and high success per nest for the past four years. Much of the eagle activity continues to be in the north central and northwest areas of the Forest. Fifty-two young Osprey were produced this year, compared to an average of 22 per year. Nesting success was 1.4 young per nest, a marked increase from the average of 1.0 young per nest for the past three years. A good share of the increase was due to finding 20 new Osprey territories in the northwest part of the Forest. The average brood size also increased from a 1.4 average in the past two years to 1.7 in 1980. Seven nests produced three young each. Normally, Osprey produce no more than two young per nest on the Superior. Great Blue Heron activity remains high. Biologists have located 14 heron colonies in the Forest varying from small colonies of nine nests to large colonies of over 150 nests. Herons nest in aspen and pine forests and in dead trees in beaver ponds. Biologists conduct all eagle, osprey and heron surveys in float planes. Aerial surveys begin in April when the eagles arrive and continue through July when Osprey young leave the nest. On Federal lands, management guidelines prohibit disturbance near the nests from March to October and protect nest trees throughout the year. **Karl Siderits, Wildlife Biologist, Superior National Forest, P.O. Box 338, Duluth, MN 55801.**

BARRED OWLS USE NEST BOX — In 1978, 1977, and possibly 1976 Barred Owls nested in the natural cavity of a basswood tree along the Mississippi River near Brainerd, MN. In April 1979, due to the poor condition of the nest tree and cavity, Doug Keran and myself put up a nest box for the owls, hoping it would be adopted. The box was placed in a red oak tree 58' from the cavity at about the same height (the oak was the nearest live tree that was similar in size to the basswood and was without obstructing branches or understory vegetation). The entrance hole in the box was faced in the same



direction as the cavity opening. For unknown reasons, no owls were seen before or after the box was put up anywhere in the vicinity of the box or nest cavity in 1979. But in 1980, the owls moved right into their "new house" and three young were raised and fledged. The success of this box and other similar artificial nest structures has prompted me to begin a research project along these lines (Barred Owl nest boxes). The box I am using is essentially a Wood Duck box, except that the entrance hole is larger and there is no wire mesh "ladder" inside. For those interested, I shall be happy to supply the boxes' measurements and/or design. **David H. Johnson, DNR Forestry, Box 113, Park Rapids, MN 56470.**

INTERESTING AMERICAN KESTREL NEST SITE — On 17 June, 1980 I went to check on a Purple Martin house which was reported to have kestrels nesting in it. It was just your basic martin house, and was 15' above ground and 56' from an active household. Children played almost daily under and around the martin house. The nesting report was correct, and five little fluff-ball kestrels were seen inside (ranging from one to five days old approx.). On 24 June I banded the five youngsters, after fishing them out of the top hole on one end of the martin house. The nest hole opening was 2½" in diameter and faced south (away from the active household). The birds fledged on 10 July. In 1979, when the martin house was first put up, the kestrels attempted to nest, but their efforts were thwarted by the shotgun blasts directed at them by the owner (who wanted Purple Martins!). Sometime this fall the martin house will be taken down and reestablished about 300' from the original site. Hopefully in 1981 another batch of young kestrels will be produced in the house. Interesting note: A House Sparrow was nesting simultaneously in another compartment of the martin house — and no conflict between the hawk and sparrow was observed. The martin house nest site was located in the rural countryside of Osage Twp. Becker County, MN. I would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has seen similar or other "unusual" kestrel nesting sites such as this one. **David H. Johnson, DNR Forestry, Box 113, Park Rapids, MN 56470.**

ANOTHER HOODED WARBLER IN MINNESOTA — On 19 May 1980, while walking in a woods in extreme southwest Savage, Scott County, I heard a warbler song which I could not identify and which I noted as "weet-weet-weet'-you," with the last note slurred and descending. I soon found the singer, not at all shy or retiring, about 5m. above the ground, flitting among open branches and occasionally flycatching in redstart style. When I saw the greenish back, yellow underparts, and black hood outlining a golden face and black eye, I immediately realized that I had found a Hooded Warbler, a bird which I had never before seen, but which is unmistakable by virtue of its "hood." From 23 May the bird was seen by many of the active birders in Minnesota, and it remained in the same area throughout June. I was unable to check the woods after late June, but Bob Janssen saw the warbler as late as 1 July (R. Janssen, personal communication). The bird was not found by Ray Glassel on 3 July so it had apparently left the area. The Hooded Warbler has been found increasingly in Minnesota in recent years. Bruce Fall summarized earlier occurrences in 1977 (*Loon* 49:232-233), when there had been 10 sightings in 6 years (2 birds as far north as Itasca State Park); five more birds turned up in 1979 (*Loon* 51:102, 105, 145, 152, and 156). Although many more observers are taking to the field, the large number of Hooded Warblers found over the past decade seems to be a genuine phenomenon and not observer bias. A similar increase is occurring in southern Wisconsin, where lone males may begin to sing in Spring and to defend territories, which are abandoned after a few weeks, apparently without successful breeding. (Thomas Soulen, personal communication). The bird at Savage is most interesting because it sang actively on a well-defined territory from mid-May until at least early July. The woods it chose cover about 40 acres and have never been grazed, so the understory is rich in forbs and shrubs. The dominant trees are mature oaks, elms, basswood and maple. Openings produced by fallen trees provide sunny spots with bramble groundcover and conspicuous singing perches which were favored by the warbler. A. C. Bent (*U.S. National Museum Bulletin* 203 (1953), pp. 610-626)

described similar sites as characteristic breeding localities of the Hooded Warbler in the northern part of its range. Because of the fidelity of this bird for one spot it is tempting to speculate that it had found a mate. However, I have concluded that this is most unlikely, for surely one of the many active birders who came to see the male would have found some evidence of a female. Bent's correspondents give varying accounts of the song. There are, it would seem, two song types: a short, two or three note song, as given by the subject of this report, and a more complex effort. Both are typically characterized by a descending final phrase. On two occasions I heard a song unlike that usually given by the bird, but I was unable to see the singer. Again, a tempting speculation would be that a yearling male Hooded Warbler, without the philopatry of an established breeder, would be most likely to wander beyond the normal breeding range of the species. Such an individual, isolated from other males and experiencing the first flush of reproductive hormones, would give a basic song type, with some greater complexity as he came into full breeding condition. How satisfying is natural history: such a yield of hypotheses from so few data. I thank Bob Janssen and Dr. Thomas Soulen for supplying information for this note, and Donald Bolduc for pointing out to me the variations in Hooded Warbler songs. **Larry Conroy, 8668 Egan Drive, Savage, MN 55378.**

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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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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

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

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