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"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,"** Klm Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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# TUNDRA SWAN MIGRATION OVER THE TWIN CITIES

November 24, 1983

Arthur S. Hawkins

Whistling Swans, recently renamed Tundra Swans by the American Ornithologists Union, pass over the Twin Cities each year in early April while enroute to their nesting grounds in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic and in November enroute to their wintering grounds in Chesapeake Bay and other mid-Atlantic coastal areas. Either way, the flight over the metropolitan area usually is restricted to a few days and sometimes within a few hours. All or part of the passage may occur during hours of darkness, hence may escape notice except by those familiar with the bird's unique call and those who happen to be outside.

Bellrose, in his classic book on waterfowl\*, maps and describes the "corridors" followed by these swans during their travels. He shows the major corridor involving 30-60,000 birds, passing over or close to the Twin Cities of Minnesota. My observations suggest that the main corridor has several lesser pathways in Minnesota rather than one broad arterial. One pathway, I suspect, follows the Minnesota River to the Weaver Marshes near Winona. Another passes directly over my house near Centerville in Anoka County. This one appears to follow eastern Minnesota's chain of lakes, roughly paralleling Highway 94 to the Mississippi River, then crossing over White Bear Lake to the St. Croix River near Bayport, then across Wisconsin, southeastward over Lake Winnebago and through Michigan to the Lake Erie Marshes of Ohio before arriving at Chesapeake Bay.

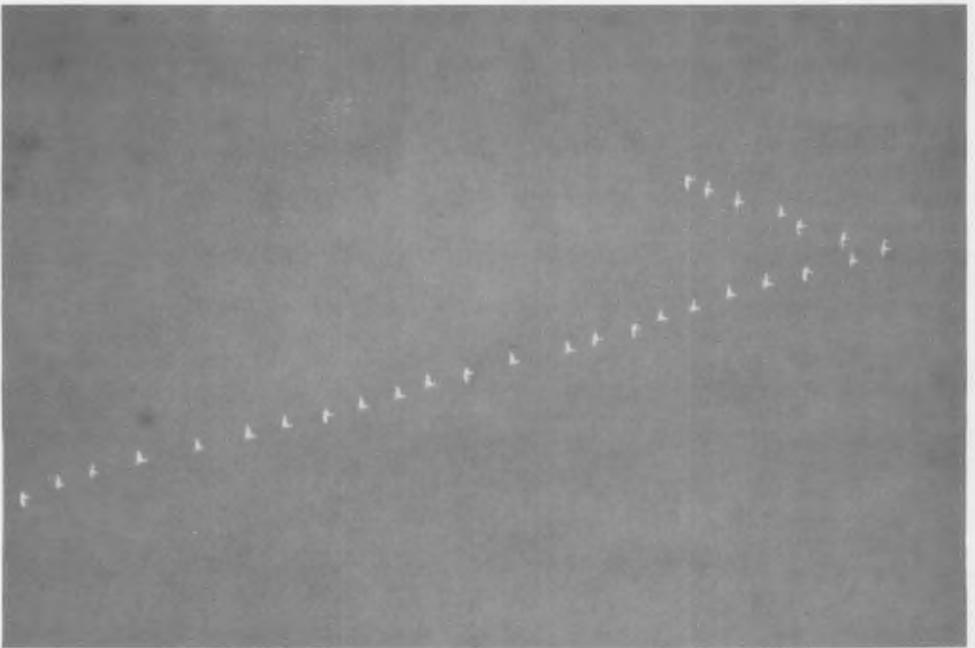
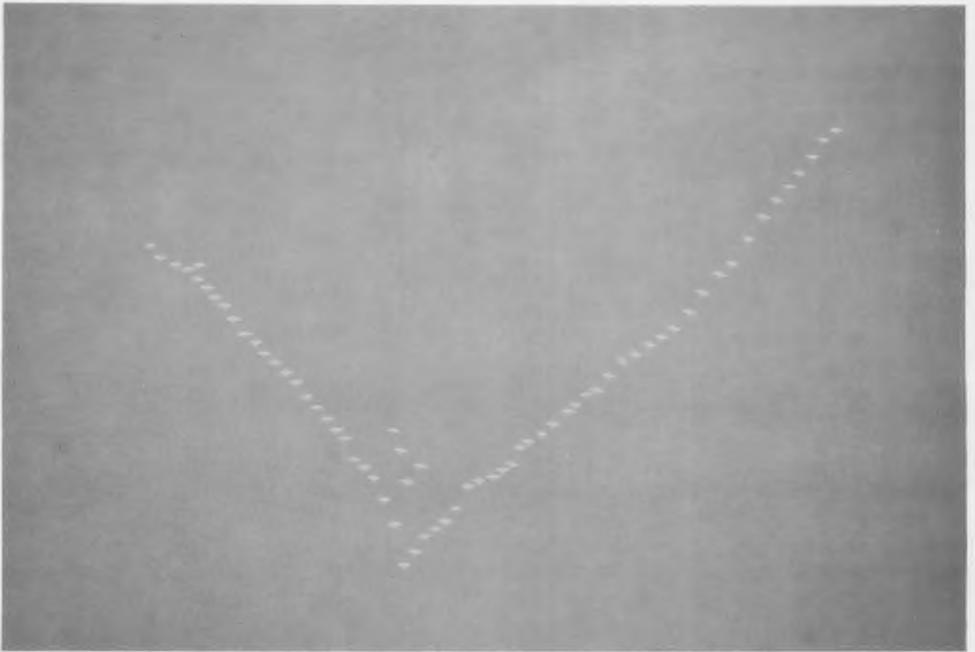
My family needs no bird alert to remind us when the spring flight is due. It regularly occurs on or between my daughter's birthday on April 7 or my wife's on April

14. We have seen 2,000 or more swans pass over within the span of two or three hours. Always the birds let us know of their presence by their incessant yodeling. Needless to say, we spend as much time as possible out of doors when the swans are due. Those staying inside the house may miss the whole show.

These Arctic nesters leave their breeding grounds in late summer, progressing leisurely down the flyways with long stopovers on favorite feeding areas in Saskatchewan and North Dakota, until freezing weather occurs. Since the date of freeze-up may vary by several weeks, the fall migration through our area is less predictable than the spring flight. I call it the "freeze-up" flight because it is triggered by a cold snap that covers the swan's feeding areas with ice. A major winter storm is followed by clearing skies, strong northwest winds and a blast of Arctic air cold enough to freeze the smaller lakes, at least as far south as the metro area. When this happens, look for the swans.

During the past eleven years, I have recorded a swan flight as early as November 5 and as late as November 24. Six times during that period, the flight occurred before November 15 and five times on or after that date. The week of November 15 is the most likely time for the flight. Bellrose, in his book, describes the 1973 passage of swans over my place from information I provided.

The most spectacular of these November flights and the latest according to my records, occurred on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1983. Ten inches of snow blanketed the Twin Cities the day before. The storm plugged my driveway and bird feeders, so I was out shoveling before day-



**Tundra Swans over Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County, 24 November 1983**  
Photos by Oscar Johnson

light. About 8:00 a.m. I heard the unmistakable yodel of swans. The sky was still partly overcast and I had trouble locating the birds because they were so high. Riding a strong northwest wing, they were traveling at great speed. Within an hour I had seen six large flocks before friends from North Oaks and White Bear Lake called to report swans passing over them. Some strings and V's were large, containing several hundred birds. On one occasion, close to 1,000 birds were visible at one time. Most single flocks totaled about 60 birds. Some flocks were heard but not seen and may have been above the patchy cloud layers. According to Bellrose, airplane pilots have noted migrating swans between Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., at heights ranging from 2,000 to 6,000, averaging between 3,000-5,000 feet.

During the morning, there were intervals of 10-15 minutes when no swans were in sight or hearing and longer periods between flocks in the afternoon. Also, mid-day Thanksgiving festivities interfered with bird watching. About sunset I received a call from Mahtomedi on White Bear Lake, reporting that two large flocks had just gone over. As a guest was departing at 5:30 p.m. (now dark), he hurried back to report swans passing over, our last record for 1983.

The magnitude of this spectacular freeze-up flight is difficult to estimate, but one of Minnesota's top ornithologists has tried. Bob Janssen, who runs the Rare Bird Alert, a service that permits any interested person to obtain the latest information on bird sightings simply by dialing 544-5016,

obtains a steady flow of reports from observers. According to Janssen: "Making some very rough estimates from all the calls I received on November 24, it would appear that close to 10,000 Tundra Swans passed over the Twin Cities area on that date. Bellrose reports that the wintering population of Tundra Swans on both the east and west coasts of North America is approximately 123,000 birds. Numbers are split approximately in half between the two wintering areas. From a quick calculation, it can be seen that anywhere from 10 percent to 20 percent of the Atlantic Flyway wintering birds passed over the Twin Cities on November 24, 1983."

It should be mentioned that not all the flights this year occurred on Thanksgiving Day. In fact, my notes first showed November 21 as "swan day," when four large flocks were seen. Bob Janssen's hot line told of small flocks passing over Minneapolis on November 22 and 23.

Certainly the recent swan flight over the Twin Cities area was more spectacular than usual but the total number of birds involved was not necessarily greater than in previous falls. Our late fall this year enabled the birds to find feed on more northerly areas until later than usual. Winter weather then drove them southward enmasse, putting the birds over our area during daylight hours of a holiday when many people were outside shoveling snow. Hence, the opportunity for people to observe the flight was unusually favorable. It was appropriate that it occurred on Thanksgiving, giving bird watchers of this metropolitan area one more thing to be thankful for.

**6102 Centerville Road, Hugo, MN 55038.**

\*Bellrose, Frank C., *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, 1976, 540 p. Stackpole Books

# A FIELD GUIDE TO THE FIELD GUIDES

(or "The bird looked just like it does in the book.")

Kim R. Eckert

Birdwatching used to be so simple, so uncomplicated. During the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s it was a simple matter of looking it up in your Peterson Field Guide. Whatever Roger said was the last, and only, word on the subject of identification, and whatever he didn't say was considered something impossible to identify in the field. We believed, for example, that Sharp-shinned vs. Cooper's Hawk identification was only a matter of size and tail shape, that nothing could be more confusing than fall warblers, that loons were safe to identify only in breeding plumage, that "non-standard" plumages — i.e., immatures, seasonal variations, other geographic races — either didn't exist or were hopeless to deal with, etc., etc. If it looked just like it did in our Peterson, there was no doubt our identification was correct; if it wasn't in the book we gave up or, even worse, kept looking until we found "the closest thing to it."

In the late 1960s and the 70s our relatively unsophisticated method of bird identification persisted for the most part, with the exception of three things. First, we evolved from being birdwatchers and became birders, as those who took birds more seriously thought of our interest more as a challenging sport and less as an odd pastime practiced by social outcasts. Second, we turned to Robbins *et al.* as our Bible, but not because it was more authoritative than Peterson — we were simply attracted by its more colorful plates and its text-facing-picture format. And third, a growing revolution began to develop among those more serious about bird identification as we encountered birding experts and identification articles in various journals that claimed the field guides were not only incomplete but even wrong in many cases.

As the 1980s arrived, so did the long-awaited new Peterson, but it did little to advance the state of the art of identification, and we were left waiting three more years for The Field Guide to arrive. But then, October of 1983 came, and it came with a vengeance: not one but three new guides rolled off the presses, each claiming to be *the* guide. *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (edited by John Farrant, Jr., Alfred A. Knopf, New York) promises on its cover to be "an advanced field handbook . . . by 61 key experts, with their personal secrets for identifying particular species." The press release accompanying *Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification* (Chandler Robbins, Bertel Bruun, Herbert Zim and Arthur Singer, Revised Edition, Golden Press, New York) claims it to be "*the* authority. No birdwatcher worth his binoculars ever leaves home without it . . . enthusiastic amateurs as well as exacting professionals will proclaim Golden the finest in the field." And the *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (Jon Dunn and Eirik Blom, Chief Consultants, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.), although free of advertising on its cover, arrives after two years of speculation that this was the guide worth waiting for since known expert Jon Dunn was involved.

The question which obviously surfaces is which one is the guide to buy? Or should a birder get all three? Or can one stick with his Peterson or old Robbins, not buy any of the new ones, and still live happily ever after? What follows is a relatively brief comparison of the three plus some conclusions and recommendations which will hopefully aid the reader to reach a decision. For convenience, I will hereafter refer to the guides as Audubon, Robbins and Geographic.

## Vital Statistics

With one small exception, the geographic scope of all three is the same: all of the United States and Canada, both East and West, excluding Hawaii; the only difference is that Audubon excludes Greenland which the other two include. In sheer size, Audubon is much larger than the others; it's a three-volume set totalling 1244 pages, and, as such, is too large to carry afield. (For reasons unknown, the publisher insists on selling each volume separately, rather than as a single set. As a result, 31 pages of introduction are repeated in each volume, which adds needlessly to this guide's hefty size and price tag. I find it hard to believe that many persons will buy only one or two of the volumes.) Geographic is more manageable at 464 pages and can fit in a jacket's pocket, while Robbins's 360 pages (20 more than its first edition) could still squeeze into your jean's pocket.

As far as the number of species covered, Geographic seems to have an edge with probably about 775 species illustrated and described. Although Audubon includes a grand total of 835 species, apparently everything recorded on the 1982 American Birding Association Checklist, 116 casuals/accidentals are described but not illustrated in appendices, leaving 719 species with full treatment in the main part of the text. Robbins probably includes about the same number of birds as Geographic (I didn't take a count in either book), but most of the casuals/accidentals are only marginally described.

Price? Robbins is \$8 softcover and \$10 hardcover, Geographic is about \$16 (or \$35 if purchased as part of the complete *Wonder of Birds* set, which also includes a coffee table-type volume on birds in general, a four-record set of bird songs, and a wall-sized migration map), and Audubon is \$14 for each book for a total of \$42.

## Nomenclature, Sequence and Taxonomy

All three incorporate the latest set of lumps and splits as published in the 1983 American Ornithologists' Union Checklist. Geographic and Audubon follow the A.O.U. name changes as well, although those not familiar with these changes will find Audubon harder to use since it fails to

cross-reference the former A.O.U. names either in the index or species accounts. Robbins makes the unfortunate choice of going along with the names in the 1982 A.B.A. Checklist; fortunately there are only two differences from the A.O.U. nomenclature (Green Heron and Louisiana Heron instead of Green-backed and Tricolored), but this point does suggest that Robbins is not as "advanced" as the other two guides since even the A.B.A. itself had given up its ill-fated attempt to compete with the A.O.U. in the field of common names.

All three guides arrange the birds in standard "checklist order" — sort of. Audubon strictly follows the new 1983 A.O.U. sequence (don't worry: long gone is that silly system in the old 1977 Audubon Society guides which tried to organize birds by color and habitat). Geographic arranges most of the family groups in this order as well, although the hawks and grouse are conspicuously "out of place," and several similar species within families are grouped together on a page regardless of their true checklist order. The sequence in Robbins, however, is the same as in the first edition, i.e., according to the old 1957 A.O.U. order except for the out-of-place herons. None of these arrangements is wrong per se — as long as a field guide basically follows the checklist order birders are used to with a minimum of variations, no problem; the point here is that all birders, no matter how experienced, will have a harder time finding a species quickly in a book since there are now three guides with three different sequences to work with.

## Treatment of Plumage Variations

Normally it is not difficult for a field guide, or a birder, to handle the identification of an adult male in breeding plumage. But the plumages of many species vary according to sex, age, season or geographic race, and Peterson and the old Robbins were never thorough enough in their handling of these variations. In this respect Geographic emerges as superior in its thoroughness. Some 2400 different plumages are illustrated, an average of more than three illustrations per species; indeed, many species are pictured six times. While

the beginning birder might be overwhelmed and confused by all this, it is just the thing that serious birders have longed for. (One minor criticism, however: in many cases I was left wondering what a non-illustrated plumage looked like; e.g., several warblers show an adult male, an adult female, and an immature or fall female — but what does the immature/fall male look like?).

Audubon finishes a close second here. A total of 1438 color photos and paintings is included, and these are augmented by 422 smaller black-and-white drawings, for a grand total of 1860 illustrations. And Robbins comes in a dismal and distant third. Although I didn't count up the number of paintings, the number of color plates is 172, only 9 more than the first edition, and all but 40 of these are identical to those in that 1966 edition. For the most part, therefore, the new Robbins is not all that new, and it hardly approaches the thoroughness of the other two guides.

### Illustrations

It is always the pictures in a field guide that one looks over first and, rightly or wrongly, judges the book by. It is easiest to begin this discussion with Robbins, since, as indicated above, what you see in your 1966 Robbins is what you get in the 1983 edition. Virtually all the old individual paintings are still there, and you have to look hard to find a new picture of a species which was included in the first edition. If a plate has been redone, the only change in almost every case is a revised layout to permit the addition of a single painting, usually of some rarity not in the first edition. Only nine entirely new plates have been added. Even newly split species recognized since 1966 are barely illustrated (and hardly mentioned in the text). You'll only find a new Great-tailed Grackle picture, and there are three Thayer's Gull ages shown but none of them looks any different than the Herring Gulls on the same page and thus all are quite useless. With so few new paintings, too many inaccurate and unnatural pictures remain, and all those difficult identification problems not covered in the first edition are again glossed over in this edition. The examples of all this are literally too numer-

ous to mention here, but the evidence is overwhelming that the paintings in Robbins for the most part are 17 years behind all the advances in the art of bird identification.

Thirteen artists were called on to produce the 220 plates in *Geographic*, and their efforts are usually adequate, though a few fail to match the quality of the text, and no more than a few can be described as excellent. I was especially impressed by the gulls and terns, and the adult Boreal Owl could almost pass as a photograph. On the other hand, some paintings should have been rejected by the consultants as either inaccurate or unnatural; some examples: several herons, especially the American Bittern in flight, the ducks in flight (their wing patterns are difficult to see), those awkward-looking jaegers, the Great Gray Owl's head is too small and its "bow tie" needs more emphasis, some of the hummingbirds, all the *Empidonax* flycatchers (too much yellow, and eyerings too large on p. 293), those oddly-shaped *Catharus* thrushes, the Pine Warbler on p. 349 which looks nothing like those on p. 369, the strange Black-and-white Warbler, several sparrows, especially Clay-colored, Fox and the immature White-crowned, and the House Finches. But whether or not these paintings suit your taste, they go far beyond Robbins or Peterson in illustrating those less familiar plumages and attacking difficult identification problems.

In general, the quality and quantity of the illustrations in Audubon match those in *Geographic*. Of the 1438 color pictures, three to a page, 1245 are photos. Certainly far more care and time was spent in selecting them than those in the Great 1977 Audubon Society Field Guide Disaster, and for the most part this new guide demonstrates that photos can succeed as well as paintings in a field guide. If a photo could not be found to illustrate a species or plumage, 13 artists were enlisted to contribute a total of 193 full-sized color paintings; over 400 smaller black-and-white drawings also appear in the margins, either as a space-saving measure or to illustrate a plumage feature difficult to paint or photograph. Captions in the margins with key field marks enumerated accompany the illustrations.

There is a serious problem with the Audubon pictures, however: they were selected and proofed only by Editor Farrant and his staff and not by the authors of the textual accounts. Although the authors were initially asked to indicate the number of pictures needed to illustrate their species and to list key field marks to accompany them, that was the end of their input. As a result, photos and paintings appear which are not as good as the species accounts, which even contradict in some cases information in the text or the captions, some field marks in the captions were added or deleted without the author's approval, and some of the species accounts were even lengthened or shortened, also without the author's approval, to correspond with the amount of space occupied by the pictures on the facing pages. Space does not permit a list here of all the examples I found of misleading, unnatural, inconsistent or inaccurate pictures or captions, but of the 30 species accounts I authored no fewer than 11 were not illustrated to my satisfaction: two of the three Thayer's Gull photos are inadequate, the immature Iceland Gull painting has the wrong bill color, my N. Hawk-Owl text was cut, the Boreal and N. Saw-whet Owl captions aren't mine, neither Yellow-bellied Flycatcher photo shows any yellow, my Alder Flycatcher text was embarrassingly cut (Steve Bailey's thorough coverage of the western *Empidonax* is not consistent with my intentionally brief eastern *Empidonax* accounts), the differences in the waxwings are inefficiently shown, the immature Northern Shrike photo is unsatisfactory, the immature male Pine Grosbeak looks no different than the female, and the pale Pine Siskin photo is not the greenish-yellow-unstreaked variant asked for. There are worse examples than these which involve other authors' species — if the treatment of "my" species is typical, does this mean that more than one-third of the species in Audubon have substandard illustrations?

### Species Accounts

As mentioned above, the paintings in the new Robbins are mostly the same as before, leaving too many unanswered identification questions and perpetuating the

numerous errors in the first edition. Unfortunately, the Robbins text as well has only occasionally been improved, as the vast majority of the species accounts are either identical or only slightly revised. Some attempts were made to include the advances made in field identification since the 1966 edition (e.g., in the loons, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, some of the gulls, and the waterthrushes), but the text remains no more than adequate for the casual birder and will leave the serious birder unsatisfied in ways too numerous to mention.

The species accounts in Geographic and Audubon are far more comprehensive, and advance far beyond the level of Peterson and Robbins. Even when a species is poorly illustrated, in almost every case the text compensates with an accurate and comprehensive species account. This is not surprising, since one of the chief consultants in Geographic is Jon Dunn, who is known among birders throughout the country as one of the top few identification experts; and Audubon recruited 61 experienced birders with special knowledge of the species accounts they authored. Both guides also acknowledge impressive lists of other expert birders who acted as advisors in one way or another.

The texts of both guides (both of which, by the way, follow the convenient text-facing-pictures format pioneered by Robbins) seem equally authoritative and relatively free from error, so that it is difficult to say which is better. I did find, however, that Geographic seemed to have fewer textual errors or omissions — its handling of the immature Bald Eagle's wing linings, the Sharp-tailed Grouse's overall plumage, the Great Gray Owl's "bow tie," the Eastern Phoebe's lack of wing bars and the Baird's Sparrow's necklace stood out the most. A few more problems in Audubon were apparent, with the accounts especially of some of the waterfowl, a few of the terns, the jaegers to some extent, the *Catharus* thrushes, the Sprague's Pipit's song, and the first-spring Mourning Warbler less than they should have been. Also troubling is the editing of some of the species accounts without the author's approval; however, the amount of text in Audubon is more than double that of Geographic (about 480 pages with the average species account  $\frac{2}{3}$

of a page in Audubon, some 220 pages of text with three to four species per page in Geographic).

### Songs and Calls

Once again, I'm afraid, Robbins falls into last place with its treatment of bird vocalizations. For reasons unknown, those infamous Sonagrams are again employed, even though I have never met a single birder who found them the least bit useful. While it is difficult to learn songs and call notes from a field guide, it would be impossible to learn them from Robbins. Some verbal descriptions of voice also appear, but they are mostly too sketchy and brief to be of much help, and some of them (e.g., Boreal, N. Pygmy and Elf Owls, Three-toed Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white and Mourning Warblers, Brewer's Blackbird, Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows) are simply wrong.

The best of the three guides overall in this respect is Audubon; its more extensive text mentioned above also includes voice descriptions which seem complete, accurate and helpful in almost all cases. The amount of text devoted to vocalizations in Geographic is as minimal as in Robbins, but if you purchase the complete *Wonder of Birds* set mentioned earlier you receive an excellent four-record set that includes about 90 minutes of songs of 179 species. The species selected are mostly those difficult to see (like owls, rails and nightjars) or difficult to identify visually (like peeps, flycatchers, sparrows, etc.). The selection of birds included is good, although there are a few species missing from the list that should have been there. It is definitely worth borrowing or buying these records if you use Geographic, but remember another 600 or so species remain with inadequate voice descriptions.

### Range Maps

All three guides find room for their range maps along with the species accounts. Geographic emerges as the winner in this category for one reason: as in the 1980 Peterson, state and provincial lines are delineated, making them much easier to read than those in Robbins. Their accuracy seems satisfactory, since I could find only 20 or so which were inaccurate in and near Minnesota. Robbins comes in a strong

second here: although state/provincial lines are not included, their color scheme has been revised making them easier to read than before, greater use is made of larger scale maps with species of limited ranges, and their accuracy is at least as good as Geographic's (only about 20 Minnesota inaccuracies). The text and paintings in Robbins may not have changed much, but virtually all the range maps have been revised and improved. The maps in Audubon finish a poor third. For one thing, verbal range descriptions were also written, so why include both? Their small size and lack of state lines make them hard to read, and, although I didn't check them, their accuracy is dubious since the authors were not expected to do much research for their range descriptions.

### Conclusions

While all the above analysis may have been long, it is easy to briefly conclude and recommend. First, if you are a casual birder with little interest in serious bird identification, and if you already have the 1966 Robbins or the 1980 Peterson, you'll survive well enough without any of these new books. But if you're a serious and experienced birder who cares about the correct identification of even difficult species, try to come up with enough money to buy both Audubon and Geographic. The quality of both guides is excellent, neither has a clear overall advantage over the other, and each offers a lot of material which adds to and complements the other. I doubt if the new Robbins has anything to offer the serious birder, especially if he already has the old one or Peterson; but I can recommend Robbins as entirely satisfactory for the casual or inexperienced birder who has no need for, or who could be confused by, the wealth of identification information in the other two.

No matter which guide(s) you choose, remember that all of them are far from perfect (Audubon and Geographic included), that bird identification is a difficult skill that takes years and much more than a field guide to master, and that the bird you are trying to identify need not, and should not, always "look just like it does in the book." —9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

# FIRST ANNUAL HAWK RIDGE NON-RAPTOR COUNT

Kim R. Eckert, Hawk Ridge Naturalist

It has long been known that a lot more than just hawks and owls migrate past Hawk Ridge each fall. Flocks of geese, nighthawks, swallows, jays, crows, ravens, chickadees, kinglets, robins, waxwings, warblers, sparrows, juncoes, blackbirds, winter finches and other bird groups have been noted for years moving through in impressive numbers, but it was not until 1983 that an organized effort was made to systematically census these non-raptors. Thanks to funding provided by the Hawk Ridge Management Committee, it became possible to schedule a daily census from August 15 to October 31. The intention was to keep an hour-by-hour count of all non-raptors seen or heard from the Main Overlook, along with hourly weather data, in the same way that hawks have been censused by Molly Evans since 1972. Each day's count was to begin at or shortly before dawn, and to last an average of four hours, ending in late morning when it was projected that most non-raptors would be done migrating for the day. It was also intended that the counter attempt to make separate entries on the count sheet for birds judged to be true southbound migrants and for those thought to be local birds present in the area for more than a day.

Because there were no counts on 11 days due to rain, a total of 67 count days occurred. Although counting began on schedule around dawn almost every day, there were only nine days that the projected four hours of counting took place, since the morning flight of passerines typically dropped off to a mere trickle after a couple of hours, and there was no reason to keep counting for the day. Indeed, there were 12 days that the counting ended after an hour or less because the flight that day was so slow; on the other hand, there were only three days on which more than the projected average of four count-hours occurred (4¼ hours on Sept. 20, 7 on Oct. 4, and 4½ on Oct. 8). In all, there was a

total of 151 hours of counting done during the 67 days, an average of 2¼ hours per day. There were four of us who were involved in the census: Kim Eckert (48½ hours), Laura Erickson (43½ hours), Mike Hendrickson (7¾ hours) and Tim Lamey (51¼ hours).

During the official counting hours 129 species were recorded from the Main Overlook, including five species seen by various observers at times when there was no counter on duty. It is estimated that about 40,000 individual birds were counted, including both locals and migrants (it was often not possible to distinguish between the two) and those recorded during non-count hours. Although 40,000 birds may not seem like anything special when compared to counts of tens or hundreds of thousands of migrants at other locations (e.g., geese in the eastern Dakotas and western Minnesota, waterfowl in fall in the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota, water birds of various kinds along and off both coasts, etc.), note that only about ten percent of the birds on this census were water birds. In other words, the magnitude of migrant passerines and other land birds at Hawk Ridge in the fall is indeed impressive; while systematic counts of such migrants may be taken in other states, and while regular counts of waterfowl are taken in Minnesota at various locations during migration, this census is probably the only one of its kind in the state. It is hoped, therefore, that this significant and unique count is continued each fall, so that comparison of data from year to year sheds some light on fall bird migration in Minnesota.

Some of the more interesting highlights of this census: In August, there were two days of some significance. In the early evening of the 26th, 318 Common Nighthawks were counted in a half hour, which corresponds nicely with the hundreds of

nighthawks reported the previous evening at Silver Bay, 50 miles up the North Shore. And on August 27, although there was no cold front passing through, it seemed that the light NW winds were enough to bring in the first significant flight of the season: in 2¼ hours, 331 warblers of 14 species were counted, as was the first Red-winged Blackbird flock of the season.

Late summer/early fall turned cooler Sept. 5 as prevailing winds shifted to the NW quadrant; as a result, 456 unidentified warblers passed over in 2½ hours on the 5th, 15 warbler species were identified on the 7th, over 200 Blue Jays, 470 warblers (mostly unidentified) and 102 Purple Finches went over in 4 hours on the 11th, the first flock of ravens and 575 warblers occurred in 3 hours on the 12th, and on the 20th there were 86 cormorants and 589 warblers (again mostly unidentified) in 4¼ hours.

Two spectacular days arrived Sept. 25 and 26, as light NW winds (but temperatures no colder than previous days) brought in waves of birds which were literally too numerous to count. Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of birds (probably warblers) could be seen through binoculars swarming over in the distance and were simply impossible for the observers to keep track of. But in 4 hours on the 25th, we did manage to see 154 Blue Jays, 965 robins, 560 Yellow-rumped Warblers plus 2223 unidentified warblers, 75 White-throated Sparrows, 186 Pine Siskins, plus 1237 other unidentifieds (probably mostly warblers). Then in 3½ hours of counting on the 26th, there were 9 Red-headed Woodpeckers (normally rare/uncommon here), 66 flickers, 381 robins, 3590 unidentified warblers (probably mostly Yellow-rumped), and 327 Pine Siskins!

Another spectacular wave passed through October 4, as once again distant birds could be seen through binoculars over the lake shore which were impossible to count: thousands of geese, robins, blackbirds and others (warblers?). The 7 hour census that day did manage a count of 2227 Canada Geese (plus some 1200 more Snow and Canada Geese later in the day), 254 crows, 4442 robins, and 869

blackbirds (mostly Rustys and Red-wingeds). But the most remarkable feature of this day is that there was no cold front of any consequence going through, and the winds were easterly, not northwest as would have been expected!

Things quieted down for the most part during the rest of October, although there were a few more days worthy of note. The 1½ hour count on the 6th recorded 517 robins, 98 juncoes, 68 Lapland Longspurs, 125 Purple Finches, plus thousands of distant, uncounted robins and other birds over the lake (W winds, a bit cooler); on the 25th and 26th (NW winds both days, but no cold front) 945 redpolls passed through during 5 hours of counting; and on Oct. 28 (again NW winds, but again no cold front) the 2½ hour count yielded 1190 redpolls.

There were a few problems with this first attempt at a non-raptor census, and several questions remain unanswered, but it is hoped that counts in the coming years will resolve some of these. First, the assumption was that the best flight days would accompany a cold front and northwest or west winds; i.e., non-raptors would tend to do the same thing as the raptors. However, flights on Oct. 4 and other days seemed inconsistent with the weather. Second, we missed a lot of birds, since our efforts were limited almost entirely to early morning hours due to a shortage of qualified observers and only modest funding. For example, chickadees and ravens are greatly under represented in this census since they mostly seemed to migrate later in the morning and in the afternoon; most of the nighthawks were missed since there was coverage only on two evenings for a total of 1½ hours (thanks to Jeff Newman's efforts); and no attempt was made to count call notes at night when most thrushes, warblers and other bird groups primarily migrate. It is also to be wondered if a non-raptor census at Stoney Point or Park Point or some other location on the shore of L. Superior would result in better results; although it probably would, such a census would have little connection with Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve and its goals and another sponsoring body would have to be found. Finally, two facets of our censusing method need to be discussed and refined further: should

binoculars be used to spot distant birds invisible to the naked eye, and would it be possible to make an accurate count or estimate of such migrants (neither was done Sept. 25, Sept. 26, Oct. 4 or Oct. 6); and how best to treat non-migrating local birds, not to mention how to consistently determine if a bird is a migrant or a local.

Following is the list of all species recorded during the 1983 census. For rarer/uncommon species, all records are listed; for others, the earliest and latest dates of occurrence are given first. If there was a significant peak count that is also indicated, and in some cases the number of individuals recorded during the season is also listed. All totals include species and numbers during non-count hours, but none of the numbers includes locals unless indicated;  $\pm$  indicates an approximate number.

Common Loon: 9/7, 9/9 and 9/20 (1 each day).

Double-crested Cormorant: 8/20-10/25; peak 86 on 9/20; season total 161.

Great Blue Heron: 8/15-10/21; peak 9 on 10/4; season total 26.

Snow Goose: 10/4 (231), 10/5 (75), 10/6 (20), 10/17 (36).

Canada Goose: 8/27-10/15; peak 2600 $\pm$  on 10/4.

goose, sp.: 9/26-10/17; season total 1695 $\pm$  (plus 100s more uncounted 10/4).

Wood Duck: 8/27 (1).

Mallard: 9/27-10/18; season total 70.

Northern Pintail: 10/4 (3).

duck, sp.: 9/12-10/14; season total 42.

Sandhill Crane: 9/12 (1), 9/20 (2), 10/6 (2).

Black-bellied Plover: 9/11 (1).

Lesser Golden-Plover: 9/14 (1), 9/20 (5), 10/2 (3).

plover, sp.: 9/20 (3), 9/27 (42).

Semipalmated Plover: 10/2 (2).

Killdeer: 8/21 (1), 8/30 (1).

Greater Yellowlegs: 9/18 (1).

Solitary Sandpiper: 8/22-9/26; season total 9.

Spotted Sandpiper: 10/2 (1).

peep, sp.: 8/31 (1).

Common Snipe: 9/20-10/17; season total 12.

shorebird, sp.: 8/16-10/4; season total 25.

Ring-billed Gull: 9/3 (7) and 9/6 (9); all locals?

Herring Gull: 8/15-10/30; peak 155 on 9/3; all locals?

gull, sp.: 8/18-10/28; 18 individuals.

Black Tern: 9/11 (1).

Rock Dove: 8/29 (1) and 9/6 (1); both locals?

Mourning Dove: 8/18-10/12; season total 17.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 8/16 (1) and 9/17 (1).

Common Nighthawk: 8/16-9/26; peak 318 on 8/26; season total 452.

Chimney Swift: 8/18-8/29; peak 16 on 8/18.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 8/15-9/5; season total 27 (incl. some locals?).

Belted Kingfisher: 9/8 (2), 9/22 (1) and 10/6 (1).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 24 individuals on 8 dates; peak 9 on 9/26.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 9/20-10/6; season total 10.

Downy Woodpecker: 8/15-10/30; mostly locals, but some migrants.

Hairy Woodpecker: 8/15-10/28; mostly locals, but some migrants.

Black-backed Woodpecker: 10/13 (1), 10/17 (1), 10/20 (2), 10/21 (3), 10/25 (1).

Northern Flicker: 8/15-10/21; peak 66 on 9/26.

Pileated Woodpecker: 9/28 (1-probably local).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 8/19-9/8; season total 6.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 8/15-9/2; 1-3 locals heard almost daily.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 9/2 (2).

Least Flycatcher: 8/15-9/18; season total 23, including some locals.

Eastern Phoebe: 8/18 (1).

Great Crested Flycatcher: 8/15-9/2; season total 10, including some locals.

Eastern Kingbird: 8/15-9/24; season total 5.

Empidonax, sp.: 8/17-9/13; season total 16, including some locals (mostly Leasts?).

Horned Lark: 9/22-10/25; season total 28.

Purple Martin: 8/18-9/21; season total 10.

Tree Swallow: 8/21-9/22; season total 12.

Bank Swallow 9/2 (2) and 9/22 (2).

Cliff Swallow: 8/15-9/21; peak 20 on 9/18; season total 54.

Barn Swallow: 8/15-9/22; season total 54, including some locals.

- Blue Jay: 8/15-10/30; peaks 194 on 9/11, 204 on 9/22, and 154 on 9/25.
- American Crow: 8/15-10/29; peaks 254 on 10/4 and 188 on 10/18.
- Common Raven: 8/15-10/29; peaks 53 on both 10/17 and 10/20; season total 306.
- Black-capped Chickadee: 8/15-10/31; no significant peak recorded.
- Boreal Chickadee: 10/9-10/20; season total 7.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: 8/16-10/26; season total 68, including some locals.
- White-breasted Nuthatch: 9/14-10/25; season total 10, including some locals.
- House Wren: 8/17-10/2; mostly locals.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: 9/17-10/28; season total 71.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 8/21-10/20; season total 41.
- Eastern Bluebird: 9/20-10/17; 30 individuals on 7 dates.
- Townsend's Solitaire: 10/6 (1 - identified by Lamey).
- Veery: 9/1 (3).
- Swainson's Thrush: 9/9 (1).
- Hermit Thrush: 9/25 (1), 10/3 (1), 10/5 (2).
- thrush, sp.: 8/21-10/6; season total 45.
- American Robin: 8/15-10/31; peaks 965 on 9/25, 4442 on 10/4 (plus 1000s more over lake), and 517 on 10/6 (plus 1000s more over lake).
- Gray Catbird: 8/15-10/6; season total 15.
- Brown Thrasher: 9/9 (1).
- Water Pipit: 9/12-10/26; season total 24.
- Bohemian Waxwing: 10/14 (9) and 10/17 (2).
- Cedar Waxwing: 8/15-10/25; impossible to separate locals from migrants.
- Northern Shrike: 10/13 (1) and 10/25 (2).
- European Starling: 8/22-10/26; some migrants recorded.
- Solitary Vireo: 9/7 (2).
- Warbling Vireo: 9/7 (2).
- Philadelphia Vireo: 8/16 (2), 8/30 (1), 9/25 (1).
- Red-eyed Vireo: 8/15-10/9; peak 10 on 8/27.
- Tennessee Warbler: 8/21-9/7; peak 20 on 8/27.
- Orange-crowned Warbler: 8/15 (1) and 9/7 (1).
- Nashville Warbler: 8/15-10/13; peak 19 on 8/27.
- Northern Parula: 9/6 (2).
- Yellow Warbler: 9/11 (1).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler: 8/21-9/7; peak 11 on 8/27.
- Magnolia Warbler: 8/30-9/25; season total 7.
- Cape May Warbler: 8/19 (1), 8/27 (2), 9/7 (1).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler: 8/16-10/28; peak 560 on 9/25 (see also warbler, sp.).
- Black-throated Green Warbler: 8/27 (1), 9/14 (1), 9/26 (1).
- Blackburnian Warbler: 8/21 (3) and 8/27 (1).
- Palm Warbler: 8/27-10/26; peaks 19 on 9/12 and 23 on 9/25.
- Bay-breasted Warbler: 9/3 (1) and 9/20 (1).
- Blackpoll Warbler: 9/7 (1).
- Black-and-white Warbler: 8/27 (2) and 9/12 (1).
- American Redstart: 8/20-9/28; peaks 16 on 8/27 and 30 on 9/25.
- Ovenbird: 8/27, 9/5 and 9/14 (1 each day).
- Connecticut Warbler: 8/27 (1).
- Mourning Warbler: 8/15-9/2; 1 local heard almost daily.
- Common Yellowthroat: 8/15-10/9; mostly locals.
- Wilson's Warbler: 8/30 (1).
- Canada Warbler: 8/30, 9/7, and 9/11 (1 each day).
- warbler, sp.: 8/15-10/12; peaks 244 on 8/27, 456 on 9/5, 543 on 9/12, 2223 on 9/25, (plus 1000s more uncounted), 3590 on 9/26 (plus 1000s more uncounted, probably mostly Yellow-rumped); season total 10,300+ ?!
- Scarlet Tanager: 8/27-9/25; season total 6.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 8/15-9/29; peak 8 on 8/31.
- Indigo Bunting: 8/26-9/14; probably 1 local.
- American Tree Sparrow: 10/17-10/25; season total 18.
- Chipping Sparrow: 8/20-9/21; season total 7.
- Clay-colored Sparrow: 9/21 (1).
- Savannah Sparrow: 9/12 (1) and 10/12 (1).
- Fox Sparrow: 10/5-10/12; season total 4.
- Song Sparrow: 8/15-9/22; season total 15 (mostly locals?).
- Lincoln's Sparrow: 9/7 (1) and 10/6 (1).
- White-throated Sparrow: 8/15-10/25; peak 75 on 9/25.

White-crowned Sparrow: 9/20-10/28; peak 7 on 10/8.  
Harris' Sparrow: 10/3-10/6; probably 1 local.  
Dark-eyed Junco: 9/12-10/31; peak 103 on 10/6.  
Lapland Longspur: 9/17-10/29; peak 68 on 10/6; season total 130.  
Snow Bunting: 10/26 (19), 10/28 (2), 10/29 (5).  
Bobolink: 9/1-10/5; peak 9 on 10/2; season total 30.  
Red-winged Blackbird: 8/23-10/4; peak 85 on 10/4; season total 152.  
Rusty Blackbird: 9/26-10/29; peak 42 on 10/17; season total 76.  
Brewer's Blackbird: 10/4 (1).  
Common Grackle: 8/18-10/13; season total 155.  
Brown-headed Cowbird: 8/23-10/9; season total 4.  
blackbird, sp.: 8/19-10/28; peaks 110 on 9/8 and 784 on 10/4 (plus 1000s more over lake); season total 1232.  
Northern Oriole: 8/15-9/6; season total 21,

including some locals.  
Pine Grosbeak: 10/28 (1), 10/29 (4), 10/31 (2).  
Purple Finch: 8/15-10/31; peaks 102 on 9/11, 125 on 10/6 and 94 on 10/12; season total 1430±.  
Red Crossbill: 10/8 (2), 10/17 (1), 10/26 (1), 10/29 (16).  
White-winged Crossbill: 9/6-9/13 (6 individuals) and 10/26-10/31 (21 individuals).  
Common Redpoll: 10/20-10/29; peaks 724 on 10/26 and 1190 on 10/28; season total 2221.  
Pine Siskin: 8/18-10/31; peaks 186 on 9/25 and 327 on 9/26.  
American Goldfinch: 8/15-10/31; peak 19 on 10/29.  
Evening Grosbeak: 8/15-10/31; peaks 88 on 10/8, 104 on 10/17, 87 on 10/26.  
House Sparrow: 10/6 (19).  
other unidentified: 1306 on 9/25 (plus 1000s more uncounted).  
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## 192 SPECIES ON A MINNESOTA BIG DAY

Kim R. Eckert

On May 21, 1983 Paul Egeland, Henry Kyllingstad, Terry Savaloja and I set a new Minnesota Big Day record by recording 192 species, eight more than our previous best effort in 1974. (A Big Day is defined as the total number of bird species seen/heard by a single party of observers within a calendar day; the complete set of Big Day rules, as defined by the American Birding Association, can be found in **Birding** 15:18(o).) Our day began at 12:15 a.m. and ended at midnight, and during the day

we covered 629 mi. by car (some of this at night driving from one spot to another) and three miles on foot. Of the 192 species we found, 188 were seen/heard by all of us; only Boreal Owl, Common Raven, Field Sparrow and Red Crossbill were identified by less than all four observers.

From 1970, when Paul Egeland and I first tried a Big Day, through 1973 our itinerary began in the St. John's/St. Cloud area, continued west and south, and ended at the Marshall sewage ponds; from 1974

through 1979 our Big Day route began in the Crosby/McGregor area, went east to Duluth, and then headed southwest to basically follow the old St. John's to Marshall route. In 1980, 1981, and again in 1983, we have been trying a different itinerary which begins at areas in the Fergus Falls vicinity and ends at Lake of the Woods. The principal locations covered in 1983 included the Anna Gronseth prairie and Maplewood State Park during pre-dawn hours, areas in and near Itasca State Park early in the morning, Mahnomen Co. Rd. 39 on the north side of White Earth L., the Felton prairie, the Crookston sewage ponds, Agassiz N.W.R., the Warroad vicinity of Lake of the Woods, and Hwy. 310 in northern Roseau Co.

The long day began with disappointment at 12:15 a.m. when we failed to hear any nighthawks over downtown Fergus Falls and to see or hear any Eastern Screech-Owls at a staked out Battle Lake nest. We drove back through Fergus (this time the nighthawks were calling) and headed for the Anna Gronseth prairie-marsh tract in Wilkin Co. Here we heard Virginia Rail, Sora, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, and Le Conte's Sparrow, but there were no Yellow Rails calling as we had in 1981. Our pre-dawn nocturnal birding ended at 3:30 after more disappointment at Maplewood State Park as virtually nothing was to be heard in the relatively cold and windy conditions, and we drove north to Itasca State Park with a total of 11 species.

After waiting out some heavy downpours, we began birding in earnest at the Lake Alice bog just east of Itasca State Park as it began to get light. Unfortunately, few warblers and such were singing on territory in the bog — either it was too cold that morning or many species had yet to arrive on territory due to the cooler than normal spring. However, we did manage to spot Northern Goshawk, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee here, all difficult birds to get on a May Big Day, and in the park Paul heard Red Crossbill, another easily missed species. But things really picked up as we chanced upon an excellent wave of migrants along the main park drive. Here we found just about everything missed in

the bog, especially four thrushes, five vireos and 21 warbler species, and we headed west from Itasca with no fewer than 103 species by 8:15 a.m.

As in previous Big Days, our brief drive along back roads in southern Mahnomen Co. just north of White Earth L. was rewarded with species difficult to get in northwestern Minnesota. Our prizes this time were Hooded Merganser and Common Goldeneye (tough to find in late May), side-by-side views of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Eastern Bluebird, and Henry was the first to hear a slightly out-of-range Field Sparrow. As we continued west to the prairie at 9:45, our total was now 120.

Because we were 45 minutes behind our anticipated schedule (the biggest challenge on a Big Day is not merely to find a lot of birds, but to find them as you constantly race the clock), we decided to forego the Waubun marsh and head directly to Felton. Here we not only gained several minutes of precious time, but we also found the needed Swainson's Hawk, prairie-chicken, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike and Chestnut-collared Longspur. At 11:30, now only a half hour behind schedule, we turned north towards Crookston with 140 species, our best total ever for this time of day!

Although the sewage ponds at Thief River Falls had been good to us on our 1980 and 1981 Big Days, we skipped them in favor of those at Crookston which we heard were much better. In order to save time, we also decided to skip a stop at the Agassiz Dunes on the way; this was a most fortunate decision since the gates at the Crookston ponds were closed, and we had to take extra time to walk in to them. But the hike and time were well worth it, as we flushed a White-faced Ibis from the grass and spotted a good variety of water birds, including both scaup, Bufflehead and several shorebirds, plus an unexpectedly late Water Pipit. It was 2:15 when we left, still 30 minutes behind schedule, but we now had 164 birds listed and were still on a record-setting pace.

On the way to Agassiz, we changed our minds again about Thief River Falls and took valuable time to briefly look over the

sewage ponds there and at St. Hilaire. We did add Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper, both tough to get in late May, but we arrived at Agassiz 1½ hours behind schedule. There we found Great Egret and Sandhill Crane, and we also lucked into a small wave of needed woods birds, including Alder Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Harris' Sparrow. We headed for Lake of the Woods at 6:15 p.m. with 178 species, still somehow on a record pace with almost three hours of daylight left.

On the way to Warroad it started to rain again, as we were to be plagued with showers and the resulting premature sunset for the next couple hours. But Terry spotted the always-difficult Short-eared Owl in the rain as we sped on to Lake of the Woods, and at Warroad we rounded out our list of needed water birds and were thoroughly amazed as a flock of 20 Red Knots flew in among them. We then tentatively headed east towards Pine-Curry Island, but decided not to make the drive since the rain showers were still with us, and it looked particularly black in that direction. But between showers just east of Warroad we chanced upon a needed Cape May Warbler and heard a pheasant which had thus far eluded us. Back at Warroad we waited out the rain with 189 species now to our credit, and as it got dark at 8:45 we headed for the bog north of Roseau where we knew we could count on woodcock and Whip-poor-will. Although we failed to spot a hoped-for Great Gray

Owl just south of the border on Hwy. 310, Paul and Terry were the first to hear a totally unexpected Boreal Owl calling from the bog! This was a long way from Cook Co. where one might not be so surprised to hear one, but that's what it was: quite a fancy species for number 192 for the day.

As pleased as we were with our record 192, we still wonder if 200 was possible that day. After all, we lost some time at dawn and in the evening due to rain, a strong wind was with us almost all day, and the colder than normal spring delayed the arrival of many birds we missed. On any given Big Day there will always be some "easy" species missed; in 1983 if we could have seen the likes of Broad-winged Hawk, Gray Partridge, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Water-thrush, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark and/or a few others, our dream of 200 species would have been realized.

As a final note, Minnesota's Big Day record of 192 now ranks our state sixth among all the states/Canadian provinces; only California (235), Texas (234), Alabama (202), Manitoba (194) and New Jersey (194) have recorded better Big Days. Although the 230 species range is impossible on a Minnesota Big Day, we will certainly try to reach 200 or more in May of 1984. 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

by Kim R. Eckert, M.O.R.C. Secretary

Before listing the votes on records during the last half of 1983, a report on a few of the items discussed at a Dec. 4, 1983 meeting of the Committee follows.

1) A discussion on "second-hand" records (i.e., those records in which the details submitted to M.O.R.C. are written by someone other than the observer) reaf-

firmed both our policy on such records (see *The Loon* 52:151) and our Unacceptable vote on a 1973 Swallow-tailed Kite record (see *The Loon* 55:119).

2) The reported Iceland Gull record from Duluth in January 1983 was discussed (see *The Loon* 55: 188-189), and it was decided to regard this gull as an unidentified Thayer's/Iceland Gull, although the majority thought it was more likely an Iceland. One problem is that the identification of this gull as an Iceland relied mainly on the presence of subapical spots in the primaries; however, this field mark (along with others involved in the very difficult problem of Thayer's/Iceland Gull identification) may not be infallible since most references deemphasize or fail to mention this feature, and since it is possible that some paler Thayer's could show such spots (see the photo in *Birding* 12:199). The other problem with this record is that the gull's inner primaries are whiter than the darker outer primaries and secondaries (see the photo in *The Loon* article); although this feature is not widely published, it is consistent with all first-winter Thayer's Gulls this writer has seen either in life or in photos. Also note that the outer primaries, while pale, are still slightly darker than the wing coverts — a field mark of the Thayer's rather than the Iceland.

3) In order to make our proceedings more open and available to M.O.U. members, two decisions were made. First, those interested should be aware that all M.O.R.C. votes on bird records, both Acceptable and Unacceptable, are kept on file with the permanent M.O.U. bird records located at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. These files are open to the public, and access to them, either in person or by mail, can be arranged by contacting either Janet Green, M.O.U. Research and Records Chairman, or Kim Eckert, M.O.R.C. Secretary. Second, all future M.O.R.C. meetings, usually held annually in summer or during the December M.O.U. Paper Session weekend, will be open for anyone interested to attend. To find out when the next meeting is, contact M.O.R.C. Chairman Bob Janssen or any of the Committee members.

The following records were found Acceptable, July – December, 1983. (Note — M.O.R.C. does not vote on, nor do these Proceedings articles include, obviously acceptable records substantiated by clearly identifiable photos or specimens; e.g., the Groove-billed Ani seen by many and photographed in Nov. 1983 in Brown Co. — however, if there had been no photo this record would have been voted on.)

- Bufflehead, 6/5-7/83, Carver Park Reserve, Carver Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55: 123-124).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/11/83, Flandrau State Park, Brown Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:126).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/16/83, Tamarac N.W.R., Becker Co. (vote 7-0).
- Black-legged Kittiwake, 6/11/83, Greenbush, Roseau Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:123).
- White-eyed Vireo, 6/4/83, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:126-127).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/17/83, Minnesota State Park, Blue Earth Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:126).
- Lazuli Bunting, 6/26/83, near North Branch, Chisago Co. (vote 6-1; *Loon* 55:120).
- Hooded Warbler, 5/24-6/18/83, Maple Grove Twp., Crow Wing Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:124-125).
- Laughing Gull, 6/9-10/83, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:125).
- Tricolored Heron, 7/3-12/83, near Alden, Freeborn Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:179-180).
- Northern Wheatear, 5/15/82, near Whitman Dam, Winona Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 151-153).
- Snowy Plover, 7/28/83, Zipple Bay State Park, Lake of the Woods Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:177).
- Sabine's Gull, 10/2/83, Lake Benton, Lincoln Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:178).
- Black-legged Kittiwake, 9/11-17/83, Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:179).
- Groove-billed Ani, 10/5/83, Lutsen, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 56:75).

—Mississippi Kite, 10/31/82, Oxbow Park, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 56:70-71).

—Arctic Loon, 10/16/83, Leech Lake, Cass Co. (vote 6-1; *Loon* 56:65).

—Ibis (*Plegadis*, sp.), 10/3/83, Mallard L., Dam 5A, Winona Co. (vote 7-0).

—King Rail, 5/31-6/7/83, Brockway Twp., Stearns Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 56:72).

The following records were found Unacceptable, July - December, 1983.

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6/11/83, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7)

This identification was only based on a sketchy description which mentioned only a "very long tail. . .with narrow feathers like the look of a Barn Swallow", "white throat and chest, light above", a call described as a harsh "kep or kek", and that the bird was "soaring around like night-hawk but slower". Although the description could fit a Scissor-tailed, the details were thought to be too vague, the observers appeared to be relatively inexperienced, the bird's call and visual appearance would also fit a tern (which was not considered in the details), and while the flight behavior could fit a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in courtship flight, it also suggests a tern.

—Rufous Hummingbird, 7/30/83, Anoka, Anoka Co. (2-5)

It was unanimously agreed that the description could fit an adult male Rufous Hummingbird; however, the bird was only apparently seen for a few seconds, the details did not include light conditions (the apparent colors of a hummingbird's plumage can change considerably depending on the light), no rufous on the tail was seen, and the observer apparently did not take a critical look at the bird since she wrote it was "not of great import to me".

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 8/4-6/83, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 2-5)

The details included no description of the bird; all that was said was that "the bird looked exactly like the bird in *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds*" — i.e., an adult female Black-headed. But it is never enough to say a bird looked just like in a book, since a de-

scription of the bird being reported (not the one in a book) is always required for any unusual record; with relatively inexperienced observers especially, there is always too great a possibility of a field guide misleading and influencing what was actually seen.

—Swainson's Warbler, 5/15/83, Dakota, Winona Co. (vote 1-6).

This identification, made by observers inexperienced with this species, was based only on: "rufous patch on the head. . .light stripe over the eye. . .back was plain brown toward an olive color". However, such details also fit Palm Warbler, a possibility apparently not considered by the observers. Also, the behavior (seen for 45 minutes "feeding on grass" under a tree out in the open) was inconsistent with Swainson's Warbler.

—Caribbean Coot, 8/7-13/83, Lake Minnewaska, Pope Co. (vote 0-7)

Although this coot apparently had an enlarged frontal shield suggestive of this species, this individual (and probably others reported in Mich. and Tenn.) was undoubtedly just an American Coot with an abnormal frontal shield. Such aberrant American Coots are not all that uncommon and are certainly far more likely in Minnesota than a Caribbean Coot.

—Rufous Hummingbird, 9/2-5/83, Detroit Lakes, Becker Co. (vote 1-6)

This could have been a female/immature Rufous, but nothing in the details precludes the possibility of Broad-tailed or Allen's Hummingbirds; although these are not as likely in Minnesota as the Rufous, they have to be considered. Although this bird appeared larger than the Rubythroats with it, there was "less white in tail than ruby throats" — but such does not fit the Rufous. At one point the back in the sun looked "bronzey-green or greenish-bronze", but this only "appeared" to be the case for "just an instant".

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 8/8/83, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 2-5)

A photo of this individual (possibly the same one seen Aug. 4-6) suggests an adult female Black-headed Grosbeak, but the bird is most likely a juvenile male Rosebreasted which, although not adequately

stressed in the field guides, often appears relatively unstreaked and buffy below and is frequently and easily mistaken for the Black-headed Grosbeak.

—Worm-eating Warbler, 8/12/83, Potato Lake, Hubbard Co. (vote 0-7)

The relatively inexperienced observer's description was: "plain olive back, no wing bar, plain whitish breast, white eye line with black stripes above and below"; however, such details also fit Red-eyed Vireo.

—Great-tailed Grackle, 8/24/83, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 0-7)

While this grackle may have been a Great-tailed, its apparently larger size and longer tail were only impressions with "nothing around for size comparison". The observer also states only that it was "perhaps" larger than a Common Grackle; more certainty is needed to accept such an unusual species.

—Trumpeter Swan, 11/6/83, Crow Wing Lakes area, Hubbard Co. (vote 3-4)

Although the two swans were heard by a 12-year employee at Carver Park Reserve who works daily with Trumpeter Swans and thus knows their call well, the majority were uncomfortable with the facts that he only heard and did not see the swans, that the call heard is not described in the details, and that this was a second-hand report provided by someone other than the observer.

—Trumpeter Swan, 10/10/83, Lake Emily, Pope Co. (vote 1-6)

Also a second-hand report, these details did not include a description of the calls heard, and, while this observer did actually see the swans in question, he apparently had little or no previous experience with this species and based his identification only from memory after later listening to captive Trumpeters in the Twin Cities.

9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

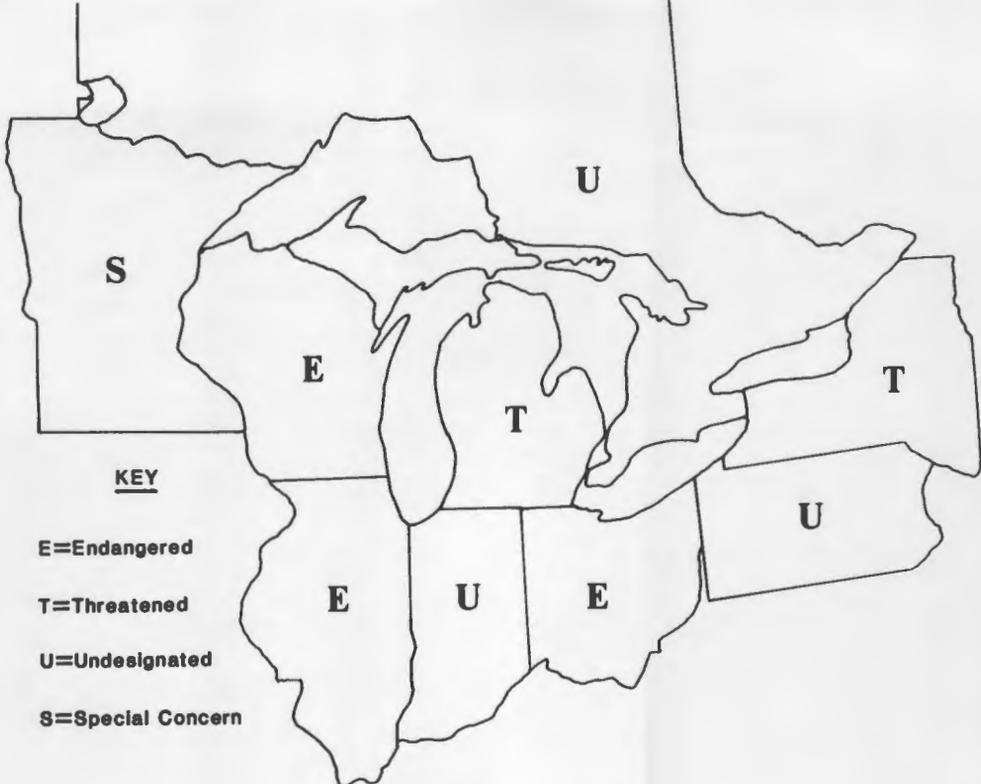
## STATUS OF COMMON TERNS NESTING AT THE DULUTH PORT TERMINAL 1982-83

By Francesca J. Cuthbert<sup>1</sup> Joan E. McKearnan<sup>1</sup> and Thomas E. Davis<sup>2</sup>

Regional declines in nesting pairs of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) recently have been reported for the Great Lakes area (Blokpoel 1977; Shugart and Scharf 1983). A November 1983 assessment of the Status of Common Terns in the eight states and one province that border the Great Lakes demonstrates the level of governmental concern for this species (Fig. 1). Three states have designated the Common

Tern as Endangered, two as Threatened, and the status of the Common Tern in Minnesota is Special Concern. In addition, the Midwest Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the Common Tern as a species of special interest (U.S.F.W.S. Regional Resource Plan, 1983).

Four primary breeding sites have been identified in Minnesota (Janet Green, pers.



**Figure 1**

Status of the Common Tern in the Great Lakes area. Information on current status was obtained through personal communication with state of provincial wildlife personnel in November 1983.

comm.) (Fig. 2). Despite knowledge of the location of these colonies and growing regional and federal interest in these species, there are no published studies on the breeding success of Common Terns in Minnesota. In 1982 we initiated a two year study of the status and reproductive success of Common Terns at one of the major breeding sites, the Port Terminal Colony, in the Duluth Harbor.

#### **STUDY AREA AND METHODS**

Although Common Terns have nested in the Duluth Harbor since at least 1939 (Engstrom 1940), use of Port Terminal property is quite recent; this location has been the major Common Tern breeding site only since the early 1970's (Davis and Niemi 1980). Table 1 summarizes colony size at the Port Terminal site from 1977-1983.

During this study, tern nests were established in discrete subcolonies separated



**Figure 2**

Common Tern breeding sites in Minnesota

from each other by roads, vegetation, or Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) nests. There were five subcolonies in 1982 and three in 1983.

Population size was determined by making a direct nest count when the majority of birds was in late incubation stage. Only nests with eggs were counted. In 1982 one of the subcolonies was located within a

fenced area used for equipment storage. The number of birds within this area was estimated by counting birds in flight following a disturbance.

To measure reproductive success, nests were marked with numbered stakes and chicks were banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands 2-3 days after hatching. In 1982, only 70/190

**Table 1 — Port Terminal Common Tern Colony Size**

Year	Breeding Pairs	Source
1977	185	Davis and Niemi (1980)
1978	148	Davis and Niemi (1980)
1979	178	Davis and Niemi (1980)
1980	161	Davis (1983)
1981	227	Davis (1983)
1982	190	
1983	146	

**Table 2 — Chick survival in the Port Terminal Colony**

	1982	1983
Total # of eggs	179	392
Failed to hatch	45%	79%
Hatched	55%	21%
Total # of chicks	99	81
Died/disappeared	88%	77%
Fledged	12%	23%
Overall Reproductive Success	6%	5%

**Table 3 — Factors causing reproductive failure in the Port Terminal colony.**

	YEAR	
	1982	1983
Unhatched eggs		
Disappeared	72%	70%
Broken	18	6
Deserted	6	23
Inviabile	4	1
Unfledged chicks		
Disappeared	64%	53%
Dead	35	47

nests (37%) were monitored. Reproductive success data were collected on all 146 nests in 1983. Nests were checked on a regular basis (every 1–2 days) until the contents disappeared or young were capable of flight (21+ days). Chicks that disappeared when they were 15 days of age or older were recorded as “fledged”. Cause of reproductive failure was recorded when it could be determined.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Population size.**—We estimated that a total of 190 pairs of Common Terns nested at the Port Terminal colony in 1982. The 1983 estimate was 146 pairs, almost 25% smaller than in 1982. These numbers are similar to population size estimates from 1977–1981 (Table 1). The average number of breeding pairs at this location for all seven years was 176 pairs.

**Breeding success.**—Tern reproductive success is summarized in Table 2. In 1982, 45% of the eggs failed to hatch and in 1983 this rose to 79%. Of the chicks that hatched in 1982, 88% died or disappeared and only 12% fledged. In 1983, 77% of the chicks died or disappeared and 23% fledged. Although the proportion of eggs that hatched in 1982 was considerably greater than in 1983, the number of chicks that fledged was smaller. As a result, the overall reproductive success (number of young fledged/number of eggs laid) was approximately the same (5–6%). This is even lower than the 7% survival estimate reported for Common Tern colonies in Lakes Michigan and Huron (Shugart and Scharf 1983). These authors stressed that their estimate, considerably below the 30% survival reported in several East Coast studies, indicated that not enough young survived to maintain the population at the current level. It is important to note that although the 1983 estimates represent breeding success for all pairs of terns at the Port Terminal colony, the 1982 results were based on a sample. In 1982 a large group of terns (approximately 50 pairs) nested inside a large chain-link enclosure where equipment was stored. Although we could not monitor the terns in this area, survival of young appeared to be very good.

**Factors causing reproductive failure.**—Table 3 summarizes reasons eggs did not hatch and chicks failed to fledge. In both years, about 30% of the eggs that failed to hatch were deserted, broken, or inviable; the remaining 70% disappeared. Of the chicks that fledged both years, 53–64% disappeared and the rest were found dead. Chemical contaminants also may have contributed to low reproductive success, but this possibility was not investigated. The site is not an island and is therefore accessible to mammalian predators. In 1982 a skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) ate eggs and chicks and a dead rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) was found adjacent to the colony. In 1983 the tracks of skunks and domestic dogs were found on a number of occasions. Numerous authors (e.g. Emlen et al. 1966; Southern et al. (1982) have reported the serious impact mammalian predators can have on chick survival in colonial nesting birds; it is likely that predation by mammals was an important factor in reproductive failure in the Port Terminal colony as well.

Although no direct evidence was found, two sources of avian predation also must be considered. A Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) was observed on nearby Hearing Island and may have fed on young at the Port Terminal colony. The most important avian predator and major cause of disappearance of eggs may have been the Ring-billed Gull. Several thousand pairs nest at the Port Terminal site, and gulls were often seen in and adjacent to the areas used by breeding terns. Ring-billed Gulls can be a significant egg predator on Common Terns, especially when terns are disturbed by human activities (F. Cuthbert pers. observ.)

Humans (sometimes accompanied by dogs) were almost a constant source of disturbance for nesting terns. Disturbances were caused by fishermen, railroad car traffic, sailors, an Air Stream Trailer convention, construction workers, and the annual visit of a Navy destroyer that attracted thousands of people to the Port Terminal. When terns were flushed from their nest, gulls may have eaten the exposed eggs. Although we made an effort to minimize investigator disturbance, several nests in

the early stage of incubation were abandoned in 1983 after they were marked.

Poor quality nest habitat is another major factor that influences success of terns nesting at this site. Birds not only constructed their nests in areas where human activities were concentrated, but they also nested on deposits of snow removed from the Duluth city streets. This latter site was inadequate for numerous reasons. Approximately 30 nests were constructed on the snow piles each year. Eggs rolled out of nests as the snow melted and were eaten by gulls or abandoned. Chicks died from hypothermia or drowned in the puddles of melted snow. No young from nests located in the snow piles survived in either year.

**Future of the Port Terminal colony.**—Breeding success of Common Terns was exceptionally low at this site during both seasons. Most nest failures appeared to be the result of poor quality nesting habitat, predation, and human disturbance. Because the land is a major industrial development site, management efforts at the Port Terminal colony are not feasible. Fortunately the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, the regional planning agency for northeastern Minnesota, have initiated a cooperative program to establish Common Tern colonies at alternative protected sites within the Duluth Harbor (e.g. Hearing and Interstate Islands). Their efforts have focused on attracting birds to the sites by use of models, vocalizations, and the creation of appropriate nest habitat.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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aerial photographs of the colony, and the Duluth Port Authority for permission to work on their property. Research funds were provided in part by the Department of Biological Sciences (University of Minnesota-Duluth) and the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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# SHOREBIRD MIGRATION AT LITTLE PELICAN ISLAND, CASS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Lewis W. Oring and Stephen J. Maxson

While studying Spotted Sandpiper breeding biology on Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake, Cass County, Minnesota, we kept daily records of migrant shorebirds during 1975-77. Little Pelican Island (Fig. 1) is 1.6 ha in size and is 7-8 km from the mainland. The island is nearly surrounded by sandy beaches and when water levels are low (e.g. 1976-77) there is a sand spit extending several hundred meters into the lake.

## METHODS

We censused shorebirds from 9-10 May through 27 July-5 August. Our observations, averaging 10 man-hours per day, were conducted from four 3-meter towers located at corners of the island. Because of the island's small size, we were able to record a very high proportion of the migrant shorebirds. Since observations terminated in late July or early August each year, our data for the southward migration must be



Figure 1. Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake, Minnesota.

**Table 1.**  
**Ranking of shorebirds by abundance during northward migration, 1975-77.**

Species	Rank	Total individuals	Total dates observed	Maximum daily totals
Ruddy Turnstone	1	317	45	30
Dunlin	2	260	26	39
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	204	28	40
Sanderling	4	161	34	15
Least Sandpiper	5	107	20	10
White-rumped Sandpiper	6	105	20	25
Semipalmated Plover	7	54	19	18
Black-bellied Plover	8	41	17	6
Dowitcher sp.	9	20	7	8
Pectoral Sandpiper	10.5	17	8	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	10.5	17	7	7
Lesser Golden-Plover	12	16	6	6
Wilson's Phalarope	13	12	4	4
American Avocet	14	6	3	3
Red Knot	15	4	3	2
Baird's Sandpiper	16.5	3	3	1
Hudsonian Godwit	16.5	3	3	1
Willet	19.5	2	2	1
Whimbrel	19.5	2	2	1
Greater Yellowlegs	19.5	2	2	1
Western Sandpiper	19.5	2	2	1
Stilt Sandpiper	24	1	1	1
Piping Plover	24	1	1	1
Marbled Godwit	24	1	1	1
American Woodcock	24	1	1	1
Solitary Sandpiper	24	1	1	1

**Table 2.**  
**Ranking of shorebirds by abundance during southward migration, 1975-77.**

Species	Rank	Total individuals	Total dates observed	Maximum daily totals
Sanderling	1	196	49	10
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	131	19	16
Least Sandpiper	3	92	31	11
Willet	4	32	9	18
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	30	13	5
Greater Yellowlegs	6	19	8	7
Semipalmated Plover	7	18	11	3
Ruddy Turnstone	8.5	14	13	2
Black-bellied Plover	8.5	14	9	3
Dowitcher sp.	10	13	5	4
Pectoral Sandpiper	11	11	7	5
Piping Plover	12	5	4	2
Dunlin	14.5	1	1	1
American Avocet	14.5	1	1	1
Solitary Sandpiper	14.5	1	1	1
Stilt Sandpiper	14.5	1	1	1

considered only a partial listing. Species names used in this paper follow the 6th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union check-list.

## CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

In 1975 ice break up was late, water levels were high, and cool, wet weather prevailed. Be contrast, 1976 was a dry, warm year with low lake levels and hence, extensive exposed beaches. In 1977, low lake levels and dry conditions continued through May. However, June and July were wet and lake levels rose.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Twenty-eight of the 38 shorebird species recorded for Minnesota (Green and Janssen, 1975) were observed on the island. Of the 10 unrecorded species, two (Long-billed Curlew and Red-necked Phalarope) were seen on the island in 1974. A third, the Ruff, was seen in 1979. Of the remaining unrecorded species, the Purple Sandpiper and Red Phalarope occur only accidentally in the state, and the Eskimo Curlew is extirpated.

The relative abundance of 26 species seen during northward migration and 16 species observed during southward migration is indicated in Tables 1 and 2. Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeer are excluded from these comparisons because of their status as breeders on the island. The most common northbound migrants were, in descending order, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlins, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Least Sandpipers, and White-rumped Sandpipers. Only three species: Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Least Sandpiper, were common during the southward migration. Despite the fact that our observations of southbound shorebirds recorded only the earliest migrants, Sanderlings were more numerous during the southward migration than during the northward migration.

Data for the most common species are presented by year in Tables 3 and 4. For each species there were striking differences among years. With few exceptions, shorebirds were most numerous in 1976 and least abundant in 1975. Overall, the number of migrants observed in 1975 was

only 13.3% of the mean value for 1976 and 1977. This extreme paucity of migrants was due to the very late spring of 1975. Northern breeding shorebirds, delayed in the onset of spring migration apparently forage relatively little enroute and hence were not seen as migrants. It is also likely that in late years some individuals may fail to move north and/or there may be a southward shift in certain wide latitude species. This may partially account for the fact that 1975 witnessed an unusually large breeding population of Spotted Sandpipers.

The large numbers of migrant shorebirds seen in 1976 was probably due to two factors: (1) the very warm early spring leading to a northward movement characterized by frequent stops of moderate duration, and (2) low lake levels exposing greater beach/sand spit areas. Again in 1977 spring was early and for most of the season lake levels were very low. Once again large numbers of migrant shorebirds were seen.

## SPECIES STATUS

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). — Uncommon northbound migrant 13-27 May. Rare southbound migrant 16 June - 8 July.

Lesser Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). — Rare northward migrant 16-27 May. No records of southbound visitors.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). — Uncommon northward migrant 14 May-3 June. Four records 11-20 June. Rare southbound migrant 14 July-4 August. No distinct peaks.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). — casual migrant. One seen 15 May, 1976. Five others seen 8-14 July, 1977.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). — Summer resident. One pair bred on the island in 1976 and 1977.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). — Casual migrant. 1-3 seen 14-15 May, 1976; two seen 20 May, 1977; one seen 6 July, 1976; and one seen 16 July, 1977.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). — Casual northbound migrant. One seen 28 May, 1976 and one 17 May, 1977. Rare southbound migrant 24 June-9 July.

**Table 3.**  
Species abundance by years during northward migration.

Species	Year	Total individuals	Total dates
Ruddy Turnstone	1975	15	6
	1976	99	20
	1977	203	19
Dunlin	1975	5	3
	1976	211	15
	1977	44	8
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1975	16	7
	1976	154	15
	1977	34	6
Sanderling	1975	9	7
	1976	33	11
	1977	119	16
Least Sandpiper	1975	1	1
	1976	61	10
	1977	45	9
White-rumped Sandpiper	1975	19	3
	1976	59	11
	1977	27	6

**Table 4.**  
Species abundance by years during southward migration.

Species	Year	Total individuals	Total dates
Sanderling	1975	27	10
	1976	115	21
	1977	54	18
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1975	11	4
	1976	116	13
	1977	4	2
Least Sandpiper	1975	6	5
	1976	48	10
	1977	38	16

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). — Rare northbound migrant 16-20 May. Uncommon southbound migrant 24 June-28 July.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*). — Casual visitor. One seen 21 May, 1975; another 25 July, 1975.

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). — Casual northbound migrant. One seen 23 May, 1977 and another 8 June, 1976. Uncommon during southward migration 24 June-20 July.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*).

— Abundant summer resident.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). — Casual visitor. One seen 23 May, 1976; another 27 May, 1976.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). — Casual visitor. One seen 18-19 May, 1977; another 21 May, 1976.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). — Casual visitor. One seen 16 May, 1977.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). — Abundant northbound migrant 9 May-9 June. Peak of migration during last half of May. Rare southbound visitor 16 June-25

July.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). — Casual visitor. One seen 18-19 May, 1976 and two on 25 May, 1976.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*). — Abundant northbound migrant 11 May-21 June with a peak evident 21 May-8 June. Abundant southbound migrant 7 July-5 August.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). — Abundant northbound migrant 15 May-20 June with a peak evident 24 May-12 June. Common southbound migrant 11 July-4 August.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*). — Casual visitor. One seen 17 May, 1977; another 8 June, 1976.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). — Common northbound migrant 13 May-1 June with a peak evident 14-22 May. Common southbound migrant 24 June-5 August.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). — Common northbound migrant 18 May-13 June with a peak evident 14-22 May. No records of southbound visitors.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). — Casual northbound migrant. One seen 24, 31 May, and 1 June, 1977. No records of southbound visitors.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*). — Rare northbound migrant 15-20 May. Rare southbound migrant 28 June-23 July.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). — Abundant northbound migrant 9 May-12 June with a peak evident 16-24 May. Casual southbound migrant. One seen 19 July, 1976.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*). — Casual visitor. One seen 17 May, 1977; another 21 July, 1977.

Dowitcher sp. (*Limnodromus* sp.). — Rare northbound migrant 16-25 May. Rare

southbound migrant 7-29 July.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). — Casual visitor. One seen 8 May, 1977.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). — Rare northbound migrant 12-21 May. No records of southbound visitors.

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# OCTOBER BIRDING

Robert B. Janssen

October is usually not thought of in the birding community as one of the more interesting months in the year. As a lister, in Minnesota, October has turned out to be one of the most exciting months in my birding year.

For a number of reasons, October offers more birding opportunities than most months, even the preceding "heavy" migration month of September. September may offer more total species, but October, in my opinion, offers almost as many species, but many more individual birds. September gives us large flocks of warblers and hawks, Sharp-shins and Broad-wings, but no other month can rival October for its numbers of sparrows, gulls, several species of warblers (Yellow-rumps, Orange-crowns and Palms) plus many waterbirds, coots, ducks and geese, and, of course, large flocks of American Robins, loose aggregations of Common Flickers and Blue Jays.

October migration seems more steady, not the up one day, down the next in numbers as so often happens in September. On any given day in October you can go out in the field and find many interesting species, examples being Hermit Thrushes, Winter Wrens, kinglets, plus White-crowned, Lincoln's and Harris' Sparrow. What other time of year can these species be found with such ease?

October is the time of year to find large concentrations of Franklin's Gulls in many parts of western and central Minnesota. In some years the flocks can be seen as far east as the Twin Cities "hawking" insects in the late evening skies. Ring-billed Gulls are also found in large flocks in many areas of the state.

The latter part of October is a very exciting time of the month and year, especially in the northern part of the state. Rarities such as Lark Buntings, Groove-billed Ani's, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Rock Wrens have put in their appearance.

Also, this is the time when the first arctic visitors begin to show up in the north, such specialty species as Northern Hawk-Owl, Snowy Owl redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills and other winter finches.

October 1983 was an excellent example of the exciting birding that can take place in Minnesota during this time of year. On October 1 and 2, 1983 Ray Glassel and I decided to spend the weekend in southwestern Minnesota. 1983 had been a very peculiar year from the birding standpoint. Ever since early spring birding events had been behind "schedule." This was especially true of the nesting season. There were many reports of young birds still in the nest into late August and a number of exceptional reports of downy young in nests of Barn Swallow and Black-billed Cuckoos, many warblers still feeding young and also of sightings of downy young ducks well into late September.

On October 1, 1983 Ray and I recorded 101 species in southwestern Minnesota, including Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Lyon and Lincoln Counties. Highlights of this trip included 12 species of warblers, including Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted which are not usual warblers on anybody's October list. We also saw Solitary, Philadelphia and Red-eyed Vireos. Several Scarlet Tanagers were seen in Redwood Falls. Also surprising was the sighting of a very late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Garvin Park, Lyon County. Raptors were common in the Minnesota River Valley in Yellow Medicine and Redwood Counties, Broad-winged, Coopers, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks were seen, American Kestrels were common, a Peregrine Falcon passed high over Upper Sioux Agency Park, as well as a Bald Eagle and Turkey Vulture.

On October 2 on our return trip through Lincoln, Pipestone and Rock Counties, we

saw 90 species for the day. Near Luverne a late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen, and north along the Rock River the state's latest Blue Grosbeak was observed. At Split Rock Creek State Park a Prairie Falcon "zipped" over the prairie to the south of the park. More migrants were in the woods, hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers, plus several more Philadelphia Vireos, a Rufous-sided Towhee, and on the small lake were many wigeons, coots and Pied-billed Grebes.

At Hole-in-the-Mountain Park in Lake Benton we found many migrants, up to 50 Orange-crowned Warblers in one area! On Lake Benton there were hundreds of Franklin's Gulls and it was here that we recorded the highlight of our weekend trip, a single Sabine's Gull (see *The Loon* 55:178). On our way back to the Twin Cities we found 100's of ducks in a flooded area near Tyler in Lincoln County, Mallards, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail and Ruddy Ducks. Also within this area were shorebirds, Long-billed Dowitcher, 12 Stilt Sandpipers, Killdeers and a single Black-bellied Plover. For the two day trip we had recorded a record 120 species! This almost sounds like a weekend birding in May in Minnesota rather than October.

The temperature reached 77 degrees on October 2 in the Twin Cities, very high for this time of year. On the 3rd it turned cooler. A very odd plumaged grosbeak, it eventually was identified as a Rose-breasted, showed up at Evelyn Stanley's feeder. We had a difficult time identifying the bird, but through Evelyn's excellent sketch and comparison with Bell Museum skins, a Black-headed was eliminated. The main field character eliminating the Black-headed was the streaks all across the beige breast of this individual.

Over the weekend of the 8th, White-crowned, Harris' White-throated, Fox, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Song and Lincoln's Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-rumped Warblers and kinglets were migrating north of and through the Twin Cities area.

On the 12th the first snow flurries of the season occurred in the Twin Cities. Light

snow fell all across northern Minnesota. However, weather conditions were generally on the mild side during the middle of the month and the snow didn't last.

On the weekend of the 15th southwestern Minnesota was full of birds and rain. We recorded 70 species in Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin and Blue Earth Counties. At Kilen Woods State Park there were many kinglets, Brown Creepers, (seven in one tree!), a late Black-throated Green and Nashville Warbler. In Martin County there were Snow Geese migrating over Cedar Lake. Along the Watonwan River there were Harris', Lincoln's and Song Sparrows, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers and more kinglets.

From the 15th to the 22nd it was mild and cloudy with more rain. By the 22nd it quit raining and I spent the day in Pope County under clear skies and calm winds. It was a beautiful day and birds were everywhere. American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos had invaded the state and were seen in numbers along with Harris, Fox, Song and White-throated Sparrows. Ring-billed, Franklins and Bonaparte's Gulls were abundant in the skies from Glenwood to Cyrus. On Lake Minnewashta in Glenwood I estimated at least 10,000 American Coots on the lake.

On Tuesday the 25th I decided to take the day off work and do some birding in Dodge County. Juncos and American Tree Sparrows were common in the weed patches and many Savannah Sparrows were along the road. At the Claremont Sewage Ponds there were many ducks, Ruddies, Northern Shovelers, Mallards, Green-winged Teal and Ring-necks. Along the Zumbro River a Northern Goshawk flew overhead. In a woods south of Claremont there was a large flock of juncos and in with them two Bay-breasted Warblers, the latest date on record for this species in the state. On Rice Lake in Steele County there were Horned and Pied-billed Grebes and many diving ducks, including Lesser Scaup, Redhead and Canvasbacks, plus a few American Wigeons.

On the 27th it was 70° and by the 29th there was frost on the ground. Beautiful October weather!

The 30th was my final bird trip of the month, a leisurely trip into LeSueur

County. There were hundreds of ducks on Lake Pepin south of New Prague, Buffleheads, Redheads, Canvasbacks. Hundreds of juncos and American Tree Sparrows near Dora Lake. Near Waterville at the drained Fish Hatchery Ponds six species of shorebirds, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Common Snipe, Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher. Across Waseca County there were many Franklin's Gulls and Brewer's Blackbirds in the plowed fields.

Reports from the North Shore of Lake Superior indicated excellent migration in that area especially in early October. The best fall migration period in the northeastern part of the state is from early September to mid-October.

The Hoffman's who live on the Gunflint Trail in Cook County and bird regularly in the Grand Marais area, report "We never know what we will see in Grand Marais in October — it seems almost anything is possible." In general, October in northeastern Minnesota a birder can look forward to late dates for warblers and sparrows; large pipit and longspur flocks with attendant Merlins; excellent sparrow migration; arrival of "sea ducks" such as scoters, arrival of northern birds such as Northern Shrikes, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills and redpolls.

During October 1983 the Hoffman's reported the following unusual records: two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, the first Cook

County record (*The Loon* 55:178-79), Groove-billed Ani, also a first for Cook County; a very much larger than usual Clay-colored and Harris' Sparrow migration and late dates on Northern Parula (13th), Magnolia Warbler (13th), Common Yellowthroat (13th), Clay-colored Sparrow (13th), Least Flycatcher (10th), Pine Warbler (31st), and finally Cook County's first Grasshopper Sparrow on the 3rd (*The Loon* 55:180).

As a sidelight and an exciting possibility for Minnesota, a Brambling was seen at Aitikokan, Ontario from October 23 to 26, 1983. This is only about 50 miles from Cook County and the Hoffman's sharp eyes!

The unseasonable warm month produced some excellent birding in the state. As usual during October, there were enough weather changes, rain, a little snow, clouds, cold fronts, frost and temperatures in the 70's to produce some good waves of migrants. As I said in the beginning, a lister can look forward to October and October 1983 lived up to the reputation that that month can be one of the best birding times of the year. On my all time species month list, October with 252 species ranks fourth behind September (255), June (271) and May (293). I bet you didn't believe there were more species to be seen in October than April, July and August. **10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

## THE 200 COUNTY CLUB

Carlton, Fillmore, Isanti, Lake of the Woods, LeSueur, Pine, Steele and Winona Counties were added to the growing list of Minnesota counties in which over 200 species have been recorded. The new counties were added primarily through the efforts of Ray Glassel and Ken LaFond, the two most active County listers in the state. During 1984 Ray will be working on a high year list for Ramsey County so if you see unusual birds in Ramsey County, let Ray know.

The figure in parenthesis indicates the total number seen in the County by all observers.

The totals are those reported to March 15, 1984.

County	Observer	No. of Species	County	Observer	No. of Species
Aitkin . . . . . (283)	Terry Savaloja . . . . .	255	Lake . . . . . (267)	Bob Janssen . . . . .	211
	Jo Blanic . . . . .	246		Ray Glassel . . . . .	207
	Warren Nelson . . . . .	245		Kim Eckert . . . . .	202
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	213	Lake of the Woods . . (243)	Jan Green . . . . .	215
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	212		Steve Wilson . . . . .	211
Anoka . . . . . (285)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	206	Kim Eckert . . . . .	202	
	Ken LaFond . . . . .	202	LeSueur . . . (245)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	205
	Ken LaFond . . . . .	264		Horace Chamberlain . . . . .	202
	Ruth Andberg . . . . .	222	Lyon . . . . . (275)	Henry Kyllingstad . . . . .	257
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	221		Paul Egeland . . . . .	248
Ray Glassel . . . . .	215	Ray Glassel . . . . .		202	
Beltrami . . . (259)	Bob Janssen . . . . .	205	Marshall . . . (280)	Sarah Vasse . . . . .	235
	Marion Otnes . . . . .	213		Shelley Steva . . . . .	223
Blue Earth . . (256)	Jeffrey Palmer . . . . .	207	Martin . . . . . (244)	Ed Brekke-Kramer . . . . .	214
Carlton . . . (237)	Merrill Frydendall . . . . .	223		Morrison . . . (246)	Pete Ryan . . . . .
	Ken LaFond . . . . .	216	Mower . . . . . (244)	Ron Kneeskern . . . . .	230
Carver . . . . . (252)	Allison Bolduc . . . . .	216		Rose Kneeskern . . . . .	229
	Kathy Heidel . . . . .	218	Richard Smaby . . . . .	205	
Chisago . . . (240)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	211	Bob Jessen . . . . .	204	
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	211	Nicollet . . . (258)	John Frentz . . . . .	230
Clay . . . . . (266)	Carol Falk . . . . .	233		Merrill Frydendall . . . . .	220
	Laurence Falk . . . . .	231		Ray Glassel . . . . .	213
Clearwater . . (255)	Richard Davids . . . . .	219	Olmsted . . . (269)	Jerry Bonkoski . . . . .	235
	Allison Bolduc . . . . .	208		Joan Fowler . . . . .	232
Cook . . . . . (279)	Ken Hoffman . . . . .	231		Bob Ekblad . . . . .	223
	Molly Hoffman . . . . .	230	Vince Herring . . . . .	221	
	Kim Eckert . . . . .	213	Joel Dunnette . . . . .	221	
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	205	Phyllis Lindquist . . . . .	213	
	Jan Green . . . . .	204	Ted Lindquist . . . . .	213	
Crow Wing . . (261)	Jo Blanic . . . . .	234	Anne Plunkett . . . . .	213	
	Terry Savaloja . . . . .	233	Otter Tail . . (289)	Steve Millard . . . . .	257
Dakota . . . . (277)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	253		Pennington . . (240)	Shelley Steva . . . . .
	Joanne Dempsey . . . . .	236	Keith Steva . . . . .		211
	Karol Gresser . . . . .	229	Pine . . . . . (255)	Mike Link . . . . .	207
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	226		Ken LaFond . . . . .	207
Fillmore . . . (234)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	202	Pipestone . . (243)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	200
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	213		Polk . . . . . (254)	David Lambeth . . . . .
Freeborn . . . (252)	Charles Flugum . . . . .	213	Shelley Steva . . . . .		204
Goodhue . . . (280)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	233	Sharon Lambeth . . . . .	201	
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	225	Ramsey . . . . (281)	Liz Campbell . . . . .	240
	Bill Litkey . . . . .	227		Bill Litkey . . . . .	238
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	221		Ray Glassel . . . . .	233
	Kim Eckert . . . . .	214		Bill Pieper . . . . .	224
Kim Eckert . . . . .	214	Bob Janssen . . . . .		211	
Grant . . . . . (239)	Bob Janssen . . . . .	278	John Fitzpatrick . . . . .	209	
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	271	Bob Holtz . . . . .	207	
	Oscar Johnson . . . . .	268	Ken LaFond . . . . .	201	
	Alvina Joul . . . . .	267	Renville . . . (230)	Paul Egeland . . . . .	212
	Violet Lender . . . . .	254		Rice . . . . . (271)	Orwin Rustad . . . . .
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	251	Ray Glassel . . . . .		214
	Don Bolduc . . . . .	235	Kirk Jeffrey . . . . .		210
	Allison Bolduc . . . . .	219	Rock . . . . . (249)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	241
	Gary Swanson . . . . .	219		St. Louis . . . (330)	Jan Green . . . . .
	Karol Gresser . . . . .	218	Kim Eckert . . . . .		292
Charles Horn . . . . .	214	Bob Janssen . . . . .	265		
Houston . . . (253)	Fred Lesher . . . . .	223	Paul Egeland . . . . .		260
	Jon Peterson . . . . .	208	Ray Glassel . . . . .		256
	Ann McKenzie . . . . .	200	Mike Hendrickson . . . . .	254	
Isanti . . . . . (238)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	207	Bill Pieper . . . . .	243	
	Ken LaFond . . . . .	207	Ken LaFond . . . . .	229	
Itasca . . . . . (245)	Tim Lamey . . . . .	203			
Jackson . . . . (248)	Ingeborg Hodnefield . . . . .	202			
Lac Qui Parle . . (281)	Micki Buer . . . . .	231			
	Chuck Buer . . . . .	223			

County	Observer	No. of Species	County	Observer	No. of Species
	Laura Erickson . . . . .	224	Wabasha . . (263)	Don Mahle . . . . .	224
	Bill Litkey . . . . .	224		Ray Glassel . . . . .	212
	Henry Kyllingstad . . . . .	211	Wadena . . . (248)	Dick Oehlenschlager . . . . .	242
Scott . . . . . (246)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	241	Washington . (274)	Bill Litkey . . . . .	235
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	200		Ray Glassel . . . . .	229
	Sharon Sarappo . . . . .	203		Liz Campbell . . . . .	217
Sherburne . . (265)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	208	Winona . . . (245)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	204
Sibley . . . . (232)	Bob Janssen . . . . .	207	Wright . . . . (245)	Gary Swanson . . . . .	212
	Nestor Hiemenz . . . . .	271	Yellow Medicine . Paul Egeland . . . . .	212	
Stearns . . . . (287)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	238	(246)		
Steele . . . . (226)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	207			

## Minnesota Bird Distribution (Part III)

Robert B. Janssen

Once again reader response was excellent to Minnesota Bird Distribution (Part II). Hundreds of new county records were received from many observers.

On the following pages are maps of Minnesota Species from Lewis' Woodpecker to Red-eyed Vireo. Please refer to *The Loon* 55:129 for details on how the maps are compiled.

The following 32 species from this series have been recorded in all 87 Minnesota Counties and are **not** mapped:

Red-headed Woodpecker	American Crow
Downy Woodpecker	Black-capped Chickadee
Hairy Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Flicker	House Wren
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Sedge Wren
Least Flycatcher	Marsh Wren
Great Crested Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Kingbird	Eastern Bluebird
Horned Lark	American Robin
Purple Martin	Gray Catbird
Tree Swallow	Brown Thrasher
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Cedar Waxwing
Bank Swallow	European Starling
Cliff Swallow	Solitary Vireo
Barn Swallow	Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay	Red-eyed Vireo

Maps are not included for the following species as they are needed for only one or two counties as indicated:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Nobles
Olive-sided Flycatcher — Big Stone, Kandiyohi
Eastern Phoebe — Nobles, Traverse
Brown Creeper — Red Lake
Golden-crowned Kinglet — Norman
Swainson's Thrush — Hubbard

Part IV, Blue-winged Warbler through House Sparrow will be published in the Summer 1984 issue. After this series is complete we will begin publishing breeding distribution maps for each Minnesota breeding species. Hopefully this data will be compiled for the Fall 1984 issue.



Lewis' Woodpecker — 1



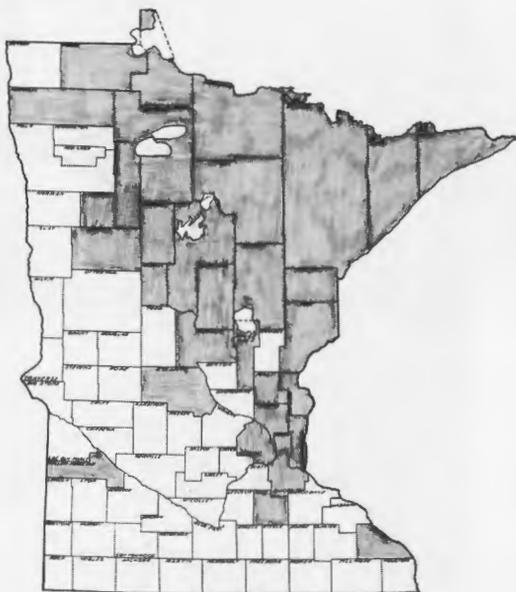
Red-bellied Woodpecker — 75



Williamson's Sapsucker — 2



Three-toed Woodpecker — 19



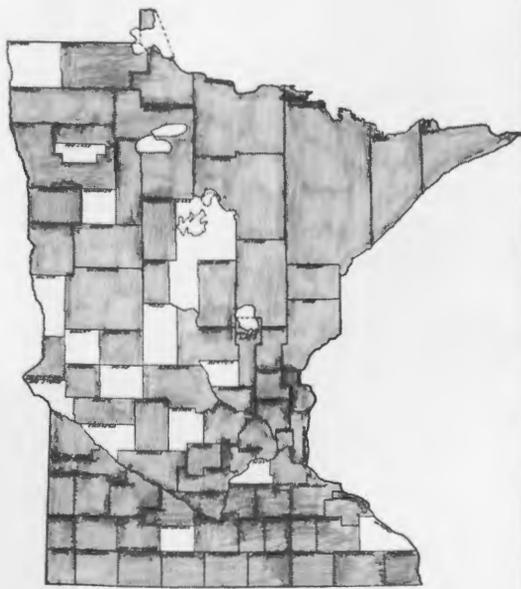
**Black-backed Woodpecker — 32**



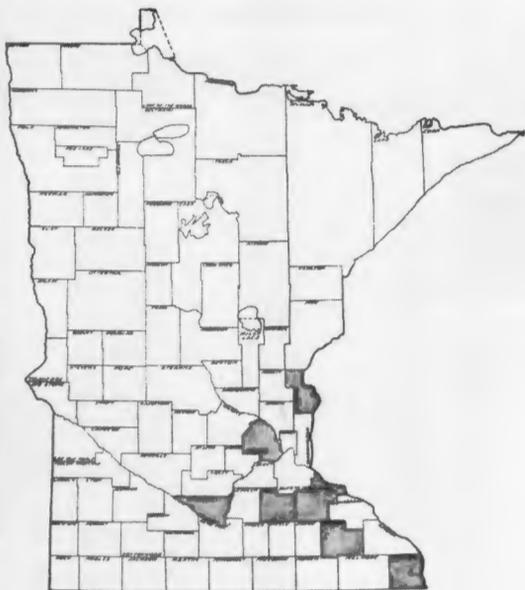
**Pileated Woodpecker — 78**



**Western Wood-Pewee — 2**



**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — 69**



**Acadian Flycatcher — 7**



**Alder Flycatcher — 55**



**Willow Flycatcher — 57**



**Black Phoebe — 1**



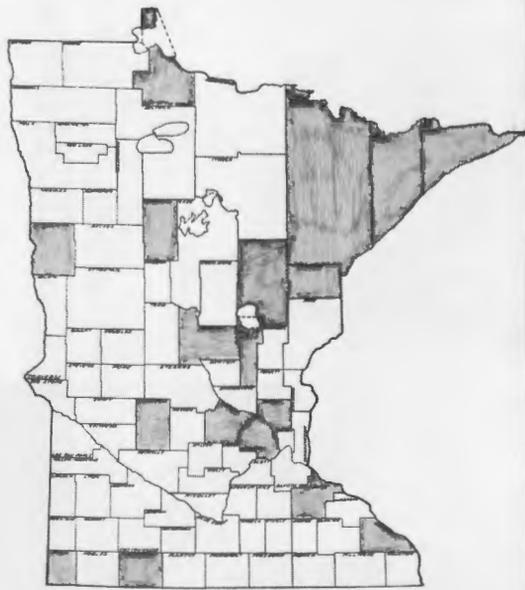
Say's Phoebe — 7



Vermilion Flycatcher — 1



Western Kingbird — 74



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher — 18



**Violet-green Swallow — 1**



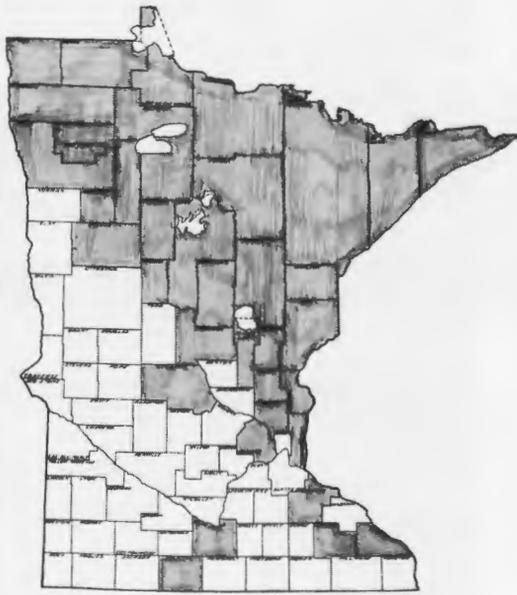
**Gray Jay — 35**



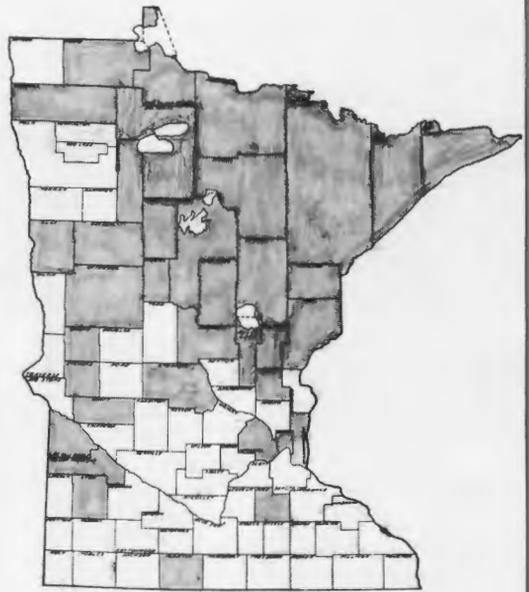
**Clark's Nutcracker — 11**



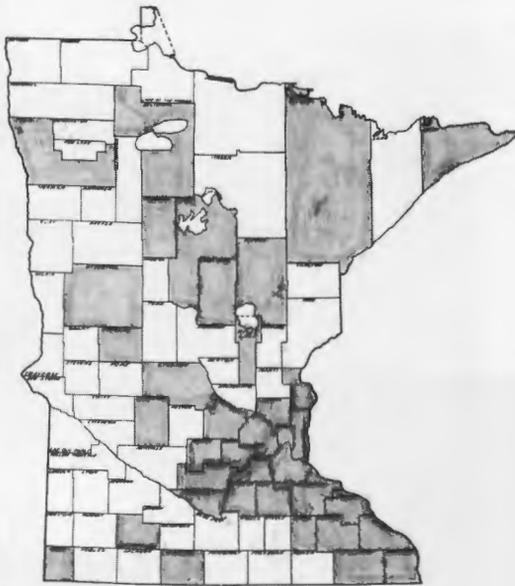
**Black-billed Magpie — 61**



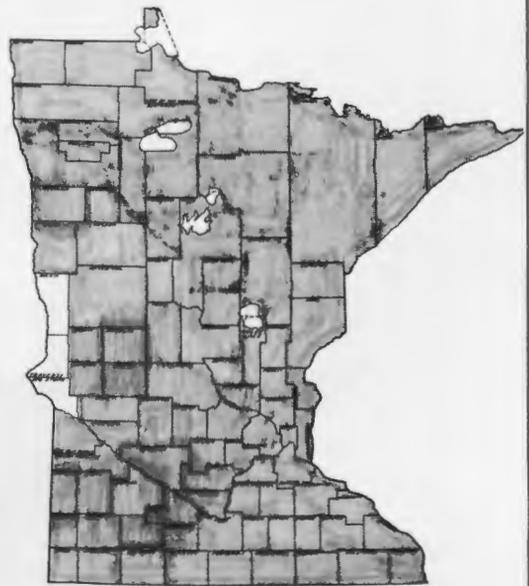
**Common Raven — 37**



**Boreal Chickadee — 36**



**Tufted Titmouse — 37**



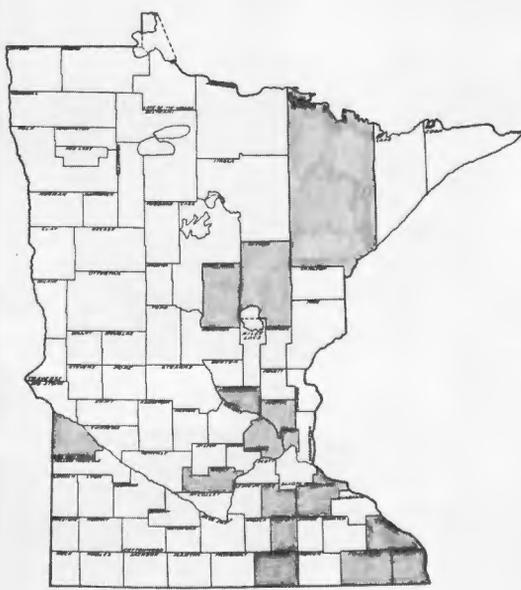
**Red-breasted Nuthatch — 84**



**Rock Wren — 6**



**Carolina Wren — 17**



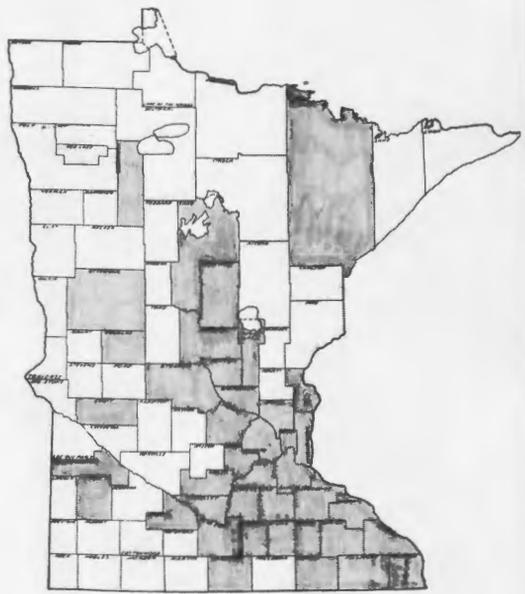
**Bewick's Wren — 15**



**Winter Wren — 75**



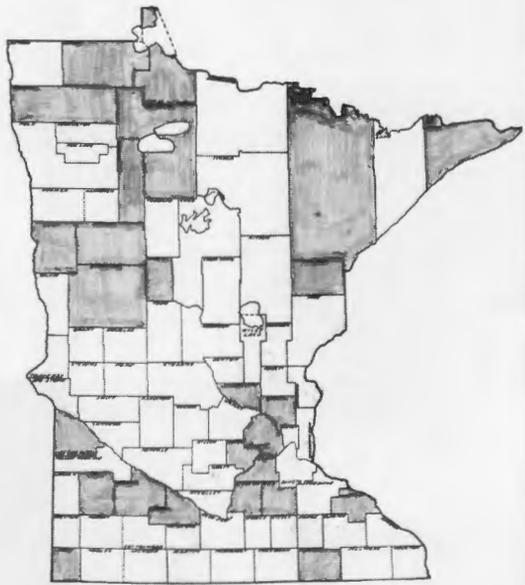
**American Dipper — 2**



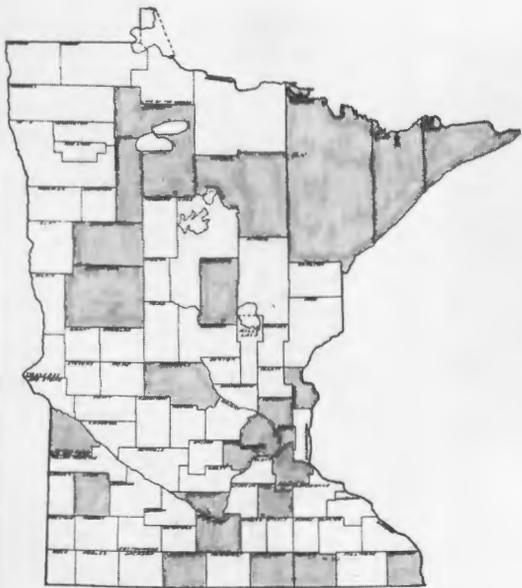
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — 40**



**Northern Wheatear — 2**



**Mountain Bluebird — 26**



**Townsend's Solitaire — 25**



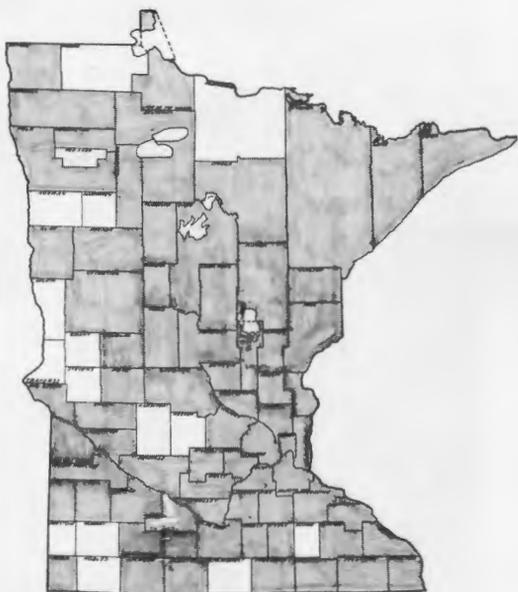
**Veery — 78**



**Gray-checked Thrush — 77**



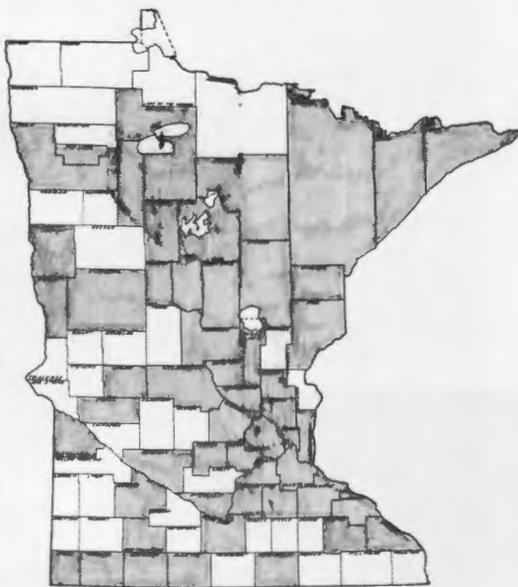
**Hermit Thrush — 78**



Wood Thrush — 71



Varied Thrush — 31



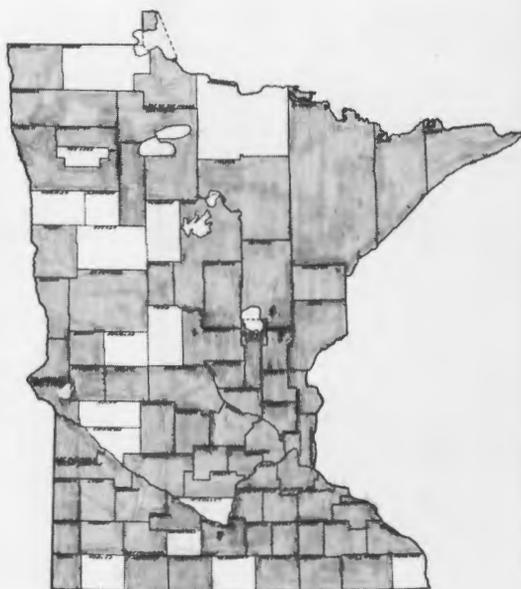
Northern Mockingbird — 51



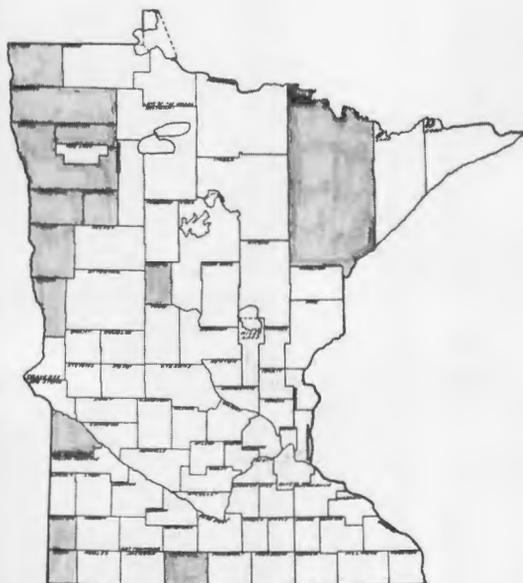
Sage Thrasher — 1



**Curve-billed Thrasher — 1**



**Water Pipit — 71**



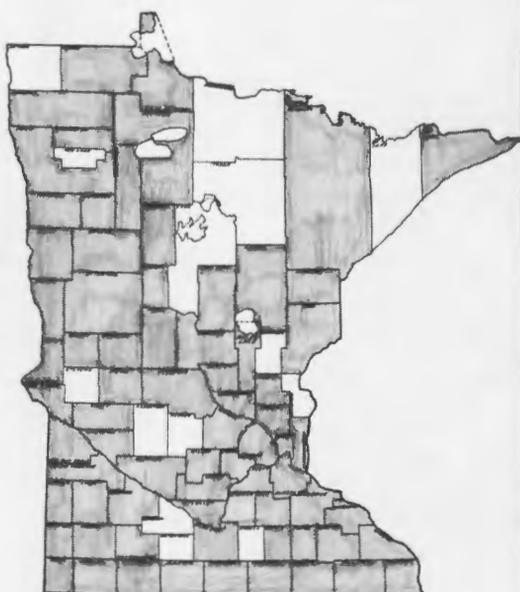
**Sprague's Pipit — 14**



**Bohemian Waxwing — 71**



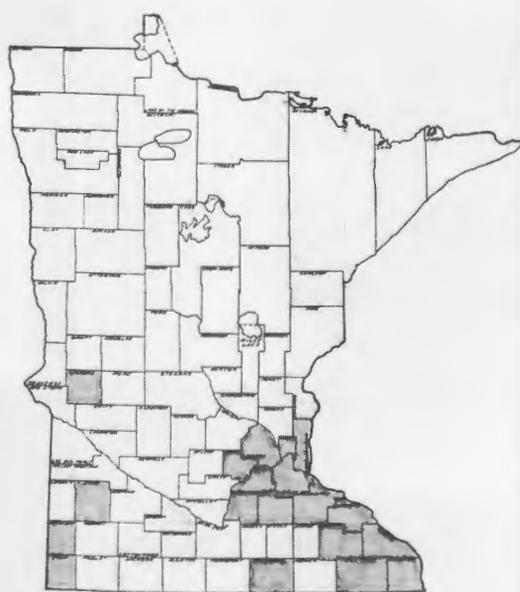
Northern Shrike — 82



Loggerhead Shrike — 73



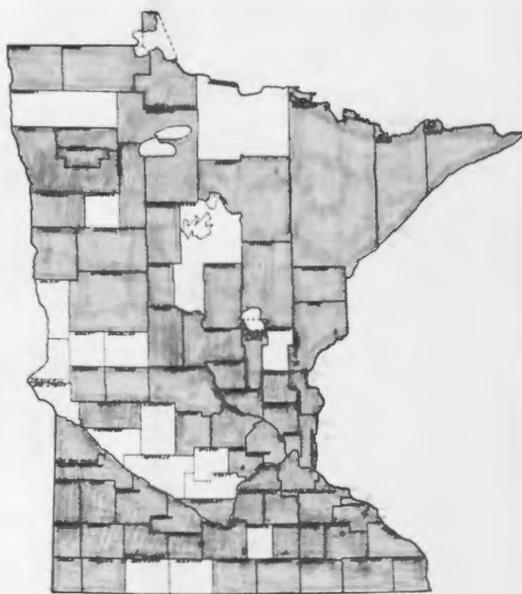
White-eyed Vireo — 6



Bell's Vireo — 19



Yellow-throated Vireo — 78



Philadelphia Vireo — 68

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Cranes of the World.** By Paul A. Johnsgard. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1983, xiii + 258 pages, including range maps, line drawings, 24 black-and-white and 23 color photographs. \$37.50.

In early Roman times Martial and Casiodorus were convinced that cranes in flight inspired the entire Greek alphabet. In the early 1600's, Topsell reported from England that crane flesh cures cancer, ulcers, palsie, and "winde in the gut". Cranes have been revered symbols of longevity in China, happiness in Japan, and morality in several cultures. Small wonder, then, as Johnsgard points out in his new

book, *Cranes of the World*, that cranes continue to fascinate.

Johnsgard presents this volume as an update of Walkinshaw's 1973 *Cranes of the World*. The book is divided into two parts: first a series of chapters covering general topics such as classification, behavior, ecology, reproductive biology, aviculture, conservation, mythology, and a second part containing individual species accounts.

Fans of Johnsgard's previous books will recognize the characteristic pattern of the species accounts. Information such as weights, measurements, and species-specific natural history are easily referenced. Johnsgard's extensive literature review and

range maps summarize information that would otherwise be unavailable to the average reader. His concise format and prose make these facts more accessible than Walkinshaw's chatty text.

Unfortunately, the first section was not cast in the same mold. Johnsgard introduces these chapters as "comparative biological analysis". They vary in style, their order seems haphazard, and I found them less than truly comparative. Often the problem is simply a lack of information. Johnsgard overcomes this difficulty with statements such as, "Incubation behavior is probably essentially identical in all cranes." Throughout the early chapters, the well-researched Sandhill Crane serves as a model for generalizations when data on other species are lacking.

The chapter on vocalizations and the comparative tables Johnsgard compiled are exceptions to this criticism. The chapter is thoroughly comparative and the tables form a backbone for the first section by summarizing information such as clutch sizes, brood sizes, and laying dates.

Johnsgard emphasizes the endangered status of cranes throughout the early chapters and I think this is an important justification for the book. I also agree with his not-so-hidden message in the chapter on ecology and population dynamics. He believes that the growing sport of hunting Sandhill Cranes in this country may jeopardize the population. Cranes are large targets and they reproduce very slowly; the combination makes them vulnerable to over-hunting.

My opinion of this book is mixed. I don't think it replaces Walkinshaw's authoritative edition but it does condense and summarize new information in an easily accessible form.

**Jan Eldridge, Department of Ecology & Behavioral Biology, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455**

**Birding in Ohio** by Tom Thomson; Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1983; 35 maps, 17 line drawings, 256 pages; \$15.00.

Although I know virtually nothing about Ohio and its birds and birding areas, I have every confidence that this book would

undoubtedly be of value to all resident and visiting birders in that state. As author of the 1974 *Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, Thomson seems more than qualified to catalogue the best birding areas in the state (about 230 are included) and to direct the birder to those species he or she is seeking. This guide also includes an impressive 70-page annotated list of all birds known to have occurred in Ohio, certainly an invaluable resource to anyone interested in Ohio birds. Also especially helpful is a list of all of Ohio's local bird clubs which includes addresses and phone numbers of local birding contacts; also listed are the numbers of the state's four Rare Bird Alerts.

As good as this guide seems to be, there are a few problems with it, one of them potentially serious, which detract from its obvious qualities. A minor point is the \$15 price tag of this hardcover edition; if the publisher would come out with a paperback version, not only could the cost be cut by a third or more, but also the book would feel less like a library book and more like the field reference it is intended to be. Another shortcoming is that an awful lot of time and space is wasted listing common and widespread species associated with each birding area. I'm sure several pages (and a few dollars) could have been saved if all those references to Mallard, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Barn Swallow, Yellow Warbler, American Goldfinch, and countless others were eliminated. After all, the birder need only refer to the book's annotated list to find out about these birds common to all or most of Ohio's birding areas. More attention should have been spent on listing the more sought-after species of more potential interest to the reader who, as it stands now, must wade through all those common birds to find the more interesting ones.

It looks like there is a more serious problem involved with the book's maps and directions to the birding locations. Of the 35 maps, 28 show the locations of some (less than half?) of the areas in relation to nearby towns and highways; the

other seven merely plot the locations of all the birding areas on county outline maps, with no towns or roads shown for reference. The problem not only is that there aren't enough maps, but also that the accounts of each birding area only refer you to one of the seven key maps which do little or nothing in getting you to where you want to go. If an area is also located on one of the other 28 maps which are more helpful, you are not told this; one of many examples: Winton Woods, described on p. 162, only refers you to p. 122 where all you'll find is #54 in a blank outline of Hamilton County — why is there no reference to a much better map on p. 131 which clearly shows where Winton Woods is?

The flawed system of maps would have been less serious if the directions included with each birding location would have been better. Although it's not entirely fair to judge the clarity and accuracy of these directions until one has actually tried following them, I suspect that I would get lost many times. For one thing, mileages are not given in many cases (and only two of the maps include a mileage scale). Also you are told many times about turning at a certain city street, township or county road without being told where that road is. Such streets are not always obviously signed, and most county roads may not be signed at all. While it's OK to assume the reader has a state highway map and can find a U.S. or Ohio highway, it is not fair to assume smaller roads are as easy to find and follow. One of many examples: to get to Firestone Park, "south of Akron, take I-224 to S. Main St., then south to Swartz Rd., east to Harrington Rd. and the Tuscarawas parking lot on the northwest side of Harrington Rd." How far do I drive on these roads, are their intersections clearly marked, and just what is a Tuscarawas and what does it have to do with Firestone park?

But, in sum, *Birding in Ohio* remains a quality guide and is recommended. I just hope the vague maps and directions don't lose you too often, and that you don't waste too much time looking for crows at South Bass Island.

—Kim R. Eckert

**A Guide to Bird Behavior: Volume 2** by Donald W. and Lillian Q. Stokes. Little, Brown and Co., Boston. 1983; 334 pages; cloth; \$14.95.

The publication of this book resolves the question of why Stokes reissued his 1979 behavior guide in 1983 under the new title: *A Guide to Bird Behavior, Volume 1*. Those who enjoyed Volume 1 will certainly welcome Volume 2, since the books have much in common.

Volume 2 deals with the behavior of 25 additional species of birds that breed in eastern North America. All serious Minnesota birders will be familiar with the species selected. The format of the book is the same as that of Volume 1. For each species there is a behavior calendar showing when major behaviors occur, a display guide giving descriptions and contexts of behaviors, separate sections describing each of the major categories of breeding behavior (territory, courtship, nest-building, etc.), and discussions of flock and feeder behavior, where appropriate. At the end of the book is a checklist of behaviors for each species, a glossary, and a bibliography that is indexed by species. As with Volume 1, the descriptions in this book deal mostly with breeding season behaviors. In most cases, this reflects the lack of other information in the scientific literature.

Although much of the introduction to the book is taken verbatim from Volume 1, the new portions correct some important omissions of that first book. These include a description of feeder behavior and how to interpret it, a summary of maintenance behaviors, and a caution about the potential disruption of nesting caused by visits of humans to nests.

Any reader can appreciate, as I do, the intent, the organization, and the style of the book. It is more difficult to evaluate the accuracy of the descriptions and interpretations of behavior. Familiarity with the scientific literature on a species is required to determine whether all relevant publications have been consulted, and if the information in them has been accurately presented. While I was not able to do this for all species, I got help from four graduate students at the Bell Museum whose re-

search has dealt with four different species covered in this volume. Their reactions to the sections dealing with "their" birds were mostly favorable, although all pointed out some problems. The Brown Thrasher, Mourning Dove, and Northern Oriole sections were all viewed as adequate. Most criticisms of these sections had to do with omissions, but some inaccuracies were pointed out (e.g. one dove display was incorrect, female oriole song was incorrectly implied to be identical with that of males).

The most serious criticisms were offered of the Brown-headed Cowbird section. The authors get off on the wrong foot by proclaiming this species to be the only nest parasite in North America. This is incorrect. If the authors are thinking of obligate nest parasites (those that lay eggs only in other birds' nests, as does the Brown-headed Cowbird), the Bronzed Cowbird is another N.A. species that fits in this category. However, there are also other variations on nest parasitism in which a female will lay a clutch of eggs for herself in addition to laying eggs in the nests of other species (e.g. Redhead and Ruddy Ducks); or in the nests of other individuals of the same species (e.g. Yellow- and Black-billed Cuckoos, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, House Sparrows, and European Starlings).

Another criticism of the Brown-headed Cowbird section is that the description of the mating system does not represent the most current thinking on the subject, even though the relevant articles are cited in the

bibliography. Also, information on the fledgling period is available, although the authors apparently were not aware of it.

I discovered a few additional problems in other sections. For example, several important references describing the polygynous mating system of Indigo Buntings were missing, and so was any mention of polygyny for that species in the text. Also, information that the authors report as unknown for the Chipping Sparrow is available in the literature.

In summary, the book is not perfect, but it does fill a void in the popular ornithological literature, and I am reluctant to be too critical of it for that reason. Also, summarizing complex behaviors concisely and accurately is a difficult task, particularly when there are large gaps in knowledge, and even experts disagree about interpretations of existing information. In spite of some weaknesses, birders who are interested in behavior will probably find this, as well as Volume 1, useful additions to their libraries. Hopefully, as the authors intend, the book will stimulate more non-professionals to help fill in the gaps in existing knowledge about the behavior of common birds.

I would like to acknowledge the expert contributions of Bruce Fall, David Blockstein, Bruce Edinger, and Mike Carter to this review.

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## **RAPTOR COLLISIONS WITH UTILITY LINES**

### **A Call for Information**

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, in cooperation with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is assembling all available published and unpublished information concerning collisions of raptors with power lines and other utility lines. Actual case histories—no matter how circumstantial or fragmentary—are needed. Please acknowledge that you have such information by writing to Dr. Richard R. (Butch) Olen-dorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825 U.S.A. (Phone (916) 484-4541). A form on which to record your information will then be sent by return mail.

# THE SUMMER SEASON (June 1 – July 31, 1983)

Janet C. Green and Robert B. Janssen

The total number of species reported for the 1983 summer season was 271 which is ten more than the average for a summer seasonal report. The additional species were the result of the late spring migration which was also reflected in the late dates for flycatchers and warblers in the southern half of the state. The following species, which were seen in June, are more often found as strays or casuals during the spring migration: Parasitic Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Mountain Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting. Two other accidentals reported, Snowy Plover and Chuck-will's-Widow (same location as last year), are in the realm of usual summer vagrants.

Three species that are regularly seen in summer were missed this year: Three-toed Woodpecker, Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl. But on the opposite, brighter side two species that have not been seen in a number of years were found this summer: King Rail and Sprague's Pipit. Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets were missing this year and may no longer nest in the state; Cattle Egrets also were less numerous than in some past summers.

No new breeding records were established but the Burrowing Owl, Rusty Blackbird, and Solitary Sandpiper were found nesting in the same locations as last year. Breeding data were turned in for 160 species. The champion nest finders were Nestor Hiemenz, Jack Sprenger, Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd, Terry Wiens, Erls Krueger, and Molly and Ken Hoffmann. The data that they provide are very valuable for a long-term record of breeding distribution of Minnesota birds.

**Note on style:** same as past seasonal reports (see *Loon* 54:14-15, *Loon* 55:51).

## **Common Loon**

Breeding data from St. Louis, Isanti, Anoka, Sherburne, Wright, Crow Wing, Todd, Pope (Lake Johanna, NMH), Mahnomen, Kittson. Seen throughout range plus Steele (one, 7/2), Cottonwood (one, injured?, 6/20-7/29).

## **Pied-billed Grebe**

Breeding data from Aitkin, Crow Wing, Stearns, Redwood. Seen throughout the state.

## **Horned Grebe**

Seen in Polk, Marshall.

## **Red-necked Grebe**

Breeding data from Marshall (100 nests, Agassiz NWR), Becker, Todd, Douglas, Pope, Crow Wing. Also seen in Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Ottertail, Hennepin, Nicollet.

## **Eared Grebe**

Breeding data from Marshall (100+ nests, Agassiz NWR), Yellow Medicine (18 nests, Tyson Lake, JS). Also seen in Polk, Clearwater, Norman, Clay, Big Stone, Nicollet, Jackson.

## **Western Grebe**

Breeding data from Roseau, Marshall, Todd, Big Stone, Wright. Also seen in Kittson, Polk, Clay, Ottertail, Grant, Stevens, Pope, Jackson, Freeborn, Nicollet, Hennepin (6/17, Lake Harriet).

## **American White Pelican**

Breeding at Lake of the Woods and Marsh Lake, Lac qui Parle Co. (1450 nests; significant increase from last year). Seen throughout the western regions plus Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Brown.

## **Double-crested Cormorant**

Breeding data from Ottertail, Grant,

Pope, Big Stone, Ramsey. Seen throughout the Western regions, East Central, Central, South Central. Only St. Louis in the Northeast, Lake of the Woods in the North Central, and not in the Southeast at all.

#### **American Bittern**

Breeding data from Marshall, Aitkin, St. Louis. Seen in 18 other counties in all regions except the Southeast.

#### **Least Bittern**

Nested at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (4 nests). Seen in Pope, Benton, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Steele, Nicollet, Jackson (Heron Lake, JS).

#### **Great Blue Heron**

Breeding data from Marshall, Hubbard, Morrison, Grant, Pope, Stearns, Ramsey. Seen throughout the state.

#### **Great Egret**

Breeding data from Grant, Pope, Ramsey. Seen throughout most of the state, but not in the Southwest, the eastern part of the North Central, or the Northeast (except; one, Duluth, 7/27, J. Calligure).

#### **Cattle Egret**

Seen in Washington (one, 6/8, BL), Cottonwood (2 to 4, 7/2-7/18, Mrs. LAF), Jackson (two, 6/29, Heron Lake, JS).

#### **Green-backed Heron**

Breeding data from St. Louis (Duluth), Stearns. Seen throughout most of the state except the rest of the Northeast and the Southwest.

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

breeding data from Grant, Pope, Ramsey. Seen throughout most of the southern half (except the Southeast) plus Ottertail, Clearwater, Marshall.

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

Breeding data from AITKIN (WN). Seen in Rock (6/16, Blue Mounds SP, OJ).

#### **Ross' Goose**

The wintering bird in Washington County last seen on 6/17 (D&GW).

#### **Canada Goose**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Aitkin, Stearns, Anoka, Ramsey, LeSueur,

Wabasha. Also seen throughout most of the state including the North Shore.

#### **Wood Duck**

Breeding data from Roseau, Pennington, Pine, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Pope, Lac qui Parle, Ramsey, Wabasha, LeSueur, Brown. Also seen throughout the state including Lake, Cook.

#### **Green-winged Teal**

Reports from 12 counties throughout the state, but no breeding data.

#### **American Black Duck**

Breeding data from Cook. Also seen in Lake, Carlton, Marshall, Polk, Clay.

#### **Mallard**

Breeding data from 20 counties. Also seen in 22 other counties throughout the state.

#### **Northern Pintail**

Seen in Marshall, Aitkin, Stearns, Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Cottonwood.

#### **Blue-winged Teal**

Breeding data from Mahnomen, Carlton, Pine, Stearns, LeSueur. Seen in 31 other counties throughout the state.

#### **Northern Shoveler**

Breeding data from Big Stone, Seen throughout range plus Aitkin, Pine, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

#### **Gadwall**

Only seen in Marshall, Polk, Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, LAKE (Beaver Bay sewage ponds, 6/10, RBJ), DULUTH (14, 7/28, KRE).

#### **American Wigeon**

Seen in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Clay, Aitkin, St. Louis, Stearns, Nicollet (pair, 6/4).

#### **Canvasback**

Breeding data from Marshall, Big Stone, Hennepin. Also seen in Roseau, Polk, Mahnomen, Clearwater, Becker, Clay, Anoka, Nicollet.

#### **Redhead**

Breeding data from Marshall. Also seen in Polk, Ottertail, Big Stone, Wright, Hennepin, Renville, Nicollet, LeSueur, Freeborn.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Pine, Marshall, Big Stone (Lake Eli, NMH). Seen throughout the northern regions plus Isanti, Sherburne, Anoka.

### **Greater Scaup**

One, 6/12 Greenbush, Roseau Co. (D&GW).

### **Lesser Scaup**

Nesting reported from Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. Also seen in 8 other counties scattered throughout the state.

### **White-winged Scoter**

Single birds at Grand Marais, Cook Co. (6/4-9, K&MH) and Erskine, Polk Co. (6.13, JB).

### **Common Goldeneye**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods. Also seen in St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Wadena, Clearwater, Marshall, Kittson.

### **Bufflehead**

Seen at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (sev. ob.), Maplewood SP, Ottertail Co. (female, 6/5), Grand Marais, Cook Co. (6/24). Nested at CARVER (*Loon* 55:123-24).

### **Hooded Merganser**

Breeding data from Lake, Aitkin, Roseau. Seen throughout the North Central and Northeast plus Marshall, Anoka, Nicollet, Goodhue, Houston.

### **Common Merganser**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake. Also seen in St. Louis, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Breeding data from Big Stone, Stearns, CARLTON (Moose Lake, KL). Seen in 14 other counties throughout range.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Seen in 17 counties in the northern and eastern regions plus Mille Lacs, Renville, Nicollet and Murray.

### **Osprey**

Breeding data from Aitkin, Mille Lacs.

Seen throughout the Northeast and North Central plus Mahnomen, Pine, Hennepin (6/29).

### **Bald Eagle**

Breeding data from Becker (Tamarac NWR), Mille Lacs, Sherburne (Sherburne NWR). Also seen throughout the Northeast and North Central plus Marshall, Houston.

### **Northern Harrier**

Seen in 30 counties throughout the state.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake. Also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Brown, Dakota, Houston (6 times, Winnebago Twp, E&MF).

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Seen in Kittson, Clearwater, Aitkin, Cook, Pine, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Washington, Houston.

### **Northern Goshawk**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Pine. Also seen in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Cook, Carlton.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Breeding data from Mahnomen, Pine (Northwoods Audubon, DHJ). Also seen in Wabasha, Goodhue, Anoka, Hennepin, Wright, Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, Cass, Beltrami (pair, Bemidji, AS).

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Breeding data from Lake, St. Louis, Pine, Ramsey, Mille Lacs, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Becker. Seen in 20 other counties throughout range plus Brown (New Ulm, JAS).

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Seen in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Rock, Mower, Fillmore, Dakota, Washington, Ramsey.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Breeding data from Kittson, Becker, Clearwater, Yellow Medicine, Benton, Sherburne, Anoka, Ramsey, Washington. Seen in 36 other counties throughout the state.

### **American Kestrel**

Breeding data from Lake, Pine, Stearns, Hubbard, Becker, Pennington. Seen in 39 other counties throughout the state.

**Merlin**

Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca (T&BB).

**Gray Partridge**

Breeding data from Sherburne. Seen throughout range.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

Breeding data from Mille Lacs, Benton, Stearns, Ramsey, LeSueur. Seen throughout range as far north as Clay, Wadena.

**Spruce Grouse**

Breeding data from Lake. Also seen on Echo Trail, St. Louis Co. (JCG).

**Ruffed Grouse**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Aitkin. Seen throughout range but scarce.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Breeding data from Clay, CHIPPEWA (Chippewa Prairie). Also seen in Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Pennington, Mahnomen, Becker.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Breeding data from Aitkin. Also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching (Birchdale, TS), Carlton, (KL), Pine (ML).

**Wild Turkey**

Seen in Houston.

**Northern Bobwhite**

Seen in Houston, Wabasha, Carver (6/20, escape?), ROCK (Blue Mounds SP).

**Yellow Rail**

Seen in Aitkin, Marshall.

**King Rail**

Breeding data from STEARNS (adults at nest, 6/2&7; gone, 6/15; Brockway Twp., NMH). See page 72, this issue.

**Virginia Rail**

Breeding data from Stearns, Hennepin. Seen in 14 other counties in all regions including the Northeast (Duluth).

**Sora**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Hennepin. Seen in 24 other counties in all regions except the Northeast and Southwest.

**Common Moorhen**

Seen in Houston, Hennepin, MAHNO-

MEN (one, 7/9, east of Waubun, D. Vosick).

**American Coot**

Breeding data from Marshall, Aitkin, Todd, Big Stone, Redwood. Seen throughout the state except the Northeast.

**Sandhill Crane**

Breeding data from Marshall, Anoka. Also seen in Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Pine, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, HOUSTON (6/5, two adults, Hokah, FL).

**Black-bellied Plover**

Late migrants South: 6/4 Nicollet; North: 6/4, 6/11. Summering? Lake of the Woods: 6/7 (2), 17, 25, 28, 7/6 (TW).

**Lesser Golden-Plover**

Late migrants North: 6/7 Polk.

**SNOWY PLOVER**

One, 7/28 Lake of the Woods (NMH). (Loon 55:177).

**Semipalmated Plover**

Early migrants North: 7/20-29 Lake of the Woods, 7/30 Duluth; South: 7/30.

**Piping Plover**

Nested at Duluth (3 nests) and Lake of the Woods (45 adults, 20+ successful nests, TW).

**Killdeer**

Breeding data from Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Pennington, Mahnomen, Hubbard, Stearns, Sherburne, Lac qui Parle. Seen throughout the state.

**American Avocet**

Nested in Lac qui Parle (Salt Lake, MNH). Seen at Crookston, Polk Co. (four, 6/17, AB).

**Greater Yellowlegs**

Early migrants North: 7/5, 7/18, 7/25, South: 7/6, 7/24, 7/30.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late migrants South: 6/5, North: 6/9, 6/17. Direction? 6/24 & 7/2 Duluth, 6/27 Ottertail, 6/28 Lake of the Woods. Early migrants South: 7/6, 7/7, 7/16.

**Solitary Sandpiper**

NESTED in Cook (same place as last year, K&MH). Late migrant North: 6/1. Early migrant North: 7/26; South: 7/16, 7/21.

**Willet**

Early migrants: 7/11 & 16, Roseau.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Breeding data from Lake. Seen in 29 other counties in all regions except the Southwest.

**Upland Sandpiper**

Breeding data from Polk, Clay, Swift, Chippewa. Seen throughout the Western regions plus Watonwan, Ramsey, Hennepin, Benton, Aitkin, Carlton, Duluth.

**Whimbrel**

Three, 6/4 Beaver Bay, Lake Co. (KRE); one 6/11, Lake of the Woods (TW).

**Hudsonian Godwit**

Late migrants South: 6/4 Nicollet. Direction? 6/23-24 Duluth. Early migrants North: 7/17 Lake of the Woods.

**Marbled Godwit**

Breeding data from Roseau. Seen throughout the Northwest. Migrants South: 6/2 Cottonwood; 7/23 Lac qui Parle.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

Late migrants South: 6/1; North: 6/3, 6/4, 6/7-9; 6/25 Lake of the Woods. Early migrants North: 7/24-30 Lake of the Woods.

**Red Knot**

Late migrant North: 6/7-9, Lake of the Woods. Early migrant North: 7/29 Hubbard (AS).

**Sanderling**

Late migrants North: 6/4, 6/9. Early migrants North: 7/9; South: 7/23.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Late migrants South: 6/11, 6/12, 6/26 (injured); North: 6/20, 6/24-25. Early migrants North: 7/1 Wilkin, 7/20, 7/21; South: 7/16, 7/22, 7/24.

**Western Sandpiper**

Early migrants: 7/14 Freeborn; 7/30 Duluth.

**Least Sandpiper**

Late migrants South: 6/11 (100) Lac qui Parle; North: 6/11, 6/21, 6/27. Early migrants North: 7/2, 7/9, 7/10; South: 7/14, 7/16.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

Late migrants South: 6/10-11, 6/12; North: 6/7 & 6/25 Lake of the Woods. Early migrants North: 7/10 & 12 Lake of the Woods, 7/30 Duluth.

**Baird's Sandpiper**

Late migrants: 6/10 (5) Lac qui Parle. Early migrants: 7/21 Rock, 7/23 Lac qui Parle, 7/25 Cook.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

Late migrants: 6/3 Duluth. Direction? 6/7 & 17 Lake of the Woods, 6/27 Clay. Early migrants North: 7/1, 7/2, 7/10; South: 7/14, 7/16.

**Dunlin**

Late migrants South: 6/4, 6/5; North: 6/3, 6/7-9. Summered 6/13 - 7/13 Duluth. Early migrants: 7/21 Nicollet, 7/22 Clearwater.

**Stilt Sandpiper**

Early migrants North: 7/1, 7/13, 7/10; South 7/23, 7/30.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

Early migrants: 7/23 Cook, 7/23 Lac qui Parle, 7/27 Lake of the Woods, 7/28 Duluth.

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

Late migrant: 6/4 Nicollet. Early migrants: 7/13 Duluth, 7/14 Freeborn.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**

There is a need to document July sightings.

**Common Snipe**

Breeding data from Stearns, Mille Lacs. Seen in 27 other counties east of a diagonal from Freeborn to Clay.

**American Woodcock**

Breeding data from Lake, Aitkin, Hubbard. Seen in 12 other counties east of a diagonal from Houston to Kittson plus BROWN (Flandreau SP, JAS).

**Wilson's Phalarope**

Seen in the Northwest. Late migrants South: 6/16; North: 6/17.

**Red-necked Phalarope**

late migrants South: 6/4, 6/5; North: 6/5, 6/17 (3) Polk.

### **Parasitic Jaeger**

Two, 6/2 Duluth (KRE).

### **LAUGHING GULL**

One sub-adult, 6/13-6/21 Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (m. ob.; *Loon* 55:125-126).

### **Franklin's Gull**

Nesting at Agassiz NWR (20,000 nests) and Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (JS). Scattered reports in the western and central regions plus Goodhue (four, 6/16).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

late migrants: 6/7 Lake of the Woods; 6/3-10, 6/25 Duluth; 6/17 Polk. Early migrants: 7/27 (12) Lake of the Woods.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Breeding data from Duluth, Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods. Seen in 27 other counties from all regions.

### **Herring Gull**

Breeding data from Mille Lacs, Lake, Lake of the Woods. Also seen in Goodhue, Washington, St. Louis, Cook.

### **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**

One immature, 6/11, sewage lagoons, Greenbush, Roseau Co. (*Loon* 55:123).

### **Caspian Tern**

Late migrants South: 6/10, 6/13, 6/22; North: 6/13, 6/14, 6/17 (200, Lake of the Woods). July: all month, Lake of the Woods; 7/19 N. Shore, St. Louis Co. (KRE).

### **Common Tern**

Nesting at Mille Lacs, Duluth, Lake of the Woods. Late migrants South: 6/16 Goodhue.

### **ARCTIC TERN**

One adult, 6/2, Duluth (KRE).

### **Forster's Tern**

Breeding data from Todd. Seen in 13 other counties throughout range. Late migrants: 6/2, 4 Duluth (KRE).

### **Black Tern**

Breeding data from Pope, Stearns, Ramsey. Seen in 38 other counties including Duluth in the Northeast.

### **Rock Dove**

Occurs throughout the state; no data.

### **Mourning Dove**

Breeding data from Clay, Big Stone, Pipestone, Cottonwood, Brown, LeSueur, Houston, Washington, Sherburne, Stearns, Morrison, Kittson. Seen throughout the state including Cook (Grand Marais, M&KH).

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Breeding data from Rock, Brown, Mille Lacs. Seen throughout the state.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Breeding data from Brown, LeSueur. Seen throughout the South plus Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Carlton, Clearwater.

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Breeding data from Ottertail, Hennepin. Also seen in LeSueur, AITKIN (two, 7/30, *vide* WN).

### **Great Horned Owl**

Breeding data from 12 counties. Seen in 22 other counties in all regions except the Southwest.

### **Burrowing Owl**

Breeding at the same farm in Rock Co. as last year (two ad., five young, 7/21, JS).

### **Barred Owl**

Breeding data from Becker, Hubbard, Cass, Pine. Seen in 14 other counties east of a diagonal from Mower and LeSueur to Kittson.

### **Great Gray Owl**

Breeding data from Aitkin. Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (north), Koochiching.

### **Long-eared Owl**

None reported!

### **Short-eared Owl**

None reported!

### **Northern Saw-whet Owl**

Breeding data from Beltrami, Cass. Also seen in Cook, Lake.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Breeding data from Lake. Seen throughout the state.

### **CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**

One, 6/8, Sherburne, KL (same location as last year).

**Whip-poor-will**

Seen in Kittson, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Anoka, Dakota, Houston.

**Chimney Swift**

Breeding data from Aitkin. Seen throughout the state.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Breeding data from Anoka. Seen throughout the state but scarce in the South Central, Southwest, West Central.

**Belted Kingfisher**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen throughout the state.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Pennington, Brown, LeSueur, Anoka. Seen throughout the state including Lake, Cook.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Brown. Seen in 18 other counties east and north to Morrison, Mille Lacs, Pine.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Breeding data from Kittson, Roseau, Cook, Lake, Carlton, Brown. Seen throughout the state except the Southwest.

**Downy Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Stearns, Anoka, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Black-backed Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake. Also seen in Clearwater, Itasca, Carlton (Nickerson bog).

**Northern Flicker**

Breeding data from Lake, Pennington, Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Stearns, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Brown. Seen throughout the state except the West Central and Southwest.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Aitkin, Clearwater. Late migrants South: 6/4, 6/5, 6/9. Early migrants South: 7/28.

Spring 1984

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Breeding data from Pennington, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Carlton, Beltrami. Late migrants South: 6/3, 6/7, 6/9.

**Acadian Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Houston.

**Alder Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Lake, Stearns. Seen throughout the northern regions plus Mille Lacs, Benton, Sherburne, Anoka, Washington (6/17 O'Brien SP, BL). Late migrants South: 6/9, 6/11.

**Willow Flycatcher**

Seen in Houston, Wabasha, Dakota, Carver, Wright, Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Washington (6/17, two, O'Brien SP, BL). Big Stone, Clay (6/6, Felton, KRE), DULUTH (6/3 Minn. Point, KL).

**Least Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Lake, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater. Seen throughout the state.

**Eastern Phoebe**

Breeding data from Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Cass, Morrison, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka. Seen throughout the state.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Stearns. Seen throughout the state.

**Western Kingbird**

Breeding data from Polk, Big Stone. Seen throughout the western regions, Central and East Central regions plus Carlton (6/7).

**Eastern Kingbird**

Breeding data from Cook, Hubbard, Kanabec, Sherburne, Anoka, Ramsey, Brown, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Horned Lark**

Breeding data from Stearns. Seen throughout the state except the Northeast.

**Purple Martin**

Breeding data from Stearns, Lake of the Woods, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Tree Swallow**

Breeding data from 11 counties. Seen throughout the state. Migration: 7/27 (2-3000) Lake of the Woods.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Breeding data from Lake, Clearwater, Mahanomen, Morrison, Stearns. Seen throughout the state.

**Bank Swallow**

Breeding data from Kittson, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Stearns, Hennepin. Seen throughout the state.

**Cliff Swallow**

Breeding data from Polk, Clay, Mille Lacs, Cook, Stearns, Ramsey, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state. Migration: 7/27 (2-3000) Lake of the Woods.

**Barn Swallow**

Breeding data from Kittson, Polk, Clearwater, Clay, Stearns, Benton, Anoka, Renville, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Gray Jay**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Beltrami, Clearwater.

**Blue Jay**

Breeding data from Pennington, Clearwater, Hubbard, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Anoka. Seen throughout the state.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Breeding data from Kittson. Also seen in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Cook (7/25 Grand Marais, K&MH).

**American Crow**

Breeding data from Cook, Stearns, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Common Raven**

Breeding data from Cook, Marshall. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Clearwater, Aitkin, Carlton (six, 6/18, Sand Lake, RBJ), Mille Lacs (CF; 6/2 DG).

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Breeding data from Lake, Kittson, Pennington, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Washington, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Carlton.

**Tufted Titmouse**

Seen in Houston (family, 7/6, FL; E&MF), Washington (two, 6/8, SM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Clearwater. Seen throughout the North Central and Northeast plus Mille Lacs, Pine, Anoka (two broods, Cedar Creek, JLH).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Breeding data from Kittson, Stearns, Anoka, Brown. Seen throughout the state including Lake (Isabella), Cook (Hovland).

**Brown Creeper**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Brown (Flandreau SP), Winona (Whitewater SP). Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Hubbard, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Washington (Otisville).

**BEWICK'S WREN**

One at Zimmerman, Sherburne Co. 6/3 (Loon 55:121; m. ob.) - 6/18 (SC).

**House Wren**

Breeding data from 16 counties. Seen throughout the state.

**Winter Wren**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Clearwater, Mille Lacs.

**Sedge Wren**

Seen in 35 counties throughout the state except the Southwest.

**Marsh Wren**

Breeding data from Morrison, Stearns. Seen in 26 other counties throughout the state except the Northeast and Southwest.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Cass.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Seen in Cook, Lake.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Breeding data from Brown, Renville, Morrison (Bellevue Twp.). Also seen in Wright, Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Nicollet, Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Houston.

**Eastern Bluebird**

Breeding data from 17 counties. Seen throughout the state except the Southwest.

**Mountain Bluebird**

One male, 6/1, Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (Jeff DiMatteo).

**Veery**

Breeding data from Cook, Mille Lacs. Seen throughout range as far west as Clay, Ottertail and Stearns (Brooten).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Late migrant: 6/3 Hennepin.

**Swainson's Thrush**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Marshall. Late migrants South: 6/3, 6/4; North: 6/7 Ottertail.

**Hermit Thrush**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Itasca, also seen in Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater.

**Wood Thrush**

Breeding data from Brown. Seen throughout range in the east from Cook and Clearwater south to LeSueur and Houston.

**American Robin**

Breeding data from 14 counties. Seen throughout the state.

**Gray Catbird**

Breeding data from Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Morrison, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Mockingbird**

One, 6/9 Lutsen, Cook Co. (K&MH, RBJ).

**Brown Thrasher**

Breeding data from Pennington, Hubbard, Stearns, Big Stone, Anoka, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**-Sprague's Pipit**

One, heard and seen, 6/13, Bicentennial Prairie, Clay Co. (G. Niemi).

**Cedar Waxwing**

Breeding data from Cook, St. Louis, Sherburne, Anoka, Olmsted, LeSueur, Cottonwood. Seen throughout the state.

**Loggerhead Shrike**

Breeding data from Lac qui Parle, Morrison. Also seen in Clay (Felton), Yellow Medicine (Upper Sioux WMA), Sherburne (Becker; Clear Lake, family group, 6/25, RBJ), Hennepin (Mpls Airport, SC), Mower.

**European Starling**

Breeding data from Lake, Stearns. Seen throughout the state.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO**

Two in Ramsey Co.: 6/4 Gramsie Rd., Shoreview (*Loon* 55:127; BL; D&GW); 6/5 Roseville Central Park (*Loon* 55:90-91) - 6/6 (KL).

**Bell's Vireo**

Seen in Ramsey (Roseville, 6/6 - 6/12), Dakota (Black Dog, 6/9 two males, 7/3 pair, SC), Wabasha (Kellogg, D&GW; 6/6 & 7/14, D&WM), Houston (6/22 Hokah, FL).

**Solitary Vireo**

Seen in Cook, Lake. Late migrant South: 6/1. Early migrant South: 7/8 Houston E&MF.

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

Breeding data from Brown, Pennington. Seen in 19 other counties in the four regions of the southeastern quarter of the state plus Carlton (Moose Lake), Crow Wing, Clay, Clearwater, Marshall.

**Warbling Vireo**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Big Stone, Brown, Houston. Seen throughout the state except the Northeast.

**Philadelphia Vireo**

Seen in Lake, Cook.

**Red-eyed Vireo**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Anoka, Houston, Brown. Seen throughout the state except the West Central and Southwest.

**Blue-winged Warbler**

Seen in Anoka (feeding fledglings, Cedar Creek, JLH), Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston, Fillmore.

**Golden-winged Warbler**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Mille Lacs. Also seen in Dakota ("Brewster's", Lebanon Hills, DZ & MAC), Washington,

Anoka, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake (7/4 Baptism River SP, KRE), COOK (7/1, T60N, R4W, Sawbill Trail, JCG).

#### **Tennessee Warbler**

Seen in Lake, Cook, St. Louis (Duluth Twp., 6/19, JCG). Late migrants: 6/5, 6/7, 6/8.

#### **Nashville Warbler**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Mille Lacs. Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Pine, Anoka, Sherburne, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Lake of the Woods. Late migrant South: 6/7 Ramsey.

#### **Northern Parula**

Breeding data from Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater.

#### **Yellow Warbler**

Breeding data from Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, St. Louis, Morrison, Big Stone, Anoka, LeSueur, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

#### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Breeding data from Lake, Mille Lacs, Clearwater. Also seen in Kittson, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Wadena, Crow Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Cook, Carlton, Isanti, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey (migrant?), DOUGLAS (singing male, Millerville Twp., DG).

#### **Magnolia Warbler**

Seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Late migrant South: 6/3 Hennepin.

#### **Cape May Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (Duluth Twp.).

#### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

Seen in Lake, Cook.

#### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater. Late migrant: 6/12 Ottertail (SM).

#### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Seen in 8 counties in the Northeast and North Central plus Mille Lacs (DG), Isanti (JLH).

#### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake,

St. Louis, Carlton, Isanti (JLH).

#### **Pine Warbler**

Seen in Clearwater, Crow Wing, Pine, Washington (Otisville), Ramsey (Lake Vadnais).

#### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, Koochiching (Voyageurs NP, JCG).

#### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Late migrants North: 6/4, 6/5. Early migrant: 7/30 Cook.

#### **Cerulean Warbler**

Seen in Houston, Fillmore, Goodhue, Hennepin, Wright, Isanti, Ottertail.

#### **Black-and-white Warbler**

Seen in 8 counties in the Northeast and North Central plus Kittson, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin (Wolsfeld Woods).

#### **American Redstart**

Breeding data from Morrison, Brown, Houston. Seen in 26 other counties throughout range.

#### **Prothonotary Warbler**

Seen in Houston, Wabasha, Goodhue, Ramsey (Crosby Lake Pk), Washington (O'Brien SP).

#### **Ovenbird**

Breeding data from Anoka, Brown (Flambeau SP). Also seen in 24 other counties throughout range but mostly in the northern and eastern regions.

#### **Northern Waterthrush**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Pine, Mille Lacs, ANOKA (Cedar Creek).

#### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

Breeding data from PINE. Also seen in Houston, Washington, Hennepin (Wolsfeld Woods).

#### **Kentucky Warbler**

Singing male, 6/17 Rice (DZ & MAC).

#### **Connecticut Warbler**

Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Aitkin, Carlton. Late migrants South: 6/3, 6/7; North: 6/7 Ottertail.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Also seen in 12 counties throughout range plus BROWN (Flambeau SP, JAS). The early June records in Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota counties are hard to separate from migrants without more information.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Hubbard, Aitkin, Mille Lacs. Also seen in 40 other counties throughout the state.

### **Hooded Warbler**

One male, Crow Wing, 5/24 - 6/18 (*Loon* 55:124-125).

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Seen in Lake. Late migrants South: 6/3, 6/4; North: 6/4. Early migrant: 7/30.

### **Canada Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Clearwater. Late migrant: 6/2 Houston.

### **Yellow-breasted Chat**

One, Shoreview, Ramsey Co., 6/3-6/8, many observers.

### **Summer Tanager**

One, 6/18 Fergus Falls, Ottertail Co. (SM).

### **Scarlet Tanager**

Breeding data from Anoka. Seen in 34 other counties throughout the state except the Southwest.

### **WESTERN TANAGER**

One, 6/1 Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (K&SS).

### **Northern Cardinal**

Breeding data from Morrison, Brown. Also seen in 12 other counties in the South plus Duluth (male, 7/8) and Hubbard (6/27 Benedict, *fide* HJF).

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Breeding data from Pennington, Clearwater, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Houston, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

### **Blue Grosbeak**

Seen in Rock.

### **LAZULI BUNTING**

One male, 6/26 Chisago (*Loon* 55:120).

### **Indigo Bunting**

Breeding data from Lake, Aitkin, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

### **Dickcissel**

Very widespread. Seen in 31 counties in the South plus Crow Wing, Wadena, Clay, Norman, POLK (7/10, fifty males, SS), PENNINGTON.

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Seen in Houston, Wabasha, Dakota, Washington, Anoka, Clearwater, Kittson.

### **Chipping Sparrow**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Aitkin, Clearwater, Mahnomon, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, LeSueur, Cottonwood, Pipestone. Seen throughout the state.

### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Breeding data from Kittson, Mahnomon, Morrison, Stearns, Sherburne. Seen in 26 other counties throughout the state except the Southeast.

### **Field Sparrow**

Breeding data from Sherburne, Anoka, Brown. Seen throughout the South as far north as Morrison, Ottertail.

### **Vesper Sparrow**

Breeding data from Anoka, Brown. Seen throughout the state including Cook (6/10 Poplar Lake, M&KH).

### **Lark Sparrow**

Breeding data from Anoka. Seen in Wabasha, Dakota, Sherburne, Douglas, Clay, Polk.

### **Lark Bunting**

One male, 6/14 near Hawley, Clay Co. (KRE).

### **Savannah Sparrow**

Breeding data from Lake. Seen throughout the state.

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Seen in 21 counties throughout most of the state but only in Wadena in the North Central and Northeast.

**Henslow's Sparrow**

Seen in Winona, Ramsey.

**Leconte's Sparrow**

Seen in 15 counties in the North plus Sherburne.

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Seen in Aitkin (McGregor), Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

**Song Sparrow**

Breeding data from Lake, Clearwater, Stearns, Sherburne, Wright, Dakota, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (Duluth Twp.). Late migrant South: 6/3.

**Swamp Sparrow**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Seen throughout the state.

**White-throated Sparrow**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Hubbard. Seen throughout the Northeast and North Central plus Marshall, Pennington, Mille Lacs.

**White-crowned Sparrow**

Late migrant: 6/3 Cook.

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Seen in Cook, Lake.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR**

One male, 6/26 Rice Lake NWR, Aitkin Co. (KRE) (*Loon* 55:178). First summer record ever!

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Seen in Clay, Norman (near jct. Co. Rds. 18 & 6, KL), Big Stone (Clinton Prairie).

**Bobolink**

Breeding data from Stearns. Seen throughout the state.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Polk, Big Stone, Stearns, Houston, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Breeding data from Aitkin. Seen in 26 other counties as far west as Mahanomen, Stearns, LeSueur.

**Western Meadowlark**

Seen in 35 counties as far east as Lake of the Woods, Wadena, Anoka, Wabasha.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Breeding data from Stearns, Brown, Roseau. Seen throughout the state but not in Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis (excepting Duluth), Lake. Strays in Cook: 6/18 Tofte, 6/23 Grand Marais.

**Rusty Blackbird**

Seen in Lake (Perent Lake; carrying food, Hog Creek), Cook (carrying food, S. Brule River).

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Breeding data from Lake, Stearns. Seen throughout the state except the Southeast.

**Common Grackle**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Lake, Morrison, Stearns, Pope, Big Stone, Cottonwood, Brown, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Breeding data from 12 counties. Seen throughout the state.

**Orchard Oriole**

Breeding data from Big Stone. Seen in Houston, Wabasha, Ramsey, Anoka, Brown, Nobles, Rock, Grant, Clay.

**Northern Oriole**

Breeding data from Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Pennington, Polk, Morrison, Anoka, Hennepin, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

**Purple Finch**

Seen throughout the Northeast and North Central plus Marshall, Mille Lacs, Pine, Anoka (Cedar Creek). Late migrant: 6/4 Nicollet.

**Red Crossbill**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Carlton, Clearwater.

**Pine Siskin**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Koochiching, Clearwater, Pennington.

**American Goldfinch**

Breeding data from Lake, Stearns, Sherburne, LeSueur, Brown. Seen throughout the state.

### Evening Grosbeak

Breeding data from Clearwater, St. Louis. Also seen in Cook, Lake, Cass, Pine.

### House Sparrow

Breeding data from Stearns, Brown, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

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**Corrections:** The Spring Season *The Loon* Vol. 55 page 168, Sedge Wren, delete RH after 5/10 date; under Black-throated Blue Warbler, page 171, delete 5/5 Mille Lacs, MLWMA.

## Notes of Interest

**HOUSE FINCH IN HENNEPIN COUNTY** — The following observation was made at our home on the west bank of the Mississippi River about halfway between Camden and Champlain, just north of Minneapolis. During the morning of December 9, 1983, my wife Dorothy was working in the kitchen and glancing out occasionally at the birds at our feeders. She suddenly announced that one bird certainly appeared brighter than the male Purple Finches which were also at the feeders. She immediately guessed that it surely must be a House Finch. We had seen this species while visiting in Connecticut, and we had commented on various occasions that some individual Purple Finches appeared a bit brighter than others, but none could quite qualify as a House Finch until this one appeared. The bird was accommodating enough to remain about the feeders long enough for me to get my Pentax camera with its 200 mm lens, put it on a tripod and focus on the nearest feeders for three shots. The best one appears in this issue of *The Loon*. The identifying characters show reasonably well: (1) the bright vermilion red of the upper parts, (2) the conspicuous red line over the eye, (3) the lack of red on the sides, and (4) the sharp dark lines on the sides. The bird remained at the feeder only for a few hours and was not seen again. **W. J. Breckenridge, 8840 W. River Road N., Minneapolis, MN 55444.**

**Editors Note:** The above record represents the first documented (photograph) record of the House Finch in Minnesota. The first sight record for the House Finch in the state also took place in Hennepin County in November and December 1980. (See *The Loon* 53:101).



**Male House Finch with two Purple Finches (on right) and an American Goldfinch — Photo by W. J. Breckenridge**

**AN ARCTIC LOON AT LEECH LAKE** — On October 16, 1983 I saw an Arctic Loon on Leech Lake, Cass County. The bird was 150' to 200' offshore to the north from the rest area along Highway 200. There was a light overcast with wind from the north at perhaps 10 - 15 mph, so the lake was very rough. The only other birds visible on the lake were Bonaparte's Gulls which were much farther out so there was nothing nearby for size comparison. Through a 20X Bushnell scope my first impression was that it didn't have as massive a bill as many of the Common Loons do. Further observation (which took some time as the bird was going up and down with the waves) suggested the bill was no shorter or thinner than some of the Common Loons seen this fall. The bird's coloration was, however, very different. The top of the head and back of the neck were a definite light brownish-gray, whereas the back was a dark brown with several faint light colored transverse bars. The bird was under observation for approximately 15 minutes. **Ken LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER VISITS A FEEDER** — On Sunday, November 13, 1983 at 11:10 a.m., I saw an unfamiliar bird feeding at our suet feeder just five feet from our living room window. Our "National Geographic Birds of North America" had just arrived that week and was the first field guide I could reach. The size and shape of the bird suggested a variety of warbler and it was immediately identifiable by the picture in the field guide. It was a Black-throated Blue Warbler. Peterson's and Robbins' field guides were also consulted for accuracy. The warbler was also seen by me and my father and four friends that morning. When the warbler continued to visit the suet feeder, I called Bob Janssen and reported the bird to him. Joanne Dempsey and Bob Janssen observed the warbler several times on November 17th. It would stay on the feeder for one to two minutes per visit and would return to the feeder at fifteen to twenty minute intervals. During the following two weeks we saw the warbler feeding as early as 7:30 a.m. and as late as 4:30 p.m. During that time he was seen by at least twenty more birders. The warbler survived our first two heavy snowfalls of the season and was last sighted on Wednesday, December 2, 1983. Our home is located in the southwest corner of Washington County just north of Hastings. **Lois M. Morlock, 12165 - 131st St. Ct. So., Hastings, MN 55033.**

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT AT GRAND MARAIS** — On Tuesday, September 20, 1983 we followed a very loud "chip" through about 600 feet of very heavy brush starting from an area west of the Grand Marais power plant (heavy alder and willow brush), and proceeded through the thick and often wet brush past a small cattail area, paralleling the rock beach and Lake Superior, and ending up in another wet thicket. While standing within this thicket, bordered by the lake on the south side, a mixed woods with a brushy understory on the west side and an open park-like stand of trees on the north side, we heard the bird (not more than six feet away but completely hidden by impenetrable brush) chip several times and then disappear. The primary sounds we had heard were an extremely loud chip (Common Yellowthroat-like quality and more powerful than the emphatic chip of the Brown Thrasher) and on several occasions an equally loud scolding sound I can only describe as the scold that perhaps a "five pound" Ruby-crowned Kinglet might make. We were able to see a Lincoln's Sparrow, Common Yellowthroats, White-throated Sparrows — most also chipping at us as we climbed over and under the tangle of brush. We saw birds jumping about in the dense brush but never got a good look at the loud bird we were pursuing. We had decided before consulting any guides or reference that the sounds we had heard could only be made by a Yellow-breasted Chat but also concluded that until we could get a better look at the noise-maker, we would have to be satisfied with having enjoyed the exciting experience of the chase. In spite of many hours of further search that day we never heard another of those loud sounds and so never had an opportunity to get another chance to look for the elusive bird. The weather

was a mix of dark clouds and bright sunshine with showers on and off all day and even an afternoon rainbow; birding was excellent. Friday, September 23rd was cold with frost on the grass in the morning and bright sunshine all day. We were walking the Sweetheart's Bluff Trail in Grand Marais and had started down the stairway portion of the trail when we were greeted by the loud chip we had chased for so long on Tuesday. We could see leaves moving in the thick tangle of dead fall and maple brush on the east side of the trail near the top of the hill but could manage no glimpse of the bird. The chipping continued with some loud scolding interspersed and twice the bird gave a series of very loud full-bodied whistle-like notes. All this time we attempted to see the bird as it moved behind a thick blind of leaves and branches. As we watched, the bird suddenly flew across the pathway 30 feet in front of us — which was also below us as the stairway path is very steep. The bird flew low to the ground and so our view was of the dorsal surface which was a dark green without stripes or other markings. The size was about the same as a Swainson's Thrush, a comparison made easy by the fact that we had seen large numbers of Swainson's Thrushes moving through the area that same morning. The bird disappeared into heavy brush on the west side of the trail and chipped several more times. We attempted again to get a look — one of us circled through the brush while the other waited for the appearance of the bird. No luck. In spite of all attempts to locate the bird we left without getting another look or hearing the bird again. This path area is located about 600 feet from the ticket where we had lost contact with the bird on Tuesday. Neither of us has had experience with a Yellow-breasted Chat but as a special interest of ours we have tried to familiarize ourselves with as many bird calls as possible, especially concentrating on warblers. Our immediate recognition of the erratic loud sounds made by this bird as being those of a Yellow-breasted Chat are the result of eliminating other birds we have had experience with and from having spent much time studying the literature on vocalizations of many different birds. We are not aware of any other species that can make such a combination of chips, scolds and whistles. And so although our only certain observation of the bird who was making the sounds was from the steep pathway (size and back color), we were convinced that it was a Yellow-breasted Chat by the vocalizations and its very elusive habits. We are sure of our identification. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK CARRYING YOUNG**— On June 29, 1983, Timber Technician Loran MacDonald and I were painting the boundaries of a small timber sale on the Aurora Ranger District, Superior National Forest. We were working in a mixed aspen/birch stand that had a heavy mountain maple shrub layer. The black lab that was with us flushed a bird which flew towards me. The bird was flying strangely. I could identify the bird as an American Woodcock, but it's flight was labored and its wings were beating very hard. The bird was flying very slowly with little if any of a woodcocks usual acceleration, and normal streamlined flight position. Instead the woodcock was flying in an upright position with its head and beak held down on its breast. The bird flew to within five feet of me allowing me to get a good front and side view. It appeared that the woodcock was using its beak to hold something close to its body. After the bird flew away, Loran and I searched the area to see if we could find a nest. We were unsuccessful so we continued with our work. Later that afternoon we ended up walking this same portion of the sale boundary. This time Loran was in the lead. He flushed a woodcock in the same spot I had that morning. Again the woodcock demonstrated the same unusual flight characteristics I witnessed. It flew diagonally past Loran so he also had a good view. It appeared to him that the woodcock was carrying two young birds that were clinging to her breast. Her head was held down as if she was helping to support them.

There is a number of references in the literature documenting adult woodcock carrying their young (Grinnell 1922, Preble 1927, Reilly 1968, Schorger 1929, and Sheldon 1967).

The most recent publications suggest that such behavior is accidental. Since Loran and I made this observation twice in one day, in the same location, it leads me to believe that such behavior may not be accidental. *References: Grinell, 1922, Woodcock carrying its young, Auk 39:563-64; Preble, E.A., 1927, The Vanishing Woodcock, Nature Magazine, 9:235-40; Reily Jr., E.M., 1968, The Audubon illustrated handbook of American birds, New York, McGraw Hill Book Company; Schorger, A.W. 1929 Woodcock carrying young, Auk 46:2-32; Shildon, W.G., 1967, The book of the American Woodcock, U of Mass. Press, pp 75-77. David E. Johnson, U.S. Forest Service, Box 391, Aurora, MN 55705.*

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE AT LAKE CALHOUN** — At about 3:30 p.m. on November 29, 1983, while walking along the western shore of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, I spotted a male Barrow's Goldeneye among the more common species of waterfowl present after the record-breaking snowstorms of November 23 and 28. I watched the Barrow's for about twenty minutes at a distance of 50 to 100 yards through 7x35 binoculars as it swam alone and then beside a male Common Goldeneye. The most obvious difference between the two species was that on the Barrow's the black of the back extended down the sides much closer to the water line. A horizontal row of white spots was enclosed within this black area. In addition, there was a distinctive black vertical mark beneath the shoulder, separating the breast from the side. Between the base of the bill and the eye, it had a white, crescent-shaped mark, thicker at the bottom, which



**Barrow's Goldeneye, Lake Calhoun, Minneapolis, 30 November 1983**  
Photo by Don Bolduc

continued beyond the eye. Evelyn Stanley, Greg Pietila, and I watched the bird in the same area at 11:00 a.m. the next morning, using 7x35 and 8x40 binoculars and a Bausch and Lomb scope with a 20x wide angle lens. Skies were clear, and direct comparison with Common Goldeneyes was again possible. Don Bolduc also saw the Barrow's Goldeneye on the morning of November 30, at which time he took a number of photographs. I last saw the bird December 1 on the southeast corner of the lake. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

**YELLOW RAILS OF AITKIN COUNTY** — It is midnight on a warm June evening, you are standing knee deep in acidity marsh water holding a flashlight. Fifteen other people also with flashlights are standing with you in this Minnesota sedge marsh and your group has formed a circle. Although people driving past on the highway may think it is a strange cult or religious group you know better and keep clicking your two quarters or small rocks together. Soon the leader asks everyone in the circle to be quiet and to get your lights ready. Suddenly from the center of your circle there is an answer to your clicking. Everyone is asked to slowly move forward closing the other side of the circle. Everyone stands quietly waiting and suddenly from the center of the circle and virtually at your feet the clicking call comes again. Flashlights come on and the sound stops, beams of light sweep the short sedge grass and finally you hear those wonderful words, "There it is." All lights are trained in one spot and after hours of standing in the cool water fighting the mosquitos you see what you have worked so hard for, your lifer. For the next 15-30 minutes you are able to watch this creature of the night slip slowly thru the sedge grass not moving a blade. What is this wonderful animal that people will do such strange things to see you ask? It is a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), one of Minnesota's most interesting and unusual birds. Observers are often lucky enough to watch the rails call when the lights are shining on it. This scenario has gone on in the marshes of McGregor since the early 1970's. Several hundred people from almost every state and several countries have seen and experienced Yellow Rails in this way. The rails arrive on the breeding grounds in early May and may be seen until early July. The best time is in the first two weeks of June with May being too early as the birds have not settled into territories and the water being very cold. By late June and July the vegetation gets too high and thick, also the calling activity drops off. Although the McGregor marshes support about 30 pairs of Yellow Rails their numbers and location vary from year to year. It is easier to see Yellow Rails on their wintering grounds along the Texas coast but riding on a buggy can not compare with the experience of seeing them and hearing them on their breeding grounds. One of my most pleasant birding memories shall always be of sloshing towards the highway after a long and successful night of rail watching with only the thousands of fireflies lighting the way. So if in June of the year you have a desire to do something which you will remember for the rest of your life, you just might think about spending your evening in a swamp in Aitkin County. **Terry Savaloja, 128½ East Pearl St., Owatonna, MN. 55060.**

Photo of adult Yellow Rail on opposite page taken by Warren Nelson at the MacGregor Marsh, Aitkin County, June, 1983.



**RUDDY DUCK ON GRAND MARAIS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** — About 9:30 a.m. Steve Hoecker and I were walking along the beach of the east bay of the Grand Marais harbor when we spied a very small, light brown duck close to shore about 500 feet away. We were participating in the Grand Marais Christmas Bird Count held on December 26, 1983. Through a 20x scope we could see it was resting with its bill tucked under the wing. As we approached closer to within 200 feet, it finally took its head out to watch us and proceeded to swim further from shore. It had been resting on the lee side of some concrete material put there to prevent erosion. The day was cool at about +5 degrees with a brisk west wind. The dark bill which we could now see was quite large considering the small size of the bird. The head had a dark cap with a light cheek area and a very noticeable dark stripe under the eye. These features alone were enough for us to identify the bird as a female or first year male Ruddy Duck. It was too small and too light in color to be a Black Scoter (a more likely winter bird), also the stripe under the eye and the bill shape were not right for that species. The duck was even smaller than the many Common Goldeneyes we had been seeing in the harbor. I had watched a male Ruddy Duck in winter plumage in this same harbor at the end of October and this duck we were watching had the same general proportions and appearance as that bird, except of course for the dark strip under the eye. We watched it for about five minutes. We returned about three hours later and the duck was still resting where we had last seen it, with its bill still tucked under its wing. Ruddy Ducks are supposed to be night migrators which perhaps explains why it was resting so much. I believe this is the first winter record of a Ruddy Duck in northern Minnesota. **Ken Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

**GRAY-HEADED JUNCO SIGHTED AT RICHARDSON NATURE CENTER, HENNEPIN COUNTY**— On November 16, 1983, while observing birds at our bird feeder at Richardson Nature Center in Hyland Lake Park Reserve, I noticed this rather colorful bird among the drab gray Dark-eyed Juncos at a distance of 4-5 meters. The very rufous back triangle between the wings, against the uniformly light gray head and wings makes a colorful contrast, and I determined it to be a Gray-headed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) using Peterson's "Guide To Western Birds." In using Robbins, et. al., we could verify the "caniceps" subspecies by the upper and lower mandibles being uniformly pinkish-ivory colored in contrast to the "dorsalis" subspecies which shows the upper mandible a dark color. **Arden Aanestad, Richardson Nature Center, Hyland Lake Park Reserve, 8737 East Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN 55438.**

**Editor's Note:** The Gray-headed Junco is now a race of the Dark-eyed Junco. It was lumped with the Dark-eyed Junco in the 6th ed. of the A.O.U. check-list (1983). There are only three previous documented records for the Gray-headed Junco in Minnesota as follows: Tofte, Cook County October 27-29, 1968 (*The Loon* 41:10); Duluth, St. Louis County, November 24-29, 1969 and February 28, 1970 (*The Loon* 42:116), and the third bird was one at Boyd, Lac Qui Parle County from January 1 to February 24, 1973 (*The Loon* 45:26).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE IN OLMSTED COUNTY** — I was birding near Oxbow Park in Olmsted County on 10/31/82 when I spotted a bird soaring overhead. I observed the bird for about three minutes with 7x35 binoculars. The bird was flying directly above me about 200 feet in the air. I made the following notes: the bird was about one-third smaller than a Red-tailed Hawk that was also flying in the area. Very dark tail with no barring and very slight fork. Body a very light gray to almost white. Wings narrow and pointed with the front part of the wing medium grey and the back half of the wings a darker grey, but not as dark as the tail. The bird made two wide circles over me with very little flapping of its wings. I was only able to observe the bottom of the bird. The bird

gained altitude as it circled and floated off to the south over a nearby ridge. I checked my "Guide to Birds of North America" and looked at the kites. I checked the Mississippi Kite but the picture shows the body much darker than the bird I had observed. I had been particularly impressed with the contrast from the light body and dark tail. Also the wings did not match what I had seen. I checked "Petersons Guide" and the Audubon "Guide to Eastern Birds" and neither of these guides gave me a satisfactory identification, so I filed the notes away as an unidentified species. Recently I purchased "The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding." As I was paging through Volume number 1, I saw the kites, and when I saw the sketch of the Mississippi Kite in flight I was immediately reminded of the bird I saw a year earlier. The bottom view was same as I had seen. I am convinced the bird I saw was a Mississippi Kite. **Jerry Bonkoski, R.R. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

**CAROLINA WREN AT LUTSEN** — It was midafternoon of November 28, 1983 while seated at my dining table, having a cup of tea, that out of the corner of my eye I became aware of a new bird at our feeder. This particular feeder is approximately eight feet outside the dining area window. Bird watching at this distance is excellent without the aid of binoculars. The only distinguishing characteristic at this point on the bird that I was aware of was the perky angle of the tail and the brown color. Arming myself with a copy of "Birds of North America," a Golden Press Field Identification Guide, and flipping it to the wren section I watched during that day whenever I was in the area but did not again catch sight of the bird. November 29th — 12:30 p.m. It again appeared at the suet ball attached to the feeder. This time it was easy to confirm, with complete disbelief on my part, that indeed it had to be a Carolina Wren. It broke off a too-large bite of suet and flew up into the spruce tree and leisurely commenced to consume the tid-bit. This gave me plenty of time to observe it, match it to the picture and description as given on pages 222 and 223 of the above listed guide. "Broad white eye stripe, rufous (I like 'apricot' better) and buffy underparts." It fed for about a half-hour, pecking through some safflower seeds for unshelled ones, fending off curious and hungry Black-capped Chickadees and returning frequently to the suet. November 30th — I watched it for about 30 minutes starting at 3:30 p.m., eyeballing it frequently as it flew from feeder to spruce tree, which put it even closer to my window. December 1 — It came at 11:00 a.m. December 2 — I failed to catch sight of it. December 3 — Catherine Murphy and Ed Sundstrom from Superior, Wisconsin came for an overnight visit. I described in detail my sightings of two Fox Sparrows, six juncos, three Snow Buntings, one White-breasted Nuthatch — and the unbelievable Carolina Wren — above and beyond my winter regulars for that day (chickadees, Blue Jays, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Ruffed Grouse, Common Ravens, etc.). At midafternoon they both observed the Carolina Wren and confirmed my identification. December 4 — The Carolina Wren entertained us while we ate our breakfast. December 5 — Sighted at 1:30 p.m. December 6 — Dr. Mike DeBevec made a house call to check on my husband Harold who is bed-ridden. I mentioned with no small amount of bragging my unusual bird sighting and showed him the picture. Unfortunately my feathered friend chose not to show while he was here. December 7 — sighted at 7:30 a.m. December 8 — No show. In the meantime Dr. DeBevec has called Molly and Ken Hoffman who live on the Gunflint Trail in Cook County and they have called me and arranged to come and birdwatch in my yard. Object — to also confirm my sighting. Murphy's law chose to apply — but it was a delight to meet them and have them share my enthusiasm. December 9 — At 9:30 a.m. the wren ate breakfast with me. December 10 — No show. December 11 — No show. I could have missed it but it was more likely huddled on the lee side of a spruce tree branch trying to weather the onslaught of snow and wind. December 12 — It came twice and fed hungrily at the suet. December 13 — Again it fed a couple of times at the feeder.

December 14 — The Hoffman's came again and braved ever increasing bad weather and left for home again some time around 1:00 p.m. About five minutes after they left the wren came, ate a great deal of suet, rumaged through some wheat on a ground feeder and left. This was to be my last sighting of the bird which I can only assume did not survive the severe cold, high winds and snow of that night and the next day. **Marie Sundstrom, Lutsen, MN 55612.**

**KING RAIL NESTING IN STEARNS COUNTY** — On May 31, 1983 I heard a King Rail calling in heavy cover (boggy area of heavy new cattails) at outer edge of east sedge marsh at Fiedlers farm. This is located 11 miles north of St. Cloud on Stearns County Road #1, just west of the Mississippi River. Calls "chuck-chuck-chuck" loud and close by. First I was perplexed, surely a rail but not a Virginia, no typical call notes (kidick-kidick) of this species. A just begun nest was seen in a clump of sedge in 10" of water near cattails. The bird was very secretive and area very boggy, hard to approach. When I got home I listened to tapes of rail calls and I am sure it was a King Rail. On June 2, 1983 I went back to the above area to check on the rail nest. The nest appeared almost finished. It is a large nest, 10" across in a clump of sedge. The bird was close by calling. I stood very still for about 25 minutes and got a look at the bird as it ran across a small opening in the rushes. No doubt about it being a King Rail. Big bird — big long bill, reddish underparts, barred flanks. The first I have seen in many years. On June 7, 1983 I checked the nest, no eggs yet, canopy over nest. Bird kept calling, mainly from cattails where I couldn't go as it was too boggy. On June 15, 1983 went back to nest to get photos, but I was doomed to disappointment. The sedge area was all tramped down by cattle and I couldn't find any evidence of the nest. I walked and listened but there was no sign of the King Rail. **Nestor Hiemenz, 705 - 18th Ave., St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

**CAROLINA WREN IN CROW WING COUNTY** — On November 2, 1983, a brown bird with a distinct white eye-stripe appeared at my suet feeders, about 9 and 12 feet from my window. This bird was larger than the Red-breasted Nuthatches which frequent my feeders. It's tail was often erect, wren-like. The breast was similar in color to that of the Red-breasted Nuthatch and was not streaked. The back was not striped. The bill was rather long and down-curved. I concluded that it was a Carolina Wren, although Green and Janssen report this species as "Casual" with distribution in the Twin Cities and southern Minnesota. References used while the bird was in sight were: Robbins, C. S., B. Bruun, H. S. Zim, and A. Singer, *A Guide to Field Identification of North American Birds*; Peterson, R. T., *A Field Guide to the Birds*; Roberts, T. S., *The Birds of Minnesota*. The bird usually made several daily trips to the suet feeders. I did not see it eat sunflower or other seeds which were available. I was surprised to see a wren eating suet. I consulted "American Wildlife & Plants; A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits," Martin, A. C., Zim, H. S. and Nelson, A. L. and "The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds," J. K. Terres, where I learned that animal food is a large part of the diet of the Carolina Wren. The wren was last seen on December 18 when the temperature reached a low of -28. The following day the low temperature was -36. On November 26, Jo and Steve Blanich, Arvie Hanson, Alice Leighton, and three fellows from the Twin Cities saw the wren. Steve took some pictures, although the light was poor. On November 27, Warren Nelson, Steve Blanich, Kelly and Carol Engstrom saw it. Again, the light was poor for picture-taking. **Peg Weaver, Star Route, Box 311, Merrifield, MN 56465.**

**GRAY JAY TAKES LIVE MAMMAL** — On January 21, 1984 my wife and I were watching and photographing a Gray Jay feeding on a road killed male Spruce Grouse on Lake County Road 2 twenty-four miles north of Two Harbors or twenty-two miles south of the junction of Lake County Roads 2 and 1. We were at the location for at least

twenty minutes, moving the car to get in position to take pictures. I got out several times to identify the carrion and identify birds, which included two Boreal Chickadees. As we were about to leave, a tiny (two inches) short legged, stubby tailed rodent or shrew scurried across the highway from east to west in front of the car. Before the animal could reach the other side of the road, the jay flew quickly to it and pounced on it. The jay then crouched over it and began to peck at this prey, which it held beneath it with its feet. Wishing to identify the prey, I left the car and rushed at the jay, which flew off into the woods carrying the prey in its beak. The omnivorous habits of the jay are well known, including a taste for meat. William Brewster (Bent, 1946) refers to their taking grasshoppers, wasps, and bees, and Taylor and Show (Bent, 1946) refer to the taking of baby juncos. One would think, however, that seldom would a Gray Jay have an opportunity to take a live mammal. **Fred and Jolene Leshner, 509 Winona St., LaCrosse, WI 54603.**

**FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF GRAY PARTRIDGE** — The accompanying photo was taken by Marion on January 28, 1984 just north of the Orwell W.M.A., Otter Tail County. There are 10 Gray Partridges in the photo and what is transpiring is as follows: the snow is about a foot deep and overlays a grassy cattle grazing area. Note how undisturbed the snow is in the foreground as opposed to the turbulent background. All that pock-marking was created by the partridge over a period of approximately ½ hour as they leap-frogged one another through the ravine and continually burrowed **out of sight** to feed on whatever was on the ground surface. The Gray Partridge population is healthy in this area this winter; but of all the flocks we have seen this was a first. **Gary and Marion Otnes, Rt. 1, Box 283, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**



**SUMMER Tanager IN HUBBARD COUNTY** — The bird was observed on Sept. 13, 1983 on the west side of Duck Lake, Sect. 36 of Hubbard Twp., Hubbard County. I was watching a small group of warblers moving through the woods when I noticed a larger bird among them. When I put my binoculars on it I noticed that it was an obvious tanager. The following are my notes taken of the bird after observing it several times for a total of about ten minutes: Bill dull yellow and large for a tanager; head olive green; back dull red (almost pinkish) down to middle of tail, rest of tail brown; the breast, belly and crissum were a yellowish orange; wings were a brick red with dark brown or black edgings to secondaries and primaries. The bird was observed as close as fifty feet with 7x26 Bushnell custom compact binoculars and in full sunlight. I believe

it was a Summer Tanager because a Scarlet Tanager wouldn't have red in the wings in any plumage and the red on the back was different from a Scarlet Tanager. Also the yellowish orange belly seems diagnostic. The bird had a large headed, slimmer body shape than a Scarlet Tanager. I am familiar with Summer Tanagers but had never seen one in this combination of plumages before. Apparently it was a second fall male from what I can gather from the literature. **Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI NEAR SLEEPY EYE** — On November 7, 1983, I received a phone call from Ray Norgaard, Executive Director of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association. He said that he had been to the Jim Marti farm in Brown County on Sunday, November 6th. Jim indicated to Ray that he had seen what he had identified as a Smooth-billed Ani in his farm grove two days previously on Friday, November 4th. They conducted a search of the farmyard and finally saw the bird. They agreed that it must have been a Smooth-billed Ani since they could not see any grooves on the bill. I suspected that it was more likely to have been a Groove-billed Ani since I knew of some of the previous records for this bird. Upon checking my Green and Janssen I found out that there had been no records of the Smooth-billed and only four records of the Groove-billed reported in Minnesota. I further checked Kim Eckert's book. It indicated that at the time of that writing there had been six previous records of the Groove-billed and no records of the Smooth-billed. His book also pointed out the problem of seeing the grooves in the bill except at very close range. Because of the rarity of either species I told Ray that I would go to the Marti farm that day and try to find the bird in order to double check the identification. I then contacted Bob Janssen who also indicated that it was probably a Groove-billed. He told me to call him back if I was able to find the bird. I went to the Marti farm on Monday morning and after getting directions from Jim and his wife Marsha, was able to flush the bird from the drainage ditch which lies about 100 yards to the south of the house. The bird was all black and had a long, rounded tail. It was slightly larger than a grackle with a large massive bill. Although it never flew more than about 30 yards at a time, its flight was of a flap and soar type. The bird was very secretive, spending much of its time either in the tall grass along the ditch or in the red cedar trees which were scattered in this area. Because of this it was hard to get a good look at the bird unless you approached quite close. However, as soon as I got close to the bird he would get nervous and flush. After about a half dozen flushes, I was able to get a good enough look with my 20-45 power zoom spotting scope to confirm that the bird indeed did have grooves in the bill. On several of the flushes the bird gave a two noted call that sounded to me very similar to the call notes that Blue Jays often make. Later, in looking at the new National Geographics field guide, they describe the call of the Groove-billed Ani as a two noted "tee-ho", with the accent being on the first note. This matches the description of the call that I heard. Later that day I called Bob Janssen back and told him what I saw. The next day Bob, Kim Eckert, Paul Ege-land, Ray Glassel and myself returned to the Marti farm. Mr. Marti indicated that someone had been there at 8:00 a.m. that morning and had seen the bird. After a long search, the bird was finally spotted along the ditch, about a quarter mile downstream from where I had first flushed the bird. All of us got a good look at the bird before it flew to a nearby farm grove about 200 yards away. Bob, Paul and Kim walked to the grove and got a good look at the bird, confirming the grooves on the bill. I stopped by the Marti farm again on the following Thursday to check on the status of the bird. Jim indicated to me that a number of people had been to the farm since I had last been there and they had all finally found the bird. After a lengthy search I flushed the bird from the spruce trees that were in the farmstead shelterbelt. Since I merely wanted to confirm whether the bird was still present or not, I left the area immediately and did not pursue the bird to get a better look. My impression when he flushed was that it appeared either weaker or less afraid than it had been on Tuesday. Unfortunately, it appears that it was probably the former. The bird was last seen on Saturday, November 12, at which time

it could be approached to within 8-10 feet. It appeared at that time to be very weak. It had every right to be since it had survived the first snow of the season on the 10th. This is the eighth state record for this species, the only November record and the only one of the birds which stayed more than one day. The exact location of the Marti farm is one mile south of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. **John Schadweiler, Nongame Wildlife Specialist, DNR, Box 756, New Ulm, Mn. 56073**

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI IN COOK COUNTY** — On October 5, 1983 after six days of rain, fog, mist and heavy cloud cover a northwest wind started to break the heavy overcast with the promise of clearing by afternoon. At 11:15 a.m. it was no longer drizzling but was still overcast. We were driving from Grand Marais towards Duluth and noted a grackle-like bird in a roadside ditch near the junction of the Caribou Trail and Highway 61 in Lutsen. At 40 m.p.h. not much detail was evident but the attitude of the bird seemed strange. The driver, who shall remain anonymous, was of the opinion that if we stopped to look at every "grackle" in the ditch we would never make Duluth before dark! However, we did manage to get turned around to drive past the ditch for another look. The bird was in the same position when we spotted it the second time (body tipped forward with head and bill low to the ground—very unlike the upright stance of a Common Grackle). As we tried to pull off on the narrow shoulder of Highway 61 the bird flew up into grass to the top edge of the ditch. It was an unusual bird and a glimpse was all we needed to recognize it as an ani. Our excitement was temporarily interrupted by the realization that our car was in a very dangerous position on a busy highway and we were forced to drive forward to a dirt drive leading to an old road paralleling Highway 61. We located the ani again immediately and watched for a time with binoculars (7x35) and a 20x scope. We observed the bird further as it flew into the unmowed area in front of the Lutsen Town Hall and appeared to be feeding in the deep weeds and grass (we could not see clearly what it was eating). The bird was black, about the size of a Common Grackle but with a tail that seemed longer and perhaps thinner. The feathers on the back seemed large and loosely overlapped; head and nape feathers did not seem to lay completely flat giving the head at certain angles a slightly crested look. The eyes and legs were dark. The bill was black; the upper mandible was remarkably massive and curved on top. Distinct grooves were evident when observed with the scope from a distance of about 60 feet. We observed the bird from as close as 25 feet with binoculars. When we attempted to get closer to the bird as it fed in the grass, it seemed to become suspicious and flew west across the Caribou Trail to a brushy area. It flew low to the ground with a flap and glide motion. Our observation lasted about five minutes. The bird was a Groove-billed Ani and appeared to be healthy. An article in the November 1983 newsletter of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists mentions that on November 1, 1983 a Groove-billed Ani was found dead near Thunder Bay, Ontario. It too was an adult with deep grooves in its bill. Could this have been the same bird that we saw in Minnesota? **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunfint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of 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 the 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  
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"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 BRAMBLING — MINNESOTA'S FIRST ASIATIC SPECIES

On February 4, 1984, at about 1:30 p.m. I had a phone call from Art Brandon who lives on Minnesota Avenue in Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota. He said that he and his wife Doris had a bird at their feeder, that they could not identify. He described it to me over the phone and my first thought was that there was no such bird around this area that looked like that. I invited myself over to his home and he graciously said I could come over and see it.

When I arrived there were were reference books all over the living room. The Brandons had been seeing this strange bird for two or three weeks and wanted to identify it. Actually Doris was the one who had seen the bird first and had been using the books showing birds from all over the world to help her with the identification.

About 10 minutes after I arrived the bird showed up. The bird looked exactly like Art had described. He is a retired artist at Jostens and has learned well the skills of close observation.

The bird landed at a feeder that was located about 20 feet beyond the east-facing window. It was about the size of a Cedar Waxwing. To me, the bill was rather large and pointed and reminded me of an oriole's bill. He was eating seeds from the ground with his preference being sunflower seeds. The breast was orange, about the color of an American Robin, with the feathers curling around the lesser wing coverts. The wings had white feathers that formed the shape of a "T" with the top of the "T" located where the wing bars are found.

This unusual bird had a white belly with spots on its flanks. The head and back were blackish-brown. The crown was a mottled brown with a dark line on the top of the head where the nape is located. The

rump was somewhat of a mottled brown going down to the blackish tail.

I took pictures of the bird at the feeder with my 400 mm lens. My first thought was that this strange bird was a Baltimore-Bullocks intergrade of the Northern Oriole. A number of things bothered my about this, however. This bird was very comfortable eating seeds. The oriole has an orange rather than a white belly. Also, I did not see any orange on the tail of the bird.

I phoned the Rare Bird Alert number but it was an old 1978 number and Frank answered the phone, and he know absolutely nothing about birds! The alert number has been changed! I next called Terry Savaloja to get his opinion. Terry drove to the Brandons and he immediately identified it as a Brambling. He had seen this bird a number of times when he was in Alaska. It didn't seem reasonable that this bird should find its way to Minnesota as it usually resides in Asia and Europe. Terry told me he would call Bob Janssen as he had to call Bob anyway. After this call, the phones began to ring all over the state as this was the first known sighting of the Brambling in the state of Minnesota.

By Tuesday, February 7th, the word was out. I stopped at the Brandon home about 9:00 a.m. and already there were 18 birders lined up in the living room poised with their cameras and binoculars. There was great anticipation for this bird to fly in and have a meal. There were nine people in this group who are members of the "300" Club. There were three members of the credentials committee who had to rule on the accuracy and authenticity of the Brambling. This group was ready.

Ten o'clock, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock. Still no Brambling! Bob Janssen had a meeting at three that he had to at-

tend. He had his coat on and was ready to leave. How disappointing this was as many of these people had driven in from Duluth, Minneapolis, Northfield, and Wabasha. This bird usually would have come to the feeder three or four times by this time, but today he hadn't been there once. The only feed that was being consumed was coffee and donuts that Art and Doris were serving to their guests!

It was now 12:15 p.m. and just then someone spotted an orange bird flying into the yard. What excitement! Cameras clicked and the binoculars all focused on this very rare bird. It was the Brambling! This bird had now been seen by many of the top birders in the state. There was no question about it. This was the first confirmed sighting of the Brambling in the state and possibly, the whole Upper Midwest. As someone said, "This was the find of the decade!"

This was truly a very exciting day for many of the observers because they were able to add another bird to their Minnesota Life List. Many of the people headed home satisfied even though they had to wait all morning. Many of us have fond memories of the grand time we had as the guests of Art and Doris Brandon.

What were our host and hostess doing the following day? You are right. They were serving coffee and donuts to another thirty guests who had converged on Owatonna to see this once in a lifetime experience. Day after day, Art and Doris have been entertaining the many bird watchers who arrive from state after state.

Each group brought more interesting people and other interesting bird stories. Now I ask you, how happy do you think Art is that he called me concerning this strange orange bird that was eating at his feeder?

The people who saw the Brambling that Tuesday afternoon in Owatonna were Doris and Art Brandon, Darryl Hill, Terry Savaloja, Bob Janssen, Kim Eckert, Janet Green, Wynn and Don Mahle, Steve and Jo Blanich, Paul Egeland, Ray Glassel, Gene Saven, Don Bolduc, Ted Lint, and Kirk Jeffrey.

The Brambling was last seen in Owatonna on March 24, 1984. The log showed that 106 people saw the bird from the 139 birders who signed in at the Brandon's. Not too bad a percentage, is it? This Asiatic visitor certainly caused a lot of excitement in this quiet southern Minnesota community. But the thrill of seeing the Brambling for the first time made it all well worthwhile. **364 E. Murray, Owatonna, MN 55060.**

**Editor's Note:** The Brambling made the Minneapolis Tribune on February 10, 1984; it was a front page headline on that date with a short article and drawing. It is interesting to note that during the fall and winter of 1983-84 Bramblings were recorded in California (one at Crescent City), Utah (one at Logan), Colorado (one at Colorado Springs, another at Boulder) and in Ontario (one at Atikoken). There were other reports in Canada from Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia.



**Immature Golden Eagle  
March 16, 1984  
Whitewater Game Management  
Area, Winona County.  
Photo by Oscar Johnson**

# DO WOODCOCK CARRY THEIR YOUNG?

Harrison B. Tordoff

The note "American Woodcock carrying young" in *The Loon*, Spring 1984: 66-67, by David E. Johnson raises an interesting question: what can be taken as fact in the scientific literature?

As Johnson point out, the literature contains many references to woodcock carrying their young in flight, both American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) and European Woodcock (*S. rusticola*). The chicks are usually reported as held between the thighs, carried by the feet, or clasped between the toes. Now, Johnson reports a new method, the adult woodcock using its beak to hold one or even two young "clinging to her breast." I can think of no birds less likely to be able to cling to their mothers by their feet or bills than baby shore birds. Young woodcock have soft, flexible bills and practically no grasping ability in their toes.

Skeptics have been as numerous as believers on the question of woodcock carrying young. The main basis for skepticism is "the apparent improbability of this curious act of the Woodcock, and the unfitness of its feet and claws for carrying and holding any substance whatever" (St. John, 1846, quoted by Schorger, 1929, *Auk* 46:232; Schorger then describes his own observation of a woodcock apparently carrying young in its toes).

I am a disbeliever. I have seen or read no convincing evidence, even from the eyewitness accounts, that woodcock carry their young. In addition to the "apparent improbability" of the carrying act based on unsuitability of the structure and function of the feet and bill for this behavior, a strong argument can be made that most observers, being unfamiliar with the behavior of female woodcock with chicks, have simply misinterpreted what they saw.

Female woodcock with small chicks (and sometimes with heavily incubated eggs) have a dramatic distraction display when flushed: they fly with the body in a

nearly upright position, the head and bill turned down, legs dangling, tail greatly depressed and widely spread, and flight so labored that the impression is that the bird can barely keep aloft. This distraction display is what Johnson saw and describes well. It functions to lure predators away from the nest or chicks. The dogs I use for locating woodcock broods see this display dozens of times in their careers, yet never catch on. If allowed, they chase the female through the woods, never quite catching her, until she makes a miraculous recovery and getaway.

Anyone familiar with woodcock flight in all other circumstances is astonished by this distraction display, and the temptation is to interpret the depressed tail as an object held between the legs or by the feet and the labored flight and upright posture as the consequence of carrying something.

What would a female woodcock gain by carrying chicks? The chicks are superbly camouflaged and squat motionless when disturbed. Even when I have known the location of a brood within a few feet, I have often failed to find all of the chicks even after searching for a long time. It seems doubtful that the safety of the chicks or the hen would be enhanced by splitting up the brood and carrying the chicks to a new spot where undetected predators might be rather than relying on the protective coloration and behavior that works so well.

Most, perhaps all, reporters of carrying behavior seem to have been casual observers rather than serious students of woodcock. It seems reasonable to expect that chick carrying would be seen by the people most experienced with the birds if it occurs at all. Some biologists have spent hundreds or thousands of hours studying woodcock in the spring. I have been banding woodcock broods for twenty years and have flushed hundreds of broody hens. Other woodcock specialists, such as Tom Prawdzik of the Michigan D.N.R., who

banded over 300 woodcock chicks in **one** year and has been working with the species for 30 years, have much more experience with woodcock than I do. I recently phoned Prawdzik: he said that he doubted that woodcock ever carry their chicks, beyond the occasional chick that gets entangled briefly in the belly feathers of a brooding female and moved a few inches or feet before dropping free. He also said that no woodcock biologist of his acquaintance had ever seen the behavior. Another woodcock chick bander, Robert Butsch of Ann Arbor, Michigan, agreed completely with Prawdzik. Butsch has been banding woodcock for 20 years.

Andy Ammann, dean of woodcock banders who use pointing dogs, author of a small book on the subject, and for 30 years the woodcock specialist in the Michigan DNR, tells me that he is convinced that American Woodcock do not transport their chicks in flight. Ammann points out that European observers are confident that the European Woodcock does carry its chicks in flight, and he's inclined to accept their word. Closely related species of birds are almost certain to differ in behavior in many ways. The lack of convincing evidence for carrying by American Woodcock does not mean that European Woodcock

are not carriers, but the burden of proof for that species still remains on the proponents of the carrying hypothesis. I remain skeptical.

The issue here is not the truthfulness of the observers, but the interpretation of what is believed to have been seen. The evidence convinces me that woodcock, or at least the American Woodcock, do not carry their chicks. Convincing evidence that they do transport chicks by carrying them would be recovery of a chick seen to be dropped by its mother in flight, or capture in some way or a good photograph of a female in flight with its chick.

The idea that woodcock carry their chicks in flight is embedded in the literature and in the minds of well-read birders. People tend to see what they expect to see. This problem of observer-expectancy bias was discussed by Balph and Balph (1983, *Auk* 100:755-757), who quote Foster et al. (1975, *Exceptional Children* 41:469-473) as follows: "I wouldn't have seen it if I hadn't believed it." Despite the lack of solid evidence, I expect casual woodcock observers will continue to report carrying behavior while experienced woodcock observers will continue to deny its existence. — **Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.**

## THE BIRDS OF PINE AND CURRY ISLAND, LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Terry P. Wiens

### Introduction

While conducting a study of Piping Plovers during 1982 and 1983, I compiled a list of birds observed in the immediate area of Pine and Curry Island, Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota. Pine and Curry Island is a long, narrow, sandy island located near the southern edge of Lake of the Woods. Habitat includes open beach,

sparsely vegetated dunes, patches of mixed deciduous woods, and marsh. A number of factors make this site an excellent place to observe birds. The lake and its environs attract waterfowl and provide nesting sites for colonial waterbirds. A large variety of shorebirds use the extensive beaches of Pine and Curry Island to rest and feed during migration. Finally, migrating raptors

and passerines, following the lake edge to avoid crossing open water, often pass over the island.

Despite these features, few birders have visited Pine and Curry Island due to its remoteness. Swanson and Carlander (1940) were the first to publish a record of bird observations from Lake of the Woods. Since then, records have been scarce and usually based on a limited amount of time spent in the area (Hirsch 1982, Eckert 1983). This paper summarizes records of birds seen throughout the spring and summer of 1982 and 1983.

cated by the following symbols, based on the criteria of Green and Janssen (1975).

- A Abundant
- C Common
- U Uncommon
- R Rare
- Never observed in that season

Peak counts are included because they help determine when a species is most likely to be seen and how many individuals may be present. A \* after the species name indicates that positive nesting evidence was found on Pine and Curry Island for at least one of the two years of observation.

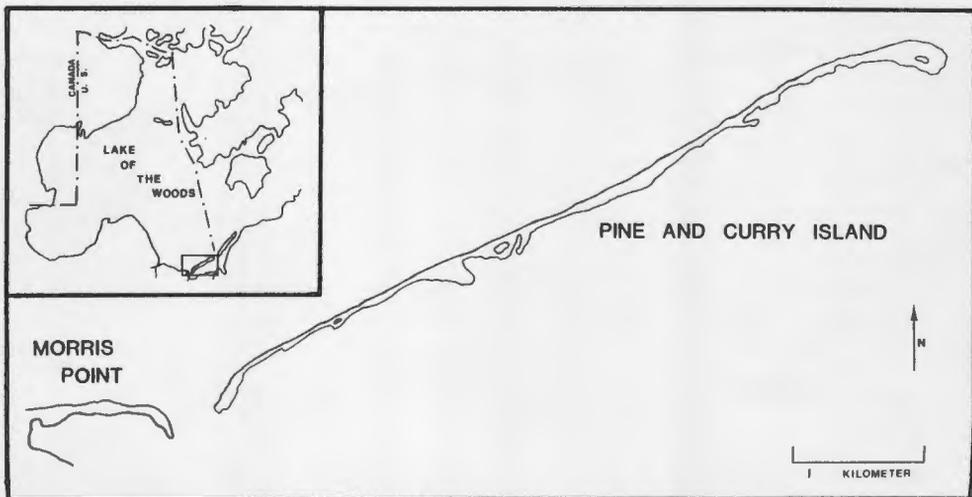


Figure 1. Map of the study area in Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota

## Methods

This checklist includes all birds seen on or from Pine and Curry Island, and also a small portion of Morris Point (Fig. 1). Additional observations were made from a boat up to 100 m offshore. Observations were made daily (weather permitting) from 1 May to 31 July 1982, and 17 April to 31 July 1983.

In the following list, the abundance of each species is indicated by seasonal status and peak count. The observation period is divided into two seasons, spring (17 April to 19 June) and summer (20 June to 31 July). It should be noted that some species (e.g. waterfowl) may have been most abundant before 17 April, and that some birds seen in July were early fall migrants. Abundance of birds for each season is indi-

## Results and Discussion

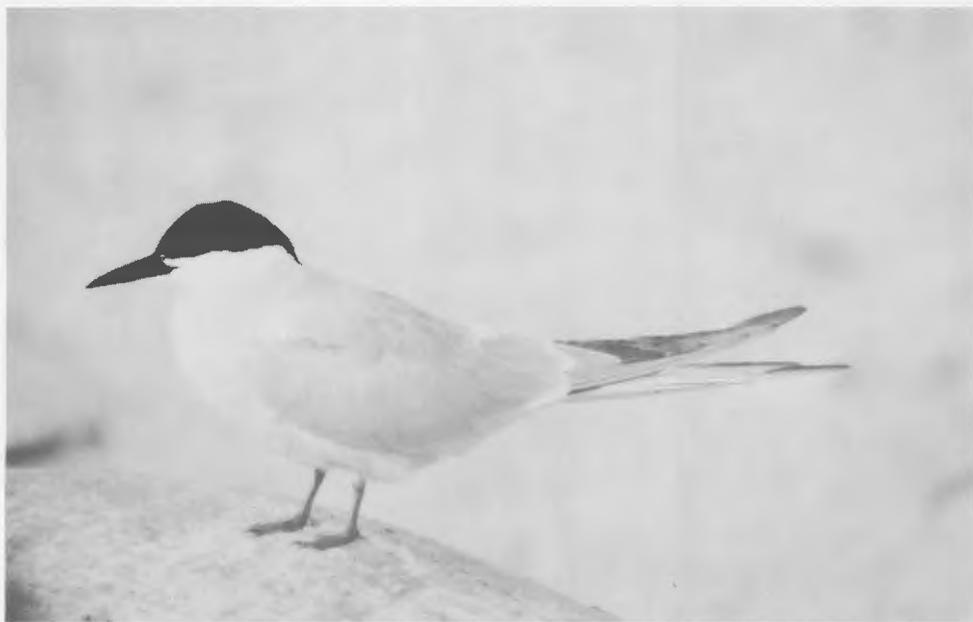
A total of 170 species was recorded during the two years of this survey. 119 were seen in both years. Waterfowl and raptors were most abundant in late April and early May, becoming scarce during the summer. The passerine peak for both years was in mid-May. The largest warbler counts were 11 species on 15 and 18 May of 1982, and 13 species on 21 May of 1983. Migrating shorebirds were most abundant in late May/early June and late July. The presence of many late spring migrants, early fall migrants, and birds of unknown destination made it possible to observe shorebirds at almost any time during the study. For example, Ruddy Turnstones and Black-bellied Plovers, presumably migrating northward, were seen as late as 25 and 30 June

NAME	SEASONAL STATUS		PEAK COUNT	
	SPR.	SUM.	COUNT	DATE
Common Loon	U	U	4	30 June
Pied-billed Grebe	R	R	2	23 April
Horned Grebe	C	—	40	24 April
Red-necked Grebe	C	—	15	4 May
Western Grebe	R	—	3	12 May
American White Pelican	A	A	75	30 April, 30 May
Double-crested Cormorant	A	A	150	29 April
American Bittern	U	U	2	27 July
Great Blue Heron	C	C	9	27 May
Tundra Swan	U	—	15	1 May
Snow Goose	U	—	75	6 May
Canada Goose	C	—	25	24 April
Wood Duck	R	—	2	12 May
Green-winged Teal	C	R	15	4 May
Mallard *	A	C	75	22 April
Northern Pintail	U	—	6	24,30 April
Blue-winged Teal	C	U	20	2 May
Northern Shoveler	R	—	1	27 April
American Wigeon *	C	C	20	24 April
Redhead	U	U	6	6 May
Ring-necked Duck	U	—	10	17 April
scaup spp.	A	R	2000	24 April
Greater Scaup	20 identified			
Lesser Scaup	300 identified			
Common Goldeneye	C	U	15	17 April
Bufflehead	C	—	15	12 May
Hooded Merganser	R	R	3	24 April
Common Merganser	C	U	50	22,24 April
Red-breasted Merganser	U	—	10	24 April
Turkey Vulture	U	—	6	1 May
Osprey	U	U	2	13 May, 28 July
Bald Eagle	U	U	4	24 April, 4 May
Northern Harrier	C	R	6	30 April
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	—	3	25 April
Northern Goshawk	R	R	1	22 April, 2,4 May, 27 July
Broad-winged Hawk	R	—	1	3,4 May
Red-tailed Hawk	R	—	1	28 May
American Kestrel *	U	R	4	15 May
Merlin	R	—	1	25 April, 7,14 May
Peregrine Falcon	R	—	1	27 April, 7,11,12,19 May
Sora	R	—	1	5,10,13 May
American Coot	R	—	1	21,24 April, 1,3,5,10 May
Sandhill Crane	U	R	2	23,24 April, 22 May
Black-bellied Plover	U	R	2	25 May, 7,12 June, 27 July
Lesser Golden-Plover	R	—	2	25 May
Snowy Plover	—	R	1	11-18 July
Semipalmated Plover	U	U	5	22,25 May
Piping Plover *	C	C	10-30	Various dates
Killdeer *	C	C	5-10	Various dates

American Avocet	R	—	1	22 May
yellowlegs spp.	C	C	50	14 July
Greater Yellowlegs	20 identified			
Lesser Yellowlegs	150 identified			
Solitary Sandpiper	—	R	1	31 July
Willet	R	—	1	14 May
Spotted Sandpiper *	C	C	5-20	Various dates
Whimbrel	R	—	1	11 June
Hudsonian Godwit	—	R	1	17 July
Marbled Godwit	R	U	4	10,11 July
Ruddy Turnstone	C	U	50	27 May
Red Knot	R	—	1	19,22,29 May, 7,9 June
Sanderling	C	C	25	9 June
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	C	50	27 May
Least Sandpiper	C	C	15	11 July
White-rumped Sandpiper	U	R	10	28 May
Baird's Sandpiper	—	R	1	28 July
Pectoral Sandpiper	R	U	6	25 July
Dunlin	C	—	10	24 May
Stilt Sandpiper	—	U	2	20,28 July
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	—	R	6	31 July
dowitcher spp.	U	U	9	17 July
Common Snipe	U	R	6	20 April
Wilson's Phalarope	R	R	2	23,27 May
Franklin's Gull	C	A	5000	5,21 July
Bonaparte's Gull	C	C	40	13 May
Ring-billed Gull	A	A	200	12 May
Herring Gull	A	A	100	12 May
Caspian Tern	C	U	30	25 May
Common Tern *	A	A	200	Various dates
Forster's Tern	R	R	3	14 May
Black Tern	C	C	10	28 July
Mourning Dove	U	R	4	19 May
Great Horned Owl	U	U	1	Various dates
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R	—	1	27 April
Common Nighthawk	U	—	15	11 June
Whip-poor-will	R	—	1	3,9,10,20 May
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	—	4	17 May
Belted Kingfisher	U	R	1	Various dates
Red-headed Woodpecker	R	—	2	19 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R	—	3	26 April
Downy Woodpecker	R	R	1	3,12, May, 31 July
Hairy Woodpecker	R	—	1	4 May
Northern Flicker	C	R	30	1 May
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R	—	1	8 June
Eastern Wood-Pewee	R	R	1	2 June, 19,20,21 July
Least Flycatcher	U	U	3	22 May, 20 June
Eastern Phoebe	U	—	2	25 April
Eastern Kingbird *	C	C	9	16 May
Purple Martin *	C	C	20	Various dates
Tree Swallow	A	C	200	5 May
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	R	—	1	30 April, 15 May
Bank Swallow	R	—	1	31 May
Cliff Swallow	A	A	300	11 May

Barn Swallow	C	R	20	8 May
Blue Jay	U	—	2	13,19 May
American Crow *	C	C	20	17 April
Common Raven *	C	C	5	22 April
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R	—	1	4,15,19 May
White-breasted Nuthatch	R	—	1	21 May
Brown Creeper	C	—	15	26 April
House Wren	R	U	2	6,11 July
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	—	15	26 April
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A	—	100	4 May
Veery	U	R	1	Various dates
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	—	1	12 May
Swainson's Thrush	U	—	2	21 May
Hermit Thrush	R	—	1	24,28 April, 4,14,15 May
American Robin	U	R	2	20,27 April, 6 May
Gray Catbird *	U	U	4	24,25 May
Brown Thrasher	R	R	1	Various dates
Water Pipit	R	—	2	25 May
Cedar Waxwing	U	R	8	1 June
European Starling *	C	C	5-15	Various dates
Warbling Vireo *	U	U	3	8 June
Red-eyed Vireo	R	R	1	Various dates
Tennessee Warbler	U	—	2	18,21,22 May
Orange-crowned Warbler	U	—	20	4 May
Nashville Warbler	U	—	9	12 May
Northern Parula	U	—	4	12 May
Yellow Warbler *	C	C	40	27 May
Chestnut-sided Warbler	R	—	1	17 May
Magnolia Warbler	U	—	3	18 May
Cape May Warbler	R	—	2	16 May
Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	—	500	10 May
Black-throated Green Warbler	R	—	1	18 May
Blackburnian Warbler	R	—	1	15,18 May
Pine Warbler	R	—	1	17 May
Palm Warbler	C	—	30	3 May
Bay-breasted Warbler	R	—	1	21 May
Blackpoll Warbler	U	—	6	21 May
Black-and-white Warbler	U	—	5	15 May
American Redstart	C	—	8	17,21 May
Ovenbird	R	—	1	12,13,16,20,21 May
Northern Waterthrush	R	—	1	12 May
Mourning Warbler	R	—	1	18 May
Common Yellowthroat	R	—	1	18,28 May, 6 June
Wilson's Warbler	R	—	1	15,17,18,22 May
Canada Warbler	R	—	1	21,27 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R	—	1	16,18 May
American Tree Sparrow	U	—	5	28 April
Chipping Sparrow	C	—	30	18 May
Clay-colored Sparrow	R	—	2	18,19 May
Savannah Sparrow	R	—	1	22 May
Fox Sparrow	R	—	2	23 April
Song Sparrow *	C	C	5-25	Various dates
White-throated Sparrow	C	—	10	11,14 May
White-crowned Sparrow	U	—	2	19 May

Harris' Sparrow	R	—	2	19 May
Dark-eyed Junco	A	—	100	20 April
Lapland Longspur	R	—	1	24 May
Snow Bunting	C	—	30	17 April, 4 May
Red-winged Blackbird *	C	C	10-30	Various dates
Western Meadowlark	R	—	2	21 April
Yellow-headed Blackbird *	C	C	10-30	Various dates
Common Grackle *	A	A	75	4 May
Brown-headed Cowbird *	C	U	25	12 May
Northern Oriole *	C	U	8	27 May
Purple Finch	R	—	3	4 May
Pine Siskin	R	—	1	3 May
American Goldfinch	—	R	1	8,29 July
Evening Grosbeak	R	—	1	5,13 May, 5 June
House Sparrow	R	—	2	2 May



One of approximately 250 Common Terns breeding on Pine and Curry Island in 1982  
Photo by Terry Wiens

respectively; Semipalmated Plovers were seen on 30 June and 1 July; yellowlegs spp. and Least Sandpipers, presumably southbound, were seen as early as 30 June and 4 July respectively.

Shorebirds were well represented in this survey. Of the 33 regular species in Minnesota, 28 were seen on Pine and Curry Island. In addition, one accidental species, a Snowy Plover, was present for a week during the summer of 1982 (Wiens 1982).

Sixty eight (40%) of the 170 species seen were waterbirds or shorebirds. A number of these nested in the Lake of the Woods area. For example, American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls, and Herring Gulls nested on exposed islands near the north end of the lake; Piping Plovers, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers, and Common Terns nested on Pine and Curry Island. The 5000 Franklin's Gulls seen at Pine and Curry Is-

land may have been associated with the very large breeding colony at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, located about 110 kilometers southwest of the island (Green 1983).

Pine and Curry Island is State owned and has been designated a Scientific and Natural Area. Portions of the island where Piping Plovers nest have been posted as Wildlife Sanctuaries and should not be disturbed during the breeding season. Access requires a boat, and the best way to observe most waterbirds is by boat. Many resorts in the area provide boat rental or launching facilities.

#### Acknowledgments

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Cuthbert, J. Green, L. Pfannmuller, and T. Lamey provided helpful comments on this manuscript.

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

## Minnesota Bird Distribution (Part IV)

Robert B. Janssen

This is the last of the four part series on Minnesota Bird Distribution by county. Please refer to *The Loon* 55:129 for details on how the maps are compiled.

This series covers Blue-winged Warbler through House Sparrow on the Minnesota Check-list.

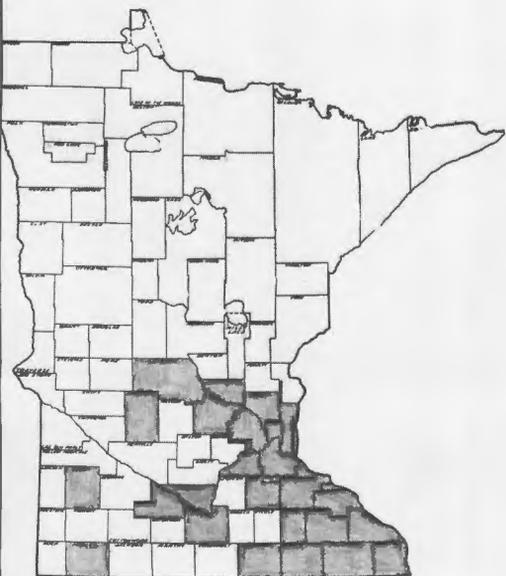
The following 30 species have been recorded in all 87 counties and are **not** mapped.

Tennessee Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
American Redstart  
Common Yellowthroat  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
American Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow

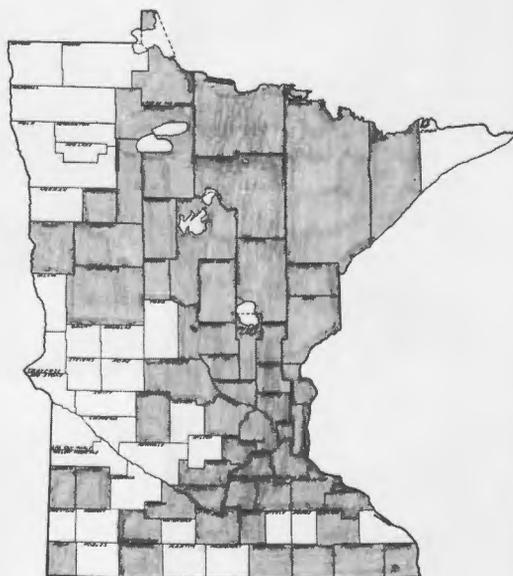
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Western Meadowlark  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Rusty Blackbird  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Northern Oriole  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

The following 13 species have been recorded in all but one or two counties, as indicated, and are also not mapped.

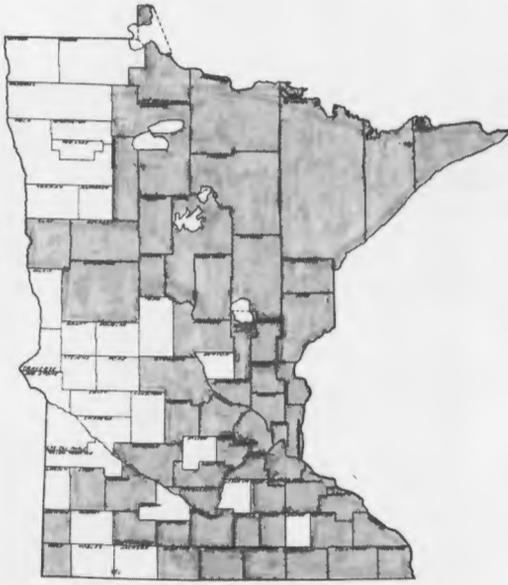
- Orange-crowned Warbler — Hubbard**
- Magnolia Warbler — Chippewa**
- Palm Warbler — Hubbard, Norman**
- Black-and-white Warbler — Douglas**
- Ovenbird — Traverse**
- Northern Waterthrush — Nobles**
- Wilson's Warbler — Roseau, Mahnomen**
- White-crowned Sparrow — Watonwan**
- Harris' Sparrow — Koochiching**
- Lapland Longspur — Clearwater**
- Snow Bunting — Mahnomen**
- Purple Finch — Traverse**
- Common Redpoll — Murray, Jackson**



**Blue-winged Warbler — 25**



**Golden-winged Warbler — 54**



Northern Parula — 57



Chestnut-sided Warbler — 83



Cape May Warbler — 56



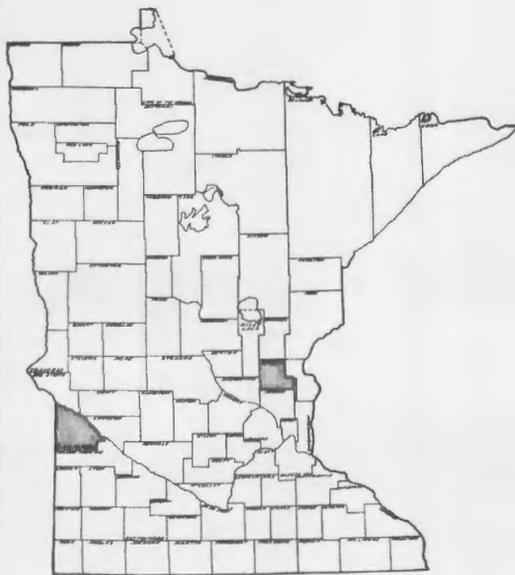
Black-throated Blue Warbler — 38



**Black-throated Gray Warbler — 2**



**Townsend's Warbler — 1**



**Hermit Warbler — 2**



**Black-throated Green Warbler — 76**



**Blackburnian Warbler — 73**



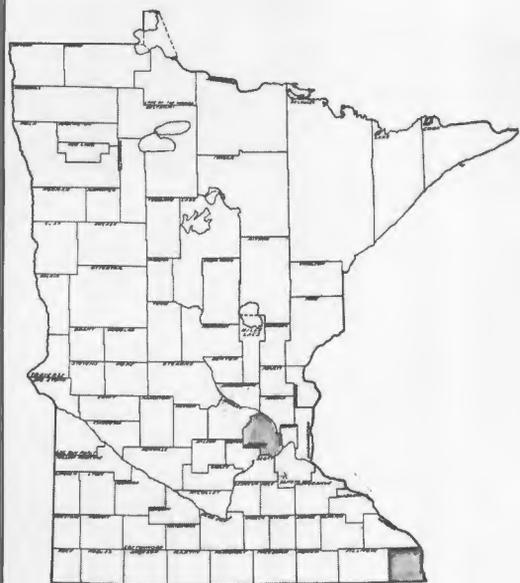
**Yellow-throated Warbler — 3**



**Pine Warbler — 52**



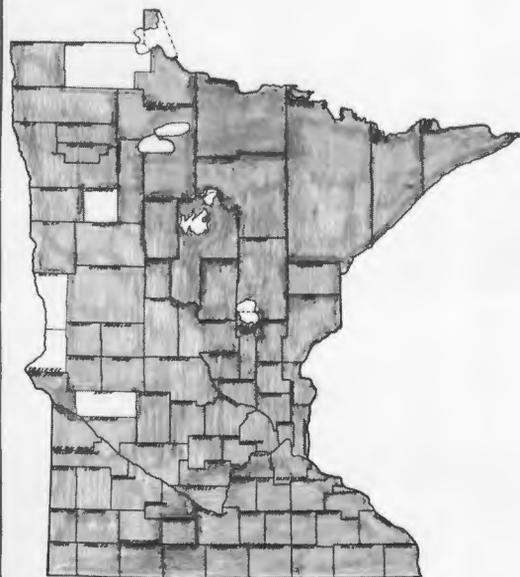
**Kirtland's Warbler — 2**



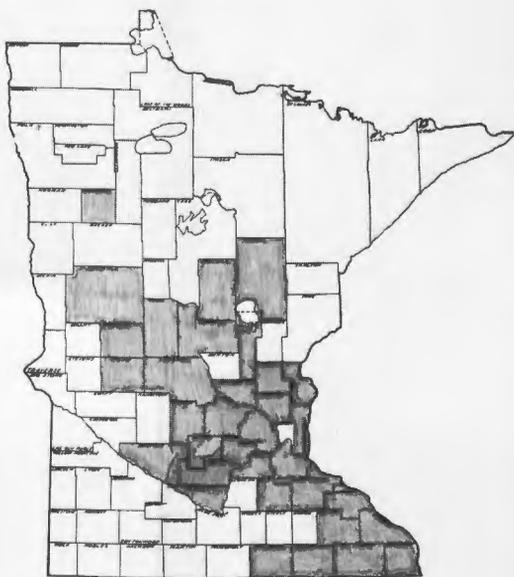
Prairie Warbler — 2



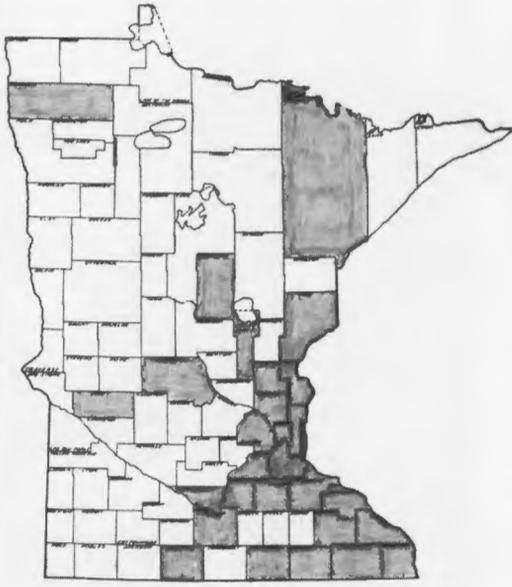
Bay-breasted Warbler — 71



Blackpoll Warbler — 82



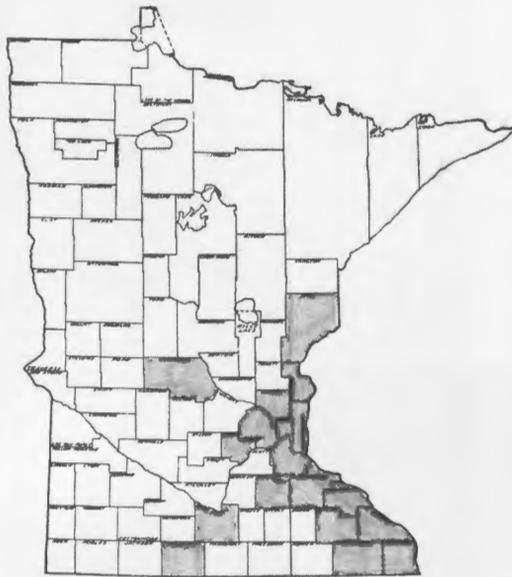
Cerulean Warbler — 33



Prothonotary Warbler — 28



Worm-eating Warbler — 11



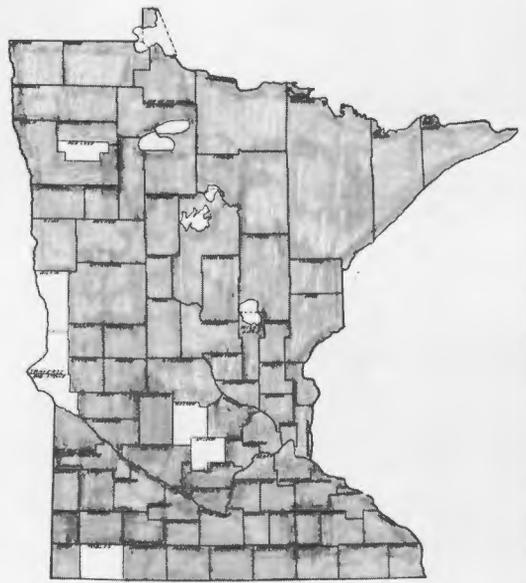
Louisiana Waterthrush — 18



Kentucky Warbler — 10



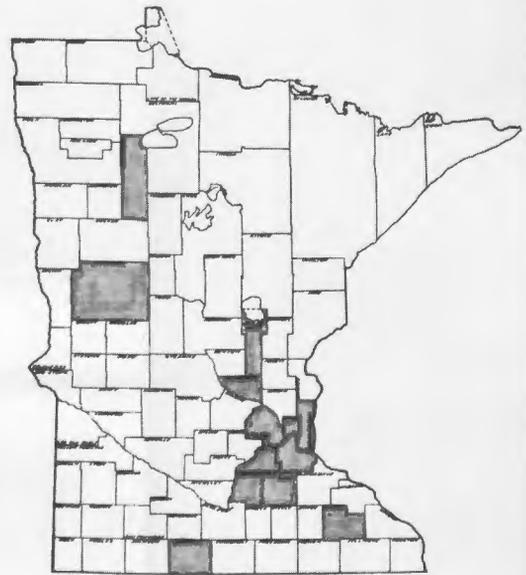
Connecticut Warbler — 55



Mourning Warbler — 80



MacGillivray's Warbler — 1



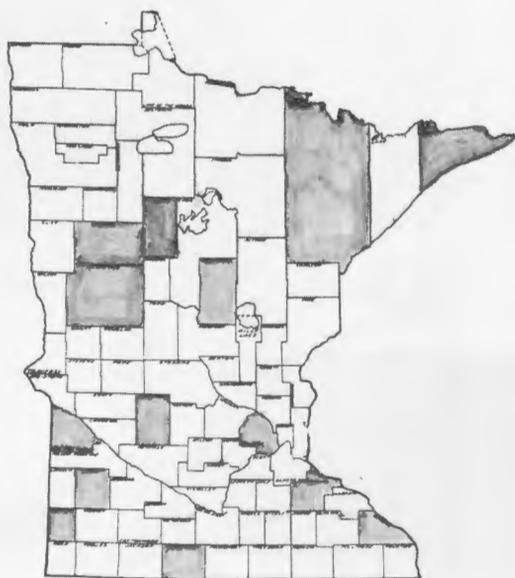
Hooded Warbler — 13



Canada Warbler — 71



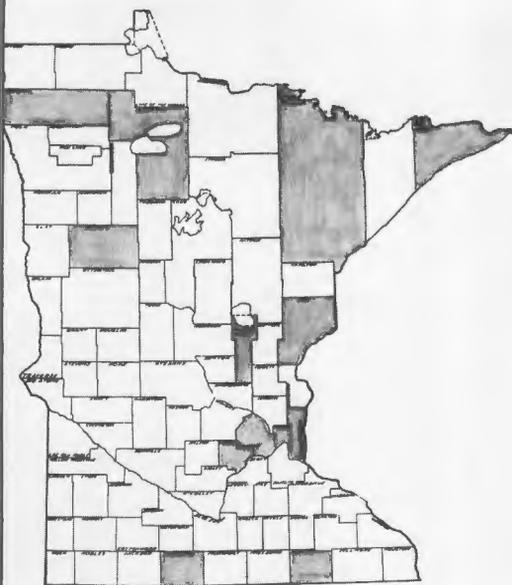
Yellow-breasted Chat — 28



Summer Tanager — 14



Scarlet Tanager — 78



**Western Tanager — 13**



**Northern Cardinal — 81**



**Black-headed Grosbeak — 6**



**Blue Grosbeak — 5**



Lazuli Bunting — 5



Painted Bunting — 3



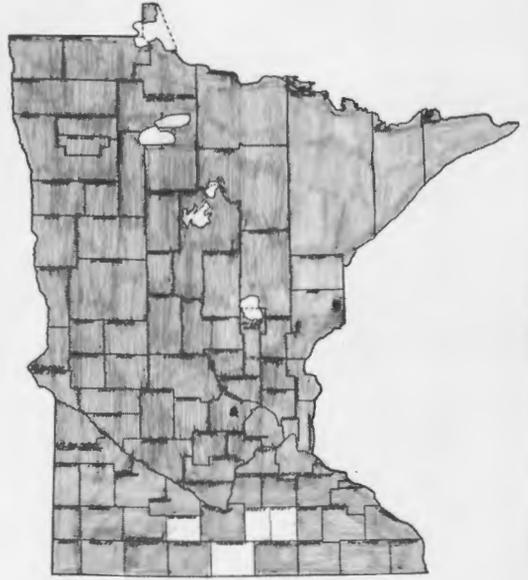
Dickcissel — 82



Green-tailed Towhee — 1



Rufous-sided Towhee — 68



Clay-colored Sparrow — 83



Brewer's Sparrow — 2



Field Sparrow — 71



Lark Sparrow — 54



Black-throated Sparrow — 1



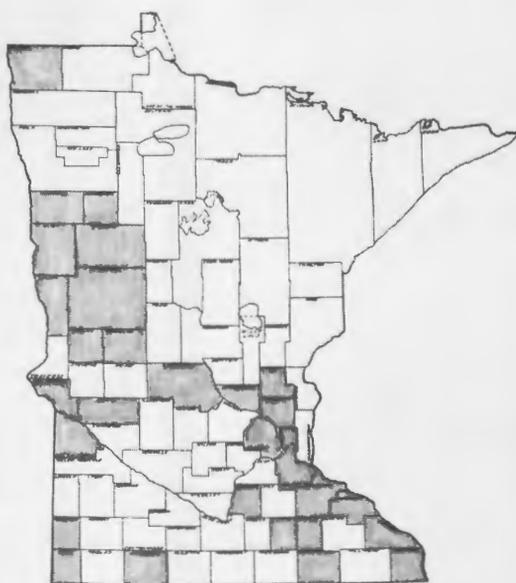
Lark Bunting — 34



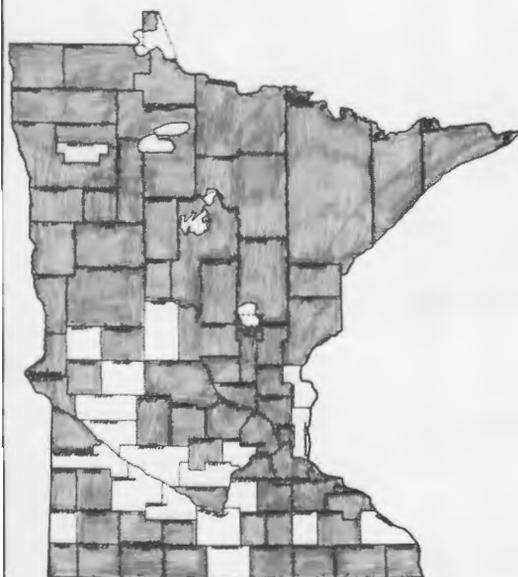
Baird's Sparrow — 8



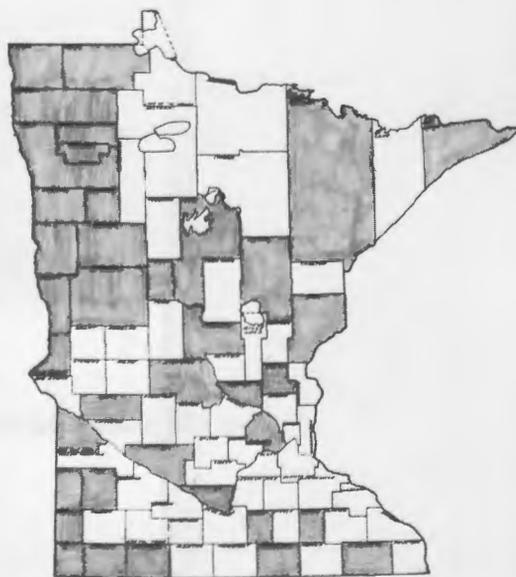
Grasshopper Sparrow — 83



Henslow's Sparrow — 30



LeConte's Sparrow — 67



Sharp-tailed Sparrow — 38



McCown's Longspur — 1



Smith's Longspur — 19



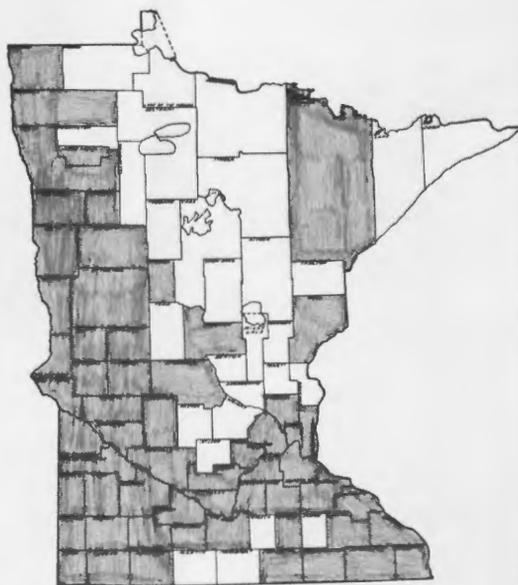
Chestnut-collared Longspur — 24



Eastern Meadowlark — 64



Great-tailed Grackle — 1



Orchard Oriole — 59



Scott's Oriole — 1



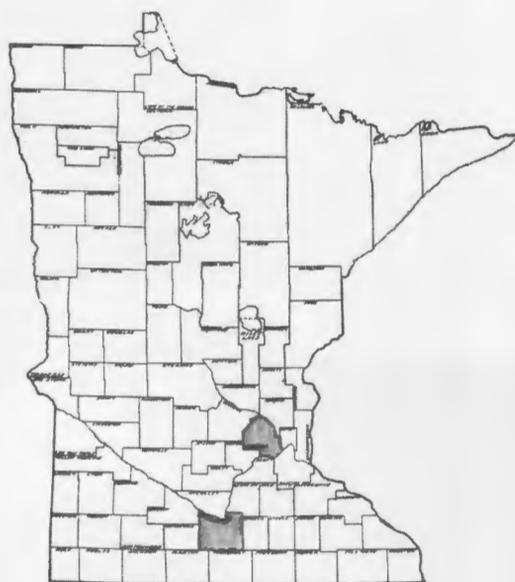
Brambling — 1



Rosy Finch — 7



Pine Grosbeak — 66



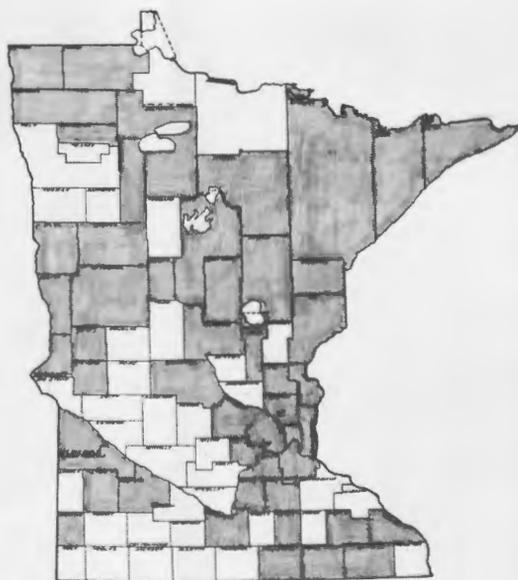
House Finch — 2



Red Crossbill — 66



**White-winged Crossbill — 60**



**Hoary Redpoll — 50**



**Evening Grosbeak — 73**

Summer 1984

# Status and Reproductive Success of the Piping Plover in Lake of the Woods

Terry P. Wiens and Francesca J. Cuthbert

The Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is one of 38 species of plovers in the world (Johnsgard 1981), and its distribution is restricted exclusively to the North American continent (Godfrey 1966; American Ornithologists' Union Checklist 1983). There can be little question that the Piping Plover is declining in many areas throughout its range (Cairns and McLaren 1980; Lambert and Ratcliff 1981). In 1973 the National Audubon Society recognized the precarious status of this species by placing it on its "Blue List" of declining species (Tate 1981).

Two breeding populations are recognized (Johnsgard 1981); these include an interior race (prairie provinces of Canada, the Dakotas, Nebraska, states bordering the Great Lakes) and an eastern race (coastal North America from Quebec and Newfoundland south to Virginia). Only two breeding localities are known in Minnesota: Lake of the Woods (Hirsch 1982) and the Duluth Harbor (Niemi and Davis 1979).

Recognizing the rarity of this species and its potential rapid extirpation from a substantial portion of its range, the Non-game Wildlife Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources initiated a several year study of the breeding biology of this species in Lake of the Woods. The purpose of this paper is to report our estimates of population size and productivity for the 1982-1983 breeding seasons, and to discuss factors affecting the reproductive success of Piping Plovers breeding in Lake of the Woods.

## METHODS

In Lake of the Woods, Piping Plover nest sites are concentrated on Pine and

Curry Island and adjacent Morris Point (Fig. 1). From late April through mid-August 1982-1983, T. Wiens collected data on total number of plovers present throughout the season (non-breeding individuals and breeding pairs), nesting success and factors causing reproductive failure.

Plovers were monitored by direct observation of adults, nests, and nest contents. Most observations were made from a small land-based blind or boat anchored near the shoreline. Juveniles were considered to have fledged once they were capable of flight.

To facilitate recognition of individual plovers, 136 birds (45 adults, 91 juveniles) were captured and banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands and most (122) were given unique combinations of colored leg bands. Adults were captured with mist nets or wire mesh drop traps; juveniles were captured by hand.

The occurrence and distribution of additional nesting pairs in the vicinity of Pine and Curry Island was determined during reconnaissance trips by boat and plane to sites within and surrounding the lake where plovers were observed in the past (e.g. Stony Point, Zippel Bay) or where suitable plover nesting habitat was identified.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Population Size

In both seasons breeding plovers were found on Pine and Curry Island and Morris and Rocky Points (Fig. 1). Plovers only nested at Zippel Bay in 1983 and no evidence of nesting was found at Stony Point, a site used by plovers in previous years.

**Breeding pairs.** — This category includes any pair known to have laid at least

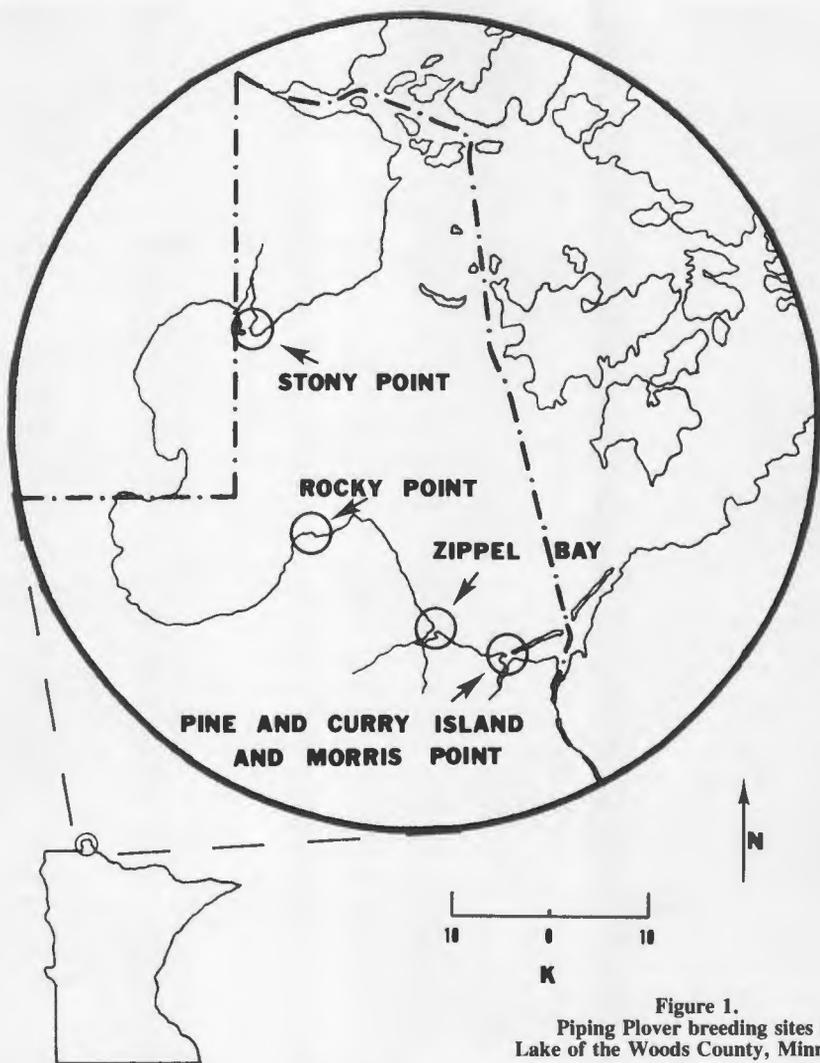


Figure 1.  
Piping Plover breeding sites in  
Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota.

one egg. A total of 15 pairs of Piping Plovers produced eggs in Lake of the Woods in 1982. Twelve pairs nested on Pine and Curry Island, two pairs on Morris Point, and one pair on Rocky Point. In the 1983 season, 21 breeding pairs were located; 16 on Pine and Curry Island, three on Morris Point and one each at Zippel Bay and Rocky Point.

**Non-breeding individuals** — Approximately 14 non-breeding plovers were observed in the study area in 1982 and seven non-breeders were recorded in 1983. These included single individuals that were seen

once or twice during the summer and birds that initially were paired but later were observed as single individuals in the vicinity of the nesting sites.

Based on these observations, we estimate there was a total of 44 adult Piping Plovers present in 1982 and 49 in 1983. All but one individual possessed a complete breast band and relatively dark markings which are characteristics of the interior race *C. m. circumcinctus*. The one exception had an incomplete breast band and relatively light markings, indicating it was of the eastern race *C. m. melodus*.

This individual was present for three to four weeks but did not reproduce.

### Nesting Success

In determining nesting success, we considered only the pairs that were known to have produced eggs. In 1982 this group of 30 birds (15 pairs) produced a total of 24 nests with eggs. Nine clutches were re-nesting attempts. Of the 24 nests, 18 were located on Pine and Curry Island, five on Morris Point, and one on Rocky Point. The clutch size was typically four eggs ( $\bar{x} = 3.9$ ). In 1983 the 21 pairs produced 22 nests with eggs. Only one clutch was a re-nesting attempt. Of the 22 nests 17 were located on Pine and Curry Island, three on Morris Point, and one each at Zippel Bay and Rocky Point. Mean clutch size was also 3.9 in 1983.

In 1982 a total of 86 eggs were laid but only 38 (44%) hatched. Of the chicks that hatched, 26/38 (68%) were known to have fledged ( $\bar{x} = 1.7$  chicks/adult pair). One of these juveniles was found dead on 12 September 1982 at Apalachicola Estuary, Florida. These data indicate that, during the 1982 breeding season, the mortality rate was much higher during incubation than in the period between hatching and fledging. In 1983 a total of 85 eggs were laid and 64 (75% hatched. Of the chicks that hatched, 44/64 (69%) were known to have fledged. This is an average of 2.1 chicks produced/pair. Both hatching rate and the number of chicks fledged were considerably higher in 1983 than in 1982.

In 1982, overall reproductive success (measured as percent of chicks fledged from eggs laid) was 30%. Success in 1983 was 52%, considerably higher than the 1982 rate. Comparative data from other Piping Plover populations are limited. Cairns (1982) found that 72-79% of the eggs hatched in her study area in Nova Scotia. Wilcox (1959) found an even higher rate, 92%, on Long Island. Although these estimates are greater than our two season average (60%), our estimate of mean number of chicks fledged/pair was 1.7-2.1 which is slightly higher than the 1.3-2.1 chicks fledged/pair reported by Cairns (1982).

### Factors Causing Reproductive Failure

**Egg mortality** — A total of 48/86 eggs (56%) failed to hatch in the 1982 season. We attribute egg mortality to the following causes: predation (67%), storm damage (21%), human disturbance (8%), and unknown factors (4%). In 1983, 21/85 eggs (25%) did not hatch. Causes of mortality were: predation (48%), storm damage (19%), unknown factors (19%) and human disturbance (14%).

**Chick mortality** — Of the 38/86 chicks that hatched in 1982, 12 (32%) died between hatching and fledging. Of those that died, nine (75%) disappeared and we believe they were eaten by predators. The other three (25%) were found dead from no apparent cause. In 1983 64/85 (75%) hatched. Twenty (31%) died between hatching and fledging. All of these disappeared and we believe most were eaten by predators.

Cause of mortality was difficult to determine in both years. Fourteen eggs were washed out of nests by storm generated waves, and seven eggs (two clutches) were stepped on by vacationers visiting Pine and Curry Island. Young found dead may have been victims of exposure, starvation, or disease. The disappearance of entire clutches or partial clutches probably was due to avian predators. Although acts of predation were not observed, Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*), Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*), and American Crows (*C. brachyrhynchos*) often were seen near or within Piping Plover nesting areas. Additional potential predators, especially of chicks and adults, included Merlins (*Falco columbarius*), and Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Several potential mammalian predators, weasel, *Mustela* sp.; mink, *Mustela vison*; and river otter, *Lutra canadensis* were observed on Pine and Curry Island.

### CONCLUSIONS

The Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, population may be the largest concentration of breeding Piping Plovers in the Upper Midwestern United States. This two season

study indicates that although the population is small (less than 50 breeding individuals) chick productivity is good (1.7 to 2.1 chicks/pair/year). Recent land acquisition efforts by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program and The Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy have secured the prime nest habitat (Pine and Curry Island and Morris Point) as a State Scientific and Natural Area. In addition to habitat preservation, current conservation strategies include population monitoring, a public information program (focused at local resorts), and construction of signs to prevent human trespass during the breeding season.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Immature Bald Eagle, March 16, 1984  
Prairie Island, Goodhue County. Photo by Oscar Johnson

# THE FALL SEASON

(Aug. 1 – Nov. 30, 1983)

Dick Ruhme, Steve Carlson, Donald Bolduc, and Oscar Johnson

For this period there were 65 reports with 294 species recorded.

In spite of the extreme heat and high humidity of summer, the warbler migration began the last part of July. The August temperature was 6.2° above normal, precipitation was .5 inch below normal. When the rains brought a little relief from the heat around the 16, 20 and 25th of August the warbler migration was more evident.

Somehow the unrelenting heat continued into the first few days of September. Then occasional rain during the rest of the month cooled things off and we were back to near normal. Temperatures were 2° above normal with precipitation .8 inch above normal. Reports from Cook County indicated that a substantial warbler migration was taking place the first half of this month. At other locations many flycatchers and warblers were on the move around the 5th. A large mixture of birds migrated farther south along the north shore on the 24, 25 and 26th. Common Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts were numerous around the metro area on the 29th and 30th.

October was cool and rainy; temperatures averaged 1.2° below normal, precipitation .76 above normal. Cook County had 9" of snow on the 13th. There were more than the usual number of migrating warblers from the north shore southward.

Sparrows moved into the east central region on the 12th and 17th. A great number of Red-winged Blackbirds (250,000) and grackles (50,000) were reported from Houston County on the 20th.

If the almost two full days of sunshine in November did not provoke comments about the weather, the record snowfall did! Duluth had a record 16½ inches for one day; the metro area had 30.4 inches, the most since 1940. Even with a harsh early winter some hardy species remained; American Robin, Brown Thrasher and White-throated Sparrow.

There were many reports of late nesting and consequently young birds late. This was probably due to the late spring weather.

Some unusual species or numbers reported were: Arctic Loon, Cass Co.; Little Blue Heron, Rice Co.; about 12,000 Tundra Swans over the metro counties on Nov. 25; Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles and Merlins broke previous highs at Hawk Ridge, Duluth; Jaegers, St. Louis Co.; Black-legged Kittewakes, St. Louis and Carlton Co's.; Sabine's Gull, Lincoln Co.; very late Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Scott and Cook Co's. – a nest with young in Crow Wing Co. in Sept.; Groove-billed Ani, seventh record for the state, Brown Co.; Red-bellied Woodpecker, Becker Co.;

Acadian Flycatcher, Anoka Co.; Carolina Wren, Crow Wing Co.; Yellow-breasted Chat, Cook Co.; a very late Blue Grosbeak, Rock Co.; Lark Bunting, St. Louis Co. and a Gray-headed race of the Dark-eyed Junco, Hennepin Co.

#### **ARCTIC LOON**

10/16 Cass (Leech Lake) KL (*The Loon* 56:65)

#### **Common Loon**

Late north 11/8 Becker WL, 11/17 Beltrami JSP, 11/20 Hubbard KSS; late south 10/29 Chippewa AB, 11/6 Hennepin SC, 11/11 Waseca RJ.

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

11/7 Aitkin AB, 11/8 Beltrami AS, Pennington KSS; late south 11/11 Nicollet JCF, Wabasha WDM Waseca RJ, 11/16 Ramsey RH.

#### **Horned Grebe**

Late north 10/22 Aitkin DB, OJ, 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/13 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/19 Freeborn RJ, 11/22 Houston RG,

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

Late reports (all north) 9/25 St. Louis RJ, 9/27 Cook KMH, 11/30 Beltrami JSP.

#### **Eared Grebe**

Late north 9/8 Polk RJ, 10/8 Marshall KSS, 10/22 Otter Tail DS; late south 8/19 Yellow Medicine DB, OJ, 9/23 Nicollet JCF.

#### **Western Grebe**

Late north 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/6 Todd KL, 11/29 Beltrami JSP; late south 10/14 Nicollet JCF, 11/11 Waseca RG, RJ, 11/18 Chippewa AB.

#### **American White Pelican**

Late north 10/6 Lake of the Woods AJ, 10/10 Beltrami JSP, 10/21 Mille Lacs KL, peak 10/11 Freeborn (750-1000) RHJ; late south 10/14 Nicollet JCF, 10/18 Freeborn BE, 10/23 Chippewa AB.

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

Late north 11/7 Lake of the Woods AJ, Mille Lacs KL, 11/12 Otter Tail NH, 11/30 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/12 Goodhue JP/AM, 11/18 Washington TBB, 11/25

Dakota AB; peak 10/7 Nicollet JCF (1000).

#### **American Bittern**

Late north 9/25 Cook SL, 10/4 Lake of the Woods AJ, 10/30 Otter Tail DS; late south 10/1 Nicollet JCF, 11/6 Stearns NH.

#### **Least Bittern**

8/3 Clearwater AB, 8/16 Hennepin MS, 8/27 Hennepin VL, 10/1 Nicollet JCF.

#### **Great Blue Heron**

Late north 11/9 Hubbard HJF, 11/15 Cook KMH, 11/24 Clay LCF; late south 11/19 Dakota MW, 11/24 Stearns KSS, 11/30 Houston FL.

#### **Great Egret**

Late north 9/6 Polk AB, 10/1 Marshall JSP, 10/5 Duluth TL; late south 10/20 Houston JP/AM, Ramsey RJ, 10/29 Wabasha BE, 10/31 Dakota RG.

#### **Little Blue Heron**

8/12 Rice R. Kettering.

#### **Cattle Egret**

8/23 to 9/1 Jackson LAF (21), 9/3 Olmsted JEB, 9/16 Nicollet JCF.

#### **Green-backed Heron**

Late north 9/25 Beltrami JSP, 9/30 Mille Lacs AB, 10/22 Aitkin DB, OJ; late south 10/1 Houston EMF, Nicollet JCF, 10/20 Hennepin VL.

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

Late north 9/6 Polk AB; late south 10/7 Ramsey RH, 10/25 Washington RJ, 11/19 Dakota MW.

#### **IBIS (sp?)**

10/3-4 Winona R. Lampert.

#### **Tundra Swan**

Early north 9/24 Lake of the Woods AJ, 10/22 Beltrami JSP; early south 10/15 Chippewa AB, 11/12 Hennepin DZ/MC; late north 11/25 Aitkin AJ, Becker RJ; peak 11/24 Wabasha (8000+); late south 11/30 Houston FL, Wabasha WDM.

#### **Greater White-fronted Goose**

10/23 Cottonwood D. Wells (58), 10/28 Olmsted JEB.

#### **Snow Goose**

Late north 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/4 Cook KMH, 11/22 Polk KSS; late south

11/23 Houston FL, Olmsted JEB, 11/24 Washington DS, 11/30 Hennepin OJ, ES; peak 10/4 Hawk Ridge (231).

### **Canada Goose**

Permanent resident; reported from 8 counties north, 19 south; peak 10/24 LQP, FE (65,000).

### **Wood Duck**

Late north 10/16 Lake SW/MS, 10/17 Pennington KSS, 11/22 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/11 Dakota JD, 11/23 Stearns CM, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Late north 11/11 Pennington JSP, 11/21 Cook KMH, Lake of the Woods AJ; late south 11/23 Houston FL, 11/30 Ramsey DS.

### **American Black Duck**

Late north 10/19 Lake SW/MS, 10/22 St. Louis KC, 10/29 Cook JSP; late south 11/25 Dakota AB, 11/30 Houston FL, Olmsted BE.

### **Mallard**

Permanent resident; reported from 14 counties north, 21 south.

### **Northern Pintail**

Late north 10/4 Duluth Hawk Ridge, 10/29 Marshall KSS; late south 11/12 Houston FL, 11/13 Anoka DS, 11/18 Hennepin SC.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Late north 10/1 Lake SW/MS, 10/8 Marshall KSS, 10/16 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/4 Nicollet JCF, 11/6 Hennepin ES, 11/18 Dakota SC.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Late north 9/6 Polk AB, 10/22 Pennington KSS, 11/23 Otter Tail DS; late south 11/17 Ramsey EC, Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **Gadwall**

Late north 9/26 Lake SW/MS, 10/1 Cook SL, 11/30 Marshall KSS; late south 11/13 Anoka DS, 11/30 Hennepin SC, Houston FL.

### **American Wigeon**

Late north 10/3 Cook KMH, 10/29 Marshall KSS, 11/21 Roseau AJ; late south 11/19 Mower RJ, 11/26 Winona OJ, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **Canvasback**

Late north 10/8 Marshall KSS, 11/18 Beltrami JSP, 11/24 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/30 Houston FL, Olmsted JEB, Wabasha DWM, 12/3 Hennepin SC; peak 11/1 Houston (100,000) RJ.

### **Redhead**

Late north 10/26 Cook KMH, 11/5 Beltrami JSP, 11/12 Otter Tail NH; late south 11/19 Waseca RJ, 11/26 Ramsey EC, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Late north 11/7 St. Louis AE, 11/11 Roseau AJ, 11/29 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/26 Houston EMF, 11/30 Hennepin DB, SC, RJ, ES, Olmsted JEB.; peak 11/1 Houston (250,000) RJ.

### **Greater Scaup**

9/25 Lake of the Woods KSS, 10/9 Stearns NH, 10/27 Mower RRR, 10/28 Beltrami JSP, 11/10 Ramsey EC, RG, 11/26 Houston EMF.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Late north 11/21 Cook KMH, Roseau AJ, 11/29 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/23 Houston FL, Olmsted JEB, 11/28 Wabasha WDM, 11/30 Hennepin DB, SC; peak 11/1 Houston 200,000 RJ.

### **Harlequin Duck**

10/19, 10/25 Cook KMH, 11/5, 11/7 Duluth M. Stack, KE.

### **Oldsquaw**

10/22–23 St. Louis KE, 10/27–29 Cook KE, KMH, 11/6–19 Mower RRR, D. Schneider, (*The Loon* 55:182–183), 11/8 Cook KMH.

### **Black Scoter**

10/6–7 Crow Wing KL, 10/17–18 Duluth KE, 10/22, 11/2 Cook many obs, 11/5 Pipestone KL, 11/11–21 Beltrami JSP.

### **Surf Scoter**

10/13 Cook KMH, 11/5 Duluth KE, 11/19 Waseca RG, RJ.

### **White-winged Scoter**

10/3, 26–29 Cook KMH, many obs., 10/22 Otter Tail DS, 10/23 St. Louis KC, 11/19–24 Dakota ES, many obs.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Late north 11/26 Aitkin AB, Crow Wing DB, 11/30 Beltrami JPS, Cook KMH; early south 11/8 Dakota VL, 11/11 Ramsey DZ/MC, 11/13 Stearns NH.

### **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**

11/24, 11/30–12/1 Hennepin SC (*The Loon* 56:67).

### **Bufflehead**

Early north 10/9 Beltrami JSP, 10/29 Marshall KSS; early south 10/7 Nicollet JCF, 10/14 Ramsey RJ; late north 11/21 Roseau AJ, 11/30 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/27 Ramsey EC, 11/29 Hennepin SC.

### **Hooded Merganser**

Late north 11/12 Otter Tail NH, 11/14 Crow Wing JB, 11/30 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/24 Dakota MW, 11/28 Wabasha DWM.

### **Common Merganser**

Late north 11/20 Lake SW.MS, 11/21 Beltrami JSP, 11/26 Cass RJ.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Late north 10/1 Cook SL, 10/22 Aitkin DB, 10/30 Mille Lacs DB; late south 10/9 Washington TBB.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Late north 10/8 Marshall KSS, 10/22 Otter Tail DS, 10/26–31 Cook many obs.; late south 11/19 Chippewa AB, Freeborn RJ, 11/23 Houston FL.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 1446, a new record high (1982:402); late north 10/6 Lake KMH 10/26 Hawk Ridge; late south 10/8 Olmsted BE, 11/30 Houston FL.

### **Osprey**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 224, another record high (1982: 97); late north 10/9 Hawk Ridge, 10/12 Pine RG, 10/28 Lake SW/MS; late south 10/14 Dakota MW, 11/1 Lyon HK.

### **Bald Eagle**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 384 still another record high (1982 count: 207); late north 11/27 Mille Lacs AB, Todd SDM, 11/29 Beltrami JSP; peak 11/24–26 Duluth, Dave Evans (250 +).

### **Northern Harrier**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 274, lowest since 1969 (1982:386); late north 11/7 Mille Lacs AB, 11/9 Crow Wing WL, 11/11 Beltrami JPS; late south 11/21 Houston EMF, 11/25 Dakota AB, 11/26 Goodhue OJ (34), Olmsted JEB.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 9439 (1982: 7150); late north 10/26 Cook KMH, 10/30 Hawk Ridge, 11/9 Hubbard HJF; late south 11/10 Olmsted BE, 11/19 Waseca RG,RJ, 11/28 Dakota JP/AM.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 66 (1982: 43); late north 10/1 Cass NH, 10/2 Kittson KSS, 10/17 Hawk Ridge; late south 10/20 Ramsey RJ, 11/5 Hennepin OJ, 11/10 Anoka DS.

### **Northern Goshawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 1999 (1982: 5819); early south 9/11 Dakota JD, 10/25 Anoka SC, Dodge RG, RJ.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

9/7 Wadena RJ, 9/24 Douglas RG, 10/8 Duluth Hawk Ridge, 10/9 Beltrami AS, 10/23 Otter Tail SDM, 11/26 Winona OJ.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 35,932 (1982: 17,809); late north 9/25 Cook KMH, 10/20 Beltrami AS, Hawk Ridge; late south 10/2 Pipestone RJ, Wright ES, 10/3 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Goodhue OJ; peak 9/20 Hawk Ridge (22,000).

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 3 (1982: 3); late north 8/29 Todd KL, 10/16 Wilkin JB, 10/20 Hawk Ridge; late south 10/6 Dakota JD.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 3342 (1982: 5410). Permanent resident reported from 17 counties north, 20 south.

### **Ferruginous Hawk**

11/5 Pipestone KL.

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 253, lowest since 1973 (1982:724); early north 9/18 Marshall KSS, 9/23 Hawk Ridge, 9/?

Cook SL; early south 9/13 Lac Qui Parle FE, 10/8 Wabasha BE, 10/16 Wright ES.

#### **Golden Eagle**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 24, a record high (1982:17) also 10/21 Sherburne BE, 10/29 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle AB, 11/6 Roseau KSS, 11/25-30 Houston EMF, 11/26 Winona OJ.

#### **American Kestrel**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 778 (1982: 560); late north 11/26 Aitkin SC, Marshall RJ, 11/27 Norman JSP, 11/29 Clay TT.

#### **Merlin**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 57, another record high (1982: 31); late north 10/23 Clay LCF, 11/27 Hawk Ridge, 11/26 Polk RG, RJ; late south 10/1 Goodhue BL, 11/5 Benton RJ.

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 28, second highest total (1982: 23); late north 10/8 Cook RG, 10/14 Duluth JSP; late south 10/15 Chippewa AB, 11/5 Washington RH; peak 10/2 Hawk Ridge.

#### **Prairie Falcon**

8/11 Otter Tail SDM, 10/1 Pipestone RG, RJ, 10/14 Wilkin JB, 11/6 Wilkin SDM.

#### **Gray Partridge**

Permanent resident reported from 2 counties north, 14 south; first Anoka county record 8/22 KL.

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

Permanent resident, reported from two north and 18 south counties.

#### **Spruce Grouse**

8/1 to 10/5 Lake SW/MS, 9/12 Beltrami (1) RG, 10/20 Lima Mt., Cook Co. KMH, 10/29 Lake (2) SS, 11/20 Cook SW/MS. Also reported "October" Cook SL.

#### **Ruffed Grouse**

Permanent resident, reported from 11 north and eight south counties.

#### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

9/8 Wilkin (1) RJ, 10/16 Clay (2) KC, 11/23 Wilkin SDM.

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

8/27 Roseau AJ, 10/4 Marshall NH, 10/22 Pine BE, Beltrami JSP, 11/5 Marshall EH, Aitkin (no date) KL — all reports.

#### **Wild Turkey**

11/20 Houston (1) EMF.

#### **Northern Bobwhite**

8/13 Houston (3) FL, 8/25 Houston (1) EMF, 11/12 McLeod (2, probable released?) JB.

#### **Yellow Rail**

8/29 Norman KL, 9/29 Nicollet (hit by car, specimen obtained) MF.

#### **Virginia Rail**

Three north reports: 8/1 Clearwater AB, 8/24 St. Louis KE, 9/1 Wadena DB. Late south 10/1 Wright ES, 10/9 Washington TBB, 11/6 Hennepin ES.

#### **Sora**

Late north 9/17 Lake SW/MS, 9/24 Wadena AB, 10/16 Norman KC; late south 10/2 Pipestone RJ, 10/7 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin SC, 11/18 Anoka DS.

#### **Common Moorhen**

8/23 Houston (1 ad., 4 juv.) FL, 8/28 Chisago (3) RG, 9/26 Wabasha DWM, 9/27 Hennepin (2) JD — all reports.

#### **American Coot**

Late north 11/6 Becker WL, 11/9 Roseau AJ, 11/13 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/27 Ramsey EC, 11/30 Hennepin SC, RJ, Ramsey DS; peak 9/28 Wabasha (15,000) KL.

#### **Sandhill Crane**

Late north 10/6 St. Louis fide KE, 10/8 Marshall KSS, 10/16 Norman (5000+) JB. Two south reports: 8/13 Houston (2) FL, 9/11 Dakota (1) JD.

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

Early north 8/2 St. Louis KE, 8/5 Polk AB; early south 8/17 Stearns NH, 8/19 Lac Qui Parle DB, OJ; late north 10/14 Pennington KSS, 10/26 Cook KMH, 10/30 St. Louis KL; late south 9/18 Goodhue DZ/MC, 9/20 Dakota JD, 10/15 Cottonwood RJ.

#### **Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early north 8/7 Roseau KE; early south 8/2 Stearns NH, 8/19 Yellow Medicine DB, OJ; late north 10/17 Pennington KSS, 10/28 Aitkin JB, 10/30 St. Louis KL; late

south 10/8 Olmsted BE, 10/17 to 10/30 Hennepin M. ob.; peak 10/8 Pennington (1500) KSS.

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Late north 9/17 Lake SW/MS, 9/23 Cook KMH, 10/2 St. Louis HRNR; late south 9.30 Nicollet JCF, 10/1 Stearns NH, 10/2 Lincoln RJ, Dakota MW.

### **Piping Plover**

8/4 Roseau AJ, 8/10 St. Louis (2) MH.

### **Killdeer**

Late north 10/15 Marshall KC, 10/22 Mille Lacs DB, 10/23 Clay LCF; late south 11/4 Nicollet JCF, 11/11 Le Sueur RJ, 11/12 Houston FL.



**Killdeer**, 8/15/83, Sartell, Stearns County, Nestor Hiemenz

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

Late north 10/22 Pennington KSS, 10/28 Beltrami JSP, 10/29 Aitkin JB; late south 11/4 Nicollet JCF, 11/5 Houston FL, 11/19 Le Sueur RG, RJ.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late north 10/8 Clay JSP, 10/16 Lake SW/MS, 10/22 Pennington KSS; late south 10/23 Chippewa AB, Houston FL, 11/4 Wabasha DWM, MS, 11/11 Le Sueur RJ.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Late north 10/8 Pine RG, 10/11 Lake SW/MS, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/4 Hennepin SC, 10/9 Brown JSp, 10/18 Pipestone JP.

### **Willet**

8/14 Lyon (2) KE, 9/25 Lake of the Woods KSS.



**Lesser Yellowlegs**, 8/15/83, Sartell, Stearns County, Nestor Hiemenz

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Late north 10/16 Lake SW/MS, 10/21 Beltrami JSP, 10/22 St. Louis KC; late south 10/15 Cottonwood RG, RJ, 10/16 Wright ES, 10/25 Anoka SC.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

8/5 Polk AB, Lake of the Woods KSS, 8/6 Pipestone RJ, 9/30 Hennepin VL (needs details) Lyon (no date) HK — all reports.

### **Hudsonian Godwit**

10/21 and 10/28 Nicollet (1) JCF.

### **Marbled Godwit**

8/7 Faribault RJ, 8/17 Faribault MF.

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

8/1 Roseau AJ, 8/4 St. Louis KE, 8/6 Lake of the Woods KE, 8/17 St. Louis MH, 8/21 Crow Wing SC, 9/6 St. Louis SC, Cook KMH, 9/16 St. Louis DB, 9/17 JSP — all reports.

### **Red Knot**

8/7 Carlton (2) KL, 8/25 St. Louis (1) KE, 8/26 (1) MH, 9/6 (1) SC, 9/13 Two Harbors, Lake Co. (2) SW/MS, 9/19 Beaver Bay, Lake Co. (1) SW/MS — all reports.

### **Sanderling**

Early north 8/15 Cook KMH, 8/20 St. Louis MH; early south 8/17 Stearns NH, 8.27 Dakota JD; late north 9/24 St. Louis



**Sanderling, 9/16/83, Duluth, Nestor Hiemenz**

RJ, 9/25 Lake of the Woods KSS, 10/25 Roseau AJ; late south 10/2 Washington DS, 10/3 Dakota RG, 10/7 SC.



**Red Knot, 9/13/83, Two Harbors, Lake County, Steve Wilson**

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early north 8/1 Roseau AJ, 8/6 Polk AB; early south 8/2 Dakota JD, Stearns NH, 8/11 Waseca JCF; late north 9/6 Polk AB, 9/7 Becker DB, 9/12 Cook KMH; late south 9/29 Sherburne KL, 9/30 Nicollet JCF, 10/2 Lincoln RJ.

### **Western Sandpiper**

8/7 Wabasha BE, 8/8 Cook KMH, 8/13 Renville KE, 8/17 St. Louis MH, 8/23

Pennington KSS, 8/31 Lincoln HK — all reports.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early north 8/6 Polk AB, 8/8 Lake SW/MS; early south 8/1 Waseca JCF, 8/2 Dakota JD, Stearns NH; late north 10/1 Cass NH, 10/6 Roseau AJ, 10/8 Clay JSP; late south 9/30 Nicollet JCF, 10/2 Dakota MW, 10/15 Cottonwood RJ.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

8/8 St. Louis KC, 8/10 St. Louis MH, 8/11 St. Louis KE, Stearns NH, 8/18 Pennington KSS, 9/4 Clay LCF — all reports.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early north 8/1 Pennington KSS, 8/4 St. Louis KE; early south 8/2 Dakota JD, Stearns NH; late north 9/17 St. Louis JP/AM, 9/20 Cook KMH, 10/1 Cass NH, Pine KL; late south 10/6 Dakota MW, 10/7 SC, 11/11 Le Sueur RJ.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Late north 10/22 Pennington KSS, 10/29 Lake KE, 11/11 Pennington JSP; late south 10/20 Houston JP/AM, 11/5 FL, 11/11 Le Sueur RJ.

### **Dunlin**

Reported from eight counties. Early north 9/25 Lake of the Woods KSS; early south 8/2 Dakota JD; late north 10/3 Cook KMH, 10/27 Roseau AJ, 11/11 Pennington JSP; late south 11/4 Nicollet JCF, 11/8 Le Sueur RG, 11/11 RJ.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

Early north 8/7 Roseau KE, 8/8 Cook KMH; early south 8/11 Waseca JCF, Stearns NH, 8/19 McLeod DB, Big Stone OJ; late north 9/6 Polk AB, 9/7 Wilkin DB, 9/15 Hubbard WL; late south 10/7 Dakota SC, 10/15 Cottonwood RG, RJ, 10/16 Dakota MW.

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

Early north 8/8 Cook KMH, 8/12 Carlton KL, 8/14 St. Louis KE; early south 8/6 Lincoln RG, Renville (12) RJ, 8/15 Anoka DB; late north 9/16 to 9/18 St. Louis M.ob., 9/21 Cook KMH; late south 9/13 Dakota JD. Also reported from Pennington Koochiching, Norman, and Todd counties.

### Short-billed Dowitcher

8/5 Polk AB, 8/6 Renville RG, 8/17 St. Louis MH, 8/18 Stearns NH, Pennington KSS, 9/2 Stearns NH, 9/3 Grant RJ — all reports.

### Long-billed Dowitcher

Reported from nine counties. Early north 8/6 Polk AB, 9/7 Becker DB; early south 8/23 Stearns NH; late north 10/1 Cass NH, 10/22 Pennington KSS; late south 10/28 Nicollet JCF, 11/6 Le Sueur RG, 11/11 RJ.

### Dowitcher sp.?

8/1 Anoka SC, 8/19 and 8/25 Lake SW/MS, 9/6 Polk AB, 9/25 Roseau AJ, Lake of the Woods KSS.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 9/16/83, Duluth, Nestor Hiemenz

### Common Snipe

Late north 10/18 Cook KMH, 10/23 Ottertail DS, 11/4 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/12 Washington TBB, Houston FL, 11/18 Dakota SC, 11/23 Houston FL.

### American Woodcock

Late north 9/25 Wadena AB, DB, 10/2 Kittson KSS, "October" Cook SL; late south 10/17 Washington DS, 10/22 Pope RJ, Brown JSP, 11/10 Olmsted JEB.

### Wilson's Phalarope

Late north 8/8 St. Louis KC, 8/9 Lake SW/MS, 8/31 Wilkin SDM, 9/8 Polk RJ; late south 8/14 Lincoln KE, 8/19 Yellow

Medicine DB, OJ, 8/31 Lincoln HK; peak 8/13 Polk (500+) KC.

### Red-necked Phalarope

8/5 Polk AB, 8/14 Lyon, Pipestone KE, 8/17 Faribault MF, 8/19 Yellow Medicine DB, OJ, 8/20 Chisago RG, 8/23 Pennington (100) KSS, 9/2 St. Louis AE, 9/9 Wilkin RJ, 10/1 Pennington JCP — all reports.



Short-billed Dowitcher, 8/23/83, Sartell, Stearns County, Nestor Hiemenz



Long-billed Dowitcher, 9/7/83, Sartell, Stearns County, Nestor Hiemenz

### Parasitic Jaeger

9/17 and 9/18 Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (one lt. phase ad.) JEB, M.ob. (*The Loon* 55:182), 10/15 Park Point, Duluth (one lt. phase ad.) P. Egeland.

### Jaeger sp.?

9/4 Grand Marais, Cook Co. (2) H. Tucker (*The Loon* 55:176), 9/16 and 9/17 Park Point, Duluth (5) M.ob., 10/2 Itasca St. Pk., Clearwater Co. (1) B. A. Fall (*The Loon* 55:181-182), 10/15 and 10/19 Canal Park, Duluth (2) KE.

### Franklin's Gull

Reported from 24 counties including St. Louis 8/4 and 8/5 KE, 9/11 KE, 9/18 AB, DB. Late north 10/2 Douglas RH, 10/16 Becker KC, 11/6 Todd KL; late south 10/29 Chippewa AB, 10/30 Waseca RJ, 11/6 Swift KL; peak 10/25 Carver (1000+) MS.

### Bonaparte's Gull

Early north 8/6 Crow Wing JB, Lake of the Woods KE, 8/15 St. Louis BDC; early south 8/31 Lincoln HK, 10/8 Dakota JP/AM; late north 10/28 Beltrami JSP, 10/30 Crow Wing JB, 11/4 Mille Lacs DB, 11/7 AB, 11/25 AJ; late south 10/22 Pope RJ, 10/25 Hennepin SC, 11/1 VL; peak 9/2 Crow Wing (1000) JB.

### Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 15 north and 19 south counties. Late north 11/19 Hubbard HJF. Peak 9/25 Lake of the Woods (6000) KSS.



Stilt Sandpiper, 8/27/83, Sartell, Stearns County, Nestor Hiemenz

### Herring Gull

Reported from nine north and eight south counties.

### Thayer's Gull

11/4 to 11/30 Duluth (peak of 4) KE.

### Glaucous Gull

11/16 Duluth (1) KE.

### BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

9/11 to 9/18 Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (one imm.) MH, KC, M.ob. (*The Loon* 55:179), 11/20 Carlton (one imm.) JP/AM (*The Loon* 55:181).

### SABINE'S GULL

10/2 Lake Benton, Lincoln Co. (one imm.) RG, RJ (*The Loon* 55:178).



Common Snipe, 8/15/83, Sartell, Stearns County, Nestor Hiemenz

### Caspian Tern

Early north 8/6 Lake of the Woods KE, 8/26 Ottertail SDM; early south 9/16 Nicollet JCF, 9/18 Dakota MW, 9/25 Stearns CM, Wright ES; late north 10/11 Beltrami JSP, 10/16 Mille Lacs KL, 10/25 Lake of the Woods (feeding juv.!) KSS; late south 10/8 Hennepin DB, Dakota, Goodhue JP/AM, 10/16 Dakota MW; peak 10/2 Dakota (110) MW.

### Common Tern

Late north 10/2 Mille Lacs DG, St. Louis MH, 10/10 Beltrami AS, 10/15 Roseau AJ, Mille Lacs KL, 10/22 Aitkin DB, OJ. Two south reports: 10/16 Chippewa AB, Washington (no date) WL.

### Forster's Tern

Reported from 13 counties. Late north 9/17 St. Louis JP/AM, 9/23 Roseau AJ, 9/25 Lake of the Woods KSS; late south 9/18 Goodhue DZ/MC, 10/2 Lincoln RJ, 10/14 Nicollet JCF, Meeker RG.

### **Black Tern**

Late north 9/20 St. Louis MH, 9/24 Roseau AJ, 9/25 Lake of the Woods KSS; late south 9/25 Brown JSp, 9/30 Nicollet JCF, 10/1 Anoka DS.

### **Rock Dove**

Permanent resident, reported from 11 north and 21 south counties.

### **Mourning Dove**

Reported from ten north and 22 south counties. Late north 11/18 Cook KMH, 11/30 Pennington KSS.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Reported from 22 counties; late north 9/17 St. Louis HRNR, 9/24 Wadena DB, Beltrami JSP, 9/27 Cook KMH; late south 9/29 Houston EMF, 9/30 Nicollet JCF, 10/21 Sherburne BE.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Reported from 14 counties; north 8/1 Hubbard OJ, 8/4 Clearwater AB, 10/3 Grand Marais, Cook Co. (2) KMH (*The Loon* 55:178); late south 9/30 Brown JSp, 10/2 Rock RG, RJ, Lyon HK. 10/8 Goodhue JP/AM, 10/9 Houston EMF, Scott SW/MS.

### **GROOVE-BILLED ANI**

10/5 Lutsen, Cook Co. KMH (*The Loon* 56:75), 11/4 to 11/12 Sleepy Eye, Brown Co. M. ob. (*The Loon* The Loon 56:74-75).

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Permanent resident, 8/12 Lac Qui Parle FE, 8/26 and 10/22 Murray AD, 9/12 Freeborn RHJ, 11/1 Houston RJ, 11/16 and 11/30 Hennepin SC, Olmsted (no dates) JEB, Mower (no dates) RRK, Washington (no dates) DS — all reports.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Permanent resident, reported from nine north and 13 south counties. Three reports of Arctic race: 11/9 and 11/11 Clay SDM, 11/12 Stearns EH.

### **Snowy Owl**

10/30 St. Louis (1) M. Stock, 10/31 Cook KMH, 11/5 Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (1) EH, 11/6 Sibley (1) RG, 11/8 Wabasha DWM, 11/11 Roseau AJ — all reports.

Summer 1984

### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

11/11 Duluth Twp. J. Green, 11/17 Aitkin J. Green.

### **Burrowing Owl**

8/14 Denver Twp., Rock Co. (6) KE.

### **Barred Owl**

Permanent resident, reported from nine north and eight south counties.

### **Great Gray Owl**

8/1 St. Louis BDC, 9/1 S. Tyacke, 10/13, 10/21, and 10/26 Cook KMH, 9/19 and 10/26 Lake SW/MS, 11/26 Aitkin SC; also "Oct.-Nov." Cook SL, and two November reports Sax-Zim bog, St. Louis Co. fide KE — all reports.

### **Short-eared Owl**

11/11 Nicollet (1) RG, RJ.

### **Northern Saw-whet Owl**

9/24 Cook MH, 10/1 Wright ES, 10/17 Ramsey EC, 10/21 Crow Wing JB, 10/25 Hennepin BDC — all reports.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Late north 9/25 Clay LCF, 9/26 St. Louis KE, VR, 9/28 Beltrami JSP, 9/30 Todd KL; late south 10/2 Anoka SC, Brown JSp, Le Sueur RJ, Lyon HK, Washington WL, DS, 10/6 Ramsey EC; peak 8/25 Lake (1000s) SW/MS.

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

8/4 Mille Lacs DG, 8/15 Roseau AJ, 9/1 Cook SL, 9/19 Houston EMF, 9/20 and 10/3 Hennepin SC — all reports.

### **Chimney Swift**

Late north 9/11 Beltrami JSP, 9/15 Clay LCF, 9/20 St. Louis MH, 9/24 KE; late south 10/5 Nicollet OJ, 10/8 Olmsted JEB, 10/17 Hennepin DB, 10/18 M.ob.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/19 Cook KMH, 9/21 SL, 9/21 Ottertail SDM, 9/25 Hubbard HJF; late south 9/23 Hennepin VL, 9/29 PF, 9/29 Ramsey WL, 9/30 Dakota JD, 10/3 Renville FKS.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Reported from 34 counties. Late north 10/18 Cook KMH, 10/30 St. Louis VR, 11/18 Beltrami JSP.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Reported from ten north and 21 south

counties. Late north 10/22 Aitkin DB, Beltrami JSP, Red Lake AS.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from Aitkin and Crow Wing and 17 south counties.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Reported from 26 counties. Late north 10/6 St. Louis HRNR, 10/8 Cook KMH, 10/24 SW/MS; late south 10/12 Le Sueur HC, 10/16 Houston EMF, 11/25 Ramsey (5) EC.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Permanent resident, reported from 13 north and 22 south counties.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Permanent resident, reported from 12 north and 18 south counties.

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

10/29 Cook (1) MH et al., 11/26 Bigfork Twp., Itasca Co. (2) AB, DB.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

All reports: 9/24 Cook MH, during entire period KMH, 10/1 Itasca AB, 11/5 DB, 11/26 AB, DB, 11/26 Beltrami AS, 10/13 St. Louis KE, 10/25 HRNR, 10/14 - 10/31 Lake SW/MS.

### **Northern Flicker**

Reported from 10 counties north, 22 south. Late north 11/13 Beltrami JSP, 11/25 Clay RJ; late south 11/29 Hennepin SC, 11/30 Wabasha DWM; HRNR 400 total.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 10 counties north, 12 south.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 8/8 Hennepin DB, 8/13 Brown JSp, 8/15 Anoka DB; late north 9/4 Clay LCF, 9/6 Roseau AJ, 9/8 HRNR; late south 9/19 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Brown RG, Redwood RJ.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Late north 9/17 St. Louis JP/AM, 9/25 Mille Lacs DG, Aitkin KL; late south 9/28 Hennepin PF, 9/30 Dakota JD, 10/3 Houston EMF.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 8/20 Hennepin DB, 8/23 VL, 8/24 SC; late north 9/11 Roseau AJ,

9/12 Cook KMH, 9/13 Clearwater WL; late south 9/23 Hennepin DB, 10/1 Lyon HK, 10/11 RJ.

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

One report: 8/27 Anoka R. Kremer.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

All reports: 8/1 Lake SW/MS, 8/6 Lake of the Woods KE, 8/16 Hennepin DB, 9/3 Ramsey RH, 9/12 Cook KMH, 9/23 Wright ES, 9/27 St. Louis KE.

### **Willow Flycatcher**

Three reports: 8/22, 10/4 Houston EMF, 9/7 Ramsey RH.

### **Least Flycatcher**

Late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, HRNR, 9/28 Lake SW/MS, 10/10 Cook KMH; late south 9/30 Hennepin ES, SC, DB, 10/2 Rock RJ, Houston EMF, Brown JSp.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Late north 10/2 Kittson KSS, 10/5 St. Louis KE, Cook KMH, 10/18 Kanabec RJ; late south 10/17 Hennepin SC, 10/22 VL, 10/21 Houston EMF.

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Late north 9/12 Clearwater WL, 9/24 Cook KMH, 10/16 Beltrami JSP; late south 9/29 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Murray AD, 10/2 Washington DS.

### **Western Kingbird**

Reported from 6 counties north, 5 south. Late south 8/19 Big Stone OJ, DB, 8/24 Sherburne KL; late north 8/27 Clay LCF, 8/31 Wilkin SDM, 9/0 RJ, 10/6 Polk DS.

### **Eastern Kingbird**

Late north 9/18 St. Louis, Pine AB, 9/19 Lake SW/MS, 9/24 Beltrami JSP, 10/9 AS, 10/22 Hubbard HJF; late south 9/15 Murray AD, 9/23 Hennepin DB, 10/24 Lac Qui Parle FE.

### **Horned Lark**

Reported from 9 counties south, 7 north. Late north 10/16 Clay LCF, 10/27 Roseau AJ, 11/26 St. Louis KE.

### **Purple Martin**

Late north 9/7 Wadena RJ, 9/10 Pennington KSS, 9/24 Wadena AB, DB; late south 9/15 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Olmsted JEB, 10/2 Washington DS.

### **Tree Swallow**

Late north 10/5 Mille Lacs DS, 10/8 Kanabec RJ, 10/12 Morrison EC; late south 10/9 Kandiyohi AB, Olmsted JEB, 10/11 Brown JSp, 10/14 Carver MS, 10/29 Olmsted BE.

### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Late north 9/25 Clay LCF, 10/12 Pine RG; late south 10/1 Lyon RJ, 10/2 Washington DS, 10/3 Brown JSp, 10/16 Dakota MW, 10/17 Hennepin SC.

### **Bank Swallow**

Late north 9/6 Clearwater, Polk AB, 9/7 Wadena RJ, 9/18 Roseau KSS, 9/22 HRNR; late south 9/7 Stearns NH, Nicollet JCF, 9/8 Rock JP, 9/22 Mower RRK.

### **Cliff Swallow**

Late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/21 HRNR, 9/24 Crow Wing KL; late south 9/20 Mower RRK, 10/1 Lyon RJ, 10/10 Olmsted BE.

### **Barn Swallow**

Late north 10/1 St. Louis KE, MH, 10/8, 10/18 Clay JSp, 10/23 Otter Tail DS; late south 10/15 Isanti OJ, 10/16 Houston FL, Dakota MW, 10/18 Olmsted BE, 10/21 Nicollet JCF, 11/12 Scott P. Egeland.

### **Gray Jay**

Reported from Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Marshall, Roseau and St. Louis Counties.

### **Blue Jay**

Reported from 19 counties north, 24 south. 10/30 HRNR 1100 total.

### **Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from Becker, Beltrami, Cook, Kittson, Lake of the Woods (8/6 KE 25), Marshall, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau and St. Louis Counties.

### **American Crow**

Reported from 13 counties north, 22 south.

### **Common Raven**

Reported from 16 counties north.

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 13 counties north, 20 south.

### **Boreal Chickadee**

All reports: 9/24 Cook MH, 10/2 St. Louis KE, MH, 10/20 HRNR, 10/17 Beltrami AS, 10/29 Lake JSp, 10/30 SS, 11/25 Marshall KSS; present all period Cook KMH, Lake SW/MS.

### **Tufted Titmouse**

Four reports: 8/20, 11/26 Houston EMF, 11/25 Mower RS, B. & W. Feeley.

### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 13 counties north, 18 south. Early south 8/6 Mower RRK, 8/9 Sherburne DB. Eruption in the making?

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 17 counties north, 23 south.

### **Brown Creeper**

Reported from 10 counties north, 19 south. Early south 8/13 Brown JSp, 9/17 Anoka SC, 9/18 Goodhue DZ/MC; late north 11/25 Norman RJ, RG, 11/27 Beltrami JC.

### **CAROLINA WREN**

11/27 Crow Wing SDM. (*The Loon* 56:71-72).

### **House Wren**

Late north 9/26 Roseau AJ, Otter Tail SDM, 10/2 HRNR, 10/8 Cook KMH; late south 10/14 Nicollet JCF, Brown JSp, 10/15 Olmsted JEB, 10/16 Washington TBB.

### **Winter Wren**

Early south 9/18 Goodhue DZ/MC, 10/2 Brown JSp, Lincoln RJ; late north 10/6 Lake SW/MS, 10/17 Cook KMH, 10/18 St. Louis SS; late south 10/20 Houston EMF, 10/22 Lyon RG, 10/27 Hennepin SC, 11/2 Brown JSp.

### **Sedge Wren**

Late north 9/6 Beltrami JSp, 9/7 Red Lake DB, 9/18 St. Louis AB; late south 10/5 Hennepin ES, 10/7 Chippewa AB, Ramsey RH, 10/8 Brown JSp.

### **Marsh Wren**

Late north 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/25 St. Louis RJ, 10/2 Kanabec KL, 10/8 Marshall KSS; late south 10/23 Chippewa AB, Stearns NH, Dakota MW, 10/25 Hennepin ES, 10/27 SC.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Reported from 8 counties north, 18 south. Early south 9/13 Lyon HK, 9/22 Ramsey DZ/MC, 9/23 Hennepin SC; late north 11/13 Beltrami JSP, 11/25 Otter Tail RJ, RG, Beltrami AS.

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 9/11 Hennepin DB, Dakota JD, 9/13 Anoka SC, Houston EMF, 9/19 Murray AD; late north 10/22 Beltrami JSP, St. Louis VR, Pennington KSS, 11/7 Clay LCF, 11/25 Beltrami AS; late south 10/31 Wabasha DWM, 11/6 Murray AD, Brown JSp, 11/19 Le Sueur HC.

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

8/6, 9/1 Wright ES, 9/4 Brown JSp, 9/11 Washington DZ/MC, 9/13 Anoka SC, 9/29 Houston EMF.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Reported from 11 counties north, 16 south. Late north 10/22 Aitkin OJ, Hubbard HJF, 10/23 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/5 Sherburne RJ, 11/7 Brown JSp, 11/15 Houston EMF, Olmsted JEB. HRNR 30 total.

### **Townsend's Solitaire**

One report: 10/6 Hawk Ridge TL.

### **Veery**

Late north 9/6 Lake SW/MS, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/25 Wadena DB, 9/27 St. Louis AE; late south 10/6 Houston EMF.

### **Gray-checked Thrush**

Early north 9/5 St. Louis KC, 9/17 MH, 9/18 AB; late north 9/24 Roseau AJ, KSS, 9/25 St. Louis RJ, 10/2 OJ, 10/1 Carlton KL; late south 9/30 Hennepin DB, 10/9 Mower RRK.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south 9/4 Hennepin DB, Brown JSp, 9/5 Washington WL, 9/7 Nicollet JCF; late north 10/1 Clay LCF, 10/2 Kittson KSS, 10/5 Cook KMH, Lake SW/MS; late south 9/28 Hennepin DB, 10/1 SC, 10/6 Olmsted JEB, 10/16 Washington DS.

### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 9/2 Hennepin SC, 9/25 Brown JSp; late north 10/20 Lake SW/MS, 10/31 Roseau AJ, 11/21 Cook KMH; late

south 10/22 Brown JSp, 11/8 Anoka KL, 11/25 Houston EMF.

### **Wood Thrush**

Four reports: 8/6 Clearwater AB, 8/31 Itasca DB, 9/26 Hennepin SC, 10/15 Olmsted BE.

### **American Robin**

Reported from 14 counties north, 25 south. 10/4,6 HRNR 4445+ total; 10/14 Lyon HK (large no's).

### **Varied Thrush**

Reported 11/23 to 12/14 Dakota M.ob.

### **Gray Catbird**

Late north 10/1 Mille Lacs DG, 10/2 St. Louis OJ, VL, 10/4 Marshall NH, 10/6 HRNR, 11/28 St. Louis M.B. Nevers feeder; late south 10/10 Houston EMF, 10/14 Washington DS, 10/17 Hennepin SC.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

9/10 Cottonwood LAF, 11/16 to 11/27 Washington M.ob.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Late north 9/17 St. Louis JSP, Clay LCF, 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/24 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/17 Hennepin SC, 11/14 Houston EMF, 11/30 Murray AD, Lac Qui Parle FE; several reports into Dec.

### **Water Pipit**

Early north 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/17 KL, 9/13 St. Louis AE, 9/17 Lake SW/MS; early south 10/1 Winona RG; late north 10/19 Cook KMH, Lake SW/MS, 10/22 Beltrami AS, 10/21 JSP, 10/26 HRNR 24 total 11/6 Pennington KSS; late south 10/23 Chippewa AB, 11/1 Winona RJ.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

Reported from 13 counties north, 3 south. Early north 10/14 St. Louis KE, 10/17 HRNR, 10/20 Roseau AJ, 10/22 Beltrami JSP; early south 11/7 Ramsey KL, 11/11 Blue Earth RJ.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 15 counties north, 20 south. 8/2 Cottonwood (nest + 2y) LAF.

### **Northern Shrike**

Early north 10/12 Cook KMH, 10/13 St. Louis T. Lamey, 10/25 HRNR; early south 10/22 Blue Earth JCF, 11/5 Sherburne RJ, 11/12

11/12 Nicollet ES. Also reported from Lyon, Ramsey, Washington.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Three reports: 8/14 Lincoln KE, 9/4 Koochiching KL, 9/5 Clay TT.

### **European Starling**

Reported from 32 counties throughout the state.

### **Bell's Vireo**

One report: 8/10 Wabasha JP/AM (3).

### **Solitary Vireo**

Early south 8/22 Olmsted JEB, 9/13 Houston EMF; late north 9/28 Beltrami JSP, 9/29 Crow Wing JB, 10/1 Cook KMH; late south 10/22 Brown JSp, 10/29 Hennepin OJ, 11/1 Washington WL.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Late north 9/4 Clearwater AB, Clay LCF, 9/7 Wadena DB, 9/26 Crow Wing JB; late south 9/16 Brown JSp, 9/17 Houston FL, 9/23 Anoka DS, 9/26 Stearns NH.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Late north 9/11 Clearwater WL, 9/25 Otter Tail SDM, 9/28 Clay LCF; late south 9/10 Brown JSp, 9/20 Hennepin SC, 9/30 Houston EMF.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 8/11 Anoka KL, 9/12 Hennepin DB; late north 9/25 St. Louis AE, HRNR, 9/30 Clay KL, 10/1 Itasca AB; late south 10/1 Lyon RJ, 10/2 Pipestone RJ, RG, 10/4 Hennepin SC, 10/5 ES.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Late north 10/2 St. Louis MH, 10/3 AE, 10/9 HRNR, 10/12 Pine RG; late south 10/2 Pipestone RJ, 10/3 Brown JSp, 10/6 Houston EMF, 10/14 Hennepin SC.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Five reports: 8/30 Hennepin SC, 8/31 Brown JSp, 9/9 Houston EMF, 9/13 Anoka SC.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Six reports: 8/27, 9/18 Brown JSp, 9/1 Itasca DB, 9/2 Nicollet JCF, 9/3 Becker DZ/MC, 9/15 Anoka SC.

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early north 8/6 Lake of the Woods KE, 8/8 Clay LCF; early south 8/18 Hennepin SC, 8/22 Houston EMF, 8/31 Olmsted

JEB; late north 9/28 Lake SW/MS, 10/2 St. Louis MH, 10/13 KE, Cook KMH; late south 10/14 Hennepin SC, 10/16 Olmsted BE, 10/19 Ramsey RG.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early north 8/20 St. Louis BDC, 8/29 Pennington KSS, 9/1 St. Louis MH; early south Lyon HK, Houston EMF, 9/10 Hennepin SC, Brown JSp; late north 10/4 Clay LCF, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/18 Houston EMF, 10/20 Hennepin VL, Brown JSp 10/24 SC.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 8/15 Anoka SC, 8/27 Brown JSp, 8/31 Houston EMF; late north 10/16 Cook KMH, Mille Lacs DG, 10/22 OJ, Aitkin DB, OJ, 10/23 St. Louis K. Sundquist; late south 10/15 Watonwan, Jackson RJ, 10/16 Olmsted JEB, BE, 10/17 Hennepin SC, 10/20 Renville RG.

### **Northern Parula**

Early south 9/1 Hennepin SC, 9/5 Wright RJ, 9/16 Brown JSp; late north 9/24 Beltrami JSp, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 9/24 Ramsey DZ/MC, Wright ES, 10/14 Hennepin SC, 10/20 Brown JSp.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Late north 9/10 Clay LCF, 9/11 Beltrami JSp, HRNR, 9/12 Cook KMH; late south 9/20 Washington DS, 9/28 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Goodhue JP/AM.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Late north 10/2 St. Louis MH; late south 10/1 Yellow Medicine RG, RJ, Redwood, Lyon RJ, Lyon HK, 10/3 Hennepin SC, Cottonwood LAF.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 8/20 Houston EMF, 8/22 Hennepin SC, 8/29 DB; late north 10/1 Itasca AB, 10/2 St. Louis MH, 10/4 KE, 10/5 AE, 10/7 Polk DS, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/1 Cottonwood LAF, 10/2 Brown JSp, 10/5 Hennepin SC.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Early south 9/22 Hennepin SC; late north 11/13 St. Louis J. Newman, 11/18 Cook KMH; late south 10/14 Mower RRK, 10/15 Olmsted JEB.

### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

All reports: 8/29 Lake SW/MS, 9/14 Yellow Medicine RG, 9/22 HRNR, 9/25 Pipestone JP, 9/30 Cook KMH, 11/12-30 Washington M.ob. (*The Loon* 56:65).

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Early south 8/30 Lyon HK, 9/12 Olmsted BE; late north 10/28 St. Louis HRNR, 10/29 KE, JSP, 11/26 Beltrami AS; late south 10/29 Brown JSp, Olmsted JEB, 11/2 Hennepin DB, 11/21 SC.

### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

Early south 8/31 Houston EMF, 9/4 Brown JSp, 9/5 Anoka SC; late north 10/1 St. Louis VR, 10/3 AE, 10/8 Cook KMH; late south 10/3 Houston EMF, 10/4 Hennepin SC, 10/11 VL, 10/15 Jackson RG, RJ.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 8/20 Brown JSp, 8/21 Wright ES, 8/29 Hennepin SC; late north 9/24 Beltrami JSP, 9/25 Clay LCF, St. Louis VR, 10/1 MH, 10/13 KE; late south 9/28 Washington DS, 10/1 Hennepin SC.

### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 8/31 Renville FKS, Hennepin SC, 9/2 Nicollet JCF, 9/4 Houston EMF; late north 9/24 Clearwater, Becker DZ/MC, 10/7 Polk DS, 10/31 Cook KMH; late south 9/27 Hennepin VL, 10/2 Houston EMF, 10/9 Dakota MW.

### **Palm Warbler**

Early north 8/27 St. Louis HRNR, 8/28 VR, 9/3 MH; early south 8/30 Cottonwood LAF, 8/31 Lyon HK, 9/4 Wright ES; late north 10/20 Cook KMH, 10/22 Aitkin OJ, DB, 10/26 HRNR; late south 10/15 Lac Qui Parle FE, 10/17 Hennepin SC, 10/21 Houston EMF.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early south 8/29 Hennepin SC, 9/17 Washington WL, 9/18 Goodhue DZ/MC; late north 9/25 Cook KMH, 10/1 Itasca AB; late south 9/30 Hennepin DB, 10/5 SC, 10/25 Dodge RJ, RG.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early south 8/27 Brown JSp, 8/29 Hennepin SC; early north 8/31 Cook KMH, 9/5 St. Louis VR, 9/7 HRNR; late north 9/25 St. Louis RJ, 10/2 MH, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 9/30 Brown JSp, 10/5 Hennepin SC.

### **Black-and-white Warbler**

Late north 9/20 St. Louis AE, 9/25 Cook KMH, St. Louis VR, 10/2 St. Louis MH; late south 10/2 Brown JSp, Lincoln RJ, Olmsted JEB, 10/3 Houston EMF, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

### **American Redstart**

Late north 10/8 Cook KMH, 10/13 Roseau AJ, 10/18 St. Louis AB; late south 10/2 Brown JSp, 10/3 Hennepin ES, Houston EMF, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

One report 8/13 Goodhue RG.

### **Ovenbird**

Late north 10/1 Itasca AB, DB, 10/7 Carlton RG, 10/13 Lake SW/MS; late south 10/2 Brown JSp, 10/5 Hennepin SC Houston EMF, 10/15 Jackson RG, Watonwan RJ.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 8/17 Hennepin DB, SC, 8/27 Renville FKS, 9/2 Sibley NH; late north 10/1 St. Louis VR, 10/2 Cook KMH, 10/6 St. Louis KE; late south 9/25 Brown JSp, 10/1 Renville RJ, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Late north 9/3 Grant RG, RJ, 9/8 Clearwater LCF, 9/10 Pennington KSS.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Late north 9/3 Crow Wing JB, Grant RJ, St. Louis VR, 9/6 Cook KMH, 9/30 Lake SW/MS; late south 9/12 Hennepin DB, 9/16 Brown JSp.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Late north 10/6 St. Louis KE, 10/9 St. Louis HRNR, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/14 Dakota MW, 10/16 Brown JSp, 11/15 Nicollet JCF.

### **Hooded Warbler**

One report 8/25 Houston EMF.

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Early north 8/24 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 9/6 Beltrami AB, 9/7 Beltrami JSP; early south 8/20 Brown JSp, 8/21 Murray AD, 8/29 Hennepin DB, SC, Mower RRK; late north 9/24 Clay LCF, Cook KMH, St. Louis VR; late south 10/2 Houston EMF, Rock RG, RJ.

### Canada Warbler

Early south 8/20 Brown JSp, 8/22 Hennepin SC, 8/27 Renville FKS; late north 9/11 St. Louis HRNR, 9/19 Cook KMH, 9/25 Mille Lacs DG; late south 9/17 Brown JSp, 9/21 Hennepin SC, 10/2 Houston EMF.

### Yellow-breasted Chat

Two reports 9/16 Nicollet JCF. 9/23 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 56:65-66).

### Summer Tanager

Two reports 9/13 Hubbard RG (*The Loon* 56:73-74), 9/19 Cook KMH.

### Scarlet Tanager

Late north 9/24 Beltrami JSp, 9/25 St. Louis KC, HRNR, 9/29 Pennington KSS; late south 10/5 Hennepin ES, 10/14 McLeod RG, 10/18 Hennepin SC, ES.

### Northern Cardinal

Reported from thirteen counties south and from Clay and St. Louis counties north.

### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Late north 9/26 Otter Tail SDM, 9/27 Crow Wing JB, 9/29 St. Louis HRNR, 11/30 Crow Wing, B. Bedard; late south 10/3 Hennepin RJ, Houston EMF, 10/4 Hennepin PF, 10/26 Hennepin SC.

### Blue Grosbeak

One report 10/2 Rock RG, RJ.

### Indigo Bunting

Late north 9/18 St. Louis AD, 9/25 Mille Lacs KL, 10/25 St. Louis (at feeder) KE; late south 10/2 Brown JSp, 10/5 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Houston EMF.

### Dickcissel

Late south 8/14 Pipestone KE, 8/21 Wright KL, 9/2 Olmsted BE.

### Rufous-sided Towhee

One report north Wadena DB; late south 10/7 Hennepin PF, 10/16 Freeborn RHJ, 10/21 Houston EMF.

### American Tree Sparrow

Early north 10/3 Cook KMH, 10/8 Roseau AJ, St. Louis VR, 10/14 St. Louis JSp; early south 10/7 Ramsey RH, 10/13 Anoka SC, 10/14 Brown JSp.

### Chipping Sparrow

Late north 10/16 St. Louis AE, 10/18 Cook KMH, 10/28 St. Louis KE; late south 10/16 Brown JSp, Goodhue JP/AM, Hennepin SC, 10/18 Houston EMF, 10/22 Dakota JD.

### Clay-colored Sparrow

Late north 10/8 Kanabec RJ, 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/22 Mille Lacs DB; late south 9/24 Olmsted BE, 10/4 Hennepin ES, 10/6 Hennepin SC.

### Field Sparrow

Two reports north 8/8 Clearwater AB, 10/1 Pine KL; late south 10/10 Isanti RJ, 10/13 Anoka SC, 10/20 Houston EMF.

### Vesper Sparrow

Late north 10/8 Cook KMH, 10/9 Beltrami JSp, 10/16 Clay LCF; late south 10/15 Olmsted BE, 10/16 Houston FL, 10/22 Olmsted JEB, Pope RJ.

### Lark Sparrow

Two reports 8/10 Wabasha JP/AM, 8/28 Polk KL.

### Lark Bunting

One report 9/6 St. Louis SC.

### Savannah Sparrow

Late north 10/20 Cook KMH, 10/22 Aitkin DB, 10/23 Clay LCF; late south 10/22 Hennepin OJ, 10/29 Olmsted JEB, 11/1 Winona RJ.

### Grasshopper Sparrow

Four reports 8/6 Polk AB, 8/7 Waseca RJ, 8/10 Wabasha JP/AM, 10/3 Cook KMH, (*The Loon* 53:180).

### LeConte's Sparrow

Three reports 8/6 Beltrami AB, 10/1 Hennepin SC, 10/22 Lyon RG.

### Sharp-tailed Sparrow

One report 10/6 Roseau AJ.

### Fox Sparrow

Early north 9/3 Koochiching KL, 9/23 Cook KMH, 9/24 Marshall KSS, Roseau AJ, early south 9/24 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Hennepin ES; late north 11/14 St. Louis fide KE.

### Song Sparrow

Late north 10/22 Aitkin DB, 10/26 Cook KMH, 10/27 Lake of the Woods AJ.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

Late north 10/6 St. Louis HRNR, 10/10 Clay LCF, 10/18 Cook KMH; late south 10/20 Brown JSp, 10/22 Hennepin VL, Olmsted JEB, 10/30 Ramsey RH.

**Swamp Sparrow**

Late north 10/2 Kittson KSS, 10/3 Itasca DB, 11/2 Cook KMH; late south 11/6 Brown JSp, 11/11 Hennepin SC, 11/19 Anoka DS.

**White-throated Sparrow**

Late north 11/13 St. Louis VR, 11/29 Crow Wing JB, 11/30 Beltrami JSP; late south 11/20 Hennepin PF, 11/27 Hennepin ES, 11/30 Houston EMF, Nicollet JCF.

**White-crowned Sparrow**

Early north 9/3 Carlton KL, 9/15 Cook KMH, 9/18 St. Louis AB; early south 9/22 Dakota JD, 9/23 Anoka DS, 9/26 Hennepin SC; late north 10/26 Cook KMH, 10/28 St. Louis HRNR, 11/24 St. Louis (at feeder) KE; late south 10/18 Hennepin SC, 10/22 Hennepin VL, 10/24 LeSueur HC.

**Harris' Sparrow**

Early north 9/17 Cook KL, 9/22 Clay LCF, 9/24 Cook KMH, St. Louis RJ; early south 9/24 Wright ES, 9/26 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Lyon HK; late north 11/1 Clay LCF, 11/11 Clearwater JSP; late south 11/8 Brown RJ, 11/12 Brown AB, Lac Qui Parle FE, 11/15 Cottonwood LAF.

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Early south 9/22 Cottonwood LAF, 9/23 Olmsted JEB, 9/25 Anoka SC, Brown JSp, Lac Qui Parle FE.

**Lapland Longspur**

Early north 9/12 Cook KMH, 9/17 St. Louis HRNR, 9/18 St. Louis AB, MH, NH, JSp; early south 10/30 Chippewa AB, Kandiyoji AB, 11/5 Benton RJ; late north 10/29 Lake JSP, St. Louis HRNR, 11/1 Cook KMH, 11/6 Clay LCF.

**Smith's Longspur**

Three reports 9/19 St. Louis NH, 10/2 St. Louis OJ, 10/28 Clay KL.

**Snow Bunting**

Early north 10/10 Aitkin JB, 10/13 Cook KMH, Roseau AJ, 10/14 St. Louis JSP; early south 11/2 Cottonwood LAF, Stearns EH, 11/5 Benton RJ, 11/9 Ramsey CF.

**Bobolink**

Late north 10/3 St. Louis KE, 10/5 St. Louis HRNR; late south 9/2 Olmsted JEB, 9/23 Mower RG.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Late north 11/21 Roseau AJ, 11/26 Clearwater RJ, 11/27 Mahanomen JSP, 11/29 St. Louis KE.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Late north 11/6 St. Louis BL, 11/22 St. Louis KE.

**Western Meadowlark**

Late north 10/24 Clay LCF, 11/20 Clay TT.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Late north 9/20 Cook KMH, Roseau AJ, 9/25 Roseau KSS; late south 10/1 Lyon RJ, 10/15 Nicollet JCF.

**Rusty Blackbird**

Early north 9/24 Lake RJ, 9/25 Roseau KSS, 9/26 St. Louis HRNR; early south 10/7 Nicollet JCF, 10/13 Wright TBB, 10/16 Houston FL; late north 11/7 Roseau AJ, 11/17 Cook KMH; late south 11/10 Murray AD, 11/11 Nicollet JCF.

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Late north 11/4 Pennington KSS, 11/24 Clay LCF.

**Common Grackle**

Late north 11/17 Cook KMH, 11/25 Clay RJ, 11/30 Cook SL.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

One report north 10/9 St. Louis HRNR, late south 11/5 Hennepin OJ, 11/19 Pope RJ.

**Orchard Oriole**

Three reports 8/6 Yellow Medicine RJ, 8/10 Wabasha JP/AM, 8/14 Lincoln KE.

**Northern Oriole**

Late north 9/4 Becker DZ/MC, Clay LCF, 9/6 Polk AB, St. Louis HRNR, 9/8 Polk RJ, late south 9/10 Dakota JD, Olmsted BE, 9/11 Ramsey EC, 9/22 Wright TBB.

**Pine Grosbeak**

Early north 10/23 Cook KMH, St. Louis KE, 10/28 St. Louis HRNR, 10/31 St.

Louis AE; one report south 11/29 Houston EMF.

### **Purple Finch**

Reported from nine counties north and sixteen counties south.

### **Red Crossbill**

Reported from eight counties across northern part of state.

### **White-winged Crossbill**

Reported from Beltrami, Cook, Roseau and St. Louis counties.

### **Common Redpoll**

Early north 10/20 Cook KMH, St. Louis KE, 10/29 Marshall KSS, Morrison RE, St. Louis VR, SS; early south 11/22 Wabasha RH, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **Pine Siskin**

Reported from fifteen counties north and twelve counties south.

### **American Goldfinch**

Reported from twelve counties north and twenty-one counties south.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

Early south 9/11 Anoka KL, 10/21 Wabasha RH.

### **House Sparrow**

Reported from twenty-six counties throughout the state.

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# FIRST RECORD OF ROSS' GULL FOR MINNESOTA

For at least 10 days in April 1984, a Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) was present at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County. A species that made its debut in the lower 48 States just nine years ago, attracting some 10,000 onlookers to the coast of Massachusetts (Miliotis and Buckley 1976), drew a mere 25 dyed-in-the-woolers to witness its Minnesota debut. The remoteness (300 miles from the Twin Cities) of the refuge probably accounts for the relatively small turnout. That this celebrated, diminutive gull chose to debut at a prairie marsh rather than along the shore of Lake Superior, where it doubtless was expected, is something of an enigma.

This article details events of this sighting and discusses plumage, shape and certain behavioral characteristics of this, the 5th U.S. record of the Ross' Gull south of Canada.

The bird was first sighted at 2:30 P.M. on 4 April when it flushed from a roadside barrow ditch near refuge headquarters as my vehicle passed by 15 m away. At a glance, the small gull appeared to be a winter-plumaged adult Bonaparte's Gull; however, a brief glimpse of the upper wing indicated a uniform gray color with no white (or dark) on the outer primaries. Realizing this was a species I had not seen before, I hastily noted characteristics as the gull flew in near tern-like fashion past my now stationary position to a point about 50 m away and descended to the partially frozen ditch.

This first encounter with the gull lasted about 20 seconds, during which time I observed with the aid of binoculars and good light just enough characteristics to leave me completely bewildered.

The small body size and bill eliminated large larids such as Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. The uniform light gray back and upper wing eliminated Bonaparte's, Franklin's (abundant at Agassiz), Black-headed and Sabine's. The solid black bill and bright red legs eliminated Ivory Gull. This left (I thought) only Little Gull. I had seen three adult Little Gulls in breeding plumage near Montrose, Minnesota in 1979 (Mattsson 1979) and was especially impressed by three characteristics: 1) short, rounded wings, 2) very black underwings, and 3) Black Tern-like flight. The gull in question had 1) long, pointed wings, 2) grayish underwings, slightly darker than the upper wing, and 3) flight closer to Forster's Tern than to Black Tern.

I drove closer for a better look and the bird flew up from the ice, banked, exposed its underparts and revealed a rosy-pink tinge across the breast and abdomen. I realized this may be a Ross' Gull and focused my attention to the tail to see if it had the wedge-shape unique to that species. At that point, the gull flew straight away across the marsh where it merged with a large flock of Franklin's Gulls leaving the shape of its tail undisclosed.

The gull was found again on 5 and 6 April at a location five miles northeast of the 4 April sighting. It then moved to a new location about four miles west and remained there for several days where it was seen and photographed by several people. It was very accomodating for most observers, roosting either on the road or on the ice edge near a road. At one point, I photographed the bird at a distance of 3 m, ran out of film, and retreated without causing it to fly.

The accompanying photograph shows most of the diagnostic characters of this Ross' Gull. Most plumage and shape features were similar to those described for adult winter-plumaged Ross' Gulls in Massachusetts (Miliotis and Buckley 1975) and Illinois (Balch et al. 1979), with a few exceptions worth discussion. First, the underwing color was only slightly darker than the upper wing color, a feature which varied depending on the angle of incident light, being most accurately perceived under cloudy conditions. Most field guides describe the underwing color as being slightly darker than the upper wing; however, the 1975 Massachusetts bird possibly had abnormally dark wing linings (Balch et al. op. cit.). Second, the head shape of the Agassiz Ross' was rounded, not peaked-headed as described for the Illinois bird. Third, the subject gull had a subtle, but distinct gray hindneck that formed a definite border from the top of the nape to the throat giving the bird a white-headed look. The border seemed to approximate the location of the developing necklace of the breeding plumage. Fourth, the tail lacked the typical wedge-shape owing to the irregular molt of the central rectrices. Rather, the tail had a notched, ragged look, visible only when the bird banked in flight. Several observers commented on the "obvious long tail" of the bird, a feature which is not borne out by photographs. Fifth, Keith Steva noted that the bird had a turned in, or clubbed, right foot. On several occasions, I also noticed that the bird had some difficulty standing and opted rather to squat on its belly.

Some field guides describe the Ross' as a gull of Arctic coastal flow ice in winter. The Agassiz gull always was seen in association with break-ice. It seemed to remain in a general area until the ice melted causing it to move to another location where break-ice was still present.

The bird usually fed by descending slowly in a halting, hover fashion to glean food items (presumably insects) from the ice surface. On one occasion, I saw it pick a small minnow from the water as it stood on the ice edge.

Origins of accidentals are always subject to speculation. The Agassiz Ross' Gull thus far represents the winter sighting nearest the breeding area at Churchill, Manitoba, and could logically be expected to belong to that population. I mention this because birders traveling to Churchill may happen across a Ross' Gull with a bum right foot and, having read this article, may develop some speculation of their own.

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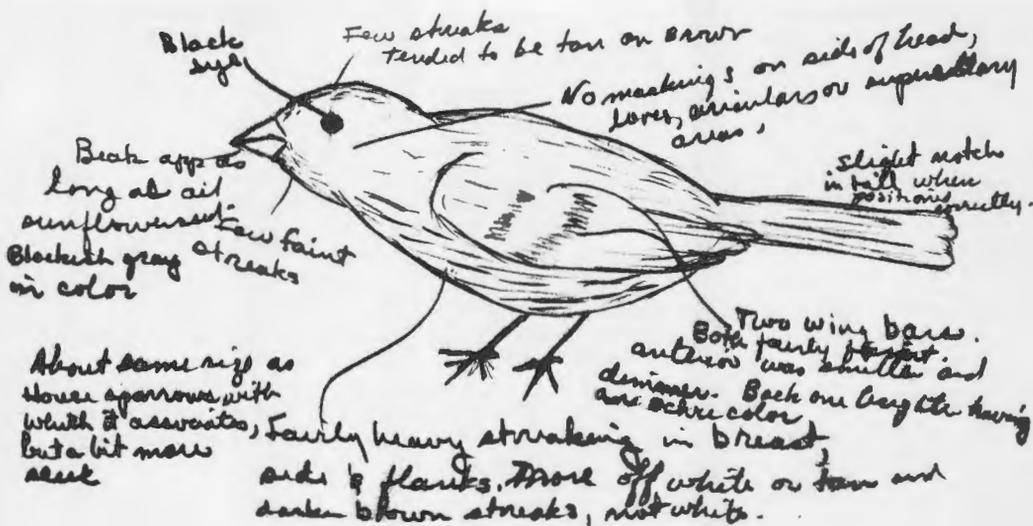


**Ross' Gull, April 9, 1984, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County**  
**Photo by Jim Mattsson**

## Notes of Interest

**PRAIRIE FALCON RETURNS TO WINTER AT ROTHSAY** — During the winters of 1982–83 and 1983–84, a large Prairie Falcon (probably a female) overwintered in the Rothsay Wildlife Area of Wilkin County, Minnesota. In December of 1981 and March of 1982 a large Prairie Falcon was also seen by me in this area, suggesting the same bird may have spent three consecutive winters there. Since the falcon used the same roost and hunted the same area during the latter two, and possibly three, winters, it is very unlikely that more than one individual was seen. Correspondence with Dave Evans in Duluth revealed that various raptors return to the same wintering areas year after year. Birders around the country have found that even though a species may be quite rare in a given locality, it will return to winter or summer in the same place. Prey is abundant in the Rothsay Wildlife Area. There is a stable resident population of several hundred Greater Prairie Chickens. There are also good numbers of pheasants and Gray Partridge. Rock Doves, Starlings, House Sparrows, Blue Jays, etc. can be found on area farms, and the fields have Horned Larks, longspurs, and Snow Buntings in fair numbers for much of the winter. Mammalian prey would be more restricted, with a few fox squirrels and cottontail rabbits present in sheltered spots. Though I never saw the falcon kill anything, it was quite possibly taking mostly gallinaceous birds, due to their high visibility and food value. A favored roosting site was a large pole-type hay shed with a steel roof and open sides. This structure is about forty by one hundred feet and is completely filled with prairie hay each winter. A township road passes within fifty yards of the building. On several occasions during the past two winters, I flushed the falcon by driving slowly by or by stopping close to it. Entry/exit was made through openings between the edge of the roof and the wall girts that support the rafters. This man-made “cliff” very likely resembled the cliffs and buttes of the species’ breeding grounds, and certainly provided a comfortable haven from the elements. It was likely used as a night roost too, but I only saw the Prairie Falcon there during mid-day, especially on snowy days. In 1983 I saw the bird only three times, but didn’t make many trips to the area. All sightings that winter and in 1984 were made in January and February. In 1984 I had eight sightings in twelve outings, sometimes finding the bird five or six miles from the roost site. The last observance in 1984 was on Feb. 19. The Prairie Falcon is known to be an early spring migrant, and probably left in late February. Subsequent searching later that month and in March failed to turn up the bird. Chances are it may be back next year. **Steve Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Fall, MN 56537**

**HOUSE FINCH AT MANKATO** — On December 3, 1983, Karen observed a bird at the feeder which was different from our usual visitors. After consulting the field guides she came to the conclusion it was a female House Finch. She told me about it after I arrived home from the winter paper session later that same day. The following morning at 10:20 the House Finch made another appearance and I confirmed Karen’s identification. I had observed House Finches both in Utah and Arizona, so I was fairly familiar with them. The absence of white behind and slightly above the eye, lack of streaking



Sketch of female House Finch by Merrill Frydendall

and dark on the side of the head, lores and ariculars aided in the identification. The female was very shy and nervous. When she did come to the feeder, infrequently and unpredictably, she stayed only a short time and the slightest movement in the house would cause her to flee. We observed her at distances ranging from 3 to 4 feet away on the window feeder to 13 to 15 feet away at another feeder and on the ground. An attempt was made to photograph her, but her nervousness prevented this. She was observed on December 3, 4, 6 and 8. After she left on the 8th she was not observed again. **Merrill and Karen Frydendall, 136 Swiss St., Mankato, MN 56001.**

**WHIMBRELS IN COOK COUNTY** — Our May vacation to the Duluth/North Shore area has become an annual event that my wife Diane and I look forward to each year. Every trip brings a new bird or two, and the waves of passerines are sometimes excellent. 1983 was no exception, with an outstanding warbler wave on May 22. We usually take a one-day trip up the shore as far as Grand Marais during our stay. This year I kept putting off the up-shore trip since the inclement weather was keeping some good birds in the Duluth area. Monday, May 23 dawned fair and looked like the time for a drive to Cook County. The day was pleasant, with a moderate NW wind, mostly sunny in the morning but clouding up in the afternoon, with temperatures in the high 50's. Nothing noteworthy was seen until we were nearly to Grand Marais. At approximately 10:45 A.M., at a small wayside rest two-and-one-half miles west of town, I pulled over and walked down to the shore to scan the lake. Far out over the lake I noticed a large flock of birds wheeling aimlessly back and forth. Extreme distance (one to two or more miles), plus distortion from heat waves, made it impossible to determine what the birds were. At times the flock bunched up, but frequently they strung out in a long line. I thought they were waterfowl, but in the hazy distance they were merely dark, blurry objects of indeterminate size, shape, and color. After returning to the car for my scope and tripod, we eventually relocated the flock, still far out over the water. A few minutes passed, then the birds began moving towards shore. They landed on a cluster of small, rocky islets in the outer portion of Good Harbor Bay. We drove back west one mile and hiked down to the shore to a point closest to the islets, which are perhaps one-half mile off-shore. From our perspective, the sun was high and slightly to the left of us and the birds. Reflected sunlight, distortion, and vibration caused frustrating problems with

the scope (Bushnell 20-45 X). Twenty to thirty power worked best; anything higher magnified the identification problem more than it did the image. By now it was obvious they were shorebirds, but what species? I knew they had to be Lesser Golden or Black-bellied Plovers, Hudsonian Godwits, or Whimbrels. Frequently one or more would fly from one rock to another, affording the best opportunity to study the upper wing and tail areas. The primaries appeared dark, the remainder of the wing looked medium buffy-brown. The tail appeared uniformly buffy-brown also. When alighting the birds held their wings aloft briefly. The underbody surfaces appeared dark due to strong shadow. Occasionally I thought I could detect long, decurved bills. We watched the flock for over an hour and counted it several times, arriving at a maximum of about fifty-five. I knew this was an incomplete number, since many birds were hidden behind the rocks. I finally decided they were Whimbrels, based on size (a poor qualifier, even though a few Herring Gulls were present for comparison), dorsal patterns, and an occasional relatively good look at their bills. Up to this point, our observations were an outstanding example of "birder's frustration". Experience told me my identification was probably correct, yet it also told me that caution was paramount. If only the birds were closer! At approximately 12:20 P.M. the flock arose en masse, swung our way briefly, and flew towards Grand Marais. They strung out in a long line and it was obvious there were many more than we had counted. I then estimated ninety to one hundred birds. Would the flock land at Grand Marais, or would it continue on to Canada? Hoping to get lucky, we drove to town. Arriving at the recreation area on the west end of town, we immediately noticed the large flock wheeling to and fro between the breakwaters of the small harbor. They soon settled on the end of the east breakwater. We hurried through town and parked at the Coast Guard station. At 250-300 yards, I set up the scope. Long, decurved bills, strongly marked heads, and light brown plumage left no doubt: Whimbrels. The jinx bird of so many North Shore trips really existed! We made our way cautiously along the concrete breakwater, crouching low to avoid spooking the birds. About two hundred feet from them, a small cluster of pines gave us camouflage. Not wishing to approach any closer, we remained there watching for thirty minutes while the Whimbrels loafed, preened, and bathed. I made several counts, finally deciding on 135 birds, which was accurate within two or three. Twice the flock arose; and flew out over the lake, but soon returned to the same resting area. In flight, and less so when on land, they chattered a soft tu-tu-tu, etc. When we walked away about 1:10P.M., two men walked out and eventually flushed them. The birds settled on the west breakwater. I drove around the bay and had excellent close-up views. When they finally left the harbor, they passed within fifteen to twenty yards of me at eye level. I believe this was the largest flock of Whimbrels ever documented for Minnesota. Our "record" was short-lived, however. Just three days later, on May 26, Don Goodermote of Duluth, while censusing Herring Gull colonies in the area, (Cook County) saw a very large flock of Whimbrels. He estimated it at 300-400 birds, and actually counted 250 or more in a photograph he took of the flock. Many were obscured by rocks, so a complete count was not possible. He told me that the last week of May is an excellent time for the species. He has seen them unfailingly for several years, especially between Grand Marais and Grand Portage. **Steve Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

**NOTE ON FORAGING AND NESTING HABITS OF GOSHAWKS** — Although the Northern Goshawk is a summer resident of the upper Midwest, few descriptions of nesting activity are available. We report here on goshawks nesting near Romance Lake in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Cook Co., Minnesota (UTM 55397/6545). Observations were made 20-27 May 1979 while the goshawks incubated, 10-15 June 1979 before the young fledged, and in mid-May and early June 1980 during incubation. The nest was used by the goshawks again in 1981 but they were not in the area when we checked in 1983. Observations were made from a ground-level blind 15 m from the nest tree. All prey remains were collected from the vicinity. The nest tree, a quaking

aspen grew on a ridge 100 m from water's edge in a 73-year-old, mixed jack pine-aspen forest. The nest was .5 m deep and 1 m broad; it was supported by two primary limbs and the main trunk, 11 m above the ground and 3 m from the top of the canopy. Three plucking perches were located in 1979; all were used again in 1980. Perches were within 100 m of the nest, on gently sloping or level fallen trees, .5 to .75 m above ground, with excellent visibility to the nest. Prey remains were found beneath these perches regularly. With exception of small mammal bones and fur in one pellet, and two Blue Jay feathers, all remains were from Ruffed Grouse. Contents included feathers, foot skin, toe bones, and bone chips. Both the pellets and uneaten grouse crops, consistently found with prey remains, contained fringed bindweed seeds and aspen bud scales. Bindweed was locally abundant only in a 400 ha area 2 km to the west in an area burned by wildfire in 1976 (Apfelbaum and Haney 1981); the presence of bindweed seeds with prey remains, therefore, suggested the primary foraging area of the goshawks.

Grouse remains were sexed by comparing the length of the humerus, from the head to the entepicondyle (see Howard 1929), with bones from sexed Ruffed Grouse at the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. Aldrich (1963) reported *B. u. togata* to be the only form of Ruffed Grouse in the study area. Five males of this subspecies in the reference collection had lumen ranging from 52.5 mm to 54.6; three females measured 49.4, 50.0 and 51.5. Of the seven grouse remains for which we had intact humerus bones, five were males (53.6–55.5); the others were likely females (50.7 and 51.6), although we could not rule out small males. The disproportionate percentage of male grouse taken by the goshawks may indicate ( $P \geq .75$ ) that the hawks are cued by activities of courting male grouse, as previously suggested (Bent 1937, Eng and Gullion 1962, Gullion and Marshall 1968).

Three young goshawks were hatched in 1979. No determination of nesting success was made in 1980. We were not present to observe fledging in either year.

We thank Dr. Robert Storer, University of Michigan, for help in determining sex of Ruffed Grouse remains. Field assistance was provided by Laura Haney, Elizabeth Koth, Laura Hill, and Richard Odom.

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**A WESTERN Tanager IN WASHINGTON COUNTY** — On May 7, 1984, Mrs. Jane Gayle noticed a Western Tanager coming to her feeder. Her home is located along the St. Croix River, two miles north of Stillwater, on Arcola Lane in Washington County. The bird continued to come to the yard and feeders for the next several days. Ray Glassel and I looked for the bird on Wednesday, May 9, in the evening, but Mrs. Gayle said she had not seen the bird after 6:00 P.M. on the two previous days. Ray and I returned on May 10 and Mrs. Gayle said the bird had been in the area since 7:00 A.M. We saw the bird, a full adult male with reddish head extending onto the throat and upper breast, yellow body, black back, wings and tail and yellow rump plus the typi-



Western Tanager, May 10, 1984, Washington County — Photo by William Stjern

cal light tanager-like bill. The bird remained at the feeder for several minutes as we viewed the bird from a few feet through the window. The bird was seen by a number of other birders on May 10 and 11. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN BIG STONE COUNTY** — While deer hunting on the Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Big Stone County on Sunday, December 4, 1983, I saw a Greater Prairie Chicken fly over. When I first saw the bird it was flying about 300 feet high and was coming directly towards me from about a half mile to the west. It flew almost directly over me and continued flying east at least a mile until it finally disappeared in the distance. During the entire time that I saw the bird it did not appear to lose any altitude. The bird at first looked like a hen pheasant, however there was something about its flight that made me take a closer look at the bird than I otherwise would have. I think it was perhaps the altitude that the bird was flying at that first seemed unusual. It is seldom that I have seen pheasants fly this high. When I have seen them this high, they have only attained that height at the peak of their flight and have descended from that altitude shortly after they reached that height. I saw somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 pheasants from that day until we finished deer hunting the next week. None of the pheasants which we saw flying during that time ever approached the height of this bird. Pheasants will almost never fly as far as this bird did unless there is nothing in the way of habitat for the bird to land in, such as from a farm grove to a marsh with plowing in between. That was not the case with this bird. The entire time that I observed the bird he was flying over heavy brush, grasslands and cattails. Just prior to the time I observed the bird, about 25 pheasants flushed from cattails about 25 yards from me, so the cover was not unattractive to pheasants. Up until the time the bird flew directly over me I still thought that it was probably a pheasant. However, when it got fairly close I could see that it had a short, dark, squared off tail that was not at all the same as a pheasant tail. The bird also appeared to be somewhat stockier than a pheasant.

The color appeared to be somewhat darker than that of a hen pheasant but at that distance without the aid of binoculars, it was hard to tell for sure. The exact location of the sighting was Section 8 of Lower Akron Township, Big Stone County. This would be approximately one mile southwest of Correll, Minnesota, on the north side of the extreme upper end of Marsh Lake. It was seen at approximately 7:45 a.m. It is interesting to speculate whether this bird was one of those released by the Minnesota DNR about 15 miles to the ESE of this sighting or if it was a migrant bird from farther to the north. It has been three years since the last release of captive birds on the Lac Qui Parle Area. Since then there has been little evidence that the releases were successful. However, this year there were a few birds seen booming near the release site and one prairie chicken nest was found, also near the release site. **John Schladweiler, Nongame Wildlife Specialist, DNR, Box 756, New Ulm, MN 56073**

**DECEMBER FIELD SPARROW AT TWO HARBORS** — It was about three P.M. on a bitterly cold Sunday, December 18, 1983. I was driving through Two Harbors, Lake County, on a side street when I noticed a few birds at a backyard feeder. After I stopped to look over the birds, I spotted a smaller sparrow in some bushes about twenty-five feet away — between my car and the feeder. At first glance, I presumed the bird to be a late Tree Sparrow or juvenile White-crowned Sparrow by its overall posture, coloration, and reddish crown. Due to the extreme cold (-20F), the birds' feathers were puffed out concealing the legs and wings. Noted were a clear whitish breast, small light colored bill, narrow crown stripe, reddish auricular outline, prominent eyering and forked tail. It also appeared smaller in overall size than the nearby House Sparrows. I then checked these three species in my two field guides (Robbins et al & Peterson) and eliminated the Tree Sparrow because this bird lacked a breast spot, had a light bill, auricular outline, eye ring, and narrow crown stripe unlike the Tree Sparrow. The closest bird approximating this one was a juvenile White-crowned Sparrow which, in my opinion, is not correctly pictured in either field guide. I say this because the ones I am familiar with have, in the fall, more reddish crowns and eyelines and are sometimes easily mistaken for light billed Tree Sparrows. Although not shown in either guide, this bird had a nar-



**Field Sparrow, December 18, 1983, Two Harbors, Lake County**  
**Photo by Allison Bolduc**

row crown stripe — narrower than shown for the immature White-crowned. This bird also had a distinctive eye ring, a forked tail, and was comparatively smaller in body and bill size. It also had a flatter head profile than the immature White-crowned. Additionally, the pictures I took confirm that this bird was a very late Field Sparrow. **Al Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

**Editor's Note:** The above is a very significant record. The Field Sparrow is seldom recorded in northern Minnesota during any season, and to find one in Lake County in December is unheard of. In checking past records this is the first record of the Field Sparrow in Lake County, the latest the species has been seen in northern Minnesota and a first winter record for the northern part of the state. It would be interesting to know how long the birds remained in Two Harbors.

**EXPANSION OF THE MARSH LAKE PELICAN COLONY** — On May 21, 1983, while glassing over Marsh Lake from the public access on the north side of the lake, I could see large numbers of White Pelicans sitting on the north shore of the lake. They were on a small point of land which lies just to the northeast of the island which has been used since at least 1968 for nesting (*The Loon* 40:100). Because of the large number of birds which I could see were sitting on the point, the time of the year and just the general impression they left on my mind, I suspected that they were possibly in the process of nesting on this point. Arlin Anderson, the manager of the Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Area, and I visited the area again on June 1. My suspicions of the pelicans nesting on this point were confirmed. It was very surprising, however, to see the large number of nests which were present on the point of land. We estimated that there were about 450 pelican nests on this point. We did not make an estimate of the number of nests on the main island, however there were about 1,000 adults on the island and birds

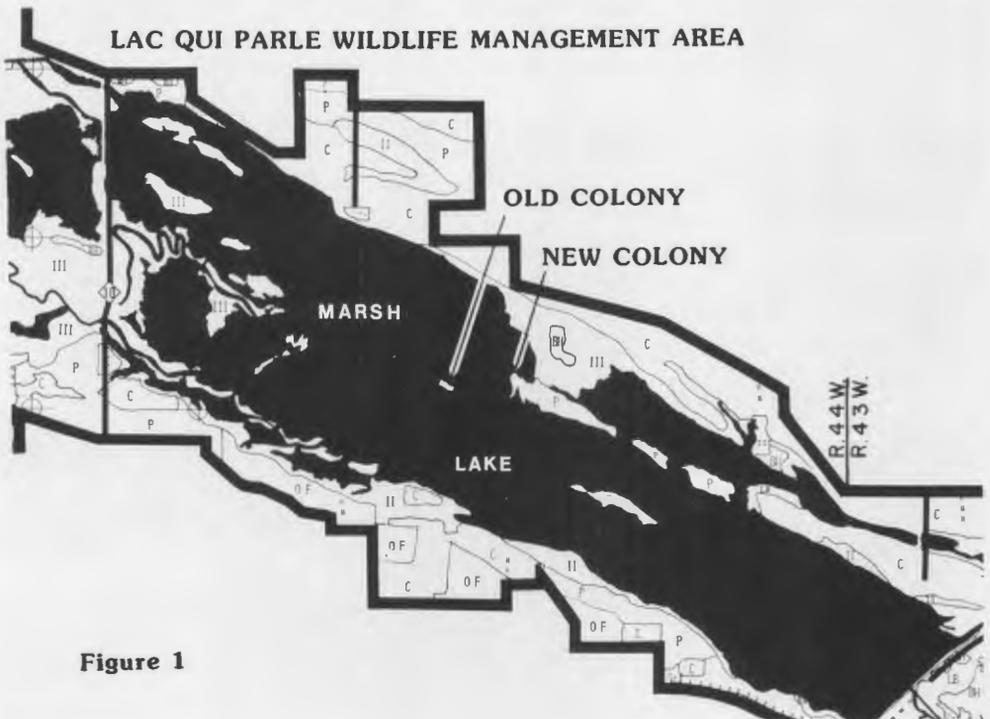


Figure 1

were coming and going the entire time we were there. The new nesting area is an ice ridge of sand which lies on the end of a point of land and cattails which jut out into the lake from the north shore (see Figure 1). The sand ridge is about 15 yards wide and about 35 yards long. Immediately to the east of the ridge is a low wet area of solid cattails which separates the ridge from the higher ground to the east. The nests, which seemed to all contain eggs, were scattered all along the sand ridge. There was a line of willow trees along the west and south sides of the point, about 10 feet from the waters edge. We also landed on the main nesting island. It was immediately apparent that the nesting chronology was at least a few days more advanced in the main colony than in the newly established one. There were a number of nests on the island that contained newly hatched young, whereas there were no nests on the sand ridge that were hatched as yet. **John Schladweiler, Nongame Wildlife Specialist, DNR, Box 756, New Ulm, MN 56073**



**Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs — October 11, 1983  
Albany, Stearns County — Photo by Nestor Hiemenz**

# BOOK REVIEW

**IOWA BIRDS** by J.J. Dinsmore, T.H. Kent, D. Koenig, P.C. Peterson and D.M. Roosa, 356 pp, 40 black & white photographs and 132 range maps. Ames, 1984. Cloth. \$27.95.

This recent addition to the growing list of state bird books fills a long awaited need. The authors have done an excellent job of researching the old records and laid many of them to rest where they probably belong – in the unacceptable category. The current number of acceptable species for Iowa now stands at 362. Also included in the species accounts (but not included in the totals) are 12 hypothetical and 26 other unacceptable species cited in the literature. I believe it important to include these records so future researchers are aware of what happened to some old records, but I think they should have been added as an appendix rather than in the main text. Indeed some, probably most, states have eliminated the hypothetical category altogether.

The first Chapter of the book entitled "The State List" discusses the current acceptable number of species, state lists by former authors, changes made and the work of the checklist committee of the Iowa Ornithologists Union. The second chapter "Definition of Species Status" defines categories of occurrence such as regular, casual, accidental, etc. Also discussed are terms of frequency i.e. abundant, common, rare, seasonal occurrence

and nesting evidence. Other chapters deal with Geography of Iowa, History of Iowa Ornithology and finally the species accounts.

In my opinion the species accounts are very well presented. Each regular species has the information under the following headings, Status, Habitat, Spring Migration, Summer, Fall Migration, Winter, Comments and References. Three of the earliest and latest dates are given with date, locality and observer. The Comment section gives a wealth of information on the bird, such as status in neighboring states, whether the species is increasing or declining, and much general information. Many of the more local species have range maps and all of the Casual and Accidental ones have records plotted on a state map. The black and white photographs accompanying the text are of excellent quality and well reproduced. I like the section on References given under each species rather than in an appendix at the end. (There is a reference appendices at the end as well for more general topics.)

This book is one of the better state bird books I have seen. It gives a vast amount of information in a clear, concise style. It should be very useful to all birders interested in bird distribution and especially so for those in neighboring states. I commend the authors on a well done work.

**Raymond A. Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave. So., Bloomington, MN 55420**

## The Piping Plover and the Port Terminal Dump

"Sorrow, so far as we know, is not  
part of a shorebird's equipment."  
from "Camouflage" Amy Clampitt 1983

Nor, so far as we know, is horror  
of screaming terns, or terror  
of roaming rats.

Her cover, ceramic stillness  
the color of glacial sands,  
Her learning, a quietude,  
unhinge the screaming present.

Her fluted calls echo  
the fading sounds of dying stars,  
Her devoted legs disguise  
a polarity of nests.

Focus upon her if you dare:  
The closer you peer  
the smaller she looks,  
until, squinting, you learn  
of muteness before chaos,  
of stillness in the hinges of her wings.

Fred Leshar, 509 Winona Street, LaCrosse, WI 54601

### Editors Comment

Fred Leshar wrote the above poem after viewing the sad conditions of the nesting Piping Plovers at the Port Terminal in Duluth. Here are his comments in a letter sent with the poem.

"The initial quotation is from a poem as indicated by Clampitt (an Iowan now writing from New York City), about camouflage in shorebirds. I guess I try to write how the Piping Plover deals with an ugly present by disguising itself (herself and her nests – they build several), and blending with her background of "glacial sands" and "dying stars." (Not quite what I said in the poem.)

The last stanza refers to a phenomenon which I have noticed; when looking at a small bird you see it as small. Then with binocs it looks larger, until you get really close with binocs – then it looks small again. Part of our human way of perceiving. I try to say we may see "eternity" disguised by the Piping Plover, or in the manner the Piping Plover deals with a disgusting present: muteness (they don't make much noise) and stillness (they don't even fly, use their hinges).

My poem may contradict Clampitt's, who says "sorrow is not part of a shorebird's equipment". I am more anthropomorphic, trying to say we may learn something by how the Piping Plover survives. "The visible creation is the terminus or the circumference of the invisible world." Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, 1836.

Also, my poem doesn't jingle dum-da-dum da-dum, but has some nice words and lines, like "Her fluted calls echo the distant sounds of dying stars." I also like the words "hinges" and "unhinges", as they apply to wings and to providing a pivot to open something which is what I am trying to say the Piping Plover may do to an astute observer."

**PURPOSE OF THE MOU**

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

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




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**SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS**

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of 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 the 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*

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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, 10 Church St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104. 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:** Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janelyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send \$10.00 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$12.50 yearly; Supporting \$15.00 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$12.50 yearly. All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$2.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 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., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). The editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. 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).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Bette Bell, 5868 Pioneer Rd. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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# A RECORD INVASION OF GREAT GRAY OWLS

Kim R. Eckert

From late fall of 1983 through early spring of 1984, a record number of Great Gray Owls was reported in Minnesota. As near as can be determined, 122 separate individuals were seen, and these are plotted on the accompanying map. Duplicate sightings of an owl are not figured in this total, and, although judging what is and what is not a duplicate sighting is somewhat subjective and while there may be a few duplicates included in the final total, this number is negligible when compared to the number of Great Grays undetected or unreported last winter.

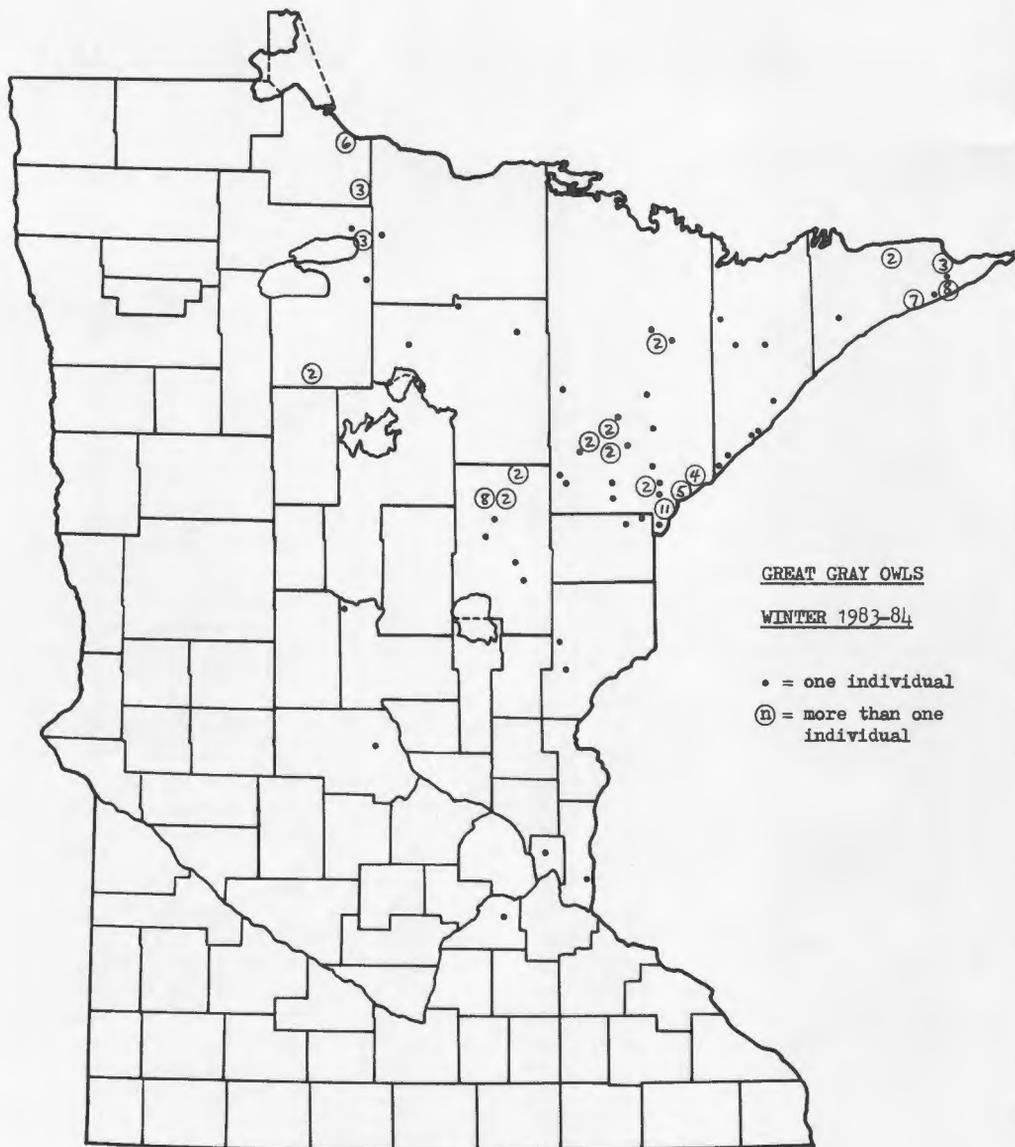
The range of dates included in this invasion period runs from October 13, 1983 until March 24, 1984. Although there were Great Gray sightings prior to and after this period, the locations of those records suggested that they were owls in or near breeding areas rather than individuals participating in the winter influx. (It is important to note, however, that the Great Gray Owl is a permanent resident in northern Minnesota, and that many of the owls did not necessarily come from Canada and probably spent the previous summer not far from where they appeared during the winter.) Below is a breakdown of when a new owl was first reported:

October	13-31 — 16
	(13 of these from the Hovland, Cook Co. vicinity)
November	1-30 — 4
December	1-10 — 15
	+ 5 during the first half of Dec. in the Grand Marais vicinity.
December	11-20 — 17
December	21-31 — 21
January	1-10 — 22
January	11-20 — 14
	+1 sometime in January in n. Itasca Co.

January	21-31 — 5
February	1-10 — 2
February	11-20 — 1
February	21-29 — 1
March	1-10 — 0
March	11-20 — 5
March	21-24 — 3

As the chart indicates, except for an isolated October influx in the Hovland area, this winter's invasion began in earnest in early December, continued strong into early January and waned by mid-January. From mid-January through March only a few of the Great Grays discovered earlier in the winter could still be found, only a few new owls were reported, and the species was not as easy to find in late winter as it had been earlier. This pattern is in contrast with other recent Great Gray invasions in Minnesota; e.g., in 1968-69 most were seen in January and February, and during the 1977-78 influx most were reported late December through early February (*The Loon* 41:36-39 and 50:63-65).

This invasion was atypical not only because of its occurrence so early in the season but in other aspects as well. First, although there were several sightings in the Duluth and Grand Marais-Hovland areas, very few were seen along the North Shore of Lake Superior in Lake and eastern Cook Counties. In the previous invasions of 1968-69 and 1977-78, especially in the latter winter, a large percentage of the Great Grays were concentrated along the North Shore, suggesting that a typical winter influx of owls would consist of individuals moving south until they came to Lake Superior and then stopping for the season, thus becoming concentrated. The most notable concentrations this winter did not occur along Highway 61: on the December 17 Duluth CBC eight were recorded (only two of these along the North



Shore), evidently an all-time Christmas Bird Count record for any location; the Baudette CBC December 29 recorded six during far fewer party-hours than Duluth; and along three miles of road in northern Aitkin County on January 2, no fewer than eight different Great Grays were found!

Another atypical feature of this winter's invasion was the relatively low number of owls which remained "staked-out" in a location for the convenience of visiting bird-

ers. Unlike previous invasion winters, most Great Grays found one day could not be relocated the next. This seems to suggest that small mammal prey items were not plentiful overall and not concentrated locally anywhere, and, as a result, the owls were constantly on the move to find food. However, I have no data from mammalogists supporting this assumption that small mammals were in short supply this winter, and two other atypical aspects

of the invasion seem to suggest that Great Grays had little difficulty finding prey. First, in spite of the record number of owls, I am aware of only five being found dead or injured as a result of starvation, a much lower percentage than in previous invasions. And second, relatively few owls could be found hunting in mid-day, unlike the winter of 1977-78 when many Great Grays were active in mid-day, apparently forced to hunt then because of the shortage of prey. It is also interesting to note that many observers seemed to have better success this past winter locating owls in the early morning rather than in late afternoon just before dusk; however, the significance of this, if any, eludes me.

As the map indicates, all but four of the 122 Great Grays were found in the north-eastern boreal forest quarter of Minnesota. The four reported in southern Minnesota were: Dec. 4-5, Prior Lake, Scott Co. (found dead Dec. 10); Jan. 1, Afton CBC, Washington Co.; Jan. 8, near St. John's Univ., Stearns Co.; and early Jan., Lake Owasso, Ramsey Co. At the time of this writing I have little information as to the extent of the Great Gray invasion in other nearby states and provinces. A birder from Winnipeg told me she felt the winter population in Manitoba was average, another birder from Michigan reported a small concentration on Neebish Island near Sault Ste. Marie. I am aware of nothing out of



**Great Gray Owl, Sax-Zim, St. Louis County, April 1, 1984  
Photo by Bill Stjern**



**Northern Hawk-Owl, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County, December 19, 1983  
Photo by Jim Mattsson**

the ordinary in Wisconsin, but I received recent verbal reports that there was a tremendous invasion in southern Ontario primarily during February of perhaps 600 Great Grays — it is curious that this unprecedented concentration was not widely known of at the time, and publication of this event is eagerly awaited.

With the possible exception of Barred Owl, there was no indication that other owl species appeared in larger than normal numbers as did the Great Gray during this winter. Invasions of Boreal Owls seemed to parallel the Great Gray in 1965-66 (*The Loon* 38:44-45), 1968-69 and 1977-78, but there were only the usual few scattered Boreals found this winter. Northern Hawk-Owls also appeared in normal numbers in northern Minnesota, while Snowy Owl numbers were below normal in the Duluth-Superior harbor. It is true that Great Horned Owls were more plentiful than normal this past fall and winter, in the Duluth area at least, but this influx began during the fall of 1982 and is undoubtedly more closely associated with the Northern Goshawk influx. There may be some parallel with the Barred Owl, however, since an unusually large number was seen during the winter, especially in residential areas in Duluth and the Twin Cities; there was also a Barred Owl invasion of sorts along the North Shore during the Great Gray invasion of 1977-78.

In conclusion, the final total of 122 Great Gray Owl individuals represents the largest winter invasion ever recorded in Minnesota by a wide margin. The biggest previous winters were in 1968-69 when about 70 were seen and in 1977-78 when 58 were counted. During these same two winters Manitoba also experienced similar invasions of Great Grays, with "at least a few hundred" in 1968-69 (*Blue Jay* 27:39-40) and 125 in 1977-78 (*American Birds* 32:367); however, it is unclear if these numbers indicate the number of different individual owls or the number of owl sightings including duplicate reports of the same owl. It is clear though that Minnesota's record of 122 is higher than any state or province recorded in the highly publicized Great Gray invasion of 1978-79 in eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S., with Ontario's 112 being the best total of that winter (*American Birds* 33:242-244).

I would like to thank the many observers who reported owl sightings this past winter, especially Sandy Lunke who carefully mapped and listed records from the Hovland area, Warren Nelson who did the same in Aitkin County, Chuck Neil who faithfully called in several sightings from central and northern St. Louis County, and Jeff Palmer and Al Schmierer who kept track of the Great Grays in Beltrami and Lake of the Woods Counties. 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.

## THE WINTER SEASON

December 1, 1983 to February 29, 1984

Ken LaFond

This report represents the efforts of over 750 individuals and is one of the more comprehensive I've had the opportunity to compile during the past five years. Sixty-two seasonal reports and 45 Christmas Bird Counts were received. The CBC's recorded 114 species and the seasonal report and individual contributors brought the period total to a record 145.

The Rochester count took top honors with a total of 60 while Bloomington (56) and Duluth (52) were runners up.

Weatherwise, snow and cold came early, particularly to the north and east. The Twin Cities recorded their snowiest early winter on record. Low temps of  $-31^{\circ}$  at Isabella on 12-4 and a high of  $-18^{\circ}$  in Duluth on 12-23 were indicative of condi-

tions in the northeast. Mid December snowfalls of 10" and 12" occurred, again principally in the north and east. January started out warm, had very cold temps in mid-month and finished above average temperature-wise with normal snowfall. February had generally above average temps but strong winds and severe blizzard conditions prevailed in the south central and south west on the 6th and again on the 18th. Mild conditions, with temps sometimes in the 40's completed the month.

The big news this season was the appearance of the Brambling at an Owatonna feeder and the record invasion of Great Gray Owls, principally in the northeast. Winter finches were more widespread and abundant than last year and raptor and waterfowl migrants were returning in late February.

#### *Common Loon*

One report: Rush Lake, Otter Tail, 1-7, (SDM). An early March MRBA report suggested that this individual overwintered.

#### *Pied-billed Grebe*

Reported on the Willmar and Bloomington CBC's. Also reported from Black Dog, Dakota Co. from 2-12 through the end of the period (mob).

#### *Horned Grebe*

Three NE reports from Lake Superior; Duluth CBC (2); Cook, 12-26 (2) (SS) and Lake, 1-1 (2) (SWMS). An east central report from Hennepin, Lake Calhoun 12-2 (mob).

#### *Red-necked Grebe*

Reported only from Five Mile Rock, Cook Co. on 2-1, B. J. Rose.

#### **WESTERN GREBE**

The second and third winter records for the state: Hennepin, Lake Calhoun on 12-2 (mob) and Two Harbors, Lake Co. on 12-9 (KE) and 12-10 (SWMS) (KL).

#### **AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN**

Again overwintered at Albert Lea, Freeborn Co. (mob).

#### *Double-crested Cormorant*

Late migrants in the SE; Dakota till 12-12, Goodhue till 12-5, Wabasha till 12-3 and Olmsted from 12-3 until 1-5 (PP).

#### *Great Blue Heron*

Southeast reports from Houston 12-2 (FL) and Wabasha 1-8 (DWM). A west central report from the Orwell Dam, Otter Tail on 1-5 (GMO) and a northwest report of very early migrants, 2-22, (2) Mahnomem, (MH).

#### *Tundra Swan*

Late migrants in Hennepin on 12-3 (mob). Southeast reports from Wabasha, 12-6 (19) and 2-9 (1) (WDM); Houston, 12-2 (500) (FL) and Olmsted, 2-22 (1) (JBK) (BE). A SW report of two flying south of Windom in Jackson Co. on 2-23 (KL) is very difficult to explain.

#### **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**

Reported on the Rochester CBC.

#### *Snow Goose*

Reports from three south counties; Lake Cornelia, Hennepin, up to 3 until 1-8 (mob); Scott, 10 (?) on 1-4 MRBA, and Olmsted, 12-17 until 2-20 (2) (mob) and a blue phase individual on 2-25 (KL).

#### *Canada Goose*

Reports from three north and 31 south counties. The north reports consisted of the Aurora CBC, the Fargo CBC and the wintering flock at Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. The total statewide CBC count was 15,1349. There were fifteen south reports of returning migrants, the first on 2-12 and the balance from 2-16 through 2-25.

#### *Wood Duck*

Overwintered in Dakota (JD) and Hennepin (mob). Also reported in Olmsted, 12-7, (JBK, BE) and on the St. Paul, Mankato and Willmar CBC's.

#### *Green-winged Teal*

A late migrant at Lake Cornelia, Hennepin Co. until 1-4 (ETS), (MRBA) and an early (?) migrant in Mower on 2-14 (RRK).

#### *American Black Duck*

Reported from Cook (4) in the NE, Otter Tail (3) in the west central and 13 counties in the SE quarter of the state. A statewide CBC total of 88 individuals.

#### *Mallard*

Reported from 37 counties throughout

the state north to Polk, Beltrami, Koochiching and Cook. A state wide CBC total of 14,856 individuals of which only 135 were reported from the three northern regions.

#### *Northern Pintail*

Reported on the Mpls. North and Excelsior CBC's. A January report from Otter Tail on 1-7 (SDM) and three reports of returning migrants (?) in February from Hennepin 2-27 (MRBA), Dakota, 2-24 (AB) and Scott, 2-24 (3) (JCF).

#### *BLUE-WINGED TEAL*

Reported without details on the Austin CBC.

#### *Northern Shoveler*

Overwintered at Orwell Dam, Otter Tail (GMO) and late migrants in Hennepin on 12-1 and 12-2 (mob).

#### *Gadwall*

In addition to the usual overwintering individuals in Scott Co. there were early and mid-December reports from Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston.

#### *American Wigeon*

Twin Cities area reports from the St. Paul CBC, Anoka, until 12-11 (KL), Hennepin, until 1-7 (ETS) and in Scott until 1-11 (2) (AB) and again on 2-12 (DB). A southeast report from Olmsted on 2-12 (KL).

#### *Canvasback*

Reported on the Mankato and Rochester CBC's. December reports from Hennepin, 12-5 (SC), Wabasha 12-6 (WDM) and Houston 12-2 (FL). Spring migrants in Houston, up to 60, 2-25 (KL) (FL) and Otter Tail, 2-26 (GMO).

#### *Redhead*

Two December reports; Otter Tail 12-16 (SDM) and Hennepin, 12-2 (SC) (DB). A February report from Goodhue on 2-26 (JD).

#### *Ring-necked Duck*

Reported on the St. Paul and Rochester CBC's. The Rochester individual remained on Silver Lake all winter (mob). Early spring migrants in the west central; Otter Tail 2-26 (4), (GMO).

#### *Lesser Scaup*

Late north migrants in Hubbard; 37 on 12-1 (HJF) and Cook, 12-2 (KMH). South reports from the Willmar and Excelsior CBC's and Sherburne, Ramsey, Dakota, Scott, Rice and Olmsted counties.

#### *Oldsquaw*

Lake Superior reports from Cook; 11 on the Grand Marais CBC and 25 near Five Mile Rock on 12-26 (SS) and "a few" on 2-1, B. J. Rose. A St. Louis County report from Stoney Point on 2-5, R. Johnson.

#### *White-winged Scoter*

A late migrant in an unusual location; Lake Calhoun, Hennepin Co., 12-1 (RBJ).

#### *Common Goldeneye*

Overwintered in Cook (KMH) in the northeast, Otter Tail in the west central, (92), (SDM) and the Twin Cities area, about 400, (mob). Returning migrants numbered about 1000 on the Mississippi in Houston on 2-25 (FL), (KL). Also reported from 18 additional counties in the central and eastern regions northward to Koochiching, 1-28 (2) (KL).

#### *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE*

Reports of two males at Black Dog, Dakota County from 1-7 till the end of the period (mob). Also reported from Lake Calhoun, Hennepin on 12-1 (SC) and on the Mississippi near Elk River, Sherburne Co. on 2-4, Gary Swanson.

#### *Bufflehead*

Reported on the Grand Marais and Willmar CBC's. A January report from Two Harbors, Lake Co. on 1-1 (SWMS). Spring migrants in the southeast in Houston 2-25, (FL) and Olmsted, 2-25 (KL).

#### *Hooded Merganser*

Reported on the Rochester CBC and apparently remained throughout the period (mob). In the Twin Cities area reported from Scott, 12-10 (RBJ); Hennepin until 1-7 (ETS) and again on 2-11 (BL) and Dakota, 2-25 (MRBA).

#### *Common Merganser*

Reported from six north and 16 south counties in all regions except the northwest and southwest. Numerous reports of returning migrants in mid and late February including 1000+ on the Mississippi in

Houston on 2-25 (FL), (KL).

*Red-breasted Merganser*

Reported only on the Duluth CBC.

*Ruddy Duck*

Three reports: GRAND MARAIS CBC, Hennepin, until 12-6 (mob) and the Rochester CBC

*Osprey*

Earliest date on record, Black Dog, Dakota Co. 2-25 (BDC).

*Bald Eagle*

This species continues to increase in winter with reports of about 230 individuals in the state at some time during the period. Reports were received from eight north and 18 south counties in all regions except the southwest. In addition to the usual reports along the river in the southeast, overwintering birds were reported from Nicollet (JCF) and Renville (MF). An overwintering report from Kittson in the far northwest fide (KSS) needs details. Spring migrants in the central and north regions were noted in Otter Tail 2-14 (GMO), Duluth 2-15, C. Copeland, Kanabec 2-18 (KL) and Clearwater, 2-19 (AB).

*Northern Harrier*

Three December and eight February reports of 12 individuals. Two on the Rochester CBC; Otter Tail 12-4 and 2-28 (SDM); Sherburne 12-26 (SSEH); Mahanomen 2-10 (MH); Wadena 2-19 (AB); Aitkin 2-21 to 2-26 (2) (mob); Dakota 2-23 (RG); Goodhue 2-26 (JD); Clay 2-26 (LCF) and Blue Earth 2-29 (JCT).

*Sharp-shinned Hawk*

Reports of 17 individuals from St. Louis, 1-21 (BE) in the north and Washington, Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, LeSueur, Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted and Houston in the south.

*Cooper's Hawk*

Fourteen individuals were reported from Brown in the south central and eight counties south and east of the Twin Cities.

*Northern Goshawk*

Widespread, with reports from 15 north and 13 south counties throughout the state of about 53 individuals. The majority were reported from the southeast, east central, north central and northwest regions.

*Red-shouldered Hawk*

Reported on the Mpls. North and Hast-

ings CBC (also overwintered) and in Fillmore and Houston in the southeast.

*Red-tailed Hawk*

About 190 individuals were reported. Two overwintered in Duluth; two were on the Walker CBC; one in Otter Tail 2-26 (GMO); one in Murray, 2-25 (RBJ); one in Sherburne on 12-5 (SSEH) and the remainder in the east central, southeast and south central regions with a peak count of 17 on the Wabasha CBC.

*Rough-legged Hawk*

Fifty-eight individuals were reported with all but three from the east one-half of the state. The west reports were Marshall, all winter (KSS), Wilkin 12-7, 2-12 (SDM) and Wilkin 2-23 (MRBA). Why is this species scarce on Minnesota prairies while it seems common in the Dakota's?

*Golden Eagle*

Reported from Marshall, 12-19 (JM) (KSS), Clay, 2-19 (SDM) and Otter Tail 2-17 (SDM) in the west and a first county record from Kanabec, 12-31 (SS) in the east central. Also reported from Wabasha, Winona and Houston in the southeast.

*American Kestrel*

About 100 individuals were reported from five north and 31 south counties in all regions of the state except the north central and northeast. Overwintered in Pennington (KSS) in the northwest.

*Merlin*

South reports from Blue Earth, 12-10 (RBJ) and the Winona CBC. Three northwest reports; Crookston CBC; Pennington 12-29 until 2-8 (KSS) and Kittson, 2-8 (KSS).

*PEREGRINE FALCON*

Reported from Dakota County, 1-19 (JPAM).

*Gyr Falcon*

Once again overwintered in the Duluth Harbor area (mob).

*Prairie Falcon*

Overwintered near Lawndale, Wilkin County (SDM).

*Gray Partridge*

Reported from eight north and 32 south counties in all regions except the north central, northeast and most of the east cen-

tral. A statewide CBC total of 1105 with peaks of 230 on the Windom-Mountain Lake count. Also in Winona, 12-8, Paul Pedersen.

#### *Ring-necked Pheasant*

Reported from seven north and 39 south counties south of a line from Fargo to Duluth. A statewide CBC total of 1472 with a peak of 160 on the Mpls. North CBC. The CBC data suggests the species is most common in the Twin Cities area and the south central region. A bad winter kill reported in Lac Qui Parle (FE).

#### *Spruce Grouse*

Reported from Cook on the Gunflint Trail (KMH); Lake County, Road #2, 42½ miles north of Two Harbors, 1-26 thru 2-11 (mob) and Lake-of-the-Woods, M. Kehoe, no date.

#### *Ruffed Grouse*

Reported from 20 counties in the three eastern and the north central regions. A statewide CBC total of 49 with a peak of 16 on the St. Paul N.E. count. One south central report from the Owatonna CBC.

#### *Greater Prairie-Chicken*

Reported from Wilkin, Clay and Polk.

#### *Sharp-tailed Grouse*

Reported on the Crookston and Baudette CBC's and from Marshall, Koochiching and Aitkin.

#### *Wild Turkey*

Ten on the LaCrosse-LaCrescent CBC and a report from Wabasha, 2-9 (4) (MS).

#### *Northern Bobwhite*

Reported only from Houston (EMF).

#### *American Coot*

Reported on the Fergus Falls and Willmar CBC's. December reports from Hennepin, Scott and Dakota and a January report from Ramsey 1-2 (REH). A February report from Dakota, 2-26 (DZ).

#### *Killdeer*

Early migrants in Houston, 2-18 (EMF) and Lyon 2-25 (HK).

#### *Common Snipe*

Reported on the Afton, Bloomington, Excelsior and St. Paul CBC's.

#### *Ring-billed Gull*

Early December reports from Anoka and Hennepin. Four February reports; DULUTH 2-12, one adult, R. Johnson and B. Penning; Dakota, 2-4 (JPAM) and 2-21 (JD); Wabasha 2-21 (2) (DWM) and Olmsted 2-16 (JBK).

#### *Herring Gull*

Overwintered in Cook and absent in Duluth from late December until 2-12. One in Lake on 1-1 (SWMS). In the south, December migrants lingered until the St. Paul CBC and spring migrants returned to Dakota on 2-21 (RG) and Wabasha 2-25 (KL).

#### *Thayer's Gull*

First year individuals on the Duluth CBC and in the Twin Cities area on 12-9 (KL) and 12-12 (MRBA).

#### *Glaucous Gull*

Six on the Duluth CBC and two on the St. Paul CBC.

#### *Rock Dove*

A statewide CBC total of 13,984 with 5,288 in Duluth. None on the Grand Marais CBC and also apparently scarce in most of north central region. Also recorded in 78 counties throughout the state.

#### *Mourning Dove*

Reported from six north and 26 south counties. The statewide CBC total was 301 with a peak of 81 in the St. Paul count. In the north, 15 were recorded on the Duluth CBC and one on the Warren count. Early December migrants were in the northwest in Marshall, Pennington and Polk (KSS) and one may have overwintered in Bemidji. South reports were widespread but most common in the east central and south east regions.

#### *COMMON BARN-OWL*

One found dead near Solway and Arrowhead Roads in Hermantown, St. Louis County in early Jan. See details elsewhere in this issue.

#### *Eastern Screech-Owl*

Although not as widely reported, this species appears to occupy the same geographic range as wintering American Kestrels in the state. Reported from three northwest and 12 south counties with a

total of about 29 individuals and a peak of five on the Cottonwood CBC.

#### *Great Horned Owl*

About 121 individuals were reported from 47 counties throughout the state. Peak numbers were 16 on the St. Paul N.E. CBC and 11 on the Marshall CBC. Arctic race individuals reported from Lake, St. Louis and Lyon.

#### *Snowy Owl*

No concentrations in the Duluth Harbor area this year and the 20 individuals reported were widely spaced throughout the north and west regions of the state. Reported from ten north counties and Anoka, Renville, Lyon and Pipestone in the south. Only three on the Duluth CBC.

#### *Northern Hawk- Owl*

Reports of about eight individuals from six north counties. A first refuge record from Aggassiz NWR, 12-9 until 12-23 (JM) (KSS); one on the Baudette CBC; Beltrami Co. near Waskish on 12-9 (AJ); Staples, Todd Co. on 1-9, R. Hoffman; three Aitkin Co. locations, Co. Rd 18 and two at different locations on Highway 200 (mob) and one near Duluth on the 2-23 DRBA.

#### *Barred Owl*

Probably the most reports ever; about 63 individuals in 16 north and 18 south counties. Peak of 10 on the St. Paul NE CBC. Most common in the east central, north central and northeast regions. Western reports from Clay, 12-17 (LCF), Stevens, 1-2 (RBJ) and Lyon, December and mid January (HK).

#### *Great Gray Owl*

Probably the largest North American invasion on record — see details elsewhere in this issue.

#### *Long-eared Owl*

Two reports; St. Paul NE CBC and Clay, 12-25 (LCF).

#### *Boreal Owl*

Heard calling and/or seen at feeder on the Gunflint Trail in Cook, 1-25 thru 2-17 (KMH). Three Duluth area reports; one found dead in late Dec. O. Evans, one at Stoney Point 2-10 (KE) and one heard 2-276, L&F Weber. A south report of one

found dead in western Hennepin Co., 1-24 (MRBA) but no details were ever received.

#### *Northern Saw-whet Owl*

Two December reports; Crow Wing, 12-13 (JB) and the St. Paul CBC. An early January report of one found dead in Duluth 1-6 (DRBA). Six additional reports from 1-21 till the end of the period from Dakota, Chisago, Kanabec, Otter Tail, St. Louis and Cook.

#### *Belted Kingfisher*

Overwintered in Otter Tail (SDM) and found on the Crosby CBC. Reports of about 17 additional individuals from eight counties south and east of the Twin Cities area.

#### *Red-headed Woodpecker*

Reported from Morrison, Crow Wing, (Crosby CBC), Aitkin 12-21 (WN) and Kanabec in the north and 16 south counties. Statewide CBC count of 29, of which 11 were on the Owatonna CBC.

#### *Red-bellied Woodpecker*

In the north, reported from Pennington, 2-4 until 2-14 (KSS), Crow Wing (Crosby CBC) and Aitkin 2-4 (WN). Well distributed in the south with reports from 29 counties. Statewide CBC total of 292 with peak numbers of 42 (Rochester) and 40 (St. Paul NE). In the south and west central regions CBC counts ranged from one to eleven.

#### *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*

Reported on the Exclesior and Winona CBC's and a Hennepin Co. report of a juvenile on 1-2 (RBJ).

#### *Downy Woodpecker*

Reported from 62 counties throughout the state. A statewide CBC total of 1526 with a peak of 158 on the St. Paul NE count. The CBC totals typically varied from 25 to 100 in the east regions, 15 to 40 in the central and 10 to 25 in the west regions.

#### *Hairy Woodpecker*

Reported from 60 counties throughout the state. Total CBC count of 961 with a peak of 87 on the St. Paul NE count. Distribution almost identical with the preceding species.

### *Three-toed Woodpecker*

Reported only from Staples, Todd Co., 1-9, R. Hoffman. (Needs details).

### *Black-backed Woodpecker*

Reports of about 14 individuals from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin and northern Pine and Kanabec. Only CBC reports from Isabella and Grand Rapids.

### *Northern Flicker*

Reported from Beltrami, 12-10 until 2-12 (AS); Clearwater, 2-20 (AB) and Otter Tail, 2-1 (GMO) in the north. Also reported from 16 south counties with a peak of six on the Mankato CBC.

### *Pileated Woodpecker*

Reported from 15 north and 25 south counties throughout the state. Statewide CBC count of 112 with a peak of 14 on the Excelsior count. Reported in the west regions only from Lyon, Pope, Otter Tail, Polk and Pennington.

### *Horned Lark*

Reported from 68 counties throughout the state except the northeast and most of the west central region. Numerous reports of returning migrants in late January and early February.

### *Gray Jay*

Statewide CBC total of 114 with a peak of 56 on the Isabella count. Reported from ten counties throughout its normal range in the north.

### *Blue Jay*

Reported from 69 counties throughout the state. Statewide CBC total of 3352 with a peak of 336 on the St. Paul NE count. Most common in the east and central regions with typical CBC counts ranging from 50-200. In the west regions CBC counts ranged from seven to 30.

### *Black-billed Magpie*

Eighteen on the Warren CBC and nine on the Baudette CBC. Also reported from Kittson, Roseau, Polk, Beltrami, Otter Tail 1-4 (SDM) and St. Louis.

### *American Crow*

Reported from 74 counties throughout the state. Peak of 596 on the Excelsior CBC and a statewide count of 5608. Overwintered in Cook (KMH) and early

migrants returned to the far north central and northwest regions in early February.

### *Common Raven*

Reported from 20 counties north and east of a line from Polk to Morrison to Pine. First ever CBC record from Crookston and a peak count of 164 at Aurora. Total CBC count of 462.

### *Black-capped Chickadee*

Reported from 73 counties throughout the state with a total CBC count of 9836. Peak counts of 1150 at Duluth and 1621 on the St. Paul NE count. Least abundant in the SW region with CBC counts ranging from 39 to 93.

### *Boreal Chickadee*

The Duluth CBC recorded 12 and Grand Marais had 11. Also reported from Lake, northern St. Louis, Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca, Aitkin and NE Kanabec counties.

### *Tufted Titmouse*

Reported on the Hastings, Rochester and Austin CBC's. Also reported from Sibley, 12-20 (RJB) and Houston, "Resident, (EMF)."

### *Red-breasted Nuthatch*

Reported from 17 north and 22 south counties throughout the state with the exception of the west central region. Most common in the north central and northeast regions. Peak CBC count of 43 at Bemidji and a statewide count total of 350.

### *White-breasted Nuthatch*

A peak of 338 on the St. Paul NE CBC; a statewide total count of 2178 and reports from 62 counties throughout the state. More common than usual in the northeast with overwintering individuals in Cook (SL) (KMH).

### *Brown Creeper*

North reports from Otter Tail, 12-28 (SDM); Lake 12-21 (SWMS) and the Fargo, Walker, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Aurora and Grand Marais CBC's. Also reported from 20 south counties. A statewide CBC total of 90.

### *CAROLINA WREN*

Reported at a Lutsen feeder, Cook County on the 12-21 MRBA.

*Golden-crowned Kinglet*

Reported on the St. Paul NE CBC and from Hennepin, 12-19 MRBA, Brown, 12-11 (JS) and Houston, till 12-12 (EMF).

*EASTERN BLUEBIRD*

Seven recorded on the Mankato CBC and at least four of them remained in the area throughout most of the period according to the 2-23 MRBA. An early migrant in Wabasha, 2-27 (JBK).

*Townsend's Solitaire*

Three reports; Bloomington CBC, Cook, 12-2 (KMH) and Big Stone, 2-8 (GMO).

*Hermit Thrush*

Reported on the St. Paul CBC and in Nicollet, 12-10 (RBJ) and Houston, until 12-19 (EMF).

*American Robin*

North reports from Pennington, Becker, Aitkin and the Duluth, Hibbing and Grand Rapids CBC's. Also reported from 19 south counties. Statewide CBC total of 164 with a peak of 45 on the St. Paul count.

*Varied Thrush*

Reported on the Hastings, St. Paul NE, Cedar Creek, Crosby, Duluth and Fargo CBC's. The Hasting's individual remained all winter (JPAM). January and February feeder reports from Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Aitkin. One not at a feeder in Koochiching, 1-28 (KL).

*GRAY CATBIRD*

One at M. B. Nevens feeder, Duluth until 12-10, fide (KE).

*Northern Mockingbird*

One found dead in Washington, 12-27 (JD).

*Brown Thrasher*

Reports of about *NINE* individuals. The Duluth and Aurora CBC's and Marshall, 12-25, A. Forrester, in the north and the Rochester, Bloomington and Marshall (2) CBC's in the south. Additional south reports from Hennepin, 1-30 (MRBA), Murray, overwintered (ADK), Lyon, two until mid-January (HK) and Lac Qui Parle where one seen in a pail of cracked corn on a car hood was subsequently found dead in late Dec. (FE).

*Bohemian Waxwing*

The 19 December, 16 January and six February reports indicate this species was widespread and common from north east of a line from the Twin Cities area to Fargo. Scattered south reports from the Willmar, Cottonwood, Mankato, Owatonna and Rochester CBC's. A statewide CBC total of 1452 with a peak of 459 at Duluth.

*Cedar Waxwing*

Reported from 27 south counties and eight north counties including the Fergus Falls, Grand Forks, Grand Rapids and Crosby CBC's. Statewide total of 1710 with a peak CBC count of 479 on the St. Paul count.

*Northern Shrike*

Reports of about 110 individuals from 21 north and 24 south counties throughout the state. Peak of eight on the Duluth CBC.

*European Starling*

The CBC data suggests this species was common to abundant in all except the north central and north east regions. Reported from 76 counties with a statewide CBC total of 7386 and a peak of 1391 on the St. Paul count.

*BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER*

Remained at a Washington County feeder until 12-2, see *The Loon*: 56:65

*Northern Cardinal*

North reports from the Fergus Falls, Walker, Crosby, Hibbing and Duluth CBC's. Overwintered in Aitkin County (JB) and one in Grand Protage, Cook County on 1-22 (BDC). Also in Duluth from 2-23 on, (DRBA). Reported from 25 south counties, being most abundant in the east central and south east regions. A peak CBC count of 288 at Rochester and a statewide total of 1430.

*ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK*

Reported on the Faribault CBC.

*Rufous-sided Towhee*

December reports from Hovland, Cook Co., 12-13 (KMH) and Olmsted 12-27 (JBK). A Jan. report from Dassel, Meeker Co. 1-1 and 1-2, Paul Johnson.

### *American Tree Sparrow*

Reported on the Warren and Crookston CBC's (also all winter, KSS) in the northwest; north central reports from Beltrami, 12-6 (AS), Hubbard, 1-27 (KL), Crow Wing 1-7 (RBJ) and the Crosby CBC. Additional reports from 34 central and south region counties. Statewide CBC count of 1659 with a peak of 383 at Rochester.

### *FIELD SPARROW*

One photographed in Two Harbors, Lake Co. on 12-18 (AB).

### *VESPER SPARROW*

One seen in Wabasha, 12-3, (BL), (RG).

### *Fox Sparrow*

North reports from the Walker and Duluth CBC's and Lutsen, Cook Co., 2 on 12-8 (KMH). The Duluth individual apparently remained until 1-27 (DRBA). South reports from LeSueur, 12-4 (HFC); Brown, 12-1 until 1-20 (JS); Washington 12-16 (MRBA) and the Mankato, Owatonna and Excelsior CBC's.

### *Song Sparrow*

Overwintered in Blue Earth (JCF). Also reported on the Excelsior, St. Paul, Hastings, Austin, Rochester and Owatonna CBC's. A January report from Hennepin 1-27 (MRBA) and a February report from Steele, 2-11 (BL). A December report from Houston, 12-54 (EMF).

### *Swamp Sparrow*

Two reports: Hennepin 12-12 (SC) and Le Sueur 1-24 (HFC).

### *White-throated Sparrow*

Reported from five north and nine south counties. Statewide CBC count of 31 with a peak of eight at Duluth. Found in Roseau until 12-21 (AJ) and on the Grand Marais CBC. In St. Paul, one was in full song near a downtown bus stop on 1-30 (MRBA).

### *White-crowned Sparrow*

Found on the Duluth and Bloomington CBC and in Hennepin Co. on 2-26 (DZ). One remained at the Gresser's feeder in Dakota Co. until 1-8 (MRBA), (AB).

### *Harris' Sparrow*

Reported on the Marshall (4), Faribault

and Austin CBC's. Also reported from the Gresser's feeder, 12-21 (MRBA); LeSueur, 12-19 and 2-5 (HFC) and Cottonwood, "usual numbers" (LAF).

### *Dark-eyed Junco*

Widespread and common throughout the central and southern regions and more reports than normal from the north regions. Overwintered in Polk and Pennington (KSS) in the northwest and Hovland (SL) and Poplar Lake (KMH) in the northeast. A statewide CBC total of 4860 with a peak of 797 on the Rochester count. A Gray-headed race overwintered at the Richardson Nature Center in the Twin Cities; *The Loon* 56:70.

### *Lapland Longspur*

Reported from 17 counties in the south central, central and three western regions. All were December reports except Clay, 1-15 (LCF), Otter Tail, 1-17 (GMO) and Blue Earth, 2-12 (KL). In Wilkin, "a few overwintered," (GMO).

### *Snow Bunting*

Widespread and common throughout most of the state. The CBC data suggests that the species was most abundant in the northwest and least abundant in the northeast. Reported from 58 counties with a statewide CBC total of 2119. Peak numbers on the Fargo, Crookston and Warren counts.

### *Red-winged Blackbird*

Reported from six north and 16 south counties including the Fergus Falls, Warren and Hibbing CBC's. Overwintered in Aitkin (at a feeder-WN), Lyon and Nicollet. Returning migrants in several south locations in late February and a Marshall report on 2-18 (KSS) may be a very early migrant in the northwest. A statewide CBC total of 566 with a peak of 190 at Mankato.

### *Meadowlark (sp.?)*

Three reports: Polk 12-8 (KSS) is undoubtedly a western while Sherburne 12-31 (RJB) and Hennepin 12-31 (VL) may be easterns.

### *Rusty Blackbird*

Reported on the Grand Marias, Cedar Creek, Bloomington, Afton, Wabasha and Albert Lea CBC's. In Duluth one overwintered along an open creek (KE). Also re-

ported from Mower, 12-1 (RRK); Anoka, 12-18 (EC); Renville, 1-14 (RJB) and Houston 2-25 (30) (KL).

#### *Brewer's Blackbird*

Reported on the Mankato CBC (51), and Otter Tail, 12-7 (SDM) and Olmsted, 2-26 (JBK).

#### *Common Grackle*

Reported from nine north and 23 south counties throughout the state. A statewide CBC total of 133 with a peak of 28 at Excelsior.

#### *Brown-headed Cowbird*

Reported on the Faribault, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Rochester and Winona CBC's. Also reported from Blue Earth until 1-2 (MJF) (RJB) and Mower, 2-23 (RS).

#### **BRAMBLING**

First state record. Details in *The Loon* 56:79-80.

#### *Pine Grosbeak*

More numerous than last year but still limited almost exclusively to the northeast, north central and northwest regions. The only south reports were the St. Paul NE CBC and Hennepin, 1-23, (OJ). Statewide CBC total of 479 with a peak of 116 at Aurora.

#### **HOUSE FINCH**

One photographed at Dr. Breckenridge's feeder in Dec. See *The Loon* 56:64.

#### *Purple Finch*

Reported from 31 central and south region counties with the largest CBC numbers in the east, 157 at Afton. In the north regions the species was widespread with reports from 10 counties, including the Bemidji (3), Walker (2), Aurora (3) and Grand Marais (1) CBC's. Statewide CBC total of 635.

#### *Red Crossbill*

Reported only from Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Beltrami and Lake-of-the-Woods counties. A statewide CBC total of 152 with 100 of them at Baudette.

#### *White-winged Crossbill*

Reported only from Crow Wing, Aitkin, Carlton and St. Louis counties. The only CBC report was of 16 at Hibbing.

#### *Common Redpoll*

The CBC data and reports from 43 north and central region counties indicate this species was fairly common in these areas. Scattered south region reports of a few individuals from Lyon, Cottonwood, Steele, Mower and Olmsted. A statewide CBC total of 1631 with peaks at Duluth (286), Fergus Falls (266) and Perham (260).

#### *Hoary Redpoll*

Reported on the Fergus Falls, Bemidji, Crosby and Duluth CBC's. Additional north reports from Clay, 1-21 (LCF), Roseau, no date (AJ), Pennington, overwintered (SS), Carlton, 1-26 (KL), Lake 1-15 (KE), Cook, 1-16 (SS) and Duluth 2-16 (KE). The only south report from Hennepin 2-24 (DB).

#### *Pine Siskin*

Reported from 46 counties throughout the state. Apparently most numerous in the central regions. Peak CBC count of 363 on the St. Paul NE count and a statewide total of 1373.

#### *American Goldfinch*

Reports from 43 counties south and east of a line from Pine to Itasca to Marshall. Overwintered in the northwest in Marshall, Pennington and Polk. Most abundant in the east central and south east regions. Peak of 350 on the St. Paul NE count and a statewide total of 2360.

#### *Evening Grosbeak*

Reported from 36 counties, mostly in the wooded regions of the state. Most abundant in the north central region with a peak of 440 on the Bemidji CBC. A statewide total of 1981 during the count period.

#### *House Sparrow*

After overcoming the urge to totally ignore this pest species, it must be reported that it was the most widely reported (85 counties) and most abundant species in the state (CBC total of 33,447). It was absent only on the Northwoods and Grand Marais counts (last seen in Cook on 12-8). Does this species leave Cook and Lake counties and wander down the lakeshore to winter in Duluth?

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

Location	Date	Compiler	Number of Participants	Total Species
Afton	1- 1-84	Boyd M. Lien	18	42
Albert Lea	1- 2-84	Charles Howard	22	33
Aurora	12-17-83	Chuck Neil	14	25
Austin	12-18-83	Terry W. Dorsey	24	42
Baudette	12-29-83	Martin Kehoe	5	25
Bemidji	12-17-83	Eric C. Nelson	20	27
Bloomington	1- 1-84	Thomas Bloom	32	56
Cedar Creek	12-18-83	Boyd M. Lien	9	32
Cedar Lake	12-18-83	Robert J. Leis	5	32
Cottonwood	12-18-83	Paul Egeland	3	28
Crookston	12-17-83	Tom Feiro	11	27
Crosby	12-17-83	Jo Blanich	11	35
Duluth	12-17-83	Kim Eckert	58	52
Excelsior	12-31-83	Phyllis Pope	37	47
Fargo-Moorhead	12-17-83	Ron Neilenmoe	23	26
Faribault	12-17-83	Orwin A. Rustad	9	38
Fergus Falls	12-17-83	Paul W. Anderson	16	36
Grand Forks-	12-18-83	Frank I. Kelley	1	11
East Grand Forks				
Grand Marais	12-26-83	Ken Hoffman	15	32
Grand Rapids	12-18-83	Tim Lamey	12	29
Hastings-Etter	1- 2-84	Joanne Dempsey	13	45
Hibbing	12-31-82	Janet Decker	13	28
Isabella	12-31-82	Steve Wilson		19
LaCrosse-LaCrescent	12-17-83	Fredrick Leshner	35	20
Lamberton	12-26-83	Lee French	4	24
Mankato	12-17-83	Merril J. Frydendall	11	47
Marshall	12-17-83	Henry C. Kyllingstad	10	30
Mpls. North	12-17-83	Donn S. Mattsson	26	37
Mountain Lake-	1- 2-84	Edna Gerber	19	28
Windom				
Northwoods-	12-31-83	Michael Link	7	18
Audubon Center				
Owatonna	12-17-83	Darryl Hill	29	42
Perham	12-18-83	Jeff Bryan	13	18
Rochester	12-17-83	Jerry Bonkoski	25	60
St. Paul	12-17-83	Arthur Zerbey	76	47
St. Paul Northeast	12-26-83	Charles Fitzpatrick	45	51
Sherburne NWR	12-18-83	Tim Schroer	—	14
Wabasha	12-28-83	Don Mahle	—	36
Walker	12-18-83	Harold Hanson	—	23
Warren	12-31-83	Gladwyn A. Lynne	14	25
Wild River	12-17-83	Tom Anderson	12	37
Willmar	12-18-83	Ben Thoma	8	32
Winona	12-17-83	Walter Carrol	16	30

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*CORRECTION* In *The Loon* 55:159, change Least Bittern, 4-24 (VL) to 5-24 (VL).

## 200 COUNTY CLUB

We will be printing the 200 County Club totals in the Winter 1984 issue of *The Loon*. Please submit your totals to the editor no later than December 1, 1984. If you do not submit new figures your total from last year will be printed.

Bob Janssen, Editor

# COMMON BARN-OWL SIGHTED AT WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

Betty Murphy

Because Bob Haire of North Oaks, MN decided to look for warblers at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield, on May 11, 1984, between 100 and 150 people had the pleasure and excitement of seeing a Common Barn-Owl in Minnesota.

On May 10 the wind switched to the SE. This brought a wave of warblers to Wood Lake about noon. I reported seeing 14 species to the Rare Bird Alert. When Bob heard this report, he decided to go to Wood Lake early on May 11.

At 8 a.m. Bob started along the woodland path to the north and west. About 8:15 a.m. the movement of an American Crow high in the trees on the north side of the path (about where the rustic fence ends) caught his attention. Bob says, "the owl was originally spotted because a crow was eyeball to eyeball with the bird (literally about six inches away). The crow was giving the owl that particular close inspection that an inquisitive crow (not a fearful crow) uses with any object of interest. The crow gets its head in close, turns it sideways to the viewed object and 'scrutinizes' it. The crow did give a couple of 'caws' but they just didn't seem to be the heart-felt 'squawks' usually heard with Great Horned Owl harassment. The owl in turn was bobbing its head (while holding the head low) from side to side. What a curious dance the two were doing!"

The leaves on the trees were not fully developed, and it was easy to see the bird from the path. It was a clear day and light conditions were good, with the sun low and behind Bob. Bob identified the bird as a Common Barn-Owl. He went to the Nature Center and asked the naturalists, Tim Anderson and Dan Belting, to look at the owl. Tim and Dan agreed with Bob's identification.

At 7 a.m. that morning I started to look for migrant warblers in the Wood Lake picnic area. Dan had seen me there, and he

came to tell me of the owl sighting. When I saw the bird I agreed with the men's identification of Barn Owl.

I stayed on the path to watch the owl and the men went to the office to pass along word of the Barn Owl sighting by phone and in person. I asked everyone who walked or jogged past me to tell anyone with binoculars about the Barn Owl. The owl closed its eyes and stayed on the branch for about three hours, apparently sleeping. When it stretched occasionally it was possible to see the long, feathered legs and the short tail. The small dark spots on the white breast were clearly visible, with the mixture of golden brown and gray plumage on the sides and back contrasting with the white of the face and underparts.

There was a crow's nest in a tree about 200 feet from the branch where the owl was roosting. On three occasions during the morning five crows flew briefly around the owl's tree, but they did not go close to the owl. A young crow could be heard calling from the nest, and crow activity most of the day appeared to be adults carrying food to the young.

Other birders soon arrived, some coming to look for warblers and others as a result of phone calls about the owl. The Gressers set up their spotting scope for others to use while they birded around the lake. Many people just walking by were curious, and they and several classes of school children were able to see the Barn Owl through the scope, as well as many birders.

Although the owl had been very still in the morning with its eyes closed, it seemed to wake up about noon, looked around some, then changed its position so that it was facing more into the wind. This presented a rear view from the path, but from another path about 100 ft. to the NW it was possible to also see the front view clearly. When the branch was whipping back and forth in the 40 mph gusts of wind, the owl extended its wing to its full

length to the right, apparently to help maintain its balance. This happened three times while I was watching. I was told that in the evening the bird was still on the same branch (some came back to look again), but it had turned again, giving observers on the main path a front view.

During the period from 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. while I watched the owl I documented the names of over fifty birders who saw the owl. No person, to my knowledge, expressed any doubt as to the identification of the bird as a Barn Owl. I was told that from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. many other birders saw the owl. We estimate that between 100 to 150 people (birders, Nature Center staff, school classes, and casual passersby) saw their first Minnesota Barn Owl that day.

Comments made during the day related to the fact that the light was so good it was possible to see the most minute detail, particularly with spotting scopes. My 10 ×

40 Trinovids provided excellent details, and many brands and powers of binoculars were used by others. The sun was behind and above the viewers during the entire day, with good light, but photographers were having some difficulty because of the wind and the leaves. The temperature ranged from 48° to 69° and a very strong NW wind blew all day, with gusts from 25 mph to 40 mph.

Another comment made was that because the owl seemed so large it was probably a female. Dimensions given in the various new field guides range from 14" to 20", with a 44" wingspan. Whether male or female, this Barn Owl provided a delightful day of good fellowship and an awareness of the willingness on the part of a great many people to share an exciting bird with the rest of the birding community. 5935 Columbus Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55417

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Kim R. Eckert, M.O.R.C. Secretary

The following records were voted on January-June, 1984 and found Acceptable:

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 1/7/84, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0).
- Barrow's Goldeneye, 2/4/84, Elk River, Sherburne Co. (vote 7-0).
- House Finch, 12/3/83, Mankato, Blue Earth Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:130-131).
- Osprey, 2/25/84, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 6-1).
- House Finch, 3/18/84, St. Cloud, Stearns Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:194).
- House Finch, 4/25/84, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:198-199).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/8/84, Courthouse Co. Park, Waseca Co. (vote 7-0 *The Loon* 56:193-194).
- Brant, 4/21/84, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 56:194).
- California Gull, 4/12/84, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 56:194).
- Arctic Tern, 5/27/84, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:194).
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/24/84, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 56:196).
- Chuck-will's-widow, 6/9/84, Nicollet Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 56:200).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/11/84, Elba, Winona Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 56:199-200).
- Tricolored Heron, 5/4/84, Plymouth, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 56:196).
- Mute Swan, 4/24-26/84, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

The following records were voted on January-June, 1984 and found Unacceptable:

- House Finch, 8/23/81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 0-7).

The description and sketch of the bird could fit a female House Finch, but its described flycatching behavior didn't seem to fit this species. It was felt that the description did not fully preclude female or immature Indigo Bunting or juvenile Red Crossbill, both of which could behave as the observer described.

- Broad-winged Hawk, 3/1/84, Shoreview, Ramsey Co. (vote 1-6).

The only description given was "broad, equal-width tail bands", and an indication that it was "a small buteo". But there was no description of the rest of the plumage, and no indication as to why the observer felt it was a Buteo and not an Accipiter (which often circles and fans its tail like a Buteo in flight).

- House Finch, 3/2/84, Excelsior, Carver Co. (vote 3-4).

The full description of this male finch stated: "brown streaking on the side of the body and the red is slightly different from a Purple Finch". While it was agreed that such details seemed indicative of House Finch, the majority felt that a more complete description should have been given for such an unusual species.

- Mississippi Kite, 4/28/84, Otter Tail Co. (vote 4-3, with 7-0 required for Acceptance).

Although no one could suggest another species which would fit the description and sketch given of the plumage and behavior, it was pointed out that in late April an immature Mississippi Kite should resemble an adult except for the barred tail, and would not be streaked on the wing linings and underparts as was indicated in the details.

- Pelagic Cormorant, 5/19/84, Silver Bay, Lake Co. (vote 1-6).

The identification was based entirely on the cormorant's "very small" size and "a very noticeable white patch behind wing". However, as is so often the case, this was another example of a very unusual species not being completely described — a Pelagic Cormorant both away from salt water and in the eastern U.S. would be extremely unlikely if not "impossible" and would require a much more complete description. It was also unclear from the details if there was direct comparison with Double-crested to permit an accurate size determination, and it was unclear where the white patch was exactly, its size and shape, whether there was a patch on both sides of the bird, and if the patch could have been a white stain of some kind.

- House Finch, 4/29/84, Coon Rapids Dam, Hennepin Co. (vote 1-6).

This finch was described as a female by plumage, but it was heard singing and the possibility of it being a first spring male was precluded by the fact that immature male House Finches resemble adult males by their first fall (unlike Purple Finch in which young males resemble females in their first spring). The description also did not rule out Pine Siskin, which could fit the described plumage and song.

**9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

## Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

The next meeting of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) will be held on December 2, 1984, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota. This meeting is open to members of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union who would like to see how MORC operates and make contributions to better methods of operation for the Committee. Call Bob Janssen, Chairman of MORC at 546-4220 in the evenings or at 645-0251, during the day if you would like to attend the meeting.

# HABITAT AND SIZE OF THE LeCONTE'S SPARROW'S TERRITORY.\*

Sam Cooper

## Purpose

During May 2-27, 1983, I studied LeConte's Sparrows (*Ammospiza leconteii*) at Northwoods Audubon Center, Pine County, Minnesota. The status of the LeConte's Sparrow in Minnesota is described from *Minnesota Birds* as a "resident primarily in the northwestern region. The species also occurs sparingly in areas of wet and grassy habitat in the other northern regions and in the central part of the state, generally east of the Mississippi River." The LeConte's Sparrow is difficult to study because it is shy, elusive and inhabits dense vegetation of open fields and meadows. Although the soft, unmusical, insect-like call of the LeConte's first seems deceptive, it turns out to be the best tool for locating and studying the sparrow. My 1983 study at Northwoods focused on size and placement of territories and a preliminary habitat analysis.

## Methods

I plotted LeConte's Sparrow territories by observing singing birds. Typically, only male LeConte's Sparrows sing (Murray, 1969). I assumed each singing bird should protect an area sufficient of supporting two birds and their progeny. At least twenty-four singing LeConte's Sparrows had established territories at Northwoods by the end of May. The majority of the population was divided among four fields, each containing five to seven singing males. One field in particular was studied in depth by observing the behavior of four individuals within a 400 by 1000 foot study area. The study area was broken down into forty numbered quadrants, 100 feet square. Every evening during May 2-27, 1983 the location of each singing LeConte's Spar-

row within the study area was recorded and the results can be seen in figure 1. The territorial boundaries remained fairly constant throughout May. In some cases the location of a singing bird within its territory was responsible for some small temporary boundary fluctuations. If one bird chose to sing at the outer limit of its territory, it was vulnerable to invading neighbors on its opposite boundary. In general, territories overlapped very little and boundaries were fixed. The four territories in this study area are territories 2 through 5 in the habitat analysis below.

The habitats occupied by LeConte's Sparrows were divided into six divisions: fallow field, wet grass, shrubs, sedges, hayfields, and crops.

"Fallow field" included the following plants: Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*), Redtop (*Agrostis alba*), Ticklegrass (*Agrostis scabra*), Barnyard Grass (*Echinochloa muricata*), Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Yellow Rocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium sp.*), Silvery Cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*), Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Thistle (*Cirsium sp.*), Aborted Buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*), Common Plantain (*Plantago major*), Speedwell (*Veronica sp.*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Vervain (*Verbena sp.*), Chickweed (*Cerastium sp.*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*), Aster (*Aster sp.*).

\*Thanks to the Northwoods Audubon Center and project advisor, Mike Link, for making this study possible.

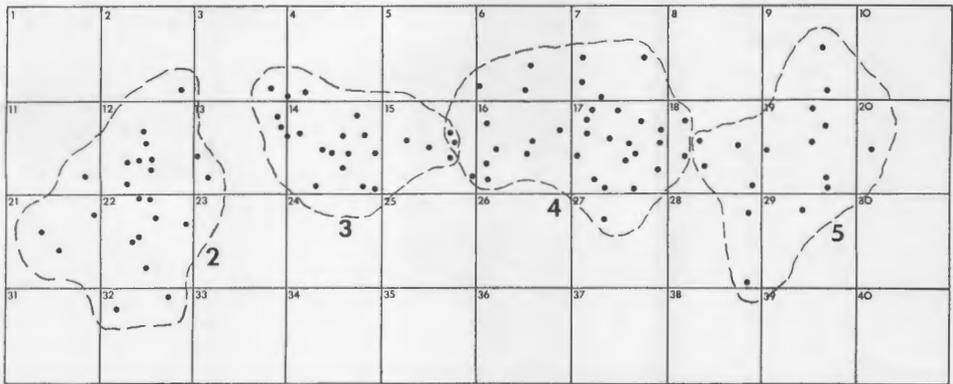


Figure 1. Four LeConte's Sparrow territories found during May of 1983 within the study area at the Northwoods Audubon Center. The quadrants are 100 feet square and the solid dots denote single daily records of singing males. The dashed lines represent probable territorial boundaries of the singing individuals.

A "wet grass" habitat had the following major plants: Canary Reed Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Softstem Bulrush (*Scirpus validus*), Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*). There were other nearby "wet grass" plants but none were included within any LeConte's Sparrow's territories.

The "shrub" most commonly found in the LeConte's Sparrow territories was the Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*) but some White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and Steep-lebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*) were found.

"Sedges" were often found near or mixed with wet grass plants. There were two unidentified species of sedge (*Carex sp.*) found within the territories of several LeConte's Sparrows.

Major plants within an annually cut "hayfield" included: Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), Clover (*Trifolium sp.*), Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and Yellow Rocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*).

The only "crop" providing habitat for the LeConte's Sparrow was an overgrown one-year-old Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) field. Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) was the major invading plant in the field.

### Results and Discussion

The 1983 survey of the Northwoods Audubon Center revealed a population of

twenty-four singing males. Each of the twenty-four territories consisted of one or more of the six listed habitat divisions, given in table 1 as estimated percentages.

The fallow fields often near water or marshes seemed to be favored areas. The wet, tall grass and marshy habitat so often described for this species in field guides is by no means a requirement. Most of the territories located were found in the dry upland areas. In fact, five territories were located in a relatively "dry" short-grass hayfield. Apparently the hayfield at Northwoods provides sufficient cover and is dense enough to attract the LeConte's Sparrow. In North Dakota Murray (1969) found the species to favor the wet habitats by a large margin. Murray states, "The species was most dense in *Spartina*, less dense in the sparser *Hordeum*, and rare in *Bromus* on the dry upland." In Wisconsin and Michigan the LeConte's Sparrow has been found in dry habitats similar to those of the Northwoods in Minnesota. In Wisconsin, Robbins (1969) states, "Of the 41 birds found in the summer of 1969, all but the Jackson County bird were found in the sort of 'ordinary' upland grass areas that the writer had formerly largely ignored.

The preference of these LeConte's Sparrows seemed to be for large, relatively flat areas of undisturbed pasture, or timothy hay. In Michigan, Walkinshaw (1937) describes the LeConte's Sparrow's habitat as, "Unlike the habitat of fine grasses and

**Table 1 — Percentages of different habitats found in each LeConte's Sparrow territory.**

Territories	Habitat Divisions					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	30	59	1	10		
*2	97	2	1			
*3	20					80
*4	90		5	5		
*5	88	2	10			
6					100	
7					100	
8					100	
9					100	
10					100	
11	75	20	5			
12	90	5	5			
13	90	5	5			
14	99		1			
15	65	29	1	5		
16	90	5	5			
17	80	10	3	2	5	
18	85	10	2	3		
19	30	60		10		
20	85	10		5		
21	65	30		5		
22	87	10	3			
23	95	5				
24	70	5	5		20	

A = % of Fallow Field  
 B = % of Wet Grasses  
 C = % of Shrubs

D = % of Sedges  
 E = % of Hayfield  
 F = % of Crop

\*Indicates territories found within the study area.

sedges, noted by most observers, that at Munuscong Bay, where the sparrow was not uncommon during the summer months, was the drier border of a rush-grown marsh, where the most conspicuous plant was *Scirpus validus* (Vahl)." It appears that the LeConte's Sparrow favors different habitats in different areas of its range. Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota are all part of the south-eastern limit of the LeConte's Sparrow's breeding range. It could be possible that the birds in these south-eastern sections prefer to inhabit the drier vegetation. Two of the territories found at Northwoods contained a rather large amount of a one year old Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) field. One bird's territory was entirely within the boundaries of a two-year-old Common

Sunflower field where the dominant plant was Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). Perhaps this species would be found to be more common if such drier habitats were checked more often.

Interesting unstudied questions concerning LeConte's Sparrows include postbreeding movements, relationship between territory size and vegetation type, and fidelity to territories from year to year.

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Northland College, Ashland, WI 54806

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE MINNESOTA BIRD LIST SINCE 1936

Robert B. Janssen

In the 1936 edition of "The Birds of Minnesota" T. S. Roberts listed all of the species that had occurred in the state up until that time.

The list contained 329 species in categories from Regular, Rare, Accidental to Extinct. In checking this list, I believe there was an error in the total, the actual total should have been 330 because of the addition of the Dovekie which was recorded in 1931.

It is obvious to most birders that since 1936 there have been many changes, not only in the status of many Minnesota species, but there have been many additions to the state list.

My purpose in this article is to list in chronological order the additions (and deletions) to the above mentioned list of 330 species published in 1936.

From this list, nine species have been deleted; four of these Blue Goose, Harlan's Hawk, Red-shafted Flicker and Audubon's Warbler are no longer considered full species. The Snowy Plover and Black-necked Stilt were deleted by myself and Janet Grean when we wrote "Minnesota Birds: Where, When and How Many"

(1975) because the details listed in Roberts work were so sketchy and questionable that we felt that they were not valid Minnesota species. The Snowy Plover has since been confirmed for the state while the Black-necked Stilt has yet to be recorded.

In writing this article I have deleted two species, Painted Bunting and House Finch from the Roberts list. These two species were recorded only one time in the late 19th Century and Roberts considered them possible escaped cage birds.

With these deletions we have a revised 1936 total of 322 species. The present (August 1984) Minnesota list totals 397 species. The 76 additions to the list are given below in the chronological order of their appearance in the state.

1934	Black Rail (This record was not reported until 1965).
1938	Black-throated Gray Warbler
1939	Glossy Ibis
1940	Chukar (approximate date of successful introductions)
1940	Black-headed Grosbeak
1940	Acadian Flycatcher
1941	Varied Thrush
1941	White-eyed Vireo

1942 Hooded Warbler  
 1942 Violet-green Swallow  
 1944 Sabine's Gull  
 1948 Great Black-backed Gull  
 1948 Ivory Gull  
 1951 Least Tern  
 1952 Kentucky Warbler  
 1952 Black Phoebe  
 1953 Common Eider  
 1955 Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
 1956 Little Blue Heron  
 1956 Brant  
 1958 MacGillivray's Warbler  
 1959 Rock Dove  
 1959 Cattle Egret  
 1961 Prairie Warbler  
 1961 Short-billed Dowitcher  
 1961 Blue Grosbeak  
 1962 Ross' Goose  
 1963 King Eider  
 1963 Common Poorwill  
 1963 Tricolored Heron  
 1963 Say's Phoebe  
 1963 Purple Gallinule  
 1964 Thayer's Gull  
 1964 Ruff  
 1964 Black-legged Kittiwake  
 1965 Painted Bunting  
 1966 Green-tailed Towhee  
 1966 Purple Sandpiper  
 1969 Band-tailed Pigeon  
 1969 Arctic Loon  
 1970 American Dipper  
 1970 Pomarine Jaeger  
 1971 Western Wood-Pewee  
 1972 Little Gull  
 1972 Williamson's Sapsucker  
 1973 Arctic Tern  
 1973 Mississippi Kite  
 1974 Willow Flycatcher  
 1974 Scott's Oriole  
 1974 Mute Swan  
 1974 Rufous Hummingbird  
 1974 Black-throated Sparrow  
 1974 Brewer's Sparrow  
 1974 Sage Thrasher  
 1974 Lewis' Woodpecker  
 1975 California Gull

1975 Laughing Gull  
 1976 Snowy Plover  
 1976 Curve billed Thrasher  
 1976 Common Black-Hawk  
 1976 Black-shouldered Kite  
 1977 Vermilion Flycatcher  
 1979 Townsend's Warbler  
 1980 Yellow-throated Warbler  
 1980 Yellow-billed Loon  
 1980 House Finch  
 1981 Wilson's Plover  
 1982 Northern Wheatear  
 1982 Chuck-will's-widow  
 1982 Great-tailed Grackle  
 1982 Mew Gull  
 1982 Anhinga  
 1984 Brambling  
 1984 Ross' Gull

As an added note, Dr. Roberts listed six species which were extirpated from the state as of that time. These species were Trumpeter Swan, Wild Turkey (if it ever occurred at all), American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Eskimo Curlew and Passenger Pigeon. Of these, the Passenger Pigeon is extinct and the Eskimo Curlew practically so. The American Avocet has returned to the regular list as a migrant and breeding bird, the Long-billed Curlew is now on the casual list with occasional observations since the 1950's. The Trumpeter Swan is being reintroduced, but none of the birds are yet in the wild state. The Wild Turkey was introduced into the southeastern part of the state in the 1960's and is now a regular resident in that area.

Only time will tell how many more species will be added to the State list. In the 48 years since Dr. Roberts published his list of Minnesota species, we have added an average of 1.5 species per year. There is a law of diminishing returns involved because we are dealing with a finite number of species. However, whoever thought we would see a Brambling, an Asiatic species, in Minnesota? **10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343**

# Minnesota's Breeding Bird Distribution

Robert B. Janssen and Gary Simonson

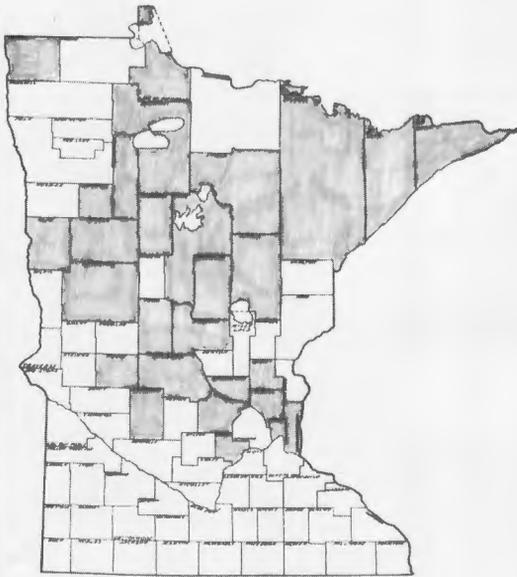
With this issue of *The Loon* we are starting a new series of maps showing the breeding distribution of those species that are known to nest in Minnesota. These maps will be published in three sections. This series covers from Common Loon to Wilson's Phalarope. In the December issue maps will cover Gulls through Thrushes and in the spring issue Vireos through Finches.

These maps are based on data compiled since 1970 from nest cards supplied by observers or records of nesting published in *The Loon*. Four species, Lesser Scaup, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow Rail, and Willet are included even though there are no nest records since 1970. Former counties where breeding took place are shown for these species.

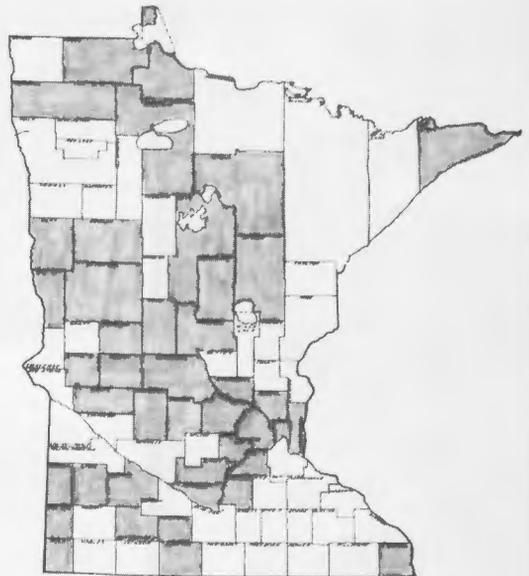
Breeding is defined as 1) Nest with eggs or young, 2) Presence of flightless young away from nest.

As will be seen from the following maps there are large gaps in the known breeding range of many species in the state, even many of the common species. We need information on breeding for all Minnesota species. Breeding cards for recording data are supplied with summer seasonal reports. Please fill them out and send them in so that we can expand our knowledge of Minnesota's breeding species.

Gary Simonson did the arduous task of compiling all of the records from information in the M.O.U. files so that these maps could be reproduced here. Our grateful thanks to him for his work.



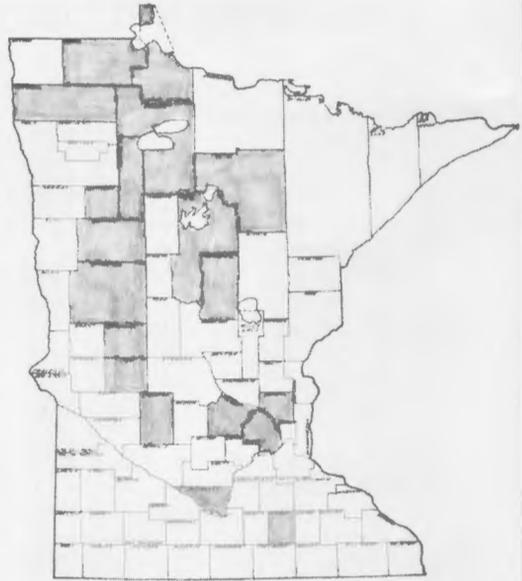
Common Loon



Pied-billed Grebe



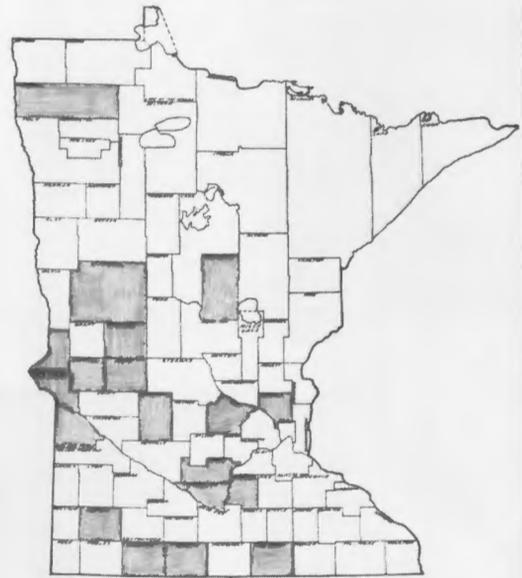
Horned Grebe



Red-necked Grebe



Eared Grebe



Western Grebe



America White Pelican



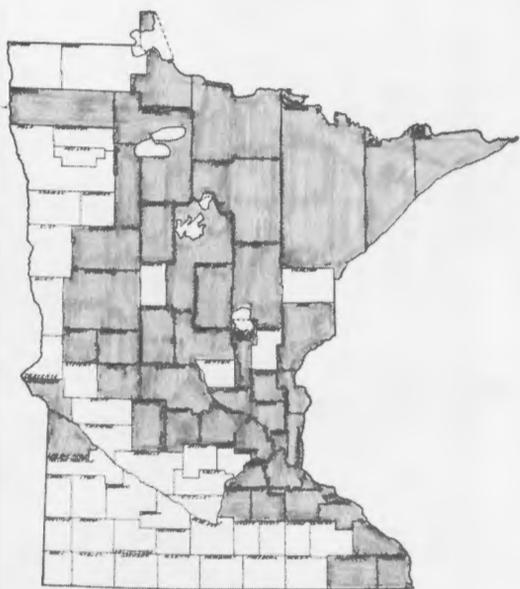
Double-crested Cormorant



American Bittern



Least Bittern



Great Blue Heron



Great Egret



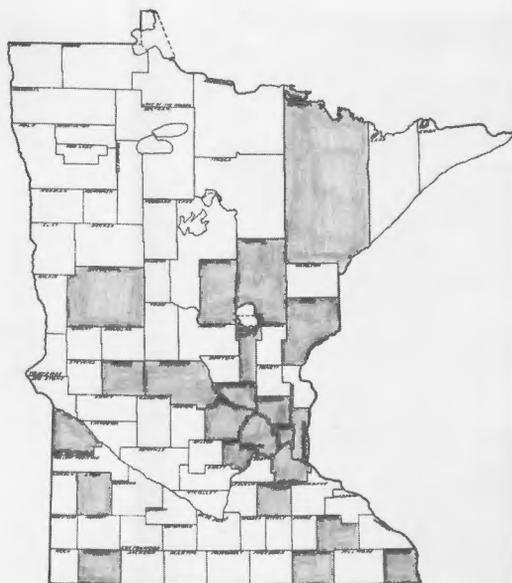
Snowy Egret



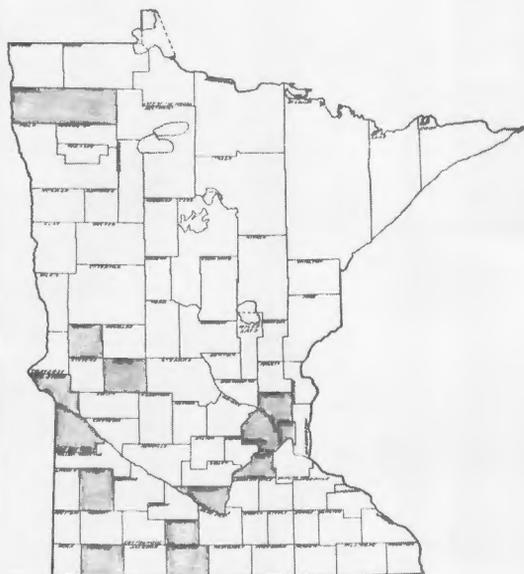
Little Blue Heron



Cattle Egret



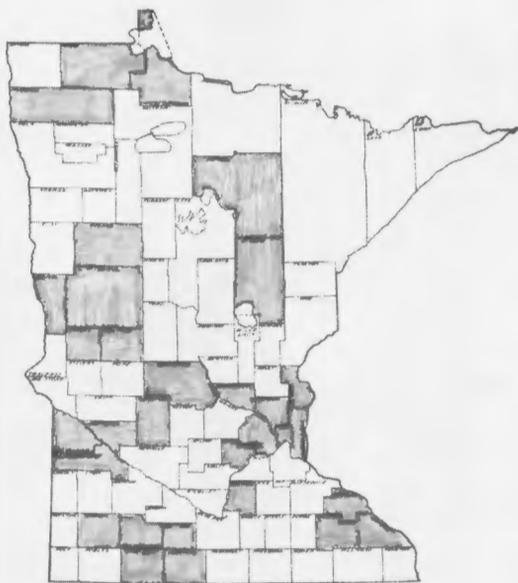
Green-backed Heron



Black-crowned Night Heron



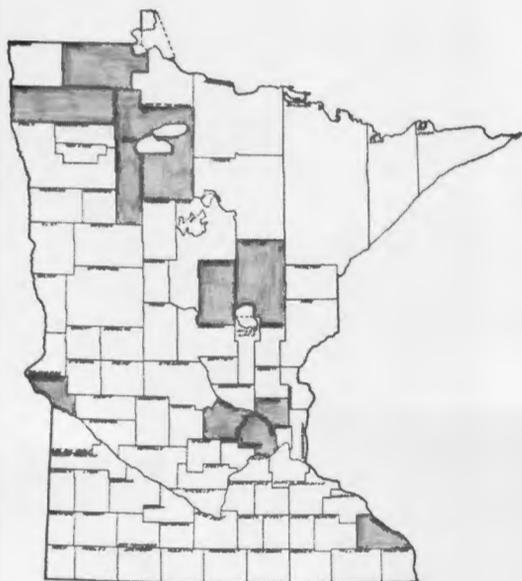
Yellow-crowned Night Heron



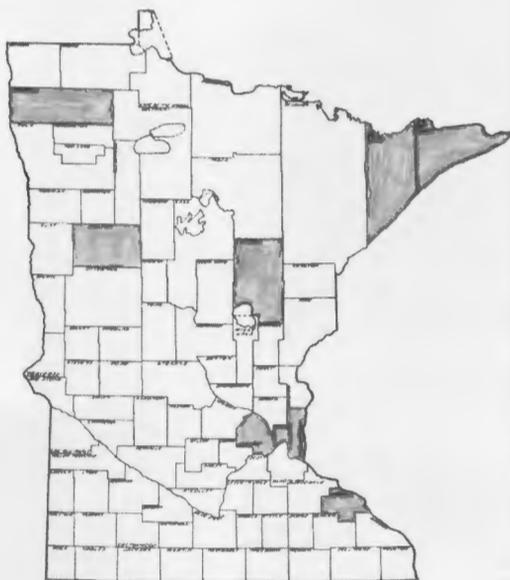
Canada Goose



Wood Duck



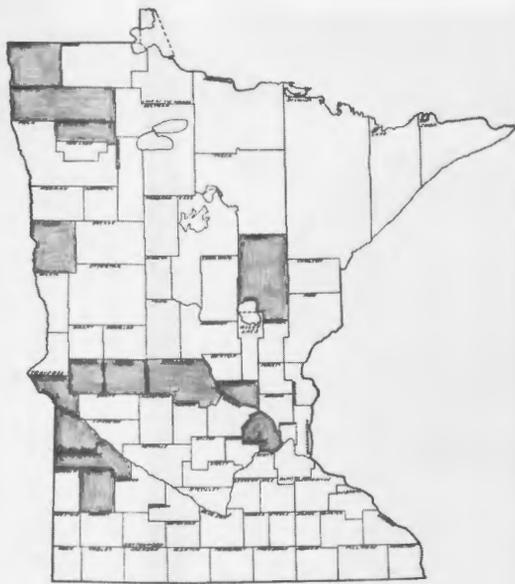
Green-winged Teal



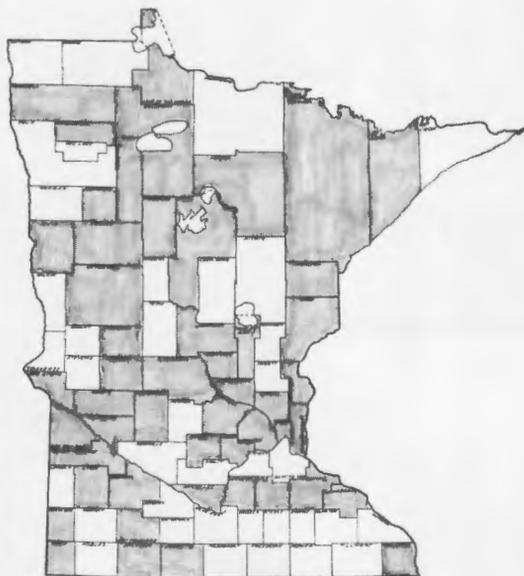
American Black Duck



Mallard



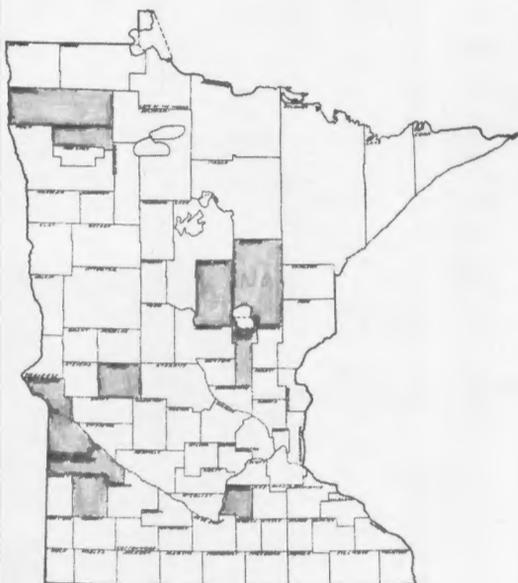
Northern Pintail



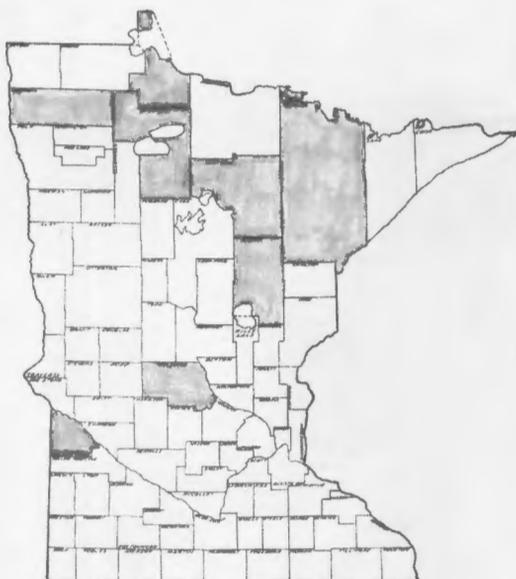
Blue-winged Teal



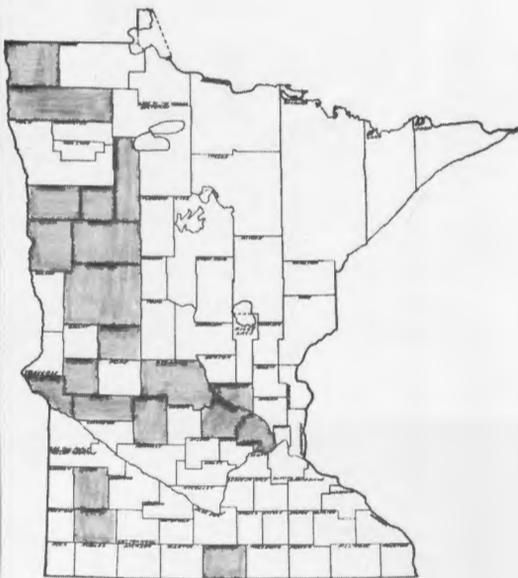
Northern Shoveler



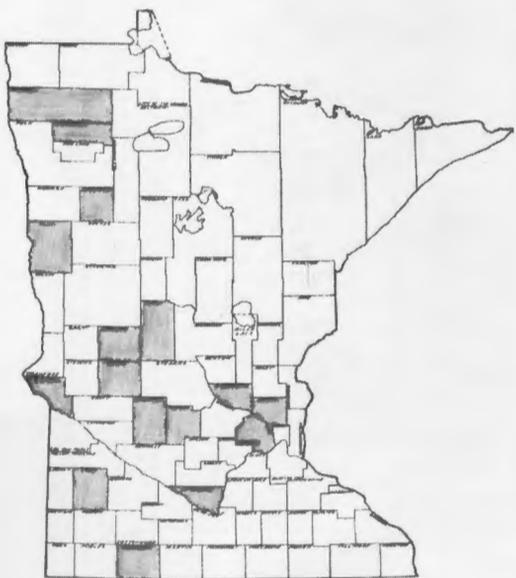
Gadwall



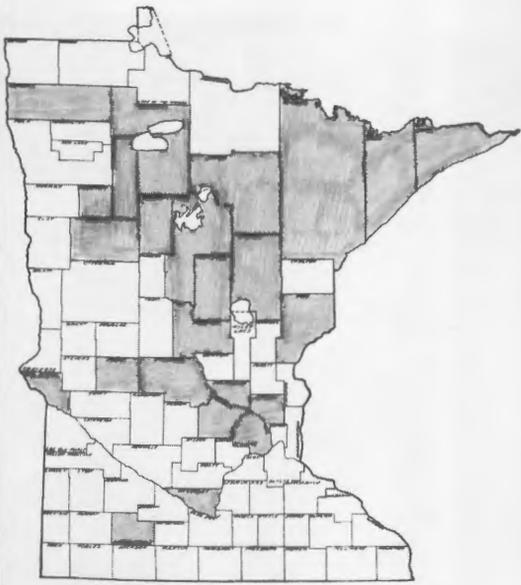
American Wigeon



Canvasback



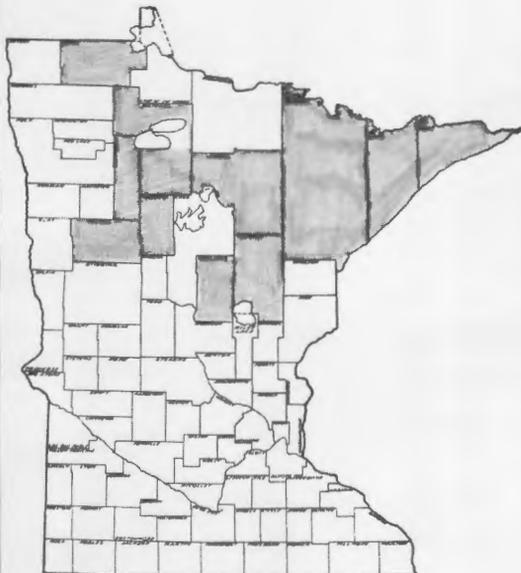
Redhead



Ring-necked Duck



Lesser Scaup



Common Goldeneye



Bufflehead



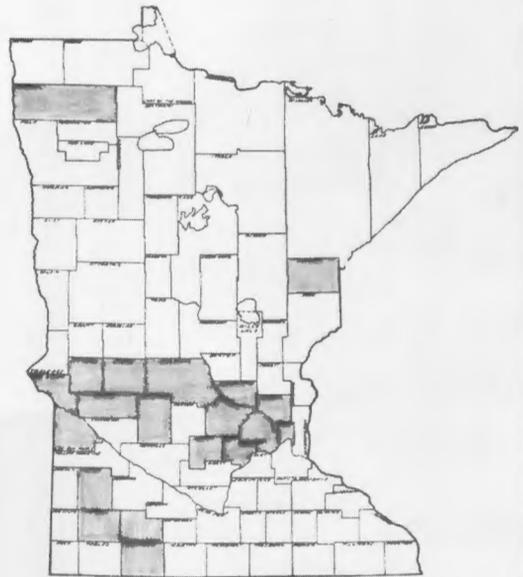
Hooded Merganser



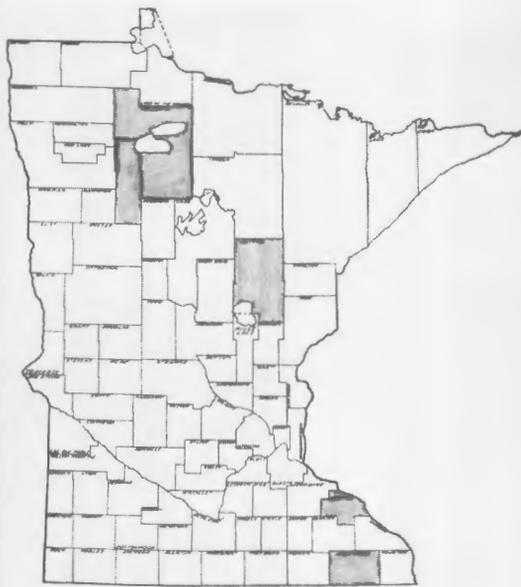
Common Merganser



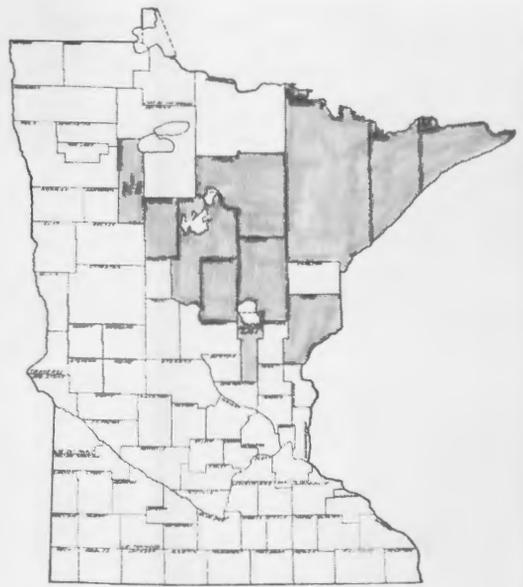
Red-breasted Merganser



Ruddy Duck



Turkey Vulture



Osprey



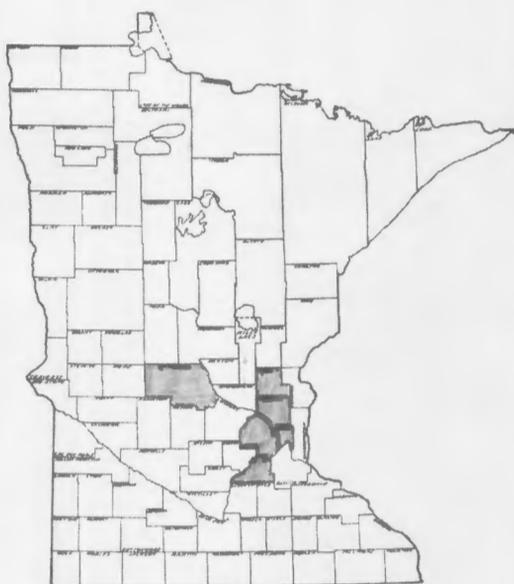
Bald Eagle



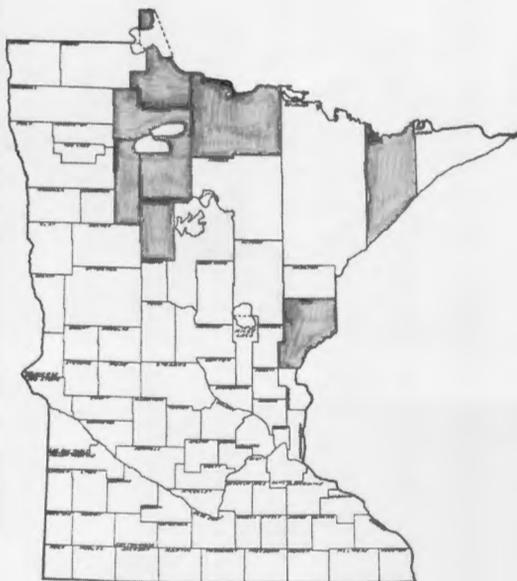
Northern Harrier



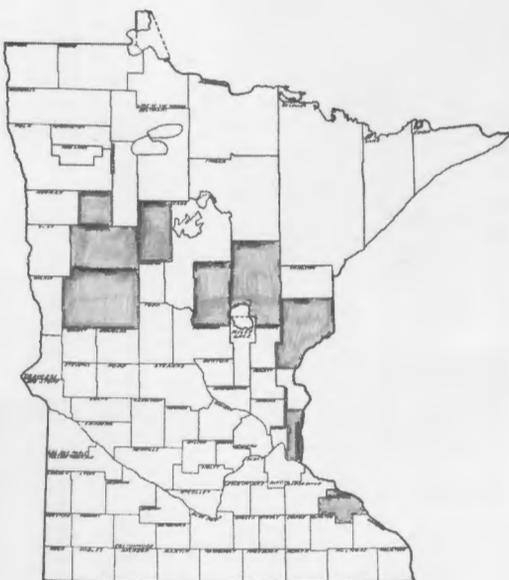
Sharp-shinned Hawk



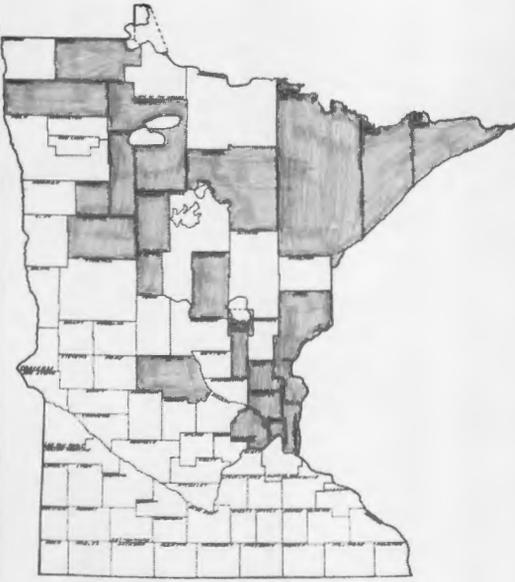
Cooper's Hawk



Northern Goshawk



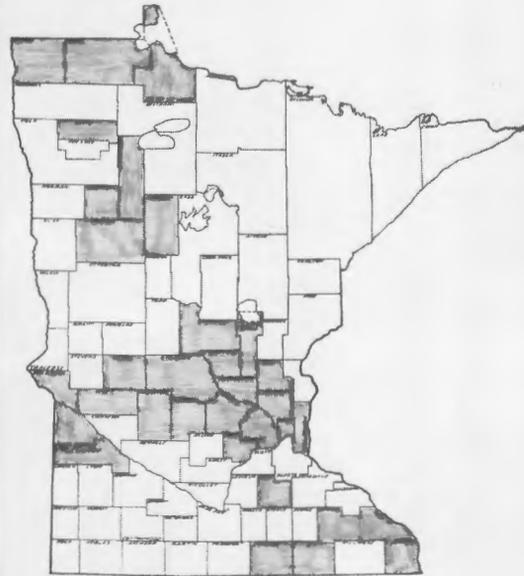
Red-shouldered Hawk



Broad-winged Hawk



Swainson's Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



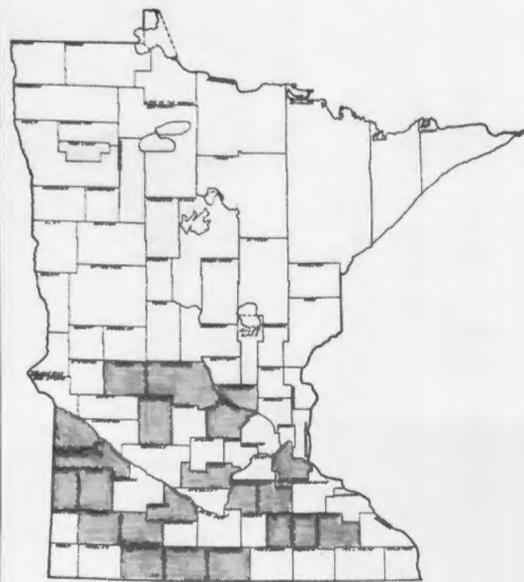
American Kestrel



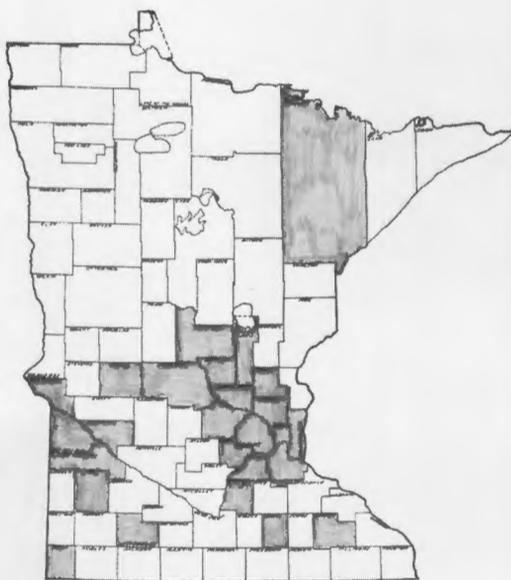
Merlin



Peregrine Falcon



Gray Partridge



Ring-necked Pheasant



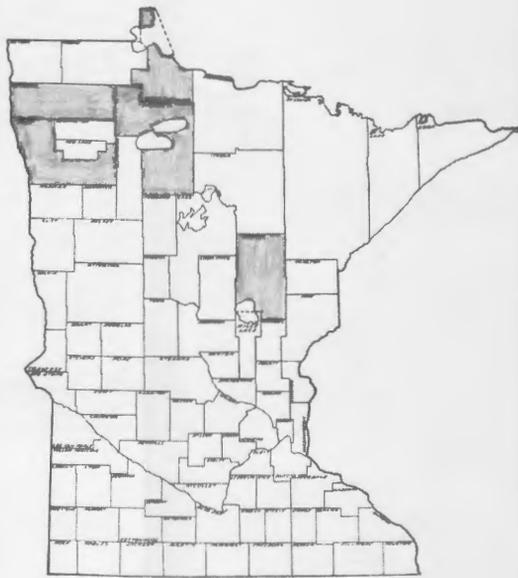
Spruce Grouse



Ruffed Grouse



Greater Prairie-Chicken



Sharp-tailed Grouse



Wild Turkey



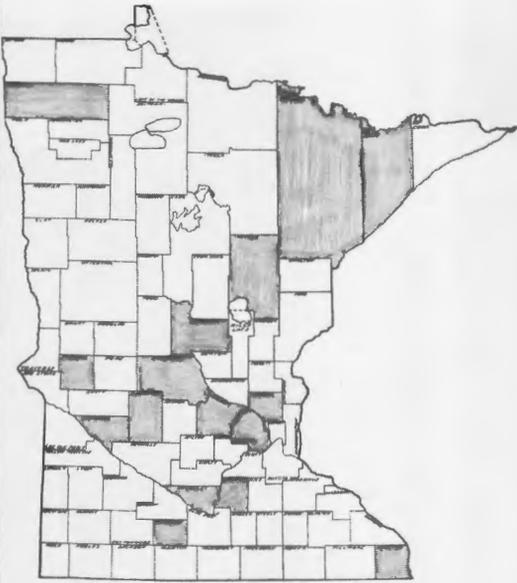
Northern Bobwhite



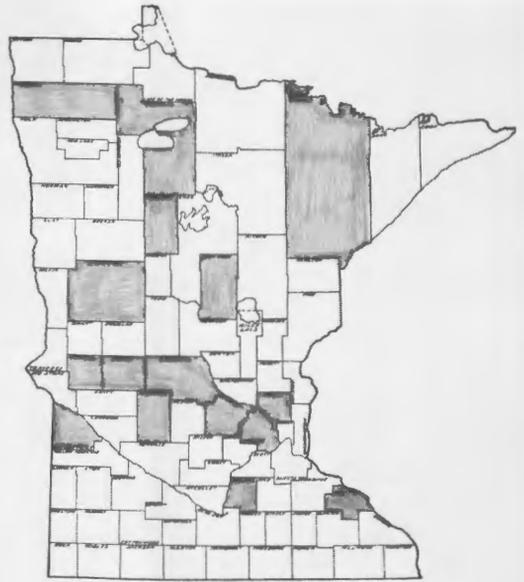
Yellow Rail



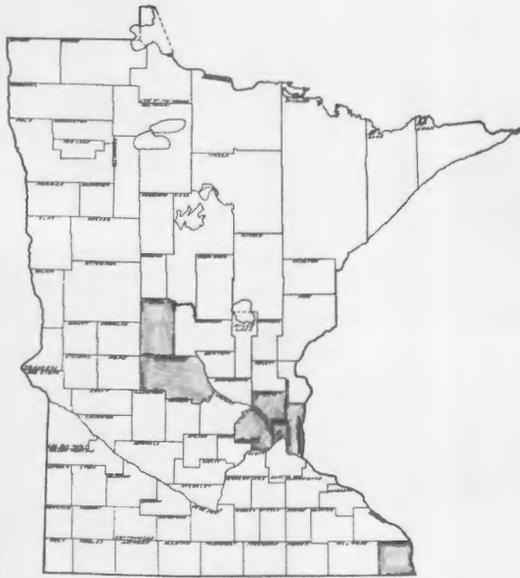
King Rail



Virginia Rail



Sora



Common Moorhen



American Coot



Sandhill Crane



Piping Plover



Killdeer



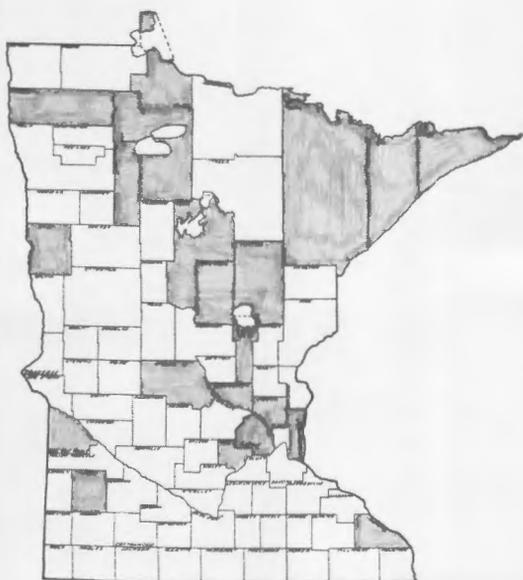
American Avocet



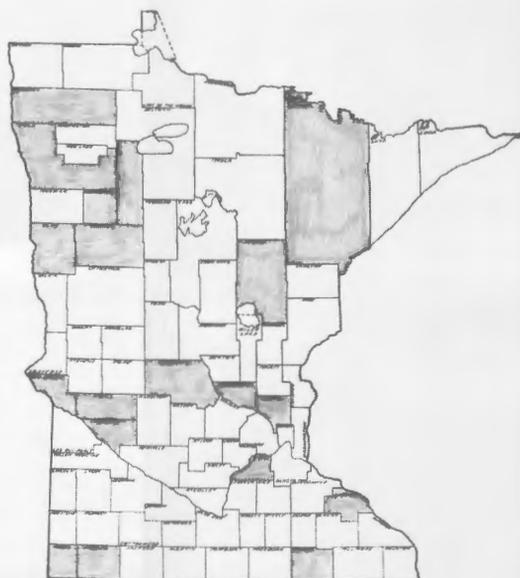
Solitary Sandpiper



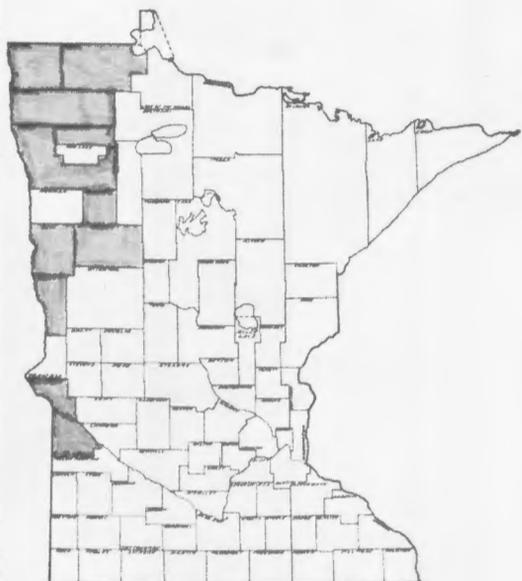
Willet



Spotted Sandpiper



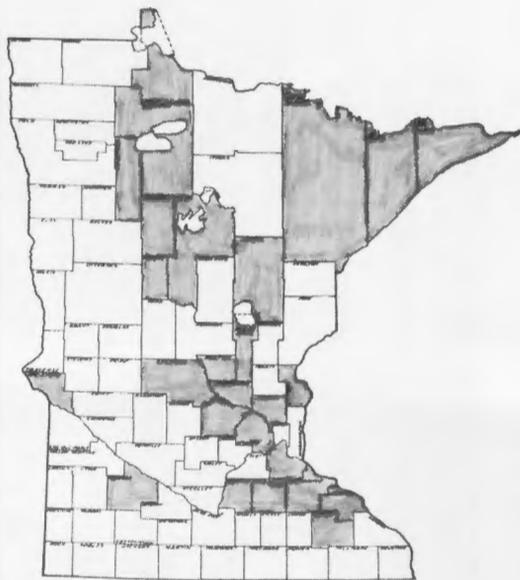
Upland Sandpiper



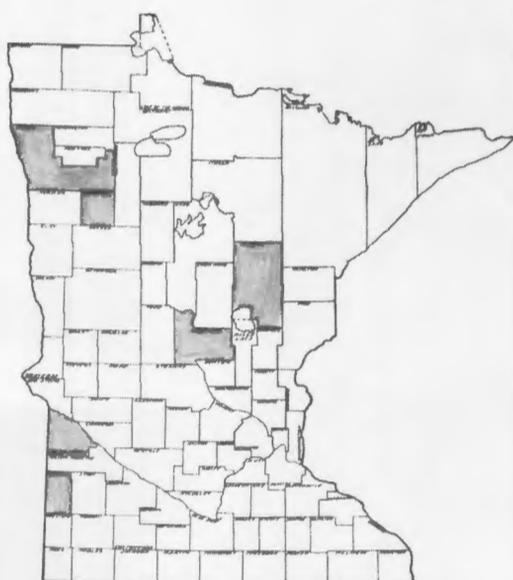
Marbled Godwit



Common Snipe



American Woodcock



Wilson's Phalarope

## Request For Information On Color-marked Greater Sandhill Cranes

Greater sandhill cranes have been color-marked at Agassiz NWR to determine their migration route and wintering grounds. Cranes that summer in east central Minnesota are known to winter in Georgia and Florida, but it is possible that the northwestern Minnesota population joins with Manitoba birds in their migration to Texas.

Resident cranes at Agassiz NWR have been marked with green 2x6 inch tags (with white lettering) attached to number 9 USFWS locking leg bands. Each bird has only one tag, with the band placed above the ankle (tarsal) joint (see diagram). All tags have a combination of one letter followed by two numbers. In addition, some birds have been radio-tagged (frequency of 164 MHz).



If you see or hear of a sandhill crane with such a marker, please notify:

Dr. A.H. Grewe, Jr.  
Department of Biological Sciences  
St. Cloud State University  
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301  
(612) 255-4135  
(612) 251-5838

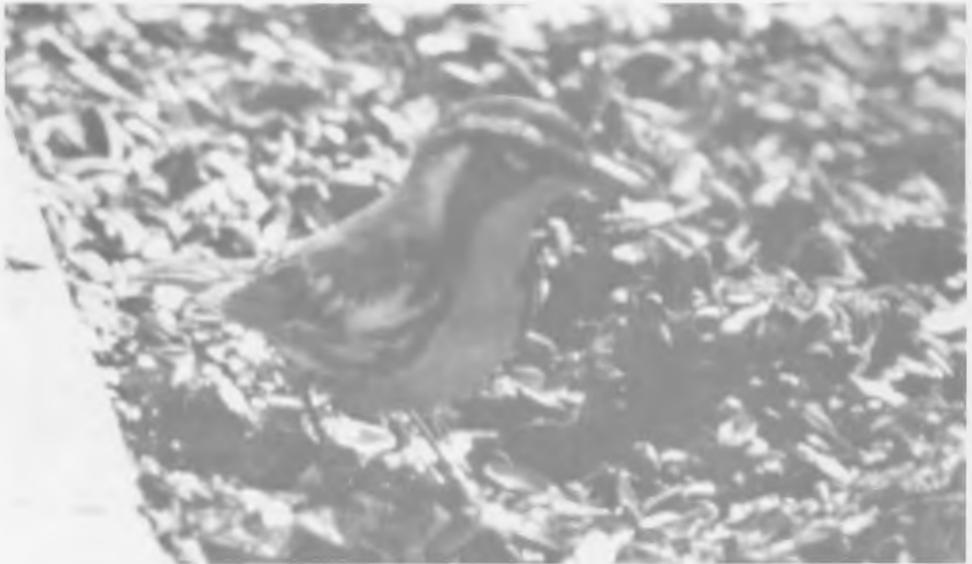
Refuge Manager  
Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge  
Middle River, Minnesota 56737  
or (218) 449-4115

The date of observation, exact location, and, if possible, the letter/number combination are of particular importance. We would also appreciate if you would bring this request for information to the attention of others who may be in a position to observe any of these color-marked cranes. All reports will be acknowledged.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Notes of Interest

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY** — On May 7, 1984, at about 7:25 in the evening we happened to glance out at the wooden tray under our sunflower feeder near the living room window. We knew right away that it was a bird not common to this area. We looked it up in several field guides and were excited to discover that the bird was a Yellow-throated Warbler. The bird returned again on the evening of May 8th and in the morning and evening of May 9th. On the 9th the bird was cooperative enough for us to photograph it. **Jackie Lay and Vince Harnick, 9417 N. Jane Ct., Lake Elmo, MN 55042**



**Yellow-throated Warbler, Lake Elmo, Washington Co.  
May 9, 1984. Photo by Jackie Lay.**

**XANTHOCHROISTIC EVENING GROSBEAK IN AITKIN COUNTY** — Birders — are you looking for a new word to impress your friends with? If so, this may be the one for you. Lately, I have used the word on several people. Some thought I had made it up but most of them couldn't believe I knew a word over three syllables long (probably not without some justification). Anyway, it is a real word. Xanthochroism (zan-thow-krow-ism) is a very rare abnormality in birds that have predominantly yellow plumage. The abnormality is caused by the loss of the dark pigments in the feathers, allowing the natural yellow pigments to completely dominate and appear much brighter. In this case, we have an Evening Grosbeak without any black coloring. I first heard about the bird from Hulda Lind, a very good friend who lives near Gun Lake — about thirteen miles northeast of Aitkin. It had been seen at a couple of feeders in the area.

So, I spent the better part of two days looking all over the place only to find out that no one had seen it in a few days and no one had taken any pictures of it. I got a second chance on March 28, 1984. Jon Steblay, a science teacher and birdwatcher, called to say he had an all yellow grosbeak at his feeder. He lives about six miles east of Aitkin near Rossburg. I spent the next three days looking all over that area and camping on his back porch to no avail. No bird — no pictures — lots of frustration. Sometime later, another good friend, Irma Kurtz, came in to show me pictures that her son Carl had taken of an all yellow grosbeak that had been at her feeder for a couple days in mid-April. Irma lives about two miles straight south of Aitkin. So now I know what it looked like. I will say this about the whole experience — even though I didn't see the bird personally, I sure learned a lot about the migration pattern of one small flock of grosbeaks. **Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St. N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.**



**Xanthochroistic Evening Grosbeak, Aitkin Co.  
April, 1984. Photo by Paul Kurtz.**

**Editors Note:** The above information brings up a very interesting point in the coloring of feathers in birds. In "The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds" by John K. Terres (1980) the definition of Xanthochroism is as follows: "an abnormal yellow of the plumage, very rare in the wild, ——. It is thought to result from the loss of dark pigment (melanin) in the feathers which allows the yellow carotenoid pigment to dominate ——" Under albinism in the same reference the following is stated, "Brown pigment seems more likely to disappear and be replaced by albinistic white than red or yellow pigments". Though the above described bird is most likely a xanthochroistic individual, it could also be a partial albino with the brown pigments disappearing leaving only the yellow. It is interesting to note that the wings on this bird are totally white rather than a combination of brown and white in a normal plumaged bird. Was this individual a xanthochroistic partial albinistic bird?

**A HOUSE FINCH IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On the night of June 10, 1984, I received a phone call from Martha Leitch, a very good friend and an avid birdwatcher. A friend of hers, Rowene Saunders, was looking for someone to photograph a bird which was coming into her feeder. She knew it was something very different and thought it might be a House Finch. Well, my first thought was that she had an odd Purple Finch — there couldn't be a House Finch this close to home. After all, rarities are only found at the very farthest points in the state — right? But after talking to Rowene, I realized that she knew her birds very well and was very specific with her description of the bird. I drove out the next evening after work. Burleigh and Rowene Saunders live on the north side of Ripple Lake about six miles south of Aitkin. The weather was lousy — rainy, windy, and dark. But I wanted to see just what they had at their feeder. Talking to them, I found out that the bird had first been seen on May 11, exactly one month earlier. But



House Finch, Ripple Lake, Aitkin County, June 12, 1984. Photo by Warren Nelson

it would be there for a couple days, then disappear for a couple days and then reappear for a day or two. It started coming in pretty regularly just a couple days before and Rowene sat down with her bird books and examined them very closely — it had to be a House Finch even though it didn't belong here. The Saunders were very accomodating and the two hours that I spent waiting went by fast. Finally, the bird landed on their thistle feeder along with several Purple Finches. But it landed with its back to me. Even though it was getting quite dark, I could tell it was much different than the Purple Finches. Compared to the Purple Finches, it was slimmer, had a longer tail which was not as deeply notched and had two very distinct fine white wing bars. I was sure that Rowene's identification was correct. I asked her if it was all right if Jo Blanich came over during the next day to see it and to confirm our beliefs. Jo went over the next morning and with daylight and much nicer weather did indeed confirm that it was a House Finch. Jo, Steve Blanich and I went back that evening and Steve and I managed to get a few identifiable pictures (through two panes of glass, with diminishing light, and pretty much into the setting sun — but very happy to get them). It was last seen on Thursday morning, June 14. After that, the Saunders had to get ready for company that was coming the next day and couldn't pay too much attention to the feeders for a while. However, apparently with the added activity, the bird disappeared and this time it was for good. Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St. N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.

**A KING RAIL IN DULUTH** — On June 9, 1984, I discovered a King Rail in the marsh on the west side of Mud Lake, which is a shallow backwater area of the St. Louis River in the Gary–New Duluth portion of Duluth. I was walking with Keith Camburn, Mary Gabrys, Ray Newman and Nancy Voss along the railroad tracks which run through the lake, looking for Least Bitterns which I had found here earlier that week. Since a calling Virginia Rail was also present near the tracks, I played my tape recorder in an effort to draw the rail in to the open. To my surprise and disbelief, in apparent response to the Virginia Rail tape, what sounded to me like a King Rail began calling from the marsh about 75 yards from the tracks. Although I had never heard a King Rail in real life, I was familiar with its call from the recordings that accompany the 1965 National Geographic Society book **Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America** and the new National Geographic **Field Guide to the Birds of North America**. The call was a loud, rattling trill usually preceded by one or two introductory notes: “tic trr-rr-rr” or “tic tic trr-rr-rr”. Only occasionally did the rail give the descending grunting or quacking series similar to the Virginia Rail; although this latter call is the one usually as-

sociated with the King Rail, I am of the opinion that King Rails give the rattling trill call more often. Since we could not see the rail and since I considered the King Rail "impossible" in Duluth, my first reaction was that we were actually hearing a frog or other animal giving an unfamiliar call. After a few minutes we walked back to the car and I found that I brought along a tape with the appropriate King Rail call. Playing this tape elicited a constant and vigorous response from the rail, and at that point I was convinced this actually was a King Rail. However, we were still unable to see the bird, so Keith, Ray and I drove back to eastern Duluth, picked up Keith's canoe, and returned to Mud Lake. After paddling over to where we last heard the rail, the tape was again played, and again the rail vigorously answered and drew closer to us. But to my surprise the rail never walked into the open to become visible. In spite of the bird's size and even though it was only an estimated 20 feet back in the marsh, we failed to see it after perhaps a half hour of searching from the canoe. At that point we finally waded into the relatively deep, cattail-type marsh, and after several minutes of stalking the calling bird, we finally succeeded in flushing it. It was indeed a King Rail, clearly and obviously much larger than a Virginia Rail — about the size of a teal — and during its brief flight we also noted its long bill, overall reddish brown plumage, and vertical flank streaking.

The King Rail was easily heard by other observers until about June 16, but only two other birding parties actually saw it, and then only after a considerable effort. A thorough check of this location June 28 was unsuccessful, so it is assumed the rail failed to find a mate and moved on. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**LARK BUNTING IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On Sunday, May 20, 1984, I received a phone call from Bernice Maattala, a good friend who lives about eight miles south of McGregor along Highway 65. "Warren, I'm sure that I have a Lark Bunting at my feeder. According to my book, that's the only thing that it can be, but it's not supposed to be here." "Is it black with white in the wings?" "It sure is." "I'll be there just as soon as I can." When I drove into the yard, it was sitting in the middle of the road and yes, it was a Lark Bunting — a beautiful male. We went into the house and watched from the window for quite a while. It would spend a lot of time on the tops of the buildings being harrassed by the Barn Swallows, then it would fly out into the fields for quite a long time. Finally, it would fly in and land on the feeder as soon as the American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins had left. It would feed for a few minutes, fly off and then begin the whole ritual all over again. What a beautiful bird! It was there for five days — until Thursday, May 24. After that, the Maattalas left on vacation to Alaska and their bird apparently left with them. **Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St. N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.**



**Lark Bunting, near MacGregor, Aitkin County, May 20, 1984. Photo by Warren Nelson**

**HUDSONIAN GODWITS IN JULY** — Hudsonian Godwits are well represented in Minnesota during the spring migration. The past spring (1984) saw large numbers pass through the state with observers reporting large numbers of birds from localities where they are not normally reported. I saw three individuals as late as June 2, 1984 in the flooded Minnesota River Valley near St. Peter, Nicollet County. In the fall Hudsonian Godwits only rarely if ever migrate through the interior preferring to migrate along the east coast of the United States to their wintering grounds in southern South America. There are less than 10 records for the fall in Minnesota, two in August (August 8, 19 Duluth), three in September, three in October and one in November (November 5, 1975, Duluth). The species had never been recorded in the state in July until July 17, 1983 when one was seen at Pine and Curry Island, Lake of the Woods County (*The Loon* 56:85). This year (1984) on July 4, Ron Kneeskern of Austin informed me that he had seen one Hudsonian Godwit on that day in a flooded field near Lansing, Mower County. On July 14, 1984 Ray Glassel and I were looking for shorebirds in south central Minnesota. We had just stopped at the Madelia (Watonwan County) sewage ponds and noticed a few Lesser Yellowlegs, one Pectoral Sandpiper and a Semipalmated Plover flying overhead to the south. We went about two miles south of the ponds and found a large flooded field about ¼ mile off the road. The flooded field was literally covered with shorebirds, 100's of Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, many unidentified (because of the distance even for a 20× scope) peeps. We noted a few Short-billed Dowitchers and one Wilson's Phalarope, but most interesting were eight larger shorebirds feeding and resting on the opposite side of the field. After a few minutes we could tell the birds were Hudsonian Godwits, the white rump, black band on the end of the tail, slightly upturned bill and dark underbelly were obvious. The birds were still in spring plumage. We could hardly believe our eyes. Why this species showed up in the state in July 1984 in two locations is difficult to interpret. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka MN 55343.**

**A PAIR OF ROCK WRENS AT BEMIDJI** — A pair of Rock Wrens were discovered in Bemidji, Beltrami County on May 27, 1984. As with many unusual birds, the discovery was strictly by accident. I was walking fast paying no special attention to birding other than the awareness that birders nurture, a 6th sense. My route took me through the North Bemidji rail yard. Near some boxcars I heard a barely audible call note — "cheeee," of a buzzy quality. The note was so familiar that I never really slowed down. It finally registered, however, that the familiarity was from living for many years in the West and that it was indeed a Rock Wren. Observation on that day and over the next few weeks were made of two Rock Wrens at this location. The two were almost continually near (10-20 feet) to each other, frequently calling from the highest available open perch. Their daily territory centered in a 30 by 60 foot area of brick and old timbers; rubble from an old rail garage and roundhouse. They would venture out in two directions from there, sometimes sitting on or in railcars, a pulpwood pile, old rails, or feeding between the rails — always avoiding vegetation — never more than 100 yards from the rubble pile. Often the birds would dart into the air after insects flycatcher style.

The pair were seen frequently carrying fine grass and very slender twigs to one spot at the northeast corner of the rubble pile about 2-3 feet above ground level. Also larger wafer-like objects were sometimes carried. These were probably thin pieces of fractured brick or may have been flakes of bark. This activity was most evident from May 27 to May 30. On June 2nd copulation was observed.

On June 5th I arrived after work in the afternoon to find a log truck hauling old beams and timber out of the rubble. This activity had apparently been going on all day. The two birds were perched 30 feet from the truck, just above the probable nest area. The nest site had not been disturbed directly. I learned that the bricks had been sold for salvage. The following day I convinced the staff at Burlington-Northern to halt the salvage until after the birds had finished breeding.



**Rock Wren at Bemidji, June 2, 1984. Photo by Warren Nelson**

On June 6th I was unable to look for the wrens, but saw one briefly on the 7th, south of the first site, but still in the area of rubble. They were seen on several days after this, generally at the second site (at the roundhouse). Calling was much less frequent and they were often difficult to locate at all. Sightings became sporadic, with the last known sighting of one (possibly two) birds at the roundhouse on June 17th.

The appearance of two birds so far from the normal range and for these to be a pair, seems perhaps, too much for coincidence. Having observed their habit of entering empty boxcars in the rail yard in search of food, one might speculate at the possibility of their arrival by rail to Bemidji. Perhaps they had attempted to nest in a boxcar further west and were carried east, a trip of perhaps a day.

Although perhaps the pair would not have nested successfully so far out of their normal range, I feel that other factors were perhaps more influential. Their routine seemed to change after the timbers were extracted on June 5th. In addition, kids were seen throwing rocks in the area and a family of hungry American Crows were nesting only 60 feet away. **Al Schmierer, P.O. Box 602, Bemidji, MN 56601.**

**WORM-EATING WARBLER IN WASECA COUNTY** — On May 8, 1984 while birding at Courthouse Park near Wilton, south of Waseca, Waseca County, I observed a Worm-eating Warbler. The bird was seen in bright sunlight for about 15 minutes at distances of 20 to 75 feet. A description of the bird is as follows: Bill slender and sharp appearing, head buffy or tan with four black stripes — one through each eye and two broader ones bordering the crown. Back, wings and tail unmarked olive brown color. Throat and breast a rich golden tan which looked brighter than shown in the field guides, probably due to the bright sunlight. When first seen, the bird was on the ground and at other times in low shrubbery. When I "pushed" the bird came up on a bare branch

about 20 feet from me and about 10 feet off the ground. It about on the branch in an agitated manner as an Ovenbird often does. **Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

**HOUSE FINCH AT ST. CLOUD** — I first noticed the bird alone on the feeder at our home at 3:00 P.M. on March 18, 1984. It attracted my attention since we had not had Purple Finches coming for several weeks. However, as soon as I looked at it, I was struck by the "redder" red and noted the crisp distinctive streaks on the flanks and the contrast of bright red over the eye with the dark crown. The bird left within less than a minute and I got the field guide to check on the House Finch. The bird returned about 3:30 P.M., all alone again and I looked at it at eye level, through the dining room window, field guide in my hand, while my wife looked at it from a second story window. She could see the dark crown and back and bright red rump very clearly. I checked the male Purple Finch specimens in our collection at St. John's University the next day and remain convinced the bird was not a Purple Finch. **Norman Ford, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321.**

**BRANT SEEN NEAR GRAND MARAIS** — At about 11:00 A.M. on April 21, 1984 on Highway 61, ten miles or so northeast of Grand Marais, Cook County, we had seen several flocks of 60 to 100 Canada Geese coming in off Lake Superior from Grand Marais northward. While observing one flock I noticed five much smaller individuals flying in line near, but not with the Canada Geese. My first thought was that they were ducks, but noticed that they had very short necks. The head and necks were blackish and the belly was light grayish. As the flock passed us and flew parallel to the lakeshore, I realized that they might be something different so I turned the car around (we were southbound) and got to the north of the flock. They were moving about 15 mph. The five small birds were again easy to pick out as they were still moving along with the Canada's. Their wing-beats were deep and somewhat faster than the Canada's, their wings were dark brown with no speculum. The white cheek patches on the Canada's were easily visible, but I couldn't be sure if there were any white hash marks on the necks of these five individuals which we identified as Brant. **Ken LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

**CALIFORNIA GULL AT AGASSIZ NWR** — While observing gulls on the ice on the lake near the Agassiz NWR headquarters in Marshall County on April 12, 1984, I noticed one bird intermediate in size between the Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Both of these species were in close proximity to the individual identified as an adult California Gull. This bird had yellowish-green legs and a black and red spot on the lower mandible. Otherwise it was in adult plumage and resembled the nearby Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. This individual did not appear to have a long slender bill and rounded head, but of the California Gulls seen a day earlier in North Dakota, some had these features and others did not. **Ken LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

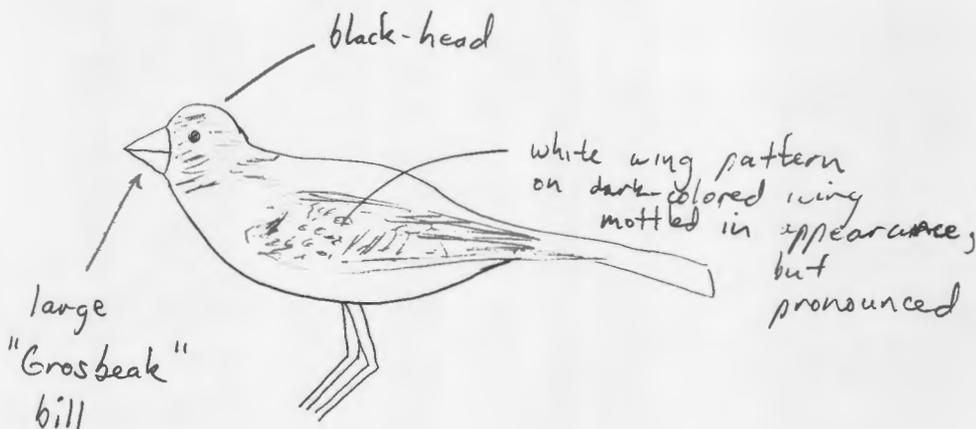
**ARCTIC TERN AT CARLOS AVERY REFUGE** — On May 27, 1984 at 5:35 P.M. I saw an Arctic Tern in with four Common Terns and 35 Caspian Terns resting on a small island 300 feet from the road at Carlos Avery WMA, Anoka County. Most noticeable was the white line separating gray underparts from a black cap. The legs were shorter than those of the nearby Common Terns. The bill was all red, otherwise this individual appeared all gray. I viewed the bird for about ten minutes during which time the bird did not fly or move. Light overcast skies with good light. Viewed with a 20 × 45 Scope at full power. The bird was not seen at 7:30 P.M. when I returned. **Ken LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

**Editor's Note:** This is the first observation of an Arctic Tern in Minnesota away from the Duluth harbor area.



**Common Barn-Owl — Found dead in a barn at the Intersection of Solway and Arrowhead Roads, Hermantown, St. Louis County in January 1984. Photo by Lance Kuester of Duluth Fish and Wildlife Office.**

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN ST. PAUL** — A Black-headed Grosbeak was sighted on May 24, 1984 by us at our home in St. Paul. The bird alighted on a honey locust and a telephone line for about five minutes affording an excellent, unobstructed view with 7 × 35 MM binoculars. The time was about 7:00 P.M., and the grosbeak was to the east providing good lighting conditions. Coloration was very similar to that of the Orchard Oriole, but the large bill suggested a grosbeak. The identification was confirmed by referring to Peterson's Western Field Guide within 15 minutes of the sighting. **Robert Skarjune and Linda Treeful, 1122 Raleigh, St. Paul, MN 55108.**



Coloration very similar to Orchard Oriole, but bill very large. Overall shape of bird that of Grosbeak.

Field sketch of Black-headed Grosbeak, May 24, 1984, St. Paul, Ramsey County

**TRI-COLORED HERON IN HENNEPIN COUNTY** — On May 4, 1984 at the junction of Highway 494 and Hennepin County Road 9, I saw a Tricolored Heron flying over a marshy lake at 10:00 A.M. I sighted the bird soaring over the lake with intermittent flaps. My first guess was Snowy Egret from size and appearance (back lighting). With the binoculars the dark breast and head and wings immediately led me to the conclusion it was either a Little Blue or Tricolored Heron. The white belly concluded it was indeed the Tricolored. It circled slowly over the lake, gull-like for the two minutes, then flapped off in a southeasterly direction. Had I known the status of this bird, I would have pursued it. **Mark Alt, 6915 Humboldt Ave. N., Brooklyn Center, MN 55430.**

**FIRST SUMMER RECORD OF GOLDEN EAGLE IN MINNESOTA** — On Monday June 4, 1984 Don Bolduc and I had a most interesting observation at the Felton Prairie area in Clay County. After having spent about one hour birding the prairie a light rain shower moved in and somewhat prematurely ended our search for avian specialities of the area. We had observed Marbled Godwits, several Grasshopper Sparrows and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. We also had the opportunity of observing several minutes

of the courtship display flight of a male Sprauge's Pipit. As we were leaving I noticed a large dark object on the upper edge of a massive pile of overburden which had been pushed up to permit access to the higher quality gravel found below. My first impression was that it had a large buteo shape, however I initially dismissed this idea as being highly unlikely and considered it to be a piece of scrap metal from the gravel processing machinery. A second look convinced me that a more careful examination with binoculars should be made. I was most surprised to note that it was an eagle. Careful observation with a 20× telescope revealed a bluish bill, golden colored feathers on the nape and finally as the bird was preening the white feathers of the rump and upper tail were seen as well as the dark terminal band on the tail. To leave no doubt in our mind that this was indeed an immature Golden Eagle the bird was flushed and its 6-7 feet wingspan further substantiated the bird's identity. There have been no previous reports of Golden Eagles in Clay County and this represents the first June record for Minnesota. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.**

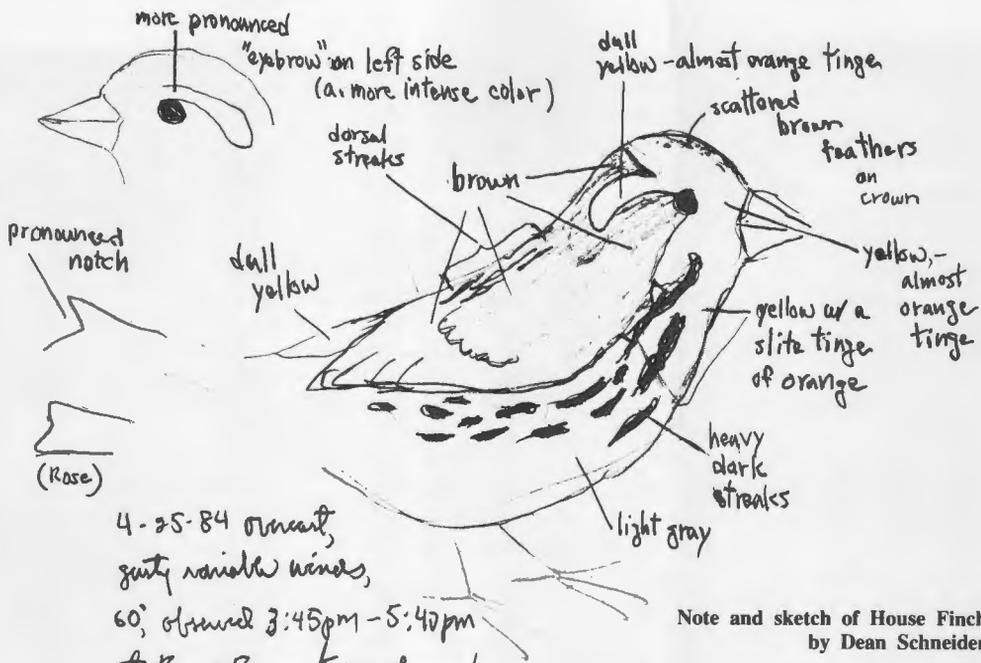
**BLUE GROSBEAK IN OLMSTED COUNTY** — On May 27, 1984, Nola Hoyt and I were looking for birds and wildflowers in Oxbow Park north of Byron, Olmsted County at about 3:30 p.m. We had emerged from a wooded trail, crossed a bridge in the northern section of the park, and were walking through a picnic/camping area on our way back to the car. I noticed a bird flying out of the woods and across the stream. The bird swooped down about 30 yards in front of us just two or three feet off the ground and flew up into a tree ahead of us and to our left. I noticed a definite blue color to the bird as it flew in front of us and immediately I assumed that it was probably an Eastern Bluebird since we had seen that species in this particular area within the week before. We walked ahead a bit and I viewed the bird in my 10×50 binoculars as it perched between the leaves in clear view on one of the higher branches of the tree. My very first impression was that it was a Blue Grosbeak, at least as I had remembered the Blue Grosbeak from my field guides. Nola was unable to locate the bird in her binoculars so I listed the field marks to her. The large, blue beak caught my eye at once, and the bird showed a definite blue color in general with black or a darkening of color on its face near the beak. The grayish color of the wings was in obvious contrast to the coloration of the rest of the body. A search for further detail showed a dark reddish-orange wing-bar and a light or white coloring on the edges of the feathers toward the top of the wing. After viewing the bird for about three minutes I looked away to try to describe its location to Nola, but she was unable to find it and the bird soon flew away. As the bird flew off I took my Peterson's field guide out of my backpack. I was amazed at how well the drawing of the Blue Grosbeak matched the bird I had just seen. I also checked what I had just seen against the drawings in the field guide of the Indigo Bunting and the Eastern Bluebird — the only birds I could think of that might be similar. I eliminated them both as possibilities since the bluebird is smaller and its colors are far too different, the bunting is also too small, and neither bird has the large, blue beak, or the obvious color-bar on the wings. Never having seen this species before, on arriving home I immediately consulted my "Birds of North America," (Golden and National Geographic), and was assured and convinced that the bird I had seen was a Blue Grosbeak. When I told Jerry Bonkoski, president of the Olmsted County Audubon Society, of my finding, he told me that the Blue Grosbeak had never before been seen in Olmsted County. **Charles M. Juhnke, 305 8th Ave. N.W., Kasson, MN 55944.**

**FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING OF PINE SISKINS IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA** — On May 3, 1984 I was leading the Winona State University ornithology class on a field trip to the cemetery on the hills overlooking U.S. Highway 61 and Huff Street. We saw about 20 Pine Siskins in the cemetery, but since siskins are abundant during May of some years in the Twin Cities area, I assumed that the birds were migrants and would soon be departing. Some of the students wanted a closer look at a siskin,

and eventually I pointed out a bird conveniently located 4 m up in a nearby pine tree. The bird had a pine twig in its beak and flew to a white cedar. Several seconds later the bird returned for a second twig and deposited it in a nest on a rather exposed branch about 7 m up in the cedar. On May 9 the nest was apparently complete with siskins nearby, and we found another siskin nest about 5 m up in a pine tree. On May 16 a siskin was sitting on the first nest, doubtless incubating. On May 22 both nests were deserted, probably victims of predators. Common Grackles were abundant in the cemetery. Gray squirrels, red squirrels, and Blue Jays were present in small numbers. There were at least 20 siskins in the cemetery, and it is highly likely that additional nests were also built. The cemetery had scattered deciduous trees and less than 200 conifers. I could find no obvious reason for the siskins to attempt breeding there. None of the conifers had even a moderate seed crop. The weather had been cool and insects were not abundant. This is the first confirmed nesting of Pine Siskins in Minnesota south of the Twin Cities. Siskins have bred in many states south of Minnesota (see for example, A. C. Bent, *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, Dover, New York, 1968), and so breeding in southeastern Minnesota was only a matter of time. **James L. Howitz, Department of Biology, Winona State University, Winona, MN 55987.**

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY** — On June 3, 1984, I was birding a wooded area about twelve miles N-NE of Fergus Falls in Otter Tail County. The time was mid-day, temp. in the low 80's, wind SW 10-20, sky sunny. I parked near a small clearing. Immediately upon getting out of the car I heard what sounded like the two-note buzz of a Blue-winged Warbler. Thinking I may have been fooled by hearing part of a Golden-wing's song, I had only to wait a few seconds for confirmation. Just a few yards away in a large, dead elm, I saw the male Blue-winged singing from an outer limb about thirty feet from the ground. The head and underparts were bright yellow, undertail white. The bill was black and a black line ran fore and aft through the eye. The wings were blue-gray with two white bars. The back color was yellowish-olive. The bird sang frequently from high, exposed perches, occasionally dropping into lower saplings to sing. The clearing was roughly one-half acre, with numerous aspen saplings along the border. Some raspberry and chokecherry shrubs were present, and tall grasses and weeds made up the bulk of the clearing. Large elms, poplar, and basswood border the area. The clearing is sloped and quite well drained; the adjacent habitat is heavily vegetated moist woodland. A small stream is present one hundred yards to the northeast. I made several subsequent trips to the area including one at sunrise, but failed to find the bird after the initial sighting. I believe this is the northwestern-most record for this species in Minnesota. On May 20, 1979, Ted and Phyllis Lindquist saw one at Sibley State Park in Kandiyohi County, approximately one hundred miles SE of the Otter Tail County sighting (*The Loon* 52:1). **Steve Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

**A HOUSE FINCH IN MOWER COUNTY** — On April 25, 1984, Ron Kneeskern called me about a House Finch at his feeder, and I immediately went over to his house at 1208 5th Street NW in Austin. Ron's wife, Rose, had first noticed the bird at the feeder at 3:45 pm that day. She watched it for about ten minutes, realizing it was some type of finch different than the regularly visiting Purple Finches, and after studying several bird guides (Robbins, Peterson, vol. 3 of Audubon) she felt it was a House Finch. Ron arrived home from work at 4:15, and after watching the bird a bit, called me. The finch made several visits to the feeder area, foraging on the ground or drinking from the bird bath, then disappearing for a time before returning. Since leaving at 5:40 pm, it has not been seen since, to our knowledge. From living in Lewiston, Maine recently for 18 months, I became quite familiar with House Finches. During one of this bird's feeding intervals of several minutes, while its right side was visible, I drew the included sketch. Light from an overcast sky was good. The drawing shows a typical male House



4-25-84 ornate,  
 justly variable wings,  
 60', observed 3:45pm - 5:40pm  
 at Ron + Rose Knecht's  
 feeder, 1208 5th St. NW

Austin 55912

Observers: Rose, Ron, Dean Schneider

Note and sketch of House Finch  
 by Dean Schneider

Finch, brown pattern of robust streaks on the breast. Though the streaked breast would seem to rule out any other related species of male finch, the areas normally bright red in the House Finch were instead a dull yellow, with barely a suggestion of orange. The orange tinge was slightly stronger on the throat. To Ron and I, the tail seemed strongly notched, like a Purple Finch, while Rose felt the notch not so pronounced. Otherwise, the three of us agreed on all points as we watched the bird at our leisure from about 15 feet with 7×35 Bushnell Custom binoculars. The possibility of a sexually abnormal female Purple Finch showing weakly developed male coloration seems remote. The opposite condition, that of a male Purple Finch with dilute red color would raise the question of why the breast was striped. My recollection of House Finches is that their red areas often appeared orangish, whereas the red of the Purple Finch does have a hint of purple. Since purple can be produced from mixing blue and red, and orange may be had from mixing red and yellow, the simplest assumption would be that a yellow specimen might more likely be a House Finch, if their feather colors are based on a similar principle. From reviewing past issues of *The Loon*, it appeared that this would be the second record of the House Finch in Minnesota, if confirmed by MORC. Then the next day's mail brought our copies of the Spring *Loon* with Dr. Breckenridge's note and photograph. Dean Schneider, 301 First Avenue NW, Austin, MN 55912.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN WINONA COUNTY** — On May 11, 1984 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was spotted by Bob and Jeanne Bilder of Minnesota City and reported to Dave Palmquist, Whitewater State Park naturalist. After viewing and photographing the bird, he then passed the word on to us and to Dr. Mahle. Jerry and Jodi Bonkoski and Steve and Bob Ekblad went to the place where the bird was last seen,

a freshly plowed field bordered by deciduous trees approximately two miles north of Whitewater State Park on Minn #74 in Winona County. The bird had previously been seen on the fence by the road, but our group located it near the middle of the field about 100 feet from the road. It was moving short distances as it was catching insects, sometimes perching on short sticks or right on the ground. The bird had a long forked tail about 1½ times its body length. It had a black bill and was light grey over most of its body except for an orange-pink area below the dark wings. The orange color was more evident when the bird flew. Comparing the bird to pictures in the field guides we believe the bird was probably an immature male. We watched the bird for approximately 20 to 30 minutes with a variety of optical instruments including Dr. Mahle's scope. The bird ranged from 50 to 300 feet from us as it moved about the field. Several of the people observing the bird had seen the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Texas and there was no doubt about the identification. Several people attempted to find the bird the next day, but no further sightings were reported. **Bob Ekblad and Jerry Bonkoski, Byron, MN 55920.**

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW IN NICOLLET COUNTY** — After 10 PM on June 9, 1984, I was traveling Nicollet County Road 71 along the north side of the Minnesota River searching for Whip-poor-wills. Starting at County Road 11 I was working eastward, stopping every ½ to 1½ miles to play my tape of a Whip-poor-will (Peterson's *A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs*). Darkness had fallen after a vigorous evening rainstorm. Although I was raised in Faribault County, my birding days have been spent in the Pacific Northwest, New England, and Florida. My Minnesota visits have offered limited birding between visits with relatives. Hence my search for a Whip-poor-will. In the spring of 1983 I became familiar with another *Caprimulgus*, the Chuck-will's-widow. The birds sang outside my residence each night at Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville, Florida. I returned there in April and May of 1984 and heard the birds again. Although they were elusive and ventriiloquinal, I last saw one in Florida at dusk on May 23, 1984. On June 9, in Minnesota, next to the B. Schorer farm 2½ miles west of the junction of Route 23 and Route 71, I heard a bird calling near the road. I stopped and shut off the car, thinking I had found the long-sought Whip-poor-will. I was mildly disappointed to realize it was a Chuck-will's-widow. The bird continued to sing, and I checked the song to be sure. The "CHUP-weeo-weeo" was unmistakable. I checked Green and Janssen's report of the 1983 Summer Season in *The Loon* (Vol. 56, p. 51-56), and their *Minnesota Birds*. I checked Kim Eckert's *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*. I listened again. Then I turned down the volume on my recorder and played the Whip-poor-will tape while the bird sang simultaneously. The calls did not match. I was not inclined to pursue this elusive species on private land, up a steep slope, in wet vegetation, in the dark. I went on, excited by my discovery. I'm still looking for a Whip-poor-will. **Paul Sullivan, 111 S. Linton, Blue Earth, MN 56013.**

**HERON ROOKERY AT MINNESOTA LAKE** — On Tuesday evening, June 12, 1984, we took a small boat to an island rookery on Minnesota Lake, located at the town of the same name in Faribault County in southern Minnesota. We saw a flock of about 30 American White Pelicans standing in a line, two abreast, on a sandbar in shallow water at the north end of the island. They flew as we slowly boated closer. We also observed approximately 200 Double-crested Cormorants, 3 Great Egrets, 4 Black-crowned Night Herons, and 10 Great Blue Herons. All had large stick nests high up in the 45-foot trees growing on the island, which is approximately 200 feet by 60 feet at the widest. We beached the boat at the narrow point of the island and walked back into the trees. We were able to get closest to a nest of three young cormorants. We discovered that cormorant parents are very protective of their young. Their voices are a deep croak similar to the grunt of a pig, and they will successfully aim droppings or re-gurgitated fish on observers below! Once we were on the island, it seemed as if we were



**Island Rookery, Minnesota Lake, Faribault County, June 12, 1984**  
Photo by Larry and Sharon Swenson

in a jungle with the dense trees and squawking birds. The lake, which is about six feet at the deepest, has an abundance of minnows and carp, with a sprinkling of small sunfish and walleyes for these birds to feed on. **Larry and Sharon Swenson, Box 23, Easton, MN 56025.**



**Summer Tanager, May 14, 1984, Tamarack Nature Center, Ramsey County.**  
Photo by Kraig Kelsey

**SUMMARY OF 1980-1984 MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN INVENTORY  
DATA BY COUNTY**

No. of Males Observed: ( ) = No. of Booming Grounds

County	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Becker	156 (16)	159 (16)	133 (13)	174 (17)	96 (9)
Cass	17 (6)*	63 (15)*	68 (16)*	65 (15)	54 (15)*
Chippewa	2 (1)	2 (1)	0	2 (1)	0
Clay	186 (17)*	196 (16)*	216 (12)*	161 (15)	110 (7)
Hubbard	—	4 (1)	3 (1)	3 (1)	5 (1)
Mahnomen	203 (21)	223 (20)	294 (22)	316 (22)	149 (19)
Marshall	—	3 (1)	7 (2)	3 (1)	2 (2)
Morrison	—	—	1 (1)	0	—
Norman	230 (9)	210 (9)	273 (15)	194 (11)*	119 (8)
Ottertail	13 (2)	9 (2)	12 (1)	10 (3)	7 (1)
Pennington	—	2 (1)	6 (1)	5 (1)	4 (1)
Polk	269 (27)	254 (26)	283 (29)	232 (26)	146 (22)*
Red Lake	8 (1)	19 (2)	19 (2)	14 (2)	12 (2)
Wadena	10 (3)	60 (12)	64 (11)	18 (6)	19 (2)
Wilkin	164 (14)	206 (23)	269 (20)	223 (18)	60 (6)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1258 (117)</b>	<b>1410 (144)</b>	<b>1648 (146)</b>	<b>1420 (139)</b>	<b>776 (94)</b>

\*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.

Part of the reason for the low number of chickens in 1984 is incomplete counts of known grounds. This was the case for Polk county and a few others. However, even after allowing for uncounted grounds, chicken numbers are down. **Terry Wolfe, 425 Woodland Ave., Crookston, MN 56716.**

**RECENT RECOVERIES OF COMMON LOONS BANDED IN MINNESOTA —**

Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) are captured by nightlighting (Lindmeier and Jessen 1961) and banded each summer incidental to waterfowl banding by the Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group at Bemidji. From 1975 through 1982 a total of 154 loons (28 adults and 126 young) were banded in north central and northwestern Minnesota. This article describes recovery information for the eight year period.

A total of 17 recoveries (killed or found dead) were reported. Loons banded as young comprised 11 recoveries. Nine of these occurred the calendar year after banding, one the same year of banding, and one seven years after banding. One young loon was recaptured the year after banding. One adult was recovered seven months after banding while six others were recaptured the year after banding.

Four recoveries of first year loons occurred in May. Two were from North Carolina as oil soak mortality. One was found dead in Michigan and another was hand captured in West Virginia.

Seven loons (6 adults, 1 yearling) were recaptured and released the summer following banding on the lake where they were originally captured. Another yearling was found during July entangled in a fishing net in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Fall recoveries (October) of first year birds totaled three. Two were found dead in Minnesota and one was found entangled in a fishing net near Prince Edward Island, Canada.

All three winter recoveries of first year loons were birds found dead in Florida; two near the panhandle area and one off the Keys. The single winter recovery of an adult was a bird shot in Florida.

In summary, 44% of Minnesota loon band recoveries were from Florida, 17% each from Minnesota and North Carolina and 8% each from West Virginia, Michigan, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Fifty percent of the recoveries were from birds found dead, 17% from oil soaked birds, 17% from entanglement in fishing nets, 8% shot and 8% hand captured.

These limited data: 1) document adult migrational homing to breeding areas, 2) document first year migrational homing to natal areas, 3) provide insight into location of first year birds during spring and summer and 4) identify a variety of mortality factors affecting first year loons. Recovery information for adults is limited due to the paucity of bandings and the limited potential for recovery. More extensive banding throughout the common loon's breeding range is necessary to more accurately identify critical migration and winter habitat as well as sources of loon mortality at those sites.

### **Acknowledgements**

I thank the many summer banders whose efforts made this information possible, M. Zicus for generating computer recovery information from USFWS tapes and S. Maxson for editorial review.

### **Literature Cited**

Lindmeier, J. P. and R. L. Jessen. 1961. Results of capturing waterfowl in Minnesota by spotlighting. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 25(4):430-431.

Robert T. Eberhardt, **Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 102 - 23rd Street, Bemidji, MN 56601.**

**MINNESOTA'S SECOND ANHINGA** — Eleven birders were on a field trip to the Louisville Swamp area in Scott County on May 26, 1984. The sky was partly cloudy; wind N-NW at about 10 mph.; temperature 70°. About 10:00 am while everyone was searching an oak tree for a singing Scarlet Tanager, Karol Gresser said, "Look straight up, it's an ANHINGA!" A look convinced me that she was not joking. Easily noticed was a dark bird as large as a Red-tailed Hawk that had a long slim neck, long slim wings and a long fan-shaped turkey-like tail. This bird and a probable Red-tailed Hawk circled slowly in a thermal as they drifted southward. The altitude was 200 to 400 feet. Because of trees, I was able to keep the Anhinga in view for about two minutes. Karol was able to see it for a longer time. **Don Bolduc, 4211 Blaisdell Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409.**

**RUFF AT CROOKSTON SEWAGE LAGOONS** — On July 23, 1984 I observed a female Ruff (Reeve) at the Crookston Sewage Lagoons, Polk County. The following is a description of the bird: At a distance dark color very obvious, medium large size, grayish brown head, medium to short bill and long legs. At first I thought it was a Hudsonian Godwit by color and size at long range and with a narrow rump stripe in flight. Then I noticed the short bill and upon closer observation noted that the short dark colored bill was slightly decurved throughout its length and was very thick and lighter colored at the base. The legs were dark to the knees and from there down were dark orangish to the feet which were bright orange. The dark color on the breast and belly appeared to be a large dark swirl on each side. The lighter head showed evidence of a faint eye line. At one time or another while the bird was in view three species of shorebirds were within a foot or two of this bird for direct comparison. This bird appeared slightly larger than the Pectorals and Stilts near it. It appeared about the same general size as a good sized Lesser Yellowlegs. The back, breast and upper belly were much darker brown than these other species (also in spring plumage). The lower belly was whitish extending to the under tail. In flight the orange feet protruded beyond the dark tail. There was an



Ruff (Reeve), Crookston, Polk County, July 23, 1984. Photo by A. Bolduc

extremely light wingstripe present. From the side in flight the tail appeared all dark and a narrow white rump band was visible. From above the white rump band appeared to have a flatish shape barely extending up the sides of the rump. Al Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407

**HAZARDS BIRDS ENCOUNTER** — Hazards that the birds are faced with take many forms. The bullfrog's leap to engulf a hummingbird is well known; the dragonfly that killed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was written in the *The Loon*; Common Eiders swimming in formation and being pulled down by a seal one by one in the St. Lawrence River — now this: While walking the path in T. S. Robert's Sanctuary on Sept. 2, 1984 about 2 P.M. I noticed a commotion in the grasses and bushes low to the ground on my right. Upon looking closer, I saw a Brown Thrasher suspended in the air about three inches above the ground. It was flapping and struggling to free itself causing the vegetation to shake. Wanting to free the bird, I reached down and grabbed some weeds at the upper end. As I did so the bird evidently got enough purchase to free itself and quickly escaped into the brush. I found the thrasher to be tangled in a triangle of little round brown burrs that resembled a miniature cocklebur except these were only about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter. It appeared that one wing and some of the body was held fast. Very likely the springy burred plant didn't give any real resistance to enable it to escape. I suppose stranger things have happened! Don Bolduc, 4211 Blaisdell Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409

**AMERICAN AVOCETS NESTING IN TRAVERSE COUNTY** — American Avocets are considered to be an uncommon spring migrant and a rare fall migrant in western Minnesota. However, there have been a few recent breeding records in the state. Breeding birds were observed near Brown's Valley, Traverse Co. in 1887; between 1956-1964, Avocets were found nesting in Lyon, Stevens, Ottertail, and Lac Qui Parle counties. In 1973, downy young were found near Ortonville, in Big Stone County (Green and Janssen 1975). In 1977, two pairs were observed nesting near Wells, Faribault County, and raised seven young. Also in 1977, ten birds were seen at the Moorhead sewage lagoons on May 30th. Twelve birds were observed in the same spot on June 8th. Nesting was

suspected but not confirmed. In 1982, a pair nested at the Crookston Sewage Lagoons, Polk Co. (Janssen, pers. comm.) On July 13, 1984 we were driving west on County Road 2, Traverse Co. As we stopped our vehicle to observe some shore birds feeding in a roadside slough, two Avocets in breeding plumage began exhibiting distraction displays. Both adults began calling and flying excitedly when we got out of the truck. One adult generally stayed closer to the nest area than the other. As we approached to within ten feet of the suspected nest site, the adult closest to the nest landed and began a broken wing display, calling intermittently. Both adults waded through the water with necks extended, as we approached the nest site. After a brief search, a nest containing two eggs was found. The nest was located in the S.W. quarter of section 30, T 125N, R47W, three miles east of Brown's Valley, Minnesota. The ground nest was in the upland portion of a fallow field, flooded by spring runoff and heavy June rainfall. The shallow nest cup was constructed of dead grasses, and was located in an opening in the vegetation. Katherine V. Hirsch. Dept. of Natural Resources. 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE, Bemidji, MN. Catherine M. Fouchi. University of Minnesota, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108



American Avocet, distraction display, Traverse Co. July 13, 1984, Photo by Catherine Fouchi

American Avocet nest, Traverse Co. July 13, 1984. Photo by Katherine Hirsch

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

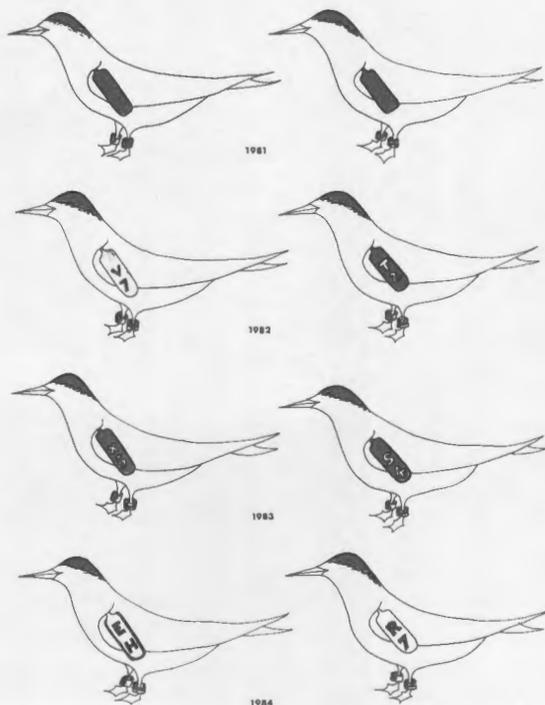
In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird each had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear. In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. In that year red wing tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

In 1984 several terns tagged as adults in previous years were back at the nesting colonies. In addition, a few immatures tagged in 1981 returned to nest as adults. In 1984 white tags (with a red trim and red lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and yellow tags (with black lettering) on chicks.

When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, KIA 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.





**Adult female Great Gray Owl on nest, April 5, 1984. Nesting on an old Broad-winged Hawk nest.  
Lake of the Woods County. Photo by David J. Johnson**

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of 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 the 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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**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send \$10.00 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$12.50 yearly; Supporting \$15.00 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$12.50 yearly. All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$2.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 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., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). The editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. 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).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Bette Bell, 5868 Pioneer Rd. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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# AMATEURS CLAIM BIRDATHON RECORD!

Michael R. Knox

and

James L. Throckmorton

After reading about Kim Eckert's Big Day activities, we wondered if there was a place for an amateur's Big Day in the Minnesota birding world. Being amateurs ourselves (which we define as having a Minnesota life list of less than 200 species), we decided to give it a try; and being occasional listers we were, of course, inclined to formulate some rules. After much debate, we decided that what was good enough for Kim should be good enough for us also, but with a small adjustment for relative skill levels (as in golf handicap). Kim and his three fellow birders aspire to 200 species in one 24-hour period. Since they are about twice as good as we are at ogling the avian population, we adjusted that to 48 hours. Also, since there were four of them and only two of us, it only made sense that we allow ourselves twice as long again. Thus, the target for our amateur Big Day(s) was right up there with the pros, to wit—200 species in four days by two individuals.

Next came the details. Not having access to rules for a Minnesota Birdathon by two individuals we had to agree on our own. First, we **both** had to see the bird and agree on the identifications. Next came the sensitive area of aural identification. Although we each believe we know some songs, we are equally convinced that the other is, unfortunately, tone deaf. Despite visions of whizzing down the back roads at 40 miles per hour calling off species as they utter short call notes, we finally agreed that identification by sound would not count except in those rare cases which we could both agree were unmistakable (i.e., Ring-necked Pheasant, Black-capped Chickadee and Wild Turkey).

Lastly, the planning included detailed logistical preparations. Thanks to some excellent sources, it's easy to make a list of

the "target" species and then plot them on a map. Unfortunately, the first attempt at this resulted in a map which indicated that we should go to every county in the state. Eventually it dawned on us that we would at least have to cover representative pieces of the major biomes in different parts of the state, so we mapped a route that included the prairie, the far northwestern part of the state, the central mixed deciduous areas and of course, Lake Superior.

With some help from **Minnesota Birds**, the recent issues of **The Loon** and, most helpful, Kim Eckert's exceptional **A Birder's Guide to Minnesota**, we laid out an itinerary. A last minute conversation with Bob Janssen convinced us of two things: given the terrible spring migration, a target of 150 species was going to be a real challenge; and, for the same reasons, the Twin Cities area as well as the far northern part of the state would be generally unproductive. Unfortunately, we had agreed on the timing of our trip (May 10-13) several months in advance and could not change it—even for the excellent reason that the spring migration was unpredictably delayed.

Our first day (May 10) both started and ended relatively inauspiciously. A stop in the Louisville Swamp yielded only six warbler species, a Solitary Vireo and a Pine Siskin in addition to the usual. A lucky sighting at Middle Lake in Nicollet County added a Common Moorhen, and a Least Bittern was flushed near the stream in Blue Mound State Park. Overall, a lot of driving for a mere 72 species the first day. The most unusual sighting for the day, we both agreed, wasn't even an animal but was the discovery of prickly pear cactus growing in Blue Mounds. The prize for the most insight went to a beautiful Tom Turkey (uncountable unfortunately)

who followed us around the park gobbling excitedly. He clearly recognizes his companions when he sees them.

The second day began with a drive up the western half of the state to Salt Lake and Big Stone NWR in Lac Qui Parle County. Despite winds of 40 mph and higher, Salt Lake was impressive. Over 300 individuals, including American Avocet and Wilson's Phalarope as well as Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler and Ruddy Ducks, were present. Along with a few stray shorebirds and sparrows along the way we had 13 new species by ten in the morning. Due to the weather, Big Stone NWR was a disappointment, thus, we had to search back roads and potholes in Big Stone, Traverse and Wilkin Counties to collect more of our target species, including Western Kingbird, Hudsonian Godwit, Eared Grebe and more shorebirds. After a long afternoon we converted a second mediocre day into a reasonable success by visiting the Moorhead sewage ponds where we found both dowitchers, American Wigeon and Red-necked Phalarope. We then drove through the Felton Prairie area, a Nature Conservancy prairie preserve in Clay County. Within an hour we each recorded five new life birds here—Marbled Godwit, Upland Sandpiper, Gray Partridge, Grasshopper Sparrow, and, the species of the day, the Chesnut-collared Longspur. An exciting end to a long day, giving us a total of 115 species for the trip so far.

Anyone who attempts to check off 150 birds on the state list can immediately see the problems. Assuming that you can see one or two owls, all of the possible ducks, most of the shorebirds, hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers and permanent residents, 150 is still nearly impossible without large numbers of warblers and migrating woodland birds. We never did see a Gray Catbird, for example, and because of the late migration, our list after two days included only two thrushes and about ten warblers.

Missing a lot of the birds we had counted on, we were forced to change our plans and travel to specific areas in search of regional specialties—a chancy and time-consuming business. Accordingly, we decided to cut across the state to Duluth and then head south to the Twin Cities again in

the hope that we might be able to intercept a migration wave along the way. At the Nature Conservancy's Blue Stem Prairie, near Buffalo River State Park, in Clay County we rounded out our sparrow list by chasing a LeConte's Sparrow through the knee-high prairie grass. We also found a Loggerhead Shrike. Itasca State Park, on the other hand, was a windy, rainy, foggy wasteland—a Gray Jay and Bald Eagle being the only new birds. We planned to spend dusk in the bog areas of northern Aitkin County searching for the Great Gray Owl but, as a thunderstorm rolled in, we found our optimism about seeing 150 birds rapidly evaporating. Once again, however, our luck changed with the close of the day. No luck on the Great Gray, but we did add five more species including the bird of the day, and perhaps the trip, a Short-eared Owl which cheered us up immensely.

Our last day started in the rain at six-thirty in Duluth. We had recorded 131 species and clearly needed a little luck for a change. Park Point, as usual, provided some bounty in the form of all three regular gulls, the three mergansers, Caspian Tern, Greater Scaup, Horned Grebe and Dunlin. A quick trip to Stoney Point added Evening Grosbeak to our list. We then turned south with renewed confidence and much better weather.

The Moose Lake sewage ponds and Carlos Avery NWR added three missing species. Up to this point we had driven over much of the state and had seen only twelve warbler species with no substantial number of individuals anywhere. Finally, at Wood Lake, we found a migration in progress. In one hour we saw more warblers that we had in the previous three days. We saw three new species, including the 150th, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, with two hours to spare—which we used to add a final three species for a trip total of 153. We therefore claim the record for most birds seen during a two-person amateur birdathon in four days in Minnesota!

The composition of our final list was both interesting and illuminating. Virtually every regular resident was included, with almost all of the possible ducks, hawks, shorebirds, gulls, terns, swallows and sparrows. None of the casual or accidentals were spotted (which is probably normal for

amateurs), and there were conspicuous gaps in our list. The final tally included only four flycatchers, one owl, three thrushes, one vireo and fourteen warbler species. Missing also were such easily seen birds as the Common Nighthawk and Northern Green Heron. Over half the species listed were represented by five or fewer individuals sighted during the entire trip, and 26 percent were represented by only one individual.

Over 1300 miles in four days with over 50 hours in the field resulted in tired and eye-weary bird watchers. However, the memories of the Short-eared Owl perched on the dead tree staring at us as we stared at him, the Chesnut-collared Longspur performing his ritual fluttering, and the beautiful female Red-necked Phalarope swim-

ming slowly between the wildly spinning Wilson's, will not be easily forgotten.

Some of the lessons applicable to future birdathons include such cliches as "the way to see a lot of different birds is to travel to a lot of different habitats." One thing we will clearly do differently is to better schedule our trip to coincide with actual migration. If we can't remain flexible, then five or ten days later in May would be better.

One final realization of our trip was the actual enormity of the task of seeing 200 species in a limited time period. If four days seems challenging to us, we are overwhelmed by the idea of doing it in one day. Good luck to Kim Eckert or anyone else who can even come close! **2716 Isle Royale Court, Burnsville, MN 55337**

## THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

Minnesota Life Lists started off with a "bang" in early 1984 when the Brambling, a new Minnesota species, was added to just about everybody's list in January. The year continued good for most of us with many additions to our lists. The Ross' Gull at Agassiz Refuge in April was the prize bird of the year, but so was the Lesser Black-backed Gull found in Duluth in October. How could anyone ask for a better year?

Here are the totals for our 37 members as of December 31, 1984.

Kim Eckert	362
Bob Janssen	360
Ray Glassel	359
Bill Pieper	351
Dick Ruhme	351
Terry Savaloja	350
Paul Egeland	348
Joe Blanich	346
Liz Campbell	344
Don Bolduc	343
Bill Litkey	343
Jan Green	341

Ron Huber	338
Karol Gresser	337
Steve Millard	333
Jerry Gresser	331
Gloria Wachlter	328
Dick Wachlter	328
Oscar Johnson	328
Evelyn Stanley	323
Warren Nelson	322
Jon Peterson	320
Diane Millard	319
Ann McKenzie	318
Al Bolduc	318
Ruth Andberg	318
Wally Jiracek	314
Ken LaFond	311
Gary Swanson	310
Bro. Theodore Voelker	310
Henry Kyllingstad	309
Doug Campbell	309
Nestor Hiemenz	309
Betty Campbell	308
Byron Bratlie	306
Violet Lender	303
Jo Herz	301

# THE AGGRESSIVE RESPONSES OF A NESTING OSPREY IN A GREAT BLUE HERON COLONY

Thomas Seabolt

Observations covering a two-year period seem to indicate that the aggressive behavior by the male Osprey of a pair nesting within a Great Blue Heron colony resulted in a significant decline of nesting herons. The colony itself is an east-west, somewhat linear array of eighteen stick nests in dead trees situated along the marsh edge south of Mickelson Trail at Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area, Mille Lacs County. Herons have been known to be present at this location with an absence of nesting Osprey for the years 1981 and 1982. (pers. comm. Fouchi, S. Girard). Throughout this study Ospreys were sexed using breast markings (Roberts, 1936) and incubation behavior (Dunstan, 1973) as criteria.

In 1983 Great Blue Herons first arrived at the colony during the first week of April. On April 26th a male Osprey was discovered standing on the rim of the median nest in the colony. Of the eighteen nests present this year fifteen had herons perched on or near the nest site. A nest directly below the Osprey was occupied by herons as well as a pair of nests in adjacent trees. The size of the Ospreys' nest indicated that the bird had been working on it just prior to this date or possible during the previous fall. Several times on that day and without apparent provocation the Osprey would take flight and swoop down on neighboring herons that were perched on their nest sites. No contact was ever observed. Herons usually responded with raucous calls and occasionally would fly from the area returning when the Osprey was preoccupied elsewhere. On May 1st a female Osprey was observed accompanying the male at the nest site. Two days later they were seen copulating. Throughout this period and despite the occasional attacks by the male Osprey the number of resident herons appeared to remain constant. The first indication of a retreat from the colony

by the greater majority of herons came on May 15th when only four herons were counted in the area. Continued harassment of the remaining birds was maintained by the male Osprey. Within a week it was determined that of the original 15 occupied heron nest sites only four nests in line together on the colony's west end remained active. By the end of the first week in June a single active heron nest remained with one young bird present in the nest. In mid-July two adult Osprey and one immature were spotted flying about the area.

On April 14, 1984 a male Osprey was found sitting atop last year's nest. Herons occupied five nests on the colony's west end. Those same nests that had been vacated early last season were again unoccupied. Few aggressive flights by the Osprey were seen this year possibly due to the vacancies of the adjacent nests. By April 23rd a female Osprey had arrived and the number of herons had not changed. This condition remained so for at least five more days at which time the Ospreys were last seen in the colony. A May 12th visit to the area revealed that the Osprey pair had abandoned their nest site and that in their absence herons could now be found occupying thirteen of seventeen available nests including one nest in the tree adjacent to the Ospreys' old nest. Five days later a new Osprey nest was discovered one and one half miles to the south and it was shortly thereafter when the pair was seen copulating.

It is difficult to determine the degree of hostility generally experienced between Great Blue Herons and Osprey. Mathisen (1972) reports six instances of Osprey nesting along with Great Blue Herons without mentioning any significant conflict. Grewe (pers. comm.) says that an Osprey pair nesting near a Great Blue Heron colony at Crex Meadows, Wisconsin caused no particular problems for the herons there. In

Dunstan's study of nesting Osprey in Itasca County (1967) two of six nests were in the vicinity of Great Blue Heron nesting sites. He states that Osprey will attack Great Blue Herons if one approaches too close to the nest during time of incubation or before fledging. In a summary paper published in 1973 Dunstan also states that it is the female who is more defensive about the nest site. Yet in these incidences at Mille Lacs WMA it appeared that the male Osprey initiated most of the attacks and that many were made against sedentary herons on or near their nests. In addition attacks were witnessed prior to the arrival of and subsequent copulation with the female. Granted, in some instances it may have been that the presence of a human observer could have caused the Osprey to displace his aggressive tendencies onto his less formidable neighbors but overall the observer's effect should be considered insignificant for the following reasons: 1) it was found that during periods of no human intrusion when most of the heron nests had been abandoned, and 2) not always did the Osprey attack the herons in the presence of an observer. Therefore by all indications it appears this particular male Osprey displayed a low tolerance for locally nesting

Great Blue Herons and responded in an aggressive manner. This does not seem to follow a general behavior pattern exhibited by this species in the Midwest.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks go to Dr. Al Grewe for his helpful comments on the writeup of this report as well as to Brian Gulden, Steve Girard, Cathy Fouchi, Grace Girard and Kim Emery for their assistance with field observations.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**WOOD WARBLER'S WORLD** by Hal H. Harrison, 336 pages, 24 color plates (53 species), 216 B&W ill., 53 range maps. Simon & Schuster, 1984, \$19.95.

This attractive volume treats all 53 species of wood warblers that nest in the United States and Canada. It does not have detailed descriptions and measurements for

identification purposes but has very readable narrative style discussions of the habits, habitats, nesting, feeding and ranges treated. An extensive introduction (17 pages) contains brief discussions of "What is a Wood Warbler," "Migration," "Winter" and "Conservation."

The author has studied this group of birds for over 30 years and has photo-

graphed in the field all of the 53 species, although a number of the illustrations used in the volume are credited to others. The reproductions in the 24 color plates are quite good but I have doubts about the two waterthrush prints on Plate 22. Both appear to be of Louisiana Waterthrushes. It is understandable that the subtle differences between the two species are difficult to reproduce in photographs and then to be carried through the printing process. In the prints both have unspotted throats and white eye lines of about the same width. The slightly browner upper parts in the Louisiana illustration in my copy even suggest that the two prints may have gotten interchanged by the printers. The black and white illustrations in my copy are adequate except for a few which reproduced rather dark.

The extensive bibliography (11 pages) contains numerous references to recent publications that appeared in the 1980s but I was a bit surprised not to find Green and Janssen's "Minnesota Birds—Where, When and How Many" which appeared in

1975. In reviewing Harrison's range maps, however I found a very close correlation with Green and Janssen's distributions with one exception. Harrison includes the entire state of Minnesota in the breeding range of the Northern Parula whereas Green and Janssen's records show it nesting only in the northern part of the state which is true of most of the other wood warblers.

I enjoyed the author's many references to the origin and meaning of warbler names and his occasional anecdotes about his experiences with warblers make entertaining reading. The author does not claim that this volume contains any extensive material for the professional ornithologist but it does assemble and summarize a great deal of information about wood warblers for both the beginners and the advanced amateurs. I would not hesitate to recommend the volume as an excellent addition to the libraries of our thousands of amateur birders.

**W. J. Breckenridge, 8840 West River Road North, Minneapolis, MN 55444**

## THE 200 COUNTY CLUB

Six counties, Dodge, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Koochiching, Mille Lacs and Roseau were added to the list of counties in which a single person has recorded 200 species or more. When 200 species are recorded in small counties such as Dodge (Ray Glassel) and Kanabec (Ken LaFond) it is quite an accomplishment. We are now up to 60 counties out of the 87 and approximately 70 individual people are contributing lists. This is outstanding participation.

Just about everyone else added species to their totals and all of the county composite totals went up substantially.

Kim Eckert is getting close to 300 for one county with his 299 in St. Louis County. Maybe someday we will have to start a 300 County Club!

The youngest member of the 200 County Club was added in 1984. Steve Ekblad who is 10 years old and in the 6th grade saw a White-winged Scoter in Olmsted County for his 200th species. Steve also has seen 174 species in Olmsted County during 1984, his father Bob Ekblad has recorded 203 species in the the county in 1984, quite an accomplishment for one year.

The totals given below are those reported as of December 1, 1984.

County	Total	Observer	No. of Species	County	Total	Observer	No. of Species			
Aitkin . . . .	(288)	Terry Savaloja . . . . .	255	Houston . . . .	(255)	Fred Leshner . . . . .	223			
		Warren Nelson . . . . .	252			Jon Peterson . . . . .	208			
		Jo Blanich . . . . .	251			Ray Glassel . . . . .	204			
		Bob Janssen . . . . .	214			Ann McKenzie . . . . .	202			
		Anoka . . . . .	(292)	Bill Pieper . . . . .	212	Isanti . . . . .	(242)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	213	
				Ken LaFond . . . . .	208	Itasca . . . . .	(248)	Tim Lamey . . . . .	203	
				Ray Glassel . . . . .	207	Jackson . . . . .	(253)	Ingeborg Hodnefield . . . . .	202	
Ken LaFond . . . . .	274			Kanabec . . . . .	(231)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	205			
Ray Glassel . . . . .	228			Kandiyohi . . . . .	(244)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	201			
Ruth Andberg . . . . .	224			Koochiching . . . . .	(232)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	207			
Bill Pieper . . . . .	221			Lac Qui Parle . . . . .	(284)	Micki Buer . . . . .	231			
Bob Janssen . . . . .	213	Chuck Buer . . . . .	223	Ray Glassel . . . . .	211					
Beltrami . . . .	(268)	Jeffrey Palmer . . . . .	226	Bob Janssen . . . . .	211	Kim Eckert . . . . .	204			
		Merrill Frydendal . . . . .	225	Lake . . . . .	(271)	Steve Wilson . . . . .	216			
John Frenz . . . . .	200	Jan Green . . . . .	215							
Carlton . . . . .	(243)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	221			Mary Shedd . . . . .	205			
		Kathy Heidel . . . . .	218			Ken LaFond . . . . .	204			
Carver . . . . .	(253)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	210			Lake of . . . . .	(246)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	202	
		Bob Janssen . . . . .	201			the Woods	LeSueur . . . . .	(249)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	211
		Ray Glassel . . . . .	215			Horace Chamberlain . . . . .			202	
Chisago . . . . .	(245)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	207	Lyon . . . . .	(277)	Henry Kyllingstad . . . . .	257			
		Carol Falk . . . . .	233	Paul Egeland . . . . .	248					
Clay . . . . .	(269)	Laurence Falk . . . . .	231	Ray Glassel . . . . .	206					
		Richard Davids . . . . .	219	Marshall . . . .	(286)	Sarah Vasse . . . . .	235			
Al Bolduc . . . . .	219	Shelly Steva . . . . .	230							
Clearwater . . .	(260)	Kim Hoffman . . . . .	237			Kim Eckert . . . . .	207			
		Molly Hoffman . . . . .	237	Martin . . . . .	(251)	Ed Brekke-Kramer . . . . .	220			
		Kim Eckert . . . . .	217			Mille Lacs . . . . .	(265)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	208	
		Bob Janssen . . . . .	206	Morrison . . . . .	(250)	Pete Ryan . . . . .	213			
Jan Green . . . . .	204	Jan Green . . . . .	204	Mower . . . . .	(249)	Ron Kneeskern . . . . .	234			
		Terry Savaloja . . . . .	233			Rose Kneeskern . . . . .	233			
		Warren Nelson . . . . .	201			Richard Smaby . . . . .	213			
Dakota . . . . .	(277)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	255	Bob Jessen . . . . .	210					
		Joanne Dempsey . . . . .	242	Nicollet . . . .	(258)	John Frenz . . . . .	230			
		Karol Gresser . . . . .	234			Merrill Frydendall . . . . .	223			
		Bob Janssen . . . . .	231			Ray Glassel . . . . .	217			
Dodge . . . . .	(221)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	208	Bob Janssen . . . . .	200					
		Ray Glassel . . . . .	205	Olmsted . . . .	(274)	Jerry Bonkoski . . . . .	243			
Charles Flugum . . . . .	213	Joan Fowler . . . . .	234							
Ray Glassel . . . . .	207	Bob Ekblad . . . . .	233							
Goodhue . . . .	(280)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	235			Vince Herring . . . . .	221			
		Bill Litkey . . . . .	233			Joel Dunnette . . . . .	221			
		Bob Janssen . . . . .	227			Phyllis Lindquist . . . . .	213			
Bill Pieper . . . . .	221	Ted Lindquist . . . . .	213							
Joanne Dempsey . . . . .	200	Anne Plunkett . . . . .	213							
Grant . . . . .	(245)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	214	Steve Ekblad . . . . .	201					
		Bob Janssen . . . . .	281	Otter Tail . . .	(292)	Steve Millard . . . . .	257			
Ray Glassel . . . . .	274	Pennington . . .	(242)			Shelley Steva . . . . .	226			
Hennepin . . . .	(315)	Oscar Johnson . . . . .	273	Keith Steva . . . . .	211					
		Alvina Joul . . . . .	267	Pine . . . . .	(259)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	220			
		Violet Lender . . . . .	254			Mike Link . . . . .	209			
		Bill Pieper . . . . .	251			Ray Glassel . . . . .	206			
		Don Bolduc . . . . .	235	Pipestone . . .	(244)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	200			
		Al Bolduc . . . . .	231			Polk . . . . .	(256)	David Lambeth . . . . .	219	
		Gary Swanson . . . . .	230	Shelly Steva . . . . .	211					
		Karol Gresser . . . . .	227	Sharon Lambeth . . . . .	205					
		Charles Horn . . . . .	214							
		Tom Soulen . . . . .	204							
		Ken LaFond . . . . .	200							

Ramsey . . . (285)	Liz Campbell . . . . .	241	Gary Swanson . . . . .	202
	Bill Litkey . . . . .	242	Al Bolduc . . . . .	201
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	235	Scott . . . . . (258)	Ray Glassel . . . . .
	Tom Soulen . . . . .	225		241
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	224		Bob Janssen . . . . .
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	219		206
	John Fitzpatrick . . . . .	209		Karol Gresser . . . . .
	Bob Holtz . . . . .	209	Sherburne . . (270)	Sharon Sarappo . . . . .
	Ken LaFond . . . . .	208		208
Renville . . . (235)	Paul Egeland . . . . .	212	Sibley . . . . . (237)	Ray Glassel . . . . .
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	205		213
Rice . . . . . (273)	Orwin Rustad . . . . .	239		Bob Janssen . . . . .
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	224	Stearns . . . . . (290)	207
	Kirk Jeffrey . . . . .	220		Nestor Hiemenz . . . . .
Rock . . . . . (251)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	241		271
Roseau . . . . (262)	Art Johnston . . . . .	210		Kim Eckert . . . . .
St. Louis . . (337)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	299		238
	Jan Green . . . . .	293		Ray Glassel . . . . .
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	267	Steele . . . . . (229)	200
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	261		Ray Glassel . . . . .
	Paul Egeland . . . . .	260		212
	Mike Hendrickson . . . . .	259	Todd . . . . . (241)	Ken LaFond . . . . .
	Keith Camburn . . . . .	248		219
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	243	Wabasha . . (264)	Don Mahle . . . . .
	Ken LaFond . . . . .	240		224
	Bill Litkey . . . . .	231		Ray Glassel . . . . .
	Henry Kyllingstad . . . . .	211		217
	Don Bolduc . . . . .	203	Wadena . . . (250)	Dick Oehlenschlager . . . . .
	Ann McKenzie . . . . .	203		242
	Jon Peterson . . . . .	203	Washington . (276)	Bill Litkey . . . . .
				242
				Ray Glassel . . . . .
				237
				Liz Campbell . . . . .
				218
				Joanne Dempsey . . . . .
				209
				Bob Janssen . . . . .
				206
				Tom Bell . . . . .
				204
				Ken LaFond . . . . .
				203
			Winona . . . (249)	Ray Glassel . . . . .
				207
			Wright . . . . (251)	Gary Swanson . . . . .
				217
				Ray Glassel . . . . .
				205
			Yellow	
			Medicine . (249)	Paul Egeland . . . . .
				212



Can you find the young Western Kingbird in the nest?  
 Photo taken by Jan Newstrom along Highway 24  
 between Clearwater and Clear Lake, Sherburne County on 16 July 1984

# MINNESOTA'S BREEDING BIRD DISTRIBUTION (PART II)

Robert B. Janssen and Gary Simonson

On the following pages are maps showing the breeding distribution by county of Minnesota's gulls through shrikes. This information is based on data compiled since 1970 from nest cards supplied by observers or records of nesting published in *The Loon*. For Part I see *The Loon* Fall 1984 56:167-186.

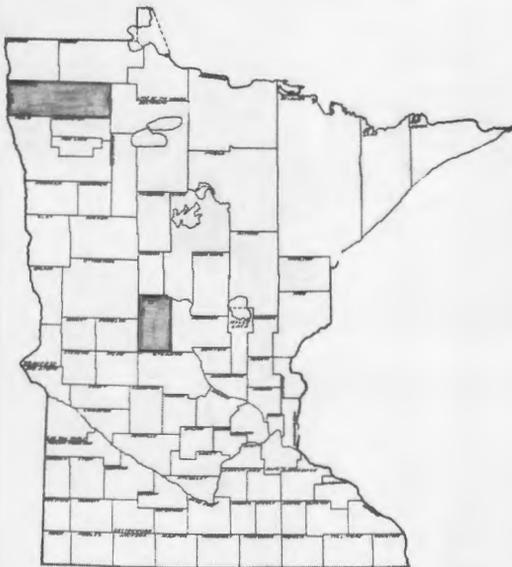
Breeding is defined as 1.) Nest with eggs or young, 2.) Presence of flightless young away from nest.

These maps are not intended to be the last word on breeding birds in Minnesota. In fact, they are published to show our lack of complete information. As you can see from the maps, there are many common species that lack recent positive

breeding evidence from many Minnesota counties. We need breeding information on all species nesting in Minnesota. Take a look at the map of the American Robin. We should have nest record cards from all counties, but as you can see, we have them for only 1/2 of the counties!

Nest record cards for recording breeding data are supplied with the summer seasonal report forms. Please use them and send them in. If you have record of species not listed on the maps and don't have the forms, write us at the Bell Museum address and forms will be sent to you.

Part III, warblers thru House Sparrow will be published in the Spring 1985 issue.



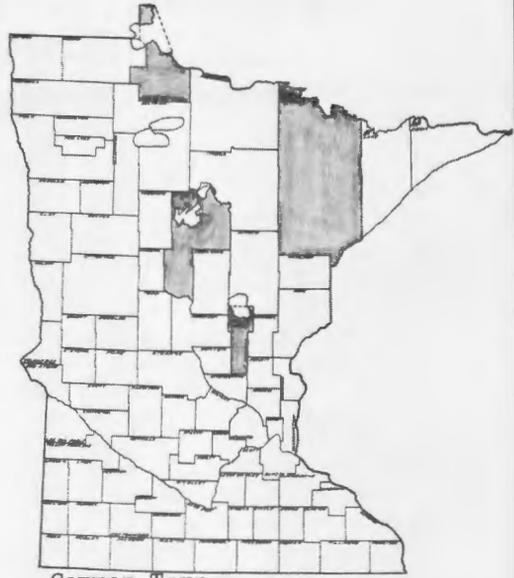
Franklin's Gull



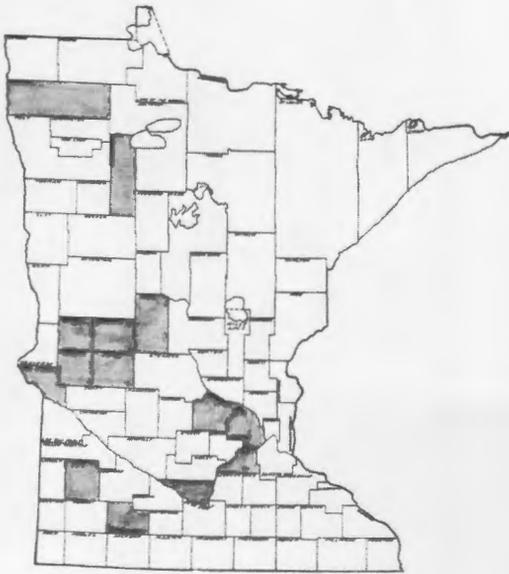
Ring-billed Gull



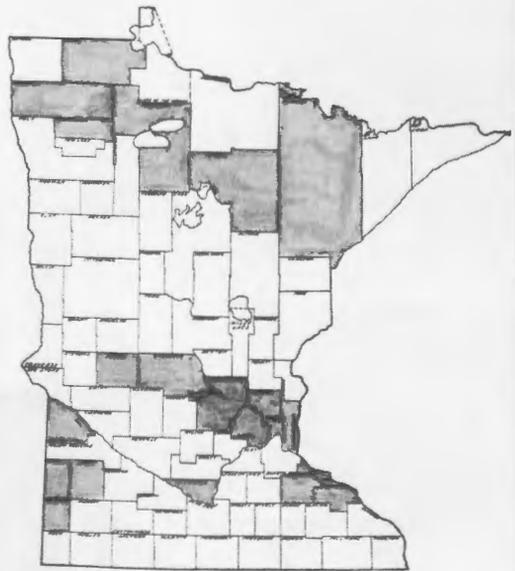
Herring Gull



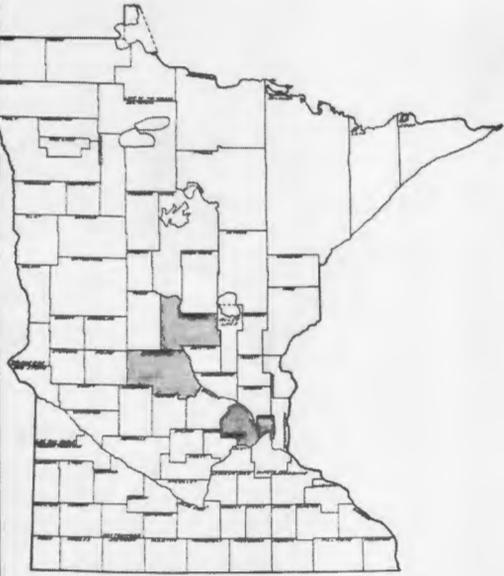
Common Tern



Forster's Tern



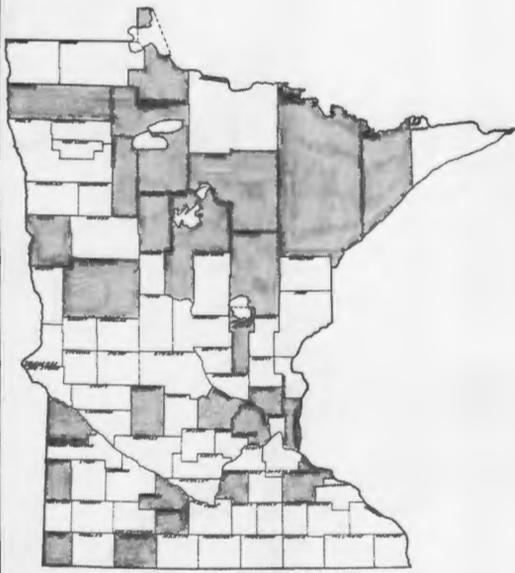
Black Tern



Rock Dove



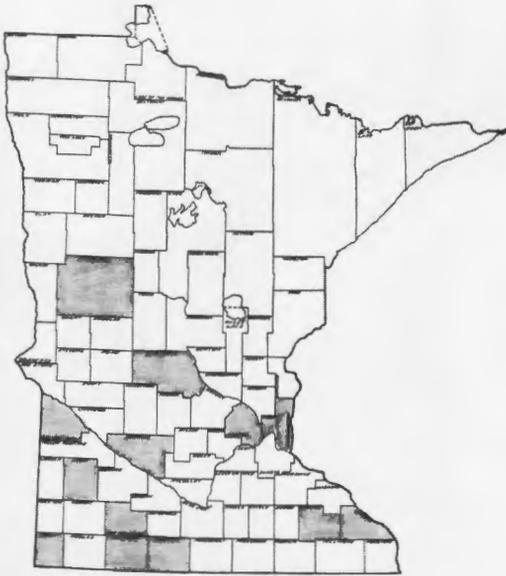
Mourning Dove



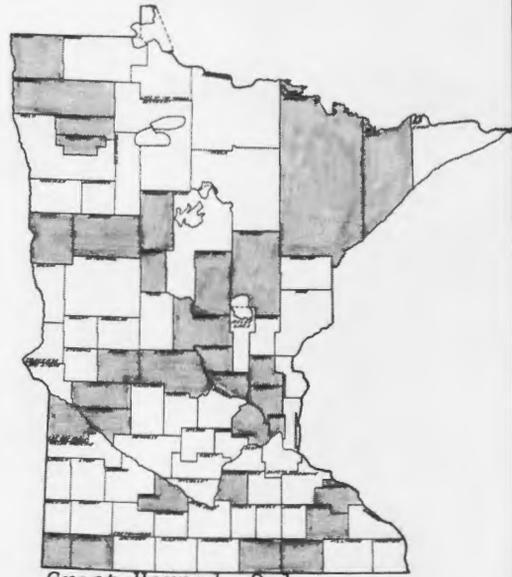
Black-billed Cuckoo



Yellow-billed Cuckoo



Eastern Screech-Owl



Great Horned Owl



Northern Hawk-Owl



Burrowing Owl





Boreal Owl



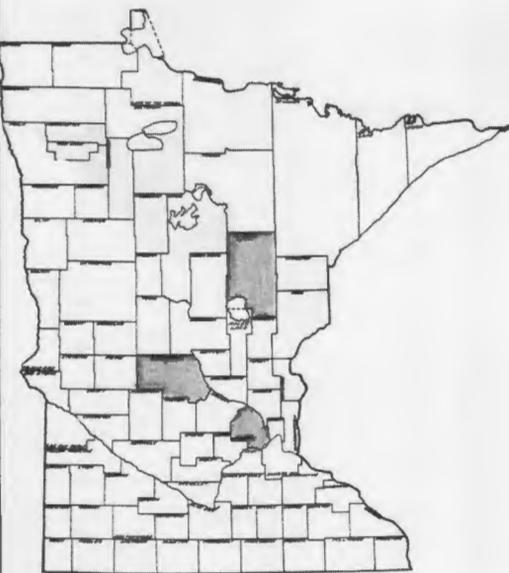
Northern Saw-whet Owl



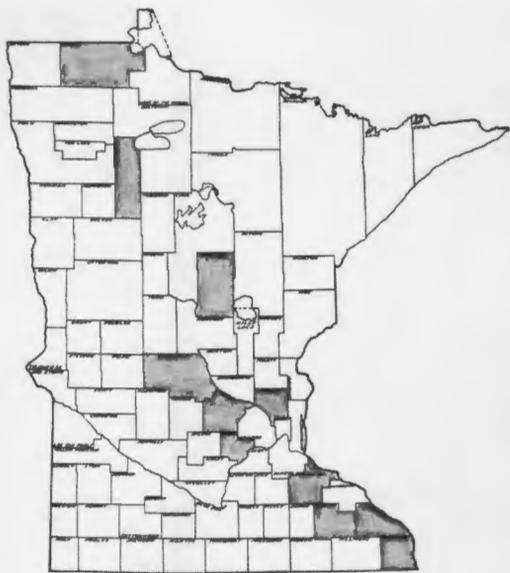
Common Nighthawk



Whip-poor-will



Chimney Swift



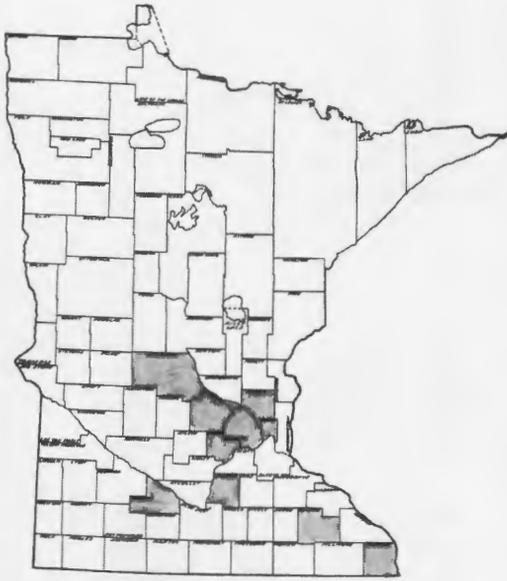
Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Belted Kingfisher



Red-headed Woodpecker



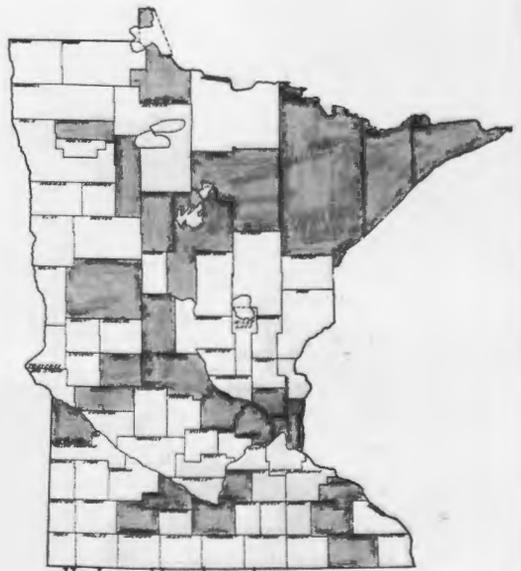
Red-bellied Woodpecker



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Downy Woodpecker



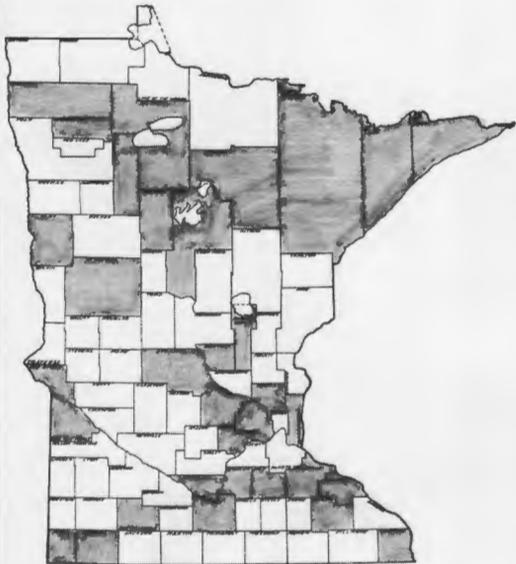
Hairy Woodpecker



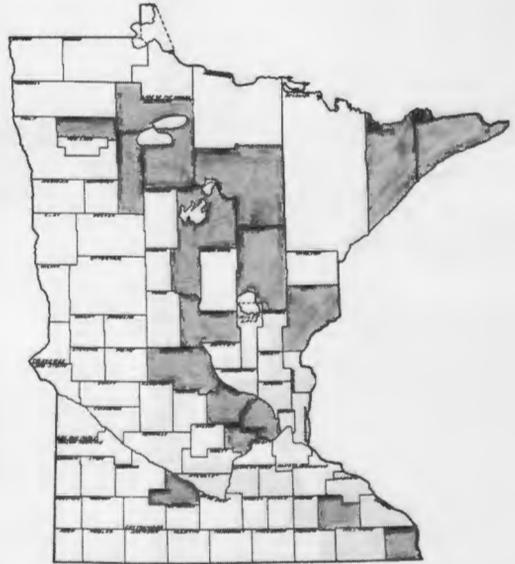
Three-toed Woodpecker



Black-backed Woodpecker



Northern Flicker



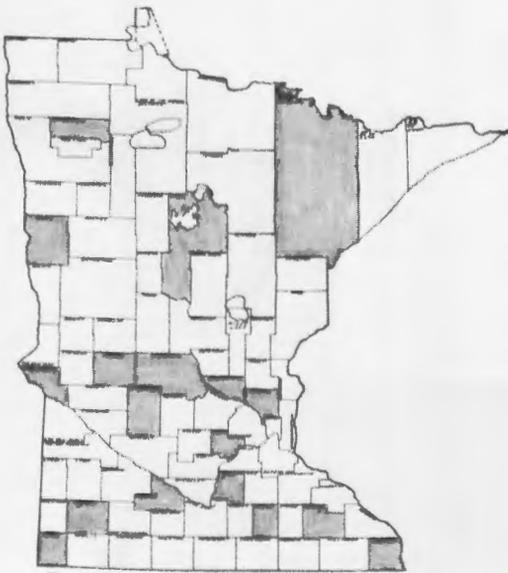
Pileated Woodpecker



Western Wood-Pewee



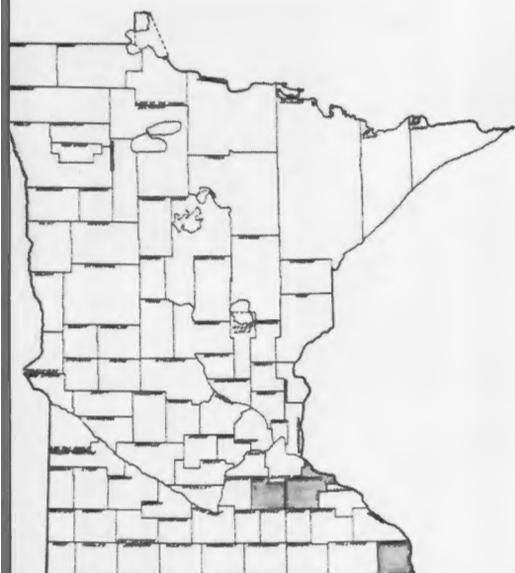
Olive-sided Flycatcher



Eastern Wood-Pewee



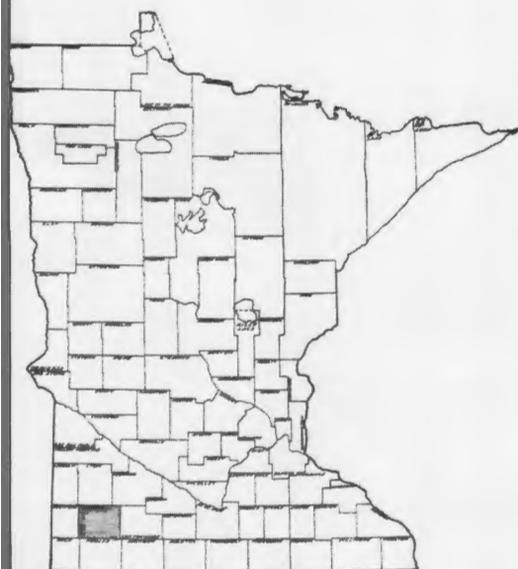
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher



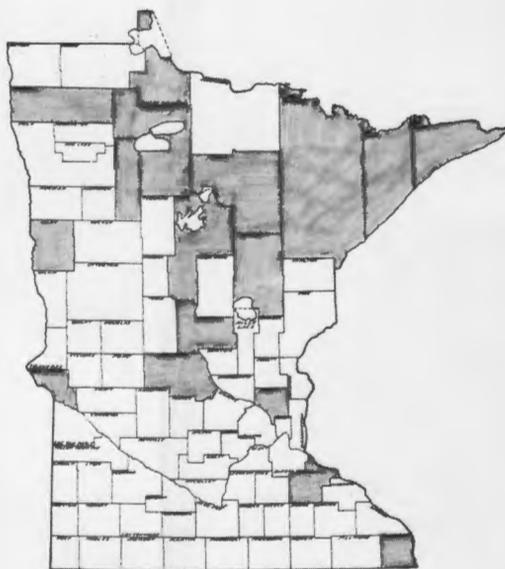
Acadian Flycatcher



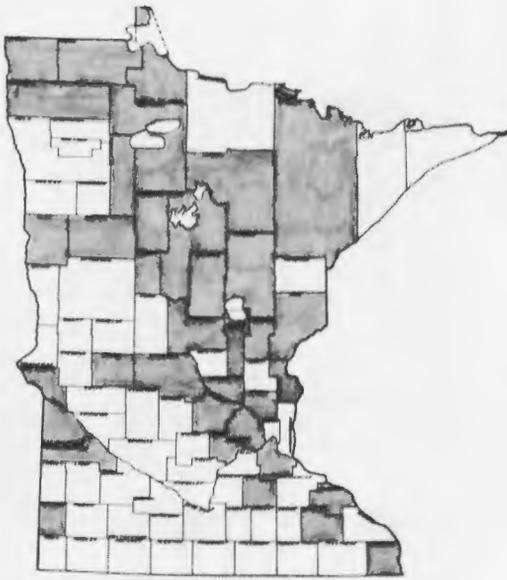
Alder Flycatcher



Willow Flycatcher



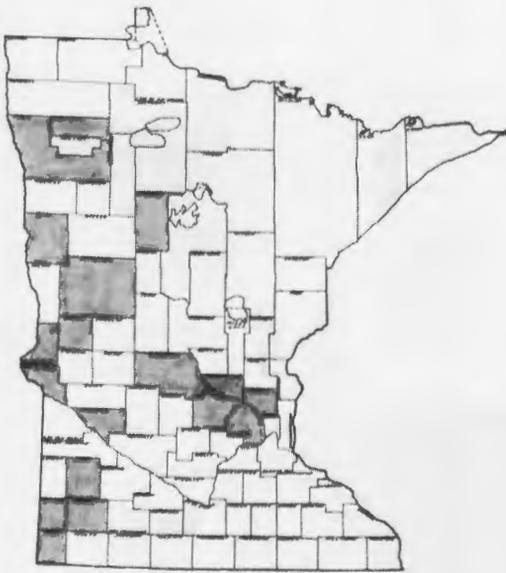
Least Flycatcher



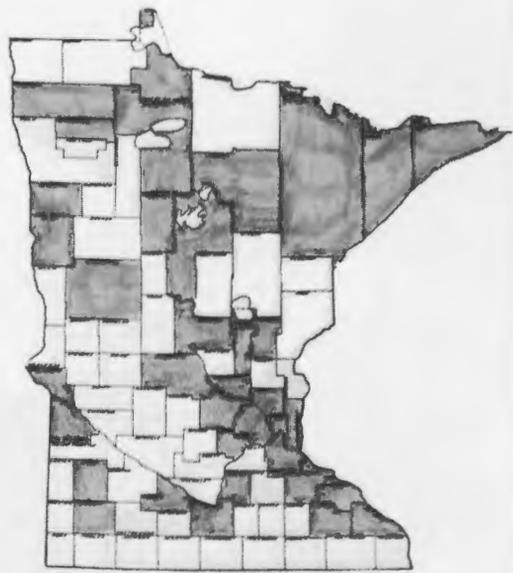
Eastern Phoebe



Great Crested Flycatcher



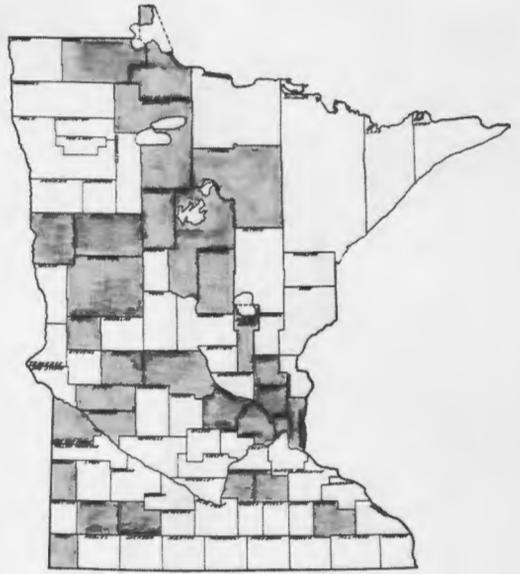
Western Kingbird



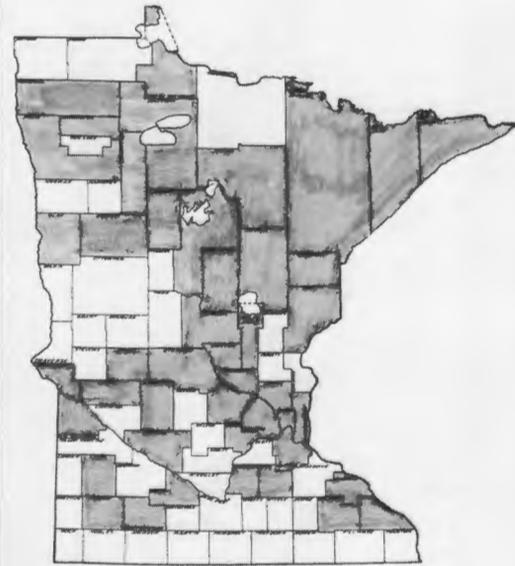
Eastern Kingbird



Horned Lark



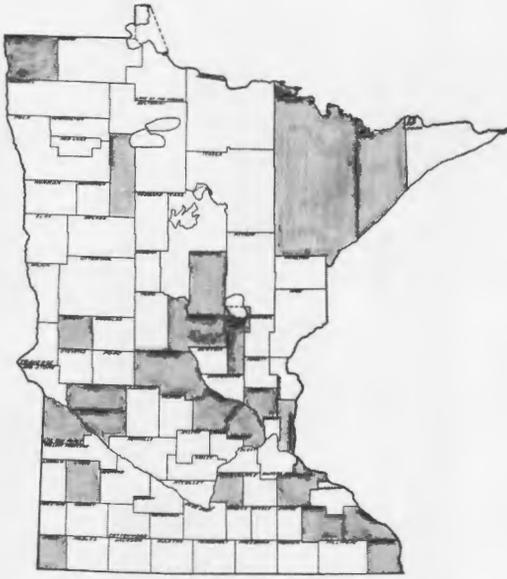
Purple Martin



Tree Swallow



Northern Rough-winged Swallow



Bank Swallow



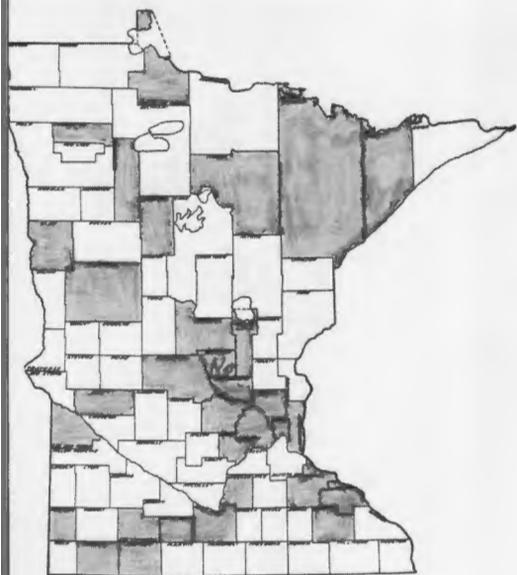
Cliff Swallow



Barn Swallow



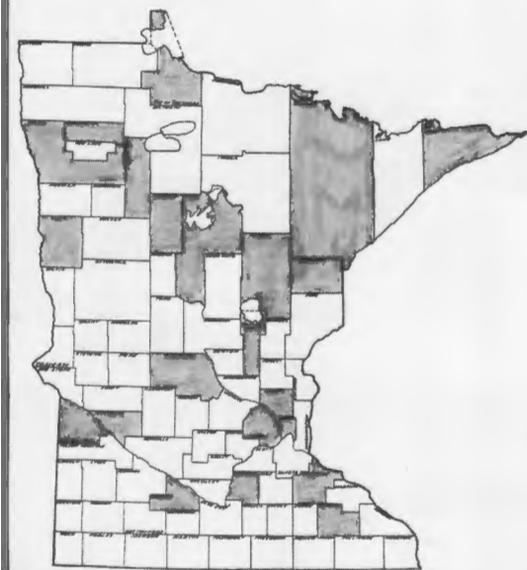
Gray Jay



Blue Jay



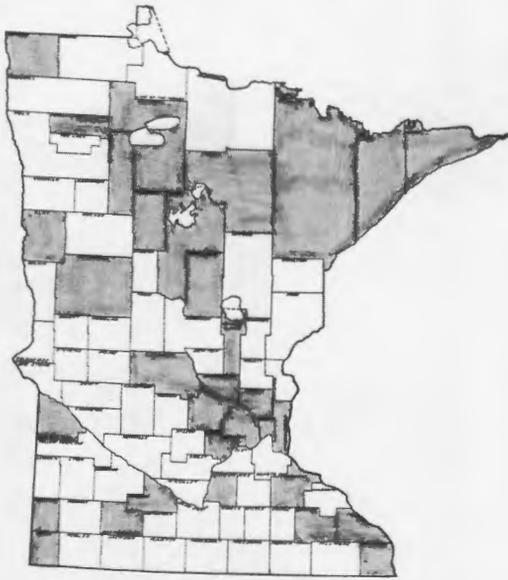
Black-billed Magpie



Common Crow



Common Raven



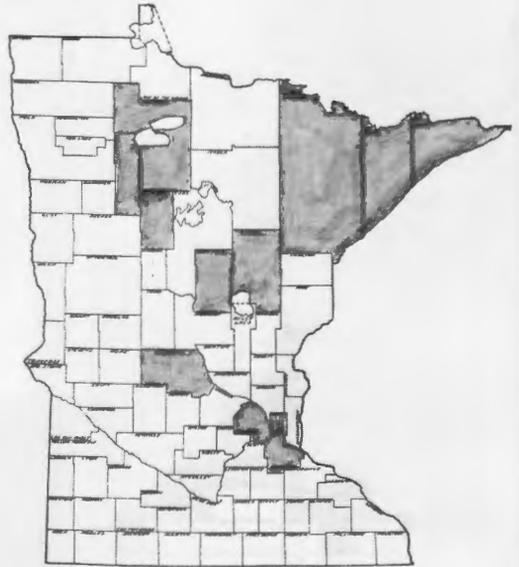
Black-capped Chickadee



Boreal Chickadee



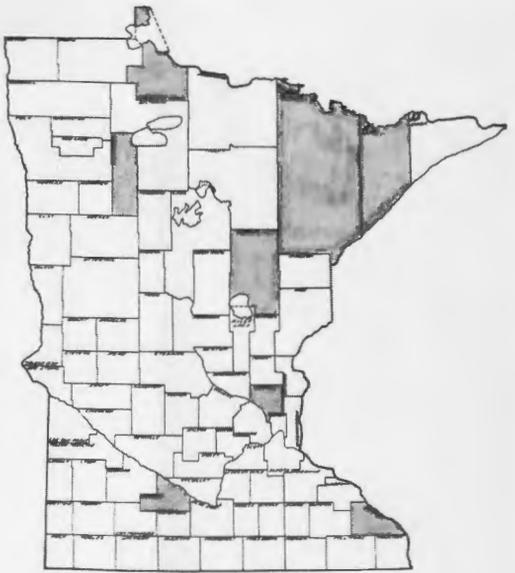
Tufted Titmouse



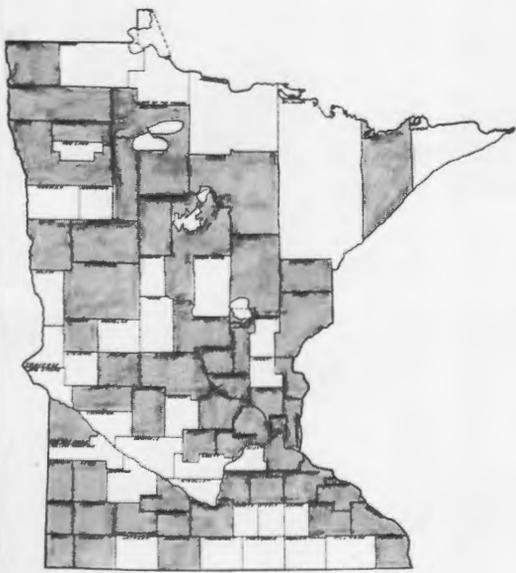
Red-breasted Nuthatch



White-breasted Nuthatch



Brown Creeper



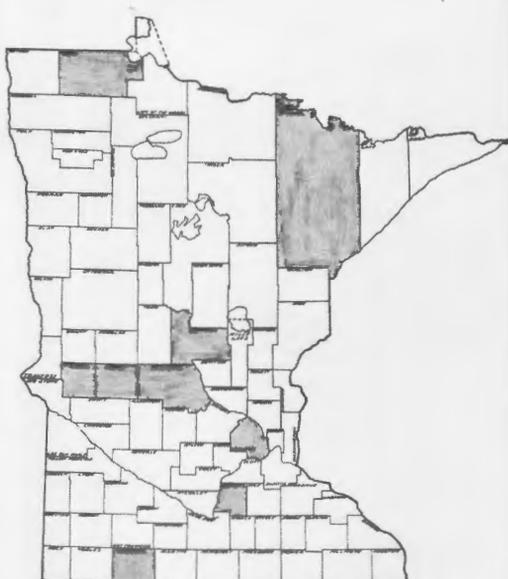
House Wren



Winter Wren



Sedge Wren



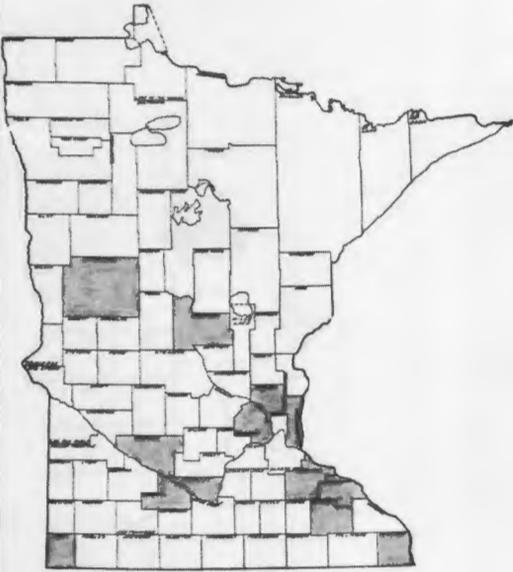
Marsh Wren



Golden-crowned Kinglet



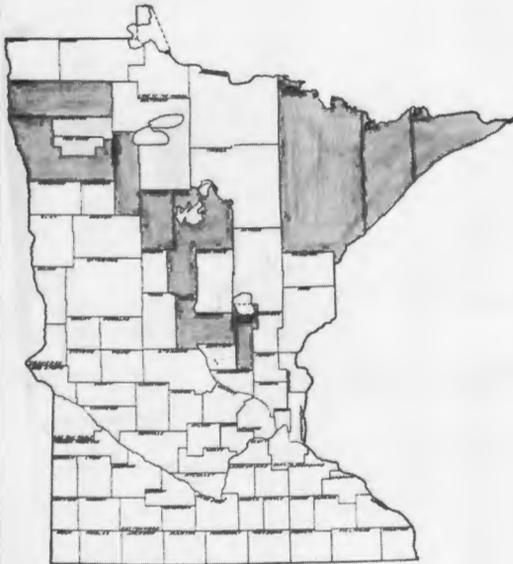
Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



Eastern Bluebird



Veery



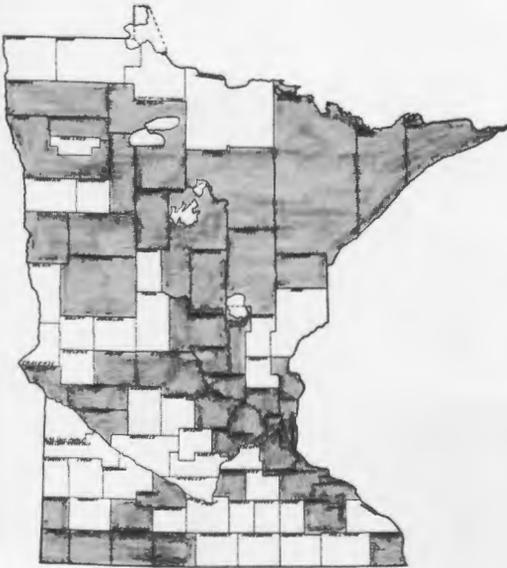
Swainson's Thrush



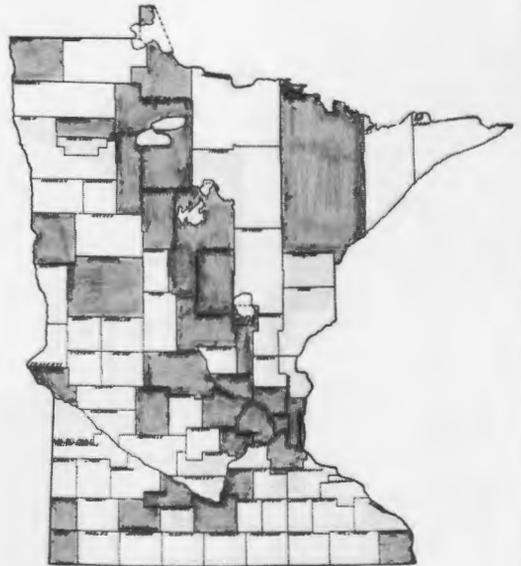
Hermit Thrush



Wood Thrush



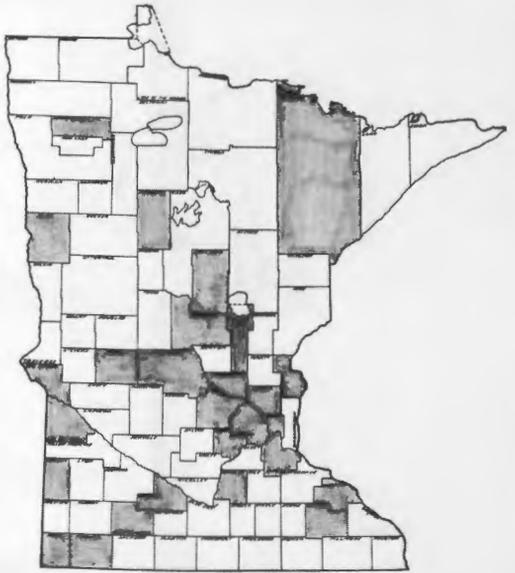
American Robin



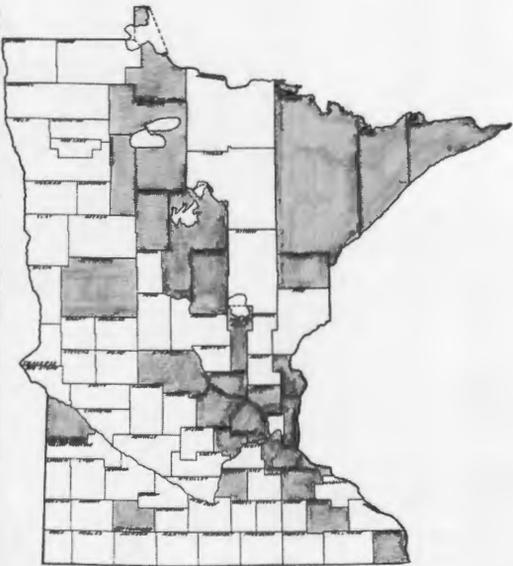
Gray Catbird



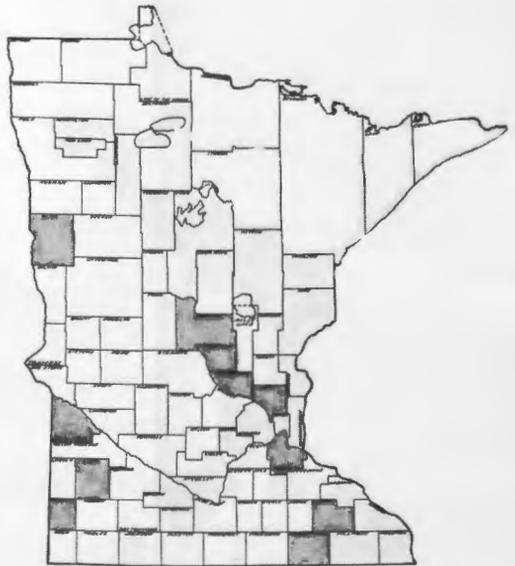
Northern Mockingbird



Brown Thrasher



Cedar Waxwing



Loggerhead Shrike

# MINNESOTA'S FIRST LESSER BLACK- BACKED GULL: OCTOBER BIRDING, PART II

Kim R. Eckert

Although all the other Great Lakes states and provinces have had records of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, a rare but regular visitant on the Atlantic coast, none had shown up in this state until the remarkable month of October 1984 arrived. Most of the first half of this month had been consistently overcast, foggy, rainy, with prevailing southeast winds, and on the night of October 18-19 a storm blew into Duluth on strong east winds which dumped lots of rain and birds in the area. Doug Johnson, relatively new to birding and a student in my Duluth bird identification classes, was the first to arrive at the Recreation Area at Park Point to look over the array of gulls, ducks and shorebirds on the morning of October 19. As always after a storm blows in from Lake Superior in the fall, there were a lot of birds on the ballfields, but it didn't take long for Doug to pick out a dark-mantled adult gull among the Herring and Ring-billeds. In spite of his inexperience, Doug then was able to figure out on his own with the help of his Geographic field guide that this was indeed a Lesser Black-backed. Knowing how unusual the species is, he tried calling other local birders but only managed to reach Keith Camburn who arrived a short time later.

Both Doug and Keith were still watching the gull when 28 birders on a Wings birding tour I was guiding drove up, not knowing what was waiting for us. After confirming the gull's identity (Will Russell, my co-leader on the tour, had thorough experience with the species from birding both sides of the Atlantic), more phone calls were made locally and to the Twin Cities, and several more birders arrived throughout the day to watch and photograph this overdue but still exciting first state record. The gull was a full adult with some light-moderate winter streaking on the head and neck. Overall its size was slightly smaller

than the Herring Gulls with it, but much larger than the Ring-billeds. At rest its mantle was quite dark gray, obviously and much darker than the other gulls; as it flew around the ballfield, its mantle appeared to be not quite as dark for some reason and was obviously paler than the black wing tips (there was only one subapical mirror, this on the outer primary). The head, tail, underparts and trailing edge of the wings were white. The irides were yellow, the bill yellow with a red spot near the tip of the lower mandible, and, most significantly of all, the legs were dull yellow.

Other "Black-Backed" gulls with which the Lesser Black-backed could be confused are eliminated as follows (and all but one of these are precluded by leg color alone): Great Black-back larger overall with blacker mantle; southern race of Western Gull lacks head/neck streaking and has blacker mantle; northern race of Western Gull has dark irides (and both races have larger bills); Slaty-backed Gull has a white line between black wing tips and rest of mantle; Yellow-footed Gull, the only other gull with yellow legs, larger overall, with larger bill and darker mantle. In addition, the relatively pale shade of the mantle eliminates the blacker-backed Scandinavian race *fuscus*, and indicates this individual was of the race *graellsii*, the subspecies which accounts for almost all North American records.

The Lesser Black-backed was quite cooperative all day, staying on the ballfield right up until dusk, but by the next morning it was gone, disappointing all the birders who came up to look for it the weekend of October 20-21. On this weekend, however, the gull was relocated at Wisconsin Point in Superior, either at the Superior landfill or a short distance away on Lake Superior. There were a few more subsequent sightings here on the



Lesser Black-backed Gull with Ring-billed Gulls,  
Minnesota Point, Duluth, 19 October 1984.  
Photo by Don Bolduc.

Wisconsin side where it was last seen November 4, but Terry Savaloja was lucky enough to spot the gull on October 23 standing on a breakwater on the Minnesota side of Superior entry, the channel of water that separates Minnesota or Park Point from Wisconsin Point. This was the only other date the gull was seen in Minnesota.

As a postscript to this first state record, I mentioned earlier that October 1984 was a remarkable month in the Duluth area and along the North Shore. Besides the Lesser Black-backed Gull, a long list of other significant birds occurred during this month, which reconfirms Bob Janssen's contention in his "October Birding" (*The Loon* 56:30-32) that October is a most exciting month for birding. Although he says that this month is not usually thought of as interesting, the contrary is true among those of us who bird Duluth and the North Shore in the fall. As good as August and September can be in this part of the state, it is October that we look forward to with the most anticipation. (Remember the Ides of

October, 1980? — see *The Loon* 52: 143-145.)

Fall in northeastern Minnesota is known among birders as the time and place to expect the unexpected, and 1984 produced one of the best seasons ever, a season that reached its climax in October. August in Duluth was remarkable enough, with a locally unprecedented family group of Yellow-throated Vireos found on the 18th, a fourth state record Western Wood-Pewee in my yard on the 16th, a probable Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Aug. 19, a second Duluth record of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Aug 21, and Hawk Ridge's first confirmed sighting of Ferruginous Hawk on the 30th.

Although there was a bit of a lull in September, a very early Snow Bunting flew by Hawk Ridge Sept. 13, two days later a Smith's Longspur was briefly but carefully identified at Canal Park, and on the 17th no fewer than 13 Peregrines went over Hawk Ridge, only one short of the one-day record, and an amazing seven of these were netted and banded that day —

in the 12-year history of the banding station only ten had ever been caught, with no more than two in any entire season.

But the fall season clearly reached its climax in October, and the five-day period which coincided with the Wings birding tour, Oct. 18-22, emerged as the peak of the mountain of rarities which piled up in Duluth and along the North Shore. As mentioned earlier, the first 17 days of the month were mostly dark, damp and warm. With an abundance of fog, low overcast and south to southeast winds, it appeared that a lot of birds felt it was spring and were unable to tell north from south. Flocks of a wide variety of birds, especially robins, were observed flying north as if in spring migration, and on Oct. 11 at Park Point a Brown Creeper, Winter Wren and Black-and-white Warbler were all heard singing. Also notable during the first half of the month: a Summer Tanager and a possible female Black-headed Grosbeak (or was it a hybrid or an aberrant Rose-breasted?) both at the same feeder Oct. 2; four locally rare Ruddy Ducks Oct. 4; a casual-in-fall White-rumped Sandpiper Oct. 5-6; an unidentified jaeger Oct. 6-8 which looked tantalizingly like a Long-tailed; a lone Harlequin Duck, also Oct. 6-8; a record early Glaucous Gull on the 7th; a beautiful male Mountain Bluebird Oct. 12-13; an Arctic Loon on the 14th; and an Eared Grebe on the 16th.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull may have been the highlight of that remarkable five-day period from the 18th to the 22nd, but it was still only one of a series of significant records in Duluth that occurred in these few days: a locally casual Red-shouldered Hawk and two Swainson's Hawks, not only casual here but also quite late, both at Hawk Ridge; an even rarer American Avocet at 40th Ave. W. (also at this time at Wisconsin Point a flock of 17 incredibly went for a swim in Lake Superior!); a few locally rare Franklin's Gulls and a lost Forster's Tern at Park Point; a very probable Band-tailed Pigeon glimpsed by Will Russell and I (it would have been a 5th state record); a record 131 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded in a single night at Hawk Ridge (the season total reached over 700); a possible Northern Wheatear that eluded a binocularless

Keith Camburn (that would have been a 3rd Minnesota record!); a Summer Tanager at a feeder; Rufous-sided Towhee and Field Sparrow, both locally rare/casual, both at Park Point. With all these rarities present during just a few days, it was tempting to dismiss several other interesting birds seen then as commonplace: all three scoters and Oldsquaw, normally elusive in Duluth, were most cooperative stake-outs on several different days; Black-backed Woodpeckers, which had appeared earlier than normal in September, were not only plentiful but a stand of pines at Hawk Ridge hosted this species almost daily for over a month; unprecedented numbers of both crossbills continued to swarm into Duluth, an invasion which began back in August; and finally there were so many birds in Duluth on Oct. 22 that no fewer than 100 species were seen by all the birders in town that day!

As if the preceding list of birds for those five eventful days were not enough, the October 18-22 story is hardly complete. On Oct. 21 the Wings birding tour headed up the North Shore to Grand Marais, adding these birds to the long list: Vesper Sparrows at Gooseberry Falls and Grand Marais (an unusual number also appeared in Duluth throughout the month); at Lutsen Resort there were three Western Meadowlarks, a Brewer's Blackbird which attacked and almost killed a Tennessee Warbler, a very late Red-eyed Vireo (which was still there Oct. 27), and a Brown Creeper sleeping on the side of a building which allowed itself to be picked up and held; by the Cascade Lodge a late Scarlet Tanager and Pine Warbler appeared; and at Grand Marais we found no fewer than 13 species of sparrows, including a late Clay-colored and quite unexpected and record late Grasshopper Sparrow, an incredible nine species of warblers (Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Palm, Black-and-white, American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat), a Thayer's Gull (this gull was also unexpectedly common in Duluth later in the month), and last but hardly Least (pun intended) an Empidonax flycatcher that seemed to be a first-state-record Dusky Flycatcher (at the time of this writing, the description of this bird is

still being evaluated)!

But October still had nine days remaining after those amazing five days: no fewer than 18 pelicans flew over Duluth Oct. 23, and two days later another found, or rather lost, its way to Grand Marais; a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Northern Cardinal appeared at the same feeder on the 24th and the 27th; two unexpected Gadwalls swam by Park Point on the 25th; the next day Steve Wilson spotted the casual Black-legged Kittiwake at Stoney Point; on the 27th Spotted Sandpiper and Le Conte's Sparrow were both late at Two Harbors, and a Townsend's Solitaire was spotted near Knife River; on Oct. 28 a record 2500+ Red-tailed Hawks flew over Hawk Ridge, a late Tree Swallow flew by Park Point, and also at Park Point a bizarre group of 12 dead Brown Creepers were found in a roosting cavity in a tree (Brown Creepers continued to behave strangely all month as several were seen crawling horizontally on objects on the ground as if they were vertical tree trunks, and Keith Camburn was mistaken for a tree as he stood motionless in the woods, and a creeper happened by, landed on his pants leg, picked off a small spider, crawled up to Keith's shoulder, looked him in the eye and flew off!); on the 29th over at Wiscon-

sin Point an unidentified gull looked so much like a Glaucous-winged that if I had been on the West Coast I would not have hesitated to call it that; the banders at Hawk ridge caught only their third Golden Eagle ever on Oct 30; and the month ended with a record late Broad-winged Hawk over at the Ridge on the 31st.

And, as a postscript to all that went on in October 1984, November may have paled in comparison, but rounding out this memorable fall in northeastern Minnesota were an Arctic Loon Nov. 3 at Canal Park, a group of three perfectly-marked Hoary Redpolls by themselves at Park Point Nov. 4 without a Common Redpoll in sight, a Boreal Owl banded the next day at Hawk Ridge, a Western Grebe Nov. 12 at Two Harbors, Duluth's long-overdue first California Gull on the 25th, and a record late Clay-colored Sparrow which survived throughout the month at a Duluth feeder.

Without a doubt, October 1985 will be another great month for birding, perhaps even better than the two previous Octobers—if so, can an "October Birding III" article in *The Loon* be far behind?

9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.

## THE SPRING SEASON (March 1 — May 31, 1984)

Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson, Ocsar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

For the season, 78 reports were received, recording a total of 314 species, 295 regular, 9 casual and 10 accidental in occurrence. Still another species, the Ross' Gull, number 398, was added to Minnesota's fast-growing state list.

Spring weather was not particularly

pleasant. Cool temperatures, winds and a late April snowstorm deterred the appearance of both birds and birders. Despite these handicaps, a number of waterfowl arrived early and one hardy Red-necked Grebe tied the state record with its appearance noted on March 29.

According to widely-traveled observers, the shorebird migration was good; warblers were disappointing, and sparrows made the poorest showing in recent years. Declines were reported in Gray Partridge, both cuckoo species, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Harris' and White-crowned Sparrows. There was only one scoter report; none at all were seen on Lake Superior.

On the brighter side, Cattle Egrets staged a comeback; Red-breasted Mergansers, Ruffed Grouse, Pine Siskins and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were more numerous.

The most exciting bird of the Spring, of course, was the **Ross' Gull** discovered April 4 by Jim Mattson at Agassiz National National Wildlife Refuge. It remained at least 10 days and was seen by at least 25 highly appreciative birders, few of whom ever expected to see this rare creature, let alone add it to their state list. For rarity-seekers, there were other highlights as well. Last winter's star, the Brambling, lingered at Owatonna until March 24. The rare Common Barn-Owl thrilled many birders at Wood Lake in Richfield. Other noteworthy sightings included Anhinga, Brant, Arctic Tern, Rock Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch and an Audubon's race Yellow-rumped Warbler.

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

Reported 3/31 through 4/7 Duluth KE, many obs.

#### **Common Loon**

Early south 3/31 Cottonwood LAF, Rice KJ, 4/1 Dakota SC, early north 4/7 Otter Tail AB, 4/8 St. Louis KE, 4/9 Crow Wing WL.

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

Early south 3/1 Dakota JD, 3/24 Mower PP; RRK, Olmsted PP, early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 Becker, Clay AB.

#### **Horned Grebe**

Early south 4/7 Hennepin PL, 4/11 Ramsey DS, ES, 4/14 Blue Earth RJ, Nicollet JCF; early north 4/12 Polk KL, 4/14 Lake SW/MS, Otter Tail G MO.

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

Early south 3/29 Dakota SSt (equals earliest date on record), 4-21 Nicollet JCF, 4/26 Hennepin SC; early north 4/7 Duluth KE, 4/10 Marshall ANWR, 4/12 Polk KL.

#### **Eared Grebe**

Early south 4/28 Cottonwood LAF, Lac Qui Parle many obs.; early north 4/12 Marshall KL, 4/28 Otter Tail GMO, 5/13 St. Louis KE.

#### **Western Grebe**

Early south 4/19 Blue Earth MF, 4/21 Martin SW/MS, Nicollet JCF; early north 4/20 Otter Tail GMO, 4/21 Marshall AB, 5/19 Clay TBB.

#### **American White Pelican**

Overwintered again at Albert Lea (3/17 Freeborn RJ); early south 4/10 Lyon HK, 4/14 Nicollet JCF, 4/18 Le Sueur EK; early north 4/20 Grant PP, Otter Tail GMO, 4/21 Marshall ANWR.

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

Early south 3/20 Sherburne SSa, 3/31 Lac Qui Parle BL, DZ, 4/4 Dakota DZ; Early north 4/6 Otter Tail GMO, 4/11 Big Stone, RJ, Mahnomen JD.

#### **ANHINGA**

5/26 Scott DB, Karol Gresser; second Minnesota record. (*The Loon* 56:203)

#### **American Bittern**

Early south 4/23 Nobles SW/MS, 4/21 Watonwan SSt, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle PL, Ramsey BL; early north 4/19 Cook EH, Marshall ANWR, 4/20 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

#### **Least Bittern**

5/4 Otter Tail GMO, 5/12 Freeborn RJ, 5/18 Marshall ANWR, 5/24 Blue Earth MF, 5/26 Olmsted RE.

#### **Great Blue Heron**

Early south 3/19 Anoka DS, 3/23 Washington TBB, 3/24 Sibley HK, Steele OJ; early north 3/24 Becker RJ, Otter Tail SDM, 3/26 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Great Egret**

Early south 3/28 Ramsey NL, 3/31 Houston AB, 4/1 Anoka KL; early north 4/7 Otter Tail GMO, 4/8 Marshall SDM, 4/14 St. Louis M. Stock.

**Snowy Egret**

5/18 LeSueur JEB, 5/21 through 25 Marshall ANWR.

**Cattle Egret**

No reports 1982. In 1983, 4/27 Winona SSt, 4/28 Houston FL, 5/5 Goodhue RJ, KJ, 5/13 Rice KJ, 5/20 Cottonwood WH (5), 5/26 Grant KE (15), Lac Qui Parle PL.

**Green-backed Heron**

Early south 4/17 Wabasha WDM, 4/27 Hennepin DB, 4/28 Houston FL; early north 5/3 Otter Tail GMO, 5/10 Marshall ANWR, 5/13 Clearwater AB.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

Early south 4/1 Hennepin SC, 4/10 Washington DS, 4/17 Cottonwood WH; Early north 4/19 Carlton KL, 4/20 Otter Tail GMO, Cook KL; also unusual in Duluth 5/10 through 31 KE, many obs.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

5/1 Anoka KL; only report.

**Tundra Swan**

Early south 3/2 Wabasha RRK (overwintered?), 3/19 Sherburne SSa, 3/27 Dakota JD; early north 3/25 St. Louis R. Johnson fide KE, 4/1 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SMD, GMO, Todd KL.

**MUTE SWAN**

4/24 to 4/26 Duluth KE.

**Greater White-fronted Goose**

Early 3/3 Olmsted RE; also 3/17 Faribault RJ, 4/5 Rice KJ, 5/4 Marshall ANWR, 5/26 Lac Qui Parle SC, PL.

**Snow Goose**

Early south 3/3 Olmsted RE, 3/6 Mower RRK; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/29 Aitkin WN; late south 5/4 Dakota JP/AM, JD, 5/13 Hennepin SC; late north 5/4 Marshall ANWR, 5/26 Polk AB, Roseau AJ, KSS.

**BRANT**

4/21 Cook KL. (*The Loon* 56:194)

**Canada Goose**

Permanent resident, reported from 28 counties south, 14 north; waves of 1000s reported 4/21 along North Shore.

**Wood Duck**

Early south 3/3 Dakota JD, KE (overwintered?), 3/24 six counties south; early north 3/28 Otter Tail GMO, 3/30 Clay LCF, 4/2 Wilkin SDM.

**Green-winged Teal**

Early south 3/3 Ramsey RH, 3/24 Olmsted PP, 3/29 Wabasha WDM; early north 3/17 Otter Tail GMO, 4/5 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 Clay AB.

**American Black Duck**

Permanent resident; reported from eight counties south, six counties north.

**Mallard**

Permanent resident; reported from 27 counties south, 21 counties north.

**Northern Pintail**

Early south 3/25 Blue Earth JCF, 3/28 Wabasha WDM, 3/31 six counties south; early north 3/24 Otter Tail GMO, 3/29 Marshall ANWR, 4/1 Aitkin WN.

**Blue-winged Teal**

Early south 3/16 Mower, Olmsted PP, 3/24 Houston FL, Dakota JD; early north 3/24 Otter Tail GMO, 4/1 Aitkin WN, 4/5 Marshall ANWR.

**CINNAMON TEAL**

5/1 through 17 Hennepin (Lake Rebecca) m.ob., photographed.

**Northern Shoveler**

Early south 3/24 Dakota SC, Mower RRK, 3/25 Rice KJ; early north 4/8 Clay LCF, 4/9 Lake SW/MS, 4/10 Otter Tail GMO.

**Gadwall**

Early south 3/15 Anoka KL, 3/17 Goodhue BL, ES, Freeborn, Rice RJ; Early north 3/18 Otter Tail SDM, 4/3 Marshall ANWR, 4/22 St. Louis KE.

**American Wigeon**

Early south 3/6 Olmsted JEB, 3/15 Anoka KL, Dakota RJ; early north 3/24 Otter Tail GMO, 4/3 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 Clay, Morrison AB.

**Canvasback**

Early south 3/3 Dakota ES, Olmsted RE, 3/19 Hennepin KJ; early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 4/6 Marshall ANWR, KSS, 4/7 Clay AB.

### **Redhead**

Early south 3/3 Goodhue BL, DZ, 3/14 Dakota SC, 3/16 Olmsted PP; early north 4/2 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 Otter Tail AB, 4/11 St. Louis KE.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Early south 3/6 Olmsted PP (overwintered), 3/14 Anoka DS, Dakota SC, 3/16 Goodhue OJ; early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 3/14 Wilkin SDM, 4/2 Marshall ANWR.

### **Greater Scaup**

Early south 3/17 Anoka KL, 3/24 Dakota SC; early north 4/5 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 Otter Tail AB; late south 4/27 Hennepin ES, 5/1 Ramsey DS; late north 5/9 Cook EH, Roseau AJ.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Early south 3/14 Olmsted RE, 3/15 Dakota RJ, 3/16 Goodhue OJ; early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 3/9 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 3/26 Marshall ANWR.

### **Harlequin Duck**

3/26, 27 Lake (Winton) SNP.

### **Oldsquaw**

5/15 Duluth J. Green, 5/20 Cook KMH.

### **White-winged Scoter**

4/2 Sibley HK. Only scoter report

### **Common Goldeneye**

Permanent resident, reported from 22 counties south, 11 counties north.

### **Bufflehead**

Early south 3/23 Olmsted RE, PP, 3/24 Dakota SSt, 3/25 Wabasha JP/AM; early north 3/18 Otter Tail GMO, 3/26 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 3/27 Marshall ANWR.

### **Hooded Merganser**

3/2 Dakota PL, 3/12 Washington TBB, 3/16 Mower RRK; early north 3/25 Duluth KC, MH, 3/26 Marshall ANWR, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Common Merganser**

Early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 3/14 Koochiching GM, 3/27 Marshall ANWR; late south 4/25 Lincoln SW/MS, 4/26 Dodge JEB, 4/29 Hennepin ES.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Early south 3/18 Dakota RH, 3/19 Hen-

nepin KJ, 3/24 Houston FL; early north 3/24 St. Louis fide KE, 3/25 Otter Tail GMO, 4/5 Marshall KSS.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Early south 3/24 Dakota SSt, SC, Olmsted JP/AM, Rice O. Rustad; early north 4/1 Otter Tail GMO, 4/8 Grant SDM, 4/15 Clay LCF.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Early south, 3/29 Houston EMF, 4/1 Mower RRK, 4/14 Blue Earth RJ (4); early north 3/30 St. Louis fide KE, 4/3 Otter Tail GMO, 4/14 Beltrami AB.

### **Osprey**

Early south 4/10 Mower DGS, 4/14 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JEB; early north 4/5 Lake SW/MS, 4/13 St. Louis J. Newman, 4/14 Aitkin WN.

### **Bald Eagle**

Permanent resident, reported from 18 counties south, 15 north.

### **Northern Harrier**

Early south 3/1 Le Sueur HC, Rock KE, 3/25 Mower RRK; early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 3/11 Aitkin WN, 3/28 Polk KSS.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Early south 3/24 Hennepin SC, 3/25 Houston EMF, 4/1 Dakota JD; early north 3/2 Otter Tail GMO, 4/4 Marshall ANWR, 4/8 St. Louis fide KE, 4/22 Aitkin WN.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Early south 3/17 Hennepin OJ, 3/30 Houston EMF, 3/31 Wabasha AB; early north 3/7 Otter Tail GMO, 4/1 Aitkin WN, 4/21 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

### **Northern Goshawk**

Permanent resident; late south 4/15 Rice KJ, 4/26 Hennepin SC, 4/8 Nicollet MF.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Early south 3/13 Wabasha WDM, 3/16 Dakota DB, JD, OJ, 3/31 Lac Qui Parle DZ; early north 3/23 Otter Tail GMO, 4/10 Aitkin WN, 5/9 Clay LCF.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Early south 4/1 Mower RRK, 4/15 Le Sueur HC, 4/20 Brown, Watonwan EB/K, Lyon HK, Washington DS; early north 4/4 Otter Tail GMO, 4/21 Aitkin WN, 4/23 St. Louis KC.

**Swainson's Hawk**

Early south 3/31 Dakota JD, 4/15 Mower RRK, 4/24 Rock SW/MS; early north 4/3 Otter Tail GMO, 4/29 Wilkin SDM, 5/17 Pennington KSS.

**Red-tailed Hawk**

Permanent resident, reported from 26 counties south, 13 north; early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 3/18 St. Louis AE, 3/30 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

**Ferruginous Hawk**

Reported 5/19 Polk KSS, 5/25 Clay KE, many obs.

**Rough-legged Hawk**

Late south 4/26 Sherburne SSa, 5/3 Cottonwood WH, 5/20 Washington DS; late north 4/29 Lake RJ, 5/3 Red lake KSS, 5/6 Aitkin WN.

**Golden Eagle**

Reported 3/1 Houston EMF, 3/11 Winona KE, 3/18 Dakota JD, 3/26 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 Todd GMO, 4/21 Marshall AB.

**American Kestrel**

Permanent resident, reported from 22 counties south 15 counties north; Early north 3/3 Otter Tail GMO, 3/4 Aitkin WN, 3/11 Wilkin SDM.

**Merlin**

Early south 3/26 Houston EMF, 4/17 Cottonwood WH, 4/25 Hennepin AB; Early north 3/15 St. Louis D. Evans, 4/11 Cook KMH, 4/16 Marshall ANWR.

**Peregrine Falcon**

Early south 4/2 Washington JP/AM, 4/18 Dakota JD, 5/5 Hennepin OJ, Stearns PL; early north 4/29 Aitkin JB, WN, 4/30 Marshall ANWR, 5/6 Morrison DB; now reported from six counties south, eight counties north.

**Gyrfalcon**

Wintered Duluth, last seen 4/8 KE.

**Gray Partridge**

Permanent resident, reported from 13 counties south, six north; numbers generally down.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

Permanent resident, reported from six north and 27 south counties.

**Spruce Grouse**

Permanent resident, reported 4/4 St. Louis (1) SNP, 4/11 Poplar Lake, Cook Co. KMH, 5/15 Lake Twp., Roseau Co. AJ, Lake (no date) SW/MS.

**Ruffed Grouse**

Permanent resident, reported from 14 north and ten south counties.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Permanent resident, reported 4/15 Cass JB, 4/17 Red lake KSS, 4/23 Marshall ANWR, 4/29 Wilkin SDM, 5/27 Clay, LCF, 5/30 Pennington KSS.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Permanent resident, reported 4/1 Aitkin WN, Red Lake KSS, 4/8 Aitkin JB, 4/9 Marshall SDM, 4/11 JP/AM, 4/12 Polk ES, 4/29 Carlton RJ, 5/5 Marshall SNP, SS.

**Wild Turkey**

Permanent resident, reported 5/12 Goodhue (3, wild?) TBB, 5/19 Wabasha, Winona AB, 5/27 Houston KE, Houston (1-2 resident) EMF.

**Northern Bobwhite**

Permanent resident, reported 5/13 Houston (2) FL, 5/27 Houston KE.

**Yellow Rail**

5/17 Marshall (3) ANWR, 5/21 Aitkin JB, WN, 5/25 Waubun marsh, Mahnomen Co. and Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. KE — all reports.

**Virginia Rail**

Early south 4/19 Anoka SC, 4/21 Washington DZ, 5/1 Cottonwood WH; early north 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/12 Polk AB, 5/16 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/21 Aitkin WN.

**Sora**

Early south 4/14 Dakota JD, 4/19 Blue Earth MF, 4/23 Anoka SC; early north 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/3 Red Lake KSS, 5/4 Kanabec KL.

**Common Moorhen**

5/9 Hennepin SC, 5/13 ES, 5/19 Houston AB. Wabasha BL, DZ, 5/23 Cottonwood WH, 5/26 Houston DGW, 5/26 and 27 KE — all reports.

### **American Coot**

Early south 3/17 Rice RJ, 3/23 O. Rustad, 3/24 Blue Earth JCF, Mower RRR, Houston FL, Dakota SST; early north 3/1 Ottertail (overwintered) GMO, 4/2 Marshall ANWR, 4/4 Clay LCF, 4/8 Aitkin WN.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Early south 3/25 Anoka JH, Hennepin RMR, 3/29 Anoka WL, 4/4 Chisago SC; early north 3/28 Red Lake KSS, 4/1 Mahnomen MHa, Ottertail GMO, 4/2 Marshall ANWR, Mille Lacs MLWMA. Also reported from Duluth 5/3 and 5/5 KE.

### **Black-bellied Plover**

Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle HK, 5/8 Dakota JP/AM; early north 5/9 Ottertail GMO, 5/20 Roseau AJ; late south 5/26 Olmsted PP, 5/30 Anoka RJ, KL, PL; late north 5/25 St. Louis DGW, 5/26 lake of the Woods KSS, 5/27 Clay SC, Roseau AJ.

### **Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early south 4/25 Swift RJ, Chippewa KL, 4/26 Lincoln SM/MS; early north 5/6 Ottertail GMO, 5/22 St. Louis KE, Cook KMH; late south 5/26 Nicollet JCF, Lac Qui Parle PL, 5/27 Anoka KL; late north 5/27 Clay SC, 5/28 Lake SW/MS.

### **Sempalmated Plover**

Early south 4/27 Lac Qui Parle PL, 5/1 Wabasha WDM; early north 5/7 Cook KMH, 5/10 Ottertail GMO; late south 5/26 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin OJ, 5/30 Anoka RJ, 5/31 KL; late north 5/26 Lake of the Woods, Roseau AJ, 5/28 Aitkin JB, WN.

### **Piping Plover**

4/28 Big Stone KE, SW/MS, 5/5 Mille Lacs, 5/10 St. Louis KE, 5/11 Lake (2) SW/MS, 5/16 Dakota JD, 5/19 Polk KSS, 5/19 St. Louis KC, 5/22 SC, 5/26 FL, SDM, 5/27 DB, 5/27 Aitkin (2) JB, WN, Lake of the Woods (total of 47) TW — all reports.

### **Killdeer**

Early south 3/3 Houston EMF, 3/15 Sherburne SSa, 3/18 Houston JP/AM; early north 3/24 Ottertail SDM, 3/25 GMO, 3/25 Aitkin WN, 3/27 Marshall ANWR, Mahnomen MHa.

### **American Avocet**

Numbers up; early south 4/10 Lake Calhoun, Hennepin Co. (5) CH, 4/24 Lac Qui parle KL; early north 4/22 Lake of the Woods AJ, 4/27 Polk KSS; late south 5/26 Lac Qui parle SC, 5/31 Watonwan EB/K; late north 5/18 Marshall ANWR, 5/26 Polk AB. Also reported from Anoka, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Dodge, Martin, Rice, Waseca, Crow Wing and Ottertail.

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

Early south 4/7 Ramsey RH, Hennepin OJ, 4/10 Dodge RE; early north 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/17 Ottertail GMO, 4/21 Pennington KSS; late south 5/21 Olmsted RE, 5/23 Anoka SC, 5/26 Hennepin OJ; late north 5/6 Crow Wing JB, 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/11 Lake SW/MS.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Early south 4/1 Olmsted JEB, 4/10 Dodge RE, Mower DGS, Wabasha WDM; early north 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/17 Ottertail GMO, 4/20 St. Louis MH; late south 5/26 Nicollet JCF, Wabasha DGW, 5/28 Hennepin OJ; late north 5/20 Cook EH, 5/26 Crow Wing RJ, 5/27 Aitkin WN.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Early south 4/26 Dakota JD, 4/28 Lac Qui parle HK; early north 4/21 Ottertail GMO, 4/25 Wilkin SDM, 5/3 Red Lake KSS; late south 5/25 Olmsted RE, 5/26 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin OJ; late north 5/19 Clearwater DGW, 5/20 Cook EH, 5/25 Lake SW/MS.

### **Willet**

Early south 4/26 Lac Qui Parle SW/MS, 4/27 Hennepin DB, ES, Lac Qui Parle PL; early north 4/29 Wilkin SDM, 5/8 Marshall ANWR, 5/9 St. Louis (6) KE, Clay LCF; late south 5/13 Washington JP/AM, 5/31 Anoka KL; late north 5/17 Roseau AJ, 5/23 Cook SDM.

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Early south 4/27 Hennepin ES, 4/28 Olmsted RE, 4/29 Hennepin CH; early north 4/20 Pennington KSS, 4/28 Ottertail GMO, 5/1 St. Louis KC, KE.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

Early south 4/28 Swift KE, 4/30 GS, 5/4 Mower RJ, Anoka KL; early north 5/3 Ottertail GMO, 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/12 Polk AB.

### **Whimbrel**

5/19 St. Louis (1) KC, M. Hendrickson, 5/27 St. Louis (23) L. Hanson — all reports.

### **Hudsonian Godwit**

Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4/29 Lyon HK, 5/10 Olmsted RE; early north 4/29 Wilkin SDM, 5/12 Polk AB, 5/15 Marshall (150) ANWR; late south 5/26 Hennepin OJ, 5/28 Lac Qui Parle GS, 5/30 Waseca JCF; late north 5/27 Polk AB, Aitkin JB, WN, 5/28 Aitkin JB.

### **Marbled Godwit**

Early south 4/17 Chippewa GMO, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle MH, HK, 5/5 Stearns PL; early north 4/14 Ottertail SDM, 4/18 SDM, 4/20 Marshall ANWR, Wilkin PP.

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Early south 5/8 Dakota JD, 5/16 Dakota PL; early north 5/9 St. Louis fide KE, 5/16 Marshall KSS; late south 5/30 Anoka PL, Hennepin ES, 5/31 Anoka KL; late north 5/27 Polk AB, St. Louis DB, 5/28 Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Red Knot**

5/8 Dakota JD, 5/19 St. Louis KC, M. Hendrickson, 5/22 SDM, 5/22 to 5/31 Anoka M.ob., 5/26 Polk Ab, 5/28 St. Louis KE — all reports.

### **Sanderling**

Early south 5/6 Hennepin BL, 5/11 Blue Earth JCF; early north 5/8 Ottertail GMO, 5/9 Lake of the Woods TW; late south 5/26 Lac Qui Parle SC, PL, 5/27 Washington DS; late north 5/26 Wilkin SC, Roseau KSS, 5/27 Clay SC, St. Louis DGW.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle KE, Yellow Medicine HK, 5/2 Dodge JEB, Wabasha WDM; early north 5/8 Ottertail GMO, 5/15 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/30 Hennepin ES, 5/31 Olmsted RE, Anoka KL; late north 5/26 Roseau KSS, 5/27 St. Louis DB, Aitkin JB, WN, Lake of the Woods TW; peak 5/26 Nicollet (710) JCF.

### **Western Sandpiper**

5/10 Wabasha WDM, 5/11 Swift KL, 5/18 Waseca JEB, 5/19 Rice KJ, 5/20 Marshall ANWR, Olmsted JP/AM, 5/24 Ottertail GMO, 5/24 and 5/25 Olmsted RE, 5/27 Aitkin JB, WN — all reports.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early south 4/26 Hennepin SC, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle KE, 5/2 Dodge JEB; early north 5/7 Cook KMH, 5/8 Ottertail GMO, 5/9 Clay LCF; late south 5/30 Hennepin ES, 5/31 Anoka KL; late north 5/26 Roseau KSS, 5/27 Aitkin JB.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Early south 5/9 Hennepin OJ, 5/12 Steele RJ, Chippewa BL, Olmsted JP/AM, Lac Qui Parle DZ; early north 5/10 Marshall ANWR, Red Lake KSS, 5/11 Polk AB; late south 5/28 Olmsted RE, 5/30 Cottonwood WH, Anoka PL, Hennepin ES; late north 5/26 Roseau AJ, 5/27 St. Louis DB, Aitkin JB, WN.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle KE, Big Stone SW/MS, 5/4 Rice RJ, Anoka KL; early north 4/10 Ottertail GMO, 4/16 Pennington KSS; late south 5/30 Hennepin ES, 5/31 Anoka KL; late north 5/26 Roseau KSS, 5/27 St. Louis DB, 5/28 Aitkin JB.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Early south 4/11 Wabasha WDM, Mower DGS, 4/12 Mower RRR; early north 4/21 Ottertail GMO, 4/26 Marshall ANWR, 4/28 Kanabec KL; late south 5/26 Chippewa SC, Lac Qui Parle PL, 5/30 Anoka KL; late north 5/14 Lake SW/MS, 5/19 Aitkin WN, 5/27 JB.

### **Dunlin**

Early south 4/28 Big Stone SW/MS, 5/5 Goodhue RJ; early north 5/6 St. Louis L. Hanson, 5/8 Ottertail GMO; late south 5/26 Nicollet (200) JCF, 5/31 Hennepin OJ, Anoka KL; late north 5/26 Polk, Clearwater AB, Roseau AJ, KSS, 5/27 St. Louis DB, DGW, 5/28 Aitkin JB.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

5/15 Cottonwood WH, 5/18 Marshall ANWR, 5/19 Pope RJ, 5/21 Ottertail GMO, 5/25 Olmsted RE, Anoka KL, 5/26 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin OJ, 5/27 Polk AB, 5/30 Hennepin ES — all reports.

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

5/25 Carver Park Reserve, Carver Co. (1) AJo.

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Early south 5/6 Lac Qui Parle DGW, 5/

9 Hennepin OJ; early north 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/15 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/19 Goodhue AB, DZ, Hennepin OJ, 5/21 Anoka RJ; late north 5/19 St. Louis KC, Aitkin WN, Polk KSS, 5/22 St. Louis KE.

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

Early south 5/4 Mower RJ, 5/6 Lac Qui Parle DGW, 5/7 Olmsted RE; late south 5/18 Dodge JEB, 5/26 Nicollet JCF. Only reports north 5/12 Polk AB, 5/21 Ottortail GMO.

#### **Dowitcher sp.?**

4/29 Nobles GS, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle DZ, 5/25 Anoka KL, 5/27 Aitkin JB.

#### **Common Snipe**

Early south 4/4 Dodge RJ, Hennepin RMR, 4/5 Olmsted JEB, 4/7 Brown JSp; early north 4/7 Mahnomen MHa, Kanabec KL, 4/8 Ottortail GMO, Marshall ANWR, 4/13 St. Louis J. Newman.

#### **American Woodcock**

Early south 3/25 Washington TBB, 3/27 DS, 3/28 Cottonwood LAF, 3/30 Hennepin RMR; early north 3/18 Ottortail GMO, 4/1 St. Louis SNP, Mahnomen KSS, 4/5 Lake SW/MS.

#### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Early south 4/25 Lac Qui Parle KL, 4/26 SW/MS, 4/28 Olmsted RE, Nicollet JCF; early north 4/20 Pennington KSS, 4/29 Mahnomen MHa, 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/4 St. Louis SNP; peak 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (200+) DGW, 5/12 (200+) DZ.

#### **Red-necked Phalarope**

5/12 Lac Qui Parle BL, DZ, 5/19 Polk KSS, 5/21 Ramsey RJ, Wilkin GMO, 5/26 Lac Qui Parle SC, Nicollet JCF, Hennepin OJ, 5/27 Polk AB, 5/30 Hennepin ES, 5/31 OJ — all reports.

#### **Franklin's Gull**

Early south 4/8 Lincoln, Lyon HK, Big Stone JP/AM, 4/14 Dakota JD, Nicollet JCF; early north 4/5 Marshall ANWR, 4/7 RJ, 4/8 SDM, 4/9 Ottortail GMO, 4/12 Pennington KL.

#### **Little Gull**

5/13 Kanabec (3) KL, 5/26 Port Terminal, Duluth (one ad.) T. Lamey.

#### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early south 4/10 Ramsey DGW, 4/11

Wabasha WDM, 4/12 Chippewa HK, Dakota JP/AM; early north 4/10 Marshall ANWR, 4/24 Crow Wing DB, 4/25 St. Louis KE, Wilkin SDM; late south 5/26 Hennepin OJ, 5/28 Anoka KL; late north 5/27 Polk AB, St. Louis DB, 5/29 Cook KMH; peak 5/9 St. Louis (2000) KE.

#### **Ring-billed Gull**

Reported from 16 north and 19 south counties.

#### **CALIFORNIA GULL**

4/12 Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. KL. (*The Loon* 56:194)

#### **Herring Gull**

Reported from eleven north and 15 south counties.

#### **Thayer's Gull**

4/25 Renville (1) RJ; first county record.

#### **Glaucous Gull**

4/21 St. Louis (1) KE, MH.

#### **ROSS' GULL**

First state record, 4/4 to 4/14 Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. James P. Mattsson, M.ob. (*The Loon* 56:128)

#### **Caspian Tern**

Early south 4/23 Lyon HK, 5/4 Wabasha WDM, 5/12 Houston (175) EMP, Blue Earth MF, Hennepin OJ, Freeborn RJ; early north 4/28 Mille Lacs KL, 5/3 St. Louis KE, 5/7 Lake of the Woods AJ, 5/9 Clay LCF.

#### **Common Tern**

Early south 4/19 Hennepin VL, 4/21 Brown JSp, 4/23 Olmsted JEB, 4/24 Dakota JD; early north 4/28 Ottortail GMO, 5/4 Red Lake SNP, 5/5 St. Louis L. Hanson, 5/7 Lake of the Woods SW/MS.

#### **ARCTIC TERN**

5/27 Anoka KL; (*The Loon* 56:194)

#### **Forster's Tern**

Early south 4/10 Dakota JD, 4/11 Hennepin SC, 4/12 Chippewa HK; early north 4/23 Marshall ANWR, 4/28 Lake of the Woods AJ, Ottortail GMO, 5/4 Red Lake SNP, Marshall SS. Also reported 5/16 St. Louis (3) KE.

**Black Tern**

Early south 4/26 Sherburne SSa, 4/27 Ramsey SSt, 5/2 Rice KJ; early north 4/21 Aitkin WN, 5/4 Marshall SS, 5/8 Ottertail GMO, 5/13 Clay LCF.

**Rock Dove**

Reported from eleven north and 25 south counties.

**Mourning Dove**

Overwintered in the south; early north 3/26 Pennington KSS, 3/31 Cook EH, 4/1 Clay LCF, Beltrami SDM.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**

4/29 Cottonwood WH, 5/15 Marshall ANWR, 5/20 Aitkin WN, 5/26 Lac Qui Parle PL, 5/28 Olmsted JEB — all reports.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

5/18 Hennepin fide SC, 5/22 Nicollet MF, 5/27 Houston KE — all reports.

**COMMON BARN-OWL**

5/11 Wood Lake Nature Center, Hennepin Co. m.ob. (*The Loon* 56:159-160)

**Eastern Screech-Owl**

Permanent resident, reported from Cottonwood, Martin, Ramsey, Rice, Washington, Clay and Ottertail.

**Great Horned Owl**

Permanent resident, reported from eleven north and 28 south counties. One report of Arctic race 3/2 Renville (1) KE.

**Snowy Owl**

3/5 and 3/11 Aitkin WN.

**Barred Owl**

Permanent resident, reported from 13 north and 13 south counties.

**Great Gray Owl**

Permanent resident, reported 3/13 Cook KMH, 3/24 St. Louis AE, 4/4 Aitkin WN, 5/19 St. Louis L. Weber, 5/19 Aitkin (nest with 3 young) WN, 5/21 JB, 5/20 and 5/23 Spruce Lake Bog, Carlton Co. KL, 5/27 Lake of the Woods AJ. Numbers up in Aitkin Co., total of 122 in March.

**Long-eared Owl**

4/21 Cook (1) MH, 4/28 Watonwan (1) GS, 5/4 Dodge (one, injured) RJ, 5/11 and 5/12 Martin EB/K, 5/25 Hubbard KE — all reports.

**Short-eared Owl**

3/31 Lac Qui Parle (4) BL, DZ, 5/1 Anoka (1) KL, 5/19 Becker TBB — all reports.

**Boreal Owl**

3/14 Cook (1) KMH, 3/19 Cook EH, 4/6 Cook (3) KMH, 4/20 Cook (1) KL, 4/21 Cook (1) MH, 5/27 Cook KMH — all reports.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**

Reported 3/1 to 3/4 Rice KJ, 3/2 RJ and from Cook, Itasca, Lake, Marshall, Pennington, Roseau and St. Louis counties north.

**Common Nighthawk**

Early south 5/9 Lyon HK, 5/10 Blue Earth MF, 5/11 JCF; early north 5/16 Crow Wing JB, Aitkin WN, Pennington KSS, 5/17 Roseau AJ, 5/18 Cook EH.

**Whip-poor-will**

Early south 4/26 Houston EMF, 5/2 Dakota JD, JP/AM, 5/12 Washington TBB, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle FAE; early north 5/5 Polk KSS, 5/15 Roseau AJ, 5/16 Lake of the Woods TW.

**Chimney Swift**

Early south 4/17 Blue Earth MF, 4/22 Sherburne AB, 4/25 Dakota JD; early north 4/28 St. Louis L. Erickson, Ottertail GMO, 5/6 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/9 Pennington KSS.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Early south 5/9 Washington RJ, Wabasha WDM, 5/10 Houston EMF, 5/11 Washington JP/AM, Mower DGS; early north 5/10 Pennington KSS, 5/12 Ottertail GMO, St. Louis K. Sundquist, 5/14 Crow Wing JB, Clay LCF, Aitkin WN.

**Belted Kingfisher**

Some overwintered in the south; early north 3/2 Ottertail (overwintered) GMO, 3/25 Pennington KSS, 3/27 Lake SNP, 4/7 Aitkin WN.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Some overwintered in the south; numbers up in the northeast with reports from as far as Cook. Early north 3/23 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/7 Aitkin WN, 4/12 Beltrami KL.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from 24 counties south and Morrison and St. Louis (3) north.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Early south 4/5 Rice KJ, 4/6 Martin EB/K, 4/7 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin PL, Brown JSp, Goodhue, Ramsey DZ; early north 4/7 Clay LCF, Ottertail SDM, GMO, 4/8 St. Louis fide KE, Lake SNP, SW/MS, 4/9 Cook KMH.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Permanent resident, reported from 17 north and 28 south counties.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Permanent resident, reported from 17 north and 23 south counties.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

All reports: Cook 4/17 SL, 4/21, MH, 4/22 KC, KE, 5/29 FL, throughout entire period KMH, EH; 5/19 Clearwater JEB, 5/29 St. Louis KE.

### **Northern Flicker**

Early south 3/10 Le Sueur HC, 3/14 Hennepin SC, 3/16 Rice KJ; early north Otter Tail overwintering GMO, 3/15 St. Louis SNP, 3/25 Red Lake KSS, 4/5 Beltrami JC.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from twenty-two south and fifteen north counties.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 5/5 Nicollet JCF, 5/14 Cottonwood WH, Mower DGS, 5/16 Goodhue DB, Hennepin PL; early north 5/17 MLWMA, 5/21 Kanabec RJ, Otter Tail SDM, GMO, 5/23 Kittson KSS; late south 5/26 Anoka JH, Le Sueur GS, 5/30 Hennepin DB, 5/31 Brown JSp.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Early south 4/28 Olmsted JEB, RE, 5/6 Cottonwood WH, Lyon HK, 5/8 Ramsey RH, SSt, Dakota JP/AM, 5/10 Mower PP, DGS; early north 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/19 Clearwater ES, 5/20 Marshall ANWR, Clearwater TBB, 5/21 Kanaabec RJ.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 5/11 Sherburne SSa, 5/12 Lyon HK, 5/15 Ramsey RJ, Cottonwood WH; early north 5/15 Cook KMH, 5/24 St. Louis KE, 5/27 Polk AB; late south 5/28

Hennepin OJ, DB, Cottonwood LAF, 5/29 Hennepin SC, 5/31 Anoka JH.

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

All reports: 5/19, 20 Houston DGS, 5/27 KJ, 5/20 Olmsted JP/AM, 5/31 JEB.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

Early south 5/2 Ramsey DZ, 5/10 Hennepin ES, 5/13 Houston EMF; early north 4/19 Aitkin WN, 5-10 Otter Tail GMO, 5/20 Marshall ANWR, Clay LCF, 5/23 Roseau AJ; observed south in June.

### **Willow Flycatcher**

Early south 5/11 Hennepin OJ, 5/13 Washington TBB, 5/19 Houston AB, Wabasha DZ, Cottonwood WH, 5/20 Olmsted JP/AM; early north 5/10 Otter Tail GMO, 5/17 Kittson KSS, 5/26 Clay LCF.

### **Least Flycatcher**

Early south 5/4 Brown JSp, 5/5 Murray AD, Nicollet JCF, Mower DGS, 5/6 Hennepin ES, 5/7 RJ, SC; early north 5/6 Aitkin WN, 5/10 Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Polk AB, 5/14 Crow Wing JB, St. Louis AE, most reports were between the 5th and 20th.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Early south 4/5 Houston EMF, 4/7 Martin EB/K, Goodhue DZ, 4/8 Scott OJ, AB, Anoka JH, 4/9 Sherburne SSa, Brown JSp; early north 4/8 Otter Tail SDM, GMO, 4/9 Marshall KSS, 4/10 Becker WL, 4/11 St. Louis KE.

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Early south 5/8 Ramsey SSt, 5/12 Waseca RJ, Le Sueur MF, 5/13 Dakota JD, Houston EMF, 5/14 Olmsted JEB, Hennepin SC, Washington DGW; early north 5/15 Clay LCF, 5/16 Crow Wing JB, St. Louis VR, 5/17 Marshall ANWR, Roseau AJ, 5/18 Hubbard HJF.

### **Western Kingbird**

Early south 5/9 Pipestone JPa, 5/10 Murray HK, 5/12 Stevens KL, Lac Qui Parle BL, DZ, 5/19 Rock AD; early north 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/13 Clearwater, Beltrami AB, 5/17 Kittson KSS, 5/19 Clearwater ES.

**Eastern Kingbird**

Early south 4/15 Cottonwood LAF, 5/5 Houston EMF, 5/6 Hennepin CH, 5/9 Wabasha WDM; early north 5/11 Wadena AB, 5/12 Kanabec KL, 5/15 St. Louis fide KE, Clay LCF, 5/16 Pennington KSS.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**

5/11 Whitewater S.P., Winona m.ob. (*The Loon* 56:199-200)

**Horned Lark**

Reported from twenty south and twelve north counties.

**Purple Martin**

Early south 5/8 Anoka JH, 4/10 Hennepin AJo, VL, 4/11 Mower RRK, DGS, Wabasha WDM, 4/12 Renville FKS; early north 4/9 Becker WL, Otter Tail 4/14 GMO, 4/19 SDM, 4/21 Aitkin WN, 4/22 Beltrami AB.

**Tree Swallow**

Early south 4/3 Dakota RJ, ES, 4/4 Hennepin SC, 4/5 Rice KJ, 4/6 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Washington DS; early north 4/4 St. Louis J. Newman, 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/8 Itasca TCS, 4/9 Becker WL, Pennington KSS.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Early south 4/15 Houston EMF, 4/16 Hennepin SC, 4/21 Nicollet JCF, Ramsey RH, 4/24 Dakota JD; early north 4-8 Clay LCF, Otter Tail 4/18 GMO, 4/19 SDM, 4/22 Roseau AJ.

**Bank Swallow**

Early south 4/10 Sherburne SSa, 4/20 Lyon HK, 4/24 Renville MLF, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle MH, FAE, Nicollet JCF; early north 4/20 Otter Tail GMO, 5/1 Marshall ANWR, 5/12 Polk AB, 5/14 Aitkin WN, MLWMA.

**Cliff Swallow**

Early south 4/10 Sherburne SSa, 4/15 Mower DGS, 4/28 Hennepin DZ, Lac Qui Parle FAE, MH, Big Stone HK, 4/29 Olmsted RE; early north 4/21 Pennington AB, 4/28 Otter Tail GMO, 4/30 Cass RJ, 5/1 Marshall ANWR.

**Barn Swallow**

Early south 4/10 Sherburne SSa, 4/17 Washington DS, 4/18 Lyon HK, 4/20 Rice KJ, Nobles AD; early north Otter Tail 4/17 GMO, 4/25 SDM, 4/20 St. Louis MH, 4/26 Mille Lacs DB.

**Gray Jay**

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

**Blue Jay**

Reported from thirty south and twenty north counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Polk, St. Louis and Stevens Counties. Seen during entire period in Roseau; nests in Tower-Soudan S.P. and Pennington.

**American Crow**

Reported from 27 south and 17 north counties; an albino on 4/29 Aitkin JB.

**Common Raven**

Reported from fifteen north counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 28 south and 19 north counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Permanent resident in Cook and reported from Aitkin, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis.

**Tufted Titmouse**

Houston 3/10 Lewis feeder, 5/19 DGS, 5/27 SP, resident EMF.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from eleven south, nineteen north counties.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 26 south, 16 north counties. 5/20 nest in Pennington KSS.

**Brown Creeper**

Early north 4/5 Hubbard HJF, 4/11 St. Louis KE, 4/20 Pennington KSS, St. Louis MH, Otter Tail GMO; late south 5/11 Hennepin SC, 5/13 Lyon HK, 5/15 Mower DGS, Brown JSp, 5/27 Lac Qui Parle PL.

**ROCK WREN**

5/12-13 Gooseberry Falls S.P., Lake L. Weber (*The Loon* 56:270-271); 5/28-30 Bemidji, Beltrami m.ob (2). (*The Loon* 56:192-193)

**House Wren**

Early south 4/13 Murray AD, Ramsey SSt, 4/26 Winona JH, Brown JSp, 4/27

Houston EMF, 4/28 Anoka SC 4/29 DZ, 4/30 Olmsted JEB, RE; early north 5/9 Aitkin WN, 5/15 St. Louis K. Sundquist, Lake of The Woods TW, 5/16 Marshall ANWR, Crow Wing JB, Pennington KSS, 5/17 Clay LCF, Roseau AJ.

#### **Winter Wren**

Early south 5/8 Hennepin SC, 4-9 Brown JSp, Hennepin ES, 4/10 Hennepin RJ; early north 4/18 MLWMA, 4/21 St. Louis MH, 4/22 Beltrami AB, Cook EH, St. Louis SNP, 4/25 Cook KMH, Lake SS; late south 5/10 Hennepin SC, 5/13 Washington DGW, 5/19 Pope RJ.

#### **Sedge Wren**

Early south 4/29 Brown JSp, 5/3 Hennepin SC, 5/5 Goodhue RJ, Olmsted RE, Mower DGS; early north 5/2 MLWMA, 5/4 Marshall SNP, SS, 5/12 Polk, Beltrami AB, 5/15 Marshall ANWR, Roseau AJ, 5/17 Polk KSS.

#### **Marsh Wren**

Early south 4/28 Houston FL, 4/29 Nobles GS, 5/3 Washington SSt, 5/7 Hennepin SC; early north 5/12 Polk AB, 5/15 Marshall ANWR, 5/16 KSS.

#### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Early north 4/3 Pennington KSS, 4/14 Clay LCF, 4/16 Cook KMH, 4/18 Wadena RJ, St. Louis AE; late south 5/9 Washington JD, 5/12 Nicollet NCF, 5/13 Lyon HK.

#### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 4/7 Olmsted JEB, Martin EB/K, Nicollet JCF, Brown JSp, Murray AD, 4/8 Hennepin CH, 4/9 Le Sueur HC; early north 4/8 Otter Tail GMO, 4/14 Carlton AB, St. Louis fide KE, BE, MF; late south 5/16 Goodhue PL, 5/17 Hennepin SC, 5/21 Olmsted RE.

#### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Early south 4/20 Washington WL, 4/26 Dakota JD, Houston EMF, Brown JSp, 4/27 Anoka SC, 4/28 Olmsted JEB, RE, Hennepin CH, DZ, Winona SSt; also reported from Pope 5/19 RJ.

#### **Eastern Bluebird**

Early south 3/10 Houston KE, 3/13 EMF, 3/25 Dakota JD, JP/AM, Anoka JH, 3/30 Olmsted RE; early north 3/6 Crow

Wing JB, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/7 Otter Tail, Wilkin AB; reported from 35 counties.

#### **Mountain Bluebird**

Two reports: 3/31 Lac Qui Parle m.ob, 4/11 Marshall JD, JP/AM.

#### **Veery**

Early south 4/12 Anoka JH, 4/17 Ramsey RH, 4/29 Lyon HK, 5/8 Olmsted JP/AM; early north 5/8 Otter Tail GMO, 5/12 Polk, Clearwater, Beltrami AB, 5/15 Marshall ANWR, 5/16 Crow Wing JB, St. Louis AE; late south 5/31 Olmsted RE; some migrants into June.

#### **Gray-checked Thrush**

Early south 4/14 Le Sueur HC, 4/16 Lyon HK, 4/19 Anoka DS, 4/26 Olmsted JEB; early north 4/28 Clay LCF, 5/6 St. Louis MH, 5/8 Otter Tail GMO; late south 5/26 Anoka RJ, 5/29 Le Sueur HC, 5/30 Hennepin DB; late north 5/22 Roseau AJ, 5/23 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/27 Roseau KSS.

#### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south 4/18 Le Sueur EK, 4/20 Lyon HK, 4/22 Washington DS; early north 4/25 Beltrami JC, 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/3 Clay LCF, 5/5 Otter Tail SDM, 5/6 St. Louis J. Newman; late south 5/28 Olmsted JEB, Martin EB/K, Cottonwood LAF, 5/30 Hennepin DB, 5/31 Brown JSp.

#### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 4/6 Pipestone PJ, 4/7 Nicollet JCF, Renville FKS, 4/8 Hennepin ES, SC, Anoka JH, 4/9 Murray AD, Brown JSp; early north 4/14 St. Louis fide KE, 4/15 Otter Tail SDM, 4/20 Cook EH, Otter Tail GMO, Pennington KSS, 4/21 Aitkin WN; late south 5/12 Freeborn RJ, Brown JSp, 5/23 Lac Qui Parle PL.

#### **Wood Thrush**

Early south 5/1 Mower DGS, 5/2 Anoka JH, 5/8 Nicollet MF, 5/10 Houston EMF; early north 5/13 Aitkin WN, 5/17 Crow Wing JB, 5/19 St. Louis KE, Koochiching KL, Clearwater ES.

#### **American Robin**

Reported from 29 south and 19 north counties.

### **Varied Thrush**

Only report: 3/11 Dakota JP/AM.

### **Gray Catbird**

Early south 4/29 Cottonwood LAF, 5/1 Houston EMF, Dakota JP/AM, 5/3 Mower DGS, 5/4 Houston FL; early north 4/20 MLWMA, 5/8 Itasca TCS, 5/13 St. Louis MH, Aitkin WN, 5/14 Pennington KSS, 5/15 St. Louis J. Green, 5/16 Clay LCF.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

All reports: 5/13 Otter Tail GMO, 5/17 St. Louis J. Green, 5/18 Aitkin GS, 5/20 Roseau AJ, 5/23 St. Louis KE, 5/24 Roseau AJ.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Early south 4/23 Washington SSt, 4/24 Olmsted RE, 4/25 Sherburne SSa; early north 4/23 St. Louis MH, 4/24 Marshall ANWR, 5/1 Clay LCF, Aitkin WN, Otter Tail GMO.

### **Water Pipit**

Early north 4-8 Otter Tail GMO, 4/24 Red Lake KSS, 5/9 Cook KMH, 5/11 Lake SW/MS, 5/13 Clearwater AB; late north St. Louis 5/22 SC, KE, 5/27 DGW, Cook 5/23 SDM, 5/26 KMH; only report south 4/28 Yellow Medicine HK.

### **Sprague's Pipit**

Only report: 5/27 Clay SC.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

Late north 3/7 Crow Wing JB, 3/16 Polk KE (20), 3/23 Cook KMH, 3/24 Wadena Becker, Hubbard RJ, 3/31 St. Louis KE; late south 4/21 Washington DGW, 5/14 Anoka A. Hawkins, 5-29 Hennepin VL; reported from ten counties.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 26 south and 14 north counties.

### **Northern Shrike**

Late south 3/23 Blue Earth JCF, 3/25 Scott AB, Goodhue JP/AM; late north 4/1 St. Louis KC, 4/7 Aitkin WN, 4/8 Cook KMH.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Early south 4/16 Dakota JD, 4/24 Yellow Medicine KL, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle FAE: only report north 5/9 Clay LCF: reported nesting in Clay, Sherburne and Washington Counties.

### **European Starling**

Reported from 27 south and 18 north counties.

### **Bell's Vireo**

All reports: Wabasha 5/19 BL (2) DZ, 5/26 WDM, 5/21 Dakota PL, 5/28 Olmsted JEB (2).

### **Solitary Vireo**

Early south 5/5 Brown JSp, Rice W. Evans, Hennepin JD, Le Sueur EK, 5/6 Cottonwood WH, Hennepin JE; early north 5/11 MLWMA, 5/13 Aitkin JB, WN, 5/14 Lake SW/MS, 5/15 Roseau AJ, Clay LCF, St. Louis SNP, 5/16 Cook KMH; late south 5/21 Goodhue DB, 5/28 Martin EB/K, Brown JSp.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Early south 5/6 Cottonwood WH, 5/10 Olmsted RE, 5/11 Sherburne SSa, Mower DGS; early north 5/14 Crow Wing JB, 5/17 Marshall ANWR, 5/19 Koochiching KL, Aitkin WN, Clearwater DGW.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Early south 5/5 Hennepin ES, 5/8 Winona JH, 5/10 Wabasha WDM; early north 5/14 St. Louis AE, 5/15 Itasca TCS, 5/16 Marshall KSS, ANWR, 5/17 Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 5/11 Cottonwood WH, 5/12 Blue Earth JCF, Anoka JH, 5/13 Rice KJ, Freeborn RHJ, Hennepin ES; early north 5/15 Clay LCF, 5/19 Aitkin WN, 5/22 St. Louis SNP; 5/27 Cook KMH, late south 5/22 Nicollet MF, 5/25 Hennepin SC, 5/28 Olmsted RE

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Early south 5/9 Houston FL, 5/11 Washington JD, 5/13 Houston EMF, 5/15 Hennepin CH, Winona JH; early north 5/15 Clay LCF, 5/17 Marshall ANWR, 5/18 Cook EH, MLWMA, 5/19 Aitkin WN.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

All reports: Hennepin 5/12 JB, 5/15 SC, 5/28 OJ, DB, PL, Houston 5/13 EMF, 5/16 JP/AM, 5/19 DGS, Winona 5/16 JH, 5/19 AB, Anoka 5/18 SC, 5/20 JH, 5/19 Rice KJ, 5/20 Olmsted RE, Washington 5/20 DZ, 5/21 SSt.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Early south 5/8 Cottonwood WH (Brewster hybrid), 5/13 Dakota JD, Houston EMF, Goodhue ES, 5/16 Dakota AB, Hennepin SC, Goodhue PL; early north 5/13 Aitkin WN, 5/16 Marshall J. Mattson, 5/17 St. Louis KC, 5/18 KE, 5/19 Clearwater DGW.

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early south, 5/5 Lyon HK, 5/8 Winona JH, 5/10 Hennepin ES, SC, Brown JSp; early north 5/6 St. Louis AE, 5/13 Aitkin WN, 5/16 Marshall ANWR, KSS; late south 5/20 Anoka JH, 5/22 Washington WL, Wabasha WDM, 5/23 Hennepin VL; late north 5/26 Polk AB, 5/27 Roseau KSS, 5/28 St. Louis SNP.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early south 4/24 Lyon HK, 4/25 Murray AD, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Hennepin ES, Lincoln SW/MS; early north 4/22 Otter Tail GMO, 4/27 Clay LCF, 4/29 Roseau AJ; late south 5/14 Ramsey JP/AM, 5/15 Benton GS, 5/19 Pope RJ; late north St. Louis 5/20 KC, 5/21 SDM, 5/25 VR, 5/20 Cass PL.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 4/28 Anoka SC, 5/1 Mower DGS, 5/5 Hennepin CH, Lyon HK, Ramsey DZ; early north 5/11 MLWMA, St. Louis VR, 5/12 KE, 5/12 Hubbard HJF, 5/13 Aitkin WN, Crow Wing JB, Clearwater, Wadena AB, Clay LCF; late south 5/21 Hennepin DB, 5/25 SC, 5/28 Pipestone JPa.

### **Northern Parula**

Early south 5/8 Ramsey RH, 5/10 Wabasha WDM, 5/13 Houston EMF, 5/14 Ramsey SC; early north 5/15 St. Louis VR, 5/16 Cook KMH, 5/17 Lake of the Woods TW, Lake SW/MS; late south 5/20 Olmsted JP/AM, 5/22 Washington WL, SSt, 5/25 Brown JSp.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Early south 5/3 Olmsted JEB, 5/4 Houston FL, 5/5 Hennepin JD, 5/8 Wabasha WDM, Washington SSt; early north 5/8 Otter Tail GMO, 5/10 Pennington KSS, Clay LCF, 5/12 Polk, Clearwater AB, Beltrami JC, MLWMA.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

5/1 Scott HC, 5/11 Hennepin OJ, ES, SC, 5/12 DB, 5/12 Olmsted JEB, RE, Houston EMF; early north 5/9 St. Louis fide KE, 5/15 Cook KMH, St. Louis SNP, 5/16 MH, 5/16 Crow Wing JB.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 5/10 Wabasha WDM, Olmsted RE, Mower RRR, Hennepin ES, VL, 5/11 Houston EMF; early north 5/1 MLWMA, 5/13 Aitkin WN, 5/15 St. Louis KC, SNP, Clearwater MM, 5/16 Marshall ANWR, KSS, Cook KMH; late south 5/25 Ramsey DGW, 5/29 Hennepin SC, Dakota JD.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Early south 5/12 Rice PL, Washington TBB, 5/14 Winona JH, Wabasha WDM, 5/15 Hennepin AB, 5/16 Goodhue DB; early north 5/14 St. Louis fide KE, 5/17 Cook KMH, Lake SW/MS, 5/19 Polk KSS.

### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

All reports: 5/20 Hubbard, DGW, Cook 5/28 KMH, 5/29 FL (2), 5/29 Hennepin OJ, 5/30 Lake SW/MS.

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Early south 4/9 Wabasha WDM, Brown JSp, Ramsey DZ, 4/10 Hennepin RJ, SC, ES, 4/11 Olmsted JEB, 4/12 Blue Earth MF; early north 4/13 St. Louis J. Newman 4/14 Crow Wing JB, Otter Tail GMO, 4/15 Clay LCF, 4/17 Red Lake KSS; late south 5/14 Ramsey RJ, Washington DGW, 5/23 Anoka SC. AUDUBON'S race 4/28 Lac Qui Parle m.ob.

### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

Early south 4/29 Mower RRR, Anoka DZ, 4/30 Winona JH, 5/3 Ramsey BL, Hennepin VL, 5/5 OJ, 5/5 Dakota JD, Washington TBB; early north 5/5 St. Louis J. Newman, 5/11 Lake SW/MS, 5/13 Crow Wing JB, Clearwater AB, Aitkin WN; late south 5/19 Hennepin SC, Washington GS, 5/22 Hennepin DB

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 5/11 Cottonwood LAF, 5/12 Hennepin ES, 5/13 Houston EMF, Washington DS; early north 5/16 Marshall KSS, ANWR, 5/17 Roseau AJ, 5/19 Cook EH, Clearwater DGW; late south 5/24 Hennepin SC, 5/28 Martin EB/K.

### **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**

Only report: 5/9 Washington RJ. (*The Loon* 56:188)

### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 4/30 Ramsey BL, 5/1 Hennepin SC, 5/4 Washington DS; early north 5/2 Crow Wing JB, 5/6 St. Louis fide KE, Carlton SSt, 5/13 Aitkin WN; late south 5/21 Isanti RJ, (probably breeds here), 5/22 Hennepin VL.

### **Palm Warbler**

Early south 4/26 Winona JH, Ramsey BL, 4/27 Anoka SC, 4/28 Dakota GS Olmsted JEB, RE, Houston FL, EMF, Nicollet JCF; early north 5/4 Beltrami SS, Red Lake SNP, 5/5 Pennington KSS; late south 5/17 Hennein SC, 5/20 Washington DS; late north 5/27 Roseau KSS.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early south 5/11 Cottonwood LAF, 5/15 Wright GS, Hennepin CH, 5/16 Goodhue DB, PL, 5/17 Hennepin ES, SC, Olmsted RE, Blue Earth MF; early north 5/16 Marshall KSS, 5/19 Lake SS, 5/20 St. Louis KC, Roseau AJ, Kanabec SSt; late south 5/26 Houston DGW, 5/28 Mower RRK.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early south 4-20 Lyon HK, 5/10 Wabasha WDM, Brown JSp, 5/11 Hennepin ES, SC, DB, Houston EMF, Cottonwood WH; early north 5/4 Otter Tail GMO, 5/12 Clearwater AB, Clay LCF, 5/13 Aitkin WN; late south 5/27 Mower RRK, Lac Qui Parle PL, Pipestone JPa, 5/29 Hennepin SC, VL; late north St. Louis 5/24 VR, SW/MS, 5/26 AE, 5/27 Roseau KSS.

### **Cerulean Warbler**

Early south 5/10 Mower DGS, 5/12 Rice PL, 5/13 Dakota JD, 5/16 Houston JP/AM; only north report 5/19 Douglas RJ.

### **Black-and-white Warbler**

Early south 4/26 Hennepin OJ, VL, Lincoln SWMS, Winona JH, 4/27 Anoka SC, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle PL, Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JEB; early north 4/28 Clay LCF, 5/2 Otter Tail GMO, 5/5 Mille Lacs SSt.

### **American Redstart**

Early south 5/6 Murry AD, 5/7 Hennepin SC, 5/8 Washington SSt; early north 5/10 Roseau KSS, 5/11 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/13 Aitkin WN.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

All reports 5/8 Winona JH, 5/14 Ramsey SC, RJ, 5/19 Chisago RH, Houston AB, 5/20 Ramsey BL, 5/31 Hennepin DB.

### **WORM-EATING WARBLER**

4/29 Cottonwood WH, 5/8 Waseca R. Glassel (*The Loon* 56:193-194).

### **Ovenbird**

Early south 4/26 Houston WDM 4/27 Martin EBK, 4/29 Rock GS; early north 5/9 Itasca DB, Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/10 Crow Wing JB, 5/12 Clay LCF.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 4/26 Dakota JD, Ramsey BL, 4/27 Anoka SC, Hennepin DB, 4/28 Houston FL, Winona SSt; early north 5/9 Marshall ANWR, St. Louis fide KE, 5/10 Clay LDF, Itasca DB, Mille Lacs MLWMA, St. Louis MH, 5/11 Lake SWMS; late south 5/24 Hennepin SC, 5/25 Hennepin DB, 5/28 Hennepin PL.

### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

All reports 5/6 Hennepin ES, 5/9 Houston FL, 5/16 Houston JPAM, 5/19 Winona AB, 5/20 Hennepin SC, Olmsted JPAM, 5/28 Hennepin OJ.

### **Kentucky Warbler**

One report 5/5 Redwood HK.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Early south 5/8 Cottonwood WH, 5/15 OJ, early north 5/27 Roseau AJ, KSS, 5/28 Clay LCF, 5/29 St. Louis KE; late south 5/25 Hennepin DB, 5/26 Sherburne SSa, 5/30 Hennepin DB.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Early south 5/11 Cottonwood LAF, 5/13 Dakota JD, 5/16 Mower GS; early north 5/11 Lake SWMS, 5/20 Clay LCF, 5/22 St. Louis SNP; late south 5/28 Brown JSp, Martin EB/K, Murray AD, Washington SSt, 5/29 Hennepin SC, VL, 5/31 Hennepin PL, Olmsted RE.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Early south 4/27 Anoka SC, 4/28 Yellow Medicine HK, 4/29 Ramsey BL; early north 5/10 Otter Tail SDM, St. Louis KE, 5/12 Polk AB, 5/13 Aitkin WN.

### **Hooded Warbler**

All reports 5/6 Mower C. Wilson, 5/13 Dakota JD, 5/17 Crow Wing JB.

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Early south 4/28 Hennepin CH, 5/3 Cottonwood WH, 5/5 Mower DGS; early north 5/8 Otter Tail GMO, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/12 St. Louis fide KE, VR; late south 5/22 Washington SSt, 5/25 Hennepin DB, SC, 5/26 Brown JSp, Nicollet JCF; late north 5/27 Polk AB, Roseau KSS, 5/28 St. Louis SNP, 5/31 Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Canada Warbler**

Early south 5/10 Winona JH, 5/15 Cottonwood WH, Olmsted JPAM, Houston EMF, 5/18 Anoka SC, Dakota AB; early north 5/23 Lake SS, 5/24 Lake SW/MS, 5/26 Roseau AJ, St. Louis AE, VR; late south 5/25 Hennepin OJ, Mower RRR, 5/28 Martin EB/K, Murray AD, 5/29 Hennepin DB, SC.

### **Summer Tanager**

All reports 5/10 Washington W. Evans, 5/12 Mower RBA, 5/14 Ramsey RBA (*The Loon* 56:201).

### **Scarlet Tanager**

Early south 5/10 Mower PP, 5/11 Hennepin SC, 5/13 Washington JPAM; early north 5/19 Grant RJ, Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/20 Kanabec SSt, 5/22 Crow Wing JB.

### **WESTERN TANAGER**

Three reports 5/10 Washington, 5/11 Washington JD, (*The Loon* 56:133), 5/5 Ramsey (*The Loon* 56:269).

### **Northern Cardinal**

Reported from nineteen counties south; four reports north 4/20 Aitkin WN, 5/19 Cook EH, 5/20 Otter Tail SDM, Todd SDM.

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Early south 4/27 Houston EMF, 5/3 Wabasha WDM, 5/5 eight reports from six counties; early north 5/8 Otter Tail GMO, 5/12 St. Louis VR, 5/13 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, Crow Wing JB.

### **BLACK-HEADED GROSBK**

One report 5/24 Ramsey R. Skarjune and L. Treeful (*The Loon* 56:196).

### **Blue Grosbeak**

5/27 Olmsted C. Juhnke (*The Loon* 56:197).

### **LAZULI BUNTING**

5/18 St. Louis fide KE adult male, 5/22 St. Louis fide KE immature male, 5/23 St. Louis JB, 5/24 St. Louis SDM. (*The Loon* 56:262)

### **Indigo Bunting**

Early south 5/6 Olmsted JEB, 5/10 Olmsted PP, Rice PL, 5/11 Cottonwood WH, Hennepin SC, ES, Houston EMF; early north 5/10 Clay LDF, 5/16 St. Louis fide KE, 5/18 Aitkin WN, Roseau AJ.

### **Dickcissel**

All reports 4/27 Sherburne SSa, 5/6 Cottonwood WH, 5/19 Rice KJ, 5/24 Scott PL, 5/25 Pipestone AD, 5/26 LeSueur GS.

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Early south 4/24 Dakota JD, 4/26 Houston EMF, Mower DGS, 4/27 Anoka SC, Sherburne SSa; early north 4/28 Koochiching GM, 5/4 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/10 Clay LCF.

### **American Tree Sparrow**

Late south 5/8 Goodhue JP/AM, 5/10 Murray AD, 5/15 Nicollet MF; late north 5/5 Cook EH, 5/9 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/12 Otter Tail GMO.

### **Chipping Sparrow**

Early south 4/9 Sherburne SSa, 4/12 Houston EMF, 4/14 Nicollet JCF, Washington WL; early north 4/16 Pennington KSS, 4/24 Otter Tail SDM, 4/25 Crow Wing JB.

### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Early south 4/25 Dakota JD, 4/28 Anoka SC, Murray AD, 4/29 Hennepin ES; early north 4/29 Otter Tail SDM, St. Louis OJ, 4/30 Otter Tail GMO, 5/4 Cass JC.

### **Field Sparrow**

Early south 4/6 Scott PL, 4/11 Brown JSp, Washington TBB, 4/13 Renville FKS; early north 4/22 Otter Tail SDM, 4/28 Otter Tail GMO, 5/12 St. Louis fide KE.

### **Vesper Sparrow**

Early south 4/7 Nicollet JCF, 4/9 Washington WL, 4/10 Hennepin SC, AJo, VL; early north 4/19 Otter Tail GMO, 4/20 Cook KMH, 4/21 Marshall AB.

### **Lark Sparrow**

Early south 4/23 Anoka SC, 4/28 Anoka JH, 4/29 Anoka DZ; early north 4/28 Otter Tail GMO, 5/9 Otter Tail SDM, 5/10 Clay LCF.

### **Lark Bunting**

Two reports 5/18 Nobles AD, 5/20 Aitkin WN (*The Loon* 56:191).

### **Savannah Sparrow**

Early south 4/12 Lyon HK, 4/19 Hennepin SC, 4/24 Dakota JD, Rock SW/MS; early north 4/21 Polk AB, 4/23 St. Louis fide KE, MH, 4/25 Red Lake KSS, Wilkin SDM.

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Early south 4/26 Olmsted PP, 4/29 Anoka DZ, 5/12 Nicollet JCF; one report north 5/19 Pennington KSS.

### **Henslow's Sparrow**

Two reports 5/7 Hennepin SC, 5/28 Winona KE.

### **LeConte's Sparrow**

Early south 4/28 LeSueur EK, 5/2 Olmsted JEB, 5/4 Olmsted RE; early north 4/28 Marshall ANWR, 5/5 Marshall SNP, SS, 5/11 Lake SWMS, St. Louis fide KE.

### **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Three reports: 4/10 Carver, (*The Loon* 56:274), 5/21 Marshall ANWR, 5/26 Aitkin KL.

### **Fox Sparrow**

Early south 3/10 LeSueur EK, 3/31 Jackson RJ, 4/3 Hennepin SC; early north 4/3 Polk KSS, 4/7 Clay AB, LCF, 4/8 St. Louis KE, VR; late south 4/28 Nicollet JCF, 5/3 Hennepin SC, 5/18 Olmsted RE; late north 4/30 Cook SL, 5/2 Cook KMH, 5/13 Mahnomen MHa.

### **Song Sparrow**

Early north 4/1 St. Louis KC, 4/7 Clay AB, 4/8 Clay LCF, Otter Tail GMO.

### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Early south 4/13 Freeborn RHJ, 4/19 Blue Earth MR, 4/23 Olmsted JEB; early north 4/27 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Otter Tail GMO, 5/10 St. Louis fide KE; late south 5/20 Cottonwood WH, Washington DS, 5/21 Hennepin SC, 5/26 Brown JS.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

Early south 4/12 Brown JSp, 4/17 Houston EMF, 4/19 Anoka SC; early north 4/19 Cook SL, 4/20 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/22 Beltrami AB, Otter Tail SDM.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Early south 3/1 Hennepin SC, Nicollet JCF, 3/4 Hennepin PL, 3/23 Hennepin RH, (probably all wintering birds); early north 4/3 Clay LCF, 4/10 Pennington KSS, 4/20 Aitkin WN; late south 5/17 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Mower GS, Winona JH, 5/20 Olmsted RE, 5/26 Brown JSp.

### **White-crowned Sparrow**

Early south 4/25 Olmsted JEB, 4/27 Hennepin DB, Martin EBK, 4/28 Houston FL, Olmsted RE; early north 4/25 Pennington KSS, 4/27 Koochiching GM, 4/29 St. Louis fide KE; late south 5/14 Brown JSp, Houston EMF, 5/15 Hennepin PL, Winona JH, 5/17 Lac Qui Parle FAE; late north 5/21 Cook EH, 5/22 Cook KMH, 5/25 Lake SWMS.

### **Harris' Sparrow**

Early south 3/4 LeSueur HC, (probable wintering bird), 4/29 Lyon HK, 5/4 Lac Qui Parle FAE; early north 4/27 Otter Tail GMO, 4/30 Otter Tail JPa, 5/6 Mahnomen MHa; late south 5/15 Houston EMF, 5/19 Rock AD, 5/20 Lac Qui Parle FAE; late north 5/20 Cook EH, 5/22 Roseau AJ, 5/23 Clay LCF, Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Late south 5/13 Washington TBB, 5/15 Ramsey RH, JPAM, ES, 5/31 Olmsted JEB.

### **Lapland Longspur**

Early north 3/25 Otter Tail GMO, 4/7 Clay AB, 4/21 Marshall AB; late south 4/8 Nicollet AB, 4/10 Dakota JD, 5/4 Dodge RJ; late north 5/9 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/11 Lake SW/MS, 5/14 Otter Tail GMO.

### **Smith's Longspur**

One report 5/12 Otter Tail GMO.

### **Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Four reports 4/23 Clay LCF, 5/19 Clay TBB, Norman ES, 5/27 Clay SC.

### **Snow Bunting**

Late south 4/4 Dodge RJ, 4/8 Sibley AB, OJ, 4/14 Dodge JEB; late north 4/20 Cook KMH, 4/21 St. Louis KE, MH, 5/25 St. Louis.

### **Bobolink**

Early south 4/25 Sherburne SSa, 5/2 Dodge JEB, 5/4 Cottonwood WH, Houston

EMF; early north 5/6 Wilkin SDM. 5/10 Polk KSS, 5/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Early north 3/3 Aitkin WN, 3/25 Otter Tail SDM, GMO, 3/26 St. Louis VR.

#### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Early north 3/25 Mahnomen MHa, 3/30 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 3/31 Pennington KSS.

#### **Western Meadowlark**

Early north 3/31 Otter Tail GMO, 4/1 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Early south 3/27 Sherburne SSa, 4/7 Nicollet JCF, 4/15 Washington DS; early north 4/11 Mahnomen JD, JP/AM, 4/14 Otter Tail GMO, 4/19 Otter Tail SDM.

#### **Rusty Blackbird**

Early south 3/1 Rock KE, 3/5 Houston EMF, 3/24 Houston FL; early north 4/1 Otter Tail GMO, 4/7 Clay AB, 4/10 Cook EH, Lake SNP; late south 5/8 Hennepin PL, 5/9 Hennepin OJ; late north 4/24 Cook EH, 4/25 Marshall ANWR, 4/28 Clay LCF.

#### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Early south 3/24 Mower RRK, 3/25 Blue Earth JCF, 3/31 Dodge JEB, RE; early north 4/10 Cook KMH, 4/11 Otter Tail GMO, 4/12 St. Louis fide KE.

#### **Common Grackle**

Early north migrants 3/26 Crow Wing JB, ST. Louis fide KE, 3/29 Hubbard HJF, 3/31 St. Louis KC.

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Early south 3/1 Wabasha WDM, 3/9 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 3/11 Steele KE; early north 4/5 St. Louis KE, SNP, 4/9 Cook KMH, 4/11 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail GMO.

#### **Orchard Oriole**

Early south 5/10 Mower PP, 5/11 Cottonwood WH, 5/18 Freeborn RHJ, Lac Qui Parle FAE; early north 5/17 Otter Tail SDM, 5/19 Aitkin WN, 5/20 Clay HK.

#### **Northern Oriole**

Early south 5/4 Lyon HK, 5/5 Goodhue RJ, 5/6 Dakota JD, Hennepin ES, Wabasha WDM; early north 4/25 Aitkin

WN, 5/1 Crow Wing JB, 5/8 Otter Tail GMO.

#### **BRAMBLING**

Remained at Owatonna, Steele County through 3/24 (*The Loon* 56:79-80).

#### **Pine Grosbeak**

One report south 3/2 Anoka JH, late north 4/9 St. Louis KC, 5/5 St. Louis fide KE, 5/16 St. Louis MH.

#### **Purple Finch**

Reported from nineteen counties north and twenty-five counties south.

#### **HOUSE FINCH**

Two reports 3/18 Stearns N. Ford (*The Loon* 56:194) and 4/25 Mower RRK (*The Loon* 56:198).

#### **Red Crossbill**

3/16 Itasca KE, 3/24 Hubbard RJ, 5/2 Lake SW/MS.

#### **White-winged Crossbill**

One Report, 3/18 Crow Wing JB.

#### **Common Redpoll**

Late south 3/19 Hennepin SC, 3/24 Ramsey RH, 3/25 Anoka JH; late north 4/30 Lake SW/MS, 5/5 St. Louis SNP, 5/19 Clearwater DGW.

#### **Hoary Redpoll**

Late north 3/25 St. Louis KE, MH, 4/1 Clay LCF, Lake SW/MS.

#### **Pine Siskin**

Reported from 22 counties north, 21 counties south.

#### **American Goldfinch**

Reported from 17 counties north, 29 counties south.

#### **Evening Grosbeak**

Two reports south 4/1 Anoka JH, 5/7 Winona JH; reported from 19 counties north.

#### **House Sparrow**

Reported from 40 counties throughout the state.

#### **CORRECTION:**

Summer Tanager 9/19 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 56:125) should be Scarlet Tanager.

CONTRIBUTORS

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 KC Keith Camburn  
 SC Steve Carlson  
 HC Horace Chamberlain  
 JC Jane Cliff  
 AD Mrs. Arnold DeKam  
 JD Joanne Dempsey  
 KE Kim Eckert  
 FAE Fred Eckhardt  
 RE Bob Ekblad  
 AE Audrey Evers  
 LCF Laurence/Carol Falk  
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 HJF Herbert/Jeanette Fisher  
 EMF Eugene/Marilyn Ford  
 MLF Mary Lou Freitag  
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 FL Fred Leshner  
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 RMR Ron/Maureen Refsnider  
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 KSS Keith/Shelly Steva  
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 SSSt Steve Stucker  
 DGW Dick/Gloria Wachtler  
 TW Terry Wiens  
 SW/MS Steven Wilson/Mary Shedd  
 DZ David Zumeta

## Notes of Interest

**TWO LAZULI BUNTINGS SEEN IN DULUTH** — Since the Lazuli Bunting is currently considered accidental in Minnesota, it was certainly remarkable when two different individuals appeared in Duluth within a few days and within a half block of each other. The first was an adult male seen for only a few minutes on May 18, 1984 by Molly Evens, Dave Gilbertson and Sarah Kohlbry at the Evans' feeder. Other observers were alerted but no one was able to relocate the bunting later in the day or the next morning. Complete details of this sighting were written by Sarah Kohlbry and were submitted to M.O.R.C., and a brief summary of her description follows: "First noticed what I thought to be fourth Indigo (three Indigo Buntings present at same time)...then saw white on belly...red band below blue throat region...white wing bar...color of the Lazuli very distinct from the Indigos, more turquoise, lighter blue"; the bird was seen at a distance of about 15 yards and was watched over a period of at least a half hour with the sun behind the observers.

Then on May 22 a second Lazuli Bunting, this one an immature male, appeared in the early evening at Koni Sundquist's feeder at 2903 Jefferson St., just a half block away from the Evans residence. This bird did cooperate and was seen by many observers until May 26, the last date it was present; among those who saw it was Molly Evens who said this bunting was definitely a different individual than the one she had seen at her feeder. The bird was either seen feeding on the ground or perched in bushes and trees in the yard, and was typically observed at a distance of 40 to 60 feet. It was relatively wary and would not allow a close approach, and it was generally aggressive towards any Indigo Bunting that tried to feed at the same time. Two observer's attempted to photograph the bird without success, due to the bunting's wariness and because it typically appeared in the yard only once every two or three hours. Following is a description of the bird as taken from my field notes written while the bunting was in view: "Head mostly brown, but blue on much of face, especially cheeks and malar area. Back and crown buffy-brownish. Two wing bars — top one distinct and whiter and wider; lower bar less conspicuous, narrower and buffy. Bend of wing or shoulder blue. Rump bright blue — also sides of rump blue, lighter shade than Indigo Bunting. Middle third of tail dark, outer thirds blue. Underparts rich buffy or peach or pale orange — brightest on breast, less so on under tail coverts, throat and belly paler, more grayish, upper mandible dark, lower mandible pale." Steve Millard, one of the observers, also heard and watched the bird sing on one occasion, and it sounded no different than an Indigo Bunting. Although Lazuli X Indigo Bunting hybrids are not uncommon and have occurred in Minnesota, the plumage of this bird looked entirely normal for a Lazuli Bunting, and there was nothing unusual or abnormal in the bird's appearance to suggest it was a hybrid. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**RUFF AT CARLOS AVERY** — On the evening of Sunday, August 12, 1984 my husband Wayne and I went to Sunrise Pond at Carlos Avery WMA, Anoka County, to look at shorebirds. The weather was pleasant and the lighting was excellent. From about 5:30 to 6:30 we looked at many yellowlegs, dowitchers and Pectoral Sandpipers on the mud flats. At about 6:30 I noticed a bird which looked like none of the others in my binoculars, so I put the spotting scope on it. The bird was about 60 feet away, and I had a good view of it. I immediately noticed that it was much larger (about 50%) than the Pectoral Sandpiper that was also in view. The bird had a dark, scaly back, a nondescript head, straight bill that was paler at the base, greenish-yellow legs and faint streaks under the wings. It was poking through some stubble, and then hopped and stretched — and I saw that it had a black streak down the tail, which was white at the sides. By now, we were very curious, so Wayne began to look through field guides, asking me for observations (and being careful **not** to ask leading questions) while I continued to watch. Based on this, he tentatively identified the bird as a Ruff, and took over the scope while I took over the books; without hearing his conclusion, I too, decided this must be a Ruff. We continued to observe the bird for 15 minutes. Two things are bothersome about this ID: 1) Since the bird never flew, we were never able to observe the white ovals on the tail that so many field guides describe, and 2) none of the books we consulted show any streaking on the sides. However, no other species fits our observations, and we have therefore concluded that the bird was a Ruff. **Kathy and Wayne Wensley, 8470 Demontreville Trail N., Lake Elmo, MN 55042.**

**WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE IN DULUTH** — On August 16, 1984, while doing some paper work in my house, I was surprised to hear the unmistakable call of a Western Wood-Pewee through a nearby open window. Since my mind was not on birds at the time, and since I knew this species certainly did not belong here, I immediately stopped what I was doing and listened again to make sure that the sound I heard was not some extraneous noise or a call of another bird that I didn't hear right the first time. But after a few more seconds the call again came through the window, and I was sure that I was actually hearing a Western Wood-Pewee singing. I would describe the call as a hoarse or nasal "pee-yeer", two-syllabled, and slightly descending in pitch, very different from the clear, whistled "peeur" note of the Eastern Wood-Pewee. This call is distinctive and quite familiar to my ear, since I have heard it many times before in the West, including several times just the month before when I was in the Black Hills of South Dakota and in Washington state. After hearing the call for the second time I immediately went to the window and saw a flycatcher-like bird perched at the top of a dead willow tree about 50 yards away. The distance and direction of this bird was exactly consistent with the call I heard, so I ran outside, got my binoculars out of my car, and looked again at the bird to see that indeed it was a wood-pewee. The bird sat in the tree for about the next five minutes as I studied its plumage with 10X binoculars from a distance of as close as 10-15 yards with the sun at my back. The upperparts were a uniform brownish-olive; except for the dark sides of the breast, the underparts were whitish (the dark sides were reminiscent of an Olive-sided Flycatcher); there were two faint, whitish wing bars (suggesting this was an adult in worn late-summer plumage — juveniles and adults in spring show more obvious wing bars); both the upper and lower mandibles appeared to be all dark; the bird had no eye ring; the wing tips reached about half ways down the tail; its size was slightly smaller than an adult Cedar Waxwing which perched a few feet away for a minute or so. After about five minutes the bird flew off and disappeared behind a stand of trees and was not seen or heard again. Besides the diagnostic song, the possibility of Olive-sided Flycatcher is eliminated by the small size and all dark bill, Alder and Willow Flycatchers (which often show little or no eye ring) are eliminated by the length of the folded wing tips, and Eastern Phoebe (which often has indistinct wing bars) is also eliminated by the top of the head being the same color as the rest of the upperparts. Although Eastern Wood-Pewees can have bills and underparts as dark

as Westerns, their calls are nothing like the distinctive Western song I clearly heard. It is also interesting to note that Mike Hendrickson arrived in my yard about a half hour after my observation, and as we looked and listened again for the Western Wood-Pewee, we saw a silent but presumed Eastern Wood-Pewee which we closely studied, hoping that it would be the Western; however, this bird's lower mandible looked mostly if not completely pale, and its sides were not nearly as dark as the bird I had seen earlier. This represents the fourth Minnesota record for this species, with the three previous records all from the western part of the state. However, recent records of this species in Wisconsin and the Chicago area certainly suggest the Western Wood-Pewee could again occur in the eastern part of Minnesota. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

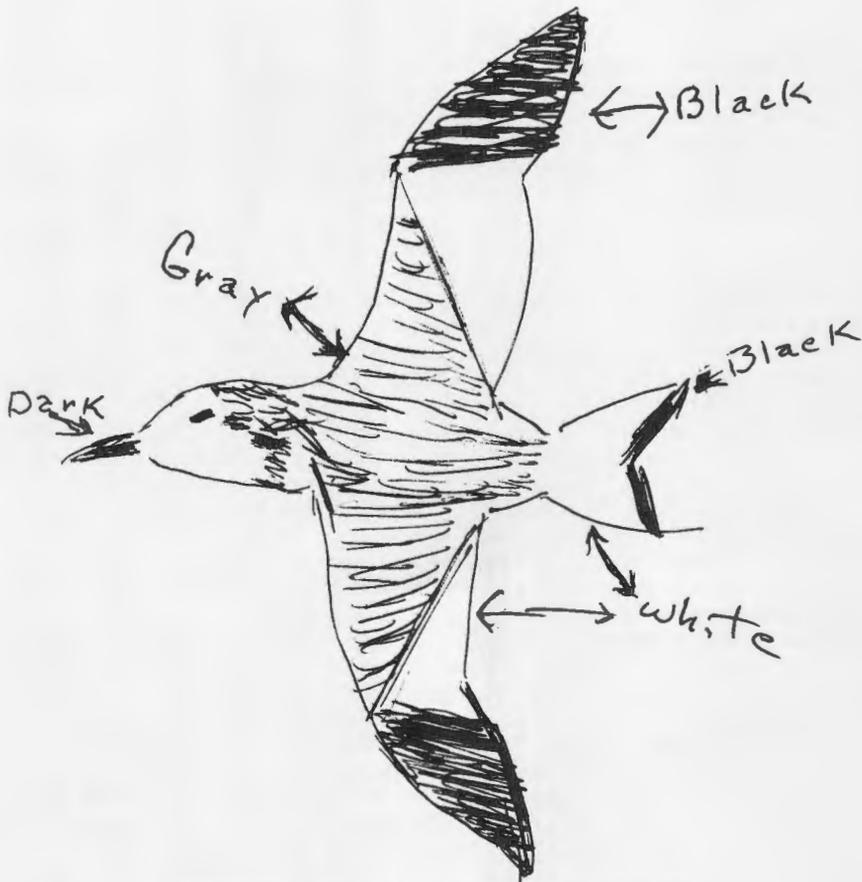
**UNUSUAL LOCATION FOR A HUMMINGBIRD NEST** — The TV antenna Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest was found by Perry Fitch on July 28, 1984, at his home in Pickwick Valley just three miles from the town of Pickwick, Winona County. The day Perry found the nest the young hummingbirds were still in the nest. Three days later I checked the nest and all birds were gone. The TV antenna is just slightly above the roof line which made the nest only five feet above the roof. The nest was totally in the open with no trees overhanging the house. One has to ask why the bird would build a nest in such an unusual place when there were many natural areas nearby? **Bill Drazkowski, 866 Gilmore Ave., Winona, MN 55987.**



**Hummingbird nest on TV antenna, Pickwick, Winona County, July 1984.  
Photo by Bill Drazkowski**

**A LITTLE GULL ON LAKE OF THE WOODS** — On October 24, 1984, Dave Willem and I were on the Lake of the Woods (Lake of the Woods County) lifting my gillnets. We were ½ mile south of Elm Point (8 miles north of Warroad), time was about 11:30 a.m., temperature was in the low 40's, wind was 5 mph from the NW and light conditions were high overcast. We had earlier noticed several Bald Eagles in the area so we were attracting them nearer the boat by throwing out dead tullibees. The eagles were circling the boat and occasionally would come in on a low dive and pick the fish up with their claws. I noticed a small gull. I took it to be a Bonaparte's Gull until I noticed a black (or very dark) bar over its neck. The gull was very agile and quick to maneuver which made its observation difficult. It exhibited little fear of us. It lit on the water 100 feet away and pecked on a tullibee and then a close approach of the eagle scared it up and it approached to within 25 feet of my boat. Then it went back to the tullibee only to be scared up this time by a Herring Gull. The bill was all black. The head was white except for a dark crown and a spot behind the eye. There was a dark bar on the nape. The wings had a very dark and wide diagonal stripe going from the base of the wing to the leading edge of the wing at the elbow. In front of this stripe was gray and behind was a larger gray patch mixed with white. The primaries were very dark with little or no white. The tail was white and terminated with a straight black border. I thought it might be a Black-legged Kittiwake but when it lit it was obvious that the legs weren't black but rather appeared light orange. On its close approach to the boat Dave mentioned that he noticed a slight pinkish tinge on the otherwise white underbody. The gull vocalized a distinct "kek" and later a double "kek." By now I remembered that I had the Robbins' guide along but by the time I got it out, the gull flew off. The Robbins' picture of the immature Little Gull strongly resembled the gull we had seen and the voice description fit. The gull's small size (9 or 11") was not obvious, but I had nothing to make a comparison too other than with the much larger Herring Gull. We observed the gull for about 1½ minutes. Later that evening I checked my Peterson guide and noticed it mentioned a pinkish breast on the Little, but the picture of the immature did not show a dark bar on the nape. I then called up Shelley Steva and she checked her National Geographic guide and found that that also didn't show a neck bar. I ruled out an immature Bonaparte's because of the nape bar, the darker wing pattern, the voice, the attraction to the dead fish, and the willingness to approach the boat. I ruled out an immature Black-legged Kittiwake because of the dark crown and the light legs. I ruled out an immature Ross' Gull because of the straight tail and the neck bar. Later on I got a chance to look up the Little Gull in the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding and it showed that a juvenile Little Gull does have a dark partial "collar" like the bird I observed and as shown in the Robbins' guide. This is the first Little Gull sighting for the Lake of the Woods and only the fifth fall sighting for Minnesota. **Arthur Johnston, RR1, Box 18, Warroad, MN 56763**

**SABINE'S GULL IN MOWER COUNTY** — About ½ mile west of Adams, Mower County, there are two wet areas along the north side of Hwy. 56. One, an abandoned quarry has deeper water and the other area adjacent to this, is shallow and suitable for wading birds. It must have a good food supply, as there are a variety of birds that have been seen there. On September 9, 1984 we had just driven into a shower when we reached the area about 5:45 p.m. Rose suggested we stop and check it out. We first noticed a Great Blue and Green-backed Heron and then a gull caught our eye. It was circling the shallow area and occasionally dipping down to pick something from the water. It was a smaller size, like a Franklin's Gull. The wing pattern was unusual, with triangular patterns of gray, white and black. The tail was white and the back edge was notched with a black edge. The rain quit and we were able to get out. The gull would occasionally sit on the water giving it an entirely different appearance. The folded wing and back were gray and the black primaries extended beyond the tail and crossed over it. There were white spots on the black primaries we didn't see in flight. The back of the head was gray connecting to the gray back and a patch of gray extended down the



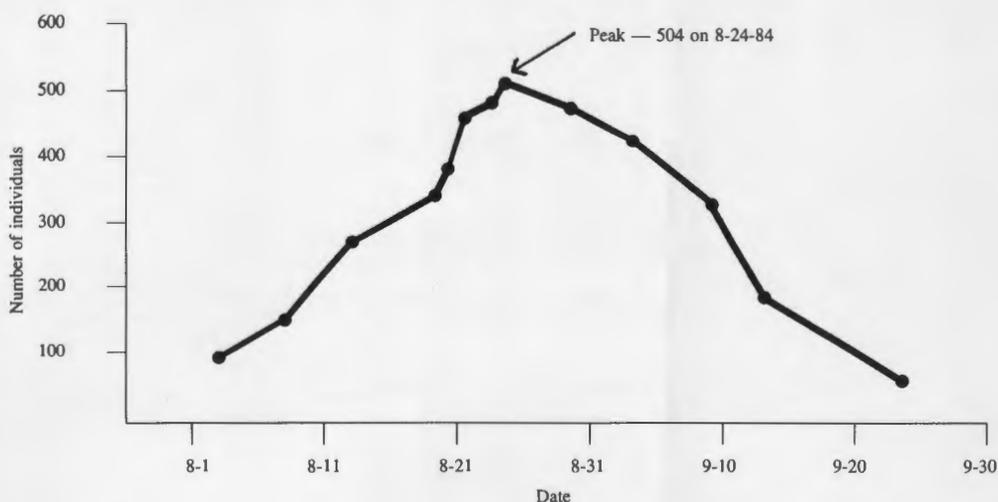
Field sketch of Sabine's Gull seen on 9 September 1984  
near Adams, Mower County by Ron Kneeskern

neck. The bill was dark. We checked Robbins, which we had along, and the immature Sabine's seemed to match it perfectly. We checked other guides at home. Dick and Kay Smaby of Austin, also saw it and felt the wing pattern identified it as a Sabine's. The next morning it was looked for, but was not to be found. **Ron Kneeskern, 1208 5th St. NW, Austin, MN 55912.**

**SABINE'S GULL AND JAEGER ON LAKE OF THE WOODS** — On September 24, 1984 at 8 am I was on my daily fishing routine of going to lift my gill nets on Lake of the Woods (Lake of the Woods Co.) David Willems, my helper, was with me. I had just departed the Warroad Harbor and was about one mile from shore. The cloud cover was very low and heavy, there was light rain, the wind was NE (on shore) at 25 MPH, waves were about six feet, temperature was 35 F. I noticed a bird which I initially thought might have been a late migrating Black Tern, but when the bird swooped and I caught a glimpse of its upper wings I immediately knew it was something else. The bird's outer wings were black, the front inner wings and its back appeared to be very dark gray, the back of the inner wings were very white. The three wing colors had very distinct boundaries. The underwings were poorly observed except for a distinct dark band on the lower inner wings. The underbody was white, the tail was white and slightly forked with an outer border of black. The bird was very cooperative by lighting on the

water and allowing me to approach within 75 feet. The bird was about the size of a Bonaparte's Gull. The bill was black, the head was white beneath with a narrow white forehead, the top and sides of the head were dark with a molting appearance. No optics were available (nor would they be helpful under such adverse conditions). We observed the bird from my open boat for about 2 minutes. 3½ hours later after returning from fishing I wrote down my notes and later on in the day I got my bird guide and easily identified the bird as an immature Sabine's Gull. This is the eighth Sabine's sighting in Minnesota and the first for the Lake of the Woods. The large storm which deposited quantities of snow to the west and north of Lake of the Woods was probably responsible for bringing this Sabine's and the following sighting to Lake of the Woods. About two miles and ten minutes after seeing the Sabine's I noticed another unfamiliar bird heading in my direction. When we were about 500 feet apart its dark color, shape, and manner of flight immediately caught my eye as being something different. Following my boat we had about 12 Herring Gulls (half immatures) which were convenient comparisons. Compared to a Herring Gull the bird was similar sized; but the bird flew in a stronger manner and with fewer glides, appeared more streamlined, had a smaller tail, and its outer wings were more pointed and swept back. The tail was slightly wedge shaped, but had no elongated rectrices. The bird was solidly dark. The closest I observed the bird was 150 feet and was in observation range for less than one minute. I suspect it was an immature jaeger, dark phase, but the short observation time, the poor light and conditions, the lack of discernible field marks, and my lack of experience with jaegers make it impossible to identify it to species. It was larger and darker than a falcon. I feel the only other bird that it may have been would be an immature Herring Gull, but I ruled out that possibility for the following reasons: 1) Herring Gulls, in approaching my fishing boat with already a following of gulls, will usually make a couple of swoops around and spend some time "socializing." The jaeger totally ignored the gulls. 2) As the jaeger flew by an immature Herring Gull a relative color comparison was accurately made and it was not only much darker, but also more uniformly dark, 3) I am very familiar with both adult and immature Herring Gulls and watch them daily, and manner of flight and shape of the jaeger was definitely different. **Arthur Johnston, RR 1, Box 18, Warroad, MN 56763**

Great Egrets roosting at Pool #4,  
 Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area, Anoka County  
 August-September 1984, compiled by Ken LaFond

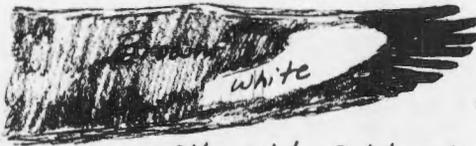


Imm. Ferruginous Hawk - Wilkin Co. 10-21-1984

Wing - Dorsal

1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Hovers  
Frequently



Tips Dark (Blackish)  
Nice Contrast w/ brown  
wing & white wing-patch.

Oblong White Patch Extends  
Well into Secondaries

Round or Oval  
Brown Spots Out-  
lining Rump



Rump & Tail -  
Dorsal

← Gray-Brown

Thin Buffy Terminal  
Band



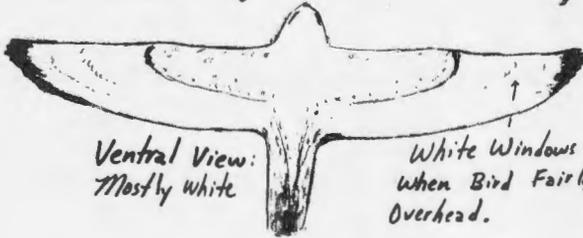
Dark Line  
Through Eye

White Breast &  
Belly - Some Oval  
Spots on Sides & Legs

Some dark flecks around  
thighs, belly, wing linings

Brown Back & Wings  
w/ trace of rufous in  
good light.

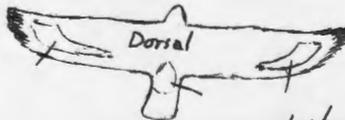
Some white flecking  
on back.



Ventral View:  
Mostly white

White Windows Visible  
when Bird Fairly Close  
Overhead.

Holds Wings in a Slight V When Soaring. Wings Longer and More Pointed than Red-tail. Quick, shallow wingbeats. More sleek than many buteos. Tail relatively long when folded.



When seen from above at a distance, three large, striking white patches very evident.

Immature Ferruginous Hawk sketch done by Steve Millard  
21 October 1984 Wilkin County.

### **WESTERN Tanager AT TAMARACK NATURE CENTER, RAMSEY COUNTY**

— We observed the bird on May 15, 1984 as it moved leisurely from perch to perch in a large deciduous tree. Although at any one time the bird was partially obscured by leaves, eventually we obtained a complete composite picture of the bird. The following observations were made prior to consulting the field guides. The bird had the overall size and shape of a tanager. The head and neck were olive yellow-green. In contrast, the back was gray. There was a clear demarcation between the olive color of the nape and the gray of the back. The rump was yellow-green again. The breast was yellow, the abdomen was very light, and the undertail coverts were bright lemon yellow. The wings were dark gray and had two distinct narrow wing bars. The eye had a very narrow light eye ring. The upper mandible of the tanager bill had a small "tooth" located about at the halfway point. The upper mandible was also darker than the lower mandible. A field sketch was made a few minutes after the observation.

**Differential Diagnosis:** The overall size, shape, proportions and behavior were those of a tanager and these considerations ruled out flycatcher, vireos, warblers and orioles. This then restricts the differential to the three tanager species. Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, and Western Tanager in alternate plumage. The complete absence of any red in the bird rules out first year and adult males in alternate plumage and further restricts the differential to only females of those species. The Summer Tanager is ruled out by the presence of wing bars and the "tooth" on the upper mandible on our bird. The Scarlet Tanager is also ruled out by the presence of wing bars. (It is true that the female Scarlet Tanager in fresh basic plumage can have narrow wing bars but these are not described in females in the alternate plumage — see Garret & Gunn 1983, p. 3). Furthermore, the gray back distinctly contrasting with the olive green nape and rump noted on our bird differs from the plumage of the Scarlet Tanager in which the nape, back and rump are of the same color. Therefore, the above description of the bird we observed, with two distinct narrow wing bars, a tooth located midway on the cutting edge of the upper mandible and a gray back contrasting with an olive-green nape and rump fits best with the diagnosis of a female Western Tanager. **Renner Anderson, 1929 Oakland Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**COMMON MOORHEN IN PINE COUNTY** — On September 18, 1984 at 2:00 P.M. I observed a Common Moorhen in the pond of Kallio Woods, a sanctuary of the Northwoods Audubon Center, located one mile west and one mile south of Finlayson, Pine County, Minnesota. The bird was swimming in a flock of Mallards and attracted attention by its head motion first, then by the longer neck and sleeker head. With binoculars it was easy to observe the yellowish bill and purple chest and neck of the immature, and the white and brown on the side and the wing. It is the first Common Moorhen that I have observed in Pine County and at Northwoods. It brings the Center's list to 176 species and my Pine County list to 209. Because of the date and the juvenile status of the bird, a return visit was made on September 19. A possible sighting of three moorhens was made, but distance and light made it impossible to make a firm identification. **Mile Link, Northwoods Audubon Center, Rt. 1, Sandstone, MN 55072.**

**SUMMER TANAGER IN OCTOBER IN DULUTH TOWNSHIP** — I had just returned from a wild gull chase at Minnesota Point about 10:30 Saturday morning, October 20, 1984, when I noticed an unexpected bird on our platform feeder in the back yard. Not particularly fazed by the chickadees and nuthatches raiding the newly-offered sunflower seeds, it sat there and nibbled for a minute or more at a time. It was all reddish-orange, slightly darker in the wings (but far from black) and slightly paler underneath, and only slightly larger than the juncos that also were feeding from time to time. I had the impression that its head was not as round as a junco's and that the bill was longer

but darker than the juncos' (but again far from black). It was definitely smaller than a cardinal and its bill was not as heavy and conical as a cardinal's. I immediately recognized it as a tanager, probably a Summer Tanager, which I had seen a few times when they have appeared in Duluth in the spring. A check with the new Peterson's guide confirmed this impression, although the painting shows a lighter bill than this bird had. I observed the bird at a distance of about 35 feet with Leitz 8x40 Trinovid binoculars. The sky was fairly heavily overcast. The bird returned several times for a period of about two hours, but was not seen all afternoon. Unfortunately no photo was taken and no other observer saw it (I did some phoning but many people were probably looking for the Lesser Black-backed Gull). **John C. Green, 10550 Old N. Shore Rd., Duluth, MN 55804**

**BRANT AT FERGUS FALLS** — We saw the Brant at 1:00 p.m. on 28 October 1984 among the Canada Geese on Lake Alice at Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County. Other observers were Dr. Jim Cooper and eight University of Minnesota students from my waterfowl class. The light was very good since it was behind us. My class was at Lake Alice to observe and record neck-band data on the Canada Geese there. I noticed the Brant swimming near the shore among the Canada Geese. It could be seen very clearly with binocu-



Brant sketch by Lori Nordstrom

lars (and also without binoculars). The Brant was about the size of a Mallard. It had a small bill, dark soft-black colored head, bill, neck and breast. It had no white marks on its neck. Its stomach was lightish gray and its back a darker gray/tan. Its rear end was very white with a thin black line near its tail. It swam near shore the whole time we watched and it made no sounds. **Lori Nordstrom, 31 Sidney Place, S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414**

**ROCK WREN IN LAKE COUNTY**— On the evening of May 12, 1984 while I was camped at Goosberry Falls State Park, Lake County, I observed a small brown bird at the rocky roadcut just west of the bridge on Highway 61. The bird was larger than a warbler, about 6" long. I began to think it was a Rock Wren when I noticed four characteristics of the bird: 1) it had brown banded markings on the tail, 2) brown stripes on the breast and throat, 3) a noticeable "eyebrow" over the eye, and 4) a fairly long bill

that was only slightly curved down. In addition to these characteristics, the bird was constantly "bobbing" up and down while moving among the rocks. I observed clearly with 9X36 binoculars from a distance of about 25 feet for about ten minutes. The bird was still present early the next morning. **Larry Weber, 12 Chester Parkway, Duluth, MN 55805**

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT LEECH LAKE** — On August 11, 1984 at 8:30 a.m. under clear skies, temperature at 70° with a light southeast wind, Ray Glassel and I were in a boat out of Whipholt (Cass County) on Leech Lake headed for Little Pelican Island to see if we could find any shorebirds on the island. On the way out to Little Pelican, which is approximately five miles out in the lake, we decided to bird around Pipe Island which is just offshore from Whipholt. On a small rocky islet we noticed approximately 20 Ring-billed Gulls, two Common Terns and another gull which we could not immediately identify. Here is a description of the gull taken from notes made in the boat at the time of observation: Overall size and shape of a small gull, slightly smaller than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls — different "jizz" — more slender, smaller sharper pointed bill, distal  $\frac{2}{3}$ 's dark, basal  $\frac{1}{3}$  light, dark eye, spot behind eye was smudgy gray; head and nape white, at base of nape a smudgy gray narrow bar. Back was buffy gray mottled; legs a fleshy pink. Rump and tail white with a dark black band at end of the slightly forked tail. The bird was perched on a rock and after a few minutes and our closer approach, the bird took flight and landed on the water. While in flight the bird was in the direct sunlight but we noted the tail band and the smudgy buffy line running diagonally from the body onto the forewing. The chin, breast, belly and under tail area were all white. The bird then flew off to the east and was lost from view. We felt certain that we had observed an immature Black-legged Kittiwake but the leg color confused us. The legs of a Black-legged Kittiwake should obviously be black! We did not have any field guides with us in the boat so it was not until several hours later that we confirmed from the National Geographic Society "Field Guide to the Birds of North America" that a very few young birds have pinkish legs. This bird must have been one of those "very few." **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**TURKEY VULTURE NEST IN BELTRAMI COUNTY**— On 5 July 1984 Kenneth "Kip" Nelson located an active Turkey Vulture nest in an abandoned farmhouse located at the NE NW NE section 29 T156N R36W, Beltrami County. The two downy young were upstairs where the nest was located. A week after Kip mentioned the birds to me and on 13 July I visited the site. The nest itself was only distinguishable due to the presence of heavier amounts of whitewash and two molted body feathers from the adult(s). No eggshells or eggshell fragments were found. The nest was located in the southwest corner of the upstairs room. The two young were now downstairs (at ground level) where they remained until fledging. With one exception I visited the nest weekly until fledging, taking measurements and photographs of the young. Based on comparisons between my photographs and those published in an article by Ritter (1983) I felt the young hatched on approximately 23 and 25 June. The larger of the two young (which remained noticeably larger and more developed throughout the nestling period) fledged sometime during 1, 2, or 3 September. The smaller of the young fledged on 4 September. This then reflects a nestling period of about 72 days. Jackson (1983) lists the basic elements of Black and Turkey Vulture nesting phenology and notes a 56-88 nestling period for Turkey Vultures.

On 8 August Mike Tenney and I placed patagial wing markers on the birds. The larger of the two was marked "01" and smaller "02". On 9 September "02" was seen flying over a farmstead 6.0 miles west of the nest site.



**Abandoned farmhouse — Beltrami County — containing the Turkey Vulture nest. Nest was located upstairs; adult birds entered via upstairs window on left side of building.**

**Photo by David H. Johnson**



**“Nest” of the Turkey Vulture in the abandoned farmhouse. Young 26 and 28 days old — 20 July 1984.**

**Photo by David H. Johnson**



Smaller of the two Turkey Vulture young estimated at 19 days of age. 13 July 1984.  
Photo by David H. Johnson

Listed below are dates and wing chord measurements (wing chords measured flat and are in mm) for each bird.

Date	"01"	"02"
7-13-84	145	105
7-20	210	157
7-27	258	225
8-04	330	296
8-08	347	314
8-10	372	360
8-25	440	not measured
8-31	466	440

I thank the following people for their information or field assistance with this nest: K. Nelson, T. Soule, T. Meier, C. Fouchi, and M. Tenney.

Literature Cited:

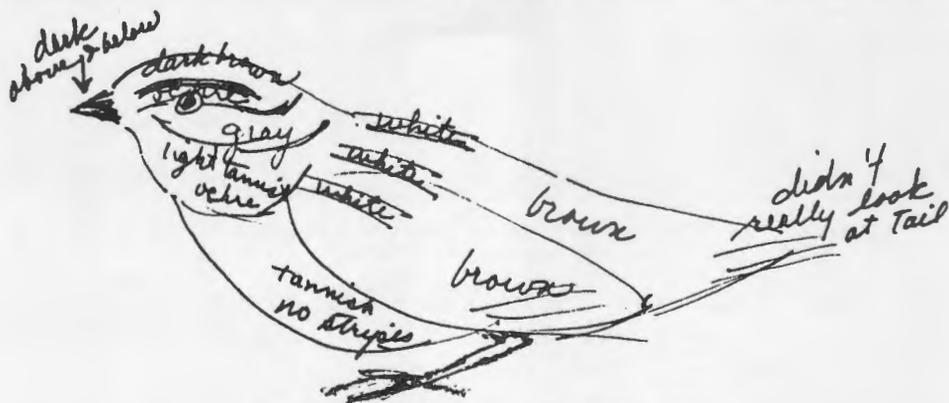
Jackson, J. A. 1983. Nesting phenology, nest site selection, and reproductive success of black and turkey vultures. p. 245-270 *In* Vulture Biology and Management. S. R. Wilbur and J. A. Jackson (eds.). Univ. Calif. Press. 552 p.

Ritter, L. V. 1983. Growth, development, and behavior of nestling turkey vultures in central California. p. 287-302 *In* Vulture Biology and Management. S. R. Wilbur and J. A. Jackson (eds.). Univ. Calif. Press. 552 p.

David H. Johnson, Red Lake WMA, Box 100, Roosevelt, MN 56673.

**SHARP-TAILED SPARROW IN CARVER PARK RESERVE** — On April 10, 1984, while I was leading a group of birders to a marshy swamp to watch American Woodcocks, we encountered a small sparrow-like bird scuttling through the short grass at the edge of a muddy track/road. It was 7:00 pm and overcast so the light was low. We all trained our binoculars on the mouse-like bird and called out the characteristics to each other as we viewed the bird for three to five minutes. None of us had a clue as to what it was beyond being some kind of sparrow. I knew it was a species I'd never seen before. After the bird disappeared from view, I quickly sketched what we'd seen and then completed the field notes later as we sat listening to the woodcocks;

At first I thought the animal was a mouse but quickly realized it was a bird acting like a mouse as it scuttled forward in the short grass, then stopped and looked around, then scuttled on again. The bird did not flush, rather just crouched lower to the ground when we walked closer. We viewed it from 8 to 12 feet away. The features noticed were the ochre stripe above and behind the eye. The head above the ochre stripe appeared dark without any kind of median stripe. There was a definite gray patch over the ear which extended back to the nape. Below the gray patch, the feathers were light tannish ochre. The breast and sides were tannish without any really noticeable stripes. Another feature that really stood out, even in the low light, was the presence of two white stripes on either side of the center back running from the nape back onto the wing coverts. These white stripes were lighter even than eye line or breast. The back and rump, wings and tail were brown. We did not notice the shape of the the tail. Upon returning home,



Sketch of Sharp-tailed Sparrow by Kathy Heidel

I checked both Robbins' and Peterson's bird guides then Terres' Encyclopedia of N. Am. Birds and the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding. Still puzzled as to the bird's identification, but having narrowed it to Sharp-tailed or LeConte's Sparrows, I called Bob Janssen for help with the I.D. He said it sounded like a Sharp-tailed Sparrow but that the sighting was an exceptionally early one in an area not usually visited by the bird, even in migration. Later in July, I saw two LeConte's Sparrows at Crex Meadows in Wisconsin (another lifer). When comparing my field notes for the LeConte's with the notes on the sparrow in question, I feel that the bird we saw in April was indeed a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. **Kathy Heidel, Sr. Naturalist, Hennepin Co. Park Reserve District, 5085 Meadville St., Excelsior, MN 55331.**

**FIRST NEST RECORD OF THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK IN BECKER COUNTY** — On April 21, 1984 while checking one of my Barred Owl nest boxes, I located a nearly completed Red-shouldered Hawk nest at the NW NE NW section 3 T139N R37W of Becker County. Two adults were present and were calling overhead. On May 25 I observed an adult on the nest in the incubating posture. I banded a single

young on June 16. Follow-up checks of the nest site were made on June 26 and July 3, in between which the youngster fledged. The nest was located 35.8 feet up in a 56 foot tall live Red Oak tree. The nest itself was positioned in a crotch along the main trunk (with four branches and the trunk for support) and was built on top of an old squirrel nest. Further details of the nest and nest site habitat are available for those who wish to inquire. I thank Ron Norenberg and Ted Johnson for making the follow-up checks on the nest. **David H. Johnson, Red Lake WMA, Box 100, Roosevelt, MN 56673.**

**ERYTHRISTIC SWAINSON'S HAWK**— On September 23, 1984, I was birding in extreme SW Otter Tail County. Occasional showers, temperatures in the thirties, and moderate north winds restricted me to birding by car. At 10:30 a.m. I spotted a buteo perched on a fencepost, facing me about seventy yards away. Through binoculars I noted the underparts were red. I quickly set up the scope for a better look. The entire underbody from throat to lower belly was a uniform, soft, medium brick-red color. There were no other markings to mar the continuity of the beautiful reddish plumage. The crown had traces of tawny-orange or red, otherwise the head was dark. The wings were dark, the tail couldn't be seen well. After a minute or so the bird flew off, revealing the pointed wingtips and slight dihedral wing attitude of the Swainson's Hawk. The underwing area appeared typically to have dark flight feathers and light wing linings. Dorsally the back was brownish, wingtips and forewing very dark, inner trailing edge lighter than rest of wing. I knew this was a Swainson's Hawk, but a puzzler. I found references to this plumage in Bent's Life Histories of N.A. Birds of Prey and the Audubon Encyclopaedia of N.A. Birds. I called Bob Stewart in Jamestown, N.D. a veretan birder, Bob is the author of Breeding Birds of North Dakota, and knows raptors well. He told me that the erythristic, or red phase, Swainson's Hawk makes up a very small percentage of the population, probably under five percent. The bird I saw was apparently an adult, and a very striking bird, indeed. **Steve Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The reading of the above very careful observation by Steve Millard was a learning experience for me. I did not know that a red-phase occurred in Swainson's Hawks and I have never had the opportunity to observe one. In checking the term *erythrism*, it is used to explain the occurrence of an excess of reddish-brown pigment in the feathers, such as Eastern Screech Owls, Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chickens, Least Bitterns and Northern Bobwhites. Some ornithologists prefer the term *polymorphism* which means a color phase or more simply just red-phase in place of the term *erythrism*.

**DETAILS OF A BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER NEST TREE AND NEST CAVITY, LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY** — On 21 June 1984 I measured various characteristics of an active Black-backed Woodpecker nest. The nest was located at the NE NW NE section 8 T1259N R35W Lake of the Woods County. At this time the nest cavity contained three well-feathered, extremely vocal young. The young fledged on 24 June. I originally located the nest during the first week of May 1984. Although I did not climb to the nest cavity during my initial visit, the entrance hole and the amount of bark flaking around it appeared as it did during my June visitations, indicating that cavity construction may have already been completed.

This nest is interesting in that it offers an opportunity to observe the nest site selection process at work. I say this for the following reason: the nest tree had been injured by a porcupine in 1911 and the resultant tree decay created a nesting substrate that (when combined with other habitat features) the woodpeckers selected for. Below are details of the nest tree and nest cavity.

#### NEST TREE

- Jack Pine
- 100% alive

- 20.7 m total tree height
- 5.80 m from a 7.3 m wide gravel road
- 24.5 cm DBH (diameter at breast height)
- lowest live branch with needles at 9.8 m
- 115 years old (due to decay this age is from nearby trees)
- injured by porcupine in 1911, when tree was 14.5 cm DBH and 42 years old
- Injury locations and sizes as follows:
  - 1.5 m above ground, 10.2 cm wide x 30.5 cm long
  - 3.0 m above ground, 10.2 cm wide x 35.6 cm long
  - 4.5 m above ground, 7.6 cm wide x 20.3 cm long
  - 5.8 m above ground, 5.1 cm wide x 12.7 cm long (on side opposite nest hole)
  - 9.5 m above ground, 7.6 cm wide x 50.8 cm long
- A 0.04 ha (0.1 ac) plot taken with nest tree as center shows there to be 1475 trees/ha (590/ac) 5.1 cm and larger. The DBH range of trees on the plot was 5.1 – 25.4 cm with 20.3 being average. The total of 1475 trees/ha includes 200 trees/ha that were dead but still counted on the plot. Conifers represented 93% of all trees on the plot, hardwoods 7%.

#### NEST CAVITY

- 6.22 m above ground (measured from ground level to bottom of entrance hole.
- entrance hole faces 328° (from true north)
- entrance hole 43 mm wide and 41 mm high
- diameter of tree at cavity site 185 mm
- distance from tree exterior to cavity (thickness of exterior wood) 42 mm
- cavity is 270 mm deep (measured from bottom of entrance hole to cavity bottom)
  - cavity is 90 mm in diameter and is circular in shape
  - the cavity did not extend upwards beyond the top of the entrance hole level

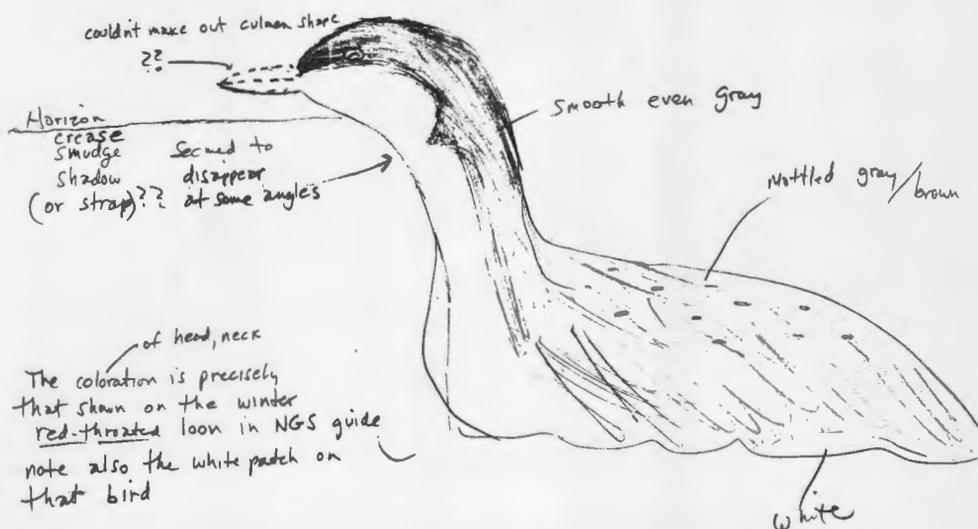
The patterns of tree decay are now well understood. Trees do not decay from the inside outwardly as was formerly thought. Injuries to trees provide an entry point for decay organisms. Given enough time these decay organisms can overpower the tree's natural defense barriers. The ensuing decay affects only the tissue present at the time that the injury occurred, with subsequent tissue growth being unaffected. This was the case with the Black-back's nest tree. The porcupine activity in 1911 created openings in the tree and allowed decay organisms to invade. Enough time has elapsed and decay has now affected the strength and color of the core tissue (the actual size of the tree in 1911). Although spongy at breast height the core was essentially solid at the cavity site. Given the size of the core at the cavity level and the diameter of the cavity, I found that the woodpeckers excavated out 83% of the core tissue in making their nest cavity.

I thank Doug Miedtke for his field assistance in evaluating this nest site. **David H. Johnson, Red Lake WMA, Box 100, Roosevelt, MN 56673.**

**ARCTIC LOON AT DULUTH** — On October 14, 1984 there were moderate east winds off Lake Superior and mild temperatures. I bired from the ball field on Park Point, Duluth, along the beach and out onto the breakwater at the tip of the point. While on the breakwater, two loons flew over. They were dark above and light below with a very sharp line where the colors met. While walking back north, I flushed an immature Northern Goshawk which flew into the southernmost dense pine stand. I then (11 a.m.) returned to the beach and immediately saw an unfamiliar bird about 100 yards offshore. In the good light (sun south, bird east of me) I could see it was a long necked, short bodied, highly contrasting, white and black bird. With 10x Zeiss I noted its clean markings, very small bill (about 1/2 the head length), and smooth head shape. I could not see the eye or the shape of the culmen. This bird was clearly not a Common Loon (nor a Western Grebe, for reasons of jizz and habitat). As the bird swam out to 200 yards and moved south I ran through all specific fieldmarks that I could remember for the two uncommon loon species. Arctic: chinstrap and nape lighter than back were pointed out



First Impression  
Short body  
tall neck, contrast  
small bill



Arctic Loon sketch by Robert Haire

to us on a Hawk Weekend Arctic a few years ago (though I had trouble with those subtle marks on that bird). Red-throated: bill shape and head tilted up (this I had clearly seen on a flock of these birds on the Atlantic two years ago). I studied the angle of the bill and used the horizon as a guide to conclude that this bird was holding its bill quite horizontally. I then carefully noted the head, neck, nape and back color. The head and entire neck were a smooth, even, "velvety," and fairly dark, blue-gray. The back was a bit mottled but very close in color, certainly no darker. There was a hint of a line where the chin meets the neck but this seemed to be a crease or shadow which varied with sun angle as the bird moved. As I observed the bird it did not dive and seemed to be aware of my presence, maintaining the 200 yard distance. I saw a white flank patch on the bird at time, but this too, was subtle (and submergible). At this point I referred to the NGS guide. There was the bird, almost, identified as a winter Red-throated. The flank patch was shown (this I remembered, was diagnostic for some loon specie according to Harrison) and the neck color was dead right. I concluded uneasily that I had a Red-throated Loon, a bird that is reported fairly regularly in spring on the Duluth hotline. When I returned to the car I referred to the Master Guide and found photos of both winter birds. The Red-throated looked too light in the bill and neck color and the Arctic, too bump-headed and large billed, almost Common-like in comparison to the breeding Arctic also shown. The color of the Arctic looked fairly close to the bird I saw. When I returned to St. Paul I checked several guides, Terres, Harrison, and Godfrey all of which added significantly to my conclusion. I couldn't seem to find two birds of either species that resembled each other in illustration or text. I then called Bob Janssen seeking his advice. He emphasized the reliability of the up-tilted bill on Red-throateds (as does Eckert in his new Minnesota guide) and the elegant "jizz" of the Arctic. My description indicated to him that I had seen an Arctic Loon. **Robert Haire, 7 Dove Lane, St. Paul, MN 55110**



Male and female Hooded Warbler, Murphy-Hanrahan Park, Scott County, June, 1984. Photos by Bruce Fall. This pair nested in the park, a first nesting record for Minnesota. An article on this nesting will appear in the next issue of *The Loon*.

# BOOK REVIEW

**NEST BUILDING AND BIRD BEHAVIOR** by Nicholas E. and Elsie C. Collias. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 1984; 336 pages, cloth \$45.00; paper \$16.50.

Upon finding a nest, birders commonly marvel at how a bird, using no tool more sophisticated than its bill, could create such an elegant structure. **Nest Building and Bird Behavior** takes away some of the mystery, but by adding to our knowledge of nests and nest building does nothing to diminish our awe of the process and its practitioners.

**Nest Building and Bird Behavior** is the first textbook of bird nesting. Each chapter is a self-contained lesson on a nesting topic such as mate selection, nest-site selection, or the all-important "how birds build their nests". This book takes an evolutionary approach throughout, which reflects the fact nesting activities are subject to the direct action of natural selection.

Dr. and Mrs. Collias have excellent credentials in the study of nests and nest building. For nearly three decades they have studied the preeminent nest builders of the bird world — the old world weaverbirds (family Ploceidae). The weaverbirds include one of the few subfamilies of birds that truly weave, which this book illustrates in diagrams and photographs. The Colliases have traced the evolution of weaving in this group from crude, irregular baskets to pendulous structures with long entrance tubes. The most impressive weaverbird nest, built by the Sociable Weavers, is an irregularly shaped colonial

nest often more than one meter thick and more than nine meters long. There may be more than 100 nest chambers in this mass, which may be in use for a century or more.

Most chapters of the book end with several examples involving various species of weaverbirds. Perhaps one-third of the book is devoted to this group. This is not disturbing because, just as no group has achieved the nest-building skills of the weaverbirds, no studies of nest-building behavior have matched those of Dr. and Mrs. Collias. In their research, the Colliases describe the nesting situation and then conduct experiments to understand the mechanisms of the specific behavior. These results range from determining that weaverbirds prefer green nest materials to showing which hormones stimulate nest building.

This book, well-illustrated with photographs, should satisfy anyone who has wondered how Barn Swallows stick their nests to the side of a building, how nesting nighthawks can tolerate exposure to direct sun, or why there are so many different styles of nesting. It is a good book to inspire an expedition to find nests while the trees are bare (although it won't help you identify the nests you find) and to make one anxious to watch nest building in spring.

Bonita Eliason and Billy Goodman made helpful comments about this review.

**David E. Blockstein, Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455**

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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 color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of 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

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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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