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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 Relict Population of Chestnut-Collared Longspurs in Western Minnesota

Ann Marie Wyckoff

INTRODUCTION

Chestnut-collared Longspurs, *Calcarius ornatus*, are ground-nesting prairie passerines whose reproductive range extends across the prairie provinces of southern Canada and the northern prairie states. This species formerly occurred widely in western Minnesota and throughout North Dakota; however, its population numbers have declined drastically in the eastern part of its range since the early 1900's.

Only a limited number of breeding populations are known to persist in eastern North Dakota. Between 1950 and 1972, Stewart (1975) reported nests or dependent young in Barnes, Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties. Prior to 1950, nests had also been observed in Nelson and Ramsey Counties. During the last five years, eighteen small breeding populations have been located in Grand Forks County (Wyckoff, unpublished).

In Minnesota, longspurs formerly bred throughout the western prairie but are now classified as rare and endangered. Green and Janssen (1975) reported positive nesting for Clay and Wilkin Counties, former positive nesting for Grant (1879), Lac Qui Parle (1889), and Jackson (1898) Counties, and former inferred nesting for Polk County (1928). Since 1981, territorial males have been sighted in Polk (Wyckoff, 1983 unpublished) and Big Stone (Eckert, 1980; Schladweiler, 1983 unpublished; Weigel, 1984 unpublished) Counties, and a breeding population was located by the author in Traverse County in July 1984 (See page 51 in this issue).

The largest population of Chestnut-collared Longspurs remaining in Minnesota is located at Felton Prairie in Clay County; however, details regarding the species status at this site were not known. The purpose of this study was to assess this population — its

specific location, size, and ecological needs — in order to make appropriate management decisions to preserve this breeding site. Support for field work was provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Nature Conservancy. Special thanks are extended to Nancy Braker for providing accommodations during the project.

PREVIOUS STATUS AT FELTON

The Felton Prairie study site is located in two townships, Keene and Flowing (Fig. 1), and includes pastures, cultivated fields, gravel pits, marshes, and ungrazed grasslands. In a previous survey of this area, conducted by Kim Eckert for the Department of Natural Resources in 1980, 65 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were sighted: five in section 19 (Keene); thirty-one in the eastern portion of section 13 (Flowing) and section 18 (Keene); twelve in the northwest corner of section 8 (Keene); five in the northeast corner of section 12 (Flowing); four in the eastern part of section 1 (Flowing); two in the northwest corner of section 4 (Keene); and six in section 36 (Flowing) (Fig. 2) (Eckert, 1980).

On July 10th, 1984, a preliminary census of longspurs was conducted along the major access road through Felton Prairie. Thirty-five males were observed: nine in section 19 (Keene); twenty-two in section 18 (Keene); and four in the northeast corner of section 12 (Flowing) (Fig. 2). Extensive transects were also conducted at this time, on Blazing Star and Bicentennial Prairies (section 5, Keene); however, Chestnut-collared Longspurs were not present at either site. This census greatly underestimated the number of longspurs present at Felton since complete transects were conducted only in sections 5 and 19 (Keene). In the latter, the location of nine longspur territories were mapped. The other reported sightings of longspurs were made largely from the road.



Fig. 1. Location of Flowing (F) and Keene (K) Townships in Clay County, Minnesota.

PRESENT STATUS: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

On June 17, 1985, an intensive survey of the Chestnut-collared Longspur population at Felton Prairie was initiated. One hundred and thirty-one male territories were located and mapped, despite complications posed by weather and cattle. All were in pastures utilized by cattle and were distributed in sections 12 and 24 (Flowing) and sections 7, 8, 17, and 18 (Keene) (Fig. 2).

Females were observed in all of these areas; however, there was not sufficient time available in this study to establish the pairing status of all territorial males. Longspur males are known to defend breeding territories through the first week of July, even if they are unpaired. In previous studies, the author has found that male pairing success can vary from 79% to 100% at a given site from year to year. On this basis, a population estimate, at least in the areas that were censused, would range from 234 to 262 birds.

These numbers underestimate the total population of longspurs present in the Felton Prairie area since: 1) section 4 (Keene) was not checked due to insufficient time, 2) sections 12 and 13 (Flowing) were not adequately censused due to cattle, and 3) the low-lying pasture in section 24 (Flowing) was

not examined due to lack of trespass permission. If these areas had been carefully checked, the population estimate would probably have been over 300.

Section 19 (Keene)

The western half of section 19 is a grassland area that is sometimes grazed, while the eastern portion is cultivated. During the 1984 census, cattle were present in the pasture and nine male longspurs were defending territories. The majority of these territories were along the eastern edge of the pasture and included part of the adjoining wheatfield (Region A, Fig. 2).

In 1985, the agricultural field was plowed but unplanted, the cattle were absent from the pasture, and the grass was taller and denser. Transects were walked throughout the pasture, but only one male longspur was found. This individual came from the west (section 24, Flowing), did two aerial displays with vocalizations, and returned to the west. This behavior is characteristic of a male that has shifted his territory to a new location but returns periodically to the former territory site to display, particularly when that site is being trespassed. Such territory shifts, based on previous experience with the species, involve distances of less than one-half mile and



Chesnut-collared Longspur nest, Felton, Clay County. 26 May 1973. Photo by Henry Kyllingstad.



Nestling Chesnut-collared Longspurs. 7 July 1984, Rye Township, Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Photo by Ann Marie Wyckoff.



Female Chesnut-collared Longspur. 7 June 1982, Rye Township, Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Photo by Ann Marie Wyckoff.

typically occur when a male is unsuccessful in securing a mate or when the old territory is disjunct from other longspur territories.

Section 24 (Flowing)

This pastureland was severely grazed in some areas and had scattered stands of *Euphorbia*, *Oxalis*, and *Lepidium* intermixed with grasses and alfalfa. A large stock pond is located in the northeastern corner and an elevated benchland occurs along most of the far-eastern portion. Western Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, and two pairs of Upland Sandpipers were present on this benchland, as well as ten longspur territories (Region B, Fig. 2). These territories were almost due west of those previously found in section 19 during 1984 and probably represent a population shift.

Section 18 (Keene)

This small section had the highest density of longspurs at Felton, 46 territorial males. It was heavily grazed, but the flora was diverse and grasses predominated. A dirt road bisected the area used by longspurs.

West of the road, a southern benchland drops off to a low-lying pasture in the north. A pair of meadowlarks and three longspur territories, one containing two dependent fledglings, occurred on the benchland. Ground squirrel burrows and alarm calls were noted in the southern part of Region C (Fig. 2). Seven longspur territories and a breeding pair of Upland Sandpipers were located in Region D (Fig. 2), the low-lying pasture west of the road but south of the gravel pit pond.

East of the road, south of the big ravine, fourteen longspur territories were defended (Region E, Fig. 2). Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, two pairs of Upland Sandpipers, and Grasshopper Sparrows also held territories in this region. North of the big ravine but south of the large storage bins on the east, twelve longspur territories were mapped (Region F, Fig. 2). The birds in this area were observed to frequent the small stream in the deep ravine and travel to the large gravel pit pond to the northwest. Longspur territories were absent to the east where goldenrod and yarrow were abundant. North of the storage bins and east of the large gravel

pit pond (Region G, Fig. 2), ten longspur territories were defended. Three pairs of Horned Larks, one pair of Eastern Kingbirds, and one pair of Upland Sandpipers were defending territories in the heavily grazed and fenced pasture to the northeast but longspurs were absent there.

Section 12 (Flowing)

The eastern half of section 12 is pastureland, gradually dropping off to the west and becoming increasingly wetter. In the southern end (Region H, Fig. 2) four longspur territories occurred in conjunction with breeding pairs of Upland Sandpipers and Marbled Godwits. Bobolinks defended the much wetter area to the west where the vegetation was taller and denser, and a group of Brewer's Blackbirds dominated the pasture to the east that was adjacent to the woody draw.

In the northeast corner of this section (Region I, Fig. 2), seven longspur territories were identified during a preliminary check on June 18. The territories were clustered in the vicinity of a deep ravine that runs east and west and contains flowing water. These territories, however, were not mapped and subsequent work in this section was not possible due to the presence of cattle.

Section 7 (Keene)

Although potentially suitable sites for longspurs existed in the north and southeast, only one territorial male was located (Region J, Fig. 2). This individual defended a relatively short grassland area, devoid of litter, directly north of the gravel pits.

Section 8 (Keene)

The northwest corner of this section had the second highest density of longspurs at Felton: 40 territorial males. The area used by the birds was heavily grazed and bisected by a deep ravine running east-to-west. The land drops off sharply in the western half and was bordered on the east by wheatfields and on the southeast by marshes and trees (Region K, Fig. 2).

Twenty-one longspur territories were mapped on the benchland north of the ravine. Six meadowlarks, three pairs of Horned Larks, and one pair of Upland Sandpipers occurred in this area, as well as a large number of mammal dens. In the low-lying pasture region to the west, seven longspur

territories were active. Two pairs of Upland Sandpipers occurred here and the call of Sprague's Pipit was repeatedly heard to the north, along the edge of the Bicentennial Prairie. South of the ravine, twelve male longspurs were territorial. Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, Upland Sandpipers, Eastern Kingbirds, and Killdeers were observed.

Section 17 (Keene)

The central region of section 17, south of Felton Creek but north of the fenced fields in the southern one-third, is used primarily for winter grazing. The vegetation was very short, with grasses predominating. Low, wet areas were common and interspersed with higher, well-drained sites. A pair of Marbled Godwits defended a breeding territory in the northwest, Western Meadowlarks and Horned Larks were observed throughout, and a flock of American Goldfinch were present in the northwest along the border of section 8. Three disjunct populations of longspurs were located in this section.

Region L (Fig. 2), near the eastern boundary, contained three territories. The majority of the land in this area was very low and wet. Longspurs were not present in the small, heavily grazed pasture that ran south of this region along the fenceline of section 17. Region M (Fig. 2), east of "L" and consisting of higher ground, contained sixteen male longspurs. This population was bordered on the south by a fenced field dominated by *Bromus*, where Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows were vocalizing. Longspurs frequented this field, as well as the low-lying wetlands. Region N (Fig. 2), east of "M" and located on the highest ridge, included four longspur territories. Low wet areas occurred west and east of the ridge, and a fenced field, dominated by *Bromus*, was south of the population site.

HABITAT FEATURES

Most birds show a definite preference for one breeding location over another. Chestnut-collared Longspurs are known to establish reproductive colonies in moderately-to-heavily grazed pastures, in sparsely-vegetated prairies, or in grassland areas that are regularly hayed. All of these sites provide a habitat in which litter accumulation and veg-

etation height, at least in the spring when the birds arrive, is minimal.

Longspurs are adapted to ground foraging, feeding primarily on graminoid seeds and arthropods. Litter accumulation not only impedes the foraging movements of the birds but reduces the vulnerability of the prey. Territories are established before insect foods are available, therefore, the physical structure of a habitat may provide indirect cues to 1) potential food abundance, diversity, and vulnerability, 2) predation vulnerability, and 3) microhabitat temperatures affecting survival and fitness.

Grasshoppers, an important food item of longspurs, are typically more abundant in areas with less vegetation. Bare areas, in general, are considered more advantageous for insect breeding. And plants, kept at an earlier phenological stage by grazing, are considered more favorable for insect foraging. Avian nests and activities of adult birds in their vicinity, are more obvious in short, sparsely-vegetated sites. Egg and hatchling losses would be expected to be higher in such areas. Longspurs do not establish territories on prairie sites that are near trees or shrub areas. Nest-parasitism of ground nesting species appears to be higher in such areas and negative interactions between longspurs and species that frequent these sites, such as Brewer's Blackbirds and American Crows, have been observed. Birds nesting in denser vegetation where moisture would persist may be subjected to daily temperatures which are lower than those experienced by birds breeding in drier, more sparsely-vegetated sites. This temperature difference may influence the timing of clutch initiation and be critical for hatchling survival and growth, particularly in the early clutches.

Longspur breeding territories are typically established on well-drained sites, but they are always in close proximity to wet areas. Such areas are frequented by the birds and provide prey, as well as water. At Felton, all of the longspur populations occurred in close proximity to water or wet areas. These sites included streams, marshland, and ponds associated with gravel pits.

Agricultural fields, particularly when planted in wheat or sunflowers, also serve as important auxiliary foraging areas for the birds, if they are in close proximity. Unplanted fields are typically not used, except

in the early spring when waste seed and associated arthropods are gleaned.

In summary, Chestnut-collared Longspurs prefer to establish breeding territories in well-drained sites away from trees and shrubs, in close-proximity to wet areas, where the vegetation is relatively short, sparse, and devoid of litter, and the graminoid and arthropod supply is abundant.

SURVIVAL THREATS

Fire management practices, microclimatic shifts, changes in grazing regimes, an increase in agriculture, and an expansion of the Brown-headed Cowbird range have all been suggested as contributing factors in the decline of Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Surviving populations in the eastern portion of the species' range are restricted to prairie remnants.

These relict populations are subjected to varying degrees of predation and nest parasitism that can have a major influence on the survival of the population. Brown-headed Cowbirds parasitize longspur nests. They negatively influence reproductive success by 1) removing longspur eggs from nests and replacing them with their own, or 2) destroying the entire clutch, thereby forcing new clutch initiation. Cowbirds, however, do not appear to be a major concern at Felton Prairie at this time. Only two sightings were made during the census: 1) two males and two females along the main road in section 18, region G (Keene), and 2) three males and one female in the southern end of section 18, region E (Keene).

Garter snakes, ground squirrels, crows, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels are significant predators on longspur eggs and/or young in other areas. During the Felton census no garter snakes or crows were observed. A pair of kestrels, with dependent young, had a nest in section 7 (Keene) near the gravel pit operation, and harriers were observed over section 18, region E (Keene) and section 8 (Keene) south of the ravine. Harriers may have a significant influence on hatchling survival at Felton since alternate prey items, such as ground squirrels, appear few, and because avian nests are more conspicuous when cover is minimal. Harriers typically locate young by cueing in on their vocalizations. In longspurs, such vocalizations increase with age or inadequate food supplies.

Undernourished young can easily attract the attention of a hovering hawk, resulting in the predation of the entire clutch.

Food supplies at Felton may be limiting and should be assessed. The soil in the grazed pastures is compacted and few insects or spiders were observed. Low arthropod counts can adversely affect reproduction, resulting in fewer clutches produced within a season, smaller numbers of eggs per clutch, and/or smaller eggs. Hatchlings resulting from smaller eggs have a disadvantage in surviving periods of cool, wet weather or short-term starvation periods. The two longspur nests that were located at Felton (region E, section 18, Keene) contained small eggs (mean length = 17.7 mm, mean width = 13.7 mm). Nest 2 contained only 3 eggs (complete clutch) which is below the mean clutch size for the species and atypically small for mid-June when clutch size is usually maximal.

The gravel operations, currently being conducted in sections 7 and 6 (Keene), appear to pose no immediate threat to longspur populations. The native prairie tracts in section 6 were censused and although some areas were vegetatively favorable for longspurs they lacked close proximity to water. Expansion of the gravel operations in these two sections is not of immediate concern for longspur survival.

MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

In areas that support tallgrass prairie, such as Felton, moderate grazing and/or haying are recommended and probably required to provide a vegetation profile that will attract and maintain breeding populations of Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Grazed sites are often preferred by longspurs (Kantrud and Kologiski, 1982), but extreme or long-term grazing pressure can be detrimental. Under such conditions, the plant species composition of an area can be changed, resulting in a shift to a more xeric community. Forbs tend to increase in predominance, replacing graminoids, and making the site less desirable for foraging. There are pasture areas at Felton, in close proximity to longspur populations, where this has occurred. Better management of these sites may result in population expansion.

Haying can also produce a favorable habitat for longspurs, but it must be done in such a way that the litter layer is removed.

Mowing operations that leave the surface litter that intact will not promote population establishment. The timing of mowing operations is critical. Longspurs are known to initiate new clutches through mid-July, if food resources and weather are favorable. These late clutches result in fledging dates of early to mid-August. After fledging, the young are incapable of flight for several days and are vulnerable to mowing operations. It is recommended that haying be delayed until after August 20th in sites where longspurs are breeding. Pasture areas that are poorly grazed, such as some regions of section 18 (Keene) where dense litter has built up, may be enhanced as longspur habitat by haying in late summer or early fall.

Burning, at least in the spring, cannot be recommended as a management tool for longspurs since nesting cover is lost and insects and seeds are drastically reduced (Forde, Sloan, and Shown, 1984). Longspurs have responded negatively to this practice, and population recovery following a burn appears to take a number of years.

Management practices that attempt to establish longspur populations in new sites are best attempted in areas that are in close proximity to existing populations. Male longspurs exhibit a high degree of site fidelity and tend to return to the same site, and typically the same territory, in subsequent years. Population shifts do occur when a former site becomes less desirable and a location nearby is more favorable. With proper management, longspur populations will shift short distances or expand into new areas if their numbers increase.

Future work with the longspur population at Felton should include an accurate census in the remaining areas of sections, 12, 13, and 24, when the cattle are absent, and an examination of section 4 and other potentially favorable areas in the region. The location of longspur territories must be mapped so that future comparisons can be made regarding population size and shifting patterns. An accurate census will be particularly important in evaluating the effect of management practices. It is important to keep in mind, however, that longspur populations can vary two-fold in their normal fluctuations. Population assessments should be conducted after the third week of May but before the fourth week of June to achieve maximum territory counts.

The reproductive fitness of female longspurs at Felton should be examined by comparing their weight/size index to egg and clutch weights. This information would indicate whether foraging resources are minimal, adequate, or abundant. Females that are nutritionally stressed are limited in their reproductive output. Low reproductive success can negatively influence breeding site continuance since unsuccessful females rarely return in subsequent years. Management activities that enhance arthropod numbers and gramminoids should be considered if these are found to be limited.

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A Heavy Migration of Northern Flickers on the Lower North Shore

David E. Blockstein and Bruce A. Fall

When the wind shifted to the west on 20 September 1985 after a week of south winds, it carried more than 17,000 hawks past Hawk Ridge. It also brought an impressive number of Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) down the lower north shore of Lake Superior, St. Louis County, Minnesota.

We had spent the day at Park Point (from 08:30) and Hawk Ridge (after 10:00), and had seen a total of 60 flickers by 17:30, when we left Duluth on old U.S. Highway 61 and drove northeast toward Stony Point about 16 km away. After seeing about 40 flickers in the first km, we decided to start counting them. For the remaining distance we counted 267 flickers flying low over the treetops. All were heading southwest, following the general orientation of the shore.

We arrived at Stony Point at 17:47 to find many flickers in the trees and on the gravel road near the parking lot, with others passing

by. In the first 5 minutes we counted approximately 150 flickers flying past, including about 40 that flushed from the road when a truck drove by. After counting an additional 127 in the next seven minutes, we began a minute-by-minute count (fig. 1).

We initiated this count from the road about 100 m southeast of the parking lot. We counted every flicker that flew past us as they headed down the shore. For the first 30 minutes, two of us counted. There was only one counter (DB) the rest of the time. After 35 minutes, the counter moved atop a low rise 75 m from the road as some flickers had been passing by undetected. We were not able to count every flicker that passed Stony Point during the interval, but estimate that we counted at least 90%.

From 17:59 to 19:07 (68 minutes), we counted 1,558 flickers, an average of 24.0 ± 9.7 (standard error) per minute. Only 25

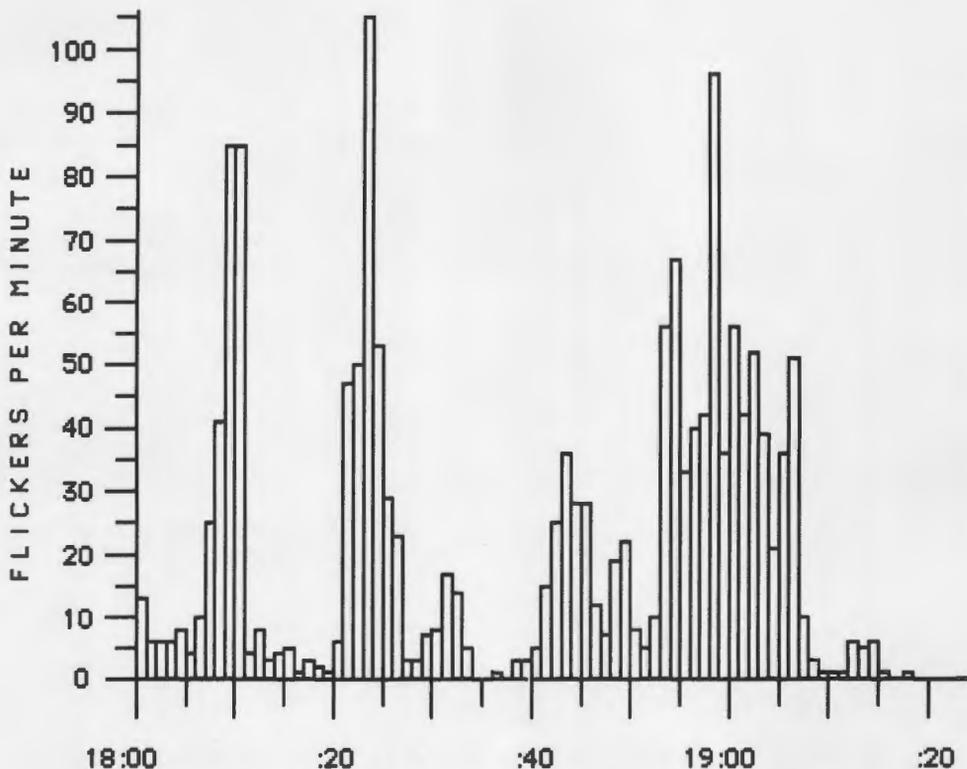


Figure 1. Number of Northern Flickers counted per minute at Stony Point, 20 September 1985.

more flew past in the next ten minutes (sunset was at 19:11) and none in the five minutes of twilight following that. There were three main pulses; during two of these more than 200 flickers passed by in less than three minutes (fig. 1). During the final pulse, 657 flickers passed within 14 minutes from 18:52 to 19:06 (average = $46.9 \pm 24/\text{min.}$). The highest one minute count was 105 individuals. Another group of 170 passed by in less than two minutes. Until the day's migration ended there was only a single one-minute period in which no flickers were seen.

The migration occurred in a very narrow band within 250 m of the lakeshore. Less than 10% of the birds flew over the lake and almost all of these were within 100 m of shore. The birds flew very low; most were within 10 m of the ground and almost all within 30 m. Many perched in trees and bushes or on the ground. Feeding was not observed, although the birds in the road were probably ingesting gravel. Less than 5% of the birds doubled back; the rest flew straight

along the shoreline at an estimated speed of 30 kph. Although the general orientation of the shore is SW, Stony Point juts out into the lake as a broad triangle and the local orientation of its lower 1.5 km is NW. The flickers, remaining very close to the shore, thus were actually flying NW past our location; they did not cut across the base of the point to maintain a SW bearing, even though Lake Superior would have been clearly visible to them.

The migration occurred in a very narrow band within 250 m of the lakeshore. Less than 10% of the birds flew over the lake and almost all of these were within 100 m of shore. The birds flew very low; most were within 10 m of the ground and almost all within 30 m. Many perched in trees and bushes or on the ground. Feeding was not observed, although the birds in the road were probably ingesting gravel. Less than 5% of the birds doubled back; the rest flew straight along the shoreline at an estimated speed of 30 kph. Although the general orientation of

the shore is southwest, Stony Point juts out into the lake as a broad triangle and the local orientation of its lower 1.5 km is northwest. The flickers, remaining very close to the shore, thus were actually flying northwest past our location; they did not cut across the base of the point to maintain a southwest bearing, even though Lake Superior would have been clearly visible to them.

The flickers were silent except for a few distress calls from birds being chased by falcons. Two Merlins, 3-4 American Kestrels, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk repeatedly chased and harassed flickers along the edges of a field. Although no flickers were observed to be struck by these raptors, many of the 40-50 observed chases ended within a few cm of them. It was our impression that these raptors were not seriously hunting. Other birds seen migrating during this period were approximately 200 Blue Jays, four Red-headed Woodpeckers, two Eastern Kingbirds, and hundreds of warblers (mostly Yellow-rumped and Palm).

With one exception, all the flickers appeared to be of the yellow-shafted subspecies (*C. a. auratus*). A single flicker that had salmon-pink wing linings flew over Hawk Ridge in Duluth at about 14:00. We saw this bird from below, less than 50 m away and

in excellent light. The ventral surface of the tail and wings was the salmon-pink color characteristic of the red-shafted subspecies (*C. a. cafer*). We were unable to see the head well enough to determine the bird's sex.

We observed a total of 2,212 flickers that day. Both these numbers and the "red-shafted" individual are unusual in Minnesota. According to Green and Janssen (*Minnesota Birds: Where, When and How Many*, 1975, University of Minnesota Press, p. 115), it is not unusual to have a peak daily count of 500-800 individuals. We counted 1,845 individuals in less than 1.5 hour at Stony Point alone. The migration had been going on at a similar rate at least for the 16 minutes it took us to drive from Duluth to Stony Point, and probably well before that. Minimally, 2,000 Northern Flickers passed along Stony Point late that afternoon.

There have been few reports of flickers with salmon-pink wing linings in eastern Minnesota. Most reports of these birds have been from western Minnesota during migration or winter (Green and Janssen, op. cit.).

We thank Carol M. Hegre for assisting with these observations. **Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455**



A Field Guide to the Field Guides Revisited

Kim R. Eckert

Two years ago this journal printed an article entitled "A Field Guide to the Field Guides" (*The Loon* 56:6-10); in it and an earlier book review of Peterson's 1980 field guide (*The Loon* 52:177-179) we learned that in too many cases the popular field guides were incomplete, inaccurate or misleading. Although this is especially true of the Peterson and Robbins guides, even the far more respected Master and Geographic guides also have their problems.

Unfortunately, the "perfect" field guide may never be written. This is because those of us who bird have, probably unwittingly, chosen a most difficult hobby to master. Bird identification is an enormously challenging subject when dealing with many species and plumages which vary with season, molt, age, sex and geography. So complex is the identification of so many species, that it may be simply impossible to fit all the answers in any single field guide. In fact, the "answers"

to some field identification problems have yet to be agreed upon by the experts; indeed, the answers to others may never be resolved.

Besides, identification often involves much more than visual field marks, things difficult if not impossible to illustrate in any picture or describe in any text. This may not be news to some birders, but beginners take note. When trying to identify a bird, you often need to do more than match the colors and patterns you see with a picture in the book; in fact, many birds can be identified with absolute certainty without seeing a single visual field mark. Experienced birders also consider:

—Range/Season/Relative Abundance. In other words, any cormorant in Minnesota is virtually certain to be a Double-crested (Range); that shrike you saw last January was certainly a Northern rather than a Loggerhead (Season); those Accipiters over Hawk Ridge in September are almost all Sharp-shinned, not Cooper's (Relative Abundance).

—Family Characteristics. While identification down to the species level may be difficult, it is usually easy to tell if you're looking at a duck, shorebird, gull, owl, woodpecker, swallow or other family group. Before considering specific field marks, narrow it down to family: if you know the bird flying overhead is a swallow, you've narrowed the possibilities down from over 300 regular Minnesota species to just six.

—Habitat. The plumage differences between Empidonax are typically minute; however, that small flycatcher singing in the spruce bog last June was likely a Yellow-bellied, not a Least which would be expected in that stand of aspens and birch down the road, and if you want to see an Alder Flycatcher stop and listen at one of the alder swamps nearby.

—Songs and Calls. Speaking of the genus Empidonax, it is often much easier to separate similarly plumaged birds if they are singing. In addition, it is even easier to just find birds in the first place if you are aware of their vocalizations. Step into a forest on a June morning and you may not see a single bird; however, if you know their songs, you might know the identity of a dozen or two species which are present. (Warning: while there is nothing more helpful in finding and identifying birds than learning songs and calls, this skill takes years to master, it takes more con-

centration and dedication than learning visual field marks, and be prepared to forget calls each winter and to relearn them each spring.)

—Size/Shape/Posture. All determine a bird's silhouette and overall appearance; often they identify the family group if not the species itself: with practice, the profile of a distant swimming cormorant, the silhouette of a Mourning Dove on a wire, or the long-billed/short-tailed/triangular wings look of a starling flying overhead become as distinctive as the most diagnostic plumage feature.

—Behavior. This as well can identify the family or species without the help of any other clues. What is more diagnostic than the flight of a N. Harrier, the hover and plunge of a kingfisher, or the tail wagging of the kestrel, Spotted Sandpiper, phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Water Pipit or Palm Warbler?

If bird identification, then, depends on much more than visual field marks, and if the field guides are so undependable, where does one turn to find additional help? Lots of places. Probably the best resources of all are other experienced birders. Ask someone who is familiar with the birds you're having trouble with for help; it is much easier for someone to explain or show you the finer points of identification than it is for a field guide. If possible, go birding with them, enroll in their field identification courses, go on the field trips they lead. Truly, there is no substitute for experience.

Read *The Loon!* Within these pages are seasonal reports (which are the best sources of Range/Season/Relative Abundance information), Notes of Interest (which are full of field descriptions of casual and accidental species — species which often present identification difficulties), and semi-annual Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee articles (these summarize identification and documentation problems of unacceptable records). Other periodicals are also worthy subscribing to or borrowing or looking up in the library: *Birding* (journal of the American Birding Association), *American Birds* (published by National Audubon Society; this and *Birding* belong in every serious birder's library), *British Birds* (expensive, but the identification articles are without parallel anywhere in the world), *The Auk* (primarily scientific articles, but occasionally something on identification appears), and

Western Tanager (this excellent newsletter of the Los Angeles Audubon Society includes helpful identification articles in almost every issue).

Besides periodicals, there are several books other than the standard field guides to be aware of:

—*A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* (including the 1985 supplement): includes many brief summaries of Minnesota's identification problems.

—*Minnesota Birds* (2nd edition scheduled in 1986 or 1987): along with *The Loon*, the best resource on Minnesota bird distribution.

—*The Birds of Canada* by Godfrey (I've heard a new edition of this classic is in press): text and paintings often more complete and accurate than Peterson or Robbins.

—Pough's *Audubon Land/Water/Western Bird Guides* (not to be confused with those silly and entirely worthless 1977 Audubon Society guides): also has many paintings and descriptions better than Peterson/Robbins.

—Bent's *Life Histories* (26 volumes): includes some very detailed descriptions of juvenile plumages and songs/call notes.

—T. S. Roberts' Identification Keys in *The Birds of Minnesota* (also available as a separate publication): detailed plumage descriptions still authoritative after 50 years.

—*Seabirds: An Identification Guide* by Peter Harrison: excellent paintings and accounts on loons, grebes, jaegers, gulls and terns.

—*Gulls: An Identification Guide* by Peter Grant: also excellent accounts and photos; 1982 edition, said to be out of print, did not include Thayer's and California Gulls, but it is reported a new edition will include these.

—*Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World* by John Marchant and Tony Prater (to be published in 1986): Like Harrison's and Grant's books, this promises to be another excellent identification guide from Britain.

—*Birds for Real* by Rich Stallcup: I've not seen this book, but it's said to be a species-by-species analysis of what's wrong (and right?) with the 1983 edition of the Robbins field guide.

—Two books, reportedly soon to be published, will certainly be worthwhile: a guide by Kenn Kaufman on the 100 most difficult to identify species, and a field guide to hawks by William Clark.

—Also helpful sometimes are field guides for other areas of the world (e.g., Europe, Mexico, West Indies, Japan, etc.; useful when dealing with casual or accidental strays not covered in the standard guides), and bird banding manuals (some of their in-hand identification keys may prove useful in the field).

There are also two other resources to be aware of. One is the collection of bird specimens at the Bell Museum of Natural History. If you want to really examine plumages, see someone in the museum for access to the specimens. (There are also larger collections in other states and smaller ones at other locations in Minnesota.) And to learn songs and call notes, there may be no substitute for years of field experience, but to supplement and reinforce this experience you should also own a set of records or tapes of vocalizations; the ones which include the most species are the Field Guides to Western Bird Songs and to Bird Songs of Eastern/Central North America (both sets of recordings are keyed to Peterson's field guides).

Finally, a few miscellaneous do's and don'ts:

—Don't bird in a vacuum; i.e., it's essential that you bird and communicate with other birders. If you go out accompanied only by your field guide, you can't help being misled into too many mistakes and misconceptions that never get corrected.

—Do say "I don't know" once in a while. Not every bird you see can be, or needs to be, identified; if you force an identification on a bird by choosing "the closest thing in the book", you'll end up being wrong most of the time.

—Don't depend entirely on your Peterson or Robbins guide. What should be obvious advice by now is still not followed by many birders who are depending on books which inadequately deal with too many species and plumages. (The Master and Geographic guides may be far from perfect, but they are far more comprehensive.)

—Do be prepared to make mistakes, every birder does — even those on M.O.R.C.! Therefore, the last thing to do when corrected is to become defensive or even angry. If you can learn from your mistakes, having your misidentifications corrected is something to be appreciated, not dreaded. (Remember, there aren't really any bad birders, just bad bird books.)

—Don't pay too much attention to a bird's name. Experienced birders know this, but too many beginners (including myself 24 years ago) think that names are synonymous with field marks, and are at a loss when they search in vain for the cormorant's crests, the Ring-necked Duck's neck rings, the red throat of a female hummingbird, the rougher wings or legs of a certain swallow or hawk, or when they encounter a Winter Wren in summer or a Field Sparrow singing in an oak tree.

—And, above all, do have fun! Remember that birding is supposed to be a hobby, not a headache. If you don't enjoy the challenge of separating peeps or distinguishing fall warblers, just ignore them, and be content to

limit your shorebird watching to avocets and golden-plovers in spring on a prairie mudflat and your warbler watching to adult males in May.

(P.S. This has been the first installment of what we hope will be a regular series of identification articles. The intention of these segments will not be to present complete analyses, and they will be limited to the context of species, races and plumages seen in Minnesota. Their focus will be on taking you beyond where the field guides leave off, and concentrating on identification problems most frequently encountered in Minnesota. Next issue: loons and grebes.) 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

A "Mysterious" Gull at Lake Harriet

Robert B. Janssen

On November 5, 1986 at about 4:30 p.m., Don Bolduc was informed that there was a 'funny' pale looking gull resting on a sand bar at the southwest corner of Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. Don immediately went to the lake to view the bird. Here is a description of what he saw:

The setting sun shone upon a smooth looking, tan colored gull, a bit larger than a nearby adult Ring-billed Gull. The bill was two-toned, dark on the distal one-third, with a pinkish color on the basal two-thirds. The tips of the wings extending beyond on the tail were a solid brown (not black). The upper surface of the tail was of the same color. The under tail coverts were tan with narrow brown bars. The feet and legs were a pinkish color and the eyes were brown.

On November 7, 1985, Don and I went to view the bird late in the afternoon, it was a dull, very gray day. The gull was again on the southwest corner of the lake. We approached the bird and I dictated the following notes into my tape recorder: The date is November 7, 1985. Don Bolduc and I are at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis at 4:30 p.m. Skies are overcast. We are looking at a

juvenile or first winter California Gull on the southwest corner of Lake Harriet. The light is pretty poor now, but is okay for viewing. The bird is standing on a small sandpit about 30-35 feet from shore with two Ring-billed Gulls and numerous American Coots. It is about one size up or about one-fourth larger than a Ring-billed Gull. The general description of the plumage is a dark, mottled brown. The neck, breast, belly and head are a tan. The back and wing coverts are darker with white feather edgings. The primaries are very dark, chocolate brown. The bill is about a quarter or a third larger than the Ring-billed Gulls, but it looks smaller to me than a Herring Gull's bill. The distal end is black-tipped further out on the upper mandible, further in on the lower mandible. The basal portion of the bill is lighter. The basal portion of the bill is a pinkish color, not real bright in color, but we don't have any bright sunlight and it is hard to judge the exact color, but it is much lighter than the distal end. The legs are longer and heavier than the Ring-billed Gull and they are a pinkish-gray. The underside of the tail is dotted or has elongated bars — there is a white edging on the tail. I don't know



California Gull, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, 8 November 1985. Photo by Oscar Johnson.

if it is a terminal band or not, but underneath there is a little white edging to it. That may be the light shining through the feathers. The upper surface of the tail is a dark chocolate brown with a thin white feather edging. The belly where the legs join the body is a lighter tan than the breast, head and neck. The undertail coverts are a light tan. The eye on this bird is dark and there is a darkening around the eye in front and in back, and a little bit above and below. We watched the bird for about 20 minutes. It did not fly or raise its wings while under observation. (End of tape recording.)

Don Bolduc observed the bird on the previous day (11/6) and noted all of the above characters and in addition the bird raised its wings on one occasion showing a dark underside to the secondaries.

Ray Glassel saw what was probably the same bird at Lake Calhoun (Thomas Beach) on November 8. The bird flushed from the beach and Ray noted the all dark tail, light rump and the dark, light, dark barring on the upper wing coverts (secondaries) as the bird was flying away.

On November 8th Oscar Johnson was able to take a series of photographs of the gull.

On the morning of the 9th observers reported that the bird appeared to be sick, its wings were drooping and its movements were slow and animated. By evening the bird was still sitting on the bar and it appeared in very poor condition.

On the morning of the 10th Oscar Johnson visited Lake Harriet and found the bird dead on the sand bar. Oscar retrieved the specimen and the next day he turned the bird over to Dr. Harrison Tordoff at the Bell Museum.

Dr. Tordoff carefully examined the specimen over the next few days. The bird was a female and had probably died of some type of lung malfunction. Measurements were taken of the bird and indicated an overlap between Herring and California Gulls. I also examined the specimen from the plumage standpoint and compared it with other first year Herring Gulls. Unfortunately the Bell Museum collection did not contain any other first year California Gulls. My feeling was that the bird was a California Gull because of the overall body color difference from a first year Herring Gull.

Neither Dr. Tordoff or I were completely positive of the identification nor expert enough to make a final judgment. It was de-

cided to send the bird to Guy McCaskie of the San Diego Natural History Museum and Joseph Jehl of the Hubbs Marine Research also in San Diego. Both men are known gull experts and Jehl is a former student of Dr. Tordoff's. On January 15, 1986, the following reply was received from Joe Jehl: "Guy McCaskie and I have looked at your gull, and determined it is *L. californicus*."

The Lake Harriet California Gull proved to be a most interesting learning experience for many Twin City birders and especially Dr. Tordoff and myself. The experience was very rewarding and certainly helped many birders in learning how to identify gulls. 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.

Thayer's/Iceland Gull Identification Problem

Ken and Molly Hoffman

On six different days between November 16 and November 27, 1985, we observed and photographed a first year white-winged gull. The experience has convinced us that even with careful observation, detailed notes and photographs, field identification of a first year light plumaged gull as we encountered may not always be possible.

The gull, which we called Vanilla, was observed on cloudy days and clear days, often at distances closer than 30 feet and on one occasion as close as four feet (Vanilla came in with other gulls for bait which was offered while we stood on a pile of frozen fish entrails!). We used 7x35 binoculars and total observation time exceeded five hours. Numerous Herring Gulls of all ages, a first year Thayer's Gull, and four first year Glaucous Gulls were all present on November 27th and close enough to each other and Vanilla for good direct comparisons.

Following is a summary of field observations. The head was smaller and crown rounder than the Herring Gulls. The bill was thinner than most Herring Gulls, without the prominent terminal hook of the Glaucous Gull and all black to the base. The eye was dark. The neck was slimmer than most Herring Gulls and not nearly as thick or heavy as the Glaucous Gull. The legs were pink to orange-pink depending on the light conditions. Wings at rest extended beyond the tail about the same as first year Herring Gulls. Vanilla was the same size as the Thayer's Gull, as large as the smallest of the Herring

Gulls, smaller than most of the Herring Gulls and much smaller than the Glaucous Gulls. The head and body plumages were white with buff speckling overall, the same shade as the darkest of the four first year Glaucous Gulls. Vanilla was, however, much lighter than the first year Thayer's Gull. This Thayer's Gull was buff-gray, almost as dark as some first year Herring Gulls but always immediately recognizable because of the uniformity of its overall color when compared to first year Herring Gulls.

Vanilla's tail was partly banded with buff which seemed the same shade as the buff markings on the body. The side edges and terminal edge of the tail were speckled and similar to body plumage. The partial band was indistinct at the rump, perhaps merging into speckled body plumage—this merging, however, was not noted in our observation. This tail pattern was observed best as Vanilla, back to us and 30 feet away on the water, preened breast feathers. Each time the gull stretched forward the wings tipped up and slightly lateral to expose the rump and tail which was partly fanned in the preening effort. In contrast, the tail of the first year Thayer's Gull observed in flight had a broad band which appeared distinctly darker in color than the plumage of the back.

Vanilla's wings were observed numerous times in flight and when raised in the battle with other gulls over food. The observations which resulted contradict each other and can be summarized as follows: 1. Most often in



"Vanilla" on 18 November 1985, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Molly Hoffman.



"Vanilla" flying on 21 November 1985, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photograph shows a dark, light, dark pattern on left wing and solid, dark tail band. Photo by Molly Hoffman.

flight as observed from above under varying sky conditions, the dorsal surface of the wing appeared very uniform and the same shade as the back. 2. The primaries appeared lighter than the rest of the wing, especially with the wing raised above the plane of the body. 3. The outer primaries appeared darker than the inner primaries and the same shade as the secondaries (outer primaries and secondaries being the same shade as the coverts, all darker than the inner primaries), and therefore creating a dark-light-dark dorsal wing pattern (outer primaries dark - inner primaries light

- secondaries dark). This dark-light-dark pattern was observed most often when the wing was raised above the plane of the body and was evident on both cloudy and sunny days.

We observed the first year Glaucous Gulls and the first year Thayer's Gull in flight to compare with Vanilla. The primaries of the Glaucous Gulls always looked very white, distinctly whiter than the body plumage and lighter than the rest of the wing. Often, as we watched Vanilla walking about or swimming, the impression was that the whole posterior of the bird was very white and frosty

and the primaries were possibly whiter than the body plumage. And although at times in flight the primaries did seem lighter than the rest of the wing, they never appeared the frosty white we could see in the Glaucous Gull's wing. The wings of the Thayer's Gull when observed from above appeared to have the dark-light-dark wing pattern and, as mentioned previously, this was a pattern also noted at times in Vanilla's wings.

Our efforts to accurately document the wing pattern were due in part to our awareness of identification problems encountered in Minnesota with first year Iceland and first year Thayer's Gulls. The presence or absence of the dark-light-dark pattern on the dorsal wing has been a factor the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee has previously considered in evaluating possible Iceland Gull records (*The Loon* 56:18).

Therefore, we hoped that photographs would clear up this wing pattern problem. They only served to reinforce what we had recorded in our field observations. Photographs showed a wing pattern present in one instance and no pattern in another. Using this wing character to separate light plumaged first year Thayer's Gulls (should have pattern) from light plumaged first year Iceland Gulls (should not have pattern) may not be valid as it seems much more related to effects

of light and shadow on the wing than a true color pattern in the feathers of the wing. Even careful observation and photographs may not be valid in separating these two species as the dark-light-dark wing pattern may not be a reliable field mark in very light plumaged first year birds.

Then what is Vanilla? Reluctantly I would say that Vanilla cannot be positively identified in the field and therefore must be called a Thayer's/Iceland Gull. We should add, however, that Vanilla, self-confident and without evident identity crisis problems, was content to pick at fish heads and carry on as Sea Gulls do, but kept always a wary eye on the two strange humans who stumbled about ice covered rocks, stood on piles of rotting fish entrails and drifted into hypothermic babbling about primaries, dark-light-dark stuff, tail bands, etc. . . . **Ken and Molly Hoffman, P.O. Box 949, Grand Marais, MN 55604**

Editor's Note: Kim Eckert examined the photographs of the bird taken by the Hoffmans and in his opinion the bird was a Thayer's Gull. The photo of the bird flying shows the dark-light-dark pattern on the wing. Also the photo shows a solid dark, wide tail band. Both of these are characteristic of a Thayer's Gull.

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON GOLDEN-WINGED/BLUE-WINGED WARBLER SONGS - For a study of geographic variation in the vocalizations of Golden-winged Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers, and their hybrids, I am seeking tape recordings of songs from throughout these species' ranges. I am interested in both the type I songs (the 'Z-BBB' song of the Golden-wing and the 'Bee-buzz' of the Blue-wing) and the Type II songs (sometimes called the 'trill-buzz', best heard in both species later in the season, before dawn, or in territorial encounters). Both reel-to-reel and cassette recordings are acceptable. Any accompanying field data or other annotations are valuable. Contributors will be acknowledged and will receive sonagrams, if desired, when the tapes are returned. Please send tapes or requests for further information to: **Tod Highsmith, Dept. of Zoology, Morrill Science Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.**



The Summer Season (June 1 to July 31, 1985)

Steven G. Wison and Mary Shedd

The summer of 1985 was fairly cool with temperatures throughout the state below normal, particularly during June when it was 7.2°F cooler than average. Precipitation in the southern regions was below normal with extremely dry to drought conditions in the southeast and south central. Precipitation in the northern regions was 0.5" above average in June and near normal in July. While this doesn't seem too out of the ordinary, much of the rain came in deluges, especially in June. One storm in Koochiching County dumped 5¼" of rain, and Lake of the Woods County received 9" in four days. High water levels resulted and, along with early and late

frosts, caused extensive crop damage in the northwest and north central regions. The cool, wet early summer weather may also have been responsible for delayed or unsuccessful first nesting attempts and reports of lots of singing in mid to late July.

During the season 59 observers reported 259 species, about the average number seen in the past ten summers, but down from the highs of 1984 (267) and 1983 (271). There was at least some observer coverage of most of the state, but some counties received little attention. Not surprisingly, low species totals, indicating lack of observer coverage, were reported from some 'out of the way' counties such as Fillmore (5), Traverse (2), Red Lake (5), and Kittson (0!), this year's birder's no man's land. The scant coverage of Carver County (only three species) was more surprising because it's adjacent to Hennepin, the county with the most seasonal reporters. Isanti, Chisago, Pine, and Carlton, given their proximity to the state's two largest urban areas, seemed only lightly covered, and along with Koochiching, Itasca, Crow Wing, Kandiyohi and Renville, could stand more attention next year. The counties with the highest species totals were St. Louis (168), Marshall (163), Cook (146), and Hennepin (139). We can't expect such coverage in every county, but as more receive this kind of attention the comparative value of all contributions will increase and provide more insights into breeding bird distribution in Minnesota.

Although it was a less than spectacular season for rarities, there were, nonetheless, many interesting sightings. Cook County had its usual quota of unusual sightings: a Horned Grebe summering east of its range; an adult male Harlequin Duck in breeding plumage in midsummer (one was also seen at Lake of the Woods); very late migrating Olsquaws, Water Pipits, and Surf Scoter; and a rare Rufous Hummingbird seen in late July, only the second seen in ten summers. Several regular summer residents were reported unusually far out of their ranges, including a Bald Eagle in Murray County in early June and an eastern race Rufous-sided Towhee at Blue Mounds State Park. There were some unusually late spring migrants: a Palm Warbler in Blue Earth County; several sightings of Olive-sided Flycatchers in southern counties, including one in Houston County on June 16.

Among unusually early fall migrants were a Lesser Golden-Plover in Brown, a Willet in Lyon, four Bonaparte's Gulls in Nicollet, and Purple Finches in Brown. Good bird sleuthing in the New Ulm area of Brown County continued to increase our knowledge of the possible extent of ranges of several species including the Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary and Blue-winged Warblers. Other summer highlights included: a Little Gull in Jackson; a Ruff in Lyon; a House Finch in Le Sueur; Caspian Terns more common and widespread than usual with mid-summer reports from as far south as Goodhue and Cottonwood; unusual numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Twin Cities area; and Yellow-breasted Chats reported again in Dakota.

Notable too were some of the species not seen in this season: for the third consecutive summer there were no reports of Long-eared or Short-eared Owls or Little Blue Herons; for the second year no Burrowing Owls or Northern Bobwhites; for the first time in ten years no Henslow's Sparrows were reported; Sprague's Pipit which had been reported five of the last seven years was not found this season; and the Chuck-will's-widow seen in Sherburne County the last four years was not reported this year.

A superb effort by the many nest and brood card contributors produced nesting evidence for 177 species, the highest number in over ten years. A total of 1136 cards was submitted describing 3156 nests or broods. This year's most prolific nest finders were Nestor Hiemenz, Wayne Tasler, Jack Sprenger, Karl Bardon, Herbert and Jeanette Fisher, Mark and Jean Newstrom, and Forest and Kirsten Strnad. Keep up the good work!

Among the nesting highlights were: seven nests of American Avocets and a female Bufflehead with six young at Agassiz NWR; probable nesting of Three-toed Woodpeckers at Seagull Lake in Cook County; Black-billed Magpies nesting in the same location as last year in St. Louis, and an adult with a juvenile in Clay County; Canada Geese nesting in at least 18 counties this season, probably an all-time high; following a strong winter invasion, Pine Siskins summering in much of the south half of the state and reported nesting in six counties there. Definitely not a highlight were discouraging reports on Piping Plover nest success. Only one nest was

reorted from Duluth, and at Lake of the Woods most of the nests on Pine and Curry Islands were destroyed by the unusually high water levels.

The style used for summarizing the species information will be recognized as that used in past seasons and described by Jan Green (*The Loon* 54:14-15) with a few exceptions that need to be pointed out. Two categories are used for breeding records, "nested" and "probable nesting." Records included in the "nested" category met criteria established for positive nesting by Green and Janssen (*Minnesota Birds*, p.7): "nest with eggs, or adult sitting on nest constantly, or eggshells near nest; young in nest seen or heard; downy young, or young still unable to fly (including short-tailed young), seen away from nest." Breeding records were assigned to probable nesting if not enough information was supplied to determine the nature of the breeding record or if they fit Green and Janssen's definition of inferred nesting: "nest-building or excavation of nest-hole in progress; adults seen in distraction display or feigning injury; used nest found; recently fledged young seen (including long-tailed young); adult seen carrying fecal sac; adult seen carrying food for young; adult seen entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest." Counties in which positive breeding was documented for the first time since 1970 are bold-faced and were identified using updated versions of Janssen and Simonson's breeding maps (*The Loon* 56:167-186, 219-239, 57:15-34). Unusual locations are bold-faced under the also seen section.

Certainly many "probable nestings" could have been assigned to the "nested" category had more specific information been supplied by the observer. With this in mind we'll encourage seasonal reporters to complete nest or brood cards (available from Kim Eckert or us) whenever they encounter evidence of breeding. Besides easing the compiler's job filling out a card will make the record more easily retrievable because it can be filed with other MOU cards for the species. And don't overlook the more common species — even the ubiquitous American Robin has yet to have nesting documented in 32 counties (since 1970).

We'd also encourage nest and brood card contributors to be as complete and specific as possible. Make the card fit your observa-

tion, rather than your observation fit the card, *i.e.*, if the circumstances of your observation don't fit the categories listed on the card, then cross out the inappropriate portion of the card and add your own information. Also, don't hesitate to use the back of the card to further describe your observation or provide details on nest location, habitat, etc. Such data immeasurably increase the value of observations to researchers.

A final word or two to summer season reporters. For rare species, or those near the edge or out of their breeding range, please provide specific locations (except for common migrants during normal migration periods) and dates. This will make it easier to determine the significance of the sighting (migrant, vagrant, possible breeder, etc.) and help 'fine tune' our knowledge of species range boundaries. Also, as with the nest and brood cards, don't overlook the more common species on your seasonal report. Faithfully noting their presence will increase the comparative value of your report and help detect changes in their populations or ranges.

Common Loon

Nested in Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Cass, Hubbard, **Meeker** (BG), Isanti, Ramsey (Lake Vadnais); probable nesting in Polk (Badger Lake), Wright. Also seen in 17 other counties throughout range including Scott.

Pied-billed Grebe

Nested in Polk, Mahnomen, **Big Stone** (WT), Todd, Kandiyohi, **Isanti** (RJ), Ramsey, Hennepin, **McLeod** (BG), Nicollet, Cottonwood, Lyon, Lincoln, **Yellow Medicine** (JS). Also seen in 21 other counties throughout most of the state but not in the Southeast region and only St. Louis in the Northeast.

Horned Grebe

Nested in Marshall. Seen in Wilkin, Cook (one **all summer**; KMH, WP).

Red-necked Grebe

Nested in **St. Louis** (Kabetogama Lake, SC), Crow Wing, Clearwater, Becker, Pope, Todd, Kandiyohi, **Meeker** (BG), Nicollet. Also seen in Cass, Beltrami, Roseau, Marshall, Douglas, **McLeod**, Hennepin.

Eared Grebe

Nested in Big Stone, **Swift** (53 nests, Lake Shible, WT), Yellow Medicine, **Lyon** (WT), Nicollet, **Freeborn** (two ad., two young, Helmer Myre SP, KWB); probable nesting in Polk. Also seen in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Wilkin, Lac Qui Parle, Wright (6/7 Pelican Lake, one, M. Link), Brown.

Western Grebe

Nested in Todd, Big Stone, **Swift** (25 nests, Lake Shible, WT), Lac Qui Parle, **Lincoln** (WT), Murray, Jackson, Nicollet. Also seen in Lake of the Woods (7/29, adult carrying young, AJ), Marshall, Wilkin, Wright, Blue Earth, Hennepin (all summer on French and Diamond Lakes, OJ).

American White Pelican

Seen in 24 counties east to Lake of the Woods, Cass, Wright (Pelican Lake), Freeborn.

Double-crested Cormorant

Nested in St. Louis (tailings ponds at Hibbing, Mountain Iron), Grant, Pope, Swift, Lac Qui Parle (853 nests, Big Stone NWR, WT). Seen in 32 other counties throughout the state except in the southeast.

American Bittern

Nested in Aitkin. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Clearwater, Beltrami, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Mahnomen, Becker, Stearns, Pope, **McLeod**, **Meeker**, Wright, Kanabec, Houston.

Least Bittern

Nested in Polk, **Nicollet** (PB). Also seen in Marshall, Pennington, Mahnomen, Becker, Pope, Hennepin, Blue Earth.

Great Blue Heron

Nested in St. Louis, Hubbard, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, **Swift** (WT), Pope, Morrison, Pine; probable nesting in Grant, Sherburne. Also seen in 44 other counties throughout the state.

Great Egret

Nested in Grant, Pope, **Swift** (ten nests, Lake Hassel, WT), Lac Qui Parle. Seen mostly in 14 other counties from the west

central to east central regions; also Rice, Wabasha, Houston in the southern regions and Clay, Mahnommen, Marshall in the northwest region.

Snowy Egret

Single birds at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (6/29, 7/2, JM) and Stacy, Chisago Co. (6/2-3 m.ob.).

Cattle Egret

Nested at Lake Johanna, Pope Co. and Pelican Lake, Grant Co. (14 and 12 nests, NH). Also seen at Agassiz NWR (one, 6/29, JM and Big Stone NWR (7/25, JP).

Green-backed Heron

Nested in **Wabasha** (C. Henderson), **Yellow Medicine** (JS); probable nesting in Stearns. Seen in 36 other counties north to Roseau and St. Louis (Ely).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nested in Grant, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, **Yellow Medicine**, **Jackson** (WT), Nobles, Nicollet. Also seen in Marshall, Meeker, Wright, Hennepin, Anoka, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Watonwan, Murray, Lyon.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Seen in Hennepin (*The Loon* 57:142, Dakota (6/15 Schmitt Lake, one, TTu), Scott (AB, RJ).

TUNDRA SWAN

Only report, 7/21 Clay (LCF).

SNOW GOOSE

Seen at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (6/5, JM) and Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co. (JP, G. Larson, *The Loon* 57:179).

Canada Goose

Nested in 18 counties (all-time high) including Cook and seven county firsts—**Hubbard** (HJF), **Clay** (MMo), **Morrison** (NH), **Meeker** (BG), **Waseca** (JS), **Freeborn** (KWB), **Mower** (RRK); probable nesting in three additional counties. Seen throughout the state except northern north central region.

Wood Duck

Nested in Lake, Clearwater, Pope, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Anoka,

Ramsey, Wabasha, **Waseca**, **Watonwan** (JS), Brown, **Jackson** (WT), Yellow Medicine; probable nesting in Polk, Clay, Chippewa, Mower, Houston. Also seen in 26 other counties throughout the state.

Green-winged Teal

Nested in **Lake** (USFS); probable nesting in Clearwater. Also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Aitkin, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Sibley, Lyon, Lincoln.

American Black Duck

Nested in Cook and seen in St. Louis, Carlton and Marshall, a ten year low for number of counties reported from.

Mallard

Nested in Cook, St. Louis, Crow Wing, Polk, Mahnommen, Big Stone, Stearns, Meeker, Wright, Ramsey, **Dodge** (RJ), **Brown** (JSp), Cottonwood, **Jackson**, **Pipestone** (WT), Murray, Lyon, Yellow Medicine; probable nesting in Itasca, Anoka. Seen in 31 other counties throughout the state.

Northern Pintail

Probable nesting in Lyon. Also seen in Hennepin, Sherburne, Clay, Mahnommen, Marshall, Aitkin, Duluth (KE), Cook (6/9, KMH).

Blue-winged Teal

Nested in Mahnommen, Big Stone, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Anoka, **Dakota** (TTu), Jackson, Cottonwood, Pipestone; probable nesting in Polk. Also seen in 30 other counties throughout the state.

Northern Shoveler

Seen in 11 counties including Aitkin.

Gadwall

Seen only in Marshall, Clay, Meeker, Lyon, Brown.

American Wigeon

Nested in St. Louis and **Polk** (TT). Also seen in Cook, Carlton, Aitkin, Marshall, Lyon.

Canvasback

Nested in Polk, Mahnommen, **Lincoln** (RJ). Also seen in Marshall, Todd, Hennepin, Cottonwood.

Redhead

Nested in Polk, **Steele** (RJ). Also seen in Duluth (KE), Clearwater, Marshall, Meeker, Wright, Blue Earth, Brown, Lyon.

Ring-necked Duck

Nested in Lake, Polk. Also seen in eight other counties throughout most of the northern regions plus Pope, Meeker, Wright, Sherburne, Anoka.

Greater Scaup

Late migrant 6/2 Beltrami (AB).

Lesser Scaup

Seen in Lake, Carlton, Clearwater, Marshall, Polk, Todd, Meeker, Hennepin, Chisago.

HARLEQUIN DUCK

Second and third summer records for state; Grand Marais, Cook Co. (7/8, male; KMH, WP) and Lake of the Woods (7/11, AJ, *The Loon* 57:135).

OLDSQUAW

Pair, 6/1 Cook (RJ, WP).

Surf Scoter

One at Grand Marais, Cook Co. from 6/16-6/23 (latest dates on record, sev.ob).

White-winged Scoter

Late migrant 6/6 Paradise Beach, Cook Co. (KMH).

Common Goldeneye

Nested in Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami; probable nesting in Cook, Clearwater. Also seen in seven other counties throughout northern regions plus a late migrant in Ramsey (6/2, SSt).

Bufflehead

Nested at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (*The Loon* 57:136).

Hooded Merganser

Nested in Clearwater. Also seen in seven other counties in the northern regions plus Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Scott, **Redwood** (6/29, RJ).

Common Merganser

Nested in St. Louis. Also seen in Cook,

Lake, Cass, Lake of the Woods.

Red-breasted Merganser

Nested in Cook. Also seen along North Shore in Lake and St. Louis.

Ruddy Duck

Nested in Polk, Stearns, **Brown** (JP/AM), **Steele** (RJ). Also seen in 17 other counties within range.

Turkey Vulture

Probable nesting in Wabasha. Seen in 23 other counties eastward of a diagonal connecting Marshall, Sherburne, Fillmore, plus Blue Earth and Brown.

Osprey

Nested in Hubbard, **Beltrami** (KH). Also seen in 12 other counties west to Roseau and Otter Tail, south to Sherburne and Benton.

Bald Eagle

Nested in Aitkin, Itasca, Beltrami. Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Cass, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Marshall, Todd, Isanti, Chisago, **Murray** (6/9, LF).

Northern Harrier

Nested in **Washington** (BL). Seen in 24 other counties throughout the state, but most often in the northwest and north central regions.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Nested in Lake; probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in St. Louis, Aitkin, Marshall, Polk, Clay, Wilkin, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Washington, Dakota, Houston.

Cooper's Hawk

Nested in **Benton** (NH), Olmsted, Ramsey. Seen in 11 other counties along a diagonal from Marshall to Crow Wing, Hennepin, Houston.

Northern Goshawk

Seen in Cook, Marshall.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Seen in Becker, Sherburne, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Goodhue.

Broad-winged Hawk

Nested in Lake, Becker, Ramsey. Seen in 20 other counties including Houston (JP/AM), Brown (JSp).

Swainson's Hawk

Seen in Clay, Swift, Yellow Medicine and Pipestone in western regions, Washington, Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted, Dodge and Mower in eastern regions.

Red-tailed Hawk

Nested in Stearns, Ramsey; probable nesting in Lake, Washington. Seen in 37 other counties throughout the state.

American Kestrel

Nested in Clay, Stearns, Murray; probable nesting in Becker, Stevens, Anoka. Also seen in 45 other counties throughout the state. Reported from more counties than any other raptor.

Merlin

Probable nesting in Cook. Seen in Lake, Duluth, Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

Gray Partridge

Probable nesting in Polk, Benton, Houston, Nobles. Also seen in 15 other counties throughout the western and southern regions plus Clearwater, Sherburne, Dakota.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Probable nesting LeSueur. Also seen in 30 other counties north to Wilkin, Wadena, Aitkin.

Spruce Grouse

Probable nesting in Lake (7/12, male in full courtship display with female and two chicks, SW/MS). Also seen in Cook.

Ruffed Grouse

Nested in Cook, Lake, Kanabec (SSt), Ramsey; probable nesting in St. Louis, Houston. Also seen in Aitkin, Itasca, Clearwater, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Morrison, Sherburne, Anoka.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Seen in Polk and Clay.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Seen in Aitkin, Roseau, Marshall.

Wild Turkey

Seen in Houston.

Northern Bobwhite

No reports for second year in a row.

Yellow Rail

Seen in Marshall, Mahnomen.

Virginia Rail

Nested in Polk, Hennepin, Ramsey (RH), Waseca, Brown (RJ); probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 13 other counties mostly in the northwest and east central regions; scarce in the northeast and north central (only Duluth, Itasca) and absent from the west central and southeast.

Sora

Nested in Polk, Mahnomen. Also seen in 25 other counties in all regions except the southeast.

Common Moorhen

Nested in Sherburne (Clear Lake, RJ), Brown (Linden Lake, JP/AM). Also seen in Marshall (Agassiz NWR, JM), Anoka, Wabasha.

American Coot

Nested in Polk, Mahnomen, Wadena (RJ), Todd, Swift, Yellow Medicine (WT), Lincoln (RJ), Brown, Nicollet (LP/GS), Steele (RJ); probable nesting from Murray. Also seen in 21 other counties including St. Louis.

Sandhill Crane

Probable nesting in Lake of the Woods (6/29, two ad., two juv., KH). Also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Clearwater, Sherburne, Anoka.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Late migrant 6/6 Lyon. Early migrants 7/4 Lac Qui Parle (P. Lehman), 7/6 Brown (RJ). All reports.

Semipalmated Plover

Late migrants: South, 6/1 Goodhue; North, 6/5 Duluth, Cook. Early migrants: North, 7/25, 7/27 St. Louis; South, 7/10 Chisago.

Piping Plover

Reported only from Duluth (nest with four eggs, NH).

Killdeer

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Big Stone, Ramsey, Wabasha, Brown, Murray; probable nesting in Stearns. Also seen in 43 other counties throughout the state.

American Avocet

Nested at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (5/22, seven nests with eggs, JM) and in Lyon (HK, *The Loon* 57:142). Also seen in Polk (Crookston, AB).

Greater Yellowlegs

Early migrants 7/5 Polk, Norman, Brown.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late migrants 6/6 Washington, 6/9 Wright. Early migrants: North, 6/30 Clay; South, 7/4 Chippewa, Dodge, Wabasha.

Solitary Sandpiper

Early migrants: North, 7/5 Polk, Norman; South, 7/4 Dodge, 7/5 Hennepin, Brown.

Willet

Only reports from Marshall (6/2 Agassiz NWR, JM) and Lyon (pair, 7/22, HK).

Spotted Sandpiper

Nested in Cook. Also seen in 27 other counties in all regions.

Upland Sandpiper

Nested in Polk, Mahnommen, Benton (BL), Rock; probable nesting in Sibley, Blue Earth. Also seen in 21 other counties including St. Louis.

Whimbrel

Seen 7/21 Duluth (fide KE).

Hudsonian Godwit

Early migrants 7/21 Lyon (HK). Only report.

Marbled Godwit

Nested in Marshall, Polk. Also seen in Lake of the Woods (AB, DB), Roseau, Mahnommen, Clay, Wilkin.

Ruddy Turnstone

Late migrants: South, 6/4 Stearns; North, 6/13 Lake.

Sanderling

Late migrants: South, 6/4 Stearn, 6/5 Chisago; North, 6/2, 6/7 Cook. Early migrants: North, 7/12 Cook, 7/27 Cass, Roseau; South, 7/21 Lyon.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Late migrants: South, 6/15 Wright, Wabasha; North, 6/10 Cook, 6/13 Lake. Early Migrants: North, 7/5 Polk, Norman; South, 7/12 Ramsey, 7/15 Dakota.

Western Sandpiper

Late migrants 6/4 Stearns (DB, OJ). Early migrants: North, 7/5 Norman (AB), 7/31 Duluth (KE); South, 7/5 Hennepin (OJ). All reports.

Least Sandpiper

Late migrants: South, 6/2 Hennepin, 6/4 Stearns; North, 6/7 Duluth. Early migrants: North, 6/30 Duluth, 7/3 Cook; South, 7/4 Dodge, 7/5 Brown.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Late migrants: South, 6/1 Wright, 6/2 Chisago, 6/3 Hennepin; North, 6/5 Duluth, 6/10 Cook. Early migrants: North, 7/5 Norman (AB), 7/27, 7/31 Duluth (KE); South, 7/23 Goodhue (BL). All reports.

Baird's Sandpiper

Late migrants 6/3 Cook (KMH), 6/7 Duluth (NH). Early migrants: North, 7/9, 7/21 Cook; South, 7/21 Cottonwood, 7/25 Lac Qui Parle.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late migrants 6/6 Lyon, 6/9 Wright. Early migrants: North, 7/5 Polk, 7/10 Cook; South 7/4 Dodge, 7/5 Brown.

Dunlin

Late migrants: South, 6/1 Wright, 6/2 Chisago; North, 6/7 Duluth. Early migrant 7/26 Roseau (AJ). Also seen in Marshall (no date).

Stilt Sandpiper

Early migrants: North, 7/5 Polk, Norman; South, 7/12 Ramsey, 7/19 Lyon.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Early migrant 7/22 Cook (KMH). Only report.

RUFF

Seen 7/18, 19 in Lyon (HK, *The Loon* 57:183-184).

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early migrants: North, 7/5 Polk, 7/12 Duluth; South, 7/12 Ramsey, 7/13 Kanabec.

Common Snipe

Nested in Marshall, Polk; probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in 23 other counties north of the Minnesota River Valley.

American Woodcock

Nested in Lake, St. Louis. Also seen in nine other counties south to Ramsey and west to Pope, Clay, Marshall. Fewer reports from outside the northeast region than in any of the six previous years.

Wilson's Phalarope

Seen in Marshall, Polk, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, Stearns, Wright, Hennepin, Washington (6/4), Chisago (6/2, 6/5), Aitkin (7/14), Duluth (6/1, KE), Lake (6/1, RJ).

Franklin's Gull

Nested at North Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (approx. 100 nests, WT). Also seen in seven counties in the northwest region plus Lake of the Woods, Todd, Sibley, Lincoln.

LITTLE GULL

Single bird, 7/2 Jackson (WT, *The Loon* 57:177,178).

Bonaparte's Gull

Late migrants 6/1 Crow Wing, 6/2 Duluth. Visitants (?) in Roseau, Lake of the Woods (no date, AJ). Early migrants: North, 7/26 Mille Lacs (400, SC), 7/27 Cass; South, 7/22 Nicollet (earliest south date on record, MF).

Ring-billed Gull

Nested at Duluth (Port Terminal colony much smaller than last year, NH). Also seen in 30 other counties throughout the

state except tier of counties north of the Iowa border.

Herring Gull

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis. Also seen in Cass, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Wilkin, Hennepin, Nicollet, Cottonwood.

Caspian Tern

30 reports from 18 counties, mostly during the first half of June from Hennepin north. Midsummer reports include Duluth (6/19), Goodhue (6/23, BL), Wright (6/29, six), Cottonwood (6/30, six; 7/3, two; LF), Washington (7/5), Mille Lacs (7/13), Cass (7/27). No dates given for sightings in Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Beltrami, Grant.

Common Tern

Nested in Duluth (17 nests, NH). Also seen in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Cass, Mille Lacs.

Forster's Tern

Nested in Todd (300 nests on L. Osakis, NH). Also seen in 15 other counties throughout range.

Black Tern

Nested in Aitkin (WN), Crow Wing, Polk, **Big Stone, Jackson** (WT); probable nesting in Nicollet, Lyon. Seen in 32 other counties including St. Louis (Duluth, KE; L. Vermilion, MH/JS).

Rock Dove

Nested in Murray; probable nesting in Ramsey. Seen in 37 other counties throughout the state.

Mourning Dove

Nested in Polk, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, **Chippewa** (RGJ), Pope, Stearns, Morrison, Benton, Sherburne, **Sibley, McLeod** (PB), Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Wabasha, Brown, Cottonwood, Murray; probable nesting in Clay. Seen in 31 other counties throughout the state including Cook (SL).

Black-billed Cuckoo

Nested in **Ramsey** (KB), Washington. Also seen in 30 other counties throughout the state.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Nested in Brown. Seen in nine other counties in the south plus Beltrami, Polk.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Nested in Brown (J. and C. Hempel), Murray. Also seen in Marshall, Hennepin, Pipestone.

Great Horned Owl

Nested in Traverse (FKS), Ramsey, Rice; probable nesting in Aitkin, Polk, Becker, Anoka. Also seen in 21 other counties throughout the state but mostly in the western and east central regions.

Barred Owl

Probable nesting from Duluth. Seen in 15 counties east of a diagonal from Marshall to Becker and Houston.

Great Gray Owl

Seen in Lake (6/20 Whyte Road, SW/MS).

Long-eared Owl

None reported for third consecutive year.

Short-eared Owl

None reported for third consecutive year.

BOREAL OWL

Singing male, 7/12-7/29 Lake (nine mi. north of Isabella, SW/MS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Probable nesting in Lake. Also seen in Koochiching.

Common Nighthawk

Nested in Lake. Seen in 30 other counties throughout the state.

Whip-poor-will

Nested in Anoka (JH), Washington (SSt, JG). Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (Burntside Lake), Aitkin, Marshall, Sherburne, Hennepin, Dakota, Houston.

Chimney Swift

Probable nesting in Stearns. Also seen in 34 other counties throughout the state.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Nested in Ramsey (KB), Brown (JSp).

Seen in 36 other counties throughout the state. Usually restricted to northern regions.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Seen from 7/30-8/1 in Cook (*The Loon* 57:177).

Belted Kingfisher

Probable nesting in Lake and St. Louis. Also seen in 45 other counties throughout the state.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Nested in Aitkin (WN), Anoka, Brown. Also seen in 34 other counties south and west of Polk, Clearwater, Mille Lacs, Washington.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Nested in Washington. Also seen in 19 other counties in the south plus Morrison, Aitkin.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Nested in Lake, Kanabec (SSt), Ramsey, Wabasha, Brown. Seen in 21 other counties south to Lyon, Blue Earth, Houston.

Downy Woodpecker

Nested in Cook, Lake, Crow Wing, Ramsey, Brown; probable nesting in Clay, Becker, Chippewa, Anoka, Dakota, Murray. Also seen in 29 other counties throughout the state.

Hairy Woodpecker

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin (GS), Sherburne (NH), Ramsey, Brown, Murray; probable nesting in Chippewa, Anoka, Goodhue. Also seen in 23 other counties throughout the state.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Probable nesting at Sea Gull Lake, Cook Co. (7/11, pair with fledged juv., MS). Also seen near Cook, St. Louis Co. (7/30, KB).

Black-backed Woodpecker

Nested in Cook, Lake (four nests reported). Also seen in Carlton (Cloquet Forestry Center), Cass.

Northern Flicker

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Stearns,

Ramsey, Wabasha, Murray; probable nesting in Koochiching, Crow Wing, Clay, Anoka. Seen in 34 other counties throughout the state.

Pileated Woodpecker

Nested in Cook, Aitkin, **Lac Qui Parle** (Lac Qui Parle SP, WSS), **Ramsey** (KB); probable nesting in Pope. Also seen in 27 other counties south to Lyon (HK), Brown, Mower.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Late migrants 6/2 Brown, Hennepin, Kanabec, 6/13 Ramsey, 6/15 Hennepin, 6/16 Houston (RRK). Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Clearwater, Polk.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Nested in Big Stone, Brown, Wabasha, Houston; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka. Seen in 33 other counties throughout the state.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Late migrants 6/4 Hennepin, Marshall, 6/5 Lac Qui Parle. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami. Early migrant 7/31 Hennepin.

Acadian Flycatcher

Seen in **Ramsey** (6/7 North Oaks, KB), Goodhue (Welch; AB, TTu), Houston.

Alder Flycatcher

Late migrant 6/1 Goodhue. Seen in 12 counties throughout the northern regions plus Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Hennepin (6/23, OJ), Ramsey (6/19, RH; until 6/21, KB), Dakota (6/19, TTu).

Willow Flycatcher

Nested in Hennepin. Also seen in Clay, Meeker, Wright, Ramsey, Scott, Dakota, Goodhue, Olmsted, Houston.

Least Flycatcher

Nested in Lake, Aitkin, **Kanabec** (SSt); probable nesting in Crow Wing. Also seen in 31 other counties throughout the state, but mostly in the northern and eastern regions.

Eastern Phoebe

Nested in **Lake** (SS, USFS), Clearwater, Clay, Becker, Pope, Stearns, Morrison, Kanabec; probable nesting in Anoka, Hennepin. Also seen in 27 other counties south to Lac Qui Parle, Blue Earth, Houston.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Nested in **Aitkin** (KB), **Polk** (TT). Pope, Wabasha; probable nesting in Clay, Anoka, Ramsey. Seen in 34 other counties throughout the state.

Western Kingbird

Nested in **Mahnomen** (MH), Big Stone, **Washington** (TTu); probable nesting in Hubbard, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, Hennepin, Nobles. Also seen in 16 other counties throughout range.

Eastern Kingbird

Nested in **Polk** (TT), **Aitkin** (WN), Meeker, Anoka, Dakota, Brown; probable nesting in Clay, Pipestone. Seen in 43 other counties throughout the state. Most widely reported flycatcher.

Horned Lark

Seen in 40 counties in all regions except the northeast.

Purple Martin

Nested in **Lake** (NH), Clearwater, Stearns, **Dakota** (Rho), Rice, **Faribault** (KWB), Nobles, Pipestone; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Also seen in 34 other counties throughout the state.

Tree Swallow

Nested in Lake, St. Louis, Crow Wing, Clearwater, Clay, **Chippewa** (RGJ), Meeker, Stearns, Morrison, Ramsey, Washington, Olmsted, **Dodge** (JB), Rice, Brown; probable nesting in Cook, Koochiching, Winona. Also seen in 34 other counties throughout the state.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Nested in St. Louis (Ely), **Ramsey** (KB), **Dakota** (RHo); probable nesting in Roseau, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs. Also seen in 23 other counties in all regions, but scarce in the northeast and north central.

Bank Swallow

Nested in St. Louis, Pope (NH), Rice, Brown; probable nesting in Mille Lacs, Anoka, Ramsey. Also seen in 23 other counties.

Cliff Swallow

Nested in Cook, Lake, Stearns, Anoka, Brown, Nobles; probable nesting in Roseau, Benton, Mille Lacs, Dakota. Seen in 27 other counties in all regions, but scarce in the west central.

Barn Swallow

Nested in Cook, Morrison, Stearns, Meeker, Dakota, Rice, **Watsonwan** (JS) **Martin** (KWB), Nobles; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Roseau, Clay, Pope, Wright, Anoka, Washington, Cottonwood. Seen in 38 other counties throughout the state. Third most widely reported species in state.

Gray Jay

Probable nesting in Cook, St. Louis. Also seen in Lake, Itasca, Beltrami.

Blue Jay

Nested in Stearns, Ramsey, Washington, **Dakota** (RHo), Wabasha; probable nesting in Clay, Anoka, Chippewa, Murray. Seen in 37 other counties throughout the state.

Black-billed Magpie

Nested in **St. Louis** (Tower-Soudan State Park, SW/MS, Marshall. Also seen in Pennington, Polk, **Clay** (6/30, ad, with juv., Bluestem Prairie, KE).

American Crow

Probable nesting in Cook, Anoka, Ramsey, Dakota. Seen in 45 other counties throughout the state.

Common Raven

Nested in Cook, Lake. Also seen in St. Louis, Pine, Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Marshall.

Black-capped Chickadee

Nested in **Morrison**, **Benton** (NH), **Isanti** (JH), Ramsey, Washington, Wabasha, Olmsted, Brown; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Becker, Clay, Meeker,

Anoka, Dakota. Also seen in 32 other counties throughout the state.

Boreal Chickadee

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis.

Tufted Titmouse

Seen in Houston, Olmsted.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Nested in Lake; probable nesting in Cook, Hubbard. Seen throughout the northeast and north central regions plus Morrison, Anoka (GP), Ramsey (RH), Hennepin (m.ob.).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Nested in Stearns, Ramsey; probable nesting in Clay, Becker, Crow Wing, Pope, Anoka. Also seen in 32 other counties throughout the state.

Brown Creeper

Probable nesting in Brown (Flandrau State Park, JSp). Also seen in Cook, Lake, Roseau, Clearwater, Hubbard.

House Wren

Nested in Lake, **Koochiching** (GM), Polk, Crow Wing, Morrison, Stearns, **Chippewa** (RGJ), Meeker, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Olmsted, **Dodge** (JB), Rice, **Faribault** (KWB), Brown; probable nesting in Cook, Clay, Pope, Anoka, Cottonwood. Seen in 27 other counties throughout the state.

Winter Wren

Probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Clearwater, Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Pine.

Sedge Wren

Seen in 41 counties throughout the state.

Marsh Wren

Nested in Mahnomen; probable nesting in Pope. Also seen in 26 other counties from Wabasha, Blue Earth and Lincoln in the south, to Duluth, Clearwater and Roseau in the north.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Itasca, Clearwater, Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Polk.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Nested in Morrison (Bellevue Twp., NH), Brown (at least four nests New Ulm area, JSp); probable nesting in Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Scott. Seen in 11 other counties throughout range plus Lyon (6/29, RJ). More reports than in previous years.

Eastern Bluebird

Nested in Itasca, Clay (MMo), Becker, Morrison, Stearns, Benton, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Olmsted, Dodge (JB), Rice, Brown, Chippewa; probable nesting in Clearwater, Crow Wing, Anoka. Also seen in 24 other counties throughout the state but scarce in the northeast, west central, southwest.

Veery

Nested in Cook, Lake, Clearwater. Also seen in 22 other counties in the northern, central, and east central regions.

Swainson's Thrush

Nested in Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca.

Hermit Thrush

Seen in eight counties throughout range west to Clearwater and south to Mille Lacs.

Wood Thrush

Nested in Ramsey (KB), Brown; probable nesting in Morrison. Also seen in 17 other counties from Lake and Clearwater southward to Pope, Steele, Houston.

American Robin

Nested in 21 counties including Lac Qui Parle (WSS), Sibley (PB); probable nesting in four additional counties. Seen in 28 other counties throughout the state. Most widely reported species.

Gray Catbird

Nested in Morrison, Kanabec (SSt), Meeker, Sherburne, Hennepin, Anoka,

Ramsey. Also seen in 36 other counties throughout the state.

Northern Mockingbird

Seen in Morrison (6/2 Royalton, NH), Wabasha (one, 6/15, RJ).

Brown Thrasher

Nested in Lake, Mahanomen (MH), Stearns, Meeker, Anoka, Ramsey, Dakota, Olmsted, Brown, Murray; probable nesting in Koochiching, Clay, Chippewa. Also seen in 35 other counties throughout the state.

WATER PIPIT

Very late migrant 6/7 Cook (KMH). First summer sighting in Minnesota.

Cedar Waxwing

Nested in Lake, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey (KB), Blue Earth, Brown; probable nesting in Roseau, Crow Wing, Olmsted. Seen in 38 other counties throughout the state.

Loggerhead Shrike

Nested in Morrison, Benton, Washington (TBB, TTu); probable nesting in Sherburne. Also seen in Clay, Anoka, Dakota, Redwood, Lac Qui Parle.

European Starling

Nested in St. Louis, Stearns, Ramsey, Faribault (KWB), Nobles, Murray; probable nesting in Cook, Crow Wing, Pope, Dakota. Also seen in 33 other counties throughout the state.

Bell's Vireo

Seen in Hennepin (6/1 Elm Creek Park, m.ob.), Dakota (6/15-6/20, TTu), Scott (AB), Wabasha (7/8, WDM).

Solitary Vireo

Nested in Lake (SW/MS). Also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Clearwater, Wadena (7/6, DZ).

Yellow-throated Vireo

Probable nesting in Ramsey, Brown. Also seen in 24 other counties throughout the state except in the southwest and only Duluth in the northeast.



Loggerhead Shrike nest, Washington County, June, 1985. Photo by Bill Penning.

Warbling Vireo

Nested in Big Stone, Wright, Hennepin, **Dakota** (AB); probable nesting in Ramsey, Houston, Brown. Seen in 27 other counties north to St. Louis (Duluth), Cass, Marshall.

Philadelphia Vireo

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

Red-eyed Vireo

Nested in Morrison, **Kanabec** (SSt), Ramsey; probable nesting in Cook, Becker, Anoka. Also seen in 33 other counties throughout the state.

Blue-winged Warbler

Probable nesting in Anoka, Ramsey. Also seen in Scott, Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted, Houston, **Brown** (all summer Flandrau State Park, JSp).

Golden-winged Warbler

Probable nesting in Kanabec. Also seen in St. Louis, Itasca, Clearwater, Wadena, Anoka. Early migrant (?) 7/24 Houston (EMF). Fewer reports than in past several years.

Tennessee Warbler

Late migrant 6/4 Murray. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (including Duluth, KE).

Nashville Warbler

Nested in Cook, Lake; probable nesting in St. Louis. Also seen in 12 other counties west to Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Polk and south to Wadena, Anoka, Ramsey (7/10 DB/ 7/15, 7/20 KB).

Northern Parula

Probable nesting in Clearwater. Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Hubbard.

Yellow Warbler

Nested in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Morrison, **Kanabec** (SSt), Ramsey, Hennepin, Sherburne, Meeker, Big Stone; probable nesting in Anoka, Brown. Seen in 35 other counties throughout the state.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Probable nesting in Kanabec. Seen in 19 other counties within range west to Mar-

shall (Agassiz NWR), Becker and south to Scott, Dakota.

Magnolia Warbler

Nested in Lake. Also seen in Cook, St. Louis, Otter Tail (no date, GAM).

Cape May Warbler

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Marshall (Agassiz NWR, JM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Seen in Cook and Lake.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Late migrant 6/1 Clay. Nested in Lake; probable nesting in Duluth. Also seen in Cook, Itasca, Cass, Wadena, Clearwater, Beltrami, Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

Black-throated Green Warbler

Late migrant 6/3 Anoka. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami.

Blackburnian Warbler

Nested in Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Clearwater, Aitkin, Pine.

Pine Warbler

Probable nesting in Aitkin. Also seen in Lake, Carlton, Itasca, Hubbard, Clearwater, Becker, Wadena, Morrison, Chisago, Ramsey (6/18, RH).

Palm Warbler

Very late migrant 6/17 Blue Earth (MF). Seen in St. Louis (adult with juv., KE), Beltrami, Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

Bay-breasted Warbler

Probable nesting in Cook.

Cerulean Warbler

Nested in **Scott** (RJ). Also seen in Houston, Winona, Dakota, Sibley, Nicollet, Brown (Flandrau State Park, female on 6/2, singing male until 6/23, JSp).

Black-and-white Warbler

Probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in eight counties in the northeast and north central regions plus Marshall (Agassiz NWR) and Hennepin (Elm Creek Park).

American Redstart

Nested in Cook, **Ramsey** (KB, SSt); prob-

able nesting in Clearwater, Kanabec, Hennepin, Brown. Also seen in 23 other counties eastward from Marshall, Stearns, Scott and Olmsted, plus Nicollet, Lac Qui Parle.

Prothonotary Warbler

Nested in **Brown** (New Ulm, JSp). Also seen in Dakota, Goodhue.

Ovenbird

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, **Ramsey** (KB); probable nesting in Kanabec, Anoka. Also seen in 19 other counties but not west of Becker, Scott and Wabasha except in Brown.

Northern Waterthrush

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Pine.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Seen in Winona, Washington (Belwin Nature Center).

Connecticut Warbler

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Clearwater, Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

Mourning Warbler

Late migrants 6/3 Lac Qui Parle, 6/5 Hennepin, 6/8 Scott (RJ). Probable nesting in Lake. Seen in 13 other counties within range south to Anoka and Ramsey.

Common Yellowthroat

Nested in Cook, **Morrison** (NH), Washington, Ramsey, Murray; probable nesting in Clay, Pope, Kanabec, Nobles. Seen in 44 other counties throughout the state. Most widely reported warbler.

Wilson's Warbler

Seen in Cook (6/1, RJ), Lake (6/20 Whyte Road, three singing males, SW/MS).

Canada Warbler

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Pine.

Yellow-breasted Chat

Three birds seen in Burnsville, Dakota Co. (m.ob.).

Scarlet Tanager

Nested in **Kanabec** (SSt), Anoka, **Ramsey** (KB), Brown; probable nesting in Clearwater, Isanti. Also seen in 19 other counties throughout most of the state but not in the southwest and scarce in the west central and south central regions.

Northern Cardinal

Nested in Sherburne, Ramsey, Olmsted; probable nesting in Dakota. Seen in 14 other counties west to Redwood and north to Morrison.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Nested in Big Stone, Morrison, **Sherburne** (NH), Hennepin, Ramsey, Brown; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Clay, Meeker, Anoka. Also seen in 35 other counties throughout the state.

Blue Grosbeak

Nested in **Murray** (ND); probable nesting in Nobles. Also seen in Rock.

Indigo Bunting

Nested in Becker (MW), Ramsey, Washington; probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 34 other counties in all regions.

Dickcissel

Seen in 29 counties throughout the south half plus Clay (LCF), Wadena (AB).

Rufous-sided Towhee

Nested in Anoka. Seen in ten other counties along a diagonal from Houston to Clearwater, plus Duluth, Sibley, Blue Earth, **Rock** (7/5 Blue Mounds State Park, P. Lehman).

Chipping Sparrow

Nested in Cook, Lake, **Koochiching** (GM), Clay, **Becker** (MW), **Wadena** (TT), Morrison, **Chippewa** (RGJ), Washington, **Dakota** (RHo, TTu), Olmsted; probable nesting in Clearwater, Crow Wing, Pope, Anoka. Also seen in 32 other counties throughout the state.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Nested in Polk, Stearns, Sherburne, **Chippewa** (RGJ). Also seen in 29 other counties south to Lyon, Redwood, Rice, Olmsted.

Field Sparrow

Nested in **Morrison** (northernmost nesting record, NH), Sherburne, Anoka, Ramsey, Dodge, **Blue Earth** (MF), Brown; probable nesting in Dakota. Also seen in ten other counties in the south half west to Redwood.

Vesper Sparrow

Probable nesting in Clay. Also seen in 35 other counties throughout the state except only St. Louis (Ely-Tower) in the northeast.

Lark Sparrow

Nested in Anoka; probable nesting in Becker. Also seen in Clay, Sherburne, Wabasha, Goodhue, Nicollet.

Savannah Sparrow

Probable nesting in Murray. Seen in 36 other counties throughout the state.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Nested in **Brown** (JSp). Also seen in 23 other counties north to Polk, Clearwater, Morrison, Washington.

Henslow's Sparrow

First time in at least ten years none have been reported.

LeConte's Sparrow

Seen in Marshall, Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomon, Clay, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Benton, Hennepin (7/5 Crow Hassan Park, SC).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Seen in Aitkin, Mahnomon.

Song Sparrow

Nested in Cook, Lake, Itasca, Morrison, Sherburne, **Fillmore** (JS), Brown; probable nesting in Clay, Crow Wing, Meeker, Anoka, Hennepin. Also seen in 38 other counties throughout the state.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (including Duluth), Beltrami (Waskish).

Swamp Sparrow

Nested in Cook. Also seen in 30 other counties throughout most of the state but

not in the west central and only Lyon in the southwest.

White-throated Sparrow

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis. Also seen in seven other counties throughout the northeast and north central regions plus Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Mille Lacs, **Wabasha** (7/5-7/19, WDM).

Dark-eyed Junco

Probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Marshall (Agassiz NWR).

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Seen at Felton prairie in Clay Co.

Bobolink

Nested in **St. Louis** (SW/MS), Meeker; probable nesting in Clay, Murray. Also seen in 40 other counties throughout the state.

Red-winged Blackbird

Nested in Crow Wing, Big Stone, Pope, Stearns, Ramsey, Olmsted, Rice, Murray; probable nesting in Clay, Anoka, Dakota. Seen in 45 other counties throughout the state. Second most widely reported species in the state.

Eastern Meadowlark

Seen in 18 counties eastward from Beltrami, Clearwater, Hennepin, Blue Earth.

Western Meadowlark

Nested in Stearns, **Olmsted** (JB, JGu); probable nesting in Morrison, Murray. Also seen in 33 other counties in all regions except the northeast.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Nested in Todd, **Pope** (NH), Lincoln; probable nesting in Clay, Hennepin. Also seen in 36 other counties throughout the state including St. Louis (25 at Embarrass rice paddies, 6/1;SS), **Cook** (6/7 KMH).

Rusty Blackbird

Seen in Cook (6/24, female; KE, KMH), St. Louis (no date, Tower, MH/JS).

Brewer's Blackbird

Nested in Morrison, Stearns; probable nesting in St. Louis. Also seen in 27 other

counties throughout the state except the two tiers of counties north of the Iowa border.

Common Grackle

Nested in Cook, Clay, Big Stone, Pope, Stearns, Ramsey, Washington, **Faribault** (KWB), Murray; probable nesting in Chippewa, Dakota, Rice. Seen in 32 other counties throughout the state.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Nested in Lake, Itasca, Big Stone, Pope, Stearns, Morrison, Sherburne, Anoka, **Fillmore** (JS), **Blue Earth** (MF); probable nesting in Cook, Crow Wing, Ramsey, Brown. Also seen in 33 other counties throughout the state.

Orchard Oriole

Nested in Big Stone, Rock; probable nesting in Lac Qui Parle. Also seen in Washington, Dakota and 11 other counties across the southern regions and up the western border to Norman.

Northern Oriole

Nested in Beltrami, Crow Wing, Morrison, Stearns, Ramsey, Washington, Brown, Lyon; probable nesting in Koochiching, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, Meeker, Anoka, Dakota, Fillmore, Freeborn, Murray. Also seen in 36 other counties throughout the state including St. Louis and Cook in the northeast region.

HOUSE FINCH

Seen 7/6-7 in Le Sueur (HJC, *The Loon* 57:134).

Purple Finch

Probable nesting in Koochiching, Crow Wing. Also seen in eight other counties throughout the northeast and north central regions plus Roseau, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Kanabec. Early migrants 7/28-8/2 Brown (JSp).

Red Crossbill

Seen in Cook, Lake (6/15, 7/19), Duluth (7/26), Koochiching, Otter Tail (6/5, 6/15), Hennepin (6/10, DB).

White-winged Crossbill

Seen in June in Cook (SL).

Pine Siskin

Numbers way up, with reports from 20 counties including nesting in Cook, Lake, Stearns, **Sherburne** (NH), **Washington** (JH), **Dakota** (TTu), Winona (*The Loon* 57: 141), **Blue Earth** (MF). Also seen throughout the northern regions plus Wilkin, Swift, Chippewa.

American Goldfinch

Nested in **Pope** (DR), Stearns, Sherburne, Brown; probable nesting in Becker, Dakota. Also seen in 45 other counties throughout the state.

Evening Grosbeak

Probable nesting in Lake, St. Louis. Also seen in Cook, Koochiching, Aitkin.

House Sparrow

Nested in **Pennington** (TT), Stearns, **Chippewa** (RGJ), Meeker, **Wabasha** (WDM), Brown, Murray, Nobles; probable nesting in Clay, Ramsey, Dakota. Also seen in 33 other counties throughout the state.

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**CORRECTIONS
 TO THE FALL SEASON
 (Aug. 1 to Nov. 30, 1985)**

Delete Greater White-fronted Goose 10/26
Lake SW/MS.
 Change Rufous-sided Towhee 10/28 Cottonwood and Clay-colored Sparrow 10/2 Cottonwood to LAF.

**CORRECTIONS
 TO THE SPRING SEASON
 (March 1 to May 31, 1985)**

Broad-winged Hawk - delete JEB after 3/10 Olmsted.
 Add **Ruff** 5/10 Marshall JM.
 Common Tern 4/12 Olmsted PP should be Forster's Tern 4/12 Olmsted PP.
 Western Kingbird - delete 5/4 Washington DS
 Varied Thrush - delete 3/1 Washington DS.
 Pine Warbler - change 4/13 Ramsey KB to 4/24 Ramsey KB.
 Yellow-breasted Chat - delete RE after 5/12 Olmsted, change 5/19 Cottonwood to 5/19 Scott Fide LAF (Dead).
LAZULI BUNTING - change 4/17 Washington to 4/17 Ramsey.

241 Grouse Lake Road, Isabella, MN 55607.



BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS OF ONTARIO by J. Murray Spiers; Natural Heritage/Natural History, Inc., Toronto, 1985; 2 vol., 344 color photos, 400 maps, 1524 pages.

Ontario: with places like Point Pelee and Amherst Island and a long provincial list which includes several remarkable strays to its credit, it clearly merits a book over 1500 pages long with hundreds of photos and range maps. But even more clearly, Ontario does not deserve this deeply flawed work. *Birds of Ontario* is certainly not the worst bird book I've ever seen, but it has to be about the most disappointing in a long time, and it probably wastes more page space than any bird book ever.

Volume One, over 500 pages long, includes all the species known to Ontario, at least according to the author's judgment: on the right hand page you'll find the species accounts, usually two to a page, and on the facing page are, usually but not always, an appropriate photo(s). This volume, designed for the novice or more casual birder, includes very brief and vague textual accounts of where the bird is found — usually something about habitat and ranges in Ontario and worldwide — and about the species' identification. In most cases, there is little to be learned here about the species' status in Ontario (Volume Two is supposedly designed for that), and in virtually every species account the scanty identification information has nothing new to offer. One example — under Whip-poor-will the entire account reads: "One of the joys of summer evenings in the resort country of Ontario is being serenaded by Whip-poor-wills, seemingly

endlessly repeating their name, perhaps with responses from others echoing across the lakes, from hill to hill. See distinctions from the very rare Chuck-will's-widow and the Common Nighthawk under those species. Doris H. Speirs claims that the Whip-poor-will really says 'Purple-rib': see what you think when you next hear the species." With such paltry information, the novice will certainly remain one after reading Volume One.

The accompanying photos are of average quality: only a few are anything special, several are poor, and a few are even misidentified (e.g., Trumpeter Swan, Lesser Scaup, female Greater Scaup, Baird's Sandpiper, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, plus a few other doubtfuls). For 100 species, no adequate photo was found, in itself an embarrassing percentage, but this fact is glaringly called to your attention by the practice of printing these species' names above an empty space labeled "not illustrated". It's almost as if the reader is invited to either cut a picture out of his favorite bird book and paste it in, or perhaps even get out a box of crayons and go to work! Since the average photo is a half page in size, the missing photos would seem to add up to about 50 pages worth of blank space. But actually the sad fact is that Volume One's 538 alleged pages really add up to only about 172 pages of real content: it seems that the text on the right hand is repeated word for word in the species accounts in Volume Two! Therefore, the reader who also owns the second volume (just about everyone misled enough to buy one volume will also get both), is essentially left with only 344 photos \times a half page each —

in other words, 366 pages of wasted paper.

Volume Two includes nearly a thousand pages worth of "meatier" species accounts which allegedly give the status of all the birds of Ontario. Each account begins, as previously mentioned, with the text from Volume One (no, it doesn't read any better the second time around), and continues with paragraphs detailing records from the various seasons. If available, two types of range maps are included which supposedly illustrate summer and winter status: one map shows average number of birds per party-hour from Christmas Bird Counts from 1968-1977; the other, average number per 50 stops on Breeding Bird Surveys from the same years. Unfortunately, these maps in reality tell us next to nothing. For one thing, the data are all dated by at least eight years; for another, the entire northern half of the province is not represented by even a single CBC or BBS. In addition, too many maps consist almost entirely of blank latilong boxes, and there is no way to interpret whether the species is absent there or whether there was simply no coverage. Besides, the scientific validity of these two censuses, especially CBCs, is dubious for many reasons.

All the reader is left with, therefore, are the seasonal accounts which amount to recitations of records gleaned from various periodicals or the field notebooks of various birders. In too many cases these sources remain either outdated or obscure or too local to be of much value: most of the records cited are trivial, or at least apparently so, since all those dates, locations and numbers given for the regular species seem to be within normal ranges and seasons. Amazingly, among all this voluminous data there is no summary of the species' status in Ontario, and the reader is left with no idea of average/peak/extreme migration dates, of the breeding or wintering ranges or relative abundance for Ontario's regular species. For casuals and accidentals, there would appear to be some value in the book since all the records are apparently listed; however, I am not at all confident, given the flawed concept of these volumes, that all the records are given. (There were probably others he didn't find; just one of many examples: three fall Marbled Godwit records are listed, but does this mean the species is accidental in fall, or that the species is rare-regular and the author didn't finish

his homework?)

Again, Ontario deserves a far better bird book, and hardly any reason comes to mind as to why anyone should buy *Birds of Ontario*. I could perhaps recommend the second volume for fans of the Ontario Birds Edition of Trivial Pursuit, since there are literally thousands of records of this nature: "Downing found a nest [of American Crow] with five small, naked young at Rossport on May 29, 1936". Gee, and all these years I thought he saw only four young! —**Kim Eckert**

BLACKBIRDS OF THE AMERICAS by Gordon H. Orians, illustrated by Tony Angell. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 1985; 164 pages, \$24.95, illustrated.

Perhaps because they are so common, blackbirds (subfamily Icterinae) tend to be overlooked by birders who are searching for rare and "interesting" birds. However, the 94 species of this subfamily that occurs only in the New World occupy a wide variety of habitats and show an amazing array of social systems including monogamy, polygamy, coloniality, and brood parasitism. They range from "black" birds such as grackles to strikingly bright orioles and oropendolas. In *Blackbirds of the Americas*, Gordon Orians introduces this fascinating group and describes the evolutionary and ecological factors that have shaped their biology.

Orians, of the University of Washington, is the world's leading expert on blackbirds. Much of his scholarly research is summarized in the Princeton University Press monograph, "Some Adaptations of Marsh-nesting Blackbirds" (1980). In *Blackbirds of the America*, Orians writes to a wider audience—the amateur ornithologist and birdwatcher with a scientific interest. This book is not a coffee-table series of annotated species accounts, but a text *about* blackbirds and what makes them tick. The species are introduced casually as Orians weaves his tale of how the blackbirds' unusual foraging method allows them access to food not available to most species and in turn leads to their generalized diet and occupation of a wide range of habitats (blackbirds force open their bills against resistance from the substrate, a

technique called "gaping"). Orians also explains how food and habitat have affected blackbirds' social relations and other behavior. The book concludes with a thoughtful essay on the relationships between people and blackbirds, providing special insight on each.

Blackbirds of the Americas treads the line between popular writing and science. A few tables and figures dot the text and selected references follow. Though well-written, the book is full of information and may be slow reading. Tony Angell's careful drawings, illustrating the species and their behavior, add

to the appeal of the book. By reading this book, someone whose interest in birds goes beyond simple identification can learn a lot about ecology and evolution as well as about blackbirds. The result will be more satisfaction in birdwatching.

I appreciate the comments of Taber Allison and Billy Goodman to improve this review.

—David E. Blockstein, Bell Museum of Natural History, Dept. of Ecology and Behavioral Biology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Foot Tumor Found on Juvenile Common Loon

*Ross H. Hier¹, Pamela Skoog Perry², and Mark Sperry¹

Tumors are extremely rare in free-flying wild birds even though they are not uncommon in domestic birds (Sanger 1971, Siegfried 1983). Hard, nodular masses may often be observed on the palmar and lateral aspects of the avian foot but these are considered fibromas or fibromatous corns and not true tumors (Fox 1923). In a search of the literature, a necrotic tumor mass on the foot of a mature ruffed grouse was described by Siegfried (1983) but reports of similar tumors on loons or other waterbirds were not found.

During August 1982, a juvenile Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) was observed by lakeshore residents on Upper Gull Lake in Cass County, Minnesota, that seemed to have a fishing line and bobber entangled around one of its feet. Concern for the bird resulted in its capture on August 19 by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources personnel using a night-lighting technique (Lindmeir and Jessen 1961).

The loon's swimming efficiency was greatly impaired; therefore capture was relatively easy for a loon of this age-class. The bird appeared to be underweight as evidenced by a protruding keel. Plumage was characteristic for a fully feathered but flightless Common Loon (i.e., "dappled gray" sides and back) except for the retention of down on much of the nape. This condition differs from plumages of other loons of similar age-class ($n = 15$) handled during banding by Hier



and Sperry, and may indicate that the bird was suffering from a nutritional deficiency.

Upon having the bird in hand it was apparent that the loon was not dragging a fishline

and bobber as first thought, but rather that its movement had been inhibited by a large spherical growth (5 cm diameter) attached to the middle toe of the right foot (Fig. 1). The growth's surface was papillose, covered with sand and algae, and quite odoriferous. The growth was amputated at the distal joint, weighed (61 g), frozen, and sent to the National Wildlife Health Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, for analysis. The tumor was diagnosed as being of squamous cell origin with a dense connective tissue core. It may have been a carcinoma of low grade malignancy, possibly of skin gland origin.

Most likely the tumor would have proved fatal to the bird had it not been removed. The bird's swimming movements were impaired which would decrease feeding efficiency and subsequently would cause deterioration in the bird's body condition. The tumor also would have interfered with flight capability by dragging and creating an unbalanced condition during take-off. This could have stranded the bird on its natal waters into freeze-up.

The loon was banded and released. Swimming appeared to be normal after removal of the tumor.

We thank Dr. Lynne M. Siegfried of the National Wildlife Health Laboratory in Madison for analysis of the tumor.

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

As reported in *The Loon* 57:34, this committee at its December 1984 meeting had worked out a procedure for handling records of possible escapes. However, before this procedure was applied to any record, it was clear that there would be flaws in it, and the procedure was never implemented. Finally, on February 15, 1986, four members of MORC met and proposed a new procedure which will hopefully be more workable: 1) After a record is voted on and its identification found Acceptable, if any member feels the bird involved is an individual possibly escaped or released from captivity, he indicates this to the MORC Chairman. 2) If the chairman agrees that the member's opinion

is worth pursuing he then has research conducted into this possibility; the Chairman may do this research himself or ask MORC members to complete it. This research involves; checking with game farms, zoos, falconers (in the case of hawks), Richard Ryan of New Jersey (a recognized authority on birds kept in collections; asking the observers of the individual to report on the bird's plumage condition, behavior, presence of bands, and other factors which might indicate captive origin; checking to see if there were other extra-limited records about the same time in other states which might indicate a pattern of vagrancy (sources might include *American Birds*, journals and records committees from

other states, etc.); and checking on the species' history or tendency to migrate or wander out of range (sources might include the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds and the official checklists of nearby states). 3) After enough research has been completed to the satisfaction of the Chairman, the committee is informed by mail of the research. 4) After the research and all details are considered each member will vote on the record as follows: either 1) Unacceptable (i.e., the bird is a probable escape), 2) Acceptable as an A(a) or A(b) record (i.e., the bird is probably wild — A(a) species are accidentals substantiated by specimen or photo, A(b) species are acceptable sight records), 3) Acceptable as an A(c) record (i.e., the evidence does not clearly indicate either wild or captive origin); or 4) Research is not conclusive enough to reach a decision; discussion and vote should take place at a meeting of MORC. A simple majority determines the final decision; in some cases more than one vote might be necessary before a majority opinion is reached. (Regular and Casual species, not just Accidentals, can also be voted on in the same way; with such species, the third vote described above means the record is still accepted in the official record of Minnesota birds, but noted as an R(c) or C(c) — i.e., in the same way as an A(c); "there is a question as to the origin or wildness of the bird.")

In other action, two records were sent to experts out of state, and on the basis of their opinions a decision was reached on their acceptability without a formal vote of the committee. A gull identified as a California was found at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis November 7, 1985; the bird died later. The specimen was retrieved, prepared and sent to Joseph Jehl and Guy McCaskie of California who confirmed its identity as a California Gull. The other record was of a suspected Spoonbill Sandpiper seen in Duluth August 16, 1975. This record was never voted on by the committee, but the documentation was submitted to Dan Gibson of Alaska who felt it was best to "treat the report as of a bird that got away, species unknown." He also writes: "Nothing about the description of plumage, soft-part colors, or behavior sounds conclusive in any direction to me . . . Both mandibles [of the Spoonbill Sandpiper] are spatulate, each in a rounded diamond shape

not circular . . . and not, to my mind, bulbous or lobed (like the descriptions and drawings of your bird of 16 August 1975). This record was also sent to Ben King of the American Museum of Natural History and he said: "Your description certainly sounds like you had a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. The appearance and jizz of the bill as you describe it are similar to what I saw on a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Sri Lanka some years ago. In sum, Spoon-billed Sandpiper sounds convincing but I am not sure how I would want to treat the record. I leave that more vexing task to you."

The following records were voted on July-December, 1985, and found **Acceptable**:

—House Finch, 7/6-7/85, Le Sueur, Le Sueur Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:134).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/24/85), near Rochester, Olmsted Co., (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 142-143).

—Anhinga, 4/27/85, Cottonwood, Lyon Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:46).

—Ruff, 7/19/85, Cottonwood, Lyon Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:183-184).

—Arctic Tern, 6/6/85, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1).

—House Finch, 9/2/85, Pipestone Natl. Monument, Pipestone Co. (vote 7-0).

—Least Tern, 8/11-12/85, Cottonwood, Lyon Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:48-49).

—Sabine's Gull, 9/3-17/85, near Warroad, Lake of the Woods Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:180).

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 10/2/85, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 57:181).

—Rufous Hummingbird, 7/30-31/85, Cascade River S.P., Cook Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 57:181).

—California Gull, 11/2/85, Silver L., Clay Co. (vote 6-1).

Although the record was accepted, the observers decided that the bird was only a possible California Gull, based on the comments of the person voting against the record.

—Western Wood-Pewee, 8/25/85, Lower Red L., Clearwater Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 58:50).

—Great Black-backed Gull, 11/17/85, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 58:46-47).

—Whooping Crane, 10/12/85, Nelson Prairie W.M.A., Mahanomen Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 58:45).

The following records were voted on July-December, 1985, and found Unacceptable:

—Dickcissel, 4/20/85, near Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 2-5).

Although the observers had a close look at the bird and the warmer than normal April weather might have brought in a record early Dickcissel, the observers were not aware of how early this record was and thus their documentation was very brief (the only thing provided was a crude sketch showing a "black diamond" on the upper breast and a "yellow" area below this). Most agreed, however, the identification might have been correct, and no one could think of what else the bird could reasonably have been.

—Brant, July 1985, near Evansville, Douglas Co. (vote 0-7).

There was no real description provided, only a crude sketch which could have just as easily fit Mallard or some exotic, barnyard waterfowl.

—Black Skimmer, 9/26/85, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Hennepin Co. (vote 2-5).

Although this species is so distinctive and the observers noted "the bill was an orange-red color and . . . the lower mandible was longer than the upper", there were too many doubts for this to be accepted as a first state record. The only plumage description given was "its back and head were dark; underparts white"; not only is this too sketchy but a skimmer should have a bold white forehead. A skimmer also has a black and orange bill, not just orange-red; further, it was stated that "the lower bill was as wide or wider at the end than at the head", but this does not fit Black Skimmer or anything else similar. Finally, the bird was only watched for a few seconds in flight, and the observers did not use binoculars.

—Golden Eagle, 7/22/85, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 3-4).

The identification as an adult Golden Eagle was based on its large size and its "entirely dark" underwings with "no white streaks or patches". It was agreed that the identification may have been correct, but the majority felt that with no direct comparison the impression of size may have been wrong, the plumage description was too brief, and that the distance involved (150 yards) and the bird's low altitude might have made it difficult to clearly see the underwing pattern. It was therefore

felt that immature Bald Eagle or a melanistic Buteo might have been seen.

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 9/7/85, Theodore Wirth Park, Hennepin Co. (vote 2-5). The majority felt that the details were too brief for acceptance, since the description only mentioned a yellow throat, white belly and dark-coloured back; however, other warblers could also fit this description.

—Whooping Crane, 10/13/85, near International Falls, Koochiching Co. (vote 2-5).

This individual was identified by its larger size in comparison with the Sandhill Cranes with it, and as an immature due to its "reddish brown coloring throughout the head and neck region" which extended to the back. However, the crane's larger size may have been due to it being a "Greater" Sandhill in with a group of the "Lesser" subspecies. Also, the rusty coloration on the head, neck and back can fit both immature Sandhill and Whooping Cranes.

—Clark's Grebe, 4/24/83, Marsh Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 3-4).

Formerly considered just a race of the Western Grebe, the Clark's Grebe was recognized as a full species by the A.O.U. in 1985. As a result of this decision, this record was submitted, which included brief field notes stating "that in one individual the black of the crown ended above the eye [i.e., indicating Clark's Grebe] and that on another nearby Western Grebe the black of the crown extended below the eye." It was unanimously agreed that the bird was probably Clark's, but the majority felt that for a first state record a more complete description was needed, especially noting the bill color (bright yellowish-orange in Clark's, dull greenish-yellow in Western), which is said to be more diagnostic than the extent of the black cap.

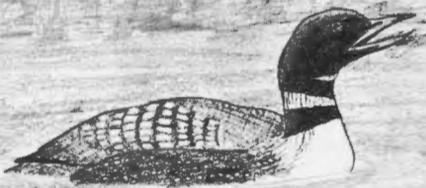
—Arctic Loon, 11/1/85, L. Lida, Otter Tail Co. (vote 2-5).

The identification was based on its smaller bill and body size and on the fact that the bill was not upturned. However, there was apparently no direct size comparison, thus making the observer's impression of size questionable; besides, small size alone is never enough to identify an Arctic since smaller Common Loons can overlap that species in size.

—Golden-crowned Sparrow, 10/20/85, Rogers L., Crow Wing Co. (vote 4-3 with 7-0 required for acceptance).

The majority was convinced by the observers having seen Golden-crowns out West and being familiar with immature White-crowns (which also have a hint of buff or yellow on the crown, and which the observers first considered the sparrow to be), and by the description "the crown was a lemon-yellow oval, sharply defined by black." It was

unanimously agreed that the bird may well have been a Golden-crowned, but some felt that for a first state record a more complete description would be necessary; i.e., nothing was mentioned about bill color, plumage of the underparts, wings, back, etc. **9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

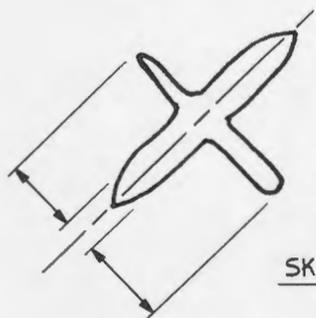


NOTES OF INTEREST

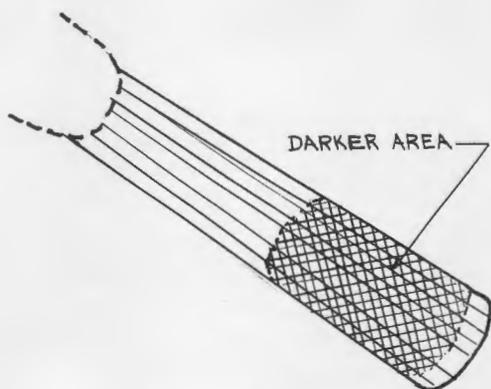
WHOOPING CRANES IN MAHNOMEN COUNTY — On Saturday, October 12, 1985 at approximately 1100 hours, I observed what I suspect were three Whooping Cranes. The sighting occurred at Township 146 N. Range 42 W. Section 14 (Mahnomen County) near the Nelson Prairie Waterfowl Production Area. From the ground (standing near my vehicle) I spotted three large birds flying at an elevation of about 100 feet and approximately ¼ to ½ miles from my position. The birds had apparently just left the WPA and were headed west. The sky at that time was overcast with heavy blue-gray clouds and an approximate ceiling of 1200 feet (maximum). Upon initial observation (with the naked eye) I noted a "swan-like" sheen as the birds flew. Further investigation using 7x32 field binoculars revealed that the birds were in fact cranes, i.e., very long neck with outstretched legs. To my surprise I noticed very distinct black wing tips (primaries) in contrast to the white wings and body. I glassed the bird for approximately three to four minutes as they flew east to west in front of me. (I focused and refocused, my binoculars several times to insure proper I.D.). At the time of the sighting I was working the reservation moose season in that area. I have been employed as the Reservation Wildlife Biologist for almost two years. I have a bachelor's degree in Biology and have worked for the FWS, DNR and other state agencies in a biological capacity for the past seven years. My experience with cranes is somewhat limited, but over the years I have observed numerous large flocks of migrating Sandhill Cranes as well as many pairs of nesting individuals in this area. Also, I have been active in waterfowl censusing (all species) for several years in an official capacity as a wildlife biologist. **Doug Bellefeuille, P.O. Box 418, White Earth, MN 56591**

Editor's Note: This record was carefully considered by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (M.O.R.C.) and found to be acceptable. The first acceptable record for Whooping Cranes in Minnesota since 1951!

MINNESOTA'S THIRD ANHINGA — It was a recently turned sunny April 27, 1985. I, binocular clad standing in my driveway in Wright County. Alerted to a bird soaring directly above, I thought large buteo. Upon using binoculars, cormorant entered the mind, but quickly left as I noticed the tail length and long headless neck. (see "sketch A"). In addition, the broad straight out wings set it apart. Anhinga was the obvious thought, but how likely was that? I continued watching the bird for two plus minutes and marveled at the effortless flight. The bird soared, never flapping, much like an eagle. The revolutions were great and the "Big X" circled higher to the north. Upon hastily returning with my scope, I saw the bird had vanished into the distance. The incredibly long tail had a darker portion, with no sharp contrast, which excluded the basal half and the extreme tip (see "sketch B"). I should mention



SKETCH "A"



SKETCH "B"

that the whole bird was dark, but this portion was a tad darker. The tail was longer, by far, than say a Northern Goshawk's and was never fanned out. Tail length was equal to or slightly longer than the head and neck not counting bill length, as it was not observed. The unusual, long "headless" neck is unique for proportions and shape for this as well as wings, tail and overall, refer to "sketch A." The wings rounded to the tip, from both leading and trailing edges, to a central point of the wing. The leading and trailing edges were parallel, the wings coming straight away from each other. Except for the slight edge difference of the wing tip the bird looked like it could go forward or backward. In retrospect, on this April day with only slight wind at ground level, I would have to say, in the soaring category, the Anhinga gets the gold. Gary N. Swanson, Rt. 3, Box 166D, Buffalo, MN 55313

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL AT DULUTH — At about 9:00 a.m. on November 17, 1985, we pulled into the parking lot behind the drive-in at Canal Park in Duluth to scan the lake for gulls. I noted a number of gulls perched on the canal wall to the south and a few gulls in the water about 300' or so offshore. I put the scope on the birds in the water and the first one that came into view was all white with a coal black mantle, an obvious black-backed gull. Scanning a little further I got a Herring Gull into the field of view and the size difference was obvious, with the black-back being approximately 50% larger. I

looked again for a few moments and then went to the phone booth and called Kim Eckert. There was no answer so I left a message on the Duluth RBA and returned to the area and observed the bird for another 15 minutes or so. It was dipping its head below water and more or less preening and flapping its wings. It did this for several minutes during which time the black mantle was very obvious as was the relatively large, all yellow bill. While I had it in the field of view the bird lifted off the water and flew to the canal wall. As the bird took off from the water its wing beats were deep and labored, much like a hawk or eagle when it begins flight. The black mantle was easily observed and Pat was able to see it quite clearly through binoculars. We watched the bird fly directly to the canal wall where it perched amidst the Herring Gulls. Once again, its large size was quite evident as was the black mantle. There were one or two Ring-billed Gulls on the wall and the black-backed was proportionately larger than the Herring as the Herring Gull was to the Ring-billed.

We left the area and drove up as far as Stoney Point and returned about 12:00, at which time there was no evidence of the black-backed gull although the overall number of gulls had increased. While driving up the north shore, we noted numerous small groups of gulls heading down shore towards the harbor area. **Kenneth LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. NE., Blaine, MN 55434**

FIRST GREAT EGRETS IN COOK COUNTY — At the southwestern end of Cascade River State Park, Cook County, there is a 17-acre gravel pit, recently closed to further excavation and developed as a special wildlife area. Several shallow ponds dot the site. Newly seeded grasses and legumes surround patches of bare gravel. On August 15, 1985, Bob Barry, the park manager, told me that he had seen a large, white bird along with some Great Blue Herons at the "pit" the day before. I visited the site that afternoon and found the egret preening on a trail between two ponds. Identification was unmistakable, especially since the bird was standing in the open and allowed very close approach. I noticed a second egret in the thick grass next to one of the ponds. That particular pond has an abundance of snails. I suspect the two egrets were taking advantage of this food source. The park staff reported seeing the egrets for several days after the initial sighting. This wildlife area continues to be an exciting place to see shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. **Timothy Webb, DNR-Wildlife, Grand Marais, MN 55604**

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS - MARCH 10, 1985 — That Sunday I was up in Parkwood Hills off of Vista Road on the northeast side of Rochester, Olmsted County, at a site which overlooks Quarry Hill Nature Center, DNR lands and a broad sweep of the city. The temperature by 2:30 p.m. had risen to 50 degrees; high thin clouds were beginning to develop; and a 10 mph wind was out of the southwest. While panning and scanning with Leitz 10x40B binocs, I was surprised to encounter nine small buteos with thick wings and squat fanned tails kettling toward me. As they came closer, I could see that their wings were dark on the upper parts and white on the underparts. And I could see that their tails had bands of equal width alternating blackish and white on both sides of the tail. Closer yet I could see brownish barring on their underparts. For a few minutes they were directly overhead; after that, they swirled toward the northeast. The last time I'd had that good a look was April 25, 1975 when Joan Fowler and I had watched about 50 over my property, at times so close overhead we had instinctively ducked! Oddly enough, it was the immature Red-shouldered Hawk Harry Buck had seen at the Nature Center that I was hoping to see that Sunday, so I had those field marks on my mind. That helped me to be sure that the nine I saw were Broad-wings. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

Editor's Note: This is the earliest spring date on record for the Broad-winged Hawk in Minnesota; the previous early date was March 27.

WINTER PINE WARBLER IN AUSTIN — On November 23, 1985, we received a telephone call from Mrs. Lola Umhoefer at 401 20th Ave. S.W. in Austin stating that she had an unusual bird coming to her feeder. As we drove up to her house we saw the bird sitting on the feeder and our first impression was that the bird was either a vireo or a warbler. From her family room windows we observed the bird more closely for about 30 minutes. It had a yellow breast, white wing bars, olive-green back, with a warbler-like beak. After consulting Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* and Robbins' *Birds of North America* we decided it was a Pine Warbler. The bird continued to visit her feeder until January 6, 1986 and was seen by many people, including Ron Kneeskern, Jacques Chipault, Robert Janssen and others. It is interesting that the bird survived several blizzards and -25° F temperatures. According to Robert Janssen, this is the only record of a warbler sighting in Minnesota in the winter with the exception of a Yellow-rumped Warbler. I contacted Lola Umhoefer about her last sighting of the Pine Warbler. She said that it was actively feeding February 4 and several days before that. Those days were unseasonably warm, but she has not seen it since Feb. 4. She was concerned about a neighborhood cat that she'd seen around the yard several times, but can't confirm having seen the cat attack or eat any birds. The bird was first seen November 17, one week before Dick Smaby and I identified it. That would make about 79 days that it had been seen off and on. I'm glad that Don Bolduc was able to get some photos. The lighting was poor for the ones that Dick Smaby and Lola got. **Terry Dorsey, 506 19th St. SW, Austin, MN 55912**



Pine Warbler, January 4, 1986, Austin, Mower County. Photo by Don Bolduc

LEAST TERN IN LYON COUNTY — On August 11, 1985, Henry Kyllingstad and Paul Egeland discovered a juvenile Least Tern in a small flooded marsh approximately one mile south of Cottonwood, Lyon County. On Monday, August 12, 1985, I visited the area and found the bird at about 8:00 a.m. standing on a small exposed mud bar about 30-40 yards out in the marsh. The skies were cloudy, heavily overcast with a strong south wind and the temperature in the mid-50's. At first I had difficulty in finding the bird; there were about eight to ten immature Black Terns associated with the Least Tern and I was not that familiar with this plumage of the Least Tern. The following is a description of the bird written at

the time of observation: Size approximately one quarter smaller than the Black Terns with which it was associated. Cap, brownish-gray, dark line through the eye, darker below and behind the eye, eye was dark. Bill appeared rather dark but through the scope (20x) it was light brownish with yellow along the edges. Chin, breast, belly and under tail white, also sides of neck and below eye white. Fore edge of the wing dark, forming a V (lying on its side). Some brownish above fold of wing and at shoulder. Lesser wing coverts gray, tipped with darker gray, median coverts the same, tail gray, barred. Back gray, feathers edged with darker gray, upper back feathers tipped with brown. Primaries darker than coverts when folded. Legs were light yellowish to red. At 8:25 a.m. the bird disappeared but returned at 8:35 a.m. I could pick him out easily now by the hovering flight, small size and the dark line through the eye. I watched the bird until 8:50 a.m. when it began to rain quite hard and the bird flew off to the south. The bird was seen later in the day by numerous observers and was last seen by Don Bolduc and Oscar Johnson on August 14, 1985. This observation represents the ninth record for the Least Tern in Minnesota, the first since 1978. Of the nine records, five of them have been in Lyon County. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - MAY 12, 1985 — It was raining off and on and with a brisk wind; it seemed colder than 50 degrees. On County Road 148 near the Rochester airport, there is an area that has been worked for gravel when the airport was built in the late fifties; this is now overgrown, with one small pond remaining. There, as I sat in the car out of the nasty weather, I heard an almost comical combination of sounds — part catbird, part mockingbird, then a cough and other weird whistles; all of which brought Yellow-breasted Chat to mind. Soon one flew up from the brush below a box elder. About the size of a Fox Sparrow, the bird's breast was a vibrant yellow-orange; the back was avocado; the belly and under-tail coverts were white. The facial pattern was striking; white spectacles (thick bill) black lores, with a white stripe below the black and above the yellow. He would fly up, then drop straight down, then up again, sometimes hovering with legs dangling and "singing." Truly an entertaining way to spend a rainy noon. Since we hadn't recorded a chat in Olmsted Co., in several years, I hurried to call our "hot list", and soon County 48 was full of happy birders. The chats (there was a female there, too) stayed around for several weeks. Soon after this sighting, I located other chats in a wet, willow thicket just west of County 104. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

A GRAY JAY IN RAMSEY COUNTY — On or about December 19, 1985, I received a message over the Rare Bird Alert from Bud Kraehling of WCCO TV that a Gray Jay was coming to a feeder in Shoreview, Ramsey County. At 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 21, 1985, Ray Glassel and I visited the residence of Thomas Mowery at 5315 Hodgson Road in Shoreview. Mr. & Mrs. Mowery informed us that the Gray Jay was first seen at their feeder on November 21, 1985. After about a one-hour wait the Gray Jay, a juvenile bird, appeared at the suet feeder, fed for about 10 minutes and then left. This was the last time the bird was seen by the Mowery's or other observers who attempted to see the bird. The Gray Jay is an unusual winter visitant to the Twin City area. During winters of southward movements it seldom gets south of southern Aitkin County or central Pine County in the central and eastern regions of the State. This was my first record for the species in the Twin City area after 38 years of birding! **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

WEATHER-INDUCED MIGRATION OF COOTS — All of us have seen large flocks of American Coots during both the spring and fall migrations. I would venture to guess, however, that only a few individuals have actually observed coots migrating. As is the case with many of our night migrating birds, we see them during the day as they feed

and rest but their migrational flights are under the cover of darkness. On October 27, 1971, I observed the beginning of such a migration that appears to have been caused by a change in the weather. I came by the Madison Wildlife Management area just a few minutes after the sun went below the horizon. This 100 acre marsh is located adjacent to Highway 75 about two miles northwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County. It is mostly open water with a fringe of cattails around the edge. There were about 300-400 coots concentrated near the center of the marsh when I stopped. Singles and/or pairs (never groups of three) of the coots would take off from the large group in the middle of the marsh. After becoming airborne, they would circle and circle the open water portion of the marsh, gradually gaining altitude. Once they reached the 250-300 foot altitude, their circles began moving in a southerly direction, however, they were still gaining altitude until they were out of sight. Because they flew separately rather than as a flock, I got the distinct impression while looking through the binoculars into the dusk that I was seeing a large flock of buzzing mosquitoes. That night it snowed about two to three inches and when I drove by the area the next day, there were only about 20 coots left on the marsh. This is the only time I have ever seen this type of response to oncoming weather by coots. **John Schladweiler, Nongame Wildlife Specialist, DNR, Box 756, New Ulm, MN 56073**

AMERICAN AVOCETS ABANDON NEST IN LAC QUI PARLE CO. — On May 7, 1985, two American Avocets were observed feeding in flooded field adjacent to farm yard along Lac Qui Parle County Road #7. May 27 - Only one avocet observed feeding in same flooded field. With my spotting scope I watched him cross the open water and walk into a patch of green weeds. When he stopped, a second avocet stood up and walked toward the flooded field for her turn to feed. The first avocet settled down on the spot the second had vacated. May 29 - One avocet feeding in flooded field and second observed on nest site (close observation of nest or eggs never attempted). May 29 - Farmer was contacted and asked not to destroy nest if he found it necessary to plow field. June 12 - Flooded field completely dry. Avocets had abandoned nest. Farmer had seen the two avocets on a pond ½ mile east earlier in the week. I was not able to locate them. **Goodman Larson, 4801 Diane Dr., Hopkins, MN 55343**

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE IN CLEARWATER COUNTY — On August 25, 1985, we were traveling southbound on Highway 1 along Red Lake in Clearwater County. There were numerous flocks of warblers, flycatchers and Chipping Sparrows moving through the area. At one stop, the first sound heard was the distinctive call of the Western Wood-Pewee, a nasal "Pee Yeer." I've heard this bird several times the past summer while on business trips to western South Dakota and Wyoming. The individual wasn't difficult to locate and I found it in a large bush, about halfway up, located about 50' from the road. Through a 20 power scope, I noted a medium size flycatcher that was a fairly uniform greenish brown color above. There were two faint wing bars and the bird had no eye ring. The under parts were whitish with somewhat darker coloration on the sides of the breasts. The individual continued to sing periodically as we watched and was still perched in the bush when we left. **Kenneth Lafond, 11008 Jefferson St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434**

FIRST NEST RECORD FOR BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS IN CLAY COUNTY— On June 21, 1985, while conducting a population census of Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Felton Prairie, a female Brewer's Blackbird was flushed from a ground nest. The nest, constructed of woven twigs and mud, was located in the southern end of section 12, Flowing Township. It was lined with grass and contained two gray eggs, heavily marked with brown.

Seven other blackbirds were observed in this pasture which borders a woody draw along Felton Creek. Although Brewer's Blackbirds have been sighted in all of the eighty-seven counties of Minnesota at some time (Janssen 1984, *The Loon* 56:88), nesting has been documented in only seventeen (Janssen 1984 and Simonson 1985, *The Loon* 57:31). In the western region of the state, Wilkin and Marshall are the only counties with previous nest records. This observation, according to the 1985 Minnesota bird distribution maps, is the first nesting record for this species in Clay County. Ann Marie Wyckoff, Biology Department, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202.

LONGSPURS BREED IN TRAVERSE COUNTY — Chestnut-collared Longspurs have been sighted in twenty-four of the eighty-seven counties in Minnesota (Janssen 1984, *The Loon* 56:102), however the only breeding populations known to exist since 1970 have been located in Clay County (Janssen and Simonson 1985, *The Loon* 57:29). On July 15, 1984, while conducting a survey for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Nature Conservancy, a colony of Chestnut-collared Longspurs was located in Traverse County. This population, consisting of over thirty individuals, was established in a cattle pasture in the northeastern quarter of section 33, Clifton Township. The birds were concentrated around a water hole near the eastern edge of the pasture, but one pair defended a territory that extended onto Miller Prairie West, a Nature Conservancy tract to the east. A nest, containing three eggs, was located, and two dependent fledglings were observed. This is the first record of a breeding population of Chestnut-collared Longspurs outside of Clay County in recent years. Ann Marie Wyckoff, Biology Department, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE LOOKOUT!

To all members of the MOU:

The Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, is soliciting your cooperation in an effort to locate Loggerhead Shrike nests and/or nesting activities such as nest construction, pair bonding, etc. . . We are conducting a study on the breeding habitat, distribution, and reproductive success of the Loggerhead Shrike in Minnesota.

Contact Bob Janssen, Editor of *The Loon* in the event of a sighting.

Thank-you!

Bonnie L. Brooks, Research Assistant, UW-Madison

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and 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, donate \$12.50 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$15.00 yearly; Supporting \$20.00 yearly; Sustaining \$30 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$15.00 yearly. All memberships are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$3.00 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).

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An Experience with Cooper's Hawks

Anne Marie Plunkett

There probably aren't too many birders who have had the opportunity to spend over 300 hours in observing a family of Cooper's Hawks. Probably even fewer have been lucky enough to be able to watch the goings-on from a distance of 50 feet and at a height of just above shoulder level; luckier yet to be able to invite fellow birders to come and observe, and to photograph or videotape with few restrictions. This was my good fortune during the months following May 5, 1985 when a pair of Cooper's Hawks laid claim to territory on our property south of Rochester in Olmsted County, Minnesota.

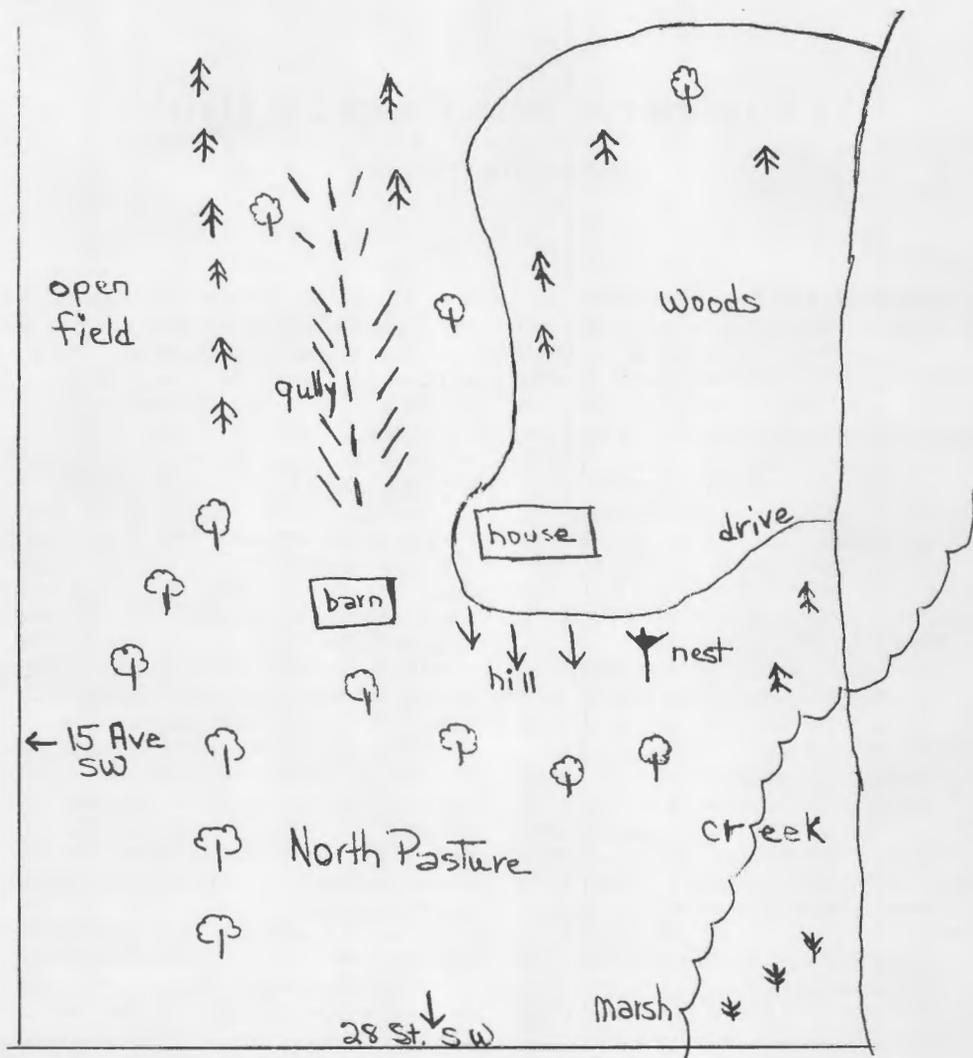
What follows here is an encapsulation of daily diary notes which begin May 5, 1985 when I was in the North Pasture of our 57-acre property and heard an almost alarming raucous calling in the woods on the side of the hill that encircles the house. Loud, forceful, hoarse — kaw, kaw, kaw — it sounded more goshawk-like than the kek, kek, kek-ing usually associated with Cooper's. Soon I could see two accipiters flying in an arc around the house, so I got in the car and drove to an area above the house where I stayed for over two hours as the calling and arcing continued. By this time I had gotten some good looks at them — an adult male and a blotchy sub-adult female. We had had two Cooper's Hawks nest on the property many years previously; and later in the summer of 1985 we found a slightly used nest close to the 1985 nesting site. We also have had Barred Owls nest with us many years since the 1960's, in much the same area.

Within a week their nest was a nest although both continued to build during the second week. May 19 they were unbothered (apparently) by a visit from David Blockstein et al. as we observed that the male and female consistently took different directional routes to and from the nest, and that both seemed diligent in their work of laying sticks into the three-pronged crotch of an oak about 60 feet

from the base of the tree at the foot of the hill, below the house. The nest site was no more than 50 feet from the driveway so we could observe, using the car as a blind.

During the following weeks when she was on the nest, I gradually spent more time out of the car moving slowly and quietly between two spots where I could clearly observe and be observed. (I still believed the bit about Coopers being skittish.) When she would stretch or fly off briefly, her sub-adult plumage was clearly visible. She could look ferocious with her beak agape, panting in the unusual 90 degree heat, but otherwise she calmly observed the world, remaining there even as my young grandsons played on the terrace 60 feet away, with lawn-mowing and tree-trimming going on nearby. The male was in close attendance—brooding the clutch when she went off—I never saw him feed her. And only once did I hear keking **at the nest**; usually we heard the keking from the woods, and usually shortly before one would return to the nest.

On June 4 I noticed a lot of down by her tail, and more on June 7. (On June 8 there was a male Barred Owl about 50 yards away in a usual spot near the gate on 18th Avenue.) The female was at the side of the nest more now, and by June 24 I first observed her bringing food to the nest, and noted "sounds of young?" in my notes. Finally on June 28, a small round white cottonball of fluff was visible and "Amelia" (formerly referred to as "the female Cooper's") was fixing the nest and poking about. On the 29th, she was at the side, tearing food and dropping it into the nest. By July 2 we could see three puffballs with watermelon seed eyes. Amelia would leave the nest to the NW and Arthur (as the male was named) would come in to the nest from the NE direction. She would kek from the pasture below; he would leave the nest to the NE; she would come in from the NW with food; and this routine would be



Location of the Cooper's Hawk nest, Rochester, Olmsted County.

repeated three or four times. Then she'd clean up the nest and settle down.

On July 3 we set up a scope so we could get a better look at their food. Arthur brought in a field mouse, and gently fed the three young. It was impressive how gently he would move the young around lifting them with his beak, enveloping their whole heads—then preening them, nestling them, and settling them. The young by now were very active, and by July 6 there was a noticeable difference in their sizes. On July 7 we got the first glimpse of the fourth of the nest-

ings. That day also we saw Arthur bring in a red squirrel. He tore it apart at the side of the nest while the young waited. Then he threw out good sized chunks to the older ones and directly fed smaller bits into the mouth of the youngest. As the older ones moved about and to the side of the nest, Arthur would shelter and preen the youngest, while occasionally pulling one of the others back from the brink; a funny and touching scene. On July 9 one of the adults was feeding the young on four out of the five visits I made between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Amelia and #4 at nest July, 1985. Photo by Ervin Schmidt.



Young Cooper's Hawks July 1985. Photo by Ervin Schmidt.

On July 11, the older three were stretching their wings, showing some blackish patches and some streaking about the breast. Arthur still was feeding Number 4, plucking loose down, removing the fecal sac (while the older ones used the side of the nest). On the 12th, I noted that during five visits, all prey brought in had four legs.

Beginning on the 13th, the adults began to keep watch from limbs about ten feet away from the nest. The nest was getting crowded as the older three were about $\frac{2}{3}$ adult size at that time.

By July 16 the oldest was showing streaking in the breast and flanks with more black on the head and primaries. Jack Heather heard small, soft squeaks issuing forth from the older of the young. Number 4 was still being fed by the parents who had a pattern of keking from the North Pasture below, moments before one flew in; the young then became alert and were ready for the next food.

On July 16 Harry Buck got the whole feeding session on videotape. Of note is that there is about 15 minutes of continuous eating on one food item by the nearly-full-grown older three, and a rapidly growing Number 4 as well as the adult male; it could scarcely be a chickadee that kept them busy all that time. Actually, this was not unusual. I have no record of the food being two-legged; other observers also remarked on this. Could it be that their main diet was not songbirds?

By July 17 the older ones were jumping up and down, flapping their wings and imitating flying. Their backs were now quite dark. The youngest still had a black patch at the ear, and a black tail with a prominent white terminal band. All had a lot of white fluffy down on the legs. When the young settled down in the nest, they disappeared from view which, considering their size, indicated that the nest was deeper and wider than it appeared. The largest of the young was now the size of the adult male. On July 19 I noted that feeding time was 10-15 minutes each session, four and sometimes five times per day, usually at the daybreak and sunset hours. On July 24-August 2 I was birding in Germany and Ireland, two trips which I had considered cancelling, but I knew I had several surrogates to follow their progress: From notes kept by Joan Fowler, we can trace their daily maturing progress: the older three spending most of their time away from the

nest, improving their flying skills, exercising their wings on branches near the nest, and gradually increasing the distance of their flights. Number 4 was a nestling when I left, but was making flights of up to fifty feet by the time of my return 10 days later. The adults continued to feed the young, bringing in frequent meals to accommodate their rapid growth. The older three ate in tandem; the adults still made certain that the youngest was getting his share. They were awkward "flyers" at this time; flopping and falling off branches, staggering along limbs and somehow managing to sail a hundred feet before crash-landing, breaking off branches en route and landing clumsily with much teetering and flapping to maintain balance.

On August 2, I went from the airport directly to the nest site, wondering what changes I would find; what great joy I felt at seeing all six hawks again. Arthur and Amelia were hard at work feeding the ever-growing young ones. The two oldest were now the size of Amelia and looked like hawks. It was now almost seven weeks since the first bit of fluff was seen at the nest (the oldest) and five weeks since the youngest appeared, already then a chick moving about (possibly a week old). In plumage, the older three were nearing immature plumage with white blotches in predominantly dark wings with barring now apparent on the chest; the youngest was still very white on the lower breast and belly, with some evidence of barring just beginning to develop. All four were "talking" — whistling, really. I recorded their voices, and phonetically, the older three sounded like this:

#1) whee ow - whee ow; down five notes (G - C)

#2) whee ick - whee ick; up three notes (C - E)

#3) wee eck - wee eck; down three notes (E - C)

This hawk would often repeat the "eck" and at times its tonality was that of the adult "kek."

The three oldest seemed to each have their particular spots (limbs of a certain tree) for preening, exercising (flapping and stretching) and for practicing their "speech."

By August 12 the feeding at the nest ended. The youngest had fledged and the action shifted to the North Pasture. We could now watch the young learning to hunt for them-

selves with Arthur and Amelia ever hovering nearby. Amelia "talked" alot; her voice was much more than just a kek, kek, kek. Pitch, tone, and sequence varied as did speed. Sometimes it was a low kek-kek. Sometimes it was broken: kek, kek (pause) kek, kek—. Sometimes a higher pitched and rapid kek,kek,kek,kek,kek. Sometimes emphatic and broken: KEK—KEK—(pause)—KEK—KEK—(pause)—kek,kek,kek,kek,kek,kek. Usually the pattern was in two's and five's. Arthur also varied his pitch and pattern, although he was far less vocal than she. The voices of the young were changing, too.

#1) whee ow became whee uu (as in "us") still with the G to C interval;

#2) whee ick became whee eat (C to G interval) followed by eat, eat, eat, eat, eat (pattern of two and five; imitating adult?)

#3) wee eck now repeated in varying pattern, sometimes as many as eight times with the last usually being squeaky and as if he just said it as many times as he could without his voice cracking.

August 15 was a Red Letter Day: We watched Number 1 get his own meal. And Numbers 2 & 3 rushed over to partake of his victory. Squabbling, complaining sounds ensued.

The big three now were flying about 100 yards at a time, midway up the hill on the edge of the woods in straight line flight from tree to tree with fast flapping wingbeats, and landing ungracefully (more like crashing than landing). As they moved from the nest to the North Pasture they maintained their directional positions in reverse in trees further from the nest: i.e., #3 was now to the right of the nest; #2 in front of it; and #1 to the left. Number 4 was usually to the far right as was Amelia (to the NW) and Arthur to the NE. Each of the young were about 50 feet apart. When they flew, it was usually two together, sometimes three; sometimes they would bump into each other, but usually they took off in the same direction. Number 4 had started to tag along after them by August 16. Number 3 started to sound more adult about this time. He practiced alot—seven or eight keks in a row, over and over, Number 4 still sounded whiney at this time.

On August 17 Joan Fowler and I were entertained by the Big Three as they would circle close over our heads, talking as they flew; mostly they said wee-a, (down five

notes) followed by wee-a, (up five notes); and all three sounded pretty much alike as they spoke in flight. However, when they again were perched in their respective trees, their speech was again different and distinguishable. From the 19th on, the older three seemed more confident, flying among the trees rather than along the woods' edge. They flew more smoothly (not hasty flapping) for several minutes at a time. They were then about nine weeks old. They had discovered the barn and gully at right angles to the woods' edge of the North Pasture. They also started coming up close to the house. By the 23rd, they were gliding by, tilting side to side; on the 24th, one of them chased a crow out of the North Pasture.

#1) was now saying kip kip kee-oo (third syllable down three intervals)

#2) was now saying which which (the second which being up two notes)

#3) was now saying whee-oo (on the same tone)

#4) was still saying a whiney knee ow. He did have dark wings and some streaking on the breast, so he was maturing in that way.

On August 27th we heard a most interesting exchange between Arthur and Number 4. He would kek loudly at the youngster who would respond with his knee-ow whine.

For two weeks around this time there was trenching work being done for a gas line along the drive up to the house; while this was in progress, all the hawks moved away from the worksite to the wooded gully at the side of the house and to the open field which adjoins the gully. The neighbors delighted in sharing in the sight and sounds of these hawks usually characterized as secretive and monosyllabic. Also during this time, one of the juveniles hit a porch window and stayed, stunned, on the terrace for a few minutes. At the approach of concerned humans to the window, the hawk keked softly, allowed all a good look; and after some flapping and stretching, flew up into a nearby tree where he stayed for awhile preening himself.

By September 26 the trenching work was completed and the hawks returned to their usual perches and could again be studied at close range for voice. They had changed in the two weeks and sounded like this:

#1) kek kek kek kek kek (pattern of five)

#2) kaak—kaak—kaaak (drawn out, in pattern of three)

#3) kak-a kak-a kak-a (hiccup like)

#4) chee-o chee-o (still whiney-sounding)

It is interesting too that during September and October Barred Owls were being heard in this same general vicinity. On October 6 and again on October 12, an adult and a juvenile were seen close to the house.

By mid-October, the hawks were being seen all around the neighborhood, about a 70-acre area.

The last date I have recorded seeing any of the family was October 18; not because they had left then, but because I left then. By the time I returned in mid-November, Snow Buntings had already arrived, and winter was upon us. Had I had any reason to believe they would stay around so long after fledging, I would have changed my travel plans; the literature I had read indicates that they disperse soon after fledging.

We cannot dare to hope for a repeat of what we have come to realize was a God-given opportunity to learn close-at-hand about Cooper's Hawks. After six months of nearly daily observation (by many birders), we could not characterize them, as Bent did,

as "blood-thirsty villains" and the "principal cause of the widespread antipathy toward hawks." As we say in our family, "Quot homines, quot sententiae, sua quoiqua mos" — so many men, so many opinions, each to his own. We had witnessed shared nest-building, brooding, and feeding. We had seen Arthur as a role model for husbanding and parenting, helping the youngest to "make it." We had watched much four-legged quarry fed to the young. (A copy of the video-tape of a feeding session has been placed with the MOU slide file library.) We had seen Cooper's Hawks and Barred Owls sharing territory. We had heard the hawks say more than "kek" and **not** at the nest; we had found them to have tones and patterns of speech. And we had found them to be anything but skittish and secretive. In sum, we had spent a marvelous summer with some truly marvelous creatures and are grateful that we had the chance to share in their daily family life. And, of course, we really do hope they will return to nest again with us.

—2918 SW 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902.

Trumpeter Swan Restoration

A major step in the Chequamegon Bay Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project was successfully completed in August 1985, when 20 of the 30 Mute Swans in the Bay near Ashland were banded. The banding team consisted of staff from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Wisconsin DNR, and Chequamegon Audubon Society members. The banding is an important part of the preliminary research of the project, which hopes to gradually replace the alien Mute Swan population with native Trumpeters through a program of egg swapping and foster parenting. The information gathered from the tagged swans will be used to map Mute Swan brood territories in the Bay, determine which swans migrate (so they can be targeted as Trumpeter foster parents), and determine where the Mute Swans winter.

The final tally of the banding was 12 immatures, 2 adult breeding males, 3 adult breeding females, and 3 subadult/nonbreeders. All of the swans were fitted with leg bands and yellow neck collars. Two of the females were fitted with radio collars.

Audubon members in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin are being asked to help by reporting any sightings of the banded Mute Swans, which are easily distinguished from native species by their yellow-orange bill and black facial knob.

Reprinted from "The Gull," Duluth Audubon Society December 1985.

Details on Details: Describing a Bird*

Chuck Bernstein in consultation with Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn

"No details provided."

This is the most common complaint by Regional Editors in recent Christmas Bird Count issue of *American Birds*. And it is the sorriest comment, as reports from all across the country carry the pointed mention of species found in unusual or unexpected places—often birds rare in that area—that have been deleted from the final tally. As new eyes come into birdwatching and the CBC rolls swell, the problem grows ever more pervasive.

Could it be that so many birders do not make notes on rare or unusual species? Is it that so many participants in the annual count simply do not know how to report the sighting with details? Or is the shyness about reporting details caused by an uncertainty with regard to proper terminology of the parts of the bird?

In the sport of birding, much like quarterbacking in football, there is prevalent the feeling that you are remembered for the great plays but forever memorialized for the poor ones: expertise is measured in many communities by how few mistakes one makes. Fear of embarrassment and possibly rejection by the community can make participants overly sensitive and even can make some watchers of birds *secretive*. That way, they can make no mistakes.

For many of us, it is time for review and updating on the accepted formats for taking notes on our observations and writing up the details for submission to a regional editor or compiler. We should also discuss the topography of a bird, as described for birdwatchers in *plain* English.

But one caution: Among birders there has evolved, for various parts of a bird, a blend of scientific nomenclature of specific biological definition (e.g., rectrices, median wing coverts, auricular, etc.) and general names applied by birdwatchers, much less precise but clearly understood (e.g., bib, hood, mantle, etc.). Wherever possible, for simplifica-

tion and clarity, we refer to the rectrices as the tail, to the auricular patch as the ear patch, etc.

We hope this article helps to at least mitigate a problem that could reflect poorly on the state of amateur birdwatching as an aid to the science of ornithology.

NOTE TAKING

Notes should be made and kept in logical and systematic sequence, if possible, for ease of later retrieval. Try to build a description each time in the same order. Do this by looking for different parts of the bird in the same sequence. This is, of course, not always possible and often you must scramble and take what you can get when you can get it but *trying* to follow the same sequence is a start at learning a good habit. What is more important is writing up the details. The following is an order useful to state rarities committees, count compilers and regional editors.

First, describe your impression of the bird after a good look. What is the "feel" you get for it? Is it shy, or brassy? Tired and worn, or trim and energetic? **Study the bird in life for its gestalt, that is, the bird in its entirety.** Study its silhouette, its markings, its coloring, its calls (if any), its behavior, food, and preferred habitat. Of course there will be times when all you'll see is the underside of a warbler, and you may not espy its dorsal surface until the very moment it flies off, if at all. But generally speaking, you should look at the whole bird and form an impression of itself, its manner, its personality, its condition. And start scribbling notes!

Describe the specific parts of the bird, beginning with its dorsal (the top) surface at the head, the cap, the face—including any eye ring or superciliary—the nape, the back, the rump, the wings and wing coverts, then the flight feathers (the primaries and secondaries, and how long these feathers extend to the rear), then the top of the tail.

Next, again starting at the head, describe the ventral (or under) side of the bird; the chin, the throat, the breast, the belly, the vent area, the undertail coverts, the underside

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of the tail itself and, if possible, the underwing.

Then describe the "soft parts," meaning the bill—its length, color, curvature—the eye, and the legs and toes. Finally, try to note the calls or songs—or was the bird silent? Remember, more important than what you see is what you write down that you see!

If two birders are together it makes notetaking easier. One should call out the description while the other writes it. When this is completed, trade places; only this time the description should be read back so that the former writer, now the observer, can agree or disagree with length of tail, coloration of back or whatever. If the bird is indeed rare for that area, this method will give the new sight record added credibility.

Compare your sighting with books only after the notes are made. Having the book at hand during the note-taking will only interfere with the process. Many possibly good and valid records have been tarnished because the observer consulted a book before finishing the notes. As a result, the description often is that of the picture in the book, *not* of the actual live bird seen.

Also helpful to a compiler, editor or committee is a general description of the area, time of day, duration of observation, weather conditions and lighting, your distance from the bird, and the nature of the optical equipment used. And though in most fields it is true that one picture is worth a thousand words, even with the best equipment known to photography the store of pitfalls is so vast—leaf shadow, sunlight glare, ruffled feathers, "odd" angles, etc.—that "knowing" you have a "perfect" picture should not preclude your *writing out* the details.

BIRD TOPOGRAPHY FOR THE BIRD WATCHER

The birder is of course interested in what is seen on the *outside* of a bird, basically for identification purposes. It is important to understand that on a bird one feather overlaps or covers another feather, one part overlaps another part, so much of what is visualized through a binocular is *coverup*. Our purpose is to expose and reveal the topography of a bird as it relates to the birdwatcher.

WINGS AND UPPERPARTS

The most distinctive part of a bird is its feathers. The feather makes the bird unique

among organisms. Flight and contour feathers cover virtually the entire bird. And despite the fact that birdwatchers pay particular attention to the feathers that comprise the wings—after all, that's where the wingbars are—perhaps some birders are hazy about how these feathers lie when the bird is not in flight.

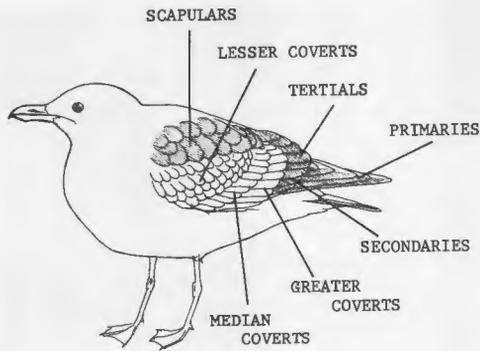
The primaries provide lift and thrust. On the spread wing this is the triangular area of feathers approximating a hand fan from the wrist or "bend of the wing" to the wing tip, and back to where, on a line from the leading to the trailing edge, they meet the secondaries. The long broad feathers from that line back to the body of the bird comprise the secondaries which, like wings on an airplane, function to provide lift surface. Soaring species have the greatest (widest) area of secondaries.

The birdwatcher, carefully and painstakingly studying the gull standing on the beach, will realize that the flight feathers on a standing or perched bird are protected by being folded in and under, leaving visible only the parts of the secondaries not covered by the upper wing coverts and scapulars, and only the tips of the primaries.

On birds other than quail, rails, and the like, where they are short and rounded, the flight feathers are relatively long, whereas wing covert feathers are short and protective.

Both the dorsal (upper) and ventral (lower) surfaces of the wings are protected by wing coverts. The upper wing coverts are the focus of attention by birdwatchers, particularly on passerines, for it is on these feathers that wing bars, if any, are to be found.

Admittedly oversimplified: from a point on the wing closest to the head of a bird (i.e., from "the shoulder") and proceeding toward the tail, there are marginal coverts, protecting the leading edge of the wing; then, in order, the lesser, the median, and the greater wing coverts. The lesser coverts are difficult to see at all on a perched passerine; they are very small and usually inconspicuous. The looked-for wing bars are actually the tips of the median and greater wing coverts. The top (anterior) wing bar consists, with some exceptions, of the tips of median wing coverts. Of course all birds have primary coverts as well, but these are of concern to the birder mainly as the white patch found on a minority of Hermann's Gulls, as the red upper wing patch of many *Amazona* parrots, and so on.



As has been suggested, there are exceptions. The distinctive white wing patches on Lark Buntings are the entire greater wing coverts. In ducks, the wide, colorful, speculum is actually not formed by wing coverts but instead by a group of secondaries; this includes the blue patch tipped in white on Mallards, as well as the green patch on Green-winged Teal. The chestnut shoulders on the Vesper Sparrow are the colored lesser wing coverts, as is the dark patch on the wing of the immature Common Tern. The rusty patches in the wings of Lapland Longspurs are rusty greater wing coverts, not merely covert tips.

Though usually less colorful (with some exceptions such as grosbeaks), the underwing coverts share the same protective function. It is on the leading edge of the underside of the wing that the birdwatcher seeks out the distinctive dark patagial line of a Red-tailed Hawk or the dark "bend of the wing" or "wrist" of the Rough-legged Hawk. The underside of the wing of an adult California Condor reveals white coverts (or "wing lining") covering an area from the leading edge of the secondaries back to meet, near the trailing edge, the solid black primaries which extend to the wing tips. This picture is true as well of the light-phase Swainson's Hawk.

A primary feather consists of a shaft, an outer web (which usually is narrow), and an inner web (which usually is wider). As the wing is folded and the bird comes to rest, the outermost wing feathers disappear underneath layer after layer of feathers closer and closer to the body of the bird. One feather overlies the one beneath it. And as the feathers are brought together they, of course, overlap, covering the inner webbing first. Thus,

if you are looking down on a spread winged gull, you may see only the outer, or narrow, webbing of the flight feathers. From below, you are seeing primarily the inner web of each wing feather (white, in the case of the white winged gulls).

The length of wings in relation to the tail can be a helpful identification aid. The very long wing which, on the standing bird, extend beyond the tail tip help identify both the Baird's and the White-rumped Sandpiper for example.

Among the very long-winged birds, such as albatrosses and pelicans, it may help to understand the wing-fold, inasmuch as these birds fold the wings not once, as do gulls, but twice; that is, the wing folds itself in half, the outermost part again going underneath. Then the "double half" is tucked away, like the normal-sized wing of any gull.

On the wing's underside, where the wing meets the body, are the axillars, or "armpits." Black axillars on the otherwise white underside identify the Black-bellied Plover. The axillars are composed of those underwing coverts protecting the sensitive area where wing meets body.

On our living model, the standing gull, as we move from the back, just below the neck, toward the tail, we see the scapulars lying alongside the wings. This area is for many birdwatchers a complete mystery. Covering and protecting the sensitive area where the wing meets the back, the scapulars are the most colorful part of many alternate-plumaged shorebirds. For example, we look for rusty scapulars on breeding adult and on juvenile Western Sandpipers. They form the long black horizontal swath closest to the top of the back on the American Avocet. The large white "wing" patch on the spring male Bobolink is white scapular feathering.

The tertials are long and curved on some shorebirds. But on passerines, being unspecialized and short, they go almost unnoticed. They are an extension of the innermost secondaries, and are closest to the body of the bird on the spread wing. On standing shorebirds, the tertials cover a good portion of the flight feathers.

And finally about wings—when folded, in most species, they cover the lower back and rump. In many species, such as gulls, terns and shorebirds, the folded wings may even obscure most of the tail.

A Census of the Fall Migration on the North Shore of Lake Superior

Kim R. Eckert

For decades, birders have been aware of the migration of hawks funneling down the North Shore of Lake Superior and through Duluth in the fall. In order to monitor the extent of this migration, a census of this movement of diurnal raptors was begun on a small scale in 1951 at what is now known as the Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. This location is situated within the city limits of Duluth on Skyline Parkway above 46th Avenue East; its elevation is about 1135 feet, some 530 feet above Lake Superior which is 1.2 miles away. From 1951 to 1971, the coverage varied from 4 to 42 days (average 19), with the total number of hours varying between 32 and 172 (average 81). Most of this coverage during these early years was concentrated on peak September flight days, so that the species which peak from mid-October into early November (i.e., eagles, goshawks, Red-taileds and Rough-leggeds) were underrepresented in the totals. Except for 1970 and 1971, when there was an exceptional flight of Broad-winged Hawks, the season totals of hawks recorded during this period ranged between 1411 and 32,647, for an average of 13,140.

Starting in 1972, the fall count of hawks became more comprehensive at Hawk Ridge with much more extensive coverage. Typically during these last 14 years, the count period has extended from mid-August into late November, with total coverage averaging 884 hours (nearly 11 times the earlier average) over 93.5 days. Much of this increased coverage has been due to the observations from the banding station which was established in 1972. The total number of hawks recorded during these years has ranged between 34,159 and 74,568, for an average of 52,470 (about four times the earlier average).

Because Hawk Ridge is located more than a mile from the shoreline of Lake Superior, it was known that hawks migrating directly along the North Shore were passing through without being counted at the Ridge. A few

actual counts had been made at the Lakewood Water Treatment and Pumping Station (hereafter, Lakewood) which is located a tenth of a mile from the lakeshore, 3.5 miles ENE of Hawk Ridge. Based on these counts and on observations of birders over the years, it was suspected that Ospreys and falcons especially migrated along the shore in numbers greater than along the ridges inland from Lake Superior (e.g., Hawk Ridge). In fact, two eight-hour counts made at Lakewood on September 14 and 15, 1984 censused more hawks than at the Ridge: a NW wind was blowing the Broad-wingeds and others through, and Lakewood's two-day totals included nearly 35,800 Broad-wingeds and 284 American Kestrels; at the Ridge the totals during the same period were only about 19,000 and 77 respectively.

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Duluth Audubon Society, a season-long count was established at Lakewood in the fall of 1985. The census was intended to include 180 hours from late August until the end of October. It was estimated that there would be about 45 days in this period with weather favorable enough for an appreciable migration, and an average count day would include about four hours; if the flight on a certain day was slower than expected, fewer than four hours would be covered, while the intention on good flight days was to spend more than four. Although Fish and Wildlife funds were specifically for a count of hawks, we were also interested in keeping track of the non-raptor migration at the same time. Accordingly, there was relatively little coverage in the afternoon since we knew that most non-raptor migration occurred in the morning.

In all, 144.5 hours of counting took place at Lakewood during 48 days; the first date was August 18, and the last November 2. Most of the counting was done by Parker Backstrom, Laura Erickson, Mike Hendrickson, Ray Newman and Mark Stensaas,

with a few hours completed by Kim Eckert, Don Kienholz and Jon Peacock. On most count days only one counter was present, with only six days having more than one observer on duty. The average count day was three hours in length, an hour less than anticipated — this was mainly due to the slower than expected migration. Indeed, there were only ten days on which the counter felt the migration was steady enough to remain on duty for four or more hours.

A total of 16,246 hawks was counted:

Turkey Vulture	107
Osprey	37
Bald Eagle	21
Northern Harrier	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1211
Northern Goshawk	6
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	13821
Red-tailed Hawk	238
Rough-legged Hawk	1
American Kestrel	427
Merlin	25
Peregrine Falcon	1
unidentified	340

Clearly, the best flight day was September 20, the first day with significant W-NW winds after weeks of generally east to south winds: in 9¼ hours, 13,008 hawks flew over, including 12,368 Broad-wingeds, 275 Sharp-shinneds and 166 American Kestrels (on the same day at the Ridge, the respective totals were 15,574, 1391, and 73, and the overall count was 17,235). The only problem with the day was that its high total means that only about 3000 hawks were counted during the other 47 days. In fact, there were only seven other days with over 100: Aug. 27 — 404 in 5 hours, including 215 Broad-wingeds, 109 Sharp-shinneds and 70 American Kestrels; Sept. 21 — 181 in 4 hours; Sept. 24 — 677 in 6½ hours, including 496 Broad-wingeds and a Red-shouldered; Sept. 28 — 300 in 5 hours (208 Broad-wingeds); Sept. 29 — 349 in 2 hours (291 Broad-wingeds); Oct. 3 — 137 in 3 hours (108 Sharp-shinneds); and Oct. 26 — 105 in 3 hours (104 of these Red-taileds). The overall disappointing totals were primarily the result of unfavorable weather: outside of the last third of September and the first week of October, there was too much rain, fog, east to south winds and relatively

warm temperatures, especially during most of October.

Observer coverage was also not as complete as it could have been. No counts were made during several hours which were productive at Hawk Ridge, either because there was no one available to count, or because a day would begin slowly and thus the coverage would end after two or three hours, and then a decent flight would develop later in the day. (It seems, therefore, that full day counts over a fewer number of days would be better than an equal number of hours thinly spread over more days.) Some examples: 1555 at Hawk Ridge Sept. 21 — 181 in 4 hours at Lakewood; 4477 at Hawk Ridge Sept. 25 — 81 in 3½ hours at Lakewood; 1072 at Hawk Ridge Oct. 3 — 137 in 3 hours at Lakewood; 826 at Hawk Ridge Oct. 14 — 46 in 3 hours at Lakewood. There were also these counts from the Ridge: 725 on Sept. 26, 906 on Oct. 4, and 972 on Oct. 27; however, there was no coverage on these dates at Lakewood.

In evaluating the migration at Lakewood during 1985, the number of birds seen per hour relative to the number per hour at Hawk Ridge is perhaps the most valid measure. Once these numbers are calculated, it is clear that the Ridge was a better location for most species, at least in 1985. Of the 14 regular species which migrate through Duluth, seven were clearly represented by lower numbers per hour at Lakewood: Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed and Peregrine Falcon. The gap was especially noticeable in three species: Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk and Peregrine; during 88 hours of comparable coverage, the Main Overlook recorded 103 harriers, 55 goshawks and 10 Peregrines, while the respective totals at Lakewood were only 5, 2 and 1. It had been expected that more Peregrines would be seen along the lakeshore, but such was not the case. For the other six species, there was no previous indication or assumption that the numbers at Lakewood would be any higher or lower.

Three other species — Bald Eagle, Rough-legged and Golden Eagle — were also generally recorded in lower numbers at Lakewood, although not every birds/hour measure reflected this. Although during the entire season the numbers of Rough-leggeds and Golden Eagles per hour were clearly lower

at Lakewood, during that 88-hour period of comparable coverage there was no appreciable difference in the two locations. And while most birds/hour numbers for Bald Eagle were lower at Lakewood, there was no difference when compared to the official composite Hawk Ridge count of birds/hour for the season. Again, there was no expectation for these species to be any higher or lower at Lakewood.

For two species the figures did not reveal a clear comparison. Although the number of Broad-wingeds per hour over the season was higher at Lakewood, during the 88-hour period there were about 12,400 Broad-wingeds at Lakewood vs. nearly 16,800 at the Main Overlook. And over the season as a whole the number of Ospreys per hour at Lakewood (0.26) was higher than for the composite count (0.14); however, only 20 Ospreys passed over Lakewood during those 88 comparable hours vs. 35 at the Main Overlook. It had been expected that the Osprey count would have been higher at Lakewood than at the Ridge; like most species, the relative Broad-winged numbers were not predicted to go either way.

However, two species did perform as expected, with both Merlin and American Kestrel more plentiful along the lakeshore. This was especially true of the kestrel, whose birds/hour numbers were unanimously higher at Lakewood. The number of Merlins per hour at Lakewood was clearly higher than at the Ridge for the season as a whole, but during those 88 hours Lakewood's Merlin count of 14 was only one more than the Main Overlook's. In all, the 16,000+ hawks counted at Lakewood average out to about 112 per hour; this compares to about 93/hour at the Main Overlook (39,235 hawks in 416 hours) and only about 42/hour for the composite Hawk Ridge count (includes totals from the banding station — 43,912 in 1037¼ hours). However, during the 88 hours of comparable coverage, Lakewood's total of 14,451 was less than the 22,141 at the Main Overlook.

It is likely that many of the hawks seen at Lakewood were also seen at Hawk Ridge, which is situated 3.5 miles to the WSW, the approximate direction of the hawk flight, although it is obviously impossible to determine the proportion. If another suitable site on the lakeshore closer to Hawk Ridge could be found (like at the E.P.A. water research

laboratory just beyond the Lester River, 1.5 miles SE of the Ridge), a comparative count between the two sites would be more meaningful.

For about as long as there was recognition of a significant raptor migration through Duluth in the fall, it was also known that passerines and other non-raptors funneled down the North Shore in the same way. However, it was not until 1983 that an attempt was made to monitor this flight from the Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge. An account of this census, which included 151 hours of coverage over 67 days and which recorded 129 species and an estimated 40,000 individuals, was published in *The Loon* (56:11-15). Some impressive flights of nighthawks, warblers, Blue Jays, robins, geese, blackbirds and finches were documented, and it was learned that NW winds and cold fronts were not necessarily required to trigger a movement as had been expected.

In 1984 a similar census was conducted at the Ridge. Although the coverage was less than the previous year — 110½ hours over 58 days — there were still 111 species and an estimated 34,000 individuals counted, and the 1984 season total averaged out to 308 birds per hour, higher than the previous season's average of 265/hour. In 1983 the weather had been relatively normal, but in 1984 August and September were generally quite warm, and the first three weeks of October were very unusual with constant overcast/fog/rain and prevailing east to south winds. Although such weather would not seem conducive to migration, there were several impressive days; a one-hour count of 369 nighthawks and 220 Cliff Swallows on the evening of Aug. 21; over 850 Blue Jays over two mornings, Sept. 19-20; 497 crows and 691 robins on Oct. 22, with the best robin counts of 1271 and 1910 on Sept. 29 and Oct. 1 respectively; on these last two dates the counts of warblers (mostly Yellow-rumped) streaming overhead at dawn were 913 and 1320; other peak warbler mornings were 1262 on Sept. 9, and an unexpected flight of 980 (mostly Palms and Yellow-rumped) on Sept. 19, certainly a day without a triggering cold front since the temperature hit 90 that afternoon! (Keep in mind that such numbers were not from all day counts, but from a period averaging 1½-2 hours which started at dawn.)

As impressive as some of our totals were from Hawk Ridge in 1983 and 1984, we strongly suspected that a similar census closer to the Lake Superior's shoreline would produce greater numbers of migrant non-raptors. In 1985, therefore, it was decided to keep track of the flight of all non-raptors as well as hawks at Lakewood, and it did appear that the magnitude of fall migration here was better than at the Ridge. During the 144½ hours of coverage from August 18 to November 2, an estimated season total of 54,000 individuals was counted, an average of 374 birds per hour. As high as these numbers are relative to Hawk Ridge's, they would have been even higher if our daily coverage had started at dawn, as had been the case at the Ridge the two previous years. However, since our Lakewood census was funded primarily to monitor the hawk migration and since hawks typically begin to migrate two or three hours after sunrise (by this time, most non-raptor movement is over for the day), most of our coverage began then. Also, as mentioned earlier, the weather during most of the fall was not conducive to migration; except for generally favorable winds from September 20 to October 6, most of the season was wet, warm (especially in October), with prevailing east to south winds. Although such conditions were perhaps no worse than in 1984, both 1984 and 1983 (when weather conditions were more "favorable" for migration) produced fall birding seasons far more interesting than in 1985 (see *The Loon* 56:30-32 and 56:240-243). Given a more comparable migration, better weather and dawn starts, the magnitude of the 1985 census at Lakewood would have been even more impressive relative to Hawk Ridge.

Another difference in this lakeshore count is that only 83 species were recorded, far fewer than the previous totals at Hawk Ridge. This was not due to a lack of variety of species migrating along the lakeshore; rather, our counting station at Lakewood was on an elevated mound which is devoid of trees or brush and which is relatively far from any such vegetation. The Main Overlook at the Ridge, on the other hand, has plenty of trees and bushes for warblers and other such migrants to pause long enough on some days to be identified (e.g., 26 species of vireos and warblers were recorded in the 1983 census; only three were recorded in 1985). However, it is estimated that 30 to 40 species not seen

during census hours were seen by other birders during the fall in and around the trees behind the building a short distance away. It is not as easy to explain, however, the relative lack of water birds recorded at Lakewood. Only 21 species of waterfowl, shorebirds and the like were noted, the same number of such species recorded at the Ridge in 1983. Since Lakewood is situated so close to Lake Superior, such a lack of variety relative to the Ridge was certainly unexpected. Another general comparison between Lakewood and the Ridge lies in the more definite movement of migrants with fewer lingering locals at Lakewood; at the Ridge we had a much more difficult time distinguishing true migrants from locals. This was probably due to the difference of habitats at the two sites, although the overall nature and pattern of the 1985 season may also have been different enough from the two previous falls to cause this.

Although the showing of water birds was disappointing, there were still a few highlights. An American White Pelican, which is only very rare/casual in Duluth, flew over Aug. 27. A peak of 18 Great Blue Herons was recorded in 2½ hours of coverage Aug. 20. An unidentified immature swan Sept. 10 was puzzling; was it a very early Tundra, a Mute wandering over from Ashland, Wis., or a Trumpeter released in Hennepin Co.? Three species — Northern Pintail, American Coot and Caspian Tern — were unexpected finds since all are only rarely seen along the North Shore.

Certainly the rarity of this or any season was Parker Backstrom's carefully documented sighting of a White-winged Dove Oct. 13, perhaps the first record for this species anywhere in the north central U.S. Although there is no doubt about Parker's identification, there may be a possibility the bird was an escapee from captivity.

On Aug. 27, the largest movement of Common Nighthawks I have ever witnessed passed through Duluth, especially late in the afternoon when literally thousands were reported in and around the city. Unfortunately, no day long count was made, but the count at Lakewood in a 5-hour period before the afternoon peak was 1970.

Because of the heavy flight of hawks Sept. 20, there was no time to count non-raptors. This is especially unfortunate since there was an afternoon flight of hundreds or perhaps

thousands of Northern Flickers passing overhead. One species of woodpecker did not escape detection, however, as a total of 71 Black-backed were recorded on 15 dates. One early individual came by Sept. 15; all the others were from Oct. 5 to Nov. 2, with a peak of 14 counted in 3 hours on Oct. 16. In all, it is estimated that a minimum of 100 Black-backed (plus at least a dozen Three-toeds) were seen in Duluth during the season. This total is apparently the highest ever recorded in Minnesota in the fall, although in 1982 an equally impressive invasion may have occurred: on one date, also Oct. 16, 14 were recorded passing Hawk Ridge, with a total of 22 reported in all from Duluth that day.

The migration of Eastern Kingbirds past Lakewood was certainly higher than one witnesses at Hawk Ridge: the season total approached 200 with a peak of 48 on Aug. 27 (only 5 all season at the Ridge in 1983). Because of the absence of nearby trees, hardly any other flycatchers were recorded. The swallows were another family represented almost entirely by a single species. Although five species were noted, only the Cliff Swallow was seen in numbers: e.g., in 5½ hours of coverage Aug. 18-20, nearly 900 swallows, almost all of them Cliffs, were counted.

Among the corvids, Gray Jays certainly came south in numbers, and the 34 recorded at Lakewood reflected this: the one Sept. 1 was unusually early, and peak counts of 8 were made Oct. 11 and 20. Blue Jays seemed to pass through earlier than normal, and the peaks were much higher than at Hawk Ridge: 1050 in 2½ hours Sept. 1, 1170 in 5 hours Sept. 4, 916 in 4 hours on the 5th, and 693 in 3½ hours Sept. 10. The best day for migrating American Crows was Oct. 10 when 662 went by in 2½ hours.

It had been noticed in previous falls that chickadees tend to migrate steadily during much of the day, with no peaks at dawn; as a result, our early morning counts at Hawk Ridge had not recorded any significant totals in 1983 or 1984. (It is also possible that migrating chickadees closely follow the shoreline of Lake Superior, thus avoiding Hawk Ridge.) In any event, our mostly mid-morning coverage at Lakewood in 1985 recorded a lot of chickadees: 2051 in 3½ hours Sept. 12, 644 in 2 hours on the 13th, 208 on Sept. 15, and several October dates with over

100. A very early Boreal Chickadee was also seen Sept. 12.

The migration of American Robins was at least as impressive at Lakewood as it had been at the Ridge: peaks included 1433 in 6½ hours Sept. 24, 2368 in 3½ hours the next day, 1756 in only 2 hours Oct. 13, and 1487 during 2 hours Oct. 15. Another well-represented species at both census locations was Cedar Waxwing; however, at the Ridge it was usually impossible to distinguish migrants from locals, while the movements past Lakewood were more decisive and clean-cut. Peak counts were 760 on Sept. 4 (5 hours), 3882 (!) in only 2½ hours Sept. 17, and 1690 the next day (3 hours).

As previously mentioned, the relative lack of coverage at dawn resulted in a lot of birds being missed. This was especially evident in the low warbler totals: the only significant peaks were 1007 (mostly Yellow-rumped) in 5 hours Sept. 28, and 814 in 3 hours Oct. 3.

A good flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred Sept. 1 when 33 passed by in 2½ hours. Lapland Longspurs were more numerous at Lakewood than at the Ridge: there were six count days, Sept. 29-Oct., 13, when over 100 were counted. No fewer than 33 Bobolinks were seen Sept. 18 in 3 hours.

Most of the blackbirds that migrate through Duluth each fall are apparently Red-wingeds, rather than Rusties or grackles; cowbirds and Brewer's are only seen occasionally. Good flight days seemed to be more frequent at Lakewood than at Hawk Ridge, with a more steady migration over a longer period; peaks were 495 on Aug. 27 (5 hours), 5370 in only 2½ hours Sept. 1, and 635 in an hour on Oct. 1.

Finally, among the winter finches, there were few significant peak days, although there was a good, steady flight of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. The Evening Grosbeak movement was also especially early; southbound migrants had first been seen in July, several good-sized flocks were noted at Lakewood in August and early September, and by October, when flocks are first seen in a normal year, only modest numbers were still on the move. No redpolls were recorded on any count day, the only Pine Grosbeaks appeared on the last day of coverage, and only 20 crossbill individuals were counted — 10 Reds, 1 White-winged (Aug. 19) and 9 unidentified. 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804



BOOK REVIEWS

TALES OF A LOW-RENT BIRDER by Peter Dunne, with drawings by David Sibley. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J. 1986; 175 pages, \$15.95, illustrated.

Imagine Roger Tory Peterson wanting to be on your team in the birdathon. Imagine helping him to find his first Fork-tailed Flycatcher. This anecdote ("A lifer for Roger") is one of many adventures related by Pete Dunne in *Tales of a Low-Rent Birder*. The book is a diverse anthology of 19 short stories and sketches that originally appeared in the *Peregrine Observer*, including some that were reprinted in *Bird-Watcher's Digest* and other birding magazines. All the selections involve birds (especially raptors) in one way or another, ranging from a touching day-in-the-life of a young Red-shouldered Hawk to a soliloquy about a duck blind.

Tales of a Low-Rent Birder is not only about birds, however; it is also about the people that seek them and watch them. We meet "SVAT" (Species Verification Attack Team), a mythical paramilitary group whose purpose is to confirm identifications for the ultimate listers—those striving toward 800 species in North America. Dunne also introduces us to a cast of other characters, including two hawk-watchers—one with binoculars and one with a shotgun.

Most of the stories take place in New Jersey where Dunne is Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory. Nonetheless they can bring many vicarious pleasures and reminiscences to the birder who never crosses the Minnesota state line. My favorite tale is "Overflight," which describes an aerial census of 318,000 shorebirds on Delaware Bay and contains the

best line of the whole book: "What came back sounded like a Munchkin with a mouthful of mothballs speaking some arcane Xhosa dialect inside a wind tunnel" (describing the radioed instructions from the airport control tower).

Dunne's writing style is varied but always easy to follow and pleasant to read. My only complaint is that at \$15.95 for a small hardback volume, Rutgers Press could have done us all a favor by putting out a paperback edition at a more reasonable price. Despite this, the book would be a nice gift for a birder. The chapters are just right for bedtime reading or reading aloud in the car en route on a birdwatching trip. **David E. Blockstein, Bell Museum of Natural History, Dept. of Ecology and Behavioral Biology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

FROM LAUREL HILL TO SILER'S BOG: the walking adventures of a naturalist by John K. Terres. Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, N.C. 1966, 1969, 1985; 227 pages, \$12.95, illustrated.

Anyone who enjoys the natural history articles that appear in Audubon magazine, will probably enjoy **From Laurel Hill to Siler's Bog**, segments of which have been published in that magazine. The book was first printed in 1966, and is now being reissued after being out of print for a number of years. It is based on the author's experiences while hiking what is now the Mason Farm Biological Research Reserve near Chapel

Hill, North Carolina. The reserve, once a 600-acre farm, is now owned by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

John Terres, a former editor of *Audubon* magazine, has been a naturalist for more than half a century. Perhaps his best known work is the weighty *Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds. From Laurel Hill to Siler's Bog* is a lighter weight volume in more ways than one. The book is loosely structured chronologically, moving through the seasons and focusing in each of the short chapters on one of the animal species that the author observed in his rambles. Terres' style is conversational, and becomes almost rambling when he flashes back to relate earlier experiences with the animal under discussion.

Many of the species Terres writes about (e.g. turkey vulture, raccoon, muskrat, red-tailed hawk, and cottontail rabbit) are familiar to Midwestern outdoors-people. I was most interested in the sections that dealt with species about which I knew little or nothing, such as the flying squirrel and the golden mouse. (The latter occurs only in the southern U.S. and has the unusual habit of building globular, bird-like nests in trees and shrubs

that it uses for storing seeds and sheltering its young.)

The book describes the ways in which the author sought out and observed the animals of the reserve as well as natural history information about the species he encountered. I marvelled at the lengths he was willing to go to observe his quarry: entering blinds before dawn to watch a bobwhite quail incubating, prowling swamp margins after dark to observe muskrats, and sleeping next to his traps in the woods to be on hand when he caught the elusive golden mouse. Terres has also done his homework and supports his observations with factual information from the scientific literature.

In general, the book made very pleasant reading, and should appeal to both amateur and professional naturalists. Because it is divided into sections of a few pages or less in length, it is a good book to pick up for a few minutes of relaxing reading before bedtime. **Bonita Eliason, Bell Museum of Natural History, Dept. of Ecology and Behavioral Biology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

NEEDED: Loggerhead Shrike Reports

We need your help in a study of why Loggerhead Shrikes are declining in Minnesota. If you know of a shrike nest or have seen shrikes repeatedly in the same area, please let us know **promptly** so that we can visit the site during this breeding season. If you can help, please give your report to: Loggerhead Shrike Project, MDNR, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55146, or call 612-296-3344 collect and ask for "Carroll Henderson or Joan Galli regarding a shrike report." Thank You.

Gull Identification: The Sequence of Plumages*

Henry E. Childs Jr., Ph.D.

A mixed flock of gulls on a beach in winter presents a challenge to birders. The identification of the array of species is difficult, even for expert birders, as a result of the variation in plumages seen in immature, winter and breeding plumaged individuals. In this article the process of sorting out the age classes is described as an aid to the identification of three of the common species and to facilitate the singling out and identification of rarer species.

The General Sequence of Molts and Plumages

The downy plumage of the semi-precocial young is replaced rapidly by a molt which results in the juvenile plumage. In many species, juvenile gulls may be seen in southern California in late summer; however, juveniles of other species have undergone a body molt (B) ("B" and "C" refer to codex on the figures) by the time they reach our area and are in the first winter or first basic plumage (basic 1) [Refer to K. Garrett's Field Tips article in *Tanager* V.52, No. 2, Oct. 1985.]. Body molts do not replace the flight or tail feathers (remiges and rectrices), a situation which results in these feathers becoming very worn by the time they are replaced during the first summer molt. This worn condition can be easily observed in the field.

In spring, a second body molt (B) occurs which results in the loss of the body feathers and the assumption of the breeding, summer, or alternate plumage. As you can see, the terminology varies and helps to confuse. If full breeding condition is reached at this time, the species is called a two-year gull, breeding condition having been obtained in the second year of life.

In summer, after the breeding season, a complete molt (C) occurs in which all the

feathers are replaced, both body and flight, and the winter or basic plumage is achieved.

The problem is that not all species of gulls have this simple molt/plumage sequence. Some species go through a second series of basic and alternate plumages. These species are called three-year gulls. If an additional third series of plumages occur before the definitive plumages, the species is a four-year gull. In general the small gulls are two-year gulls and the large species are four-year gulls. Only the new National Geographic Field Guide makes an attempt to clarify these plumage patterns.

By referring to Figure 1, the sequence of molts and plumages can be seen and related to the calendar. Start with the egg and proceed in a clockwise direction through the annual cycle of the Bonaparte's Gull, a two-year gull. Please read the rest of this paper with your Field Guide (National Geographic) in hand, remembering that basic equals winter and alternate equals summer. I like this terminology for biological reasons but I suspect it will be slow in general acceptance by birders.

Bonaparte's Gull, a Two-year Gull

Two-year gulls reach the adult, breeding or definitive alternate plumage in the beginning of their second year of life. The Bonaparte's Gull is our commonest, two-year gull in Southern California. By examining Figure 1 and using a straight edge connecting the center to any month, one can see that at any time there are generally only two different plumages present, and which ones they are likely to be. Around the time of the molt there may be early or late molting, intermediate plumaged individuals present. This confuses the issue, but is the result of different levels of sex hormones which regulate the molting process.

In the field the presence of a black band on the tail distinguishes the first year, basic plumaged birds from the pure, white-tailed, adult, basic plumaged individuals.

*Reprinted with permission from the *Western Tanager*, Volume 52, Number 4, December 1985, publication of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

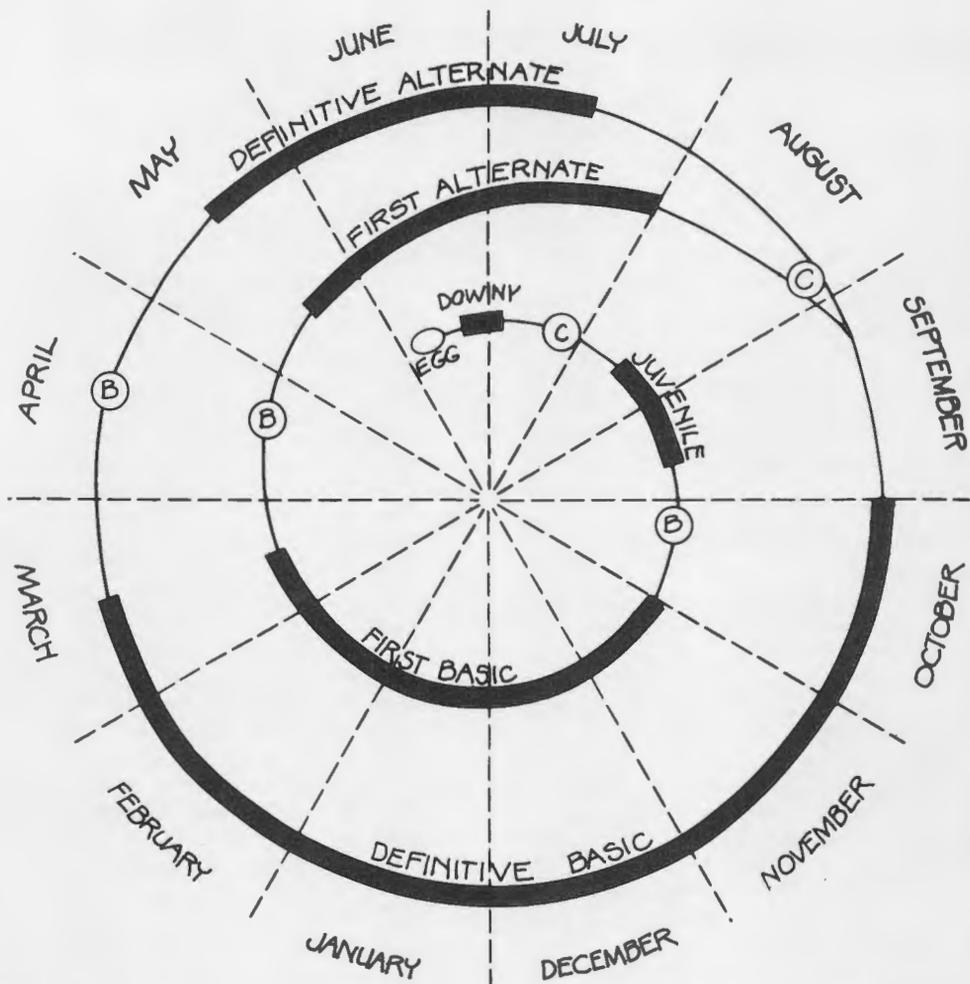


Figure 1. Plumage cycle in the Bonaparte's Gull, a two-year gull (modified after Dwight., 1925). B represents body molt; C, a complete molt.

Other North American gulls that exhibit essentially the same molt/plumage sequence are the Laughing, Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls and the two species of kittiwakes (though Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls show a variation on the same theme). These are rare in southern California and should not concern the beginner. The "hard core" birder, however, is always on the lookout for the rarities and should refer to Garrett and Dunn (1981) for likely localities and dates of occurrence.

Ring-billed Gull, a Three-year Gull

The Ring-billed Gull is, next to the Califor-

nia, the most abundant gull in urban southern California. It occurs in mixed flocks with the California, with which it is often confused. Perhaps the following comments will help.

Figure 2 shows the plumage cycle of this species. Except at the time of the molt, three distinct plumages are found. In winter there are three basic plumages. So, in searching through a flock of Ring-bills on the local beach, three different plumages should be expected. With practice, and an understanding of the plumage cycle, identification of the year classes of plumage becomes another exciting birding skill.

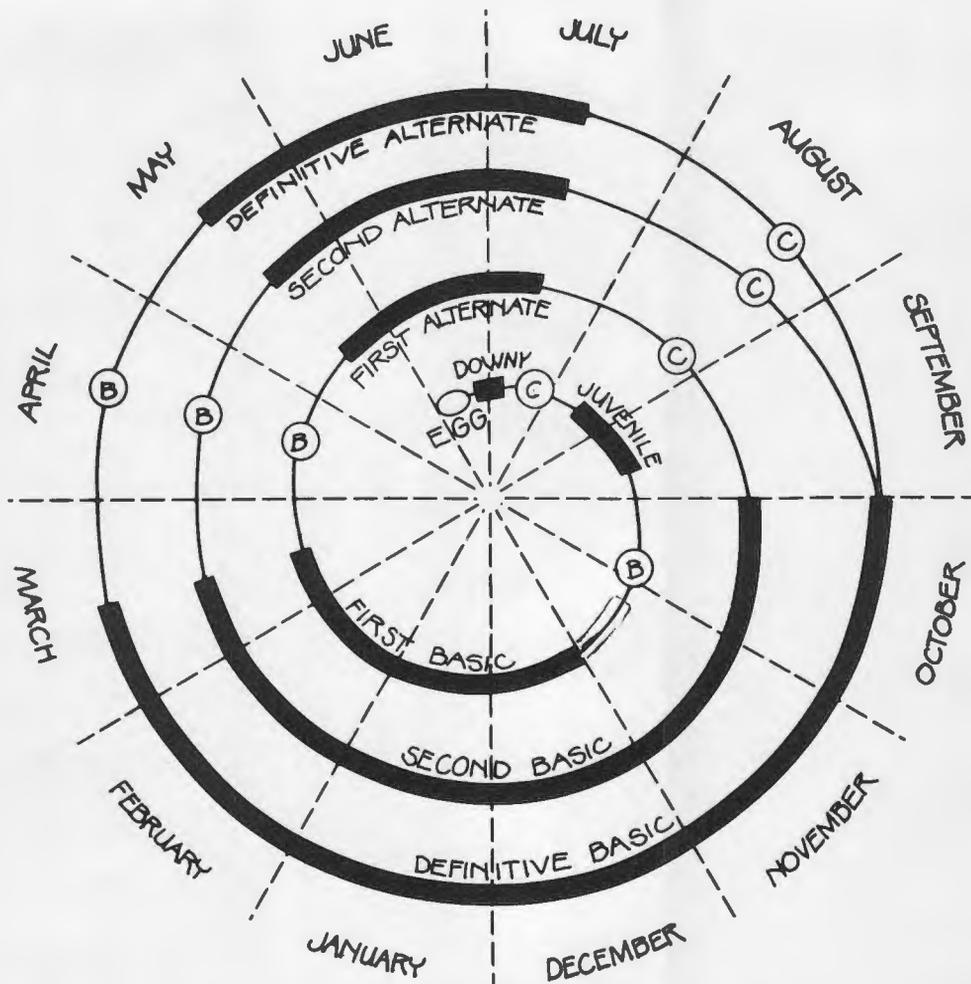


Figure 2. Plumage cycle in the Ring-billed Gull, a three-year gull.

Ring-bills are difficult as they are present (abundant in fall, winter, and spring, fairly common in summer) throughout the year. Migration does not remove all of the alternate plumaged birds, and juveniles arrive in August before molting into first basic. Note, however, that the juvenile plumage is replaced by October with the first basic plumage, which has a pale gray mantle and a strong terminal band on the tail. This is significantly different from the basic I of the California Gull. [See Oct. 1985 *Western Tanager* for discussion of juvenile California Gull.]

Basic II is more like the definitive basic

in that the brown of the wing coverts is gone, but the spotting of the head continues into the chest and flanks and remnants of the tail band remain (see *National Geographic Field*, page 149). The definitive basic plumage lacks any brown in the wings, has a pure white tail and the spotting is restricted to the head and back of the neck. The Mew Gull is a coastal species seen in winter which also exhibits the pattern of a three-year plumage cycle.

California Gull, a Four-year Gull

On Figure 3, again using a straightedge connecting the center to the perimeter, in De-

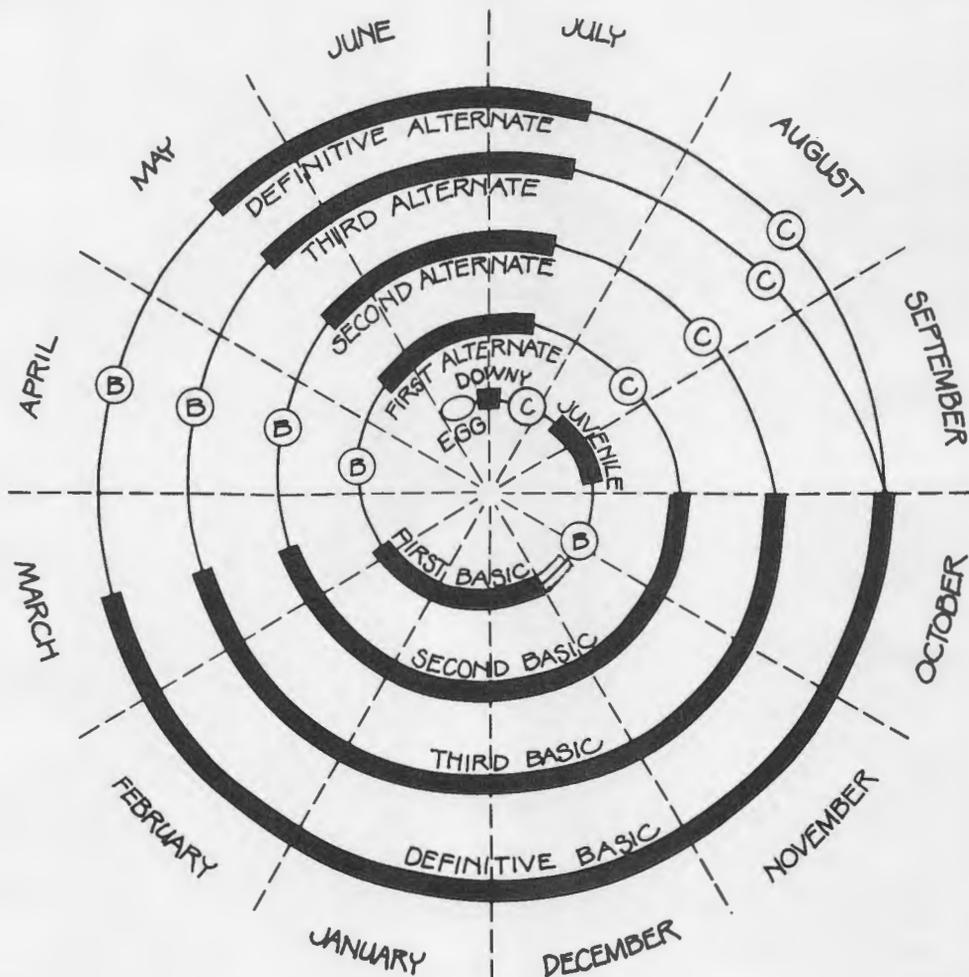


Figure 3. Plumage cycle in the California Gull, a four-year gull.

ember one can see that there are four basic plumages in the population. Basic I is a mottled brown bird. Brown immatures of the appropriate size after November are almost certainly California Gulls.

Basic II is a whiter bird with a gray mantle, brown wing coverts and dark tail. Basic III is close to the adult plumage but with some brown in the wings, smudges in the tail and lacking the adult bill color. The definitive basic with its spotted head, dark gray mantle and yellow bill with a red and black spot, is unmistakable.

Other four-year species include the West-

ern, Glaucous-winged and Herring Gulls. For an excellent and thorough discussion of gull plumages, refer to Guy McCaskie (1983). He discusses Western and Yellow-footed Gulls, two closely related species which differ markedly in their molt/plumage cycles.

In this paper no attempt has been made to describe in detail the various plumages, bill and leg colors. That information is in your Field Guide. I suggest Malibu Lagoon as an excellent place to study the plumages of gulls. There are usually seven to nine species present in winter. See you there. I'm the guy under the red hat.



The Fall Season

(August 1 to November 30, 1985)

Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

A total of 64 reports were received for the season from observers based in 39 different counties, at least a half-dozen of whom ranged widely across the state. 289 species were reported: 278 Regular, five Casual and six Accidental.

Autumn weather, normally one of Minnesota's glories, was something less than pleasant last year. For the latter part of August, September, and October, temperatures were lower and rainfall higher than normal; in November, clouds, cold and snow blew in as winter arrived early and with a vengeance. By the 18th, Duluth had 34" of snow; by the 29th, temperatures of -35° were recorded in at least two localities.

Poor weather, particularly the absence of consistent northwest winds, sharply lowered numbers in the Duluth Hawk Count. With the notable exception of Merlins, all other species were down, and the grand total recorded, 43,912, was nearly one-third less than the 1984 figure.

Despite all of this, the season was not without its highlights. August rarities included a

Least Tern in Cottonwood County and a Western Wood-Pewee in Clearwater.

In September, a Sabine's Gull was reported from Lake of the Woods and a House Finch from Pipestone National Monument, the first non-feeder record.

October brought sightings of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Cook County, a much-observed Eurasian Wigeon in Minneapolis, and a White-winged Dove, the first state record for the species, near Duluth.

In November, a Brant was shot by hunters in Olmsted County; a dying California Gull was found in Minneapolis, and a Great Black-backed Gull was observed in Duluth.

Regular but rare species included Thayer's Gulls in Dakota County and Duluth, Jaeger (sp?) at Duluth and a Parasitic at Lake of the Woods, Mockingbirds in Duluth and Carver County, Mountain Bluebirds in Duluth, Beltrami and Lac Qui Parle, and Townsend's Solitaires at Duluth and Grand Marais.

Not rare, but certainly out of their normal ranges, were a Golden-winged Warbler in Lake of the Woods County, Rufous-sided

Towhee in Cook, and Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Western Kingbird and two more Rufous-sided Towhees—all in Duluth and/or St. Louis County.

Notable migration peaks reported were 3-4000 Double-crested Cormorants 9/29 at Fergus Falls, 6500 Wood Ducks 10/1 at Lac Qui Parle and 10,000+ Tundra Swans 11/13-14 at the Weaver Marshes. Duluth's passerine count recorded 1000+ Nighthawks on 8/27, 2069 Black-capped Chickadees in 3½ hours on 9/12, 3400 Cedar Waxwings in 3½ hours on 9/17 and 2200 Flickers on 9/20. Also of interest in the same area was an abundance of Black-backed Woodpeckers that peaked at 16 on 10/16.

Surprisingly, record late migration dates were noted for a number of species: Hudsonian Godwit, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's), Pine and Blackpoll Warblers, Blue Grosbeak and LeConte's Sparrow. Ill winds do blow some good, or at least unexpected, happenings.

Common Loon

Late north 11/10 Hubbard TCS, 11/16 Mille Lacs KL, 11/20 St. Louis JN; late south 11/18 Hennepin SC, 11/23 Wabasha TBB, 11/24 Olmsted JEB.

Pied-billed Grebe

Late north 10/13 Aitkin WN, Mille Lacs ES, 11/3 Traverse GAM; late south 11/27 Hennepin SC, Ramsey DS, 11/30 Dakota TTu.

Horned Grebe

Late north 11/2 Mille Lacs KL, 11/9 Roseau AJ, 11/14 St. Louis KE; late south 11/13 Mower RRR, JM, 11/14 Ramsey KB, 11/27 Hennepin ES.

Red-necked Grebe

Late north 11/1 Otter Tail DS, 11/4 Lake of the Woods RJ; late south 11/15-19 Hennepin JD, SC, GP.

Eared Grebe

8/17 Stearns RJ, 8/25 Traverse GAM. 9/19-21 St. Louis KE, KL 10/12 Redwood RJ.

Western Grebe

Late north 9/28 Grant RJ, 10/26 Todd KL, 10/31 Otter Tail DS; late south 9/29 Big Stone TBB, 10/13 Chippewa AB, 11/13 Nicollet JCF.

American White Pelican

8/27 Duluth, late North 9/29 Otter Tail SDM, 10/6 Clay KL, 11/3 Traverse GAM; late south 10/22 Dakota TTu, 10/31 Lac Qui Parle RGJ, 11/2 Murray HK.

Double-crested Cormorant

Late north 11/3 Clearwater RJ, Otter Tail DS, Traverse GAM; late south 11/18 Goodhue JD, 11/19 Sherburne SS/DO, 11/24 Le Sueur HJC.

American Bittern

North 9/1 Clearwater AB, Otter Tail DS, 9/21 Aitkin WN; south 9/6 Chippewa RGJ, 9/21 Cottonwood RJ, 10/22 Hennepin DZ.

Least Bittern

8/17 Big Stone BL.

Great Blue Heron

Late north 11/17 Cook KMH, 11/21 Becker WL, 11/23 St. Louis D. Litchfield; late south 11/18 Goodhue JD, 11/19 Houston FL, 11/30 Dakota TTu.

Great Egret

Late north 8/25 Duluth KE, 9/5 Cook SDL, 9/13 Becker MBW, 10/13 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/15 Anoka BL, 11/3 Dakota TTu, 11/8 Hennepin VL.

Snowy Egret

Reported 8/14 Sibley DB, OJ, 9/22-25 Otter Tail SDM.

Cattle Egret

Reported 8/4 Grant SDM (33), 8/12 Sibley BL, 8/13-16 St. Louis SS, SW/MS

Green-backed Heron

Late north 8/25 Aitkin WN, 9/3 Douglas DS, 10/31 Becker WL; late south 10/18 Hennepin, Lyon, Wabasha DB, 10/21 Hennepin SC, TTu.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Late south 10/13 Chippewa AB, 11/1 Hennepin TTu, 11/8 Nicollet JCF.



Cattle Egret — Ely, St. Louis County, August 13, 1985. Photo by Steve Wilson.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

8/3 Hennepin AB, 8/29 Hennepin (2) SC.

Tundra Swan

Late north 11/17 Aitkin AB, Crow Wing and Mille Lacs DB; peak 11/13 Wabasha 10,000+ EMF, WDM; late south 11/23 Wabasha TBB, DBL, 11/-27 Goodhue JD, 11/28 Houston JP/AM.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Reported 10/13 Otter Tail SDM, 10/19 Chippewa AB, 11/27 Olmsted JEB.

Snow Goose

Early north 10/2 Cook SOL, 10/6 Otter Tail SDM; early south 10/15 Kanabec DB, Olmsted JEB; late north 11/13 St. Louis Jeff Newman, 11-26 Clay MMo; late south 11/19 Olmsted PP, 11/23 Hennepin OJ.

BRANT

11/13 Olmsted fide JEB. Shot and identified by DNR.

Canada Goose

Permanent resident, reported from 8 counties north, 16 counties south; peak of 70,000 reported 11/21 Lac Qui Parle WL.

Wood Duck

Late north 10/7 Itasca AB, 10/12 Aitkin WN, 11/11 Roseau AJ; late south 11/11

Wabasha WDM, 11/16 Hennepin OJ, 11/27 Ramsey DS.

Green-winged Teal

Late north 10/7 Itasca AB, 10/12 Cook KMH, 10/20 Duluth DS; late south 11/16 Hennepin TTu, Wabasha and Winona DBI, 11/24 Houston FL.

American Black Duck

Late north 10/5 St. Louis SS, 10/7 Itasca AB, 11/17 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/28 Houston JP/AM, 11/30 Olmsted PP, Ramsey DS.

Mallard

Permanent resident, reported from 12 counties north, 24 south.

Northern Pintail

Late north 10/1 Cook KMH, 10/5 St. Louis SS, 11/3 Marshall RJ; late south 11/15 Scott PP, 11/16 Winona DBI, 11/19 Houston FL.

Blue-winged Teal

Late north 9/28 Grant RJ, 10/13 Aitkin WN, 11/1 Otter Tail DS; late south 10/7 Hennepin SC, 10/13 Houston JP/AM, 11/2 Wabasha JD.

Northern Shoveler

North 9/29 Clay LCF, late south 11/13 Wabasha WDM, 11/19 Houston FL, 11/26 Hennepin SC.

Gadwall

North 8/13 Clay PP; late south 11/14 Brown JS, 11/15 Scott PP, 11/26 Hennepin SC.

EURASIAN WIGEON

Wood Lake, Hennepin 10/18 to 11/1 many observers (*The Loon* 57:181).

American Wigeon

Late north 9/7 St. Louis MH/JS, 9/8 Traverse GAM; 10/20 Aitkin WN; late south 11/16 Wabasha DBI, 11/19 Houston FL, 11/25 Hennepin TTu.

Canvasback

Late north 10/31 Otter Tail DS, 11/9 Todd NH, 11/16, Mille Lacs KL; late south 11/16 Wabasha DBL, 11/19 Houston FL, 11/27 Hennepin SC.

Redhead

Late north 10/19 Cook KMH, 11/9 Roseau AJ, Todd NH; late south 11/12 Washington WL, 11/16 Wabasha DBI, 11/27 Hennepin SC.

Ring-necked Duck

Late north 11/3 Clay LCF, 11/23 Duluth JN, 11/28 Hubbard AB; late south 11/18 Olmsted JEB, 11/25 Hennepin TTu, 11/30 Ramsey DS.

Greater Scaup

Reported 10/13 Houston JP/AM, 10/16 Morrison RJ, 11/2 Otter Tail DS.

Lesser Scaup

Late north 11/13 Aitkin WN, 11/8 Marshall ANWR, 11/14 S. Louis KE; late south 11/27 Hennepin SC, Olmsted JEB, 11/28 Dakota TTu.

Harlequin Duck

11/9-12 Cook (2) KHM. WP.

Oldsquaw

Reported 11/3 Otter Tail (2) DS, 11/14 St. Louis, Lake, Cook (4) KE, 11/16 Mille Lacs KL, 11/24-26 Lake Calhoun, Hennepin, many observers, 11/26 Cook KMH.

Black Scoter

10/20 St. Louis RJ, 11/1 Clay fide NH, 11/2 Lake KE, 11/9 Cook KMH.

Surf Scoter

10/19 St. Louis RJ, 10/20 Marshall ANWR, 10/27 Murray E. Duerksen.

White-winged Scoter

9/14 St. Louis fide KE, 10/15 Cook WP, 10/20 Duluth FL, DS, 10/25 to 11/14 St. Louis KE, 10/27 Cook KMH, 10/28 Aitkin WN, 11/9 Mille Lacs KL, 11/10 Cook WP.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

11/9 Hennepin OJ

Common Goldeneye

Early south 8/17 Stearns RJ, 10/25 Hennepin SC; 10/4 Yellow Medicine FE; late north (not Lake Superior) 11/2 Aitkin WN, 11/4 Beltrami RJ.

Bufflehead

Early south 10/11 Chippewa AB, Scott RJ, 10/13 Houston JP/AM; late north 11/2 Aitkin WN, 11/3 Traverse GAM, 11/27 Cook KHH.

Hooded Merganser

Late north 11/3 Otter Tail DS, 11/7 Cook WP, 11/28 Hubbard AB; late south 11/25 Dakota TTu, 11/27 Hennepin DB, SC, Olmsted JEB.

Common Merganser

Early south 10/2 Wabasha WDM, 10/30 Hennepin SC, 11/9 Dakota TTu; late north 10/20 St. Louis DS, 11/22 Hubbard HJF, 11/27 Cook KMH.

Red-breasted Merganser

Late north 10/20 St. Louis, many obs., 11-10 Cook WP, 11/20 Hubbard HJF; late south 11/4 Mower JM, 11/15 Hennepin SC, 11/18 Dakota JD.

Ruddy Duck

Late north 9/26 Carlton MBW, 10/29 Clay NH, 11/3 Traverse GAM; late south 11/17 Pope JS, 11/19 Houston FL, 11/27 Hennepin SC, ES.

Turkey Vulture

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 780 (1984: 978) down nearly 50% from 1983. Late north 9/29 Otter Tail SDM, 10/3 Cook KMH, 10/19 Hawk Ridge; late south 10/10 Ramsey KB, 10/11 Goodhue JD, 10/26 Hennepin OJ.

Osprey

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 146 (1984: 247), down from two previous years. Late north 10/19 Carlton L. Weber, 10/20 Aitkin WN, 10/24 Hawk Ridge; late south 10/13 Winona JP/AM, 10/24 Washington DS, 10/30 Hennepin SC.

Bald Eagle

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 159 (1984: 376), down from two previous record high years. Late north 11/24 Aitkin WN, 11/28 Cook KMH, 11/30 Itasca AB.

Northern Harrier

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 606 (1984: 961) record high day of 169 on 10/1. Late north 10/20 Aitkin WN, 11/2 Norman, Clay RJ, 11/7 Hawk Ridge; late south 11/24 Ramsey KB, Sherburne KL, 11/29 Mower JM.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 11,474 (1984: 12,574). Late north 10/20 Aitkin WN, 11/10 Otter Tail SDM, 11/19 Hawk Ridge; late south 11/10 Houston EMF, 11/24 Ramsey KB, 11/30 Nicollet RJ.

Cooper's Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 68 (1984:91, a record high). Late north 9/4 Otter Tail SDM, 10/16 Hawk Ridge, 10/29 Clay NH; late south 10/13 Ramsey KB, 10/18 Olmsted AP.

Northern Goshawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 670 (1984: 934) down for past two years. Early south 9/9 Olmsted AP, 10/5 Houston FL, Ramsey KB, 10/18 Pope DR.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Late north 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/24 Duluth KE, also 10/16 Hawk Ridge; late south 10/13 Goodhue JP/AM, 11/3 Washington DS, 11/7 Ramsey KB.

Broad-winged Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 24,819 (1984: 36,378) down over 30%. Late north 9/15 Itasca AB, 10/6 Hawk Ridge, Clay LCF; late south 10/3 Ramsey KB, 10/5 Hennepin ES, Houston FL.

Swainson's Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 4 (1984:5).

Late north 9/6 Douglas, 10/5 Hawk Ridge, 10/18 Wilkin GAM; late south 10/6 Olmsted, 11/2 Goodhue JD, 11/5 Hennepin VL.

Red-tailed Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 4,259 (1984:11,655) down more than 50%. Permanent resident, reported from 13 counties north, 22 counties south.

Ferruginous Hawk

Reported 10/15 Otter Tail KL.

Rough-legged Hawk

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 91 (1984: 195), lowest count in 14 years. Early north 9/14 Pine JP/AM, 10/2 Hawk Ridge, 10/4 Becker MBW; early south 9/4 Olmsted AP, 9/24 Dakota JD, 10/6 Lyon HK.

Golden Eagle

Duluth Hawk Ridge count 20 (1984: 37) down from last two record years. Early north 10/4 Hawk Ridge, 10/27 Wilkin SDM, 10/31 Marshall ANWR; early south 10/19 Ramsey KB, 10/20 Murray E. Duerksen.

American Kestrel

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 666 (1984: 917), below past two years. Late north 10/12 Aitkin WN, 10/18 Hawk Ridge, 11/9 Todd NH.

Merlin

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 122 (1984: 62), nearly double the previous record. Early south 8/8 Hennepin OJ, 9/13 Houston FL, 9/14 Chippewa HK, late north 10/25 Cook KMH, 11/1 Hawk Ridge, 11/2 Clay RJ; late south 10/5 Goodhue BL, 10/24 Olmsted JEB.

Peregrine Falcon

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 27 (1984: 33), 10 counted 9/21. Late north 10/1 Cook KMH, 10/4 Hawk Ridge, 10/6 Clay LCF; late south 10/9 Sherburne RJ, 10/15 Wabasha WDM, 10/18 Ramsey KB.

Prairie Falcon

All reports from Wilkin County 8/18, 9-8 11/27 SDM, many obs.

Gray Partridge

Permanent resident, reported from four counties north, 14 south.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Permanent resident, reported from three north and 21 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

Permanent resident, reported 8/16 Cook (1) M. Stensaas, 8/23 Cook (4) M. Stensaas, 10/9 St. Louis (1) MH/JS.

Ruffed Grouse

Permanent resident, reported from 12 north and 11 south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Permanent resident, reported 10/27 Felton Prairie, Clay Co. (52) LCF.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Permanent resident, reported 8/24 Crow Wing WN, 9/14 Aitkin WN, 11/3 Kittson (50) RJ, Marshall (no date) ANWR.

Wild Turkey

Permanent resident, reported only from Houston (no date) JM, (resident, 1 to 35 individuals) EMF.

Northern Bobwhite

Permanent resident, reported 11/1-11/30 Houston (peak of 21) EMF.

Virginia Rail

All reports: 8/2 Blue Earth JCF, 8/7 Hennepin SC, 8/21 Wright ES, 10/1 Mower RRK, 10/2 (Duluth) JN, 10/13 Clay NH, Marshall (no date) ANWR.

Sora

Late north 8/25 Roseau RJ, 9/1 Clearwater AB, 9/15 Lake JP/AM; late south 9/6 Chipewewa RJ, 10/5 Hennepin ES.

Common Moorhen

All reports: 8/1-8/7 Isanti (one ad., two y.) RJ, KL, 9/18-9/21 Wabasha (4) WDM.

American Coot

Late north 11/3 Traverse GAM, 11/9 Roseau AJ, 11/10 Hubbard TCS; late south 11/30 Ramsey DS, 11/30 Hennepin ES; peak 10/19 Minnesota River Valley NWR, Hennepin Co. (10,000+, one albino) DZ.

Sandhill Crane

Reported from ten counties. Late north 10/

7 Itasca AB, 10/19 St. Louis KE, FL, 11/7 Clay MMo. Two south reports: 8/15 Lac Qui Parle FE, 9/21 Anoka JH.

Black-bellied Plover

Early north 8/9 St. Louis KE, 9/1 Polk AB; early south 8/9 Ramsey RJ, 9/5 Dakota TTU; late north 10/13 Wilkin SDM, 10/19 St. Louis RJ, FL; late south 9/21 and 9/25 Hennepin SC.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early north 8/17 St. Louis KE, 8/25 Roseau RJ; early south 8/20 Stearns NH, 9/11 Hennepin SC; late north 10/20 St. Louis FL; late south 10/5 Houston FL, 10/7 Hennepin SC.

Semipalmated Plover

Late north 9/22 Otter Tail SDM, 10/1 Cook KMH 10/19 St. Louis RJ; late south 9/21 Hennepin SC, ES, 9/27 Nicollet JCF, 10/12 Pipestone BL.

Killdeer

Late north 10/16 Mille Lacs RJ, 10/20 Clay LCF, 10/26 Cook KMH; late south 11/1 Brown JS, 11/10 Anoka DS, 11/14 Washington WL.

American Avocet

All reports: 8/2 and 8/28 Lyon HK, 10/23 Clay (1) NH.

Greater Yellowlegs

Late north 9/29 Lake SW/MS, 10/20 St. Louis DS, 11/2 Clay RJ; late south 10/27 Hennepin ES, 10/29 Pope DR, 10/31 Hennepin SC.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late north 10/23 Clay NH 11/1 Becker WL; late south 10/25 Hennepin SC, 10/26 Nicollet RJ, 11/3 Brown JS.

Solitary Sandpiper

Late north 8/30 Marshall AB, 9/5 Lake SW/MS, 9/17 Cook KMH; late south 9/4 Fillmore RJ, 9/6 Olmsted AP, 10/3 Hennepin SC.

Willet

8/1 Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (1) BL.

Spotted Sandpiper

Late north 9/7 Hubbard DZ, 9/17 Cook

KMH, WP, 10/13 Mille Lacs ES; late south 9/25 Washington DS, 10/2 Fillmore RJ, 10/13 Wabasha BL.

Upland Sandpiper

All reports: 8/3 Lac Qui Parle RGJ, 8/7 Lyon HK, 8/13 Grant SDM, 9/23 Cook KMH.

Hudsonian Godwit

11/1 Minnesota River Valley, Nicollet Co. (1) JCF.

Marbled Godwit

8/17 Stearns RJ.

Ruddy Turnstone

All reports: 8/17 Stearns RJ, 8/18 St. Louis KE, 8/25 Roseau RJ, 8/29 St. Louis WP, 9/8 St. Louis FL, 9/27 Marshall ANWR.

Red Knot

8/31 and 9/8 St. Louis (1) KE.

Sanderling

All reports: 8/17-9/11 Stearns RJ, NH, 8/18 Hennepin OJ, 8/25 Pennington RJ, 8/29-9/15 St. Louis m.ob., 9/14-9/17 Cook m.ob.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early north 8/11 St. Louis DBI, 8/13 Clay LCF; early south 8/2 Lyon HK, 8/4 Dakota TTu; late north 10/19 St. Louis RJ; late south 9/22 Lyon HK, 9/25 Blue Earth JCF.

Western Sandpiper

All reports: 8/14 Faribault RJ, 8/19 Hennepin SC, 8/19-8/29 Mower JM, RRK, 8/21 St. Louis KE, 8/24 Koochiching RJ, 8/29 Polk AB, 8/30 Marshall AB.

Least Sandpiper

Early north 8/10 Aitkin WN, 8/11 St. Louis DBI, 8/13 Clay LCF; early south 8/1 Olmsted JEB, Hennepin OJ, 8/2 Lyon HK; late north 10/17 St. Louis DB; late south 9/27 Nicollet JCF, Stearns NH, 10/4 Dakota TTu.

White-rumped Sandpiper

All reports: 8/29 Clearwater AB, 9/15 St. Louis JP/AM.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early north 8/28 St. Louis SS, 9/1 Polk AB; early south 8/8 Lyon HK, 8/8 Dakota

TTu, 8/17 Stearns RJ; late north 10/1 Cook KMH, 10/17 St. Louis DB, OJ; late south 9/22 Lyon HK, 10/12 Pipestone RJ.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late north 10/19 Cook KMH, 10/19 St. Louis RJ, FL, 10/20 Clay LCF; late south 9/27 Nicollet JCF, Stearns NH, 10/31 Hennepin SC, 11/3 Brown JS.

Dunlin

Reported from seven counties. Early north 8/31 St. Louis KE, 9/29 Lake SW/MS; early south 8/18 Goodhue DZ, 9/11 Hennepin SC; late north 11/17 Cook KMH; late south 10/26 Watonwan RJ, 11/6 Blue Earth JCF.

Stilt Sandpiper

Early north 8/2 Cook KMH, 8/29 Polk AB; early south 8/2 Nicollet JCF, 8/2 Lyon HK; late north 9/15 St. Louis DBI, JP/AM; late south 9/25 Blue Earth JCF 10/13 Pipestone RJ.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

All reports; 8/10 Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (1) BL, 8/10 to 9/22 St. Louis m.ob., 8/13 Meeker (6) KL, 8/28 Cook (4) KMH.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Reported from nine counties. Early north 8/29 Clearwater AB, 9/5 St. Louis KE; early south 8/2 Nicollet JCF, 8/7 Lincoln HK; late north 9/15 St. Louis TBB; late south 8/20 Stearns NH, 9/2 Fillmore RJ.

Long-billed Dowitcher

All reports: 8/7-9/16 St. Louis m.ob., 8/25 Wright ES, 8/30 Clearwater AB, 9/17 Cook KMH, 9/21 Hennepin SC, ES, 9/25-10/1 Blue Earth JCF, 9/27 Stearns NH, 10/12 Pipestone RJ.

Common Snipe

Late north 10/10 Aitkin WN, 10/23 Clay NH, 11/4 Roseau AJ; late south 11/10 Ramsey KB, 11/23 Wabasha DBI, TBB, 11/24 Hennepin TTu.

American Woodcock

Late north 10/6 Cass NH, 10/20 Kanabec SSt, 10/25 Cook SOL; late south 10/9 Benton RJ, 10/24 Sherburne SS/DO, 10/26 Ramsey KB, Houston JM and Anoka DS.

Wilson's Phalarope

All reports: 8/14-8/17 Lyon OJ, AB, 8/17 St. Louis KE, Stearns RJ, 8/18-9/1 Clay LCF, 8/24 Koochiching RJ, 8/29 Clearwater AB, Lac Qui Parle BL, 9/4 Winona RJ, 9/14 Aitkin WN.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 8/14-8/17 Lyon m.ob., 8/17 Pope RJ, 8/19 Hennepin SC, 8/29 Clearwater, 8/29 Polk AB, 9/6 Sherburne (4) KL, 9/15 St. Louis (6) m.ob., 9/18 Blue Earth JCF, 9/28 Stearns RJ, 9/29 Lac Qui Parle TBB.

Parasitic Jaeger

9/17 Lake of the Woods AJ (*The Loon* 57:179).

Jaeger sp.?

8/29 to 9/21 St. Louis (2) m.ob., 9/5 Lake of the Woods AJ.

Franklin's Gull

Reported from 17 counties. Late north 9/2 Otter Tail DS, 9/29 Clay LCF, 10/13 Mille Lacs ES; late south 10/20 Chippewa AB, 10/26 Cottonwood LAF, Blue Earth RJ and Lac Qui Parle BL, 11/1 Hennepin PF.

Bonaparte's Gull

Early north 9/15 Crow Wing DB, 10/3 St. Louis WDM; early south 8/17 Lyon AB, 9/11 Stearns NH; late north 11/4 Beltrami RJ, 11/10 Crow Wing DB, 11/16 Mille Lacs KL; late south 11/16 Pope DR, 11/17 Washington DS.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from ten north and 20 south counties. Late north 11/6 Hubbard HJF, 11/17 Crow Wing AB.

CALIFORNIA GULL

11/5 to 11/15 Lake Harriet, Hennepin Co. (one imm.) DB, m.ob. (*The Loon* 58:16-18).

Herring Gull

Reported from seven north and eight south counties.

Thayer's Gull

All reports: 10/19 St. Louis RJ, 11/2-11/27 Cook (2 max.) KE, KMH, 11/9-11/25 Dakota (2) TTu, 11/20 St. Louis (one ad.) KE.

Glaucous Gull

All reports: 11/16 to 11/23 St. Louis (one imm.) KE, 11/24-11/30 Dakota (3 max. TTu 11/27 Cook (4) KMH.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

11/17 Duluth, St. Louis Co. (one ad.) KL (*The Loon* 58:46-47)

SABINE'S GULL

9/3, 9/17 and 9/18 Lake of the Woods (one imm.) AJ (*The Loon* 57:180).

Caspian Tern

Early north 8/25 Otter Tail SDM, 8/31 Clearwater AB, early south 8/7 Dakota TTu, 8/13 Hennepin SC; late north 9/28 Douglas RJ, 10/6 Todd KL; late south 9/22 Ramsey JP/AM, 9/22 Washington DS, 9/27 Hennepin DB, DBI, 9/27 Dakota SC, OJ.

Common Tern

All reports: 8/14 Dakota TTu, 8/20 Stearns NH, 9/21 Goodhue BL, 9/28 Morrison AB, 9/28 Todd RJ, 9/29 Cottonwood LAF, 10/3 St. Louis KE., 10/12 Chippewa AB

Forster's Tern

Reported from 13 counties, late north 8/29 Polk AB, 9/5 to 9/7 St. Louis (4) KE, 10/16 Otter Tail SDM; late south 9/22 Ramsey JP/AM, 9/24 Mower RRR, 10/5 Le Sueur RJ, 10/5 Goodhue BL.

LEAST TERN

8/11 to 8/14 Cottonwood, Lyon Co. (one juv.) HK, m.ob. (*The Loon* 58:48-49)

Black Tern

Late north 8/29 Clearwater and Polk AB, 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/17 St. Louis KE; late south 9/2 Olmsted PP, 9/13 Nicollet JCF, 9/15 Cottonwood LAF.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE

10/13 Lakewood Pumping Station, Duluth (1) P. Backstrom. First state record (see pages 92-92.)

Mourning Dove

Reported from 11 north and 25 south counties. Late north 11/21 Clay MMo, 11/25 St. Louis JN.

Black-billed Cuckoo

All reports: 8/2 Lyon HK, 8/10 Houston EMF, 8/17 Redwood AB, 8/19 Clay LCF,

8/24 Aitkin WN, 8/30 Beltrami AB, 8/31 Hennepin TTu, 9/4 Fillmore RJ, 10/4 St. Louis fide KE, Lac Qui Parle (no date) FE.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All reports: 8/1-8/17 Mower JM, RRK, 8/11 to 9/6 Olmsted AP, 8/29-9/17 Hennepin TTu, SC, 9/19 Brown JS, 9/25 McLeod RJ.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Permanent resident, reported 8/6 Lac Qui Parle FE, 9/4 Winona RJ, 9/24 Olmsted R. Hunter, 11/15 Cottonwood LAF, Washington (no date) DS, Ramsey (no date) DS, Ramsey (no date) SSt.

Great Horned Owl

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

Snowy Owl

All reports: 10/22-11/21 Duluth (1) fide KE, 11/21 Marshall ANWR.

Barred Owl

Permanent resident, reported from seven north and nine south counties.

Great Gray Owl

All reports: 10/10 and 10/11 Duluth (1) JN, 10/29 Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis Co. fide KE, 11/15 Marshall (1) ANWR, 11/21 Big Falls, Koochiching Co. (1) TCS.

Long-eared Owl

10/17 Pipestone (1) HK, 11/5 Duluth JN; plus many from Hawk Ridge

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 10/9 Park Point, Duluth (1) KE, 11/7 Marshall (1) ANWR, 11/21 Lac Qui Parle (1) WL, 11/28 Wilkin SDM.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

All reports: 10/6 Hawk Ridge, Duluth (55 banded) D. Evans, 10/14 Hennepin SC, m.ob., 10/15 Hawk Ridge, Duluth (60 banded) D. Evans, plus many other dates in late October and early November from Duluth 11/28 Clay LCF.

Common Nighthawk

Late north 8/31 Clearwater AB, 9/7 Wadena DZ, 9/15 Clay LCF; late south 10/11 Mower JM, 10/12 Washington TBB, 10/12

Brown JS, 10/19 Hennepin TTu; peak 8/27 Duluth (1000s all day) KE.

Whip-poor-will

All reports: 8/1 to 9/13 Houston (1) EMF, 8/3 Lake SW/MS, until 9/10 Cook SOL, 9/26 Olmsted JEB.

Chimney Swift

Late north 8/25 Aitkin WN, 9/5 Clay LCF, 9/15 Mille Lacs AB; late south 10/5 Houston FL, 10/6 Blue Earth JCF, 10/12 Hennepin m.ob.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Late north 9/17 Clay LCF, 9/19 Hubbard HJF, 9/19 Koochiching GM, 9/23 Wilkin GAM, 10/1 Cook KMH; late south 9/28 Olmsted PP, 10/3 Le Sueur HJC, 10/5 Mower JM, 10/8 Dakota JD.

Belted Kingfisher

Reported from 30 counties. Late north 10/4 Lake SW/MS, 10/7 Itasca AB, 10/12 Aitkin WN.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from seven north and 18 south counties. Late north 9/21 St. Louis OJ, 10/16 Crow Wing RJ, 11/17 Itasca fide DB.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from Crow Wing 11/17-11/29 WN, SC and from 23 south counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Reported from 17 counties. Late north 9/29 Clay LCF, 9/29 Cook WP, 10/4 St. Louis JN, 10/11 Cook KMH; late south 10/5 Olmsted JEB, 10/8 Ramsey KB, 10/13 Houston JP/AM.

Downy Woodpecker

Permanent resident, reported from 16 north and 23 south counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Permanent resident, reported from 15 north and 22 south counties.

Three-toed Woodpecker

All reports: 8/18-9/9 Cook (max. 3) M. Stensaas, 10/6 to 11/14 Hawk Ridge and North Shore, St. Louis Co. (12±), m.ob.

11/15 Cook KMH, 11/17 to 11/30 Crow Wing (2) WN, m.ob.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Reported from Carlton, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake and St. Louis with 16 seen on 10/16 in Duluth MSt.

Northern Flicker

Late north 10/11 St. Louis LW, 10/12 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Clay LCF, 11/9 Cook KMH. 2200+ reported 9/20 Duluth.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 18 north, 23 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 8/11 Olmsted JEB, 8/11 Anoka JH, 8/16 Hennepin SC, 8/17 Ramsey KB, 8/18 Dakota TTu; late north 9/14 Grant RJ, 9/16 Lake of the Woods KL, 9/21 St. Louis OJ; late south 9/20 Hennepin SC, 9/21 Olmsted JEB.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE

8/25 Clearwater KL (*The Loon* 58:50).

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Late north 9/4 St. Louis LW, 9/5 Cook KMH, 9/19 Clay LCF; late south 9/26 Hennepin SC, 9/28 Houston EMF, 9/29 Dakota TTu, 10/2 Mower RJ.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 8/15 Hennepin SC, 8/21 Dakota TTu; late north 8/31 Clearwater AB, 9/4 St. Louis LW; late south 9/7 Lac Qui Parle RJ, 9/12 Hennepin SC, 9/18 Wright RJ.

Alder Flycatcher

Three reports north: 8/31 Clearwater AB, 9/1-9/17 Cook RJ, KMH; late south 9/1 Hennepin OJ, 9/10 Rice FKS.

Willow Flycatcher

All reports: 8/15-9/24 Houston EMF, 8/18-9/1 Hennepin m.ob., 10/2 Fillmore RJ.

Least Flycatcher

Late north 9/21 St. Louis OJ, 10/3 Cook KMH; late south 10/1 Hennepin SC, 10/2 Fillmore RJ.

Eastern Phoebe

Late north 9/24 Clay LCF, 9/24 Cook

KMH, 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 9/29 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/13 Goodhue BL, 10/13 Wright ES, 10/14 Hennepin SC, 10/20 Brown JS.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Late north 9/16 Lake of the Woods KL, 9/18 St. Louis KE, 10/19 Cook KMH, BL; late south 9/21 Olmsted JEB, 9/29 Hennepin TTu.

Western Kingbird

Late south 9/6 Lac Qui Parle RGJ, 9/5 Cottonwood LAF; late north 9/12 Otter Tail SDM. 9/16 St. Louis fide KE (casual in Duluth), 9/24 Clay LCF.

Eastern Kingbird

Late north 9/6 Clay LCF, 9/6 Cook KMH, 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/20 St. Louis DBI; late south 9/17 Houston EMF, 9/17 Hennepin TTu, 9/18 Wright RJ, 9/30 Carver MS.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

10/2 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 57:181)

Horned Lark

Reported from 16 south, seven north counties; late north 11/21 Cook KMH, 11/29 Clay LCF.

Purple Martin

Late north 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/22 Clay LCF; late south 9/15 Washington OJ, 9/24 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Dakota JD.

Tree Swallow

Late north 9/7 Aitkin WN, 10/9 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/9 Wright RJ, 10/13 Hennepin TTu, 10/26 Houston FL, 10/20 Olmsted PP.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Late north 9/20 St. Louis DBI, 9/29 Clay LCF; late south 10/16 Hennepin SC, 10/12 Brown JS.

Bank Swallow

Late north 9/17 St. Louis KE; late south 9/1 Anoka JH, 9/6 Olmsted AP, 9/7 Blue Earth MF, 9/21 Hennepin SC.

Cliff Swallow

Late north 9/2 Clearwater AB, 9/7 Aitkin WN; late south 9/18 Wright RJ, 9/27 Dakota OJ, 9/28 Hennepin DBI.

Barn Swallow

Late north 9/9 Wilkin GAM, 9/15 Mille Lacs AB, 9/29 Clay LCF; late south 10/4 Olmsted JEB, 10/5 DS, 10/12 Redwood RJ, BL, 10/12 Lincoln BL.

Gray Jay

Reported from eight north counties as far south as Aitkin.

Blue Jay

Reported from 17 north and 29 south counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Ten reports from nine north counties as far south as Aitkin.

American Crow

Reported from 13 north and 27 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from 13 north counties.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 14 north and 23 south counties. 9/12 St. Louis 2069 in 3½ hours MH.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties.

Tufted Titmouse

10/7 Olmsted AP, 10/27 Anoka RMR; resident Houston EMF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 13 north and 17 south counties; early south 8/1 Dakota JD, 8/3 Washington RH, 8/14 Dakota TTu, 8/15 Hennepin SC.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 13 north and 25 south counties.

Brown Creeper

Reported from nine north, 20 south counties.

House Wren

Late north 9/26 Cook KMH, 10/3 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/6 Hennepin TTu, 10/7 Olmsted PP, AP, 10/8 Brown JS.

Winter Wren

Early south 8/29 Hennepin ES; late north 10/4 St. Louis JN, MH/JS, 10/5 Itasca AB, 10/16 Cook KMH; late south 10/9 Benton RJ, Hennepin ES, 10/11 Washington WL, 10/20 Mower RRK.

Sedge Wren

Late north 9/22 Wilkin SDM, 10/23 Cook KMH; late south 9/25 Ramsey KB, 9/25 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Brown JS.

Marsh Wren

Late north 9/20 Otter Tail SDM, 9/28 Grant RJ, 9/29 Clay LCF, 9/29 Cook KMH; late south 10/3 Dakota TTu, 10/8 Ramsey KB, 10/11 Stearns RH, 10/23 Hennepin SC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early south 9/10 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Mower JM, Houston EMF, Anoka JH and Dakota/Ramsey JP/AM; late north 11/4 Wadena RJ, 11/11 Cook KMH, 11/21 Lake P. Eikeland.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 8/26 Murray AD, 8/30 Olmsted AP, 8/31 Ramsey KB, 8/31 Dakota TTu; late north 10/21 Clay LCF, 10/26 St. Louis LW; late south 10/27 Mower JM, 10/28 Pope DR, 11/5 Olmsted PP.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

9/22 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 57:182); late south 9/4 Winona RJ, 9/7 Goodhue BL, 9/8 Mower JM, 9/14 Brown JS, 9/24 Houston EMF.

Eastern Bluebird

Late north 10/11 St. Louis LW, 10/13 Wilkin SDM, 10/15 Kanabec DB, 10/20 Aitkin WN; late south 10/26 Nicolle RJ.

Mountain Bluebird

All reports; 8/24 Beltrami KL, 10/13 Chipewa AB, 10/24 St. Louis MSt.

Townsend's Solitaire

All reports: 10/27-10:30 Hawk Ridge M. & D. Evans, 11/8-23 Cook KMH.

Veery

All reports: 8/25 Ramsey KB, 8/28 Beltrami AB, 9/1-13 Hennepin SC, 9/4 Winona RJ.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early south 9/1 Hennepin SC, 9/3 Cottonwood LAF; late north 9/12 Cook KMH, 9/29 Clay LCF; late south 9/26 Hennepin SC, 9/26 Rice FKS, 10/1 Ramsey BL.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 8/26 Ramsey KB, 8/30 Brown JS, 8/31 Hennepin SC; late north 10/1 Koochiching GM, 10/2 Cook SOL, 10/3 Otter Tail SDM, 10/4 St. Louis WDM; late south 10/5 Hennepin JP/AM, 10/8 Washington DS.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 9/3 Houston EMF, 9/26 Rice FKS, 9/26 Hennepin TTu, 9/28 Olmsted JEB; late north 10/9 St. Louis AB, 10/10 Clay LCF, 10/20 Kanabec SSt, 11/24 Cook KMH; late south 10/16 Hennepin SC, 10/16 Stearns RH, 10/18 Brown JS, 10/24 Ramsey KB, 11/21 Lac Qui Parle WL (found nearly frozen, died later).

Wood Thrush

9/14 Itasca AB, DB, 9/18 Wilkin GAM, only north reports; late south 9/9 Stearns NH, 9/19 Rice FKS, 9/29 Mower JM.

American Robin

Reported from 14 north and 27 south counties. 9/24 St. Louis (Lakewood Pumping Station) 1433 fide KE.

Gray Catbird

Late north 10/19 Cook KMH, BL, 10/20 Clay LCF; late south 10/28 Ramsey KB, 11/2 Wabasha JD, 11/28 Wabasha WDM.

Northern Mockingbird

All reports: 9/7 Blue Earth MF, 10/19 Duluth M. Hendrickson, 10/31 Carver MS.

Brown Thrasher

Late north 10/12 Cook KMH, 10/23 Clay LCF; late south 10/11 Chippewa RGJ, 10/16 Cottonwood ED, 10/21 Hennepin RJ.

Water Pipit

Early north 9/10 St. Louis SW/MS, 9/10 Cook KMH; early south 9/27 Stearns NH, 10/2 Hennepin OJ; late north 10/20 Wilkin GAM, 11/3 Red Lake RJ, 11/6 St. Louis KE; late south 10/31 Hennepin SC (18).

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from seven north counties and 10/2 Dakota (earliest date on record). JD. Early north 10/11 St. Louis KE, 10/12 Cook KMH, 10/16 Crow Wing RJ.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 12 north and 23 south counties. 9/17 Duluth (3396 in 2½ hours) M. Hendrickson.

Northern Shrike

Early north 10/10 Cook KMH, 10/10 St. Louis KE, 10/13 Aitkin WN, 10/16 Crow Wing RJ; early south 10/19 Ramsey KB, 10/19 Dakota JD, 10/20 Fillmore JM, 10/21 Hennepin SC, TTu. There were 30 reports for the month of November.

Loggerhead Shrike

All reports: 9/20 Carver KL, 10/27 Clay LCF, 11/3 Olmsted JEB.

European Starling

Reported from ten north and 21 south counties.

Bell's Vireo

8/21 Goodhue BL.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 8/21 Houston EMF, 8/21 Hennepin SC, 8/25 Anoka GP; late north 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 10/11 St. Louis KE; late south 10/17 Ramsey KB, 10/21 Mower RRR.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Late north 9/7 St. Louis LW, 9/7 Clay LCF, 9/26 Kanabec SSt; late south 9/21 Rock RJ, 9/22 Brown JS, 10/9 Hennepin SC.

Warbling Vireo

No reports north; late south 9/7 Houston EMF, 9/7 Brown JS, 9/12 Cottonwood LAF, 9/14 Hennepin TTu, 9/21 Rock RJ, 9/21 Goodhue BL.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 8/23 Hennepin SC, 8/24 Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 9/30 St. Louis LW, 10/1 Cook KMH; late south 9/29 Hennepin TTu, 10/5 Goodhue BL.

Red-eyed Vireo

Late north 9/29 Cook KMH, 10/6 Clay

LCF, 10/10 St. Louis LW; late south 10/16 Hennepin SC.

Blue-winged Warbler

Late south 8/30 Ramsey KB, 9/2 Houston EMF, 9/10 Brown JS.

Golden-winged Warbler

Late north 8/28 Beltrami AB, 9/8 Kanabec SSt; late south 9/1 Anoka JH, 9/1 Brown JS, 9/2 Wright ES, 9/10 Houston EMF.

Tennessee Warbler

Early north 8/11 Koochiching GM, 8/15 Clay LCF; early south 8/14 Anoka JH, 8/14 Washington WL, 8/15 Hennepin SC, 8/16 Dakota TTu; late north 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 10/12 Aitkin WN, 10/17 Cook KMH; late south 10/5 Hennepin SC, JP/AM, 10/11 Chippewa RGJ.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early north 8/17 St. Louis MH/JS, 8/20 Clay LCF; early south 8/22 Lyon HK, 8/29 Hennepin ES, 8/30 Washington JD, Houston EMF and Stearns RH; late north 10/6 Clay LCF, 10/17 Cook KMH; late south 10/21 Hennepin TTu.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 8/11 Houston EMF, 8/17 Ramsey KB, 8/18 Brown JS; late north 10/15 Cook KMH, 10/15 Aitkin WN, 10/20 St. Louis FL; late south 10/17 Ramsey KB, 10/18 Mower JM, 10/22 Hennepin SC.

Northern Parula

Early south 8/1 Goodhue BL, 8/25 Hennepin TTu, SC, 8/25 Anoka GP, 8/26 Washington JD, 8/27 Ramsey KB; late north 10/6 Cook KMH; late south 9/21 Olmsted JEB, 9/26 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Mower RRK.

Yellow Warbler

Late north 9/7 Clay LCF, 9/10 St. Louis LW, 9/20 Cook KMH; late south 9/7 Blue Earth MF, 9/14 Big Stone RJ, 9/18 Hennepin SC.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Late north 9/15 Itasca AB, DB, 9/17 Otter Tail SDM, 9/27 Cook KMH; late south 9/22 Brown JS, 9/23 Houston EMF, 9/26 Hennepin SC.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 8/21 Hennepin SC, 8/25 Ramsey KB, 8/25 Anoka GP; late north 9/28 Grant RJ, 10/3 St. Louis LW, 10/3 Cook KMH; late south 9/20 Ramsey KB, 9/21 Olmsted JEB, 9/22 Houston EMF, 9/22 Brown JS.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 8/21 Dakota JD; late north 9/14 Aitkin WN, 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/28 St. Louis LW; late south 9/18 Hennepin DB.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Early south 8/20 Wright ES, 8/25 Hennepin ES, 8/26 Ramsey KB, 8/26 Dakota JD; late north 9/18 Cook KMH, 9/25 Wilkin GAM; late south 9/26 Mower RRK, JM, 9/30 Ramsey KB, 10/4 Hennepin SC, GP.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 8/21 Dakota JD, 8/26 Washington DS; late north 10/14 St. Louis LW, 11/21 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 57:184) Audubon's subspecies; late south 10/22 Mower JM, 10/23 Cottonwood LAF, 10/29 Brown JS.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 8/20 Wright ES, 8/22 Hennepin DB; late north 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 10/7 Cook KMH; late south 9/25 Ramsey KB, 9/26 Washington WL, 9/27 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Dakota TTu.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 8/16 Hennepin SC, 8/17 Ramsey KB; late north 9/24 Wilkin GAM, 9/25 Cook KMH, 9/26 Kanabec SSt; late south 9/21 Rock RJ, 9/21 Hennepin TTu, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

Pine Warbler

Late north 9/15 Itasca AB, DB, 9/15 Lake JP/AM, 10/3 St. Louis LW; late south 11/24 Wright RJ (*The Loon* 57:183), Mower 11/27-11/28 JM, RRK.

Palm Warbler

Early south 8/25 Murray AD, 8/25 Cottonwood LAF, 8/31 Hennepin OJ; early north 9/1 Clay LCF; late north 10/10 St. Louis LW, 10/10 Clay LCF, 10/16 Cook KMH; late south 10/8 Dakota JD, 10/13 Hennepin TTu.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 8/21 Hennepin SC, 8/26 Ramsey KB; late north 9/19 Cook KMH, 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 9/28 Grant RJ; late south 9/29 Dakota JD, 10/9 Hennepin SC.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early south 8/14 Anoka JH, 8/20 Hennepin SC, GP, 8/25 Brown JS; late north 9/15 Itasca AB, DB, 10/19 Cook KMH, BL; late south 9/10 Brown JS, 9/14 Hennepin SC.

Black-and-white Warbler

Late north 9/25 Otter Tail SDM, 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 10/1 Cook KMH; late south 9/22 Brown JS, 9/22 Nicollet JCF, 9/24 Hennepin SC, 10/5 Chippewa RGJ, 10/5 Ramsey KB.

American Redstart

Late north 9/23 Clay LCF, 9/25 Otter Tail SDM, 9/26 Kanabec SSt, 10/1 Cook KMH, late south 9/22 Houston EMF, 9/26 Ramsey KB, 10/4 Hennepin SC, GP.

Prothonotary Warbler

Two reports: 8/18-8/21 Goodhue DZ, BL.

Ovenbird

Late north 9/15 Itasca AB, 9/23 Clay LCF, 9/23 Otter Tail SDM; late south 9/30 Brown JS, 9/30 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Ramsey BL.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 8/9 Hennepin SC, GP, 8/14 Brown JS; late north 8/8 Clay LCF, 8/28 Beltrami AB, 9/10 Wilkin GAM; late south 9/22 Brown JS, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 8/21 Murray AD, 8/29 Hennepin ES, 8/30 Hennepin SC, GP; late north 9/10 Wilkin GAM, 9/22 Cook KMH; late south 9/7 Lac Qui Parle RJ, 9/9 Hennepin SC, 9/12 Lac Qui Parle FE.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 8/18 Brown JS, 8/24 Hennepin DB, 8/26 Ramsey RH; late north 9/18 Cook KMH, 9/19 Otter Tail SDM; late south 9/7 Chippewa RJ, 9/22 Brown JS, 10/5 Olmsted JEB.

Common Yellowthroat

Late north 9/22 Otter Tail SDM, 9/23 Clay

LCF, 10/19 Cook BL, KMH; late south 10/1 Brown JS, 10/3 Ramsey KB, 11/1 Hennepin TTu.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 8/16 Cottonwood LAF, 8/16 Hennepin SC, 8/18 Brown JS, 8/20 Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 9/15 Lake JP/AM, 9/19 St. Louis MH/JS, 9/29 Cook KMH; late south 9/26 Hennepin SC, 9/28 Dakota TTu, 9/30 LeSueur HJC.

Canada Warbler

Early south 8/15 Houston EMF, 8/16 Hennepin SC, 8/17 Dakota TTu, 8/17 Ramsey KB; late north 8/27 Clearwater AB, 8/28 Cook KMH, 8/31 Clay LCF; late south 9/11 Hennepin SC, 9/21 Pipestone RJ, 9/22 Houston EMF.

Scarlet Tanager

Late north 9/1 Beltrami AB, 9/5 Wadena DB, 9/28 Grant RJ; late south 9/26 Mower RRK, JM, 10/3 Hennepin SC, GP, 10/19 Chippewa AB.

Northern Cardinal

One report north 11/13 Duluth fide KE; reported from nineteen counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Late north 9/11 Clay LCF, 9/14 St. Louis TBB, 9/29 Cook KMH; late south 9/22 Murray AD, 9/30 Houston EMF, 9/30 Olmsted AP, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

Blue Grosbeak

One report 10/3 Murray AD.

Indigo Bunting

Late north 8/29 Clearwater AB, 9/14 Douglas RJ, 9/26 Kanabec SSt; late south 10/3 Hennepin SC, GP.

Dickcissel

All reports 8/2 Lyon HK, 8/2 Nicollet JCF, 8/9 Murray AD, 8/11 Olmsted JEB, 8/18 Cottonwood LAF.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Late north 9/23 Otter Tail SDM, 10/4 St. Louis fide KE, 10/6 Itasca AB; late south 10/5 Cottonwood LAF, 10/12 Pipestone BL, RJ, 10/14 Mower JM.

American Tree Sparrow

Early north 9/20 St. Louis DBI, 10/1 Cook KMH; early south 9/30 Faribault KWE 10/10 Hennepin SC, 10/14 Nicollet JCF, 10/17 Dakota TTu.

Chipping Sparrow

Late north 9/22 Clay LCF, 10/20 Cook KMH, 10/24 St. Louis KE; late south 10/12 Dakota TTu, 10/12 Lyon RJ, 10/26 Hennepin ES, 11/10 Cottonwood LAF.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Late north 9/28 Douglas RJ, 10/1 Cook KMH, 10/5 Clay LCF; late south 9/1 Anoka SC, 9/13 Hennepin OJ.

Field Sparrow

One report north 9/8 St. Louis fide KE; late south 10/13 Houston JP/AM, 10/16 Hennepin SC, 10/18 Brown JS.

Vesper Sparrow

Late north 9/21 Aitkin WN, 10/4 St. Louis fide KE, 11/3 Clay LCF; late south 10/9 Murray AD, 10/12 Lincoln RJ, 10/16 Wabasha WDM.

Lark Sparrow

One report 8/25 Clay LCF.

Savannah Sparrow

Late north 10/2 St. Louis SW/MS, 10/20 Aitkin WN, 10/20 Clay LCF, 11/3 Cook KMH; late south 10/20 Watonwan RJ, 10/26 Rice FKS, 10/30 Nicollet JCF.

Grasshopper Sparrow

All reports 8/1 Cottonwood LAF, 8/2 Nicollet JCF, 8/9 Brown JS, 8/19-9/22 Dakota TTu, JP/AM.

LeConte's Sparrow

All reports 8/8 Otter Tail SDM, 9/5 Clay LCF, 11/10 Scott RJ.

Fox Sparrow

Early north 8/28 St. Louis MH/JS, 9/25 Koochiching GM, 9/26 Kanabec SSt; early south 9/9 Washington WL, 9/22 Lyon HK, 9/26 Hennepin SC; late north 10/20 Kanabec SSt, 11/1 Clay LCF, 11/20 Aitkin WN; late south 11/11 Mower RRK, 11/13 Wabasha WDM, 11/17 Blue Earth JCF.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 9/5 Hennepin SC, 9/12 Washington JD, 9/13 Ramsey KB; late north 9/25 Beltrami SW/MS, 10/3 Clay LCF, 10/28 Cook KMH; late south 10/13 Houston JP/AM, 10/26 Brown JS, 10/26 Hennepin SC, 10/29 Olmsted PP.

Swamp Sparrow

Late north 10/6 Itasca AB, 10/15 Clay NH, 10/27 Cook KMH; late south 11/17 Hennepin TTu, 11/22 LeSueur JCF.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 9/5 Hennepin SC, 9/7 Washington WL, 9/8 Ramsey KB; late north 10/14 Clay LCF, 10/15 Lake SW/MS, 10/20 Cook KMH, 10/20 Kanabec SSt; late south 11/7 Hennepin OJ, 11/15 Wabasha WDM, 11/30 Blue Earth JCF, 11/30 Winona FL.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early north 9/9 Cook KMH, 9/9 St. Louis SW/MS, 9/15 Koochiching KL; early south 9/21 Dakota TTu, 9/22 Lyon HK, Mower RRK and Ramsey JP/AM; late north 10/13 Aitkin WN, 10/20 Clay LCF, 10/21 Cook KMH; late south 10/18 Hennepin TTu, 10/24 Olmsted PP.

Harris' Sparrow

Early north 9/14 Cook KMH, 9/15 Koochiching KL, 9/23 Clay LCF, 9/23 St. Louis KE, SW/MS; early south 9/24 Brown JS, 9/26 Dakota TTu, 9/27 Nicollet JCF; late north 10/6 Itasca AB, 10/13 Aitkin WN, 10/27 Clay LCF, 10/27 Cook KMH; late south 10/31 Chippewa RGJ, 11/14 Murray AD, 11/30 Lac Qui Parle FE.

Lapland Longspur

Early north 9/13 St. Louis NH, SS, 9/14 Cook KMH; early south 9/21 Hennepin SC, 10/4 Dakota TTu; late north 11/10 Clay LCF, 11/20 Cook KMH, 11/30 Aitkin WN.

Snow Bunting

Early north 9/29 Lake SW/MS, 10/12 St. Louis SS, 10/13 Cook WP; early south 10/24 Carver MS, 10/31 Hennepin SC, 11/1 Nicollet JCF.

Bobolink

Late north 9/1 Clearwater AB, 9/18 St. Louis KE, 9/20 Clay LCF; late south 8/19

Murray AD, 9/18 Wright RJ, 9/25 Hennepin SC.

Red-winged Blackbird

Late north 11/24 Aitkin WN, 11/27 Cook KMH.

Eastern Meadowlark

Late north 10/20 Aitkin WN, 10/31 St. Louis KE.

Western Meadowlark

Late north 10/13 Mille Lacs ES, 10/27 Clay LCF.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Late north 10/5 Cook KMH, 10/6 Clay LCF, 11/2 Norman RJ, late south 9/7 Blue Earth MF, 10/23 Hennepin SC.

Rusty Blackbird

Early north 9/15 Lake JP/AM, 9/20 St. Louis fide KE, 10/1 Cook WP; early south 10/11 Chippewa AB, 10/12 Hennepin TTu; late north 11/11 Hubbard HJF, 11/19 St. Louis SW/MS, 11/24 Cook KMH; late south 11/22 Houston EMF, 11/24 Hennepin TTu.

Brewer's Blackbird

Late north 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/12 Carlton DZ, 9/24 St. Louis DZ; late south 10/15 Hennepin SC, 11/10 Houston EMF, 11/10 Scott RJ, 11/17 Pope LAF.

Common Grackle

Late north 11/3 Marshall RJ, 11/4 Becker WMB, 11/30 Aitkin WN.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Late north 10/5 St. Louis SS, 10/29 Clay NH; late south 11/9 Dakota TTu, 11/10 Houston EMF, 11/11 Cottonwood LAF, 11/13 Rice FKS.

Orchard Oriole

Three reports 8/17 Houston EMF, 8/18 Clay LCF, 9/4 Chippewa RGJ.

Northern Oriole

Late north 9/5 Koochiching GM, 9/8 Kanabec SSt, 9/14 Aitkin WN; late south 10/2 Fillmore RJ, 11/10 Lyon HK.

Pine Grosbeak

Early north 10/16 Cook KMH, 10/19 Lake

SW/MS, 10/22 St. Louis MH/JS; one report south 11/23 Anoka GP.

Purple Finch

Reported from ten counties north and twenty-one counties south.

HOUSE FINCH

9/2 Pipestone R. Glassel; first non-feeder record.

Red Crossbill

All reports 8/5-11/11 Lake SW/MS, 8/18 St. Louis KE, 11/9 Itasca ABN, 11/24 Todd KL.

White-winged Crossbill

All reports 8/17-9/28 St. Louis KE, 9/14 Douglas RJ, 10/2 Dakota JP/AM, 11/16 Mille Lacs KL.

Common Redpoll

Early north 10/6 Cook KMH, 10/6 St. Louis KE; early south 10/18 Hennepin DB, GP, 10/27 Dakota TTu, 10/27 Ramsey KB.

Hoary Redpoll

All reports 10/24 Lake SW/MS, 10/28 thru 11/21 St. Louis KE, 11/24 Aitkin WN.

Pine Siskin

Reported from fourteen counties north and twenty counties south.

American Goldfinch

Reported from sixteen counties north and twenty-four counties south.

Evening Grosbeak

Early south 8/24 Lac Qui Parle FE, 10/12 Anoka JH, 10/14 Olmsted AP, KWB; reported from fourteen additional counties south.

House Sparrow

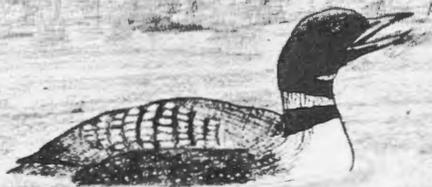
Reported from thirty-one counties throughout the state.

CORRECTION to the Winter Season (December 1, 1984 to February 28, 1985)

Red-bellied Woodpecker 1/12 Lake should be 1/12 Todd Steve Wilson.

CONTRIBUTORS: FALL 1985

ANWR	Agassiz NWR (Gary Tischer)	VL	Violet Lender
KB	Karl Bardon	FL	Fred Leshner
TBB	Tom/Bette Bell	BL	Bill Litkey
KWB	Ken/Wilma Bird	WL	William H. Longley
DBI	David Blockstein	SOL	Sandy/Orvis Lunke
AB	Al Bolduc	WDM	Wynn/Don Mahle
DB	Don Bolduc	GM	Grace Marquardt
JEB	Jerry Bonkoski	GAM	Gordon/Artis Martinson
SC	Steve Carlson	SDM	Steve/Diane Millard
HJC	Horace/John Chamberlain	MMo	Mark Moore
AD	Mrs. Arnold DeKam	JM	John E. Morrison
JD	Joanne Dempsey	WN	Warren Nelson
ED	Ed Duerksen	JN	Jeff Newman
KE	Kim Eckert	PP	Paul Pedersen
FE	Fred Eckhardt	JP/AM	Jon Peterson/Ann McKenzie
LCF	Laurence/Carol Falk	GP	Greg Pietila
LAF	Mrs. Loren Feil	AP	Anne Marie Plunkett
HJF	Herbert/Jeanette Fisher	WP	Walter Popp
EMF	Eugene/Marilyn Ford	DR	Don Rakstad
JCF	John Frentz	RMR	Ron/Marie Refsnider
MF	Merrill Frydendall	SS/DO	Sharon Sarappo/Dan Orr
PF	Pepper Fuller	SS	Steven Schon
MH/JS	Marshall Helmsberger/ Jodi Summit	MS	Matt Schuth
NH	Nestor Hiemenz	TCS	Tom C. Sobolik
KMH	Ken/Molly Hoffman	DS	Dave Soverign
RH	Robert E. Holtz	JS	Jack A. Sprenger
JH	James L. Howitz	ES	Evelyn Stanley
RJ	Robert B. Janssen	MSt	Mark Stensaas
OJ	Oscar L. Johnson	FKS	Forest/Kirsten Strnad
RGJ	Roger/Gretchen Johnson	SSSt	Steve Stucker
AJ	Arthur Johnston	TTu	Tom Tustison
RRK	Ron/Rose Kneeskern	LW	Larry Weber
HK	Henry C. Kyllingstad	SW/MS	Steve Wilson/Mary Shedd
KL	Ken LaFond	MBW	Mary/Bill Wyatt
		DZ	David Zumeta



NOTES OF INTEREST

MINNESOTA'S FIRST WHITE-WINGED DOVE — I had spent the morning of October 13, 1985 counting migrating birds along the shore of Lake Superior at the Lakewood Pumping Station for Duluth Audubon. At ten minutes to eleven I heard a Boreal Chickadee call from across Old Highway 61 next to the lake and turned to see if I could spot any chickadees flying. When I turned back to face inland I saw a bird fly past me and down the small hill that I was on and disappear behind the pumphouse next to me. The medium size and flashes of white in the wings and tail puzzled me. I could not recall a species that would fit that type of description. My first thought was that it might be a member of the family Caprimulgidae. I hurried to the edge of the pumphouse roof but was disappointed that I could not see anything flying away from me. After a minute or so I glanced down the the long driveway below me and saw a dove or pigeon walking around near my parked car. I did not recognize it as either a Rock Dove or a Mourning Dove so I immediately grabbed my count sheet and began sketching the bird. I watched it from 20 to 25 feet with my 7×35 binoculars as it walked along the curb of the driveway picking at weeds and gravel. It was about the size of a Mourning Dove but had a shorter, rounded tail with some white showing at the corners. The overall color was a buffy brown, again similar to a Mourning Dove. There was white showing along the lower and leading edge of the folded wing and the bird was slightly rustier on the top of the head and rump. The feet and legs were red with no indication of a band. As the bird walked down the driveway toward the highway I moved along the edge of the roof staying parallel to it. When I reached the end of the building I climbed off and down to the hill (away from the bird) and layed down in the grass next to the highway perpendicular to the dove's path. As the dove walked past me at about 15 feet I was able to observe more details. The eye was clearly orange and was surrounded by bright blue skin. The bill was a bluish-gray color with a dark tip. There was a slight hint of a dark line on the cheek below and slightly behind the eye. At this point I had been watching the bird for about 25 minutes and I wanted to see the pattern of the wings and tail in flight so I stood up and walked toward the bird in an effort to put it into flight. I got as close as seven feet or so before the bird began to act nervous. It sprang up and flew a short distance into a small grassy field. The wings were divided approximately in half width-wise by a broad white stripe and the fan-shaped tail showed a white terminal band edged along the inside by black. This tail band was interrupted in the center where it was buffy like the rest of the tail. I had been watching it for over half an hour. The dove was no longer in sight in the field so I left to get a birder that lives a few miles up the highway so that he might corroborate my sighting. Keith Camburn and I returned ten minutes later but could not relocate the bird



Great Black-backed Gull — Superior Entry, Minnesota Point, 15 March 1986. Photo by Robbye J. Johnson.

PIPING PLOVER IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On May 7, 1986 on my way to work I stopped at the Thomas Avenue Beach on the south side of Lake Calhoun to see if there was any bird activity. I was, as usual, equipped with binoculars. Except for a Spotted Sandpiper the only other bird on the beach was a small plover. My initial assumption was that it was a Semipalmated Plover, but it appeared to me to be much too light in color. I was frankly puzzled because the colors seemed to remind me more of the Piping Plovers that I had seen in Duluth in past years. That afternoon I stopped at the beach at approximately 5:15 p.m. and discovered that the bird was still there. At that time I was able to observe it with binoculars from about 30 feet. The plumage of the bird's back and head was definitely of the "dry sand" color described in most books. The neck ring was complete, but would conform to the belted form shown in **Peterson**. There was a definite headband, the dark plumage extending from the eye to the beak which appears in most illustrations of the Semipalmated Plover was absent. That evening I reviewed the plate by Clem in the **Shore Birds of North America** which depicts both species. The bird that I saw definitely resembled the illustration of the Piping Plover rather than the Semipalmated Plover. It is my opinion that I saw a Piping Plover in Hennepin County. **Charles L. Horn, 9078 Hyland Creek Road, Bloomington, MN 55437**

SURF SCOTER IN MARSHALL COUNTY — On October 20, 1985, an immature female Surf Scoter was captured during an operational Lesser Scaup banding program being conducted by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources personnel as part of a fall migration study at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County. Sex was determined by cloacal examination and age by the presence of notched tail-feathers. Distinguishing characteristics included dusky brown head, body, and upper wings, white belly, pink-brown feet, gibbous bill, and two dull white patches on each side of the head; one near the base of the bill, the other behind the eye. The bird was weighed (807 g), photographed and released at the capture site. Reports of Surf Scoters in Minnesota occur most frequently from Lake Superior



and are considered rare on inland waters (Lee et al. 1964. *Waterfowl in Minnesota*. Minn. Dept. Cons. Tech. Bull. No. 7, 210 pp; Green and Janssen. 1975. *Minnesota Birds: Where, When, and How Many*. Univ. of MN Press, Mpls, 217 pp). **Ross Hier, Mark Sperry, MDNR, Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group, 102 23rd St., Bemidji, MN 56601.**

A VERY EARLY HUMMINGBIRD — On April 12, 1986 I observed a hummingbird in Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County. It was 6:00 a.m., gray and misty. The bird was perched on a utility wire over the road in a heavily populated area. I cannot say with absolute certainty that it was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. I'll leave that to probability, it was definitely a hummingbird due to its posture, thin bill, characteristic size and flight. It sat, appearing bedraggled, as it had its feathers fluffed out a bit. Its bill pointed slightly skyward. It was backlit and seen as a silhouette, therefore I did not make out any markings to make certain of the species. I was only able to observe it for approximately five seconds, so I was unable to train my binoculars on it. It then shook itself and then flew off. **Mark Alt, 4400 N. 83rd Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55433.**

Editor's Note:

This is the earliest date on record for any species of hummingbird in Minnesota. There are early dates for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird on April 14, 22, 23 and 27. Kim Eckert stated that "this was most likely a Rufous Hummingbird or maybe a Black-chinned Hummingbird, since they are much more likely to winter in the United States and thus could reach Minnesota by early April. I wouldn't consider this a positive Ruby-throated Hummingbird record."

SHORT-BILLED AND LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS AT GRAND MARAIS — After several days of foggy dark weather and excellent birding, May 13, 1986 seemed equally inviting and we drove down through fog and mist to the open gravel and grass area

of the Grand Marais tourist park. Flocks of Killdeer, Semipalmated Plovers and Lesser Yellowlegs were scattered about feeding. As the fog lifted some we discovered a small flock of dowitchers moving about feeding in the grass. Plumage varied, some individuals appearing pale, others a very much darker richer shade of rust. We observed with scope and binoculars slowly walking toward the flock until we were within 30 feet. All the birds appeared to have some white randomly mixed with russet on the belly all the way under to the tail. At close range even the darkest birds did not appear to be barred on the sides but the amount of spotting varied between individuals. We had decided that all the members of this flock (7 to 10 birds) that we had observed were Short-billed Dowitchers and a new Cook County record when suddenly a second small flock of dowitchers circled low over us calling in sharp Lesser Yellowlegs-notes. This second flock disappeared into the fog and we took a few more steps toward the birds we had been closely observing. They took to the air uttering the same staccato three-note call as we had heard from the other flock and flew around and then low and directly over us before landing a short distance away. We felt confident about our identification of all these dowitchers as Short-billed Dowitchers and then thought back to our sighting of two dowitchers on May 12, 1986. On May 12th we were able to approach two dowitchers as they fed in grass in the same area. We had assumed that both must be the same species but as our experience with dowitchers has been limited we were unsure. One bird was very dark, the belly to the tail was deep reddish without any white and the sides dark with barring. This individual seemed a sure Long-billed Dowitcher. The second bird was more of a problem as we could see white splotching on the belly near the tail and the barring was not distinct. Upon flushing we heard only two sharp thin notes. After carefully observing the individuals in the flock on the 13th we feel that the dark bird on the 12th was a Long-billed Dowitcher and author of the sharp thin notes and the companion bird was more likely a Short-billed Dowitcher. We had also attempted during both observations to compare width's of the bands on the tail but were unable to confidently use those as field marks to separate the species. Dowitchers have not been observed very often in Cook County and to have an opportunity to compare the two species seemed even more unusual. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

THIRD-YEAR THAYER'S GULL OBSERVED IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On April 5, 1986 the ice was going out of several lakes in northeastern Hennepin county leading to the largest concentration of gulls that I have observed in spring migration in this area. When surveying a flock of Ring-billed Gulls resting on a flooded area of a sod field located adjacent to Minnesota Highway 101 in the northern part of Maple Grove I observed a gull which I identified as a third year Thayer's Gull. The first characteristics observed which suggested a possible Thayer's Gull was the size of the bird estimated to be about twenty percent larger than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls and the fact that the eye appeared dark. Continued observation was made for a period of about ten minutes as the bird was preening. When observing the bird with a 40x telescope the dark eye contrasted sharply with the yellow eyes of the Ring-billed Gulls present in the same field of view. P.J. Grant states in *GULLS A Guide to Identification* that a third year Herring Gull has a pale yellow iris. The upper surface of the primary feathers were dark grayish-brown. A Herring Gull of similar age would have black primaries. All the upper wing coverts were gray in color with a considerable amount of brown flecks present. The nape and hindneck had a few residual brown feathers. The remainder of the head, throat and neck appeared white. Grant (ibid. cited) states that a third-winter Herring Gull has extensive dusky streaking especially around the eye. Mantle color was comparable to that of the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The rump and upper tail coverts were white, while the tail had a broad subterminal band slightly lighter in color than the primaries. The distal one fourth of the bill was dark in color, the remainder a dull yellow color typical of a sub-adult gull having a yellow bill. Leg color was pinkish. As the bird flew away the upper surface of the secondaries had the same color and intensity as the upper wing surface excluding the primaries. No dark color was noted on the underside of the primaries. Lehman writing in *Birding*, December 1980, in an article entitled "The Identifi-

cation of Thayer's Gull in the Field" in part makes the following summary statement regarding a third-year Thayer's Gull: "...has the following characteristics; a gray mantle, white underparts, a white tail with a dark subterminal band, and a dark tip to the yellowish bill. They also largely lack the white windows which often show in the primaries of adult birds, and may show some brownish in the wing coverts." The above observations were made at about fifty yards under a cloudy sky cover. This represents the first report of a Thayer's Gull in Hennepin county and brings the Hennepin county list to a total of 319 species. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN. 55445.**

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE AT GRAND MARAIS — May 23, 1986, 7:30 p.m., a warm spring evening and Lake Superior was perfectly calm like misty glass, insects dotted the surface, ducks, gulls and swallows were on and over the lake as far as the eye could see. On foot, not really expecting anything unusual, we slowly made our way along the west side of the harbor heading then for an interesting area behind the Grand Marais power plant. I watched ahead without binoculars and saw a bird catch an insect and fly to the fence which encloses electrical equipment adjacent to the power plant. What registered at first glance was that the bird was one of the two Northern Mockingbirds we had seen earlier in the month. It was evident through binoculars however that the insect eater was a shrike and judging from its habits and the season, a Loggerhead Shrike. As we approached the bird flew behind the power plant and disappeared in low brush. We watched and in a short time the shrike emerged from the brush and perched high on a small tree. The shrike was very tame and we were able to approach to within 40 feet. The black face mask was sharp and cleanly truncated at the nape (squared off neatly), extended over the eye in a sort of bump and over the bill. The all dark bill was not prominently hooked. The breast was white and unmarked, the back and crown gray. A small patch of white could be seen on the primaries of the folded wing. The shrike caused some distress in the nesting Song Sparrows but did not even interrupt the loud singing of a resident Red-winged Blackbird; the shrike appeared the same size or perhaps even a little smaller. We contacted Walter Popp, another Cook County birder, who joined us and concurred in our identification. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

MINNESOTA'S FIRST BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK — Late in 1984 John Schladweiler, Nongame Specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in New Ulm reported to me that a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck had been shot by a hunter. The bird was shot on 19 October 1984 at Rice Lake, Fairbault County. It was not until July of 1985 that John was able to get pictures of the bird. The hunter, who lived in Mankato, had decided to have the bird mounted. The photo shows that the bird is obviously a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, but there is always the possibility the bird was an escape from a game farm or zoo. A check was made at the Minnesota Zoo with the International Species Inventory System (ISIS) to determine if any Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were kept in zoos in this area or if any had escaped. The results were negative in both cases. As a further check I wrote to Richard Ryan, who has written extensively on waterfowl kept in captivity. His answer to my inquiry is given below.

"Your Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is quite possibly a wild bird. Though the species is commonly bred in collections, the young are usually very tame. There was no comment in your letter regarding the tameness of this bird, so I am assuming it was normally wary. Incidentally captive waterfowl rarely show the primary and tail feather damage of passerines as the conditions of keeping do not result in regular contact between metal caging and wings. As I am sure you know Whistling-Ducks are famous for erratic long distance wanderings. There does remain a chance of an escape simply because of the abundance of the species in collections, but it does seem to be an adult which makes escape a bit less likely. As in so many such cases, a definitive answer is impossible, but the weight of evidence favors wild origin." Based on the above information the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was added



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck taken at Rice Lake, Faribault County 19 October 1984. Photo by John Schladweiler.

to the list of Minnesota birds (#397) under the category of Ac which is defined as accidental, but for which there is a question as to origin or wildness of the bird. My thanks to John Schladweiler for gathering the data on this bird and especially for obtaining the photographs. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

FEMALE BARROW'S GOLDENEYE OBSERVED IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — A female Barrow's Goldeneye was observed on November 9, 1985 on the north end of Medicine Lake near the boat ramp at Medicine Lake Region Park. My attention was first drawn to a single diving duck approximately eighty yards from shore. The first observation was made with 8X binoculars and I immediately identified the bird as a female goldeneye. When the bird turned so as to provide a frontal view I was surprised by the large amount of yellow on the bill. I then observed the bird with a 20X spotting scope and was able to determine that the entire bill was yellow. The bill was very short and another characteristic which led me to conclude that this individual was a Barrow's Goldeneye was the very abrupt profile of the forehead unlike the somewhat sloping forehead of a female Common Goldeneye. Both female and male Common Goldeneyes were present in good numbers on the north east side of Medicine Lake at the time of this observation. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklynn Park, MN 55445**

EURASIAN WIGEON AT CARLOS AVERY REFUGE — At 2:00 P.M. on April 6, 1986 I observed a male Eurasian Wigeon among 10-12 American Wigeons (males and females) at Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka County. The bird was observed for about four minutes at 120 meters using a 20X scope on a pivoting tripod. The bird was seen on the north edge of a 125 meter by 125 meter pond in a marsh. It was a bright, overcast day. A description of the bird is as follows: The reddish head caught my eye but it had a light or tan stripe from bill to back of head. Beak was whitish, breast was buff colored and where I expected to see the buff extend back to near the tail as in American Wigeons, this stopped sharply near the shoulder. Sides appeared primarily white with no gray showing, tail was very black. Whistling was heard from the flock of wigeons, but I could not pick out this bird's whistle. Near the end of the sighting, the entire flock was startled and took off. I kept the bird in view for 50-60 seconds as it was flying and confirmed the head coloring, strong white section on wings, but I could not pick out features of the speculum, tail was black as before. **Robert Friz, 8152 Hornell Ave. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016.**

A WESTERN Tanager IN MORRISON COUNTY — After checking, I decided that my observation of a male Western Tanager might be of interest to you. The bird was seen in Belle Prairie Township of Morrison County around 3:00 P.M. on May 10, 1986. We were birding on an overcast day in an oak-poplar woods using 8X40 binoculars. The bird was noted about 15' up at a distance of about 30' on the tip of an oak branch. The bird was selected for study because it was appreciably larger than the warblers which were around. While I had never seen a Western Tanager before, I knew immediately what I was looking at. The bird had a lemon-yellow body with the yellow brighter towards the head. Black wings and tail with conspicuous wing bars. The red on the head contrasted with the adjacent yellow. This bird had little or no red on the throat which was yellow. The black in the wings wasn't as intense as illustrated in the bird books. The black on the back was not noted, but the bird was above me. After reading the plumage descriptions in Bent, I believe the bird I saw was a first year breeding male. Incidentally a bit earlier that day we had spent considerable time watching two obliging male Scarlet Tanagers. **L. S. Ryan, 307 Riverwood, Little Falls, MN 56345**

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and 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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MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$12.50 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$15.00 yearly; Supporting \$20.00 yearly; Sustaining \$30 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$20.00 yearly. **All memberships are on a calendar year basis.** Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$3.00 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 Sandwich Tern in Duluth

Don Kienholz and Parker Backstrom

The morning of June 11, 1986 was cool and rainy as it had been the day before here in Duluth. Don Kienholz and I decided late that morning to go look for the Least Tern that had appeared briefly at the Erie Pier area in West Duluth two days earlier, although searches the day before had been unsuccessful. We proceeded west from downtown toward Erie Pier deciding to stop first at the large Ring-billed Gull colony in the Port Terminal just south of the aerial lift-bridge. The colony this year was made up of nearly 7,000 Ring-billed Gull nests as well as scattered Herring Gull and Common Tern nests. This area has attracted interesting species in the past and our hope was that the Least Tern had found its way here. We slowly drove past the colony and stopped the truck next to a large weed-covered patch of gravel. As I looked out my side of the truck Don called my attention to a group of gulls and terns standing on the gravel some 50 feet from the truck. "What kind of tern is that?!" Don asked

me. Looking at an angle through the rain-covered windshield did not offer me the best view but I saw a medium-sized tern with a black cap and crest. I asked him if it had a black bill with a yellow tip and he replied that it did. I could hardly believe it but I told him that we were looking at a Sandwich Tern! Although I had never seen one before, the image came to mind immediately from seeing it in field guides and other books. Through discussions with Kim Eckert about gulls and terns in Minnesota we knew that this was a first state record for this species. Realizing the significance of this sighting, both Don and I grabbed a piece of paper and pencil and began to make independent sketches and take notes on the bird's appearance and behavior.

The tern appeared at ease as it stood amidst several Ring-billed Gulls and Caspian Terns. It dozed, preened, and even pecked at any gull that passed by too closely. Its proximity to the other birds offered us excellent size



Sandwich Tern (right) and Caspian Tern, Port Terminal, Duluth, June 10, 1986. Photo by Stan Sunde.

and color comparisons. It was about one-third smaller than the Caspians standing next to it with a mantle and wings about the same light gray as those of the Caspians. It had a flat-headed appearance due to the obvious crest on the black-capped head and it had the diagnostic long, thin, black bill tipped in yellow. A couple of times a vehicle drove too closely by causing the bird to take flight briefly before settling back down. In flight the tail was all white and rather deeply forked with moderately long outer rectrices (between Caspian and Common Tern length). The wings were very light except for a dark triangle near, but not extending to, the edge of each wing tip.

After about 15 minutes of observation we left the area to call local birders and to go get Don's 35mm camera. We returned to the Port Terminal but, much to our dismay, the bird was nowhere to be found. We were shortly joined by Mike Hendrickson who assisted in the search. Don and I had business to attend to and left shortly thereafter, but

Mike kept searching. About 2 hours later Mike stopped by to say that he had found it again so we rushed back down to the Port Terminal with our camera. A brief search located the bird and we were able to get about a dozen photographs of it standing and in flight before it flew off and disappeared north over the bay. Phone calls were made to Minneapolis and the news spread. Paul Egeland and Bob Janssen were the last to see the Sandwich Tern when they arrived and found it shortly before dark that night. Extensive waiting and searching by many birders the next day failed to turn up any trace of it and it was not seen again. Its disappearance coincided with the arrival of warmer, clearer weather.

This most amazing and exciting bird had stayed with us for only about ten hours and was seen by only six lucky birders. **5729 W. 8th Street, Duluth, MN 55807 and 10401 Ewing Rd., Bloomington, MN 55431**

Minnesota's First Common Black-headed Gull

Robert B. Janssen

In early May 1986, John Schladweiler informed me that he had seen a Little Gull at North Heron Lake, Jackson County, while investigating the Franklin's Gull colony on the lake. I wanted to plan a trip to Heron Lake to see the Little Gull and also the Franklin's Gull colony. North Heron Lake is not easy to get to; in fact, the only real access is by boat, either through private property or a public access miles away at South Heron Lake. During the ensuing week John and I decided on Wednesday, May 28, 1986 as a mutually convenient date to explore the lake. It was necessary for them (DNR) to check the gull colony and the nesting platforms put out for Forster's Terns and Franklin's Gulls. I would tag along and hopefully see the Little Gull.

To make a long story short, John and I planned an expedition which included six

people: John Schladweiler, Doug Wells from Windom, both from the DNR, Ray Glassel, Mike Mulligan, Judy Sparrow and myself. Two boats were needed for this large group. Meeting at 7:00 a.m. in Windom on the 28th we proceeded to Heron Lake.

May 28th dawned clear and calm in the Twin Cities, but by the time we reached Windom, it was warm, humid and windy with rain clouds forming. By the time we arrived at Heron Lake conditions had worsened, winds had picked up and it appeared rain was imminent. We were not to be deterred; a Little Gull sighting was too important. John had received permission from a farmer to enter the lake at a duck hunting camp on the east shore.

After experiencing trouble with the motor on one of the boats we finally found ourselves among the cattails of North Heron Lake. It



Common Black-headed Gull, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 28, 1986. Photo by Warren Nelson.

was like a maze, and even John and Doug, who had been on the lake twice previously, found it difficult to get their bearings to the Franklin's Gull colony where the Little Gull had been seen. Finding our way we headed southwest and almost immediately started seeing Franklin's Gulls and knew we were in the right spot. As we rounded a corner of cattails I spotted some old duck blind anchor posts sticking up among the cattails. Perched on one of these posts was a small "black-headed" gull. Approaching, I could see that it was a Little Gull. We all had excellent views of the bird as it flew about the area and perched on the post. Thus, within 15 to 20 minutes of leaving the shore we had accomplished our goal of seeing the Little Gull. Little did we know what the future held. For the next hour or so we investigated the Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern colony in the area. John and Doug waded in the shallow lake investigating the nesting platforms and found that of 25 platforms, 24 were occupied by Forster's Terns and one by a Franklin's Gull, a fantastic success ratio. During this time we viewed the Little Gull and after awhile realized there was a pair of birds. Could they be nesting? Deciding to boat up Division Creek to South Heron Lake we saw thousands of Franklin's Gulls and estimated the total colony at 8 - 10,000 birds. There were numerous Forster's Terns, possibly several hundred plus at the south end of the Franklin's Gull colony, and about half-way to South Heron Lake a number of Black-crowned Night-Herons were flushed from the cattails. A little further south I noted willow growth on both sides of the creek, commenting that it was a good place for Willow Flycatchers. Within 100 yards the familiar "fitz-brew" call of the Willow Flycatcher was heard and at least two individuals were seen: A new record for Jackson County.

On our left as we approached the entry to South Heron Lake was a large wet field with some standing water. The area was full of birds: shorebirds included White-rumped, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone plus one Sanderling. American White Pelicans were loafing in the mud but took off as we approached. There were a number of gulls in the area, mostly Ring-billed Gulls, but two larger birds were noted which after careful study turned out to be

Thayer's Gulls, a most unusual date and location for this species in Minnesota. Skies had cleared, the winds had died down, and it was getting hot, so we decided to return to North Heron Lake and spend some time looking for a Little Gull nest.

Making a sharp right-hand turn coming into North Heron Lake from Division Creek brought us back to the old duck blind posts where we had seen the Little Gull for the first time several hours before. The time was 11:50 a.m. Sitting on top of the post was a larger "black-headed" gull. Ray rather calmly said "Bonaparte's," as I was focusing in on the bird. About that time I saw a brownish head, the brown did not extend down onto the nape. At the same time I noted the size of the bird and exclaimed, "My God, that is a Black-headed Gull," forgetting that I should have said Common Black-headed Gull! Motors were shut off on both boats and we drifted quietly toward the bird with six pair of binoculars trained on the bird. My description of the bird written on an old film box is as follows: medium size gull (about Franklin's Gull size), dark head, brownish cast, brown did not extend onto nape, bill orange-red, eye ring, nape, neck and breast, belly and under tail coverts were white. The mantle was light gray, legs appeared dark. After 30 seconds the bird flew. We noted gray mantle extending onto wings to primary area, white triangle above and below on outer (primary) edge of the wing. There was a trailing black edge on primaries and some secondaries from above, seen as the bird wheeled overhead amongst a few Franklin's Gulls. Noted the size as the same as the Franklin's while in flight. As the bird turned we saw dark under primaries, the under wing coverts were a lighter color, also most of the secondaries and outer primaries (two) were light or white. The tail was white from above. The bird disappeared toward the northeast and we did not see it again. All of us sat in the boat, stunned at seeing Minnesota's first Common Black-headed Gull, a beautiful adult breeding plumaged bird.

We spent the next hour or so trying to locate the Little Gull nest. The pair of birds were almost constantly in the air among the hundreds of Franklin's Gulls. We thought we had the nest located, but were never sure. On subsequent trips to the area John and Doug did find Minnesota's first Little Gull nest.



Common Black-headed Gull, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 5, 1986. Photo by Gary Swanson.



Common Black-headed Gull, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 25, 1986. Photo by Warren Nelson.

This will be the subject of another article.

The Black-headed Gull saga continued all throughout June and into early July as many birders came to Heron Lake to see it, almost all being successful on the first try. The local farmer in the area rented his boat to birders, making it much easier to find the bird.

The exact date the Black-headed Gull left Heron Lake is not known; however, Kim Eckert returning to Minnesota by July 20th

could not find the bird. The Franklin's Gull colony was also deserted at this time; it is presumed that the Black-headed Gull departed with them. It is interesting to contemplate the future of the Black-headed Gull in this area. Could 1987 bring about the first Common Black-headed Gull nesting record in Minnesota? **10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**



BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS FOR REAL by Rich Stallcup; published by the author, P.O. Box 36, Inverness, CA 94937; 1985; 100 p., 11 drawings; \$7.00 postpaid.

Rich Stallcup is one of this country's handful of premier birding experts. His skills in the field are matched by few other birders; neither I nor anyone else in Minnesota even comes close to Rich's level. Having said this, however, I must also say that I was disappointed by his book, a species-by-species critique of the second edition of **Birds of North America** by Chandler Robbins et al. (hereafter, Robbins). Simply stated, this "workbook", as the author calls it, is not as good a book as Rich is a birder.

Still, **Birds for Real** is highly recommended, especially for the many birders who still rely on either the first or second editions of Robbins (there is relatively little difference between the two). In spite of the many inadequacies of the Robbins field guide, a lot of birders still use it and still are misled into too many misidentifications. Thus the purpose of Rich's book: to discuss, one species at a time, the shortcomings of Robbins' illustrations and text. All birders stand to benefit from the literally hundreds of identification tips included, no matter which field guide they use.

In spite of this book's value, there are a few problems with it, problems not consistent with the author's reputation and abilities. First, it encourages birders to continue using Robbins, despite that guide's numerous errors and omissions. To supplement Robbins with the information in **Birds for Real** is certainly a positive step, but a better course

would be to quit using Robbins altogether and replace it with the 1983 Geographic and/or Master guides. As will be elaborated on below, even if everything in **Birds for Real** were incorporated into Robbins, the guide would still leave a lot to be desired.

Second, this book is often unwieldy as it refers to passages in Robbins that require revision. Some examples: "Words 3, 4 and 5 of sentence five are new"; "In the last sentence the fourth and fifth double-words are new"; "On page 298 words 15-19 in the third sentence are new"; and "the last nineteen words in that sentence may be misleading..." The least the author can do is tell us what these words are—the reader shouldn't have to do all the work of counting up sentences and words.

A third minor fault is that several relatively trivial identification points are corrected or added. The exact color of the male Hooded Merganser's sides, the shade of an avocet's legs and the bill shapes of male vs. female, the pale feather edges on the mantle of a Sabine's Gull, the Gray Jay's tail shape, the iridescence of the magpie's tail, the Yellow-throated Vireo's leg color, and the adult male Cape May Warbler's colors are all discussed, for example. True, the corrections made are all valid enough, but it is hard to see that any of them would lead to a misidentification. It would have been more valuable to pay attention to more serious problems which the book does not cover—to devote a third of a page on the adult male Cape May Warbler and say nothing of Robbins' sad portrayal of the female and immature plumages makes little sense indeed.

But Cape May Warbler is just one of a long list of species that **Birds for Real** does not discuss even though their coverage in Robbins is inaccurate or incomplete. Certainly the author is thoroughly familiar with these species' field marks, so it is hardly from ignorance they are not covered. I would guess there was simply not enough time or resources to produce the much larger book it would take to cover all the inadequacies in Robbins. As a result, some female ducks, several hawks, some of the shorebirds (especially the peeps—next to nothing is said!), several immature gulls, female/immature/winter hummingbirds, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks, the shrikes and redpolls, and several songs and calls—all these and other identification difficulties in Robbins remain so since they are not discussed adequately or at all in **Birds for Real**.

Surprisingly, there are even a few points the author makes that I would have to disagree with. As previously mentioned, Rich Stallcup is probably twice the birder I am; still, I have to take exception to some of his statements. Some examples: we disagree on the long-necked profile of Red-necked Grebes; the angle of the bills at the eyes of Tundra vs.

Trumpeter Swans is not always as illustrated; the terminal tail band on the N. Goshawk can be just as wide and as white as the Cooper's; his description of the Solitary Sandpiper's flight does not apply to Minnesota birds; juvenal Long-tailed Jaegers may not always be grayer than the others; I would not describe an immature Thayer's Gull's primaries as "Hershey Bar" brown; I don't agree that the songs of the Alder and Willow Flycatchers are "very much the same"; nor would I describe the Alder's call note as "a soft 'whip'"; the difference in the redpolls' bill shapes is not always consistent or diagnostic; and Baird's Sparrows, at least males on the breeding grounds, are quite drab, and not at all "bright, orangy, buffy, ruddy and tan all over the upperparts."

Birds for Real, however, still remains as a book highly recommended for all birders who care about correct field identifications. It may not go as far as it could in correcting Robbins, but what it does have to say is valuable and considerable. After all, when it comes to bird identification, you'll certainly learn more from the teachings of a Rich Stallcup than the criticisms of this reviewer.—**Kim Eckert**

Minnesota Records of Clark's Grebe

Edited by Robert B. Janssen

The first mention of a possible Clark's Grebe in Minnesota came from Oscar Johnson. His note from *The Loon* 58: 134, Fall 1985, is reprinted here.

CLARK'S GREBE REPORTED SEEN IN MINNESOTA—When reading *Corrections and Additions to A Birders' Guide to Minnesota*, Eckert, March 1985, I noted that birders were encouraged to watch for the light-phase Western Grebe. Clark's Grebe is now considered to be a distinct species and had never been reported in Minnesota. I recalled having seen both color phases of the Western Grebe at Marsh Lake, Lac Qui Parle County,

on a "Salt Lake Trip." Upon checking my field notes the observation of the Clark's Grebe had been made April 24, 1983. Field notes were brief indicating that in one individual the black of the crown ended above the eye and that on another nearby Western Grebe the black of the crown extended below the eye.—**Oscar L. Johnson, 7333 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.**

Editor's Note: The Clark's Grebe is now considered to be a distinct species by the American Ornithologists' Union (*The Auk* 102:690. July 1985). The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee will have to make a determination if the Clark's Grebe

should be added to the state list based on the above information.

The next record is from Tammy and Roger Field. Details of their observation are as follows:

"On May 10, 1986, my husband Roger and I headed towards the Fergus Falls area in search of some interesting spring birds. Well, we found one at approximately 1:00 p.m. at Ash Lake in the southwest corner of section 19 in Stoney Brook Township of Grant County. The skies were mostly cloudy with good visibility and no sight of the rain we left behind in the Twin Cities area. The winds were light and the temperature was in the mid-fifties, when we spotted what we suspected was a Clark's Grebe. As we set up our Swift 15x-60x Telemaster Scope on a group of five grebes, we noticed one that was distinctly different than the others. On one grebe the white on the head extended well above and around the eye. The suspected Clark's also had a bill which appeared to be a brighter yellow than the dusky color of the Western's. Not knowing that the bill color may have been more diagnostic, we spent a good deal of time observing the head patterns, which were dramatically different given direct comparison. Given the head pattern difference and the subtle but noticeable bill color difference we concluded we had seen what may well have been Minnesota's first Clark's Grebe. Having our hungry seven month old son with us, we decided we had found a perfect spot to feed him. We stayed in the area and viewed the bird on and off for a good 20-25 minutes and finally drove on excited that we had found what we were sure was a Clark's Grebe. **Tammy & Roger Field, 8970 250th St. E., Hampton, MN 55031.**

Also in May 1986 Ken LaFond saw an odd plumaged Clark's Grebe on Lake Osakis, Todd County. His description follows:

AN UNUSUAL GREBE AT LAKE OSAKIS

— On May 23, 1986 at about 8:00 p.m. we observed a flock of twelve Western Grebes feeding about 50' from shore along the southeast portion of Lake Osakis in Todd County. The weather was overcast with light rain falling. The birds were observed for about 10-15 minutes through a 20x scope. Eleven of the individuals were obvious Western Grebes while the other individual had a very distinct white patch above and in front of the red eye. It's mandible was orange as compared to a yellowish coloration on the others. The sketches were made at the time of the observation. (See sketch and field notes on next page) **Ken La Fond, 11008 Jefferson St. NE, Blaine, MN 55434.**

Finally, data on these three records were sent to John Ratti, author of the following reprinted article. His response is given below.

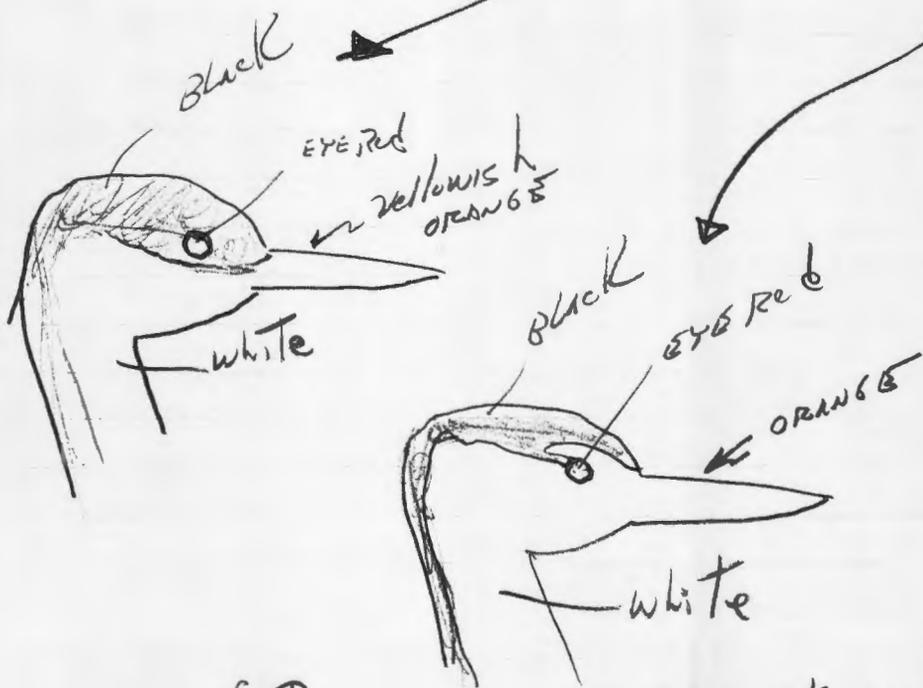
Observation #1: (Tammy & Roger Field record) Seems like a good sighting to me. I have no idea how accurate the field notes or observers were, but based on the notes the bird was a Clark's Grebe.

Observation #2: (Ken LaFond record, suspected hybrid): I would probably call this a Clark's Grebe with some type of abnormal coloration. Of many thousands of close observations of both Western and Clark's Grebes, I never saw anything like this. It could be a hybrid, but there is no way to know for sure. I have no evidence of successful hybridization from seven years of data. Biologically, it is meaningless from the standpoint of populations or species.

Few Clark's Grebes have been reported as far north or east as Minnesota, but I have little doubt that is what your people have seen. Let me know if I can help in any other way.

Sincerely,
John T. Ratti
Research Scientist

8:00 PM, overcast, LIGHT Rain
 SE CORNER of LAKE OSAKIS, Todd CO.
 flock of 12 western Grebes
 about 50' off shore - Viewed
 thru 20x scope for 10-15 minutes
 as they were feeding. ELEVEN
 looked like this, ONE like this



Ken LaFond

BLACK intersected
 BLACK at eye at
 centerline, very
 distinct white
 patch above and
 in front of eye.

Sketch and field notes made by Ken La Fond of a Clark's Grebe at Lake Osakis, Todd County on May 23, 1986.

Identification and Distribution of Clark's Grebe

John T. Ratti

For nearly 100 years ornithologists have considered the genus *Aechmophorus* to include only one species, the Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*). Few ornithologists, especially amateur field ornithologists, have been aware that the Western Grebe has been considered polymorphic, with two distinct phenotypes referred to as dark and light phases (Storer 1965, Mayr and Short 1970).

Recent study of sympatric dark-phase and light-phase populations indicates the polymorphism classification is erroneous and that the forms function as separate species (Ratti 1979). Additional data are needed on dark-phase and light-phase birds, and hopefully this paper will aid in alerting both professional and amateur ornithologists to the identification and distribution of these species.

LITERATURE REVIEW

George N. Lawrence (*in Baird 1858:894-895*) originally described the two grebe forms as separate species, calling the dark form the Western Grebe (*Podiceps occidentalis*) and the light form Clark's Grebe (*Podiceps clarkii*). However, Coues (1874) and Henshaw (1881) suggested that the forms were color phases of the same species, and the American Ornithologists' Union (1886, 1931, 1957) classified the forms as a single species. Mayr and Short (1970:88) attributed the variation to "scattered polymorphism."

Both Storer (1965) and Lindvall (1976) reported assortative mating by Western Grebe in Utah — the tendency of birds to mate with individuals of the same phenotype. These reports led me to an intensive study of the two forms beginning in 1975. Observations of breeding pairs in Utah and California revealed that the forms were reproductively isolated, which led to my conclusion that the forms "biologically function as separate species" and to my recommendation for "resurrection of *A. clarkii* as a separate species from *A. occidentalis* as originally de-

scribed" (Ratti 1979:582-583). In addition to reproductive isolation, sympatric populations of dark-phase and light-phase birds showed several other differences discussed below. Although no official change in classification has occurred, I will refer to Western and Clark's Grebe, as originally proposed by Lawrence (*in Baird 1858*).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The species status was changed by the American Ornithologists Union in *The Auk* 102:680 (July 1985)

IDENTIFICATION

Plumage. Plumage differences between Western and Clark's Grebe occur primarily in the facial and flank regions. Careful examination of the black and white facial pattern will allow separation of Western and Clark's Grebes in the field. Western Grebes have black crown feathers extending below the eyes, so that the eyes are completely surrounded by black feathers and the lores are black (Figure 1). A small number of Western Grebes with light-colored lores were observed in California in January 1977. No Western Grebes with light-colored lores were observed in June of the same year; thus, this variation may be related to winter plumage. Some individuals have a narrow margin of black below the eye. In contrast to the Western Grebe, the black crown of the Clark's Grebe does not extend to the eyes, so that the eyes are completely surrounded by white feathers and the lores are white (Figure 2).

Occasionally intermediate birds were observed. These individuals had the black and white facial margin horizontally bisecting the eye; the upper margin of the eye was in contact with black feathers and the lower margin was in contact with white feathers. The color of the lores varied, but was black in most cases. Intermediate-phase birds are rare; less than 1% of 8,000+ birds observed in California, Nevada, Oregon and Utah were classified as intermediates. Intermediate-phase birds may represent hybrids or phenotypic variants. Field ornithologists are urged to be cautious in their classification of intermediate birds. Clark's Grebes show a much greater

Reprinted with permission from *Western Birds*, 12:41-46, 1981.



Figure 1. Western Grebe. The black crown feathers extend below the eyes.



Figure 2. Clark's Grebe. The black crown feathers do not extend to the eyes and the flank region is speckled with white feathers.

margin of white above the eye when the facial feathers are erected during behavioral interactions than when feathers are relaxed. I observed a few Clark's Grebes that appeared to be intermediate birds while relaxed (such as in a sleeping posture), yet distinctly showed a white margin above the eye when facial feathers were erected.

Flank color is another aid in separating Western and Clark's Grebes in the field. However, this characteristic is not consistent or as discrete as facial pattern. Western Grebe generally have a uniformly dark back and flank color (Figure 1). In contrast, Clark's Grebe have paler gray backs and flanks that are speckled with white feathers, giving this region a relatively lighter color than that of the Western Grebe (Figure 2). When sunlight is at your back during observation, Clark's Grebes appear snowy white compared to Western Grebe and can be predicted at 100-200 m without the aid of binoculars or a spotting scope. I use the word "predicted" because this field mark should only be used as an aid to locating birds; the final conclusion as to species should be determined by facial pattern. I suspect the snowy white appearance is exaggerated by reflection off the water, not only from the whiter flanks, but also from the greater amount of white on the face region. Kaufman (1979) reports that Clark's Grebes have narrower black neck stripes, but my examination of museum specimens and extensive field observations have failed to disclose any differences in this character.

Downy young Clark's Grebes are nearly all white compared to Western Grebes. Especially noticeable is the lack of a black crown on Clark's Grebes prior to 45 days of age. Photographs and additional discussion of this difference in phenotypic development were reported by Ratti (1979:582).

Bill color. Western and Clark's Grebes can also be distinguished by bill color — but, like the flank color, this difference is not as discrete as the facial pattern. The Western Grebe's bill color is dull greenish-yellow, and Clark's Grebes have brighter orange-yellow bills. I estimate that this color difference was consistent for 90+ % of the grebes I observed and collected in the past 5 years. Although this difference will appear obvious to the experienced observer, bill color alone should not be used to identify these species. In addition to individual variation, light con-

ditions and water reflections can affect the appearance of bill color. Bill color of chicks was discussed by Ratti (1979).

Museum specimens. Although museum specimens provide some advantages over field observation, preparation and drying may bias identification of Western and Clark's Grebes that have narrow color margins below and above the eyes, respectively. Accurate classification of intermediate birds may be impossible for some museum specimens. My experience with Clark's Grebes collected in Utah indicates that the bright orange-yellow bills fade significantly several days after collection.

Other characteristics. I examined courtship behavior via general observation and limited footage of 16 mm color movies. My study of behavior was neither detailed nor quantitative, but indicated that no differences existed in courtship behavior. This conclusion has been recently confirmed by Nuechterlein (1981). Additional differences include the "Advertising" call: "Dark-phase birds had calls with two notes ('cree-creet'), while light-phase birds had one-noted calls ('creet')" (Nuechterlein 1981:335).

DISTRIBUTION

Relative abundance. In most locations throughout the United States and Canada, the Western Grebe is more abundant than Clark's Grebe. Table 1 shows that of 2,373 *Aechmophorus* spp. observed in January 1977 at various locations in California and at Lake Mead, Nevada, only 11.6% were Clark's Grebes. While considering the relative abundance of birds reported in Table 1, the reader is cautioned not to assume that these data accurately represent the proportion of each species for wintering flocks at specific locations. Most of the winter data are from short-term observations that could easily bias the actual proportion of a species for a specific location. On the other hand, the overall observation of 11.6% is fairly representative of the general occurrence of Clark's Grebes among *Aechmophorus* spp. flocks in California during January 1977.

Summer observations of breeding populations are presented in Table 2. As with the wintering flocks, Western Grebes dominated most breeding populations, with the significant exception of Goose Lake, California, which had an estimated 90+ % Clark's

COUNTY	LOCATION	WESTERN GREBE		CLARK'S GREBE	
		N	(%)	N	(%)
Clark*	Lake Mead	321	(99)	3	(1)
Los Angeles	Los Angeles				
	Playa del Rey	36	(92)	3	(8)
	Knights Harbor	69	(97)	2	(3)
Orange	Newport Beach	21	(100)	0	(0)
Marin	Tiburon, Richardson Bay	859	(86)	136	(14)
	Tomales Bay	184	(91)	19	(9)
Monterey	Moss Landing, Monterey Bay	38	(100)	0	(0)
	Pacific Grove	25	(93)	2	(7)
Napa	Lake Hennessey	126	(85)	22	(15)
	Lake Berryessa	42	(51)	41	(49)
San Diego	Mission Bay Park				
	Quivira Basin	67	(100)	0	(0)
	S.D. Flood Control Channel	29	(83)	6	(17)
	Hwy 75, South of Coronado	9	(25)	27	(75)
	Harbor Island, San Diego	184	(95)	10	(5)
Santa Clara	Anderson Lake	11	(92)	1	(8)
Sonoma	Bodega Bay	6	(75)	2	(25)
	Jenner	71	(99)	1	(1)
TOTALS		2,098	(88.4%)	275	(11.6%)

Table 1. Winter observations of Western and Clark's grebes in California and Nevada(*), January 1977.

STATE AND COUNTY	LOCATION	WESTERN GREBE		CLARK'S GREBE	
		N	(%)	N	(%)
CALIFORNIA: Siskiyou	Lower Klamath				
	National Wildlife refuge	65	(79)	17	(21)
	Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge	242	(87)	36	(13)
Modoc	Goose Lake	34	(5)	598	(95)
Lassen	Eagle Lake	120	(98)	2	(2)
OREGON:	Malheur Lake	26	(100)	0	(0)
	Upper Klamath Lake	37	(51)	35	(49)
UTAH:					
Box Elder	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge	280	(75)	92	(25)

Table 2. Summer observations of Western and Clark's grebes in California, Oregon and Utah, June and July 1977.

Grebes. Presently, the Goose Lake breeding population is the largest known concentration of Clark's Grebe throughout its range. Surveys in 1981 of locations listed in Table 2 indicated that the proportion of Clark's Grebes remained similar to that found in 1977. However, surveys at Upper Klamath Lake in 1981 resulted in observations of 272 Western Grebes and 167 Clark's Grebes. Thus, I strongly suspect that Upper Klamath Lake has the second highest known concentration of breeding Clark's Grebes in the United States. Moore Park and Pelican Marina, in the city of Klamath Falls, Oregon, is the easiest observation site for Clark's Grebes of all the areas I have surveyed.

Non-random distribution. Field ornithologists should expect a non-random distribution of Clark's Grebes relative to Western Grebe. Table 1 demonstrates the clumped distribution of Clark's Grebes. For example, most flocks had 0-15%, but the flocks of grebes on Lake Berryessa and near Highway 75, south of Coronado, contained 49% and 75% Clark's Grebes, respectively. In addition, examination of specific mixed grebe flocks often will reveal Clark's Grebes are spatially segregated from Western Grebe. Spatial relationships are discussed in more detail by Ratti (1979/578-580).

SUMMARY

Clark's Grebes are phenotypically separable from Western Grebes by the black and white facial pattern. The black crown of the Clark's Grebe does not extend to the eyes; thus, the eyes are completely surrounded by white feathers. Western Grebe have black crown feathers extending below the eyes, so that the eyes are completely surrounded by dark feathers. Other phenotypic differences include the brighter orange-yellow (less greenish) bill and whiter flanks of Clark's Grebes.

Western Grebes numerically dominate most sympatric populations in the United States and Canada. The distribution of

Clark's Grebes often appears "clumped" due to their behavioral tendency of spatial segregation.

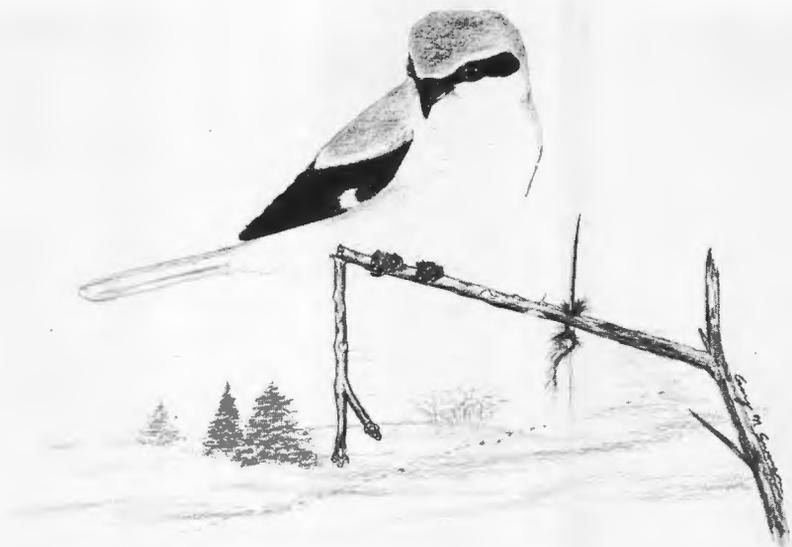
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks to Laurence Binford, Bruce Webb and Tim Manolis for the critical evaluation of the manuscript and helpful suggestions. Many thanks to Leslie Ratti for her valuable editorial assistance.

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The Winter Season

December 1, 1985 to February 28, 1986

Kenneth J. La Fond

This year's total of 128 species is well below the 140 plus usually recorded and seems to reflect what, at the time, seemed to be a particularly long, cold and birdless winter. Once; however, the data from the 65 seasonal reports and 38 Christmas bird counts (CBCs) was compiled a clearer picture emerged.

Winter birds were well represented with the Northern Shrike, Snow Bunting and Common Redpoll having perhaps their best year ever. Both grosbeaks were widespread and present in above average numbers, particularly in the south. Crossbills were down sharply from last year's invasion but the remaining winter finches were about normal. Water birds were scarce with fewer lingering migrants or overwintering individuals; raptors were down slightly and the Gryfalcon failed to appear in Duluth for the first time in seven years. Northern woodpeckers were present in above average numbers but there were no significant rarities recorded. Perhaps the most unusual record was the Pine Warbler in Mower County.

Extreme cold and heavy snow occurred early in the period with low temps of -27° in International Falls and -20 in Duluth during early December. December remained relatively cold until late in the month. January temperatures were mostly near normal and February was mostly near or above normal with little significant snow.

Common Loon

Reported only on the Rochester CBC.

Pied-billed Grebe

One at Black Dog, Dakota County on 12/8, (ES), only report.

American White Pelican

Lingering migrant in Albert Lea, Freeborn County on 12/8 (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant

Two reports; one at Black Dog on 12/7 (TT) and one overwintered at Silver Lake, Olmsted County (mob).

Great Blue Heron

Reported at Grey Cloud Island, Washington County until mid January (TBB); Black Dog, Dakota County until 12/22 (mob) and Houston, 12/7 (FL).

Greater White-fronted Goose

Two reports; Hennepin County, 1/1 (2) (AB) and the Rochester CBC.

Canada Goose

Peak counts of 23,500 on the Rochester CBC, 7500 on the Lac Qui Parle CBC and 2500 on the Fergus Falls CBC. One individual was recorded on the Grand Marais CBC. A NW region report of an injured individual in Norman County on 1/2 (BK). Also reported from nine central and eight south region counties. Numbers down from last year and only one report of possible late February migrants, Cottonwood, 2/22 (RBJ).

Wood Duck

Reported on the Faribault, Willmar and Mpls. North CBCs. A Ramsey County report on 12/16 (DS).

Green-winged Teal

Reported in Scott (Blue Lake), until 1/12 (mob) and in Rochester on 1/18 (JB).

American Black Duck

Reported from 12 counties in the NE, EC and SE regions. Single individuals on the Mankato and Fergus Falls CBCs. A statewide CBC count of 73 (100 last year; hereinafter abbreviated L.y.) with a peak of 21 on the Afton CBC.

Mallard

Reported from 36 counties in all regions except the SW. A statewide CBC count 11,902 (12,258 L.y.) with a peak of 3819 on the Mpls. North Count. Unusual north region reports from Marshall 12/30 (ANWR) and northern Lake County, 1/20 (1)(SS).

Northern Pintail

Reported in Scott County until 12/12 (StS).

Blue-winged Teal

One reported without details on the Mountain Lake-Windom CBC.

Northern Shoveler

One reported with Mallards in a Golden

Valley yard, Hennepin County on 2/22 (MRBA). No additional details received.

Gadwall

Reported only at their usual wintering location at the Mill Pond in Scott County. The Excelsior CBC count was 30 (91 L.y.).

Canvasback

One reported at Blue Lake, Scott County until mid January (mob) and an additional report of a possible early migrant in Wabasha on 2/26 (DWM).

Redhead

Reported on the Fergus Falls and Excelsior CBCs. Reports of from two to six individuals at Blue Lake, Scott County until late January (mob).

Ring-necked Duck

Reported only on the Willmar and Cedar Creek CBCs.

Lesser Scaup

Reported on the Fergus Falls, Excelsior and Rochester CBCs. Scott County reports continued until 2/9 (MRBA) and in Rochester they were reported until 1/18 (JB).

Oldsquaw

Reported on the Grand Marais CBC and additional Cook County reports on 1/15 (15) (KMH) and 2/10 (20) (BDC).

Common Goldeneye

Reported from 19 counties in the eastern and central regions with a peak count of 1500 at Black Dog on 12/12 (MRBA). Also reported on the Fergus Falls CBC in the WC region.

Bufflehead

Reported from Cedar Island Lake in Northern St. Louis County until 1/5 (SS) and on the La Crosse CBC.

Hooded Merganser

Reported on the Bemidji, Excelsior and Rochester CBCs. Black Dog reports until 2/9 (mob). Also reported in Ramsey 12/ 11 and Winona 12/26 (KL).

Common Merganser

Reported from eight eastern region counties, principally from Lake Superior and the

Twin Cities area southeastward. Also reported on the Fergus Falls CBC and again in Otter Tail County on 2/26.

Red-breasted Merganser

Reported on the Duluth (5) and Hastings (3) CBCs. Also reported in Cook on 1/28 (KMH) and 2/9 (BDC), St. Louis 1/20 (DZ) and Dakota 1/14 (BDC).

Bald Eagle

Reported from 21 counties (25 L.y.) with a statewide CBC count of 49. Nine were reported along the Minnesota River Valley on the 1/15 MRBA. Numerous reports along the Mississippi River southeast of the Twin Cities. Early migrants (?) in St. Louis 1/19, (B. Hojnacki) and Pine 1/31, (M. Stensaas). Reported in Houston as follows: 1/3, in nest tree, 2/9, two adults at nest, 3/2, incubating (FL).

Northern Harrier

Reported on the Excelsior, Mountain Lake (count week) and Rochester (count week) CBCs. An additional Olmsted County report from 1/23 (AMP).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

About 20 individuals (22 L.y.) were reported, primarily from east and central regions. North reports from the Duluth and Hibbing CBCs and Aitkin, 2/22 (WN). West region reports from Otter Tail 12/28 (SDM) and Chippewa, until 1/15 (RGJ).

Northern Goshawk

The reports of about 31 individuals from 22 counties are almost identical with last year's reports. The southwest region reports this year were from Yellow Medicine and Redwood, both on 1/1 (KL).

Red-shouldered Hawk

Reported on the Bloomington and St. Paul northeastern CBCs. January and February reports from Anoka, Washington, Wabasha, Winona and Houston Counties.

Red-tailed Hawk

About 120 individuals (160 L.y.) were reported from 24 counties south and east of a line from Duluth to Rock County. A statewide CBC count of 101 with a peak of 20 on the La Cosse count. Two again overwintered in the Duluth Harbor.

Rough-legged Hawk

Reports of about 22 individuals (98 L.y.) from ten east region, four central region and two west region counties.

Golden Eagle

Reported in Todd, 2/15 (KL), Houston 12/21 till 1/26 (EMf) and on the Wabasha CBC.

American Kestrel

About 60 individuals (95 L.y) reported from 38 counties in all but the northcentral region. The northeastern region reports were again at Duluth, 1/2 (DRBA) and 2/7 (BDC). A statewide CBC total of 34 with a peak count of six at Rochester.

Merlin

Reported on the Duluth and St. Paul northeastern CBCs. An additional Duluth report on 1/22 (mob) and reports from Marshall 12/7 (ANWR), Wadena, 2/8 (RBJ) and Brown, one found dead in New Ulm in early January, fide (JS).

Peregrine Falcon

One overwintered in the Duluth Harbor (mob). A Dakota report 1/1 (VL) needs details.

Prairie Falcon

Again overwintered in Wilkin and reports from Clay on 12/ 22 and 2/1 (LCF) and Cottonwood 1/28 and 2/8, E. Duerkson.

Gray Partridge

A statewide CBC count of 406 (129 L.y.) with reports from 34 counties (20 L.y.) in the south and west regions.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from 44 counties south of a line from Fargo to Duluth. This year's CBC total of 390 is up from last years count of 208 but still well below the 1472 recorded two years ago.

Spruce Grouse

A report from northern St. Louis County on 1/1 (KB) and Lake County reports on 1/31, five individuals four miles south of the Kawishi River (SWMS) and up to eight along County Road 2 on 1/8 and 1/11, fide (KE).

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 20 counties in the northern and eastern regions. A statewide CBC count of 54 (74 L.y.).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Reported only in Wilkin (SDM).

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Six on the Crookston CBC and reports from Marshall, Koochiching, Aitkin and St. Louis.

Wild Turkey

Reported only in Houston, up to 25 (mob).

Northern Bobwhite

Reported in Houston (EMF) and a probable escapee on the Mountain Lake-Windom CBC.

VIRGINIA RAIL

Reported on 1-19 near the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge in Bloomington for the state's sixth winter record (TT).

American Coot

The only report was of one individual on the Fergus Falls CBC.

Killdeer

A possible early migrant in Houston, 2-23 (KL).

Common Snipe

Two on the St. Paul northeastern CBC and additional reports from Hennepin, Dakota, Winona, Houston and Mower Counties.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported without details from Mower on 1/2 (JM).

Herring Gull

The only non-Lake Superior report was from Dakota, 17 on 12/8 (TT). Along the Lake they overwintered in Grand Marais but were quite scarce by late February. In Duluth most left by early December with the last on 1/9 (KE).

Thayer's Gull

Reported only in Cook on 12/6 (KMH) (KL).

Glaucous Gull

Reported in Cook on 12/2 (KMH) and 12/6 (KL). Also reported at Black Dog, Dakota County on 12/8 (TT).

Rock Dove

Reported from 78 counties with a statewide CBC count of 11,385 (17,360 L.y.).

Mourning Dove

Reported from 19 counties south of a Duluth-Fergus Falls line. A statewide CBC count of 103 (200 L.y.).

Eastern Screech-Owl

About 16 individuals (14 L.y.) reported from Crow Wing 2/ 8 (mob) in the north and ten central and south region counties.

Great Horned Owl

About 105 individuals (140 L.y.) reported from 42 counties throughout the state. A peak of 18 on the St. Paul northeast count and a statewide CBC total of 80 (106 L.y.).

Snowy Owl

About six to seven in the Duluth Harbor area in mid-January. Also reported from six north, eight central and two south region counties with a total season count of about 27 (21 L.y.).

Northern Hawk-Owl

No additional details were received on a 1/23 MRBA report of one picked up dead along a highway in Wadena County.

Barred Owl

Reports from 13 east, nine central and two west region counties total about 45 individuals (43 L.y.). A statewide CBC total of 28 (43 L.y.). with a peak of 10 at Rochester.

Great Gray Owl

Reported in Crow Wing 2/8 (WN), Aitkin 1/19 (MRBA), Carlton 2/6 (RBJ) (RG) and 2/8 (KE) and Lake 1/8 (KE).

Long-eared Owl

Two early December reports; May Township, Washington County on 12/2, W. Keeler and Mower, 12/8 (JM).

Short-eared Owl

Reported in Clearwater on 1/4, M. Mason and Lyon, 12/7 (HK).



Eastern Screech-Owl, Deerwood, Crow Wing County, February 8, 1986. Photo by Warren Nelson.

Boreal Owl

One reported near Bearskin Lodge, Cook County on 2/16, D. Baden. No additional details were received on a 2/26 (MRBA) report of one at Lutsen, Cook Co.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Reported on the Warren, Duluth and Rochester CBCs. December reports from Hennepin and Houston. February reports from Houston and Pine, Sandstone 2/9 (mob). In Duluth two were found dead in January and live individuals were recorded at Park Point on 1/29 and at Leif Erickson Park on 2/9, fide (KE).

Belted Kingfisher

Reported from nine Twin Cities and south region counties. A statewide CBC count of 8 (16 L.y.).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from four central and nine south region counties. A statewide CBC count of 37 (32 L.y.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from Cass and Crow Wing in the north and ten central and 16 south region counties. A statewide CBC count of 336 (311 L.y.) with the high count 72 (same as last year) at Rochester.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 58 counties throughout the state. A peak count of 151 on the St. Paul northeast CBC and a statewide total of 1407 (1716 L.y.).

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 57 counties throughout the state. A statewide CBC total of 895 (927 L.y.) with a peak of 95 on the St. Paul northeastern count.

Three-toed Woodpecker

Reported on the Beltrami Island, Crosby, Isabella and Gunflint Trail north CBCs. Additional north reports from St. Louis and Cook Counties and a central region report from Isanti, 2/5 (RG) for a total of at least 15 individuals during the period.



Three-toed Woodpecker, Cuyuna, Crow Wing County, February 16, 1986. Photo by Warren Nelson.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Reported on the Beltrami Island, Duluth, Isabella, Gunflint Trail North and Grand Marais CBCs. Central region reports from Chisago 2/3 (RG) and Kanabec 2/9, (RBJ) (RG). Additional north reports from Crow Wing, Aitkin, Carlton and northern St. Louis for a total of about 25 individuals.

Northern Flicker

Reported from six central and 13 south region counties including a "Red-shafted"

race in Mower 12/31 (JM), 1/3 (RRK). A statewide CBC count of 30 (32 L.y.).

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 40 counties in all but the southwest region. A statewide CBC count of 105 (96 L.y.) with a peak of 10 on the St. Paul northeast count.

Horned Lark

Reported from 61 counties (42 L.y.) throughout the state. Numerous north central

region reports of migrants in late February and a Duluth report on 1-4, J, McKearnan. A statewide CBC count of 551 (906 L.y.), with a peak of 289 on the Mountain Lake-Windom count.

Gray Jay

Two out of range reports, Kittson County 12/9 (MRBA) and Ramsey, a feeder on Hodgson Road until 12/21 (RG). Also reported from 12 counties in its usual range in the northeast and north central regions. A statewide CBC count of 151 (129 L.y.) with a peak of 42 at Isabella.

Blue Jay

Reported from 74 counties throughout the state. Peak of 980 on the St. Paul northeast count and a statewide total of 5594 (3584 L.y.).

Black-billed Magpie

Reported on the Crookston, Warren, Baudette and Beltrami Island CBCs. Also reported in Roseau, Beltrami, St. Louis, and Clay. A statewide CBC total of 36 (27 L.y.).

American Crow

Reported from 75 counties throughout the state. Over-wintered in Grand Marais (KMH) and 14 were recorded on the Baudette CBC. A statewide CBC count of 4793 (4869 L.y.).

Common Raven

Reported in 14 north region counties and Pine, Kanabec, and Chisago in the east central region. A statewide CBC count of 586 (739 L.c.).

Black-capped Chickadee

Widespread and common. Reported from 83 counties throughout the state. A statewide CBC count of 10,725 (9268 L.y.) with high counts of 1371 at Duluth and 1311 on the St. Paul northeast count.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported on the Hibbing, Isabella, Grand Marais and Gunflint Trail North CBCs. Also reported in Aitkin and Pine, 1/18 (RG).

Tufted Titmouse

Three on the Rochester CBC, and reports from Houston throughout the period. (EMF).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from two west, 12 central and 15 east region counties. A statewide CBC count of 358 (441 L.y.) with a peak of 77 at La Crosse.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 67 counties throughout the state with a total CBC count of 1885 (2088 L.y.).

Brown Creeper

Reported from 27 counties in all but the northwest region. A statewide CBC count of 54 (86 L.y.).

Winter Wren

Reported in Houston on 1/1 (FL) and during the Faribault count week period.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Reported in Aitkin, Lyon, Brown and the Rochester CBC.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Reported in Lyon (HK).

Eastern Bluebird

Reported in the Mankato area until 1/29 (mob).

Hermit Thrush

Reported in Washington, 1/31 (RG), Mower, 1/1 (RG) (AMP) and Houston 12/6 (EMF).

American Robin

Reported from 25 counties throughout the state. A statewide CBC count of 53 (73 L.y.).

Varied Thrush

One in Kittson County at a feeder in Kennedy, 12/9 (MRBA), a Duluth feeder from 12/10 through February, fide (KE) and in Washington 1/31 (RG).

Northern Mockingbird

Reported only in Lake, 2/18 (LW).

Brown Thrasher

Feeder reports from Duluth 12/31, L. Hawley, White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. 2/17 (MRBA) and the Hart's feeder in Lake County. This individual remained until 1/25

and was then brought inside for the remainder of the winter, fide (SWMS), southeast reports from the Austin and Rochester CBCs.

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from 11 north, 15 central and three south region counties. The south reports were of one with a flock of Cedars in Yellow Medicine 1/1 (KL) and Cottonwood 1/11, E. Duerkson, and Freeborn, 2/23 (MRBA). Peak CBC count of 347 at Duluth and a statewide total of 1386 (1417 L.y.).

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from two north, 14 central and ten south counties. A statewide CBC total of 726 (607 L.y.).

Northern Shrike

A major invasion year with reports of over 150 individuals from 61 counties throughout the state including 18 south region counties. A first county record for Lincoln, 1/5, J. Gislason. Statewide CBC count of 91 (28 L.y.) with high counts of 15 at Rochester and 11 at Duluth.

European Starling

Reported from 81 counties throughout the state with a CBC total of 9516 (12,757 L.y.).

PINE WARBLER

One in Hennepin, 1/6 MRBA and one seen (mob) in Austin, Mower County until 2/14.

Northern Cardinal

One at a Kittson County feeder, 12/9 MRBA and in Duluth 12/14, J. Newman. Also reported from 13 central and 18 south region counties. A statewide CBC count of 1534 (1100 L.y.) with a high count of 341 at Rochester.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Reported in Olmsted, 2/1, fide (JB).

American Tree Sparrow

Reported from 15 central and 19 south region counties. Statewide CBC count of 2635 (2791 L.y.).

Field Sparrow

One at a Rochester feeder from 12/10 until 12/30 (AMP).

Fox Sparrow

Reported only on the Faribault CBC.

Song Sparrow

North reports from the Duluth and Isabella CBCs. Also reported from Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Olmsted and Mower Counties.

White-throated Sparrow

Reported on the Grand Marais and Rochester CBCs. Reported in Clay from 12/2 until 12/8 (LCF) and in Rice, 12/6 (FKS).

White-crowned Sparrow

Two reports: Dakota 12/13 (JPAM) and Cottonwood, all winter at a Mountain Lake feeder (LF).

Harris' Sparrow

Two northwest region reports: Pennington until 2/10 fide (KSS) and Norman, one caught by a shrike, 12/5 (BK). Also reported from Lac Qui Parle and Washington plus five south region counties.

Dark-eyed Junco

Reported from 47 counties throughout the state. A statewide CBC count of 4024 (4381 L.y.) with a high count of 887 (899 L.y.) at Rochester.

Lapland Longspur

Reported from five northwest region counties including January reports in Kittson, 1/23, 25 (KL) and Marshall, 75 on 1/23 (KL). Also reported from eight additional south and west region counties.

Snow Bunting

An invasion year. Reported from 58 counties throughout the state including an amazing total of 11,161 on the Baudette CBC. The statewide CBC total excluding Baudette was 6309 (2482 L.y.).

Red-winged Blackbird

Reported from two north, seven central and nine south region counties. A statewide CBC count of 163 (7016 L.y.).

Meadowlark (sp-?)

Two reports: Marshall CBC and Houston, 12/8 (EMF).

Rusty Blackbird

Reported on the Fergus Falls, Marshall, Lamberton, Mankato, Owatonna and Afton CBCs. Also reported in Hennepin on 12/5 (SC) and 12/28 (TT).

Common Grackle

Reported from six north, 10 central and 20 south region counties. Statewide CBC count of 101 (215 L.y.).

Brown-headed Cowbird

Reported in Hennepin, Dakota and Le Sueur Counties and on the Mountain Lake-Windom, Mankato, Owatonna, Austin and Rochester CBCs. CBC total of 16 (31 L.y.).

Pine Grosbeak

Reported from 17 north, 13 central and three south region counties. Widespread and common in the northern regions and more than normal in the central regions. The south reports were from Cottonwood for the second year in a row, 1/11 (LF), Waseca 2/13 (RG) and the Rochester CBC. Statewide CBC count of 1319 (462 L.y.) with high counts of 226 at Ely and 223 at Hibbing.

Purple Finch

Reported from 40 counties throughout the state and a statewide CBC count of 574 (367 L.y.).

Red Crossbill

The statewide CBC total of 18 compared to last year's 314 tells the story — no invasion this year. Reported only from three northeast, two east central and two southeast region counties.

White-winged Crossbill

Reported only on the Warren, Hibbing, Duluth and Faribault CBCs with a total count of 9 (1003 L.y.).

Common Redpoll

Common and widespread with reports from 56 counties throughout the state and a total statewide CBC count of 4624 (1460 L.y.).

Hoary Redpoll

Reported from eight north region counties, Isanti 1/11 (KL) in the central and Olmsted 1/18 (AMP) in the southeast. Statewide CBC count of 11 (45 L.y.).

Pine Siskin

Down somewhat from last year with reports from 39 counties (58 L.y.) and a statewide CBC total of 1202 (1846 L.y.).

American Goldfinch

Also down slightly with reports from 41 counties throughout and a statewide CBC total of 2881 (3346 L.y.). High count of 653 at Rochester.

Evening Grosbeak

Scarce in Cook and Lake but abundant through the north central region. Usually uncommon but widespread in the central and south regions. Reported from 55 counties throughout the state with a total of 2934 (781 L.y.) and a high count of 601 at Crosby.

House Sparrow

Reported from 84 counties throughout the state. No reports from Lake, Carlton and Hubbard. Statewide CBC total of 31,562 (34,188 L.y.).

Corrections to The Fall Season *The Loon* 58: 75-91: Marsh Wren 10/11 Stearns RH, Hermit Thrush 10/16 Stearns, RH, and Orange-crowned Warbler 8/30 Stearns, RH should be Ramsey rather than Stearns.

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Warren Nelson (WN)	Many Observors (mob)
Dan Orr/Sharon Sarappo (DOSS)	

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

Location	Date	Compiler	Number of Participants	Total Species
Afton	1-1-86	Boyd M. Lien	15	44
Albert Lea	12-28-85	Charles Howard	16	35
Aurora	1-5-86	Chuck Neil	15	19
Austin	12-22-85	Terry Dorsey	12	37
Baudette	12-28-85	Martin Kehoe	12	22
Beltrami Island	12-30-85	Martin Kehoe	5	10
Bemidji	12-21-85	Eric C. Nelson	12	23
Bloomington	12-28-85	Thomas Bloom	23	40
Cedar Creek Bog	12-22-85	Boyd M. Lien	9	35
Cottonwood	12-20-85	Paul Egeland	—	29
Crosby	12-21-85	Josephine Blanich	8	27
Duluth	12-21-85	Kim Eckert	60+	47
Excelsior	1-5-86	Phyllis Pope	30	45
Faribault	12-21-85	Orwin A. Rustad	6	40
Fergus Falls	12-21-85	Paul W. Anderson	14	38
Grand Marais	12-18-85	Ken Hoffman	18	28
Grand Rapids	12-21-85	Tom Sobolik	18	26
Gunflint Trail	1-2-86	Mark Stensaas	2	16
North				
Hastings-Etter	1-4-86	Joanne Dempsey	19	39
Hibbing	12-28-85	Janet Decker	26	22
Isabella	1-4-86	Steven Wilson	25	20
Lac Qui Parle	12-28-85	Micki Buer	4	25

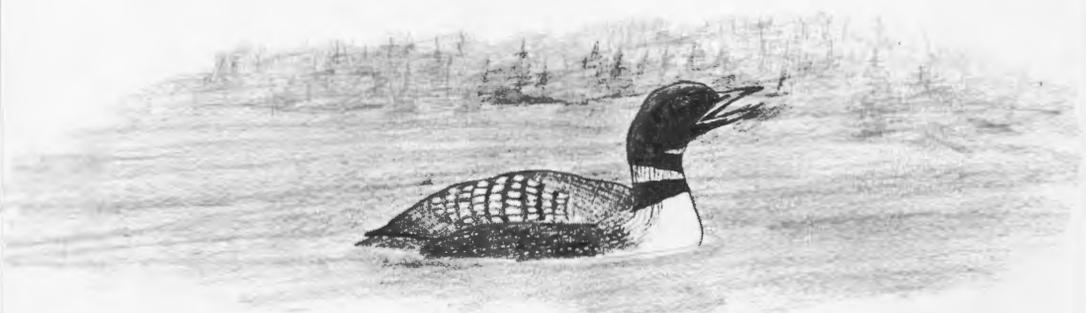
La Crosse	12-21-85	Fred Leshner	4	28*
Lamberton	12-28-85	Lee French	5	28
Mankato	12-28-85	Merrill J. Frydendall	14	40
Marshall	12-21-85	Henry C. Kyllingstad	3	27
Mpls. North	12-21-85	Donn S. Mattson	18	30
Mountain Lake- Windom	1-1-86	?	15	29
Owatonna	12-21-85	Darryl Hill	27	38
Rochester	12-21-85	Jerry Bonkoski	27	60
St. Cloud	12-21-85	Craig W. Lee	7	20
St. Paul	12-21-85	Jeff Evans	—	35
St. Paul NE	12-28-85	Persis Fitzpatrick	50	50
Wabasha	12-21-85	Don Mahle	12	36
Warren	1-1-86	Gladwin A. Lynne	9	24
Wild River	12-28-85	Tom Anderson	18	34
Willmar	12-21-85	Ben Thoma	6	29
Winona	12-28-85	Walter Carrol	—	36

*Minnesota records only

11008 Jefferson Street N.E., Blaine, MN 55434



Northern Saw-whet Owl, Kettle River, Pine County, February 9, 1986. Photo by Craig Prudhomme.



NOTES OF INTEREST

FIRST SPRING RECORD OF PACIFIC LOON IN MINNESOTA — In 1984 the American Ornithologists Union split the Arctic Loon into two species: the Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) and Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*); although only adults in breeding plumage are apparently separable in the field, it is a safe presumption that all records in Minnesota are Pacific Loons. In any event, this species has been recorded several times in the state in fall, and even three times in summer, but there had never been a spring record until May 7, 1986 (the record of May 3, 1973, cited in *The Loon* 45:61-62, has since been found to be unacceptable). On this date I was watching a group of four Western Grebes on Lake Superior in front of my house when I spotted a suspicious-looking loon farther out on the lake. Keith Camburn was birding with me, and we both agreed this looked too small to be a Common Loon and that the bill was never held up at an angle like a Red-throated, but since there was nothing else present nearby for direct size comparison and since no plumage features were clearly visible at the distance involved, this loon was left as unidentified for the time being.

However, when I returned later in the day with Parker Backstrom and Don Keinholtz to try and relocate the Western Grebes, again we saw this same loon close enough to shore for it to be positively identified as a Pacific Loon in winter or basic plumage. Visibility was good as the lake was calm and since the sky was overcast enough to prevent the sun from obscuring our view of the bird which swam and dove about 100 yards away to the southeast. As we studied the bird for about half an hour through a 40X scope, the following field marks were noted before any references were consulted:

—Top of head, back of neck and back were all a dark, uniform brownish gray; chin, throat and front of neck were white; the contrast between the dark and white areas was sharply defined (this distinction is not as pronounced in winter Red-throateds), and the line down the side of the neck separating these areas was straight (not irregular as in winter Common Loon).

—When the loon faced directly away from us, a distinctly paler area of light gray was visible on the nape (a diagnostic mark when visible, although not all non-breeding Pacifics show this).

—A definite thin, dark line ran across the throat at the back of the chin, at the top of the neck (this "chinstrap", also not present on all Pacific Loons, is also diagnostic when visible).

—The bill was always held level, never upturned; it also appeared shorter and thinner than in Common Loon.

—The overall size of the loon was about the same as two Red-necked Grebes which were

fortunately nearby for a time (body and bill size alone, however, are never completely safe distinctions from Common Loon).

—The profile of the top of the head was low and smoothly rounded, unlike the shape of the Common Loon which is flat on top with “bumps” at the forehead and at the back of the crown.

—When the loon dove, it always stretched its neck up and erect to its full length before going underwater (Common Loons simply dive forward); this distinctive behavior has been noted in published articles by at least three authorities on this species, and they all feel this is another diagnostic difference between Common and Pacific Loons.

We did not notice any white around the eye (as is typical of Common Loon in winter plumage); the back looked solidly dark and we could not see any pale lines or feather edges here (juveniles and some adult winter-plumaged Pacific Loons may show such markings); nor did we notice any white patch on the flanks at the water line (this mark is said to be present on Arctic Loons but not on Pacifics; however, a Common Loon riding high in the water can also show such a patch). At any rate, there were enough other diagnostic field marks visible to identify this loon as a Pacific. Unfortunately, after we made our identification, an off-lake wind came up, the lake became too choppy to easily see anything on the water, and none of the birders who looked for the loon later that day or the next were able to relocate it. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

PAINTED BUNTING IN NOBLES COUNTY — On Sunday, May 18th, 1986 at 8:00 a.m., my husband came excitedly into the house and said to me, “come I want you to see this pretty little bird out by our corn crib.” So I went out and here was this beautiful small bird on the ground eating intently. It was so pretty and different from anything we had ever seen before. I told him to stay there while I ran back in the house for the binoculars. By then our daughter also ran out and we all observed the bird still on the ground eating. It stayed around for three quarters of an hour and then flew away headed north. Then we quickly got out our “Golden Birds of North America” book and found out the name of this gorgeous little bird was the Painted Bunting! When we calmed down some we noticed it was the center bird on the cover. We were about 15 yards away from it; we plainly saw all the beautiful colors of this male bird. The blue head, lime green upper back, red breast, even the red around the eyes was very plain to see. Sure made our day! **Charles, Gert and Margo Willemsen, Rt. 3, Box 66, Lismore, MN 56155.**

LEAST TERN IN OLMSTED COUNTY — On June 12, 1986 about 12:15 p.m., I spotted a tern hovering over a farm pond just west of Rochester. I have never seen a tern in Olmsted County during the summer season so I expected to identify this bird as a Forster's Tern. However, as I watched the bird more closely I suspected this was something different. The pond is located about 250 yards from the road and I was using 7x35 Nikon binoculars and observed the bird for about ten minutes. When the bird dove into the water I noted it had a much shorter tail than I normally associate with the Forster's and Common Tern. The tail was about $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the body with the fork about one half the total length of the tail. The tail did not show any darker feathers on either the inside or outside of the tail. I then noted the back of the bird was a grayish white. The long pointed wings were the same color as the back except for the dark primaries. The underside of the bird was a uniform white all over. As the bird flew around the farm pond, a Red-winged Blackbird flew up to harrass the tern and I noted the body size of the tern as only about $\frac{1}{4}$ larger than the blackbird. I checked my “Birds of North America” and noted how much this tern looked like a Least Tern. I could easily see the black cap of the tern, and the tern appeared to have a white forehead, but I could not tell for sure if it was white or just the angle of the sun making it appear white. The bird then flew directly toward and over me at about a height of 100 feet. I was able to see the yellow legs and the yellow bill, but because of the angle and active flight I did not see white on the forehead. As the bird flew toward and away from me I

noted how much more active this tern was in flight. It zigged and zagged all over the place looking almost like a Common Nighthawk catching insects. This unusual flight along with the other field marks caused me to eliminate the Common and Forster's Tern. Because of the size and the markings that I had seen I felt quite sure that I had just seen a Least Tern. The previous night a strong low pressure system with strong southwest winds had moved through southeastern Minnesota. This would be the first record of a Least Tern in southeast Minnesota. Anne Marie Plunkett reported to me that she saw a Least Tern about two miles south of this location on June 14, 1986. This could possibly be the same individual that I observed. **Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

Editor's Note: See the Note of Interest on page 144 referring to two Least Terns seen in Olmsted County on June 14, 1986 by Anne Marie Plunkett.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN NORMAN COUNTY — On Sunday, July 6, 1986, I saw what I believe to be a Henslow's Sparrow at Frenchman's Bluff Nature Conservancy Tract in Norman County, about four miles northeast of Syre. I had spent the weekend in Becker County and went out early on Sunday to do some prairie birding. I first went to the Felton Prairie in Clay County where I saw and heard several Grasshopper Sparrows, amongst other birds. I then drove up to Frenchman's Bluff and arrived there at about 9:00 a.m. I quickly found several pair of Lark Sparrows near the north fence row about fifty yards west of the grove of trees in the northeast corner of the tract. I had my 22× power scope and was leisurely watching the Lark Sparrows fly up on the fence posts and back into the low brush. One of the Lark Sparrows flew quite near, so I left my scope and walked west along the fence row to see if I could get a closer look with my 10×35 binoculars. Instead I flushed a small flat-headed sparrow up onto a fence post. As soon as I had put my binoculars to the bird, I knew it was something different. The bird was facing toward the north and gave me an excellent side view. The lower 2/3's or so of the wings were a rich reddish and the face was quite greenish. There was a black line running behind a prominent eye. It was streaked and brownish on the back, however I did not get a good view of any breast streaking because of my angle of view. I observed the bird for about three minutes, and it was last seen flying into the native prairie to the north of the TNC tract. I walked back to my car and checked my *National Geographic Field Guide* and Eckert's *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* and was more convinced it was a Henslow's. I am certain it was not a Grasshopper Sparrow as this bird had much more richly colored wings, was more flat headed, and was much more colorful in the face than those I had just seen. **Douglas P. Johnson, 427 N. 16th Ave. E., Duluth, MN 55812.**

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER IN FREEBORN COUNTY — At 10:30 a.m. on May 4, 1986, I was 4¾ miles north of the town of Freeborn, Freeborn County on an unnumbered County Road when I saw a Yellow-throated Warbler in a large farm grove consisting of a number of large Bur Oak trees. There was bright sunlight but a strong south wind was blowing at 30 mph. I first noticed the bird about 20 feet up in an oak tree, 50 feet in from the road. I had an underside view and at first saw only a white belly and dark streaks on the flanks. I thought the bird was a Blackpoll Warbler. Then the bird turned and faced me and I saw the bright yellow throat extending onto the breast. I immediately recognized it as a Yellow-throated Warbler. The back and top of the head were slaty gray with no markings on the back, a white eye-stripe, black face patch, white spot behind the eye, a partial eye-ring, white wing bars and white spots in the outer tail feathers. The belly and under tail coverts were white. The bill and legs appeared to be black. The bird was a trifle smaller than the nearby Yellow-rumped Warblers. I watched this individual for ten minutes with binoculars as it fed in the oaks. It then moved further off into the grove. **Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

BAIRD'S SPARROW IN CROW WING COUNTY — Dave Hanson and I were going to visit Steve and Jo Blanich on June 24, 1986 to see Mountain Bluebirds and Yellow Rails in Aitkin County. About one mile from their house, while we were driving by a hayfield, we heard a *totally* unfamiliar bird song. We looked at each other and said, "What was that?" As Dave backed the car up and stopped I got out and walked to the front of the car as the bird continued to sing. Dave (seated in the car) spotted the bird sitting on top of a metal fence post about 10 yards away. As the sun was directly overhead and there was no wind or anything, visibility was excellent. Recognized as a sparrow by the "finch like" conical beak, body shape and stance, the first thing I noticed was the rather "flat headed" profile of the bird. Dave and I then began to call out other field marks to each other as we watched it sing. Light bill, pinkish legs, no wing bars evident, seems to have a somewhat short tail. As the bird moved about on the post we were able to see some streaking on the sides and breast. The streaking on the breast was not easily seen until later in the day, but the streaks on the sides went all the way to the flanks where they seemed to get slightly thicker/darker. The bird then flew into the field to a slightly taller weed, sang once or twice, then flew away to the west. At this time Dave and I consulted the field guides in the car. The "large billed" or "flat headed" profile gave us three birds that may be found in this habitat — hayfield or prairie type: Grasshopper, Henslow's or Baird's. In addition to the elimination of the first two by song (I knew what Grasshopper and Henslows sounded like, but had only the written description of the Baird's to go on), Grasshopper was counted out due to the presence of the streaking. And due to the limited view (and our unfamiliarity with the species), Henslow's was eliminated at this time entirely by song. Having tentatively identified it as a Baird's, we rushed to Blanich's with the news. Steve found his recordings and played the Baird's call for us at this time. While the introductory notes were not correct, there was no mistaking the musical trill that followed. This recording was off of Peterson's I believe.



Baird's Sparrow near Crosby, Crow Wing County, June 25, 1986. Photo by Steve Blanich.

Having confirmed the I.D. by the song we looked at the guides to familiarize ourselves with Baird's and what to look for. When we got back to the area, the bird was singing on a post once again. And as we sat in the car it flew and perched alongside of us only 20 feet away. Characters seen at this time include - streaking on the upper breast was fine and spaced rather far apart and difficult to see at times, two malar (whisker) marks and the dark spot on the ear coverts were easy to see (they showed up well in my photos also), the notched tail was longer than it had appeared to Dave and me earlier, when the bird sang with his back to us the buff-orange crown stripe, although not exceedingly bright, was very evident. It may have been washed out due to the bright and direct sunlight. When later in the day we were able to observe a male Mountain Bluebird and get good looks at a Yellow Rail, it capped off a superb birding day in Minnesota! **Kim W. Risen, P.O. Box 105, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0105.**

Editor's Note: The observation of a Baird's Sparrow in June in Crow Wing County is most unusual. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first record of Baird's Sparrow away from the northwest area of the state during any season of the year. According to Jo Blanich, the bird was seen in this same hayfield until June 28, 1986 after which time it disappeared.

BULL SNAKE PREDATION ON BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE NEST — On June 6, 1986, I observed an attempted predation by a bull snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus sayi*) on a Black-capped Chickadee nest. I was in the process of color-banding a brood of twelve-day old Black-capped Chickadee nestlings at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area in northern Anoka County. The nest was in a cavity in a 1 m high birch stump at the edge of a field, and the entrance hole was only 80 cm above the ground. I had extracted the five nestlings through a hole I had cut in the back of the stump. Steve Crossot and I were sitting about 20 m from the nest, and I had banded one of the nestlings. I gave this first nestling to Steve to return to the nest so that the female upon her return would not find it empty. I banded the remaining four nestlings and went to the nest to return them about 15 minutes after the first was returned. A small bull snake about 70 cm long was in the cavity. I prodded the snake into leaving, and we caught it as it left the cavity. The snake contained no obvious bulge, and evidently had not eaten the nestling. I later released it about 800 m from the nest. I removed the nestling from the cavity and examined it. The nestling's head was wet, and it apparently had some puncture wounds on the shoulders. It kept its eyes closed but could move its legs, so I thought it might survive, and I returned it and its siblings to the nest cavity. The brood fledged on June 11, and I saw the fledglings June 12, including the one bitten by the snake. All were alive and well June 21, and the fledglings dispersed from their parents' territory June 30. Most nests destroyed by bull snakes at Cedar Creek are probably those of species such as Lark, Vesper, and Field Sparrows that build open nests on or very near the ground. Bull snakes at Cedar Creek have also been reported to prey on open nests in trees (Maxson, *The Loon* 53:61-62, 1981), and I have seen them in aquatic habitats and in tree cavities. On June 13, 1986, I found a bull snake about 1.5 m long in a cavity in an aspen stump 15 m out in a marsh at Cedar Creek. The cavity was about 30 cm above the water level, and the snake must have swum to reach the stump. The stump contained a deer mouse (*Peromyscus*) nest, but I do not know if the snake found any mice in it. In May 1985 I found a bull snake that had evidently just preyed upon a brood of nestling Eastern Bluebirds at Cedar Creek. Dahlsten and Cooper (The role of insectivorous birds in terrestrial ecosystems, Dickson et al, editors, Academic Press, New York, 1979) noted predation by the closely related gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus catenifer*) on Mountain Chickadee nests in nest boxes. Observations of predation on nests are very rare relative to the number of such predations. Snakes are well known to be important nest predators in the tropics. **James L. Howitz, 1700 Silver Lake Road, New Brighton, MN 55112.**

WORM-EATING WARBLERS IN FILLMORE COUNTY

Date: May 11, 1986

Reason observation is unusual: Casual status in state

Location: Near an unnumbered road in Section 19 (Fillmore County), Forestville Township, S. and E. of County 12.

Light conditions: High overcast - bright.

Length of observation: 1-2 minutes.

Habitat: Undergrowth near a stream at the base of densely wooded slope.

Description (from field notes): good look; good light; thick undergrowth (briers); saw small bird moving slowly in brush, then it perched; sat dead still; about eight feet away; decisive black stripe thru eye and on either side of crown; head and chest a buffy-orange; upper parts and back drab olive-brown; moved slightly, unruffled; stayed put, then *walked* away slowly. Lovely looking bird. Horrid name.

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Date: 22 May, 1986

Location: Section 26, Pilot Mound Township, Fillmore County.

Reason observation is unusual: Casual status in the state.

Light conditions: Excellent, sun behind me; bird in front of me.

Length of observation: 1-1½-2 minutes.

Habitat: Undergrowth on wooded slope above Root River.

Other observers: Mrs. Jo Theye

Description: Field marks of note, voice, behaviour. It flew in and sat close to the ground, facing us at first partially hidden by foliage, so that we saw an unmarked (unspotted or streaked) buff-orange colored breast and underparts less so, more of a wash. The wind blew and the continuation of the bird came into view - same color on the head with black streaking through the eye back to the nape, as well as streaking on the crown. It had a longish pale spikey beak. Its upperparts were drab green, i.e., brown. It stayed there long enough for us to get a good look. When he moved along the limb, he walked, not hopped, or flew. From reading after my prior sighting (on May 11), I knew this to be typical of this species, and that we were in his preferred habitat. We heard more of his song (I played a tape to him) but we didn't see him again. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

KENTUCKY WARBLER AT AFTON PARK — On May 13, 1986, I had deviated from a trail in the NE sector of Afton State Park, Washington County, to look for morel mushrooms when a bird song which I had previously presumed was an Ovenbird now resolved into something more unusual. The bird was inhabiting a dense understory in a wooded ravine. It was about 2:30 p.m. and a steady rain fell. After following the call, which sounded to me like a cross between a cricket and an Ovenbird, for about 20 minutes I decided that my best chance see it would occur if I just sat still on the forest floor. Within five minutes, I viewed the bird through a window in the undergrowth about 20 feet away. I was jubilant seeing the bird whose call I had pursued—a Kentucky Warbler! The bird was walking on the ground. It exhibited the characteristic lobular cheek marking contrasting against bright yellow underparts (throat, belly, under tail). These markings along with a conspicuous yellow eye-stripe and a bright olive back assisted the identification. On May 14th, Mike Mulligan, Judy Sparrow and I observed the bird perched and singing 30 feet high through a Bushnell Spacemaster. The time was about 1 p.m. and the sun was bright. We observed further the details that the yellow eyestripe continued on to encircle only half the eye and that the black facial cheek mark appeared to have a thin extension at the lower end which angled toward the throat. The bird was seen by many observers during the next five days. The last sighting that I am aware of occurred on Monday, May 19. **Bill Evans, 4140 Vincent Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410.**

MISSISSIPPI KITE IN FILLMORE COUNTY —

Date: May 14, 1986.

Location: Section 18, Forrestville Township, Fillmore County.

Reason observation is unusual: Accidental status, only four previous observations in the state.

Light conditions; bird/sun orientation: Clear blue sky: sun to my right, bird in front and above me.

Length of observation: Five or more minutes.

Distance from bird: 4-500 feet overhead; 600 feet diagonally.

Description: Directly ahead of me and a few hundred feet overhead in the clear blue sky was what seemed to me almost an apparition — a kite in southern Minnesota. The bird seemed almost suspended, motionless, in the sky. Then it floated upwards — like a kite, but didn't change in silhouette — sort of like a paper airplane. I said kite out loud, in amazement. Then it dipped and lifted higher. Then it fanned its notched tail, angulated its wings and, twisting, stopped slightly; then wafted upwards again. I just watched it fly for a minute or two before I said to myself — "You better take notes." What I wrote down was that it was falcon-shaped, long pointed wings, with a long dark tail and light gray head; squared-off, notched tail (slight notching). From below the wing pattern was gray along the secondaries, and darker toward the primaries. Toward the shoulder and leading edge of the wing was lighter gray. The body — underparts were light gray, almost white looking. From above there was a whitish cast to the secondaries. The shoulders and back showed as dark gray. From both above and below, the tail looked dark - blackish. Since it was still in view when I had finished with the notes, I watched it sail around the sky in its leisurely way for a few more minutes, just enjoying this most unexpected treat. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

SNOWY EGRET NEST AT AGASSIZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — At least one Snowy Egret has been sighted during June each year at Agassiz NWR, Marshall County, from 1981 to 1986. On 13 June 1986, I observed an adult Snowy flush near the perimeter of a Black-crowned Night-Heron colony in Agassiz Pool. Suspecting possible nesting, I flushed two adults at the same location on 19 June and located a nest with four bluish-green eggs. The nest was constructed of residual stems of common reed forming a platform about 30 cm high. The elliptical eggs were variably stained brown ranging from heavy blotching on three eggs to practically no blotching on a fourth. A single white rectrix measuring 13-14 cm, presumably from one of the adults, was wedged among the eggs. An examination of several night-heron nests in the vicinity could find no feathers among eggs. The egret eggs were noticeably smaller than numerous night-heron eggs nearby. When compared with known measurements of a ball point pen photographed in the nest, the eggs measured approximately 42-44 mm in length. Bent (1963) states that 46 eggs averaged 43 x 32 mm for Snowy Egret compared to 53 x 37 mm for Black-crowned Night-Heron. The eggs were candled and development was estimated at 8-10 days assuming an incubation period of 17 days (Bent op. cit.). One adult was observed near the nest on 30 June; however, the outcome of the nest was not determined to avoid further disturbance. Although neither adult nor nestling Snowy Egrets were seen in the nest, evidence such as adult behaviour, egg size and the presence of a white tail feather in the nest strongly suggests that it belonged to that species. In Minnesota, the Snowy Egret has been known to nest only at Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle County (Guertin and Pfanmuller 1985). This represents the second county breeding record for Snowy Egret and documents a northward breeding range extension of over 200 miles. **Jim Mattsson, Refuge Biologist, Agassiz NWR, Middle River, MN 56737.**

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- Guertin, David S. and Lee A. Pfanmuller. 1985. Colonial Waterbirds in Minnesota. *The Loon* 57(2):67-78.



Snowy Egret pair, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County, June 19, 1986. Photo by John Mattsson.



Snowy Egret nest, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County, June 19, 1986. Photo by John Mattsson.

MAYBE WITH A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCE — I am sure you have all had some strange experiences with birds. Well, this is one of mine. It was late April (1986). I had just gotten home from work and decided to fill up the bird feeders. While I was filling the feeders, I heard the loud crash of breaking glass coming from my next-door neighbor's house. I looked up just in time to see this large hawk come flying out of their window. It flew to a branch of a tree overhanging the top of their house and shook itself off (presumably to rid itself of broken glass). I grabbed my binoculars and took a closer look at what turned out to be a beautiful immature Northern Goshawk. About a minute later, it flew off. Well, my neighbors are both in their eighties, so I figured I had better go over and tell them what had happened. Actually, if you want to know the truth — the real reason I decided to go over was that I had to look pretty guilty standing there looking at their broken window with no one else around — anywhere! I walked over and knocked at their door several times, but got no answer. So, I walked over to the window to inspect the damage. Staring out at me was my neighbor's somewhat frantic looking face. The hawk had smashed out both the outer and inner panes of glass. My neighbor asked if I had seen what had happened. "I sure did. You aren't going to believe this, but . . ." At that point, she held up a dead grackle. She wanted to know how on earth a grackle could possibly go through two panes of glass! I told her what had really happened. She seemed quite relieved and I couldn't quite understand just why until she started to explain. It seems they were watching the news on television at the time. This was April 28 — two days after the Chernobyl disaster. When the window broke, with what certainly must have sounded like an explosion, they thought the world was coming to an end and were getting ready to head for the basement when I knocked on the door. The next evening, I was washing the dishes when I heard a loud bang at the back door. When I got there, my friend the goshawk was sitting on the top of the steps. Apparently, it went after another grackle and only managed to catch another house. At least this time he missed the window — narrowly. I wish he had better aim — I would love to get rid of a few of the grackles. I can sympathize with it and I do give it credit — it was no quitter. It flew a few feet into a honeysuckle bush and sat for a couple minutes. It then flew off and this time for good. What can I say — why should it hang around? After all, there's a three year supply of houses out there for it to go after, that is, if it paces itself. **Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St. N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.**

WHITE-EYED VIREO IN RAMSEY COUNTY — On the morning of 9 May 1986, I heard an unfamiliar song while watching a major wave of warblers in North Oaks, Ramsey County. I quickly found the bird foraging and singing in hazelnut at the edge of a small, grassy clearing surrounded by oaks. My notes, written while observing the bird, describe the bird as a vireo with a yellow face and spectacled look, white underparts with contrasting yellowish flanks, and olive-green upper parts with white wing bars. When the bird moved closer to within 20 feet and foraged with a more lively Golden-winged Warbler, I was able to see the white rim on the otherwise dark eye. The loud, almost explosive song, which I wrote as "chuck-it-wee-der-were," was unlike any other song I have heard. The bird was observed for only a few minutes with the morning sun at my back and with 10x50 binoculars. Once home, I checked all the standard field guides and listened to bird song tapes, leaving me with no doubt that this is my first observation of a White-eyed Vireo. **Karl Bardon, 11 Pheasant Lane, North Oaks, MN 55110.**

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN COOK COUNTY — At 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 1986, while enroute from Grand Marais to Hovland, we noticed what appeared to be some sort of white-breasted shorebird on a pebble beach of Lake Superior near Durfee Creek. We turned the car and headed back to investigate and were somewhat amazed. The bird was not a shorebird but a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, the second we have seen in Cook County in less than one year. The head was very white and back pale, bill dark and the tail

extremely long. A small patch of red-salmon color could be seen above the bend of the wing when folded and the sides of the breast and belly were buff, not appearing very much tinged with salmon or pink. The flycatcher would sit on the crest of the pebble beach and then leap and twist, wings spread and tail flopping, to capture an insect. Again and again as we watched this procedure we could see the salmon pink under the wings. The flycatcher continued feeding in this manner, slowly moving northeasterly along the beach. The lake was glassy still and the early morning sun was bright and to our left. It was a clear, warm morning. We observed the bird from about 75 feet for 15 minutes with 7x35 binoculars. The beach area where we first saw the flycatcher was directly below the home of Walter Popp, another Cook County birder, and in spite of the early hour we knew that he would be very interested. Our disappointment at discovering from his wife, Robbie, that he had left early for Duluth was matched by his disbelief that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had actually been in front of his own house and that he had missed it! **Ken and Molly Hoffman, P.O. Box 949, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

LAUGHING GULLS IN FILLMORE COUNTY

Date: June 16, 1986

Location: "Iron Ponds" in Section 9, York Township, Fillmore County.

Reason observation is unusual: Casual status in state; not previously seen in this part of southeastern Minnesota.

Length of observation: an hour and a half, with a few minutes out to call Bob Janssen (7:53 a.m. - 8:08 a.m.).

Description: The following are the notes I made (The sketches I made were for my benefit alone, and for my eyes only!): 6:45 a.m., clear, sunny, 60's, wind 20 mph. N-NW. Gulls are about size of Ring-bills. Wings are slate gray, white trailing edge, *all-black* wing tips (primaries) from above, wings from below are light gray near body, then slate gray near black wing tips. No white on primaries; no wedge of Bonaparte's, no white wing bar of Franklin's, nor white on tips, clear white tail - no gray central feathers, black legs. Large birds, almost 2 x the Black Tern flying with them, hooked bill, thickish, down-curved, heard call - played Peterson tape, matched, settled on water, got scope on them, black hoods, white thin eye discs, "bathed" - splashed, and preened, took off, hovered close overhead, circled, sailed. 8:20 a.m. they took off to northwest. 8:50 a.m. - guess they're not coming back. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

BEWICK'S WREN IN OLMSTED COUNTY — On Sunday, April 27, 1986 about 2 p.m. I was out checking some of my bluebird nesting boxes in southwest Olmsted County. As I walked along a fence line through a ravine, pasture on one side and overgrown with brush and trees on the other, I saw a small bird fly up near the edge of the underbrush and land on a low branch. It had a grayish brown back and my first thought was a Hermit Thrush. When I observed the bird with my 7x35 binoculars from about 25 feet, I saw that the bird did not have a rufous tail and was smaller than a Hermit Thrush. The bird was brownish gray on the back and the tail appeared to be about as long as the body of the bird. There was some barring on the tail and along the sides near the ends of its folded wings. I thought next of House Wren because of the barring, but this bird was more of a gray-brown, did not have nearly as much barring, and had a longer tail than a House Wren. It also did not cock its tail over its back as I am used to seeing the House Wren do. The size and shape of this bird was thinner and longer like a Chipping Sparrow, rather than short and plump like a House Wren. The bird then flitted a short ways into the brush but I was still able to see it quite well. This time I was able to see its head with a white eyebrow extending to the back of the head. I was also able to see the whitish-gray unmarked breast of the bird. I watched the bird for about five minutes and during that time I did not see it once cock its tail over its back, nor did it call or sing. The bird then disappeared into the thick underbrush of the ravine. I made the above observations before returning to my car to check both

Peterson's Guide to Eastern Birds and Birds of North America. I was convinced that I had seen a Bewick's Wren. I later checked the Audubon Master Guide to Birding and they describe the Bewick's Wren as being a sparrow-sized, slender wren. This description added more confidence to my identification of the bird. Anne Marie Plunkett and Bob Ekblad were able to locate the bird the next morning and agreed with my observations. The previous day and night we had very strong winds out of the south with several thunderstorms moving through the area. This may have been a reason for this casual species being in Olmsted County. **Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

A LEAST TERN AT DULUTH — On June 9, 1986, Jane Stephan and I arrived at the 40th Ave. mud flats to observe some 'peeps' still present. While deciphering one of the sandpipers, an obnoxious tern kept flying in front of the scope. Twice I wished this pesty little tern would fly elsewhere. I was completely shocked that this pesty little tern was an adult plumaged Least Tern. The very bouyant, batlike flight was very evident. It was considerably smaller than Common Terns which were nearby, but never in the same field of view. The most identifiable characteristic, however, was the bright yellow bill which easily stood out with binoculars at 75-90 feet. While carefully observing this find, I observed other field marks. The legs were definitely yellow, but did not appear to be as bright as the bill. The black cap extended down through the eye to the upper mandible. A white forehead was plainly discernible. The bird was continuously flying, and a black edging on the outer two primaries stood out. While dipping down for food, I observed a slightly forked tail. Only once did it give a call, but it was a high pitched 'che-reep.' After taking a few field notes and drawings, Jane and I called Parker Backstrom who also saw it. **Larry Semo, Rt. 2, Box 435, Superior, WI 54880.**

WHITE-FACED IBIS IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On April 28, 1986, I received a telephone call from Goodman Larson informing me that he had seen a White-faced Ibis south of Hwy 75 & 212 the day before. At 6:30 p.m. Chuck and I and Sue Shelton drove to a wetland area in Hamlin Township and began scanning a flooded meadow bordering the marsh. Chuck observed a dark bird landing about 150-200 yards from us. We set up a 25x45 spotting scope and observed the bird feeding amid the grasses for about 15 minutes. The following is a description of the bird written at the time of observation: a medium sized wading bird with a long dark decurved bill. Neck and underparts a dark chestnut color contrasting with a glossy purplish colored crown and back and greenish-purple (bronzy) wings. The legs were a reddish color. Distinct white feathering round the eye and extending down under the chin. Chuck and I have returned to this meadow and bordering marshes on several occasions but have not found the bird again. **Chuck and Micki Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

WHITE-FACED IBIS IN MARTIN COUNTY — On April 26, 1986, Ray Glassel and I were on our way to Fairmont, Martin County. We were traveling back roads, birding as we went. In northern Martin County along County Road 28 at a Wildlife Management Area we spotted a White-faced Ibis feeding in a flooded marsh area along the road. It was noon, partly cloudy skies, sunny and bright with light south winds. We viewed the bird thru 20x spotting scopes at 50 yards. The viewing conditions were perfect. The bird was in full breeding plumage. The white about the face and eye extended over the bill and under the chin. The eye was red and the skin color around the eye was red. The body, including the neck, upper and lower parts, were a deep reddish color with a glossy green cast at the shoulder and wing coverts. The decurved bill was a bluish gray, the legs were red, darker at the joints. The bird was feeding occasionally with a group of Pectoral Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, and there were numerous American Toads "singing" and moving about the area. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

WHITE-EYED VIREO IN MARTIN COUNTY — I was visiting a State Wildlife Area near my brother's farm, seven miles east of Fairmont, Martin County. About 9:00 a.m., June 6, 1986, I approached the east side of the woodlot and heard an unusual, loud and varied song. I discounted Yellow-breasted Chat because there were no "caws" or "chatters." Then I heard a "chick, a-per-wee-oo chick" and variations. I recognized the song as a common song from my time in Gainesville, Florida, two years ago. I searched my memory for the name as I searched the bushes for the bird. Then I glimpsed a small bird gleaning sluggishly in the brush. It was a vireo, a White-eyed Vireo. I followed it for several minutes, getting bits and pieces: yellow flanks and belly, white throat, yellow "spectacles," olive brown upper parts, two white wing-bars. The crown was not visible. On June 7 I returned and was allowed a more complete view, including the gray crown. On this visit I also watched as it switched from a chat or catbird-like song to the typical "chick, a-wee-oo chick" song. **Paul Sullivan, Box 652, Sutherlin, OR 97479.**

Editor's Note: The White-eyed Vireo was seen by numerous observers up until July 1, 1986. On July 2 I searched for the bird, but it could not be found and was not seen again by other people searching the area.

SECOND SAGE THRASHER RECORD FOR MINNESOTA — On June 16, 1986, I observed a strange thrasher at Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka County, watching it for about 15 minutes at close range in good light. Before consulting a field guide, I wrote down the following characteristics: slender robin-sized thrasher; bill similar to Brown Thrasher; yellow iris; back uniformly dull grayish brown; undersides heavily streaked from throat to legs; undertail coverts cream; prominent white spots at corners of tail when fanned in flight. Consultation with field guides led me to an unambiguous identification as a Sage Thrasher. The bird was frequenting a sand quarry area at the east side of pool 9 — hopping about and flying short distances, fanning its tail fairly frequently. It was not singing when I saw it. **Phil Shively, 1572 Northrop Avenue, Falcon Heights, MN 55108.**

RUFF IN MARTIN COUNTY — On April 19, 1986, a Ruff was seen along Highway 4 two miles north of Sherburn, Martin County. The bird was about the size of a Lesser Yellowlegs, maybe a little larger. The bill was shorter than a yellowlegs and slightly decurved, black in color, but this may have been from mud as the bird was busy probing. It fed nervously by running about and probing not in the manner of a yellowlegs. The legs were long and orange in color. The head was light (no eye ring or stripe), plain gray, with no barring, extending down back of neck. Breast gray with very heavy black transverse barring; under tail coverts and lower belly white. Wings brownish with black barrings. Some white on sides of the tail as winds ruffled feathers. Neck large, when first seen feathers puffed out, which first drew my attention to the bird. **Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN. 55420.**

WORM-EATING WARBLER IN LE SUEUR COUNTY — On May 8, 1986, while on a field trip with my ornithology class (23 students), Don Nelson, Morgan Thomas and I observed a Worm-eating Warbler. The observation was made along the Minnesota River bluff in Le Sueur County two miles south and west of Kasota on county road 101, west of the Nature Conservancy's Kasota Prairie. The bird was observed with 8×30 binoculars in the edge of a small open oak woods at a height of 15 to 20 feet. The brownish black, somewhat tannish breast and head with dark and light stripes aided in the identification. I had observed another of this species along the Minnesota River at Minneopa State Park on May 17, 1983. This individual was traveling in a warbler wave consisting of 11 other species of warblers. **Merrill Frydendall, 136 Swiss, Mankato, MN 56001.**

ANOTHER BUFFLEHEAD BROOD AT AGASSIZ NWR — On 17 June 1986, Refuge Manager Joe Kotok observed a female Bufflehead with seven class 1B ducklings in Lower CCC Pool, Agassiz NWR. The brood was sighted many times in the same location and at least six of seven reached flight stage. This is the second record of Bufflehead production at the refuge, the first was in 1985 in the same pool. This represents the 5th Minnesota breeding record for Bufflehead, all from Marshall County. **Jim Mattsson, Refuge Biologist, Agassiz NWR, Middle River, MN 56737.**



Bufflehead brood, Agassiz NWR, Marshall Country, June 20, 1986. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

MISSISSIPPI KITE SEEN AT NORTH OAKS, RAMSEY COUNTY — On May 20, 1986, at 5:55 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. — seen intermitingly from as close as 150 yards. Sunlight — sun at times to our backs and at times to the side. The bird was falcon shaped, all black, notched tail. Head and upper breast appeared white, belly gray. Wings dark beneath. Black above with light patches on the secondaries that appeared white in the bright sunlight (seen several times as the bird banked as it circled). Most of the viewing was from below. Mostly the bird circled on stiff wings, but several times it folded them in for a short dive and tumbling action. The bird would appear above the tree tops and then disappear for a time and again reappear. When last seen it was very high in the air and soaring in wide circles until we finally lost sight of it. Other observers - Bill Litkey and Elaine McKenzie. Bill spotted the bird first and immediately yelled out "Mississippi Kite." When I got to where he was the bird had disappeared behind some trees. It soon reappeared and I had several good looks as the bird banked and showed its white secondary patches. Mrs. McKenzie was further down the trail and missed seeing it then. We kept looking up at the sky and about 10 minutes later it reappeared and she got to see it. **Ray Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK AT BLUE MOUNDS — While looking for a Blue Grosbeak in Blue Mounds State Park (Rock County) in a popple stand near the swimming beach, I heard a song similar to that of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak but containing a couple of "coarse" notes. This was Saturday, May 24, 1986, at approximately 6:25 p.m., with a high overcast, bright sky overhead. Bob Chance, Park Naturalist, had told me of a report of a Black-headed Grosbeak, and described its call. (I have only seen them a couple times before). After unsuccessfully searching the leafed-out popples while the bird continued to sing, I started walking toward the camp grounds. (Dinner was waiting). After I took a few steps, a bird about the size of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (which are regular at my feeder in the summer) flew into a low tree close to the water, east of me about 20 yards. I was able to watch it for about 30 seconds through my binoculars (Zeiss 10 x 40). The short, fat broad at base "finch" beak, the dark head, and the deep-orange breast color were clearly visible in good early evening light. I was interrupted in my observation by a strange call overhead. Looking up, I saw my life Upland Sandpiper (they had been whistling around me all afternoon) as it landed nearby. All in all, an exciting moment! **Mike Mulligan, 8501 Tiqua Circle, Chanhassen, MN 55317**

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE AT ROCHESTER — Lake George had opened the day before (March 31) as the chrySTALLINE shards of ice gave way to the heart gladdening sound of waves lapping the shore. And so the stage was set for one of the greatest shows on Earth, the spring migration of fully colored waterfowl. The morning (April 1, 1986) began with our regular show of Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, scaup, both Greater and Lesser, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot and Redheads arrived at noon. I discipline my water scannings to one half hour intervals on these first excellent days. The Swift Audubon Mark II is my vision extender. Our condominium with deck and one way observation windows is sixty feet from the north shore of Lake George. This very private developed gravel pit is spring fed and receives some Zumbro River seepage through the hill that separates the two bodies of water. For southern Minnesota, this eighteen acres of water is of excellent quality. A large bed of sago and wild celery blankets the steep bottom grade of our shore and it was there that the Barrow's Goldeneye appeared. Confusion was my first response. What have we here? Most certainly not a Bufflehead and yet something somewhat stocky and short of neck as a Common Goldeneye. His round head was an iridescent indigo blue-black and his black back joined the black of his wings with a startling interruption of white patches strung the length of the secondary feathers. His cheek bore a white crescent patch. Absent were the black finger like wing markings of the Common Goldeneye, but present was a more runty, underdeveloped bill. The eyes were a vivid light lemon and the feet a blend of gold and orange. This vigorous bird dines with a tremendous thrust from his gloriously fanned tail, and he often brings his choice sago roots to the surface for a sound threshing about before he scarfs them down. A Barrow's Goldeneye has graced our lake and our lives. This coastal and mountain dweller is well off his airway path. He stayed but a day, but what a day that was. **Judy K. Kramer, 1840 Lakeview Ct. S.W., Rochester, MN 55902.**

Editor's Note: The Barrow's Goldeneye was seen by numerous other Rochester birders for four more days until April 5. However, the bird did not return to Lake George except for a brief period at sunrise on the 2nd. I missed the bird by five minutes! The bird was seen on various water areas just west of Rochester during this period. This is the first record for a Barrow's Goldeneye in the southeast region of the state.

IBIS AT NORTH HERON LAKE — On June 2, 1986, while checking the Franklin's Gull colony at North Heron Lake, Jackson County, Wendy Krueger and I saw a flock of five ibis flying (flapping and gliding) over the cattails. The birds appeared all black; at first I assumed they were Double-crested Cormorants because they are quite common in the area. The color and flight pattern fit a cormorant, however, their tails appeared to be quite long so I looked through the binoculars to make sure they weren't Anhingas. I could then see that the long tails were actually long legs and feet trailing behind. I could also see that the birds had long down-curved bills. By the time I got the motor in the boat shut off, they were so far off I could not discern any coloration around the base of the bill. They flew to the southeast corner of the lake and circled some flooded fields before they disappeared behind a dike on the lakeshore. We later looked at these fields but could not find the birds again. **John Schladweiler, Department of Natural Resources, Box 756, Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073.**

JAEGER IDENTIFICATION — On Saturday, August 2, 1986, I was behind the Beach-house at the Park Point Recreation Center with my family enjoying an evening picnic. Jim Kersting, who is on the Hawk Ridge Management Committee with me, happened by and stopped to chat. Fortunately, he had his binoculars with him. After eating, I was watching my daughter frolic on the beach and was only incidentally noting the usual Ring-billed Gulls and occasional Common Tern. It was about 7:30 p.m. and there was unobscured sunlight. Suddenly, I noticed a very dark ternlike bird about 100 yards or more directly in front of us, the bird was flying directly at us. I asked Jim if I could borrow his binoculars as I knew

it was something definitely different. I followed the bird as it veered to our right and saw it fly about 20 yards or so away from us. It went up over the dunes, immediately to the south of the beachhouse, and towards the ballfields and Wisconsin. I immediately knew it was a jaeger when I saw it through the binoculars. The bird had a dark cap, dark back, white underbody, pointed wings and seemed very ternlike in its flight. I then tried to get a good look at the central tail feathers or rectrices. My first and continued impression was that they were pointed and quite long (as long or longer than the main part of the tail). I next noted a dark breast band—it seemed quite distinct. I then looked for the white in the wingtips. The underwing had very apparent white at the base of the primaries. There were smaller flashes of white on the upper wing surface. The body seemed relatively slim, similar to the Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers I had seen in Churchill, Manitoba in June of 1986. I could not recall whether this might be a Long-tailed Jaeger and did not have a field guide with me. A quick telephone call to Kim Eckert confirmed that it had to be a Parasitic because of the breast band, large amount of white on the upper side of the primaries, and the white flash on the underside of the primaries (a Long-tailed lacks all of these field marks). I dictated the above notes to a somewhat cooperative spouse as we drove home and then consulted the field guides. I feel confident that the jaeger was a Parasitic and am even more convinced of how careful one must be in jaeger identification. This is true even when the bird is at close range and seen under ideal conditions, i.e., not in an October sleet storm or late September pelting rain while nearly going hypothermic as is usual in Duluth while jaeger watching. I believe that this is the earliest fall record for a jaeger (especially Parasitic) after a cursory review of old issues of *The Loon*. **Douglas P. Johnson, 427 N. 16th Ave E., Duluth, MN 55812.**

BALD EAGLE NEST ON A POWER POLE — Since 1977, Jerry Englebrecht, of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and I have been doing an aerial survey of Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting activity in north central Minnesota. The 5,100 square mile area covered includes the southern part of Cass County south of the Chippewa National Forest and all of Crow Wing, Morrison, Aitkin and Mille Lacs Counties. Two flights are conducted, one around mid-April to record activity around nest sites and the other in early July to record actual nesting and production of young at each nest site. From 1977 to 1986 we have documented 42 Bald Eagle nest sites in the study area. Ospreys have been recorded at 84 sites, all in Crow Wing and Cass Counties. One thing that we have noticed during the years of our survey is the increased use of power poles as nest sites of Ospreys. While flying our activity flight on 22 April 1986 and seeing an eagle nesting in an old Great Blue Heron nesting colony (this colony has not been active since 1983), I made the statement to Jerry that "I imagine that the next thing we will see today is an eagle nesting on a power pole!" Within 20 minutes while flying the power pole line across Cass County looking for Ospreys, we both spotted a Bald Eagle on an Osprey nest site. In 1982, '83, and '84 we had an active Osprey nest on the top of this steel power pole owned by Minnesota Power and Light. This particular pole is near Outing, Cass County. We turned around and flew over this pole again, just to be sure it was an eagle — it was. On 26 June when we flew over this nest, it contained two young eagles. As far as we know, this is the first record of eagles nesting on power poles in Minnesota. This may also be the first record in North America. **Doug Keran, 2266 Whispering Woods Lane North, Brainerd, MN 56401.**

MINNESOTA'S FIFTH SNOWY PLOVER RECORD — On June 30, 1986, the Victor Emanuel Nature Tour group I was leading was heading east on Clay County Road 18, six miles east of Highway 75, when we spotted a small group of shorebirds in a flooded field just west of the Buffalo River. In this group was a very pale-looking individual which was asleep about 100 feet north of the road and which wasn't immediately recognizable. As the 11 of us got out of the van for a better look, this shorebird awoke, and at first glance appeared to be a Piping Plover. However, after a few seconds of study it became obvious

that we were looking at a Snowy Plover, probably an adult female. The upperparts were uniform pale grayish brown like a Piping Plover, but the legs were all black, and the all-black bill appeared too thin and long for a Piping Plover. In addition, there was a dark smudge on the ear coverts behind the eye; although this mark was not black, it was dark enough to preclude Piping Plover. The bird lacked the black mark on the fore crown, but it did have the black slash on the sides of the breast; the center of the breast was white, as were the rest of the underparts. After a few minutes, the plover flew off and landed again about 100 yards away, but none of us were able to study its tail pattern and no one heard it give any call notes. This represents the fifth state record for this species, with the previous records from Marshall, Lyon Co.; Big Stone N.W.R.; and twice from Lake of the Woods. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth,, MN 55804.**

LINCOLN'S SPARROW BEHAVIOR — Peterson, in **A Field Guide to the Birds**, 4th Ed. 1980, describes the Lincoln's Sparrow as a "skulker, afraid of its shadow." Most times, most places, this may be true, but is certainly was not on August 14, 1986, at our daughter Ellen's place up the Sawbill Trail north of Tofte, Cook County. On that rainy morning we were sitting at the breakfast table watching a mix of Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, White-throated and Chipping Sparrows at the feeder a few feet from the window. Patches of gravelly ground were exposed on the otherwise grassy knoll around the feeder. On one open spot we noticed two sparrows sparring over a piece of cracked corn. The smaller was a Lincoln's, and the larger an immature White-throat. The birds were about five feet below the window. After a short pulling match, the Lincoln's won, and the White-throat departed. I was pleased to see a skulker showing such spunk. My previous experiences with Lincoln's more or less coincided with Peterson's characterization. Where we live, about 12 miles north of St. Paul we have recorded the Lincoln's on several occasions during migrations, and once one spent several weeks with us in winter, a new wintering record for the state (see **The Loon**, 55: 86-87). Bob Janssen spent two or three hours here, waiting to see the bird, and will verify that it was a good skulker at that time. But last year, at Ellen's, a male Lincoln's set up a nesting territory, conspicuously advertised by its song. It made no effort to hide or skulk when we followed the House Wren-like song to its singing perch. I recall at least two other occasions at her place when we have watched Lincoln's under the feeder as much out in the open as any of the other sparrows (White-throated, White-crowned, Harris', Song or Chipping). In short, the Lincoln's Sparrows behaved like the book said in Ramsey County but not in Cook County on its breeding territory. **Art Hawkins, 6102 Centerville Road, Hugo, MN 55038.**

CAROLINA WRENS AT ROCHESTER

Date: July 22, 1986

Location: The "Canyon" bordering Ninth Avenue S.W., between Eighth and Seventh Street, Rochester, Olmsted County.

Reason observation is unusual: Species is casual in state.

Light conditions; bird/sun orientation: Bright, sunny usually managed to place myself so sun was to my right or left since I was there from 7:30-8:45 a.m., and the bird was, for the most part, to my east.

Length of observation: I watched and recorded the bird for about 45 minutes.

Distance from bird: It varied from 10 feet to 100 feet.

Habitat: Residential "Pill Hill" neighborhood, with large old trees, pines, and "mature" shrubs and gardens. The "Canyon" is thick and a steep drop off from Ninth Avenue. Sometimes, however, the bird perched on the telephone wire, sometimes on bare branches, sometimes in the big spruce; it generally flitted about the area.

Optics used: Leitz Trinovids, 10 × 40, when it was not too close for use.

Experience with this and similar species: I'm familiar with this species in the south, and am familiar with the common wrens of Minnesota.

Species similar to this bird, and how eliminated from consideration: Firstly, by its loud

clear song. Secondly it is a large wren compared with House Wren, or Marsh or Sedge. We had a Bewick's here earlier this summer, but the Carolina is larger, has an unstreaked nape (Bewick's does also), however, the Carolina does not have white corners in its tail. Both have a white stripe over the eye. The songs could not be confused, either. The Marsh is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch smaller, does have streaks on its nape, has a very different song, and wouldn't logically be found in this habitat. The Rock Wren was a thought, but the song was different; and it too has light buffy tail corners, and streaking on the breast; Carolina doesn't, and the Rock is gray tones, Carolina is the brown tones (see description below). The Rock Wren is about the same size, and has been seen in Minnesota.

Was I aware that the observation was unusual: Yes

References consulted: National Geographic Field guide and Peterson's

Applicable statements: Field guide not needed to make identification; Read Bent after I got home, because of plumage variance I saw (see description below). Also recorded it singing with tape recorder.

Description: It sounded lovely, but looked rather scruffy. The white eye stripe was not bold, but prominent. The upperparts were mousey, not a warm-reddish. The underparts were off-white, "dirty" white, with just a hint of buff. Its bill and tail looked strikingly long, disproportionately. Only its song was "true to form." If it hadn't been singing, it could easily have been overlooked—not at all like those I had seen in the south. It was definitely not in breeding plumage. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

Editor's note: On July 26, 1986 Ray Glassel and I went to Rochester to look for the Carolina Wren. We arrived at Bill Evans residence at 810 - 8th Street S.W. about 6:00 a.m. Almost immediately we heard the song of a Carolina Wren. It was a beautiful clear, calm morning with temperatures in the 60's. A few minutes later we saw the Carolina Wren and almost immediately it was joined by another Carolina Wren — a more drab looking bird which we guessed might be a female. We watched the birds fly from tree to tree, rooftop to rooftop in the residential area. One of the birds sang at infrequent intervals. After about 20 minutes the birds disappeared and were not seen nor heard again. The pair remained in the same area until mid-August.

LEAST TERNS IN OLMSTED COUNTY

Date: June 14, 1986

Location: Junction of County Roads 122 and 25, Olmsted County, west of Rochester.

Reason observation is unusual: Casual status in state; most unusual location.

Light conditions; bird/sun orientation: Good light, sunny at 4:30 p.m. At first sighting, the birds were ahead of me and to my left with the sun to my right. As I was coming down a fairly steep hill, they were at eye level at this time. After I turned onto County 25, they were to my left, in full sun, with the sun to my back.

Length of observation: Approximately five minutes.

Distance from birds: At first sighting, approximately a quarter of a mile; at the closest point to them, about 100 yards.

Habitat: They were coming from the large gravel-pit pond ahead of me; and were flying over wet fields when I was able to stop and get binoculars on them.

Optics used: Leitz Trinovids, 10 × 40B

Species similar to these birds, and how eliminated from consideration: In North America, no other tern is as small. (If the term "cute" describes the Northern Saw-whet Owl, the term "dainty" describes the Least Tern.) They also have distinctive manner of flight: active, sharp turning, and lifting; they are often compared to swallows in this regard. As I got closer to them, I could see their yellow legs, and tell-tale yellow bills. Common Terns have black cape and napes, and a white forehead in juvenile plumage, but the forehead is not as clearly defined nor do they have yellow bills in any plumage; and they are half again as big as the Least with a flat-headed and somewhat chunky look — not these birds I was seeing. The

more graceful Forster's have the black cap and nape in breeding plumage, but then they do not have a white forehead; and then they have red-orange bills tipped with black; and the winter and first summer Forster's have black bills. Also the wing-beats of the Forster's are more leisurely and slow than these quick-beating flyers I was seeing. After hearing later that a Sandwich Tern had been sighted, I briefly reviewed them as a possibility but ruled them out too as they have black, tipped with yellow, bills and the white forehead is lacking in breeding plumage and indistinct or less defined with black stripe extending from the nape through the eye to the bill, narrowing at the bill. At far range I could see that they had white forked tails, but so do others, e.g., Forsters, Common and less so Caspian. They gave a marked impression of being a "white" tern so that ruled out the first summer Black Tern, which though it can look somewhat white in the underparts, shows black blotching on closer inspection, and the wing color is deeper gray, with more darkness in the primaries.

Was I aware at the time of the observation that it was unusual: Yes, I was. I knew it was on the "Casual Species" list, and highly unlikely in this area. Bent says (p. 279) "Said to wander in summer north to Minnesota, Ontario and Nova Scotia, but many of the records are doubtful" although he does accept reports of their being in Nebraska on April 2 in spring migration; and Kansas and Missouri in fall migration — all pretty far from their usual coastal habitat. When I first saw them, my immediate reaction was "Least's, but what are they doing here?" I did not know at this time, or for about a week after, that one had been reported to the Hot Line, having been seen in roughly the same area, over the hill, about ¾ mile to the north.

Description: When I first saw them, I saw two small white birds acting like swallows. They were smaller than Rock Doves flying nearby. As I got closer, stealing glances at them while trying to keep the car on the road in light traffic, I could see their forked tails, their black caps and nape, and that they had lighter bills (in other words no black, or deep red, or orange). Mostly at this juncture, I watched them fly, with rapid wing-beats, and sharp, darting turns, swallow-like. Once I got to a spot where I could use binocs, I could see the black tips on their yellow bills, the gray mantle and upperparts with darker primaries, the white underparts and tail, all clear white. The definitive black stripe through the eye, extending from the black cap to the bill, and narrowing at the bill, set off the white forehead for which the bird is named. That did it — I knew I was looking at Least Terns. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

The following records were voted on January - July, 1986, and found Acceptable:—White-winged Dove, 10/13/85, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 58:92-93). In the case of potential first state records, such as this, a vote of 10-0 is now required for acceptance: the seven regular Committee members plus the three alternate members vote.

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/24/85, near Borup, Norman Co. (vote 7-0).

—Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 10/19/84, Rice Lake, Faribault Co. (vote 8-2 in favor of Ac category; *The Loon* 58:97-99).

A potential first state record; all ten members voted. As discussed in the previous Proceedings article (*The Loon* 58:42-43), a simple majority vote decides the status of possible escapes such as this; the two dissenting members voted for Aa status.

—Mute Swan, 4/1-2/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)

—Eurasian Wigeon, 4/6/86, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:99).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 11/9/85, Medicine Lake, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:99).

—White-faced Ibis, 4/26/86, near Truman, Martin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:138).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 3/29-4/6/86, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:141).

—Ruff, 4/19/86, near Sherburn, Martin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 5/4/86, near Freeborn, Freeborn Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:130).

—Western Tanager, 5/10/86, Belle Prairie Twp., Morrison Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:99).

—Bewick's Wren, 4/27/86, near Salem Corners, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:137-138).

—House Finch, 5/6/86, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0).

—Clark's Grebe, 5/10/86, Ash L., Grant Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 58:110).

Another potential first state record with all ten members voting.

—Mississippi Kite, 5/20/86, North Oaks, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:140).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/22/86, Pilot Mound Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:133).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/11/86, Forestville Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:133).

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/17/86, near Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:136-137).

—Pacific (formerly Arctic) Loon, 5/7/86, Duluth Twp., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:128-129).

—Mississippi Kite, 5/14/86, Forestville Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:134).

—White-eyed Vireo, 5/9/86, North Oaks, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:136).

—Plegadis ibis, sp., 6/2/86, Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:141).

—White-eyed Vireo, 6/6-7/1/86, Pleasant Prairie Twp., Martin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—White-faced Ibis, 4/27-28/86, Hamlin Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:138).

—Pacific Loon, 5/24/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

—Laughing Gull, 6/16/86, York Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:137).

—Sage Thrasher, 6/16/86, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—Least Tern, 6/12-14/86, near Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:129-130).

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/24/86, Blue Mounds State Park, Rock Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:140).

—Least Tern, 5/9/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:138).

The following records were voted on Jan-

uary-June, 1986, and found Unacceptable:

—Common Barn-Owl, 8/28-Sept./85, L. Vermillion, St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5).

A family group of owls was heard on several nights, but none of them were ever seen clearly. A tape recording of their calls was made, and most agreed that they were food-begging cries of juveniles, but that the calls were not diagnostic for barn-owls, since other owl species can give similar calls. The tape of the calls was submitted to several known barn-owl experts. When the results are known a report on this observation will be published in *The Loon*.

—Swainson's Hawk, 11/2/85, near Red Wing, Goodhue Co. (vote 3-4).

This was a difficult and close vote; although the description fit Swainson's Hawk, the diagnostic underwing pattern was not clearly described, and it seemed the identification was based on features shared by other species. Some felt the possibility of it being a Red-tailed or a Northern Harrier was not completely ruled out.

—Swainson's Hawk, 1/25/86, Winona, Winona Co. (vote 1-6).

Although the diagnostic pattern of "dark flight feathers" and "white wing linings" was described, the majority felt that a Swainson's Hawk in midwinter was so unlikely and unprecedented that all doubts should be eliminated before accepting such a record. However, there were problems with the documentation: a photo was taken of the bird which was not clear enough to show any field marks, but the shape of the wings appeared to be wrong for a Swainson's (they appear too broad and rounded—a Swainson's has relatively long and pointed wings for a Buteo); the identification was partly based on "a hood effect" and "a narrow dark subterminal band" on the barred tail, features shared by other raptors; although the bird was "too small to be a Bald Eagle" (immatures have a similar underwing pattern), it is unclear how the size

was determined (and the shape of the bird in the photo suggests Bald Eagle); and the observer was looking up into the sun, which could have made the field marks difficult to see accurately.

—Swainson's Hawk, 11/8/85, Hwy. 38, Itasca Co. (vote 1-6).

Although the underwing pattern was correctly described, the bird was seen well only by a relatively inexperienced birder (the most experienced observer with him apparently did not get a good look), and the bird was only observed from a moving car—birds seen then often look different than they really are; many birders have stopped to look at something they thought was different only to find it doesn't look the same as it did from the moving car. The majority felt a better look from the more experienced birder was needed to accept the sighting of a species this far out of season, range and habitat.

—Swainson's Warbler, 5/20/86, Columbus Twp., Anoka Co. (vote 0-10).

A potential first state record, so all ten members voted. The relatively inexperienced observer never described the color of the crown, and the sketchy details given could also fit other warblers or vireos. Also, the bird was seen actively feeding in some branches of oak trees—behavior and habitat which are inconsistent with Swainson's Warbler.

—Swainson's Warbler, 5/10/86, Maplewood Nature Center, Ramsey Co. (vote 1-9).

This observation included a description of the brown cap, but the back was said to be a "warbler green", which doesn't fit Swainson's Warbler. There was also no mention of whether there was a dark eyeline, nothing was said about the bird's behavior, and the observer was not sure if there were any wing bars. For a first state record a more complete set of details should be given. **9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and 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.

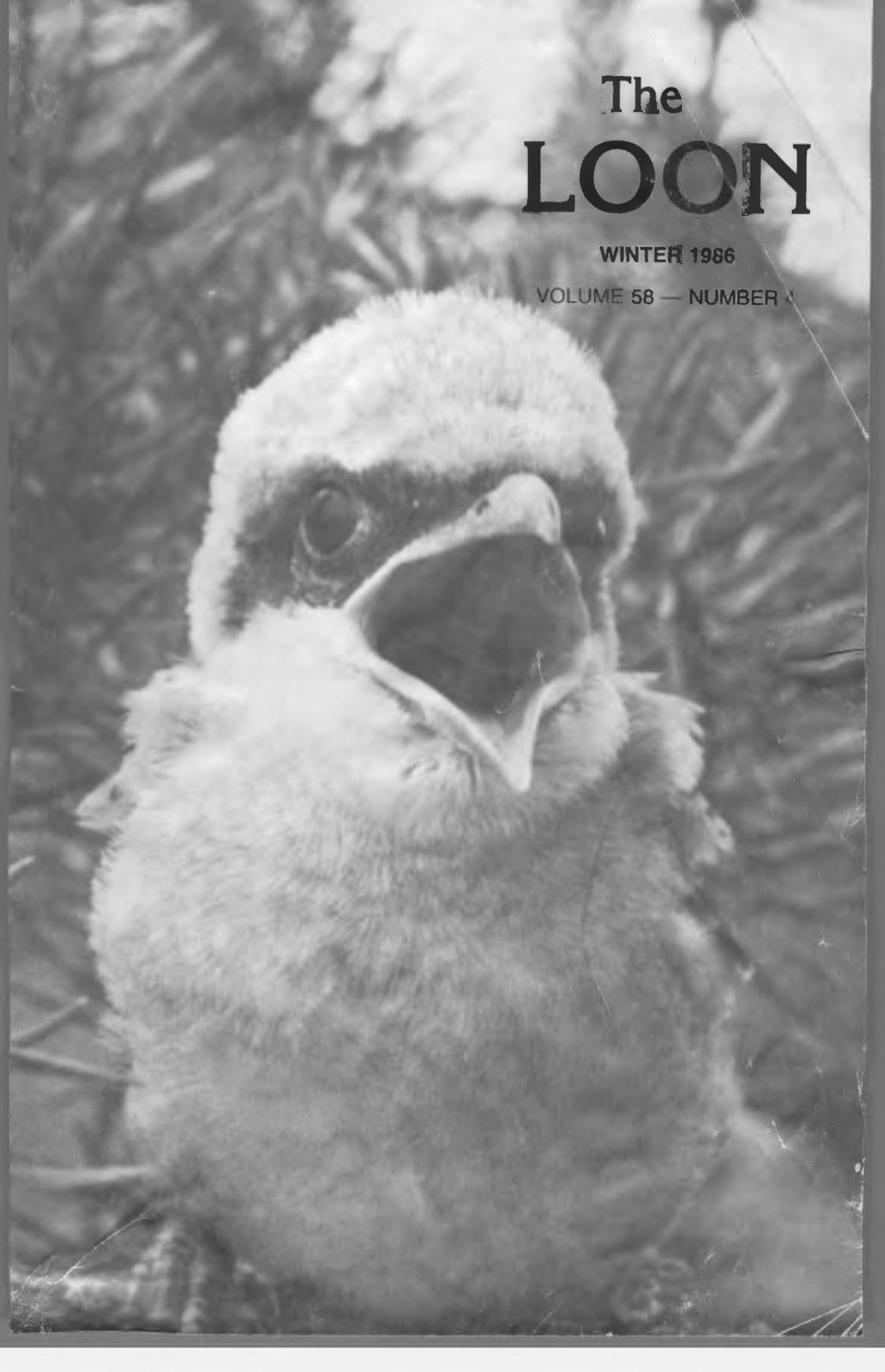
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The
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"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly 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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The Breeding Distribution of the Loggerhead Shrike in Minnesota: A Preliminary Report

Bonnie L. Brooks and Stanley A. Temple

The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*), once a common breeding bird of Minnesota's prairies, has become the subject of concern among state ornithologists and birdwatchers. The entire midwestern population of shrikes has declined over the last several decades (Morrison 1981, Robbins et al. 1986). Minnesota's population is no exception. A review of state records of observations indicates that the once abundant "butcherbird" is becoming rarer throughout its breeding range in the southern 2/3 of Minnesota. As a result, the Loggerhead Shrike was placed on the state's threatened species list in 1984.

In 1986 we undertook a statewide shrike survey. Our objectives were to locate as many breeding pairs of shrikes as possible, to identify areas with relatively high nesting densities in the state, to describe characteristics of breeding habitat, to monitor reproductive success, and to identify causes of nest failures. This paper addresses primarily the first two of these objectives. These results are based on the first year of a two-year study and, hence, are preliminary.

METHODS

We located breeding shrikes in several ways. The most productive approach was to investigate reports of sightings by members of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, the Nature Conservancy, and the Department of Natural Resources during the nesting period (April-July). We recruited the help of additional volunteer observers through newspaper and magazine articles. Nest reports and sighting records from previous years also lead us to possible nest locations. In addition to these reports, seven field assistants helped us search areas that either were known to contain shrikes in the past or were judged to have potential shrike habitat. From 29 April to 10 June 1986 we searched for nesting shrikes in ten counties (Figure 1)

by driving slowly along township roads and looking for shrikes perched in conspicuous places. The township roads in most of these counties followed section lines, allowing us to scan virtually every square mile of a suitable habitat. In open areas we could see shrikes at distances up to 1/4 mile from the road. We made a thorough search of hedgerows and potential nest trees wherever a bird was observed or reported.

Toward the end of the nesting period (10 June to 20 August 1986) when most young had fledged and family groups were particularly conspicuous, we systematically surveyed the six counties, as illustrated in Figure 1, in which we had found the highest number of nests. Within these counties we searched for shrikes in as many townships as possible, averaging eight townships per county. Along each township road, we stopped every 1/2 mile with the stops located 1/4 mile from each intersection of north-south and east-west roads. At each stop, we classified the habitat within a 1/4-mile radius of the stop as either suitable for shrikes (i.e., grassland containing potential nest sites) or unsuitable. If the habitat was judged to be suitable, the observer searched for shrikes continuously with binoculars for 8 minutes. We had previously determined in 71 trials that in 8 minutes of searching for shrikes in known nesting territories there was a 90% probability of observing a shrike, if one was present within 1/4 mile of the observer.

RESULTS

We located 29 nesting pairs of shrikes during the 1986 nesting season, and these pairs made 34 nest attempts during the season. An additional nine reports, three of nesting pairs and six of individual birds, were received after the nesting season. Reports from birdwatchers and naturalists proved very helpful. Their reports led us to 18 of the 32 nesting pairs.

The 32 nesting pairs were distributed

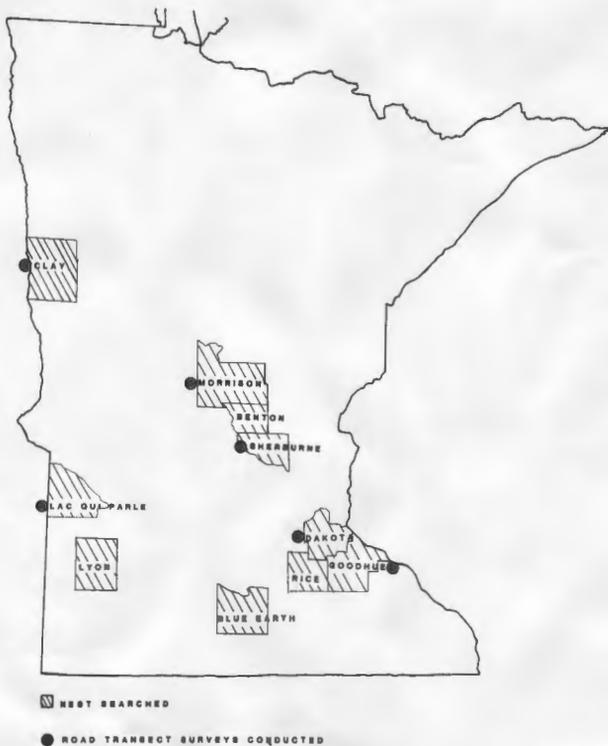


Figure 1. Minnesota counties in which we searched for shrike nests and carried out road counts in 1986.

among 12 counties (Table 1). Clay County had the northernmost nest, and Fillmore County had the southernmost nest. Sherburne County had the highest number of nesting pairs (8) and nesting attempts (9). Morrison County had the highest local density of nests in any one area: three nesting pairs occurred in a 70-acre area.

Three pairs renested after their first clutch or brood had been destroyed by predators or a spring storm. Two other pairs were double-brooded, hatching a second clutch after already fledging their first brood. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of known nesting pairs, of reports by observers, and of additional family groups or territories discovered during the late-season road surveys.

DISCUSSION

Although Loggerhead Shrikes are still fairly widespread in the southern two-thirds of Minnesota (Figure 2), the number of birds found in this region is low. The dis-

covery of 32 nesting pairs on 12 counties in 1986 seems encouraging (only 41 nests had been reported for the same areas during the previous 10 years), but this large number of nests reflected the intensity of our search effort rather than an increase in the breeding population over previous years when fewer nesting pairs were reported annually.

Based on recent reports published in *The Loon* (Table 1), the statewide distribution of breeding shrikes has not changed dramatically. Benton, Clay, Dakota, Morrison, and Sherburne Counties had relatively high numbers of nesting shrikes in the past, and they still did in 1986. These counties contained 51% of all known nesting pairs between 1975 and 1985. In 1986 they contained 63% of the known nesting pairs. Goodhue County, which had no records of nesting shrikes in the last ten years, contributed substantially to the total number of nests in 1986.

County	Number (and percentage) of nests, 1975-85 ^a	Number (and percentage) of nests, 1986
Benton	4 (17%)	1 (3%)
Blue Earth	2 (8%)	1 (3%)
Clay	4 (17%)	6 (19%)
Dakota	4 (17%)	2 (6%)
Fillmore	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Goodhue	0 (0%)	4 (13%)
Lac Qui Parle	1 (4%)	2 (6%)
Morrison	5 (21%)	3 (9%)
Murray	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Redwood	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Rice	0 (0%)	2 (6%)
Sherburne	4 (17%)	8 (25%)

^aBased on 41 nest reports from *The Loon*.

Table 1: A summary of Loggerhead Shrike nest records in 12 Minnesota counties, 1975-85 and 1986.

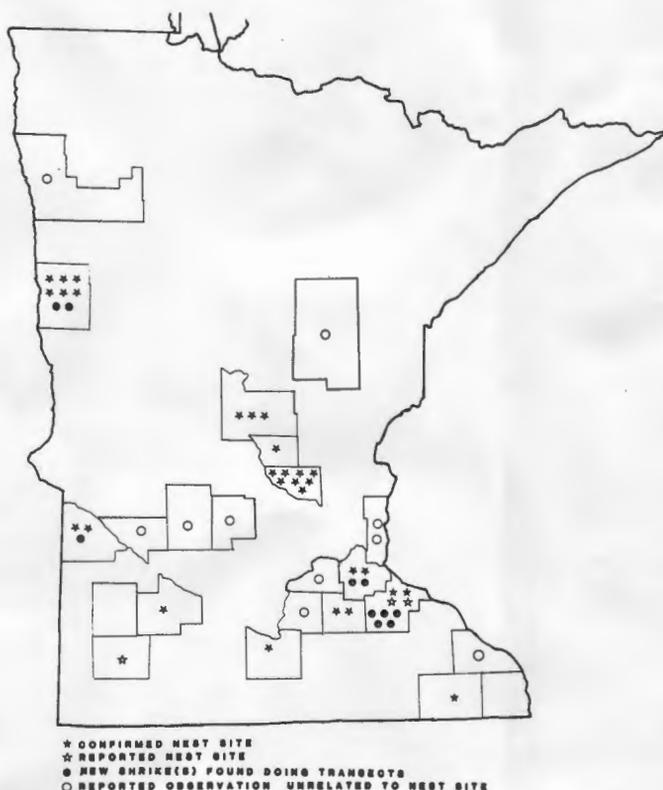


Figure 2. Known distribution of breeding Loggerhead Shrikes in Minnesota, 1986.

Our work was supported by The Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and The Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We thank Bob Janssen, editor of *The Loon*, for helping us contact the members of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union who aided us in finding shrikes and nests. We look forward to working with M.O.U. members again in 1987.

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- Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

Minnesota's First Mountain Plover Record

Robert B. Janssen

I had decided to take a day off work to go to Martin County to see if I could find the White-eyed Vireo that Paul Sullivan had found on June 2, 1986. The bird had been found on a Wildlife Management Area seven miles east of Fairmont and was seen off and on all during June. (*The Loon* 58:139).

Early on July 2, I was on my way to the Martin County area. Just south of Huntley along Faribault County Road 1 I noticed a flooded field. It was worth a stop because there were shorebirds feeding in the muddy areas. There were Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers and many Killdeers.

The White-eyed Vireo was only a few minutes away, so I hurried to the area. I might as well have stayed at the shorebird area. Two hours of looking did not produce the White-eyed Vireo. I had told work that I would be in shortly after noon, so about 9:15 a.m. I started for home. I intended to stop at the Grenada sewage ponds, but there were some workmen in the area so I didn't stop. To try and salvage something out of the day, I decided to stop once again at the flooded field along Faribault County Road 1. The exact location of the area was 1½ miles north of I-90 and south of the small village of Huntley).

I arrived back at this area at about 9:45

a.m. I started to scope the area with my Bushnell 20x scope, when immediately I noted two plover-like birds standing about 100 yards away in the muddy field. The birds looked strange and I knew I was looking at something different.

My first impression was that the birds were Mountain Plovers but I wanted to "talk" myself out of this conclusion; it was just too "wild" to think that two Mountain Plovers could be in Minnesota in July. The most obvious field mark at first glance was the solid brownish-tan back with no spotting, streaking or speckling. I wanted to see something like this so I could call the birds Lesser Golden-Plovers in some odd plumage and be done with this most difficult identification problem. I began thinking about getting to work, the other problems I had that day, and how far from home I was. However, these two birds were more important. I began noting other field marks. The crown was a darker tan, there was an eyeline that extended behind the eye, the area behind the eye was a brownish-tan, under the eye and extending around the throat and chin it was white. The breast and belly were white with a beige over-print on the breast—this extended down to the flanks. The breast, belly and under tail coverts were totally unstreaked. The legs were long like a Killdeer and dark. I could not tell if they

were black or mud-covered. The bill was dark.

During this time I was viewing the birds through my scope from the car. I decided to approach the birds for a closer look, hoping that I would not chase them away. At this time I looked at my Robbins field guide to see if I was looking at a Mountain Plover. The birds appeared to resemble most closely the illustration on page 111, the winter plumage.

I took the scope and walked into the field about 50 yards. The birds remained in the same position but were very alert. I could not approach any closer because of the mud. Through the scope I noted the same characteristics as mentioned above, plain back, unstreaked breast, belly and under tail, dark crown, dark bill and legs. I attempted a closer look and momentarily lost my footing. This spooked the nearby Lesser Yellowlegs and other shorebirds. All of the birds including the plovers took to the air. I located the plovers in the flock, but because of the shadows from the bright sun and the position of the bird in relation to the sun, I could not see the under wing color.

As the flock wheeled and came closer to the ground, I got a dorsal view of one of the birds. The wings and back were a plain brownish-tan. There was a very light, but evident, wing stripe about 1" up from the secondaries. The tail appeared to be a uniform tan color with no evident pattern.

As the birds wheeled and flew in front of me, almost overhead, I heard one of the plovers give a rather plain, whistled call—phewee—slightly descending. This was the last I saw or heard of the birds.

I returned to the road and scanned the entire area before I left, but I could not locate the plovers again.

I had lots of time to think on the 125 mile ride home. It was just unbelievable to me that the birds were Mountain Plovers. I knew I would have a difficult time convincing my fellow birders and the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee that I had seen two Mountain Plovers in early July. The biggest problem for me was that I had not seen a tail pattern on the birds which, in conjunction with the other field marks, is diagnostic of Mountain Plovers. Not seeing this, plus the dark

legs, made me feel insecure about the conclusion.

However, if these birds were not Mountain Plovers, the only other possibility was Lesser Golden-Plover. If they were golden-plovers they were in a plumage that has never been described for that species. By the time I reached home I thought the birds were Mountain Plovers but it was going to be difficult to prove.

Before I left for work I called Ray Glasel and told him about the observation and the problems involved. I went off to work putting the observation in the background. It wasn't until the next morning, Thursday, July 3rd, that Ray called stating that he, Bill Litkey, Bill Pieper and Liz Campbell had gone down to Faribault County, seen the same two birds (this is based on their description which is quite similar to mine, see below) and rather easily identified them as Mountain Plovers.

The following were notes taken by them at the time of the observation:

7/2/86 - Huntley, Faribault County, 8:10-8:20 p.m.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER (2)

grayish or reddish legs - depending on angle

upright posture

little smaller than Killdeer in vicinity

sunlight to our left - clear skies

50 yds. distance

white throat, chest, belly

black eyes

dark plover-like beak

white superciliary & forehead

light brown crown & back of neck

back was mottled brown

terminal half of tail was black with white tip

flight was away - not able to detect wing stripe or underwing; otherwise, only saw brownish wing

flew 100-200 yds with somewhat stiff wingbeat only a few feet above ground.

flew without apparent provocation

notes compiled after observation, but also after having consulted field guide.

Observers - Liz Campbell, Ray Glassel, Bill Litkey, Bill Pieper.

After hearing of their findings I announced the sighting on the Minnesota Rare Bird Alert. On July 3, Anne Marie Plunkett saw the birds and wrote a detailed description of the two birds, again giving a similar description to mine and that of the other observers on the 2nd. (Pieper, etc.). On July 4 at least 10 observers were in the area and of these 10, seven confirmed in writing, what had been seen before. The two birds were Mountain Plovers.

It is here that the situation becomes a bit confusing. Jon Peterson, Ann McKenzie and Terry Savaloja observed a single confusing bird. Terry called me, but all through the conversation I felt he was describing a different bird than the one I had seen. Jon and Ann were the only ones to provide a written description of this confusing bird. Their details are as follows:

"Here's a few details on that "Lesser Golden/Mountain Plover" that we saw on July 4, 5, 6. Others saw two birds in the field north of I-90. They apparently saw the rump well. We saw only one "confusing" bird and saw it at the marsh immediately adjacent to I-90. We also saw "normal" winter plumaged Lesser Golden-Plovers in the field north of I-90 and possibly the confusing bird, but the light then was poor."

"Our bird":

(+) = Evidence for Mountain Plover

(-) = Evidence for Lesser Golden-Plover

(-) = Size: Same as Lesser Golden-Plover adjacent to it.

(-) = Posture: Same as Lesser Golden-Plover.

(+) = Back: Plain uniform brown, no mottling, striping or any pattern at all.

(+) = Breast: Buffy shoulder with white breast and white "streak" up center of breast like Mountain Plover on page 106 in National Geographic Guide.

(+) = Throat: White

(+) = Wing: Pale, white/buffy stripe, easily visible.

(-) = Underwing: Buffy

(+) = Legs: Dark Gray (hard to see) but not black.

(+) ± Bill: Dark

(-) = Tail: Plain, not like Mountain Plover (per Terry Savaloja)

(-) = Habitat: in mud

(-) = Habits: alone

"Terry Savaloja saw tail and general appearance on the ground the best. Ann saw wing patterns. I saw under-wings. All I can say is the three of us studied it for about an hour and could not decide until it flew; it looked perfect for a Mountain Plover on the ground except for size and posture though we (Jon and Ann) had not seen Mountain Plovers for nearly a year."

I think the important points made in their comments are that "their" bird was seen in a different area than the Mountain Plovers. There were other "normal" Lesser Golden-Plovers in the area and they saw a single bird. All other observers, to the best of my knowledge, reported two birds as I had at the initial sighting.

On July 5, Jo & Steve Blanich, Warren Nelson, Dick Ruhme and Gary Swanson were in the area and observed the two Mountain Plovers. Gary Swanson's description and drawing are printed exactly as written on the next page. Steve Blanich and Warren Nelson attempted to photograph the birds, but were not successful.

To the best of my knowledge the Mountain Plovers were not seen after July 5, although there were reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers and the confusing individual on July 6. It is very interesting to note, as a sidelight to the Mountain Plovers, that it is most unusual to have Lesser Golden-Plovers in southern Minnesota, or anywhere in the state for that matter, in early July.

After all the excitement and controversy about the Mountain Plover observation settled down, I submitted the written details from eight observers to Walter Graul of the Colorado Division of Wildlife in Fort Collins, Colorado. Mr. Graul is a known expert on Mountain Plovers. His reply is reprinted in full.

Dear Mr. Janssen,

First, let me explain my position on verification of new records. The only way to truly verify a record is to have a good photo or study skin. Twenty years from

NOTES ON PLOVERS

Gary M. Swanson

WHITISH UNDERWING - ENTIRE

DARK "SMUDGE" TERM TIP TAIL - NOT VERY NOTICABLE

DEFINITE WING STRIPE

- BLANCH'S NOTED LIGHT LEGS

PALE/SANDY OVERALL BACK - WINGS - TAIL (ONLY W/SCOPE AT CLOSE RANGE
COULD SEE LIGHTER FEATHER
EDGING ON BACK)

UPRIGHT STANCE / LARGE HEAD-EYE

LONG LEGGED - STOCKY (SHORT BEAK TO TAIL)

WASHED OUT UNSTRENGTHENED BREAST

THE "FEEL" WAS A BIRD I HADN'T SEEN BEFORE

WHITISH FOREHEAD - DARKER CAP (DARKEST PART OF HEAD, NOT BLACK,
EXCEPT FOR EYES/BEAK)

NECK TALL / PROUD LOOK

BIRDS BOTH LOOKED THE SAME / STAYED TOGETHER

BOTH FLEW / FLUSHED SEVERAL TIMES (SOUND OF BEAT)

2 NOTE CALL ON MANY OCCASIONS
OR 1 CALL FROM EACH BIRD?
- A MELLOW TUU

CONCLUSION:

PIT PLOVER / NOT ADULT PLUMAGE -

BIRD OBSERVED

- ON/OFF FOR 30 MINUTES
- AFTERNOON / SUNNY - AT TIMES SUN DIRECTLY BEHIND ME
- WITH 7x25 BINS & 20x-45x SCOPE AT 25 YDS / 50 YDS / 100 YDS
 ▲ SUN BEHIND ▲
- OTHER OBSERVED AT SAME TIME / NOT NESS. SAME PLACE FROM BIRD
 - JO & STEVE BLANCH
 - WARREN NELSON
 - DICK RHOME & WIFE



DRAWN FROM MEMORY ONLY - TO SHOW
DARK EYE, BEAK, CAP COMPARED TO TONE OF REST
OF BIRD - TALL POSTURE

now that is the only way someone can check (verify) a record. This is the approach we use in Colorado, i.e., a true record must be based on a good photo. Beyond this, all you can do is classify sightings relative to how well they seem to meet the description of a given species. This is the approach I will use with the data you sent me.

Looking at all the physical descriptions the information does seem to fit the Mountain Plover better than any other species. I would not consider this absolutely conclusive, as I stated in the above paragraph. In fact, there is something that puzzles me. Namely, I have not seen an adult on the breeding grounds here in Colorado that, by the first of July, has completely lost the black crown patch. I don't rule out wandering adults, in your case, that went through this transition early because of a total absence of breeding activity. Of course, the other possibility is a young-of-the-year. However, this doesn't seem to fit the descriptions provided. Namely, all the fledged young I have seen in early July appear very buffy in the cheek area and have a distinct buffy band across the breast. In fact, most have a lighter coloration on the back of the head that is really noticeable until later in the summer. So, your descriptions seem to best fit two adults that did not breed in 1986—perhaps because they were not in the breeding habitat with other Mountain Plovers?

Seeing this species in Minnesota does not surprise me. As you can see from the enclosed articles, they do get around. The Alabama article is hard to read, so you will want to check the original source.

In summary, your Minnesota data do support two Mountain Plovers in nonbreeding plumage; however, it is impossible to be conclusive without a good photo or specimen.

Sincerely, Walter D. Graul

After receiving Graul's reply I submitted the details of the observation plus Graul's letter to the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee and the record was unanimously accepted.

This whole story is one of the most interesting Minnesota bird records I have ever been involved in. As Mr. Graul said, it would have been better if we had a photograph or specimen to positively document this record. Unfortunately, neither was possible. However, I feel that the written documentation from eight competent observers plus comments from at least ten other people, has given us the best possible documentation, under the circumstances, of this most interesting first state record,

10521 S. Cedar Lake Road - #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.

Lanesboro Revisited — 75 Years Later

Anne Marie Plunkett

Since February of 1986, I have been birding Fillmore County on a near daily basis in an attempt to fill the data void created by the death of Dr. Johan Christian Hvoslef in October of 1920. This remarkable man of science had kept daily records of his observations of natural history in southeastern Minnesota, mainly in the Lanesboro area where he resided and practiced medicine from 1876 to 1920. Fifty-four of his journals and three additional species-notebooks are in the Archives of the University of Minnesota. Studying these records reveals much about life in those times, as well as providing a wealth of data about birds — sightings, nesting, and migrations of those years. (The first evidence of the presence in our northern locality of a Prothonotary Warbler was provided by Dr. Hvoslef).

Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, in his classic work *The Birds of Minnesota*, drew heavily on Dr. Hvoslef's data saying, "All the many records from Lanesboro in this work are from Dr. Hvoslef's notes." Roberts further says: "Perhaps no man did so much to develop a knowledge of the bird-life of a single locality in the state as did Dr. Johan C. Hvoslef." And further yet, he says: "Fortunately he recorded carefully and accurately everything that came under his notice, and Minnesota bird-students owe no small debt of gratitude to this retiring but hardworking man of science."

I thought it would be interesting to revisit Lanesboro 75 years to the day after Dr. Hvoslef noted a "Great Bird Day" in his journal.

In his tenth diary, he describes this day: (the following paragraphs are quoted verbatim from Diary #10; August 10, 1911 - June 22, 1912.)

page 34

Thursday, Oct. 5, 1911. A terrific downpour of rain now for many hours.

The great bird day

This morning 38° and it looked as if the long period of rain at last had come to an end. I went to the hill and took fresh flowers along. It was so chilly that I hardly was able to handle the filled glass. By the gate there were

so many birds. Also when I got over to the rear of the valley, the bushes were teeming with birds (or swarming) [sic]. In the valley and at the outlet, there it was swarming with birds.

When I got home I was called to Miss Ole Carlsen near Pekin and drove there with livery team from M. Horihan, with Erik Bohn driving. It was quite chilly and some drops of rain were falling here and there — although the prospects this morning were for a fine day without any more rain.

RAIN POURING

At length the rain poured down and the roads became horrid. On the Casey hill met with an automob. in the deep clay mud. That ride could hardly have been very pleasant.

The whole world, almost everywhere was swarming with birds. The following I was able to identify, but very many more species, of course, escaped my spying eyes.

Robins, great flocks

**Poocates*, very many by the new school house [Pooecetes - Vesper Sparrow]

Dend coronata, in great numbers [Dendroica coronata - Yellow-rumped Warbler]

Spiz socialis, numerous [Spizella socialis - Chipping Sparrow]

Spiz pusilla, and there were undoubtedly others. [Spizella pusilla - Field Sparrow]

Colaptes [Flicker]

Bonasa at two places in the valley [Bonasa umbellus - Ruffed Grouse]

Junco, very many, everywhere.

Sialia, very many [Sialia sialis - Eastern Bluebird]

Accipiter cooperii (male) [sic] dived down among bushes full of small birds, and at once everything became as still as the grave. [Accipiter cooperii - Cooper's Hawk]

*As was the custom in those days, Dr. Hvoslef used, almost exclusively, the Latin names of the birds he saw. This writer used the *AOU Checklist of North American Birds*, First edition, 1885, for the English equivalents. Where a species name was not inscribed in the manuscript, a "probable" species is inserted based on other notations in the Doctor's journals.



**Dr. Johan Christian Hvoself on North Bluff, Lanesboro, Fillmore County, c. 1890.
Photo from River Valley Echoes.**

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Spinus tristis, many [*Spinus tristis tristis* - American Goldfinch]

Zonotr. albicol., countless myriads [*Zonotrichia albicollis* - White-throated Sparrow]

There und. (undoubtedly) [sic] were the *Zon. leu.* I was unable to determine this in our hurried passing by. [*Zonotrichia leucophrys* - White-crowned Sparrow]

Pipilo several LAST [*Pipilo* - Towhee]. ["LAST" refers to his last sighting for 1911]

Very many *crows*.

I also believe I saw some *Otocoris*, but this is doubtful. [*Otocoris* - Shore-larks, probably either pipits or Horned Larks]

Melosp fasciata - [*Melospiza fasciata* - Song Sparrow]

Melosp georgiana, undoubtedly. [*Melospiza georgiana* - Swamp Sparrow]

Passerella, a few [*Passerella iliaca* - Fox Sparrow]

Certhia, one, the river was getting higher. [*Certhia familiaris* - Brown Creeper]

Troch. **not** by the house. [Probably Trochilidae - hummingbird species]

Since my return I have been working at the office while the rain has been pouring down.

RAIN POURING

. . . got very chilly, fell clear to 38° but then it again rose, and near midnight it was 53°. Rain was pouring down all the while. Lightning and thunder.

Part of the challenge of trying to follow in this man's footsteps was to try to recapture the logistics of the time in which he writes. Before trying to do a 1986 Great Bird Day,



Anne Marie Plunkett birding Fillmore County, 1986. Photo by Spring Valley Tribune.

I have had to try to piece together just what routes he took, along what roads, and by what streams and ponds. Many have been altered over the years so it came as a great surprise and delight to learn that my favorite road in the area had once been the main road to Preston frequently walked by Dr. Hvoslef. Sadly, the Mill Pond on which he had a boat-house/laboratory is today only a remnant of its former glory.

I laid a few ground rules for myself. I would only "count" birds that I was able to identify, without the use of field glasses/binoculars, as Dr. Hvoslef had done. I would confine my birding to the locales mentioned in his account of October 5, 1911. And I would limit the time spent birding to approximately that of the busy Doctor.

The greatest tragedy of Dr. Hvoslef's life was the death of his only child, his daughter Agnes, at the age of six and a half years. From the time of her death in 1898, until his

own in 1920, he visited her grave "on the hill" each and every day, bringing fresh flowers and tending the site. So it was here that I began my October 5, 1986 Great Bird Day, placing flowers here following in the footsteps of Dr. Johan Christian Hvoslef.

"My" October 5 dawned damp and cool (48°) and never got much warmer than the low 50's. As in 1911, we had had enough rain. (They had had a flood on August 13, 1911; we had ours on September 20, 1986). In both 1911 and 1986, the Root River was very high, with little chance of finding any waders or shorebirds. It did rain off and on during my Bird Day, as it had during his.

As I proceeded with his route, I saw most of the same species. I did not see Chipping Sparrow, Ruffed Grouse, junco, White-crowned Sparrow, towhee, hummingbirds, and Brown Creeper (although I only heard the latter). I did see many flocks of European Starlings which had not been introduced to

Lanesboro during the Doctor's time; and I saw many House Sparrows which may or may not have reached the town by 1911. A small flock of Canada Geese went over, which would have been noteworthy in his day. Waves of Golden-crowned Kinglets were everywhere, many more than Ruby-crowned. Also there were several flocks of Cedar Waxwings, and there were Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches everywhere. The usual woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Hairy, Downy) plus a female Pileated were observed, as well as a Belted Kingfisher along the Root River. Of birds of prey, I saw Red-tailed Hawks, one Northern Harrier, many American Kestrels, and two Turkey Vultures. An additional sparrow species I saw was the Lincoln's (several) and I saw one Solitary Vireo. A few Killdeers were still around, an Eastern Meadowlark also. The usuals, like Northern Cardinal and Blue Jay, as well as swarms of Red-winged Blackbirds were present in good numbers.

My most unusual sightings of the day were the many early Purple Finch, and best of all - a Tufted Titmouse, always a joy to come upon.

A jet flew over as I drove (by automobile) to Pekin (now called Pilot Mound). I was reminded of the saying "Everything changes;

everything remains the same." I encountered the "deep clay mud" referred to in his journal. That ride could not have been "very pleasant," he said; but mud and all, I had a very pleasant day tracing 75 years later the Great Bird Day of such an extraordinary man, and was indeed grateful to him for keeping such accurate notes on the birds of Fillmore County.

2918 Southwest 15th Avenue, Rochester, Minnesota 55902

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Back Yard Wood Ducks

Art Hawkins

Minnesota's claim to fame includes being the nation's leader in Wood Duck production, according to Frank Bellrose in his book **Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America**. This tree-nesting species finds our hardwood forests to its liking in this "land of the sky blue waters." Most of the nesting occurs in natural cavities found in mature trees out of sight from most people. But where natural cavities are in short supply, Wood Ducks readily accept man-made structures as nesting places, often in one's backyard. In fact, some nesting hens get hooked on artificial nesting boxes, probably because

they were raised in boxes and return to that one, or to one near it, as long as they live.

No one knows how many structures have been hung on trees or erected on posts for Wood Ducks across Minnesota, but the total must be several thousand. I know of perhaps a dozen clusters of boxes in the Twin Cities area, but there are many more. For the past three springs, some of us "producers" have gotten together for breakfast to kick off the new nesting season. We compare notes, exchange ideas and then wait for results. This is my report on how nesting Wood Ducks fared during the 1986 nesting season on my

small farm located near Centerville in south-eastern Anoka County.

Our Setup

Within a quarter of a mile of our house scattered over about fifty acres, are 43 usable nesting boxes for Wood Ducks. About half the boxes are within an eighth mile of the house. Since we have no natural cavities, without the artificial sites, our place would produce no Wood Ducks. With the boxes, we produced 332 this year, and over 800 over the past three years.

My nesting structures are made of three materials; metal, plastic, and wood. The five metal structures include three sold commercially (two by Don Helmeke and one by the late Norm Carlson). One is a converted oil drum furnished by the State DNR many years ago. Another is an 8" diameter heavy aluminum tube once used for shipping ammunition which the Iowa Conservation Commission asked me to try. It was the only metal box not used by ducks this year and never has had a successful nest.

Also available were nine plastic nests of various designs. One evidently is too shallow and never has been used by ducks. All the others, except for an inverted five-gallon bottle (used in the past) had duck nests this year.

The 29 wooden boxes, all but two of standard dimensions, vary in age from almost new to thirty years old. I have two cypress boxes still in service which Fred Leopold gave me thirty years ago. Most of the boxes made of redwood or cedar date back to 1968. A few boxes have been repaired after their backs or bottoms rotted out.

The boxes are placed at various heights, from three feet over water to a maximum height for a 14' ladder. They face in various directions. Most, but not all, provide an unobstructed flight path to the nest. My most obstructed flyway has had the earliest nest three years in a row, presumably by the same hen which first used the box before entering became difficult.

Nesting Results

The 1986 Wood Duck nesting period on our study area commenced on March 29 with the arrival of the first pairs and ended on June 27 when the last eggs hatched. During that period, one or more eggs were laid in 31 of the 43 nesting structures. Of the eight

not used by ducks, an American Kestrel occupied one. Two unused boxes are sub-standard and should not be counted. Two other unused boxes repeatedly contained litter brought in by squirrels, probably explaining why they were not used. Another unused box is smaller than normal, although another like it was used (unsuccessfully). All the unused boxes had some visible fault.

Among the occupied boxes, five were used more than once, but without success. I salvaged some of the eggs when nests were deserted and placed them in active nests, thereby enabling at least 18 ducklings to hatch that otherwise would have been lost. (More about salvage operations later).

Among the boxes used only once, twenty had successful nests, producing 332 ducklings that left the boxes, an average of 16.6 per box. This high yield per nest was due to large clutches, the result of parasitism and the egg salvage mentioned above.

On the negative side, between 230 - 250 eggs failed to hatch due to desertion, destruction, eggs added by other hens after incubation started, and infertility. The rate of desertion was unusually high this year, especially during the latter part of the nesting season. In most cases, I was unable to explain the reason. Two nests were destroyed by raccoon and two other nests had hatched shortly before a raccoon found them. I believe squirrels were responsible for two nest losses. All the coon-nest encounters took place during one week, late in the season, and I believe a single animal was responsible, one that had learned how to cope with our coon barrier. Two of the destroyed nests were not coon-proofed by a broad band of aluminum sheeting around the tree.

My best estimate is that 58% of the approximately 570 eggs laid produced young on our study area this year. This is the largest production I have recorded, but the success rate in terms of young per eggs layed is down from the past two years due to an increase in dump nests, desertions and destruction.

Banding Results

For the third straight year, most of the incubating hens have been captured and banded by a team led by Dr. Jim Cooper, Wildlife Department, University of Minnesota. This year twenty hens were captured. Of these, only eight were unbanded, the other

twelve had been banded here previously, six in 1984 and six in 1985. At least six of the twelve hens banded in 1984 were back at our place in 1986. We failed to catch two nesting hens, so either or both may have been from previous years. Banded hen #714 nested in box #13 in both 1984 and 1985. This year a hen nested in the same box, but deserted before the banding team arrived. Because of the strong tendency for a hen to use the same box year after year, I suspect that the escaped hen was #714. Hen #729, for example, used the same box all three years. Hen #717 chose a new box, but only about ten yards from her 1984 nesting. Hen #731 was found in the same box in 1984 and 1986. In 1985 she probably was there too, but we failed to catch her. Hen #732 nested in box #23 the first two years, and a deserted nest was found in the same box this year. We found this hen late in the season about ¼ mile away in a nest that proved successful. My guess is that she started nesting in the same box, was disturbed, and moved to the place we found her. Only hen #710 chose a different box all three years. She moved less than ¼ mile in 1985 and about 100 yards in 1986. Meanwhile, an American Kestrel took over her original site.

The 1985 class showed similar homebody characteristics. Five of the six hens recaptured were in the same box both years, and the other had moved about 15 yards. The two hens we failed to catch might have increased the return rate for this class. We recaptured six of eleven banded in 1985, reflecting an excellent survival rate. For both years the hen survival rate was better than 50%.

Age Composition

In 1985, the ratio of returns (hence adults) to new birds banded (offspring from previous year?) was 7:11. This year it was 11:9, despite a higher production in 1985 than in 1984. We can only speculate on what this means. Actually the proportion of yearlings in this year's banding class was probably less than the figures indicate. Hen #765 was captured in box #22, my most obstructed box. Both in 1984 and 1985 we failed to catch this bird because her nest was the first to hatch, beating the banding team by a day or two. Again this year, she was the first to hatch, leading us to believe that the same hen has successfully nested in this box all three years. Since adults nest earlier than yearlings,

it is almost certain that this hen, although banded for the first time, was an adult. This would change the ratio to 12 adults (at least) to 8 yearlings (at the most).

The second nest to hatch also had an unbanded hen, but we also failed in 1985 to catch the hen on this nest, very likely the same one that used this box this year. Using the same logic as before, this bird should go into the adult column, further reducing the adult : yearling ratio to 13:7, a surprisingly low recruitment rate.

This ratio may reflect a low rate of return of yearlings or a high rate of occupancy by surviving hens, limiting the availability of suitable nesting places. Erecting several new boxes would be one way to test the latter hypothesis. This study, like most others, reflects the precise homing characteristic of successful hens that survive. Since hunting and other types of mortality removes a large segment of the population each year, a 50 plus percent return rate of hens to our boxes suggests that almost all surviving hens must return.

We are unable to make a similar assessment of returning yearling hens. One scenario that appears to make sense is that most surviving daughters return to the general area where they were hatched. Some of the daughters are more precise and not only attempt to nest in the same general area, but even in the same nesting box from which they hatched. But they don't settle down to nest soon after their return, as the adults do. Instead they shop around, laying eggs here and there, until finally they settle down and have their own nests. Most of my boxes this year received several more eggs than could be accounted for from a single hen. One box, in fact, received seven eggs in one day. Many of them received two or more eggs per day during the first half of the nesting season.

Wasted (?) Eggs

Fortunately, this random egg-laying period largely occurs (at least here at my place) before incubation starts for most early nesters. Otherwise there would be a tremendous waste of eggs. Eggs layed by parasitic hens after the host hen starts incubation account for a high percentage of unhatched eggs, but the total number of eggs is not great. Eggs deposited in dump nests (nests where incubation does not occur) is another story and may add

up to alarming numbers where no salvage operation is present.

Eggs layed by parasitic hens when added before incubation occurs are a plus to the population. Bellrose found that the average clutch size of a normal wood duck nest was about one dozen. Hence, with my average of 16.6 ducklings leaving the nest, my twenty boxes produced nearly the equivalent of thirty normal hatches, thanks to parasitic laying. Some multiple nests are surprisingly successful. One nest this year of 41 eggs had 32 ducklings leave, another of 28 had 25 leave.

To mount a successful egg salvage program requires keeping close tabs on the nests. You need to know which eggs are fresh and whether hens are laying or incubating. By checking the boxes weekly or at ten-day intervals, it is possible to increase the output of the unit by 20% or more. If it were practical to hatch partially incubated eggs in an incubator or under clucks, even more wasted eggs could be saved. In areas where the potential for egg waste is high (several hundred) a plan might be developed to reduce these losses.

A Strange Nest

As usual, several unusual things happened during the course of this year's study. Nest #25 is a case in point. On May 5 at 11 a.m., box #16, which is in full view of our dining room window, had two eggs buried, becoming nest #25. When I checked it again two days later, the nest contained seven eggs, with some down already being added. On 5/9, the egg count was 13. On 5/11 at 6:30 p.m., a hen flushed from a good bed of down surrounding 17 eggs. That night we saw a hen return at 8:12, presumably to spend the night. At 9 a.m. on 5/14, several of us sitting at the table watched a hen enter. After seven minutes she departed. I had presumed that with all the eggs and down, and the hen spending the night in the box, that incubation had started, even though the nest was only ten days old. I decided to check to see if a hen remained in the box after the other one had left. As I put the ladder up to the tree, the second duck flew out, dirtying the eggs as she left. So far as I know, she never came back. I found that the nest now contained 22 eggs. Next day the banding team found the hen absent, the eggs cold and not covered. On 5/18 Ray Cunningham and I decided to

remove the eggs which looked the same as after I flushed the hen four days earlier. In removing the eggs, I found the sawdust crawling with ants. We checked several eggs and found them incubated at the three or four day stage. On superficial examination, the embryos showed no sign of life. Ray took three eggs home for a further check and I put the rest in the refrigerator. Next morning Ray called to report that after the eggs had been in warm water several minutes, the hearts started pumping. I then put some eggs into warm water (after a night in the refrigerator) with similar results. However, we had no facilities for further testing so we don't know whether the eggs would have hatched. Even so, it seemed remarkable to me that a nest could progress so fast from first egg on May 4 to a large clutch being incubated only a week later. Another oddity was why the incubating hen deserted. Apparently the intrusion of another hen, plus my follow-up shortly thereafter, was enough, and possibly the ants played a part.

Other box Users

For the past three years European Starlings which previously were strong competitors for nesting boxes, have been no problem. This year one starling nested after a Wood Duck had hatched, the only occurrence.

Two boxes this year were occupied by American Kestrels. One kestrel nest was successful. I found the other kestrel hen dead in the box with evidence that she had fought an intruder, probably a raccoon. This ended a four or five year succession of successful kestrel nests in that box. Later, a Wood Duck laid one egg in this box, then deserted.

Squirrels may have discouraged duck nesting in two or three boxes by repeatedly filling the boxes with litter. Red squirrels had stored black walnuts in one box. In April I cleaned out the walnuts, but I kept finding opened walnut shells on the lid of the box even after a duck had established a nest in the box. Finally the squirrels won out. They gnawed a large hole through the back of the old box near its bottom and all but one of 18 eggs either fell out or were carried out by the squirrels.

Another box held 19 eggs on one visit and only 12 the next. The nest was deserted. No sign of the missing eggs was found, but on subsequent visits I saw both a gray squirrel,

and at another time a red squirrel, looking out of the entrance. A second attempt by a duck to nest in the box also met with failure, I believe for the same reason — squirrel intrusion. Our Wood Duck study area this year had a heavy population of red squirrels, but only one or two pairs of gray squirrels.

We thought we had licked the raccoon problem which always has been a threat here. For two years, every duck nest in trees which we had ringed with a band of aluminum lithograph plate about two feet wide, had escaped predations by coons. This year a coon, possibly the same one, got to two protected boxes, but fortunately just after the nests hatched (in one case two or three ducklings were caught on the nest and partially eaten). Two nests in unprotected trees were destroyed by coons.

One additional competitor this year was the Northern Flicker. A duck nest containing two eggs was deserted about the same time that a flicker occupied the box and laid six eggs and raised a brood. In another box I found flicker feathers and one flicker egg.

All nearby boxes were used by Wood Ducks, but not this one, possibly due to the flicker.

Brood Use

After leaving the nest, the broods disappeared. Once I saw a brood of 24 in the north pond and occasionally I glimpsed other broods, but no more than a half dozen all told, despite spending an hour or two of prime time evenings or early mornings in June and July scanning Lake Amelia for evidence of broods. Lake Amelia has been at an unusually high level this year, creating brooding habitat in-shore from its cattail rings. However, by mid-July when the earliest Wood Ducks were able to fly, the submerged aquatic vegetation reached the surface over much of the lake. I expected broods to venture out into the open to feed in these weed beds as they have other years when, on calm evenings, we would see 6-12 broods. Some evenings this year, we saw no broods, and never more than one, and the absence of broods remains a mystery. 6102 Centerville Road, Hugo, MN 55038.

First State Nesting Record for the Little Gull

John Schladweiler

North Heron Lake in Jackson County, has a long and exciting history of spectacular bird use. One of the most impressive reports is given by Green and Janssen (1975:100) of 100,000 Franklin's Gull nests in 1937. There currently are colonies of Franklin's Gulls, Forster's Terns, Western and Eared Grebes, and Black-crowned Night-Herons. As a part of the colonial waterbird survey conducted by the nongame wildlife program, North Heron Lake has been surveyed for the last four years. During the 1985 survey of the lake a Little Gull was seen in the Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern colony (*The Loon* 57:177).

During the 1986 season, the nongame program planned to put out some nesting platforms for the Forster's Terns that nest in the colony. These have been utilized in Wisconsin and have been found to be very successful in areas of fluctuating water levels. On May 12, 1986, DNR employees Doug Wells, Dennis Simon and myself went to Heron Lake to put out 25 nesting platforms. Since the Little Gull had been seen in 1985, we were all keeping watch for one among the thousands of Franklin's Gulls. Much to our surprise, while collecting dead cattails to put on the tern platforms, we were able to pick out the dark wing linings and smaller size of

a Little Gull. I had seen a Little Gull on the Worthington sewage lagoons in the fall of 1984 (*The Loon* 57:94) and Doug had seen the one on Heron Lake the previous year, so we were both familiar with the field marks of the bird. To the best of Doug's recollection, the bird was flying about the in the same general area as in 1986.



Little Gull, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 2, 1986.

We had already put out half of our platforms when we saw the gull. We finished collecting the nesting material and put it on the platforms. With a rapidly approaching, nasty looking, dark thunderhead moving our way we decided to delay putting out the last half of the platforms until a later day. We were not especially excited about being targets for Zeus.

Two days later on May 14, Doug and I returned and placed out the other half of the platforms. Once again we saw the Little Gull in the same general area as before.

The next visit on May 28 turned out to be a red letter day. In addition to Minnesota's first Common Black-headed Gull and the other unusual species already reported by Bob Janssen (*The Loon* 58:104-107), we located not one but two Little Gulls. We had been discussing the possibility that the Little Gulls were nesting since the single bird we had seen had been acting somewhat territorial. Now with a pair of them in the same area, we wanted to investigate the possibility a little further. While we looked at the two gulls,

they kept flying low over the same spot in the cattails. We saw one of them land in the same spot a number of times. Because we were in two boats, the second boat went off to one side to try and triangulate on this spot. Unfortunately, when the other boat got over to the side, the birds did not land any more in the cattails. I suspect that we may have been too close at this point even though we were about 40-50 yards away.

Although they did not land, the birds did keep flying low over the cattails. We assumed that this might be the nest site and finally moved in to the spot. Since we had a line from two different directions, we thought we should be able to get close to the nest. We did find a nest of 8 eggs. This was the only nest in the area but everybody was somewhat sure that gull nests usually only had 3-4 eggs. We placed a marker on the edge of the cattails about 10 yards from the nest in order to later find the nest. Because it was getting late and because it was hard to concentrate on anything but the Common Black-headed Gull, we left the lake somewhat dazed from the super day of birding. Beginners to bird watching will be happy to know that even experienced, seemingly unflappable birders such as Bob Janssen get extremely excited when they see a new state species. When I got back



Little Gull, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 2, 1986.



Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern eggs, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 2, 1986.

to the office and checked some references (Harrison, 1978 and Johnsgaard, 1979) we realized that the nest we had found was probably not the Little Gull nest since they indicated that Little Gulls had 3-4, and sometimes 5, eggs rather than 8.

On June 2, I returned to Heron Lake with Wendy Krueger, a Minnesota Conservation Corps worker for the DNR, to again check the nesting platforms. On this visit, we again saw both Little Gulls in the same area. This time we anchored our boat a little further away and watched as one of the birds sat down and got up from the same spot a couple of times. We then moved in and found a nest with three eggs that were much smaller than those of the Franklin's Gulls (figures 1, 2 and 3). They were almost identical in size to those of the Forster's Tern eggs but were somewhat more greenish in color and had less spotting than either the Franklin's Gull or Forster's Tern eggs.

We marked the nest with some flagging tied to cattails near the nest and then backed off, anchoring the boat some distance away but with a good view to the vicinity of the nest. The clincher came when we soon saw one of the adults drop into the cattails were the flagging marked the nest. Since there were no other nests close to this spot, this had to be the Little Gulls nest! The nest was located on a floating mat of dead cattails from last year. This mat was located in an opening

about 15 feet in diameter. The nest was on the edge of this mat and thus also on the edge of the opening.

I once again returned to the nest site on June 11, with Dick Ruhme, Steve Millard, Yao Lewis and her student assistant. Yao is a university graduate student studying Forster's Terns and was along to see our nesting platforms. The tern eggs on the platforms were just beginning to hatch. The Little Gull eggs were warm when I checked them but they were not yet hatched.

My last visit to the nest site was on June 17. This time I was alone although I met Liz Campbell, Jon Peterson, Ann McKenzie and others just coming off the lake as I launched my boat. When I got to the the nest site, the Little Gull adults were in the vicinity, however, the nest was empty. Unfortunately, the nest had been predated. One of the eggs was found broken about a foot from the nest with another one lying about three feet away. Both eggs appeared to have been pecked by another bird. I would suspect that the larger Franklin's Gulls were the egg predators in this case.

It should be noted that on the May 28th visit, there were already some Franklin's Gulls eggs in the colony that had hatched. It would be expected that the adults from early hatching nests would be actively searching for food to feed their young. With an estimate of perhaps as many as 10,000 nests in the



Little Gull egg, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 2, 1986.

colony, it is likely that any food item was highly sought after. This was the case for nesting material. By the time we checked the nesting platforms on May 28th, the only nesting material left on the platforms was that in the nest itself. This consisted of only about an eight inch diameter circle even though the entire platform (two foot square) had been covered with nesting materials when we put them out. It appeared that the eggs had been predated only a short time before since the embryo was not dried out. The embryos were well developed but did appear to be at least 3-4 days from hatching.

It is possible that this clutch could have been a renesting attempt. That would account for fact that the eggs had not yet hatched, while some of the tern eggs from the platforms had hatched on June 11, even though the platforms weren't put out until May 12 and 14th.

There also appears to have been some predation of the nests on the platforms. I should correct an error in Bob Janssen's Common Black-headed Gull article (*The Loon* 58:104-107). He indicated that all 25 platforms had nests on them. This should have read that there were 12 Forster's Tern nests and one



Little Gull nest, North Heron Lake, Jackson County, June 2, 1986.

Franklin's Gull nest on the 25 platforms available. Although this is not 100 percent usage as reported by Bob, it is still over 50 percent which is excellent for any first time artificial nesting structure program. On the June 11th visit there were only nine nests with eggs or chicks still in them. Three of the nests had obvious evidence of predation on this visit. It is likely that the other three which had eggs previously had also been predated.

It is possible that human disturbance may have been a factor in the predation that occurred. Word of the Common Black-headed Gull spread quickly. The colony was visited by many people who wanted to add this bird to their state list. Disturbance of nesting colonies has been shown to decrease nesting success (Burger, 1974). It is not unreasonable to assume that this increased disturbance contributed to the egg predation that occurred.

To say the least, it was an exciting summer on North Heron Lake this year. A summary of some of the uncommon birds seen there includes Common Black-headed Gull, Little

Gull, Thayer's Gull, ibis sp., Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Least Bittern, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, American Black Duck, Western Grebe and Eared Grebe. Another wonderful chapter has been written in the already spectacular birding history of this fantastic lake. I am sure that there will be many more. **John Schladweiler, MN. DNR, Box 756, New Ulm, MN 56073.**

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BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS WORTH WATCHING by George Miksch Sutton, with foreword by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 1986; 207 pages, \$19.95, illustrated.

A few years ago the scientific community and myriads of bird lovers the country over mourned the loss of George Miksch Sutton, but will rejoice to learn that his last unfinished work has been released by his beloved Oklahoma Press. **BIRDS WORTH WATCHING** is not the usual Sutton book that readers are inclined to devour from cover to cover at a few sittings. Rather it is a species by species account of some of Sutton's favorite birds, 60 in all and most well known to many.

The reader can proceed directly to his or her favorite species without fear of losing continuity. It is light reading and pure fun. It is Sutton at his infectuous best.

The heart of the book lies in the pinpointing or careful depicting of those aspects of the birds' lives that to this day remain mysteries. Sutton the field man was keenly aware of many unresolved avian riddles, e.g. whether Snowy Owls ever return to the tundra breeding grounds after having been forced far southward by prey shortages, or whether the artificial feeding of hummingbirds is injurious to the birds, a subject that certainly disturbs me everytime I add sugar water to our feeder. Sutton the artist was intrigued by un-

explained functions of feather colors and patterns. Above all, Sutton the teacher wished to keep alive the desire in others to answer these many questions that plagued him throughout his childhood and adult life.

Although the accounts are distinctly Oklahoma in flavor, the subject is general enough and the species' distributions broad enough to encompass much of the U.S. and Canada. For this reason I am not disturbed that most of the text's 60 color photographs originated outside of Oklahoma. The selection of photographs by John S. Shackford is truly outstanding, and he should be commended for the hard work undertaken for their procurement. I wish I could say the same for the editorial staff: Sutton's finest preface is marred by the fact that when he refers to a Chimney Swift illustration opposite page 90 one finds no illustration at all, only text material on the Common Poorwill. Also, opposite page 162 one finds not a Common Yellow-throat but a Northern Mockingbird. The keen eyes of Sutton the editor would have caught these discrepancies.

Despite these minor annoyances, this is a book that you should acquire now. The expensive color illustrations justify the cost. Most important, this one like so many of the author's earlier books soon will be hard to come by, and you will surely want to complete your Sutton collection. **David F. Parmelee, Curator of Birds, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

CONNIE HAGAR – The Life History of a Texas Birdwatcher by Karen Harden McCracken. Texas A & M Press, College Station, 1986, 296 pages, \$18.95, Foreword by Roger Tory Peterson.

Birders everywhere should be grateful to the author for chronicling the life and contributions to ornithology of a truly remarkable woman. A self-trained birder from whom "nature study" was only one part of her genteel upbringing, Connie Hagar developed her own method on observing and recording bird behavior that markedly altered the known facts of her time. Deciding at age 49 that she wanted to spend the rest of her life pursuing the study of birds, she managed to convince her husband to move to Rockport on the south central coast of Texas, and there she set about her daily observance of the area and its birds

which she recorded in her "Nature Calendars," which eventually ran to 25 volumes. She stayed in one place for the rest of her life (1934-1973) and turned up data that turned upside down many of the then accepted ideas of bird behavior and bird migration; (e.g., she documented that migration was a continuous on-going yearlong process, and not limited to just the spring and fall months). What gave importance to her findings was that she **reported** what she observed, fearlessly and authoritatively, withstanding minute scrutinization of her data. Her reporting was precise enough to warrant visits from many of the trained ornithologists of the day who made their way to Rockport and found her observations to be astoundingly accurate. This, in and of itself, could be considered a great contribution to bird-knowledge — in that she did not keep all that she learned to herself, but had the courage to send in her new and sometimes unbelievable information to birders who could help her assess the value of that information.

In addition to reporting data, she became a guide to those who came to the region, sharing her part of the world that, at that time, was relatively unknown to birders. More than that, she gave innumerable talks, accompanied by her own photographs, to school children, civic groups, birding organizations, and just about anyone who showed an interest in birds and nature. The author is herself a protégé of Connie Hagar who became her friend, and thus able to give us glimpses of the personal life of her mentor that are intriguing and inspiring: her struggle with poor eye-sight and eventual glaucoma; her associations with a veritable anthology of the big-name birders of the day (many of whom became life-long friends); her personal losses and her reaction to her eventual recognition by the birding world. It is perhaps understandable that the author's style is patronizing, and that her reporting of the birding facts Mrs. Hagar uncovered is superficial (as if of limited interest to a wide audience). Some of her descriptions of birders come across as caricatures — but it could be that she is giving an accurate description of them!

On balance, this book is worth the read, when one takes from it the inspiration that can be derived from this account of a unique woman who made birding her life. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**



The Spring Season

March 1 to May 31, 1986

Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

For the season 78 report forms and several additional notes were received from observers based in 39 counties. A total of 306 species were reported: 288 regular, 9 casual and 9 accidental.

The first two months of spring were unusually warm and wet throughout most of Minnesota. Temperatures in the Twin Cities averaged 4.7 above normal in March and +3.8 in April. On the last few days of March temperatures reached the eighties in the south and near 70 in the north. As a result a number of species reached the state earlier than usual. In Duluth the exceptionally warm weather brought a very abrupt arrival of migrants. Large numbers of Tundra Swans pushed through that area on March 31 and almost none were seen later. Although precipitation levels were near normal in March, a record 5.9 inches were recorded in the Twin Cities in April, almost four inches above the average. In the northwest, Fargo-Moorhead reported the second highest amount of rainfall for April since records have been kept. The rainfall, with the early and sudden snow melt, resulted in high water, flooding, and a lot of

water standing in fields. With so much standing water, observers generally felt that shorebirds were more difficult to find.

Among the highlights during this period was a Great Black-backed Gull in Duluth the last two weeks of March. In April rarities included Barrow's Goldeneye in Rochester, Mute Swan in Duluth, Eurasian Wigeon in Anoka Co., Ruff in Martin Co., White-faced Ibis in two locations, and Bewick's Wren in Olmsted Co.

With May came a return to more typical weather, temperatures averaging about +1 and precipitation near normal. Good migration of passerines was reported the first half of the month in all areas of the state. Warbler numbers peaked between the 4th and the 15th. At North Oaks, Ramsey Co., 23 species of warblers were seen on the 13th. During a month in which many rarities were reported, the most exciting was the state's first Common Black-headed Gull, discovered at Heron Lake, Jackson Co. on the 28th. The bird was later seen by many observers into July. Another first state record was a well-documented sighting on May 10 of the re-

cently separated Clark's Grebe. A Painted Bunting in Nobles Co. represents one of the very few records of this species in Minnesota. Other especially noteworthy sightings in May were: two Pacific Loons in Duluth, Mississippi Kite in two locations, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Grand Marais, White-eyed Vireo in Ramsey Co., three Worm-eating Warblers, Western Tanager in Morrison Co., Black-headed Grosbeak in Rock Co., and House Finch in Otter Tail Co.

Besides the casual and accidental species found scattered around the state there are always other surprises — birds that turn up out of range within the state, like this spring's Piping Plover at Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, or Lark Sparrow in Duluth. Then there are birds that don't turn up at all. This season there were no reports of Black or Surf Scoters and none of crossbills. On the positive side there were no fewer than five Cinnamon Teal sightings this spring, many Peregrine Falcon reports were received, and Short-eared Owl numbers were up. Little Gulls nested in the state for the first time. All in all not a bad spring.

Red-throated Loon

5/22 Duluth B. Penning; only report.

Pacific Loon

5/25 Duluth, BL, m.ob.; 5/7 Duluth KE (*The Loon* 58:128).

Common Loon

Early south 3/30 Blue Earth MF, Freeborn RS, 3/31 Rice FKS, Washington BL; early north 4/5 Pine KL, 4/6 St. Louis KE, 4/10 Lake SS.

Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3/9 Nicollet JCF, Dakota TTu, 3/11 Olmsted JEB, PP; early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Duluth KE, Marshall ANWR, Wilkin GAM.

Horned Grebe

Early south 3/22 Wabasha BL, 3/29 Houston JP/AM, 4/5 Cottonwood RJ, Washington TBB; early north 4/6 St. Louis KE, Otter Tail SDM, 4/11 Becker MBW.

Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4/3 Anoka KL, 4/9 Meeker

RJ, 4/11 Nicollet JCF; early north 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/10 Todd KL, 4/11 Becker MBW.

Eared Grebe

Early south 4/9 Lac Qui Parle SSt, 4/12 Hennepin ES, Lyon HK; early north 4/21 Becker BK, 4/26 Clearwater MMM, Pennington KSS.

Western Grebe

Early south 4/1 Lac Qui Parle RGJ, 4/8 Sibley BDC, 4/9 Chippewa RJ, Lincoln SSt; early north 4/20 Grant SDM, Traverse GAM, 4/24 Marshall ANWR.

CLARK'S GREBE

5/10 Grant TRF, first Minnesota record for this new species. (*The Loon* 58:110).

American White Pelican

Early south 3/27 Faribault WKB, 3/28 Cottonwood KL, 3/29 Martin RJ; early north 4/1 Clay LCF, 4/2 Otter Tail SDM, 4/3 Marshall ANWR.

Double-crested Cormorant

Early south 3/1 Olmsted AMP (wintering bird) 3/23 Lac Qui Parle TRF, 3/29 Faribault RJ, Meeker KL, TM; early north 3/24 Hubbard, Becker JL, 3/28 Wilkin GAM, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM.

American Bittern

Early south 4/20 Brown AB, 4/25 Ramsey KB, Swift RH; early north 4/16 Marshall ANWR, 4/21 St. Louis SW/MS, 4/24 Wilkin GAM.

Least Bittern

5/13 Marshall ANWR, 5/14 Hennepin AB, 5/22 Blue Earth MF, 5/28 Jackson NH, 5/31 Houston KE; only reports.

Great Blue Heron

Early south 3/9 Houston EMF, Mower RRR, Scott RJ; early north 3/27 Hubbard JL, 3/28 Marshall ANWR, Wilkin GAM.

Great Egret

Early south 3/23 Dakota TTu, 3/25 Washington BL, 3/28 Murray ND; early north 3/31 Clay LCF, 4/2 Wilkin GAM, 4/10 Douglas KL, Marshall ANWR.

Snowy Egret

5/10 Marshall ANWR; only report, later nested.

Little Blue Heron

4/7 Faribault WKB, 4/28 Cottonwood E. Duerksen, 5/5 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Faribault WKB, 5/16-17 Nicollet m.ob., 5/17 Polk AB; all reports.

Cattle Egret

Early south 3/30 Faribault HK, 4/19 Nobles ND, 4/20 Blue Earth AB; early north 4/23 Grant NH, 5/10 Clay, N. Zimmerman; also reported from Fillmore, Lac Qui Parle, Nicollet, Renville, Wabasha.

Green-backed Heron

Early south 4/15 Wabasha WDM, 4/24 Ramsey KB, 4/25 Hennepin OJ, Nicollet JCF; early north 5/3 Aitkin WN, 5/10 Otter Tail SDM, 5/19 Morrison AB.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Early south 3/31 Hennepin SC, 4/1 Pope DR, 4/5 Blue Earth RJ; early north 4/4 Marshall ANWR, 4/18 Pennington KSS, 5/2 Duluth KE.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

4/12 Olmsted AMP, 5/6 Fillmore AMP, 5/10 Hennepin ES.

WHITE-FACED IBIS

4/26 Martin RJ, RG (*The Loon* 58:138); 4/27-28 Lac Qui Parle et al. (*The Loon* 58:138).

Tundra Swan

Early south 3/14 Wabasha KL, 3/22 Washington TBB; early north 3/30 Clay MM, Otter Tail SDM, Wilkin GAM; late south 4/14 Nicollet JCF, 4/19 Hennepin OJ; late north 5/26 Aitkin WN, 5/28 Cook EH.

MUTE SWAN

4/1-9 Duluth KE, m.ob.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Early south 3/8 Cottonwood E. Duerksen, 3/22 Nobles KE (200); early north 4/2 Wilkin GAM, SDM; late south 4/23 Fillmore AMP, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle TTu; late north 5/7 Marshall ANWR, 5/17 Clearwater AB.

Snow Goose

Early south 3/14 Blue Earth JCF, 3/15 McLeod TM, Rice FKS; early north 3/28 Marshall ANWR, 3/29 Otter Tail SDM, Wilkin GAM; late south 4/28 Hennepin OJ, 4/30

Olmsted RJ; late north 5/15 Duluth m.ob., 5/17 Polk, Clearwater AB.

Canada Goose

Reported from 31 counties south, 16 north.

Wood Duck

Early south 3/9 Anoka SC, Carver TM, Hennepin GP, Wabasha WDM; early north 3/28 Kittson KSS, Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Clay LCF.

Green-winged Teal

Early south 3/14 Blue Earth JCF, 3/17 Olmsted AMP, 3/19 Freeborn JM; early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Marshall ANWR, 3/20 Clearwater AB.

American Black Duck

Uncommon permanent resident; late south 4/5 Anoka, Dakota AB, 4/29 Olmsted GS, 5/25 Houston TM.

Mallard

Abundant permanent resident, reported from 31 counties south, 18 north.

Blue-winged Teal

Early south 3/9 Freeborn JM, 3/22 Nobles KE, Olmsted JEB; early north 3/30 Wilkin SDM, 3/31 Clay LCF, 4/3 Norman BK.

Cinnamon Teal

3/31 - 4/1 Freeborn m.ob., 4/17 and 5/25 Marshall m.ob., 4/19 Nicollet JCF, 5/31 Jackson DS.

Northern Shoveler

Early south 3/9 Freeborn JM, 3/10 Goodhue TTu, 3/16 Dakota ES; early north 3/28 Wilkin GAM, 3/29 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 Clay LCF.

Gadwall

Early south 3/8 Cottonwood E. Duerksen, Nicollet JCF, 3/9 Olmsted JEB; early north 3/28 Marshall ANWR, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/19 Duluth KE.

EURASIAN WIGEON

4/6 Anoka, R. Friz (*The Loon* 58:99).

American Wigeon

Early south 3/9 Freeborn JM, 3/11 Chippewa RGJ, 3/14 Blue Earth JCF; early north 3/28 Marshall ANWR, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Aitkin WN.

Canvasback

Early south 3/9 Freeborn JM, Wabasha WDM, 3/12 Dakota BDC; early north 3/28 Marshall ANWR, MMM, 3/29 Otter Tail SDM, 4/2 Wilkin GAM.

Redhead

Early south 3/2 Martin KL; 3/9 Freeborn JM, 3/16 Dakota JD; early north 3/28 Marshall ANWR, Otter Tail SDM, 4/2 Wilkin GAM.

Ring-necked Duck

Early south 3/9 Dakota TTu, Freeborn JM, Wabasha WDM; early north 3/28 Marshall ANWR, Otter Tail SDM, 3/30 Clearwater AB.

Greater Scaup

Early south 3/11 Olmsted PP, 3/22 Scott RJ, 3/23 Jackson KE; early north 3/20 Fillmore AMP, Dakota TTu, 4/1 Clay MM, Duluth KE, Marshall ANWR.

Lesser Scaup

Early south 3/1 Dakota JD, Olmsted AMP, Scott RH; early north 3/11 Grant KL, 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Marshall ANWR.

Oldsquaw

Only report 5/10 Cook SSt (40).

White-winged Scoter

4/13 Scott RJ, 4/26 St. Louis, J. Green, 5/11 and 16 Cook SSt, WP, 5/12-15 Duluth m.ob. (30); all reports.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

4/1-5 J. Kramer et al. (*The Loon* 58:141). Olmsted JEB, RE, AMP.

Common Goldeneye

Late south 4/6 Dakota JD, 5/26 Hennepin OJ, Ramsey DZ.

Bufflehead

Early south 3/15 Hennepin HJC, 3/16 Olmsted PP, Wabasha KE; early north 3/29 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/8 Ramsey KB, 5/14 Hennepin SC.

Hooded Merganser

Early south 3/8 Nicollet JCF, 3/9 Dakota TTu, 3/11 Chippewa RGJ; early north 3/27

Marshall ANWR, 3/28 Morrison AB, 3/29 Duluth M Stock, Otter Tail SDM.

Common Merganser

Late south 5/2 Lyon FE, 5/12 Hennepin DBI, 5/24 Wabasha WDM.

Red-breasted Merganser

Early south 3/9 Freeborn JM, 3/16 Wabasha KE, 3/17 Dakota SC, GP; early north 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/2 Marshall ANWR, 4/21 Becker BK.

Ruddy Duck

Early south 3/9 Olmsted JEB, 3/14 Blue Earth JCF, 3/20 Rice FKS; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/28 Marshall ANWR, 4/18 Wilkin GAM.

Turkey Vulture

Early south 3/19 Dakota JD, 3/22 Houston BL, 3/25 Fillmore AMP, Olmsted JEB; early north 3/29 St. Louis KE, 3/31 Carlton LW, 4/13 Aitkin WN.

Osprey

Early south 3/19 Goodhue JD, JP/AM, 3/30 Fillmore AMP, 4/4 Washington TBB; early north 3/29 Aitkin WN, 4/7 St. Louis M. Stock, 4/14 Marshall ANWR.

MISSISSIPPI KITE

5/10 Ramsey BL, RG, E. McKenzie (*The Loon* 58:140); 5/14 Fillmore AMP (*The Loon* 58:134).

Bald Eagle

Reported from 23 counties south, 12 north; peak 3/16 Wabasha KE (30).

Northern Harrier

Early south 3/5 Fillmore JM, 3/9 Olmsted AMP, Ramsey KB; early north 3/8 Wilkin SDM, 3/19 Marshall ANWR, 3/27 Duluth KE.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Early south 3/1 Dakota TTu, Hennepin SC, GP, 3/9 Olmsted AMP; early north 3/4 Wilkin GAM, 3/8 Aitkin WN, 3/11 Pennington KSS.

Cooper's Hawk

Early south 3/5 Rice FKS, 3/15 Ramsey KB, 3/22 Goodhue TRF; early north 3/12 St. Louis KE, 3/27 Aitkin WN, 5/3 Lake AB.

Northern Goshawk

Late south 4/27 Hennepin OJ, 4/29 Mower JM, 5/19 Olmsted AMP.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Early south 3/9 Fillmore AMP, 3/16 Ramsey KB, 3/19 Dakota JD, Olmsted AMP; early north 3/29 Aitkin WN, 4/2 Otter Tail SDM, 4/6 Becker SDM.

Broad-winged Hawk

Early south 3/29 Olmsted AMP, Stearns DO/SS, Winona GS; early north 3/29 Aitkin WN, 4/20 Clay LCF, 4/23 Cook EH, Lake SW/MS.

Swainson's Hawk

Early south 3/19 Dakota JD, 3/28 Olmsted BE, 3/29 Renville BL; early north 4/20 Traverse GAM, 4/28 Wilkin SDM, 5/17 Clearwater AB.

Red-tailed Hawk

Permanent resident reported from 35 counties south, 16 north; early north 3/18 Otter Tail SDM, 3/20 Itasca SSt, 3/23 Becker MBW.

Ferruginous Hawk

Reported 4/26 Lac Qui Parle HK, 5/2 Rock KL; only reports.

Rough-legged Hawk

Late south 4/24 Ramsey KB, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, 5/14 Benton RJ; late north 4/6 Pennington KSS, 4/13 Wilkin GAM, 5/2 Otter Tail SDM.

Golden Eagle

Reported 3/14 Norman BK, 3/15 Winona OJ, 3/21 Wilkin GAM, 3/25 Mower RRR, 3/30 Anoka JH, St. Louis B Penning.

American Kestrel

Permanent resident, reported from 34 counties south, 17 north; early north 3/9 Wilkin SDM, 3/12 Clay LCF, KL, 3/14 Becker MBW, Norman BK.

Merlin

Early south 3/20 Olmsted AMP, 3/23 Jackson KE; early north 3/29 Cook TW, 3/31 Clay LCF; late south 5/2 Dakota JD, 5/19 Rice FKS.

Peregrine Falcon

Early south 4/25 Dakota JD, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle DB, TBB, Washington SSt; early north 5/1 Marshall ANWR, 5/11 St. Louis SSt, 5/18 Otter Tail RJ; reported from 14 counties.

Prairie Falcon

Reported 3/3 Wilkin SDM (4th winter).

Gray Partridge

Permanent resident, reported from 28 counties south, 6 north.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Permanent resident, reported from three north and 28 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

Permanent resident, reported 3/9 Lake (6) R. Peterson, 3/11 Lake SW/MS, Cook (no dates) EH.

Ruffed Grouse

Permanent resident, reported from 14 north and 15 south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Permanent resident, reported 4/2 Wilkin GAM, 4/21 Polk RJ, 5/3 Polk RGJ, 5/6 and 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/18 Polk AB, 5/24 Polk K. Overman.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Permanent resident, reported 3/8 Aitkin WN, 4/5 Aitkin SC, 5/3 Polk RGJ, MM, 5/25 Clearwater AB, 5/26 Clearwater RG, Marshall (no dates) ANWR.

Wild Turkey

Permanent resident, reported 5/10 Winona RJ, 5/31 Houston KE, Houston ("resident") EMF.

Northern Bobwhite

Permanent resident, reported 3/31 Houston (17), 4/3 (8), 4/4 (4) EMF.

Yellow Rail

All reports: 5/25 Kittson RG, 5/27 Holt, Marshall Co. KE, 5/27 Hayes Lake S.P., Roseau Co. KE.

Virginia Rail

Early south 4/15 Ramsey KB, 4/16 Hennepin SC, 4/25 Washington RG; early north

5/2 Marshall ANWR, Otter Tail SDM, 5/11 Clay LCF.

Sora

Early south 4/5 Washington TBB, 4/8 Hennepin SC, 4/9 Fillmore AMP; early north 4/4 Clay LCF, 4/23 St. Louis LW, 5/2 Otter Tail SDM.

Common Moorhen

All reports: 4/28 Wabasha WDM, 5/7 Washington (1) JD, 5/8 (1) RG, 5/23 Ramsey RJ, 5/26 Hennepin fide SC, 5/27 Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (1) KE.

American Coot

Early south 3/1 Fillmore AMP, 3/9 Olmsted JEB, Dakota TTu, 3/11 Chippewa RGJ; early north 3/24 Cook SL, 3/30 Beltrami AB, 3/31 Marshall ANWR, Clay LCF.

Sandhill Crane

Early south 3/28 Dakota TTu, 3/30 Ramsey KB, Anoka JH, 4/13 Wright RG; early north 3/25 Kittson KSS, 3/29 Marshall ANWR, Wilkin GAM, Clay MM. Unusual south date 5/30 Goodhue (1) KL.

Black-bellied Plover

Early south 5/12 Nicollet JCF, 5/13 Washington RG; early north 5/10 Traverse GAM, 5/11 St. Louis m.ob.; late south 5/18 Nicollet m.ob., 5/24 Wright RJ; late north 5/24 Marshall K. Overman, 5/26 Aitkin WN, 5/27 Cook KMH, St. Louis LW.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early south 4/19 Faribault RG, 4/20 Martin AB; early north 4/29 Aitkin WN, 5/3 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/21 Murray ND, 5/31 Redwood RJ; late north 5/26 Aitkin WN, 5/28 Marshall ANWR. Peak 5/17 Traverse (100s) RJ.

Semipalmated Plover

Early south 4/26 Watonwan RG, RJ, 4/27 Mower RRK; early north 4/28 St. Louis P. Backstrom, 5/11 SS, SSt; late south 5/27 Goodhue TRF, 5/31 Redwood RJ; late north 5/24 Aitkin WN, 5/26 St. Louis SS.

Piping Plover

All reports: 5/2 St. Louis fide KE, 5/7 Hennepin C. Horn (*The Loon* 58:94).

Killdeer

Early south 3/8 Washington TBB, 3/11 Fillmore, Olmsted AMP, 3/13 Olmsted PP, 3/15 Blue Earth JCF; early north 3/24 Clay SDM, 3/25 St. Louis m.ob., Norman BK, Wilkin GAM, Pennington KSS.

American Avocet

All reports: 4/26 Lac Qui Parle KE, RH, 4/27 Blue Earth (1) MF, RG, 5/1 Mower (5) RRK, JM, 5/3 Lac Qui Parle (14) TM, 5/13 St. Louis (4) fide KE, 5/15 Marshall (1) ANWR, 5/26 and 5/27 Aitkin (1) WN.

Greater Yellowlegs

Early south 3/28 Rock KL, 3/29 Martin RG, RJ, Hennepin OJ; early north 3/30 Wilkin GAM, Pennington KSS, 4/2 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/15 Mower AMP, 5/16 Nicollet RE, 5/18 JCF; late north 5/20 Carlton GS, 5/21 Aitkin WN.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Early south 3/28 Olmsted RE, Nicollet JCF, 3/31 Fillmore AMP; early north 4/6 Aitkin WN, 4/8 Wilkin GAM; late south 5/20 Olmsted RE, 5/27 Wright RJ; late north 5/21 Aitkin WN, 5/26 Hubbard AB, Cook EH, St. Louis SS.

Solitary Sandpiper

Early south 4/19 Hennepin TTu, 4/24 Fillmore AMP; early north 4/28 Wilkin GAM, 5/4 St. Louis SS; late south 5/21 Olmsted RE, 5/22 Hennepin OJ; late north 5/12 St. Louis MH/JS, 5/19 Marshall ANWR.

Willet

Early south 4/26 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, Sibley (39) RG, RJ, 4/27 Blue Earth, Rice RG; early north 4/25 Wilkin GAM, 5/4 St. Louis B. Penning; late south 5/5 Olmsted JEB, RE, 5/16 Steele RE; late north 5/19 Marshall ANWR, 5/27 St. Louis LW.

Spotted Sandpiper

Early south 4/20 Watonwan AB, 4/24 Hennepin m.ob., Wright DO/SS; early north 4/28 St. Louis fide KE, 5/1 AE, 5/4 Marshall KSS.

Upland Sandpiper

Early south 4/25 Lac Qui Parle RH, 4/26 RE, TTu, 4/29 Olmsted RE, 5/3 Dakota TRF; early north 5/2 Clay RGJ, 5/4 Wilkin GAM, SDM, 5/9 Polk KSS, 5/11 Aitkin WN.

Whimbrel

All reports: 5/15 to 5/24 St. Louis (3) m.ob., 5/17 St. Louis (11) SSt.

Hudsonian Godwit

Early south 4/20 Martin AB, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB; early north 4/23 Aitkin WN, 5/3 Marshall KSS; late south 5/22 Anoka K. Overman, 5/27 Wright RJ; late north 5/21 St. Louis (5) KE, 5/24 (1) KE, 5/21 Aitkin WN, 5/24 Hubbard RG, Marshall K. Overman.

Marbled Godwit

Early south 4/9 Lincoln SSt, 4/12 Lac Qui Parle DO/SS, 4/21 Lyon HK; early north 4/13 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 4/17 Clay MN, 4/20 Otter Tail RJ. Also reported 5/12 St. Louis P. Backstrom, 5/24 SSt, 5/25 SDM.

Ruddy Turnstone

Early south 5/16 Nicollet JCF, Stearns NH, 5/17 Dakota TRF, Nicollet m.ob.; early north 5/11 St. Louis KE, SSt, 5/17 Clearwater AB; late south 5/28 Jackson RJ, 5/31 Wright ES; late north 5/27 St. Louis LW, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Red Knot

All reports: 5/15 to 5/17 St. Louis (10 max.) fide KE, 5/15 Marshall (5) ANWR, 5/17 Nicollet (6) TBB, 5/18 (14) BDC, MF, 5/18 Traverse RJ, 5/24 Marshall K. Overman, 5/26 and 5/27 Marshall (3) KE, 5/28 Jackson RJ.

Sanderling

Early south 4/24 Hennepin OJ, 5/12 Olmsted RE; early north 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/13 St. Louis fide KE; late south 5/23 Hennepin OJ., 5/28 Olmsted RE; late north 5/29 Wilkin GAM, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early south 4/24 Hennepin SC, ES, 4/26 Watonwan RJ; early north 4/24 Carlton LW, 5/10 St. Louis KE; late south 5/31 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin OJ, Redwood RJ, Fillmore AMP, Wright ES; late north 5/26 Hubbard AB, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Western Sandpiper

All reports: 5/11 Mower RS, 5/12 and 5/16 Olmsted RE, 5/16 Wilkin GAM, 5/18 Nicollet BDC, RE, 5/19 Hennepin OJ, 5/27 Marshall KE.

Least Sandpiper

Early south 4/5 Dakota JP/AM, 4/24 Hennepin SC, ES; early north 4/28 Wilkin GAM, 5/4 St. Louis B. Penning; late south 5/24 Hennepin DB, 5/31 Nicollet JCF, Wright ES; late north 5/21 St. Louis AE, Aitkin WN, 5/25 Clearwater AB.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Early south 4/27 Fillmore AMP, 5/6 Dakota AB; late south 5/31 Nicollet JCF, Cottonwood RJ, Jackson DS, Wright ES. All north reports: 5/13 Marshall ANWR, 5/18 Polk AB, 5/25 Clearwater AB.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early south 4/13 Steele AB, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle m.ob.; early north 5/15 Marshall ANWR, 5/17 St. Louis P. Backstrom; late south 5/18 Nicollet BDC, RE, 5/24 Brown JS; late north 5/21 Aitkin WN, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Early south 4/5 Dakota JD, 4/9 Chippewa RG, RJ; early north 4/20 Aitkin WN, 4/26 St. Louis M. Hendrickson; late south 5/26 Hennepin OJ, 5/31 Cottonwood RJ; late north 5/15 Marshall ANWR, 5/21 Aitkin WN.

Dunlin

Early south 4/25 Wabasha WDM, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle FE, HK; early north 5/7 St. Louis KE, 5/11 SS, SSt, 5/12 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/31 Nicollet JCF, Hennepin OJ, Redwood RJ, Wright ES; late north 5/27 Carlton LW, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Stilt Sandpiper

All reports: 5/6 Dakota AB, 5/16-18 Nicollet m.ob., 5/17 Grant RJ, 5/20 St. Louis KE, 5/21 Marshall ANWR, 5/24 K. Overman, 5/24 Hennepin DB, 5/26 Morrison RG, 5/27 Wright RJ.

RUFF

4/19 Sherburn, Martin Co. (1) RG. (*The Loon* 58:139).

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early south 5/6 Dakota AB, JD, 5/9 TTu, 5/10 Winona RG; early north 5/5 Aitkin WN, 5/11 St. Louis KE; late south 5/17 and 5/18 Nicollet m.ob., 5/17 Blue Earth MF, HK, 5/18 Rice FKS; late north 5/20 Carlton GS,

5/21 Aitkin WN. Also reported 5/16 Cook (first county record) KMH.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Early south 4/24 Hennepin SC, ES, 4/26 Kandiyohi TTu, 4/28 Mower RRR; late south 5/18 Nicollet JCF, Rice FKS, 5/24 Nicollet JCF, 5/31 RJ. One north report: 5/13 Cook KMH.

Common Snipe

Early south 3/1 Hennepin (overwintered) SC, GP, 3/8 TTu, 3/22 Brown JS; early north 4/2 Clay MM, Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/6 Clay LCF, 4/9 St Louis KE.

American Woodcock

Early south 3/17 Ramsey KB, 3/18 Mower RRR, JM, 3/22 Olmsted RE, Brown JS, Dakota TTu; early north 3/27 Cook KMH, 3/29 SL., 4/2 St. Louis MH/JS, 4/4 Cook WP/EH, 4/10 Pennington KSS.

Wilson's Phalarope

Early south 4/24 Hennepin SC, ES, 4/25 Renville KE, 4/26 Dakota JD; early north 5/4 Wilkin GAM, SDM, 5/5 Clay LCF, Aitkin WN, 5/11 Norman BK. Also reported 5/24 St. Louis (1) KE.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 5/18 Polk AB, 5/24 Marshall ANWR, 5/28 Jackson (4) RG, RJ.

Franklin's Gull

Early south 4/1 Cottonwood Ed, Lyon RG, 4/2 Blue Earth JCF, 4/4 Chisago BDC; early north 3/29 Marshall ANWR, 3/31 Clay LCF, Norman BK, 4/1 Grant SDM. Also reported 5/15 St. Louis D. Green.

Little Gull

5/12-5/28 to July, Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (nesting) J. Schladweiler, m.ob.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL

5/28 to July, Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (1 ad.) RJ, m.ob., First state record. (*The Loon*58:104-107).

Bonaparte's Gull

Early south 4/3 Ramsey KB, Fillmore AMP, 4/6 Olmsted RE; early north 4/13 Otter Tail SDM, 4/26 St. Louis M. Hendrickson; late south 5/14 Hennepin SC, GP, 5/20 Pine GS; late north 5/19 Hubbard JL, 5/24 Marshall K. Overman.



American Woodcock nest, containing European Starling egg, May 2, 1986. Greenfield Township, Wabasha County. Photo by D.G. Mahle.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 11 north and 26 south counties.

Herring Gull

Reported from ten north and 18 south counties.

Thayer's Gull

All reports: 4/30 Wabasha (1) RJ, 5/18 Traverse (1) RJ, **5/28 Jackson** (2) RG, RJ.

Glaucous Gull

All reports: 3/15 to 4/1 St. Louis (1-2) fide KE, **5/11 St. Louis** (1 imm.) KE, **5/31 Grand Marais**, Cook Co. KMH.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

3/15-29 Duluth, St. Louis Co. (1 ad.) R. Johnson, m.ob., (*The Loon* 58:93).

Caspian Tern

Early south **4/21** Washington WL, **4/22** TBB, **4/26** Big Stone HK, **5/2** Hennepin ES, **5/7** Washington, JD, BE; early north **5/4** Duluth D. Keinholz, **5/10** SSt, **5/17** Clearwater AB, **5/18** Becker BK

Common Tern

Early south **4/19** Mower RS, **4/26** Washington WL, Lac Qui Parle TBB, **4/27** Brown JS; early north **4/29** Clay MM, **5/8** Duluth KE, **5/10** SSt, **5/11** Clay LCF.

Forster's Tern

Early south **4/2** Hennepin SC, **4/4** Chisago BDC, **4/5** Nicollet JCF, Jackson RG, RJ, **4/7** Ramsey JP/AM; early north **4/20** Otter Tail SDM, **4/29** Marshall ANWR, **4/30** St. Louis KE, **5/4** AB, **5/11** KE.

Black Tern

Early south **4/26** Hennepin OJ, Brown JS, **4/28** Pipestone JP, **5/3** Ramsey RH; early north **5/9** Otter Tail AB, Clay MM, **5/10** Wilkin GAM, Otter Tail SDM, **5/11** Clay LCF, Norman BK.

Rock Dove

Reported from 13 north and 26 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Overwintered in the south; early north **3/13**

Otter Tail SDM, **3/15** Aitkin WN, **3/25** Norman BK.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Early south **5/9** Houston EMF, Nicollet JCF, **5/10** Le Sueur MF, **5/11** Mower RRR; early north **5/15** Clearwater AB, **5/19** Marshall ANWR, **5/20** Pennington KSS, **5/23** Clay LCF, Cook EH.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All reports: **5/6** Freeborn NHo, **5/11** Mower RRR, **5/17** Nicollet BDC, JCF, Blue Earth ES, **5/19** Olmsted RE, **5/21** JEB, **5/28** RE, **5/20** to **5/31** Fillmore AMP, **5/26** Hennepin OJ, **5/27** ES.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Permanent resident, reported from Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Mower, Murray, Olmsted, Washington and **5/30** Rice (1 ad., 4 y. on nest) FKS.

Great Horned Owl

Permanent resident, reported from 10 north and 26 south counties.

Snowy Owl

All reports: **3/4** Marshall ANWR, **3/9** Pine (1) DS, **3/17** Wilkin (1) GAM, **3/30** Norman (1) BK, **4/4** Rice (1) FKS, **4/5** Freeborn (1 injured) RRR.

Burrowing Owl

4/6 Lac Qui Parle (1) J. Schladweiler.

Barred Owl

Permanent resident, reported from nine north and 15 south counties.

Great Gray Owl

4/27 - 5/31 Aitkin (max. 3) WN, KE.

Long-eared Owl

All reports: **3/28** Winona (1) RG, **4/9** Polk KSS, **4/14** Lyon (1) HK, **4/15** Dakota (1) TTu, **4/29** Stearns (nest, 5 eggs) NH, **5/12** Wright (1) DO/SS, **5/27** Polk (4 y. on nest) HK.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: **3/29** Chisago KB, **4/1** Wilkin (3) GAM, **4/13** (6) GAM, **4/10** Anoka (1), Washington (1) RG, **4/21** Clearwater (1), Polk (1) RJ, **4/24** Otter Tail (4) SDM, **4/26**

and 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (2) m.ob., 4/29-5/6 Duluth m.ob., 5/2 Polk RGJ, 5/6 St. Louis J. Newman, 5/24 Polk, Pennington RG, 5/27 Marshall, Roseau KE. Also Olmsted (1 found dead) AMP.

Boreal Owl

All reports: 4/1 Cook KMH, 4/19 Gunflint Trail, Cook Co. (1 calling male) KE, 4/26 same location (pair) KE, 5/2 Lake (1) B. Russell, 5/2 and 5/3 Lake (1) SW/MS, SS.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Reported from Aitkin, Anoka, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Lake, St. Louis, Wabasha, Washington and Polk (6 y. in nest box).

Common Nighthawk

Early south 4/26 Washington DS, 4/30 Mower JM, 5/3 Fillmore RS; early north 5/9 Otter Tail AB, 5/14 Pennington KSS, 5/15 Otter Tail SDM, 5/17 Aitkin WN.

Whip-poor-will

Early south 4/24 Houston EMF, Washington DS, 4/25 Hennepin ES, 4/26 Martin RG, RJ, Rice FKS; early north 5/6 St. Louis M. Nevers, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/12 Lake SW/MS.

Chimney Swift

Early south 4/23 Blue Earth, JCF, 4/25 Hennepin m.ob., Fillmore AMP, 4/26 Houston EMF, Lac Qui Parle RH, Faribault RG, RJ, Big Stone HK; early north 5/1 Otter Tail SDM, 5/6 St. Louis KE, 5/7 Pennington KSS, Wilkin GAM.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Early south 5/5 Rice FKS, 5/6 Freeborn NHo, 5/7 Olmsted RE, Houston EMF; early north 5/6 Aitkin WN, 5/9 St. Louis fide KE, Hubbard JL, 5/10 Clearwater AB, Clay LCF, Cook WP.

Belted Kingfisher

Some overwintered in the south; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM; 4/3 Cook GAM, 4/6 Clay LCF.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Some overwintered in the south; early north 4/20 Aitkin WN, 5/4 Pennington KSS,

5/6 St. Louis J. Newman.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from 24 counties south and 4/27 Cook WP, KMH, 5/4 St. Louis M. Stock.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Early south 3/28 Winona RG, 4/1 Hennepin AB, Houston EMF, 4/2 Blue Earth JCF, Ramsey RH, Rice PP, Dakota TTu; early north 5/2 Otter Tail SDM, 5/3 St. Louis MH/JS Cook m.ob., 5/4 Cook SL.

Downy Woodpecker

Permanent resident, reported from 13 north and 27 south.

Hairy Woodpecker

Permanent resident, reported from 12 north and 29 south counties.

Three-toed Woodpecker

3/8 Becker TWP., Sherburne Co. (1 female) RG, RJ.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Reported from Beltrami, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard and St. Louis north and 3/8 Benton RJ, 5/2 Anoka JH, 5/8 Washington SSt, 5/13 Hennepin B. Dix.

Northern Flicker

Early south 3/9 Mower JM, 3/10 Freeborn NHo, 3/22 Nobles KE, Blue Earth MF, Mower RRR. 3/25 Olmsted RE, Fillmore AMP; early north 3/28 Carlton LW, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 St. Louis m.ob., Marshall ANWR, Clay LCF, Hubbard JL, Cook SL, Pennington KSS.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 10 north and 25 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 5/5 Olmsted JEB, 5/8 Hennepin SC, 5/9 Dakota TTu; early north 5/11 St. Louis SSt, D. Kienholz, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/14 Cook KMH, 5/16 Beltrami and Clearwater AB; late south 5/26 Fillmore AMP, Pope DR, 5/29 Cottonwood ED, 5/31 Hennepin ES, Brown JS.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Early south 5/4 Pope DR, 5/6 Fillmore

AMP, 5/8 Lyon HK, Pipestone JP, 5/10 Olmsted PP; early north 5/11 Clearwater AB, 5/13 St. Louis KE, Clay LCF, 5/15 Marshall ANWR.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 5/8 Lyon HK, 5/12 Fillmore AMP, 5/13 Washington BE, 5/14 Hennepin SC, GP; early north St. Louis 5/21 KE, 5/25 KB, 5/26 SS; Late south 5/22 Olmsted RE, Washington SSt, 5/26 Olmsted BE.

Acadian Flycatcher

All reports: Houston 5/18 GS, 5/25 TM, 5/31 KE, SSt.

Alder Flycatcher

Early south Hennepin 5/9 ES, 5/14 OJ, 5/18 Sibley TM; early north 5/8 Clay LCF, 5/16 Carlton LW, 5/18 Wilkin RJ; Late south Hennepin 5/29 DB (4), 5/31 ES, 5/31 Fillmore AMP.

Willow Flycatcher

Early south 5/9 Fillmore AMP, 5/10 Houston EMF, 5/14 Olmsted RE; early north 5/16 Wilkin GAM, 5/18 Polk AB, 5/26 Clay LCF.

Least Flycatcher

Early south 4/20 Lac Qui Parle GAM, 4/29 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, Brown JS, 4/30 Lyon HK, 5/1 Murray ND, Washington BE; early north 5/4 Clay LCF, 5/6 St. Louis KE, 5/9 Marshall ANWR, KSS, Hubbard JL, 5/10 Clearwater AB, St. Louis AE, MH/JS, Lake SS, SW/MS.

Eastern Phoebe

Early south 3/25 Dakota JD, Sherburne DO/SS, 3/27 Fillmore AMP, 3/28 Hennepin SC, Nicollet JCF, Brown JS, Rice FKS, Ramsey SSt; early north 3/29 Clearwater AB, Kanabec SSt, Aitkin WN, 3/30 Becker E. Josken, MBW, Pennington KSS, 3/31 Clay LCF, Carlton LW.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Early south 4/10 Lyon HK, 4/29 Ramsey KB, 5/1 Houston EMF, 5/4 Hennepin SC, ES, Dakota LW, Blue Earth JCF, Pope DR; early north 5/10 Clearwater AB, Clay LCF, St. Louis AE, 5/11 Aitkin WN, 5/13 St. Louis KE, MH/JS, Morrison NH.

Western Kingbird

Early south 4/26 Watonwan ED, 5/11 Fillmore AMP, 5/12 Sherburne DO/SS, 5/13 Rock TTu; early north 5/4 Wilkin SDM, 5/6 Wilkin GAM, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/15 Pennington KSS.

Eastern Kingbird

Early south 3/30 Mower, HK (earliest date on record), 4/26 Martin RJ, 4/27 Wright RH, Fillmore AMP, 4/28 Houston EMF; early north 4/17 Clay MM, 5/4 Wilkin GAM, 5/5 Otter Tail SDM, Clay LCF.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

5/17 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 58:136-137).

Horned Lark

Reported from 15 north and 27 south counties.

Purple Martin

Early south 4/3 Winona EMF, Fillmore AMP, 4/5 Blue Earth RJ, 4/6 Mower RRR, Benton DO/SS, 4/7 Cottonwood ED; early north 4/11 Otter Tail SDM, 4/13 Aitkin WN, 4/20 Becker MBW.

Tree Swallow

Early south 3/25 Goodhue JD, Dakota TTu, 3/28 Hennepin SC, Nicollet JCF, 3/29 Winona GS, Wright TM, Nicolet RJ, Fillmore AMP; early north 3/30 Clearwater AB, 4/1 St. Louis KE, 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/9 Otter Tail SDM.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Early south 4/2 Olmsted RE, 4/8 Ramsey KB, 4/10 Hennepin TTu; 4/11 Brown JS; early north 3/29 Marshall ANWR, 4/6 Traverse GAM, 4/22 Otter Tail SDM, 4/26 Carlton LW.

Bank Swallow

Early south 4/11 Ramsey TTu, 4/23 Fillmore AMP, 4/25 Olmsted BE, 4/26 Chippewa, Swift, Lac Qui Parle AB, Brown JS, Chippewa DB; early north 5/1 St. Louis MH/JS, 5/3 Carlton AB, 5/6 Marshall ANWR, 5/7 Grant SDM.

Cliff Swallow

Early south 4/19 Fillmore PP, AMP, 4/25 Olmsted RE, 4/26 Watonwan RJ, Swift AB, Chippewa AB, DB, BL, Lac Qui Parle AB,

TBB, HK, TTu; early north 4/25 Morrison NH, Wilkin GAM, 4/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/29 Itasca DB, Aitkin WN, 4/30 St. Louis KE.

Barn Swallow

Early south 4/16 Wabasha WDM, 4/18 Benton, Sherburne DO/SS, 4/19 Wright TM, Wabasha BL, Pipestone JP, early north 4/22 St. Louis MH/SS, 4/24 Wilkin GAM, 4/27 Cook KMH, Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SDM.

Gray Jay

Reported from Aitkin, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake and St. Louis counties.

Blue Jay

Reported from 17 north and 32 south counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Aitkin, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Polk, Roseau and St. Louis counties.

American Crow

Reported from 16 north and 32 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from 13 north counties and Anoka 3/8 RJ (2), 3/31 JH.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 16 north and 30 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee

All reports: 3/1 Stearns NH, St. Louis 3/11 SS, 5/26 KB, resident MH/JS, Cook resident KMH.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports: Fillmore 3/11, 4/19 AMP, 3/15 Olmsted S. Rossi, Houston 5/4 JM, 5/26 TM, resident EMF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 11 north and nine south counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 15 north and 30 south counties.

Brown Creeper

Early north 3/28 Cook TW, Carlton LW, 3/29 St. Louis m.ob., Cook KMH, 3/30 Clearwater AB; late south 5/18 Houston GS, 5/19 Mower AMP, 5/24 Chisago DZ, 5/27 Olmsted RE.

BEWICK'S WREN

4/27-28 Olmsted JEB et al. (*The Loon* 58:137-138).

House Wren

Early south 4/16 Mower RRR, 4/22 Houston EMF, Fillmore, Olmsted AMP, 4/23 Ramsey KB, Hennepin BDC, 4/24 Brown JS; early north 4/28 St. Louis KE, 4/29 Wilkin GAM, 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/4 Otter Tail SDM, Clay LCF.

Winter Wren

Early south 3/26 Freeborn RJ, 3/29 Olmsted BE, 3/30 Anoka JH, 4/1 Hennepin AB; early north 4/2 St. Louis MH/JS, 4/4 Cook WP; late south 4/20 Houston EMF, 4/24 Olmsted RE, 4/29 Brown JS.

Sedge Wren

Early south 4/24 Brown JS, 4/25 Hennepin SC, Ramsey KB, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle TBB, 4/28 Ramsey BL; early north 5/2 Aitkin WN, 5/7 St. Louis KE, 5/9 Marshall KSS, 5/10 Clearwater AB.

Marsh Wren

Early south 4/25 Fillmore AMP, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle KE, Olmsted RE, 4/28 Ramsey BL, 4/30 Hennepin SC; early north 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/5 Clay LCF.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early north 3/22 Pennington KSS, 3/23 St. Louis KE, 3/28 Clay LCF, 3/31 St. Louis AE; late south 4/25 Ramsey KB, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle AB, RE, 5/1 Brown JS, 5/8 Lyon HK.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 3/23 Mower RRR, 3/25 Hennepin SC, Blue Earth JCF, 3/27 Washington TBB, Fillmore AMP; early north 3/31 St. Louis D. Johnson, 4/2 Marshall ANWR, 4/6 Clay LCF, Hubbard JL, Kanabec SS; late south 5/21 Ramsey KB, 5/27 Murray ND, 5/28 Dakota TTu.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Early south 4/25 Fillmore AMP, 4/26 Hennepin SC, GP, Houston EMF, 4/27 Goodhue TRF, 4/28 Dakota JD; only reports north 5/14 Crow Wing RJ (building nest) and 5/18 Wilkin RJ.

Eastern Bluebird

Early south 3/3 Blue Earth MF (wintered over?), 3/14 Nicollet JCF, Freeborn NHO (20), Houston KL, 3/16 Winona KE, Goodhue TRF, Mower RRK, Fillmore AMP; early north 3/28 Polk KSS, 3/29 St. Louis m.ob., Otter Tail SDM, Aitkin WN, Becker MBW, 3/30 Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Wadena AB, 4/1 Clay MM.

Mountain Bluebird

3/23 Stearns NH one male.

Veery

Early south 4/27 Fillmore AMP, 5/5 Ramsey KB, Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Hennepin AB, Dakota JD, Lyon HK; early north 4/30 Clearwater MMM, 5/10 Polk KSS, Lake SS, Clearwater AB, 5/11 St. Louis SSt, Cook KMH.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early south 5/3 Cottonwood ED, 5/4 Hennepin SC, Murray HK, Washington TTu, 5/5 Hennepin AB, DB, ES, Rice FKS; early north 5/8 Clay LCF, 5/10 Clearwater AB, 5/11 St. Louis SSt, 5/12 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/17 Nicollet RE, 5/19 Hennepin SC; late north 5/17 Marshall ANWR, 5/18 Polk AB, 5/19 Clay LCF.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 4/11 Freeborn NHO, 4/20 Pope DR, 4/27 Fillmore AMP, 4/30 Ramsey KB; early north 4/26 Wilkin GAM, 5/3 Otter Tail SDM, 5/5 Clay LCF; late south 5/24 Nicollet JCF, 5/29 Ramsey KB.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 3/19 Mower JM, 3/22 RRK, 3/28 Fillmore AMP; early north 3/22 Mahnomen JL, 4/1 St. Louis D. Benson, 4/6 Kanabec SSt; late south 5/2 Ramsey KB, Hennepin 5/2 SC, 5/3 OJ, 5/12 Olmsted PP.

Wood Thrush

Early south 5/4 Dakota LW, 5/5 Houston EMF, 5/8 Yellow Medicine RJ, Hennepin

OJ, GP, TTu, 5/9 Ramsey KB, Olmsted RE, Fillmore AMP; early north 5/6 St. Louis J. Newman, 5/10 Clearwater AB, 5/13 Morrison NH, Marshall ANWR.

American Robin

Reported from 18 north and 33 south counties. Early north 3/13 Otter Tail SDM, 3/17 Wilkin GAM, 3/19 St. Louis AE.

Gray Catbird

Early south 4/8 Washington DO/SS, 4/22 Sherburne DO/SS, 4/25 Fillmore AMP, 4/26 Watonwan RJ, Lyon KL, Washington SSt; early north 5/1 St. Louis AE, 5/8 Clay LCF, 5/9 Otter Tail AB, SDM, St. Louis SW/MS.

Northern Mockingbird

All reports: 4/13 Freeborn AB, Otter Tail GAM, 5/3,6 St. Louis KE, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/14 Cook KMH (2), WP, 5/16 Cook T. Dyke, 5/18 Clearwater KB and Renville KL. (no date)

Brown Thrasher

Early south 4/11 Washington TBB, 4/12 Mower JM, 4/13 Dodge AB, 4/14 Cottonwood ED, Mower RRK; early north 4/20 Clay LCF, 4/25 Pennington KSS, 4/28 St. Louis KE, 4/30 Lake SW/MS.

Water Pipit

Early south 4/25 Olmsted BE, 4/26 Big Stone HK, 5/8 Redwood RJ (10), 5/9 Olmsted RE, Dakota TTu; early north 4/27 Cook KMH; late north St. Louis 5/13 M. Stensaas, 5/15 KL, Cook 5/14 WP, 5/17 KMH.

Bohemian Waxwing

Only reports south 3/2 Washington BE, 3/10-12 Hennepin OJ (70 on 12th), 4/5 Ramsey KB; late north 3/27 Wilkin GAM, 4/6 St. Louis KE, 4/13 Cook KMH.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 11 north and 28 south counties.

Northern Shrike

Thirty-four reports. Late south 3/22 Dakota TTu, 3/23 Blue Earth KE, 3/25 Hennepin SC, 3/26 Pope DR; late north 3/30 Clearwater AB, 3/31 St. Louis SS, 4/1 Cook KMH, Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Aitkin WN.

Loggerhead Shrike

Thirty-three reports. Early south 3/16 Goodhue TRF, 3/22 Blue Earth MF, 3/25 Sherburne DO/SS, 4/2 Washington TBB, Chisago BDC; early north 3/23 Morrison NH, 3/29 Wilkin GAM, 4/13 Clay LCF; also 5/23 Cook KMH (*The Loon* 58:97).

European Starling

Reported from 18 north and 26 south counties.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

5/9 Ramsey KB (*The Loon* 58:136).

Bell's Vireo

All reports: 5/17 Goodhue DBI, JD, 5/18 Dakota KE, TTu (3), BE, 5/20 Wabasha WDM, 5/27 Dakota TTu (5).

Solitary Vireo

Early south 4/26 Lac Qui Parle KE, RE, Omsted JEB, 4/28 Brown JS, Ramsey BL, 4/29 Ramsey KB, 4/30 Washington SSt; early north 4/28 St. Louis D. Kienholz, 5/3 Carlton AB, 5/4 Wilkin GAM, 5/5 Lake SW/MS; late south 5/21 Hennepin SC, Murray ND, Brown JS, 5/25 Winona AMP.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Early south 5/4 Houston JP/AM, Hennepin TTu, 5/5 Ramsey KB, Lac Qui Parle TM, Brown JS, Washington SSt, 5/7 Washington BE, 5/8 Le Sueur MF; early north 5/11 Clearwater AB, Aitkin WN, 5/12 Marshall ANWR, Clay LCF, 5/13 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Carlton LW.

Warbling Vireo

Early south 4/26 Hennepin DB1, Dakota JD, 4/27 Fillmore AMP, 4/29 Hennepin SC, 4/30 Goodhue RJ; early north 4/24 Cook SL, 5/4 Wilkin GAM, 5/10 Clearwater AB, Clay LCF, 5/11 Grant SDM.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 5/4 Washington DS, Hennepin ES, DZ, Olmsted 5/6 JEB, 5/7 PP, 5/8 Redwood RJ, Sherburne DO/SS; early north 5/6 St. Louis KE, 5/10 AE, 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/12 Wilkin GAM; late south 5/19 Hennepin SC, Olmsted AMP, 5/22 Hennepin DB, Fillmore AMP.

Red-eyed Vireo

Early south 5/3 Olmsted PP, 5/4 Hennepin

SC, 5/5 DB, ES, 5/6 RJ, 5/4 Wabasha WDM, 5/6 Olmsted JEB; early north 5/10 Aitkin WN, 5/11 Clearwater AB, 5/12 Marshall ANWR, 5/13 Calton LW, Hubbard JL.

Blue-winged Warbler

Early south 4/30 Dodge RJ, Ramsey KB, 5/4 Houston JM, GS, 5/5 EMF, 5/6 Washington BE, 5/9 Hennepin SC, Fillmore AMP, Brown JS.

Golden-winged Warbler

Early south 5/1 Hennepin SC, 5/4 Fillmore RS, 5/8 Renville RJ, Lyon HK, Washington SSt; early north 5/4 St. Louis D. Johnson, Aitkin WN, 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/10 Clearwater AB, St. Louis MH/JS; late south 5/18 Mower JM.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 4/26 Chippewa AB, DB, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle HK, 4/29 Fillmore AMP, 5/1 Hennepin SC; early north 4/27 Pennington KSS, 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 AB, 5/9 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/28 Murray ND; late north 5/26 Lake SW/MS, 5/29 Clay LCF.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early south 4/11 Olmsted AMP, 4/20 Fillmore AMP, 4/23 Hennepin OJ, Blue Earth JCF; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 4/29 St. Louis KE, Morrison NH, 5/3 Polk KSS; late south 5/19 Hennepin SC; late north 5/27 Pine K. Overman.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 4/25 Anoka JH, 4/26 Watonwan RJ, Pope DR, 4/28 Hennepin SC, DB, Houston EMF, Ramsey BL; early north 5/3 Carlton AB, 5/4 Aitkin WN, St. Louis SS, D. Johnson, Wilkin SDM, Hubbard JL, 5/5 Lake SW/MS, St. Louis MH/JS, 5/6 Clay LCF; late south 5/20 Hennepin SC, Murray ND, Olmsted PP.

Northern Parula

Early south 4/28 Hennepin SC, 4/30 Ramsey KB, 5/3 Mower JM, Hennepin TTu, 5/4 Dakota LW, Hennepin DZ; early north 5/4 Hubbard JL, 5/5 St. Louis MH/JS, Cook WP, 5/6 St. Louis M. Stensaas, 5/7 Cook KMH, St. Louis SW/MS; late south 5/22 Hennepin DB.

Yellow Warbler

Early south 4/27 Ramsey KB, Hennepin TTu, 4/29 Fillmore AMP, Wabasha WDM, 4/30 Hennepin SC, 5/3 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted PP, Goodhue GS; early north 5/2 Otter Tail SDM, 5/4 Hubbard JL, 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/7 St. Louis AE.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Early south 5/5 Hennepin DB, Washington SSt, 5/6 Hennepin RJ, SC, 5/7 Dakota, Washington JD, Olmsted PP, 5/8 Houston EMF, Lyon HK, Sherburne DO/SS, Hennepin ES, GP, Olmsted RE; early north St. Louis 5/6 KE, 5/7 SW/MS, 5/10 AE, 5/10 Cook WP, Lake LW, SS Clay LCF, 5/11 Aitkin WN, Clearwater AB, Cook KMH.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 5/4 Houston JP/AM, 5/5 Hennepin SC, Olmsted JEB, Washington SSt, 5/6 Houston EMF, Olmsted RE; early north 5/3 Polk KSS, 5/6 St. Louis KE, 5/10 Cook WP 5/11 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, Crow Wing WN, Lake SW/MS; late south 5/23 Murray ND, 5/24 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/26 Le Sueur HJC, Fillmore AMP.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 5/8 Ramsey KB, Olmsted JEB, Le Sueur MF, Sherburne DO/SS, 5/9 Mower JM, Fillmore AMP, 5/10 Mower RRK, Hennepin OJ; early north 5/6 St. Louis D. Green, 5/7 AE, 5/9 SW/MS, 5/12 KE (73), 5/7 Cook KMH, WP, 5/9 Marshall ANWR, 5/10 Cook SSt, Hubbard JL.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

All reports: 5/11 Ramsey BL, 5/14 St. Louis KE, 5/20 Cook KMH, WP, 5/26 St. Louis SDM.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 4/1 Ramsey KB, 4/3 Olmsted PP, 4/4 Hennepin SC, 4/5 Dakota TTu, Washington TBB, Anoka JH, Ramsey SSt; early north 4/6 Kanabec SSt, 4/8 Clay LCF, 4/9 St. Louis KE, 4/10 Cook KMH; late south 5/24 Fillmore AMP.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 4/26 Ramsey KB, 5/3 Olmsted PP, 5/4 Hennepin SC, ES, DZ; early north 4/30 Lake SW/MS, Clearwater MMM, 5/4 St. Louis D. Johnson, 5/5 Cook WP; late south 5/26 Anoka JH.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 5/4 Hennepin SC, DZ, Fillmore RS, 5/7 Washington JD, Dakota TRF, 5/8 Brown JS, Le Sueur MF, Hennepin DB, Washington SSt; early north 5/6 St. Louis KE, 5/7 AE, 5/8 Lake SS, 5/10 LW, 5/11 Crow Wing WN; late south 5/24 Murray ND, 5/26 Pipestone JP.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

5/4 Freeborn RG (*The Loon* 58:130).

Pine Warbler

Early south 4/16 Dakota JD, Olmsted AMP, 4/19 Wabasha WDM, Fillmore AMP, 4/26 Washington WL; early north 4/26 Carlton LW, 4/30 St. Louis KE, 5/3 Aitkin WN, 5/10 Lake SS, 5/11 Hubbard AB.

Palm Warbler

Early south 4/19 Anoka JH, Fillmore AMP, 4/23 Ramsey KB, 4/24 Mower RRK; early north 4/23 Polk KSS, 4/26 St. Louis D, Kienholz, Cook WP, 4/30 Clearwater MMM; late south 5/18 Stearns NH, 5/19 Mower AMP, 5/20 Murray ND; late north 5/17 Hubbard AB, 5/19 Clay LCF.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 5/8 Lyon HK, Pipestone JP, 5/9 Ramsey KB, Mower JM, Fillmore AMP, Washington SSt, 5/10 Hennepin OJ, DB, TTu; late south 5/25 Houston TM.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early south 5/4 Hennepin TTu, 5/5 DB, SC, 5/6 Washington WL, 5/7 BE; early north 5/10 Clay LCF, Clearwater AB, Hubbard JL, Wilkin GAM, 5/11 Cook KMH, Crow Wing WN, Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/24 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/28 Murray ND; late north 5/24 Clay LCF.

Cerulean Warbler

Reported from 11 counties; early south 4/30 Goodhue RJ, 5/8 Fillmore AMP, 5/10 Mower RRK, 5/11 Dakota JD, 5/12 Olmsted RE, Stearns NH.

Black-and-white Warbler

Early south 4/26 Brown JS, Lac Qui Parle BL, Watonwan RJ, 4/28 Hennepin SC, 4/29 Washington SSt; early north 4/20 Cook SC, 4/28 St. Louis fide KE, 5/5 Lake SW/MS.

American Redstart

Early south 5/2 Hennepin OJ, 5/4 Hennepin SC, Houston JM, GS, 5/5 Houston EMF, Olmsted RE, Ramsey KB, Rh; early north 5/6 St. Louis fide KE, 5/10 Aitkin WN, Clearwater AB, Hubbard JL, Pennington KSS, 5/11 Clay LCF.

Prothonotary Warbler

Early south 5/6 Mower JM, 5/7 Dakota JD, 5/8 Dakota TTu.

WORM-EATING WARBLER

Three reports south 5/8 LeSueur MF (*The Loon* 58:39), 5/11 Fillmore AMP (*The Loon* 58:113), 5/22 Fillmore AMP (*The Loon* 58:133).

Ovenbird

Early south 4/30 Dodge RJ, 5/3 Dakota ES, 5/4 Brown JS, Fillmore RS, Olmsted RE; early north 4/28 St. Louis fide KE, 5/3 Aitkin WN, 5/4 Beltrami SC, Hubbard JL.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 4/26 Hennepin SC, GP, Martin RJ, 4/27 Hennepin TTu, 4/28 Ramsey BL, KB, Washington SSt; early north 5/4 Hubbard JL, Wilkin SDM, 5/5 St. Louis Fide KE, 5/6 Clay LCF.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Early south 5/3 Hennepin OJ, 5/4 Houston JM, 5/10 Fillmore AMP.

Kentucky Warbler

Early south 5/13 Washington BE, m.ob. (*The Loon* 58:133), m.ob., 5/26 Mower RRK.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 5/6 Fillmore AMP, 5/7 Dakota JD, 5/13 Hennepin SC; early north 5/12 Clay LCF, 5/14 St. Louis KE, 5/24 Lake of the Woods KSS, St. Louis SS; late south 5/23 Ramsey KB, 5/24 Scott DB1, 5/29 Dakota JP/AM.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 5/9 Fillmore AMP, Hennepin SC, 5/12 Olmsted RE, 5/14 Hennepin GP; early north 5/13 St. Louis fide KE, 5/17 Aitkin WN, Clearwater AB, 5/20 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/29 Hennepin DB, 5/30 Brown JS, Dakota JP/AM, Hennepin ES, 5/31 Fillmore AMP.

Common Yellowthroat

Early south 4/26 Blue Earth RJ, 5/3 Hennepin OJ, 5/4 Blue Earth MF, Hennepin SC, TTu, Ramsey KB; early north 5/4 Hubbard JL, 5/5 St. Louis fide KE, 5/5 Clay LCF.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 5/4 Hennepin SC, DZ, 5/5 Hennepin DB, 5/7 Olmsted PP; early north 5/5 Pennington KSS, 5/11 Clay LCF, Clearwater AB, Cook KMH, St. Louis fide KE, 5/12 Beltrami ANWR, Hubbard JL; late south 5/23 Hennepin SC, 5/24 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/28 Murray ND.

Canada Warbler

Early south 5/5 Hennepin SC, 5/8 Lyon HK, 5/11 Mower RS; early north 5/11 St. Louis fide KE, 5/20 Cook KMH, St. Louis SS, 5/24 Lake SW/MS; late south 5/25 Murray ND, 5/27 Hennepin DB, Washington SSt, 5/28 Mower RRK.

Summer Tanager

Five reports: 5/3 Washington RJ, JP/AM, 5/14 Fillmore AMP, Lake fide KE, 5/15 Fillmore RE, 5/26 Mower RRK.

Scarlet Tanager

Early south 4/30 Ramsey KB, 5/4 Hennepin SC, 5/5 Brown JS, Olmsted JEB; early north 5/11 St. Louis fide KE, 5/12 Cook EH, 5/16 Carlton LW, Clay LCF.

WESTERN TANAGER

5/10 Morrison L. Ryan (*The Loon* 58:99).

Northern Cardinal

Four reports north 3/14 Otter Tail overwintered SDM, 4/13 Aitkin WN, 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/10 Cook EH; reported from twenty-one counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Early south 4/26 Mower JM, 4/27 Houston EMF, 4/30 Fillmore AMP, Hennepin RH, ES, Washington TBB; early north 5/3 Becker MBW, 5/6 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, Norman BK, Pennington KSS, St. Louis fide KE, 5/7 Grant SDM, St. Louis MH/JS.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

5/24 Rock Mike Mulligan (*The Loon* 58:140).

Blue Grosbeak

Three reports 5/21 Murray ND, 5/22 Nobles ND, 5/29 Rock ND.

LAZULI BUNTING

5/5-11 Stearns, L. and D. Loch (*The Loon* 58:192).

Indigo Bunting

Early south 4/27 Chippewa RGJ, 5/4 Hennepin SC, Houston JM, JP/AM, 5/5 Mower RRK, Olmsted RE, Wabasha WDM; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 Otter Tail AB, 5/10 Hubbard JL.

PAINTED BUNTING

5/18 Nobles Charles, Gert and Margo Will-emssen (*The Loon* 58:129).

Dickcissel

Early south 5/4 Blue Earth MF, 5/12 Scott TTu, 5/14 Fillmore AMP.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Early south 4/6 Fillmore RS, 4/8 Scott RJ, 4/10 Houston EMF; early north 4/28 St. Louis KE, 5/3 Clay MM, 5/5 Clay LCF.

American Tree Sparrow

Late south 4/19 Anoka, Hennepin OJ, 4/22 Ramsey RH, 4/27 Ramsey KB; late north 5/5 Cook AB, 5/7 St. Louis KE, 5/9 Cook KMH.

Chipping Sparrow

Early south 3/24 Sherburne DO/SS, 3/30 Blue Earth MF 3/31 Fillmore AMP; early north 4/17 Becker BK, 4/20 Otter Tail SDM, 4/21 Becker MBW.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Early south 4/2 Pipestone JP, 4/7 Houston EMF, 4/24 Anoka SC, ES; early north 4/13 Wilkin GAM, 4/28 St. Louis fide KE, 4/29 Otter Tail SDM.

Field Sparrow

Early south 3/25 Brown JS, 3/28 Dakota TTu, 3/29 Houston JP/AM, Nicollet BL; one report north 4/26 Otter Tail SDM.

Vesper Sparrow

Early south 3/29 Fillmore AMP, Martin RJ, 3/30 Blue Earth MF, Washington ES, 3/31 Mower JM, Murray ND; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/6 Wilkin GAM, 4/7 Morrison NH.

Lark Sparrow

Early south 4/20 Anoka SC, 4/24 Anoka ES, 4/27 Anoka GP; early north 4/29 St. Louis KE, 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/7 Otter Tail SDM.

Lark Bunting

Two reports 5/6 St. Louis KE, 5/27 Blue Earth MF.

Savannah Sparrow

Early south 3/31 Fillmore AMP, 4/9 Fillmore RE, 4/10 Hennepin DB, Olmsted JEB, PP, Ramsey KB; early north 4/15 Hubbard JL, 4/19 Cook KMH, 4/20 Cook EH.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Early south 4/20 Lac Qui Parle GAM, 4/25 Dakota TRF, 4/28 Fillmore AMP; early north 5/3 Polk KSS, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/13 Becker JL.

Henslow's Sparrow

Two reports 5/26 Hennepin TTu, 5/30 Winona KE.

LeConte's Sparrow

Early south 4/23 Hennepin SC, 5/11 Anoka GP, 5/15 Ramsey KB; early north 4/27 Cook KMH, WP, 4/29 Clay LCF, 5/9 Marshall KSS.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Two reports 5/18 Polk AB, 5/27 Marshall KE.

Fox Sparrow

Early south 3/9 Mower RRK, 3/10 Houston EMF, 3/17 Fillmore RJ, AMP; early north 3/31 Carlton LW, Clay LCF, St. Louis MH/JS, 4/1 Aitkin WN, Marshall ANWR, 4/2 Otter Tail SDM; late south 4/22 Ramsey KB, 4/24 Olmsted RE, 5/5 Lac Qui Parle TM; late north 4/23 Pennington KSS, 4/26 Cook WP, 4/30 St. Louis KE.

Song Sparrow

Early north 3/23 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Wilkin GAM, 3/30 Pennington KSS.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 4/6 Blue Earth MF, Hennepin GS, 4/14 Mower RS, 4/25 Ramsey SSt; early north 4/1 Wilkin GAM, 4/8 St. Louis fide KE, 4/26 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM; late

south 5/9 Fillmore AMP, Nicollet JCF, 5/13 Brown JS, Ramsey KB, 5/23 Hennepin SC.

Swamp Sparrow

Early south 4/2 Hennepin SC, 4/3 Olmsted PP, 4/4 Mower JM; early north 4/13 Wilkin GAM, 4/14 St. Louis fide KE, 4/15 Marshall ANWR.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 3/21 Fillmore AMP, 4/6 Fillmore RS, 4/7 Chippewa RGJ; early north 4/8 St. Louis fide KE, 4/9 St. Louis MH/JS, 4/13 Hubbard JL, Koochiching GM; late south 5/14 Hennepin SC, ES, Washington WL, 5/16 Ramsey KB, 5/19 Brown JS.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early south 4/24 Dakota JD, 4/26 Martin RJ, Olmsted JEB, 4/28 Hennepin SC, Mower RRK, Olmsted RE; early north 4/14 Polk KSS, 4/23 Lake SW/MS, 4/24 Cook KMH; late south 5/13 Dakota RJ, 5/15 Wabasha PP, 5/17 Nicollet BDC; late north 5/18 Polk AB, 5/22 Cook WP, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Harris' Sparrow

Overwintered Lac Qui Parle FE; early south 4/3 Olmsted PP, 4/19 Rock ND, 4/24 Fairbault WKB; early north 4/28 St. Louis fide KE, 5/1 Clay LCF, Koochiching GM, 5/3 Wilkin GAM; late south 5/12 Stearns NH, 5/14 Ramsey KB, 5/17 Blue Earth TM, Brown JS, Chippewa RGJ, Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 5/16 Pennington KSS, 5/18 Polk AB, Wilkin RJ, 5/24 Clay LCF.

Dark-eyed Junco

Late south 5/6 Fillmore AMP, 5/8 Hennepin SC, 5/10 Hennepin ES, Olmsted JEB.

Lapland Longspur

Late south 4/8 Mower AMP, 4/13 Mower AB, 5/6 Dakota AB, JD; late north 5/15 St. Louis AE, 5/16 Cook WP, 5/17 Cook KMH, 5/18 Polk AB.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Three reports 4/6 Clay LCF, 5/2 Clay RGJ, 5/25 Clay GS.

Snow Bunting

Late south 4/1 Dakota JD; late north 5/10 St. Louis KE, 5/12 St. Louis KL, 5/14 Lake SW/MS.

Bobolink

Early south 5/5 Mower RRK, 5/7 Brown JS, Dakota SC, TTu, Fillmore AMP, Hennepin OJ, Olmsted PP, 5/8 Houston EMF, Olmsted JEB, Redwood RJ; early north 5/6 Aitkin WN, 5/7 St. Louis KE, Wilkin GAM, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM.

Red-winged Blackbird

Early north 3/8 Aitkin WN, 3/17 Otter Tail SDM, 3/23 Carlton LW.

Eastern Meadowlark

Early north 3/22 Cook KMH, 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/14 Aitkin SC.

Western Meadowlark

Early north 3/17 Wilkin GAM, 3/22 Pennington KSS, 3/23 Clay LCF, MM, Otter Tail SDM.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Early south 3/29 Rice FKS, 4/5 Nicollet RJ, 4/8 Hennepin SC; early north 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Beltrami ANWR, 4/17 Wilkin GAM.

Rusty Blackbird

Early south 3/16 Fillmore AMP, 3/17 Fillmore RJ, Olmsted AMP, 3/21 Dakota TTu; early north 3/29 Cook EH, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Clay MM.

Brewer's Blackbird

Early south 3/13 Olmsted JEB, 3/22 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted RE, 3/27 Dakota JD, Fillmore AMP; early north 3/16 Wilkin GAM, 3/24 Clay JL, 3/30 St. Louis KE.

Common Grackle

Early north 3/23 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SDM, 3/26 Carlton LW, 3/27 Becker MBW, St. Louis KE, Wilkin GAM.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Early south 3/16 Winona KE, 3/21 Fillmore AMP, 3/22 Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF; early north 3/30 Clay LCF, 3/31 Aitkin WN, St. Louis KE, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM.

Orchard Oriole

Early south 4/28 Houston EMF, 5/5 Nicollet MF, 5/7 Dakota TTu; early north 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/15 Otter Tail SDM, Pennington KSS, 5/18 Wilkin RJ, Polk AB.

Northern Oriole

Early south 4/26 Steele WDM, 4/27 Dakota TTu, Goodhue TRF, Hennepin ES, Mower RS, Olmsted JEB, 4/28 Houston EMF; early north 5/4 Clay LCF, Hubbard JL, 5/5 Pennington KSS, 5/7 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SDM, St. Louis HCE.

Pine Grosbeak

Late south 3/4 Olmsted PP, 3/7 Anoka JH, 3/8 Benton RJ; late north 3/25 Cook EH, 3/30 Cook SL, 4/14 Lake SW/MS.

Purple Finch

Reported from 17 counties north and 23 counties south.

HOUSE FINCH

4/7-8 Stearns NH (*The Loon* 58:204); 5/6 Otter Tail SDM.

Red Crossbill

Two reports 3/7 Lake SW/MS, 3/24 St. Louis AE.

Common Redpoll

Late south 4/6 Washington WL, 4/7 Ramsey KB, 4/9 Hennepin OJ; late north 5/12 Cook WP, Lake SW/MS, 5/15 Cook KMH, 5/16 Hubbard HJF.

Hoary Redpoll

One report south 3/9 Fillmore AMP; late north 4/7 Cook SL, 4/9 Becker MBW, 4/12 Aitkin WN.

Pine Siskin

Reported from 14 counties north and 19 counties south.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 15 counties north and 24 counties south.

Evening Grosbeak

Late south 5/7 Rice FKS, 5/11 Dakota TTu, 5/14 Fillmore AMP.

House Sparrow

Reported from 13 counties north and 25 counties south.

CONTRIBUTORS: Spring 1986

- ANWR Agassiz N.W.R.
- KB Karl Bardon
- TBB Tom & Bette Bell
- WKB Wilma & Ken Bird
- DBI David Blockstein
- AB Al Bolduc

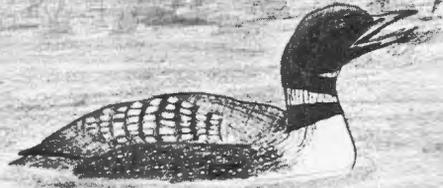


Pine Siskin nest, two eggs, May 14, 1986; one young May 23, dead May 27. Faribault, Rice County. Photo by Forest Strnad.

DB	Don Bolduc	BL	Bill Litkey
JEB	Jerry Bonkoski	WL	Wm. H. Longley
BDC	Betty & Doug Campbell	SL	Sandy Lunke
SC	Steve Carlson	WDM	Wynn & Don Mahle
HJC	Horace & John Chamberlain	GM	Grace Marquardt
ND	Nelvina DeKam	GAM	Gordon & Artis Martinson
JD	Joanne Dempsey	MMM	Monte M. Mason
ED	Ed Duerksen	TM	Thomas McMullen
KE	Kim Eckert	SDM	Steve & Diane Millard
FE	Fred Eckhardt	MM	Mark Moore
RE	Bob Ekblad	JM	John Morrison
BE	Bill Evans	WN	Warren Nelson
AE	Audrey L. Evers	CO	Carol Oleson
LCF	Laurence & Carol Falk	DO/SS	Dan Orr/Sharon Sarappo
TRF	Tammy & Roger Field	JP	Johanna Pals
HJF	Herbert & Jeanette Fisher	PP	Paul Pedersen
EMF	Eugene & Marilyn Ford	JP/AM	Jon Peterson/Ann McKenzie
JCF	John C. Frentz	GP	Greg Pietila
MF	Merrill Frydendall	AMP	Anne Marie Plunkett
PF	Pepper Fuller	WP	Walter Popp
RG	Ray Glassel	DR	Don Rakstad
EH	Ellen Hawkins	SS	Steven Schon
MH/JS	Marshall Helmberger/Jodi Summit	GS	Gary Simonson
NH	Nestor Hiemenz	RS	Richard Smaby
KMH	Ken & Molly Hoffman	DS	Dave Sovereign
RH	Robert E. Holtz	JS	Jack A. Sprenger
NHo	Nancy Holway	ES	Evelyn Stanley
JH	James L. Howitz	KSS	Keith & Shelly Steva
RJ	Robert B. Janssen	FKS	Forest & Kirsten Strnad
OJ	Oscar L. Johnson	SSt	Steve Stucker
RGJ	Roger & Gretchen Johnson	TTu	Tom Tustison
BK	Byron Kinkade	TW	Timothy Webb
RRK	Ron & Rose Kneesern	LW	Larry Weber
HK	Henry C. Kyllingstad	SW/MS	Steven Wilson/Mary Shedd
KL	Ken LaFond	MBW	Mary & Bill Wyatt
JL	Jean Leckner	DZ	Dave Zumeta

Eared Grebe Nesting Records Needed

A study of Eared Grebes nesting will continue in the 1987 field season. I would like to ask those of you living in the Twin Cities area or in the westernmost two columns of counties in the state to keep an eye out for incipient Eared Grebe colonies when the birds return in the spring. I will appreciate hearing from anyone who sees any of these birds. Thank you for your help! **Janet Boe, Rt. 1 Box 131, Bovey, MN 55709. (218) 245-3620.**



NOTES OF INTEREST

LAZULI BUNTING IN STEARNS COUNTY — From May 5 to 11, 1986, we had a male Lazuli Bunting visit our yard in Fairhaven Township, Section 11, Stearns County. The bird was observed repeatedly three to four times a day from two to twenty minutes at a time. When we first observed this bird it was feeding with three or four Indigo Buntings. It was usually with Indigo Buntings, but may have been alone on one or two occasions. The bird possessed a short, stout, conical bill, grosbeak-like, but smaller. It appeared slightly stockier than, but was about the same length as, an Indigo Bunting. Its dorsal surface was predominantly light blue, noticeably lighter blue in comparison to a male Indigo Bunting. The bird's throat was similar in color to its head. Its breast was rust-colored. The belly was whitish, its tail was notched; each wing was marked with two conspicuous white bars. Except for its color pattern, its general size, shape and appearance was nearly identical to that of the Indigo Bunting. **Les and Dorothy Loch, Rt. 2, Clearwater, MN 55320.**

MISSISSIPPI KITE

Date: August 19, 1986

Location: Section 9, York Township, Fillmore County, Minnesota. It is of interest that this sighting occurred at a location about 4½ - 5 miles south, and about 1 mile east of my sighting on May 14, 1986. Whereas the May sighting was of an overhead Mississippi Kite, this August sighting was directly in front of me as described below. (The location is referred to locally as "the Iron Ponds" or as "Kappers", the name of the owner of the quarter-section on which there are five tailing ponds residual from an iron mining operation, now abandoned. Mr. Kappers stocks the ponds with bass, and plants trees and shrubs to improve habitat for pheasant and partridge for hunting. Dike roads connect the ponds and at present are very buggy with dragonflies and grasshoppers (which were what the kite was after apparently - see below). Cattail marsh rings parts of three of the ponds. These ponds are the largest area of pond-lake type water in Fillmore County. They are private and closely watched for trespassers by local law enforcement, although Mr. Kappers is generous with his permission for use by birders and hunters.

Reason observation is unusual: Accidental status in the state.

Light conditions; bird/sun orientation: Clear, sunny, 2 p.m., little wind; At the time of the sighting, the sun was to my right and slightly behind me; the bird was directly in front of me all the time.

Length of observation: Five or more minutes.

Distance from the bird: Initially 100 yards or less; it popped-up over one of the pond dikes. It hunted in front of me for a few minutes, before flying east; I watched it until it became a "speck."

Optics used: Leitz Trinovids, 10 × 40 B.

Experience with this and other similar species: I had seen one other Mississippi Kite, on May 14 of this year, in approximately the same area of Fillmore County. That time, the bird was overhead and at a greater distance so I welcomed a closer look. I am familiar with the Snail Kite in Loxahatchees (Florida) and with Black-shouldered Kites in Texas. Also I am very familiar with the common Red Kite of Central Europe.

Species similar to this bird, and how eliminated from consideration: Within the hour prior to seeing the Mississippi Kite, I had seen one adult female Northern Harrier, and one adult male; and had enjoyed watching two young harriers playing — chasing each other — in a corn field close to Kappers; firstly, they are larger than the Mississippi Kite and though both the harrier and the kite have long slender wings, the harrier's are rounded at the wing-tip. In no plumage does the harrier have the dark/black notched tail of the Mississippi Kite. A Peregrine Falcon can be medium-sized with pointed wings and a long tail, (relative to body-size); they do soar at times and they do angulate their wings in a stoop (as I saw the bird in question do); And when the kite flew away from me, its wings were elevated in a slight "V" - as the harriers' are when sailing low over the ground. I didn't see but a little of the "kiting" type of flying I saw on May 14. However I did get a really up close look at this bird on August 19 which made it easy to know what I was looking at. (See description below.)

Was I aware at the time that the observance was unusual? Yes, and I silently wondered how I could be so lucky.

References consulted: After the bird was out of sight, I checked National Geographic Field Guide, especially because it pictures the brownish at the base of the primaries. At home, I checked in several others to see if this field mark was pictured. Also I telephoned Jerry Bonkoski, who had seen one awhile back; Bob Janssen, and Terry Savaloja—other birders seem to me to be an even better source of information than written sources, especially since I am still trying to ascertain the relative importance of the "chestnut" coloration at the base of the primaries. (Not in the books)

Applicable statements: Field guide not needed for immediate identification. Field notes made before any field guide consulted. Field notes made while and immediately after observing.

Description: While doing my "birding route" in Fillmore County, I checked Kappers' to see what the previous day's storm might have wrought. Driving east on the dike road that separates the North from the South ponds with the East Pond dead ahead of me, I saw about 100 yards ahead of me, at eye-level, a Mississippi Kite coming up over the road from the East. Its legs were dangling as I saw it catch a large flying insect and eat it in mid air. The kite then angled sharply, wafted upwards, folded its wings in a stoop, got another—looked like a dragonfly—and flew directly over my head with legs dangling. The first sight of the bird had caught me by surprise, and its flying right over me actually scared me a bit. But I did get a good look that way. The underside seemed to me to be more "white" than "light gray" and from below at that distance I could clearly see a difference in coloration between the secondaries and the primaries with a lighter gray-white on the trailing edge of the secondaries. As in May, I didn't see the tail as "black" but rather just darker—about the color of the primaries. (Maybe this seems like splitting hairs but what I am trying to convey is that the delineation of the patterning is not as sharp as I have read it described or seen it pictured.) What was very noticeable when the bird was flying away from me were reddish brown patches on the top side of the wing; **National Geographic** describes this thus: "Dark primaries sometimes show chestnut at the base." I didn't see this on the other Mississippi Kite; but you couldn't miss this on the bird I was studying. I still haven't found out the "why and wherefore" of the "sometimes." But it was striking. A few more morsels secured and the kite flew away from me. The white patches on the upper side of the secondaries was sort of a dirty-white, but present. The silhouette was of a round-headed bird with long pointed wings, feet dangling at first, a smooth leisurely flapping in straight line flight for quite awhile. One spread of the tail, a turn, a lift and the bird flew on, out of sight. Quite a different encounter from May when that kite had been soaring, wafting, kiting high in the sky. This bird had been busy hunting - a different look to him as it angled, stooped, secured

food, spread its tail, turned and came back within a relatively small area before sailing off over the fields. One constant, however, was the grace of the bird. Once more I had been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. I did think then, as I do now, how unusual to see a Mississippi Kite twice within such a short time span. Could it be that they are present more often than we think? Is it worth wondering if they might even nest in Minnesota. I only hope I will be writing another report on a Mississippi Kite in Minnesota soon. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 Southwest 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

TRUMPETER SWANS NEST IN THE CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST — For the first time in over 100 years, a pair of Trumpeter Swans has nested successfully in northern Minnesota. A family of two adults and four cygnets was located on a forestry impoundment pond near Marcell (30 miles north of Grand Rapids), Itasca county. The adult pair wore yellow collars 54NA (female) and 55NA (male). They were released as two-year olds from Lake Rebecca Park Reserve in Hennepin County in 1983 as part of a Trumpeter Swan restoration project being conducted by Hennepin Parks. They spent the summer of 1984 on several lakes just north of Aitkin, Aitkin County. In 1985, the pair moved to the Deer River area, Cass county. They may have attempted to nest, but no young were produced. Hennepin Parks has been releasing swans from park reserves in or near Hennepin County since 1979 in an effort to establish a free-flying population of at least 100 Trumpeters in the south-central part of Minnesota. The free-flying population is presently between 40 and 50 swans. The birds at Marcell mark the farthest that any Trumpeters have dispersed from the release sites, but they are not the first released swans to nest. Other Trumpeters have nested successfully in Hennepin County, both inside and outside the park reserves. Four pairs fledged young in 1986. One pair tried to nest near Clear Lake, Sherburne County in 1985, but no young survived to flight. Barb Hill, U.S. Forest Service District Wildlife Biologist for the Deer River Ranger District, and Don Ross, Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer pilot for Region 2, spotted the family on August 25, 1986, while conducting an aerial search for swans and pelicans. Their observation was confirmed two days later by John Mathisen, U.S. Forest Service Forest Biologist for the Chippewa National Forest, and Dave Sorenson, District Wildlife Biologist for the Marcell Ranger District. **L. N. Gillette, Wildlife Manager, Hennepin Parks, 3800 County Road, Maple Plain, MN 55359**

LARGE COMMON LOON FLOCKS ON LAKE BEMIDJI — On August 15, 1986, Conservation Officer Pilot Dan Ross and I were counting Common Loons in Beltrami County. The weather was clear and calm with a temperature of 65° F. Between 9:15 and 9:45 a.m. CDT we observed two flocks of 30 and 40 adult Common Loons on Lake Bemidji. Because we could not be certain from the air that the birds were loons, we landed the float plane near both flocks. As we sat and watched these flocks the birds were tranquil, sat on the surface, and some birds called softly. At no time did the loons in either flock seem alarmed or frightened. **Jack J. Mooty, Regional Nongame Specialist, DNR, 1201 East Hwy. 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.**

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD PAIRED WITH AN EASTERN BLUEBIRD — A male Mountain Bluebird was first observed and verified to be nesting with a female Eastern Bluebird seven miles east of Aitkin, Aitkin County on June 11, 1986. I previously had noticed this bird but it had not occurred to me that it was a Mountain Bluebird. On June 11, 1986, the bird was sitting in an apple tree. I noticed its breast did not have the rust-orange of the Eastern Bluebird. I quickly looked it up in one of Peterson's guides. I then called Jo Blanich of Crosby and asked her if I could possibly be seeing a Mountain Bluebird. Her reply was, "yes." She contacted Warren Nelson and he drove out to see the bird. I believe the bird was in the area since the beginning of May. However, this cannot be verified. The nest box is of traditional design and made of one inch pine. It has a perch and is attached to a fence post. The box is on the edge of my yard and a hay field. I had intended to remove the nest box early this year as it was seven years old and had some cracks in it. Instead I patched



Male Mountain Bluebird, near Aitkin, Aitkin County, July 15, 1986. Photo by Warren Nelson.

it with caulk. The bluebirds competed with a House Sparrow and Tree Swallows for the nest box. The sparrow was eliminated. The bird was observed by many people. On June 19, Oscar Johnson and I observed the Mountain Bluebird. During the thirty minute observation the bird flew around the yard and once exhibited anting behavior, i.e., landing on the ground and spreading its wings and tail. It held this position for approximately 60 seconds. After it flew, we examined the area but could not find any evidence of insects. On June 25, Don Kienholz of Duluth observed the bluebirds and five blue bluebird eggs in the box. Previously I had glanced in the nest box but had not seen any eggs. I was hesitant to do so in fear of disturbing the nesting birds. I do not have accurate data on the nesting, incubation, feeding and fledging dates but I have come up with the following estimated dates. I believe the five eggs were laid by June 12th. Two eggs only hatched about June 26th and the young left the nest about July 19th. This in itself is quite significant since any offspring produced would be hybrids. The adults were observed feeding the two nestlings by several people. The male was more active in feeding the young by a 2 : 1 margin. The male was also more involved in cleaning the nest as he removed fecal sacs by a 3 : 1 ratio. On July 15th Lyle Bradley and Mary Ellen Vetter videotaped the bluebirds feeding and cleaning the nest box. I banded



Male Mountain Bluebird at nest box near Aitkin, Aitkin County, July 15, 1986. Photo by Warren Nelson.

the nestlings on the 15th. Since July 19th they have not returned to the nesting area but have been seen one-half mile north with the young. I would like to thank Warren Nelson for the excellent photographs and information for this article. **Jon Steblay, R.R. 4, Box 178A, Aitkin, MN 56431.**

COMMON NIGHTHAWK MIGRATION ALONG THE NORTH SHORE IN DULUTH. — One of my first thrills after moving to the North Shore in June of 1985 was to see the 1000's of Common Nighthawks migrate down the shore in late August. At that time it was my plan to count nighthawks during their peak migration in August of 1986, although I had no idea that I would have to count 17,957 on the evenings of August 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1986. I had planned to position myself next to my garage where I have a clear view over the lake in addition to a view inland through a break in the trees. I noticed the first big movement of nighthawks on August 15th. I counted 1030 birds between 6:50 p.m. and 8:33 p.m. On Saturday, August 16th several of us were having a yard sale at my house so I was in the yard throughout the day. There was an unexpected mid-day migration of 325 birds which passed between 12:05 p.m. and 12:25 p.m. Migration started in earnest at 4:53 p.m. and continued uninterrupted until the last bird was counted at 8:13 p.m. At 6:05 p.m. and during the next hour and 31 minutes no less than 13,595 nighthawks made their way past my house. On the 17th the migration had slacked off with 433 birds being counted between 7:00 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. I also watched for nighthawks on the evenings of August 18th, 19th, and 20th and never saw more than a few dozen. On the 15th and 17th the majority of birds seen were flying over land at a height usually less than 100 feet. During the huge migration after 6:00 p.m. on the 16th many of the birds were flying low over the water up to a quarter of a mile out over the lake. During these three days I tried to count each and every bird but needless to say that was impossible during the peak movement on the 16th. During that hour and 31 minute period I estimated birds but I tried to be conservative. I wish to thank Kim Eckert and John Kingston for assisting in the count during periods of yard sale conflict. **Keith E. Camburn, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

TRUMPETER SWAN PROJECT SUMMARY 1986 The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources took a giant step forward in 1986 with its Trumpeter Swan restoration project by obtaining 50 Trumpeter Swan eggs from Alaska for hatching, rearing, and eventual release. This was the first time that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the removal of 50 Alaskan Trumpeter Swan eggs for restoration purposes. The permit to collect Alaskan eggs was subject to approval of the Pacific Flyway Council, the Alaska Department of Game and Fish, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Minnesota Trumpeter Swan plan also had been approved by the Mississippi Flyway Council. The eggs had to be collected according to procedures established by the Pacific Flyway Council. Fifty Trumpeter Swan eggs were collected on June 10, 1986, by a team consisting of Carrol Henderson, Rod King, and Dave Ahlgren. Carrol Henderson is the Nongame Wildlife Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Dave Ahlgren is a DNR volunteer who is also a pilot for Northwest Airlines. Rod King, a pilot-biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had previously located 91 Trumpeter Swan nests in the Minto Flats near Fairbanks, Alaska. The 50 eggs were collected from a total of 17 Trumpeter Swan nests. Two live eggs were left in each nest. Each nest was approached by landing on each lake with a Cessna 185 float plane and taxiing up to the nest. Each nest was then approached on foot. All eggs were candled and then measured using calipers. All eggs collected were individually marked so that the cygnets could subsequently be identified as to their lake of origin. Eggs were immediately placed in insulated suitcases with individual egg compartments, ventilation, and warmth provided by hot water bottles. Egg collections began at 10:46 a.m. (Alaska time) and concluded at 7:05 p.m. the same day. The egg collection team then flew back to Fairbanks. Henderson and Ahlgren then took a midnight flight to Anchorage and returned to Minneapolis via Seattle. They arrived in Minneapolis at approximately 9:30 a.m. (Alaska time) on June 11 - less than 24 hours after the first eggs were removed from their nest. Of the 50 eggs, 43 hatched and 35 cygnets survived as of November 10, 1986. Two cygnets were seriously deformed and failed to hatch. Four other cygnets failed to hatch but appeared normal, and one egg appeared either infertile or died at an early stage of embryonic development. All six dead cygnets were sent to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center for heavy metal analysis. In addition to these cygnets, seven cygnets were also received from the Minnesota Zoo and the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, for a total of 42 cygnets produced in 1986. Egg collection

will continue in Alaska for at least two more years with a goal of producing 40 cygnets per year in 1987 and 1988. Cygnets raised will be released in northwest Minnesota in the vicinity of Detroit Lakes. Their population is intended to complement the current population of Trumpeter Swans which has already been established by Hennepin Parks in the vicinity of Hennepin County. It is the goal of this project to establish a free-flying, migratory population of at least 15 pairs of Trumpeter Swans in northwest Minnesota. This project is funded by donations to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff on Minnesota tax forms, and by donations from the Dellwood Wildlife Foundation, the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club, and Northwest Airlines. In addition to this project, a total of 29 cygnets were hatched by Trumpeter Swans originating from the Hennepin County Parks swan reintroduction program. This included four cygnets hatched near Marcell north of Grand Rapids. This was a new record for production by Hennepin County swans. Unfortunately, at least four Trumpeter Swans from Hennepin County's flock and an additional free-flying Trumpeter Swan released by Mr. Ray Whitney from Dellwood, Minnesota, were killed during the waterfowl hunting season. One additional swan is missing and presumed dead, and a sixth swan was wounded. It appears that most of the swans were killed during the four-day Minnesota Education Association weekend, by teenagers not accompanied by adults. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55146.**

A McCOWN'S LONGSPUR IN DULUTH — At approximately 5:00 p.m. on October 19, 1986, Paul Egeland and I were leaving the 40th Ave. West area in Duluth. We had just completed a successful weekend birding class with Kim Eckert. As we were driving along the St. Louis River estuary we flushed a small longspur-like bird from the shore. Both Paul and I saw the bird at about the same time and Paul said, "Let's get out and check it." He stopped the car and we both got out and walked to the shore about 30 yards away. We walked along the shore a short distance and three birds flushed from the grass. Both of us noticed a large amount of white in the tail of one of the birds. I got my binoculars on the bird and saw a light plumaged bird with a dark area in the center of the tail which formed an upside down "T" — the sides of the tail were white. The other two birds were Lapland Longspurs. The three birds dropped into the grass about 100 yards away. Paul and I looked at each other and said, "Did we just see a McCown's Longspur?" We saw the bird on the ground, this time with two Lapland Longspurs and three Horned Larks. We were now convinced that we were looking at a McCown's Longspur. Not wanting to flush the bird again, we "flagged" down Kim Eckert who was driving on the opposite side of the area. We also saw Anne Marie Plunkett and Jo Theye far down the road. We called for them to come. To make a long story short, over the next hour Kim, Anne Marie, Jo, Paul and I, plus about a dozen other Duluth birders (Kim had set the Duluth Hotline in action with a phone call at a nearby phone booth) got close looks at McCown's Longspur. The sun was setting at this time so we left the bird in the area as the light faded. The next day a number of other birders found the bird in the same area and Kim Eckert had a chance to get a closer view. Here is his description of the bird:

McCown's Longspur 10/20 — "Bright sunlight at our backs (much better light than yesterday); bird tame, able to approach several times down to 15-20 feet - tail short; one rusty feather visible (barely) top wing bar (median coverts?) visible only on right wing. Wing bars not narrow and white like Lapland, but broader, buffy and not as clean-cut; nape brownish gray, clearly grayer than rest of plumage; legs dull pinkish; two darker smudges on face - one just below and behind eye, and the other below this forming a broken, backward C; otherwise face plain; call note a springy, metallic "WOINK"; rattle similar in quality to Lapland but softer; bill dull pinkish on lower mandible, upper mandible dark; lower mandible seemed to be swollen at the base; underparts seemed to be entirely free of streaks; tail pattern "as shown in books" - distinct and clean-cut and not at all like similar Chestnut-collared's; eye black and obvious because of clear buffy eye-ring; size smaller than Lapland Longspur with it; overall very plain & paler brown than Lapland. (notes written before looking at field guides or consulting with other observers.)" This is only the second 20th Century record



McCown's Longspur, Duluth, October 20, 1986. Photo by Kim Eckert.

for the McCown's Longspur in Minnesota. Since the species disappeared from the state in the late 19th Century, the only other record is one seen and photographed at Grand Marais, Cook County on June 11, 1982 (*The Loon* 54:195). **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER SIGHTING — On September 13, 1986 at about 12:45 p.m. I was driving towards the Hormel Nature Center on 12th Ave. NE. As I approached 21st St. NE I saw a rather large bird with a flash of gray and white fly from the ditch and into a tree beside the road. I quickly stopped and backed down the road. I observed the bird with 7 × 35 binoculars in bright sunshine for about fifteen minutes on the wire and on the edge of the road when he flew there. I saw him chase a Red-headed Woodpecker and he was a somewhat larger bird, probably about 11". The back, breast, and belly were all uniform gray, and the wings were black with a white mark on the lower part of the wing. The outer tail feathers were also white. The bill was long and black and the eye was dark. My first thought was that it was either a Gray Jay or a Northern Mockingbird, but having seen both of these birds before, that didn't seem correct. I checked Peterson's Field Guide and could not identify the bird although I had the feeling that I had seen the bird before. I made a sketch of the bird and when I returned home and looked in Robbins' Field Guide I identified the bird as a Clark's Nutcracker. I then remembered having seen this species when we camped in Rocky Mountain National Park. **Richard Smaby, 601 17th St. SW, Austin, MN 55912.**

A ROCK WREN IN DULUTH. — At 11:25 a.m. on October 17, 1986, John Kingston and I left our office on the University of Minnesota-Duluth lower campus for lunch. As we walked around the corner of our building we noticed a small, grayish bird in the driveway at the base of a retaining wall. From a distance of 30 feet we watched the bird fly to the top of the wall and could clearly see that the bird was not the assumed Yellow-rumped Warbler. In addition, the bird's bobbing behavior was very obvious from that distance. The bird then flew 80 feet to the corner of the adjacent building "Old Main". We again approached



Rock Wren, Duluth, October 17, 1986. Photo by Kim Eckert.

the bird and were still uncertain as to its identity. As "rare bird adrenaline" set in I ran to my car to get my binoculars as John continued to follow the bird. I returned to find that John and the bird had moved 200 feet down the side of Old Main. Finally, at a distance of 20 feet, I got a look with my binoculars and I said to John (loosely translated), "Oh my God, it's a Rock Wren." The wren was gray above with a lighter, finely streaked breast. A pale, peach wash was evident on the flanks. A broad, buffy band occurred on the tip of the tail. I ran to my office and called Kim Eckert who notified area birders. The wren was observed until 1:20 p.m. during which time it completely circled Old Main twice and Torrance Hall once, no doubt in response to being followed by birders. The wren spent most of its time searching for insects in the grass at the base of the buildings and on window sills, ledges, or in foundation cracks. **Keith Camburn, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN WABASHA COUNTY — On September 18, 1986, I received a call from Anne Marie Plunkett in Rochester. She had just been notified that there was a male Rufous Hummingbird coming to a feeder at the Lester Martinson home just south of Zumbro Falls in Wabasha County. The bird had been seen first on the 16th but the Martinsons were not sure at that time just what the bird was. On the 19th, a cloudy blustery day with some rain, I decided to drive to Zumbro Falls to get a look at the bird. I arrived at the Martinson residence, which is about two miles south of Zumbro Falls, and right along the Zumbro River. Anne Marie and Mr. Martinson were in the yard when I drove up. It didn't take long to see the bird. It "zoomed" into the nectar feeder hanging outside the kitchen window of the house. The bird, a male, was brilliantly colored, the head and back were a bright rufous brown, the wings (coverts and primaries) were a darker brown when folded. The throat, most of the time, appeared a deep black in the dull light, but when we saw the bird perched high in a nearby tree, there were occasional flashes of red iridescence. We watched the bird come and go for approximately ½ hour. It had several favorite perches in the nearby trees, but its favorite was a tall dead branch about 60 feet up in the center of



Rufous Hummingbird, near Zumbro Falls, Wabasha County, September 20, 1986. Photo by Lester Martinson.

a tree in the back yard. Over the next few days numerous birders saw the hummingbird. Mr. Martinson and others photographed the bird, one of which is reproduced here. Gary Swanson made an interesting sketch of the bird when he saw it on the 1st. The bird was last seen by the Martinsons on September 23, 1986. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

WINTERING MALLARD STUDY IN NORTH-CENTRAL MINNESOTA — Stopping migrant birds by providing them food or other needs has become an issue (and a problem in some areas) in the past few years. This alteration in natural behavior is referred to as "short stopping." What effect does this activity really have on certain wildlife groups or populations? If a population means all the Mallards in North America, then the 500 or so individuals influenced by this project are minor. If a population means a group of Mallards that utilize a specific water complex, then the effect may be an issue. In 1969, two service organizations (the Lions and Kiwanis) in Brainerd, Minnesota, established a small city park named Boom Lake Park. Boom Lake is a nine acre body of water with a maximum depth of 25 feet at normal water levels. There is an outlet/inlet connection with the Mississippi River. This connection is what governs the lake level. In 1972, an aerator system was established in the lake at the park so residents could view waterfowl during the entire year. This activity continued through April of 1985 when the aeration program was terminated. During the winter of 1972-73, rocketnetting and banding of the waterfowl utilizing this area was begun. This netting and banding was part of the wildlife management course work at the Brainerd Technical Institute. The rocketnetting took place between December and early March each winter (with the exception of 1980/81 when the equipment malfunctioned). Mallards made up over 99 percent of all birds wintering. All birds were free flying.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates the capture information for 12 winters. As can be seen, we had more than a constant flock of 90 or so birds. During this time period we had 455 new birds that we handled. We banded 426 of these (no bands available in 83/84). Table 2 gives sex and age breakdown for those birds we banded. If we had a fairly stable, captive flock, then the number of times individual birds were handled should be quite high. This is not the case. As can be seen in Table 3, 67 percent of the birds were only handled once. 98 percent of

the banded birds were handled less than 5 of the 12 years. If the group of Mallards were maintaining themselves within the city limits, this group had an average annual mortality of 65 percent. This is based on the fact that we banded an average of 38 new birds each year out of an average of 58 birds captured. If we did have an annual mortality factor of 65 percent, then 276 of the 426 mallards we banded should be juveniles. As Table 1 shows, we banded 225 adults (53%) and 201 juveniles (47%) during the 12 year period. If we assume that mortality was not taking place, then the majority of birds caught would be recaptured. This was not the case (Table 1). If the birds were living in a protected environment relatively free from mortality factors (such as harvest, predators, disease, nutritional problems, etc.) then the average length of time between first and last encounters should be near 156 or so months. As can be seen in Table 4, the average length of time is 31 months. If our birds were staying within the limits of the city, then we should have had very minimal mortality records from outside of the area. As can be seen in Table 5, we had band returns from as far as 1,600 miles away. If the opposite view is correct, then some birds would very likely be shot by hunters. In this case, we should have a band return rate close to the national average (approximately 12 percent return) for wild Mallards. Table 4 indicates the survival information we have from our study of 426 banded mallards. As can be seen, our band return rate is 6 percent.

CONCLUSION

From this wintering group sample, it appears that short stopping is only affecting a small group of birds for a relatively few years. These birds were migratory some years and not staying in a specific area. Mortality was not out of line with wild Mallard returns. The issue of short-stopping and feeding birds is, like most issues, one of specific situations. Our data for this group of Mallards do not indicate any negative effect from short-stopping. **Julie and Doug Keran, 2266 Whispering Woods Lane North, Brainerd, MN 56401.**

**Table 1: Boom Lake Mallard Capture study -
Winters of 1973/74 to 1984/85.**

YEAR	TOTAL CAPTURED	NEW CAPTURES	RECAPTURES	PERCENT RECAPTURES
72/73	41	41	0	00
73/74	110	86	24	22
74/75	29	15	14	48
75/76	29	26	3	10
76/77	53	43	10	19
77/78	84	55	29	35
78/79	31	3	28	90
79/80	42	33	9	21
80/81	SYSTEM CLOSED DOWN DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE			
81/82	96	69	27	28
82/83	93	34	59	63
83/84	66	29 (a)	37	56
84/85	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>19</u>
TOTALS:	700	455	245	—
AVG/YEAR	58	38	20	35

(a) birds not banded

Table 2: Number of Mallards banded during the winters of 1972/73 through 1984/85 at Boom Lake.

JUV. MALE	JUV. FEMALE	AD. MALE	AD. FEMALE	TOTAL MALE	TOTAL FEMALE	TOTAL JUV.	TOTAL AD.
87	114	125	100	212	214	201	225

Table 3: Number of times Mallards were handled during 12 years of rocketnetting at Boom Lake.

TIMES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
1	286	126	160
2	77	41	36
3	39	27	12
4	15	12	3
5	6	3	3
6	1	1	0
7	1	1	0
8	0	0	0
9	1	1	0
TOTALS:	426	212	214

Table 4: Longevity and mortality records for Mallards banded at Boom Lake during winters of 1972/73 through 1984/85.

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Recaptures	129	83	46
Avg. length of time from banding until last recapture (months)	31	34	25
Range for time between first and last encounters (months)	4 to 113	4 to 113	6 to 97
Mortality records	27	15	12
Average mortality (months)	29	34	23
Range from banding to mortality (months)	4 to 113	4 to 113	6 to 52
Mortality within 3 miles of banding site	18	8	10
Mortality between 3 and 10 miles of banding site	3	3	0
Mortality at distances greater than 60 miles from banding site	6	4	2

Table 5: Mallard band returns from areas further then 60 miles from Boom Lake

DIRECTION	SEX	SPECIFIC LOCATION	MILES	TIME DIFFERENCE (MONTHS)
North	Female	Leech Lake, MN	75	18
	Female	Riverton, Manitoba	411	6
	Male	Delta, Manitoba	380	6
East	Male	Yellow Lake, Wis.	120	18
South	Male	Hawarden, Iowa	341	12
	Male	Phillipp, Miss.	1012	12
West	Male (a)	Sand Lake, S.D.	120	19

(a) Live captured and released

Doug Keran, 2266 Whispering Woods Lane North, Brainerd, MN 56401.

ANOTHER MINNESOTA HOUSE FINCH — On April 7, 1986 while checking my friend Tim Wenz's bird feeder, which was alive with birds, mainly Purple Finches and Pine Siskins, I saw one bird which stood out from the others. The bright red breast and forehead differed greatly from the raspberry colored Purple Finch males. Also, the sides were heavily streaked. It was a House Finch, my first for Minnesota, but not a lifer as I had seen the bird commonly last summer while visiting my son in Columbus, Ohio. I watched the birds for several minutes from a distance of less than 10 feet. All of a sudden all of the birds flew and I noticed that even in flight I could pick out the House Finch. I told Tim about the House Finch and he told me later that he had seen the bird at close range later that day and again on April 8. **Nestor Hiemenz, 705 18th Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

RARE DARK PHASE HARLAN'S HAWK, (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*), OBSERVED IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — At about 2:30 p.m. October 13, 1986 as I looked out the window of Jack's Bakery and Coffee Shop in Brooklyn Park I saw a 'red-tail' type buteo approaching from the north about 100 yards away. The bird was flying into a moderate breeze from the south and at times would remain almost stationary. As the bird got closer I noted it was a dark phase individual. At that point I hurried to my car and got my 8x binoculars. The following observations were made as a result of viewing the bird for about two minutes as it passed within thirty yards of me at its closest approach: 1) dark under wing linings; 2) head and all underparts of body dark brown; 3) dorsal view of primaries and secondaries light colored, as compared to wing linings, with a considerable amount of barring and a dark trailing edge to the wing; 4) primary tips dark in color; 5) dorsal surface of wings and body uniformly dark brown; 6) upper surface of tail dark brown with no barring and/or streaks of any shape evident, undersurface of tail may have been somewhat lighter in hue than the upper surface. After completing these observations I recalled that a recent issue of **American Birds** contained an identification article about the various subspecies of the Red-tailed Hawk. The article was entitled "Field identification aspects of some Red-tailed Hawk subspecies," Lish and Volker, **American Birds**, Vol. 40, No. 2. A color photo in this article of a dark phase Harlan's dorsal tail pattern compares very favorably with the description given in statement 6) above. Lish and Voelker state that a dark (black) phase Western Red-tailed Hawk, *B. j. calurus*, "have upper tail surfaces that may be very heavily barred on a red background, or appear similar to other Western Red-tailed Hawks." **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.**

The M.O.U. 300 CLUB

Robert B. Janssen

During 1986 four new names were added to the 300 Club listing, Ilene Haner, Jerry Bonkoski, Parker Backstrom and Mike Mulligan.

What a year it was; two of the front runners added a fantastic four birds to their Minnesota lists. Ray Glassel added the Common Black-headed Gull, Mountain Plover, Mississippi Kite and McCown's Longspur. I added the same number. I didn't need the Mississippi Kite, but I was one of the fortunate few to see the Sandwich Tern in Duluth. Unfortunately, through all of this, Kim Eckert was out of town and wasn't able to see the rarities when they were here!

If your totals are incorrect, it is most unlikely that you didn't send me your correct number. The totals given below are as of December 31, 1986.

Ray Glassel	366
Bob Janssen	366
Kim Eckert	363
Bill Pieper	356
Dick Ruhme	356
Terry Savaloja	356
Paul Egeland	353
Bill Litkey	351
Don Bolduc	350
Liz Campbell	348
Jo Blanich	347
Jan Green	344

Harding Huber	342
Karol Gresser	341
Ron Huber	338
Steve Millard	338
Jerry Gresser	334
Oscar Johnson	334
Al Bolduc	332
Warren Nelson	331
Gloria Wachtler	331
Dick Wachtler	331
Evelyn Stanley	329
Jon Peterson	328
Ann McKenzie	326
Fran Nubel	323
Gary Swanson	322
Diane Millard	321
Ruth Andberg	319
Ken LaFond	318
Wally Jiracek	316
Doug Campbell	315
Henry Kyllingstad	314
Keith Camburn	314
Betty Campbell	313
Nestor Hiemenz	310
Byron Bratlie	306
Parker Backstrom	304
Jerry Bonkoski	304
Violet Lender	303
Mike Mulligan	303
Ilene Haner	302
Jo Herz	301

THE 200 COUNTY CLUB

In 1986 another five counties were added to the list of Minnesota counties in which a single person has recorded 200 or more species. These counties were Hubbard, Kittson, McLeod, Pope and Redwood. This brings the total to 77 counties out of 87. The ten yet to have 200 recorded by a single person are: Faribault, Lincoln, Mahnomen, Murray, Nobles, Norman, Red Lake, Stevens, Watonwan and Wilkin.

The total listed after the county name is the total number of species recorded in the county by all observers.

The totals given below are as of December 1, 1986.

County	Total	Observer	No. of Species
Aitkin	290	Warren Nelson	256
		Terry Savaloja	255
		Jo Blanich	254
		Bob Janssen	218
		Ray Glassel	214

Anoka	294	Ken LaFond	214
		Bill Pieper	212
		Kim Eckert	201
		Ken LaFond	274
		Ray Glassel	239
		Ruth Andberg	224
		Bill Pieper	221
		Bob Janssen	217

Becker	266	Ken LaFond	205	Goodhue	281	Ray Glassel	240
Beltrami	272	Jeffrey Palmer	226			Bill Litkey	235
		Ken LaFond	209			Bob Janssen	234
Benton	240	Ken LaFond	211			Bill Pieper	221
		Bob Janssen	206			Joanne Dempsey	211
		Ray Glassel	204	Grant	254	Kim Eckert	215
Big Stone	257	Micki Buer	230			Bob Janssen	201
		Ken LaFond	206			Ray Glassel	201
		Ray Glassel	204	Hennepin	319	Bob Janssen	284
Blue Earth	263	Merrill Frydendall	229			Oscar Johnson	282
		Ray Glassel	205			Ray Glassel	279
		John Frenz	200			Alvina Joul	267
Brown	228	Ray Glassel	211			Steve Carlson	262
Carlton	244	Ken LaFond	223			Violet Lender	254
Carver	256	Kathy Heidel	218			Bill Pieper	251
		Ray Glassel	216			Don Bolduc	247
		Bob Janssen	204			Al Bolduc	247
		Ken LaFond	201			Gary Swanson	237
Cass	267	Ken LaFond	203			Karol Gresser	229
Chippewa	238	Micki Buer	212			Paul Egeland	225
		Ken LaFond	202			Tom Soulen	216
		Ray Glassel	201			Charles Horn	214
Chisago	251	Ray Glassel	220			Ken LaFond	211
		Ken LaFond	218			Bill Litkey	205
Clay	278	Carol Falk	239			Renner Anderson	204
		Laurence Falk	238	Houston	258	Fred Leshner	223
		Ray Glassel	211			Jon Peterson	211
		Ken LaFond	209			Ann McKenzie	205
		Bob Janssen	202			Ray Glassel	204
Clearwater	267	Al Bolduc	238			Ken LaFond	200
		Ken LaFond	208	Hubbard	247	Ken LaFond	201
		Ray Glassel	207	Isanti	247	Ken LaFond	220
Cook	291	Molly Hoffman	256			Ray Glassel	210
		Ken Hoffman	256	Itasca	251	Tim Lamey	203
		Kim Eckert	221			Ken LaFond	201
		Bob Janssen	211	Jackson	263	Ray Glassel	201
		Ray Glassel	203	Kanabec	234	Ken LaFond	213
		Ken LaFond	202			Ray Glassel	201
Cottonwood	259	Buddy Feil	229	Kandiyohi	247	Ken LaFond	208
Crow Wing	269	Jo Blanych	241			Ray Glassel	201
		Terry Savaloja	233			Bob Janssen	201
		Ken LaFond	208	Kittson	248	Ken LaFond	212
		Warren Nelson	207	Koochiching	235	Ken LaFond	216
		Ray Glassel	205	Lac Qui Parle	289	Micki Buer	245
		Bob Janssen	200			Chuck Buer	237
Dakota	282	Ray Glassel	261			Bob Janssen	221
		Joanne Dempsey	250			Ray Glassel	219
		Bob Janssen	242			Paul Egeland	216
		Karol Gresser	241			Bill Litkey	208
		Ken LaFond	212			Kim Eckert	206
		Al Bolduc	208	Lake	274	Steve Wilson	220
		Jon Peterson	212			Jan Green	215
		Ann McKenzie	211			Mary Shedd	210
Dodge	225	Ray Glassel	224			Ken LaFond	208
Douglas	235	Ken LaFond	202			Ray Glassel	200
Fillmore	250	Anne Marie Plunkett	216			Ken LaFond	200
		Ray Glassel	207	Lake of the Woods ...	256	Kim Eckert	208
Freeborn	260	Ray Glassel	214			Bob Janssen	206
		Charles Flugum	213			Ray Glassel	200
						Ken LaFond	200
				LeSueur	254	Ray Glassel	222
						Horace Chamberlain	202

Lyon	280	Henry Kyllingstad	262	Ramsey	290	Liz Campbell	248
		Paul Egeland	252			Bill Litkey	247
		Ray Glassel	216			Ray Glassel	245
		Bob Janssen	201			Bob Janssen	231
Marshall	289	Shelly Steva	230			Tom Soulen	230
		Kim Eckert	214			Bill Pieper	224
		Ken LaFond	202			Ken LaFond	216
Martin	255	Ed Brekke-Kramer	223			Bob Holtz	211
		Ken LaFond	202			John Fitzpatrick	209
McLeod	241	Ray Glassel	202	Redwood	231	Dick Rengstorf	206
Meeker	237	Ray Glassel	203			Ray Glassel	201
		Ken LaFond	202			Bob Janssen	200
Mille Lacs	266	Ken LaFond	219	Renville	245	Ray Glassel	215
		Bob Janssen	209			Paul Egeland	212
		Ray Glassel	206			Ken LaFond	207
Morrison	255	Pete Ryan	214	Rice	273	Orwin Rustad	239
		Ray Glassel	210			Ray Glassel	229
		Ken LaFond	210			Kirk Jeffrey	225
Mower	254	Ron Kneeskern	235			Paul Egeland	200
		Rose Kneeskern	234			Bob Janssen	200
		Richard Smaby	220	Rock	252	Kim Eckert	241
		Bob Jessen	210			Ray Glassel	202
		Ray Glassel	204	Roseau	264	Art Johnston	210
Nicollet	262	John Frenzt	232			Bob Janssen	206
		Merrill Frydendall	225			Ken LaFond	200
		Ray Glassel	225	St. Louis	342	Kim Eckert	307
		Bob Janssen	211			Jan Green	294
		Ken LaFond	201			Paul Egeland	272
Olmsted	283	Anne Marie Plunkett	265			Mike Hendrickson	272
		Jerry Bonkoski	261			Keith Camburn	271
		Bob Ekblad	252			Bob Janssen	270
		Joan Fowler	238			Ray Glassel	263
		Steve Ekblad	230			Parker Backstrom	247
		Vince Herring	221			Bill Penning	246
		Joel Dunette	221			Ken LaFond	246
		Jerry Pruett	219			Bill Pieper	243
		Ray Glassel	217			Don Keinholtz	239
		Phyllis Lindquist	213			Bill Litkey	239
		Ted Lindquist	213			Mark Stensaas	238
		Paul Pedersen	205			Al Bolduc	218
		Ann McKenzie	202			Gary Swanson	214
		Jon Peterson	202			Henry Kyllingstad	211
Otter Tail	293	Steve Millard	261			Steve Schon	210
		Ken LaFond	215			Ann McKenzie	207
		Kim Eckert	204			Jon Peterson	206
Pennington	246	Shelley Steva	226			Oscar Johnson	204
		Keith Steva	211			Don Bolduc	204
Pine	260	Ken LaFond	227	Scott	262	Ray Glassel	246
		Ray Glassel	217			Bob Janssen	217
		Mike Link	209			Karol Gresser	207
		Bob Janssen	203			Ken LaFond	204
Pipestone	247	Kim Eckert	200	Sherburne	276	Ken LaFond	227
Polk	264	David Lambeth	222			Ray Glassel	212
		Shelley Steva	211			Bob Janssen	210
		Al Bolduc	207			Sharon Sarappo	208
		Sharon Lambeth	206	Sibley	241	Ray Glassel	221
		Ray Glassel	204			Bob Janssen	213
		Ken LaFond	204			Ken LaFond	200
		Bob Janssen	202	Stearns	290	Nestor Hiemenz	273
Pope	238	Bob Janssen	206			Kim Eckert	238
		Ray Glassel	201			Ray Glassel	215
						Ken LaFond	214
						Bob Janssen	205

Steele	236	Ray Glassel	220	Joanne Dempsey	222
Swift	248	Micki Buer	218	Bob Janssen	221
		Ray Glassel	204	Liz Campbell	220
		Bob Janssen	201	Tom Bell	210
Todd	249	Ken LaFond	230	Ken LaFond	208
		Ray Glassel	201	Dick Rengstorf	200
Traverse	241	Ray Glassel	210	Winona	259
Wabasha	268	Don Mahle	224	Ray Glassel	211
		Ray Glassel	224	Bob Janssen	210
		Bob Janssen	207	Ken LaFond	201
		Ken LaFond	205	Wright	256
Wadena	252	Dick Oehlenschlager	242	Gary Swanson	227
		Ken LaFond	200	Ray Glassel	216
Waseca	222	Ray Glassel	204	Ken LaFond	211
Washington	280	Bill Litkey	248	Bob Janssen	203
		Ray Glassel	247	Yellow Medicine	256
				Paul Egeland	223
				Micki Buer	215
				Ray Glassel	207
				Ken LaFond	200

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PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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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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