

# The LOON

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Our 50th Year — 1938-1988

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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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# Minnesota's First Cassin's Finch

Don Kienholz

November 10, 1987, was sunny and cool, with the temperature having dipped to near 20° the night before. I was out in my yard filling my feeders when a brownish bird zipped by and landed in a tree nearby, and I assumed it was a female Purple Finch. I was especially interested in this because Purple Finches had not been at my feeders for several weeks, and the Duluth Christmas Bird Count was not that far off.

At about 2:30 p.m. I had returned inside and was waiting to leave for work when I again saw this bird as it fed on the ground about 15 feet away below the feeders. What first caught my attention was the bird's indistinct facial pattern. I also noticed that half of its rectrices had been lost, and that new feathers were growing in. As the bird fed, it turned towards me, and I was surprised by the pattern on its breast. It consisted of dark narrow streaks on a clear white breast, with the streaks heaviest on the breast and sides. These streaks turned into small checkmark shapes or chevrons near the throat.

I also observed that while the bird fed it could take a quite large sunflower seed within its bill and roll it open. This fascinated me and, as I continued to watch, the bill struck me as being different. It was quite large with a straight culmen, and the upper mandible slightly overlapped the lower. I could never recall noticing this shape on any Purple Finch I had seen before.

I was now late for work, but as I was driving I looked up the finches in my field guides, and this led me to believe that the bird I had been watching for a total of 15 minutes was a Cassin's Finch. I almost turned around and went back, but again I was late for work.

Having seen many Purple Finches and a female House Finch in Marshall, Minn. in 1986, I realized the difficulty in separating the three *Carpodacus* finches, and that great

care would be needed in identifying this bird as a Cassin's. Now at work, I sketched the bird and took notes, recalling the details I had observed earlier. I also phoned my roommate and asked him to call if the bird reappeared, but it didn't. I decided to wait until the next day and hope for a more objective observation before calling any other Duluth birders. Later, Parker Backstrom happened to call me at work, and, when I told him about the bird, he agreed it sounded interesting.

The bird did return about 10 a.m. on November 11, and I took more notes and some photos as it fed on the ground. I then called Parker and he arrived later to find the bird perched in a maple tree nearby. He came in the house, and when the finch returned to feed we independently took notes and made sketches. Parker agreed this looked unlike any Purple Finch or House Finch he had ever seen, and at about 11:30 a.m. we decided to call other Duluth birders. Only three could be reached, and they soon arrived and waited for about three hours for the bird to return. However, it did not reappear until about 3:30, and by this time only Parker was still waiting in the house, although Bill Evans drove up then and was also able to observe it.

That evening, more birders were notified, including a few in the Twin Cities, and at dawn on November 12, Parker, Kim Eckert, Bill Evans, Mike Hendrickson, Doug Johnson and I were in my house waiting for the bird to reappear. At about 7:15 a.m. the finch came back, and, although the light was poor, more notes and photos were taken. But after only five minutes or so, it flew off into a pine tree and was lost from sight. Additional birders arrived later and I also watched for it for the next few days, but the finch was never seen again.

**1660 Martin Rd., Duluth, MN 55803**

FEMALE CASSIN'S FINCH SKETCHES

-DON KIENHOLZ

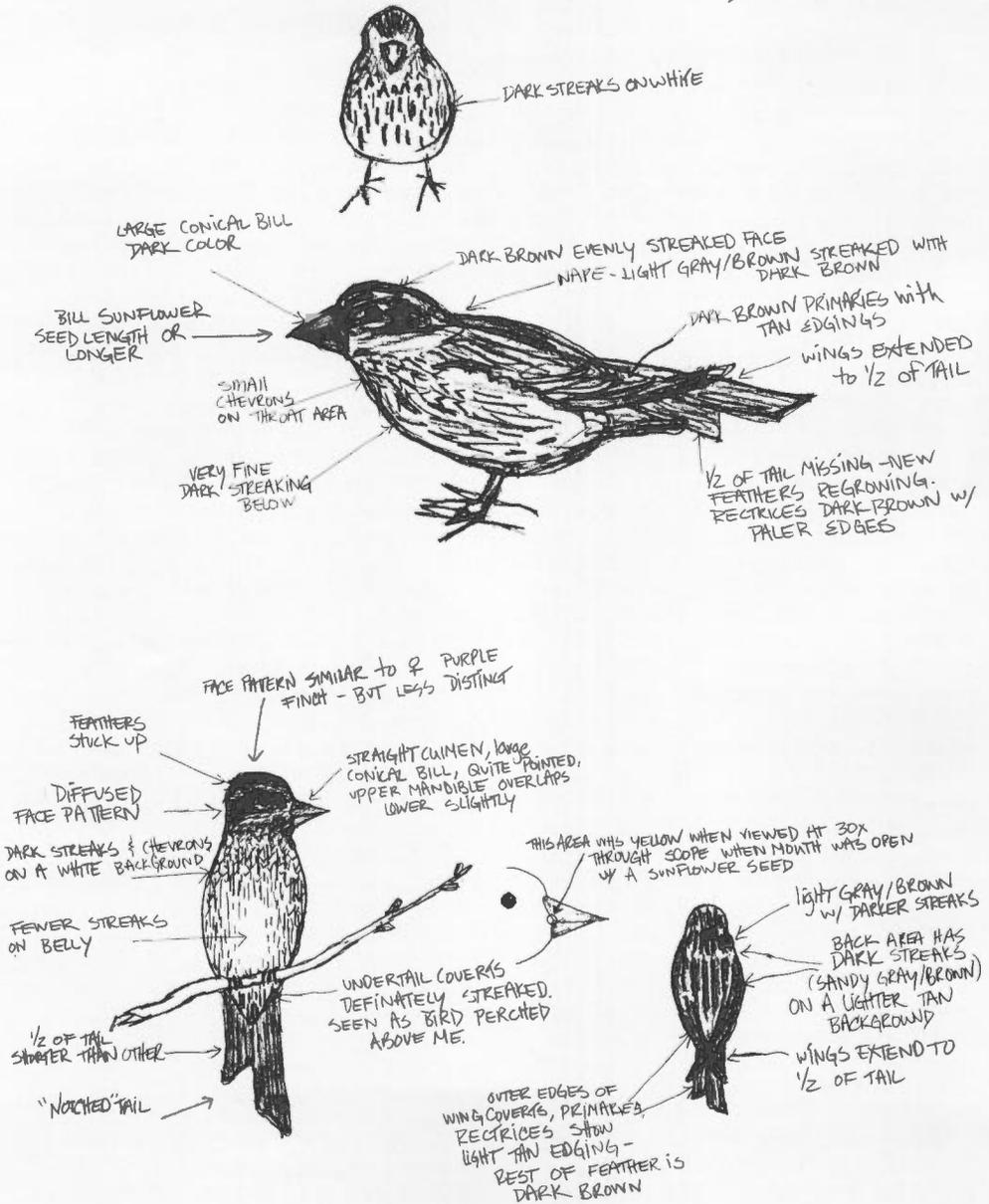
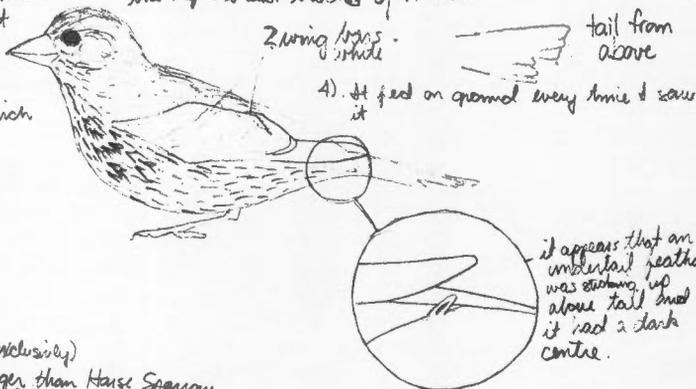


Figure 2. Sketches and notes by Don Kienholz, made while bird was in view November 11, without referring to field guides, and without consultation with Parker Backstrom who was independently sketching and taking notes.

Notes on impressions: From my impressions it is definitely not a purple finch because; 1) Bill too bulky (longer and more deeply pointed with straighter culmen than purple finch. 2) Streaking entirely too fine for P. Finch and they are much darker than the light breast blotches of P. Finch.

3) Although I did not have a direct comparison I felt that the bird was longer than a P. Finch (longer?)



-11-11-87  
11:29 AM

- fed largely on ground (exclusively)
- some song or slightly larger than House Sparrow
- Size: appeared longer than P. Finch although none could compare with.
- Head: dark cap with fine white streaks  
cheek is very slightly lighter brown  
there is a facial pattern (lighter eye line, lighter malar stripe with brown cheek)  
bill not nearly as distinct as purple finch and more distinct than ♀ House finch
- BILL: Longer and more pointed than Purple finch giving it a longer beaked appearance. The culmen appears straight or nearly so. a dark gray-brown color.



Back dark brown with light streaks (not broad streaks)

BREAST: Basal color is whitish and is heavily streaked with dark brown, fine streaks totally unlike purple finch blotches. It appears streaked from under throat to base of tail, at least on flanks. It sat up in tree a few times but we only got a good look at it once or twice. I did not look to see if it had streaked undertail coverts but Don did say he saw some streaking.

Wings: Only think I can remember was light edging on some (mobile) folded primaries

Tail: the outer 2-4 retrices on its left side were half the length of its normal right-side retrices (apparently having been pulled out at some time and are it growing)

Voice: none

Malar stripe: indistinct, broader than faint eye-line with buffy basal color. Possessed very small streaking.

Eye-line: indistinct, broader behind eye than in front of. Basal color whiter than malar stripe.

Wings: 2 fairly distinct whitish wing-bars with back one wider.

Figure 3. Sketches and notes by Parker Backstrom, written and drawn November 11 while observing the bird and without consulting field guides, and without consultation with Don Kienholz (field guides had only been consulted the night before).

# Cassin's Finch: The Documentation and Research

Kim R. Eckert

The field marks observed on the finch at Don Kienholz's feeder are summarized below; a complete plumage description is unnecessary here since virtually everything is either visible in the photos or noted in the sketches and field notes accompanying this article.

Bill size and shape: quite pointed, straight culmen, upper mandible extended small amount past lower mandible.

Face pattern: similar to Purple Finch, except less distinct or contrasting; also with an obvious broken white eye ring extending around lower half of the eye and toward the back of the eye above.

Sides of neck, nape and rump: paler and grayish.

Back: bold, contrasting pattern of black streaks on pale tan background.

Folded wing tips: extended at least halfway down the tail.

Underparts streaking: narrower, darker and more well-defined than Purple Finch; more chevron-shaped on the throat and upper breast.

Under tail coverts: distinctly streaked; visible as the bird perched above observers.

Overall size: equal in size or slightly larger than House Sparrows; no other species of similar size present for direct comparison.

Call: According to Parker's notes: "As I watched it sitting in the Mugho Pine I heard a soft three or four note warble coming from its direction. I heard the phrase three or four times but I can only describe it as a finch-like warble."

Behavior: According to Don's notes: "only fed on the ground, not at feeder; picked at maple buds... less nervous than Purple Finches... it would not fly as Purples always had earlier;" i.e., Purple Finches, which had been at this feeder previously, would flush more readily when approached.

Because of the difficulties involved in separating female or immature Cassin's and Purple Finches, and because none of us had much experience with Cassin's Finch, we examined specimens in the Bell Museum of Natural History with the help of Bud Tordoff. This collection has only two female Cassin's

Finches, a December specimen from Colorado and one from Montana in April, and a juvenile male taken in July in British Columbia; however, there were numerous female, juvenile and first-year Purple Finches to examine, including two of the West Coast race *californicus*.

We were unable to reach any definite conclusions regarding the less distinct face pattern (there was overlap in this in specimens of both species), or the length of the folded primaries (this varied according to how an individual specimen was prepared). The bill size and shape and the streaked undertail coverts, as described in the field notes, were consistent with all three Cassin's Finch specimens and unlike any of the Purple Finches, except for the *californicus* specimens which had streaked undertail coverts; however, none of their other features were consistent with Cassin's Finch, and it is unlikely this race would ever occur this far east. The well-defined black and tan back pattern and the narrow and clearly delineated underparts streaking, as shown in the photos, were both consistent with the Cassin's Finch specimens, and unlike any of the Purple Finch specimens.

It was also decided to send out the photos and field notes to three recognized experts in bird identification who had all recently written articles on Cassin's vs. Purple Finch identification: Rich Stallcup of Inverness, California; J. Van Remsen of Louisiana State University; and Kenn Kaufman of Tucson, Arizona. It took several weeks for all three to finally respond, but their opinions were worth waiting for since all three agreed, for a variety of reasons, that there is no reason not to call the bird in question a Cassin's Finch; i.e., although there are some features which could fit either species, all the marks described in the field notes or shown in the photos are consistent with Cassin's Finch and none favor Purple Finch over Cassin's.

Rich Stallcup showed the documentation sent to him to Dave De Sante, Peter Pyle and Steve Howell (all well-known California birders with long experience with Cassin's Finch and other western species), and he wrote: "We are in agreement that the bird shown is

a Cassin's Finch. Points in favor... are: length of primary projection (hard to judge because of the fact that much of the tail is growing), the facial pattern, the straight (flat) culmen, the discreet (not muddy) streaking on the underparts, the nicely contrasting dark and light back stripes, and the definite dark shaft streaks on the undertail coverts. None of these except primary projection and bill shape are singularly diagnostic but on the whole, positive features vastly outweigh the negative."

Although Van Remsen was unable to call it a Cassin's Finch with 100% certainty based **only** on the photos, he agreed that these photos coupled with the field notes indicated "the bird could be assigned to that species" (i.e., Cassin's Finch). He also wrote: "If the observers were convinced that the undertail coverts were strongly streaked, as indicated in the write-up... and if the observers' descriptions of the call can be interpreted (as I would) as the call notes of the Cassin's Finch... the bulk of the evidence favors my gut reaction to the photos, namely that the bird is a Cassin's Finch." Looking only at the photos, he found the cheek patch, bill shape and wing length to be inconclusive, but he went on to say the photos did show the back streaking to be "more like Cassin's than Purple," that "overall grayness of the bird favors Cassin's" (the field notes and color photos show this grayish color to be especially visible on the sides of neck and rump), and that "the pattern of streaking on the underparts, with the fine, sharp, siskin-like streaks, strongly favors Cassin's."

Kenn Kaufman's letter was the longest and most comprehensive of the three, and the following excerpts summarize his conclusion that the bird was indeed a Cassin's beyond all reasonable doubt:

"I think it's safe to say the bird is not in juvenal plumage, partly because either species would have molted to first basic (plumage) by November and partly because a juvenile that had somehow failed to molt would be looking more worn by this late in the season."

"To me the pattern of the underparts... is far more suggestive of Cassin's Finch than Purple Finch. The streaks look very dark, sharply defined, relatively narrow, and they extend well down onto the belly... It's true that juvenile Purples often have more distinctly marked underparts than adults, but as

I've said, I'm sure this wasn't a juvenile."

"Some Purple Finches have narrow dark streaks on some of the undertail-coverts (in most populations at least, this would apply to a majority of juveniles...). But assuming the bird was not a juvenile, the fact that these feathers were 'distinctly streaked' makes a strong suggestion that the bird was a Cassin's."

"Although there isn't any one photo that gives a wonderful profile of the bill, ...in all the photos where the bill is visible, it looks like that of Cassin's to me — rather elongated, with a straight culmen."

"Face pattern... the bird in the photos is within the normal range of variation for that species (Cassin's Finch)."

"Something I've been considering this year in separating Cassin's vs. Purple is the exact pattern of white or light around the eye. This was pointed out to me by Phil Ranson of B.C., who sees a lot of these birds, and it seems to work consistently... Purple rarely if ever seems to match the Cassin's narrow, sharply defined half-eye-ring showing up so consistently toward the rear of the top of the eye... The strongest difference seems to be at the back of the lower edge of the eye, where Cassin's usually has a very conspicuous half-eye-ring extending back almost unbroken from the pale loreal area; such a mark is never present in Purple Finch in my experience. Several photos of the Minnesota bird show what I would consider to be a classic eye-ring pattern for Cassin's Finch."

"The pale ground-color of the back, making the dark streaks stand out more conspicuously than in the typical Purple, is shown well."

Kenn was unable to draw any conclusions about the wing tip extension, the vocalization, size or behavior. In conclusion, Kenn had only small, "5%" uncertainty about it being a Cassin's: whether or not a juvenile Purple Finch could ever show a combination of sharply defined underparts streaking, streaked under tail coverts, a strongly contrasting back pattern and the eye ring pattern of Don Kienholz's bird. However, because Kenn was of the opinion that this individual was not in juvenile plumage, and because none of the Purple Finch specimens examined at the Bell Museum (except for the *californicus* birds which had streaked undertail coverts, but none of the other features) had



**Photo A: Note bill shape, extension of folded right wing tip down the tail (visible above normal, fully-grown right rectrices), and broken rectrices on left side of tail (one of the sketches in Figure 2 inadvertently showed these broken on the wrong side).**



**Photo B: Note underparts streaking, back pattern, and broken eye ring.**



**Photo C:** Note back pattern and dark streak on one barely visible undertail covert.



**Photo D:** Note bill shape, underparts streaking, and broken eye ring.

any of these Cassin's-like characteristics, everything clearly indicates this was indeed a Cassin's Finch.

Although a first Minnesota record, and apparently the farthest east this species has ever been recorded in North America, its appearance here is not entirely unexpected. Because of its obvious similarity to Purple Finch, a Cassin's would be easy to overlook here. Also

the species is regularly seen in winter in small numbers in the Black Hills of South Dakota, not that far west of Minnesota, and *The Birds of South Dakota* (S.D. Ornithologists' Union, Vermillion, 1978) also lists a record of a banded Cassin's Finch as far east as Pierre. **9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

# A Remnant Grouse Population

Art Hawkins

Writing about the Ruffed Grouse in his classic book *The Birds of Minnesota*, Dr. Roberts stated: "Nearly every considerable bit of woodland in the southern part of Minnesota, with anything like wild conditions, still has its breeding grouse, and scattered pairs may be found even in the environs of our larger cities." Now, more than a half century since these words were written, grouse still can be found in the environs of at least one southern city — St. Paul. Only ten miles from the State Capitol building, a remnant grouse population has survived in the suburb of North Oaks and the estate of Louis W. Hill Junior. I live near the northeast corner of the North Oaks grouse range, and every fall for the past 17 years grouse from that range have spilled over onto my property. The regularity of this spillover raises some intriguing questions about grouse behavior.

In 1954, I bought a rundown dairy farm in Anoka Co. at the outskirts of St. Paul, and the deciding factor was grouse. Early that spring, we had heard about a place for sale wedged in between two lakes and having other attractive aspects, but with poor buildings. One Sunday before the snow ran off, we were exploring the back pasture along Otter Lake when five grouse flushed from around a hazel thicket. This was the clincher. If it had grouse, some of the bad features were cancelled out. Luckily, we didn't know that the ridge where the grouse had flushed would become the chosen route for Interstate 35-E, and that the Otter Lake grouse population was on its way out. The road was constructed in the late 1960's, and since then we have seen only one grouse east of the freeway.

During the spring following our move to the farm, we began planting trees and shrubs, a mixture of evergreens, crabs, plums, mountain ash, nannyberry, red ozier dogwood and other species that produce foods relished by wildlife. Within a decade, with the addition of several small ponds, we had changed the landscape from open, somewhat gullied and worn out fields, to a wild-life demonstration area. But we were not expecting grouse.

October 31, 1971 was a red letter day for us. My notebook has this entry: "Toby flushed

a grouse that flew into a spruce so that Ellen and I had a good look at it. This is probably the same bird that I flushed along the ditch (I thought it was a grouse but wasn't sure) two or three weeks ago, also the one Betty saw and was sure was a grouse in the apple tree near the outhouse a week or ten days ago." These observations fix the return of the grouse to our place by mid-October, 1971, after an absence of a decade. We thought that this was a fluke, unlikely to occur again. However, in 1972 we received the conservation award for Anoka County, and on October 9, a crew from *Minnesota Out of Doors* came to do a story. I took them on a tour, and as luck would have it, we found three grouse. One hopped up into an aspen and posed for its picture which appeared on the front page of the next issue of the magazine. As more autumns rolled by, it became apparent that our grouse sightings of 1971-72 were not a fluke. This fall (1987) is the 17th since our first observation, and we have seen one or more grouse in our new coverts every year since. My notebooks have about 140 entries of grouse observations during that period.

It seems to me that this series of records brings up an interesting question: What is the motivation and orientation that have brought grouse to our place for 17 consecutive falls? To understand the puzzling nature of this question, consider the following:

1. The nearest year-round grouse range and source of supply for my fall and winter shuffle grouse population (we have never had a summer record) is the aspen cover along the east side of Wilkinson Lake, on the L.W. Hill Jr. property adjacent to North Oaks. A shortest straight-line distance between my cover and the North Oaks grouse range is about ¼ mile, and more than half this distance is across open fields.

2. Even the main North Oaks grouse range, which covers several hundred acres, has only a few grouse. In that part nearest us, I have never seen over five grouse in the several occasions I have attempted to census them. When our cover gains from two to seven grouse in the fall, we must be attracting a high proportion of the main range flock.

3. Most of the main range lies south and west of Wilkinson Lake, while our less than five acres of cover lies to the east. This raises the question of why grouse in their fall shuffle would cross open fields, increasing the risk of predators and other hazards, in our direction rather than move westward, thus avoiding open stretches.

4. The larger question is why they would do so for 17 years. Random movements during the fall shuffle might explain a few such movements but not 17 in a row.

5. Grouse that do find our place definitely have better food conditions than do those staying in their regular range, but over the years our cover/food conditions have deteriorated. Beaver have cut some of our older aspen, evergreens have shed their lower branches, some of the shrubs are over-mature and less productive, but still the grouse come.

Two possible explanations are that: (a) In their fall peregrinations, grouse fan out in all directions leaving their normal range and crossing open fields, finally blindly stumbling onto our place for 17 years straight. (b)

Some sort of orientation is involved that has escaped the notice of grouse researchers for lack of a situation such as our location and long-term observations provide. It seems to me that pure chance is ruled out for two reasons: The number of repetitions and the sparse population at the source. Fall movements are thought to be due, in part, to population pressure. Yet the case for orientation leaves unresolved questions, too. Orientation requires that at least one grouse that visited our place one year comes back in future years, perhaps leading others with it. Some years we have accounted for only a single grouse in our coverts.

We know that several grouse have been killed here by predators or flying into objects. Chances seem remote that every year for 17 in a row at least one grouse has homed in on our five acres or less of grouse cover and survived to return the next year. Either way, there are mysterious elements still to be explained. **6102 Centerville Road, Hugo, MN 55308**

## A Recipe for a Record!

Jerry Bonkoski

As I dropped the reporting forms of the 88th Annual Christmas Bird Count into the mail box, I reflected on what it takes to put together a Christmas Bird Count. There are several key ingredients that make up a successful count, all of which need to be brought together at the right time and place.

On December 19, 1987, the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society sponsored the 25th annual Christmas Bird Count in Rochester. Twenty-six people formed 11 different teams to search the 15-mile diameter circle. In addition, approximately 50 stationary observers had filled their feeders and were keeping track of the birds in and around their yards. When all of the teams had reported and the feeder watcher forms were received, the Rochester Christmas Bird Count showed a total of 64 species seen. This is a new Minnesota record, breaking the previous record of 60 set by Rochester in 1984, which we tied in 1985.

Throughout the 25 years the count circle has remained the same, centered at the intersection of US Highway 52 North and Olmsted County 22. The circle runs through Oxbow County Park on the West, Lake Zumbro on the North, 40th Street on the South, and County 11 on the East edge. Most of the city of Rochester, including Silver Lake, is within the boundaries of the circle. Silver Lake is kept open by hot water from the Rochester Public Utilities generating plant, providing an attractive wintering spot for waterfowl. The Zumbro River flows from the southwest corner of the circle through Rochester and out at the north edge of the circle.

Since the center of the circle is located within Rochester, there are several roads leading into and out of Rochester which make a natural division of the circle into eight sections. At least eight leaders are recruited to lead a team in each section. The section that

lies north of Rochester between Highways 52 and 63 is the largest area: this year we had two teams assigned to that area. The southwest section, including Mayowood and the Zumbro River, also had two teams to cover the diverse habitat, and to take advantage of the river being relatively free of ice. The 11th team covers a driving route through the southern part of the count circle.

One of the most important ingredients for a successful count is to draw on the expertise gained from the previous 24 counts. This year, all section leaders worked in sections with which they were familiar; some had several years experience, others only one year's experience, but all of this experience is helpful in knowing where the productive areas are.

Expertise also is key to knowing when to check an area. Jerry Pruett and his team know that it is better to check Silver Lake between 9 and 11 AM when most of the geese have left to feed in local corn fields. With the geese gone, they spotted Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, and three American Coots on Silver Lake. All three of these species had not been seen on the lake when the 18,900 geese were there.

Another key ingredient is to do as much pre-count scouting and preparation as possible. This includes keeping one's ears open to what other people are seeing at their feeders (possible Carolina Wren seen at a feeder in southwest Rochester in late November), what has been seen at Silver Lake (Ross' Goose, Snow Goose), and contacting the DNR people to find out what they have been seeing (Sandhill Crane seen just west of Rochester while they were banding geese), etc. With this kind of information, the week before is spent checking these leads and hoping to discover some new sightings. Bill Evans arrived in Rochester on the Wednesday evening before the count day, and he spent two days scouting along three miles of the Zumbro River. He found Song Sparrow, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Belted Kingfisher. He also had seen a Cooper's Hawk around the Mayowood area the day before the count. All of this pre-count scouting locates several of the harder-to-find species, and gives us a good idea where to look and what to expect on the count day.

During the past five years, we have worked hard to develop a good reliable list of feeder watchers to help with the count. Rochester

has many hills and wooded valleys around it which are attractive building sites. Finding one or two active feeders in each area and asking the owners to keep track of the bird activity, has provided additional coverage on our count day. This active network of feeder watchers allows the field teams to spend more of their time walking trails or riverbanks, checking pine groves, grass fields, or other locations looking for those species that don't come to feeders.

A special feeder counting form has been developed with instructions on how to keep track of the numbers of birds seen. This has proven very successful in finding additional species each year; this year an additional four species were seen and reported by feeder watchers (Carolina Wren, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Bobwhite, and Merlin). They are asked to count the birds coming to their feeders and also the birds they see in their yard or area. The feeder forms include a section for details of unusual species and a personal followup is made to assure the validity of all unusual sightings reported.

Hard work is another ingredient that is important for a successful count. Walking miles of river bank is not easy work, especially when there are not trails, but it does produce good results. Wood Ducks, Song and Swamp Sparrows, kinglets, and Brown Creepers were seen because of being "off the road" and back in the woods. Getting up at 4:30 AM to go owling on a winter morning doesn't appeal to many people, but three teams were out early and had found five species of owls before the "regular" 7:30 AM starting time.

Weather is one of the ingredients that the compiler cannot control; you have to take what you can get. In 1987, the mild Fall weather, and lack of cold and snow, had tempted a few stragglers to linger around the Rochester area. Certainly the Sandhill Crane, Carolina Wren, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak had found the fall weather to their liking. Flocks of American Robins and Common Grackles were seen regularly into December.

The weather for count day 1987 was ideal for good bird finding. It was foggy with very little wind most of the morning. This seemed to keep the birds active longer and out in the open. About 11:30 it started misting and raining and the birding activity slowed down. Later in the afternoon the mist began to change to snow; with the snow moving in,

the birds seemed to become active again. In 1986, the weather was warmer but the bright sunny day seemed to keep the birds inactive and our count was significantly less (50 species). The foggy weather did have one drawback in that we were unable to find the Bald Eagles that were seen in the area on the 18th and 20th. The count of Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks was also less than other years (15 in 1987 compared to 40 in 1986).

One important ingredient needed for a high count is luck, also beyond the control of the compiler. For example: Bob Ekblad needed to make a quick trip home and, while hurrying back to Rochester to meet the rest of the group at noon, a Snowy Owl flew across the road right in front of him. Later in the afternoon, Bob and I were in the Mayowood area and saw the Cooper's Hawk fly in front of us and across an open field, giving us a good chance to identify it. Being in the right place at the right time added two species to the list.

All of these ingredients came together for the 25th annual Christmas Bird Count for Rochester. The final report shows a total of

64 species seen on December 19, 1987. A lot of work went into accomplishing this record. The weather provided some excellent conditions. And yes, we had some luck in finding a few unusual species.

Can this record be broken? Yes, I think it can. We missed Bald Eagle, White-throated Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, and several other species that have been seen on at least five other Christmas counts. A Rufous-sided Towhee was present at the Quarry Hill feeders until December 17th, but didn't show up on the 19th. Within the month following the count, there were sightings of Pied-billed Grebe, Common Merganser, and Tundra Swan at Silver Lake. The list of birds seen for the 1987 Rochester Christmas Bird Count is devoid of most northern winter birds, an indication of the mild fall that we had. I think if everything came together, lots of hard work, the right weather conditions, and good luck, it would be possible to see 70 species on a Christmas Bird Count in the Rochester CBC circle. **Route 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920**

## Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

Before listing the records voted on through the end of 1987, it is important to report on several decisions made at the annual M.O.R.C. meeting on December 6 which affected the new official Checklist of Minnesota Birds included with this issue of *The Loon*:

— Formerly, the status of species was based on the number of years the species was recorded during the past ten years, and a year was defined as July 1 through June 30 of the following year. For the sake of simplicity in researching records, it was decided to change to a calendar year basis; therefore the new checklist is based on the ten-year base period from January 1, 1978 through December 31, 1987.

— The status of several species was changed from the previous checklist:

1) Mute Swan, formerly Casual, is now considered Regular.

2) Red-throated Loon and Sprague's Pipit, both formerly Regular, are now considered Casual; also now on the Casual list are these formerly Accidental species: Ross' Goose, Mississippi Kite, Snowy Plover, Great Black-backed Gull, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting and House Finch.

3) Long-billed Curlew, Red Phalarope, Least Tern and Rosy Finch, all formerly Casual, are now considered Accidental; also now on the Accidental list are these species recorded for the first time since the previous checklist: Clark's Grebe, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Garganey, Mountain Plover, Common Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Ross' Gull, Sandwich Tern, White-

winged Dove, Magnificent Hummingbird, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Brambling and Cassin's Finch.

4) Trumpeter Swan, formerly on the Accidental (c) list, is now considered Extirpated; in effect, this means the 1976 record from Lake Traverse (*The Loon* 49:234-235) is now considered Unacceptable (i.e., probably released from captivity), and that, until a viable breeding population is established, all Trumpeter Swans seen in Minnesota are "non-countable" releases.

5) Glossy Ibis and Black-shouldered Kite are both deleted from the checklist as a result of Unacceptable votes previously reported on; Chukar is also now considered deleted from the list (it was decided that this introduced species was never firmly established in Ely, and that this species should not have been placed on previous Minnesota checklists).

— Captive vs. wild origin for several species was discussed: Garganey (*The Loon* 59:111-112) is considered an Accidental (b) species (i.e., probably wild); Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is considered an Accidental (c) species (i.e., captive vs. wild probabilities about equal), and three such records are recognized (*The Loon* 58:97-99, 59:217-218, and an unpublished record from Wall Lake, Otter Tail Co. on May 19, 1980); Fulvous Whistling-Duck remains on the Accidental (c) list; and Common Black-Hawk is now deleted from the state list (recent research by Dr. Harrison Tordoff on the 1976 specimen from Bemidji — see *The Loon* 50:31-34 — suggests this individual most likely came from captive origin).

— Because the issue of captive vs. wild origin is complex and difficult, it was decided that votes on "wildness" no longer be taken by mail, and only at a meeting where face-to-face discussion would make a decision easier to reach.

— A first-round vote of 3-4 on a Regular/Casual species is now considered Unacceptable, and a first-round vote of 4-3 on an Accidental (b) species is now Recirculated; see the voting tables in the introduction to the new checklist.

— All records of "Arctic" Loon are now considered to be Pacific Loon; Arctic and Pacific Loons have recently been split into separate species, and it is assumed that all Minnesota records refer to the latter species.

— Although there are no definite and specific

records of Eskimo Curlew in Minnesota, it was decided that the species undoubtedly occurred here in the 19th century and that it should remain on the Minnesota list as an Extirpated species.

— Two formerly Acceptable records were discussed, and it was decided by consensus that both are now Unacceptable: the Ivory Gull in Cook Co. on Oct. 28, 1970 (*The Loon* 42:146), and an unpublished Black Rail in Hennepin Co. on May 13, 1979; the details on the Ivory Gull described the eye as yellow (it should be dark), and the Black Rail description was not written up until eight years later and mentioned chestnut coloration on the wings (it should be on the back).

The following records were voted on June - December, 1987, and found **Acceptable**:

— Garganey, 4/29 - 5/2/87, Goose L., Waseca Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 59:111-112).

— Cape May Warbler, 4/26/87, Theodore Wirth Park, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:219).

— White-eyed Vireo, 5/8/87, Bixby W.M.A., Steele Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:221).

— Rock Wren, 4/19-20/87, Eagan, Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:156).

— Brant, 3/27/87, Manfred Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 59:149).

— Yellow-throated Warbler, 5/24 - June/87, Frontenac S.P., Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:156).

— Laughing Gull, 5/19/87, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

— Clark's Grebe, 5/7/87, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:210-211).

— Snowy Plover, 5/15/87, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:155).

— Laughing Gull, 5/7/87, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:156).

— Common Black-headed Gull, 4/24/87, Heron L., Jackson Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 59:211-212).

— Ruff, 8/1/87, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Chisago Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:217).

— Kentucky Warbler, 10/6/87, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:218).

— Sabine's Gull, 9/12/87, Lake Lillian, Kandiyohi Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:41).

— California Gull, 10/29-30/87, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:49-50).

— Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 10/16/87, Prairie Island, Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:217).

- Pacific Loon, 10/25/87, Lake Lillian, Kandiyohi Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:213).
- Yellow-billed Loon, 10/17/87, Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:37-38).
- Pacific Loon, 10/17-11/3/87, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:221).
- House Finch, 10/19-29/87, Forest Lake, Washington Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:54-55).
- Great Black-backed Gull, 11/21/87, near Read's Landing, Wabasha Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:46-47).
- Carolina Wren, 12/19/87, Owatonna, Steele Co. (vote 7-0)
- Tennessee Warbler, 12/19/87, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 60:38-40).
- Iceland Gull, 12/10/87, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:43-44)
- White-eyed Vireo, 5/17/87, Flandrau S.P., Brown Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:46).
- Water Pipit, 8/8/87, West Twin Lake, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:50).

The following records were voted on June - December, 1987, and found **Unacceptable**:

- Whooping Crane, 9/20/87, Blaine, Anoka Co. (vote 1-6). Although it was agreed that the two birds described may well have been Whooping Cranes, the birds were not seen well enough as they flew by for a complete description to be given, and it was felt such an unusual species should have more complete details. They were first seen as the observer was driving on a busy highway and as he was trying to brake and pull over, implying the observer could not have given undivided attention to the birds and would have a difficult time clearly seeing them. He also was unable to use binoculars on them until they were flying away and at an angle making it impossible to see any clear field marks.
- Long-tailed Jaeger, 8/26/87, Itasca S.P., Clearwater Co. (vote 3-4). There was no doubt from the details that an adult jaeger was seen, and that the relatively long tail and the implied lack of breast band were suggestive of Long-tailed Jaeger. However, the tail length described did not completely rule out Parasitic Jaeger (tail length of these two species can overlap), and some Parasitics do not show a breast band. It was also felt that such an unusual record should have been more completely described — i.e., there was no

mention of how much white was visible in the primaries or if there was any contrast in color between the flight feathers and the wing coverts (there are diagnostic differences in both these features in Long-tailed).

- McCown's Longspur, 10/17/87, Redrock Ridge, Cottonwood Co. (vote 3-4). Although the description of the tail pattern and black breast band seemed to indicate an adult male McCown's in breeding plumage, the majority had four reservations about the record: 1) the bird was only seen briefly as it flew overhead, and there is no indication why the observer was sure it was a longspur and not a Horned Lark or something else; 2) the tail pattern was only seen from below, and the distinction between the undersides of longspur tails is not clear and difficult to see; 3) the black of the breast could also fit an adult male Lapland or Chestnut-collared Longspur molting from breeding to winter plumage; and 4) it was felt that by mid-October an adult male McCown's Longspur would have already molted out of breeding plumage and not appear as the observer described.

— Mew Gull, 9/19/87, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1, with 7-0 required for Acceptance). The dissenting member agreed that the bird may well have been an adult Mew Gull, but that such an unusual record (there is only one state record) should not have any inconsistencies. However, the observers reported the gull was the "same size as Ring-billed Gulls which were also present," and this is not correct for Mew Gull. The observers, who described themselves as relatively inexperienced with gull identification, also reported seeing a Herring Gull "which had unmarked bill, dark eye with white appearing ring around it" at the same time and place — this tends to cast further doubt on their ability to identify or describe gulls. Also, there was no mention of a darker mantle or larger white "mirrors" in the wing tips, both features of Mew Gull.

— Sprague's Pipit, 8/17/87, Lake Louise S.P., Mower Co. (vote 0-7). The sketchy description did not rule out other possibilities, especially juvenile Horned Lark or Vesper Sparrow; also, the documentation implies that the observers did not consider any other alternate possibilities, even though other species are often misidentified as Sprague's Pipit, a species poorly portrayed in most field guides (for an accurate illustration of this species, see the photos in the *Master Guide*

to *Birding*).

— Boreal Owl, 12/12/87, near Appleton, Swift Co. (vote 0-7). As the observer himself admitted in the documentation, he did not observe any diagnostic features to eliminate

the more likely Northern Saw-whet Owl (e.g., black facial frames, paler bill or spotted forehead).

**9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**



## **The Summer Season (June 1 to July 31, 1987)**

**Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd**

The trend of unusually warm and dry weather that gave us such a pleasant winter and spring of 1987 continued into June. Temperatures were 3-4°F above average in all regions of the state. It also remained quite dry with rainfall about 1½" below normal in the southern regions and 2-3" below normal in the central and northern regions. Water levels across the state remained low, and by the end of the month much of the states topsoil moisture was low. In July temperatures remained warm statewide, 2-3°F above average. July also brought rain, some of it accompanied by high winds and hail and some in great downpours such as the record 10" that fell on the Twin Cities area on July 22 and 23 and caused flash flooding. Overall precipitation was 1-2" above normal in the central, south central and western regions and 2½-4" above normal elsewhere. By the end of the month, topsoil moisture was surplus or adequate in most of the state.

Despite some complaints that it was "too hot" to bird this summer, 63 observers, a greater number than usual, contributed seasonal reports. These birders, along with the statewide U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys, reported 261 species, fewer than the average for the last ten-year period, and down from last year's 271 species. Most of the state received good coverage, with only notable holes in coverage being in Kittson and Roseau Counties, the northern half of the east central region plus adjacent Carlton County, and in the counties along the Iowa border from Faribault County west.

Compared to the remarkable summer of 1986 and coming on the heels of one of Minnesota's most unusual spring seasons in many years, the summer of 1987 seemed fairly uneventful. Nevertheless, there were some very interesting and unusual sightings. One of the most exciting was the Magnificent Hum-

mingbird, Minnesota's first, seen in Lac Qui Parle County in July by several observers. Six other casual or accidental summer species were seen, including single Tundra Swans in Aitkin and Wabasha Counties in early July; a pair of Cinnamon Teal in Murray County; a Rough-legged Hawk in Beltrami County, one of the few summer sightings for the state; a Snowy Owl which summered at the Bemidji Airport in Beltrami County; and the first summer sighting in the state of a Yellow-throated Warbler in Goodhue County in early June.

Other seasonal highlights include the first summer sighting since 1982 of a Little Blue Heron at Agassiz NWR; Snowy Egrets seen in five locations; and a Bufflehead in Stevens County, as well as at Agassiz NWR. There were some unusual sightings of regular summer residents far out of their ranges, including a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Murray County; an American Avocet on Leech Lake in Cass County; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Hubbard County; an American Redstart in Murray County; and a Dark-eyed Junco in Dodge County.

With the early spring migration, there seemed to be fewer stragglers than usual still migrating in June, and there were no records for late migration dates. It appeared that fall migration came early for some birds, and there were record early dates for fall migration of Black-bellied Plovers, Solitary Vireos, and, for Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers.

Our knowledge of the breeding bird population of Minnesota continues to grow through the efforts of the many observers who provided documentation of nesting. This year 783 nest cards, plus documentation on seasonal reports, described 1093 nests, broods or colonies of 159 species. The number of breeding species and nest documentation was down from the last few years but still resulted in valuable records including nearly 100 county first nesting records. Among the highlights of the nesting season were the encouraging reports of Bald Eagle nesting success from a ten year report from the Chippewa and Superior National Forests; the successfully fledged young from two previously released Peregrine Falcons in downtown Minneapolis; the fourth state nesting records for the Northern Hawk-Owl and Boreal Owl in Roseau County; three nests each of Acadian Flycatchers and Hooded

Warblers; and one nest of a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Murphy-Hanrahan Park; and, with the early start that many birds got, there were more reports than usual of double broods.

The style used in summarizing species accounts follows the style used last year (*The Loon* 59:20), except that references to species' ranges now follows Robert B. Janssen's new book, *Birds in Minnesota*. Bold italics are used for counties in which positive nesting has been documented for the first time since 1970, and boldface type is used for unusual locations or dates.

### **Common Loon**

Nested in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching (FS), Clearwater, Clay (Sand Lake), Becker, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Todd; probable nesting in Wright. Also seen in 15 other counties west to Agassiz NWR, Polk, Otter Tail and south to Meeker, Scott and Ramsey.

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Nested in Aitkin, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, **Murray** (AB, RJ). Also seen in 37 other counties in all regions but only St. Louis in the northeast and Wabasha, Olmsted in the southeast.

### **Horned Grebe**

Probable nesting in Otter Tail (Lake Lizzie, MMM). Also seen in Agassiz NWR, Hubbard, Becker.

### **Red-necked Grebe**

Nested in Crow Wing, Todd, Pope, Anoka; probable nesting in Stevens. Also seen in 12 other counties throughout range plus Lyon, Cook (6/20, m.ob.). Greatest number of counties reported from in at least 15 years.

### **Eared Grebe**

Nesting in Carver (3 broods, Tiger Lake; AB, RJ), Marshall (268 nests, Thief Lake WMA, KH). Also seen in Clay, Nicollet.

### **Western Grebe**

Nested in Marshall, Todd (350-400 pairs, Lake Osakis, NH), Pope. Also seen throughout the west central plus Renville, Lyon, Redwood, Nicollet.

### **American White Pelican**

Nested in Lake of the Woods (Fourblock

I.). Also seen in 24 other counties west from St. Louis, Otter Tail, Meeker, Nicollet, Faribault.

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

Nested in Grant, Pope, Swift; probable nesting in Lake of the Woods, Faribault. Also seen in 23 other counties throughout the south except only Olmsted in the southeast and in six other counties in the western portion of the north plus St. Louis.

### **American Bittern**

Nested in St. Louis. Also seen in ten other counties in northern regions plus Traverse, Murray, Nicollet, Isanti; less widespread than in the past.

### **Least Bittern**

Seen in Agassiz NWR, Grant, Pope, Hennepin, Freeborn, Houston. Third consecutive year of declining number of sightings, bringing it near midpoint of the six to seven year population cycle it has followed for at least the last 18 years.

### **Great Blue Heron**

Nested in Lake, Morrison, Grant, Pope, Swift; probable nesting in Sherburne, Washington, Faribault. Also seen in 52 other counties throughout the state.

### **Great Egret**

Nested in Grant, Pope; probable nesting in Washington, Faribault. Also seen in 25 other counties but not in the northeast and north central, and sparingly in the northwest (Agassiz NWR, Becker), central (Meeker, Wright) and southwest (Lyon) regions. More reports than in the past.

### **Snowy Egret**

Seen at Agassiz NWR (JM et al.), Grant, Washington (6/17 and 23, DSo).

### **Little Blue Heron**

One bird reported from Agassiz NWR, Marshall (6/12, JM). Unusually far north. First summer report since 1982.

### **Cattle Egret**

Only reported in Grant Co.

### **Green-backed Heron**

Seen in 27 counties throughout the south

plus Morrison, Aitkin, Wadena, Clay, Clearwater and Marshall in the north.

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

Nested in Grant, Pope. Also seen in Marshall, Clearwater, Douglas, Stevens, Traverse, Lyon, Nicollet, Wright, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Pine (6/9, GS).

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

Seen in Olmsted, Nicollet (6/19, JF), Hennepin (Minneapolis, AB).

### **Tundra Swan**

Single birds seen in Aitkin (7/2 Rice Lake NWR, KE) and Wabasha (7/7 Weaver Bottoms, DWM).

### **Canada Goose**

Continues to increase; seen in 48 counties throughout the state, except north halves of east central and north central regions. Nested in Cook, **Wadena** (TT), **McLeod** (TT) and ten other counties; probable nesting in four additional counties.

### **Wood Duck**

Nested in 24 counties including **Koochiching** (FS), **Swift** (TT), **Murray** (AB, ND, JP), **Nicollet** (JSp), Faribault (RJ); probable nesting in three additional counties. Also seen in 28 other counties throughout the state. Apparently continues to increase.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Cass, Agassiz NWR, Traverse, Stevens, Murray, Nicollet, Steele.

### **American Black Duck**

Nested in **Lake of the Woods** (SKS). Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Agassiz NWR, Hennepin (6/3 Grass Lake; 6/9 French Lake).

### **Mallard**

Nested in 18 counties including **Douglas** (AB); probable nesting in three additional counties. Seen in 40 other counties throughout the state.

### **Northern Pintail**

Nested in **Lake of the Woods** (SKS), Big Stone, **Murray** (AB). Also seen in Agassiz NWR, Otter Tail, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Jackson, Aitkin.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Nested in Douglas, *Stevens* (EL), Stearns, *Murray* (AB); probable nesting in Clay, Wright. Also seen in 38 other counties throughout the state.

### **CINNAMON TEAL**

Pair reported from Murray (6/10 - 6/26, m.ob). Second summer sighting in state.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Nested in *Stevens* (NH). Also seen in 8 other western region counties plus Clearwater, Aitkin, Stearns, Nicollet, Blue Earth.

### **Gadwall**

Nested in *Lake of the Woods* (SKS), Big Stone. Seen also in Marshall, Aitkin, Grant, Stevens, Lyon, Murray, Nicollet. More reports than in last couple years.

### **American Wigeon**

Nested in St. Louis, *Stevens* (NH). Also seen in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Polk, Clearwater, Aitkin, Stearns, Lyon and Carver.

### **Canvasback**

Nested in Clay, Big Stone, *Yellow Medicine* (HK), Marshall. Also seen in Mahnomen, Aitkin (6/19, TTu), Stevens, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Murray, Washington.

### **Redhead**

Nested in Marshall. Also seen in eight other counties throughout western regions plus St. Louis (6/21, BSE), Meeker, Nicollet, Hennepin.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Nested in Cook; probable nesting in Beltrami. Also seen in nine other north counties plus Anoka, Hennepin, Murray (6/13, AP).

### **Lesser Scaup**

Seen in Agassiz NWR, Polk, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Douglas, Lyon, Scott, Ramsey.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Nested in Cook, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Cass. Also seen in Beltrami, Agassiz NWR, Clearwater, Hubbard, Becker, Lake.

### **Bufflehead**

Seen in Agassiz NWR, Beltrami (one imm., 7/20 Lake Bemidji, KH), *Stevens* (6/30 - 7/6, EL).

Spring 1988

### **Hooded Merganser**

Nested in Cook, Washington, Carver, *Mille Lacs* (RJ); probable nesting in Kanabec. Seen in six other counties within range plus Murray (6/10 AP).

### **Common Merganser**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Nested in Cook; only report.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Nested in *Clay* (MMM); probable nesting in Stevens. Also seen in 16 other counties within range plus Washington, Dodge.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Nested in *Lake*. Seen in 17 other counties eastward of a diagonal connecting Marshall, Becker, Mille Lacs and Mower; also in Nicollet, Brown, Renville, Lyon (6/29, SDM).

### **Osprey**

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, *Becker* (BK), Carver (infertile eggs, Carver Park Reserve, MJN); probable nesting in Crow Wing. Also seen in six other north central counties plus Pennington, Mille Lacs; and in Sherburne, Washington, Scott (6/15, KR), Le Sueur (6/28, TBB).

### **Bald Eagle**

Seen in 15 counties throughout range. Nested in Lake of the Woods, Becker (Tamarac NWR) and in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests, producing more successful nests (38 and 89, respectively) and young (59 and 151) than in any year since surveys began in 1963.

### **Northern Harrier**

Nested in *Lac Qui Parle* (J. Schladweiler). Also seen in 38 other counties in all regions, but least common in southern regions. More reports than in the past.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Seen in 11 counties east of a diagonal from Agassiz NWR to Wadena, Hennepin, Dakota and Houston; also Clay and *Murray* (6/10, AP).

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Nested in Ramsey; probable nesting in

Anoka, Washington. Also seen in Duluth (6/9, CO), northern St. Louis (6/7, KB), Agassiz NWR, Mille Lacs, Pine, Scott, Fillmore.

### **Northern Goshawk**

Nested in Hubbard; probable nesting in Koochiching. Also seen in Agassiz NWR.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Nested in Winona (G. Cress); probable nesting in Scott. Also seen in **Beltrami** (7/8, SKS), Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Washington, Ramsey, Wabasha.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Nested in **Winona** (G. Cress), probable nesting in Cass, Kandiyohi (Sibley State Park). Also seen in 17 other counties west to Agassiz NWR, Mahnomen, Morrison, Scott, Blue Earth, Brown.

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Nested in Mower. Also seen in Mahnomen, Clay, Swift, Pipestone, Rock, Murray, Waseca, Steele, Fillmore, Olmsted, Goodhue, Dakota.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Nested in Stearns, Ramsey, **Dakota** (B. Moldenbauer), Winona, Mower. Also seen in 49 other counties throughout the state.

### **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**

Seen in Beltrami (*The Loon* 59:149-150).

### **American Kestrel**

Nested in Pennington, Ramsey, Olmsted; probable nesting in Otter Tail. Also seen in 56 other counties throughout the state.

### **Merlin**

Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Agassiz NWR.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Two previously released birds nested in Hennepin, successfully fledging one young from the Multifoods Tower in Minneapolis.

### **Gray Partridge**

Probable nesting in LeSueur, Olmsted, Winona, Houston. Also seen in 24 other counties in the western and southern regions.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Nested in **McLeod** (TT), **Sibley** (TT), Le

Sueur, Steele, Dodge, Pipestone. Seen in 39 other counties north to Mille Lacs, Wadena, Wilkin, plus **Red Lake** (BBS). Steady increase in reports last three years.

### **Spruce Grouse**

Nested in Cook, (Pine Mt. Road, female with 3 young, TW). Also seen in Lake.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Cass; probable nesting in Beltrami, Anoka. Also seen in 11 other counties east of a diagonal from Agassiz NWR to Ramsey, Fillmore.

### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Seen only in Cass (6/7, two, BBS).

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Probable nesting in Aitkin. Also seen in Marshall, Pennington, Beltrami.

### **Wild Turkey**

Probable nesting in Fillmore (36 young, Forestville State Park, *vide* JMo). Also seen in Houston.

### **Yellow Rail**

Seen in Aitkin, Agassiz NWR, Mahnomen.

### **Virginia Rail**

Nested in **Crow Wing** (T. Kogut); probable nesting in Duluth, Le Sueur, Blue Earth. Also seen in 13 other counties in all regions except the southeast, and only Duluth in the northeast.

### **Sora**

Seen in 26 counties in all regions except the central; scarce in the southern regions.

### **Common Moorhen**

Seen in Wright and Hennepin.

### **American Coot**

Nested in Clay, Morrison, Todd, Pope, Swift, Murray; probable nesting in Stevens, Wright. Also seen in 19 other counties in the western and central regions, but only Hennepin and Wabasha in the eastern regions.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Nested in **Lake of the Woods** (six mi. north of Williams, KH); probable nesting in Morri-

son (Bellevue Twp.) Also seen in Roseau, Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Beltrami, Clearwater, Aitkin, Anoka.

### **Black-bellied Plover**

Late migrants: South, 6/13 Cottonwood, 6/27 Jackson (TBB; latest South date on record); North, 6/17 Marshall. Early migrants: North, 7/6 Lake of the Woods (KH; earliest date on record); South, 7/11 Hennepin (OJ; earliest South date on record).

### **Lesser Golden-Plover**

Late migrants 6/8 Stearns, 6/11 Big Stone, 6/13 Cottonwood.

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Early migrants: North, 7/12 Clay, 7/19 Lake of the Woods; South, 7/7 Dakota.

### **Piping Plover**

Nested at Pine and Curry Is. and Morris Pt., Lake of the Woods Co. (*The Loon* 59:113-117). No Duluth report again.

### **Killdeer**

Nested in St. Louis, Aitkin, Pennington, Clay, Stevens, Lac Qui Parle, *Pipestone* (JP), Brown, Stearns, Benton. Also seen in 55 other counties throughout the state.

### **American Avocet**

Nested in Polk (Johnson Twp., nest with two eggs, AB). Also seen in Clay (7/12, KR), Cass (7/10 Leech Lake, 2, KB), Nicollet (7/3-24, max. 5, JF).

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

Early migrants: North, 7/1 Clay; South, 6/24 Blue Earth (JF), 6/26 Murray, 6/28 Lincoln, Steele, Dodge and Lyon.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late migrant 6/4 Stearns. Early migrants: North, 6/28 Cook; South, 6/18 Hennepin (OJ), 6/24 Blue Earth (JF), 6/26 Murray and Jackson.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Nested in Cook (Lima Mt. Road, KMH). Early migrants: North, 7/7 Lake; South, 6/20 Dodge and Steele (AP), 6/28 four additional counties.

### **Willet**

Single birds seen 6/19 Goodhue (B. Lit-

key), 7/15 Yellow Medicine (HK), 7/18 Nicollet (JF).

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Nested in Lake of the Woods (50 breeding on Pine and Curry Is.); probable nesting in St. Louis. Also seen in 30 other counties throughout the state.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

Nested in *Norman* (BK). Also seen in 16 other counties throughout the western regions, six counties in the central regions, and St. Louis, Hennepin, Dodge, Mower in the eastern regions.

### **Whimbrel**

Late migrant 6/1-2 Cook (TW, WP).

### **Marbled Godwit**

Seen in Lake of the Woods (7/6, 5, Pine and Curry Is.), Roseau, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Clearwater, Norman, Clay, Wilkin.

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Late migrants: South, 6/2 Hennepin; North, 6/12 Lake of the Woods. Early migrants 7/6 Lake of the Woods (KH).

### **Sanderling**

Migrants: 6/19 Goodhue (B. Litkey) and 7/30 Clay.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Late migrants: South, 6/8 Stearns, 6/13 Cottonwood and Hennepin; North, 6/3 Cook. Early migrants: North, 7/12 Clay; South, 6/27 Scott (AP), 6/28 Steele (AP), 7/4 Carver.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early migrants: North, 6/28 Cook; South, 7/3 Nicollet and Steele, 7/6 Stearns, 7/7 Dakota.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Late migrants: 6/3 Hennepin, 6/8 Stearns, 6/13 Cottonwood, 7/6 Stearns (may have been a non-breeding summering bird).

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Late migrants: South, 6/4 Stearns; North, 6/3 Cook. Early migrants: 7/15 Lyon, 7/29 Blue Earth.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Late migrants: 6/3 Hennepin, 6/8 Stearns.  
Early migrants: North, 7/6 Lake of the Woods, 7/12 Clay; South, 6/28 Steele (AP), 7/11 Hennepin, 7/14 Stevens and Pipestone.

### **Dunlin**

Late migrant: 6/8 Stearns.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

Early migrants: North, 7/12 Clay, 7/14 Marshall; South, 7/14 Olmsted, 7/17 Hennepin.

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Early migrants: North, 7/12 Clay; South, 6/28 Steele (AP), 7/3 Faribault, 7/4 Carver.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Early migrants: North, 7/12 Clay; South, 7/17 Hennepin, 7/18 Nicollet.

### **Common Snipe**

Seen in 19 counties throughout the northern and west central regions plus Stearns, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Lyon, Redwood, Mower.

### **American Woodcock**

Nested in Lake, **Koochiching** (FS). Also seen in 12 other counties east of a diagonal from Agassiz NWR to Fillmore, plus Mower, Freeborn, Brown, Lac Qui Parle, Swift.

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Seen in seven counties in western regions south to Lyon (7/15, 2, HK), plus Clearwater, Stearns, Duluth (6/2, M. Stensaas).

### **Red-necked Phalarope**

Early migrant 7/12 Clay (KR).

### **Franklin's Gull**

Seen in nine counties throughout the western regions plus Lake of the Woods (2000 on 7/6 at Pine and Curry Is., KH), Beltrami, Clearwater, Todd.

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Reported only from Lake of the Woods.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Nested at Duluth and Lake of the Woods (approx. 2000 nests). Seen in 35 other counties in all regions. Increasingly common, with more reports than in any previous year.

### **Herring Gull**

Nested in Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods. Also seen in St. Louis, Koochiching, Beltrami, Wilkin, Todd, Washington, Wabasha.

### **Caspian Tern**

Seen early June in Faribault, Goodhue, Otter Tail, St. Louis; late June in Scott, Wright, Lake of the Woods; early July in Duluth; late July in Ramsey; no dates, Hubbard and Marshall.

### **Common Tern**

Nested in Duluth, Lake of the Woods. Also seen in Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail, Grant, Swift, (These reports need confirmation, they are probably the result of confusion with the Forster's Tern - Editor), Hennepin. (6/3 L. Calhoun, SC).

### **Forster's Tern**

Nested in Todd, Pope. Also seen in 17 other counties within range.

### **Black Tern**

Nested in **Cass** (GR). Seen in 37 other counties west and south of a line from Lake of the Woods to Aitkin and Washington; also seen in St. Louis (Virginia and Ely, SS).

### **Rock Dove**

Nested in **St. Louis** (SS), Stearns. Seen in 52 other counties throughout the state.

### **Mourning Dove**

Nested in **Cass** (GR), Morrison, Big Stone, Brown, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Cottonwood, Anoka. Also seen in 57 other counties throughout all regions, except only St. Louis in the northeast.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Nested in St. Louis, Clearwater. Also seen in 44 other counties throughout the state.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Probable nesting in Brown. Also seen on three Breeding Bird Surveys in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Cass; plus Mahanomen (county first sighting, AB), Aitkin and 11 south counties.

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Seen in Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Hennepin.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Nested in **Cook** (TW), **Cass** (GR); probable nesting in Morrison, Anoka, Scott, Murray. Also seen in 29 other counties in all regions.

### **SNOWY OWL**

One summered at Bemidji airport, Beltrami Co. (G. Maxson, KH). First summer record since 1890.

### **NORTHERN HAWK-OWL**

Nested in **Roseau** (*The Loon* 59:165-174).

### **Barred Owl**

Nested in Brown. Also seen in 17 other counties throughout the northern and eastern regions, plus Otter Tail, Scott, Rice.

### **Great Gray Owl**

Probable nesting in Beltrami (Grace Lake, T. Kogut). Also seen in Cook (6/12 Sea Gull Lake, KMH), Lake (6/19 Whyte Road, SW/MS), St. Louis (6/10, 1 dead, Sax/Zim, SC), Aitkin, Roseau.

### **Long-eared Owl**

Nested in Stearns. Also seen in Itasca.

### **Short-eared Owl**

Seen in Aitkin, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater, Marshall.

### **BOREAL OWL**

Nested in **Roseau** (*The Loon* 59:163-165).

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

Nested in **Koochiching** (FS), **Hubbard** (HJF, *The Loon* 59:154); probable nesting in Mille Lacs (Lewis Twp., AB). Also seen in Cook.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Nested in **Koochiching** (FS), **Hubbard** (HJF, *The Loon* 59:154); probable nesting in Mille Lacs (Lewis Twp., AB). Also seen in Cook.

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

Heard in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Agassiz NWR, Kanabec, Anoka, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Fillmore, Houston.

### **Chimney Swift**

Seen in 45 counties throughout the state.

### **MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD**

One male was seen in Boyd, Lac Qui Parle Co. feeding on hollyhocks and catching insects July 3-7. (*The Loon* 59:145-146). First state record.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Nested in **St. Louis** (M. Karstensen), **Mower** (RRK); probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 18 other counties throughout the North and 12 counties South in the east central, southeast, and south central regions.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Probable nesting in Clay. Also seen in 49 other counties throughout the state.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Nested in Brown, **Mower** (RRK); probable nesting in Clay, Cottonwood, Le Sueur. Also seen in 33 other counties north to Aitkin, Beltrami, Pennington.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Probable nesting in Todd, Anoka. Seen in 18 other counties in the eastern and central regions of the South, plus Otter Tail, Lyon.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Brown; probable nesting in Lac Qui Parle, Winona. Also seen in 29 other counties in all regions except the southwest.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Nested in Lake, Washington, **Nicollet** (JSp), Brown, Murray; probable nesting in Cook, Pennington, Clay, Anoka, Lyon, Cottonwood, Le Sueur. Also seen in 37 other counties throughout the state.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Nested in St. Louis, Hubbard, Hennepin, Brown; probable nesting in Lake, Anoka, Washington, Cottonwood, Le Sueur. Also seen in 37 other counties throughout the state.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

Seen in Cook (10 on 6/28-29, KE), Lake, Hubbard, Clearwater.

### **Northern Flicker**

Nested in Cook, St. Louis, Stearns, Dakota; probable nesting in Lake, Pennington, Clay, Le Sueur, Cottonwood. Also seen in 54 other counties throughout the state.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Nested in Lake, *St. Louis* (CO); probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in 29 other counties west to Pennington, Clay, Otter Tail, Stearns, Brown, Mower.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Late migrants in Clay (6/7), Meeker (6/4), Brown (6/9). Also seen in nine counties in the northeast and north central regions.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Nested in *Mower* (RRK); probable nesting in Big Stone. Also seen in 43 other counties in all regions, but only Lyon in the southwest.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Late migrant (?) 6/9 Pine. Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Hubbard, Aitkin, Mille Lacs ("on territory," 6/10-7/5, DB). Early migrant 7/25 Mower.

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

Nested in Scott (3 nests including one double brood, Murphy-Hanrahan Park, *The Loon* 59:117-121). Seen also in Goodhue (Frontenac, m.ob.), Houston.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

Late migrant 6/3 Hennepin. Seen in 19 counties throughout range.

### **Willow Flycatcher**

Seen in 19 South counties north to Isanti, Wright, Swift plus Clay and Beltrami (AB) in the North. More reports than in previous years.

### **Least Flycatcher**

Nested in Lake, *Becker* (BK), Anoka, Brown. Also seen in 38 other counties in all regions, but only Lyon in the southwest.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Nested in St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Crow Wing, *Pennington* (SKS), Becker, Pope, Morrison, Stearns, Hennepin, *Brown* (JSp); probable nesting Benton, Anoka. Also seen in 32 other counties throughout the state.

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Nested in Clearwater; probable nesting in Cass, Mower. Also seen in 52 other counties throughout the state.

### **Western Kingbird**

Nested in Clay, Big Stone, *Stevens* (EL), *Morrison* (NH), Sherburne, Pipestone. Also seen in 14 other counties throughout range plus Lake of the Woods, Blue Earth (JB).

### **Eastern Kingbird**

Nested in St. Louis, *Koochiching* (FS), Lake of the Woods, Cass, Clay, Dakota, Brown, *Mower* (RRK); probable nesting in Anoka, Le Sueur. Also seen in 56 other counties throughout the state.

### **Horned Lark**

Seen in 46 counties throughout the state except in the northeast.

### **Purple Martin**

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Clay, Becker, Dakota; probable nesting Cottonwood, Le Sueur. Also seen in 48 other counties in all regions but only St. Louis in the northeast.

### **Tree Swallow**

Nested in 14 counties including *Pipestone* (JP). Also seen in 42 other counties throughout the state.

### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Nested in Dakota. Also seen in 32 other counties in all regions.

### **Bank Swallow**

Nested in Ramsey; probable nesting in Polk, Stearns. Also seen in 34 other counties in all regions, but only St. Louis in the northeast.

### **Cliff Swallow**

Nested in St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Lac Qui Parle; probable nesting in Cook, Cass, Aitkin, Stearns. Also seen in 43 other counties throughout the state.

### **Barn Swallow**

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Cass, *Todd* (RH), *Stevens* (EL), Stearns, Washington, *Blue Earth* (JB); probable nesting in Cook, Clay, Anoka, Le Sueur, Cottonwood, Mower. Also seen in 46 other counties throughout the state.

### **Gray Jay**

Probable nesting in Cook, Lake, Hubbard, Aitkin. Seen also in St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca.

### **Blue Jay**

Nested in Morrison, Stearns, Brown, **Steele** (EK); probable nesting in Anoka, Dakota, Lyon, Cottonwood. Also seen in 52 other counties throughout the state.

### **Black-billed Magpie**

Seen in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Beltrami (Bemidji and northwest corner of county).

### **American Crow**

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Aitkin, Stearns, Anoka, Ramsey. Also seen in 57 other counties throughout the state.

### **Common Raven**

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis. Also seen in eight other Northern counties.

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

Nested in Pennington, Cass, Stearns, Washington, Brown; probable nesting in Clay, Anoka, Dakota, Nicollet. Also seen in 43 other counties throughout the state.

### **Boreal Chickadee**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin (11 birds in S.16 of T50N, R25W; first summer sighting in 14 years, WN).

### **Tufted Titmouse**

Seen in Houston.

### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Nested in Cook. Also seen in nine other counties throughout the northeast and north central regions plus Anoka and Otter Tail (2, 6/14, BBS).

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

Nested in Stearns; probable nesting in Pennington, Anoka, Steele. Also seen in 46 other counties throughout the state, but only St. Louis in the northeast.

### **Brown Creeper**

Nested in Clearwater, Brown (Minnecon Park, JSp). Also seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami, Hubbard, **Scott** (first summer in at least 20 years, Murphy-Hanrahan Park, TTu), Dakota (Lebanon Hills, TTu).

### **House Wren**

Nested in 11 counties including **Red Lake**

(SKS); probable nesting in three additional counties. Also seen in 44 other counties throughout the state.

### **Winter Wren**

Probable nesting in Cook, Cass. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Agassiz NWR, Clearwater, Itasca, Aitkin.

### **Sedge Wren**

Nested in **Brown** (JSp). Also seen in 47 other counties throughout the state.

### **Marsh Wren**

Seen in 36 counties in all regions except the northeast.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Probable nesting in Mille Lacs (Lewis Twp., AB). Also seen in five other counties within range plus Agassiz NWR (JM).

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Seen in seven Northern counties west to Agassiz NWR; also seen in Mille Lacs (6/10, DB), Pine (6/9, GS).

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Nested in Anoka, Brown, **Mower** (RRK). Also seen in 11 other counties from Hennepin, Scott, Dodge and Mower in east, plus Nicollet, Blue Earth and **Hubbard** (*The Loon* 59:216).

### **Eastern Bluebird**

The Bluebird Recovery Project (Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and DNR Nongame Program) reported that 399 Minnesota Cooperators had fledged 13,534 bluebirds. Nesting was reported from 62 counties throughout the state including four county firsts in **Koochiching**, **Pennington** (SKS), **Yellow Medicine**, **Steele**; probable nesting in one additional county. Also seen in nine other counties.

### **Veery**

Seen in 16 counties in the northeast, north central and east central regions plus Agassiz NWR, Red Lake, Clay, Becker, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Scott and Winona.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

Late migrant 6/1 Clay. Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Cass.

### **Hermit Thrush**

Nested in St. Louis. Also seen in eight other counties in the northeast and north central regions plus Mille Lacs.

### **Wood Thrush**

Nested in **Polk** (D. Lambeth). Seen in 18 counties along a diagonal from Houston to Hennepin to Beltrami, plus Waseca, Nicollet, Brown.

### **American Robin**

Nested in 15 counties including **Stevens** (EL), **Nicollet** (TT); probable nesting in three additional counties. Also seen in 44 other counties throughout the state.

### **Gray Catbird**

Nested in **Becker** (BK), Sherburne, Washington, Dakota, Brown, Le Sueur. Also seen in 52 other counties throughout the state.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

County first sightings of the same bird on 6/28 in Murray and Pipestone (n.e. of Edgerton, AB).

### **Brown Thrasher**

Nested in Clay, Stearns, Brown, Le Sueur. Also seen in 56 other counties throughout the state.

### **SPRAGUE'S PIPIT**

Seen 7/22-30 at Felton Prairie, Clay Co. (P. Backstrom, K. Camburn et al.).

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Nested in **Koochiching** (FS), Lake of the Woods, **Pennington** (SKS), Clearwater, Cass, Sherburne, Brown; probable nesting in Sibley, Le Sueur. Also seen in 38 other counties throughout the state.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Nested in Morrison, Benton; probable nesting in Lac Qui Parle. Also seen in Clay, Washington, Dodge, Olmsted.

### **European Starling**

Nested in Stearns, Ramsey, Brown, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in 48 other counties throughout the state.

### **Bell's Vireo**

Seen in Dakota, Wabasha.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Late migrant 6/2 Scott (AP). Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass, Wadena (6/12, AB). Also seen in Fillmore 7/26 (earliest record South, AP).

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Probable nesting in Brown. Also seen in 29 other counties throughout range.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Nested in **Aitkin** (WN); probable nesting in Le Sueur. Also seen in 50 other counties throughout the state including Duluth and Lake (6/5, Birch Lake Dam, SW/MS) in the northeast.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Seen in Cook.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Nested in Cass, **Becker** (BK); probable nesting in St. Louis, Morrison, Brown. Also seen in 43 other counties in all regions but only Otter Tail in the west central.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Probable nesting in Ramsey. Also seen in Anoka, Scott, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Houston, Fillmore. Brewster's Warbler seen 7/19 in Fillmore (Spring Valley, AP).

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Seen in 15 counties north and east from Anoka, Becker, Mahnomon and Lake of the Woods, including Lake (6/2-16, 10 mi. west of Silver Bay, SW/MS) and Cook (6/17, same location as 1986 near Grand Marais, WP).

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Cass (6/13, northwest corner of county, BBS), Hubbard. Early migrants: 7/24 Ramsey and Dakota, 7/26 Fillmore.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 14 other counties throughout the range. Early migrants: 7/15 Scott (KR), 7/25 Le Sueur, 7/26 Hennepin and Fillmore.

### **Northern Parula**

Seen in nine counties throughout range.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Nested in St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Crow Wing, Sherburne, Ramsey, Le Sueur, Brown; probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 49 other counties throughout the state.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Late migrants: 6/3 Fillmore and Clay. Nested in **Scott** (Murphy-Hanrahan Park, TTu; first report of nesting south of the Twin Cities in over 45 years). Also seen in 19 other counties throughout the range including Hennepin (6/11), Dakota (6/20).

### **Magnolia Warbler**

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

### **Cape May Warbler**

Probable nesting in Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami. Early migrant: 7/31 Dakota (TTu, earliest date south).

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

Seen in Cook, Lake (as many as 12 singing males, Tettegouche State Park, SW/MS; Moose Lake, SS).

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Probable nesting in Cook, St. Louis, Mille Lacs (7/5 Lewis Twp., AB). Also seen in six other counties throughout range plus Wadena, Anoka (7/25 Bunker Hills Park; SC, GP, early migrant).

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

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Seen in nine counties throughout range plus Isanti (JH).

### **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**

Two singing males until 6/3 at Frontenac State Park Goodhue Co. (m.ob.); first summer record for state.

### **Pine Warbler**

Probable nesting in Duluth. Also seen in seven counties throughout the north central regions plus Lake, northern St. Louis, Becker, Isanti.

### **Palm Warbler**

Seen in Lake (6/4, 21 birds, mostly singing males, in Sand Lake Peatland, SW/MS), St. Louis, Lake of the Woods.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis (6/22 Brimson area, BBS), Marshall (7/9, BSE). Early migrant: 7/24 Ramsey (earliest date South, KB).

### **Cerulean Warbler**

Nested in **Brown** (JSp). Also seen in Stearns, Scott, Nicollet, Fillmore, Houston.

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

Late migrants 6/6 Olmsted (JBo), 6/10 Murray (AP). Nested in Lake. Also seen in 10 other counties throughout range.

### **American Redstart**

Nested in Becker; probable nesting in Cook, Nicollet. Also seen in 34 other counties in all regions but only Otter Tail in the west central and Murray (6/10, AP) in the southwest.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

Nested in Brown (Minnecon Park, New Ulm, JSp); probable nesting in Nicollet (Courtland Twp., next to Minnecon Park, JSp). Also seen in Scott, Rice (6/9, RHo), Goodhue.

### **Ovenbird**

Seen in 27 counties east of a line from Agassiz NWR, Polk, Becker, Otter Tail, Morrison, Scott and Houston, plus Brown.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Agassiz NWR, Becker (7/23 Tamarac NWR, BK), Anoka (Cedar Creek NHA).

### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

Seen in Winona.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Agassiz NWR, Aitkin, Mille Lacs (7/5 Lewis Twp., AB).

### **Mourning Warbler**

Late migrants 6/2 Hennepin, 6/3 Clay.

Probable nesting in St. Louis. Also seen in 15 other counties throughout range plus Scott (singing male, 6/27, TTu).

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Nested in Clearwater, **Brown** (JSp); probable nesting in Anoka, Le Sueur. Also seen in 57 other counties throughout the state.

### **Hooded Warbler**

Three nests found in Murphy-Hanrahan Park along Scott/Dakota Co. line (B. Fall et al.).

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Seen in Cook (6/16, n.e. of Hovland, BBS), Lake (four singing males, 6/19 Whyte Rd., SW/MS).

### **Canada Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass.

### **Yellow-breasted Chat**

Two males 6/5-22 at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. (m.ob.).

### **Scarlet Tanager**

Probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 27 other counties throughout range.

### **Northern Cardinal**

Nested in **Washington** (WL), Ramsey, LeSueur (EK), Brown; probable nesting in Mower. Also seen in 21 other counties west to Murray, Lyon, Chippewa; north to Stearns, Anoka and Duluth (6/1, *fide* KE).

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Nested in Clearwater, Clay, Brown, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 47 other counties throughout the state.

### **Blue Grosbeak**

Seen in at least 13 different locations (ND et al.) in Murray, Pipestone (Edgerton), Rock, Nobles.

### **Indigo Bunting**

Nested in Anoka. Also seen in 48 other counties throughout the state, but only Clay and Becker in the northwest.

### **Dickcissel**

Very widespread. Seen in 35 counties south

and west of a diagonal from Dakota to Douglas, plus Clay (KR), **Red Lake** (BBS), **Pennington** (SKS).

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Seen in 13 counties within range along a diagonal band from Lake of the Woods to Houston, plus Red Lake (BBS), Nicollet (7/18, JF), Blue Earth (6/19, MF), Brown (JSp).

### **Chipping Sparrow**

Nested in St. Louis, Pennington, Becker, Morrison, Stearns, Washington, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Cook, Cass, Crow Wing, Stevens, Ramsey, Dakota. Also seen in 47 other counties throughout the state.

### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Nested in Morrison, Dakota; probable nesting in Red Lake. Also seen in 39 other counties throughout the state except the tier of counties along the Iowa border.

### **Field Sparrow**

Nested in Sherburne, Anoka, Brown. Also seen in 20 other counties within range plus Clay (Tansem Twp., LCF), Cass (Backus, BBS).

### **Vesper Sparrow**

Nested in **Clearwater** (KB); probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in 51 other counties in all regions, but only Cook (6/29, KE) in the northeast.

### **Lark Sparrow**

Nested in Clay; probable nesting in Anoka. Also seen in Red Lake, Renville, Nicollet.

### **Savannah Sparrow**

Seen in 52 counties throughout the state.

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Seen in 34 southern and western counties, east to Beltrami and Lake of the Woods.

### **Henslow's Sparrow**

Nested in O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona Co. (**The Loon** 59:121-124).

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

Seen in nine northern counties including Lake (nine singing males, 6/14 Sand Lake Peatland, SW/MS) and Cook (7/4 Cascade

River State Park, WP; 6/29, 6 mi. east of Grand Marais, KE).

### **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

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

### **Song Sparrow**

Nested in Cook, St. Louis, *Lake of the Woods* (SKS), Anoka, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Clay. Also seen in 58 other counties throughout the state.

### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

Nested in *Anoka* (JH); probable nesting in Le Sueur. Also seen in 38 other counties throughout the state.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Late migrant 6/3 Brown. Nested in Lake. Also seen in 14 other counties throughout range plus Anoka, Hennepin (6/25 - early July, Wood Lake, singing male, SC).

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Agassiz NWR, Beltrami, Cass, **Dodge** (6/20 Claremont Cemetery; AP, RJ).

### **Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Nested at Felton prairie in Clay Co.

### **Bobolink**

Seen in 53 counties throughout the state.

### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Nested in St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Stearns, Le Sueur. Also seen in 65 other counties throughout the state.

### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Seen in 26 counties from Lake of the Woods, Becker, Stearns, Sibley and Freeborn east, except in the northeast and adjacent Koochiching, Itasca, Pine.

### **Western Meadowlark**

Seen in 56 counties throughout the state except the northeast and adjacent counties.

### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Nested in Todd, Pope, Stevens. Also seen in 46 other counties throughout range.

### **Rusty Blackbird**

Seen in St. Louis (Tower, MH/JS).

### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Nested in *Clearwater* (AB). Also seen in 27 other counties across the northern (except Cook and Lake) and central regions, plus Nicollet, Redwood, Lyon, Murray.

### **Common Grackle**

Nested in Clay, **Becker** (BK), Big Stone, Ramsey, Washington, Le Sueur, *Waseca* (TT); probable nesting in St. Louis, Cass. Also seen in 54 other counties throughout the state.

### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Parasitized nests of 17 different species in ten counties including **Becker** (BK), **Nicollet** (JSp), *Le Sueur* (EK); probable nesting in Clay. Also seen in 50 other counties throughout the state.

### **Orchard Oriole**

Nested in Big Stone. Also seen in 23 other counties throughout range north to Clay, Stevens, Wright and Washington. Increasingly common last four years.

### **Northern Oriole**

Nested in Pennington, **Becker** (BK), **Chipewewa** (RGJ), Carver, Dakota, Brown; probable nesting in Clay, Stevens, Cottonwood, Sibley, Le Sueur, Washington. Also seen in 44 other counties throughout the state including St. Louis and Lake in the northeast.

### **Purple Finch**

Probable nesting in Pennington (North Twp., SKS). Also seen in 11 counties throughout the northeast and north central regions plus Agassiz NWR, Red Lake, Becker, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Washington (most of the summer at Forest Lake, WL).

### **Red Crossbill**

Seen in Lake (6/14), Clearwater, Otter Tail (6/3).

### **White-winged Crossbill**

Seen in Duluth (6/26, V. Rudolph; 7/1, KE), Aitkin (7/4-25, WN et al.), Clearwater (KB).

### **Pine Siskin**

Nested in *Koochiching* (FS), Ramsey;

probable nesting in Lake of the Woods, Clay. Also seen in ten other counties throughout the northern regions plus Wilkin (all summer, GAM), Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Brown (Flandrau State Park, JSp).

#### **American Goldfinch**

Nested in *Pennington* (SKS), Stearns, Sherburne, Brown, *Pipestone* (JP); probable nesting in Clay, Le Sueur. Also seen in 57 other counties throughout the state.

#### **Evening Grosbeak**

Nested in St. Louis; probable nesting in Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Cass. Also seen in Cook, Lake, Itasca, Clearwater, Aitkin.

#### **House Sparrow**

Nested in Pennington, Benton, Stearns, *Dakota* (RH), Brown, *Nicollet* (TT), Le Sueur. Also seen in 51 other counties throughout the state.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**BIRDS AND BIRDING ON THE MISSISSIPPI COAST** by Judith A. Toups and Jerome A. Jackson; University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, MS, 1987; 22 maps, 37 line drawings, 303 pages; \$17.95.

Although the fame of Alabama's Dauphin Island as a migrant trap has long been common knowledge among birders, the birding guide to this area has been long overdue, and this book will certainly not disappoint birders eager for guidance here.

If anything has been left out of these pages, it's hard to imagine what it would be. After all, over 300 pages in all are devoted to the three coastal counties, a relatively small area roughly 25 by 75 miles in size. All 357 species recorded here are covered in the lengthy annotated list in the second chapter. On the average, about a third of a page is devoted to each species, and each account is not only complete but also unexpectedly readable — normally, annotated lists amount to dry recitations of dates, places and numbers.

An excellent section on bird-finding follows, with key areas clearly mapped. This section is also expertly written and enjoyable to read. Any potential hazards a birder might encounter in each area are detailed, and I have every confidence that hardly anyone would have any difficulty successfully birding their way through any area with this book as a guide.

A month-by-month guide follows, detailing what to look for and where throughout the year. Next is an entire chapter with a complete strategy on how best to do a Big Day along the Mississippi coast. I doubt if many readers would ever put this expendable chapter to actual use, but there is no doubt the timetable, locations and key species are all accurately listed. More useful is the follow-

ing section with bar graphs depicting each species' season and relative abundance. Not only is such a section a valuable convenience, but I am also impressed with the clarity and neatness of each graph (I have often found similar graphs in Jim Lane's various birdfinding guides to be sloppily prepared).

This guide is obviously one of the best of its genre with only a few of its features leaving room for improvement. I would have liked an overall map of this three-county coastal area — it was not until I pulled out a Mississippi highway map that I could clearly visualize the geography involved. The status definitions need sharpening, since the distinctions between abundant, common and uncommon, and between conspicuous and inconspicuous, are unclear; similarly, the definitions of the asterisks in the bar graphs are somewhat confusing. And perhaps the price of the book could have been halved by using a soft cover and by eliminating the pages occupied by the Big Day chapter and by the adequate but uninspiring line drawings — I fear the eighteen dollar price tag might preclude too many birders from adding this fine book to their libraries.

**Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**TREASURY OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDLORE**, edited by Paul S. Eriksson and Alan Pistorius, Published by Paul S. Eriksson, Middlebury, Vermont, 1987, 388 pages, \$24.95 hardcover.

This anthology is an updated version of the 1962 (Doubleday) **A TREASURY OF BIRDLORE**, with 30 new selections added. The subjects covered include birds through

the seasons, flight and migration, "what makes a bird tick," descriptions of five specific birds, birds and people, and a fine section on extinction and conservation. The authors represented are a compendium of nature writers from Alexander Wilson to Barry Lopez. Most chapters are only a few pages in length, so this is a good book to pick up when one has only a short time for diversion.

One may or may not agree with the authors' comments in the Introduction, in which they set out an *apologia* for "Romantic" writing (as preferable to "scientific" writing).

But serious lovers of birds and their world will surely appreciate the inclusion of some of the later chapters in the book; I especially enjoyed the brief characterizations of some of the "workers in the field." For the price, this is a good buy, for all the information it does contain, and hence I would recommend this book. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902**

**THE BIRDS OF CANADA** by W. Earl Godfrey; 2nd edition, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, 1986; 74 color plates by John Crosby, about 400 maps, about 100 line drawings, 595 pages; \$39.95.

**FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**; 2nd edition, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.; 464 pages; \$20.95.

**GULLS: A GUIDE TO IDENTIFICATION** by Peter J. Grant; 2nd edition, Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D., 1986; 544 black-and-white photos, 67 maps and line drawings, 352 pages; \$35.00.

To buy or not to buy. That is the question — and a difficult question indeed when the second edition of a good bird book appears. You already have the first edition, it goes out of print, a new edition is published, and your bird book budget is limited. Are there enough changes to justify its purchase, or can you get along fine with the old version? Thus the reason for this three-part review: three excellent bird books have been revised recently, and it's not immediately obvious if these new editions are worth purchasing — therefore, it is hoped the following comments and recommendations will help clear up some of the uncertainties.

One of the best bird books ever written in the history of bird books is Godfrey's **The Birds of Canada**. Published in 1966, the first edition comprehensively covered the bird life of this vast country, a remarkable achievement considering the quantity of the birds and of the geography involved and the quality of the finished product. The species accounts included a detailed and helpful section on identification (which often advanced beyond the standard field guides), equally useful measurements of specimens, and paragraphs on habitat preference, nesting habits and range (all impressively presented). Breeding range maps supplemented these accounts, as did the color plates by Crosby which were at least as good as, if not better than, those in any field guide.

Twenty years later we now have a second edition of this exemplary work. Superficially, it looks pretty much the same as the first, but this is hardly a criticism — there was little reason or room for improvement of the original format. It doesn't take long, however, to find additional material. About 170 pages have been added to include no fewer than 615 species in all, 77 more than in the first edition. Crosby's fine paintings have been mostly retained, but several plates have been rearranged or expanded to illustrate 498 species, 67 more than previously. Nearly 400 range maps appear, with reportedly no fewer than 265 of these updated. Apparently, however, some of these maps and range descriptions in the text still need further revision: Bruce Mactavish, Newfoundland's best birder, reported three species' status inaccurately described for his province, another 12 species recorded there missing entirely from Godfrey's range accounts, and 13 range maps significantly in error in Newfoundland.

Yet, with so many range maps and so large a country, some errors are inevitable, and the second edition remains, without question, a required textbook in every Canadian birder's library. Minnesota birders, I suppose, can still survive without this work, especially if they already own the first edition. But if you don't have the original edition, if you can afford the price, and if you want comprehensive and up-to-date information on all the avifauna found just to our north, then I can't imagine a better way to invest forty dollars.

By now, every knowledgeable birder should know that, all things considered, Na-

tional Geographic's **Field Guide to the Birds of North America** has been the best of the bunch since it appeared in 1983. The Robbins and Peterson guides, while perhaps easier for beginners to use, remain incomplete and oversimplified in too many cases. And the three-volume **Master Guide to Birding**, every bit as comprehensive as Geographic, is unfortunately not portable enough for field use. While the Geographic guide has been far from perfect, it's remained the best single identification tool available.

When the first edition went out of print last year, it was quickly and quietly replaced with a new edition, and, unless one was paying close attention, this development was easy to miss. If you only glance at the cover and merely thumb through the pages for a few minutes, you'll probably fail to spot any changes in this second edition. Only through careful examination (for this, I'd like to acknowledge the help of Parker Backstrom and Mike Hendrickson) are any differences apparent: new and improved plates of cuckoos and swallows appear; a few accidental species are added, along with new names for the few recently split species; about 50 range maps have been revised; the wording of the text has been changed for the sake of clarity or emphasis for virtually every species; and birds on several plates have been touched up and improved — especially significant are the changes on the loons, dowitchers, swifts, some of the flycatchers and the Oporornis warblers.

However, I reluctantly find myself disappointed with these revisions; while all are positive steps to make the best field guide even better, they are not nearly as extensive as they could have been, presumably because of time and budget considerations. The improved clarity and emphasis in the text is considerable and welcome, but I'm not aware of any new field marks being presented among all this. Also the text continues to be inadequate in describing songs and calls; in spite of an available tape of the songs/calls of 179 species which accompanies this guide, the Master and Peterson field guides offer far more information in this regard. While some range maps are revised, it is still too easy to find inaccuracies in or near Minnesota. And it's hard to applaud the few new and retouched plates when too many inaccurate and unnatural paintings remain intact from the first

edition. The new parakeet plate, for example, can only be described as a cosmetic luxury when some badly needed necessities remain unfulfilled. It would have been far more useful to replace the unnatural heron, hummingbird, Great Gray Owl, thrush and Black-and-white Warbler paintings, the ducks-in-flight plates with their hard-to-see wing patterns, the strange Pine Warbler on p. 348 and even stranger male House Finch, and, above all, all those sparrow plates (at their best, sparrows are hard enough to identify — these pictures show them at their worst, all but impossible to figure out).

If you never got around to buying the first edition of Geographic, by all means get the second — in spite of its uncorrected faults, it's still the best guide we have. If you already own the first edition, however, you'll survive just fine without the second — better to save your money in case a third and more extensively revised version appears some year.

Even the best field guide can never hope to cover completely the identification of all groups of species. Some birds and plumages are just too complex for their analyses to fit within a portable guide, and there is no better example of this than the gulls. Separation of many species, especially immatures, is often difficult, at times seemingly impossible, with the tendency of gulls to molt atypically and to hybridize making things even more difficult. Thus the reason for Peter Grant's **Gulls: A Guide to Identification**, which first appeared in 1982. Detailed plumage descriptions, augmented with the author's own line drawings, thoroughly covered all plumages and ages of the 23 species of gulls known from Europe and eastern North America. Most impressive, however, was the extensive collection of photos gathered to further illustrate everything discussed in the text. The quality of these black-and-white photos has been unequalled by any bird book — that is until 1986, when the second edition of **Gulls** appeared.

The new edition of this essential reference somehow manages to improve on the first and is definitely recommended even if you have the earlier version. Some 70 additional pages, in all, appear; almost half of the 544 photos are new ("only" 376 photos appeared in the first edition), and eight additional species from central and western North

America are now covered; these gulls, including Thayer's and California, were missing from the first edition because they had not been recorded in Europe where the book was published.

If *Gulls* has any faults or inaccuracies, they are pretty hard to find. Gull watching is not for everyone: it may present the most challenging of all bird identification difficulties — if you don't enjoy such challenges, there's no rule that requires you to deal with them; just call them sea gulls like everyone else and concentrate on things more colorful and easier to identify. But for those birders who wish to prepare themselves for any gull in any plumage, this guide is a basic necessity; again, even if you already own the first edition. It is a model for what all identification guides, whether general or specific, should aspire to. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**A BIRDWATCHER'S COOKBOOK**, by Erma J. Fisk, Illustrations by Louise Russell, W.W. Norton and Company, New York, 1987, 272 pages, \$15.95 Hardcover.

Every serious birder should have this book in amongst his references, maps, and gear as a vital guide to augment his quest for good birding. All too many birders forget about

that important component of a profitable day in the field and instead head for the nearest fast food spot or munch on candy-bars! Well, Erma has some help for you in this live and witty treatise that is much more than just another cookbook. In a letter to me, she says, "I wrote my cookbook reluctantly, my editor conned me into it." Being a renowned birder of world-wide scope, she probably knew that all too many birders might think this a book that belongs to the cook in the house; it does, but it is worth a read by all components of the bird world, if only to glean from it her wit and wisdom about many integral and peripheral aspects of our favorite pursuit. This is not to say that the book as a cookbook does not stand on its own merits. Her methods and the products produced by them are excellent; as a daily birder, I can attest to that, as I have tried several of her suggestions. Having myself studied the art/science of cooking in Paris, London and Washington, I appreciate the soundness of her method, as well as the creativity. Even if you are one of the relatively few who do "eat right," you will do well to read this book — both for new ideas on the subject, and for the pure joy of reading the wonderful words of this remarkable woman. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902**

## Development of a Suburban Wood Duck Nesting Colony in Bloomington, Minnesota

Harvey K. Nelson

When I moved back to Minneapolis from Virginia in 1979, I purchased a residence in west Bloomington, Minnesota that had mature oak trees in the backyard with the expectation that birds and other wildlife could be attracted to the area. It bordered on a larger wooded area to the rear that contained a small pond. I suspected there were Wood Ducks nesting in the area as someone had placed two Wood Duck houses in trees near the pond. When I closed on the house in mid-April, I saw a pair of Wood Ducks in an oak tree in

the back yard. I located two natural cavities in the wooded area that year that seemed to be used but I was unable to inspect them. There were no other Wood Duck houses in the area except the two along the pond.

On April 5, 1980, I erected one wood house. It was visited by one or more females during April but never used. In 1981 two females competed for the house during early April; one laid a clutch of 12 eggs, of which 10 hatched. Raccoons tried to enter the house on at least two occasions during incubation.



**Wood Duck houses, West Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by Harvey K. Nelson.**

I decided to add additional houses during the spring of 1982. From 1982 through 1987 I increased the number of houses to 13, as shown in Table 1. During April, 1984 my neighbor put up three additional houses. Because of problems with raccoons and squirrels, I converted to metal and fiberglass houses in 1987, except for those on one oak tree which has a predator guard.

During the period 1982-87, the nesting colony of Wood Ducks increased to at least 15 breeding pairs by 1987. More than that obviously frequent the area. On March 18, 1987, 26 Wood Ducks were observed in the area, the most seen in one day. While I have not color-marked or banded any ducks yet, it is apparent that the birds that first arrive between mid-March and early April are adults familiar with the area. Then, in late April there is another influx of new ducks, which I presume are young from the previous year. At least some of the females seem to enter specific houses immediately, even when another female is laying or incubating there. My assumption is that young females move

in with, and are accepted by, their mothers or sisters. Sometime this has resulted in dump nests and, in one case, two females incubated a total of 22 eggs, of which 18 hatched. Since 1983 there have been instances of two or more houses being used by a second female after the first nest hatched, and hatching a second brood from the same house.

As indicated in Table 2, during the period 1982-87 a total of 45 clutches totaling 654 eggs were laid, of which 401 hatched and 391 ducklings left the houses. Since this nesting colony of wood ducks is still increasing, the question is whether to continue to add more nesting structures. Drs. Walter Breckenridge and Frank Bellrose have both suggested I continue to do so, unless it becomes apparent that the number of dump nests increases beyond the present levels or the occupancy rate declines significantly over a three year period. I plan to expand my backyard study to include further evaluation of nesting structure, preference and performance, banding and marking.

This moderate effort clearly demonstrates

**Table 1: Wood Duck Houses Erected 1980-1987**

House No.	Year	Type
1 <sup>3/</sup>	1980	Wood, bolted to tree
2	1982	Metal cone, bolted to tree
3	1983	Metal cone, bolted to tree
4	1984	Fiberglass - Tubbs, attached to tree with 24" pipe
5	1984	Fiberglass - Tubbs, attached to tree with 24" pipe
6 <sup>3/</sup>	1984	Fiberglass - Tubbs, attached to tree with 24" pipe
7 <sup>3/</sup>	1984	Fiberglass - square container, bolted to tree
8	1986	Metal cone, bolted to tree
9 <sup>1/</sup>	1986	Wood/metal cone, bolted to tree
10 <sup>1/</sup>	1986	Wood/metal cone, bolted to tree
11 <sup>1/</sup>	1986	Wood/metal cone, bolted to tree
12	1987	Modified metal cylinder on angled pipe bracket
13 <sup>3/</sup>	1987	Wood, bolted to tree
14 <sup>2/</sup>	1984	Fiberglass - Tubbs, attached to tree with 24" pipe
15 <sup>2/</sup>	1984	Fiberglass - Tubbs, attached to tree with 24" pipe
16 <sup>2/</sup>	1984	Fiberglass - Tubbs, attached to tree with 24" pipe

1/ Replaced with metal cone type in 1987

2/ Neighbor's houses

3/ In one tree with predator guard

**Table 2: Wood Duck House Utilization and Success, 1980-1987**

YEAR	HOUSES AVAILABLE	HOUSES USED	CLUTCHES		EGGS LAID	EGGS HATCHED	DUCKLINGS LEAVING HOUSES	DUMP NESTS DESERTED
			LAID	SUCCESSFUL				
1980	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981	1	1	1	1	12	10	10	0
1982	2	2	2	2	30	26	26	0
1983	3	3	6	6	65	54	54	0
1984	7	4	4	4	60	48	47	0
1985	7	5	5	5	64	55	53	0
1986	12 <sup>1/</sup>	12	12	6	220	83	81	6 <sup>2/</sup>
1987	16 <sup>3/</sup>	13	15	13	203	125	120	2 <sup>4/</sup>
TOTALS (Where applicable)			45 <sup>5/</sup>	37	654	401	391	

1/ Includes clutch of 12 eggs in squirrel box; destroyed by raccoon.

2/ Includes one dump nest of 38 eggs from which 29 eggs were hatched by one female; two additional dump nests of 51 eggs and 22 eggs, both deserted; clutches of 17 eggs, 15 eggs and 13 eggs deserted late June.

3/ Includes three houses on neighbors lot erected in 1984 but limited use and incomplete records until 1987.

4/ Clutches of one egg and 18 eggs deserted.

5/ Actual total clutches laid unknown because of two to four females laying in some dump nests.

the potential for attracting breeding pairs of Wood Ducks to a suburban residential area that has proper mature trees, a suitable wetland to attract pairs and support ducklings for a short time, and a certain degree of protec-

tion from predators. Significant numbers of Wood Ducks were produced. It also provided many hours of personal enjoyment for me, my family, neighbors and friends. **10515 Kell Ave., Bloomington, MN 55439**



## NOTES OF INTEREST

**MINNESOTA'S SECOND YELLOW-BILLED LOON** — On October 17, 1987, during a field trip on Hawk Ridge's October Weekend, a juvenile Yellow-billed Loon was seen by myself and approximately 30 other birders at Stoney Point in St. Louis County. We were especially looking for loons that morning because of a report of a Pacific Loon the day before, and when a loon was spotted that, to me, appeared paler on the back of the neck (a Pacific Loon field mark), I set up my 40X spotting scope for a better look. The loon appeared too large to be a Pacific Loon, and the irregular pattern on the side of the neck also suggested Common Loon (there is a straight line down the side of a Pacific Loon's neck), but it became apparent that this was a Yellow-billed Loon and everyone's attention was directed to it. We watched the loon from about 10 to 11 a.m. at an estimated distance of 150-200 yards; although we were looking south, the sun was not a problem because of overcast conditions. During part of the time two or three Common Loons were also visible for comparison.

Following is a description of the loon as taken from field notes written just after the observation and before any references were consulted.

— A large-bodied and large-billed loon, suggesting Common Loon.

— Back and sides appeared browner and paler than Common Loon with obvious transverse barring on the back caused by pale feather edging; this barring appeared to form relatively long and straight lines across the back.

— The rear end (wing tips, tail and lower flanks) was a darker and more solid color and was the darkest part of the bird.

— There was a prominent and very noticeable bump or bulge above the eye at the forehead, giving the head profile a distinctively different shape than a Common Loon.

— The bill was consistently held slightly uptilted and appeared thicker, and thus more blunt, than Common Loon; it was not possible to see the color of the culmen because of the distance involved, but it looked no darker than the sides of the bill, and the tips of both mandibles were clearly pale (unlike the other loons seen that day which all had dark tips); the color of the bill did not look yellow but it did appear paler and more horn-color than Common Loon.

— Aside from the white chest and foreneck, the grayish buff sides of the neck and face were the palest part of the loon, obviously much paler than any Common Loon; the area above and in front of the eye was darker brown.

— Also obvious was a round dark brown smudge or spot on the ear coverts which stood out well against the pale head; this spot was perhaps two or three times the size of the eye, and was most clearly delineated on the lower, front and back edges of the spot; the top of the spot faded and blended in with the darker crown.

Including this individual, I have seen three Yellow-billed Loons in this plumage (including the one at Two Harbors in 1980), and all three showed the diagnostic paleness on the face and neck and the distinct smudge on the ear coverts. If we had been sure that the culmen, or at least its distal half, was not black, that alone would also have been diagnostic. The back pattern, bulge above the eye and bill shape described above are also suggestive of Yellow-billed Loon but are not completely diagnostic features. At any rate, the loon flew off in a southwestern direction towards Duluth as it was being watched, but it was relocated at Brighton Beach near the mouth of the Lester River around noon. Terry Savaloja, who also has experience with this species and plumage, was among the observers there, and he concurred in my identification. Various other observers also reported seeing the loon later that afternoon or the next day, but I have not discussed their observations with them, and I am not certain whether or not the loon was seen for sure after it left Brighton Beach. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**TENNESSEE WARBLER ON GRAND MARAIS CBC** — While participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count in Grand Marais, Cook County on December 19, 1987, I discovered in a wooded alley within the town a very healthy looking warbler. The bird was initially spotted by Penny Rahn and she at once called it to my attention. We both observed what I knew immediately to be a Tennessee Warbler from a distance of 20 feet with 7X35 binoculars. The bird seemed to be pecking at an apple on a dwarfed and abandoned tree growing in the thick brushy alleyway. As the bird was no more than five feet off the ground, our initial view of the warbler was excellent. The bird then flew high into a dense conifer and we saw the bird only briefly as it moved through thick branches before flying off again. We were unable to relocate it. This initial observation occurred about 11 a.m. and lasted less than a minute. It was 30 degrees with no wind, the sky was overcast and observation conditions were excellent. At 3:45 p.m., I returned to the area with another count participant interested in seeing the warbler. We were about 300 feet from the apple tree where the bird had been spotted in the morning. The small green and yellow bird flew past us and landed 15 to 20 feet from us at eye level in a small deciduous shrub. It perched there long enough to allow both of us to observe it in binoculars (7X35 and 6X30). It was still cloudy but bright enough to see color and detail clearly. After 20 seconds or so the warbler flew again and we lost sight of it.

I identified the bird as a Tennessee Warbler because of the small thin bill, small size, unmarked green back, greenish wings without wing bars, clear light lemon yellow breast and belly, greenish head and pale eye strip. The bird was not a Nashville Warbler; it lacked the characteristic eye ring and was very green dorsally, and it was not a vireo because of the thin bill and general head shape. I also eliminated the Orange-crowned Warbler, a much duller green bird, with much less contrast between back color and breast-belly color, (the breast and belly of Orange-crowned Warblers I have had experience with being only a shade lighter than the back, always with dull streaking and never being the clear yellow of the bird I had observed). I am unable to say if the color under the tail was white or yellow, a field character referred to in many field guides to distinguish Tennessee (white) from Orange-crowned (yellow). However, according to Godfrey in *Birds of Canada*, the Tennessee Warbler may show yellow under the tail so this is not a completely diagnostic field mark. Where I live, the Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo are summer residents and the Orange-crowned Warbler is a spring and fall migrant so I am familiar with the field marks of all four species and did not consult field guides and other literature until the evening of count day, approximately four hours after the last observation. In discussing the sighting with people living nearby, I found that the warbler had been visiting two feeders. The observer at one feeder was unable to see the bird well enough to identify or describe it in any detail, other than to say it was a small green bird. Mrs. Marion Quick, however, described the bird to me including color and eye stripe, and said she had thought it was perhaps a Tennessee Warbler. It fed on a suet, peanut butter, nut meat mixture in a feeding log she had hanging about eight feet from her window. Even more amazing was that only

a week prior to the bird count, she had seen two of these warblers appear together at her feeder. They were, as she described, the same species. We attempted to locate the bird again on December 23rd but, with camera in hand, had no luck. The bird has not been seen again at either of the above mentioned feeders. I believe that three factors may have contributed to this unusual winter sighting: 1) the large number of nesting Tennessee Warblers present in the spruce budworm-infested forests above Grand Marais this past summer; 2) the unusually moderate fall and winter weather northeast Minnesota has had through the third week in December; and 3) according to Terres in the *Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, the Tennessee Warbler "comes to feeding stations for ripe bananas, suet, peanut butter mixture." - a suet and peanut butter mixture was, as previously described, provided at Marion Quick's feeder.

It is sad to think this bird will certainly perish. I will always remember those exciting minutes watching the small green and yellow jewel of a bird, bright against the snow, fine and delicate and somehow exotic.

The following are paragraphs to expand on the above description and perhaps clarify some points:

It is from a personal prejudice that I find it difficult to accept the emphasis that most field guides place on a field mark for the Tennessee Warbler in fall plumage, the white crissum or undertail coverts. My prejudice is due in part to living in an area where Tennessee Warblers are common throughout the breeding season, which means that it is not unusual for me to see birds just after fledging. Young Tennessee Warblers are difficult to tell from young Nashville Warblers but identification is often facilitated by the fact that for a period after fledging the young are kept close to the attending parents, feeding and moving as a small family group. The young Tennessee Warblers are often completely washed ventrally with yellow. An incomplete post-juvenile molt is said to occur about the middle of July. Males should then acquire the white belly and undertail coverts while females, according to Bent in *Life Histories of the North American Wood Warblers*, "having the lower parts more washed with olive-green." In personal observations of many Tennessee Warblers during fall migration, I have seen numbers of this species with a light clear yellow breast, only slightly lighter on the belly and becoming lighter but not white under the tail. I have not considered it unusual to see such birds, and so the occurrence of an individual (the sighting of December 19th) that appeared so distinctly yellow on the breast and belly was not a surprise, and to find that the bird did not have a distinct white undertail coverts was also not a field character that concerned me. It has been reassuring to read in *The Birds of Canada*, 1979 edition by Godfrey, the following as he describes the adult female Tennessee Warbler in fall plumage: "and underparts yellow becoming more whitish on belly and undertail coverts (which sometimes are decidedly yellowish, however)." From what I have observed of fall warblers, the distinction between the under tail coverts color of the Orange-crowned Warbler and that of the Tennessee Warbler is not difficult to see and combined with other field marks serves to separate the species. Aside from the most obvious dull green-gray look of the Orange-crowned Warbler and dull streaking of the breast, a field mark which seems evident is the yellow of the crissum. In some Orange-crowned Warblers, the crissum appears to be the most yellow part of the whole bird and I have never observed this to be true in the Tennessee Warbler. The underparts of the Tennessee may be yellowish from breast to under the tail but it is always the breast that is the most yellow and the crissum that is palest. Although most fall Tennessee Warblers have white under the tail coverts, which is a distinct field mark, there are still a number of yellow-wash birds that do not show this white, or at least not as a distinct field mark. It is for these reasons I feel this field mark (white undertail coverts) is not critical to the identification of those fall Tennessee Warblers whose ventral plumage is so decidedly washed with yellow.

In the original written report of this sighting, I stated that weather in the area had been very mild and, therefore, could have been a factor contributing to the survival of this late migrant. Following is a summary of the temperatures recorded at the weather station in Grand Marais. The highest temperature in November was 53° F., and, of the daily high temperatures recorded for the month, only two were below freezing (28° F. on the 19th and

26° F. on the 20th). Nighttime low temperatures were also mild with only one brief cold spell, the 20th and 21st, recording 18° F. and 9° F. respectively. Ten of the nighttime low readings were above freezing. December continued mild. Twelve of the 18 days before CBC day were at or above freezing, and nighttime lows remained mild with only one cold spell, a string of five nights with temperatures into the teens. These cold nights, however, were always followed by moderate day temperatures. The coldest December day was the 17th with a high temperature of 23° F. and a low of 8° F. November and the first part of December were unusually mild months. Grand Marais was often warmer than the rest of the state and experienced none of the major snow storms that occurred in the more southerly parts of the region.

The Tennessee Warbler remained in the area for at least another week, perhaps longer, as reported by Gail Webb. She saw two different warblers coming in at various times to her feeders. One was distinguished from the other as being a more yellow bird. Tim Webb's subsequent sighting and write-up of the Orange-crowned Warbler (see below), further confirmed the presence of the two species. A cold spell late in December appears to have been more than either bird could survive and no warbler sightings were introduced in January. **Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 30, Grand Marais, MN 55604**

**Editor's Note: The above record late date for a Tennessee Warbler in Grand Marais Cook County, in December is one of the most amazing records for the state. The Tennessee Warbler winters in Mexico south to northern South America; very rarely in south Texas. The previous late date for the state was November 7!**

**MINNESOTA'S SECOND LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** — On November 28, 1987, Paul Egeland, Mary Gabrys and I decided to head up to Grand Marais to look over the numerous gulls being attracted to the fish processing operation in the harbor. After studying the several hundred Herring Gulls and the few Glaucous Gulls present, Paul and I independently noticed an immature gull whose combination of dark bill, whitish head, foreneck and chest, and dark upperparts made it look different than any immature Herring Gull present. I called it to Paul's attention, and he replied that he had noticed this same gull earlier. We then studied the bird more closely with my Nikon 40X ED spotting scope and Paul's Questar set at 80X at a range of about 80 yards. We then approached the gull to within 20 yards as it stood with Herring Gulls, and, as Paul attempted to get photos (only one was clear enough for identification purposes), I further studied the gull with 10X binoculars. The sky was overcast at the time, so the sun was not a factor (but if it had been shining it would have been at our backs). After we thought we had studied and photographed the standing gull as much as possible, I approached the gull to make it fly so we could study its spread wing and tail pattern. It did fly a short distance out over the harbor and settled down among other swimming Herring Gulls.

Following is a description of the gull as taken from field notes written during the observation, without consulting any field guides. Head, sides and front of neck, and chest white with no visible flecking; nape, hindneck and belly streaked with pale grayish tan. Legs dull pink, same color as immature Herrings. Eye dark or black. Distal third of bill black, basal two-thirds brownish black, almost as dark as the distal third with no obvious contrast; length and especially width of bill smaller than all adjacent Herring Gulls; bill of more uniform thickness (or thinness) with no obvious gonydeal angle or bulbous tip. Head, neck and overall body size also slightly but obviously smaller and thinner than all adjacent Herring Gulls. Folded wing tips blackish; rest of folded wing mostly dark brown overall with pale feather edges; a darker shade overall than most first-winter Herrings. Back and scapulars as dark as the wings but more solid in color (no pale feather edges), a mixed brownish gray, more gray than brown, with the shade of gray definitely darker than the paler gray backs of all Herring Gulls present (second-winter and older). Upper tail surface blackish brown, darker than most first-winter Herrings. Upper tail coverts whiter than most first-winter Herrings, not as white as in second-winter Herrings, but showing a more obvious contrast



**First winter Lesser Black-backed Gull, November 28, 1987, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Paul Egeland.**

with the dark tail than first-winter Herring. In flight, primaries and secondaries uniformly dark brown with no paler inner primaries as in first-winter Herring Gull. Greater coverts also appeared dark brown, the same color as the secondaries; rest of coverts a paler, medium brown. Paul had the impression that in flight the wings appeared to be proportionally longer and thinner than a Herring Gull.

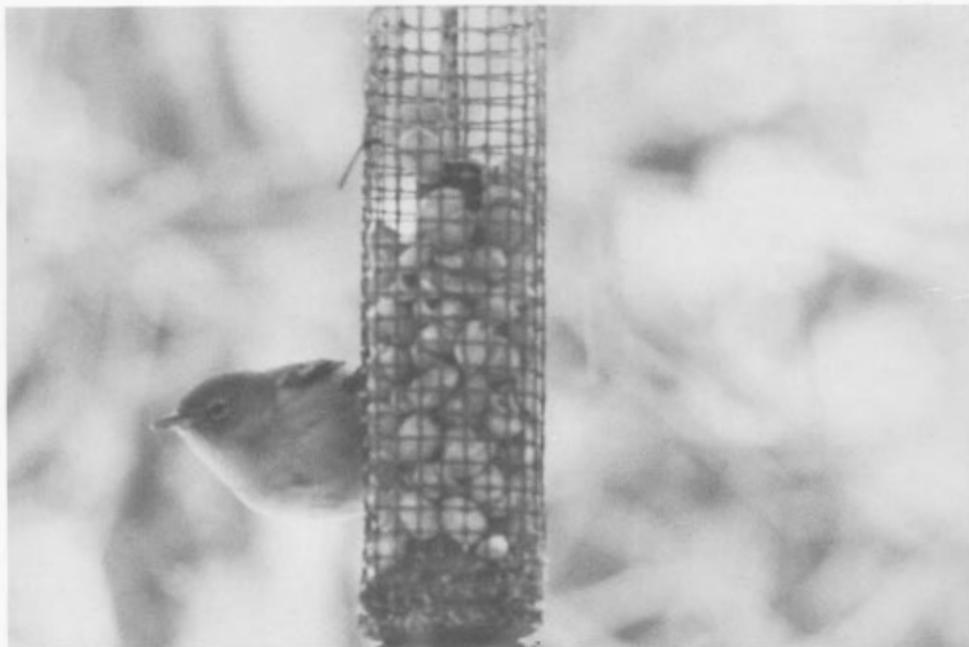
After the field notes were written, we consulted the field guides and felt we had seen an immature Lesser Black-backed Gull, based on the darker shade of gray on the back, the contrast between the tail and uppertail coverts, the darker inner primaries and greater secondary coverts, and because of the smaller size of the bill, head and neck. However, we had no experience with immature Lesser Black-backed, we were unsure of its age (it mostly looked like a first-winter gull, except that the presence of gray on the back suggested second-winter designation as in Herring and Glaucous Gulls), and none of our references, including Grant's gulls guide, made any reference to the contrasting whitish appearance of the head, foreneck and chest. It was decided to send our description and Paul's photo to Rick Blom and Claudia Wilds, two experienced East Coast birders with known expertise with Lesser Black-backed Gulls of all ages. Both wrote back agreeing that our gull was entirely consistent with Lesser Black-backed Gull, and further that it was a first-winter bird. They indicated that, unlike Herring Gulls, first-winter Lesser Black-backed normally have solid gray coloration on the back and scapulars, and that second-winter birds (like the one seen at Black Dog Lake a few weeks later) have more extensive and more solid gray on the mantle, making them more closely resemble adults. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**SABINE'S GULL AT LAKE LILLIAN** — On 12 September 1987, Bill Litkey and I were birding in the Lake Lillian area of Kandiyohi County. Skies were cloudy, but viewing conditions were excellent. We were watching the numerous gulls flying over the fields adjoining the Lake Lillian sewage ponds. Bill spotted the Sabine's Gull, and I immediately got my binoculars on the bird and noted the striking wing pattern: black primaries, white secondaries and gray extending from the mantle to the upper wing. The black head was also very noticeable. We did not note the tail shape, nor were the color of the bill and legs noted during the brief look at the bird. However, the diagnostic wing pattern made us certain that this individual was a Sabine's Gull. **Ray Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

**WINTER ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER IN GRAND MARAIS** — Just a few days before the Grand Marais Christmas Bird Count, my wife, Gail, remarked to me that she had seen a “little green bird” at our feeder. Any green bird is exciting in December, but she only saw it for an instant on two occasions and couldn’t identify it. During our mid-day regrouping on the day of the CBC, Molly Hoffman reported a Tennessee Warbler in an alleyway about 200 feet from my house. She later reconfirmed her identification with another, better sighting of the same bird. And so, we thought, our visitor had been found. Later in the week, Molly told me she had talked to one of my neighbors who had seen two green birds at her feeder. This neighbor lives right near the spot where the Tennessee Warbler was seen on CBC day. Repeated afternoon searches by myself and other local birders failed to produce another sighting. At about 11:00 a.m. on December 27, 1987, my wife noticed an odd bird at our back feeding tray. I grabbed the binoculars and started dictating notes to her. A description of the bird, from my field notes, follows: the bird, apparently a warbler, had yellow undertail coverts, faint streaking on breast and belly, grayish on sides of face, and possibly a white eye-ring (the bird was flicking seeds from side to side with its bill, making facial marks difficult to see); general coloring was dull olive above, dull yellow below, being brightest yellow at the undertail coverts, with some yellow possibly up the sides of the rump (as seen from above when the wings were flicked open); no wing bars were present. The bird moved from our back feeder into the brush behind our house and eventually came around to the front feeder tray on the south side of the house. Observations were made with 7X35 binoculars at distances of 20 to 50 feet for about 5 minutes. Conditions were calm, mostly cloudy, and 22° F. My wife remarked to me that this individual was more of a “little gray bird,” and probably not the brighter-toned bird she had seen before. I called Molly Hoffman after the bird left and told her I thought it was an Orange-crowned Warbler, not a Tennessee. She reminded me that two green birds had been seen, and that both species being present was certainly possible. I felt that the breast/belly streaking, combined with yellow undertail coverts, confirmed my identification, but I didn’t mind getting a second opinion. As luck would have it, both Ken and Molly Hoffman got a look at the bird later that week and agreed that it was an Orange-crowned Warbler. Although I have seen many Tennessee Warblers, this was my first sighting of an Orange-crowned. I never expected that my first one would be at a feeder in late December! This is the latest date on record for this species in Minnesota and the only winter record for the north. A Ramsey County record exists for December 4-13, 1968. The most unusual part of this story is that we had two different warbler species at the same place during late December. We had several unusual species on our local CBC, but this pair takes top honors for the winter.

**Timothy Webb, P.O. Box 822, Grand Marais, MN 55604**

**A WINTER PINE WARBLER** — This is a rather belated report but one that is a significant winter record for the state. In early January 1987, Ben Thoma of Willmar, Kandiyohi County, reported that a warbler had been coming to the feeding station of Walter Hinz, 1018 Willmar Ave. W. in Willmar, since mid-December 1986. On January 14, 1987, Ben sent me six photographs that he had taken of the bird on January 10. One of the photographs is reproduced below. It was not until January 29, 1987, that Ray Glassel and I were able to get to Willmar to try and observe the bird. It was a clear but very cold, about zero, day with a slight north wind in the afternoon. After about an hour wait at the Hinz’s feeder, we saw the bird come to a window feeder at the back of the house. To get a better view of the bird we went outside. We found the bird huddled among some leaves in a window-well at the back of the house. The bird appeared to be under great stress because of the cold. The bird was an obvious warbler, approximately 4½” long; thin bill; overall coloration above an olive-green tending toward gray on the crown; two white wing bars quite obvious; the sides of the head a grayish-green with a broken eye ring evident. The throat, breast, belly and undertail coverts were generally white with a yellow wash on the sides of the breast. At one time when we were looking down at the bird in direct sunlight, I thought I noted streaks on the back, but these disappeared in different lights. I believe these lines were separations in



**Pine Warbler, December, 1987, Willmar, Kandiyohi County. Photo by Ben Thoma.**

the feathers of the back and not plumage colorations. They might have been due to the stress the bird was under. To the best of my knowledge, the bird was never seen after January 29, 1987. This represents the second winter record for the Pine Warbler in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**ADULT ICELAND GULL IN GRAND MARAIS** — Between 10 and 11 A.M. on December 10, 1987, in the tourist park marina at Grand Marais, Cook County, we observed a large gathering of gulls. The marina breakwater, docks, building rooftops and ice of the partially frozen marina were all covered with gulls. The harbor seemed filled with floating gulls, and gulls could be seen well out on the lake in every direction. It was overcast with occasional short periods of sun, mild, and nearly calm in the marina which was sheltered from a light lake breeze. The light conditions were excellent as we studied individual gulls with 7X35 binoculars and a 20X scope. A gull landed on the marina ice about 75 feet directly in front of us. We noted the pure white wing tips as the bird landed and then continued to observe the gull for about 20 minutes. The bird walked on the ice and preened, and finally departed as about half of the gulls took to the air. We observed the gull in flight until it became obscured in the huge wheeling flock. The gull, as we had observed it walking among Herring Gulls, was indistinguishable from Herring Gulls in body size, head shape and bill size, but was distinctly smaller than any of the seven Glaucous Gulls we were also observing. The head, neck, breast and belly were white, with light brown streaking on the top and sides of the head. The mantle was gray, and only a very little lighter than the mantles of the adult Herring Gulls. The rump and tail were all white, the bill was yellow with a red spot on the distal portion of the lower mandible; the iris was yellow; and the legs pink-gray. Because the size, bill proportions, head, neck and mantle color were so similar to the adult Herring Gulls, it was very difficult to scan with binoculars and pick this gull out from the Herring Gull pack unless the wing tips could be seen. The primaries were all white, without any barring or marks. We observed an immature Glaucous Gull about 50 feet from us whose

wing tips extended just barely beyond the tail, and compared this with the gull we were studying whose wings extended well beyond the tail, about the same as observed of nearby adult Herring Gulls. We concluded the gull must be an adult Iceland Gull. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 30, Grand Marais, MN 55604**

**ALBINO AMERICAN KESTREL AT DULUTH** — On August 23, 1987, I was observing a pair of nesting Chimney Swifts when I noticed an out-of-place, white object on the tip of a small short pine at the edge of a group of pines about 100 yards from me. The site lies within a residential area and, in addition to being well traveled by pedestrians, is at the perimeter of a large open area consisting of mowed lawns, interspersed with a few planted white spruces. Using binoculars I could see that the white object was a bird, and that it was facing away from me. Soon it turned so it was facing about 45 degrees away from me, and I could then see the dark, vertical markings of an American Kestrel on the side of its head and that it had a raptor's bill. I took a couple steps in its direction; it immediately and swiftly flushed. Its size, wing shape, and manner of flight further confirmed that it was an albino American Kestrel. **Jeff R. Newman, 4401 Regent St., Duluth, MN 55804**

**HARLEQUIN DUCK AT LAKE HARRIET** — On December 16, 1987, Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet in south Minneapolis were still completely open, so I was surprised when I returned with Jim Pomplun on the 17th to find that they had frozen over during the night. The only open water at Lake Harriet was an area about 150 by 100 feet in the southwest corner. Many of the water birds I'd seen the day before were now concentrated in this small patch of water: a couple hundred Mallards, an American Black Duck, a Gadwall, several Common Goldeneyes, a pair of Buffleheads and about ten coots. With these birds, and quite inconspicuous as it floated among them with its head tucked in, was an immature male Harlequin Duck. We watched the Harlequin Duck from about 1:20 to 1:45 p.m. with 7X35 and 7X26 binoculars, from as close as 75 feet. During most of this time, it kept its head tucked in, but occasionally it swam with its head up. It was a round-headed duck, a little smaller than the goldeneyes. The body was dark brown except for a lighter, mottled breast. The head was also dark brown, with three white spots on the face, an extensive crescent-shaped area between the bill and the eye, a very well-defined circle below and behind the eye, and an ill-defined vertical stripe behind this circle, on the upper part of the neck. The bill was gray, with some dull yellow at the tip. As it swam, its tail was held slightly out of the water. Other birders were called, and we spent another half-hour observing the Harlequin Duck with Evelyn Stanley, Barbara Galambos and Ray Glassel. Don Bolduc also saw the bird and took some photographs. Apparently it left the lake soon after we did, because it was not seen after 3:00 p.m. This is the first record of a Harlequin Duck in Hennepin County. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408**

**LARK SPARROW IN COOK COUNTY** — In the midst of the excitement of all the spring arrivals came a bird that added even more fun to the season, a bird accidental to northeast Minnesota: a Lark Sparrow. It was under the feeder when I got home on April 13, 1987, after four days away, so its arrival might have been as early as April 10. Whatever the exact date, it's among the earliest on record for northern Minnesota. The sparrow was around for six days, coming several times a day to the feeder area. Among all the bird activity, the Lark Sparrow was especially showy with its flashy black/white/chestnut face pattern, clear breast with conspicuous black spot and white corners of the tail that showed clearly anytime it flew. This one (unlike our other Lark Sparrow visitor of May 14, 1983, which fed mostly on the feeder) made itself comfortable on the ground, deer or no deer trampling around. I guessed it must be used to big animals; it barely got out from under deers' hooves when they came for corn. I saw the bird last on April 17, 1987. **Ellen Hawkins, Tofte, MN 55615**

**THE WINTER OF THE VARIED THRUSH** — The winter of 1987-1988 might well be called "The Winter of the Varied Thrush." It is almost as though someone stood on the Minnesota-Dakota border with a cannon loaded with members of this species and scattered them all over Minnesota. They have showed up in all corners of the state: Holt in Marshall County in the northwest; two in Grand Marais, Cook County in the northeast; Lake Shetek in Murray County in the southwest; Caledonia in Houston County and Minneiska in Winona County in the southeast. In between, they have been seen in Owatonna in Steele County; near Steamboat Bay in Cass County; near Aitkin in Aitkin County, in Brainerd, Crow Wing County — in all, so far, in 15 different locations. Although this species is listed in Bob Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota* as a regular winter migrant from the West, they have never been recorded in so many areas of the state before this year. The plumages of the various birds seen have varied from a brilliant male at Art Stanger's home in Murray County, to a young male's not-as-brilliant plumage at the McEvelly's in Caledonia, to a more muted male plumage seen at the Heaser's in Minneiska. But, in any plumage, this bird is a joy to behold and we have been very lucky this winter to have had so many opportunities and locations for seeing this usually uncommon species. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902**

**Editor's Note:** There was only one Varied Thrush reported in the metropolitan Minneapolis/St. Paul area and none in Duluth where the majority of previous records have come from.



**Male Varied Thrush, January 9, 1988, Lake Shetek, Murray County. Photo by Henry Kyllingstad.**

**LATE DATE FOR THE CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** — On November 13, 1987, Joan Johnson and I were on one of our many walks through the Sucker Channel, Sucker Lake and woods area of Lake Vadnais in Ramsey County. The exact spot of our observation was in the woods and swamp area where a winter feeder is usually maintained, but it was not yet up. There was much bird activity. We saw a Brown Creeper there and heard a Pileated Woodpecker and there were many chickadees. Suddenly Joan called out that she

had a small bird which she could not immediately identify. We watched it above us and saw it fly much nearer to a bush. It was in direct sunlight. Because of the time of year and because it was small, she thought at first that it must be a kinglet. When we saw the beautiful colors, we knew that it had to be a warbler. As I reported on the MOU Hot Line, it was "incredibly beautiful" with its lime green back and nape and bright yellow wing bars. We hurried to the car and consulted our field guides. Joan pointed to the fall Chestnut-sided Warbler. That was it. **Ilene Haner, 1993 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.**

**WHITE-EYED VIREO AT NEW ULM** — At noon on May 17, 1987, after spending a few hours checking nests and observing mostly migrant warblers, I was walking along a service road which passed through a marshy and wooded area in Flandrau State Park. The skies were fair, but by noon the high heat and humidity were quite uncomfortable. I didn't pay much attention to the catbird-like calls coming from the brushy growth under some tall cottonwood trees alongside the marsh until they continued on without the usual degree of variation. My interest peaked quickly, and before I could see the bird, I heard the distinctive "tic wor tick" part of the White-eyed Vireo's song. I recognized the song from the time I saw and heard the vireo near this area in May 1964, and from recordings of bird songs. One call was like a typical vireo call. Other calls or songs were a jumble of notes like that of a Gray Catbird. I observed the vireo with 10X50 binoculars at a distance of about 40 feet, looking downward a bit from the top of the road and looking into the direction of the sun, which was at its peak height and reduced in intensity by some high cloudiness. The vireo was feeding at a height of five to ten feet above the ground, deliberate in its movements. I watched it for several minutes while it was alternately in view and hidden by foliage. I wrote the following description in my notes. Plain grayish vireo type in general; olive-gray back and head with some yellow atop head. Grayish tail and wings (two whitish wing bars). Grayish-white bottom with some light yellow on chest and especially along sides; black bill, typical heavier-than-warbler vireo type. Eyes have white iris. From song and appearance, I had thought it probably was a young male. I returned to this area the following morning but I was unable to see or hear the vireo again. **Jack Sprenger, 615 N. Jefferson St., New Ulm, MN 56703**

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL RECORD IN WABASHA COUNTY** — On November 21, 1987, I was out trying to relocate a Snowy Owl which had been found the previous weekend near Reads Landing, Wabasha County. An hour or more of searching the area — about a mile south of the junction of county roads 10 and 20 in Wabasha County — had yielded little except several deer hunters. It was a clear day but crisp; I was in my car warming up, my binoculars laid aside, when I saw off the east a very large bird flying towards me. At a distance of a half a mile, I thought it might be one of the many Bald Eagles present in the area. But as it flew closer, I noted something different about the way it was flying — on deep slow steady wing-beats, its manner deliberate, that was reminiscent of the Great Black-backed Gulls seen on the East Coast of the U.S. I grabbed my binoculars and got out of the car. As it flew toward me, I could see that it was, in fact, a very large gull with a white head, body and tail, with light underwings. The upperside of the wing, however, was dark — not darker at the wing-tips, but a uniform dark slate or sooty color with a few spots of white very near the tip of the wing. As it flew closer still, I could see that the bird had a huge heavy yellow bill with a spot of reddish on it; the bill was much larger than those of the Herring Gulls that I had been seeing working the nearby cultivated fields. Then, as it passed directly over my head, I could see that its legs were flesh-colored, and not the pink of the Herring Gulls. I watched it for maybe three or four minutes as it flew west, roughly parallel to the course of the river. I got back in the car and with numb fingers wrote field notes, then checked Bob Janssen's *Birds In Minnesota* for occurrence of the Great Black-backed Gull in Minnesota. As I suspected, this species had not been recorded in this part of the state; in fact, nowhere in the state except at Duluth. I checked *National*

*Geographic Field Guide*, and Heinzel and Tuck's *Seabirds* for field marks. After several minutes of reflection, I was convinced that I had seen a Great Black-backed Gull so I went off to join Bruce Fall and the Bell group — not having seen the Snowy Owl, but having seen a totally unexpected species. Such is the joy of Birding; it surely keeps you on your toes. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902**

**Editor's Note: The above record is, as indicated, the first in Minnesota away from the Duluth area. I have wondered for many years why there had not been any records of this species away from Duluth as there are records in the Mississippi River Valley as far south as St. Louis, Missouri. Anne Marie Plunkett's excellent report finally expands the known range of the Great Black-backed Gull in the state.**

**HARLEQUIN DUCK AT WHITEWATER** — On January 14, 1988, I was driving through the Whitewater Wildlife Area just north of Elba in Winona County. This is a trip I make quite frequently. As I drove by a pond that is kept open year around by a spring, I noticed a duck, one that I had never seen before. I drove up the road a short distance to get my camera out and ready. I then turned around, went back, and made several shots out of the window of my car. When I got home I looked the duck up in my bird book and, as close as I could tell, it had to be a Harlequin Duck. Later, when my slides came back from Kodak, they proved that my identification was correct. I made several trips back to the area, but did not see the duck again. **Jack B. Huhnerkoch, Box 201, Lewiston, MN 55952**



**Harlequin Duck, January 14, 1988, Whitewater Wildlife Management Area, Winona County. Photo by Jack Huhnerkoch.**

**NESTING WOOD THRUSH NEAR EAST GRAND FORKS** — While surveying for nesting grebes at the sewage lagoons north of East Grand Forks, Polk County, on June 17, 1987, I approached the woodlands of the Red River bordering the west side of the north lagoon in order to better hear what I believed to be a warbler song. I did not hear that particular song again, but just as I entered the trees, a Wood Thrush clearly sang nearby. I was unable to confirm visually the identification and then decided to look carefully through the trees for a nest. I immediately found the nest in front of me in a 25-foot sapling and was able to leisurely study the occupant, a heavily spotted thrush, through my 20-power scope. The nest, located about 15 feet from the ground in a prominent fork, was a cup with a considerable amount of coarse grass trailing for several inches below it. On my next visit, July 4, the nest was empty and no Wood Thrushes were found in the vicinity. According to *Birds in Minnesota* (1987), the previous northwestward-most record for this species in Minnesota was at Maple Lake, Polk County, which is about 50 miles southeast of the nest I located. Wood Thrushes are seen during most spring migrations at Grand Forks, North Dakota and there are nesting records for North Dakota on both the Sheyenne and Goose Rivers. On July 21, 1979, I heard a Wood Thrush singing a few miles farther north of East Grand Forks on the Minnesota side of the Red River. The Wood Thrush is probably a very rare nester along the Red River and most of its tributaries, which generally have the westernmost remnants of the eastern deciduous forest along their banks. **David O. Lambeth, 1909 29th Ave. S., Grand Forks, ND 58201.**



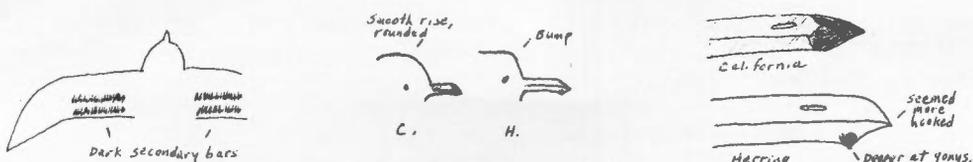
**Wood Thrush nest, July 4, 1987, East Grand Forks, Polk County. Photo by David O. Lambeth.**

**OBSERVATIONS OF AMERICAN ROBINS WITH UNUSUAL PLUMAGE CHARACTERISTICS** — On April 22, 1987, while birding along 89th Avenue North in Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County. I observed a melanistic American Robin feeding in a stubble field with a flock of approximately 100 normally colored American Robins. The melanistic bird stood out in sharp contrast to the nearby normally colored individuals. The gray and the rufous colored plumage of the melanistic individual were estimated to be 30% to 50% darker than those of the nearby normally colored birds. The tips of the primary feathers and the distal one-third of the tail feathers were considerably darker than the remaining portions of the primaries or tail feathers. Bill color of the melanistic bird was similar to that of a normal bird. The nape area was lighter in color than the feathers of the head and back, but darker than that of normally plumaged birds. There was one area of partial albinism on this individual; a white patch of feathers was observed on the upper left side of the breast. The above observations were made with 8X binoculars and a 20X telescope, with the closest approach to the bird being about 40 yards. Sky cover was partly cloudy with distinct shadows being formed. On September 13, 1987, I saw an American Robin with partial albinism and schizochromism at my home in Brooklyn Park. This bird had several white feathers throughout its plumage and the normal colors were much reduced in intensity. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445**

**AN EARLY WATER PIPIT** — Water Pipits along the BWCA lakeshores during the fall colors time in late September and early October are a pleasant sight, frequently seen by canoeists and fisher people. In early August, these shores host Spotted Sandpipers and breeding warblers in St. Louis County. On August 8, 1987, the presumed Spotted Sandpiper that flew up as we trolled in West Twin Lake showed a passerine tail and no down-curved wings. It dropped back among the rocks and walked sedately pumping its tail. We studied it for a minute in good light with 7X42 binoculars at about 50 feet. It had white outer tail feathers, a buff breast with indistinct pale tan spots, and an unstreaked gray back. It was a Water Pipit presumably migrating a month earlier than usual. **Doug and Betty Campbell, 4917 Russell Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410.**

**Editors Note: The previous early date for the Water Pipit in the fall was September 3. Thus the above date is truly extraordinary.**

**ANOTHER CALIFORNIA GULL IN MINNEAPOLIS** — On 29 and 30 October 1987, I saw a first-winter California Gull in south Minneapolis. On the 29th I first saw it just off the southwest shore of Lake Harriet. (This was also the site in 1985 of the first Hennepin County record of this species; *The Loon* 58:16-18). Later, I saw it at Thomas Beach on the south end of Lake Calhoun. On both occasions, the bird flew away before I had a satisfactory look. The following morning, October 30, at about 9:15 a.m., I again found the California Gull on Thomas Beach, this time standing between two adult Herring Gulls and six or seven Ring-billed Gulls. I positioned myself so that the sun was directly behind me and, over a twenty minute period, slowly approached to within 55 feet of the gulls, stopping at intervals to study them with 7X35 binoculars and a 20-45X spotting scope. The following observations are based on notes taken during this final sighting. Plumage: overall light tannish in color, lighter than most young Herring Gulls; underparts a fairly uniform buff-tannish, lightest at throat, darkening to a brownish-tan at breast, and darker yet at belly; undertail coverts tannish-white, barred with brown; head washed tannish, streaked, lightest in face and back of crown, darkening toward nape, somewhat dusker around eye, but not conspicuously so; mantle and scapulars tannish, similar to breast color; wings scaly, tan to brown with off-white tips on scapulars. greater coverts and tertials, the tertials in particular broadly tipped with off-white; primaries at rest dark brown, extending well beyond tail of same color; area above tail barred with brown, much like undertail coverts; in flight, entire tail dark brown, without light terminal band; when seen flying directly away from me, two dark secondary bars, one



### Drawings by Steve Carlson.

above the other, visible on upper surface of wings. Soft parts: eyes dark brown; legs pink, perhaps a bit duller than the Herrings'. Bill grayish-pink on basal two-thirds, distal third black, the demarcation sharply defined, much larger than the Ring-billeds' but thinner than the Herrings', appearing straighter throughout its length and without the more obvious bulging of the Herrings' at the gonys. Size: Larger than the Ring-billeds but smaller than the Herrings beside it, closer in size to Herrings. The Herrings' heads looked broader from behind than the California's. Head shape: the California's head was rounded, with a smooth, curved rise from bill to back of crown. Both Herrings had a bump on the forehead, giving them a flatter-headed look. Unlike the 1985 California Gull, which was seen at Lake Harriet for over ten days and finally collected, this bird left before it could be studied by other observers. As far as I know, it wasn't seen after the morning of October 30. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408**

**SECOND-WINTER LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** — On Sunday, December 20, 1987, I arrived at Black Dog Lake, Dakota County about 9:30 a.m., and, after locating the first-winter male Harlequin Duck, began observing the hundreds (500+) of gulls (mostly Herring and Ring-billed) both east and west of the dike at the power plant. In addition, there were several Thayer's Gulls (later estimated to be at least six: four first-winter, one third-winter, and one adult), two first-winter Glaucous Gulls, and one very pale gull that I suspected was a first-winter Iceland Gull (but which some others later felt was merely a pale Thayer's [I still lean toward Iceland]). I spent the remainder of the morning scrutinizing gulls, and was joined by Bob Janssen about noon. Within 15 minutes of Bob's arrival, he called to me: "Come and take a look at this gull; I don't want to influence you by telling you what I think it is." As I looked at it (on the water), I came to the same conclusion as Bob: Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Date: Sunday, December 20, 1987 (seen from 12:15, when Bob found it, until 16:00; watched for a total of over two hours during this time); also seen the following day, December 21, from 11:00 - 15:00 (total of at least another hour watching this bird). I was unable to find it on my next trip, Thursday, December 24 (07:30-10:00), when there were many fewer gulls present (only 100 or so). Location: Black Dog Lake, Dakota County immediately east of the power plant dike. Observed as close as 50 m (for at least 1/2 hour), up to as far as a mile (in flight at the east end of the lake) Viewing conditions: excellent. Both days were clear, mild (about 30-33° F). Although it was very windy (NW at 20-30 mph), the bird was east of the dike, and we watched it at the base of the dike, protected from the wind. The bird was front-illuminated the entire time (sun at our backs). Comparison: bird was seen immediately next to, or within a few meters of, probably more than 50 different Herring Gulls, dozens of different Ring-billed Gulls, one first-winter Glaucous Gull, and several first-winter Thayer's Gulls; there were perhaps 300-400 gulls congregated within 300 m of the dike, most of which were Herring, with a somewhat smaller number of Ring-billed. There also were 500 or more Mallards and several hundred Canada Geese in the same area. Optical equipment: Nikon 10X35E binoculars and Nikon 20X spotting scope. Description: underparts mostly white with some dusky markings; head mostly white, with some dusky markings on nape and crown, and more behind the eye, the latter forming a diffuse elongated comma; bill blackish, pure black around gonys, paler toward base (becoming a grayish black); tip (a few mm) of lower mandible was creamy or pale yellow (this feature was noticeable from a distance of hundreds of meters through the spotting scope); eye dark, legs pinkish-gray; rump and tail white, tail with subterminal dark (not black) band; one-two



**Lesser Black-backed Gull (center) December 22, 1987, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. Photo by Jon Peterson.**

inches wide; a few individual rectrices had apparently been freshly molted, with little or no dusky (tail pattern could be seen well only in flight). The mantle was described at the time as "slate gray," but it probably is more accurately described as a shade paler than slate. There were some gray-brown feathers intermixed, but my overall impression was dark gray. The mantle was noticeably darker than that of any of the second-winter or older Herring Gulls however, and the bird usually could be picked out from the hundreds of Herring Gulls within a minute or two of scanning with binoculars. To the best of my recollection, I would describe the overall basic mantle color of this bird as between colors 83 ("dark neutral gray") and 84 ("medium neutral gray") of the Naturalist's Color Guide (F.B. Smithe, 1975); by comparison, I would describe an adult Herring Gull mantle as similar to (or perhaps slightly darker than) color 86 ("pale neutral gray"). In flight, the dark mantle was even more conspicuous; I twice picked this bird out in flight with 10X binoculars at the east end of the lake, at a distance of more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. The dark mantle contrasted strongly with the white rump and whitish neck. In flight, the entire outer wing (primaries, plus primary coverts) appeared black, while the rest of the mantle was dark gray (with some gray-brown feathers). On the water, this bird appeared slightly smaller (one, perhaps two inches) than most of the Herring Gulls, quite a bit smaller than the Glaucous Gull, and about the same size as the Thayer's Gulls. In the air, it seemed as large (long-winged) as a Herring Gull. The bill was proportioned much like that of a typical Herring Gull. The only characteristic that I have seen mentioned in several field guides that I did not note (I did not look for it) was the relative wing length while resting (Lesser Black-backed supposedly has proportionately longer wings than Herring Gull, the difference apparently being as much as that between Iceland/Glaucous). I suggest asking some of the dozens (hundreds?) of other birders who saw this gull to see if they noted this character. This bird was not a Slaty-backed Gull because of: its smaller size (Slaty-backed is larger than Herring Gull, approaching Glaucous); tail pattern (second-winter Slaty-backed tail is mostly dark, like Herring, rather than mostly white with rather narrow subterminal band); its smaller, more delicately proportioned bill

(Slaty-backed photos give appearance of Glaucous rather than Herring); second-winter Slaty-backed mantle is paler, not dark gray; second-winter Slaty-backed has brown, not black, primaries. Other possibilities such as Great Black-backed and Western Gulls, are quickly eliminated on size alone (and also plumage characters). **Bruce A. Fall, General Biology Program, P-180 Kolthoff Hall, University of Minnesota, 225 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455**

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK IN GRANT COUNTY** — When I first saw the bird and drove by, it was about 50' feet off the road in a small tree about even with my eye level. The exact location was section 9, Land Township, Grant County, on August 16, 1987. At first glance it appeared to be a large white hawk. The entire head and underparts at rest were almost pure snow white except for an occasional dark feather or two on the flanks and nape of the head. After coming to a stop for a few seconds, the bird got nervous and flew off to a high cottonwood. As the bird flew away, I got a good look at the upper backside. The upper wing surface appeared somewhat darker than one would expect for the typical "white" Red-tail. Also noted was an almost all white tail. All white for the basal  $\frac{2}{3}$  with a narrow terminal band with two small minute bars just above it. The back was mostly dark with some white feathers. The upperwing surface also had a very large window area in the primaries, running from the secondaries toward the wing tip. This window appeared to run along the basal portion of all the primaries and was quite large in total area. The bird then landed in the lower limbs of a large cottonwood tree where I observed it for about 10 minutes through the scope at a distance of 100' or slightly more. During this time I reconfirmed my initial observations with the exception of the windows, which obviously were not visible at rest. Almost pure white head and belly except for a couple of darkish feathers on the side of the breast and the back of the head. Back and wings darkish brown with a few scattered white feathers mixed in. The undertail surface appeared all white. The legs had a few dark feathers mixed in on the otherwise white leggings with the feathering appearing to go all the way down to the toes. To confirm this last detail and get an even better look at the bird, I grabbed my binoculars and walked under the bird at a distance of 25' or so. I again checked all the details that were visible from almost directly underneath the bird. It again got nervous and flew off to the backside of another nearby cottonwood tree uttering a low pitched "Kreep" vocalization as it flew. I again walked toward the bird, but it flew when I was still 75' away and flew away out of sight. Underwings in flight also were almost pure white with a narrow darkish edge on the primaries. There was a small brownish wrist mark and the carpal wing area was entirely snow white to the edge of the forewing. The windows were much less noticeable from below. **Allison Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407**

**CHIMNEY SWIFTS NEST LATE AT DULUTH** — The fall migration was in progress on August 9, 1987 and I had been seeing a few Chimney Swifts flying among the southbound swallows. After watching these birds fly over for some time, I noticed a Chimney Swift dive straight down into a chimney without diminishing its high rate of speed. Then I remembered reading about large flocks of these birds roosting in chimneys for the evening. Having never witnessed this, I suddenly became elated at the apparent possibility of it now happening before my eyes. But, after a couple minutes, the swift left the chimney in great haste and flew out of my sight. A short time later either it or another swift again entered the chimney and again departed after approximately two or three minutes. The thought occurred to me that this was the behavior of adults feeding young birds still in the nest. Still, this idea didn't seem probable considering the fair amount of migrating swifts passing over. Observations during the next few days revealed two swifts using the chimney, apparently feeding young birds within. This chimney was on a many angled roof over a one story, seldom used, brick building. Observations at this site were made every day between August 9 and 23. The adults always entered the chimney swiftly and directly without first alighting.

on its top edge. The angle of entry varied from a bit less than 45 degrees to about 75 degrees. They left the chimney by rising approximately six inches above the top, then rapidly descending below the peak of the roof, achieving the minimum silhouette time possible. This mode of entry and departure from the nest-hole cavity surely minimized the likelihood of their being detected by any predator, although I can't think of any predator in the neighborhood capable of capturing them, except possibly a Merlin. The adults foraging time away from the nest varied from 5½ minutes to over a half hour. The young were fed at various intervals throughout the day with the main feeding activity within about an hour before sunset or after a prolonged rainfall. The time spent by the adults in feeding the young in the chimney varied from one to five minutes, usually one to three minutes. Usually both adults foraged simultaneously. Brooding time varied considerably and seemed to depend on both the time of day and the temperature. Brooding times were usually longer early in the morning and on cooler, overcast, or windy days. Times spent brooding were usually up to 45 minutes. Occasionally one adult brooded the young for a half hour or more, while the other adult made several trips procuring food. I first heard the young birds calling on August 12. Thereafter, a chattering from the young birds always followed each entry by an adult bringing food. Chatter time varied from 15 seconds to two minutes (usually 40-45 seconds). The time of the last bird entering the chimney to roost for the evening varied from 45 seconds before sunset to 22 minutes after sunset. They roosted earlier on cloudy days than on sunny days. Both adults roosted overnight with the young inside the chimney until at least August 16. After August 16, I never could be positive of the number of adults roosting overnight, as one or more young may also have flown in to roost for the night. I recorded no activity at the site during the night. Neither of the adults nor any of the young were ever either banded or color marked in any way. Nor was the chimney ever searched for either adults, young, or nest. All observations were made from a short distance away, on the ground. Differentiation between adults and young was based on behavior only. On August 15, I observed a swift slowly flutter down into the chimney; no sound came from within. I assumed this be a young bird arriving without food; hence no response was heard from the other young swifts still inside the chimney. I arrived the next morning, August 16 at 6:05 A.M. At 6:13 A.M. three Chimney Swifts were observed leaving the chimney, two adults and one young. Nine minutes after sunset on August 22, a sandpiper flew over the building, clearing it by only a few feet, and uttered a single "peep" as it flew over the chimney; chatter was heard from within the chimney, presumably young, as the adults had not yet roosted for the night. My last observations were on August 23. On that day one swift left the chimney at 10 A.M.; at 7:31 P.M. one swift flew down into the chimney followed by silence (no chatter was heard); and at 7:45 P.M. a second swift flew down into the chimney, again followed by silence. **Jeff R. Newman, 4401 Regent St., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**BLUE JAYS HARASS PURPLE MARTINS** — Blue Jays were unusually numerous in our vicinity during the summer of 1986. For instance, I banded 37 immatures in the backyard from July 4 to August 8, 1986, compared with only two in 1987. The presence of so many jays spells trouble for other birds. For example, a pair of Purple Martins were raising young in the martin house. Their favorite perch on a nearby electric line became the scene of frequent harassment for about three weeks, from late July to mid-August when at last the young martins took wing. Several times a day I watched as one or two jays, or as many as six, pestered the perching martins. Typically, a jay would swoop low over the sitting bird and land a few feet away. It would soon begin sidling up to the martin(s), usually the second-year male. When very close, it would fly up and over the martin, just missing it, then land nearby again. The martin snapped at the jay and berated it. This activity was repeated over and over. Occasionally a martin would fly at the jay, and the Blue Jay would chase the martin in return. A few times the situation became really serious as the jay attempted to land on the martin house. During all the commotion the jays were remarkably silent; not so the martins! **William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025**

**HOUSE FINCH AT FOREST LAKE** — On October 19, 1987, I identified a male House Finch feeding at one of my feeders at Forest Lake, Washington County. The bird also pulled seeds from dried-up carpetweed along the walk. As the finch stayed for about 20 minutes, and was as close as two feet away at the window feeder, all the diagnostic marks were noted: red rather than raspberry-colored throat and breast; brownish pate with red eyebrow and forehead; striped sides of breast and flanks; sparrow-colored back; a heavy beak.

On October 29 the bird returned, this time while Purple Finches were present. I felt that, indeed, the House Finch was sprightlier and more slender than the Purple Finches, but it was a bit nervous when near the other finches, and it did not stay long.

Since the first documented record for Minnesota in 1980, 13 sightings have been published in *The Loon*. Ten counties are represented: from Winona west to Pipestone, north to Aitkin and Ottertail.

An interesting discussion of the variability of House Finch plumages is to be found in *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and Allies*, by A.C. Bent et al. Bull. 237, Pt. 1, U.S. Nat'l Museum.

#### HOUSE FINCH RECORDS PUBLISHED IN *The Loon*

NO.	COUNTY	VOL.	NO.	PG.	LOCALE
1.	Hennepin	53	2	109	Minnetonka
2.	Hennepin	56	1	64	Minneapolis
3.	Blue Earth	56	2	130	Mankato
4.	Aitkin	56	3	189	Ripple Lake
5.	Stearns	56	3	194	St. Cloud
6.	Mower	56	3	198	Austin
7.	Le Sueur	57	3	134	Le Sueur
8.	Winona	57	3	137	Lewiston
9.	Pipestone	58	1	43	Pipestone National Monument
10.	Ottertail	58	3	146	Fergus Falls
11.	Stearns	58	4	190	St. Cloud
12.	Stearns	58	4	204	St. Cloud
13.	Lyon	59	3	139	Marshall
14.	Hennepin	59	3	139	Brooklyn Park

**William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025**

**NEST MATERIAL CACHING BY YELLOW WARBLERS** — Looking out of our bedroom window in Cloquet, Minnesota in a morning early in June, 1987, we were excited to see a pair of Yellow Warblers assembling what appeared to be a nest composed entirely of spiderwebs in a syringa or mock-orange just a few feet from the window. Both the male and female were equally engaged in this activity. The birds spent the next two days collecting nesting materials, and weaving them into a nest-like structure. But even as they did so we were puzzled. For, while the structure they were making had the size and general shape of a nest there was no bowl, nor a place where they could deposit their eggs. We assumed that when they were ready to lay eggs a proper bowl would be formed. Then four or five days later we realized that they were dismantling this cache of nesting materials and carrying the material, piece by piece to another site in a neighbor's yard. Both the male and female were equally involved in this activity, alternately removing the material. In less than two days they removed all the material and left no sign of a nest. Even though we did not record the exact dates of this event I thought this seemed worth recording as a rather unusual behavior. **Gordon W. Gullion, Forest Wildlife Project, Cloquet, MN 55720.**

**LATE VIRGINIA RAIL SIGHTING** — On November 2, 1987, Jay Hamernick, John Ellis, Lowell Deede, Cyrus Brock and I were touring Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Becker County and observed a Virginia Rail near an iron spring that seeped into a frozen wetland beside the road. There were several small pools of open water near the spring and the rail was in the vegetation at the water's edge. It was in view for five to ten minutes and it appeared reluctant to leave the water's edge. There was also a water shrew near the spring and since both are insectivorous, I assume there were invertebrates in the open water and mud associated with the spring. **Jan Eldridge, Minnesota Valley NWR, 4101 E. 80th Street, Bloomington, MN 55425.**

**A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO BINOCULARS AND TELESCOPES: AN UPDATE** — After writing the article which appeared in the last issue of *The Loon* (59:174-179), I became aware of a few things that may be of interest to readers: 1) I neglected to list E & W Optical Inc., 2420 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55413, (612) 331-1187 as a local dealer worth knowing about. Although I have never visited this store and know nothing about their stock or prices, several persons have reported they have done business with them and have been satisfied; especially noteworthy is that they also repair binoculars and scopes, something National Camera Exchange apparently does not handle.

2) National Camera Exchange is reportedly sold out of the Nikon 10X35 binoculars; whether or not Birding still has any is unknown.

3) Although neither 47th Street Photo, Birding nor National Camera lists the Kowa TSN-2 spotting scope in their literature, it is a scope worth considering. A lot of birders, especially on the East Coast, are enthusiastic about it, it has a wide 77mm objective lens (compared to the Nikon's and Bushnell's 60mm) for extra light gathering ability, its optical quality is good, and its suggested retail price is about the same as the Nikon 7705. List price of the body alone is \$426, and the eyepieces are bought separately: 20X wide-angle (\$135), 25X (\$90), 40X (\$100), 20-60X Zoom (\$180 — not recommended). The only disadvantage I could see, the one brief time I had to examine this scope, was its relatively large size and weight. American Birding Association Sales carries it, but their price is not much below suggested retail.

4) Karl and Mary Lee Isely recently wrote to report they bought a Bogen 3001 tripod from National Camera Exchange that they are happy with. Although its \$129 price tag seems prohibitive for the average birder, and though it has two lever releases per leg, its center post slides up and down without cranking, and the separate controls for vertical and horizontal movement can be easily adjusted so that the scope can be aimed with only one movement of the handle. If this tripod's price were half as much, it sounds like it might be comparable to the now-extinct Flip Lock.

5) Because of the falling value of the U.S. dollar in recent months, prices of imported binoculars, especially the Zeiss and Leitz, are now much higher than a year ago. Therefore, you might be able to find a bargain somewhere if the store has some stock they obtained before the price rise and they are closing out their old inventory. **Kim R. Eckert, 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.



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

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

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# The LOON

SUMMER 1988

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**The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union  
Our 50th Year — 1938-1988**

**The LOON** Minnesota's magazine of birds, is published four times each year by the **Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**, the statewide bird club. Permanent address: J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104. Anyone interested in birds may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: *The Loon* and the **MOU Newsletter**.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Evelyn Stanley, 213 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.

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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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# Social Preening in Soras and in Virginia Rails

Gerald Kaufmann

The preening of one bird by another, particularly in difficult-to-reach areas, such as the head and back of the neck, probably functions as a way to remove dirt and parasites. Since not all species of birds preen each other, scientists believe it may have social functions as well. Some of these suggested functions include aiding pair formation in birds where males and females look alike, permitting cowbirds to remain on the nest long enough to lay an egg, and enabling tropical finches to cluster together at night (Harrison 1964, Selander and LaRue 1961, Selander 1964, Sparks 1965). Such preening, called allopreening, is now believed to have an appeasement function; i.e., it enables two birds with hostile tendencies to remain close to each other (Sebeok 1968).

Allopreening seems to be common in the rail family (Rallidae). Preening between members of pairs has been observed in most species which have been intensively studied (see Ripley 1977). A few authors believe allopreening in rails serves to remove parasites and is not important in social behavior (Holyoak 1970, Ridpath 1972, Garnett 1978). The purpose of this study is to describe allopreening in Soras and Virginia Rails and to discuss its possible social functions.

## Methods

Five pairs of Soras and five pairs of Virginia Rails were taken from the wild as juveniles. They were placed in an outdoor flight pen on the Cedar Creek Natural History area, Isanti County, Minnesota for study during the 1967-69 breeding seasons (Kaufmann 1977). They were wintered in the aviary of the James Ford Bell Museum, Minneapolis, MN, during the 1966-67 winter and in a heated barn at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area during the 1967-68 winter. Behavior was filmed with a 16mm Arriflex camera, and films were analyzed with a Bell and Howell time-and-motion study projector.

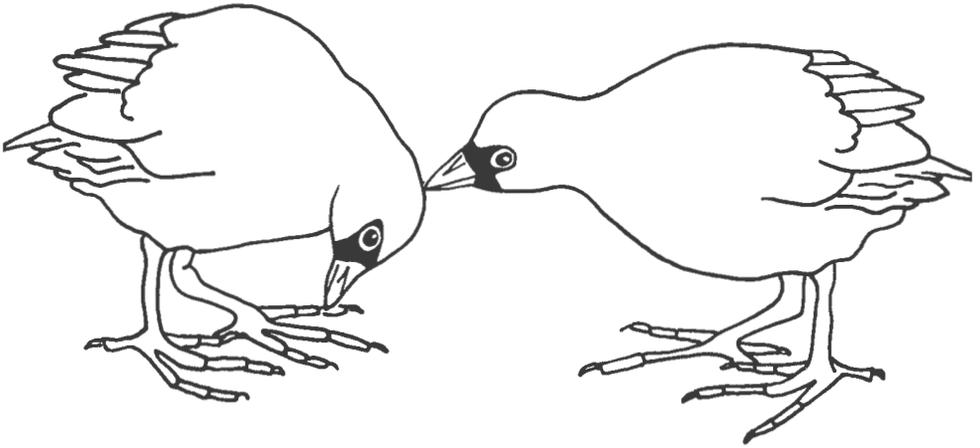
I shall define allopreening as the preening of one bird by another, and autopreening as the preening a bird performs on itself. Aggres-

sive preening includes the pulling of feathers by the preening bird. A preening bout includes all activities two birds perform when they come together and allopreen; e.g., allopreening, autopreening, bowing, facing toward or away from each other, nibbling the bill of the other bird, and pecking the ground.

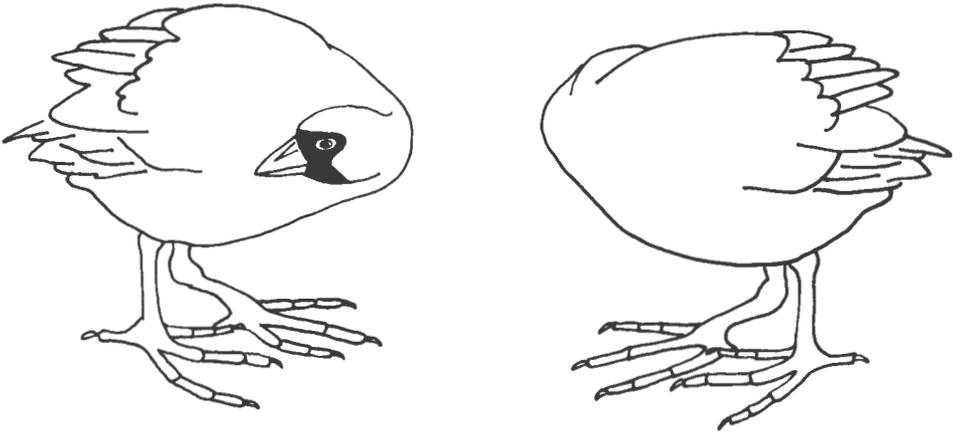
## Results

Chicks of both species occasionally preened themselves and each other at one day of age while on the nest. They were also frequently preened by the adult that brooded them. Hand-raised chicks did not preen each other until much later. I was unable to determine when my hand-raised chicks began to allopreen, as it was difficult to distinguish allopreening from aggressive feather pulling or from feeding on the debris on the back of its sibling. At two days of age one Sora vigorously pulled the orange beard of a day-old chick, perhaps mistaking it for food dangling from the chick's mouth. During the winter, allopreening was common among Virginia Rails but rare among Soras. Full grown juvenile Virginia Rails (six males, four females) allopreened 71 times and aggressively preened 16 times, while seven Soras (five males, two females) allopreened once and aggressively preened once. Wintertime allopreening usually occurred when one rail passed near another that was preening itself after bathing, or when a dominant male met a subordinate.

Allopreening only occurred between members of a pair during the breeding season. Three pairs of Soras began to engage in allopreening between five days before the first precopulatory chase to two days after. The Sora pairs continued to allopreen for about a month. Most preening occurred before incubation, but two pairs occasionally allopreened after their chicks hatched. In the period before incubation, most meetings of members of Sora pairs resulted in precopulatory chases or bouts of allopreening: of 366 Sora meetings, 73% led to precopulatory chases and 27% led to bouts of preening. Six-



**A**



**B**

**Figure A:** Sora (left) bows while being allopreened by its mate.

**Figure B:** Soras autopreening immediately after facing each other.

teen bouts of preening led to precopulatory chases, and 33 precopulatory chases ended in bouts of preening instead of copulation. Meetings of the members of Virginia Rail pairs usually resulted in bouts of preening, precopulatory chases or courtship feeding, after which the mates separated. One pair of Virginia Rails began allopreening 10 days after the first precopulatory chase and ceased after the initiation of incubation, a period of 16 days. Preening bouts between members of a pair were usually more prolonged in the Virginia Rail, with some bouts lasting more than 20 minutes. In the Sora, preening bouts lasted one to five minutes.

The members of Sora pairs appeared to execute their movements during preening bouts more quickly and stiffly than did members of Virginia Rail pairs. In addition, members of Sora pairs appeared to avoid looking at each other during preening bouts. If they faced each other, one member of the pair bowed or faced away by autopreening (Figure A & B).

A frame-by-frame analysis was made of five preening bouts that occurred between members of three pairs of Soras and seven preening bouts that occurred between members of the two pairs of Virginia Rails (Table 1). Female Soras performed allopreening and

autopreening more frequently than did their mates. The duration of allopreening and autopreening actions performed by each sex was nearly equal, so that females spent more time engaged in these activities during a bout of preening than did the males. Male Virginia Rails allopreened and autopreened their mates more frequently than did their mates. Autopreening was longer when performed by females, so that the amount of time spent autopreening during social preening was nearly equal for the two sexes.

The activities of the other bird that preceded autopreening and allopreening were recorded from film (Table 2), in order to gain insight into the possible stimuli which lead to allopreening and autopreening. The results were quite variable. Bowing, facing the mate, and autopreening by the mate frequently preceded both allopreening and autopreening. Substrate pecking and bill nibbling were only performed by Virginia Rails.

### Discussion

Allopreening appears to have different social functions according to the age and species of rails. Young rails frequently preened another bird if feathers were wet or contained particles of food or dirt. Juvenile Rails allo-

**Table 1**

Duration in seconds of allopreenings and autopreenings performed by Sora and Virginia Rail pairs.

	Sora		Virginia	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Allopreenings</b>				
number of times	7	25	34	18
avg. length	3.9	4.1	3.7	2.1
longest allopreening bout	20.5	28.6	26.2	5.2
% time spent	8.4	29.0	24.6	7.7
<b>Autopreenings</b>				
number of times	16	33	44	24
avg. length	2.8	2.7	1.5	2.8
longest autopreening bout	19.4	13.2	7.8	15.6
% time	14.0	27.6	13.0	13.5

**Table 2**

Activities of one member of the pair preceding allopreening or autopreening by the other member.

	Sora		Virginia Rail	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Activities preceding allopreening				
Bowing	6	3	10	13
Facing the mate	4	5	8	10
Autopreening	5	6	9	5
Allopreening	0	0	0	5
Facing away	1	1	1	11
Substrate pecking	0	0	4	0
Bill nibbling	0	0	2	0
Total	16	15	34	44
Activities preceding autopreening				
Bowing	9	0	5	1
Facing the mate	7	11	5	5
Autopreening	20	7	3	10
Allopreening	2	1	0	1
Facing away	1	1	3	4
Substrate pecking	0	0	2	1
Bill nibbling	0	0	0	0
Total	39	20	18	23

preened, aggressively preened, and pulled feathers and pecked their subordinates during the winter. Adult Virginia Rails and Soras only allopreened their mates. Most allopreening was performed by males in Virginia Rail pairs and by females in Sora pairs. This difference may be a result of the difference in territorial defense between the two species. The Sora is the more territorial bird, and its facial pattern is more conspicuous during the breeding season: the greenish-yellow bill swells in size and takes on a chrome yellow color and the brown eyes turn black. If this facial pattern reinforces threat postures, perhaps it also produces stronger attack and fleeing tendencies between members of a pair. Both members of Sora pairs rarely looked at each other for more than a few seconds, and then either autopreened or allopreened. Presumably the allopreening by the

slightly smaller female thwarts the male's aggressiveness, and permits them to remain close together.

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## Winter Birding In Costa Rica (Is also the Answer)

Carrol L. Henderson

The bold markings of the Black-and-white Warbler captured my attention as it worked its way up the tree trunk near me. Other movements in the undergrowth showed that the warbler was not alone. The first bird that came into view was a Common Bush Tanager — readily identified by the white mark behind its eye. Then came a Yellow-thighed Finch, a Tufted Flycatcher, a Golden-browed Chlorophonia, and a Ruddy Foliage-Gleaner. A small bird then hopped out of the undergrowth and stood on a branch in full sunlight within six feet of me — a Spangle-cheeked Tanager. It was one of the most beautiful birds I have ever seen, with markings of black, green, cinnamon, and blue. The black face was “spangled” with light green highlights on the cheeks.

That Black-and-white Warbler seemed in strange company. It was January in Costa Rica, and I was on a mountain at the Tapanti Biological Reserve with my family. The birds we encountered were in a “mixed flock” —

loose aggregations of birds that collectively forage through tropical forests in search of insects. But even more intriguing were the frequent sightings of “old friends” from back home: Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Oriole, Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Barn Swallow, and Prothonotary Warbler.

During the previous two weeks we had seen such tropical “delights” as the Resplendent Quetzal, Keel-billed Toucan, Blue-crowned Motmot, Orange-bellied Trogon, and Blue-headed Parrot.

During two weeks of birding in Costa Rica, we counted 48 northern migrant species.

Costa Rica is only one-fourth the size of Minnesota but occupies a key biological location in the Americas.

Of the 848 birds known in Costa Rica, 140 are migrants. Most migrants summer in North America and winter in Central America.

Others use the Central American isthmus as a travel corridor en route to South American wintering grounds. Some species, like the Piratic Flycatcher and Yellow-green Vireo, nest in Costa Rica and winter in South America.

Because of the warm, friendly character of the Costa Rican people, the safe travel conditions for tourists, and the large number of national parks and wildlife reserves, this tiny country is growing in popularity as a wintering site for snow-weary Minnesotans who seek an opportunity to view tropical birds as well as to gain a better understanding of "our" Minnesota migrants. Such winter birding helps give us a better appreciation of the conservation needs of neotropical migrants. In the long term, it may do little good to conserve Minnesota summer habitats for these birds if their wintering habitats are being destroyed. Fifty years ago, for example, 75% of Costa Rica was forested. Now, 32% of the country is forested, and approximately 25% is in protected status as national parks, wildlife reserves and forest reserves. That leaves roughly 7% of the forest land in private ownership. About 150,000 acres of those forests are being cut per year. Essentially any forest not in public ownership will be destroyed in the next five years. Most of the rain forest being cut is being converted to other uses like pastures or crop fields.

This may seem a dismal outlook, but thankfully, Costa Rica is actually a bright spot in Latin America's conservation picture. They have shown the wisdom to protect one-fourth of their country's natural resource base.

The plants and wildlife now protected in Costa Rica's parks and reserves have helped spawn a new economic boost to their country — ecotourism. Ecotourists now flock to Costa Rica to view "the garden of the Americas." Numerous birding and horticultural tours are organized each year to view the incredible beauty of its quetzals, hummingbirds (52 species), sea turtles, monkeys, sloths, lizards, orchids (1,200 species), volcanoes and beautiful beaches.

It is estimated that each tourist generates at least \$1,000 of economic benefit to the Costa Rican economy during a two-week tour. This economic impact helps reaffirm to Costa Rican citizens and politicians that con-

servation does pay, and that further conservation efforts will be rewarded by long term economic stability.

For anyone contemplating an expedition to Costa Rica, they should understand that there are five major avifaunal zones worthy of exploration:

### **1. Tropical dry forest**

The tropical dry forest occurs in northwestern Costa Rica in the Guanacaste province. Occurring from sea level up to 800 meters, it has a dry season from December through March. It receives only 1,000 mm (39 inches) to 2,000 mm (78 inches) of rainfall per year. It is characterized by deciduous forests and an African savanna-like appearance near the Nicaragua border. This area has been made "famous" by biologist Daniel Janzen's efforts to protect and restore the tropical dry forest by creating Guanacaste National Park. Distinctive birds are the Double-striped Thick-knee, Turquoise-browed Motmot, White-winged Dove, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Rufous-naped Wren, White-throated Magpie-Jay, Crested Caracara, Roadside Hawk, and Great Kiskadee.

Wetlands in Guanacaste are habitat for the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Muscovy Duck, Least Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Olivaceous Cormorant, Boat-billed Heron, Anhinga, Wood Stork, White Ibis, and Jabiru.

The best places to view birds in Guanacaste are the Palo Verde National Park, Palo Verde National Wildlife Refuge, Finca La Pacifica, Guanacaste National Park and the Playa Grande Biological Reserve at Tamarindo.

### **Tropical Cloud Forest**

The subtropical cloud forest is found at cool, wet middle altitudes. This formation receives 2,000 mm (78 inches) to 4,000 mm (158 inches) of rainfall annually and is from 800 meters to 1,800 meters in elevation. The forests are green throughout the year, trees are heavily covered by epiphytes, and the region is characterized by foggy, misty conditions.

Distinctive birds of this region are the Resplendent Quetzal, Black Guan, Azure-hooded Jay, Emerald Shrike Vireo, Blue-crowned Motmot, Emerald Toucanet, Black-faced Solitaire, Gray-breasted Wood Wren, Violet Saberwing, Three-wattled Bellbird, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Bare-Necked Umbrel-

labird, and Sunbittern.

The best areas to view this habitat are the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve (probably Costa Rica's premier birding spot), the San Vito Biological Station, the Turrialba area and the Tapanti Biological Reserve.

### **Montane Forests**

These are high mountain habitats of oak forest, bamboo thickets, and treeless paramo. This zone is characterized by an average temperature of 49° at its lower level (about 2,800 meters) and 40°F at the upper levels (about 3,000 meters). These are the "coldest" areas to be encountered.

The montane forests of southeastern Costa Rica and adjacent montane forests of western Panama comprise a biological "island" of high-elevation habitat that is home to over 50 endemic species or well-marked subspecies of birds.

Characteristic birds are the Band-tailed Pigeon, Fiery-Throated Hummingbird, Resplendent Quetzal, Volcano Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Buffy Tufted Cheek, Timberline Wren, Sooty Robin, Mountain Robin, Black Guan, Black-billed Nightingale Thrush, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Slaty Flower-Piercer, Collared Redstart, Yellow-thighed Finch, Prong-billed Barbet, and Golden-browed Chlorophonia.

Excellent places to view this habitat are Poas National Park, Cerro de la Muerte, the Talamanca mountains, Amistad National Park, Braulio Carrillo National Park, and the tops of volcanoes Barba, Irazu, Turrialba and Cerro Chirripo.

### **Tropical Wet Forest**

This is the lowland rainforest, or "jungle" that is so vitally important as habitat for thousands of tropical species. This zone occurs from sea level up to 800 meters. Rainfall varies from 4,000 mm (158 inches) to 8,000 mm (316 inches) per year.

Nectar and fruit eating birds are well represented — toucans, puffbirds, jacamars, trogons and parrots. Also present are mixed flocks of antbirds as well as woodcreepers, cotingas, tinamous, and numerous hummingbirds. The species diversity is incredible! The Sarapiquí lowlands have a total of 360 species (250 are residents), and the Osa Peninsula has 285 species (210 are residents).

The best areas for viewing rain forest wildlife are La Selva Biological Reserve, Tortuguero National Park, and Cahuita National Park in the Caribbean lowlands. In the southeast Pacific lowlands the best places are the Corcovado National Park, including La Sirena, and the Marengo Biological Reserve.

### **Beaches**

Costa Rican beaches on both Pacific and Caribbean shores are relatively uncrowded and offer some delightful birding (and sea turtle and monkey watching) experiences. The presence of mangrove lagoons increases the number of birds to be seen at some sites.

Birds that may be encountered are the Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Laughing Gull, Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Tricolored Heron, Willet, Sanderling, American Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Wilson's Plover, Sempalmated Plover, Sempalmated Sandpiper, Osprey, Ruddy Turnstone, and even the Peregrine Falcon.

Good birding beaches on the Pacific coast are, from north to south, Tamarindo, Playa del Coco, Puntarenas, Playa Dona Ana, Playa Manuel Antonio, and Playa Dominical. Beaches on the Caribbean side include Tortuguero, lagoons just south of Limon, and Cahuita National Park near the Panama border.

It is impressive how quickly the bird species totals count up in Costa Rica. During two weeks of birding in January, 1987, our group saw 204 species. During two weeks of birding during the same period of 1988, our group saw 241 species. The cumulative total of birds seen during these four weeks of birding was 304 species. That's a rapid way to join the Costa Rica "300 Club"!

One other feature of Costa Rican bird life that makes it more interesting to a Minnesota birder is that many species listed as accidental, hypothetical or predicted by Eckert are regularly seen in Costa Rica: examples are the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Olivaceous Cormorant, and Black-shouldered Kite. Birding there helps sharpen your identification skills for special times when you may encounter some tropical visitors in Minnesota.

In conclusion, I hope this article on Costa Rica and its birds may give you a better understanding of the importance of preserving tropical rain forests for their own inherent ecological value as well as for their value as wintering habitats for neotropical migrants. Efforts by The Nature Conservancy to purchase dry forest in Guanacaste National Park (only \$80 per acre) and the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve (only \$20 per acre) deserve our support and donations. If the remaining private forests are not purchased within the

next five years, they will be gone forever. The Costa Rican government and people also need our support and encouragement to continue their conservation initiatives.

If they succeed in their peaceful society to preserve their natural heritage, they can continue to be "the garden of the Americas" and show other Latin American countries that peace and conservation provide alternatives to war. **Department of Natural Resources, Non-Game Program, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55146**

## Ross' Goose at Agassiz NWR: Comments on Immature Plumage and Hybrid Determination

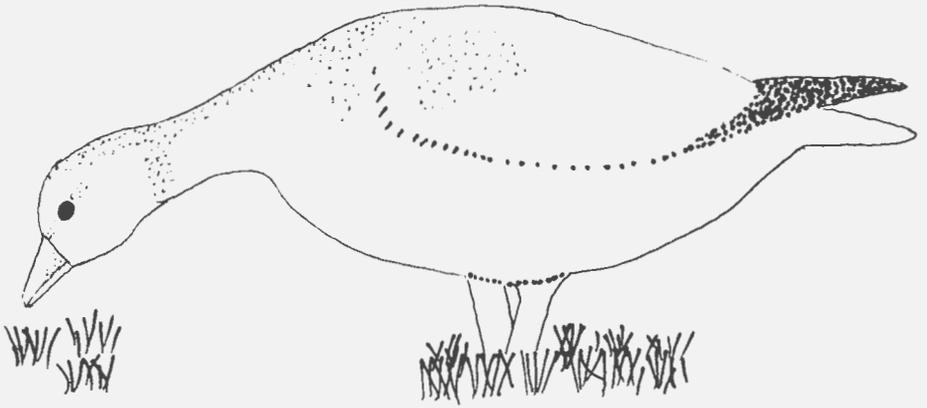
Jim Mattsson

I observed a Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County, from 27 September through 9 October 1987. The bird first was seen among several hundred intermediate-sized Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) feeding on winter wheat in Goose Pen, a refuge agricultural field. The recent arrival at the refuge of several hundred Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*), some of which were scattered in small numbers among other Canadas, led me to assume that this lone, white goose was just another Snow. The bird remained in the same vicinity for several days and always was with Canada Geese even when concentrations of Snows were present in the general area. On 2 October, I viewed the bird with a 15-60X spotting scope at a distance of 150 m and determined it was a probable Ross' Goose. Inspection of Snows in the vicinity confirmed the identification.

A field sketch was made before consulting field guides and the following characteristics were noted. The body was about one-half to three-fifths as large as the smallest Canada Goose present. Nearby Snow Geese appeared almost as large as adjacent Canadas. The neck

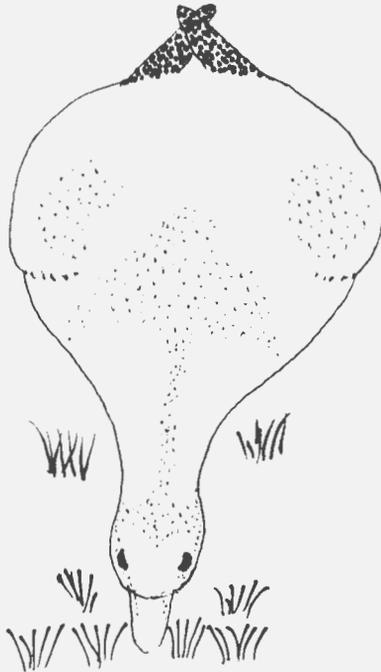
was very short and stubby. The feathers on the left side of the mid neck were folded in an unnatural manner suggesting a possible injury. The head was more rounded than the typical oval shape of the Snow Goose. The bill was triangular and very small compared to the Snows. The area where the upper mandible joined the head formed a rather sharp angle giving the forehead a steep look compared to the forehead of a Snow Goose which forms a shallow, sloping angle. The bill was dull pink with a gray area at the base of the upper mandible. Caruncles, or bumps at the base of the bill characteristic of Ross' Goose, were not observed, although this feature would be much less evident on an immature bird. The tomia of the mandible appeared straight and did not form a noticeable grin patch. The facial feathers formed a straight line where they met the bill compared to the curved line on a Snow Goose. The legs were a dull pink, similar to the bill. Foot color always was obscured by vegetation.

In bright sunlight, the plumage appeared solid white, except for the primaries which were black. However, under cloudy conditions, areas of diffused gray were clearly evi-



ROSS' GOOSE  
 - Immature  
 - 9 October 1987

Agassiz NWR  
 J. MATTSOON



dent on the crown, hindneck, on the back at the base of the neck, and on both shoulders (primary coverts). Also, a narrow line of gray extended from the lores through the eye and auricular region. The degree of subtle contrast formed by these gray, dusky regions is very similar to the illustration of an immature Ross' Goose shown on page 64 in the 1983 edition of National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, although the

illustration shows only the head region. The illustration accompanying this article shows the approximate locations and relative contrast of dusky-gray areas observed on the Agassiz goose. Simon (1978) states that young Ross' Geese are slightly paler than young Snows, but in a footnote he states that a young Ross' Goose looks almost as white as an adult. Bellrose (1976) notes that juvenile Ross' Geese are light gray on the

back of the head, the neck, the back, and are white below, noticeably lighter than juvenile Snow Geese. An excellent photograph on page 161 of the March 1981 issue of *American Birds* shows an immature Ross' Goose among immature and adult Snow Geese. The photo clearly illustrates size and plumage differences between the two species. However, the immature Ross' differs slightly from the bird I observed in two ways. First: areas of gray plumage appear slightly darker and somewhat more extensive on the lower back (scapulars) than on the Agassiz bird. Second: the facial feathers appear to form a slightly curved line where they meet the bill. (Compare with straight line of adult's bill in same photo).

arc in intermediate geese compared to a straight line in Ross' Geese and a sharply curved arc in Lesser Snow Geese.

Trauger *et al.* (*op. cit.*) provide evidence that 4.8 percent of the Ross' Goose population is comprised of intermediates, suggesting a fairly high rate of hybridization. They infer that although  $F_1$  hybrids may be indistinguishable in the field, the variability due to  $F_2$  and  $F_3$  generation intermediates makes the task considerably more difficult. They also point out that plumages of immature intermediate geese, although variable, have more white feathering than Lesser Snows and more gray feathering than Ross' Geese of the same age.



**Ross' Goose with Canada Geese, October 2, 1987, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.**

The possibility was considered carefully that the goose was a hybrid Ross' X Lesser Snow. Janssen (1982) chronicles the confusion and problems in identifying an intermediate white goose in Dakota County, Minnesota. Trauger *et al.* (1971) describe characteristics intermediate between Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese. They found considerable overlap among mensural characteristics of intermediate geese but noted that heads and bills most strikingly showed the intermediate nature of these geese. Feathers of the lores meet the upper mandible in a slightly rounded

The possibility exists that the Agassiz bird was an  $F_2$  or more distant generation cross and, therefore, indistinguishable in the field from a true Ross'; however, the evidence suggests to me the equal likelihood that the bird was a "pure" Ross' Goose (if such a creature exists). I base this assertion on the absence of  $F_1$  structural characteristics observed in the field, and also on the very light contrast formed by the immature feathers which is more typical of Ross' than intermediate geese.

Available information suggests that immature white geese with obvious, highly con-

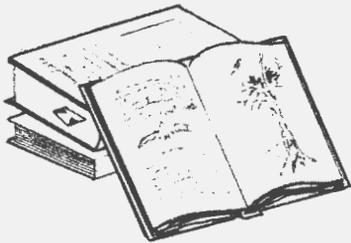
trasting gray-dusky areas probably are Snow or Snow X Ross' Goose hybrids. Extralimital sightings of immature Ross' Geese should be carefully documented to include extent and degree of contrast of immature plumage characteristics as an aid in sorting through the confusion resulting from hybridization of these two white geese.

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**Jim Mattsson, Refuge Biologist, Agassiz NWR, Middle River, MN 56737**



## BOOK REVIEWS

**LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE**, by Carrol L. Henderson. Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 1988; 144 pages, 70 color illustrations, numerous maps, graphs, and tables. Published by Minnesota Documents Division, 117 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155. \$6.95.

This beautiful and useful book has been well-worth waiting for. It will be helpful to the veteran bird feeder, as well as those just beginning to attract birds to their properties, because Carrol Henderson has scoured the literature and assembled ideas from friends to produce a remarkably attractive and helpful document. Minnesotans, already proud of the record of their nongame wildlife program under Carrol's leadership, have another reason to be pleased with their contributions under the income tax form checkoff.

The large page size lends itself to displaying effectively the many beautiful photographs and diagrams, but what strikes me is the comprehensiveness of the text, which is aimed at the midwest reader. After a discus-

sion of the benefits and principles involved in landscaping for wildlife, there are chapters for landscaping urban yards, farms, and woodlands. A section dealing with "sixteen components of wildlife habitat" is especially useful, including items often overlooked, such as snags, grit, and dust beds.

In order to pack in a tremendous amount of detailed information, appendices A through P, comprising nearly half of the book, present, in tabular form information about the usefulness of various forms of plants, those useful at different seasons, attractive to hummingbirds — butterflies, and moths; designs for feeders; instructions for controlling weeds, insects and diseases; sources for obtaining some of the plants not handled by the average nursery; suggestions for making an observation blind; and many other topics.

Anyone interested in attracting birds will find this book useful for years to come, and will be inspired to send copies to friends. Highly recommended. **Gustav A. Swanson, 1020 E. 17th St., Apt. 35, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

**CROSSING OPEN GROUND** by Barry Lopez, Charles Scribner's Sons, Publisher, New York, 1988, \$17.95.

Seldom have I read a book which I enjoyed more, or learned more from. This collection of essays addresses the author's ongoing concern for the aberrations in the relationship between man and the earth he inhabits. The sites and subjects vary from intaglios in the Mojave, to the "artificial" border in the Northwest Territories, to a presentation of whales on the central coast of Oregon. I have not read anything funnier, or more to the point, than the essay "Borders" in which the author combines a breath-taking description of the eastern Arctic coast of Alaska with an account of the foolish man-made regulations in crossing the border into Canada. Nor have I read a more bone-chilling horror story than his account of how man dealt with the beaching of forty-one sperm whales in 1979 on the Oregon coast. That the author "knows his

stuff" is a given; it is his special talent to use his knowledge, and his fine narrative storytelling style to evoke perspective within the reader, to make one think about our use of the land and its creatures in a different way, to become angry about stupidity, and to applaud sensitivity to the need for cherishing the wonders of our world. His last essay in this collection describes the destruction of the avaries of Mexico City by Cortes the Conquerer in 1521, and alerts us to the fact that such abominable misuse of beauty is still in evidence in 1988, and he gently urges us to "think about it", and about what can and must be done to preclude such horrors from the future history of mankind. He is equally effective in describing the preservation of beauty, and in lauding the good that men do in unholding its value. A balanced, thought-provoking book, one I would highly recommend. **Anne Marie Plunkett 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902**

### **Could This Apply to Birding?**

...Some passions, he understood, can only be shared with outsiders. The mark of a passion, as opposed to a hobby, is that it brings to light a new part of the self, a part that is still an outrageous child. But I cannot be a child and a wife and mother at the same time. This ferocious creature who sprang to life inside me as soon as I held a tiller in my hand could only sail with others whose love I could afford to lose.

— Joan Gould, speaking of her supportive husband, in her essay "Sailing, Sailing", *Lear's*, May 1988.

### **A Definition of "Jizz" From the 18th Century**

A good ornithologist should be able to distinguish birds by their air as well as by their colors and shape, on the ground as well as on the wing, and in the brush as well as in the hand. For though it must not be said that every species of birds has a manner peculiar to itself, yet there is somewhat, in most genera at least, that at first sight discriminates them and enables a judicious observer to pronounce upon them with some certainty.

Gilbert White  
English Naturalist  
1720-1793

**The Fall Season**  
**(August 1 to November 30, 1987)**

**Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme**

**Foreward by Bob Janssen**



**Summer Tanager, October 10, 1987, Deerwood, Crow Wing County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

The fall of 1987 was rather lack-luster in birds and in weather. The weather of the period was normal with a few big storms and near normal temperatures with below normal precipitation.

The migration was fair to poor with migrants trickling through. The hawk migration at Duluth was mediocre at best with numbers down from previous years. There were just no weather systems to concentrate the birds over the ridge. Only 11 Peregrines were reported, the lowest in ten years. Conditions were about the same for warblers and shorebirds. There were some good warbler waves in early September but nothing that could be called unusual other than some early dates for the southern part of the state; for example, Cape May Warblers were in Dakota County on August 1.

A summary of Twin Cities weather was typical for the state as a whole. August began hot and humid with temperatures in the upper 90's on August 1 and 2. There was a heavy rain on the eighth, totalling 2½ inches. The rest of the month turned out to be average with September about the same, clear sunny days and normal temperatures for most of the month. There was a record high of 88° on the 27th in the Twin Cities.

October began windy and cool. On October 7th; the Twin Cities had the first below freezing temperatures for the season, 31°. By the 9th, it was cool over most of the state with snow flurries along the North Shore of Lake Superior at Silver Bay. By the 11th, Minneapolis recorded a record low of 23° and temperatures remained somewhat below normal for the rest of the month. There was light snow in the Twin Cities on the 20th and snow was general across the northeastern part of the state on the 23rd. The first half of November was clear and mild but the second half of the month became cloudy and cold. Most of the lakes in the state were frozen by month's end.

The most interesting bird event of the season was the discovery of Minnesota's first

Cassin's Finch in Duluth on November 10 (*The Loon* 60:3-9). Other significant records included a Yellow-billed Loon on Lake Superior near Duluth on October 17th, two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Meeker County from August 23 to October 3. Pacific Loons were seen in Duluth and in Kandiyohi County in October; Ross' Geese were at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and Rochester. The first Great Black-backed Gull record away from Duluth came from Wabasha County on November 21. There was another California Gull record from Lake Harriet in Minneapolis on October 29 and 30. The only other casuals seen in the state were Ruff, Sabine's Gull, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and House Finches.

There were numerous late dates for warblers, the most significant being a Kentucky Warbler in Minneapolis on October 14, only the second fall record for this species in the state. A Cape May Warbler remained in Duluth from November 8 to 13. A Connecticut Warbler was still in Minneapolis on October 14, the second latest date for the state. A Northern Waterthrush was in Dakota County on the 24th of October and a Mourning Warbler in Washington County on October 19, the latest dates on record for the state. A Philadelphia Vireo on October 18 and a Solitary Vireo on October 27th, both in Duluth, were late dates for the area.

A Water Pipit seen at West Twin Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area on August 8 was not only early but was the first August record for the state.

The first Snowy Owl of the season was not recorded in the north but at Pipestone in the far southwest corner of the state. I wonder how many others went through the state unrecorded? The first Northern Shrike also showed up in the south on September 24th in Olmsted County.

A Killdeer was still in Duluth on November 30 and a late Virginia Rail was seen at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County on November 2. I wonder if this is an indication of another mild winter?

## **PACIFIC LOON**

10/17 Duluth KE et al. (*The Loon* 59:221).  
10/25 Kandiyohi RG (*The Loon* 59:213).

## **Common Loon**

Late north 11/6 Mille Lacs DB, 11/12 Hubbard JL, 11/15 Crow Wing WN; late south 11/14 Hennepin SC and Washington WL, 11/22 Wright ES.

## **YELLOW-BILLED LOON**

10/17 Duluth KE et al. (*The Loon* 60:37).

## **Pied-billed Grebe**

Late north 10/17 Aitkin WN, 10/24 Beltrami KH, 11/6 Mille Lacs DB; late south 11/1 Olmsted JEB, 11/11 Washington TBB, 11/14 Hennepin SC.

## **Horned Grebe**

Late north 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/27 Duluth RJ, 11/11 Mille Lacs AB,DB; late south 11/8 Wabasha AP, 11/18 Blue Earth JF, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

## **Red-necked Grebe**

Late north 9/3 Marshall TT, 10/18 Duluth AB, 10/30 Beltrami KH; late south 8/16 Pope AB, 9/13 Meeker RJ,AP, 10/9 Nicollet JF.

## **Eared Grebe**

8/14 Dodge BSE, 8/15 Nicollet JF, 8/31 Polk AB.

## **Western Grebe**

Late north 9/3 Marshall TT, 9/15 Becker MM, 11/22 Douglas AB; late south 10/17 Kandiyohi RJ, 10/18 Stevens EL, 11/5 Nicollet JF.

## **American White Pelican**

Late north 9/3 Marshall TT, 11/4 Roseau MC; late south 9/29 Nicollet MF, 11/28 Jackson RG and Lac Qui Parle EL; peak 9/5 Wright ES (500+).

## **Double-crested Cormorant**

Late north 10/25 Aitkin WN, 11/7 Otter Tail KE, 11/17 Roseau MC; late south 11/10 Waseca AP, 11/24 Carver ES, 11/30 Wright DO.

## **American Bittern**

Late north 9/3 Marshall TT, 9/20 Itasca AB, 10/10 Aitkin WN; late south 9/7

Washington TBB, 10/3 Hennepin TT.

## **Least Bittern**

Reported 8/8 Brown RJ, 8/16 Hennepin TT, 9/7 Stevens EL.

## **Great Blue Heron**

Late north 10/13 Clay LCF, 11/13 St. Louis SW, 11/24 Cook SOL; late south 11/10 Hennepin ES, 11/21 Stearns DO, 11/29 Rice FS.

## **Great Egret**

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 9/7 Becker BK, 9/20 Clay LCF; late south 10/18 Wabasha DWM and Wright SC, 10/19 Winona AP, 10/23 Houston FL; peak 10/17 Dakota (70) DZ.

## **Snowy Egret**

Reported 8/4-16 Grant AB,BSE,RG, 8/8 Brown RG,RJ,AP, 8/14 Murray RJ,AP, 8/24 Big Stone EL, 8/25 Lyon HK.

## **Cattle Egret**

Reported 8/21-9/1 Wright ES,GP,SC, 10/26 Washington DS, 11/11 Cook KMH.

## **Green-backed Heron**

Late north 8/1 Aitkin WN, 9/6 St. Louis TM; late south 9/18 Stevens EL, 9/22 Hennepin SC, 11/2 Washington TTB.

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

No reports north; late south 10/17 Dakota DZ, 11/14 Washington TBB, 11/18 Sherburne DO.

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

Reported 8/1 Chisago RJ, 9/15 Dakota TT.

## **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK**

Reported 8/23 to 10/3 Meeker (2) m.ob. (*The Loon* 59:217).

## **Tundra Swan**

Early north 11/6 Mille Lacs AB; early south 11/14 Wabasha DZ (5000+); late north 11/20 Roseau MG, 11/25 Itasca TS; late south 11/28 Lac Qui Parle EL and Washington SC, GP, 11/30 Houston EMF, RJ.

## **Mute Swan**

Reported 10/23 to 11/27 St. Louis KE.

## **Greater White-fronted Goose**

Only report 11/6-7 Otter Tail KE.

### **Snow Goose**

Early north 9/5 St. Louis TM, 9/7 Becker BK,; early south 8/19 Blue Earth MT, 10/11 Dodge AP and Lac Qui Parle AB; late north 10/23 Roseau MC, 10/31 Cook WP; late south 11/28 Olmsted JEB, 11/30 Stearns NH.

### **ROSS' GOOSE**

Reported 9/20 to 10/9 Marshall ANWR (*The Loon* 60:66-69), 10/21-29 Olmsted JEB (*The Loon* 59:215).

### **Canada Goose**

Reported from 16 counties north, 26 counties south.

### **Wood Duck**

Late north 10/4 Itasca DB, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 11/29 Hubbard AB; late south 11/14 Waseca AP, 11/28 Chippewa EL, 11/29 Anoka GP.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Late north 10/3 Polk DS, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 10/31 Cook SOL; Late south 11/11 Hennepin DZ, 11/12 Winona AP, 11/15 Wabasha TBB.

### **American Black Duck**

Late north 9/26 **Red Lake** RG, 10/16 Pine JMM, 10/18 Duluth AB, 10/24 Cook RJ; late south 11/23 Stearns NH, 11/30 Hennepin SC and Washington DS.

### **Mallard**

Reported from 15 counties north, 27 counties south.

### **Northern Pintail**

Late north 9/2 Lake of the Woods TT, 10/6 Cass TS, 10/11 Aitkin WN; late south 11/28 Houston FL, Lac Qui Parle EL and Waseca AP.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Late north 10/10 St. Louis RSE, 10/16 Pine JMM, 10/17 Aitkin WN; late south 10/15 Nicollet JF, 10/17 Lac Qui Parle RJ, 10/31 Washington DS.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Late north 8/31 Polk AB, 9/22 Clay LCF; late south 11/20 Wabasha DWM, 11/24 Scott ES, 11/27 Martin RJ, AP.

### **Gadwall**

Late north 9/20 St. Louis TM, 10/3 Polk DS; late south 11/19 Washington DS, 11/24 Scott ES, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **American Wigeon**

Late north 9/30 Cook KMH, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 11/1 St. Louis SS; late south 11/27 Martin RJ, AP, 11/28 Houston FL, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

### **Canvasback**

Late north 10/17 Aitkin WN, 11/18 Roseau MC, 11/22 Douglas AB; late south 11/23 Wabasha DWM, 11/25 Hennepin DB, SC, 11/28 Houston FL.

### **Redhead**

Late north 11/6 Cook KMH and Crow Wing DB, 11/22 Becker BK and Douglas AB; late south 11/28 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle EL, 11/30 Ramsey RH.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Late north 10/24 Beltrami KH, 11/25 Hubbard JL, 11/26 Beltrami AB; late south 11/27 Waseca RJ and Washington DBC, 11/29 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Ramsey RH.

### **Greater Scaup**

Reported 11/21 Wabasha AB, 11/26 Beltrami AB, 11/28 Waseca AP, 11/30 Ramsey RG.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Late north 11/26 Beltrami AB and Cook KMH, 11/29 Becker BK; late south 11/29 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Ramsey RH and Sherburne DO.

### **Harlequin Duck**

Reported 10/6 Duluth BE.

### **Oldsquaw**

Reported 11/18 Hennepin SC et al.

### **Black Scoter**

Reported 10/23 St. Louis BE, PB, 11/7-8 Wabasha AP, 11/8-11 Waseca RG, RJ, AP, 11/12 St. Louis KC.

### **Surf Scoter**

Reported 10/12 to 11/11/26 Ramsey KB, SC, 10/23 St. Louis BE, PB, 10/27 to 11/30 Washington BDC et al. 11/10-14 AP Wabasha.

### **White-winged Scoter**

Reported 9/18 St. Louis BE, 10/21 Blue Earth JF, 10/24 Murray RG, 10/29 St. Louis PB, 10/31 Houston FL, 11/5 Cottonwood ED, 11/10-21 Wabasha AB, ES, 11/16-28 Washington RJ et al., 11/27 Cook *fide* KE, 11/30 Ramsey RG, DS.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Late north (away from Lake Superior) 11/6 Mille Lacs DB, 11/8 Beltrami KH, 11/28 Crow Wing WN; early south 10/28 Hennepin SC and Washington WL, 10/29 Olmsted RSE.

### **Bufflehead**

Early north 8/10 St. Louis DBC, 10/6 Lake SW; early south 10/10 Lac QuiParle AB, 10/11 Olmsted RSE; late north 11/28 Crow Wing WN and Lake SW; late south 11/28 Chippewa EL and Washington SC, GP, 11/30 Ramsey RH.

### **Hooded Merganser**

Reported north 10/18 St. Louis RSE, 11/3 Cook KMH, 11/26 Beltrami AB; south 11/5 Le Sueur EK, 11/18 Waseca JF, 11/25 Hennepin DB, SC, 11/28 Houston FL.

### **Common Merganser**

Early south 10/24 Washington WL, 11/8 Dakota TT and Goodhue DZ; late north 11/6 Cook SOL, 11/11 Mille Lacs DB, 11/26 Beltrami AB.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Late north 11/6 Mille Lacs DB, 11/28 Crow Wing WN; late south 11/11 Wabasha JM, 11/25 Blue Earth JF, 11/28 Hennepin SC.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Late north 8/29 Otter Tail DS, 9/22 Clay LCF; late south 11/7 Brown JS, 11/21 Wabasha AB, 11/27 Waseca RJ.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 368 (1986: 249); late north 10/2 Crow Wing DS, 10/15 Hubbard JL, 10/18 Duluth HR; late south 10/7 Winona AP, 10/8 Anoka RJ(11), 10/11 Goodhue RG.

### **Osprey**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 175 (1986: 145); late north 10/15 Hubbard, 11/8 St. Louis CO, 11/21 Cook WE; late south 10/16

Washington DS, 11/15 Mower JM, 11/18 Wright DO.

### **Bald Eagle**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 166 (1986: 304), late north 11/26 Becker BK, 11/27 Beltrami AB, 11/30 Cook SOL; peak south 11/21 Wabasha AP (125).

### **Northern Harrier**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 429 (1986: 400); late north 11/9 Hubbard WL, 11/13 Duluth HR, 11/27 Aitkin WN; late south 11/21 Fillmore AB, 11/29 Wabasha AP, 11/30 Houston EMF.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 11,492 (1986: 11,595); late north 10/10 Hubbard HJF, 11/19 Duluth BE, 11/23 Cook BE, late south 11/22 Brown JS and Houston EMF, 11/27 Anoka SC.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 66 (1986: 88); late north 8/23 Aitkin WN, 9/20 Itasca AB, 10/10 Duluth HR; late south 10/30 Washington WL, 11/8 Olmsted RSE, 11/22 Sherburne DO.

### **Northern Goshawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 203 (1986: 354); early south 11/1 Olmsted AB, 11/14 Anoka GP.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Reported 8/4 St. Louis DBC, 8/16 Stearns AB, 8/23 Scott AB, 10/28 Wabasha AP.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 12,622 (1986: 18,290), a record low; late north 9/26 Morrison AB, 9/27 Clay LCF, 10/18 Duluth HR; late south 9/27 Cottonwood BF, 10/5 Wabasha AP.

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Late north 8/24 Becker BK, 9/27 Wilkin SDM (45), 10/4 Todd DBC; late south 8/28 Swift EL, 9/12 Lac Qui Parle RG, 10/21 Nicollet JF.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 2060 (1986: 2667), a record low; reported from 11 counties north, 29 south.

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Duluth Hawk Ridge Count: 261 (1986: 495); early north 8/20 Duluth HR (5), 10/10 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Pine JMM; early south 8/26 Pipestone HK, 9/10 Lac Qui Parle AB, 10/1 Olmsted RSE.

### **Golden Eagle**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 6 (1986:31), a record low; late north 10/6 Duluth HR, 11/1 Marshall ANWR, 11/27 Beltrami AB; late south 10/30 Ramsey and Washington RG.

### **American Kestrel**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 880 (1986: 927); late north 11/21 Aitkin WN, 11/22 Douglas AB, 11/27 Clay LCF.

### **Merlin**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 141 (1986:115), a record high; early south 8/28 Big Stone EL, 9/6 Dodge AP, 9/7 Fillmore ANO; late north 10/26 Cook RJ, 11/27 Clearwater AB and Lake *fide* KE.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 11 (1986:27), lowest in 10 years; late north 10/1 Duluth PP, KE, 10/4 Cook WP, 10/25 Clay LCF; late south 9/27 Anoka RH, 10/17 Chippewa RG,RJ, 11/6 Ramsey TT.

### **Gyrfalcon**

Reported 10/27 Marshall ANWR.

### **Prairie Falcon**

Reported from Wilkin County for the sixth consecutive year, 11/6 KE, 11/22 AB.

### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from three counties north, 18 south.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported from four north and 24 south counties.

### **Spruce Grouse**

All reports: St. Louis (3) MH/JS, 9/3-11/24 Lake JMM, SW, 9/25 Beltrami (5) KH, 11/12 Cook KMH.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 15 north and seven south counties.

### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Wilkin KE; only report.

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Reported from Aitkin, Lake of the Woods, Marshall and St. Louis Counties.

### **Wild Turkey**

Reported from Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted and Winona Counties.

### **Yellow Rail**

9/10 Wood Lake Nature Center, Hennepin Co. DB; only report.

### **Virginia Rail**

All reports: 8/8 Brown RJ, AP, 8/16 Grant AB, 8/25 St. Louis EL, 9/5 Hennepin TT.

### **Sora**

Late north 9/1 Lake MH/JS, 9/6 Beltrami AB, 10/25 Hubbard JL; late south 9/9 Waseca AP, 9/14 Freeborn NHO, 10/14 Hennepin SC.

### **Common Moorhen**

All reports: 8/22 - 9/9 Wright (max. 3) m.ob., 9/3 Wabasha (3) AP.

### **American Coot**

Late north 10/25 Aitkin WN and Hubbard JL, 11/14 Roseau MC, 11/30 Cook KMH; late south 11/27 Waseca RJ and Washington DBC, DS, 11/28 Ramsey GP, 11/30 Hennepin m.ob.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Late north 9/7 Becker BK, 10/4 Marshall RJ, 10/17 Clay LCF; late south 10/13 Lyon HK, 10/19 Anoka GP, 11/21 Olmsted JEB, RSE; peak 9/27 Marshall (4000) ANWR.

### **Black-bellied Plover**

Early north 9/6 St. Louis DBC, 9/27 Cook KMH; early south 8/16 Stearns AB, 9/18 Nicollet JF; late north 11/2 Duluth WE, 11/7 Otter Tail KE; late south 10/22 Steele AP, 10/28 Pipestone ND.

### **Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early north 8/24 Cook KMH, 9/13 Duluth AB; early south 8/19 Blue Earth MF, 9/4 Dodge RSE; late north 10/25 Clay LCF, 11/1 Cook KE; late south 10/11 Anoka GP and Hennepin SC, 10/17 Chippewa RJ.



**Sandhill Crane with Canada Geese, November 21, 1987, Rochester, Olmsted County.  
Photo by Brian Ekblad.**

**Semipalmated Plover**

Late north 8/30 Lake SS, SW, 9/26 Duluth SC, 10/3 Beltrami RJ; late south 9/4 Meeker RSE, 9/6 Dodge AP, 9/18 Nicollet JF.

**Killdeer**

Late north 10/18 Clay LCF, 10/21 Norman BK, **11/30** Duluth KE; late south 11/2 Brown JS, 11/3 Anoka m.ob., **11/28** Martin RG.

**Greater Yellowlegs**

Late north 10/4 Polk DS, 11/4 Duluth MS; late south 10/31 Houston RJ and Winona RSE, 11/1 Fillmore AB, AP, 11/7 Anoka GP.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late north 8/30 Lake SS, 9/13 Duluth AB, 10/11 Clay LCF; late south 11/1 Fillmore AB, 11/3 Anoka m.ob., 11/11 Stearns DO.

**Solitary Sandpiper**

Late north 9/20 Roseau TT, 9/24 Lake SW, 10/3 Koochiching RG, RJ; late south 9/23 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Brown JS and Stearns NH, 10/9 Pipestone JP.

**Willet**

All reports: 8/13 Wabasha RG, 8/14 Dodge RSE.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Late north 9/26 Duluth SC, 10/3 Beltrami RG and Cass RJ, 10/5 Polk DS; late south 9/11 Nicollet JF, 9/12 Dakota TT, 9/27 Brown JS and Dodge AP.

**Upland Sandpiper**

All reports: 8/15 Rock KE, RH, **9/1** Duluth KC.

**Whimbrel**

8/27 - **10/16** Duluth (max. 2) m.ob.; only report.

**Hudsonian Godwit**

All reports: 8/7 Lyon (3) HK, 9/27 Cottonwood BF.

**Marbled Godwit**

8/14 Lyon KE; only report

**Ruddy Turnstone**

All reports: 8/7 Lyon HK, 8/30 Goodhue DB, 9/4-9 Dodge m.ob., 9/6-20 St. Louis m.ob.

**Red Knot**

9/18-21 Duluth m.ob.; only report.

### **Sanderling**

All reports: 8/8 - 9/23 Washington DS, 8/14 Cottonwood RJ, AP, 8/30 Cook SOL and Lake SS, SW, 9/18 Nicollet JF, 9/19 - 10/14 Duluth m.ob., 10/25 Swift RG.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Late north 8/24 Cook KMH, 8/30 Lake SS, SW, 8/31 Polk AB, 9/6 St. Louis TM; late south 9/12 Goodhue RSE, 9/13 McLeod AP, 9/27 Lyon HK, 10/17 Swift RJ.

### **Western Sandpiper**

All reports: 8/6 Chisago RH, 8/7-27 Lyon HK, 8/14 Cottonwood RSE, 8/16 Stearns AB, 9/9 Steele RJ, AP.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early north 8/1 Lake SW, 8/17 Clay LCF; early south 8/4 Brown JS, 8/5 Wright ES; late north 9/3 Marshall TT, 9/20 St. Louis RSE; late south 9/27 Lyon HK and Steele RJ, AP, 10/3 Hennepin SC.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

All reports: 8/11 Stearns NH, 8/15 Rock RSE, 8/28 - 9/27 Lyon HK, 10/29 Duluth PB.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early north 8/24 Cook KMH, 8/25 St. Louis SW; early south 8/7 Lyon HK, 8/14 Dodge RSE; late north 9/13 Duluth AB, 9/14 Cook KMH; late south 10/3 Wright ES, 10/23 Steele RJ.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Late north 9/25 Lake SW, 10/25 Clay LCF, 11/1 Cook KE; late south 11/8 Goodhue DZ, 11/9 Hennepin SC, 11/14 Wabasha DZ.

### **Dunlin**

All reports: 8/28 Lyon HK, 9/19-20 St. Louis RSE, 9/27 - 10/22 Steele RJ, AP, 10/25 Cook RJ, 11/1-3 Anoka m.ob., 11/6 Mille Lacs WL, 11/8 Dodge AP.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

Early north 8/19 Cook KMH, 8/25 St. Louis SW; early south 8/7 Lyon HK, 8/8 Brown RJ, AP; late north 9/14 Duluth DB, 9/25 Otter Tail RG; late south 9/9 Dodge RJ, Steele AP and Wright ES, 9/23 Pipestone JP.

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

All reports: 8/1 Dakota (7) TT, 8/27 - 9/19 Duluth KE, RSE, 8/28-30 Lake SS, SW, 9/8

Minneapolis (2) DBC.

### **RUFF**

8/1 Stacy, Chisago Co. RJ, AP (*The Loon* 59:217).

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

All reports: 8/1 Anoka AP, 8/8 Brown RJ, 8/13 Mower RRK, 8/14 Cottonwood RSE, 8/16 Murray RH and Pope AB, 8/28 - 9/27 Lyon HK, 9/3 Marshall TT, 9/9 Steele RJ, AP.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Early south 8/7 Lyon HK, 8/16 Mower RRK; late south 10/19 Anoka GP, 10/31 Winona RSE; two north reports 8/31 Polk AB, 9/6-28 Duluth m.ob.

### **Common Snipe**

Late north 10/16 Cook SOL, 10/29 Becker BK, 10/31 St. Louis SS; late south 11/19 Houston EMF, 11/10 Wabasha ES, 11/11 Hennepin DZ and Stearns DO.

### **American Woodcock**

Late north 10/11 Clay LCF, 10/16 Pine RSE, JMM and St. Louis MH/JS, 10/25 Cook SOL and Kanabec AB, DB; late south 10/25 Swift RG, 11/1 Anoka DS, Brown JS, Houston EMF and Lac Qui Parle FE, 11/3 Fillmore ANO.

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

All reports: 8/8 Brown AP, 8/14 Jackson RSE, 8/16 Cottonwood KE, RSE and Murray RH, 8/23 - 9/13 Meeker m.ob., 8/31 Stearns NH, 9/13 McLeod RJ, AP, 9/27 Clay LCF and Yellow Medicine HK.

### **Red-necked Phalarope**

All reports: 8/8 Brown AP, 8/16 Cottonwood KE, RSE and Murray RH, 8/23 Dodge RSE, 8/24 Cook KMH, 8/31 Polk AB, 9/5-13 Meeker m.ob., 9/13 McLeod RJ, AP, 9/17 Pipestone ND, JP, 9/27 Yellow Medicine HK.

### **Parasitic Jaeger**

8/27 - 10/27 (max. 6) Duluth m.ob.; only report.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Late north 9/6 St. Louis TM, 9/19 Lake of the Woods TT, 10/30 Douglas RG; late south 10/17 Chippewa RJ, 10/23 Cottonwood BF, 11/11 Nicollet JF.

### **Little Gull**

All reports: 9/28 - 10/3 Mille Lacs Lake, Aitkin and Crow Wing Cos. TS, m.ob., 8/24 Lower Red Lake, **Beltrami Co.** RG.

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early north 8/16 Cook EH/RB, 8/22 Aitkin WN; early south 8/19 Meeker TM, 8/27 Anoka RH and Yellow Medicine HK; late north 11/8 Otter Tail KE, 11/11 Mille Lacs AB, 11/28 Crow Wing WN; late south 10/17 Sherburne AB, 10/28 Wabasha AP.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Late north 11/10 Hubbard HJF, 11/21 Beltrami AB, 11/28 Crow Wing WN.

### **CALIFORNIA GULL**

10/29-30 Minneapolis SC (*The Loon* 60:49-50).

### **Herring Gull**

Reported from 11 north and ten south counties.

### **Thayer's Gull**

All reports: 10/23 Duluth KE, 11/11 Waseca RJ, AP.

### **Glaucous Gull**

All reports: 11/11-30 Cook m.ob., 11/19 Duluth KE.

### **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**

11/21 **Wabasha** (ad.) AP; first non-Duluth record (*The Loon* 60:46-47).

### **SABINE'S GULL**

9/12 Lake Lillian, Kandiyohi Co. RG, B. Litke (*The Loon* 60:41).

### **Caspian Tern**

Early south 8/18 Washington WL, 8/19 Faribault MF; late north 9/18 Mille Lacs DB, 9/20 St. Louis RSE, TM, 10/5 Red Lake RJ; late south 9/29 Dakota TT, 10/1 Chisago AP.

### **Common Tern**

All reports: 8/4-9/2 Lake of the Woods MC, TT, 8/16 Stearns AB, 9/13-20 Duluth AB, RSE, 9/26 Hubbard HJF, 10/3 Crow Wing AP, 10/3-11 Aitkin m.ob.

### **Forster's Tern**

Late north 9/3 Duluth KE and Marshall

TT, 9/6 St. Louis TM, 10/3 Beltrami RJ; late south 9/6 Waseca RJ, 9/13 Kandiyohi AP, **10/14 Blue Earth JF.**

### **Black Tern**

All reports: 8/9 Dakota TT, 8/12 Stevens and Swift EL, 8/14 Jackson RSE, 8/16 Mower RRR, Murray RSE and Pope AB, 8/20 Brown JS, 8/23 Aitkin WN, 9/13 Kandiyohi AP, 9/18 Nicollet JF.

### **Rock Dove**

Reported from 11 north and 19 south counties.

### **Mourning Dove**

Late north 11/1 Aitkin WN, 11/4 Duluth WE, 11/6 Cook SOL.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Late south 8/19 Houston EMF, 8/28 Brown JS and Lack Qui Parle EL, 10/3 Mower RRR and Olmsted RSE; one north report 8/9 Clay LCF.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Late south 9/6 Mower JM, 9/10 Freeborn NHO, 9/11 Fillmore ANO; two north reports 9/5 **Duluth KR, 9/27 St. Louis DJ.**

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Reported from Becker, Big Stone, Chipewewa, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Mower, Murray, Rock, Swift, Waseca and Yellow Medicine Counties.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from 13 north and 23 south counties.

### **Snowy Owl**

All reports: 10/19-28 Pipestone ND, JP, 10/28 Duluth *fide* KE, 10/31 Lake KE, 11/2 Marshall ANWR, 11/6 Cook EH/RB, WP, 11/9 Beltrami KH, 11/11 Waseca AP, 11/17 Wabasha AP, 11/22 Wilkin (2) SDM, 11/24 Pope DO, 11/27 Aitkin WN and Clearwater AB.

### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

All reports: 10/13 Cook *fide* WP, 11/13-28 St. Louis CO, m.ob., 11/28 Aitkin WN.

### **Barred Owl**

Reported from ten north and nine south counties.

### **Great Gray Owl**

All reports: 8/24 Cook KMH, 8/24-11/21 Roseau m.ob., 10/1-11/27 Aitkin AB, WN, 10/10-11/22 St. Louis (several locations) m.ob., 10/23 Koochiching (2) C. Weaver, 11/8 Hubbard TS.

### **Long-eared Owl**

Roseau (no date) MC; only report.

### **Short-eared Owl**

All reports: 9/28-10/11 Duluth WE, *fide* KE, 10/17 Lake m.ob., 10/28 Ramsey RG.

### **Boreal Owl**

All reports: **10/10** (2) - 11/19 Duluth (8 banded at Hawk Ridge) KE, 10/28 Duluth WE.

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

Reported from Cook, Hennepin, Olmsted, Roseau, St. Louis (incl. 34 banded at Hawk Ridge on 9/23 KE) and Washington Counties.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Late north 8/28 Clearwater AB, 9/3 Lake JMM, 9/6 Aitkin WN; late south 9/27 Cottonwood BF, Hennepin SW and Washington DS, 9/28 Brown JS, 9/30 Stevens EL.

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

All reports: 8/1-9/9 Houston EMF, 9/2 Roseau TT, 9/4 Cook SOL.

### **Chimney Swift**

Late north 8/29 Clay LCF, 8/30 Lake SS, SW, **10/18** St. Louis AB; late south 9/28 Blue Earth JF, 10/3 Dakota TT, 10/13 Hennepin SC.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Late north 9/12 Koochiching GM, 9/13 Beltrami KH, 9/15 Cook SOL; late south 9/23 Lyon HK, 9/25 Cottonwood BF, 9/27 Wright ES.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Late north 10/3 Itasca AB, 10/13 Cook SOL, 10/24 Aitkin WN.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Late north 9/9 Duluth MH, 9/26 Wadena

AB, 11/14 Aitkin WN.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from Aitkin and 10/26 Clay (2) *fide* LCF in the north and from 22 south counties.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Late north 10/6 Clay LCF, 10/16 Pine JMM, 10/20 St. Louis SS; late south 10/9 Fillmore ANO, 10/12 Hennepin GP, 11/26 Dakota TT.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 15 north and 32 south counties.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 14 north and 29 south counties.

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

All reports: 10/20-28 Cook EH/RB, KMH, 11/10-26 Lake SW.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

Reported from Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Roseau and St. Louis counties.

### **Northern Flicker**

Reported from 27 south and ten north counties; late north 11/28 Clay LCF.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 15 north and 32 south counties.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 8/9 Brown JS, 8/11 Anoka DB, 8/12 Olmsted RSE; late north 8/31 Polk AB, 9/7 Aitkin WN; late south 9/7 Fillmore ANO, AP, 9/11 Nicollet JF.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Late north 9/12 Aitkin WN, 9/13 Pine AB, 9/20 St. Louis RSE; late south 9/17 Cottonwood BF, 9/20 Hennepin SC and Brown JS, **10/6** Fillmore ANO.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 8/9 Brown JS, 8/15 Rock RH, 8/22 Anoka SC; late north 8/22 Clay LCF; late south 9/6 Steele RJ, AP, 9/11 Hennepin SC.

**Acadian Flycatcher**

All reports: 8/13 Scott DB, 8/18 Fillmore AP, **9/2** Gillmore AP, RJ, (calling).

**Alder Flycatcher**

All reports: 8/9 Dakota TT, 8/22 Aitkin WN, 8/30 Dakota DB.

**Willow Flycatcher**

Late north 8/27 Becker BK, 8/31 Polk AB; late south 9/10 Cottonwood BF, 9/27 Houston EMF, 10/4 Olmsted RSE.

**Least Flycatcher**

Late north 9/13 Duluth AB, 9/14 Cook KMH; late south 9/13 Brown JS and Meeker AP, 9/20 Washington WL, 9/21 Hennepin SC.

**Eastern Phoebe**

Late north 9/13 Aitkin WN and Pine AB, 9/14 Cook KMH, 10/9 Todd SDM; late south 10/27 Houston EMF, 10/29 Hennepin SC, ES, 10/31 Anoka JH.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 9/27 Clay LCF; late south 9/11 Hennepin DBC, 9/12 Waseca AP and Nicollet JF, 9/15 Pipestone JP.

**Western Kingbird**

Late north 8/7 Becker BK, 8/18 Duluth PB, 8/26 Clay LCF; late south 8/16 Pope AB, 8/24 Meeker DS, **10/15** Anoka GP.

**Eastern Kingbird**

Late north 9/6 Aitkin WN, 9/12 Pine JMM, 9/20 St. Louis RSE; late south 9/10 Brown JS, 9/11 Nicollet JF, 9/15 Rock ND.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**

10/16 Goodhue C. Hanson.

**Horned Lark**

Reported from six north and 21 south counties; late north 11/6 Cook KMH.

**Purple Martin**

Late north 8/31 Aitkin TT, 9/26 Clay LCF; late south 9/4 Murray ND, 9/6 Freeborn RJ and Washington DS, 9/21 Mower RRK.

**Tree Swallow**

Late north 9/13 Clay LCF, 10/17 St. Louis KE, RSE; late south 10/3 Meeker TM, 10/8 Wabasha DWM, 10/11 Wright ES.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Late north 8/29 Clay LCF; late south 9/6 Brown JS, 9/23 Fillmore AP, RJ, 10/10 Hennepin SC.

**Bank Swallow**

Late north 8/23 Aitkin WN; late south 9/4 Hennepin TT and Dodge RSE, 9/13 Kandiyohi RJ and Washington DS and Renville AP, **10/27** Stevens EL.

**Cliff Swallow**

Late north 8/30 Aitkin WN, 9/5 Clearwater AB, 9/13 Clay LCF; late south 9/12 Hennepin TT, 9/13 Kandiyohi RJ, **10/7** Winona AP.

**Barn Swallow**

Late north 10/4 Clay LCF, 10/6 Duluth WE, **11/5** Sawbill Trail, Cook, Ellen Hawkins; late south 10/10 Lac Qui Parle AB and Nicollet MT and Ramsey RH, 10/11 Wright ES and Dakota DZ.

**Gray Jay**

Reported from 12 north counties.

**Blue Jay**

Reported from 14 north and 34 south counties; peak 9/8 Duluth (3400) PB.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Eleven reports from eight north counties.

**American Crow**

Reported from 16 north and 30 south counties.

**Common Raven**

Reported from 13 north counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 15 north and 32 south counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Reported from eight north counties.

**Tufted Titmouse**

All reports: Houston EMF, 11/1 Olmsted AB.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 13 north and 15 south counties; early south 8/4 Anoka JH, 8/6 Hennepin DB.

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 16 north and 33 south counties.

### **Brown Creeper**

Early south 8/23 Hennepin TT, 9/6 Freeborn NHO, 9/12 Nicollet JF.

### **House Wren**

Late north 9/26 St. Louis CO, 10/8 Clay LCF; late south 9/29 Houston EMF, 10/3 Hennepin SC and Olmsted RSE, 10/4 Brown JS.

### **Winter Wren**

Early south 9/8 Freeborn NHO, 9/13 Anoka SC, GP; late north 10/8 Lake DB, 10/14 Cook KMH, SOL, 10/25 Kanabec AB, DB; late south 10/22 Brown JS, 10/24 Murray RG, 10/31 Houston m.ob.

### **Sedge Wren**

North 8/22 Aitkin WN, 8/28 Wilkin SDM, 9/5 Clearwater AB; late south 9/28 Hennepin SC, 10/3 Olmsted RSE, 10/13 Murray ND.

### **Marsh Wren**

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 10/4 Duluth WE; late south 9/29 Brown JS, 10/14 Hennepin SC.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 8/7 Dakota TT, 9/20 Hennepin SC and Anoka GP and Brown JS, 9/23 Mower and Fillmore AP; late north 10/23 Lake SW, 10/25 Kanabec AB, 10/31 Clay LCF.

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 8/16 Olmsted RSE, 8/18 Mower RRK, 8/19 Freeborn NHO; late north 10/17 Clay LCF, 10/24 Cook RJ, 10/28 Duluth WE; late south 11/1 Lac Qui Parle FE, 11/3 Anoka GP, 11/5 Houston EMF.

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Reported from 16 south counties; late south 9/7 Meeker SC and Fillmore ANO (25), 9/12 Houston EMF, 9/22 Murray ND.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Reported from 11 north and 23 south counties; late north 10/21 Cook KMH, 10/24 Aitkin WN, 10/25 Kanabec AB.

### **Townsend's Solitaire**

All reports: 10/18 Lake KE, 10/23 St. Louis KE, 10/31 Cook WE.

### **Veery**

North 8/5 St. Louis DBC, 8/15 Hubbard JL, 9/26 Pine JMM; late south 10/4 Olmsted RSE.

### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Early north 9/2 Itasca AB, DB, 9/26 St. Louis CO; early south 9/2 Hennepin SC; late north 10/2 Koochiching GM; late south 10/6 Hennepin BDC, 10/10 Mower RRK.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south 8/20 Olmsted RSE, 8/24 Hennepin SC, GP, 8/28 Dakota TT; late north 10/5 Cook KMH, 10/9 Lake RJ, 10/14 Duluth WE; late south 10/4 Olmsted RSE, 10/6 Hennepin DBC, 10/8 Freeborn NHO.

### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 9/12 Olmsted RSE, 9/22 Hennepin SC, 9/27 Houston EMF; late north 10/10 Crow Wing WN, 10/11 Clay LCF, 10/27 Duluth WE; late south 10/23 Steele RJ, 10/25 Houston EMF and Brown JS, 10/31 Fillmore ANO.

### **Wood Thrush**

All reports: 8/1-3 Houston EMF, 9/5 Itasca AB, 9/25-10/4 Hennepin ES, *fide* SC, 10/4 Olmsted RSE.

### **American Robin**

Reported from 13 north and 22 south counties; late north 11/29 Clay LCF, 11/30 Otter Tail SDM; peak 9/30 Duluth (10,247) MH.

### **Gray Catbird**

Late north 9/12 Aitkin WN, 9/13 Carlton AB, 9/19 Clay LCF; late south 10/6 Fillmore ANO, 10/9 Washington DS, 10/13 Hennepin ES.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

11/7 Olmsted JEB.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Late north 9/26 Clay LCF, 10/7 Becker BK, 10/24 Cook SOL; late south 10/23 Lac Qui Parle FE, 10/25 Houston EMF, 10/26 Stevens EL.

### **Water Pipit**

Early north 8/8 St. Louis DBC; early south 9/7 Meeker SC, 9/12 Lac Qui Parle RG; late north 10/17 Crow Wing (30) AB, 10/18 St.

Louis RSE, 10/24 Lake RJ; late south 10/17 Hennepin TT, 10/19 Anoka GP, 10/22 Steele and Dodge AP.

### **Sprague's Pipit**

All reports: 8/8 Clay RSE.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

Early north 9/15 Koochiching GM, 9/22 Duluth WE, PB, 10/24 Cook RJ; early south 10/23 Washington WL, 11/15 Dakota TT, 11/24 Cottonwood BF.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from eight north and 25 south counties; late north 10/30 Clay LCF, 11/30 Roseau MC.

### **Northern Shrike**

Early north 10/3 Aitkin WN, 10/10 Duluth *fide* KE, 10/11 Cook SOL; early south 9/24 Olmsted JEB.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

All reports: 8/2 Freeborn NHO, 8/7 Washington TBB, 8/9 Clay LCF and Mower JM, 8/12 Dodge RJ, AP, 11/4 Stearns NH.

### **European Starling**

Reported from 12 north and 29 south counties.

### **Bell's Vireo**

All reports: 8/1 Dakota TT, 8/20 Houston EMF.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Early south 8/23 Hennepin DB, 8/28 Brown JS; late north 9/26 Wadena AB, 10/8 Lake DB, 10/27 Duluth WE; late south 10/1 Houston EMF, 10/8 Hennepin SC, 10/9 Faribault FS.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Late north 8/31 Polk AB, 9/5 Clay LCF, 9/19 Duluth PB; late south 9/12 Houston EMF, 9/18 Hennepin SC, 9/26 Dakota TT.

### **Warbling Vireo**

North 8/31 Polk AB; late south 9/24 Brown JS, 9/27 Houston EMF, 10/13 Fillmore AP.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 8/10 Pipestone RJ, 8/11 Blue Earth MF; late north 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/19 Clay LCF, 10/18 Duluth PE; late south 9/7

Stevens EL, 9/13 Dakota TT, 9/28 Hennepin SC.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Late north 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/12 Aitkin WN, 9/13 St. Louis AB, SS; late south 9/22 Murray JP, 9/28 Hennepin SC, 9/30 Fillmore ANO.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Reported from seven counties; late south 8/23 Scott AB, 8/28 Dakota TT, 9/1 Fillmore ANO.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Late north 8/27 Mahnomen RG, 8/30 Aitkin WN and Hubbard JL; late south 9/2 Fillmore AP, 9/6 Dodge RJ, AP, 9/11 Hennepin SC.

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early north 8/1 Wilkin FS, 8/3 Lake FS; early south 8/1 Olmsted RSE, 8/3 Anoka SC; late north 10/3 Crow Wing AP, 10/8 Cook KMH, 10/12 Duluth WE; late south 10/3 Dakota TT and Olmsted RSE, 10/9 Hennepin SC and Fillmore ANO, 10/14 Washington WL.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early north 8/13 Clay LCF, 8/31 St. Louis MH/JS; early south 8/18 Mower RRK, 8/20 Hennepin SC, 8/32 Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/18 Duluth AB; late south 10/16 Stearns NH, 10/17 Hennepin TT and Stevens EL.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 8/3 Anoka SC, 8/4 Brown JS and Hennepin DB and Olmsted RSE; late north 10/4 Clay LCF, 10/8 Cook KMH, 10/9 Lake RJ and Duluth WE; late south 10/14 Hennepin SC, 10/16 Washington WL, 10/17 Dakota TT.

### **Northern Parula**

Early south 8/17 Olmsted RSE, 8/20 Hennepin SC 8/21 Wright ES; late north 10/9 Duluth MH, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 9/23 Mower AP, RJ, 9/29 Hennepin DB.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Late north 9/10 Beltrami KH, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/12 Pine JMM, 9/15 Duluth DB; late south 9/7 Pipestone JP and Fillmore AP, 9/15 Hennepin SC and Dakota TT.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Late north 9/14 St. Louis MH/JS, 9/19 Itasca AB, 9/21 Cook KMH; late south 9/11 Dakota TT, 9/12 Houston EMF, 9/14 Fillmore ANO, 9/27 Hennepin SC.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 8/4 Anoka JH, 8/14 Dakota TT and Wright ES and Houston FL; late north 9/18 Clay LCF, 9/20 Itasca AB and St. Louis RSE, 9/24 Cook KMH; late south 9/25 Fillmore ANO, 9/28 Hennepin SC, 10/10 Houston FL.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Early north 8/31 Polk AB, 9/3 St. Louis MH/JS; early south 8/1 Dakota TT, 8/4 Anoka JH, 8/10 Goodhue RG; late north 9/21 Cook KMH, 11/8-13 Duluth RN, WE; late south 9/22 Hennepin SC, 9/27 Steele RJ, AP, 9/28 Dakota TT.

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

All reports: 9/2 Cook KMH, 9/9 Fillmore AP, 10/6 Hennepin SC.

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Early south 8/5 Dakota TT, 8/7 Wright ES, 8/10 Goodhue RG; late north 10/15 Cook KMH, 10/18 St. Louis AB, RSE, 10/24 Aitkin WN; late south 11/3 Fillmore ANO, 11/7 Olmsted JEB, 11/24 Hennepin SC.

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

Early south 8/19 Freeborn NHO, 8/20 Hennepin SC, 8/22 Dakota TT; late north 9/12 Aitkin WN, 9/15 Cook KMH and St. Louis CO, 9/19 Itasca AB; late south 9/21 Mower JM, 9/27 Steele AP, RJ and Houston EMF, 10/6 Hennepin SC.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 8/3 Mower RRK, 8/4 Freeborn NHO; late north 9/13 Pine AB; late south 9/12 Houston EMF, 9/17 Hennepin SC, 9/25 Freeborn NHO.

### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 8/8 Dakota TT, 8/14 Wright ES, 8/19 Freeborn NHO; late north 10/3 Pine JMM, 10/4 St. Louis CO; late south 9/26 Dakota TT, 9/28 Houston EMF.

### **Palm Warbler**

Early north 8/12 Cook SOL, 8/14 Roseau MC, 8/15 Clay LCF; early south 8/18 Mower

RRK, 8/22 Dakota TT and Murray ND; late north 10/9 Lake RJ, 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/18 Duluth AB; late south 10/8 Freeborn NHO, 10/9 Rice FS, 10/14 Hennepin SC.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early north 8/15 Clay LCF, 8/22 Aitkin WN; early south 8/5 Chisago RG and Dakota TT, 8/11 Anoka DB, 8/12 Freeborn AP; late north 9/19 Clay LCF, 9/20 St. Louis RSE; late south 9/25 Ramsey RH, 9/29 Hennepin SC, 10/3 Washington FS.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early north 8/3 Lake FS, 9/2 Itasca DB and Lake of the Woods TT; early south 8/4 Anoka JH, 8/14 Wright ES; late north 10/3 Koochiching RJ, 10/4 Duluth WE; late south 9/13 Dakota TT, 9/27 Hennepin SC.

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

Late north 9/13 Cook AB, 9/20 Clay LCF, 9/21 Cook KMH; late south 9/26 Dakota TT, 9/28 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Minneapolis DB.

### **American Redstart**

Late north 9/20 St. Louis RSE, 9/21 Cook KMH, 10/19 St. Louis KE; late south 9/25 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, 9/27 Steele RJ, AP, 10/3 Hennepin DZ.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

One report 8/1 thru 8/5 Hubbard JL (needs details).

### **Ovenbird**

Late north 9/20 Itasca AB, 9/24 Koochiching GM, 10/8 Clay LCF; late south 9/29 Brown JS, 10/12 Hennepin, 10/13 Hennepin ES.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 8/4 Hennepin DB, SC, 8/12 Houston EMF, 8/16 Pipestone KE, RSE, RH; late north 9/6 Clay LCF, 10/3 Itasca AB; late south 10/7 Hennepin DBC, 10/10 Hennepin DB, 10/24 Dakota TT.

### **Kentucky Warbler**

10/6 Hennepin SC, (*The Loon* 59:218).

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Early south 8/20 Fillmore ANO, 8/23 Anoka GP; late north 8/27 Becker BK, 9/7 Clay LCF; late south 9/14 Hennepin SC, 10/14 Hennepin SC.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Early south 8/16 Pipestone KE, RH, 8/17 Brown JS, 8/20 Hennepin SC; late north 9/6 Beltrami AB, 9/20 Clay LCF; late south 9/4 Hennepin SC, 9/7 Brown JS, Hennepin AB, 10/19 Washington WL.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Late north 10/3 Itasca DB, 10/10 Aitkin WN, 10/18 St. Louis KE; late south 10/4 Murray ND, 10/11 Dakota DZ, 10/14 Hennepin SC.

### **Hooded Warbler**

9/12 Washington, BF (second latest date on record, needs details).

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Early south 8/16 Pipestone KE, RH, 8/17 Brown JS, Freeborn NHO, Hennepin SC, Mower RRR; late north 8/30 Clay LCF, 8/31 Polk AB; late south 9/15 Brown JS, 9/18 Hennepin TT, Murray ND, Pipestone JP, 9/27 Hennepin SC.

### **Canada Warbler**

Early south 8/10 Goodhue RG, 8/15 Rock KE, RH, 8/16 Chisago GP; late north 8/28 Becker BK, 9/2 Clay LCF; late south 9/6 Waseca RJ, 9/12 Hennepin DB, 9/13 Hennepin SC.

### **Summer Tanager**

10/1 thru 10/17 **Crow Wing** TS, WN, DB, AB.

### **Scarlet Tanager**

Late north 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/13 Duluth AB, 11/11 Cook KMH; late south 9/12 Fillmore AP, 9/16 Cottonwood BF, 9/20 Hennepin SC.

### **Northern Cardinal**

Reported from Clay and Otter Tail as well as 18 counties throughout the south.

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Late north 9/6 St. Louis TM, 9/7 Aitkin WN, 9/13 Carlton AB, late south 9/28 Houston EMF, 9/29 Hennepin DB, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

### **Blue Grosbeak**

All reports 8/8 Pipestone ND, 8/15 Rock KE, 8/16 Rock RSE, 8/23 Rock ND, 9/2 Nobles ND and 9/23 Murray ND.

### **Indigo Bunting**

Two reports north 8/1 Aitkin WN and 8/8 Becker BK; late south 9/30 Houston EMF, 10/4 Dakota TT, 10/11 Hennepin SC.

### **Dickcissel**

All reports 8/8 Freeborn NHO, 8/12 Murray ND, 8/15 Rock AP, RSE, RH, RJ.

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Late north 9/6 Beltrami AB, 11/7 Clay LCF; late south 10/4 Houston FL, 10/6 Hennepin AB, DB, ES, 10/19 Hennepin SC.

### **American Tree Sparrow**

Early north 9/24 St. Louis KE, 10/4 Pennington RJ, 10/6 Cook KMH; early south 10/6 Murray ND, 10/10 Chisago AB, 10/12 Hennepin ES.

### **Chipping Sparrow**

Late north 9/26 Wadena AB, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 11/10 St. Louis KE; late south 10/19 Hennepin DBC, 10/25 Cottonwood BF, 10/27 Freeborn NHO.

### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Late north 9/13 Clay LCF, 9/14 Cook KMH, 10/23 St. Louis *fide* KE; late south 9/21 Cottonwood BF, 9/27 Stevens EL.

### **Field Sparrow**

Late north 10/14 thru 10/16 **Duluth** *fide* KE; late south 10/8 LeSueur HJC, 10/15 Fillmore ANO, 10/18 Anoka JH, 10/22 Washington TBB.

### **Vesper Sparrow**

Late north 9/6 Clearwater AB, 10/11 Clay LCF, 10/15 Duluth KE; late south 10/22 Dodge AP, 10/23 Dodge RJ, 11/17 Olmsted JEB.

### **Savannah Sparrow**

Late north 10/19 Cook KMH, 10/24 Lake RJ, 11/8 St. Louis *fide* KE; late south 10/17 Dakota TT, Hennepin GP, 10/22 Dodge AP, 11/1 Fillmore AB, 11/17 Olmsted JEB.

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

All reports 8/9 Clay LCF, 8/15 Rock RSE, RH, RJ, AP.

### **Henslow's Sparrow**

8/4 thru 8/29 Winona FL.

### **LeConte's Sparrow**

All reports 8/2 Aitkin WN, 9/27 Steele AP, 10/17 Kandiyohi RJ.

### **Fox Sparrow**

Early north 9/7 St. Louis MH/JS, 9/20 Lake of the Woods TT, 9/22 Cook KMH, Todd DB; early south 9/8 Freeborn NHO, 9/21 Hennepin SC, 9/26 Ramsey RH; late north 10/22 Becker BK, 10/24 Aitkin WN, 10/25 Kanabec AB; late south 11/7 Hennepin ES, 11/9 Hennepin SC, 11/15 Fillmore ANO, Olmsted JEB.

### **Song Sparrow**

Late north 10/18 Clay LCF, 10/25 Aitkin WN, 10/28 Cook KMH.

### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Early south 8/26 Hennepin SC, 9/4 Hennepin TT, 9/9 Waseca RJ, AP; late north 10/4 Itasca AB, 10/8 Clay LCF, Cook KMH; late south 10/15 Hennepin SC, 10/17 Brown JP, Chippewa RJ, 11/7 Olmsted JEB.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

Late north 10/3 Itasca AB, 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/16 St. Louis RSE; late south 10/19 Hennepin DBC, 10/21 Fillmore AP, 10/28 Hennepin SC.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Early south 9/2 Hennepin SC, 9/5 Hennepin TT, 9/7 Stevens EL; late north 10/24 Lake RJ, 11/1 Clay LCF, 11/2 St. Louis SS; late south 11/16 Hennepin GP, 11/27 Hennepin DZ, 11/30 Fillmore ANO, Houston EMF.

### **White-crowned Sparrow**

Early north 9/2 Itasca AB, 9/11 Koochiching GM, 9/13 Aitkin WN; early south 8/28 Hennepin DB, 9/8 Freeborn NHO, 9/12 Anoka GP; late north 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/15 Cook EH/RB, Mille Lacs DB, 10/18 Aitkin SC; late south 10/18 Olmsted JEB, 10/26 Brown MT, 11/14 Lac Qui Parle FE.

### **Harris' Sparrow**

Early north 9/17 Koochiching GM, 9/21 St. Louis KE, 9/24 Clay LCF, Cook KMH; early south 9/18 Pipestone ND, 9/28 Anoka GP, 10/4 Cottonwood BF, Stevens EL; late north 10/15 Becker BK, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 10/27 Clay LCF; late south 10/25 Brown JP, 10/28 Hennepin SC, 11/12 Murray ND.

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Early south 8/3 Anoka SC, 8/24 Washington WL, 8/26 Sherburne DZ.

### **Lapland Longspur**

Early north 9/9 Cook KMH, St. Louis *fide* KE, 9/19 Lake of the Woods TT, St. Louis RSE, 9/20 Pine RJ; early south 10/3 Hennepin SC, 10/10 Lac Qui Parle AB, 10/20 Hennepin GP, 10/22 Dodge AP; late north 11/11 Clay LCF, 11/22 Wilkin AB.

### **Smith's Longspur**

One report 9/19 Cook RG.

### **Snow Bunting**

Early north 9/30 St. Louis KE, 10/11 Hubbard HJF, 10/13 Cook KMH; early south 10/10 Chisago RH, 10/24 Fillmore AP, 10/29 Hennepin SC, ES, LeSueur JEB.

### **Bobolink**

Late north 8/23 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, 8/31 Polk AB; late south 9/12 Hennepin TT, 9/13 Lac Qui Parle RJ, AP.

### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Late north 11/2 Cook SOL, 11/8 Aitkin WN.

### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Late north 10/17 Aitkin AB, 11/1 Aitkin WN.

### **Western Meadowlark**

Late north 10/2 Mille Lacs AB, 10/20 Clay LCF.

### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Late north 10/6 St. Louis *fide* KE; late south 9/26 Dodge RSE, 9/29 Freeborn NHO, 10/4 Cottonwood BF.

### **Rusty Blackbird**

Early north 9/17 St. Louis KE, 9/19 St. Louis RSE, 9/20 Lake of the Woods TT; early south 9/11 Hennepin DBC, 9/23 Hennepin SC, 9/26 Dodge RSE; late north 11/15 Cook EH/RB, 11/23 Cook *fide* KE; late south 11/1 Fillmore AB, AP, 11/6 Murray ND, 11/11 Houston EMF.

### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Late north 10/4 Clay LCF, 10/18 Duluth AB, 10/20 St. Louis MH/JS; late south 11/11 Blue Earth JF.

**Common Grackle**

Late north 10/24 Lake RJ, 10/27 Clay LCF, 11/30 Aitkin WN, Cook SOL.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Late north 9/19 St. Louis RSE; late south 11/11 Blue Earth JF, 11/14 Waseca AP.

**Orchard Oriole**

Late north 9/5 Clay LCF; late south 9/6 Freeborn RJ, AP.

**Northern Oriole**

Late north 9/2 Itasca AB, 9/5 Clay LCF, 9/11 Koochiching GM; late south 9/5 Freeborn NHO, Hennepin TT, 9/13 Anoka SC, 9/24 Murray ND, Ramsey RH.

**Pine Grosbeak**

Early north 10/19 Cook KMH, 10/21 St. Louis MH/JS, 10/24 Cook EH/RB; one report south 10/29 LeSueur JEB.

**Purple Finch**

Reported from 11 counties north and 16 counties south.

**CASSIN'S FINCH**

11/11 Duluth DK (*The Loon* 60:3-9).

**HOUSE FINCH**

Two reports 10/14 Hennepin SC, 10/19 thru 10/28 Washington WL.

**Red Crossbill**

Early north 8/15 St. Louis SS, 9/9 St. Louis KE, 9/13 Carlton AB; early south 8/12 Dakota TT, 9/6 Brown JP.

**White-winged Crossbill**

Five reports 8/1 Aitkin WN, 8/14 St. Louis KE, 8/31 Dakota TT, 9/2 Itasca AB, 10/28 St. Louis CO.

**Common Redpoll**

Early north 11/7 Cook KMH, 11/8 St. Louis *fide* KE, 11/19 Cook SOL, St. Louis MH/JS, 11/27 Beltrami, Clearwater, Polk AB.

**Hoary Redpoll**

One report 11/28 Beltrami AB.

**Pine Siskin**

Reported from 11 counties north and 17 counties south.

**American Goldfinch**

Reported from 15 counties north and 28 counties south.

**Evening Grosbeak**

Early south 9/6 Rock RG, 10/18 Fillmore ANO, 10/19 Hennepin SC, Washington WL.

**House Sparrow**

Reported from ten counties north and 24 counties south.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

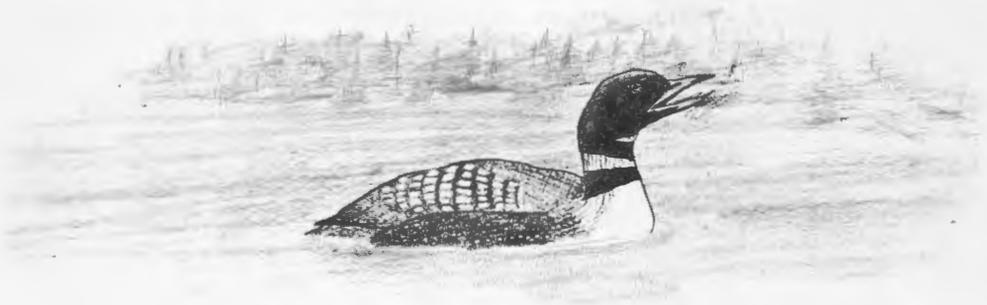
ANWR Agassiz NWR  
 PB Parker Backstrom  
 TBB Tom & Bette Bell  
 BF Bernie Fashingbauer  
 AB Al Bolduc  
 DB Don Bolduc  
 JB John Bollenbacher  
 JEB Jerry E. Bonkoski  
 KC Keith Camburn  
 DBC Doug & Betty Campbell  
 SC Steve Carlson  
 HJC Horace & John Chamberlain  
 MC Matt Cole  
 ND Nelvina DeKam  
 KE Kim Eckert  
 FE Fred Eckhardt  
 PE Paul Egeland  
 RSE Robert & Steve Ekblad  
 WE William Evans  
 LCF Laurence & Carol Falk  
 BF Buddy Feil  
 HJF Herbert & Jeanette Fisher  
 EMF Eugene & Marilyn Ford  
 JF John C. Frentz  
 MF Merrill Frydendall  
 RG Ray Glassel  
 EH/RB Ellen Hawkins/Rick Brandenburg  
 KH Katherine Haws  
 MH/JS Marshall Helmberger/Jodi Summit  
 MH Mike Hendrickson  
 NH Nestor Hiemenz  
 KMH Ken & Molly Hoffman  
 RH Robert Holtz  
 NHO Nancy Holway

JH	James L. Howitz	CO	Carol Oleson
RJ	Robert Janssen	DO	Dan Orr
DJ	Doug Johnson	ANO	Art and Nancy Overcott
DK	Don Kienholz	JP	Johanna Pals
BK	Byron Kinkade	GP	Greg Pietila
RRK	Ron & Rose Kneeskern	AP	Anne Marie Plunkett
EK	Erlys Krueger	WP	Walter Popp
HK	Henry C. Kyllingstad	KR	Kim Risen
EL	Ellen Lawler	TS	Terry Savaloja
JL	Jean Leckner	MS	Mark Stensaas
FL	Fred Leshner	SS	Steve Schon
WL	William H. Longley	TS	Tom Sobolik
SOL	Sandy & Orvis Lunke	DS	Dave Sovereign
DWM	Don & Wynn Mahle	JS	Jack Sprenger
GM	Grace Marquardt	ES	Evelyn Stanley
JMM	Jack and Marlyn Mauritz	FS	Forest Strnad
TM	Thomas McMullen	MT	Mark Tacke
SDM	Steve and Diane Millard	TT	Thomas Tustison
MM	Mark Moore	SW	Steve Wilson
JM	John Morrison	DZ	Dave Zumeta
WN	Warren Nelson		
RN	Robert Newman	m.ob.	Many observers

## Ten Questions Frequently Asked By Bird Listers

1. Why is it always windy on Saturdays?
2. Why is it when I find a tree full of fall warblers the bird I always get my glasses on is a chickadee?
3. Why can't I see the purple on a Purple Finch or the hair on a Hairy Woodpecker?
4. Why do the accidental birds always turn up on a Wednesday?
5. Why is it when I call the hot line somebody reports 110 species of warblers at Frontenac and I go down there and can only find three?
6. Are you really sure you tried to call me the day you saw the King Rail?
7. What did that man mean when he said "You should have been here yesterday?"
8. Does anyone know if there are any sewage ponds in Isanti County?
9. Why don't the LeConte's Sparrows sing as loudly as they did when I was young?
10. Why is it when I stop to look at a bird on a seemingly deserted road, there are suddenly a dozen cars behind me?

Ray Glassel



## NOTES OF INTEREST

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY** — Sunday morning, 28, 1988, was sunny and calm as I walked the mixed grass hillsides and grazed pastures of Goodman and Marge Larson's Prairie Marsh Farm in Lac Qui Parle County in west-central Minnesota. As I was searching for Pasque Flowers for later photos, an unusual-colored shy bird was seen feeding in short grass, a washed out buffy appearance on throat, breast and abdomen with mottled tannish brown on wings and back. The outer tail feathers showed considerable white in flight, not unlike a Vesper Sparrow. Shortly, I saw a similar bird with more distinct buffy to rusty underparts, with the striking black sides of the head with distinct bright white lines to form a definite pattern on the cheeks, and with a bright white spot on the wing. (I prefer to identify by elimination if the light is right and habitat fits, by not using a field guide at once as it forces me to observe rather than match pictures.) I was able to eliminate everything except longspurs, except for this bird sitting on the barbed wire fence for a long period of time. Other longspurs (Chestnut-collared) I was familiar with had not perched, and were black on the throat. I walked back for breakfast to look at my field guide and check with Breckenridge and Larson. I asked if Longspurs sit on fences, and we joked about it but decided that we guessed they could. I also was eating a nice golden brown pancake and told them that the underparts were similar in color. I drove out for my flower photos and in the trail was a flock of 8 to 10 of these longspurs which I now decided were Smith's Longspurs. I went back to get Breckenridge and Larson and we returned at once and had excellent viewing again. Breckenridge saw a breeding plumage male; Larson viewed one sitting on the wire fence again. We tried for a photo but, just as I was ready, a small wind fluttered a weed near the colorful male which flew just as, above us, a much larger flock of 30 to 40 flew away. I left the area later, but Larson told me on Monday that the Smith's Longspurs were continuing to feed in the area. Photos were taken and more people were able to see them. It again points out the need for these specific, although fragmented, habitats that these and other birds require for feeding and rest on their long migratory journeys. Besides, Goodman wanted a Smith's Longspur for his Prairie Marsh Farm list. **Arden Aanestad, 5501 Hunter Street, Edina, MN 55436**

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW VISITS ELY** — When U.S. Forest Service employee Carol Rentschler called me on Thursday, May 21, 1987 she knew she had an unusual shorebird

hanging around the Ely Chamber of Commerce building where she worked. It had shown up on Tuesday the 19th, but it wasn't until the 21st that Bill Tefft found out about it and took his scope down to take a look. He then informed Carol and the other employees in the building that there were actually two birds seeking information at the Chamber building, one was a Marbled Godwit and the other a Long-billed Curlew. I saw both birds later that afternoon, and several area birders saw the Curlew again the next morning and early afternoon, either at the Chamber building or at the practice fields at Vermilion Community College across the highway. It had been a rainy week but the skies cleared somewhat on Friday afternoon and both birds apparently left our area after their brief vacation. Steve Piragis tried to obtain a photographic memento of their brief visit but unfortunately conditions were poor and he was unsuccessful. My notes from the 21st read as follows: Very large shorebird, somewhat larger than the Marbled Godwit it was with. Mottled brown with somewhat buffier breast. In flight, reddish wing linings showed faintly on this overcast day. Long dark legs and very long, down-curved bill somewhat lighter colored at the base. No obvious upper wing or tail patterns. Bird silent. I observed the bird from my car with 8X20 binoculars as it picked in the gravel and grass next to a service road. It occasionally flushed when cars came by. **Steven Schon P.O. Box 626, Ely, MN 55731**

**FEBRUARY YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** — The sapsucker was seen from my office on the Normandale Community College Campus in Bloomington, Hennepin County. I saw the bird on February 23, 1988. It was first seen at about 9:45 A.M. in a tree about 60 feet from my window. The bird stayed on the tree about five minutes and was in full sun most of the time. The red on the chin and forehead eliminated both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. When the bird flew to another tree, the white in the wing was clearly seen. It stayed in the area for at least three hours, being last seen at about 12:00 noon. **Manley Olson, 1974 Summer St., St. Paul, MN 55112.**

**Editor's Note:** There are only two other February dates for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Minnesota: one, an overwintering bird at Pickwick, Winona County during the winter of 1964-65; the other record is of a possible very early migrant or wintering bird seen on February 29 and March 1, 1964 in Ramsey County. Thus the above record is a very significant one.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN BELTRAMI COUNTY** — During July 1987, we had a Rufous Hummingbird visit our yard. The bird's body (back) and tail (rear portion) were a bright, almost orange color that shone in the sun. The chest was orange, but not as bright as the back or tail. He was little larger in size than the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in that area. He would be at one of the feeders, or sitting in the lilac bush at the first light of dawn, and at almost dark in the evening. He sat far enough back in the lilac bush so that the Ruby-throats were taken by surprise when he flew out at them. He spent the majority of his time chasing the Ruby-throats away from the feeders and doing flight displays. He made a loud, clicking almost whiny sound when he was doing his flight displays, and chasing the Ruby-throats. His flight, I think, was faster than the Ruby-throats. It seemed like he would dart and buzz all around the feeders and the vicinity they were in. He was very aggressive and almost quarrelsome. I base this on his behavior to the Ruby-throats', as he never seemed to leave them alone. The sound he made was loud enough so it could easily be heard in the house with TV etc. going. In my opinion, the Rufous Hummingbird's flight and aerial (flight) displays are much faster and acrobatic than the Ruby-throats'. We have had hummingbird feeders out for close to 20 years, and I have spent considerable time observing the Ruby-throats. So as soon as I saw this bright orange hummingbird, I knew it was much different hummingbird from the usual ones. **Colleen Sizemore, Star Rt. W., Box 45, Saum, MN 56674.**

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH IN NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA** — On May 12, 1988, Ray Glassel and I were birding along the Black River where it flows into the Red Lake River at Huot, Red Lake County. We were looking for warblers and decided to walk upstream on the Black River. The river valley contained a rather narrow floodplain, areas of some steep banks, and hardwood trees. About 50 yards upstream, we heard the song of a waterthrush. After listening to the song several times, Ray and I looked at each other and said, "That isn't a Northern Waterthrush's song." The song started with three loud whistled notes followed by a lower twitter of notes dropping in pitch. We got several close looks at the bird as it flew up and down stream. The bird was a typical water thrush, approximately six inches long with a brown back; it had a prominent white eye-line; the throat was white with a few streaks; the breast and belly were brown-steaked in a white background; towards the undertail coverts, it was somewhat buffy. We continued to hear the bird sing. I went back to the car and got my tape recorder, and returned to the area where we had heard the bird. Within a few minutes the bird started to sing again. I made over five minutes of recordings of the song. When we returned to the car there was a Northern Waterthrush singing from a thick tangle. The song of the Northern Waterthrush (which I describe as a "peet tweet tweet chew chew chew," the "chews" descending in pitch) was far different from the Louisiana Waterthrush we had heard a few minutes before. This is a rather amazing record when one looks at the known records of the Louisiana Waterthrush in the state. The closest record is Stearns County, which is approximately 250 miles SSE of the location where we saw and heard the Louisiana Waterthrush. Why the bird was so far out of range is, of course, unknown, but the habitat we found the bird in looked quite similar to that found in southeastern and east-central Minnesota, where the species is normally found. One final comment: there are several records for the Louisiana Waterthrush in southeastern South Dakota; however, there are no records for adjacent areas in southwestern Minnesota. Possibly we don't know all there is to know about the range of the Louisiana Waterthrush in Minnesota!  
**Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**LAWRENCE'S WARBLER IN FILLMORE COUNTY** — On May 14, 1988 the Fillmore County Birders visited the Cabbage Rock area of the Big Woods (section 8, Preble township) southeast of Lanesboro near the little town of Highland. The leader of our expedition was Dr. Alden Risser. We were looking primarily for migrating warblers and had identified several including a Blue-winged Warbler. It was the first sighting of a Blue-winged for the youngest members of our group. Chris Hockema, John Hockema, and Josh Rudlong. The boys were enjoying imitating the typical buzzing sound of the Blue-winged and were trying to see each bird they heard. When Chris Hockema found one bird making the typical sound, he said it didn't look like a Blue-winged because it had dark patches on the sides of its face. We decided to try and find the bird again to satisfy our curiosity and found it singing in clear view on a dead branch near the top of a tree. It had black patches on the cheeks and a black throat. The rest of its head was yellow. Its breast was yellow with no streaking. Its wings and tail were bluish-grey and it had white wing bars. I quickly consulted my field guide, *Birds of North America*, Golden Press 1983, and realized we were looking at the hybrid of a Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler, the Lawrence's Warbler. Chris ran ahead to find Dr. Risser. When they returned a couple of minutes later we could still hear the bird but could not see him. We decided to approach from a different angle so the sun would be at our backs. We found him again and, using our binoculars, were able to clearly see and watch the bird for about two minutes more. Those who saw and identified him were Chris Hockema, John Hockema, Josh Rudlong, Dr. Risser and myself. Although the actual first identification was made by me. I would have missed the sighting on my own, as I would have assumed I was hearing a Blue-winged and wouldn't have looked further. Credit goes to Chris Hockema and the other two boys who insisted on seeing each bird they were hearing. Also we are grateful that Dr. Risser was able to corroborate our findings. **Nancy Overcott, Rt. 2, Box 16, Canton, MN 55922.**

**RUFFED GROUSE SURVIVES COLLISION WITH FENCE POST** — At 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 1988, I observed a Ruffed Grouse feeding on dried fruit in a flowering crab apple tree near my home southeast of Crookston. After feeding, it flew parallel to the row of apple trees for about 30 meters and hit a standard "T"-shaped steel fence post. Several breast feathers were lost as the bird fell to the base of the post. The bird stood for no more than one minute, then continued its flight for another 50 meters into a willow swamp on the north edge of Pankratz South, a sanctuary of The Nature Conservancy. I was amazed that the bird was able to fly after an apparent "direct hit." (It was not a glancing blow.) The post was about 1.5 meters tall and positioned about 3 meters away from the row of trees located in an open area. The post was backgrounded by snow cover and should have been readily visible although the bird was flying due south and the sun was low in the sky to the southeast, possibly affecting visibility. I saw nothing that may have frightened the bird and perhaps caused a panic flight. It is unlikely that any disorientation from fermented apples could have occurred since they would have been in the crop for no longer than 10 minutes and minimal digestion would have occurred. This observation suggests that the bird was not very alert for obstructions in an otherwise open environment and that Ruffed Grouse can be fairly resilient to striking objects at apparently full flight speed, which probably happens with some regularity in the life of this forest bird. According to University of Minnesota Ruffed Grouse expert, Gordon Gullion, he has "encountered several cases of birds (Ruffed Grouse) that have impaled themselves on branch stubs or that have hit branches with fatal results." **W. Daniel Svedarsky, Natural Resources Department, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN 56716**

**DISTURBANCE TO TUNDRA SWANS BY BARGE AND BOAT TRAFFIC** — On 10 November 1987, I observed two instances of disturbance to Tundra Swans; both occurred at approximately 12:00 noon and were observed while standing on the Minnesota 14 structure of the Weaver Bottoms Project below Wabasha, Minnesota. With me, at the time, was Corps of Engineers employee Dan Krumholz. The first instance involved approximately 750 swans resting on the Wisconsin side of Pool 5 in the Spring Lake area; most of these birds left the water surface and departed the area in a downstream direction due to the upstream passage of a tow. The second instance involved approximately 2500 swans located in the Weaver Bottoms between Swan and Mallard Islands and Minnesota 14; two small boats caused all birds observable from our position to leave the Weaver Bottoms, form into V's and depart downstream. One boat appeared to belong to a commercial fisherman while the other contained people perhaps attempting to view the swans up close. Both small boats, as well as the swans, were located within the Weaver Bottoms closed area of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. **Richard F. Berry, Rt. 4, Box 282B, Winona, MN 55987**

**SAY'S PHOEBE IN MURRAY COUNTY** — May 9, 1988 3-6 p.m. birding the south side of our grove, strong N.W. wind blowing. When a bird of a different color landed on the fence — a burnt orange color — the first thing I noticed was that the tail was more brownish-orange color — noticeably different than the back — from then on it would fly for an insect and land always on a different perch, but always within view. The throat, breast, belly shaded from a light burnt-orange color to darker, the undertail coverts being orange. The top of the head seemed darker than the back — it had no wing bars or eye ring, was smaller than a robin — wings a light brownish. It did not vocalize — I wish it would have. Tuesday, May 10 — I saw it in northeast part of grove from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It stayed there all day — observed it often. Jo Pals came out from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m. and it stayed the whole time. We watched it go for insects — going from perch to perch. It was different, the color, and we had a good day observing it — sunny — no wind. **Nelvina DeKam, Rt. 2, Box 90, Edgerton, MN 56128**

**RUFF SEEN IN DODGE COUNTY** — The men who tend the Claremont Waste-water Facility in Dodge County had told me that they would be drawing down the south lagoon during the second week of May; so I went there on May 11, 1988 hoping to boost my Dodge County list with some shorebirds. The shores of the pond didn't disappoint me; they were full of shorebirds including, some "good birds" such as ten Short-billed Dowitchers, many Wilson's Phalaropes, a few Stilt Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, and this one odd-looking bird with bright orange long legs, walking along behind the dowitchers and occasionally pecking at the shore, in contrast to the dowitchers' probing. To put it bluntly, this bird had a funny shape: it looked pot-bellied and hunch-backed, it's head seemed out of proportion, (sort of pin-headed) and it had a scrawny neck. Nearby were also many different-sized Pectoral Sandpipers, and this bird's markings were vaguely similar: with binoculars both seemed to show brownish-streaked heads, but with the Nikon ED at 40x, the fineness of the streaking on the head of this bird was noticeable. The mantle and folded wing had feathering that was different too: the centers of the feathers were darker, almost black-looking with buff to white edging. The legs seemed longer than the Pectorals, and of course the difference in color couldn't be missed. This bird had light patches on the sides of its head and neck. And with the scope, the brownish wash across the breast proved far less distinct in feathering and delineation. Also the bill was all black and not two-toned like the Pectorals, although, in length, the bills were pretty close. This bird's bill was slightly decurved toward the tip. Comparing size overall, I noted that it was slightly larger than the Pectorals, and slightly smaller than the dowitchers. A few times, it raised its wings facing me, so I couldn't see the tail, but the wing linings were white. All along I was thinking "Reeve" but the thought did cross my mind that this bird reminded me of the Redshanks I had seen in Ireland. However, I opted for the more likely of unlikely appearances, and decided on "Reeve," a Casual Species in the state, and "never recorded in this area." **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902**

**WORM-EATING WARBLER IN MOWER COUNTY** — On May 8, 1988, I saw a Worm-eating Warbler at the Hormel Nature Center at Austin, Mower County. The bird was first seen with a few other warblers about 15 feet up in a group of trees. First noted the bright tan or buffy throat, breast and side of head. A black stripe ran through the eye and there was another on side of crown. I could not see the top of the head as the bird was above me. Bill was black, sharply pointed and longer than most warblers. Wings and what little I could see of back were olive-brown colored. There were no wing bars. The bird was moving about up in the trees and in a short while moved out with the other warblers and I could not find it again. Although I didn't observe the bird very long, I had good looks. The light was good and I saw all field marks except back and top of head. **Ray Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Avenue, Bloomington, MN 55420.**

**HOODED WARBLER AT CARVER PARK RESERVE** — A female Hooded Warbler was observed in Carver Park Reserve, Carver County, by naturalists Kathy Heidel and Dale Rock on May 10, 1988. The bird was walking along the branch of an oak tree in a mixed oak, maple, basswood woods. The shrubby woods was alive with warblers but this bird moved slower than some of the other species and it was stunningly yellow with a distinctive black eye and beak. We watched the bird, calling out the features of note, yellow throat, breast, belly, crissum, and around eye, ear and on forehead. Back was brownish yellow and top and back of head was nearly grayish olive brown. When bird turned once it flicked open its tail and I saw white webbing or spots on the underside of the outer retrices. At first I told Dale it might be a Prothonotary Warbler but then I realized the wings were not bluish enough and that the top of the head was darker than face and throat. We watched the bird until it flew away and then checked Robbins and Peterson until we came upon the Hooded Warbler. It looked like the female described. Though I saw the female Hooded Warbler on the nest in Murphy-Hanrahan Park last year 6-6-87, I really couldn't see it as well as I saw

the one in Carver. This one was a real jewel! This is the second Hooded Warbler sighting in Carver Park in as many years. Last year Mark Newstrom observed a singing male in the same general wooded area in early June. **Kathy Heidel, 5085 Meadville St., Excelsior, MN 55331**

**WHITE-EYED VIREO AT CARVER PARK RESERVE** — An adult White-eyed Vireo, sex unknown, was caught in a bird bander's mist net at Lowry Nature Center in Carver Park Reserve, Carver County, on the morning of May 22, 1988. Though I and the crew of volunteer bird banders suspected it was a vireo, they keyed the bird out according to Robert's *Manual for the Identification of Birds in Minnesota and Neighboring States*. After checking leg and bill shape it was called a WEVI according to yellowish-white wing bars, yellow eye ring and distinct yellow line from white eye to black beak. The bird's upper parts were more brownish with the most distinct tinge of greenish-olive on the top and forepart of the head. Throat was white and breast, belly, and crissum were whitish yellow. The bird was photographed by Duane Johnson, a volunteer bird bander, before it was released. Though I checked the shrubby landscape planting near field, lake, and Lowry Nature Center later in the week no sight or sound of the bird was evident. **Kathy Heidel, 5085 Meadville St., Excelsior, MN 55331**



**White-eyed Vireo, May 22, 1988, Carver Park Reserve, Carver County. Photo by Duane Johnson.**

## Birding Is the Answer — To Time (Part IV)

Bob Janssen

In his book "Time Wars" Jeremy Rifkin states "It is ironic that in a culture so committed to saving time we feel increasingly deprived of the very thing we value. The modern world of streamlined transportation, instantaneous communication, and time saving technologies was supposed to free us from the dictates of the clock and provide us with increased leisure. Instead there seems never to be enough time." Does this sound familiar? It does to me. It seems we rarely have a moment to spare. We seem to have less time for ourselves and far less time for each other. In our daily life, the tempo has continued to increase and we have come to feel increasingly out of touch with the biological rhythms of the planet. Most people are unable to experience a close connection with the natural environment.

What is the answer to this seeming dilemma in our late 20th Century society? It has been my experience that Birding is the answer to our problem with time. One obvious thing has become apparent to me: birders have more time to enjoy the world. Most of them are up before dawn when most people are still sound asleep. The intensity of a day of birding makes time more meaningful than most of the rather frivolous pursuits most of us participate in during a typical day. I recall, with much joy, a five day bird trip this spring to northwestern Minnesota where two of us were up before dawn to reach a good birding spot and then spent an 18 hour day enjoying the outdoors and, of course, mostly the birds. We looked forward to the evening with great anticipation to listen for Whip-poor-wills, American Woodcock, Virginia Rails and Soras. By 11:00 P.M. we were dead tired, but what a good tired, and we had spent a whole day not worrying about time, a very rare gift.

Today we have surrounded ourselves with time saving technological gadgets, only to be overwhelmed by plans that cannot be carried out, appointments that cannot be kept, schedules that cannot be met, and more deadlines that keep confronting us. In addition to this we are now being asked to cope with a new and faster time technology — the computer. The computer has drastically changed the way we look at time. We are used to the clock which measures time in hours, minutes, seconds and even tenths of a second. The computer, however, works in a time frame of the nanosecond, which is a billionth of a second. Need I say more than it is impossible for us to experience such a time frame. Thus, it seems "our" time is going to become an even more precious commodity in the future.

The following comments were received from a southwestern Minnesota birder in response to a previous Birding is the Answer column: "an hour or two a day or a day of birding is never wasted time, because there is always a surprise, a bird that one has not seen for some time, a butterfly, wild flowers in bloom, a nest, and then there are the sunrises and sunsets."

I see no better way to confront this problem than with a good walk, or even a drive in the outdoors. Henry David Thoreau said in the 19th Century "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach and not when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear."

Birding will enhance your life. Birding is the Answer or at the very least — birding is going to help.

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

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

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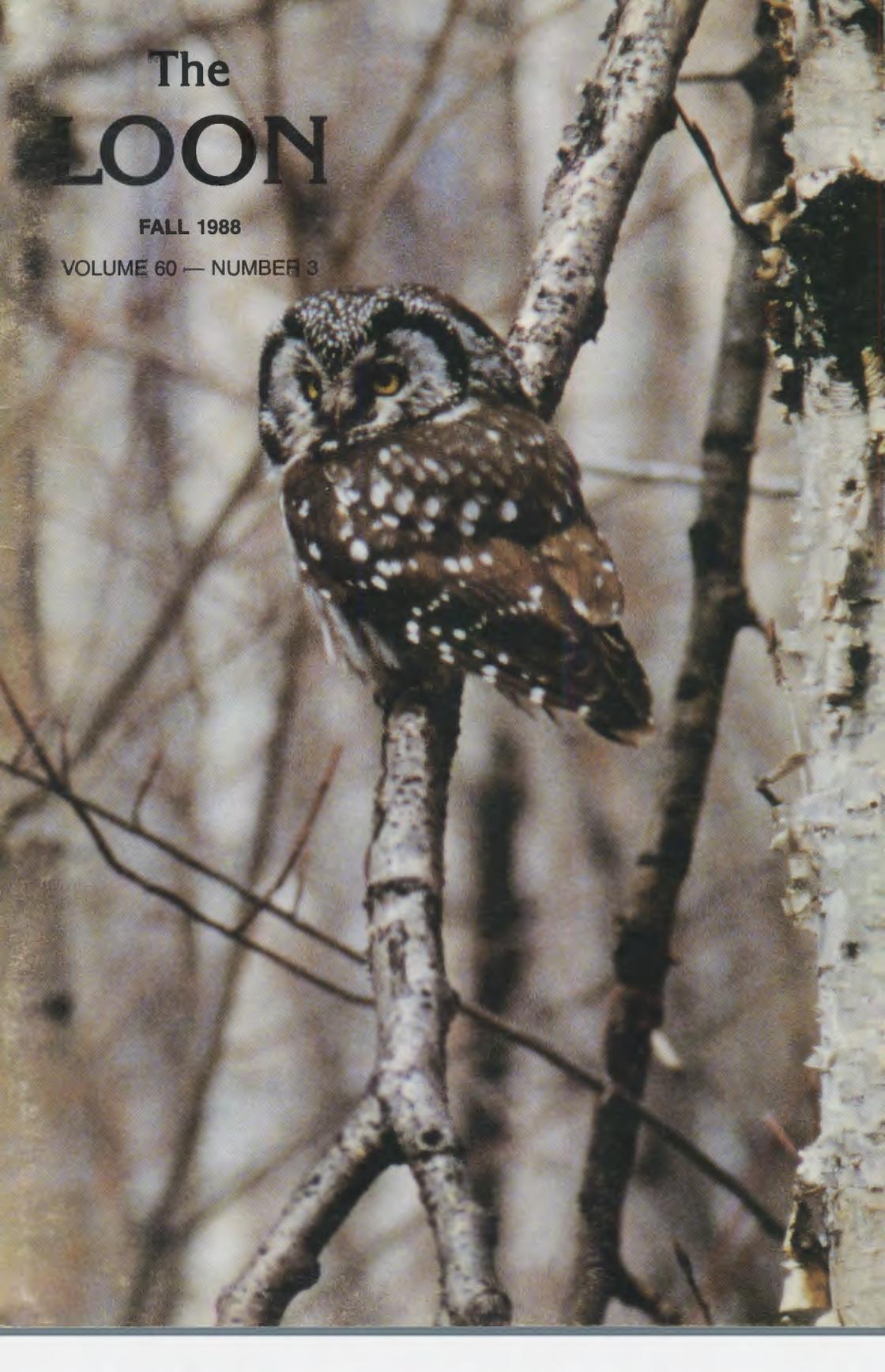
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Our thanks to Robert Ward of White Bear Lake, MN for his outstanding photo of the Smith's Longspur which appears on the front cover of this issue. It is one of the few photos I have ever seen of this species. See the article on page 89 for details on this observation.

# The LOON

FALL 1988

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**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janaly Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$12.50 for a regular yearly membership. 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 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. **Associate Editors:** Kim R. Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr. Duluth, MN 55804; Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902; Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Photo Editor: Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., N.W., Atkin, MN 56431.

"**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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# 1988 Boreal Owl Survey in Cook County

William H. Lane

## Introduction

Since 1978, four nestings of the Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) have been documented in Minnesota (Eckert, Savaloja 1979; Eckert 1979; Matthiae 1982; Duncan, Lane 1987). The owl is considered a regular but rare winter visitor in the state (Janssen 1987) and records exist for several large winter-time invasions into the state (Eckert 1978, 1982). The Boreal Owl is not presently a listed endangered or threatened species in Minnesota (MN Department of Natural Resources 1984). Winter irruptions of the Boreal Owl are believed to correlate with prey species availability, particularly small mammals (Ryder, pers. comm.).

Techniques for locating Boreal Owls are variously described (Ryder et al. 1987; Bondrup-Nielsen 1978) and relatively easy, albeit time intensive, since the male Boreal Owl is a tireless vocalizer during the breeding season (pers. obs.).

This article is written to present results of my 1988 field census and to provide preliminary data on the distribution of the Boreal Owl in Minnesota.

## Methods and Materials

In 1987, I established five survey routes, primarily in Cook County, for the purpose of locating singing male Boreal Owls. All selected routes were on roads maintained by Cook and/or Lake County Highway Departments or by private logging firms. Each route was completed four times between 26 March 1988 and 15 May 1988 in a private or U.S. Forest Service vehicle. Survey routes are described as follows (see Fig. 1):

**Crooked Lake:** Cook County 1 (4.2 miles west of Schroeder) to Lake County 8; west to Lake County 7; east to Cook County 3 and junction with Cook County 2. Route length: 38.9 miles.

**Sawbill Route:** Cook County 2 (3.1 miles north of Tofte) to Sawbill Lake; U.S.F.S. 165 east to junction with Cook County 4. Route length: 40.5 miles.

**Caribou Route:** Cook County 4 (4.9 miles north of Lutsen) to junction with U.S.F.S. 153; east to Cook County 27; south to Cook County 8. Route length: 26.2 miles.

**Gunflint Route:** Gunflint Trail from Trail's End south to U.S.F.S. 140. Route length: 44.8 miles.

**Arrowhead Route:** Cook County 16 (4.5 miles north of Hovland) north to McFarland Lake; U.S.F.S. 313 east to U.S.F.S. 1386; south to U.S.F.S. 309; west to Cook County 12. Route length: 39.9 miles.

Routes were initiated at least ½ hour after sunset and surveyed until individual routes were completed or daylight occurred. Surveys consisted of three minute listening stations and .5 mile intervals. Surveys were not conducted in winds exceeding 15 mph. or moderate to heavy precipitation.

Owls were identified according to species and initial location estimated by a combination of compass bearing, triangulation, and loudness (barely perceptible-moderate-loud). Upon completion of the evenings' surveys, sites with Boreal Owls were revisited and foot surveys initiated to ascertain perch trees and/or potential nest cavities. When located, individual trees were demarcated using foresters' ribbon and the location was plotted on U.S.F.S. maps.

Perch trees located during nocturnal surveys were revisited during daylight hours and the immediate area searched for potential nest cavities. Follow-up observations at potential or actual nest sites were undertaken only when not in conflict with the completion of survey routes.

## Results

Surveys were initiated on 26 March 1988 and completed on 15 May 1988. A total of 695.7 miles, involving 122.3 hours, was surveyed. Singing male Boreal Owls were identified at 37 locations; four in Lake County and the remainder in Cook County (Fig. 2). At three locations, more than one male was heard from a single listening post. At ten

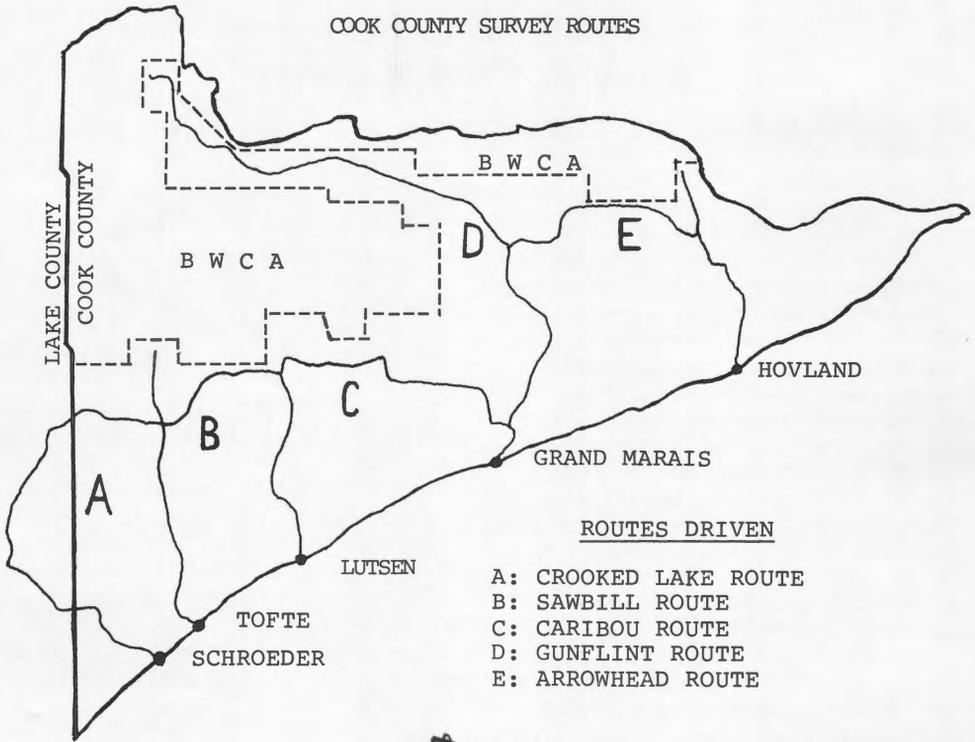


Fig. 1

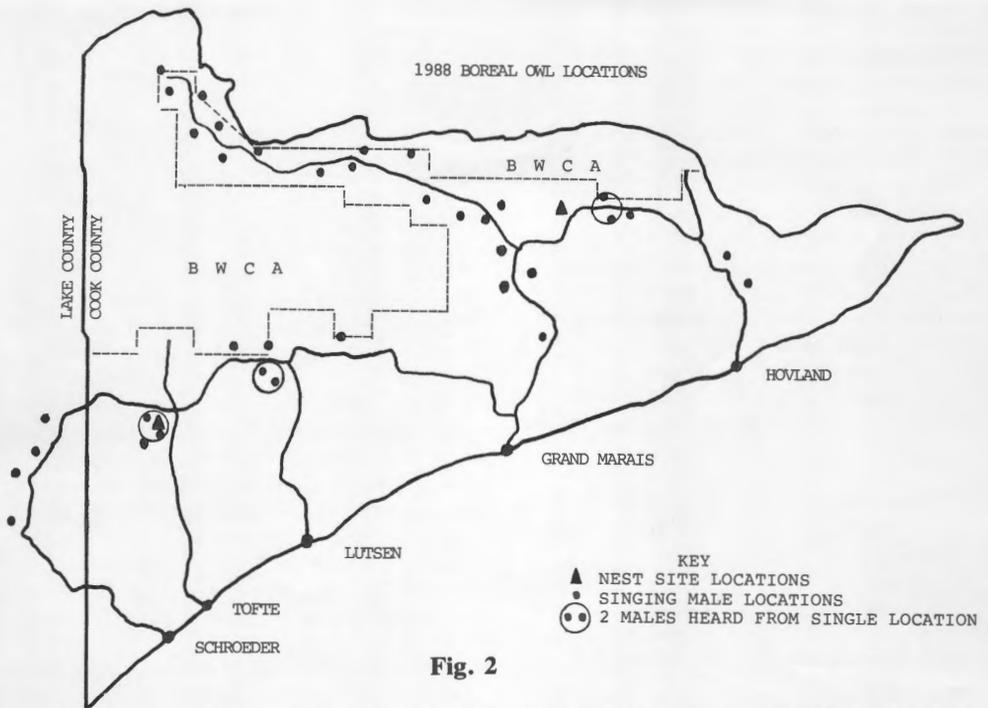


Fig. 2

sites, singing-perch trees were located and demarcated using foresters' ribbon and plotted on U.S.F.S. maps. All of these perches were located in the crowns of mature-growth conifers (jack pine, white pine, or balsam fir). Male owls were observed in potential nesting cavities at three locations. All cavities were located in over-mature trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). One cavity, located at T61N, R4W, Sec. 6, NW ¼, SE ¼ (Swanson Creek site) resulted in pairbond formation and hatching of young, with juvenile vocalizations first heard on 14 May 1988. An additional nest site was documented on T64N, R2E, Sec. 19, SE ¼, NW ¼ on 4 May 1988 (Squash Lake site). This nest occurred along a regular census route but in an area where no male had been heard during previous surveys, indicating pairbond formation prior to survey initiation.

At three locations along the survey routes, more than one owl was heard vocalizing at a single stop. The greatest numbers of owls, in one evening, occurred on 10 April 1988 (seven owls heard) along the Sawbill Route, and on 15 April 1988 (nine owls heard) along the Gunflint Route. Temperatures during the survey ranged from -3 degrees on 29 March

1988 to 53 degrees F. on 2 May 1988. In addition to Boreal Owls, the following species and numbers were encountered:

- Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*): 69
- Barred Owl (*Strix varia*): 24
- Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*): 15
- Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*): 1
- Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*): 2

### Discussion

While ample documentation exists of singing male Boreal Owls in northern Minnesota prior to 1987, there had not been a systematic, repeatable survey made to help define the owls' distribution in the state. In comparison to my 1987 survey (13 males located), 1988 results are significant both from the standpoint of nests documented and the number of singing Boreal Owls located. Also of significance was the documentation of two males heard simultaneously from a single listening station (three sites). Work conducted in Idaho and Colorado suggests this is an unusual occurrence (Ryder, pers. comm.).

The 695.7 miles surveyed represents a substantial (339 miles) increase over 1987

mileage; but, due to time constraints, road inaccessibility, and lack of roads this included only a portion of potentially suitable habitat for the Boreal Owl. Current federal management guidelines call for the maintenance of 200 acre tracts of mature conifers, (Russ, pers. comm.) yet all nests and potential nest cavities occurred in over-mature Aspen clones intermixed with mature conifers. In addition, both nest sites occurred within 30 yards of recently harvested timber units now undergoing regeneration. These results suggest the need for a revision of habitat criteria for maintaining a potentially viable population of Boreal Owls in northern Minnesota.

The increase in the number of owls located may be attributable to one or more factors, among them:

1. There already exists an endemic, yet undocumented population of Boreal Owls in the state.
2. Results reflect an increased effort to find singing males during peak vocalizing periods.
3. Owls located are remnants of a winter irruption and not representative of a viable population.
4. Increased numbers, whether endemic or migrant, correlate with a peak of small mammal populations.

Regardless of any conjecture on my part, the fact remains that, over the past two years, a significant number of Boreal Owls have been identified in northern Minnesota. The status of the owl remains however, somewhat enigmatic. Only by conducting further studies of distribution and habitat requirements will we be able to define adequately the status of *Aegolius funereus* in Minnesota.

### Observations at Two Boreal Owl Nest Sites

Before the 1988 field season began, visions of long, cold nights and eternal cups of coffee played boldly in my North Woods fantasies. The first priority, of course, was to complete the four sets of surveys to define the distribution of the Boreal Owl in Cook County. Only in my wildest dreams did I entertain the notion of documenting an active Boreal Owl

nest site. Even more unlikely, I felt, would be the discovery of two nests: The following observations were condensed from my field notes.

### Swanson Creek Site

**29, 30 March 1988:** Picked up a male singing at 2240, estimated distances of .3 miles. At my next stop, the staccato breeding call had changed to a prolonged staccato song, indicating a female was on territory (Bondrup-Nielsen, 1984). Completed survey route and returned to original listening post at 0140. Only silence greeted me.

**2 April 1988:** Thick overcast, intermittent rain, and a singing male. This was to be my first foot approach on a singing male and so I was mindful of excessive noise and possible disruptions. The owl was oblivious to my movements and continued singing from the crown of a large balsam fir. Ventriloquial nature of the staccato song played havoc with my auditory perception.

**5, 6 April 1988:** On site before sunset. Male heard at 2005, approximately ¼ mile south-east of ribboned perch tree. At 2025, prolonged staccato heard and estimated 300 yards from listening post. Moved immediately towards area and waited. At 2239, prolonged staccato again heard — in several bouts lasting nearly five minutes. Pursued. Flashlight search revealed a male singing from cavity; approximately 50 feet above ground in trembling aspen. Male left at 2254. At 0014, he returned and vocalized from the cavity entrance for seven minutes. At 0021, a rapid, peeping-like call was heard overhead and an owl silhouette was observed flying towards the cavity. Two owls were observed immediately, flying east. Sharp chuck call heard.

**10 April 1988:** Round two of surveys. Two males heard simultaneously for nearly 30 minutes within 1.5 mile radius of identified cavity site.

**24 April 1988:** At cavity before sunset. Female observed at cavity entrance. She watched me for 30 seconds, then disappeared into the cavity. At 2124, female left nest, presumably to cast pellet and defecate (Hayward, pers. comm). She returned at 2134.

Male in at 2157, perched in nearby tree and uttered subdued staccato for four seconds. He then flew to cavity, briefly vocalized and left immediately. Female meowed (referred to as peeping call by Bondrup-Nielsen) in response.

**1, 2 May 1988:** Female out of cavity at 2135, returned at 2144. Male appeared at 2356 and uttered prolonged staccato for nearly two minutes. At 0001, he vocalized at cavity, again leaving immediately. Female responded with chuck call.

**6, 7 May 1988:** Female uttered two meow calls at 2150. Male into site at 2151, vocalized briefly from a nearby tree. Female immediately left cavity and returned ten seconds later. Male to cavity at 2153 — female meowed. Male returned to cavity at 0027 with the female again meowing in response.

**9 May 1988:** At site with Rich Baker, Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Specialist. Female out of cavity at 2204, returning at 2210. Male approached cavity at 2126, vocalized briefly and departed. Female meowed in response.

**13, 14 May 1988:** Male in 2128. Female left cavity at 2203, returning at 2208. Male returned at 2220, subtly vocalized at cavity and left. Female meowed. Shortly thereafter, high-pitched rapid-frequency chirping calls are heard from cavity. Male returned at 2335, 0028, 0211 and 0414, each time vocalizing with the female meowing in response.

**21 May 1988:** On site at midnight. No activity whatsoever. Yet, a male Boreal Owl was heard singing staccato song approximately ½ mile south of nest site. Perhaps the male from nest?

**22 May 1988:** Climbed tree and found only pellet remains, assorted feathers and egg shell fragments. Nest most likely preyed upon.

#### Squash Lake Site

**4, 5 May 1988:** Stopped while surveying Arrowhead Route at 0228. Male owl heard vocalizing briefly (song similar to subdued staccato heard at Swanson Creek) approximately 100 yards to south. I returned to site and at 2030 the male again vocalized briefly (subdued staccato). Moved to area and waited.

At 0229, male perched above road with small mammal in talons. He vocalized (subdued staccato), oblivious to my flashlight, then flew directly to cavity. Female meowed in response. Female appeared at cavity entrance when I approached nest tree.

**11 May 1988:** Male in at 2157, vocalized from nearby perch. Female (or young?) heard chirping in response. Male into cavity ten seconds later, then off. Female meowed.

**10 May 1988:** At site during daylight with Rich Baker. Female observed at cavity entrance as I approached bottom of nest tree.

**27, 28 May 1988:** Male in at 2129. Small mammal observed in mouth as he flew to cavity. The male returned at 2147, 2306, 2318, 2342, 0025, 0100, 0118, 0221, 0249, and 0359. Female observed leaving nest several times throughout evening/morning — returning before daylight at 0424. Juvenile chattering heard through the period.

**28 May 1988:** At 2100, the female was observed flying into cavity. Male in at 2156. Female meowed and juveniles clearly heard vocalizing. Male returned at 2220 but did not vocalize. Again the female and young responded. Female observed leaving cavity at 2307 and did not return until 0035. Male to cavity at 2332, uttered one syllable vocalization. Young responded vocally. Male returned to cavity without vocalization. Female and young again very audible.

**4 June 1988:** On site at 2330. At least three juvenile owls heard chirping **outside** cavity. Female heard uttering chuck call several times at 2358 to south of cavity. Food begging (chirping) by youngsters increased in intensity in response. Over a six minute period, from 0202 to 0208 youngsters averaged 24 vocalizations per minute. No activity at cavity.

**5 June 1988:** Conducted foot search in immediate area during daylight. No owls were found.

**6 June 1988:** Climbed nest tree. Removed numerous pellets, and several small mammals from cavity. Cavity, located 55 feet up in trembling aspen.

### Addendum

With observations complete, I estimated a clutch initiation on or around 12 April 1988 for the Swanson Creek Site, and on or around 30 March 1988 for the Squash Lake Site.

### Acknowledgements

Financial support was provided by Carpenter Nature Center and by the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Program from contributions to the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife income tax check-off. Material (equipment and maps) support was provided by the U.S. Forest Service. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following in conducting 1988 field work: Jim Fitzpatrick, Rich Baker, Lisa Stoeffler, Wayne Russ, Carrie Anderson, Lisa Dittbenner, Norma Kirchner and Greg Hayward. I am also indebted to Dr. Ronald Ryder for advice and Lisa Stoeffler for encouragement during the course of this study.

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## Sprague's Pipits Nest in Polk County

David O. and Sharon O. Lambeth

By the end of June, 1988, it had become apparent that extreme drought had caused dramatic displacements of birds in eastern North Dakota. Lark Buntings, which had abandoned the eastern limit of their range for several years, had moved even farther east than shown in Stewart (1975) and were nesting within 15 miles of the Minnesota border. Dickcissels were at least ten-fold more abundant than at any time in the past decade. Other grassland species including Baird's

Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and Grasshopper Sparrow were at decade-long highs. It was with this perspective that one of us (DOL) and Gerry Nies spent June 26 surveying the prairies and pastures along the beachlines of glacial Lake Agassiz in Polk County, MN.

We had made numerous stops alongside pastures and prairies southeast of Crookston to listen for grassland species. Finally, about ¼ mile east of the intersection of Minnesota 32 and Polk County 45, we faintly heard the

song of a Sprague's Pipit coming from over the pasture to the south (Section 26, T143N, R44W). We obtained permission to go onto the property from Earl Abbott who lives about 1/8 mile east of the intersection mentioned above. As we walked south into a relatively low area bounded on the west by a closely grazed ridge, at least three Sprague's Pipits could be heard singing overhead. The low area was covered by closely-cropped grass interspersed with patches of taller grass and a few willow shrubs. We identified pipits as they flushed ahead of us by their white outer tail feathers and bounding flight followed by a quick drop into the grass. Once, a pipit spiraled upward for a few hundred feet before initiating its flight song. We heard pipits almost continually for a half mile to the south and as we circled the low-lying pasture to the east. The total number present was uncertain, but an estimate of a half dozen males seems very conservative.

The authors returned to the pasture at 10:30 A.M. on July 24 and found cattle grazing. As one of us (DOL) walked about the pasture, pipits could be heard overhead. Eventually, a pipit carrying food flushed from the ground and flew a few feet overhead for several seconds while giving "squeep" notes spaced about one second apart. The bird then landed nearby. The same agitated behavior was observed twice as the observer walked across a specific area.

After a short break, the authors and Mr. Abbott returned to the spot where the agitated pipit had been observed. The bird again flew over our heads while giving the "squeep" call note and was soon joined by a second bird which similarly called before spiraling upward to give the flight song. Meanwhile, we concentrated on the one bird which had landed nearby and was gathering food and continuing to call. Twice we backed off approximately 50 feet to see if the bird would go to a nest. When the pipit flew to a grassy area a short distance away, we went to the spot and began searching the surrounding patches of taller grass. Shortly, Mr. Abbott noticed a garter snake moving away from us carrying an animal in its mouth. Upon capturing the snake, we discovered that its prey was a fledgling bird which we tentatively identified as a Sprague's Pipit. Returning our attention to the foraging adult, twice we backed off several feet before the adult finally entered

a clump of grass with food and left moments later without it. At the clump, we found a highly dependent, recently fledged pipit lying motionless in the grass. Several photos of the fledgling were taken.

The current nesting record is the first in Minnesota since 1962 (Green and Janssen, 1975) and perhaps only the second reported in the last 50 years (Janssen, 1987). Other nesting records in this century have been from the counties of Kittson in 1929, Pennington in 1933, and Marshall in 1937 (Green and Janssen, 1975). Roberts (1932) indicates that this species also nested in the southwestern and west central parts of Minnesota in the late 1800's.

The primary breeding range of Sprague's Pipit corresponds with the medium and short-grass prairies of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (Godfrey, 1986) and extends southward into much of Montana (Skarr et al., 1985) and North Dakota (Stewart, 1975). There is no evidence of breeding in South Dakota in the counties adjacent to Minnesota; however, breeding has occurred in Harding, Dewey, and Stanley counties in the western half of the state (Whitney et al., 1978). There are no nesting records for Sprague's Pipit in Iowa (Dinsmore et al., 1984).

Perhaps it is the limited breeding range and the secretiveness of Sprague's Pipit that have resulted in the dearth of knowledge, particularly of its breeding biology. Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye (1988) indicate that the incubation period has not been established; nor is it known whether the male assists with nest building, incubation, or care of the young. Indeed our search of dissertation abstracts revealed no studies done on the Sprague's Pipit, and BIOSYS turned up only five articles on the species.

Roberts (1932) cites evidence, including his own observations made in 1928, that Sprague's Pipit was, at the time, one of the common birds of the Red River Valley. Roberts was apparently referring to the bed of the last stage of glacial Lake Agassiz when he wrote (p. 149) that the area Sprague's Pipits occupy "extends a variable distance from the open valley but usually not much beyond the first sand ridge, which marks the last beachline on the east of the old glacial Lake Agassiz." Records cited in Stewart (1975) and Roberts (1932) indicate that the Red River Valley had a remarkable variety of birds dur-

ing the first few decades following settlement: Greater Prairie Chickens, representative of tall-grass prairie; and pipits, Long-billed Curlews, Baird's Sparrows, and Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs, all of which are associated with short and/or medium-grass prairies.

We contend here that the species characteristic of short-grass prairie were successful in the Red River Valley because of grazing. Since the time of Roberts, not only the tracts of prairie but also all grasslands and domestic livestock have disappeared from the floor of the Valley. Therefore, this leaves the remaining grasslands and pastures found on and between the beachlines (there are many beachlines because glacial Lake Agassiz was stable at many different levels over time) as the best areas for locating pipits.

For nearly ten years, we have observed seemingly stable populations of Sprague's Pipits and Baird's Sparrows in Oakville and Brenna Townships of Grand Forks County, North Dakota. These populations, centered about 15 miles west-southwest of Grand Forks, presently occupy the easternmost limit of breeding range for both species. The highest densities are found on prairies and improved pastures situated on poorly drained, highly saline soils located between some of the western beachlines of glacial Lake Agassiz. Glasswort (*Salicornia rubra*), an indicator of salinity, occurs in large patches there. The preference of saline or alkaline soils by pipits has been noted by others including Stewart (1975). Because of salinity and poor drainage, these lands are not suitable for cultivation which perhaps accounts for the continued operation of cattle ranches there. The importance of grazing for maintenance of pipit habitat is indicated by our observations that several areas of idle prairie grassland, including two sections of Oakville Prairie owned by the University of North Dakota, lack both pipits and Baird's Sparrows while adjacent grazed areas have excellent populations. The Grand Forks population of pipits is disjunct by about 50 miles from suitable habitat further west. Going east, one must travel for more than 40 miles, across the floor of the Red River Valley, before reaching the grasslands found on and between the eastern beach-lines of glacial Lake Agassiz.

In Polk County, at least, we have been unable to find saline areas resembling those

used by Sprague's Pipits and Baird's Sparrows on the west side of the Red River. Other areas may be suitable, however, such as the one for the present occurrence of pipits. A similar area located one mile east of the junction of U.S. 2 and Polk County 46 was found to have at least one displaying pipit on July 4. Based on these observations and also those made in Grand Forks County, we believe pipits at the eastern limit of their range will usually be found in pastures. Such pastures may be expected to exhibit patches of taller grass, 6-12 inches high, perhaps used for nesting and brood cover, interspersed with areas of short grass or open ground which may be used for foraging. In a pasture situation, the taller patches may consist of varieties of grass disliked by cattle. We doubt that there is a requirement for native prairie. Many of the grasslands in Minnesota appear to be unsuitable for pipits either because they are ungrazed and therefore too high by mid-summer, or they are uniformly grazed to ground level. Our proposal does run counter to a study done by Maher (1979) on short-grass prairie in Saskatchewan where the breeding density of Sprague's Pipits on ungrazed prairie was 41.2 pairs per 100 ha as compared to 21.5 pairs per 100 ha on grazed prairie. However, we believe that with the soil and moisture conditions which exist in Minnesota, grazing is necessary for maintenance of pipit habitat.

Those looking for pipits should be aware of seasonal variations in their singing activity. Stewart (1975) indicates that there seems to be an early period of active breeding behavior from late April to early June and a second period between mid-July and early September. Our observations in Grand Forks County coincide with the second period and are in agreement with those made by Monson (1934) in 1927-1932 in Cass County, northwest of Fargo. We have not found pipits before the end of May, and most of the song activity occurs in July and early August. Pipits probably depart their breeding territories in early September. The seeming absence of activity from late April into June is intriguing and raises questions about their actual time of arrival and presence along with the possibility that an earlier period of nesting may occur elsewhere.

Further observations may answer whether Sprague's Pipits bred in Minnesota in 1988



**Fledgling Sprague's Pipit, July 24, 1988, Polk County. Photos by David O. Lambeth.**

because of the dry conditions or if isolated breeding populations may still exist in Polk County and elsewhere.

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## Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

The following records were voted "Acceptable" January - July, 1988.

- Ferruginous Hawk, 8/16/87 Land Twp., Grant Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:52).
- Orange-crowned Warbler, 12/27/87, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 60:42).
- Pacific Loon, 10/16/87, Stoney Pt., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).
- Long-billed Curlew, 5/19-21/87, Ely, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 60:89-90).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 4/3/88, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 6-1).
- Common Nighthawk, 4/4/88, Minnetonka, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2).
- Rufous Hummingbird, 7/20-23/87, Saum, Beltrami Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:90).

- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/8/88, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:93).
- Ruff, 5/11/88, Claremont, Dodge Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 60:93).
- Say's Phoebe, 5/9-10/88, near Edgerton, Murray Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:93).
- Blue Grosbeak, 5/22/88, Murphy Hanrehan Park, Scott Co. (vote 6-1).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4/17/88, Carver Park, Carver Co. (vote 5-2).
- Ruff, 5/15/88, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 60:93).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/4/88, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0).
- Say's Phoebe, 5/29/88, Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:129).
- House Finch, 5/16/88, Thief River Falls, Pennington Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:131).

- Black-throated Blue Warbler, 6/5/88, Carver Park, Carver Co. (vote 7-0).
- Sage Thrasher, 6/17/88, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 60:127).

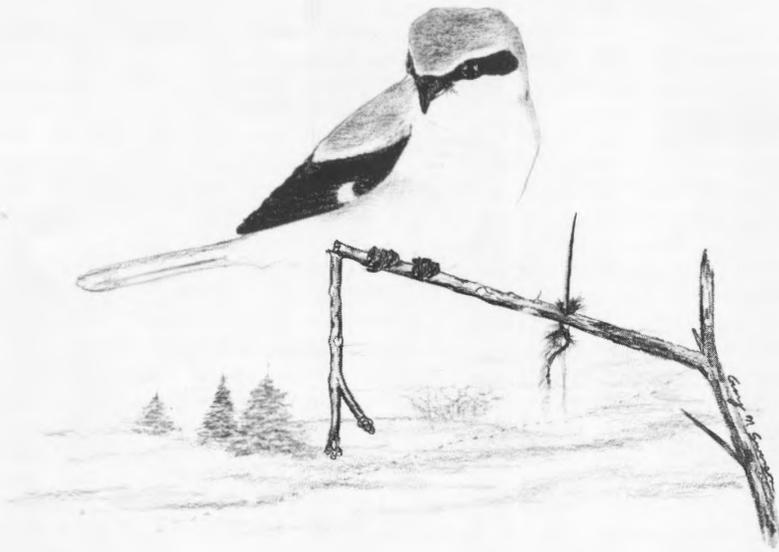
The following records were voted "Non-acceptable" January - July, 1988.

- King Rail, 5/17-18/85, Cokato, Wright Co. (vote 3-4). Although the observer is experienced with King Rails and their calls from his previous Minnesota records, and though he described a call given only by the King Rail, the majority voted not to accept because the rail was only heard and not seen, and because there is a considerable uncertainty about some rail vocalizations.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher, 4/20/88, near Tofte, Cook Co. (vote 2-5). Although the observer is familiar with this species' song, the majority did not accept this heard-only record because the observer was not aware how unusually early the date was and made no attempt to try to see the bird. Therefore, it is possible that she only casually listened to the song and did not carefully identify it.
- Clay-colored Sparrow, 1/11/88, Northfield, Rice Co. (vote 3-4). The majority felt that the details did not eliminate the possibil-

ity of Chipping Sparrow; although the latter species in winter is not to be expected, it is more likely than the Clay-colored. These two sparrows are very difficult to distinguish, with rump color the best distinction, but the observers were unable to see this. The identification was based primarily by the presence of a gray nape, but Chipping Sparrows also have this feature.

- Whooping Crane, 9/20/87, Blaine, Anoka Co. (vote 1-6). Another vote on this record (*The Loon* 60:15) was requested by the observer after an individual from the International Crane Foundation wrote that he felt the observer did see two Whooping Cranes. However, since no reasons for his opinion were given, there was no new information received that would prompt anyone to change his vote.
  - White-eyed Vireo, 5/22/88, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 1-6). This bird was only heard and not seen, and the observer described the call as an atypical "werr pupa chu." Since the observer had only heard this species once before in his life, and since the song described was not typical, the observer himself wrote he was unsure of what he heard.
- 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**IN RESPONSE TO AN EXPECTED** near record low fall flight of waterfowl and continuing habitat degradation resulting from the drought, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed significant cutbacks for this fall's duck hunting season. The fall migrating duck population may be the second lowest on record, amounting to 66 million birds, according to estimates by the FWS and Canadian Wildlife Service. Breeding populations for North America's 10 major duck species are 4% lower than in 1987 and 16% below the average of the past 33 years. Particularly reduced is the Northern Pintail, down to 2.6 million or 54% below the long-term average. Proposed cutbacks for the fall season include shortened hours in the hunting day, a 25% reduction of the season length, reduction of bag limits by 1 duck, and suspension of the point system bag. Bag limits for pintails would be more limited, and special scaup and teal seasons and limits are suspended. The season is closed on Canvasbacks in all flyways. Weather and habitat conditions on goose nesting grounds were generally favorable and satisfactory fall flights are expected for most species. Proposed regulations are similar to those of last year in most respects. Experimental Tundra Swan seasons will be offered in New Jersey and Virginia and continued in North Carolina; season in western states are unchanged.



## The Winter Season (December 1, 1987 to February 29, 1988)

Kenneth J. La Fond

December started out mild, and it looked like we might have a second consecutive "non-winter." From late December throughout the period, essentially "normal" conditions returned, and Minnesotans were again subjected to snow and cold. Snow cover was concentrated in the NE and south regions. Heavy snow fell in the south on December 24 and again on January 20th. Duluth had 12" on January 11. Blowing snow was prevalent in the south and west on January 24th. There was not, however, sufficient snow to alleviate the dry conditions of the preceding fall, and by the end of the period conditions were quite dry, particularly in the southwest.

Cold temperatures included -20's in the north in early and late January and early February. A low of -40 was recorded in Isabella on February 2 and International Falls had lows of -35 on the 10th and 11th. Late February was warm with highs in the 30's and 40's.

The mild December coupled with an equally mild November resulted in large numbers of waterfowl lingering in the state till

mid-December. The presence of four species of warblers and the first December record for a tanager, a Summer Tanager no less, may also be related to the weather.

With the exception of a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Black Dog, Dakota County, no outstanding rarities were recorded and the overall season can best be described as normal, if there is such a thing.

Kestrels, Red-tails, Rough-legs, Merlins and Bald Eagles were present in good, perhaps record numbers, while Goshawks were quite scarce. Snowy Owls were down while Hawk Owls were up. Winter finches were present in good and, in the case of siskins, record numbers. White-winged Crossbills were also well represented in the state this year.

A total of 146 species were recorded, thanks, in large part, to the many seasonal contributors and the hundreds of CBC participants, whose hard work and diligent reporting make this summary possible.

### **Common Loon**

Late migrants in Ramsey, 12-2 (SC, RJ); Lake 12-5 (AB) and on the Duluth CBC.

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

A north report from the Bemidji CBC, and south reports of six individuals in December and mid-January from the Twin Cities and SE region.

### **Horned Grebe**

Up to five reported in Minneapolis until 12/16 (m.ob.).

### **Red-necked Grebe**

Reported from Lake Harriet in Mpls. on 12-4, (5, SC).

### **American White Pelican**

Injured individuals were turned in to DNR personell in Lake of the Woods County on 12/1 and 12/4, two were recorded on the Lac Qui Parle CBC and a non-injured individual again overwintered in Albert Lea, (AP, RJ).

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

Reported on the Duluth and La Crosse/La Crescent CBC's, and on Lake Superior at Knife River on 12/10 (SWMS).

### **Great Blue Heron**

Eight December reports including the Hibbing and Fergus Falls CBC's. One January record, Otter Tail Co., 1/15 (SDM).

### **Tundra Swan**

Late migrants in Washington on 12-3 (AB); Hennepin on 12-10 (SC) and on the Lac Qui Parle CBC. Nearly 10,000 remained on the lower Mississippi River on 12/10 (KL) and the thousands still present on 12/19 (RJ, AP) were mostly gone by 12/28 (WDM). A more unusual record is of one on Silver Lake, Rochester on 1/28 (KL, JB) and again on 2/1 (JB).

### **Mute Swan**

The five seen on the lower Mississippi River near Reno, Houston County on 12/10 (KL) may have been wild or they may have been escaped park birds.

### **Snow Goose**

December reports from Washington, Lin-  
Fall 1988

coln, Olmsted and Houston Counties and one overwintered in St. Cloud, Stearns County.

### **ROSS' GOOSE**

One in Rochester remained until the CBC (*The Loon* 59:215).

### **Canada Goose**

Reported from 32 central and south region counties; from 12/3 (LCF), Pennington, two injured overwintered (KSS); and St. Louis, two at the Virginia Power Plant on 2/6 (KL). This years CBC total of 43,310 is down significantly from last year.

### **Wood Duck**

A north report from the Grand Rapids CBC. Overwintered in Hennepin and Mower; six December reports from the Twin Cities and SE region. A February report from Nicollet, 2/19, (6, JCF).

### **Green-winged Teal**

Reported in Wright 1/14 (DO), Hennepin 12/17 (OJ), Nicollet 2/19 (JCF) and Winona, 12/19 (RJ, AP).

### **American Black Duck**

Reported from Cook, St. Louis and 14 counties in the central and south regions. A statewide CBC total of 105 (57 L.Y.).

### **Mallard**

Reported from 41 counties in all but the NW region. A statewide CBC total of 15,581 (15,692 L.Y.).

### **Northern Pintail**

Reported on the Fergus Falls and Winona CBC's and in Hennepin 12/5 (SC), Scott 1/1 (AB), Waseca 12/2 (JEF), Dakota 2/27 (TT) and Nicollet 2/19 (JEF).

### **Northern Shoveler**

Two reports: Dakota 12/13 (3, TT) and Winona 12/19 (10, AP, RJ).

### **Gadwall**

Overwintered in Scott and additional reports from Hennepin, Dakota, Washington, Winona, and Houston Counties.

### **American Wigeon**

December reports from Hennepin, Wabasha, Winona, Houston and Mower, the

one seen at the Virginia Power Plant in St. Louis County, 2/6 (KL) probably overwintered.

### **Canvasback**

December migrants in Washington, Waseca, Wabasha, Winona, Olmsted and Houston, 12/12 (3,000+, KL). January reports from Olmsted 1/8 (BSE) and Dakota 1/24 (SC). February reports from Dakota, 2/7, 2/28 (TT) and Cottonwood 2/28 (ED).

### **Redhead**

Reported from Hennepin, 12/5 (SC), Washington 12/2 (RJ) and Dakota 12/18 thru 1/10 (m.ob.).

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Overwintered in Scott (m.ob.); December reports from Otter Tail, Washington, Dakota, Winona and Houston. A February report from Dakota, 2/28 (TT).

### **Greater Scaup**

Reported in Washington 12/2 (RJ) and one apparently ranged between Scott and Dakota Counties throughout January and most of February (m.ob.).

### **Lesser Scaup**

December migrants remained in the far north for the Grand Marais and Bemidji CBC's. Also reported from 10 Twin Cities and south region counties.

### **Harlequin Duck**

Two reports: Hennepin and Dakota Counties, 12/17 until 1/1 (ETS, m.ob.) and again on 2/27 (TT) and the Whitewater WMA, Winona County 1/14, J. Huhnerkoch (*The Loon* 60:47).

### **Oldsquaw**

Reported only in Cook, 12/5 (150, AB) and 102 on the Grand Marais CBC.

### **Surf Scoter**

Reported in Washington, 12/1, 3 (m.ob.).

### **White-winged Scoter**

Reported in Washington, 12/1, 3 (m.ob.).

### **Common Goldeneye**

Reported from 24 counties throughout the state.

### **Bufflehead**

December reports from Lake, 12/6 (AB), St. Louis, Duluth CBC, Hennepin, Washington, Ramsey, Dakota, Wabasha, Winona and Houston Counties.

### **Hooded Merganser**

A north report from the Grand Marais CBC. South reports from Hennepin 12/22 (BDC), Ramsey 12/2 (RJ), Washington 12/1 (KL), Waseca 12/2 (JCF), Houston 12/12 (20, KL, FL) and Dakota, 12/20 until 1/30 (m.ob.). A February report from Mower 2/20 (JM).

### **Common Merganser**

Reported from 20 counties in all but the NW region. A statewide CBC total of 2656 with 1725 on the Winona CBC.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Reported on the Duluth (10) and Excelsior (1) CBC's. Also reported in Dakota 12/20 (DS).

### **Ruddy Duck**

Reported on the St. Paul CBC, Dakota 12/22 (BDC) and Houston 12/12 (FL).

### **Bald Eagle**

Reported from 43 counties throughout the state. Widespread in the northern regions in December and February; one overwintered in Duluth (KE); a pair at the nest site in Houston on 1/17 (FL). The statewide CBC total was 125 (51 L. Y.).

### **Northern Harrier**

Ten reports: The Baudette, Sax-Zim and Bloomington CBC's, Benton 12/12 (RJ), Sherburne 12/8 (DO), Anoka 12/2 (RJ), 12/15 (WL), Dakota 12/18 (TT), Scott 1/19 (TT), Le Sueur 1/3 (JCF), 1/28 (EK) and Cottonwood, 2/26 (BF).

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Reports of 21 individuals (23 L. Y.) from 16 central and south region counties.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Four reports; Rochester CBC, Stearns 12/4, 2/27 (NH), Ramsey 2/26 (KR), and Dakota 2/2 (ETS).

### **Northern Goshawk**

Fewer reports than normal. Reported on the Bemidji, Hibbing, Aurora, Sax-Zim,

Duluth, Crosby, Wild River and Rochester CBC's. The only other report was from Anoka 1/6 (KL) and 2/7 (SC).

#### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Reported on the New Ulm, Hastings and Winona CBC's. Also reported from Goodhue 2/20 (DZ), Winona 12/19, 2/4 (RJ, AP), 2/27 (DB), Brown 12/19 (JS), and Cottonwood 1/22 until 1/30 (BF) (ED).

#### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Reported from 29 counties (38 L.Y.) in the eastern and central regions. A statewide CBC total of 240 (205 L.Y.).

#### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Widespread throughout all but the NW region with reports from 38 counties. Most numerous in the far north in late December with high counts of 73 and 50 on the Baudette and Sax-Zim CBC's, respectively. A statewide CBC total of 195.

#### **Golden Eagle**

Reported from Houston and Winona in the SE region and Becker 2/26 (KL) and Marshall 12/14, (ANWR) 1/25, in the NW region.

#### **American Kestrel**

More abundant but not quite as widespread as last year. Reports from 45 (52 L.Y.) counties including Lake of the Woods, 12/29, (*vide* M. Kehoe), and the Duluth CBC. A statewide CBC total of 144 (131 L.Y.) with a high count of 30 (29 L.Y.) at Hastings-Etter.

#### **Merlin**

Reported on the Crookston, Duluth, Mankato and Rochester CBC's. Additional Duluth reports on 2/2, 2/12 (JN), 2/23 (KC) and 2/27 (DZ). Also reported in Wilkin 12/17 (KL) and Hennepin 1/21 (BDC).

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

Two reports: St. Paul on 12/3 (TT) and Hennepin 1/10 (ETS).

#### **Prairie Falcon**

Again overwintered at the Rothsay WMA, Wilkin County (SDM).

#### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from 33 (18 L.Y.) counties in the west, central and south regions. A statewide

CBC total of 659 (136 L.Y.) and a high count of 413 at Mountain Lake-Windom.

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

The recent mild winters have apparently been beneficial for this species since the reported numbers are up sharply. Reports from 49 counties (42 L.Y.) south of a Duluth to Norman County line. A statewide CBC total of 620 (203 L.Y.). The CBC data suggests the species is most common in the south central and southwest regions.

#### **Spruce Grouse**

Reported in Cook during the Grand Marais count week and 2/28 on the Gunflint Trail (KMH); Lake, all winter near Isabella, (SW MS), northern St. Louis 12/17 (SWMS) and on the Beltrami Island CBC.

#### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 26 counties (27 L.Y.) north-east of a line from Fillmore to Otter Tail counties. A statewide CBC total of 201 (121 L.Y.) with a high count of 33 (35 L.Y.) at Duluth.

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

Reported in Wilkin (SDM), and 14 on the Crookston CBC.

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

Reported from Kittson, Roseau, Marshall and Aitkin counties, and on the Hibbing, Baudette and Crookston CBC's.

#### **Wild Turkey**

Reported from Winona, Houston and Fillmore.

#### **American Coot**

In the north, present in Grand Marais until 12/16 (KMH), overwintered in Fergus Falls (SDM) and one in Grant 12/17 (KL). South reports include the Bloomington, St. Paul and St. Paul NE CBC's, Scott 1/19 (TT), Dakota until 1/2 (m.ob.) and 2/28 (TT), Waseca 12/2 (JCF), Olmsted 12/30 (BSE) and Houston, 12-12, (96, KL, FL).

#### **SANDHILL CRANE**

One in a field with a flock of geese from 12/1 through 12/20 (JB) was also recorded on the Rochester CBC.

#### **Common Snipe**

Reported in Duluth 12/3 (JN), Hennepin,

near the old Cedar Avenue Bridge, 1/2 through 2/28 (TT, DZ) and on the St. Paul, Faribault and Fillmore CBC's.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Recorded on the Duluth CBC and again on 1/23 (KE, AP). Late migrants in Stearns on 12/1 (NH) and in eight Twin Cities and SE region counties with the last reports from Dakota on 1/1 (SC, TT).

### **Herring Gull**

A late migrant in Lake of the Woods on 12/3 (KL). Overwintered in Grand Marais, Cook Co., but scarce in February (KMH). CBC reports include Grand Marais (274), Duluth (745), St. Paul (96) and Winona (22). Also reported in December in Anoka, Houston and Dakota counties and an additional Dakota report on 1/19 (2, TT).

### **Thayer's Gull**

Reported in Cook 12/2 (KL), Duluth 1/23 (KE) and Dakota, 12/19 through 12/28 (DB, m.ob.)

### **ICELAND GULL**

Two reports; Cook 12/10 (KMH), and Black Dog, Dakota County 12/20,21 (RJ, m.ob.).

### **Glaucous Gull**

Reported on the Grand Marais and Duluth CBC's, and at Black Dog, Dakota Co., from 12/13 through 12/28 (AB, m.ob.). At Duluth, twelve were present on 1/23 and three remained throughout the winter (KE).

### **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**

Minnesota's second record was present at Black Dog, Dakota County from 12/20 through 12/25 (m.ob.).

### **Rock Dove**

Reported from 81 counties with a CBC total count of 17,698 (14,617 L.Y.).

### **Mourning Dove**

Reported from 34 counties in all but the north central region. A statewide CBC total of 918 (403 L.Y.).

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Reported from three central and nine south region counties. A statewide CBC total of 11 (23 L.Y.).

### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from 36 counties (52 L.Y.) throughout the state. A statewide CBC total of 116 (132 L.Y.).

### **Snowy Owl**

Fewer reports than normal with only 18 individuals (38 L.Y.) in seven north, one central and three south region counties.

### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

The reports of 12 individuals in seven north region counties include Duluth, all winter (KE); Aitkin, County Rd. 18 area, (2, m.ob.); Lake, several locations (SWMS); St. Louis, near Orr 12/2 (KL), and section 15, T59N, R12W, (J. Howe); Koochiching, six miles SW of Loman 2/27 (KL); Lake of the Woods, Junction of County Roads 2 and 11, 12/2 (KL); Roseau Bog area, December and February, (m.ob.) and Beltrami 12/29 north of Waskish (KH) and 1/7, north of Kelliher (KH).

### **Barred Owl**

Reports of about 33 individuals (42 L.Y.) from 19 counties (25 L.Y.).

### **Great Gray Owl**

Reported on the Grand Marais, Sax-Zim and Beltrami Island CBC's. Also reported in Roseau 2/19 (KSS); Beltrami, south of Waskish 1/10 (KH); Clearwater, south of Bagley 2/10 (KH); Lake, all season (*vide* SWMS); and Aitkin 12/11 through 1/30 (2, WN).

### **Long-eared Owl**

Reported on the Excelsior, Wabasha, Rochester and Albert Lea CBC's. Also reported in Rice 12/30 (FKS), Pipestone 12/10 (KL), and Fillmore 2/27 (AP).

### **Short-eared Owl**

Four December reports: Marshall 12/23 (ANWR), Wilkin 12/20 (SDM), Lyon 12/19 (2, HK) and Aitkin 12/13, found dead on 12/26 (WN).

### **Boreal Owl**

Reported only at the (KMH) feeder in late January and early February and calling on 2/13.

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

Reported on the Beltrami Island, Duluth, Wild River and Rochester CBC's. Also re-



**Northern Hawk-Owl, January 16, 1988, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

ported in Hennepin 2/11 (BDG) and 2/28 (DZ) and Dakota, found dead in Hastings, 2/2 (DZ).

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Reported on the Fergus Falls CBC and from 16 additional central and south region counties, (18 L.Y.). Statewide CBC total of 36 (30 L.Y.).

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Reported from Aitkin and 13 south and central region counties (6 L.Y.). Statewide CBC total of 17 (6 L.Y.).

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from 34 counties in all but the NE region. Statewide CBC count of 383 (275 L.Y.).

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

One in Bloomington, Hennepin County on 2/23, (*The Loon* 60:90 for details of this third February record for the species).

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 54 counties throughout the state (63 L.Y.) and a total CBC count of 1782 (1744 L.Y.).

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 56 counties throughout the state (59 L.Y.) with a statewide CBC total of 1000 (1086 L.Y.).

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

Reported on the Beltrami Island CBC, and during count week on the Gunflint Trail and Grand Marais CBC's. Also reported at two locations in Lake (KE, SWMS).

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

Reported on the Grand Marais, Gunflint Trail, Isabella, Duluth, Sax-Zim and Beltrami Island CBC's.

### **Northern Flicker**

Reported on the Fargo-Moorhead CBC and from 25 central and south region counties (25 L.Y. also) with a statewide CBC total of 43 (42 L.Y.).

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

A statewide CBC total of 151 (173 L.Y.) and reports from 48 counties throughout the state (46 L.Y.).

### **Horned Lark**

Reported from 60 counties in all but the northeast region (50 L.Y.). Statewide CBC total of 1014 (352 L.Y.). More than normal numbers overwintered in the west central and southwest regions.

### **Gray Jay**

Reported from eight north central and northeast region counties with a statewide CBC total of 247 (419 L.Y.). The only unusual report was of two on the Fargo-Moorhead CBC.

### **Blue Jay**

Reported from 73 counties (79 L.Y.) with a statewide CBC total of 4817 (2768 L.Y.).

### **Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from Wilkin 12/27 (SDM) in the west central region; St. Louis, overwintered at Sax-Zim (KB), and Tower, (D. Miedtke); Cass 2/18 (TT); and six northwest region counties. Statewide CBC total of 55 (61 L.Y.).

### **American Crow**

Reported from 80 counties throughout the state (79 L.Y.) with a CBC total of 6124 (6139 L.Y.).

### **Common Raven**

Reported from 15 north region counties with a statewide CBC total of 727 (948 L.Y.). The high count was 157 at Aurora, St. Louis Co.

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 66 counties throughout the state (72 L.Y.) with a statewide CBC total of 10216 (10328 L.Y.).

### **Boreal Chickadee**

Reports from seven NE and north central region counties. A CBC total of 40 (105 L.Y.).

### **Tufted Titmouse**

Reported on the Hastings and Fillmore CBC's, and in Houston at the (EMF) feeder throughout the period.

### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 37 counties throughout the state (30 L.Y.). Statewide CBC total of 672 (328 L.Y.). Typical CBC counts in the central

and south regions were of five to ten individuals while those in the NE and north central regions were on the order of 50 to 100.

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 62 counties throughout the state (64 L.Y.) with a total CBC count of 2600 (2461 L.Y.).

### **Brown Creeper**

Reported from 36 counties throughout the state (37 L.Y.), with a statewide CBC total of 202 (131 L.Y.).

### **CAROLINA WREN**

Reported on the Rochester and Owatonna CBC's and in Hennepin, 12/27, 1/1 (AB, DB).

### **Winter Wren**

One on the Lamberton CBC and another report from Washington, 1/9, (TBB).

### **SEDGE WREN**

Reported on the Marshall CBC.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Reported from 17 counties throughout the state with a total CBC count of 41.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Reported on the Albert Lea CBC.

### **Townsend's Solitaire**

Three reports: Hennepin 12/8 at Roberts Sanctuary (SC); Cook, 12/16 and 2/22-28 (KMH); and at Lutsen, Cook Co., 2/26, (*fide* KE).

### **Hermit Thrush**

Reported in Cook 12/28 (KMH); Hennepin at Theodore Wirth Park, 1/29 until 2/26 (SC, ETS); and on the Wild River CBC.

### **American Robin**

Much more numerous than last year, especially in the Twin Cities area. High counts of 163 at St. Paul and 138 at Bloomington. Reported from 28 counties throughout the state (29 L.Y.) with a statewide CBC total of 494 (38 L.Y.).

### **Varied Thrush**

TEN reports this season from Marshall, 12/16 until 1/14 (KSS); Becker, 12/24 (B. Wyatt); Cass 1/7 (TK), 1/30 (RJ); Crow Wing, 12/12 (RJ); Aitkin 1/1 until 2/14 (m.ob.); Cook, 2 all winter (KMH); Chip-

pewa 2/7 (R. Cucci); Murray 1/9 until 1/19 (HK, m.ob.); Winona 2/1 (AP), 2/4 (RJ, AP); and Houston 1/9 until 1/21 (m.ob.).

### **Northern Mockingbird**

Reported in Moorhead from 12/22 until 12/26 (LCF).

### **Brown Thrasher**

Two overwintered in Cook (KMH) and reports from the Fargo-Moorhead and Fergus Falls CBC's.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

More numerous but not as widespread as last year. Reported from 25 counties in all but the SE region (33 L.Y.). A statewide CBC total of 4620 (3193 L.Y.) with a high count of 3090 at Duluth.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 30 central, south and west region counties. A statewide CBC total of 2058 (617 L.Y.).

### **Northern Shrike**

Reported from 43 counties throughout the state (51 L.Y.) with a total CBC count of 54 (66 L.Y.).

### **European Starling**

Reported from 80 counties throughout the state with a CBC total of 16445 (19273 L.Y.).

### **TENNESSEE WARBLER**

The first winter record was of an individual found on the Grand Marais, Cook Co., CBC, 12/19 (KMH) (*The Loon* 60:38-40).

### **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**

The second winter record for the species; Grand Marais, Cook Co., 12/27 (TW) and 12/12 (KMH) (*The Loon* 60:42).

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Reported in Hennepin at a feeder on 12/6 (TT), 12/10 (SC) and 1/3 (TT).

### **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**

Fifth December record, Hennepin County at the Wood Lake Nature Center 12/23 (SC).

### **SUMMER TANAGER**

First winter record, Anoka County, Carlos Avery WMA, 12/1 until 12/22 (m.ob.). See details on page 125 this issue.

### **Northern Cardinal**

Reported from 30 south and central region

counties; and Crow Wing and Cook in the north. Statewide CBC total of 1933.

#### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Reported on the Rochester CBC.

#### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Reported in south Minneapolis between 12/23 and 2/2 (m.ob.). Reported all winter in Winona (AP) and on the Rochester and Austin CBC's.

#### **Tree Sparrow**

Reported from Clay, Aitkin and Cook in the north and 33 additional central and south region counties. Statewide CBC total of 5656 (1510 L.Y.).

#### **Field Sparrow**

Reported from 1/24 to 2/28 at the Bass Ponds, Hennepin Co. (TT).

#### **Fox Sparrow**

An injured individual overwintered in Winona (AP).

#### **Song Sparrow**

Reported on the Grand Marais, Excelsior, Bloomington, St. Paul NE, Rochester and Austin CBC's. Also reported in Duluth 1/16, until 1/20, (JN).

#### **Swamp Sparrow**

Reported on the Rochester and St. Paul NE CBC's and in Washington 1/2 (DS), and Hennepin 1/24, 1/29 (TT).

#### **White-throated Sparrow**

Reported on the Fargo-Moorhead, Bloomington, Hastings-Etter, Mankato, Owatonna and Austin CBC's. Also reported from Cook 12/22 (KMH), Duluth 12/18 until 1/27 (JN), Hennepin 1/29 (SC) and Houston, all winter (EMF).

#### **Harris' Sparrow**

Reported on the Marshall, Lac Qui Parle and Mountain Lake-Windom CBC's.

#### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Reported from 51 counties throughout the state (52 L.Y.) with a statewide CBC total of 8161 (2672 L.Y.).

#### **Lapland Longspur**

Reported on the Warren, Lac Qui Parle, Faribault and Owatonna CBC's. Also reported from ten additional south and west

counties with a maximum of 250 in Stevens 1/8 (KL).

#### **Snow Bunting**

Reported from 43 counties throughout the state (30 L.Y.). Statewide CBC total of 5494 (2681 L.Y.). Most abundant in the SE and NW regions.

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Reported from 26 counties throughout the state (20 L.Y.). Statewide CBC total of 150 (407 L.Y.).

#### **Meadowlark (Sp.?)**

Reported on the Lac Qui Parle, Marshall and Mountain Lake-Windom CBC's. A December report from Houston 12/22 (EMF) and February reports from Fillmore 2/11 (NAO), Mower 2/19 (JM); and Cottonwood 2/20 (*vide* BD) and 2/29 (BF).

#### **Rusty Blackbird**

Reported from 13 counties throughout the state.

#### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Reported on the Rochester CBC.

#### **Common Grackle**

Reported from 29 counties throughout the state.

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Reported on the Marshall and Winona CBC's, Dakota 12/18 (TT), Houston 2/27 (AP).

#### **Pine Grosbeak**

About normal numbers with reports from 17 north region counties and Pine and Mille Lacs in the central region. An unusual SW report of 19 on the Mountain Lake-Windom CBC. Statewide CBC total of 1621 (395 L.Y.).

#### **Purple Finch**

Widespread throughout the state with reports from 45 counties (40 L.Y.). Rare in the north and common in the SE and east central regions. Statewide CBC total of 829 (401 L.Y.).

#### **House Finch**

Hennepin, 2/2 (2, SC).

#### **Red Crossbill**

December reports from the Aurora, Bemidji and Beltrami Island CBC's; January reports from Duluth, Aitkin and Clay and late

February reports from Hennepin, Dakota and Brown.

### White-winged Crossbill

Widespread in the northern and east central regions and Brown and Yellow Medicine in the south. Reported from 24 counties with a statewide CBC total of 612 (35 L. Y. and only 9 two years ago).

### Common Redpoll

Reported from 38 counties throughout the state including Lyon, Pipestone and Cottonwood in the SW. Statewide CBC total 3527 (5594 L. Y.).

### Hoary Redpoll

Reports of up to four individuals in seven north region counties.

### Pine Siskin

Widespread and abundant throughout most of the state with reports from 53 counties (42 L. Y.) and a statewide CBC total of 4933 (1153 L. Y.). Most abundant in the north central and north east regions.

### American Goldfinch

Reported from 52 counties throughout the state (40 L. Y.) including 14 north region counties. A statewide CBC total of 3166 (1513 L. Y.).

### Evening Grosbeak

Reported from 28 counties in the three north regions, the central and the east central regions plus Rice and Mower in the south. Most common in the NE and north central regions. A statewide CBC count of 1729.

### House Sparrow

Reported from all 87 counties.

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 TS Tom Sobolik  
 DS Dave Sovereign  
 JS Jack Sprenger  
 ES Evelyn Stanley  
 KSS Keith and Shelley Steva  
 FKS Forest and Kirsten Strand  
 MT Mark Tacke  
 TT Thomas Tustison  
 TW Timothy Webb  
 SWMS Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd  
 DZ Dave Zumeta  
 MRBA Mpls. Rare Bird Alert  
 DRBA Duluth Rare Bird Alert  
 m.ob. Many observers

Note: L. Y. indicates last year.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

LOCATION	DATE	COMPILER	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL SPECIES
Afton	1/1/88	Boyd & Helen Lien	18	38*
Albert Lea	1/2/88	Charles Howard	12	35
Aurora	1/3/88	Chuck Neil	—	28
Austin	12/20/87	Terry Dorsey	12	34
Baudette	12/29/87	Martin Kehoe	7	28
Beltrami Island	12/28/87	Martin Kehoe	9	22
Bemidji	12/19/87	Katherine Haws	18	33
Bloomington	1/2/88	Don Kratsch	40	41
Crookston	12/19/87	Tom Feiro	8	32
Crosby	12/19/87	Jo Blanich	12	55
Duluth	12/19/87	Kim Eckert	50	55
Excelsior	12/19/87	Phyllis Pope	48	42
Fargo-Moorhead	12/19/87	Ron Nelleremoe	29	31*
Faribault	12/19/87	Forest Strnad	14	39
Fergus Falls	12/19/87	Paul Anderson	15	36
Fillmore County	1/2/88	Anne Marie Plunkett	27	45
Grand Marais	12/19/87	Ken Hoffman	16	38
Grand Rapids	12/19/87	Tom Sobolik	14	32
Gunflint Trail				
North	1/1/88	Mark Stensaas	1	12
Hastings-Etter	12/27/87	Ann McKenzie- Jonathon Peterson	16	41
Hibbing	12/26/87	Janet Decker	22	27
Isabella	1/2/88	Steve Wilson	24	18
Lac Qui Parle	12/26/87	Micki Buer	4	40
La Crosse-				
La Crescent	12/19/87	Fred Leshner	32	36*
Lamberton	12/18/87	Lee French	4	32
Mankato	12/19/87	Merrill Frydendall	14	34
Mpls. North	12/19/87	Donn Mattsson	26	44
Mountain Lake-				
Windom	1/1/88	Edna Gerber	13	36
New Ulm	12/19/87	Mark Tacke	22	31
Owatonna	12/19/87	Darryl Hill	34	37
Rochester	12/19/87	Jerry Bonkoski	63	64
St. Cloud-				
Collegetville	12/20/87	Stephen G. Saure	9	23
St. Paul	12/19/87	Jerry Freeman	47	46
St. Paul NE	1/2/88	Persis Fitzpatrick	42	44
Sax-Zim	12/21/88	Mark Stensaas	8	31
Wabasha	12/26/87	Donald Mahle	5	39
Warren	1/5/88	Gladwin Lynne	15	21
Wild River	12/19/87	Tom Anderson	16	36
Willmar	12/19/87	Ben Thoma	8	26
Winona	12/19/87	Walter Carroll	19	53*

\*Minnesota Records Only  
11008 Jefferson NE Blaine, MN 55434

# Use of Nestboxes by Great Gray Owls in Northern Minnesota

Robert T. Bohm

During the winters of 1984-85 and 1986-87 I built 18 open-topped nestboxes (Figure 1) and placed them in suitable Great Gray Owl habitat in St. Louis and Aitkin Counties. Eleven boxes were placed at sites where Great Gray Owls previously nested on nestbaskets (Bohm. *The Loon* 57(4):150-152. 1985.). The nestboxes were intended to replace the baskets, many of which had become dilapidated and were marginally usable. Great Gray Owls used one nestbox in 1986 and five in 1987 (Figure 2). Various studies have shown that Great Gray Owls (*Strix nebulosa*) nest in artificial nest structures such as hand-built stick nests, wire nestbaskets, and nestboxes (Hoglund and Landsgren. *Viltrevy* 5:363-421.1968.; Nero et al. *The Loon* 46(4):161-165.1974.; Saurola. In: *Bird of Prey Management Techniques*. T.A. Geer (ed.). British Falconers' Club. pp. 72-80. 1978; S.L. Loch pers. comm.; Bohm. *The Loon* 57(4):150-152. (1985.); Bull. In: *Proceedings of Northern Forest Owl Symposium*. pp. 87-90.1987.).

## Advantages and Disadvantages of Nestboxes

Nestboxes, when used in certain habitat types, have several advantages over hand-built stick nests and nestbaskets. Stick nests and baskets can only be used in trees having the proper trunk and limb configurations to support them, and suitable nest trees are often difficult or impossible to find. This is often the case in the stands of tamarack (*Larix laricina*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) favored by Great Gray Owls in northern Minnesota. When nestboxes are used, however, trunk and limb configurations are less critical; time is not wasted searching for proper trees. All that is required of a tree is that it be thick enough ( $\geq 20$  cm) to nail the mounting board to, and sturdy enough to support the nestbox. I found that it takes less than one half the time to build a nestbox and add materials to it than to properly hand-build a stick nest or nestbasket. Building a stick nest or nestbasket is an

extremely tedious procedure, often taking two people up to two hours. Also, putting a nestbox in a tree requires nailing only; nestbaskets may require nailing, wiring, and additional effort to fit them to the limb configuration of the tree.

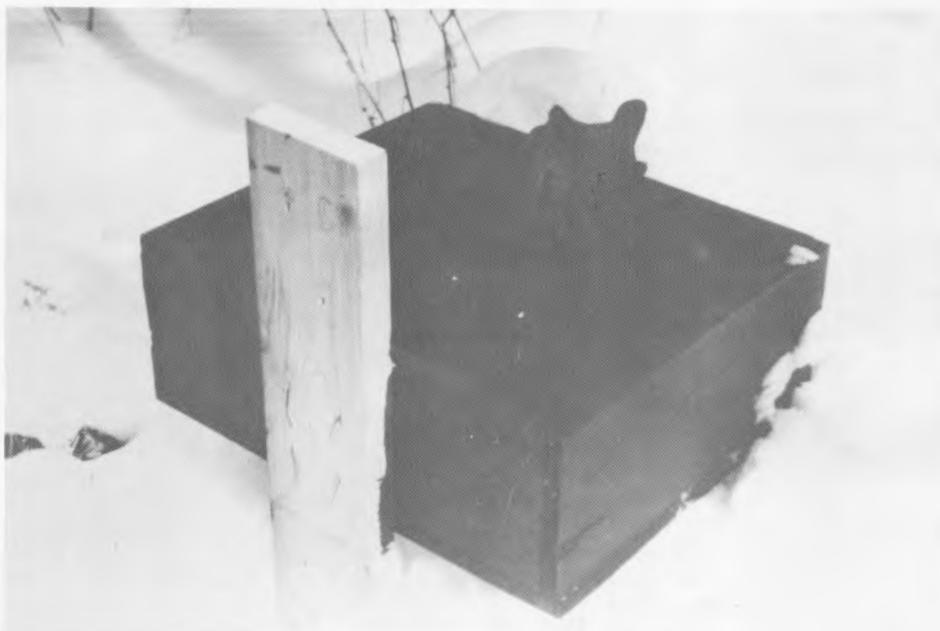
Nestboxes should last as long as other artificial nests. A properly built nestbasket can be used for 5-10 years, although nest location significantly affects nest deterioration caused by weathering. The life of a nestbox should be similar to this, and comparable to nestboxes used for other species. A disadvantage of nestboxes is that they are less natural in appearance than nestbaskets or stick nests; this may or may not be of concern. Materials for nestboxes cost \$4.00 - \$6.00 each; nestbaskets cost approximately \$1.00 each.

## Acceptance of Nestboxes by Great Gray Owls

Great Gray Owls used nestboxes six times during this study. Two instances occurred when nesting owls could choose between a usable nestbox or nestbasket at the same site. In one case the nestbox was put in the same tree as the nestbasket, although about 1m lower. The owls nested in the higher, more dilapidated nestbasket in 1986; they used the nestbox in 1987. The condition of the nestbasket was similar in both years. A nestbasket, about 30m from a nestbox, was chosen in the other instance when owls could select between the two nest types. In both cases, nestbaskets were available at the sites and were used before the nestboxes were put up. Nest affinity may have occurred, assuming that either or both of the nesting adults were involved in the previous nestings at each site. In any case, Great Gray Owls are similar to other owls in that they do not build their own nests; they apparently use the nest type that is available to them, whether it is a nestbasket, nestbox, or natural nest.

## Materials and Construction

Nestbox walls and floors were made from 1" board. Front and back walls were 22" long;



**Figure 1. The nestbox used for Great Gray Owls.**



**Figure 2. An adult Great Gray Owl incubating eggs.**

side walls were 18½" long; all were 7½" high. Using 2½" nails, the walls were first nailed to one another and then to the floor boards. A 30" piece of 2" x 6" board was used as a mounting board and, using 4" nails, nailed to the 22" back wall. The nails were driven through both boards and bent down. Holes were drilled in the floor boards for drainage. Holes were also drilled in the mounting board where it would be nailed to a tree. Treated wood should be used, if available. My boxes were painted brown.

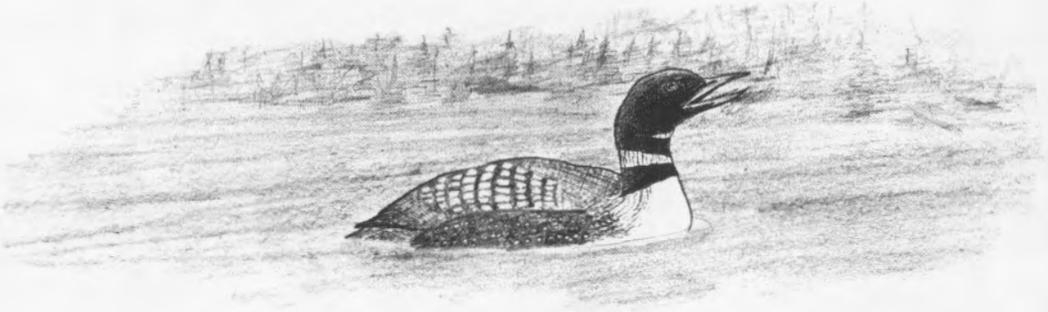
Nest materials such as sticks, twigs, and bark chips were added to the nestbox while on the ground. Coarse material was put in the box first; fine material was added to the top of the nest, where a nestcup depression was made. The nestbox was then ready to be tied to a rope, pulled up into a tree, and nailed in place. Most boxes were placed 7-10 m above the ground. The boxes were installed by one, and sometimes two individuals, usually in less than one half hour. **1378-11 Highland Village, Duluth, MN 55811.**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**GOLDEN PLOVERS** have been banded on Oahu, Hawaii, and near Nome, Alaska. Each bird wears a FWS band on one leg (some birds also have a single color band on that leg) and one or more color bands on the other leg. If more than one color band, combinations are two of the same color, two of different colors, three of two colors, or three of three colors. Observers are asked to note the colors and exact sequence of all bands on the birds. It is important that we know which leg carries the particular color(s) and, where used together, whether the color band is above or below the metal band. Please send observations with as much information as possible to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20708 and to Oscar W. Johnson, Dept. Biology, Moorhead State Univ., Moorhead, MN 56560.

**COLOR BANDED COMMON TERNS.** Banded adult terns from Minnesota have a dark green/white striped plastic band over the FWS band on the right leg. Each colony is individually marked on the left leg, with a band of light green, light blue, or white. Wisconsin Common Terns were banded with a yellow band over the FWS band on the right leg, no band on the left. Please send reports to Sherman L. Burson III, Dept. Ecol., 109 Zoology, 318 Church St., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

**THE HARGRAY TELEPHONE CO.** planned to erect a new microwave tower on Daufuskie Island, SC, to improve long distance phone service. When engineers went to wreck the old tower they found Ospreys nesting atop the 101 foot structure. AT&T decided to build the new tower 75 feet away. The nest will be moved to the new tower after the nesting season, before the old tower is dismantled.



## NOTES OF INTEREST

**WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER AT ITASCA STATE PARK** — On Saturday, May 21, 1988, Dr. Harrison B. ("Bud") Tordoff and his ornithology class from the University of Minnesota discovered a male Williamson's Sapsucker at the extreme northeast corner of Itasca State Park, in Hubbard County. The bird flew between members of the group, landed nearby, and gave them an excellent view. The location was along the LaSalle Creek Beaver Trail, at the extreme southwest corner of the trail where it curves from west to north at the edge of the LaSalle Creek meadow. The southern entrance to Beaver Trail is from the east park boundary road, about 500m south of its junction with No-Name Road (Hubbard Co. 96). This trail goes west, loops north, then back east where it rejoins the park boundary road about 200m north of the south trail entrance. Bud told me about the sapsucker on Monday, May 23. On Wednesday, May 25, after being asked by Bud, Itasca Biology Station resident biologist Jon Ross went to the site three different times looking for the bird, but was unsuccessful in locating it. This was reported to Bob Janssen, who noted on the Rare Bird Alert that it could not be relocated. I led a Bell Museum-sponsored field trip to Itasca Park on May 28, 29 and 30, 1988, a week after the initial sighting. Sue Adams and I with Jay Hatch went to the site on Saturday, May 28 at 0715. We walked in from the south trail entrance, and as we approached the edge of the forest at the LaSalle Creek meadow, a black woodpecker flew from a low position on a jack pine to another jack pine about 10m away. All three of us got an excellent view within a short time. It was unquestionably a male Williamson's Sapsucker. The bird was approximately the same size as a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The overall impression was of a black woodpecker, since the back, tail and most of the head were solid black (the white rump was visible in flight but not while the bird was clinging to tree trunks). The chin and throat were scarlet, the patch appearing almost circular and very striking since it was bordered all around by black. The face was marked with two conspicuous white stripes, one extending from near the bill posteriorly below the eye; the other from behind the eye to the nape. The breast was black and the belly was yellow. A most noticeable feature was the longitudinal white stripe on the wing, which was clearly visible in flight as well as while the bird was perched, as it contrasted sharply with the otherwise black wing and back. This stripe was larger and more striking than the wing stripe of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. The bird was silent, neither vocalizing nor drumming.

We watched it for about 10 minutes in the open park-like area of mature jack pines and spruce (an area about 25m square with little underbrush, at the edge of the meadow). The surrounding forest is primarily coniferous, comprised mostly of mature red, white and jack pine, and white spruce. An extensive open wet sedge meadow borders the forest on the south, and LaSalle Creek on the west. After 10 minutes the sapsucker flew off to the northwest, across LaSalle Creek. We waited in that spot for over two hours but we did not see him again. After he flew away, I played a tape recording of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker calls and drumming, but the bird did not respond. We left about 1000. Sue and I returned about noon the same day, and again found the bird almost immediately, nearly in the same spot where we had first found it. We watched it for about 10-15 minutes, after which it flew off to the southeast at least 150m, across the open meadow to the continuation of the coniferous forest on the other side. After he flew, we left. I returned with the Bell Museum group (18 people plus myself) at 1430. The sapsucker was not where we had previously found it, but after a few minutes someone in the group found it in a nearby conifer, to the north of the open park-like area and about 10m off the ground (the highest that I ever saw it). Soon it flew past the group into the 'park' and everyone in the group got an excellent look at it, mostly at heights of one up to about six m. We watched it for about 20 minutes, after which it flew off to the southeast again, 150m or more. We (about 16 of us this time) returned on Monday, May 30 at about 0930. We found the sapsucker in the usual place, low on a jack pine in the park-like area, as soon as we arrived. We watched him for 5 minutes, after which time it flew across LaSalle Creek. I took about 10 photos (300 mm lens, but no closer than 15m). On all four occasions that I searched for this bird, I was able to find him. But, each time he flew 100m or more after 20 minutes or less of viewing, and was not seen again on that trip. I do not feel that he flew in response to our presence. He did not appear shy, although he was very unobtrusive, quiet and easily overlooked. I never heard any vocalization from him, and the only sound was very soft tapping, as he apparently searched for food. I watched him a total of perhaps 45-50 minutes on four trips over two days. I later talked with Ray Glassel, who went to the site on Wednesday, June 1. There were a number of birders there that day, including Kim Eckert and a class from Duluth, and several other Duluth birders. Some, including Ray, spent most of the day at the site, but no one saw the bird. Some people crossed LaSalle Creek to the west side, but reported the vegetation was very dense and visibility poor. I also heard later that Mike Mulligan and others had gone up on Thursday, June 2, and also had failed to find it. As of June 9, I know of no reports after my group saw it on May 30 at 0930. **Bruce A. Fall, General Biology Program, P-180 Kolthoff Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455**

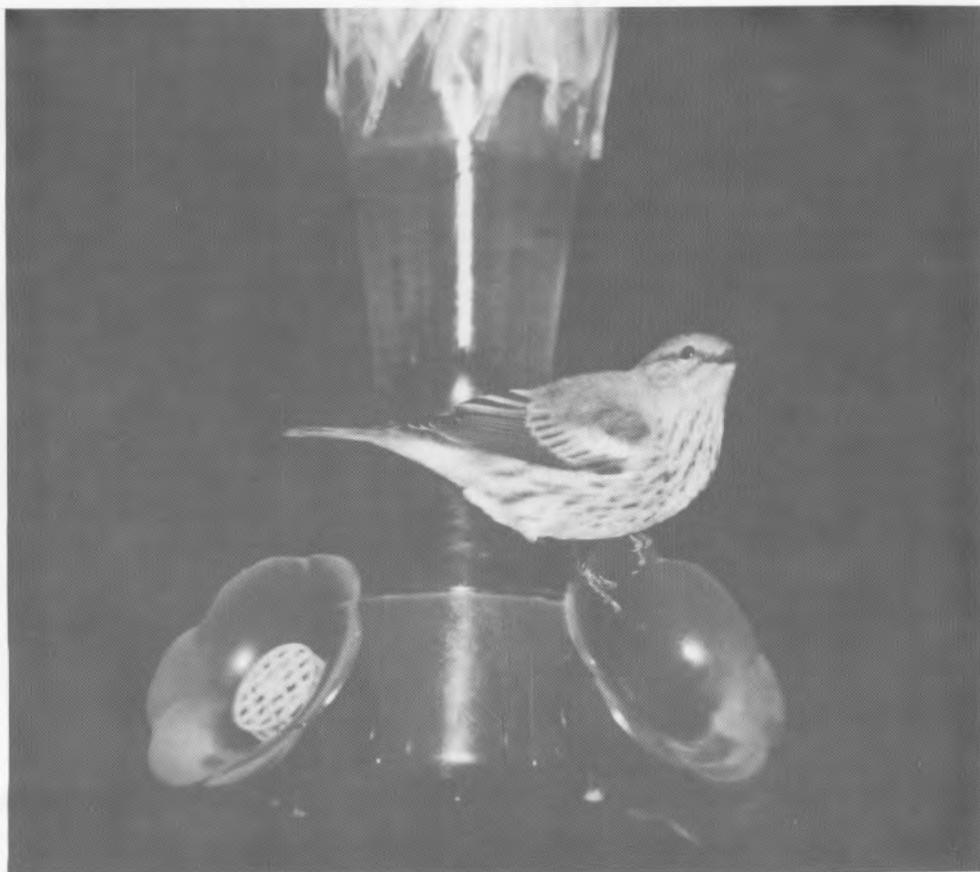
**Editor's Note:** This is the third record for the Williamson's Sapsucker in Minnesota. The previous two records are: April 22, 1972, Worthington, Nobles County (*The Loon* 44: 52-53) and May 25, 1981, Winona, Winona County (*The Loon* 53: 232-233).

#### **A RUFF (REEVE) AT THE BASS PONDS, MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY NWR —**

On May 15, 1988, Tom Tustison and I observed a Reeve at the Bass Ponds area of the Minnesota River Valley NWR, Hennepin County. I have never seen a shorebird that looked like this particular individual. The bird resembled a Pectoral Sandpiper but the bill was about an inch longer, not as much droop; it was thicker at the base and was all black. The bird was longer legged than a Pectoral and the legs were greenish-yellow in color. The shape of this bird was also different from the Pectoral Sandpipers it was with; it had a smaller head and appeared somewhat pot-bellied. The back pattern was different from a Pectoral in that it didn't have the two light stripes that almost form a "V". At times the bird appeared almost chestnut colored in certain lights. A few black feathers could be seen on the lower belly, especially when the bird stood erect. We decided it was a Reeve based on the small size of the bird. **Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420**

**Editor's Note:** This is the first record for a Ruff in Hennepin County.

**CAPE MAY WARBLERS AT HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER** — On August 20, 1987, two Cape May Warblers appeared at our hummingbird feeding station, which is an old school maypole with feeders hanging on chains attached to the circle; there are seven feeders. Also, there are two more under an eave close to a window. Both Cape May Warblers had lemon yellow rumps, dull whitish underparts with streaking on the breast and sides, dark legs and feet, very little white in the wings (faint wingbars), and notched tails. One warbler was very gray appearing, with very faint streaks on the back and head (which could be seen only at close range) and no cheekpatch; the other warbler had a more yellow appearance with a faint cheekpatch. Both warblers had a yellow stripe extending from the bill along the sides of the neck. The Cape May Warbler's diet changes from insect eating in the summer to (having a tubular tongue) feeding on nectar and juices sucked from fruit in the fall and winter; also it changes its habitat from spruces in the summer to gardens and plantations in its winter habitat in the West Indies and Central America. The two warblers were photographed by Steve Blanich and Warren Nelson on August 26th, when a third Cape May Warbler appeared, this one a more yellow appearing bird with a dull chestnut cheekpatch. On August 29th, the two birds left on a cold front. On August 30th, a small wave of warblers was in and about the yard, and two different Cape May Warblers visited the hummingbird feeders. These birds were gone the next day. **Jo Blanich, Box 96, Crosby, MN 56441**



**Cape May Warbler, August 26, 1987, Crosby, Crow Wing County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

**SAGE THRASHER IN MINNEAPOLIS** — At about 10:15 a.m. on Friday, June 17, 1988, I noticed a gray, slim bird on the grass in my backyard at a distance of about twenty yards. The bird was larger than the nearby House Sparrows. I grabbed my old pair of 7X35 binoculars and examined the bird from the bathroom and kitchen windows of my apartment. I observed that the bird was approximately robin-sized but slimmer, with a tail proportionally longer than that of a robin. The color was gray above with no hint of brown and much lighter below with faint streaks or spots on the breast. It ran about on the grass with tail cocked high, reminding me of a Northern Mockingbird, a bird I had just observed on Tuesday while visiting North Carolina. I went to my room to grab a better pair of binoculars (Bushnell 7X50) and a field guide (*National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America*). I looked at page 337 for a drawing of an immature Brown Thrasher, which was my guess from the first look. The guide has no drawing of the immature bird, but I gathered from the description that it must be a Brown Thrasher. My other guess had been Sage Thrasher, a bird which I have observed well several times in the western United States. I noted the field marks given or shown in the book: yellow eyes, streaks, no wing bars (vs. immature mockingbird which has two prominent wing bars). I observed the bird for a few seconds out in the backyard at a range of 10-15 yards. It then flew to a low fence where it sat for 30 seconds or so affording me a good view in profile at a range of 10-15 yards. I observed the bird through the 7X50's for this period and noted the following field marks:

- Size: slightly smaller and slimmer than robin
- Tail: long and narrow (proportionally longer than robin's tail)
- Eye: yellow
- Color: pale to medium gray above, lighter below
- Markings: faint streaks on sides, one narrow white wing bar
- Beak: straight, similar in proportion to mockingbird's

As I watched, the bird spread its tail slightly and I noticed prominent white spots or edging at the corners. I realized that this clinched the identification, as I was very familiar with this field mark from observing Sage Thrashers in the western United States. (I remembered this field mark and had not noted it when consulting the field guide a minute earlier.) The bird then flew into an adjacent vacant lot and was out of sight. I then went to the University of Minnesota (where I work) to borrow a camera (Minolta SRT 101 with a 90-230 mm zoom lens, loaded with Kodachrome 200 slide film). I returned home after 15 minutes and searched my yard and the neighborhood unsuccessfully for the bird for over an hour. I returned to my apartment and again saw the bird from the kitchen window. I chased the bird about the neighborhood for another 15-30 minutes, taking photos at a fair range. After losing sight of the bird, I returned home and again saw the bird in my yard. It promptly flew away. I then sat on the porch and jotted down the above section of notes. I saw the bird once more before calling Ray Glassel, who arrived at about 3:45 p.m. While sitting on the porch, we heard a loud melodius warbling song with no repeated phrases, but we were unable to find the source. Neither of us recognized the song. We saw the bird again briefly just as Bob Janssen arrived. About ten minutes later, the three of us saw the bird once more and had a fair view of the bird as it sat on a telephone wire at a range of 20-30 yards. On both occasions the three of us observed the prominent white marks on the tail. I did not see the bird again. **Patrick Coin, 1813 S. 5th St., Minneapolis, MN 55454**

**COOPER'S HAWK AT BIRD BATH** — On Sunday, July 24, 1988 in the late afternoon, my wife Dorothy was amazed to see three Cooper's Hawks perched on our bird bath. I rushed for my camera and was fumbling with the adjustments when all three left. The trio was made up of two immatures and one adult. One immature bird was considerate enough to return a few minutes later and casually took a real bath in one of the two small pools. In doing so, it accomodated me by posing several times for photographic shots, one of which appears with this note. I later learned that a neighbor lady, Mrs. Mary Hall, had been watching a pair of hawks (she wasn't sure whether to call them Cooper's or Sharp-shinned) at their nest high up in a red oak tree on the John Walton grounds. She first saw them at



**Young Cooper's Hawk at bird bath, July 24, 1988. Photo by W.J. Breckenridge.**

the nest in late March. On almost daily visits to the nest, she saw the adults feed the downy white young on several occasions. By the 26th of June, the young, still showing some white down, were seen perching on the side of the nest. By July 24, the young appeared fully grown. I had never before seen a hawk of any kind at our bird bath. It would be interesting to know whether any readers have had such a visitor at their bird baths. **W.J. Breckenridge, 8840 W. River Road N., Minneapolis, MN 55444**

**NESTING EASTERN SCREECH-OWLS** — From time to time, beginning in November 1987, a gray phase Eastern Screech-Owl roosted in a nest box intended for (and usually occupied by) Gray Squirrels in my backyard in Albert Lea, Freeborn County. On March 27, 1988, a red phase Eastern Screech-Owl was observed in the opening of a second nest box, this one in a green ash tree at the far end of the lot. From that time on, it took up residence in the box and was seen frequently until April 6. After that, I did not see it again until May 1, when it perched in the nest box opening, and the gray phase owl was sitting on a branch nearby, while American Robins and Blue Jays scolded them. I concluded that this was a mated pair, and the female (red) was indeed nesting in the box. During May, I seldom saw the female but often found the male perched close by in a blue spruce. The female sat infrequently in the box opening, appearing more often during late May. One of the two birds was heard calling occasionally after dark. Finally, on June 5, four young owls left the nest box around 8:30 p.m. and perched low in trees in an adjacent yard. I did not see any owls again until July 31 at 9:40 p.m. when a screech-owl flew into a small tree just above where I was sitting. It was both fun and interesting not only to have a pair of Eastern Screech-Owls (representing both color phases) in the yard, but also to have these birds nest and raise their owlets. **Richard H. Jorgensen, 214 S. Third Ave. W., Albert Lea, MN 56007**

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER IN HUBBARD COUNTY** — On August 1, 1987, my daughter and I were walking a narrow dirt road in rural Park Rapids, Hubbard County. We saw a flash of yellow pass in front of us and land in the brush at the side of the road. We put our binoculars on a bird I knew I'd not seen before. We started calling out our impressions; "bright yellow head and breast; prominent black eye, no eyering, no eyeline, no wing bars; some white on tail; top of wings and tail look blue; can't believe how bright the yellow is." The bird was seen from two to six feet off the ground, changing positions four or five times and he flew back and forth across the road on two occasions. We watched until it flew off, then made a "bee-line" for home, about a block away, to look at the field guides. I first looked at all the birds I was familiar with to make sure it wasn't some highly unlikely fall plumage. After ruling out the known warblers, we started on the unknowns. I had the *National Geographic Guide*, my daughter had the *Golden Guide, Birds of North America*, revised edition. We each picked the Prothonotary Warbler as the bird we had just observed. **Jean Leckner, Rt. 3, Box 240, Park Rapids, MN 56420**

**Editors Note:** This is the most northerly record for the Prothonotary Warbler in Minnesota, and is approximately 200 miles north of the regular range for the species in the state. One wonders if this is just an accidental stray in the north, or is it part of a larger northward movement of normally-thought-of-southern species in the state such as Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Louisiana Waterthrush (See *The Loon* 60:91).

**SAY'S PHOEBE AT BLUE MOUNDS PARK** — On May 29, 1988, I was walking toward the tree line below the Interpretive Center at Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County, hoping to find Blue Grosbeaks and also looking for Western Kingbirds. About 20 yards from the trees, I observed a bird fly out from a tree, passing to my left and perching on a mullen stalk. For the next few minutes, the bird flew from one stalk to the next, flycatching. The bird gradually moved east, increasing his distance from me as I followed for about 50 yards. Approximately 45 minutes later, I returned to the parking lot and started driving out of the park. Suddenly, a bird flashed past the car from behind on the north side of the exit road. I had enough of a glimpse to feel certain it was a Say's Phoebe, the bird I had seen previously. The phoebe dropped out of sight behind a slight elevation a few yards from the road. I stopped, got out and walked ahead on the road about 30 to 40 yards trying to get a view behind the rise in the ground. All of a sudden an Eastern Kingbird rose from about where the Say's Phoebe had disappeared. Almost instantly the Say's Phoebe came up into view, chasing the kingbird, higher and higher into the air. The two "fought" vigorously for a few seconds, and then the phoebe broke off and flew to the north and out of sight. I was less than 40 yards from their aerial tussle; a lot of chattering was heard from both birds but I was not able to distinguish phoebe from kingbird vocalizations during their brief encounter. I am familiar with the Say's Phoebe from the eight years I lived in the West. On both occasions when I saw the bird, I recognized it by its buffy underside and dark brownish-gray back and all dark tail. The flycatching behavior and habitat also fit a Say's Phoebe. **Jay Hamernick, 5894 N. Kitkerry Court, Shoreview, MN 55112**

**Editor's Note:** What was probably the same individual was seen by many observers until late June.

**BLUE GROSBEAK AT THE FELTON PRAIRIE** — While driving along the southern boundary of the Felton Prairie in Clay County at about 5:30 a.m., Friday morning, July 1, 1988, I heard a warbling song coming from a small grove of trees. It sounded like a short song of a Purple Finch. I stopped and tried to locate the bird, but as I approached the trees the bird quit singing and I failed to locate it. I drove off and returned about an hour later and again heard the singing. This time I approached more cautiously and saw the bird flush to the other side of the grove to the top of a small dead tree where it again began singing.

From this perch, about fifty feet to the east, I was able to watch it with the aid of my binoculars and then my spotting scope. (I was also able to get a tape recording of its song in spite of some wind noise). The bird itself was about the size of a cowbird, but heavier looking. The head, down to the upper back and breast areas, was a deep dark blue color. The next most striking field mark was the huge silvery-gray bill. The back and tail were a plain medium brown color as was the wing except for a single large wing bar of a lighter tannish brown. The lower breast belly and undertail coverts were also of this lighter tannish color. There were no eye rings or lines in the plain blue head with a dark eye. The legs also appeared dark. After viewing the bird for about fifteen minutes or so, I checked the field guides for details and other possibilities. I did find a corresponding picture in the National Geographic guide, except that it showed two wing bars and pictured the rump as also being a blue color; I never saw the rump area of the bird I was observing. I then drove to the north side of the prairie area near a larger grove of trees; from there, I could still hear the grosbeak singing way to the south. Suddenly, it flew by and into the woods near me. I tried to locate it again, but it flew off back to the south. **Alison Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407**

**AN ALBINISTIC COMMON GRACKLE IN MORRIS** — An albinistic Common Grackle was observed by many on the University of Minnesota campus in Morris, Stevens County during the period April to June, 1988. I observed this bird on five occasions between May 18 and June 15, 1988. On May 21, I observed the bird collecting nesting materials; on May 30, June 13 and 15, I saw the bird sitting on a nest located 10 feet above ground in a spruce tree about 15 feet tall. The spruce is one of a few trees scattered on a grassy lawn directly north of the Humanities Fine Arts Center and directly across the campus road from a stand of large conifers which regularly contain the nests of many grackles. I do not know whether the albino was successful in nesting. I returned to its nest on June 20 and 23 and saw no sign of the bird or any young. This is not the first year an albinistic grackle has been observed on the Morris campus. I observed a similarly plumaged bird in the same area on June 5, 8 and 9, 1987, and two observers (Jim Togeas and Ron Rosen) saw such a bird on the Morris campus in 1986 and 1987. Presumably this was the same individual. In *The Encyclopedia of North American Birds* (1982), John Terres cites Gross (1965) who states that albinism



**Albino Common Grackle, June 15, 1988, Morris County. Photo by Ellen Lawler.**

occurs frequently in Common Grackles, but it is usually partial, occurring in a localized area of the body. In the grackle observed in Morris, all the feathers of the bird were abnormally light, but they were not pure white. The feathers over most of the body, the wings, and tail were pale cream (similar to color 54 in the *Naturalist's Color Guide* by F.B. Smithe, 1975) and those on the head and neck were slightly darker (buff, color 124 in Smithe's *Guide*). According to the description of various degrees of albinism listed in Terres' *Encyclopedia*, this grackle would probably be classified as an example of "imperfect albinism" in which pigment formation in the feathers is reduced but not totally absent. **Ellen Lawler, Salisbury State University, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Salisbury, MD 21801**

**HOUSE FINCH IN NORTHWEST MINNESOTA** — At 6:30 a.m. on 16 May 1988, I observed a female House Finch on my bird feeder in Thief River Falls, Pennington County. At a distance of 5 m, without binoculars, I was struck by the uniformly marked face and short, rounded bill — unlike the numerous Purple Finches that had been frequenting my feeders. I grabbed my Zeiss 7x50 binoculars and studied the bird for about three minutes. The sun's rays had not yet reached my yard, thus the lighting was uniform and visibility was excellent. The bird was about the same size as a Purple Finch but differed in several ways. It was more slender in the body and the head seemed somewhat rounder. The overall plumage was more subdued, lacking the contrast on the face and underparts. Feathers on the head, including the cheek and throat areas, appeared finely streaked, unlike the wider, prominent streaking and white throat of the Purple Finch. The uniform facial markings made the eye appear quite prominent. The bill was shorter, and the upper mandible was notably rounded, compared to straight in the Purple Finch. The upper mandible was slightly darker than the lower. The upper back was brownish and was very faintly striped with darker brown, and lacked any white feathers. The tail was only slightly notched. The underparts, from the throat to the undertail coverts, were streaked but the undertail coverts were not seen well enough to determine if they were also streaked. Purple Finches were not present on the feeder with the House Finch, but quickly moved in as soon as it flew away. I had to leave for work, and did not see the bird again. Having seen many House Finches in the West, I was quite confident of the identification even before referring to the field guides for confirmation. This sighting represents the first record for House Finch in northwest Minnesota. **Jim Mattsson, 230 North Kendall, Thief River Falls, MN 56701**

**A NOTE ON VARIABLE ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK PLUMAGES** — On January 16, 1988, I was birding at Rasmussen Woods Nature Area in Mankato with a young friend of mine named Kevin Sweere. We were in the north end of the RWNA, which is a slough-grass marsh, when we spotted two hawks of a species unfamiliar to either of us. We observed them for some time with my Bushnell 8X30 binoculars, frequently at rather close range. We were unsure of the identification at first, until we saw the conspicuous dark wrist patches, which told us they were Rough-legged Hawks. As we continued to observe them, we took note of their two distinctly different types of plumage. One, the slightly larger of the two, was a nearly "textbook" example of a light phase. The second, however, was not a typical dark phase. I recorded the following in my field notes: "Plumage like a dark phase except for light on the face, a light band across the upper breast (from the face to the top of the wings in front) and the underside of the wings (which are exactly like a light phase — including the conspicuous rectangular wrist patches — except for traces of dark brown or gray on the outer edges of the primaries and secondaries)." Kevin suggested that perhaps this individual was in the process of changing from the lighter plumage to the darker. When I returned home, I checked the *Audubon Master Guide*, where I found: "Plumages are quite variable, with many intergradations between the light and dark phases." (I:252). I then consulted Bent (1937), in which he describes an immature bird in the dark phase: "Immature birds in this phase are much like the adults, dark sooty brown above and below, except that the feathers of the head, breast, tibiae, and bend of the wing are edged or tipped with tawny;

some white shows through on the under parts and the tail is distinctly barred with gray on the outer webs and with white on the inner webs." (I:273). Later I discovered that Cade (1955) discussed the variability of the plumage of this species; and Figure 3 of that study shows an individual (identified as DMNH 22867, Wainwright, Alaska) with plumage very similar to the darker one we observed on those four days. They remained in the same area until the 19th, never venturing very far from where we first discovered them, and rarely or never venturing any farther than the road which runs along the north shore of Troost Pond, forming the southern border of that marsh.

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**John P. Bollenbacher, 125 N. 4th St., Mankato, MN 56001**

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS BREEDING IN HENNEPIN COUNTY** — Just off the Franklin Avenue bridge, below the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in Minneapolis, there is a small natural area. It is here that I heard and saw adult and immature Northern Saw-whet Owls during the spring and summer of 1988. The observations were all made at dusk and in the evening. My first observation was on May 31, 1988, when I heard a Saw-whet do its *co-co-co* calls, in a grove of cottonwoods. On June 5, 1988, an adult was doing its saw-whetting call in the same area. I decided to make noises by sucking on my hand, which brought a bird within a few feet of me. Saw-whets are very inquisitive birds. It was a clear night and the bird was easily seen for over half an hour. On June 15, 1988, John Futcher and I brought two white mice down to the beach to see if the owls would take them from our hands. We went to the grove of cottonwoods where we were attacked by two adult owls. The two adults flew over our heads while clicking their bills. I placed one of the mice in my hand and stood with my arm outstretched. Several times an adult made a pass at me or the mouse, I wasn't sure. I was getting tired of holding up my hand, so I placed the mouse on the ground. Within a short time, the mouse was snatched up. There was a scramble in the branches as the adult fed the mouse to the two young. We had a flashlight, so we could see all the birds plainly and within a few feet of us. The two young had the uniform coloration found in immatures. The last time that I heard the owls, was on July 30, 1988 when one was doing its saw-whetting call. A friend of mine later told me that he had observed Northern Saw-whet Owls in the same area during the summer of 1981. **Bruce A. Hitman, 3600 Penn Ave. N. #204, Minneapolis, MN 55412**

**BAIRD'S SPARROWS AT FELTON PRAIRIE** — For the first time in eight years, Baird's Sparrows were seen and heard at the traditional Felton Prairie area on June 24, 1988. I was leading a Victor Emanuel Nature Tour with Dale Delaney, and on this morning we had split up into two groups before meeting at The Nature Conservancy's Blazing Star Prairie. Dale reported that he and his group had just heard a Baird's Sparrow a couple of miles away along Clay Co. Rd. 108, about 2½ miles east of Highway 9. Although Dale was unaware of this species' casual status in Minnesota, and though they did not see the bird, I had no reason to doubt his report since Dale was experienced with singing Baird's Sparrows, having led two tours with me in Manitoba. We intended to go look for that bird, but within a few minutes, I began hearing the distinctive Baird's Sparrow song coming from

near the center of the Blazing Star tract, so, for the next half hour we observed this singing individual. All the diagnostic plumage features were visible: the heavy blackish back streaking; the pale orange color on the median crown stripe emanating down the nape and onto the sides of the face; the double malar streaks with an indistinct line going back to the obvious dark spot on the ear coverts. Also observed were the more "normal" sizes of the bill, head and tail, unlike the large-billed, flat-headed, short-tailed proportions of the Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows. The bird also had an indistinct band of short and irregular streaks across the breast. (Many Baird's Sparrows lack the obvious "necklace" of streaks mentioned in the field guides). Most distinctive was the song: two or three soft "tick" notes followed by a low pitched and wavering trill that, to my ears, always suggests the end of the House Wren's song. We were in this area for over an hour, and the sparrow sang intermittently during the entire time. However, no other observers reported hearing or seeing any Baird's Sparrows at Felton on other days this summer, and we did not relocate the one Dale heard earlier that morning along 108. Since Baird's Sparrow was last found at Felton in 1980, there has been only one other Minnesota record, that, unexpectedly, in Crow Wing County in 1986 (*The Loon* 58:131-132). **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804**

**LARK SPARROW AND WHIP-POOR-WILL NEST RECORDS FOR ANOKA COUNTY** — Management of a bluebird trail at the Bunker Hills County Park archery range in Anoka County Park resulted in two interesting nest records in 1988 — Lark Sparrow and Whip-poor-will. The archery range encompasses an oak savannah habitat in the Anoka sand plain that is largely in a natural state. The pattern of mixed oak woods and sandy meadows is ideal bluebird habitat. For at least five years, I had observed Lark Sparrows on the archery range but failed to find any nests. On May 21, 1988, however, I flushed a Lark Sparrow from the base of a clump of little bluestem. Inspection of the clump revealed a neat cup-shaped bowl of grasses with a few horse hairs interwoven in the grass. The nest had three white eggs, speckled with light brown spots. The nest was in a meadow about 13 meters from the nearby oak woods and 20 meters from a brushpile on the edge of the woods. When I checked the nest again on June 14, the nest was empty. On that same date, June 14, while taking a shortcut through the woods to reach a bluebird nest box, I flushed a Whip-poor-will from



**Whip-poor-will nest, June 14, 1988, Bunker Hills County Park, Anoka County. Photo by Carrol Henderson.**

its nest. It landed on the ground about four feet from the nest, with wings outspread and drooping onto the ground. There was no white wing spot as would be characteristic of a nighthawk. The wings were relatively short and broad. There was a slender, incomplete white collar mark on the neck and white tips on the outermost tail feathers. The two eggs were lightly speckled with brown and lay in the open on the leaf litter. The nest was about 1 meter from the base of a nearby dead tree (25 cm dbh) and about 13 meters from the edge of a nearby meadow. I returned later that day to photograph the Whip-poor-will and the eggs, and again on Friday, June 17. The eggs were still unhatched on June 17 and are believed to have hatched on the following week, but the outcome is unknown because I was unable to return to the site during that period. The location of these two nests was NENW, T31N, R24W, in Anoka County. **Carrol Henderson, 640 119th Lane NE, Blaine, MN 55434**

**ANOTHER LAUGHING GULL IN DULUTH** — For the second year in a row, an adult Laughing Gull appeared briefly at the 40th Avenue West, Erie Pier area in Duluth. On May 19, 1987, several birders and I had spotted a Laughing Gull at this location, but the bird disappeared before any other birders could be called. Then on May 5, 1988, another (or the same?) adult was seen by my bird identification class here. The gull was standing on a smelt net pole with some Ring-billed Gulls about 150 yards away. Its black head, broken white eye ring, dark red bill, dark gray mantle, folded black wing tips separated from the mantle by the white edges of the folded secondaries, and white underparts all indicated this was either an adult Franklin's or a Laughing Gull. We were unsure of the leg color, but the bird was slightly smaller than the adjacent Ring-billeds, and none of us were able to see any obvious white "mirrors" in the primaries, suggesting this could be a Laughing rather than the more likely Franklin's Gull. Finally, the gull spread its wings and hovered over the smelt nets for several minutes, giving us a clear view of its wing pattern, making positive identification possible. The dark gray of the upper wings blended into solid black wing tips with no white areas in between. Equally important were the extensive black areas on the outer third of the underside of the wings — the black on the underwings of adult and first-summer Franklin's is limited to a small area near the tips. (It should be noted that first-summer or one-year-old Franklin's Gulls are often misidentified as adult Laughing Gulls because their upper wing patterns are similar, and thus it is important to note their different underwing patterns.) After we left the area, only one other birder arrived in time to see this gull, since, as had happened last year, it disappeared very soon after its discovery. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN DULUTH** — On May 5, 1988 at about 9:30 a.m., I observed a breeding plumaged Great Black-backed Gull at Interstate Island. I was checking the island by boat as part of my job working on the Common Tern management program sponsored by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources. It was sitting in the water as I approached to within 50 feet, and the conditions were excellent with the sun at my back. The gull flushed and flew out of sight, but 15 minutes later I observed the bird loafing on the island with some Herring Gulls. The gull was much larger than these Herring Gulls and had a massive yellow bill with an orange-red spot near the tip of the lower mandible. There was no discernible difference between the colors of the mantle, wings or wing tips — all were a deep black color. These field marks were observed both in flight and while the gull was standing. The only field mark missed was the pink legs because the gull was standing behind a ridge. I am familiar with the Great Black-backed Gull from previous experiences and have seen other "black-backed" gulls, including the Lesser Black-backed which appeared in Duluth-Superior a few years ago. According to *Birds in Minnesota*, this is the latest spring record for this species for Minnesota. **Bill Penning, 1957 Wilson, St. Paul, MN 55119**

**LEAST TERN IN MURRAY COUNTY** — On Saturday, July 30, 1988, my daughter Marla and I drove the ten miles to Lake Wilson, in the southwest part of Murray County to look for shore birds. It was about 12:00 o'clock noon, a very hot, bright, sunny day. We noticed a tern standing on a rock close to shore, about 100 ft. from the road. We observed the bird for about 15 minutes. The first thing we noticed was the black cap, nape, and the black line through the eye, the clearly defined white forehead. We took notice, with our binoculars, of bill and leg color — yellow, black tip on the bill; also took note of wings, longer than the tail. We then checked our field guides with the bird still in view and found it be the Least Tern. Later, when it flew, we noticed the tail was short but forked. Right from the first, we were impressed with the "so white" forehead — not smudgy looking, and the "so black" cap and line through the eye. We went back the next day, but could not find it. **Mrs. Nelvina DeKam, RR 2, Box 90, Edgerton, MN 56128**

**A WINTER SUMMER TANAGER** — On December 1st, 1987, we noticed a bright yellow bird at the feeder at the old headquarters area in The Carlos Avery WMA in NE Anoka County. We normally see Evening Grosbeaks here but this one looked a bit different. While scoping the individual, we noted the throat and underparts were a vivid yellowish gold, while the neck, back and wings were a fairly uniform greenish yellow. The wings were not black or even dark. The bird had a faint eye-ring and appeared fairly uniform in coloration. The bill was fairly thick. While checking the *National Geographic Field Guide*, we spoke



**Summer Tanager, December 12, 1987, Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka County. Photo by Steve Zehner.**

briefly with a local resident. She indicated the bird had been present since mid-November and that they had tentatively identified it as a Summer Tanager. A few more observations through the scope and comparisons with the field guide convinced me she was correct. We then called Bob Janssen to report the record. This is the first December record for any tanager species in the state. The individual was last reported on December 22 and was subsequently seen and photographed by a number of observers. **Pat and Ken La Fond, 11008 Jefferson St., NE, Blaine, MN 55434**

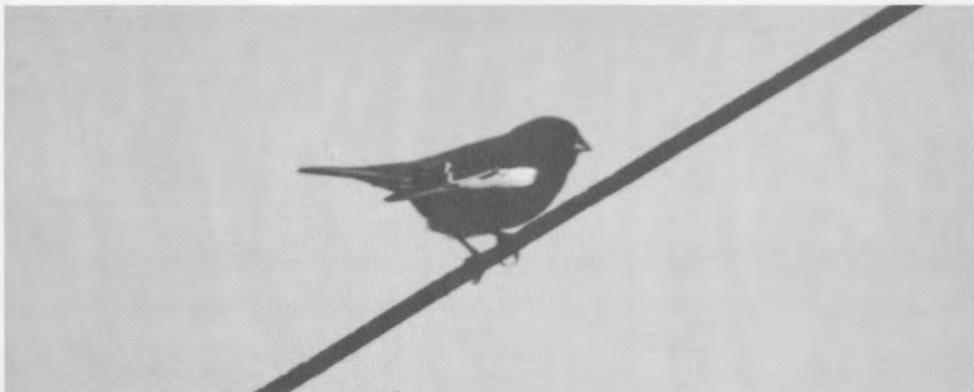
**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIES NEST IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On July 15, 1988, I was birding near Palisade, Aitkin County and decided to see if the magpie that had been regularly seen near there (for the last couple of months) was still around. It had been seen around the farm of Ken and Beulah Westvig, which is located in Section 3 of Fleming Township — approximately three miles south of Palisade and about a mile west of Aitkin County Road 5. As I drove by their windbreak, there was literally a din of raucous calls coming from the



**Young Black-billed Magpies, July 15, 1988, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

tops of two of the trees. As I stopped and got out of the car, two magpies started screaming and flying all around the trees. There in a bush in front of me was the reason for all the commotion. A young magpie was sitting there in a somewhat awkward position — apparently having tried to solo for the first time and not doing so well. It jumped and made a short flight before making a beautiful 37 point landing into another bush about 20 feet away along the fence line. I know that first flights are supposed to be a little difficult, but this bird put a whole new definition to the word “ungainly.” When landing, it hit every branch in the bush — twice — before winding up on the ground. But undaunted, it kept trying while one of the parent birds continually coaxed it along. It wound up on the ground by a fence post about a hundred yards away. My attention was then caught by the other parent bird flying and by the calling up in the trees. There on a dead limb sat two more young magpies — looking much like the adults only with short stubby tails. They hopped up into the live branches, and I walked down a ways to get a better angle to view them. There in the next tree were two more young magpies — a total of five young birds. One adult flew back and forth between the lone young and the other four. Both of the parent birds kept trying to coax the young into flight. But the four young had no intention of leaving the safety of the trees. I watched for nearly an hour before leaving. Later, I stopped and talked with Mr. and Mrs. Westvig about their birds — to see if they knew where the birds had nested. Mrs. Westvig showed me a pine tree on the south edge of their windbreak to which the adult magpies had been seen carrying food into the nest and begging young had been heard. And sure enough, there, almost completely hidden in the branches of the pine, was the large round stick nest of the magpies. You might think that a nest that is approximately three feet across would be very noticeable, but unless you were right underneath of it, you couldn't see it at all. I would call that good sight selection for a nest. The Westvigs said they thought the birds were pretty but way too noisy. Mrs. Westvig commented that the birds weren't too bad until the young were born. Then their noise woke them up before six o' clock every morning. I guess you can have too much of a good thing. Two years ago, magpies tried to nest only a mile and a half away at the Don and Hulda Lind farm but were unsuccessful. As far as I know, this is the first confirmed successful nesting of Black-billed Magpies in Aitkin County. **Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., NW, Aitkin, MN 56431**

**LARK BUNTINGS IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On Monday evening, June 20, 1988, I decided to go birding north of town on Aitkin County Road 1. I wanted to check out several Short-eared Owls that were in the area and to check the progress of a Dickcissel's nest that I had found. The fields near to where I had located the Dickcissel's nest were full of Bobolinks, but one of the birds flying in the north field caught my eye. It was quite a ways out in the field, but when it flew, the markings seemed different. I put my spotting scope on the bird as it picked through the freshly cut hay. It turned out to be a beautiful male Lark Bunting. I watched it for about a half an hour as it flew around the field at a distance of from one hundred to two hundred yards. I then drove home to call Steve and Jo Blanich and the Rare Bird Alert. Two days later, I drove out again. This time the Lark Bunting was near the road — first on a post and then on the telephone lines. I did manage to take a few photographs before it flew back out into the field where I had first seen it. Because of several other commitments, including the ABA convention, I didn't get back for about two weeks. I learned later that there had been two male Lark Buntings that had been occasionally coming into a bird feeder at a house near-by, from a few days before I first saw it up until Friday, June 24. They then disappeared for a few days — much to the disappointment of several birders who came to see the birds over that weekend. On the following Wednesday, June 29, one of the birds reappeared briefly at the feeder, and then again later in the day in the south field — just long enough for Kim Risen to see it. He was the last person to see the bird before it moved out of the area. **Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., NW, Aitkin, MN 56431**



**Lark Bunting, June 22, 1988, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

**A WHITE-FACED IBIS ON SALT LAKE WEEKEND** — On April 23, 1988, Chuck and Micki Buer and I spotted an ibis flying east from South Dakota towards the southern shore of Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle County. We had just left about 25 other birders who were looking over the waterbirds there, and we shouted to them, calling the bird to their attention as it flew past us only about 100 feet away. Its dark plumage, decurved bill, and trailing legs clearly indicated this was either a White-faced or Glossy Ibis; Even in flight, the white feathering, extending uninterrupted behind the bird's eye, was evident, positively identifying it as the more likely White-faced. The ibis then landed on the shore of Salt Lake not far from the other observers who watched it for about five minutes through spotting scopes. They also saw the continuous white feathering around the base of the eyes and bill, although no one reported being able to see the red eye color. However, Don Kienholz's notes mentioned seeing the reddish color of the bill and legs, further clinching the identification as a White-faced. Don also noted the plumage as "dark maroon with purple-green iridescence." After about five minutes, the ibis flew off towards the northeast and was not seen again. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804**

**PEREGRINE FALCON SIGHTINGS AT NSP KING PLANT** — From early April of 1988, a Peregrine Falcon was sighted on a regular basis at the Northern States Power Company King Plant near Bayport, Minnesota (Washington County). The falcon had a habit of perching on the railing of the plant stack at the 400 foot level. The picture below of the falcon perched on this railing was taken in June. The bird was observed perching there regularly from the beginning of April and was seen there almost every evening. A pair of Peregrine Falcons were seen in this area throughout April, but only one falcon was observed after that. Inspection of the metal grating platform under the railing at the 400 foot level revealed various parts of several bird species (Blue Jay, Rock Dove, Northern Flicker, etc). The falcon seems to have been using the plant stack to stalk and eat his prey. **Sharon Sarappo, NSP, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401**



**Peregrine Falcon, June, 1988, Bayport, Washington County. Photo by Sharon Sarappo.**

## **Birding Is the Answer — To Lifelong Learning**

**Anne Marie Plunkett**

Our parents are our earliest teachers beyond a doubt, so a word about mine is in order, so you may know where I am coming from. My father spoke seven languages fluently; did the New York Times crossword puzzles in ink; created his own language of “breves” (which is the abbreviation for “abbreviations”), did early time-lapse photography of flowers opening with Nelson Barker (who many in MOU will remember as an early active member of MOU, and widely known for his recordings of the bird songs of southeastern Minnesota) — a man of many interests.

As I was growing up and trying to become mature, my father would remind me of what happens to fruit when it becomes mature: it then begins to rot and die. He encouraged me instead to search for eternal Spring, blossoming, to continue to find new life (knowledge) through constant learning.

He propagated this philosophy to his many Fellows in radiology at Mayo, and was, by all accounts, a beloved teacher.

My mother took up the study of birds at the age of ninety, and was anxious for my reports when I came in from the field. She became familiar with the behaviour and habits of her yard birds, and studied her National Geographic assiduously.

With these influences, it is not surprising that, when I took semi-retirement a few years ago, I decided to see if Birding would be the answer to lifelong learning for me, if I gave it full vent. I had wondered if I birded every day, if it would pale or lose its fascination. I have learned from doing it, that the answer to my question is a decided "NO;" not just because birds are endlessly intriguing, but because identifying birds is only the "tip of the iceberg," so to speak.

When we moved to the country in 1962, I didn't know a Robin from a Bluejay, and could have cared less. But sighting an Indigo Bunting changed all that and I was hooked. Other beautifully arrayed birds soon turned my fascination to love, and when I couldn't get out to see them, I studied about them, learning in the abstract what they looked like, and how they behaved. When I started going out on a routine basis, I quickly realized that there was much more to birding than just identifying their field marks. The likelihood of their occurring at a certain time, or of their nesting, their known range or possible expansion of that range, their nesting sites, their behaviour, their basic and alternate plumages, migration patterns (the eighth wonder of the world), — so much to learn about the birds themselves. But to find those birds, there was much more to learn — about trees and bushes and their fruits (which ones they preferred for food and nesting); about fens and bogs and even marshes (and what the difference between them is and why it is important to know about this); about creeks, streams and rivers (where they are, where they go, and how they get there — and how they are related, and how they relate to bigger rivers, and bays and oceans). At this juncture, I realized the importance of learning to use maps, to know which roads were tax-supported and thus public, (unless restricted) to see how to get from here to there by the most direct and most productive roads, to know where the bridges are, and the WMA's, and the state parks. (Before I delved into birding, I learned to fly a small aircraft; for one reason, so that I could finally see where all the branches of the Root River went and how they came together. Now I know, but I learned it, not from the air, but by birding its many branches by car and foot.) Also from the maps, you learn where all the named towns are, and once there, you learn where the good eating spots are, and in those you get to know the diverse and remarkable people who know their territory and can be a big help in locating birds. Also worth studying is the all-important subject of weather, no easy subject. Its helpful to learn something about fronts and systems — it's especially useful information in understanding something about the migration of birds.

I tried three times to wade through a text on basic Geology, but it wasn't until I was out in the field, that the clouds of confusion began to lift, and I began to get an appreciation of how amazing this Earth we live on really is; which leads to looking at the Earth as a whole, how the birds use it, and how we use it — or perhaps ought to. Pretty soon, it becomes apparent that where our birds go in winter should also be something we know about and are concerned about. Destruction of wintering habitat in Central and South America affects the status of our summer birds — that seems obvious — but I must confess it used to be no concern of mine.

I guess that what I think is so special about studying birds is that, to do it right, one can (and probably should) look in depth at the local picture all the way up to the global. No matter where one goes on this Earth, birds are there, a part of our life on Earth. Perhaps that is why birding can be the answer to lifelong learning — you are never finished, and each step along the way is filled with endless potential for expansion of one's horizons, and with an even greater potential for altering the world we live in, to make it a beautiful sanctuary for our birds, and thus for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren. **2918 15th Ave. SW, Rochester, MN 55902.**

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

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

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# The LOON

WINTER 1988

VOLUME 60 — NUMBER 4



The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union  
Our 50th Year — 1938-1988

**The LOON** Minnesota's magazine of birds, is published four times each year by the **Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**, the statewide bird club. Permanent address: J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104. Anyone interested in birds may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: *The Loon* and the **MOU Newsletter**.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$12.50 for a regular yearly membership. 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 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. **Associate Editors:** Kim R. Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr. Duluth, MN 55804; Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902; Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. **Photo Editor:** Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., N.W., Altkin, MN 56431.

"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 Major Invasion of Dickcissels (1988)

Robert B. Janssen

The Dickcissel is a regular summer resident in Minnesota, mainly in the southern one-third of the state. The term "regular" may be misleading because numbers of Dickcissels seen in the state vary widely from year to year. In some years the species is almost entirely absent, with only a few individuals occurring in the far southern tier, while in other years it is well represented in southern Minnesota with birds being seen commonly to about the latitude of the Twin Cities. Occasionally, in what have been termed "invasion years," Dickcissels can be found commonly in the state to a latitude of central Pine County in the east and Clay County in the west. Rarely, in peak invasion years, Dickcissels reach as far north as southern St. Louis County (Meadowlands) in the east and Kittson County on the Canadian border in the northwest corner of the state. Just why these fluctuations in numbers occur has baffled ornithologists since the species was first described; there is no positive explanation for why numbers fluctuate so greatly from year to year. In this short article I will not discuss the "why" of the invasions; it is my purpose here to document the recent fluctuations in populations of Dickcissels in Minnesota. The Dickcissel is one of the latest spring migrants to arrive in Minnesota. The first individuals, probably males, seldom arrive before May 20. The bulk of the population usually arrives during the first ten days of June. Most other species in the state are well past migration activity and have settled down to breeding activities when the Dickcissels arrive. (This arrival time period applies in years of scarcity as well as during years of abundance.) The Spring of 1988 saw one of the largest invasions of Dickcissels ever documented in the state. Birds were reported as being very common in southern areas of the state by the first week in June, and it appeared that it would be a good Dickcissel year. By mid-June birds were being reported all over the central part of the state: in Todd and Wadena Counties; in the east as far north as Carlton County; in

St. Louis County, as far north as Meadowlands. In the west at this time birds were being seen in unprecedented numbers, and in unprecedented places. David Lambeth of Grand Forks, who regularly birds in Polk County, found Dickcissels abundant in the county. Jim Mattsson, Assistant Refuge Manager at Agassiz NWR in Marshall County, found Dickcissels abundant in the alfalfa fields surrounding the refuge. This was the first year he had ever seen them in Marshall County. Ray Glassel found Dickcissels on several of his birding trips to the northwest: in Red Lake, Pennington, eastern Marshall, and Beltrami Counties. Dickcissels were also reported in Clearwater, Hubbard and Cass Counties in areas where they had never been recorded in recent times (i.e., during the past 40 years). At the same time as the birds were being recorded as common in the northern part of the state, I was receiving daily reports of Dickcissels being common in the southwest, southcentral and to a lesser extent in southeastern Minnesota. The above records indicate that Dickcissels were present just about everywhere in the state where there was suitable habitat. The only areas in the state where they were not reported were: in Cook, Lake and central and northern St. Louis Counties in the northeast (probably because these areas have so little suitable habitat for Dickcissels); and in Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Itasca Counties in the northcentral part of the state. This latter area also lacks large areas of suitable Dickcissel habitat, but is also the least birded area in the state, so there may have been birds present which went unrecorded. In my opinion, based on 40 years of Minnesota records for the Dickcissel, 1988 saw the largest invasion of this species ever recorded in the state. This would include not only the large area of the state where the species occurred, but also the numbers of birds that were seen around the state. Looking at past records (since 1948) to try to find invasions of this extent, the year 1952 saw a major invasion of Dickcissels.

sels, but only in the southern third of the state; 1956 saw the same type of abundance. Numbers "crashed" in 1957 with few if any Dickcissels recorded. In the 60's, 1963 and 1966 were the only years in which the species was more abundant than normal. During these two years, above normal numbers were restricted to the southern one-third of the state, with birds recorded as far north as Traverse County in the west. In 1968 and 1969 few birds were recorded in the state. During the decade of the 70's, there were once again two years of great abundance and distribution in the state. 1974 saw birds abundant in the south and ranging as far north as Wilkin and Clay County in the west. During 1977, Dickcissels were common in the southeast, especially in Winona County. During this year Ray Glassel, and I recorded a single Dickcissel near Halma in Kittson County in the far northwest corner of the state. 1980 found Dickcissels unusually common in the southwest, especially in Rock County. In 1981, birds were common in the south, but

in 1982 it was hard to find a Dickcissel anywhere in the state. However, in 1983, numbers rebounded to above normal levels and birds were found further north than usual. In early July 1983, I recorded birds as far north as Morrison County and southern Pine County, and they were seen as far north as Polk and Pennington Counties in the west. From 1984 through 1987, Dickcissels occurred in about normal numbers in the southern one-third of the state. Drought conditions settled in over the state in late 1987 and deepened into 1988; one wonders if the dry conditions had anything to do with the extraordinary abundance of Dickcissels in the state during the summer of 1988. It will be interesting to document future invasions and years of scarcity for the Dickcissel in the state. It would be an interesting project for an interested birder to see if there is a correlation between years of abundance and drier-than-normal years. **10521 S. Cedar Lake Road #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

## 1988 MOU County Big Day

Jerry Bonkoski

The four corners of the state were well represented in the 1988 MOU County Big Day Birdathon. Olmsted County birders found 129 species in the southeast, a team in Lyon County found 142 species in the southwest section of the state; Polk County in the northwest produced 152 species; and one team in St. Louis County in the northeast topped everyone with 155 species. Several other counties around the state reported more than 100 species on their "Big Day."

The second Annual MOU County Big Day results are in and there are some interesting results from the efforts of Minnesota birders. Every county that fielded a team in 1987 and again in 1988 turned in a higher species count in 1988. There were 17 counties that sent in results in 1988 compared with nine in 1987. The composite list of species for 1988 was 238 compared with 214 in 1987. And most amazing was two individuals seeing more than 150 species in their respective counties.

Perhaps the most remarkable accomplishment this year was Bob Ulvang's day in St. Louis County. Even though Bob was alone much of the day, and even though it had been years since this Californian had birded in his native Duluth, he still came up with a total of 155 species. Dave Lambeth almost duplicated this feat in Polk County where he recorded 152 species while birding by himself. Dave felt with another pair of eyes to help him he could have seen 160 species on 21 May 1988. Now *there* is a challenge for 1989. Does anyone else think they can see 160 species in one day and within one county in Minnesota?

There are many reasons why people choose to do a Big Day. Some raise funds for a special project within their county or for a project that their club is interested in supporting.

Some just like the challenge of seeing how many species they can find in one day. Some clubs plan a special field trip to coincide with a Big Day count. Others just use it as an excuse to get out and do some birding themselves or with some friends. Whatever your reason, please take time to share the results with us. How long before we could show a County Big Day record for all 87 counties in Minnesota?

Following is a list of the highest species counts for each county that has reported and the date that count was recorded. The right column shows the record holder for each county that has sent in a report.

County	Species	Date	Individual or Team
St. Louis	155	5/21/88	Bob Ulvang, Dick Green, Jack Hofslund, Adeline Nuñez
Polk	152	5/21/88	Dave Lambeth
Lyon	142	5/14/88	Henry Kyllingstad, Paul Egeland
Olmsted	129	5/14/88	Jerry & Jodi Bonkoski, Augie Krueger, Jerry Pruett, Helen Tucker
Lincoln	122	5/14/88	Ray Glassel, Bob Janssen, John Schladweiler
Steele	116	5/14/88	Leanne Alt, Darryl Hill, Gary Johnson, Ken Vail
Aitkin	116	5/22/88	Jo & Steve Blanich, Warren Nelson
Cottonwood	115	5/14/88	Ed Duerksen, Ellis Gerber, Walter Harder
Carlton	104	5/21/88	Fran & Larry Weber
Wadena	94	5/21/88	Jerome & Karol Gresser
Dodge	92	5/14/88	Anne Marie Plunkett
Pipestone	77	5/14/88	Nelvina DeKam, Johanna Pals
Ramsey	77	5/14/88	Bob Holtz
Fillmore	74	5/15/88	Fillmore County Birders
Goodhue	73	5/14/88	Bob & Steve Ekblad
Isanti	42	5/14/88	Daphne & Meyers Peterson
LeSueur	32	5/14/88	Mary Simon
Hubbard	17	5/16/87	Herb & Jeanne Fisher

Are you interested in doing a Big Day in your favorite county? Perhaps you would like to try to replace one of the record holders in a county or establish a new record for a county not listed. It's simple: all you need to do is go out and see how many species you can find within the boundaries of the county you have selected in any 24 hour period anytime during the year, but mid-May will probably produce the largest number of species (comparison of data from year to year could prove especially interesting and useful). You can either form a team or go out by yourself to do your County Big Day.

Once you have completed your Big Day, send a checklist of the birds seen, the date that you did your Big Day, the county that was birded, and the members of your team. Please include details on any unusual species seen. Send this information to: **Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

**Editors Note:** Each year an article will be published in *The Loon* showing the current record holders for each county.

# Deletion of Mountain Plover From Minnesota State List

Bruce A. Fall

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) was added to the official list of Minnesota birds as an Accidental (category A<sub>1</sub>) on the basis of two individuals seen by Bob Janssen on 2 July 1986, and later by at least 15 others from 2-5 July in Faribault County (Janssen 1986). The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) unanimously voted this record Acceptable. Recently (autumn 1988), for reasons discussed below, the record was re-evaluated by MORC: by a vote of 0-10, the committee found it Unacceptable, and thus Mountain Plover is hereby removed from the state list.

The re-evaluation was prompted because of a letter to Bob Janssen from Don Roberson, secretary of the California Bird Records Committee. Earlier this year, Roberson was asked by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) to review a 9-10 July 1986 Iowa plover sighting, which already had been accepted as Mountain Plover by the IOU Records Committee (Kent and Myers 1987). Roberson concluded that the Iowa bird was not a Mountain Plover, but rather most likely was a Lesser Golden-Plover. In that review, Roberson also evaluated the published Minnesota record, and concluded that the Minnesota birds as well were almost certainly Lesser Golden-Plovers and not Mountain Plovers. Janssen then sent Roberson a copy of the documentation file of the Minnesota plovers; Roberson examined it and reported his conclusions to Janssen in a 9-page letter dated 25 July, 1988. This letter was circulated to MORC members, who individually re-evaluated the record, and agreed sufficiently with Roberson's doubts, although not necessarily with his conclusions, to vote unanimously to rescind the record. The consensus of the committee was that there were several inconsistencies concerning the identification that were overlooked in the original evaluation, and the conservative action was to delete the record. Major points commented on by Roberson and MORC members are as follows.

**Size** — Different observers, who had direct comparison with the other species, variously

described relative size as "a little smaller than Killdeer" and "about the same size as Lesser Golden-Plover." Mountain Plover should appear smaller than both those species, especially Lesser Golden: 210-235mm total length for Mountain vs. 240-280 for Lesser Golden and 230-260 for Killdeer (Hayman et al. 1986). No features of the Minnesota birds, including the bill, were described as noticeably smaller than Lesser Golden-Plover. However, the two species overlap in some measurements, including bill: data from Oberholser (1974) indicate 40% overlap in bill length, and personal comparison of specimens in the Bell Museum of Natural History collection showed bill size and shape to be very similar between the two species in more than one-fourth of the specimens.

**Leg color** — Legs were described by different observers as dark, light, grayish, reddish, dark gray, yellowish to greenish — a considerable range of descriptions. Mountain Plover legs are described in most field guides as brown or brownish-yellow (e.g., Haymen et al. 1986).

**Tail pattern** — The tail of Mountain Plover is sandy brown, with a blackish subterminal bar and narrow white border; this differs from that of Lesser Golden-Plover, which is all brown, lacking both the black bar and white fringe. Some observers' descriptions of the tail sounded very much like that of a Mountain Plover — e.g., "terminal half of tail was black with white tip." Other descriptions sounded like that of Lesser Golden-Plover — e.g., Janssen's original description of the tail as "uniform tan with no evident pattern."

**Dorsal wing pattern** — Mountain Plover shows a moderately prominent wing stripe resulting from white bases of the inner primaries plus white-tipped greater coverts. Lesser Golden-Plover has only a hint of a wing stripe, resulting from thin pale edging of the greater coverts; the inner primaries are dark. Those observers with good views described a definite wing stripe. However, Janssen described the stripe as "about 1 inch

up from the secondaries" rather than on the outer wing where it should have been more noticeable if the birds were Mountain Plovers.

**Underwing pattern** — In Mountain Plover, the underwing coverts and axillaries are white, while in Lesser Golden-Plover these are gray or gray-brown. Some observers described a whitish underwing (entire) while others described it as buffy. A photo of the birds flying is inconclusive because of distance and poor lighting.

**Body coloration** — Most observers' descriptions of the underparts did not differ much from Janssen's: "breast and belly were white with a beige overprint on the breast — this extended down to the flanks. The breast, belly and undertail coverts were totally unstreaked." Likewise, there was consistency among most observers in their descriptions of the back, as Janssen's: "solid brownish-tan back with no spotting, streaking or speckling." These descriptions seem entirely consistent with Mountain Plover, and not with any described or illustrated plumage of Lesser Golden-Plover of which I am aware, nor of any Bell Museum specimens (about 30 *P.d. dominica*).

**Plumage** — The described plumage of these birds precludes them from being either juvenal or alternate-plumaged Mountain Plovers — the former because the birds lacked 'scalloped' buff-fringed feathers on the back, scapulars and coverts, and the latter because they lacked black facial markings (frontal bar and lores). Furthermore, 2 July seems too early a date for them to be in fresh basic plumage. However, none of the above precludes the possibility of them being Mountain Plovers (unsuccessful breeders) molting from alternate into basic plumage, or birds that did not undergo a pre-alternate molt and were in worn basic plumage (see below). In the Bell Museum collection, there is a Mountain Plover specimen (adult female, #26233) collected by Graul in Colorado on 25 June 1971 that has a brown crown (darker on the anterior portion) and creamy lores, and another adult female (#26231) collected 26 July 1971 (also by Graul) that is molting heavily into basic plumage and likewise has an all-brown crown and mostly creamy lores with only a hint of dark. That the Minnesota birds were neither juveniles nor adults in alternate plumage seems valid, but that fact

alone does not prevent them from being Mountain Plovers.

**Vocalizations** — None of the observers' descriptions of the birds' calls (e.g., "plain whistled call — phewee — slightly descending") matched published descriptions of one Mountain Plover call reportedly given in wintering flocks ("krrrip"; Farrand 1983). However, the observers' descriptions do not seem inconsistent with published descriptions of other Mountain Plover calls, or with those of Lesser Golden-Plover.

**Expert Opinion** — Initially, all documentation was sent to Mountain Plover researcher Dr. Walter Graul, who gave qualified support to the identification as two Mountain Plovers in non-breeding plumage (Janssen 1986:158). Later, in June 1988, in response to a letter from Roberson, Graul wrote that he did not disagree with Roberson's conclusion that the birds weren't Mountain Plovers; rather than fully supporting the identification, he felt instead that he just couldn't rule out Mountain Plover based on the material submitted to him initially.

**What were these two birds?** Roberson concluded they, and the Iowa bird as well, were Lesser Golden-Plovers (nominate race, *Pluvialis dominica dominica*) in well-worn first-summer (alternate) plumage. However, that conclusion is not supported by plumage descriptions in the literature. Most bird guides (even the newer ones) do not distinguish first-alternate from adult-alternate plumages in this species, but according to at least four sources (Haymen *et al.* 1986; Oberholser 1974; Prater *et al.* 1977; Pym 1982), first-alternate plumage does differ. Of these, Pym (1982:121) gives the most complete description: "In both races, some first-winter feathers retained, otherwise as adult summer (in *dominica*, male resembles female). Some attain only partial summer plumage: in *dominica*, with black on only some feathers of underparts restricted to small spot or streak near feather tips and giving mottled appearance..." Prater *et al.* (1977:66) state that in "*P.d. dominica*, IS [first summer] male resembles adult female but tends to have more white." Comparing the descriptions of the Minnesota plovers with the above published descriptions, one must conclude that the Minnesota birds certainly were not Lesser Golden-Plovers in first-alternate plumage. However, we must consider the possibility of

them being Lesser Golden-Plovers in basic plumage — i.e., birds (presumably first-year) that for some reason did not undergo the normal pre-alternate molt, which occurs from March through May (Pym 1982). This apparently is regular and fairly well known in first-year Black-bellied Plovers (Prater *et al.* 1977; Hayman *et al.* 1986), but not, apparently, in Lesser Golden-Plover. I found only one reference that basic plumage is ever completely retained into summer in Lesser Golden-Plover, and even here it is neither illustrated nor described: "(Note that winter-plumaged *dominica* have occasionally been recorded in summer)" (Pym 1982:118). Although this is conjectural, such birds would probably have very worn feathers, and the mottled and speckled appearance of fresh basic plumage might be much less obvious. If this was the case, it is not surprising that the identification proved problematical.

The committee did not conclude that these birds were Lesser Golden-Plovers in very worn first basic plumage, but only that this possibility existed. It is possible, by selecting some and excluding others, to assemble one set of descriptions that leads to Mountain Plover, and another set that leads to Lesser Golden-Plover. The documentation of this

sighting has several unresolvable inconsistencies, and it is for this reason that, in re-evaluating the record, the committee voted to retract it.

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## Dispersal, Nest Site Selection, and Age of First Breeding in Peregrine Falcons Released in the Upper Midwest, 1982-1988

Harrison B. Tordoff and Patrick T. Redig

In the early days of releases of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), it was not known if peregrines of breeding age would insist on nest sites similar to their own release sites. That is, would birds released from buildings nest only on buildings? Would tower-released falcons nest on cliffs?

Results of release programs in North America and Europe show that the choice of nesting site is not determined absolutely by the nature of the hack site. For example, building-released birds have nested on to-

wers, bridges, and cliffs, as well as buildings. Falcons released from towers and cliffs also have nested on bridges and buildings, as well as towers and cliffs.

This has important management implications — it means that release sites can be chosen for efficiency and safety from predators. Here in the Midwest, we started by releasing falcons from towers along the Mississippi River, in the hope that the falcons would choose the cliffs along the river for nesting. This they did, but Great Horned Owl

predation at the release site required owl control to avoid excessive losses. Hoping that peregrines from buildings in cities would choose cliffs for nesting, we switched our releases from the river towers to tall buildings; the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and the Multifoods Tower in Minneapolis. From these sites we released 54 falcons in the past four summers (1985-88).

Since the nature of the release site clearly does not determine the future choice of nest site for at least some birds, it is still fair to ask if it influences that choice. That is, are building-released falcons more likely to nest on buildings than on other kinds of sites? Are cliff-released birds more likely to choose cliffs? The answer, for our Midwest birds, appears to be yes, there is an influence.

We know the identity so far of about 23 paired, territorial falcons. Of these, 13 are in residence on buildings. Twelve of the 13 were released from buildings; only one was released from a tower. None of our sample of 39 (1987 and earlier) cliff-released falcons has yet to show up on a building, but falcons released by the Peregrine Fund from cliffs have nested on buildings in both eastern and western U.S.

The other ten territorial birds of the total of 23 have been on cliffs. Six of these were released from nearby towers, 3 were released from buildings. Only one cliff-nesting bird was released from a cliff. Looking at it another way, of the 170 falcons released by us through 1987 (the 1988 birds are not old enough to be territorial):

24% were from towers  
23% were from cliffs  
53% were from buildings

Our 23 territorial birds are:  
0% on towers (only 1 tower is available)  
43% on cliffs  
57% on buildings

This seems to say that towers are unattractive in areas where cliffs and buildings are available, which would make sense because towers clearly lack the aerodynamic advantages for the falcons of cliffs and buildings. However, towers have been used regularly by nesting peregrines along the East Coast and also in the West, sometimes where cliffs were available not far away. It is hard to con-

clude anything further about the possible influence of release sites on nest site selection because the picture is complicated by availability. For example, in southern Michigan and around the southern rim of Lake Michigan, only buildings are available. In northern Minnesota, only cliffs are available (Duluth lacks buildings taller than about 10 stories, usually about the minimum height acceptable to peregrines). Only along the Mississippi in southern Minnesota and Wisconsin are both cliffs and tall buildings readily available.

But how close must a site be to be "available"? Must Chicago-release birds, for example, only choose from sites available nearby? This raises the question of dispersal.

Again, we have 23 paired, territorial birds to consider. These birds have dispersed an average distance of 73 miles (117 km) from their release sites, ranging from 0 miles to 350 miles (560 km). The longest disperser from a hack site was a female released in Minneapolis in 1985 that nested in Chicago in 1988. Here is the distribution of dispersal distances, showing that the average dispersal distance does not mean much in a small sample like this.

Miles	Peregrines
0-25	13: 7 males, 6 females
25-50	2 males
50-100	3: 2 males, 1 female
100-200	2: 1 male, 1 female
200-350	3 females

Note that females tend to be the long-distance dispersers, a fact also noted in other studies. Actually, female peregrines are more foot-loose than males no matter how you look at them. They not only disperse farther from hack sites, but also from nest sites, as shown in Alaska and Scotland. And when one looks at movement of adults from one territory to another, again females are more likely to move farther than males. The strategy of males seems to be to find a good cliff, going no farther afield than necessary, and then to hold on to it. Females, on the other hand, seem programmed to wander, sizing up opportunities, before settling down.

Our reintroduction program produced only one wild fledged bird prior to this year, a female from the Minneapolis Multifoods pair in 1987. She showed up in spring in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1988, 400 miles (640



**A male Peregrine Falcon over the Donaldson store and Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, in July, 1985. This bird, released from the Multifoods Tower, was photographed by Tom Bailey from the roof of the IDS Tower.**

km) from home, paired to an unbanded wild male at first, then to a two-year-old male released in Winnipeg, and was still on territory in late October, 1988.

We know the age with reasonable certainty of 15 peregrines in our area thought to be breeding for the first time, although when a three or four-year-old appears and nests, as happened in Minneapolis in 1987 (male) and in Chicago in 1988 (female), after having been unaccounted for from the time it left the hack site, there is no guarantee that it has not nested or at least tried to nest in the intervening period. In fact, an unattended peregrine egg of unknown origin was found on a building in Chicago in 1987, perhaps representing a nesting attempt by Harriet, the female that nested successfully on that same building in 1988.

Acknowledging this uncertainty for older birds, of the 15 peregrines for which we think we know the age of first nesting:

- 3 were one year old
- 6 were two years old
- 1 was three years old
- 1 was four years old
- 4 were adults of unknown age

The three birds that nested at one year were a female in Minneapolis in 1987 and the remarkable pair of one-year-olds in Milwaukee in 1988. Their hatch dates were:

- Minneapolis female, 25 May 1986
- Milwaukee female, 22 April 1987
- Milwaukee male, 28 April 1987

For comparison, four paired one-year-olds that did not nest were hatched as follows:

- Hastings female, 28 April 1987
- Detroit male, 26 May 1987
- Detroit female, 1 June 1987
- Chicago female, 16 June 1987

This very small sample and abundant data from other studies make it clear that most one-year-old peregrines do not nest, regardless of their hatch date. But those few that do nest (usually females and usually in growing populations with lots of vacancies) are more likely to be birds hatched early in the

year, before June 1 rather than after.

It is surely special pleading to try to explain the breeding of the Minneapolis female, whose hatch date is not very early, but let us try anyway. We are convinced that she was nowhere near breeding condition when she arrived in heavy molt in Minneapolis in mid-April, 1987. We had last had word of her the previous September, 1986, when David Lambeth photographed her and read her band while she was eating a Baird's Sandpiper at Grand Forks, North Dakota, some 300 miles from here. When she showed up in Minneapolis in April, she found her old hack site in the possession of a four-year-old male released at a tower at Weaver Dunes, some 100 miles downriver. He began courting her vigorously, plying her with kills, and swept her off her feet. In a month, she laid eggs. But even here her immaturity was evident. She dropped her first egg while sitting on the ledge on the front of her nest box, fortunately facing out instead of in, resulting in a six-inch drop onto gravel instead of a 500-foot drop to the street. Once she saw what she had done, she poked and pushed at the egg as though she knew she ought to do something else. All she accomplished was to push the egg back and forth along the edge of the nest box. After about an hour of this (recorded on videotape), the male arrived, saw the egg, and with great skill, rolled it directly into the scrape. But after that unpromising start, her subsequent behavior has been beyond reproach. She fledged one youngster from that first nest, and three of her own plus a fostered fourth this year. And as we write this in December, 1988, she is still in residence in downtown Minneapolis.

An outstanding characteristic of healthy populations of peregrines is stability in number of breeding pairs occupying traditional territories. With our reintroduced population of marked falcons, we have an exceptional opportunity to study mobility of individuals and the growth of the new population as it develops its mature form. Thus far, our sample sizes are all small, but we are pleased to have some population data to report after only seven years of releases.

**Bell Museum of Natural History and Raptor Center, University of Minnesota**



**Red Crossbills, 2 March 1988, Faribault, Rice County. Photo by George Rysgaard.**

## **The Spring Season (March 1 to May 31, 1988)**

**Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme**

**Foreword by Robert B. Janssen**

The major meteorological trend of the Spring of 1988 was the continuing below normal precipitation which began in the Fall of 1987; almost all areas of the state reported below normal rainfall. Precipitation amounts declined as the spring progressed. By the end of May, lawns in the Twin Cities were burned

to a crisp as sprinkling bans went into effect. Reporting stations showed precipitation at least three to four inches below normal throughout the state. Many lakes showed wide shorelines and some ponds and sloughs were already dried up by the end of May.

During March temperatures were warm

during the first ten days of the month. A blizzard in the north and snowstorm in the south changed things rapidly. Fourteen inches of snow fell at Two Harbors along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Temperatures fluctuated from cold to fairly warm during the latter part of the month. Below zero readings were recorded in the north on March 19th and 21st however.

Some heavy rains fell in the southwest during the first few days of April; however, temperatures rose rapidly and dried the land quickly. It was 72° in the southwest on the 4th and a record 76° in the Twin Cities on the 7th. Little or no rain fell the rest of the month and strong winds absorbed what little moisture there was in the topsoil.

May saw a continuation of the April conditions except that it was hotter and drier, and the winds blew constantly. From the 1st to the 8th temperature highs were in the 80's across the southern part of the state. By the 18th, a high of 95° was recorded in the Twin Cities. The last four days of the month saw temperatures rise to 90° or above throughout southern Minnesota. The drought conditions present across the state at the end of May were a bad omen for the breeding season, especially for water and marsh birds.

What were the major ornithological events of this peculiar, hot, dry spring? My vote for the top event of the season was the invasion of Red Crossbills into southern Minnesota (see article on page 177 of this issue). The influx started the first week in March and the birds disappeared abruptly in late May. The most unusual species recorded this spring was the Williamson's Sapsucker seen at Itasca State Park in Hubbard County from 21 May to 30 May. This is only the third record for the state and the first in the north, the other two records being from the southern part of the state in Nobles and Winona Counties. The heaviest migration noted was on 7 May when 110 species were recorded in Waseca, Steele, Dodge and Mower Counties. Included were 21 species of warblers. On the 10th 119 species were seen in the northwestern corner of the state even though only 12 species of warblers were recorded. It was not a season for rarities. However Great Black-backed Gull and Laughing Gull were seen in Duluth harbor from 14 to 27 May. Say's Phoebe were seen in Murray and Rock Counties during May. House Finches continued their

spread into the state with several records in the Twin Cities, several in Mankato and the first record in the northwest from Thief River Falls.

### **Red-throated Loon**

5/14/27 Duluth KE, m.ob.

### **Common Loon**

Early south 3/21 Blue Earth MF, 3/23 Dakota RG, 3/25 Freeborn NH; early north 4/3 Duluth MH and Hubbard HJF, 4/4 Pine TS, 4/5 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Early south 3/9 Dakota SC, ES, 3/13 Mower RRK, 3/17 Olmsted JB; early north 4/1 Wadena AB, 4/5 Duluth KE and Aitkin WN.

### **Horned Grebe**

Early south 3/22 Wabasha WDM, 3/23 Dakota RG, 4/1 Hennepin SC; early north 4/9 Duluth KE, 4/16 Beltrami TK, 4/21 Becker BK.

### **Red-necked Grebe**

Early south 4/7 Hennepin SC, 4/9 Freeborn NH, 4/15 Nicollet JF; early north 4/3 Duluth JG, 4/10 Becker RG, 4/11 Cook KMH.

### **Eared Grebe**

4/1 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/4 Nicollet LW, 4/17 Lincoln AB and Lyon AB, TT; early north 4/12 Marshall ANWR, 4/25 Hubbard JL, 4/27 Beltrami KH.

### **Western Grebe**

Early south 4/8 Nicollet JF, 4/9 Big Stone RG and Lac Qui Parle DO; early north 5/3 Duluth DJ, 5/6 Marshall ANWR, 5/11 Clay LCF.

### **American White Pelican**

Early south 4/1 Murray RJ, 4/2 Nobles AP, 4/5 Lac Qui Parle FE; early north 4/8 Marshall ANWR and Pennington SKS, 4/10 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

Early south 3/22 Stearns JMa, 3/23 Lac Qui Parle FE, 3/26 Dakota TT, DZ; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/3 Duluth MHe, 4/5 Koochiching GM.

### **American Bittern**

Early south 4/22 Hennepin DB, 4/25 Big Stone TBB, 4/28 Cottonwood ED, BF and Renville FE; early north 4/10 Cook WD, 4/24 Aitkin WN, 4/27 Duluth BP.

### **Least Bittern**

5/27 Marshall KE.

### **Great Blue Heron**

Early south 3/11 Olmsted JEB, Rice FKS and Stearns NHi; early north 3/24 Otter Tail SDM, 3/25 Cass TK, 3/27 Aitkin WN.

### **Great Egret**

Early south 3/23 Dakota TT and Fillmore GD, 3/30 Hennepin SC and Ramsey JD; early north 4/6 Becker BK, 4/8 Marshall ANWR, 4/10 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14-30 Duluth m.ob.

### **Snowy Egret**

4/17 Lincoln AB, TT, 5/6 Hennepin SC, 5/8 Lyon HK, 5/10 Wright SC, ES.

### **Cattle Egret**

4/30 Big Stone RG, RJ *et al.*, 5/8 Wright SC, GP, 5/27 Grant BSE.

### **Green-backed Heron**

Early south 4/29 Nicollet JF, 4/30 Washington TBB, DS, and Olmsted JEB, BSE; early north 5/4 Duluth MHe, 5/8 Carlton LW, 5/11 Clay LCF.

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

Early south 3/29 Hennepin SC, ES, 3/30 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/5 Washington DS; early north 4/8 Marshall ANWR, 5/16-24 Duluth m.ob., 5/17-25 Cook KMH, WP, TW.

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

5/11 Dodge AP; only report.

### **WHITE-FACED IBIS**

4/23 Lac Qui Parle Co. KE *et al.* (*The Loon* 60:137).

### **Tundra Swan**

Early south 3/12 Dakota JD and Rice FKS; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 3/30 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/11 Polk RJ, 5/11 Stearns TT; late north 5/27 Lake of the Woods KE, 5/28 Marshall BSE, KE.

### **Trumpeter Swan**

4/25 Stearns NHi. Assumed to be a re-

leased bird; second year reported from this county.

### **MUTE SWAN**

4/6-June Duluth KE *et al.*

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

Early south 3/5 Blue Earth JF, 3/15 Cottonwood ED; early north 4/6 Marshall ANWR, 4/17 Aitkin WN; late south 4/17 Lincoln TT, 4/25 Lac Qui Parle TBB.

### **Snow Goose**

Early south 3/1 Cottonwood ED, 3/5 Blue Earth JF; early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Marshall ANWR; late south 4/9 Big Stone EL, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle AB; late north 5/12 Red Lake RJ, 5/19 Cook WP.

### **Canada Goose**

Reported from 33 counties south, 17 north.

### **Wood Duck**

Early south 3/5 Nicollet JF, 3/6 Hennepin TT, 3/10 Washington TBB; early north 3/22 Todd PH, 3/27 Beltrami TK and Otter Tail SDM.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Early south 3/5 Nicollet JF, 3/13 Lyon HK, 3/17 Cottonwood ED; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Clearwater AB and Todd PH.

### **American Black Duck**

Early south 3/1 Dakota KR, 3/8 Wabasha KR (probably wintering birds), 3/16 Ramsey RH; early north 4/6 Marshall ANWR, 4/9 Aitkin WN, 4/10 St. Louis MHJS.

### **Mallard**

Reported from 30 counties south, 19 north.

### **Northern Pintail**

Early south 3/5 Blue Earth JF and Dakota TM, 3/7 Freeborn JM; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 3/30 Duluth SW, 4/1 Clearwater AB and Todd PH.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Early south 3/21 Mower JM, 3/22 Pipestone JP and Rock ND; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Hubbard AB, 4/2 Lake of the Woods KH and Polk SKS.

### **Cinnamon Teal**

4/23-24 Lac Qui Parle, m.ob.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Early south 3/8 Olmsted JEB, 3/9 Dakota TT, 3/10 Freeborn JM; early north 4/1 Clay LCF, Clearwater AB and Otter Tail SDM.

### **Gadwall**

Early south 3/5 Dakota TM and Hennepin OJ, TT, 3/6 Blue Earth JF; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Clearwater AB, 4/4 Marshall ANWR.

### **American Wigeon**

Early south 3/1 Mower NM, 3/5 Hennepin DB, 3/7 Blue Earth JF; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/2 Beltrami AB, 4/4 Marshall ANWR.

### **Canvasback**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted JEB, BSE, 3/6 Blue Earth JF, 3/7 Freeborn JM; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/3 Clay LCF, 4/5 Marshall ANWR.

### **Redhead**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted JEB, 3/5 Dakota TM, 3/6 Blue Earth JF; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/6 Marshall ANWR.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted JEB, BSE, 3/3 Dakota ES, 3/5 Nicollet JF; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 3/28 Pennington SKS, 4/1 Clay LCF and Wadena AB.

### **Greater Scaup**

Early south 3/9 Dakota SC and Olmsted BSE, 3/20 Freeborn NH and Rice AB; early north 4/4 Clay MMM, 4/5 Aitkin WN, 4/7 Duluth KE and Marshall ANWR.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted JEB, BSE, 3/4 Wright DO, 3/5 Blue Earth JF and Dakota AP, SC, TT; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 3/28 Pennington SKS, 4/1 Clay LCF.

### **Harlequin Duck**

5/5-7 Duluth KE *et al.* (adult male); only report.

### **Oldsquaw**

4/28 Cook KMH, 5/25 Cook SDM.

### **Black Scoter**

5/19-29 Duluth m.ob.; only report.

### **Surf Scoter**

5/14 and 5/24 Cook KMH, 5/19-29 Duluth m.ob.

### **White-winged Scoter**

4/15 Lincoln HK, 5/14 Steele KV, 5/19-29 Duluth m.ob.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Late south 4/5 Hennepin SC, 4/9 Wabasha AP, 4/12 Blue Earth MF.

### **Bufflehead**

Early south 3/10 Dakota RJ, 3/11 Houston EMF and Mower RRR; early north 4/2 Beltrami AB and St. Louis AE, 4/3 Clay LCF; late south 5/14 Big Stone AB, 5/31 Hennepin OJ.

### **Hooded Merganser**

Early south 3/3 Dakota ES and Wabasha WDM, 3/10 Blue Earth JF; early north 3/28 St. Louis *fide* AE, 3/29 Aitkin WN, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Common Merganser**

Late south 4/27 Hennepin SC, 4/30 Yellow Medicine AB, DB, 5/28 Dakota TT.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Early south 3/10 Blue Earth JF, 3/11 Olmsted BSE, 3/22 Rock ND; early north 3/27 Pennington SKS, 3/31 Cook KMH, 4/3 Duluth MHE.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Early south 3/18 Lac Qui Parle FE, 3/19 Lyon HK, 3/20 Dakota BDC; early north 4/4 Marshall ANWR, 4/11 Clay MMM, 5/3 Becker BK.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Early south 3/5 Dakota JD, 3/8 Fillmore AP, 3/17 Mower JM; early north 3/29 Duluth SK, 4/2 Becker BK and Beltrami AB.

### **Osprey**

Early south 3/6 Fillmore JM, 3/11 Mower RRR, 3/13 Winona JD, all record early dates; early north 4/8 Beltrami TK, 4/9 Cook KMH and Duluth BH.

### **Bald Eagle**

Reported from 21 counties south, 13 north; peak of 45 on 4/1 Wabasha AP.



**Harlequin Duck, 5 May 1988, Canal Park, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Bill Penning.**

### **Northern Harrier**

Early south 3/1 Mower RRK, 3/3 Washington JD, 3/5 Chisago RJ and Cottonwood ED; early north 3/5 Aitkin WN, 3/6 Otter Tail SDM, 3/10 Marshall ANWR.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Early south 3/3 Dakota JD and Olmsted JEB, 3/6 Hennepin TT (all three overwintered?); early north 3/13 Otter Tail SDM, 3/21 Pennington SKS, 4/2 Hubbard AB.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Early south 3/3 Dakota JD, 3/4 Olmsted BSE (overwintered?) 3/10 Hennepin SC early north 4/2 Becker BK, 4/14 Duluth KE, 4/17 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Northern Goshawk**

3/16 Mower RJ, AP, 4/21 Hennepin SC, 4/24 Le Sueur RG.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Early south 3/16 Cottonwood ED, 3/19 Winona SC, 3/20 Rice AB; no reports north.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Early south 4/15 Washington WL, 4/17 Olmsted JEB, 4/21 Mower JM; early north 4/1 Beltrami KH and Clay LCF, 4/2 Aitkin WN (good details).

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Early south 3/27 Rice AB, 4/4 Fillmore DG, 4/6 Mower AP, RJ; early north 4/10 Clay LCF and Marshall ANWR.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Reported from 32 counties south, 17 north.

### **Ferruginous Hawk**

4/30 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, OJ.

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Late south 4/17 Cottonwood AB, 4/25 Wabasha AP, 5/12 Freeborn NH; late north 4/24 Aitkin WN, 5/11 Clearwater RJ, 5/21 St. Louis AE.

### **Golden Eagle**

3/8 Marshall ANWR, 3/10 Houston AP, 3/20 Goodhue JD, 3/31 Dakota JD, 4/16 Carlton KS.

### **American Kestrel**

Early north 2/26 Pennington SKS, 3/5 Aitkin WN (overwintered?), 3/6 Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM.

### **Merlin**

Early south 3/7 Wabasha AP, 3/8 Dodge AP (both record early dates), 3/16 Mower RJ; early north 2/28 (record early date north, overwintered?), Duluth KE, 3/17 Cook KMH, WP, 4/4 Pennington SKS.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Early south 3/17 Wabasha AP, 3/18 Ramsey DZ, 3/23 Olmsted RC; early north 4/17 Lake AP, 5/2 Marshall ANWR, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM; 23 sightings reported from 15 counties.

### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from 22 counties south, 4 north.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported from six north and 34 south counties.

### **Spruce Grouse**

All reports: 3/17-5/27 Cook KMH, MS; 4/15-24 Lake m.ob.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 15 north and ten south counties.

### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Reported from Clay, Hubbard, Norman and Polk Counties.

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Reported from Aitkin, Clearwater, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and St. Louis Counties.

### **Wild Turkey**

Reported from Dodge (wild-?), Fillmore, Houston, Wabasha and Winona Counties.

### **Yellow Rail**

All reports: 5/21-28 Marshall ANWR, KE.

### **Virginia Rail**

Early south 4/27 Anoka WL, 4/30 Hennepin TT, 5/10 Dakota JD; early north 5/12 Marshall ANWR, 5/22-25 Ely, St. Louis SS.

### **Sora**

Early south 4/25 Lyon HK, 4/28 Hennepin SC and Murray ND, 5/1 Fillmore AP; early north 4/28 Marshall ANWR, 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/8 Beltrami TK.

### **Common Moorhen**

5/30 Blue Earth MF; only report.

### **American Coot**

Early south 3/7 Freeborn JM, 3/9 Dakota SC, ES, 3/15 Steele KV; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/6 Marshall ANWR, 4/10 Duluth KE.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Early south 3/31 Anoka WL, 4/3 Benton AB, 4/5 Stearns JMa; early north 3/22 Marshall ANWR, 3/27 Pennington SKS, 4/8 Aitkin WN.

### **Black-bellied Plover**

Early south 5/15 Dodge GS and Lyon HK, 5/20 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/20 Norman MS, 5/21 Beltrami TK and Marshall ANWR; late south 5/22 Goodhue AB, 5/23 Big Stone AB; late north 5/27 Cook WP, 5/29 Polk BSE.

### **Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early south 4/4 Murray ND, 4/22 Stearns KE; early north 4/30 Traverse RJ, 5/24 Duluth DK; late south 5/21 Olmsted BSE, 5/24 Stearns NH; late north 5/27 Cook WP and Polk AB.

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Early south 4/20 Carver RJ, 4/30 Meeker AB, DB and Big Stone KR; early north 5/8 Marshall ANWR, 5/21 Carlton LW; late south 5/23 Swift AB, 5/24 Stearns NH; late north 5/26 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/28 Pennington BSE.

### **Piping Plover**

Only report: 5/26-29 Lake of the Woods (nesting) KH, RG.

### **Killdeer**

Early south 3/2 Washington DS, 3/6 Murray ND and Nicollet LW, 3/8 Olmsted JEB and Wabasha KR; early north 3/23 Todd PH, 3/24 Clay MMM and Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Aitkin WN and Lake *vide* KE.

### **American Avocet**

All reports: 4/27 Wright RG, 5/1 Lyon HK,

5/9-28 Todd PH, RG, 5/10 Aitkin WN, 5/14-23 Big Stone EL, AB, 5/21-28 Marshall ANWR, BSE, 5/27 Polk AB, 5/28 Norman RG and Pennington KE.

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

Early south 3/23 Olmsted BSE, 3/25 Nicollet LW; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 Clay MMM; late south 5/15 Dodge GS, 5/16 Freeborn NH; late north 5/22 Aitkin WN, 5/27 Polk AB.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Early south 3/22 Pipestone JP, 3/24 Rock ND; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/28 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/23 Swift AB, 5/24 Stearns NH; late north 5/22 Aitkin WN, 5/27 Polk AB.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Early south 4/24 Anoka JH, 4/25 Mower RRK and Wabasha AP; early north 4/26 Duluth KE, 4/30 Douglas RJ; late south 5/21 Olmsted BSE, 5/23 Big Stone AB; late north 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/12 Aitkin WN.

### **Willet**

Early south 4/17 Cottonwood BF, 4/20 Carver RG; early north 4/30 Traverse RJ, 5/10 Norman RJ, 5/11 Cook WP; late south 5/10 Washington TBB, 5/14 Big Stone AB; late north 5/22 Clay TT, 5/29 Polk BSE.

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Early south 4/23 Mower RJ, AP, 4/24 Rice AB, 4/25 Big Stone TBB; early north 4/26 Pennington SKS, 4/29 St. Louis, 5/3 Marshall ANWR.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

Early south 4/30 Chippewa RJ and Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, 5/5 Olmsted BSE, 5/8 Stevens EL; early north 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/20 Norman MS, 5/22 Babbitt, St. Louis Co. SS.

### **Whimbrel**

All reports; 5/14-23 Duluth m.ob., 5/18-22 Cook (max. 19) WP, TW.

### **Hudsonian Godwit**

Early south 4/17 Brown AB, TT, 4/22 Lyon KE; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 5/9 Duluth m.ob.; late south 5/22 Winona AP and Wright ES, 5/23 Big Stone AB; late north 5/24 Duluth m.ob., 5/28 Marshall BSE.

### **Marbled Godwit**

Early south 4/17 Brown AB and Cottonwood TT, 4/21 Meeker RH, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle TM; early north 4/5 Marshall ANWR, 4/10 Clay LCF and Wilkin RG, 4/15 Otter Tail SDM; also reported 5/21 Hubbard RJ.

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

All reports: 5/14 Lincoln RJ, 5/14-23 Big Stone EL, AB, 5/19 Todd PH, 5/22 Clay TT and Marshall ANWR, 5/26 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/27 Polk AB, 5/28 Pennington BSE.

### **Red Knot**

5/26 Lake of the Woods KH; only report.

### **Sanderling**

All reports: 5/9 Goodhue JD, 5/11 Dodge AP and 5/14 DS, 5/14 Olmsted JEB, 5/15 Lyon HK, 5/21 Pennington ANWR, 5/26 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/28-29 Red Lake RG, AB.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early south 4/5 Lyon HK, 4/13 Pipestone JP; early north 5/12 Red Lake RJ, 5/18 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/22 Cottonwood BF, Meeker AB and Wright ES, 5/23 Stearns NHi; late north 5/26 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/29 Red Lake AB.

### **Western Sandpiper**

All reports: 5/10 Dakota JD, 5/11 Dodge AP, 5/14 Steele KV. All future reports of this species will require documentation.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early south 4/5 Lyon HK, 4/30 Big Stone KR and Meeker AB, DB; early north 4/30 Grant RJ, 5/3 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/21 Brown JS, Nicollet JF and Olmsted BSE, 5/23 Big Stone AB; late north 5/26 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/29 Polk AB.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Early south 5/1 Lac Qui Parle SC, 5/11 Dodge AP; early north 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/10 Norman RJ; late south 5/23 Swift AB, 5/24 Stevens EL; late north 5/28 Pennington BSE, 5/29 Polk AB, BSE and Red Lake AB.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early south 3/25 Pipestone JP, 4/15 Lyon HK; early north 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Grant RJ; late south 5/15 Nobles AB, 5/21

Nicollet JF, Olmsted BSE and Stearns TT; late north 5/27 Marshall ANWR, 5/28 Todd PH.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Early south 3/30 Blue Earth JF, 4/4 Watonwan KV; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 5/13 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle AB, 5/28 Freeborn NH; late north 5/29 Polk and Red Lake AB, 5/30 Douglas BSE.

### **Dunlin**

Early south 4/25 Mower RRK, 5/1 Goodhue DZ and Lac Qui Parle SC; early north 4/25 Duluth GN, 4/30 Traverse RJ; late south 5/22 Winona AP and Wright ES, 5/23 Stearns NHi and Stevens AB; late north 5/28 Marshall BSE, 5/29 Polk and Red Lake AB.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

Early south 5/1 Lac Qui Parle SC, 5/11 Dodge AP; early north 5/3 Marshall ANWR; 5/21 Todd PH; late south 5/15 Lyon HK, 5/16 Hennepin AB, DB; late north 5/27 Polk AB, 5/28 Marshall BSE.

### **RUFF**

5/11 Dodge (1 female) AP (*The Loon* 60:93), 5/15-17 Hennepin (1 female) TT, m.ob. (*The Loon* 60:125); both first county records.

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Early south 4/29 Lac Qui Parle OJ and Meeker AB, DB, 5/11 Dodge AP; early north 5/8 Marshall ANWR, 5/20 Todd PH; late south 5/22 Cottonwood BF, 5/23 Big Stone AB; late north 5/22-26 Cook KMH, WP.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Early south 4/29 Lac Qui Parle OJ and Meeker AB, DB, 4/30 Big Stone RJ, KR; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 5/3 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/15 Lyon HK, 5/18 Wright ES; late north 5/22 Clay TT and Cook TW, 5/27 Marshall KE.

### **Common Snipe**

Early south 3/22 Dakota TT and Hennepin ES, 3/26 Stearns NHi and Wabasha KR, 3/31 Mower JM; early north 3/27 Clay MMM, 4/2 Aitkin WN, 4/5 St. Louis AE.

### **American Woodcock**

Early south 3/10 Dakota TT, 3/12 Lyon

HK, 3/19 Fillmore AP; early north 3/26 Duluth MHe, 3/29 Aitkin WN, Beltrami TK, Carlton LW and Marshall ANWR, 4/1 Todd PH.

#### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Early south 4/29 Meeker AB, DB and Nicollet JF, 4/30 Big Stone RJ, KR and Lac Qui Parle KR, 5/10 Hennepin ES and Mower AP; early north 4/24 Todd PH, 5/8-22 Duluth m.ob., 5/9 Mahnommen (100+) RJ.

#### **Red-necked Phalarope**

All reports: 5/8-22 Clay LCF, TT, 5/15 Lyon HK, 5/21 Marshall ANWR, 5/22 Winona AP and Wright ES, 5/27-29 Polk AB, KE, BSE, 5/28 Stearns RG.

#### **LAUGHING GULL**

5/5 Duluth (1 ad.) KE (*The Loon* 60:134).

#### **Franklin's Gull**

Early south 3/22 Pipestone JP, 3/25 Nicollet JF, 3/26 Goodhue KR and Murray RJ; early north 4/7 Marshall ANWR, 4/8 Pennington SKS, 4/23 Clay LCF.

#### **Little Gull**

5/7-20 Duluth (2 ad.) m.ob.; only report.

#### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early south 4/9 Big Stone DO, 4/16 Dakota TT, 4/21 McLeod RH; early north 4/10 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Traverse RJ, 5/2 Duluth BP.

#### **Ring-billed Gull**

Early north 3/23 Duluth RJ, 3/24 Otter Tail SDM.

#### **Herring Gull**

Reported from 13 north and 18 south counties.

#### **Glaucous Gull**

4/6 Duluth DK; only report.

#### **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**

5/5 Duluth (1 ad.) BP (*The Loon* 60:134).

#### **Caspian Tern**

Early south 4/20 Carver RG, RJ, 4/26 Washington DS, 5/14 Ramsey RH; early north 5/7 Duluth KE, 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/17 Otter Tail SDM.

#### **Common Tern**

Early south 4/28 Cottonwood BF and Nicollet LW, 5/2 Steele KV; early north 5/4 Mille Lacs DB, 5/5 Duluth KE, 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/19 St. Louis AE.

#### **Forster's Tern**

Early south 4/10 Hennepin SC, 4/12 Blue Earth JF, 4/14 Wabasha WDM, MF; early north 4/29 Marshall ANWR, 5/1 Otter Tail SDM, 5/2 Duluth BP.

#### **Black Tern**

Early south 4/30 Big Stone RJ, KR, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle SC, 5/5 Hennepin DZ; early north 5/3 Grant EL, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/12 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Rock Dove**

Reported from 12 north and 30 south counties.

#### **Mourning Dove**

Early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Todd PH, 4/2 Aitkin WN and Becker BK.

#### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Early south 5/4 Ramsey AB, 5/7 Waseca RJ, 5/10 Brown JS, Freeborn GS and Le Sueur EK; early north 5/16 Clay LCF and Todd PH, 5/21 Otter Tail DS and St. Louis SS, 5/22 Aitkin WN.

#### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Early south 5/10 Blue Earth MF, 5/14 Pipestone JP, Rice FKS and Steele KV; two north reports: 5/24 Clearwater AB, 5/27 Marshall KE.

#### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Reported from Hennepin, Houston, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Mower, Murray and Washington Counties.

#### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from 11 north and 30 south counties.

#### **Snowy Owl**

All reports: 3/3 Chisago JD, 3/11 Lac Qui Parle *fide* JS, 4/10 Wilkin RG, 4/18 Lac Qui Parle *fide* JS, 4/28 Duluth SW.



**Little Gull (center) with Bonaparte's Gulls, 8 May 1988, Hearding Island, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Bill Penning.**

### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

All reports: 3/4 Aitkin (2) TK, 4/9 Federal Dam, Cass Co., JJ.

### **Burrowing Owl**

4/24 Yellow Medicine m.ob.; only report.

### **Barred Owl**

Reported from six north and 15 south counties.

### **Great Gray Owl**

All reports: 3/20-5/31 Aitkin (3) WN, 3/29-30 Todd PH, 4/9 Wadena JG, 4/27 Cook WP, 5/23 Lake of the Woods ANWR.

### **Long-eared Owl**

All reports: 3/7-4/8 Duluth KE, DK, 3/23 Hennepin AB, DB, 4/7 Lyon HK, 5/21 Duluth KR, MHe.

### **Short-eared Owl**

All reports: 3/31 Meeker TM, 4/3 Clay LCF, 4/10-5/31 Aitkin (max. 12) WN, 4/23-24 Lac Qui Parle (2) m.ob., 4/26 Marshall ANWR, 5/30 Lake of the Woods KH.

### **Boreal Owl**

All reports: 3/20 Duluth JN, 5/27 Roseau (1) KE; also over 50 calling males heard in St. Louis and Lake Co's. owl survey (*fide* SWi); also see *The Loon* 60:99-104.

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

Reported from Beltrami, Carlton, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Scott and Sibley counties.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Early south 5/1 Freeborn NH, 5/3 Blue Earth JF and Washington DS, 5/4 Dakota TT; early north 5/12 Aitkin WN, 5/14 Otter Tail SDM and Todd PH, 5/18 Clay SDM.

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

Early south 4/29 Houston EMF, 5/4 Wright ES, 5/6 Brown JS; early north 5/4 Cook OSL, 5/8 Clay LCF, 5/13 St. Louis SS; also reported 5/21 Duluth BU.

### **Chimney Swift**

Early south 4/19 Olmsted AP, 4/23 Dakota JD, 4/25 Blue Earth JB; early north 4/29 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Traverse RJ, 5/2 Pennington SKS.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Early south 5/5 Washington WL, 5/7 Houston EMF and Stearns NH, 5/8 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/7 Becker BK, 5/8 Koochiching GM, 5/11 Aitkin WN.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Early north 4/2 Beltrami AB, 4/3 Aitkin WN, 4/5 Pennington SKS.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Early north 4/11 Beltrami TK, 5/2 Otter Tail SDM, 5/5 Becker BK.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from Aitkin, Clay, Duluth and Otter Tail in the north, and from 26 south counties.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Early south 3/30 Lyon HK, 4/3 Mower RRK, 4/4 Freeborn NH; early north 4/1 St. Louis AE, 4/2 Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Cook KMH.

### **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER**

5/21-30 Itasca State Park (male) HT, BFA *et al.* (*The Loon* 60:124-125); third state record.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 16 north and 27 south counties.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 15 north and 29 south counties.

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

All reports: 3/21-5/1 Cook (2) KMH, MS, 4/15-24 Lake (two locations) m.ob.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

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

### **Northern Flicker**

Reported from 30 south and 14 north counties; early north 3/19 Clay LCF, 3/30 Beltrami KH.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 24 south and 13 north counties.



**Great Gray Owl, 17 May 1988, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 5/6 Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Steele RJ, 5/8 Hennepin SC, Goodhue TBB, and Brown JS; early north 5/15 Hubbard JL, 5/16 Beltrami TK, 5/17 Aitkin WN; late south 5/29 Sibley GS and Brown JS, 5/31 Freeborn NH.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Early south 5/3 Le Sueur EK, 5/6 Freeborn TM and Olmsted AP, 5/7 Hennepin SC; early north 5/4 Becker BK, 5/15 Aitkin WN, 5/16 Marshall ANWR.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 5/10 Olmsted JEB, 5/15 Lyon HK, 5/21 Mower AP; early north 5/21 Cook KMH, Duluth m.ob., Wadena RJ and Marshall ANWR.

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

All reports: 5/14 Scott TT and 5/25 KR, 5/17 Dodge AP, 5/30 Houston GS.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

Early south 5/16 Washington DS, 5/22 Brown JS, 5/24 Hennepin ES; early north 5/7 Clay LCF, 5/17 St. Louis AE, 5/20 Carlton LW; late south 5/28 Brown JS, 5/30 Hennepin DB.

### **Willow Flycatcher**

Early south 5/7 Freeborn TM, 5/8 Houston EMF, 5/10 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/7 Todd PH, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/29 Red Lake AB.

### **Least Flycatcher**

Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB and Dakota DZ, 5/1 Olmsted JEB, 5/2 Fillmore NAO, Hennepin SC, ES, Murray ND and Blue Earth JF; early north 5/1 Otter Tail SDM, 5/2 Pennington SKS, 5/4 St. Louis AE and Clay LCF.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Early south 3/21 Mower RRK, 3/24 Fillmore NAO, 3/25 Winona KE, Fillmore and Houston AP; early north 4/1 Todd PH, 4/2 Pennington SKS, 4/3 Morrison AB.

### **SAY'S PHOEBE**

5/9-19 Murray ND, (*The Loon* 60:92); 5/29 into June, Rock J.H. and m.ob. (*The Loon* 60:129).

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Early south 4/30 Mower AP, 5/3 Dakota

JD, 5/4 Ramsey SC, AB; early north 5/10 Aitkin WN, 5/13 Clay LCF and Todd PH.

### **Western Kingbird**

Early south 5/10 Stevens EL and Sherburne DO, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle AB, 5/15 Lyon HK; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/11 Roseau RJ.

### **Eastern Kingbird**

Early south 5/1 Olmsted JEB, Houston EMF, Mower RRK, Dakota TT and Goodhue DZ, 5/2 Brown JS and Steele KV; early north 4/23 Cook OSL, 5/1 Aitkin WN, 5/3 Pennington SKS.

### **Horned Lark**

Reported from 29 south counties. Early north 3/1 Beltrami TK and Marshall ANWR, 3/3 Clay LCF, MMM.

### **Purple Martin**

Early south 3/22 Stearns JMa, 3/28 Lyon HK; early north 4/7 Otter Tail SDM, 4/9 Clay SKS.

### **Tree Swallow**

Early south 3/21 Cottonwood BF and Dakota TT, 3/26 Houston AP and Wabasha, Goodhue KR 3/28 Hennepin SC; early north 3/27 Hubbard HJF, 4/1 Morrison AB, 4/2 Clay MMM.

### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Early south 4/6 Ramsey RH, 4/9 Winona AP, 4/10 Hennepin DZ; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 4/30 Todd PH and Carlton LW, 5/1 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Bank Swallow**

Early south 4/25 Hennepin SC, ES, 4/28 Ramsey TT, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle AB; early north 4/30 Traverse RJ, 5/1 Otter Tail SDM, 5/4 Marshall ANWR.

### **Cliff Swallow**

Early south 4/6 Ramsey RH, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, KR, and Wabasha BDC, 5/1 Big Stone SC; early north 4/20 Aitkin WN, 5/1 Itasca DB, 5/2 Marshall ANWR, SKS.

### **Barn Swallow**

Early south 4/10 Hennepin SC, 4/12 Benton DO and Dodge AP, 4/15 Lyon HK and Steele KV; early north 4/3 Crow Wing WL, 4/30 Cook KMH and Carlton LW, 5/1 Todd PH, Aitkin WN and Pennington SKS.

### **Gray Jay**

Reported from nine north counties.

### **Blue Jay**

Reported from 34 south and 19 north counties.

### **Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from the following counties: Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, Lake of the Woods RG, Marshall ANWR, BSE, Norman BK, RJ, Pennington SKS, Red Lake AB, St. Louis KE.

### **American Crow**

Reported from 34 south and 18 north counties.

### **Common Raven**

Reported from 13 north counties and 3/5 Chisago RJ, 4/24 Anoka JH.

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 32 south and 16 north counties.

### **Boreal Chickadee**

Reported from Aitkin, Cook, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis Counties.

### **Tufted Titmouse**

All reports: 3/1 Fillmore NAO, 3/6 Dakota AB, 3/23 Washington DS, 5/1 Houston FL, 5/14 Olmsted JEB, resident Houston EMF.

### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 14 south and 13 north counties; late south 4/30 Dakota JD and Cottonwood BF, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle FE.

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 31 south and 15 north counties.

### **Brown Creeper**

Reported from 22 south and 11 north counties; late south 5/21-23 Goodhue m.ob. (nesting).

### **House Wren**

Early south 4/18 Dakota JD, 4/19 Cottonwood BF, 4/20 Sherburne DO; early north 5/1 Todd PH, 5/3 Clay LCF, 5/4 Koochiching GM and Aitkin WN.

### **Winter Wren**

Early south 3/27 Steele AB, 3/31 Hennepin SC, TT, 4/5 Le Sueur EK; early north 4/5 Cook KMH, 4/7 St. Louis MH/JS, 4/9 Clay LCF; late south 5/14 Fillmore NAO, 5/17 Wabasha WDM.

### **Sedge Wren**

Early south 5/2 Washington WL, 5/7 Mower RJ, AP; early north 5/3 Marshall ANWR, 5/10 Todd PH, 5/13 St. Louis SS.

### **Marsh Wren**

Early south 4/14 Lac Qui Parle AB, 5/8 Hennepin SC and Dakota TT, 5/10 Washington WL; early north 5/3 Marshall ANWR, 5/10 Norman RJ.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Early north 3/31 Clay LCF, 4/2 Beltrami AB and St. Louis AE, 4/3 Cook KMH; late south 4/17 Cottonwood BF and Fillmore NAO, 4/22 Hennepin SC and Brown JS, 4/24 Ramsey DZ.

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 3/27 Hennepin SC, 3/28 Mower RRR, 3/31 Brown JS; early north 4/7 Cook KMH, TW, 4/9 Duluth KE, Clay LCF and Aitkin WN; late south 5/16 Cottonwood GS, 5/18 Murray ND, 5/22 Houston AP.

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Only report north 5/7 Todd PH; early south 4/20 Dakota JD, 4/30 Houston EMF and Fillmore NAO, 5/1 Ramsey AB, Olmsted JEB, Goodhue and Washington DZ.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Reported from 26 south counties; early north 3/27 Aitkin WN, 3/31 Marshall ANWR, 4/2 Clay LCF, Cass TK, Wadena AB and Hubbard KH.

### **Mountain Bluebird**

All reports: 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 3/30 Marshall ANWR, 4/1 Murray ND.

### **Veery**

Early south 5/1 Ramsey AB, 5/2 Mower RRR and Steele KV, 5/7 Olmsted JEB, BSE; early north 5/11 Marshall RJ, 5/12 Koochiching GM, 5/13 Clay LCF.

### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Early south 5/1 Ramsey AB, 5/2 Dakota

TT; early north 4/15 Aitkin TM, 5/5 Otter Tail SDM, 5/11 Clay LCF; late south 5/22 McLeod GS and Brown JS, 5/23 Lac Qui Parle AB; late north 5/29 Polk BSE.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south 4/14 Sherburne DO, 4/27 Nicollet LW, 4/30 Mower AP; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, 5/4 Becker BK, 5/7 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/23 Hennepin ES and Lac Qui Parle AB, 5/27 Brown JS.

### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 3/31 Hennepin SC, TT, 4/1 Cottonwood BF, 4/3 Mower RRK and Washington DS; early north 4/4 Marshall SKS, 4/11 Duluth DK, 4/15 Carlton LW; late south 5/3 Houston EMF, 5/5 Hennepin DZ.

### **Wood Thrush**

Early south 5/1 Goodhue DZ, 5/7 Hennepin DB, Fillmore TM and Scott TT, 5/10 Houston EMF; all north reports 5/5 Carlton LW, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/21 Duluth m.ob.

### **American Robin**

Reported from 29 south and 16 north counties.

### **Varied Thrush**

Until 4/12 Cook TW.

### **Gray Catbird**

Early south 4/18 Blue Earth MF, 5/1 Houston EMF and Goodhue DZ, 5/2 Mower RRK, Sherburne DO and Dakota TT; early north 5/6 Todd PH, 5/8 Pennington SKS, 5/11 St. Louis AE.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

All reports: 4/29 Nicollet JF, 5/20 Norman MS, 5/21 Duluth BU.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Early south 4/9 Hennepin BH, 4/16 Fillmore NAO and Steele KV, 4/21 Mower JM; early north 4/30 Traverse RJ, 5/1 Todd PH and Wilkin FKS, 5/2 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM and Pennington SKS.

### **Water Pipit**

Only south report 5/15 Nobles AB; all north reports 4/30 Duluth KE, 5/5 Marshall ANWR, 5/10 Red Lake RJ, 5/13-21 Cook m.ob.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

Late south 3/19 Washington WL, 4/11 Hennepin KR, 4/19 Olmsted AP; late north 4/2 Beltrami AB, 4/10 Duluth DG, 4/14 Cook KMH.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 24 south and seven north counties.

### **Northern Shrike**

Late south 3/16 Brown JS, 3/18 Dakota TT, 4/3 Benton AB; late north 4/2 Beltrami AB, 4/5 Cook OSL, 4/7 Aitkin WN.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Early south 3/10 Winona AP, 3/16 Dakota JD, 3/28 Mower RRK; early north 4/26 Clay LCF, 5/11 Marshall ANWR and Aitkin WN, 5/16 Becker DO. Also reported nesting 5/24 Blue Earth MT.

### **European Starling**

Reported from 29 south and 14 north counties.

### **Bell's Vireo**

All reports: 5/12-25 Dakota m.ob. Wabasha 5/14 KR, 5/24 WDM, 5/31 Houston FL.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Early south 5/1 Ramsey AB, Waseca GS, Brown JS and Hennepin TT, 5/2 Murray ND and Mower RRK; early north 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/7 Todd PH, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/21 Brown JS, 5/22 Winona and Houston AP.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Early south 5/1 Olmsted JEB, 5/4 Dakota TT, 5/6 Houston EMF and Stearns NH; early north 5/6 Carlton LW, 5/7 Clay LCF, 5/9 Wadena RJ.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Early south 4/30 Dakota TT, 5/1 Ramsey AB, Fillmore NAO, AP and Goodhue DZ, 5/2 Hennepin SC, KR; early north 5/5 St. Louis AE, 5/7 Otter Tail SDM, Clay LCF and Hubbard TS.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 5/7 Steele RJ and Hennepin DB, 5/8 Goodhue TBB; early north 5/8 St. Louis AE, 5/13 Clay LCF; late south 5/21 Freeborn NH, 5/22 Brown JS.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Early south 5/2 Hennepin SC, KR, 5/5 Goodhue TT, 5/6 Olmsted JEB; early north 5/12 Washington WL, 5/13 Todd PH, 5/15 Aitkin WN, Cook KMH and Lake SS.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Early south 5/2 Houston EMF, 5/3 Scott KR, 5/4 Hennepin SC.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Early south 5/1 Goodhue DZ, 5/2 Hennepin SC, KR, 5/3 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/8 Aitkin WN, Beltrami TK and Carlton LW, 5/12 Clay LCF and 5/15 Cook DB and Hubbard JL (Lawrence's hybrid).

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early south 4/30 Hennepin TT, 5/1 Ramsey AB, Goodhue DZ and Olmsted JEB, 5/3 Mower RRK and Brown JS; early north 5/5 Otter Tail SDM, 5/7 Clay LCF, Cook KMH and Lake of the Woods SKS; late south 5/23 Swift AB, 5/24 Anoka JH.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early south 4/22 Waseca GS, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/24 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/1 Clay LCF, 5/8 Todd PH; late south 5/16 Watonwan GS, 5/23 Houston EMF; late north 5/21 Carlton LW.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 4/30 Dakota DZ, Hennepin TT, Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, Mower RRK and Ramsey RH, 5/1 Freeborn GS, Goodhue DZ and Olmsted JEB; early north 5/2 Itasca DB, 5/4 St. Louis AE and Beltrami TK, 5/5 Clay LCF; late south 5/21 Nicollet JF and Freeborn NH, 5/22 Sibley GS.

### **Northern Parula**

Early south 4/30 Hennepin TT and Dakota DZ, 5/1 Ramsey AB, 5/6 Stevens EL and Fillmore NAO; early north 5/8 Cook KMH; late south 5/22 Brown JS.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Early south 4/30 Hennepin TT, Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, 5/1 Olmsted JEB, Mower JM, Fillmore NAO and Goodhue DZ; early north 5/1 Otter Tail SDM, 5/2 Clay LCF and Becker BK, 5/6 Aitkin WN and Todd PH.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Early south 5/2 Mower JM, 5/3 Fillmore

NAO and Scott KR, 5/4 Dakota TT; early north 5/8 St. Louis AE, Aitkin WN and Carlton LW, 5/9 Cook WP.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 5/2 Mower JM, 5/3 Hennepin SC, Olmsted BSE and Wright JMa; early north 5/7 Lake of the Woods SKS, 5/12 Cook KMH; late south 5/23 Stevens AB, 5/27 Cottonwood BF.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Early south 5/4 Brown JS, 5/5 Ramsey JD, 5/7 Steele RJ, Washington TBB, Goodhue BDC and Scott TT; early north 5/9 Cook WP, 5/10 St. Louis CO, 5/11 Marshall ANWR; late south 5/16 Dodge AP.

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

All reports: 5/21 Cook WP, 5/22 Duluth *fide* KE, 5/25 Cook KMH, 5/29 Cook TM.

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Early south 4/6 Brown JS, 4/8 Hennepin KR, 4/9 Blue Earth MF, Hennepin DZ, Anoka KR and Houston FL; early north 4/10 Becker BK, Beltrami TK and Duluth DJ, 4/16 Clay LCF; late south 5/17 Freeborn NH.

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

Early south 4/26 Dakota TT, 5/1 Ramsey AB and Goodhue DZ, 5/2 Hennepin SC, KR; early north 5/3 St. Louis MH/JS, 5/5 Beltrami TK, 5/7 Todd PH; late south 5/15 Houston EMF and Lyon HK.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 5/1 Ramsey AB and Goodhue DZ, 5/2 Hennepin SC and Dakota TT; early north 5/3 St. Louis MH/JS, 5/4 Itasca DB, 5/5 Cook KMH; late south 5/21 Stevens EL, 5/22 Brown JS.

### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 4/28 Dakota TT, 5/4 Ramsey RH; early north 5/2 St. Louis CO, 5/6 Beltrami TK and Carlton LW, 5/8 Aitkin WN; late south 5/16 Dodge AP, 5/17 Washington WL.

### **Palm Warbler**

Early south 4/24 Rice AB, 4/26 Hennepin DB, 4/28 Mower JM; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, Hubbard JL and Pennington SKS, 5/3 Becker BK, Marshall ANWR and St. Louis

AE; late south 5/16 Wright DO, 5/22 Chipewa AB; late north 5/18 Todd PH.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early south 5/4 Ramsey SC, 5/6 Lyon HK, 5/7 Dodge AP, RJ; early north 5/5 St. Louis CO, 5/12 Cook KMH; late south 5/23 Murray ND.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early south 5/1 Goodhue DZ, 5/4 Hennepin SC, 5/7 Olmsted JEB, BSE; early north 5/7 Clay LCF, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 Cass RJ; late south 5/22 Brown JS, 5/23 Stevens AB; late north 5/29 Polk BSE.

### **Cerulean Warbler**

Early south 5/5 Goodhue TT, 5/7 Scott TT, 5/10 Olmsted JEB, BSE.

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

Early south 4/30 Dakota TT, Rice BDC, 5/1 Brown JS, Goodhue DZ, Mower RRK, Ramsey AB and Waseca GS, 5/2 Hennepin SC, KR and Murray ND; early north 5/3 Beltrami TK, 5/5 St. Louis AE, 5/6 Carlton LW.

### **American Redstart**

Early south 5/2 Dakota TT and Mower JM, 5/3 Hennepin SC, ES, 5/5 Brown JS, Fillmore NAO; early north 5/8 Otter Tail SDM, 5/10 Clay LCF 5/13 Becker BK.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

Early south 5/1 Freeborn GS, 5/3 Mower RRK, 5/4 Ramsey AB.

### **WORM-EATING WARBLER**

Three reports: 5/4 Mower RRK, 5/4 Ramsey AB (*The Loon* 60:179), 5/8 Mower RG (*The Loon* 60:93).

### **Ovenbird**

Early south 4/30 Mower RRK, 5/1 Benton DO and Freeborn GS, 5/2 Lyon HK; early north 5/4 Clay LCF and Itasca DB, 5/5 Beltrami TK.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 4/30 Hennepin TT, Mower JM, Steele KV and Washington TBB, 5/1 Brown JS and Dakota JD, 5/2 Fillmore NAO, Lyon HK and Pipestone JP; early north 5/3 Clay LCF, 5/4 Marshall SKS, 5/8 Carlton LW, Cook KMH and St. Louis MH&JS; late south

5/13 Hennepin RH, 5/17 Freeborn NH, 5/21 Hennepin DB.

### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

Early south 5/4 Ramsey AB, 5/6 Olmsted BSE, 5/7 Houston TM; one report north 5/12 Red Lake RG, RJ (*The Loon* 60:91).

### **Kentucky Warbler**

Only reports 5/21 Stearns (*The Loon* 60:160), 5/28 Rice TT.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Early south 5/20 Hennepin DB, 5/23 Lac Qui Parle AB; early north 5/20 Clay LCF, 5/22 Lake SS; late south 5/28 Brown JS.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Early south 5/7 Fillmore NAO and Olmsted JEB, 5/8 Hennepin DB and Scott TT; early north 5/14 Otter Tail SDM, 5/15 Cook KMH, 5/17 Aitkin WN; late south 5/27 Brown JS, 5/28 Rice TT, 5/30 Hennepin DB.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Early south 5/6 Dakota TT, Hennepin AB, Olmsted BSE and Ramsey RH; early north 5/10 Marshall ANWR, 5/11 Pennington SKS, 5/14 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM and Todd PH.

### **Hooded Warbler**

Three reports: 5/14 TT, and 5/25 Scott KR, 5/28 Rice TT.

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Early south 5/5 Mower JM, 5/6 Nicollet JF; early north 5/7 Todd PH, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle AB, 5/28 Rice TT; late north 5/24 Clay LCF.

### **Canada Warbler**

Early south 5/9 Mower JM, 5/10 Hennepin KR, Mower GS and Steele KV, 5/11 Washington JD; early north 5/17 St. Louis AE, 5/18 Clay LCF; late south 5/23 Brown JS, 5/27 Pipestone JP, 5/29 Anoka TT.

### **Yellow-breasted Chat**

Two reports: 5/10 Carver JE, 5/25 Dakota KR.

### **Summer Tanager**

Three reports: 5/3 Wright JMa, 5/15 Clay LCF, 5/18 Duluth *fide* KE.

### **Scarlet Tanager**

Early south 5/1 Hennepin TT, 5/2 Mower JM, 5/3 Rice LW; early north 5/12 Becker BK, 5/15 Aitkin WN, 5/18 Clay LCF.

### **Northern Cardinal**

Reported north from Aitkin, Pine and St. Louis as well as 17 counties throughout the south.

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Early south 5/1 Fillmore NAO, Goodhue DZ, Houston EMF, LeSueur HJC and Olmsted AP, 5/2 Dakota JD, TT and Washington TBB; early north 5/3 Clay LCF, 5/4 Pennington SKS, 5/8 Aitkin WN and Otter Tail SDM.

### **Blue Grosbeak**

Early south 5/21 Rock ND, JP, 5/22 Scott BS, 5/26 Murray ND.

### **Indigo Bunting**

Early south 5/4 Houston EMF and Ramsey AB, 5/5 Goodhue TT and Hennepin SC, 5/6 Fillmore NAO and Olmsted JEB; early north 5/2 Beltrami KH, 5/5 Aitkin WN, 5/18 Clay LCF.

### **Dickcissel**

Early south 5/6 Steele KV, 5/19 Murray ND, 5/21 Brown JS, Mower AP, Nicollet JF, Olmsted BSE and Pipestone JP.

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Early south 4/6 Hennepin DB, 4/9 Houston EMF, 4/11 Mower RR, early north 5/9 Crow Wing RJ, 5/16 Becker BK, 5/19 Duluth KE.

### **American Tree Sparrow**

Late south 4/24 Lac Qui Parle TM, 4/25 Lac Qui Parle TBB, 5/1 Stearns JMa; late north 4/27 Clay LCF, 4/30 Cook KMH.

### **Chipping Sparrow**

Early south 3/16 Lyon HK, 3/25 Dakota JD, 4/10 Olmsted JEB; early north 4/13 Duluth *vide* KE, 4/23 Aitkin WN and Beltrami KH, 4/24 Itasca TS.

### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Early south 4/7 Lyon HK, 4/30 Hennepin TT, Lac Qui Parle AB, DB and Traverse RJ, 5/1 Brown JS and Lac Qui Parle FE, KR; early north 4/30 Clay LCF, 5/5 Todd PH and St. Louis AE.

### **Field Sparrow**

Early south 3/29 Fillmore NAO, 3/30 Brown JS, 4/2 Houston EMF and Olmsted JEB; early north 4/24 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Vesper Sparrow**

Early south 4/2 Dakota TT, 4/4 Fillmore AP and Murray ND, 5/5 Swift WDM; early north 4/5 Marshall ANWR, 4/10 Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM, 4/13 Wadena DB.

### **Lark Sparrow**

Early south 4/25 Anoka SC, 5/1 Dakota JD, 5/13 Nicollet JF; early north 4/30 Clay LCF, 5/10 Red Lake RJ, 5/20 Norman MS.

### **Lark Bunting**

One report 5/26 Cook KMH.

### **Savannah Sparrow**

Early south 4/1 Steele KV, 4/6 Fillmore RJ, AP, 4/7 Dakota JD; early north 4/20 Marshall ANWR, 4/23 Aitkin WN, 4/28 St. Louis AE.

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle RH, 5/8 Brown JS, TM, 5/12 Olmsted JEB; early north 5/27 Clay BSE, 5/30 Polk BSE.

### **Henslow's Sparrow**

Only reports 5/5 Winona TT, 5/14 Winona KR, 5/31 Houston FL.

### **LeConte's Sparrow**

Early south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle RH, 4/25 Anoka SC, 4/30 Mower AP; early north 5/4 St. Louis KE, 5/5 Marshall ANWR, 5/12 Clay LCF.

### **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Two reports: 5/27-28 Marshall m.ob., 5/28 Aitkin WN.

### **Fox Sparrow**

Early south 3/10 Houston EMF, AP, 3/11 Brown JS, 3/12 Dakota TT; early north 4/2 St. Louis AE, 4/3 Aitkin WN, 4/5 Duluth *vide* KE; late south 4/22 Brown JS, 4/23 Lyon HK, 4/28 Cottonwood BF; late north 4/23 Lake KR, 4/24 Cook KMH, 4/25 St. Louis.

### **Song Sparrow**

Early north 3/24 Duluth *vide* KE, 3/26 St. Louis SKS, 3/29 Clay MMM.

### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Early south 4/2 Rice FKS, 4/9 Dakota TT, 4/11 Hennepin KR and LeSueur EK; early north 4/30 Otter Tail SDM, 5/1 Clay LCF, 5/7 Lake of the Woods SKS; late south 5/10 Olmsted BSE, 5/11 Brown JS, 5/15 Mower RRK and Rock AB.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

Early south 3/13 Dakota TT, 4/4 Wabasha WDM, 4/7 Wabasha AP; early north 4/12 Duluth KE, 4/23 Aitkin WN, 4/25 Marshall ANWR.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Early south 3/25 Scott LW, 3/28 Hennepin ES, 4/5 LeSueur HJC; early north 4/9 Duluth KE, 4/21 Clay MMM, 4/23 Aitkin WN; late south 5/15 Brown JS and Hennepin ES, 5/17 Houston EMF, Pipestone GS and Pope EL, 5/18 Fillmore NAO.

### **White-crowned Sparrow**

Early south 4/24 Lac Qui Parle TBB, 4/30 Hennepin TT and Murray WD; early north 4/26 Duluth KE, 5/1 Aitkin WN; late south 5/16 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/28 Cottonwood BF; late north 5/17 Aitkin WN, 5/18 Cook OSL.

### **Harris' Sparrow**

Early south 4/2 Nobles AP, 4/16 LeSueur HJC; early north 4/30 St. Louis AE, 5/1 Clay LCF; late south 5/15 Lyon HK, 5/17 Blue Earth MR, Brown MT and Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 5/21 Marshall ANWR, 5/23 St. Louis AE.

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Late south 5/1 Dakota DZ, 5/10 Blue Earth MF, 5/12 Nicollet MT.

### **Lapland Longspur**

Early north 4/17 Lake KE, 4/23 Aitkin SC, WN; late south 4/17 Cottonwood TT, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle TM, 4/24 Renville AB; late north 5/10 Red Lake RJ, 5/13 Duluth DB, 5/14 Cook KMH.

### **Smith's Longspur**

One report 4/17 Cottonwood AB, TT.

### **Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Two reports: 5/8 Marshall SKS, 5/22-27 Clay m.ob.

### **Snow Bunting**

Late south 3/6 Cottonwood BF and Olmsted JEB, 3/8 Goodhue KR, 3/22 Mower JM; late north 4/24 Aitkin WN and St. Louis MHJS, 4/29 Cook WP, 5/15 Marshall ANWR.

### **Bobolink**

Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle KR, 5/1 Dakota DZ, 5/2 Mower RRK and Steele KV; early north 5/1 Becker BK, 5/5 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM, 5/6 Marshall ANWR.

### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Early north 3/1 Otter Tail SDM, 3/11 Todd PH, 3/12 Aitkin WN.

### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Early north 3/30 Beltrami TK, 4/1 Aitkin WN.

### **Western Meadowlark**

Early north 3/6 Otter Tail SDM, 3/24 Clay MMM, 3/25 Marshall ANWR.

### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Early south 4/5 Stevens EL, 4/9 Hennepin TT, 4/10 Lyon HK and Meeker GS; early north 4/11 Clay MMM, 4/24 Clay LCF, 4/25 Todd PH.

### **Rusty Blackbird**

Early south 3/1 Mower RRK and Nicollet LW, 3/2 Lac Qui Parle FE; early north 3/12 Clay LCF, 4/1 Duluth KE; late south 4/27 Hennepin SC, 4/30 Washington TBB; late north 4/9 Cook WP, 4/21 Duluth KE.

### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Early south 3/12 Mower RRK, 3/13 Nicollet LW, 3/14 Olmsted JEB; early north 4/1 Todd PH, 4/9 Aitkin WN, 4/13 Duluth KE.

### **Common Grackle**

Early north 3/1 Aitkin WN, 3/9 Duluth KE, 3/10 Todd PH.

### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Early south 3/6 Olmsted JEB, 3/12 Washington WL, 3/19 Blue Earth JF; early north 4/3 Duluth KE, 4/4 Becker BK, 4/7 Cook OSL.

### **Orchard Oriole**

Early south 5/7 Houston RG and Olmsted

BSE, 5/8 Goodhue TBB and Scott TT; early north 5/18 Clay LCF, 5/23 Pennington SKS, 5/29 Polk BSE and Red Lake AB.

### Northern Oriole

Early south 4/30 Hennepin ES, 5/1 Brown JS, Cottonwood BF, Goodhue DZ, LeSueur HJC, Mower JM, GS and Wabasha WDM; early north 4/29 Todd PH, 5/3 Clay LCF, 5/4 Becker BK.

### Pine Grosbeak

Late north 3/13 Koochiching GM, 3/19 Aitkin WN, 3/23 Cook KMH.

### Purple Finch

Reported from 13 counties north and 18 counties south.

### HOUSE FINCH

All reports: 3/5 and 5/18 Aitkin WN, 5/8 Anoka SC, 5/10-14 Hennepin m.ob., 5/16 Pennington JM (*The Loon* 60:131), 5/17 Clay LCF, 5/18-22 Blue Earth JB (*The Loon* 60:160).

### Red Crossbill

See Notes of Interest this issue, page 178.

### White-winged Crossbill

Late south 4/16 Dakota TT, 5/23 Hennepin AB.

### Common Redpoll

Late south 4/4 Hennepin DB, 4/6 Stearns NHi, 4/11 Washington WL; late north 4/15 Duluth *fide* KE, 4/17 St. Louis AE, 4/18 Pennington SKS.

### Hoary Redpoll

Late south 3/20 Washington WL; late north 3/27 Aitkin WN, 4/4 Duluth *fide* KE.

### Pine Siskin

Reported from 15 counties north and 23 counties south.

### American Goldfinch

Reported from 13 counties north and 29 counties south.

### Evening Grosbeak

Late south 3/31 Mower JM.

### House Sparrow

Reported from 11 counties north and 28 counties south.

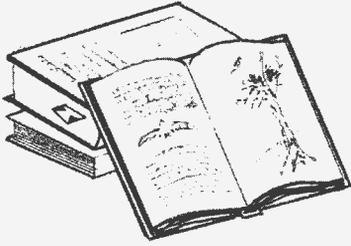
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 m.ob. many observers

**Corrections in *The Loon* Vol. 60, No. 3.,**  
 p. 111, **Red-necked Grebe** should read: Reported from Lake Harriet in Minneapolis on 12/4-5 (1, SC).  
 Page 112, **Harlequin Duck** delete: "and again on 2/27 (TT)."  
 Page 117, **Carolina Wren** should read: "and in Hennepin 12/9 to 1/16 (AB, DB, SC)."  
 Page 118 **House Finch** should read: "Hennepin, 2/21 (2, SC)."  
 Page 129, last line should read: "Izaak Walton."



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna**; edited by Barbara Coffin and Lee Pfannmuller; illustrated by Jans A. Janssens, Nan Marie Kane, Kris A. Kohn, Don Luce, James Tidwell, and Vera Ming Wong; Foreword by Harrison B. Tordoff; Published by the University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, for the Natural Heritage and Nongame Wildlife Programs of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; 1988, 474 pp., \$16.95.

A provision of the amended 1974 State Endangered Species Act passed by the Minnesota legislature in the 1981-82 session called for the appointment by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources of a 30-member volunteer technical advisory committee. The group was to assist the DNR in establishing an official state list of endangered, threatened and special concern species. This was to be prepared and reported back to the legislature by January, 1984. The committee met their challenge; the committee members are the authors of this book. It is essentially their report with the addition of fine illustrations, range maps (both state and national) plus excellent background materials. The committee's work was divided into six groups: plants, birds, mammals, amphibians/reptiles, fish and invertebrates. The bird group was chaired by Janet Green; its members were Kim Eckert, Art Hawkins, Robert Janssen, Lee Pfannmuller, Daniel Svedarsky, and Harrison Tordoff. The final list produced by the committee designated six species as endangered, two as threatened, and 19 as special concern. Analysis of these species revealed that many of them are either predators, or fall into two broad habitat groups — prairie or wetlands (shore and marsh).

The Introduction provides valuable back-

ground for understanding the current status of the listed species and how we came to have the need for concern for these species. The Section "Minnesota Landscape" illustrates how habitats have changed and how this affected the status of the species of concern.

This major work is beautifully produced and will, no doubt, be a standard reference for years to come. One might hope, however, that action by citizens with concern for our environment and the species which inhabit it (which initially prompted the strengthening of the Endangered Species Act) will continue so that in the not-to-distant-future, this text will fade into obsolescence — a lovely reminder of things past. Meanwhile, it is a reliable reference for anyone seeking information on Minnesota's currently endangered flora and fauna. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 15th Ave. SW, Rochester, MN 55902**

**Environmental Quality**, Council on Environmental Quality, 17th Annual Report.

This is the first of three reports being published in 1988 by the Council on Environmental Quality in fulfillment of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The report focuses on environmental classes that are accorded special management protection for preserving birdlife, wetlands, marine sanctuaries, and public recreation lands. Dr. Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. prepared the material used in drafting the section on "Status and Trends in the Birdlife of the United States."

Subjects covered include: sources of information on trends and status, seabirds, waterfowl, colonial wading birds, waterbirds, raptors, island birds, pest species, and en-

dangered species. Looking forward to the future, Dr. Jehl addresses the desirability of creating a central data base, methods of determining and analyzing population trends, evaluation of birds as possible indicators of environmental quality, and the opportunity for an increased private role in conservation.

Reading the text and studying the graphs/tables provides the reader with an overview of what is happening with our birdlife nationwide. Reading this report in tandem with *Minnesota's Flora and Fauna* will give the person concerned about the future of the environment a broader understanding of the problems to be faced and dealt with.

Dr. Jehl's narrative style is very readable; the wealth of data he presents serves to enhance the narrative. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 15th Ave. SW, Rochester, MN 55902**

**Hawks in Flight**, by Peter Dunne, David Sibley and Clay Sutton, 1988. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 5½ x 8¼ in. Hardcover. 254 pages, 145 black-and-white photos, 173 line drawings. \$17.95.

You and I are walking down the street and you spot your spouse or best friend a block away. He or she is too far away to clearly discern eye or hair color, facial features or other diagnostic "field marks", but you still know who it is. How do you do it? Simple. Years of familiarity with that person have subconsciously imprinted on you a combination of subtle characteristics and intangibles which, in combination, are unique to that person. But a better question, more to the point of this review: if I ask you to specifically explain what you see so you know who it is — so that next time I could identify that person at a distance — could you do it?

Hawk identification has long confounded birders of all abilities, but, like humans a block away, distant raptors specks are routinely identified by veterans of favored hawk lookouts. Hawks as a rule lack much color, their plumage features are usually subtle and variable, and important considerations of shape, size and manner of flight are often subjective judgments easily comprised by conditions as capricious as a gust of wind. Indeed, many a frustrated hawk watching novice might endorse the lyrics of a popular song from the 1960s: "You might as well try and catch the wind."

Nevertheless, *Hawks in Flight* is a truly unique attempt to teach us how the accomplished hawk watcher does it, to reveal the magician's secrets. It's sort of a field guide without field marks, a field guide not intended for use in the field. As explained in the introductory chapters, the book is meant for home reading more than it is a quick and ready reference in the field. Individual separate plumage features are deemphasized in favor of more subjective considerations — call it jizz or gestalt or the holistic method, this book represents a step beyond the Peterson system of arrows pointing out unequivocal field marks. The authors describe it as a "leap of faith" as revolutionary as was Peterson's method 50 years ago when it supplanted the feather-in-hand shotgun approach to identification.

The reader, therefore, will find no standard species-by-species list of field marks in a text-facing-plates format. Nor does the book have much to say about perched hawks since it's in flight these birds are usually seen. And don't expect to find analyses of all 38 North American species of hawks; accidentals and relatively sedentary species confined to extreme southern U.S. need not concern the vast majority of hawk watchers. All of the above is covered in *A Field Guide to Hawks* by Clark and Wheeler (reviewed in *The Loon* 59:125-27): here is the standard field guide format most are familiar with, the book most will probably reach for first in trying to resolve an ID problem after the fact. *Hawks in Flight*, however, is meant to be read *before* you head out. It attempts to convince the reader to consider a plumage feature only in combination with other things, to learn how to look at a hawk when plumage colors and patterns are invisible, to accept other features such as behavior, shape, manner of flight and size as field marks as diagnostic as the Red-tailed's red tail.

The seven main chapters discuss each group of hawks as a whole both before and after the species are covered individually, and each species is compared with others in other chapters. Most of the text was written by Pete Dunne, and readers familiar with his style and skill will not be disappointed. The chapters are illustrated with line drawings by David Sibley. No color here, of course, since color has relatively little to do with hawk identification. These drawings intentionally

pay little attention to meticulous plumage details (again, these are as irrelevant as color), but they are accurate in their shapes and "feel" and seem more natural and true-to-life than many of the paintings in the Clark and Wheeler guide. Also supplementing the text is the black-and-white, obviously, photo section. Most of the pictures were taken by Clay Sutton, and almost all are sufficiently large and properly exposed and focused. There may be 100 more photos in the Clark guide, but the number of pictures per species in each book is about the same.

I only ran across a few typographical errors, and only one is serious: on page 80, illustrations C, D and E should be labeled Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon and Peregrine Falcon respectively. But I also ran across more than a few other things that the authors could clarify or revise. Dark-morph Ferruginous Hawks are not the only Buteos with white carpal "commas"; as shown in the photo section, melanistic Red-taileds and Rough-leggeds can have them as well. Tail band widths of Broad-wingeds and Red-shouldered, as shown in the photos, are more variable than stated in the text. The little-known adult male light-morph Rough-legged needs more emphasis; also the Rough-legged's characteristic almost crane-like flapping is not mentioned at all. More emphasis is also needed on the Ferruginous Hawk's similarity to Krider's Red-taileds. If the Northern Goshawk has a two-toned underwing with linings paler than feathers, as the text states, the illustration on page 68 shows the opposite pattern; there should also be mention of the goshawk's paler wing coverts on the upper surface. It is hard to believe, as claimed on page 92, that the Northern Harrier is the species most often mistaken for a peregrine. The entire chapter on kites could have easily been omitted: Swallow-taileds and Black-shouldered have ranges as limited as other species excluded from the book, and the Mississippi Kite's similarity to the Peregrine is not worth two pages and could have been relegated to a paragraph in the falcon chapter. The Northern Harrier is not unique with its white upper tail coverts, since Red-taileds, Red-shouldered and Swainson's also show some white here. The Black Vulture can glide with a dihedral, in spite of what this and other texts say, and two photos even suggest this. And the Osprey chapter should

mention how sub-adult Bald Eagles and light-morph Rough-leggeds can be mistaken for Ospreys.

Some of the line drawings could also have used closer attention. On pages 14-15 the pictures and captions fail to agree on the number of emarginated primaries. The immature Red-tailed's "windows" on page 20 should include the primary coverts, and windows should not appear on the Accipiters on page 54. Bald Eagle illustrations B on pages 147 and 148 show a confusing, aberrant plumage that has no useful place in the book. The adult Golden Eagle on page 150 would be better with far less white in the tail. Most disturbing is that more attention to scale was needed; relative sizes are misleading or inaccurate in at least nine or ten drawings.

One could go on seeking out other inaccuracies regarding plumage details, but to do so misses the whole point of the book.

The point remains, though, that it's probably difficult for most of us to deemphasize plumage details during field identification as *Hawks in Flight* urges. It's also unfortunate that a crucial aspect of the holistic method, seasonal and geographical relative abundance, is impossible to cover since there are too many times and places to watch hawks. In other words, the identification process is greatly expedited on your home turf, when you're aware of what is and isn't likely. I also wonder how much of the information on, say, the Red-tailed Hawk can be recalled in the field or relocated after you return home since the species is mentioned on 33 of the 46 pages in the Buteo chapter, not to mention on other pages in other chapters.

I do know, however, that neither I nor perhaps anyone else could do better than Dunne *et al.* in attempting to explain the unexplainable skill of hawk identification. I also suspect that a beginning hawk watcher would be a better judge than I in deciding whether the *Hawks in Flight* method is effective in improving one's skills. Is it possible to teach, to learn, how to identify another's spouse a block ahead or a speck in the sky a mile away? If so, this book is on the right track. If not, if indeed it is impossible to "catch the wind," then another '60s lyric might be more appropriate: "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804**

**The Common Loon/Spirit of Northern Lakes** by Judith W. McIntyre, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1988, /xii plus 228 pages, 10 color plates, many graphs and drawings, phonograph record of loon calls, hardbound, \$25.

This delightful book will please the many thousands of Minnesota loonophiles (= loon lovers; not in dictionaries yet; just made it up). They will be proud of the fact that the Loon Lady began her studies at Itasca State Park and took her PhD at the University of Minnesota; that the evidence for many of her conservation and management recommendations was gathered in Minnesota; that Minnesota has more nesting loons than all of the other lower 48 states combined, and that our DNR has one of the most active loon conservation projects.

The book is both a scientific report and readable, no small feat. Many writers in ornithology write strictly in the third person and strive mightily to avoid anthropomorphisms, in the process losing readability. Not McIntyre. A quote to illustrate: "Anyone who has seen a loon egg is apt to remember it first for its size. Any female loon who has ever laid one no doubt remembers it for the same reason." And can you imagine how Katherine Hepburn, Hell's Angels and the Mad Hatter from *Alice in Wonderland* can be drawn into a book on loons? This book is full of surprises which add to its readability.

The author's sources of information are impressive, including her own 20 years of intensive study in Minnesota, Saskatchewan, New York, and shorter periods in several Atlantic coastal areas. In addition to reviewing carefully the voluminous literature, she organized contributions of information from hundreds of observers, starting with her Project Minnesota Loon Watch and extending it later to other states. Her account is so comprehensive

that it is likely to be the loon Bible for many years, but throughout she calls attention to questions still unanswered, information still needed, encouraging diligent loon watchers to record their observations.

The book is packed with interesting information about loons, their behavior, ecology, general biology, response to human activities, and conservation measures that can be taken to encourage them. I select a sampling. Common Loons spend from five to six months in their inland nesting areas, another five to six months at coastal saltwater wintering areas, and the remainder enroute. The North American Common Loons winter on both coasts; those nesting in Iceland and Greenland winter on the European coasts.

In northern Quebec the Cree Indians still take thousands each spring for food; commercial fish nets are another serious mortality factor. Loons readily accept small artificial islands created for safer nesting. Large artificial impoundments are a positive factor; some are used by wintering loons, some for nesting, as in Massachusetts, which lacked nesting loons for over a hundred years, where there are now a few pairs. Loons molt their flight feathers all at once, so are flightless for several weeks in winter, usually late January to early March. The "yodel" type of call is by males only, and is so distinctive that individual birds can be recognized by their yodel.

Suggestions to readers: buy two copies so that you can leave one at your lake cottage to consult while hearing or watching your loons, and the other at home for pleasure reading and reference. And finally, since the dust jacket is very attractive, but the cloth binding is not, preserve the dust jacket with care. It is a fine book — highly recommended. **Gustav A. Swanson, 1020 E. 17th St., Apt. 35, Minneapolis, MN 55404**



## NOTES OF INTEREST

**THE RED CROSSBILL INVASION OF 1988.** The Red Crossbill occurs regularly in the state of Minnesota; it can be found during any month of the year, mainly in the northern part of the state. The species very rarely breeds in the state, as far as we know. However, recently fledged young have been encountered in St. Louis, Clearwater, Cook, Pennington, Washington and Ramsey counties. Confirmed breeding has occurred only once: in 1967 at Moorhead, Clay County (*The Auk* 86:352-53). Red Crossbill numbers vary widely from month to month and year to year. During some years, the species is almost absent from the state, being seen only in a few northern localities; during other years, it invades the state during late fall and winter. Numbers radically decline by late March and early April. During these invasions, small flocks are seen as far south as the Twin Cities; during years of maximum invasions, they can be found just about anywhere in the state. Because of the nomadic nature of the Red Crossbill in Minnesota, small flocks of three to ten birds may be found almost anywhere in the state, even in non-invasion years. The spring of 1988 proved to be an extraordinary period for the occurrence of the Red Crossbills in Minnesota. During the winter of 1987-88, Red Crossbills seemed to occur in about usual numbers across the northern part of the state and there was no indication that there would be a sudden influx into the southern part of the state in late winter. One factor that may have been an indicator that Red Crossbills would come south was the abundance of cones (the primary food of Red Crossbills) on the coniferous trees all across the southern half of the state. Ornamental spruce trees in towns and cities were heavily laden with cones. Beginning in mid-March 1988, birders in the Twin Cities area began reporting Red Crossbills at their feeders and/or at the cones of the evergreen trees in the area. They were especially common in and around cemeteries, which usually have a heavy concentration of cone-bearing coniferous trees. From mid-March to the end of the month, several birders including myself, recorded small numbers of Red Crossbills in Steele, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Martin, Carver, McLeod, Meeker and Wright Counties in the central and south central parts of the state. We also found birds in the southwestern part of the state in counties where the species had never been recorded; counties included Redwood, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Lincoln, Nobles, Rock and Jackson. By early April, we found them in the southeast in Fillmore, Mower, Houston, Winona, Wabasha, Olmsted, Dodge and Waseca counties. All during this period I was getting daily reports from feeders and localities in the seven-county metro area. Once again, reports from the north were about as one would expect for the species in any given year. During May 1988, Red Crossbills continued to be reported from all the areas mentioned above. An interesting phenomenon began to occur

during the week of 15 May 1988: reports coming from observers indicated a rather rapid decline in numbers along with the disappearance of the small flocks of birds that had been present since mid-March. The retreat of Red Crossbills was in full swing by May 20; and by May 24 there were very few being reported. Thus there had been a mass exodus of Red Crossbills from the southern half of the state in approximately one week's time. One wonders what caused this exodus? It wasn't the food supply, because many coniferous trees all across the south still had an abundance of cones. Some future ornithologists with an interest in Red Crossbills and what makes them such nomads will have to answer that question. Red Crossbills have invaded various parts of the state in many past years. During 1985 birds began to show up in good numbers during early February and on into March in many areas of central Minnesota. At that time Red Crossbills were also seen in good numbers just to the south of the Twin Cities. On March 23, 1985 Ray Glassel and I found a pair building a nest in an ornamental spruce tree in the cemetery in Kenyon, Goodhue County. I never had a chance to re-visit the area so I do not know if the nesting was successful. The geographic extent of the 1985 invasion was not as great as that of 1988; however, numbers of birds seemed to be larger in 1985 than in 1988. During 1985 Red Crossbills were not found in the southwestern part of the state nor in counties along the Iowa border. Other documented invasion years for Red Crossbills into southern Minnesota are February to May 1961; and December 1972 to May 1973. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**WORM-EATING WARBLER AT CROSBY PARK** — On Wednesday, 4 May 1988 at Crosby Park, Ramsey County, at approximately 3:00 PM near the center of the park, I noticed a small brownish bird in the lower branches of a box elder tree. It was about eight to ten feet above the ground as it flew, walked, and fed about the trunk, branches and leaf clumps that were about half-way emerged. During this time of observation (approximately five minutes), I was able to make the following observations before it finally flew off. At first glance the bird appeared mostly brownish (wren-like) with a darker head. The head pattern was, in effect, much like that of a Red-breasted Nuthatch, in that the whole head was dusky, except the lower stripe was as wide as the top one. The crown was not a whole dark cap like the nuthatch, but separated by a wide median, lighter stripe. Upon close examination the back, from the nape to the tip of the tail, as well as the top of the wings, was a very uniform brownish-olive with no markings or streaks of any kind. The breast, belly and head (except for the wide dark stripes) were a brownish orange or buff color, more on the brownish side than orange. There was a light central crown stripe of this buff color, as in the space between and below the two dark head stripes, continuing all the way down the throat and belly to the lightish legs. The vent area and undertail coverts were a lighter color. The wide dark head stripes were a solid, very dark brown to blackish color. One was near the top of the head, the other through the eye, both extending from the bill to the nape, ending in a wider, rectangular pattern. The bill seemed slightly longer than a typical warbler and was light in color. It was a Worm-eating Warbler. **Alison Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

**SPRINGTIME JOURNEY OF A MINNESOTA MIGRANT** — I'm sure that almost all of the recipients of *The Loon* are active field birders at some time of the year. Each season brings new excitement and new expectations for the great variety of birds that enter Minnesota to winter, breed, or just as passing visitors on their way to their wintering grounds south of us or to their breeding grounds north of us. We enjoy the myriad of visitors that brighten our days with their presence but perhaps take for granted the long arduous journeys that "our" birds must make to place themselves before our binoculars and telescopes. A chance meeting with a particular individual migrant afforded me a new insight into this aspect of bird migration. On 15 May 1987, I was scouting the Duluth area in preparation for the first annual St. Louis County Big Day, a publicly sponsored fund-raising event to benefit Hawk

Ridge Nature Reserve, that was to take place the following day. As I looked over the shorebirds that fed actively along the muddy shoreline of the 40th Avenue West dredge pond, one in particular caught my eye. I could see that this Least Sandpiper was banded. Knowing how rarely banded birds are reported and how valuable the information is, I copied down the number of bands as well as their colors and positions on its legs. With the excitement of spring birding in full swing, however, I soon forgot about my discovery and my notes sat collecting dust for many months. In February 1988, I was reading through some back issues of *American Birds* magazine when I came across a picture of a shorebird with a banding scheme almost identical to the one I saw on the Least Sandpiper nine months earlier. A quick phone call to David Evans gave me the address where I could send my information (Bird Banding Lab, Laurel, MD 20708), so I dug out my notes and dropped them in the mail. A couple of weeks later I received a card and information from Nellie Tspoura of the Pan American Shorebird Program telling me about the program and about the bird I saw. The Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP) was started in 1984 to devise a simple, hemisphere-wide convention to alleviate the confusion and difficulty of attributing sightings of banded birds seen in migration to a given bander. The key to the program is the use of "flag-type" leg bands: colored plastic bands that have a flap that extends out horizontally from the leg. Each country in the New World has been assigned a unique one-or two-flag combination. During sightings, this flag combination immediately identifies the country of banding. Further identification detail is then coded into standard color-band combinations. The black flag on the left leg of the Least Sandpiper I saw indicated that the bird was banded in Venezuela! At the time of this writing, Ms. Tspoura was circulating the information to the PASP cooperators in hopes of finding the original bander so that we could learn more about the specifics surrounding its banding. For anyone who spots a banded shorebird or who would like more information about the PASP they are encouraged to contact the Pan American Shorebird Program at 550 S. Bay Avenue, Islip, NY 11751 **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437.**

**REPORT OF SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER NEAR ELY** — On 2, 3 and 5 August 1988, I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher northeast of Ely in St. Louis County. The flycatcher was located along County Highway 88, 1.7 to 1.9 miles north of State Highway 169, N½, SW¼, sec. 22, T63N, R12W. All three days that I saw the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher it was cloudy, overcast, and humid, with rain on both 1 and 2 August. On the above dates, the flycatcher was in an area of open fields among low woodlands in the northwest corner of Shagawa Lake. The first time I saw the bird, I was going to guide the Bass Lake hike with Helen Koski. I was the only one to see the grackle-sized bird with an unusually long tail and white outer tail feathers perched on a dead snag about ten yards from the road on the north side. On the way back at 2:30 PM, we both saw it perched on the same snag and got a good look at it from the car at a distance of about ten yards. Since I didn't have my binoculars, I told Helen that I would call her once I looked at my dad's *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. I got home and looked it up and found it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Then I got my binoculars and was going to find it on my bike when my mom got home and gave me a ride. My mother, sister and I then went and saw it at 3:30 p.m. It was perched on a powerline across the road from its original location; as I stood under it, the flycatcher flew to the snag it was on earlier. We saw the red and gray head and the tail as long as the body. According to the field guide, the bright colors and long tail meant that it was an adult. When we got home, I called Steve Schon who wasn't home at the time, so I called Steve Wilson who went out and saw it the next day. Next I called Chuck Neil, got a number to the Duluth Audubon Society Hotline, and reported the sighting. I reached Steve Schon that evening and we decided to go out early the next morning and look for the bird. At 6:30 AM on 3 August, we saw the flycatcher 0.2 miles west of the previous sighting about 100 yards south of County 88. It was perched on a powerline and then moved to the original dead snag. On Thursday, 4 August, my mother and I saw it at 3:00 p.m. perched on a powerline on County Highway 88, 1.8 miles from State Highway



**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, August 1988, near Ely, St. Louis County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.**

169. On Monday, 8 August, Dave Gawboy saw the flycatcher in Lake County 1.2 miles east of the Lake County line on State Highway 169 near Winton. Steve Schon and Steve Wilson both saw it the next day. We can't be certain if it was the same bird, but we think it is likely. **Zachary Tefft, 235 White Street E., Ely, MN 55731.**

**SAY'S PHOEBE IN OLMSTED COUNTY** — About noon on 26 September 1988, I was birding west of Rochester. The area is open farmland with a sod farm on the north side of the road and a pasture on the south side. I saw a bird sitting on an electrical wire and stopped to look at it, thinking I would see a bluebird. I was looking at the bird from about 30 yards with 7x50 binoculars, with the sun overhead. I noticed the rusty belly without any white showing on the lower belly. The bird then flew down to a fence post on the border of the pasture; as it flew, I noticed the back was gray; the tail was black without any trace of blue on the back of the bird. I then began to think I was looking at something other than an Eastern Bluebird. The bird flew out several times to catch flying insects, and each time returned to the fence post. As the bird returned with the insect, I noted the beak was black and flat like that of a flycatcher. The head was completely gray, a little darker than the back; no eyering was visible. When the bird faced me, I was able to see that the area under the chin was gray, just a little lighter than the gray on the back. The gray extended down on the breast about an inch from the chin; the rest of the belly was completely rust colored with no white on the lower belly (like a bluebird has). I also noted that there were

no streaks or spots on the breast like an immature bluebird would show. When I observed the bird from the back, the tail was all black in contrast with the gray back. The bird showed faint wingbars. The wind was blowing about 20 mph so I couldn't tell if the bird was actually pumping its tail or if it was just moving its tail to steady itself in the wind. I watched the bird for about ten minutes at a distance of between 20 and 30 yards from the road. I saw the bird from several different angles as it flew out and caught insects. As the bird sat on a fencepost, three House Sparrows landed near the bird; I estimated the bird to be about one to two inches longer than the House Sparrows. The sun was shining brightly, and I never saw any blue on its back, wings, or tail; thus, I decided this was not a bluebird. I did not have any bird books with me, but I suspected I had seen a Say's Phoebe. Later when I checked several field guides, I was convinced I had seen a Say's Phoebe. I felt the National Geographic Field Guide's picture was the closest match to the bird I had seen. **Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

**RUFF AT GEIS LAKE, SCOTT COUNTY** — On 21 August 1988, I observed a Ruff at Geis Lake in Scott County for approximately one hour, between 7:00 and 8:00 PM, at a distance of about 250 yards. The light was not too good because of overcast skies. The following is a description of the bird: Fairly large shorebird about three inches longer than Pectoral Sandpipers and just a little larger than Lesser Yellowlegs, both of which were present for comparison. Legs long as yellowlegs. Couldn't be sure of color because of light, but they weren't yellow because I could see yellow color on the yellowlegs. Body color generally brown — not gray as yellowlegs. Shape seemed hump backed, pot bellied, head small, bill a little longer than head, thicker at base and very slightly dropped. Beak pattern similar to Pectoral. Black patches on both flanks. Rump appeared white and tail dark brown, not the oval patches as Ruff should have, but not all white rump and tail of yellowlegs. **Raymond Glassel, 8210 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN 55420.**

**A RUFF AT FRENCH LAKE** — On the morning of 9 August 1988, Evelyn Stanley and I drove to northern Hennepin County to look for early-returning migrants. Our second stop was French Lake, which this year had a wide, muddy shoreline that was attracting hundreds of shorebirds, mostly Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers. As we stood at the public access on the east side of the lake, a rather large shorebird flew in and landed about 75 feet in front of us. The bird was about 1½ times the size of the Lesser Yellowlegs and looked even larger because of its disproportionately plump body. Its dull gray legs were as long as those of the yellowlegs and a little heavier. The all-black bill was a little longer than the bird's head. It was thicker than the yellowlegs' bills, thickest at the base and tapering toward the tip with a slight droop. Buff feather tips on the brown back gave the upperparts a scaly look. The breast and sides had no fine markings but were strongly washed orangish-brown. The belly and vent were a bright white. After several minutes the bird flew away to a distance of about 140 yards. As it left I noted the tail pattern, two elongated, white ovals joining at their bottoms to form a U-shape around a dark center. From 140 yards I saw the bird display its white wing linings. The large size, scaly upperparts and orangish-brown breast identified this Ruff as a juvenile male. Our observations were made with the sun overhead, using 7x35 and 8x40 binoculars and a 20-45x scope. The Ruff was subsequently seen by many observers, being last reported on August 14. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

**A ROSS' GOOSE IN MINNEAPOLIS** — At about 9:30 a.m. on 30 September 1988, I spotted a small, white goose with a group of Canada Geese and Mallards eating grass on the south shore of Lake Calhoun. I watched it with a 7x35 binoculars for about ten minutes from as close as thirty feet. Although longer-legged and plumper than the Mallards, its body length was nearly the same. The rounded head and short neck were on a smaller scale yet,

appearing too small for the body. Its pinkish bill, grayer toward the base, was very short and triangular, the line where the bill met the face being almost straight up and down rather than curved. There was a black line between the two mandibles, much narrower than the wide "grinning patch" of a Snow Goose. At close range a brownish-gray wash was visible on the crown and hindneck, below the nape, and on the shoulders. A diffuse gray line extended from the base of the bill through the eye. The location of the gray areas on this bird, and their paleness, is typical of the immature Ross' Goose. Its plumage was in immaculate condition, and there were no leg bands or other markings to indicate that this was an escaped bird. A park worker dumping garbage cans frightened the geese and they flew away over the lake toward the east. I relocated the Ross' Goose a short time later at the pond in Lakewood Cemetery, and was able to show it to Evelyn Stanley, who was birding nearby at Roberts Sanctuary. From there it flew to the east shore of Lake of the Isles, where it was seen by many observers between noon and sunset. That evening a woman who feeds the ducks and geese daily at the city lakes told me that this was the first time she'd seen the "baby Snow Goose." She said that its refusal to accept food from her was characteristic of new arrivals. The next day the Ross' Goose was gone. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

**SHRIKE IMPALES FROG ON CATTAIL** — On 26 May 1988, we discovered a small dried up wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) skewered on the tip of a cattail in the Barnesville Wildlife Management Area, Clay County, Minnesota. The cattail stand was a small clump in an upland spring, surrounded by an old field with pines and oak scrub. The frog almost certainly was impaled by a shrike, but which species? Northern Shrikes may remain in Minnesota well past the beginning of frog activity in spring, so the question cannot be resolved on seasonal grounds. We have found no record of shrikes using cattails for storing prey (Roberts 1932, Terres 1981). The tips of cattail seed heads are normally brittle and too blunt to be efficient skewers. In this case, the frog seems to have been merely skewered but not fed on. The wood frog found on the cattail represents the first specimen collected in Clay County, even though the species is widespread in the county. **John J. Moriarty, Minnesota County Biological Survey and Lee A. Pfannmuller, Nongame Wildlife Program, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4007.**



**Frog impaled on Cattail, 26 May 1988, Barnesville WMA, Clay County. Photo by John Moriarty.**

**FALCONS AT FRENCH LAKE, HENNEPIN COUNTY** — The drought conditions of 1988 lead to a probable recent all-time low in the lake levels throughout much of Minnesota. French Lake in northern Hennepin County was no exception. Due to the low water level, a large area of mudflats developed around the entire lake. The mudflats, as well as low water depth far out into the lake, attracted a large number of shorebirds, especially Lesser Yellowlegs. The high concentration of shorebirds as well as a large number of Mallards and Blue-winged Teal was an ideal menu for attracting falcons. On 6 September 1988, while at French Lake searching for a Sharp-tailed Sparrow on the east side of the lake, I noted panic flights among some of the shorebirds and ducks on the opposite side of the lake. Realizing that a falcon was probably nearby, I scanned the area and saw a large falcon continuing to harass the shorebirds and ducks. From the size I assumed the falcon to be a Peregrine. A small falcon about one-half the size was noted harassing the large falcon. From size and silhouette, I considered the smaller falcon to be a Merlin. A few minutes later I saw a large falcon flying directly toward me. The bird continued toward me passing by at a distance of approximately 30 yards and at a height of about 50 feet. As it passed by, I noted the indistinct whisker mark, and heavy streaking on the breast which continued back along the side. After passing by, the bird started soaring in a thermal so as to afford excellent viewing of both dorsal and ventral surfaces. The dorsal surface, except for the tail, was a dark brown color when seen in full sunlight; the tail was several shades lighter in color giving a somewhat rusty-brown appearance. The ventral view provided the diagnostic characteristics of a Prairie Falcon; dark axillars and dark underwing linings. These marks were obviously much darker than the remainder of the underside of the wing and the body. The above observation was made with 8x40 binoculars and field notes were tape recorded while the bird was in view. This sighting is the first for Hennepin County and brings the county list to 324 species. A few days later on 10 September, while checking the shorebird concentration, I again saw a large falcon harassing the ducks and shorebirds. I watched a Peregrine Falcon for a period of five minutes attack and capture a yellowlegs which was feeding in the shallow water. Apparently the yellowlegs escaped the initial attack as it flew a short distance and landed in the water once again. I assumed it must have been injured as it made no further attempt to escape. After repeated swoops the Peregrine flew away with the yellowlegs. During the time of these attacks, the Peregrine was harassed by an American Kestrel. The Peregrine's success was short lived, because after a few seconds of flight, the Peregrine encountered another large falcon (Peregrine or Prairie?) as well as a Red-tailed Hawk. After a few quick maneuvers the yellow-legs could no longer be seen in the talons of its captor or either of the other two raptors. While viewing the swooping Peregrine, the bold mustache mark was seen repeatedly. The dorsal surface of the bird was uniformly dark. When the tail was spread, it appeared slightly lighter in color than the mantle. A faint buffy tip on the tail was also noted when the tail was spread. The tips of the primaries appeared slightly darker than the remainder of the wing. The undersides of the wings were uniformly light brown in color except for the darker tips of the primaries. The activities of the Peregrine had been observed with a 20X scope. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.**

**THE BATTLE OF MOOSE LAKE** — On 18 September 1988 at 10:30 AM, my son, a visiting friend from Australia and I were witness to a savage encounter between an adult Bald Eagle and an adult Great Blue Heron. I was particularly observant at the time because I was trying to show our visitor from Australia some of the wildlife of Minnesota. We were fishing at Moose Lake, a small lake in northeastern Itasca County about 35 miles north of Nashauk. Moose Lake is located within a wildlife refuge. Eagles in this area are sighted quite often as there is a nesting tree on the lake shore. I saw the two birds flying close together and suddenly one bird began attacking the other. I pointed out to my son and our guest visitor that the eagle was attacking the other bird. I hadn't identified the Great Blue Heron at that time. The aerial attack went on for approximately a minute. Suddenly the birds became entangled and fell some 200 to 300 feet to the water. The battle that took place from that point on was a loud savage affair with much water splashing and flapping of wings.

The loud screeching cries were coming from the heron. I had identified the heron by that time because of the long neck and the large tapered wings. The battle raged on for two-three minutes. The eagle broke off the attack, and, with what seemed very little effort, got up off the water and flew to a dead tree on the shore. I then knew which bird was making the screeching cry as the same sounds continued from the heron except they were intermittent and much less intense than at the time of the battle. We were awed by what we had witnessed and while we were discussing what had transpired, the eagle took flight and flew towards the heron. The heron, as soon as he saw the eagle coming towards him, started making the loud cries that we had heard during the battle on the water. The eagle few straight at the heron and again entered the water and a repeat of the first encounter took place. The duration of the second battle was approximately the same as the first. The eagle again broke off the attack and flew off the water quite easily into the trees on the shore. We lost sight of the eagle and could not locate where, or if, it had landed. The heron continued to cry out from time to time. We could see that that heron was slowly moving towards the shore nearest us. It took 15-20 minutes for the bird to reach the shore. I do not know how herons navigate in deep water but it eventually moved into shallow water and stood up. The heron flexed its wings and neck and, for all it had been through, did not look seriously injured. We walked down the shore about 30 yards, and, although the heron was visibly exhausted and had a few feathers missing from its left wing, near where the wing folds and meets the body, we could not see any other injuries. **Del Luoma, Thistledeew Camp, Togo, MN 55788.**

**BARN SWALLOWS NEST ON MOVING BOAT ON LAKE ITASCA** — As I boarded a "Lake Itasca Tours" boat for a family trip on Lake Itasca on Monday, 8 August 1988, I noticed Barn Swallows flying near the docked boat. Having assured myself that there were no Cliff Swallows among them, I paid little attention to them and enjoyed the ride and the beautiful day. The tour guide was eager to point out that we saw both the national and state birds: the Bald Eagle and Common Loon. What other tour can offer that, plus three calling, soaring Osprey? During the 1½ hour, eleven-mile round trip ride from near Douglas Lodge north up the east arm of the lake to the headwaters on the north arm, I became convinced that the Barn Swallows flying near the boat were circling the boat and following it throughout the trip. They called loudly, and at times disappeared near the waterline and beneath the lower deck. Though it was difficult to observe, it seemed we had our own squadron of swallows rather than a succession of different birds. When we returned to the dock, I was able to observe that the swallows were indeed nesting on the hull of the tour boat, between the waterline and the lower deck. I was able to photograph two different nests: one on the starboard side toward the stern; the other on the starboard bow. At least one young bird was on the starboard stern nest. Measurements revealed that the starboard stern nest was about 27 inches (68.5 cm) above the waterline when the boat was empty of passengers, and about 23 inches (58.5 cm) when the boat was carrying an average load of about 50 passengers. The boat makes two and sometimes three cruises daily, seven days a week during the summer tourist season. At 1½ hours per cruise, that's at least 3 to 4½ hours per day in motion or at least 21 to 24½ hours per week. Though the nests were thoroughly protected from rain, they appeared vulnerable to wave action. Of course while the boat moved, they were safe from predation. It would seem that young attempting their first flight while the boat moved would be at risk, because they would have either to continue their first flight up to 1½ hours, return to the moving nest (or boat), or land ashore. Perhaps young and parents are most often able to avoid first flights during boat movement. While it might appear that returning to a moving nest would add to the distance feeding adults would have to travel, it would not; feeding flight distance from, and return to, a moving nest would be the same as to a stationary nest. In both cases, prey availability would be the major factor determining distance and duration of flight. Indeed, would a moving boat actually stir up prey or carry feeding adults through richer prey habitat as the boat moved? Finally, human interference as passengers embarked and debarked would alter flight patterns, not to mention the physical proximity of the dock while the boat was stationary. On the other hand, the boat probably makes no trips until



**Barn Swallow nest resting on pipe on board "Lake Itasca Tours" boat. Photo by Fred Leshner.**

June, well into nesting season, and is stationary even during the tourist season from 81% to 88% of each day. These nests in early August may represent a succession of failures (or partial successes), although young near fledging were present, and one young was observed to flutter from a nest while the boat was docked. The boat operators report that the swallows have followed the boat each season "for four or five years." Whatever the advantages and disadvantages may be as indicated in this brief discussion, the birds have persisted. Are there other state records for birds nesting on moving boats? Welty (1982) cites successful nesting on moving ferry boats by Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, American Robins and Eastern Phoebes. He even cites a successful nesting by a European Robin in a wagon that travelled about 320 km shortly after the young birds hatched, accompanied by a parent that fed them. In Minnesota, large houseboats and cruisers on Leech Lake or tour boats in the Duluth harbor seem likely sites to look. My thanks to "Lake Itasca Tours" owner and operators for their cooperation. **Fred Leshner, 509 Winona Street, La Crosse, WI 54603.**

**HOUSE FINCHES IN MANKATO** — At 11:00 AM on 18 May 1988, my roommate Michael Post and I were on our porch when a brilliant red finch landed in our birdbath. We observed it for about a minute at very close range; the birdbath is only about 11 feet from the porch. I identified it immediately as a House Finch. (I lived in Brattleboro, Vermont from 1982 to 1986 where we had both Purple and House Finches. I learned to tell them apart during this time.) I checked both the Peterson and Audubon field guides after the bird flew off to confirm my identification. He appeared again at 6:00 that evening. At 6:00 the following evening he returned and I managed to photograph him, using my Pentax K-1000 camera with a Vivitar 70-210 mm lens. At this time he was joined by a female. We saw the finches five times after that: At 6:45 PM on the 20th; 9:05 AM and 4:21 PM on the 21st; 11:21 AM on the 22nd (all these were the male only); and 11:57 AM on 26 June. On this occasion, they flew off to the southwest and we have not seen either of them since. During the various times we saw the birds, we observed them either with the naked eye or with my Bushnell 8X30 binoculars. **John P. Bollenbacher, 125 4th St. N., Mankato, MN 56001.**

**HOUSE FINCHES IN ALBERT LEA** — Beginning 15 June 1988 and continuing through the first part of August, a male House Finch was a regular visitor to a sunflower feeder in my yard in Albert Lea, Freeborn County. During that time, it appeared almost daily, less than 15 feet from the house. From time to time I thought I saw a female bird also, but it was more nervous than the male and usually left the feeder immediately when I came near the windows. On 6 August at 1:25 PM, I saw a group of four finches at a pole-mounted thistle feeder, also in my back yard. Through 10x40 binoculars I viewed the male House Finch and three others which were either females or immature birds (striped brown with no definite face pattern). These finches were definitely not Purple Finches. I based my identification on previous experience — I had seen House Finches in California — and on reference to several field guides (Peterson, Robbins et al., National Geographic, and Pough). The red color of the male was bright: with an almost orange tint to it, not the raspberry color of a male Purple Finch. Also the male bird I observed had dark stripes on the sides and belly. And while a male Purple Finch will often raise its crown feathers, the House Finch here was not seen doing that. The female (or immature) House Finches observed on 6 August looked exactly like the illustration in the latest edition of the Peterson guide: striped brown with no mustache or cheek patch. **Richard H. Jorgensen, 214 S. Third Ave. W., Albert Lea, MN 56007.**

**A FALL RECORD OF LONG-BILLED CURLEW** — On October 9, 1988, my father and I were duck hunting on a slough just northwest of Lake Swenoda in Chippewa Falls Township, Pope County. The weather was partly cloudy with light north winds, and it was about 9:30 a.m. when my father noticed a large brown bird flying from the north about ten feet over the water. He called my attention to it, and through my Nikon 10x35 binoculars I immediately recognized the bird as a Long-Billed Curlew. Since the sun was at my back I had an unmistakable look at the very long decurved bill, large size, brownish buff body with cinnamon colored wing linings and unstriped head. This bird flapped rapidly and steadily in typical shorebird flight about 100 feet away from me, and was in view for about 30 seconds before it disappeared from view behind some trees at the south end of the slough. Having seen Long-billed Curlews in Texas earlier this year, I was pleased to now have seen this bird in Minnesota, where it is considered only an accidental species. *Birds in Minnesota* by Janssen also indicate that this is only the third fall record for the state. **Don Kienholz, 1660 Martin Rd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**TWO RED-THROATED LOONS ON LAKE SUPERIOR** — Friday morning, May 27, was sunny and calm as I was birding at Park Point in Duluth. I had met Karol and Jerry Gresser and the three of us were scanning Lake Superior when I saw a loon come up from a dive. I got the bird in my 30X Nikon scope in time to see a pale silver-gray head and neck and a slim upturned bill before the loon dove again. When it resurfaced the three of us all saw it well: a near breeding plumaged Red-throated Loon. The loon was swimming towards downtown Duluth, and we drove in its direction to get a closer look. We relocated it and again noted the upturned bill, snakelike neck and head with a smooth, low forehead profile. The loon now began swimming back towards the Recreation Area, so we drove back to where we were originally. Here we then found two Red-throated Loons in near breeding plumage. In addition to the marks seen earlier, we saw they had dark backs with small speckles scattered on the back, and there were no large white patches on the backs of either bird. We also saw that one of the loons had several small reddish patches on the throat where new feathers were molting in, but we did not notice any dark vertical lines on the back of the neck of either loon. We observed these two loons for 20 minutes or so at a distance of about 200 feet. This was a new Minnesota bird for all three of us and a life bird for me. Red-throated Loons had also been reported in Duluth on May 23 at Brighton Beach and at Hearing Island, perhaps the same individuals we saw on the 27th. **Don Kienholz, 1660 Martin Rd., Duluth, MN 55803.**

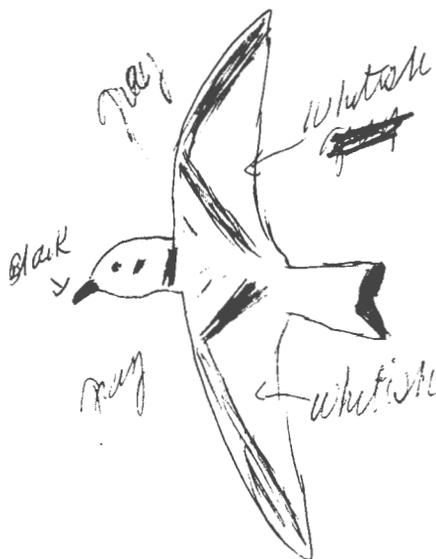
**KENTUCKY WARBLER SPECIMEN** — On 21 May 1988, I backed my truck up near the back door of Brown Hall on the St. Cloud State University Campus, Stearns County, to take some things into my office. There is a two-story, glass enclosed walkway between Brown Hall and the Mathematics and Science Building across the street. As I started to lower the tailgate, under this walkway I noticed a small dead bird lying on the concrete. With the aid of a field guide, I decided it was a Kentucky Warbler but further reading about the rarity of this species in Minnesota made it seem unlikely. However, the identification was later confirmed by Dr. Al Grewe, Professor of Ornithology at St. Cloud State University. The specimen will be mounted for the SCSU Museum. **Max Partch, 1409 N. Easy Street Way, Payson, AZ 85541.**

**AN UNUSUALLY PLUMAGED BONAPARTE'S GULL** — On 30 September 1988, Don Kienholz and I saw what I would describe as a partial albino Bonaparte's Gull at Ball Club Lake, Itasca County. The gull was feeding and flying back and forth low over the lake with another Bonaparte's Gull, and both were the same size and shape. Both were adults in winter plumage: white head with black spot behind the eye, white underparts, white tail with no black trailing edge, plain gray back, red legs and black bill. In addition, the normal Bonaparte's had the adult pattern of white triangles on the outer primaries and their coverts, with the rest of the wings plain gray like the back except for a narrow dark trailing edge on the primaries. However, the other gull's outer halves of each wing were entirely white, including all the primaries and primary coverts; on a normal Bonaparte's the inner primaries and their coverts are gray. These white areas were symmetrical, with the white extending a bit towards the body on the leading edges of the wings in the carpal area, as on a normal Bonaparte's. The wings also lacked the narrow black trailing edges of the primaries. This is the first time I have ever seen a gull of any species with full or partial albinism, nor do I recall any previous reports of such a gull in Minnesota. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT IN AITKIN COUNTY** — Having driven to Aitkin County early in the day to look for a Lark Bunting, I was surprised when I heard a Sprague's Pipit give its descending call three times. It was before 7 AM on 26 June 1988. I waited for it to call again before continuing my search for the bunting. An hour later, I ran into Paul Kubic, who was also looking for the bunting. I told him what I had heard. We continued looking for the Lark Bunting until conversation was interrupted with "listen." The Sprague's Pipit was high over a nearby stubble field singing repeatedly. We walked out into the field to try to be directly under it while it was singing. We flushed a pipit which flew parallel to the ground for a short distance, at which time we could see the nondescript buff color of the bird. It continued its floppy style of flight up and up, way out of sight of 8 power binoculars. The pipit called several more times during a 30 to 45 minute interval as we searched in vain for the Lark Bunting. **Gary N. Swanson, Rt. 3, Box 166D, Buffalo, MN 55313.**

**Editors Note:** This same area was checked by a number of observers on 27 and 28 June, but the Sprague's Pipit was not seen or heard again.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT HASTINGS** — About 1:15 PM on Tuesday, 8 November 1988, I had driven down to the Mississippi River in Hastings just to look over the gulls and/or ducks. As I was driving east on the Dam Road, just west of the bridge, I pulled off on the shoulder to look at about a half dozen gulls that were circling just off shore. As I was looking at them through my binoculars, a bird with a black collar and black spot behind the eye passed into my view. I picked it up again in my binoculars and again saw the above mentioned field marks on the head plus a definite dark wing pattern in the shape of a "W" across the back of the upper wings. I watched the bird for about 5 minutes,



#### Sketch of Black-legged Kittiwake by Joanne Dempsey.

after consulting *Birds of North America* (Golden) to confirm my suspicions that it was a Black-legged Kittiwake. I then left the area and picked up Tammy Field. We returned to the river and could not find the bird where I had previously found it, so we drove down to the lock and dam and found the bird flying over the river there. After we observed the bird for about 15 minutes, we decided to telephone a few other birders about the sighting. Following are the field marks I observed:

Size: slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gull.

Head: white with a partial black collar on the nape and a black spot behind the eye; the bill was black and smaller than a gull's (it looked more pointed).

Tail: indented in a slight fork shape with a terminal black band that was triangular in shape.

Wings: light pearly gray mantle with a black "W" zigzag mark across the wings, or like a wide "V" on each wing across the middle, forming large white triangles on the trailing edges of the wings. The wing beats were faster than the other gulls in the area. The underside of the wings were black tipped.

The bird never landed but continually flew up and down the river. We observed the bird for at least an hour off and on with binoculars and a spotting scope. Most of the time we could pick it out from the other gulls without the aid of binoculars.

We last saw the bird about 2:45 PM near the dam.

Incidentally, even though the bird is a "Black-legged" Kittiwake, we never really got a good look at its legs. They seemed to be tucked up under the feathers. A dark smudge in the area of where the legs should be was observed momentarily a few times.

**Joanne Dempsey, 1017 W. 14th St., Hastings, MN 55033.**

**CAROLINA WREN IN ANOKA COUNTY** — On the morning of 29 October 1988 I saw a Carolina Wren in Coon Rapids in an area off 93rd Avenue near the Mississippi River. The sky was clear and the temperature was below freezing. I had three unsatisfactory glances at a wren that I thought to be a Carolina Wren. As I was leaving the area, I encountered the wren among a flock of chickadees, juncos and nuthatches. I pushed in the wren to within fifteen feet, and with my 7x35 binoculars noted the rufous back, white eyeline, white throat

and rusty-buff underparts of a Carolina Wren. I returned on 30 October and saw the wren again. On 2 November several other observers saw the bird. **Gregory Pietila, 11830 Juniper St., Coon Rapids, MN 55433.**

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY** of the United States (HSUS) is working very hard to end the suffering inflicted on wild birds by the international pet trade. Millions of birds die every year due to brutal and inhumane capture and transport methods. For every bird sold in a pet store in the U.S., experts have estimated that 5-10 have died along the way. HSUS believes that the pet trade is a significant threat to many wild bird populations. HSUS has a new color brochure available about the wild bird trade; write for a free copy to The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037. The HSUS has a new display booth and accompanying slide show on the pet trade in exotic wild birds; it was exhibited at the San Francisco AOU meeting. It is available for interested institutions; write to the address given above.

**DO BIRDS FLY INTO YOUR LARGE PICTURE WINDOWS?** — Miriam Moses of Goulds, FL, has solved this problem by tacking plastic screening on her roof overhang and allowing it to hang down in front of her windows. She can still see through the screen and birds no longer strike the windows.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**, an organization of waterfowl hunters which funds the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station, has formed the National Vountary Duck Hunting Restraint Program for hunters willing to forego a limit of ducks or to stop duck hunting temporarily to insure that the breeding stock is not reduced further. To join the program or for more information write the Foundation at 102 Wilmot Road, Suite 410, Deerfield, IL 60015.

## THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

Another eight members were added to the 300 Club during 1988: Mary Enley, Joan Fowler, Kathy Heidel, Jay Hamernick, Bill Penning, Dick Sandve, Dave Sovereign and Tom Tustison. We now have 63 members in the club with 300 or more species seen in the state.

1988 was a tough year. There just didn't seem to be as many unusual species around as there were in 1987. Ray Glassel is the club leader this year with 368 species. This is the same number he had last year, he added the King Eider, but lost the Mountain Plover (see page 146 of this issue). I couldn't keep pace with Ray because I didn't add a bird to my Minnesota list in 1988, a first for me since 1968. I too, lost the Mountain Plover.

Honors for adding the most species goes to Don Kienholz of Duluth; he added 17 species to his list, a great job.

In late 1989 we will be supplying a computerized form for reporting your totals.

The totals given below are those reported as of December 5, 1988. Good birding in 1989!

**Bob Janssen**

Glassel, Ray	368	Savaloja, Terry	360
Janssen, Bob	367	Pieper, Bill	359
Eckert, Kim	366	Blanich, Jo	354
Ruhme Dick	360	Egeland, Paul	354

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Litkey, Bill	353	Campbell, Doug	318
Bolduc, Don	352	LaFond, Ken	318
Campbell, Liz	352	Bonkoski, Jerry	317
Gresser, Karol	346	Ekblad, Steve	317
Green, Jan	343	Basford, Phyllis	315
Johnson, Oscar	343	Jiracek, Wally	315
Millard, Steve	343	Campbell, Betty	314
Bolduc, Al	342	Field, Tammy	314
Huber, Harding	341	Kyllingstad, Henry	314
Nelson, Warren	340	Penning, Bill	312
Wachtler, Dick	339	Hendrickson, Mike	311
Wachtler, Gloria	339	Hiemenz, Nestor	311
Gresser, Jerry	338	Pearson, Leata	311
Huber, Ron	337	Dempsey, Joanne	308
Peterson, Jon	337	Haner, Ilene	306
McKenzie, Ann	336	Sovereign, Dave	305
Stanley, Evelyn	336	Sparrow, Judith	305
Camburn, Keith	332	Hamernick, Jay	304
Swanson, Gary	331	Sandve, Dick	304
Kienholz, Don	330	Joan Fowler	303
Plunkett, Anne Marie	329	Lender, Vi	303
Mulligan, Mike	327	McKenzie, Elaine	303
Millard, Diane	325	Tustison, Tom	302
Backstrom, Parker	324	Enley, Mary	301
Nubel, Frances	322	Heidel, Kathy	301
Andberg, Ruth	320	Herz, Jo	301
Bratlie, Byron	320	Stensaas, Mark	300
Ekblad, Bob	320		

## The MINNESOTA 200 COUNTY CLUB

There is only one county out of the 87 in the state that does not have an observer with 200 or more species. Can you guess which county it is? Ken LaFond and Ray Glassel are still the most active county listers in the state along with Anne Marie Plunkett and myself.

The figure given after the county name is the composite number of species seen by all observers. As you can see, St. Louis County has the highest species count at 343.

In the late fall of 1989, each of you who have previously reported county list totals will automatically receive a computerized form for use in reporting your county totals and new species added to your county list. This will help us in compiling the data for all 87 counties.

The totals given below are those that I received as of December 5, 1988. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. Oh yes, I almost forgot, the last county needing an observer with 200 species is Nobles. Must not be a county lister in Worthington!

**Bob Janssen**

County	Number of	County	Number of
Observer	Species	Observer	Species
Aitkin	292	LaFond, Ken	214
Nelson, Warren	261	Pieper, Bill	212
Blanich, Jo	255	Eckert, Kim	206
Savaloja, Terry	255	Anoka	294
Glassel, Ray	234	LaFond, Ken	275
Janssen, Bob	228	Glassel, Ray	243

County	Number of Observer	Species
Carlson, Steve	233	
Andberg, Ruth	224	
Pieper, Bill	221	
Janssen, Bob	219	
Rengstorf, Dick	202	
<b>Becker</b>	267	
Glassel, Ray	206	
LaFond, Ken	205	
Janssen, Bob	203	
<b>Beltrami</b>	275	
Palmer, Jeffrey	226	
Glassel, Ray	219	
LaFond, Ken	211	
Bolduc, Al	209	
Janssen, Bob	200	
<b>Benton</b>	241	
LaFond, Ken	211	
Glassel, Ray	211	
Janssen, Bob	207	
<b>Big Stone</b>	258	
Buer, Micki	232	
Glassel, Ray	212	
LaFond, Ken	206	
Janssen, Bob	201	
<b>Blue Earth</b>	267	
Frydendall, Merrill	235	
Glassel, Ray	215	
Frentz, John	205	
Janssen, Bob	200	
<b>Brown</b>	250	
Glassel, Ray	221	
Janssen, Bob	201	
LaFond, Ken	201	
<b>Carlton</b>	248	
LaFond, Ken	226	
Glassel, Ray	205	
<b>Carver</b>	256	
Glassel, Ray	221	
Heidel, Kathy	218	
Janssen, Bob	207	
LaFond, Ken	201	
<b>Cass</b>	267	
Glassel, Ray	209	
LaFond, Ken	203	
<b>Chippewa</b>	239	
Glassel, Ray	225	
Buer, Micki	212	
LaFond, Ken	202	
<b>Chisago</b>	253	
Glassel, Ray	226	
LaFond, Ken	218	
Janssen, Bob	201	
<b>Clay</b>	281	
Falk, Carol	239	
Falk, Laurence	238	
Glassel, Ray	216	
LaFond, Ken	211	
Janssen, Bob	203	

County	Number of Observer	Species
<b>Clearwater</b>	268	
Bolduc, Al	243	
Glassel, Ray	214	
LaFond, Ken	210	
<b>Cook</b>	293	
Hoffman, Molly	261	
Hoffman, Ken	261	
Eckert, Kim	227	
Janssen, Bob	216	
Glassel, Ray	214	
Popp, Walt	210	
LaFond, Ken	203	
<b>Cottonwood</b>	260	
Duerksen, Ed	249	
Feil, Buddy	231	
Glassel, Ray	208	
Bonkoski, Jerry	202	
<b>Crow Wing</b>	272	
Blanich, Jo	242	
Savaloja, Terry	233	
Glassel, Ray	218	
Janssen, Bob	211	
LaFond, Ken	211	
Nelson, Warren	211	
<b>Dakota</b>	289	
Glassel, Ray	270	
Dempsey, Joanne	257	
Tustison, Tom	250	
Gresser, Karol	245	
Janssen, Bob	244	
Bolduc, Al	217	
Peterson, Jon	213	
LaFond, Ken	212	
McKenzie, Ann	211	
<b>Dodge</b>	227	
Glassel, Ray	214	
Plunkett, Anne Marie	209	
Bonkoski, Jerry	204	
Janssen, Bob	200	
LaFond, Ken	200	
<b>Douglas</b>	238	
LaFond, Ken	203	
Glassel, Ray	202	
<b>Faribault</b>	232	
Glassel, Ray	202	
<b>Fillmore</b>	252	
Plunkett, Anne Marie	235	
Glassel, Ray	214	
LaFond, Ken	202	
Janssen, Bob	200	
<b>Freeborn</b>	260	
Glassel, Ray	218	
Flugum, Charles	213	
Janssen, Bob	202	
LaFond, Ken	201	
<b>Goodhue</b>	282	
Litkey, Bill	243	
Glassel, Ray	242	
Janssen, Bob	234	
Pieper, Bill	221	

County Observer	Number of Species	County Observer	Number of Species
Dempsey, Joanne	215	Glassel, Ray	222
LaFond, Ken	200	Janssen, Bob	222
<b>Grant</b>	255	Egeland, Paul	216
Eckert, Kim	218	Eckert, Kim	212
Glassel, Ray	211	Litkey, Bill	210
Janssen, Bob	205	LaFond, Ken	204
LaFond, Ken	200	Bolduc, Al	203
<b>Hennepin</b>	328	<b>Lake</b>	274
Janssen, Bob	291	Wilson, Steve	224
Glassel, Ray	290	Shedd, Mary	217
Johnson, Oscar	290	Green, Jan	215
Carlson, Steve	275	Glassel, Ray	208
Joul, Alvina	267	LaFond, Ken	208
Bolduc, Al	256	<b>Lake of the Woods</b>	256
Lender, Vi	254	Glassel, Ray	212
Pieper, Bill	251	Eckert, Kim	210
Bolduc, Don	247	Janssen, Bob	207
Swanson, Gary	241	LaFond, Ken	201
Gresser, Karol	234	<b>LeSueur</b>	254
Egeland, Paul	226	Glassel, Ray	228
Soulen, Tom	219	Chamberlin, Horace	205
Horn, Charles	214	Janssen, Bob	200
LaFond, Ken	213	<b>Lincoln</b>	238
Litkey, Bill	206	Glassel, Ray	206
Anderson, Renner	204	<b>Lyon</b>	281
Rengstorf, Dick	201	Kyllingstad, Henry	262
<b>Houston</b>	259	Egeland, Paul	255
Leshner, Fred	223	Glassel, Ray	221
Peterson, Jon	211	Janssen, Bob	204
Glassel, Ray	209	<b>Mahnomen</b>	244
Janssen, Bob	205	Glassel, Ray	203
McKenzie, Ann	205	<b>Marshall</b>	293
LaFond, Ken	200	Steva, Shelly	230
<b>Hubbard</b>	253	Eckert, Kim	216
Glassel, Ray	204	Glassel, Ray	209
LaFond, Ken	201	LaFond, Ken	202
<b>Isanti</b>	250	<b>Martin</b>	258
LaFond, Ken	223	Brekke-Kramer, Ed	223
Glassel, Ray	216	Glassel, Ray	209
<b>Itasca</b>	253	LaFond, Ken	201
Lamey, Tim	203	<b>McLeod</b>	245
LaFond, Ken	201	Glassel, Ray	209
<b>Jackson</b>	263	LaFond, Ken	201
Glassel, Ray	202	Janssen, Bob	200
<b>Kanabec</b>	234	<b>Meeker</b>	240
LaFond, Ken	214	Glassel, Ray	212
Glassel, Ray	209	LaFond, Ken	207
<b>Kandiyohi</b>	252	Janssen, Bob	200
Glassel, Ray	215	<b>Mille Lacs</b>	267
LaFond, Ken	209	LaFond, Ken	221
Janssen, Bob	205	Glassel, Ray	215
<b>Kittson</b>	249	Janssen, Bob	211
LaFond, Ken	212	<b>Morrison</b>	255
Glassel, Ray	201	Ryan, Pete	216
<b>Koochiching</b>	236	Glassel, Ray	214
LaFond, Ken	217	LaFond, Ken	213
<b>LacQuiParle</b>	293	<b>Mower</b>	261
Buer, Micki	253	Kneeskern, Ron	244
Buer, Chuck	241	Kneeskern, Rose	234

County	Observer	Number of Species
	Smaby, Richard	224
	Jessen, Bob	210
	Glassel, Ray	209
	Plunkett, Anne Marie	205
	Morrison, John	203
	LaFond, Ken	201
<b>Murray</b>		241
	Glassel, Ray	206
<b>Nicollet</b>		264
	Frentz, John	234
	Frydendall, Merrill	233
	Glassel, Ray	228
	Janssen, Bob	212
	LaFond, Ken	202
<b>Nobles</b>		233
<b>Norman</b>		236
	LaFond, Ken	202
	Glassel, Ray	200
<b>Olmsted</b>		284
	Plunkett, Anne Marie	267
	Bonkoski, Jerry	266
	Ekblad, Bob	257
	Ekblad, Steve	248
	Fowler, Joan	244
	Pruett, Jerry	230
	Glassel, Ray	222
	Dunette, Joel	221
	Herring, Vince	221
	Lindquist, Phyllis	213
	Lindquist, Ted	213
	Pederson, Paul	208
	Janssen, Bob	205
	LaFond, Ken	205
	McKenzie, Ann	203
	Peterson, Jon	203
<b>Otter Tail</b>		294
	Millard, Steve	261
	LaFond, Ken	215
	Eckert, Kim	204
	Glassel, Ray	203
	Janssen, Bob	200
<b>Pennington</b>		247
	Steva, Shelly	226
	Steva, Keith	211
	Glassel, Ray	206
<b>Pine</b>		261
	LaFond, Ken	230
	Glassel, Ray	221
	Link, Mike	209
	Janssen, Bob	208
<b>Pipestone</b>		252
	Eckert, Kim	201
<b>Polk</b>		265
	Lambeth, David	225
	Bolduc, Al	221
	Glassel, Ray	211
	Steva, Shelly	211
	Janssen, Bob	209

County	Observer	Number of Species
	Lambeth, Sharon	206
	LaFond, Ken	203
<b>Pope</b>		239
	Janssen, Bob	208
	Glassel, Ray	207
	LaFond, Ken	200
<b>Ramsey</b>		292
	Campbell, Liz	251
	Glassel, Ray	251
	Litkey, Bill	248
	Soulen, Tom	236
	Janssen, Bob	234
	Pieper, Bill	224
	LaFond, Ken	217
	Holtz, Bob	212
	Fitzpatrick, John	209
	Rengstorf, Dick	209
	McKenzie, Ann	201
<b>Red Lake</b>		227
	Glassel, Ray	204
	Janssen, Bob	202
<b>Redwood</b>		234
	Glassel, Ray	207
	Janssen, Bob	202
	LaFond, Ken	200
<b>Renville</b>		247
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**Henslow's Sparrow, 9 July 1988, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.**

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

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

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