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LOON

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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, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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Ivory Gull Visits Grand Marais

Peder Svingen, Sue Barton and Lee Rogers

Within minutes of our arrival in Grand Marais, Cook County on 14 January 1990, our attention was immediately drawn to a white gull that was circling over the harbor near the Coast Guard station. From our vantage point approximately 200 yards away, the bird appeared all white except for the face. The languid flight, relatively long-winged appearance compared with the apparent small body size, as well as the small bill which appeared all dark at this distance immediately ruled out Glaucous Gull. We realized that a pale Iceland/Thayer's Gull or Ivory Gull was possible. We hurried to the east side of the harbor and initially found nothing! While two of us were searching Artist's Point and the open water near the Coast Guard Station, the bird was relocated by Sue Barton and identified as an Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) in Basic I (first-winter) plumage.

The description was dictated into a tape recorder and a sketch was made while the

bird was under direct observation. No field guides or other references were consulted until the documentation was complete. The initial observation was made from approximately 200 yards, looking northwest with the sun over the observers' left shoulders at 1215 under mostly clear skies with scattered thin cirrus clouds. We moved to the north shore of the harbor and alerted Walter Popp at 1235. The bird was under continuous observation for the next hour as it stood at the edge of the ice in the harbor, approximately 100 yards to the southwest of our position. The description and sketch were completed from this vantage point. Birders from Duluth were also notified and the news spread quickly. Unfortunately, a Herring Gull plopped down next to the Ivory Gull at about 1330. The Ivory Gull took flight and flew directly out of the harbor, turned to the east, and could not be relocated.

The estimated size of the bird was similar



Ivory Gull

14 January 1990

Peder Svingen

to a small Ring-billed Gull although only Herring Gulls were present for direct comparison. The plumage was entirely white except for the face, tail, primary extension, and three neat rows of black dots on the wing coverts. The rows of dots were near the tips of the greater, median, and lesser wing coverts respectively and approximately paralleled one another. The primary extension was 1 to 1½ bill lengths beyond the length of the tail. Large black marks were arranged along the primary extension and became progressively blacker towards the wing tips. The primary marks were shaped like rounded chevrons. These marks were equally spaced but it was not possible to discern whether they were subterminal marks or the actual tip of each primary. There was a thin, dark tail band on the tips of the rectrices. When the bird took flight, we ran towards Artist's Point with our cameras but got neither photos nor a description of the plumage in flight.

The head was round in shape, relatively small, and with a plump body, it had a pigeon-like appearance. There were a very few dark dots behind the eye and dark smudges on the forehead. The overall extent of dark feathering on the face was diminished compared to the Ivory Gull in similar plumage seen by two of us at Cedar Lake, Wisconsin on 10

January 1989. A whitish area separated the minimal amount of dark feathering near the dark eye from the rest of the dark facial feathering. The bill was relatively straight and small for a gull, with a yellowish tip barely visible under certain light conditions. The bill color was otherwise dark gray and the length approximated the distance from the base of the bill to just behind the eye. The legs and feet were black.

The identification of Ivory Gull in all plumages is relatively straightforward, especially if the bare parts are seen well and structure is used to avoid confusion with other gulls that may be leucistic or albinistic (Grant 1986). The most recent of the approximately nine previous records for this accidental species in Minnesota was 15 January 1978 in Duluth (*The Loon* 50:49). **151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 (Svingen and Barton) and 2551 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson, AZ 85745 (Rogers).**

REFERENCES:

- Grant, P.J. 1986. Gulls: A Guide to Identification, 2nd edition, p. 138-140. Calton: T&AD Poyser.
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Birders, Computers and MOU

William H. Carlson

"BIRDERS" and "MOU" in the title of this article go hand-in-hand, but "COMPUTERS!" Work is in process to computerize much of the record keeping of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU). This computerization is an important and needed step to preserve the records and use of the data they contain meaningfully.

This article is a discussion of the MOU records computerization, bird listing using personal computers, bird listing programs and the benefits this has for MOU members and birders in general. Hopefully there is something below for everyone — computer expert,

computer neophyte and all shades of gray between.

1. MOU Records

Birders vary greatly in the types and content of records they keep regarding their birding experiences. Birding organizations, such as the MOU, however must keep some birding records for the geographical area they are responsible for or interested in. Minnesota is fortunate in having a master record keeper, Bob Janssen, maintaining the MOU records. Bob's meticulous records that span some 40 years of Minnesota birding, plus the records

of countless others during and before his time of service make up many volumes of paper documentation. Most of this information is a candidate for computerization, but it was decided to start with just one portion — county records.

1.1 State Records

The MOU keeps an official state bird list. Changes to this list are under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC). This list by itself is probably not a candidate for computerization as the amount of data is too small to warrant the effort. It could still be generated from the extensive species data also maintained by MOU (see species records below). The State List does include a coding technique that suggests the frequency of observation of the species and its nesting status in the state.

1.2 County Records

Each of the 87 counties in the State of Minnesota has two lists maintained for it. One list contains the species observed in the county and the other is for species nesting. The records include species seen and nested since the late nineteenth century and includes birds that are now extinct. The observed list has been entered into a computer data base.

With this now available in an automated form, some interesting outputs can immediately be developed, such as maps of distribution within the state for each species. Additional information also can be added, such as frequency and dates of occurrence that would allow the future development of areas-of-the-state maps and time-of-occurrence maps. These records could be maintained yearly and would provide solid information on the yearly variations for species. It also would be exciting to have surrounding states maintain compatible data bases that could give predictions of observations for infrequently found birds.

1.3 Species Records

For each species on the state list (both those officially included in the state list and those that are probable) considerable data is maintained. These data include dates and location of observation (for infrequently seen birds), earliest and latest dates (for migrating species), nesting observations and status, and any unusual observation information. These

data are definitely candidates for computerization and could be supplemented by information that exists in individual birder records. After the species records are computerized the official state list would be an easy output product in a variety of forms — total list (with and without frequency codes), checklists (both state and local), seasonal lists, to name a few.

1.4 300 and 200 Birder Lists

These include the names of those birders who have observed 300 or more species in the state and, for each individual county, 200 or more. It is the responsibility of each birder to maintain his/her individual state and county lists and submit his/her state and county counts to the MOU. It would be very labor intensive to try to keep these individual birder state and county lists at one central location so, at this time, this is not a candidate for computerization by the MOU.

2. Birder Records

What is a birder record? It could be most anything but let's define it as a list of birds and information associated with the observation of those birds on the list. There also may be information regarding where, when, under what conditions and with whom the list of birds was observed (or heard?).

2.1 Types of Birders

There are probably as many types of birders as there are birds, but for this article birders are divided into two categories — "listers" and "non-listers." I *am not* going to try to define "birder." I *am* going to try to define "lister" and "non-lister." A "lister" is a birder who keeps some type of list of birds he has observed and this list is either updated by later observations or is kept with similar lists for some period. A lister does not have to be good at it, just interested in keeping a list.

A "non-lister," however, lacks interest in keeping bird lists. He enjoys just the observation and the circumstances of the observation ("listers" enjoy this too). There is some good-natured aloofness by "non-listers" toward "listers" but I have not observed the reverse situation.

2.2 Types of Records

The records kept by birders vary widely both in media and accuracy. I am most in-

terested in trying to differentiate the types of records that appear to have advocates. The following is my classification and I am interested in hearing of additional categories.

2.2.1 Lists

2.2.1.1 Life List

This is of course the most commonly kept list. I doubt that there is a "lister" who doesn't have a life list. By definition each birder has only one life list and it includes the total list of birds seen during the birder's lifetime.

A subset of the life list is the Annual List — a life list for one year.

2.2.1.2 Geographic Lists

These are lists kept by birders for a specific geographical area. The following are some types:

American Birding Association (ABA)

Region Lists

All birds observed in the area defined by the ABA.

Country Lists

For world travelers, all birds observed in a particular country.

State Lists

All birds observed in a state.

County Lists

All birds observed in a county of a state.

Yard Lists

All birds observed in a birder's yard.

Area Lists

All birds observed in a geographic area; for example, southern Minnesota, western U.S., Sherburne Refuge.

Trip Lists

All birds observed on a particular birding trip that is confined to a specific geographic region.

2.2.1.3 Competition Lists

Although all listing has a certain element of competition, there are some for which the competition aspect is more emphasized. These lists also may have a geographic emphasis.

Big Day Lists

All birds observed during a 24 hour period.

Tickers

Lists of birds seen in each state in an at-

tempt to see some percentage (such as 50%) of the birds possible in each state.

2.2.1.4 Count Lists

For lack of a better classification there are some lists that I have included as count lists. These lists may be kept by individuals or by organizations (such as bird clubs). The following come to mind:

Christmas Bird Counts

Migration Counts

Specific location counts

Seasonal lists (example, Hawk Ridge counts)

2.2.2 Information Records

There is a wealth of information being kept by birders that doesn't lend itself to a list. This information is usually oriented to bird species rather than a list of birds. Bird lists can contain some information but it has to be limited in size because of the number of species that may be involved.

The species information could include such things as all dates the species has been seen, numbers seen on these dates, nesting information, unusual anecdotes, possibility information (such as possible sighting), and many other things that have meaning to the recorder.

3. Computerized Records

With the arrival and widespread use of personal computers, many new applications have been developed for them. It is logical to think of any manual record-keeping system as a process implemented on a computer, including birding records. The advantages are many, both to individuals and organizations. For both it provides a convenient, permanent, flexible and common method of keeping and sharing information. The wealth of information regarding birds that exists in individual records may someday soon be partially accessible for computer analysis purposes.

3.1 Types of Computers

The question may be asked: what computer hardware should be used or is required for maintaining bird records? There has been such an explosion of hardware in the personal computer (PC) market that there is no longer a simple answer. The two most popular types of PC's are the IBM compatible lines and those produced by Apple Computer. My personal preference is the IBM compatible be-

cause I am experienced with it and the choices for software, hardware and pricing are better. It should be noted that some software described in this article requires graphic capability but this is not an absolute requirement for record keeping. The author would be glad to assist any MOU member in trying to make a personal computer purchase choice.

3.2 Text vs. Graphics

Text and graphics are handled differently in the PC compatible line of computers. A computer monitor that cannot handle graphics will not run a program that uses graphic displays on the screen. In like manner, if the printer being used does not print in graphics mode it will not react properly if anything other than standard characters are sent to it for printing. The software described in the next section that requires graphic capability is so indicated.

3.3 Types of Software

In talking about what software can be used in bird record keeping, the use desired must be defined. In my mind there are two broad categories of use — keeping of the records, and the analysis and display of the analyzed information.

3.3.1 Record Keeping

The keeping of the records involves the handling of large amounts of textual type of information in an easy-to-use format. The basis of the record keeping is a master list of bird names that gives the user a starting point of reference. Bird listing programs on the market use either the American Ornithologist's Union's (AOU) list or the ABA list. Either list has a taxonomical order and each bird falls in its appropriate position within this order. The two lists are identical in the positioning of birds but differ in total content. It allows bird groupings that provide more convenient accessing and location of a specific bird in a list.

The Latinized genus species name for each bird is not used by most birders leaving the English name as the best choice for referencing a bird in a list. In any list process, sufficient room must be allowed for the largest name possible. Without extensive abbreviation, 34 characters is an optimum size for a

bird name in a list. This is mentioned because it played an important part in a software decision — what to use for processing lists.

There are many categories of software that could be used to maintain a bird list. However, only two categories have sufficient capabilities to be serious candidates — Spread Sheets and Data Base Systems. Spread Sheets can be ruled out because of extensive textual (not number) requirements. Text can be used in Spread Sheets but this is not the software's strong point.

Data Base Systems however, are very textually oriented. dBase and its look-alikes have long been the leading PC Data Base software. A commercial Data Base system compatible to the dBase file formats would make an excellent choice for maintaining birding lists. There are several drawbacks, however. These drawbacks are apparent when comparing a commercial data base system to a bird listing program specifically developed for that purpose. Several list types were entered into a dBase compatible data base system and a bird listing specific program. It quickly becomes apparent that (1) the data base program does not have the processing flexibility needed and (2) that its storage requirements for the lists significantly exceeds (by four times) that required by the listing specific program. These results coupled with such things as the ability to define and refine data formats easily, function expansibility, and software cost solidified my personal decision that a uniquely developed software package is the only way to handle bird records on a PC.

3.3.2 Data Analysis and Display

Data analysis and display, however is a totally different situation. Some analysis processes can be done in listing programs and display can be made as printouts. Statistical analysis and mapping display, however, requires the use of packages that already exist in the PC software market. The important thing is the format of the data and file structure used by the listing program. By keeping these general in nature, most of the existing analysis and display programs can import the list and record information, process it and produce the output desired. For example, the county lists produced for Minnesota can be imported into a mapping program and produce nicely labeled species distribution maps.

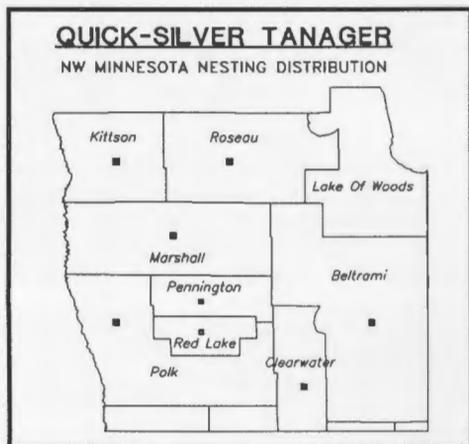


An example of a map is shown here (for a fictional species).

One of these maps can be produced for each species found in the state. The software used for producing these maps is one of those referred to as graphical in nature. The output also requires more than a simple printer to produce professional looking displays (plotter or laser printer needed).

The map also may be reduced in area to provide a specific geographic display.

In this example a portion of the above state map was reduced to produce a northwest Minnesota Distribution Map.



Similar maps could be produced for any state in the United States. Also, maps of only one county can be produced. The software used in producing these maps has considerable flexibility and has an easy-to-use process

for incorporating outside data to be used in the map content production.

4. Bird Listing Programs

There are probably a half dozen or more bird listing programs being advertised today in the various birding periodicals. I have not personally tried all of them, but I do have opinions on the qualities such a program should have.

4.1 General Format Considerations

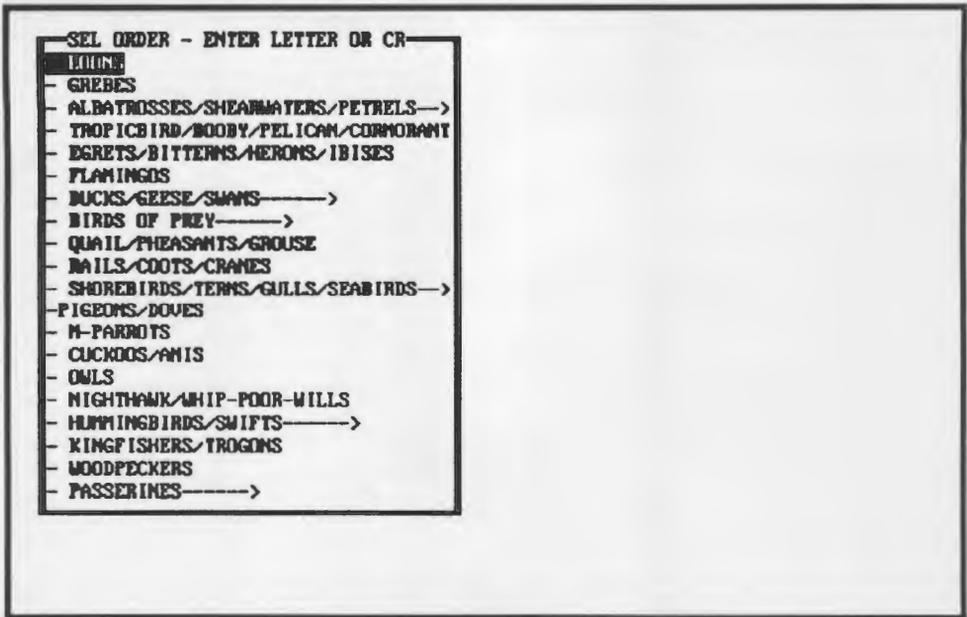
The program should use either the AOU or ABA master lists as the basis for its list of birds. This list should be easily accessible with a minimum of character entry. The actions desired should be intuitive from what is displayed on the screen. An example is shown on page 9.

The entry process, based on this example, would require moving to the order grouping desired (and pressing "Enter") or typing a highlighted letter. In either case the first screenful full of bird names included in the order grouping is displayed. Thus only one character had to be entered to select the bird grouping that contained the bird(s) desired.

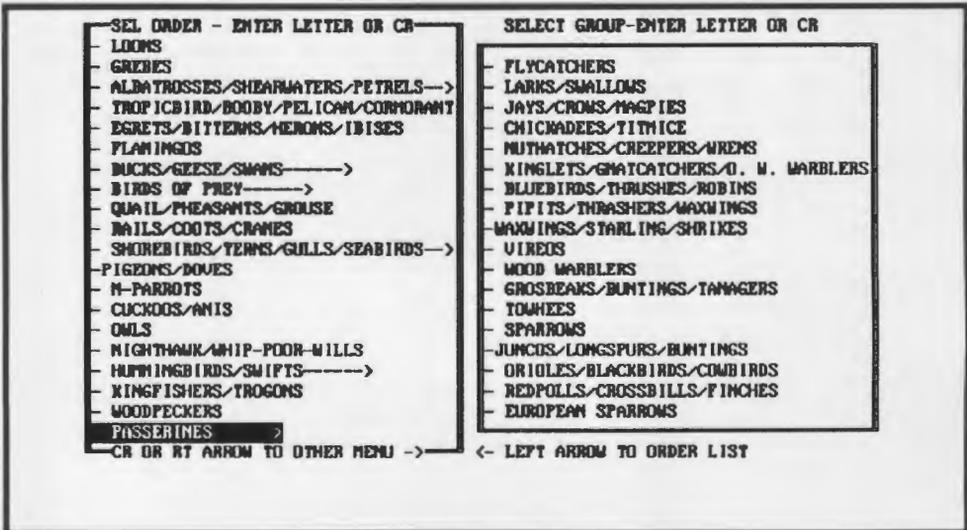
There may not be sufficient display size on the screen to show a good grouping breakdown, so for some larger groups (Orders) it may be necessary to provide an additional selection menu. For example, for the Passerines the additional menu screen with the Order Menu might appear as shown on page 9. Here the number of characters to select a bird grouping is two — the first selects the Order and the second selects the grouping within the Order.

These menu screens provide the starting point for a display of bird names. The next example, on page 10, is a display after selecting a bird grouping from the additional menu for the Passerines.

In this example, (see page 10) information for the individual species would now be entered. From this data-entry, screen options should be provided to allow other screens to be displayed by paging down or up, or by going back to the Order Menu. If information is entered, it should trigger automatic processes to update life lists, count fields and others. These automatic processes would be dependent on the type of list being processed. The data that is entered for a bird should be at the user's option and should allow coding to



Example Order Menu



Passerine Bird Grouping Selection Menu

DAREN J CARLSON ORDER - PASSERINES		STATE - MN	
BIRD NAME	STATE CODE		-DATE- -DATA-
. N. Beardless-Tyrannulet			
* Greenish Elaenia			
* Caribbean Elaenia			
. Olive-sided Flycatcher	R	211.	UUUU09
. Greater Pewee			
. Western Wood-Pewee	RA	212.	UUUU09
. Eastern Wood-Pewee	R	213.	UUUU09
. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R	214.	UUUU09
. Acadian Flycatcher	R	215.	
. Alder Flycatcher	R	216.	UUUU09
. Willow Flycatcher	R	217.	UUUU09
. Least Flycatcher	R	218.	UUUU09
. Hammond's Flycatcher			
. Dusky Flycatcher			
. Gray Flycatcher			
. Western Flycatcher			
. Buff-breasted Flycatcher			
. Black Phoebe	RA	219.	UUUU09

CR-cycle group, PG DN-out of grp, TAB-nxt line, ARROWS-correct, ESC-

Example Bird List Edit/Entry Screen

provide meaningful information, such as codes to show a bird which was heard but not seen, which birders on a trip saw the bird, the numbers seen and other like information. There also should be larger descriptive fields to allow the entry of a date or additional information, whichever is the preference of the birder.

4.2 Types of Lists

All the list types defined in section 2.2.1 are candidates for a listing program. In all of these, the entry process and the selection of where in the list to start should be the same. The program should be flexible in allowing the birder to decide what lists he/she wants and it should put as few restrictions as possible on the number and size of the lists. Besides the basic master list based on the AOU or ABA lists, it is helpful to provide state lists as needed by the user.

Options should be available in the program to save the lists to floppy disks for backup and exchange of data purposes.

4.3 Output and Counting Functions

Several report output and counting functions should be provided. The report outputs should optionally include all birds in the reference list (Master or State) or just the birds

seen. The output also should have headers between each group (Order) of birds desired. The output should be selectable for the total list or just by Order. On page 11 is an example sheet from a list printout.

The report outputs could provide flexibility in formats and include things such as checklists (state or county or national).

Counting for lists should be provided on the screen and on the listing printed outputs. The counting process should provide flexibility in the specifications about what should be included in the count. This counting specification (including that provided for the printed reports) should be easily selected and provide default conditions for the most commonly used options.

4.4 File Formats

An extremely important consideration is the format of the data as stored in the computer. The format must not be proprietary in nature but must be a standard format that would allow the data to be used by other programs. This would allow for the information to be exchanged with other birders and organizations and the use of commercially available programs for the analysis of the data.

MOU RECORDS

ANOKA

BIRD NAME	MN CODE	-DATA/ DATE--
. Red-throated Loon	R	1. X
. Common Loon	R	2. XGJ
. Pied-billed Grebe	R	3. XGJ
. Horned Grebe	R	4. XGJ
. Red-necked Grebe	R	5. XGJ
. Eared Grebe	R	6. X
. Western Grebe	R	7. X
. American White Pelican	R	8. XGJ
. Double-crested Cormorant	R	9. XGJ
. American Bittern	R	10. XGJ
. Least Bittern	R	11. XGJ
. Great Blue Heron	R	12. XGJ
. Great Egret	R	13. XGJ
. Snowy Egret	R	14. X
. Little Blue Heron	R	15. X
. Cattle Egret	R	16. X
. Green-backed Heron	R	17. XGJ
. Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	18. XGJ
. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	R	19. X
. Tundra Swan	R	20. XGJ
. Greater White-fronted Goose	R	21. X
. Snow Goose	R	22. XG
. Canada Goose	R	23. XGJ
. Wood Duck	R	24. XGJ
. Green-winged Teal	R	25. XGJ
. American Black Duck	R	26. XGJ
. Mallard	R	27. XGJ
. Northern Pintail	R	28. XGJ
. Blue-winged Teal	R	29. XGJ
. Cinnamon Teal	R	30. X
. Northern Shoveler	R	31. XGJ
. Gadwall	R	32. XGJ
. Eurasian Wigeon	Aa	33. X
. American Wigeon	R	34. XGJ
. Canvasback	R	35. XGJ
. Redhead	R	36. XGJ
. Ring-necked Duck	R	37. XGJ
. Greater Scaup	R	38. XGJ
. Lesser Scaup	R	39. XGJ
. Oldsquaw	R	40. X
. Black Scoter	R	41. X
. White-winged Scoter	R	42. XGJ
. Common Goldeneye	R	43. XGJ
. Bufflehead	R	44. XGJ
. Hooded Merganser	R	45. XGJ
. Common Merganser	R	46. XGJ
. Red-Breasted Merganser	R	47. XGJ
. Ruddy Duck	R	48. XGJ

5.0 In Summary

I have attempted to provide a brief overview of the use of computers in the personal bird record keeping environment. This environment also includes birding organizations such as the MOU. With the arrival of the personal computer the means are now available to maintain in a much more permanent and useable vehicle the considerable data that

has built up over the years in the records of the birders of the State of Minnesota. This must have a positive effect on the future of record keeping.

5.1 Information

The examples for this article are from a listing program developed by the author. If information is desired regarding this program

or if you need assistance in selecting software or hardware, please contact the author at the address given below. Contact me also if you would like to exchange opinions regarding the use of computers for bird information and lists.

5.2 Acknowledgements and Trademarks

The author wishes to acknowledge the excellent assistance given by Robert B. Janssen

in the review of this article, his philosophy regarding bird lists, the opportunity to review his personal lists and his input on the needs of computerized bird listings.

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

Before listing the records voted on during the last half of 1989, I have summarized a few topics of note that were discussed at our 3 December 1989 meeting, which follow.

—There were a few changes in the membership of the Committee (hereafter, MORC) during 1989; as a result, the seven regular members currently are Steve Carlson, Kim Eckert (Secretary), Bruce Fall, Ray Glassel, Bob Janssen (Chairman), Dick Ruhme and Bud Tordoff; the three alternates are Renner Anderson, Terry Savaloja and Peder Svingen.

—Discussion was held on how to handle Acceptable records of "unidentified" birds; e.g., the 1 October 1988 frigatebird record from Dakota County had been unanimously accepted as *Fregata*, sp. only, but some felt the record should also be Acceptable as a Magnificent (*F. magnificens*). It was decided to discuss and vote on such records only at MORC meetings (such votes would not be taken by mail as is done with other records), that all ten members were eligible to vote, and that a simple majority vote of those present would decide the issue. A vote on the frigatebird record was then taken, and it was accepted as a Magnificent: six voted Acceptable (i.e., although the bird seen could not visually be separated from other frigatebird species, the range of this species along with the pattern of extralimital Magnificent records in other states at the same time as a result of Hurricane Gilbert were strong enough evidence to indicate Magnificent and eliminate other frigatebirds); two voted Unacceptable (i.e., the designation of *Fregata*, sp. was still Acceptable, but that the occurrence of other frigatebirds was still a possibility); two members were absent and did not vote.

—The role of the three alternate MORC members was discussed. In the past they only voted in three cases: when voting in place of a regular member who was one of the observers involved in a record being considered, and thus ineligible to vote; when potential first state records are being considered (to be accepted, such records require a 10-0 vote); and when a "wildness" vote is taken on a bird suspected of being an escape. As described above, alternates would also now vote on records such as the frigatebird, and it was also decided that alternates would have input on records recirculated for a second vote: if the first-round vote total on a record calls for it to be recirculated, the Chairman may, at his discretion, send the record along with the first-round votes to the alternates; the alternates would then comment on the record, and these comments would then be included with the record when it is sent to the seven regular members for a second-round vote; these comments of the alternates, although they do not count as official votes, are then taken into consideration by the seven members as they take a final vote.

—The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck record from Crow Wing County on 1 June 1989 (see *The Loon* 61:143-144) was found to be Unacceptable (i.e., a probable escape) after it was

learned that an individual of this species had escaped from a nearby private collection of exotic waterfowl shortly before the observation.

—The status of the Clark's Grebe in Minnesota was discussed, and it was decided that votes would be taken on the five possible records of this species in the file which MORC had never voted on (see *The Loon* 61:99-108).

* * * * *

The following records were voted on, July-December 1989, and found to be Acceptable:

—Black-necked Stilt, 23-25 April 1989, Roseau River W.M.A., Roseau Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 61:197).

—Least Tern, 12 June 1989, Hastings, Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:140-141).

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 11-26 May 1989, Cerro Gordo Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 61:140).

—Red-throated Loon, 4 May 1989, near Hovland, Cook Co. (vote 6-1).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 28 May 1989, Grand Portage, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:140).

—Sabine's Gull, 12 June 1989, Thielke L., Big Stone Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:149-150).

—California Gull, 10-11 June 1989, Thielke L., Big Stone Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:149).

—Western Wood-Pewee, 22 June 1989, near Kelsey, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:147-148).

—White-eyed Vireo, 7-8 June 1989, Cannon River Wilderness Area, Rice Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:142).

—Pacific Loon, 2-14 June 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:154).

—Red-throated Loon, 28 May 1989, near Paradise Beach, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:152).

—California Gull, 20 August 1989, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:153).

—*Plegadis ibis*, sp., 12 September 1989, Gatzke, Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:201).

—Ross' Goose, 13 October 1989, Cucumber L., Becker Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:205).

—Brant, 9-14 October 1989, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:204).

—Western Tanager, 16 September 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:198-199).

—Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 30 September 1989, Gun Club L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:204).

—Iceland Gull, 19 November 1989, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:207-208).

—Loggerhead Shrike, 26 November 1989, near Racine, Mower Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:58).

—Loggerhead Shrike, 12 November 1989, near L. Byllesby, Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:58).

The following records were voted on, July-December 1989, and found to be Unacceptable:

—Magnificent Frigatebird, 22 September 1988, Itasca State Park, Clearwater Co. (vote 7-3, with 10-0 required for acceptance). Since so many extralimital frigatebirds were seen about this time as a result of Hurricane Gilbert, it was unanimously believed the observers actually saw a frigatebird. However, the description submitted was, unfortunately, too sketchy for everyone to accept. The description only included that it "looked like a kite at first," that it had a "long slender scissor tail," and that it was "entirely black with a red pouch under its all white bill." The details were good enough to convince the majority, but the minority felt a better description was necessary for such an unusual record.

—Long-billed Curlew, 1 May 1989, Heron L., Jackson Co. (vote 1-6). Although it was believed the identification was correct, neither the sketches nor verbal description were complete enough to eliminate Whimbrel since no mention was made of the head pattern or the color of the underwing linings, and the larger-than-Franklin's Gull size described could also fit Whimbrel.

—Western Tanager, 8 August 1989, Cedar Creek Nat. Hist. Area, Anoka Co. (vote 1-6). The brief description only said the bird had a "red head with all yellow belly," but such details do not eliminate a molting male Scarlet Tanager or a first-summer Summer Tanager.

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 19 August 1989, Blaine, Anoka Co. (vote 2-5). This identification of a female Black-headed was based entirely on the “more golden” and only lightly streaked breast. However, juvenile male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can also fit this pattern at this time of year, and the color of the underwing linings (the only diagnostic difference between these two) would have to be noted for such a record to be accepted.

—Pomarine Jaeger, 10 November 1989, Weaver, Wabasha Co. (vote 0-7). This bird was identified as a jaeger because of a slight “bump” on the tip of the center of the tail and the “all-brown” overall color which was thought to be too dark for an immature gull. However, a gull in molt can easily show a bump similar to that described, and a juvenile/first-winter Herring Gull can appear dark brown as described here. Also, even if it were a jaeger, the observer’s subjective impressions of larger size and slower flight do not eliminate Parasitic Jaeger since no direct size comparison was made and since Parasitics can also fly at a slow pace when not in pursuit of prey.

—Clark’s Grebe, 29 April 1989, Big Stone L., Big Stone Co. (vote 2-5). Although the “bright yellow” bill and “considerably paler” flanks were carefully noted in direct comparison with Western Grebes, this grebe had an intermediate facial pattern of the eyes “bisected by the black cap” and “white” lores. Because of this facial pattern, the majority (as well as the observer himself) felt this was enough uncertainty to preclude acceptance as a definite Clark’s Grebe. However, this and other Clark’s Grebe records may be reconsidered in the future as more is learned about this species’ status and identification.

—Eurasian Wigeon, 5 November 1989, L. Vadnais, Ramsey Co. (vote 4-3, with 6-1 required for acceptance). The identification was based on the “dark brown” head, a “cream colored stripe” on the crown, and “no green” visible on the head. However, there was doubt about the record because 1) no rusty coloration was noted on the head; 2) the whitish crown on American Wigeons can often be cream colored; 3) since the green iridescence on the side of the American Wigeon’s head does not always appear green at a distance or in poor light: thus a male wigeon with no green visible on the head can still easily be an American.

—Pomarine Jaeger, 16 September 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 3-4). Although the details were good enough to indicate a jaeger was seen, the features noted were too subjective to positively indicate a Pomarine. This identification was based on the overall size, manner of flight and the amount of white in the wings; however, no direct comparison was available for these field marks to be diagnostic enough to eliminate Parasitic Jaeger. Similar to “Herring Gull in size” and “more prominent” white in the wing both suggest a Pomarine, but too much doubt remains without comparisons. The “slower and less maneuverable” flight described can just as easily fit a Parasitic Jaeger when not in pursuit. **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

Fall Migration of Sandhill Cranes in Northwestern Minnesota, 1988-89

Stephen J. Maxson, Jodie L. Provost and George H. Davis

The Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was once regarded as common in Minnesota south and west of the heavily forested areas (Roberts 1932). However, the rapid settlement of these areas in the late 1800’s in combination with unregulated market and subsistence hunting resulted in a dramatic decrease

in crane numbers (Johnson 1976). By 1900, Sandhill Cranes were considered rare in the state (Swanson 1940). Walkinshaw (1949) estimated that only 10-25 pairs remained in the state in 1944. Since that time, however, cranes have been gradually increasing in numbers once again. In 1985, the breeding popu-

lation in northwestern Minnesota was estimated to be 760 to 1,160 pairs (Tacha and Tacha 1985).

In the fall, Sandhill Cranes gather at staging areas during the first portion of their migration. Staging areas tend to be traditional sites, although their use varies from year to year, probably depending on the local availability of food and roost sites. At this time of year, cranes are usually found feeding in harvested fields of small grain or corn during early to mid-morning, and mid-afternoon to early evening. The flocks roost in shallow wetlands at night and sometimes during mid-day. As fall proceeds, our resident cranes are joined by migrants from Canada.

During the fall of 1988, we conducted surveys at several staging areas. These surveys were expanded in 1989 in an attempt to cover all of the known major staging areas in northwestern Minnesota (Fig. 1). Our objectives were to determine the number of cranes using each site and to document migration chronology.

In 1988, a minimum of 10-12,000 Sandhill Cranes were present at various fall staging areas in northwestern Minnesota. The majority of these birds were no doubt migrants from Canada. During the week of 18-24 September, 3-4,000 cranes were reported in the vicinity of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, (NWR) Marshall County. Substantial numbers of migrants were observed flying over the Baudette area from 23-25 September. These birds were moving out of Canada and likely stopped at Minnesota staging areas, although not in the general vicinity of Baudette where a few thousand staging cranes would normally be present (J. Dittich, pers. comm.). On 29 September, 920 cranes were counted at Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Marshall County. Another 5-6,000 cranes were reported at the Roseau River WMA, Roseau County during 1-2 October. Approximately 1,000 cranes staged at Twistal Swamp on the Twin Lakes WMA, Kittson County. Cranes also staged at several other traditional sites in Kittson County but we were unable to make counts in those areas.

Cranes began leaving these staging areas by late September to early October. Crane numbers began decreasing at Agassiz NWR during the week of 25 September-1 October. Most cranes at Thief Lake WMA also departed during the first week of October. Dur-

ing this period, crane numbers were building at the Dugdale WMA, Polk County from 17 birds on 25 September to a peak of 1,940 cranes on 17 October (Table 1). Some 400 birds remained as of 24 October by which time most small wetlands were frozen. Only a few scattered cranes remained at sites farther north by the last week of October.

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the 1988 migration was the lack of birds near Borup, Norman County. This traditional staging area accommodates peaks of 8-10,000 cranes in some years (Ruhme et al. 1983) and at least several thousand normally (data summarized by Tacha and Tacha 1985). In 1988, crane numbers peaked at 270 birds during 28 September-5 October (Table 1). Possibly the lack of birds was related to the very dry conditions prevailing in the area that year.

The expanded surveys we conducted in 1989 (Table 2) indicated that migration staging areas can be roughly divided into "northern" and "southern" tiers. The northern tier includes Roseau, Kittson, and Marshall Counties where cranes began staging in mid to late August. It is likely that these August birds were Minnesota residents moving into the staging areas from the surrounding countryside. Migrants from Canada probably began arriving in early September although it was not possible to distinguish residents from migrants in the field. Crane numbers peaked during the latter half of September when there was a minimum of 15-17,000 birds present. The largest concentration was at the Roseau River WMA where 8-10,000 cranes were observed on 22-24 September. This is the highest total yet reported for the Roseau River WMA area. Similarly, the 2,424 cranes counted at Twistal Swamp on 19-20 September were more than double the peak numbers reported during 1982 surveys (unpubl. Minnesota DNR files). On the other hand, the peaks of 570 at Thief Lake WMA and 1,740 at Agassiz NWR were down from 1988 levels. As has been the case during the past two years, there was no major staging of cranes reported in the Baudette area. The major exodus of Sandhill Cranes from the northern staging areas (except for Twistal Swamp) seemed to coincide with the opening of the waterfowl seasons, although some cranes began arriving in the southern staging areas before these seasons began.

The southern tier of staging areas is located

in Polk, Norman and Wilkin Counties. Virtually no cranes were present at staging areas until late September (Table 2) suggesting that there are, as yet, few resident cranes in these areas. Peak numbers did not occur until early

October, further suggesting that the birds which stage there have probably staged previously farther north in the state. As in 1988, most cranes were observed in the vicinity of the Dugdale WMA. This year the majority

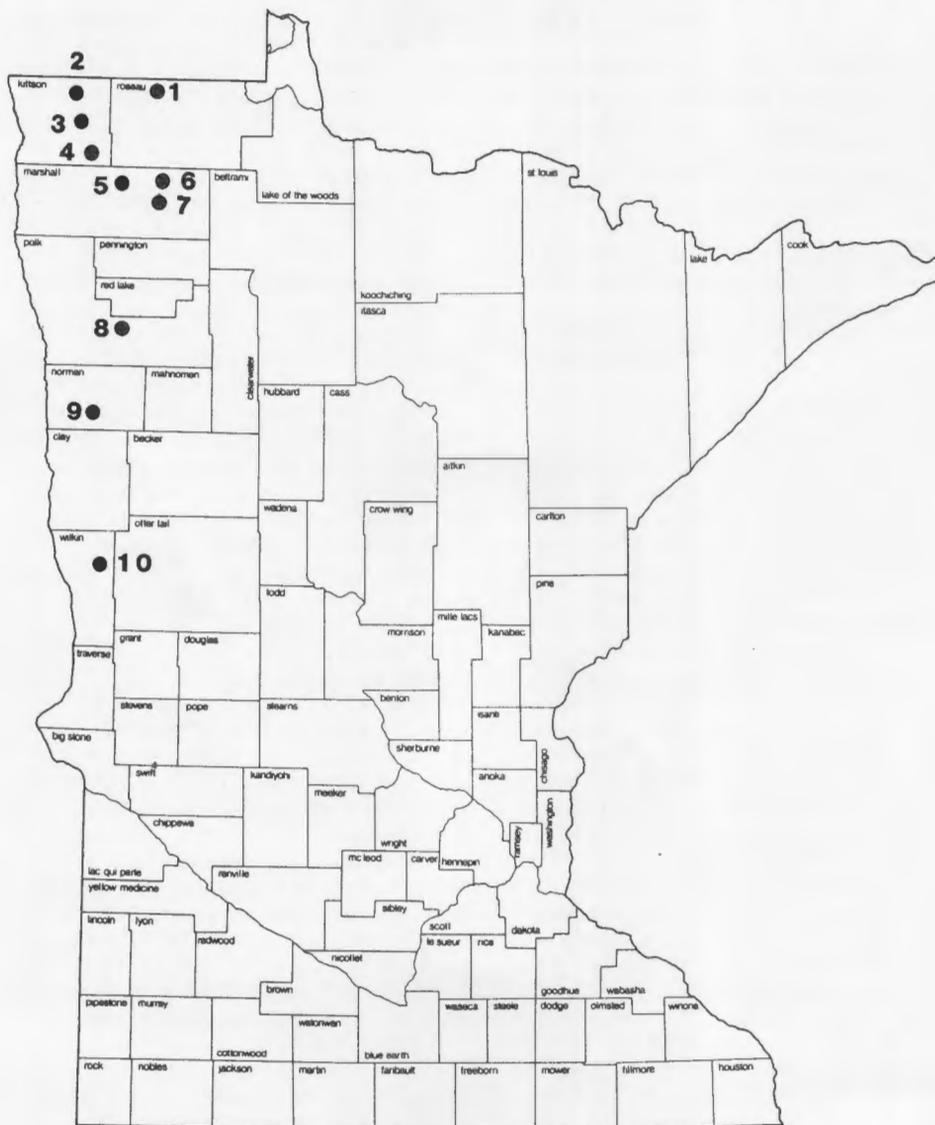


Figure 1. Major Sandhill Crane Fall Staging Areas in northwestern Minnesota. (1 = Roseau River WMA, 2 = Skull Lake WMA, 3 = Beaches Lake WMA, 4 = Twistal Swamp, 5 = East Park WMA, 6 = Thief Lake WMA, 7 = Agassiz NWR, 8 = Dugdale WMA, 9 = Borup, 10 = Rothsay).

Table 1: Fall Sandhill Crane surveys in northwestern Minnesota, 1988.

County	Location	Date	Type of count (Air-Ground)	No. of cranes
Polk	Dugdale WMA	25 Sept	G	17
		26 Sept	G	50
		2 Oct	G	3-400
		10 Oct	A	800
		11 Oct	G	1,500
		13 Oct	G	1,050
		17 Oct	A	1,940
		24 Oct	A	400
Norman	Borup	21 Sept	G	17
		28 Sept	G	270
		5 Oct	G	268
		10 Oct	A	45
		13 Oct	G	16
		17 Oct	A	5
		24 Oct	A	40

Table 2. Fall Sandhill Crane surveys in northwestern Minnesota, 1989.

County	Location	Date	Type of count (Air-Ground)	No. of cranes
Roseau	Roseau R. WMA	14-18 Aug	G	500
		23 Aug	G	600
		3-4 Sept	G	2,000
		9-10 Sept	G	3,000
		22-24 Sept	G	8-10,000
		7-8 Oct	G	2,500
		16 Oct	G	40
		27 Oct	G	500
Kittson	Twistal Swamp	21 Aug	G	50+
		28 Aug	G	323
		5 Sept	G	621
		12-13 Sept	G	987
		19-20 Sept	G	2,424
		25 Sept	G	2,129
		2 Oct	G	1,612

Table 2 (continued)

County	Location	Date	Type of count (Air-Ground)	No. of cranes
Kittson	Twistal Swamp	9 Oct	G	1,588
		23-27 Oct	G	about 500
		30 Oct	G	several hundred
		2 Nov	G	a few
	Skull Lake WMA	28 Sept	A	515
	Beaches Lake WMA	28 Sept	A	2,200
	Marshall	Thief Lake WMA	12 Aug	G
29 Aug			G	215
5-6 Sept			G	271
18-19 Sept			G	345
26 Sept			G	570
6 Oct			G	64
11 Oct			G	0
19 Oct			G	0
26 Oct			G	0
Agassiz NWR			6 Sept	G
		12 Sept	A	540
		18-19 Sept	G	1,740
		27-28 Sept	G	1,350
		4 Oct	A	1,035
		4 Oct	G	1,250
		11 Oct	G	215
		18 Oct	G	41
		24 Oct	G	250
		East Park WMA	12 Sept	A
28 Sept			A	15
Polk	Dugdale WMA	5 Sept	G	0
		12 Sept	A	0
		23 Sept	G	20
		25 Sept	G	100
		29 Sept	G	750
		4 Oct	A	2,775

Table 2 (continued)

County	Location	Date	Type of count (Air-Ground)	No. of cranes
Polk	Dugdale WMA	13 Oct	A	1,060
		18 Oct	G	700
		25 Oct	A	100
		2 Nov	G	500
Norman	Borup	12 Sept	A	0
		4 Oct	A	335
		13 Oct	A	275
		25 Oct	A	11
Wilkin	Rothsay	13 Oct	A	700
		25 Oct	A	4

of these birds roosted on the Burnham Creek impoundment several miles to the west. The Borup area was once again very dry and, as in 1988, only about 300 birds were present.

Most cranes had left the state by late October despite spells of unusually warm weather during the latter half of the month. A few cranes were still present in the vicinity of Twistal Swamp on 2 November, a day after freeze-up. Also on 2 November, 500 cranes were reported further south at the Dugdale WMA where some open water remained. On 9 November, a group of 50 cranes was observed near Bagley flying south and were probably among the last birds to depart.

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- Department of Biology, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202 (Provost).**
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 183, Karlstad, MN 56732 (Davis).**



Juvenile American Redstart, 18 June 1989, Beaver Creek Valley State Park, Houston County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

The Summer Season (1 June to 31 July 1989)

Terry Wiens

For most people, including many birders, the summer of 1989 will be remembered chiefly as a dry and dusty purgatory sandwiched between spring and fall migration. Drought was once again the common theme. Many reporters were concerned that the weather was reducing both the number and diversity of birds. Yet, despite the efforts of Mother Nature, it was an interesting (albeit not extraordinary) summer.

Most of the state received below normal rainfall in June, with the north central and northeast regions being notable exceptions. Average monthly rainfall for the south was three inches or less; in contrast, the North Shore near Lutsen recorded over eight inches for the month, and almost four inches fell in Aitkin County in one day (22 June). Although precipitation varied, it was a cool month statewide. Temperatures were below normal

in all regions of the state, especially the north. A low of 29° was recorded at several weather stations in the northeast on 16 June. Even in the south and west, there were very few days over 90°, although the thermometer did hit 100° in a few places on 21 June.

July, in contrast, was extremely hot. All regions of the state had average temperatures well above normal; the northwest was 4.4° above normal. There were very many days with temperatures over 90° in the west, central, and southern regions. Pipestone had the dubious honor of reaching 105° on 10 July. And the drought continued, with most of the state receiving very little rainfall. The northern regions were hit hardest, with total monthly precipitation less than two inches. Ada (Norman County) recorded a mere .26 inches for the month. Only parts of the west central, southwest, and south central regions had rainfall near normal levels. Ironically, Pipestone took honors for having the most rainfall; over four inches in one day (11 July) and almost eight inches for the month.

Despite the adverse conditions, no fewer than 91 observers contributed seasonal reports and/or breeding information for the summer. A total of 267 species was observed, compared with an average of about 263 for the past decade. Drought or no drought, the birds and the birders were well represented. However, relatively few breeding records were submitted in 1989. Contributors sent in 625 nest or brood cards, substantially fewer than last year and well below the 1000+ submitted in both 1985 and 1986. Top contributors were Jack Sprenger (55 cards) and Karl Bardon (53), followed by Jean Segerstrom/Mark Newstrom, William Longley, Paul Hetland, Tod Tonsager, and Erlys Krueger. Many thanks for your excellent work! Nesting information was obtained for 143 species. Unfortunately, there has been a steady decline in this number since a high of 177 species in 1985.

Perhaps the most exciting event of the summer was the appearance of a pair of Black-necked Stilts in Stevens County. This species has been long overdue in Minnesota; it is ironic that the first state record (April 1989; *The Loon* 61:197) was so quickly followed by the second in July. But for most Minnesota birders, the birds in July will be best remembered. The pair was present for several days; as a result, the species was added to many

Minnesota life lists.

Two accidental species appeared briefly in the state this summer. A Long-billed Curlew flew by two observers near Blue Mounds State Park in Rock County. This represents the first summer sighting for this species in this century! A singing Western Wood-Pewee appeared briefly in the Sax-Zim bog area of St. Louis County, only the fifth record for the state. Another bird that would have been an accidental had it been wild was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck photographed in Crow Wing County by a visitor from Texas; this bird was later traced to a game farm, however, and as a result is not included in the species accounts.

Several other species of note that appeared in the state include: a Pacific Loon at Duluth, representing only the fourth summer record for the state; a Barrow's Goldeneye in Cook County, lingering from May till early June; two California Gulls and a Sabine's Gull in Big Stone County (first summer record for Sabine's in the state); a Least Tern in Dakota County; a White-eyed Vireo in Clay County; Kentucky Warblers in Lac Qui Parle and Renville Counties (as usual, however, no nesting evidence); and a vagrant Lark Bunting in Wilkin County, a bit north of where it might be expected in Minnesota.

Several species were more commonly seen this year, although it must be remembered that the number of contributors was also higher than in the past. Raptors are an example: Ospreys and Bald Eagles continued to expand southward, and the successful reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons is well known; Red-shouldered Hawks and Merlins were also more common within their ranges. Despite the drought (or perhaps because of it?) many waterbird sightings increased. The list includes Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, Bonaparte's Gull, and Herring Gull. Other species that were unusually abundant included White-winged Crossbills in the northeast, both cuckoo species (not surprising to those of you familiar with army worms), Dickcissel, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Unlike the previous summer, there were relatively few early fall migrants in 1989. Warblers in particular seemed scarce. Other species for which reports were down included

Yellow Rail, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Northern Harrier, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Solitary Vireo, Lark Sparrow, and Pine Siskin. Four species normally seen were not reported at all: Snowy Egret, Bufflehead, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Rusty Blackbird. For each of these, this was only the first or second summer out of the past ten that they have not been recorded.

For better or for worse, the House Finch became an official resident in Minnesota. The first nesting records for the state were documented and sightings occurred in several counties. Other breeding records of note included a Wood Thrush nest in Lac Qui Parle County, well west of its usual range.

The format for the species accounts is the same as the past several years. The key to seasonal reports is located below. Some readers may wonder why certain breeding records are classified as "nested" (positive breeding) and others as "probable nesting." A detailed summary of the criteria can be found in *The Loon* 58:22 or in Green and Janssen (*Minnesota Birds*, p. 7). Counties for which positive breeding is documented for the first time since 1970 are in italics and identified as such according to updated versions of Janssen and Simonson's breeding maps (*The Loon* 56:167-186, 219-239, 57:15-34).

A final thanks to all of the summer season reporters who make it possible to document avian distribution and migration. Thanks also to Kim Eckert for his assistance in preparing this report.

PACIFIC LOON

One bird in winter plumage 6/2-14 Duluth (*The Loon* 61:154).

Common Loon

Nested in Mahnomen, Hubbard, Lake, Pope; probable nesting in six other counties including Anoka, Ramsey. Seen in 15 additional counties throughout range plus Jackson KR, Winona CS.

Pied-billed Grebe

Breeding recorded in Polk, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Wilkin; probable nesting in Big Stone, Hennepin. Seen in 31 other counties throughout the state but only Cook in north-east and Lincoln in southwest.

Horned Grebe

Only report: 6/18 Cook WP.

Red-necked Grebe

Nested in Roseau, Norman, Hubbard, Crow Wing, Kandiyohi; probable nesting in Itasca, Becker, Anoka. Also seen in nine counties within range south to Blue Earth, plus Cook all summer, mob.

Eared Grebe

Nested in Marshall, Clearwater KB, AB, Traverse JBo, Grant JBo, Big Stone, Stevens. Also seen in Polk, Swift, 6/26 Carver RG, 6/24 Hennepin SC.

Western Grebe

Many more reports than last year. Nested in Marshall, Todd, Stevens; probable nesting in Freeborn. Seen in 12 other counties west of line through Clearwater, Nicollet, Martin; also reported 6/3 Hennepin, Dakota DZ, Washington all summer, DS.

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Bold-faced species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the state.
2. Bold-faced dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence either earlier or later or within the earliest or latest dates listed in *Bird in Minnesota* (Janssen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold-faced counties (**Aitkin**) indicates a county of first or unusual occurrence for that species. City of **Duluth** also bold face when applicable.
4. Counties in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.

American White Pelican

More reports than in recent years. Many sightings in 23 southern counties as far north as Traverse and Stearns and as far east as Freeborn; plus Olmsted AP. Also seen in eight counties north of a line from Becker to Koochiching, plus St. Louis. No nesting reports.

Double-crested Cormorant

Numbers apparently increasing. Nested in Big Stone, Kandiyohi (1200 nests) TT, Meeker (500 nests) TT, Faribault (200 nests) TT, Waseca (150 nests) TT, Le Sueur (10 nests) TT. Seen in 40 other counties in all regions of state.

American Bittern

Seen in 15 counties throughout the north plus Lac Qui Parle, Ramsey, Rice, Blue Earth.

Least Bittern

Reports from four east central counties plus Sherburne, Norman, Wilkin, St. Louis, Houston.

Great Blue Heron

Nested in ten counties throughout central, east central, south central, and southeast regions including *McLeod* (32 nests) TT, *Sibley* (25 nests) TT, *Watsonwan* (8 nests) TT, *Olmsted* (30 nests) TT. Also seen in 47 other counties statewide.

Great Egret

More than in recent years; range apparently expanding northward. Nested in Kandiyohi, Meeker, Anoka, Le Sueur, Waseca; probable breeding in Becker, Washington. Seen in 34 other counties as far north as Clay, Clearwater, Aitkin.

Little Blue Heron

One bird at Hyland Lake, Hennepin Co. 6/1-3, mob.

Cattle Egret

Several reports; 7/4 Grant KR, 6/1 Anoka JHo, 7/23 Dodge JB.

Green-backed Heron

Nested in Rice; seen in 41 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Many more reports than usual, especially in north. Nested in Marshall, *Kandiyohi* (20+ nests) TT, *Meeker* (30 nests) TT, Faribault. Also seen in 12 southern counties including Fillmore; plus **Wilkin**, Norman, Clearwater, Crow Wing JS/MN, St. Louis 6/15 KR, Lake 7/20 AJ.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Single bird 6/27 Mound Prairie, Houston Co. AP and 6/28 Dakota KR; three birds 6/17-19 Agahming Park, **Winona** Co. CS.

MUTE SWAN

One at Grand Marais, Cook Co. 6/16-23, mob; another reported on nest (wild?) at Owatonna, Steele Co. RRK.

Snow Goose

Unusual number of summer records; three birds 7/21 Clay LCF, two birds 6/5-6 Wilkin KB; single birds 6/4 Cook WP, 6/1 Stearns BR, 7/23 Kandiyohi AB, no dates Goodhue Apr, 6/4 Rock TW.

Canada Goose

This species is now commonly reported from all regions of the state. Nested in seven counties, probable nesting in five; seen in an additional 37 counties statewide.

Wood Duck

Fewer reports than last year. Nested in 11 counties including Cook JS, OSL; probable nesting in seven. Seen in 36 other counties statewide.

Green-winged Teal

No nesting reported; seen in nine western counties plus Cook, Hennepin, Waseca, Olmsted.

American Black Duck

Relatively high number of sightings, similar to previous year. Nested in Lake; seen in six other northern counties including Polk, Norman, Wilkin KB; plus Lac Qui Parle CMB, Dakota AP.

Mallard

Breeding reported in ten counties, probable breeding in two. Seen in 48 other counties statewide.

Northern Pintail

Nested in *Wilkin* KB; also seen in Polk, Beltrami, Clearwater, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, 6/4 Aitkin WN, 7/16 Duluth KE.

Blue-winged Teal

Nested in *Wilkin* KB, JH, Clearwater, Kandiyohi; probable nesting in Lincoln, Washington, Fillmore. Seen in 41 other counties statewide.

Northern Shoveler

Seen in six western counties plus Beltrami, Clearwater, Aitkin, St. Louis, Hennepin, Brown.

Gadwall

Reports from Clearwater, Wilkin, Traverse, Stevens, Lac Qui Parle, Rock, 6/24 Carlton AP, 7/16 St. Louis KE.

American Wigeon

Nested in St. Louis; scattered reports from eight northern counties including Wilkin, Cook; plus Stevens, Stearns, Isanti, Nicollet, Dakota, Rock.

Canvasback

Fewer reports than previous two years; seen in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Clearwater, Clay, Swift, Hennepin.

Redhead

Nested in *Wilkin* KB, JH; seen in 11 other counties within range plus 6/11 St. Louis TW, 6/4 Cook WP.

Ring-necked Duck

Nested in Mahnomen, Cook; seen in ten other counties plus Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin.

Greater Scaup

Single bird seen in Ramsey 7/20 GS, 7/27 RJ; also reported in Kittson no date TR.

Lesser Scaup

Seen in Kittson, Polk, Becker, Wilkin, Stevens, Kandiyohi, Hennepin.

Common Goldeneye

Nested in Clearwater, Lake, Cook; probable nesting in Becker, Itasca. Also seen in Beltrami, Koochiching, St. Louis.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Male found in late May at Grand Portage, Cook Co. (*The Loon* 61:140); last reported on 6/4 WP.

Hooded Merganser

More reports than usual. Nested in St. Louis, Lac Qui Parle; probable nesting in Becker, Cook, Hennepin. Seen in 16 other counties statewide except southwest.

Common Merganser

Nested in St. Louis, Lake; probable nesting in Koochiching; also seen in Cook.

Red-breasted Merganser

Nested in St. Louis, Cook; also seen in Lake.

Ruddy Duck

Seen in 18 counties as far east as a line through Kittson, Clearwater, Todd, Houston.

Turkey Vulture

Nested in *St. Louis* SS. Seen in 19 other counties as far west as a line from Koochiching to Mahnomen to Fillmore; plus Nicollet, Brown, Blue Earth, Martin, Cottonwood, Yellow Medicine.

Osprey

Increasing number of southern reports continues. Nested in Crow Wing; probable nesting in Becker, Aitkin, St. Louis. Seen in eight other northern counties including 6/23 Clay LCF, plus Sherburne, Washington, Carver, Le Sueur, Nicollet, 6/1 Cottonwood ED, 7/4 Winona DZ, 7/30 Winona RG, 6/10 Fillmore NAO, GMD.

Bald Eagle

More reports from the south than in recent years. Nested in Lake, Aitkin, Sherburne; probable nesting in five other northern counties plus Anoka. Seen in five additional northern counties plus Washington, Dakota, Wabasha, Houston, 6/21 Wilkin KB, 6/20 Brown JSp.

Northern Harrier

Fewer reports than in previous two years. Nested in Wilkin; seen in 29 other counties statewide, but least common in southern regions.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Seen in ten northern counties plus 6/2-22 Houston EMF, 6/16 Dodge AP.

Cooper's Hawk

Seen in Cook 6/6 OSL, Pennington, Becker, Swift, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Olmsted.

Northern Goshawk

Only reports from St. Louis, Mahnomen, Morrison.

Red-shouldered Hawk

More reports than in recent years; nested in Washington and seen in 12 other counties within range plus Polk AB.

Broad-winged Hawk

Nested in Crow Wing, St. Louis, Lake; seen in 17 additional counties east of a line through Roseau, Todd, Hennepin, Winona.

Swainson's Hawk

Nested in Fillmore; seen in eight western counties plus Brown, Hennepin, Dodge, Olmsted, Mower.

Red-tailed Hawk

Nested in Washington; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

American Kestrel

Probable nesting in Lake, Becker, Kanabec; seen in 64 other counties statewide.

Merlin

Numbers apparently increasing in north-east; several reports from St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Peregrine Falcon

Report from Midwest Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project, P. Redig, H. Tordoff, is exhilarating. Successful breeding in Hennepin, Multifoods Tower, Minneapolis, four fledged; Ramsey, North Central Life Tower, St. Paul, four fledged; Lake, Palisade Head, one fledged; probable breeding success near Mt. LeVeaux, Cook Co., one or more believed fledged. Non-breeding territorial pairs at Control Data Headquarters, Bloomington, Hennepin Co.; near Finland, Lake Co; and at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Olmsted Co.,

Also single territorial males at the King Power Plant at Bayport, Washington Co.; a St. Paul apartment tower, Ramsey Co.; and Hill Annex Mine, Itasca Co.

Gray Partridge

Seen in 32 counties throughout range, with majority of sightings from the south.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Nested in *Kandiyohi* AB, Olmsted; probable nesting in Kanabec, Le Sueur. Seen in 32 other counties as far north as Clay, Wadena.

Spruce Grouse

Nested in Koochiching; also seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Ruffed Grouse

Nested in Lake, Aitkin, Fillmore; probable nesting in St. Louis, Hubbard. Seen in 16 other counties east of a line through Kittson, Becker, Todd, Rice, Fillmore.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

A few more records than in recent years. Several nesting records from Rothsay area and Anna Gronseth Prairie in *Wilkin* JH, KB; also seen in Clay.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Seen in Kittson, Koochiching, St. Louis, Aitkin.

Wild Turkey

Probable nesting in Fillmore; also seen in Winona, Houston, Goodhue three birds, TFB (wild?).

Yellow Rail

Apparently numbers still down; only reports from Aitkin.

Virginia Rail

Nested in *Mahnomen* AB; probable nesting in Hennepin. Also seen in Clearwater, Itasca, Aitkin, Traverse, Swift, Ramsey, Blue Earth, Houston.

Sora

Nested in *Wilkin* (KB); probable nesting in Kanabec. Seen in 25 other counties through most of state, but only Le Sueur and Rice in south central and no reports from central and southwest regions.

Common Moorhen

Probable nesting in Houston; also seen in Winona, Blue Earth, plus 6/27 Polk AB.

American Coot

Nested in St. Louis, Wilkin; probable nesting in Big Stone. Seen in 26 other counties statewide including Cook; scarce in northeast and southwest.

Sandhill Crane

One young with two adults 6/27, 7/1 Houston AP, RJ; also seen in Kittson, Marshall, Beltrami, Clearwater, Aitkin, Isanti, Anoka.

Black-bellied Plover

Only records: 6/4 Clay, 6/27 Duluth KE, 7/22 Clay.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Two reports: 6/1 Traverse, 6/10 Big Stone.

Semipalmated Plover

Seen in eight counties. Late migrant 6/14 Duluth; early migrant 6/27 Duluth KE.

Piping Plover

Only report from Lake of the Woods.

Killdeer

Nested in Lake, Otter Tail KB, Wilkin, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka; probable nesting in Becker, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Hennepin, Washington. Seen in 57 other counties statewide.

BLACK-NECKED STILT

Two birds, male and female, seen by mob near Alberta, Stevens Co. 7/12-17 (*The Loon* 61:139-140); second state record.

American Avocet

Seen in Polk, Clay, Clearwater, Traverse, Big Stone, 6/9-14 Duluth mob, 6/22 Sibley RG.

Greater Yellowlegs

Fall migrants seen in 12 counties in all regions except northeast; early migrant 6/23 Faribault.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late migrant 6/19 Clay LCF. Many fall reports from 28 counties in all regions except northeast; early migrants 6/23 Faribault JB, 6/24 Wilkin, 6/26,29 Clearwater.

Solitary Sandpiper

No reports from potential breeding areas. Migrants seen in 18 counties; late migrant 6/3 Rock AB; early migrants 6/27 Polk, 6/29 Clearwater.

Willet

Only report: 6/11-12 one bird Thielke Lake, Big Stone Co. CMB.

Spotted Sandpiper

Nested in Cook, Le Sueur EK; seen in 30 other counties statewide.

Upland Sandpiper

Nested in Kittson TR, Wilkin JH, Aitkin; probable nesting in Dakota. Seen in 14 other western counties plus Clearwater, St. Louis, Dodge, Mower.

Whimbrel

One late migrant seen at Park Point, Duluth 6/15, TW.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

A single bird reported 6/26 Blue Mounds State Park, Rock Co. AH (See Notes of Interest in this issue).

Hudsonian Godwit

Only report: 6/1 Brown.

Marbled Godwit

Nested in Wilkin; seen in nine other counties in northwest and west central plus Clearwater, Stearns, Kandiyohi.

Ruddy Turnstone

Only report: 6/1 Murray.

Sanderling

Only reports: 6/1 Wabasha, 6/2 Wilkin, 6/19 Clay, 7/26 Carver RG.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Seen in 14 counties; late migrant 6/21 Yellow Medicine CMB; early migrants 7/12 Lake of the Woods, 7/15 Stevens.

Least Sandpiper

Reports from 21 counties, mostly southern; late migrant 6/10 Big Stone, early migrant 6/27 Duluth.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Spring migrants seen in eight counties; late migrant 6/13 Duluth. Only fall record; 7/21 Clay.

Baird's Sandpiper

Seen in nine counties; late migrant 6/14 Duluth fide KE, early migrant 7/14 Anoka.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Seen in 15 counties; mostly fall migrants. Late migrant 6/14 Duluth; early migrants 6/25 Big Stone CMB, 6/30 Blue Earth MF.

Dunlin

Only reports; 6/1 Brown, 6/3 Wilkin.

Stilt Sandpiper

No late spring migrants; fall migrants 7/15-22 Stevens, 7/16 Clay, 7/29 Isanti.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Only reports; 7/27 Dakota and Washington.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Only late spring migrant; 6/2 Wilkin. Seen in eight counties in fall; early migrants 6/25 Big Stone CMB, 6/29 Clearwater AB, OJ.

Common Snipe

Nested in Wilkin; seen in 26 other counties statewide although scarce in southwest and south central.

American Woodcock

Nested in St. Louis; probable nesting in Cook. Seen in eight additional northern counties plus Anoka, Hennepin, Washington, Brown, Fillmore, 6/29 Rock ND.

Wilson's Phalarope

Nested in Wilkin; also seen in Polk, Clearwater, Stevens, Swift, Kandiyohi, plus late migrants 6/1 Dodge BSE, 6/5 Cook WP.

Red-necked Phalarope

Only report; 6/11 Clay LCF.

Franklin's Gull

Nested at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. 10-15,000 adults, JBoe. Seen in ten other western counties plus Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater, 6/1 Goodhue AP.

Bonaparte's Gull

More records than usual. Late migrants 6/9 Hennepin SC, 6/14 Olmsted AP; early migrants 7/23 Aitkin, 7/29 Isanti, 7/30 St. Louis; plus mid-summer records from Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Polk, 6/25 Big Stone CMB.

Ring-billed Gull

Nested in Duluth 8000+ pairs, BP. Seen in 34 other counties in all regions.

CALIFORNIA GULL

Two adults 6/10-11 Thielke Lake, Big Stone Co. (*The Loon* 61:149).

Herring Gull

More reports than in recent years. Nested in Cook; seen in 14 other counties in all regions except central, southwest, south central.

SABINE'S GULL

One bird 6/12 Thielke Lake, Big Stone Co. (*The Loon* 61:149-150).

Caspian Tern

Late migrants 6/1 Goodhue, 6/2 Becker, 6/3 Hennepin, 6/4 Aitkin, 6/25 Big Stone CMB and Wright BH; early migrant 7/26 Carver. Mid-summer reports from Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, St. Louis.

Common Tern

Nested at Lake Kabetogama, St. Louis Co. (21 pairs) BP; Interstate Island, Duluth (81 pairs) BP; Mille Lacs Lake, Mille Lacs Co. (187 pairs) BP. Also seen in Lake of the Woods, Becker, Lake, 6/1 Goodhue AP, 6/10 Fillmore GMD.

Forster's Tern

Nested in Marshall; seen in 20 other counties as far east as a line through Roseau, Clearwater, Todd, Ramsey, Olmsted, Fillmore.

LEAST TERN

One bird 6/12 Hastings, Dakota Co. (*The Loon* 61:140-141).

Black Tern

Many reports, similar to previous year. Nested in St. Louis, Big Stone, *Kandiyohi* TT, *Houston* NAO; probable nesting in

Anoka, Wabasha. Seen in 48 other counties statewide.

Rock Dove

Nested in *Nobles* ND; probable nesting in Todd, Olmsted. Seen in 45 other counties statewide.

Mourning Dove

Nested in seven counties including *Nobles* ND; probable nesting in Anoka. Seen in 59 other counties statewide.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Numbers still high, especially in north. Nested in *Nicollet* BB, *Fillmore* NAO; probable nesting in Wilkin, Hennepin, Jackson. Seen in 43 other counties statewide.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Many reports, similar to previous year. Seen in 15 southern counties plus Clearwater, Crow Wing, Pine.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Nested in Rice, *Le Sueur* FS; probable breeding in Lyon; also seen in Hennepin.

Great Horned Owl

Nested in Lake, Anoka; probable nesting in Dakota. Seen in 25 other counties statewide.

Burrowing Owl

Only reports from near Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. mob.

Barred Owl

Nested in Brown. Seen in 15 additional counties in north central, northeast, east central and southeast; plus Scott, Rice, Blue Earth.

Great Gray Owl

Seen in Beltrami, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis.

Long-eared Owl

Only reports from St. Louis, Lake.

Short-eared Owl

Only reports: 6/24 Swift/Big Stone border, fide KE; also seen in Aitkin.

Boreal Owl

Nested in Lake, one juvenile fledged, SW/MS; also seen in Cook.



Burrowing Owl, 25 June 1989, Rock County. Photo by Anthony Hertzell.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Nested in St. Louis; also seen in Clearwater, Lake.

Common Nighthawk

Seen in 34 counties statewide.

Whip-poor-will

Reported in six northern counties plus Anoka, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, Houston.

Chimney Swift

Seen in 47 counties throughout the state.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Nested in Crow Wing; probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 35 other counties in all regions except west central and southwest.

Belted Kingfisher

Seen in 48 counties statewide.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Nested in *Todd* PH; probable nesting in Aitkin, Anoka, Le Sueur, Fillmore. Seen in 43 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Probable nesting in Anoka, Brown, Fillmore; seen in 19 other southern counties plus Aitkin.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Nested in St. Louis, Lake, Cook, *Crow Wing* JS/MN, *Todd* PH. Seen in 27 additional counties in all regions except west central; scarce in central and southwest.

Downy Woodpecker

Nested in Brown; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka, Le Sueur, Fillmore. Seen in 39 other counties statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker

Nested in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Brown, Le Sueur, Fillmore; probable nesting in Lac Qui Parle, Anoka. Seen in 35 other counties statewide.

Three-toed Woodpecker

One individual seen 6/15 Little Bear Lake, Lake Co. fide SW/MS.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Nested in St. Louis, Cook; also seen in Beltrami.

Northern Flicker

Nested in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Olmsted; probable nesting in Cook, Dakota, Le Sueur, Fillmore. Seen in 55 other counties statewide, including a red-shafted individual reported in 6/3 Pipestone BR.

Pileated Woodpecker

Nested in *Washington* DS, *Fillmore* NAO; probable nesting in Becker, Crow Wing, Cook, Hennepin. Seen in 22 other counties in all regions except southwest.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Seen in seven northern counties within range. Late migrants 6/1-2 Anoka, 6/2 Brown, 6/3 Pipestone, 6/6 Dakota; early migrant 7/23 Clay.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE

One singing male 6/22 Sax-Zim bog area, St. Louis Co. (*The Loon* 61:147-148); fifth record for the state.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Nested in Brown; seen in 41 other counties statewide although scarce in west central and southwest.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Seen in Beltrami, Hubbard, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, 7/4 Mille Lacs AB; late migrant 6/10 Rice SC.

Acadian Flycatcher

Seen in Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan Park), Hennepin (Elm Creek Park), Winona, Houston; plus an individual at Sibley State Park, **Kandiyohi** Co. and another on 7/14 near Winsted, **McLeod** Co. RG.

Alder Flycatcher

Seen in 16 northern counties plus Isanti. Late migrants 6/1 Brown, 6/1-2 Hennepin, 6/4 Pipestone and Rock, 6/11 Rice.

Willow Flycatcher

Nested in *Wilkin* KB; seen 19 other counties as far north as Isanti in east and Polk in west.



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 11 June 1989, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

Least Flycatcher

Probable nesting in Becker, Aitkin; seen in 42 other counties statewide.

Eastern Phoebe

Nested in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Le Sueur, Rice; probable nesting in Becker, Lake, Anoka, Fillmore. Seen in 38 other counties in all regions except west central and southwest.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Nested in *Murray* ND, JP, and Olmsted; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka, Washington. Seen in 45 other counties statewide except extreme northeast.

Western Kingbird

Nested in *Lac Qui Parle* CMB; probable nesting in Pipestone. Seen in 24 other counties east to a line through Roseau, Washington, Brown.

Eastern Kingbird

Nested in *Todd* PH, Crow Wing, Lake, Brown, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Wilkin, Fillmore. Seen in 61 other counties statewide.

Horned Lark

Nested in *Wilkin* KB, JH; probable nesting in Swift. Seen in 43 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Purple Martin

Nested in Todd, Lac Qui Parle, Hennepin, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Becker. Seen in 47 other counties statewide.

Tree Swallow

Many reports, similar to last year. Nested in eight counties; probable nesting in four. Seen in 52 other counties statewide.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Nested in Lake, Todd; probable nesting in Marshall, Fillmore. Seen in 28 other counties in all regions except west central; scarce in north central.

Bank Swallow

Nested in Roseau SS, Brown, Dakota SP, Rice; probable nesting in Todd, Houston. Seen in 39 other counties statewide.

Cliff Swallow

Nested in Wilkin KB, Todd PH, Anoka; probable nesting in Washington. Seen in 53 other counties statewide.

Barn Swallow

Nested in six counties including Wilkin KB; probable nesting in four. Seen in 57 other counties statewide.

Gray Jay

Probable nesting in Koochiching, Lake, Cook; also seen in Beltrami, Aitkin, St. Louis.

Blue Jay

Nested in Polk AB, Todd, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka. Seen in 55 other counties statewide.

Black-billed Magpie

Nested in Aitkin; also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Beltrami.

American Crow

Nested in Anoka; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Common Raven

Nested in Cook. Seen in ten other northern counties as far west as Kittson plus 6/1 Anoka JHo.

Black-capped Chickadee

Nested in Brown, Dodge, Olmsted; prob-

able nesting in Cook, Crow Wing, Anoka, Washington. Seen in 46 other counties statewide.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported in Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Tufted Titmouse

Probable nesting in Olmsted; also seen in Houston, Fillmore.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Very scarce relative to recent years. Seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Pine; early migrant 7/30 Clay.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Nested in Anoka; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Blue Earth. Seen in 41 other counties statewide but scarce in northeast, west central, southwest.

Brown Creeper

Nested in Cook KMH; also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Becker, Hubbard, Crow Wing, Pine, Hennepin, Brown, Fillmore.

House Wren

Nested in seven counties; probable nesting in three. Seen in 50 other counties statewide.

Winter Wren

Seen in Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Sedge Wren

Reported in 47 counties statewide.

Marsh Wren

Seen in 33 counties as far north as Kittson, Clearwater, Cass, Mille Lacs, Anoka.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Only reports; Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Mille Lacs AB.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Seen in Beltrami, Itasca, Lake, Cook.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Nested in Anoka, Brown; seen in 15 other counties as far north as Wright, Washington and as far west as Renville.



Wood Thrush at nest, 17 June 1989, Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County.
Photo by Warren Nelson.

Eastern Bluebird

Nested in 12 counties; probable nesting in four. Seen in 40 other counties statewide.

Veery

Nested in Cook; seen in 29 additional counties south to Wilkin, Pope in west and Scott, Dakota in east.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Late migrant; 6/6 Marshall.

Swainson's Thrush

Seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Hermit Thrush

Seen in eight north central and northeast counties plus Mille Lacs, Pine.

Wood Thrush

Nested in *Lac Qui Parle (The Loon 61:206)*, Brown. Seen in 13 other counties in east central, south central, and southeast; plus Scott, Aitkin, Itasca, Clay DDW.

American Robin

Nested in 11 counties; probable nesting in Becker. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Gray Catbird

Nested in *Lake JL, Wilkin KB, Lac Qui Parle CMB*, Anoka, Washington, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Becker. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Northern Mockingbird

Only report: 6/11 Stevens SDM.

Brown Thrasher

Nested in Clay, Brown, Le Sueur, Rice; probable nesting in Todd, Fillmore. Seen in 48 other counties statewide.

Cedar Waxwing

Nested in St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka; probable nesting in Todd, Mower. Seen in 41 other counties statewide.

Loggerhead Shrike

Probable breeding in Murray; also seen in Clay, Swift, Washington, Dakota, Blue Earth, Olmsted.

European Starling

Nested in Todd, Brown; probable nesting
Spring 1990

in Le Sueur, Olmsted. Seen in 41 other counties statewide.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

One individual discovered at Cannon River Wilderness Area, Rice Co. 6/7-9 (*The Loon 61:142*).

Bell's Vireo

Probable nesting at Black Dog, Dakota Co.; also seen in Wabasha and Olmsted.

Solitary Vireo

Fewer reports than in recent years; seen in Marshall 6/6 SKS, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka. Seen in 14 other counties in the east central and southeast; plus Clay, Mahnomon, Becker, Clearwater, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin in the north and Lac Qui Parle, Brown, Rice in the south.

Warbling Vireo

Nested in Crow Wing; probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 42 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Philadelphia Vireo

Seen in Koochiching, Cook.

Red-eyed Vireo

Nested in Brown; probable nesting in Becker, Crow Wing. Seen in 46 other counties statewide but scarce in southwest.

Blue-winged Warbler

Seen in Anoka, Ramsey, Washington, Scott, Dakota, Nicollet, Rice, Winona, Fillmore, Houston.

Golden-winged Warbler

Fewer reports than usual. Nested in Anoka; also seen in Washington, Todd, Pine, Aitkin, Beltrami, St. Louis, 6/10-18 Cook WP.

Tennessee Warbler

Seen in Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Late migrants 6/4 Hennepin, 6/9 Ramsey KB; early migrants 7/12 Ramsey KB, 7/20 Pennington, 7/23 Renville.

Nashville Warbler

Seen in 15 counties as far south as a line

from Marshall to Anoka; plus late migrant 6/3 Dakota.

Northern Parula

Probable nesting in Cook; also seen in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake.

Yellow Warbler

Nested in St. Louis, Lake, *Todd* PH, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Wilkin, Becker, Crow Wing, Anoka, Brown. Seen in 43 other counties statewide.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Fewer reports than in recent years. Nested in St. Louis; seen in 14 other counties as far south as a line from Becker to Anoka.

Magnolia Warbler

Seen in Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; late migrant 6/1 Brown.

Cape May Warbler

Only reports from Beltrami, Lake, Cook.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

A singing male found 7/8-9 in northern St. Louis MH; also seen in Cook.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Probable nesting in Cook; seen in ten other

northern counties as far west as Mahnomen. Late migrants 6/5 Hennepin SC, 6/9 Washington DS.

Black-throated Green Warbler

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

Blackburnian Warbler

Seen in nine counties as far west as Marshall and as far south as Kanabec.

Pine Warbler

Fewer reports than in recent years; seen in Clearwater, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake SW/MS, Pine, Anoka.

Palm Warbler

Seen in St. Louis, Aitkin, 7/25 Pennington SKS.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Only report from Cook.

Cerulean Warbler

Seen in Ramsey, Scott, Dakota, Brown, Wabasha, Fillmore, Houston.

Black-and-white Warbler

Nested in St. Louis; probable nesting in Anoka. Seen in ten other northern counties west to Mahnomen, Becker.



Prothonotary Warbler feeding young in nest box, 18 June 1989, Russ Soderstrom residence, Fridley, Anoka County (along Mississippi River). Photo by Louie Dinzel.

American Redstart

Nested in Anoka WL, Brown; probable nesting in Becker, Itasca, Crow Wing, Washington. Seen in 29 other counties in all regions except west central; scarce in central and seen only in Jackson 6/17 RJ in southwest.

Prothonotary Warbler

Nested in Brown, Anoka, Nicollet JSp. Also seen in Ramsey, Washington, Goodhue.

Ovenbird

Nested in Anoka; seen in 23 other counties in east central, southeast, and three northern regions; plus Brown, Scott, Rice.

Northern Waterthrush

Seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Anoka 6/5 WL; early migrant 7/30 Hennepin OJ.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Only reports from Anoka, Rice (Rice County Park).

Kentucky Warbler

One male present from late May until 6/16 Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle Co. (*The Loon* 61:142-143). Another individual heard 6/11 County Park #1, Renville CMB.

Connecticut Warbler

Seen in Beltrami, Koochiching, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake; late migrants 6/1 Brown, 6/6 Hennepin.

Mourning Warbler

Seen in 11 northern counties west to Mahnomen, Becker; plus Anoka, Ramsey. Late migrants 6/1 Brown and Wabasha, 6/2 Murray, 6/3 Clay, 6/6 Dakota.

Common Yellowthroat

Probable nesting in Becker, Todd, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Le Sueur. Seen in 60 other counties statewide.

Hooded Warbler

Seen on various dates at Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott Co.; plus a singing male (migrant?) in Fillmore 6/2; (*The Loon* 61:144).

Wilson's Warbler

Seen 6/17, 7/3 Lake SW/MS, 7/20 Pennington SKS.

Canada Warbler

Reported in Hubbard, Pine, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Scarlet Tanager

Probable nesting in Pennington, Anoka. Seen in 21 counties in southeast, east central, and three northern regions; plus Swift, Brown, Mille Lacs, Scott, Rice.

Northern Cardinal

Nested in Brown, Le Sueur, Fillmore; probable nesting in Washington, Dakota, Olmsted. Seen in 23 other counties as far north as Lac Qui Parle, Kanabec.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Nested in Brown, Le Sueur, Fillmore NAO; probable nesting in Todd, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Anoka, Dakota. Seen in 42 other counties statewide but scarce in west central and southwest.

Blue Grosbeak

Nested in Pipestone ND, Murray, Rock; also seen in Nobles; one male 6/9 near Sacred Heart, Renville RG.

Indigo Bunting

Nested in Le Sueur; probable nesting in Anoka. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Dickcissel

Extremely abundant relative to most years, although eclipsed by last year's record invasion. Seen in 53 counties as far north as Marshall, Aitkin, Pine; many observers reported very high numbers. Despite abundance, no nesting reports.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 14 other counties along a diagonal line from Kittson to Houston, plus St. Louis, Brown, Nicollet, Blue Earth.

Chipping Sparrow

Nested in ten counties including Fillmore NAO; probable nesting in five. Seen in 40 other counties statewide.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Nested in Wilkin KB, Todd PH; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 33 other counties as far south as Jackson, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Olmsted.

Field Sparrow

Nested in Anoka, Brown; seen in 18 other counties in south plus 6/11 Clay LCF, 6/10 Crow Wing KR.

Vesper Sparrow

Nested in Brown; probable nesting in Anoka. Seen in 52 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Lark Sparrow

Relatively few reports none from the northwest. Probable nesting in Anoka; also seen in Sherburne, Blue Earth, Wabasha.

Lark Bunting

One singing male observed 6/22-23 Wilkin KB.

Savannah Sparrow

Nested in *Wilkin* JH, KB, *Cook* WP; seen in 56 other counties statewide.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Very abundant for the second straight year; seen in 43 counties as far north as Roseau, Clearwater, Kanabec.

Henslow's Sparrow

Two singing males in Rothsay WMA, Wilkin Co. KB; also seen in Winona.

Le Conte's Sparrow

Seen in Marshall, Clay, Wilkin, Clearwater, Beltrami, Aitkin, St. Louis, Kanabec.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Few reports; only seen in Aitkin.

Song Sparrow

Nested in *Wilkin* JH, St. Louis, Anoka; probable nesting in Becker, Washington, Dakota, Le Sueur, Nicollet. Seen in 59 other counties statewide.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook; late migrant 6/5 Hennepin SC.

Swamp Sparrow

Nested in *Wilkin* KB, JH; seen in 43 other counties statewide.

White-throated Sparrow

Nested in Lake, Cook; seen in 11 other

northern counties west to Marshall. Late migrants 6/3 Hennepin, 6/9 Ramsey, 6/19 Washington.

Dark-eyed Junco

Relatively few reports; seen in Kittson TR, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

A pair seen 6/28 Troy Township, **Pipes-tone** ND, JP; probable breeding in Clay.

Bobolink

Nested in *Wilkin* KB, JH; seen in 49 other counties statewide.

Red-winged Blackbird

The most commonly reported species in the state. Nested in six counties; probable nesting in three. Seen in 62 other counties statewide.

Eastern Meadowlark

Seen in 23 counties as far west as Beltrami, Cass, Le Sueur, Mower; plus Stearns, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Lac Qui Parle FE. Scarce in northeast.

Western Meadowlark

Nested in *Wilkin* KB, JH; probable nesting in Todd. Seen in 55 other counties as far northeast as Koochiching, Aitkin, Kanabec, plus 6/1 Lake SW/MS.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Nested in *Pennington* SS, Todd; probable nesting in Hennepin. Seen in 53 other counties as far northeast as Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Duluth.

Brewer's Blackbird

Nested in Wilkin, Lake; seen in 26 other counties in all regions except southwest, south central, southeast.

Common Grackle

Nested in St. Louis, Cook, Todd, Washington, Le Sueur, Olmsted; seen in 57 other counties statewide.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Breeding in seven counties including *Todd* PH; probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Orchard Oriole

Nested in Brown; probable nesting in Fillmore. Also seen in ten counties in western regions as far north as 6/14 Marshall SKS; plus Hennepin, Dakota, Goodhue, Blue Earth, Mower, Houston.

Northern Oriole

Nested in eight counties including *Pipes-tonne* ND, JP; probable nesting in Becker, Nicollet, Le Sueur. Seen in 47 other counties statewide.

Purple Finch

Probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 14 other northern counties west to Marshall, Pennington, Becker; plus Washington WL.

HOUSE FINCH

The status of this species is rapidly changing from accidental to regular. The first positive nesting in Minnesota was documented in May 1989 in *Winona* (*The Loon* 61:93). The second and third state nesting record soon followed in *Rice* (*The Loon* 61:207). Probable nesting was recorded in Lac Qui Parle (*The Loon* 61:144-145) and at New Ulm, Brown Co. BB, JSp. Also seen in Hennepin AB, DB, JF, Ramsey RH, Steele RJ, AP.

Red Crossbill

Seen in Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, 7/11-14 Mower DT, JC.

White-winged Crossbill

Relatively abundant in northeast; seen in St Louis, Lake, Cook.

Pine Siskin

Many fewer reports than in previous four years; seen in seven northeast and north central counties plus Wilkin, Hennepin.

American Goldfinch

Nested in *Todd* PH, *Crow Wing* JS/MN; probable nesting in Anoka. Seen in 59 other counties statewide.

Evening Grosbeak

Probable nesting in Koochiching; also seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Becker, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

House Sparrow

Nested in Todd, Brown, Le Sueur, Rice, Olmsted; seen in 58 other counties statewide.



Male House Finches at feeder, June 1989, Owatonna, Steele County. Photo by Shirley Mens.

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A Winter Record of a Grasshopper Sparrow

Kim R. Eckert

On the evening of 8 December 1989, I received a phone call from Bill Litkey who was in Grand Marais after birding up the North Shore that day with Al Bolduc. Bill was calling to report a sparrow-like bird they had seen that afternoon feeding in the grassy shoulder of Highway 61 just northeast of Illgen City in Lake County. They had watched this bird for quite a while but were unable to identify it (they were puzzled enough that they weren't even entirely sure it was a sparrow) and as Bill described the bird to me over the phone, I was also confused. He mentioned an eye ring and a yellow spot at the bend of the wing, and the only species I could think of with the latter field mark was Grasshopper Sparrow, but Bill didn't see how it could have been that. (In fact, after seeing the bird the next day and doing some sparrow research, I later told Bill and Al I thought it was a Grasshopper Sparrow, and they still couldn't believe it.) At any rate, since such experienced and careful observers as Bill and Al couldn't identify it, I was intrigued enough to call some other Duluth birders, and the next morning Dudley Edmondson, Steve Geerts and I drove up to try and relocate the bird.

We found the bird at 0845 along the shoulder of the highway where Bill and Al had seen it the day before, and I immediately realized I was looking at something in a plumage I had never seen before. Using the car as a blind, we were able to study the bird for over an hour from as close as ten feet to 20 feet with the sun at our backs using Nikon 10X35E and Bausch & Lomb 10X42 Elite binoculars. As Steve and I wrote field notes on the bird, Dudley took several photographs. Following is a description as taken from these notes: complete and obvious white eye ring; ocher or chestnut coloration on the lores and ear coverts; dark, vertical smudge at rear of ear coverts; no malar marks; buffy or pale yellow median stripe bordered by diffuse, brownish crown stripes; nape grayish brown with fine, indistinct streaking; back, scapulars, rump and uppertail coverts generally grayish brown and unstreaked, but several of

these feathers edged with a mixture of buff, chestnut and black; yellow spot at bend of wing sometimes visible, and in flight yellow also sometimes visible on underwing linings; two buffy wing bars, the lower one thicker bordered above by blackish feathers, the top wing bar often appeared thinner or shorter when partly obscured by scapulars; throat and belly off-white or pale buff and the palest part of the plumage; buffy across the breast, along sides and flanks, and on undertail coverts; underparts basically unstreaked except for a hint of diffuse and broad grayish streaks across breast and on flanks; tail appeared to be of medium length and tip sometimes appeared to be notched when seen in flight; bill mostly pale grayish shading to a darker culmen; culmen appeared relatively long and straight; legs pink. No call notes were heard, it was not shy or skulking as it fed on grass and weed seeds on the shoulder, its brief flights were usually undulating, and the overall proportions and size seemed "normal" for a sparrow — i.e., it did not seem to be a large *Zonotrichia* type, a small *Spizella* type, or a flat-headed, big-billed, short-tailed *Ammodramus*.

Like Bill and Al the day before, we had no idea what it was. Again, the yellow at the bend of the wing suggested Grasshopper Sparrow, but nothing else did: every Grasshopper Sparrow I had ever seen had a white (not yellow or buff) median stripe bordered by clear and blackish (not diffuse and brownish) crown stripes; either no eye ring or, at most, a narrow one; yellow (not chestnut) lores; and a distinct profile of thick bill, flat head and short tail. The only other sparrow that came to mind was Cassin's Sparrow, a species which had never been recorded in Minnesota, but which was a possibility since vagrants had been recorded at least as far as Illinois, Indiana and Ontario. I had observed a few Cassin's Sparrows in recent years in Texas, and knew they had a distinct eye ring, a sometimes-visible yellow spot at the bend of the wing (this little known field mark of this species is illustrated in *Birds of North America* by Robbins et al., and is mentioned



Grasshopper Sparrow, 9 December 1989, Lake County. Photos by Dudley Edmondson. Note bold eye ring, indistinct crown pattern, and dark double-smudge on ear coverts.

in Oberholser's *The Bird Life of Texas*), and are otherwise relatively unpatterned and unstreaked. However, I also knew Cassin's were grayish and mostly colorless, quite unlike the more richly colored sparrow in question, and that their tails were long and rounded with small white tips to the outer tail feathers (again, not at all like the sparrow in front of us). But since I assumed I knew what a Grasshopper Sparrow should look like, I wondered about the possibility of this indeed being a Cassin's in juvenile plumage, something I knew nothing about, but it seemed possible that a juvenile might be more brightly colored than the drab, grayish adults I had seen. Some other nondescript sparrows (e.g., Baird's) are more boldly marked and more colorful as juveniles than as adults in summer. Perhaps also a Cassin's in molt might show a shorter-than-normal tail due to rectrices not yet fully grown.

In any event, since we had studied and photographed the sparrow as well as we could for over an hour, I decided to call Don Kienholz in Duluth and he called other birders about this unidentified sparrow, mentioning the possibility of it being a Cassin's. I figured it better to call others as soon as possible before it was identified so that others could arrive in time that Sunday to help in determining its identity or to just observe it in case it did indeed turn into a first-state-record Cassin's — if we waited to call after returning to Duluth and if my identification references at home confirmed it to be a Cassin's, Twin Cities birders would be unable to reach the location before dark. After calling Don, we decided to return for one more look at the bird, but just after we arrived, a Northern Shrike flew in, chased up the sparrow, and the shrike was closing in on it as the birds flew behind a grove of trees. Unfortunately, we can only assume that the shrike actually caught the sparrow since we tried without success to locate either bird for about an hour, and since none of the few other birders who arrived later that day to look for the sparrow could relocate it.

Also unfortunate was that none of the references at home suggested that a Cassin's Spar-

row in any plumage would seem to match what we saw. But at the same time I could find nothing about a Grasshopper Sparrow resembling the bird in question — that is until I remembered a photo on the cover of the January 1978 issue of *American Birds* (32:1), and there was the bird: a Grasshopper Sparrow photographed in November 1977 in New York. Like the bird in Lake County, it does not resemble any Grasshopper Sparrow I have ever seen as I discussed earlier. I have not had an opportunity to examine museum specimens, but I cannot find any descriptions of this plumage in any of the references I have, and I wonder if both this Lake County individual and the one in *American Birds* are immatures in first-winter or first-basic plumage. (I would assume that adult Grasshopper Sparrows in winter or basic plumage look like they do in summer since in January 1990 I saw a Grasshopper Sparrow in Florida that appeared "normal" and was immediately identifiable).

Assuming that this was indeed a Grasshopper Sparrow, it remains a quite significant record since this species can only be considered Accidental in this part of Minnesota and since it represents the first winter record in the state (the latest fall date on record is 21 October). It was also especially significant as an exercise in sparrow identification as we dealt with an unfamiliar plumage of a relatively familiar Minnesota sparrow.

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Editor's Note: Dr. Harrison Tordoff of the Bell Museum of Natural History, after examining specimens there, wrote that he agrees the bird is a Grasshopper Sparrow, "probably a first-year bird, but I'm not sure how an adult would differ." He found all the specimens to have a buffy median crown stripe, and that a brownish lateral crown stripe, conspicuous buffy eye ring and non-yellow lores were all "normal." He went on to say that the "profile of this bird (is) affected by its puffed look," due to the cold temperature at the time. "Bill size and color look normal, as does tail length."

Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Problems in the Great Lakes States: Does the Sharp-tail Have a Future?

William E. Berg

The perilous state of the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus campestris*) in the western Great Lakes states was addressed at the Prairie Grouse Technical Council Meeting in Crookston in 1987. Gregg Stoll, Larry Gregg, and William Berg summarized the Sharp-tailed Grouse status in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, respectively (Svedarsky and Bjugstad 1987). Since then, Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin may have stabilized at very low numbers, and the Sharp-tailed Grouse population in Minnesota may be temporarily somewhat improved. The Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse situation might have been much better had it not been for the expanses of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands that were hayed in 1988 and 1989, and sprayed for grasshopper control in 1989.

There is the imminent prospect of the loss of the entire western Great Lakes states population of indigenous subspecies of Sharp-tailed Grouse, (*T.p. campestris*.) The range of this sub-species has shrunk drastically in this century, and more recently, since 1963 (Fig. 1). For example, the bird is now rare in Ontario, and absent in northeastern Minnesota and in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The problem was summarized explicitly in Grange (1948).

"It is not unthinkable, or even improbable, that a future generation of Wisconsin citizens may dedicate a bronze plaque and monument to the memory of our vanished chickens and sharptails even as we dedicated a monument to the wild passenger pigeon at Wyalusing State Park in 1947, with the thought in mind that it may never happen again for another native species."

Grange (1948) also wrote:

"The sharptail in Wisconsin is similarly doomed (relating to the prairie chicken) as a hunted species but is apt to persist longer as a rare species. It may conceiv-

ably survive another five decades but again, in the absence of adequate management techniques and widespread fire, it inevitably will go on the rare and non-hunted list."

Of the three states, Michigan had the fewest Sharp-tailed Grouse in both pre-settlement and settlement times, but the bird is indigenous to the Upper Peninsula. Ammann (1957) speculated that it has always been at least an occasional visitor to the Upper Peninsula, but that it was probably never numerous. Even as late as 1956, Sharp-tailed Grouse occurred across the entire Upper Peninsula (Fig. 2). Ammann (1957) calculated that in 1951, which was termed a "high" year, the spring Sharp-tailed Grouse population numbered but 4,100.

Wisconsin's Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) harvests combined were calculated at 120,000 to 140,000 in the early 1930's, and 75,000 in 1940, when Sharp-tailed Grouse still occurred across the entire northern one-third of Wisconsin (Grange 1948) (Fig. 3). Two-thirds to three-quarters of the combined prairie grouse harvested in Wisconsin then were likely Sharp-tailed Grouse. Grange (1948) believed, however, that actual harvests were somewhat lower.

Presently the Sharp-tailed Grouse's main range in Minnesota is in two disjunct areas in the northwestern and east central parts of the state (Fig. 4). Minnesota's Sharp-tailed Grouse harvest exceeded 150,000 in 1949, and after a decline, increased to approximately 50,000 in the late 1970's. Through the 1980's, Michigan and Wisconsin's annual harvests have numbered in the low to mid-100's each year, and Minnesota has taken 5,000 to 10,000 annually (Fig. 5).

The causes of the problem of declining sharptail populations and diminishing habitat center on advancing vegetation succession, improperly placed conifer plantations, and intensive agricultural development. The im-

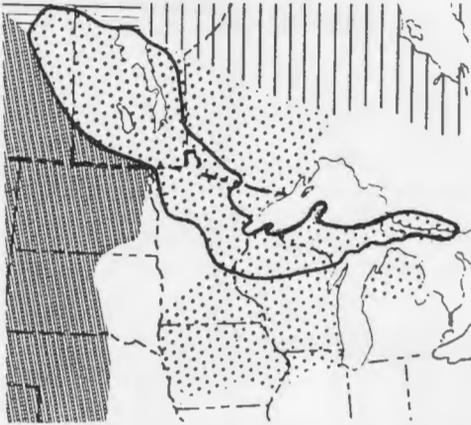


Figure 1. Original (dotted area) and present (inside heavy line) distribution of the Sharp-tailed Grouse (adapted from Aldrich 1963).



Figure 3. Sharp-tailed Grouse range in Wisconsin, 1948 (from Grange 1948).



Figure 2. Sharp-tailed Grouse range in Michigan, 1956 (from Ammann 1957).



Figure 4. Sharp-tailed Grouse range in Minnesota, 1986 (from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 1990).

minent decline of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Western Great Lakes was forecast 30-50 years ago in Michigan (Ammann 1957), Wisconsin (Grange 1948, Hamerstrom and Mattson 1952), and Minnesota (Schrader and Erickson 1944, Farnes 1957). The forecasts were not totally ignored, for in 1957 Michigan set aside 158 square miles of state land and 51 square miles of National Forest land to be "saved" from the conifer planting program (Ammann 1957). The ecological values of open lands, however, still have not re-

ceived adequate attention, as discussed at the Open Lands Conference sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1988.

Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat in the range of *T.p. campestris* varies from west to east across the western Great Lakes. In Minnesota, most habitat is in the form of large open grass-brush-muskeg expanses that are essentially free of conifers. The habitat expanses are smaller and more scattered in the east-central range than in the northwest (Berg

1987). In Wisconsin, few large brush expanses such as Crex Meadows in extreme northwestern Wisconsin remain; rather, most Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat consists of scattered and relatively small open areas, many of which occur as firebreaks in a literal ocean of conifer plantations. Whereas in Minnesota the brush component is dominated by willow or arctic birch, in Wisconsin (with the exception of Crex Meadows and Namekogen Barrens) and Michigan the brush component more often is on well-drained soils on old field sites in the form of stunted jack pine or oak. Throughout northern Wisconsin and Michigan the Sharp-tailed Grouse becomes slightly more tolerant of smaller open areas and of conifers, especially stunted pine. In Michigan, most remnant habitat complexes are also surrounded by pines and many lack the brushland appearance.

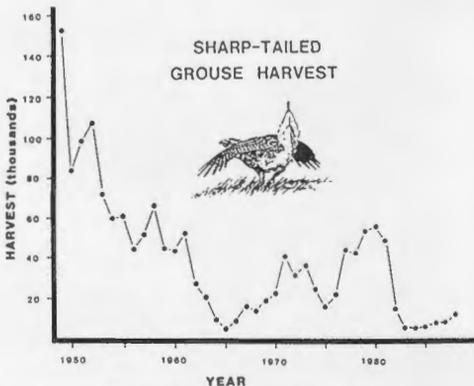


Figure 5. Sharp-tailed Grouse harvests in Minnesota, 1949-1988.

Solutions to the problem center on educating resource managers, landowners, and non-hunting clientele; applying the grass-brushlands ecosystem approach; and restoring hunter interest. We must educate resource managers, especially state, county and federal wildlife managers and foresters, about the ecological need to keep some small and large open lands non-forested (National Wildlife Federation 1988). Efforts must also be made to educate the public regarding the historical aspects of Sharp-tailed Grouse and the ecological role of fire. This type of educational effort will hopefully earn the sharptail a place in the state and national forest planning processes. In these processes, the Sharp-

tailed Grouse population goal must be set at a realistic and attainable level which is not the artificially high population which existed during the land clearing era. Landowners must be provided economic incentives to keep their land open, and to plant food plots. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society have been working jointly since 1987 in this regard. The hunting and non-hunting clienteles must also be taught the uniqueness of sharptails and of the ecological role of open lands. Because only the "old time Sharp-tailed Grouse hunters" remember the clouds of Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chickens, low sharptail numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin have caused the sharptail hunter clientele to be essentially lost. In Minnesota, hunter interest in Sharp-tailed Grouse may be slightly on the rise, attributable mainly to publicity from the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society.

Although the value of the Sharp-tailed Grouse as a hunted game bird is of utmost importance, in general hunters haven't rallied to save the Sharp-tailed Grouse from its imminent demise. Thus, an ecosystem approach to extol the virtues of open lands should be applied to unite the hunters, anti-hunters, non-hunters, ecologists, and landowners. This approach would save not just Sharp-tailed Grouse, but an entire ecosystem of the open grass-brushlands and the oak and pine barrens.

Data such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (Droege 1989) substantiate that other species dependent on large open lands are also declining over the long term. The breeding bird survey data for open lands indicator species over a larger geographical area such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Administrative Region 3, which includes the Western Great Lakes and south to Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio indicate that the problem is not unique to just the western Great Lakes (Table 1). The ecosystem approach for saving the open grass-brushlands and barrens should be applied whenever possible.

What does the future hold? In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in northern Wisconsin, the state Departments of Natural Resources, but especially Michigan's, are essentially ignoring the Sharp-tailed Grouse. The exceptions are Wisconsin's demonstration

Table 1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey data expressed as the mean annual percent rate of change since 1968 for six open lands indicator species in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3 (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana).

	Minn.	Wis.	Mich.	USFWS Reg. 3
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-8.8%	-0.1%	—	-6.5%
Savannah Sparrow	-0.1%	-2.4%	-3.5%	-1.5%
Vesper Sparrow	-3.3%	-5.0%	-2.1%	-1.5%
Grasshopper Sparrow	-6.1%	-12.2%	-5.0%	-5.5%
Bobolink	-0.5%	-3.2%	-2.6%	-2.8%
Eastern Meadowlark	-2.2%	-2.9%	-5.8%	-3.4%

areas, such as Crex Meadows and Namekogen Barrens. The national forest's goals for managing a certain percentage of their total area in open lands should positively impact open lands management in Wisconsin and Michigan. In the Upper Peninsula, Seney National Wildlife Refuge can also significantly contribute to the open lands management program. However, if management programs are not implemented quickly, the Sharp-tailed Grouse will cease to exist in Wisconsin and Michigan exactly within Grange's timetable of five decades or less.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse in Minnesota's east-central range, where essentially all sharptails live on private lands, will suffer a similar fate unless the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources continues and expands financial assistance to landowners through its Forest Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. In the northwest range, the fate of the Sharp-tailed Grouse largely hinges on federal farm programs. If and when the Federal Conservation Reserve Program ends, intensive land clearing will again occur on marginal farm lands, which will drastically reduce habitats. Minnesota's prescribed burn program, which is considerably larger than either Wisconsin's or Michigan's, may have further restrictions placed on it in both the east central and the northwest Sharp-tailed Grouse ranges because of Minnesota's rapidly increasing aspen wood and paper products industry. Because of this demand, foresters are becoming increasingly reluctant to burn even the smaller clones of aspen in Sharp-tailed Grouse country.

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

Birds of the Boot Lake Scientific and Natural Area, Anoka County, Minnesota

William H. Longley

I. DESCRIPTION OF AREA

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Boot Lake Scientific and Natural Area Management Plan and Resource Inventory, the SNA occupies more than 400 acres in Linwood Township of Anoka County (Sections 17-20, T. 33N., R.22W). The lake is meandered and is listed at 92 acres (37.2 hectares) at an altitude of 901 feet (274.6 meters). The highest elevation is 931 feet (283.8 meters). The 332 acres of vegetative cover is highly diverse, being classified into 13 types. About 104 acres (31.3%) is of upland oak woods, half of which has scattered large white pine. Lowland wet forest of six types occupies about 108 acres (32.5%), with tamarack, American elm, paper birch, red maple, white pine, and speckled alder predominating. Old fields occupy 43 acres (12.9%); wet meadow, 18 acres (5.4%); floating mat/emergents, 37 acres (11.1%); shrub thicket, 15 acres (4.5%); a relict jackpine bog, five acres (1.5%), and clearing, two acres (0.6%).

The Boot Lake SNA is not far from Coon Lake where my father built a cottage in the 1920's. Happily, Boot Lake is little changed since then. Even the droughty weather is the same that I remember from the early 1930's.

II. METHODS

1. A map of the area was divided into 106 compartments by grid lines based on section lines which cross close to the middle of the area. Grid compartments are 3.7 acres (1.5 hectares) in size. The field map was pasted on heavy cardboard (8.5 x 5.75 in.) and sprayed with clear plastic for durability.

2. The spot mapping method was used (Williams 1936). I traversed parts of the area, mostly following deer trails, at intervals of about one week. Trips began 30 March 1989 and continued into December, a total of 31 trips (24 during nesting season). The area was too large to cover completely in one day, particularly in the heat of summer; therefore, the area south of the lake and east of the stream was visited with most regularity. I es-

timate about 75 percent of the SNA was covered thoroughly enough to permit reasonable estimates of numbers of breeding pairs. Few pairs and a few species occupied the oak woods north of the lake, so little was lost by concentrating on better areas. Still, I believe a fair estimate of pairs can be made for the somewhat neglected places.

3. All birds seen or heard on each trip were recorded in a field notebook by location and grid. Of course, in wooded cover the great majority were not seen. Birds were recorded as singing males, non-singing males, pairs, females, or sex unknown. Nests or evidence of nesting such as birds carrying food, feeding young out of the nest, or strongly protesting my presence were also recorded.

4. Each day's field notes were transcribed immediately after returning from the trip and arranged in A.O.U. checklist order.

III. RESULTS

1. During the period 30 March-5 December 1989, I recorded 121 species of birds on the SNA. Two others (Rufous-sided Towhee and Mourning Warbler) were heard during the nesting season just beyond the boundary. The Management Plan and Resource Inventory (MPRI) lists ten additional species.

2. I consider that 54 species nested on the area (Table 1). The MPRI list two others.

3. Twenty-nine local resident species were recorded on the area but apparently were not nesting there (Table 2).

4. Transient species numbered 38 (Table 3). The MPRI lists two others.

5. The population density based upon a minimum of 301 territorial males and 232 acres of nesting habitat may be expressed as follows:

90.6 males per 100 acres
224 males per 100 hectares
580 males per square mile

A more thorough coverage of areas west and north of the lake might have added several pairs of the most numerous species (Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Veery, Gray Cat-

Table One

Nesting and Inferred Nesting — Birds Present
Throughout the 1989 Breeding Season

1. Green-backed Heron: One pair apparently nesting in shrub thicket near outlet, (two individuals present May-August).
2. Canada Goose: One pair present 15 April to 1 June may have attempted nesting. They showed territoriality on 11 May.
3. Wood Duck: Apparently four pairs, hen with brood of ten young, 27 June. 400-600 or more in fall.
4. Mallard: Apparently two pairs, but perhaps unsuccessful nests. Several hundred in November. (Original survey found a nest of this species).
5. Bald Eagle: Nest unsuccessful. Always one or two birds present March-16 June, and in August, September and November.
6. Red-shouldered Hawk: Two territories in lowland forest, northeast and southwest. Birds calling March-September, and 10 October. Pair in northeast much in evidence.
7. Ruffed Grouse: Drumming log used in April. One bird seen in October.
8. Wild Turkey: Persistent gobbling, late May-September. Usually one gobbler, sometimes two. Two hens seen 21 July-10 October.
9. Sandhill Crane: One pair present April-August. May have nested unsuccessfully, or the birds were not yet mature.
10. American Woodcock: One on singing ground in April.
11. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Pair at nest on 9 May. Probably two pairs on area. One to three birds seen on each trip.
12. Downy Woodpecker: One pair — male with young one. Probably one other pair.
13. Hairy Woodpecker: Two pairs, possibly three.
14. Pileated Woodpecker: One pair, possibly two. Birds present on each trip.
15. Northern Flicker: One pair, but birds were not seen until 9 May. Locations widely spread. Three heard on 25 November and 5 December.
16. Eastern Wood-Pewee: Ten pairs.
17. Alder Flycatcher: Three pairs. Four calling on 21 May.
18. Great Crested Flycatcher: Seven territories, perhaps as many as ten. Nest found outside east boundary.
19. Eastern Kingbird: One pair, perhaps three.
20. Tree Swallow: One pair, perhaps two.
21. Blue Jay: Three pairs.
22. American Crow: Three pairs. One nest found on 13 April. Young unable to fly found in two other places on 1 and 27 June.
23. Black-capped Chickadee: Fourteen pairs. One pair with three young on 21 June.
24. White-breasted Nuthatch: Seven pairs. One nest found on 11 May. Four adults with young also noted in June.
25. House Wren: Ten pairs. One pair at nest hole in dead birch on 27 June.
26. Sedge Wren: Two or perhaps three territories. One immature found on 8 August. Two males still singing on that date.
27. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One pair. Nest found on 17 June. Possibly a second pair south of lake.
28. Veery: Eighteen pairs at least.
29. Eastern Bluebird: Five pairs. One family group recorded on 17 June.
30. Gray Catbird: Ten pairs or more. Several isolated single locations (wandering lone males?)
31. Cedar Waxwing: Four pairs or more. Pair fed young out of nest on 6 July.
32. Yellow-throated Vireo: Seven territories or more.
33. Golden-winged Warbler: Two singing males 21 May to 10 June.
34. Nashville Warbler: One singing male 9 May-16 August.
35. Yellow Warbler: Six pairs.
36. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Four pairs or more.
37. Pine Warbler: Nine pairs.
38. Black-and-white Warbler: Four pairs. Adult seen with one young on 6 July.
39. American Redstart: Ten pairs.
40. Ovenbird: Twenty-two pairs. Young with parents at three sites — 17 June (2) and 6 July (1).
41. Northern Waterthrush: Two territories, possibly three.
42. Common Yellowthroat: Thirty-six pairs

or more. Female seen carrying nest material on 24 June. Another carried food to young on that date. Immatures not seen until 8 August.

43. Scarlet Tanager: Four pairs or as many as seven.
44. Northern Cardinal: One pair, possibly two.
45. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Two or three pairs.
46. Indigo Bunting: Ten pairs or more. Two pairs with young, 27 June and 1 August.
47. Chipping Sparrow: Twelve pairs. One nest with four young on 1 June.

48. Vesper Sparrow: Two pairs. Five immatures seen in August.
49. Song Sparrow: Sixteen pairs or more. One nest with young on 9 June. One pair with young on 24 June.
50. Swamp Sparrow: Fourteen pairs.
51. Red-winged Blackbird: Nine territories.
52. Brown-headed Cowbird: Three males at least.
53. Purple Finch: Possibly two pairs.
54. American Goldfinch: Four pairs. Adults with young in two places.

Table 2

Summer Residents Recorded on the Area but Probably Not Nesting

1. Common Loon: Flying birds seen and heard 11 May and in June and July. Two present on 27 June and 1 August. Four adults flew from lake and a fifth flew in on 8 August. Because the fish froze o t last winter, Common Loon nesting may have been discouraged.
2. Pied-billed Grebe: One bird occasionally present in late April, June and July.
3. Great Blue Heron: Birds present April through August, on up to five feeding territories.
4. Great Egret: One individual 9 May.
5. Canada Goose: One pair, 15 April-1 June.
6. Blue-winged Teal: Three pairs seen during migration.
7. Ring-necked Duck: Six pairs in April. Few in September and October to 1,100 on 7 November.
8. Cooper's Hawk: Three sightings 30 March-11 May.
9. Red-tailed Hawk: Four sightings 30 March-9 May plus 28 September.
10. American Kestrel: Only one seen.
11. Sora: One heard in July and August.
12. Killdeer: One sighting in April, two in June.
13. Black Tern: Up to six seen foraging.
14. Mourning Dove: One heard on four occasions.
15. Black-billed Cuckoo: One heard near boundary.
16. Great Horned Owl: One seen in April.
17. Barred Owl: One heard in March.
18. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One record in August.
19. Belted Kingfisher: One seen occasionally in summer.
20. Red-headed Woodpecker: Only one record.
21. Least Flycatcher: Two sightings.
22. Eastern Phoebe: Only one record, in April.
23. Purple Martin: Only one record, in July.
24. Barn Swallow: One record, 23 August.
25. Warbling Vireo: One record, 1 June.
26. Louisiana Waterthrush: One May record only.
27. Blue-winged Warbler: One May record only.
28. Common Grackle: One sighting in June, but several thousand flew over in the fall.
29. Northern Oriole: Five sightings 9 June-16 August.

bird, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat). This could raise the density to 96 or 98 males per 100 acres.

IV. DISCUSSION

I spent very little time searching for nests,

mainly to avoid excessive intrusion into bird activities, but also because the time was better spent in spot-mapping bird territories. There were obstacles to easily finding nests in the wet forest habitats (Table 4) which were made impenetrable by fallen trees — large white

Table 3

Transients (Migrants not ordinarily nesting in the vicinity)

1. Gadwall	20. Swainson's Thrush
2. American Wigeon	21. Solitary Vireo
3. Canvasback	22. Tennessee Warbler
4. Lesser Scaup	23. Orange-crowned Warbler
5. Common Goldeneye	24. Magnolia Warbler
6. Bufflehead	25. Yellow-rumped Warbler
7. Hooded Merganser	26. Black-throated Green Warbler
8. Common Merganser	27. Blackburnian Warbler
9. Red-breasted Merganser	28. Palm Warbler
10. Ruddy Duck	29. Bay-breasted Warbler
11. Osprey	30. Fox Sparrow
12. Sharp-shinned Hawk	31. Lincoln's Sparrow
13. Ring-billed Gull	32. White-throated Sparrow
14. Herring Gull	33. Dark-eyed Junco
15. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	34. Pine Grosbeak
16. Red-breasted Nuthatch	35. White-winged Crossbill
17. Brown Creeper	36. Pine Siskin
18. Golden-crowned Kinglet	37. Evening Grosbeak
19. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	

Table 4

Boot Lake Vegetation Communities

	Acres	Hectares	% of Total
1. Oak Forest (50 acres with White Pine)	104	42.0	31.3
2. Tamarack-Elm-Birch Wet Forest	37	15.0	11.1
3. Tamarack-White Pine Wet Forest	18	7.3	5.4
4. Maple-Birch Wet Forest	17	6.9	5.1
5. Alder-Tamarack Wet Forest	14	5.7	4.2
6. White Pine-Birch Wet Forest	13	5.3	3.9
7. Tamarack-Birch Wet Forest	9	3.6	2.7
8. Jack Pine Bog (mostly open sedge)	5	2.0	1.5
9. Shrub Thicket	15	6.1	4.5
10. Old Field	43	17.4	12.9
11. Clearing (NE)	2	0.8	0.6
12. Wet Meadow	18	7.3	5.4
13. Floating Mat/Emergents	37	15.0	11.1
Totals	332	134.4	99.7

pine and tamarack. These trees were probably casualties of the unusually high water levels of the 1970's and up to 1987 which limited root growth, thus making the trees susceptible to wind-throw.

A strong deterrent to bird studies during much of July were the tormenting deer flies which swarmed in numbers greater than I had experienced through many summers in this

region. Even before the first light of dawn, during the peak of activity, they sometimes started attacking! Their droning drowned out bird songs. Using a binocular was impossible without gloves, and, of course, wearing the necessary head-net interfered somewhat with observations. Mosquito sprays were of little use against the flies.

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- 532 W. Broadway Ave., Forest Lake, MN 55025.

1989 MOU County Big Day

Jerry Bonkoski

Another new record was set for the most species of birds seen in a county within one day when Mike Hendrickson and Kim Risen saw 159 species in St. Louis County on 20 May 1989. In addition to the new state and county record in St. Louis County, new county records were set for Cottonwood, Dodge, Fillmore, and Steele Counties. Five new counties were added to the list of counties that have done a County Big Day birdathon. The counties that were added to the list in 1989 were: Wabasha, Rice, Dakota, Lake, and Anoka Counties.

The overall composite list for species of birds seen during this year's Big Day counts were 225 species, down from 238 in 1988. There were no counts done in northwestern Minnesota for the 1989 Big Day, and as a result some of the species unique to that area are absent from the 1989 list. The White-eyed Vireo in Olmsted County and the House Finches seen in Olmsted and Rice Counties were the only non-regular species seen this year.

Along with the new record of 159 species for one day, I think that the Steele County team needs to be recognized for seeing 49.8% of the total composite list for their county. There are 241 different species on the Steele County composite list and the team saw 121 species on 13 May 1989. As a comparable measurement, the 159 species seen in St. Louis County is 46.4% of their composite list of 343 species.

I hope that there are more people who will go out in 1990 and do a Big Day count in their favorite county. All of our current Big Day records are from May. You do not have to do your Big Day in May, but you want to plan on doing it when you have the possibility of seeing the most birds.

Here is the current list of County Big Day records for this year and previous years.

County	Species	Date	Species	Date	Individual or team
St. Louis	159	5/20/89	156	5/20/88	Mike Hendrickson and Kim Risen
Polk	153	5/21/88	123	5/16/87	Dave Lambeth
Lyon	142	5/14/88	120	5/16/87	Henry Kyllingstad and Paul Egeland

Olmsted	129	5/14/88	122	5/13/89	Jerry & Jodi Bonkoski, Augie Krueger Jerry Pruett, and Helen Tucker
Lincoln	122	5/14/88			Ray Glassel, Bob Janssen, and John Schladweiler
Steele	121	5/13/89	116	5/14/88	Ken Vail, Nels Thompson, Leanne Alt, and Gary Johnson
Cottonwood	118	5/13/89	83	5/16/87	Henry Schmidt, Walter Harder, and Ed Duerksen
Aitkin	116	5/22/88			Jo & Steve Blanich and Warren Nelson
Wabasha	110	5/21/89			Helen Tucker and Alice Searles
Carlton	104	5/21/88	92	5/16/87	Fran & Larry Weber
Dodge	100	5/20/89	92	5/14/88	Bob & Steve Ekblad and Jerry Bonkoski
Fillmore	97	5/13/89	74	5/15/88	Fillmore County Birders Club
Wadena	94	5/21/88			Jerome and Karol Gresser
Rice	94	5/20/89			Tom Boevers, Marily Borchert, Mary Milbert, Orwin Rustad, and Forest Strnad
Dakota	84	5/13/89			John Soshnik and Brett Larson
Pipestone	77	5/14/88			Nelvina DeKam and Johanna Pals
Goodhue	73	5/14/88			Bob & Steve Ekblad
Lake	64	5/23/89			Dan & Pam Versaw
Anoka	56	5/13/89			Charlotte Wenger
Isanti	42	5/14/88			Daphne & Meyers Peterson
Le Sueur	32	5/14/88			Mary Simon
Hubbard	17	5/16/87			Herb & Jeanne Fisher

It is really very simple to do a Big Day count. All you need to do is see how many species you can find within one county during one calendar day. You can go out by yourself, as a team, or plan a club activity to do a Big Day.

When you have completed your Big Day, send a checklist of the birds seen, the date you did your Big Day, which county you birded, and the members of your team if more than just yourself.

A special thanks to all of you who have participated in the past Big Days, and have taken the time to send your results to me. I hope you will continue to do a Big Day in your county or other counties within the state.

Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.

Corrections

The Yellow Rail record printed in the Winter issue of *The Loon* 61:204 should read Yellow Rail in **Scott County** not Hennepin County.

In the same issue on page 213 under Wabasha County, Gary Swanson's total of 239 should be listed under Wright County, not Wabasha County.

The Editor

Minnesota's Bald Eagles: A Success Story

Mary Miller

The following words were written in 1932:

"From time immemorial and by all peoples Eagles have been looked upon as birds of special distinction and great prowess and have been selected as appropriate emblems and standard-bearers to indicate power and valor. Of the two common North American Eagles the Golden might fairly be thus regarded, but our forefathers... unfortunately chose as the national emblem of the new republic... the White-headed bird, which, in its intimate, personal habits, rather poorly justifies the distinction accorded it." (T.S. Roberts, *The Birds of Minnesota* Vol. 1, p. 336).

Dr. Thomas Roberts' description of the Bald Eagle underscores the dramatic shift in the nation's attitude toward the bird that has come to symbolize our commitment to the protection of endangered species. This article will review for you some of the efforts that have contributed to the increase of this magnificent bird and the results of these efforts in Minnesota.

Bald Eagles once roamed the skies throughout Minnesota. In his 1932 publication *Minnesota Birds*, Dr. Roberts states: "All the records of forty or fifty years ago show that one or more pairs nested about nearly every large lake and here and there along large rivers throughout the wooded parts of the state. Even out on the prairies the large groves near ample water harbored an occasional pair... as at southern Heron Lake... and in the valley of the Red River of the North." (ibid). The Twin Cities metropolitan area also provided habitat. Between 1874 and the early 1890's, eagle nests were observed on islands in Lake Minnetonka and the forest to the west.

However, European settlement of the state began early to reduce the number of eagles. Land was cleared for towns, farms and lumber thereby diminishing suitable nesting habitat. Shooting, poisoning and egg robbers further impacted the birds. Then in the 1940's, 50's, and 60's, the use of DDT proved disastrous to the eagles' reproductive capacity. In

1940, Congress made it illegal to shoot Bald Eagles or to remove their eggs, and in 1972, DDT was banned in the United States.

Due to their seriously depleted numbers, Bald Eagles were listed as federally threatened in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Oregon and Washington, and as endangered in the remaining contiguous states in 1978. The Northern States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan, one of five regional federal plans, was completed in 1983. It addresses eagle recovery in 24 states stretching from the northeast Atlantic Coast, through the Great Lakes, and west to the Great Plains. The plan's primary objective is to institute a strategy to re-establish self-sustaining populations of Bald Eagles in suitable habitat throughout the Northern States Region.

A recovery goal of 1,200 occupied breeding areas distributed over a minimum of 16 northern states by the year 2000 was established, with an annual productivity of at least one young per occupied nest. Minnesota's contribution to the goal was to be the establishment of 300 breeding areas by the turn of the century. The only state targeted to establish more breeding areas than Minnesota is Wisconsin with 360 areas by the year 2000.

One of the most important tasks recommended by the Northern States Plan is to annually monitor breeding populations so states can effectively track their progress in attaining these recovery goals. This is accomplished in Minnesota by an annual survey of Bald Eagle breeding areas and provides the single most important index to the size and health of the state's eagle population.

Prior to federal listing, both the Chippewa and Superior National Forests had begun surveying their eagle nests in 1963. Ten years later, in 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began surveys on all lands outside the two national forests and Voyageurs National Park, thereby providing, with the forests and park, a statewide monitoring system. In 1988, the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program assumed responsibility for conducting these surveys and for overall statewide

coordination. Today, all eagle nests across the state are surveyed every year. Cooperation in sharing information between the U.S. Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the DNR Nongame Program provides a comprehensive, detailed account of Minnesota's Bald Eagle population.

Annual surveys are conducted with two aerial flights. The first flight in April documents occupancy of each breeding area. Occupancy refers to those areas where evidence of actual pairs of eagles is observed such as two adults seen at an empty nest or within the breeding area, an adult present in incubation posture at a nest, an empty nest which shows clear signs of having been repaired in the current season, or a new nest. A second flight in late June or early July documents productivity. The only variance from this procedure is in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Due to its designation as a wilderness area, the BWCA is surveyed by air only once, to determine activity. The productivity of these nests is monitored from the ground by the US Forest Service and North Woods Audubon. Aerial surveys are a fast, thorough method of obtaining data which have the added benefit of not appearing to cause undue stress to the birds.

It is exciting to report that Minnesota exceeded its goal of 300 breeding areas in 1987 — 13 years ahead of schedule — and that productivity per occupied nest was 1.08. In 1973, when statewide counts were initiated, 115 occupied breeding areas produced 113 young. By 1989, these numbers had risen to 390 occupied breeding areas producing 430 young. Although survey coverage has clearly improved in the last 15 years, much of the increase is real.

Not only has the population rebounded well, the distribution of eagles also shows signs of returning to its pre-European settlement status. In 1979, nests were primarily restricted to the north-central and northeastern regions of the state. By 1988, not only had eagles expanded significantly in historically traditional areas, they were even returning to habitats where they occurred infrequently and where they have not nested for 100 years or more. For the past two years, a pair has successfully fledged young in a predominantly prairie area of the state in Chippewa County. Also significant is the ex-

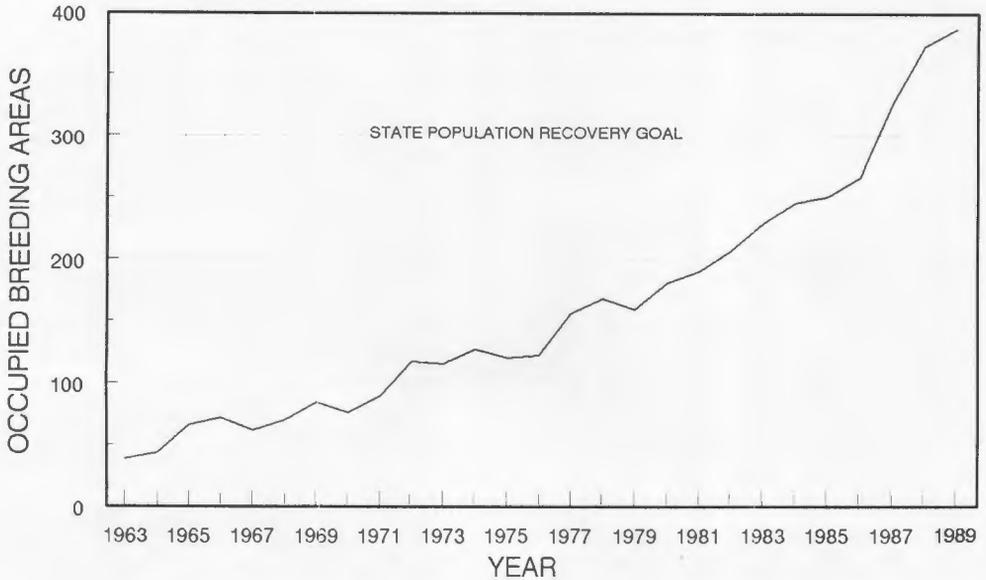
pansion in east-central Minnesota where eagles have reinhabited Sherburne, Chisago and Pine Counties. The birds are also flourishing along the Mississippi River between Minneapolis/St. Paul and the Iowa border. Three breeding areas within the Twin Cities metropolitan area have been established including a nest adjacent to downtown St. Paul at Pig's Eye Island. And in their traditional habitats in the northern parts of the state, they are nesting on lakes with moderate recreational use and occasionally even near recreational developments such as cabins, roads and campgrounds.

The Bald Eagle is a species which increases slowly over time. A bird which only produces one or two young per year and is not reproductively mature until four-five years of age will take a long time to recover from a population decline. To have reached a goal of 300 occupied breeding areas 13 years ahead of schedule is quite an accomplishment. Why have eagle populations rebounded so significantly in Minnesota? Perhaps the biggest factor is the banning of DDT in 1972. Other factors which are involved include the reforestation of the northern half of Minnesota after the intensive logging of the 19th and early 20th Centuries, protection of nest sites by federal and state agencies, and perhaps, most important of all, the attitude shift of Americans from fear and disdain to understanding and admiration for this beleaguered species.

Due to population increases, the possibility exists of down-listing Bald Eagles to threatened status in those areas of the United States where they are endangered. However, the ongoing health of Minnesota's eagles depends on our continuing vigilance. Efforts in the areas of research, inventory, management and education, efforts which have been the focus of Minnesota's Bald Eagle restoration, must continue.

1) Nest Management Plans, developed by the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program and the Superior and Chippewa National Forests, will continue to be developed and updated as needed. These plans characterize the general breeding area and the nest site, behavior and nesting history of the pair occupying the area, and, most importantly, any management constraints that are necessary to ensure full protection of the nest site. The management plans are particularly helpful in mitigating forestry/

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF OCCUPIED BREEDING AREAS FOR BALD EAGLES IN MINNESOTA 1963 - 1989



wildlife conflicts and potential conflicts with proposed development.

2) The DNR Natural Heritage/Nongame Wildlife Database, a geographical computerized file of rare resources in Minnesota, will continue to store a record of every eagle nest in the states; a new historical database, which is being developed at this time, will track the activity of each nest each year.

3) Participation in the Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey which is coordinated by the National Wildlife Federation has been a priority of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program since 1979. The survey monitors wintering populations and needs to be continued.

4) A project to identify winter roost and feeding areas is being conducted at this time. For the past two years and continuing this year, aerial surveys and ground checks seek to identify those areas along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers which need protection to better ensure survivorship during the winter months.

5) Research into problems which may impact eagles and other animals will continue. Several years ago, a study proposed by Carrol Henderson of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program documented the occurrence of lead

toxicity in Bald Eagles at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area by X-raying eagles which preyed on Canada Geese. This study was instrumental in prohibiting the use of lead shot in Minnesota and helped institute a nationwide ban scheduled to go into effect in 1991.

At the present time, studies of mercury contamination and acid rain are being conducted. There is cause for alarm as mercury levels have increased in Lake Superior and other bodies of water that support breeding eagles.

6) The Raptor Rehabilitation Center in St. Paul should be supported for its excellent work which includes treating and releasing Bald Eagles. The female which nested successfully at Pig's Eye last season is a bird that was released in 1988 from the Center — a good testament to the important work they are doing.

7) Both private landowners and public officials should continue to protect nesting sites and to keep disturbance minimal during the breeding season. Although birds now occasionally occupy more developed areas, it is unclear whether or not these areas might be sub-optimal habitat where the birds are less

successful. Therefore, it is particularly important to guard against disturbance near development.

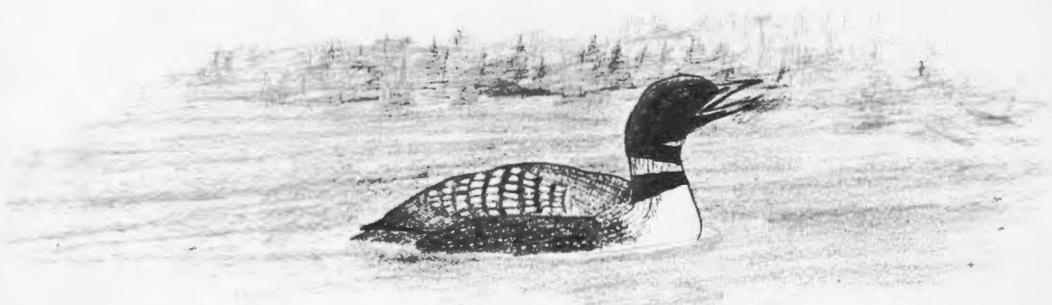
8) And finally, aerial surveys will continue, if not every year in the future, at intervals short enough to adequately monitor Minnesota's population.

There is much cause for optimism for Minnesota's Bald Eagles. Public attitudes have shifted dramatically. Legislation has afforded the birds a high level of protection. Public agencies, whether federal, state, or local, have mobilized to reverse a downward trend in numbers. Whether Bald Eagles remain a high priority in federal management or not, there is a commitment in Minnesota by both public officials and private individuals to continue to look to the welfare of this

species. We have reason to be proud of our state's part in protecting this magnificent bird.

I would like to thank the following, who have spent so much of their time surveying eagles: John Mathisen of the Chippewa National Forest; Ed Lindquist of the Superior National Forest; Lee Grim of Voyageurs National Park; Katie Haws, Pam Perry and Joan Galli of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program; Dan Frenzel, under contract to the Nongame Program; Doug Keran of Brainerd Vocational Technical Institute; Lowell Deede, John Lyons and Eric Nelson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155.



NOTES OF INTEREST

SECOND STATE RECORD OF GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW — Sometime during mid-November 1989, possibly on 11 November, Dave Gilbertson first noticed a sparrow he could not identify at his feeders at 460 Plum Road in Duluth. Although he did not have much experience with sparrow identification, and although he did not spend much time studying it, Dave from the beginning thought it might be a Golden-crowned Sparrow and casually mentioned it to a few others during November. However, no one else went to observe the bird and confirm its identity until I first became aware of it in mid-December as some of us started scouting rarities in preparation for the Duluth Christmas Bird Count. After hearing about this sparrow, Mike Hendrickson, Don Kienholz and I stopped at Dave's feeder during our scouting rounds on 15 December, halfway expecting it to be a White-throated Sparrow. The sparrow was at his feeders when we arrived and it immediately became obvious that this might indeed be a Golden-crowned, either an immature or an adult in winter or basic plumage. I had seen a few adult Golden-crowns in the West, but none of us had any experience with this plumage and we carefully studied it to be sure it wasn't an immature White-crowned Sparrow, the only similar species. Overall, in many respects the bird closely resembled an immature White-crowned, but as the bird came into better light and gave us

a better view of its crown pattern, we could finally see this was indeed a second state record Golden-crowned Sparrow. The color on the forecrown was dull but obviously yellow, and this area of color was wide and U-shaped above the bill; the buffy color which an immature White-crowned shows on the median crown stripe is similar but is not as yellow, is narrower in extent, and ends in a sharper point above the bill. The crown stripes on either side of the yellow were dark brown or dull blackish in color, unlike the crown stripes of the immature White-crowned which are rusty-toned. At close range, narrow dark streaking could be seen on the hindcrown posterior to the yellow, a feature not found on immature White-crowns. The bill was two-toned, somewhat reminiscent of an American Tree Sparrow: although the lower mandible was pale pinkish, somewhat like a White-crowned, the upper mandible was dusky and grayish. Also of note was the throat which was a bit whitish and the palest part of the gray underparts, somewhat like a Swamp Sparrow, and there was a partial and narrow white eye ring which was mostly around the posterior side of the eye, especially on the lower side. On occasion the sparrow would give a soft, White-throated Sparrow-like "ssst" call note. Birders in Duluth and elsewhere in Minnesota were immediately alerted, and during the following weeks dozens of birders had the opportunity to observe and photograph this sparrow. The bird apparently disappeared for a few days after 28 December when a snowfall covered up the feeders and Dave was unavailable to refill them, but the bird returned in early January and remained at Dave's feeder through at least 18 February. (At the time of this writing, 1 March, Dave reported it had not to his knowledge been seen since that date.) During January and February the sparrow did not spend as much time at Dave's feeders as it had earlier, and some visiting birders had to wait a few hours before seeing the bird, and some never saw it at all during their visits; it is assumed, therefore, that the sparrow was probably spending much of its day at some other nearby feeders. The only previous record of this species in Minnesota is an individual observed at a feeder in Chippewa County on 29 April 1987 (*The Loon* 59:101-102). There are also other records of this species in nearby states and provinces, including Manitoba, Ontario, North Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan. **Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

RED-NECKED GREBE ON 10 FEBRUARY: EARLY MIGRANT OR WINTER VISITANT? — The Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) is casual in Minnesota during the winter. In fact, the only January and February records are from Lake Superior, except for the most unusual occurrence of a single bird on Kellys Lake, Rice County, on 27 February 1985. This was considered "probably an exceptionally early migrant" although spring migration generally begins in early April (*Birds in Minnesota*, Janssen, 1987). Considering the above normal temperatures in the Twin Cities throughout January 1990 and the balmy days just prior to the sighting on 10 February 1990 detailed here, an early migrant or a wandering bird that had wintered elsewhere could be hypothesized. From Warner Road in St. Paul, Ramsey County, the bird was spotted swimming in the middle of the Mississippi River. It was distinctly larger than the *Podiceps* grebes we recently studied in Arizona. A presumptive identification was made through binoculars, then confirmed with a 25x spotting scope from a distance between 200 and 300 feet. The bird rarely dove, and was observed nearly continuously from 0915 to 0935 as we were looking toward the southwest. The bird was relocated on 10 February at 1430 and studied for another 30 minutes, but it was not present thereafter on four different days in mid-February. The large, straight bill was indistinctly bicolored; it was mostly yellowish at the base, especially on the lower mandible, the culmen and portions of the upper mandible were dusky. The broad head was flattened on top, recalling Western Grebe. The dark crown extended towards the cheek in a ragged, irregular pattern of greyish brown. The white of the throat and chin swept onto the cheek and towards the auricular area in a crescentic pattern. The thick neck had a grayish brown wash on the lower portions which appeared brownish red in certain light. The back was drab grayish brown and the sides were dusky. We considered the possibility that the bird was just entering pre-alternate molt. Early migrant or casual winter visitant? You make the call! **Peder Svingen, Sue Barton, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

VERY LATE DATE FOR SWAINSON'S HAWK — The fall of 1989 was great for watching hawks up at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth. The final tally of just over 67,000 was the fourth highest total since records began being kept in 1951. On 31 October, I arrived at the Ridge to begin my last day of counting hawks for the season and was greeted by a cold and blustery pre-winter morning. Temperatures up there that day were below freezing and the moderate northwest wind made it seem just that much colder. Skies were overcast and a light snow was falling. At 0940 I saw two raptors approaching from the north and I raised my binocular to look at them, expecting to see a couple of Red-tailed Hawks, considering the soaring flight and the late date. However, one of the birds caught my eye immediately as being something that I was not used to seeing at the Ridge. A few seconds later I realized that I was looking at a Swainson's Hawk. The first clue to its identity was the wing shape. While clearly a *buteo* the wings were longer and more pointed than those of Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks. While wing shape is often variable in response to localized conditions (e.g. wind factors, actions of the bird, etc.), the wing shape of this bird stayed consistent as it soared and flapped toward me. The two hawks stayed more or less together and as they moved closer to me, I began to see differences in plumage coloration and pattern. The darker flight feathers and lighter wing linings of the Swainson's Hawk were obvious despite the rather poor light conditions. The ventral surface of the body was mostly white, but there was an indication of a darker tail and, although lacking the dark upper breast and throat of an adult light-morph bird, there was some "smudging" in that area giving the appearance of a light "necklace" suggesting that the bird was an immature. The light wing linings lacked the dark patagial bars or "shoulders" that are usually (but not always) present in light-plumaged Red-tailed Hawks. Its proximity to the Red-tailed that was nearby allowed me an excellent opportunity for comparison of color and shape. As the birds soared over me I looked north to see a light-morph Rough-legged Hawk coming into view which gave me a chance to compare the Swainson's with another late season, and far more expected, species. Because of the early migration period for this species I thought that this sighting might represent a record late date for this species in the state. I took notes and made some field sketches before the bird soared out of sight into the curtain of an approaching snow squall to the south. Subsequent research indicated that this bird was the latest recorded in the northern half of the state and the fourth-latest ever recorded in Minnesota. The species has been recorded three times in November on the 2nd, 5th, and 7th (*Birds in Minnesota*, Janssen, 1987). The status of Swainson's Hawk at Hawk Ridge is that of rare but regular with 67 individuals recorded between 1976 and 1989. An amazing 34 Swainson's Hawks were seen at Hawk Ridge on 9 September 1988 following several days of strong west winds. **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437.**

SIGHTING OF COMMON RAVEN AT SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — About midmorning on 5 October, 1989, my Assistant Manager Jay Johnson came into the refuge office to report the sighting of a Golden Eagle along our auto tour route. I drove to the area to look for the eagle. Driving west at about 10 mph, I noticed flying ahead of me on my left, a large black corvid. Something (I think it was a bit of gliding at regular intervals between wing beats) vaguely suggested to me it might not be a crow. However, I was after bigger game! A minute or so afterward, the eagle came into view over some trees farther to the west. All else was dismissed as I raced the truck ahead a quarter of a mile or so and slammed to a stop, jumped out and focused on a beautiful, immature Golden Eagle leisurely flying and circling to the west. I watched briefly (perhaps a minute) having a perfect view against the overcast sky. Suddenly, I became aware I was hearing a raven's croak. I turned around to look to the north and there was a raven harassing, or engaging in some type of aerial sport, with a Red-tailed Hawk. I watched them diving, climbing and wheeling for a couple of minutes until the raven broke off and departed to the northwest. The birds had been possibly a hundred feet or so in the air. The raven continued to croak throughout their encounter. I was able repeatedly to observe the distinguishing tail shape of the raven, a wedge or spade shape in contrast to the round-tipped fan of the crow. (I had not previously

seen a raven south of Pine County, and only learned later just how unusual the raven is here.) I then turned about again to look for the eagle. It remained in view for a time but was drifting off farther to the southwest. About a week later, Ray Glassel came to the refuge. While looking for a Peregrine Falcon seen a day or two earlier at Pool 2, we saw and heard a raven. This would have been about six miles (as the raven flies) northwest of the earlier sighting described above. **Jay Hamernick, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Route 2, Zimmerman, MN 55398.**

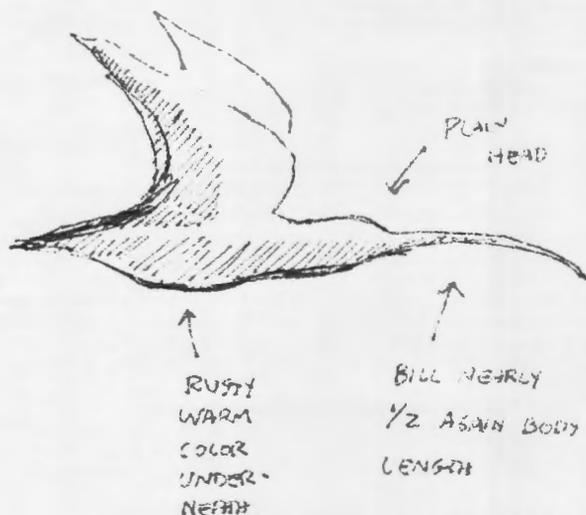
Editor's Note: This is one of the few documented records for the Common Raven in southern Minnesota. It is a first record for Sherburne County. The other records for the southern part of the state are from Washington, Chisago, Anoka and Isanti (Cedar Creek Natural History Area), Goodhue (Frontenac State Park) Winona and Hennepin Counties.

TWO LATE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES — Whizzing along Harry Avenue en route to the next likely spot where I might find White-winged Crossbills in Dakota County, and relying on peripheral vision developed over the years of doing this sort of thing, I saw a shrike perched in a brushy area close to the road. Expecting it to be a Northern at this time of year (12 November) I braked firmly (but still had to back up to be flush with it). I quickly realized that this was *not* going to be a short delay in the game plan. The shrike was not a Northern; it was a Loggerhead. So I got out the paper and pencil and settled in for a session of documentation. To begin with, the habitat was scruffy-brushy. The only size comparison I could make was with House Sparrows and American Tree Sparrows; it was about one-third larger than both. The color cast to the head was blue-gray, or bluish. Its bill was short, all black (both mandibles), and more conical in shape than the droopy or hooked-nose look of a Northern. The dark mask extended over the top of the bill in a thin line, and the mask extended over the eye. The uppertail coverts had a blue-gray tint. Its posture was less upright than that of a Northern. When it flew, the dark tail and white wing-patches were clearly visible. It flew out and over the field as though hunting, then back to another bush. I had suspected that this was a late date, and when I later checked Robert B. Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota*, I found that there were only three later dates. After watching it for about twenty minutes, and being certain that it was a Loggerhead Shrike, I went back to chasing White-wingeds (which I found by the high school in Randolph). About two weeks later, on 26 November, Bob Janssen and I were looking for crossbills on a whirl-wind tour of southeast Minnesota. We had found White-wingeds in Wabasha and Olmsted Counties, and were headed for Fillmore. Like good county listers, we were driving toward the Mower-Fillmore County line. But just east of Racine on Mower County Road 2, we saw a shrike up ahead, and stopped for what we thought would be a Northern Shrike and #200 for Bob for Mower County. It was not to be. It wasn't a Northern Shrike, it was a Loggerhead. This Loggerhead was also in a skimpy brushy area right alongside the road. It sat perched for a full five minutes before it flew a short distance and back to the same bush. We had ample time to check off all the definitive field marks of a Loggerhead before going on to Fillmore, where we did find White-wingeds; then on to Winona County where we found them in St. Charles. On to Dodge — no luck; nor did we find them in Goodhue. But all-in-all a good birding day; four new counties for crossbills and a very late date for a Loggerhead, the second latest on record. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 SW 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902.**

SUMMER RECORD FOR A LONG-BILLED CURLEW — On the afternoon of 26 June 1989, I was birding the eastern portion of Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County, when I had the chance to add a Long-billed Curlew to my Minnesota list. As I walked along County Road 8, I looked up to see a large shorebird flying in from the west. The flight was strong and very direct as the bird passed in front of me and continued due east until it was out of sight. Its bill curved downward and was very long, being about half again the length of the bird's body. The body was a warm brownish and about the size of a large gull. The pointed

6/26/89

HUGE SIZE



wings seemed to be redder underneath than the rest of the body, but I could not tell if this was due to the lighting conditions. I knew it was either a Whimbrel or a curlew, but it seemed much too large to be a Whimbrel. I eliminated Whimbrel from consideration based on body size, length of bill and the lack of any apparent head striping. The cinnamon underwings were not obvious, though they did appear to be somewhat brighter than the rest of the bird. I have seen and photographed Long-billed Curlews before (on a winter trip to Texas). This previous experience with this curlew, seeing them both on the ground and in the air, along with the size, shape and flight profile all indicated Long-billed Curlew as soon as I saw it. **Anthony Hertz, 4305 Wentworth Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55409.**

Editors Note: As far as I know, this is the first summer record for a Long-billed Curlew in Minnesota in the 20th Century!

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 to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

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

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

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(Falco MEXICANUS)

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Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should 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, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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The Prairie Falcon In Minnesota

Parker Backstrom

The occurrence of Prairie Falcons in Minnesota has fluctuated greatly over the past century. Over the years, the status of this species in this state has fluctuated from apparently non-existent to regular in some locations at various times of the year; this phenomenon has greatly puzzled birders. Where and when do Prairie Falcons most often appear in Minnesota? Why do they show up when they do? I have attempted to answer these and other questions by examining 150 Minnesota records of this species, and found that there are seasonal and geographical patterns of occurrence. This article will attempt to shed some light on the history and status of the Prairie Falcon in Minnesota.

The Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) is one of Minnesota's most enigmatic and least encountered birds of prey. In his account of late 19th century Minnesota birdlife, Hatch (1892) made no mention of this species. Roberts (1932) was the first to include it as part of the state's avifauna, citing what is apparently the first state record, a bird taken in a steel trap near Benson, Swift County, sometime in the winter of 1890-91. There were two other Prairie Falcon reports before 1900, then none until the 1920s when four more were reported (Roberts 1932, 1936). In the 1930s, sightings increased sharply with at least 29 records. The number of reports dropped again in the 1940s and 50s with a total of only four recorded during those two decades (Green & Janssen 1975, R.L. Huber 1959); then none recorded in the 1960s. It was not until the mid-1970s that Minnesota birders again began to see Prairie Falcons with regularity. At that time, the species was considered Casual (Green and Janssen 1975). Another large increase in reported sightings occurred between 1974 and 1979 when at least 23 were encountered. The 1980s proved to be the most productive decade in history for Prairie Falcon sightings. The number of records increased steadily, resulting in a change of status from Casual in the state to Regular (Janssen 1987). Of 150 records examined over the past 100 years, over half (82) have been submitted since 1979 (Figure 1).

Summer 1990

It is possible that some of Minnesota's Prairie Falcon records are duplicate sightings of the same bird or birds, given the ability of falcons to move great distances in relatively short periods of time. However, every attempt was made to eliminate duplicate records. A number of reports were excluded because of insufficient details. These include "several Prairie Falcons" seen in southwestern Minnesota in late September of 1936 (Roberts 1938), "at least seven unpublished presumably valid records," and "several" Prairie Falcons reported by a falconer near Glenwood, Pope County in December 1975 (Oehlenschlaeger and Zink 1977).

Where do the birds that show up in Minnesota originate? Short of tracking radio-tagged birds or receiving band recoveries, there is no way to tell with certainty. However, it is likely that "our" Prairie Falcons come from two main geographical areas. The closest-to-Minnesota breeding populations of Prairie Falcons are the birds that breed in the Badlands of North and South Dakota (David L. Evans, pers. comm.). It seems probable that at least some of the birds seen in Minnesota have moved east across the Dakotas from these areas, and perhaps from adjacent areas of eastern Wyoming and Montana. Other areas that could provide birds that we see here are the prairie provinces of Canada, most likely central and southern Saskatchewan and western Alberta.

The number of Prairie Falcons seen in Minnesota in the last 15 years clearly supports its change in status from a "Casual" visitant (defined as a species with acceptable records in 4-7 of the past 10 years) to a "Regular" part of the state's bird life (records in 9 or 10 of the past 10 years) (Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee 1988). However, sightings in the state fluctuate greatly depending upon time of year. Of the 150 Prairie Falcon records examined for Minnesota between 1890 and 1989, the year of occurrence is known for 145, and the month for 127. These 127 records form the basis for the seasonal distribution numbers (Fig. 2).

The Prairie Falcon is an Accidental visitor to Minnesota in summer based upon just three

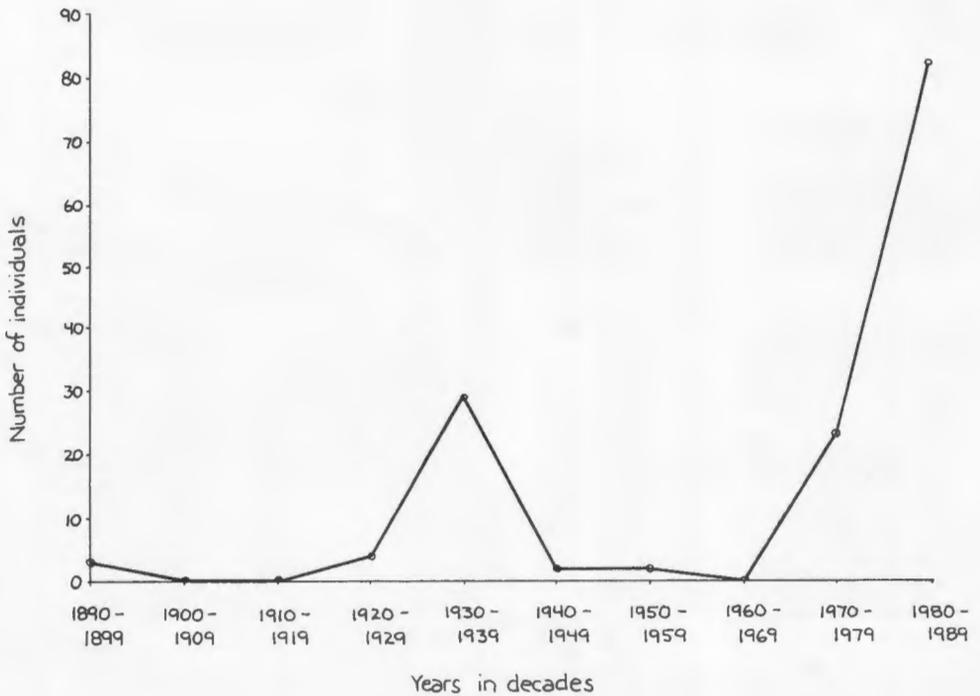


Figure 1. Minnesota Prairie Falcon records, by decade (n = 145).

records from that season. While the species has never been documented as nesting in the state, two birds were seen together in Blue Mounds State Park on 18 July 1949 (Green & Janssen 1975). The only other summer sighting was of a single bird at Felton Prairie in Clay County on 23 June 1984 (Janssen 1987).

In spring, the Prairie Falcon is a Casual migrant, based on 11 records from that season, most of which are from the westernmost tier of Minnesota counties. There are four spring records from Clay County and one each from Wilkin, Traverse, Lyon, Cottonwood, and Rock Counties. Especially interesting is the sighting of a Prairie Falcon at the Castle Danger landfill in Lake County on 19 April 1980 (Pieper 1980).

Prior to 1980 there are only four winter records of the Prairie Falcon in Minnesota. Roberts (1932) considered it only a "possible winter visitant to the western part of the state." However, since 1980 the species has become a rare but Regular winter visitor with at least one record in each of the years of that decade. Twelve counties have recorded

Prairie Falcons during this season. The greatest number, ten, have come from Clay County. A number of individuals have wintered in the vicinity of Moorhead, Minnesota/Fargo, North Dakota. A check of Christmas Bird Count data from this location since 1953 failed to turn up any reports until 1981, but since then at least one individual has been recorded on the Fargo/Moorhead Christmas Bird Count in five out of nine years (Laurence Falk, pers. comm.). What was thought to be the same Prairie Falcon returned each winter between 1982-83 and 1987-88 to a haybarn in the Rothsay Wildlife Management Area in Wilkin County. The bird, apparently a female because of its large size, appeared again in the fall of 1988 but disappeared late in the season and wasn't seen after that (Steve Millard, pers. comm.). Another Prairie Falcon appeared at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, Hennepin County, in December of 1988 and was seen there by a number of birders throughout the season (Hale 1989). What may have been the same bird appeared in this location again the following winter and was seen into February of

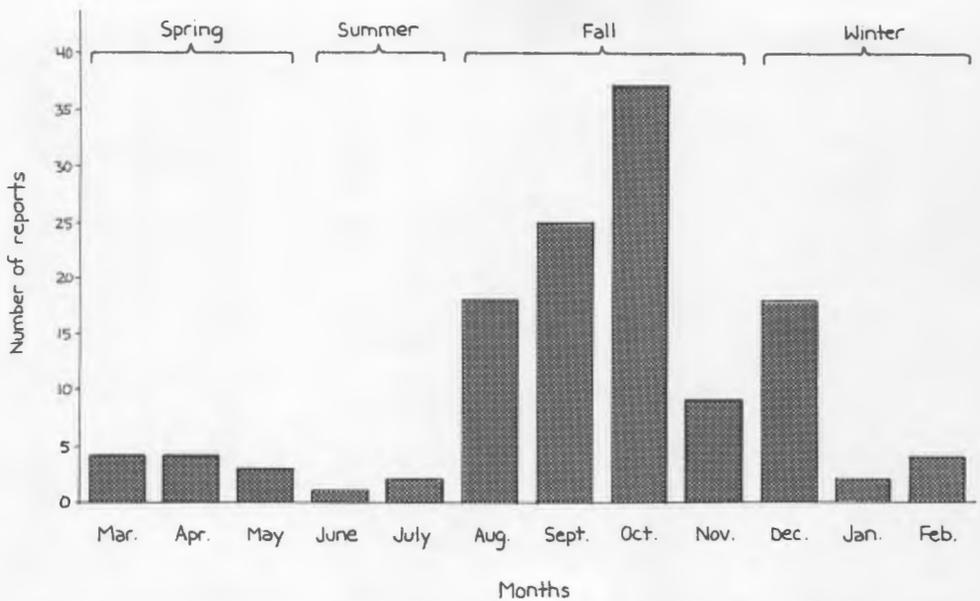


Figure 2. Monthly distribution of Minnesota Prairie Falcon records, 1890-1990 (n = 127).

1990 (fide Gary Swanson).

Aside from Clay County, only two of the twelve counties in which the species has been recorded in winter have more than one record: Wilkin County has had three records, while Cottonwood County has had two. The other counties, Pennington, Otter Tail, Pope, Swift, Yellow Medicine, Rock, Martin, Aitkin, and Hennepin, have recorded one each. Although not figured into the discussion on seasonal status, there were five more winter sightings in 1990 including two birds seen together on 19 February in Blue Mounds State Park (fide Robert Janssen), and a bird that was attracted by a falconer's bird in Blue Earth County (fide Gary Swanson).

The status of the Prairie Falcon as a rare but Regular fall migrant in Minnesota is evident based upon the large number of sightings from that season. Over 70% of 127 datable records have occurred during this season with October being the single most productive month. Fall reports of Prairie Falcons have come from a total of thirty-one counties all across Minnesota, but the counties that have recorded the greatest number are in the western one-third of the state. The county that has recorded the greatest number is Pipestone, in Minnesota's southwest corner. Of 25 Prairie Falcons recorded in Pipestone

County, 24 have come in fall or early winter. Eighteen to 20 were recorded in the county between 20 September and 27 December 1932 (Roberts 1936). It should be noted that 24 of the 25 county records came between 1925 and 1933. The only modern day fall record from Pipestone County is of a bird seen at Split Rock Creek State Park on 2 October 1983 (Raymond Glassel, pers. comm.). Wilkin County has recorded 23, Otter Tail has recorded ten, and Clay and Traverse Counties have five fall reports each. Although clearly most common in western Minnesota, there have been a number of fall reports from the eastern half of the state. The first report from eastern Minnesota was of a bird seen at Frontenac in Goodhue County on 27 August 1929 (Roberts 1936). Of the five Prairie Falcon reports from northeastern Minnesota four have come from Duluth, St. Louis County, in August and September. Also of interest are the reports of single out-of-range birds in Hennepin, Anoka, Dakota, and Olmsted Counties. The Dakota County bird, seen at Black Dog Lake first on 29 October 1988 (fide R. Glassel), may have been the same bird that appeared at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport in late December 1988.

Between 1894 and 1974 there was a total

of only 15 fall reports for the state, but between 1974 and 1989 a total of 74 fall reports were located. Why are the total number of Prairie Falcons seen in August, September, October, and November more than twice the number seen during all other months of the year combined? The answer probably has largely to do with the breeding biology of this species. One of the primary food sources for Prairie Falcons breeding in the Dakota Badlands and in the Canadian Prairie Provinces are ground squirrels, including Townsend's (*Spermophilus townsendii*), Richardson's (*S. richardsonii*), and Thirteen-lined (*S. tridecemlineatus*), while in Canada they also feed upon Columbian Ground Squirrels (*S. columbianus*) (Richard W. Fyfe, pers. comm.). Prairie Falcons begin breeding as early as late winter in the United States and continue into early spring. After about a month of incubation and another six weeks of growth, the young falcons are ready to fledge. After fledging, the juveniles rely upon the adult birds to continue feeding them, often for a period of several weeks while the juveniles hone their hunting skills. The dispersal of both adult and juvenile birds from the natal areas corresponds largely with the "disappearance" of their primary food source, the ground squirrels. As daily temperatures in the breeding areas begin to soar well above 100°F with the onset of mid-summer, ground squirrels begin to estivate, a form of dormancy similar to hibernation, to escape the stresses caused by the heat. Estivation can last up to eight months in some locations (Johnson and Smith 1975). In the Badlands, and other parts of the Northern Great Basin, adult ground squirrels may head beneath ground as early as the end of May, while juveniles may remain active above ground as late as Mid-July (Evans 1982). In Canada this timetable is somewhat more delayed, with the bulk of the adult ground squirrel population underground by mid-July and the young of the year underground by mid-September (R. W. Fyfe, pers. comm.). Once this occurs, Prairie Falcons have to move farther from their natal areas in search of food. Apparently little is known about the food habits of post-breeding falcon populations (Evans 1982), but a large part of their diet is probably made up of such bird species as Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Lark, and longspurs. Research has shown that adult falcons are more

prone to remain nearer their breeding areas during non-breeding periods than are young birds (R. W. Fyfe, pers. comm.). As a result, a majority of the Prairie Falcons that begin to move into Minnesota in August are most likely young of the year. This influx correlates with the post-fledging timetable, taking into account the time it takes for birds to travel between their breeding areas and Minnesota. Later in the fall, in October and November, there may actually be a larger percentage of adults that occur as normal migrants from Canada (largely), and the western United States.

Over the years and throughout the seasons, Prairie Falcons have been seen in a total of thirty-seven counties all across Minnesota (Fig. 3). In general, the species is most expected in the western one-third of the state, from the Iowa border to the Canadian border. Away from the western tier of counties, sightings have occurred in a random, but extensive, pattern.

Nearly all Prairie Falcon records have been of single birds, but on several occasions two or more have been seen together. Three separate individuals were seen on the 20 December 1985 Fargo/Moorhead Christmas Bird Count (fide L. Falk). Three individuals were also seen together in southwestern Otter Tail County on 30 September 1984 (Steve Millard, pers. comm.). Two birds together have been recorded on four occasions: twice in Rock County (July 1949, February 1990, as noted previously); at the Warren, Marshall County Sewage Lagoons in late August 1989, (Larry Semo, pers. comm.); and at the Rothsay Wildlife Management Area on 21 October 1989 (Backstrom 1989).

While it may appear that we have had a relatively steady increase in Prairie Falcon numbers in the past 15 years or so, is this trend real or imaginary? Why did the average number of Prairie Falcons jump from 0.1 per year between 1890 and 1929 to 2.7 between 1930 and 1939, and then fall back to 0.1 between 1940 and 1969? Why did the yearly average increase again to 2.3 between 1970 and 1979, then shoot up to 8.2 in the 1980s? A number of different factors may help explain these trends. There seems little doubt that the increased popularity of birdwatching in the United States over the past few decades has resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of falcon reports. However, the

Perhaps the fluctuations have had to do with the population of the species west of Minnesota. Lack of conservation practices as applied to birds of prey has been a well-publicized problem over the years. Indiscriminant trapping and shooting have plagued raptors throughout history, and although now relatively under control, it remains, in places, a common problem (Evans 1982). But another more far-reaching problem was the negative effect of environmental poisons, primarily DDT, DDE, and, to a lesser extent, organic mercury compounds (used as fungicides on seeds in the United States and Canada) on raptors in the 1960s and early 1970s. The best known victims of such compounds were Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys, but there were indications that western Merlins and Prairie Falcons were affected as well. Although probably negligible on the North American population as a whole, these compounds may have affected local populations to a greater degree (R.W. Fyfe, pers. comm.). In Canada, Prairie Falcon populations have shown an increase since restrictions on the use of DDT and mercury (Evans 1982). The rise in the Prairie Falcon numbers seen in Minnesota since the mid-1970s may be attributable to a rise in the general United States and Canada populations since the ban on these compounds. Further evidence to suggest post-DDT increases in western falcons comes from the hawk banders at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth, Minnesota. They captured, banded, and released single Merlins (*Falco columbarius*), of the prairie race *richardsonii*, in the falls of 1987, 1988, and 1989. These were the first of this race captured here since banding operations began in 1972 (D.L. Evans, pers. comm.). The *richardsonii* race of the Merlin breeds in prairie-parkland regions of central Canada and the northern Great Plains (Farand 1983), and is seen as far east as Minnesota only rarely.

In actuality, all of these factors — a greater number of birders, an increased awareness of the presence of the species, and general falcon population increases have probably resulted, in varying degrees, in the rise in Prairie Falcon numbers in Minnesota over the past fifteen years or so, although the reason for the peak number seen in the 1930s remains unclear.

Where can a person go to see a Prairie

Falcon in Minnesota? Rock County, and especially Blue Mounds State Park, is a popular birding spot that will probably continue to produce sightings. The species has been recorded here in every season (one of only two counties that can make such a claim). Lac Qui Parle, Big Stone, and Traverse Counties offer grasslands, prairie potholes, and a lot of plowed agricultural lands for foraging falcons. Lac Qui Parle County can boast such inviting birding locations as Salt Lake and Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge; reports of Prairie Falcons from these locations have dropped over the years, but their proximity to North and South Dakota makes them worth checking. Wilkin County has been the most productive in recent years with 27 reports. Most of these have come from the Rothsay Wildlife Management Area, one of Minnesota's most consistent Prairie Falcon spots over the past 15 years. Otter Tail County, directly to the east of Wilkin, has had ten reports, almost all in the vicinity of the town of Fergus Falls.

Clay County is one of western Minnesota's best birded counties, largely because it contains Felton Prairie, the best area of unplowed, upland grasslands left in the state (Eckert 1983). Almost all of the fall Prairie Falcon reports from Clay County have come from this area. The city of Moorhead is a good place to look for a Prairie Falcon (since it appears that the "guaranteed" bird that had wintered at Rothsay is now gone). Winter is probably best, as the species has been recorded here during that season in seven out of the last ten years.

The aforementioned locations have historically received the greatest amount of coverage by birders resulting in relatively large amounts of reports. However, it seems probable that Prairie Falcons are uniformly distributed across most of western Minnesota at certain times of the year.

Acknowledgements

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A Major Invasion of White-winged Crossbills, 1989-1990

Robert B. Janssen

In the winter 1988 issue of *The Loon* (60:177-178), I reported on an invasion of Red Crossbills into Minnesota during the preceding months. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills are erratic in occurrence in the state, their numbers can fluctuate widely from one year to another or they may be nearly absent for a period of years and then abundant for short periods. Both species of crossbills can be found in Minnesota any month of the year but they are expected most regularly during the late fall, winter and early spring. The

nest of the Red Crossbill has been found in the state (Clay County in 1967) and juveniles just out of the nest have been found in the northeast part of the state. The White-winged Crossbill has yet to be recorded as a breeding species in the state.

In this article I will attempt to document what I believe was the most extensive invasion on record of White-winged Crossbills into Minnesota.

The first indication that White-winged Crossbills might invade the state were reports

of the species in north central Minnesota in mid-August 1989. I saw one female in Koochiching County, and several more in Togo, Itasca County on 11 August, and males in Clearwater and Hubbard Counties on 14 August.

From mid-August to mid-October there were a few reports of very small numbers of White-winged Crossbills across the northern part of the state.

On 13 October 1989, Ray Glassel and I saw one bird in Fertile, Polk County and on 14 October we found a flock of about 20 White-winged Crossbills feeding on spruce cones in the small town of Strandquist, Marshall County.

It should be mentioned that there was an unusually heavy crop of spruce cones all over the state; ornamental spruce trees in towns and cemeteries were heavy with them.

Sometime between 14 October and 31 October 1989 White-winged Crossbills invaded the state in very large numbers. I have no idea from which direction they came. By mid-November they were *everywhere* in the state.

The first positive indication I had that White-winged Crossbills had in fact invaded was on 1 November when Ray Glassel and I were birding in west-central Minnesota. The weather was poor and birds in general were scarce, so we decided to head home, east on Highway 55 in Pope County. I said to Ray, "Let's check the sewage pond at Farwell just for the fun of it. It is only about a mile off the highway." Farwell is a tiny community, 102 population. We turned down one of its two or three residential streets. As we passed some tall spruce trees we saw cones falling to the ground. I jammed on the brakes; simultaneously Ray and I said "crossbills." Crossbills they were, and surprisingly they were White-winged Crossbills. We had expected Reds. There were about ten birds in this flock. Ray and I looked at each other; we were both thinking the same thing: if there were White-winged Crossbills in Farwell, why not in some of the bigger towns nearby. So we headed back northwest to Elbow Lake and found White-winged Crossbills easily. We then headed west to Wheaton, Traverse County and Ortonville in Big Stone County and once again found flocks of White-winged Crossbills feeding on spruce cones. It was dark by then, so we could not continue the search. On 4 November, Ray and I headed

for west-central Minnesota again. At the time we thought the invasion was probably restricted to western areas of the state. However, we found White-winged Crossbills easily in Maynard, Chippewa County, Granite Falls in Yellow Medicine County and Dawson in Lac Qui Parle County.

There was little evidence that at this point the invasion was statewide. Then on the 9th, Anne Marie Plunkett and I birded in Olmsted and Houston Counties. There was a Varied Thrush in Rochester; we weren't even thinking about White-winged Crossbills. At the crossroads area known as Blackhammer in Houston County, in the cemetery we found a flock of 20+ White-winged Crossbills feeding in the spruce trees. At that time it began to dawn on me that something was going on throughout the state with White-winged Crossbills. Over the past 3½ week period I had seen White-winged Crossbills from the northwest corner of the state to the far southeast corner. Reports of White-winged Crossbills soon increased on both the Duluth and Minnesota Hotlines; birds were being seen all across northern Minnesota and reports were coming in from the Twin City metro area.

On Saturday, 18 November, Ray Glassel and I decided to see if there were White-winged Crossbills in the southwestern part of the state. We had no idea what to expect because the majority of southwestern Minnesota counties didn't even have a White-winged Crossbill record.

Dawn of the 18th was clear, cool, frosty, with no wind at Morton in Renville County. The first place we went to was the cemetery. There was one, only one, White-winged Crossbill perched on top of a spruce singing. But, it was Renville County's first. We decided to look at Redwood Falls in Redwood County. There was no county record there either. We thought once more that an individual might drift into Redwood County. We found a flock of 20 easily, in a residential area. We decided to keep going southwest, all the way to Rock County if we saw crossbills and did not run out of daylight. In Lyon County along County Road 11 we found them in the first farmstead we came to with spruce trees. At Ruthon, in Pipestone County there was a flock of 30; the first yard we came to with spruce trees in Luverne, Rock County had a flock. We headed east and found them

in the cemetery near Lismore in Nobles County. Chandler in Murray County had a flock. At a farmstead south of Heron Lake in Jackson County a spruce windbreak was loaded with White-winged Crossbills. Our luck continued into Cottonwood County (Bingham Lake) and Brown County (Comfrey). It was beginning to get dark by this time so we decided to head home on Highway 19. We had added the White-winged Crossbill for ten Minnesota Counties in about eight hours. But we weren't through as it turned out. There was a little light left in the western sky when we saw the spruce trees of the cemetery at Gibbon in Sibley County. Sibley County had never recorded White-winged Crossbills before either, but there was a flock of 15-20 birds feeding voraciously on the spruce cones in the very dim light.

For the rest of November and into December, we recorded White-winged Crossbills all across south central and southeast portions of the state.

During the month of November, besides the counties where I had personally seen White-winged Crossbills, I received reports from all over the rest of the state. I am quite certain that White-winged Crossbills were present in good numbers in every county in the state. I wonder if this has ever occurred with any other invasion species in the state?

There were good numbers in the state in late December 1989 and into January 1990.

By February 1990 numbers had dwindled judging by the fewer reports received. I saw my last White-winged Crossbill on 24 February in northern Freeborn County and 4 March in Hutchinson, McLeod County.

What caused this invasion of White-winged Crossbills? One can only guess, but there are some rather obvious possible answers. There were a lot of crossbills and there were a tremendous number of spruce cones available. The birds fed almost exclusively on the small (about one inch in length) dark cones of the Black Hills spruce which are commonly planted in residential areas and cemeteries around the state. White-winged Crossbills are usually seen feeding on the cones of tamarack trees; during this invasion I never saw any of the birds in tamarack nor did I receive any reports from other observers of birds feeding on tamarack cones. When the number of birds dwindled by February, there was still an abundant supply of spruce cones. The crossbills in spite of their numbers, had hardly "made a dent" in the cones.

Crossbills, whether they be Red or White-wings are interesting birds to see and study. They seem to do the unexpected as a matter of course. The White-winged Crossbill invasion of the fall and winter of 1989-90 certainly made for very interesting birding. **10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Bold-faced species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the state.
2. Bold-faced dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence either earlier or later or within the earliest or latest dates listed in *Bird in Minnesota* (Janssen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold-faced counties (**Aitkin**) indicates a county of first or unusual occurrence for that species. City of **Duluth** also bold face when applicable.
4. Counties in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.

(See pages 78 thru 95)

Owls and Moths

Ray Cunningham

I have reared and released *Cecropia* moths from my home in Shoreview, Ramsey County for thirty years. These are the largest of the native silk moths in the United States and may attain a wing span of six to seven inches. They are an integral part of the food chain but are seldom abundant. Their large papery cocoons have become increasingly uncommon. They serve as ominous barometers of what we are doing to the environment: the catastrophic crush of civilization reserves little space for moths. However, they persist and I have captured a bit of their intriguing behavior on film. I include herewith some observations and photos relative to Eastern Screech-Owl and *Cecropia* moth interaction during June and July of 1989. As *Cecropias* mate only during the pre-dawn hours of 3:00 to 5:00 A.M., this is the time period of the observations described.

23 June 1989 — First female *Cecropias* emerge on 15 June. Each morning I arise about 2:30 A.M. to place the untethered females on outdoor shrubs or low branches of trees. The scent which these females release (pheromone) may attract males from long distances. This morning, shortly after 3:00 A.M., one of the female moths flutters to the ground. Immediately an owl, later identified as a screech-owl, pounces on it. During the next two hours this owl captures and carries off at least nine *Cecropias*. Some of these are unmated females, others wild males which arrive at intermittent intervals. These are devoured as the owl perches in a nearby basswood tree. The huge wings of the moths are folded back as the owl gulps them down — wings and all! Others are carried out of range of the 150-watt floodlight which illuminates the scene.

This owl appears completely indifferent to my presence. Attempting to protect the female moths and the arriving males, I move closer and closer to them. Still the owl swoops in and carries them off. Although I wave my arms and attempt to shield the *Cecropias* with my body, the owl continues to attack — so close that I can feel the rush of its wings and detect the very audible impact

as it seizes the moths inches from my head. *Cecropia* males are completely oblivious to, and may even land on, a person during this period. Usually the owl crouches lower, eyes riveted on its prey, before the headlong dash. Often too its head weaves back and forth in typical owl fashion. The floodlight enables me to observe, but does nothing to dissuade, the tiny hunter. Even when I yell aloud as the owl launches its attack, it seldom is diverted.

These owls feed on a vast array of small animals and various insects. However, these large moths are conspicuous and when males flutter near females they are very vulnerable. I had supposed that the very erratic, bat-like flight of the male *Cecropias* and the evasive action taken by them when attacked (folding wings and plummeting downward) might enable them to avoid capture. This appeared to be the case last year when a similar situation presented itself. However, the moths of 1988 had been placed in a more protected site and fewer of them were captured. When male *Cecropias* gather near females, their flight course is much reduced. At this time their concentrated, almost hovering flight make them easy prey. The sleepy lethargy displayed by their swift and efficient hunting prowess by night.

24 June — Again this morning the owls decimate my *Cecropias* — this time a family is here. Parent owl (probably the female) captures at least seven moths, mostly males lured by the scent of the female moths. These are taken to the young owls which are perched in the basswood tree. Moths are seized with talons and transferred to bill before being presented to the juveniles. The owlets eagerly consume them — again, wings and all — a formidable task. The parent sometimes chases flying moths in a tight circle before capture. Again an owl darts down and sometimes carries off two moths which are coupled together on a branch. The young owls, three in number, are well fledged and appear larger, fluffier than their parent. I do not hear the young call and they make no effort to pursue



Eastern Screech-Owl approaching a Cecropia moth. Photo by Ray Cunningham.



Eastern Screech-Owl about to capture a Cecropia moth. Photo by Ray Cunningham.



Eastern Screech-Owl captures the Cecropia moth. Photo by Ray Cunningham.

prey.

When diving at me, the parent gives aggressive screech calls. When perched, she often voices spaced bell-like notes which are far different than the typical tremulous notes of screech-owls, which I have taped.

I have erected plastic and metal fence barricades around the sumac brush to protect the moths. A three-foot wide opening offers access to my photo equipment. The owl quickly locates this vantage point and perches low in another sumac ten feet distant. Here the owl crouches, intent, ready to launch into instant flight the moment I place an egg-laden moth on a nearby branch. At times I am unable to reach my camera, four to five feet distant, before the owl has plucked the insect from its perch. When male *Cecropias* fly nearby, an owl often captures them inches from my head. Often too the owl wings off to intercept an approaching moth. The compelling scent of the unmated female *Cecropias* assures that the males will not leave. Usually the owl family leaves the area about 5:00 A.M. Male moths may continue to arrive until 5:20 A.M. Successful matings of these fortunate survivors may then occur.

25 June — Female *Cecropias* are placed outside in a protective wire basket. Successful matings are possible while they are thus enclosed. It starts to rain each morning about 2:30 A.M. — I'm unable to photograph. The parent owl is here and flies to the caged moths. The floodlight does not appear to affect behavior of moths or owls. The owl kills four wild males that I witness. *Cecropias* fly during quite heavy rain. Females unprotected from rain are receptive. There are three successful matings during these rain storms. A total of twenty-two males and thirteen female moths have hatched to date. The owl has captured many of these and also some wild males. These are taken to the three juvenile owls who appear to be 40-45 days of age. All are caught between 3:00 and 5:00 A.M., the only period the moths have been available.

28 June — A total of fifty-three moths have emerged from cocoons. The owl has killed at least thirty-three which I have observed, including wild males. These are captured with comparative ease. There have been nine successful *Cecropia* matings to date. This is quite a feat considering the opposition.

Generally I have defeated the owl by placing female moths on low branches or in wire cages in the corner of the barricaded area. Here the males which survive are protected by the fence and sumac brush which shelters them somewhat.

The parent owl is very vocal this morning — also very aggressive! While seated near the camera at 3:00 A.M., I have my head suddenly and forcibly struck by this owl. I am not moving near her offspring nor are they particularly close (50 to 60 feet). At this time the parent voices the same aggressive screech given when flying at me previously. Three shallow talon rakes are the result of this attack, and my hand comes away smeared with blood. Thereupon I don a canvas jacket and hat. During the next two hours the owl strikes my head six more times, twice knocking off my hat! These blows are dealt with

amazing force by the small guardian. It is not necessary to be near the young: three times I am struck while seated as before. Once the owl flies at me just as I enter the house.

29 June — The last female moth is hatched.

3 July — No male *Cecropias* have arrived for three days. The eradication of many within the scenting radius of the females may be implicated. However, it is late in the season for these moths to be active or indeed still living. Today at 4:00 A.M., two males do arrive, one captured by an owl, the other successfully paired with a four-day-old female — an exceptional age for a virgin female *Cecropia*.

These are the final notations and include about fifteen hours of owl-moth observations.
3651 Rustic Place, Shoreview, MN 55126.

The Amateur: Finding a Niche in Ornithology*

Harold F. Mayfield

The older branches of science were all pioneered by amateurs, but as they matured they have moved steadily away from the reach of the individual working alone with his own resources. As the need for laboratories, observatories, and support staff have grown, science has become increasingly the province of professionals and institutions.

In ornithology, however, the amateur is still a significant figure. Perhaps no other branch of science owes so much to the amateur, not only in current contributions, but also in continuing to produce the professionals of the future. Can we think of another field where we could make a similar statement? We should not forget that nearly all professionals in this discipline began as bird watchers. In other fields most eminent men did not meet the subjects of their ultimate specialization until they were launched in their professional careers. Even in biology, it would be hard to

find a scientist who traces his origins to an early love of fruit flies or mice.

Throughout this discussion I am using the term amateur to mean someone who studies birds only as a part-time avocation while carrying on a full-time occupation in another field.

Instead of speculating about the roles that amateurs might play in ornithology, I will focus on actual people who have been in the forefront of ornithology while earning their livings at something else. For my selection, I have limited myself to people I have known personally in my own lifetime. Another author would have picked others. The possible examples are almost innumerable.

My first category is the keeper of records. These are the people who chronicle bird life in each locality, and thus provide the record of changes over the decades. These are the monitors of bird populations, and without

them historians, ecologists, public health specialists, and other scientists would be groping to appraise long-term trends in our environment.

For my prime example, I take my friend Louis W. Campbell. For more than 60 years he has presided as the acknowledged authority on birds of the Toledo, Ohio region. Through his own meticulous observations and the screening of reports of others, he has built up a comprehensive account of the birds of this locality. His more important observations were recorded in national journals, and items of local interest were published in newspapers, particularly the *Toledo Times*, where he wrote an outdoor column for 33 years. The public also knows him from 1,200 lectures before groups of all kinds. His bird records are summarized annually in the Toledo Naturalists' Association yearbook, and comprehensively in his monograph, *Birds of Lucas County*, in 1940, and followed up by *Birds of the Toledo Area*, in 1968. Both are models of completeness and accuracy. His grasp of the local scene is broad, embracing its history, geology, botany, and zoology generally. Needless to say, he has been an inspiration to generations of young naturalists. For fifty years, until retirement, he worked as transportation engineer for the local transit company. At no time was he employed as naturalist or biologist.

My second category is the life-history specialist. The focus and the pace of modern biology has pushed life history studies into the background among academic and institutional ornithologists. This is not a quick way to fame. The comprehensive study of a species is slow and often unexciting. It is usually beyond the time allotted for a graduate student and it does not always yield the profound insights esteemed in professional circles. Testing narrow hypotheses is quicker.

Still, there are famous names in this category. We cannot touch on it without mentioning Margaret Morse Nice and Arthur Cleveland Bent. And yet neither of them exactly fit the model I am presenting. Mrs. Nice, the scholar and authority on the Song Sparrow, could hardly be called a part-time ornithologist. She herself bristled at being labeled a housewife. Although she was one, she was able to arrange her personal affairs so that she could spend endless hours and

days in her field studies, and she did not provide the family livelihood. Bent at one time may have been a businessman, but, during the decades he devoted to *Life Histories of North American Birds*, he was financially secure and gave his full time to this task. These people are already celebrated, and their opportunities were unique.

Instead, I will single out Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, a full-time dentist with a flourishing practice in Battle Creek, Michigan. The first time I visited him it was in his office, and, the way I tell it, he came out to see me leaving a patient with a mouthful of instruments, but he denies this. He had a lifelong passion for the living bird. He was a genius at finding nests, and tireless in the field. His notes were models of thoroughness, and he published his findings completely. Much of his field work he accomplished before other people were up, and much of his writing was done after other people were in bed. He concentrated on birds near at hand. Perhaps his greatest study centered on an abandoned farm near his home, where in the course of many years he completed a definitive work on the Field Sparrow. Within his county he found nesting Sandhill Cranes, and his attention to them led to four books on this species. Although at the very limit of the range of the Prothonotary Warbler, he was able to mount a study of this bird. On weekends and vacations he was able to give attention to the Kirtland's Warbler, and his nest records spanning more than 50 years provided material for two books on this rare creature.

Another category in which amateurs have left their mark is in the editing — perhaps I should say nurturing — of regional journals. If you will glance at a collection of state bird journals, I think you will find that nearly all of them are edited by dedicated amateurs. Any such modern list probably should be headed by George Hall, editor of the *Wilson Bulletin* for ten years. His adult life has been spent as a professor of chemistry at West Virginia University, but he will also be remembered as the authority on the birds of that state and author of *West Virginia Birds*.

For my prime example here I am singling out Robert B. Janssen of Minneapolis. As editor of *The Loon* (formerly *The Flicker*), the journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, for 32 years, he is probably the senior

ornithological editor in America. In that position he has provided leadership for a variety of activities. He has headed the state records committee, and he has initiated a telephone hotline for spreading the news of notable events. The information he has gathered made possible his 1987 *Birds in Minnesota*. His lifetime fascination with birds has not prevented him from pursuing a successful career in business. He has worked as a salesman and executive in a company engaged in the manufacture of envelopes.

Few amateurs can travel to the ends of the earth in their studies, but many, especially those who are city dwellers, have access to fine libraries. This brings me to my next category, the library scholar. A sparkling example is the late A.W. Schorger of Madison, Wisconsin. Bill Schorger spent untold hours in late afternoons and evenings in the dusty shelves of the state historical society library, combing through old newspapers for eyewitness accounts of birds in pioneer days. A weary librarian once said to him, "I have moved more tons of paper for you than for any other person in the state of Wisconsin." Years of delving in the newspaper archives formed the basis for his definitive works on the Passenger Pigeon and the Wild Turkey, long after both species had been extirpated from his region. Among many of his associates he was known as a paper chemist and business executive in paper manufacturing. In that career also he was a distinguished member, with many patents to his credit.

A particularly valuable segment of amateurs in ornithology consists of those who are competent in the physical sciences and mathematics, talents that are in short supply among biologists generally. As among professionals, good ideas often emerge where disciplines intersect.

Here I think first of my friend, the late Frank W. Preston, of Butler, Pennsylvania. A glass technologist and mathematician, he approached every bird question from a novel, analytical angle, with conclusions that were always out of the ordinary. He was a problem solver, intrigued by statistical topics, like the mathematical representation of egg shapes, the commonness and rarity of species, the distribution of the heights of bird nests, and

atmospheric phenomena aiding birds in long-distance flights. At the same time he established and directed a consulting firm that did research in glass technology and built testing devices used by the glass industry throughout the world.

Another distinguished example in this category is Crawford Greenewalt, a chemical engineer and business executive, whose inventive use of high-speed photography led to new insight into hummingbirds, which he treated in a beautiful and scholarly book that is a collector's item. His analysis of bird sounds led him to examine the mechanism by which birds produce those sounds, and his study of bird flight led him to consider the relationship between size and shape of birds and the aerodynamics of flapping flight. He addressed each of these topics in monographs that are highly respected by scientists. During a part of this time he was the president of DuPont de Nemours of Wilmington, Delaware.

Such examples ought to inspire birders to ask themselves if they have special talents in other fields that might be brought to bear on ornithological problems.

Finally, I mention with gratitude the legion of anonymous birders who are the foot soldiers of ornithology. No large cooperative project would be possible without them — censusing, banding, preparing of atlases, and building the historical records of each locality. Their names seldom occur in bibliographies. They are the unknown soldiers of this science.

Thus, in summary, I have enumerated some examples of amateurs who have found a niche in ornithology where they could perform valued service: (1) the keepers of the local records; (2) people who have made particular birds their own through life history studies; (3) editors who have guided local and regional journals through decades; (4) library scholars combing the archives for historical information; (5) people with training in the physical sciences and mathematics who have turned this knowledge to the benefit of ornithology; and (6) the legion of anonymous helpers who make all large cooperative projects possible. 1162 Nannette Drive, Toledo, OH 43614.

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Smith's Longspur, 21 October 1989, Felton Prairie, Clay County. Photos by Warren Nelson.

The Fall Season

(1 August to 30 November 1989)

**Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme
Foreword by Robert B. Janssen**

At first glance it would appear that the fall of 1989 was a rather dull season, with few rarities, rather typical weather for Minnesota and a less than spectacular migration.

However, if one looks a bit deeper, it was a most interesting season. There were indications that the severe drought of the past few years was beginning to lessen its grip on the

state. During a few days in August, four to nine inches of rain fell in parts of northwestern Minnesota.

The season started out hot and humid with a 94° temperature on 4 August in the Twin Cities. It was windy all across the state during August, putting a damper on some birding activities. As mentioned above, some heavy rains at last fell in the state. On the 24th, the Twin Cities had a much needed 1.3 inches.

Much of early September was warm, humid and overcast, then by mid-month it was clear and cool with alternate periods of heavy overcast. On the 23rd the temperature fell to 34° in the Twin Cities. The last week of the month was mostly pleasant and warm across the state.

October started warm and windy with temperatures in the 60s on the 1st, but it was down into the 20s by 2 October. A record low of 27° was recorded in the Twin Cities on 8 October. It stayed cool until the 20th, then temperatures began to rise; record highs of 80° and 82° were recorded on the 24th and 25th respectively in the Twin Cities. It was back down in the 30s by 30 October.

November started out cold: it was 22° with snow on the 2nd across the southern part of the state. Snow flurries were recorded on 8, 9 and 14 October. Winter really started on the 16th when it was cold and windy with 11° in the Twin Cities. It went down to a -1° by 18 November. On the 21st, four inches of snow fell on the Twin Cities and it remained on the ground. It was windy and cold the rest of the month with more snow on the 27th and it was down to 2° on 28 November.

The bird highlights of the fall season include: ten Cattle Egrets at Grand Marais on 14 October; an ibis at Gatzke, Marshall County on 12 September; two Ross' Geese in Becker County on 13 October; and two Brant at Agassiz NWR in Marshall County from 9 to 14 October.

Over 67,000 hawks were counted at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, and over 262,000 migrant birds were counted at the Lakewood Pumping Station, Duluth during the season. Record numbers of Cooper's Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlins and Peregrine Falcons were recorded at Hawk Ridge, Duluth. The numbers of falcons is certainly encouraging. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were a very respectable 41,900. Most unusual were the two Swainson's Hawk records, from Duluth, one

on the late date north of 31 October.

A Yellow Rail was picked up dead at Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott County on 3 October. Unusual was the fall occurrence of two American Avocets on the late date of 28 October at the unusual location of Austin, Mower County. A maximum of three Parasitic Jaegers were in the Duluth harbor until 22 October. A beautiful first year Iceland Gull was present on 19 November (a warm summer-like day), on Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. Burrowing Owls were seen in Polk County until 4 October. Three-toed Woodpeckers were in Lake County during late October and November. A very late *Empidonax* Flycatcher was seen in Minneapolis on 2 November.

The Mountain Bluebird is accidental anywhere in the state in the fall, but there was one report this fall in Cottonwood County. Varied Thrushes began showing up in the state rather early; the first one of the season was in Cook County on 10 October. The first Northern Shrike of the season was seen in Duluth (of course) on 8 October. A late Loggerhead Shrike was still in Mower County on 26 November.

The warbler migration was spotty with a few good days interspersed with many rather poor days. On 25 and 26 August there was a good movement of warblers and vireos in the southwestern part of the state. There was a late Blackpoll Warbler at Wood Lake Nature Center, Richfield, Hennepin County on 2 November.

A Western Tanager was seen in Duluth on 16 September and there was a late Henslow's Sparrow in Dakota County on 4 October. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow is seldom seen in migration, but one was seen on 30 October at Ft. Snelling State Park, Dakota County.

The longspur migration was spectacular in western Minnesota during September and October; see *The Loon* 61:200-201 for details.

Large flocks of migrating Bobolinks were seen south of Mille Lacs Lake on 5 August. A very late Bobolink was still in Duluth on 12 October.

Probably the most spectacular event of the fall season was the invasion of White-winged Crossbills which reached its peak in November. Birds had begun to show up in July and built up very slowly in numbers during August and September and then "exploded" in numbers during October and

November. On 18 November, Ray Glassel and I found them throughout the southwestern part of the state feeding on the abundant spruce cones in cemeteries and towns. On that date we recorded them in ten counties where they had never been reported! (See pages 69-71 in this issue).

House Finch numbers continue to increase across the southern part of the state. The Twin City area and southeast along the Mississippi River and the west central part of the state appear to be the areas of largest increase.

Common Loon

Late north 11/10 Aitkin, Mille Lacs SC, 11/18 Becker BK, 11/25 Lake DPV; late south 11/1 Ramsey RH, 11/12 Washington DS, 11/14 Hennepin SC.

Pied-billed Grebe

Late north 10/8 Itasca AB, 10/9 Cook KMH, 10/15 Aitkin WN; late south 11/10 Olmsted JB and Ramsey RH, 11/28 Washington AB, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

Horned Grebe

Late north 11/1 Douglas RJ, 11/3 Mille Lacs AB, 11/4 St. Louis AP; late south 11/9 Wabasha AB, 11/10 Hennepin SC and Rice FKS.

Red-necked Grebe

Late north 11/1 Todd RJ, 11/4 Duluth KE, 11/24 Lake DPV; late south 9/11 Sherburne SWR, 11/10 Hennepin DB.

Eared Grebe

Reported 8/12 Marshall AP, 8/13 Pennington RJ, 8/26 Cottonwood AP, 9/14 Pennington PS.

Western Grebe

Reported 8/13 Clearwater AB, 9/23 Freeborn AP, 10/10 Sherburne DO, 10/20 Marshall PS, 11/19 Hennepin AB, SC, RJ.

American White Pelican

Late north 9/9-10/1 Duluth mob, 9/17 Lake fide KE, 10/6 Crow Wing AB; late south 9/30 Cottonwood ED, 11/4 Wabasha BL, 11/21 Freeborn AP.

Double-crested Cormorant

Late north 10/28 Clay DJ, 11/4 Aitkin WN, 11/5 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/17 Ramsey EL, 11/19 Goodhue AB, 11/25 Dakota GP.

American Bittern

Late north 8/9 Clearwater PS, 8/12 Marshall AP, 10/8 Cook OSL; late south 9/15 Hennepin DC, 10/7 Anoka DS, 10/20 Rice AP.

Great Blue Heron

Late north 11/7 Duluth KE, 11/18 Aitkin WN, 11/26 Wilkin SDM; late south 11/15 Sherburne SWR, 11/21 Dakota KR, 11/28 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Great Egret

Late north 8/3 Becker BK, 9/14 Duluth mob, 10/20 Marshall SP; late south 10/8 Washington DS, 10/22 Ramsey RH, 10/30 Hennepin EL.



American White Pelican, 9 September 1989, Duluth. Photo by Peder Svingen.

Cattle Egret

Reported 10/14 Cook WP, KR, PS (*The Loon* 61:202).

Green-backed Heron

Late north 8/10 Aitkin WN, 9/10 St. Louis AB, 9/14 Clay LCF; late south 10/15 Washington DS, 10/17 Anoka GP, 10/29 Ramsey EL.

10/7 Hennepin GP; late north 11/11 Lake DPV, 11/30 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/1 Olmsted JB, Rice FKS, 11/9 Olmsted AP.

ROSS' GOOSE

Reported 10/13 Becker RJ (*The Loon* 61:205).

Canada Goose

Reported from 18 counties north, 26 south.



Cattle Egrets, 14 October 1989, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Reported north 8/16 Duluth KE, 9/10 St. Louis AB; south 8/17 Ramsey DZ, 9/21 Hennepin AB, 10/8 Dakota SC.

IBIS, sp.

9/12 Marshall JH (*The Loon* 61:201).

Tundra Swan

Early north 10/4 Kittson RJ, 10/10 Duluth PB; early south 10/15 Swift AB, 10/21 Wabasha AP; late north 11/26 Beltrami DJ; late south 11/24 Wabasha DB, 11/29 Houston EMF.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Reported 10/13 and 10/28 Lac Qui Parle AB, CMB, 10/21 Olmsted PS.

Snow Goose

Early north 9/10 Clay LCF, 9/23 Pennington KSS; early south 9/23 Brown JS,

Summer 1990

BRANT

Reported 10/9-14 Marshall ABe, RJ (*The Loon* 61:204).

Wood Duck

Late north 10/14 Kittson RJ, 10/17 Lake DPV, 10/28 Aitkin WN; late south 10/31 Wabasha DWM, 11/2 Stearns DO, 11/5 Washington TEB.

Green-winged Teal

Late north 10/7 Itasca AB, 10/11 Lake DPV, 11/1 Cook OSL; late south 11/9 Houston AP, 11/10 Dodge AB, 11/12 Dakota AP.

American Black Duck

Early south 9/2 Ramsey RH, 9/5 Sherburne SWR, 10/5 Hennepin SC; late north 10/20 St. Louis SS, 11/19 Otter Tail SDM, 11/24 Cook WP.

Mallard

Reported from 20 counties north, 24 south.

Northern Pintail

Late north 10/2 St. Louis DPV, 10/10 Aitkin SC, 11/19 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/9 Sibley RJ, 11/10 Dodge AB, 11/25 Dakota SC, GP.

Blue-winged Teal

Late north 10/6 Lake DPV, 10/15 Aitkin WN, 11/1 Douglas RJ; late south 10/22 Chipewewa AB, 11/7 Washington WL, 11/9 Winona CS.

Northern Shoveler

Late north 9/10 St. Louis AB, 10/1 Clay LCF; late south 11/11 Rice and Le Sueur AP, 11/12 Hennepin DZ, 11/25 Wabasha BL.

Gadwall

Late north 9/24 Lake SW/MS; late south 11/4 Hennepin SC, DZ and Sibley RJ, 11/7 Washington WL, 11/10 Dodge AB.

American Wigeon

Late north 10/20 St. Louis SS, 10/28 Clay DJ, 11/3 Lake SW/MS; late south 11/10 Steele AB, 11/11 Ramsey EL and Wabasha TBB.

Canvasback

Late north 8/4 Mahnomen BK, 8/15 Polk AB; late south 11/19 Goodhue AB, 11/21 Wabasha DWM, 11/25 Hennepin SC.

Redhead

Late north 10/8 Clay LCF, 10/28 Cook KMH, 11/1 Douglas RJ; late south 11/10 Steele AB, 11/14 Hennepin SC, 11/30 Ramsey DS.

Ring-necked Duck

Late north 10/28 Cook KMH, 11/1 Douglas RJ, 11/3 Mille Lacs AB; late south 11/14 Ramsey EL, 11/22 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

Greater Scaup

Late north 11/1 Todd RJ, 11/3 Pine AP, 11/5 Cook AP; late south 11/10 Steele AB, 11/11 LeSueur AP, 11/28 Hennepin SC.

Lesser Scaup

Late north 10/28 Clay DJ, 11/1 Cook OSL, 11/27 Lake DPV; late south 11/23 Winona CS, 11/30 Hennepin SC and Ramsey DS.

Harlequin Duck

Reported 10/6-11/3 Cook KMH, mob.

Oldsquaw

Reported north 10/14-11/5 Cook mob; south 11/18 Wabasha KE, 11/25 Washington BL, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

Black Scoter

Reported 10/9-18 Duluth KE, PS, 10/13-29 Cook mob, 10/21-22 Winona AP, CS.

Surf Scoter

Reported 10/11-11/5 Cook KMH, mob, 10/12 Duluth KE, 10/13 Becker and Mahnomen RJ, 10/25 Winona AP, 11/10 Wright AB.

White-winged Scoter

Reported 10/7-11/6 Cook mob, 10/13 Lac Qui Parle AB, 11/4 Renville RJ, 11/9-20 Wabasha AB, DB, KR, 11/10 Wright AB.

Common Goldeneye

Early south 10/21 Ramsey GP, 10/22 Dakota JD, 10/31 Hennepin SC.

Bufflehead

Early north 8/15 Polk AB, 10/15 Clay LCF; early south 9/30 Hennepin JF, 10/12 McLeod AB; late north 11/12 Aitkin WN, 11/28 Cook KMH; late south 11/19 Dakota EL, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

Hooded Merganser

Late north 11/3 Mille Lacs AB, 11/8 Cook KMH, 11/15 Beltrami DJ; late south 11/9 Dakota EL and Goodhue AB, 11/28 Hennepin SC.

Common Merganser

Early south 10/29 Ramsey EL, 11/2 Sherburne SWR; peak 11/18 Wabasha KE (75,000).

Red-breasted Merganser

Late north 11/3 Mille Lacs AB, 11/4 Lake DPV, 11/26 Aitkin WN; late south 11/19 Wabasha AB, 11/26 Hennepin SC, 11/30 Ramsey DS.

Ruddy Duck

Late north 9/23 Douglas RJ, 9/24 Clay LCF; late south 11/8 Cottonwood ED, 11/14 Ramsey EL, 11/21 Wabasha DWM.

Turkey Vulture

Hawk Ridge count: 869; late north 10/7 Lake DPV, 10/11 Cook OSL, 10/19 Duluth HR; late south 10/9 Olmsted AP, 10/13 Freeborn AP, 10/14 Wabasha BL.

Osprey

Hawk Ridge count: 279; late north 10/8 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Red Lake RJ. 11/3 Duluth HR; late south 10/27 Washington TEB, 11/6 Olmsted AP, 11/11 Mower JM.

Bald Eagle

Hawk Ridge count: 396, a new record high; late north 11/24 St. Louis TW, 11/26 Aitkin WN, 11/29 Lake DPV.

Northern Harrier

Hawk Ridge count: 1198; late north 11/11 Lake WL, 11/12 Duluth HR; 11/24 Roseau AB; late south 11/10 Steele AB, 11/24 Fillmore JM, 11/27 Houston EMF.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 16,989; late north 11/18 Duluth HR, 11/20 Otter Tail SDM, 11/30 Becker BK; late south 11/10 Steele AB, 11/15 Murray ND, 11/18 Cottonwood RJ.

Cooper's Hawk

Hawk Ridge count; 144, a new record high; late north 9/10 St. Louis AB, 9/16 Kanabec RJ, AP, 11/16 Duluth HR; late south 10/28 Scott RH, 11/10 Steele AB, 11/30 Washington RJ.

Northern Goshawk

Hawk Ridge count: 106; reported north 8/12 Marshall RJ, AP; 10/28 Cook WP; south 10/7 Anoka DS.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Reported 10/10 and 11/7 Washington WL, DS.

Broad-winged Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 41,900; late north 9/23 Cook WP, 10/14 Duluth HR and Aitkin WN; late south 9/10 Hennepin SC, 9/16 Ramsey RH, 10/23 Wabasha AP.

Swainson's Hawk

Reported north 9/23 and 10/31 Duluth HR; south 8/7 Mower RRR, 8/13 Pipestone JTS,

8/28 Dakota JD, 9/9 Martin RJ, AP, 9/27 Fillmore GMD.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from 12 counties north, 22 counties south.

Rough-legged Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 359; early north 9/22 Lake WL, 10/3 Duluth HR, 10/16 Grant SDM; early south 10/7 Anoka DS, 10/15 Lac Qui Parle AB.

Golden Eagle

Hawk Ridge count: 19; early south 10/5 Sherburne SWR, 10/19 Rock ND, 10/23 AP; late north 11/12 Lake WL, 11/17 Duluth HR, 11/24 Mahanomen RJ.

American Kestrel

Hawk Ridge count: 1898, a new record high; late north 11/12 Aitkin SC, 11/25 Todd RJ, 11/30 Otter Tail SDM.

Merlin

Hawk Ridge count: 208, a new record high; early south 9/1 Steele AP, 9/4 Fillmore NAO; late north 11/15 Duluth HR, 11/26 Wilkin SDM; late south 11/24 Lyon TG, 11/29 Hennepin DB.

Peregrine Falcon

Hawk Ridge count: 53, a new record high; late north 10/10 Cook fide OSL, 10/11 Duluth HR, 10/24 Marshall RJ; late south 10/16 Sherburne SWR, 11/11 Ramsey RH.

Prairie Falcon

Widespread reports: 8/6 Duluth TW, PE, 8/13 Pennington RJ, AP 8/23 Polk PS, 10/1-25 Wilkin mob, 10/15 and 29 Otter Tail SDM, 10/20 Cottonwood JB, 10/21 Clay KR, 10/4-18 Hennepin SC, mob.

Gray Partridge

Reported from 6 counties north, 18 south.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from six north and 24 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

All reports: 8/26 St. Louis (6) SW/MS, 8/28-11/30 Cook KMH, OSL, 9/22 St. Louis (1) MH/JS, 10/5-11/29 Lake (10+) SW/MS.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 18 north and six south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

All reports: 10/22-11/26 Wilkin (max. 72) KE, DB, SDM, 11/25 Norman RJ.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Clearwater, Marshall and Red Lake Counties.

Wild Turkey

Reported from Fillmore, Houston, Wabasha and Winona Counties.

Yellow Rail

One found dead at Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott County on 10/3 (*The Loon* 61:204).

Virginia Rail

Late north 8/13 Kittson RJ, AP, 10/23 Beltrami DJ, 11/6 Lake fide SW/MS; late south 8/15 Hennepin PS, 9/24 Scott AB, 10/21 Stearns DO.

Sora

Late north 9/2 Aitkin WN, 9/10 St. Louis AB, 9/17 Clay LCF; late south 9/21 Murray ND, 10/9 Dakota SC, 10/26 Anoka DS.

Common Moorhen

All reports: 8/6-28 Anoka (2) GP, SC, 8/30 Winona (2) CS.

American Coot

Late north 10/22 Clay LCF, 10/31 St. Louis DPV, 11/3 Lake SW/MS; late south 11/19 Winona CS, 11/28 Washington AB, 11/30 Hennepin mob and Ramsey DS.

Sandhill Crane

Reported from 12 counties; late north 10/22 Clay LCF, Pine WL and Wilkin KE, 10/23 Pennington KSS, 11/2 Mille Lacs DO; late south 9/3 Anoka GP.

Black-bellied Plover

Early north 8/9 Polk PS, 9/10 St. Louis AB; early south 9/17 Goodhue AP, 9/23 Freeborn AP; late north 10/26 Lake DPV, 11/1 Duluth KE; late south 10/31 Sherburne SWR, 11/4 Goodhue BL.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early north 9/10 St. Louis AB, 9/19 Cook WP; early south 8/5 Washington PS, 8/20 Yellow Medicine CMB, KE; late north 10/15 Clay LCF, 11/1 Duluth KE; late south 10/22 Chippewa AB, 10/25 Pipestone ND, JP.

Semipalmated Plover

All reports: 8/4 Hennepin SC, GP, 8/5 Mille Lacs RJ, 8/9 Polk PS, 8/13 Pennington AP, 8/29 Cook KMH, 8/30 Anoka SC, 9/8 Dakota AP, 9/16 Kanabec RJ.

Killdeer

Late north 10/10 Aitkin SC, 10/15 Clay LCF, 10/21 Wilkin KE; late south 11/4 Goodhue BL, 11/11 Rice AP, 11/24 Olmsted JB.

American Avocet

One report: 10/28 Austin, Mower Co. (2) RRK.

Greater Yellowlegs

Late north 10/16 Clay LCF, 10/29 Cook (80) KE, 11/1 Douglas DO; late south 10/29 Ramsey EL, 10/30 Hennepin SC, 11/1 Winona CS.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late north 10/10 Aitkin SC, 10/15 Pennington RJ, 10/19 Duluth PS; late south 10/19 Cottonwood ED, Isanti DS and Ramsey RH, 10/20 Blue Earth and Rice AP, 10/21 Stearns DO.

Solitary Sandpiper

Late north 9/17 Lake SW/MS, 9/19 Beltrami DJ, 9/24 Aitkin WN; late south 9/27 Hennepin SC, 9/30 Murray ND, 10/1 Freeborn AP and Washington DS.

Willet

All reports: 8/19 Swift (2) CMB, KE, 10/19 Cottonwood (5) ED.

Spotted Sandpiper

Late north 9/11 Beltrami DJ, 9/21 St. Louis PS, 9/26 Lake DPV; late south 9/24 Scott AB, 10/14 Blue Earth LF, 10/19 Washington TEB.

Whimbrel

One report: 9/2 Duluth (1) DE.



Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs, 24 August 1989, Thief River Falls, Pennington County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

Hudsonian Godwit

All reports: 8/19-20 Big Stone mob, **10/6-9 Duluth (2) DK.**

Marbled Godwit

One report: 8/9 Polk (2) PS.

Ruddy Turnstone

All reports: 8/12 Beltrami, Clearwater (1) RJ, AP.

Red Knot

All reports: **8/23** Le Sueur mob, 8/24 Pennington PS, 8/31 Duluth PB.

Sanderling

All reports: 8/13-24 Pennington RJ, AP, PS, 8/15 Polk AB, 9/10-30 Duluth AB, DS, 10/7 Cook WP, **11/4** Wabasha BL.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Late north 8/15 Cook KMH, 8/17 Beltrami DJ, 9/30 St. Louis DJ; late south 8/28 Anoka SC, 9/8 Dakota AP, 10/7 Goodhue BL.

Least Sandpiper

Late north 8/21 Cook KMH, 9/10 St. Louis

AB, 9/27 Lake DPV; late south 9/23 Freeborn AP, 9/27 Sherburne SWR, **10/25** Rice AP.

White-rumped Sandpiper

All reports: 8/14-10/14 Duluth PS, KE, 8/24 Pennington PS, 9/20 Le Sueur EK, **10/13** Becker RJ and Freeborn AP.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early north 8/3 St. Louis PS, 8/13 Kittson AP; early south 8/5 Isanti RJ, 8/8 Ramsey RJ; late north 9/10 St. Louis AB, 9/12 Cook KMH; late south **11/4** Goodhue BL, **11/11** Rice AP.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late north 10/15 Lake PS, 10/21 Wilkin KE, 10/29 Cook KE; late south 10/29 Ramsey EL, 11/11 Rice AP, **11/14** Winona CS.

Dunlin

Early north 8/12 Clearwater RJ, AP, 9/10 St. Louis AB; early south 8/16 Washington WL, 8/22 Dakota JD; late north 10/13 Becker RJ, 10/29 Cook KE; late south 10/1 Freeborn AP, 10/25 Rice AP.

Stilt Sandpiper

Early north 8/3 St. Louis PS, 8/13 Kittson AP and Pennington RJ; early south 8/13 Hennepin SC, 8/19 Swift and Yellow Medicine CMB; late north 9/3 Cook WP, 9/10 St. Louis AB; late south 9/23 Freeborn AP, 9/28 Waseca AP.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Numbers up, reported from nine counties; early north 8/3 Duluth PS and Pine KR, 8/10 Cook KMH, WP; early south 8/1 Washington KR, 8/4 Carver RJ; late north 9/3 Clearwater AB, 10/6 Duluth DK; late south 9/11 Hennepin OJ, 9/12 Dakota PS.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early north 8/3 St. Louis PS, 8/12 Cook WP; early south 8/4 Hennepin SC, GP, 8/6 Dakota JD; late north 9/16 Kanabec RJ, AP and St. Louis KR; late south 9/9 Martin AP, RQD.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Early south 9/24 Ramsey and Scott AB, 9/28 Freeborn and Waseca AP; late south 10/20 Blue Earth AP, 10/25 Rice AP; only north reports 9/16 Duluth KR, PS, 10/9 Duluth KE.

Common Snipe

Late north 11/3 Becker BK, 11/4 Aitkin WN, 11/5 Itasca AB; late south 11/1 Washington TEB, 11/4 Anoka DS, 11/25 Hennepin SC, GP.

American Woodcock

Late north 10/17 Lake SW/MS, 11/5 Cass DO, 11/10 Cook OSL; late south 10/25 Washington TEB, 10/31 Fillmore NAO, 11/1 Hennepin SC.

Wilson's Phalarope

All reports: 8/9 Polk PS, 8/12 Clearwater RJ, AP, 8/13-17 Pennington RJ, AB, 8/14 Duluth MH 8/20 Yellow Medicine CMB.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 8/8-9 Duluth DE, 8/13 Kittson AP, 8/13-17 Pennington RJ, AB, 8/15 Polk AB, 8/19 Lyon KE, 8/20 Yellow Medicine CMB and Beaver Bay, Lake Co. DE, MH, 8/23 Le Sueur KR, 8/27 Clay LCF, 8/30 Two Harbors, Lake Co. DPV, 9/6 Steele AP.

Parasitic Jaeger

All reports: 9/30 Duluth (1) BL, DS, 10/14-22 Duluth (max. 3) mob.

Franklin's Gull

Late north 9/21 Todd AB, 9/24 Aitkin WN, 10/23 Otter Tail DS; late south 11/4 Sibley RJ, 11/10 Freeborn AB, 11/11 Waseca AP.

Bonaparte's Gull

Early north 8/1 Beltrami DJ, 8/12 Aitkin WN; early south 8/4 Carver RJ, 9/21 Stearns AB; late north 11/11 Beltrami DJ, 11/18 Aitkin WN; late south 11/3 Hennepin SC, 11/21 Dakota KR.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 12 north and 17 south counties; late north 11/10 Hubbard HJF, 11/13 Lake DPV, 11/18 Aitkin WN.

Herring Gull

Reported from eight north and ten south counties.

Thayer's Gull

All reports: 11/24 Wabasha (1) BL, 11/28-30 Hennepin (2) SC.

ICELAND GULL

11/19 Lake Calhoun, Minneapolis (imm.) SC et al. (*The Loon* 61:207-208).

Glaucous Gull

All reports: 11/25-30 Hennepin (2) mob.

Caspian Tern

Early south 9/5 Hennepin DB, 9/9 Dakota EL, Faribault RJ, AP and Washington DS; late north 9/17 Beltrami DJ, 10/8 Aitkin WN; late south 10/8 Washington JD, 11/2 Hennepin SC, GP.

Common Tern

All reports: 8/10 Lake of the Woods PS, 8/13 Aitkin WN, 9/10 St. Louis AB, 10/13 Lac Qui Parle AB.

Forster's Tern

All reports: 8/1 Beltrami DJ, 8/15 Polk AB, 9/6 Washington DS, 9/9 Faribault AP, 9/21 Winona CS, 9/23 Pope RJ, 10/10 Aitkin and Mille Lacs SC.

Black Tern

Late north 8/17 Pennington AB, 8/25 Becker DZ, 9/2 Aitkin WN; late south 8/19 Wabasha DWM, 9/2 Anoka SC, RH, 9/5 Washington WL.

Rock Dove

Reported from 13 north and 24 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Late north 10/29 Clay LCF, 11/7 Lake DPV, 11/23 Aitkin WN.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Late north 8/13 Beltrami DJ and Kittson AP, 8/17 Pennington AB, 9/22 Cook KMH; late south 9/6 Hennepin PS, 9/12 Fillmore NAO, 9/28 Nicollet LF.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All reports: 8/3-11 Cook OSL, 8/15 Rice OR, 8/29 Sherburne SWR, 10/6 Brown JS.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Cottonwood, Dakota, Faribault, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Mower, Murray, Nobles and Pipestone Counties.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 14 north and 20 south counties.

Snowy Owl

All reports: 11/22 Duluth DEv, 11/26 Wilkin SDM.

Burrowing Owl

All reports: 8/12-10/4 Rock (3) mob.

Barred Owl

Reported from six north and nine south counties.

Great Gray Owl

All reports: 8/13 Beltrami DJ, 11/23 St. Louis (1) JL.

Long-eared Owl

All reports: 9/22 Cook KMH, 9/30 Steele AP, 10/6 Lake DPV, 10/18 St. Louis PS.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 10/8 Clay LCF, 10/10 Duluth PB, 10/28 Hennepin BL.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

All reports: 9/22-10/18 St. Louis KE, PS; record numbers at Hawk Ridge Banding Station (173) and 10/7 (293) KE.

Common Nighthawk

Late north 9/7 Beltrami DJ, 9/20 Pennington KSS, 9/21 Todd AB; late south 9/28 Freeborn AP, 10/3 Brown JS, 10/4 Rice OR.

Whip-poor-will

All reports: 9/6-9 Anoka JH, GP, SC, 8/5-9/8 Houston EMF.

Chimney Swift

Late north 9/21 Todd AB, 9/24 Clay LCF; late south 9/24 Fillmore DZ and Ramsey EL, 10/4 Hennepin KR.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Late north 9/16 Cook OSL and St. Louis PS, 9/20 Koochiching GM, 9/21 Clay LCF; late south 9/26 Nicollet LF, 9/29 Dakota JD, 10/2 Mower JM.

Belted Kingfisher

Late north 10/29 Cook OSL, 11/4 Becker BK, 11/30 Otter Tail SDM.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from ten north and 18 south counties; late north 9/24 Aitkin WN, 10/2 Cook OSL, 10/22 Pennington KSS.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from 11 north and 26 south counties; late north 11/22 Cook WP, 11/25 Douglas RJ, 11/30 Otter Tail SDM.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Late north 9/20 Lake DPV and St. Louis TW, 10/3 Clay LCF, 10/11 Cook KMH; late south 10/4 Winona CS, 10/5 Washington WL, 11/22 Dakota JD.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 18 north and 31 south counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 21 north and 26 south counties.

Three-toed Woodpecker

All reports: late Oct. Lake (1) JL, 11/18 Lake (1, different location) JL.

Black-backed Woodpecker

All reports: 8/11 and 10/8 St. Louis SW/MS, DJ, 11/7 Lake SW/MS, 11/14 Cook WP.

Northern Flicker

Reported from 15 north and 23 south counties; late north 10/14 Clay LCF, 10/18 Cook OSL, 11/1 Duluth KE; peak 9/22 Duluth (about 9000) KE.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 20 north and 21 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 8/3 Brown JS, 8/10 Hennepin SC; late north 9/1 St. Louis TW, 9/4 Lake DPV; late south 9/20 Winona CS, 9/24 Watonwan ED.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Late north 8/25 Becker DZ, 8/28 Beltrami DZ, 9/16 Clay LCF; late south 9/25 Houston EMF, 10/3 Hennepin SC, 10/7 Goodhue BL.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 8/13 Hennepin SC, 8/20 Fillmore NAO; late north 9/6 Cook KMH, 9/9 Aitkin WN; late south 9/7 Steele AP, 9/9 Hennepin SC.

Acadian Flycatcher

One report: 8/3 Scott DB.

Alder Flycatcher

Late north 8/13 Kittson AP, 8/17 Pennington AB, 9/21 St. Louis PS; late south 9/6 Steele AP, 9/7 Anoka RH, 9/12 Chippewa RJ.

Willow Flycatcher

Two north reports 8/13 Kittson AP, 8/19 Clay LCF; late south 9/11 Steele AP, 9/24 Cottonwood ED, 9/25 Houston EMF.

Least Flycatcher

Late north 9/10 Beltrami DJ, 9/22 Cook KMH, 9/24 Duluth PS; late south 9/22 Brown JS, 10/1 Ramsey RH, 11/2 Hennepin SC (*The Loon* 61:206).

Eastern Phoebe

Late north 9/25 Pennington KSS, 10/2 Beltrami DJ, 11/5 Cook KE; late south 10/21 Brown JS, 10/24 Hennepin GP, 10/30 Houston EMF.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Late north 9/1 St. Louis TW, 9/2 Clearwa-

ter AB, 9/3 Clay LCF; late south 9/12 Fillmore NAO, 9/17 Nicollet LF and Washington DS, 9/19 Hennepin SC and Houston EMF.

Western Kingbird

Late north 8/13 Kittson RJ, 8/27 Clay LCF, 8/27 and 9/10 Duluth LE, MH; late south 9/4 Murray JP, 9/8 Hennepin OJ, 9/20 Murray ND.

Eastern Kingbird

Late north 9/12 Pennington KSS, 9/17 St. Louis SDM, 9/30 Cook OSL; late south 9/11 Murray ND.

Horned Lark

Reported from nine north and 16 south counties; late north 10/25 Cook KMH, 10/29 Clay LCF, 11/20 Pennington KSS.

Purple Martin

Late north 8/25 Becker DZ, 9/16 Todd PH, 9/17 Wadena AB; late south 9/6 Anoka SC and Washington WL, 9/7 Pipestone ND, JP, 9/19 Mower AP.

Tree Swallow

Late north 9/17 Wadena AB, 9/24 Clay LCF, 9/28 Todd PH; late south 9/30 Mower RJ, 10/3 Houston AP, 10/4 Winona CS.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Late north 9/17 Clay LCF, 9/28 Todd PH; late south 9/4 Fillmore NAO, 9/24 Winona CS, 10/5 Hennepin SC.

Bank Swallow

Late north 8/17 Pennington AB, 8/20 Clay LCF, 9/28 Todd PH; late south 8/27 Brown JS, 8/30 Pipestone JP, 9/27 Winona CS.

Cliff Swallow

Late north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/17 Clay LCF, 9/28 Todd PH; late south 9/17 Dakota AP, 9/21 Scott AP, 9/28 Freeborn AP.

Barn Swallow

Late north 10/4 Duluth KE, 10/5 Clay LCF, 10/23 Otter Tail DS; late south 9/30 Mower RJ, 10/4 Winona CS, 10/13 Freeborn AP.

Gray Jay

Reported from nine north counties.

Blue Jay

Reported from 19 north and 30 south counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau, St. Louis and Wilkin Counties, and 10/17 **Duluth** (1) KE.

American Crow

Reported from 20 north and 26 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from 15 north counties; only south reports 9/3 and 10/21 Anoka JH, 10/5 Sherburne (1) SWR (*The Loon* 62:57-58).

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 25 north and 32 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Aitkin, Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports: 8/1-11/30 Houston (max. 3) EMF, JM.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 20 north and 28 south counties; early south 8/26 Anoka GP, 8/28 Hennepin JF, 8/29 Dakota JD, AP.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 19 north and 29 south counties.

Brown Creeper

Reported from 12 north and 21 south counties; late north 11/16 Clay LCF, 11/19 Otter Tail SDM, 11/29 Lake DPV.

House Wren

Late north 9/15 St. Louis SDM, 9/26 Clay LCF; late south 10/12 Blue Earth LF, 10/13 Houston EMF and Winona CS, 10/19 Hennepin SC.

Winter Wren

Early south 9/23 Hennepin SC; late north 10/3 Cook KMH, 10/20 St. Louis TW; late

south 11/1 Hennepin SC, 11/20 Houston EMF.

Sedge Wren

Late north 8/11 Aitkin AP, 8/16 Clearwater AB, 9/9 Lake DPV; late south 10/6 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Brown JS, 10/15 Dakota EL and Lac Qui Parle AB.

Marsh Wren

Late north 9/17 Clay LCF, 10/1 Kanabec AB; late south 10/15 Lac Qui Parle AB, 10/20 Pipestone JP, 10/28 Hennepin GP.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early south 9/20 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Cottonwood ED; late north 11/15 Pennington KSS, 11/23 Cook KMH, 11/25 Aitkin WN; late south 11/20 Fillmore NAO, 11/26 Brown JS.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 8/26 Lyon TG, 9/2 Anoka SC; late north 10/21 Lake DPV, 10/23 Clay LCF, 11/2 Cook KMH; late south 10/29 Murray ND, 10/30 Winona CS, 11/9 Fillmore NAO.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

One north report 9/21 **Duluth** PS; late south 9/10 Fillmore NAO, 9/18 Winona CS, 9/20 Hennepin PS.

Eastern Bluebird

Late north 10/20 Pennington KSS, 10/22 Lake DPV, 11/11 Beltrami DJ; late south 11/13 Houston EMF, 11/19 Nicollet LF and Olmsted JB, 11/25 Washington TEB.

Mountain Bluebird

One report: 10/20 Cottonwood (1) JB.

Townsend's Solitaire

All reports: 9/22-23 **Duluth** (1) LE et al., 10/21 Minneapolis (1) SC, 10/29 Split Rock Lighthouse, Lake Co. (1) WS, 10/31 Cook (1) KMH, WP, 11/4 Two Harbors, Lake Co. (1) mob.

Veery

Late north 8/21 Hubbard DZ, 8/25 St. Louis TW, 9/12 Lake DPV; late south 9/2 Anoka SC and Fillmore NAO, 9/21 Ramsey EL.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

All reports: 8/22 Washington WL, 8/27

Mower RRK, 9/1 Lyon TG, 9/2 Hennepin SC and Ramsey EL, 9/27 Otter Tail SDM.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 8/9 Hennepin JF, 9/5 Houston EMF; late north 9/22 Cook KMH, 9/24 Clay LCF, 10/2 Koochiching GM; late south 10/9 Winona AP, 10/14 Blue Earth LF, 10/26 Houston EMF.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 9/23 Hennepin SC and Olmsted AP, 9/30 Anoka GP and Mower RJ, AP; late north 10/10 Clay LCF, 10/11 Beltrami DJ, 10/17 Cook KMH; late south 10/28 Ramsey EL, 11/10 Mower AB.

Wood Thrush

All reports: 9/9 Hennepin DB, SC, 9/20 Fillmore GMD and Lake DPV, 10/1 Brown JS.

American Robin

Reported from 16 north and 24 south counties; late north 11/24 Kittson and Roseau AB, 11/30 Becker BK and Cook KMH.

Varied Thrush

All reports: 10/10 Cook KMH, 11/3-4 Duluth KE, 11/7-12 Olmsted mob, 11/8 Lake KE, 11/13 Aitkin WN, 11/14 Clay LCF, 11/23-26 Cook JW, 11/26-28 Pennington KSS, 11/29-30 Duluth fide KE, late Nov. Carlton fide KE, late Nov. Aurora, St. Louis Co. JB.

Gray Catbird

Late north 9/23 Clay LCF, 9/26 Lake DPV, 9/28 St. Louis TW; late south 10/25 Hennepin SC, 10/26 Houston EMF, 10/29 Lac Qui Parle FE.

Northern Mockingbird

Two reports: 8/27 Brown mob, 11/3-26 Cook PS et al.

Brown Thrasher

Late north 9/9 Lake DPV, 9/20 Cook KMH, 10/1 Clay LCF; late south 10/1 Brown JS, 10/6 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Anoka GP.

American Pipit

Early north 9/12 Cook KMH, 9/17 Lake SW/MS; early south 9/21 Dakota and Goodhue AP, 9/23 Wright RJ; late north 10/13 Becker and Mahnomen RJ, 10/14 Cook PS;

late south 10/17 Pipestone ND, 10/24 Dakota JD.

Bohemian Waxwing

Early north 10/7 Cook WP, 10/10 Duluth PB, 10/15 Pennington KSS; only south report 11/4 Renville (1) RJ.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 14 north and 23 south counties; late north 10/26 Clay LCF, 11/21 Lake DPV, 11/24 Kittson AB.

Northern Shrike

Early north 10/8 Duluth PB, 10/10 Pennington KSS, 10/13 Lake DPV; early south 10/18 Sherburne SWR, 10/24 Dakota JD, 11/12 Hennepin GP.

Loggerhead Shrike

All reports: 8/2 Washington TEB, 8/2-11 Hennepin OJ, 11/12 Dakota AP, 11/26 Mower RJ, AP (*The Loon* 62:58).

European Starling

Reported from 14 north and 27 south counties.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 8/23 Houston EMF, 8/26 Anoka GP; late north 9/17 Beltrami DJ, 9/20 Lake WL, 10/2 Cook KMH; late south 10/1 Anoka GP and Brown JS, 10/23 Hennepin SC and Wabasha AP.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Late north 9/10 Beltrami DJ, 9/16 Kanabec RJ, 9/21 Duluth PS; late south 9/10 Fillmore NAO, 9/20 Hennepin SC, 9/21 Houston EMF.

Warbling Vireo

Late north 8/20 Aitkin WN, 8/22 Clearwater DZ, 9/8 Cook KMH; late south 9/21 Hennepin SC and Winona CS, 9/22 Brown JS, 9/24 Watonwan ED.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 8/26 Anoka GP, 8/29 Dakota AP; late north 9/17 Beltrami DJ, 9/22 Cook KMH; late south 9/26 Winona AP, 9/29 Hennepin SC.

Red-eyed Vireo

Late north 9/9 Lake DPV, 9/10 St. Louis AB, 9/26 Cook KMH; late south 9/27 Houston EMF, 9/29 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Brown JS.

Blue-winged Warbler

All reports: 8/1-9/8 Houston EMF, 8/11 Fillmore NAO, 8/28 Anoka SC, 9/19 Hennepin SC. **Brewster's** 9/2 Anoka SC.

Golden-winged Warbler

Late north 8/11 Aitkin RJ, AP, 8/18 Clearwater AB, 8/28 Beltrami DJ; late south 9/9 Fillmore NAO, 9/20 Hennepin SC, GP, 9/21 Houston EMF.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 8/10 Hennepin SC, 8/13 Anoka GP; late north 9/22 Clay LCF, 10/10 Lake DPV, 10/29 Cook KR; late south 9/28 Washington WL, 10/1 Anoka GP, 10/6 Hennepin SC and Winona CS.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early north 8/25 Becker DZ, 8/26 Clay LCF; early south 8/26 Hennepin JF, 8/30 Sherburne SWR; late north 10/8 Clay LCF and Itasca AB, 10/28 Lake KR; late south 10/13 Fillmore NAO and Freeborn AP, 10/14 Anoka GP and Hennepin SC.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 8/10 Winona CS, 8/20 Fillmore NAO; late north 9/28 Clay LCF, 10/1 St. Louis TW, 10/28 Lake KR; late south 10/9 Anoka GP, Dakota SC and Winona AP, 10/15 Hennepin PS.

Northern Parula

Early south 8/23 Anoka JH, GP, 8/27 Hennepin SC; late north 9/16 Kanabec RJ, AP, 9/18 Cook KMH; late south 9/20 Brown JS, 9/21 Hennepin SC.

Yellow Warbler

Late north 9/9 Clay LCF and Lake DPV, 9/11 Aitkin RJ, 9/16 Duluth BL; late south 9/9 Faribault RJ, AP and Winona CS, 9/20 Hennepin SC, 10/9 Lac Qui Parle FE.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Late north 9/2 Aitkin WN, Clearwater AB and St. Louis TW, 9/20 Cook KMH; late south 9/22 Anoka GP, 9/27 Hennepin SC, 10/10 Houston EMF.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 8/14 Anoka GP, 8/19 Hennepin SC; late north 9/21 Clay LCF and St. Louis PS, 9/23 Cook KMH, 9/30 Lake DPV; late

south 9/27 Houston EMF, 9/29 Fillmore NAO, 9/30 Hennepin SC.

Cape May Warbler

All reports: 8/11-12 Koochiching RJ, AP, 8/14-9/1 Hennepin SC, 8/14 Lake PS, 8/23 St. Louis TW, 8/23-25 Anoka JH, 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/16 Kanabec RJ, AP, 10/11 Cook KMH, 10/29 Lake WS.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

All reports: 9/1 Lake DPV, 9/6-29 Hennepin (six individuals) SC, PS, DB.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 8/22 Winona CS, 8/25 Lyon TG; late north 10/15 Clay LCF, 11/12 Duluth JG, 11/26 Cook PE; late south 10/29 Ramsey EL, 11/11 Fillmore NAO and Houston EMF, 11/20 Wabasha KR.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 8/21 Anoka JH, 8/28 Brown JS; late north 9/12 Lake DPV, 9/21 Cook KMH and St. Louis PS; late south 9/28 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Winona CS, 9/30 Fillmore NAO.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 8/7 Hennepin SC, 8/14 Anoka GP; late north 8/30 Lake DPV, 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/14 Cook KMH; late south 9/20 Hennepin SC and Houston EMF, 9/26 Fillmore NAO.

Pine Warbler

Late north 8/23 Clearwater and Hubbard DZ, 8/27 Cook OSL, 9/4 Beltrami DJ; late south 9/3 Winona CS, 9/26 Hennepin SC and Sherburne SWR, 9/27 Houston EMF.

Palm Warbler

Early south 8/25 Murray ND, 8/26 Lyon TG; late north 10/17 Lake DPV, 10/20 St. Louis TW, 11/4 Cook KE, AP; late south 10/13 Freeborn AP, 10/16 Winona CS, 10/23 Hennepin SC.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 8/14 Anoka GP, 8/17 Fillmore NAO; late north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/16 Kanabec RJ, AP, 9/21 Cook KMH and St. Louis PS; late south 9/22 Anoka GP, 9/26 Fillmore NAO, 9/30 Hennepin SC.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/7 St. Louis PS; early south 8/22 Brown JS, 8/25 Lyon TG; late north 9/28 Cook KMH; late south 10/9 Winona AP, 11/2 Hennepin SC (*The Loon* 61:199).

Cerulean Warbler

All reports: 8/22-23 Brown JS, 8/30 Redwood RJ.

Black-and-white Warbler

Late north 9/19 Koochiching GM, 9/20 Cook KMH, Lake DPV, 10/18 Duluth PS; late south 9/21 Houston EMF, 9/22 Anoka GP, 9/25 Hennepin SC.

American Redstart

Late north 9/16 Kanabec AP, RJ, 9/18 Cook OSL, 9/22 Cook KMH, Lake DPV; late south 9/26 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Winona CS, 10/11 Ramsey BL.

Prothonotary Warbler

Late south 8/6 Hennepin PS, 9/5 Winona CS.

Ovenbird

Late north 9/16 Kanabec AP, Wadena AB, 9/19 Clay LCF; late south 9/26 Fillmore NAO, 9/28 Washington BL, 9/29 Hennepin SC.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 8/7 Anoka GP, 8/8 Hennepin SC, 8/11 Hennepin DB; late north 9/16 Kanabec AP, RJ, 9/17 Cook KMH, 9/26 Lake DPV; late south 9/20 Anoka GP, 9/23 Hennepin SC, 9/27 Winona CS.

Connecticut Warbler

Late south 8/26 Nobles RJ, 9/9 Hennepin PS.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 8/8 Hennepin SC, 8/13 Anoka GP, 8/14 Brown JS; late north 8/12 Aitkin WN, 8/22 St. Louis TW, 9/12 Cook KMH; late south 9/22 Brown JS, 9/24 Cottonwood ED, 9/28 Lac Qui Parle FE.

Common Yellowthroat

Late north 9/23 Lake DPV, 9/24 St. Louis PS, 9/29 Cook KMH; late south 10/3 Brown JS, Hennepin SC, 10/4 Winona CS, 10/7 Wabasha BL.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 8/15 Brown JS, 8/20 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Washington TBB, 8/21 Hennepin SC; late north 8/26 Otter Tail SDM, 9/9 Clay LCF, 10/17 Lake DPV; late south 9/15 Hennepin DC, 9/20 Fillmore NAO, Hennepin GP, Pipestone JP, 9/21 Brown JS, Hennepin SC.

Canada Warbler

Early south 8/10 Hennepin SC, 8/15 Brown JS, 8/19 Hennepin GP; late north 8/12 Koochiching RJ, 8/24 St. Louis TW, 9/8 Cook KMH; late south 9/12 Hennepin GP, 9/19 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Brown JS.

Scarlet Tanager

Late north 9/1 Lake DPV, 9/2 Clearwater AB, 9/16 Kanabec AP, RJ, St. Louis KR; late south 9/21 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, 9/22 Anoka GP, Brown JS, 9/23 Ramsey RH, 10/7 Dakota JD.

WESTERN TANAGER

9/16 Duluth PS (*The Loon* 61:198-199).

Northern Cardinal

Twelve reports from Aitkin; Carlton, Lake and Duluth. Reported from 26 counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Late north 9/5 Cook KMH, 9/16 Wadena AB, 9/23 Clay LCF; late south 10/14 Wabasha BL, 10/29 Anoka SC, 10/31 Anoka GP.

Blue Grosbeak

Late south 8/1 Pipestone ND, 8/13 Pipestone JP, 8/28 Nobles ND, 8/29 Rock ND, 9/20 Murray ND.

Indigo Bunting

Late north 8/12 Clearwater AP, 8/25 Becker DZ, 9/16 Clay LCF; late south 9/29 Hennepin JF, 10/1 Ramsey EL, 10/4 Hennepin SC.

Dickcissel

Late north 10/10 Duluth KE; late south 9/13 Mower AP, 9/28 Murray ND, 10/4 Pipestone JP.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Late north 9/16 Wadena AB, 9/21 St. Louis PS; late south 10/10 Hennepin SC, 10/16 Houston EMF, 11/4 Hennepin DZ.

American Tree Sparrow

Early north 9/29 Cook KMH, 10/5 St.

Louis PS, 10/6 Cook RJ, Lake DPV; early south 10/15 Anoka GP, Hennepin JF, Olmsted JB, Swift AB, 10/18 Brown JS, 10/28 Washington TBB.

Chipping Sparrow

Late north 10/15 Koochiching GM, 10/29 Aitkin WN, 11/3 Hubbard HJF; late south 10/16 Brown JS, 10/21 Hennepin SC, 11/9 Goodhue AB, DB.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Late north 9/24 Cook WP, 9/27 Clay PS, 10/1 Aitkin WN; late south 10/3 Hennepin AB, Winona CS, 10/4 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Anoka GP.

Field Sparrow

Late south 10/23 Rice FKS, 10/27 Houston EMF, 10/31 Winona CS.

Vesper Sparrow

Late north 9/27 Clay PS, 10/10 Clay LCF, 11/4 Cook KE, AP; late south 10/20 Pipestone JP, 10/24 Dakota JD, 11/10 Murray ND.

Lark Sparrow

One report 10/20 Cook KMH.

Lark Bunting

One report 8/28 Cook KMH.

Savannah Sparrow

Late north 10/6 Cook KMH, 10/14 Kittson Roseau RJ, AP, 10/22 Clay LCF; late south 10/23 Hennepin DC, 10/28 Hennepin SC, 10/31 Winona CS.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Only date 8/20 Clay LCF.

Henslow's Sparrow

One report 10/4 Dakota JD.

LeConte's Sparrow

Late north 8/12 Aitkin WN, 9/9 Lake DPV, 10/6 Cook RJ; late south 10/13 Freeborn AP, 10/14 Pipestone JP, 10/24 Dakota JD.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Three reports 8/20 CB, 9/3 Clearwater AB, 9/30 Hennepin RC (*The Loon* 61:204).

Fox Sparrow

Early north 9/28 Koochiching GM, 10/1

Summer 1990

Cook KMH, Kanabec AB, 10/3 Lake DPV; early south 9/22 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Scott AB, 9/26 Fillmore NAO; late north 11/2 Cook KMH, 11/8 Clay LCF, 11/18 Pennington KSS; late south 11/13 Houston EMF, 11/14 Brown JS, Hennepin EW, 11/18 Fillmore JM.

Song Sparrow

Late north 10/20 Clay LCF, St. Louis TW, 11/5 Pennington KSS, 11/15 Aitkin WN.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 8/27 Mower RRR, 9/9 Anoka GP, Hennepin SC, OJ, 9/23 Pope RJ, Washington TBB; late north 10/3 Clay LCF, 10/4 Cook KMH, 10/5 Carlton RJ; late south 10/25 Hennepin JF, 11/2 Hennepin SC, 11/10 Steele AB.

Swamp Sparrow

Late north 10/14 Aitkin WN, 11/3 Lake SW/MS, 11/4 Lake KE; late south 11/5 Washington TBB, Winona CS, 11/7 Hennepin SC, 11/10 Steele AB.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 9/9 Anoka GP, Hennepin SC, DZ, 9/10 Houston EMF, Ramsey PS, 9/11 Hennepin OJ, Washington BL; late north 11/13 Pennington KSS, 11/16 Cook KMH, 11/19 Cook OSL; late south 11/11 Houston EMF, Lac Qui Parle CMB, Steele AB, 11/14 Hennepin EW, 11/21 Hennepin SC.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early north 9/9 Lake DPV, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/13 Beltrami DJ; early south 9/19 Mower AP, 9/22 Hennepin SC, 9/23 Hennepin OJ, LeSueur EK, Pope RJ, Washington TBB, Winona CS; late north 11/5 AP, 11/21 Duluth LE, 11/29 Cook WP; late south 11/7 Winona CS, 11/9 Houston RJ, AP, 11/10 Steele AB.

Harris' Sparrow

Early north 9/3 Beltrami DJ, 9/16 St. Louis KR, 9/21 Cook KMH, Koochiching GM; early south 9/23 Brown JS, Murray ND, Pope RJ, 9/28 Winona CS, 9/29 Lyon TG; late north 10/29 Aitkin WN, Beltrami DJ, 11/12 Pennington KSS, 11/20 Clay LCF; late south 11/17 Cottonwood ED, 11/18 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 11/24 Murray ND.

Dark-eyed Junco

Early south 9/2 Hennepin OJ, 9/20 Dakota JD, 9/23 Hennepin SC.

Lapland Longspur

Early north 9/12 Duluth KE, 9/20 Lake BL, 9/21 Duluth PS; early south 9/6 Steele AP, 9/24 Dakota AP, 9/28 Waseca AP, 9/30 Mower AP, RJ; late north 10/11 Clay PS, 10/14 Aitkin WN, 10/20 Clay LCF.

Smith's Longspur

All reports 10/11 Clay PS, 10/20 Clay PS, 10/21 Clay WN, KR, Wilkin KE, 10/22 Wilkin SDM, 10/25 Wilkin DB, 10/28 Clay DJ.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

One report 9/27 Clay PS.

Snow Bunting

Early north 10/1 Mille Lacs KR, 10/6 Polk KSS, 10/7 Cook WP; early south 10/14 Stearns DO, 10/17 Hennepin SC, Sherburne SWR, 10/20 Wright RJ.

Bobolink

Late north 9/3 Clearwater AB, 10/8 Clay LCF, 10/12 Duluth KE; late south 8/20 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 8/26 Nobles RJ.

Red-winged Blackbird

Late north 11/13 Cook OSL, 11/16 Clay LCF, 11/19 Aitkin WN.

Eastern Meadowlark

Late north 10/28 Aitkin WN, 10/31 Cook OSL.

Western Meadowlark

Late north 10/13 Beltrami DJ, 10/29 Clay LCF, 10/31 Cook KMH.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Late north 9/10 Clay LCF, 9/12 Cook KMH, 10/13 Norman RJ; late south 10/15 Big Stone AB, 10/19 Washington TBB, 10/27 Anoka DS.

Rusty Blackbird

Early north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/16 Cook AP, Kanabec RJ, 9/22 Duluth PS, Lake DPV; early south 9/10 Murray ND, 9/25 Sherburne SWR; late north 11/11 Hubbard HJF, 11/14 Duluth TW, 11/23 Clay LCF; late south 11/6 Dakota JD, 11/10 Dodge AB, 11/19 Brown JS.

Brewer's Blackbird

Late north 10/21 Otter Tail KE, 10/22 Wil-

kin SDM, 11/8 Clay LCF; late south 10/23 Mower RRR, 11/6 Dakota JD, 11/10 Dodge AB.

Common Grackle

Late north 11/22 Cook OAL, 11/23 St. Louis TW, 11/27 Becker BK.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Late north 9/17 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Norman RJ, 10/16 Duluth KE; late south 10/25 Hennepin JF, 11/6 Dakota JD, 11/14 Fillmore AP.

Orchard Oriole

Two reports 8/6 Clay LCF, 8/25 Rock RJ.

Northern Oriole

Late north 8/27 Beltrami DJ, Clay LCF, 8/31 Aitkin WN, 9/2 Wadena AB; late south 9/10 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Ramsey EL, 9/17 Dakota AP, 9/24 Fillmore DZ.

Pine Grosbeak

Early north 10/14 Cook KMH, 10/15 St. Louis MH/JS, 10/16 Lake SW/MS; early south 11/2 Hennepin SC, 11/22 Anoka GP, 11/23 Benton AB, Carver RJ.

Purple Finch

Reported from 16 counties north and 20 counties south.

HOUSE FINCH

Reported from Brown, Chippewa, Clay, Faribault, Hennepin, Nicollet and Ramsey counties.

Red Crossbill

Early north 8/4 Lake SW/MS, 8/5 Duluth KE, 8/22 Becker DZ; early south 10/18 Dakota JD, 11/4 Anoka GP, 11/22 Hennepin OJ.

White-winged Crossbill

Reported from 17 counties north and 16 counties south.

Common Redpoll

Early north 10/15 Duluth PE, 10/24 St. Louis SS, 10/28 Cook WP; early south 10/22 Washington BL, 11/12 Cottonwood ED, 11/15 Sherburne SWR.

Hoary Redpoll

Three reports 11/24 Kittson AB, Mahnomen RJ, 11/26 Cook KE.

Pine Siskin

Reported from 15 counties north and 24 counties south.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 17 counties north and 23 counties south.

Evening Grosbeak

Early south 10/19 Cottonwood ED, 10/20 Washington BL, 11/2 Sherburne SWR.

House Sparrow

Reported from 15 counties north and 26 counties south.

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(Key to Season is on page 71).

A Well Studied Wintering Barrow's Goldeneye

Steve Millard

On New Year's Day, 1990, my wife Diane and I were returning to Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, Minnesota, after birding southwest of town. About two miles west of town, we stopped to look at a flock of feeding Common Goldeneyes one hundred yards upstream on the Otter Tail River. The birds were northeast of us, with strong sunlight behind us giving us very good viewing conditions. The time was about 3:00 P.M., temperature 20°F. After looking over the flock for several seconds, we both noticed a female goldeneye with an orange bill. I repositioned the car and set up my spotting scope (Kowa 25X) for a better look. Due to the orientation of us, the river, and the birds, and the fact that they were actively diving, a side profile of the duck was difficult to see. But after several minutes of observation I was strongly suspicious it was a female Barrow's Goldeneye, due to head shape and bill color.

After thirty minutes or so the flock of forty-six birds arose and flew towards town. I was sure we could relocate the bird in question at an area of downtown river known locally as "the Levee." In a few minutes we arrived; the goldeneyes were already there. I quickly found the suspected Barrow's and watched it for several minutes prior to sunset.

At this point some background information is necessary on the Otter Tail River and the goldeneyes that winter here. Warm-water discharge from a local power plant keeps the river open in town, but the amount of open water fluctuates. The Levee was open throughout January and intermittently in February. Observations were also frequently made from private property several blocks upstream when the Levee was frozen. Due to a series of dams on the river, there are several miles of open water all winter within ten miles of town. Additionally, this winter's mild weather undoubtedly helped keep even more water open than usual. In the early morning, the goldeneyes leave town and go up- or down-stream to feed, returning to town late in the day.

Why do the birds come back to town every evening? I have two theories. The two main

waterfowl concentration areas in Fergus Falls are located where the river is very shallow and wide, with minimal, sluggish current. These areas are kept open mainly by warm-water discharge, more than by current. I think that after a day of actively feeding, the birds prefer these areas to rest, since they don't have to expend a lot of energy swimming against a current that would otherwise move them downstream and tire them unnecessarily. Gathering in one place may also enhance and reinforce pair bonds and stimulate courtship behavior, which is strongly evident among goldeneyes as early as December. Whatever the reason, the fact that the birds return to town every evening affords excellent viewing from close range on a daily basis.

For over two months (the last sighting was 4 March 1990) nearly thirty observations of the female Barrow's Goldeneye were made by me. Many local birders and about twenty-five out-of-town birders also saw it. Closest observations were from twenty to thirty yards, but generally averaged from fifty to one hundred yards. Numerous Common Goldeneyes of both sexes were always present for direct comparison.

The single most outstanding field mark of the female Barrow's Goldeneye is head shape. Compared with the round-looking head of the Common, the Barrow's looks square. The forehead rises abruptly from the base of the bill, the crown is quite flat, and the tufted hindneck forms the back side of the square. The very steep forehead is due to the shape of the skull, itself being quite steep in front, and flat-topped. *The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* by Francis H. Kortright (p. 261) has a good comparative illustration of skull and bill shapes for both goldeneye species. The only time the head didn't appear squarish was during active diving or bathing, when the shape was briefly altered into a rounded arc after submersion in water.

A second important field mark is the shape and color of the bill. At a glance the bill appeared all orange. Close observation revealed a smudgy, brownish "saddle" on the

top of the bill from the nostrils rearward. There was also a small area of brown on the side of the upper mandible just above its juncture with the lower mandible (basally). The base color of orange showed through at a distance, making the restricted brown smudges disappear and giving the bill its all-orange look. Bills of female Commons can be all orange, and there were one or two noted in Fergus Falls that had smudgy, dull orange bills. But they were typically longer, less triangular, and not as bright as the Barrow's. The dark nail on the tip of the bill is slightly larger than that of the Common (noticeable only at close range through a scope). The Barrow's bill is shorter and the slope (angle from tip to base) of the upper mandible is noticeably steeper, giving the bill a triangular appearance.

Several less obvious, but still helpful, characteristics also set the female Barrow's apart from the Common. The color of the head is darker than the Common's. The head color of Barrow's is often described as "cold," the Common's "warm." Especially in sunlight, this difference is quite noticeable. The female Common's head appears softer, with a pleasing, warm brown sheen. Barrow's is a cold, hard, darker brown.

The back and folded wings are slightly darker on Barrow's, and the gray on the breast is a shade darker. The depth of gray from neck to belly is deeper on Barrow's. One afternoon I observed the Barrow's and several female Commons as they bobbed in the water. The Commons frequently bobbed high enough to expose the white of their bellies due to their narrower breast-bands, whereas the Barrow's only occasionally did so.

Due to a lesser amount of white in the wing, the folded wing sometimes shows a reduced amount of white compared to the Common. On the individual in Fergus Falls, there were times when no white was visible, although a thin broken line of white usually showed. Sometimes after fluffing up or when preening, an area of white comparable to that of a Common would be visible.

Eye color was a light yellow or yellow-gold, not the deep rich gold of the male Common. This was true for many female Commons as well. The legs and feet were a medium orange, similar to bill color. No noticeable difference was noted between species in overall body size, although some

sources list the Barrow's as slightly larger.

Late one afternoon in February I hiked into an undeveloped portion of riverbottom and flushed about two hundred goldeneyes. Quickly scanning them at about eighty yards, I was able to pick out the Barrow's by its orange bill and, most especially, its vertical forehead. This feature gives the bird a unique profile, very unlike that of the Common Goldeneye. At this same time a more reduced area of white in the speculum and coverts was noted.

Initially, a great deal of caution was exercised in identifying this bird. With each successive observation, however, it became easier to pick out. Eventually the differences became so obvious that I wondered how I ever had any difficulty identifying it. Under reasonable conditions, this is not a tough identification problem. A trait that set this bird apart and occasionally made it easy to find was its behavior. In the case of this individual, at least, her actions were nearly as helpful as her field marks.

She frequently swam quickly back and forth among the other goldeneyes, moving around more fervently and deliberately, which made her easy to locate on several occasions. It was as though she "knew" that she had to find a male Barrow's for a mate, but was frustrated in her efforts. Sometimes she would swim off on her own, only to rejoin other goldeneyes a few minutes later. At times she would fly or swim away with a male Common and they would remain detached from the larger flock for awhile, but always regroup eventually. This bird tried very hard to belong, to be accepted.

Another unique behavioral characteristic was what I refer to as her "dance." It consisted of tossing the head and neck alternately from left to right, the head pointing away at a full ninety degrees from the longitudinal axis of the body at the widest point of the arc. While executing this motion the head was held quite high, reaching the highest point when facing straight ahead, then dropping a bit when turned away from the body. While doing this dance, the bird would usually be swimming forward quite briskly; following, leading, or swimming next to a male (or males) Common. This courtship behavior even seemed aggressive at times, i.e., initiated by her. The female Common has a remotely similar routine, but the head is held low in a more

Barrow's Common



Barrow's bill shorter, more triangular, orange; nail slightly larger.

"Square" head, orange bill



Neck extended, tail cocked (frequently exhibited this posture)

A little white shows on folded wing

Gray breast, neck off-white or grayish-white

Body & wings darker than common, head darker & duller.

Sleeping:

Barrow's ♀



Common ♀



Jan. 1, 1990 through March 4, 1990.

Fergus Falls, Mn.

submissive posture, bill touching or nearly touching the water, and the head moved in a shallower arc. I could find nothing in the available literature to indicate whether the Barrow's "dance" is unique to that species; at any rate I never observed it in female Commons. It was a unique and attractive courtship routine, nearly comical in its exaggerated motions.

One other diagnostic feature of note was an oft-seen erect posture. With head held high, neck fully extended, and tail cocked at roughly a forty-five degree angle, sometimes even steeper, this bird took on a profile similar to a Ruddy or Wood Duck. If not too far away, it could be picked out with the naked eye when in this posture. This position would be held for a few seconds at times, but some-

times for a half minute or more. It may have been done out of frustration or as an attention-getting device in courtship. Combined with the often active nature of the bird, it made her easy to locate and follow.

After watching the Barrow's for a few weeks, it became possible to find it even when it was sleeping with numerous Commons. My notes from 19 February 1990 reveal... "carefully searched through about seventy goldeneyes, most of them sleeping, and finally located what I believed was the Barrow's. I continued watching until she put her head up and confirmed that I had indeed been watching her. With numerous female Commons swimming near her, the difference in head color was apparent. Particular attention was paid to the head shape of the two species

as they slept. Barrow's has a vertical forehead, flat crown, and tufted hindneck. Common's head (crown) more peaked, forehead not as steeply sloped. Wispy feather ends give the Barrow's tuft a ragged, frizzy look." When sleeping these characteristics are harder to see, but with patience can be picked out.

In summary, the identification of the female Barrow's Goldeneye, if well seen, should present no problems. The most obvious and important characteristic is the shape of the head. The forehead is nearly vertical, the crown relatively flat, and the back of the head slopes off sharply to a wispy crest. Look

for a more steeply sloped, slightly shorter, more triangular bill. The bill will likely appear all orange or yellow-orange or pinkish-orange. These two features, along with others previously mentioned, should make identification straightforward.

I'd like to thank Mike Mulligan and Bob Janssen for providing me with additional material on this species, which hasn't been studied nearly as much as the Common Goldeneye.

As an interesting footnote, a male Barrow's was seen near Fergus Falls on 9 April 1990, also on the Otter Tail River. **630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

Lakewood Pumping Station Census of Fall Migration

Kim R. Eckert

As impressive and famous as is the count of raptors at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve during the fall season in Duluth, the migration of other birds in fall down the North Shore and through Duluth is perhaps even more spectacular. In 1983 the first attempt to count such "non-raptors" from the Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge was made (see *The Loon* 56:11-15). This census was repeated in 1984 (*The Loon* 58:66), and starting in 1985 the site of this non-raptor census was moved to the Lakewood Water Treatment and Pumping Station (hereafter, Lakewood), and an account of this season was published in *The Loon* 58:64-68. There was no such census in 1986, due primarily to lack of funding, but in 1987, 1988 and 1989 the Lakewood census was reinstated, and the purpose of this article is to bring the reader up to date with a summary of these three years.

While systematic censuses of spring and fall raptor movements are conducted widely at favored sites throughout the United States and Canada, to the best of my knowledge our efforts to census non-raptors during migration are unique. There are attempts to cen-

sus water birds at nesting colonies, at wintering concentrations or at staging grounds during migration. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys are an effort to assess breeding populations; the Christmas Bird Counts attempt to measure wintering populations. If indeed the Lakewood census is truly unique, it can be of great value, especially since so many birds are counted. But, at the same time, we have no model to base our counting methods on and must rely somewhat on trial and error to limit the effects of certain variables on our totals.

Some of the methods and variables involved are listed in Table 1, a year-by-year summary of our totals. Coverage began in either early or mid-August and continued until late October or early November. Ideally a count was to be taken on a daily basis, weather permitting, although the table shows we only accomplished this in 1983, 1988 and 1989 when the only days missed were due to rain. Except in 1985 and 1987, when our primary role at Lakewood was counting hawks and when coverage would generally begin around 8:00 or 9:00 A.M., each day's

count began at dawn. The counter was to stay on duty until the day's flight ceased or at least slowed to a point when, in the counter's judgment, there would be no appreciable flight the rest of the day. On most days this occurred after an hour or two of coverage, but there were several days with heavy flights when coverage would last three, four or even more hours. Generally all birds moving past the counter from northeast to southwest (the general flight direction for fall migrants in Duluth as they follow the North Shore of Lake Superior) were counted, with "local" species, those considered not to be migrating that day, were disregarded. All migrants were identified whenever possible, but often the counter could do no more than write "warbler, sp." or "blackbird, sp." or something like "goldfinch/siskin". The table also indicates whether or not the counters would scan the horizon with binoculars in order to spot birds otherwise invisible to the naked eye; this variable would greatly affect a day's total. Also, the author has edited each day's count since 1983 in an attempt to ensure accuracy and consistency and has regularly met with the counters in an effort to standardize our counting techniques. In addition in 1988 and 1989, the number of observer-hours was noted on days when more than one counter was available to keep track of the flight on busier days; naturally, the accuracy of a day's count totals was enhanced when more than one counter was on duty.

Again, as shown in Table 1, the site of our first censuses in 1983 and 1984 was at Hawk Ridge. In 1983 our season total of non-raptors was about 40,000 during 151 hours of coverage over 67 days; in 1984 the total slipped to about 34,000 during less regular coverage of 110.5 hours over 58 days. Coverage began at dawn during these years, but our totals were relatively modest for two main reasons. First, since Hawk Ridge is located 1.2 miles inland from Lake Superior, and since most non-raptors tend to migrate close to this shoreline, a lot of migrants escaped detection. And second, note that binoculars were not used to spot distant migrants, as was done in 1987-1989.

In 1985 and 1987 our non-raptor census moved to Lakewood as funding became available to count hawks and compare the numbers here to those at Hawk Ridge. The number of hours of coverage was adequate (144.5 and

160.25 respectively), but this coverage was not on a daily basis, since the counter was only on duty on days when it was felt there would be a good hawk flight. In 1985 our season total improved to about 54,000 (plus 16,246 hawks), and in 1987 our final non-raptor total almost doubled to 104,489 (plus 11,012 hawks). As noted in Table 1, binoculars were not used to scan the horizon for distant migrants in 1985 as they were in 1987, and it is assumed this was the major reason for the larger totals in 1987. As previously mentioned, the primary focus of our coverage these two years was the raptor migration, and our non-raptors totals, while higher than in 1983 and 1984 because of the more favorable Lakewood location, were lower than in 1988 and 1989 for two primary reasons. First, coverage mainly took place during mid and late morning hours, after the peak early morning non-raptor flight was over on most days; second, on days when there was a heavy hawk flight there was no time to keep track of non-raptors.

Finally, after four seasons of trial-and-error, our techniques and coverage in 1988 and 1989 fell into place. The Lakewood site was maintained; counts were on a daily basis except for rain-outs, from 1 August through 31 October; coverage began at official sunrise each day; hawks no longer had priority and were counted no differently than non-raptors; and binoculars again were used to spot and count distant migrants. As a result, no fewer than 239,872 migrants (including hawks) were counted in 1988 during 151.5 hours (205.5 observer-hours) over 82 days of coverage. In 1989 our grand total improved to 262,101 migrants (hawks included) as our coverage also increased to 179.5 hours (274 observer-hours) over 88 days.

As might be expected, most of the highest single-day totals in the six-year history of these non-raptor counts occurred in 1988 and 1989, and Table 2 lists these. In all, there have been 13 dates with daily totals over 10,000; note that all of these are from the Lakewood site and that none of these were all-day counts, but rather over a three to five-hour period. Except for the 23 September 1987 count which started two hours after official sunrise (and certainly uncounted thousands of migrants passed by in those two hours), the coverage on these days began at dawn. On all 13 dates binoculars were used



Map showing locations of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve (HRNR) and Lakewood Pumping Station (LPS).

to spot distant migrants. Also note in Table 2 that relatively few species make up the bulk of these peak days, and additional comments on these and other species will follow. Certainly the "counts" on these and the many other dates with totals in the thousands would be better described as "estimates," but the numbers involved are still useful. As with published raptor totals from renowned hawk lookouts, there is value in these daily and season totals as long as counting methods are standardized, and if weather variables are taken into account when one day or season is compared with another.

Since weather is the one variable that cannot be controlled, the best we can do is keep track of conditions each day, as we have since 1983, and in time perhaps some conclusions

can be reached regarding the effects of weather on a day's migration. As noted in Table 2, all 13 dates had a westerly element to the winds, as might be expected since such winds have long been known to be favorable for peak hawk movements at Hawk Ridge. Generally, days with east, south or light/variable winds are unfavorable for migration, although there have been several days with such winds that had 1000+ totals.

Clear or partly cloudy conditions occurred on 11 of the 13 days in Table 2, but note that it was cloudy on 1 October 1988, by far the best flight day thus far. In addition, there have been several other 1000+ dates when it was mostly cloudy or overcast. Little migration generally occurs on foggy, rainy or low overcast days.

Year	Location	No. of Days	Range of Dates	Hours of Coverage/ (Obs.-Hrs.)	Starting Time	Horizon Scanned with Binocs.	Season Total of Individuals	No. of Species
1983	Hawk Ridge	67	8/15-10/31	151	Dawn	No	40,000 ±	124
1986	Hawk Ridge	58	8/14-11/3	110.5	Dawn	No	34,000 ±	106
1985	Lakewood	48	8/18-11/2	144.5	Mid-morning	No	70,000 + incl. 16,246 Hawks	83 + 13 hawks
1987	Lakewood	33	8/18-10/24	160.25	Mid-morning	Yes	115,501 incl. 11,012 hawks	101 + 13 hawks
1988	Lakewood	82	8/1-10/30	151.5 (205.5)	Dawn	Yes	239,872 incl. 4309 hawks	103 + 14 hawks
1989	Lakewood	88	8/1-10/31	179.5 (274)	Dawn	Yes	262,101 incl. ? hawks	? + 14 hawks

Table 1. Year-by-year summary and comparison of non-raptor censuses; no census in 1986; some 1989 totals not yet compiled.

Surprisingly, however, cold fronts seem to have little effect on whether or not there is a good flight day. Note that only three of the 13 days had colder temperatures than the days before, on seven dates the temperatures were about the same as previous dates, and no fewer than three of these biggest flight days were warmer than before! What constitutes favorable or unfavorable migration weather is still unclear, and more weather data needs to be compiled and analyzed.

As shown in Table 2, relatively few species make up the bulk of each season's migration totals at Lakewood. Conversely, several types of birds are underrepresented in this type of census. Nocturnal migrants, including those partial to denser, wooded habitats, are missed since we obviously don't count at night and since the area immediately surrounding our count site is open rather than wooded (e.g., cuckoos, owls, flycatchers, nuthatches, wrens, kinglets, thrushes, vireos, tanagers, sparrows, orioles). Except for Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons and geese, most waterfowl, shorebirds and other waterbirds generally migrate through western Minnesota and are counted in relatively small numbers at Lakewood. Since our coverage ends in late October, Bohemian Waxwings, some winter finches and other November migrants are mostly missed. Some migrants are more partial to the ridges away from the Lake Superior shoreline; our 1985 and 1987 hawk counts at Lakewood demonstrated that more hawks (and ravens) prefer to fly over Hawk Ridge. While birds such as geese,

hawks, corvids, woodpeckers, chickadees and Snow Buntings are counted in fair numbers, many individuals are missed since these tend to migrate well into midday when no one is counting at Lakewood. Similarly, evening migrants, like nighthawks and swallows, are also underrepresented during our early morning coverage.

Following is a list of species worthy of special comment, especially those represented by noteworthy daily or season totals (unless otherwise stated, all 1983 and 1984 numbers are from Hawk Ridge, and those from 1985, 1987, 1988 and 1989 are from Lakewood):

Double-crested Cormorant — peaks 93 (23 September 1989) and 86 (20 September 1983).

Great Blue Heron — peak 70 (15 August 1989).

geese — peak on 4 October 1983, a day with east winds and no cold front: 2600 ± Canadas, 231 Snows, and "100s" more uncounted and unidentified.

gulls — no counts ever made, even though Herrings or Ring-billed were seen almost daily; impossible to determine if these were migrating or merely moving back and forth between the lake and the inland feeding areas.

White-winged Dove — Minnesota's only record was at Lakewood during census coverage hours on 10/13/85 (*The Loon* 58:92-93).

Common Nighthawk — The only significant peak actually at Lakewood was 2490 in

Total	Date	Predominant Species	Wind	Sky	Temperature Relative to Previous Day
95,889	10/1/88	62,700 ± Am. Robins, 29,330 warblers	W	Cloudy	No change
33,793	9/23/88	22,260 warblers, 8266 Am. Robins, 1276 Cedar Waxwings	W	Clear	No change
33,447	9/28/89	16,020 warblers, 8620 Am. Robins, 7110 Pine Siskins, 1275 Cedar Waxwings	WSW	Partly cloudy	Warmer
26,089	9/23/87	10,247 Am. Robins, 10,500 ± warblers, 1800 Blue Jays	NW	Clear	No change
18,998	10/7/89	6640 Am. Robins, 5640 Pine Siskins, 2160 blackbirds/Com. Grackles, 1245 warblers, 1190 Am. Crows	NW	Partly cloudy	No change
17,259	9/25/89	6590 warblers, 6230 Am. Robins, 2520 Pine Siskins	NW	Partly cloudy	Warmer
13,472	9/8/88	7600 + warblers, 2923 Cedar Waxwings, 2000 ± blackbirds	W	Hazy	Warmer
12,247	10/2/88	4360 Am. Robins, 3676 Pine Siskins, 2176 blackbirds	NW	Partly cloudy	Colder
11,859	9/29/89	4860 Am. Robins, 3830 warblers, 1510 Pine Siskins	NW	Clear	Colder
11,090	9/22/89	6310 warblers, 1567 Pine Siskins	NW	Partly cloudy	Colder
10,865	9/25/88	5100 ± warblers, 3540 Am. Robins	NW	Clear	No change
10,825	9/9/89	3751 blackbirds/Com. Grackles, 1520 warblers, 1189 goldfinch/siskins + 475 Am. Goldfinches	NW	Partly cloudy	No change
10,566	9/5/89	4512 warblers, 4310 Red-winged Blackbirds, 1250 Cedar Waxwings	W	Clear	No change

Table 2. Summary of highest count days; all counts from Lakewood.

one hour, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., on 28 August 1990. Only a handful of birds were noted before or after this period, so that 2490 probably represents virtually all the nighthawks moving past Lakewood that evening. Significantly, during a one-hour period starting a half hour later, from 6:30-7:30 P.M., another nighthawk count was taken in downtown Duluth, about ten miles down the shoreline from Lakewood. This total was 3570, about 1100 more than at Lakewood. It is tempting to speculate that all the nighthawks at Lakewood continued migrating down the shore and were counted a half hour later ten miles away in downtown Duluth, thus flying at an average speed of 20 m.p.h. It would also seem that an additional 1100 nighthawks migrated south that evening, hit the shoreline below Lakewood, and were eventually counted downtown.

The highest nighthawk counts were taken by Keith Camburn from his yard at 8255 Congdon Blvd., just 0.4 mi. up the

shoreline from Lakewood, and it is certain that virtually all the birds seen by Keith would also have been counted at Lakewood if there had been coverage. On 16 August 1986 an amazing flight of 16,494 was carefully counted, with about 14,000 of these passing by from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.! Keith also counted 1030 on 15 August and 433 on 17 August. In 1987 his total count was 13,342 from 12 August to 27 August, with a peak of 9496 passing over 21 August from 6:30 to 7:15 P.M. And in 1988 the total slipped to 8445 between 11 August and 9 September, with a peak of 5994 on 14 August.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — peak 17 (21 August 1987).

Red-headed Woodpecker — peak 9 (26 September 1983).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — peak 44 (22 September 1987).

Black-backed Woodpecker — season total of 71 in 1985, with a peak of 14 on 16 October; also a total of 22 was noted at vari-

ous locations in Duluth on 16 October 1982, with 14 of these counted at Hawk Ridge.

Northern Flicker — On 20 September 1985 the counters at Lakewood noticed a big movement of flickers but were too busy with hawks to count non-raptors. Fortunately this flight was documented by others who counted 2212 at various locations in Duluth, with 1845 of these at Stoney Point between 5:45 and 7:15 P.M. (see *The Loon* 58:11-13). An even larger flicker movement took place in the afternoon and evening of 22 September 1989. Although no actual count documented this flight (only 27 flickers were counted that day at Lakewood from dawn until 10:30 A.M.), sample counts were taken over brief periods along the North Shore and it is estimated that perhaps as many as 9000 passed through in a five-hour period ending at dusk.

Eastern Kingbird — peaks 236 (18 August 1987), 216 (23 August 1988) and 200 (27 August 1989); season totals 603 in 1988 and 555 in 1989.

swallows — few swallow peaks noted since the largest movements seem to be in the evening when there has been little coverage, and the vast majority of those seen seem to be Cliffs; only morning peak 503 (19 August 1985), mostly Cliffs.

Gray Jay — It is unfortunate there was no coverage at Lakewood in 1986 since there was an unprecedented flight of this species that fall with 470 counted migrating through Duluth from mid-September until late October. The peak day was 1 October when 110 were counted, 103 of these in a 2½ hour period along the North Shore (see *The Loon* 59:41-44).

Blue Jay — peaks 3402 (8 September 1987), 2569 (9 September 1989), 2024 (14 September 1988) and 1800 (23 September 1987); season total 13,750 in 1987.

American Crow — peaks 1921 (8 October 1989), 1190 (7 October 1989), 963 (30 September 1987) and 948 (10 October 1987); season totals 7619 in 1989, 5278 in 1988 and 3212 in 1987.

Common Raven — peaks 155 (10 October 1987), 147 (18 October 1987) and 140 (24 October 1987); season total 758 in 1987.

Black-capped Chickadee — peak 2051 (12

September 1985), with a 1985 season total of 4800; movements are not noted every year, and in some seasons (e.g., 1988) not a single chickadee was counted.

Boreal Chickadee — Again, it is unfortunate there was no Lakewood census in 1986 when there was a significant movement of this species. Most of the flight took place between late September and early November in Duluth, especially along the North Shore, with a peak of 40 counted on 8 October in a two-hour period along the Shore (see *The Loon* 59:43-44).

Brown Creeper — no peaks at Lakewood, but 43 were banded by Dennis Meyer on 24 September 1986 at Hawk Ridge.

Eastern Bluebird — peak 57 (9 October 1987), with a 1987 season total of 133.

American Robin — obviously one of our "staple" species, as evidenced by an incredible count/estimate of 62,707 on 1 October 1988; other peaks 10,247 (23 September 1987), 8620 (28 September 1989) and 8266 (23 September 1988); also on 24 October 1983 at Hawk Ridge the count was 4442 plus uncounted "1000s" seen along the North Shore; season totals 85,704 in 1988 and 43,425 in 1989.

American Pipit — peak 43 (7 October 1987); season total 92 in both 1987 and 1988.

Cedar Waxwing — peaks 3882 (17 September 1985), 2923 (8 September 1988) and 2044 (9 September 1988); season totals 20,036 in 1989, 16,366 in 1988 and 7957 in 1987.

European Starling — this species is indeed at least partially migratory in northeastern Minnesota; peaks 118 (18 October 1987) and 64 (10 September 1988).

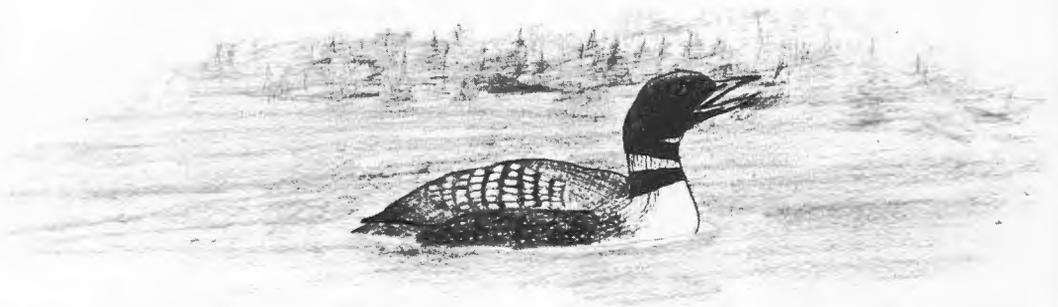
warblers — these and robins clearly comprise the bulk of our season totals; since most warblers are in flight as they are counted, the vast majority are unidentified, although most seem to be Yellow-rumped and Palms; peaks 29,335 (1 October 1988 — the date of the record robin total), 22,260 (23 September 1988), 16,020 (28 September 1989) and 10,470 (23 September 1987); also at Hawk Ridge on 26 September 1983 the count was 3590 plus "1000s" more uncounted seen along the North Shore; season totals 82,808 (including those identified) in 1988 and 50,394 (plus ? identified) in 1989.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — peak 33 (1 Sep-

- tember 1985).
- Dark-eyed Junco — peak 345 (23 October 1984).
- Lapland Longspur — peak 391 (17 October 1987), with a 1987 season total of 1070; far larger longspur flocks obviously migrate through western Minnesota.
- Snow Bunting — peak 190 (25 October 1988); also less numerous here than farther west.
- Bobolink — peaks 97 (8 September 1988) and 33 (18 September 1985).
- blackbirds — in order, Red-wingeds, Common Grackles and Rusties are the most prevalent, while very few Brewer's and, surprisingly, virtually no cowbirds are detected; peak of unidentifieds 5370 (1 September 1985); season total of unidentifieds 15,463 in 1988 (plus 4974 identifieds = 20,437 total); also see Red-winged Blackbird below.
- Red-winged Blackbird — peaks 4310 (5 September 1989), 4185 (27 August 1989), 4088 (30 August 1989) and 3989 (8 September 1989); season total 24,170 in 1989 (plus 10,139 unidentifieds, most of which were probably Red-wingeds).
- Common Grackle — peak 815 (22 August 1987); season total of 2745 in 1988 (plus 15,463 unidentifieds, many of which were grackles).
- Purple Finch — peaks 230 (4 October 1984), 215 (7 October 1987) and 125 (6 October 1983); season total 1057 in 1988; this species' migration is split into two periods, in late July-August and in October, with few detected in September.
- crossbills — White-wingeds predominate over Reds each year; season total 999 in 1989 (700 White-wingeds, 117 Reds plus 182 unidentifieds); peaks for White-winged 137 plus 40 unidentified (7 August 1989) and 136 (8 September 1989).
- Common Redpoll — peak 1190 (28 October 1983), with a 1983 season total of 2221.
- Pine Siskin — peaks 7110 (28 September 1989) and 5640 (7 October 1989); season totals 59,591 in 1989 and 14,714 in 1987 (not including unidentified siskin/goldfinch flocks; see below).
- American Goldfinch — peaks 556 (15 September 1989, not including 1112 siskins/goldfinches), 475 (9 September 1989, not including 1189 siskins/goldfinches), 490 (23 September 1987) and 457 (13 September 1988); season totals 4074 in 1988 and 2622 in 1989 (not including 8250 siskins/goldfinches); also see below.
- siskins/goldfinches — many mixed flocks migrate overhead, and it is often impossible for the counter to detect how many of each there are; peaks of these unidentifieds are 4155 (16 September 1989, plus 173 more identified) and 3610 (2 October 1988).
- Evening Grosbeak — peaks 917 (17 October 1987), 910 (18 October 1987) and 407 (24 October 1987); season totals 3737 in 1987 and 2665 in 1989; has a split migration similar to that of the Purple Finch, in late July-early August and in October-November.
- House Sparrow — although this species is not known to be migratory, the flock of 19 which flew over Hawk Ridge (where this species does not normally occur) on 6 October 1983 was intriguing.

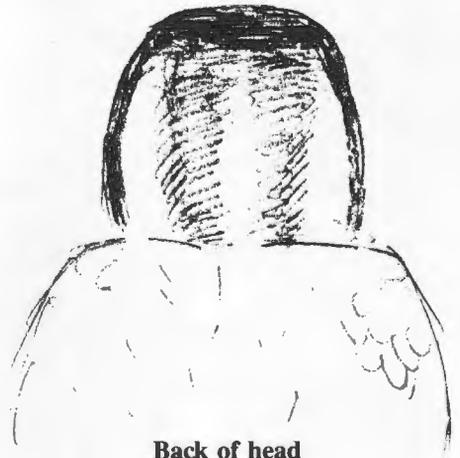
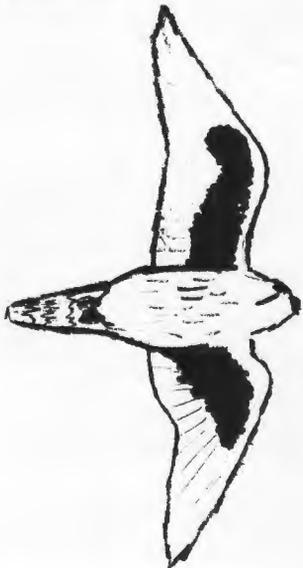
Special thanks is due the other primary counters at Hawk Ridge and Lakewood; without their efforts this unique and significant migration survey would never have become a reality. Laura Erickson and Mike Hendrickson were on duty all six years, and Laura is also in the process of computerizing our data; Parker Backstrom and Don Kienholz each saw two seasons of duty; Dudley Edmondson, Tim Lamey, Ray Newman, Mark Stensaas and Terry Wiens each worked one season; and the following each regularly donated their time without compensation to assist the counters in 1989: Mary Enley, Gail Freeman, Mary Gabrys, Charlene Miller, Leata Pearson, Judy Sausen and Cyndee Schadewald.

We also gratefully acknowledge the following who funded our efforts: Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve (1983, 1984, 1987), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Duluth Audubon Society (1985), Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (1988, 1989; M.O.U. has also agreed to fund us again in 1990), and Anne Marie Plunkett (1989). **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**



NOTES OF INTEREST

TWO PRAIRIE FALCONS IN MARSHALL COUNTY — On 28 August 1989, Loren Ayers and I were observing at the sewage ponds at Warren, Marshall County. At 4:00 P.M., a large falcon flew over one of the ponds chasing a flock of shorebirds. It portrayed the definite falcon shape; that is, long tapered wings that were pointed at the tips with a fast, direct flight. Originally we believed it to be a Peregrine, but upon further observation we realized it was a Prairie Falcon. It was a sandy brown color overall, seemingly lighter in color than the mud brown coloration of a juvenile Peregrine. In flight, black axillaries were extremely evident. It was soon joined by a second Prairie Falcon which chased the former out of sight. In flight, we were able to observe one of the birds as close as 25 yards as it chased another flock of shorebirds. This second bird landed on the edge of one of the ponds and we were able to place a spotting scope on this bird to make more detailed observations. The bird was quartering towards us so we were able then to observe the head, back and wings, and breast. The distance was about 50-75 yards and the bird was observed with a 30X spotting scope.



Back of head

**More light areas
than in Peregrine.**

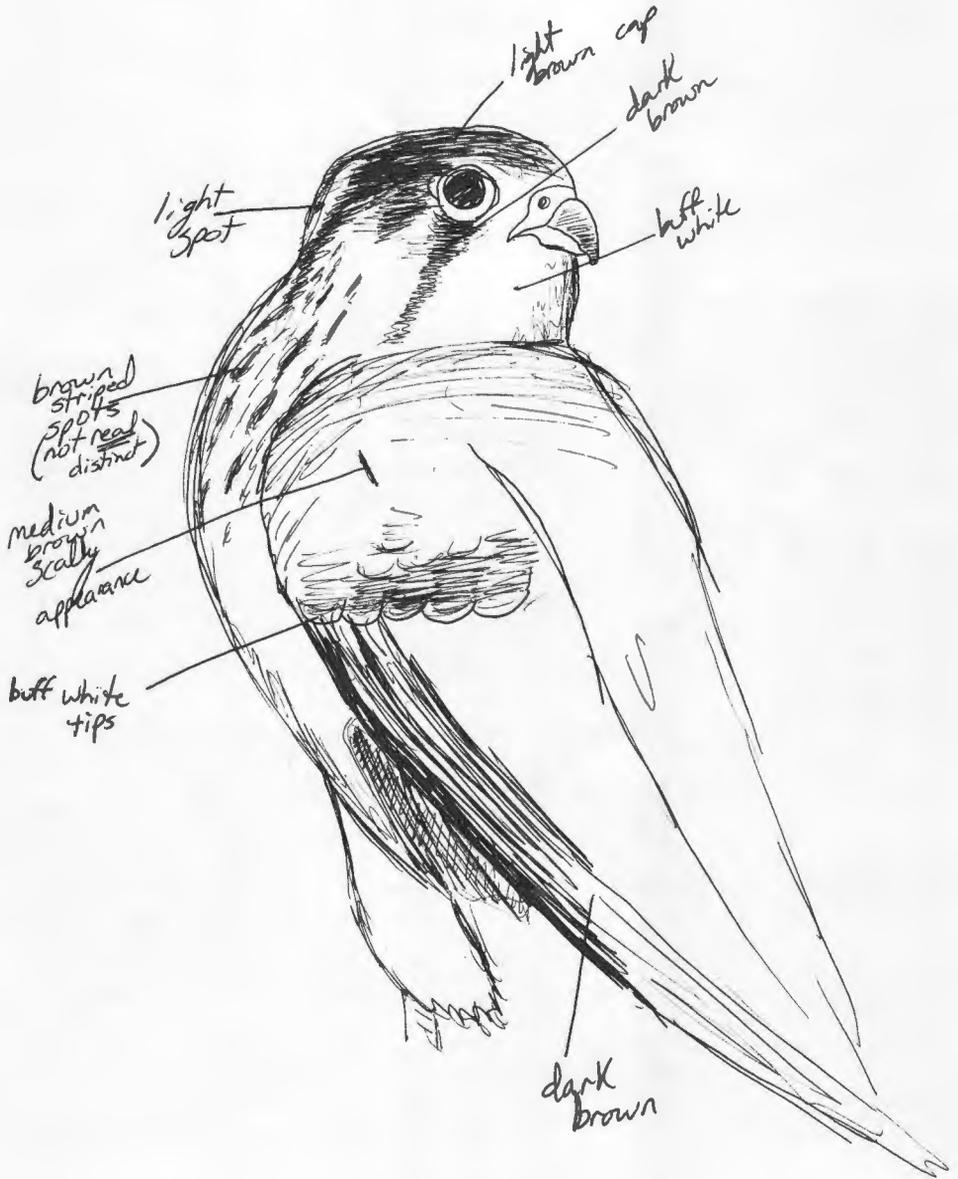
2 Prairie falcons

LORIN AYERS

29 Aug 89

Warren sewage ponds
marshal co. MN.

4:00 - 5:00 pm



At rest:

- One thin mustache mark beginning at the eye and extending downward.
- Throat and cheek were white, contrasting with the light brown cap of the head.
- The back of the head appeared to have two separate light spots that were bordered by a streak extending behind the eye.
- Mantle was sandy brown.
- The brown upper wing coverts were, also light brown and appeared to be of a scaled pattern.
- Primaries and secondaries were dark brown.
- Tail was light brown with a number of dark horizontal bars.
- The breast was basically white with thin dark vertical streaking, much thinner, shorter streaks than in an immature Peregrine.
- Flanks appeared darker than breast.

This bird later rose and began hovering (kestrel fashion), appeared to be a very light flier for a peregrine-sized bird. This contrasts with the more powerful wingbeats of a Peregrine. (I have observed other Prairie Falcons out west also.) Both birds finally departed by flying out of sight to the west. **Larry Semo, Rt. 1, Box 435, Superior, WI 54880.**

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK PREYS ON SHORT-EARED OWL — At 6:30 P.M. on 2 May 1990 as we were driving along Marshall County Road 6 about seven miles east of Middle River, we saw a large buteo fly up from the grassy road ditch just ahead of us. The hawk was carrying another rather large bird in its talons. As we quickly stopped, the hawk flew parallel to the road about 50 meters away from us before veering off to land 100 meters out in a plowed field. When we stepped out of our vehicle, the hawk flew off with its prey another 200 meters into the field. The hawk obviously was having difficulty carrying its prey and seldom was over a meter above the ground. At the end of its flight into the field, the hawk dropped its prey and landed several meters from it to watch us. As the hawk was flying, we clearly saw that its tail was whitish in color except for a broad dark band at the tip. The underwings had distinct dark spots at the wrists. When the bird landed and faced us, we used 7X binoculars to note that the lower breast and belly were dark brown as contrasted with a light upper breast and head. These are the typical field markings of light-phase Rough-legged Hawks which are common migrants through this area in spring. The prey bird was half to two thirds as large as the Rough-legged and was a light to medium yellowish brown in color. As it was being carried, its wings and legs hung down limply. The wings were rounded at the tips and had distinct dark patches at the wrists. The legs were rather long and were a lighter shade of brown than the dorsal wing surface. They were also completely feathered including the toes which gave the legs and feet a thick, fuzzy appearance. The toes were loosely curled like a fist. These characteristics are descriptive of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) which is an uncommon resident in the area. We consulted *Birds of North America* (Robbins et al., 1966) a few minutes after this sighting to verify our identification of the two birds. Several other potential prey species of roughly similar size and color were present in the area including Sharp-tailed Grouse, Marbled Godwit and Blue-winged Teal. Clearly, none of these match the characteristics we noted. The Rough-legged Hawk is well known to forage primarily on small rodents (*Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part One*, Bent, 1961) and we believe it is quite unusual for this species to prey on birds the size of a Short-eared Owl. Because we did not witness the attack, we can only speculate that the hawk somehow surprised the owl in the grassy ditch. Conceivably, the owl could have been killed or injured by a passing car. Bent (*ibid.*) reports instances of Rough-legged eating carion. However, judging from the limpness of the owl's body, it had only been dead a few minutes when we saw it, suggesting that it had, in fact, been killed by the hawk. **Stephen J. Maxson, Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 102 23rd St., Bemidji, MN 56601 and Andrea M. Herr, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.**

UPDATE ON BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK SIGHTING — On 1 June 1989 John Tveten of Baytown, Texas discovered and photographed a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck on North Long Lake, Crow Wing County (*The Loon*, 61:143-144). In early November of 1989, Jo and Steve Blanich of Crosby and I were discussing this sighting as it occurred only about fifteen miles from their home. They expressed doubts as to the wildness of the duck because of the presence of a game farm only a couple of miles as the crow (or duck) flies from North Long Lake. With their help I located the telephone number of the owner, Mike Loss, and gave him a call. He informed me that the bird in question was indeed part of his waterfowl collection and that it had escaped during construction of the pen that housed it. He was able to recapture the duck a couple of days later. As a result of the new information this sighting was dismissed by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee as an escapee. To date Minnesota has three records of this species, known for its penchant for wandering outside its normal United States range in southern Texas and southern Arizona. Readers are referred to *The Loon*, 58:97-99, and 59:217-218, for a summary of these sightings and pertinent questions involving sightings of this species in the state. The question of escapees is always something to be considered as Mr. Loss' game farm near Brainerd is just one of approximately 1,100 game farms in Minnesota (Department of Natural Resources, 1989). **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437.**

GREAT GRAY OWL IN MEEKER COUNTY — Unusual winter conditions this past year generated many interesting sightings and occurrences, but of particular importance was an encounter with a Great Gray Owl in Meeker County around 3:00 P.M. on 30 December 1989. My husband and I were travelling west on Highway 12 for a New Year's celebration in Willmar. As we passed 'Darwin Hill' Rick saw a large owl flying from the left and crossing the road. The owl, only several yards in front of our car, was as large or larger than a Great Horned Owl, and Rick noticed how the bird flew low to the ground until it rose to land on top of a pole on the right side of the road. I was sitting in the back seat on the right side and saw the bird perched on the pole. I noted the large blocky shape and gray coloration. The bird seemed somewhat tame and curious about us. It turned its head to view us as we slowed to approach it. The large facial disks and small light eyes were noticeable field marks. In the excitement of the event, I did not think to take a photograph even though obtaining one was definitely possible. **Sandra Moran, 18181 Franconia Trail, Shafer, MN 55074.**

The owl looked down at us as we slowed to take a closer look at him. The owl seemed to be somewhat tame and curious of us.



Sandra Miller Moran

Large blocky shape, dark coloration, about size of large great horned owl.



Sandra Miller Moran

First View of The owl from Back seat of our car.

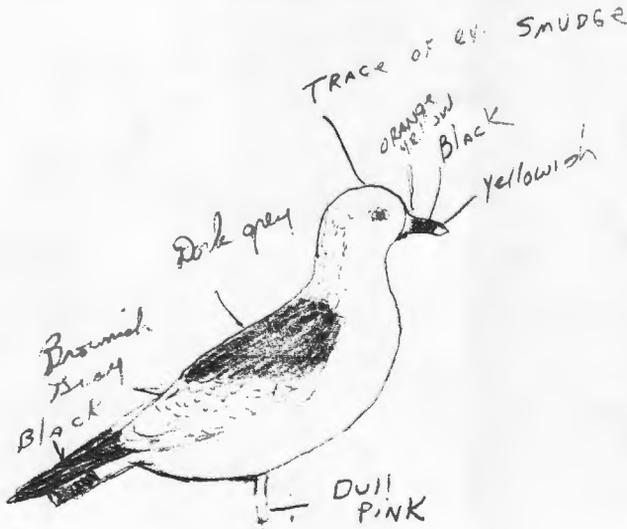
HORNED GREBE IN COOK COUNTY — The Horned Grebe is a casual winter visitant to Minnesota with nearly all records from the three counties which border Lake Superior (Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987). A Horned Grebe in definitive basic plumage was found just east of Croftville, Cook County, on 14 January 1990. The bird was studied from approximately 50 feet during the mid-afternoon with the sun coming over the observers' right shoulders as it swam and occasionally dove in Lake Superior. The description tape-recorded prior to use of field guides and prior to consultation between the observers, noted the presence of a faint dusky wash across the lower throat which was otherwise whitish. The foreneck and breast were also pale. The dark greyish brown color of the back continued up the nape and onto the crown. There was a distinct, horizontal cutoff line between the dark cap and the whitish cheek. The top of the head was flat, not peaked like an Eared Grebe, and the symmetrical bill was straight and dark. We had observed both Horned and Eared Grebes in Arizona just three weeks prior to this observation. **Peder Svingen, Sue Barton, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

ANOTHER ICELAND GULL RECORD FROM DULUTH — On 14-16 December 1989 an adult Iceland Gull was observed and carefully identified in Duluth. It was first observed swimming on Lake Superior off Brighton Beach, and it was seen again the next two days at the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District Landfill on Rice Lake Road. The light conditions varied during the three separate observations, but the visibility was always good, and the gull was mostly observed at distances of about 50-100 feet. Other observers with me at various times were Mike Hendrickson, Don Kienholz and Walt Popp. Other gulls present providing direct comparison with the Iceland Gull were numerous Herring Gulls, several Glaucous Gulls and two Thayer's Gulls (one first-winter bird and one adult). Its plumage was all white except for a pale gray mantle, slightly paler than an adult Herring. The trailing edges of the wings and the tips of the primaries were also white; this was especially noted on the outer primaries where no gray or black was visible on the upper or lower surfaces of these feathers. An adult Thayer's Gull is therefore eliminated since it always shows at least some gray or black pigment on the outer primaries. Glaucous Gull was also precluded from consideration because of size and shape. This Iceland Gull at all times, at rest and in flight, was slightly but noticeably smaller overall than all adjacent Herring Gulls. There was also an obvious size difference in its bill (which was yellow with a reddish gonydeal spot): it was thinner and shorter than all adjacent Herring Gulls. Also visible in direct comparison was this gull's smaller and rounder head and thinner neck. The eye color was difficult to exactly determine, but the irides were either a dark yellow or pale brown; both adult Iceland and adult Thayer's Gulls can have eyes of this color, while adult Glaucous Gulls have paler, clear yellow eyes. Leg and foot color was not noted since the legs were never clearly visible. As near as I can determine, this represents the 18th Iceland Gull record for Minnesota. Bob Janssen's book *Birds in Minnesota* lists 14 records, but one of these should be disregarded: the 29 January 1983 record (*The Loon* 55:188-189) was later found Unacceptable by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee and filed as an unidentified Thayer's/Iceland Gull record (see *The Loon* 56:18). In addition, the book includes five "old" records that Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee has never voted on, some of which could possibly be reconsidered in the future: the 25 February 1951 specimen record from Duluth; the January-February 1967 sight records from Knife River (*The Loon* 39:47-48); the 28 February 1967 photograph record from Two Harbors (*The Loon* 39:48); the 10 January 1968 photograph record from Knife River (*The Loon* 41:26); and the 17 November sight record near Duluth (no published details). Since the publication of *Birds in Minnesota*, five additional records have been accepted, for a total of 18: December-February 1986-87, Duluth (*The Loon* 59:101); 10 December 1987, Grand Marais (*The Loon* 60:43-44); 5-23 December 1988, Black Dog Lake and St. Paul (*The Loon* 61:48-49); 19 November 1989, Minneapolis (*The Loon* 61:207-208); and the present record. Geographically, these records are distributed as follows: eight from Duluth, three from Lake County (Knife River and Two Harbors), three from Grand Marais, and four from the Twin Cities. **Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

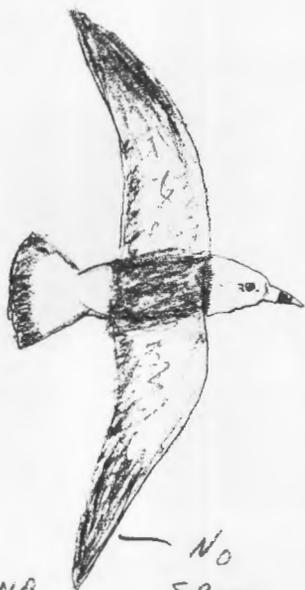
COMMON GRACKLE ATTACKS BAT — 2 May 1989, while working on the walleye egg-taking platforms at the Minnesota DNR's Pike Hatchery on Lake Vermilion, T.61, R.16, S.3, near Tower, St. Louis County, I spotted a little brown bat flying over the Pike River. It was 9:30 A.M., clear and sunny. I was surprised to see a bat out under these conditions so I continued to watch its progress. Slowly the bat was getting closer to me. It was about 30 feet away when suddenly a Common Grackle appeared and started repeatedly dive bombing the bat in midair. At one point, the grackle actually grabbed the bat in its beak. The bat escaped and continued, as best it could, toward the shore nearest to me. The grackle continued to harass the bat, but finally the bat made it to a point over dry land and immediately dove into the dead leaves on shore. The grackle also landed about four feet from where the bat went down. The grackle began searching for the bat, occasionally flipping over a dried leaf. After about one minute, the grackle found the bat, and with a motion similar to a Great Blue Heron stabbing at a fish, the grackle snatched the bat in its beak. With that the grackle took off with the bat firmly in its mouth. The grackle flew to the other side of the river about 100 feet away, landed on a rock near shore and proceeded to pound away on the bat, like a woodpecker pounding on a tree. Because of the distance, I could not tell for certain if the grackle was actually eating the bat or if it was just trying to kill it. Eventually the grackle flew off and I could see no sign of the little brown bat. **Jeffrey Mueller, Ely Fisheries Office, 1429 Grant McMahan Blvd., Ely, MN 55731.**

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AT RED WING — On 5 April 1990 I was birding at Colville Park Marina at Red Wing, Goodhue County, when I noticed a different gull among the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls present at the marina. I observed the gull for over 45 minutes with the light at my back, with intermittent periods of sun and clouds. I sketched the bird as it was standing and in flight. I believe the bird was a second summer plumaged Lesser Black-backed Gull for the following reasons:

- 1) No other gull this size has a slate-gray back.
- 2) The wings were longer in comparison to body length than a Herring Gull by direct comparison. Also when the bird was standing, the wings extended beyond the tail.



Sketches
MADE WHILE BIRD
WAS UNDER OBSERVATION



A little
smaller
than Herring
Gull & 1/2
larger than
Ring-bills
Nearby

Colville Park Marina

Red wing - 5 April 90

Goodhue Co 10 45 - 1130 AM

NO
SPOTS

- 3) The light tip to the bill, although not diagnostic for a Lesser Black-backed Gull, is more peculiar to sub-adult Lesser Black-backed than other species of gulls.
- 4) In second-summer plumage, which is acquired from April to June, the legs of this species can be either a dull pink or a yellow color.

Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave., Bloomington, MN 55420.

REFLECTIONS ON A CAROLINA WREN — 17 November 1989. End of a cold gray week of feathered phenology: last bunch of bluebirds, southbound eagles, rails and woodcock pacing the creek, Mallards tipping at the edge of ice and talk of Tundra Swans.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is back in the bur oak above my "bird walk" to scan the brush and ragged prairie by my feeders. A butchered buck's ribcage hanging by the corn shock inspires a study in comparative crimson: Red-bellied Woodpecker filling up on venison fat, male cardinal fluffed against the north wind, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers flashing patches of red just less intense than the single Red-winged Blackbird pecking in the snow below and then, to complete this primary palette — a Purple Finch perched by russet sumac berries. What's missing is the splashed accent of bird blood if the hawk is successful in her swoop into the frenzy at these feeders. After all, they're descendants of viscious lizards. In the scheme of things, tiny titmouse acts exactly like *Tyrannosaurus rex* with scaled legs and miniature claws and sharp beak evolved for anti-social survival. I'm thankful I'm bigger and safe behind this window. I hope the hawk takes a House Sparrow from the flock competing with my more colorful native birds.

I step out into my cold porch/shop for a tool. Once again there's a bird batting back and forth between windows. They come in under the unfinished eaves. This one's fast but soon exhausted in the small space and in my grasp. A wren, but much bigger than usual and billed like a Brown Creeper and oddly yellow in its breast like an Evening Grosbeak. This little bird's wilder than the last few I've captured. The starlings, White-throated Sparrow, nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and others were compliant in my warm hand and tolerated

inspection passively, flew off outside with hardly a ruffled feather. This odd wren is intent on pecking and scratching out of my grip. Its resistance reminds me of the Northern Shrike I held last year just long enough for positive ID and a couple of one-handed auto-camera photos. It clamped its curved beak deep into my left index finger and by the time I'd removed the lens cap with my teeth, blood was flowing freely. I thought of the tribulations of J.J. Audubon as I took a pair of poor pictures, pried open the snapping turtle bill and turned the shrike loose to cure lesser meat on spikes of field and forest as sharp as morning frost. The burning persists in that digit, worse than a coyote bite, and my fingertip shows the shrike scar angling across its whorls. If I'm ever booked by the FBI (Feathered Bite Index), my prints will send me to the same cellblock as unlucky raptor handlers.

The bird in hand is less dangerous, lacks mandible muscles to penetrate any callous. I take the wren into the house to thumb through Peterson's. I'm thinking "Long-billed Marsh", it's only 70 yards to our watercress spring feeding the stream through overgrown peat bottomlands. I'm an amateur and lack the disciplined devotion to really know the diverse species in my own backyard. It's too big: hundreds of rugged acres, bluffs to streambanks offering mixed habitat, fewer humans (birders or otherwise) than the Civil War era. My old camera is 110% "manual," focus and zoom are separate manipulations. It's heavier than a European shotgun. My binoculars are lighter, they (it) cost \$18.99. So those are my excuses for not knowing immediately that this wren is not "Marsh" — short, medium or long.

Carolina's too far, must be Bewick's! Peterson's plate 47 illustrates the white eye stripe and, let's see,... to check for same color on tail I relax my grip on this little dynamo, I give it an inch and it takes a mile. Back and forth through house, whacks windows, up curtains like a creeper, down the hall at a hundred miles an hour, a spill in the sink, aggravates an African violet (just missing spikey cacti!), circles a hot stovepipe, under the davenport and finally cornered in a closet. My young daughter is laughing loudly. She's seen me subdue all manner of critters: some to sauté, some to doctor, others to just look at close up for a minute. This wren's a handful, until I open it a fraction to check tail feathers!

Tail, back, size, color all key out. It's a Carolina. Wren rests in a shoe box as I phone a few of Winona's numerous "Bird People." The outcome of an hour of fascinating conversations is the impending visit of naturalist-photographer Howard Munson. Shortly before his arrival the wren succeeds in dislodging the shoe box lid and "flies the coop" again. This capture is quicker, clenched in a curtain, and a heavy book goes on the box. When we open it outside, I take the precaution of draping mosquito netting to contain this small whirlwind. But it's soon safely in hand, observed and the camera is ready. Close focus, to show the film more bird and less fingers I shift my grip ever so slightly.

Just enough of a slip to let wren wrench and wriggle free for a final escape. Without a shot. It speeds to a blackberry thicket, perches briefly with a flock of similarly sized sparrows, and then disappears toward Carolina.

The photographer uses some expletives uncharacteristic of his usual patient professional language. I join in and add a few excuses and apologies. Next time we'll bag the bird in plastic, at least for the preliminary documentation shots. Oh well, we won't go hungry like the hawk when she misses.

Maybe we were lulled by last year's photo sessions with Saw-whets; tiny owls so smug and passive that I'd shake the conifer branch they were perched on so they'd wake up and open their bumblebee-colored eyes for good pictures. And more pictures at three feet, then two, multiple flashes and rolls of film at arm's length didn't bother them a bit. They seemed to be the dreamy sloths of the bird world. I suppose they saved their energy for wild business at night: hard hunting monster mice and voles, avoiding other owls and sharpening crosscuts. Anyway, the hotrod wren put things into perspective.

That night fell with the finesse of an orchestra's equipment tossed down steps. Deer snorts, twenty turkeys rattling to roost, Great Horned Owl hoots and Barred Owl cooking questions, a rabbit killed in its screams, odd barks of coonhounds and geese, constant comment from coyotes, splash of spawning trout moving upstream, last leaves in wind. Orion up there, silently hunting the sharp stars for meat to heat his bones in the cold sky. Afraid, I carried in oak for the stove. **Roger Lacher, Rt. 3, Box 180C, Winona, MN 55987.**

A MARBLED GODWIT IN MINNEAPOLIS — On 1 May 1990 at about 8:15 A.M., I stopped at the north or main beach at Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis on my way to my office. My purpose was to see if any new water birds had arrived there overnight. I immediately located a large, long-billed shore bird among the two dozen or so Ring-billed Gulls on the beach. Examination with a binocular at about 100 feet disclosed the bird to be a Marbled Godwit. I have observed this species a number of times in California and western Minnesota. The bird was quite large for a shorebird, had mottled plumage I associate with this species, and had a long, straight, pale orange bill with a black tip. There was no white on the tail which ruled out the possibility of a Hudsonian Godwit. I did not "spook" the bird in order to observe the cinnamon wing linings as I had no desire to disturb it or spoil the chances of any birders who might follow me. **Charles L. Horn, 9078 Hyland Creek Road, Bloomington, MN 55437.**

REPORT OF AN ALBINO RED-TAILED HAWK NEAR WINONA — On 14 July 1989, as I left my Winona State University classroom, I was approached by a rather agitated individual who reported that he had seen an albino Red-tailed Hawk near the city of Winona and wished me to accompany him to the site of the observation for confirmation. I went with him, armed with a 30-power Bausch and Lomb spotting scope. We failed to find the hawk that day, but did on subsequent days. On 18 July, I watched the hawk through the spotting scope for over an hour at roughly 150 yards. The hawk was a nearly complete albino, yet definitely a Red-tailed Hawk. The tail had two and a half rufous colored feathers on the dorsal midline which confirm its species. In addition, it had three dark gray primaries on its left wing and five or six on the right wing. There was a light scattering of 12-18 small, dark gray feathers on each shoulder. The dorsal posterior section of the head had a small brownish patch roughly one inch in diameter and the breast had 12-20 small brownish-black feathers in among the white. With these exceptions the bird was entirely white in plumage with a cream colored bill and feet. Judging by size the bird was a male, though it could be a very small female. I have often observed the hawk since then in the company of a normally pigmented Red-tailed Hawk of greater size. Presumably the second hawk is a female for there has never been any conflict between them. Together, I have seen these two drive off many other hawks passing through the area during the fall migration. I have observed this hawk several times per week, until as recently as 29 November 1989, thus it appears that he is nonmigratory. The location where he was seen is two miles south and west of the intersections of highways 14/61 and 43 in Winona. This hawk rarely soars, instead it hunts from perches along the wooded sides of the valley. Local residents indicated that the hawk has remained in the area for over a year.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Jim Tikal and Sam Nettleman who first identified the albino hawk. I also wish to thank Stephen Hermann of the Winona State University Photographic Services for his help in trying to obtain photographs of the albino hawk. **Dr. Philip C. Whitford, Biology Dept. Winona State University, Winona, MN 55987.**

WINTER RECORDS FOR RED-SHOULDERED HAWK — An adult Red-shouldered Hawk was seen on 31 January 1990 just south of Elba in the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area, Winona County. Another was seen and photographed on 3 February 1990 along East River Road in Fridley, just north of Springbrook Nature Center in Anoka County. We watched the bird in Fridley for 30 minutes as it hunted mice in a field and returned to perch in a sapling to tear and eat its prey. Neither bird showed obvious red "shoulders" when perched. The scapulars were brown and broadly edged in buff; the wing coverts were brown with pale dots. The combination of rusty red barring on the buffy chest of a small buteo as well as multiple narrow white bands on the blackish tail left little doubt as to the identity of the birds. All doubt ended when the reddish wing linings were seen in flight on both birds. There was a recent wintering individual of this species in Whitewater WMA but the species

has become casual during winter in the southeast region of the Mississippi River Valley and its tributaries according to Janssen (1987, *Birds in Minnesota*). **Peder Svingen and Sue Barton, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Tenney reports that at least two Red-shouldered Hawks were present at the Whitewater WMA during the winter of 1989-90.

WINTER "SPOTTED" TOWHEE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — While reading the Sunday morning paper at my dinette table at about 9:00 A.M. 25 February 1990, my wife informed me that there was a strange bird on our balcony deck. I glanced out the window and saw the bird which was facing away from me less than two meters away. When I observed the black head, back and tail, I thought of a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but hastening to the living room patio door I had a good side view of the bird which I then recognized as a male Rufous-sided Towhee. However, I did consult the Geographic field guide to confirm the bird's identity and then Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota* to discover the appearance of a towhee in this area is very unusual in February. Recognizing this, it occurred to me to call other birders in this area so I phoned Dr. Breckenridge who lives one mile north of me. He was about to step into his automobile and leave for Arizona, so I bid him "Bon Voyage" and dialed Oscar Johnson who was home and said he would drive over to see the bird. Meanwhile, the bird left briefly several times but returned to feed at an elevated feeder about five meters from our window. I proceeded to take several pictures with a zoom lens and felt very good about having a towhee on film. Several days later I discovered there was no film in the camera! Fortunately, Oscar Johnson had his camera along and after waiting about five minutes, the towhee reappeared at the feeder and gave Oscar a chance to take several pictures including the one accompanying this article. Oscar also pointed out to me that this was a western race "spotted" towhee. Within the hour, we drove off to our cabin at Sturgeon Lake for a stay of three days so I do not know how long the bird stayed at our feeder, but it was not present when we returned. However, the bird did reappear at our feeder for six or seven minutes eleven days later on 8 March. One wonders where that towhee went and how he happened back to our feeder. **Louis Dinzl, 7828 N. Mississippi Ln, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.**



Rufous-sided Towhee, spotted race, at Dinzl feeder, 25 February, 1990, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County. Photo by Oscar Johnson.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers captured the imagination of many observers during 1989. There were more northward reports than usual on the MOU Minnesota Bird Report and the fourth state record for North Dakota was along the Red River in Fargo on 16-17 May 1989 (*American Birds*, Vol. 43:498). On the same foggy, overcast afternoon that warblers, a Yellow-throated Vireo and numerous other migrants were seen on Park Point, I was startled by a familiar buzzy, two note call which was "wheezy" in character and identified it as a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The bird was located in a sparse clump of saplings near the ruins of the old lighthouse on 21 September 1989. The lighting was not sufficient for photography due to the weather conditions at approximately 1800 and the total time of visual observation was only seven seconds from less than 25 feet. However, there was no foliage to obscure the view as the bird actively flitted about bare branches. Details were recorded on tape. A thin, dark needle-like bill was noted along with a thin, whitish eye ring. The head was mostly grayish with the throat becoming lighter gray. The wings were described as "grayish brown" on the tape. The underparts were recorded as "buffy white," my term for very pale gray. The long, narrow tail was nearly as long as the body. It was slightly notched and blackish above with white outer tail feathers. The bird also gave a wheezy, single call note but most of the vocalizations were the buzzy two note variety. One of the very few previous records for St. Louis County on 27 October 1982 was also the latest date for the state (*The Loon* 55:31-32). **Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

EURASIAN WIGEON AT FRONTENAC — On 3 April 1990, I saw an Eurasian Wigeon among a number of American Wigeons on a lake to the southeast of Frontenac, Goodhue County. The bird was an adult male in full breeding plumage. The observation was made under sunny skies with the light behind me, using a 10x50 binocular and 30X Nikon fieldscope at a distance of approximately 200 feet. My field notes are as follows: Eurasian Wigeon among many American Wigeons, pinkish front, dark red head, lighter colored body than American Wigeons; head stripe very obvious. Bird was clearly different from American Wigeons but it had the white tail area and head shape of a wigeon. It dabbled around with the American Wigeons, basically just sat in the water and slowly paddled to the north. Its behavior, the light, the visibility could not have been better for viewing unless it could have been closer, but the 30X scope made up for that. **John Lane, 10315 N. Dellwood Road, Stillwater, MN 55802.**

ROCK WREN IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On 29 April 1990, at the end of a weekend field trip to west-central Minnesota, Rick Peifer and I took our 16-member Bell Museum birding group to the Control Data building in Bloomington (8100 34th Ave. S), Hennepin County, to observe the Peregrine Falcons nesting on the building. The weather was poor — temperature about 40°, heavy overcast with drizzle and light rain. As I was setting up a spotting scope to view the male Peregrine, Howard Bergman called my attention to a small bird on a decorative stone ledge at the base of the building. I recognized it as a Rock Wren, and over the next 20 min (from 1510 to 1530) we were all able to get good views of the wren as it remained on this stone bannister on the south and southwest sides of the building. Although it was raining lightly, I was able to study it well from as close as 5 to 10m with binoculars, and 15 to 25m with a 40X spotting scope. The wren was larger than a House Wren, appearing about the same size and shape as a Carolina Wren. The tips of the outer rectrices were buffy-cinnamon, contrasting with the rest of the brownish tail. This field mark was more conspicuous on the ventral surface, appearing like a complete terminal band. The upperparts were sandy brown, while the primaries appeared darker brown. The most prominent feature of the bird was the orangish-brown rump and sides of the rump, plainly visible above the tertials, which contrasted with the otherwise drab sandy back. Over the eye was a pale creamy line, which was rather thin and indistinct (not as prominent as the supercilium of a Bewick's Wren). The underparts were creamy, with faint fine dark streaks on the upper breast.

The legs were blackish and appeared heavy and strong. The bill was long, dark, and somewhat decurved. The wren was very active, moving along some 50m of the ledge, inspecting crevices and once entering, and briefly disappearing into, a small drainage hole. It frequently bobbed its head and entire body up and down (as if performing squatting exercises). I heard it call three times — a two-noted “pe-deer” with an unusual metallic quality, and accented on the second syllable. After 20 minutes, and just before a heavy rainstorm, the wren left the rock ledge and flew about 100m to the south, into a small grove of shrubs. The only other record from the Twin Cities area of this Accidental species, and the most recent record for Minnesota, is one seen in Eagan on 19 April 1987 (*The Loon* 59:156). **Bruce A. Fall, 4300 29th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.**

PRAIRIE FALCON IN COTTONWOOD COUNTY — On 20 October 1989 I saw a Prairie Falcon approximately ½ mile west of the Indian Petroglyphs Interpretive Center in Cottonwood County. I saw a large bird of prey land on a rock about 75 yards off the road. I looked at the bird through a 7X35 Nikon binocular. I noted the head as having a white line above the eye and the facial pattern of the Prairie Falcon. The bird then flew about a ¼ mile west, flying very low to the ground and landing on a fence post. I noted the pointed wings and was sure I was watching a falcon flying and landing as I drove up to where the bird had landed. It again flew and began to circle and gain altitude. As it flew directly above me, I could see the dark “underarms” of the bird. After seeing the dark axillars there was no doubt that I had been lucky to see a Prairie Falcon in Cottonwood County. **Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 20, Byron, MN 55920.**

SPRING PEREGRINE FALCON SIGHTINGS IN WESTERN MINNESOTA — Finding migrating peregrines in spring in western Minnesota is difficult at best, with one or none being the norm most years. It was a pleasant experience, therefore, to have encountered seven individuals in only eleven days in May of 1990. On 9 May an immature was seen in south-central Otter Tail County. An adult was seen in northwest Grant County on 13 May; another adult was seen in southwest Otter Tail on 18 May. On 19 May, four birds were seen in western Otter Tail: one immature, one adult, and two of undetermined age. In addition, two peregrines have taken up residence on a bank in downtown Fargo, ND. All this bodes well for the continued resurgence in the population of peregrines. **Steve & Diane Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

A ROSS' GOOSE IN WINONA COUNTY — 15 April 1990, Easter Sunday, was bright and sunny but there was a brisk, chill wind that would prompt a birder to keep on the move. A call from Carol Schumacher of Winona had alerted me to the presence of a good-sized flock of mixed white and blue-phased Snow Geese at the Lewiston (Winona County) Water-treatment Ponds (better known to birders as “Sewage Ponds”). They were huddled and silent on the north slope of the third pond, the one farthest to the south, and their presence would not have been detected in a drive-by of the facility. In fact, I could not see them until I was roughly parallel to them. When Carol had come upon them, they had all “spooked” and taken flight, so I was cautious, and settled down to study them from the first (and farthest) pond. The sun, and the wind and the damp ground made for very uncomfortable viewing; the view through a 30X lens was very wavy, distorted, so I decided I would have to try to get closer and also get rid of the glare of the sun which hampered viewing. I had noticed a smaller white goose amongst the white Snow Geese, and thought it best to study it for a possible Ross' Goose. After a walk back to the car for a brimmed hat, and other lenses, I crept around the edge of the lagoons until I was pretty much opposite the flock, and considerably closer. The small white goose appeared to be approximately one-fourth smaller than the Snow Geese beside and behind it on shore. Its head seemed rounder, its neck shorter and thicker, and its bill much smaller and more evenly triangular than the Snow Goose, and

lacked the characteristic "grinning patch" found in the bill of the Snow. The bill was pink in color with a dark center; I could not see the warty protuberances often found at the base of the Ross' Goose's bill. The angle at which the bill appeared to meet the face was sharply vertical, not slightly curved as in the Snow Goose; this was the field mark that I was looking for, as definitive in the Ross' Goose. When the goose swam out from shore, it seemed to be approximately the size of a nearby Mallard. The goose had a petite, neat and tidy look to it. I felt certain that it was a Ross' and being the only Ross' Goose I had seen this year, I spent awhile just watching it; then I headed to the nearest telephone to alert other birders to its presence. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

WORM-EATING WARBLER IN RICE COUNTY — The morning of 30 April 1990 was cold and frosty, a low of 23°. By 10:00 A.M. it had warmed a little, I had finished some things around the house and headed for Sakatah Lake State Park. I parked east of the park entrance, where the state trail meets a gravel road. It was sunny and still cool. Birding was slow, Yellow-rumped Warblers were common but on the ground. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was also present. About 1300 I got back to my car and decided to walk down an old driveway to a barn. About 10 yards from my car a group of warblers flew to my left. Most were Yellow-rumped, but one was definitely different. The back and wings were a light greenish brown color without wingbars. The crown of the bird was buffy colored with three black streaks visible. One through the eye I could see and two just off center of the crown. The front was not visible. It sat low to the ground in brush about 12 feet in front of me. Though it was now cloudy, the light was good. I had seen this species before in Kentucky and knew it was a Worm-eating Warbler. When I got back to my car, I looked through both Peterson and Geographic field guides (for habitat). When I got home, I looked in *Birds in Minnesota*, Janssen, 1975 for dates. Listed are some dates for this species from *The Loon* for southern Minnesota: 8 May 1984 Waseca County; 4 May 1985 Mower County; 24 May 1985 Olmsted County; 8 May 1986 LeSueur County; 11 May 1986 Fillmore County; 22 May 1986 Fillmore County; 8 May 1988 Mower County; 4 May 1988 Ramsey County. It would seem that this species may warrant looking into bringing it up to a regular (rare) status in the future. **Wally Swanson, 128 S. Buchanon St., Waterville, MN 56096.**

ARE NUMBERS OF AMERICAN MIGRANTS DECLINING? — The last two issues of *British Birds*, Volume 83, Numbers 5 & 6 (May and June, 1990) both contain articles speaking to this question. The May issue cites *New Scientist*, 3 February 1990 as indicating that recent studies suggest declines in some species as attributable to shrinking Central American rain forests. The article refers to the North American Breeding Bird Census as showing that most species were on the increase until about 1980, but following that time declines in numbers began to be noticed. Not all species were affected similarly, e.g. the Wood Thrush whose wintering grounds are the tropical forests, declined in greater numbers than species which winter in scrub and grassland. Others suggest that the decline in breeding populations is due to changes in North American habitats. The June issue of *British Birds* cites the work of Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux of Clemson University, who has been studying migration numbers for over 35 years. Radar screens of weather stations along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico were photographed every 20 minutes and the images retained at the Ashville (North Carolina) Archive. Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Gauthreaux established that he could determine the species, or families, of birds indicated on radar by comparing them with field observations made at the same time both during the day and at night using moon-watching or, on moonless nights, by counting and identifying birds in a narrow vertical beam of light. He now has compared images from two of the stations for two periods of three years, one in the 1960s and one in the 1980s. This comparison indicates that there has been as much as about a 50% decline in numbers over the period, much higher than expected in comparison with the results reported by the Breeding Bird Survey. The results he obtained

are provisional and he is seeking funds to make a complete study of the radar archive.

Also in the June issue 1990 of *British Birds* is a disturbing letter from Rob Hume detailing the Coto Donana catastrophe. The national park in southwest Spain is justly famous worldwide for the wealth of its birdlife. It is facing devastation as the area adjacent to the park is headed for development of hotel accommodations for 30,000 and the biggest golf-course complex in Europe, this in addition to an existing tourist development which now drains four billion litres of water per year from the underground water supplies giving tourists cool showers and well-watered gardens but seriously damaging the marshes. The new development will take a further ten billion litres of water per year. In line with these disturbing bits of news, it might be a good idea for birders everywhere to escalate their record-keeping of their backyard/local birds to help in documenting what we have now so that when areas close to home are threatened, we will have documentation as to the usage and values of land used by both resident and migrating birds. As an example, I have recently begun at least weekly observation and notation at two (completed) of the planned six nearby reservoirs built as part of the flood control plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers near Rochester in Olmsted County. I offered to do this initially because I am curious about what effect the draining of Silver Lake (part of the flood plan) for the next two years will have on the birds, especially the waterfowl, that habitually use Silver Lake both year-round and in migration. I hope to be able to supply the County Board with data that may be useful to them in assessing usage of these new lakes prior to use for recreation by the citizenry. Both the Board and I have been pleasantly surprised to find out how many different species I have already discovered use these new areas; two years at each reservoir ought to provide some useful information, at least that is the hope, and it is close to home and fun to do. Maybe there are other MOU members who might consider doing something similar in "your own backyard." **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL IN CARVER COUNTY — On the afternoon of Sunday, 29 April 1990, my wife, Barb, and I were returning from the MOU Salt Lake weekend. We decided to stop in western Carver County to check out some flooded fields and Goose Lake. During the previous couple of weeks we had been seeing up to 17 species of ducks and thousands of gulls in the area. About 6/10ths of a mile east of Mayer, on the road to the Goose Lake access, we stopped at a low flooded field, that on the previous Friday had held a Cattle Egret, Ring-Billed Gulls, and some shorebirds. Before we were even stopped we both noticed a very dark gull 30 yards from our car walking around pecking at the mud. Our first thought was that it might be a Lesser Black-backed Gull based on color and first impression of size. Since Barb had never seen a Lesser Black-backed Gull before and my only previous experience was with the immature bird at Black Dog in December 1988, we immediately began to note the various field marks of the bird and started comparing them to the National Geographic, Peterson Eastern and Master Guides which we had with us in the car. Besides using two pairs of 10X40 binocular, we used a Kowa TSN-2 with 20X and 40X eyepieces to observe the bird. Field marks noted included a dark slate-gray back, clear white head with a very slight smudge through the eye, bright yellow legs and a red spot on lower bill. While watching the bird, a Ring-Billed Gull walked up next to it. The bird was slightly, though clearly larger, than the Ring-Billed although smaller than what a Herring Gull would be. Other gulls considered, but eliminated because of the listed field marks included Great Black-backed Gull (too large), Mew Gull (too small and not dark enough), and California Gull (does not have bright yellow legs and the mantle is lighter). While the gull was walking around the field it appeared to keep to itself and did not mingle with the dozen or so Ring-Billed Gulls in the area. After watching for 30 minutes or so, we left to call other birders. When we returned 45 minutes later, during which time a thunderstorm of snow had occurred, it was gone. Several birders searched that evening and the next several days, but it was never seen again. We believe this bird was the eighth Minnesota record for the Lesser Black-backed Gull and only the second spring record. **Dennis Martin, 20185 Excelsior Blvd., Shorewood, MN 55331.**

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 to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

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

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

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Pine Grosbeaks Invade — Winter 1989-1990

Anne Marie Plunkett

The winter of 1988-1989 had been so drab and nearly birdless that seeing White-winged Crossbills in a cemetery at Blackhammer in Houston County on 11 November 1989 created the first spark of hope that just possibly the upcoming winter might be a better birding winter than the one just past. Three days later, I found White-wingeds in Wabasha, Goodhue, Dakota, and Dodge Counties; within the next few days, I had found them in all the other southeast counties, often in good numbers. In each instance, they were found eating the two-inch-long dark-brown clustered cones of ornamental Black Hills spruce trees, and not the cones of the tamaracks which had been usual in the past. They were present throughout the entire winter season in the southeast — my last sighting being in the cemetery at Austin in Mower County on 29 March 1990. (The major invasion of White-winged Crossbills is well documented by Robert B. Janssen in the previous issue of *The Loon* 62:69-71).

The next species to add luster to the winter season was the Common Redpoll (absent in the winter of 1988-1989 in the southeast). They first appeared at my feeders on 3 December 1989, and were present continuously and often in good numbers through 20 March 1990. My records show that I recorded them in all the southeast and south-central counties (and beyond). Hoary Redpolls were with the Common Redpolls in Olmsted, Dodge, Wabasha, Winona, Rice and Waseca Counties.

The invasion of Pine Grosbeaks into the southern part of the state was, however, a most unexpected treat. This winter visitant is usually common in the northeastern and north-central regions of the state, with numbers varying from uncommon to abundant in invasion years. The species is accidental in any year in the south-central and southwestern regions. The species is rare to uncommon, and in some years totally absent, in the northern part of the northwestern, central, east-central and southeastern regions of Minnesota. The last winter in which Pine Grosbeaks were common all the way to the Iowa border and reached the extreme southeastern counties of

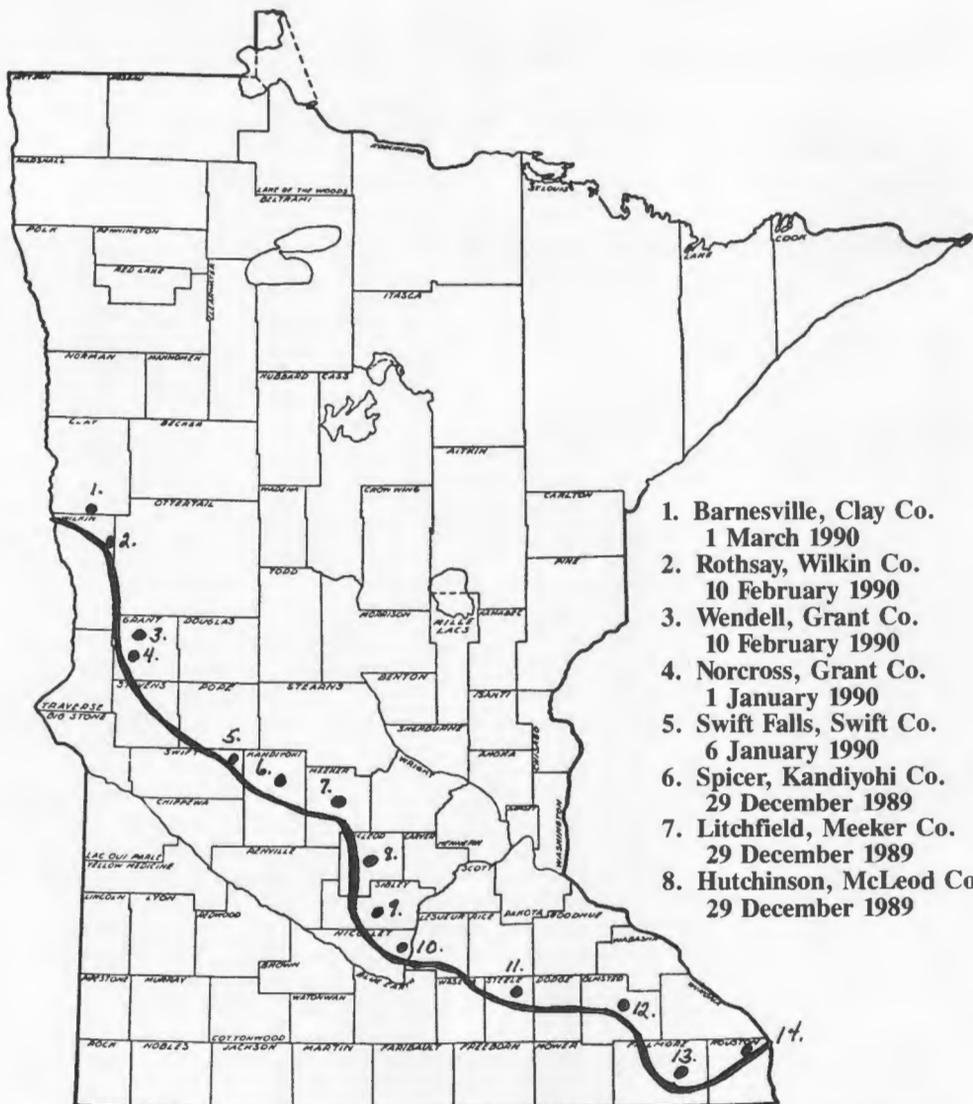
Fillmore and Houston was in 1977-78. Then in 1985 there were several Pine Grosbeaks present in Austin, Mower County from 13 January through 2 February; they were also present at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County during this same period. The last time that the species ranged into the southeast part of the state was during December 1985 when Dr. Bill Evans and his son Bill IV found them on the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society's Christmas Count at Rochester, Olmsted County; they were present through February 1986.

The major invasion of Pine Grosbeaks in the winter of 1989-1990 brought birds south to Houston County and southwest to Swift County. They were reported from 56 counties, except in the southwest part of Minnesota. On the Christmas Bird Counts this winter, 2936 were recorded (only 568 during the previous winter). The following narrative details their occurrence in south-central and south-eastern Minnesota; the accompanying map illustrates the extremity of their southern range during the winter of 1989-1990 and locates the southernmost points in the state where the Pine Grosbeak was documented as having been present during that period.

In Nicollet County, on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College, on 30 December 1989, Bob Janssen, Ray Glassel and I found one female Pine Grosbeak at the end of the day after looking for them in Waseca, Blue Earth, Sibley and Brown Counties, to no avail. (I am including somewhat-precise locations where Pine Grosbeaks were found for the benefit of local birders and county listers as possible places to look for them when next they invade).

In Le Sueur County, I found one male and two females in the parking lot of the Le Sueur Country Club just a few miles southeast of the city of Le Sueur on 14 January 1990.

In Rice County near Faribault, during the last week of December 1989, six Pine Grosbeaks were seen briefly by birders who had come to the Dick Reed residence to view the spotted race of the Rufous-sided Towhee. I saw the towhee on 1 January 1990, but not the grosbeaks, nor did I see them at any time



1. Barnesville, Clay Co.
1 March 1990
2. Rothsay, Wilkin Co.
10 February 1990
3. Wendell, Grant Co.
10 February 1990
4. Norcross, Grant Co.
1 January 1990
5. Swift Falls, Swift Co.
6 January 1990
6. Spicer, Kandiyohi Co.
29 December 1989
7. Litchfield, Meeker Co.
29 December 1989
8. Hutchinson, McLeod Co.
29 December 1989

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9. Winthrop, Sibley Co.
29 December 1989 | 11. Owatonna, Steele Co.
21 January 1990 | 13. Amherst, Fillmore Co.
12 January 1990 |
| 10. St. Peter, Nicollet Co.
30 December 1989 | 12. Rochester, Olmsted Co.
22 January 1990 | 14. LaCrescent, Houston Co.
7 January 1990 |

Southern extent of the Pine Grosbeak invasion in Minnesota — 29 December 1989 to 1 March 1990. Map by Robert B. Janssen.

thereafter when I visited the area.

In Steele County on 21 January 1990, Manley Olson saw a single bird in a crab apple tree near downtown Owatonna. I should mention that almost every sighting of Pine Grosbeaks recorded during the winter of 1989-

1990 in the southern part of the state was of birds eating either crab apples or red cedar berries. The crab apples which they seemed to prefer were the gumball-sized apples, but if these were not available, they would opt for the smaller ornamental crabs.

Despite numerous trips to nearly every city and town in Dodge and Mower Counties, I failed to locate a single Pine Grosbeak. A check with others who bird these counties showed that everyone had the same bad luck.

In Olmsted County, they were reported at several locations. Jeanne Jones had them in her yard in Lenwood Heights in southwest suburban Rochester during January, as did Bob Ekblad at his residence in rural Byron. I saw about 30 at Evergreen Acres north of Rochester from 22 January through the end of the month. I also saw a group of ten in the Merrihills section southwest of Rochester on 20 February 1990.

In Fillmore County, the red cedars along the south fork of the Root River south of Lanesboro in Amherst Township were where Nancy and Art Overcott first saw Pine Grosbeaks on their wooded land on 10 January 1990. On 12 January, I found six immatures there, tame in the sense that they were too busy eating cedar berries to take heed of my presence. The following day Bob Janssen, Ray Glassel and I found thirteen, including three brilliantly plumaged males. The Overcotts' last recorded sighting was 22 February when one male and one female were still present.

In Houston County on 7 January 1990, I found a single male in a crab apple tree, just north of the Kwik Trip in La Crescent.

The counties mentioned above are the farthest south sightings for the winter of 1989-1990. Pine Grosbeaks were, however, recorded in good numbers in other southeast counties. In Winona County, they were present on the campus of Saint Mary's College in Winona during most of January. I saw eight, eating crab apples, on 7 January 1990.

Wabasha County had the largest group of Pine Grosbeaks in the southeast that I know of. Don Mahle told me about a group of fifty or more that had been found on their Wabasha Christmas Bird Count held the end of December. On 6 January 1990, I walked out onto the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge just east of Kellogg and was witness to an idyllic scene. It was hard to count the birds as they were very active, but I conservatively recorded thirty. The birds were flitting from one crab apple tree to another; there was a row of perhaps fifteen trees scattered along a line about 200 yards long. The grosbeaks were very vocal, chattering and twittering

when they weren't busily eating apples. The birds in all plumages, in combination with the bright red apples, and the dusting of snow cover made for a scene to be long remembered.

The same day I found them at Kellogg, I found five on the north side of Lake City in Goodhue County, eating in a crab apple tree at a residence on the service road along Highway 61. On 25 February 1990, I found two females on the Wabasha County side of Lake City at South Tenth and West Marian Streets eating, of course, crab apples.

Ray Glassel and I found Pine Grosbeaks also in Goodhue County on County Road 17, the Sanitorium Road north of Cannon Falls, on 23 January 1990. I returned to that area several times during the next ten days, and a small flock was always present.

It was a very good year for Pine Grosbeaks in south-central and southeastern Minnesota, probably the best year ever. To say the least, more of them were seen more places in more counties than has previously been documented. I couldn't help but wonder if they had crossed state lines into Iowa and Wisconsin. So I telephoned several birders in these neighboring areas to enquire. I learned that there had been five Pine Grosbeaks reported on the Decorah, Iowa Christmas Bird Count; Decorah is 16 miles due south of Mabel in Houston County. There was one other report, that of a single bird at Cedar Falls, a little further south. In *Iowa Bird Life* (Spring 1990, p. 38) W. Ross Silcock notes that among the species seen during the 1989-90 Christmas Count which were not seen during the previous Count "...only Pine Grosbeaks could be considered a real rarity, as this is only the 6th Iowa CBC record." Wisconsin fared better. Not too surprisingly, Wisconsin birders recorded 27 Pine Grosbeaks on the Nelson Christmas Bird Count; Nelson is directly across the Mississippi River from Wabasha, on the Wisconsin side of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge. Across the river from Winona at Trempealeau, sixteen Pine Grosbeaks were recorded on the Trempealeau Christmas Bird Count. Further down-river at La Crosse, only one was recorded on their Christmas Bird Count. I wonder if that single bird was the one I saw a week later on the Minnesota side of the river at La Crescent! **2918 SW 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

They're Singing My Song, I Think

Jim Williams

It is a few minutes before three o'clock on a hot July afternoon in 1952. Mrs. Gunderson, dressed in a small dark hat and a large dark coat, trudges up Regent Avenue in Robbinsdale toward our house. She is about to toss another hour at teaching me to play the piano.

Proof at this point will be a recognizable rendition of a tune called "Eskimo Lullaby." Mozart did not write this song. It has four different notes. They appear and reappear in clean and simple combinations. If poor old Mrs. Gunderson had an extra hour and a pocketful of liver treats she could teach "Eskimo Lullaby" to Rudy, my terrier. But she cannot teach me. All the notes sound the same to me.

Fast forward now to the wild country west of Two Harbors in mid-May of this year. I am driving to Island Lake north of Duluth to meet teammates for the Hawk Ridge Birdathon in St. Louis County. These woods have birds shoulder to shoulder. I stop the van now and again and it is filled with song. My trouble is all of the notes sound pretty much the same: "Eskimo Lullaby" revisited.

I do know the song of the Black-throated Green Warbler. Roger Tory Peterson in his Eastern field guide says this bird sings thusly: "Zee zee zee zoo zee." That's pretty close. For me the bird says, "da da da da da." The trick is when I vocalize that call and get to the fourth and critical "da," I dip my chin. That indicates the fourth note drops in pitch. Me and Roger, it's all the same, but you wouldn't want to get bird-song clarification from me over the telephone.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology puts out a set of tapes containing warbler songs, lots of warbler songs. I bought the tapes. When the package arrived, I tore it open and popped the first cassette into my tape deck. Salvation! It would be eee-zee-zee from now on. A friend has told me that it just takes practice and concentration, mixed with some dedication and motivation, with birds; I will learn the songs. I believe him, for I am better every season. More and more songs at least sound familiar. Mrs. Gunderson wouldn't believe that, but it's true.

Those Cornell tapes, though, are intimidat-

ing. Go to cassette one, side one, cut 12, the Yellow Warbler. The female voice which guides you through the tapes intones, "Yellow Warbler, type one, song one." Type one has six separate songs. So does type two. Ditto type three. Do the math on that. For me, the Black-throated Green is banging out "Chopsticks" while the Yellow Warbler plays Goldberg Variations, that set of 30 exercises for harpsichord that Bach wrote 250 years ago. If you've heard one Yellow Warbler you obviously haven't heard them all.

I favor birds like the Whip-poor-will, clear and direct in song, willing to give you hundreds of opportunities an hour to figure out what is going on. Owls are good. The Bobwhite is another favorite. The Marsh Wren moved right to the top of my list this May, during that Hawk Ridge Birdathon. You take a bird whose song sounds like someone shaking a handful of dry sticks in a brown paper bag, well, that's my kind of bird. I don't have to waggle my chin to tell you about that one.

The Marsh Wren responds eagerly to a recording of its rattley song. Kim Eckert had his recorder and a recent Marsh Wren release on tape during the St. Louis County adventure. He and a friend and I took the recorder about 8:30 p.m. and plodded out across Mud Lake on Duluth's far (far, far, far) West Side. It was dark and cold and windy, a Will Steger kind of day. We were walking along an abandoned rail line. We came to a trestle. There, right in the middle, squatting on an upended minnow bucket, was a guy in a snowmobile suit, hood hiding his face, rod and reel stuck between his knees. Never one to avoid the obvious question, I asked, "What are you doing?" It was more a statement of disbelief than a query. "Big one," he said. "Broke my line. Gonna get him." Right. The fisherman, by the way, had the decency not to ask us my question.

We walked about a mile, much of it backwards so our eyeballs wouldn't freeze, before Kim stopped to play the Marsh Wren number. It really worked. Across 100 feet of steely water you could hear that wren rattle its sticks. We rattled. It rattled. The wren quickly became agitated enough to come to the edge

of the cattails and jump up and down, rattling all the while. It was a Minnesota life bird for me, its voice putting it on my all-time Hit Parade.

* * * * *

Given the number of birds in Minnesota, odds are small that someone will walk up to you and ask you to identify the one bird song you have locked up. So I felt pretty good in late June in the Oberg Mountain parking lot near Lutsen when a woman from Minneapolis asked me if I knew what kind of bird was singing near the trailhead.

Believe it or not, the bird said, "Da da da da da." With a dip.

"Black-throated Green," I said, totally amazed at my fortune.

The lady giveth and the lady taketh away.

"Are you a member of the MOU?" she asked.

"Yes," I said. Did she think some rank amateur was out there pinpointing warbler songs?

"Are you a member of the 300 Club?" she asked.

Oh oh. Please don't point that question at me. It might go off.

A good birder never lies, right? "No," I said. "I'm a member of the 279 club."

"I have 310," she replied. Zap. A flesh wound.

"Did you see the White-faced Ibis?" she asked, chambering another round.

Just a little white-faced lie?

"No," I said, "I was out there but I couldn't find it."

"We saw it," she said. Zap zap.

Think fast: Bewick's Wren to the rescue.

"That Bewick's Wren in Sherburne County, have you seen it?" I awaited her answer.

"No," she said.

Ho ho!

"I got my Minnesota Bewick's about five years ago."

Zap zap zap.

She left me with a warm smile and a wave and a very good tip about a local Peregrine Falcon. I turned back up the road. Except for an occasional "da da da da da," all the treetops were playing "Eskimo Lullaby."

* * * * *

One more quick story about another bird I did not see.

I didn't see the Ivory Gull in Grand Marais

in January of this year. OK, so almost all of you can make that claim. Big deal. You weren't there that day. I was.

I was at the harbor, right on the spot, when the gull was there. But my Robbinsdale background got in the way.

Touring the streets of Grand Marais, I wound up at the harbor around noon. I saw maybe three dozen ordinary gulls, some various ducks, the usual stuff. I had pulled the van into the beach area, across from the trailer campground. There was a car parked down toward the beach, facing the water. It had steamy windows. I thought about going up and knocking on the glass, seeing if this was a birder, asking what might have been seen. In Robbinsdale, though, when I was growing up, you never went near a parked car with steamy windows, much less knock and ask if the occupants had seen anything interesting lately. You would get punched in the face.

So I left Peder Svingen, Sue Barton and Lee Rogers alone, they who did see the gull, and missed it myself.

Of course, I didn't know what I had missed until the next morning when I called the Hot Line. "Oh geez," I said, among other things, throwing my gear into the van and racing back from Lutsen to Grand Marais.

I stopped along Highway 61 across from the bakery to scan the harbor. All I could see worth noting were three people standing at the water's edge over by the Coast Guard station. They were staring out across the ice and water, shuffling from one foot to another, pivoting slowly now and then. They looked like they were waiting for a bus. Must be birders. They turned out to be Mike Mulligan, Bruce Baer and Don Kienholz. Later, Molly and Ken Hoffman showed up, and Mike Hendrickson, and two or three others, including Anne Marie Plunkett who drove up from Rochester. We all did that bus-rider's shuffle for most of the day, except for a lunch break and a ride up to Hovland to check the harbor there.

The Ivory Gull was not to be found. But we had a nice visit.

If that gull has a song, by the way, I certainly haven't heard it. And if I had, I probably wouldn't recognize it, even though the odds are it sounds a lot more like "Eskimo Lullaby" than most birds. **13755 First Avenue N., Plymouth, MN 55441.**

Thoreau's Minnesota Birds

Gustav A. Swanson

The suggestion in the last issue of *The Loon* that welcomed information on the birds seen in Minnesota by Thoreau inspired memories and some study. In 1861, Thoreau spent about a month in Minnesota, 25 May-26 June, traveling by steamboat up the Mississippi to the Twin Cities area, and again by steamer up the Minnesota River a short way beyond New Ulm to Fort Ridgley. Longest stops ashore were in the Twin Cities and Red Wing areas. As was his custom, Thoreau kept a journal as the basis for publication; however, he was seriously ill and died before he could do any more with it, so it was left to his friend, Franklin B. Sanborn, to edit and publish in 1905 the journal of the Minnesota trip as Volume 2 of Sanborn's *The First and Last Journeys of Thoreau*. It was a limited edition of 495 copies for members of the Bibliophile Society of Boston.

In 1937, when my wife Evadene Burriss Swanson was working on her doctoral dissertation, she studied this publication in the Minnesota Historical Society records and found Thoreau's accounts of four Passenger Pigeon nests which he discovered in the Minneapolis area. When she told Dr. Thomas S. Roberts about it, and that she was planning to order from the Huntington Library photostatic copies of those pages of the original manuscript which dealt with the pigeons, Dr. Roberts immediately responded that the University Museum should have the entire journal of Thoreau's western trip to Minnesota, a total of 97 manuscript pages. It was written in Thoreau's "short-hand" which he never expected anyone else to see, so the reading was difficult, as Sanborn had found, but Mabel Densmore, Dr. Roberts' secretary for many years while he was working on his *Birds of Minnesota*, "translated" the shorthand and transcribed the journal.

Evadene Swanson's account of the journal, including Thoreau's descriptions of the Passenger Pigeon nests appeared in *Minnesota History* for June, 1939 (20:169-173) as "The Manuscript Journal of Thoreau's Last Journey." She was able to enhance Thoreau's credibility as an observer by pointing out that Sanborn had erred in transcribing the Thoreau

description of one of his Passenger Pigeon nests when he said that the nest was "built of slender hard twigs only, so open that I could see the eggs from the ground." Since it was well known that Passenger Pigeons laid only one egg per nest, this quote from Sanborn's version had led readers to assume that Thoreau was confusing Passenger Pigeons with Mourning Doves, which do lay two eggs. The manuscript, however, clearly mentioned only one egg, the plural being the result of Sanborn's careless editing.

In several places in the journal Thoreau mentioned the abundance of Passenger Pigeons, the most important ornithological contribution of his stay in Minnesota. The greater part of the journal was lists of plants he noted at each stop, and many of them were given by genus and species as well as the common names. There is little else in the journal which adds to our knowledge of Minnesota birds except occasional comments about abundance of some species. For example, he reported Rose-breasted Grosbeaks as being very common, one of the most common of the birds he saw. In one passage he indicated that almost all of the birds he saw were similar to what he would see at home in Concord, Massachusetts, except that in Minnesota he saw "scarcely a robin." He also reported kingbirds as common at several places in Minnesota. Peculiarly, he did not record gulls or terns in his many miles of travel on the two rivers.

One of his observations while in the Minneapolis area was that the Western Meadowlark had a very different call from his familiar Eastern Meadowlark, and that he could hear both near the city. It reminded me of my boyhood observations in the 1920s in south Minneapolis and Fort Snelling when I found both species so close together that I could hear the songs and calls of both from the same point.

The bird observations in Thoreau's Minnesota journal are of interest to us chiefly because of the names he used for many of the birds. Remember that this was in 1861, twenty-five years before the first edition of the A.O.U. checklist was published, and that

he had no field guide to the birds. He may have been familiar with the two major publications on American birds which had appeared by that time, but he did not mention them. They were Alexander Wilson's 9-volume *American Ornithology* (1808-14) and John James Audubon's elephant folio *Birds of America*, (1827-38) and his 5-volume octavo *Ornithological Biography* (1831-39). In recording the birds he saw, Thoreau naturally used the names familiar to him, mostly ordinary English names, but occasionally he used, or added, the genus and species in Latin.

The list of birds Thoreau reported which follows resulted from my reading a more satisfactory published version of the journal than the better-known one of Sanborn, 1905, already mentioned. It was published in 1962 as Thoreau Society Booklet Number Sixteen in Geneseo, New York, carrying the title *Thoreau's Minnesota Journey: Two Documents* — "Thoreau's Notes on the Journey West" and "The Letters of Horace Mann, Jr.," edited by Walter Harding. Harding has taken greater care than Sanborn did, and in some cases, he interprets Thoreau's vernacular names of birds into terms more familiar to us. It is a version of the Minnesota journal which is available for circulation from the University of Minnesota Library. Other versions in both the Minneapolis Public Library and the University Library are for reference only. This includes the manuscript copy which Dr. Roberts purchased and Mabel Densmore transcribed which are now in the Wangenstein Collection of the University of Minnesota Library system.

The following list of birds Thoreau recorded for Minnesota uses the order and the names now familiar to us from the latest A.O.U checklist. When the Thoreau names were quite different they are given in parentheses.

Common Loon

Great Blue Heron

Green-backed Heron ("green bittern")

Common Merganser ("sheldrake")

Turkey Vulture ("turkey buzzard")

Northern Harrier ("marsh hawk")

American Kestrel ("two little long-tailed hawks, brown, thrasher-like")

American Coot ("mud hen")

Semipalmated Plover (described only as "another plover, smaller than the killdeer")

Killdeer

Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs (called "telltales," the smaller and the larger and, in one place, "yellow shank")

Spotted Sandpiper ("peetweet")

Common Snipe

Passenger Pigeon

Cuckoo (heard and seen but species unknown)

Common Nighthawk

Whip-poor-will

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Red-headed Woodpecker

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ("yellow-bellied woodpecker")

Hairy Woodpecker ("Canadian woodpecker," *Picus canadensis*)

Northern Flicker

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Eastern Phoebe

Eastern Kingbird

Horned Lark

Tree Swallow ("white-bellied swallow")

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (mentioned as possible for a nest and eggs)

Bank Swallow

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch (just "nuthatch")

Eastern Bluebird

Veery ("Wilson's Thrush")
 Hermit Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Cedar Waxwing (once "cherry bird," once "waxwing")
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Warbling Vireo
 Northern Parula ("parti-colored warbler")
 Yellow Warbler ("summer yellow bird")
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 American Redstart
 Ovenbird ("night warbler")
 Common Yellowthroat ("Maryland yellowthroat")
 Scarlet Tanager (simply "tanager")
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Rufous-sided Towhee ("chewink")
 Chipping Sparrow (*F. socialis*)
 Vesper Sparrow ("bay-wing")
 Savannah Sparrow
 Song Sparrow (*F. melodia*)
 White-throated Sparrow
 Bobolink ("rice bird")
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Western Meadowlark ("Audubon's western lark")
 Common Grackle ("crow blackbird")
 Orchard Oriole
 Northern Oriole
 American Goldfinch
 What can we conclude from a study of Thoreau's bird records in Minnesota? First, we should recall that he didn't have a binocu-

lar or bird books, and that much of his time in Minnesota was aboard steamboats on the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, so his opportunity for birding was restricted. Then too, he was far more interested in the plants. These he recorded in more detail with greater precision as to location. For example, in one paragraph he lists the "birds seen since Chicago." Also, he did not know many of the birds he saw at a distance. He mentions ducks only as "diving ducks," "young ducks," or just "ducks." When in the Lake Pepin area, he noted seeing "large hawks" or "eagles, darkish;" but later in the journal he concluded that these were "turkey buzzards." He also noted at one point seeing a flock of "cranes-bitterns," flying up the river or "heron." Finally, nearly all of the sixty-some birds he recorded were common ones, almost all familiar to him from his home in Concord.

Some readers might be interested in the process of translating the unfamiliar colloquial names into our modern bird names. I first checked Dr. Thomas S. Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota* which included a number of them, such as "peetweet" for the Spotted Sandpiper and "telltals" for the yellowlegs. One which stumped me for a while was the Canadian woodpecker, reported from an oak woods, but this one fortunately gave also the scientific name, *Picus canadensis*, which suggested to Dr. Harrison B. "Bud" Tordoff that a work particularly complete for synonymy should be consulted — Robert Ridgway's 11-volume *Birds of North and Middle America*, 1901-1950. Since this was within reach on his bookshelf, he could inform me quickly that today we call *Picus canadensis* the Hairy Woodpecker.

There were still a few that stumped me and led me to consult the definitive work on colloquial names of American birds, the unpublished manuscript and file now in the Research Library of Cornell University. It was collected by William L. McAtee (1883-1962) who was a distinguished ornithologist for over 30 years with the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, later the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About 45 years ago, when I was Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research of the Fish and Wildlife Service, "Mac" asked if we could have a conference, and when he arrived he brought his 1,700 page manuscript "American Bird Names — Their Histories and Meanings." He explained how he had col-

lected the information over his entire professional career, hoping that it could be published. The University of Chicago Press had expressed interest but this faded when a new director was appointed, and McAtee hoped that the government might publish it. Lacking publication, he wondered where it could be deposited where it would be safe and available to scholars. I later suggested the Cornell University Research Library when it had a new building and a director intensely interested in birds. This pleased both McAtee and the Fish and Wildlife Service, so it is there in the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives. In addition to the 1,700 page manuscript, they have on microfilm the data in McAtee's extensive 3x5 card file, the source of the manuscript, plus 85 drawers of cards carrying notes by McAtee which do not appear in the manuscript.

The three Thoreau names which had stumped me in searches elsewhere were "parti-colored warbler" (which turned out to be the Northern Parula), "night warbler," and "bay-wing." These were checked against the McAtee files by Burton D. Huth of the library staff to whom I am indebted, but he had to admit that Thoreau had outwitted even

McAtee with his "night-warbler" and "bay-wing."

The McAtee files at Cornell provide safe storage but are not exactly "user friendly" for retrieving information, so it occurred to me to make one more try. Failing to get his entire manuscript published, McAtee made selections from it to publish separately. One on migratory game birds was a USDA Misc. Circular, and several regional ones came out in regional journals. The longest of these was on "Folk Names of New England Birds," published in 1955-56 in the *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society*. I thought it might well be worth consulting, so I wrote to the Society in Lincoln, Massachusetts. I soon got a telephone call and later a letter from librarian Martha T. Cohen announcing that she had located both of the elusive names. McAtee's article included the "night warbler" for Ovenbird, but for "bay-wing" she consulted Edward Howe Forbush's 3-volume *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States (1925-1929)* and found that for Vesper Sparrow he gave "bay-wing or bay-winged finch" as local names. Bravo! The search was over. **1020 E. 17th St., Apt. 35, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

The American Ornithologist' Union has received a \$60,000 matching grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund the production of modern, authoritative accounts of the biology of North American birds. The accounts are needed by government and conservation agencies to maintain viable populations of native bird species. Frank Gill will serve as Executive Director of the project; Peter Stettenheim will continue as Editor. The goal is to produce 60-70 accounts a year in both printed and computer accessible formats. The entire ornithological community is requested and encouraged to participate. A full time managing director will be hired as soon as possible. Please write Frank B. Gill, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and The Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103 to volunteer to do accounts or for more information.

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced that revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses rose approximately 4.5% in fiscal year 1989 compared to 1988. 15,858,063 people bought hunting licenses in 1989, down from 15,918,522 in 1988. Fishing license purchasers in 1989 numbered 30,302,244 compared with 30,182,244 in 1989. Income from sales of licenses and associated permits, tags and stamps in 1989 reached a total of \$740 million, compared with the previous year's total of \$710 million.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has projected a fall index of 64 million ducks, about the same as last year and the third lowest figure since 1969. Numbers of most goose species are expected to be about the same as last year's.



BOOK REVIEWS

WILD ECHOES: Encounters With The Most Endangered Animals in North America by Charles Bergman. 1990. McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. 322 pages. \$19.95.

When I was asked to review *Wild Echoes* last spring, its title seemed descriptive enough. Before turning to page one, I already had characterized it as a quaint travelogue by a well-intentioned nature lover bent on encountering the last of the glamorous few. I expected simple reading pleasure — a needed diversion from the colic cries of our new infant daughter — and to learn a few more facts about North America's most celebrated endangered species. Several weeks later, as I finished the closing chapter on Trumpeter Swans, I found myself admiring Bergman's prose, recounting some vivid and troubling images about our North American culture, and pondering many difficult questions about endangered species. All were indicative of an excellent, thought-provoking book.

An English professor and active environmentalist, Bergman has written for such nationally renowned magazines as *Audubon*, *Smithsonian* and *National Geographic*. He describes *Wild Echoes* as a personal quest, an "attempt to understand, in both personal and social terms, the meanings of the phenomenon of endangered species." In the introduction he writes, "These broken creatures, haunting the margins of our lives, are less a part of nature than of our culture. We made them, we preserve them. Ironically, they are one of our totems; they are the true animal emblems of our culture." Although rational, utilitarian arguments for saving endangered species abound, Bergman dismisses this approach to justifying endangered species preservation. He believes that the very question "Why save endangered species?", discloses an inherent arrogance and dominant attitude towards our natural world. Bergman chooses instead to explore

a different path, one carved by the question "What are endangered species?" — a question whose answer, he believes, could lead us to a better understanding of our own basic nature.

The author's quest takes him from the Caribbean National Forest in search of the Puerto Rican Parrot, north to the Alaskan wilderness to observe wolves and Trumpeter Swans. Other destinations along the way lead to the stories of seven additional endangered species including the small and inconspicuous Dusky Seaside Sparrow, the California Condor and the elusive black-footed ferret. A chapter on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, titled "Rumors of Existence," explores the dilemma of species dangling on the brink of extinction, species for whom most conservation efforts are considered pointless.

Bergman's poignant accounts of each species' plight are accomplished by a colorful portrayal of the men and women devoted to their survival, and an historical review of the relationships between man and beast. From an analysis of the depiction of the wolf during medieval times to a review of the beginnings of the American whaling industry, each account helps establish a cultural context for our relationships with these animals. Equally important is Bergman's description of his emotional reactions when he observes each species in the wild. His vivid accounts elicit a stirring response from the reader as well.

Wild Echoes successfully rattles the reader's consciousness and provokes a self-evaluation of one's own values. The author's fluid and descriptive writing style paints images that will not soon be forgotten. The character portrayal of Florida Audubon ornithologist Herbert Kale and his desperate struggle to save the Dusky Seaside Sparrow in a makeshift aviary amidst all the glamour and glitter of Disney World is an image that will remain with me for years to come. The same is true of Bergman's exhilarating ac-

count of flying up the San Joaquin Valley cruising behind AC-9, one of the last free-flying California Condors, enroute to its nighttime roost. These and others, are images that fuel one's conviction and devotion to conservation.

While I was reading *Wild Echoes* last spring, an editorial on endangered species was printed in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Spurred by the current controversy over the Spotted Owl, the author quoted Julian Simon, a University of Maryland economics professor, who called into question many of the ecological and utilitarian arguments for saving endangered species. Because Simon believes that we will soon have the ability to freeze the sperm and egg of an animal and reproduce it later, he argues that "The only way you can justify keeping these things alive is for religious or moral reasons. . . . We should say, 'We should save it because we love it.'" I discounted his argument at the time, reasoning to myself that it is the scientific arguments that can successfully persuade the public about the need for endangered species preservation. *Wild Echoes*, however, has reminded me of the importance of the ethical and aesthetic arguments. The question remains whether they alone are persuasive enough to convince people of the need for change.

Bergman himself writes, "It comes down to what we are — we need new hearts and minds." Are we capable of such change? On a summer's eve in Key West, Bergman comes to peace with his own answer. His book *Wild Echoes*, will challenge and entertain you while you explore the question for yourself. **Lee Pfannmuller, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.**

WOMAN BY THE SHORE by Robert W. Nero, is a tribute to Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, noted nature essayist, on her ninety-sixth birthday. Nero, of course, is well known as an ornithologist and author of two Smithsonian Nature Books: *Redwings*, and *The Great Gray Owl, Phantom of the Northern Forest*. Nero lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Lawrence at Pimisi Bay, Ontario.

In the foreword to the book, Nero admits that even nature poems, let alone love poems, run the risk of being trivial, and that some of these poems are love poems. Therefore we

may expect some triviality here. Well, yes, the reader may find a trivial line here and there, but the connections, insights, and tenderness submitted with strong control of language are worth a cliché now and then. Homer dozed whole pages, and Shakespeare stumbled, I dare say.

Two of my favorites in this book of fifty-one pages and forty-two poems are "Large Owl," and "Teacher," each about a Great Gray Owl. In the former poem Nero answers "Nonsense" to those who repeat the cliché that an owl "is not as big as it looks." In a beautiful and appropriate metaphor, he compares the large owl to a tree — feathers to leaves — then asks, "who would question/where the tree begins?" No one pokes through the foliage of a tree to the trunk and says the tree is not as big as it looks; why do people poke fingers through the feathers of an owl and say the owl is not as big as it looks?

In "Teacher," the poet learns from a Great Gray Owl's attentiveness how to listen to such sounds of silence as aspen leaves "still on their twigs/rustling in a cold breeze/set to tapping against/each other." He had *heard* this sound before, but learned to *perceive* it from the owl. There are differences between hearing and perceiving.

Other poems show enviable sensitivity to detail. Not surprisingly, there are several "feather poems." I am always pleased to find simple facts simply stated in a poetic manner. You must read the entire poem "Fallen Feathers" to enjoy it, but "a grackle's feather/ caught on a spruce bough" illustrates the kind of sensitivity to common detail that belongs in good poetry. Joining the grackle's feather in this poem are feathers from a Blue Jay and flicker.

Tenderness? Of course there is tenderness for the woman by the shore, Louise De Kiriline Lawrence, but there is also tenderness for Ruth Nero. In "First Outing," he writes of "The shared intimacies of small birds/flitting through leafless boughs... Oh, laughing girl, your throat builds/a measured rhythm that matches a host/ of spring-maddened birds singing/ in chorus." These lines are spring-time lines, written against the background of a winter that lies behind them, and years and illness that fell away when he "watched your smile and tilted face/ brightening to spring's own urge."

So these are poems written out of tender-

ness for dislocated feathers, spider webs, flowers, owls, and woman. It takes courage to care, love, and write the way Bob Nero has written here. Thank you Bob.

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

The Committee had a meeting on 25 July 1990 and a number of topics were discussed. No conclusions were reached involving changes in our procedures, but decisions were made on the four possible Clark's Grebe records that the Committee had never voted on — these are the first four records listed under "Other Records" in *The Loon* 61:104-106. All four records were unanimously found to be Unacceptable:

—The photographic record from Lake Osakis, 23 May 1982, shows bill and flank colors that appear to be consistent with Clark's Grebe, but the angle of the bird and the unknown light conditions, film type and camera exposure make these colors difficult to judge without field notes. Since the facial pattern is also intermediate, no one was comfortable with accepting the record.

—The 12 July 1984 photographs, also from Lake Osakis, show a bill color more consistent with Western Grebe. This, combined with the atypical and asymmetrical facial pattern, also make this an Unacceptable record.

—The documentation for this sight record from Salt Lake, 14 April 1985, includes only a brief description mentioning "an all yellow bill and some white speckling on the dark back," and such a description was thought to be too vague for an Acceptable record.

—One of the two 19 May 1987 photographs, again from Lake Osakis, shows a bill color apparently consistent with Clark's Grebe, and the other photo shows Clark's-like flanks. However, as in the 1982 record, no written field notes exist so that the light conditions, etc. are unknown, making these colors difficult to judge. Also the intermediate facial pattern seems closer to Western Grebe than to Clark's.

The following records were voted on January-June 1990, and found to be Acceptable:

—Ivory Gull, 14 January 1990, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:3-4).

—Iceland Gull, 14-16 December 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:110).

—Long-billed Curlew, 26 June 1989, Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:58-59).

—Swainson's Hawk, 31 October 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:57).

—Carolina Wren, 17 November 1989, Winona, Winona Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 62:112-113).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 January-4 March 1990, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:96-99).

—Great Gray Owl, 30 December 1989, near Darwin, Meeker Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:109).

—Eurasian Wigeon, 3 April 1990, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:116).

—Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5 April 1990, Red Wing, Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:111-112).

- Carolina Wren, 31 March-4 April 1990, near Brownsville, Houston Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:156).
- Rock Wren, 29 April 1990, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:116-117).
- Carolina Wren, 25 April 1990, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1).
- Long-billed Curlew, 23-26 April 1990, near Faribault, Rice Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:167-168).
- Ross' Goose, 15 April 1990, Lewiston, Winona Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:117-118).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 30 April 1990, Sakatah Lake S.P., Rice Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:118).
- Yellow-breasted Chat, 3 May 1990, Plymouth, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0).
- White-faced Ibis, 23-27 April 1990 Gun Club Lake, Dakota Co. & Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:154-156).
- Say's Phoebe, 5 May 1990, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:164).
- Green-tailed Towhee, 13 May 1990, Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:152-153).
- Western Tanager, 16 May 1990, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:154).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 29 April 1990, Goose Lake, Carver Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:119).
- White-faced Ibis, 8-12 May 1990, New Ulm, Brown Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:159-160).

The following records were voted on January-June 1990, and found to be Unacceptable:

- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 December 1989, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). Although the concensus was that the careful and experienced observer may well have seen this species, the circumstances at the time of the observation made the record difficult to accept. The identification was based on a darker mantle color and the "slightly smaller" size when compared to adjacent Herring Gulls. However, the gull was observed just after sunset and at a distance of ¼ mile, so that mantle color would have been difficult, if not impossible, to accurately determine. Also the size description is suspect since the head of the sleeping gull was never seen, nor was it ever seen standing up, so that it is unknown if the bird's head, bill and overall height were actually smaller.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 19 November 1989, Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. (vote 0-7). This identification may also have been correct, but it was based only on the gull being "noticeably darker on its back" and "approximately the same size as nearby Herring Gulls." However, such a brief description does not preclude the possibilities of Thayer's or California or female Great Black-backed Gulls, all of which have darker mantles than Herring Gulls and which are about the same size.
- Forster's Tern, 29 October 1989, Lake Vadnais, Ramsey Co. (vote 3-4). While it was agreed that a small tern was actually seen, and while the sketch of the head pattern seems to suggest a Forster's more than Common or Arctic, there is nothing about the wing, bill or tail patterns in the brief description to eliminate other species. The head sketch is also ambiguous, making it unclear how much darkness there was on the nape.
- American Woodcock, 28 February 1990, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co. (vote 3-4). This identification by an observer experienced with this species may well have been correct, but the sketchy description only mentions "short, stubby wings" and "peculiar flight antics," with nothing said about the bird's plumage or bill length. In addition, the observation was made without binoculars at about a half hour before official sunrise so that the bird could not have been seen all that clearly.
- Swainson's Hawk, 7 April 1990, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). The description, while lengthy, is unfortunately too vague about chest and tail patterns to eliminate other buteos like Red-tailed and Rough-legged. Also, even though the hawk circled directly overhead, no mention was made of the Swainson's Hawk's diagnostic pale wing linings/dark flight feathers underwing pattern.
- Great Crested Flycatcher, 8 April 1990, Woodbury, Washington Co. (vote 1-6). The vague description leaves out too many details; e.g., nothing is said about any rusty coloration in the wings or tail. Also the yellow on the underparts is described as being on the breast rather than the belly.

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 3 May 1990, Nerstrand Woods State Park, Rice Co. (vote 1-6). The bird was described as having “definite streaking on the back,” which alone would eliminate a Yellow-throated. The description is also too brief to be convincing, mentioning only a “blue-gray back” and “bright yellow bib bordered with black,” features shared by other warbler species.

—White Ibis, 6 May 1990, Sakatah Lake State Park, Rice Co. (vote 0-10). All ten members, including the three alternates, vote in the case of potential first state records. A White Ibis seen in good light at a range of 50 yards, as was the case here, should clearly show the red face, bill and legs; however, these were only described as “black or very dark.” This species is also eliminated by the “narrow edge of black on all flight feathers;” on White Ibis black only appears on the tips of the few outermost primaries. Speculation was that this may have been an escaped Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*); this species not only fits the description, but also a Sacred Ibis was apparently reported about the same time not far from this location. **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

REPORT YOUR “COMMON” BIRDS — For some time now I have been politely arguing with Bob Jansen about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds’ summer status in the southern part of Minnesota. When I have tried to make a case for their being present in reasonably good numbers in that area, he would say, “But there is no documentation — I can’t publish heresay.” As it turns out, this year he will get ample documentation, not only of their being present, but of their nesting. A check of the stores that sell hummingbird feeders indicates that they do a brisk business, and have over the past several years. One can *infer* from this that there must be a demand in the marketplace or they wouldn’t continue to stock them. A check of numerous friends, acquaintances and persons with feeders in their yards garnered comments like, “Oh we’ve had them for years,” or, “Yes, they built a nest on the limb of one of our trees, about the size of a quarter, and it was such fun watching the young ones.” None of this kind of information is of use when it comes to entering data into the permanent record of Minnesota birds. I realize that I have been as guilty as the next person of not being diligent in filling out nest and/or brood cards to send in along with the Summer Season Report. Not only does this contribute to an inaccurate picture of the range and occurrence of our birds, but it doesn’t help build a base for comparison if the status and numbers change, and/or decline. So we could all do our part by keeping track of our local and common birds — and then reporting them, simply documented, so that the data can become part of the accurate records of our state’s birdlife. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Bold-faced species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the state.
2. Bold-faced dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence either earlier or later or within the earliest or latest dates listed in *Birds in Minnesota* (Jansen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold-faced counties (**Aitkin**) indicates a county of first or unusual occurrence for that species. City of **Duluth** also bold face when applicable.
4. Counties in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. [] — species for which there is reasonable doubt as to origin or wildness.



David Mathews with Common Redpolls at his feeder in Blaine, Anoka County. (See pages 147-148 and 166-167).

The Winter Season (1 December 1989 to 28 February 1990)

Robert P. Russell

The season began with somewhat below normal temperatures and light snowfall amounts. Daytime highs ranged from 0° to +10° while nights dropped to as low as -20° in the north. Birds headed for feeders and Christmas Bird Count species totals were generally up with many "half-hardy" species recorded; e.g., towhees and Mourning Doves, but also a few real surprising lingerers. The punch spilled out of winter on 26 December when warm southwesterly winds blew in. Weeks of unprecedented warmth ensued, particularly in the Twin Cities where no 0° day

was recorded the entire month of January for the first time ever! No snow at all was recorded in the Twin Cities during January until the 21st when local snows occurred statewide. By late in the month, temperatures in the south were hitting the 40s.

February saw some increased snowfalls, especially in the north, but mild temperatures again were widespread with 20s and 30s in the north and 30s and 40s in the south. The Twin Cities recorded its 50th consecutive day above average with 60° recorded on the 12th.

The early December cold may have been

responsible for keeping the species total at only 141, somewhat below the past two year totals of 144 and 146. Birds that survived the December cold or did not move further south found excellent prospects for surviving the remainder of the winter with low snow depths and more than the usual amount of available food and open water.

Many observers reported that birds left feeders in early January returning only sporadically, if at all, the rest of the winter. Local conditions, perhaps food availability, may have accounted for the sporadic distribution of some species like Purple Finch and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Pine Grosbeaks staged a major invasion to the fringes of the prairies and the southeast region. Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills were in above average numbers with small numbers of Hoary Redpolls reported.

This season was a good test for observing which species could tolerate cold temperatures as long as the ground remained bare. Birds in this category included thousands of lingering Canada Geese and Mallards, Mourning Doves, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs, Bald Eagles (snow seems to stimulate their migrations), American Robins, various blackbirds, sparrows like Harris' and White-throated, towhees, and probably Northern Harriers. Perhaps, too, the six reports of Prairie Falcon belong in this category. The December cold may have been responsible for the low numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets which are often common in snowy but moderate winters.

Gull-watching proved poor save for a handful of lucky Ivory Gull observers at Grand Marais. Outstanding rarities were scarce with the state's second Golden-crowned Sparrow reigning supreme in this category. Record numbers of Merlins and Sharp-shinned Hawks found plenty of passerines to feed upon.

House Finches seem destined to become regular feeder visitors across the southern half of the state within the next decade if the current expansion rates continue. Wild Turkeys continue to expand their range in the southeast.

Over 100 observers contributed to this report plus many other Christmas Bird Count participants. Special thanks goes to people who note that a species overwintered, a note

with considerably more biological implications than the mere sighting of a species once or twice at a locale. Thanks, too, to those of you who take time to travel to some of the nearly unreported northern counties. It is difficult to generalize about birds like winter finches when only one or two people report from vast areas of land like Lake, Koochiching, or Beltrami Counties. Hopefully, future years will find more observers visiting the backcountry of the North.

Pied-billed Grebe

Reported from Otter Tail 12/2 MO; Olmsted; St. Paul NE CBC; Washington 1/1 AB. No overwintering noted.

Horned Grebe

Lake Superior records from Two Harbors, Lake Co. 1/27 KE, MH; Croftville, Cook Co. 1/14 PS, SB.

Red-necked Grebe

Probable late migrant at Two Harbors, Lake Co. 12/18 DV; a likely extremely early migrant on the Mississippi River at St. Paul, Ramsey Co. 2/10 PS, SB.

American White Pelican

One on the Albert Lea CBC, EF. Why only here in winter?

Double-crested Cormorant

Reported on the Bloomington CBC (3); from Rice 12/16 FKS; Goodhue 1/14 AB; Black Dog Lake, Dakota 1/7 (2) GP; Rochester, Olmsted Co. 12/7.

Great Blue Heron

December records from Anoka 12/3 GP; Lyon, Dakota, Ramsey, Faribault and Austin CBCs; and Sherburne. January records only from Brown 1/5 BB and Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. 1/1 EL. Mild spell may have allowed overwintering but no further records until likely earliest ever spring migrants in Anoka 2/3 SC and 2/4 GP.

Tundra Swan

Late migrants in Wabasha (50) 12/1 DWM. One overwintered in Otter Tail SDM. One to three birds on Mississippi River in Dakota and Washington from January through end of period JD, EL et al. were probably this

species. One on the Wild River CBC could have been a Trumpeter Swan. Trumpeters from Crex Meadows have occasionally been radio-tracked in eastern Minnesota on their way to southern wintering areas and may be even more likely than Tundra Swans in St. Croix River counties. One at Little Falls, Morrison Co. 2/10 PKL was identified as a Tundra. Identification of the immatures of all three species of swans is very difficult.

[Trumpeter Swan

Birds from the introduced but not yet established populations overwintered at Monticello, Wright Co. (six to eight birds all winter, at least two immatures) DO; at the Tamarac NWR, Becker Co.; and in Otter Tail (six on CBC)].

Mute Swan

A bird reported to be quite wary overwintered at Rochester, Olmsted Co. BSE.

Snow Goose

Reported from Olmsted (2) 12/16 JEB; 2/3 Fox Lake, Martin Co. RJ, AP; Park Rapids, Hubbard Co. (date?) JL; and on the Mississippi River Sherburne/Wright Cos. AB.

Canada Goose

Seen in four northern and 35 southern counties with an impressive **210,000** at Lac Qui Parle, largest ever for area, (DNR count fide FE) with 85,000 still there on the CBC on 12/23. 6000 wintered in Otter Tail. Returning birds were widespread throughout southern third of state as early as first week of February with 20,000 at Fox Lake, Martin RJ, AP. Statewide CBC total of 122,352 is nearly 3X 1.y.

Wood Duck

Reported on the Crosby, Hastings-Etter, Austin and Owatonna CBCs. Also found in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Nicollet (8) in January and Winona 12/9 CS.

Green-winged Teal

One on the Faribault CBC was the sole report.

American Black Duck

Overwintered in Cook and reported from 15 southern counties. Also found in St. Louis on the Duluth CBC, Burntside River 1/15

SS, and at Duluth 1/27 RBJ. Statewide CBC Total of 77 (62 1.y.).

Mallard

Found in 45 counties (34 1.y.). Statewide CBC total of 18,782 (13,354 1.y.). Favored by bare ground in December as in Houston where 1000's fed in fields and spent nights on pools in Winnebago Creek.

Northern Pintail

A late migrant in Anoka 12/3 GP. Recorded on the St. Paul CBC; in Dakota at Black Dog Lake 1/1 EL; and in Crow Wing from 2/10 to 2/28 WN.

Gadwall

Reported on the Excelsior and St. Paul NE CBCs, and in Mower, Cottonwood, Hennepin, Washington, Scott, Winona, and Goodhue.

American Wigeon

One overwintered in Dakota JD. An early migrant appeared in Blue Earth at Lura Lake 2/22 JF.

Canvasback

December reports from Winona, Wabasha, and Hennepin. One January report 1/7 Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. GP.

Ring-necked Duck

A pair overwintered in Otter Tail SDM. Also recorded in Hennepin 12/4 DC, SC and on the Minneapolis CBC. Early migrant in Cottonwood 2/28 ED.

Greater Scaup

Lake migrant on Lake Harriet, Hennepin Co. 12/1-4 and a January bird in Scott 1/7 AB.

Lesser Scaup

CBC reports from Dakota, Beltrami (Bemidji), Ramsey, Carver, and Polk (Crookston). Overwintered in Otter Tail (4) MO. Also found in Hennepin 12/3, Scott 1/7 AB, Wabasha 1/7 JD, with early migrants in Cottonwood (4) 2/28 ED.

Harlequin Duck

Two recorded on the Grand Marais CBC. Also found at Two Harbors, Lake Co. from 1/13 to 2/4 with **four** females present 1/31 to 2/4 mob.

Oldsquaw

Overwintered at Good Harbor Bay, Cook Co., peak number of 195 on CBC 12/16, and 110 still there 1/15 MS. One at Two Harbors, Lake Co. 1/27.

Common Goldeneye

Reported from a record 27 counties including overwintering birds in Koochiching, Lake (Birch Lake Dam), Carlton, and Otter Tail (250, 3X usual). One in Aitkin 12/23 was eaten by a mink 12/24 WN.

BARROW'S GOLDFEYE

A well-described female remained at Fergus Falls, **Otter Tail Co.** 1/1 to 3/4, SDM (*The Loon* 62:96-99).

Bufflehead

Seven on the Duluth CBC. Also reported in Cook 1/15 KMH, Hennepin 12/4 SC, DC and Dakota 1/7 and 1/13 AB.

Hooded Merganser

Late migrants in Hennepin until 12/12 SC and Olmsted 12/11 JB. Seen on the St. Paul and St. Paul NE CBCs. Also reported in Goodhue 1/14, Dakota 1/1, Ramsey 12/28 and 1/24, and Wright/Sherburne 1/7. Early migrants appeared in Cottonwood 2/26 ED, Olmsted 2/26 JB, Dakota 2/27 JD, and Washington 2/27.

Common Merganser

Reported from 17 counties (13 l.y.) including Wabasha (7,000) 12/3 RR. Overwintered in Otter Tail (3) SDM, Lake 1/27 RJ, and along the Mississippi in Wabasha. Early February records in Anoka 2/4 GP and Koochiching 2/26 GM may have been early migrants? Statewide CBC total 360 (177 l.y.).

Red-breasted Merganser

Reported on the Duluth and Hastings-Etter CBCs. Two also found at Two Harbors, Lake Co. 2, 1/27 & 1/28.

Ruddy Duck

Reported on the St. Paul CBC.

Turkey Vulture

Early migrants (?) reported from Winona 2/18 GS and Fillmore 2/21 (4), fide AP.

Bald Eagle

Reported from 43 (37 l.y.) counties. Statewide CBC total of 110 (115 l.y.). Returning birds reported in the north as early as 2/5 Cass, 2/6 Carlton, 2/9 Beltrami, 2/9 Hubbard and widespread by end of month.

Northern Harrier

Reported on the Rochester, Bloomington, Fillmore, Austin and Wabasha CBCs. Also reported overwintering in Houston. Seen in Grant 1/1 RJ; and Otter Tail 1/1 and 2/25 SDM. Returning birds found in Fillmore 2/4 and Washington 2/27.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

About 37 birds (19 l.y.) reported from 25 counties may reflect the mild winter and large prey base. Northern reports came from Roseau 2/17 at Lost River State Forest MO; 1/20 Beltrami fide TD; St. Louis; and Aitkin 12/23 WN.

Cooper's Hawk

Reported from the Afton, Bloomington, Winona and Faribault CBCs. Overwintered in Dakota and recorded in Houston 2/8 EMF and Dodge 1/24 AP.

Northern Goshawk

Reported from five southern, one central, and two northern counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Reported from the Owatonna and Excelsior CBCs and from Fridley, Anoka Co. 2/3 PS, SB; and Minneopa State Park, Blue Earth 1/31 and 2/2 (early migrants?). MT reported two birds overwintered at Whitewater WMA, Winona Co.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from St. Louis, Beltrami, and Pine in the north and 29 counties in the south. Statewide CBC total of 229 (252 l.y.). Birds reported paired and on territory by 2/3 in Houston and Fillmore.

Rough-legged Hawk

Still scarce with reports from 32 counties (l.y.17) but only 44 on CBCs (47 l.y.).

Golden Eagle

Reported on the Lac Qui Parle CBC HK; Crookston CBC; in Houston 12/3, 1/16, 19,

& 21 EMF; 1/10 Fillmore (2); and 2/1 T163,R48W in Kittson TR.

American Kestrel

Recorded in 50 counties north to Wilkin, Todd, and St. Louis 12/8 AB. Statewide CBC total of 110 (118 l.y.), **third straight decline**. Spring arrivals reported throughout south by 20 February.

Merlin

11 individuals reported, a new seasonal high! Recorded on the Duluth (2), Fargo-Moorhead, Crookston, Roseau (2), and Rochester CBC's and from Dakota JD, Otter Tail 2/10 PKL, Cottonwood 1/23 and 2/21 ED, and overwintered in **Pennington OW**.

Peregrine Falcon

One overwintered in Duluth. Also found in Hennepin and on the St. Paul CBC.

Prairie Falcon

Six reports; Moorhead, Clay Co. 2/10 LCF; Jackson 2/23 RJ, AP; Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. 12/16 SDM; Minneapolis, **Hennepin Co.** 2/25 EL et al. Rock (2) 2/19 ND at Blue Mounds State Park; and in Murray 12/4 & 5 ND.

Gray Partridge

Reported from 28 counties (same l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 112 (282 l.y.).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from 45 counties as far north as **Marshall, Roseau, and Itasca** (all wild stock?) with a statewide CBC total of 477 (500 l.y.).

Spruce Grouse

Reported from Seagull Lake, Cook Co; Isabella, Lake Co.; along SR310, Roseau Co. two miles south of Canadian border MO; and Red Lake State Forest in Beltrami Co.

Ruffed Grouse

Increasing numbers. Reported from 34 counties with a statewide CBC total of 239 (141 l.y.). Out of normal range reports from **Mower** 1/20 AP, 2/17 (2) AP, RJ; and the Barnesville WMA, Clay Co. 1/7 LCF.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Reported only from the Rothsay WMA,

Wilkin with 110 on 1/7 SDM and the Crookston CBC (49).

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Kittson, Marshall, and Lake of the Woods.

Wild Turkey

Reported from nine counties (5 l.y.) in normal southeast range plus the Wild River CBC in **Chisago; Steele;** St. Paul NE CBC (established?).

[Northern Bobwhite

Reported from Rice OR (wild?)]

American Coot

Overwintered in Otter Tail and Goodhue, and reported in December from Ramsey and Hennepin. Early arrivals in Cottonwood 2/28 fide ED.

Killdeer

Early migrant in Houston 2/22 EMF.

Common Snipe

Reported on the Crosby (2), Faribault, Fillmore, and St. Paul CBCs. Also found in Otter Tail 12/2 MO, at the Bass Ponds in Bloomington, Hennepin Co. 2/10 GP, SC (migrant?); Mower 12/14 RRK; Canton, Fillmore 2/8 (migrant?) NAO; Washington.

Ring-billed Gull

December migrants still in St. Louis (Duluth CBC), Ramsey, Hennepin, Wabasha, and Dakota. No January reports but reported back in Dakota by 2/26.

Herring Gull

Recorded on the Duluth, St. Paul, and Hastings-Etter CBCs. Overwintered on Lake Superior in St. Louis. Late migrants in Hennepin 12/12 SC and Wabasha 12/3 CS. Early arrivals in Houston and Dakota by 2/7 and Hovland, Cook Co. by 2/26.

Thayer's Gull

Reported on the Duluth CBC and on Lake Harriet, Hennepin Co. (2) 12/1-3 mob.

ICELAND GULL

Reported on the Duluth CBC. (*The Loon* 62:110).

Glaucous Gull

Up to eight reported at Duluth KE.

IVORY GULL

One at Grand Marais, Cook Co. on 1/14 PS, SB, LR (*The Loon* 62:3-4).

Rock Dove

Recorded in 77 counties throughout the state.

Mourning Dove

Recorded in 38 counties in all but the north-west region with a CBC total of 727 (420 l.y.). Many central region counties reported overwintering for the first time, especially at feeders.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from 12 south and central region counties northwest to Clay 1/22 LCF with a statewide CBC total of 21 (five l.y.).

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 47 counties throughout the state (41 l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 102 (81 l.y.).

Snowy Owl

Slight increase from last year with five birds overwintering in Duluth harbor. Also reported from Hubbard, Lake, Clay, Otter Tail, and Olmsted.

Northern Hawk Owl

Reports from Babbit, St. Louis Co. 1/4 DB; on the Roseau CBC; and from Itasca Co.

Barred Owl

Reported from 27 counties (24 l.y.) but scarce on CBCs with only 28 found (45 l.y.). Seen outside normal range in Clay, Douglas, Freeborn, Kandiyohi, and Otter Tail.

Great Gray Owl

Surprisingly scarce with no echo from last year's invasion noted. Reported only from Roseau Co. 1/13-14 one mile south of border along SR 310, MO; and Sax-Zim bog, St. Louis Co. fide KE.

Long-eared Owl

Recorded on the Crosby and Cottonwood CBCs. Also reported from Mower 2/17 AP, RJ; and Mountain Lake, Cottonwood Co. 1/1 ED.

Short-eared Owl

Recorded on the Marshall CBC. Overwintered in Otter Tail SDM and reported in Hennepin PKL and Kittson 2/8, T158N R45W Section 9 (2), TR.

Boreal Owl

Scarce following last year's invasion. Reported from two areas in Cook throughout the winter and from Duluth 2/20 DK.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

One heard on the Beltrami Island CBC MK; three on the Duluth CBC, LE; and one at Carlos Avery WMA, Anoka Co. 12/16 GP.

Belted Kingfisher

Reported on the Bemidji and Duluth CBCs; in Otter Tail, Carlton 2/11 MS; Crow Wing; and Brimson, St. Louis Co. 12/13 JN. Also reported from 16 additional south and central region counties. Statewide CBC total of 32 (24 l.y.).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from 16 south and central region counties and on the Grand Rapids CBC. Statewide CBC total of 24 (20 l.y.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from the Roseau (first county record), Cloquet and Grand Marais CBCs and Duluth 12/26 SK. Also recorded in 40 other counties (l.y. 36) reflecting continued range expansion. Statewide CBC total of 446 (334 l.y.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

One overwintered in Dakota JD and reported from the Afton CBC (details incomplete).

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 69 counties (62 l.y.) throughout the state. Statewide CBC total of 2,017 (1,474 l.y.).

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 62 counties (57 l.y.) throughout the state. Statewide CBC total of 1,306 (934 l.y.).

Three-toed Woodpecker

Reported in Cook at Lace Lake, 1/15, 2/3, & 2/25 KMH and Seagull Lake 12/31 & 2/27

MS; in Lake along Kawishiwi Trail and SR 1 2/4, (3) mob; and in St. Louis at Birch Lake.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Reported on the Beltrami Island, Aurora, Hibbing and Gunflint Trail CBCs and in Lake.

Northern Flicker

Overwintered as far north as Anoka and reported from 27 south and central region counties. A statewide CBC total of 51 with 10 on the Cottonwood CBC.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 55 counties (48 l.y.) throughout the state with a statewide CBC total of 226 (175 l.y.) Recorded outside normal range with two on the **Grand Forks** CBC and seen in **Wilkin** SDM.

Horned Lark

Reported from 54 counties in all but the northeast region. Probable early migrants in Clay 1/14 and Todd 1/10 may not have gone far south due to lack of snow early in winter. Statewide CBC total of 572 (354 l.y.).

Gray Jay

Reported from 11 counties in its normal range with 149 found on CBCs statewide.

Blue Jay

Recorded from 76 counties throughout the state with a CBC total of 4,410 (3,789 l.y.).

Black-billed Magpie

Overwintered in Clay and Wilkin and reported in nine other counties east to St. Louis, Sax-Zim bog, 2 all winter, mob.

American Crow

Reported from 69 counties throughout the state, overwintering as far north as Koochi-ching GM and Grand Marais, Cook Co. WP. Statewide CBC total of 6,422 (6,043 l.y.).

Common Raven

Reported from 16 north region counties and from Pine, Chisago, **Sherburne** 2/9 (NWR staff); and Elm Creek Park Reserve, **Hennepin**, 1/17 KB. Statewide CBC total of 753 (l.y. 866).

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 71 counties throughout the
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state (77 l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 11,810 (9,801 l.y.).

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from nine north counties as far south as Pine with a statewide CBC total of only 17 (46 l.y.). 20 noted in Aitkin, Aitkin Co. 1/13 WN.

Tufted Titmouse

Despite recent series of mild winters, this species has never recovered its former range of the 1940-1975 period. Reported only from two areas in Houston (Winnebago Township EMF and Root River Trail AP) and three areas in Olmsted.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Widespread but spottily distributed with largest numbers in east central and northeast from Duluth to the Twin Cities. Reported in 56 counties (18 l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 1,087 (231 l.y.).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 66 counties (62 l.y.) throughout the state with a CBC total of 3,088 (2,053 l.y.). An amazing **209** on the Fargo-Moorhead CBC.

Brown Creeper

Reported from 37 counties throughout the state with a total CBC count of 162 (112 l.y.). Three found roosting under eaves of a Fillmore frame house in February, NAO.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Still scarce with reports from nine counties from Duluth and Aitkin south. Apparently overwintered only in Aitkin and Anoka.

Eastern Bluebird

Reported on the Lamberton and Afton CBCs. Overwintered at Canton, Fillmore Co. NAO where noted feeding on cedar berries; and possibly in Blue Earth 1/10 RJ; 1/9 Martin AP. Houston County records of 2/3 JM and 2/11 AB may also have been overwintering but birds seen 2/20 in Winnebago Township EMF appeared to be migrants. Other early migrants in Mankato, Blue Earth Co. 2/27 (6) MF.

Townsend's Solitaire

One in Chisago at Carlos Avery WMA 12/9



Townsend's Solitaire, 29 January 1990, Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis. Photo by Peder Svingen.

BB and at Lake of the Isles, Hennepin Co. 1/12 GP, SC through 2/17 with feathers found on 2/18 SC (likely killed by a predator).

Hermit Thrush

One on the Austin CBC was only report.

American Robin

Reported from 39 counties (20 l.y.) throughout the state with a statewide CBC total of 798 (52 l.y.). Flocks of 100-200 reported from Twin Cities and Redwood FE in December but only small flocks in January and February.

Varied Thrush

Reported on the St. Paul NE, Duluth, and Aurora CBCs; and in Olmsted (New Haven Township) 1/28 AP; Austin, Mower Co. 12/17-2/28 JM; Thief River Falls, Pennington Co. 12/1-1/1 KSS; Washington 12/30, 1/1, & 1/24 DS; South Shingabe Township, Cass Co. 12/3-2/28 HF, DNR. Another Duluth bird at Eagle Lake 2/3 fide KE.

Northern Mockingbird

Found in Rice 12/4 TB et al.

Brown Thrasher

Reported on the Crosby and Cedar Creek Bog CBCs.

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from ten north, eight central, and one south (Fillmore) counties (18 l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 4,947 (3,288 l.y.); 4,171 found on Duluth CBC.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 39 counties (17 l.y.) north to Clay and St. Louis 1/20 ("pure flock" of 30) MS. Statewide CBC total of 1,517 (643 l.y.).

Northern Shrike

Reported from 43 counties (36 l.y.) with a CBC total of 68 (54 l.y.).

European Starling

Reported from 75 counties with a CBC total of 13,184 (13,289 l.y.).

Northern Cardinal

Reported from a record 48 counties (38 l.y.) including the Roseau CBC. Statewide

CBC total of 2,026 (1,794 l.y.). As many as six individuals were in the Duluth area fide KE.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Birds of the western "spotted" race were reported from Brooklyn Park, Hennepin 2/25 LD; the Grand Marais CBC; and the Austin CBC. A bird of the eastern race was reported on the Cottonwood CBC while birds not identified to race were reported from the Rochester CBC; from Rice 1/6, (2), FKS; Martin 12/15-17 & 2/11 BB; and Fillmore 12/28-1/2 NAO.

American Tree Sparrow

Reported from 53 counties in the central and south regions; and overwintering in Aitkin and at Grand Marais, Cook. CBC total of 7,743 reflects light December snow depths (2,504 l.y.). Early migrants noted in Kittson 2/10 TR and Cook 2/22 MS.

Vesper Sparrow

One on the Cottonwood CBC in Yellow Medicine Co. CMB.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

One at Illgen City, Lake Co. 12/9 & 10 KE, BP, AB, et al. for the first state winter record (*The Loon* 62:39-41).

Fox Sparrow

Reported from Fillmore 1/13 RJ, AP.

Song Sparrow

Reported from 13 south region counties but overwintering only noted in Hennepin and Houston. Early migrant noted in Rice 2/20 TB.

Swamp Sparrow

Reported on the Cottonwood and Lac Qui Parle CBCs.

White-throated Sparrow

Reported on the Hastings-Etter, Grand Marais, Duluth, Rochester, St. Paul (4), Afton, and Faribault CBCs. Overwintered in Hennepin, Houston, Hovland, Cook OSL, Kandiyohi, and found in Fillmore 1/13 RJ, AP and Freeborn 1/25, (2) AP.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

One at Duluth from 12/1 until 2/18 was

the state's second record (*The Loon* 62:55-56).

White-crowned Sparrow

Reported on the Owatonna and Grand Marais CBCs and at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood Co. 12/23, (1) and 12/30, (2) ED.

Harris' Sparrow

Reported on the Cottonwood, Austin, Mountain Lake-Windom, **Gunflint Trail**, Lamberton, **Grand Marais**, and Bloomington (ten reported, no details) CBC's but none later.

Dark-eyed Junco

Reported from an unprecedented 60 counties (45 l.y.) throughout the state with a CBC total of 6,656. Overwintered as far north as Todd and Hovland, Cook Co. OSL. Light snow cover in south may have dispersed birds as many observers noted low numbers.

Lapland Longspur

Reported on the Baudette, Warren, and Roseau CBCs in the north. Also reported from 16 central and south region counties.

Snow Bunting

Reported from 40 counties (51 l.y.) with a CBC total of 9,037 (6,236 l.y.).

Western Meadowlark

One on the Cottonwood CBC.

Meadowlark, sp.

Reported on the **Roseau** and Wabasha (8) CBCs. Probable early migrants found in Cass 2/17 MS, DE and Nicollet 2/10 JF.

Red-winged Blackbird

Reported on the Crosby and Baudette CBCs and at Grand Marais, Cook 1/15 KMH. Also reported in 24 south counties including 731 on the Winona CBC. Birds seen 2/28 in Todd PH and Murray (36) 2/6 ND likely early migrants. Statewide CBC total of 857 (272 l.y.).

Rusty Blackbird

Recorded from 15 south and central region counties with 52 on the Albert Lea and 36 on the Cottonwood CBCs. Reported as far north as Grand Marais 12/19 KMH and the Bemidji CBC. Numerous January records but

only one February record 2/6 in Murray, (24), JP.

Brewer's Blackbird

Reported in Wabasha 12/10 DWM and Goodhue 1/14 AB; details?

Common Grackle

Reported from 36 counties throughout the state (29 l.y.). Overwintered as far north as Otter Tail SDM and Cook KMH.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Reported from seven south region counties. Probable early migrants in Jackson 2/3 RJ and Wilkin 2/10 RJ.

Pine Grosbeak

Major invasion brought birds south to Houston and southwest to Swift. Reported from 56 counties in all but the southwest counties with 2,936 recorded on the CBCs (568 l.y.). An astounding 361 reported on the St. Paul NE CBC.

House Finch

Population exploding! Reported in 17 counties (6 l.y.) north to Otter Tail and Benton and west to Lac qui Parle and Jackson. High counts of 23 on the Owatonna CBC and 19 at New Ulm, Brown Co. 1/20 RJ.

Purple Finch

Reported from 35 counties statewide (24 l.y.) but only five north region counties where they were very scarce. Some concentrations noted in St. Croix River valley, in southeast and south-central regions, and Anoka County. CBC total of 547 (343 l.y.).

Red Crossbill

Reported from six north, three central, and two south (Lyon and Goodhue) region counties with a statewide CBC total of 57.

White-winged Crossbill

Major invasion. Reported in 52 counties throughout the state (absent Cook) including Pipestone 2/6-2/8 ND; Winona 12/9-1/15 CS; and Mower 12/16 RRK. Birds scarce in northwest after late January. CBC total of 1,148 (*The Loon* 62:69-71).

Common Redpoll

Major invasion. Reported from 82 counties



White-winged Crossbill, December 1989, Aitkin, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson. See article in *The Loon* 62:69-71.

(30 l.y.) statewide with a CBC total of 10,795. Numbers highest in forested counties with small numbers on western prairies. The most widely reported bird this winter.

Hoary Redpoll

Widespread but small numbers reported from 12 north, four central, and eight south region counties. Absent southwest of a line from Clay to Waseca; 39 reported on the Grand Rapids CBC (number seems high).

Pine Siskin

Reported from 62 counties throughout the state with a CBC total of 3,548 (586 l.y.).

American Goldfinch

Reported from 46 counties (34 l.y.) with a CBC total of 3,896.

Evening Grosbeak

Reported from 18 counties (14 l.y.) with a CBC total of 1,612 (59 l.y.). Largest numbers reported in the north region.

House Sparrow

Reported in 75 counties statewide.

Corrigenda: Delete Little Blue Heron *The Loon* 61:174.

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FKS Forest & Kirsten Strnad
 PS Peder Svingen
 MT Mike Tenney
 DV Dan Versaw
 GW Gerry Winkelman
 mob many observers
 et al. and others
 l.y. indicates last year
 NWR National Wildlife Refuge

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

(Counties in parenthesis)

LOCATION	DATE	COMPILER	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL SPECIES
Afton (Washington)	1/1/90	Boyd & Helen Lien	16	44*
Albert Lea (Freeborn)	12/16/89	Elaine Feikema	13	38
Aurora (St. Louis)	12/30/89	Chuck Neil	13	28
Austin (Mower)	12/17/89	Terry Dorsey	20	50
Baudette (Lake of the Woods)	12/27/89	Martin Kehoe	6	28
Beltrami Island (Lake of the Woods)	12/28/89	Martin Kehoe	6	16
Bemidji (Beltrami)	12/16/89	Diane Morris	14	32
Bloomington (Hennepin/Dakota)	12/30/89	Sue Kratsch	36	46
Carlton-Cloquet (Carlton)	12/17/89	Larry Weber	7	26
Cedar Creek Bog (Isanti/Anoka)	12/17/89	Boyd Lien	7	37
Cottonwood (Lyon/ Yellow Medicine)	12/16/89	Paul Egeland	6	40
Crookston (Polk)	12/16/89	Tom Feiro	8	24
Crosby (Crow Wing)	12/16/89	Jo Blanich	11	36
Duluth (St. Louis)	12/16/89	Kim Eckert	49	60
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Excelsior (Hennepin/Carver/ Scott)	12/16/89	Mike Mulligan	38	43
Fargo-Moorhead (Clay)	12/16/89	Ron Nellemoe	21	39
Faribault (Rice)	12/16/89	Forest Strnad	19	43
Fergus Falls (Otter Tail)	12/16/89	Paul Anderson	17	44
Fillmore County (Fillmore)	12/16/89	Nancy Overcott	13	35
East Grand Forks (Polk)	12/17/89	Frank Kelley	3	16*
Grand Marais (Cook)	12/16/89	Walt Popp	15	38
Grand Rapids (Itasca)	12/16/89	Tom Sobolik	18	35
Gunflint Trail (Cook)	12/30/89	Mark Stensaas	4	18
Hastings-Etter (Dakota)	12/16/89	Ann McKenzie & Jon Peterson	10	46*
Hibbing (St. Louis)	12/30/89	Harriet Micensky	23	27
Isabella (Lake)	12/31/89	Steve Wilson	17	18
Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle)	12/23/89	Micki Buer	5	38
La Crosse-La Crescent (Houston)	12/16/89	Brian Christoffel	23	26*
Lamberton (Redwood/ Cottonwood)	12/22/89	Lee French	4	35
Mankato (Blue Earth)	12/30/89	Merrill Frydendall	10	38
Marshall (Lyon)	12/17/89	Henry Kyllingstad	5	37
Minneapolis North (Hennepin/Anoka)	12/16/89	Donn Mattsson	21	37
Mountain Lake- Windom (Cottonwood)	1/1/90	Midred Schmidt	14	32
Owatonna (Steele)	12/16/89	Darryl Hill	39	41
Rochester (Olmsted)	12/16/89	Jerry Bonkoski	23	59
Roseau (Roseau)	12/30/89	Martin Berg	20	36

St. Cloud-Collegeville (Stearns)	12/17/89	Stephen Saupe	6	31
St. Paul (Ramsey)	12/16/89	Clay Christensen	53	51
St. Paul NE (Ramsey/Washington)	12/30/89	Gary Ash	56	53
Sax-Zim (St. Louis)	12/18/89	Mark Stensaas	5	26
Sherburne NWR (Sherburne)	12/30/89	Ron Dexter	28	39
Tamarac NWR (Becker)	12/21/89	Lowell Deede	10	*23
Wabasha (Wabasha)	12/27/89	Don Mahle	11	41
Warren (Polk)	12/31/89	Gladwin Lynne	8	23
Wild River (Chisago)	12/30/89	Tom Anderson	16	42
Willmar (Kandiyohi)	12/16/89	Ben Thoma	12	32
Winona (Winona)	12/16/89	Walter Carroll	6	37*

*Minnesota records only

6429 Bridge Rd., Apt. 106, Madison, WI 53713

ERRATA:

Longley, William H. "Birds of the Boot Lake Scientific and Natural Area, Anoka County, Minnesota." *The Loon* 62:46-50

Add to Table One: Red-eyed Vireo: 18 pairs.

Under III. RESULTS, make these changes:

1. 122 species recorded on the area.
2. 55 species nested on the area.
5. 321 indicated breeding pairs or
 - 138 males per 100 acres
 - 342 males per 100 hectares
 - 886 males per square mile

The American Museum of Wildlife Art will present an exhibit of some of Minnesota's finest art works, 1 Sept. through Nov. Minnesota artists have long been influential in the world of wildlife and sporting art; 11 federal Duck Stamp competition winners and many more conservation stamp design winners have come from the state. The show will feature works in watercolor, acrylic, scratchboard, and oil, in addition to wood carvings and bronze sculpture. The museum is located in Red Wing, MN, on highway 61. It is open weekdays 10-5, Sunday noon to 4.

1990-91 marks the centennial of the successful introduction of the European Starling into North America.



NOTES OF INTEREST

MINNESOTA'S SECOND GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE — Comment: News of this bird sighting created some excitement among the active birders in Fargo-Moorhead. We were informed by M.A. Bergan that a bird she identified as a Green-tailed Towhee was in the back yard of Spencer Meeks. We drove to the site with binoculars and field guides in hand and waited in the back yard for the bird to appear — and it did. Along with quite a number of others besides Bergan, Meeks and O'Conner, we were able to observe the bird. I was informed that one person recorded the bird on video, though we have not seen the tape. Common name: Green-tailed Towhee; scientific name: *Pipilo chlorurus*; date observed: 13 May 1990; time observed: 12:05 p.m.; place observed: Moorhead, Minnesota, Clay County just north of Moorhead State University Campus in the backyard of Spencer Meeks. Wind: WNW 10-15 mph; sky: partly cloudy, precipitation: none; distance from species: 60 to 70 feet; optical equipment: LF 7X, CF 6X binoculars; gender of species if known: unknown; seasonal plumage: spring breeding. The bird entered Meeks' backyard via the shrubbery and proceeded to forage under a spruce tree (c. 15 feet tall). The backyard is mostly lawn and is enclosed with a solid board fence and shrubbery. Several bird feeders are in the yard. It is likely that the bird was attracted to the yard because of feeding activities of other birds; House Sparrows, Common Grackles, White-crowned Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Harris' Sparrows, siskins, and a Northern Waterthrush were also in the area. Description: The bird closely matches the illustrations in Peterson's *Western Birds* and Robbins, et al., *Birds of North America*. The photo of this species in the *Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* appears a bit color washed compared to the bird we observed. (Perhaps the photo is a bit overexposed). We had the Robbins guide in hand, turned to the appropriate page as we waited for the bird to appear. In general shape, the bird appeared to be somewhat smaller but similar in form to the Rufous-sided Towhee including the long tail. Its cap was reddish-brown, quite similar in color to that of the Chipping Sparrow. The back (from the neck), wings and tail were greenish-gray with the greenish tinge being very apparent in the sunlight. The upper breast was gray and the lower breast or belly was white. The cheeks were gray giving way to a white chin. A black streak on each side of the chin divided the white into the larger lower chin patch and a white streak just below the gray cheek patches. The Canyon Towhee most closely resembles the Green-tailed. The most distinguishing characteristic of this bird is its white chin with the black "whiskers." The Canyon Towhee has a buffy chin with some darker brown streaking. References consulted: Farrand, ed., *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, Peterson; *Western Birds*; and Robbins, et al., *Birds of North*

America. We note that Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, records one record of this species in Minnesota. (*The Loon* 39:135). Carol and Laurence Falk, Rt. #4, Box #56, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Editors Note: The Green-tailed Towhee was videotaped. This tape is on file in the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union records at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

AMERICAN AVOCETS IN PINE COUNTY — 19 April 1990 was an overcast but pleasant day at Sturgeon Lake in northern Pine County where I have a cabin. The lake that morning was still 90% iced over but a warm 20 mph southwest wind threatened to break up the ice. There was a strip of open water all around the shoreline which was occupied by numbers of mergansers, goldeneyes, Mallards and other waterfowl as well as Ring-billed Gulls. After lunch, I was driving around the south shoreline of the lake and noticed the ice was now out of the south one-third of the lake except for several ice floes frozen to reeds just off shore. There were several waterfowl resting on the edge of one of these ice floes so I stopped to check them for a possible unusual species. I was not disappointed. To my surprise, I observed two long-legged shorebirds, each resting on one leg with their heads turned back under their wings. The black and white bodies were obvious and some of the rust color on their heads and necks was visible. It was a simple matter to locate these unusual birds in the field guide and I soon confirmed them as American Avocets. My next thought was to try for pictures of these birds for the record even though they were nearly one hundred meters away. I was able to walk somewhat closer and take several pictures with my 100X300 mm zoom lens camera, but I was not satisfied with pictures at such a distance, so I quickly returned to my cabin for knee-high rubber boots so I could wade through some shallow puddles to approach the birds somewhat closer. Upon returning to the same location, I was disappointed to find the ice floe the birds were resting on had blown out into the lake. I then searched for the birds with my 20-power scope and, upon locating them, found it very amusing to see the



American Avocets, 19 April 1990, Sturgeon Lake, Pine County. Photo by Louis Dinzl.

two avocets each still balanced on one leg on the now invisible ice floe at least two hundred meters out in the lake and, being blown rapidly further "out to sea" by the strong southwest wind. Returning to my cabin, I completed a few chores, packed up and headed for my home in Brooklyn Park driving again around the south side of the lake. To my surprise, the two American Avocets must have decided fishing like a loon was not their "bag" and returned to shore where I was able to approach within thirty meters of them and obtain the picture shown with this article. Before leaving my cabin, I phoned Kim Eckert and the Northwoods Audubon at Sandstone, informing them of my observation. That evening I phoned Bob Janssen who informed me this sighting was the first record of American Avocets in Pine County. **Louis Dinzl, 7828 N. Mississippi Lane, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.**

WESTERN Tanager in Otter Tail County — 16 May 1990 was cloudy and cool (50s) with a moderate NW wind in Fergus Falls. A good wave of warblers and other passerines was in evidence, so after briefly birding in our yard, my wife and I walked a half mile to Lake Alice to look for birds. This small lake is in the center of the north part of town and is surrounded by older homes. The west side of the lake has numerous trees and shrubs that provide food and cover for migrating birds. While walking to the lake I jokingly said, "Well, let's get that Western Tanager out of the way today." Twenty minutes later, Diane spotted a male in some trees along the lakeshore. We watched it for about ten minutes, at which time we lost track of it behind a house. Instead of having the classic red head, this bird's head was bright yellow except for the front of the face (forehead, lores, chin and upper throat). Those areas were orange, still the color of a bird in transition from winter plumage. The remainder of the underparts from upper breast to undertail, as well as the neck, lower back and uppertail coverts, were bright yellow. Back, wings, and tail were black. The upper wingbar was bright yellow and fairly wide, the lower wingbar long, narrow, and a paler yellowish-white. **Steve & Diane Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

A Bewick's Wren in Sherburne County — On 5 June 1990, I decided to bird an area of woods which borders the trailer park where we live. I drove our golf cart to a trailer storage area, stopped and got off the cart. It was then that I heard the song. I knew it was an unusual song, but I could not identify it. Then a wren flew under a snowmobile trailer in front of me and from there it flew into a tree about 20 feet away. I knew then that it was a Bewick's Wren. I noted the wren-like look of the bird, a little larger than a House Wren, and a striking white eye-stripe extending from the bill to well behind the eye. The back was a rusty brown, the tail was long and fanlike with black barring on the upper surface, and white edgings on the outer portion of the tail. It would constantly flick its tail from side to side. The song was loud, melodious, sometimes suggesting a Song Sparrow. The underparts were a mouse-gray blending into a more white breast and throat. I was sure the bird was a Bewick's Wren as I had seen them out West and in Minnesota. I watched and listened to the bird for 20 minutes and then went back home to double check the field guides and to call the hotline. The bird was most cooperative for the next two weeks and was easily seen and heard by a number of observers. After 20 June, the bird was harder to find and, as far as I know, the last day it was seen was Monday, 25 June 1990. **Byron Bratlie, Clear Lake, MN 55317.**

A White-faced Ibis in Dakota and Hennepin Counties — On 23 April 1990, while walking along Gun Club Lake, Dakota County, I flushed a wading-type bird out of the dead reeds. With good sun at my back, the bird appeared iridescent bronze and green in color in flight and had a long downward-shaped bill. With these field marks, I immediately knew I was seeing something other than a "typical" Minnesota bird. Luckily, the bird landed about 100 feet away and began to casually feed in the reeds. This gave me



White-faced Ibis, 28 April 1990, Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, Hennepin County. Photo by Anthony Hertzell.

the opportunity to study the bird in more detail with my binocular and spotting scope. The bird appeared uniformly dark in color in shades of bronze and greenish-gray with no other apparent color markings; however, in the spotting scope I could see a large white line around the face. After studying the bird for some time, and satisfied that I had seen all the major field marks, I headed back to my car to consult my field guide. In my opinion, the broad white line around the face made this a White-faced Ibis, separating it from the Glossy Ibis which has a narrow line around its face and no chin stripe. (I must admit I missed this latter field mark while observing this bird.) I further noted that this is a casual species in Minnesota. I called Bob Janssen, who shortly thereafter confirmed the sighting. Several days later, apparently the same bird found its way across the river to Hennepin County, a first record for this county in Minnesota. **Dick Rengstorf, 9400 53rd St., Lake Elmo, MN 55042.**

CAROLINA WREN AT BROWNSVILLE, HOUSTON COUNTY — More than once I said to myself, "Why are you doing this?" "This" was enduring an unceasing strong and noisy wind that made the chances of hearing a Carolina Wren's song highly unlikely. But because Fred Leshner had both heard and seen the bird on 31 March 1990, I was positioned seven-tenths of a mile north of Brownsville in Houston County in the yard of the Bills on 4 April 1990 hoping to do the same. Fred had been told that the bird had been heard since the summer of 1989, and that the Bills had found the carcass of a Carolina Wren, killed by their cat, in their garage; and that a Carolina Wren had again been heard this spring of 1990. So the odds seemed favorable for my hearing if not seeing the wren. The day was not as bad as that day in early 1987 when a group of Duluth birders nearly froze trying to see the Lanesboro Carolina Wren, so I set aside my negative thoughts and got to work. I heard a fractured cardinal's song, and saw one. But no Carolina Wren. I resorted to playing tape. After about two hours of prowling around and of doing my own versions of the song, I heard a burry song, as well as the more usual "E to C" song, sometimes described as "Tea-kettle." A few times I saw a bird of the right size for a Carolina move across the brushy side hill and suspected that it might be what I was looking for, but never was it seen clearly. I decided that this was going to be a Jo Blanich "BVD" bird — better view desired. Although I now felt certain I was hearing a Carolina Wren, and not some variation on a theme of a cardinal's song, I came back to the area in the afternoon, after birding to the Iowa border. It was warmer, but still annoyingly windy. I did, however, hear the bird again, and after about another hour, I headed home. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

PROBABLE WILSON'S PHALAROPE BREEDING IN SOUTHERN WRIGHT COUNTY — We observed a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes (*Phalaropus tricolor*) at a wetland site in southern Wright County (SW 1/4, Section 32, Township 118N, Range 27W) on several occasions from late May through late June 1990. We visited the wetland every other day during this period to document breeding behavior of Red-winged Blackbirds. No phalaropes had been observed here in 1987, 1988, or 1989. The phalaropes were present on the edge of the wetland in a wet grassy area about 75m by 200m bordered by cattails on one side and an agricultural field on the other. The male and female were both present on several occasions. The male performed its broken wing display on 26 and 31 May and was alarmed several times during our visits to the area. Although a nest was not located, we feel that the behavior and site tenacity of these birds indicate that they were likely breeding in the area. Wright County is not included by Janssen in the breeding range of Wilson's Phalarope in Minnesota (Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987) although he suggests that some sporadic breeding may occur in southern regions. Presence of standing water in the wetland in 1990 may explain the presence of the birds this year; no water was present in the previous three years. **JoAnn M. Hanowski, Rebecca A. Boley, and Gerald J. Niemi, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota-Duluth, 5013 Miller Trunk Highway, Duluth, MN 55811.**

LARGE SPRING CONCENTRATIONS OF SMITH'S LONGSPURS — Large concentrations of Smith's Longspurs are uncommon but not totally unexpected in western Minnesota in the fall. Although the species is seen irregularly in small numbers in the spring (*The Loon* 37:113-114, 49:241-242, 60:89), large concentrations are less frequently encountered. Roberts (1936) reported "a large flock" in Jackson County on 18 April 1894, and "about two hundred birds" in Marshall County on 6 May 1911. On 28 April 1990, Tony Hertzell came across a flock of Smith's Longspurs along Highway 40 in Lac Qui Parle County that he estimated to number around 200 birds. The birds were very active and the males sang from the wing often. On the following day, 29 April, observers saw what was one of the largest concentrations of this species ever seen in spring in the state. Several carloads of birders were heading back to the Twin Cities after a cool and wet MOU Salt Lake spring field trip. The weather conditions that morning consisted of brisk northwest winds with wet and steadily falling snow. About a half mile east of Highway 7 on Highway 212 in Lac Qui Parle County, large groups of longspurs were seen flying about over a short-grass field adjacent to the highway. We quickly pulled our vehicles over to the side of the road. Our attention was drawn immediately to several full alternate-plumaged Smith's Longspurs scurrying about on the blanket of snow only about 30 feet off the shoulder of the road. It was a beautiful sight! More birds appeared and disappeared between the plowed furrows of the field. They appeared to be feeding actively and somewhat voraciously. As best we could tell, the group nearest the road numbered 25-30 individuals. There were no more than a dozen Lapland Longspurs visible close to the Smith's. All the while we could see larger flocks rising and settling 75 to 100 yards out in the field. Observation of these birds was more difficult as we were confined to the vehicles because of fear of flushing the closer birds. Scanning through the car window I attempted to count the distant birds. The colorful plumage of the male Smith's Longspurs stood out well against the snow making identification relatively easy. As is always the problem with large groups of actively moving birds (especially longspurs!), getting an accurate count was all but impossible. However, I *conservatively* estimated the number of Smith's Longspurs to be about 250-350. There were at least 100-150 Laplands also present in the area I was scanning. It appeared that there was very little interspecies mixing within the flocks. All of the birds were still present when we left a half an hour later. As we continued east on Highway 212, we saw several more longspur flocks numbering in the high hundreds swirling about the fields next to the highway but we didn't stop to try to identify them. The most interesting aspect of this observation may have been the direct relationship between the marginal weather and the large numbers of migrating passerines seen. It may be assumed that such numbers of Smith's Longspurs move through western Minnesota each spring but aren't detected. What was likely the peak of the migration coupled with the poor migrating conditions (i.e. wet snow and northerly winds) forced the birds to the ground and into an aggressive food-searching mode. This made the location and observation of the flocks easy. **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437.**

LONGSPUR EXTRAVAGANZA II, TRAVERSE COUNTY — Many participants in the MOU Salt Lake Weekend trip on 28-29 April 1990 encountered concentrations of migrants that were grounded by the weather conditions. The combination of brisk northwest winds with intermittent sleet and snow showers caused the mixed flocks of shorebirds to congregate on both paved and gravel roads in the early morning hours of 28 April in Traverse County. These shorebirds may have been feeding on the worms and insects that were strewn about the roadways. The grassy roadsides were lined with sparrows and flocks of gulls, mostly Franklin's Gulls. There were hundreds of longspurs moving through the stubble fields which we identified as Lapland Longspurs. One of the smaller flocks numbering about thirty individuals flew parallel to the highway so that the distinctive, rattling "dit-dit-dit" call of Smith's Longspurs could be heard and identified. A few of the male birds also chased one another aggressively while giving a single buzzy call note that was previously described during autumn observations of Smith's Longspurs (*The Loon* 43:126-127 and 61:201). My

description on 28 April included observations of the whitish outer tail feathers in flight which contrasted with the dark brown central rectrices. There was dramatic contrast between the bright, buffy underparts and the pale underwings. Additional field notes were taken while using a spotting scope from a distance of approximately 50 yards after the flock lit in a stubble field two miles west of Highway 75 near Highway 236 in Traverse County at 8:30 A.M. under overcast skies with intermittent sleet. The male birds in alternate plumage had blackish crowns with a very thin median crown stripe. There was a pure white superciliary stripe and a white cheek patch surrounded by a triangular black pattern. The lower nape had a cinnamon collar and the back was heavily streaked, dark brown on light brown. I didn't see the lesser coverts well. The secondary coverts were dark brown with buffy edging. Fine streaks were noted along the sides of the otherwise bright buff underparts. This observation was reported during the checklist review that evening and several other MOU Salt Lake Weekend participants located additional flocks of Smith's Longspurs on 29 April. Observers wishing to view Smith's Longspurs in alternate plumage during their spring migration period in Minnesota (early April to mid May, according to Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987) might search stubble fields, grazed pastures, or prairie areas in western Minnesota during weather conditions considered suitable for "grounding." **Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

WHIP-POOR-WILL NEST RECORD FOR HOUSTON COUNTY — PART I - On 12 May 1990, I flushed a Whip-poor-will from its nest while I was turkey hunting in Houston County. The bird flushed from the ground and flew only about 60 feet before it landed on a low branch. I went directly to the spot where the bird had flushed and stared at the oak-leaf litter. Within moments, the egg "materialized" among the leaves. The nest was on a south-facing gently sloping hillside in second-growth hardwood forest — about 200 feet inside the woods. There was an open meadow to the south of the woods. The legal description of the site is T.104N R.5W S.22 NE ¼. I returned on 13 May to photograph the nest and discovered two eggs after flushing the adult bird from the nest. The incubation period is reported at 24 days, so the projected hatching date was 6 June. I didn't get a turkey, but the Whip-poor-will nest record was a birding "trophy" in its own right, since there are only eight nest records for the species in the state. I notified Regional Nongame Specialist Bonnie Brooks of the nest in case she would have the opportunity to recheck the nest near hatching time. **Carrol Henderson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.**

PART II — At 1:00 P.M. on 13 June 1990, the Nongame-MCC crew found the elusive Whip-poor-will and respective nest reported by Carrol Henderson a month earlier. As the two crew members (Paul Schmitt and Jay Kreinbring) approached the site that fit the description and photo furnished by Carrol, they flushed the female (presumably) Whip-poor-will. She was on the ground about three feet from the original nest site location. She flew up on top of a fallen log directly above her when Paul and Jay were approximately five feet away from her. She then proceeded to display quite demonstratively by flapping her wings in a "Killdeer-like" fashion. Her wing movements continued as she fluttered from one low perch site to another, using down-trees and low, bare branches as display stations. She uttered single syllable "puck" notes all the while. The downy-feathered chick was approximately one foot from where the adult was flushed. The chick was so cryptically colored that it required three sets of eyes at a distance of two feet to find it! If the chick hatched on 6 June, it would have now been one week old. It was lying in the shadows of the ground cover, within a foot of a fallen red cedar log suspended about two feet above the ground. The downy young was yellow with black spots and eyes half opened. It remained entirely motionless during our five to ten minute visit. The next day, 14 June at 10:00 A.M., we returned with cameras in hand. The adult again flushed when we were within five feet from her. Her initial flush was very silent, and she alighted on a nearby branch about 20 feet away. She and the chick were within five feet of where she was found the day before. The



Whip-poor-will nest, 13 May 1990, Houston County. Photo by Carrol Henderson.

chick was resting motionless under the canopy of a small Virginia creeper plant. The adult made several attempts at luring us away from the young bird. Each time we turned our backs and walked toward the chick, she would approach us, coming within seven to eight feet on one occasion. **Bonnie Brooks, MN DNR Region V Headquarters, 2300 Silver Creek Road N.E., Rochester, MN 55904.**

BROWN COUNTY'S FIRST WHITE-FACED IBIS — On the afternoon of 8 May 1990, I stopped by the Somsen's WMA west of New Ulm to see what kind of birds I could find in this slough area. Fortunately, recent rains had accumulated in the formerly dried-out slough. Several ducks and shorebirds were around the edges of the water, along with a relatively large, unfamiliar bird. After briefly considering and discarding the idea that it might be one of the larger shorebirds, I decided it must be an ibis, based on my memory of seeing pictures of such birds in bird guides. Using a 10x50 binocular, I checked and rechecked the features of the bird and memorized the details, with time spent in the area about two hours. The ibis would not allow me to approach closer than about 250 feet; the result of this was that the bird made a small circle in the water while I walked around the entire body of water. The initial observations were made with mostly sunny skies, with the sun to my left and a bit behind me. The bird appeared mostly blackish with brownish on the center of the body. Comparison with ducks was a bit awkward, but mainly it was smaller than the nearby Mallard and much larger than the Blue-winged Teal. Pinkish color could be

seen in the rump area when light wind ruffled some feathers under more favorable light conditions. The body color was dull brick-reddish, with the wings blackish with a greenish metallic sheen. The legs were reddish-brown with the emphasis on reddish. Leg length I figured at less than one and one-half times the height of the body above the legs. The bill, always appearing gray, was long and decurved. Most of the time the head appeared uniformly dark, but in good light I could see whitish stripes running from the upper bill to a point over the eye and from the lower bill to the bottom of the eye and merging around the back of the eye. In a couple of brief flights, the tail appeared blackish and similar to a godwit's tail in shape and relative size to the body — somewhat short and uniformly rounded. The secondaries were greenish with a yellowish metallic gloss. In feeding, it probed in the water with all of its bill immersed at times. The ibis remained silent at all times. After evaluating all of the information, I concluded White-faced Ibis to be the proper identification. On 9 May, in the same slough, the bird made a short flight with its head, neck and legs outstretched, and it made a rather curious silhouette in the shape of a large arc. On 10 May once again I observed pinkish feathers in the ibis' rump area, while observing it from a long distance. The bird remained there through 11 and 12 May. **Jack Sprenger, 615 No. Jefferson St., New Ulm, MN 56073.**

MINNESOTA'S FIRST MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD NEST — During June and July 1986, a male Mountain Bluebird and a female Eastern Bluebird successfully raised two young in a nest box east of Aitkin, Aitkin County (*The Loon* 58:194-196). The two young from this nesting unfortunately were never described or photographed. The nest originally contained five eggs. This is the only nesting data that we had on the Mountain Bluebird in Minnesota until 1990. There was one summer record of an individual in Marshall County on 1 June 1983. The Mountain Bluebird breeds closest to Minnesota in the Turtle Mountains region of North Dakota and in southern Manitoba. I had always thought that the most logical place for the Mountain Bluebird to nest in Minnesota would be in the northwest, probably in Kittson or Marshall County. In 1978, the Bluebird Recovery Program was initiated in Minnesota, a program designed to increase Eastern Bluebird populations in the state by providing



Male Mountain Bluebird on nest box.



Nest box containing six young Mountain Bluebirds. Both photos 16 June 1990, near Florian, Marshall County, by Robert B. Janssen.

nesting boxes for the birds. These "Bluebird Trails" have been very successful in the state, and once again the Eastern Bluebird is a common species in many areas of the state. Participants in the Bluebird Recovery Program are urged to report, by means of a report form provided to them, the results of their bluebird nesting success. Through this reporting network a report was received by Dorene H. Scriven of the Bluebird Recovery Program that a Mountain Bluebird pair was nesting in Marshall County in June 1990. The birds were reported by John Rominski of Florian, Marshall County. Ray Glassel contacted Mr. Rominski on 14 June and confirmed that the pair of Mountain Bluebirds was there, and that there were six young in the box. Ray and I left for Marshall County on 15 June and arrived at Mr. Rominski's residence at 10:00 A.M. on the 16th. We went three miles east of Florian and then one mile north on the old Pembina Trail Road to the nest box. We immediately saw a male Mountain Bluebird perched on the box. Over the next five minutes, we photographed the male and the young in the nest. The box could easily be opened to view the young. While viewing the young, the adult male was very aggressive, hitting our heads with his beak and wings. He showed little fear of us and perched on the box as we were opening it and viewing the young. We retreated from the box and stood about 50 feet away and watched as a female Mountain Bluebird flew in from the north. While we were there, one of the young fledged from the box and was in the grass below the box. The adults hovered over the young bird. We then left the area as another of the young came out of the box. Mr. Rominski reported to me that he returned to the nest box later in the day and found that all six birds had fledged and that the adult birds and young were across the road in an oak woods. He could not determine how many young were in the area. This documents the first nesting of a Mountain Bluebird pair in the state. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

KENTUCKY WARBLER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY — My first encounter with this warbler was on 14 June 1990 while conducting a bird census in the Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area. This SNA actually contains three valleys cut into the limestone plateau, three miles northeast of Hastings, and three miles southwest of Afton State Park. (where a Kentucky Warbler was seen in 1977, *The Loon* 49:242-243 and again in 1986, *The Loon* 58:133). In the northwest corner of the SNA along the north boundary, a remnant of an old township road is overgrown, mainly with box elder. On the south is a cornfield, on the other side is a pasture. Close to where this thicket broadens out into a patch of woods, a bird song unfamiliar to me was ringing out when I approached about 7:00 A.M. The song was quite loud and seemingly incessant; it came from 15 to 20 feet up on the north side. For many minutes I peered into the trees, both with and without my binoculars (8.5X44 Swift) all the while seeing nothing but foliage. The morning was beautiful, cool, clear and calm — great for bird-watching. But you can't watch 'em if you can't see 'em. I moved stealthily into the thicket. The bird kept on singing. It was exasperatingly close but still invisible, and it was on the other side of a tightly-stretched barbed wire fence. Brush and tree branches grew up through the fence, a real obstacle. I kept thinking that the bird would be in full view if I could reach the north side of the thicket; so I crept along, looking up for the bird, looking down for a way through or under the fence. I lucked out. Unbelievably, just a few yards away, I found a tiny gully eroding a space just large enough for me to wiggle under the fence despite the tangle of brush and exposed roots. Quickly I was into the pasture. The bird continued to sing from within the coppice: "Quoitle, quoitle, quoitle, quoitle." But then I noticed those loud syllables were preceded by a quiet, almost sibilant "see see see." Quite sure the singer was a warbler, I looked at my well-worn summary of warbler songs and field-marks, and paged through Peterson's 1980 edition. None of the song descriptions quite fit. The Kentucky Warbler came closest, except for the *sotto voce* introduction. I had been a long time getting into this "great" viewing position, but the bird had not given up on me, or perhaps it was a siren luring me on. I was tiring. My neck did not want me to look up any more. My arms did not want me to hold up my binoculars any more. My eyes wanted to quit straining. My legs wanted me to sit down. Just in time, however, a little yellow bird, with a yellow eye-ring and a big black tear running down his face, moved out of the foliage to the tip of a branch, sang his final song before launching into the air, and flitting over the woods to the east. I returned on 25 June. In the meantime, I had perused the literature pertaining to the Kentucky Warbler. Its persistent singing is memorialized in *The Warblers of North America* (D. Appleton & Co. 1907) by Dr. Frank M. Chapman. He listened to one for three hours! Except for five interruptions of less than 45 seconds, it sang every 12 seconds (875 songs, 5,250 notes), and it showed no signs of ceasing when Chapman left. In this book I found F.L. Burns' description of an infrequently-heard song: "Che, che, che, peer-ry, peer-ry, peer-ry," certainly the one I had heard. Burns also wrote that the song period ends June 23-27. On 25 June, I was a bit late in the morning, almost too late in the month. On this visit, after only a few songs, the bird darted off, again to the east. **William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.**

A SPECTACULAR ARRAY OF BIRDS — On 28 April 1990, Ray Glassel and I visited the Milroy Wildlife Management Area along County Road 5 in Redwood County. The WMA covers about one-half of Section 13 of Westline Township. A small portion of the WMA extends eastward into Section 18 of Granite Rock Township. Most of the area is open water with surrounding marsh vegetation. Due to the drought of the past two years, most of the water had disappeared by the spring of 1990. The whole area was either mudflats or covered with less than six inches of water, making it a perfect place for puddle ducks and shorebirds. We found numerous Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, large numbers of Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal and one male Cinnamon Teal. Shorebirds were common. We found six American Avocets among the many Baird's Sandpipers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Golden-Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers and Wilson's Phalaropes. On 10 May 1990, Ray and I returned to this same spot and found the most spectacular congregation

of shorebirds I have ever seen in Minnesota. After two hours of watching and estimating, I could do no better than guess that there were a minimum of 10,000 shorebirds present. This could be an extremely conservative estimate and I really believe the number was closer to 20,000 or more. Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers were the most common shorebirds, and there were 40 Hudsonian Godwits present. While we were watching the shorebirds, we saw many of them taking off in great swirling masses. It was then that we saw an adult Peregrine Falcon flying among the flocks of excited shorebirds. A few minutes later we saw another adult Peregrine — two adult Peregrine Falcons “playing” among the masses of shorebirds. A little while later we saw one of the falcons flying west carrying what looked like a Pectoral Sandpiper. On 12 May 1990, while on the way home from a birding trip to northwestern Minnesota, we decided to visit the Milroy WMA again. It was hard to believe, but there were more shorebirds present than on 10 May. Numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs had increased. There were 300 or more Hudsonian Godwits, plus three Marbled Godwits, a new record for Redwood County. Least Sandpipers were everywhere. There were many Short-billed Dowitchers among the thousands of Lesser Yellowlegs. With a birding spot as good as that one, Ray and I couldn't resist the temptation to visit the WMA one more time. On 23 May 1990, the numbers of shorebirds were much less than on our previous three visits, and the species composition was entirely different. We estimated 5,000 shorebirds, the most abundant species being White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlins. We found one Ruddy Turnstone, another new record for Redwood County. Black Terns were abundant over the shallow water. The rains came by late May, and June 1990 was the wettest June on record. The Milroy WMA regained its normal water level, much more suitable for nesting waterfowl than shorebirds. For a brief time, however, this wildlife management area provided birders in Minnesota with one of the most spectacular arrays of birds, especially shorebirds, that has ever been recorded in the state. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd. #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

HOODED WARBLER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY — On 3 August 1990 at 9:30 A.M., I was checking a small mammal trap line in a woodlot in May Township (Section 23), Washington County. I am responsible for a deer tick distribution study in the seven county Metropolitan area, and am sampling small mammal populations (mainly white-footed deer mice) to collect the ticks on their hosts. One benefit of conducting this work is that I have the opportunity to bird-watch in several hundred woodlots across the Metropolitan area. About 30 yards into this particular woodlot, my field assistant said she saw a yellow-faced bird sitting near her, but it flew away. I immediately noticed a persistent call note (one loud call every four to six seconds) about 15 yards ahead of us. I moved in and saw a male Hooded Warbler ten feet in front of me and five feet off the ground. I watched the bird for ten minutes with my naked eye and then left the woodlot to get my binoculars. I was able to relocate the bird quite easily by homing in on the call notes. I watched the warbler for an additional ten minutes at a range of 20-25 feet with a 7x35 Bushnell binocular. The warbler was well plumaged for early August: — olive-green back and wings, no wing bars, yellow underparts, extensive black on the breast continuing around the neck up over the crown, yellow face that contrasted well with the black hood and eye. The bird flushed six times while I observed it, but never flew more than 25 feet. The portion of the woodlot the warbler was using has only moderate canopy coverage. However, the shrub and herb layers of vegetation were quite dense. I will check the same area next spring to look for a possible nesting record of this species. **David Neitzel, 7716 Upper 24th St. N., Oakdale, MN 55128.**

SIXTH SPRING RECORD FOR PARASITIC JAEGER — 26 May 1990 was the first day of a three-day birding trip to Duluth and the North Shore that Kim Eckert and I were co-leading for the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. We altered our initial plans to head up the shore right away on the first day because the weather had changed from mild to cold and rainy with moderate winds from the east. These conditions, while less than ideal for

"comfort birding," sometimes produce sightings of unusual species blown in from offshore Lake Superior, namely gulls and/or sea ducks. Park Point in Duluth has traditionally been the place to go under such conditions. We drove to Park Point and began our search by scanning the lake from the beach at 31st Street. Shortly after setting up my scope and beginning my scan, I spotted a dark bird flying several hundred yards out over the lake. Its flight was straight and leisurely at first but soon picked up speed as it began chasing a gull we didn't identify. The darkness of the bird, the sudden aggressive manner, and the swift and acrobatic chase style left little doubt that the bird was some species of jaeger. After watching it for a short time, I called it out to the group but it disappeared against the waves. The bird reappeared twenty minutes later flying low over the water and parallel to the beach. It was now only half the distance from its position where we originally saw it, but still 150-200 yards out. Regardless, it was now possible to see that it was a light-morph bird and close enough to see the moderate-length pointed central tail feathers and dark breast band, characteristics of an adult Parasitic Jaeger. We watched it chase gulls for several minutes as it flew away from them toward our vantage point. Although others turned their attention elsewhere, I watched it for a total of over 30 minutes, most of which time it spent sitting on the water's surface. During this time a second jaeger was seen flying several hundred yards out. We relocated this second bird several times, but it never approached closely enough to us to identify it with certainty. In *Birds In Minnesota* (1987), Janssen reports five previous spring records for this species, all from the Duluth area: 21 May 1949; 23 May 1981; 25 May 1958; 1 June 1969; and two birds seen on 2 June 1983. **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437.**

SAY'S PHOEBE AT BIG STONE NWR — While driving very slowly over the bridge that crosses the Minnesota River into the Big Stone NWR at 2:00 P.M. on 5 May 1990, I caught sight of a phoebe-like bird. Conditions for observation were perfect, a clear sunny sky. The bird was in a just-budding tree on the south side of the river, placing it in Lac Qui Parle County. I stopped and viewed the bird for approximately five minutes at a distance of 25 feet. The bird was perched in a rather erect position, giving it a kind of "noble" look. Most significant were its buffy to rusty breast and belly. There wasn't a hint of white on the underparts, not even on the throat. The head and back were a dull brownish color. It seemed larger than an Eastern Phoebe. I didn't have a bird in view for a direct comparison but I have seen several Eastern Phoebes this spring. The bird flew back into the woods and then flew back to the same perch where I observed it for another five minutes or more. During this time, I consulted the Robbins field guide and was convinced I was looking at a Say's Phoebe. **Thomas McMullen, 143 S. 3rd St., Dassel, MN 55325.**

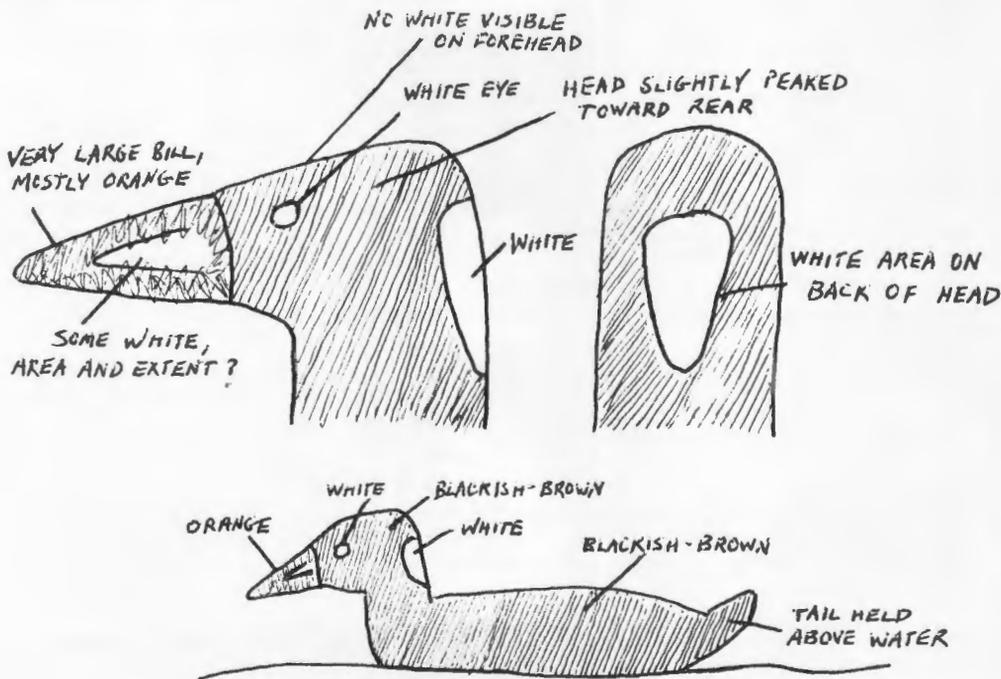
COUNTY LISTING PAYS DIVIDENDS: FIRST LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE NESTING RECORD FOR RICE COUNTY — Ray Glassel had called to tell me that he had seen Loggerhead Shrikes just north of Dennison on the Rice/Goodhue county line — always a joy for a county lister to see a "good" bird in two counties at one time. I was on the road early on the first of August, 1990, heading north on Goodhue Avenue to try my luck. But before I reached the spot where Ray had seen them, I saw an adult and a young on a telephone wire in Rice County, and shortly thereafter across the road in Goodhue County. Mission accomplished! Or so I thought. I settled down with a 30-power piece on my Nikon ED field scope to study the juvenal plumaged bird, and to write copious field notes, a summary of which follows. Overall, the young bird was paler than the adult. The head and nape had faint but distinct transverse barring, making it appear a short of dirty gray in color. The mask was not as black or as clearly outlined as the adult's, which made the eye appear more prominent. There was not the fine white border to the mask. The bill was small and sharply decurved. The breast was not clear, but was faintly barred like the head, but less obviously so; this gave a slightly dull or dirty look to the breast as well. The folded wing on the perched bird seemed to have a shading of grayish brown or light brown mixed in which also

made the wings look paler than the adult's. I watched the young bird fly down to short soybean plants and then up to a low wire fence; this it did several times. About 50 yards to the north on the same fence was a young kestrel, with two adults flying in the area. Close to the shrike to the south were kingbirds. After about 45 minutes of watching the young shrike, I drove on — north to within about a half a mile of Highway 19. Just past a prairie type hill, I caught sight of another shrike out of the corner of my eye. There was a fence going up the hillside, and about half-way up was a dead, bent-over cedar with not one, but two young shrikes perched atop and preening. These two appeared older, judging from their plumage. At the same time, I saw an adult shrike on the telephone wire ahead, and soon a young one appeared beside it. Glancing back to the cedar, I could see two still there — so that made three young and one adult — this still on the Rice/Goodhue line. I should mention the habitat at both locations was cornfield on the Rice County side, and soybeans in Goodhue County! I again watched the shrikes for about 45 minutes. I noted that these young did not have the barring on the head, nape and breast as clearly — the adult looking far more contrasty. The preening birds showed the white wing patch, and the white outer tail feathers. But when eventually all four birds were together on the telephone wire the difference in shading between adult and juvenal plumages was more clearly marked: the adult's mask appearing black, the young's, more gray-black; the breast of the adult appearing white, and the young's a dirty white. Another thing I noticed was that the young perched on the wire in a more upright position, more like the nearby kingbird and less horizontal than the adult shrike. So county-listing had yielded the first brood record for Rice County (inferred nesting if you will) of a species with "threatened" status in the State of Minnesota. But that was not "it" for the day. Heading west out of Randolph in Dakota County on County 88, and just about ¾ mile past the intersection with Minnesota Highway 47, I saw on a telephone wire ahead of me one adult and three young Loggerhead Shrikes. Again the habitat was cornfield facing them and soybeans behind them. These young, viewed with 30X and 40X, appeared to be similar in plumage to the last group. These also perched upright. Nor were they my last shrikes of the day. On my way home, I saw yet another, this an adult harassing and chasing a House Sparrow on Dakota County 81 just south of Empire. I found it interesting that this location was just across the road from where a Northern Shrike had been seen on the Hastings Christmas Bird Count of 1988. That made a total of *eleven* Loggerhead Shrikes I had seen, all in one day. It certainly was encouraging — considering their status — to see that many, especially the seven young. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE ON SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE —

About 5:00 on the afternoon of 29 March 1990, I was studying scaup on Pool 2 of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. After identifying several Greater Scaup among the hundreds of Lesser Scaup, I began scanning other divers on the water. As I swung the scope to the north, among a small group of goldeneyes in close to the pool outlet structure, I observed an adult drake Barrow's Goldeneye. The birds were restless and moving away from shore by the time I turned my attention to them. I was able to observe the Barrow's only briefly (less than half a minute, I imagine) before the entire group flew. In the time I had, the distinctive white crescent on the face was clearly seen frontally and in profile. A comparison was also made of the extent and pattern of white on the back between the adult males of the two species. The more extensive black of the dorsal area of the Barrow's was apparent. I did not make any comparison of head shape. In flight, the smaller white wing patches of the Barrow's were also discernible in comparison with the Common's. The next day the bird was looked for at this location but not seen. On 6 April during our weekly waterfowl survey, the same bird (presumably) was relocated on Pool 27. On the 7th, it was seen here by a number of observers and was seen here again on the 11th. On the 12th, it was relocated on Pool 3 during the waterfowl survey. It was last seen here on the 13th; the next day it was not there and was not seen again. **Jay Hamernick, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, 17076 293rd Ave., Zimmerman, MN 55398.**

SURF SCOTER IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On the morning of 23 May 1990, I was birding western Hennepin County, working my way north from Wolsfeld Woods. One of my last stops was the public access on the east side of French Lake. Among the birds on the lake were several Eared Grebes, a Bonaparte's Gull, and ten species of waterfowl, including a Surf Scoter. I watched the scoter from about 11:30 to 11:50 A.M. with a 20-45X spotting scope. The bird was far across the lake, perhaps several hundred yards away, but viewing conditions were otherwise excellent. The skies were clear, the sun was high over my left shoulder. When I first located the scoter, it was resting on the water with its head tucked in. After about five minutes it lifted its head, and finally, toward the end of the observation, it began diving. The bird was larger than a nearby Lesser Scaup, and its tail was held at a low angle above the water. Its plumage appeared uniformly blackish-brown except for a well-defined white patch on the nape. There was no corresponding patch on the forehead. The large, triangular bill was mostly orange, with some white near its center. Because of the distance, I wasn't able to determine the extent of this white area. The head, sloping back from the bill, was slightly peaked toward the rear. The eyes were white. When the scoter dived, its body lunged up and forward, and its unmarked wings were partially extended. Several people relocated the scoter that evening. I saw it again on the afternoon of 27 May. This is only the fourth spring record of a Surf Scoter for the southern half of Minnesota, and it is three weeks later than any of the previous records from this area. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**



FOOD CONSUMPTION OF COMMON REDPOLLS — During March of 1990, I reported that we had several hundred Common Redpolls at our feeding station. I did some quick calculations and have arrived at an estimate of 400-500 birds based upon the amount of food consumed during a one week period. I have listed the calculations below. During the monitoring period, we were feeding about seven pounds of unshelled sunflower seeds a day. This is about two gallons in volume.

Data: weight of birds (average) 12.7 grams. Measured from sample of two that died during this period.

Food consumed: 50 lbs./seven days or 7.14 lbs./day; 7.14 lbs. = 3,242 grams.

Food per bird: maximum 10.2 grams/day. Ref. Bell Museum source: Common Redpolls eat up to a maximum of 80% of body weight a day or $80\% \times 12.76$ is 10.2 grams.

This means that one day's supply or 3,242 grams could feed a minimum of 318 birds ($3,242 \div 10.2$).

The 318 number would be the minimum number of visiting birds; one could assume about 75% were eating elsewhere. This would suggest that 423 ($318 \div .75$) birds were needed to eat the available food. **David Mathews, 3650-131st Ave. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434.**

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT IN ROSEAU COUNTY — From 6:30 to 7:00 A.M. on the mornings of 28 and 29 July 1990, I observed a displaying Sprague's Pipit in Roseau County. The bird was in a short-grass prairie approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ mile square, located two miles east and a half mile north of milepost 6 on Minnesota Highway 310. During observation, the bird was in nearly constant flight/song display at a very high altitude. Seen at this height, I was able to tell that the bird was the size and shape of a Horned Lark, buffy in coloration, and with white outer tail feathers. The song was descending and Veery-like and always given in display. The pipit began singing while holding its wings steady and outspread. As it sang, it beat the air with its wings in order to maintain altitude. The pipit worked the whole south end of the field. At one time, the bird performed a plumb-drop, breaking its fall just before landing on the ground. On 29 July while I was observing the pipit, I heard a second pipit singing simultaneously from the north end of the field, but I was unable to locate the second bird. This is the first Sprague's Pipit I have ever observed. I am, however, familiar with its song from studying bird tapes. I am very familiar with the plumages and calls of Horned Larks and all of the area's sparrows. I ruled out Horned Lark by the lack of the bird's buffy coloration, less prominent white outer tail feathers, and different calls. I ruled out American Pipit by its less buffy coloration and different calls. I ruled out all sparrows and longspurs by plumage differences, different calls, and different display behavior. **Mark Otnes, 1602 47th St. S.W. Apt. 106, Fargo, ND 58103.**

A LONG-BILLED CURLEW AT THE FARM — If the activities at our farm this spring are any indication, I can say that bird-watching is alive and well here in Minnesota. I first saw the curlew on 24 April 1990, flying across a field about a quarter mile away. It had a very unusual flight pattern. Flying into a stiff wind, it would work hard to gain altitude, and then swoop back down toward the ground. Sometimes after flying higher and higher, it would soar and circle two or three times like a hawk. While I was harrowing the field, I lost track of the bird as I kept an eye on a storm front approaching from the west. It would be nice to finish this field before the rain arrived, I thought to myself. All of a sudden, to my surprise, this unusual bird flew past me on the tractor, not over 30 yards away. The bird had the longest bill I had ever seen, and it carried its head back on its neck like a Great Blue Heron when it flies. I saw the bird land at the edge of the hayfield. The wind from the approaching storm had picked up, and rain drops now splattered the tractor as I headed for the farmyard. The rain, which was much needed, lasted only a few minutes. When it ended, I got my spotting scope to see if I could find the strange bird again. Sure enough, he was out at the edge of the hayfield where I had seen him before the rain. With my bird book in hand, I studied the bird through the spotting scope, and decided that it might be a Long-billed Curlew. I then checked our Minnesota Checklist of Birds put out by the MOU. There was no Long-billed Curlew listed on that list, so I figured it must be something else. It probably

is a Whimbrel, I thought. I decided to call some of my fellow Rice County birders, a few of whom came out to the farm to look at the strange bird. Since the Whimbrel was on the Checklist, and the Long-billed Curlew was not, we settled on its being a Whimbrel. It was decided also to call the bird hotline. By seven the next morning, Ray Glassel and Anne Marie Plunkett had arrived to check out the "Whimbrel" but they identified the bird as a Long-billed Curlew. Soon after, many birders began to arrive. One, Dick Ruhme, said he had been looking for a Long-billed Curlew in Minnesota for 15 years. More birders arrived in the afternoon, and by evening, they were lining the roadside until sunset. All day Thursday, the birders kept coming. The curlew stayed until about four in the afternoon. I was out fencing when it flew over calling loudly its two-note call "urrluw urrluw." Flying around with what seemed like reckless abandon, it went into a dive before soaring up again. Circling a few times, it drifted off to the northwest; as I watched it, I knew it probably would not be back as it had not shown great energy the past four days. We learned alot in those four days. We learned that when we lost all our prairies, we lost not only the flowers, but also the birds and the animals of the prairie. The Long-billed Curlew nested on the prairies of Minnesota back in the 1880s. We learned that there are rewards for not using insecticides on our land. Our farm has never used them, and we feel this curlew found food in our field because of that decision. We learned about birders from all over Minnesota. I asked one gentleman from Aitkin why he would drive 180 miles to see a bird, which unfortunately for him had left three days earlier. He said, "I'm like those fishermen who come up to Aitkin from southern Minnesota: some of them go home with an empty ice chest too, you know." Over 100 people visited our farm to see the Long-billed Curlew. We enjoyed them all. The most frequently asked question was, "Why is the bird in your field?" My reply was, "Food, I guess — big nightcrawlers." One birder who had been to Texas to see the curlews on the Gulf Coast had a different explanation. He said, "This Long-billed Curlew made a wrong turn at the Dallas airport." My birding is done from the seat of a tractor while working the fields, along a line fence when checking the cattle on pasture, or at sunrise as I go to the barn to milk. Yes, life is a little richer for having seen this unusual bird, but life is *much* richer for having appreciated *all* the birds. **Larry Ritchie, 25135 Dahle Ave., Faribault, MN 55021.**

ROSS' GEESE IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — Early on the morning of 28 April 1990, Jay Hamernick contacted me and reported that he had identified three Ross' Geese in a flock of Snow Geese on my farm along Lac Qui Parle County Road 7, five miles south of U.S. Highway 212. I reported this sighting to the field trip tour leaders that had gathered at Salt Lake for the annual MOU Salt Lake weekend. I led a caravan of birders south and arrived at my slough at about 10:30 A.M. There was quite a traffic jam on the narrow country road but everyone was able to locate the three very white and somewhat smaller Ross' Geese in a gaggle of approximately 70 Snow Geese. On 30 April and 1 May 1990, I visited the slough to get a better view and to study the smaller geese at my leisure. It was interesting how the three Ross' Geese always stayed together while resting on the islands, feeding in the slough, and while flying to nearby fields. At one time the geese were on the slough 500 feet away and later in a plowed field 300 feet from my car. I used my 20X scope on both occasions. Snow Geese were standing next to the Ross' Geese so a good comparison between the two species could be made. The Ross' had distinctively different shaped heads and bills. The head was more round and the bill was smaller and shorter. The overall smaller size was also very evident. **Goodman K. Larson, 4801 Diane Dr., Hopkins, MN 55343.**

Editor's Note: The three Ross' Geese were first observed and identified by Jay Hamernick on the evening of 27 April 1990. The three geese were seen by many observers on the Salt Lake weekend field trips and on several occasions during the next week. Ray Glassel and I saw the three Ross' Geese on 11 May 1990 in with a gaggle of about 40 Snow Geese. I believe this was the last recorded observation of the Ross' Geese.

A LATE SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER — On 15 October 1989, I observed a Short-billed Dowitcher on the northeast arm of Wagonga Lake, Section 33, Kandiyohi Township, Kandiyohi County. The bird was a whitish gray, medium-sized, chunky, shorebird. It had a long, straight bill which it was using to probe deeply into the mud on the lakeshore. It had a short neck and medium length greenish legs. When preening, I noted a long white triangular patch that extended from the base of the rump up the back; the tail was light with wide white transverse bars alternating with narrow darker bars throughout the whole length of the tail. The head was a very light grayish-white with a narrow, lighter eye-line. The all dark bill was straight and at least three head-lengths long. The head, neck and upper breast were a light grayish. The upper breast was grayish diffusing into the white of the upper belly. There were some small streaks and spots on the breast at about the mid-level of the wing. The back and top of the wings were uniformly light grayish with the flight feathers appearing darker. The belly was white while the flanks had some diffuse spots and bars. **Alison Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

Editor's Note: The previous late date for the Short-billed Dowitcher in southern Minnesota was 3 October. There is a late date of 9 October in northern Minnesota.

A BIG WARBLER DAY — I was working on Alton Lake, which is just west of Sawbill Lake in the Boundary Water Canoe Area, Cook County. The date was 14 May 1990. It misted all day, and sometimes rained; the temperature was a fairly steady 50° and there was an occasional west breeze shifting to the north later in the day. I spent the middle part of the day planting trees on two campsites midway up the east shore of the lake. Alton was especially beautiful with vibrant green treetops scattered along the dark west shore. A pair of Common Loons came in close and looked me over. I had casually noticed a fair number of warblers going through the area. Then rather suddenly, I realized that there really were a lot of them and I stopped planting to watch. Along the shore from the south, through cedars and white pines, firs and spruce came dozens then hundreds of warblers. Thicker and faster they came. On every bit of bark, every lichen, twig and old hanging leaf, on the ground and on the rocks clung "jillions" of soft little flies, just hatched out that day. They were in the air also where the warblers flitted out to catch them, but mostly the warblers picked them off of every surface. Warblers poured into a big tangle left when an old white pine's crown got blown down by lightning into the cedars along the north edge of the point I was working on. With a bay of the lake just beyond, the warblers temporarily stayed in this place of good hunting and shelter, and their numbers built up. Suddenly, they all set off at once with a rustle of hundreds of wings, as they took to the air, flying high and heading north. More came in waves. Sometimes they would flow south along the shore of the lake and then flow north. Sometimes it would be quiet for a few minutes, with only a handful in sight, like normal migration time, but then a big wave would roll in and the air would be full of warblers again. Yellow-rumped were the most numerous by far, but I also saw several Cape Mays, Palms, Black-throated Greens, a few Bay-breasteds, two or three American Redstarts, a Northern Parula and a Northern Waterthrush. I spent my time taking in the whole spectacle and watching a few individuals at very close range; they were oblivious of me and I had my very best looks ever at gorgeous Bay-breasteds and Cape Mays. I can't venture an accurate guess at how many warblers I may have seen. Certainly it was in the hundreds, probably thousands in the three or four hours I spent watching. It was a spectacle I had never seen anything like before during warbler migration, as special and almost as exciting as a visit to Sand Lake, South Dakota for the huge waterfowl migrations that passes through that area. Possibly this was better, since it was so unexpected and especially considering that this same heavy migration of warblers may have been taking place across a broad front. Chuck Anderson, at Tettagouche State Park near Beaver Bay in Lake County, while working for the Nature Conservancy on 14 May 1990, saw unusually large numbers of warblers. An observer at Grand Marais, Cook County reported warblers "dripping" from the trees along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Rick Brandenburg, a friend and co-worker was working 22 miles

northwest of Alton Lake in Lake County and experienced the same heavy warbler migration on the 14th that I had seen at Alton Lake. He reported the following:

"14 May 1990 was a very rainy day up near the Canadian border on Knife Lake, Lake County. Around noon I paddled up to the portage that goes into Ottertrack Lake around a small waterfall at the extreme northeast end of Knife. It's a very open area, an old cabin site, and has large pines along the shore. The rain had stopped and the area near the portage was very calm and there were large numbers of insects in the air along the Knife Lake shore. I noticed birds in the pines so I got out my binoculars and was surprised to see large numbers of warblers moving through the trees. Many were feeding on the insect swarms. Every now and then, a dozen or so would take off from the trees together and head west over Knife Lake. At one point, a hawk soared over low and over a hundred warblers poured out of the trees and out over the lake. The warblers taking off seemed to be continuously replaced by others coming in. I saw mostly Yellow-rumped, but there were also quite a few American Redstarts, Blackburnians, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Greens, Cape Mays and Palms. After portaging into Ottertrack, I also noticed large numbers of warblers along the shore there. As we paddled east down the lake, the evergreens along the calm, protected areas of the south shore were filled with warblers. These areas also had large insect swarms in the air."

On 15 May 1990, I was working on Sawmill Lake, Cook County and saw nothing out of the ordinary. A week later I went back to the warbler site on Alton Lake and saw numerous species of warblers, more than on the 14th, but very ordinary numbers of individuals. **Ellen Hawkins, Box 2142, Tofte MN 55615.**

A RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD NEAR NORTH BRANCH — On 18 July 1990, I received a call on the Minnesota Bird Report line from Kathy Farr of North Branch, Chisago County, that she had seen a Rufous Hummingbird at her mother's feeder. In the early evening of the 18th, I called the number she had left on the tape. Kathy Farr answered the phone at her mothers (Beverly's) residence and stated the Rufous Hummingbird was at the feeder at that exact moment. She described the bird in detail to me. I told her that I would like very much to see the bird and made arrangements to be there at 4:00 P.M. the next day. On 19 July 1990, Parker Backstrom, Ray Glassel and I arrived at the Farr's feeder at 4:00 P.M. We met Beverly Farr and she told us that the hummingbird had been at her feeder in the early morning. She felt that the bird would show up any moment if it followed the same pattern it had on the 18th. We waited until 8:30 P.M. and never saw the Rufous Hummingbird come to any of the hummingbird feeders that were on the deck surrounding the sides of the house. We did see one female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The Rufous must have disappeared from the area during the late morning hours of the 19th. The Farr residence is located at 35495 Falcon Avenue, North Branch, MN. Falcon Avenue runs parallel to I-35 about ¼ mile to the west of the freeway. The following is a description of the bird written by Beverly Farr: "bright orange throat; complete orangey-brown back; white around eyes; white chest. The Rufous was very aggressive and chased the male Ruby-throated Hummingbird away from the feeder. The Rufous appeared slightly larger than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird." Both Beverly and Kathy Farr furnished excellent color sketches of the bird. The bird was first noticed around the feeders on 17 July 1990 in the afternoon and as stated above, was not seen after the morning of 19 July 1990. These dates are the earliest fall dates for the Rufous Hummingbird in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 So. Cedar Lake Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

RED-THROATED LOON SEEN OFF PARK POINT, DULUTH — The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union birding trip to Duluth and the North Shore was off to a great start. The steady east wind had already blown two jaegers in off the vastness of Lake Superior and conditions were ripe for other birding "gems." On the morning of 26 May 1990, our group drove down to the recreation area near the end of Park Point to scan the lake for any other unusual species. We stepped from behind the shelter of the beach house into the cold wind

and drizzle and could see a beautiful alternate-plumaged Red Knot feeding actively along the surfline with a group of Sanderlings. As we set up scopes to scan the lake, I saw a bird swimming 150 yards offshore. Through my binoculars I could see that the bird was light-colored and sitting low in the water. I could also see the distinctive profile: long body with a "sinuous" neck and a clearly uptilted head and bill. Through the scope it was possible to see the uniform gray head and back, a portion of the white underparts, and the dark (at this distance) throat of a breeding-plumaged Red-throated Loon, one of the "target" birds of our trip. To other observers this species has generally proved elusive and this bird was no exception. It would stay above the water for only 10 to 30 seconds at a time, just long enough to locate it in the scope, before it would dive and then reappear some distance away. The loon moved slowly to the west and away from the beach. Everybody got looks at the bird but most could not be considered good looks. Confusion was compounded by the presence of a number of Double-crested Cormorants in the same vicinity, a species that closely resembles the Red-throated Loon at a distance. This allowed us good comparisons between the two species. The loon eventually moved off and disappeared from view. The status of the Red-throated Loon changed from "Regular" in Minnesota to "Casual" in 1988. **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437.**

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AT BLACK DOG LAKE — On Sunday, 19 August 1990, I decided to visit Black Dog Lake, Dakota County, in spite of cool temperatures and overcast skies. It was about 9:00 A.M. by the time I arrived there. As there had been reports of periodic good shorebird numbers, I decided to check the west end of the lake. There were a few shorebirds and from 100 to 150 gulls standing and resting out at the edge of the water, maybe 200 yards away. As I scanned the gulls with Bushnell 10x40B binoculars and a Bushnell 15-45 variable power scope, I immediately noticed one gull that was unusual in that it was very dark on the back and wings as it faced away from me. In order to get a better look, I went back to the car, moved further down the lake, and walked out to where I was approximately 120-140 yards away from the gull and looking south. As I viewed the gull, I made the following mental notes, recorded when I got back to my vehicle, without consulting any field guide: wings and back a deep uniform black; head very white; bill yellow with large red spot on lower mandible; legs yellow; a small amount of white showing on rump or lower back; and white spots showing on ends of folded primaries. This gull stood with many Ring-billed and a few Herring Gulls, and I was able to see all three species in one view through my scope. The Lesser Black-backed appeared much larger than the Ring-billed and almost identical in size to the nearby Herring Gull. At this point, Mary Ann Rudelt walked up, and she too had noticed this gull and had come to the same conclusion that I had. She and I continued to observe this gull for the next 20 minutes, using binoculars and her Kowa TSN-2 scope with a 20 power wide-angle lens. When we were both looking elsewhere at shorebirds, all the gulls flew up briefly; and when they settled down again, the Lesser Black-backed Gull was gone. Bruce Fall arrived 15 minutes later and the three of us looked for an hour and a half without finding it again. I also returned that evening with Clay Christensen and Bill Bronn, but without success at finding it again. In the interim, I'd returned home to call the hotline and a few other birders. To my knowledge, this gull was not seen again in the area. This species of gull has been appearing almost regularly in past years, and it is interesting to wonder if it is the same bird. The one I saw appeared to be a full adult and was very blackish on the back and wings. My Geographic and Robbins guides both refer to a Scandanavian subspecies of the Lesser Black-backed which has a back as dark as the Greater Black-backed, and I wonder if this is what I observed. **Edwin Lins, 1426 Simpson St. N., St. Paul, MN 55108.**

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 to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

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



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

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

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

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MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$15.00 for a regular yearly membership. Other classes of membership that you may choose are: Youth (through age 17) \$10.00 yearly; Family \$25.00 yearly; Supporting \$50.00 yearly; Life \$300. 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, 8255 Congdon Blvd., 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., Aitkin, 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, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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A Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Minnesota

Robert B. Janssen and Peder Svingen

On 27 June 1990, I called Dick Schaefer, owner of a townhouse at 1338 Windcrest in Eagan, Dakota County. Mr. Schaefer had called the Minnesota Bird Report Hotline informing me that he had a Eurasian Tree Sparrow coming to his feeder. He had first seen the bird on 20 June 1990 but was not sure of the identification until 26 June 1990. I arrived at the Schaefer residence at approximately 4:00 P.M. on the 27th. At 4:45 P.M. the Eurasian Tree Sparrow came to the feeder which was located on the railing of an outdoor deck. I got an excellent look at the bird from inside the townhouse. While at the feeder the sparrow was alone but I could tell it was about the size of a House Sparrow, 5½ to 6 inches in length and a body similar to a House Sparrow. The brownish-tipped back feathers had black centers. The wing coverts were tipped with white forming two very narrow wing bars. The belly and breast were a light buffy-gray. The tail, from above, was brown. It was the head that was noticeably different from a House Sparrow: the crown and nape were a light chocolate brown; the cheek area was white (not gray like a House Sparrow) with a large black spot under and to the rear of the eye; there was a black throat patch but the black was much smaller in extent than a House Sparrow, and it did not extend onto the breast as it does in a male House Sparrow. I only watched the bird for approximately two minutes, and then it left the feeder and flew south over a wooded ravine where I lost sight of it. Ray Glassel saw the bird around 6:00 P.M. that same day. When the bird came to the feeder with several House Sparrows, Ray recorded the similarity to a male House Sparrow but observed easily the brown cap, black spot on the cheek and the less extensive black bib. Over the next few days the Eurasian Tree Sparrow was seen only sporadically at the feeder although many birders spent numerous hours watching the feeder. The bird was reported on 1 July 1990 by Don Bolduc and Douglas Campbell; by Ruth Andberg on 2 July 1990 and at 7:45 A.M. on 6 July by Anne Marie Plunkett, the last time the bird was seen. The sketch below was done by Doug Campbell. The bird did not remain at

the feeder long enough for photographers to record the bird on film. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**



Field sketch of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow by Doug Campbell.

The Eurasian Tree Sparrow was introduced into North America in April, 1870 when Carl Daenzer released twenty individuals from Germany into a St. Louis, Missouri city park (Barlow, 1973). The species flourished and moved locally into surrounding rural areas but failed to expand further as competition from the House Sparrow in both urban and rural areas increased (Flieg, 1971). The Eurasian Tree Sparrow is resident throughout much of Europe, Asia, and various Pacific island groups with established introductions into Borneo, Celebes, the Philippines, and Australia (*The American Ornithologists' Union, Checklist of North American Birds*, 1983).

The lack of success by introduced populations of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, relative to its congener the House Sparrow, prompted comparative studies in which morphologic stability of the introduced population was demonstrated. In most aspects of their ecology, the North American population remained closely allied to the parent population in Germany despite genotypic isolation for more

than one hundred years (Barlow, 1973). The current distribution of the population over 8,500 square miles in eastern Missouri and west-central Illinois includes an estimated 25,000 birds, and dispersal has generally been northerly to northeasterly for unclear reasons (Bohlen, 1989). One "vagrant" to southern Illinois and a few records from western Kentucky, some of which were questioned (Mengel, 1965), contradict this northerly pattern of vagrancy.

Local colonies of Eurasian Tree Sparrows usually increase in numbers for several years, then disperse in the winter or early spring (Flieg, 1971; Barlow, 1973). One may expect extralimital records to occur more frequently during these periods of colony dispersal. One of the four extralimital records reviewed by Barlow was in Randolph County, Illinois during the summer of 1962 (Barlow, 1973). The others were winter or early spring occurrences, including a specimen from Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, on 29 March 1966. All of the more recent extralimital records also occurred in the winter or early spring. They included single vagrants to the Chicago area on 28 March 1976 and 26 December 1983 (Mlodinow, 1984); one individual discovered on 2 November 1986 in Winnipeg, Manitoba which was accepted as the first provincial record by Manitoba's Ornithological Records Committee (Harris, 1987; Koes, 1988); two birds seen and photographed 14-21 March 1987 at a feeder in West Branch, Cedar County, for Iowa's first state record (Veal, 1987 — wrong dates in Peterjohn, 1987); and one bird which "wintered" with House Sparrows at a farm near River Falls, Pierce County, Wisconsin (Powell, 1989). Iowa's second record occurred when up to ten birds visited a feeder along the Mississippi River in Burlington, Des Moines County, from 16 December 1989 to 14 January 1990.

The discovery of a vagrant Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Minnesota (Eagan, Dakota County) during the summer of 1990 was therefore virtually without precedent. The species may be more secretive in summer, and few feeders are maintained or watched during the summer. The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee deliberated known patterns of vagrancy and also considered the possibility of assisted transport or escape from captivity. Suspected ship-as-

sisted transport of at least two birds to the Vancouver, British Columbia area during the winter of 1985-86 (Force and Mattocks, 1986) led to a flurry of letters and editorial comments regarding the origin of Eurasian Tree Sparrows in Canada, including one suggestion that the Winnipeg bird was "controversial but probably of dubious origin" (DeBenedictis, 1987). Although the usual sources on the subject of birds in captivity were consulted (Kautesk, 1986), a local aviculturist later estimated that more than 100 Eurasian Tree Sparrows were kept illegally in the Vancouver area (Weber, 1987).

One could certainly speculate about assisted transport by rail car or by barge traffic on the Mississippi River, since the Minnesota bird was discovered during the summer within a few miles of the river. It could also be stated that the Eurasian Tree Sparrow's preferred habitat of gently rolling farmland interspersed with woodlots (Barlow, 1973) commonly occurs along such river bottoms. Since no evidence surfaced that the bird in Eagan was an obvious escape and since "reasonable doubt as to the origin or wildness" of the bird was not voiced by the majority of committee members, this first state record was accepted on the Minnesota list as an Accidental species (Ab).

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- Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

A Whooping Crane in Minnesota

Michael Hedemark and W. Daniel Svedarsky

Whooping Crane Near Gatzke

Upon returning home from delivering a load of grain at approximately 9:00 A.M. on 11 October 1990, I spotted a noticeably larger and snow-white crane in the midst of a large (750-1000) flock of Sandhill Cranes foraging in a plowed wheat field, 100-200 meters from the road in Section 16 and 17 of Rollis Township, Marshall County. I had been watching this flock increase in numbers over the past two weeks and had twice the previous week stopped to survey the immatures, hoping to spot a Whooping Crane. The bird seen that morning was a radiant white in a sea of gray. The sky was moderately overcast so glare was playing no tricks with the plumage. During this first encounter I did not have my binoculars so I stopped just long enough to make mental notes about its size, shape and coloration. Then I established a new county speed record for the ¼ mile in a 2½ ton grain truck as I tore home to grab binocs, bird book and car keys. I was back at the spot in less than ten minutes, gazing in near disbelief. I watched the bird for about another ten minutes noting the dark cheek patch, jet black legs, a head taller than the nearby Sandhills and beautiful white plumage. The identification was absolute, this obviously being an

adult, with no possible confusion with the surrounding Sandhills or a misplaced egret. I then proceeded to the nearest phone to inform the local DNR, and MOU hot-line. Al Bennett from Agassiz National Refuge joined me around 10:00 A.M. where we watched the bird for about 45 minutes. Al had a spotting scope and at that time he noted that the bird was not banded. During our observation period the flock rose from the NW ¼ section 16 and flew to the SE ¼ section 17 where they landed in a field of barley stubble that was heavily sprouted and very green. Around 11:30 A.M. I returned to section 17 (my home) to eat lunch. The entire flock and the Whooping Crane had by this time crossed over my driveway and were now foraging on plowed wheat ground within 100 meters of our wood lot. At this time I took some photos. I returned to work at 1:30 P.M. passing the flock which was now back on the barley stubble. At around 3:30 P.M. I returned to section 17 hoping to find birders and cranes. Much to my dismay I found neither. I spent the next hour cruising township roads hoping to find the flock. No more Sandhills were seen that day and unfortunately no Whooping Crane was seen during the next two mornings of concerted searching. **Michael Hedemark, Box 56 Rt. 2, Gatzke, MN 56724.**



Whooping Crane, 11 October 1990.



Whooping Crane, 11 October 1990. Both photos taken at Gatzke, Rollis Township, Marshall County by Michael Hedemark.



Whooping Crane, 23 October 1990, Burnham Creek Impoundment, Polk County. Photo by Jim Williams.



Whooping Crane with Sandhill Cranes, 23 October 1990, Burnham Creek Impoundment, Polk County. Photo by David O. Lambeth.

Whooping Crane Near Crookston

A multiple-use flood control impoundment was constructed in 1988 which adjoins the southern tip of The Nature Conservancy's Pembina Trail Preserve, 15 miles southeast of Crookston. The impoundment is known as the BR-6 Impoundment and the entire 400-acre project is known as the Burnham Creek Wildlife Management Area. I received grants from the Soil Conservation Service, Red Lake Watershed District, and the Nongame Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to conduct a two-year biological inventory of the project through the Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota where I hold a research appointment. Birds are censused at least weekly from snow melt in March until freeze-up in November with primary emphasis on those using an 80-acre storage pool and a 70-acre restored bulrush marsh.

The general area east of the Pembina Trail Preserve has been a popular spring and fall staging area for Sandhill Cranes for at least 25 years. Currently there are few farm sites in the area due to the consolidation of farms into few ownerships resulting in several fields of 2-3,000 acres. These wide horizons are attractive to cranes, particularly when corn stubble is available for feeding.

The Burnham Creek WMA has been established as a duck refuge with no entry allowed from 1 September through the end of the duck season except with a research permit. During this time, I made census visits by crawling up to the top of the dike along the north and west and observing with a 60X spotting scope to minimize disturbance. On 21 October 1990, I arrived at the north dike about 4:30 P.M. with Andy Svedarsky, and cranes were flying into the storage pool from the north, coming directly over the Pembina Trail Preserve. The "bugling" of about 5,000 cranes late in the prairie afternoon was impressive. We peered over the edge of the dike and about two football fields of solid cranes were standing in shallow water along the east edge of the storage pool about 400 yards south of the north edge. We immediately saw the white bird in the group. Shortly after we began viewing, birds started flushing and circling about, some flying out of the impoundment and landing in the corn field to the west. I kept the spotting scope on the white bird and

noted a "dark-looking face" in the late afternoon light but then clearly saw dark wing tips as it flushed. Andy remarked that he saw a red face as it flew out with the Sandhills. It was clear that we had both seen our first Whooping Crane.

That evening I called Steve Maxson, DNR Wetlands Wildlife Researcher in Bemidji, who has been monitoring cranes in northwest Minnesota. Steve commented, "That's where it went," referring to the bird which had been seen near the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge about a week earlier. The next day I received a call from Bob Janssen and we made plans for a group to come up and hopefully spot the bird. I met the six-car group early on the morning of 23 October together with two of my students. We arrived at the south edge of the Pembina Trail Preserve and the north boundary of the Burnham Creek Wildlife Management Area around 7:00 A.M. We were on the flight path of the birds which had come into the impoundment on the 21st and I reasoned that they would fly out the same way. Many in the group of birders had been traveling a good part of the night but I was amazed at the level of enthusiasm. I had heard that several birders made a similar pilgrimage to Agassiz NWR only to find that "the bird" was there yesterday.

Cranes began flying out of the impoundment around 7:30 A.M. but were mostly flying out to the northeast. Bob Janssen first spotted the Whooping Crane coming over the dike in the company of about ten Sandhills. It was noticeably larger than the Sandhills and was clearly white even though we were looking towards the sunrise sky. The group of birders launched a ground search in the area north and east of the Pembina Trail Preserve in what was formerly the Crookston Cattle Company. A flying lone American White Pelican momentarily got the group's attention. I had to leave to teach a class at around 9 A.M. but I later received a message from Dave Lambeth that he found the Whooping Crane later that morning about two miles east and a ½ mile north of the impoundment. Dave photographed the bird and noted that it flew back into the impoundment around 11 A.M. where other members of the group were able to view it.

I returned to the impoundment around 6:00 P.M. on 25 October and again Sandhills were flying towards the impoundment from the

north but they did not land. Instead, a total of about 1,500, in several flocks, came over the impoundment, then veered off to the east in the direction of the Dugdale Wildlife Management Area. Farm crews were burying rocks and harvesting corn and it is suspected that this activity caused the extremely wary Sandhills to avoid the impoundment at sundown. The Whooping Crane was not seen that evening and apparently most of the cranes had moved on in their migration.

Seeing, and hearing, 5,000 Sandhills is always neat but finding a "white one" in the bunch definitely moves the experience up a notch or two on the enjoyment scale. **W. Daniel Svedarsky, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN 56716**

Editor's Note: The Whooping Crane was last reported at the Burnham Creek WMA on 28 October 1990, by Jon Peterson and Ann McKenzie.

Song Bird Reproduction Study — Rice County

Michael Garrod

Working for the Institute of Wildlife and Environmental Toxicology out of Clemson University, South Carolina, I did a study of song bird reproduction at the Faribault Wildlife Management Area, Rice County. The study was specifically aimed at passerines that are not cavity nesters. At the same time, another wildlife technician, Chris Loesch, was working at a sample agricultural site in the same area in order to draw a comparison between the two distinct habitats.

The objective of the study was to obtain data on song bird breeding at the two sites, the number of breeding birds, and their success rate for hatching and fledging their young. We hoped to locate and monitor fifty nests or more per day, finding new nests as old ones were dropped from the monitoring lists due to fledging, abandonment or nest destruction. It was also hoped to gain some insight into the effects of insecticides and pesticides upon the reproduction of these birds. In this last objective, we were not able to reach any conclusion for reasons that will be given later.

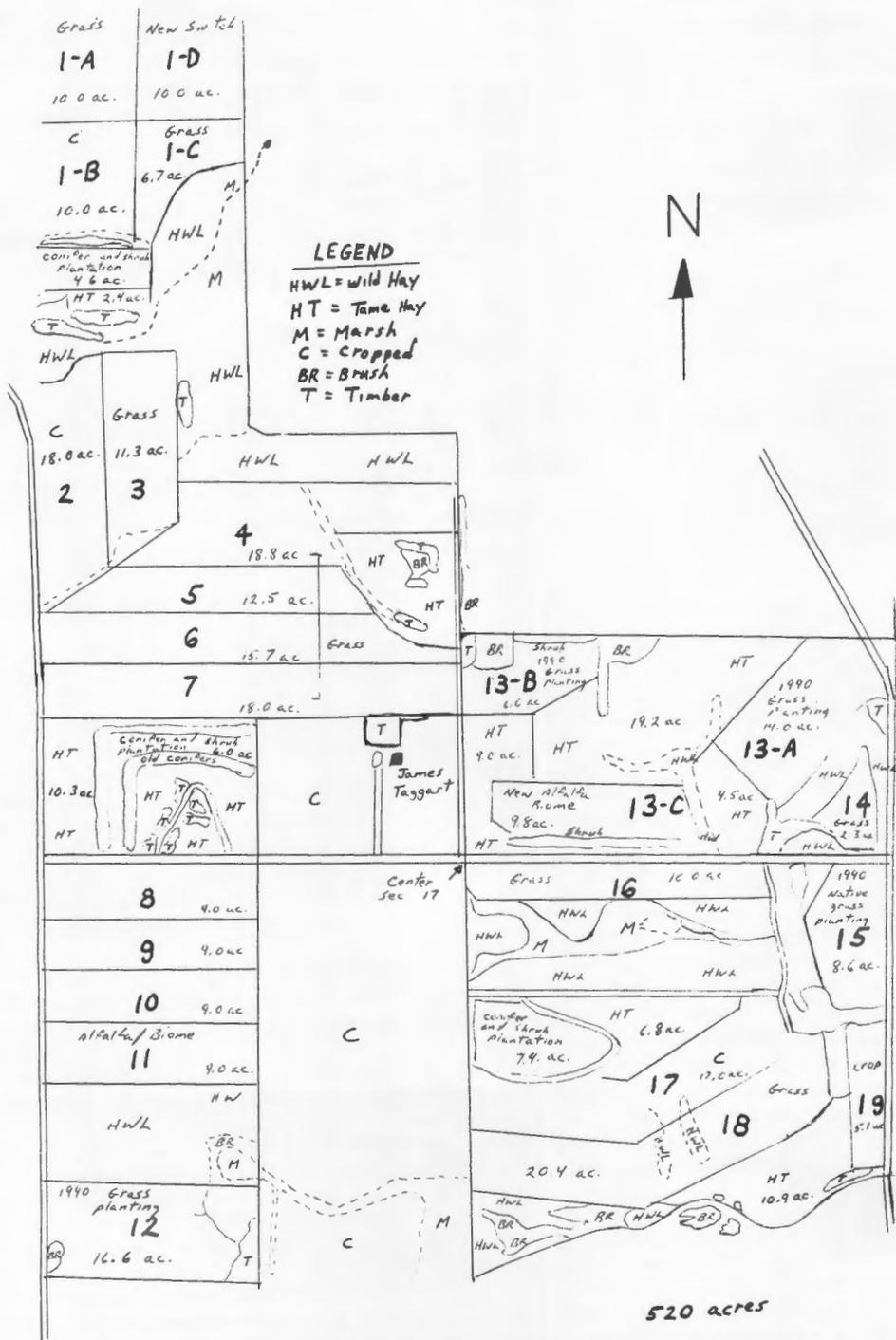
The data presented here is the result of almost two and a half months of field monitoring that began 22 May and terminated 30 July 1990.

Besides the data and observations given on the nesting passerines. I have also added data on three non-passerine species that I

monitored, final data of Chris's monitoring at the agricultural sites, and a list of other birds I was able to identify at the wildlife management area.

Faribault Wildlife Management Area:

The Faribault Wildlife Management Area is 520 acres of former farmland that is being re-established as a diverse biotic community. The accompanying map of the area shows the different habitats introduced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to produce such diversity. The area is approximately four miles south of Faribault off County Road 19 at 235th Street. There are a few old deciduous and conifer stands left. The dominant broadleaf tree species are boxelder, cottonwood, green ash, poplars, various willows, and both red and white oak. There are three recent conifer (mostly spruce) and shrub plantations on Sections 1-B, 7 and 17. These plantations produced approximately 65% of the nests located, the great majority being Mourning Doves. In section 16, there are a few old farm buildings and ruins that provided habitat for Barn Swallows, House Sparrows and American Robins. Other habitat contains marsh, thistle and various classes of grasses such as alfalfa, (the thistle being an important indicator plant for American Goldfinch nesting). A number of hedgerows line the fields and timber edges. Some of the crop lands of



Faribault Wildlife Management Area, Rice County. Drawing by Michael Garrod.

Wildlife Management Area Active Nest Data

<u>Species</u>	<u># of nests</u>	<u>average clutch size</u>	<u>Nests lost to storm/predator</u>	<u>Nests that fledged</u>
Green-backed Heron*	1	3	0	1
Gray Partridge*	1	13	1	0
Mourning Dove*	69	2	24	39
Eastern Kingbird	2	3	1	1
Barn Swallow	4	5	1	2
Blue Jay	3	4	0	3
American Robin	26	4.5	8	17
Gray Catbird	25	4	7	16
Brown Thrasher	15	3.1	4	11
Cedar Waxwing	2	5	1	1
Yellow Warbler	2	4	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	2	4	1	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	3	0	3
Chipping Sparrow	1	4	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	7	4.5	3	1
Field Sparrow	1	4	0	0
Song Sparrow	2	5	0	2
Red-winged Blackbird	3	4	1	2
Common Grackle	9	4	2	7
Northern Oriole	1	—	—	—
American Goldfinch	8	5.5	0	0
House Sparrow	1	4	0	1
Unidentified	5	1-4	5	0
	193		58	112

- 1 Brown-headed Cowbird egg found in unidentified nest.
 1 Brown-headed Cowbird egg found alone in unidentified nest.
 1 Brown-headed Cowbird egg found in American Goldfinch nest.

*Non-passerines monitored.

the management area have been planted principally with soybeans and corn.

Agricultural Lands:

The agricultural site consisted of several parcels found on different farms that included some type of wooded or shrub edge. The area studied was only a few miles due east of the wildlife management area, and the amount of acreage covered was approximately the same. A general description of the land would be that the largest percentage was in crops, mostly corn, alfalfa and soybeans. There were a few small, scattered timber stands (same species as on management area), much more marsh land and about the same number and size of hedgerows.

The Study:

My nest searching began 22 May 1990, and for the first two weeks I was finding a number of old, used nests but very few active nests. During the first week, only 17% (6 of 35) of the nests located were active. By the end of the second week, 1 June, one out of four nests located were active. In these two weeks, the primary species encountered were American Robins, Gray Catbirds, and Brown Thrashers. I also found one Yellow Warbler nest.

The percentage of active nests rose throughout June and the first half of July which was to be expected. Nesting then declined sharply in the second half of July, although this is when the Chipping Sparrows,

Wildlife Management Area Active Nest Data (cont'd.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>average # of chicks hatched</u>	<u>average # of chicks fledged</u>	<u>nests still active</u>
Green-backed Heron	3.0	3.0	0
Gray Partridge	0.0	0.0	0
Mourning Dove	1.9	1.7	6
Eastern Kingbird	3.0	3.0	0
Barn Swallow	3.5	3.0	1
Blue Jay	4.0	4.0	0
American Robin	3.6	2.7	1
Gray Catbird	3.8	3.6	2
Brown Thrasher	3.1	3.1	0
Cedar Wax wing	5.0	5.0	0
Yellow Warbler	4.0	4.0	0
Common Yellowthroat	4.0	1.0	0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3.0	3.0	0
Chipping Sparrow	4.0	4.0	0
Clay-colored Sparrow	4.0	4.0	3
Field Sparrow	—	—	1
Song Sparrow	5.0	4.5	0
Red-winged Blackbird	3.0	3.0	0
Common Grackle	3.3	3.3	0
Northern Oriole	—	—	0
American Goldfinch	5.0	—	8
House Sparrow	4.0	4.0	0
Unidentified	—	—	0

Averages are from nests that hatched only.

Clay-colored Sparrows and the American Goldfinches became the most active. During the peak activity of June and July, I was monitoring 60 to 80 nests a day, and all species in the data tables were located at this time.

Rainfall was exceptionally high in southern Minnesota, especially during the first two weeks of the study and may have contributed to late nesting. The rain was particularly disastrous at the agricultural site marsh lands where after each rain, almost all of the Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbird nests were lost to flooding. At the wildlife management area the storms did little damage. Very few of the nests were actually destroyed by the storms. This may be due in part to higher brush and larger timber stands at that site which would lessen the destruction caused by high winds. What I did encounter at the management area was that one or two days after heavy rains predation was at its highest. Predatory birds, snakes, fox and opossum

were among the nest destroyers.

One type of predation I was not able to identify were the "pin holes" that I found in one Mourning Dove nest and one Gray Catbird nest. These were small, pin-like holes in the eggs where the yolks were partially sucked out. I did not find any egg that had been completely sucked out. All eggs remained in the nests for several weeks and were still in place on my last monitoring day.

I observed an unusual case at a Gray Partridge nest, which I monitored even though it was not a passerine. I wasn't quite sure how to mark it, predation or abandonment, although I finally considered it the former since eggs eventually disappeared. After laying her eggs, the partridge had a collection of 13 eggs in a grass covered ground nest. She hung tight and I often saw the male nearby. After six days of incubation, I found the nest abandoned, seven eggs still in the nest and the other six scattered six to eight inches away. None of the eggs were broken



Young Mourning Doves in nest, June 1990.



Brown Thrasher on nest, June 1990. Both photos taken on the Faribault WMA, Rice County by Michael Garrod.

Nest Data From Agricultural Sites

<u>Species</u>	<u># of nests</u>	<u>average # of eggs in nest</u>	<u>average # of chicks in nest</u>
Virginia Rail	1	6.0	0.0
Killdeer	1	1.0	1.0
Mourning Dove	11	1.3	0.9
Northern Flicker	1	—	—
Eastern Kingbird	3	3.0	3.0
Horned Lark	1	3.0	3.0
Blue Jay	5	3.6	2.2
Eastern Bluebird	1	1.0	1.0
American Robin	20	2.7	1.7
Gray Catbird	4	3.5	1.3
Brown Thrasher	7	3.3	1.4
Field Sparrow	1	3.0	3.0
Vesper Sparrow	1	4.0	4.0
Red-winged Blackbird	16	3.3	1.9
Yellow-headed Blackbird	21	2.7	1.4
Common Grackle	1	4.0	0.0
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	1.0	0.3
Northern Oriole	1	5.0	1.0
Unidentified	7	—	—

No. of nests — 154 No. of active nests — 107

% Fledged	25
% Lost to Predation	21
% Lost to Storms	19
% Abandoned	02
% Still Active	03
% Inactive Nests	30
	100

Field Technician — Chris Loesch

nor did they have the "pin holes." Two days later while monitoring nests, I decided to check again. All the eggs were back in the nest, or at least it appeared that all were there. The eggs had been freshly covered with grass and no eggs were found outside the nest. Two days later I went back. This time I found seven eggs scattered and the other six eggs in the nest. The nest remained in that condition for about two weeks when I finally found the scattered eggs gone. The remaining eggs were still in the nest when I left 30 July.

One dead Gray Catbird chick was found in a nest from which four chicks had fledged: the cause of death to the fifth is unknown. It was quite large at the time of death.

A Common Yellowthroat that hatched four chicks, fledged only one. Many of the nests

I studied lost one or two from an original clutch of four or five, but this was the only instance in which I encountered only one survivor from four or five hatched chicks.

By far, the most important habitat in regards to population density were the spruce and shrub plantations located near Sections 7 and 17. These two areas produced 90% of the Mourning Dove nests, 62 in all. It was in the spruce plantation near Section 7 that both of the Cedar Waxwing nests were found, and all nine of the Common Grackle nests, eight in Section 17 and one in Section 7. Also a number of American Robins and Gray Catbirds nested in these areas. Also among the nesters to a lesser extent were Common Yellowthroats, Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows.

Other Species Identified

Red-tailed Hawk — two individuals seen every day.
Ring-necked Pheasant — common
Ruffed Grouse — a few sightings
Red-headed Woodpecker — common
Downy Woodpecker — common
Hairy Woodpecker — common
Northern Flicker — common
Great Crested Flycatcher — one sighting
Black-capped Chickadee — common
House Wren — a few sightings
Northern Cardinal — three sightings
Indigo Bunting — one sighting
Dickcissel — common
Eastern Meadowlark — common
Orchard Oriole — common

Conclusions:

I believe the tables provide sufficient information to give a good idea of the bird activity at the two study sites. I would like to comment though, that just because I found only one or two nests of a particular species doesn't mean that they were rare to the area. All of the species that I found nests for were seen regularly. A good example is the Eastern Kingbird; I saw this species every day and in most sections of the management area. They were especially active in July, but I only found two nests. Eastern Meadowlarks and Killdeer were quite common but I could not find a nest for either species and Chris found only one Killdeer nest.

If we had been working in pairs, I believe a significantly higher number of nests would have been found. Several times Chris and I met at the end of the day and sometimes did a bit more nest searching; one of us would always find a nest that the other had just passed up.

Another point I'd like to mention is an

objective of this study was to determine the effects of fertilizers and pesticides on song bird reproduction. As mentioned above, we were not able to reach any conclusion in this respect. This was due to the fact that our work at this stage was strictly in locating and monitoring nests. Without actually performing lab tests on the birds and their eggs, it would be difficult to say exactly what effects these chemicals have had or if problems of reproduction rest solely on loss of habitat. Field and lab tests are planned for future stages of this project and should provide answers to many of the questions raised by this objective. For now, in the management area, there is good species diversity and population density. The agricultural site showed less species diversity and less population density from lack of appropriate habitat, the exception being the two blackbird species. How healthy the populations are remains to be determined.

Avenue Simeon Cañas 7-23, Zona 2, Apto. 7, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

HOW WILD IS THE WORLD? — In a recent publication, the first reconnaissance-level inventory of wilderness and land area was made. The findings suggest that one-third of the global land surface is still wilderness — roughly 18.58 million acres. Antarctica, which is totally wilderness, leads the list of uninhabited areas. Following it are North America (37.5 percent wilderness), the Soviet Union (33.6 percent), Australasia, which included islands in the southwest Pacific (27.9 percent), Asia (13.6 percent) and Europe (2.8 percent). Wilderness is defined as undeveloped land still primarily shaped by forces of nature. Only large blocks of over one million acres were identified. *Less than 20 percent of the identified wilderness areas is legally protected against exploitation.*

Birds of the Flood Control Reservoirs at Rochester — Interim Report

Anne Marie Plunkett

It is now seven months since I first unlocked the gates to the Flood Control Reservoirs WR 6A and WR 4 to begin a two-year assessment of avian usage which I had volunteered to do for The South Zumbro Watershed Joint Powers Board, which administrates the areas. This interim report is being given here and now so that the information I have gathered may be of use to the city and county planners who will be making the determinations as to public and recreational usage of the land around the reservoirs in the upcoming months.

Between 20 April and 30 November 1990, I have observed 159 species of birds during 130 hours and 75 visits. Of these, 152 species were recorded at Reservoir WR 6A, and 97 species at Reservoir WR 4. Given that the bulk of the spring migration of waterfowl had already gone through by the time I began this study, and considering that this study does not yet include our winter birds, I think that the total number I have observed is high. Having birded Olmsted County since the mid 1960s, and having a personal total of 271 species of birds observed in the county, I think I can safely say that I know of nowhere in Olmsted County where such a large number of different species of birds use one given area for their year-round homes, for nesting, for feeding, or for a stop-over during their spring and/or fall migrations. I think this is true because of the biological diversity of both sites, having a mix of diverse habitats; this is especially so at Reservoir WR 6A. Authorities in the science of Ecology are more and more stressing the importance for the future of the planet of managing land in such a way as to maintain the integrity of the landscape, instead of species-specific management which, though possibly benefitting one species, may fracture the biodiversity of the whole area to the detriment of other species and biological communities. I think there is sufficient evidence at this juncture to warrant the preservation of the wholeness of the area

around Reservoir WR 6A, with public and recreational use being such that it fits into that landscape in such a manner as to maintain a unique area for wildlife. I hope that the reasons for my believing this will become apparent from the details presented in this report.

The first two birds which I saw on 20 April 1990 were a Peregrine Falcon (an "endangered" species) at Reservoir WR 4, and an immature Bald Eagle (a "threatened" species) at the Reservoir WR 6A — not a bad start! These reservoirs, as integral parts of the \$112 million Flood Control Project, are the first two completed of the seven planned to regulate the flow of water draining the watersheds surrounding the city of Rochester so as to avoid the consequences of another 100-year flood such as that of 1978 which submerged Rochester and the areas along the creeks which feed into the Zumbro River flowing through the city. Reservoir WR 4 is located to the east of U.S. Highway 63, and WR 6A is to the west of the highway (see Figure 1). Both have 50 foot high dikes holding back 40 acres of water at WR 4 and 72 acres of water at WR 6A. The land owned by the city and county surrounding the lakes encompasses 229.8 and 202.3 acres respectively. A third reservoir, due for completion in 1991 is in the \$1.78 million Chester Woods project which, in addition to flood control, will be a recreation area with a 118 acre lake and a 1300 acre park. Work has also begun on the reservoir on Silver Creek, with completion due in the fall of 1991. Three small reservoirs will be built draining the Cascade Creek watershed northwest of the city, so that in addition to protection from a major flood, the area around Rochester will have seven new lakes within a few years. The impact of this on wildlife should indeed prove interesting.

For now, both reservoirs being off limits to the public provides an excellent opportunity to observe the diverse usage afforded by an integral landscape. Late winter birds, such

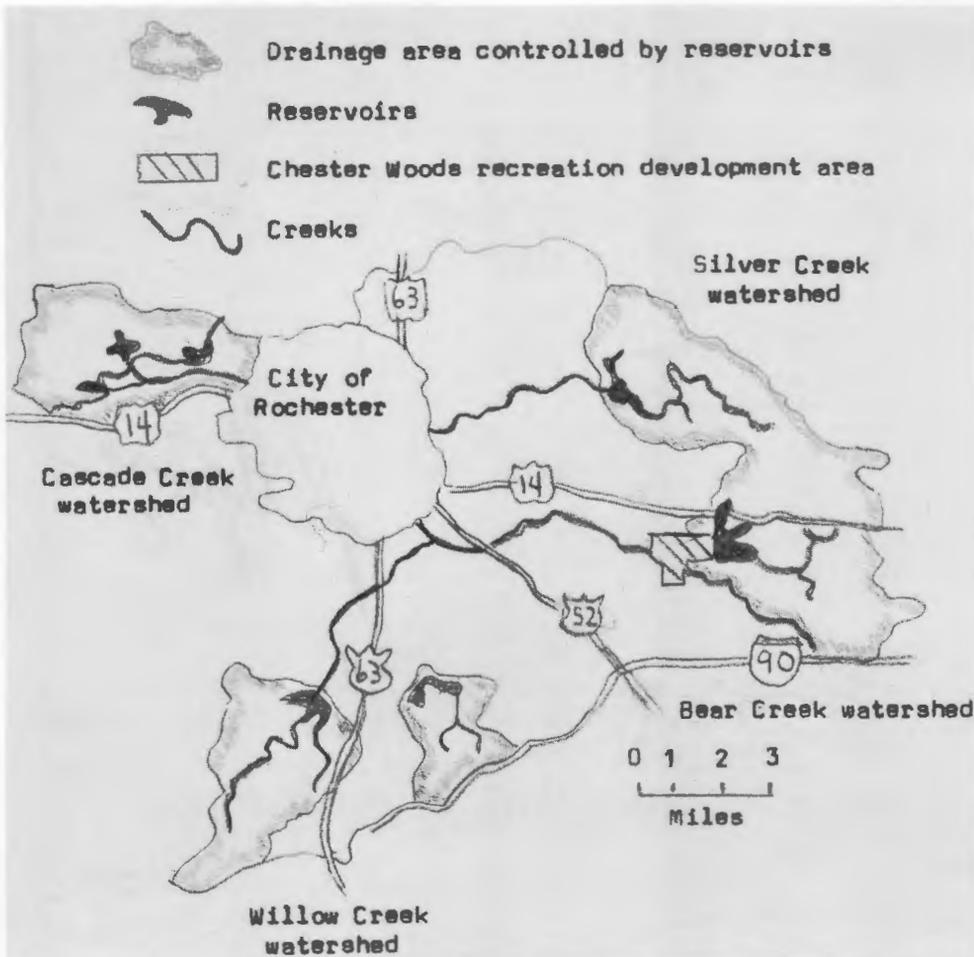


Fig. 1. Rochester's Flood Control Reservoirs.

as Dark-eyed Junco and American Tree Sparrow were seen in late April along the brushy entrance to WR 4, with White-crowned, White-throated and Harris' Sparrows replacing them in early May. On the reservoir was a mix of waterfowl, with Common and Black Terns skimming the water. Three Double-crested Cormorants were continuously present, usually perched in a snag at the edge of the lake. Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Green-backed Herons had all arrived for the summer, as had our usual five species of swallows. As May progressed, the woods along the creek were alive with the song of thrushes, vireos, and warblers. In June, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was frequently seen in that area. The wet meadows below the dike

harbored several Sedge Wrens. Eastern Bluebirds seemed to be everywhere. Quite a mix of birds were using WR 4 in late spring and early summer: 20 species of migrants; 57 summer residents, and 18 resident species.

It was even more active at WR 6A with a late migrant Snow Goose visiting, Horned Larks nesting, several species of shorebirds using the mud flats near the "isthmus" and a few species of hawks (American Kestrel, Swainson's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk) using the neighboring farmland for hunting. I had several sightings of a dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk in the area. Along the drive into the reservoir, in the alfalfa field, were several Bobolinks; Dickcissels were numerous, and there were also Grasshopper Sparrows.



RESERVOIR WR 4

This reservoir was the first flood control reservoir, completed in 1988. Located east of U.S. Highway 63, it helps regulate the flow of Willow Creek into the city; it is one of seven planned surrounding the city. Photo courtesy of *Post Bulletin*.



RESERVOIR WR 6A

Located on the west side of U.S. 63, this flood control reservoir holds back 70 acres of water at depths of up to 19 feet. The dam was completed in 1989, and was the second completed. Photo courtesy of *Post Bulletin*.

Perhaps a highlight of the summer season was the visit of an unusually early fall migrant American Avocet, a very uncommon species in this part of Minnesota. On the "peninsula" Northern Orioles were nesting, and the less common Orchard Oriole was present, as were Warbling Vireos and Eastern Kingbirds — four species which I so often find together. In all, in late spring and early summer, there were 21 migrant species, 64 summer residents, 21 resident inhabitants, and 23 nesting species (of which three, Pied-billed Grebe, Green-winged Teal and Green-backed Heron, have not previously been recorded as nesting in Olmsted County).

The fall season migrants at WR 6A included four Broad-winged Hawks in September, a Cooper's Hawk on 1 October, an immature Northern Goshawk and an adult Golden Eagle in November as well as a Red-breasted Merganser which remained on the

open water through 16 November. The low, muddy areas of the "isthmus" were used by twelve species of shorebirds including both Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers, as well as Long-billed Dowitchers. (Shorebirds are not easy to find in southeastern Minnesota, and are not found much along our many rivers and streams as some might think they would be; they prefer open, extensive areas of mud or marsh.) A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was around for a few days. The oaks to the northwest of the dike, and on the "peninsula" had fewer warblers than I had hoped for, but the sparrows, including a Le Conte's Sparrow, were numerous in the bracken along Willow Creek and more than made up for the missing warblers. In all, 49 Fall Season migrants were recorded during August through November.

Perhaps now it is evident why I think of WR 6A as a logical laboratory for students of wildlife. Keeping this area protected and

undisturbed would ensure for our students of today and their grandchildren a natural area close at hand to schools and colleges where they can hike and study. It is, to my mind,

a unique landscape setting, one that is large enough to attract a marvelous mix, and a place I have certainly felt privileged to assess.

**Summary of bird species observed at Reservoirs WR 6A and WR 4,
Olmsted County, 20 April 1990-30 November 1990
by Anne Marie Plunkett**

Key to data on occurrence

- 1 Resident
- 2 Spring migrant
- 3 Summer resident
- 4 Species nested
- 5 Fall migrant

<u>Species</u>	<u>Reservoir WR 6A</u>					<u>Reservoir WR 4</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Pied-billed Grebe			x	x				x		
Double-crested Cormorant			x					x		
Great Blue Heron			x	x				x		
Great Egret			x					x		
Green-backed Heron			x	x				x		
Snow Goose		x								
Canada Goose			x	x				x	x	
Wood Duck			x	x				x	x	
Green-winged Teal			x	x						
American Black Duck					x					
Mallard			x	x				x		
Northern Pintail					x					
Blue-winged Teal			x					x		
Northern Shoveler		x								
Gadwall					x					
American Wigeon					x		x			
Canvasback					x					
Ring-necked Duck		x					x			
Greater Scaup					x					
Lesser Scaup		x								
Common Goldeneye					x					
Bufflehead		x								
Hooded Merganser			x							
Red-breasted Merganser					x					
Ruddy Duck		x								
Turkey Vulture			x					x		
Bald Eagle		x								
Northern Harrier					x					
Cooper's Hawk					x					
Northern Goshawk					x					

<u>Species</u>	<u>Reservoir WR 6A</u>					<u>Reservoir WR 4</u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Broad-winged Hawk					x					
Swainson's Hawk			x							
Red-tailed Hawk	x					x				
Rough-legged Hawk					x					
Golden Eagle					x					
American Kestrel	x					x				
Peregrine Falcon			x					x		
Gray Partridge	x									
Ring-necked Pheasant	x					x			x	
American Coot			x					x		
Killdeer			x	x				x		
American Avocet					x					
Greater Yellowlegs		x			x					
Lesser Yellowlegs		x			x		x			
Solitary Sandpiper			x							
Spotted Sandpiper			x	x				x	x	
Semipalmated Sandpiper					x					
Least Sandpiper					x					
Baird's Sandpiper					x					
Pectoral Sandpiper		x			x					
Stilt Sandpiper					x					
Long-billed Dowitcher					x					
Common Snipe		x			x					
Ring-billed Gull					x					
Caspian Tern					x					
Common Tern		x					x			
Forster's Tern					x					
Black Tern		x					x			
Rock Dove	x					x				
Mourning Dove			x	x				x	x	
Black-billed Cuckoo								x		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo								x		
Common Nighthawk			x					x		
Chimney Swift								x		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					x					
Belted Kingfisher			x	x				x		
Red-headed Woodpecker			x	x				x		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	x					x				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			x					x		
Downy Woodpecker	x					x				
Hairy Woodpecker	x					x				
Northern Flicker	x					x				
Pileated Woodpecker	x					x				
Olive-sided Flycatcher					x					
Eastern Wood-Pewee			x					x		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					x					
Willow Flycatcher			x							
Least Flycatcher			x					x		
Eastern Phoebe			x					x		
Great-crested Flycatcher								x		
Eastern Kingbird			x	x				x	x	
Horned Lark	x									

<u>Species</u>	<u>Reservoir WR 6A</u>					<u>Reservoir WR 4</u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Tree Swallow			x					x		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			x					x		
Bank Swallow			x					x		
Cliff Swallow			x					x		
Barn Swallow			x					x		
Blue Jay	x			x		x			x	
American Crow	x					x				
Black-capped Chickadee	x					x				
White-breasted Nuthatch	x					x				
Brown Creeper					x					
House Wren			x					x		
Sedge Wren			x					x		
Marsh Wren					x					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					x					
Eastern Bluebird			x	x				x		
Veery							x			
Swainson's Thrush					x		x			
Hermit Thrush					x					
American Robin			x					x	x	
Gray Catbird			x					x		
Brown Thrasher			x					x		
American Pipit					x					
Cedar Waxwing	x									
Northern Shrike					x					
European Starling	x					x				
Solitary Vireo		x					x			
Yellow-throated Vireo			x							
Warbling Vireo			x						x	
Red-eyed Vireo			x						x	
Orange-crowned Warbler					x		x			
Nashville Warbler					x		x			
Yellow Warbler			x						x	
Magnolia Warbler							x			
Yellow-rumped Warbler					x		x			
Palm Warbler		x								
Bay-breasted Warbler					x					
Black and White Warbler							x			
American Redstart			x						x	
Northern Waterthrush		x					x			
Mourning Warbler					x					
Common Yellowthroat			x						x	
Canada Warbler					x					
Northern Cardinal	x						x			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			x						x	
Indigo Bunting			x						x	
Dickcissel			x						x	
American Tree Sparrow					x		x			x
Chipping Sparrow			x						x	
Clay-colored Sparrow			x							
Field Sparrow			x						x	
Vesper Sparrow			x	x					x	x
Savannah Sparrow			x	x					x	

<u>Species</u>	<u>Reservoir WR 6A</u>					<u>Reservoir WR 4</u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Grasshopper Sparrow			x					x		
Le Conte's Sparrow					x					
Fox Sparrow					x					x
Song Sparrow			x	x						
Lincoln's Sparrow		x					x			
Swamp Sparrow			x	x				x		
White-throated Sparrow		x			x		x			
White-crowned Sparrow		x					x			
Harris Sparrow		x					x			
Dark-eyed Junco					x		x			x
Lapland Longspur					x					
Bobolink			x							
Red-winged Blackbird			x					x		
Eastern Meadowlark			x					x		
Western Meadowlark			x					x		
Yellow-headed Blackbird			x							
Rusty Blackbird					x					x
Brewer's Blackbird					x					
Common Grackle	x			x		x				
Brown-headed Cowbird			x					x		
Orchard Oriole			x							
Northern Oriole			x	x				x		
Purple Finch					x					
American Goldfinch	x						x			
House Sparrow	x						x			

Total number of species observed: 159

Total number observed at WR 6A: 152

Total number observed at WR 4: 97

Total hours of observation: 130

Total number of visits: 75

Acknowledgements

I thank the following persons for their assistance in the preparation of this article: Bob Retzlaff and John Weiss of the *Post Bulletin* staff, John Ourada of the Soil Conservation Service, and Ron Halling of the Olmsted County Department of Public Works. 2918 S.W. 15 Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902.

MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS VANISHING — A recent study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has confirmed what many have suspected: America's population of migratory songbirds is rapidly declining. Scientists say the drastic drop they've observed can only be explained by the destruction of tropical forests. Without the protection and resources of the jungle, they say, the flocks starve or become easy prey for hawks, cats, snakes and bird-eating spiders. Among the birds affected are Wilson's Warblers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Wood Thrushes, Northern Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers and American Redstarts. (*U.S. News & World Report*).

Woodland Thunder Stills Thoreau's Desperate Enterprise

Austin Meredith

I have been re-editing Henry David Thoreau's various references to birds, in order to re-create them on a computer disk along with drawings, Audubon paintings, photographs, and recordings of their calls, and while doing this piece of work I have discovered something of great interest. What I found is that, all along, Thoreau scholars have been misunderstanding the remark at the end of *Walden* about hearing "a different drummer!" Here is the remark, which Thoreau first included in 1853 in the seventh draft of *Walden* and finished before the spring of 1854:

Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises? If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away. It is not important that he should mature as soon as an apple-tree or an oak. Shall he turn his spring into summer? If the condition of things which we were made for is not yet, what were any reality which we can substitute? We will not be shipwrecked on a vain reality. Shall we with pains erect a heaven of blue glass over ourselves, though when it is done we shall be sure to gaze still at the true ethereal heaven far above, as if the former were not?

If you can wait a bit, I'll get around to explaining my title "Woodland Thunder Stills Thoreau's Desperate Enterprise." First I must explain that I had assumed that this drummer image that Thoreau used above was merely a militaristic image. I'm an ex-Marine and militarism no longer thrills me. I had assumed that Thoreau was only talking about the drummer-boys of the militia marching on the Commons at the center of Concord, Massachusetts, whacking away on their snare drums as rows of local farm-boys practiced their manual of arms with smoothbore muskets left over from the previous exercise in mutual mass murder, dreaming of returning in a patriotic parade after going someplace

strange, meeting interesting people and killing them, musing on impressing not only their mothers but also other local females.

Concord is in fact surrounded by nearby little towns like Lexington, Lincoln, Bedford, Sudbury, Acton, and Carlyle, each having its own Commons and its own militia and its own drummer-boys and its own tradition of military heroism. All these youths were within earshot of each other, so that they could easily march to the beat of the wrong snare drum and get out of step. Well, I'm more interested in the antics of flocks of birds; I'm not particularly impressed by the antics of gangs of people who only feel safe when they are carrying guns and wearing the same color of cloth. I've done that thing and it is only embarrassing, or it is at best embarrassing and at worst shameful.

The point is, I felt compelled to change my understanding of this image in *Walden* from a militaristic understanding into a natural understanding, immediately when I read the following remark about "the distant drumming of a partridge" from Thoreau's journal of May 11, 1853:

I hear the distant drumming of a partridge. Its beat, however distant and low, falls still with a remarkably forcible, almost painful, impulse on the ear, like veritable little drumsticks on our tympanum, as if it were a throbbing or fluttering in our veins or brows or the chambers of the ear, and belonging to ourselves — as if it were produced by some little insect which had made its way up into the passages of the ear, so penetrating it. It is as palpable to the ear as the sharpest note of a fife. Of course, that bird can drum with its wings on a log which can go off with such a powerful whirl, beating the air. I have seen a thoroughly frightened hen and cockerel fly almost as powerfully, but neither can sustain it long. Beginning slowly and deliberately, the partridge's beat sounds faster and faster from far away under the boughs and

through the aisles of the wood until it becomes a regular roll, but it is speedily concluded. How many things shall we not see and be and do, when we walk there where the partridge drums!

This "walk there where the partridge drums" made me suspect for the first time that Thoreau's different, distant drummer was not a militia drummer-boy but a Ruffed Grouse. You will notice that the draft in which the words about the distant drummer is first included is quite close in time to Thoreau's journal entry for May 11, 1853. Not more than a year later, at the very most. Searching a bit farther, I found in Lync C. Johnson's study of the early drafts of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*,¹ that Thoreau had written the following sometime after July 4, 1845 when he moved to his new little shack at Walden Pond, about the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse:

And do we live but in the present? How broad a line is that? I sit now on a stump whose rings number centuries of growth. If I look around I see that the soil is composed of the remains of just such stumps ancestors to this. The earth is covered with mould — I thrust this stick many aeons deep in its surface. With my heel I make a deeper furrow than the elements have ploughed here for a thousand years, and unearth walnuts and acorns which were buried before the Vedas were written. If I listen I hear the peeping of frogs which is older than the slime of Egypt, or the distant drumming of a partridge on a log — as if it were the pulse beat of the summer air. I raise my fairest and freshest flowers in the old mould. Why what we would fain call new is not skin deep — the earth is not yet stained by it.

Thus, when Thoreau mentions the association between drums and the timeless territorial/sexual urgencies of the Ruffed Grouse in his journal on May 11, 1853, he is returning to an association which had occurred to him at least once before, some eight years earlier.

Turning to my concordance of *Walden*,² I found that the only other references to "drum" are one reference to bird drumsticks and one reference to the natural booming of ice on the surface of Walden Pond under certain changing conditions of weather, a phenomenon that Thoreau first noted in his first winter

at the pond (1845-46). The reference to bird drumsticks is quite relevant because in Thoreau's day people still assumed that the Ruffed Grouse produced its "spring thunder" by thumping on its drumming log. We simply had not yet observed that the drumming noise is produced by air passing between the primary and secondary wing feathers, as the partridge fans its wings so fast they become a blur. The reference to Walden's "ice drum" is also quite interesting, because this drum is a natural drum rather than one produced by human culture. Therefore, in the context of *Walden*, may we not anticipate that a third reference to a drum will also have something to do with nature rather than with human culture? "How many things shall we not see and be and do, when we walk there where the partridge drums!"

One might imagine, at first imagination, that in the context of military music "measured" can only mean "regular." And of course the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse is anything but regular, is not the sort of beat to which any covey of human heroes could stamp their feet in unison. However, Thoreau was not a marcher, he was a walker, a rambler, even a saunterer (read his essay "Walking" in *The Natural History Essays*, Peregrine Smith Books, Salt Lake City, 1988, paperback \$9.95), and the modifying adjective is "however." Although "measured" military music is regular, "however measured" may very well indicate that our devious author was hinting at a secondary meaning that is quite the opposite, of "irregular," and at a secondary kind of marching that is quite different, his "sauntering" in which the prime ingredient is an unfocused absolute attention that devotes one's complete attentiveness to absolutely everything in the world. Because in some better music than military music the "measure" (that is, the time signature: 2/4 time, 4/4 time, 3/8 time, etc.) often alters from "measure" to "measure" (that is, from bar to bar). We can imagine that although the local drummer, the snare drummer of the militia, is hitting a regular hay-foot straw-foot stride for the farm boy marchers on the Commons, our Henry is out in the woods again, sauntering along where he merely hears in the remote distance what is going on in the center of town, hitting no stride but his own stride, paying absolute attention to wildlife and ignoring the urgent demands of his soci-

ety; in fact heeding nothing but the natural urgencies so manifest in the spring thunder of the back fields and the woodlands. A regular birder, he; in the eyes of his fellows a desperate character indeed.

Thus my contention becomes that this image of a natural drummer was what Thoreau had in his mind for us when he wrote this important paragraph in *Walden*. You will note that what the paragraph is about is human desperation! "Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises?" Try thinking about our human desperations in the context of the single-minded, bold, even insolent self-confidence of a drumming grouse, on its stand under God's blue heaven, and you'll have to laugh.

My track record at discovering things, to date, is that I'm usually the last person to notice what has been obvious to everybody else. And yet, I was surprised to find in this case, when I offered my new understanding to a series of Thoreau scholars, it was as new to them as it had been to me. To seriously study Thoreau materials is to constantly be surprised in this way.

Now the image of the drummer can mean a lot more, because we can imagine that Thoreau was not talking up any minor treason

of preferring some one military unit over some other military unit, any minor treason of giving one's loyalty to a political entity other than the political entity that supposes it owns one's loyalty, but was rather talking up a really radical, major treason: the racial treason of honoring the natural urgencies of nonhumans over the rational urgencies of one's own conspecifics. In the 19th Century Thoreau was censored and his protests were ignored, when he attempted to say such things in an article for *The Atlantic Monthly*³ — but we no longer live in the 19th Century and such thoughts about ourselves no longer frighten us. 2860 Kenwood Isles Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

NOTES

1. Pp. 330-1.
2. Ogden, Marlene A. and Keller, Clifton, 1985, *Walden: A Concordance*, Garland Publishing Company, New York.
3. He tried to write a sentence in which he placed himself on a par with a pine tree, and this dangerous thought was censored and Thoreau's protests were ignored by the editor, James Russell Lowell, an event which could qualify Henry as the first martyr of our new nonspeciesist orientation.



BOOK REVIEWS

BOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS
1990. Reader's Digest Association, Inc. 576 pp., 6½"x11", illus. \$32.95.

Although I do not recommend this book for M.O.U. members, I must explain, in fairness, that it is attractive and suitable for your coffee table. Each species treated has a beautiful portrait in color, and the large page size permits much larger pictures than those in

our familiar bird guides. To birders, whether beginners or experienced, the most annoying feature of the book is the order in which the birds are presented. We are so accustomed to the tried and true arrangement which virtually all other bird books use in presenting the species according to their biological classification that the arrangement used here is startling, and not successful. It groups the birds into nine categories: Birds of Prey, Large

Land Birds, Smaller Open Country Birds, Smaller Woodland Birds, Ducklike Birds, Gull Like Birds, Large Wading Birds, Shorebirds, and Special Collections.

As a result of this arrangement many species which are closely related and similar in appearance have their portraits and accounts separated by more than a hundred pages. Examples: Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings, Common and Hoary Redpolls, Purple Finch and House Finch, Boreal and Northern Saw-whet Owls, and a number of other such pairs. Also, the basis for determining the category to which a bird will be assigned is sometimes a bit arbitrary. For example, three of the rails are designated as Ducklike, but the King Rail falls in the Special Collections. In general the birds most commonly seen fall into one of the first eight categories, but the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is among the Smaller Woodland Birds while the Eskimo Curlew falls in the Special Collections. Also, Special Collections includes many species which are regular in some parts of the country, such as the Gray Partridge and the Chukar.

A minor annoyance is the anonymity of the artists and writers. Eighteen artists are listed as responsible for the color portraits of birds but we are not permitted to know who painted what. Most of them are very attractive, but I would be interested in knowing which one did the too-black female Northern Harrier and Greater Yellowlegs, and the unrecognizable Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and who selected the poor poses for the Osprey, the Peregrine Falcon, and the Evening Grosbeak. Of the 16 writers listed for the written accounts, at least three are members of one or more of the scientific ornithological societies, and the accounts are in general accurate and very readable, but anthropomorphisms are occasionally carried to amusing extremes. For instance, in the Black-billed Cuckoo account: "...these wayward parents seem to have a shrewd eye for real estate." Or, for the Lesser Goldfinch: "A male lesser goldfinch (sic) proffers his mate a tidbit as proof of his devotion."

The distribution maps are so small that they are quite unsatisfactory for showing the very restricted distribution of some species, and for some other species they show only the nesting range, not the wintering areas, as for the Snowy Owl and the Hoary Redpoll. One

feels that the committee which produced the book knew very little about birds or birders, and this surprised me because years ago I studied the Reader's Digest book on Australian birds, which was excellent. **Gustav A. Swanson, 1020 E. 17th St., #35, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

THE AUDUBON ARK by Frank Graham, Jr., A History of the National Audubon Society, with Carl W. Bucheister. 1990. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, pp.xi + 335, \$29.95.

The history of the National Audubon Society is virtually the history of the conservation movement in the United States, which makes this account doubly valuable to anyone interested in Audubon or in conservation of natural resources in America. Each important step in our conservation progress is described, with the circumstances which inspired it and the dedicated individuals who persevered over large economic pressures to protect our wildlife resources.

From the very first, ornithologists were the initiators of the wildlife conservation movement. When the American Ornithologists' Union was formed in 1883, it immediately established a bird protection committee and a model bird protection law which it urged the states to adopt. The first Audubon clubs were initiated by George Bird Grinnell in 1886 while he was editor of the sportsmen's magazine *Forest and Stream*. He urged children to join and began Audubon Magazine for its members, but he soon found it too expensive and terminated it.

By 1896, however, some Audubon clubs were formed which continued permanently. In 1899 Dr. Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City began his magazine, *Bird Lore*, with an Audubon Department which served as the means of communication and inspiration for the Audubon club members around the country. The very first issue of *Bird Lore* carried an article by Dr. T.S. Roberts of Minnesota on photography as a tool for bird study. Dr. Roberts was one of the nation's pioneers in this field.

The first decades of the Audubon movement dealt primarily with efforts to protect colonial nesting birds, especially the egrets and herons, from the destruction of their nesting colonies by plume hunters who were col-

lecting bird feathers for the millinery trade. The fashion of the day, hard to imagine now, called for women's hats to be decorated with feathers of virtually any type. One of Frank Chapman's articles in 1899 was entitled "Woman as a Bird Enemy." In 1896 he made two strolls through the Manhattan shopping districts to record the use of bird feathers and skins on women's hats. He recorded 700 hats, of which 542 were decorated with birds and he was able to identify 40 species of birds. In 1900 he proposed in *Bird Lore* the Christmas counts of **live** birds, and that first year 27 persons accepted the challenge and reported their Christmas "bird censuses." The number participating in 1988 had grown to 42,671 as reported in *American Birds*.

From its earliest days Audubon recognized the importance of education for children. William Dutcher began in 1902 what became the thriving Junior Audubon Clubs in the schools. Each child paid ten cents in exchange for a membership button and a series of bird leaflets illustrated with color plates, many of them painted by the outstanding bird artist of his time, Louis Agassiz Fuertes of Cornell University. Many of us got our interest in birds inspired by the Junior Clubs. My first such membership was at the age of eight in the third grade in Minneapolis. By the time I was a member of the Audubon Board of Directors in the 1950s, I was invited to participate in the ceremony to welcome the seven millionth Junior Club member. Today's program for youth is called Audubon Adventures, in which Audubon chapters pay the modest cost of sponsoring classrooms in their nearby schools since it is now against the policy for school teachers to collect the ten cents dues for a third party organization, even Audubon.

An unusual feature of NAS is its system of sharing with the local chapters the dues which it collects from its members. This it initiated under the leadership of Carl Bucheister and Charles Callison. This unusual arrangement makes local chapters able to concentrate their attention on sound programs instead of worrying constantly about their own funding. As a result they participate in a variety of programs of their own choice, often featuring conservation education, research, and lobbying for sound local or state legislation.

Another important feature of Audubon

which it began in its earliest days was actively protecting bird colonies when a basis for legal protection had been achieved. When Theodore Roosevelt was President he responded to Audubon urging and established by executive order a total of 53 wildlife sanctuaries on public lands. The very first of these was Pelican Island off the Florida coast in 1903. Audubon provided the warden protection for some of the federal sanctuaries as well as those it acquired, and in the early years three of its wardens were murdered by commercial plume hunters.

A laudable feature of Audubon programs was their reliance on a scientifically sound backing. The initial leaders of the Audubon movement were all distinguished scientists, and National Audubon has at present a remarkably strong research program of its own. This began in the late 1930s under John Baker with research grants to graduate students at Cornell and the University of California Berkeley for intensive studies of the endangered Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the California Condor, and the appointment of Robert P. Allen as its director of research. An excellent series of monographs of endangered birds resulted, as well as books by Bob Allen. The current research program is concentrated upon ecosystem research with the goal that their sanctuary system should include protection for all major American ecosystems.

Graham includes discussions of the many problems which National Audubon has encountered over the years, of which that with Rosalie Edge and her collaborators in the mid 1930s was outstanding. Her criticism of both Audubon and the federal agency, the Bureau of Biological Survey, was so blatant and so successful that it resulted in toppling the leaders of both organizations. In the case of Audubon, she decried the trapping of muskrats on the Rainey Sanctuary in Louisiana which had been a gift of the Rainey family specifically to preserve high quality wintering habitat for the Snow and Blue Geese. Graham describes how Audubon President John Baker was forced to terminate the muskrat trapping as a result of Rosalie Edge's criticism, but fails to bring out that a few years later it was necessary to resume the trapping of muskrats and nutria to spare the area from complete destruction of its value for the geese. **Gustav A. Swanson, 1020 E. 17th St., #35, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

Breeding Bird Survey Trends In Minnesota — 1966-1989

Robert B. Janssen

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes have been censused in Minnesota since 1966. At present (1990) there are 53 routes in the state (see map; one new route in Sherburne NWR was added in 1990). Each route is 24.5 miles long, with 50 stops at ½-mile intervals. An observer spends three minutes at each stop, counting the number of birds seen and/or heard. The observations are recorded on a prescribed form. After running the survey, the data are totalled and transferred to a composite form and sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, in Laurel, Maryland.

Unfortunately not all BBS routes have been run each year. It has been difficult to find enough observers to cover all of the routes, especially those in remote areas of the northern part of the state.

Each year a summary of all the BBS routes run in Minnesota is sent to me. These compilations contain valuable information on trends in the breeding bird populations in the state. Now the Office of Migratory Bird Management has compiled the total of all BBS routes run in the state since 1966.

These data are presented below. First an explanation of each of the columns:

Species Name: These are listed in checklist order.

Median: This is the rate of change or bend in the population. The numbers are expressed as a **percent** of annual change. For example, the Redhead is declining by an annual rate of 10.6% while the Canada Goose is increasing at an annual rate of 19.2%.

Sign: Represents statistical significance of the trend. Those with no * indicate no significant change in the population; those with * = some significance; ** = more significance; *** = very significant trend.

N: Indicates the number of routes used in the analysis. Estimates based on fewer than

ten routes cannot be used to safely estimate the variance of the population trend.

variance: This is the variance associated with the median trend estimate. For example, the larger the number the less accurate the median number. The 132.95 under Franklin's Gull indicates that the figure-12.9-is very inaccurate.

PINC: The proportion of increasing routes. For example, under Canada Goose (.828) 82.8% of the routes showed an increase; under Redhead (.222) only 22.2% of the routes showed an increase.

PDEC: The proportion of decreasing routes. For example, under Canada Goose (.138) indicates 13.8% of the routes showed a decrease; Redhead (.667) indicates 66.7% of the routes showed a decrease.

PSIG: Is the percentage significant: those with no * indicate no real significance to percent of routes increasing or decreasing; * indicates some significance; ** indicates more significance to the figure; and *** indicates the figure is most significant.

Even though numbers and statistics can be quite boring, I would urge you to look over those species which have either one, two or three asterisks in the third column (trend significance) and in the eighth column (% significance). A glance at these figures will give you a good idea of the increase or decrease in breeding species in the state.

The BBS is not a perfect census of breeding populations in the state but it has extremely valuable data, and, at the very least, the best data we have on the breeding populations in the state.

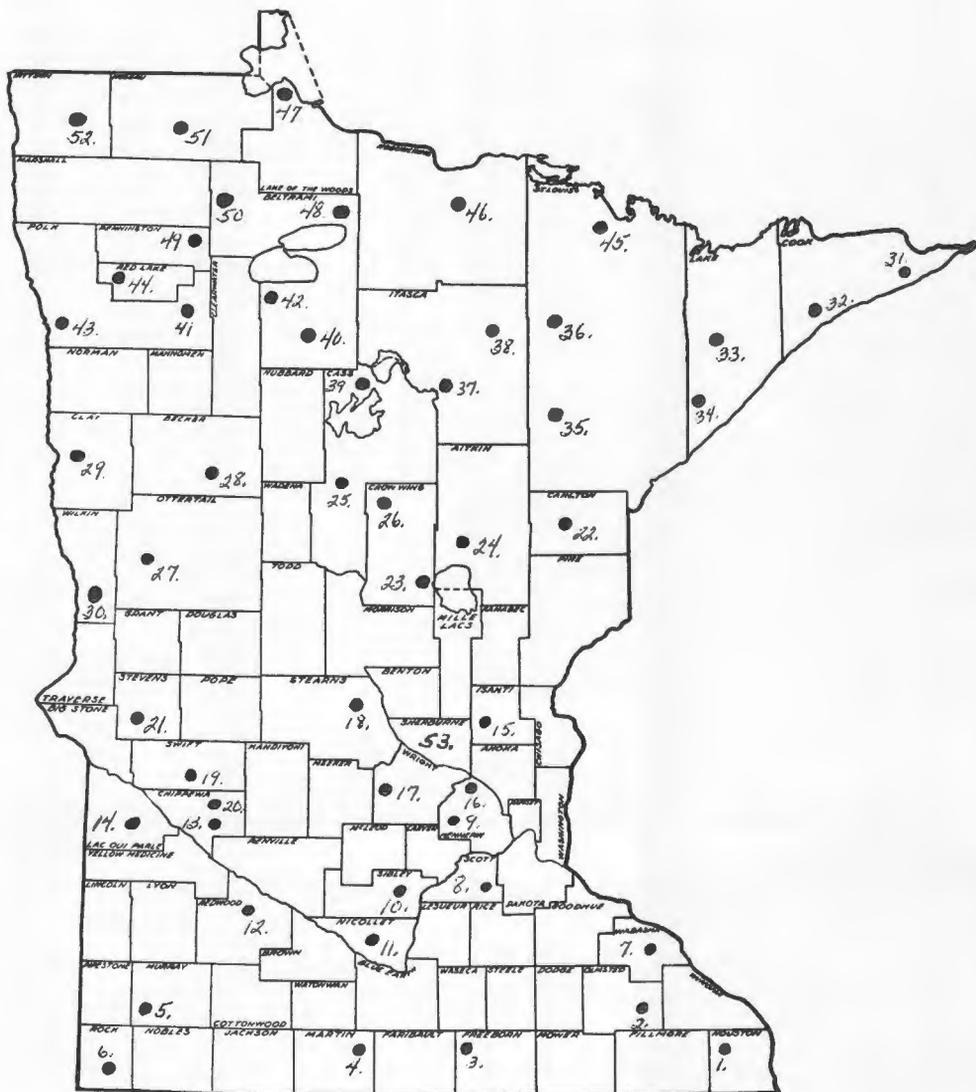
If you haven't run a BBS route and would like to have a challenging 4½-hour early morning birding experience, give me a call. I am sure that some of the routes will need counters in 1991. **10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY TRENDS 1966-89

SPECIES NAME	MEDIAN	SIGN	N	VARIANCE	PINC	PDEC	PSIG
COMMON LOON	3.0		27	6.20	.481	.481	
PIED-BILLED GREBE	.6		33	14.18	.485	.424	
WESTERN GREBE	10.3	*	2	18.35	1.000	.000	
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	13.0	*	9	32.75	.556	.444	
DOUBLE-CREST. CORMORANT	10.9	***	19	12.12	.632	.368	
AMERICAN BITTERN	-4.0		41	7.14	.415	.561	
EASTERN LEAST BITTERN	-5.5		5	31.50	.200	.800	*
GREAT BLUE HERON	1.1		48	2.74	.563	.375	*
GREAT EGRET	9.7	***	14	9.14	.786	.143	***
GREEN-BACKED HERON	1.0		33	1.88	.485	.485	
BLACK-CRN. NIGHT HERON	.4		12	1.54	.583	.417	
CANADA GOOSE	19.2	***	29	17.68	.828	.138	***
WOOD DUCK	-2.0		40	21.87	.550	.450	
AM. GREEN-WINGED TEAL	-1.2		16	1.87	.563	.438	
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	1.9		4	3.41	.750	.250	
MALLARD	2.8	*	52	1.94	.538	.423	
NORTHERN PINTAIL	.4		19	22.21	.579	.421	
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	-.5		44	4.74	.341	.636	*
NORTHERN SHOVELER	-.1		12	.22	.500	.417	
GADWALL	3.3		7	24.55	.429	.571	
CANVASBACK	-3.3		4	26.53	.000	1.000	
REDHEAD	-10.6		9	48.57	.222	.667	
RING-NECKED DUCK	1.8	*	13	.96	.538	.462	
LESSER SCAUP	-.2		8	1.71	.500	.500	
COMMON GOLDENEYE	-3.5		3	11.59	.667	.333	
HOODED MERGANSER	.3		4	1.73	.250	.750	
COMMON MERGANSER	-1.9	**	3	1.47	.000	.667	
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	-1.5		2	65.25	.500	.500	
RUDDY DUCK	-15.4	**	7	39.44	.429	.571	
TURKEY VULTURE	1.6		6	1.11	.500	.500	
OSPREY	1.2		6	1.07	.667	.333	
BALD EAGLE	10.9		3	25.56	.667	.333	
NORTHERN HARRIER	-1.4		39	1.30	.282	.667	**
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	.4		17	.67	.529	.412	
COOPER'S HAWK	.2		10	.48	.600	.300	
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	-.5		3	.89	.333	.667	
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	.0		6	.25	.667	.333	
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	-.1		25	.57	.400	.560	
SWAINSON'S HAWK	3.6	*	10	3.07	.400	.500	
RED-TAILED HAWK	3.8	***	48	.71	.667	.292	***
AMERICAN KESTREL	1.6	*	52	.91	.500	.481	
MERLIN	.0		3	.39	.667	.000	
GRAY PARTRIDGE	-6.9	**	23	8.39	.348	.652	
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	-2.1		33	3.49	.424	.545	
RUFFED GROUSE	-3.2	**	26	1.70	.346	.577	
GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN	7.7	***	3	4.64	.667	.333	
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	-4.1		6	12.79	.167	.833	**
WILD TURKEY	-1.5		4	.98	.500	.500	
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	.8		2	2.48	.500	.500	
YELLOW RAIL	.2		4	.20	.500	.250	
VIRGINIA RAIL	-.4		11	.39	.364	.545	
SORA	-1.9	*	36	1.21	.500	.444	
AMERICAN COOT	-6.9	*	27	11.14	.556	.444	
SANDHILL CRANE	6.2	*	6	16.72	1.000	.000	
KILLDEER	.5		51	.43	.608	.392	

SPECIES NAME	MEDIAN	SIGN	N	VARIANCE	PINC	PDEC	PSIG
WILLET	-.2		4	4.70	.250	.750	
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	-.8		34	.97	.353	.647	*
UPLAND SANDPIPER	-.1		31	6.47	.387	.581	
MARbled GODWIT	-5.9		12	34.25	.500	.500	
COMMON SNIPE	5.5	***	43	2.59	.581	.419	
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	-2.7	***	15	.48	.333	.600	
WILSON'S PHALAROPE	-12.0		6	79.79	.333	.667	
FRANKLIN'S GULL	-12.9		17	134.92	.412	.588	
RING-BILLED GULL	10.6	**	25	23.85	.560	.360	
HERRING GULL	.2		13	10.49	.692	.231	**
CASPIAN TERN	4.0	***	5	.33	1.000	.000	
COMMON TERN	-1.6	**	4	.47	.250	.500	
FORSTER'S TERN	3.1	***	11	1.13	.455	.545	
BLACK TERN	-6.9	***	35	3.33	.286	.657	**
ROCK DOVE	.0		40	1.57	.550	.400	
MOURNING DOVE	-1.4		48	1.32	.521	.458	
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	1.8		52	2.74	.442	.538	
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	2.4		32	6.18	.313	.563	
GREAT HORNED OWL	-1.5		36	1.02	.500	.500	
BARRED OWL	3.3	*	20	3.86	.650	.350	
SHORT-EARED OWL	-3.3	**	8	2.94	.125	.875	***
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	-2.9		23	4.96	.304	.652	
WHIP-POOR-WILL	-2.5		6	6.75	.167	.667	
CHIMNEY SWIFT	2.8		43	3.51	.558	.442	
RUBY-THR. HUMMINGBIRD	1.4	*	28	.63	.500	.464	
BELTED KINGFISHER	-.1		47	.68	.426	.553	
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	-2.5	**	43	1.53	.372	.628	*
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	2.4	**	12	1.10	.583	.333	
YELLOW-BELL. SAPSUCKER	-3.0		35	9.79	.571	.400	
DOWNY WOODPECKER	3.0	***	51	.72	.667	.314	***
HAIRY WOODPECKER	3.2	***	47	.81	.617	.362	**
BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER	-.7		4	1.64	.750	.250	
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	-2.6	***	52	.86	.192	.808	***
PILEATED WOODPECKER	3.4		33	5.24	.576	.333	**
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	-4.1		19	15.92	.474	.526	
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	-1.8	*	47	1.00	.404	.596	
YELLOW-BELL. FLYCATCHER	-.6		9	5.00	.444	.444	
ALDER FLYCATCHER	13.8	***	36	7.04	.722	.222	***
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	1.2		22	1.87	.500	.409	
TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER	-13.9	***	23	6.57	.000	.957	
LEAST FLYCATCHER	-2.6	***	48	.54	.271	.729	***
EASTERN PHOEBE	2.1	***	46	.55	.652	.326	***
GRT. CRESTED FLYCATCHER	-.6		52	.79	.519	.442	
WESTERN KINGBIRD	-.3		23	2.18	.391	.609	
EASTERN KINGBIRD	1.1		52	.71	.481	.519	
HORNED LARK	1.1		39	5.26	.462	.538	
PURPLE MARTIN	.0		45	2.10	.378	.600	
TREE SWALLOW	2.7	***	52	1.13	.692	.288	***
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	-.3		33	1.99	.485	.485	
BANK SWALLOW	-3.3		44	17.16	.409	.545	
CLIFF SWALLOW	3.6	*	48	4.13	.646	.333	***
BARN SWALLOW	2.2		52	1.70	.558	.442	
GRAY JAY	-2.2		11	2.34	.273	.636	
BLUE JAY	2.1	***	51	.62	.706	.294	***
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	9.4	*	9	21.13	.333	.444	
AMERICAN CROW	1.9	**	52	.52	.538	.462	
COMMON RAVEN	2.6		22	2.49	.545	.409	

SPECIES NAME	MEDIAN	SIGN	N	VARIANCE	PINC	PDEC	PSIG
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	6.8	***	50	3.67	.580	.400	
BOREAL CHICKADEE	-.9		4	.45	.250	.750	
TUFTED TITMOUSE	-.1		3	.78	.333	.333	
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	1.8		21	2.13	.667	.333	
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	1.6	*	43	.74	.535	.419	
BROWN CREEPER	4.9	***	4	2.87	1.000	.000	
HOUSE WREN	-.1		51	.69	.431	.569	
WINTER WREN	-.2		16	2.11	.375	.625	
SEDGE WREN	4.9	**	47	3.97	.511	.447	
MARSH WREN	-1.9		29	6.15	.483	.517	
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	-1.7		9	1.38	.444	.556	
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	-6.3	***	19	4.06	.368	.526	
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	.3		3	.40	.667	.333	
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	3.4	**	39	2.22	.564	.410	
VEERY	-1.2		33	.81	.394	.576	
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	.6		14	5.22	.643	.286	*
HERMIT THRUSH	1.3		21	1.26	.667	.333	
WOOD THRUSH	.6		27	7.84	.407	.556	
AMERICAN ROBIN	1.3	*	52	.41	.615	.385	*
GRAY CATBIRD	-.8		52	.69	.365	.635	**
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	.0		2	.00	.000	.000	
BROWN THRASHER	-1.3		52	.78	.308	.673	***
CEDAR WAXWING	1.8	*	45	.95	.533	.444	
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	-.2		9	.18	.222	.556	
EUROPEAN STARLING	1.8		52	1.25	.577	.423	
BELL'S VIREO	-.3		3	.15	.000	1.000	
SOLITARY VIREO	7.6	***	16	6.40	.875	.125	***
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	1.2		23	4.61	.739	.217	***
WARBLING VIREO	.6		47	4.05	.426	.574	
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	-.4		5	.73	.600	.400	
RED-EYED VIREO	.4		48	.41	.458	.500	
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	1.4	**	3	.43	.667	.333	
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER	.5		19	1.91	.526	.421	
TENNESSEE WARBLER	3.1		11	19.52	.455	.455	
NASHVILLE WARBLER	.4		22	.42	.455	.545	
NORTHERN PARULA	.8		16	5.57	.625	.313	*
YELLOW WARBLER	2.3		48	2.12	.458	.521	
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	-.2		27	.46	.481	.481	
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	2.0		15	10.79	.667	.267	**
CAPE MAY WARBLER	1.5		9	10.82	.222	.667	
BLACK-THR. BLUE WARBLER	.8		7	1.69	.286	.714	
MYRTLE WARBLER	2.0		20	2.69	.700	.300	*
BLACK-TH. GREEN WARBLER	.9		16	3.15	.500	.438	
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	-1.0		19	.73	.421	.579	
PINE WARBLER	7.0	***	11	5.29	.636	.364	
PALM WARBLER	15.9	**	3	30.40	.667	.000	
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	-1.3		6	1.97	.500	.333	
BLACK-&-WHITE WARBLER	.3		23	.97	.652	.348	
AMERICAN REDSTART	-2.9	***	39	.91	.436	.538	
OVENBIRD	.6		37	.51	.486	.486	
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	2.8	***	15	1.17	.600	.267	**
CONNECTICUT WARBLER	2.5		20	4.27	.600	.300	**
MOURNING WARBLER	.8		24	1.60	.708	.250	***
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	.6		52	.42	.538	.462	
WILSON'S WARBLER	2.0		4	13.20	1.000	.000	
CANADA WARBLER	.0		15	8.00	.533	.400	
SCARLET TANAGER	2.5	***	38	.83	.605	.395	
NORTHERN CARDINAL	7.2	***	18	5.82	.500	.444	



Location (starting points) of the 53 Breeding Bird Census Routes in Minnesota. Map by Robert B. Janssen.

SPECIES NAME	MEDIAN	SIGN	N	VARIANCE	PINC	PDEC	PSIG
ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK	-.4		50	.92	.540	.460	
BLUE GROSBEAK	24.1	*	2	116.67	.500	.500	
INDIGO BUNTING	-.9		47	1.23	.468	.468	
DICKCISSEL	-4.0		32	9.25	.469	.469	
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	2.8		16	7.63	.563	.438	
CHIPPING SPARROW	1.5		51	.93	.549	.451	
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW	.6		45	.54	.533	.422	
FIELD SPARROW	-.7		28	.67	.393	.571	
VESPER SPARROW	-3.3	***	44	1.29	.409	.568	
LARK SPARROW	-5.6		8	20.65	.375	.500	
LARK BUNTING	.0		2	.00	.000	.000	
SAVANNAH SPARROW	-1.5		49	1.19	.449	.551	
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	-5.9	***	43	2.06	.326	.651	**
LE CONTE'S SPARROW	5.5	***	17	4.27	.765	.176	***
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW	-1.0		4	1.23	.500	.250	
SONG SPARROW	.5		52	.52	.577	.423	
LINCOLN'S SPARROW	1.0		12	5.54	.583	.417	
SWAMP SPARROW	2.2		41	2.10	.610	.317	***
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	.4		26	2.22	.423	.577	
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	1.3		13	6.82	.462	.462	
BOBOLINK	-2.0		46	2.01	.413	.587	
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	.7		52	.57	.519	.481	
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	-2.5		30	2.38	.467	.500	
WESTERN MEADOWLARK	-6.4	***	46	.91	.239	.739	***
YELLOW-HEAD. BLACKBIRD	-1.8		37	4.73	.514	.432	
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	-6.1		3	9.86	.333	.333	
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	3.9		43	10.48	.605	.395	
COMMON GRACKLE	-.2		51	.51	.510	.471	
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	-3.6	***	51	.73	.176	.824	***
ORCHARD ORIOLE	7.9	*	16	14.85	.750	.188	***
BALTIMORE ORIOLE	2.4	**	50	.91	.540	.460	
PURPLE FINCH	.8		28	1.72	.464	.464	
RED CROSSBILL	-28.0	**	7	171.86	.286	.714	
PINE SISKIN	-4.1	*	13	4.96	.308	.692	
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	1.9		52	1.49	.538	.462	
EVENING GROSBEAK	-1.9		14	37.42	.429	.571	
HOUSE SPARROW	2.9	*	45	2.75	.533	.422	

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Bold-faced species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the state.
2. Bold-faced dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence either earlier or later or within the earliest or latest dates listed in *Birds in Minnesota* (Janssen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold-faced counties (**Aitkin**) indicates a county of first or unusual occurrence for that species. City of **Duluth** also bold face when applicable.
4. Counties in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. [] — species for which there is reasonable doubt as to origin or wildness.



The Spring Season (1 March to 31 May 1990)

Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson, Kim Risen and Dick Ruhme

Foreword by Robert B. Janssen

Spring 1990 was dominated by the wind; it seemed it was windy just about everyday. Wind is definitely a negative factor as far as birding is concerned, and as a result, Spring 1990 was not a spectacular season for most birders.

March came in like a lamb over most of the state with the temperature reaching 60° on 1 March. A week later there was snow, a pattern typical for March in Minnesota. A record high temperature of 69° was recorded in the Twin Cities on the 12th, and a temperature of 62° on the 14th tied the record high. Northwest winds were very strong from the 17th to the 22nd bringing lots of clouds, precipitation and low temperatures. Skies cleared by the 24th, but it stayed cold. A warming trend by the end of the month helped keep the average temperature at 7° above normal in the Twin Cities. The 3.66 inches of March precipitation in the Twin Cities was 1.95 inches above normal.

April continued windy. The first few days of the month saw snow and 30 mph winds which brought most migration to a halt. The roller-coaster weather of March continued into April; by the 11th temperatures were back into the 50s and 60s across the state. The winds blew just about every day and, as the winds changed to the south, temperatures began to rise. On the 21st, it was a summer-like 79° in the Twin Cities, and by the 23rd a record high of 86° was recorded there. Winter wouldn't give up totally; as five to six inches of snow fell on the 29th across northern regions of the state. April, as last year, was wetter than normal over most of the state, but the drought continued in the northwest.

May continued the pattern of cold and windy, and hot and windy. For example, on the 2nd it was clear, cold and windy with the temperature in the 20s, but by the 7th the winds changed and the temperature rose into the 90s across the southern part of the state.

By the 17th, which is usually peak migration time for many Minnesota species, it was cold and windy with a temperature in the 30s and 40s. By the end of the month, it was summer-like but it continued to be windy.

There were a number of interesting birds recorded during Spring 1990, probably the most interesting being the Long-billed Curlew which spent four days in a Rice County field feeding on angle worms (*The Loon* 62:167-168). Thank goodness there are some farmers like Larry Ritchie, who don't soak their fields with pesticides and herbicides! A Green-tailed Towhee, only the second record for the state, spent the morning of 13 May in a residential yard in Moorhead, Clay County.

A White-faced Ibis spent a week in Dakota and Hennepin Counties during late April, giving Twin City birders a good chance to increase their county lists. Another White-faced Ibis spent five days in early May at a small pond near New Ulm, Brown County.

A Rock Wren spent a few hours "prowling around" the Control Data building in Bloomington, Hennepin County 29 April; fortunately Bruce Fall and his class were watching Peregrine Falcons in the area at the time.

The male Mountain Bluebird at Crow-Hasan Park in northern Hennepin County in early March was seen and photographed at close range by many birders.

Other highlights of Spring 1990 included Ross' Geese in Winona and Lac Qui Parle Counties; a Eurasian Wigeon in Goodhue County; Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Goodhue and Carver Counties; a Say's Phoebe at Big Stone NWR; a Carolina Wren during most of the season in Houston County; a Barrow's Goldeneye at Sherburne NWR; and a Western Tanager in Otter Tail County; a Red-throated Loon, two Parasitic Jaegers and a Little Gull during M.O.U.'s Duluth-North Shore Birding Weekend; and a large cooperative flock of breeding-plumaged Smith's Longspurs during the M.O.U. Salt Lake Weekend. The most spectacular event, in my opinion, during Spring 1990 was the concentration of shorebirds and waterfowl at the Milroy WMA in Redwood County during late April and into mid-May (*The Loon* 62:162-163). This area was a birders' paradise. Hurrah for wildlife management areas!

RED-THROATED LOON

Only report 5/26 Duluth KE, PB (*The Loon* 62:170-171).

Common Loon

Early south 3/29 Olmsted JB, 3/30 Hennepin AB, 3/31 Cottonwood ED, Scott AP and Washington BL; early north 4/8 Otter Tail SDM, 4/10 Lake DV, 4/13 Morrison AB. One on 5/6 Rock PG.

Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3/12 Olmsted JB, 3/21 Cottonwood ED and Rice TB, OR: early north 4/2 Lake DV, 4/6 Todd PH, 4/7 Beltrami DJ.

Horned Grebe

Early south 3/30 Hennepin AB, 4/5 Washington TEB, 4/15 Murray PS; early north 4/15 St. Louis KE, 4/20 Lake DV, 4/22 Aitkin WN.

Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4/12 Sherburne SNWR, 4/18 Hennepin SC, 5/2 Waseca KV; early north 4/15 Aitkin SC, 4/20 St. Louis KE, 4/21 Marshall MO.

Eared Grebe

Early south 4/8 Rock AB, 4/28 Steele KV, 5/3 Big Stone SC; early north 4/25 Polk PS, 5/3 Beltrami DJ, 5/6 Wilkin MO, also 5/17 Duluth mob.

Western Grebe

Early south 4/22 Lincoln PS, 4/28 Big Stone TEB, Lac Qui Parle mob, Swift AB.

American White Pelican

Early south 3/12 Rice OR, 4/7 Lac Qui Parle AB, 4/8 Lyon HK, Martin BB; early north 4/7 Traverse SDM, 4/14 Grant RJ, Mille Lacs WN.

Double-crested Cormorant

Early south 3/21 Rice OR, 3/27 Blue Earth JCF, 3/30 Dakota mob; early north 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/10 St. Louis AE, 4/13 Douglas RJ.

American Bittern

Early south 4/27 Olmsted JB, BSE, 5/2 Steele KV, 5/5 Hennepin AB, OJ; early north 4/19 Beltrami DJ, Otter Tail SDM and St. Louis KE.

Least Bittern

Only report: 5/11 Rock PG.

Great Blue Heron

Early south 3/10 Rice TB, OR, 3/12 Cottonwood ED, Olmsted JB; early north 3/20 Todd PH, 3/21 Clay LCF, 3/28 Otter Tail SDM.

Great Egret

Early south 3/27 Blue Earth JCF, 3/29 Houston EMF, 4/5 Olmsted JB; early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 4/22 Clay LCF, 5/6 Mille Lacs WN.

Snowy Egret

All reports 4/28 Lac Qui Parle mob, 5/7 Rock PG, 5/11 Yellow Medicine RJ.

Cattle Egret

All reports 4/20 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 5/5 Rice AB, RJ, 5/12 Wabasha BL, 5/26 Kandiyohi and Lyon HK.

Green-backed Heron

Early south 4/24 Dakota GP, SC, Mower RRR, 4/25 Le Sueur EK; early north 5/3 Otter Tail SDM, 5/15 Clay LCF, 5/18 Carlton LW, Cass AB.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Early south 3/28 Hennepin SC, 4/21 Lincoln PS, Lyon AB; early north 4/29 Otter Tail SDM, 5/15 Beltrami fide DJ.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Only report 5/24 Cass PS.

WHITE-FACED IBIS

4/23-29 Dakota and Hennepin mob (*The Loon* 62:154-156); 5/8-12 Brown JS (*The Loon* 62:159-160).

Tundra Swan

Early south 3/20 Dakota JD, Washington TEB; early north 3/21 Grant SDM, 3/29 Clay MM, Beltrami fide DJ; late south 5/6 Big Stone AB, 5/10 Sibley RJ.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Early south 3/10 Nobles RJ, 3/11 Cottonwood AP, and Murray AP, ED; early north 4/8 Clay LCF, 4/28 Duluth JG; late south 5/11 Rock RJ, 5/23 Hennepin AB, DB, OJ; no late reports north.

Snow Goose

Early south 3/9 Murray ND, Pipestone JP; early north 3/3 Otter Tail SDM, 3/12 Hubbard BK; late south 5/24 Mower JM, 5/27 Cottonwood ED; late north 4/22 Marshall, Polk DJ.

ROSS' GOOSE

Reported 4/15 Winona AP (*The Loon* 62:117-118), 4/28 Lac Qui Parle mob, 5/11 RG, RJ (*The Loon* 62:168).

Canada Goose

Reported from 33 counties south, 18 counties north.

Wood Duck

Early south 3/2 Nicollet JCF, 3/8 Nobles ND, 3/9 Cottonwood ED; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 Aitkin WN, 4/1 Clay LCF.

Green-winged Teal

Early south 3/8 Cottonwood ED, 3/11 Murray and Cottonwood AP, Faribault, CJF Murray CJF, AP; early north 3/13 Grant SDM, 3/30 Cass PH, 3/31 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail MO, St. Louis DE.

American Black Duck

Late south 4/7 Anoka SC, Kanabec RJ.

Mallard

Reported from 34 counties south, 15 counties north.

Northern Pintail

Early south 3/2 Blue Earth JCF, 3/4 Cottonwood ED, Watonwan AB; early north 3/9 Otter Tail SDM, 3/30 Cass PS, Cook KMH.

Blue-winged Teal

Early south 3/13 Rice OR, 3/14 Fillmore GMD, Winona CS; early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/30 Todd PH, 3/31 Aitkin WN.

Northern Shoveler

Early south 3/10 Rice TB, OR, Martin BB, 3/11 Dakota AB, Faribault JCF, Watonwan AP; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/21 Beltrami DJ, 3/31 Aitkin WN.

Gadwall

Early south 3/9 Cottonwood ED, Rice TB, OR; 3/10 Houston FL, Jackson RJ, AP; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 4/14 Marshall AB, 4/16 Clay LCF.

EURASIAN WIGEON

4/3 Goodhue JLa (*The Loon* 62:116).

American Wigeon

Early south 3/1 Cottonwood ED, 3/3 Blue Earth JCF, 3/4 Watonwan AB; early north 3/13 Grant SDM, 3/31 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail MO.

Canvasback

Early south 3/2 Nicollet JCF, 3/4 Cottonwood ED, Watonwan AB; early north 3/13 Grant SDM, 3/31 Otter Tail MO, 4/1 Clay LCF.

Redhead

Early south 3/1 Dakota JD, 3/3 Cottonwood ED, 3/4 Nicollet JCF, Watonwan AB; early north 3/13 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Clay LCF, 3/14 Polk AB.

Ring-necked Duck

Early south 3/1 Brown JSp, 3/4 Blue Earth

CJF, 3/10 Cottonwood RJ, four other locations; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 Aitkin WN, St. Louis KE.

Greater Scaup

Early south 3/3 Olmsted BSE, 3/4 Scott AB, 3/11 Murray AP; early north 3/30 Cass PS, 4/19 Koochiching GM, 3/22 Aitkin WN, Pine AB.

Lesser Scaup

Early south 3/1 Dakota JDM, Scott RH, 3/2 Nicollet JCF; early north 3/17 St. Louis AE, 4/1 Clay LCF, 4/6 Todd PH.

Oldsquaw

3/3 Duluth KE, 5/6 Duluth ME, 5/12 Steele KV, 5/12-31 Goodhue BL, mob.

Surf Scoter

5/5 Duluth KE, 5/20 Duluth MSt, 5/23-27 Hennepin mob (*The Loon* 62:166).



Oldsquaw, 31 May 1990, Sand Point, Frontenac, Goodhue County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

White-winged Scoter

4/21-28 Yellow Medicine RA, RJ, PS, 4/25-5/11 Hennepin SC, 5/5-26 Duluth KE, 5/27-28 Cook KE.

Common Goldeneye

Late south 4/18 Ramsey AB, 4/28 Hennepin SC, 5/4 Winona CS.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

3/29-4/13 Sherburne SNWR (*The Loon* 62:165).

Bufflehead

Early south 3/4 Cottonwood ED, 3/10 Houston FL, Pipestone ND; early north 3/31 St. Louis DE, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/8 Itasca TS; late south 5/4 Steele BSE, 5/11 Hennepin SC.

Hooded Merganser

Early south 3/2 Olmsted JB, 3/4 Watonwan AB, 3/9 Cottonwood ED; early north 3/31 St. Louis AE, DE, Aitkin WN, 4/1 Cook OSL, Otter Tail SDM.

Common Merganser

Late south 4/20 Hennepin SC, Le Sueur LF, 4/21 Lyon AB.

Red-breasted Merganser

Early south 3/12 Blue Earth JCF, Washington BL, 3/16 Cottonwood fide ED; early north 3/31 Otter Tail SDM, 4/8 Aitkin WN, 4/13 Wadena AB.

Ruddy Duck

Early south 3/12 Lac Qui Parle FE, Martin BB, 3/16 Blue Earth BB; early north 4/13 Douglas RJ, 4/22 Pine AB, Polk DJ.

Turkey Vulture

Early south 3/13 Rice OR, Wabasha WDM, 3/15 Fillmore NAO; early north 3/20 Becker BK, 4/3 Lake DV, 4/6 Aitkin WN.

Osprey

Early south 4/9 Mower RRR, 4/18 Olmsted BSE, Houston RJ, Mower AP; early north 3/24 Aitkin WN, 4/1 Clay LCF, 4/13 Todd AB. On 5/11 Rock PG.

Bald Eagle

Reported from 24 counties south, 16 counties north.

Northern Harrier

Early south 3/4 Brown JSp, 3/11 Blue Earth JCF, Rice OR; early north 3/10 Aitkin WN, 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/15 St. Louis GS.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Early south 3/4 Rice TB, 3/19 Hennepin RM, 3/24 Olmsted BSE; early north 3/2 Aitkin WN, 3/25 Clay LCF, 3/31 St. Louis DE.

Cooper's Hawk

Early south 3/11 Murray AP, 3/21 Dakota JD, 3/26 Ramsey DZ; early north 4/4 St. Louis PS, 4/7 Grant SDM, 4/13 Clearwater AB.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Early south 3/11 Houston FL, 3/20 Washington WL, 3/25 Dakota PS, Goodhue AB, Hennepin RA; early north 3/10 Crow Wing WN, 3/25 Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Morrison DO.

Broad-winged Hawk

Early south 4/15 Fillmore GMD, 4/21 Anoka GP, Mower JM, Steele VK; early north 4/1 Clay LCF, 4/14 Itasca TS, 4/21 Aitkin SDM, WN.

Swainson's Hawk

Early south 4/7 Lac Qui Parle AB, 4/13 Swift DO; early north 4/15 Otter Tail SDM, 5/2 Clay LCF.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from 33 counties south, 12 counties north.

Ferruginous Hawk

Reported 5/26 Pennington KSS.

Rough-legged Hawk

Late south 4/28 Hennepin DB, 5/2 Meeker RJ, 5/11 Olmsted JB; late north 4/29 Marshall KSS, 5/9 Otter Tail SDM, 5/19 St. Louis TW.

Golden Eagle

Late south 4/6 Goodhue AP, 4/17 Cottonwood fide ED, 5/12 Dakota JD; north 3/24 Carlton DE, MSt.

American Kestrel

Early north 3/7 Wilkin SDM, 3/9 Cook WP, 3/13 Mahnomen RJ.

Merlin

Only reports: 3/17 Waseca AP, 4/22 Rock PG.

Peregrine Falcon

Early south 4/12 Sherburne SNWR, 4/16 Olmsted AP, 5/1 Chisago JD; early north 4/8 Clay LCF, 4/13 Becker RJ, 4/22 Marshall DJ. (See *The Loon* 62:117 for spring records in Otter Tail County).

Prairie Falcon

Reported 4/22 Polk DJ, 5/13 Clay MM, 5/20 Clay LCF.

Gray Partridge

Reported from 34 counties south, six counties north.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from 10 north and 36 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

All reports: 3/3-4/18 Lake mob, 3/7 St. Louis fide KE, 3/30 St. Louis KMH, 4/23 Cook KMH.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 15 north and 12 south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

All reports: 4/1-5/19 Clay mob, 5/19 Polk PS.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Pine and Polk Counties.

Wild Turkey

Reported from Fillmore, Houston and Olmsted Counties.

Northern Bobwhite

All reports: 4/11 Fillmore AP, 4/17 Houston EMF.

Yellow Rail

Only report: 5/7-5/31 Aitkin mob, maximum 24 calling 5/20.

Virginia Rail

Early south 4/24 Mower JM, 4/28 Cottonwood RJ, Freeborn AP and Waseca AP; early north 5/2 St. Louis SW/MS, 5/20 Aitkin WN.

Sora

Early south 4/21 Hennepin, 4/24 Mower JM and Washington DS; early north 4/21 Aitkin WN, 4/22 Clay LCF, 5/2 St. Louis SW/MS.

American Coot

Early south 3/1 Olmsted BSE, Winona FL, 3/9 Cottonwood ED; early north 3/31 Otter Tail SDM, 4/13 Clearwater AB, 4/20 St. Louis TW and 4/21 Aitkin WN.

Sandhill Crane

Early south 3/18 SNWR, 3/22 Anoka SC, 3/30 Dakota and Goodhue JD; early north 3/26 Aitkin DV, 3/29 Clay MM, 4/6 Pennington KSS.

Black-bellied Plover

All reports: 4/15 Lake DV, 4/21 Lyon AB, BL, 5/13 St. Louis TW, 5/17 Martin BB, 5/18 Mower RRK and Nicollet JCF, 5/19 Polk PS, 5/20 Winona RJ, AP, 5/26 Big Stone GS, 5/27 Washington DS.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early south 4/2 Cottonwood ED, 4/21 Redwood AB, BL, Renville and Yellow Medicine PS; late south 5/12 Pope and Stearns RJ, 5/18 Lyon HK, 5/20 Wabasha RJ, AP; only north reports 4/26 St. Louis TW, 4/28 Clay MO, 5/6 Wilkin SDM.

Semipalmated Plover

Early south 4/25 Le Sueur AP, Rock PG, 4/27 Houston AP, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle CMB and Lyon HK; early north 4/23 St. Louis TW, 4/25 Polk PS, 4/29 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/25 Goodhue AP, 5/26 Le Sueur MF; late north 5/26 Aitkin WN and St. Louis TW, Clearwater AB.

Piping Plover

All reports: 5/3 Duluth PS, 5/12 Frontenac, Goodhue Co. BL, DZ, 5/15-5/19 Duluth mob. (Second consecutive year in Duluth after a three-year absence.)

Killdeer

Early south 3/4 Washington TEB, 3/7 Fillmore NAO, Blue Earth BB; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/13 Aitkin WN and St. Louis MST.

American Avocet

All reports 4/19 Duluth (7) PS and Pine

(2) LD (*The Loon* 62:153-154), 4/21 Carver (6) SC, GP, Redwood AB, BL and Yellow Medicine PS, 4/28 Big Stone (13) PS, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 5/11 Big Stone RJ, 5/12 Yellow Medicine RJ, 5/16 Lyon PS, 5/28 Clearwater AB.

Greater Yellowlegs

Early south 4/8 Martin BB, 4/9 Blue Earth JCF, 4/12 Pipestone JP; early north 4/14 Mille Lacs SC, 4/19 St. Louis KE, PS, 4/20 Todd PH; late south 5/17 Lyon HK, 5/18 Dodge BSE and Hennepin SC, 5/22 Winona CS; late north 5/27 Polk AB, 5/30 St. Louis SDM.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Early south 4/13 Anoka SC and Wabasha WDM, 4/14 Pope BH and Lac Qui Parle CMB, 4/15 Fillmore GMD and Nicollet JCF; early north 4/19 Lake SW/MS and St. Louis KE, PS, 4/22 Aitkin WN and Carlton AB; late south 5/20 Winona RJ, 5/23 Hennepin SC, 5/24 Winona CS; late north 5/20 Aitkin WN and Clay LCF, 5/27 Polk AB.

Solitary Sandpiper

Early south 4/17 Lyon HK, 4/24 Mower RRK, 4/26 Hennepin mob and Olmsted JB; early north 4/26 St. Louis KE, 4/30 Lake DV, 5/5 Aitkin WN; late south 5/18 Renville GS, 5/24 Hennepin SC; late north 5/20 Crow Wing AB, 5/28 Cook DJ.

Willet

Early south 4/16 Rock PG, 4/21 Martin BB, 4/25 Blue Earth AP; late south 5/11 Hennepin DC, 5/12 Stevens RJ, 5/18 Mower RRK and Nicollet JCF; all north reports 4/20 Duluth MST, PS, 4/28 Pine TEB, 4/29 Duluth (20) MST and Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Lake DV.

Spotted Sandpiper

Early south 4/14 Lyon HK, 4/25 SNWR, 4/26 Winona CS; early north 4/26 St. Louis TW, 5/5 Aitkin WN, 5/10 Lake DV.

Upland Sandpiper

Early south 4/25 Rock PG, 4/27 Blue Earth MF, 4/28 Cottonwood RJ, Lac Qui Parle AB and Lyon HK; early north 4/28 Clay MO, 4/29 Otter Tail SDM, 5/17 St. Louis KE.

Whimbrel

Only reports: 5/17 St. Louis (25) KE, 5/26-27 Cook mob.

Winter 1990

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

4/23-26 Rice LR et al. (*The Loon* 62:167-168).

Hudsonian Godwit

Early south 4/15 Redwood DC, 4/20 Rock PG, 4/24 Scott RJ, 5/1 Hennepin CHO (*The Loon* 62:114); late south 5/20 Olmsted JB, 5/23 Redwood RJ, KV, 5/24 Nicollet JCF; all north reports 4/19-26 Duluth mob., 5/13 Grant (80) SDM, 5/20 Becker MO, 5/27 Polk AB. On 5/11 300 present in Lac Qui Parle County RJ.

Marbled Godwit

Early south 4/7 Lac Qui Parle SMB, 4/14 Lyon BL, 4/15 Redwood DC; early north 4/11 Becker PS, 4/13 Mahnomen RJ, 4/15 Otter Tail SDM.

Ruddy Turnstone

All reports: 5/14 Steele KV, 5/15 Duluth PC, 5/16 Redwood PS, 5/18 Nicollet JCF, 5/19 Wabasha BL, 5/20 Goodhue SC, GP and Olmsted mob, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle GS, 5/23 Redwood RJ, 5/26 St. Louis TW, 5/27 Cook KMH, Goodhue AP, 5/28 Clearwater AB.

Red Knot

All reports: 5/19 Blue Earth MF, 5/26 Duluth KE.

Sanderling

Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle MB, 5/2 Rock PG, 5/11 Big Stone RJ; early north 5/11 Aitkin KR and Clay LCF, 5/12 Mille Lacs KR, PS, 5/15 St. Louis PC; late south 5/23 Carver RJ and Olmsted BSE, 5/28 Lyon HK; late north 5/26 St. Louis TW, 5/28 Clay LCF.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early south 4/27 Mower RRK and Olmsted JB, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Lyon HK and Yellow Medicine RJ; early north 4/29 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 Polk PS, 5/13 Wilkin MO; late south 5/26 Big Stone GS, 5/27 Goodhue, Rice and Wabasha AP, 5/29 Hennepin SC; late north 5/26 Aitkin WN, 5/27 Clay GS, 5/28 Clearwater AB.

Least Sandpiper

Early south 4/24 Murray ND, 4/25 Le Sueur AP, 4/26 Mower JM and SNWR; early north 4/23 St. Louis DK, 5/13 Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/23 Houston

EMF, 5/24 Winona CS, 5/26 Le Sueur MF and Washington DS; late north 5/26 Aitkin WN and Clay GS, 5/27 Red Lake AB.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Early south 4/28 Big Stone PS and Lac Qui Parle CMB, 5/4 Rock PG, 5/9 Steele AP; early north 5/13 Wilkin MO, 5/17 St. Louis KE; late south 5/26 Washington DS, 5/27 Goodhue AP; late north 5/27 Polk AB, 5/28 Clearwater AB.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early south 3/24 Pipestone ND, JP, 4/8 Dakota JD, 4/16 Rock PG, 4/21 Martin BB, Redwood AB and Yellow Medicine PS; late south 5/26 Le Sueur MF, 5/29 Sherburne KR; only north report 5/6 Wilkin MO.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Early south 4/5 Cottonwood GS, 4/13 Blue Earth MF, 4/15 Nicollet JCF; early north 4/22 Aitkin WN, 4/23 St. Louis MST, 4/29 Clay LCF; late south 5/20 Wabasha AP, 5/26 Big Stone GS; late north 5/14 Otter Tail SDM, 5/20 Clay GS.

Dunlin

Early south 4/24 Scott RJ, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle AB, CMB and Lyon HK, 5/2 Rock PG; early north 4/26 Pennington PS, 5/13 Clay LCF, Grant SDM and Wilkin MO; late south 5/26 Blue Earth MF, 5/27 Anoka GP, Goodhue and Wabasha AP, 5/31 Washington DS; late north 5/27 Red Lake AB, 5/28 Clearwater AB, 5/30 Lake DV.

Stilt Sandpiper

All reports: 5/12 Rock PG, 5/13 Otter Tail SDM and Wilkin MO, 5/14 Hennepin SC and Murray ND, 5/23 Redwood RJ.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Only report: 5/19 Polk (2) PS.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle AB, CMB and Lyon HK, 5/6 Big Stone AB, 5/7 Winona JD; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 Polk PS; late south 5/19 Wabasha BL, 5/20 Olmsted mob, 5/22 Steele KV; late north 5/18 Polk DJ.

Long-billed Dowitcher

All reports: 4/17 Murray ND, 4/24 Rock PG, 4/26 Pennington PS, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle

CMB and Yellow Medicine RJ, 4/30 Mower AP, 5/1 Hennepin SC, 5/6 Rock PG, 5/10 Steele AP, 5/12 Cottonwood ED, 5/17 Lyon HK, 5/20 Olmsted JB, BSE.

Common Snipe

Early south 3/24 Houston RJ, 3/27 Olmsted AP, 4/3 Hennepin RM; early north 3/30 Aitkin WN, 3/31 St. Louis AR, 4/10 Todd PH.

American Woodcock

Early south 3/13 Houston EMF, 3/14 Anoka JH, 3/16 Fillmore NAO and Hennepin DZ; early north 3/29 Cook OSL and St. Louis AR, 3/30 Aitkin WN, 4/7 Becker DJ. One on 5/12 Rock PG.

Wilson's Phalarope

Early south 4/21 Yellow Medicine PS, 4/24 Rock PG, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle CMB, BK and Redwood RJ; early north 5/9 Polk (300) PS, 5/12 Beltrami DJ and Lake fide KE.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 5/12 Redwood RJ, 5/13 Mower JM, RRK, 5/16 Cottonwood ED, 5/17 Mower JM, 5/18 Redwood GS, 5/27 Red Lake AB, 5/28 Norman GS.

Parasitic Jaeger

Only report: 5/26 Duluth PB, KE (*The Loon* 62:163-164).

Franklin's Gull

Early south 3/11 Blue Earth JCF and Murray ND, 3/24 Goodhue BL, 3/31 Lyon HK; early north 4/13 Otter Tail SDM and Wilkin RJ, 4/14 Marshall AB.

Little Gull

Only report: 5/25 Duluth PB.

Bonaparte's Gull

Early south 4/5 Lyon HK, 4/13 Dakota BL and Winona CS, 4/14 Wright BH; early north 4/15 Mille Lacs GS, 4/21 Beltrami DJ, 4/22 Aitkin WN.

Ring-billed Gull

Early north 3/12 Duluth MST, 3/29 Beltrami DJ, Lake DV and Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Clay LCF.

Herring Gull

Reported from 15 north and 20 south counties.

Thayer's Gull

All reports: 4/25 Lake Jefferson, Le Sueur Co. AP, RG, 4/28 Cottonwood RJ, 5/2 Kandiyohi RJ.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Two reports: 4/5 Goodhue RG (*The Loon* 62:111-112), 4/29 Carver DM (*The Loon* 62:119).

Glaucous Gull

Only report: 3/12 Duluth MSt (2).

Caspian Tern

Early south 4/22 Hennepin DZ and Washington BL, 5/2 Kandiyohi RJ, 5/7 Winona CS; early north 5/3 Duluth DE, PS, 5/6 Aitkin WN, 5/16 Beltrami DJ.

Common Tern

Early south 4/27 Hennepin MB, 4/28 Big Stone CMB, 4/29 Stevens BK; early north 4/22 Mille Lacs WL, 5/4 St. Louis PS, 5/14 Hubbard TS.

Forster's Tern

Early south 4/15 Ramsey EL, 4/16 Dakota DB, 4/18 Hennepin SC; early north 4/14 Douglas RJ, 4/23 Beltrami DJ, 4/24 Otter Tail SDM.

Black Tern

Early south 5/2 Fillmore PS, Rice TB, FKS and Waseca KV, 5/5 Hennepin SC, GP, 5/8 Sherburne DO; early north 5/12 Morrison DPD, 5/13 Otter Tail SDM, 5/19 Beltrami DJ.

Rock Dove

Reported from 17 north and 29 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Early north 3/3 Itasca TS (probably a wintering bird), 4/3 St. Louis TW, 4/11 Norman BK, 4/13 Marshall AB.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 5/15 Blue Earth MF, Hennepin SC and Wabasha WDM, 5/17 Nicollet BB; early north 5/20 St. Louis SS, 5/24 Clay LCF, 5/28 Aitkin WN.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5/23 Washington DS, 5/26

Fillmore NAO, 5/27 Goodhue AP and Le Sueur EK; one north report 5/27 Polk AB.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Clay, Cottonwood, Goodhue, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Nobles (nest, two eggs, three young 4/22 ND), Ramsey and Washington Counties.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 13 north and 30 south counties.

Snowy Owl

Only report: 3/29 Watonwan ED.

Northern Hawk Owl

Only reports: 3/7 Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis Co. MSt, 4/7 Knife River, Lake Co. fide KE.

Burrowing Owl

Only reports: 4/8 Rock AB, 5/11 Lincoln HK.

Barred Owl

Reported from nine north and 19 south counties.

Great Gray Owl

All reports: 3/9-4/14 Lake KE, SW/MS et al., 5/5 St. Louis AE, 5/12-26 Roseau Co. KSS, 5/19 Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis Co. (3) mob, 5/21 Tamarac NWR, Becker Co. BK.

Long-eared Owl

All reports: 4/5 Cook KMH, 4/7 Anoka SC, GP, 4/14 Rock PS.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 3/10 Jackson RJ, 3/11 Dakota JD, 3/21 Hennepin SC, GP, 4/7 Otter Tail SDM, 4/19-20 Duluth PS, 5/27 Carlton LW.

Boreal Owl

All reports: 3/4-5/31 Echo Trail, St. Louis Co. SW/MS, 3/9-5/19 Lake SW/MS, 3/10-5/27 Cook mob.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Reported from Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Otter Tail, Polk, Sherburne, St. Louis, Washington Counties.

Common Nighthawk

Early south 4/22 Wabasha WDM, 5/2

SNWR; early north 4/19 Becker BK, 4/25 Koochiching GM, 5/19 Hubbard TS.

Whip-poor-will

Early south 4/24 Fillmore NAO, 5/1 Goodhue HH, 5/2 Washington WL; early north 5/9 St. Louis BA, 5/20 Aitkin WN, 5/23 Cook OSL and Pennington KSS. Nested in Houston CH (*The Loon* 62:158-159).

Chimney Swift

Early south 4/21 Dakota JD, 4/23 Olmsted BSE; early north 4/22 Otter Tail SDM, 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/6 Aitkin WN.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Early south 5/5 Hennepin KR, 5/7 Rice OR, 5/12 Goodhue BL, DZ; early north 5/5 Pennington KSS, 5/8 Becker BK, 5/9 Todd PH. On 4/22 an unidentified hummingbird (most likely a Ruby-throated) was seen near Finland, Lake County by AS.

Belted Kingfisher

Early north 3/26 Todd PH, 3/29 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 St. Louis AE, 4/8 Beltrami TS.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from Aitkin, Cass, Clay, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, St. Louis, Todd Counties in the north and from 25 south counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from Aitkin, Crow Wing, Douglas, Kanabec, Morrison, Otter Tail, Todd Counties in the north and from 32 south counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Early south 4/8 Mower RRK, 4/9 Hennepin SC, 4/12 Olmsted JB; early north 4/15 St. Louis AE, 4/17 Cook KMH, 4/19 Koochiching GM and Otter Tail SDM.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 16 north and 30 south counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 13 north and 30 south counties.

Black-backed Woodpecker

All reports: 3/29 Cook OSL, 5/15 St. Louis (pair) AE; throughout period Beltrami DJ and Cook KMH.

Northern Flicker

Early north 3/10 Pennington KSS, 4/1 Clay LCF and Otter Tail MO, 4/4 St. Louis AE.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 18 north and 25 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 5/8 Anoka GP, 5/11 Brown JSp, 5/12 Cottonwood ED, Goodhue DZ and Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 5/16 Clay LCF, Douglas RJ and Otter Tail SDM, 5/19 St. Louis DK, 5/21 Cook KMH; late south 5/29 Anoka JH, 5/30 Blue Earth LF, Hennepin JF and Murray ND.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Early south 5/2 Washington DS, 5/7 Hennepin OJ, 5/8 Olmsted JB; early north 5/19 Polk PS, 5/20 Becker BK and Clay LCF, 5/25 St. Louis AE.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 5/10 Freeborn and Steele AP and Murray RJ, 5/13 Washington WL, 5/16 Ramsey AB; early north 5/19 Polk PS, 5/22 St. Louis KE, 5/25 Cook KMH; late south 5/30 Brown JSp, 5/31 Hennepin SC.

Acadian Flycatcher

All reports: 5/18-30 Scott DC, DZ, AB, 5/23 Brown JSp and Hennepin SC.

Alder Flycatcher

Early south 5/12 Hennepin PS, 5/16 Blue Earth LF; early north 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/18 St. Louis DK; late south 5/27 Goodhue AP, 5/31 Hennepin SC.

Willow Flycatcher

Early south 5/8 Olmsted JB, 5/11 Rock RJ, 5/12 Hennepin OJ; one north report 5/11 Clay LCF.

Least Flycatcher

Early south 4/15 Fillmore GMD, 4/19 Cottonwood ED, 4/27 Brown JSp 4/30 Rock PG; early north 4/23 St. Louis LE, 5/4 Clay LCF, 5/6 Aitkin WN.

Eastern Phoebe

Early south 3/12 Houston EMF, 3/24 Rice OR, TB and Washington TEB, 3/27 Wabasha, Houston AP and Winona CS; early north 3/29 Pine GS, 3/31 Otter Tail MO, 4/5 Clay LCF.

SAY'S PHOEBE

5/5 Big Stone NWR, Big Stone Co. TM
(*The Loon* 62:164).

Great Crested Flycatcher

Early south 4/22 Sherburne DB, 4/28 Anoka GP, Goodhue BL, Freeborn, Olmsted, Waseca AP; early north 5/13 Carlton LW, 5/15 St. Louis AE, 5/19 Cass AB.

Western Kingbird

Early south 5/8 Murray ND and Sherburne DO, 5/13 Anoka GP, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle GS; early north 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/18 Polk PS, 5/19 Morrison AB and Otter Tail SDM.

Eastern Kingbird

Early south 4/27 Sherburne SNWR, 4/28 Mower JM, 5/3 Olmsted JB; early north 5/5 Koochiching GM, 5/17 Clay LCF, 5/18 St. Louis DK.

Horned Lark

Reported from 16 north and 32 south counties.

Purple Martin

Early south 3/28 Lyon HK, 4/4 Cottonwood ED and Goodhue RJ, 4/9 Pipestone JP; early north 4/17 Aitkin WN, 4/19 Otter Tail SDM, 4/20 St. Louis PS.

Tree Swallow

Early south 3/15 Houston EMF, 4/1 Ramsey EL, 4/4 Winona CS; Houston AP; early north 4/14 Itasca TS and St. Louis SS, 4/15 Beltrami DJ and Kanabec GS, 4/17 Aitkin WN.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Early south 4/18 Winona RJ, 4/20 Blue Earth BB, MF and Houston EMF, 4/22 Brown JSp and Washington RA; early north 4/20 Todd PH, 4/22 Clay LCF, 4/23 Carlton MSt.

Bank Swallow

Early south 4/22 Brown JSp, 4/23 Dakota SC, 4/27 Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 5/6 Beltrami DJ, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/17 St. Louis KE.

Cliff Swallow

Early south 4/23 Sherburne SNWR, 4/27 Olmsted JB, BSE, 4/28 Hennepin SC, Houston FL, Lac Qui Parle CMB, Lyon HK and

Swift AB; early north 4/21 Aitkin WN, 4/22 Pennington KSS, 4/23 St. Louis TW.

Barn Swallow

Early south 4/18 Freeborn AP, 4/21 Hennepin SC, DZ, Lac Qui Parle CMB, Martin BB and Yellow Medicine PS; early north 4/22 Pine AB, 4/25 Beltrami DJ and Wadena DB, 4/29 Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM.

Gray Jay

Reported from seven north counties.

Blue Jay

Reported from 14 north and 27 south counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Aitkin (two pairs nesting) WN et al., Beltrami, Clay, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, St. Louis and Wilkin Counties. Also reported 3/20 Cook WP.

American Crow

Reported from 19 north and 30 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from nine north counties; two south reports 4/11-14 Anoka/Isanti GP, Anoka (nesting) JH.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 17 north and 29 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Cook and Lake Counties.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports: Houston (resident) EMF, FL, 4/24 Rice (1) OR, 5/12 Olmsted JB, BSE.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 15 north and 31 south counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 14 north and 26 south counties.

Brown Creeper

Reported from 15 north and 24 south counties.

ROCK WREN

4/29 Bloomington, Hennepin Co. BF et al. (*The Loon* 62:116-117).

CAROLINA WREN

3/31-5/31 Houston FL, AP. (*The Loon* 62:156).

House Wren

Early south 4/21 Blue Earth MF and Hennepin RM, 4/23 Fillmore NAO; early north 4/25 Otter Tail SDM, 5/5 Becker BK and Clay LCF, 5/12 Todd PH.

Winter Wren

Early south 3/27 Fillmore NAO, 4/9 Brown JSp, 4/11 Olmsted BSE; early north 4/7 Cook KMH, 4/20 Becker MO and Lake SW/MS, 4/23 St. Louis AE; late south 5/1 Hennepin AB, 5/5 Rice RJ.

Sedge Wren

Early south 4/27 Blue Earth MF and Brown JSp, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 4/29 Hennepin SC and Rice RA; early north 5/3 Aitkin WN and Clay MO, 5/15 St. Louis KE, 5/18 Carlton MSt.

Marsh Wren

Early south 4/27 Hennepin RH and Rice TB, 5/4 Dakota JD, 5/6 Chippewa AB; early north 5/4 Lake DV, 5/5 St. Louis JG, 5/17 Carlton LW.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early north 3/10 St. Louis SK, 3/24 Aitkin WN, 4/4 Cook KMH; late south 5/2 Olmsted BSE, 5/6 Fillmore GMD, 5/8 Rice TB.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 4/8 Blue Earth JCF and Mower RRK, 4/9 Anoka GP, Hennepin SC and Sherburne SNWR; early north 4/8 Clay LCF, 4/16 Pennington KSS, 4/19 Lake DV and St. Louis TW; late south 5/29 Hennepin SC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Early south 4/20 Rock DG, 4/24 Winona CS, 4/26 Dakota JD, Olmsted BSE and Rice TB; all north reports 5/10 Clay BO, 5/19 Crow Wing GS, 5/20-31 Otter Tail SDM.

Eastern Bluebird

Early south 3/1 Blue Earth MF, Fillmore NAO and Washington JD, 3/3 Winona CS,

3/4 Steele KV; early north 3/1 Hubbard JL, 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/15 Aitkin WN.

Mountain Bluebird

All reports: 3/15-25 Hennepin (1) mob, 4/22-5/16 Polk (male mated with female Eastern) DJ.

Veery

Early south 4/25 Lyon HK, 5/1 Cottonwood ED, 5/7 Mower RRK, JM and Rice OR; early north 5/14 Clay LCF, 5/15 Pennington KSS, 5/17 St. Louis KE.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early south 5/5 Washington TEB, 5/7 Brown JSp, Hennepin SC, Mower JM and Rice OR, 5/8 Pipestone JP; early north 5/8 Otter Tail SDM, 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/16 Pennington KSS; late south 5/20 Dodge BSE and Martin BB, 5/26 Hennepin SC.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 4/27 Olmsted JB, BSE, 4/29 Goodhue HH, Hennepin SC, Lac Qui Parle CMB, Martin BB and Murray ND; early north 5/4 Cook OSL, 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/11 Pennington KSS; late south 5/30 Martin BB, 5/31 Brown JSp.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 3/18 Hennepin AB, 4/8 Dakota JD, Fillmore GMD, Mower RRK and Washington EL; early north 4/10 Clay LCF, 4/18 Beltrami DJ, 4/20 St. Louis GN, PS; late south 5/7 Fillmore NAO, 5/15 Blue Earth LF, MF.

Wood Thrush

Early south 4/21 Fillmore GMD, 5/5 Rice RJ, 5/7 Blue Earth LF; early north 5/7 Crow Wing WN, 5/10 Carlton LW, 5/20 Aitkin WN.

American Robin

Reported from 15 north and 31 south counties.

Varied Thrush

All reports: 3/8 Aurora, St. Louis Co. (overwintered) AE, 3/18-25 Polk fide DJ, 3/24 Mower JM, early March Duluth fide KE.

Gray Catbird

Early south 4/20 Rice OR, 4/26 Mower RRK, 4/30 Cottonwood ED and Goodhue



Mountain Bluebird, 21 March 1990, Crow Hassan Park, Hennepin County. Photo by Anthony Hertzell.

AB; early north 5/13 Kanabec GS, 5/14 Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM, 5/15 Becker BK.

Northern Mockingbird

All reports: 5/3 Rock PG, 5/8 Olmsted JB, BSE, 5/11 Aitkin GP, 5/19-20 Duluth KE, MSt.

Brown Thrasher

Early south 4/20 Le Sueur EK, 4/21 Cottonwood ED and Washington TEB, 4/22 Hennepin DZ, Mower RRK and Murray ND; early north 4/16 Clay LCF, 4/24 Aitkin WN, 4/25 Pennington KSS.

American Pipit

Early south 4/15 Winona AP; early north 4/14 Duluth DE, 4/28 Clay MO; late south 5/2 Meeker RJ, 5/9 Olmsted JB 5/10 Rock PG; late north 5/7 Wilkin FKS.

Bohemian Waxwing

Late south 3/2 Blue Earth AP, 3/6 Chisago JD, 3/16 Brown JSP; late north 4/2 Lake DV, 4/11 Beltrami DJ and Otter Tail SDM, 4/16 St. Louis MC.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from nine north and 24 south counties.

Northern Shrike

Late south 3/18 Mower JM, 3/22 Anoka SC, 4/10 Fillmore NAO; late north 4/6 Cook OSL, PS, 4/8 Aitkin WN, 4/18 St. Louis SS.

Loggerhead Shrike

Early south 3/21 Nobles ND, 3/25 Fillmore AB, 3/27 Hennepin OJ; early north 4/25 Clay LCF, 5/13 Wilkin MO, 5/19 Morrison AB; also reported 5/26 Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. KE, et al. 5/28 Lake SW/MS.

European Starling

Reported from 13 north and 29 south counties.

Bell's Vireo

All reports: 5/23 Scott (1) DC, 5/24-30 Blue Earth (nesting) MF, BB, 5/29 Houston FL, 5/30 Dakota AB.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 4/27 Hennepin SC, 4/28 Anoka GP, 4/29 Murray ND, Rock PG; early north 4/28 Carlton LW, 5/8 St. Louis fide KE, 5/10 Clay LCF, Cook KMH and Kanabec GS; late south 5/23 Anoka JH, 5/27 Hennepin DZ and Rice AP.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Early south 4/28 Houston FL, 5/4 Washington WL, 5/7 Winona JD, CS; early north 5/5 Pennington KSS, 5/10 Kanabec GS, 5/12 Carlton LW and Otter Tail MO.

Warbling Vireo

Early south 4/28 Hennepin BSE and Olmsted JB, 4/29 Dakota JD, 5/5 Winona CS; early north 5/5 Itasca TS, 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/12 Morrison DPD, Otter Tail MO and St. Louis KE.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 5/7 Washington DS, 5/8 Hennepin DZ, 5/11 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/12 Beltrami DJ, 5/16 Otter Tail SDM, 5/17 Clay LCF; late south 5/23 Yellow Medicine RJ, 5/27 Goodhue AP.

Red-eyed Vireo

Early south 5/7 Winona JD, CS, 5/8 Le Sueur MS, 5/10 Hennepin DZ and Washington WL; early north 5/7 Beltrami DJ, 5/12 Carlton LW, 5/15 Becker BK and Clay LCF.

Blue-winged Warbler

Early south 5/3 Fillmore NAO, 5/5 Hennepin RM, Washington DZ and Winona CS, 5/11 Goodhue AB and Scott DC; "Brewster's" Warbler 5/19 Hennepin DZ, 5/28 Otter Tail SDM.

Golden-winged Warbler

Early south 5/8 Hennepin SC and Ramsey RH, 5/9 Anoka GP, 5/11 Olmsted JB, BSE, Rice TB and Scott DC; early north 5/8 St. Louis BP, 5/10 Kanabec GS, 5/12 Carlton LW.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 4/28 Houston FL and Mower JM, 4/30 Hennepin SC, 5/4 Goodhue AB and Le Sueur EK; early north 5/15 St. Louis BP, 5/16 Cook OSL, Otter Tail SDM and Todd RJ, 5/17 Carlton LW; late south 5/30 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 5/31 Anoka JH and Hennepin SC.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early south 4/22 Martin BB, 4/23 Hennepin SC, Pipestone ND, JP, Rock PG, and Ramsey AB; early north 4/25 St. Louis KE, 5/2 Clay LCF; late south 5/18 Lyon GS, 5/20

Rice SC, GP; late north 5/20 Crow Wing AB, 5/27 Clay LCF.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 4/28 Steele KV, 4/30 Goodhue AB and Hennepin SC; early north 5/7 Lake DV and St. Louis DK, 5/12 Beltrami DJ and Carlton LW, 5/15 Clay LCF; late south 5/28 Hennepin BH, 5/31 Carver MB.

Northern Parula

Early south 5/8 Hennepin DZ, 5/12 Dakota JD, Goodhue DZ and Olmsted BSE; early north 5/12 Cook KMH, 5/16 St. Louis AE, Otter Tail SDM and Todd RJ; late south 5/23 Freeborn AP and Lac Qui Parle RJ, 5/27 Rice AP and Wright RA.

Yellow Warbler

Early south 4/25 Murray ND and Winona CS, 4/26 Cottonwood ED, 4/27 Brown JSP and Hennepin SC, RM; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 St. Louis AE, 5/11 Clay LCF.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Early south 5/8 Anoka GP, 5/11 Olmsted JB, 5/12 Dakota JD, Fillmore NAO, Hennepin DC, RM, Mower RRR, JM, Scott AB, PS; early north 5/12 Koochiching GM, 5/13 Aitkin SC and St. Louis AE, 5/15 Carlton LW.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 5/10 Mower JM, 5/11 Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 5/12 St. Louis fide KE, Clay LCF, 5/15 Becker BK and Cook KMH; late south 5/25 Pipestone JP, 5/26 Brown JSP and Martin BB.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 5/10 Mower JM, 5/16 Ramsey AB and Sherburne DO; early north 5/9 St. Louis AE, 5/11 Cook KMH, 5/16 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/18 Washington WL, 5/23 Chippewa RJ.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

All reports: 5/18 Carlton (1) MSt, 5/19-24 St. Louis mob.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 3/13 Fillmore (overwintered?) NAO, 3/29 Sherburne SNWR, 4/4 Houston AP; early north 4/10 Otter Tail SDM, 4/14 St. Louis SS, 4/15 Carlton LW; late south

5/23 Freeborn AP, Yellow Medicine RJ, 5/24 Anoka JH, 5/26 Washington DS. "Audubon's" Warbler 5/3 Clay LCF, 5/15 Sherburne SNWR.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 4/29 Rice TB, 5/7 Winona JD, 5/8 Hennepin SC and Ramsey DZ; early north 5/4 St. Louis JG, 5/10 Beltrami DJ, 5/11 Clay LCF; late south 5/26 Brown JSp, 5/27 Anoka GP.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 4/28 Mower JM, 5/11 Brown JSp, Goodhue AB, Olmsted JB, BSE and Rice TB; early north 5/9 St. Louis AE, 5/10 Douglas RJ, 5/15 Cook KMH; late south 5/27 Anoka GP, 5/28 Hennepin SC, DZ and Scott DZ.

Pine Warbler

Early south 5/2 Ramsey RH, 5/16 Washington DS, 5/27 Anoka GP; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, 5/3 Beltrami DJ, 5/5 Aitkin WN.

Palm Warbler

Early south 4/22 Washington AB and Winona CS, 4/23 Fillmore NAO and Hennepin SC; early north 4/25 St. Louis DE, 4/26 Beltrami DJ, 4/28 Carlton MSt; late south 5/21 Blue Earth JCF, 5/23 Mower JM.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 5/14 Anoka JH, GP, 5/17 Scott DC, 5/18 Washington WL; early north 5/16 St. Louis SW, 5/18 Cook KMH, 5/19 Cass AB and Lake SW/MS; late south 5/22 Anoka JH and 5/23 Freeborn AP.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early south 4/30 Hennepin DB, 5/4 Rice TB; early north 5/16 Otter Tail SDM and Todd RJ, 5/17 Clay LCF; late south 5/26 Brown JSp, 5/28 Hennepin SC; late north 5/22 Clay DJ, 5/23 Beltrami DJ.

Cerulean Warbler

Early south 5/8 Hennepin SC, 5/12 Dakota JD and Scott AB, 5/13 Brown JSp and Goodhue KE; one north report 5/22-31 **Otter Tail** (four locations) SDM.

Black-and-white Warbler

Early south 4/27 Hennepin SC, Sherburne

DO, Washington BL, 4/28 Steele KV, 4/29 Murray ND, Rice TB; early north 5/2 Beltrami DJ, Clay LCF, 5/5 Aitkin WN, St. Louis SS, 5/8 Otter Tail SDM.

American Redstart

Early south 5/5 Hennepin SC, 5/7 Winona JD, 5/8 Mower JM; early north 5/12 St. Louis KE, 5/13 Pennington KSS, 5/14 Becker DJ, Cook WP.

Prothonotary Warbler

Early south 4/28 Houston FL, 5/8 Le Sueur EK, 5/10 Anoka GP; one report north 5/19 **Pope PS**.

WORM-EATING WARBLER

4/30 Rice WS (*The Loon* 62:118).

Ovenbird

Early south 4/27 Hennepin SC, 4/29 Martin BB, 5/2 Goodhue PS; early north 5/3 Itasca DB, 5/5 Aitkin WN, 5/6 Beltrami DJ.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 4/24 Brown JSp, Hennepin SC, GP, 4/25 Dakota JD, BL, Rice AP; early north 5/3 Lake DV, 5/5 Clay LCF, 5/12 Beltrami DJ; late south 5/18 Nicollet JCF, Winona CS, 5/20 Martin BB and Wabasha AP, 5/22 Hennepin SC.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Early south 5/6 Rice PS, 5/13 Washington AB, 5/18 Dodge BSE, Houston FL.

Kentucky Warbler

One report 5/18 Houston FL.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 5/1 Washington WL, 5/12 Cottonwood ED, 5/20 Ramsey BL; early north 5/24 Clay LCF, 5/26 Aitkin WN, 5/27 Lake SW/MS; late south 5/27 Lac Qui Parle BL, Rice TB, 5/29 Hennepin SC.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 5/12 Cottonwood ED, 5/14 Ramsey AB, Rice TB, 5/15 Hennepin SC; early north 5/16 Todd RJ, 5/19 St. Louis KE, TW, 5/20 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/27 Le Sueur EK and Rice AP, 5/28 Hennepin BH, Scott DZ, 5/30 Scott SC, Washington RA.

Common Yellowthroat

Early south 4/30 Dakota JD, 5/6 Mower JM, 5/7 Ramsey KH; early north 5/11 Clay LCF, 5/13 Becker BK, 5/15 St. Louis KE.

Hooded Warbler

Only reports: 5/5 Winona JD, 5/12-18 Scott mob.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 5/7 Brown JSp, Winona JD; early north 5/14 Beltrami DJ, 5/15 St. Louis KE, 5/16 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, Todd RJ; late south 5/26 Fillmore NAO, 5/27 Goodhue AP, 5/29 Hennepin SC.

Canada Warbler

Early south 5/12 Goodhue EL, 5/14 Olmsted BSE, 5/16 Hennepin DC, Mower RRK; early north 5/16 Douglas RJ, 5/19 Clay LCF, 5/20 Crow Wing AB; late south 5/27 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/28 Scott DZ, 5/29 Hennepin SC.

Scarlet Tanager

Early south 5/10 Hennepin RM, 5/12 Freeborn KV, Goodhue DZ, EL, Olmsted BSE, Scott AB, PS; early north 5/16 Otter Tail SDM, 5/19 Beltrami AB, 5/20 Aitkin WN, Beltrami MO.

WESTERN TANAGER

5/16 Otter Tail SDM (*The Loon* 62:154).

Northern Cardinal

Reported from six northern counties: Aitkin, Lake, Otter Tail, Pennington, St. Louis and Todd. Reported from 26 counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Early south 4/21 Olmsted fide AP, 4/25 Fillmore NAO, 4/27 Rice OR; early north 5/4 St. Louis KE, 5/12 Todd PH.

Blue Grosbeak

Two reports 5/21 Nobles ND, 5/22 Murray ND.

Indigo Bunting

Early south 5/3 Goodhue PS, 5/9 Fillmore NAO, Rice TB, OR, 5/12 Blue Earth BB, Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 5/14 Pennington KSS, 5/18 Clay LCF, Crow Wing GS, 5/20 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SDM.

Dickcissel

Early south 5/13 Murray ND, 5/18 Cottonwood ED, 5/26 Rice TB, OR.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE

5/13 Clay LCF (*The Loon* 62:152-153).

Rufous-sided Towhee

Early south 3/27 Fillmore NAO, 4/15 Houston EMF, 4/23 Rock PG, 4/24 Brown JSp; early north 5/4 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, 5/12 Pennington KSS, 5/14 Otter Tail SDM. "Spotted" race on 4/29 Rock PG.

American Tree Sparrow

Late south 4/23 Anoka GP, Hennepin SC, Olmsted JB, Winona CS, 4/29 Ramsey EL, 5/4 Dakota JD; late north 4/25 Cook KMH, 5/2 St. Louis SS.

Chipping Sparrow

Early south 4/1 Washington WL, 4/8 Nicollet JCF, 4/12 Brown JSp; early north 4/19 St. Louis PS, 4/20 Becker BK, 4/21 Aitkin RJ, Koochiching GM, Mille Lacs RJ.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Early south 4/23 Mower RRK, 4/26 Brown JSp, 4/27 Hennepin SC; early north 4/24 St. Louis KE, 5/25 Otter Tail SDM 4/29 Clay LCF.

Field Sparrow

Early south 3/28 Olmsted JB, 4/7 Anoka JH, 4/13 Brown JSp; early north 4/19 Otter Tail SDM, 4/28 Clay MO.

Vesper Sparrow

Early south 4/3 Hennepin OJ, 4/8 Blue Earth LF, Rock AB; early north 4/13 Douglas RJ, 4/15 Wadena AB, 4/21 Todd PH.

Lark Sparrow

Early south 4/22 Anoka GP, 4/26 Sherburne SNWR, 5/2 and 5/11 Rock PG; early north 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/27 Polk AB.

Savannah Sparrow

Early south 4/19 Olmsted BSE, 4/20 Brown JSp, 4/21 Hennepin SC, GP, Lyon AB, Murray ND, Steele KV, Wabasha WDM; early north 4/20 St. Louis PS, 4/21 Aitkin RJ, WN, Beltrami DJ, Norman MO.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Early south 4/25 Rock PG 5/3 Olmsted JB,

5/5 Rice TB; early north 5/24 Otter Tail SDM, 5/28 Clay GS.

Henslow's Sparrow

Only report 5/20-21 Winona AP, RJ.

Le Conte's Sparrow

Early south 5/15 Hennepin SC; early north 4/22 Clay LCF, 4/28 St. Louis KE, 5/12 Aitkin WN, PS.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Two reports 5/27 Aitkin MSt, 5/29 Aitkin WN.

Fox Sparrow

Early south 3/13 Brown JSp, Hennepin RM, 3/14 Anoka JH, 3/16 Fillmore NAO; early north 4/5 St. Louis KE, 4/6 Cook WP, St. Louis AE, 4/10 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF; late south 4/22 Hennepin SC, DZ, 4/23 Fillmore NAO, 4/24 Mower JM; late north 4/22 Aitkin WN, Cook KMH, Koochiching GM, 5/20 Pennington KSS, 5/23 Clay MM.

Song Sparrow

Early north 3/27 Todd PH, 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 Aitkin WN.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 4/8 Olmsted JB, 4/21 Steele KV, Rock PG; early north 4/23 Cook KMH, 4/24 Clay LCF, 4/26 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/20 Dodge BSE, 5/21 Hennepin DB, Rice AP, 5/24 Hennepin OJ.

Swamp Sparrow

Early south 3/12 Fillmore GMD, 3/27 Houston AP; early north 4/19 Carlton MSt, 4/20 Cook OSL, St. Louis PS.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 3/1 Houston EMF (probably a wintering bird) 3/13 Hennepin GP, 3/27 Cottonwood ED; early north 3/28 Cook OSL, 4/22 Otter Tail SDM, St. Louis mob, 4/23 Clay LCF; late south 5/20 Brown JSp, Lac Qui Parle FE, Martin BB, 5/21 Fillmore NAO, Murray ND, 5/29 Hennepin SC.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early south 4/8 Olmsted JB, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/23 Murray ND; early north 4/16 Koochiching GM, 4/28 Lake DV; late south 5/21 Fillmore NAO, Lac Qui Parle FE, Olmsted AP, Winona CS, 5/22 Hennepin SC, Lac

Qui Parle CMB, 5/28 Hennepin DB; late north 5/20 Aitkin WN, Lake SW/MS, Pennington KSS, 5/21 St. Louis TW, 5/23 Clay LCF.

Harris' Sparrow

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood RJ, 4/17 Rock PG, 4/25 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/26 Sherburne SNWR; early north 4/28 Clay MO, 5/8 Aitkin WN, St. Louis KE; late south 5/22 Hennepin DC, 5/23 Anoka JH, Murray ND, Washington DO, 5/26 Lac Qui Parle CMB; late north 5/20 Aitkin WN, Lake SW/MS, 5/23 Clay LCF.

Dark-eyed Junco

Late south 5/2 Olmsted BSE, Sherburne SNWR, 5/5 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Ramsey RH, 5/14 Hennepin SC.

Lapland Longspur

Late south 4/16 Blue Earth BB, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle AB, CMB, TEB; late north 4/29 Clay LCF, 4/30 Lake SW/MS, St. Louis SS, 5/4 Wilkin FKS.

Smith's Longspur

All reports 4/28 Lac Qui Parle KE, Traverse PS, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle mob (*The Loon* 62:156-158), 4/30 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

All reports 5/4 Wilkin FKS, 5/13 Clay DJ.

Snow Bunting

Late south 3/18 Mower JM, 3/24 Hennepin OJ, 3/28 Dakota JD; late north 5/10 Aitkin JF, Lake SW/MS, 5/12 Cook KMH, 5/19 St. Louis KE.

Bobolink

Early south 5/5 Steele RJ, 5/8 Wabasha WDM, 5/9 Freeborn AP, Rice OR; early north 5/10 Polk PS, 5/11 Aitkin GP, Clay LCF.

Red-winged Blackbird

Early north 3/1 St. Louis AE, 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/13 Todd PH.

Eastern Meadowlark

Early north 3/24 Aitkin WN, 3/28 Itasca TS.

Western Meadowlark

Early north 3/7 Wilkin SDM, 3/14 Clay MM, Pennington KSS, 3/17 Otter Tail MO.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Early south 3/13 Washington JD, 3/29 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/8 Anoka GP, Rock AB, Waseca AP; early north 4/8 Wilkin MD, 4/14 Mahnomen RJ, 4/19 Marshall KE, St. Louis AE.

Rusty Blackbird

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood RJ, 3/11 Blue Earth JCF, Brown JSp, Lyon HK, Murray AP, 3/12 Sherburne SNWR; early north 3/4-7 Wilkin MO, SDM, 3/17 Cook KMH, St. Louis KE, Duluth DS; late south 4/17 Blue Earth MF, Houston EMF, 4/21 Hennepin SC, DZ, 4/23 LeSueur EK; late north 4/15 Mahnomen AB, 4/20 Duluth MSt, 4/29 Clay LCF.

Brewer's Blackbird

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood ED, Mower JM, Rice OR, 3/16 Steele KV, 3/18 Goodhue JD, Le Sueur MF; early north 4/1 Clay LCF, 4/7 Todd PH, 4/12 Polk KSS.

Common Grackle

Early north 3/1 Cook KMH, St. Louis AE, 3/10 Pennington KSS, 3/12 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail SDM.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Early south Blue Earth JCF, 3/13 Fillmore NAO, Hennepin OJ, 3/16 Houston EMF; early north 4/6 St. Louis KE, TW, 4/7 Otter Tail SDM, MO, Todd PH, 4/13 Aitkin WN, Clearwater AB.

Orchard Oriole

Early south 5/11 Goodhue EL, 5/12 Wabasha WDM, 5/14 Murray ND; early north 5/27 Clay LCF, Polk AB.

Northern Oriole

Early south 4/30 Hennepin SC, 5/2 Winona CS, 5/3 Cottonwood ED, Wabasha WDM; early north 5/4 Mille Lacs TS, 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/11 Clay LCF.

Pine Grosbeak

Only report south 3/4 Isanti RJ; reported from 14 counties north; late north 4/3 St. Louis TW, 4/13 Cook KMH.

Purple Finch

Reported from 17 counties north and 23 counties south.

House Finch

Reported from Clay, Morrison, Otter Tail, St. Louis Counties north and 30 counties south.

Red Crossbill

Two reports 3/19 Hennepin DZ, 4/8 Anoka GP, PS.

White-winged Crossbill

Late south 5/5 Olmsted JB, BSE, 5/13 Hennepin KE, Rice OR, 5/17 Rice TB.

Common Redpoll

Late south 4/2 Washington RJ, 4/4 Scott fide AP, 4/21 Washington WL; late north 5/4 St. Louis KE, 5/7 Lake MSt, 5/10 Lake SW/MS.

Hoary Redpoll

Late south 3/3 Lyon AP, 3/11 Cottonwood AP, 3/12 Sherburne SNWR; late north 3/19 Aitkin WN, 3/25 Clay LCF, 4/2 Duluth KE.

Pine Siskin

Reported from 15 counties north and 30 counties south.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 14 counties north and 27 counties south.

Evening Grosbeak

Late south 3/14 Sherburne SNWR.

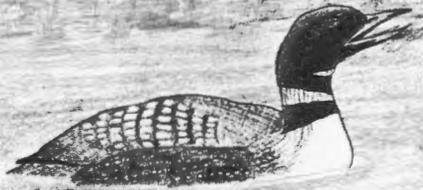
House Sparrow

Reported from 15 counties north and 28 counties south.

CONTRIBUTORS

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RA	Renner Anderson
PB	Parker Backstrom
TEB	Tom & Elizabeth Bell
TB	Tom Boevers
BB	Brad Bolduan
AB	Al Bolduc
DB	Don Bolduc
JB	Jerry Bonkoski
CMB	Chuck & Micki Buer
MB	Mike Butterfield
DC	Doug Campbell
SC	Steve Carlson

MC	Marj Carr	WL	William Longley
PC	Pat Collins	OSL	Orvis & Sandy Lunke
GMD	Gordon & Mary Jo Dathe	RM	Robin Maercklein
ND	Nelvina DeKam	WDM	Wynn & Don Mahle
JD	Joanne Dempsey	GM	Grace Marquardt
DPD	Dan & Pat Dobrick	DM	Dennis Martin
ED	Edward Duerksen	TM	Thomas McMullen
KE	Kim Eckert	SDM	Steve & Diane Millard
FE	Fred Eckhardt	MM	Mark Moore
DE	Dudley Edmundson	JM	John Morrison
BSE	Bob & Steve Ekblad	GN	Gary Nelson
ME	Mary Enley	WN	Warren Nelson
AE	Audrey Evers	BO	Bob O' Connor
LCF	Laurence & Carol Falk	DO	Dan Orr
BF	Bruce Fall	MO	Mark Otnes
LF	Lawrence Filter	NAO	Nancy & Art Overcott
HJF	Herbert & Jeanette Fisher	JP	Joanna Pals
JF	John Futcher	BP	Bill Penning
EMF	Eugene & Marilyn Ford	GP	Greg Pietila
JCF	John C. Frentz	AP	Anne Marie Plunkett
MF	Merrill Frydendall	WP	Walter Popp
DG	Dick Green	KR	Kim Risen
JG	Jan Green	LR	Larry Ritchie
PG	Peter Getman	AR	Arlene Rothstein
RG	Ray Glassel	OR	Orwin Rustad
CH	Carrol Henderson	AS	Ann Schimpf
PH	Paul Hetland	GS	Greg Schmidt
BH	Bruce Hitman	SS	Steve Schon
KMH	Ken & Molly Hoffman	CS	Carol Schumacher
RH	Robert Holtz	SNWR	Sherburne NWR Staff
CHo	Charles Horn	TMS	Tony & Mary Simon
HH	Harlan Hostager	TS	Tom Sobolik
JH	James Howitz	DS	Dave Sovereign
RJ	Robert Janssen	JSp	Jack Sprenger
DJ	Douglas Johnson	ES	Evelyn Stanley
OJ	Oscar Johnson	MSt	Mark Stensass
DK	Don Kienholz	KSS	Keith & Shelley Steva
BK	Byron Kinkade	FKS	Forest & Kirsten Strnad
RRK	Ron & Rose Kneeskern	PS	Peder Svingen
SK	Sarah Kohlbry	WS	Wally Swanson
EK	Erllys Krueger	KV	Ken Vail
HK	Henry Kyllingstad	DV	Dan Versaw
JLa	John Lane	LW	Larry Weber
JL	Jean Leckner	TW	Terry Wiens
FL	Fred Leshner	SW/MS	Steve Wilson & Mary Shedd
EL	Edwin Lins	DZ	Dave Zumeta
BL	Bill Litkey	mob	many observers



NOTES OF INTEREST

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW AT CLAREMONT SEWAGE PONDS — SECOND STATE RECORD — Steve and I were returning home from a successful two-week birding expedition down the lower Rio Grande and Big Bend areas in Texas and were getting close to home. We were driving by Claremont, Dodge County on 9 July 1990 (a Monday) and decided to make one last birding stop before arriving home. Besides, it had been a few days since we had been at a sewage lagoon and we missed the familiar sensory stimulation provided by this type of facility. We checked out the birds at the first pond and walked over to the north pond, hoping to see some more of the early migratory birds that we had been seeing on our drive north through Texas and Kansas. While we were walking on the narrow strip that separates the two sewage ponds, we stopped and scanned the shoreline, then looked at the many swallows that were flying over the ponds. Steve was using the scope at the time and the first swallow he homed in on stood out as having a light rump. At the same time, while I was scanning the shore, I noted a swallow that had flown over my head and entered my view in my binoculars. The bird had the familiar white cheek patch and white flanks up into the rump. We had just been seeing the Violet-green Swallow as a common species just a few days before (in Texas), so I had a fleeting moment when I wondered if I was having a *deja vu* experience or if I had lost track of where I really was. As each of us continued to watch the bird, mentally verifying what we were seeing, Steve commented that he was watching a strange-looking swallow. Both of us then said, "Violet-green Swallow!" My view through binoculars couldn't have been as spectacular as the view Steve had through the scope at the close range we were afforded as the swallow swooped close by in front of us. Another identification feature we noted, in addition to the telltale white flanks and cheek patch, was the bird's notched tail. Also, its size was slightly smaller than the Tree Swallows it was with (slimmer and a bit shorter). I continued watching the bird with my binoculars as it flew several passes over the pond and then abruptly left with several of the Tree Swallows and headed southwest away from the ponds. Only when it became apparent that it wasn't going to head back to the ponds did I lower my binoculars. Later, as we walked around the north pond, we noticed that the Violet-green Swallow had returned. Although it stayed around for a longer period of time, it was not as close as before and we did not get the good views we had had before. I was not able to note the green color on the bird's back because of limited direct sunlight that aids in bringing out the color, but Jerry Bonkoski was able to note the color when he located the bird the following day. The bird was seen again on the morning of the 11th but it apparently left the ponds to the hoards of birders hoping to get a glimpse of the second Minnesota record of this species. However, on Saturday (the 14th) after activity

at the sewage ponds had died down, Jerry Pruett was able to locate the bird again. To my knowledge, the bird was not seen again after that. **Bob Ekblad, Rt. 1, Box 149, Byron, MN 55920.**

Editor's Note: The Violet-green Swallow was seen by Anne Marie Plunkett and Ray Glassel on 11 July 1990. The only other record for this species in the state was a single individual seen on 25 October 1942 at Rochester, Olmsted County (*The Auk* 60:455).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN ROCK COUNTY — On 21 July 1990 at 1:30 P.M., my sister Durky Baar and I were on our way to a family reunion in Iowa. I wanted to show her the Burrowing Owl that Nelvina DeKam and I had seen in Mound Township, Section 19 in Rock County. This area is located one mile north and three miles west of the entrance to Blue Mounds State Park. We had just passed the three mile intersection when I noticed a bird with a very long tail. I said to my sister, "Here is something I've never seen before, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher." We stopped, got out our binoculars to view it better and noticed its flycatcher habits as it caught insects and then returned to perch on a fence post or on one of the small shrubs in the area. The bird had an extremely long tail. We noted the light gray body with a pinkish-orange shoulder patch and pink flanks. The belly appeared whitish; there was a narrow black line through the eye; the wings and tail were dark. The long forked tail had white along its edges and white markings elsewhere. We watched the bird for 20 minutes as we went slowly west, stopping at intervals to take another good look as it flew back and forth just ahead of or along side of us. The Burrowing Owl was perched on a large rock in the ditch on the north side of the road and the flycatcher "hob-nobbed" with it for a while as we watched. **Johanna Pals, Rt. 1, Box 132, Edgerton, MN 56128.**

SOLITAIRES IN DAKOTA COUNTY — At 10:00 A.M. on 19 November 1990, I set out to explore the small prairie remnant just outside the southwest boundary of the city of Hastings, Dakota County. After obtaining permission from the landowner and then parking my truck, I took off walking. This remnant covers a south facing hillside, at the base of which runs the Vermillion River. While this piece of land still contains a fairly large number of native flora, it is being invaded by many cedar trees. As I was walking along this hillside, mostly looking at the plant community at my feet, movement in a cedar tree ahead of me caught my eye. With the use of binoculars, I could see two Blue Jay-size gray birds eating cedar berries about half way up in the tree. The first bird which came to mind was a Northern Mockingbird, but I wasn't quite sure. Walking slowly towards them caused the two birds to fly. They landed in a tall leafless oak tree up ahead. Using the cedar trees as cover, I was able to get within 150 feet of the birds, both of whom were sitting near the top of the oak. It was a beautiful day with the temperature well into the 50s. The two birds would leave their perches, fly-catch and then return to the branch. While they sat, I noticed very distinct eye rings and wing bars. After several minutes, the birds flew back over my head into the cedar trees. Not having my field guide with me, I decide to return to my truck to look the birds up. I excitedly paged through the book and to my delight, I narrowed the possibilities down to one bird: the Townsend's Solitaire. It was a new species for me. The gray body, the wing bars, the white eye ring, the fly-catching habit, all pointed to the solitaire. It also had a much more upright profile when perched than the mockingbird. I returned home for my camera, determined to capture their images on film for my banding friends. With camera and tripod in hand, I resumed stalking the birds. They were easy enough to find again, but proved impossible to photograph. I left that afternoon as the sun was going down without a picture, hoping they would still be there the next day. The next morning brought an overcast sky, windy conditions, and colder temperatures. I returned to the hillside, but the birds were no where to be seen. **Tom Lewanski, 10979 140th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033.**

RED-THROATED LOON IN COOK COUNTY — On 20 October 1990, I was birding Good Harbor Bay just south of Grand Marais and found three loons, all in winter plumage, one of which I determined to be a Red-throated Loon. The other two birds I identified as Common Loons. There were also White-winged Scoters and Horned Grebes on the water. I first located the bird with binoculars, (Swift 8.5x44), then used a Bushnell spotting scope to identify it. Using the Common Loons for comparison, I made the observations which follow. The profiles of the birds differed quite a bit. The Red-throated was smaller, the bill shorter, paler and more delicate. Nothing like the big kingfisher bill of the Common Loon. The head had more white on the side of the face, seemed rounder, smaller, and sat a bit closer to the body. I would describe the Common Loon's profile as looking chiseled while the Red-throated looked as if it were molded. The backs of the Common Loons were grayish and nondescript, lacking any distinctive coloring or markings. Although the Red-throated Loon's back looked much the same, it did have some dull white spotting. At one point, one of the Common Loons passed directly behind the Red-throated Loon, giving me a good look at these differences. I was able to view the birds from two different vantage points along the shore, and watched them for about 30 minutes. The only notes taken during this time were outline drawings of the birds' profiles. The water was choppy but not completely disruptive and the sun was out and bright. The two Common Loons were actively diving while the Red-throated Loon sat idle, facing northeast. This bird was neither a grebe nor a cormorant. I do not think this could have been a Pacific Loon because it lacked any hint of white near the rear flank, the bill appeared to curve up slightly, and the dark eye was clearly visible within the white boundaries of the side of the face. It was necessary for me to use both the National Geographic Field Guide and Peter Harrison's *Seabirds, An Identification Guide* to find all the field marks needed to distinguish this loon from other possibilities. Both books were open during the entire observation. **Anthony Hertzelt, 2509 Talmage Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

Associate Editor's (KE) Note: The lack of white "near the rear flank" may preclude Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*), but it does not eliminate Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*) which normally lacks a white flank patch. Also, the fact that "the bill appeared to curve up slightly" does not necessarily rule out Pacific Loon which often holds its bill uptilted in the manner of a Red-throated Loon.

COOPER'S HAWKS NEST AGAIN IN 1990 AT WINDAMERE, OLMSTED COUNTY — During the spring, summer and fall of 1985, we observed the nesting and fledging of four Cooper's Hawks at our residence (Windamere) on a daily basis and reported the details in *The Loon* in an article entitled "An Experience with Cooper's Hawks." (Vol. 58, pp. 55-60). Readers may remember that the author devoted many hours to hearing and learning the different tonality and pattern of the four young hawks "speech." Though five years had passed, it didn't come as too great a surprise that in the quiet of the dawn hours of 30 July 1990, I heard what I recognized as the conversation of young Cooper's Hawks and within minutes had three in view. Flip-flopping among branches, and making short sails, and crying/whistling all the while, it became apparent that they were newly fledged. (Two adults were kekking softly close by.) The breasts of the young were white and still fluffy with dark brown streaking. The undertail coverts and flanks were downy. Their backs were mottled with brown feathering coming in. Their faces showed a light supercilium; their eyes were dark brown. Their tails were banded with a wide subterminal band. And, as in 1985, each was soon identifiable by its particular manner of speech. Thus began another few months of "hawk-sitting" and what fun it is! From 30 July until 2 October, I watched and heard them develop toward adulthood. Within a week of first seeing the hawk family, I had found the nest, about 100 or so yards south of the 1985 nest but again, close to the drive and the house. The nest in the early 1970s was about 100 yards south of the 1990 nest but was in the middle of a copse and not easy to observe. We have wide (12 foot) paths all through the woods, and the young hawks seem to take advantage of these open "runways" for practice

when they are first learning to fly. As they develop their flying skills, they move out more into the open, and seem to favor the “oats field” — a 14 acre open field — for learning to hunt. On 20 August, I was entertained watching the three hawks “play” with the resident neighborhood crows, dive-bombing each other and calling loudly all the while. This went on for about an hour. On 1 September, I listened to one of the young hawks practicing his “kekking.” I noted that it sounded more like “keek” than “kek” with an occasional break in his voice, but it was continuous, and he was still working on it when I left the area. By the eighth of September, one of the young had gotten as far away from home as a third of a mile where he sat perched on a telephone wire of 18th Avenue, seemingly watching the traffic go by. On the thirteenth of September, I watched one trying to learn to fly into a strong wind — over and over. The last date that I observed two hawks was 1 October, but I did also see a young Cooper’s about a mile down the road, which may have been the third one of the group; my last date in 1985 was 18 October. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902.**

GREAT GRAY OWL AT TAMARAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — A Great Gray Owl, a rare treat for many folks, visited the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Becker County, this past summer. First sighted by refuge staff on 15 May 1990, the bird stayed in the general area for approximately two months. Last reported sighting was 16 July 1990. The owl could often be found perched on roadside sign posts or stumps along one of Tamarac’s many marshes. One Sunday afternoon in early June, it hunted a pothole area right beside the refuge’s visitor center and inadvertently put on a show for about fifteen delighted visitors. The effectiveness of hotlines was proven when birders from all over the United States arrived shortly after learning of this sighting. This bird was truly a highlight for many summer visitors to this northwestern Minnesota refuge. **Betsy Beneke, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, HC 10, Box 145, Rochert, MN 56578.**



Great Gray Owl, 15 May 1990, Tamarac NWR, Becker County. Photo by Betsy Beneke.

PEREGRINE FALCON PREYS ON SHARP-TAILED GROUSE AT A LEK — At 7:10 A.M. on 1 May 1990 I observed an adult Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) feeding on a Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) on a dancing ground. I was conducting my annual spring Sharp-tailed lek survey and had just approached a known dancing ground located in western Beltrami County, about eight miles southeast of Grygla. Using a pair of 7x binoculars I observed six Sharp-taileds on the lek and a raptor that was feeding on another bird. The Sharp-taileds were approximately ten to fifteen yards away from the raptor and were sitting very still. When I looked at the raptor through my 15-45x spotting scope, I identified it as a Peregrine Falcon and its prey was a Sharp-tailed Grouse. I identified the Peregrine by the distinctive white bib on its neck and upper breast area, its black upper head, and its black facial markings below the eyes. It had a dark gray back and broken barring on the lower breast. The Sharp-tailed Grouse it was feeding on was easily identified by its chicken-like size, the brown and white body feathers, the white on the underparts of the tail, and the pointed tail that could be seen when the falcon pulled up on the lower part of the grouse's body. The birds were approximately one quarter mile away from me. I observed them from the south and then again from a road one-half mile to the north. The sky was clear and the wind was calm. Berger, Hammerstrom, and Hammerstrom (J. Wildl. Manage. 27: 778-791, 1963) found that Greater Prairie-Chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) are seldom killed on their booming grounds by raptors. It seems reasonable to assume that this would hold true for other prairie grouse that display at leks in open areas. Presumably, predators are easier to detect due to openness of the habitat and the greater number of eyes alert to predators (Lack, *Ecological Adaptations for Breeding in Birds*, Chapman and Hall, London, 1968:155). Berger et al. (ibid.) noted that the most common defense that a Greater Prairie-Chicken used against Peregrine attacks was to freeze and then flatten itself against the ground at the last moment, thus just barely avoiding the raptor's talons. After repeated stoops by the Peregrine, the Greater Prairie-Chicken would flush and usually outdistance the falcon. The Sharp-tailed Grouse killed by the Peregrine had not flushed or at least had not departed from its lek. Since I did not observe the kill, I can only speculate about the hunting strategy employed by the Peregrine and how the Sharp-tailed reacted to the attack. Based on the accounts by Berger et al., it seems likely that the Sharp-tailed froze and then either tried, unsuccessfully, to flush or to flatten itself against the ground in response to the Peregrine's swift stoop attack. The other Sharp-taileds present on the lek either froze and did not flush or flushed initially and then returned to the lek. **Gretchen Mehmel, Assistant Area Wildlife Manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 123 N. Main Ave., Thief River Falls, MN 56701.**

SUMMER RECORD FOR A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — On 3 July 1990 I was at Minneopa State Park in Blue Earth County. Shortly after 9:00 A.M. I observed a White-crowned Sparrow feeding along one of the dirt trails in the park. The area was a wooded floodplain along the south side of the Minnesota River. There was a bright sun as I observed the bird, which was in breeding plumage, for about three minutes at distances of 25 to 40 feet with 8x36 Bushnell Custom binoculars. I at first thought of a White-throated Sparrow but this bird had a distinct pink bill, lacked the white throat patch and had no yellow in front of the eye. The crown was distinctively marked with black and white stripes. The bird stayed along the trail and appeared to be eating seeds from the dandelion heads along the edge of the trail. It jumped up to get the seeds which were just above its reach. No vocalizations were heard. **Lawrence Filter, 604 Lakeview Ave., North Mankato, MN 56001.**

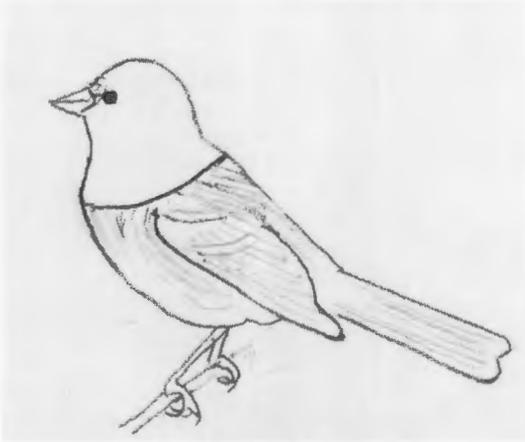
Editor's Note: There is only one other summer record for the White-crowned Sparrow in Minnesota: a single bird was seen on 30 July 1981 at Pipestone National Monument, Pipestone County (*The Loon* 53:225-226).

BARN OWL NESTS IN DAKOTA COUNTY — During July 1990 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was notified that a pair of Barn Owls had nested in an old grainery building on a farm in Vermillion Township, Dakota County. The birds were first discovered on 13 July 1990 when the residents of the farm entered the old building and heard very strange noises. Investigation revealed seven young Barn Owls in the loft area of the building. The nest site chosen by the owls was an old watering trough that had been placed in the loft to store grain. All seven young fledged from the nest but one bird died shortly after fledging from unknown causes. On 10 September 1990, I had the opportunity to accompany DNR personnel to the farm. The purpose of the visit was to place a nest box in an abandoned silo where the owl family was roosting. The residents had decided to destroy the old grain building. By placing the nest box in the silo, it was hoped that the owls would return next year and use the box as a nest-site. On the 10th I observed six of the Barn Owls perched high up in the old silo. On the evening of the 11th, I returned to the farm to attempt to record vocalizations of the owls. At dusk the owls left the silo and were seen flying around the farm building. The winds came up after dark making it almost impossible to record the sounds the birds were making. Talking to the residents I learned that Barn Owls may have used this site for nesting during previous years. The farm has been owned by one family since the early part of the twentieth century. The present owner stated that as a youngster back in the 50s and 60s he had occasionally seen owls around the farm buildings and the family called them Barn Owls. The 1990 nesting is the first in the state since 1963 when a pair of Barn Owls nested in an old silo near Northrup, Martin County. Hopefully these owls will return to this site next year and successfully fledge more young. The residents of the farm did not want the exact location given out, to avoid disturbing the owls. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

CAROLINA WREN IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — A Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) was briefly heard along Northwood Ridge Road in Bloomington on 24 September 1990, according to the Minnesota Bird Report "hotline." During a walk along this road on 30 September 1990 in mid-morning, I stopped to look at kinglets in a small grove of spruce trees. Serendipity led to discovery of a Carolina Wren in weeds and brush at the base of the trees. Unobstructed views were obtained from as close as 12 feet. The bird was initially silent but during the subsequent 30 minutes of observation, brief interludes of full song were heard and tape recorded in addition to buzzy alarm calls and occasional trios of clear whistles. The property owners were not aware of the bird but were interested when informed of its presence. The wren seemed to favor the low brush and tangled grape vines in the yard in addition to the spruce trees. The following description was compiled from field notes recorded while the bird was in view. The relatively long bill, compared to other wrens, was slightly decurved and dark except for the pale lower mandible. There was a darker border along the sides of the dark brown crown, producing dramatic contrast with a distinct and relatively wide superciliary stripe which continued towards the nape. A brown eye stripe just below the white stripe was noted, and there were fine streaks on the pale cheek. A few very fine streaks were seen on the whitish throat. The overall color of the upperparts was rufous brown. The wren usually held its brown tail cocked like most wrens, but the tail was not as long as expected, possibly due to wear. The underparts were described as warm buff, especially on the sides and flanks. A few very faint bars on at least one of the flanks were unexpected. A later review of detailed descriptions (Oberholser, 1974, *The Bird Life of Texas*, Volume II) was informative. Both the crissum and the flanks may be lightly barred in the subspecies described by Oberholser. **Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

Editor's Note: As of the end of December 1990, the Carolina Wren was still at the Homzik feeder on Northwood Ridge Road.

A WHITE-HOODED WHITE THROATED SPARROW — While engaged in inventorying the birds of The Lost Valley Prairie Scientific Area just north of Hastings, Minnesota, on 30 October 1990, I experienced an apparition before my very eyes. After looking at many American Tree Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos, a few Fox and White-throated Sparrows, I was astounded when, at the edge of a field, a sparrow-sized bird with a snowy, almost pure white, hood flew up from the ground to alight a few feet up in the plum thicket. It was in plain view only 15 feet away. And it stayed there while three or four other sparrows flitted away. Its eye, against such whiteness, was very beady, like that of a Snow Bunting. Its lore was bright yellow, much more noticeable than that of a normal White-throated Sparrow. A trace of a black vertical line showed at each side of the throat and there were a very few dark feathers on the crown. The wings and body and the voice (high-pitched “tseet”) indicated to me that the bird was a partially albinistic White-throated. It was unusually tame and cooperative as it allowed me to scrutinize it at such close range. **William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.**



A “white-hooded” White-throated Sparrow. Drawing by Bill Longley.

BLACK SCOTERS IN PINE COUNTY — My main interest at daybreak on 7 October 1990 was to lure a plump walleye into our boat on Sturgeon Lake where I was fishing with a neighbor that morning. However, that objective was interrupted by the sight of two black ducks paddling along nearby. It was obvious these were not American Coots which were common there at the time, so I put down my fishing rod and picked up my ever-present 8x36 binoculars to make a closer examination. These ducks appeared entirely black except for a large light-gray cheek patch which extended from just under the eye down well onto the neck, unlike the Ruddy Duck of which I was reminded. My next thought was “scoter” so I looked for the thick bill typical on most scoters. The bills on these ducks were dark but quite straight and comparatively slim, unlike other scoters I have seen. After making mental notes of the above mentioned features, I resumed the pursuit of those plump walleyes and did succeed in putting several into our boat. Upon returning to the cabin I checked the field guide and soon identified these ducks as female Black Scoters. These observations were made at a distance as close as 35 meters. The time was just after sunrise, about 7:20 A.M., the sky partly cloudy with the sun at my back. The water was calm so it was no problem seeing well through the binoculars. (Strong north winds had been blowing the previous two days.) I did not see these ducks in flight. **Louis Dinzl, 7828 North Mississippi Lane, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.**

TRICOLORED HERON IN CARVER COUNTY — An excellent birding area developed in western Carver County during July 1990 due to heavy rains in the area. Crane Creek flows through this area along the Carver-McLeod County line between Minnesota State Highway 7 on the north and Carver County Road 30 approximately two miles to the south. Crane Creek, when heavy rain occurs, floods the surrounding fields and woodlands making excellent feeding and roosting areas for Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons. On 28 July 1990, I received a call over the Minnesota Bird Report line from Lynn and David Homzik that they had seen a Tricolored Heron in the flooded area just north of County Road 30. Around 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, 29 July 1990, I visited this area. I searched all the flooded areas along County Road 30 with no success in finding the unusual heron. After an hour or so of searching, I drove south of County Road 30 on Yancy Avenue. About a half-mile down the road I came to a flooded area containing many dead trees. I saw several Great Egrets feeding among the trees. I stopped the car to look at these birds and four Great Egrets and the Tricolored Heron flushed from the ditch along the side of the road. I got an excellent view of the Tricolored Heron as it flew east and north. It settled down in a flooded grassy area just south of County Road 30. Following are my notes taken just after I saw the bird: "Saw Tricolored Heron flush from flooded woodland area with four Great Egrets. Noted smaller size when compared with Great Egrets, approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller. The bird was very slender with a gray-blue back, white underbelly and white under the tail. A long, sharp beak was light in color with a dark tip. There was a white mottled stripe down the center of the long neck and a small amount of light yellowish around the eye." I observed the bird standing and flying for about two to three minutes before it flew off to the north and disappeared in the wooded area. Ray Glassel checked the area later in the day and found the Tricolored Heron in the same location. To the best of my knowledge, this was the last time the heron was seen there. This location continued to be an excellent place to view herons. On 25 July 1990, a Snowy Egret was observed by several observers. All during August numerous Great Egrets were present. On 28 August 1990 over 450 Great Egrets were counted at dusk. This is the largest single concentration of Great Egrets that I know of that has occurred in the state. American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Cattle Egrets, Great Blue Herons and many shorebird species were numerous in this area until the water receded by the end of August. An immature Peregrine Falcon stayed in the vicinity, for a week or so, harassing the shorebirds. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

A POSSIBLE JAEGER IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On 13 October 1990 I was showing a friend the small deck I had built jutting out from the top of the high bank of the Mississippi River in front of my home about a mile downstream from the new Highway 610 bridge. I suddenly spotted a gull-sized bird flying down-river at about eye level. My first impression was that it was an immature Ring-billed Gull but the back was evenly dark gray, not mottled as with most gulls. I recall seeing distinctly that it had a white throat and belly with a prominent dark band across the upper breast. My friend was not an experienced birder but he mentioned that he too had noticed the dark band. I did not distinguish the small projecting middle tail feathers against the dark background of trees. This could well have been the light phase of an adult Parasitic Jaeger. **Walter J. Breckenridge, 8840 W. River Road N., Minneapolis, MN 55440.**

DUCK NUMBERS REMAIN LOW — North American duck populations in 1990 have increased only about 1 percent over last year's numbers, which were the second lowest in history, according to an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Of the 10 species counted, only Green-winged Teal, Canvasback and Gadwall populations are higher than averages for the period 1955-1989. Mallards are 4 percent off last year's numbers and 27 percent below the long-time average. (*Ecology U.S.A.*)

THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

It was a good year for Minnesota 300 Club members. The Golden-crowned Sparrow at the end of 1989 gave most of us a Minnesota lifer. Unfortunately, this was not the case with the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, that showed up at a feeder in Eagan during late June and early July; very few of us got to see it.

As usual, fall was the time for the unusual. A long-awaited and hoped-for Whooping Crane put in an appearance in northwestern Minnesota in late October. What a sight it was, and what made it even better was that so many people got to see the bird.

Ten days later, on 3 November, Ray Glassel and I were on a "routine" bird trip in Morrison County. Actually we were looking for Ruddy Ducks on a remote lake named Clear Lake near the boundary of Camp Ripley when an Ash-throated Flycatcher flew in front of my car; what a thrill! and once again, lots of people got to see the bird over the next few days.

Welcome Parker Backstrom, Bonnie Mulligan, Anthony Hertzell and Jerry Pruet to our "little" Club.

Bob Janssen

1. Ray Glassel	374	34. Jerry Bonkoski	327
2. Bob Janssen	372	36. Steve Ekblad	325
3. Kim Eckert	370	37. Peder Svingen	323
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The MINNESOTA 200 COUNTY CLUB

Ray Glassel and Ken LaFond are still the most active county listers in the state. Both have 200 or more species for all 87 Minnesota counties. I am at a distant third place with 75 counties over 200.

Kim Eckert still leads with the most species for one county with an amazing 312 in St. Louis County. St. Louis, of course, has the highest total species count for any county in the state at 345. Red Lake County comes in last with only 228 species total.

Bob Janssen

County	Number of	County	Number of
Observer	Species	Observer	Species
Aitkin	(293)	Carlton	(249)
Warren Nelson	264	Ken LaFond	228
Jo Bfanich	262	Ray Glassel	206
Ray Glassel	236	Carver	(263)
Bob Janssen	229	Ray Glassel	237
Kim Risen	225	Bob Janssen	217
Ken LaFond	218	Ken LaFond	206
Anoka	(297)	Cass	(267)
Ken LaFond	277	Ray Glassel	210
Ray Glassel	249	Ken LaFond	206
Steve Carlson	239	Chippewa	(241)
Ruth Andberg	230	Micki Buer	214
Bob Janssen	227	Ray Glassel	213
Kim Risen	207	Ken LaFond	203
Dick Rengstorf	205	Bob Janssen	203
Becker	(272)	Chisago	(254)
Ray Glassel	220	Ray Glassel	230
Bob Janssen	214	Ken LaFond	220
Ken LaFond	208	Bob Janssen	203
Beltrami	(276)	Clay	(287)
Jeffrey Palmer	226	Laurence Falk	246
Ray Glassel	220	Carol Falk	244
Ken LaFond	215	Ray Glassel	227
Al Bolduc	209	Bob Janssen	215
Bob Janssen	203	Ken LaFond	212
Doug Johnson	203	Clearwater	(269)
Benton	(244)	Al Bolduc	246
Ray Glassel	216	Ray Glassel	216
Ken LaFond	212	Ken LaFond	213
Bob Janssen	209	Bob Janssen	204
Big Stone	(262)	Cook	(293)
Micki Buer	239	Molly Hoffman	262
Ray Glassel	221	Ken Hoffman	262
Ken LaFond	206	Kim Eckert	231
Bob Janssen	206	Bob Janssen	219
Blue Earth	(270)	Walter Popp	218
Merrill Frydendall	240	Ray Glassel	216
Ray Glassel	222	Ken LaFond	203
John Frenz	205	Cottonwood	(265)
Bob Janssen	203	Ed Duerksen	249
Ken LaFond	200	Buddy Feil	234
Brown	(255)	Ray Glassel	217
Ray Glassel	229	Jerry Bonkoski	207
Bob Janssen	209	Bob Janssen	206
Ken LaFond	201	Ken LaFond	201

County Observer	Number of Species	County Observer	Number of Species
Crow Wing	(273)	Ken LaFond	202
Jo Blanich	244	Hennepin	(330)
Ray Glassel	222	Ray Glassel	298
Warren Nelson	214	Oscar Johnson	297
Ken LaFond	214	Bob Janssen	297
Bob Janssen	213	Steve Carlson	288
Kim Risen	207	Al Bolduc	273
Dakota	(296)	Greg Pietila	264
Ray Glassel	273	Gary Swanson	258
Joanne Dempsey	263	Kim Risen	251
Karol Gresser	248	Paul Egeland	240
Bob Janssen	244	Karol Gresser	239
Al Bolduc	230	Tom Soulen	225
Jon Peterson	220	Bill Litkey	222
Bruce Baer	220	Ken LaFond	218
Ann McKenzie	218	Dick Rengstorf	213
Anne Marie Plunkett	218	Ruth Andberg	202
Kim Risen	217	Gary Simonson	202
Ken LaFond	214	Houston	(264)
Bill Litkey	214	Ray Glassel	225
Dick Rengstorf	205	Anne Marie Plunkett	217
Elaine McKenzie	201	Jon Peterson	213
Dodge	(244)	Bob Janssen	212
Anne Marie Plunkett	241	Ann McKenzie	208
Ray Glassel	220	Kim Risen	204
Jerry Bonkoski	206	Ken LaFond	202
Bob Janssen	204	Hubbard	(258)
Ken LaFond	200	Ray Glassel	212
Douglas	(239)	Ken LaFond	208
Ray Glassel	210	Isanti	(252)
Bob Janssen	205	Ken LaFond	227
Ken LaFond	203	Ray Glassel	221
Faribault	(239)	Bob Janssen	201
Ray Glassel	212	Itasca	(253)
Bob Janssen	202	Ken LaFond	202
Ken LaFond	200	Ray Glassel	200
Fillmore	(258)	Jackson	(268)
Anne Marie Plunkett	241	Ray Glassel	217
Ray Glassel	221	Bob Janssen	207
Bob Janssen	207	Ken LaFond	200
Ken LaFond	202	Kanabec	(236)
Freeborn	(263)	Ken LaFond	220
Ray Glassel	229	Ray Glassel	216
Bob Janssen	211	Kandiyohi	(257)
Ken LaFond	202	Ray Glassel	224
Anne Marie Plunkett	200	Ken LaFond	210
Goodhue	(287)	Bob Janssen	209
Bill Litkey	251	Kittson	(253)
Ray Glassel	250	Ken LaFond	212
Bob Janssen	239	Ray Glassel	204
Anne Marie Plunkett	227	Koochiching	(236)
Joanne Dempsey	224	Ken LaFond	219
Kim Risen	209	Ray Glassel	200
Al Bolduc	208	Lac Qui Parle	(299)
Ken LaFond	200	Micki Buer	261
Grant	(256)	Chuck Buer	250
Kim Eckert	218	Ray Glassel	232
Ray Glassel	217	Bob Janssen	230
Bob Janssen	211	John Schladweiler	227

County	Number of Species
Observer	
Bill Litkey	225
Paul Egeland	220
Al Bolduc	218
Gary Swanson	215
Ken LaFond	206
Henry Kyllingstad	201
Lake	(276)
Steve Wilson	229
Mary Shedd	220
Ray Glassel	213
Ken LaFond	208
Dick Versaw	204
Lake of the Woods	(258)
Ray Glassel	212
Kim Eckert	210
Bob Janssen	207
Ken LaFond	205
Keith Steva	203
Shelley Steva	201
LeSueur	(268)
Ray Glassel	238
Bob Janssen	206
Horace Chamberlain	205
Ken LaFond	204
Lincoln	(240)
Ray Glassel	211
Ken LaFond	201
Lyon	(281)
Henry Kyllingstad	263
Paul Egeland	256
Ray Glassel	223
Bob Janssen	211
Ken LaFond	200
Mahnomen	(247)
Ray Glassel	209
Bob Janssen	207
Ken LaFond	201
Marshall	(294)
Shelley Steva	235
Ray Glassel	221
Kim Eckert	217
Bob Janssen	211
Keith Steva	206
Ken LaFond	202
Martin	(263)
Ray Glassel	216
Bob Janssen	203
Ken LaFond	201
McLeod	(251)
Ray Glassel	216
Ken LaFond	202
Bob Janssen	202
Meeker	(242)
Ray Glassel	217
Ken LaFond	209
Bob Janssen	203
Mille Lacs	(267)
Ken LaFond	226
Ray Glassel	221

County	Number of Species
Observer	
Bob Janssen	211
Morrison	(259)
Ray Glassel	222
Loiel Ryan	219
Ken LaFond	213
Bob Janssen	200
Mower	(266)
Ron Kneeskern	244
Rose Kneeskern	243
Dick Smaby	228
John Morrison	223
Ray Glassel	219
Anne Marie Plunkett	215
Bob Janssen	203
Ken LaFond	201
Murray	(254)
Nelvina DeKam	214
Ray Glassel	212
Ken LaFond	200
Bob Janssen	200
Nicollet	(269)
Ray Glassel	238
John Frentz	237
Merrill Frydendall	233
Bob Janssen	213
Ken LaFond	204
Nobles	(239)
Ray Glassel	209
Ken LaFond	200
Norman	(242)
Ray Glassel	213
Bob Janssen	206
Ken LaFond	201
Olmsted	(288)
Anne Marie Plunkett	271
Jerry Bonkoski	271
Bob Ekblad	261
Steve Ekblad	253
Joan Fowler	246
Jerry Pruett	243
Ray Glassel	229
Vince Herring	226
Helen Tucker	219
Bob Janssen	214
Ken LaFond	205
Jon Peterson	205
Ann McKenzie	203
Otter Tail	(296)
Steve Millard	264
Ray Glassel	217
Ken LaFond	215
Bob Janssen	210
Pennington	(250)
Shelley Steva	211
Ray Glassel	209
Bob Janssen	203
Ken LaFond	200
Pine	(263)
Ken LaFond	231

County	Observer	Number of Species
	Ray Glassel	225
	Mike Link	216
	Bob Janssen	210
Pipestone		(256)
	Ray Glassel	208
	Ken LaFond	203
Polk		(272)
	David Lambeth	242
	Al Bolduc	227
	Ray Glassel	220
	Bob Janssen	217
	Sharon Lambeth	216
	Shelley Steva	215
	Ken LaFond	205
Pope		(245)
	Ray Glassel	216
	Bob Janssen	215
	Ken LaFond	202
Ramsey		(294)
	Ray Glassel	259
	Bill Litkey	253
	Liz Campbell	252
	Bob Janssen	241
	Tom Soulen	239
	Ken LaFond	226
	Elaine McKenzie	220
	Dick Rengstorf	217
	Bob Holtz	215
	Ann McKenzie	204
	Frank Berdan	203
Red Lake		(228)
	Ray Glassel	207
	Bob Janssen	205
	Ken LaFond	202
Redwood		(245)
	Ray Glassel	223
	Bob Janssen	216
	Ken LaFond	200
Renville		(251)
	Ray Glassel	229
	Bob Janssen	214
	Paul Egeland	212
	Ken LaFond	208
Rice		(276)
	Orwin Rustad	244
	Ray Glassel	238
	Bob Janssen	209
	Ken LaFond	204
	Paul Egeland	200
	Anne Marie Plunkett	200
Rock		(254)
	Kim Eckert	241
	Ray Glassel	216
	Ken LaFond	202
	Bob Janssen	200
Roseau		(268)
	Ray Glassel	212
	Bob Janssen	207
	Ken LaFond	206

County	Observer	Number of Species
St. Louis		(345)
	Kim Eckert	312
	Mike Hendrickson	288
	Keith Camburn	284
	Burnett Hojnacki	284
	Leata Pearson	280
	Paul Egeland	278
	Doug Johnson	274
	Parker Backstrom	274
	Bob Janssen	273
	Don Kienholz	272
	Ray Glassel	268
	Bill Penning	266
	Dave Benson	258
	Kim Risen	256
	Mark Stensaas	255
	Bill Litkey	253
	Ken LaFond	252
	Al Bolduc	238
	Stephen Geerts	229
	Gary Swanson	223
	Mary Enley	222
	Steven Schon	221
	Arnold Knutson	220
	Anne Marie Plunkett	218
	Ann McKenzie	214
	Henry Kyllingstad	211
	Dick Sandve	210
	Jon Peterson	210
	Oscar Johnson	208
	Jerry Bonkoski	201
	Bob Ekblad	200
Scott		(269)
	Ray Glassel	253
	Bob Janssen	223
	Ken LaFond	204
	Al Bolduc	203
Sherburne		(277)
	Ray Glassel	233
	Ken LaFond	231
	Bob Janssen	220
	Jay Hamernick	201
Sibley		(249)
	Ray Glassel	235
	Bob Janssen	220
	Ken LaFond	200
Stearns		(290)
	Kim Eckert	238
	Ray Glassel	229
	Ken LaFond	219
	Bob Janssen	211
Steele		(249)
	Ray Glassel	233
	Bob Janssen	211
	Anne Marie Plunkett	203
	Ken LaFond	200
Stevens		(246)
	Ray Glassel	212
	Ken LaFond	202

County	Number of	County	Number of
Observer	Species	Observer	Species
Bob Janssen	202	Dave Sovereign	237
Swift	(252)	Joanne Dempsey	232
Micki Buer	222	Bob Janssen	230
Ray Glassel	217	Liz Campbell	224
Bob Janssen	209	Tom Bell	217
Ken LaFond	200	Dick Rengstorf	222
Todd	(257)	Ken LaFond	210
Ken LaFond	234	Watonwan	(235)
Ray Glassel	217	Ray Glassel	210
Bob Janssen	201	Bob Janssen	205
Traverse	(247)	Ken LaFond	200
Ray Glassel	220	Wilkin	(247)
Bob Janssen	209	Ray Glassel	211
Ken LaFond	200	Bob Janssen	204
Wabasha	(272)	Ken LaFond	203
Ray Glassel	243	Winona	(270)
Helen Tucker	237	Anne Marie Plunkett	237
Kim Risen	234	Ray Glassel	233
Don Mahle	232	Bob Janssen	218
Anne Marie Plunkett	225	Carol Schumacher	208
Bob Janssen	219	Kim Risen	204
Bill Litkey	207	Ken LaFond	201
Ken LaFond	206	Wright	(265)
Wadena	(255)	Gary Swanson	244
Ray Glassel	208	Ray Glassel	241
Ken LaFond	205	Bob Janssen	218
Waseca	(237)	Ken LaFond	215
Ray Glassel	220	Yellow Medicine	(261)
Bob Janssen	206	Paul Egeland	231
Ken LaFond	200	Ray Glassel	226
Washington	(287)	Micki Buer	221
Ray Glassel	263	Bob Janssen	212
Bill Litkey	257	Ken LaFond	200

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

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