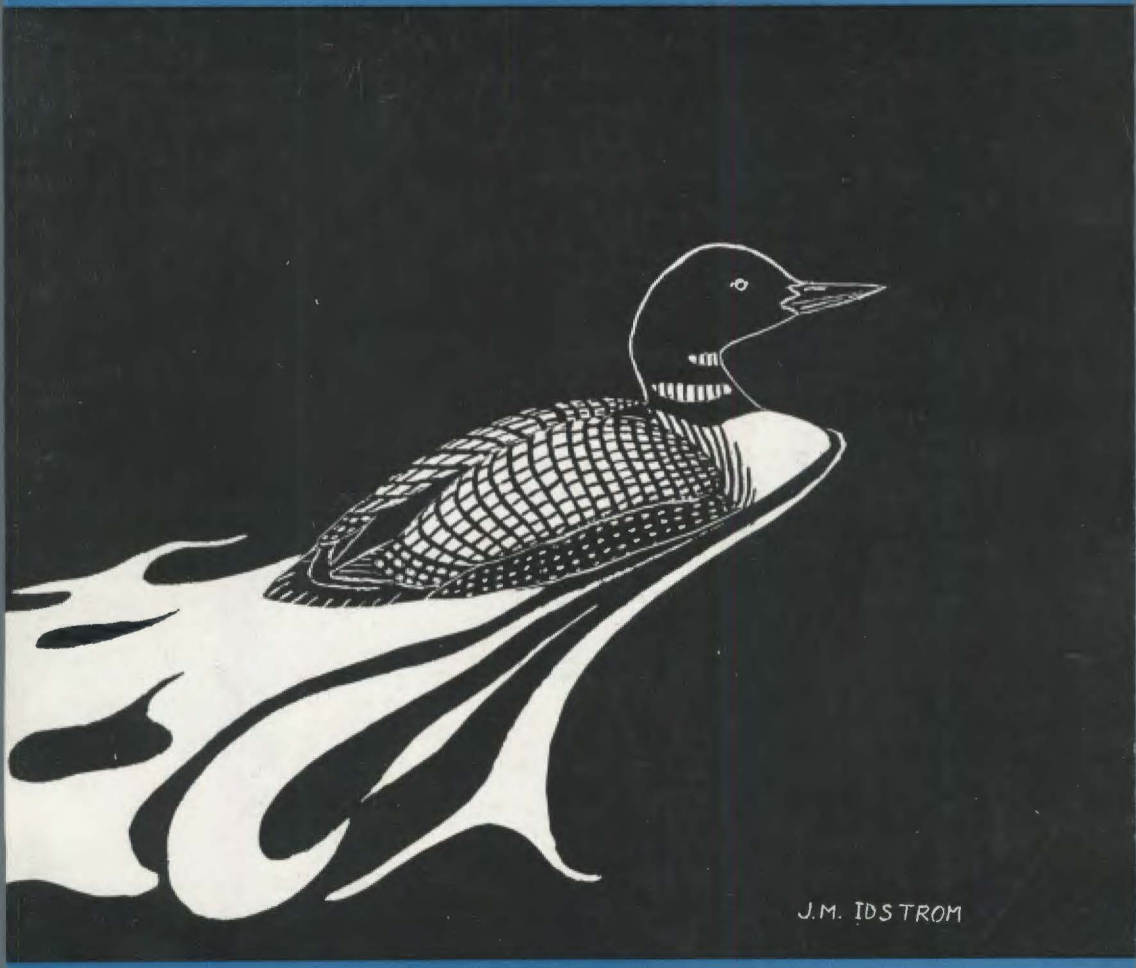
The Flicker

VOLUME 30 MARCH 1958 NUMBER 1



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
PERMANENT ADDRESS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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THE FLICKER

Organ of the *Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.* Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. *The Flicker* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for members: Active, $2.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Life, $50; Patron, $100 or more. All articles and communications for publications should be sent to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

The Loon, by J. M. Idstrom

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Did you ever go out into the woods and doze off and be awakened by a sound unfamiliar to you? As the "Wick-y-up" sound came closer you recognized the bird as the Pileated Woodpecker. The Pileated Woodpecker is found in the wooded areas all over our state. It is our most colorful bird, and spends both summer and winter in our beautiful state.

I have found the nest of a Pileated Woodpecker with three eggs and not too high up in a dead oak tree. They never go back to the same nest to raise their young, but will use the same tree to build their nest.

The food of this bird consists largely of insect life. It is very fond of grubs, wood-boring beetles and ants, especially those that make their home in dead wood. This bird is also fond of certain forms of wild berries. In its present awkward and ungainly appearance, it seeks to retain its perch and gathers berries among the small twigs in an uncertain and more or less laborious manner. To procure this food the woodpecker has developed remarkable skill as a woodcutter. It will attack a dead tree or log and in half an hour will leave a pile of chips of which a less ardent worker might be well proud. Often fragments of wood as large as one's hand may be seen where the bird has been at work.

It isn't always a shy bird. We may at times get within a few yards, and here in southern Minnesota I have been within 10 feet. When startled, its flight may be of short duration.

The Pileated Woodpecker is one of the noisiest tenants of the heavy forests and wooded swamps, which it inhabits. Particularly is this true during the mating season and after the young have left the nest. They have a long rolling cry which strongly suggests similar notes produced by the Flicker except that they are louder and the intervals between calls are slightly longer. Sometimes you will see two or three gather on the trunk of a tree and engage in a conversational "Wick-y-up" notes, which again suggest action and calls of the Flicker. In flight the bird does not proceed with the undulating movements common to many woodpeckers. The flight is more or less direct in a straight line.

The white underparts and the large white blotches on the wings contrast strongly with the black. The white wing area shows so plainly that one may often discover the bird flying at a distance and see just flashes of white.

There are very few people in our state, especially those that have traveled in our wooded areas, that have not seen this bird. Even here in Mankato we see them quite regularly in some back yard if they should happen to have a dead or partially dead tree.

Deer hunters have often asked what kind of a bird is it that is the size of a crow, black and white in color with a red crest. They have also heard the call of the Pileated Woodpecker with its "Wick-y-up", not knowing what it was.

To me its call is more eerie than the loon which we see on our northern lakes about four months of each year.

Sincerely,
Bill Luwe

A Walk In the Jungle

by

Bruce J. Hayward

To most of the ornithologically minded people in Minnesota, the frustration of looking for birds in a completely foreign area, without a hint of their identity is an unknown experience. In our home state, the species of birds have been carefully cataloged and their distributions worked out as well as possible. There are field guides that tell you exactly where to find specific birds and others that will help you in the identification of difficult plumages. Theoretically, a person could walk into any Minnesota woods, whip out any number of reference books and identify the bird he saw. Obviously this sounds much easier than it actually is, but we do become accustomed to having the right answer at our finger tips. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go birding in a completely different area without the help of a book or a list of species? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be dropped into an area where every bird that you saw was a new one for your life list? In 1955, I was found in this situation. The Air Force had plunked me down on Guam in April of that year for three months.

My first trip into the jungle was an experience I shall never forget. I came out with dozens of questions unanswered. For answers to others I had to reach far back into my memory for things that I thought I would never use. There were families of birds that were not found in North America and some that were North American but did not inhabit any of the areas I had visited. I found that the only way I could keep track of these strange birds was to give them names of my own until I found out their identity later. It was fun. For all practical purposes, I was a naturalist entering an area for the first time and describing new species of birds. When I did find out the right names I was amazed to see how my first impressions compared with those of the fellow who gave the birds their original names. Let me describe that first trip into the jungle for you.

As I stood on the balcony of my barracks that day I scanned the locality to decide where I should go. I took note of the big clearing not far away that was destined to be a housing area. Although it had been cleared recently, a thick mat of grass had grown up and small flowering herbs were already competing for space. Beyond the clearing was the scrub jungle, an innocent looking green mantle covering the hills adjacent to the ocean. From where I stood, it looked like any woods in southeastern Minnesota. Beyond the jungle I could see the deep, sparkling blue color of the Pacific Ocean. There is no shade of blue anywhere comparable to it. Above all, I looked at the weather. The day did not seem ideal for hiking for the sky was filled with those innocent cumulus clouds that can spring a leak at the twinkling of an eye. There is never the question of getting damp on Guam. You either get soaked to the skin or escape completely dry. A shower of one minute's duration is equivalent to a 15 minute shower anywhere else. So after sizing up the situation I decided to gamble on the chance that the birds would enjoy the weather more than I. After all, I'd been drenched many times already. One more time wouldn't make any difference.

The trail I chose headed straight east

toward the ocean and ran along the border of an area of second growth jungle. On the other side was the big clearing with the dense grass. All along there were flocks of noisy, iridescent black birds that I would have liked to call starlings. Their calls certainly were starling-like, being a series of melodious chirps, burps, and squawks. The more I looked at them, the more they resembled Brewer's Blackbirds. So I compromised and called them simply "black birds". (I should have stuck to my guns for they were Micronesian Starlings).

Soon I got tired of seeing these birds so I cut into the brush. This was second-growth vegetation and reminded me of the hazel-brush tangles of northern Minnesota. The leaves even looked like hazel leaves. Then I found a clump of plants that were identical to poinsettias, yet were only the size of daisies. There was a Guamian counterpart of the butterfly weed that is so common in Minnesota. I was feeling a little better at recognizing something.

In a moment I heard a loud, piercing chirp and saw a flutter of orange and brown heading through the leaves at full throttle. Ducking around bushes at a fast pace I caught enough glimpses of the bird to formulate a picture. It had a big, black fan-shaped tail with a white outer margin. The predominant colors were chestnut, white and brownish-black. A chestnut rump patch was clearly visible. I recalled a picture I had seen in a book many years before. This must be a Fan-tailed Flycatcher! Well, if it wasn't, the name surely fit. The bird kept moving constantly, never staying in one spot more than a few seconds. In a flash it was gone, but I could hear its loud, piercing chirp as it worked off into the "hazel".

I began to wonder how long it would take this head-high vegetation to become mature jungle once again. In less than 10 years it certainly had a good start. My thoughts were interrupted by a small bird zipping by. It landed on a bare branch directly in front of me. In shape it looked like a miniature Brown Creeper. The small size and down-curved bill reminded me of a tray of birds I had seen at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. These had been called sunbirds. I decided to call this one a Red Sunbird (actually it was a Scarlet Honey-eater). The overall coloration was red, being brightest on the head and losing intensity farther back. The wings and tail were brownish-olive. It too, was gone in a flash. Later I saw another one which seemed to be a female for it was reddish only on the head and neck and was greyish elsewhere. It had a yellow malar stripe not evident on the redder sunbirds.

After spending 15 to 20 minutes exploring the "hazel-brush" I decided to go back to the road and see where it led. About a half a mile away I could see the ocean and I hoped that this road might take me down to the shore. As I was walking along I happened to look at the right moment and noticed a large rail-like bird dash across the road. It stopped on the opposite side for a full minute. I studied it carefully and saw that it was a uniform olive-brown color on the back and had a white line through the eye. The flanks were zebra-striped with black and white bars. It ducked into the brush and I didn't see another until much later. Each time I did see one though, I learned a little more about this secretive bird. It reminded me a lot of a large Virginia Rail. What a strange sensation it was seeing rails stalking the undergrowth of the Guamanian jungle. Several months later I found out that these were Guam Rails, endemic birds on the island.

Up ahead where the trail cut deep into the jungle, the trees were literally jumping with activity. The black birds were creating a noise that resembled a cross between a political convention and a ladies aid society. Apart from these sounds I though I could discern a few

screams typical of parrots. I was positive that I would find several species of parrots on the island, although I don't know what gave me the impression (there are no parrots on Guam). The staccato chirps of the Fan-tailed Flycatcher caught my attention next. This time the bird fluttered around majestically, almost haughtily, and I studied it well. Its king-sized tail stuck up in the air most of the time and spread out like a fan. In this respect it acted much like a Redstart. Like a fashion model, it paraded around only a short time before disappearing.

Other distinctive sounds were loud, hollow "coos" somewhat reminiscent of a cuckoo's song, yet typically dove-like. It wasn't long before I saw this Guamanian version of the Rain Crow. It proved to be a bird quite similar to a Mourning Dove yet more slender. It had the same long thin tail, but square at the end. The coloration was a combination of light brown, grey and white blended so as to make actual description difficult. A black hood over the back of the neck was not easily noticed. The bird was similar to our Mourning Dove in habits as well. Research into the literature proved this bird to be a Turtle Dove, an import from the Philippine Islands that had done very well here.

While studying the dove, I heard another low scream from a tree nearby. I looked up and saw a green bird flying past. It had a reddish cap and traces of yellow on the sides of the head. The bird was stocky and had short, stubby wings so I was convinced that I had finally seen a parrot. I chalked it off as such that day. Wrong again!! This had been a Mariannas Fruit Dove, another endemic species. What I had seen of the bird that day was as much as you ever see. This species is secretive and, when flushed it disappears into dense foliage.

A pair of rails along the road added a few more of their rattling notes to the overture. Then one dashed across the road and the other lowered its head and sneaked off into the inpenetrable vegetation.

The Coconut Palm is the most abundant tree on the island.

The trail parted and I took the least traveled one. I hadn't gone more than 50 feet when I glanced into the jungle by chance. I stopped motionless at the sight of a magnificent bird not more than 20 feet away. Right away I called it a kingfisher (this time I was right, for it was a Micronesian Kingfisher). It had a short tail and a bill that seemed just as long and maybe five or six times as thick. This made it look really front-heavy. The bird had a beautiful chestnut-colored breast, while the wings, back and tail were an iridescent blue-green color that was very striking. Its beady eyes kept track of my beady eyes as I edged closer. Finally, when I was 15 feet away, it took flight. The last I saw of it was a flash of iridescent blue being swallowed up in the darkness of the jungle. I was very impressed with this bird

and fervently wished that I could see another. A Fan-tailed Flycatcher that chirped excitedly in the bush beside me was little compensation for the sight I had just seen.

Around a bend and up a slight incline the trail seemed to dive into a tunnel of trees. The canopy of branches met overhead, scarcely parting enough for the trail. Huge banyan trees grew as part of this canopy. Those were the trees that seemed like king-sized clumps of vines. They had dozens of trunks growing from a single spot and each had many branches. Banyans are not pretty trees, rather they grow in the paths of least resistance and often become scraggly and misshapen. Half of the branches are usually dead and these make ideal perches for the Guamanian birds. Papaya trees grow here, too. Their yellow fruits hung by the dozen from the trunks. This was a highly delectable food for the birds as attested by the fact that you hardly ever found a papaya fruit intact. Another prominant tree was the Pandanus Tree. Newcomers to the island invariably called this the pineapple tree for their fruits looked something like pineapples. I was no exception and it took several days before I learned that pineapples do not grow on trees. Of course there were a multitude of other trees and shrubs that I couldn't identify. Wherever a little sunlight penetrated the canopy there grew a lush assortment of plants which accounted for the green walls on all sides. When I broke through this edge vegetation I could see that there was little vegetation inside. What little there was, was scattered among the huge, jagged coral rocks. Overhead the black birds kept up their incessant whistling, chirping and warbling. When I thought about it, the jungle would be pretty quiet without them.

There seemed to be an opening ahead. As I advanced I noticed two huge rocks on either side of the trail. I walked through this natural gate and caught sight of one of the most magnificent scenes I have even witnessed. I had reached the top of the cliffs that abutt the ocean on the north side of the island. Five hundred feet below me the waves crashed against the base of the cliff. There was no reef here with its protective lagoon separating the land from the ocean. The waves met the rocks of Guam, futily expending their energy in a mass of seething, white water. On either side the cliff extended until it formed a promontory. Beyond these points were miles and miles of the bluest water I have ever seen. Shadows from the billowy, white cumulus clouds so typical of the Pacific Ocean in this latitude, painted purple patterns here and there on the water. At the horizon, the blue of the ocean fused with the blue of the sky. Minute brown specks moving across the ocean proved to be ocean birds (Brown Boobies). I then noticed them sitting on the rocks where the waves seemed to be the largest and where the spray traveled the farthest.

From a pinnacle of rock I watched this scene for over 20 minutes. Behind was the jungle, an impenetrable shroud of vegetation full of sweet smells and of the wild cries of birds. Ahead was the fresh ocean breeze, the thunder of giant waves and the infinity of the ocean stretching out thousands of miles, uninterrupted by land of any sort. It was truly a scene and a time to be filed away in memory for time to come.

Finally I turned around and studied the jungle for awhile. A small Brown Swift (the Edible Nest Swiftlet) seemed to have homestaked a small area of the trail as its private hunting grounds. It circled around and around this small area, sometimes coming within two feet of me. Except for its size, it might have been a Chimney Swift circling over a Minnesota woods. The black birds continued to call and the Fan-tailed Flycatchers were still attracting attention.

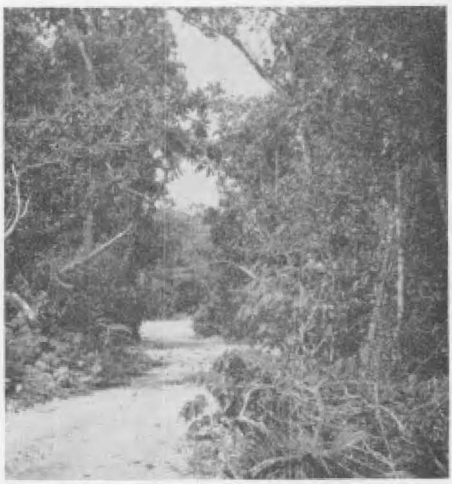
The hour was growing late and the sun was going down so I had to turn

back. I climbed down the pinnacle of rock and hiked back through the tunnel of trees. Now I began to see a lot of doves. Each time they flew, their wings beat the branches, making it sound as though a Turkey Vulture were taking off. Then I spotted another kingfisher perching on a branch near where I had seen the previous one. It was different in that its breast was white instead of chestnut. I watched it a few minutes before it, too, departed.

Another parrot (Fruit Dove) flew overhead creating enough noise for five birds. Like all others, it seemed to become invisible when it landed in a clump of foliage. A flurry of excitement in the nearby tree-tops caught my eye. I examined the birds with my binoculars. They seemed to be miniature vireos, with prominent white eye rings. Once again I reached back into my memory and decided that they must be White-eyes. I remembered them as nondescript birds that looked something like a kinglet-sized Blue-headed Vireo. Being very active, they were soon off to better hunting grounds.

I continued to see more doves as I neared the air base. Perhaps they were more active due to the twilight. A short ways down the trail I was really surprised. I was standing in the middle of the road looking at a Fan-tailed Flycatcher when I noticed the silhouette of a pigeon flying toward me. It veered to the left and landed in a tall, dead banyan tree. When I first focused my binoculars on it, I was amazed to notice that it had a pure white head, neck and breast. The rest of the body was black. The color combination was quite striking to say the least. Then as I watched it more closely I noticed that the black was actually an iridescent purplish-brown which was even more striking. It was a large bird about the size of a grouse. I called it a White-headed Pigeon.

The last new bird that I was destined to see that day was encountered not far



The road through the scrub jungle showing typical vegetation in this region.

from the air base. I was passing the second-growth brush that I described earlier when I heard a whir of wings and saw a bird that looked 85 per cent like a Least Bittern. It flapped overhead and then seemed to collapse into the dense grass in the clearing. The only difference from the North American variety seemed to be that the ends of the wings were white with black tips. Later I saw many of these birds. What better name to call them than "Least Bittern"! Later I found out that the official name was Chinese Least Bittern.

I returned to my barracks that afternoon thrilled with the beautiful walk, the many new birds I had seen, the magnificent scene on the cliff and with a fervent desire to find out more about these birds. I saw many other species on Guam and I had many other pleasant hikes through the jungle and along the beaches but none compared to that first trip. Then, everything that I saw was different and each time I turned around I discovered something new. It was one of the most pleasant bird walks that I have ever had. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Consider the Loon

by

Charles Flugum

At the annual hawk count at Duluth this year, a lone bird flying in the distance was identified as a loon; of special interest because it is being strongly advocated as official state bird of Minnesota. Although the bird was too far away to permit seeing any plumage markings even with the aid of binoculars, its silhouetted, hunchbacked, flight profile marked it unmistakably. Far from expert in flight and quite unconcerned about thermals or upward air currents so eagerly sought by hawks, it did not follow the path of most migrants, along the shore. but headed straight for its most accommodating element, the open water.

In equipping its creatures for expertness in one element, nature often leaves them almost helpless in another so we find the loon grotesquely awkward on land, very ordinary in flight but exceedingly skillful at swimming and diving. The loon's large webbed feet are placed so far back on its body that on land the bird must shove itself along on its breast. To avoid land travel the loon places its nest very near water on a small island or anchored in a bed of reeds, sometimes atop a muskrat house. The loon cannot take flight from land. It cannot even take flight from water without splattering along the surface for a considerable distance, preferably running into the wind, using both feet and wings to attain enough speed for a takeoff. Once in the air it can fly with considerable speed, but its wings are too small in proportion to the bird's weight to permit anything but labored flight. When alighting it seems unable to check its speed to any degree. Alighting on land would very likely prove fatal. When alighting on the water it plunges in at headlong speed and sails about until its momentum is checked. In water the loon is thoroughly at home and a master performer. By expanding or contracting the large air sacks within its body it can change its specific gravity at will and swim with ease at any level. It normally rides low in the water and sometimes swims with only its head and neck above the surface, the original periscope. The designers of the first manmade sub must have been inspired by the loon, nature's submarine. The crafty bird can sink from sight gradually without leaving a ripple or drop under like a

stone. Its chief food is fish which it pursues skillfully, using its large webbed feet and sometimes its wings to propel itself. There are records of loons being caught in fishnets set as much as 200 feet below the surface.

During migration, loons often gather in large numbers in favorable feeding areas, but in the breeding season they prefer solitude. A lake must be large to harbor more than one pair of loons. A family of loons, the adults and two young, is a familiar sight on northern Minnesota lakes during July and August. What fisherman has not spotted and tantalized one of these family groups, especially when the young were small, for the sheer joy of seeing the antics of the parents in their efforts to safeguard their offspring? Ask any fisherman. He'll smile and tell essentially the same story. The male separates himself from the group and tries to draw the intruder's attention by carrying on in a manner very likely responsible for the phrase, "crazy as a loon". Meanwhile, the female has managed to get the young to climb onto her back and with them she submerges. When at last she appears again far out in the lake there is no trace of her offspring. A thorough search of the lake's surface, if the weather is calm, may reveal two tiny dots near the spot where the female submerged. These are the young swimming with only their beaks and eyes above water. If the young are then pursued the parents quickly return to put on another frenzy of acrobatics.

This excitement has not been without its sound. Indeed the greatest charm of the loon is its strange call which has been variably described as weird, mournful, demoniacal, laughing, yodeling, superstitious, insane and like the scream of a drowning woman. To those who love the wilderness, however, the loud, resonent, quavering cry of the loon ringing out across the lake, rising, then falling, echoing and reverberating along the shores and fading away, is a delightful sound. Anyone who has heard the call of a loon from the snugness of a camp by a northern lake will never forget the thrill of this commanding sound of wild, free nature. It lures one to return again to hear the one remaining call of the untamed wilderness.

Minnesota, with nearly 300 species to choose from, is still without an official state bird. It seeks, as its symbol, a bird that is a resident of the state, is colorful and one that no other state has claimed. The loon meets all of these requirements. The problem is not lack of interest. Every birder seems eager to advance a favorite bird and all of the hopefuls meet objections. The loon, it is argued, is seldom seen in some parts of the state but is it any more difficult to find than our symbolic flower, the showy ladyslipper or, for that matter our state tree, the red pine? Members of the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union have at long last buried the hatchet and gone on record unanimously favoring the loon for state bird and the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota now indicate that they favor backing the M.O.U. in its choice. Minnesota has reason to be proud of the remaining unspoiled lakes, woods and wildlife of its widely known vacation mecca of which the loon is, in season, a living, inspiring part. We can do no better than to adopt the common loon or great northern diver, with its magnetic attributes, as our official state bird. — *Albert Lea, Minn.*

ATTENTION M.O.U. MEMBERS

The rising costs and depleted budget again force us to make a closer examination of our publication. At this time it seems apparent that we must either curtail the size or quality of the magazine or raise the dues. Will you drop a card to our treasurer, Mrs. Mary Lupient, 212 Bedford Street S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, and write "Yes" if you favor raising dues, and "No" if you do not.

Ornithological History of Minnesota

by

Ole A. Finseth

We may safely conclude that the earliest authentic records of ornithology in Minnesota bear an 1823 date line. In July of that year an expedition under one Major Stephen Long left Fort Snelling and proceeding northwest to the source of the Red River followed the grassy level prairie land through which the river flows to the Canadian border. Thomas Say, an entomologist, was a member of that party and he probably recorded the many observations of birds we find in Keating's *Narrative of the Major Long Expedition.* We find here the first definite mention of Trumpeter Swans, now confined to the Far West, breeding in this territory. He reported seeing Whooping and Sandhill Cranes; wild pigeons in great numbers in the woods bordering the Red River. In all, 50 species were described. Here Minnesota's bird life first became part of recorded history.

Other explorers had preceded Major Long in this region by at least 75 years. There were Father Radisson, Father Hennepin, Jonathan Carver and Zebulon Pike, all with high priority on the early explorer list, but their bird references were incomplete and too sketchy to be of more than passing interest or historical value. They came to explore and chart the wilderness. Their eyes were on the compass and they scarcely noticed the teeming bird life in the forest above them.

Earlier even than these were the Indians, but we can only surmise what birds the Indian saw and hunted, for the Red Man lived in history but wrote none of it.

With the first trails blazed, other explorers soon followed. In 1855 a list of 58 species was compiled and published by a Captain J. F. Head of the United States Army while he was stationed at Fort Snelling. In the period between 1856 and 1859 an English army officer, Captain Thomas Blakiston, a young man in his early thirties, traveled extensively in the northwestern part of the state. His observations were accorded wide recognition and later published in the *IBIS*, official organ of the British Ornithologist Union.

The next important list, containing 138 species, was published by Martin Trippe in 1871. This early list is considered important because it contained much interesting and original matter pertaining to our bird life.

A more ambitious effort, however, by the early researchers was the work of Dr. Philo Louis Hatch. He described 304 species in a list which was completed for publication in 1892 by Henry Nachtrieb, the then state zoologist, after Dr. Hatch had left the state in ill health and rather poor circumstances. Dr. Hatch had the honor of being the first state entomologist, having been appointed to that position by the regents of the state university. Of this pioneer ornithologist Dr. Roberts comments: "While it has been said of Dr. Hatch that his work was perhaps lacking in strictly scientific quality, his accomplishment is considered remarkable in that he was a pioneer working practically alone." He was born in Shenango County, New York, May 21, 1823 and died at Santa Barbara, California May 20, 1904. It is worthy of note that Dr. Roberts regarded Dr. Hatch as the father of Minnesota ornithology.

About the time of the publication of

Dr. Hatch's last work, another doctor, also born in the East and who came with his parents to Minnesota when he was only nine, was back East finishing his medical internship in the state of his birth. This completed, he returned to Minnesota to take up his professional work. Dr. Thomas Sadler Roberts was born on a farm near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1858 and passed away at Minneapolis, April 19, 1946 at the age of 88.

The boon companion of an ailing father who had been advised to seek health in the out-of-doors, young Roberts eagerly grasped the opportunity to study Minnesota's bird life by actual observation. He had early learned the valuable habit of making notes and keeping accurate records of what he observed. This was to become a inestimable value to him in producing his outstanding two-volume work "The Birds of Minnesota", which up to the present time has been the best source of information about the bird life of this state.

Dr. Roberts achieved many honors during his lifetime. He was made Professor Emeritus by the University of Minnesota in 1913, and later professor of ornithology and director of the Museum of Natural History. He became a fellow in the American Ornithologists' Union and for many years was a member of the council. He was recipient of the coveted Brewster medal awarded by the American Ornithologists' Union to the author of the most important work relating to birds in the Western Hemisphere, published during the six years just preceding the award.

While Dr. Roberts carefully assembled and edited the thousands of records that fill the pages of his great work, he was not working alone and was very generous in giving credit to his co-workers. In this brief paper it is possible to name only a very few, but the omission of many other names should in no wise reflect on the value of their work.

William Kilgore, a native Minnesotan, younger by 21 years than Dr. Roberts, was invited by the latter to become assistant in the newly formed Natural History Museum at the University of Minnesota in 1921. He assisted Dr. Roberts in field work and photography and is said to have been an important factor in causing Dr. Roberts to begin writing and publishing his books on the bird life of our state. Dr. Kilgore passed away Thanksgiving Day in 1953.

In the late twenties, from the state of Iowa there came to the University of Minnesota a man with a deep interest in natural sciences. Walter John Breckenridge was the third member of a trio consisting of Roberts, Kilgore and Breckenridge that hiked the prairies, waded the swamps and searched the forests in search of information so necessary for the files of the university and for the pages of Dr. Roberts' forthcoming work. "Breck" as he is so widely known among the bird people of Minnesota, is not only a naturalist but an artist as well. His water color drawings and pen and ink sketches enrich the pages of Dr. Roberts' works, including that unique *Log Book of Minnesota Birds*. At first, associate curator of the University of Minnesota's Natural History Museum. Dr. Breckenridge is at present director of the museum and a widely known lecturer on natural history subjects.

Dr. Roberts' *Log Book*, published in 1938, is an unusual publication. Covering a period of some 20 years between 1917 and 1937 it gives meterological as well as ornithological information of more than passing interest for each quarter of the year.

From it we learn that the winter of 1920 and '21 was the mildest on record for almost 100 years(with only one exception, that of 1877, when it was reported that "fall passed quietly into spring with hardly any winter intervening". (*Log Book of Minnesota Birds*)

Also, that in the fall of 1921, 51 mag-

pies invaded the southern part of Minnesota, several returning in 1922.

Early 1923, we learn, started out as a mild winter with robins wintering north of Lake Superior in numbers and winter birds from the North were scarce. But, with lengthening days came a severe cold spell that brought Great Gray Owls in large numbers into the northwest corner of the state and April saw snow drifts nine feet high in that same section. Also, that was the year when Dr. Roberts and Kilgore spent several weeks in Itasca County trying to locate the nest of the Evening Grosbeak, a task which has not been accomplished to this day.

In 1925 observers reported that a larger number of Dickcissels in the western part of the state than had ever been observed before, and in April that spring Broad Wing Hawks on their northward migration appeared in Traverse and Grant Counties in such numbers that hunters engaged in a spring crow shoot was reported to have killed over 3000 hawks, this according to a report received from a Mr. Evander of Wheaton, in the western part of the state.

1927 appears to have been a year favorable to owls. Hawk Owls were reported very numerous in northeastern Minnesota and P. O. Fryklund, a taxidermist at Roseau in the northwestern corner of the state, reported that between September 1 and April 5 the following spring he handled 18 Great Gray Owls, 69 Great Horned Owls, 68 Snowy Owls, one Richardson and numerous Hawk Owls which were all brought in to him for mounting.

In November, 1927 a Black Scoter was taken at Prior Lake, south of Minneapolis.

In January 1933 the first Starling was reported in Minnesota, appearing at Cambridge, in Isanti County.

In February 1933 the first winter Mockingbird was reported from Ely, 40 miles south of the Canadian border where it died during a 40 degrees minus cold spell.

In 1934 over 100 Ptarmigan appeared in the northern section, mostly in the Lake of the Woods area.

Thus, the *Log Book* preserves for us interesting events from our ornithological past.

During this 20-year period which we have just touched upon, three bird clubs were organized in the state, largely through interest created by the work of Dr. Roberts while gathering information for his bird books.

The first of these was the Minnesota Bird Club, organized at Minneapolis on March 15, 1929 by 13 young men who elected one Gustave Swanson as president and Charles Evans, secretary-treasurer. The newly formed club plotted three important objectives, activities that can well be emulated by bird clubs to this day. They decided on regular meetings, publication of a journal, and frequent field trips. They selected the name *Flicker* for the journal, for which an attractive cover illustration was drawn by W. J. Breckenridge. This publication, "irregularly issued and with contents not always strictly scientific" (*Log Book of Minnesota Birds*), was nevertheless a valuable medium in maintaining interest among the members.

The second club formed was the T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club at St. Cloud by students of the late G. W. Friederich of the St. Cloud State Teachers College, in August 1934, with 20 charter members. John J. Tessari was the first president, Nestor Hiemenz was vice president, and John J. Cochrane, secretary-treasurer. Their early activities were published in a paper of imposing title, *Journal of Minnesota Ornithology*, which, however, was published for less than two years.

Through the work of Dr. Olga Lakela of the Duluth State Teachers College, interest in bird study was running high at the college in the spring of 1937. Consequently, on April 24 of that year

an organization was effected adopting the name of Duluth Bird Club. For president they elected Miss Mary Elwell, with Mrs. Phillip Frost, secretary-treasurer and Dr. Lakela, adviser.

In October of that same year members of the Minnesota Bird Club met with members of the club at St. Cloud to discuss the possibility of forming a statewide society of bird clubs. The Duluth club was contacted by correspondence and on April 13, 1938 representatives of the three groups met at the University in Minneapolis and organized the Minnesota Ornithologist Union with G. N. Rysgaard, president; Mary Elwell, vice president; Richard Voth, secretary-treasurer; and Dr. Charles Evans, editor of *The Flicker*, which then became the official organ of the state organization.

For the first eight years *The Flicker* was issued as a mimeographed publication produced in some school in the Twin Cities. In 1937 arrangements were made to change over to a regular magazine style, the publication to be printed at the St. Cloud Reformatory, economy being a compelling factor. In 1950 the American Ornithologists' Union, at the invitation of the Minnesota group, held its annual meeting at the University in Minneapolis. Aggressive work by members of the Twin Cities bird clubs produced a surplus in the treasury of the state organization. Not entirely happy with the printing arrangement at St. Cloud, action was taken in 1954 to transfer the printing of the magazine to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. It is now being printed with a handsome colored cover jacket and in a much more readable style, bringing *The Flicker* up to the standard of the best state journals.

Through the years many clubs have been formed in various parts of the state: the Albert Lea Audubon Society at Albert Lea, the Avifaunal Club at Minneapolis, the H. J. Jager Audubon Society at Owatonna, the Minneapolis Audubon Society, the Minneapolis Bird Club, the St. Paul Audubon Society; the Mankato Audubon Society at Mankato, the Cloquet Bird Club at Cloquet, the Range Naturalist Club at Virginia, the Lakeview Branch of the Duluth Bird Club. However, some have ceased to be active and not all have maintained their affiliation with the state organization.

In 1951 Minnesota ornithology took on an international flavor when a midwinter meeting with the Thunder Bay Naturalists Club of Ft. William and Port Arthur, Canada was held at Pigeon River on the Canadian border. Except for a change in meeting place to Grand Marais on the North Shore in 1954, this annual meeting of clubs from both sides of the border has been taking place for seven years with increasing attendance each year.

It will no doubt suprise many to learn that as of 1957, Minnesota, which was the second state in the Union to adopt a state flower, has no official state bird, although the Goldfinch has held the unofficial honor due to events that took place some 30 years ago. It seems the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs adopted the Goldfinch as its official state bird as far back as 1926, after a spirited campaign. Since then the Goldfinch has generally been recognized as the state bird although it has never been officially designated as such by any act of the state legislature.

At a meeting on May 19, 1945 the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union adopted the following resolution: "Moved by Mr. Rickert that arm bands with Goldfinches be made the official insignia of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union".

The first attempt to make it the official bird by legislative act was made in 1945. A bill to effect this was introduced as Senate File No. 893. This bill, however, was "lost" in committee in the rush of the closing days of that session.

Sentiment was still strong for the Goldfinch in 1949 when a state bird resolution was again introduced as Senate File No. 1022.

It should be noted here that while the bill introduced in 1945 specifically named the Goldfinch as the proposed state bird, the bill introduced in 1949 simply created a commission which was to "select a slate of birds as candidates for designation as the official state bird".

The procedure was rather complicated. The commission was to present a slate of candidates. The school children of the state and other interested organizations were to vote their choice from the slate presented. The Goldfinch was now very definitely in politics and like many a campaigner discovered that he had opposition from other candidates. At first the list had 20 names, later reduced to eight, and poor Goldie's name was not even among them. After taking a sample ballot the commission was to report their findings to the legislature with their recommendations, the law-making body was then to take appropriate action.

It appears that a preponderance of school votes were by children in the lower grades whose imaginations are easily stirred by bright colors. Their vote was heavy for the Scarlet Tanager and they were joined by a number of adult voters.

This was not what the commission had expected and in a summary of their report the commission found that adults intimately concerned with the study of birds were divided between several other species, with only a small percentage favoring the Tanager. And so in their final report: "The personal opinions of the eight-man commission were not reported further than to state that the professional ornithologists of the commission favored several species other than the tanager. In this decision these members were governed solely by their opinion of the appropriateness of the bird". Without a clearcut recommendation designating a certain bird as the one most favored, the legislature failed to act. And thus it comes about that *Spinus tristis tristis* on many published maps of state birds, still reigns as the unofficial state bird of Minnesota. — *Duluth, Minnesota.*

A Philatelic Bird Census

by

I. S. Lindquist

I note by the club's roster that I am listed as a general collector which means of course, a fellow who collects everything and anything, anywhere, and when no one is looking, may even pick up a few classic cigar bands. Well, before the evening is over you will have the proof that the classification is correct.

As a member of several bird clubs, any stamp that featured a bird caught my attention, but the idea of making a collection of bird stamps never occurred to me until last winter. It came about this way.

Every year the Audubon Clubs of America conduct a bird census, usually during the Christmas holiday week. Each club is assigned a definite area to canvas and report on the number of birds seen and the number of species observed. The report then goes to Washington, D. C., where a research study on bird migration is carried on.

The members make a day of it and have great fun. For years I have always wanted to participate in this project, so last year I dressed up like an Esquimaux and started out. It was a very cold, raw winter day, and do you know, before I had seen my first bird, *old man winter* took me by the arm and said, "Mox, this is a project for younger bloods like Henry Pratt and George Totten, you better get back home". So home I went, a very disappointed birder.

It was while I was reluctantly removing my ear-muffs and mittens that my good wife, sensing my discouragement, endeavored to humor me a bit by saying, "Have you ever counted all the birds on all your old stamps?"

Of course, I knew it was said in a kidding spirit, but you know, the more I thought about it, the more it seemed to make sense. Why not have a Philatelic Bird Census?

So I took myself to my stamp den and lined up my stamp albums from Afghanistan to Zanzibar. Then with a pair of magnifying glasses and a pot of hot coffee, I began making a list of the birds that I found were migrating through the leaves of my albums on stamps, and, a Philatelic Bird Census was born!

Results were surprising. I found over a hundred countries had featured birds on their stamps. And, what was even more surprising, I had on my list 84 different species of birds. The census takers on the outside that day found only 28 species, so you see I had a good day for myself. Remember, this report covers only the stamps in my personal collection which is only average. I have since learned through the National Topical Association that there are nearly 8,000 bird stamps. So you see, birds are having a very fine philatelic recognition. And, this is as it should be. Like the popular song, "Love and Marriage" birds and stamps go together. They have much in common. Both for instance, are great travelers. *Stamps* carry our messages around the world and *birds* on their spring and fall migrations, cover thousands of miles.

There are other reasons why birds deserve postal recognition. Birds carried the mails centuries before stamps were born. In the 11th century during the Crusades, the people back home were

1 Random notes on a talk by Mox Lindquist before the Minneapolis Collectors' Club at the YMCA, January 24, 1957.

kept informed on the progress of the Crusades by carrier pigeons.

Did you know that the Rothchilds, the international bankers in London, kept pigeon lofts in Belgium and thereby received news of happenings on the Continent long before any other agency or even the British government itself. One most profitable scoop for them was the news of Wellington's victory over Napoleon at Waterloo. By carrier pigeons they were the first to hear the news, long before the government or the public.

Another news carrying epic was at Paris. During the Franco-Prussian war during the siege of Paris, the city was completely cut off from the outside world until balloons were sent out from Paris carrying carrier pigeons and thereafter the pigeons carried the mail in and out of Paris and contact with the world was restored.

In Rome the swallows took over. Especially, during the chariot races. The chariot races was the Rose Bowl event of that day when the Roman governors, officers and Roman elite from the farflung provinces flocked to Rome to take in the races. Many of these notables brought with them trained swallows. You know what a grand spectacle it is at our homecoming game when at the kickoff, thousands of balloons are released. Well, an even grander spectacle was when the Romans released their swallows at the finish of the chariot race. It seems that each chariot was painted a different color and the winner was declared by the color of his chariot. For instance, if the winning chariot happened to be *blue,* the Roman fans immediately stained the feathers of their swallows blue and tossed them into the air to carry the victory news to the chariot fans back in the provinces. You know that they had jackpots in those days same as we have now, and I think I discovered a stamp that proves it. The West African Stamp C14 has a scene of an African desert and you will see a bunch of Arabs who have just rushed out of their tents to scan the sky for the returning swallows, in order to see the color that won the jackpot. Anyway, that's the way it looks to me.

Coming up to our time we know the pigeons did heroic work in carrying messages in both world wars. In the first world war 50,000 pigeons were utilized by the American forces and 54,000 in the second world war. In the last war the records show that the Signal Corps' pigeons served effectively on all fronts. In the Mediterranean Theatre the birds were the only means of communications available to the ground forces on at least 20 different occasions. The Intelligence Section was successful in utilizing pigeons to send information gathered behind enemy lines.

In the Tunisian Campaign alone, 657 pigeons were sent to units at or near the front and they carried 215 urgent, secret, and other important messages with 100 per cent delivery. Calls for ammunition were among the messages. From the office of Strategic Services we learn that all OSS agents parachuted behind enemy lines carried pigeons, and on numerous occasions the birds were the only means of contact with agents.

Out of the wars have come many tales of extraordinary feats. Some of our feathered heroes displayed all the courage and determination found in the front lines soldiers who win medals for heroism. I never tire of telling about two outstanding exploits. One in the first world war by Cher-Ami and in the second world war by a pigeon named GI-Jo.

Some of you may recall Captain Whittlesby's Lost Battalion in the first world war. This unit advanced too rapidly and exceeded their objectives so that in the morning they found themselves completely surrounded by the Germans whose artillery fire was cutting them down and what was even more tragic, our own artillery fire was

murdering our men. The battalion was in a desperate situation. They had only one day's food supply and no medical supplies and all communication lines cut off. A number of men volunteered to carry a message through the German lines but they were picked off by German snipers, and none of them got through. Then it was that a signal officer sent Cher-Ami, a carrier pigeon, with a message to headquarters giving their location and an appeal to cease their destructive artillery fire. For Captain Whittlesby's men, Cher-Ami was their last and only hope. You can well imagine the dismay of the men when the pigeon flying over the German lines, suddenly began to flutter and fall to the ground. That was a moment of real despair, but suddenly as if by some miracle, the bird rose and was again in flight and completed its mission. When Sher-Ami reached headquarters its feathers were soaked in blood, one eye was shot through, and one leg was hanging by a mere tendon. The artillery fire was immediately stopped and the surviving men of the battalion were rescued. General Pershing loved this bird and carried it in his own hands to the transport that was to bring it home to America. The General insisted that Cher-Ami share the captain's cabin on the voyage home. Today this pigeon is mounted and on display at the American Museum in Washington, D. C. A place of honor for all time.

Now I must tell you about my favorite carrier pigeon GI-Jo who performed so heroically in World War II. The British were having difficulty taking the city of Colvi, Italy. They finally gave up and a saturation bombing of the town was ordered and the time set. Then at the last minute the British suddenly captured the town and over a thousand soldiers rushed in to occupy the place. The advance was so rapid and sudden that the communication line wasn't kept up and in all the confusion and excitement no one gave a thought to the saturation bombing that was due within half an hour, but fortunately a signal corps officer remembered and there was no time to lose. He had just one carrier pigeon, GI-Jo who had done yeoman's service before and was very dependable. GI-Jo was dispatched with a message to call off the bombing. In exactly 20 minutes he flew 20 miles and arrived with the message just as the bombers were warming up their engines to take off, and today 1,700 British soldiers owe their very lives to the bird. For this heroic feat the British government awarded the Dittes gold medal to GI-Jo — the first time such honor was ever awarded to a bird.

A few weeks ago I read in the Minneapolis Star-Journal that the U.S. Army was about to discontinue the army pigeon training at Port Monmouth, N. J. and is offering to give away all the pigeons to anyone promising to give them good care. Because I knew GI-Jo was stationed at Fort Monmouth I immediately sent an air-mail letter that I would be honored to take care of GI-Jo and that our local Audubon Society would share this responsibility with me. Here is the reply from the officer in charge, "Thank you for your kind interest in GI-Jo. This pigeon hero is still alive and in a loft here, but it has been decided to give GI-Jo to one of our large Zoological Gardens," . . . anyway, I had a nice dream. Officer Myer, who is in charge of the training of the army pigeons, sent me this photo of himself and GI-Jo which I prize most highly. I tell you I love GI-Jo. When I become postmaster general of the United States my first act will be to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the feathered heroes of our world wars, like Cher-Ami and GI-Jo. Imagine my pleasant surprise to find this very morning in one of our stamp stores a beautiful stamp issued by France, in honor of the carrier pigeons.

Now the pigeons of New Zealand didn't do anything as spectacular as our war

heroes, but they did perform a great service. In the nineties silver mining was a thriving industry on Barrier Island, which is about 60 miles off the shore from Auckland, N. Z. However, it looked like they would have to close down the mines because it became difficult to keep the miners on the island, largely because the men would receive mail from home only once a month when a ship would dock there. A young man in Auckland came up with a solution. He organized a Pigeongram Service and carrier pigeons carried the mail daily to the islands. This saved the morale of the miners and it saved the industry. There is a triangular pigeongram stamp which is now rightly referred to as the original air mail stamp. At first the New Zealand postal authorities looked askance at this stamp, but it wasn't long before New Zealand began boasting that it produced the first air mail stamp in all the world. The Pigeongram Service discontinued in 1899 when the telegraph came in. Since this was a decade before the Wright Bros. lifted their plane off the ground, New Zealand can back her claim. Note that the flying pigeon is the central theme of this stamp.

As you know the first stamp issued was the Penny Black by Great Britain in 1840. The first stamp to feature a bird is the Basel Dove stamp of Switzerland in 1845. I didn't have this stamp so I went down to the stamp stores to get one to show here, but, alas, I learned that it would take a couple hundred dollars to buy one — so, instead I brought along a nice picture of it. I didn't think you would want me to spend all that money. Western Australia followed Switzerland, by honoring the Black Swan in 1854. Most of the early stamps honored a queen or king, but Switzerland and western Australia honored birds. The Black Swan was the emblem of the Colony and a reminder of the days when it was known as the "Swan River Settlement". The claim has always been that only in western Australia is the Black Swan seen in the wild state. Even to this day they are present by the thousands. Knowing this to be a fact, you can imagine our thrill when birding along the shoreline of Lake Merritt in Oakland, California last fall, two beautiful Black Swans glided by silently, in all their majesty, only a few feet from shore. They appeared to be glancing with wonderment at the surprised old Swede with the binoculars. Honestly, I thought I was dreaming and called to my wife, "Maudie, do you see what I see?"

We later learned that this pair was imported from Australia and were in captivity at the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. In some manner they escaped, flew over to Oakland, and found Lake Merritt very much to their liking. Here they have made their home and are raising a family, contentedly living in the wild and are free in California. For over a hundred years the Black Swan has graced Australian stamps. In 1954 a Centennial issue carried the Black Swan in recognition of 100 years of postal service.

Since birds were the first conquerors of the air, most all the countries have featured birds on their air mail stamps, a well deserved recognition. Iceland features the falcon (C3), and the Netherlands the crow (C11), France the swallows (C22), Japan the pheasant (C9), Sweden honors the flying swans (C8), Liberia the albatross (C6), Argentina the great condor (AP4), Cuba the tern (SD13), and the United States the American Eagle (C23). There are, of course, a great many more. I have selected only a few at random here.

The mythical birds have not been overlooked: The Flying Goose of China, the Phoenix bird of Japan, the Harpy of Armenia, and the Thoth of Egypt. All are associated with interesting legends. May I refresh your memory on this favored one, "the flying goose" of China? The emperor of China sent his ambassador to a king in the north coun-

try and the king cruelly mistreated the ambassador. He made him his sheepherder. One day while watching the flock he came upon a wounded goose. He mended the injured wing and took good care of the goose and they became great pals. The goose followed him everywhere. One day he noticed the goose acting strangely, watching the sky, crying and weaving his neck, because high overhead was a skein of geese migrating southward. The ambassador thought quickly and wrote a note to his emperor in China, fastened it to the goose, and tossed the bird into the air. It circled a few times and then with a loud call, joined the migrating geese high in the sky. It so happened that the emperor was out hunting and, as *Ye Gods* would have it, the emperor shot the self-same goose and discovered the note. Immediately he rushed his army northward to destroy the king who had mistreated his ambassador, and the ambassador was rescued and brought home safely. The Flying Goose has forever afterwards remained a symbol of good fortune and is still a popular legend as indicated by the fact that the Flying Goose still appears on recent issues of Chinese stamps as late as 1949. (982-A97)

The Phoenix is the bird of immortality and appears on the Japanese stamps and several other Oriental issues. The legend assures us that there is but one bird of immortality. It lives 1,000 years in paradise and then returns to earth. It is supposed to fly over India, Arabia, and it makes its nest on the shores of Syria, in a country that bears its name, Phonesia. When the nest is completed, the sun comes along and sets it afire and out of the ashes arises a new Phoenix. The new Phoenix then flies back to paradise for another thousand years. Thousands of earthly birds are supposed to accompany the Phoenix back to paradise. In paradise the Phoenix lives on air and of course the earthly birds need more substantial food so they all return to earth where they can get Northrup King Sunflower seed for breakfast. Scott's No. 151 St. Lucia stamp is a fine illustration of a Phoenix arising from the burning buildings — commemorating the reconstruction of Castries, the capital of St. Lucia.

Another reason why birds have been used in stamp designs is that all down through the ages of mankind, birds have been considered as symbols. The dove has been the symbol of peace, the eagle the symbol of power, might and majesty, the quetzel the symbol of liberty. Peace stamps come from many different countries and nearly everyone of them feature the dove. You will find an array of stamps whose purpose was to impress you with the power and might of the government and to express that strength, each stamp used the eagle. (Note Hitler stamps SP216 and SP164). The quetzel bird dominates the designs of Guatemala on both stamps and coins, expressing freedom and liberty. This bird you know, cannot live in captivity — must be free to live. Again, I was surprised to find in the Zoological Gardens of San Diego, a group of quetzels living contentedly in captivity.

The Thoth of Egypt, the mythical creature with a human body and a bird head, is seen on the stamps of Egypt. This creature, I believe, had something to do with the making of the calendar of seasons, sort of mythical weatherman of the ages.

Take note of Puffin stamps. This is one of the most extraordinary epics in postal history. It is no legendary tale, this happened in our own time. An Englishman, Mr. Herman, bought the Island of Lundy, a small island off the coast of England. It is about three miles long and has a population of 16 families and hundreds of thousands of Puffins, and the island is known as Puffinland. Mr. Harman felt pretty good about his purchase. One day an idea possessed him. It ran along like this. England is an island, and they

have a king. I own this island — why shouldn't I be a king. It seemed to make good sense so he declared himself the King of Puffinland. So far, so good, but when he started printing stamps and minting coins, the British government took a rather dim view of the situation and brought Mr. Harman into court. He was heavily fined and ordered to forget all his kingly perogatives. All his stamps are beautifully designed featuring the Puffin as are his coins, but now they have become a collector's item. The coins are hard to come by and the stamps have no postal value. One must admit that they make a fine addition to our bird stamp collection.

No collection of bird stamps would be complete without the U. S. Migratory Bird Hunting stamps, generally known as "duck" stamps. In the conservation of North American waterfowl, few events have exerted a more profound affect than the legislation providing for the "duck" stamps. The purchase of these stamps by hunters has created funds for waterfowl restoration that runs into the millions. This is a stamp with a real mission, and the beauty of designs has a great appeal for all collectors.

Five flying swans from the north is an unusual special stamp issue that is something new in Philately. This new stamp was issued on October 30, 1956 featuring five swans in flying formation; each swan symbolizing one of the five northern countries: Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The stamp is identical for the five countries with but one difference, the name of the country is superimposed on the stamp. The motive links up with Hans Seedorf Pedersen's poem, *The Swans from the North,* and the design tells the world of the affinity between five countries and emphasizes the importance of cooperation in various fields. A commendable motive and also another fine recognition of the symbolism of birds. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Committees in Charge of Spring Meetings

Field trip: Mrs. Carl Johnson, Chairwoman.

Botany: Miss Jean McIntosh, Chairwoman.

Photographic and Historic Record: St. Paul Audubon Society.

Saturday evening games and program. Minneapolis Bird Club.

Geology: George Rickert, Chairman.

Pre-registration and Reservations: Miss Amy Chambers.

Confusingly referred to as "bats", these large night-flying moths (*Erebus odora*) are abundant about Nassau. The fact that 11 species of actual bats occur in the Bahamas and that both bats and moths are night flyers causes some confusion in collecting. If bats are requested, moths are brought!

NATURAL HISTO

By Rober

The results of a collectin
Andros are displayed by
assistant, Joe Kemp, who

Any successful collecting trip calls for lots of help. These young fellows at Duncantown in the remote Ragged Islands were the best lizard chasers and most cooperative helpers one could wish for.

Photographed on a nest w
mon hummingbird of the Is
(*Calliphlox evelynae*).

RY in the BAHAMAS

W. Hanlon

trip to the large island of
ob Hanlon and his student
ccompanied him on the trip.

h two tiny eggs is the com-
nds, the Bahama Woodstar

Alvin Wilson, young ragged Islander, offers a centipede (*Scolopendra* sp.) which he found beneath his house.

A collection of prepared commercial sponges in the science lab of St. Augustine's College, Nassau, helps publicize one of the Island's recovering industries. Nearly all Bahamian sponges were killed by a strange disease in 1939. They are just becoming economically important once again.

Changes in Ovenbird and Mourning Warbler Abundance at Basswood Lake, Minnesota[1]

by

James R. Beer

Changes in abundance in breeding birds may come suddenly as it did with the White-throated Sparrows following the May 1954 blizzard (Frenzel and Marshall, *The Flicker*, 26: 126-130) or more gradually with the changes in habitat due to the normal progress of plant succession.

When I first visited the Basswood Lake area in northern Lake County, Minnesota, most of the region about Wind Bay and Wind Lake was covered with a stand of aspen and white birch. Since that time the dominant vegetation has changed considerably (see Table 1). In 1948, the forest tent caterpillar was first noticed in numbers in the Wind Lake area where its effect on aspen was limited to moderate defoliation in localized areas. In 1949 the infestation had spread over a considerable area and the defoliation in the Wind Lake area was rated from heavy to complete. In 1950 the defoliation was again heavy to complete. This was followed by two years of relatively light infestation though local areas were severely damaged. In 1953 there was but little and localized defoliation, but by this time dead tops were showing on many of the aspen trees and by 1954 many were dead. By 1956 there were areas along the Wind Bay-Wind Lake portage where nearly all of the aspen were dead and many of them were down. In 1956 and especially 1957 there were enough aspen down that in many areas cross country travel was all but impossible. This series of events is important in that the light was allowed to reach the ground and allowed the brush species to come in. While the forest tent caterpillar reduced the rate of growth of the aspen it has not been considered a major factor in the death of the aspen that took place later, (Duncan, D. P., et al. 1956. Office of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, St. Paul, Minnesota).

With this opening up of the canopy there was an increase in the brushy understory and ground cover followed by a readjustment of animal populations to the new situation. Two of the more striking examples of the shift were seen in the Ovenbird and Mourning Warbler (see Table 1). At the beginning of the period during which the observations were made the Ovenbird was considered to be a very common if not one of the most common birds in the area while the Mourning Warbler was seldom seen.

With the opening of the overstory and the subsequent increase in the woody understory there has been a gradual decrease in the number of Ovenbirds so that it is now considered to be but moderately common in the general area and rare in the areas where the overstory was nearly eliminated. While this reduction in the numbers of Ovenbirds was taking place, the Mourning Warbler was increasing in abundance in more brushy areas and changed in abundance in the period from 1950 to 1953 (Beer

1 Paper No. 954 Miscellaneous Journal Series, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

and Priewert, *The Flicker*, 23: 61-68) from rare to moderately common in 1956 and 1957.

Undoubtedly there are many other shifts in abundance of various animals but specialized census techniques are needed to detect them. — *University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.*

TABLE 1. RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF MOURNING WARBLERS AND OVENBIRDS IN RELATION TO CONDITION OF ASPEN COVER

Year	*Defoliation by forest tent caterpillar*	*Condition of aspen*	*Abundance of Ovenbird*	*Abundance of Mourning Warbler*
1947	None	Good	No observations	No observations
1948	Moderate	Good	No observations	No observations
1949	Heavy to complete	Good	No observations	No observations
1950	Heavy to complete	Good	Very common	Rare
1951	Moderate	Good	Very common	Rare
1952	Light	Poor	Very common	Rare
1953	Light and local	Dead tops	Very common	Rare
1954	None	Many dead tops	Very common	Rare
1955	None	Heavy mortality	Common	Rare
1956	None	Heavy mortality	Moderately common	Moderately common
1957	None	Remaining trees poor	Moderately common	Moderately common

Seasonal Report

by

Mary Lupient

Heavy wet snow fell in Minnesota November 18, a foot in some sections which caused a considerable loss of unharvested corn that had become soaked and unfit for use. Shortly after the snowstorm mild weather set in and the snow thawed in all but the far north. It left the ground almost bare during December and up to the last week of January when a light snow in the south and a heavier fall in the north occurred. The season of three months, November, December and January covered by this report was mild and pleasant; temperatures rose above 40 several days. A record-breaking high of 45 occurred January 12. Due to the open winter, birds did not frequent feeders to the extent that they did in most other years, apparently because they could find natural food. Bird watchers found it to be a very interesting season because exceptional numbers of northern birds migrated to Minnesota and many of them stayed.

The southern movement of geese and ducks was on the whole a normal one. A very heavy goose migration was observed November 17, by George Ryan at Whitefish Lake, Crow Wing County. With loud clamor hundreds of them passed in the night. Doubtless the mild weather caused a few geese to linger behind the migration. The St. Paul Audubon Society reported Canada Geese in the vicinity of St. Paul on their Christmas counts, December 28, 10 by A. C. Rosenwinkel and 25 by John Hall Sr. As usual geese and ducks spent the winter at Silver Lake, Rochester. Rev. Forest Strnad stated that he saw 800 to 1000 Canada Geese, one Blue Goose and about 600 Mallards. Spots in lakes and rivers in and around the Twin Cities remained open into January and, according to reports, hundreds of Mallards, two flocks of Golden-eyes numbering nearly 200 each, and a few Black Ducks took advantage of the open water.

A flock of Mallards concentrated in a small strip of water in Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, and while scanning the lake January 2 Karen Eastman spotted a Snowy Owl standing on the ice near them. Later seen by many observers it appeared tame and moved only a short distance at their approach. When this writer saw it, it stood near the ducks, staring at them as if deciding which one it would take to provide the next meal. It was not seen after a few days, but Mrs. Eastman said it returned January 17 for a day only. In the meantime the water froze and the ducks left.

Other Snowy Owl records for Minnesota are as follows: Mary K. Dennis, December 9, 1957, Heron Lake; Theo Zickrick, January 5, 1958, South Minneapolis, Mrs. P. Murphy, October 20, 1957; George Ryan, Crow Wing County, November 17, 1957; one was killed at Grand Marais, November 15, sent to the museum, and two perched on a dock, December 6, at Lake Minnetonka, reported by Mrs. E. S. Chopmeyer.

Dr. P. B. Hofslund has compiled the counts of the hawk migration at Duluth Skyline Drive from September 2 to October 10, 1957. The report follows: Sharp-shinned, 2794; Cooper's, 38; Red-tailed, 291; Red-shouldered, 10; Broad-winged, 11,123; Bald Eagle, 9; Marsh, 240; Osprey, 49; Sparrow Hawk, 245; other species, 71; unidentified, 510; total, 15,414 individuals; hours of observation, 58.

Dr. Hofslund saw four Glaucous Gulls

in Duluth January 5, 1958. Although there was not much open water, November 11, there was a concentration of about 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls at Fisher Lake near Shakopee on that date.

Individuals of some species of migrating birds lingered on into 1958. They are listed as follows: 4 Belted Kingfishers, January 1, St. Paul Christmas Count, John Hall, Sr.; Red-eyed Towhee in yard, January 17, Josephine Herz, Excelsior; White-throated Sparrow, all winter at feeder, Mrs. L. O. Johnson, Sherburne; Black-crowned Night Heron flying low over his home in Minneapolis, January 23, Brother Theodore, a rare record.

In the south half of the state in past years an occasional Red-headed Woodpecker was recorded in winter, but this season exceptional numbers of them were seen in December and January. Most noteworthy records were four between Mora and Hinckley, January 26, and 10 in the vicinity of Taylor's Falls, December 15, both records by Bruce Hayward. Orwin Rustad counted eight in the North Oaks area of the Hill Farm, St. Paul, at Christmas. Many reports of single individuals were received, also of Robins, Flickers, Kingfishers, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Mourning Doves. These were from the south half of the state.

Early in the fall of 1957 there was a great influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches, and they were still about at date of this writing. They were reported from all sections of the state, at dozens of feeders everywhere and in some places their numbers were greater than usual. From November through January as many as approximately 40 lived in Vadnais Forest, St. Paul. Sally Wangansteen stated that about 20 frequented a feeder at the Pierce Butler home, St. Paul.

The Albert Lea Chickadee reported a heavy migration of Horned Larks in that area, November 29. To date no reports were received of their return north.

Brown Creepers and Black-capped Chickadees were present in about the usual number, but according to reports, there were fewer Tufted Titmice and Cardinals at feeders. The low number of Cardinals was possibly due to the open season. Mrs. Harlow Hanson, near Bloomington, was first to report a Titmouse which lived at her feeder and others in the area during the season. Dr. G. N. Rysgaard reported Titmice at Northfield.

There was a large population of Common Crows. They even appeared in yards of Twin City dwellings.

Bohemian Waxwings were somewhat scarce, reportedly. A few appeared occasionally in the Twin Cities. The earliest report was November 23 at Vadnais Forest, St. Paul, by A. C. Rosenwinkel. Several flocks of Cedar Waxwings were seen, but they were not as abundant as normally.

A flock of 200 to 300 Red-winged Blackbirds was listed on a Christmas count near Shakopee December 28 by Rachel Tryon and Arnold B. Erickson. With them were a few Rusty Blackbirds and Grackles.

There was a truly astonishing invasion of White-winged Crossbills this season. Flocks were reported from every section of the state. The reports numbered dozens. They arrived early in November and roamed from grove to grove of coniferous trees throughout the season. They were reported in states south of Minnesota. There have been many winters when the White-winged Crossbill has not been seen at all in southern Minnesota. Only one report came in on the Red Crossbill. It was from R. E. Cole who saw them January 7 and 23 near St. Paul.

Pine and Evening Grosbeaks appeared early in November, the earliest record of Pine Grosbeaks was November 6 by A. C. Rosenwinkel, St. Paul. Bernard Fashingbauer furnished the earliest record of Evening Grosbeaks. He saw them at Grand Rapids, October 24. He stated that there were flocks of both

Grosbeaks in Aitkin County in Novem-

There was a good representation of other visitors from the north, Purple Finches, Tree Sparrows, and large flocks of Redpolls. The above species were seen by many observers. Whitney and Karen Eastman listed six Hoary Redpolls on the Excelsior Christmas Count, December 28 and this writer listed Lapland Longspurs on the same count, only two, however. No flocks of Lapland Longspurs were reported. The only record of Snow Buntings was dated November 20. About 25 were seen at Cedar Forest by James Lundgren. Pine Siskins appeared in small numbers but reported by several observers.

An article written by Dr. Arnold B. Erickson on the "Distribution of American Magpie in Minnesota" appeared in the December, 1957 issue of *The Flicker*. He has since received a letter from Orville Nordsletten, assistant game manager, which supplements the records in the Erickson report. A note on this observation appears in this issue.

Richard Barthlemy, naturalist, serving summers at Whitewater State Park, reported two Magpies eight miles west of Winona, December 31.

Mrs. E. R. Selnes does bird banding at Glenwood. She received notice from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, of a banding return on a Baltimore Oriole that she banded May 16, 1955. It had been shot on October 2, 1957 and reported by a Mr. J. Alcorer of Choloma, D. L. Depto de Cortez, Honduras, Central America.

A few birds apparently were blown about by storms, or got the wanderlust, for they were found in our state far from home. Mrs. E. W. Joul and others saw a Townsend's Solitaire in South Minneapolis, January 23. A Mockingbird arrived at a feeder owned by Mrs. E. J. Gifford, St. Paul in the early part of January and spent several days. The following are two very rare records: Robert Jensen shot an American Scoter on Big Marine Lake, Washington County, November 7, and Lester Badger saw a dark Gyrfalcon near Plato, Carver County, November 11.

Worthy of mention are some late records of migrating birds for fall, 1957, as follows: Black Tern, three Western Grebes and a Hoelbell's Grebe, November 7 at Little America, seen by Josephine Herz, Rachel Tryon and Lester Badger; Orange-crowned Warbler, November 10, Mrs. W. C. Olin, St. Paul; four Killdeer, December 31, Whitewater State Park, Richard Barthelmy; Great Blue Heron, December 21, Rice County, Orwin Rustad; Myrtle Warbler, November 4, Mrs. E. W. Joul, Minneapolis; four Yellow-legs, November 6, Goose Lake, White Bear, Mary Lupient; Song Sparrow, December 21, Rice County, Dr. G. N. Rysgaard; two families of Whistling Swans east of Fergus Falls, November 13, Douglas Campbell; Swans standing on ice near Shakopee early part of November, Paul Murphy. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

The Canadian Lakehead

by

A. E. Allin

The mean Lakehead temperature for 1957 was 36.1° compared to a 30-year normal of 35.9°. On January 25, the temperature fell to —37° and minimum temperatures fell below zero on 63 different mornings. Total precipitation of 23.84 inches was six inches below the normal of 30.76. The last spring frost occurred on June 2 and the first fall frost on September 17, giving a frost-free period of 107 days compared to a 16-year average of 97 days.

The early winter of 1957-58 was unusually mild. November was a dull month, the mean temperature of 27.3° being 1.3° above normal. Both the rainfall and snowfall were above normal. Whitefish Lake froze over on November 8 and there was some 10 inches of snow in the bush by November 10. The average temperature for December was 16.3° compared to a normal 10.7°. The snowfall of 4.6 inches compared to an average of 15.5 inches. At the end of the year there were only a few inches of snow on the ground. At the same period in 1955 and 1956 the snow depths were 33 and 36 inches respectively. Thunder Bay remained unfrozen until after the low of 18.0° on December 30.

As a consequence of the above conditions, more ducks remained in the area than usual. No less than 170 American Golden-eyes were recorded on our Christmas Census. A few are still present on the open stretches of the Nipigon and Kaministiquia Rivers. Black Ducks and Mallards still frequent open waters at the Dorion Fish Hatchery. Herring Gulls were seen regularly throughout January. Probably the lack of snow explains the numbers of Star-nosed Moles which have been brought to our attention. The deer herd has suffered grieviously from the heavy snowfalls of recent years and may recover if the reduced snowfall continues for the remainder of the winter. The moose herd is flourishing after being at a low level a few years ago.

As noted in the last *Flicker*, there is little food for wintering birds except for the seeds on the White Birch and a limited crop on the Manitoba Maples. Due to the light snowfall, however, more weed seeds are available in the open fields than is customary. These conditions may explain the abundance of Common Redpolls, and the fact that relatively large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks have remained in the area since their arrival in mid-September. Pine Grosbeaks have been uncommon, many observers have commented on the high percentage of adult males. No Waxwings have been reported. A year ago Cedar Waxwings were common. Bohemian Waxwings are abundant in southern Manitoba. To date there have been no reports of Crossbills of either species. The last Slate-colored Juncos and Snow Buntings were seen on November 10 and 24, respectively.

Owls have been relatively common. A Saw-whet Owl was seen on October 9, a Short-eared Owl on November 17 and a Richardson's Owl on November 24. The first Snowy Owl was seen on October 25; six were recorded in November but none was then recorded until December 28 when K. Denis reported two. Three were reported in January. This would indicate a moderate flight this winter locally. In Manitoba 23 were seen on the Winnipeg Christmas Census. The *Blue Jay*, December 1957, reports

that a Snowy Owl banded in Alberta in March 1954 was recaptured in the same trap in January 1955. Another banded in January 1955 was recovered in the same area in January 1956. A Snowy Owl brought to me on November 20 had been killed while attacking a small dog. This was a magnificent specimen measuring 23 inches in length and weighing four and three-quarter pounds. Only the occasional Great-horned Owl has been reported in the past year.

The Allins saw a Goshawk in Fort William on December 22 and Mr. Hanton reported an American Rough-legged Hawk at Kakabeka Falls on December 30. We failed to see a Northern Shrike during 1957 but C. E. Garton reported one in Port Arthur on December 28. Four more were seen locally in January.

Ravens continue to increase. An unprecedented 137 were reported on our Christmas Census. Crows on the other hand appear to be declining as winter residents. Only two were reported on the census. On the other hand Blue Jays continue abundant with 24 seen on the census. For the third consecutive year no Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen though they had appeared on the previous eight censuses with 23 recorded in 1950. We saw one at Pigeon River, Minnesota, on January 5. We saw the first wintering Robin on January 13 and a second was reported in Fort William on January 29.

The outstanding record for the winter was the addition of the Magpie to our local fauna. This bird was killed by a trapper, in Conmee Township, 25 miles west of Fort William on January 14. There have been one or two reports of the Magpie locally but these could not be confirmed. One was trapped 200 miles northeast of the Lakehead near Longlac on November 13, 1956. Mrs. Howe has reported one killed at Dryden, Kenora District, 225 miles to the west of the Lakehead, in the spring of 1956.

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club held its annual meeting on January 13 when the following officers were elected: Col. L. S. Dear, honorary president; C. E. Garton, president; R. Robb, past president; D. McKillop, vice president; John Murie, treasurer; Miss Joan Hebden, secretary; Keith Denis, editor of The Newsletter. The members of the executive included A. Baillie, Mrs. Hogarth, Miss M. Smith and Dr. A. E. Allin, Fort William, and Mrs. S. Morton, Miss Penwarden, Mrs. Bocking and Mr. MacGregor, Port Arthur. Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. A. Hanton continue as rural representatives.

From a summary of the officers' reports we realize that a busy and successful year was enjoyed by the club despite its small membership. In addition to regular general and executive meetings there were five gatherings of particular interest. In February we enjoyed the joint meeting at Grand Marais with the members of the M.O.U. The highlight of the trip was the Harlequin Duck seen at the mouth of the Cascade River. None of us had seen this species previously although Col. Dear has informed us that one was shot at Whitefish Lake many years ago. In April, the club held its annual dinner meeting. Paul Provencher, outstanding French-Canadian conservationist from Trois Rivieres, Quebec, delighted a capacity audience with his Gallic witticisms and outstanding pictures. The annual spring Field Day on May 25 at Loon Lake happily coincided with the only major migration wave of the season. A total of 119 species was recorded despite almost continuous rain. A record 123 species were seen on the 1956 spring outing. A successful fall Field Day was held at Boulevard Lake in early October. The highlights were Golden and Black-bellied Plovers and Hudsonian Godwits.

Our eighteenth Christmas Census was held on December 28, 15 observers participating. The temperature ranged from —5° to 16°. There was little snow on the ground. Although the waters of

Thunder Bay were still open, a strong wind blew all day and ducks remained far from shore making identification difficult despite binoculars and telescope. Yet 170 American Golden-eyes were identified, greatly exceeding the previous record of 47 established in 1953. Since we took our first census in 1939, ducks had been identified on only eight previous occasions for a total of 181 individuals. American Mergansers were seen in 1941, 1947, 1949 and 1955; Black Ducks in 1949, 1952, 1953 and 1954 and Mallards in 1952 and 1954. American Golden-eyes were recorded in 1941, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1953 and 1954. The Pine Grosbeak and Canada Jay are the only species reported on every census. Fifty-eight species have now been seen locally during the census period although the following five species have not actually be recorded on any actual census: Coween, Cooper's Hawk, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinch. Rarities are bound to occur in the future; we should add the Spruce Grouse which is rarely reported on any Audubon Christmas Census.

The following is an annotated list of the species recorded on the census with the number of individuals of each species in brackets: American Golden-eyes (170); Hungarian Partridge (3); American Herring Gull (140); Rock Dove (487); Snowy Owl (2); Hairy Woodpecker (7); Downy Woodpecker (9); Canada Jay (8); Blue Jay (24); Raven (137); Crow (2); Black-capped Chickadee (59); Hudsonian Chickadee (3); Northern Shrike (1); Starling (298); Evening Grosbeak (21); Pine Grosbeak (48); Common Redpoll (248). Nineteen species and 3835 individuals were recorded. This compares with 21 species and 4358 individuals in 1956. Our most successful year was 1954 when 27 observers reported 4122 individuals of 31 species.

Several birds new for our general area were reported in 1957. On June 2, C. E. Garton and M. Schoenfeld saw a Black-crowned Night Heron at Sleate Islands. The Speirs heard a Wood Thrush at Dorion on May 25 and 28 and observed a Red-shouldered Hawk in the same area on June 8, 18 and 20. Dr. J. M. Speirs also heard an Eastern Meadow Lark near Dorion from June 28 to July 1. A total of 212 species was reported locally during 1957.

Although bird watching received the principal attention of most club members, other aspects of our fauna and flora were not neglected. Black-nosed Shiners were identified from collections of fish made by Mr. Garton in 1956 from Lake Marie Louise in Sibley Park. Pumpkinseed Sunfish were found for the first time in Thunder Bay District when Lands and Forests workers reported them from East Divide Lake near Shebandowan. Mr. Garton and Mr. Baillie continued their intensive studies on the local flora and reported many important and interesting findings. From Atikokan, in Kenora District, 167 miles west of the Lakehead, Daphne Eoll brought in a cocoon of a Cecropia silkworm, our first record for northwestern Ontario. At far away Port Churchill, our member, Eva Beckett, collected bumble-bees for the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam and willow galls for the British Museum. One of these sawflies proved to be a new species which has been named *Pontania becketae*. She also collected plants and seeds of Arctic plants for various institutions.

The local naturalists have always felt they had a leading role to play in the conservation movement at the Lakehead. Cooperation with other groups has been excellent. This may explain in part why three of our members, Col. L. S. Dear, Andrew Ohlgren, and Fred Aaron (posthumously) were chosen "Sportsmen of the Year" at the annual Sportsman's Show put on by the Westfort Kiwanis Club in 1957. At present the Naturalists' Club, the Thunder Bay District Fish and Game Association, and

the Chambers of Commerce are working in close collaboration with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in the development of Sibley Provincial Park. We hope this park and similar ones developed by the department may provide the individuals using them with benefits which are recreational, education, aesthetic, historical and scientific. Roads are being opened in Sibley, but every attempt is being made to retain the original conditions. Nature trails are being laid out and museums opened. Increasing numbers of visitors are using these parks each year. A large percentage of these people come from the American midwest. Mr. Garton has spent several summers in Sibley and in Quetico directing the nature activities. This year Ontario expects to spend $2,000,00 on park improvements and for forest protection roads.

In areas as isolated as the Lakehead it is essential to make contact with groups of similar interest in other areas. Politically it is natural we should affiliate with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists but distance precludes much physical contact with our friends in southern Ontario. Happily we have a close liason with our naturalist friends of the M.O.U., particularly the members of the Duluth Bird Club. We have referred to the joint February meeting at Grand Marais. Several of us were privileged to attend the 1957 meetings of the Wilson Society in Duluth last June. The Allins enjoyed the Cape May meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in September, where much was learned from the scientific meetings and daily field trips. Equally or more important was the renewal of friendships with old acquaintances, both Canadian and American, whom we had met on similar occasions at Duluth, Frontenac, Ivy Lea, Buffalo, Toronto and Denver.

Apart from the conservation work and the collections of Mrs. Beckett, it seems our naturalists benefit greatly themselves from their interests in the outdoors. We have previously referred to *The Packseed,* a syndicated column written by Gregory Clark, outstanding Canadian writer, naturalist, and sportsman. In a recent column Clark lists "bird watching" with skiing, skating, ice fishing and rabbit hunting, as a winter sport. He thinks bird watching is a poor name for this sport. He says we don't watch them. We spot them, identify them, and list them. We see a rare visitor never before identified. It is a record, an addition to our list of those previously unseen. To him bird watching is a form of worship. If Clark is correct, we should give as well as receive — contribute to the conservation cause as well as benefit from it, and the former is the more difficult of the two. Mrs. Beckett's work at Churchill aids those European workers interested in our Arctic fauna and flora but who have no direct access to it. Garton provides pleasure and knowledge along his nature trails and in the park museums. Our assistance to the Lands and Forests is a similar aid. How else may we help in the preservation of what we hold most dear? In the past we've participated in radio discussions; more recently we've helped on television programs along conservation lines. Our exhibits at the Sportsman's Show is another illustration of how conservation may be promoted at a local level. Many talks on nature and conservation have been given by service clubs and church organizations.

Another means, and perhaps a more difficult one is nature writing. Rod Cochran, *Ohio Conservation Bulletin,* November, 1957 discusses this subject and quotes the modest soothsayer in Shakespeare's Anthony and Cleopatra:

"'In nature's infinite book of secrecy
A little have I read."

Cochran feels too few nature writers are so modest and is astonished at the number of inaccuracies. Little harm is done the beginner who reads these

articles but later a person who is becoming truly interested may be harmed by the false concepts gained from such misinformation. He realizes there are few ecologists and fewer still, scientists who can successfully write for the public. Of these he names but three, Rachel Carson, Durward Allen and the late Aldo Leopold. If but three books were selected as nature writing worthy of the name, he would choose Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac" and "Round River" and Allen's "Our Wildlife Legacy."

Despite the truth of Cochran's statements we feel much can be done by amateur naturalist-writers to promote an interest in nature and conservation. It is only necessary that they be careful that what they write is free from obvious inaccuracies and even possibility of error. In a way this discourages the embryo naturalist. He is convinced he has seen a bird unexpected in the area but his criteria of identification is such editors cannot accept his record. He cannot understand how he could be mistaken. Only the persevering, who continues his interest, realizes years later how correct the editor had been in rejecting the observation. Notwithstanding the above shortcomings, the local naturalists during 1957 produced four Newsletters under the capable editorship of Keith Denis. You are familiar with the contributions "The Canadian Lakehead" which appears quarterly in *The Flicker*. Material was submitted regularly to Dr. J. M. Speirs for inclusion in his "Worthnoting" column of *The Bulletin*, official publication of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. We continued to serve as local correspondent for Dr. W. W. Gunn's "Ontario-Western New York" section of *Audubon Field Notes*. Spring arrival dates for migrating birds at the Canadian Lakehead as well as other interesting local bird observations were regularly submitted to "Chickadee Notes", a column which appears each Friday on the editorial page of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. This column, now under the capable editorship of H. Mossop, was originated by A. G. Lawrence who continued as its author for some 30 years. It was the first regular nature column to appear in a Canadian daily newspaper though such columns are now a regular feature of many Canadian dailies. When consideration was given to deleting certain material from the Free Press during the war years the greatest wave of protest was against the loss of "Chickadee Notes". Readers even insisted it be retained on the editorial page of this influential western daily. Our Christmas Bird Census was published in *Audubon Field Notes* and in the Canadian *Field Naturalist*. During 1957, "The Warblers of America" under the editorship of Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. was published by the Devin-Adair Company. We were requested to contribute the account on the Connecticut Warbler. Subsequently it was suggested we write comments on other species with which we were familiar on their northern breeding grounds. This was done in the case of the Black-throated Green Warbler and, in collaboration with Dr. Paul Harrington, Toronto, the Northern Waterthrush. We feel sure the members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club "took" a great deal from nature during 1957. We trust they "gave" something in return. — *Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William, Ontario.*

Wilderness Bill

Ed. Note: The following release and memo reached me this summer in regard to Senator Humphrey's "Wilderness Bill". It would seem that members of the M.O.U. should carefully consider the aspects of the bill and make their wishes known to their senators and representatives. — *P.B.H.*

Minnesota's Superior roadless area, often called the finest canoe country in the World, is receiving special attention in congress. This most unusual of national forest wildernesses would get added protection under provisions of the non-partisan, coast to coast sponsored Wilderness Bill, now being considered by the Congressional Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, a primary sponsor of the bill, says the measure is designed to "make sure that some parts of America may always remain unspoiled and beautiful in their own natural way." The bill would establish a National Wilderness Preservation System to include all the wilderness-type areas of our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.

Study of the measure itself shows that it does two primary things: It gives congressional recognition to the present wilderness preservation program being carried out by administrators of the parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. And secondly, it charges each of these agencies with protecting the wild character of lands presently set aside as wilderness.

Proponents of the bill point out that it creates no new land administration agency and it makes no changes in jurisdiction within the present agencies. Acting only as a non-exclusive clearing house of information, the National Wilderness Preservation Council, as set up in the bill, has "no administrative jurisdiction over any unit in the system, nor over any agency that does have such jurisdiction." The measure provides for additions, modifications, and eliminations from wilderness areas if needed. Existing private rights are respected within the wilderness areas of the system. Where use of motorboats or aircraft in national forest areas has become well established, the bill makes provision for this use to continue subject to approval by the Forest Service.

In revisions of the bill following hearings in late June, proponents are now recommending a suggestion of the Forest Service which would direct that the Minnesota roadless areas be managed so as to maintain the primitive character of the area, without unnecessary restrictions on other uses including timber.

Illustrating the completely non-partisan nature of the measure, Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary of the Wilderness Society, has pointed out that a Republican and a Democrat, John Saylor of Pennsylvania and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, are champions of the cause of wilderness preservation in congress today. "All Americans," said Mr. Zahniser, "owe a debt of gratitude to Senator Humphrey, Congressman Saylor and their 17 co-sponsors in both Houses of Congress for leading the fight to save our magnificent wilderness heritage for this and future generations to know and enjoy."

Co-sponsors with Senator Humphrey of the Wilderness Bill in the Senate include Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, Joseph S. Clark, Jr., of Pennsylvania, Frank J. Lausche of Ohio, Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, James E. Murray of Montana, Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson of Washington, and Wayne Morse and Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon.

Memo for Members and Cooperators in Minnesota

All who are concerned with wilderness preservation in Minnesota will want to do everything possible to correct a serious misinterpretation of the Wilderness Bill that is being spread in Minnesota. The spread of misinformation is always one of the most serious difficulties we have to contend with; this one constitutes an emergency.

This emergency is also taking on some aspects of an attack on Senator Hubert H. Humphrey — one of the nation's and one of Minnesota's most outstanding conservation legislators in a program that is completely non-partisan. Republican Representative John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania, a champion of the Wilderness Bill in the House, says:

"You can tell anyone that Senator Humphrey has been so fair and straightforward and absolutely non-partisan in this that I am glad to say anything I can in his praise for his leadership in wilderness preservation. He has certainly been generous to me in his statements about our non-partisan coast-to-coast sponsorship of the Wilderness Bill in both the Senate and House. There is absolutely no politics in this bill at all."

Here are the facts that will correct the misinformation and misconstruction of the Wilderness Bill that are being spread in Minnesota.

1. The Wilderness Bill gives Congressional sanction to the continued preservation as wilderness of those areas federally owned or controlled that are within national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges or other public lands, and that have so far retained under their federal administration their primeval character.

Members of the House in addition to Mr. Saylor who have introduced similar versions of the Wilderness Bill are Barratt O'Hara of Illinois, Henry G. Reuss of Wisconsin, Lee Metcalf of Montana, John F. Baldwin, Jr., and George P. Miller of California, and Charles O. Porter of Oregon.

2. Under this bill, these areas shall serve the multiple public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservational and historical use and enjoyment by the people.

3. The Bill creates no new agencies to do the land management job.

4. The bill makes no changes in the administration of wilderness areas. Wilderness in national parks will continue to be administered by the National Park Service. Roadless, wild, wilderness, and primitive areas of the national forests shall continue to be administered by the National Forest Service under its present regulations. Wilderness areas within wildlife refuges will continue to be administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

5. Nothing in the act will interfere with the purpose stated in the establishment of any national park, forest, or wildlife refuge, or other federal land area involved, except that any agency administering an area within the system shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area.

6. The bill provides for addition to, modification of, or elimination from the system where necessary.

7. Any such addition, modification, or elimination, except by an act of congress shall take effect upon the expiration of 120 days of continuous session of congress provided no resolution has been passed opposing such change.

8. Any addition, modification, or elimination of any national forest area or part thereof shall be made only after not less than 90 days' public notice and the holding of a public hearing, if requested.

9. No wilderness area on Indian reservations shall be included in the system until the tribe or band through its tribal council shall have given its consent.

10. Within the national forest areas of the system, grazing of domestic live-

stock, use of aircraft or motorboats, where these practices have already become well established, may be permitted to continue subject to restrictions of the Forest Service.

11. Subject to existing private rights, no portion of any area constituting a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be devoted to commodity production, to lumbering, prospecting, mining, or the removal of mineral deposits (including oil and gas), grazing by domestic livestock (other than by animals in connection with the administration or recreational, educational, or scientific use of the wilderness), water management practices involving diversion, impoundment, storage, or the manipulation of plant cover (except as required on national wildlife refuges and ranges for the management of habitat in maintaining wildlife populations), or to any form of commercial enterprise except as contemplated by the purposes of this act.

12. Nothing in this act, the bill states, shall modify the restrictions and provisions of the Shipstead-Nolan Act, Public Law 539, Seventy-first Congress, second session, July 10, 1930, and the Humphrey-Thye-Blatnik-Andresen Act, Public Law 607, Eighty-fourth Congress, second session, June 22, 1956, as applying to the Superior National Forest or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

13. The National Wilderness Preservation Council set up by this bill serves as a repository for maps and official papers regarding the system, and as a non-exclusive clearinghouse for exchange of information among the agencies administering areas within the system. It makes annual reports to congress on the status of the system.

14. The council shall maintain a public file of such regulations but shall have no administrative jurisdiction over any unit in the system nor over any agency that does have such jurisdiction.

15. The council as set up by the present form of the bill consists of the Chief of the Forest Service, the Director of the National Park Service, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, and six citizen members appointed by the President.

16. Recommendations have been made to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (presently considering the bill) that the Director of the Bureau of Land Management be added to the council, and the number of citizen members shall be reduced from six to three.

17. In revising the bill, its proponents are now incorporating a suggestion of the Forest Service which will direct that the wilderness canoe country of Minnesota: "shall be managed in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture in conformity with the general purpose of maintaining, without unnecessary restrictions on other uses including that of timber, the primitive character of the area, particularly in the vicinity of lakes, streams, and portages."

You can help by telling the facts! — *Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary, Wilderness Society.*

Notes of Interest

MAGPIE OBSERVATIONS IN RED LAKE COUNTY — During a wetland investigation field trip, on December 12, 1957, Emil Frank and I noticed some unusual birds flying across the road. Fortunately, one of the birds landed in the road giving us an excellent view of the bird for positive identification. Both of us made a count of the entire flock as they flew in front of us, which we estimated at 15 in number. We agreed that we may have missed some individuals and that approximately 20 birds would not be an over-estimate. However, our actual count positively established the identification of a minimum of 15 Magpies in the flock. The location of this observation is three-quarters of a mile northwest of the village of Dorothy, Minnesota or the southwest quarter of Section 32, Wylie Township 152 north, Range 45 west, in Red Lake County, Minnesota.

Mr. Frank, area game manager, Minnesota Conservation Department, stated that this was the largest flock of Magpies seen at one time in northwestern Minnesota during his long term service in the area. — *Orville Nordsletten, Assistant Area Game Manager, Minnesota Division of Game and Fish, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.*

* * *

A "WHITE-THROATED" JUNCO — On April 19, 1957 I was puzzled by a junco that seemed to be carrying a piece of white paper in his beak. When the bird came to my feeder I could see that actually this "paper" was a snow-white face and throat. The white extended above and around the beak, eyes and below much like the white throat of the White-throated Sparrow. The markings were so perfect that I looked through my bird books expecting to find another species. I did not so I assume that this was simply an anomaly for the colors and other markings were that of the Slate-colored Junco. The bird apparently was seen again three days later as Steve Shoberg called me to ask about a "white-faced" junco that he had at his feeder, about one mile east of my home. — *Erni Pappas, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

SIGHT RECORD OF SWALLOW-TAILED KITE — I was lucky enough to observe this magnificent bird of prey on October 19, 1957. The place of observation was in Duluth in the same area where the Duluth Bird Club has been counting hawks for the past few years.

I was just bringing my car to a stop when I saw what I thought was a gull soaring in tremendous circles at an elevation of 150 to 200 feet above the road.

The first thing I noticed about the bird was its shining white head and its black back and wings. After about five minutes I was able to make out its long graceful tail feathers. I knew then that this was no ordinary bird. After five more minutes I felt sure that this bird was a Swallow-tailed Kite.

The bird was moving quickly away in a northerly direction, so I immediately jumped into the car and literally raced about one-half mile down the road and waited for the bird to appear. It soon appeared moving much slower, but maintaining its same direction.

I watched the bird for about an hour and there is no doubt in my mind as to its identity. I am only sorry that I could not have shared this rare observation with others. — *G. C. Kuyava, Duluth, Minnesota.*

THANKSGIVING, 1957 — At gray dawn of Thanksgiving Day the subsiding breath of winds mobilized the crushed peanuts, grouping them into little clusters on the broad stone ledge of the second floor porch of the Alworth House in Duluth. On the wooded terrace below luminous snow encircled the evergreens shadowing the bare soil beneath their boughs; from the fence-row thicket a Long-eared Owl arose in noiseless wavering flight, disappearing in yonder spruce trees.

Boxes of fresh suet hung heavy on snags of white birches canopying the porch stairs to upper stories of the building. Red-breasted Nuthatches, four in all, vied with one another in stowing away bits of nuts for stormier days. With notes of felicitous contentment they returned again and again with empty beaks for refills amidst chickadees and the pair of Downy Woodpeckers.

The two Hudsonian Chickadees among the four Black-caps were new arrivals at the feeding station. In judging avian behavior they seemed more cautious than the other, perhaps because of their fewer numbers, but equally eager for their share of the inviting food.

Overhead the fruitful catkins of the birches hung like pendants from the interlacing branches. It seemed like the setting of an aerial stage for fruit-eating birds. In the flock of some 40 individuals, 23 were White-winged Crossbills, including three males in their roseate plumage; the remaining were Common Redpolls. While feeding on the winged nutlets readily parted from the ripened catkins, the air became vibrant by their muted warbling, the harp-like trill of redpolls with fluted tones of the crossbills. Then, a surprising burst of alarm and rush of fleeing wings! In the ensuing stillness one turned apprehensively toward the upper story landing for a Maltese Cat. It was not there. But in the lowermost branches of the white pine edging the terrace flashed a Northern Shrike in flurry of song, hopeful for another try at a Thanksgiving bird. — *Olga Lakela, University Branch, Duluth.*

* * *

AVOCETS AT WORTHINGTON — In *The Birds of Minnesota* (1936) Dr. Roberts said, "Although still a common bird in western North Dakota, the Avocet has long been extinct in Minnesota and comparatively little is on record in regard to its former presence in the state. Few stragglers have been reported in recent years." Again he said, "The writer was in southwestern Minnesota in 1893 and again in 1898, collecting birds, but neither saw nor heard anything of the Avocet." In the *Key to Shorebirds, Summary,* he said, "The following shore birds are no longer found in Minnesota or are of such rare occurrence as to be considered only accidental. They have been included in the Key but are omitted from this summary: Avocet, Black-necked Stilts, Long-billed, Hudsonian and Eskimo Curlews."

While we do not know what records show about its status in Minnesota in more recent years, the Avocet is not an uncommon migrant in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, about 75 miles west of Worthington, and is a nesting species in Day County and perhaps elsewhere in northeastern South Dakota. Hence the following note of our sight of Avocets in Minnesota may be of interest.

On Easter Sunday, April 21, 1957, we drove around Lake Okabena on the southwestern edge of Worthington on our way home from church. Two Avocets were feeding in shallow water near the western end of the lake. They were near enough that we plainly saw the black and white pattern, the cinnamon colored heads and necks, blue legs and up-turned bills.

We hurried home to get our cameras and when we returned the Avocets were still feeding. We took several Kodachrome slides that show the feeding birds' marks except the legs which were under water. — *Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Schar, Worthington, Minnesota.*

THE RICE LAKE HERONRY — The Duluth Bird Club visited the Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge, Aitkin County, on Sunday, June 23, 1957 to observe the Great Blue Heron and Cormorant rookery on Tom's Island, this being the first visitation in several years. Mr. Dundas, manager of the refuge, was most cooperative and provided us with a boat to assist in reaching the island.

The foliage on the island was more advanced than usual and it was difficult to make an accurate count of the nests, but it was estimated that there were at least 30 Blue Heron and 15 Cormorant nests, which is an increase in the heron nests and decrease in the Cormorant nests since our last visit. The young of both species were in various stages of development. Two Cormorant nests examined had four young. We were able to view many of the Blue Heron nests and the young were visible from the ground.

Many Black Tern nests were observed in the marsh. A Bob-o-link nest with four young was found nearby. Broad-winged, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Western Kingbirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Short-billed Marsh Wrens were observed, and a colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was thriving near the Canada Goose pens. No effort was made to check duck nests, although Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and Baldpate were in evidence. — *J. K. Bronoel, Duluth Bird Club.*

* * *

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Muscivora forficata*) IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA — While living in Kansas, I took a trip through southern Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. A bird that was plentiful along the roads from the southern border of Kansas south, was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. That was the first time that I had ever seen the bird. The striking thing about the bird is its tail, its length and its formation of tail feathers in a "V" shape.

This summer (1957) I spent a month at Williams and Baudette, Minnesota near Lake of the Woods. On July 3, while at Williams, a companion and I went out to Long Point at the lake to swim. Less than a mile from the beach we passed a light colored bird on a low telephone line. I had only a glance of it from the car window. Coming from the beach a short time later, about 5:30 p.m., I saw the bird again and asked my companion to stop and back up. The bird flew down to the road showing its scissor-tail. We chased the bird for about 15 minutes until it alighted in a potato field. We then drove the 15 miles to Williams where I picked up my 8 x 30 binoculars and Peterson's *Field Guide.* I thought it was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, but could hardly believe it since it was so far out of its normal range. When we arrived at the spot where it had been seen, the bird was on the wire again and we were able to observe it from the car. All the field characteristics in Peterson's checked and we could even see the rose or pink color on the sides and wing linings. During the next half hour I got as close as 10 feet. I compared its actions with that of an Eastern Kingbird nearby and its tail with a Black-billed Cuckoo's that was perched in a bush under the Scissor-tail.

After seeing the bird I asked people in the area, including the game warden, to watch for the bird when they drove by the location. The next and last report of the bird being seen was July 7 from the fellow that was with me when we first saw it.

Any farther northward movement by the bird was prevented by the Lake of the Woods which surrounded Long Point on the north, east and west. Shortly before July 3 the hurricane "A" occurred on the Gulf of Mexico. It leaves one wondering if there was any connection. — *Frank Kelly, St. Paul Audubon Society.*

LITTLE GREEN HERON IN ITASCA STATE PARK — On the afternoon of June 29, 1957, while searching for waterfowl broods in the flooded marshlands lying to the south of DeSoto Lake, John Lurain, Ralph Brady, and I very clearly identified an adult Little Green Heron. The bird was flushed, with one or two Great Blue Herons, from the edge of a floating sedge mat. It flew to a nearby dead aspen tree where it was observed at leisure from a distance of about 75 yards with a 20x telescope mounted on a gun stock. The coloration of the flanks and back as well as the legs was easily distinguished. On the following day, two birds, almost surely the same species, were seen flying over the island in DeSoto Lake under somewhat less favorable light conditions. This observation adds another species to the list of birds for Itasca State Park. — *William H. Marshall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.*

* * *

PARASITIC JAEGERS ON MINNESOTA POINT — On September 15, 1957 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Findley, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson of Rochester, Minnesota, and I were banding birds on the recreational grounds of Minnesota Point. As we were watching some Common Terns over the lake we noted three large, dark birds dive at one of the terns. We watched the aerial "dogfight" for a few minutes before the birds disappeared. The middle tail feathers of the three birds extended beyond the curve line of the tail, and upon consultation with our "Peterson's", we felt certain that these birds were Parasitic Jaegers. A week later we received reports from two other groups of a single jaeger on the point. — *Forest Strnad, Kasson, Minnesota.*

* * *

PARASITIC JAEGER AT CREX MEADOWS, WISCONSIN — On August 28, 1957, along with a party of fifty students and staff members from the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, Alexander Sprunt IV and I saw a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) at the Crex Meadows Wetlands Restoration Area just north of Grantsburg, Wisconsin. It was first noted at very close range flying low over the water retained by the Phantom Lake dike. The group watched the bird for about one-half hour and during this time saw it tease food away from Ring-billed Gulls and catch the food before it touched the water. After feeding, the bird settled down on the water and swam to within 50 yards of the group.

We believe that this individual was an immature bird. The central tail feathers extended not more than one inch in length. It was a dusky brownish-grey all over, with some light areas on the primaries. This all-over dark color would indicate that it was a dark-phase bird.

The bird had been seen by one of the men employed on the refuge several days earlier, but was thought by him to be a dirty "seagull". Four days later I again observed the bird in the same area. It remained in the area more than a week. I thought this to be of interest to Minnesota birders because Grantsburg is only about four miles from the Minnesota boundary, but it became of even greater interest when John Testor and party saw the same or another individual off Minnesota Point at Duluth about the middle of September. Grantsburg is less than 100 miles south of Duluth.

One Minnesota specimen and perhaps the only other record was taken by Dr. Roberts in September, 1936. This from Pipestone.

It was a rare treat to see this bird inland and at such close range since it is generally believed that one must go to sea to see them. — *Al Grewe, St. Cloud, Minnesota.*

ADDITIONS TO A SURVEY OF THE BIRDS OF RICE COUNTY, MINNESOTA, by Orwin A. Rustad (Inadvertently omitted from Part II, Vol. 29, No. 3, September 1957) — This section should follow the Downy Woodpecker and precede the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Eastern Kingbird — (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

An abundant summer resident, nesting throughout the county. The earliest spring arrival date is April 29, 1952 when one was seen in the Northfield area.

Western Kingbird — (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Also known as the Arkansas Kingbird. Considered rare in the area. Two were seen in the fall of 1950 in the Arboretum.

*Crested Flycatcher — (*Myiarchus crinitus*)

A common summer resident, nesting in the woodland areas of the county. The earliest spring arrival date is May 5, 1952 (Northfield). The latest fall date is September 16, 1952 (Northfield). Two specimens have been collected (Pettingill), a male on May 11, 1939 and a male on May 29, 1943.

*Phoebe — (*Sayornis phoebe*)

A common summer resident with March 23, 1953 the earliest spring arrival date when one was seen in the Arboretum. A female specimen was collected (Pettingill) on May 1, 1943.

* * *

COMMON TERN COLONY ON BARKER'S ISLAND, ST. LOUIS BAY — On June 29, 1957, several members of the Duluth Bird Club made a check of the Common Tern colony on Barker's Island. This small, sandy island is located in St. Louis Bay, just off Superior, Wisconsin, and within the last few years it has been supporting a growing population of nesting Common Terns.

As we approached the island we were greeted by the cries of hundreds of terns as they rose from the sand. We found their nests scattered amid pieces of driftwood and tufts of grass on the sandy north end of the island. The number of tern found during the check totaled 108. Of these, 78 contained three eggs, 25 contained two eggs, and five nests contained only one egg. Many tern eggs were round lying on the sand away from the nests, presumably moved there by the wind and rain of the last several days.

In our count of the tern nests we also found a Ring-billed Gull nest containing two eggs, a Piping Plover nest, and a Killdeer nest. The gull nest is the first found of that species in this area in recent years and the plover nest is one of the few found in the state each year. Both the plover nest and the killdeer nest contained four eggs. — *Bob R. Cohen, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

RAVEN NESTING RECORD FOR MINNESOTA — During April and May, 1957 the author had frequent opportunities to observe raven activities about a nest of this species. Apparently, few observations of ravens, *Corvus corax*, nesting in Minnesota have been recorded.

Ravens were often heard and observed at many places in the 3300-acre Cloquet Experimental Forest in Carlton County from April 1956 through February 1957. Although the observations appeared localized in the vicinity of a stand of mature red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) in the spring of 1956, no attempt was made to locate a nest. Ravens were frequently seen in the same area in late March and early April, 1957. Closer examination of this area on April 22 revealed a nest, 75 feet from the ground in the crown of a red pine. An adult raven was flushed from the nest. After striking the tree trunk vigorously with a branch, young were heard. While near the nest on this date, five adult ravens were observed approximately one-eighth

mile to the south. On May 30, three fully feathered young, which were able to fly short distances, were observed in the tops of nearby trees. This count of three young may have been incomplete due to the heights of the trees and the tendency for the birds to sit very quietly.

Raymond A. Jensen, assistant scientist at the Experiment Forest, provided the following information relative to the timber stand in which the nest was located. The stand, approximately 40 acres in extent, is probably the only stand of old growth red pine of this type within a 100-mile radius. The stand is 133 years old with a few individuals being over 200 years old. A 100 per cent cruise of the stand in 1952 showed an average of 78 trees per acre with an average d.b.h. of 16.6 inches. This island of large pine is surrounded by younger stands, consisting primarily of Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) to the west, north and east, and Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) and Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) to the south. — *Robert L. Eng, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.*

SPRING MEETING — MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
May 17-18, 1958

The 1958 Spring Meeting will be held in Whitewater State Park (halfway between Winona and Rochester) on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18. General arrangements are under the chairmanship of Richard Barthelmy who has been the park naturalist at Whitewater for the past two years.

Whitewater State Park is an unusual and very interesting area for many reasons. It lies in an unglaciated portion of Minnesota and much of its formation came through depositions from ancient seas. The region is one of deep gorges and escarpments covered with hardwood and cedar forests. It also lies on the edge of the Carolinian Zone, so many of its vertebrate life are found nowhere else in Minnesota. It is here that the Bell's Vireo and Yellow-crowned Night Heron were first found nesting, and many other "first" records have come from this region including such rarities as the Swallow-tailed Kite and the Kentucky Warbler. Many plants found in this region are rare to other parts of the state. Another interesting aspect of the region is that it has been one of the conservation showpieces of the state. Conservation teachers throughout the area will have an unrivaled opportunity to photograph examples of erosion and control measures used to stop this erosion. Because of the many aspects of this region, there will be talks and leaders to explain the geology and botany of the park besides the birds. For the birders, the abundance of warblers and marsh birds will make this area particularly interesting.

The tentative field trip plans include morning hikes along Trout Run and Chippewa Trails, afternoon hikes along the Dorman Springs to Appleby Springs dikes and along the Big Dike to the Weaver Bird Marshes, and an evening trip to hear Woodcock, Barred Owls, Whip-poor-wills, and Wilson's Snipe. The afternoon and morning hikes will be repeated on Sunday, so that those who remain through the week end will be able to take in all of these areas.

There will be a $1.00 registration fee to cover printing expenses and cost of the meeting place. Sleeping accommodations in the group camp will be 50 cents per night. Meals will be catered on Saturday and Sunday at the following costs: Breakfast, $1.00; Saturday lunch, $1.25; Sunday lunch, $1.50; Saturday dinner, $2.00. Pre-registration for meals will be necessary and should be made before May 10 with Miss Amy Chambers, 4716 Nicollet Ave., Apt. 3, Minneapolis 9. Pre-registration should be accompanied with a check covering the cost of meals and a list of the meals you intend to eat at the camp.

Be sure to bring bedding and flashlights and suitable walking clothes. Beds and mattresses will be furnished.

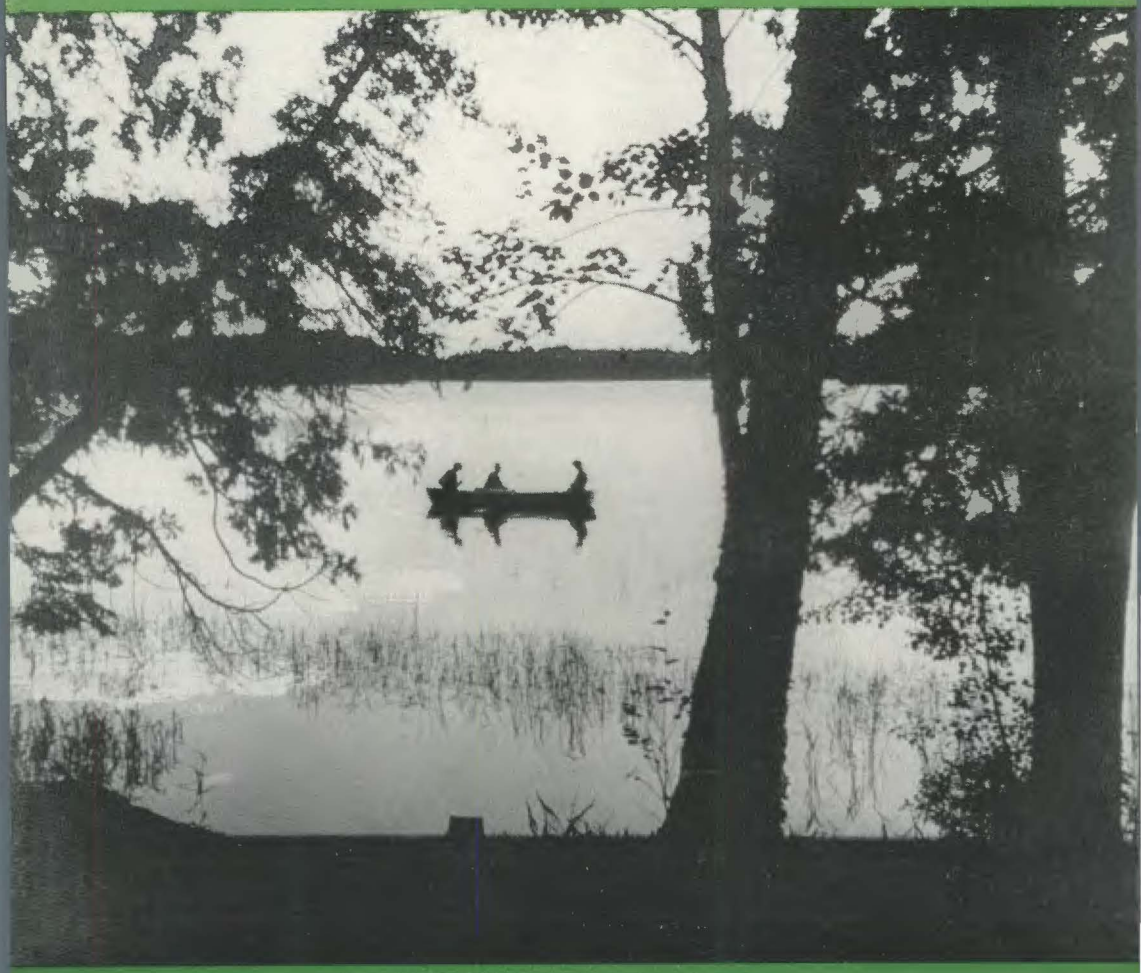
MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

1 Albert Lea Audubon Society
2 Avifaunal Club
3 Duluth Bird Club
5 Mankato Audubon Society
6 Minneapolis Audubon Society
7 Minneapolis Bird Club
8 Minnesota Bird Club
9 St. Paul Audubon Society

The Flicker

VOLUME 30 JUNE 1958 NUMBER 2



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
PERMANENT ADDRESS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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THE FLICKER

Organ of the *Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.* Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. *The Flicker* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for members: Active, $2.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Life, $50; Patron, $100 or more. All articles and communications for publications should be sent to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

Fishing on a Northern Lake

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The war situation with the testing of different types of bombs and the increasing number of cities with their spraying to kill insects has become a menace to our bird life.

Small boys with their air guns and men who shoot at anything that flies are reasons why teachers in our grade schools organize junior bird clubs.

It is absolutely impossible for the limited game warden force of the country to watch every irresponsible person who goes out with a gun, but if the people of the country who are interested in birds will investigate every gun shot they hear, will warn their employees not to kill birds and will watch others with a view to reporting violations to their game warden or to any bird club official, great good can be accomplished.

We here at Mankato have put posters in the nesting areas to try and stop the shooting of our song birds.

The enormously enlarged acreage being put under cultivation in this country means that the greater crops of succulent plants, grains and vegetables will furnish additional food for insect pests. A large percentage of eggs laid by insects never reach maturity. One reason for this is the lack of food. With increased food there will be an increased number of insects. This means we need a greater number of birds.

We should and must wage a campaign of the utmost vigilance. Birds should be fed during the time of the year when their natural food is scarce. Here in Mankato we are going to put up nesting boxes on rural roads that have very little traffic and will also try to provide water during the nesting season.

And, above all, look out for the man and boy with a gun, and our now new menace the man with the spray gun.

Sincerely,
Bill Luwe, President

Wood Duck in North Dakota

by

Edmund A. Hibbard

A review of the literature reveals few records of the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) in North Dakota. It is not indicated as breeding there by Kortright (1943), although the A. O. U. Check-list, 1957, page 81, does mention it as "breeding west to eastern North Dakota (at least formerly)." Wood (1923) states that "this is a very rare duck in North Dakota" and quotes various authorities in summarizing all the earlier information available on the species. Reports he cites by J. A. Allen and W. J. Hoffman indicate that the Wood Duck was occasionally observed along the Missouri River in central North Dakota in the 1870's and 1880's. He lists a specimen in the U. S. National Museum collection taken on the Heart River (presumably west of Mandan in Morton County) on September 22, 1956, by Dr. Hayden. Other records mentioned are a male seen in the 1870's on the Goose River (Traill County?), a male shot in August on Rock Lake in Towner County and a specimen from Pembina he saw at the University of North Dakota.

Williams (1926) writing of the bird in northeastern North Dakota in the vicinity of Grafton (Walsh County) states, "This beautiful duck is becoming rarer every year, and it has been several years since I have taken or seen one of these gorgeous birds in this vicinity. I never knew them to nest here and only found them during spring and fall migrations. Have a mounted bird dated Grafton, May 8, 1908. Earliest arrival, May 8. A very common breeder along the small streams in the '80's." (This last sentence refers to his father's bird records, kept from 1882 to about 1910.) There is an additional specimen collected at Grafton which is now in the State Historical Museum at Bismarck, North Dakota.

Monson (1934) lists two sight records of the Wood Duck from Harwood Township, Cass County, in eastern North Dakota. These are for April 20 and May 1, 1926. The species is mentioned only once in seven local check-lists of North Dakota birds appearing in the *North Dakota Outdoors* between 1939 and 1947. This was a discussion by Stevens (1939), quoting most of the references that Wood (*loc. cit.*) listed. No new information is given. The remaining check-lists, concerning bird records from the Bismarck, Lower Souris Refuge (near Upham), Valley City and Minot areas do not mention the Wood Duck.

The above information would indicate that this duck occurs only rarely in North Dakota. Since about 1948, however, there have been a number of additional reports which are listed below. Most of these are of summering males, but there have been several brood or nesting records. Data from four regions of the state are discussed below. Most of these records were obtained while I was with the North Dakota State Game and Fish Departments and are chiefly summaries of field notes obtained from state game biologists and refuge personnel of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Figure 1 gives the location of these observations.

Southeast

The most probable area to expect Wood Ducks to nest in North Dakota would be along the Red River and its wooded tributaries in eastern North Dakota. There are several breeding

observations for this part of the state. One brood record was given me by Dr. J. Frank Cassel of the North Dakota Agricultural College, who observed a female with 10 half-grown young feeding in flood waters of the Red River three miles northeast of Fargo on June 27, 1953, (also reported in *Audubon Field Notes*, 7:314, 1953). Cassel has made several other observations of Wood Ducks in the area. Some of these may also have been of nesting birds. In 1953 he noted three males and one female on May 30 and a lone male on June 13. In 1954 there were six sight records. The earliest was on May 29 and the last on July 3. Four was the greatest number of birds seen in the area at any one time that season.

This duck undoubtedly nests along other streams in the southeastern part of the state, possibly at other points along the Red River, and quite likely along some of the heavily wooded streams such as the Goose, Sheyenne and Wild Rice rivers in southeastern North Dakota. Possible breeding along the latter two rivers is indicated by the following observations: (1) On June 20, 1953, I saw a lone Wood Duck flying over the Sheyenne River west of Fargo. (2) On September 26, 1952, I saw a flock of eight to 10 Wood Ducks on the Wild Rice River north of Cayuga in Sargent County. This stream has typical Wood Duck habitat including good stands of Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) and Basswood (*Tilia americana*). (3) On July 23, 1957, I flushed several pairs of Wood Ducks in the above area and the next day collected a flying juvenal, which is now in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Fet Herman, a farmer who lives and hunts along this stream, told me he not uncommonly saw small flocks (up to 25) of blackish ducks in early October which

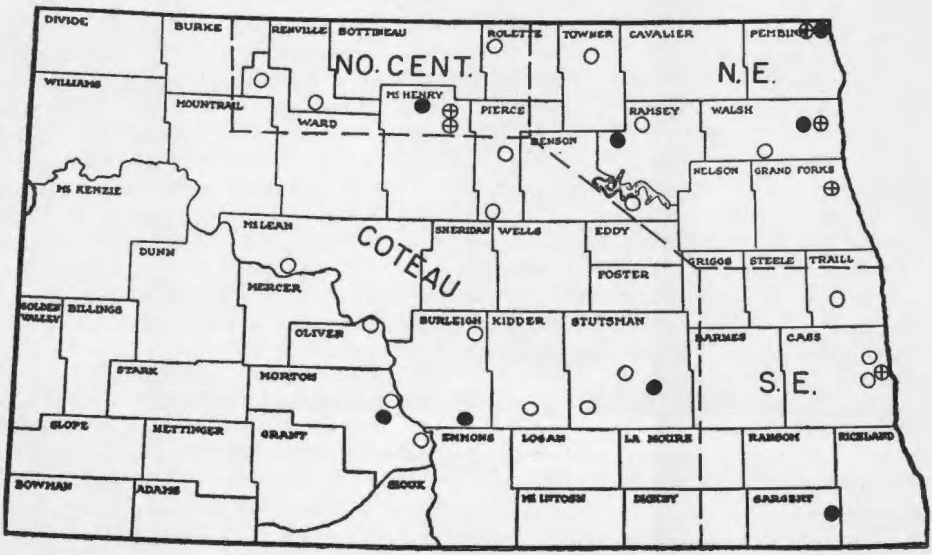

Fig. 1. Distribution of wood duck records in North Dakota
- • Specimens or carcasses examined
- • Nesting or brood observations
- ◦ Reliable reports

emitted the characteristic Wood Duck flight call when flushed. He also stated he twice had flushed these ducks from hollow trees near his farm during the nesting season. The species undoubtedly nests in the area.

Northeast

Wood Ducks are apparently a fairly common breeding duck along several of the rivers in northeastern North Dakota, according to Edwin Bry, state game warden and a careful observer of wildlife from the Park River (Walsh County) area. He states (*in litt.*), "Wood Ducks nest every year near my folks' place along the Turtle River near Manvel in Grand Forks County and also along the Red River and the Marais Coulee in eastern Grand Forks County. I have kept no records of dates seen or broods observed but have seen them many times. Once I caught a young male for the pond at the school for the deaf in Devils Lake and this "woody" was there for many years. I caught it in the Turtle River in Grand Forks County. I have never seen the actual nest but have seen adult pairs in the spring and then the young which have stayed around into hunting season." He listed one specific record of a pair in a roadside ditch near Fordville in the spring of 1953.

An additional brood record for this region was given me by Game Biologist Robert Rollings (oral communication) of a brood of eight birds seen in late July, 1955, on the Pembina River near Pembina, North Dakota. An apparent nesting record for Grafton, North Dakota, was given me by Biologist Richard Torblaa, who stated that a female Wood Duck attempted to nest in a tree in a city park in Grafton in June, 1956, but was unsuccessful.

There have been several reports from the Devils Lake area where the species must occasionally breed in the wooded area around this lake. A picture of a pair taken at the Sully's Hill National Wildlife Refuge appears in the *North Dakota Outdoors* (Anonymous, 1941). Nelius Nelson, manager of Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, found a male dying of botulism at the Lac Aux Mortes Refuge northwest of Devils Lake in the summer of 1941, and Robert Rollings reports a male seen near Starkweather, in the latter area, in August of 1955.

North-Central

Observations from this area of the state are chiefly from the "Souris loop" refuges with one record from the Turtle Mountains in Rollette and Bottineau counties; however, it is certainly to be looked for as a breeding bird in the forested lake region of the latter area. The one observation is of a lone male seen in Rollette County in May, 1953, by former Game Biologist Charles Knedel. Henry Klebe, who resides in the Lake Metigoshe State Park, has put up nesting boxes, but there has been no known use of them.

Merrill Hammond (*in litt.*) gives me the following records from the Lower Souris Refuge near Upham (McHenry County) one or two of which have appeared previously in the *Audubon Field Notes*: (1) July 14, 1948, a male in upper marsh unit (first refuge record by Arthur Hawkins). (2) July 25, 1948, a male in the wooded river bottom. (3) August 24, 1949, a male found dead of botulism in marsh near refuge headquarters. (4) August 2, 1955, a male and (5) August 3, 1953, three males and a female and one young in the wooded river bottom. Frank Martin (*in litt.*) gives me the only record he has for the Upper Souris Refuge at Foxholm, North Dakota. This is for a lone male he saw along the west shore of lower Lake Darling on August 22, 1955. There is one record from the Des Lacs Refuge, a male seen June 4, 1951 by Ray Glahn (*Audubon Field Notes*, 5:262, 1951).

The first nesting records from the Souris River were obtained by Mr. Bry, who states that he saw three broods while on a boat trip in company with Game Warden W. H. Johnson. This

was on July 10, 1951, in the upper part of the Lower Souris Refuge north of Towner, North Dakota (reported in *Audubon Field Notes*, 5:296, 1951). While canoeing in this same area on July 13, 1957, Game Biologist Arthur Adams (oral communication) found three Wood Duck broods approximately five miles north of Towner.

Coteau and Missouri Areas

Records from the Coteau region are mainly of summer males which occur sporadically in this large treeless region, and except for one or two instances do not indicate possible breeding localities. The following information from the Coteau area was obtained while the waterfowl biologists indicated were making duck or brood counts. In the southern Coteau region James Sjordal observed two males sitting on a muskrat house near Medina (Stutsman County) on June 17, 1954. I observed a molting male on a pothole near Cleveland (Stutsman County) on June 29, 1955. It was accompanied by a small flock of Redheads (*Athya americana*) and Lesser Scaup (*Athya affinis*). Another male was seen on a nearby pothole on August 16, 1955. Possibly it was the same bird seen earlier and had remained in the area all summer. Bernard Fashingbauer observed a male Wood Duck 16 miles northeast of Wing, in Burleigh County, North Dakota, on October 15, 1954 (*Audubon Field Notes*, 9(1):35. He recorded another male just coming out of eclipse plumage along a duck run about 15 miles northwest of Harvey (Wells County) in late August of 1955. Richard Mill reported a pair using an area of flooded dead timber in June, 1955, near Rugby (Pierce County). It was thought that this pair was looking for a nesting site, but they were not seen in the vicinity again. Merrill Hammond (*in litt.*) has given me two other records for this region: a male found dead of botulism in the summer of 1942 at Long Lake Refuge (Burleigh County) near Moffitt, North Dakota and two birds seen about September 12, 1955 at Slade Refuge near Dawson (Kidder County) by Dale Southerland.

Except for the previously noted early observations the only information I have for Wood Ducks using the Missouri area is one bird which I observed near Hensler (Oliver County) on October 20, 1954. This bird was a female which was flushed from a quiet oxbow area of the Missouri River.

Occasionally these ducks are accidentally bagged by hunters who very likely do not know that they have taken an unusual duck. However, of the hundreds of ducks which are annually sexed and aged by state game biologists at locker plants, I know of only two Wood Ducks that were examined. These were two females that had been shot near Jamestown in about 1951.

No attempt was made to survey the literature for South Dakota records, but it is reportedly a not uncommon migrant along the border lakes of Min-

nesota and South Dakota. Two records are known for northeastern South Dakota. A pair was seen August 15, 1950, at Sand Lake Refuge near Columbia (*Audubon Field Notes*, 5:241, 1951) and a male was shot in the summer of 1874 near Ft. Sisseton in Marshall County (McChesney, 1879).

Summary

The Wood Duck has been definitely established as a breeding species along several streams in eastern North Dakota and on the Souris River in north-central North Dakota. Observations also indicate that this duck may breed along several other eastern North Dakota streams that have the required habitat.

Sight or botulism records from seven refuges in North Dakota and from various points in the treeless pothole portion of the state indicate that stray individuals, especially non-breeding males, may occur at any point in the state during the summer and fall months. Observations from the Missouri River area are meager but it appears doubtful if the species now breeds in this region.

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In preparing our set of *The Flicker* for binding we find that we are in need of several issues beginning with volume 1. We are listing below the numbers that are missing and would greatly appreciate any help you may be able to give us in locating any of these back issues.

Vol. 1, 1929, Nos. 2 and 4
Vol. 2, 1930, Nos. 1, 3, 4
Vol. 3, 1931, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 4, 1932, Nos. 3, 4
Vol. 5, 1933, Nos. 1, 2, 3
Vol. 6, 1934, Nos. 1, 2, 3
Vol. 8, 1936, Nos. 1, 2, 3
Vol. 12, 1940, Nos., 1, 2

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Birding in the West Indies

by

Whitney and Karen Eastman

One of our most delightful and rewarding experiences in bird study took place in early 1957 during our visit to 14 different islands in the West Indies.

We had previously visited Bermuda and Jamaica and while we were enchanted with these islands we had a yen to study the birds of the West Indian Islands farther to the south. Our article on the "Birds of Jamaica" appeared in *The Bulletin* of the Massachusetts Audubon Society for December, 1956.

We headed for Trinidad and Tobago, leaving Miami by plane on January 15. There is little published literature on the birds of Trinidad and Tobago, so we were more or less on our own so far as field identification of the birds of these two islands was concerned. A check list by Belcher and Smooker which appeared in *The Ibis* in the '30's was helpful.

We first spent about five weeks on Tobago, and what a tropical paradise it really is! The island lies about 11 degrees north of the equator but enjoys a wonderfully moderate climate the year around. We made our headquarters at the Bacolet Estate Guest House where good food and friendly people made our stay most enjoyable.

The bird population on the island is large, especially in localities where native birds are concentrated. This high population density apparently accounts for some of the unusual behavior patterns we observed among several species. Family triangles were numerous, the bitter fights between males often ended in exhaustion. The phenomena of nest moving by the Bananaquits was observed in a number of instances, but the reason for moving their completed home, fiber by fiber, from one place to another still remains a mystery to us.

We had a thrill of a lifetime in witnessing the nuptial performances of the Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*) while visiting the island of Little Tobago. The male bird strutted in all his glory, displaying his gorgeous plumage before his harem of five females. It was a sight one can never forget. This is the only place where the Bird of Paradise lives in the wild state outside its native New Guinea.

The island of Tobago is primitive and unspoiled, the people are honest and friendly, and the scenery and climate are delightful. We recorded and studied 97 species of birds on this small island. While in Tobago we were fortunate in having guidance and counsel from Thornton Burgess and Dr. Alfred O. Gross.

Following our delightful sojourn on Tobago, we spent an exciting week on the island of Trinidad. The bird life on Trinidad is even more plentiful and in many respects more interesting than Tobago. The island is larger, and there are more fresh water areas.

A day we shall long remember was spent in the Caroni Swamp which is teeming with bird life. A Hindu boy poled our crude little skiff, whimsically named the "Fairy Jet," all day long without resting. In certain areas birds would fly up in front of us by the thousands, including several species of herons and the Jacana. Rarities like the White-shouldered Water Tyrant, the Yellow-throated Spinetail, whose coarse, teapot-shaped nests were in evidence in the shrubbery, the Gray Dacnis and the

White-headed Marsh Tyrant were in great abundance. A colony of the rare Scarlet Ibis lives in the swamp, and we were fortunate to see these gorgeous creatures in their native habitat.

While in Trinidad we had the rare experience of visiting a remote cave which is the home of a colony of Guacharos or Oil Birds. Their bodies are so heavily laden with fat, they have been slaughtered by natives for centuries for cooking and fuel. There are now only three cave colonies of these rare birds in the world, all of which are protected.

A "must" for birders visiting Trinidad is to have a driver take you up Blanchiesseuse Road to the Pass and walk back down, a distance of about 12 miles. Your eyes will feast on feathered beauties in large numbers all along the way. For instance, in one large Immortelle tree we saw 12 species, including five species of Honey-creepers.

Ray Johnson, the leading authority on Trinidad birds, took us into the jungle to see the nuptial dance of the Black and White Manakin. It is an odd ritualistic performance to say the least. These beautiful little birds work for weeks clearing away leaves and other debris and preparing a dancing court of hard earth several feet square. Then the birds gather at the dancing courts and several males put on a show for the females who remain perched in the background. While the males are going through their antics they create a snapping noise. There has been much controversy as to how the birds make the noise. A couple came from England while we were there to photograph the birds on the court to prove that they make the noise with their tail feathers.

We observed 108 species on Trinidad. A few rarities escaped us.

Next we hopped by plane to St. Lucia, stopping very briefly on Grenada and Barbados. Our very resourceful and experienced guide, Stanley John, met us at the airport at Castries, with a driver, and we were off to the mountainous country where Stanley had been collecting specimens of rare birds for some of our museums for many years. He knew the location of every bird on the island. He also knew how to avoid the Fer de Lance, an angry, venomous snake which may attack humans without cause or warning.

We spent four very thrilling and profitable days on the island, seeing such avian aristocrats as the Antillean Crested Hummingbird, Trembler, Pearly-eyed Thrasher, Blue-crowned Euphonia, White-breasted Thrasher and St. Lucian Black Finch (nearly extinct). We observed 47 species in St. Lucia. We stopped at the world-famous St. Antoine Hotel, high up on the cliff overlooking the town of Castries and the beautiful harbor. The scenic grandeur from the hotel porch is a sight long to be remembered.

En route to Antigua, we stopped for a short time on Martinique and Guadeloupe.

On Antigua, we stopped for a couple of days at the White Sands Hotel, and although we toured the entire island, the bird life is sparse and not too exciting. The island has been denuded and the soil impoverished with very little forested area remaining to attract birds. It is the least interesting of any of the islands we visited from an ornitholigical standpoint.

We then hopped by plane to St. Croix, Virgin Islands. We stopped at St. Croix by the Sea — a delightful resort — for six days and thoroughly enjoyed the life on this U. S. island. While we observed only 35 species of birds on St. Croix, we had some wonderful experiences. George Seaman of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who is the ornithological authority in the Virgin Islands, extended us many courtesies. Howard Orians and Mrs. Orians were there on an Audubon Screen Tour, and we had the pleasure of birding with them and George Seaman.

Our next stop was Puerto Rico. We stayed at the swanky Carib Hilton Hotel in San Juan to be close to the shopping center and night life — just for a change.

We contacted Felix Inigo, chief of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who extended us many courtesies. While we were on the island four days, we spent two days in El Yunque in the Carribean National Forest. There we saw the rare Puerto Rican Parrot of which there are only about 200 left. Every birder who visits Puerto Rico should visit the tropical rain forest of El Yunque where the tree ferns grow to unbelievable heights. Here we also saw the Red-legged Thrush, Puerto Rican Tanager and Tody. In all we recorded 24 species on Puerto Rico.

We then flew to Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, and located at the beautiful Jaragua Hotel. From our brief and cursory observations we were favorably impressed with Mr. Trujillo's facilities and management. There was no apparent unemployment and no beggars anywhere. The hotels are equal to our best in America. The streets and parks are clean — no rubbish anywhere. The zoo is the cleanest we have ever seen.

We were not permitted to go afield by ourselves. Our taxi driver would never leave us. He was apparently under orders. But the birding was exciting. The bird population is good, and many interesting species are to be observed. We spent four days here and observed 41 species, among which were Palm Chat, Black-crowned Palm Tanager, Hispaniolan Paroquet, Greater Antillean Oriole, Chat Tanager and a flock of wild Guinea Fowl.

After leaving the apparently prosperous Dominican Republic we flew to Haiti where poverty and filth are widespread. We did not enjoy going into the country around Petionville alone, for groups of beggars followed us everywhere. As a result we did most of our birding around the hotel grounds and from our taxi window. One bird which was prevalent everywhere in Haiti was the Cape May Warbler.

We saw a total of 47 species during our five-day stay in Haiti, including such interesting birds as Broad-billed Tody, Palm Crow, White-necked Crow, Lizard Cuckoo and Gray-crowned Palm Tanager.

Then we made a short stop on the island of Jamaica where we had spent ten most enjoyable days last year and headed for Miami.

We observed a total of 260 species on the 14 islands we visited. We loved Tobago best of all because of the scenery, the people, the simple life and the safety one feels in going about the island as he pleases.

To top off our West Indies tour of bird study, we indulged in two Audubon Wildlife Tours in Florida as a fitting climax. We took a tour with Charles Brookfield into the Florida Bay area in company with Minneapolis friends, Dwayne and Inez Andreas, and a tour with Sandy Sprunt into the Corkscrew Swamp in company with Florida friends, Ed and Bette Rowe.

We strongly urge all traveling birders to plan a trip to the West Indies. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

A New Birding Area

by
Al Grewe

There comes a time when after years visiting the same area, one begins to know individual birds almost personally and he becomes upset when a particular individual is missing. It might even go so far that one knows the road so well that even the litter in the ditches is familiar. Perhaps then, it is time for a change. If you are just a little weary of your favorite birding spot, read on. I'd like to tell you about a new and exciting area — Crex Meadows — near Grantsburg, Wisconsin, only a two hour drive from the Twin Cities.

The Crex Meadows have been established as a conservation area for less than ten years, but they have an interesting and varied history. Prior to 1900 much hay and many cranberries and vegetables were harvested. Mismanagement of the soil resulted in the failure of these productions and in 1913 the Crex Carpet Company took over the area for harvesting of native wire grass, which, at the time, was used in the manufacture of grass rugs and furniture. Some of you may remember these items. Changing times and ideas of homemakers caused the collapse of this industry and the area was given over to general farming. Because of the poor sandy soil and numerous drainage ditches the small farms, too, were a failure. Fire and flood went raging during and after these several eras and the now worn out soils, and scrubby, fire-scarred aspen and oak islands of the Crex became tax delinquent.

The Wisconsin Conservation Department, with the aid of Pittman-Robertson funds purchased almost 30 square miles of this area and has begun to restore the original wet prairie and waterfowl breeding grounds.

This restoration project has involved construction of eight miles of driveable dikes to hold flowage water, which now extends over more than 8,000 acres, and bulldozing and burning of the wooded uplands to provide suitable habitat for upland game and big game.

The operation has been a great success thus far. Waterfowl production has increased from a few hundred ducks to several thousand each season. Prairie grasses have replaced the oak and aspen to such an extent that plant scientists have set up study plots to follow the very rapid succession.

It has been my pleasure to visit the Crex ten to twelve times each summer with birders from the Hunt Hill Audubon Camp. Our trips have always been a great success and linger in the memories of the campers as red letter days. We have been in the area at all hours of the day, but personally I like the period from two p.m. until dark. During this period we have observed many upland species and we have also been able to watch the evening flights of waterfowl and waders.

On leaving the city limits of Grantsburg toward the meadows one passes the airport weather station which often records the coldest winter temperatures in the nation. To the unshaded summer visitor the summers are equally as hot. The airport is, by the way, the breeding ground of the Upland Plover. One may usually be seen on the power lines leading into the buildings. As one drives about a mile further east he observes the damages caused by the wildly spreading oak wilt which is killing much of

the oak forest in this part of the state. A left turn onto a sandy road lined with Jack Pine forest takes the now excited birder up onto the dike surrounding Phantom Lake, a shallow but quite extensive body of water. Many drowned trees remain standing in the water. These old snags are used as nesting sites by a large colony of Great Blue Herons (about 150 pair), Black-crowned Night Herons and Double-crested Cormorants. Inland tree nesting of the latter species is somewhat of a rarity. It was over the Phantom Lake area that we observed the rare (inland) Parasitic Jaeger on several occasions last fall. As we drive along the dike numerous broods of Mallard, Blackduck, teal and other ducks are seen, as well as Ring-billed Gulls, and Black, Common and occasionally Caspian Terns. Pied-billed Grebes and Loons. Green Herons and American Bitterns are very common. Flying overhead and often sitting fully exposed are Wilson Snipe. We have often observed more than 30 in one day. In the cattail ponds are several large colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, many Red-winged Blackbirds as well as Long and Short-billed Marsh Wrens. Least Bitterns are frequently spotted. In the grassier areas Sora, Virginia and King Rails are always heard and sometimes seen.

As we leave the first series of dikes we note that much of the oak shows scars of burning. The fires which have caused these scars have been set in early spring, during the time when the brush and trees but not the topsoil will be injured. Here we see the invasion of the burned areas by the prairie grasses and forbes.

We have often picnicked just off the road on a grassy knoll, the dancing ground in early spring of the Sharp-tailed Grouse. Adults and broods may be seen in this area at any time during the summer. A short distance further on we leave the car to walk through a cleared field which supports a beautiful stand of Big Blue Stem, the tallest of the prairie grasses. In August it may be well over seven feet tall.

As we proceed we see fields which appear to be under cultivation and indeed they are. Several small grains, buckwheat and corn are grown to supply food for resident as well as the large migrant populations. Look closely at the corn. It was developed by the University of Wisconsin especially for game production areas. It matures rapidly and reaches a height of four feet or less. Thus it is relatively easy for ducks and geese to reach the mature ears.

We see a great many deer as we cover the area, and a few beaver, of which there is a very large population, are often active during the daylight hours. There are a good many smaller mammals present and a few bear have been reported.

At the north end of the refuge we stop at a large, high, wire enclosure, the Canada Goose pen. Here non-flying geese rear broods which are free-flying. It is hoped that they will be the basis of a future population of Wisconsin-reared migratory geese. Besides rearing broods these geese act as decoys, calling in migratory geese in spring and fall. Such geese make use of the area for resting and feeding, and perhaps some stay on for the breeding season.

By now we have covered a good portion of the refuge area from the road. Much of this area is open to hunting of upland game, waterfowl, and big game. During the season hunters from all over the state make use of the area. Local persons trap a good many fur bearers, mostly muskrats. Part of the Crex is posted against hunting. This offers complete protection for all the species that take refuge in the very large area.

Not all of the Crex is accessible by car. The out of the way spots are probably the nesting areas for the oc-

casional Sandhill Cranes which are seen flying over the more accessible areas, and might possibly be the nesting site of the American Egrets which are seen from time to time.

We have seen over 125 species on our trips — and remember, they were all observed between spring and fall migrations. The Crex is an exciting place in that we have found species such as Whistling Swans, Canada Geese, Parasitic Jaeger, Northern and Wilson Phalaropes and Eared Grebes during the summer hundreds of miles from their usual summer range.

Why not go soon and see the area — for the birds, and for the exceptional display of prairie flowers and grasses. Observe the modern methods and practices used in habitat rehabilitation and control. Go and enjoy it and then go again, something new may be seen with each visit. It's good now, but I'm sure it will get better with age. I enjoy it there, and I know you will, too.

Stop in at the area headquarters for a map of the Crex and a visit with Norman Stone, the manager, or his men. — *Al Grewe, Biology Dept., State College, St. Cloud, Minn.*

CAMPUS BIRD COUNT — PROPOSED GROUND RULES

DATE — Any date. Most campuses will try to take the count at the height of the spring migration.

TIME — Any one calendar day, or fraction thereof.

PARTICIPANTS — Any number; not limited to members of the institution; "town" as well as "gown" may take part.

ACCURACY — The leader will assume any responsibility of the accuracy of the identifications.

CAMPUS — This is defined as the property in any one town owned or leased by the college.

DIVISION OF TERRITORY — Best results may often be obtained by dividing the campus into ecological units and having small groups or individuals assigned to work over intensively each of these special habitat areas.

SPECIES LISTED — Any wild or feral species of bird, whether native or introduced, seen *or heard* on *or from* the campus should be counted. Starlings, House Sparrows, feral Ring-necked Pheasants and Rock Doves, and hybrids, such as Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, should be counted. The count is for species only, and no attempt should be made to distinguish sub-species. Where possible, species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes seen on the campus or in campus waters should also be counted (and listed under separate headings, by class).

REPORT — A report should contain the following information: Name of college, school or other institution, address, number of acres, date and hours in field, types of terrain (list briefly), wind, weather, temperature, list of species and number of individuals of each species recorded (A.O.U. check-list order), name of leader and participants.

PARTICIPATION — In addition to those receiving this notice, any school or college in North America or any other institution with a campus is eligible to participate in the Campus Bird Count. Such other institutions might include hospitals, veterans facilities, camps, sanitaria, historic sites, city or county parks, small nature sanctuaries and so on.

Send reports to: Campus Bird Count, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York. A donation of $1.00 from each participating campus would assist the committee with its clerical expenses and postage.

Bird Migration in the Duluth Area

by

P. B. Hofslund

Of the 265 species of birds commonly recorded in Minnesota, the area around Duluth can list 230. Its position at the southwestern point of Lake Superior and at the southern end of a range of hills known as the Sawtooth Mountains, places Duluth in the unique position of being the tip of a natural funnel. Consequently, the city is one of the best migrational focal points in the state if not in the entire country. By this I do not mean to imply that the numbers of birds are greater here than any other place in the state, for the area around Wheaton will have many more ducks and geese than Duluth, warbler migration at Frontenac will be as good if not better than here, although no place in the state sees the large concentration of hawks than we do, and probably the numbers and variety of shorebirds are greater on Minnesota Point, a sandy spit of land just off the center of the city, than any place else in Minnesota. But here we get the regulars and the vagrants from the north, the ocean birds that may wander up the Great Lakes, the extension of ranges from the south, and most of the western forms that seem to wander into the state in early winter and spring. Then too, the lake and the hills serve to funnel masses of birds into the area in the fall, and Minnesota Point seems to be a convenient highway for many of the birds returning in the spring.

Because of the nature of the terrain and the position of the city, most of the migration features are found within the city limits. If we examine the map, we can see how really narrow a path these concentrations of birds follow. The largest concentration of waterfowl will be found in the area around Morgan Park; the warblers concentrate primarily in three regions, Chester Park, Minnesota Point and Lester Park; the hawks can best be seen from a lookout above 45th Avenue East. Duluth has frequently been described as 26 miles long, one mile wide and one mile high, and one finds that in this area, migration is narrowed down to almost similar proportions.

Just how narrow this band is can best be illustrated by the fall hawk migration. Within the extremes of Lester Park to Enger Tower fall the concentration of the hawk flight. Place yourself either to the right or left of this area and the hawks you'll see will be definitely limited. Actually, the entrance by which these hawks enter the city is even more limited. To illustrate further, the counts at Enger Tower on the same day and over the same hours totaled 1441, while the count at 45th Avenue East and Skyline Boulevard was 5646. Again, at two points a little closer, the Skyline count amounted to 4393 while Hawk Hill had only a 1345 total. Perhaps an even narrower path is followed by the migrating nighthawks. During a heavy migration of these birds an observer stationed in Woodland will see only a scattered few, while those along the lake, say in the Lakeside-London Road area will see thousands.

The nighthawk and the hawk migrations are the most spectacular of those that occur in Duluth. The nighthawk invasion begins about the middle of August, reaches its peak somewhere around the 21st, and then tapers off to almost nothing after the first of Sep-

tember. I know of no figures that would indicate the exact magnitude of one of the big flights. On August 19, 1955 Harold Wing and I counted more than 2000 individuals from the car window of a moving automobile over a stretch of about 14 miles. The car was moving at an average speed of 50 miles an hour, a speed which kept us ahead of the birds. The flight on this day, and this is typical of most of the heavy flights, started around 4 o'clock in the afternoon and continued with very little abatement until it was too dark to see them.

I suppose the migration that draws the greatest interest, however, is the fall flight of the hawks. Apparently, the hunters knew about the flight before ornithologists, because as is the story wherever we have large concentrations of these birds, the slaughter was terrific. It will not hurt to digress a little bit from the theme to mention some of the efforts to stop this killing. In 1946 the Duluth Bird Club under the staunch leadership of Dr. Olga Lakela began a campaign through the newspapers to stop this mass slaughter. It, of course, did not meet with instant success. The next step was to post sanctuary signs; these were torn down as soon as they were put up, so at one lookout the club painted the legend "Bird Sanctuary — No Shooting" on a rock. The hunters scratched out the second and third words of the sign, so now it reads *Bird Shooting*. Although the hunters ignored the first sign, they followed the new version quite faithfully. Whether it was due to the active efforts of the bird club, the realization of the flight as a tourist attraction, better education, or merely to the fact that the best flights occur within the Duluth city limits, but regardless, hawk shooting is right now of only a minor concern on this particular flight. Some are still shot, but generally the numbers are negligible. It really wasn't until 1951 that more than a general knowledge of this flight was had. At the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the bird club spent two week ends recording the numbers and species of hawks that used this flyway. A total of over 10,000 that year and over 13,000 in two week ends of the next year indicated that the flight was of a magnitude worthy of notice, and since that time a similar count has been made each fall. Unfortunately, the counts have been pretty much limited to the target week ends and a scattered few hours through September and October, so only a fragmentary picture of the flight has been obtained. A few features do seem to be apparent, however. First, the flight begins after the middle of August and is still going on in November. Secondly, the flight is a consistent one, that is, I don't believe there is a day during the flight period that some hawks are not moving. I have never yet spent time on the lookout, even though my time has been limited occasionally to an hour, that I did not see at least one hawk. We have even recorded hawks in weather when the fog was so thick we could barely see the watchers, let alone the birds. The flight is used by about every species of hawks one would expect to find in this area. We normally record 15 or 16 species, and have recorded as many as 18. The hawk which usually is seen in greatest numbers is the Broad-wing, although in some years the Sharp-shin has led the pack. Recently, with the aid of a grant from the University of Minnesota, I started a study of the effects of the weather on the local flight. The data has not been analyzed completely as yet, but one feature seems to stand out. We can expect the largest concentrations when we have a wind from the westerly direction, that is, northwest, southwest, or west, and if the wind is an easterly, though there still may be a flight, the numbers are relatively small. The difference in what we can expect can be illustrated by these figures. The totals throughout six seasons are 37,643

Map 1 A rough sketch of the Duluth area

when the wind has been from the west as opposed to 4936 when the wind was from the east. The average has been 205 per hour during the times of westerly winds to 58 per hour for easterly winds. A final statement in regard to the flight is that the peak numbers are reached during the second and third weeks of September.

Migration in Duluth, as in many other places, is never really over. The fall movement of the song birds begins around the end of the first week of August and is largely over by the first of October. The ducks, hawks and some shorebirds are still moving into November and by this time some of our winter visitors such as the grosbeaks, crossbills, and Bohemian Waxwings have moved in. They will move in and out throughout the winter, and by the time February comes around, some flocks which have gone farther south return to this area. In February we expect our first summer birds, the crows, to appear, and from that time on the tempo gradually increases. In April the ducks, swans and geese are back and the early comers such as the red-wings, killdeer, robins and meadowlarks usually appear. The peak of the spring migration occurs around the third week of May, and spring migration is usually over by the first of June. However, there are still shorebirds appearing in June and in July there are some that are apparently moving south. So the fall is again upon us and the fall flights again pick up the tempo.

I suppose any orientation to the bird life of a region would be incomplete if no mention was made of the rarities. Duluth has its share, perhaps more than most places in the midwest. The Parasitic Jaeger, the Iceland Gull, the Ivory Gull, the Mockingbird, the Cardinal, just to mention a few. Most frequently it is the bird that we consider western that provides us with the yearly rarities; the Varied Thrush, the Mountain Bluebird, the Western Tanager, the Oregon Junco, or the Western Grebe. On May 26 of 1956, we had an unusual May Day count. Besides listing such forms as the Snow Bunting and the Canada Jay which are not usually in migration this late, we recorded a Willet, Eared Grebe, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Western Sandpiper and a Burrowing Owl, all western forms.

The truth is that while our knowledge of migration in this region is sketchy, our knowledge of the nesting birds is even more so. True, we can tell you that our avifauna is mostly of the northern coniferous breeders, with a scattering of some of the southern forms which prefer the deciduous forests. I know what the nesting status was for the UMD campus seven to eight years ago, but I can only make a pretty strong guess that the Short-eared Owl, the Bob-o-link, the LeConte's Sparrow, and the Philadelphia Vireo, which were present during the nesting seasons then, are gone now. We have a reasonably good record of the nesting of Common Terns on Harbor Island and the Herring Gulls on Knife Island for the past few years. Incidentally, our banding records show that the birds of the year in the Herring Gulls leave this island in August and move down the Great Lakes to the east as a general rule. I know of no one who has more than an elementary knowledge of what birds nest in the western reaches of the city, and as for St. Louis County, I'm afraid it is ornithologically unexplored. The county is 7092.51 square miles, larger than the combined states of Connecticut and Rhode Island. A great portion of it is wilderness country. If we were to explore it, would we find that the Blackpoll, the Wilson's, the Cape May, the Palm, and even the Black-throated Blues are nesters? The Ruby-crowned Kinglet, the Evening Grosbeak, and the White-winged Crossbills are seen throughout the summer, but as yet there

are no authentic records for nests of these birds in Minnesota. A Red-throated Loon with downy young was seen in 1956 on Wisconsin Point. Do they nest on Minnesota Point which is just across the Superior entry? It is the hope that this paper will serve to stimulate a more thorough search and recording of the birds in this area, and that the groundwork will be laid for a complete study of the birds of St. Louis County. — *Duluth*

YOUR VACATION HAS A PURPOSE — AT THE AUDUBON CAMP OF WISCONSIN

If you have your sights set on a vacation that offers a fascinating outdoor location, begging to be explored — an area far from humming highways and crowded resorts; where "population" refers to countless birds, mammals and other wildlife that shyly share the countryside with you, and your human companions are as eager as you to spend two thrilling weeks discovering the ways of these wild creatures and the environment in which they live — then the latchstring is out for you at the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin.

On June 15, this famous camp starts its fourth season of operation, consisting of five two-week sessions, ending on August 30. If you are 18 years of age or over, and have either a hobby or professional interest in the world around you, you'll find the two weeks invested in one of these sessions will pay you more handsome dividends than the best gilt-edged stock you can buy.

First, there is its excellent location at the 300-acre Hunt Hill Sanctuary in northern Wisconsin's lake country. This borders on Devil's Lake and includes within its boundaries unspoiled forests, meadows, marshes, streams and the two delightful Twin Lakes, which are used efficiently by campers for swimming and boating, as well as for absorbing aquatic-life observation. There are two modern buildings to house the campers, plus a dining hall, a nature museum and a beautiful new lodge for comfortable lounging and evening meetings.

Then, there is the camp's staff of expert, all-round naturalists, who foresake indoor laboratories and written textbooks in favor of taking small, informal groups to surprising places where life is actually being lived, and where they can interpret accurately every meaningful gesture that nature makes.

The things you'll see (Black Terns nesting on the lake shore; Pileated Woodpeckers in the forest; sundew and pitcher plants in a bog — and the best in nature movies and slides in the evenings); the things you'll hear (a cackling Sora Rail or a pumping bittern in the cattail marsh — plus the welcome sound of the dinner bell, summoning you to the best meals you have ever eaten); the things you'll do (learning to know the world around you under the friendly and expert guidance of the staff; making lifelong friends with other campers who share your enthusiasm for this unique experience) all combine in providing you with a real vacation with a purpose.

The camp is conducted by the National Audubon Society, and you can secure a free detailed folder, with all information about dates, cost, etc., by writing to its headquarters at 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.

OLD FRONTE

Old Frontenac, located about 68 miles southeast of Minneapolis, near U.S. Highway 61 along the edge of the Mississippi called Lake Pepin. An ornithologists' paradise in a nineteenth century setting of tall trees, large lawns and clipped hedges, with homes of pre-Civil war architecture.

Home built in the 1880's by Gen. Israel Garrard, gentleman adventurer from Kentucky.

Near the village of Old Frontenac is a well-known shorebird birding area called SAND POINT. A wave-built sand and gravel bar extending into Lake Pepin. Shorebirds are seen here any day in May . . . providing the water doesn't cover the point. Wisconsin shore in background.

Approaching SAND POINT with Villa Maria Academy seen in background.

IAC *by Orwin A. Rustad*

Approaching the Methodist Camp, located on a small point on Lake Pepin. In mid-May the warbler migration may be observed in the many shade trees surrounding the buildings of the camp and in the nearby marsh.

Chapel at the Methodist Camp in Old Frontenac.

Least Sandpiper (left), Red-backed Sandpiper (right), seen on SAND POINT.

Lake Pepin. Looking north towards Old Frontenac.

A New Threat to Wildlife

by

W. J. Breckenridge

Certain types of commercial rearing of wild game species for controlled hunting and fishing is rapidly posing a new threat to many of our predatory birds. The growing demand by some ardent shooters for the release of captive raised ducks and pheasants like clay pigeons to test their skill with the shotgun is prompting a rapid increase in game farms. Much of this wild game is now being raised in only partially screened pens. Later in the season a large degree of freedom is given the ducks, while regular feeding holds them in the area readily available for trapping at feeding places when shooting demands require their capture. This practice goes on into the winter when predatory hawks and owls become hard pressed to find food, and naturally such an inviting concentration of prey, largely inexperienced in avoiding predators, attracts the hawks and owls in large numbers. Damage is inflicted on the flocks even by predatory species that normally feed heavily on mice. Since the game raised in confinement is considered privately owned property, this wholesale destruction of hawks and owls by the game farm owner is legal. The influence of this destruction on the predatory bird populations would be of minor importance if this practice eliminated only those birds living within the limits of the game farm, but in winter when food is scarce, predatory birds range many miles to feed, and the destruction on one game farm can wipe out most of the hawks and owls from miles around. This might correctly be described as "baiting" these birds, since it exactly parallels the baiting of ducks, a practice now outlawed since it took such unfair advantage of the birds concerned. Consequently, if we were to set out on a campa'gn aimed at exterminating our hawks and owls, this would be the most effective means we could use.

Many hunters, of course, will immediately ask, "Well, who cares if hawks and owls disappear?" First, in answer to this question, it is well to point out that for several years here in Minnesota all hawks and owls have been protected by law except for the Goshawk, the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and the Great Horned Owl, unless they are found in the act of destroying private property. This law was passed in recognition of the proven fact that most hawks and owls destroy large numbers of noxious rodents. These pests have extremely high reproductive rates and the predators serve to keep them in check. This is a law that needs widespread publicity not only with the public but with the law enforcing conservation officers. Nearly all of the research and administrative personnel of the Division of Game and Fish are convinced of the wisdom of such protection from indiscriminate shooting by the hunting public. But this attitude has not penetrated the ranks of the warden force very extensively as yet, and little or no effort is being made to enforce this law.

In addition to the hawks and owls already having "legal", although not "actual" protection, the fact should be recognized that there is a rapidly growing feeling among true conservationists that no forms of wildlife, even predators, should be forced dangerously near the verge of extermination. Not only do predatory forms serve a balancing function on noxious animals, but today a fast-growing public awareness of the

recreational value of birds and wildlife of all kinds, places just as much value on a colorful Red-tailed Hawk or a rare Long-eared Owl as on a pheasant or a duck. And the increasing rarity of such species is rapidly enhancing the value that naturalists place on the opportunity of seeing those particular kinds of birds. A great many hunters are already recognizing that game, and game alone, is not the only form of wildlife that is interesting and important, but that all forms have value.

Actually, the game farm situation exactly parallels that existing with regard to commercial trout rearing ponds in Minnesota. In this case the various herons and the Kingfisher are the predators concerned. And the destruction wrought is equally great where efforts are made to protect the trout.

Let's look only a little way into the future. Consider the effect on our herons, kingfishers, hawks and owls if a generous scattering of only partially enclosed game farms and trout rearing ponds should spring up all over Minnesota, each baiting in these birds from miles around. A large percentage of these predatory species could be wiped out in a very short period of years. Is this a real possibility? Right now in our neighboring state of Illinois over 80 game farms are operating. If as many as this are already in existence so close at hand, can anyone doubt that a rapid increase here is certain not far in the future? Consequently, right now is the time to anticipate this increase and lay plans for its control.

The solution is relatively simple. When a person applies for a permit to raise wild game or fish under controlled conditions he should be required to construct *completely enclosed* pens or ponds for the operation. The operator would then experience no damage from predators, and there would be no need for their destruction. Poultry raisers have already recognized this necessity. Admittedly, this will force the game or fish farmer to invest more capital in equipment when establishing such an operation, but if such legislation existed it would prevent the necessity for, and the ill feeling concerned with, forcing already established game farmers or pond owners to improve their equipment or abandon their efforts.

Exactly the same restrictions might well be placed on our industries that are coming to Minnesota to utilize our now abundant supply of pure clean water. It should be required that one of their recognized original investment costs should be the filtering or otherwise purifying their effluent waters as not to pollute our streams and lakes. True, this too would add to their initial costs, but with both our wildlife and our waters, isn't it better to "anticipate and preserve" rather than to "destroy and later have the long and difficult job of restoring?" — *Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minn.*

The Canadian Lakehead

by

A. E. Allin

The winter of 1957-58 was remarkable for both its mildness and below-average precipitation. The mean temperature for January was 6.4° above normal; for February it was 0.7° below average but March was an exceptionally fine month with a mean temperature of 28.1° or 7.7° above normal. The total snowfall for the winter of 48.2" was much below normal, and most of it fell in the early part of the season. There was no precipitation in the latter half of March and the trace of snow on the fields early in the month completely disappeared. A limited amount was present in the deep woods but this should have proved no handicap to the deer herd which has suffered grievously from the excessively heavy snowfall of recent years. It is interesting to note that Moose were not similarly affected. Ontario's Moose population now numbers some 70,000 animals and some areas are possibly overpopulated. The exceptionally dry, warm conditions extended through the first half of April giving the Lakehead the longest period without precipitation in its history. Maximum temperatures were established on April 14 and 15.

The first rain came on April 21 accompanied by cooler weather which continued throughout the month and into May. On April 29, the temperature fell to 13°, the lowest ever recorded so late in the season. It fell to 16° on May 2 and 19° on May 4. The ice went out of Whitefish Lake on April 17. A year ago it was May 2, and in 1955 the lake was still solid in mid-May. Similarly, Thunder Bay was relatively free of ice on April 15. The early disappearance of ice from our inland lakes should affect the distribution of our northbound ducks which frequently remain in the local harbor until the inland lakes have opened. The earlier dispersal of American Golden-eyes has been quite noticeable.

As a consequence of the mild spring one might have expected an early migration but the severe weather of late April, and possibly unsatisfactory conditions to the south, actually retarded the northward flight. By April 30, we had recorded 44 migrants in contrast to 54 in 1957. Contrast this to Southern Manitoba where 72 migrants had been reported by mid-April in contrast to 38 by the same date in 1957. Apparently weather conditions had favored a rapid advance up the Central Plains. By the end of the month, however, the Winnipeg Free Press' "Chickadee Notes" had recorded only 112 species compared with 102 in 1957.

Rainbow Trout and Smelts were running the local streams by April 16, the latter in tremendous numbers. Mr. Karila reported a Big Brown Bat on April 18. Spring Peepers, Swamp Tree-frogs and Wood Frogs were first heard on April 20. A Garter Snake was reported at the mouth of Cavern Lake Bat Cave on April 26. On that date, Neil Atkinson and Arnold Littlefied estimated 300 Little Brown Bats were still in hibernation. We saw and heard our first Chipmunk, a Western, on May 1. By the end of April, Dandelions and Skunk Cabbage were in flower and Coltsfoot in bud. Leaves were opening on Cottoneasters and Lilacs. In favorable locations, early Tulips and Daffodils were blooming, but the cold weather at the end of the month offset the gains of the mild earlier spring. The lack of snow-

fall was now reflected in dead or weakened perennials.

The winter of 1957-58 will be remembered as a poor one for bird watching at the Canadian Lakehead. No incursion of northern migrants was evident and few summer residents remained. One or two Robins were noted in January. We have already recorded the Magpie shot in Conmee Township on January 14 by Albert Broome. Relatively few Pine Grosbeaks were seen last fall and the majority had disappeared by the New Year. We saw a few again in late January. Common Redpolls were fairly abundant throughout the winter, probably as a result of the weeds remaining exposed. C. E. Garton received a dead Hoary Redpoll on March 9. (From far-away Churchill, Mrs. R. M. Beckett reported 100-150 Hoary Redpolls present after mid-February). A few American Golden-eyes wintered on the open rapids of the Nipigon and Kaministiquia Rivers.

Northward Migration probably began in early March when there was a marked increase in numbers of Common Redpolls. The Allins saw six flocks of 25 to 100 birds on March 8; only a few were still present by the middle of the month. A dead Richardson's Owl was brought to Garton on March 9. Although Northern Shrikes were rarely seen during the winter, they were relatively common from March 30 to April 5 suggesting those which had wintered in the United States were now returning to their breeding grounds. As usual crows and Herring Gulls arrived in increasing numbers after mid-March. Ravens began to disappear about the same time although some were still present at the end of April and are probably nesting near the Cities.

A Saw-whet Owl was found dead at Shabaqua by George Whitefield on April 1. Robins and Common Grackles, Marsh Hawks, Killdeers and Western Meadowlarks were recorded on April 2. There appeared to be an increase in numbers of Starlings about the same time. There is little doubt that the majority of our local Starlings spend the winter to the south of the Lakehead. Another week saw the arrival of Black Ducks, Mallards, and Pintails followed by Slate-colored Juncos, Song Sparrows and Flickers. Baldpates arrived on April 19. On April 20, the Allins were fortunate in seeing a pair of Wood Ducks at Whitefish Lake, our first at the Lakehead after 20 years of observations. This beautiful duck has occasionally been reported by hunters in early fall, but there was no spring record until May 8, 1956. Another pair was seen on May 8, 1957. The Allins also saw one near the mouth of the Reservation River, Minnesota on April 10, 1955. This suggests the possibility the bird has been gradually moving into the area in recent years as have the Catbird and Brown Thrasher and possibly the White-breasted Nuthatch. Dear and Allin saw the first pair of the latter on December 28, 1945. One was reported April 26, 1952, another on January 23, 1953 and Dear and the Allins saw two on February 9, 1957. S. Robb and Mrs. G. Blake saw another in Fort William on April 19, 1958.

The latter part of April saw the return of the swans, geese and diving ducks. A few Whistling Swans were seen on April 17 and remained throughout the month. Canada Geese were seen in numbers on April 20. Subsequently many large flocks were seen flying northward. A flock of 34 are still feeding off Chippewa Park and are relatively tame. No Snow or Blue Geese have been seen locally but they have been abundant at Geraldton to the Northeast. Geese are always more common in that area. Perhaps they follow the rivers which flow into Lake Superior to their headwaters, then cross a low height-of-land to fly down the rivers which drain into Hudson Bay. Green-winged Teal arrived on April 26 and are much more common than usual. Ring-

necked Ducks arrived on April 19, Lesser Scaup on April 20, and Greater Scaup on April 26. Bluebills gather in great numbers in the local harbour to feed on waste grain from the elevators. Here they may be approached very closely and in favorable light the contrasting greens and purples of their heads are readily distinguished.

It will be recalled that the Killdeer returned to the Lakehead in mid-April, 1957, in moderate numbers, two weeks earlier than they previously had been recorded. This year the surprise early visitor was the nighthawk. This species is expected on May 25. During the past 20 years it was seen on an early May 16, 1951, but was not recorded until June 4, 1945. With some skepticism we had heard reports of Nighthawks near Duluth earlier in the month. Then Shirley Green reported two flying about Fort William on April 17. On April 19, Allan Oliver reported Nighthawks near his farm home. Miss Green is familiar with Nighthawks in the summer and heard their characteristic notes on the present occasion. Mr. Oliver harbors the only colony of Whip-poor-wills and was listening for their possible return when he heard and saw the Nighthawks. These reports preceded the cold weather of late April. Few insects are active. It would not seem possible that these early visitors could survive.

The 1957 A.O.U. check-list describes "*migratorius*" as the form of Robin occupying North America from Canada's far north to the middle of the United States. Presumably this would be the only race which we should see in Southern Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario on migration, yet for many years, correspondents to "Chickadee Notes" have reported migrating flocks of "northern" Robins in early May. Here at the Lakehead, our resident male robins arrive at the beginning of April and by the end of that month breeding territories are established and nesting activities have commenced. Yet every year, in early May, flocks of robins may be seen for a few days, both in the cities and in the surrounding forests. This year these flocks were common on May 4. These birds and those arriving about the same time in Manitoba appear darker than our local birds. Mrs. R. M. Beckett has spent several seasons in Port Churchill where she studied the native birds intensively. On her return to the Lakehead this year she felt the resident robins were much paler than the Churchill birds. She also states the former have a distinctive song which is less musical than those occurring locally.

On February 26, George Hambly reported House Sparrows carrying nesting material to Port Arthur. Mr. Hanton brought in a young sparrow on May 2 to constitute the first actual breeding record. At the end of February, A. W. Martin reported a Raven investigating Pigeon (Rock Dove) nesting sites at Port Arthur Collegiate. Here, he says, crows feed on their eggs and young throughout the summer. On March 20, we saw Canada Jays gathering nesting material. We were unable to locate the nest. At Herb Lake, Manitoba, a nest of the Canada Jay in a Black Spruce contained three eggs on March 20. We observed a crow on its nest on April 27 in Paipoonge Township.

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club has had an active spring. On February 22, a large number attended the joint meeting with the M.O.U. at Grand Marais. The local club provided the guest speaker, Charles Boyle, who showed his excellent local pictures. Our annual dinner meeting was held in Port Arthur on April 12 when the guest speaker was Dr. P. B. Hofslund, Duluth, who gave an excellent, illustrated talk on the work at Gooseberry Falls and on the Duluth hawk migration. Several members participated in the television programs sponsored by the Thunder Bay District Fish and Game Association. At

the annual dinner meeting of the latter organization on February 24, Dr. A. E. Allin was awarded the Reg Windsor Conservation trophy "for outstanding work in that field." On April 18, Dr. Allin received the conservation award of the West Fort William Kiwanis Club presented at the Northwestern Ontario Sportsman's Show. In 1957, Col. L. S. Dear received the Reg Windsor award and Dear, A. Ohlgren and the late Fred Aaron received the Kiwanis Club's conservation awards. All the recipients are members of the Naturalists' Club. We are in a happy position at the Lakehead in the continued cooperation in conservation efforts of these two groups. This is as it should be since the purpose of both organizations is conservation — "the wise use of our natural resources."

Readers may be interested in a recent brochure, the contents of which are as applicable to Minnesota as they are to Ontario. This is "Some Plants Suitable for Attracting Wildlife" by K. M. Mayall. The 15-page bulletin is illustrated by 24 line drawings of plants as well as sketches of 10 common birds which might utilize them. It may be procured from "Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Woodbridge, Ontario." — *Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William, Ontario.*

CORRECTION

In the March, 1958 number under the topic, "A Philatelic Bird Census" by J. S. Linquist, page 16, 16th line up from foot of page, the words American Museum should read National Museum, Washington, D. C. The American Museum is located in New York.

Seasonal Report

by
Mary Lupient

Except for a few days during the second week of February, Minnesota enjoyed fair balmy weather. In March and April temperatures were above normal most of the time. In Minneapolis, April 16, there was an all time high for this date of 83. It was blustery and cold during the last few days of April and freezing temperatures occurred throughout the state. April 28, it was 14 above in northern sections and 23 in the Twin Cities. Pasque flowers bloomed on sheltered slopes the first week in April, bloodroots and other species of woodland flowers bloomed in the south half of the state about the middle of the month.

Precipitation was very light especially in the north and there was much concern regarding the hazard of forest fires. Caution to motorists regarding care of cigarets and matches was repeatedly broadcast over television and radio. An extra force of men and machines was added to the ranger service to help control fires. Although many small fires were started, no major fire occurred to date of this writing.

The fine April weather did not cause an earlier migration, in fact, some species migrated a few days later than in some former years which may have been due to storms and blizzards to the south of us. An occasional robin was about here and there in March which may not have been a migrant. The peak of the robin migration was the second week in April.

A Common Loon appeared March 26 in the shallow open water of the Minnesota River marshlands March 26, long before the lakes were open.

Horned Grebes were comparatively abundant this season and were present on Minneapolis lakes through April. There were many on Whitefish Lake, Crow Wing County, April 30.

Mergansers and ducks arrived in the Minnesota and Mississippi marshlands the last of March, but they left shortly as the northern lakes opened earlier than usual. There were several large flocks of scaup on Mille Lacs and Whitefish Lakes April 30. There were many reports of migrating geese through April. Rev. Forest Strnad saw three Hutchins Geese on Silver Lake, Rochester, March 21. They were with the wintering Canada Geese and the difference in size could easily be noted. Florence and Lee Jaques reported about 50 Canada Geese in a small lake near their home, North Oaks, in April.

Flocks of gulls occupied the existing small amount of open water at Fisher Lake near Shakopee, March 24. They were augmented by many more as thawing continued. Many, mostly Ringbilled Gulls still lingered in the state until date of this writing. Brother Theodore reported a Bonaparte's Gull in South Minneapolis, March 28. One was seen at Whitefish Lake April 30, in the company of Common Terns. Common Terns reportedly arrived at Mother Lake, Minneapolis, April 20.

A goodly number of Wilson's Snipes had arrived in southern and central sections the week of April 15. A very few Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers were present the first week in April in the area adjacent to the Twin Cities, but there was a very heavy migration April 28. Hundreds of them occupied the mud flats along the Mississippi River between Fort Snelling and Shakopee. A few Wilson's Phalaropes were there

also. At one time a Marbled Godwit could be seen in the same area. Forest Lee reported one April 25, between Red Wing and Winona. Flocks of these birds were seen in Mahnomen County May 2-3 by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge and Dr. D. W. Warner.

No heavy movement of hawks was reported. In the eastern part of the state they drifted through in small numbers from the middle of February through April. Most species were seen including a Bald Eagle reported by Margaret Lachore near Hastings March 28. Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Ravens and Magpies were quite common in Mud Lake Refuge during the winter according to George Gard, assistant refuge manager. He said that 16 Bald Eagles were counted during a 10-mile drive in late February.

A Red-shouldered Hawk called and stooped at what was apparently its mate in the woods near the Izaak Walton Bass Ponds, March 28. Formerly, it was known to nest in this area. A Broad-winged Hawk preying in the marshes nearby caught and carried something away that was very large.

There were several Screech Owl records. Mrs. William Davidson said that one nested in a tree on Summit Avenue in St. Paul. It peered unconcernedly down on the heavy traffic just below. On March 11 a Saw-whet Owl perched in the trees near the home of Rachel Tryon, Christmas Lake, Excelsior. A pair of Great-horned Owls nested in the woods near the Isaac Walton Bass Ponds. They nested in a hole left by a branch that had blown down. Merely the tip of the tail of the nesting bird could be seen. This record was received from R. E. Cole.

Hermit Thrushes were seen April 9 and Mrs. E. W. Joul was first to report a Bluebird the 25th of March. Bird clubs and several persons in the south half of the state put up bluebird houses and a goodly number were possessed by the bluebirds. This species appears to be quite abundant this season.

First report of Great Blue Herons was April 1, Black-crowned Night Herons, April 7.

Three American Egrets roamed around in sloughs along the Vermillion River near Hastings reportedly beginning the middle of April. No doubt they will again nest in the nearby heronry along with the Great Blues. Two were seen by several observers in the Minnesota River marshlands near Minneapolis in April and Ray Glassel saw one there April 31.

Whistling Swans arrived at Fisher Lake near Shakopee, March 31, and by April 11 all but a very few had left. No other report was received.

Phoebes, Martins and Tree Swallows were seen over and along the Minnesota River, April 7 and 8; they were migrating in Crow Wing County, April 30. Very light waves of warblers went through Minnesota, April 17 and April 22. With them were a few Brown Creepers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. However, there was a heavy migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets through Minneapolis, April 28 after an evening shower. At Whitefish Lake, April 30, there was a frightened flight of more than a hundred warblers chased by a Pigeon Hawk.

Hordes of Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds began pouring into the state in the last week in March. They were accompanied by flocks of Common Grackles. A few Brewer's Blackbirds were seen in Minneapolis. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen near Minneapolis, April 23 by Mrs. E. W. Joul.

Some Western Meadowlarks normally winter in the south half of the state, and there were several reports of early dates which may not have been of migrating birds. The migration in numbers took place the last week in March. The Eastern Meadowlark was here, March 31.

The vanguard of the Horned Lark migration arrived somewhat early. Rev. Forest Strnad and others saw them near

Kasson and Albert Lea, February 2, and by February 4 they had reached the Twin City area. The migration reached its peak the week of March 1.

Although there were few reports of Titmice in the early part of the winter, several were received from February 1 to May 1, the period covered by this writing. Two spent the winter at the James Wilkie home near Minneapolis. Other observers in and near the Twin Cities who sighted Titmice for short periods were Mrs. Murray Olyphant, Mrs. Edward Rogier, Lee Jaques, and two were living at Mrs. Harlow Hanson's, April 30. Two were reported at Maywood by Rev. Strnad.

White-winged Crossbills and Red-breasted Nuthatches that were so abundant everywhere in the state during the fall and early winter, were still with us in smaller numbers until the week of March 15. However, a few Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in the state in April. Pine Siskins were reported by Mrs. R. E. Whitesel, Minneapolis, February 1, and were still at her feeder, March 22. Redpolls were abundant everywhere in the state. Great flocks of Slate-colored Juncos migrated the second week in April. It was the time of the migration peak for Fox Sparrows and Song Sparrows also. However, a few Song Sparrows appeared in late March reported by Brother Theodore and Sally Wangansteen. Tree Sparrows left in early April.

The first White-throated Sparrows were seen April 13. Field and Vesper Sparrows were found in Minnesota at about the same time. There was only one report of Snow Buntings. Mrs. John Darley saw a flock near Rochester, February 2. Apparently Lapland Longspurs were scarce too as only one flock was reported. About 35 flew over Kasson March 15, as Rev. Strnad and William Longley were putting up bluebird houses.

Walter Jiracek, Spring Lake, said a Red-eyed Towhee came there in the fall and stayed all winter.

The first week in March three Mockingbirds were reportedly frequenting feeders in an area near the river in St. Paul. Brother Pius, Cretin High School, St. Paul, investigated the report the second week in April and found the birds, one of which was very pugnacious and chased Robins, Bluebirds, Mourning Doves and other birds from the area. April 19 the Mockingbirds were gone and Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches had taken over. Purple Finches were abundant this season, singing flocks of 25 and 50 were still about the Twin Cities, April 30.

Dr. A. B. Erickson received a note from Orville Nordsletten, assistant game manager, regarding a record of Magpies dated March 11. Quotation from note follows: "Four Magpies were sighted while making a grouse census route. I saw a farmer's collie and some birds flying about him. With use of my binoculars I saw that the Magpies were playing a game of tag with the dog. They would take turns flying at the dog and he would make a lunge and snap at them. It was an amusing and interesting sight." Mr. Nordsletten had to leave to cover his route and so does not know how long the game lasted. This record of the Magpies was in Kittson County.

Seventeen Sandhill Cranes were reported in Mahnomen County by John Lindmeier, May 1. No other record of Sandhill Cranes in Minnesota was received.

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and the Thunder Bay Naturalists of Canada held their annual joint dinner meeting at Grand Marais, February 22-23. About 160 attended. The Thunder Bay Naturalists provided the program which consisted of some very fine slides and commentary depicting scenery and wildlife in the Canadian territory along Lake Superior.

The field trip was delightful and rewarding. The weather was fair and the temperature rose to 58 on the 23rd. Most of the species of birds resident along the North Shore such as Ravens, Gray Jays, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks and several Black-capped Chickadees were present. Two Hudsonian Chickadees gladdened everyone at Encampment Forest. Redpolls were very abundant; many flocks were found in the forests and along the highways. It was disappointing not to see many ducks. The ice covered the lake up to the shore on the 22nd, but change of wind and mild weather caused it to drift away and the lake was open on the 23rd. A few Golden-eyes and a small raft of Old Squaw Ducks were sighted. We saw a smaller number of Herring Gulls than usual. Two Glaucous Gulls were present.

From John Lindmeier, Mahnomen County, spring break-up occurred about March 15; Whistling Swans, first seen April 14; there were 51, April 22; they had left by May 1; Canada Geese first seen April 10; 85 were present, April 25; Blue and Snow Geese first seen April 21; 250 were present, April 25; by May 1 they had not left the area; most species of ducks were first seen about the middle of April. The Marbled Godwit breeds in the area and was first seen April 29.

The first mallard eggs were laid about April 20 and incubation was just starting May 1. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Book Page

THE WARBLERS OF AMERICA

Edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr.

Illustrated by John Henry Dick.
(Devin-Adair Co., $15.00)

Here is a really splendid book on the warblers of the western hemisphere, filling a need long felt by bird enthusiasts. Until now, the only complete books on warblers that I know were Dr. Chapman's "Warblers of North America", which was out-dated and out of print, and Bent's "Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers", exceedingly hard to obtain and with no color plates to help identification.

But now we have a beautiful book replete with information, valuable alike for the beginner and for the professional student of warblers. Not only have the known facts about warblers been gathered together and presented in vivid fashion, but much new information is given us. It is reliable, since the book is edited by Ludlow Griscom, recognized as the foremost authority on identifying warblers in the field — in fact, long hailed as the Toscanini of the warbler addicts, and Alexander Sprunt, who has had such wide experience in compiling books of this nature.

The many illustrations are by John Henry Dick, one of our younger bird artists, who has been especially interested in painting warblers since the beginning of his career. The paintings, therefore, are probably the finest he has ever done, naturalistic and yet with the color patterns distinct, so that they serve as diagrams for identification. The plates for these were printed in Holland and every effort was made to have the color as exact as possible. The black-and-white drawings were done as decorations and as delightful as such — for example, on page 124, a small bird waiting to be fed is remarkable in vitality and baby-birdishness.

The book begins by several valuable articles on warblers in general — such as "Techniques of Warbler Study". "Geographical Distribution of Warblers", and "Songs of Warblers" by Griscom, and "Interpretations of Warbler Songs" by Gunn and Borror. To be able to identify warblers by their songs is of great value, as it is often easier to hear them than to see them, and these articles will be of great help. At least, they will be to the musical; people with little auditory memory, like myself, may not be greatly aided by reading that the Golden-winged Warbler goes *Zee bzz bee, zee bzz bee, zee bzz zu bee,* while the Blue-winged sings *Zee bee, zee bee bee, zee bee, tzi-tzi-tzi-tzi.*

The main content of the book is a description of each species of warbler breeding in the United States, Canada, and Baja, California — 31 of these written by Sprunt and the others by various experts who have made a study of some particular bird. These men give specific details which help the amateur a great deal in recognizing the bird. For instance, of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, Sprunt says, "The tameness of this species is one of its most striking behaviorisms. One has little difficulty in approaching it closely, especially about the nest, and it indulges in the "broken-wing" tactics to a marked degree." Or of the Kentucky Warbler, "the species lives in rather heavy woodland undergrowth and fern tangles, often near water and at very low elevations. It is essentially a ground warbler and seldom forages more than a few feet above it. It is a walker, and bobs its tail occasionally in the manner of the Water Thrushes."

Besides such descriptions, often very vivid and interesting, the local name,

field characteristics, nesting data, voice, food habits and general range have been listed. And in addition, in each case a map of the breeding range is shown, as an added boon.

But we have not reached the end of the information in this remarkable volume yet. At first it was to be called "The Warblers of North America" as indeed the jacket of this first edition now reads. But now it is "The Warblers of America." Here are chapters on warblers in Mexico, in the West Indies, in Central America, Panama, South America, Alaska, British Columbia, Canada's prairie provinces and eastern Canada! Fascinating chapters, too, whether you ever expect to see the warblers in such locations or not.

As a last thoughtful touch there is a diagram of the topography of a warbler (opposite page 288), so that the puzzled beginner, when told to identify a bird by its superciliary line, its remiges or scapulars, will know where to look, if the warbler will just give him a chance to focus! — *Florence Page Jacques, St. Paul.*

Notes of Interest

SNOWY OWL VARIES HIS DIET WHEN HE COMES SOUTH — While the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) is reported to feed largely on lemmings in his native Arctic home, he goes in for much larger game when he comes south according to our recent observations.

One of these beautiful birds first made his appearance on the ice on Lake Harriet in front of our home at 4450 W. Lake Harriet Blvd., in Minneapolis, on January 2, 1958.

There was still a small area of open water, and about 200 mallards used this area for bathing and resting when not foraging for handouts around our lake and nearby Lake Calhoun.

The park board had placed an "Ice Not Safe" sign near the water hole as a caution to skaters. The owl used this sign for his daily perch for long periods at a time. While he was perched on the sign, the mallards, only a few feet away, paid very little attention to him. We had our 30 x B & L scope set up in our picture window and could view the whole proceedings from daylight to dark.

Sometime during the day he killed a hen mallard and spent considerable time devouring the carcass.

On January 3 the owl alternated sitting on the sign and feeding on the carcass of the mallard he had killed the day before. At times he would fly a short distance away and sit on the ice.

On January 4 the owl appeared again and took up his perch on the sign where he appeared to be looking over the flock of mallards. However, we never saw him make any attack while the ducks were in the water hole.

A drake mallard was sitting on the ice alone a few hundred feet away. The owl suddenly decided he was hungry. We were fortunate to have our glasses focused on the owl and mallard when the attack took place. The owl made short work of the job although the mallard struggled furiously to get away. The owl then picked up the duck and flew some distance away, where he proceeded to satisfy his appetite.

We had invited Dr. Horace Scott to come over to see the owl, and he had his camera with telephoto lens all set up on the ice and was fortunate to get a colored movie of the entire proceedings.

On January 5 the owl was still feeding on the duck which he had taken the day before. It would appear from this timetable that a Snowy Owl needs a mallard or other comparable amount of food every two days.

On January 7 we left for Florida and when we returned on January 14, Lake Harriet was entirely frozen over, and the owl had disappeared. However, the flock of mallards, although greatly reduced in numbers, was still flying about the lake.

There was still some open water on Lake Calhoun near the shore where a storm sewer discharges into the lake, and the mallard flock plus a female Wood Duck were using this open water for their bathing and resting siestas.

The Minneapolis Star of January 16 reports that Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Forrester, Jr., saw an owl pick up a hen mallard at the Lake Calhoun water hole and start to fly off with it. They screamed, and the owl dropped the duck. They found it had a broken wing. The Star carried a picture of the wounded duck which was turned over to the Conservation Department.

On January 17 an owl was again observed flying low over Lake Harriet, and

flocks of mallards were seen circling over the lake. The January 23 Minneapolis Star quotes Eleanor Moen as having seen an owl sitting on a post near the Lake Calhoun water hole. — *Whitney and Karen Eastman, Minneapolis.*

* * *

WORMEATING WARBLER SEEN ON BENILDE HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS — Benilde High School, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, is situated at 2501 Highway 100 South, a few miles west of Minneapolis.

Every day since my arrival here last August, I have checked our "backyard" for birds. We have 53 acres with a small oak grove, a large marsh and a good sized pond, bordered on three sides by young willows and poplars.

On May 1, about 4 p.m., while making my rounds, I flushed a small bird from the grass near the edge of the marsh abutting our playing field. It flew into a short bushy willow. Training my glasses upon it, I was astounded to see a Worm-eating Warbler. It remained in the same clump for all of ten minutes, moving very little, while I studied it with care. The sun was at my back and the light shining on the bird made the buffy head stripes appear almost a dull orange color and the back and wings a grayish green. After 15 minutes inspection, I hurried to the school and telephoned Dr. Warner and several other "birder" friends to tell them of my find. I found, returning to the marsh, the bird had remained in the same area. Checking again just before and after dinner, he was still in the general vicinity. My last sight of him was at 6:45 p.m. Further search that evening and every day since has proved unsuccessful in sighting him again. — *Brother Theodore, F.S.C., Benilde High School, St. Louis Park 16, Minnesota.*

* * *

SURF SCOTERS IN MINNESOTA — In the course of a routine hunter bag check last fall in Mahnomen County, I was surprised to find four juvenile Surf Scoters in the hunter's bag at the Flyway Farm hunting club, located between Aspinwall and Chief Lakes. All four had been taken by the hunting party on October 6, and were reportedly shot on Aspinwall Lake.

Approximately a month later on November 7, while hunting with a companion, Harry Kuefler, on Big Marine Lake in Washington County, I shot a lone American Scoter which decoyed into the blocks. This too was a juvenile. It would seem that these young scoters are wanderers during the fall.

Photographs of these birds are on file at the Bureau of Research and Planning in St. Paul. The skin of the American Scoter is at the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota. — *Robert Jessen, Dept. of Conservation.*

* * *

MARSH HAWK KILLS COTTONTAIL RABBIT — For several years a pair of Marsh Hawks have nested in the area of my home. However, this is the first time I have seen either the male or the female kill anything.

On April 27, 1958, I saw a male Marsh Hawk flying over a grassy hill about ten feet above the ground which suddenly wheeled around and dropped into a dense mass of weeds. About two minutes later it took flight carrying a rabbit about 150 feet. It lit in an area where the grass was matted down for a radius of two feet. It proceeded to eat the rabbit.

It ate the flesh first and then ate the intestines. After most of the rabbit was eaten the bird hopped about in the grass for a few feet and with much ruffling of the feathers it took flight. It took about five minutes for the bird to eat its prey.

All that remained of the rabbit was a few bits of fur and a surprisingly small amount of blood. — *G. C. Kuyava, Duluth Minnesota.*

A CASE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMON LOON AS THE STATE BIRD OF MINNESOTA — For the state of Minnesota, which is especially noted for its summer environment of beautiful woods and lakes, what bird could better qualify to serve as the State Bird than the Common Loon?

The Common Loon has a striking appearance. The sharply-defined markings of jet-black and pure white of its breeding plumage, and its clearcut profile, make this bird as handsome as any found in the state.

The loon is not a seclusive bird, nor is it rare. It is nowhere so numerous that it is merely a commonplace, but it is not so rare as to be unknown among the majority of the people of the state. It breeds in practically all of the area of Minnesota that symbolizes our state.

A loon present in an area is noticed. Its open habits, its size, and its showy appearance make sighting and identification of it quite easy, not only to those interested in wildlife, but to most others who may be present in our areas of lakes and woods.

The loon's call is truly a "call of the wild," and is as striking a symbol of our north country as can be found. Nowhere can be heard another sound quite like it. The cry that comes whipping over the still water in late evening is never forgotten. It pierces into our minds, and remains there as a symbol of the northwoods.

Therefore, because of the characteristics listed above, no bird could better represent the state of Minnesota as our State Bird than could the Common Loon. — *Robert Cohen, Duluth.*

* * *

ODD COLORED YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD — About five miles north of Northfield is a swamp in which on May 12, 1957 we found a blackbird with a cream-like color about the head in place of the brilliant orange color common to the Yellow-headed Blackbird. — *Amy Chambers, Minneapolis.*

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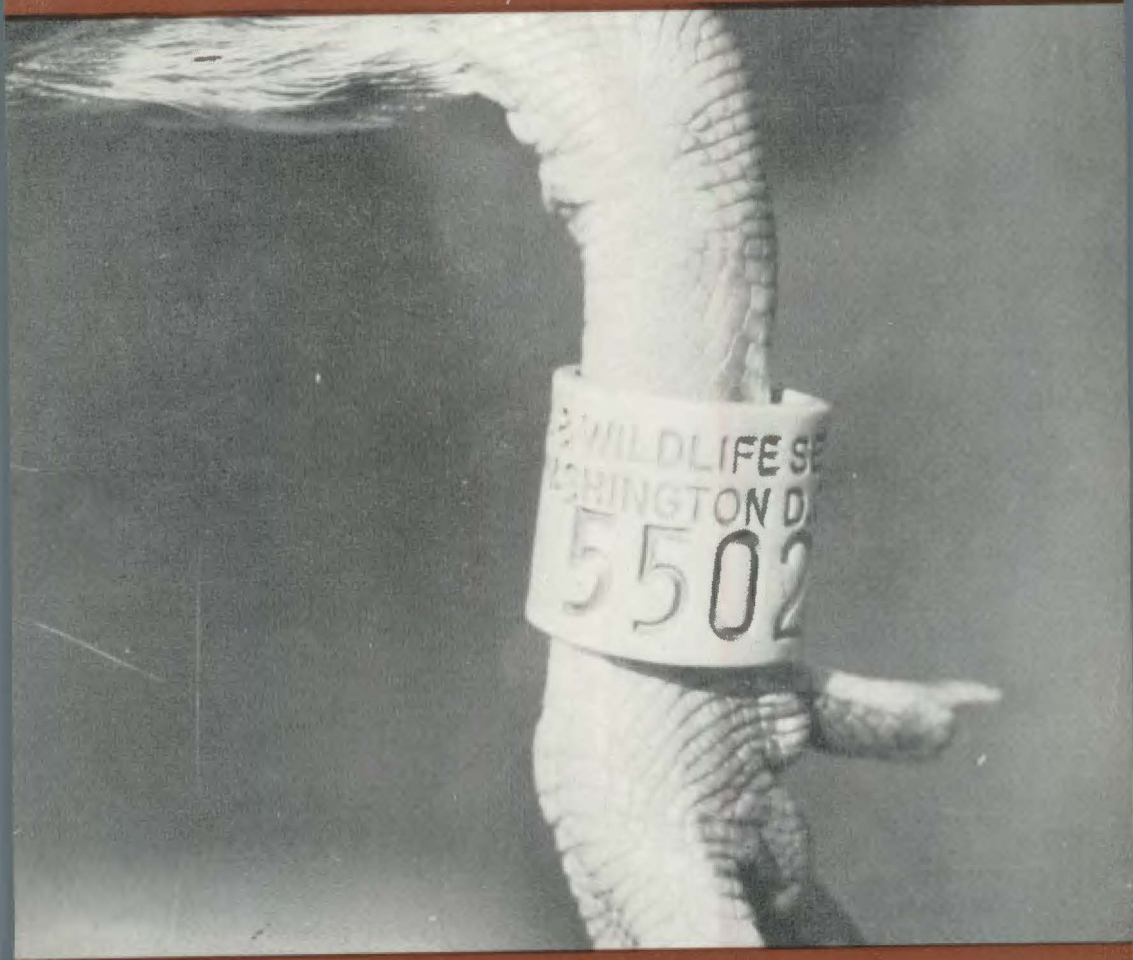
The Flicker

VOLUME 30 SEPTEMBER 1958 NUMBER 3



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
PERMANENT ADDRESS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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THE FLICKER

Organ of the *Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.* Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. *The Flicker* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for members: Active, $2.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Life, $50; Patron, $100 or more. All articles and communications for publications should be sent to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

THE COVER

Duck Band by Orwin A. Rustad

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Helsinki — miles from Minnesota.

A strange land and a strange language, but with our interest a universal one knowing no boundaries except nature's own overlapping habitats. There were East Germans, Spaniards, South Americans and some 600 people from all corners of the earth. Gathered not to view the half day long parade of military might on the Army day celebrated at the same time, but to pool knowledge on ornithology and to view the little things in nature than can mean so much, not only to science, but furnishing recreation and peace of mind.

No one present was concerned with conquest of anything but knowledge and the good fellowship that comes in sharing nature's fascinating secrets and beauties. A truly wonderful experience for a non-professional.

The opening session was held in the Great Hall at the University of Helsinki. The welcoming address was given by Prof. Kustaa Kilkuna, the Finnish Minister of Education, who in turn introduced Prof. J. Berlioz of Paris, France, the President of the International Ornithologists' Union.

Among well known ornithologists present from the U.S.A. were Roger Tory Peterson and Sewell Pettingill.

Each member was furnished with a badge bearing the likeness of the White-tailed Eagle, the national bird of Finland.

All meetings, except the opening session, were held in Otaniemi (tech town) a small community outside of Helsinki. Meetings started early and lasted late into the evening, aided by the fact that at this time of the year there are but three hours of darkness in southern Finland.

The field trips were of most interest to me. The sea trip took us to the Island of Brando in the Archipelago of the Baltic Sea west of Helsinki and to the Meckelskaren group of Marine Islands, one of which shows signs of Russian occupancy as recent as 1957.

In the islands we observed many sea birds such as the Eider Duck, the young of the Caspian Tern, Turnstones nesting and the many gulls which I had never seen. Watching the Eider Duck emerge from its shell was a particular memorable sight. One of the comical birds observed was the Wagtail.

This trip reminded me of those Mrs. Luwe and I took while attending the Audubon Camp at Hog Island off the coast of Maine. There also were many moose to be seen.

I took a side trip above the Arctic Circle in Lapland hoping to see reindeer, but they had already left for the far north inaccessible to me, and I had to settle with viewing them in the Helsinki Zoo, but I was treated to a view of a Dipper Bird in the Kemi River of Lapland. It was different in color from the Water Ouzel of our western states, being blackish with a white breast bordered by a dark chestnut color that merged into the black. It was a bird resembling an enlarged wren with sturdy legs and a short cocked tail.

Our trip on the mainland necessitated a 4:00 a.m. start which took us to the Eutrophic Ruskus near the town of Parvoo; a picturesque village, with an 869-year-old church, overlooking from the hillside the peace and quiet of the lush village below.

Here we saw many gulls, terns, including the famed Arctic Tern, Little Gull and Common Gull. Also shore birds and grebes, the latter a fascinating lot because of their large number and particular antics. We also observed a native crane somewhat like our Sandhill Crane. (Continued on page 87)

The Composition of Bird Flocks[1]

by

James R. Beer

The tendency of birds to respond positively to the presence of other birds of the same species need not be proved. It is everywhere in evidence, indeed it is difficult to find situations which do not show evidence of it. Gregarious behavior, not including reproductive behavior, is in many species apparently the normal condition.

The basic unit of any aggregation is the individual. In fact, at certain seasons of the year the individual may be the most complex social unit to be found in some species. More often it is the basic part of a more complex social unit. This may be a chance aggregation with two or more individuals coming together accidentally due to random movements or it may be a group brought together by choice feeding areas, roosts, cover or other physical factors. These groups are often composed of several species of birds. Neither of these results in the formation of stable organizations.

On the other hand they may form a flock which I believe is best defined as two or more birds which associate with each other due to innate gregarious tendencies. Using this definition we find that there are two basic and quite different types of flocks. There are those groups which gather together for reproductive purposes and those which during the non-reproductive seasons gather together because of a basic genetic background which causes them to react positively toward each other.

It is this social tolerance and/or attraction which causes flocks to form. In contrast to this attraction, most species also have a negative aspect which causes the birds to react against overcrowding. Emlen (1952) suggests that the positive force of mutual attraction draws members to the flock while the negative tolerance acts as a regulatory mechanism which limits the size of the flock and prevents excessive crowding within the group. In other words a flock is an aggregation whose size, composition (species, sex and age) and density characteristics are evidence of a balance between the innate patterns of behavioral response which on one hand attracts the bird to a group of birds and on the other repels it from an overcrowded condition.

The evidence suggests that flocking responses have their basis in stereotyped neural patterns and are influenced by hormonal activity only as it incites disruptive (negative) responses associated with reproductive activity.

Normally there are two cycles of events which effect the degree of gregariousness in a bird. The first is the diurnal cycle and the second the seasonal cycle. Light intensity is the principal environmental variable of the diurnal cycle. Night is, for most birds, a period of enforced inactivity and daylight the period during which foraging for food and other essential activities take place. Self maintenance calls for indpendent action which, while not necessarily involving social tolerance, requires a certain amount of freedom from interference. Thus, the members of a covey of Hungarian Partridge disperse from their compact roosting aggregation with the coming of daylight to feed. The spectacular flights of blackbirds, crows and starlings to and from their roosts reflect the same alternation of periods of in-

1 Paper No. 977 Miscellaneous Journal Series, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

activity and activity and social tolerance and intolerance compatible with their special feeding habits and mobility. The diurnal shifts in sociability probably do not involve hormonal control as do the seasonal cycles.

Seasonal factors fluctuate at a slower rate than do the diurnal factors. Their effects may thus become integrated with the slower forms of response mechanisms in the birds' physiology, such as those involving changes in the sexual hormones.

Studies on the annual breeding periodicity of birds have shown a general parallelism between changes in day length, pituitary activity, development of the reproductive organs and social behavior (Taber, 1949; Colias, 1951). While physiological changes associated with breeding modify the basic behavior patterns, we find that other environmental factors such as temperature and drought may cause a reversion to the basic social patterns.

Although a spring onset of sexual activity with its associated aggressiveness is basically a physiological response to increased day length, cold temperatures have a profound modifying influence. Red-winged Blackbirds, for instance, respond to a cold spell during the early stages of the breeding cycle by abandoning their aggressively defended territories and returning to a winter flocking behavior (Beer and Tibbitts, 1950). Drought is another factor which when occuring abnormally may promote flocking response during the non-flocking season. In very dry years the Gambel's Quail remain flocked and fail to breed (MacGregor and Inlay, 1951).

Following the breeding season the decline in gonadal activity removes the modifying stimulus which causes social aggressiveness, thus letting the more tolerant basic behavior patterns exert themselves in flock formation (Emlen and Lorenz, 1942; Collias, 1944).

Keeping this background in mind it is possible to categorize the social units as follows:

1. The individual
2. The random association
3. Environmental association
4. Gregarious units
   - A. Reproductive
   - B. Non-reproductive
     - (a) pair
     - (b) family group
     - (c) basic flock
     - (d) large flock

There are, of course, many variations to these categories.

The individual. The individual is always the basic unit from which the several types of aggregations are built. It is the basic stereotyped neural pattern of the individual which determines the various types of association. Under certain conditions a bird which is basically gregarious will not be attracted to others of its own kind; in fact it may be repelled by their presence or even react aggressively against them.

The Brown Creeper appears to be a bird which pays little or no attention to others of its kind during the winter. However, at times it is associated with mixed flocks which wander the woods in the winter (Wing, 1946). Some birds, such as the British Robin, set up winter territories which they defend against others of their own kind (Lack, 1943). It is more difficult to give an example of true avoidance behavior.

The random association. This type of association is accidental and is, as would be expected from its name, temporary or momentary by nature and usually breaks up as soon as it is formed.

The environmental association. Many so-called flocks are aggregations of this type. There is no general pattern in this group except that the organization is loose. The birds are drawn together by environmental factors such as food, cover, roost or other physical factors rather than a basic urge to join with other birds for companionship. A group

of gulls feeding on the beach or a mixed aggregation of Bald Eagles, crows and gulls that one may see sitting on the edge of river ice are examples of this type of flock.

The reproductive group. This is a social unit which is specialized for the increase of the species rather than to facilitate the survival of the individual which is the basic function of the other types of social units. Typically this group is composed of the pair, i.e. one male and one female, which remains functional long enough to raise one or more broods of young. However, there are many variations to this aggregation both of its composition and in its direction.

Pair formation involves location of a member of the opposite sex, discouraging possible rivals and the development of a tolerance for and usually an attachment to a specific mate or mates. It has been shown in many species that displaying, singing and in general, advertising for a mate by the male is induced by male hormones. These hormones also cause birds to be antagonistic towards others of their own sex and tolerant of those of the opposite sex. Social intolerance, the disruptive element in flocking behavior, is often clearly related to the activity of specific hormones (Emlen and Lorenz, 1942).

There are many variations to the typical pair formation. Probably the most primitive type is one of a temporary nature where the birds associate with each other only long enough for mating to take place. The Ruffed Grouse appears to exhibit this type of pair formation. While there may be various lines of development from this type of mating, one appears to be the development of the communal courting grounds of the Prairie Chicken and Sage Hen. Here we still have no further development of a social bond between the male and female, but we have a specialized social organization in the males which apparently facilitates the advertising for the females.

The pheasant shows another line of development in social organization. Here the cock (Taber, 1949) sets up a crowing territory and draws a group of hens to him. This association between cock and hen is more stable than the one found in Sage Hens. The hens stay in a loose group in his vicinity until incubation starts. Here, somewhat, in contrast to the situation found in the Sage Hen the females maintain a flock organization.

A further development in the pair relationship is seen in most ducks where a temporary monogamous situation is found. Most ducks pair on the wintering grounds or while in migration to the nesting areas. This association is maintained until the hen starts to incubate her eggs. At this time the drakes normaly leave the hens and form drake flocks while molting. The hen is left to care for the nest and later the young.

Such birds as the House Wren (Kendeigh, 1941) usually pair on the area where the young are raised. They differ primarily from the waterfowl in that the male stays with the female until the young are fledged and capable of caring for themselves. The birds then pair again, often with different mates, to raise the next brood. In some birds such as the Bobwhite Quail (Stoddard, 1931) the pair remains together and with the brood long after the young are full grown.

Many birds mate for the season while others such as geese, swans (Kortwright, 1943), and possibly eagles (Bent, 1937) appear to mate for life.

In some birds, as the reproductive period nears, the basic tendency towards gregariousness is over-ridden by the effect of the endocrine system in causing aggressive behavior. In certain cases, as with Song Sparrows (Nice, 1943), the pair isolates itself completely on a relatively large territory; in others, such

as the Red-wing Blackbird, a breeding territory is maintained but feeding is of a communal type on undefended upland areas. In such species as herons, Cliff Swallows and many sea birds, the defended area is very small — in fact only as large as the nest or the distance the bird can reach while on the nest. There are a few birds such as the European rooks which defend a colonial territory but also pair for nesting. At the extreme of this line of development of flock behavior the Ani (*Chrotophaga ani*) of tropical America nests communally and has lost all social behavior associated with pairing (Davis, 1942).

Also we have an extreme reversion in type of behavior in parasitic species such as the cowbirds where pair formation and territorial behavior has been lost as a secondary development.

The non-reproductive aggregation. There are several types of aggregations based upon the basic neural patterns.

During the non-breeding season the mated pair must be considered as a non-reproductive aggregation. This is probably the simplest of the aggregations.

The family group is, in a broad sense, a transition stage between the reproductive group using the assumption that reproduction ceases with fertilization and the laying of the egg. This places the fertile clutch in the position of being a family group even though its participation from a behavioral standpoint is passive. In altricial forms this association is still passive until the young leave the nest. At this time these groups and the precocial young of other groups start their development towards a more or less independent existence. This group varies greatly in complexity. We can start with a primitive condition such as is exhibited by the megapodes (Sibley, 1951) where the laying of the eggs in a pile of rotting vegetation completes the hen's participation in the family flock. The heat generated by the decomposition of the vegetation incubates the eggs. The young in this case leave the nest as soon as they hatch and thus terminate the family flock relationship very early. In some species of megapodes each egg is laid in a different spot so there is no family group.

More typical of the family group is where the female, as in the case of grouse and ducks, incubates the eggs and then stays with the young until they are capable of taking care of themselves. In some cases the family group may stay together until the beginning of the next breeding season. Geese (Elder and Elder, 1949) and swans are examples of this type of association.

In some cases the care of the young is more complex than the situation described above. In species living under difficult situations specialized behavior patterns may develop. The Emperor Penguin, for instance, shares the incubation of the egg and later the care of the young with the group. Other birds such as the American Merganser form creches; the young banding together shortly after hatching, and being reared by adult females which are not necessarily their mothers. The rate of survival appears to be increased by these specialized types of family flocks. This is an intergradation between the typical family group and the next association which I prefer to call the basic flock.

The basic flock, from the standpoint that it is a well knit social unit, is somewhat similar to the family group. The main differences between the family group and the basic flock are that there may be no family relationship and that the size of the unit is not limited by the reproductive capacity of the female. This appears to be a common type of flock in passerine birds. The young, as soon as they can fend for themselves, often join others of their kind or may drift apart from their brood mates and then join with others to make up a basic flock unit. These flocks, in size, are a balance between the positive mutual attraction and a negative reaction or repulsion to being crowded. This may be, in some species such as the Pine Gros-

beak, a group of three to a dozen birds. Snow Buntings and red-polls form flocks of up to several hundred individuals. These units are most often of a single species but are occasionally composed of several species. The latter is especially true of woodland forms (Wing, 1941). Not only do the flocks vary from those with a single species to those with several but some flocks may be composed of a single age group or sex or a single age of a sex (Beer and Tibbitts, 1950). In general, resident forms have smaller flocks than migratory species, (Wing, 1941).

The basic flock is characterized by its stability. Even after considerable disturbance they tend to stay together. Those who have shot scaup in the fall have often had flocks make a second pass over the decoys when members of the flock have been shot down. Even after being scattered by heavy shooting, the surviving individuals from coveys of Hungarian Partridge and Bobwhite Quail will come together again as soon as possible.

The large flock, in part, is a misnomer. In some cases it may be smaller than a basic flock or even a family unit of other species. The large flock, by definition, is a loose aggregation made up of two or more of the more basic social units. In some respects it is a flock counter-part of the random and environmental associations. Its most common attribute is its lack of stability. When disturbed it normally breaks up into the more basic units. Some of the best examples of this are to be found in the waterfowl.

Flocks of geese vary in size from a few individuals to many thousands of birds. Close observation, however, will disclose that within the flock there are small compact units which are composed of pairs and family units. When disturbed the large flock often breaks up into these smaller social units.

In the ducks, large rafts composed of many thousands of individuals may be seen during the fall, winter and spring. These large flocks or rafts are often made up of several species. When disturbed these rafts will break up into fairly stable smaller flocks which are usually composed of a single species. The large flock is commonly a haphazard organization composed of several species in contrast to the single species composition and relatively stable organization of the basic flock, family and pair units.

Discussion

So far we have listed several types of aggregations found in birds but have not delved into the advantages that these associations may have in relation to the survival of the several species. A number of hypotheses have been suggested but to date conclusive evidence has not been brought forth. It has been suggested that the flock forages for food more successfully and is better able to protect its members from their enemies than the individual. Anyone who has watched a flock of Double-crested Cormorants fishing will attest to the increased activity in the larger flock (Bartholomew, 1942). On the other hand raptors often live singly or in pairs because it takes a relatively larger area to supply them with food. The flock appears to have a more efficient warning system than the single birds. It appears that the larger the flock and the more compact its organization the safer the individual from predation. There is also the possible advantage that young may learn from adults to advantage. The fact that crows have been known to use the same protected roosts for many years is a good example of this (Emlen, 1938).

In some birds such as gulls and sea birds the birds are territorial but control only a small area. They also nest in large breeding colonies. It is generally speculated that the close association allows for the whole flock to come into breeding at the same time. This is supposed to produce a larger number

of fertile eggs. In some of the colonies the loss of young seems to be a function of the time that they are vulnerable. Thus, if all of the chicks hatch at one time the per cent of young lost will be less than if the hatch is spread over a longer period (Darling, 1938). It is also postulated that a large flock is better able to defend the nests and young from their enemies. These arguments appear to be sound for those birds that have large feeding areas and restricted nesting areas.

In general it appears that it is usually advantageous for the pair to have a greater degree of privacy during the nesting period than at other periods of the year (Beer, et al., 1956). When the quantity of food present is not the limiting factor it is generally advantageous to the species to form flocks. This allows for a better utilization of concentrations of food, good roosts, cover and a more effective warning system.

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Bird Life and Vegetation Changes—Whitewater Refuge

by

William H. Longley

This study was initiated to gain information on the changes in vegetation and animal populations after abandonment of farmland in the Whitewater Game Refuge as an aid in managing the land for production of game species.

The study tract of 103 acres is located in the southeast quarter of Section 36, Watopa Township (T. 109 N., R. 10 W.), in southeastern Wabasha County, Minnesota. It is in the lower valley of the Whitewater River, about one mile from the river's mouth. A variety of ecological situations occur on the tract, with 38.5 acres of upland field on the sandy terrace, 29 acres of upland woods and 35.5 acres of lowland floodplain and ravine outwash. The upland field is about 70 feet above the floodplain, and it is cut by four gullies, two of which are large and cut back about 400 feet into the field. The soil is of loess and Jordan sandstone. The lowland contains an 11.4 acre sedge and cattail marsh, 4.4 acres of sandy ravine outwash, and 19.7 acres of willow-covered river bank. The lowland soil is of silty sand.

VEGETATION OF THE UPLAND FIELDS

The area was mapped from aerial photos and mapping completed from the ground. Quadrats were established in the fields in 1950, and the vegetation censused each year through 1954. The last crops grown were oats and clover hay which were seeded in 1949. The general aspect of the vegetation in the following years is summarized below.

First year — Annual plants dominant: Daisy Flea-bane and Lesser Ragweed sturdy, up to six feet tall; Green Foxtail common and large. Quack Grass and clovers widespread but small and sparse. Much bare ground with one stem per 3.8 square inches. Prickly Lettuce, mostly in first-year rosettes, occurs on 40 per cent of the plots.

Second year — Annual plants stunted from overcrowding: Daisy Flea-bane quadrupled in number; Lesser Ragweed scarce and tiny; Green Foxtail more numerous but small. Quack Grass, clovers, and Green Foxtail considered dominant. Patches of pure clover, white, red, and alsike, occur. Prickly Lettuce is sturdy, occurs on half the plots, and much used by deer.

Third year — Annuals diminished to insignificance except on some Pocket Gopher mounds. Quack Grass dominant. Clovers less important but much in evidence. Golden-rod and aster becoming noticeable. Seedlings of American Elm and Box-elder scattered. A few other woody plants noticeable along the edge of the woods.

Fourth year — Aspect less grassy as golden-rod and aster take over and Quack recedes somewhat. Redtop Grass and Fall Witch-grass showing up more. Young elm and box-elder in view.

Fifth year — Quack Grass down further but still dominant along with golden-rod and aster. Various perennial herbs more noticeable, perhaps because of decline of Quack Grass.

A total of 53 plant species occurred on the square-meter plots. A few species of minor status were not represented. Two patches of sunflower, each about

one-tenth acre in size, were also excluded. This species may have been of importance for seed-eating animals in 1951 and 1952.

Apparently the upland fields will become a hardwood forest of elm and Box-elder with oak coming in later, without passing through an intermediate shrub stage.

VEGETATION OF THE WOODED AREAS

Composition of the wooded slopes varied, depending upon the slope exposure and steepness. On the hot west slopes Black Oak was dominant and accompanied by only a few sapling aspen and Chokecherry; New Jersey Tea and Wild Raspberry were the only shrubs; herbs were sparse. On the northerly slopes a much more varied and mesophytic growth was maintained; here were mixed oaks (white, red, and black), Shagbark Hickory, elm, and aspen; American Hazel, Wild Raspberries, Red-osier Dogwood, and currents were the important shrubs; the varied herb growth was typical of the Maple-basswood association.

No plots were taken in the lowland woods which consisted of young willows about six inches in diameter in 1950, growing very thickly. Five years later considerable numbers of sapling Box-elder and soft maple were present, and the willows were thinning out as the faster growing ones shaded out the slower, leaving many dead stubs. Reed Canary Grass grew thickly especially benefiting from beaver cutting. The only shrub was Red-berried Elder of unthrifty appearance.

The sandy ravine outwashes were quite open and grown to Blue-grass and scattered large shrub clumps in 1950. Five years later the openings were nearly filled by the shrubs (Pussy Willow and Red-osier) and Black Willow sprouts.

Eventually the lowland will become a floodplain forest largely of soft maple and elm.

BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS

The breeding bird populations were censused each year, 1951 to 1955, by traversing the tract over an established route during the early morning hours, beginning near dawn. Counts were made at intervals throughout spring and summer. Location of singing males, nests, or young recently out of the nest were plotted on a map during each trip. Adults carrying food or acting as if nests were nearby were considered to be residents. A territory was considered to be established if a singing male was found there on three or more occasions.

Table 1 — Number of pair and species of breeding birds on the 103-acre tract.

	1951	*'52*	*'53*	*'54*	*'55*
Number of nesting species	39	41	43	47	51
Number of nesting pairs	87	98	106	124	128

As can be seen on Table 1, the number of species and the number of pairs increased each year. If the censuses had begun while the farm was still in operation, probably the increase would have been greater. A total of 55 different species nested on the tract, and 27 of these occurred in all five years. Several other species known to nest in the vicinity were frequently found on the tract, and some of these may have occasionally been residents.

The species most favored by early succession with the increasing ground cover and shrubbery were: Common Yellow-throat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Meadowlark, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Ovenbird, and Traills Flycatcher. The latter four were not found breeding until three or four years after farming, and grazing, was discontinued. The Pied-billed Grebe and American Bittern may have moved in because of denser vegetation. Several species appeared to have increased by a

pair or two, and while collectively the increase is real, individually the data is not conclusive.

The English Sparrow and Eastern Phoebe decreased because of removal of the farm buildings in 1952. Some species probably benefited during the first year or two but later were affected adversely by the decrease in seed-producing annual plants. In this class would be the Mourning Dove and Cardinal. However, continued farming of adjacent land and the small size of the study area limit conclusions. Several species were erratic in their occurrence from year to year and their abundance, no doubt, is as much a result of the previous year's breeding success and winter survival as it is a result of ecological succession.

MAMMALS OF THE STUDY TRACT

No intensive efforts were made to determine mammal population; however, tracking was employed in late winter when snow conditions were suitable, and notes on dens or nests and locations of individuals were kept on all visits. Table 3 shows the estimated number of pairs or dens used for raising young, or in the case of muskrats the number of active houses, at the beginning of each spring period. The game and fur-bearing mammal populations followed the same general trends as noted elsewhere on the refuge, but it did seem that Cottontails were favored by increasing vegetation, while squirrels may have been affected adversely by the lack of farming. Decreasing fertility of the soil fol-

Table 2 — Breeding birds by number of pairs for the five years, 1951 to 1955.

Pied-billed Grebe, 0-0-0-1-1
American Bittern, 0-1-0-0-1
Mallard, 0-1-1-1-1
Wood Duck, 1-1-1-1-2
Red-shouldered Hawk, 0-1-0-0-0
Ruffed Grouse, 1-2-2-2-2
Mourning Dove, 2-3-2-2-1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1-1-1-1-1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1-2-1-1-1
Whip-poor-will, 2-0-0-0-1
Belted Kingfisher, 1-1-1-1-1
Flicker, 0-1-1-1-2
Red-bellied Woodpecker, 0-1-1-1-2
Red-headed Woodpecker, 1-0-1-1-0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1-1-0-0-1
Hairy Woodpecker, 1-1-1-1-1
Downy Woodpecker, 1-1-1-1-2
Eastern Kingbird, 0-1-1-1-1-1
Crested Flycatcher, 0-1-3-1-2
Eastern Phoebe, 2-1-1-1-1
Traills Flycatcher, 0-0-1-2-2
Least Flycatcher, 2-0-0-2-1
Wood Pewee, 2-3-3-5-3
Rough-winged Swallow, 1-1-1-2-1
Blue Jay, 2-2-2-2-2
Crow, 0-0-2-1-2
Black-capped Chickadee, 2-3-2-3-4
Tufted Titmouse, 1-0-0-1-1
Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1-2-2-2-2
House Wren, 2-1-2-3-3
Catbird, 6-7-7-7-7
Brown Thrasher, 2-2-2-2-2
Robin, 0-3-1-2-1
Eastern Bluebird, 1-0-0-0-0
Cedar Waxwing, 1-0-1-1-1
Starling, 0-0-0-0-1
Warbling Vireo, 0-1-1-1-2
Blue-winged Warbler, 3-2-4-2-2
Yellow Warbler, 0-1-2-2-5
Ovenbird, 0-0-0-1-1
Yellowthroat, 4-3-6-8-8
American Redstart, 1-0-0-4-1
English Sparrow, 2-0-0-0-0
Eastern Meadowlark, 1-2-2-3-3
Red-winged Blackbird, 10-10-10-10-10*
Baltimore Oriole, 2-2-2-2-2
Cardinal, 3-7-4-4-5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4-4-5-6-7
Indigo Bunting, 2-3-4-3-3
Common Goldfinch, 2-1-3-6-3
Rufous-sided Towhee, 2-2-2-0-1
Henslow's Sparrow, 0-0-3-2-2
Vesper Sparrow, 1-1-1-1-1
Field Sparrow, 7-8-5-5-7
Song Sparrow, 3-3-4-7-5

**Estimated number of females present.*

lowing abandonment of the farm could be expected to have an effect upon reproduction of animals and production of seeds and fruits. Such an effect could easily be as important to some species as the changing vegetation.

Table 3 — Estimated breeding populations of some mammals.

	1951	*'52*	*'53*	*'54*	*'55*
Cottontail	2	1	4	3	2
Gray Squirrel	6	5	5	4	4
Fox Squirrel	2	2	2	1	1
Muskrat	28*	16	12	?	23
Mink	0**	1	2	0	1
Red Fox	1**	0	1	0	0

* Number of active houses in fall.
** Number of active dens in spring.

Other mammals found on the tract were: Common Mole, Short-tailed Shrew, Little Brown Bat, Woodchuck, 13-lined Ground Squirrel, Gray Chipmunk, Pocket Gopher, Beaver, Prairie White-footed Mouse, Northern White-footed Mouse, Meadow Mouse, House Mouse, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Gray Fox, White-tailed Deer.

SUMMARY

Ecological succession studies were made on a 103-acre tract of recently abandoned farmland in the Whitewater State Game Refuge in southeastern Minnesota. Succession of vegetation on an upland field was charted for five years, showing the decline of annual plants and the rise to dominance of quack grass and goldenrod. Breeding bird populations increased from 87 pairs of 39 species to 128 pairs of 51 species. Decreases in squirrel numbers and increases in Cottontails may have been related to the changes in vegetation. — *Work completed on Pittman-Robertson Project W-11-R-18, Minn. Div. of Game and Fish.*

PRESIDENT'S PAGE (Continued from page 8)

There were many warblers, too, with the Redstart the most active and easily observed as it flitted to and fro in an infinite variety of movements in the low shrubbery. Another fascinating bird was the Skylark with its long tail conspicuously marked with white outer tail feathers, its strong and slightly undulating flight with alternate spells of wing beat and of shooting with closed wings, is beautiful to observe, and with a musical outpouring as it soars and hovers, its voice a clear liquid chirrup high pitched, long sustained as it hovers and slowly descends in flight.

We also saw large numbers of Lapwings, a bird with habitat similar to our Killdeer. They are beautiful birds with long wispy crests spectacularly marked by broad black breast bands. These were seen on both the sea islands and in the farming area.

The President's page is without room to relate all of the great bird life observed, but it was a grand experience I shall not soon forget.

On my way home I stopped in Scotland to check on my wife's ancestors and had a chance to observe some of the bird life there, but a report on that will have to await another issue.

Sincerely,
Bill Luwe

Do Bounty Payments Produce More Game?

by

John R. Tester

Bounties have been paid on predatory animals in Minnesota since the early 1860's. Records show that from 1923 to 1957 over $3,000,000 has been paid in the form of bounties in Minnesota. Most of this money was paid for Brush Wolves (Coyotes), Timber Wolves, and foxes. Has this money been wasted? It's your money and you should know the answer to this question.

The objective of game management is to provide the maximum number of hours of satisfactory recreation. This objective must be fulfilled through the proper use of available funds. A more simple way of expressing this idea is that we must try to get the "most" for our money.

To be good game managers we must understand the factors which influence populations of animals. Let us compare a farmer's problems with those of a game manager.

A given area of land can support only a certain number of game animals, birds or predators just as a farmer's pasture or hen house will hold just so many cows or chickens. The amount of grass in the pasture limits the number of cows than can be grazed. The space in the hen house limits the number of birds it will hold. The grass is the limiting factor in the pasture and space is the limiting factor in the hen house. The number of cows and the number of chickens is the carrying capacity of the pasture and the hen house. In the same manner a certain area of land has a definite number of wild animals and birds which it can support.

Now, the cows will have calves and the hens will have chicks. But there is not enough grass in the pasture for more animals nor is there space in the hen house for more birds. If the pasture and hen house remain unchanged these new calves and chicks will have to find some other place to live. These are the surplus produced by the cows and hens and this surplus is harvested by the farmer.

After the harvest the number of cows and hens is the same as at the start of our discussion. The same cows and hens will probably not be present because the farmer may have kept some young stock and harvested some of the older unproductive animals, but the same number of each will be in the pasture and hen house.

This illustrates the principle of population turnover which is constantly taking place in a wild animal population. Remember that if the farmer did not remove the surplus cows each year there would be too many for the amount of grass in the pasture and soon some would starve and the grass would be overgrazed and eventually ruined. A good farmer can increase the productivity of his land by removing or reducing the effect of the limiting factor. The farmer can fertilize his pasture to produce more grass and then he can keep more cows. However, if the farmer puts extra water tanks in his pasture without fertilizing the grass, he cannot have more cows because water is not the limiting factor. Similarly, he cannot keep more hens by putting more feed in his hen house. He must make his hen house larger because space is the limiting factor.

This story applies directly to game populations. A given area has a carrying capacity for each game species and

this carrying capacity is determined by a limiting factor. Each species produces a surplus which should be harvested. If this surplus is not removed, food or space or some other necessity will be lacking and the habitat may be severely damaged by the overpopulation. The area can be made to carry a larger population of game by removing or reducing the effect of the limiting factor. This is the goal of the game manager because more game means more hours of satisfactory recreation.

Now we will review what has been said just to refresh your memory. Four points have been emphasized:

1. Minnesota taxpayers and sportsmen have paid millions of dollars for bounties and their present cost is over a quarter of a million dollars each year.

2. The objective of game management is to produce the maximum number of hours of satisfactory recreation. This means producing as much game as the land will support.

3. A given area of land will support a certain population of game. A limiting factor determines the size of this population.

4. If the limiting factor is removed or its effects reduced, the land can carry a larger number of animals.

Obviously, we must do something about the limiting factor if we want more deer or more pheasants in Minnesota. It is the opinion of research workers in this state that deer numbers in most areas are limited by the amount of available winter food. Therefore, removing some or even all of the wolves, coyotes, bobcats and lynx from these areas will not enable more deer to live there — winter food and not predators is the limiting factor!

Did I hear someone ask about pheasants and foxes? Research biologists in Minnesota and other states believe that in much of the pheasant range the limiting factor is cover. Killing all the foxes will not result in more pheasants for the hunter because the winter cover will only shelter a certain number of birds and only a certain number of these birds will find safe nesting sites in the spring. The fox is not the limiting factor!

Now you say, "What about deer and the pheasants that these predators eat?" They are part of the surplus that is produced every year. You will remember that this surplus must be removed. If the hunter does not remove it, something else such as disease, starvation or predators will take care of the surplus.

Let us get back to the bounty system. I hope you have reached the conclusion that in most areas we must do something other than remove predators if we want more game. Winter food must be increased if we want more deer and more and better nesting, and winter cover must be provided if we want more

pheasants. These things cost money and the Department of Conservation is using as much of its budget as possible to improve these conditions. The work could be speeded up with more money — money that is now being spent to pay bounties. Remember? Over a quarter of a million dollars is spent per year and in many areas it doesn't produce one more deer or one more pheasant!

In some areas predation may be the limiting factor. Here an efficient form of predator control will produce more game. This control can be carried out by a number of methods which have proven to be more effective than the bounty system. Professional hunters and trappers and people who hunt and trap for fur and recreation have successfully controlled predators in many regions. With one or two exceptions the bounty system has not inspired sufficiently heavy hunting pressure to significantly reduce a predator population. The predators turned in for bounty payments are the annual surplus which would normally be killed by disease, sport hunters or some other factors.

Frequently predators cause damage to farmers. Foxes and weasels may kill poultry and bears may destroy bee hives or kill livestock. In these cases the damage is usually caused by one individual predator. Properly trained farmers and game department personnel could readily and economically remove the animals causing this damage. The cost of a system of teaching farmers to eliminate destructive predators and of maintaining game department personnel to control predators in specific areas would be considerably less than one quarter of a million dollars annually. In addition to reduced cost, this type of control has proven to be more effective.

As sportsmen and taxpayers we should insist that the present system of predator control in Minnesota be brought up to date and that our money be spent where it will produce the most game. — *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota.*

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union will be held on the week end of December 6 at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. Those who have papers to present should contact John Tester at the Museum.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Murray Hedrick
(1932-1957)

On June 27, 1957, slightly over a month before his 25th birthday, accidental death claimed Robert Murray Hedrick, one of the most promising young members of the M.O.U. Born August 2, 1932, "Bob" Hedrick soon elected biology as his chosen field of endeavor. He was influenced in this choice primarily by his father (a Boy Scout executive) and by the nature councilor of one of the Boy Scout camps the Hedricks visited, a councilor not too busy to explain the kinds and ways of the local snakes and frogs to a curious boy of six. By the time he had entered junior high school in Mankato, Minnesota, that curiosity had developed into an intense interest, not only to the reptiles and amphibians of the surrounding area, but in the birds and mammals as well. Systematic recording of his observations soon followed, and by the time he graduated from South St. Paul High School in 1950 he had given several papers and demonstrations of reptiles and amphibians at the Minnesota Junior Academy of Science, had been selected as the outstanding science student in his class, and had won a science scholarship to the University of Rochester.

Bob selected the University of Minnesota, however, entering in the fall of 1950, and immediately began preparation for a career in zoology. While at the University, he was an active member of the Minnesota Bird Club and a founding member and the first president of the Undergraduate Zoology Club. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in the spring of 1954 and shortly afterwards received his B.A. degree, *magna cum laude*. He was awarded a fellowship in biology at the Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, that fall, and obtained his M.A. degree there in June, 1956. While at Rice, he was elected to the national science fraternity, Sigma Xi. After a summer's research at the University of Michigan biological station, he entered Kansas University as a candidate for the Ph. D. degree.

The diversity of Bob Hedrick's all-consuming interest in zoology is indicated by the scientific societies of which he was a member. In addition to the honorary Sigma Xi, he belonged to the American Society of Parasitologists, the American Society of Mammalogists, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Herpetologists' League, and the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

His research interests were also quite diversified. In the space of his short scientific career, he was the author or co-author of six scientific papers, three of which have been, or will be, published posthumously. One of these (Additional Minnesota Herpetological Notes) appeared in the *Flicker* (28: 123-126), and summarized the new information gleaned from eight year's observations and collections of Minnesota reptiles and amphibians. Another presented the results of a study on a trypanosome he discovered in the blood of the big brown bats hibernating in and around the Twin Cities, a study conducted during his junior and senior years at the University. The other papers presented the work embodied in his Master of Arts thesis on the histochemistry of two species of tapeworms. These studies showed that he was a very capable laboratory worker, but his forte was field work, and at the time of his unfortunate death, he was in the field, engaged in a study of the ecology of the Ring-necked and Worm Snakes of the Natural His-

tory Reservation, Lawrence, Kansas. which was to be the subject of his doctoral dissertation.

Among his fellow workers, he was noted for his initiative and industry, his resourcefulness and his keen insight, but more especially for his thorough and precise observations. Certainly he possessed all of the attributes of a true scientist. Those of us whom he helped influence into selecting zoology as our lives' work, of which I am only one of several, remember most of all his boundless, contagious enthusiasm for the study of any aspect of the life or functions of the animals he loved so well.

I was privileged, indeed, to have been one of Bob Hedrick's closest friends. We were almost constant companions in the field, in the Hedricks' "basement laboratory," and at school, from our first meeting in high school until he left Rice with his Master's degree. Many of my happiest moments are of days we spent in the field, from the day we had our closest look at a loon that surfaced not ten feet from our canoe on a Canadian lake to the day we first saw a pair of Whooping Cranes at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Bob's wide knowledge of natural history, in many cases gleaned more from his avid reading than from personal experience, was always in evidence. On one occasion we were driving through Arkansas on our way back to Houston when he remarked, "There is a perfect place for some water moccasins," pointing to a brush-bordered rock pile near one of the roadside ponds. "Let's take a look." Sure enough, after an exciting half hour we returned to the car, our snake sack bulging with a five-foot cottonmouth found near the rock pile and an eighteen inch youngster caught at the water's edge.

This power of observation, plus his over-all ability and enthusiasm, made Bob a constant stimulation to his fellow workers, to students, and to the faculty members with whom he worked. That stimulation and the challenge of what he accomplished in his short span of life will remain with those of us who knew him for many years to come. — *John C. Holmes, Department of Biology, The Rice Institute.*

The Christmas Censuses of 1956 and 1957

by

Gary C. Kuyava

How does the Christmas Census of 1957 compare with that of 1956? In 1956, 10,574 individuals of 66 species were counted. In 1957, 13,320 individuals of 70 species were counted. Only 1955, with 72 species counted, exceeds the species count of 1957. A total of 83 species were seen on the censuses for both years. Fifty-two species were seen during both of the census years while 31 species were seen either in 1956 or 1957. In 1956, nine areas with 25+ parties including 56 observers and covering 783 miles reported. In 1957, 12 areas with 29+ parties including 83+ observers covering 953+ miles reported. The increase in the areas censused, parties and observers, as well as the miles covered may have had much to do with the increase in the number of species and individuals reported in 1957, over those reported in 1956. A slightly greater amount of snow and less open water reported in 1956, contrasted with more open water and much less snow in 1957, may also have had much to do with the increase of birdlife in the state of Minnesota in 1957.

Thirty-one species were noted in either 1956 or 1957, but not in both years. These were: 1956 — Whistling Swan, Pintail, Oldsquaw, *Ruddy Duck*, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Coot, *Screech Owl*, Snowy Owl, Belted Kingfisher, *Black-billed Magpie, Mockingbird*, Oregon Junco, *Harris' Sparrow*, and Lapland Longspur; 1957 — *Great Blue Heron, Blue Goose, Wood Duck*, Red-breasted Merganser, Goshawk, *Marsh Hawk*, Gray Partridge, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Carolina Wren*, Bohemian Waxwing, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, *Hoary Redpoll*, Pine Siskin, and White-throated Sparrow.

Many species seen in 1957, were much more numerous than in 1956. These were: Mallard 56, 654; 57, 1161: Common Merganser 56, 41; 57, 140: Great Horned Owl 56, 4; 57, 16: Blue Jay 56, 170; 57, 596: Common Crow 56, 36; 57, 119: Black-capped Chickadee 56, 323; 57, 649: Robin 56, 4; 57, 16: Golden-crowned Kinglet 56, 4; 57, 20: Evening Grosbeak 56, 49; 57, 443: Purple Finch 56, 32; 57, 108: Pine Grosbeak 56, 101; 57, 489: Common Redpoll 56, 2; 57, *1108*: White-winged Crossbill 56, 2; 57, 105: and the Slate-colored Junco 56, 171; 57, 369. This great increase in the number of species and individuals encountered in 1957 over 1956 was due, at least in part, to a mild winter, very little snow, a great distance of open water, and an excessive production of fruits and seeds of all kinds.

This year, as in years past, the various reports are difficult to compare because of a lack of details concerning miles covered by foot and car, given separately, number of parties and individuals concerned, detailed geographic discription of the area covered, detailed description of the habitat types involved, amount of natural food available, description of weather such as wind velocity and direction, temperature, precipitation, amount of cloud cover, amount of snow on the ground and whether or not it covers all types of habitat, and amount of open water and if the open water is to be found on lakes or streams. All this does not mean that these reports are not valuable as they stand. It simply means that these reports could

	Hibbing	Fairmont	Grand Marais	Walker	Lyndale	Duluth		Moorhead		St Cloud		Avifaunal Club		Minneapolis Bird Club		Afton		Northfield		Plainview		Totals
	1957	1957	1956	1957	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	
GREAT BLUE HERON																	1		1			2
WHISTLING SWAN																1						1
BLUE GOOSE											1											1
MALLARD					1		2					462	950	5	8		236			3	10	1815
BLACK DUCK												4	16									20
PINTAIL												1										1
WOOD DUCK																	2					2
LESSER SCAUP						4				8		2					7				1	22
COMMON GOLDENEYE			31			64	54			55	68	2	23	79	59	37	45			61	200	768
OLDSQUAW			233																			233
RUDDY DUCK																1						1
COMMON MERGANSER												2				33	65			6	75	181
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER							4														6	10
TURKEY VULTURE																				2		2
GOSHAWK				1																		1
RED-TAILED HAWK												2							2	1	2	7
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK															2		1	1				4
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK							1												1	1		3
BALD EAGLE				1												3	1		1		1	7
MARSH HAWK									1													1
SPARROW HAWK					1							4	1	2			1					9
RUFFED GROUSE				5		9	15									8	7					44
GRAY PARTRIDGE																	5					5
BOBWHITE																				18	12	30
RING-NECKED PHEASANT		2			6	5	14	6	2	5	1	110	135	92	111	9	16	3	6	1	1	526
AMERICAN COOT												3				1						4
GLAUCOUS GULL			1				5															6
HERRING GULL			405			710	1179							1			3					2298
RING-BILLED GULL						17	17															34

	Hibbing		Fairmont		Grand Marais	Walker	Lyndale	Duluth		Moorhead		St. Cloud		Avifaunal Club		Minneapolis Bird Club		Afton		Northfield		Plainview		Totals
	1957		1957		1956	1957	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	
MOURNING DOVE													12											12
SCREECH OWL												1												1
GREAT HORNED OWL		1						1	3		9			2	1				1	1	1			20
SNOWY OWL																				1				1
BARRED OWL														1	2		2		1					7
LONG-EARED OWL									1	1	1													3
BOREAL OWL								1	1															2
BELTED KINGFISHER																				6	1			7
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER		2						1				2												5
PILEATED WOODPECKER						2		2	1					1	1				4	1	1			13
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER																1		1	12	1	4	2	15	36
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER													1		5		1		1		1		8	17
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER																			5					5
HAIRY WOODPECKER	1	2	1	7	2	3	12	5		1		10	7	12	5			16	6	2	1	6	99	
DOWNY WOODPECKER	1	1	6	9	5	49	19	5	5	9	11	10	23	8	7	15	38	2	4	4	3	234		
GRAY JAY	1		1				1								1									4
BLUE JAY	3		3	23	7	26	23	3	2	9	24	26	194	77	66	9	104	15	15	2	30	766		
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE								1																1
COMMON RAVEN	3		4			9	22					19												57
COMMON CROW		2			9				2	3	7		30	22	30	5	21	10	13	1	3	155		
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	32	2	14	35	19	68	55	17	28	39	61	64	235	33	39	45	75	28	50	15	24	972		
BOREAL CHICKADEE	1		6			2					8													17
TUFTED TITMOUSE																1	10	6		1		18		
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH		1		13	4	1	8	11	6	5	22	28	74	21	9	12	34	12	18	4	19	303		
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	3		7	27	8	1	19			1	13	2	17		2	2	3		10			125		
BROWN CREEPER				3	2	1					3	3	11		2				1	1		27		
CAROLINA WREN				1																		1		
MOCKINGBIRD										1												1		
ROBIN				1	1	1	4			1	4	2	2				1		2		1	20		

	Hibbing		Fairmont		Grand Marais	Walker		Lyndale	Duluth		Moorhead		St. Cloud		Avifaunal Club		Minneapolis Bird Club		Afton		Northfield		Plainview		Totals
	1957		1957		1956	1957		1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET						17						1	4	1								1			24
BOHEMIAN WAXWING										247				50											297
CEDAR WAXWING									6						2				1	15					24
NORTHERN SHRIKE	1					1				1	2	1			2		1				1		1		11
STARLING	2			4	6	50	106	117	8	83	200	74	228	205	376	32		19	1000	25	18	24	2,677		
ENGLISH SPARROW	33	25			23	153	54	201	403		56	113	1803	1879	523	724	83	239	1000	50	100	175	7535		
EASTERN MEADOWLARK																		1							1
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD							7		4																11
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD																								12	12
CARDINAL		2				2	1				1	10	18	18	2	2	9	29	14	6	28	45	187		
EVENING GROSBEAK	27				325		49	82				3								6			492		
PURPLE FINCH						2						8	32	80		15				1		2	140		
PINE GROSBEAK	286		42		29		59	126				40		8									590		
HOARY REDPOLL					2																				2
COMMON REDPOLL	60				70	2		405			2	154		195		250		42		30			1,110		
PINE SISKIN					17	2						9		2						5			35		
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH									4			26	62	62	3	3		11	20	60	46	22	322		
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL	15				5	11	2			4				38						40			107		
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO			2		6	6		5	1	6	12	42	59	157	20	39	17	75	50	30	10	3	540		
OREGON JUNCO															2		1						3		
TREE SPARROW		4	2		1	5				2			71	50	15	82	14	48	24	6	100	5	429		
HARRIS' SPARROW									1														1		
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW								1															1		
SONG SPARROW								1	1				3	1							1		6		
LAPLAND LONGSPUR									5														5		
SNOW BUNTING	117				5		5	2	200														329		
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	586	44	762	629	308	1256	2653	676	153	414	746	3039	4422	1296	1485	492	1204	2202	396	429	699	23,894			
TOTAL SPECIES	16	11	16	26	23	27	35	18	15	20	26	32	30	21	23	23	37	21	31	24	26	84			

be much more valuable if these details were included in every one of them. May the M.O.U.'s Christmas Census improve in every way in the future years.

GRAND MARAIS — Dec. 28. 1956. Lake Superior shoreline where visible from U.S. Hwy. 61, Cascade River to Croftville (14 miles), Cascade Park, Grand Marais Harbor and streets, inland to Grand Marais dump, Hedstrom's sawmill and Devil's Track Lake (7 miles inland); shore and harbor 40%, streets and inland 60%. 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; cloudy in a.m., clear in p.m., temperature +17. One party with two observers. Participants: Dick Barthelemy and Lloyd Scherer.

HIBBING — Dec. 29, 1957. Area covered was Kelly Lake to Chisholm and Little Swan north to McCarthy Beach State Park. Five per cent villages including Hibbing, Kelly Lake, Chisholm and Kitzville, 5% shorelines of numerous small lakes, 10% open farm land, 20% balsam-tamarac swamp, 20% Norway Pine forest, and 40% second growth poplar-birch forest. Total party miles were 175 and total party hours were 16. Due to extreme cold (—23), the 14 participants, including seven conservation project members of the Little Swan 4-H Club did very little hiking. Mileage was almost 100% automobile. Participants were Richard Graham, Catherine and Joanne Micensky, Karen, Leonard, Frank, and Bonnie Pingatore of the Little Swan 4-H Club; Mr. and Mrs. John Micensky, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Naddy (compiler), Miss Clara Lilley and Mrs. Louella Hayward of Hibbing, and Miss Agnes Lilley, Springfield, Ill.

FAIRMONT — Dec. 26, 1957. This count was made on the C. C. Wagner farm, 5 miles south and 3 miles east of Fairmont, Minnesota, Martin County, Fairmont Township. Participant: Harold W. Wager of Winner, South Dakota.

LYNDALE — Dec. 21, 1957. This count was taken on both sides of the Minnesota River from Lyndale to Savage (5 miles). Participants: Dorothy Legg and Mary Lupient.

DULUTH BIRD CLUB — Dec. 30, 1956 and Dec. 29, 1957. City parks and streets including Minnesota Point and some distance along the St. Louis River through Morgan Park to Fond du Lac and the Lake Superior shoreline to Encampment Forest.

1956 — 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. +20 to +26; 3-6 inches of snow in the woods. Twelve observers in six parties. Total party hours, 42 (30 on ft., 12 by car); total party miles, 110 (18 on ft., 92 by car).

1957 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear and calm; temp. —8 to +6. Eight observers in five parties. Total party hours, 38 (28 on ft., 10 by car); total party miles 136 (42 on ft., 94 by car). Participants for both years were Margaret Brown, Joe Bronoel, Bob Cohen, Dick and Betty Evans, Harold Evans, O. A. Finseth, Henry Gilbert, Dick Green, John Hale, P. B. Hofslund, Gary C. Kuyava, Mrs. W. J. McCabe, Catherine Roberts, Howard Trembly, Robert and William Ulvang.

WALKER — Dec. 29, 1957. A 7½ mile radius including Becker's Hilltop Sanctuary. Clear; temp. —15 to —2; wind N. 5 m.p.h.; ground partly covered with snow, lakes frozen, some streams and channels open. Four observers in two parties. Total party hours, 16 (10 on ft., 6 by car); total party miles, 55 (4 on ft., 51 by car). Participants: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Becker, Harold R. Hanson (compiler), Stanton Oman.

MOORHEAD — Dec. 29, 1956 and Dec. 26, 1957. A radius of 7½ miles centering on the Red River 4½ miles north of Fargo, including the Red River Valley from Riverside Cemetery north to confluence of Red and Sheyenne Rivers, portions of both Sheyenne and Minnesota Rivers; flood plain deciduous growth 40%, agricultural land 27%, City parks and cemetery 17%, oak woods 6%, deciduous shelterbelt 4%, coniferous shelterbelt 3%, and city 3%.

1956 — 7:45 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. Overcast; temp. +26 to +29; wind ENE 8 m.p.h.; ground covered with 1-3 inches of snow, rivers frozen except Red River north of Moorhead. Four observers in 1-4 parties. Total party hours, 15½ (9 on ft., 6½ by car), total party miles, 96 (8 on ft., 88 by car).

1957 — 7:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Overcast; temp. +9 to +30; wind SSE 4-25 m.p.h.; ground bare for third time in 52 years. Smaller streams frozen, Red River open north of Fargo. Six observers in 2-5 parties. Participants for both years were John F. Anderson, J. Frank Cassel (compiler), Delbert Hlavinka, Marilyn Flor, Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Johnsgard, Frank A. Melton, and David M. Noetzel.

(Continued on page 100)

Female Mallard with identifying colored Bill Marker and numbered U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band.

MARKING D
for RE

By John P. Lindmeier and

Banding records are complete and u are returned. When you find a metal ba bird or game bird, be sure to return it t life Service, Washington, D.C., stating found. Or you may return it to your l ment.

Bill markers, originated by the Mi partment, are used to gain additional i studies. Besides placing metal leg ba markers enable easy field identification. different research study areas.

When found on a dead duck, these s to the Minnesota Conservation Departme the leg band, stating when and where it should also be reported. Farmers can b ing the bill markers and leg bands of operations.

Field activity pho graph showing the ba ing of a duck and the cording of the band nu ber, name of species, s and the area location the field data book.

UCKS
EARCH

eon L. Johnson

ful only if these bands
on any dead bird, song
he U.S. Fish and Wild-
here and when it was
l Conservation Depart-

esota Conservation De-
rmation in life history
on ducks, colored bill
arious colors designate

uld be returned at once
St. Paul, together with
as found. Sight records
f great help in return-
ucks killed in farming

*Photo credit — Orwin A. Rustad, Minnesota Conservation Dept., Division of Game and Fish, Bureau of Research and Planning.

American Goldeneye showing identifying colored bill marker which enables easy field identification, originated by the Minnesota Conservation Department.

Female Blue - winged Teal with numbered leg band.

SAINT CLOUD BIRD CLUB — Dec. 30, 1956 and Dec. 26-31, 1957.

1956 — The count was made in an area about 20 miles north and 12 miles west of St. Cloud, including the campuses of the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University and the feeding stations near the homes of participants. Temperature was +30 with a brisk wind from the southwest.

1957 — In 1957, the count was held in the same area as 1956, but an area including the Mississippi River to Sauk Rapids and the St. Cloud College campus was added. The weather was clear, temp. about +15, and the wind was calm. Participants for both years were Mr. and Mrs. George Lehrke, Dr. H. Goehring, Dr. M. Partch, Dr. Barker, Dave Grether, Harold Hopkins, Jane Arndt, Mrs. Rudolph Misho, Loretta Rosenberger, Monica and Hildegard Hisho, Agnes Brohaugh, and Sister Ramberta, O.S.B.

AVIFAUNAL CLUB (MINNEAPOLIS) — Dec. 30, 1956 and Dec. 28, 1957. A radius of 7½ miles centering on the Minneapolis Golf Course and extending to the junction of hwys. 55 and 101, Robbinsdale, Edina, Hopkins, and including Theodore Wirth Park and Roberts Bird Sanctuary; town suburbs 46%, open farmland 24%, deciduous woodlots 17%, lakes, marshes, creeks 8%, and city park and golf course 5%.

1956 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy; temp. +28 to +43; wind SW to WNW, 17 m.p.h.; less than 1 inch of snow on ground, portions of most creeks in area open, part of Lake Harriet open. Ten observers in five parties. Total party hours, 33 (12 on ft., 21 by car), total party miles, 248 (16 on ft., 232 by car).

1957 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunny with scattered clouds; temp. +11 to +15; wind NNW, 11 m.p.h.; ½ to 1 inch of snow on the ground, portions of most creeks in area open, small openings in Lakes Calhoun and Harriet. Eleven observers in six parties. Total party hours, 34½ (9¼ on ft., 25¼ by car), total party miles, 243 (16 on ft., 227 by car). Participants for both years were Jeremy Berman, Sarah Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher, J. S. Futcher (compiler), Ray Glassel, Burton Guttman, Harding Huber, Jeanette Jackman, Norris W. Jones, William R. Nelson, Charles and Kris Wright.

MINNEAPOLIS BIRD CLUB — Dec. 30, 1956 and Dec. 29, 1957. A 7½ mile radius from Camden Park to Anoka, both sides of Mississippi; open farmland 50%, town suburbs 31%, deciduous farm woodlots 15%, deciduous river banks and valleys 2%, and marshes and sloughs 2%.

1956 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temp. +24 to +43; wind WNW, 16 m.p.h.; little snow, practically all creeks with open water, Mississippi River open below Coon Creek Dam. Fifteen observers in six parties. Total party hours, 31 (10 on ft., 21 by car); total party miles, 216 (21 on ft., 195 by car).

1957 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temp. —3 to +6; wind, NNE, 9 m.p.h.; little snow, practically all creeks with open water, Mississippi River with open water below Coon Creek Dam. Twelve observers in five parties. Total party hours, 25 (6 on ft., 21 by car); total party miles, 269, (14 on ft., 255 by car). Participants for both years were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson, Amy Chambers, Mrs. Edith Farrand, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harms, O. V. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd M. Lien (compilers), Florence Messer, Vera Sparkes, Mr. and Mrs. Melven Stenrud, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wiberg, Charles F., Kris, and Robin Wright.

AFTON — Dec. 22, 1956 and Dec. 21, 1957. A radius of 7½ miles centering in Afton, making a semi-circle on the west side of the St. Croix River; open farmland 70%, deciduous wooded river banks, hills and valleys 30%.

1956 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Snow, rain, fog; temp. +31 to +33; wind ESE, 8 m.p.h.; snow laying in wooded areas, St. Croix River open in spots. Three observers in one party. Total party hours, 8½ (6½ on ft., 2 by car); total party miles, 52 (8 on ft., 44 by car).

1957 — 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temp. +29 to +40; wind W to SE, 10 m.p.h.; little snow, St. Croix River open in spots. Ten observers in eight parties. Total party hours, 40 (28 on ft., 12 by car), total party miles, 135 (15 on ft., 120 by car. Participants for both years were Coy Asp, Oliver Charley, Mrs. Henry Hellum, Mrs. Fremont Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd M. Lien (compilers), Al Malmquist, Min Paro, Mrs. Ralph Paulson, and Mrs. Robert Rowe.

NORTHFIELD — Dec. 22, 1956 and Dec. 21, 1957. Census taken in Rice County, Minnesota. Observed a Great Blue Heron on the census of 1957. Orwin Rustad.

PLAINVIEW — Dec. 26, 1956 and Dec. 28, 1957. By car from Plainview east through Whitewater Refuge with several excursions on foot; up hwy. 61 above Kellogg to Missippi River thence back to Plainview via hwy. 42.

1956 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. +28 to +36; wind SE, 5 m.p.h. to 10 m.p.h.; 2 to 4 inches of snow on ground. Two observers in one party. As many as 18 Eastern Meadowlarks were seen during the count period; also Sparrow Hawks, but none seen this day. Twenty-five Bobwhite were seen in the same covey which had 18 on count day.

1957 — 9 a.m. to dark. Temp. +10 to +20. Clear; wind W, 4 m.p.h.; 4 inches of snow. Mississippi River completely open this year. — **Duluth 5, Minnesota.**

The cover on the June, 1958 issue of *The Flicker* was taken by John A. Wark.

Birding In Your Own Back Yard

by Whitney and Karen Eastman

The number of people who go birding in their own back yards is growing by leaps and bounds. We did not have to make a house-to-house survey to substantiate this fact. Hundreds of people phone us or stop us on the street to inquire the name of some strange bird they have observed in their own back yards. More and more people are being stimulated to take an interest in birds, and that is especially true here in Minneapolis. Many of our friends have been encouraged to erect nesting boxes and feeding stations to attract birds to their yards, and many have planted appropriate shrubbery for refuge, nesting and to provide food for the birds.

Bird study right at home is especially satisfying, for one can continue his studies all year around without going out of doors. Every family that attempts such studies should have a good binocular and a Peterson Field Guide handy at all times, for some unexpected rare species is bound to put in an appearance sooner or later.

In addition to identifying the various species and recording the dates of such observations, we strongly recommend that a life history study be undertaken, especially for those species which nest in your yard or stay around all year. The entire family should take part in such study activities. It is a wholesome and satisfying pastime for both parents and children. Some of the happiest families we know are those where the parents and children have become interested in bird study as a family hobby.

Much information is needed to fill in the gaps in the life histories of some of our more common species which may be nesting in your own yard. By studying an individual bird's character and behavior, the nuptual display, territorial defense and nesting activities, you will not only derive much pleasure, but you have a real opportunity to contribute worthwhile scientific information to add to the already published information about the life history of certain birds.

In addition to our field study in various parts of the world, in order to stimulate our readers, we are recording our observations of the birds which have been seen from our own homes for the past 15 years. It has been a satisfying experience, and we have urged many others to do the same thing. Like so many of our friends and neighbors, you cannot appreciate how many species visit your home grounds or fly by until you start looking and recording your observations.

From our home, 2240 West Lake of the Isles Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn., from August 1943 to March 1953, 121 species and one hybrid as follows:

Common loon
Horned Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
American Bittern
Canada Goose
Snow Goose
Blue Goose
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Lesser Scaup
Common Goldeneye
Red-breasted Merganser
Turkey Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Peregrine Falcon
Sparrow Hawk
Ring-necked Pheasant
American Coot
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper

Solitary Sandpiper
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Forster's Tern
Common Tern
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Rock Dove
*Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
*Screech Owl
Barred Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Wood Pewee
Olive-sided Flycatcher
*Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Purple Martin
Blue Jay
Common Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
*White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
*House Wren
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
*Robin
Hermit Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Veery
Eastern Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Starling
Yellow-throated Vireo
Solitary Vireo
*Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Black-and-white Warbler
Lawrence Warbler (hybrid)
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Mourning Warbler
Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
American Redstart
*House Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
*Baltimore Oriole
Brewer's Blackbird
*Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Pine Grosbeak
American Goldfinch
Slate-colored Junco
Oregon Junco
*Chipping Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Song Sparrow

*Nesting species

Among the many interesting observations made at this location over a period of approximately ten years, we would like to record the nest-building activities of a female unmated Robin. We observed this bird working frantical-

ly, carrying nesting material to a large elm tree. She was building five nests in the same tree simultaneously. We felt sorry for this poor hard-working bird, apparently endeavoring to show her domestic ability — perhaps to attract the attention of a mate. In order to assist her, we scattered a large number of pieces of colored ribbon about the lawn — white, red, blue, yellow, orange and green. She immediately began collecting all of the white pieces but did not pick up a single piece of colored ribbon. Within an hour she had all five nests draped with white ribbon which disclosed the nest locations very prominently. The only conclusion we could draw from this rather eccentric behavior was that she was a trained nurse. We never did see her mate. After completing the five nests she left the neighborhood. We felt sure she must have been a "crazy robin."

From our home, 4450 West Lake Harriet Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn., from March 1953 to July 1958, 127 species as follows:

Common Loon
Red-throated Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Whistling Swan
Snow Goose
Blue Goose
*Mallard
Black Duck
Gadwall
Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveler
*Wood Duck
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Canvasback
Lesser Scaup
Common Goldeneye
Bufflehead
White-winged Scoter
Ruddy Duck
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Osprey
Ring-necked Pheasant
American Coot
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Sanderling
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Forster's Tern
Common Tern
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Screech Owl
Snowy Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
*Yellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
*Red-headed Woodpecker
*Hairy Woodpecker
*Downy Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Wood Pewee
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
*Rough-winged Swallow
Purple Martin
*Blue Jay
Common Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch

Brown Creeper
*House Wren
Catbird
*Brown Thrasher
*Robin
Swainson's Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
*Starling
Yellow-throated Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
American Redstart
*House Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
*Baltimore Oriole
Rusty Blackbird
*Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
*Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Slate-colored Junco
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
*Nesting species

During visits to the site of our new home, Tanager Hill, 7000 Valley View Road, Minneapolis, Minn., from May 9, 1958, (date we took title) to July 1958 (date of this article) — 47 species as follows:

Sparrow Hawk
*Ring-necked Pheasant
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Yellow-shafted Flicker
*Hairy Woodpecker
*Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Kingbird
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Wood Pewee
Olive-sided Flycatcher
*Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
*Eastern Bluebird
Starling
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellowthroat
House Sparrow
Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Baltimore Oriole
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Cardinal
*Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow

*Mallard	Goshawk
Black Tern	Mourning Dove
Eastern Phoebe	Least Flycatcher
Tree Swallow	Barn Swallow
Purple Martin	*Blue Jay
*House Wren	*Catbird
Brown Thrasher	*Robin

*Nesting species

— *Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 1958.*

Editor's Note: A note of interest on the sight records of Lawrence's Warblers appears on page 117. — *P.B.H.*

Our Grackle Guest

by

Charles Flugum

A Bronzed Grackle hunting for corn kernels in our hog lot one March morning stirred memories of Black Donald, a male Bronzed Grackle that stayed at our house on our Iowa prairie farm during the disagreeable winter of 1915-1916. For some reason this bird had stayed behind long after others of this kind had hit for Dixie. Perhaps he had been temporarily disabled at the time they left. His tardiness may have been induced by the soft corn of which grackles are so fond and which, that fall, never did mature. The bangboards of our husking wagons were white-spattered and dripping with the juicy contents of smashed kernels as the milky crop was harvested. At any rate this lone grackle had often been seen feeding in the hog lot during the late fall and early winter.

One day there was a blizzard like the one immortalized by Whittier in his winter idyl, "Snow-bound." In the morning when we had finally dug our way to the "prisoned brutes within," we found not only the hogs, huddled together for warmth, but perched on a partition in the hog house, where he had taken refuge from the storm was the grackle. He refused to depart through a broken windowpane to brave the weather that was still acting up, so he was finally captured and brought to the house. In our family there was a strict rule against the capture and imprisonment of any wild creatures, but circumstances alter cases, so Black Donald, as we chose to call him, became a member of our household.

He acquired his name quite by circumstance. Father, at the time, was reading the Norwegian translation of "The Hidden Hand" by Mrs. Emma Southworth and enjoying the escapades of the heroine, "Capitola." Since the grackle's head glistened with iridescent hues of blue, green and purple, it was obviously a male and could not be christened Capitola, but the name of the crafty villain, "Sorte Donald" or Black Donald, suited him perfectly. Any bird that lives in the same house with humans needs a cage in which it can be confined to keep it out of mischief. Especially is this true of a roughneck like Black Donald so the slatwork egg case was requistioned for this purpose and thenceforth the eggs were taken to the store in a pail with oats packed between them to keep them from breaking.

Bothered with rheumatism, father was obliged to spend much time indoors during the cold weather, part of the time confined to his bed. At his bedside was a small table on which he kept, within easy reach, such articles as his pipe, tobacco, ash tray, the daily mail, pencils and a scratch tablet. A corner of the table was cleared to make room for the improvised cage and there Black Donald spent the winter.

Black Donald had a commanding personality. He disliked being handled and resisted the indignity by pecking any hand that attempted to pick him up. When it was necessary for sanitary reasons to remove the many layers of newspapers from the cage floor and replace them with clean ones, the cover was removed and Black Donald had the freedom of the house, a privilege that he enjoyed immensely and an occasion to which we youngsters looked forward with glee. In the living room were many interesting things on which to perch so

our feathered guest shuttled about between the tops of doors, picture frames, wall mirror and the clock on the shelf. He even tried to perch on the nickel-plated fancywork on the top of the heater stove but found this a little too warm for comfort. We learned to put vases and other unstable objects in safer places. Once he was turned loose after the Christmas tree was put up. That was a mistake. We redecorated the tree after Black Donald was safely back in his cage. For the remainder of the holidays the living room was kept closed while Black Donald's cage was being tidied up.

Another member of our household was "Foxy," the pampered house cat. Traditional enemy of birds, she at first stalked this intruder of her domain while Black Donald, wise in the ways of cats, scolded her vehemently from atop the huge frame of grandfather's picture. Mother, less concerned for Black Donald's safety than for the welfare of the living room curtains, slapped Foxy down until the feline begrudgingly granted Black Donald undisputed right to the upper half of the living room.

Getting Black Donald back into his cage was at first quite an ordeal requiring the cooperation of every member of the family in guarding every possible perch. He soon learned, however, that the little egg case was his only place of absolute refuge so when the fracas started, or as soon as he had had enough of it, he willingly darted into his cage and stood his ground with all the dignity of a five-star general.

As the winter wore on, Black Donald became less active, paid less attention to his preening and spent more and more time standing dejectedly in one corner of his cage. Perhaps he was dreaming about his fellow grackles in the balmy south or brooding over his lost freedom. It was more likely, however, that his listlessness was due to some nutritional deficiency in his corn and water diet. We hated to lose Black Donald. By this time we were all so attached to him that he got more attention than the family dog. Father was most concerned for his welfare and puttered about the pantry in search for some remedy for Black Donald's ills. He tried feeding rice, pearled barley, rolled oats, soaked bread and even Johnny cake but to no avail. His patient continued downcast.

Father was fond of fish, so occasionally a large frozen pickerel found its way home with the groceries. One day he was helping Mother with the arduous task of removing the head from a big fish and was prompted to grumble about the amount of waste when the thought struck him that perhaps Black Donald might like fish. Split from the under side and pried open to expose the fleshy portion, the huge fishhead was put in Black Donald's cage. Spread out as it was, it covered half of the cage floor. The response of Black Donald was immediate. "Check," he exploded as he drove his beak forcibly into the meat. "Check-check," he repeated, gulping down a tasty morsel. In a burst of excitement he leaped upon the pickerel head, jabbing, jerking and twisting. He feasted long and furiously with many an undignified slip to the delight of his audience. When finally satisfied, he drank and swished his beak in the small tin cup of water securely fastened to one corner of his cage. Having slaked his thirst, he proceeded to preen his plumage meticulously. Black Donald was himself again. Our family never feasted so lavishly on pickerel before or afterwards as we did for the remainder of the winter that Black Donald was with us.

When the weather began to moderate, Black Donald showed signs of restlessness. One day we heard a faint "Boom-boom-boom" from the direction of the cow pasture. "Boys," commanded Father, "you better get the fanning mill started! I hear the Prairie Chickens calling." The hustle and bustle of get-

ting ready for spring work was underway. Father spent more time outdoors. It was obvious that Black Donald was being more and more neglected. From the grove came a mighty chorus of red-wing and grackle voices but, for a while, Black Donald stayed with us. There seemed to be a reluctance to part with him. Then one day it happened. It was quite a ceremony. With everyone gathered about, the egg case was carried to the front lawn and held at shoulder height while the cover was removed. Black Donald hopped up on the edge of his cage and hesitated. "Check," he said as he looked around and flipped his tail. With another "check" and a mighty kick he took off, a little unsteadily, upward and southward. Then he turned westward and disappeared over the top of our windbreak. For a time we hoped that he would come back and in some way identify himself, but to our knowledge we never saw him again. We could only hope that, after his ordeal of spending a winter in the north with us, he lived a normal, happy life and found it possible to forgive us for the indignities to which we had subjected him. — *Albert Lea, Minn.*

Seasonal Report

by

Mary Lupient

Temperatures in May were about normal. Except for one week of high temperatures during the first of July, June and July were unseasonably cold. The weather bureau reported less than normal precipitation in the state for the entire period. However, severe thunderstorms and heavy rains that did considerable damage struck the Duluth area July 1. In western Minnesota June was a dry month and there was some fear that the duck production might be curtailed.

The May migration of some species was somewhat irregular. Early sparrows, warblers and many thrushes were still present when late migrants arrived after the middle of the month. At Frontenac May 14, Lester Badger saw Pine Siskins in the company of early warblers. Those who went to Frontenac the week end of May 17-18, which is usually the best birding period, were disappointed. A large migration of Myrtle, Orange-crowned and other warblers was seen in Roberts Sanctuary May 21 by Robert Jansson. He reported that the Blue-winged Warbler was there, too. This warbler was reported in Frontenac, Vasa and Whitewater State Park. The Prothonotary Warbler was also seen in several places. It was reported along the St. Croix River where it normally nests, in Roberts Sanctuary, Frontenac and near Hastings along the Vermillion River. At the last named place, May 14, a pair was carrying nesting material to a hole in a tall tree stump which was standing in the water. During observation they carried bits of moss gathered from a log lying in the water. The male sang continuously. In a hole in another tall stump a pair of Bluebirds were apparently nesting and about a foot above them a pair of Tree Swallows had taken possession of a hole. All the birds were friendly to one another during observation. May 11 and again on May 14 there was a heavy migration of Brown Thrashers, White-throated Sparrows, Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Catbirds and early warblers in the area in and adjacent to the Twin Cities.

Date of arrival of Nighthawks in the Twin Cities was May 16. Only one record of the American pipit was received. One was seen near Afton May 2, by A. C. Rosenwinkel. Brother Theodore saw a Nelson's Sparrow near Benilda School, Minneapolis, May 19. Lester Badger reported seeing two Yellow-crowned Night Herons near Brownton and on May 10 Robert Jansson saw two that were apparently building a nest near LaCrescent; on July 10 he and Brother Theodore found them nesting near Winona. A. C. Rosenwinkel sent the following report on Yellow-crowned Night Herons: "June 17 to 28 John Hall and his sister saw two Yellow-crowned Night Herons at the State Fish Hatchery at Indian Mounds Park, St. Paul. On June 21 I watched a Yellow-crowned Night Heron for a half hour at the same pool. By process of elimination, I came to the conclusion that it could be neither a Great Blue or a Black-crowned in any stage of development. Color, size and length of neck and legs, shape of bill, manner and frequency of wing-beats noted carefully, body and lower part of neck grey, whitish crown, black line over eye and cheeks grey."

Mr. Rosenwinkel reported the nesting of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in St. Paul, May 10 and by June 14 the young had

left the nest and were being fed about the yard by the parents. He saw a pair of Loons with one young on Lake Vadnais, Ramsey County, June 14.

Robert Jansson reported that he and Brother Theodore went to Winona on a field trip, July 20. They saw the Bell's Vireo. On the bluff they saw the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Henslow's Sparrow sharing the same area. The Henslow's Sparrows were singing.

On July 6, they found two nests of Red-necked (Hoelbell's) Grebes in Carver County. There were four adult grebes present. On the same date in Houston County they recorded four young Orchard Orioles and one female adult, several Yellow-billed Cuckoos and nesting Red-eyed Towhees. Theirs was the only record received of Dickcissels. They saw a few in Carver County.

Eastern Bluebirds had a very successful year in the area around the Twin Cities. There were several reports of nestings in suburban yards. Reports came from sections in eastern and southern Minnesota also. In Washington County Oliver Charley, who lives on a farm, reported that 25 pairs had successfully reared broods in his long string of nesting boxes. A few pairs had raised two broods and one pair had raised three broods. Rev. Forest Strnad banded 50 Bluebirds in Kasson where he and William Longley had set up a large number of nesting boxes. Rev. Strnad received a return on a Mourning Dove that he had banded June 7, 1957 at Albert Lea. The dove was shot October 6, 1957 by Jose Ma. Avalos Cardenas, Calle Gomez, Farias No. 12, E Zapata, Michoacan, Mexico. Rev. Strnad reported that Cliff Swallows had again nested in Whitewater State Park and also that they nested under a bridge over the middle branch of the Whitewater River 12 miles east of Rochester. There were an estimated 50 nests. A few nested under the eaves of a house near Savage, reported by James Wilkie who also found a Sparrow Hawk's nest in the same area.

A pair of Tufted Titmice spent the past winter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rogier, Hopkins, near Minneapolis, and stayed on to date of this writing, August 11. Except for one week in July they came to the feeder regularly. This indicates a nesting but the Rogiers were unable to find one.

In eastern Minnesota the May migration of shore birds was light and mostly common species were reported. However, a heavy migration occurred in the western part. Robert Jansson and Brother Theodore went to Cottonwood and Salt Lake, May 17, and reported seeing thousands of shore birds. There were several hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes at Salt Lake, about 50 Hudsonian Godwits, many Stilts and all other shore birds commonly seen in Minnesota except Sanderlings. Three Eared Grebes and two Snow Geese were present. Near Salt Lake, Savannah Sparrows were very abundant and many Hungarian Partridges were noted. In the fields near Willmar, Golden Plovers were common. Besides the large number of Hudsonian Godwits above mentioned, there were other May records from several sections of the state, from one to three individuals in each case.

Earliest report of returning shore birds was sent by Robert Jansson. At Mud Lake on the outskirts of Minneapolis July 10, he saw Yellow-legs, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. July 17, there was a goodly number of Long-billed Dowitchers and also a large concentration, numbering hundreds, of Killdeer. July 14, there was a similar number of Lesser Yellow-legs near Shakopee.

This writer observed a Black-crowned Night Heron that flew back and forth over Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis for about 30 minutes, June 14. It appeared to be searching over the water and its flight resembled that of a Herring Gull.

Once it dipped to the water, picked something up and flew away with it.

Dr. Breckenridge and his class saw two Swainson's Hawks near Pine Bend, St. Paul, May 26. The birds were very tame and approached to within a short distance.

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union held its spring field trip and meeting at Whitewater State Park, May 17-18. The Kentucky Warbler was seen by most of the members. A few Wild Turkeys were seen. According to Dr. Arnold B. Erickson, these shy birds were released by the State Conservation Department, Division of Game and Fish on September 18, 1957. In two groups of 17 and 20 birds respectively, they were released on abandoned farms in the Whitewater Refuge. They were obtained from a Wild Turkey farm in Pennsylvania and were all banded but two. So far, three bands have been recovered from dead birds. Nesting is uncertain at the present time.

The following note was received from P. B. Hofslund: "Since the second of August we have had an influx of White-winged Crossbills into Gooseberry and Encampment Forests. They appear to be in full plumage and the males are singing.

"Shore bird migration started here July 18 with one Least Sandpiper and one Solitary Sandpiper. Since then I've seen the Greater Yellowlegs on July 23 and an occasional Least Sandpiper. Great Blue Herons began to move on July 22. There was a heavy migration of swallows, mostly Bank, on August 2. I counted 195 in ten minutes. A good movement of warblers was seen at Encampment on August 1. We saw at least five species in the group and with them were many Golden-crowned Kinglets. The Pileated Woodpeckers are starting to move around the woods, too. As far as the breeding season was concerned, we had a particular dearth of Myrtle Warblers and Phoebes in the park and an abundance of Mourning Warblers. The majority of warblers seemed to have come out of the nests around July 1. I found Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black and White Warbler and Mourning Warbler nests on that day. Outside of the Waxwings the latest nest that I found was that of a Blue-headed Vireo on July 20. This was the second attempt of the pair. The young hatched that day and left August 2." — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

The Canadian Lakehead

by

A. E. Allin

The exceptionally mild weather of the late winter continued throughout April. The mean temperature of 38.5° was well above the average of 35.3°. Many considered May a cold, backward month, but they were comparing it with the unusually warm months which preceded it. The mean temperature of 46.4° was only 1.2° below normal. A snowfall of 0.5" brought the total for the winter to 48.7", lightest since 1939-40 and only half the average for the past 15 years. The only really warm period was from May 11 to 16 with daily temperatures exceeding 70°. June was a very cool month, the mean temperature of 53.8° being only 1° above the coolest June, 1917. Only relatively warm weather during the last few days of the month prevented the establishment of an all-time low. Total precipitation for the three months of 6.01 inches was well below the normal 7.78.

The deer herd which has suffered grievously from the recent severe winters have been favorably affected by the winter of 1957-58. The Highbush Cranberry has flowered as usual and from the bloom on the Mountain Ash one would anticipate a heavy crop of fruit. It would appear that lows of 28.1° on May 26 and 29.9° on June 6 had somewhat affected the buds or flowers of Pin Cherries, Chokecherries and Saskatoons. We have made no observations yet as to the seeds on the conifers, ashes and Manitoba Maples. We trust, however, that we will not have another season such as 1957 when the seed crop was particularly poor with a resultant scarcity of winter birds.

One could not well correlate migration with the weather. This was most likely due to the cold weather involving much of the southern portion of the United States and which acted as a barrier to hold back the migrants. Yet, if this were true, how can we explain good migration waves in the Canadian West, at a time when our own migration was so poor, On May 11, we awoke to hear Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-throated and Chipping Sparrows. At the waterfront, Cowbirds, Song and Savannah Sparrows were common. It was the first day that really felt spring-like. Waves of warblers passed through on May 17-18 and May 24-25, but they could not be considered good flights. Only the Cape May appeared to be common. The sparrow flight was very poor; personally we did not see a Harris', White-crowned, Gambel's, or Lincoln's. The thrushes were uncommon and rarely seen in their usual haunts. On their breeding grounds, however, they were heard in their usual numbers. Actually it was mid-June before the full volume of bird song was heard throughout the cities, fields and woods.

The waterfowl migration was an average one. Blue and Snow Geese missed the Lakehead but were present in large numbers at Geraldton to the northeast in mid-April. Canada Geese moved through the area the last few days of April. As usual, a few Whistling Swans were reported from Whitefish Lake and Thunder Bay. The Green-winged Teal is seen here in spring rather infrequently. This year they were unusually common. There was also an increase in Shovellers which were considered rare visitors until recent years. Pintails, Blue-winged Teal and Black Ducks appeared in their usual numbers but Mallards seemed to

be greatly increased. A flock of 25 White-winged Scoters dropped into Thunder Bay on May 20, remained for a few minutes, and continued on to the northwest. These sea ducks are rarely seen here in spring. As so frequently happens, no Canvasbacks were noted. The Redhead was very scarce. Personally, I failed to see a single bird in areas where it is usually present. Ring-necked Ducks were less common than usual but Lesser and Greater Scaup appeared in their usual numbers.

Once again the migration of shore birds was an excellent one. The expected species arrived in their usual numbers with the exception of the Ruddy Turnstone which again was unreported. A few Pectoral, Baird's, and White-rumped Sandpipers were seen. A few years ago these were rarely seen or at least identified. A Stilt Sandpiper was seen by K. Denis on May 22. He saw a Wilson's Phalarope on May 22. The occasional Dowitcher was seen. Again no Knots were reported and the first Spring Willet has still to be recorded. A Black-bellied Plover was seen on May 20. We did not observe any Golden Plover. On May 22, we saw five Hudsonian and two Marbled Godwits. The Red-backed Sandpiper was very abundant, flocks of a 100 being regularly seen. At least one pair of Upland Plover returned to the area where it was first seen and bred in 1946. The Wilson's Snipe appeared in its usual numbers. A single Woodcock was heard the evening of May 28.

The Herring Gull is probably increasing in numbers. It is a peculiar phenomenon to see these birds scavenging along the highways, city streets and lanes. One regularly visits garbage cans in our block. Ring-billed Gulls were again seen in small numbers, but they were less common than in 1957. Bonaparte's Gulls are sometimes seen in small numbers in mid-May and rarely during the summer. On May 25, we saw a very large flock off the Port Arthur waterfront where C. E. Garton had counted 180 a few days previously. He saw a Glaucous Gull on May 24. Usually we see one or two each spring. More unusual was a Common Tern we noted over Thunder Bay on May 24. Mr. Karila reported a small flock over Whitefish Lake about the same time.

Observations during the late spring and early summer fully justified early expectations of an exciting season. Two observations were most outstanding since they constituted new records for Thunder Bay District. It had been planned to hold the Field Day of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club on May 24. The day proved so wet that the Field Day was officially cancelled. A few hardy individuals, however, spent the day afield and Keith Denis and the Robbs were well rewarded for, in Paipoonge Township, they carefully observed a female Golden-winged Warbler, a new species to our local fauna. The other new record was a nesting one. On July 18, we collected the deserted nest and two eggs of a Mourning Dove. The details of this, the first local breeding record for the Mourning Dove, will be described later in these notes. Almost as important as the above two records was the observation by the Robbs on May 17 of a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Fort William. Although this species had been reported previously from Silver Islet, Shebandowan and Lake Nipigon, the Robbs' record was new for the Lakehead. Peculiarly, R. Ryder was to see a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Nebbing Township on July 6. Other unusual records for the Lakehead included a Baltimore Oriole in Fort William, on May 14, the fourth I've seen locally in 20 years of observation. On May 24, we saw a Common Tern. This is a rare visitor here although small flocks appear in spring, perhaps more or less regularly, at Whitefish Lake. C. E. Garton observed a Mockingbird on May 24 and Mrs. W. P. Hogarth and Mrs. J. Murie watched a Cardinal at Slate River bridge on June 27. On May 17, C. E. Garton

and K. Denis saw a Wilson's Phalarope. First identified at the Lakehead in May, 1956, one was also seen by Denis in 1957. On a few occasions in the fall, Phalaropes have been identified as "Northerns." There is a possibility they were misidentified Wilson's. The European Widgeon has been seen on several occasions locally; two were seen by Denis on May 6. Walter Zarowski observed, from his office window, for nearly an hour, on June 13, a Sandhill Crane. This species has been recorded locally on few previous occasions. Zarowski's observation was of particular interest as a Red Fox molested this individual until it finally flew away. Col. Dear reported an Oregon Junco at Rosslyn on May 8. This species has been reported with increasing frequency in recent years.

As this is written, American Goldfinches approach their breeding season while that of the Cedar Waxwing and the second nestings of the sparrows and thrushes are at a peak. The first returning shore bird, a Lesser Yellowlegs, was seen at the Empire Elevator on July 17 and by the first of that month great flocks of Starlings, including young of the year, were seen in the surrounding farmlands. Fewer interesting breeding records than usual have been reported, the most important being that of the Mourning Dove and a nest with one egg of the Red-necked Grebe. I found the latter at Whitefish Lake on June 21. Although Col. Dear saw a pair of Red-necked Grebe on Whitefish Lake in 1932, he did not find the first Ontario nest until 1933 when three pair were seen on the lake and he found two occupied nests. They have continued to breed in small numbers in the same portion of Whitefish Lake in subsequent years. Meanwhile, I have seen them in summer on Lake of the Woods and Lake Shebandowan. They are now known to breed in northeastern Ontario and there is even a well studied colony on Lake Ontario not far from Toronto.

The Mourning Dove has been considered an uncommon visitor at the Canadian Lakehead. We have probably seen an average of one a year since 1938. On only one occasion had we seen a pair and only once heard their song. Several were seen in 1957 and Earl Beebe has informed us one sat and called from a high stub near his Paipoonge Township home through the summer. It appeared to occupy the same area this past season. Other individual birds have been recorded in 1958; a pair was reported from Silver Islet and Col. Dear repeatedly saw a pair in early July not far from Beebe's home which is closeby Dr. Hogarth's tree farm, an extensive plantation of Red Pine and White Spruce. On July 3, Dear and the Allins saw three doves at the border of this plantation and a young ornithologist, David Hearn, reported a small flock of ten in the area about the same time. He also found a nest but did not note the date. On July 11, he accompanied us to the area and showed us the nest which contained two eggs. These were wet and cold and the nest appeared to be deserted. By July 18, the eggs had become discolored so nest and eggs were collected. They were scarcely incubated.

The nest, in a young White Spruce tree at the edge of a planting of Red Pine was placed on a horizontal branch, a foot from the trunk and five feet from the ground. A few spruce twigs and dried plants, probably *Solidago sp.*, with leaves attached, formed the base of the nest. Its bulk was composed of roots of Twitch-grass. There was no lining, but it was a fairly substantial nest for this species.

No Mourning Dove has been collected in this area but we assume it is the Western subspecies which visits us, since it is the latter which occurs in Minnesota and Manitoba. If our assumption is correct, that is probably the first record of *marginella* breeding in Ontario.

Although there is a gradual increase

in southern species — Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Indigo Bunting, and Bobolink, only the last showed a marked increase in 1958. A colony, discovered by Dear two decades ago, was once more occupied as were two colonies within the city limits of Fort William. A new colony was found southwest of us. The Brewer's Blackbird appears to be moving eastward across the continent. First found breeding in Ontario at Port Arthur in 1945, it has probably nested there in 1943, as we watched a few birds throughout the summer. This year it can be found in many areas and on May 10 we saw a flock which numbered 250 individuals.

Possibly the swallows have shown more changes in distribution during recent years than any other group. The Purple Martin is an accidental visitor. The Rough-winged Swallow is a rare summer resident found breeding here on only one occasion and but rarely seen — or at least identified. The Barn Swallow is a relatively common summer resident, the status of which has not undergone any obvious change in recent years. The same cannot be said of the Bank Swallow and the Cliff Swallow. Until a few years ago, the former could be found nesting in large colonies in many areas. Last year it was very uncommon locally. Speirs found a large colony northeast of the Lakehead. It was reported unusually abundant near Lake Erie and it was postulated an unfavorable season in the north had caused many birds to nest south of their usual home. This year again it is very scarce at the Lakehead, few of the old colonies being occupied. The Cliff Swallow, on the contrary, is becoming very common. Col. Dear in 1940 considered this swallow "a very rare summer resident." He noted that Jacobs, a former game warden in the area, had once noted several pairs nesting in O'Connor Township and that I had found an occupied nest at Silver Islet in 1939. They have obviously increased during the past two decades. This season we have found five small colonies locally. K. Denis reports a breeding colony at Geraldton. We saw a few birds at Beardmore on July 22 and we have also seen them in Rainy River and Kenora Districts in recent years.

Ducks are found in small numbers along the local waterfront each summer. This year there are several hundred, the majority apparently loafing males. Perhaps half are Mallard and Pintail drakes undergoing their summer moult. A few Blacks fall in the same category. Numbers of drake Blue-winged Teal are present but were still active after the above species were flightless. The majority of the remainder are American Golden-eyes. Finally there are a few drake Scaup. We have been unable to determine whether these are Greater or Lesser. These birds have probably gathered from a wide surounding area to the Harbor where food is plentiful and they are safe from molestation. Only the occasional Blue-winged Teal, Mallard and Black Duck and a small flock of drake Ring-necked Ducks were present on June 21 at Whitefish Lake where these species nest in considerable numbers. Two Canada Geese were unusual visitors to the Harbor during the first week of July. — *Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William.*

Notes of Interest

AN ALBINO CANADA GOOSE? — During the course of an investigation of a fish-kill on the St. Louis River, near Fond du Lac, a flock of 21 Canada Geese was observed. It was May 19, 1958 and the large birds appeared to have stopped to rest during their northward migration.

In the midst of the flock was a lone snow-white goose. The bird was not a Snow Goose since black was conspiculously absent from its wing tips, and was similar in size to the others in the flock. The goose appeared to be an albino Canada Goose. — *John G. Hale, Bureau of Research and Planning, Duluth, and Jerome Blazevic, Duluth.*

* * *

A RAVEN NESTING OBSERVATION — On May 20, 1958 the author had an opportunity to observe a raven nest.

At the time ravens were seen flying to and from a hole in the face of a 100-foot rock cliff. The nest was located approximately 20 feet below the top of the cliff. The birds appeared to be caring for their young; however, no young birds could be seen in the nest due to the height of the cliff.

The site of this observation was adjacent to Nine Mile Creek, approximately one mile south of Nine Mile Lake, along what is known as the Finland-Cramer Road. Robert Micklus first noted the nesting site in the cliff. Robert Schumacher was also present in the party. — *John G. Hale, Bureau of Research and Planning, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

NESTING RECORD OF RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH — This winter (1957-58) various regular visitors at the feeders at 1971 Princeton Avenue, St. Paul, was a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches. After the snows were over, I still left out a chunk of suet and the nuthatches kept coming. Near the end of April 1958, the pair started looking for a nesting site and found a partly dead plum tree located near the suet (23 ft., 3 in.). There was no sign of hollowness in the tree but the pair started a hole and soon had excavated a cavity leaving a conspicuous pile of chips. The opening is five feet above the ground and the diameter of the opening is 1¼ inches. The bottom of the cavity was lined with feathers and grass. The area around the opening was lined with pitch from perhaps a Blue Spruce as two were within about 50 feet of the nest*. The eggs must have been laid about the beginning of May. On June 9 about five young left the nest. They were still in the area on June 16 as once in a while one of the adults comes for suet for the young. Suet must have been one of the chief foods of the young, since the parents made many trips to and from the feeder. The suet is still out. — *Frank Kelley, St. Paul Audubon Society.*

*Arthur C. Bent in his "Life Histories of North American Birds" states that this habit is common with this species.

CROSSBILLS AND PINE SISKINS AT ITASCA PARK — Occurrences of the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) and the White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) at Itasca State Park during the summer months have been reported by several observers (Hofslund and Marshall, 1955; Morrison, *et al.*, 1955; Swanson, 1943). Most of these records, however, suggest occasional appearances rather than continuous presence during this time of year. The Pine Siskin is of more regular occurrence (Roberts, 1932) and has been stated to nest in the park (Morrison, *et al.*, 1955), although I can find no published records to support this. Lewis (1955) notes that the status of this species is uncertain.

While attending the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station in the park during the summers of 1955 and 1957, I was able to make a few observations of several groups of these birds which remained in the vicinity of the station for most of each of the summers.

On June 2, 1955, Dr. W. D. Stull and I observed a family group of Red Crossbills feeding in tall white Spruces (*Picea glauca*) near the laboratory entrance road. This group consisted of two adults and two young birds which could fly well but still retained traces of down on their heads. From this date through mid-July when observations were discontinued, a group of 4-5 Red Crossbills and occasionally 1-2 White-winged Crossbills was seen almost daily on the station grounds.

In 1957, two Red Crossbills appeared at the station on July 10. By July 15, a flock containing 10-12 Red Crossbills, and 3-4 White-winged Crossbills had developed. On July 24, the flock contained about 25 Red Crossbills and 3-4 White-winged Crossbills. From this date through August 22, when observations were discontinued, a flock of 10-15 Red Crossbills was noted on the station grounds almost daily. These birds fed mainly in the tops of tall White Spruces, but were occasionally seen feeding on the ground among fallen spruce cones.

On July 10, 1957, a flock of about 10 Pine Siskins was found in a Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) stand on LaSalle Trail, near the station. During the next few days other small flocks were seen in Jack Pine and mixed Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) and White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) stands in the eastern part of the park. On July 12, a flock was noted at the station, feeding with the crossbills in tall spruces. By August 9, this flock numbered about 50 birds, and from this date through August 22, a flock containing 15-50 birds was seen daily. This flock fed commonly in the tall White Spruces or beneath them among the fallen cones, but was also noted occasionally in a small spruce planting where the trees were only 15-20 feet high.

Although nesting of crossbills and Pine Siskins in the park seems possible, no direct evidence of this was observed. In view of the erratic habits of these birds, definite observations of nesting activity should be awaited.

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SIGHT RECORD OF LAWRENCE'S WARBLER IN MINNEAPOLIS — On May 22, 1945, I observed a Lawrence's Warbler in front of our home at 2240 West Lake of the Isles Blvd., Minneapolis. The bird was a beautiful specimen in full plumage. Our yard was full of several species of warblers at the time. This hybrid was observed at close range for half an hour through 9x35 B & L binoculars. The plumage markings were identical with color plate and description in Peterson. I recorded all plumage details in my field notes.

Since I had promised to report any unusual field observations to Dr. Roberts, I reported the observation to him along with several other interesting observations in a letter dated August 20, 1945, with copy to Sewall Pettingill.

Dr. Roberts' reply under date of August 22, 1945, is quoted as follows: "I have no personal acquaintance with Lawrence's Warbler or the other hybrid. Observations of Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers in Minnesota so far out of their range should be put on record in one of the ornithological journals if you are sure of your identifications. To be acceptable by critical ornithologists, such birds should be collected as there are too many chances of confusion with similar species."

Since this sight observation has not been previously reported, I have been requested to do so. In doing so I am prompted to ask the question: "Since the Blue-winged Warbler and the Golden-winged Warbler are no longer rarities here in Minnesota, why shouldn't we have both hybrids?" — *Whitney Eastman, Minneapolis.*

* * *

MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER — A NEW SPECIES FOR MINNESOTA — Among the many warblers banded in 1956 at my banding station in Madison, Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota, was a strange one found in a banding trap on June 6. This bird resembled the male Mourning Warbler except for the presence of a white bar across the upper eye lid and a similar bar on the lower lid, giving the bird an incomplete eye ring. This bird was sent to Dr. W. J. Breckenridge at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota for identification. On the basis of published accounts of the differences between Mourning and MacGillivray's Warblers and comparison of this specimen with series of both species, this bird is a MacGillivray's Warbler and represents the first known occurrence of the species in Minnesota. However, Dr. Allan R. Phillips examined the specimen and believed it to be a Mourning Warbler, although not typical.

On May 11, 1958 a second male of the same description appeared in a trap. This, too, was sent to the University of Minnesota Museum where the specimen was examined critically by Dr. Dwain W. Warner. He reports that the two agree closely in general color and in measurements and in these respects they are similar to the Mourning Warbler but that, if we are to continue to consider the MacGillivray's and Mourning Warblers distinct species largely on the basis of the white spots or bars above and below the eye (at least in breeding males), these specimens are MacGillivray's Warblers. He believes also that these two individuals may represent intergrades between the two species and that if these intergrades are representatives of an intermediate population, then the two species are really one species. — *Mrs. Charles E. Peterson, Madison, Minn.*

GIRL SCOUT WINDOW — A Snowy Owl peered solemnly and steadfastly from the window's depths. An early passerby stopped abruptly, "Well, really, now, what's this? An owl? Why, there's a pheasant, too. And a bluebird . . ."

Then she read the big sign which explained this different decor in Bailey and Bailey's department store window. It was Girl Scout week, March 8-15, and Troop 42, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona, was presenting an exhibit of birds, part of requirements for earning a bird badge.

When 13 young girls prepare a springtime display on birds, they are bound to awaken much interest in a timely subject. They rouse enthusiasm not only in themselves, but also in a nature-loving public. Best of all, these girls reassured adults who studied the varied contents of the window that teen-agers are not excusively occupied with rock an' roll!

Prominently shown in the display were recent copies of MOU's *Flicker*, the 1957 article on "Aids to Identification," by Winona's own Brother Theodore, centered for easy reading. Nearby was a picture of the Common Loon, candidate for our official state bird, on which on editorial had just appeared in the *Flicker*.

One section of the window was devoted to mounted bird specimens, pamphlets, and bulletins from the Winona office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Here the splendid pheasant, a Sharp-tailed Grouse, bluebird, oriole, towhee, and Hungarian Partridge formed a colorful grouping which emphasized conservation.

From the Winona Public Library a selection of bird books had been procured by the Scouts. Saunder's *Bird Songs, Where to Find Birds in Minnesota, Land Birds of America* and Peterson's new *Bird Anthology*, to name a few, gave promise for those who found their interest whetted by the beautifully jacketed volumes.

A sizeable collection of bird nests, different types of feeders and bird houses, and a large easel with the Minneapolis Tribune's "Guide to Upper Midwest Birds," completed the display, all set against the deep green of an eight-foot pine tree.

The 13 young ladies were awarded their bird badges at a Court of Awards at the Cathedral in May. Some are more proficient in the field than others, of course, but the valuable lesson they all learned as they worked for this badge is that the study and watching of birds can be a fascinating, wonderful hobby, with challenge for each individual's capacity to see, to hear, and to love. — *Grace G. Dahm, Bird Badge Consultant, Girl Scout Council, Winona.*

* * *

BIRD BANDING — The following is a list of birds banded in Minnesota during the year 1957:

A.O.U. No.	*Species*	*No. Banded*
51	Herring Gull	468
132	Mallard	1
191	Least Bittern	2
201	Green Heron	1
212	Virginia Rail	1
234	American Knot	1
242	Least Sandpiper	2
246	Semipalmated Sandpiper	1
247	Western Sandpiper	1
248	Sanderling	6
263	Spotted Sandpiper	2
270	Black-bellied Plover	1
274	Semipalmated Plover	1
316	Mourning Dove	17
332	Sharp-shinned Hawk	69
337	Red-tailed Hawk	6
356	Duck Hawk	1
360	Sparrow Hawk	2
373	Screech Owl	1
375	Great Horned Owl	2
387	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4
388	Black-billed Cuckoo	2
390	Belted Kingfisher	4
393	Hairy Woodpecker	19

A.O.U. No.	Species	No. Banded
394	Downy Woodpecker	56
406	Red-headed Woodpecker	2
409	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2
412	Yellow-shafted Flicker	5
420	Nighthawk	2
428	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2
456	Eastern Phoebe	9
461	Eastern Wood Pewee	4
463	Yellowbellied Flycatcher	7
466	Alder Flycatcher	2
467	Least Flycatcher	30
477	Blue Jay	67
493	Starling	363
495	Cowbird	62
498	Red-winged Blackbird	31
501	Eastern Meadowlark	1
507	Baltimore Oriole	3
511.9	Bronzed Grackle	137
514	Evening Grosbeak	11
517	Purple Finch	3
528	Common Redpoll	1
529	American Goldfinch	48
536	Lapland Longspur	2
540	Vesper Sparrow	1
542	Savannah Sparrow	6
553	Harris's Sparrow	47
554	White-crowned Sparrow	39
558	White-throated Sparrow	267
559	Tree Sparrow	60
560	Chipping Sparrow	20
561	Clay-colored Sparrow	6
563	Field Sparrow	45
567	Slate-colored Junco	552
567.9	Oregon Junco	3
581	Song Sparrow	80
583	Lincoln's Sparrow	32
584	Swamp Sparrow	33
585	Fox Sparrow	12
587	Red-eyed Towhee	1
593	Cardinal	16
595	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11
598	Indigo Bunting	11
608	Scarlet Tanager	1
611	Purple Martin	4
612	Cliff Swallow	17
613	Barn Swallow	97
614	Tree Swallow	106
616	Bank Swallow	6
617	Rough-winged Swallow	5
619	Cedar Waxwing	58
624	Red-eyed Vireo	10
627	Warbling Vireo	3
636	Black-and-white Warbler	2
641	Blue-winged Warbler	1
645	Nashville Warbler	4
646	Orange-crowned Warbler	10
647	Tennessee Warbler	11
648	Parula Warbler	1
652	Yellow Warbler	25
655	Mrytle Warbler	16
657	Magnolia Warbler	1
659	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
660	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
672	Palm Warbler	3
674	Ovenbird	4
675	Northern Waterthrush	4
678	Connecticut Warbler	1
679	Mourning Warbler	3
681	Yellowthroat	10
685	Wilson's Warbler	5
687	Redstart	14
704	Catbird	69
705	Brown Thrasher	18
721	House Wren	58
722	Winter Wren	1
725	Long-billed Marsh Wren	1
726	Brown Creeper	3
727	White-breasted Nuthatch	25
728	Red-breasted Nuthatch	14
731	Tufted Titmouse	2
735	Black-capped Chickadee	110
748	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
749	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8
758	Olive-backed Thrush	18
759	Hermit Thrush	2
761	Robin	159
766	Eastern Bluebird	58
Total species, 111; Total individuals 3678		

Contributors: Bob R. Cohen, Harry H. Goehring, P. B. Hofslund, Walter A. Jiracek, Carl Johnson, Gary C. Kuyava, Boyd M. Lien (compiler), Mrs. Charles E. Peterson, Walter E. Pratt, Mrs. E. R. Selnes, Forest V. Strnad, Dana R. Struthers.

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The Flicker

VOLUME 30 DECEMBER 1958 NUMBER 4

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
PERMANENT ADDRESS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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THE FLICKER

Organ of the *Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.* Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. *The Flicker* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for members: Active, $2.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Life, $50; Patron, $100 or more. All articles and communications for publications should be sent to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

THE COVER

Winter on the Cascades by Orwin Rustad

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

To date I have written my page for adult M.O.U. members. This article is meant for M.O.U. parents to be read and discussed with their children, and for our younger members whom I am anxious to reach in a more tangible way. They are our active members of tomorrow who will provide our society with continuity and new ideas.

Birdwatchers are apt to concentrate on thinking of the different kinds of birds and the number of species to be located on a given field trip. But there can be real interest, too, in narrowing our subject matter. Have you ever given detailed attention to a bird's feathers? And to wonder why birds have feathers and how they care for them? Did you know that a feather is a highly modified adaptation of the scale of its reptilian ancestor?

Not only can a study of feathers be fascinating, but it can be extremely helpful for those young boys looking forward to earning merit badges in wild life as Eagle Scouts.

Most people think of feathers first from the standpoint of beauty and appearance. The coloration is a means of identification, an aid to the bird in concealment, and a means of attracting attention — so appearance is important. A grouse in its natural habitat is almost invisible. Have you ever tried to find a plover nest on a rock shoreline? A male cardinal is as conspicuous as can be. Is this brilliant color intended to attract a mate, or to detract onlookers from a nearby nest? The habitat of the bird may determine in a large measure its color and the need it has for protection.

Even birds with bright feathers do not for the most part wear them through the entire year. Most do so during the mating season only. Some change color with age, such as the drab Herring Gull that becomes white only when three years old. Have you ever been fooled by the colorful Bob-o-link with its conspicuous yellow and white patches when he becomes a drab sparrow color in the fall? Or our Common Gold-finch with its brilliant yellow and black summer dress, when he, too, takes on the drab dress of fall?

Another interesting phase of feathers is the difference found in the young of nesting birds. These are generally divided into two groups, one the birds born naked or nearly so, the other, those protected by a generous covering of down at birth. It makes a difference in the parental care required; for in the first group, a long period of care is necessary while the birds remain in the nest growing feathers needed for flight. The second group requires relatively little care from the parent and the young birds are able to hustle about almost as soon as hatched.

A feather is an unusual and distinctive structure, perhaps the most specialized and remarkable adaptation to be found in nature. Flight feathers look delicate, but are the strongest structures known in nature in comparison to their size and weight. In spite of this strength, they do require care from the owners. Thus, though a bird's feathers may appear to be immaculate and indestructible, the strain and constant use to which they are subjected in flight and in the varied activities of the birds results in wear and tear quite similar to that of human clothing. The problem of renewing feathers is more difficult than getting new clothes. Since a bird does not have a second outfit handy, and since his feathers have more purpose than adornment and warmth, it cannot well spare all plumage at one time. It needs its plumage as a protection from heat, cold, moisture, and to fly in order to keep out of range of its enemies and to aid in the seeking of food. Some birds, as martins, feed almost entirely while on the wing. (Continued on page 126)

Waterfowl Brood Studies, Lake Itasca, Minn.[1]

by

William H. Marshall

The major emphasis on waterfowl production studies and on management of specific areas for breeding waterfowl has been placed on the prairie areas of Minnesota and indeed of the continent. This report presents data on waterfowl broods observed in mid-summer over a five year period in a lake surrounded by forest cover. These data are then compared, insofar as possible, with information on nearby areas.

The studies reported here were carried out each summer from 1954 through 1958 by two members of the Institute for High School Teachers of Biology at the Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station. The men carrying them out were as follows: 1954 — Warren Classon and Nick Zackowski; 1955 — Warren Doeskin and Duane Van der Schaaf; 1956 — Richard Anderson and Calvin Ryder; 1957 — Albert Brady and John Lurain; 1958 — Dean Brown and Orris Wibe. Each year the men prepared a detailed report of their field work and submitted it to the leader of the Institute — Dr. P. B. Hofslund in 1954 and Dr. William D. Stull in subsequent years. John Lurain compiled a four-year report in 1957 which was used as the basis for this five-year summary. The author planned the operations and had close contact with the workers during the various field seasons.

The primary purpose of the field studies was to give the biology teachers an experience in field research. Teachers chose this project because of their interest in birds and other animals associated with aquatic habitats. They were not experienced waterfowl biologists — rather they were well trained general biologists with an intense interest in learning more about the outdoor phases of biology. The combination of these circumstances allows for interpretation of the broad aspects of brood occurrence rather than detailed analysis.

The study was limited to Lake Itasca and its approximately 14.4 miles of shoreline. Upland shoreline vegetation, as determined from a cover type map of Itasca State Park was prepared by Merle Meyer of the University of Minnesota in 1953, recorded in linear miles includes: 5.0 spruce-balsam, 3.0 aspen, 3.4 mowed grass recreational areas, 1.3 marsh, 0.8 lowland brush, 0.6 hardwoods, 0.3 muskeg bog and a trace of tamarack. A relatively narrow band of aquatic emergents, chiefly wild rice, hard stem bulrush and yellow water lilies existed around most of the lake shoreline. The 1.3 miles of marsh areas were chiefly floating sedge mats extending into the lake in certain bays. Most of the lake shore has never been "cleaned up," so that there are many windfalls, chiefly spruce-balsam, extending into the lake.

All data were secured by direct observation. Two general methods were employed: cruising slowly near the shoreline in canoe, rowboat, or both with motor, and, in a few instances, where it seemed practical, walking the shoreline in an effort to flush broods and nesting females. Eight x 30 field glasses and a 20x telescope mounted on a shotgun stock were used to facilitate observations. Two men carried out the field surveys since it was found to be most difficult to handle a boat and make careful observations at the same time.

The lake's natural topography made

1/Paper No. 4051 Scientific Journal Series. Minnesota Agricutural Experiment Station, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

division into three study areas: north, east, and west arms, logical and simple. All significant observations were recorded on large scale outline maps of the lake's arms. The exact location, date, time, species, number, age of brood, and a remarks section were recorded on the maps. Special attention was given to the remarks section, so that detailed information was available for positive identification of new broods and to attempt to eliminate the recounting of a brood previously sighted.

Broods found in an area where previous sightings had been made were recorded for data on movements only, unless a combination of factors such as species, number of young, and estimated age class of young indicated it must be a new brood (Evans, Hawkins, and Marshall 195....). Sightings were not included until future observations proved them to be a new brood.

The periods of study each year were between June 13 and July 17. The time spent in hours of observation during each summer varied as follows: 1954, 36; 1955, 35.5; 1956, 60.5; 1957, 54; 1958, 57 hours. Approximately the same amount of time was spent in each arm of the lake during each summer of observation. Further the program was planned each year so that considerable amounts of each daylight hour were spent on the lake. Thus, in 1958 ten hours were spent on the lake between dawn and seven a.m.; 14 hours between seven and noon; 20 hours between noon and six p.m.; and 13 hours between six p.m. and dark.

During the years a total of 74 broods were sighted and positively identified as to species (Table 1). These are thought to represent minimum figures since, as described above, particular care was taken to record the occurrence, and the number of broods each year was relatively small so as to reduce chances of duplication. The lowest number of broods seen was in 1957 when only seven were sighted. This was due to the very high rainfall of that summer—10.8 inches with 5.8 inches being recorded on June 25. As a result of these unusually heavy rains the lake levels were abnormally high and many of the floating bogs made suitable for broods so that they could not be observed from a boat.

Examination of Table 1 shows that Mallard broods were by far the most common on the lake — nearly two thirds of the records being of that species. Woodducks were next in abundance with 11 broods. The Hooded Merganser and Blue-wing Teal together made up about a fifth of the total number. Only one Ring-neck brood was seen. Brood behavior studies elsewhere indicate that the Mallard brood is probably one of the most elusive with the Hooded Merganser, Blue-wing Teal and Ring-neck being more easily observed as they tend to move into open water on disturbance. This tends to support the thought that these represent minimum figures for the lake.

TABLE 1. MINIMUM NUMBER OF BROODS ON LAKE ITASCA JUNE 15 - JULY 15, 1954 THROUGH 1958

Species	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*	*Total*
Mallard	5	10	16	6	12	49
Wood Duck	2	3	5	0	1	11
Hooded Merganser	2	0	0	0	5	7
Blue-wing	1	0	0	1	4	6
Ring-neck	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	11	13	21	7	22	74

TABLE 2. MINIMUM PRODUCTION WATERFOWL ON LAKE ITASCA FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD

Species	*Av. Brood size*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*	*Av. No. young*
Mallard	7.3	37	73	117	44	88	72
Wood Duck	9.2	18	28	46	0	9	20
Hooded Merganser	5.8	12	0	0	0	29	6
Blue-wing Teal	7.5	8	0	0	8	30	9
Ring-neck	7.8	8	0	0	0	0	2
Total		83	101	163	52	156	111

The average annual waterfowl production for the lake on the basis of these data during the five-year period is 111 ducklings (Table 2). This is based on the average brood size for each species as recorded on the lake (except for the Ring-neck which is based on data obtained by Arthur Goodwin in the park). Because of the circumstances in 1957, when only 52 ducklings were recorded, this average annual production figure might well be estimated at 125 ducklings.

The relationships of broods to shoreline was of interest. As described, there were eight timber types on the lake shore. However, there was a band of emergents almost entirely around the lake — this was used intensively for feeding activities and was available adjacent to all types. Surprisingly, as shown in Table 3, well over half the broods were sighted along the spruce-balsam shorelines with some 13 on the marsh or sedgemat areas. On a broods per mile basis these types had nearly equal ratings. The other types had infrequent sightings.

As a result of general observations this was thought to be due to the roosting facilities in the spruce-fir areas. Here many trees completely or partially fallen into the lake can be found. The Mallards, in particular, used these trees for cover and for resting sites. Many observations on feeding indicated the broods were gleaning insects from the water surface — such food was abundant in all locations during the summer months.

Brood movements were charted during each year's survey, and in several in-

TABLE 3. BROOD SIGHTING IN RELATION TO UPLAND COVER FOR FIVE YEAR PERIOD

Vegetation	*Miles of Shoreline*	*No. of Sightings*	*Broods per Mile*
Spruce-Balsam	5.0	45	9/1
Marsh (Sedge)	1.3	13	10/1
Lowland Brush	0.8	4	5/1
Hardwoods	0.6	3	5/1
Aspen	3.0	4	1/1
Tamarack	T	2	....
Muskeg Bog	0.3	1	3/1
Others	3.4	2	1/2
Total	14.4	74	

Broods/mile/year = 74 ÷ 14.4 = 1 brood/mile/year.

stances these movements were quite extensive. In 1955, a Wood Duck brood was sighted for the first time June 18, on the east shore of the west arm of the lake. Seven days later, June 25, the same brood was seen over a mile south, and on the west shore. On July 5, the brood was again sighted, this time ¾ of a mile north on the same side of the lake. In 1956, a Mallard brood was sighted on the west shore of the north arm of the lake on June 26. This brood moved a mile south and across the lake where it was seen on June 29. On July 10, the brood was again observed, this time at the southern tip of Schoolcraft Island ¼ mile northwest of its last location. Another Mallard brood was sighted on six different occasions during 1956. It ranged over a mile north and south on the east arm of the lake, being seen four times on the west shore and twice on the east side. In 1957 two movements worthy of mention were observed. A Mallard brood was seen on three different occasions on the west shore of the north arm of the lake. The first and last sightings were over ¾ mile apart. The other movement involved the crossing of a Blue-winged Teal brood from the west side of Schoolcraft Island, across the lake to the west shoreline of the north arm.

It is of interest to compare these data on species of waterfowl broods on Lake Itasca with other information from nearby areas.

In 1957 and 1958 Richard Chambers, also of the High School Institute, recorded waterfowl seen on other lakes scattered throughout the park while estimating loon populations. Combining his two years' data one finds that he recorded broods of 12 Mallards, 4 Hooded Mergansers, 2 Wood Ducks and 2 Ringnecked Ducks. Thus there was a roughly similar occurrence by species on the larger lakes of the park.

In contrast, Arthur Goodwin, in studies on 38 water areas which were mostly small marshy potholes in 4½ square miles lying in the forests south of Itasca Lake but in the park, recorded 9 Ringneck Duck broods, 5 Mallard broods, 5 Hooded Merganser broods, 4 Wood Duck broods, and 1 Goldeneye brood. The comparison here shows a preference of Ringneck Ducks for the small water areas. Some of the ponds studied were quite close to Lake Itasca. Mr. Goodwin reported almost no movement by Ringneck broods from pond to pond until flying age was reached in August.

The first, and still classic study of waterfowl production on forested areas in northern Minnesota was that by Stoudt (1938) on the Chippewa National Forest. He records data on broods sighted along 71.0 miles of shoreline of eutrophic lakes similar to Lake Itasca. Twenty-eight broods of the following species were sighted — 10 Goldeneye, 8 Blue-winged Teal, 7 Mallard, 1 each of Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, and American Merganser. The striking contrast here is in the Goldeneye Duck — not recorded during this study. Stoudt reported Ring-neck broods but all on the small water bodies as did Goodwin.

A very great difference in species is noted between this Lake Itasca study and that of Farmes (1956) for the prairie pothole area of Mahnomen County some 50 miles west. During 1950, 51, and 52 Farmes sighted 26 duck broods and 14 coot broods on 15 potholes. The waterfowl were represented as follows: Canvas-back 8, Blue-wing Teal 6, Ringneck 5, Mallard 3, Pintail 2, and Ruddy 2. This different species composition is undoubtedly the result of the prairie habitat in contrast to the forested area lake habitat.

This information indicates a relatively low production, chiefly of Mallards, on a per mile of shoreline basis in eutrophic lakes surrounded by forest types. However, when one visualizes the large number of lakes of this type in the

forested regions of Minnesota, it becomes apparent that there is a considerable production of waterfowl. It demonstrates also the versatility of the Mallard Duck in relation to breeding habitat — undoubtedly one reason why this species is our major one in the Mississippi Flyway.

The contrast in Ring-neck production on Lake Itasca with that of small forested bodies is also of interest. Pointing out again that we must consider a variety of aquatic habitats in assessing the value of areas for production of waterfowl.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE ..... (Continued from page 121)

The renewal of feathers must be accomplished in such manner, therefore, to interfere as little as possible with the bird's activities. The process is known as moult. It is a remarkable accomplishment wherein for the most part every feather is shed and replaced and in those birds that do not change color, we would not be aware it was happening by casual observation. It is systematic as can be, starting at a certain point and working on from there and with a few feathers being shed and the new growing at one and the same time, thus in most birds the flight is not impaired. An exception is found in some, such as ducks, that have other means than feathers to make possible avoiding their enemies and for seeking food, and these moult most of their primary feathers at one time, during which period they cannot fly.

Most birds change plumage once a year, some twice, and others only as renewal is required, and some for special reasons only. Most renewal is by moult. August is the common month for moulting, and there is a great variation in the time taken. However, all change in color is not the result of moult. A second method is known as "feather wear." The feathers may have a tip colored differently than the main portion which gives the general color to winter plumage, and as this tip wears off the color of the breeding plumage appears. So we find robins' breasts becoming redder in spring when the gray tips of winter wear off. Some change in color results from the wearing away of a part of the feather structure known as the barbs.

It takes much energy for the birds to renew their dress, and so the time of moult becomes a silent, inactive time for them, where they seek to be alone, as we often do when ill. The birds seem to disappear, then when the moult is complete to reappear in large numbers. Actually they were around all the time, but difficult to spot. It will always lend real enjoyment to your study of birds to pay attention to the change in dress from season to season. It does not need to be a detailed scientific study, but can be careful observance in the field.

I think our M.O.U. should organize some junior groups, such as the Junior Audubon Society, and that we should have at least one page or article in the *Flicker* directed to such groups. What do you think?

Sincerely,
William Luwe, President

GASPE DIARY II

The Minneapolis Bird Club's second summer field trip to the Gaspe Peninsula came about because of the enjoyable experiences of the first trip in 1954. The accounts of the adventures of the 1954 trippers and the original Gaspe Diary together with the fascinating attraction of the seabirds, Bonaventure Island and the scenic grandeur of the Gaspe Peninsula prompted people to request a second field trip.

The policy of the Minneapolis Bird Club is that field trips must be self sustaining financially and must be kept at cost. Under this arrangement the trip leader takes the responsibility of making all reservations for lodging, transportation, side trips and in some cases meals. There are no commercial tourist routing services used to add to the cost.

The making of arrangements began nine months previous to the date of the trip. The trip dates were from July 12 to 27, 1958. The 35 members of the group traveled by a chartered Jefferson bus which was air conditioned and of the latest model. We traveled about 3600 miles by the most direct routes so as to afford as much time as possible at Perce and Bonaventure Island. The cost of the food, transportation, and lodging was set at $200.00. This figure included several boat rides to the island. After the closing of the books on this trip, each person received his share of the money not used on the trip. The lodgings were of first class nature as recommended by the AAA.

The purpose of this trip was to see oceanic birds, to see wonderful scenery, and to enjoy 16 days with people with a common interest. The following is a day by day account of our many interesting experiences as written by members of the trip. *Helen Lien, Trip Leader*

Saturday, July 12, 1958 — Left our Minneapolis Bus Station at 8:30 a.m. as scheduled. A beautiful sunshiny day gave the start of our trek to the far eastern coast of Canada a joyous beginning. En route to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, everyone was busily engaged in chatter and getting acquainted. Around 11 o'clock we were already in Chippewa Falls and having our first noonday lunch. Spent my time for lunch visiting with friends and a cousin as this was an old vacation rendezvous of mine.

As our bus zipped along the county highway, noticed that the countryside was unusually green for July. Riding on we began to see the wooded ridges where large swatches of timber had been cut for ski runs. This is the wonderful ski area of Wausau, Wisconsin. Here we had a half hour rest stop. Partook of a light lunch at the Bon Ton Cafe, one of the best in Wausau.

Came into some farm area where many fields were fenced in with stone, something we do not see very often. In early afternoon passed through a rain shower. The clouds were heavy thunder heads with grayish dark clouds intermixed drooping and dropping their rain on the fields in the distance. Now we pass by a rich dairying area not too far from Green Bay, Wisconsin. The farm homes are very well kept and have beautiful yards and flower gardens. The outlying or suburban area of Green Bay has many new homes, just the same as most of our cities have since the building surge after the war. Green Bay would be the best spot for a stopover; have never seen so many large and modern motels. Our afternoon half hour stop at 4:00 p.m. was in Green Bay. Almost everyone struck out for a walk down the main drag. Naturally many of us ended up by indulging in some light refreshment, the place was an elite candy shop where the fare was elegant. Ordered a wonderful fresh fruit sundae.

Thirty to 40 miles more and we will be in Manitowoc. Arrived there about 5:45 p.m. Helen Lien, our busy leader, checked our reservation on the ferry at the dock office. While waiting for this maneuver, some of us took advantage of the picturesque waterfront for pictures of the gulls and the dock area.

Have five hours to kill before the ferry takes off at 11:00 p.m. Our trustworthy bus took us a short way to the downtown district. Disembarked on the main street of town. Groups of twos, threes, and fours were seen perusing the streets of Manitowoc for that elusive superb restaurant with the special meal of the day. This turned out to be a chore as we were a little weary from the day's long ride. After looking over all the available eateries we walked back to the Savoy for a mediocre meal, at least we were sustained for a few more hours of that day. Still, we were energetic enough to go hiking back to the waterfront. Walked almost the full length of the breakwater; here the breeze from the lake was almost cold, but refreshing. The breakwater was dotted with fishermen leisurely spending the last hours of sunlight trying for that big one. Watched the twilight on the lake from a grassy knoll where we had literally flopped down from breathlessness after a rather steep climb from the lake. Walked through the residential part of Manitowoc and back to the hotel. The main lobby with its inviting easy chairs was filled with many weary trippers who were either watching the TV or cat napping. Couldn't find a place to rest my weary bones, so we're out on the street again, walking, walking, walking. Not too far down the street ran into an inviting icecream parlor. Refreshed ourselves with icecream and cool drinks.

By 9:30 p.m. the bus was waiting for us, and we boarded it once more for the ferry. Waited sometime before we could board the boat. Found our berths and unloaded our gear before going out again to see what was doing. Many people were watching the diesel engine switching the empties out and kicking in the loaded box cars. In the meantime, our patient bus driver was waiting for his turn to run in our bus which was the last vehicle to come on board.

Topped off the first evening of our jaunt by a visit to the main dining room for a nightcap snack. Now satisfied that a little rest will do for the early departure on the morrow and another full day to come. *Helene Peltier*

Sunday, July 13, 1958 — We got off the ferry at 6:30 a.m. at Ludington, Michigan after a smooth crossing. In downtown Ludington some ate at Old Hamlin and others at Gibbs Restaurant. One of the members had walked about a block before she realized that she had her bill and money in her hand, but being an honest person, she went back and paid.

The rest stop was at Bay City at 10:30 a.m. Driving was slow because of many cars on the road. One of the interesting towns we went through was Midland, where the Dow Chemical Company, one of the largest in the world, is located. We by-passed Flint to eliminate traffic.

We had lunch in Mavis Restaurant in Port Huron at 1:15 p.m. and then crossed the Blue Water Bridge, a tall bridge between the U.S. and Canada. Here we went through customs. We started through at 2:30 and left at 4:20, but lost an hour because of the time change.

We had a rest stop at Ingersoll at 6:20 and arrived at Toronto at 8:00 p.m. We stayed at the Sunnyside Motor Hotel located on a busy highway on Lake Ontario. Many workers were busy on the road in preparation for its dedication by Princess Margaret in August.

Some went on a tour of the town, but most of the group were satisfied to end the day in the air conditioned hotel rooms. *John Jones, Magician, Mary Elwood, the Boss*

Monday, July 14, 1958 — After breakfast at the Sunnyside Motel at Toronto, we started out on our day's trip. Men

with tractors were working on the highway which passed the motel. They were hoping to have this work completed before Princess Margaret's visit later this summer. As we rode along part of Toronto's 31 mile shoreline along Lake Ontario, we saw Ring-billed Gulls and Black Ducks on the breakwater.

We passed the National Exposition Buildings where the world's largest annual exhibition is held for two weeks beginning the last week in August. Adjoining these buildings were those of the Royal Fair. This fair is held annually in November. It features a horse race and as we passed by we saw several horses having a workout.

At Coburg, Marie Dressler's birthplace, we had a rest stop. Some of our group gathered at the information booth for maps and free literature. At Coburg and beyond we saw many apple orchards.

We continued along Lake Ontario to Kingston where we had our noon meal. Here trips are available to the Thousand Islands. From Kingston we rode along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River and at Gananoqua entered the area called "The Thousand Islands." The river is dotted with wooded islands and we enjoyed our ride through this scenic area.

Beyond Brockville, the highway followed a canal where ocean boats were moored. This canal terminated at Cornwall. Here we had a rest stop. At Cornwall may be seen the International Bridge over the St. Lawrence River leading to Rooseveltown, New York.

We continued on to Montreal where Dave drove to a garage for refueling the bus. Then we were driven to the Jacques Cartier Motel where we had dinner and comfortable beds. *Rebecca Olson*

Tuesday, July 15, 1958 — After a restful night at Jacques Cartier Motel, we left Montreal at 8 a.m. A mile down the highway Hattie remembered that her "spectator chair" was left behind at the motel. David, our bus driver very kindly returned and got it.

As we proceeded through the city of Montreal we noticed that many of their homes and apartment buildings had outside stairways. A reason was given that they built in this style as their taxes were less. The Elwoods, Quams, and Irene K. entertained the group with songs from the Stauffeur Seat (reducing system. (We were fortunate on our tour to have this back seat empty and only used it when we wished. A tour from New York going to Nova Scotia had 37 in their group and five had to sit on the back seat all the time.)

We crossed the toll bridge and followed the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. We passed through many quaint French villages. Many of the homes had lovely shrines. Their homes were decorated with interesting bannisters, shutters and risers, all of which had many different designs cut on them. These were sketched by Edna B. and Irene K.

We had a rest stop at Sorel — coffee, icecream, etc.

As we continued our journey along the river the card table was taken over by Ann Warner and Florence Messer who were the day champions, Clara Belle and Delores being the losers.

Rene H. gave his daily French lesson. One thing we learned, a "chemise" in Montreal meant a man's shirt.

At noon we stopped at Deschaillons for lunch at Manior Beau Se Jour. The French of some of the members of the group didn't seem to be too fluent as several received duplicate orders. The orders were something like this. "I'll have a cheese sandwich, too," another, "I'll take strawberries, too." After a long wait the proprietor, who waited on our group brought double orders and food that wasn't ordered. It didn't take the group long to decide what should be done with the extra orders.

After lunch, continuing our trip along the beautiful St. Lawrence we saw many narrow strip farms separated by wood-

en rail fences. There were sixteen strip farms to a mile, extending quite a way inland. Along the road side, we saw many beautiful wild flowers, some new to us: vetch, devil's paint brush, buttercup, blue bell, cow parsnip, iris (blue flag), campion, etc.

In the villages many of the homes were painted multi-colored, as many as five different colors on one house. There were outdoor ovens with fresh baked bread for sale, and buckets in the wells in some of the yards.

At 3:30 we reached Montmagny where we had our snicker-snackers. Erda and Severena paid their ice cream bets to John and Agnes.

We saw several large boats on the St. Lawrence as we were going eastward. Lillian took her daily gymnastics and gave a few tips on how to relax while riding on a bus.

We stopped at Trois Pistoles where Helen L. verified her confirmation at Victor Hotel for the following week.

(Editor's note: The manager nearly passed out when he saw her coming and said, "No, not tonight?")

Another 50 miles of beautiful agricultural and fishing villages with French or Indian names brought us to Mount Joli where we stopped for the evening.

Florence Messer was given the names of 23 different birds seen by various members of the group during the day.

Another very eventful day to add to our enjoyable tour so well planned by Helen and Boyd Lien. *Agnes Then*

Wednesday, July 16, 1958 — Enroute from Mont Joli, P.Q. On our last lap to Gapse Bay and to our destination, Perce Manor. All aboard on bus about 8 a.m. Partly cloudy. The scenery has been very interesting all along and has been all through the day. The wild flowers grow in profusion and the fields are covered with "Shasta Daisies," and all along the roadsides sprinkled with purple vetch were iris, buttercup, and many others of which we do not know their names. We stopped at "Madeleines" for snicker-snacker, and were almost in hysterics as Carl got confused with the rest rooms. It seems like the people are modernizing rapidly. Lillian saw a dog and cat house duplex, upper for cat, lower for dog. The bird houses are very gay in colors with tin roofs and many fancy shapes. We saw three bird homes in two window sills with "No Vacancy" signs. The open stone ovens with fresh bread for sale were very impressive. The high and low waterfalls, and covered bridges, the beautiful pine woods were sights to behold. We came upon trays of drying codfish, lobster cages, and drying nets. Dog carts seem to be popular for peddling wares. In St. Anne des Monts a mobile unit was busy with T.B. checkup for families. As we reached our destination, Perce, about 5:30 p.m. we were glad as the roads had not been too good. In some places a few of us had walked as the bus couldn't make the steep grades. *Lillian Malick, Delores Elwood*

Note: Our lunch stop at Madeline proved to be a hilarious adventure. As the trip leader stepped from the bus she was surprised to be greeted by the innkeeper who said he had heard we were coming and knew all about our trip. After ordering lunch, several inquired as to the facilities and were told they were upstairs. Upon reaching the top of the stairs we were told by the gentleman waiting that at this time he was no gentleman, we would have to fall in line behind. After waiting for sometime, a French speaking gentleman came up the stairs and was greeted with "Sorry, we were here first, you'll have to get at the end of the line." After taking a puzzled look, he smiled, went down the hall and motioned for the line to follow. The line raced down the hall, the first in line looked in the door and saw only the wash bowl, and said, "That's not what we want," and raced back to the original door with the line following. The French Canadian gentleman shook his head and went down stairs. After waiting several minutes, one of the trip members came down the hall and made the group real-

ize they were waiting at someone's bedroom door, and at that there was another race down to the end of the hall. When the group returned to the dining hall, the helpful French speaking gentleman sat grinning from ear to ear.

At one table the waitress was told in French by Rene Hurtubise that the other gentleman at the table became violent if he did not have his coffee immediately. No one else at the table understood French and wondered why they were given such prompt service by such a frightened and trembling waitress.

Thursday, July 17, 1958 — On this day, our first at Perce, a boat trip to Bonaventure Island had been planned. We all gathered at the pier at 9:00 o'clock in the morning to board the Sanctuary. After cruising around the island to view the birds resting and nesting on the cliffs, we landed at 10:15. We had seen the Black Guillemot, the Common Murre, Razor-billed Auk, kittiwakes, and gannets we saw by the thousand.

As we prepared to start trekking about the island we were issued a lunch of sandwiches, pop, and a dessert. Most of us devoured the food before we even started, thinking that was the easiest way to carry it. A small house on the island served food also, so we were ready to patronize them when we again returned in the afternoon. Some of the ladies who thought the trail pretty rough, elected to ride on an improvised one horse shay. The rest of us left in parties of six or eight to hunt down the gannets with binoculars and cameras.

We walked through fields of white daisies, blue bells, yellow hawkweed, red burdock and beautiful purple vetch. The White-throated Sparrow entertained us with his cheery little call much of the way. American Goldfinches also were sighted. When we reached the wooded area we saw the bunch-berry, twin flower, ferns, buttercups, Queen Anne's Lace, ground pine, wood sorrel, ladies tresses and dogwood. The cow parsnips raised their blooms high above everything else.

When the cliff was reached we sat down on a slope and watched the gannets building their nests, feeding their young, swooping and gliding about over the water. The birds on the top rocks seemed to have no fear and allowed us to get quite close to them. The others we viewed through glasses.

In returning to our starting point many of the hardier members chose the long way around and it turned out to be pretty long and rugged. The rest of us got back first and ate sandwiches, fresh rhubarb pie, with coffee and tea at the little lodge.

Hattie Day took a bad fall on the porch of the lodge but did not suffer any immediate ill effects. Lillian Malick sat down at the table on a narrow log stool and went right on over backward but got up laughing.

While Lillian was falling, Frances Rogers jumped up to help her and nearly fell down from stumbling over a large rock used as a door stop. While someone was catching Frances, somebody else tipped over a vase of greenery on a table and water ran in a stream over the floor. A good demonstration of chain reaction.*

At 3 p.m. some were still missing from the group but returned wet and tired shortly after that. A lovely fire was burning in the fireplace so some took off their shoes and stockings and tried to dry them out. Around 4:00 p.m. we prepared for the three mile boat trip back to the mainland. The wind had risen and when we got out from the lee of the island the waves were really high. We tossed and pitched and water splashed inside the boat. Everyone was laughing and in general good spirits — nobody showed any fear.

At dinnertime there was much excitement when what was thought to be a school of porpoises playing about entered the bay in front of our hotel. This turned out to be the incoming tide running over some projecting rocks. At least it caused a lot of speculation and fun.

Agnes and Edna had to improvise a dark room in the basement to check on a movie film that night. *Clara Belle Thoreson*

*Talk about chain of reactions, who should come walking in barefoot right through the puddle of water but Dr. Carl. You should have seen his face.

Friday, July 18, 1958 — July 18 at Perce was a very beautiful day. It was the first day that bird clubbers were on their own as far as program was concerned, therefore they all headed out as small groups for different places of interest. They could be seen throughout the day exploring the waterfront, the foothill mountains, the interesting places in town and some just enjoying the rest at the hotel. Throughout the day I couldn't help but give silent thanks for the terrific job Helen Lien has done in arranging the trip itinerary. After a satisfying evening dinner, many members attended the town's theatre and enjoyed Judy Holliday in the "Solid Gold Cadillac." We all returned to the hotel tired but happy at 11:30. *Dr. Carl Elwood*

Saturday, July 19, 1958 — Our last day at Perce — and what a day! The hotel dining room opened at 6:30 a.m. especially for us and after our usual breakfast of coffee, "toasts," etc., about 25 of us hurried to the dock at 8 a.m. and boarded the "Sanctuary" for a last trip around Bonaventure Island with Captain Brochet.

It was a beautiful morning, cool, partly cloudy, with a calm sea. As the boat neared Perce Rock we could see a number of people walking toward and around it which is only possible when the tide is out, while above lined along the edge of the 150-290 foot high rock were Double-crested Cormorants and Herring Gulls. It is on top of this inaccessible rock that the cormorants and many gulls nest. For some of us it was the third trip to Bonaventure and it was still a thrill each time we circled the island to see the thousands and thousands of sea birds standing or nesting on narrow rocky ledges, while others skimmed over the water near us. There were gannets, murres, Razor-billed Auks, Black Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls with the gannets predominating. The immature gannets up to three years are quite striking in appearance, white heavily marked with sooty brown feathers. The young Herring Gulls are a drab brownish gray and from a distance somewhat resemble a long legged half grown chicken.

This final trip was made expressly to see the puffins. Captain Brochet had told us there are only about two dozen pairs and the best time to see them was early in the morning or late afternoon after they returned from their feeding grounds. However, they were either far

back in the crevices of the rocks where they nest or already out to sea, so again it was our misfortune to miss seeing them as they were not in sight the day before. While returning we saw several Eider Ducks swimming near shore and in the distance some commercial fishing boats.

After landing, the group scattered — some off for a hike or more sightseeing via horse and carriage or another last visit to those fascinating little gift shops. Many were also looking forward to the return of the fishermen and the preparation of the cod for market. Before long we discovered the Herring Gulls were concentrated near the large wharf and fish houses while others were flying out to meet the returning boats. They act as scavengers after the fish are cleaned.

As soon as the boats arrived, the fishermen pitched the cod onto the wharf with a pitchfork; another man loaded them into a truck and took them to the nearby fish houses where they were dumped into a bin and weighed. Another man tossed them on a long zinc lined table where they were quickly cleaned in assembly line fashion. Men on both sides of the table each had one task to perform after which they slid the fish along to the next man until the fourth or fifth man filleted them. Still another man washed them in an enormous tank and nearby two other men were dipping them in huge barrels which were probably filled with salt. Some of the cod we saw weighed from 10 to 60 pounds. It takes three months to cure them although the actual drying time amounts to about 15 days. There are rows and rows of drying racks outdoors and men were at work turning over each of the many hundreds of pieces. After this process is completed most of the dried codfish is shipped to Central and South America. Other fish are caught, too, around the Gaspe coast, halibut, herring, mackerel, salmon, also lobsters, while inland there are trout streams.

Under the eaves of another old fish house which faces the main street is mounted a ship figurehead, a carved wooden life sized figure of a man, probably some hundreds of years old from the style of the garments. It had been washed ashore many years ago, maybe from the prow of a wrecked sailing vessel. If only that statue could speak and tell us its history.

In the evening while all were seated in the dining room, Rene Hurtubise asked us to meet in the parlor after dinner for a farewell party. Then he called on Bill Quam to say a few words. Bill presented our very capable tour leader, Helen Lien, with a gift to express our appreciation for planning such a wonderful trip which was giving us all so much pleasure. Then to Dave Anderson, our always prompt and efficient driver, Dr. Elwood made the presentation speech and gave him a little remembrance from all of us. Both Helen and Dave gave brief responses. Our genial host of the Perce Manor Hotel honored us, too, by serving an extra course at this our last dinner.

Already seated in the parlor when we entered was the pretty upstairs maid and before long the two waitresses appeared. Then very quietly in came four of the proprietor's six children followed by mama with her hair still in pin curls. And who else do you suppose had pin curls earlier, but an attractive hairdress for the party? Hattie Day! And the hairdresser, none other than our French upstair's maid who did mama's, too. All of our guests were as solemn as an owl, probably due to the fact they didn't understand English. But the proprietor, who spoke English, beamed upon us from behind his desk and seemed to be enjoying the fun as much as we did.

Soon the party was under way starting with a game of charades, then a young man employee of the hotel entertained us with some very nice accordion music. A grab bag game followed and all in our group chose a bag when their turn came, displayed the contents consisting of 5c and 10c articles and then

the fun began. Each of us shook dice and those lucky enough to shake a pair had the privilege of grabbing another person's bag. The party became quite lively when a bag of carmel corn became the coveted prize and was grabbed three or four times. In the confusion of many bags changing hands, WHO got the carmel corn and who got the cookies?

What made the game more confusing was the surprised look on the faces of several who suddenly found themselves without a bag and to discover the one who grabbed it probably already had one or more bags.

A big bag of candy was given the hotel staff and it was fun watching these attractive French children during the party and when they received some candy. They were unusually well behaved and quiet.

It was difficult to plan a little surprise party while traveling on a bus without letting Helen know what was going on, but eventually suggestions and ideas were formulated, then Edith Farrand was chosen to be chairman and several others in the group were asked to help her. We were grateful to Edith for giving up so much of her time to prepare for the nice party, she missed out on some shopping and sightseeing to do it, so to her and those who helped our thanks for a good time on our last evening in Perce.

How quickly the three days passed in Perce — much too fast — there were still places to explore. And how fortunate we were having good weather. Yes, some rain one night, but not like it was in 1954 when a cold northeaster blew all the time and it rained the three days we were there. We had to miss our trip on Bonaventure Island and had a ride only part way around the last day we were there. This time it really was Bonaventure or "good adventure." *Florence Messer*

Sunday, July 20, 1958 — We left Perce Manor at 7:45, with bulging luggage after our visits to the local shops. In fact, there were a number of packages that did not get into the suitcases and were carried on the bus. The morning was cloudy, following a refreshing rain during the night.

After riding about a mile, Mons. Mausse (bellboy at the Manor) sped by in his car and hailed the bus. Thoughts of possessions that might have been left behind raced through the mind of each one of us, and the suspense was ended when Mons. Mausse produced two rocks of substantial size and weight, which Margaret had decided were too heavy to take along. With that kind of service, what could she do but bring them all the way home.

The highway wound along the Gulf of St. Laurent and the Baie des Chaleurs, which were bordered with quaint villages and fishing fleets. Large fields of white daisies and meadows provided delightful scenery on the opposite side of the road. Stops were made for the in-

dulgence of camera enthusiasts as well as those who merely admired the scenery.

Riding through Chandler, we saw a large pulp mill. During the forenoon, we passed over four covered bridges, and there were many more to be seen on roads nearby. Families riding to church in one-horse buggies, and the comparatively small number of automobiles on the road, made us realize that we were a long way from home.

We had heard there was a narrow bridge on that part of the peninsula which might not accommodate our large bus. Actually there were two adjacent narrow bridges, and to our relief Dave cleared both of them with at least one inch to spare.

Our lunch stop (12:30) was at Hotel Restigouche, in Matapedia, just across the river from New Brunswick. After lunch we traveled inland along the Matapedia River and the shore of Lac Solmoun. The river valley was narrow, with steep, tree-covered hills rising majestically from the roadside. Farther on, the valley widened and was dotted with small farms. We arrived at Mont Joli at 4 p.m. and enjoyed a rest stop there while the bus was refueled.

The drive to Trois-Pistoles was a repitition of the area we had traversed on our way to the Gaspe, but the beautiful scenery along the St. Lawrence was enjoyed no less than when we first viewed it. We arrived at our destination, the Manoir Victoria, at 7:30, and had our dinner there. *Alma L. Aune*

Monday, July 21, 1958 — It was 56° on the thermometer at Hotel Victoria, a chilly, damp morning, but everyone enthusiastic about the trip to Basque Island. At 8 a.m. the first group left on the bus which took them down to the dock, and at 9:30 the rest left. Some went with Captain Morency on the Provencher, and some with Captain Dery on the U-877, St. Jean, P.Q. It was interesting to hear the explanation for the name U-877. Captain Dery was in the Canadian navy, second in command of a boat that sank the German sub U-877, 200 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, in World War II. His father, David Alexis Dery, an ornithologist, headed the movement to protect the birds on Basque and two nearby islands, now supervised by the Provincial government.

We reached the island at low tide, and had to get off the big boat into a dinghy. The crowd on shore had a hilarious time ribbing the dinghy loads that were grounded because of overweight, and they also enjoyed the sight of a young member of the tour being carried to shore piggy back.

On Basque Island, in addition to the Eider Ducks, cormorants, herons, and bitterns were points of historic interest. Here were the ovens used by the Basques for rendering whale oil, mentioned in the diary of Jacques Cartier in 1534.

A beautiful lake on the island was the home of the American Bittern and the herons, and mirrored great masses of Blue Flags.

Captain Morency had an excellent lunch for us, a variety of sandwiches, coffee, tea, soft drinks, and an attractive basket of fresh fruit.

The rookeries of the Black-crowned and Great Blue Herons were on the north side of the island, but only the courageous dared the slippery trail and the savage mosquitoes to observe them. Two members of the tour slipped on the rocks and got three layers soaking wet.

The day on the island ended when we boarded the boat, which at high tide was able to come way up to a table rock where it was easy to step right down into the big boats. Those on Captain Dery's boat had an extra long ride, around the island, looking for one member who had misjudged the time.

In the evening we were invited to Captain Morency's home where we saw original paintings by his artist brother. It was interesting to see the attractive

French farmhouse, with its spacious kitchen, practically a living room, with a rocking chair reserved for each member of the family. *Erda Hallberg*

Tuesday, July 22, 1958 — We left Trois Pistoles at 7:35 a.m. — weather sunny, cool, and comfortable. Got our last glimpse of the beautiful Island of the Basques, and proceeded onward. Stopped briefly a short ways west of St. Jeans Port Joli at the Bourgault's Wood Sculptoring Shops and the Perrault's Ceramics Handicraft Shop for selection of excellent wood carvings and other souvenirs. The present Bourgaults are descendants of a family of professional wood carvers who are now, and have been for many years, doing the wood carving for many of the beautiful churches we have been seeing.

We crossed the St. Lawrence River on the massive and impressive bridge that was considered the Eighth Wonder of the World at the time it was constructed about 40 years ago, and arrived about noon at Quebec, the old and beautiful city founded in 1535 by the French. It is said to be the only remaining walled city on our continent. On our way west of Quebec we passed a church that was built in 1644. We found our motel several miles out and it is named Auberge Des 4 Chemins (Motel of four roads), where we stopped only long enough to unload our luggage. We then proceeded on back to Quebec City for a wonderful half day of sightseeing.

Parking the bus was a slight problem until a very obliging police officer arranged for us to park and leave the bus right in front of the Quebec House of Parliament. We then walked into the wall enclosed city of Quebec through the massive portal and on to the narrow avenue called "Grande Allee." We then separated into small groups and had lunch at various excellent restaurants including the Chateau Frontenac, Kerhulu's, Homstead, and others. Everyone reported excellent meals and good service.

Several then embarked on a special trip out to St. Anne's Shrine located 20 miles out. The rest of us then set out exploring by bus, by horse drawn vehicles, or on foot. Most of us visited the famous Chateau Frontenac and all agree it is a fabulous hotel, old in years and decor but maintained wonderfully. Beautiful spacious lobbies, dining rooms, stairways and lounges. We viewed the waterfront activities from the renowned Board Walk in front of the Frontenac and several took the steeply inclined and enclosed car ride from the Board Walk to the lower level of Lower Quebec and the waterfront. This must represent a decline of three or four hundred feet right down the cliff.

Others of us took taxis to the lower city to visit the shopping areas there. Most found the shops on the upper levels more to their liking. Several engaged the services of the very colorful two and four passenger horse-drawn vehicles for their viewing of the cannon studded ramparts, the forts, the Plains of Abraham and many other interesting and historical sites. A group of seven hired a Volkswagon station wagon and enjoyed a conducted tour of the city.

Returned to our motel about 8:25 via our bus after another wonderful day. We were certainly pleased that the weather, though somewhat warm and humid this afternoon, was sunny and bright all day. All cameras were kept busy. *Bill Quam*

Wednesday, July 23, 1958 — Left our motel at 8 a.m. — after breakfast in the coffee shop — with the ducks on the lagoon quacking us on our way. Ten a.m. found us at Three Rivers where we got a good view of the paper mills and several of our "tourists" raided a fruit store and promptly proceeded to distribute their purchases among their fellow passengers. Soon the fragrance of bananas, grapes, oranges, plums and pears gave our bus all the aromatic aspects of a fruit vendor's cart.

Reached the Jacques Cartier Motor

Hotel shortly after noon, left our luggage and departed immediately for downtown Montreal where we scattered like birds leaving the nest only to meet segments of the group later at such eating places as La Tour Eiffel, The Provincial, Windsor, Laurentian, Eaton's, and the Mount Royal Cafe. After the noonday meal many could be found still shopping for Canadian merchandise and souvenirs at Birke's, Simpson's, Eatons, Morgans, Frere's and Ogilvy's. We kept tour leaders, cab drivers, bus drivers and policemen occupied as we scurried off singly and in groups to visit such diverse places of interest as the Notre Dame Church, the Museum, the Wax Works, Mount Royal Chalet and Lookout, the Botanical Gardens, St. Joseph's Oratory, the Chateau de Romezay, the Historical Museum, St. James Cathedral, Central Station and the magnificently beautiful new Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

At 8 p.m., we raced through Dominion Square scattering the pigeons in our wake in our efforts to make the bus "on time." Once aboard we learned that Agnes Then and Edna Berglund were staying in town for some "night life," Dave had taken in a movie, and Laura and Rene Hurtubise had visited relatives. We learned that Fanny Farmer is pronounced Laura Secord in Canada; also, that the first floor in department stores is really not the first floor, at all — it is the floor above the main floor.

Back at the Jacques Cartier, Helen was starry-eyed, Boyd restored to health, had surprised us all most happily by deciding to join the group and continue on home with us. A perfect ending to a most memorable, sunny day. *Merna Quam*

Thursday, July 24, 1958 — What a beautiful day this dawned to be with the sun rising round and red. How do I know? Well, I rose to see it. This was the day we left before the birds began to sing. At the early hour of 6:15 a.m., but as per usual we left at 6:25 a.m. ten minutes behind schedule. Because of the early hour we drove through Montreal without any traffic problems. Dave wheeled us through in record time, even before commuters got to work. People sit in their rockers even at the early hour of 7:00 a.m.

As we drove away from Montreal toward Ottawa, we noticed commutor trains speeding toward Montreal taking people to work, and here we were driving away from this busy city enjoying ourselves. The last lap of our wonderful trip.

Weatherwise we hit everything. Today there was heavy fog. The fog was so thick that lights had to be put on the cars. Even got stopped by a herd of cattle in the road.

At 8:00 a.m. we left the Province of Quebec behind and entered the Province of Ontario via Highway 17. Not a bad road either, the same as that which we had been driving on, maybe a better grade of cement. Seems to me it rocked a little better though as the birders were extremely quiet this morning. Maybe it was due to all the night hawking.

Stopped for breakfast at 8:15 a.m. When we loaded the bus some 20-25 minutes later and on our way again someone remarked, "The blackbirds are at it again!" It could have been the coffee of Dr. Carl who was very much awake this morning because of the laughter that came from the back seat of the bus.

Arrived in Ottawa at 10:15 a.m. Toured the Parliament Building. The guide told us all and I'm sure you all took it in, so I've no reporting to do on this part of the trip. I will say this that I think we were all glad to get off the very brief ride on the small slow elevator. However, I'm sure we were glad for the ride. There was a beautiful sight to see at the top. One hour later the "Birders" left the Parliament Building and walked one block south to the main drag to find a place to eat lunch, shop or just wander as three in the party did. They had quite an excursion. These

three were Lillian, Florence Messer, and Abbey Purcel. They were, of all things, looking for a telephone booth. Such things don't exist in Canada, as they found out. They even inquired in our own embassy, but were told to go to the building next door which happened to be the Rideau Club. They quickly found out that they didn't belong there as the club was strictly for gentlemen. So they wandered some more until they came to the telegraph office and here they found what they were looking for. They wanted the telephone booth so they could locate the Travel Bureau. Anyway at the travel bureau a gentleman on some official business said he'd take our three ladies to the travel bureau. The result was a tour of Ottawa and the Experimental farm and back to the bus. Yes, the gentleman even had lunch with the three "Birders." Some fun. This kind gentleman was a Bert McCarron who would have liked to meet all of us.

Coffee break, snicker-snackers, rest and what have you at 3:25 p.m. Helen said 15 minutes, but you know us, 20 minutes.

The place I went to had a snicker-snacker and was run by a Chinese gentleman, and did I have a bad time understanding him. With his Chinese, French, and English, what came out was more than I could figure out. I just nodded my head "yes."

Back on the bus, a card game was going, much talking and laughing by the blackbirds. Then we stopped to observe a dam over the Ottawa River. This dam had something to do with the Des Joachim Development. No pictures here — the dam wasn't big enough or the blackbirds were too tired to move from their perches to take a picture.

Arrived at North Bay, our stop for the night at 6:50 p.m. The town had a population of 22,000. This was a rough and ready town. We were glad that Agnes Elstad had her glasses with her. She helped solve a problem in the cafe where we ate. Remember, Edna: Boy — the characters in this town. They even dressed in the street. Here we turned the glasses the other way. The hotel was really "IT." Some of us had the "Bridal Suite," others had automatic heat all night, and still another group had a patio on which they could sit and watch the stars if they so chose. Anyway, we all had a bed to rest in. And so ends another day of our wonderful trip to the Gaspe. *Bernice Lindemann*

Friday, July 25, 1958 — Today we travel from North Bay, Ontario to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. We have breakfast at the Belton Hotel Grill and are ready to travel at 7:50 a.m.

It is a sunny morning and we have brush country with an occasional glimpse of a lake. As we near Sudbury, the copper and nickel mining center, we see evidence of the nickel refinery fumes killing all vegetation.

We stop for "snicker-snacks" at Sudbury Bus Depot. However, many use the time to shop for fruit, jams and straw-

berry preserves. Packages along the luggage racks are becoming more numerous!

Four miles west of Sudbury we come to Copper Cliff, the world's largest single mining operation — The International Nickel Company of Canada, Ltd.

The road through this country was uninteresting with many trailer houses and hurriedly built shacks. While lunching in Blind River we visited with a native business man and learned we had come through a uranium boom area — the famous Elliot Lake Uranium mines. Uranium was discovered there in 1953 in a vast wilderness. In 1954 mines were opened. At present 11 mining companies are in operation. The city now has a population of 22,000 and spreads out haphazardly wherever camping ground is available. To show area growth, four years ago Blind River had three police — one local and two provincial; now they have six local and 36 provincial police. The accident rate is very high in the area — modern Klondike conditions typical. It was interesting to learn that the greater per cent of uranium is sold to the United States.

We stopped at Sault St. Marie, Ontario for the last Canadian shopping. We were to be back at the bus in time to make the 4 p.m. ferry back to U.S.A. Hattie Day must have been anxious to return to U.S.A. as we found her an hour later down at the ferry — little aware that the police had been alerted and a searching party organized.

Crossing the ferry might have been uneventful had Dave been able to drive off with the load. Instead we hiked into "good old U.S.A."

Beautiful rooms greeted us at the hotel — located at the foot of the American Lock.

Most of the group took the boat trip up St. Mary's River through the American Lock (one of four) and downstream through the older Canadian Lock — the busiest waterway in the world. *Edna V. Berglund*

Saturday, July 26, 1958 — Having spent the night in the Park Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan where we found more bed space per capita than anywhere else on the trip, everyone awoke and started the day's journey refreshed. As we sped across upper Michigan, beautiful evergreen scenery and inviting pools and rivers tantalized our imagination. Suddenly we turned off the smooth highway onto a dirt road. Maps were a-flying — heads were wigwagging and conversation was a chatter of "He's on the wrong road." "Is this a detour?" "Where on earth are we going? We're Lost!" "Dave must have goofed!" After a shaded ride of nine or ten miles we arrived at the Pictured Rocks and Minar's Castle for a rest stop and *much* picture taking. Boyd took movies while we got on the bus, got off the bus, stood around the bus, and finally got on the bus again. Even the litter box made its movie debut.

Off again and lunch stopping at Marquette. Two of our gals, Ann Warner and Edith Farrand, hitch-hiked to Ironwood and, as luck would have it, Boyd picked them up. Incidentally, this was our first day on the bus without air-conditioning, but a cooling rain that fell out of the beautiful clouds we watched sailing in the sky overhead cooled us comfortably.

After settling the trippers in their rooms at the Cloverland Motel in Ironwood, we found that two units were equipped with housekeeping facilities. K.P. duties were assigned for a picnic supper and a trip downtown to shop was in order. Mountains of food carried into the bus, much bustling in rooms nine and 15 suddenly became a feast for 37 people. Oh yes! Number 37 proved to be Dave's wife, Pat, who appeared on the scene just as the line formed at the buffeteria. A watermelon bust was the finishing touch to a pleasant evening. *Margaret Carlson*

Sunday, July 27, 1958 — During this last week I've noticed the enthusiasm of

(Continued on page 142)

The annual M.O.U. North Shore Field Trip from Duluth to Grand Marais Feb. 23-24, 1958. Transportation by chartered bus and private cars. Jack Hofslund and John Futcher pictured at the Cascades while the group stopped for some "birding."

A view of Lake Superior at the Cascades.

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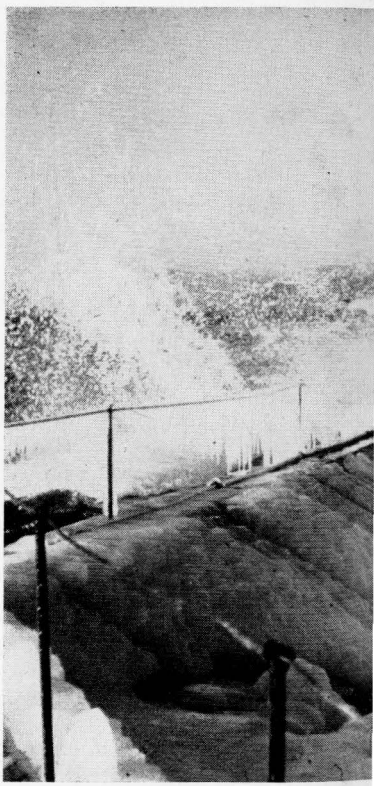
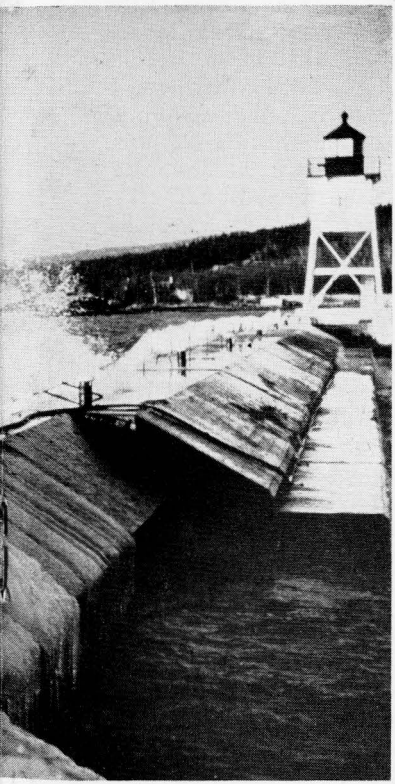


If you like outdoor photography spectacular picture possibilities al A camera and binoculars are bot plenty of film. Photo above is of t ais.

ORE TRIP

By
A. Rustad



you will be thrilled with the many
ong the North Shore in the winter.
h a must on this trip . . . and take
he iced break-water at Grand Mar-

A must on the list of many stops along the North Shore to see birds is at the home of B. A. Penner in Encampment Forest. The many well stocked bird feeders in the back yard always has an interesting selection of birds to observe. Here the M.O.U. group is watching an active Pileated Woodpecker in a tree near the house.

Red-breasted Nuthatch on a suet feeder at Encampment Forest.

bird watching wane as new interests, such as Quebec, Montreal, beautiful Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie and others, fill our hearts and minds with this glorious panorama of Canada.

Ironwood, Michigan, Cloverland Motel. Our tour will soon be over as this is the last day of the trip. Up at five a.m. and saw Agnes leaving for church at six o'clock. Went out to bird a little and saw a catbird and he mewed and mewed a very happy good morning. About a dozen of us walked two blocks to Totem Pole Auto Pine for breakfast. Later the bus brought the rest of the gang and "Dear Frances" was carrying my purse. Our trip was delayed a little by a controversy over what was thought to be an unpaid breakfast bill. Turned out to be a copy of the original bill. All's well, we thought — but as I placed the box of candy, for dessert, on the shelf above our heads, someone said "Hope you didn't put it in the litter box." Well, this was too much. "So you also think I'm stupid." "No, no," they cried, and I forgave them, poor souls. At Hayward we stopped for 15 minutes. More trouble here. Ida couldn't find her plate and said, "None shall leave the bus until I find my plate." Something must have been the matter with her eyes as nearly everyone had gotten out, "Look," Mary said, "I know I didn't take it." "Who has my salt and pepper shaker?" "Maybe someone will find these things and return them when they get home," Myrna reported. The lost was found and "Away we go." I'm sure someone was having a bit of fun just to relieve the monotony of the pouring rain. This was the only day of continuous rain during the whole trip.

Arrived at Hunt Hill Audubon Camp, still raining, and found it wasn't open except for the barn. This had been converted into a dining room and kitchen. Everything was spotless and we were asked to be careful and keep the floor clean as the men had just scrubbed it.

We had a bountiful and delicious picnic lunch served here, by our own group. While the lunch was being prepared, many of us bought records, books, etc. Frances picked out two books and asked Mary L. which one she should buy. "I'd take this one as it's by a famous man, Cruickshank." "May I look at the other book, Frances?" I wanted to see who the author was. He was Roger Tory Peterson. Abby proved to be the inventive one. Before she helped herself to the food, she covered a Star chart with a piece of wax paper and had a firm plate. When we seated ourselves, I said, "No spoons?" She stirred her coffee with a stalk of celery.

Oz Hawksley, instructor at Hunt Hill Audubon, gave some information on their work program — five two-week sessions — work done in the field. Evening workshop in barn. Mornings on birds and nature study. Afternoons on special things you want to do. He and another instructor showed us pictures of the bogs, swamps, and other areas and talked about the marvelous things to be found in them. We were the first audience to see these pictures. He has traveled all over the U.S. and claims this place has things you find nowhere else. He has never seen bogs to compare with them. The bittern and coot are not a bit afraid, he goes right up to them. This camp is highly recommended to wild bird lovers. The sum of $80,000.00 was raised to make this camp possible. It has 330 acres. They found 11,075 orchids in one small area.

All aboard and ready to go and Dave proceeds to get stuck in the mud, pouring rain helped none. The men at Hunt Hill were grand and pulled the Charter free with their school bus. Stopped at Taylors Falls and parked in a "No Parking" sign area. Before we left the state police moved in ahead of us ready to strike. Safe and sound and on to the Twin Cities. As we reached Minneapolis, Mary sang out "Minneapolis, here we come, right back where we started from." John responded, "Dave, turn the bus around and go back to Perce." Dave called back, "First have to get some

clean clothes." END of a wonderful chapter with the Minneapolis Bird Club. AUREVOIR. Ha! At this point we were welcomed home by the Hopkins Raspberry Parade. This was a happy, friendly group and I am glad I could be counted with them. Forgot to say that while Dave was extricating the bus, some of us stood under a large tree and watched the downy, hairy, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Finches, Thrush and Song Sparrow enjoying the sunflower seed in the hanging feeder. *Hattie E. Day*

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

At the motel at Toronto, two members tried to be lady plumbers. It seemed that the water in the toilet would not stop running. The first lady removed the cover from the tank and a geyser of water shot up and showered the victim. After the cover was replaced, the second lady said, "Oh, I can fix that," and proceeded to do so. She also was showered with a good face full.

On leaving the Motel at Toronto, with good intentions in mind, Helen Lien and Irene Klevens took the keys to the office and asked if everything had been alright. They assured them that everything was left in good order. The girls needed a postage stamp from the stamp machine. Unfortunately, the stamp machine jammed and the clerk in his eagerness to help tipped over a large rack of post cards on the floor. The girls offered to help pick up the cards but the clerk threw up his hands and cried, "Let them lay," as he went back to his ringing switchboard and waiting customers. The girls fled back to the bus without their stamp. They had only gone in to see if things were all right.

Reminiscences: Remember our encounter with the French speaking cat at Jacques Cartier Motel. "Hi, Mr. Hurtubise (our French interpreter) can you speak to this cat for us?" He tried English first, with no success, then, he rattled off a lot of French (Cuban fashion like Desi Arnaz) and lo and behold, the cat responded.

At Madeline where we had a noon lunch stop, Merna dropped the lemon she was squeezing for her tea, so several folks went scrambling under the tables to see who could retrieve it for milady.

We traveled over a two wheel track road in the Shickshock Mountains shortly before arriving in Perce, winding back and forth, from side to side, where men were widening the highway. Dave got out and took pictures, because he said, "Back at the bus depot they will never believe me when I tell them I took the bus over roads like these." In one place we all had to get out and walk up a steep grade, while Dave made three attempts to make the grade. Finally on the fourth try, after backing part way up the hill he has just descended he was able to gain enough speed to make the grade. Some of us walked up a second steep grade to help lighten the bus load.

Signs along the way attracted our attention, especially this one where men were working on the road. "Men Working Slow."

On Basque Island we forgot to report having seen a dead porpoise, and the skeleton of an animal which Capt. Morency told us was perhaps that of a fox. We also found a dead cormorant which had been banded. A quick operation removed the band which we brought back to Minneapolis and proudly presented to Boyd Lien, our licensed bird bander, to send in to Washington to the Fish and Wild Life Department for a report. None to date.

On Basque Island this notice was posted by the Provancher Society of Natural History of Canada: "Hunting is forbidden at all times of the year on Basque and Razades Islands, and guns, rifles, or other implements of the hunt must not be brought there."

Some days we vied with one another to see who could tell the funniest story. This one takes the bird seed. A man came rushing into the doctor's office calling "Help, help! My wife was sleeping and snoring with her mouth wide open and a bird flew in and I can't get it out." The doctor replied, "Sorry sir,

but I am busy with an emergency operation, but I will come as soon as I can. Try waving some bird seed in front of her mouth to coax the bird out." A little later the doctor came and was surprised to see the man frantically waving a fish back and forth in front of his wife's face. The doctor hastened to say, "I thought I told you to wave bird seed." "But doctor," he replied, "I have to get the cat out first."

At Gibbs in Ludington, one of the waitresses engaged in a conversation with Abby Purcell. "Where are you going?" she asked. "We are going way out to the Gaspe Peninsula on the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River," was the reply. "What are you going to do there?" "We are going to count de fedders on de birds." No one but Addy could have given this answer with a straight face. The waitress was wide-eyed, then she turned away with a sheepish grin.

At Gibbs and along the way, menus were interesting if you could read them. This one at Gibbs Cafe in Ludington, we could. "Strictly fresh eggs. We know because we are personally acquainted with our chickens."

Florence Messer asked for scrambled eggs for breakfast one morning in Perce and when the French waitress looked puzzled she tried by pantomime to mix the eggs. Soon the waitress returned triumphantly with a beaten raw egg in a tumbler. Rene was finally asked to interpret, and eventually the eggs were served, but they had no resemblance to eggs scrambled the American way.

Here is one picked up at Perce:
"The codfish lays 10,000 eggs;
The homely hen lays one.
But the codfish never cackles
To tell you what she's done.
And so we scorn the codfish,
While the humble hen we prize —
Which simply goes to show you
That it pays to advertise!"

What happened to the seven pounds of English toffee, Dr. Carl had? I didn't see it. Did you?

Last snicker-snacker together: Just had a big picnic lunch at Hunt Hill, and then we made a stop at Taylors Falls where everyone headed for a refreshment stand. Those who stayed on the bus feasted on the picnic leftovers. Dr. Carl entered the bus commenting, "This is the most eatingest crowd I have ever been with." Then someone piped up, "What about yourself, Dr. Carl?" "What are you doing with that big bag of popcorn?" Dr. Carl replied, "I have to keep up with the rest of you, and it is just about killing me."

Thank you, one and all for sharing a day from your diary of the Gaspe Tour. It has been a joy to prepare it for a lasting record of the happy associations we have had and the memorable moments on Bonaventure Island. Special thanks to our trip leader, Helen Lien, and to our bus driver, Dave Anderson, for a safe and enjoyable trip. Thanks to Mother Nature for good weather and beautiful scenery, and birds innumerable. *Edith*

Alma Aune	Florence Hobbs	Rebecca Olson
Edna Berglund	Severena Holmberg	Helene Peltier
Margaret Carlson	Laura Hurtubise	Abby Purcell
Hattie Day	Rene Hurtubise	Bill Quam
Agnes Elstad	John Jones	Merna Quam
Carl Elwood	Irene Klevens	Frances Rogers
Delores Elwood	Boyd Lien	Cora Sowden
Mary Elwood	Helen Lien	Jennie Steinmetz
Edith Farrand	Bernice Lindemann	Agnes Then
Erda Hallberg	Mary Lupient	Clara Belle Thoresen
Ethel Hallberg	Lillian Malick	Anna Warner
Ida Halper	Florence Messer	Dave Anderson, bus driver

Check List — July 12 to July 27, 1958

Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Gannet
European Cormorant
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
American Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
American Bittern
Canada Goose
Black Duck
Eider Duck
Red-breasted Merganser
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Ring-necked Pheasant
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Great Black-backed Gull
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Kittiwake Gull
Common Tern
Black Tern
Razor-billed Auk
Common Murre
Ringed Phase of the Common Murre
Black Guillemot
Puffin
Mourning Dove
Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Flicker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Kingbird
Least Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Purple Martin
Blue Jay
Raven
Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Robin
Olive-backed Thrush
Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Migrant Shrike
Starling
Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Ovenbird
Yellowthroat
Redstart
English Sparrow
Bobolink
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Baltimore Oriole
Bronzed Grackle
Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Purple Finch
Pine Grosbeak
Goldfinch
Savannah Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco
Chipping Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Total 95 species

*Species of birds as reported to the recorder by members of the 1958 Gaspe Tour

Some Birds of Bonaventure Island

by

Mary Lupient

On a tour sponsored by the Minneapolis Bird Club in July, 1958 I visited the Bird Sanctuary, Bonaventure Island, famous for its thousands of nesting Gannets and other birds. On the opposite side of the island from the mainland a sheer red cliff rises about 300 feet, presenting a very spectacular sight to us who were on a boat that circled the island before landing. Every part of the many narrow ledges on the side of this cliff was occupied by birds and nests. The cliff is of considerable length, and although the ledges provided nesting sites for tens of thousands of birds, there was an overflow of Gannets that nested on the top of it near the edge. These could be approached to within a few inches and their nests and young could be observed easily. The nests were so close together that there was barely room for the birds to land. It was amazing that each adult could find its own. Some of the nests contained a single egg, others had one downy young. The immature birds were brown and white in several beautiful patterns, depending on the length of time the plumage had been changing. It requires three years for them to obtain full plumage. The adults were white with black-tipped wings, their heads and upper necks were a pale yellow. Their necks were long and goose-like, in fact, the birds were shaped like geese. The bills were pale grey penciled by lines of light blue matching the color of their beautiful calm eyes.

It was a great thrill to get so close to these birds. Only the immatures were shy and upon being approached, they progressed with the aid of their wings in short leaps over birds, nests and everything that was in their path. There was a constant clacking chatter and movement. Some of the adults carried in their bills what appeared to be dead seaweed among the nests or flew out to sea with it. Two would occasionally stand close and rub their necks together, obviously a courting antic. Their flight was beautiful and when they dropped for a fish they plummeted on closed wings creating a high jet-like splash.

From the dizzy height at the top of the cliff I could see the constant flight of hundreds of birds besides Gannets going out over the water and returning. There was a large number of Kittiwakes, which are small gulls having slightly notched tails. They nested on the ledges. Murres flew from the face of the cliff with such speed that they appeared like bullets. There were three kinds of Murres in a little group standing on the ledge, the Common Murre which appeared to be sooty brown on back and neck, had white underparts and a pointed bill; the Ringed Murre, a sub-species of the Common Murre with a like plumage except for a white ring around the eye and a short white line that extended back from the ring along the side of the head; the Brunnich's Murre which was similar to the Common, but had a darker crown and a narrow flesh-colored stripe along the base of the bill. Near the Murres stood a Razor-billed Auk which was somewhat like the Brunnich's Murre except for a darker head and heavier compressed bill crossed by a white mark. All of these birds were about the size of small ducks and are said to nest in colonies on the ledges. Rows of Murres and Razor-billed Auks stood on the ledges and could be observed from the boat. Herring Gulls flew about, and on the water far below, Eider Ducks swam.

With them were Black Guillemots that occasionally rose and flew showing the white mirrors on their wings. Puffins have been noted on the island, but I didn't see any.

The point on the top of the cliff where these observations were made was reached by walking across the island from the boat landing for a distance of between two and three miles. It was a beautiful woodland trail. Although it is a good sized island, there are no roads on Bonaventure. One family living near the boat landing can offer accommodations for the night.

Double-crested Cormorants and Herring Gulls perched on small rocky islets between Bonaventure and Perce which is on the coast of the mainland. The village of Perce lies at the foot of Mt. St. Ann and is one of the most beautiful and interesting points on the Gaspe Peninsula. The interior of this peninsula is rugged, being an extension of the Appalachian Mountain Range. The easternmost mountains of this range are situated back of Perce and are called the Shickshock Mountains. They lend beauty to the surroundings of Perce.

A very short distance off the coast at Perce is picturesque Perce Rock, a large long flat-topped rock through which water eroded a hole, giving the rock its name, Perce (pierced). It is a breeding place for a large number of Herring Gulls that feed on the refuse from the cod which are dressed and dried nearby.

Inland from the coast of Perce, the Savannah Sparrow was very abundant and singing. Chipping Sparrows and Song Sparrows were there also. On a walk through the woods up the Shickshock Mountains back of Perce I heard the White-throated Sparrow singing everywhere. The Swainson's (Olive-backed) Thrush was very abundant and singing. I heard and saw several species of warblers, notably the Black-throated Green, Yellow, Black and White, Nashville, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted. Other birds observed were the Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Goldfinch, Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbirds, Slate-colored Junco and Least Flycatcher. Of course, this is not a complete list of birds to be found in this area.

Wherever I walked in cleared territory, I passed through fields of Common White Daisies standing so thickly that at a distance the earth appeared to be snow-covered.

This visit to Perce was a most rewarding one, for not only was there the spectacular concentration of Gannets on Bonaventure Island nearby, but the village, inhabited by French speaking people, was unusually beautiful, interesting and old. Unfortunately, it appeared to be on the verge of change. Tourists have found it and in the future they no doubt will appear in ever increasing numbers. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

CORRECTIONS

Volume 30:3 p. 95 under Avifaunal Club, Common Raven — 19. This figure should be after Common Crow. Total changes will then read for Common Raven 38 and for Common Crow, 174. *J. S. Futcher.*

Volume 30:3 p. 116. An inadvertent omission of the author's name for the article, *Crossbills and Pine Siskins at Itasca Park.* The author of this note was *George W. Cox, Zoology Dept., Univ. of Illinois, Champaign.*

Seasonal Report

by

Mary Lupient

August was hot and dry in Minnesota except for a few days in the last week when record breaking cold occurred. Some of the temperatures reported were as follows: Rochester 36, International Falls 32 and the Twin Cities 46. In early September temperatures rose again and were high until the last of the month when scattered frost occurred and snow fell, October 1. There was a long spell of beautiful Indian Summer in October. There was very little precipitation during the three months mentioned. Rainfall was far below normal, in fact, the Mississippi River was the lowest in many years. The Weather Bureau reported that precipitation for 1958 up to November 1 was seven and one-half inches below normal.

Red-breasted Mergansers, Red-necked Grebes and Golden-eye Ducks had arrived on Lake Superior by September 26, reported by Marie Aftreith.

According to Dennis Carter, 1100 White Pelicans were on Rose Lake near Fairmont, September 21 and a week later the number had increased to approximately 2600. There was a very large concentration of them on Lake Traverse, October 4, reported by Robert Janssen.

Common (American) Egrets were reported in several localities adjacent to the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, but as usual they left at the start of the hunting season. Rev. Strnad saw 21 at Whitewater State Park, August 5, and on September 21 there were 60 on Rice Lake near Shakopee, reported by Robert Janssen. Egrets numbering around 30 stopped for about a month in the river lowlands near Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. Brother Theodore saw many of them August 15 near Winona. Some of them were nesting. He sent the extremely unusual record of an observation of 18 Snow Geese flying over Winona, August 15. Several observers were with him.

Reportedly, the goose migration was heavy in western Minnesota and there were several records from other parts of the state as well. Near Stillwater, October 11, Mrs. Murray Olyphant saw a migration of Blue and Snow Geese, Mrs. E. W. Joul saw a flock pass over Minneapolis October 13 and John Futcher reported four flocks east of McGregor, October 26. There were from 100 to 200 birds in each flock. There was a large concentration of hundreds of Canada, Blue and Snow Geese on a lake in the Carlos Avery Game Farm October 26. They stayed only one night. Canada Geese were moving southward in late September. Several flocks numbering from 50 to 100 each, flew very high along the Minnesota River Valley, September 29.

Hawks migrated over Duluth in large numbers on days when wind and weather were right. At times between four and five thousand were counted in one day at the Lookout. All species common to Minnesota were recorded. John Tester spent some time at Waubun and said there was a good migration of hawks in that area the first two weeks in September. Along the Mississippi and Minnesota River Valleys they drifted by in groups of very small numbers through September and October. A few Bald Eagles were reported. Angus Clark reported one on the beach between Lutsen and Grand Marais that either was very hungry or bolder than the average Bald Eagle which usually is shy of people. Some bones of game birds were thrown

on the beach by Mr. and Mrs. John Young for gulls that came to eat. Two Common Crows drove the gulls away, but they retired upon the arrival of a Bald Eagle that remained to eat regardless of the fact that people were close by.

Soras and Virginia Rails were still present at the Izaak Walton Bass Ponds, October 3. One of the Virginia Rails was an immature that walked about feeding only six feet from me. A. C. Rosenwinkel saw a Florida Gallinule, October 12, near St. Paul.

Some species of shore birds lingered through September and October, and even as late as November 2 they were still present. Robert Janssen saw Dowitchers, Pectorals and Yellow-legs near Shakopee on that date. Dennis Carter saw Black-bellied Plovers, Dowitchers and some of the common sandpipers near Fairmont, September 23. Pectorals, Yellow-legs and Common Snipes were frequenting ponds on the outskirts of Minneapolis, October 14, seen by Josephine Herz and Dorothy Legg. Lester Badger saw about 50 American Golden Plovers at Anderson Lake near St. Paul during the second week in August. John Tester reports that the shore bird migration was heavy in the vicinity of Waubun this fall. A small flock of Black-bellied Plovers fed on the beach at Minnesota Point, Duluth, September 20. About 50 Bonaparte's Gulls hawked insects a little distance from them. In September a few Bonaparte's Gulls and many Franklin's Gulls frequented the air over the Twin Cities and adjacent areas, mostly along the rivers. Some had not entirely lost the black plumage on their heads. One Franklin's on Fisher Lake near Shakopee still had a complete black head, September 14.

There was a great flight of Barn and Tree Swallows, September 14, and another on October 14. They contained such large numbers that they covered acres in fields where they landed. These flights occurred in the Mississippi River Valley.

Robins congregated in great flocks beginning in late August and later the numbers were augmented by flocks from the north. They left about the usual time, the middle of October. A few Bluebirds were present at time of this writing. They were more than usually abundant in the south half of Minnesota this season.

Although a few Common Nighthawks were seen in early September most of them left as usual the latter part of August. Rev. Strnad saw 105 in migration, August 28, at Whitewater State Park. There was a concentration of approximately 150 near St. Paul August 25.

Warblers began to appear in late August. Dr. W. J. Breckenridge said they drifted through his yard the last ten days of August. On September 3, there was a heavy migration of warblers, Black-capped Chickadees, flycatchers and vireos through the Twin Cities. Marie Aftreith reported that a large wave of warblers numbering hundreds had occurred at Schroeder, September 22 to 24. Vireos, thrushes, White-throated Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers accompanied them. One young sapsucker was still being fed. The peak of the Myrtle Warbler migration was the first two weeks in October, but a few individuals were seen in September.

Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets passed through in large numbers the first half of October.

There were myriads of Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, also very large flocks of Common Grackles. They roamed the countryside everywhere in dense flocks.

The bulk of the Catbird and Brown Thrasher population left for the south about the middle of September. A Catbird took advantage of the fine Indian Summer and lingered in the yard around

the John Schaefer home in suburban Minneapolis until October 30.

Rev. Strnad banded a White-throated Sparrow September 4, an early date. Agnes Elstad saw about 10 White-throated Sparrows in the outskirts of St. Paul, September 10. Robert Janssen reported the unusual record of several Le Conte Sparrows at Wood Lake, Richfield, a suburb of Minneapolis. This observation was made September 28. On September 27 he observed a very large concentration of Lincoln Sparrows, an unusual sight. He stated they were everywhere in fields, brush, etc. Although several species of migrating sparrows appeared in September, the peak of the migration was the second week in October. A few Tree Sparrows appeared in woods and brush along the river valleys, October 14, and by October 30 there were hundreds of them everywhere. The Slate-colored Junco population was very large. Numerous flocks of hundreds were prevalent in the country and gardens.

Black-billed (American) Magpies invaded northwestern Minnesota the past summer and no doubt nested. One was seen as far east as the Sawbill Road near the North Shore of Lake Superior by Donald Huseby in early September and later, on October 4 one was reported near Carleton Peak in the same vicinity by the U.S. Forest Fire Guard. Possibly both observations were of the same bird. This report was sent by Marie Aftreith.

As usual, Water (American) Pipits and Lapland Longspurs had arrived at Grand Marais by the last week in September. Dr. Breckenridge saw numbers of them there.

Several observers reported that Purple Finches had arrived in the Twin City area early in September. There were a few Snow Buntings in the vicinity of Anoka the third week in October. Two Evening Grosbeaks were seen by Harvey Gunderson in Milaca County, October 4. A Winter Wren was seen near St. Paul, October 5, by A. C. Rosenwinkel and one was reported near Savage, October 16, by Mrs. E. W. Joul.

Reports of titmice at feeders began coming in during early October. An important record of the nesting of the titmice was furnished by Mrs. Florence Patchin who lives on the Minnesota River near Bloomington. Two titmice came to her feeder every day during the winter, spring and summer of 1958 and on August 26 she reported that they were coming with one young about half grown. This reporter called on her and saw the birds in her yard. At date of this writing they are all coming to her feeder.

Beginning with this report the new AOU checklist will be followed in naming birds. I solicit your records and reports which should be in my hands on or before the following dates: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. They will be greatly appreciated. — *Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

Beginning with the March issue, 1959, the new editor will be Robert Janssen, 1817 W. 59th St., Minneapolis 19. All material for print should be sent to the above address.

The Canadian Lakehead

by

A. E. Allin

Temperature and precipitation continued below normal at the Canadian Lakehead during July. In August, the temperature was a degree below normal but for the first time in many months, the precipitation (4.62") was fifty per cent above the average. It again dropped below normal in September and October. In September the temperature was 1.1° above normal and October was a beautiful dry warm month with a mean temperature of 44.8°, or 3.6° above the longterm average. Locally the only snow was 0.5" which fell on October 12, but to the north there were 6 to 10 inches on October 10. Prevailing winds were westerly. By the end of the month only traces of ice had appeared on the marshes.

The above conditions, with an absence of storms and strong northerly winds, may explain the uninteresting migration pattern. A relatively small flight was noted on August 9 and there was a heavy movement of warblers on September 28. Geese migrated over a long period of time rather than in a mass exodus and the duck migration was scattered. These movements will be described in more detail as we deal with the various species.

As a result of the mild October weather, the leaves of White Birch and Aspen did not completely fall until after mid - October. By the end of the month, leaves still remained on Willows, Silver Poplar and Larch. The grass was green and still growing. In the gardens a few hardy annuals still bloomed along with Chrysanthemums and Michelmas Daisies, and along the roadsides we noted flowering Yarrow, Dandelions and *Aster lindleyanus*. Honey bees were still active on the above flowers at the end of the month. On October 19, a Milbert's Tortoise Shell Butterfly fed on the daisies, black flies were still a nuisance, and numerous insects struck the windshield at dusk. Geometrid moths were still active. One could scarcely visualize the changed conditions soon to be expected.

It is too early to predict movements of our northern winter visitors. One lone Northern Shrike was seen on October 5. No Snowy Owls have been reported. Both C. Garton and Colonel Dear reported a Hawk Owl in Devon Township. The first Pine Grosbeaks were seen on October 30, a few days earlier than a year ago. Many were heard on November 1. We should expect a mass migration of these beautiful northern visitors as there is a bountiful crop of berries on the Mountain Ash. For many miles along the North Shore, the woods are red with this fruit which has survived the migrating flocks of Robins. At the Lakehead *decora* is the common species but as we approach Grand Marais *americana* occurs. Starlings began feeding on Rowan berries on September 11 but their depredations were not marked; possibly the majority migrated as they were reported in immense flocks moving across Northern Ontario later in September. There does not appear to be a good crop of samaras on the Manitoba Maples and Black Ash. Evening Grosbeaks moved into the area in numbers, beginning October 20. The cone crops on pines and spruces appears poor.

The local area has been intensively studied for so many years that it should become more and more difficult to add a new bird or a new breeding record.

Yet yearly, one or more such records are made. In the June *Flicker* we reported the Golden-winged Warbler seen by K. Denis and the Robbs on May 24 and the Yellow-headed Blackbird seen by the Robbs on May 17 and by R. Ryder on July 6. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen on September 1 and two on September 6. It would seem that there had been an easterly movement on this species in 1958. Could it be associated with the low waters of Manitoba marshes? Ryder added another species to our avian fauna when he collected a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Wolf Pup Lake, 50 miles northeast of the Lakehead on September 24. There is a 1954 record for this species at Kirkland Lake in Northwestern Ontario and one still further north at Red Lake, Kenora District in 1938. It has been seen in Manitoba on a few occasions.

In the last *Flicker* we also reported the first breeding record, locally, of the Mourning Dove. We commented on their relative abundance this year. Nine were seen on September 9 in the area where they were found breeding in July. Last January a Magpie was collected locally in Conmee Township, the third seen in Northwestern Ontario in the past two years. On October 25 and 26, Dorothy Adams saw a magpie, west of Ignace, Kenora District. For many years we dismissed reports of Oregon Juncos, believing newcomers to bird-watching were misidentifying immature Slate-colored Juncos. A few autumns ago, however, Marion Smith brought in a dead Oregon Junco, now in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. Subsequently the species has been reported on several occasions during both spring and fall migrations. We saw one in Fort William on September 30 and on October 30, three Oregon and two Slate-colored Juncos fed together in our garden.

A decade or more ago we found the Coot a common fall migrant at Whitefish Lake but during recent years they have been relatively scarce. This year they were abundant from September 28 to October 25, on the above marshes as well as at Cranberry Bay, near Hurkett. Geese have been reported in large numbers and their migration has occupied a prolonged period. We first saw a large flock of Blues on October 5 and apparently there was a mass migration of geese to the east of the Lakehead that week end. There was another heavy movement from October 25 to 29. D. McKillop estimated 1,500 in two flocks seen at Silver Islet on October 25. The geese actually identified have been Blues and Canadas. There are a few fall records of Whistling Swans at the Lakehead. The press reported them massing in great numbers on Northern Manitoba lakes at the end of October. The duck flight has been disappointing. Ring-necked Ducks arrived in numbers at the end of September. A few Lesser Scaup were already down by September 28 and there was the usual movement about October 12. Instead of lingering on local lakes, however, they remained for very brief periods. Instead of rafting in great flocks on sunny days, only small groups would be found at Whitefish Lake. On October 27, thousands were on the lake, but they did not remain. In several hours of observation on November 1, I saw only seven ducks. As in the spring, Redheads were very scarce. Ordinarily we do not look for Greater Scaup until late October, although a few have been seen before the middle of the month. This year they were shot on September 15 on Lake Superior and Whitefish Lake. The status of the pond ducks is little changed from previous years.

As usual, we failed to find a hawk flight at the Lakehead and saw few hawks on a holiday trip which took us from Fort William to Duluth, and along the south shore of Lake Superior to Sault Ste. Marie on September 12-13. On September 20, we visited an area outside of Toronto, which is a favorite hawk fly-way. The wind was from the south and we saw only 20 birds, but these included Broad-winged, Sharp-

shinned, Coopers, Marsh and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as a Bald Eagle, a Peregrine Falcon, two Grosbeaks, and a Turkey Vulture! On the 25th we passed Hawk Lookout on Lake Erie, where a week before 24,000 Broad-wings and 1,000 other hawks had been counted, but again the wind was from the south. No hawks were seen in the Lower Michigan Peninsula on September 26, and as we drove across the north end of Lake Michigan to Duluth on September 27, we saw few hawks, but a Goshawk and two Bald Eagles were of interest. At the Lakehead, Colonel Dear and R. Ryder reported numbers of American Rough-legged Hawks on October 2 and they were common throughout the month. A Red-tailed Hawk was seen on October 13, feeding with six Ravens near English River.

Although only one Woodcock was heard last spring, we saw at least four and possibly six at Cloud Bay on July 29. A Lesser Yellowlegs ushered in the shore-bird migration on July 17. In general, the movement of the waders was not as good as we have come to expect. Eleven Golden Plovers were seen west of Fort William on October 4. We expected a heavy crop of grouse but our anticipations have not been realized. Both Spruce and Ruffed Grouse are relatively scarce. The weather has been blamed but a study of our opening paragraph gives no answer. Some observers report a heavy morbidity of young birds. Others blame foxes. It is generally agreed many covies in August consisted of very young birds suggestive of very late hatches. We saw our first Ruffed Grouse budding in a birch on October 30. About the same date, crops contained the berries of the Mountain Ash. The above bird had a dark brown ruff in contrast to the common black or the copper-colored ruff we occasionally see. We have previously reported in these columns one of these peculiarly colored birds.

There is nothing unusual about small birds being killed by striking picture windows. That was the cause of the death of the Kirkland Lake Yellow-billed Cuckoo referred to above and also of a Black-billed Cuckoo in Fort William last spring. We thought it peculiar to have a Belted Kingfisher fly against a window of our laboratories on September 11 and fall into a room through the ventilator. Boyd and Helen Lien found a nest of the Barn Swallow on a cliff at Black Fox Lake near Marathon on July 30. Eastern Kingbirds were flocking on August 17 and were present in maximum numbers on August 27. Yellow-shafted Flickers were quite common during spring migration and they are again common this fall. They were very common along the road from St. Ignace to Superior on September 27 and between Duluth and Fort William on September 28.

They Gray Jay has been very abundant throughout the Lakehead area this fall. Many Blue Jays are still present despite their mass migrations. On our trip, we missed the 900 Blue Jays Doris Speirs counted on September 24 near Toronto and the 10,000-odd reported migrating over Toronto on September 26. On the morning of September 27, however, we continuously cut across their migration route, and between St. Ignace and Escanaba saw at least 500, which must have been a small percentage of the Blue Jays in the region that day. On the same holiday, Ravens were common from Superior to Sault Ste. Marie on September 13-14, outnumbering Crows, but from St. Ignace to Superior on September 27, they were seen in equal numbers. On September 28 we saw 30 between Duluth and the Lakehead. On August 10, near Grand Marais we watched a Raven and shortly afterwards an Indigo Bunting was the center of our attention!

Thrushes have occurred in their usual numbers. Robins were present locally in great numbers on October 7 and again on October 25. We saw only one Robin

between St. Ignace and Superior but the following day great numbers were encountered as we drove north from Duluth. Large numbers were present at Silver Islet on October 25.

We have noted the arrival of Pine Grosbeaks at the end of October, and the Evening Grosbeaks have been common since their appearance on October 20. Juncos have been quite common since September 30. We saw a White-crowned Sparrow on October 4 and Mrs. Blake reported a Fox Sparrow on October 23. Tree Sparrows made their appearance on October 4. Pine Siskins have been occasionally noted since August 11, but to date we have seen no Redpolls. Snow Buntings were common from Fort William to English River on October 12 and subsequently they have been common between the Lakehead and Grand Marais, but the ones I have seen have been in small groups rather than the large flocks we often see at this season.

One highlight of the season was the International gathering held at the Lakehead on August 30 and 31, when the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists Club was host to the M.O.U. as well as Mrs. J. Lueschen, president of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, and Mr. Lueschen, Mrs. L. Howe of Dryden and visitors from other parts of Ontario. G. M. Bartman, extension secretary of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, was guest speaker at a dinner meeting at the Royal Edward Hotel. He illustrated his talk on conservation with kodachromes of Ontario wild flowers. Sunday had been set aside for field trips. The morning weather was too inclement. Mrs. R. M. Beckett showed the gathering, pictures she had taken at Port Churchill. Many visitors toured the Public Health Laboratory from which these columns originated. In the afternoon, local beauty spots of interest were visited. — — *Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William.*

ANNUAL NORTH SHORE FIELD TRIP

The annual winter meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club will be held February 21, 1959 at 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. This year's meeting will be held in the Grand Marais High School and will follow a banquet served by the Congregational Ladies Aid of Grand Marais.

The field trip will start at 8:00 a.m. from the J. K. Bronoel home, 2010 E. First Street, Duluth. The last stop before leaving Duluth will be at the Lester River Bridge on London Road.

Reservations for the banquet should be made with Mrs. A. M. Fenstad, Grand Marais. Banquet tickets are $2.00. Hotel reservations at Grand Marais may be made at either the Shoreline or East Bay Hotels. Remember that this is at the height of the skiing season, so hotel reservations should be made early. If you belong to a M.O.U. affiliate club, consult your local chairman for further details, or write to Mrs. Harvey Putnam, 1407 Woodland Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota.

Bill Luwe will show his slides taken at the International Ornithological Congress in Helsinki, Finland as part of the evening program.

A Trip with the Professionals

by

Bob Janssen

To be allowed to go on a birdwatching expedition with five professional men is something which, to me, was quite an honor. I believe the main reason for planning this trip was to enable the two groups represented, that is the professionals and myself, the amateur, to see just how we approached this thing called "birdwatching." To be a little more specific, I must admit I had in mind the question of trying to find out if the ornithologist really knew the birds in the field or if they had to have a museum tray full of skins and a large scientific volume by their side to identify the birds. What motive they had in taking me along, I am still not sure.

Represented on this trip were several people with whom readers of this magazine are familiar. There was Dwain Warner, John Tester and Bob Dickerman of the University Museum of Natural History and representing St. Cloud College were Al Grewe and Max Partch.

Our trip started on the evening of February 28 in a blinding snowstorm. This was a very ominous start but we reached Fergus Falls safely in spite of some of the most slippery roads I have ever witnessed. The ride was enlivened by discussions of what we contemplated seeing in the way of birdlife the following day. My questions centered around one species, the Prairie Chicken. I have always wanted to see these birds on their booming grounds and I was very elated when all members present said that we would have no difficulty in seeing them at our first stop early the next morning, this being the Rothsay Slough area in Wilkin County.

We awoke the next morning to a continuing snowstorm and high winds. Not a word was mentioned about the weather and we proceeded in all due haste to Rothsay.

Horned Larks were found on the windswept areas along the road. It has always amazed me that these birds actually appear to enjoy the most barren and cold looking areas imaginable. Their ability to find sufficient food in these places is also a mystery.

As we approached Rothsay and turned off the main highway we spotted a flock of birds sitting along the roadside. Wanting to be the first to call out an identification I quickly said "Snow Buntings." It was right here that I learned my first lesson of the trip, never be too hasty about identification whether alone or with professionals. This is the first rule, I believe, of any good birdwatcher. Oh yes, the birds were Lapland Longspurs which I recognized immediately when looking through the binoculars.

When we reached the Prairie Chicken booming area the weather had not improved in the least, but being very eager, several of us got out and attempted to see if any birds would be so foolish as to venture out into the open on a day such as this. To make a short story even shorter we saw no Prairie Chickens. However, all was not lost and here was where I learned my second lesson from the professionals, though birds are not present and the weather is almost unbearable, there are still many things to be seen in this intriguing outdoors. The area we were viewing was native prairie, never having felt the touch of the plow. To me this was very impressive and as we walked over this wide open area covered with prairie grass,

Big and Little Blue Stem, I grew even more impressed when I realized that was probably the first time I had walked on soil that had never been affected by man in some way.

We continued our birding expedition around this area noting more Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and a possible early migrating Marsh Hawk hunting low over the marshy area. As we travelled north toward Mahnomen County through the Transition Zone, between deciduous woods to the east and prairie country to the west, the bird life remained about the same. Along with the Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs many flocks of Common Redpolls put in their appearance.

Near Waubun we stopped at John Tester's prairie study area. I was amazed to hear about the amount of research that he is putting into this area. Very generally, his main theme is to attempt to discover the management principles behind the maintenance of prairie in its natural state. More specifically, he is studying the effects on the area of such things as burning, grazing and mowing. While we were here I became aware of the timeliness of such studies so that we may preserve a few areas of our fast disappearing natural prairie, and the animal and birdlife associated with these areas.

Continuing north of the city of Mahnomen we came to an area known as the Waumbach Prairie area. Upon entering the area two large crow-like birds flew out of a grove of alders; immediately I thought of Magpies but recalled my previous experience, and never having seen a live Magpie, I tried to hold back calling out the bird, but to no avail. This time I came out smelling like the proverbial rose. I at least raised my stock up to the level it was before my first mistake with the Longspurs.

Proceeding north we noted many more flocks of Redpolls. One flock of more than 200 birds contained at least six beautifully plumaged Hoary Redpolls. This being another "life bird" for my list. The identification was fairly simple when they were seen mixed with the Common Redpolls.

At Thief River Falls we stopped at the home of the area game biologist, Robert E. Farmes. The discussions we had with him in regard to the studies being carried out on Sharp-tailed Grouse and Prairie Chickens proved very interesting. The final concensus was, as it is with so many things related to conservation, that steps must be taken immediately to acquire habitat to preserve these vanishing species of our native birdlife. It seems to me that these steps are not being carried out in enough haste or on a large enough scale by the Conservation Department and other interested organizations. Rather than this, almost 100% of the "conservation" emphasis is being placed on species such as the pheasant so as to increase the hunters' take each year. I believe there should be room within our Conservation Department for research, not only to increase the hunters' bag but to take steps to preserve habitat for vanishing species, such as the Prairie Chicken.

As it was nearing dusk we hurried to our destination which was the Roseau River Refuge. As we proceeded further north the weather improved and the snow disappeared. We passed through our first coniferous forests and the country began to appear more like what we think of seeing in northern Minnesota. We reached the refuge after dark and met the refuge manager, Jack Johnson. The discussions held with him about the bird and animal life of the refuge raised my hopes for a banner day of birding to come.

I, and only I, arose at sunrise and was greeted by a beautiful clear crisp morning. As I stepped outside I heard some queer cackling chicken-like noises coming from an open area nearby. Immediately I thought of Sharp-tailed Grouse on their booming grounds. I rushed back to our sleeping quarters to

ask questions of my associates to find out if these noises were Sharp-tailed Grouse. When I asked Dwain Warner, he raised his sleepy head and said in a very scientific manner, "quite possibly." After travelling north a few hundred yards from the refuge headquarters we came upon a group of a dozen Sharptails on their booming grounds. We didn't see too much of the actual booming because the birds seemed to be disturbed by our breaking in on their private party.

Out on the refuge itself we saw many Magpies, flocks of 10 to 20 birds. These birds seem far more common than records indicate they are in Minnesota. Ravens were also common, several being present in the air at all times, giving their raucous call. Mr. Johnson had told us the preceding evening that we were sure to see Golden Eagles and sure enough, almost in the exact spot he said we would find them, we saw a fully adult Golden Eagle. Other birds recorded included Ruffed Grouse, Hudsonian Chickadees, Redpolls, Rough - legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes. We had hoped to see the Moose which are present on the refuge, but we were not quite that fortunate. Signs of deer, bear, coyote and possibly wolf were in evidence.

We left the refuge and continued along the south shore of Lake of the Woods. It astounded me how different this country looked than what I had expected. Instead of towering pine forests we saw cut over land grown up with groves of weedy looking aspen and alder interspersed with poor looking farms. The main economy of these farms is sheep grazing, and this adds to the general rundown appearance of the landscape. One encouraging thing is that studies and practices are being carried out on this type of land to rehabilitate it and make it productive from the forestry and wildlife standpoint.

It wasn't until we reached the Red Lake bog country that we saw what I considered to be a typical landscape of northern Minnesota. Large stands of Black Spruce, Tamarack and Balsam were much in evidence and made a pleasant change from the land further to the north. Birdlife was relatively scarce through this country, a few Pine Grosbeaks, the usual redpolls, hawks, including Marsh and Rough-legs were about all that put in their appearance. Several Northern Shrikes were also seen perched high on the tops of dead pine trees.

Our last point of interest on this trip was the Red Lake Indian Reservation. This area seems a world apart and alone from the rest of Minnesota. The terrible conditions under which these people live is a tragic thing to see. Many articles have probably been written of this subject, and I am not qualified to comment upon it, but I believe it is something every Minnesotan should see. One thing of interest that we did notice was the amount of burning going on in this area. These fires are started by the Indians, and when we asked them why they were set, they only replied that they had always done so in the past so why not do it now. This probably has a great effect on the appearance of the landscape in keeping parts of the country open and discouraging the growth of brush.

Birdlife was again scarce, possibly due to the legal practice of the Indians taking game throughout the year. We did see one forlorn looking Sharp-tailed Grouse hiding under a rail fence. How he managed to survive remains unanswered.

As it was turning dark we thought it time to at least head in the direction of home. We passed the hours talking of the birds we had seen and the country we had travelled through. From these birdwatching discussions with my professional friends it is my personal conclusion that one of the largest problems facing any serious birdwatcher, professional ornithologist or person interested

in the out of doors is the preservation outdoors and the wildlife associated with of a semblance of naturalness of this it. Remember, whether amateur or professional, we must have an outdoor laboratory in which to pass our leisure or earn our living, whichever the case may be.

As I said in the beginning, I considered myself fortunate to go on a trip with the professionals. It is an experience that will not soon be forgotten. It showed me that this hobby of birdwatching is more than just the seeing of certain species of common and unusual birds, but also serves one with a profound experience with the whole out of doors. Birdwatching and ornithology, let us keep these terms separate as they are quite different, as an avocation and vocation are peculiar in their position when compared with related fields. By this I mean we are dependent not only on ourselves for the continuance of our hobby or vocation, but we are also dependent on practically every living soul around us. Collectively, we are using up our resources, increasing our population, building sprawling cities, and overrunning and destroying habitat for our dwindling numbers of wildlife. Again, we as amateurs and professionals should have foremost in our minds the phrases, "preservation of habitat" and "conservation of natural resources." We should not only believed in these things, but should actively participate in the fulfillment of them. — *Minneapolis, Minn.*

SCREECH OWL NOTE — A dead gray phase Screech Owl was found on November 11, 1958, on Third Avenue East, Duluth. This may be a first record for this area, but the possibility exists that the bird might have been killed by a car south of Duluth and carried here. — *Gary Kuyava and Robert Cohen, Duluth, Minn.*

Notes of Interest

SANDHILL CRANES IN MORRISON COUNTY — On May 1, 1958 while visiting one of the Prairie Chicken booming grounds in Morrison County where I have a blind, we enjoyed a very pleasant surprise. David Grether and I had arrived about one hour early in the area. Usual arrival time is 4 a.m. While walking to the blind we heard an unusual call from a watery area adjacent to the booming ground. After some deliberation, during which such things as bull frogs were mentioned, we decided that the call must be that of cranes. We proceeded to the blind where we watched the two flocks, numbering five and nine, circle the meadow and surrounding fields for about a half hour before they flew off toward the east. We later tried locating them by car, but had no luck.

Had we heard the calls from the western part of the state or the prairies of Florida we would have recognized them at once, but the crane is not much remembered in central Minnesota. The records of the late George Friedrichs which go back some 25 years, do not indicate that they were seen here in that time. Certainly we have not found them during our frequent trips to the area in the last eight years.

Besides being an unusual location for birds, I believe that our sighting is probably one of the extremely late records for the state.

Other birds noted on this same morning were seven Snow and three Blue Geese and two pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes on the same water area. Except for the date, the geese were not unusual, but one pair of the phalaropes remained all summer and apparently nested. We were unable to find a nest or young, but in attempts later in the summer the adults dive-bombed and harassed us in other ways while we searched the grass at the edge of the water. I think it reasonable to assume that they did nest here. — *Al Grewe, St. Cloud, Minn.*

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A MAGPIE INVASION — Since September I have been receiving many reports on Black-billed Magpies in northern Minnesota. The following list is a compilation of these reports:

Floodwood, St. Louis County, October 20 (letter date), a flock, Cecil Booker.
Cut Foot Lake, Itasca County, T147 R27 S25, November 1, one, Milt Stenlund.
Between Deer River and Effie, Itasca County, this fall, several, Clare Johnson.
Vermillion River near Orr, St. Louis County, October 12, one, David Cline.
Cook, St. Louis County, November 2, one, H. Ray Cline.
Aitkin, SE¼, S18, T48N, R26W, Aitkin County, October 7, LeRoy Angell.
Sawbill Road, Lake County, early September, one, Donald Huseby.
Carlton Peak, Lake County, October 4, one, U.S. Forest Fire Guard. (The last two reports were taken from Mary Lupient's Seasonal Report of this issue).

In addition to these written reports, there have been several oral communications received, mentioning flocks in the Red Lake area, Beltrami County, and several in the Tofte area, Lake County. — *P. B. Hofslund, Duluth.*

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NESTING RECORD OF A BURROWING OWL — During the summer of 1958 I found an active Burrowing Owl nesting hole in Chief Township, Mahnomen County. I observed four young and an adult at the entrance many times during the summer and one qualified observer reported five young. The burrow was located in an alfalfa field in an old "Mima Mound." — *John Lindmeier, Game Research Section, St. Paul.*

AN OIL-SOAKED GREAT BLUE HERON — At about 8 a.m. on May 19, 1958, I noticed a very dark Great Blue Heron alight in a meadow near the Crow Wing River, ten miles east of Sebeka, Minnesota. I flushed the bird and its flight appeared perfectly normal, but the much darker than normal color was very obvious. That evening the bird, or one very similar, was found shot and lying in the river. It was retrieved and allowed to dry. Although it seemed a bit greasy, I thought it was in normal condition. Since I was practicing taxidermy, I skinned the specimen intending to mount it. In the meantime, I wrote to the Minnesota Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota and asked about the possibility of this being the Northwest Coast Heron, a dark subspecies of the Great Blue Heron. Dr. W. J. Breckenridge wrote stating that to properly identify the bird it would be necessary to examine it and compare it with other herons.

Accordingly, the specimen was sent to the Museum and his report was that after several baths in detergents and cleaner naptha, the bird turned out to be a normal Great Blue Heron which was thoroughly saturated in what appeared to be crude oil. It was suggested that possibly some local oil polluted areas might be the source of this condition, but I have made inquiry of a number of people and garages and no one knows of any local waters with any oil pollution. It remains a puzzle as to how far this bird might have traveled after having become so saturated with oil. — *Richard Oehlenschlager, Sebeka, Minn.*

Note: On first examining this specimen, we were convinced that, in spite of some oil pollution, the bird must be partially melanistic. We were amazed to find how much oil dissolved from the plumage and what a striking change occurred in its colors. An inquiry at the State Board of Health, revealed that, to their knowledge the nearest extensively oil polluted waters were at the Wrenshall oil refinery near Duluth. How far this bird might have traveled northward from polluted waters to the south is only a guess. The surprising thing is that it was able to fly at all. — **W. J. Breckenridge, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota.**

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UNUSUAL PURPLE MARTIN NEST BUILDING BEHAVIOR — On June 27, 1958 Dwain Warner and Bob Dickerman of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota and this writer investigated a Purple Martin nesting box at 60th and Beard Avenue South in Minneapolis. The resident of this address, Ida T. Behan, had received complaints from neighbors that the martins had been "eating" leaves from a newly planted pear tree in the area.

Our investigation revealed five pairs of nesting martins in the box. Further observations showed that the birds had stripped most of the outer new leaves from this tree and were using them as nesting material. The birds obviously preferred the leaves of the pear tree and did not take leaves from birch, poplar and other trees in the area.

Acting upon Dr. Warner's suggestion, bright strips of aluminum foil were hung in the tree. Correspondence with Mrs. Behan revealed that these strips did little to deter the birds from taking leaves until their nest building activities were completed the following week. No reason was determined for the preference of pear tree leaves.

In my own martin nesting box, also in south Minneapolis, I noted the birds using the leaves of a Lombardy Poplar tree in the area.

Dr. Robert's "Birds of Minnesota" and Headstrom's "Bird Nests" note that leaves are used as nesting material but no mention actually is made of this curious habit of stripping the sprouting leaves from the tree itself.

It seems that this would warrant further investigation by people with nesting martins in their yards to see if this practice is of common occurrence or is something unusual in this species. — *Robert B. Janssen, Minneapolis, Minn.*

MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

1 Albert Lea Audubon Society
2 Avifaunal Club
3 Duluth Bird Club
5 Mankato Audubon Society
6 Minneapolis Audubon Society
7 Minneapolis Bird Club
8 Minnesota Bird Club
9 St. Paul Audubon Society