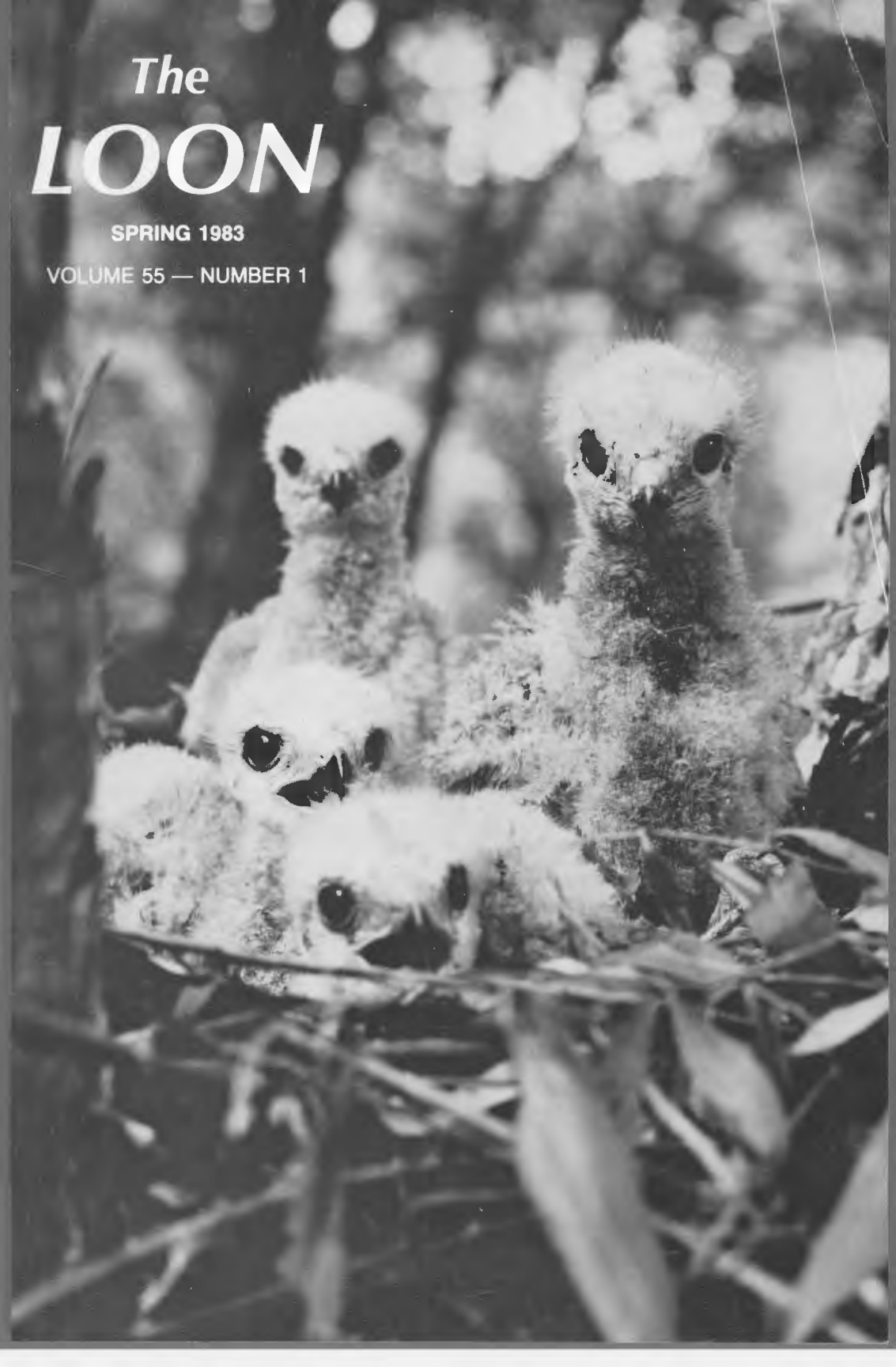


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# MINNESOTA'S PEREGRINE FALCON REINTRODUCTON PROJECT: 1982 HACK SITE REPORT

James E. Evans, John Coleman and Susan G. Galatowitsch

## Introduction

After the failure of two earlier attempts, in 1976 and 1977, 1982 saw a renewed Peregrine Falcon Reintroduction Project in Wabasha County, Minnesota. Five young peregrines, two tiercels (males) and three falcons (females) were obtained from the University of Saskatchewan's breeding facility in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. At an age of 30 to 34 days, these were transported to the site and placed in hack boxes on a man-made tower near the Mississippi River. The peregrines were fed by hack site attendants and spent the next seven days developing their flight muscles by extensive wing-flapping within the hack boxes. On July 28, 1982, the boxes were opened and the birds allowed to fly free, although closely watched and tracked using radio-telemetry. Eight days after release one of the tiercels was killed by a Great Horned Owl. Twenty-seven days after release one of the females was successfully retrapped to treat a broken leg. The successful fledging of three peregrines represents the first step toward reestablishing a breeding population in Minnesota.

## Background

The status of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in Minnesota is succinctly phrased by Green and Janssen (1975) as "regular summer resident until 1960." Somewhat masked behind that statement is the dramatic population decline of the peregrine in eastern North America from the late 1940's to the early 1960's (Hickey and Anderson, 1969). This decline has been linked to the effects of DDT-DDE and resulting egg-shell thinning and reproductive failure (Bollengier *et al.*, 1979).

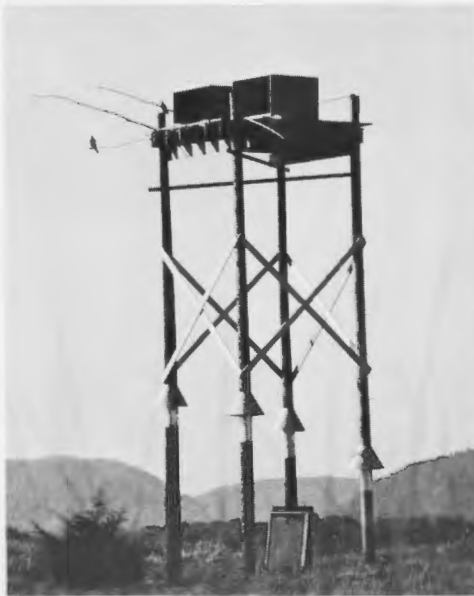
Peregrines never were very numerous in the Upper Mississippi River area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois). During the 1930's it was estimated that there were six nesting pairs in the Mississippi River bluffs of southeastern Minnesota (Roberts, 1932). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge (stretching from Wabasha, Minnesota to Davenport, Iowa, 454 km long) contained 30 individual peregrines in 1948 and 20 in 1949 (reported in Berger and Mueller, 1969). A study of peregrine eyries between Red Wing, Minnesota and Dubuque, Iowa (320 km long) during the period 1952 to 1964 reported annual maximums of 11 pairs or nests containing young (Berger and Mueller, 1969). This same study documents the population decline, down from a maximum of 11 breeding pairs in 1954-55 to three nests with young in 1960, the last young observed in 1962, and the last adult observed near a known eyrie in 1964. The decline in other parts of Minnesota was contemporaneous. The last reported nesting on the Upper St. Croix River was in 1945. On the North Shore of Lake Superior, the last adult observed near a known eyrie was in 1964. The last reported nesting in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was in 1964 (Green and Janssen, 1975).

## Hacking

Hacking is one technique for reestablishing depleted or extirpated peregrine populations. It has been successfully pioneered in the eastern U.S. and Colorado (Sherrod and Cade, 1977; Sherrod *et al.*, 1982). In this study, five young peregrines were raised at a breeding facility in Saskatchewan. For the first week after hatching they

were hand-fed by technicians. For the next three weeks the chicks were fed by captive adult peregrines, and human contact minimized. The goal here was to produce young that were entirely independent of human care. By the time the chicks were four weeks old, they were capable of tearing their own food, were well coordinated walkers, and were starting to vigorously exercise their flight muscles. At this time they were transported by private aircraft to the release site near Wabasha, Minnesota. This site, called Weaver Dunes, is a wildlife sanctuary owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.

Site preparation activities had included constructing the hack tower and control efforts for Great Horned Owls. The hack tower was constructed using four telephone poles that were erected by Northern States Power Company. The ten by sixteen foot platform connecting them was built by site attendants and staff from the Bell Museum.



Two peregrines on the hack tower at Weaver Dunes about 3 weeks after release — Photo by Phil & Judy Sublett.

Two hack boxes were constructed by Roger Kaercher using specifications from The Peregrine Fund. When assembled on the platform, each of these measured four by five feet, was three feet high, and had

bottoms filled with pea gravel and perch stones. One entire side was a removable, barred front. This open side served the dual function of allowing the peregrines to observe and become accustomed to their surroundings and also made it possible for attendants to monitor their development while they were confined to the hack boxes. Each box had a trap door installed in the roof, so that food (Japanese quail) could be delivered to the peregrines without human contact.

Great Horned Owls can be a major cause of mortality among young peregrines, especially since the artificial nature of hacking means that no adult peregrines are available to protect the young (Sherrod and Cade, 1977; Sherrod *et al.*, 1981). The hack tower was built in an area of open sand dunes, prairie, and small groves of trees. It had been hoped that the open nature of this vegetation would reduce the number of great horned owls present. It was later determined, however, that two or three families of Great Horned Owls hunted within a one mile radius of the hack tower. Considerable efforts were made to trap and remove these. Live bait and predator calls were used as lures for Swedish goshawk traps (Meng, 1971), pole traps, and Bal-Chatri traps. In the end, only one adult owl was trapped and removed, and owls remained a great concern throughout the project. One peregrine was killed by an owl (described later).

The young peregrines were placed in one of the hack boxes on July 21, 1982. There were fitted with U.S.F.&W.S. bands and with "dummy" radio transmitters at this time. The role of the "dummy" transmitters (wooden dowels, wires, and a leather jess) was to accustom the peregrines to the real transmitters, mounted later. During the next week, many hours were spent observing the peregrines through peep holes in the boxes or from a distance, using spotting telescopes. The young peregrines spent much of their time stretching, preening, and wing-flapping in the box. They were alert to the outside world, and followed the flight of passing songbirds. Specific observations were made for signs of preflight restlessness, such as leaping at the bars of the cage, or hovering. During this time it was necessary



to transfer the tiercels to the second hack box when it appeared that the females were dominating the available food. Left to themselves, the tiercels then fed normally.

The technique of hacking depends on a combination of careful timing and good fortune. It is necessary to release the birds at a time when they are sufficiently developed to fly to-and-from the tower, so that they can escape predators and return for the food continuously made available to them on the tower. They must not, how-

away and lead to starvation. Because of these concerns, all possible steps were taken to reduce activity around the tower at this time.

### The Release Process

On July 28 the "dummy" transmitters were replaced with leg-mounted radio transmitters and the birds were placed behind a cardboard enclosure in the rear of each hack box while the barred fronts of the boxes were removed. The birds soon



Three female peregrines inside the hatch box prior to release (l. to r.) 39 days old, 37 days old, 40 days old — Photo by Jim Evans.

ever, be so far advanced that they would immediately leave the area. If this occurred, those individuals would probably be unable to relocate the tower and thus starve to death. Despite the extraordinary flight abilities the young peregrines soon display, they are incapable of catching sufficient prey to stay alive during the first four to six weeks after release. Good fortune is necessary during the critical first week, since any unexpected activity (human or otherwise) could frighten the peregrines

freed themselves of the temporary enclosure, and were out in the wide world.

The first few days after release proved that anything that can happen, will happen. One female bolted from the tower immediately, scarcely able to fly, and ended up the next morning perched on a low bush at the edge of the Mississippi River. She was recaptured using a boat loaned by the U.S.F.&W.S. and returned to the tower the following morning. A second female fell from the tower the first evening, and

fluttered down some 200 meters away. Unable to fly back, this female proceeded to walk back to the tower and was found directly underneath. She also was recaptured and returned to the tower. Following these events, the three females spent the first week mostly on the tower. On the second day they began to make frequent circle flights (from and immediately back to the tower). The sight of one flying would often stimulate the others to follow or chase it. Near the end of the first week the females began flying to adjacent perches, including the roofs of farm buildings, for short intervals before returning to the tower. The three females roosted on the tower each night for the first two weeks after release, and one female continued to roost on the tower until seventeen days after release.

The behavior of the tiercels was very different. The tiercels were somewhat older than the females upon release (both tiercels were 41 days old, while the females were 41, 40, and 37 days old), better developed, and stronger fliers. Both flew from the tower immediately after release. Although both stayed in sight of the hack tower, and often flew directly overhead, neither tiercel landed there or fed for five days. We are not certain whether the tiercels were intimidated by the females, unable to master landing on the tower, or simply were not hungry enough. One tiercel, at least, was observed catching and consuming beetles on the ground during this time interval. On one occasion, one of the tiercels was heard food-begging from the second. By the fifth day there was serious concern that the tierceles were depleting their energy reserves and this would adversely affect their growth and development. Moments before plans were initiated to retrap them, both tiercels landed on the tower and commenced feeding.

In contrast to the females, both tiercels had become accustomed to roosting at night in the woods between one and two miles from the hack tower. They would characteristically spend the days with the other falcons, but individually seek roosting posts at dusk. They would then return to the tower at first light. Each night site attendants and volunteers would track down the roost locations using radio-tele-

metry and stand watch over the peregrines all night to ward off possible attacks by owls. This was not an easy task, as the tiercels were very secretive and chose new roost locations every night.

On the morning of the eighth day after release one of the tiercels was killed by a Great Horned Owl. Apparently this occurred in the fog, at first light, as the bird flew from its roost toward the hack tower to feed. The plucked feathers of the peregrine were later found on the crest of a large sand dune. The remains and radio transmitter were recovered the next day in a slough one-half mile from the tower, near the place two young Great Horned Owls were heard food-begging and adult owls were active.

During the first two weeks the peregrines spent a portion of each day on the ground on the large, open sand dunes one-quarter mile from the hack tower. Small groups of peregrines often chased each other up the steep side of dunes, or pushed each other down. They played with a variety of objects, including picked flower tops, old shotgun shell casings, and a dead snake. During mid-afternoon, the peregrines often lay down and slept on the sand. The open nature and steep sides of the dunes may have appealed to the peregrines as a facsimile of cliffs or rock faces.

Near the end of the first week, the peregrines began to chase other birds. About ten days after release, the peregrines began to interact with the large number of American Kestrels in the vicinity. As the kestrels were in larger numbers and were more accomplished fliers, many of these encounters ended with the kestrels chasing the peregrines. About two weeks after release peregrines were observed catching monarch butterflies on the wing. In at least one instance the prey was consumed. On the fourteenth day after release was the first instance of a peregrine soaring to at least 500 foot altitude, and stooping on a Turkey Vulture.

During the third week pursuit of birds began in earnest. Nineteen days after release a peregrine conducted a long chase of a Mallard and almost caught it, despite the fact the peregrine was climbing while in pursuit. Repeated stooping on flocks of blackbirds was observed twenty-three days

after release. The tiercel was observed stooping on a perched Red-tailed Hawk twenty-five days after release. The first known kill (there may have been earlier ones) came thirty-two days after release, when a peregrine was observed plucking a Tree Swallow. Other kills followed, including a Blue Jay and a Common Grackle. The peregrines were last seen ob-

to retrap him and remove the transmitter 26 days after release.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment came twenty-five days after release when one of the females returned to the tower with a broken leg. She was retrapped, using a goshawk trap, and taken to the Raptor Rehabilitation and Research Center at the University of Minnesota. She will be



**Female peregrine at about three weeks after release — Photo by Roger Kaercher.**

taining food at the hack tower forty days after release. Since that time they have been self-sufficient.

The leg-mounted radio transmitters had been fastened to the birds so as to track them during the first critical weeks. It was desirable, however, that these come off after that time, otherwise the transmitters might interfere with the peregrines' hunting skills. To accomplish this, the leather jess had been cut and sewn with two loops of thread at one place. This created a weak spot, so that normal abrasion and wear caused the transmitters to fall off on their own. The transmitters fell off the three females between 19 and 21 days after release. The tiercel apparently pulled at his jess to a lesser extent, and it was necessary

held over winter while the leg heals, and may be available for release in spring, 1983. It was apparent from her injury that she was taken in a leg-hold trap. Local residents have been known to place these traps on fence posts to catch American Crows and blackbirds that cause damage in agricultural fields. As soon as this problem became apparent, an effort was made to explain this to local residents and seek their cooperation to remove the traps. Local opinion is mostly supportive of this project.

#### **Summary**

In 1982, five fledgling peregrines were hacked from a tower in southeastern Minnesota, along the Mississippi River. One

peregrine was killed by Great Horned Owls, and a second was injured in a trap, but was successfully recovered for treatment. The three remaining peregrines are entirely wild, and represent a first step toward reestablishment of a breeding population in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Further releases are scheduled for 1983.

#### Acknowledgements

The Peregrine Falcon Reintroduction Project is a cooperative effort of The Nature Conservancy, Bell Museum of Natural History and Raptor Rehabilitation and Research Center at the University of Minnesota, the University of Saskatchewan, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Minnesota Falconers Association. This project was conceived and directed by Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Dr. Patrick Redig and Mr. Carrol Henderson. We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the many volunteers that aided us in this project. We would also like to thank Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Dr. Patrick Redig, Ms. Lee Pfannmuller, and Mr. Jeffrey Weigel for reviewing this manuscript and making thoughtful suggestions.

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Each summer the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station at Lake Itasca offers a variety of courses for both degree and non-degree seeking individuals. Several courses that may appeal to MOU members are: Biology 5816 Field Biology Photography (5 credits, prereq. course in general biology); Biology 5850 Field Biology for Secondary Teachers (10 credits, may be taken for 2½ weeks for 5 credits, prereq. major in science education or teaching experience in biology); EBB 5834 Field Ornithology (5 credits, prereq. course in biology). All these courses will be offered during Term I, June 12-July 16, 1983. In addition to coursework, students may apply for the Malvin and Josephine Herz Fellowship which is offered to encourage an outstanding student in ornithological research. For information concerning courses and the Herz Fellowship contact D. F. Parmelee, Field Biology Program, 349 Bell Museum, 10 Church Street, SE., Minneapolis, MN 55455 or call 373-1292.

# PREDATION AT BANDING STATIONS IN ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Bill Hilton Jr.

While trapping Blue Jays for banding during the winter of 1981-82, I observed four interesting cases of attempted avian predation in Anoka County, Minnesota. The first incident occurred at my former residence adjoining Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (WMA) three miles west of Forest Lake. At about 0730 on 25 November 1981 I set all four cells of an automatic Potter-style trap and captured several Dark-eyed Juncos and American Tree Sparrows during the next two hours. At about 0930 I looked out my front window to see that another Tree Sparrow was caught in one of the cells, and that a rather large raptor was perched on the trap (see photo). The hawk, an immature Northern Goshawk because of its heavy white eye-

line and overall brown coloring, was absorbed in the actions of the sparrow, which was trying to get away. The goshawk remained hunched over the trap for nearly 20 minutes as I took several photographs, and finally it flew northward into Carlos Avery WMA. The sparrow showed no sign of damage when I removed it from the trap, so I banded it and watched it fly away in what appeared to be normal fashion. Two days earlier. I had seen an immature goshawk perched in the red pine plantation just south of my residence; this may have been the same bird. It was probably attracted to my banding station by the large numbers of small birds at the numerous feeders.

The second incident took place at the re-



Immature Northern Goshawk on trap containing an American Tree Sparrow, Carlos Avery WMA, Minn., Anoka Co., 25 Nov. 1981 — Photo by Bill Hilton Jr.

sident biologist's house that I temporarily occupied at Cedar Creek Natural History Area, a University of Minnesota tract about two miles east of Bethel. During December 1981 I began another banding operation at this location, and by early January large numbers of juncos, sparrows, woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, and other birds were taking advantage of the seed and suet. On 24 February 1982 I was running a variety of traps, including a seed-baited single-cell McCamey on top of a pole about four feet above the ground. At about 0900, I noticed a chickadee caught in this trap and immediately donned my coat to go outside to bring it in for banding. By the time I got out the door, a Northern Shrike had landed on the side of the trap and somehow managed to kill the chickadee through the 1/2" x 1" wire mesh (see photo). The shrike was bold and refused to leave its kill until I approached within a few feet, at which time it flew to a branch about ten feet above my head.

From this perch it watched me for about three minutes while I examined the chickadee, which had been killed by a bite at the base of the skull. Since the shrike apparently was intent on trying to get a meal, I re-set the trap with the dead chickadee as bait. Before I had walked the 30 feet back to the front door of the house, the shrike was already caught in the trap and tearing feathers from the breast of the chickadee. Carefully, and while wearing leather gloves, I removed the shrike from the trap, listening to its loud shrieks and scolding. Because of the faint barring on the breast and grayness of the back feathers, I determined that the shrike was an "adult," i.e., it was hatched sometime before 1981. (Young birds usually show much heavier breast barring and back feathers that are somewhat brown.) I banded and released the bird, and did not see it again. Three days later, I captured an "immature" shrike in almost identical fashion, except that it killed a Common Redpoll through the



Northern Shrike, captured after killing Black-capped Chickadee, Cedar Creek NHA, Anoka Co., 24 Feb. 1982 — Photo by Bill Hilton Jr.



mesh of the same trap. Again, the shrike was able to get to its prey within the 90 seconds that it took me to go from my observation window to the trapping area. Coincidentally, I banded one other immature shrike at this location on 24 January 1982 when it entered a baffle trap on the ground to kill and eat another redpoll. Apparently, all three of these shrikes were attracted to the feeding site because of the flocks of potential prey. Perhaps the long period of deep snow cover in 1981-82 made it hard for shrikes to find food and increased the attractiveness of birds flocking around feeders. It is worth noting that in most winters a half dozen or fewer Northern Shrikes are captured by all the

banders in Minnesota.

These observations were made during a project that was supported in part by the Cedar Creek Natural History Fund, the Non-Game Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Dayton Natural History Fund and the Wilkie Fund of the University of Minnesota, the Chapman Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, and a grant from Sigma Xi. I appreciate the comments of H. B. Tordoff of the Bell Museum of Natural History regarding this manuscript. **Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Present address: 1432 Devinney Road, York, SC 29745.**

## **A BREEDING BIRD CENSUS OF SUSIE ISLAND, COOK COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**Steven G. Wilson and Nancy Lizette Berlin**

### **Introduction and Study Area**

Susie Island is located within the Susie Island Archipelago on Lake Superior, three miles northeast of Grand Portage, Cook County, Minnesota (Fig. 1). The island lies  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile offshore, four miles west of Pigeon Point, the easternmost point of land in the state.

At 37 hectares, Susie Island is the largest island in the archipelago. The shoreline is exposed bedrock with an occasional gravel beach. Elevation varies from 605' to 680' above sea level. Exposed rock outcrops are evident on slopes and hilltops, and elsewhere soils are thin and generally support a mature or overmature black spruce, balsam fir, and paper birch com-

munity (see Fig. 2 & 3). A four hectare clearcut approximately 15 years old is regenerating to a spruce/fir/birch mixture, as are several smaller blowdown areas.

The Nature Conservancy purchased Susie Island in 1980, prompted by the realization that several boreal and arctic-circumboreal plant species grow there far south of their normal range (Berlin, 1980). While the Nature Conservancy's primary concern is safeguarding the habitat of these plants, their stewardship of land is guided by an integrated land management plan that considers all resources. With the exception of data collected on Herring Gulls (Goodermote, 1980), little information was available describing the bird community of



Figure 1. Location of Susie Island, Cook County, Minnesota

Susie Island. The following study was undertaken in the summer of 1981 with the objective of determining relative abundances of breeding birds on Susie Island.

### Methods

A modified point count method (Robbins, 1978), was used to census avian populations. Eleven circular plots each with a 50 meter radius were established. The plots were distributed to sample timber stand types in proportion to their frequency of occurrence on the island. The possibility of counting the same bird at two different plots was minimized by spacing the plots at least 230 meters apart.

During a census an observer stood at the center of each plot for 10 minutes and recorded all birds seen or heard within the plot. Each plot was censused seven times between May 30 and July 3. Six censuses were conducted in the morning between the hours of 0455 and 0946, and one census was done in the evening between 2015 and 2134. Weather conditions were favorable (temperatures 1° to 11°C winds <16km/

hr) for all census except on the morning of June 1, when it was raining lightly.

Census data were analyzed to give an index of abundance for each species. Each singing male, occupied nest, or family of birds out of the nest counted as one pair. A bird only seen, or heard calling, counted as one-half pair. The highest counts for a species at each of the 11 plots were summed and divided by the total number of plots to yield an index of abundance. The index values were divided into four abundance categories as follows:

Category	Index Value (Average # Pairs/Plot)
Abundant	> 1.0
Common	> 0.5 to 1.0
Uncommon	> 0.1 to 0.5
Very Uncommon	≤ 0.1

Many non-census daylight hours on Susie Island were devoted to extensive searches of the island and its surrounding waters. This activity increased the chances of encountering uncommon, wide-ranging, aquatic, or riparian species not recorded during censuses. An approximation of the relative abundance of birds recorded in this



Fig. 2 — The "coastline" of Susie Island — Photo by Steven Wilson

way was derived by assigning them to one of three categories based on how frequently they were observed during the 14 days researchers were on the island:

Category	Frequency of Observation
Regular	8 or more days
Occasional	3 to 7 days
Infrequent	1 or 2 days

Observations of several flocks of migrating warblers were not included in the results.

### Discussion

Table 1 is a list of 20 bird species assigned to abundance categories based on census data. Table 2 presents 25 species seen only once during censusing, or incidentally during non-census periods. Also included in the tables are records of confirmed or possible breeding for some species on Susie Island.

The aquatic (*e.g.* Common Loon, Herring Gull, Belted Kingfisher) and riparian (*e.g.* Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow) avifauna are fairly typical of Lake Superior's north shore. The index figure for the Great

Table 1. Relative abundance of censused species on Susie Island during 1981 breeding season.

Species	Index of Abundance	Abundance Category
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1.91	Abundant
Magnolia Warbler	1.18	"
Nashville Warbler <sup>1</sup>	1.00	Common
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.91	"
Swainson's Thrush	0.82	"
American Redstart	0.55	"
Herring Gull <sup>2</sup>	0.50	Uncommon
White-throated Sparrow <sup>1</sup>	0.45	"
Winter Wren	0.36	"
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0.36	"
Great Blue Heron	0.32	"
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher <sup>1</sup>	0.32	"
Common Nighthawk <sup>1</sup>	0.27	"
American Crow	0.27	"
Black-throated Green Warbler	0.27	"
Tree Swallow	0.18	"
Boreal Chickadee	0.18	"
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.18	"
Purple Finch <sup>1</sup>	0.14	"
Blue Jay	0.09	Very Uncommon

<sup>1</sup> Active nest found on Susie Island.

<sup>2</sup> Adult with recently fledged young observed within 100 feet of Susie Island.



Fig. 3 — The “interior” of Susie Island — Photo by Steven Wilson

Blue Heron is rather high because of the presence of a rookery on nearby Lucille Island.

Susie Island's terrestrial avifauna, however, more closely resembles a bird community of the boreal spruce/fir forest than it does a community of the mixed deciduous/coniferous forest more characteristic of northeastern Minnesota. The absence of the Black-capped Chickadee and the presence of the Boreal Chickadee are indicative of this, and with the exception of the American Crow and Common Nighthawk, all terrestrial species in Table 1 are typical of the boreal forest's black spruce and balsam fir types (Erskine, 1977). This is not surprising given the predominance of spruce and fir on the island. Also, as an island, the study area is not as susceptible to overflow by transient species from different habitat types on the mainland (MacArthur, 1967).

More interesting, perhaps, than what is there is what isn't. A number of terrestrial birds Erskine considers typical of the boreal spruce/fir forest are found in northeastern Minnesota, yet are apparently absent from the breeding bird community of Susie Island. We did not observe the

Table 2. Frequency of observation of non-censused species<sup>1</sup> on Susie Island during 1981 breeding season.

Species	Frequency of Observation
Common Loon	Regular
Red-breasted Merganser	"
Barn Swallow	"
Song Sparrow	"
American Black Duck <sup>2</sup>	Occasional
Ring-billed Gull	"
Belted Kingfisher	"
Northern Flicker	"
Olive-sided Flycatcher	"
Gray Jay	"
American Robin	"
Cedar Waxwing	"
Vireo sp.	"
Evening Grosbeak	"
Mallard	Infrequent
Common Merganser <sup>2</sup>	"
Spotted Sandpiper	"
Bonaparte's Gull	"
Great Horned Owl	"
Common Raven	"
Northern Parula	"
Blackburnian Warbler	"
Scarlet Tanager	"
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	"
Pine Siskin	"

<sup>1</sup> Also includes species recorded only once during census.

<sup>2</sup> Adult with recently fledged young observed within 100 feet of Susie Island.

Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Bay-breasted, Cape May, Tennessee and Connecticut Warblers, Dark-eyed Junco, and Chipping Sparrow.

Island biogeographic theory suggests bird species diversity is affected by an island's physical conditions, size and isolation, numbers of species increasing with island size and decreasing with distance from sources of repopulation (MacArthur, 1967). At 37 hectares Susie Island is well below minimum acreages Robbins (1979) estimates are required to sustain viable breeding populations of many of the area-sensitive forest birds, a group composed mostly of long-distance migrants, especially warblers. Although only ¼ mile from the mainland, Susie Island's small size and isolation may be more significant than first glance suggests because it is an island in more than the usual sense. Susie Island is a forest fragment, separated from large tracts of spruce/fir forest not only by water but by many acres of different habitat types. Its relative isolation, for example, may tend to insulate Susie Island from outbreaks of forest insect pests (e.g. spruce budworm, *Choristoneura fumiferana*) in areas of more contiguous spruce/fir forest and therefore reduce feeding opportunities for insectivorous birds like the Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers.

Physical conditions unique to an island, most significantly climate and weather, can act in concert with other factors to reduce bird species diversity. The cool, damp, windy climate may limit the kinds and numbers of insects on the island and thus reduce the number of ecological niches available to insectivorous birds. The combination of high winds and shallow soils quickly eliminates decadent trees, resulting in a lack of suitable sizes and adequate numbers of trees for cavity nesters and bark probers (e.g. woodpeckers, Brown Creeper).

Other limiting factors may include unsuitable nesting and foraging substrate for some species due to the prevalent blanket bog and rock outcrop ground cover, and the lack of a significant broad-leaved ele-

ment in the understory, which Erskine (1977) believes the Tennessee Warbler is associated with. Many other factors too numerous to list are no doubt involved in limiting bird species diversity on Susie Island.

### Acknowledgments

Our thanks to Mary Beth Nevers, Lee Pfannmuller and Dr. Harrison Tordoff for their suggestions regarding our methods, and to Lee Pfannmuller and David Bruggers for their helpful comments on the manuscript. We especially appreciate the help of Mary Shedd who provided field assistance, manuscript review and preparation.

Financial assistance was provided by the Nature Conservancy, and material support from Robert Hunger and W. R. Wilson was greatly appreciated.

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# THE 200 COUNTY CLUB

Three new counties, Polk, Sherburne and Wright, have been added to the growing list of Minnesota counties in which 200 or more species have been recorded. This gives us over half of Minnesota's 87 counties with 200+ species. During 1982 Ray Glassel recorded 218 species in Scott County (quite an accomplishment when you realize Scott is Minnesota's second smallest county) and Kim Eckert recorded the amazing total of 251 species in St. Louis County during the year.

It is most interesting that of these 251 species, 244 were within the city limits of Duluth. Kim's St. Louis County list for 1980 was 243 and in 1982 he recorded a record 253 species in the county for the highest year total reported in any county of the state.

The following totals are those reported as of March 31, 1983.

County	Observer	No. of Species	County	Observer	No. of Species
Aitkin . . (278)	Terry Savaloja . . . . .	255	Houston . (251)	Fred Leshner . . . . .	215
	Warren Nelson . . . . .	242		Jon Peterson . . . . .	203
	Jo Blanich . . . . .	242	Itasca . . . (244)	Tim Lamey . . . . .	203
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	212		Jackson . (244)	Ingeborg Hodnefield . . .
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	212	Lac Qui Parle . . (277)	Micki Buer . . . . .	231
Ray Glassel . . . . .	204	Chuck Buer . . . . .		223	
Anoka . . (284)	Ken LaFond . . . . .	261		Marion Otnes . . . . .	213
	Ruth Andberg . . . . .	222		Gary Otnes . . . . .	212
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	221		Bob Janssen . . . . .	208
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	207	Ray Glassel . . . . .	205	
Becker . . (258)	Gary Otnes . . . . .	214	Lake . . . (254)	Jan Green . . . . .	215
	Marion Otnes . . . . .	213		Lyon . . . (268)	Henry Kyllingstad . . . . .
Blue Earth (236)	Merrill Frydendall . . . . .	215	Paul Egeland . . . . .	248	
	Carver . . (246)	Kathy Heidel . . . . .	218	Marshall . (277)	Sarah Vasse . . . . .
Ray Glassel . . . . .		201	Shelley Steva . . . . .		221
Bob Janssen . . . . .		200	Martin . . (236)	Ed Brekke-Kramer . . . . .	207
Chisago . (230)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	202		Morrison . (227)	Pete Ryan . . . . .
	Clay . . . (261)	Carol Falk . . . . .	221	Mower . . (238)	Ron Kneeskern . . . . .
Laurence Falk . . . . .		218	Rose Kneeskern . . . . .		223
Clearwater (246)	Richard Davids . . . . .	219	Bob Jessen . . . . .	204	
	Cook . . . (269)	Ken Hoffman . . . . .	215	Nicollet . (242)	John Frentz . . . . .
Molly Hoffman . . . . .		214	Merrill Frydendall . . . . .		210
Kim Eckert . . . . .		203	Ray Glassel . . . . .		203
Jan Green . . . . .		202	Olmsted . (268)		Joan Fowler . . . . .
Crow Wing (258)	Terry Savaloja . . . . .	233		Jerry Bonkoski . . . . .	221
	Jo Blanich . . . . .	231		Vince Herring . . . . .	217
Dakota . . (276)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	249		Ted Lindquist . . . . .	213
	Joanne Dempsey . . . . .	231		Phyllis Lindquist . . . . .	213
	Karol Gresser . . . . .	223		Anne Plunkett . . . . .	213
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	219		Joel Dunnette . . . . .	210
Freeborn . (252)	Charles Flugum . . . . .	213	Bob Ekblad . . . . .	201	
	Goodhue . (276)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	231	Otter Tail (284)	Gary Otnes . . . . .
Bob Janssen . . . . .		224	Marion Otnes . . . . .		273
Bill Pieper . . . . .		221	Steve Millard . . . . .		250
Bill Litkey . . . . .		219	Pennington (235)	Shelley Steva . . . . .	217
Grant . . . (238)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	214		Keith Steva . . . . .	211
	Hennepin . (309)	Bob Janssen . . . . .	275	Pipestone . (239)	Kim Eckert . . . . .
Ray Glassel . . . . .		271	Polk . . . (242)		David Lambeth . . . . .
Alvina Joul . . . . .		267		Ramsey . (271)	Liz Campbell . . . . .
Oscar Johnson . . . . .		263	Bill Litkey . . . . .		229
Violet Lender . . . . .		254	Bill Pieper . . . . .		224
Bill Pieper . . . . .		251	Ray Glassel . . . . .		219
Don Bolduc . . . . .		234	John Fitzpatrick . . . . .		209
Charles Horn . . . . .		214	Bob Janssen . . . . .		200
Gary Swanson . . . . .		211	Renville . (212)		Paul Egeland . . . . .
Al Bolduc . . . . .		202			



County	Observer	No. of Species	County	Observer	No. of Species	
Rice . . . (268)	Orwin Rustad . . . . .	239	Sherburne (259)	Sharon Sarappo . . . . .	203	
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	209		Sibley . . (227)	Ray Glassel . . . . .	204
	Kirk Jeffrey . . . . .	201		Bob Janssen . . . . .	202	
Rock . . . (249)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	240	Stearns . . (283)	Nestor Hiemenz . . . . .	267	
St. Louis . (328)	Kim Eckert . . . . .	291		Kim Eckert . . . . .	236	
	Jan Green . . . . .	290	Wabasha . (263)	Don Mahle . . . . .	224	
	Bob Janssen . . . . .	265			Ray Glassel . . . . .	209
	Paul Egeland . . . . .	260	Wadena . (243)	Dick Oehlenschlager . . . . .	243	
	Ray Glassel . . . . .	255	Washington (271)	Bill Litkey . . . . .	228	
	Mike Hendrickson . . . . .	246			Ray Glassel . . . . .	226
	Bill Pieper . . . . .	243			Liz Campbell . . . . .	210
	Laura Erickson . . . . .	224	Wright . . (244)	Gary Swanson . . . . .	206	
Bill Litkey . . . . .	218	Yellow Medicine (244)	Gary Otnes . . . . .	220		
Ken LaFond . . . . .	217			Marion Otnes . . . . .	220	
Scott . . . (241)	Ray Glassel . . . . .		237		Paul Egeland . . . . .	212

The number in parentheses indicates the total number of species recorded in the county by all observers.

# EASTERN BLUEBIRDS: A 1982 NESTING SURVEY IN EASTERN BECKER AND SOUTHERN HUBBARD COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

David H. Johnson

## Introduction

Few people are unaware of the dramatic population decline that the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) has experienced. Although the establishment of bluebird nesting boxes has become a popular and sometimes effective conservation effort, intensifying use of the land for human pursuits has caused the bluebird to become almost completely dependent on man's help for its survival. To better understand present population trends, a survey was conducted in eastern Becker and southern Hubbard counties to provide some baseline nesting data for that area.

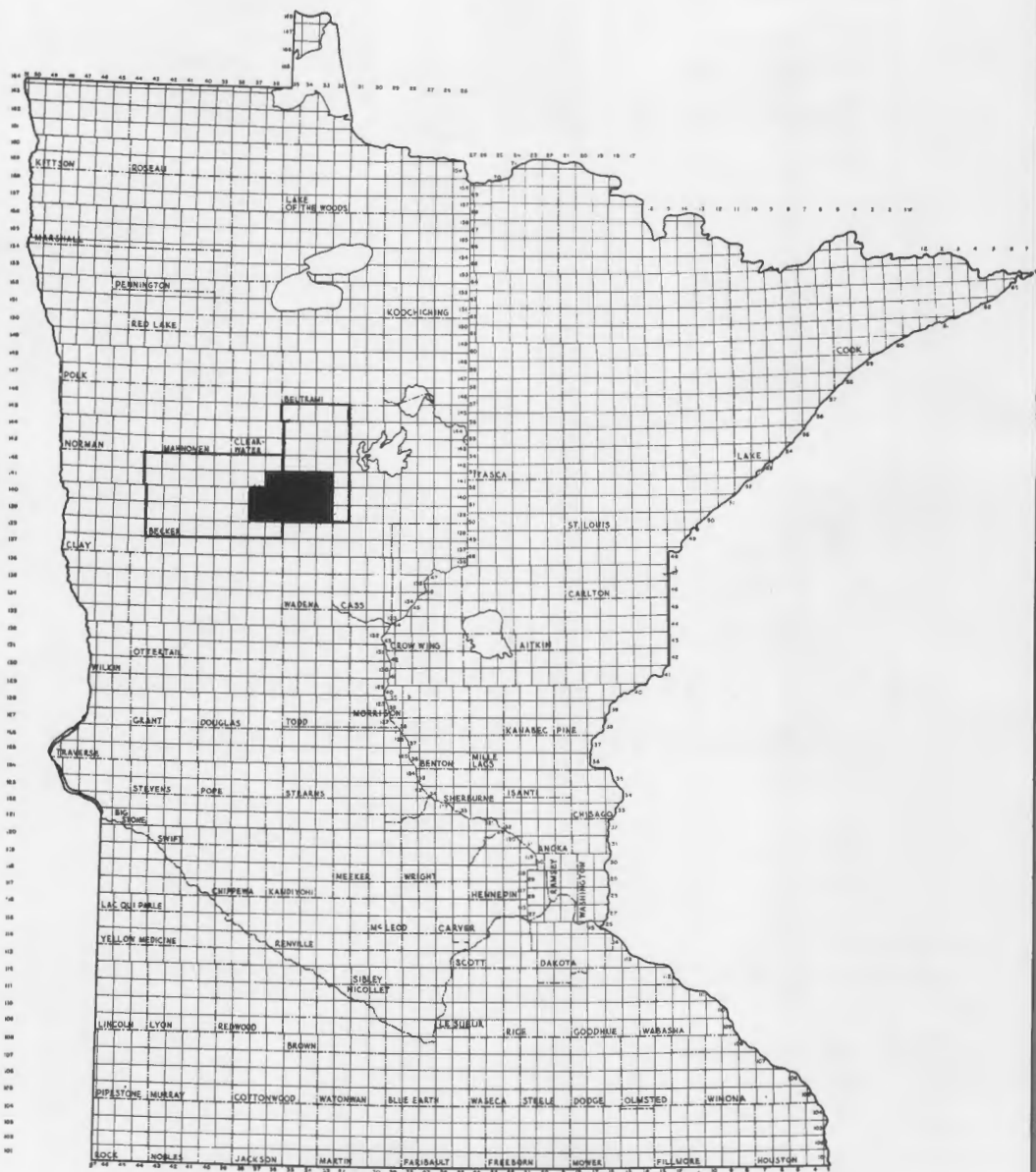
## Methods

The study area includes five townships in Becker County and nine townships in

Hubbard County (see Map 1). The townships are listed as follows:

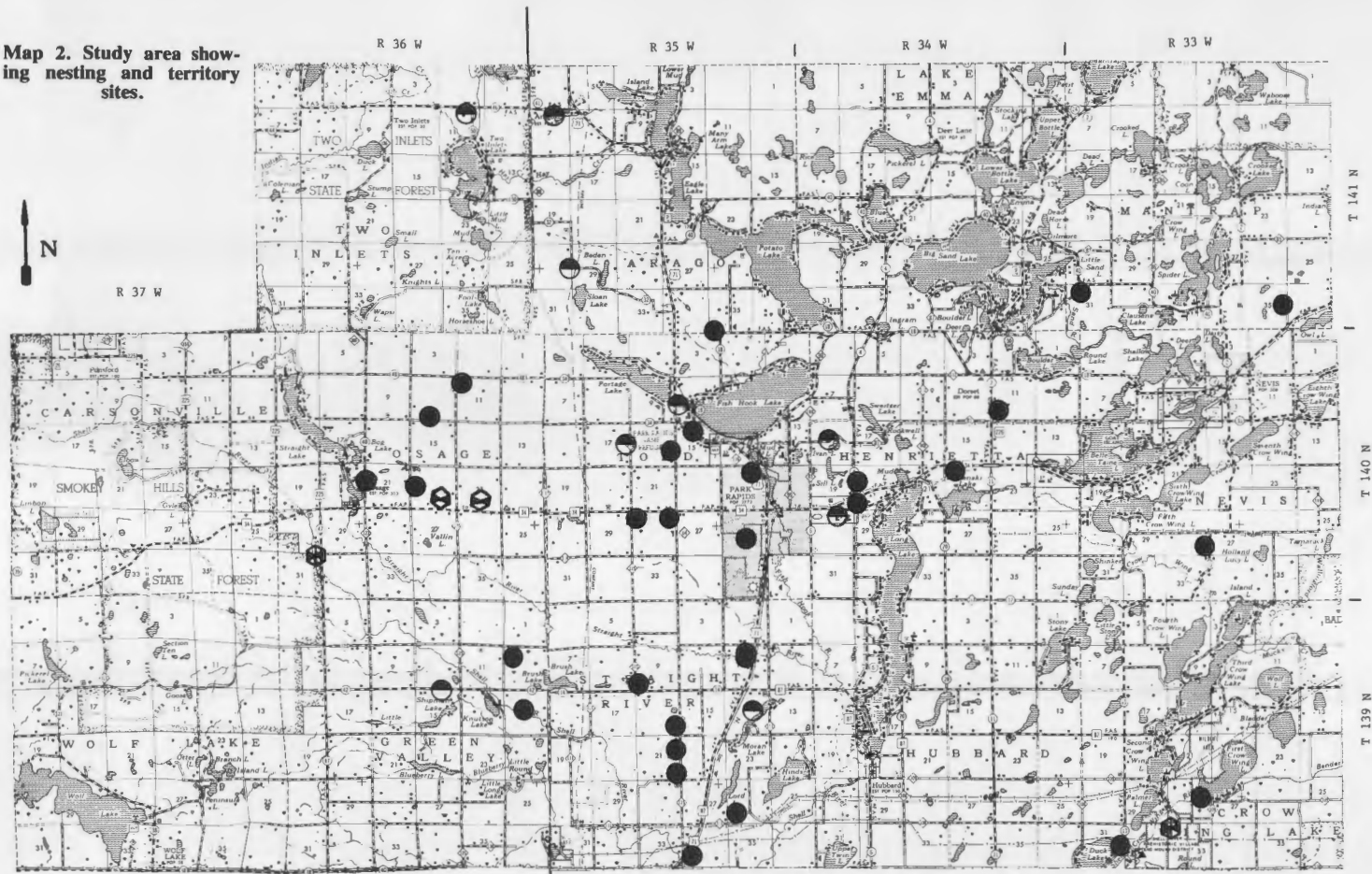
Becker County		Hubbard County	
twp.	rge.	twp.	rge.
141	- 36	141	- 33
140	- 36	141	- 34
140	- 37	141	- 35
139	- 36	140	- 33
139	- 37	140	- 34
		139	- 33
		139	- 34
		139	- 35

In 1981, I conducted a partial survey of the study area. This survey was inadequate due to effort and time limitations, and thus a more intensive survey was conducted in 1982. However, results of the 1981 survey have been included in this paper for comparison. In 1982, nesting and territory data were gathered via personal contacts, through the monitoring of my own nest



**Map 1. Study area in eastern Becker and Southern Hubbard counties.**

Map 2. Study area showing nesting and territory sites.



BECKER COUNTY

HUBBARD COUNTY

boxes, and through my observation records. Requests for assistance in locating nests and territories were advertised in the Park Rapids area through a newspaper article and a short radio spot. I was looking for bluebirds any daylight hour I was afield in the study area, with the majority of my observations being incidental to: (a) my travels and field time while employed as an Area Forest Technician with the Minnesota DNR, and (b) while conducting a raptor survey on the same study area. It should be noted here that both the bluebird and raptor surveys were my own personal projects and were not conducted as part of my forestry position duties. The 1982 survey was conducted from April 2 (the date of the first spring arrival on the study area) until July 29 (the date of the last banding on young in a nest). My survey was primarily a road census, and except for about three miles of township roads, all roads in the study area were covered from one to ten + times. Some (although few) roads were only covered once because the habitats encountered were not compatible to the bluebirds' needs.

Map 2 indicates the nesting and territory sites within the study area. Map symbols and definitions are as follows:

- Nesting Site — described as a located nest site (natural cavity or nest box) with eggs or young; female observed incubating; or adults seen entering or leaving nest in circumstances indicating an occupied nest.
- ⊙ Territory Site — described as multiple observations of adult or adults in the same locale over a period of not less than 21 days (a minimum of three sightings was required, but in almost all cases five or more sightings were made); actual nest site not located.
- ⊛ — indicates a nest site that was used in 1981 only.

## Results

### 1981 Nesting Results

Eighteen nest sites (all were nest boxes) and seven territories were located. Particular nesting production data were only as-

certained from eight nest boxes, described in Table 1.

Table 1. 1981 nest production

	#nests	eggs -	ave./box	young -	ave./box
first clutch/ brood size	8	38	4.75	37	4.63
second clutch/ brood size	2	9	4.50	4	2.00

### 1982 Nesting Results

Except for four nest boxes, all boxes and territories used in 1981 were again used in 1982. Three boxes not used in 1982 were used (and possibly pre-empted) by Tree Swallows. The fourth box was used by Red Squirrels. Additional nest sites and territories were located as a result of my censusing the study area. The newspaper article and radio spot proved quite fruitful with 25 respondents contributing nesting and territory information. In an effort to band the bluebirds (and to verify that bluebirds were actually there) I visited the majority of the bluebird nest sites and territories given to me by the respondents. All of this data resulted in the locating of 32 nest sites and nine territories on the study area in 1982.

Of the 32 nest sites located, two were in natural cavities and 30 were in man-made boxes. Fifteen of the nest sites were successful in fledging young, five were unsuccessful (nest predated or abandoned), and 12 nests were classified as success unknown. I classified a nest as "success unknown" wherever I did not know the specific outcome of the nest. However, it is worthy of noting that a breakdown of these "success unknown" nests reveals that seven were recorded as having young, two had eggs, and four had nesting adults only. Typical examples of "success unknown" nests are ones in which the respondent states that "I saw the adult bluebirds feeding a youngster at the entrance of the box," "They had four eggs the last time I checked," or "I saw the adults going in and out of the box and I didn't want to bother them." Both of the natural cavity nests were "success unknown" nests; one having three of four young and the other having at least two young. It is with this in mind that I would like to speculate that many of the "success unknown" nests probably did successfully fledge young. All five of the nests classified as "unsuccessful" failed at the egg stage.



Five young Eastern Bluebirds, Box No. 20, Hubbard Co., 1982 — Photo by David H. Johnson

Six pair of bluebirds that were successful in bringing off their first brood attempted a second brood. Five of these were ultimately successful. The substantial (or total) loss of their foraging habitat caused the sixth pair to abandon their nest.

Table 2 is a culmination of the nest production data I was able to gather from nest sites on the study area in 1982. "Brood size" (first and second) refers to the number of young actually fledged from the nest site.

Table 2. 1982 nest production

	#nests	range	average
first clutch size	12	4-6 eggs	4.83 eggs
first brood size	15	3-6 young	4.20 young
second clutch size	4	4-6 eggs	5.00 eggs
second brood size	6	0-4 young	3.00 young

### Discussion

Although I have no doubt that a few nest sites and territories were not recorded, I feel I did reach the vast majority of them (I dare say it is next to impossible for one

person to efficiently cover 14 townships in one field season). Within the study area, I feel strongly that if there was available bluebird habitat, there were birds there at some point in time during the summer to check it out. This is based on the high number of birds seen that I felt were transients (some 24 observations). During the 1981 and 1982 field seasons I was able to band 96 young and 10 adult (all female) bluebirds. As of early 1983 no band returns or recaptures have been encountered.

This survey also revealed some of the following facts about man-made nest boxes on the study area:

- (1) they are seldom cleaned or checked
- (2) they are often designed how the property owner would like them, not how they should be made to best suit the birds needs
- (3) people generally do not care what is using the nest box - be it Tree Swallows, Red Squirrels, House Sparrows, House Wrens, Starlings, etc.
- (4) there is little concerted effort expended to minimize bluebird nest competitors during the critical nesting period
- (5) people have the attitude that if one box is good, five, ten, or 20 are better -

this, of course, is incorrect unless the boxes are in decent habitat and appropriately spaced

- (6) the bluebird population will continue to be suppressed until such time as people understand these things and take positive steps to change them.

This project was designed to provide some baseline nesting data for the study area. A more in-depth paper was prepared for the Minnesota Non-Game Program, which contains material that will assist a future researcher in assessing the population at that time.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their bluebird nesting and territory input: Judy Bellairs, Jan Belshan, Mel & C. H. Brooks, Jon Carter, Florence Cook, L. J. Day, Jim Evans, Rich & Mary Frahm, John Fuhr, Judy Garbo, Marvin Girtz, Bart Glatzmaier, Steve Harper, Gloria Hines, Herb Hoefs, Myron Hohnstadt, Ted Johnson, Shirley Kiefert, Donald Law, Chris Mortinson, Bob Petersen, Georgie Rieder, Roland Vik, Rueben Vik, and Harold Warner. DNR Forestry, Box 113, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

## AN EVENING GROSBEAK GYNANDROMORPH

Harrison B. Tordoff

On January 3, 1982, James Ted Shields found dead a bizarre Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) at his feeding station at Craig Lake, Kego Township, Cass County, Minnesota. Shields sent the bird to Dwain Warner, at the Bell Museum of Natural History. I prepared it as a study specimen (BMNH 35965).

The bird shows male plumage on the right side and female plumage on the left, a lateral gynandromorph. The gonads

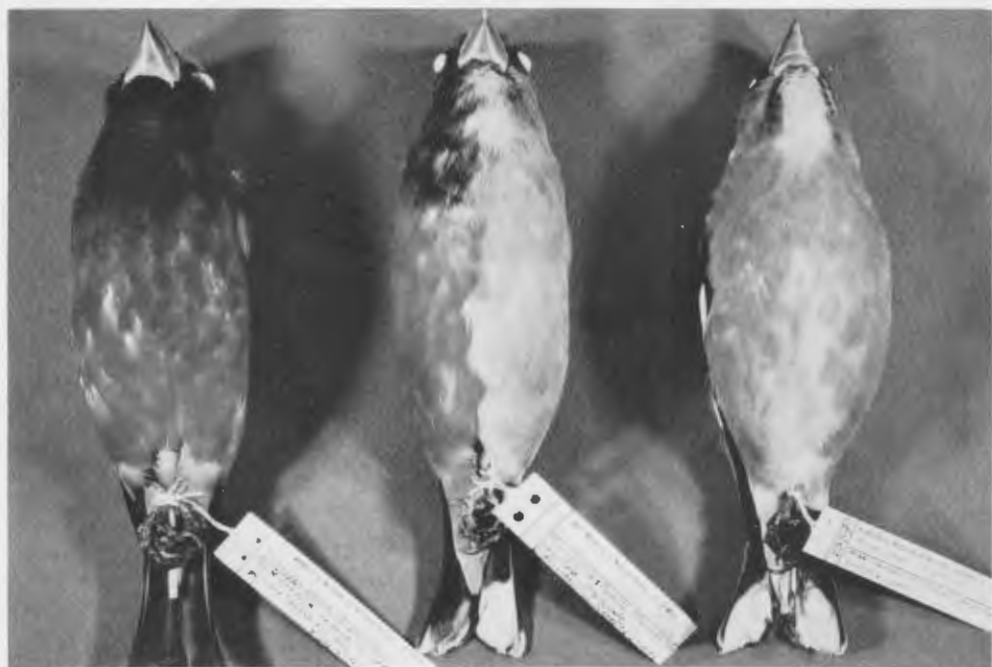
were a right testis, about one millimeter in diameter, and a left ovary, about three millimeters long. Both gonads appeared normal and were of the size expected in January. In normal female birds, only one ovary is ordinarily present. It is on the left side and there is no gonad on the right side.

The midline division into a male right side and female left side is very clear in this specimen. The bilateral division is





**Fig. I — Dorsal view of Evening Grosbeak specimens, l. to r., typical female; gynandromorph; typical male**



**Fig II. — Ventral view of Evening Grosbeak specimens, l. to r., typical male; gynandromorph; typical female**

most clearcut on the underparts, wings, upper and under tail coverts, and tail feathers. The forehead is mostly gray, as in females, with a suffusion of yellow on the male side, but without the clear yellow forehead of the normal male. The crown is also mostly female-like, rather than black as in adult males, but again there is a sprinkling of black feathers in the crown. The sides of the head are male-plumaged on the right and female-plumaged on the left.

On the male side, the tail feathers show some gray near the tips (tail feathers are wholly black in normal males). The tail feathers on the female side are typically female, with large white spots on the outer ones.

The clear white tertials and glossy black primary coverts on the right side indicate that the bird was an adult (18 months or older). The secondaries on the female side have the usual pattern of females but are whiter than normal.

Evening Grosbeak males average slightly larger than females. In the gynandromorph, the wing chord (measured before skinning) on the male side is 3 millimeters longer than on the female side, a difference which probably required some compensation to fly a straight course. The bird weighed 57.4 grams and was moderately fat.

Gynandromorphic birds are very rare. Fewer than two dozen cases have been reported (Witschi, 1961), of which at least four have been Evening Grosbeaks. Usually, the right side is male and the left female, but in one grosbeak seen in New York, the male side was on the left, female on the right (Terres, 1980). It would be interesting to know the gonadal situation in such a bird, given the normal avian female condition of a single left ovary.

Gynandromorphism is caused by the loss of an X-chromosome (a sex chromosome) during cell division in the developing embryo (Dobzhansky, 1961). Lateral gynandromorphs probably are formed at the first division of the fertilized egg, which establishes the bilaterality which persists through later cell divisions. In birds, males carry two similar sex chromosomes (X and X), females are X and O. Sex is determined through the egg (X or O), rather

than by the sperm as in mammals. Presumably, the gynandromorphic Evening Grosbeak started out as a male (X egg fertilized by X sperm), but lost a sex chromosome in some manner in one of the two daughter cells of the first cell division. The result was an adult with body and reproductive cells of a male (XX) on one side, and a female (XO) on the other.

Several questions come to mind. First, what would such a bird do in the breeding season? Would it be capable of self-fertilization? It is hard to see why not. Would it mate with another bird? If so, what sexual behavior would predominate, male or female? It would be extremely interesting to observe a gynandromorph alive. How would it fit in a dominance hierarchy in which sex is critical? Unfortunately, a dead specimen can only provoke such questions, not answer them.

A final point — gynandromorphs showing male characteristics on one side and female on the other are only possible where sexual differences are controlled by genes in the body cells, rather than by hormones. In humans, for example, secondary sex characters (such as the development of a beard or breasts, for example) are controlled by sex hormones which circulate throughout the body. This would obscure the presence of lateral gynandromorphism if it occurred. In many kinds of birds (chickens, for example), secondary sex characteristics are controlled primarily by hormones, rather than genetically as in Evening Grosbeaks and some other passerines.

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# BOOK REVIEWS

**The Bird Watcher's Companion: An Encyclopedic Handbook of North American Bird-Life** by Christopher Leahy. Hill and Wang, NY. 1982; 917 pages; \$29.50.

If the title, "Bird Watcher's Companion," leads you to expect a pocket guide that you could easily carry into the field, you will be surprised to find it a book of substantial size. The subtitle is more revealing and suggests a comparison with the weighty *Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, by John Terres. Compared to the mammoth 11 x 9" format of Terres book, Leahy's book is shorter and smaller (with a 9½ x 6½" format). As one might expect, both books are arranged in an encyclopedic style, with material organized by key words dealing with bird-related terms and people. Leahy's book does contain fewer entries, as well as less detailed treatments of many subjects, but he has done a good job in topic selection. Most readers would probably not miss the material omitted by Leahy that is covered by Terres.

*The Bird Watcher's Companion* differs from the *Audubon Encyclopedia* in several major ways that may be important to potential readers, especially those trying to choose between the two books. The main appeal of Leahy's book, and what makes it unique, is his attempt to combine information about birds with topics relevant to bird watching per se. To do this, the author draws on expertise acquired during 10 years of leading bird trips for Massachusetts Audubon. Included are entries on the best known U.S. birding spots, as well as lengthy treatments of subjects such as optical equipment and birding etiquette. For the "lister," one of three appendices lists 140 accidental species in the U.S., their native distributions, and where they have been seen in the U.S. Another appendix gives a calendar, indexed by major bird groups, giving the best times to see each group in various parts of the U.S.

Another difference is in the taxonomic entries. Leahy gives descriptive life history

information at the family level only, while the *Audubon Encyclopedia* gives family information, and in addition, detailed life history information on each North American bird species. While Leahy's book is illustrated with lovely drawings, it is difficult to compete with the hundreds of excellent color photographs of the *Audubon Encyclopedia*.

Leahy's bibliography, which is arranged by topic, might be more useful to a reader looking for more information on a specific subject than the more standard format of alphabetical listing by author used by Terres. However, I found it less thorough and up to date than Terres' bibliography, particularly in the areas of evolutionary and behavioral ecology, where Leahy failed to include some of the most influential recent papers.

Leahy's entries are, in general, concise, well-written, and accurate. Sections on distribution, molt, navigation, nest and song are some of the best. Some topics are obviously favorites of Leahy's and are covered in detail. For example, those interested in falconry should be especially pleased with the detailed treatment it receives. I have only one major criticism of content. Although the book contains definitions of evolutionary terms such as speciation and selection, I was disappointed by the absence of an evolutionary perspective in most entries. The central role of evolutionary thinking in modern ornithology should come through clearly in many subjects treated by a book of this type, and it does not.

In conclusion, in trying to do too much, one runs the risk of doing each particular thing less well than others with narrower goals. This applies to this book to some extent. Certainly anyone who already owns the *Audubon Encyclopedia* would find much of Leahy's book to be a less detailed rehash of the same material. Most of the birding information can also be unearthed elsewhere, although one might have to consult such diverse sources as *American*

*Birds, Consumer Reports*, and R. T. Peterson's *10 Birding Hot Spots* to do so. Anyone interested in detailed information on birding spots will want to consult regional or local guides. Still, those who haven't come up with the \$60 for the *Audubon Encyclopedia*, and who, like Leahy, have always wanted a single reference book that deals with birds, birding, and birding hot spots, should take a look at this book. They may find it to be exactly what they've been looking for, and at \$29.50, a good compromise.

—Bonita Eliason,  
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Behavioral Biology, University of  
Minnesota, Bell Museum of Natural  
History, 10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis,  
MN 55455

**A Bird-Finding Guide to Ontario** by  
Clive E. Goodwin; University of Toronto  
Press, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A6; 1982;  
12 maps, 248 pages; \$12.50.

With 417+ species on its list, premier birding areas like Point Pelee and other spots along all five Great Lakes and even Hudson Bay, Ontario is certainly deserving of a quality birding guide. And Mr. Goodwin can be credited with providing such a guide which appears quite thorough and entirely accurate. Chapters 1 and 2 explain the book's format and introduce the reader to the province's habitats, seasons and associated species. Chapters 3 through 8 organize over 200 birding locations according to the province's six regions. Chapter 9 follows with general information on available maps, campgrounds, motels, bird clubs, hazards, books and local bird lists. The book then concludes with an annotated list of all birds recorded in Ontario and a complete species and location index.

Although I have not birded Ontario to any extent, I have every confidence in the value of this guide, and would not hesitate to use and recommend it. For one thing the author is more than qualified, having written *A Bird Finding Guide to the Toronto Region* and having edited the Ontario region for *American Birds* for 17 years. But I must report that the book is still not entirely satisfying. First, I am disappointed that only six birding areas are mapped, since,

contrary to the Pettingill theory of bird-finding guides, any guide would be far more useful with a greater use of maps. Also the author makes the unfortunate decision to list the birding spots in four of the six regions alphabetically according to a nearby city, à la Pettingill. This is hardly a convenient or efficient system for the reader since birders obviously do not think of birding areas in alphabetical order or in terms of the nearest town. The travelling birder normally travels east to west or north to south, etc., and seldom covers spots alphabetically. And the birding spots themselves, not nearby cities, should be plotted on the regional maps and should be the headings for each paragraph.

Finally, as complete and as accurate as this guide is, it reads like a dry textbook. There seems to be little enthusiasm for the province or its birds in the author's style, so that the reader is left with little inspiration to visit Ontario. For example, the cover photo of the Evening Grosbeak is attractive enough, but it's hardly a species to quicken the pulse of most birders. Also the text dutifully proceeds from bird to bird and from place to place, but doesn't seem to ever pause, even at Point Pelee or in its reference to the 1979 owl invasion at Amherst Island, to editorialize over the marvels of the places or birds covered. (A few exclamatory sentences are encountered, but I have yet to find one that seemed to deserve its exclamation mark.) It sounds like Ontario is certainly a place to find a lot of good birds but that the birder may not have much fun in the process. I hasten to add that there is not a thing wrong with this straightforward style since the book's purpose is to inform and not entertain. But I suspect that most birders, many of whom read guides with no intention of an imminent trip to the place covered, prefer a Jim Lane type of guide which enthusiastically captures the flavor of the state involved and which tantalizes the reader with the excitement and promise of sought-after birds.

Again, however, I repeat that this book is without question an obviously valuable guide which is certainly more comprehensive than most of its genre, and which covers a place well worth birding.

—Kim Eckert



# NOTES OF INTEREST

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR IN RAMSEY COUNTY** — Shortly after 5:30 on the afternoon of September 27, 1982, I was about to get in my car in a parking lot across Snelling Avenue from Har-Mar Mall in Roseville when I spotted a medium size bird sitting on the slightly raised concrete edge of an adjacent parking lot, about 120 feet away. What first attracted my attention was its almost constant motion; for a period of at least five seconds its body seemed to be teetering continuously, reminding me somewhat of a Spotted Sandpiper. When it hopped off its perch and began moving toward the frontage road, however, I could see that its shape was that of a passerine. The color of the top side of the bird was a medium grayish brown. Puzzled by the bird's behavior and its appearance, I approached it. It moved rapidly toward, then across the frontage road, disappearing briefly from view as it went into a ditch between the frontage road and the southbound lanes of Snelling Ave. My next view, from a distance of 40-60 feet, was of the bird flying across those lanes, which at the time were clear of cars because of a red traffic signal just to the north. Most of the top side of the bird in flight was that same fairly uniform nondescript color, but the tail was a striking black and white. There was a broad black terminal band, somewhat thicker in the center of the tail. The rump and the upper portion of the tail were clear, uninterrupted white. I realized at that point that the bird might be a Northern Wheatear. I wanted to get as close to the bird as possible, since my binoculars and field guides were at home,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away. The bird continued east, flitting and hopping between and under the stopped cars in several northbound lanes of traffic on Snelling Ave. I'm not sure what the drivers of those cars were thinking as I managed to make my way among them, but both the bird and I ended up safely in the parking lot adjacent to the Roseville State Bank building. It was under a parked car when I arrived, and when I startled it, it hopped very quickly toward the west side of the bank building. Fortunately it paused briefly from time to time, and I was able to approach to within about 30 feet of it. This closer, side view, with the sun at my back, enabled me to see several additional things: (1) the bill was slender; (2) there were no streaks evident anywhere in the plumage, top or bottom; (3) the underside of the bird was unmarked and generally quite light, whitish on the belly and light tan or buffy on the breast (perhaps even with a light rusty tint, although that impression

could have been due to the late afternoon sun); (4) there was an elongated horizontal cheek patch — not bold, but perceptibly darker than surrounding regions — that extended from the bill through and below the eye, setting off a lighter eye-line above it; (5) there were no other obvious features of the plumage. As I attempted an even closer approach, the bird hopped very rapidly to the corner of the bank and disappeared around it. As I rounded the corner, it took flight and disappeared over the roof to the northeast, affording me one more brief look at the tail. I went home immediately, asked my 17-year old daughter Sarah to check out the details of the plumage in the 3rd edition of Peterson as I described them to her, and then spent the next hour with her searching open areas within ¼-½ mile north and east of where I had last seen the bird, but to no avail. One aspect of the plumage did not match something depicted in the guides that I consulted. The black of the tail did not form an obvious, clear-cut inverted "T". The "base" of the T was shorter than is usually shown (the central tail feathers were black for a greater share of their length than were the side feathers, but not to the extent normally pictured), and the corners of the "base" did not appear as squared off. This more rounded appearance may have been due to the fact that the tail was spread during the times that I saw the bird fly. Despite this discrepancy, I am confident that the bird was a wheatear; I can think of no other species that would show a tail pattern remotely like what I saw, with such a large expanse of unbroken white and a broad black terminal band. It was fortunate that excellent viewing conditions (clear skies, the sun mostly behind me, and reasonable distances from the bird) permitted me to note additional plumage characteristics as well. **Thomas K. Soulen, 1725 W. Eldridge Ave., Roseville, MN 55113.**

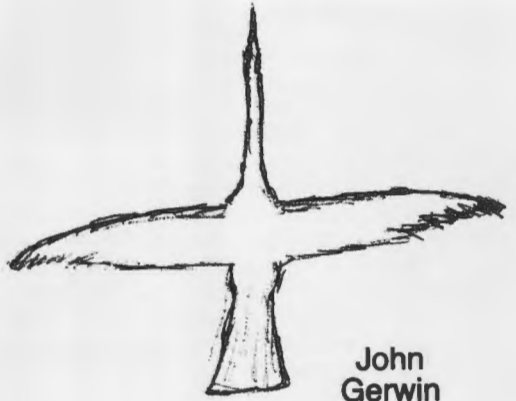
**Editor's Note:** This is the first documented record for the Northern Wheatear in Minnesota. Wheatear records have been on the increase recently in the Great Lakes area and the interior of North America so it is a species to be watched for in Minnesota. The Northern Wheatear is species #395 on the state list.

**AN ANHINGA OVER HAWK RIDGE IN DULUTH** — It had been quite an M.O.U. Weekend in the Duluth area: on Saturday, Minnesota's fourth Band-tailed Pigeon flew over Hawk Ridge, and on Sunday, Minnesota's first Mew Gull was seen at Knife River. But the following day, Monday, September 20, 1982, yet another amazing record occurred. At about 2 p.m. at the Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge, John Gerwin and Sandy Miller, both ornithology students at the University of Minnesota, spotted a bird which they could not identify while scanning for hawks. Their first impression was that it was a Sandhill Crane, but since no legs were seen projecting behind the bird, they came up to Molly Evans and I and pointed out the bird to see if we knew what it was. Since the bird was at relatively high altitude, it took a few seconds before Molly and I picked it out. At first glance, it looked to me like either a Canada Goose or Double-crested Cormorant which are regular migrants over the Ridge. However, an instant later I noticed its long, fan-shaped tail, called it to the attention of the others, and ran for my spotting scope, knowing that this was probably an Anhinga. For the next few minutes Molly, John and Sandy followed it with their binoculars while I followed it as best I could through the scope set at around 20X. No color or pattern was visible on the bird, it simply appeared all black at that altitude (there was a high overcast at the time). Most of the time it soared in circles almost directly overhead, and as it did so its wings were held straight out in a flat plane, and John noted that the tail "was fanned a couple times while banking," i.e., spread out more to make the fan-shaped tail even more evident. A few times the bird also alternately flapped and glided, and as it did so the wings appeared slightly bent, but more importantly the wing beats were very rapid and quite shallow, quite different from the flight of a goose or cormorant. It was noted that not only was the tail fan-shaped, but also that the tail was quite long, so that the tail length seemed to approach the length of the neck/head/bill. Eventually the bird stopped circling, suddenly half folded in its wings, and appeared to go into a dive (it looked very much like a Red-tailed Hawk going into a stoop). It then looked like it was heading for Lake

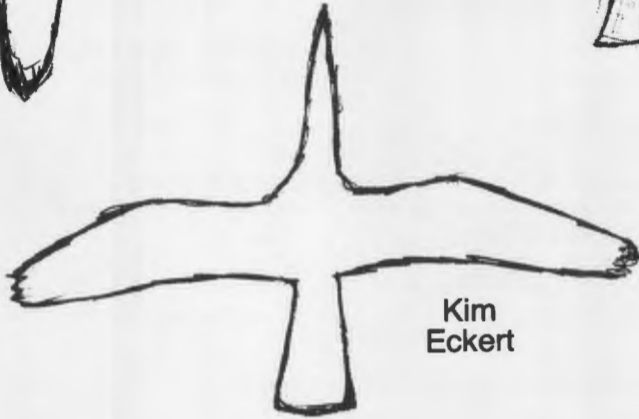




Molly  
Evans

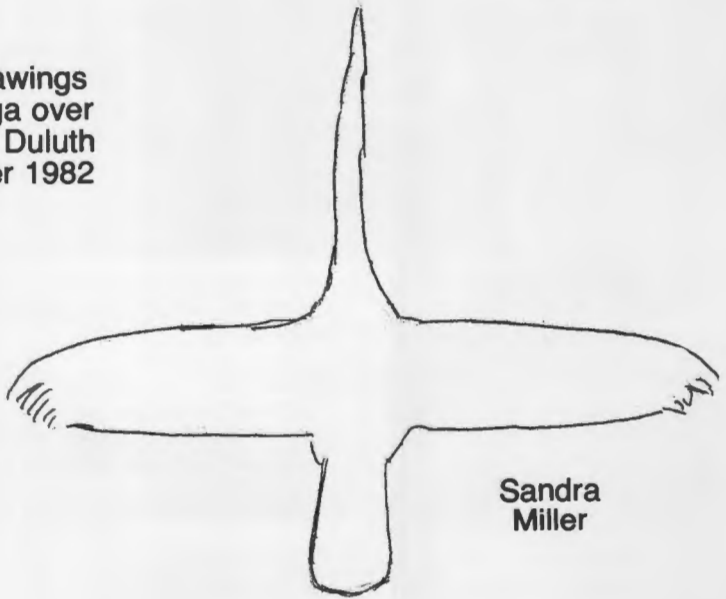


John  
Gerwin



Kim  
Eckert

Observer drawings  
of the Anhinga over  
Hawk Ridge, Duluth  
20 September 1982



Sandra  
Miller

Superior as it rapidly lost altitude, but at the same time the bird was heading away from us and we lost sight of it after several seconds. After the bird disappeared, we briefly discussed what we had seen and the fact that I thought the bird was an Anhinga. We then independently and without consultation each made a sketch of what we saw and wrote a few notes on our impressions of the bird. (We also did this without the aid of any field guide.) The sketches are included here, and the original notes are as follows: John Gerwin — "Long neck; tail rather long proportionally, which was slightly fanned a couple times while banking. Soaring very high, wingbeats shallow, some alternate flapping/gliding. Dark, no markings visible. My first impression was a crane, but couldn't see any legs; felt it was not a goose, so I decided to ask. Very flat glide." Sandy Miller — "Flat glide, full wing shape, long neck. long distinctive tail, circled like an eagle. First impression: cormorant. Looked larger than a cormorant." Molly Evans — "Seen only circle soaring rather high, wings very similar to those of a circle soaring Bald Eagle. Head and tail were of about equal length, tail definitely fan shaped." Kim Eckert — "Rapid, shallow wing beats and alternating glide; wings slightly bent when flapping and gliding; black — no color or pattern, no distinction seen between bill/head/neck." Although the bird was high enough that we were unable to see any plumage field marks, the size, shape, tail and manner of flight clearly fit the Anhinga and seem to preclude cormorant, Canada Goose, crane and everything else. Although this would be the first Minnesota record, the Anhinga is certainly a bird to be looked for in the state since this species has occurred in Iowa, Wisconsin and Ontario — and one of the Ontario records was near Sault Ste. Marie, about the same latitude as Duluth. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**Editor's Note:** After confirmation of the above record was made by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) the Anhinga was added to the state list as species #394.

**LATE HOODED WARBLER IN OLMSTED COUNTY** — On the afternoon of October 3, 1982 while I was working in my backyard, I observed a bird fly onto a stump and the onto the gray stone wall the top of which is flush with the yard surface and 15 feet from where I was standing. The bird seemed undisturbed by my presence. It spent about five minutes on the wall, moving around so that an excellent view of all sides of it could be obtained. There was a slight overcast with the sun to the west of me and the bird to the south east of me. The bird looked an behaved like a warbler. The most striking feature was the black hood involving crown of the head, sides of face, throat and breast which surrounded a yellow face. It had plain olive back and no wingbars. A tentative identification of a Hooded Warbler on the spot was confirmed about 15 minutes later after consulting Peterson's guide. Its rarity in Minnesota was confirmed by reading Roberts and Green and Janssen. **Dr. George Logan, Rochester, MN 55901.**

**Editor's Note:** This is by far the latest fall date on record for the Hooded Warbler in Minnesota. In fact there is only one other fall date for the species in the state; September 10, 1969 in Ramsey County (**The Loon** 42:36).

**SABINE'S GULL AT BIG STONE NWR** — On Sunday, October 17, 1982 at 10:00 a.m. we drove up to the spillway overlooking the reservoir at the southern edge of Big Stone NWR (Lac Qui Parle Co.) where Hwy. 75 crosses the refuge. Immediately a small dark gull flew by within 30 yards of our car — it had a brown back and black wingtips. The wingtips immediately reminded me of the adult Sabine's Gulls Jon and I had seen in Alaska this summer (Prudhoe Bay and the Inland Passage) so we jumped out for a better look. The gull was flying back and forth along the rocky shore, dipping in closer wherever there was a fisherman. It came within 20 yards of us several times and seemed to scout along the shore every 15 minutes, returning each time to a large flock of Ring-



Sabine's Gull, Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle Co., 17 Oct. 1982 — Photo by Jon Peterson

billed Gulls resting further out in the reservoir. It was smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls, had a distinctive brown back and proximal wings, and the entire outer primaries of its wings were black, with the black touching the brown at one point on the anterior wing edge. The top half of the head was also brown excluding the eyes. The bill and legs were entirely black. The tail was notched in the center and had a black edging. The entire underside of the bird was white. We were able to get some photographs of the bird. Later that same day Bob Janssen and Ray Glassel also observed the bird and confirmed our identification. Ann McKenzie and Jon Peterson, 15630 Upper 194th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033.

**AN OBSERVATION OF A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER AT DULUTH** — Gnatcatchers are birds with which I am well acquainted from birding in the eastern U.S. in the 1960's and in California and the Southwest since 1980 (during winter months I have observed both North American species in the same general vicinity in several SW locations). Having grown up in Duluth and started birding in the 1950's with the Duluth Bird Club and under the tutelage of Dr. Pershing Hofslund, I knew that gnatcatchers were migrants and residents in southeastern Minnesota, usually departing from the state in August (Green and Janssen, *Minnesota Birds*, mention September 1 and 5 as late dates). I was therefore amazed to observe this bird in my mother's back yard in Duluth, **27 October, 1982!** Perhaps not relevant, Minnesota had been experiencing warm SE weather during that week, and during the same week a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had been present in Aitkin. Late in the afternoon I was walking from the garage to the house and noted a small flock of Black-capped Chickadees busily feeding at a feeder and in some spruce trees in the yard; I was suddenly "stopped" by a nasal "chee" sound that was definitely not coming from a chickadee. I soon saw the source of the sound, busily feeding and calling; warbler-like in its quick, nervous actions while moving through the spruce and lilac bushes after insects; about the size of the chickadees, but much slimmer in its lines than the plump chickadees that seemed to be, at that moment, its companions. It was also flicking and cocking what appeared to be, in relation to the size of its body, a rather long tail. Its coloring appeared to be grayish. During this initial observation, which lasted for almost five minutes, I was approximately 15 feet away and I did not have my binoculars. Observations of feeding actions, call, and silhouette, and comparisons with the chickadees, tentatively suggested a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. I hurried into the house to get an 8x30 Pentax and a 7x50 model binoculars; to activate the local hotline network I rang Kim Eckert, who would want this bird for his county list. Armed

with two pairs of binoculars (the 7x50 model would be useful, I thought, in the light conditions, as it was overcast and the time was 5:15 p.m.), I then tracked down the bird in a boxelder tree two houses from my mother's house. From a distance of 20-25 feet I noted a slim bird with a thin or slight bill searching for insects among the branches; a tail nearly the length of its body and which it cocked in a wrenlike manner and twitched; an even gray coloring on rump, wings, and back; more pale sides, belly, and breast. This bird was moving through the branches in a darting, nervous, wood warbler-like manner, and calling. There were now some Golden-crowned Kinglets with this bird, in addition to the chickadees, for comparison; they appeared plumper, had different feeding habits, and did not have the obviously long tail that the gnatcatcher possessed; and, of course, the gnatcatcher's call was distinctive. The contrast in the tail with the white outer tail feathers was very evident; this bird did not have, however, a very clearly defined eye-ring. During this second observation I referred to a new edition Peterson Field Guide and the Robbins, et al Field Guide. I was aware that this was an unusual observation, but I was not sure if gnatcatchers had ever been recorded in northeastern Minnesota. I returned to our house, the site of the initial observation, to see if anybody had arrived. About 10 more minutes had elapsed. Nobody had arrived; I returned to the site of the second observation, could not find the bird, noted some activity in the front yards of houses opposite ours and located the bird in some lilac bushes in the front yard of the house opposite my mother's. It moved into the next yard and was active in a mountain ash tree and then a spruce tree. It was with a group of chickadees and two Golden-crowned Kinglets. I was not as close to the bird as with the two previous observations, but I was able to record the same details and behavior as before. Within a span of about three minutes, I returned to our yard, accompanied someone who had arrived to see the bird, and we failed to relocate it. Kim Eckert showed up a few minutes later, and we searched the neighborhood, failing to relocate the bird. Again, the following morning, Kim and I searched the neighborhood, failing to relocate it. Several days later I saw Kim Eckert and he mentioned a report of a bird, identified as a gnatcatcher (carefully observed and described), that had been seen on the 28th and 29th of October, in the 1500 block of E. Superior St., Duluth, about 30 blocks west of my mother's house. **Bob Ulang, 4420 Cambridge St., Duluth, MN 55804 (905 Polk, Albany, CA 94706).**

**FIFTH GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL RECORD FOR MINNESOTA** — On December 16, 1982, while scouting out Park Point in preparation for the Duluth Christmas Bird Count, I found an adult Great Black-backed Gull in the company of a few hundred gulls loafing on the ice in the bay off 13th Street. Almost all of the gulls were obviously Herring Gulls, although there were also a few Glaucous present as well as this black-backed. It readily stood out because of its blackish mantle, and further study also revealed its pinkish legs (the same color as the adult Herring Gulls with it), its yellowish bill with a black and reddish spot near the tip of the lower mandible, light brown streaking on the back of the head and neck, dark yellow irides, black folded wing tips which were a shade darker than the mantle (at rest white apical spots or "mirrors" were also visible in the wing tips, and a white bar separating the wing tips from the rest of the mantle was visible as a white trailing edge to the wings in flight), and the overall size of the gull was slightly but noticeably larger than all of the Herring Gulls with it. When seen in flight the tail was pure white above and below, and I assume this was a fourth-winter bird just short of full adult plumage because of the dark shade of yellow in the eyes and the remains of black on the bill. It concerned me at first that this gull did not have an obviously massive bill, that overall it appeared only a bit larger than Herring Gulls, that the mantle was slightly lighter in color than the wing tips, and I considered the possibility of this being a Lesser Black-backed, a Western, or even a Slaty-backed Gull. However, I observed many Great Black-backed Gulls in Maryland and Delaware a few weeks later and noted that several of them were only slightly larger than Herring Gulls, that many of the adults had bills which did not appear as massive

as the first-winter immatures with them (apparently the dark color of the immature's bill makes it look especially large, just like I remembered on the immature which was in Duluth in January 1982), and that almost all of the adults had mantles which were a bit lighter than the wing tips. (In addition, Lesser Black-backed can be excluded from consideration because of its yellowish legs, the Western Gull is eliminated because it lacks streaking on the nape in winter plumage as was present on the Black-backed, and the remote possibility of Slaty-backed is precluded by that species' brighter pink or almost reddish legs.) The Great Black-backed Gull was seen by several other observers both in the harbor and at the Duluth landfill through December 21, but it could not be found after this date in spite of several searches. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**ANOTHER ICELAND GULL RECORD** — Although the Iceland Gull is very rare in Minnesota and is usually very difficult to identify, I saw my fourth Iceland Gull of 1982 between December 16 and 22, both at the Duluth harbor area and at the Duluth landfill (the first two of the year were at the Duluth landfill in January, and another was seen at Grand Marais in November). This gull was a full adult "Kumlien's type" and was first seen standing on the harbor ice with Herring Gulls. Its head, neck, underparts and tail were all white, its mantle was light gray (not quite but almost as dark as an adult Herring Gull), and its folded wing tips were the same shade of gray with white sopts or "mirrors" visible. In addition, its legs were pinkish, its bill was yellowish with a dark smudge of undetermined color at the tip of the lower mandible, but I was never able to see the iris color. When seen in flight, the tips of the flight feathers were white except for extensive gray smudges on the upper surface of the outer primaries — the shade of this gray was about the same color as the mantle, and was more extensive than in the "Kumlien's type" Iceland seen in Duluth the previous winter, but there was no evidence of any black color in the wing tips which even the palest Thayer's Gull should have. Also, when seen flying or standing with Herring Gulls it always appeared to be about the same size or slightly smaller overall. (It should be noted that the prevailing opinion is that all Iceland Gulls wintering in North America, whether or not they have gray markings in the wing tips, are of the race *kumlieni*, since the only undisputed winter records of the nominate *glaucoides* race are from Europe; however, for convenience, winter Iceland Gulls with all white wing tips are called *glaucoides* and Iceland's with gray in the wing tips are called *kumlieni*.) This gull was last seen on the harbor ice one day after the Great Black-backed was last observed, but neither gull could be found after this. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**WINTER COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** — On December 28, 1982 I looked over the birds at my feeder. On this occasion I noticed a peculiar bird, which I soon identified as a Common Yellowthroat. I observed the bird through my kitchen window at from eight to ten feet for 30 seconds to one minute, as it flitted over snow drifted around the base of the feeder. The feeder is comprised of large sections of natural wood, with several truck pieces supporting a hollowed out section. The yellowthroat stayed close to the ground, and landed on the side of several of the upright trunks. Its shape, size, and length of beak, along with its actions were reminiscent of a wren. The medium yellow of the throat area, yellowish wash of the crissum, and faint semblance of a mask nailed down the identification. The field marks were noted by eye, because of proximity, and with 7x25 Bushnell binoculars. **Gary Swanson, Rt. 3, Box 166D, Buffalo, MN 55313.**

**Editor's Note:** There are three previous December dates for the Common Yellowthroat in Minnesota, December 15, 1962, Winona, Winona County and two from Hennepin County, December 25, 1957 at the Izaak Walton League Bass Ponds in Bloomington, and December 25, 1934 near Long Meadow Lake, also in Bloomington.

**MINNESOTA BIRD FEEDER SURVEY** — In 1975, we began looking at a popular, but somewhat controversial, wildlife activity; i.e. birdfeeding. We (1977) surveyed the residents of Brainerd, Minnesota and found that 61 percent fed birds at some time of the year. This was a larger number than recorded in previous studies. For example, Massachusetts survey revealed that 25 to 43% of the families in various towns fed birds. In the winter of 1978-79, we began the Minnesota Bird Feeder Survey which has been going on since. This survey, involving over 200 volunteers from across the state, is a way of documenting various changes in wintering bird abundance in Minnesota. Similar surveys are also being conducted in Ontario and Michigan. We hope to eventually combine all this data and examine changes over a much larger area than a state or province. In the spring of 1982 we sent out a questionnaire to the Minnesota participants to determine what kind of people feed Minnesota birds. We received 89% response (210 replies). Responses were received from 39 males, 102 females and 69 families with the following results: A. Average age: 51.1 years; range: 11 to 84. B. Average number of years feeding birds: 12 years; range: 1 to 60. C. Feed birds only in winter: 54%. D. Parents fed birds: 39%. E. Average money spent per year feeding birds: \$64.86; range: \$3.00 to \$600.00. F. Live in a rural environment: 65%. To give an idea of the possible economical magnitude of bird feeding, we will look at Brainerd, Minnesota. The 1975-77 house survey revealed 61% were feeding birds. Brainerd has 2,700 private dwellings. If 61% were feeding birds, then 1,647 households were active. From the above survey, we found an average expenditure of \$64.86 per household per year. If the two surveys are accurate, then there is an annual expenditure of \$106,824.40 being spent within the city limits of Brainerd per year. If any of you would like to participate in this year's survey, please contact us. **Julie D. Keran, Doug C. Keran, Rt. 7, Box 14, Brainerd, MN 56401.**

**LATE DATE FOR GREAT EGRET** — Near midday on Nov. 20, 1982 while scanning the large concentration of Tundra Swans at the Weaver Marshes, Wabasha Co. a Great Egret was observed standing in a "hunched" position fighting the chilling wind that was blowing. The bird was about 150 yards east of us along the far edge of one of the nearest bays. At one point a Great Blue Heron, which was also present, even walked into the same field of view of our 25x spotting scope for a convenient comparison. After 10 minutes of observation, the egret flew about a 50 yard loop landing out of sight behind cattails. Characteristics noted were: nearly the size of the Great Blue Heron; white head, neck, body, and wings; long, dark legs; long, yellow beak; long, thin neck; and long, spiny feathers on the neck and back that were especially noticeable because of the blowing wind. Making the observation with me were Juan Sardinas and Terri Alberico. In addition, Bob Janssen briefly viewed the egret earlier that morning while leading his bird class on a field trip. This record is the latest documented date for the state. There was a Nov. 28 report of a Great Egret in Dakota Co. made to the Rare Bird Alert telephone tape in 1980, but the source is unknown. The documentation of that observation would be welcomed. **Bill Litkey, 589 Granite Ave. N., Oakdale, MN 55119.**

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR IN HENNEPIN COUNTY** — On October 2, 1982 while birding in rural Brooklyn Park along 89th Avenue North, in an area where Lapland Longspurs are routinely found as spring and fall migrants, two Smith's Longspurs were studied and identified at close range. The Smith's Longspurs were separated from a nearby flock of hundreds of Lapland Longspurs. Both species of longspurs were feeding in recently harvested potato fields, the Smith's on the north side of 89th Avenue North and the Lapland on the south side. Two Smith's Longspurs were seen flying away after close study on the ground. Both birds revealed white outer tail feathers extending along the entire length of the tail. The bird which was studied most extensively while on the ground was believed to be a male in winter plumage as there was a faint outline of the black which surrounds the white cheek (ear) patch of breeding plumage. In addition to



being the first record of Smith's Longspur in Hennepin County this observation established a new "early south" date for this species, the previous record being October 19. Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle. Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER NEAR AITKIN** — On Saturday morning, October 23, 1982, I saw a large grayish colored bird sitting in the maple tree about 20 feet from my bedroom window. Since I am a new and inexperienced birdwatcher, I did not know what I was looking for when this large beautiful gray bird with a black and white tail twice as long at its body caught my attention. Looking through a pair of 7x50 binoculars, I noticed a bright splash of red under its right wing. I felt so sad at first for I had thought one of the numerous duck hunters in our area had taken a shot at it. When the bird turned around a few minutes later and continued to preen itself, I saw the identical coloring characteristics under its left wing. The red splash blended into salmon pink along the sides of its belly. It was clear to me then that these were its natural markings. Paging through Peterson's field guide, I easily identified this bird as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. It was then that I asked my husband, Jeff, to take a look at this bird. He agreed with my identification. We were getting ready to leave to attend a wedding in Sauk Rapids that morning but on an impulse I decided to check into this unusual bird a little more. After checking Peterson's range map and a back copy of "The Loon," (in which no mention was made of this bird throughout the magazine!) I realized this bird was not where it was supposed to be. It was a long way from home. Lloyd Paynter's smiling, gentle face came into mind when I realized I could not call him this time. Lloyd

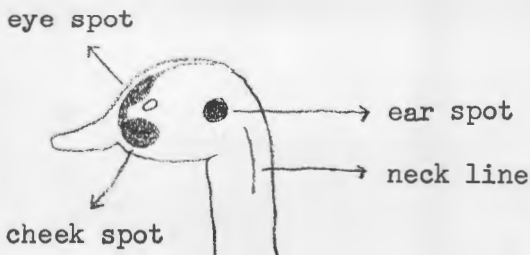


Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Aitkin, Aitkin Co., 24 Oct. 1982 — Photo by Warren Nelson

passed away in May at the Santa Anna Wildlife Refuge in Texas. He sparked my interest in birds and I'd like to think this bird was his legacy to me. I decided to call Warren Nelson of Aitkin who I knew had taken field trips with Lloyd. Warren came out to our place later that afternoon and spotted the bird. He in turn passed the word on. The next morning I awoke around 8:00. As I headed toward the kitchen to make some coffee, there sitting on our deck looking in at me through the sliding glass doors was my friend the flycatcher. He hung around the yard a couple hours and in that time I met several Minnesota birders. Around 11:00 the bird flew over to the Filer's yard, our closest neighbors who live ¼ mile away. He stayed in that area for most of the afternoon. He came back to our yard around 4:00 and stayed for the remainder of the light hours. On Monday, the 25th, I saw the bird again at 1:00 and watched it for a couple hours. I also happened to see a pair of Bald Eagles put on a water show as they swooped for fish off our dock earlier that morning. On Tuesday the bird hung around our yard all day, keeping itself busy by catching dragonflies and flying from woodpiles to garden posts to fence wires. Wednesday is my only 9-5 day at the library. I did not get a chance to look for the bird. The last time I saw the flycatcher was Thursday morning, the 26th. It was within sight from the kitchen window all morning and several times it sat on a clump of thistles about 15 feet away. The sun was shining on its feathers then and my last thoughts of this bird were of its beauty and its gracefulness. **Elaine Haberkorn, Rt. 1, Aitkin, MN 56431.**

**BRANT AT GRAND MARAIS** — Our first impression of a flying bird silhouetted against a bright clear sky was that it was a drake Mallard (based on size and the light-dark color pattern on beneath). As it came closer it was evident that the bird was not a duck but rather a small goose. And so on November 16th, 1982 we followed the goose's progress to a landing on the concrete breakwater on the east side of the entrance to the Grand Marais harbor. The goose, which we now suspected might be a Brant, walked along the breakwater, stretching out its neck and advancing on Herring Gulls and displacing the gulls. The late afternoon sun made observation difficult and even though we moved closer and continued to observe with 7x35 binoculars and a 20x scope, little detail could be seen. Was it possibly a very dark immature Blue phase of the Snow Goose? The gulls flew and the goose flew away from us, low over the water across the harbor entrance and landed on the west breakwater. In flight a white "V" on the tail was conspicuous, thin at the terminus or point and very wide toward the top. We then went back to our car and drove around to the west side of the harbor. While driving we were able to check in our Robbin's "Birds of North America" that indeed the goose was an immature Brant. When we climbed onto the rocks along Lake Superior for a view of the west breakwater we easily picked out the Brant: it again had displaced the Herring Gulls creating a dark area on a breakwater otherwise white with gulls. The light was good and identification easy. The black of the head and neck extended to a bib on the upper chest and contrasted sharply with the white and light beige of the belly giving the goose a distinct hooded appearance. No markings were apparent on the neck. The bill, feet, and short legs were nearly black and the back and wings were dark gray brown. The Brant was aggressive and constantly forcing the Herring Gulls to move away. The goose flew again, low and directly over us emitting a hoarse uneven croak; it circled toward the gravel beach on the west side of the Grand Marais harbor and landed in front of Kim Eckert and two companion birders as they sat in their car observing the impressive assemblage of gulls. The five of us observed the goose swimming among the numerous Mallards and American Black Ducks. It was last observed waddling with the Mallards and Blacks toward the Grand Marais power plant where corn is spread each afternoon for the duck flock. We attempted to locate the goose again later the same week without success. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, Minnesota 55604.**

**IMMATURE MALE HARLEQUIN DUCK IN BEMIDJI** — On 4 December 1982 I observed an immature male Harlequin Duck on the Mississippi River between the Lavina Road bridge and the railroad bridge, near where the river outlets from Lake Bemidji. The temperature was 44°, the sky partly cloudy, and any glare from the sun was blocked by the trees lining the river which made for excellent viewing conditions. The duck was observed by myself and five other birders from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at distances as close as 20-40 yards with 8x-17x by 40mm binoculars, 20x-60x by 60mm spotting scope, and a Standard Field Model Questar Telescope (6x, 80x, 130x; very high resolution). Peterson's Field Guide was consulted during the observation and field notes were taken on the following characteristics. It was a dark brown duck approximately the size of a Common Goldeneye (there were no other ducks present to make any direct comparisons with). The back and wings were darker (almost black) than the rest of the body and the breast and belly were pale. The duck flapped its wings several times and they were uniformly dark (no light markings at all). The tail seemed long and sharp and was sometimes held up above the water. The bill was small (similar to a goldeneye's) and did not seem to compare with that of a scoter as shown in Peterson's Field Guide. The head pattern was characterized by three major white markings (See drawing below). The first was a very distinct, round, and bright white ear spot. Just below and behind the ear spot a very faint white line extended 1½-2 inches down the side of the neck. The second marking, a relatively large but dirty white cheek spot was located just behind the bill and below the eye. The third marking was a longish white spot which began near the upper edge of the cheek spot in front of the eye and extended to just above the eye. This spot was not as distinctly margined as the other two and seemed to blend into the cheek spot where they came together. A very faint line extended from the top of this spot over the top of the head. Between these lines (one on each side of the head) the head is darker. The two lines taper and meet on the upper back of the head and are bordered by a narrow margin of light cinnamon color on the outside. This duck had the most peculiar habit of diving that I have ever observed. On diving the bird would partially extend its wing tips and seemed to scoop water back with the front of its wing; this appeared as a very rapid, fluttering motion. The tail was fanned and uplifted when the duck dove. At times the duck would bob its head like a coot or would dip its head in the water like a loon does to look for food. On the following day the bird was located again by Al Schmierer at the same location. He was able to photograph the bird at this time but further attempts to find the bird failed. **Jeffrey S. Palmer, Oak Hall, 412B, Bemidji, MN 56601.**



**AN ICELAND GULL AT GRAND MARAIS** — On November 16, 1982 I identified an adult Iceland Gull in the harbor at Grand Marais. Dee Benson and Carol Copeland, two members of my bird identification class, were birding with me at the time, and we were watching a Brant which had been discovered in the harbor that day, when an adult "white-winged" gull suddenly flew into view. At first I naturally thought it was a Glaucous Gull, but after carefully watching it in flight for two or three minutes, I realized it was the rarer Iceland Gull. The gull was all white, including the tips of its primaries and secondaries, except for its pale gray mantle. Leg color was not seen, but the bill was yellow, and, although the eye appeared to be dark at all distances and angles (a bright sun was at our backs, and the gull was seen only in flight as close as 30 or 40 feet), it may have actually had yellow irides. There may have been small, pale gray spots at the far tips of some of the primaries, but if present they were very indistinct and inconspicuous. As the gull flew around in the company of Herring Gulls, it consistently appeared nearly the same size or slightly smaller than the other gulls in its length, wing span and overall bulk. Also evident were a relatively small bill, head and neck which never appeared to be anything more than Herring Gull-sized. Also, although flight styles of gulls vary greatly according to wind conditions, what the gull is doing, etc., and are difficult to use in identification, the flight of this bird was consistently as "light" as the Herring Gulls with it. A first-winter Glaucous Gull was also present in the harbor at the time, and, although this and the Iceland Gull were never close enough for direct comparison, the Glaucous in flight later with Herring Gulls was clearly heavier and slower. Although a smaller female Glaucous Gull can approach the Herring Gull in overall size and can easily be mistaken for an Iceland, with practice, careful study, experience with variations in a species' sizes and flight styles, and direct comparison with other gulls, even the smallest Glaucous will still appear larger and heavier in at least its bill, head, neck and chest. Eventually the Iceland Gull flew east out of the harbor and disappeared from view. Molly and Ken Hoffman were told of our sighting, but they could not find it the next day. This represents about the ninth Iceland Gull record for Minnesota. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**BOREAL OWL IN ITASCA COUNTY** — On July 1, 1982, Ray Glassel and I were going north on Highway 169 through Aitkin and Itasca Counties during the early morning hours. We had been stopping every four to five miles to listen for Whip-poor-wills, owls and other night sounds. In Aitkin County at about 4:10 a.m. near the Swatara Road we heard a Whip-poor-will calling. There was a little light showing in the east at 4:30 a.m. when we stopped at milepost #292 in Itasca County about two miles north of the Aitkin County line. Immediately upon getting out of the car, we heard what we thought was a Common Snipe calling. As we listened, we knew there was something "wrong." This was not a snipe but a Boreal Owl calling. It reminded us of the Boreal Owls we had heard and seen along the Gunflint Trail in Cook County in April, 1981. The call of the Boreal Owl is hard to describe in words, but to me it sounds like a long quavering "who-oooooo" rising in pitch and rolling on for two to three seconds and has somewhat the quality of a "winnowing" Common Snipe. The sound was coming, as far as we could tell, from a coniferous woods about a 100 yards to the north-east of the car. The area the car was in was a deciduous woods and open pasture. The call lasted two to three seconds, then stopped, then began again and was repeated in this manner for over 15 minutes while we were in the area. The sound came from the same area the whole time. As it got lighter the repetition of the call slowed, but the bird was still calling when we left the area. Ray and I discussed this experience with Kim Eckert about two weeks later. Kim has heard many more Boreal Owls than we had, but to hear a Boreal Owl in July in Itasca County had to be questioned and confirmed. Here are Kim's comments about a Boreal Owl call vs. a Common Snipe "winnowing": Snipe winnowing is at irregular intervals while the Boreal calls with regular pauses of the same length (maybe 3-5 seconds) separating each series of notes. Other differences: Snipe is breezier with the notes run together more, while the Boreal's notes are more distinctly separated

run together more, while the Boreal's notes are more distinctly separated and enunciated; Snipe's call comes from above, the Boreal from the trees; and the Snipe's call moves around as it flies, while the Boreal calls from one spot — the problem is these last three differences are hard or impossible to detect at a distance. Our hearing of this bird certainly satisfied the characteristic Kim mentions above of the call being given at regular intervals and separated by regular pauses. Also the call came from one spot the whole time we were listening. The calls of the Boreal Owl and the winnowing of a Common Snipe are very similar in nature at a distance, but are really easily separated at close range. I remember well when we first heard the above mentioned Boreal Owl calling, that both Ray and I knew it was different and only reminded us of a snipe. Even though we have had limited experience with hearing Boreal Owls, once you have heard the bird, the differences between it and the snipe are quite apparent. The call of the Boreal Owl has been likened to the sound of "dripping water"; where this ever got started is unknown to me, but it would seem that this sound might apply more closely to the call of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. One wonders if the "dripping water" Boreal Owl records were Saw-whets? In conclusion, this summer record leaves a number of unanswered questions: was this just a stray accidental bird that by luck we happened on to? By July 1, it seems that Boreal Owls should have passed their peak song period and be fairly silent unless they are at a nest site. But who knows what Boreal Owls are "supposed" to do on the fringe of their range. It is possible that the bird we heard was at a nest with young either in or out of the nest. Does northern Minnesota have a small summer resident population of Boreal Owls that go largely unnoticed because of their secretive habits and scarcity? Possibly the only answer to this will come about if more birders stay up all night and listen in the northern part of the state for night sounds. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

## Changes in Minnesota Bird Names

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### 6th Edition of the A.O.U. Checklist

In 1982 the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) completed the long awaited revision of the A.O.U. Checklist. Species were lumped, species were split, many common names and scientific names were changed and the old Checklist order has been drastically changed for many species.

These changes have been incorporated into a new and up-to-date revision of the Minnesota Checklist of Birds. Also, these changes will become effective with this issue of *The Loon* and will be used in all forthcoming issues of the magazine or until further revisions are made by the A.O.U.

**Splits** — Eight species were added to the U.S. list, but unfortunately none of these affected the Minnesota List. These splits were:

**Black-vented Shearwater** from Manx Shearwater, **Red-breasted Sapsucker** from Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the Skua was split into **Great Skua** and **South Polar Skua**, the Screech Owl was split into the **Eastern** and **Western Screech-Owl**. The **Yellow-footed Gull** has been split from the Western Gull, the **Antillean Nighthawk** was split from the Common Nighthawk. The **Black-backed Wagtail** is split from the White Wagtail and finally, the **Couch's Kingbird** was split from the Tropical Kingbird.

Lumps are as follows:

**Whistling Swan** and **Bewick's Swan** are now the **Tundra Swan**. The **Black, Gray-crowned** and **Brown-capped Rosy Finch** are lumped into a single species, the **Rosy Finch**. The **Gray-headed Junco** is lumped into the **Dark-eyed Junco** complex, thus Minnesota loses one species which was previously on the state list. Others lumped include the **Mexican Duck** which is considered a race of the **Mallard**. **Yellow-green Vireo** is a race of the **Red-eyed Vireo** and finally the **Brown-throated Wren** is now merely a color race of the **House Wren**.

## COMMON NAME CHANGES AFFECTING MINNESOTA BIRD SPECIES

Previous Name	New Name
White Pelican	American White Pelican
Louisiana Heron	Tricolored Heron
Northern Green Heron	Green-backed Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Whistling Swan	Tundra Swan
White-fronted Goose	Greater White-fronted Goose
Black Duck	American Black Duck
Pintail	Northern Pintail
European Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon
Swallow-tailed Kite	American Swallow-tailed Kite
White-tailed Kite	Black-shouldered Kite
Marsh Hawk	Northern Harrier
Goshawk	Northern Goshawk
Black Hawk	Common Black-Hawk
Greater Prairie Chicken	Greater Prairie-Chicken
Turkey	Wild Turkey
Bobwhite	Northern Bobwhite
Common Gallinule	Common Moorhen
American Golden Plover	Lesser Golden-Plover
Northern Phalarope	Red-necked Phalarope
Barn Owl	Common Barn-Owl
Screech Owl	Eastern Screech-Owl
Hawk Owl	Northern Hawk-Owl
Saw-whet Owl	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Poor-will	Common Poorwill
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	Black-backed Woodpecker
Common Flicker	Northern Flicker
Western Wood Pewee	Western Wood-Pewee
Eastern Wood Pewee	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Rough-winged Swallow	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Common Crow	American Crow
Short-billed Marsh Wren	Sedge Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren	Marsh Wren
Dipper	American Dipper
Wheatear	Northern Wheatear
Mockingbird	Northern Mockingbird
Starling	European Starling
Cardinal	Northern Cardinal
Tree Sparrow	American Tree Sparrow
Gray-headed Junco	Dark-eyed Junco
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	Rosy Finch

Copies of the A.O.U. Checklist which lists all the recognized species and names for the 6th Edition are available for \$3.00 each (postpaid) from G.E. Woolfenden, Biology, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 33620.



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

As is now customary, a semi-annual summary of M.O.R.C. activities and votes, is to be published in the Spring and Fall issues of *The Loon*. Before listing the July-December voting results, there were decisions made at two meetings during this period that may be of interest.

August 14, 1982 meeting: 1) A recognizable and preserved tape recording of a bird's call is now considered as valid as a specimen or photo for admitting a species to the A<sub>a</sub> list (e.g., Black Rail and Chuckwill's-widow are now on the A<sub>a</sub> rather than the A<sub>b</sub> list); 2) A species may be placed on the Casual list without a specimen/photo/tape record, if there are enough ac-

ceptable sight records (e.g., California Gull); 3) By majority vote the Chukar is now considered an Extirpated species on the list (the minority voted to drop the Chukar entirely from the new list since it was an introduced, rather than native species, which disappeared); 4) Several other species had their status changed on the new Minnesota checklist after discussion — these will not be listed here since the checklist is included with this issue; 5) For casual/regular species voted on and recirculated, the second vote must be 5-2 or better for the record to be accepted (formerly a 4-3 vote was considered acceptable) — the M.O.R.C. voting formula now stands as follows:

Vote	Reg./Casuals	Accidentals (a)	Accidentals (b)
7-0	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
6-1	Acceptable	Acceptable	Recirculate*
5-2	Acceptable	Recirculate*	Recirculate*
4-3	Recirculate*	Recirculate*	Unacceptable
3-4	Recirculate*	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
2-5	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
1-6	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
0-7	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable

\*If a record of a regular/casual species is recirculated for a second vote, a vote of 5-2 or better is Acceptable, 4-3 or lower is Unacceptable; second vote of 6-1 or better is Acceptable for an A<sub>a</sub> species, 5-2 or lower is Unacceptable; and second vote of 7-0 is Acceptable for A<sub>b</sub> species, 6-1 or lower is Unacceptable.

December 4, 1982 meeting: 1) The "Great-tailed Grackle" reported June 19, 1982 at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. was discussed, and the majority voted to include it on the Minnesota list as Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus/major*, since most felt that Boat-tailed Grackle was not entirely ruled out in the details; 2) The problem of intermediate or hybrid Snow/Ross' Geese was dis-

cussed, and by consensus, all previously Acceptable Ross' Goose records were reaffirmed or reclassified as follows:

—Acceptable: October 1964-January 1965 photograph record from Rochester, December 1965-January 1966 photograph record from Howard Lake, November-December 1962 sight record from Round Lake, and October 1979 specimen record from Kittson Co.; Unaccept-

able (Possible Hybrids): December 1969-January 1970 sight record from Rochester, December 1968-March 1969 sight record from Rochester, December 1981-January 1982 sight record from Black Dog L., and April 1977 sight record from Watonwan Co.; Unacceptable as either Ross' or Hybrid: October 1966 sight record from Swan L. (all records reclassified as Unacceptable had been initially identified as Ross' Goose solely on the basis of size; all records reaffirmed as Acceptable are supported by descriptions of the bill).

Records found Acceptable July-December 1982:

- Ferruginous Hawk, 5/15/82, Cottonwood Co. (vote 6-1)
- Townsend's Solitaire, 4/14/82, Mankato, Blue Earth Co. (vote 6-1, *Loon* 54:191-192)
- Ferruginous Hawk, 5/7/82, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 54:191)
- Spruce Grouse, 6/20/82, Chengwatana State Forest, Pine Co. (vote 5-2, *Loon* 54:200-202)
- Bewick's Wren, 7/6/82, Nelson Wildlife Sanctuary, Freeborn Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 54:245-246)
- Laughing Gull, 5/20-22/82, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 54:241)
- Mew Gull, 9/19/82, Knife River, Lake Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 54:241)
- Pomarine Jaeger, 9/6/82, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 54:248-249)
- Anhinga, 9/20/82, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 55:28-30)
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 10/10-11/82, Encampment Forest, Lake Co. (vote 6-1)
- Band-tailed Pigeon, 9/18/82, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 54:249)
- Northern Wheatear, 9/27/82, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 55:27-28)
- Iceland Gull, 11/16/82, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 55:38)
- Brant, 11/16/82, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0, *Loon* 55:36)

Records found Unacceptable July-December 1982:

- Lazuli Bunting, 5/20-22/82, Golden Valley, Hennepin Co. (vote 1-6)

The majority felt that this reported female, identified solely on the basis of its wing bars, may well have been a hybrid of an aberrant Indigo Bunting. Also the description mentioned the bird had some side streaking which the female Indigo has (the Lazuli does not), and there was no mention of the pale blue on the rump and tail which the female Lazuli should have.

- Long-billed Curlew, 5/5/82, Sherburne N.W.R., Sherburne Co. (vote 0-7)  
The five birds were identified in flight on the basis of larger size and longer bills. However, these size features are only subjective and not diagnostic without direct comparison with Whimbrels. Although the observer is experienced with Long-billed Curlews, there was no indication he has any experience with Whimbrels which can also have a "brown mottled appearance."
- Sabine's Gull, 6/4/82, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 1-6)  
Although the description of the wing pattern suggested Sabine's Gull, this description was somewhat vague and did not entirely rule out a sub-adult Bonaparte's. The head color was described as gray, but some Bonaparte's also show a gray rather than black head. Finally, this gull was seen standing at close range, but there was no mention of the yellow bill tip which should have been obvious under those conditions.
- Mississippi Kite, 6/4/82, Rice Lake N.W.R., Aitkin Co. (vote 0-7)  
Although the observer is very experienced, the only plumage description given was "bright white underneath" (which the Mississippi Kite never is) and "tail was darkish." Such a sketchy description was considered inadequate.
- Western Tanager, 5/9/82, Westwood Nature Center, Hennepin Co. (vote 1-6)  
The only plumage description, given by an observer with no experience with this species, was that the bird had a "scarlet head" and "dark wings." While such a description could fit a male Western Tanager, it was too sketchy and in-

adequate since there was no mention of wing bars of back color or yellow underparts in the original description.

—Kirtland's Warbler, 9/9/82, Lebanon Hills Park, Dakota Co. (vote 3-4)

Although there was agreement that the observer may well have seen a Kirtland's Warbler (since no other warbler seems to fit the description), the main problem was that the observer was inconsistent. His initial details mentioned the "even bluish gray" upperparts and that the tail had no spots — but a Kirtland's should have a streaked back and tail spots. A second, clarifying description was submitted and this said the back was streaked and that there were tail spots; however, this contradicted the original description, and it was felt the observer may have been led into providing the "correct" details by the letter sent by the M.O.R.C. Chairman requesting more information.

—Pygmy Nuthatch, 10/23/82, Fifty Lakes, Crow Wing Co. (vote 0-7)

This identification was based solely on "small size and white underside." With no mention of the cap color specifically, this description was inadequate.

—Common Eider, 9/26/82, Lac Qui Parle L., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 2-5)

Although this might have been a female/immature eider, there was nothing in the description to eliminate King Eider. However, the majority could not accept this as even an eider, sp. since the plumage was described as uniformly dark brown with no mention of barring; eiders are not dark brown and they are obviously barred, especially when seen at close range as this bird was. The bird was unnaturally tame with the observers approaching it to within 15 feet — this fact and the plumage suggest the bird

may have been a domestic duck of some kind.

—Anhinga, 11/3/82, Otter Tail Co. (vote 4-3, with 7-0 required for acceptance)

This identification may well have been correct but the description was brief in detail and casual in tone. It was stated that "the head, neck and upper breast were buffy" (suggesting a female) but there was no elaboration why it wasn't an immature cormorant instead. The bird was seen flying over about 100 yards away, but there was no mention of a light tail tip which the Anhinga should have. Nor was there any description of the flight, which is another difference between cormorants and Anhingas. The tail was only described as "long and fanned," but these are relative and subjective features that should have been described in more detail and even sketched (as this observer has often done with previous observations sent to M.O.R.C.). In sum, it was felt that such an unusual species should have been more completely described.

—House Finch, 11/25-16/82, Howard Lake, Wright Co. (vote 2-5)

This bird, which may well have been a male House Finch, was only described in terms of a "dark streak through the eye . . . heavy streaks on his sides," a "bright pink" rump, and "the wings and back were dark." However, all of these features can be shared by some Purple Finches, and the observer did not indicate whether she had any experience with the range in plumage variations of Purple Finch; there was also some indication that her description was influenced by the field guides.

9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN  
55804

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

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

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

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GARDNER

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"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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# IS 310 POSSIBLE IN ONE YEAR IN MINNESOTA?

Kim R. Eckert

Readers who have been M.O.U. members for at least five years might recall an article I wrote for the summer 1978 issue of *The Loon* (50:100-103) entitled, "Is 300 Possible in One Year in Minnesota?" This article gave an account of the 300 species I saw in the state during 1977, which was a record annual list for Minnesota. My conclusion then was that, as good a total as 300 was, someone would definitely list more some year, mainly because I did not consciously begin keeping track of (or chasing after) year birds until early July, and because I was out of state for six weeks during September and October, usually a productive period during the birding year. It seemed obvious that a dedicated birder could easily break the record if he or she started listing and planning in January (rather than July), tracked down all staked-out rarities, kept other Minnesota birders informed of the year's progress and the species still needed, and didn't leave the state for an extended period of time (like six weeks during peak fall migration).

During the next four years no one went after my record, even though I sort of hoped someone would break it so I'd have an excuse to go out for another big year list to regain the title. Well, in 1982 the record was broken, although it didn't come about the way I thought it would: no carefully planned month-by-month strategy or itinerary, no network of birders throughout Minnesota calling in needed species, no dramatic element of #300 or 301 being a most-wanted and "impossible" Boreal Owl spotted just before dark (as in 1977), frantic pursuits of staked-out year birds were few and far between, and the year's list-making and planning began not in January but even later than in 1977 - not until late July! and it was not some other birder who

broke my record - who else but I could again stumble haphazardly through the year and somehow come up with another record?

As in 1977, the year 1982 began with little promise, and the severe January weather with its -80° windchills and record snowfalls (which dumped three feet of snow on the Twin Cities in two days) kept us busy enough just trying to survive the winter with little time or reason left to contemplate a big birding year. Yet there were some good winter birds around, at least in Duluth, if you could manage to get out of the house: not one but two Gyrfalcons in the harbor, a fourth state record Great Black-backed Gull, two Iceland Gulls and assorted Thayer's Gulls at the dump, a Townsend's Solitaire in my back yard, Bohemian Waxwings by the thousands, and plenty of winter finches including record numbers of Hoary Redpolls.

Bad weather rather than good birding continued as the main topic of conversation during late winter and early spring as cold temperatures (-20s in March and still below zero readings into April) and relentless snows (a season's total of about 100 inches in the Cities, and a full scale blizzard as late as April 3-4) persisted. But there were breaks in the weather long enough for spring migrants to arrive, and most unusual at this time were the Three-toed Woodpeckers which persisted into March way down near Hastings, and a big influx of at least 36 Boreal Owls (mostly dead, injured or starving) along the North Shore from mid-February into early April.

Finally in April and May, thoughts of bad weather turned to thoughts of good birding, as Spring 1982 emerged as one of the best migrations in recent memory, especially from the standpoint of the appearance of unusual strays: an early April

Bewick's Wren at a St. Paul feeder was a Minnesota lifer for scores of birders; a pair of Ruffs appeared at Aitkin in early May; there was an incredible array of unusual warblers at Wood Lake Nature Center when the state's second Yellow-throated Warbler, a casual Worm-eating Warbler and the very rare Hooded Warbler were all present May 8; there were a cooperative White-eyed Vireo in Houston Co., a Say's Phoebe at Blue Mounds State Park, and a Tricolored Heron in Becker Co. — all in late May in "outstate" (i.e., away from Duluth) Minnesota; and Duluth contributed more than its share in May with Minnesota's second Wilson's Plover (possibly the same individual which was here in July 1981), Minnesota's first spring records of Pomarine Jaeger and Black-legged Kittiwake, the state's fifth Laughing Gull record, an extremely late Hoary Redpoll May 11, the second local record of the Yellow-breasted Chat, and three Northern Mockingbirds in the same tree at the same time at Park Point.

The flood of rarities hardly let up during summer, even though this season is not normally known for stray vagrants. Nonetheless, some of the most exciting birds ever to appear in Minnesota were turning up in June and July: the first 20th century record of McCown's Longspur appeared in Grand Marais on June 11; a few days later a first state record Great-tailed Grackle was discovered at Black Dog Lake; about the same time yet another first state record was found — a Chuck-will's-widow in Sherburne Co. (this amazing bird was apparently present here in 1981 and has reportedly returned in 1983); only the third Minnesota Snowy Plover record occurred in July at Lake of the Woods; and almost overshadowed by all of the preceding, were a Spruce Grouse in southern Pine Co. (where it came from defies explanation), a calling Boreal Owl in southern Itasca Co. July 1 (far out of season and far from the "traditional" nesting grounds in Cook Co. — speaking of Boreal Owls, an active nest had been discovered in May by forest service personnel in Cook Co. but unfortunately also discovered in June by a predator), another Bewick's Wren in Freeborn Co., and an astounding Henslow's Sparrow way up near Upper Red Lake.

As July came to an end, I found myself with nothing better to do than add up my year list for the first seven months of 1982. I mainly did this out of idle curiosity, well aware of all the unusual birds which had been seen so far (several of which I had been able to see), and also aware that I had seen almost all the usual winter specialties earlier, had picked up the southeastern specialties during a late May trip to Houston Co., and had spent much of June and July on the prairie guiding birding tours and doing bird surveys for the DNR Nongame Program. Even before I checked off and added up my list, I knew my tally for the year thus far would be pretty decent, but I was surprised when the total came to 284 — and this with five months left in the year (in 1977 I didn't hit 284 until late October). Obviously, there was a good chance that the record of 300 could be beaten, even though I would need to find several rarities/casuals/accidentals to do it (but that's what fall is for), and even though there were several birds missing from my list which I would have gone to look for if I had known earlier that 1982 was the year to go after a big year list.

August came and went without much excitement, and seemed especially dull when compared with all that went on during the previous three months. However, I did manage to reach 289 by the end of August with the addition of Parasitic Jaeger and Buff-breasted Sandpiper during routine birding in Duluth, and with a weekend trip to southwestern Minnesota with Paul Ege-land yielding Dickcissel, Red-necked Phalarope and Blue Grosbeak.

But rarities returned with a vengeance in September. First, a cooperative Pomarine Jaeger cruised low over my Bird Identification class at Park Point, Sept. 6, and a week later an expected Peregrine over Hawk Ridge brought my total to 291. Things really broke loose in Duluth during a 48-hour period Sept. 18-20: I and two or three hundred others at Hawk Ridge for the M.O.U. Hawk Weekend managed to be looking the wrong way when Minnesota's fourth Band-tailed Pigeon raced by; the next day I also missed a first state record Mew Gull nearby at Knife River; but I finally cashed in something to make up for those misses when yet another first state

record — an Anhinga — kettled over our heads on Hawk Ridge for #292. But late September produced yet another first state record as a Northern Wheatear was spotted in a Roseville shopping center, was followed as it hopped its way under and between the cars on busy Snelling Ave., and was last observed in a bank parking lot! Although I never had a chance at the wheatear, my total as the month ended reached 293 as an unexpected Smith's Longspur happened by at Park Point.

September was a tough act to follow, but October did its best to maintain the momentum of rarities: a Black-headed Grosbeak in Lake Co., a Sabine's Gull at Big Stone N.W.R., a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Aitkin, a huge invasion of Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers along the North Shore, and an incredibly late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Oct. 27 (!) way up here in Duluth. Although I missed out on the grosbeak and the Sabine's (which I never tried for), and failed to add the gnatcatcher to my St. Louis Co. list, October saw my old record of 300 fall — added were Three-toed Woodpecker, Golden Eagle at Hawk Ridge, a pair of Mute Swans in the St. Louis R., the Scissor-tailed, a Surf Scoter, and 301 was recorded Oct. 30 in Grand Marais with a cooperative staked-out Harlequin Duck (this was preceded by Oldsquaw and Black Scoter — both new for the year — and followed later in the day by three lost Cattle Egrets — unfortunately not needed for the year).

The balance of the year was relatively anticlimactic, not only because the new record was already set but also because the number of unusual birds slackened during November and December. But November added four new ones to the list as five of us found a Brant in Grand Marais (as we watched the Brant, a not-needed Iceland Gull chanced by), a trip with Mike Hendrickson to Houston Co. added staked-out Tufted Titmouse and Northern Bobwhite to my list, and #305 was one of my most satisfying finds of the year when I drove up the Echo Trail in search of Spruce Grouse on Nov. 27 — and actually found five of them in the road (any rational birder knows you don't go looking for Spruce Grouse since they're almost always encountered by chance). Hopes for a stray

Greater White-fronted Goose at Rochester were rewarded Dec. 7 when one flew in on cue with the Canadas at dusk (#306); a Mountain Bluebird discovered on the Grand Marais C.B.C. was still there Dec. 21 (#307); I escaped from my relatives' house in Northfield long enough to hear an Eastern Screech-Owl Christmas evening (just kidding, Scott and Catherine! — #308); and my year ended Dec. 30 with a Varied Thrush at a Cloquet feeder (#309). (Also in December I had found Great Black-backed and Iceland Gulls for the Duluth C.B.C., but I needed neither as year birds — the Iceland was even my **fourth** for the year.)

To misquote a famous poet: That's the way the year ends, not with a bang but a whimper. I had set a new record, but a staked-out Varied Thrush at a feeder hardly compares with the drama and excitement of a Boreal Owl spotted at dusk to climax 1977, and the number 309 may be higher than 300 but is hardly a nice, round magic number to strive for. However, 1982 remains as one of the most exciting birding years ever in Minnesota, if not the most exciting, as evidenced by all the unusual sightings capsulized above. No fewer than five first state records were realized (Anhinga, Mew Gull, Chuck-will's-widow, Northern Wheatear and Great-tailed Grackle), as well as a first 20th century record (McCown's Longspur), not to mention the state's second Wilson's Plover, its third Snowy Plover, and a fourth state record Band-tailed Pigeon (which, again, occurred with two first state records within a 48-hour period in the Duluth area!). Further evidence of the staggering number of unusual strays in 1982 was the huge increase in the Minnesota life lists of 300 Club members. Of those with the highest lists already, I added no fewer than ten Minnesota lifers during the year, Bob Janssen had eight lifers, and Ray Glassel increased his list by seven (in recent years, just two or three Minnesota lifers was considered a good year for us); all 300 Club members combined had 137 lifers, which averages out to five lifers per person in 1982.

To summarize my 309 birds, if you look at the latest Minnesota checklist, I tallied 292 regular species (missing from my list

were Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Cinnamon Teal, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Wild Turkey, American Avocet, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Summer Tanager), and I recorded no fewer than 17 casuals/accidentals (Anhinga, Mute Swan, Brant, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Pomarine Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Chuckwill's-widow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler and McCown's Longspur).

Obviously, 309 is the most ever seen in a year in Minnesota, but not as obvious is just how good a total is it? If you look at the most recent available listing statistics printed in *Birding* (published by the American Birding Association), you'll find that 309 in Minnesota is the equivalent of being in 15th place among record state year lists. It works out this way: the A.B.A. recognizes that Minnesota, to the nearest ten species, has "officially" 380 species on its state list (disallowed are the 16  $A_b$  species — those with no specimen/photo), and 309 amounts to 81.3% of the Minnesota list. And there are 14 other year lists from 12 states and two provinces with a percentage higher than 81.3%: the best of these is Paul Young's 87.5% in Michigan in 1981, when he had 315 of that state's 360 species — to attain this percentage in Minnesota, a birder would need a year list of 333 (and, as near as I can figure, there

were only 332 species recorded in Minnesota during 1982)!

Is 310 possible in one year in Minnesota? The answer is an emphatic yes. Even though I fell one species short of 310 last year, remember that I didn't actively involve myself in a big year list until late July, that there was no network of Minnesota birders calling in rarities they found which I needed for my list, and that I did very little in the way of vigorously chasing after needed year birds. I calculate that if I had started in January, had a network of "informants" to advise me of rarities, and had actively (rather than casually) worked on the list, I believe I could have had 320 species — the 11 I "should" have seen were Snowy Egret (in the Twin Cities or at Big Stone), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (in the Twin Cities or near Aitkin), Prairie Falcon (at Rothsay), Wild Turkey (I should have gone southeast in spring when they are vocal, rather than in November), American Avocet (they nested in East Grand Forks), Burrowing Owl (they nested in Rock Co.), Hooded Warbler (the one at Wood Lake), Arctic Loon (there was one at Mille Lacs), Tricolored Heron (at Osage, Becker Co.), Ruff (near Aitkin), and Sabine's Gull (the one at Big Stone). The point is that no one has ever seriously and systematically gone after a big year list in Minnesota, and that includes myself in 1977 and 1982. If someone plans it and does it the way it should be done, 310 or 320 or even more is a real possibility some year. — 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.



White Pelicans, Murray County — Photo by Henry Kyllingstad

# THE SUMMER SEASON

(June 1 - July 31, 1982)

Janet C. Green

*Again the species total of 262 seen in 1982 was almost the same as it has been for the past five years (1977-1981: 261, 262, 259, 260, 261). Breeding data was recorded for 159 species, including the first observed nest of a Rusty Blackbird. Two casual and three accidental species were found of which the most noteworthy was Minnesota's first record of Chuck-will's-widow. The observer effort was up slightly with reports from 66 teams.*

The style of the species accounts for the 1982 summer season is the same as it has been since I have been writing the report beginning with the 1978 season. The most extensive discussion of the meaning of terms is in the introduction to last year's report and I won't repeat it here (but do read it again: *The Loon* 54:14-15). The style may be the same but the reader will immediately notice that the bird names and the order of the species is not. For the first time the seasonal report is following the changes in nomenclature and taxonomic order from the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds to be published later this year. Beginning birders have an advantage over more seasoned observers now because they do not have to unlearn one order to make room for the new check-list in their memory file.

Highlights of the summer of 1982 include observations of two casual species (Arctic Loon and Bewick's Wren) and three accidental species (Snowy Plover, Chuck-will's-widow, McCown's Longspur). Breeding data was obtained for several species that have only occasionally been found nesting: Bufflehead, American Avocet, Solitary Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, Boreal Owl, Rusty Blackbird and Henslow's Sparrow. It is hard to tell if these species are regular nesting birds or not, but additional breeding information is suggestive and I hope more can be accumulated in subsequent years.

However, a number of species that have nested in the state before were not even seen this summer: Northern Hawk-Owl, King Rail, Sprague's Pipit, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat and Baird's Sparrow. Some of these species are not to be expected as regular breeding birds because Minnesota is on the extreme edge of their range and the previous nesters were undoubtedly pioneers. But the absence of Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow may mean the extirpation of these upland prairie birds as their native habitat has shrunk to isolated patches in Minnesota.

## ARCTIC LOON

One seen on 6/5 Clearwater (*The Loon* 54:178-179).

## Common Loon

Breeding data from Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Becker, Clay (Lake Thirteen, Parke Twp.), Isanti, Ramsey (Lake Vadnais). Seen throughout range plus Freeborn (Lake Geneva).

## Pied-billed Grebe

Breeding data from Roseau, Marshall, Clay, Douglas, Todd, Stearns, Pope, Wright, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state.

## Horned Grebe

Seen in Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Pope (Lake Amelia; HCK).



**Red-necked Grebe**

Breeding data from Itasca, Beltrami, Crow Wing, Todd, Pope (Lake Johanna), Steele (Oak Glen Lake). Also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Clearwater, Hubbard, Clay, Ottertail.

**Eared Grebe**

Breeding data from Marshall, Big Stone, Yellow Medicine, Martin. Seen throughout range plus Carlton (6/12, Moose Lake sewage ponds).

**Western Grebe**

Breeding data from Marshall, Todd, Pope, Big Stone, Wright, Sibley, Martin, Jackson, Murray. Seen throughout range.

**American White Pelican**

Seen throughout the western regions plus adjacent counties in the North Central region and Faribault, Freeborn.

**Double-crested Cormorant**

Breeding data from Grant, Pope. Seen throughout the western regions and in all other regions except the Southeast.

**American Bittern**

Seen in 27 counties in all regions except the Southeast and South Central. More reports than last year.

**Least Bittern**

Breeding data from Marshall, Pope. Seen in Washington, Scott, Nicollet, Freeborn.

**Great Blue Heron**

Breeding data from Lake, Hubbard, Grant, Pope, Rice. Seen throughout the state.

**Great Egret**

Breeding data from Grant, Pope. Seen in 21 other counties as far north as Pine, Clearwater, Marshall.

**Snowy Egret**

Single birds on 6/25 Kuester Slough, Nicollet Co. (JCF), 7/31, Crow Hassan Park, Hennepin Co. (RBJ).

**Little Blue Heron**

Single bird on 6/7 Moorhead sewage ponds, Clay Co. (KRE).

**Cattle Egret**

One bird on 6/18 Big Fork River, Itasca Co. (G. Breining) and two on 7/27 Faribault Co. (J. Schladweiler).

**Green-backed Heron**

Breeding data from Stearns, Ramsey. Seen in all regions as far north as Lake (Beaver Bay Twp.), Itasca, Polk.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

Breeding data from Grant, Pope. Seen throughout the southern half plus Cook (6/12, RBJ), Lake (6/29, KL), Lake of the Woods, Marshall.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

Seen in Marshall, Aitkin (rice paddies), Big Stone, Hennepin, Scott, Washington.

**Tundra Swan**

Adult near St. Cloud all summer (NMH).

**Snow Goose**

One on 6/2 Ottertail (SM); two on 6/21 Marshall (J. Mattsson).

**Canada Goose**

Breeding data from Roseau, Wilkin, Stearns, Hennepin, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state including flocks along the North Shore in June.

**Wood Duck**

Breeding data from Pennington, Clearwater, Becker, Hubbard, Stearns, Isanti, Wright, Ramsey, Wabasha, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state including Cook.

**Green-winged Teal**

Breeding data from Roseau, Clearwater. Seen in 16 other counties in all regions except the Southeast.

**American Black Duck**

Breeding data from Lake; seen in Cook. Late July observations from Roseau, Marshall, Wright, Nicollet.

**Mallard**

Breeding data from Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Hubbard, Becker, Wilkin, Big Stone, Pope, Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Hennepin, Washington, Wabasha, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state.

**Northern Pintail**

Breeding data from Kittson, Clay. Seen scattered throughout the western and central regions plus Lake, Cook.

**Blue-winged Teal**

Breeding data from Pennington, Clear-



water, Hubbard, Itasca, St. Louis, Carlton, Wabasha, LeSueur, Sherburne, Stearns, Douglas, Pope, Big Stone. Seen throughout the state except Lake, Cook.

#### **Northern Shoveler**

Breeding data from Pennington. Seen throughout range plus Aitkin, Carlton, Duluth.

#### **Gadwall**

Breeding data from LeSueur. Seen throughout range.

#### **American Wigeon**

Breeding data from Beltrami. Seen in Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Clay, Lyon, Stearns, Aitkin, Itasca.

#### **Canvasback**

Breeding data from Marshall, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Becker, Clay, Big Stone, Murray. Seen in Ottertail, Lyon, Nicollet, Hennepin.

#### **Redhead**

Breeding data from Mahnomen, Clay, Big Stone. Seen in 19 other counties in all regions except the Northeast and Southeast.

#### **Ring-necked Duck**

Breeding data from Lake, Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Becker, Anoka. Seen throughout the northern regions plus Ottertail, Sherburne, Wright, Meeker, LeSueur.

#### **Lesser Scaup**

Scattered reports from Cook, Carlton, Anoka, Hennepin, Ottertail, Clay, Becker, Mahnomen, Pennington, Marshall, Lake of the Woods.

#### **Surf Scoter**

One on 6/12 Grand Marais, Cook Co. (BL).

#### **Common Goldeneye**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Itasca, Beltrami, Hubbard, Becker; nesting reported from Roseau, Lake of the Woods. Sick bird on 6/2 Ottertail (SM).

#### **Bufflehead**

Nested in East Park WMA, Marshall Co. (DNR report).

#### **Hooded Merganser**

Breeding data from Cook, Wright, Hubbard, Clearwater. Seen throughout the

northern regions plus Big Stone.

#### **Common Merganser**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods.

#### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching.

#### **Ruddy Duck**

Breeding data from Stearns, Carlton (Moose Lake sewage ponds, KL). Seen throughout range.

#### **Turkey Vulture**

Seen eastward of a diagonal bounded by Fillmore, Morrison and eastern Polk; also on 6/7 Rock (J. Schladweiler).

#### **Osprey**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing; nesting reported from Beltrami, Mille Lacs. Seen throughout the Northeast and North Central regions plus Pennington, Ottertail, Sherburne, Washington.

#### **Bald Eagle**

Breeding data from Lake, Beltrami, Hubbard. Also seen in Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Chisago, Washington (nest in St. Croix River Waterway).

#### **Northern Harrier**

Breeding data from St. Louis. Seen throughout the state.

#### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Seen mostly in the North Central, Central and East Central regions plus Cook, Mahnomen, Clay, Swift, LeSueur, Houston.

#### **Cooper's Hawk**

Breeding data from Winona, Hennepin; nesting reported from Anoka, Marshall. Seen in all regions except the Northeast and Southwest.

#### **Northern Goshawk**

Seen in St. Louis; "nesting pair" at Northwoods Audubon Center, Pine Co. (M. Link).

#### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Breeding data from Wabasha; nesting reported from Pine (Northwoods Audubon Center; M. Link). Also seen in Clearwater, Becker, Ottertail, Crow Wing, Aitkin,

Morrison, Mille Lacs, Washington, Hennepin, LeSueur, **Lac Qui Parle**.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Breeding data from Lake, Washington, Hubbard, Beltrami, Clearwater. Seen throughout range including Pope (Moe Woods TNC).

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Nesting reported from Mower. Seen throughout the western regions plus Hennepin, Dakota, Rice, Olmsted.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Breeding data from Becker, Hubbard, Pope, Washington, Winona. Seen throughout the state.

### **American Kestrel**

Breeding data from Lake, Hubbard, Becker, Stearns, Ramsey. Seen throughout the state.

### **Merlin**

Seen in Cook, Lake.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

One adult on 6/6 Dakota (JD).

### **Gray Partridge**

Breeding data from Olmsted, Sherburne, Stearns. Seen throughout range plus Hubbard.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Breeding data from Stearns, Mille Lacs, Olmsted, LeSueur, Chippewa. Seen throughout range as far north as Duluth, Bemidji, Polk.

### **Spruce Grouse**

Breeding data from Cook. One seen 6/20 Chengwatana SF, Pine Co. (*The Loon* 54:200-202).

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Beltrami, Hubbard, Wabasha. Seen throughout range but none in the Northwest.

### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Seen in Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Wilkin, Hubbard, Cass.

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Polk. Seen in Kittson, Pennington, Aitkin.

### **Wild Turkey**

Seen in Houston.

### **Northern Bobwhite**

Seen in Houston.

### **Yellow Rail**

Seen in Marshall, Polk (three locations), Cass (Swamp Lake; RBJ), Aitkin.

### **Virginia Rail**

Breeding data from Marshall, **Lake** (Hog Creek; SW). Seen in 11 other counties throughout the state.

### **Sora**

Breeding data from Stearns. Seen in 38 other counties throughout the state.

### **Common Moorhen**

Seen in Hennepin (Minn. River Valley NWR), **Aitkin** (Rice Lake NWR), **Marshall** (Agassiz NWR).

### **American Coot**

Breeding data from Marshall, Wilkin, Todd, Stearns, Martin, St. Louis (Duluth). Seen throughout the state except Lake, Cook.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Breeding data from Marshall. Seen in Kittson, Pennington, Polk, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Carlton, Sherburne, Anoka.

### **Black-bellied Plover**

Late migrants North: 6/12 Pennington; 6/17 Cass; 6/12, 6/17, 6/30 Lake of the Woods. Early migrant North: 7/27 Lake of the Woods.

### **Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early migrant North: 7/20 Roseau (TS).

### **SNOWY PLOVER**

One at Lake of the Woods 7/11-18 (*The Loon* 54:242).

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Early migrants North: 6/29-7/1 Lake of the Woods; 7/22 Pennington.

### **Piping Plover**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Duluth.

### **Killdeer**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Big Stone, Stearns, Hennepin, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state.

**American Avocet**

Breeding data from Polk (E. Grand Forks; S&DL).

**Greater Yellowlegs**

Early migrants North: 6/30, 7/2, 7/7; South: 7/15, 7/16.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late migrant South: 6/19 (KL). Early migrants North: 6/24, 6/30, 7/1; South: 6/25, 6/30, 7/2.

**Solitary Sandpiper**

Second state nesting record from Cook (*The Loon* 54:144-147). Early migrants North: 7/7, 7/12, 7/15; South: 6/20 (HCK), 7/6.

**Willet**

Late migrants (?) South: 6/1 Watonwan (EB-K), 6/20 Martin (RBJ). Early migrants North: 7/6 (4) Knife River, LAKE (J. Eaton).

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Breeding data from Cook, St. Louis, Clearwater, Stearns. Seen in 24 other counties in all regions except the South-west.

**Upland Sandpiper**

Breeding data from Clay, Swift, Rock. Seen in 26 other counties throughout the state except the Northeast.

**Hudsonian Godwit**

Late migrants North: 6/5 Duluth (KRE), 6/12 Marshall (K&SS).

**Marbled Godwit**

Breeding data from Kittson, Clay. Also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Norman, Wilkin, Ottertail. Early migrants 7/1 Pine/Curry Is., Lake of the Woods Co.(TW).

**Ruddy Turnstone**

Late migrant North: 6/1, 6/5. Early migrant North: 7/21 Lake of the Woods.

**Red Knot**

Late migrant North: 6/8 Duluth (NMH). Early migrant North: 7/24 Polk (S&DL).

**Sanderling**

Late migrants South: 6/2; North: 6/8 Duluth, 6/16, 6/25 Lake of the Woods. Early migrants North: 7/10, 7/17, 7/21.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Late migrants South: 6/2; North: 6/9, 6/12, 6/24 (JCG). Early migrants North: 7/7, 7/10, 7/21; South: 7/7, 7/8, 7/15.

**Western Sandpiper**

Late migrant North: 6/8 Duluth (KRE). Early migrants North: 7/5 Duluth (JCG), 7/8, 7/17.

**Least Sandpiper**

Late migrant South: 6/4; North: 6/4. Early migrants North: 7/1, 7/2, 7/4; South: 7/3, 7/5, 7/6.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

Late migrants South: 6/1; North: 6/12. 6/16. Early migrants North: 7/14; South: 7/24.

**Baird's Sandpiper**

Late migrant South: 6-4 (NMH). Early migrants North: 7/20, 7/21, 7/28.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

Early migrants North: 6/24 (JCG), 7/9, 7/11; South: 7/14, 7/19, 7/23.

**Dunlin**

Late migrants South: 6/1; North: 6/1; Duluth 6/5, 6/9, 6/24 (JCG). Early migrant (?): 7/5 (HCK).

**Stilt Sandpiper**

Late migrant North: 6/12 Lake (RBJ). Early migrants North: 7/7, 7/18, 7/20; South: 7/24.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

Early migrant North: 7/24 (S&DL).

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

Early migrants North: 6/30 (TW), 7/2, 7/8; South: 7/6, 7/20.

**Common Snipe**

Breeding data from Polk. Also seen in 28 other counties south and west to Olmsted, Kandiyohi, Wilkin.

**American Woodcock**

Breeding data from Lake, Mille Lacs, LeSueur. Seen in 14 other counties including Ottertail, Pope (Ordway TNC), Kandiyohi (Regal Meadow TNC).

**Wilson's Phalarope**

Seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Becker, Wilkin, Aitkin, Stearns, Nicollet. Late migrant South: 6/2 Rice. Early migrant North: 7/10 Lake of the Woods.

### **Red-necked Phalarope**

Late migrants South: 6/1; North: 6/9.  
Early migrant North: 7/20.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Nesting at Agassiz NWR, Marshall Co. (very large colony). Scattered reports in the western and central regions, especially after mid-July. At Pine/Curry Is., Lake of the Woods Co. 5000 on 7/21 (JCG).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Scattered reports in the northern regions plus Grant in June and July; more numerous in late July. Peak at Mille Lacs 7/25 (500) JB.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Breeding data from Duluth. Seen in 29 other counties in all regions but mostly in the Northwest and North Central.

### **Herring Gull**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, St. Louis. Seen in 11 other counties including Washington (WHL), Ramsey (OLJ).

### **Caspian Tern**

Seen in 15 counties in June and July; more reports in June including 6/23 (20) Chisago (St. Croix NSW). Reports distributed from Winona, Wright, Becker north and east to Lake of the Woods, Duluth.

### **Common Tern**

Breeding data from Lake of the Woods, Duluth. Also seen in Roseau, Beltrami, Becker, Hubbard, Cass, Mille Lacs, Washington.

### **Forster's Tern**

Breeding data from Todd; nesting reported from Marshall. Seen in 14 other counties throughout the range.

### **Black Tern**

Breeding data from Beltrami, Pope, Stearns, Ramsey. Seen in 40 other counties in all regions except the Northeast.

### **Rock Dove**

Occur throughout the state; no data.

### **Mourning Dove**

Breeding data from Polk, Clay, Douglas, Morrison, Stevens, Pope, Stearns, Sherburne, Kandiyohi, LeSueur, Olmsted, Houston. Seen throughout the state including Lake.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Breeding data from Clay. Seen throughout the state.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Breeding data from Wright, Hennepin. Seen in the southern half plus Mille Lacs (CF), Clearwater (AB), Polk (K&SS).



Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest, French Lake,  
Hennepin County — Photo by Don Bolduc

**Eastern Screech Owl**

Breeding data from Renville, Olmsted. Seen in Cottonwood, LeSueur, Hennepin, Ramsey.

**Great Horned Owl**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Stearns, LeSueur. Seen in 31 other counties in all regions.

**Burrowing Owl**

Breeding data from Rock (Denver Twp.; J. Schladweiler).

**Barred Owl**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Crow Wing. Seen in 17 other counties in the wooded eastern and northern regions plus Pope (Moe Woods TNC).

**Great Gray Owl**

Seen in Beltrami (6/26, Turtle River Twp.; JCR), St. Louis (5/29, 7/12, Linden Grove, Hwy 73).

**Long-eared Owl**

Seen in Hubbard, Becker only.

**Short-eared Owl**

Seen in LeSueur (Ottawa Bluffs TNC), Hubbard (T139R34), Polk (at least ten individuals in six locations).

**Boreal Owl**

Nested in Cook (*The Loon* 54:212-214). One heard 7/1 Hwy 169 (mile post 292) Itasca (RBJ).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**

Seen in Hubbard only.

**Common Nighthawk**

Breeding data from Lake. Seen throughout the state.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**

First state record in Sherburne in June and July (*The Loon* 54:139-141).

**Whip-poor-will**

Breeding data from Marshall. Seen in Roseau, Koochiching. St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Pope (Moe Woods TNC), Sherburne, Anoka, Houston.

**Chimney Swift**

Seen throughout the state.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

**Belted Kingfisher**

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

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Breeding data from LeSueur. Seen throughout the state including Lake (SW).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Seen in 19 counties in the south half plus Morrison (MacDougal Homestead TNC).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Breeding data from Cook, St. Louis. Seen throughout the state.

**Downy Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook, Pennington, Pope, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Hairy Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Three-toed Woodpecker**

Seen in Cook, Lake.

**Black-backed Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake. Seen in Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater.

**Northern Flicker**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Hubbard, Stearns, LeSueur, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen throughout the state except the Southwest.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Late migrants: 6/9 Houston, 6/9 Ottertail, 6/12 Marshall. Seen in Cook, Lake, Itasca, Beltrami.

**Easten Wood-Pewee**

Breeding data from LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Late migrant: 6/7 Hennepin; early migrant: 7/21 Houston. Seen in Cook, Lake, Carlton, Aitkin, Roseau.

**Acadian Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Houston.

**Alder Flycatcher**

Seen throughout the northern regions plus Pine, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka.

**Willow Flycatcher**

Seen south and west of a diagonal from Anoka, Sherburne, Ottertail, Polk (KRE; K&SS).

**Least Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Clearwater. Seen throughout the state.

**Eastern Phoebe**

Breeding data from St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Marshall, Clearwater, Becker, Aitkin, Morrison, Stearns, Sherburne, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Seen throughout the state.

**Western Kingbird**

Breeding data from Hubbard, Big Stone, Stearns, Sherburne; reported nesting in Anoka (Coon Rapids). Seen throughout the western regions plus Beltrami (near Bemidji), Wadena, Morrison, Benton, Ramsey. Late migrant: 6/12 Stoney Pt., St. Louis Co. (RBJ).

**Eastern Kingbird**

Breeding data from Cook, Hubbard, Sherburne, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Le Sueur, Wabasha, Winona, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.

**Horned Lark**

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

**Purple Martin**

Breeding data from Hubbard, LeSueur, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.

**Tree Swallow**

Breeding data from Cook, Pennington, Clearwater, Becker, Hubbard, Stearns, Kandiyohi, LeSueur, Wabasha, Winona, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Seen throughout the state.

**Bank Swallow**

Seen throughout the state.

**Cliff Swallow**

Breeding data from Big Stone, Stearns. Seen throughout the state.

**Barn Swallow**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Benton, Stearns, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Gray Jay**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, Beltrami.

**Blue Jay**

Breeding data from Pennington, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Ramsey, Washington, LeSueur. Seen throughout the state.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Breeding data from Marshall; reported nesting in Pennington, Polk. Also seen in Kitten, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater.

**American Crow**

Breeding data from Cook, Polk. Seen throughout the state.

**Common Raven**

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

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Breeding data from St. Louis, Pennington, Cottonwood, LeSueur, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Breeding data from Cook. Also seen in Lake, Itasca (Scenic SP), Beltrami (8 miles n. of Bemidji), Hubbard.

**Tufted Titmouse**

Seen in Houston, Washington (Copas).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake. Seen in St. Louis, Beltrami, Clearwater, Becker (Tamarac NWR), Cass, Mille Lacs.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Breeding data from Lake, Pennington, Hubbard, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka. Seen throughout the state including Cook (Hovland).

**Brown Creeper**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Seen also in Hubbard, Beltrami, Koochiching, St. Louis, Cook, Mille Lacs, Washington (Copas).

**BEWICK'S WREN**

One seen 7/6 Freeborn (*The Loon* 54:245-46).



### House Wren

Breeding data from Lake, Pennington, Pope, Stearns, Sherburne, Washington, Cottonwood, LeSueur, Olmsted, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

### Winter Wren

Seen in Cook, Lake, Koochiching, Beltrami, Pennington, Aitkin, **Mille Lacs** (Mille Lacs WMA; four fledged young; CF).

### Sedge Wren

Seen in 46 counties throughout the state.

### Marsh Wren

Seen in 42 counties throughout the state except Lake, Cook.

### Golden-crowned Kinglet

Seen in Cook, Lake, Koochiching, Beltrami, Clearwater, Mille Lacs (Mille Lacs WMA; CF).

### Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, Beltrami (8 miles n. of Bemidji).

### Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Breeding data from Houston, **Brown** (Flandrau SP). Seen in Winona, Olmsted, Nicollet (Seven Mile Creek), Dakota, Ramsey, Hennepin, Wright (Sugar Lake), Washington, Chisago.

### Eastern Bluebird

Breeding data from Clearwater, Becker, Hubbard, Morrison, Benton, Stearns, Sherburne, Wabasha, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.



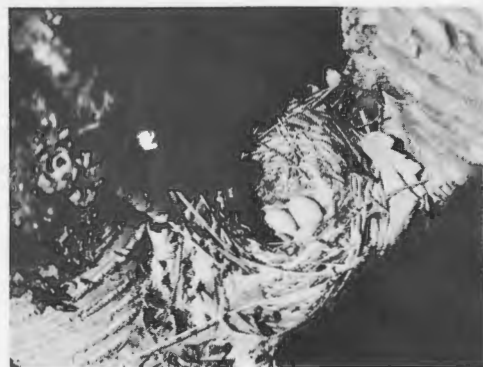
Eastern Bluebird nest and young, St. Augusta, Stearns County, May 30, 1982 — Photo by Clare Mohs



Eastern Bluebird nest and eggs, St. Cloud, Stearns County, June 4, 1982 — Photo by Clare Mohs

### Veery

Breeding data from Lake, Hubbard. Seen throughout the northern regions and south to Pope (Ordway TNC), Kandiyohi (Regal Meadow TNC), Ramsey, Olmsted, Houston.



Veery nest and eggs, Lake Vermillion, St. Louis County, June 13, 1979 — Photo by J. Halunen

### Swainson's Thrush

Late migrant: 6/2 Cottonwood. Breeding data from Cook. Seen in Lake, St. Louis.

### Hermit Thrush

Breeding data from Lake. Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Hubbard, Clearwater, Beltrami.

### Wood Thrush

Seen throughout the eastern half of the state eastward from Clearwater, Wright, Nicollet, Freeborn (Helmer Myre SP) plus Lyon (6/10 Garvin Park; HCK).

### **American Robin**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Pennington, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Wabasha, Olmsted, Houston. LeSueur, Martin, Cottonwood. Seen throughout the state.

### **Gray Catbird**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Hennepin, LeSueur, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Breeding data from Morrison, Stearns, Big Stone, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Hubbard, Sherburne, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

An encouraging number of reports which include five nesting locations (Morrison, Benton, Anoka, Dakota, Clay), plus eight other locations in Polk, Clearwater, Clay, Todd, Sherburne, Blue Earth, Lyon, Yellow Medicine.

### **European Starling**

Breeding data from Cook, Pennington, Polk, Stearns. Seen throughout the state.

### **Bell's Vireo**

Breeding data from Wabasha.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami, Crow Wing.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Seen in 30 counties in a wide diagonal band across the state but not in the Northeast, Southwest or most of the West Central.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Breeding data from Big Stone, Hennepin. Seen throughout the state.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Seen in Cook, Lake.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Itasca. Seen throughout the state.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Breeding data from Washington (Afton SP). Seen in Houston, Fillmore, Olmsted, Goodhue, Rice, Hennepin, Anoka.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Breeding data from Hubbard. Seen also in 11 other counties throughout range plus Anoka (Cedar Creek NHA), Koochiching (Koochiching SF; JCR).

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Beltrami. Early migrants: 7/30 Houston.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Hubbard. Seen in 11 other counties throughout range plus Washington (Afton SP; DZ).

### **Northern Parula**

Seen in 11 counties throughout range.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Morrison, Stearns, Big Stone, Washington, LeSueur, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Seen in 20 other counties throughout range including Hennepin (6/8; ETS), Houston (6/4; E&MF).

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Breeding data from Cook. Also seen in Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Seen in Cook. Early migrants: 7/30 St. Louis (Duluth Twp.; JCG).

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

Breeding data from Cook. Also seen in Lake, Koochiching (Koochiching SF; JCR).

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Breeding data from Lake, Itasca. Seen in six other counties throughout range.

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

Seen in nine counties in the Northeast and North Central regions.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Seen in six counties in the Northeast and North Central regions.

**Pine Warbler**

Seen in eight counties in the North Central region Plus Todd, Lake, Washington, Ramsey (Lake Vadnais).

**Palm Warbler**

Seen in St. Louis, Aitkin.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

Seen in Cook.

**Cerulean Warbler**

Breeding data from Hennepin. Also seen in Olmsted, Houston.

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Seen in nine counties in the Northeast and North Central regions plus Pine, Mille Lacs, Kittson (Norway Dunes TNC), Anoka (Cedar Creek NHA).

**American Redstart**

Breeding data from Houston. Seen in 31 other counties throughout range but not westward of Freeborn, Nicollet, Douglas.

**Prothonotary Warbler**

Seen in Houston, Ramsey, Washington, Anoka, Chisago.

**Ovenbird**

Breeding data from Cook, Clearwater. Also seen in 26 other counties but not westward of Olmsted, Rice, Pope.

**Northern Waterthrush**

Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Beltrami (Turtle Lake), Mille Lacs (Mille Lacs WMA), Anoka (Cedar Creek NHA).

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

Seen in Houston, Washington (Copas), Chisago (Interstate SP).

**Connecticut Warbler**

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

**Mourning Warbler**

Breeding data from Clearwater. Seen in 14 other counties throughout range plus Ramsey (6/1 Lake Vadnais), Washington (Copas; Wm. O'Brian SP).

**Common Yellowthroat**

Breeding data from Clearwater, Hubbard, Mille Lacs. Seen throughout the state.

**Wilson's Warbler**

Seen in Lake, Cook.

**Canada Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching (Koochiching SF).

**Scarlet Tanager**

Seen in 33 counties throughout most of the state but not seen in the Southwest or West Central regions.

**Northern Cardinal**

Breeding data from Hennepin, Steele, Wabasha. Seen in 21 other counties as far north as Morrison and Duluth (6/5 male; JCG).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Breeding data from Pennington, Hubbard, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Scott, LeSueur, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

**Blue Grosbeak**

Seen in Murray, Nobles, Rock.

**Indigo Bunting**

Breeding data from Marshall, Clearwater. Seen throughout the state.

**Dickcissel**

Seen in 22 counties in the southern half of the state as far north as Chisago, Sherburne, Traverse.

**Rufous-sided Towhee**

Breeding data from Hubbard. Seen in 15 other counties in a diagonal band from Houston and Rice to Kittson and Koochiching.

**Chipping Sparrow**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Clearwater, Polk, Morrison, Stearns, Cottonwood, Martin, LeSueur, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.



Chipping Sparrow nest and eggs, St. Cloud, Stearns County, June 28, 1982 — Photo by Clare Mohs

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

Breeding data from Clay, Douglas, Pope, Stearns, Sherburne.

**Field Sparrow**

Breeding data from Pope, Sherburne, Houston. Seen throughout the southern half of the state and as far north as Crow Wing (n. of Crosby; TS), Clay (Buffalo River SP, JCG; near Moorhead, L&CF).

**Vesper Sparrow**

Breeding data from Norman, Stearns, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state including Lake, Cook.

**Lark Sparrow**

Breeding data from Polk, Anoka, Dakota, Wabasha, Houston. Also seen in Clay, Sherburne, Renville, Nicollet.

**Lark Bunting**

Late migrants: 6/7 male, Felton, Clay Co. (KRE); 6/7 female, s. of Moorhead, Clay Co. (L&CF). Male on 7/4 near Canby, Yellow Medicine Co. (KL).

**Savannah Sparrow**

Breeding data from Lake, Polk, Ottertail, Douglas, Kandiyohi. Seen throughout the state.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

Breeding data from Wabasha. Seen in 22 other counties throughout most of the state but only in Aitkin in the North Central and Northeast regions.

**Henslow's Sparrow**

Breeding data from Hennepin (*The Loon* 54:192). Also seen in Winona, Clay (Blazing Star TNC; KRE).

**LeConte's Sparrow**

Seen in 17 counties in the northern half of the state plus Ramsey (7/24 Shoreview; BL).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Seen in Roseau, Marshall (two locations), Polk (nine locations), Cass (1 mile e. of Leader; KL), Aitkin.

**Song Sparrow**

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

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

Seen in Cook, Lake, Aitkin, Beltrami (8 miles n. of Bemidji; JSP).

**Swamp Sparrow**

Breeding data from Cook, Lake, Clearwater. Seen throughout the state.

**White-throated Sparrow**

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

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Breeding data from Cook.

**MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR**

Male at Grand Marais, Cook Co. (*The Loon* 54:195).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Breeding data from Clay.

**Bobolink**

Breeding data from Mille Lacs. Seen throughout the state.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Breeding data from Lake, Marshall, Pope, Stearns, Hennepin, LeSueur, Martin, Olmsted, Houston. Seen throughout the state.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Seen in 25 counties as far west as Beltrami, Todd, LeSueur, Freeborn.

**Western Meadowlark**

Breeding data from Pennington, Becker, Clay, Douglas, Morrison, Sherburne, Rock. Seen in 45 other counties throughout most of the state except the Northeast where seen only in Carlton.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Breeding data from Todd, Stearns, Martin. Seen throughout the state except the Northeast.

**Rusty Blackbird**

Nesting in Cook (*The Loon* 54:141-143), Lake (*The Loon* 54:246-247).

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Breeding data from Stearns. Seen throughout the state except the tier of counties north of the Iowa line.

**Common Grackle**

Breeding data from Cook, Pennington, Morrison, Pope, Big Stone, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state.

### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Breeding data from Cook, Itasca, Clearwater, Morrison, Big Stone, Stearns, Sherburne, Dakota, Houston, Rock. Seen throughout the state.

### **Orchard Oriole**

Breeding data from Hennepin, Houston, Mower, Big Stone. Seen throughout the western regions as far north as Red Lake Co. plus Renville, Freeborn, Goodhue, Dakota, Washington (May Twp.).

### **Northern Oriole**

Breeding data from Pennington, Morrison, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, LeSueur, Martin. Seen throughout the state.

### **Purple Finch**

Breeding data from Cook. Seen throughout the Northeast and North Central plus Pennington, Becker, Mille Lacs, Isanti, Washington.

### **Red Crossbill**

Nesting data from Cook. June reports from Dakota, Washington; July reports from Pennington, Beltrami, Itasca, Crow Wing, Carlton.

### **Pine Siskin**

Seen in ten counties scattered across the northern regions plus Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Mower, Hennepin.

### **American Goldfinch**

Breeding data from Lake, Clearwater, Hubbard, Stearns, Sherburne, McLeod, Olmsted. Seen throughout the state.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

Seen in eight counties in the Northeast and North Central plus Clay (6/1; C&LF).

### **House Sparrow**

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

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# HOUSE SPARROWS BUILD ROOST NESTS

Robert B. Janssen

During early September, 1982 I noticed a female House Sparrow carrying blades of grass, small weed stalks, bits of leaves, and other material into one of the flower pots hanging on the veranda of our condominium. In mid-September I found a whole "nest" had been built in this flower-pot and that another female House Sparrow had started another "nest" in the pot that hung at the other end of the veranda. Both pots at this time held healthy ivy geranium plants. These plants hung over the sides of the pots providing a rather open area at the top of each pot.

Each day the sparrows would add additional material to each "nest". I noticed this because each day I would have to sweep up dropped grass and bits of leaves. I had never known House Sparrows or any other kind of bird to build a nest this late in the season in Minnesota. Shortly after sunset on September 22, 1982 I looked into both of the "nests" and each pot contained a sleeping female House Sparrow. The birds were situated in a domed over depression (see photo) that had been filled with grasses and leaves. One depression was near the center of one pot, the other was at the edge of the other pot.

The next day I took one of the pots down and examined the "nest" more closely. It appeared that the bird had hollowed out a depression in the dirt and then filled this with fine grass and domed it over with coarser grass.

In a book on the life history of the House Sparrow (D. Summers-Smith, 1963), I found that House Sparrows do build roost nests. Summers-Smith (p. 56) states "it should be mentioned that in parts of its (House Sparrows) range where winter conditions are severe, the birds build roost nests. These are nests that are built in autumn and early winter in holes that are too small for breeding; like normal

nests they are warmly lined with feathers. While they have not been commonly reported in Britain, where winters are generally not severe, the building of roost nests seems to be more common in Germany and further north. This is a most interesting adaptation, allowing the bird to retain its sedentary habits and survive the long cold winter nights in high latitudes in places where there is sufficient food in the immediate neighborhood of man's houses to enable it to pick up a living during the daylight hours."

The roost nests on my veranda were not in holes, although both birds had made the roosting cavity resemble a hole, nor were feathers present in the lining of the roost cavities.

The two sparrows continued to use these nests and added material to them through October and into November. In the meantime, the geraniums had frozen in the pots, making the nests much more visible. In mid-November a violent wind storm blew both pots down; one broke into pieces and destroyed the nest, the other one remained intact and a photo of this nest appears on the next page.

I wish now that I had left the pot hanging on our veranda to see how long the sparrows might have used it. Another time I will attach the pots more securely and see what happens.

I wonder if roost nest building behavior of House Sparrows is a common practice in this area? Given the birds abundance, if this practice were widespread, it seems it would have been reported by other observers. One problem is, of course, that birders have little interest in House Sparrow, and most of their activities go unnoticed. House Sparrows regularly use their breeding nests as roosting sites and bring additional material to these nests throughout the season, which might distract casual ob-





House Sparrow roost nest — Photo by Don Luce

servers from considering that the sparrows are building a roost nest.

This observation of a sparrow roost nest right outside of my window indicates how little we sometimes know about what is going on before our very eyes.

Literature Cited:

Summers-Smith, D., 1963, *The House Sparrow*. Collins, London 275 pp.

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### ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS MARKED

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were wing marked in south-eastern Idaho in winter 1981-82 and 1982-83 as part of an ecological study of this species. Birds carry orange patagial markers bearing a letter and number code. Observers are asked to record location, date, and code if possible and send the report to the Bird Banding Laboratory and to JIM WATSON, Dept. of Biol., Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT 59717.

### A.O.U. IS 100 YEARS OLD

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will celebrate its Centennial at its 101st Stated Meeting, in New York City, 26 Sept.-1 Oct. 1983. Most functions will be held at the American Museum of Natural History. LESTER L. SHORT is Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, and GEORGE F. BARROWCLOUGH is Chairman of the Committee on Scientific Program. Both are at the American Museum on *Natural History*, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, NY 10024. Plan now to attend. Extraordinary scientific and social activities are planned for this historic event.

# THE FALL SEASON

(Aug. 1 – Nov. 30, 1982)

Richard Ruhme, Don Bolduc, Oscar Johnson

For this season 65 reports were turned in recording 291 species of birds.

Birding during this time was very rewarding as there was much to see and hear most of the time. There was only one negative report, that being from Duluth. Otherwise comments ranged from "a good migration" to "best season ever" for certain species. Even much singing of sparrows during some warm days was a welcome change from the usual silent days that we can have in the fall.

August weather was trying because it was very warm and humid the first third of the month — even 100° in places! That was followed by record lows of 45° around the tenth of the month. Later it became alternately cold and warm which no doubt triggered the early beginning of migration, e.g. flycatchers and warblers, which continued till the end of the month.

In Hennepin County a Snowy Egret was seen, in Aitkin a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, in St. Louis a Prairie Falcon, and in Cottonwood a Burrowing Owl.

Unsettled weather resulted in rainy, humid conditions for most of the month of September. That caused a gradual movement and frequent grounding of migrants, warblers in particular. In the north warblers were seen on the 9th, 12th and 15th.

A good wave of flycatchers was reported from the southwest on the 13th and from the east central on the 16th. Many sparrows were seen around the 21st, the last of the Gray Catbirds on the 27th, with a few warblers present through the first few days of October.

Unusuals in September were: Arctic Loon, an almost unbelievable Anhinga and Band-tailed Pigeon from Hawk Ridge, Pomarine Jaeger and Mew Gull from Knife

River, Northern Wheatear in Roseville and Smith's Longspur from Hennepin County.

October produced good birding nearly all month. Finches, kinglets and sparrows were visible most of the time in their proper habitat. One report mentioned 73 species in west central Minnesota on the 13th, especially numerous were Hermit Thrushes, kinglets, Lincoln, Swamp, Song and White-throated Sparrows.

It was rainy and cloudy for the first half of the month. Noticeable was a stationary low that stayed over the whole midwest from the 5th through the 11th with hardly a peak at the sun. On the 20th seven inches of snow fell in the southwest with strong winds that caused five foot drifts in places. Yet, on the 20th it was warm enough that Fox and White-throated Sparrows were singing in T. S. Robert's Sanctuary in Minneapolis. On the 27th there was a strong movement of robins, sparrows and juncos.

A Cattle Egret appeared in Cook County in October. More unusuals were: Mute Swans, a Sabine's Gull, Northern Hawk-Owl, Three-toed Woodpeckers, many Black-backed Woodpeckers migrating at Hawk Ridge, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Summer Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak.

The first part of November was cold with snow flurries in the south and much snow in places in the north, as much as 22" near the border. The second snowstorm of the season in the southwest dropped 13" on the 12th followed by cold weather that drove most of the ducks out of the state. After that things returned to normal with higher temperatures and rain in the north.

A Brant, Iceland Gull and Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared in the northeast and

a late Cape May Warbler lingered into December in Wabasha County.

There is a very worthwhile article in the November 1982 *AMERICAN BIRDS*, vol. 36, no. 6, p. 951 titled "Shorebird Migration" by Don Roberson. He states six rules to aid in the identification of migrant shorebirds.

Rule 1. All shorebirds have three distinct plumages.

Rule 2. With a few exceptions adults migrate before juveniles.

Rule 3. Each species of shorebird has a particular timing of its migration.

Rule 4. For species in which males have most or all of the chick-raising duties, females migrate earlier than the males.

Rule 5. Except for Wilson's Phalarope, shorebirds that migrate early do not molt into winter plumage until the wintering grounds are reached.

Rule 6. Summering shorebirds remain in winter plumage or in incomplete molts.

Acquaint yourself with this article and remember the rules.

#### **ARCTIC LOON**

9/16, 28 Crow Wing TS.

#### **Common Loon**

Late north 11/3 Cass JS, 11/10 Beltrami JP, 11/14 Crow Wing AB, DB; late south 11/25 Ramsey BL; peak 11/5 Crow Wing (300+) JB.

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

Late north 10/14 Polk KSS, 10/31 Hubbard HJF, 11/6 Beltrami JP; late south 11/4 Nicollet JCF, 11/6 Lyon RJ, 11/7 Wabasha WDM.

#### **Horned Grebe**

Late north 10/31 Polk KSS, 11/6 Cook BL, Crow Wing WN, 11/21 Lake SW/MS; late south 11/4 Nicollet JCF, 11/21 Ramsey DZ/MC.

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

Late north 11/5 Crow Wing JB, 11/10 Todd NH, 11/15 Beltrami JP; late south 11/27 Hennepin ES.

#### **Eared Grebe**

8/21, 28, 29 Carlton, Kittson, Wilkin RJ, 9/11 Marshall JP, 9/17 Nicollet JCF, 10/31 Polk KSS.

Summer 1983

#### **Western Grebe**

Late north 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/7 Todd NH, 11/16-21 Crow Wing WN, TS; late south 10/24 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle AB, 11/6 Le Sueur KL, 11/11 Nicollet JCF.

#### **American White Pelican**

8/19 Duluth D. Green; late north 10/13 Grant RJ, 10/26 Hubbard DJ; late south 10/25 Faribault JCF, 10/31 Chippewa AB, 11/21 Redwood JS.

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

Late north 10/23 St. Louis LE, 10/24 Lake DGW, 10/26 Beltrami JP; late south 11/17 Ramsey KL, 11/20 Goodhue DS, 11/28 Dakota MW.

#### **ANHINGA**

Seen over Hawk Ridge in Duluth 9/20 by KE, many others. First Minnesota record for this species. See *The Loon* (55:28-30)

#### **American Bittern**

Late north 8/28 Marshall MH, 9/1 Lake SW/MS, 9/12 Roseau KSS; late south 9/22 Hennepin SC, 10/14 Nicollet JCF, 11/1 Stearns NH.

#### **Least Bittern**

8/3 Marshall JM, 8/20 Kandiyohi JS, 9/4 Otter Tail DS, 9/9 Nicollet JCF.

#### **Great Blue Heron**

Late north 11/16 Lake KE, 11/18 Polk KSS, 11/22 Duluth KE; late south 11/20 Houston FL, KL, 11/21 Dakota MW.

#### **Great Egret**

Late north 9/10 Douglas and Grant FKS, 9/11 Marshall JP, 10/22 Polk KSS, 10/19 Houston EMF, 10/30 Dakota MW, 11/20 Wabasha RJ, BL. See *The Loon* (55:34)

#### **Snowy Egret**

8/1 Hennepin AB, 8/3 Hennepin RA, 8/22 Traverse (2) SDM.

#### **Cattle Egret**

9/21-22 Hennepin Mrs. James Lehr, 10/30 Lake (three) many obs. and Aitkin BL, Paul Kubic, 10/30 to 11/3 Wabasha (three) WDM.

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

Late north 8/29 Hubbard HJF, 9/7 St. Louis KE, 9/11 Aitkin WN; late south 10/

22 Nicollet JCF, 10/27 Hennepin OJ, 10/30 Chippewa AB.

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

North 9/11 Marshall JP; late south 10/5 Hennepin RA and Washington DS, 10/9 Dakota TBB, BL.

### **Tundra Swan**

Early north 9/15 Cook KMH, 10/8 Marshall AB; early south 11/6 Carver and Sibley RJ, 11/7 Hennepin BH; late north 11/19 Pine TP, 11/25 Beltrami JC; late south 11/30 Houston FL and Wabasha WDM; peak 11/16-20 Wabasha (7000) RJ.

### **MUTE SWAN**

10/20 to 11/11 Duluth, JB, KE, many obs. On Lake Superior this species is presumed wild, probably wandering from a feral colony at Ashland, Wisconsin; elsewhere in Minnesota it would be presumed an escaped captive.

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

10/16-23 Olmsted RE.

### **Snow Goose**

Late north 10-19 Cook KMH, 10/21 St. Louis LE, 10/30 Otter Tail DS; late south 10-29 Nicollet JCF, 11/20 Olmsted KL, 11/29 Hennepin ES.

### **BRANT**

11/16 Cook KE, KMH. See *The Loon* (55:36)

### **Canada Goose**

Permanent resident; reported from 11 counties north, 26 south.

### **Wood Duck**

Late north 10/9 Aitkin WN, 10/18 Pennington KSS, 10/26 Beltrami JC; late south 11/12 Washington DS, 11-14 Scott ES, 11/22 Wabasha WDM.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Late north 10/8 Marshall AB, 10/31 Pennington KSS, 11/17 St. Louis KE; late south 10/30 Isanti RJ, 11/5 Wabasha MS, 11/14 Houston FL.

### **American Black Duck**

Late north 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/20 St. Louis LW, 11/27 Cook DZ/MC; late south 11/30 Hennepin SW/MS, Houston FL, Olmsted RE and Wabasha WDM.

### **Mallard**

Permanent resident; reported from 15 counties north, 26 south.

### **Northern Pintail**

Late north 10/3 Cass NH, 10/8 Marshall AB, 11/3 St. Louis KE; late south 11/16 Wabasha WDM, 11/20 Goodhue DS and Winona RJ, 11/24 Houston FL.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Late north 10/2 Beltrami JP and Cass NH, 10/9 Aitkin WN, 10/31 Pennington KSS; late south 10/17 Anoka DS and Cottonwood WH, 10/29 Nicollet JCF, 10/30 Wabasha WDM.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Late north 9/25 Aitkin DZ/MC, 9/30 Pennington KSS; late south 10/24 Chippewa AB, 11/18 Wabasha WDM, 11/27 Hennepin ES.

### **Gadwall**

Late north 10/9 Marshall JP, 10/14 Polk KSS, 10/30 Otter Tail DS; late south 11/6 Lyon HK, 11-18 Scott KL, 11/30 Houston FL.

### **American Wigeon**

Late north 10/23 St. Louis KE, 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/1 Cook KMH; late south 11/14 Scott ES, 11/16 Wabasha WDM, 11/30 Houston FL.

### **Canvasback**

Late north 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/4 Clay NH, 11/7 Beltrami JP; late south 11/11 Nicollet CJF, 11/30 Houston FL and Wabasha WDM; peak 11/23 Houston (2500) KE.

### **Redhead**

Late north 10/30 Cook KE and Otter Tail DS, 11/13 Beltrami JP, 11/17 St. Louis KE; late south 10/29 Nicollet JCF, 11/6 Lyon HK, 11/8 Wabasha WDM.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Late north 10/25 Cook KMH, 10/30 Otter Tail DS, 11/20 St. Louis LW; late south 11/14 Houston FL, 11/18 Wabasha WDM, 11/24 Hennepin SC.

### **Greater Scaup**

8/22 St. Louis LE, 8/25 Marshall KSS, 11/21 Lake SW/MS.

**Lesser Scaup**

Late north 11/25 Marshall KSS, 11/26 Cook KMH, 11/30 Beltrami AS; late south 11/23 Ramsey KL, 11/29 Hennepin ES and Wabasha WDM.

**Harlequin Duck**

10/23 Cook DGW, also 10/24 many obs. and 10/30 through 11/2 KMH.

**Oldsquaw**

10/23 Cook DGW, also 10/28 KMH, 10/30 KE, LE, 11/2 KMH, and 11/27 KL.

**Black Scoter**

10/9 through 10/31 Mille Lacs Lake JB, TS, 10/21 through 11/2 Cook KE, LE, KMH, DGW, 10/22-24 Beltrami AS, TS, 11/20 Wabasha WDM.

**Surf Scoter**

10/5 through 11/27 Cook, KMH, KL, DGW. 10/16 through 11/6 Mille Lacs Lake JB, KE, TS, 10/22 Beltrami TS, 11/5 Cass JS.

**White-winged Scoter**

10/13 Marshall JM, 10/17 through 11/26 Cook KE, LE, KMH, KL, DGW, 10/24 Mille Lacs KE, 11/6 Otter Tail NH, 11/20 Wabasha BL.

**Common Goldeneye**

Late north 11/24 Lake SW/MS, 11/27 Cook DZ/MC, 11/28 Beltrami AS; early south 10/15 Hennepin OJ and Olmsted JEB, 11/29 Ramsey DZ/MC.

**Bufflehead**

Early north 8/21 Pine RJ, 10/9 Marshall JP; early south 10/15 Hennepin DB and Stearns CM; late north 11/21 Aitkin WN and Lake SW/MS, 11/30 Beltrami AS; late south 11/22 Ramsey KL, 11/28 Hennepin VL.

**Hooded Merganser**

Late north 11/7 Cook KMH and Otter Tail NH, 11/15 Beltrami JP, 11/17 Mille Lacs JB; late south 11/20 Goodhue BL, 11/22 Ramsey KL, 11-30 Houston FL and Wabasha WDM.

**Common Merganser**

Late north 11/23 Cook KMH, 11/24 Lake SW/MS, 11/29 Hubbard HJF.

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Late north 10/17 Mille Lacs JB, 10/28

Otter Tail DS, 11/21 St. Louis SW/MS, 11/23 Cook KMH.

**Ruddy Duck**

Late north 10/14 Polk KSS, 10/22 Beltrami TS, 10/31 Otter Tail DS; late south 11/11 Nicollet JCF, 11/14 Houston FL, 11/25 Dakota MW.

**Turkey Vulture**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 402 (1982: 384). Late north 10/9 Beltrami JP, 10/16 Hawk Ridge, 10/27 Lake SW/MS; late south 10/17 Cottonwood WH, 10/25 Martin EB/K, 10/31 Jackson LAF.

**Osprey**

Duluth Hawk Ridge count: 97 (1982: 164). Late north Hawk Ridge 10/14, 10/25 Beltrami JP; late south 10/15 Carver MS, 10/22 Nicollet JCF, 11/13 Anoka DS.

**Bald Eagle**

Hawk Ridge count: 402 (1982: 149) a record high for the second year in a row! Early south 8-27 Blue Earth JS, 9/17 Nicollet JCF; late north 11/24-25 Cook KMH, SL, 11/25 Marshall KSS.

**Northern Harrier**

Hawk Ridge count: 386 (1982: 811). Late north 10/23 Aitkin WN, 10/24 Hubbard DJ, 11/2 Hawk Ridge; late south 11/5 Cottonwood WH and Nicollet JCF, 11/27 Dakota FL.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Hawk Ridge count: 7150 (1982: 9971); late north 10/13 Marshall KSS, 11/7 Hawk Ridge; late south 11/12 Le Sueur HC, 11/21 Brown JSp, 11/27 Goodhue BL.

**Cooper's Hawk**

Hawk Ridge count: 43 (1982: 60); late north 11/22 Hawk Ridge, 11/23 Hubbard DJ; late south 11/20 Winona RJ, 11/26 Cottonwood WH, 11/30 Goodhue DJ.

**Northern Goshawk**

Hawk Ridge count: 5819 (1982: 981) an invasion year! Early south 8/29 Anoka KL, 9/18 Cottonwood WH, 10/6 Yellow Medicine JS.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**

9/7 Cottonwood GS, 9/26 Otter Tail SDM, 10-16 Washington RA.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Hawk Ridge count: 17,809 (1982: 30,905) low numbers probably reflect poor weather during peak period. Late north 10/5 Hawk Ridge, 10/14 Lake SW/MS; late south 9/24 Nicollet JCF, 9/25 Sherburne RJ, 10/3 Mower BJ.

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Hawk Ridge count: three (1982: ten); late north 10/3 Hawk Ridge, 10/14 Polk KSS; late south 9/21 Mower RRR, 10/4 Fillmore RJ.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Hawk Ridge count: 5410 (1982: 7320). Permanent resident reported from 17 counties north, 22 south.

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Hawk Ridge count: 724 (1982: 278) high numbers reflect excellent November weather. Early north 9/27 Hawk Ridge and Beltrami JC; early south 10/6 Lyon HK and Houston EMF, 10/31 Meeker AB.

### **Golden Eagle**

Hawk Ridge count: 17 (1982: 11). Also reported 10/5 Marshall JM, 10/6 Murray RJ, 10/13 Hennepin VL, 11/4 Hubbard DJ, 11/26 Cottonwood LAF.

### **American Kestrel**

Hawk Ridge count: 560 (1982: 732). Late north 10/9 Pennington JP, 10/16 Aitkin WN, 10/21 Hawk Ridge.

### **Merlin**

Hawk Ridge count: 31 (1982: 30). Late north 11/6 Cook BL, 11/23 Duluth KE, 11/28 Clay LCF; south 9/13 Anoka KL, 9/28 Watonwan EB/K, 10/3 Goodhue BL, 11/7 Anoka OJ, KL.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Hawk Ridge count: 23 (1982: 12). Late north 10/15 Hawk Ridge, 10/17 Wilkin JB, LC, BL, GS; south 9/10, 25, 10/2 Fillmore FL. Other reports 9/24 Marshall JM and 9/29 Marshall KSS.

### **Gyr Falcon**

Three reported from Hawk Ridge 11/7, 11/12, 11/21.

### **Prairie Falcon**

8/28 Duluth S. Kohlbry, 10/3 Wilkin SDM (2), 10/17 Wilkin JP/AM, 10/22

Traverse KL, 10/23 Norman TS, 10/28 Wilkin SDM, 10/30 Lac Qui Parle AM.

### **Gray Partridge**

Permanent resident, reported from three counties north, 11 south.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Permanent resident, reported from four counties north, 20 south.

### **Spruce Grouse**

8/21 Lake SW/MS, 10/15 Lake SW/MS, 11/27 St. Louis (Echo Trail) KE.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

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

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Reported Aitkin and St. Louis KE, no dates; also 8/14 Aitkin SC, 8/15 Roseau John C. Robinson, 8/21 Aitkin WN. 10/9 Marshall JP, 11/13 Aitkin SC.

### **Wild Turkey**

10/16 Houston EMF, 11/22 Houston EMF.

### **Northern Bobwhite**

Nesting reported Rock County fide KE, also seen 11/24 Houston (three) KE.

### **Virginia Rail**

8/8 Scott AB, 8/22 St. Louis KE, 8/25 Stearns NH, 8/28 Swift RJ.

### **Sora**

Late north 9/12 Clay LCF, 10/3 Cass NH, 10/14 Polk KSS; late south 9/2 Sherburne JP, 9/11 Chippewa RJ, 10/4 Nicollet JCF.

### **Common Moorhen**

8/13, 9/10 Nicollet JCF.

### **American Coot**

Late north 10/14 Hubbard HJF, 10/31 Pennington KSS, 11/6 Beltrami JP; late south 11/16 Wabasha WDM, 11/20 Houston FL, 11/30 Anoka KL.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Late north 10/13 Marshall KSS, 10/23 Norman TS, 10/29 Wilkin SDM; peak 10/17 Norman (8-10,000) JB.



**Black-bellied Plover**

Early north 8/3 St. Louis KE; early south 8/4 Lyon HK, 8/6 Washington BL; late north 10/30 Cook KE, LE, 10/31 Pennington KSS; late south 10/22 Lac Qui Parle BL.

**Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early north 8/10 Cook KMH, 8/30 St. Louis LE; early south 8/6 Washington BL and 8/14 Hennepin ES; late north 10/3 Cass NH, 10/19 St. Louis KE; late south 10/22 Lac Qui Parle BL.

**Semipalmated Plover**

Late north 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, 9/17 St. Louis JP, 9/26 Clay KL; late south 9/10 Nicollet JCF, 9/12 Hennepin ES.

**Piping Plover**

8/27 Stearns NH.

**Killdeer**

Late north 10/2 Beltrami JP, 10/14 St. Louis KE, 10/16 Aitkin WN; late south 10/24 Le Sueur RJ, Murray AD and Washington DS.

**Greater Yellowlegs**

Late north 10/19 St. Louis KE, 10/28 Wilkin SDM, 10/31 Pennington KSS; late south 10/22 Hennepin SC, Nicollet JCF, 10/24 Chippewa AB.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late north 10/8 Marshall, Polk AB, 10/16 Aitkin WN; late south 10/10 Winona SW/MS, 10/17 Anoka DS, Cottonwood WH.

**Solitary Sandpiper**

Late north 9/10 Polk KSS, 9/11 Beltrami JP, 10/3 Aitkin WN; late south 9/29 Steele RJ, 10/2 Ramsey BL, 10/7 Hennepin VL.

**Willet**

8/7 Hennepin SC, 10/7 Mille Lacs DS.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Late north 9/16 Pine TP, 9/18 Beltrami AS, 9/12 St. Louis LW; late south 10/7 Hennepin VL, 10/9 Dakota TBB, BL.

**Upland Sandpiper**

8/14 Sibley JS, 9/11 Hennepin OJ.

**Marbled Godwit**

Marshall JM, no date, 9/12 Roseau KSS.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

8/26 St. Louis MH, 9/7 St. Louis LE, 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, 9/18 St. Louis MF, 9/19 Duluth DB.

**Red Knot**

8/23 St. Louis LE, 8/24 Dodge RJ, 8/28 Stevens RJ, 10/10-13 Duluth D. Green, B. Ulvang.

**Sanderling**

Early north 8/1 Aitkin WN, 8/3 St. Louis KE, 8/7 Pennington KSS; early south 8/4 Lyon HK, 8/10 Hennepin OJ; late north St. Louis 9/27 LE, 10/3 KE, 9/29 Polk RJ, 10/13 Todd RJ; late south 9/12 Hennepin ES, 11/1 Cottonwood LAF.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early north 8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/16 St. Louis LE, 8/21 FL, 8/21 Clearwater AB; early south 8/1 Hennepin AB, OJ, Olmsted JEB, 8/4 Lyon HK, Hennepin VL, 8/5 Hennepin SC, 8/6 Nicollet JCF; late north 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, 9/16 St. Louis LE, 9/17 JP; late south 9/10 Stearns NH, 9/11 Renville RJ, Hennepin OJ.

**Western Sandpiper**

8/4 Lyon HK, 8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/16 St. Louis LE, 8/23 MH, 9/26 LE, 9/10 Stearns NH, Polk KSS — all reports.

**Least Sandpiper**

Early north 8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/18 St. Louis BDC, 8/21 FL; early south 8/1 Olmsted JEB, 8/3 Hennepin SC, 8/4 Lyon HK; late north 9/10 Polk KSS, 9/16 St. Louis LE, 9/19 JP; late south 9/10 Stearns NH, 9/11 Renville RJ, 10/1 Nicollet JCF.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/21 Clearwater AB, 9/3 Stearns NH, Marshall JM (no dates) — all reports.

**Baird's Sandpiper**

Early north 8/1 Aitkin WN, 8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/10 Cook KMH; early south 8/10 Stearns NH, 8/11 Waseca JCF, 8/21 Hennepin VL; late north 9/16 St. Louis LE, 9/17 RA, 9/20 Cook KMH; late south 9/10 Nicollet JCF, 9/11 Renville RJ.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

Late north 10/31 Pennington KSS, 11/6 Mille Lacs KE, 11/16 Cook KE, KMH;

late south 10/15 Nicollet JCF, 11/1 Cottonwood LAF and Le Sueur RJ.

### **Dunlin**

8/4 Lyon HK, 8/22, 9/6 Pennington KSS, 9/17 St. Louis DB, JP, 9/19 TBB, 10/9 LE, 10/19 KE, 10/24 Watonwan RJ, Marshall JM (no date) — all reports.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

Early north 8/1 Aitkin WN, 8/3 St. Louis KE, 8/13 LE; early south 8/4 Lyon HK, 8/11 Waseca JCF, 8/15 Hennepin SC; late north Pennington 9/6 KSS, 9/11 JP, 9/19 St. Louis TBB; late south 9-11 Renville RJ, 9/20 Stearns NH.

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

8/6 Washington BL, 8/21 St. Louis KE, LE, FL, 8/22 BDC, 9/5 KE, 9/17 JP, 9/10 Polk KSS, 9/11 Renville RJ, 9/13 Cook KM, 9/18 Red Lake AS — all reports.

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

8/1 Aitkin WN, 8/3 St. Louis KE, 9/19 LW, 8/4 Lyon HK, 8/7 Hennepin SC, 8/30 Kittson RJ. Also reported from Pine, Dodge and Marshall.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

8/3 St. Louis KE, 8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/13 Nicollet JCF, 9/12 Clay LCF, 10/15 Nicollet JCF — all reports.

### **Dowitcher sp.?**

8/17 Hennepin OJ, 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS.

### **Common Snipe**

Late north 10/8 Clearwater and Marshall AB, 10/13 Beltrami JP, 10/23 Cook KM; late south 10/31 Sherburne DB, 11/7 Scott DZ/MC, 11/20 Houston EMF.

### **American Woodcock**

Late north 10/13 Grant RJ, 10/31 Pine KL, 11/7 Marshall JM; late south 10/31 Isanti DB.

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Late north 8/18 St. Louis KE, 8/22 Pennington KSS, 8/28 Wilkin RJ, DB, OJ, 8/29 Clay RJ; late south 8/4 Lyon HK, 8/10 Stearns NH, 8/14 Renville KE.

### **Red-necked Phalarope**

Early north 8/7 Pennington KSS, 8/28 Wilkin DB, 9/4 Kittson KL; early south 8/14 Renville KE, 8/20 Nicollet JCF, 8/21

Hennepin OJ; late north 9/26 Clay KL, 9/29 Pennington KSS; late south 9/3 Nicollet JCF, 9/11 Hennepin OJ, 9/29 Freeborn RJ.

### **POMARINE JAEGER**

9/6 Park Point, Duluth (one imm.) KE, LE, MH. See *The Loon*, (54:248)

### **Parasitic Jaeger**

8/3 to 8/27 Duluth (one imm.) M.ob.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Reports from 27 counties, late north 9/12 Crow Wing TS, 10/14 Red Lake KSS; late south 10/15 Nicollet JCF, 10/22 Cottonwood JEB, 10/31 Meeker AB, 11/6 Murray RJ.

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early north 8/3 St. Louis KE, Beltrami JP, 8/4 Roseau JR, 8/14 Aitkin WN; early south 9/12 Hennepin ES, 9/15 Anoka KL; late north 11/14 Mille Lacs SC, 11/17 JB, 11/14 Crow Wing AB, 11/21 WN, 11/24 TS; late south 10/30 Hennepin RA.

### **MEW GULL**

9/19 Knife River, Lake County M.ob. See *The Loon*, (54:247)

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Reported from 15 north and 26 south counties. Late migrants into winter. Peak no. 10,000 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Herring Gull**

Reported from 12 north and eight south counties.

### **Thayer's Gull**

10/17 to 11/25 Duluth (one ad.) KE; 10/22 Duluth (one imm.) KE, 10/30 East Beaver Bay, Lake (one ad.) M.ob.

### **ICELAND GULL**

11/16 Grand Marais, Cook Co. (one ad.) KE. See *The Loon* (55:38)

### **Glaucous Gull**

All reports: 11/2 Goodhue OJ, 11/16 Cook KE, KM, 11/26 KM, 11/27 KL, DZ/MC, 11/28 St. Louis DZ/MC.

### **SABINE'S GULL**

10/17 Lac Qui Parle RJ, JP/AM. See *The Loon* (55:30-31)

### **Caspian Tern**

Early north, reports throughout the summer; early south 9/3 Stearns NH, 9/11

Hennepin OJ, VL, 9/13 DB, 9/11 Wright ES, 9/13 Anoka KL; late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/19 OJ, JP, 9/22 KE; late south 10/3 Kandiyohi RJ, 10/6 Hennepin SC, 10/7 VL, 10/9 Dakota TBB, BL.

#### **Common Tern**

Late north 9/4 Red Lake AS, 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, St. Louis LW; late south 9/14 Wabasha WDM, 9/16 Washington RJ, 9/20 Hennepin RA, 9/25 SC.

#### **Forster's Tern**

All reports: 8/4 Roseau JR, 9/11 Blue Earth MF, 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, 10/3 McLeod RJ, 10/10 Nicollet JCF.

#### **Black Tern**

Late north 8/21 Clearwater AB, 8/25 Pennington KSS, 8/28 Wilkin OJ, 9/11 Marshall JP; late south 9/1 Dakota MW, 9/3 Nicollet JCF, 9/7 Cottonwood GS, 9/11 McLeod, Renville RJ.

#### **Rock Dove**

Permanent resident, reported from 15 north and 16 south counties.

#### **BAND-TAILED PIGEON**

The fourth state record, 9/18 Hawk Ridge TS, RA. See Notes of Interest in *The Loon*, (54:249)

#### **Mourning Dove**

Reported from 15 north and 26 south counties. Late north 11/28 Hubbard AB.

#### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Reported from 20 counties, late north 9/9 Red Lake KSS, 9/12 Beltrami AS, 9/25 Wadena AB, DB, 9/26 Hubbard DJ; late south 9/22 Houston EMF, 9/30 Hennepin SC, 10/10 Cottonwood WH.

#### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

8/1 Hennepin AB, Mower RRR, 8/2 Houston EMF, 8/6 Hennepin OJ, DB, Nicollet JCF, 8/21 Clearwater AB, 8/29 Brown JSp, 8/30 Murray AD — all reports.

#### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Permanent resident, all reports: 8/16 Clay LCF, 9-11 Nobles AD, 9/25 Kanabec DZ/MC (dor), 10/1 Le Sueur HC, 11/7 Olmsted JEB, 11/12 Cottonwood WH, 11/24 Anoka KL.

#### **Great Horned Owl**

Permanent resident, reported from 13 north and 22 south counties. 36 banded Hawk Ridge all season with eight on 11/23.

#### **Snowy Owl**

All reports: 10/16 St. Louis fide KE, 11/7 Winona D. K. Palmquist, 11/9 Ramsey BH, 11/14 Wilkin SDM, 11/27 St. Louis KL, 11/28 Douglas fide RJ.

#### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

Only reports: 11/7 Otter Tail SDM, 11-13 St. Louis fide KE.

#### **Burrowing Owl**

Nested with three young near Hardwick, Rock Co. fide DNR. 8/1 to 10/15 Cottonwood LAF, WH — only reports.

#### **Barred Owl**

Permanent resident reported from eight north and nine south counties.

#### **Great Gray Owl**

11/3, 10 Cook SL, 11/9 St. Louis fide K. Sundquist, 11/24 Aitkin D. Holm fide WN — all reports.

#### **Long-eared Owl**

Only reports: 10/16 Houston FL, 10/31 Lake JP/AM.

#### **Short-eared Owl**

Only reports: 8/18 Wilkin JP/AM, 8/26 Morrison DJ, 10/23 Lac Qui Parle JS.

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

8/27 Pine KL, 9/25 Wadena AB, DB, 10-22 Clearwater TS (one dead), 10/31 Lake JP/AM — all reports.

#### **Common Nighthawk**

Late north 9/16 Polk KSS, 9/17 St. Louis DB, LE, 9/26 Clay LCF, Becker KL, 9/29 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/3 Mower BJ, Ramsey GS, 10/4 Blue Earth JCF, 10/7 Brown JSp, 10/8 Martin EB/K.

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

Late north 8/30 Marshall RJ, 9/9 Lake SW/MS, 9/26 Pennington KSS; late south 9/7 Hennepin SC, 9/15 Houston EMF, 9/18 Anoka SC.

#### **Chimney Swift**

Late north St. Louis 8/25 LW, 9/2 MH, 8/26 Pennington KSS, 8/28 Wilkin OJ; late

south 9/28 Hennepin ES, 9/29 RJ, 9/30 DB, 10/7 SC, 9/29 Brown JSp, Wright KL.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Late north 9/18 Hubbard HJF, 9/22 Cook KMH, SL, Pennington KSS, 9/24 St. Louis LE; late south 9/23 Dakota MW, 9/24 Wright ES, 9/25 Olmsted RE, 10/18 Renville FKS.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Reported from 39 counties. Late north 11/2 Pennington KSS, Lake SW/MS, 11/6 Crow Wing KE, 11/28 Mille Lacs TS, 11/29 Cass JC.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Reported from nine north and 19 south counties.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from Aitkin, Pine and St. Louis (at feeder) and 21 counties south.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Reported from 25 counties, late north 10/5 Pine TP, 10/14 St. Louis KE, LE, LW, 10/17 Clay LCF, 10/18 Cook KMH; late south 10/6 Murray AD, 10/8 Stearns CM, 10/10 Anoka SC, 10/21 Houston EMF.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Permanent resident reported from 16 north and 20 south counties.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Permanent resident reported from 15 north and 21 south counties.

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

8/6 Itasca P. Lindquist, 10/14 St. Louis KE, 10/16 KE, LE, 10/20 KE, 10/21 KE, LE, 11/21 LE, 10/21 Lake OJ, DB, 10/24 Beltrami JP, 10/29 Cook, 11/14, 26 KMH — all reports.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

Reported from the following counties: Beltrami AS, Carlton TP, Cass JC, Cook KMH, Crow Wing TS, Itasca AB, DB, St. Louis KE, LE, TBB, MH, MF, RA, AB, OJ, SCM, JP. Peak number 14 at Hawk Ridge on 10/16 KE.

### **Northern Flicker**

Reported from 14 north and 22 south counties, late north 10/14 St. Louis LE,

LW, 10/15 Hubbard HJF, 10/31 Clay LCF.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Permanent resident reported from 15 north and 15 south counties.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 8/6 Nicollet JCF, 8/7 Brown JSp, 8/15 Hennepin ES, Chisago DZ/MC, Rock KE; late north 9/7 St. Louis LW, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, 10/13 Traverse SDM; late south 9/11 Renville, Chippewa RJ, 9/13 Hennepin SC, DB, Houston EMF, 9/16 Brown JSp.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Late north 9/15 Beltrami AS, 9/16 Clay LCF, 9/23 Pennington KSS, 9/25 Aitkin DZ/MC; late south 9/20 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 9/21 Hennepin DB, SC, 9/23 Houston EMF, 9/25 Sherburne RJ.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

All reports: 8/20 Hennepin SC, Nicollet JCF, 8/23 St. Louis LW, 8/25 Hennepin VL, 9/6 Brown JSp, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/12 Martin EB/K, 9/17 Hennepin SC, 9/26 Cottonwood WH.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

All reports: 8/1 Hennepin AB, 8/5 Roseau JR, 8/7 Isanti RJ, Beltrami JP, 9/2 St. Louis MH, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/15 St. Louis LE.

### **Willow Flycatcher**

All reports: 8/1 Hennepin AB, Isanti KL, 8/3 Roseau JR, 8/6 Hennepin DB, OJ, 8/8 Dakota AB, 8/15 Rock KE.

### **Least Flycatcher**

Late north 9/12 Clay LCF, 9/16 Cook KMH, 9/20 St. Louis LE, 10/13 Traverse RJ; late south 9/21 Hennepin DB, 10/2 Olmsted JEB, 10/6 Cottonwood LAF, 10/13 Carver MS.

### **Empidonax Sp?**

8/20 Hennepin SC, 9/30 SC, DB, 9/13 Lyon HK.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Late north 10/2 Beltrami JP, 10/12 Crow Wing fide JB, 10/13 Aitkin WN, Pennington KSS; late south 10/15 Hennepin SC, 10/16 RJ, DB, 10/17 ES, 10/15 Houston EMF, 10/25 Washington DS.

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Four counties north, late date 9/11 Roseau KSS; 13 counties south, late 9/13 Hennepin DB, 9/17 VL, 10/14 SC, 9/15 Houston EMF, 9/17 Nicollet JCF, 9/20 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

### **Western Kingbird**

All reports: 8/3 Beltrami JP, 8/4 Roseau JR, 8/7 Morrison DB, 8/15 Rock KE, 8/22 Pennington KSS, 8/28 Otter Tail OJ, DB, Stearns CM, 8/30 Kittson RJ, 8/31 Clay LCF, 9/5 Grant SDM; also Marshall and Traverse RJ.

### **Eastern Kingbird**

Late north 9/11 Aitkin WN, St. Louis LW, 9/15 Pennington KSS, 9/16 Cook KMH, 9/18 St. Louis LE; late south 9/10 Olmsted RE, Nicollet JCF, 9/11 Yellow Medicine RJ, Washington BL, 9/14 Houston EMF, 9/18 Hennepin VL.

### **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**

Reported 10/22 to 28 Aitkin (one imm.) M.ob. See *The Loon* (55:35-36)

### **Horned Lark**

Reported from 17 counties; late north 10/23 St. Louis KE, 10/30 LE, 10/30 Cook KMH, 10/31 Clay LCF.

### **Purple Martin**

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 9/10 Cook KMH, 9/12 St. Louis LE. Clay LCF; late south 9/5 Olmsted RE, 9/10 Nicollet JCF, 9/12 Washington DS, 10/4 Hennepin VL.

### **Tree Swallow**

Late north 9/25 Wadena AB, 10/4 Otter Tail SDM, 10/9 Aitkin WN; late south 10/7 Anoka DS, 10/9 Rice RJ, 10/12 Houston EMF, Brown JSp, 10/15 Nicollet JCF.

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

Late north 8/28 Wilkin OJ, DB; late south 9/21 Hennepin VL, 9/22 AB, 10/8 SC, 9/18 Nicollet JCF, 10/2 Brown JSp.

### **Bank Swallow**

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 9/6 Pennington KSS, 9/11 Marshall JP, 9/29 St. Louis KE; late south 8/23 Brown JSp, 9/3 Nicollet JCF, 9/11 Blue Earth MF.

### **Cliff Swallow**

Late north 9/3 Clay LCF, 9/11 Aitkin

WN, 9/12 St. Louis LE, Lake of the Woods KSS; late south 9/10 Hennepin AB, 9/11 OJ, 9/10 Nicollet JCF, 9/11 Blue Earth MF, 10/3 Kandiyohi RJ.

### **Barn Swallow**

Late north 10/3 Cass NH, 10/4 Otter Tail SDM, 10/13 Grant RJ. 10/18 Marshall, Wadena AB; late south 10/13 Anoka KL, 10/15 Nicollet JCF, 10/22 Lac Qui Parle BL, 10/23 Brown JSp.

### **Gray Jay**

Permanent resident reported from Aitkin WN, Beltrami JP, Cass JC, Cook KMH, DZ/MC, SL, Itasca AB, DB, JC, Lake SW/MS, St. Louis LE.

### **Blue Jay**

Permanent resident reported from 19 north and 23 south counties.

### **Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Marshall, Pine and Polk counties.

### **American Crow**

Reported from 17 north and 26 south counties.

### **Common Raven**

Reported from 14 north counties.

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

Permanent resident reported from 17 north and 21 south counties.

### **Boreal Chickadee**

All reports: 9/29 St. Louis KE, 10/14 LE, 10/23 Cook DGW, 11/27, 28 DZ/MC, 11/13 Itasca AB, permanent resident Cook KMH, Lake SW/MS.

### **Tufted Titmouse**

All reports: 8/18 Houston JP, 9/24 RRR, 10/14 and 11/20 to 22 EMF, 11/23 KE, 11/25 JP/AM.

### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 11 north and nine south counties; early south 8/28 Dakota JP/AM.

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 16 north and 22 south counties.

### **Brown Creeper**

Reported from 26 counties: early south

8/6 Nicollet JCF, 9/16 Hennepin SC, 9/20 Brown JSp, Mower RRR; late north 11/16 Beltrami JP, 11/23 Lake SW/MS, 11/26 Clearwater AB, 11/29 Cook KMH.

#### House Wren

Late north 9/16 Clay LCF, 9/25 St. Louis KE, LE, 9/26 Pennington KSS, 10/21 Beltrami JP; late south 10/3 Meeker RJ, 10/4 Brown JSp, 10/5 Hennepin SC, 10/10 Murray AD.

#### Winter Wren

Early south 8/17 Cottonwood LAF, 9/10 WH, 9/17 Hennepin ES; late north 10/13 Traverse RJ, 10/14 Cook KMH, 10/18 Lake SW/MS, 10/24 Otter Tail SDM; late south 10/15 Hennepin SC, 10/17 Brown JSp, 10/29 Nicollet JCF, 11/25 Houston EMF, JP/AM.

#### Sedge Wren

Late north 9/19 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Marshall KSS; late south 9/30 Hennepin DB, 10/5 SC, 10/2 Ramsey BL, 10/3 Anoka DS, 10/10 SC.

#### Marsh Wren

Late north 9/11 Beltrami JP, 9/12 Lake of the Woods KSS, 10/3 Cass NH, 10/13 Wilkin SDM, Traverse RJ; late south 9/11 Blue Earth MF, 10/2 Nicollet JCF, 10/5 Hennepin ES, 10/14 SC.

#### Golden-crowned Kinglet

A good season with reports from 13 north and 27 south counties. Early south 9/16, 23 Houston EMF, 9/19 Anoka SC, 9/23 Brown JSp; late north 11/23 Lake SW/MS, 11/25 Marshall KSS, 11/27 Clay LCF, 11/28 Cook DZ/MC.

#### Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 8/12 Hennepin VL, 9/3 Houston EMF, Nicollet JCF, 9/5 Brown JSp; late north 10/17 Beltrami AS, 10/18 Cook KMH, 10/29 St. Louis KE, 10/31 Marshall KSS; late south 10/19 Houston EMF, 10/23 Hennepin DB, Washington DS, 10/24 Faribault RJ, 10/30 Murray AD, Brown JSp.

#### Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

All reports: 8/1, 10 Wright ES, 8/13 Nicollet JCF, 9/3 Goodhue BL, 9/4 Houston, Fillmore RJ, 9/6 Brown JSp, 9/15 Hennepin SC, 9/17 Houston EMF, 10/27, 29 St. Louis B. Ulvang.

#### NORTHERN WHEATEAR

9/27 Roseville T. Soulen. See *The Loon* (55:27-28)

#### Eastern Bluebird

Reported from 11 north and 19 south counties. Late north 10/23 Aitkin WN, 10/30 St. Louis KE, LE, 10/31 Marshall KSS; late south 10/26 Wright ES, 10/31 Jackson LAF, Brown JSp, 11/1 LeSueur RJ, 11/6 HC. There were 100+ in Duluth during Oct. KE.

#### Townsend's Solitaire

11/30 Two Harbors J. Church.

#### Veery

Late north 9/11 St. Louis KE, 9/12 LE, 11/6 Cook SL; late south 9/18 Isanti DS, 9/23 Houston EMF, 9/27 Washington DS, 9/30 Olmsted JEB.

#### Gray-cheeked Thrush

All reports: 8/30 Wright ES, 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/15 Hennepin DB, 9/24 SC, 10/17 MS, 9/15, 10/15 Houston EMF, 9/20 St. Louis LW.

#### Swainson's Thrush

Early south 8/25 Hennepin ES, 9/9 SC, 8/30 Mower RRR; late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, DB, 9/19 RA, OJ, SDM, JP, 9/25 KE, LE, 9/24 Cook KMH; late south 9/30 Olmsted JEB, 10/13 Houston EMF, 10/16 Dakota MW, 11/25 Carver M. Muehlhausen.

#### Hermit Thrush

Early south 10/2 Brown JSp, 10/3 Hennepin SC, Cottonwood WH, 10/10 Goodhue SW/MS; late north 10/14 Cook KMH, 10/24 St. Louis DGW, 11/7 LW; late south 10/24 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 10/30 Brown JSp, 11/7 LeSueur EK.

#### Wood Thrush

All reports: 8/4 Washington TBB, 8/4 St. Louis LE, 9/25 Cottonwood LAF, 10/2 Olmsted JEB, 11/6 Cook SL.

#### American Robin

Reported from 17 north and 24 south counties.

#### Varied Thrush

10/22 Hennepin ES and 11/24 Marshall (Thief Lake) KSS.

#### Gray Catbird

Late north Aitkin 9/19 WN, 9/25 DZ/



MC, 9/19 St. Louis JP, MF, 9/21 Crow Wing JB, Beltrami JC; late south 10/2 Brown JSp, 10/3 Dakota MW, 10/4 Anoka SC, 10/21 Houston EMF.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

All reports: 9/1 Cottonwood LAF, 10/17 Wilkin JB, 11/6 Aitkin LW, 11/12 St. Louis fide M. Carr.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Late north 10/10 Clay LCF, 10/13 Traverse SDM, 10/24 Hubbard HJF; late south 10/1 Nicollet JCF, 10/4 Anoka SC, 10/13 Houston EMF, 11/7 Washington DS.

### **Water Pipit**

Only south report 9/26 Hennepin OJ; early north 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/15 Lake SW/MS, 9/16 St. Louis LE, 9/18 MH; late north 10/14 St. Louis LE, 10/17 KE, 10/23 Aitkin WN.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

All reports: 10/22 Beltrami TS, 11/14 JP, 11/7 Otter Tail SDM, 11/13 St. Louis fide KE, 11/19 LW, 11/22 Crow Wing JB (50), 11/24, 29 Cass JC.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 16 north and 20 south counties.

### **Northern Shrike**

Early north 10/13 Hubbard DJ, 10/15 St. Louis KE, 10/16 Aitkin WN; one report south 11/3 Wabasha WDM.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Four reports: 8/14 Cottonwood LAF, 8/15 Yellow Medicine KE, 8/25 Stearns NH, 10/15 St. Louis KE.

### **European Starling**

Reported from 33 counties throughout the state.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Late north 9/17 Lake SW/MS, 9/22 Cook KMH, 10/6 St. Louis LE; late south 10/3 Mower RRK, 10/10 Anoka SC, Brown JSp, 10/23 Washington GS.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 9/8 Clay LCF, 9/10 Pennington KSS; late south 9/10 Fillmore FL, Stearns NH, 9/23 Houston EMF, 9/25 Sherburne RJ.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Late north 9/4 Clay LCF, 9/9 Red Lake KSS, 9/10 Douglas SDM; late south 9/4 Houston RJ, 9/17 Houston EMF, 9/19 Brown JSp, Mower RRK.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 8/11 Mower RRK, 8/27 Washington SC, 8/28 Stevens RJ; late north 9/26 Clay LCF, 10/3 St. Louis LE, 10/9 Aitkin WN; late south 9/4 Fillmore RJ, 9/15 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Brown JSp, Wright ES.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Late north 9/24 Cook KMH, 9/29 St. Louis KE, 10/11 St. Louis LE; late south 9/21 Hennepin RA, Houston EMF, 10/7 Hennepin SC, 10/17 Brown JSp.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Three reports: 8/15 Brown JSp, 8/19 Houston JP, 8/20 Houston EMF.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Late north 9/11 St. Louis KE, LE, 9/15 Crow Wing JB; late south 9/17 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, 9/27 Olmsted JEB.

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early south 8/28 Stearns NH, 8/30 Hennepin DB, Olmsted JEB; late north 9/19 Aitkin WN, 9/26 Clay LCF, 10/7 Cook KMH; late south 10/9 Washington TBB, 10/13 Stevens RJ, 10/20 Houston EMF.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early north 8/27 Clay LCF, 9/12 Cook KMH, 9/19 Aitkin WN; early south 8/11 Hennepin VL, 8/28 Lyon HK, 9/6 Murray AD; late north 10/7 Cook KMH, 10/10 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, St. Louis KE, 10/13 Crow Wing JB, Marshall KSS; late south 10/22 Hennepin SC, 10/24 Watonwan RJ, 10/29 Mower RRK.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 8/21 Anoka SC, 8/28 Ramsey DZ/MC, 8/20 Lyon HK; late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/21 Crow Wing JB, 9/27 Cook KMH; late south 10/12 Brown JSp, 10/16 Houston EMF, 10/22 Houston FL.

### **Northern Parula**

Late north 9/13 St. Louis LE, 9/17 Cook KMH, 10/1 Beltrami AS; late south 9/3 Goodhue BL, 9/4 Houston RJ, 9/6 Faribault GS.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Late north 9/11 Cook KMH, St. Louis LE, 9/12 Clay LCF; late south 8/23 Brown JSp, 8/28 Washington SC, 9/2 LeSueur RJ.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Late north 9/11 Crow Wing JB, 9/16 St. Louis LE, 9/20 Cook KMH; late south 9/16 Hennepin DB, Houston EMF, 9/17 Hennepin SC, 9/25 Houston FL.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 8-20 Houston EMF, 8/28 Ramsey DZ/MC, 8/30 Hennepin DB, Murray AD; late north 9/19 St. Louis LE, SDM 10/5 Cook KMH, 10/8 St. Louis LW; late south 9/28 Anoka SC, 10/10 Martin EBK.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Six reports: 8/21 Pine KL, 8/25 Olmsted JEB, 9/11 Cook KMH, St. Louis LW, 9/19 St. Louis LE, 11/28 thru 11/30 Wabasha (at feeder) WDM.

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

Seven reports: 8/27 Goodhue BL, 9/7 Hennepin SC, 9/11 St. Louis TS, 9/16 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Cook KMH, 9/30 Olmsted JEB, 10/2 Brown JSp.

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Late north 10/23 Cook KMH, DGW, 10/30 St. Louis LE, 11/8 St. Louis KE; late south 10-29 Brown JSp, 10/31 Anoka SC, 11/6 Nicollet RJ.

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

Early south 8/20 Hennepin SC, 8/28 Ramsey DZ/MC, 9/1 Houston EMF; late north 9/19 St. Louis SDM, 9/30 Cook KMH, 10/3 Aitkin WN; late south 9/23 Houston EMF, 9/25 Houston FL, 10/1 Olmsted JEB.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 8/27 Washington SC, 8/28 Houston FL, 8/31 Houston EMF; late north 9/12 St. Louis LE, 9/18 St. Louis SDM, 9/22 Cook KMH; late south 9/15 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Houston EMF.

### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 9/1 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JEB, 9/4 Lac Qui Parle FAE; late north 9/19 St. Louis LE, 11/11 St. Louis KE; late south 10/1 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

### **Palm Warbler**

Early south 8/30 Murray AD, 9/1 Hennepin SC; late north 10/13 Grant RJ, Marshall KSS, 10/14 St. Louis LE, 11/11 St. Louis KE; late south 10/14 Houston EMF, 10/15 Hennepin SC, 10/18 Mower RRK.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early south 8/28 Anoka SC, Ramsey DZ/MC; late north 9/19 St. Louis LE, SDM, 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/23 Kanabec DB; late south 9/11 Chippewa RJ, 9/18 Anoka SC.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early north 8/30 Kittson RJ, 9/2 Cook KMH; early south 9/13 Hennepin SC; late north 9/12 St. Louis LE, 9/19 Cook KMH; late south 9/16 Hennepin VL, 9/23 Hennepin SC.

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

Early south 8/17 Anoka KL, 8/20 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, 8/21 Hennepin DZ/MC; late north 9/20 St. Louis LE, 9/22 Cook KMH, 9/26 Pennington KSS; late south 9/23 Houston EMF, 9/24 Brown JSp, Nicollet JCF, 9/25 Houston FL.

### **American Redstart**

Late north 10/2 St. Louis LW, 10/5 St. Louis LE, 10/13 Clay LCF; late south 9/28 Wright ES, 9/30 Olmsted JEB, 10/10 Brown JSp.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

One report: 8/27 Goodhue BL.

### **Ovenbird**

Late north 9/18 St. Louis DB, 9/21 Crow Wing JB, 9/24 Cook KMH; late south 9/18 Brown JSp, 9/25 Murray AD, 9/30 Olmsted JEB.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 8/11 Hennepin DB, 8/20 Hennepin SC, Olmsted RE, 8/23 Brown JSp; late north 9/13 St. Louis LE, 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/21 Crow Wing JB; late south 9/22 Hennepin SC, 9/26 Ramsey DZ/MC, 10/2 Brown JSp.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Four reports: 9/9 St. Louis KE, 9/10 St. Louis LE, 9/13 Cook KMH, 9/20 Cottonwood LAF.

**Mourning Warbler**

Late north 9/12 Clay LCF, 9/19 Aitkin WN; late south 9/27 Cottonwood WH, 9/30 Cottonwood LAF, Olmsted JEB.

**Common Yellowthroat**

Late north 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/25 Wadena AB, 9/26 Pennington KSS; late south 10/4 Wright ES, 10/7 Hennepin SC, 10/13 Traverse RJ.

**Wilson's Warbler**

Early north 8/14 Clay LCF, 8/18 Pennington KSS, 8/26 St. Louis LE; early south 8/23 Hennepin SC, 8/25 Hennepin DB, 8/27 Washington DGW; late north 9/21 Crow Wing JB, 9/25 Beltrami JP, 9/29 Polk RJ; late south 9/17 Hennepin SC, 9/18 Brown JSp, 9/25 Houston FL.

**Canada Warbler**

Early south 8/19 Houston JP, 8/21 Brown JSp, 8/23 Hennepin SC; late north 9/16 Cook KMH, 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/19 St. Louis OJ; late south 9/2 LeSueur RJ, 9/13 Brown JSp, Hennepin SC, 9/14 Houston EMF.

**Summer Tanager**

One report: 10/30 Cook M. Brackney.

**Scarlet Tanager**

Late north 9/11 Crow Wing JB, 9/15 Cook KMH; late south 9/18 Anoka SC, 9/24 Houston EMF, 9/26 Cottonwood LAF.

**Northern Cardinal**

Reported from Aitkin and St. Louis counties north and from ten counties south.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Late north 9/11 Cook KMH, 9/17 Clay LCF, 10/14 St. Louis KE; late south 10/1 Nicollet JCF, 10/7 Olmsted JEB, 10/24 Wabasha WDM.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**

One report: 10/10 Lake J. Savage.

**Blue Grosbeak**

One report: 8/15 Rock KE.

**Indigo Bunting**

Late north 9/6 Red Lake KSS, 10/7 Cook KMH; late south 9/24 Nicollet JCF, 9/27 Hennepin ES, 10/3 Mower RRK.

**Dickcissel**

Two reports: 8/5 Cottonwood LAF, Murray AD.

**Rufous-sided Towhee**

Late south 9/30 Hennepin SC, 10/14 Houston EMF, 11/19 Cottonwood LAF.

**American Tree Sparrow**

Early north 10/13 Grant RJ, 10/16 Aitkin WN, St. Louis LE, 10/18 Beltrami JP; early south 9/15 Cottonwood WH, 10/13 Olmsted JEB, 10/15 Hennepin DB, SC.

**Chipping Sparrow**

Late north 9/26 Clay LCF, 10/13 Grant RJ, St. Louis LW, 10/21 St. Louis KE, LE; late south 10/14 Hennepin SC, 10/22 Houston EMF, Nicollet JCF, 11/2 Ramsey CF.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

Late north 9/18 St. Louis DB, 9/20 St. Louis OJ, 10/13 Grant RJ; late south 9/30 Hennepin DB, 10/16 Washington BL, 10/31 Chippewa AB.

**Field Sparrow**

Late north 10/4 Otter Tail SDM, 10/13 Grant RJ; late south 10/20 Houston EMF, 10/24 Watonwan RJ, 10/29 Nicollet JCF.

**Vesper Sparrow**

Late north 10/11 St. Louis LW, 10/13 Grant RJ, 10/17 Clay LCF; late south 10/15 Hennepin OJ, 10/16 Washington BL, 11/7 Isanti KL, 11/25 Cottonwood WH.

**Savannah Sparrow**

Late north 10/17 Clay LCF, 10/23 St. Louis KE, LE, 11/6 Cook BL; late south 10/28 Hennepin VL, 10/30 Cottonwood WH, 10/31 Brown JSp.

**Henslow's Sparrow**

One report: 9/20 Stearns NH.

**LeConte's Sparrow**

Two reports: 9/30 Hennepin SC, 10/9 Steele RJ.

**Fox Sparrow**

Early north 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/25 St. Louis LE, 9/29 Crow Wing JB; early south 9/20 Hennepin SC, 9/21 Hennepin DB, 9/28 Blue Earth EBK; late north 10/21 St.

St. Louis LE, 10/29 Wilkin SDM, 11/5 Hubbard HJF; late south 11/16 Mower RRK, 11/18 Nicollet JCF, 11/22 Dakota JP/AM.

#### **Song Sparrow**

Late north 10/13 Grant RJ, Marshall KSS, 10/16 Aitkin WN, 11/14 St. Louis KE; late south 11/6 Lyon RJ, 11/17 Hennepin SC, Murray AD, 11/27 Goodhue BL.

#### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Early south 9/12 Hennepin SC, 9/21 Hennepin RA, DB; late north 10/2 Itasca DB, 10/8 Marshall AB, 10/13 Grant RJ; late south 10/16 Hennepin OJ, 10/22 Nicollet JCF, 10/24 Watonwan RJ.

#### **Swamp Sparrow**

Late north 10/13 Grant RJ, Marshall KSS, Wilkin SDM, 10/14 Cook KMH, 10/22 Wilkin BL; late south 10/15 Hennepin DB, OJ, 10/20 Stearns NH, 10/22 Nicollet JCF.

#### **White-throated Sparrow**

Early south 9/3 Nicollet JCF, 9/6 Hennepin DB, 9/12 Hennepin SC; late north 11/7 Clay LCF, 11/11 Lake SW/MS, St. Louis KE, 11/14 Wilkin SDM; late south 11/26 Hennepin SC, 11/29 Dakota JP/AM, Lac Qui Parle FAE, 11/30 Olmsted JEB, Ramsey DZ/MC.

#### **White-crowned Sparrow**

Early north 9/15 St. Louis KE, 9/16 St. Louis LE, 9/17 Lake SW/MS; early south 9/18 Anoka SC, 9/23 Brown JSp, Hennepin ES, 9/25 Washington DS; late north 10/13 Grant RJ, 10/14 Cook KMH, 10/16 Aitkin WN, St. Louis LE; late south 11/2 Brown JSp, 11/5 Murray AD, 11/30 Olmsted JEB.

#### **Harris' Sparrow**

Early north 9/15 St. Louis KE, 9/19 Aitkin WN, 9/29 Otter Tail SDM; early south 9/25 Anoka SC, 9/26 Wright ES, 9/30 Washington DGW; late north 11/2 Aitkin WN, 11/7 Clay LCF, 11/14 Pennington KSS; late south 11/16 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 11/18 Blue Earth JCF, 11/27 Pipestone RJ.

#### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Early south 9/18 Anoka SC, 9/24 Nicollet JCF, 9/25 Olmsted JEB.

#### **Lapland Longspur**

Early north 9/16 Cook KMH, St. Louis LE, 9/19 St. Louis AB, 9/20 Lake SW/MS; early south 9/26 Hennepin OJ, 9/29 Blue Earth EBK; late north 10/21 Cook KMH, St. Louis LE, 10/24 Cook DGW, 10/31 Clay LCF, Wilkin JB.

#### **Smith's Longspur**

Two reports: 9/26 St. Louis KE, 10/10 Hennepin OJ. See *The Loon* (55:34-35)

#### **Snow Bunting**

Early north 10/1 Polk KSS, 10/14 Lake SW/MS, 10/15 Hubbard HJF; early south 10/15 Hennepin DB, OJ, 10/18 Cottonwood WH, 10/23 Chippewa AB.

#### **Bobolink**

Late north 8/22 Pennington KSS, 8/28 Clay RJ, Wilkin OJ, 8/29 Clay LCF; late south 9/29 Freeborn RJ.

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Late north 11/26 Marshall KSS, 11/27 Clearwater AB, 11/30 Beltrami AS.

#### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Late north 11/6 St. Louis BL.

#### **Western Meadowlark**

Late north 10/14 Clay LCF, 10/28 Mahnomen KSS, 10/30 Mille Lacs RJ.

#### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Late north 9/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/22 Nicollet JCF, 10/23 Cottonwood WH.

#### **Rusty Blackbird**

Early north 10/14 Lake SW/MS, 10/30 St. Louis LE; early south 9/23 Mower RRK, 9/23 Cottonwood JEB, WH, 10/24 Hennepin RA; late north 11/13 St. Louis KE, 11/14 Clay LCF, Lake SW/MS, 11/27 Beltrami AS.

#### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Late north 10/14 Red Lake KSS. 10/23 Wilkin BL.

#### **Common Grackle**

Late north 11/21 Marshall KSS, 11/24 St. Louis LE, 11/27 Aitkin WM.

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Late north 9/17 St. Louis DB, 10/16 Aitkin WN; late south 10/12 Cottonwood WH, 11/22 Nicollet JCF, 11/25 Hennepin VL.

### **Orchard Oriole**

Three reports: 8/15 Clay LCF, 8/16 Washington TBB, 8/18 Rock KE.

### **Northern Oriole**

Late north 8/28 Otter Tail DB, 8/30 Kittson RJ, 9/12 Clay LCF; late south 9/10 Houston EMF, 9/12 Hennepin SC, 9/16 Hennepin DB.

### **Pine Grosbeak**

Early north 10/18 Crow Wing TS, 10/19 Pennington KSS, 10/22 St. Louis KE.

### **Purple Finch**

Reported from 14 counties north and 20 counties south.

### **Red Crossbill**

Five reports: 8/20 Hubbard FL, 11/6 Lake SW/MS, 11/25 Marshall KSS, 11/27 St. Louis KE, throughout period Cook KMH.

### **White-winged Crossbill**

Ten reports: 8/3 St. Louis BDC, 10/16 Carlton LW, St. Louis KE, LE, 10/21 Cook KMH, 10/23 St. Louis MH, 10/24 Hubbard TCS, 10/25 St. Louis LE, 11/26 Cook DZ/MC, 45 individuals on 10/28.

### **Common Redpoll**

Four reports: 10/21 Pennington KSS, 10/29 Otter Tail DS, 11/1 Cook KMH, 11/13 Aitkin WN.

### **Pine Siskin**

Reported from eight counties north and three counties south.

### **American Goldfinch**

Reported from 12 counties north and 20 counties south.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

One report south: 10/23 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

### **House Sparrow**

Reported from 27 counties throughout the state.

### **Correction:**

In *The Loon* (54:224) 5/22 Washington DB under Red-breasted Merganser should be under Common Merganser.

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Mute Swans, Duluth, October 24, 1982 — Photo by Warren Nelson

## A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MINNESOTA

Second revised Edition

by Kim R. Eckert

The first edition of **A Birder's Guide to Minnesota**, published in 1974, has been out-of-date and out-of-print for several years. But a new second edition, much improved and greatly expanded, is now available.

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The price of **A Birder's Guide to Minnesota** is \$9, and at present it is available at the Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis, or by mail directly from the author, Kim R. Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804 (make your check of \$10.50 — \$9 plus \$1.50 to cover postage and sales tax — payable to the author).





# NOTES OF INTEREST

**A PROBABLE GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE IN DAKOTA COUNTY** — On Saturday, June 19, 1982 I was hiking west to east along the railroad tracks on the south side of Black Dog Lake. When I was directly south of a small pond, which was between the lake and the railroad tracks I heard a bird give a metallic note that sounded like a sharp “che” or “cha”. It was calling every five to ten seconds, giving a single note each time. From the time I first heard the bird call I knew it was a bird I had not heard in Minnesota before, but one I had heard before in the southern part of the United States. I kept hearing the bird for about ten minutes without seeing it, and my frustration was growing. Finally the bird flew up and out of some cattails about 75 yards away and it was being chased by a male Red-winged Blackbird. It flew about ten yards and landed in full view on the edge of the pond. The bird first appeared black, but when it landed in full sun, a purple iridescence was obvious. While the bird’s body was distinctly larger than the Common Grackles in the vicinity, it was its long “V” shaped tail that made it look so much larger than the Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackles nearby. The tail was longer than the length of the body of the bird. I was not able to determine the color of the eye which would have been one of the best features to distinguish this bird from a Boat-tailed Grackle. I have two principle reasons for feeling this bird was a Great-tailed Grackle rather than a Boat-tailed Grackle. 1.) This bird was more than twice as long as a Red-winged Blackbird and almost twice as long as a Common Grackle. The male Great-tailed Grackle is larger, but mostly longer than the Boat-tailed Grackle. 2.) The Great-tailed Grackle is the bird of the interior of the United States, having greatly expanded its range in recent years. It is now successfully nesting in south-central and eastern Nebraska. The Boat-tailed Grackle is more restricted to coastal south-eastern United States locations and does not usually wander from this area. **Paul Ege-land, 12 E. 67th St., Minneapolis, MN 55423.**

**Editor’s Note:** The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (M.O.R.C.) had a real time with the above record. While there was little doubt that Paul saw either a Great-tailed or Boat-tailed Grackle, his fleeting glimpse at 75 yards and his not being able to see the eye color of this bird, it was not possible for M.O.R.C. to eliminate the possibil-

ity of the bird being a Boat-tailed Grackle. The likelihood of the bird being a Boat-tailed Grackle is remote, but it cannot be ruled out as Dick Oehlenschlager so ably pointed out to the Committee. It was decided after much debate to call the bird a probable Great-tailed Grackle, but list it in the new Check-list of Minnesota birds as follows: Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle) *Quiscalus mexicanus*/major).

**ANOTHER ROSS' GOOSE CONTROVERSY** — After seeing a female Northern Shoveler fly over the road on Saturday, February 12, 1983, we stopped to check out a nearby aerated pond in case anything else was present. The pond is located in Washington County on the west side of U.S. 61 about 0.2 miles south of the intersection with highway 10 about 1.2 miles north of the Mississippi River bridge at Hastings. Amidst numerous Mallards, several Canada Geese, and three large domestic geese was a small white goose with black wing tips. Returning with a scope we, along with Joanne Dempsey, viewed the bird at distances as close as ten feet for over an hour. Using the criteria in Janssen's article on Ross' Goose identification (*The Loon*, Vol. 54:105-111) we decided the bird was a Ross' Goose. The bird was slightly larger than the Mallards, had dull rosy-red feet with legs of a similar but more grayish color. The bill was the same color as the feet but was tinged with a little blue at the base. This bluish area was not "warty" but was rougher than the rest of the bill. The base of the upper mandible formed a straight, vertical line as was illustrated in *The Loon* article. The eye appeared perfectly round and black. The bird was observed in flight and on the ground. On two occasions the bird called with the Canada Geese when disturbed. The call was a series of single notes spaced about 1.5 seconds apart. The note was much higher than the Canadas' and was recorded. The bird was seen by many observers over the next two weeks. The owner of the pond claims the bird came in of its own accord and has been seen regularly for the last two years, even during the summer. No local birders have seen the bird before even though it is on a very well-traveled highway. No Snow Geese have been reported on the pond in the past. This bird is relatively tame but is not banded and flies freely. Following up on a suggestion by Bob Janssen I tried to locate all people in Minnesota who currently raise Ross' Geese. With help from Vance Grannis of Inver Grove Heights I talked to what I believe are the only six people who have recently raised this species in the state. Of the six people, five currently have anywhere from one to seventeen Ross' Geese. When questioned about losses over the past few years five reported no geese escaping and the sixth said the geese which had escaped from his enclosure were all recaptured as they had been pinioned and therefore could not fly. Four of the six people pinion their birds at a few days of age and the other two clip the "hind toe" and/or pinion all of theirs. I was told by an official of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that people raising wild goose or duck species in captivity must use one of four methods to mark their birds under penalty of confiscation of the bird and/or heavy fines. Either the wing must be clipped at the metacarpal bone which renders the bird permanently incapable of flying, the hind toe must be removed, the bird must be banded with a seamless metal band (this would have to be done at an early age to use a seamless band), or the webbing of a foot must be tattooed with an identifying mark. The official was not aware of anyone in this eight state region who used the tattoo method. The Washington County bird has not been pinioned, has both hind toes and their respective claws intact, and is not banded. No tattoo is visible on the webbing although the bird cannot be examined in the hand. The consensus of opinion among the goose fanciers I talked to was that it would be highly unlikely for this to be an escaped bird as only advance goose raisers own Ross' (which cost about \$600 per pair) and they are very careful about pinioning or toe-clipping the birds. While the law does allow the people to release to the wild any of the birds which are hatched in captivity without marking them if they choose, this would not likely be done with Ross' because of their value (this is a frequent practice with inexpensive, easily bred species however). Two of the



Ross' Goose, Washington Co. — Photo by Jon Peterson

people said they would not be surprised by the fact that the Ross' has stayed for two years as they have had that happen with wild individuals of other species ("cacklers" — subspecies of Canada Goose?). One person claimed this loss of migratory behavior often happens with birds which have recovered from a wound by seeking refuge in a protected environment. A fun (?) and useful project for someone would be to compile a list by species of ducks and geese currently being raised in captivity. The USFWS requires that inventories be sent to them each year and they have these on file but no sorting by species is done. **Jon Peterson & Ann McKenzie, 15630 Upper 194th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033.**

**ANOTHER OBSERVATION OF ADULT GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL AT DULUTH** — After a phone call from Steve Loch on Thursday, January 20, 1983 reporting that he had seen an adult Great Black-backed Gull at the Duluth Landfill, Laura Erickson and I went out to the landfill on the Rice Lake Road on Friday morning, January 21, 1983, for an orgy of gull watching. the weather was perfect for a winter gull trip which involves sitting in a car at the dump for an hour or more and watching the gulls come in to feed and then loaf at various places around the Landfill. Since it was sunny and warm (just slightly below freezing), we stayed for two hours, watching the gulls feed or following them around the landfill to get a better look at them at rest. Only a few gulls were there when we arrived about 9:30 a.m., but when we left at 11:30 a.m. about 200 had accumulated. Almost all were Herring Gulls, mainly adults, but we did find eight Glaucous Gulls, including two adults. The Great-backed Gull showed up about mid-morning and we saw it off and on for about an hour, watching it through binoculars and a spotting scope at ranges of several hundred feet down to 50 feet. A description of the gull follows, taken from notes made at the time of observation. Plumage and molt: Full adult in fresh plumage. Size: Very large gull, bigger than all the Glaucous Gulls and conspicuously larger than the Herring Gulls; especially massive neck and head. Mantle: Blackish, neutral gray (from "Naturalist's Color Guide"); one shade lighter than black wing tips. Wing tips: Black with white tip; large white tip of two outermost primaries; no sub-apical spot could be seen in other primaries but one might have

been there. Head: Completely white; no winter streaking of mottling could be seen anywhere. Eye: Eye seemed small for size of head. In most lights appeared dark even when seen in full sun at close range, but in less intense light we could see the dark pupil against a lighter iris. The iris was not anywhere near as light as the pale yellow of all the adult Herring Gulls nearby; the best color to use to describe it would be amber or yellowish brown. Orbital ring: Reddish which showed clearly in sun light. Bill: Massive, i.e., thick, but not overly long in proportion to size of head; both upper and lower mandibles were very thick with a strong angle at the gonys. The color was bone yellow, yellower on the lower mandible, with a bright orange gonys spot. There was a smudge of dark on the lower mandible toward the tip from the gonys which was visible at close range through the spotting scope. Legs: Grayish flesh pink; not as bright as the Glaucous Gulls or some of the Herring Gulls. The dump bulldozer operator told us that the dark-backed gull had been there for about a week and a half. I do not think that this was the same gull that Kim Eckert and others saw in Duluth in December because of differences in size, both of the body and bill, and lack of winter plumage markings on this bird. **Janet C. Green 10550 Old North Shore Rd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK OVERWINTERS IN EAGAN** — We first became aware of this bird's (an adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak) visit to our feeding station (1763 Walnut Lane, Eagan, Dakota County) during the last week of December 1982. We did not realize the unusual nature of the observation until early January 1983. The bird continued to come to the feeder on a daily basis until the first part of February. There was then a period of two weeks where the bird was not observed. He then returned on 25 February 1983 at 2:25 p.m. and has been a frequent visitor ever since. He can be seen at the feeding station many times during the day, eating sunflower and safflower seeds. His plumage has been very bright since his appearance in December and he seems to be a healthy bird. **Jim Stripe, 1763 Walnut Lane, Eagan, MN 55122.**

**Editor's Note:** I observed the above bird at the Stripe's feeder on 3 March 1983. What surprised me to most was the almost full spring plumage of the bird. There were a few flecks of white in the otherwise all black head and nape. The Stripe's mentioned that the bird had been in this plumage since December. This is the first overwintering record, and March record for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Minnesota. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have attempted to overwinter in Minnesota previously, but most birds have disappeared by early January. One bird remained until February 1, 1977 at a South Minneapolis feeder and another remained at the feeder at Elm Creek Park Reserve, Hennepin County until February 11, 1983.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW WINTER OBSERVATION** — On January 6, 1983, I glimpsed a streaked sparrow in a flock of House Sparrows under one of my feeding stations, but it flew before I could identify it. Our feeding station is located at our home at 6102 Centerville Road in Anoka County. The next morning I identified this bird as a Lincoln's Sparrow. It was under the feeder, about five feet from our window, picking at scratch feed. On January 8 at about the same time (9:30 a.m.) the Lincoln's Sparrow was feeding in a window box feeder only a foot or two from us. For several days we failed to see it, but on January 14 I saw it twice at different locations, once by a woodpile and then under a shed where I had scattered feed. I saw it again at this latter location on January 15 and back at the original place under the feeder on January 19 at 8:30 a.m. Compared to the House Sparrows with which it feeds, it is noticeably smaller, more streamlined and more secretive. In loose leaves it scratches somewhat like a Fox Sparrow, but less vigorously. It stays close to cover such as overhanging junipers and doesn't remain in one place very long. The coloration and markings of this individual are typical

for the Lincoln's Sparrow as described in Peterson's **Field Guide to the Birds**. This appears to be the first mid-winter record for the Lincoln's Sparrow in Minnesota (see Green and Janssen 1975). The bird was seen again at 11:30 a.m. on January 27 and again at 1:45 p.m. on January 29, 1983. This is the last time we observed the bird. **Art Hawkins, 6102 Centerville Road, Hugo, MN 55038.**

**TWO WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS WINTER AT BYRON** — Early in December 1982, I observed two immature White-crowned Sparrows coming daily to my feeders. I live one mile SE of Byron, Minnesota in Olmsted County. These two birds continued feeding daily throughout Dec., Jan., and Feb. They obviously remained in good health during the winter months while feeding on mixed birdseed, black sunflower seeds, and occasionally at a suet cake or raw suet. The coldest weather that we had was -16 degrees early in Feb. This cold weather and the snow did not seem to bother the White-crowned Sparrows at all. Up until Feb. 15, the two birds remained close to the feeders and were observed feeding several times each day. After Feb. 15 when the weather began to warm and melt the snow cover, the two sparrows spent less time at or around the feeders. By the end of Feb. the two sparrows were most often observed just after sunrise. As of March 9, 1983 the two birds were still observed coming to my feeders. **Jerry Bonkoski, R.R. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

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### RED-TAILED HAWKS MARKED

AS PART OF A STUDY of winter densities of raptors, Red-tailed Hawks have been marked with yellow patagial markers. Information is sought on migration routes and breeding grounds. If sighted, information on age class, marker number, and which wing is marked will be appreciated. Please notify the Bird Banding Office, Laurel, MD 20708 and **DAVID JENNINGS, Inst. of Ecology, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.**

### BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

INFORMATION IS WANTED on avian interactions with butterflies. I am seeking detailed accounts of North American birds attacking, capturing and/or eating butterflies. Please send as much of the following information as possible: bird species, butterfly species, date, habitat, and the following interaction data — number of attacks and hits, how the butterfly was captured, wing damage observed, handling time, parts consumed, and the bird's reaction after eating. Interactions with other lepidoptera such as large diurnal moths would also be helpful. Information is useable through Nov. 1983. **MARK L. WOURMS, Dept. of Biology, Boston Univ., 2 Cummington St., Boston, MA 02215.**

### BIRD POPULATION STUDIES

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE is trying to identify native nongame migratory bird species with unstable or decreasing population trends in all of a significant part of their ranges in the United States. Of particular interest is documentation demonstrating long term, drastic or widespread declines. This is an ongoing effort intended to help set priorities for nongame migratory bird management activities. Those with relevant information may write **MARK L. SHAFFER, U.S. FWS, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Washington, DC 20240 (202-254-3207).**

**BREWSTER'S WARBLER IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On Saturday, May 28, 1983, I was birding along the township road on which I live, (approximately 5½ mi. south & 1 mi. east of McGregor), when I heard what I thought to be a song of a Golden-winged Warbler: "Bee-bzz-bzz-bzz". At first, I thought nothing of it. I was practically within an arms reach of him before I scared him into fluttering about 20 feet away from me into some swampy brush. It was about 6 p.m. and the sun was at my back, so when he came back onto an open perch, I was able to get a really good look at him. The first thing I noticed was the very goldish-yellow crown and wing patches. I became much more interested as soon as I realized he had no trace of black cheek or throat patch. Just then he sang again: "Bee-bzz". From my notes, I also noticed that he had a whitish breast with no yellow in it and a black lore. I suspected that he was a hybrid, but frankly at the time, I couldn't remember if it was a Brewster's or a Lawrence's Warbler. After consulting my field guide, I realized it was a Brewster's - a cross between a Golden and Blue-winged Warbler. As of this writing, (June 2nd), there are at least two pair of Golden-wings still on this two-mile stretch of road. I am not sure of the significance of this sighting. It may indicate an expansion of range of the Blue-winged, (especially if combined with other sightings), or, in my mind the more likely, that these hybrids simply migrate with Golden-wings. **Lon Baumgardt, Rte. 2, McGregor, MN. 55760.**

**AFTER 52 YEARS, MINNESOTA'S SECOND HERMIT WARBLER** — On Saturday, May 14, 1983, Bill Litkey, Gary Swanson and I were birding in Yellow Bank Township, Lac Qui Parle County, just a mile east of the South Dakota State Line. The area was a migrant trap, a small wooded stream valley surrounded by open farmland. We found many warblers and other species there. Then Gary caught a glimpse of a yellow-faced warbler with black bib and white belly fluttering along the tops of some tall fir trees. Our first call was "Black-throated Green Warbler", but as we saw more of the bird, we noted that the bib was a well-defined triangle and the color coming from the nape of the neck onto the crown was black or dark gray. Finally, as the bird came closer and lower we saw that the back was gray, streaked with black, the tail gray with white outer tail feathers and the sides of the breast and belly lightly streaked with black as well. At this point, I guessed it to be a Hermit Warbler, a bird I'd seen in California. With great excitement, we watched it for some 20 minutes as it came as close as 20 feet. Gary drew a sketch and we wrote field notes with the bird in full view. Finally, Bill dug out his Robbins and Western Peterson guides; we eliminated any similar species and confirmed the bird to be a Hermit Warbler. A check in Green and Janssen revealed only one previous record dating back to 1931! **Dick Ruhme, 9655 Upton Road So., Bloomington, MN. 55431.**

**DISCOVERY AND COLLECTION OF A RARE HYBRID WARBLER IN SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA** — On June 2, 1983, we collected a male Brewster's Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* x *Vermivora pinus* in Scott County. The bird is the first and only specimen of this rare hybrid taken in Minnesota. We collected the warbler just north of Murphy Lake, on Murphy Lake Boulevard (County Road 68). The exact location was one block north of the intersection of Murphy Lake Boulevard and Sunset Lake Road. At this distance from the intersection, there is a small swamp on the west side of the road. Where this swamp meets the road, we collected the hybrid. The locality was within the boundaries of Murphy-Hanrehan Park, and situated in second-growth deciduous forest. During the past two years, we have observed at least three different Brewster's Warblers at this locality. In May of 1982, the senior author discovered one of these birds singing in a tree one block north of the collecting locality, on the east side of the road. This hybrid differed from our specimen by having a pure white breast. The senior author, and his father Ernest, observed this bird on several occasions in May and June of that year. The hybrid was usually seen in the same tree, singing the BEEE-BZZZZ song of



the Blue-Winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*.) On June 2 of this year, we returned to search for the 1982 hybrid, but were disappointed to find its tree and territory now occupied by a singing Blue-winged Warbler. On the next territory to the south, however we found a Brewster's Warbler singing in several dead trees just a few meters north of the collecting locality, on the east side of the road. Its song was again the BEEE-BZZZ song of the Blue-wing, but we soon saw that this hybrid was different from our 1982 bird, for it had yellow feathers on its breast. Imagine our surprise, a few moments later, when we walked down Murphy Lake Boulevard and found still another Brewster's Warbler lying dead in the middle of the road. This bird, the specimen we collected, had not been dead for long, and was still in fresh condition. It was apparently killed by a car, as an autopsy later revealed internal hemorrhaging. Despite a few throat feathers lost in the auto accident, the specimen was in excellent condition and made a superb museum skin. It weighed 9.0 grams and had light to moderate fat. No molt was present, and the skull was completely ossified. The left testis measured  $7 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  mm, and the right testis  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4$  mm. Yellow feathers were present on its breast. On June 4, the senior author visited the collection locality again, and saw still another Brewster's Warbler. This hybrid had identical plumage to our specimen, and was observed moving through aspens on the NE corner of the intersection of Murphy Lake Boulevard and Sunset Lake Road. It may have been the same individual that we saw just before our specimen was found. This individual was seen again by the senior author and Gerald Eisele on June 9, singing in the same clump of dead trees where we saw it on June 2. The forests of Murphy-Hanrehan Park are extensive, and may hold even more hybrids than the ones we found. We hope they will be more thoroughly explored in the future. **Paul D. Haemig, Gerald C. Timian, and John H. Toren, 1825 W. 59th St., Minneapolis, MN. 55419.**

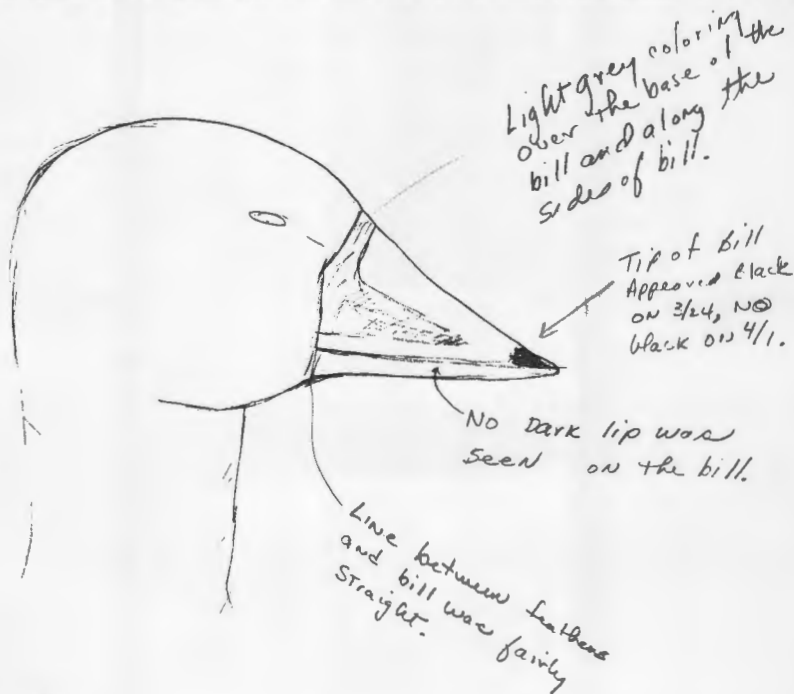
**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH IN PINE COUNTY** — While walking northeast along the trail along the west side of the Lower Tamarack River located in Pine County,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile SSE of Boulder Campground (which is on Rock Lake in the St. Croix State Forest) in mid-afternoon on May 21, 1983, Dave Zumeta and Mary Ann Cincotta heard a loud ringing sound coming from the direction of the river. The song consisted of three long, slurred notes, each at a slightly lower pitch, followed by several rapid notes at successively lower pitches, as follows: Sweeeet-Sweeeet-Wit-Wit-Wit-Wit. The last note on the higher pitch was sometimes omitted, and sometimes there seemed to be more "Wit" notes than indicated above. On May 21 Zumeta (and on May 22 Cincotta and Zumeta) saw the bird singing from about 30 feet up in a bare branch directly above a 4 foot wide fast-moving tributary of the Lower Tamarack River about 100 feet upstream (north) from the river. The bird was the size of a large warbler, solid brown on the head and back, white below with longitudinal brown stripes, and had a distinct white eye line. On May 22 we both observed a clear white throat as the bird sang. When moving from one spot to another, the bird flew as far as 100 yards along the tributary or along the Lower Tamarack River before it would stop and sing again. We heard the bird singing until 9:00 p.m. on May 21 and almost continuously from 4:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. on May 22. On May 29 Pfanmuller, Seim, and Zumeta heard the bird singing for over one hour at midday in two of the same locations as Cincotta and Zumeta had heard it the previous week, but could not get a satisfactory look at the bird due to poor access to the site where it was singing. Pfanmuller and Seim listened to three different recordings of the songs of the Louisiana Waterthrush on May 29 after we heard the bird. They were convinced that the bird we heard was a Louisiana Waterthrush. This species has not been recorded in Pine County or in northern Minnesota since 1918-19 (Record from Roberts, 1932) **Dave Zumeta and Mary Ann Cincotta, 565 Portland Ave, #306, St. Paul, MN. 55155.**

**SAY'S PHOEBE AT GRAND MARAIS** — On April 30, 1983 we were with some members of the newly formed Audubon chapter of Cook County touring the Grand Marais harbor looking for waterfowl and other migrants. It was a partly cloudy day with no wind and a temperature near 50 degrees. We were having an interesting morning seeing species unusual in Cook county including Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Tundra Swan, and Double-crested Cormorant. At 10:30 a.m. on the west side of the harbor Mike DeBevec spotted a bird he couldn't identify on the roof of a fishing shack about 150 feet away. We were quite sure almost immediately that it was a flycatcher by its behavior — darting out to catch flying insects and perching in conspicuous open places. We got as close as 50 feet using 7x35 binoculars and a 20x scope. The observation lasted over 20 minutes and the flycatcher was still present when we left. A description of the bird follows: It was a large flycatcher near the size of a Great Crested Flycatcher with a shape and behavior similar to the Eastern Phoebe. The chin and neck were pale, from nearly white to sand, and graded to a light orange-brown on its chest and belly, darkest under the tail. Our perception of how orange the bird appeared varied - very pale as we watched it on the rocks with the bright orange lichen all around, darker as it was silhouetted against the sky, and a subdued "Barn Swallow" orange as it perched above us on a power line (this bird seemed paler than the picture in Robbin's). In flight the contrast between the pale gray-brown of the back and the darker brown on the head and dark tail was very noticeable. The gray-brown wings had two faint wingbars, feathers near the eye and bill were very dark, no eyering was present, and the bill and legs were dark. The phoebe vocalized three times, a clear plaintive whistle similar in quality to the notes of an Eastern Bluebird. The phoebe flew frequently, wagging its tail only briefly upon landing and seldom using the same perch more than once although remaining in a small area. Before consulting the field guide it was a voiced opinion that because of the orange belly color and phoebe-like behavior, the bird could be a Say's Phoebe. After further observation and consulting Robbin's we were sure that our initial identification was correct. This record is significant because it is only the third sighting away from the western tier of counties: the first observation was on September 3, 1963 at St. Charles, Winona County and a second on September 24, 1975 in St. Louis County (*The Loon* 48:39). Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, MN. 55604.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO IN ROSEVILLE** — At 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 1983 I arrived at Mogg nature area of Roseville's Central Park, Ramsey County. This is a small, about 60 acres, nature area in which I had been working on a one year bird survey for the Roseville Park personnel. The area is mostly cattail marsh with areas of thickets of shrubby willows and red-osier dogwood. It has areas of cottonwoods and aspens, plus some wooded areas on higher ground. The first area I checked had willows and aspens. Several American Goldfinches and a Gray Catbird were present. As I stood, with the sun at my back, checking the aspens a small bird moved into view at a distance of about 35 feet. My immediate reaction to its size and shape was vireo. The two distinct wing bars, white throat, and yellow sides made me think it was a White-eyed Vireo. The bird was viewed for barely one minute and the head was not seen particularly well because of the viewing angle. Because I had been looking for a reported White-eyed Vireo earlier that morning in Shoreview about three miles north of the Mogg area, I thought maybe I was subconsciously hoping to see a White-eyed Vireo. Having seen the bird for such a short time, plus wondering if I had just wished for a White-eyed Vireo, I was left with doubt about the identification. At that point the bird, which had flown about 30 - 40 feet to another tree, sang. It sang several more times, confirming the White-eyed Vireo identification with the definite "chick" notes at the beginning and end of the song. The song did not have a vireo-like quality. After seeing and hearing the bird I consulted Peterson's field guide. All observations fit the White-eyed Vireo. A walk through the nature area also yielded the Willow Flycatcher which I had not had on my Ramsey County list. Thus, with the Yellow-breasted Chat seen earlier in the day at the Shoreview

area, my Ramsey County list went from 199 – where I had been stuck for several months – to 202 in one day. When I returned home I listened to a tape of the White-eyed Vireo. It was the song I'd heard at the Mogg area. The next day, June 6, a Bell's Vireo was reported in the same area. On June 7th I saw and heard it also. It definitely was not the bird I'd seen and heard on June 5. From other birders I talked to during the week following my observation, I understand that others saw the White-eyed Vireo on June 6. Most people looking for the bird did not find it. I never saw or heard it again either. Robert E. Holtz, 2997 N. Chatsworth, St. Paul, MN 55113.

**ROSS' GOOSE OBSERVATION** — On March 24, 1983 I was at Silver Lake in Rochester, Olmsted County checking to see if any new ducks or geese had arrived on the lake overnight. As I was scanning the lake a small white goose swam into view. I was impressed with its small size, appearing to be smaller than any Snow Goose I had ever seen. The goose was all white with black wing tips. It had a short pinkish-orange bill with some gray showing over the top and along the side of the bill. I have enclosed a brief sketch of the head and the bill of the goose. As I watched, the goose swam past a pair of resting Mallards and it was the same size as the female Mallard. The end of the bill appeared to have a black or dark end and I could not tell if it was dirt or actually a dark end of the bill. The goose stayed near a Canada Goose and had nothing to do with any ducks. I observed the goose for about 10 minutes at about 20 yards off shore. The light was good and I was viewing the bird with 7x35 binoculars. I alerted several other birders in Rochester of the bird, but no one else was able to find the bird later that afternoon or the next morning. On April 1, Chris Kurtz and I were birding at a flooded field near Rochester when we saw the same small white goose. We again were able to compare it to the size of a Mallard and Chris agreed it was about the same size as a female Mallard. He also noted that the bill appeared short but we were both unable to see any dark tip on the bill. After we had observed the bird for about ten minutes I walked out into the field and flushed the geese that were present.



The small white goose flew with a Canada Goose in formation and circled the area and landed in the open field behind the flooded field where we were watching. As we had watched the bird with binoculars and a 20 and 44 power scope we both were quite certain we were observing a Ross' Goose. We used both the BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA and Peterson's Guide to verify the size and markings of the goose. We were unable to see any warty protuberances on the bill but we were about 100 yards away from the bird this day. I had been to Hastings only the weekend before and had stopped to see the reported Ross' Goose which was at a farm pond just north of Hastings. The goose we observed at Rochester was very similar to the goose I had seen at Hastings. **Jerry Bonkoski, Rt 1. Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER AT ROBERTS SANCTUARY** — After three hours of interesting and productive birding in Roberts Sanctuary, Minneapolis on Tuesday, May 10, 1983, several members of Minneapolis Audubon Society headed for our cars in the Lake Harriet Rose Garden parking lot. My car was at the east end of the center row; the others were parked in the row nearest the Sanctuary. I started to get into my car, but the inside of the car was so warm from the sun that I decided to get out again and take off my coat. As I got out and straightened up, a bird flew from NW to SE directly in front of me, a few feet above my car. Excitedly I shouted "Scissor-tailed Flycatcher! Scissor-tailed Flycatcher," trying to attract my friends. I watched the bird fly to a small, bare tree east of the Rose Garden fountain while I hurried to the road about 150 feet from the tree. As I continued to watch the bird with my 10x40 Leitz Trinovid binoculars I was joined by Ginger Hughes and Margaret Allen. For at least five minutes, perhaps longer, we watched (both with and without binoculars) as the bird perched on the branch where it landed, then moved several times to other branches in the same tree, perching briefly on each branch. After walking back to my car I turned to look at the bird again, but it was not in the tree. We were unable to find it again. Dr. Walter Breckenridge had been standing by his car when I first saw the bird and heard me call. He also saw it, watching it from his position by his car. He told us later that this was his first sighting of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Minnesota. I had watched the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher which was found near Aitkin, MN in October 1982 for about an hour, and have also seen this species numerous times in the southern states. The others were also familiar with the species, having seen them in the south. The time of the sighting was just about noon CDT; the sun was high in the clear sky; temperature was 66° with a 21 mph SE wind. As the bird was flying almost directly into the wind when I first saw it, it was flying rather slowly, and the manner in which it was maneuvering its tail was quite spectacular. This species is so distinctive, with its extremely long tail and light-colored body accented on the sides with coral, that there was no question in my mind when I first saw it directly in front of me. It could only be a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. **Betty Murphy (Mrs. T.E.), 5936 Columbus Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55417.**

**WESTERN Tanager SIGHTED AT AGASSIZ NWR** — On June 1, 1983 we saw a Western Tanager at the headquarters of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County. The bird was seen under calm conditions, in excellent light for five minutes. The following notes were taken at the time and before the field guide was used. The bird had two prominent wingbars, one white and one yellow, and the bird's beak looked white in color. The breast was yellow in color, and the wings and tail were black. The face was reddish above and below the beak. This reddish color did not extend to the back of the head. We immediately knew that the bird was a Western Tanager, we could not think of any other bird that would have a reddish face and two prominent wingbars like that. It was a most exciting find for us. **Keith and Shelley Steva, Route 4, Box 10, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.**

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN CARVER COUNTY** — I saw a Black-headed Grosbeak in our yard at 6:30 p.m. on May 11, 1983. When I first saw this bird I thought he might be another oriole as I saw orange color on his chest. When I saw him with the 7x35 mm and 10x50 mm I could tell by his markings that he was not an oriole. His size and profile seemed more like a grosbeak — his beak was thicker where a Northern Oriole's is longer and thinner; his head was black, rust orange chest, black wings with white wing bars. I was unable to see the color of his tail. I also noticed a white belly on him. He stayed atop the dead elm for about five minutes and then left. **Chris Welsh, 670 Pleasant View Road, Chanhassen, MN. 55317.**

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**A Birder's Guide to Minnesota — Revised Second Edition** by Kim R. Eckert. Printed by the Pine Knot, Cloquet Newspapers, Inc., Cloquet, MN. 224 pp. 1983 \$9.00

Even though I am prejudiced for this publication before looking at it, after reading it I feel it is the best birding guide to any state so far available.

There is no doubt that the author is an expert on birding areas in Minnesota. He knows the back roads, the main roads, the lakes and streams, the bogs and marshes, and sewage ponds of Minnesota better than anyone else.

The format of the guide is unique, the author has taken each of Minnesota's 87 counties and provides us with a map of each, containing the best birding spots and what we can expect to see in each of these areas. These maps and write-ups are provided on pages 8-½ x 11 in size which makes the guide very readable. The state is divided into three broad sections, the West, Southeast and Northeast with each county within the region treated separately. Over 500 birding locations are covered in the guide, this gives the state complete coverage. I would doubt there is another state guide as complete and as detailed,

especially for a state the size of Minnesota.

The author is a master at giving exact directional instructions to a good birding spot. The book is full of details on left turns, right turns, over this hill or that hill, etc. that are so important to a birder when he or she is looking for that special bird. Almost every county map is supplemented with detailed insert maps, marking good birding places in detail and showing exact distances and roads to take to the location.

The first 46 pages of this guide might be the most valuable part of the book, especially to residents of the state. The author provides us with an excellent Overview of the Birds, Suggestions to the Birder, a section which gives advice primarily to the out of state birder who is visiting the state for the first time. The section on References and Resources is very valuable, giving information on books, tours, maps, bird clubs, check-lists, hotlines, etc. available. A Birders Guide to Birders is unique and a most helpful information source. On page 16 under the section on Maps and Format, the reader will not only be entertained but educated on the Eckert "theory" of curvy vs. straight road birding. Pages 18 - 45 contain an annotated list of Minnesota Birds plus a list of non-Minnesota



birds. Bet you won't find this latter list in many birding guides. The annotated list in itself is worth the \$9.00 price of the book.

As there are with any book this one has a few shortcomings. I don't like the positioning of some of the maps, for example, inset B comes before inset A even though A is mentioned before B. I am afraid this was done for format and type positioning reasons but it really isn't that hard to live with. The photos and a few of the maps are reproduced poorly. This is the printer's fault, not the author's. The author's selection of photos of Minnesota specialties is excellent, but I would question the position in which some of them are placed. Why include a Whimbrel in the Roseau County section, why a Long-billed Curlew under Pipestone County and why a Bohemian Waxwing with Polk County? I would guess that the reason for this is again layout purposes, but the printer should have done better. I found few omissions, only one of importance, why was Sibley State Park not mentioned under Kandiyohi County? It is a great place to bird in the central part of the state. Typographical errors are almost non-existent, a great improvement over the first edition.

Finally, a minor criticism but an annoyance to me were a few negative comments about areas that have few rare birds. Usually these were to be found under areas that the author was least familiar with. I would rather have seen him follow the old adage - if you can't say something good, don't say anything.

As I said in the beginning, this is the best state birding guide in print. At \$9.00 a copy this book is a "steal" that will provide hundreds of hours of birding pleasure. If you are the least bit interested in Minnesota birds get yourself a copy and start to enjoy.

—Bob Janssen

**A Guide to Bird Behavior: Volume 1** by Donald W. Stokes. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1979; 336 pages; paperback; \$8.95.

After the flurry of spring migration is over, many bird-watchers put away their binoculars with a sigh, and don't pick them up again until the start of the fall

hawk migration. This field guide provides the means to continue interesting local bird watching throughout the breeding season by learning how to observe and interpret the behavior of common breeding birds.

The book was actually first issued in 1979 under the title: **A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds**. It is being reissued now under a new title, but I could discover no other differences from the original book. The significance of "Volume 1" is unknown to me, although the author has written two other guides, one on nature in winter and one on insect behavior.

This book deals with 25 species, most of which are common breeding birds throughout Minnesota, including Canada Goose, American Kestrel, Chimney Swift, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, and Song Sparrow. Each entry begins with a lovely full page portrait of the species by J. Fenwick Lansdowne. Stokes then gives a behavior calendar showing when the species is engaged in each of seven major categories of behavior (e.g. territory, courtship, nest-building, breeding, molt, etc.). Next, he presents a guide to the species' most common visual and auditory displays, illustrated, where appropriate, with his own drawings. Information is provided on both the form and context of displays so that the reader can not only recognize them, but also what is being communicated by them. Last comes a descriptive section about each behavioral stage. Examples of the kind of information included are: size of territory, number of eggs, incubation period, and parental care. At the end of the book is a short glossary and a bibliography, subdivided by species, containing the major references used by the author. The accounts are well organized and well-written, and many of them provide information that is likely to be new to both long-time birdwatchers and students of animal behavior.

I have just three criticisms of the contents of the book. First Stokes fails to make clear the amount of variation in behavior that is known to exist between populations of some species of birds. For example, the amount that male redwings



assist with nestling care is extremely variable between populations. For most species, Stokes cites several studies in the bibliography, yet in the text he does not attribute information to the specific sources from which it was drawn. Doing so would have given the reader some basis for evaluating how closely Minnesota birds might be expected to conform to the behavior described. (The behavior of Minnesota redwings might be expected to resemble that of Wisconsin redwings more than Oregon redwings.)

Second, Stokes included comments on the behavior of year-round resident species at feeders. He should have mentioned at some point that the concentrated food source created by artificial provisioning often leads to atypical behavior, especially heightened aggression and exaggerated dominance interactions.

Finally, my only major criticism of the book is that Stokes provides no caution about the potential effects of human interference on the breeding activities of birds. Our mothers were wrong when they told us that if we touched the baby robins we found in our backyards their mothers would refuse to take care of them. On the other hand, the breeding of some birds can be disrupted by human disturbance. The sensitivity to disturbance varies between species and between individuals, and in general urban birds are more tolerant of the proximity of humans to their nests. Still, Mallard hens may desert their nests during the incubation stage if frightened off the nest repeatedly. In addition, it has often been demonstrated that nest predation rates increase with human visits to nests (much to the dismay of many researchers). It seems irresponsible to encourage people to seek out bird nests, as Stokes does, without a strong word of caution about these potential detrimental effects.

In spite of these criticisms, I recommend the book highly to anyone whose interest in birds goes beyond identification. It provides a readable digest of information that could otherwise only be acquired by consulting the many diverse sources listed in the bibliography. And it passes one final test: it is usable in the field. I tried it myself this spring on breeding Canada Geese and was gratified to discover that I could

recognize many of the displays described, and that the context and interpretations suggested by Stokes agreed very well with my own observations. I think others will be equally gratified to discover that here at last is a book that will allow them to easily learn about the secret lives of their backyard birds.

—Bonita Eliason,  
Dept. of Ecology & Behavioral Biology,  
Bell Museum of Natural History,  
University of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

**Ontario Birds** The Journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, Volume 1, Number 1, April 1983, \$10.00. Send membership to: Ontario Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 1204, Station B, Burlington, Ontario L7P 35R.

Ontario Birds is the new journal of the newly formed Ontario Field Ornithologists. This is a handsome journal printed in black and white with an excellent drawing of two Little Gulls on the cover.

Articles contained in the premier issue include a report by the Ontario Bird Records Committee for 1982, (which is well illustrated with photographs), field identification of shrikes and a birding site guide. Notes include information on Boreal Owls feeding on flying squirrels, the first substantiated record of a Painted Bunting, birds of Prince Edward County and crepuscular fall flight of American Woodcock. There are also sections on announcements, book reviews and several editorials.

All of these sections are most interesting and the entire journal appears to be very professional. The contents, style and purpose appear to closely follow those of *The Loon* and the Minnesota Ornithologists Union.

The only criticism I have of the journal is that I was not able to find out how often the journal is to be published, is it a quarterly journal? The only statement given is an anticipated publication date for the next issue as October 1983.

I wish the Ontario Field Ornithologists and their editors success in this venture. If future issues are as well done as the first, success should be assured.

—Robert B. Janssen

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

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

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

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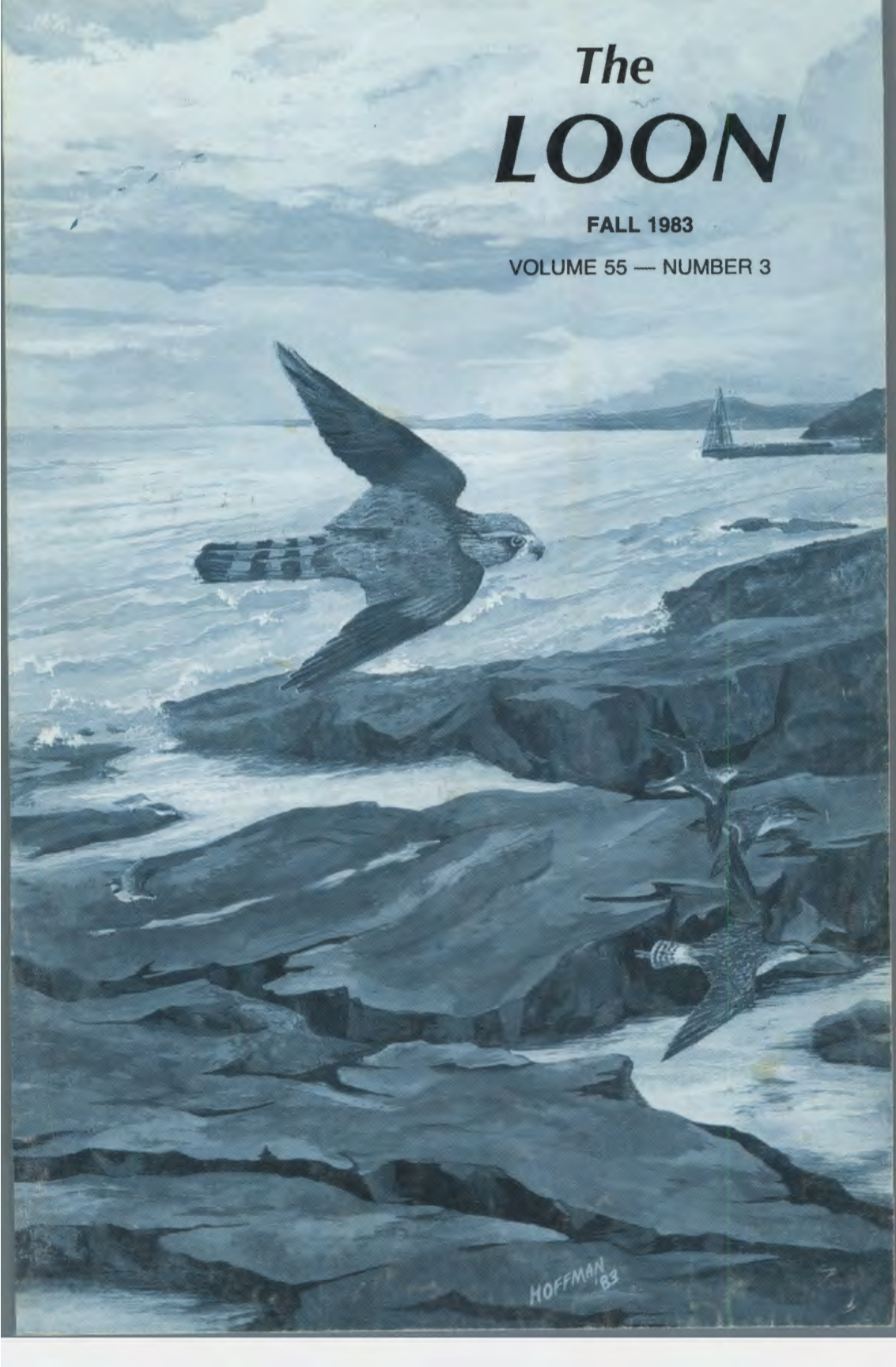
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# The **LOON**

FALL 1983

VOLUME 55 — NUMBER 3



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

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send \$10.00 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$12.50 yearly; Supporting \$15.00 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$12.50 yearly. All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$2.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 postage paid). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to the treasurer.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:** Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 812-546-4220). The editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details.

"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Bette Bell, 5868 Pioneer Rd. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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# NOTEWORTHY BREEDING BIRDS OF THE CEDAR CREEK NATURAL HISTORY AREA

James L. Howitz

A number of the bird species that breed at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area are at or near the extreme edge of their breeding ranges in Minnesota. Cedar Creek is located east of U.S. Highway 65 along the border of Anoka and Isanti Counties, and includes about 22 km<sup>2</sup> of such habitats as northern pin oak forest, bur oak savannah, birch-aspen woods, cedar forest, cedar-tamarack bogs, alder swamps, marshes, fields, and open water. I have thoroughly searched the southeastern quarter of Cedar Creek during the breeding seasons of 1976-83, and the southwestern quarter during 1977-80, and so have a reasonable idea of the breeding status of the birds there. Coverage of the northern portions of Cedar Creek has been spotty in recent years, and the status of the birds that breed there is less certain. This article will discuss those species whose presence at Cedar Creek might be considered noteworthy.

**Common Loon:** In every year since 1976 a pair of Common Loons has been on Fish Lake, and adults have been seen with young in 1980, 1981, and 1983.

**Sandhill Crane:** A pair of Sandhill Cranes had one or two young in the marshes north of Fish Lake in 1979, 1980, and 1983.

**Alder Flycatcher:** A few Alder Flycatchers are heard at Cedar Creek each year. There are no records of Willow Flycatchers.

**Western Kingbird:** Formerly a common breeding bird in the area, the last record of Western Kingbirds at Cedar Creek was four birds seen 9/13/76.

**Tufted Titmouse:** Titmice formerly bred at Cedar Creek, but have been absent for at least the last eight years.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** A small population of Red-breasted Nuthatches is permanently resident in the coniferous forests around and northwest of Cedar Bog Lake.

**Brown Creeper:** The only recent breeding season record for Brown Creepers at Cedar Creek is a family group seen 7/7/79.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The only Cedar Creek record for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are a pair that fledged young in 1977 and single birds 5/1/78 and 5/21/78.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Black-and-white Warblers are present each year in small numbers in the moist woods at Cedar Creek, and breeding evidence was found by Breckenridge (Breckenridge, W. J. 1955. Comparison of the breeding-bird populations of two neighboring but distinct forest habitats. Audubon Field Notes 9:408-412) and in 1983.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Golden-winged Warblers are common and conspicuous breeding birds at Cedar Creek, especially in the wet areas along Anoka County Road 24.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** In 1977 Blue-winged Warblers were found paired with Golden-winged Warblers at Cedar Creek. The first Bluewing-Bluewing pair at Cedar Creek was noticed in 1983. Brewster's Warblers have been seen nearly every year since 1977.

**Nashville Warbler:** Nashville Warblers are common breeders in the bogs at Cedar Creek, and occasionally are also in small aspen woods.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Black-throated Green Warblers have occasionally been found during breeding season in the southern portions of Cedar Creek, and are possibly regular in the pine woods

in the northern portions. No positive breeding evidence has been found, but some breeding probably has occurred since both sexes have been seen.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Cerulean Warblers possibly bred in former years at Cedar Creek (Breckenridge, *op. cit.*), but there are no recent records of any kind.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Blackburnians have been found during the breeding season at Cedar Creek in 1981 and 1983 and may breed there.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Chestnut-sided Warblers have been found during the breeding season every year 1976-83. The birds are frequently in different places in different years, and do not occupy all the apparently suitable habitat. They probably breed somewhere at Cedar Creek each year.

**Northern Waterthrush:** Northern Waterthrushes were found feeding young along the northwest shore of Cedar Bog Lake 7/4/79. They are present in small numbers around Cedar Bog Lake every year and in a small area west of the lab buildings. This population is far south of any other reported breeding population in Minnesota, but is apparently viable since the birds have been in the same location at least since 1976.

**Mourning Warbler:** The only recent

breeding record for Mourning Warblers at Cedar Creek was a pair feeding young in 1979. The birds are probably absent during most breeding seasons.

**Canada Warbler:** Male Canada Warblers have been seen at Cedar Creek on 6/23/78, 6/30/78, 6/20/80, and 6/6/81. No breeding evidence has been found.

**Purple Finch:** Fledgling Purple Finches were seen with adults at David and Jean Vesall's bird feeders, adjacent to the Cedar Creek Natural History Area in 1979 and 1980. Purple Finches have occasionally been seen during the breeding season in the coniferous areas of Cedar Creek and may breed there.

**Lake Sparrow:** Lark Sparrows are common and conspicuous birds of the savannah areas of Cedar Creek and the adjacent Allison Savannah.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Breckenridge (*op. cit.*) reported White-throated Sparrows one of the most common breeding species in the bog forests near Cedar Bog Lake. The only recent records during the breeding season are a few males heard singing around Cedar Bog Lake. White-throated Sparrows are apparently not as common a breeding species at Cedar Creek as 30 years ago. 1700 Silver Lake Road, New Brighton, MN 55112.

## BREEDING BIRDS OF AN ABANDONED GRAVEL PIT IN NORTHWEST MINNESOTA<sup>1</sup>

W. Daniel Svedarsky, Thomas A. Feiro and Douglas Sandstrom

<sup>1</sup>No. 11916, Scientific Journal Series, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Wildlife habitats are diminishing or being modified at an accelerating rate due to competing land uses such as surface mining for gravel. The annual U.S. consumption of sand and gravel is about 4.5 metric tons per capita (Schellie 1977). Although gravel mining is generally disrup-

tive to wildlife while in progress, it may result in post-mining habitats with significant wildlife values. Few wildlife studies have been carried out in gravel-mined areas in the U.S. (Uhler 1956, Blomberg 1969, Toburen 1974) but the general values were discussed in a recent



symposium (Svedarsky and Crawford 1982). This is in contrast to Great Britain where a number of detailed studies have been carried out (Glue 1970, Harrison 1974, Milne 1974, Catchpole and Tyde-man 1975, Street 1977).

In many parts of the U.S., considerable acreages of wild and semi-wild lands have been available for wildlife-related recreational pursuits. As land use pressures decrease the supply of wildlife habitats and as rising fuel costs limit their accessibility, we will need to recognize and develop habitat resources closer to population centers. Since transportation is one of the primary determinants in sand and gravel costs, mine sites are relatively close to people and may have undeveloped and generally overlooked wildlife habitat potentials. In view of increasing public interest in nongame wildlife, as evidenced by expanding nongame programs in most states, such areas are of special importance.

This paper reports on the breeding bird populations of different habitats in an abandoned gravel pit in northwest Minnesota and how they compare with areas surface-mined for coal in the U.S. and for gravel in Great Britain. This information has implications for the development of gravel pit reclamation plans, especially for nongame birds.

Appreciation is expressed to G. A. Swanson, M. W. Weller and R. D. Crawford who commented on an earlier version of the manuscript.

## STUDY AREA

This study was carried out at the Red River Valley Natural History Area (RRVNHA), a 35-ha research and demonstration facility of the Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota at Crookston. The presettlement vegetation of the region was tall grass prairie with the continental forest-prairie transition located about 16 km to the east. Presently, the RRVNHA is a "habitat island" in the intensively farmed Red River Valley. The vegetation is primarily aspen parkland, a mixture of grassland and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) groves. A lacustrine gravel deposit (Eng and Costello 1979) underlies the RRVNHA, about 0.3 m below the surface

and a 12.6-ha area was mined where deposits were 1-2 m thick. A complex of successional habitats have developed since mining and constitute the study area for this paper (Fig. 1). No reclamation was carried out after mining and an interspersation of depressions occurs along with circular and linear mounds of overburden from 1 to 1.5 m high. Four general habitat types were classified according to structural similarity and post-mining age as determined from gravel lease entries on title abstracts and age of cottonwood trees. Since cottonwoods are a pioneering species on infertile, gravelly sites, their age is an approximate indicator of the date of mine abandonment. These habitats were as follows:

**Cottonwood savanna** - (1.8 ha; post-mining age 80 - 90 years). This habitat is characterized by large, open-grown cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) 65-80 cm dbh and 13-15 m tall. Until recently, grazing and railroad fires maintained an open understory with a ground cover of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), quack grass (*Agropyron repens*), and sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*). Presently, an understory of shrub and tree species is developing. Shrubs include: Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier sp.*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), raspberry (*Rubus strigosus*), buffalo-berry (*Shepherdia argentea*) and, on overburden mounds, thickets of snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*). Invading trees include: green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), box elder (*Acer negundo*) and American elm (*Ulmus americana*). This is generally a well-drained area with little standing water in spring.

**Willow swamp** (3.0 ha; age, 70-80 years). This habitat has depressions containing 30-60 cm of water in the spring which are usually dry by mid-July. Peach-leaved willows (*Salix amygdaloides*) are characteristic and are 20-40 cm dbh and 6-8 m in height. Several of these were dead or had snags. Scattered cottonwoods occur along with clumps and thickets of red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) on better drained areas. Ten to 15 cm of organic sediments have accumulated over the gravelly bottom of the depressions which

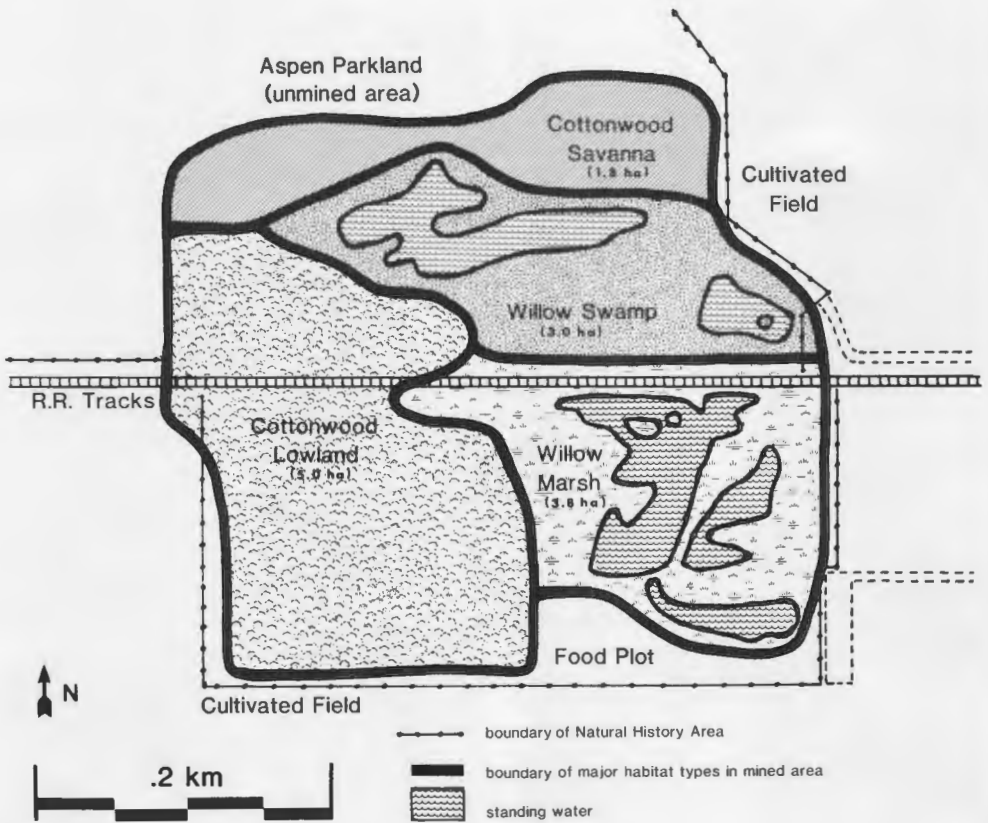


Fig. 1 — Habitat types in an abandoned gravel pit at the Red River Valley Natural History Area.

supports a diversity of aquatic plants. Major species include: water parsnip (*Sium suave*), water plantain (*Alisma triviale*), duck weed (*Lemna minor*, *L. trisulca*), cattail (*Typha angustifolia*, *T. latifolia* and a hybrid between the two) and a dense carpet of hooked moss (*Drepanocladus sp.*).

**Cottonwood lowland** - (5.0 ha; age, 35-45 years). This type is dominated by relatively dense stands of cottonwoods 40-45 cm dbh and 11-12 m tall. Low areas are scattered throughout which contain 15-30 cm of water in the spring and support an understory of sandbar willow (*Salix interior*), pussy willow (*Salix discolor*) and red osier dogwood. Some bluegrass and quack grass-dominated open areas are also present along with shrub species as noted for the cottonwood savanna type, although not

as abundant.

**Willow marsh** - (3.8 ha; age, 35-45 years). The dominant element of this habitat type is a centrally located cattail marsh having 0.6 - 1 m of water in the spring, some of which usually persists throughout the summer. A dense growth of willows is present on the marsh fringe and on mounds of overburden. These are mostly less than 3.5 m high except for scattered, 5-6 m peach-leaved willows. Several box elder and peach-leaved willow trees were cut in the fall of 1971 and stump-sprouting has created a thicket effect. A thicket was also maintained along the railroad right-of-way as railroad personnel would base-cut willows every 3 to 4 years. (The recent shift to herbicides however has eliminated most of this woody

vegetation.) Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and various grasses occur in better drained areas.

## METHODS

The spot map method (IBCC 1970) was used to census breeding birds from 1976 through 1980. Censusing commenced in late May and continued until mid-July at 3-4 day intervals with a mean of 12.4 visits per year. Visits were made in early morning and lasted 3-4 hours. In order to determine general habitat associations of bird species and comparative densities, the extent of each habitat type (Fig. 1) was considered a study plot although the plot size ( $\bar{x} = 3.4$  ha) was less than the 10-30 ha minimum recommended by IBCC for closed habitats. Also, the configuration of plots, especially the cottonwood savanna type, varied from the square shape recommended by IBCC. The habitat association of a territorial male was assigned according to the type having the greatest number of locations or, in cases where an equal number of locations occurred in adjacent habitats, the type estimated to contain the greatest portion of the territory was assigned (Franzreb 1981). Waterfowl were censused by a combination of breeding pair counts, nest locations, and brood sightings.

## RESULTS

Forty species were recorded in the gravel pit area during the study period (Table 1). Of these, 17 were considered "regular", having bred each year. Red-winged Blackbirds were the most abundant species but were restricted to wetter sites. Mourning Doves were also abundant but more widespread throughout the study area; nesting on the ground along the railroad grade, in crotches of older cottonwoods and particularly on horizontal branches of peach-leaved willows. Population estimates using the spot map method are likely minimum values for most species (Jolly 1981) but especially for polygynous Red-winged Blackbirds; colonial, early nesting Common Grackles; and parasitic Brown-headed Cowbirds.

The diversity of bird species found in our small study area (40 species on 12.6 ha) was due to the mosaic of habitat types resulting from the variation in microtopog-

raphy and time since mining. The presence of ephemeral and semi-permanent wetland areas also enhanced the species variety as illustrated by 30 species in the willow swamp and 28 in the willow marsh (Table 2). In both habitats, the occurrence of short-lived, peach-leaved willow promoted primary and secondary cavity nesters such as; Northern Flickers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and European Starlings. Of these, House Wrens nested in lower (<2 m) cavities, Northern Flickers at intermediate heights (2-4 m) and the remainder in higher (>4 m) cavities. American Kestrels nested in a tall (9 m) snag in the cottonwood lowland. Wood Ducks became a nesting species after the erection of nest boxes. Willow, snowberry, and red osier dogwood thickets were preferred by Brown Thrashers, Black-billed Cuckoos, Least Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Common Yellowthroats. Common Yellowthroats tended to occur more in wet areas and Yellow Warblers seemed especially attracted to snowberry thickets on overburden mounds. One pair of Willow Flycatchers were present each year and always in the same general area of the cottonwood lowland; a relatively open stand with a 3-4 m understory of willows. Cedar Waxwings appeared to be habitat generalists because nests were found in the following sites: at 1.5 m in a thicket of box elder stump sprouts, at 4.5 m in a crotch near the top of a peach-leaved willow and at 6 m on top of a large horizontal branch of a cottonwood. Northern Orioles, Eastern Wood-Pewees and Warbling Vireos were associated more with habitats containing larger trees but also foraged in shrub and small tree communities around wetland fringes. No habitat preferences were detected for American Robins, Eastern Kingbirds and American Goldfinches.

Densities also tended to vary along a moisture gradient with the willow marsh (the wettest site) containing 4 times as many territorial males as the better-drained cottonwood savanna (Table 2). Yearly fluctuations in moisture likewise affected density with lows of 74 and 68 total breeding pairs for the entire study area in 1976 and 1977, respectively, (dry springs, little standing water), to a high of 142 breeding

**Table 1 — Breeding birds of an abandoned gravel pit at the Red River Valley Natural History Area, 1976-1980.**

Species	Habitat association <sup>a</sup>	Percent of total breeding population	Breeding Density <sup>b</sup> (± no. pairs/10 ha)	Breeding Occurrence (No. years)
Red-winged Blackbird	WM, WS	13.4	15.6	5
Mourning Dove	WM, WS, CL	8.9	8.4	5
Yellow Warbler	WS, WM, CL	8.0	8.6	5
House Wren	WS, WM, CL	7.4	8.2	5
Least Flycatcher	WS, CL	6.4	5.9	5
Gray Catbird	WM, WS, CL	6.2	5.7	5
Common Grackle	WM	5.4	14.1	5
Warbling Vireo	CS, WS, CL	5.4	5.7	5
Northern Oriole	CL, CS, WS	5.0	4.4	5
American Robin	WS, CL, WM, CS	3.8	3.5	5
Brown-headed Cowbird <sup>c</sup>	WM, CL	3.0	5.4	5
Common Yellowthroat	WM, WS, CL	2.6	3.5	5
Northern Flicker	WM, WS, CL	2.4	3.0	5
American Goldfinch	WM, WS, CL	2.2	3.5	5
Song Sparrow	WM, CL	2.0	4.4	3
Mallard	WM, CL	1.8	4.7	3
Sora	WM, WS	1.8	7.4	3
Blue-winged Teal	WM, WS	1.6	6.2	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	CS, WS	1.4	4.4	5
European Starling	WS, CL	1.4	4.9	5
Eastern Kingbird	WM, CS, WS	1.2	3.7	4
Willow Flycatcher	CL	1.0	2.0	5
Red-eyed Vireo	CL, WS	1.0	2.2	4
Black-billed Cuckoo	WS, CL, WM	1.0	2.7	4
Brown Thrasher	WS	1.0	4.2	3
Cedar Waxwing	WS, CL, WM	0.8	3.0	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	CL, WM	0.8	2.2	3
Northern Pintail	WM	0.6	3.0	3
Wood Duck	WM	0.6	3.0	3
Tree Swallow	WS, WM	0.6	3.5	2
Northern Shoveler	WM	0.2	6.2	1
Killdeer	WM	0.2	3.0	1
Great Horned Owl	WS	0.2	*	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	WS	0.2	3.5	1
Black-capped Chickadee	CL	0.2	2.0	1
Veery	WS	0.2	3.5	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	WS	0.2	3.5	1
American Kestrel	CL	0.2	*	1
Hairy Woodpecker	CL	0.2	2.0	1
Western Meadowlark	CS	0.2	5.6	1

<sup>a</sup>CS = cottonwood savanna; CL = cottonwood lowland; WS = willow swamp; WM = willow marsh. Habitats listed according to frequency of use.

<sup>b</sup>Average densities based on only those years a species was present. Area used in calculating the density in a given year was the total of all habitat types in which the species occurred. \* = those species which clearly utilized a larger area than that of the nesting habitat and density not calculated.

<sup>c</sup>Habitat association probably dependent upon that of the host species, principally Red-winged Blackbirds and Yellow Warblers in this study area.

pairs in 1979, a wet year. Abundant invertebrate life is associated with the wetlands and is probably favored by fluctuating water levels and the variation in pool depths (Swanson et al. 1979). Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, House

Wrens, and Red-winged Blackbirds, in particular, were noted to forage near wetland pools that were drying up. Although increased moisture generally enhanced breeding conditions for most species, the lack of it created suitable breeding condi-

**Table 2. Comparison of breeding bird populations of different habitats of an abandoned gravel pit at the Red River Valley Natural History Area, 1976 - 1980.**

Habitat type	Breeding density (pairs/10 ha)	Total species breeding in study period
Cottonwood savanna	32.6	7
Cottonwood lowland	42.7	25
Willow swamp	105.0	30
Willow marsh	124.8	28
	$\bar{x} = 76.3$	

tions for Killdeer, which were observed with very young chicks on a dry wetland bottom of the willow marsh in 1980. Because of the dense vegetation and steep slopes surrounding the wetland and the age of the chicks it was assumed that they had actually nested in the dry marsh.

The effect of surrounding land uses upon the breeding bird use of the gravel pit is unknown but Red-winged Blackbirds, European Starlings, Common Grackles and waterfowl were observed to use adjacent cropland if waste grain was available. This also complicates the determination of densities (Table 1) for those species which forage a distance from nests. Great Horned Owls and American Kestrels, in particular, used a larger area for hunting than the associated nesting habitats and thus their density was not calculated. Another possible source of error in density calculations is the subjective delineation of habitat type boundaries thereby including some area that may not be usable habitat to a species and tending to bias estimates downward. Thus, density values are probably most useful as relative rather than absolute values.

The gravel pit was also used as a foraging area for species thought to be nesting in the nearby aspen parkland portion of the Natural History Area. These included: White-breasted Nuthatch, Great-crested Flycatcher, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Eastern Phoebe

## DISCUSSION

No comparable U.S. studies could be located in the literature dealing with breeding birds of gravel pits, although some studies have been carried out in areas surface mined for coal. In Illinois, Karr (1968) and Brewer (1958) observed 38 and 44 species, respectively, to breed in unreclaimed mine

lands. Yahner et al. (1975) found 37 breeding species in an unreclaimed Tennessee study area. Thus, 40 species recorded in this study is comparable to more southerly locations which generally have higher species diversity.

Gravel pits have been extensively researched in Great Britain in terms of their value for wildlife, especially birds. Natural wetlands are very scarce there and since many gravel operations penetrate the water table, substitute wetland habitats are being created that can subsequently be managed as productive breeding bird habitats. Glue (1970) recorded 57 breeding bird species in a 40.5-ha abandoned pit over a seven year period. He noted an overall breeding density of 61.3 pairs per 10 ha which compares to 76.3 pairs per 10 ha in this study. Milne (1974) reported 50 species to breed in an old "overgrown working." In a survey of 10 pit sites averaging 41.3 ha in size, Catchpole and Tydeman (1975) found an average of 27 breeding species.

Whitmore and Hall (1978) noted that recent surface mining reclamation programs in West Virginia are creating "grassland" environments in formerly forested regions. Typical grassland passerines have responded to that habitat change. In contrast, the unreclaimed gravel mine in this study has created forest-like conditions in an original prairie environment with a corresponding change in bird species to forest and forest-edge species.

## SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A diverse and relatively dense population of breeding birds was recorded in an unreclaimed gravel pit. These data were comparable to avifauna studies in unreclaimed habitats developing after coal mining in the U.S. and after gravel mining in

Great Britain. This avian diversity and abundance was attributed to microtopographic variation and its effect upon the soil and moisture conditions which, in concert with ecological succession, created structurally and taxonomically diverse plant communities. Providing a setting where such habitats can develop and possibly speeding that development through selection and establishment of plants, should be a primary consideration in formulating guidelines for gravel pit reclamation if their full potential as breeding bird habitat is to be realized.

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## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

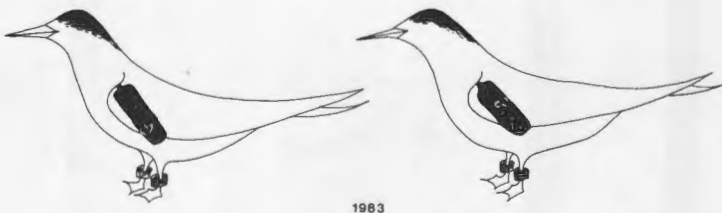
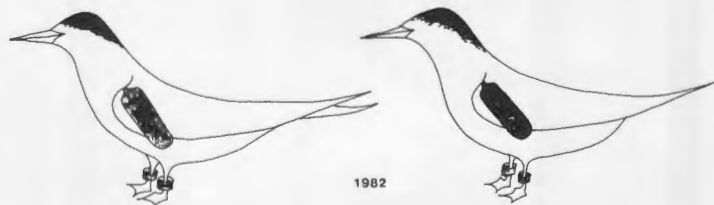
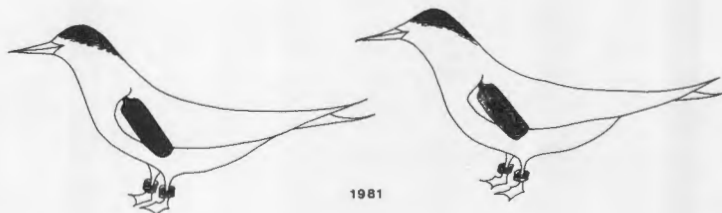
The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear. In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. In that year red wing tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, IIA 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.



# THE WINTER SEASON (Dec. 1, 1982 - Feb. 28, 1983)

Kenneth J. La Fond

With this season's report, we are introducing a minor change in content and format. In an effort to minimize duplication and to make the seasonal report more comprehensive, we have decided to incorporate the Christmas Bird Count data into this report. This will be done by plotting all of the CBC records on the base map used in compiling the seasonal contributors' information. Species unusual as to time or location will be so identified in the text and the additional information on the more common species will help make the overall report more complete. In addition, a brief tabular summary will be provided for all of the CBC's received. Kim Eckert will continue to summarize the CBC data for AMERICAN BIRDS.

The weather throughout the period was generally mild, with the Twin Cities having the warmest winter in fifty years. The entire state was free from snow in early December and the northwest part of the state remained snow-free all season. Duluth's coldest temperature was only  $-10^{\circ}$  and the Twin Cities had only thirty hours of below zero readings. Late December brought from 8" to 16" of snow to most of the state, again excepting the extreme northwest. December 29 was cold, with  $-20^{\circ}$  readings in the far north and zero readings in the south. January had about average snowfall and mild temperatures and February was about the same, with the coldest period being the final week of the month.

A total of 68 seasonal reports were received, representing the efforts of at least 87 individual contributors. In addition, the

37 CBC reports received represent the effort of about 650 participants. The aggregate total of the CBC's indicates there were at least 208,000 birds in the state at some time during the period. Of the 37 CBC's received, Rochester had the high species total with 52, while the St. Paul northeast count was a close second with 51.

The species total for the period was 142, about average for the last few years. The warm weather induced a number of species to attempt over-wintering in the state, including three species of warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and White-crowned, White-throated and Lincoln's Sparrows. The warm weather and an apparently adequate food supply in the far north gave the Winter Finches no compelling reason to move south and so they didn't. Reports indicate these winter visitants were very scarce except along the Canadian border. Gull-watching in Duluth was again good with Thayer's, Glaucous and two Black-backed found during the period.

The warm weather in late February brought an early start to the spring migration and late in the period waterfowl and blackbirds were moving into the state in good numbers.

## Common Loon

The only report was of an immature captured on the ice near Dodge Nature Center, St. Paul 12/10, and released on Black Dog Lake 12/11 (RBA).

## Pied-billed Grebe

Reported only from Lake Cornelia, Hennepin Co., 1/1 thru 2/28 (mob).

### **Horned Grebe**

A Lake Superior report from Lake Co., 1/23 (BDC).

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

A late migrant at Black Dog, 12/18 until 12/22 (MW) plus two very early migrants or possible overwintering individuals at Lock and Dam #3, Goodhue Co., 1/30 (JP-AM) and 2/15 (RBJ).

### **Great Blue Heron**

Three south reports: Dakota, 12/18 (MW), Winona, 1/22 (RA), and Rock 1/31 (JS).

### **Tundra Swan**

At the Weaver Marshes, Winona Co., late migrants numbered 5,000 on 12/7 (KE). January and early February reports indicate at least a few individuals overwintered in the same area (WDM). More surprisingly, an individual also overwintered in the north central region, Aitkin Co., 1/7 until 2/27 (WN).

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

A late migrant at Rochester on 12/7 (KE).

### **Snow Goose**

Overwintered in the West Central Region at Fergus Falls (SDM) and the east central region at Lake Cornelia, Hennepin Co. (mob). Also reported at Rochester from 12/7 until 1/31 (RBJ), (BE).

### **ROSS' GOOSE**

An apparently wild, non-hybrid individual overwintered with Mallards and domestic geese in a small pond in southern Washington Co. (mob). For more comments on this observation see *The Loon* 55:84-85.

### **Canada Goose**

Reported from 25 counties throughout the state with the exception of the NW Region. The north central report was of 13 overwintering in Hubbard Co. (DJ) and the north east report was of spring migrants over Carlton Co. on 2/27 (fide Laura Erickson). Mid to late February arrivals were also reported from Cottonwood, Brown and Mower counties. Peak CBC numbers included 29,600 in Rochester and 17,800 in Lac Qui Parle Co.

### **Wood Duck**

Reported only from the Twin Cities area; Hennepin on 12/18 (DZ/MC) and 2/28 (SC); Scott on 1/1 (RBJ), (RG) and the Afton CBC.

### **American Black Duck**

Reported from 15 counties south and east of Stearns, plus Cook in the northeast.

### **Mallard**

Reported from 34 counties throughout the state except the NW Region.

### **Northern Pintail**

Late December migrants in Waseca 12/11 (PKL) and Olmsted, until 12/19 (BE). A January report from Dakota 1/4 (MW). Returning migrants in Scott, 2/26 (RA) and Otter Tail, 2/27 (SDM).

### **Northern Shoveler**

A possible overwintering individual or an extremely early migrant at the Ross' Goose location in south Washington County from 2/12 onward (mob).

### **Gadwall**

Again reported only from the usual wintering location at Shakopee, Scott co.

### **American Wigeon**

Two reports; Hubbard in the north central until 1/16, (DJ, AB) and Anoka in the east central, until 1/1 (PKL).

### **Canvasback**

Reported only from Wabasha in the south east. Late migrants until 12/7 (RBJ) and returning migrants from 2/14 onward (WDM).

### **Redhead**

A December report from Dakota, 12/18 (MW).

### **Lesser Scaup**

Six reports this year. Cook 12/18 (KMH) in the NE, Otter Tail 2/6 (SDM) in the west central, Hennepin, until 1/3 (mob) and Wabasha, Olmsted and Mower in the SE.

### **Harlequin Duck**

Reported in Beltrami, 12/4, 12/5 (JP, AS). Details in *The Loon* 55:37.

### **Oldsquaw**

December and January Lake Superior reports from Cook, Lake and St. Louis.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Reported from 21 counties throughout the state with the exception of the NW and SW regions.

### **Bufflehead**

Overwintered in Beltrami (mob), present in Cook (KMH) and St. Louis (KE) until 12/18 and a south report from Ramsey until 12/24 (mob).

### **Hooded Merganser**

December migrants in the north at Cass 12/2 (DZ) and the south at Hennepin 12/3 (DB). A January report from Lake, 1/21 (FL) and returning migrants at Duluth 2/25, (Duluth RBA).

### **Common Merganser**

Reported from five north and nine south counties. Numerous reports of returning migrants in mid to late February.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Reported from Duluth on 12/18 (KE) and 1/1 (PKL).

### **Ruddy Duck**

Two Olmsted County reports; 12/7 (KE) and 2/22 (BE).

### **Bald Eagle**

Thirty-five reports from 23 counties throughout the state with the exception of the south west region. Overwintering reports include **Polk** (KSS) and **Otter Tail** (GMO). Winter reports of this species have been increasing for the past several years.

### **Northern Harrier**

North reports from Wilkin, 1/1 (SDM), Otter Tail, 1/14, 1/28 (GMO)) and Hubbard 2/21 (DJ). South reports from Stearns 12/3 (NH) and Goodhue, (no date).

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Reported from Hubbard and Becker in the north and Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota, Goodhue, Olmsted and Houston in the south.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Reported from Aitkin, 12/30 till 1-2 (WN), Washington 12/25 (DS), Olmsted 12/18 (BE) and Mower 12/11 (RJ).

### **Northern Goshawk**

Last fall's record Hawk Ridge flight resulted in what is probably a record winter season for the species. About 40 reports from twenty-three counties throughout the state except the south and west central regions. The southernmost reports were from Mower and Fillmore and the westerly reports included Swift, Otter Tail and Marshall.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

A north report from Pine, 1/13, Feb.(ML) and south reports from Goodhue 1/30 (JP/AM) and Mower (RRK).

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Fewer reports than usual, possibly the result of the record Goshawk influx. Reports from 21 counties north to Duluth, Kanabec and Otter Tail.

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Twenty-five reports from 13 north and six south counties.

### **Golden Eagle**

Reported from Marshall, 12/12 until 12/19 (JM) and Otter Tail 1/1 (SDM) in the north, and Wabasha, Winona and Houston in the south.

### **American Kestrel**

Forty-five reports from 34 counties in all regions except the north central. The north region reports included Marshall 1/27 and 2/9 and Duluth, until 12/20 (C. Curtiss).

### **Merlin**

Seven reports this year. Marshall, Jan. (JM) and Pennington 2/4 (KSS) in the NW, Duluth 2/5, (TL, Terry Wiens) in the NE, Pine, 1/29 (mob), Anoka, (Mpls. North CBC) and Dakota two weeks in mid Dec. at a Mendota Heights feeder (RBA) in the east central. also, a SE report from Wabasha 12/29 (JP/AM).

### **GRYFALCON**

Two reports; a grey phase individual at Agassiz NWR, Marshall County 12/21 (JM) and in early Jan. (C. Steinhauer). A Duluth report in late January (L. Erickson, D. Evans).

### **Prairie Falcon**

Three reports from the western regions; Wilkin, 1/5 through 2/22 (SDM, RBJ),

Cottonwood 2/6 (L. Rupp) and Rock 2/19 (PKL).

### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from 22 counties south and west of a line from Pennington to Dakota.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported from 40 counties north to Duluth, Aitkin, 1/15 (WN) and Norman Co.

### **Spruce Grouse**

Reported only from Cook in the NE in Dec. and Jan. (KMH).

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 18 counties north and east of a line from Olmsted to Otter Tail to Polk. Numerous reports of reduced numbers.

### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

Reported from Otter Tail and Wilkin where they were booming on the very early date of 1/30 (RBJ).

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Reports from six counties in the north central and north west regions.

### **Wild Turkey**

Reported only from the extreme SE in Houston, Winnebago Valley (EMF) and near Hokah (FL).

### **American Coot**

Overwintered at Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (SDM, GMO) and reported from Hennepin on 12/8 (AB) and 12/12 (PKL).

### **Killdeer**

Early south migrants in Murray 2/28 (AD) and Mower 2/27 (RRK).

### **Common Snipe**

Two January reports; Otter Tail 1/3 (GMO) in the west central and Dakota 1/23 (MW), in the east central.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

A late north migrant in Hubbard on 12/4 (HJF) and late south migrants in Wabasha and the Twin Cities area until 12/19.

### **Herring Gull**

Late north migrants inland from Lake Superior were recorded on 12/5 in Hubbard (JP), Crow Wing and Mille Lacs (PKL). In

the Twin Cities area and the SE late migrants remained until 12-25. Spring migrants returned to the SE on 2/12, Wabasha, (JB, BE) and the Twin Cities area on 2/13, Dakota (MW). On Lake Superior 681 were recorded on the Duluth CBC, 50+ overwintered in Lake and 200 in Cook. Returning migrants increased the Cook Co. numbers to 500 by late Feb. (KMH).

### **Thayer's Gull**

Up to five individuals were present at Duluth from 12/16 until 12/31 (KE). Reports of single individuals continued until 1/29 (mob). An individual was also reported from Cook on 2/24 (JP/AM). In the south, two were present at Black Dog, Dakota Co. on 12/5 (KE).

### **ICELAND GULL**

An adult was present in Duluth from 12/16 until 12/22 (KE). Details in *The Loon* 55:33.

### **Glaucous Gull**

December and January reports from Cook and Lake and perhaps as many as 12 overwintered in Duluth. Also reported from the only other area in the state where it is possibly regular, Black Dog, Dakota Co. 12/13 (MW).

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

An adult in Duluth from 12/16 until 12/22 and a different adult from 1/20 until 2/12 (mob). Details in *The Loon* 55:32-33 and 85.

### **Rock Dove**

Reported from 57 counties throughout the state including 8,0711 on the Duluth CBC.

### **Mourning Dove**

Two north reports; Becker 2/11 (TNWR) and 10 on the Duluth CBC. Also reported from 13 south counties.

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

More reports than usual; Otter Tail in the north and 14 counties in the south.

### **Great Horned Owl**

More reports than usual; 41 counties throughout the state including an Arctic race individual in Otter Tail and 13 on the Duluth CBC.

### **Snowy Owl**

Only ten overwintered in Duluth (D. Evans) but the species was fairly widespread in the north with reports from ten additional counties. In the south, reports were received from seven counties including a wing tagged individual in Nobles on 12/15. (JS).

### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

Reported from Lake of the Woods 1/23 (AS) Koochiching, five miles south of Birchdale, 1/18, 1/23, 2/5 (mob).

### **Barred Owl**

Reported from 20 counties throughout the state with the exception of the central and SW regions. Two reports from the western prairies, Clay 12/30 (LCF) and Wilkin 1/17 (PKL).

### **Great Gray Owl**

Six north reports from Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Aitkin and Cook.

### **Long-eared Owl**

Two reports; Dakota 1/2 (JP/AM) and Olmsted 12/2 (JB).

### **Short-eared Owl**

Reported only from Sherburne 2/17 (EH).

### **Boreal Owl**

Reported in Cook where it was heard calling along the Gunflint Trail from 1/20 through 2/27 (KMH, JP/AM).

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

Reported only from Dakota on 2/21 (JP/AM) and 2/23 (RBJ, RG).

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Overwintered in Otter Tail (SDM). Present in Aitkin on 1/15, 1/16 (WN) and Lyon, three on 12/18 (HK). Also reported from seven counties south and east of the Twin Cities area.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

North reports from Crow Wing, 12/18 (6) through 2/5 (mob) and Aitkin 2/6 (WN). Also reported from Lyon in the SW, Anoka, Washington and Dakota in the east central and Houston and Mower in the SE.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Overwintered in Wilkin (SDM). Additional north reports from Crow Wing, 12/

18 (WN), Aitkin, 1/8 (WN), 1/30 (SC), Pine 1/13 (TP) and Duluth, until 12/14 (K. Sundquist). Also reported from 12 south counties including Lyon, 12/18 (3), (HK).

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Reported on the St. Cloud-Collegeville CBC.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 50 counties throughout the state.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 53 counties throughout the state.

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

Seven reports from five northern counties, Becker 12/22 (DJ), 2/28 (RBJ, RG), Beltrami 2/28 (AS), Itasca 12/27 (TL), Lake 12/22 (SW/MS) and Cook 12/18 through 2/23 (KMH).

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

A south report from Washington, 1/1 (RBJ, RG) and the St. Paul NE CBC. Ten reports from the north central and NE regions and a NW region report from Mahnommen, Roy Lake, 1/22 (PKL), 2/27 (RBJ, RG).

### **Northern Flicker**

Overwintered in Cook (KMH). Also reported from Clay 12/16 through 12/21 (LCF) and 2/13 (TS) and eight counties in the south.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 32 counties throughout the state with the exception of the SW region.

### **Horned Lark**

Reported from 44 counties throughout the state with the exception of the NE region. The only December report was from Olmsted. Migrants returned in mid to late January and were widespread by early February.

### **Gray Jay**

Reported from Roseau, Marshall and Mahnommen in the NW region. Pine in the east central and six additional north counties.

### **Blue Jay**

Reported from 59 counties throughout the state.



**Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from eight counties in the north central and NW regions.

**American Crow**

Reported from 64 counties throughout the state including Roseau, Lake of the Woods and Cook. Apparently becoming more common in winter in the far north.

**Common Raven**

Reported from all NE and north central counties plus Pine and Kanabec in the east central and Becker, Mahnomen, Marshall and Roseau in the NW region.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 57 counties throughout the state.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Reported from Hennepin 1/3 until 1/8 (VL, SC) in the south and Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook in the north where it was much more common than usual.

**Tufted Titmouse**

South reports from Washington, Rice, Winona, Fillmore and Houston. A north report from Otter Tail (GMO) needs details.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 35 counties throughout the state.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 58 counties throughout the state including an overwintering pair in Lake (SW/MS) and a Cook report on 12/18 (KMH).

**Brown Creeper**

Reported from 35 counties throughout the state including overwintering records from Cook, Lake and Beltrami.

**Winter Wren**

Reported on the Excelsior CBC.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

More reports than usual; 24 counties throughout the state north to Itasca, Beltrami and Kittson.

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**

A north report from Beltrami, 12/28, five miles north of Bemidji (AS).

**Eastern Bluebird**

A Duluth report on 12/12 (D. Green)

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**

Reported from Cook County, Cascade River on 12/18 (KMH).

**Gray Catbird**

Reported from Duluth from 12/14 until 12/18 (mob).

**Townsend's Solitaire**

Reported from Two Harbors, Lake County until 12/15 (J. Church).

**Hermit Thrush**

Overwintered in Sherburne (EH/SS) and a report from Hennepin County 12/15 until 12/27 (mob).

**American Robin**

Reported from 21 counties throughout the state north to Norman, Clearwater, Koochiching and Cook.

**Varied Thrush**

Two north and two south reports. In the north one was at a Cloquet, Carlton Co. feeder on 12/29 (J. Anderson) and one was in Aitkin Co. on 1/1 and 1/6 (WN). The south reports are both from the Mpls. RBA; one at Elk River in Jan. (this individual flew into a window and is now a museum specimen) and one in Roseville, Ramsey Co. in February.

**Northern Mockingbird**

Reported only from Duluth on 1/23 (mob)— and 2/25 (JP/AM).

**Brown Thrasher**

One on the Aurora, St. Louis Co. CBC, one in Duluth at the H. Simonson feeder until 12/21 and a south report from Mower Co. at the Hormel Nature Center on 1/23 (RRK).

**Bohemian Waxwing**

Reports from the three northern regions indicate the species was common in Jan. and Feb. north and east of a line from Pennington to Aitkin. Peak numbers were 1,000 in Duluth on 2-5 (JC). In the east central two were in Hennepin on 2/9 (SC) and one was with a flock of 10 Cedars in Blaine, Anoka Co., on 12/26 (PKL). A month or so later the Iowa RBA also reported a single Bohemian Waxwing with a flock of 12 Cedar Waxwings—same flock?

**Cedar Waxwing**

Numerous February reports from the

NW region and Cook Co. in the NE, December reports from Duluth and widespread reports from nine south counties.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Reported on the Crookston CBC (Needs details).

### **Northern Shrike**

Reports of about 75 individuals from 27 north and 16 south counties throughout the state.

### **European Starling**

Reported from 66 counties throughout the state.

### **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**

One present at a Wright Co. feeder on 12/28 (GS). Details in *The Loon* 55:33.

### **CAPE MAY WARBLER**

Two reports: Hutchinson, McLeod Co. from 12/22 until 12/27 (C. Weseldh) and Wabasha, 12/1 until 12/8 (WDM).

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Present for the third year in a row, this time an Audubon's race at an Edina feeder on 1/27 (P. Huber).

### **Northern Cardinal**

Three north reports, Wilkin, two all winter (SDM) Otter Tail, Deer Creek, 1/7 (PKL) and a Duluth feeder on 12/18 (V. Adams). Also reported from 18 south counties.

### **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK**

Three reports; Crookston CBC, Eagan, Dakota Co., a male all winter (J. Stripe) and a second year male in Hennepin until 1/18 (mob). Details in *The Loon* 55:86.

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Reported on the Austin CBC.

### **American Tree Sparrow**

Reported from 38 counties throughout the state including overwintering reports from Marshall in the NW region (KSS) and Lake in the NE (SW/MS).

### **Fox Sparrow**

One report; an early migrant in Mower 2/21 (T. Dorsey).

### **Song Sparrow**

Two north reports; overwintered in Marshall (KSS) and a Dec. report from Cook

(SL). In the south, overwintering reports from Hennepin, Nicollet and Blue Earth and additional reports from Anoka and Mower.

### **LINCOLN'S SPARROW**

Minnesota's second winter record; an individual at the Art Hawkins feeder, Lino Lakes, Anoka Co. from 1/6 until 1/29. Details in *The Loon* 55:86.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

A late migrant in Wabasha, 12/7 (KE).

### **White-throated Sparrow**

North reports from Cook, 12/18 (KMH) St. Louis, Duluth until 12/31 (D. Gilbertson) and Crow Wing 12/18 (WN), 2/5 (RBJ, RG), 2-6 (WN). In the south overwintered in Hennepin, Dakota and Wabasha. Also reported from Nicollet (JCT) and Lac Qui parle 12/24, 1/15 (AFE).

### **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

Overwintered in Otter Tail (GMO, SDM) and Pine (ML) in the north and Olmsted (JB) in the south. Additional south reports from Hennepin, 12/19 (RBJ) and Dakota, 1/2 and 1/3 (JB, RG). Details in *The Loon* 55:87.

### **Harris' Sparrow**

Two west region reports; Wilkin 1/30 (RBJ) and 2/6 (SDM) and Cottonwood, overwintered (LAF).

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Widespread throughout the state with reports from 43 counties including Kittson, Marshall; overwintered (KSS), Lake 1/1, 1/2 (SW/MS) and Cook, Dec. (KMH).

### **Lapland Longspur**

Reported from 11 counties in the west and south regions.

### **Snow Bunting**

Reported from 36 counties throughout the state.

### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Reported from eight north and 14 south counties. Overwintered in Marshall (KSS) in the NW and numerous reports of returning migrants in the south and central regions in mid to late February.

### **Meadowlark (sp)**

In the west regions an overwintering report from Marshall (KSS), a Becker Co. report on 2/11 (KSS) and a Chippewa Co. report on 1/6 (AFE) probably represent the Western Meadowlark. North central reports from Hubbard, 2/17 fide (DJ) and Aitkin 1/1 (WN) are both unusual as to time and location. A south central report from Martin 12/22 (EBK) is more expected and SE reports from Goodhue 2/20 (SDM) and Olmsted 2/15 (JB) may represent returning Eastern Meadowlarks.

### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Very early migrants in Cottonwood, 2/24 (WH)

### **Rusty Blackbird**

Two SW reports; Lyon, a flock of 36 on 12/18 (HK) and Murray 2/1 until 2/15 (AK).

### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Reported on the Bemidji CBC, Nicollet, 12/3 and 12/9 (JCF) and possible early migrants in Clay on 2/25 (LCF).

### **Common Grackle**

Widespread throughout the state with reports from 27 counties north to Lake of the Woods, Koochiching and Cook where three overwintered in Grand Marais (KMH). Numerous reports of returning migrants in the south in late Feb.

### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

South reports from Lac Qui Parle, Cottonwood, Nicollet, Blue Earth and Dakota.

### **NORTHERN ORIOLE**

A female overwintered at the Morningside Orchards, Winona Co., fide (RBJ).

### **Pine Grosbeak**

Relatively scarce this year with reports from only eight northern counties. Reported only once from Aitkin, Cass, Becker and Marshall. In Cook and Beltrami they were less common than normal and in St. Louis they were completely absent from the Duluth CBC. In Koochiching they were abundant in International Falls on 1/15 (PKL) and were still present on 2/26 (RBJ).

### **Purple Finch**

Reported from 37 counties from throughout the state.

### **Red Crossbill**

A south report from Lyon 12/18 (HK) and reports from eight northern counties.

### **White-winged Crossbill**

Reported only from Marshall, Becker, Beltrami, Itasca, Crow Wing, Lake and Cook.

### **Common Redpoll**

This species was down appreciably in numbers and perhaps had its worst season on record. At the time, they seemed almost non-existent but once all the reports were reviewed, they were present in nine northern and three southwesterly counties. The only sizeable flocks were in Pine, 100+ on 1/2 (PKL) and Redwood, 100+ on 2/12 (HCF). There were no reports of Hoary Redpoll's this season.

### **Pine Siskin**

Widespread throughout the north half of the state (18 counties) and south reports from Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Cottonwood, Hennepin and Wabasha.

### **American Goldfinch**

Perhaps the best season on record for this species. Reports from 50 counties throughout the state. In the north, they were generally described as being abundant with the peak numbers occurring in a field of unpicked sunflowers in northeast Roseau Co. on 2/12, 500+ (PKL). In the south the species was equally widespread but apparently less abundant since no large numbers were reported.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

One south report from Chisago Co. In the north, they were present in virtually all counties north and east of a line from Pine to Becker to Roseau. The reports were mixed but they seemed to be more common than usual in the north central and north west and less common in the north east.

### **House Sparrow**

Last on the new checklist but first in this years contest for the most widely reported species; 72 counties throughout the state.

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

Location	Date	Total Species	Compiler
Afton	1/1/83	41	Boyd M. Lien
Albert Lea	12/18/82	29	Charles Howard
Aurora	12/18/82	26	Chuck Neil
Austin	12/19/82	36	Terry W. Dorsey
Baudette	12/30/82	22	Martin Kehoe
Bemidji	12/18/82	28	Diane M. Morris
Bloomington	12/18/82	43	Thomas Bloom
Cedar Creek	12/19/82	31	Boyd M. Lien
Cedar Lake	12/18/82	29	Robert J. Leis
Crookston	12/18/82	25	Thomas A. Feiro
Crosby	12/18/81	29	Jo Blanych
Duluth	12/18/82	44	Kim Eckert
Excelsior	1/1/83	41	Phyllis Pope
Fargo-Moorhead	12/18/82	32	Ron Nellermoe
Faribault	12/20/82	34	Orwin A. Rustad
Grand Marais	12/18/82	40	Molly & Ken Hoffman
Grand Rapids	1/1/83	29	Tim Lamey
Hastings-Etter	1/2/83	43	Joanne Dempsey
Hibbing	12/28/82	23	Janet Decker
Isabella	1/2/83	21	Steve Wilson
Lac Qui Parle	12/18/82	35	Micki Buer
La Crosse-La Crescent	12/18/82	36	Fred Leshar
Lamberton	12/27/82	30	Lee French
Mankato	12/18/82	32	Merril J. Frydendall
Marshall	12/18/82	36	Henry C. Kyllingstad
Minneapolis	12/18/82	42	Donn S. Mattsson
Mountain Lake	1/1/83	29	Edna Gerber
Northwoods-Audubon Center	12/27/82	14	Mike Link
Owatonna	12/18/82	28	Darryl Hill
Rochester	12/18/82	52	Jerry Bonkoski
St. Cloud-Collegeville	12/18/82	24	Donald L. Rubbelke
St. Paul-Northeast	12/26/82	51	Persis Fitzpatrick
Wabasha	12/29/82	36	Donald Mahle
Walker	12/19/82	19	Harold Hanson
Warren	1/2/83	24	Gladwin A. Lynne
Wild River	12/18/82	32	Tom Anderson
Willmar	12/18/82	22	Ben Thoma

## CONTRIBUTORS

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)	Kim Eckert (KE)
Rare Bird Alert (RBA)	Alpha and Fred Eckhardt (AFE)
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Betty and Doug Campbell (BDC)	Pepper Fuller (PF)
Steve Carlson (SC)	Ray Glassel (RG)
Horace F. Chamberlain (HFC)	Walter Harder (WH)
Jane Cliff (JC)	Ed Hibbard and Sharon Sarappo (EH/SS)
Mrs. A. De Kam (AD)	Nestor Hiemenz (NH)
Joanne Dempsey (JD)	Ken and Molly Hoffman (KMH)
	Robert Holtz (RH)

Robert Janssen (RBJ)  
 Robert Jessen (RJ)  
 David H. Johnson (DJ)  
 Oscar L. Johnson (OJ)  
 Ron and Rose Kneeskern (RRK)  
 Henry C. Kyllingstad (HK)  
 Pat and Ken La Fond (PKL)  
 Tim Lamey (TL)  
 Violet Lender (VL)  
 Fred Leshner (FL)  
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Jeffrey S. Palmer (JP)  
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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

The following records were found Acceptable, January - June, 1983:

- Great Black-backed Gull, 12/16-21/82 and 1/20 - Feb./83, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:32-33 and 55:85-86)
- White-faced Ibis, 4/29/83, Sherburne N.W.R., Sherburne Co. (vote 7-0)
- Hermit Warbler, 5/14/83, Yellow Bank Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:88)
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/18/83, Chanhassen, Carver Co. (vote 6-1; *Loon* 55:93)
- Say's Phoebe, 4/30 - 5/1/83, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:90)

- Ruff, 5/20/83, Marshall, Lyon Co. (vote 7-0)
- Summer Tanager, 5/18/83, Wolsfeld Woods, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2)
- Arctic Tern, 5/29 - 6/2/83, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:127)
- Ibis (*Plegadis*, sp.), 5/21/83; Crookston, Polk Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:127)
- Ruff, 4/29 - 5/1/83, Island L., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)
- Ruff, 5/16/83, Albany, Stearns Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:128)
- Western Tanager, 6/1/83, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:92)
- Mute Swan, 3/26/83, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)

- Ross' Goose, 3/24 - 4/1/83, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:91-92)
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/10/83, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:92)
- White-eyed Vireo, 6/5-7/83, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:90-91)
- Laughing Gull, 6/15/83, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:125-126)
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 4/27/83, Grand Portage, Cook Co. (vote 7-0)

The following records were found Unacceptable, January - June, 1983:

- House Finch, 12/19-28/83, Shoreview, Ramsey Co. (vote 5-2, with 7-0 required for acceptance)

The majority was convinced by the details: the observer had experience with both Purple and House Finches, saw the bird at his feeder in company with Purple Finch, took field notes at the time of observation, and noted a redder cap and head, browner back and eye stripe, and "distinctive rosy rump." The minority felt that the bird may have been a House Finch, but that the flank streaking was not noted and that Purple Finch plumages are highly variable, something the observer may not have taken into account.

- Western Wood-Pewee, 9/25/82, Cottonwood, Lyon Co. (vote 2-5)
- Common Eider, 5/15/69, Marshall, Lyon Co. (vote 0-7; vote 3-4 as eider, sp.)

The identification was based primarily on the very dark Olive-sided Flycatcher-like sides of the underparts, which is a feature of the Western species. However, Eastern Wood-Pewees, especially in fall, can have underparts which are just as dark as a Western.

A sketch of this bird was rediscovered in the observer's files, and it suggested strongly a female eider, but the sketch was not very detailed, no field notes were apparently made, and the observer could only remember its larger size, brown coloration and "pronounced bars on the sides." It was felt that this was not enough for acceptance for such an unusual species, especially after 14 years had passed.

- Fulvous Whistling-Duck, 10/31/81, near Park Rapids, Hubbard Co. (vote 1-6)

A pair of ducks feeding along a highway shoulder were identified on the basis of their long legs and necks, buff brown coloration and barring on the back. While it was agreed that they may well have been whistling-ducks, the birds were only observed from a moving vehicle (it is common for birders to think they see something while driving by, turn around, look again more closely and find out their first impression was wrong; it is unfortunate that the observer, who knew how unusual the species is in Minnesota, did not stop for a better look). Also it seems likely, even if they were whistling-ducks, that they were escapes since this species is kept widely in captivity and since they acted so "tame," not being bothered by the traffic along Hwy. 34.

- House Finch, 5/16/82, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood Co. (vote 2-5)

The identification of this female was not made until a few days after the observation and only when looking through a field guide. Such a record based only on details from memory and while under the power of suggestion from a field guide is not satisfactory for such an unusual species.

- Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4/17/83, Winona, Winona Co. (vote 0-7)

The submitted details strongly suggested a Brown Creeper, not a nuthatch, because of its manner of feeding as it went up the tree trunks and because of its brown "well camouflaged" upperparts. Further, the back "was not bluish, but brown," which doesn't fit any species of nuthatch, all of which have bluish gray backs. Finally, even if it were a nuthatch, there was nothing to preclude the Pygmy Nuthatch, which would be much more likely in Minnesota.

- Kirtland's Warbler, 5/22/83, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7)

The observer apparently did not decide on his identification until 30 minutes after the sighting, and thus it is based on memory. His notes did suggest a Kirtland's more than any other species, but the description left out too many de-



tails: no tail wagging, back streaking, dark lores/cheeks or tail spots were noted. It was felt such an unusual species should be described more fully.

—MacGillivray's Warbler, 5/8/83, Elm Creek Park, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7)

This identification was based solely on the bird's broken eye ring, but Mourning Warblers, even breeding-plumaged males in spring, can also have such an eye ring. Because of this, it is highly unlikely that any sight records of the MacGillivray's could ever be acceptable in Minnesota; a measured specimen or banded bird would be required.

—Swallow-tailed Kite, July or August 1973, near Ely, St. Louis Co. (vote 3-4)

This sighting was reported to an experienced observer four months after the observation. Their identification was based on the "pattern of pure glistening white below and jet black on the back" and "the long forked tail." It was agreed that the identification may well have been correct, but the majority had the following reservations: there was no clear indication of how experienced the observers were at bird identification; the observers did not write up their own rec-

ord (it was submitted by the experienced observer mentioned above), and while second-hand reports can be acceptable to M.O.R.C., they are less than desirable especially when extreme rarities or belated reports are involved; the description was not very complete, with no indication of where exactly the bird was black or white and no indication of size; and the possibility of Fork-tailed Flycatcher, which has occurred in Ont. and Wis., has not been eliminated.

—Swainson's Hawk, 3/23/83, Near Saratoga, Winona Co. (vote 4-3, with 5-2 required for acceptance)

The majority voted to accept based on the description of the wing linings being whiter than the dark underside of the flight feathers. However, there were reservations based on the fact that this was not a typical adult light-phase Swainson's being identified — the head and wing coverts were described as "red-brown," and there was a black stripe through the whitish wing linings — and the minority felt this may have been some other Buteo in aberrant plumage.

9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN  
55804



Trumpeter Swans — 3 March 1983, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County — Photo by Oscar Johnson  
These birds are part of the free-flying group at Carver Park Reserve



# NOTES OF INTEREST

**LAZULI BUNTING IN CHISAGO COUNTY** — The bird flew into a window approximately 20 yards from where I was working in my garden. I could see it was blue in color. I ran over to where it had fallen. It was fluttering weakly. I picked it up and realized I had never seen this species before. It was about the size of a House Sparrow but slimmer. It was the color of an Eastern Bluebird above, with a light rust colored breast and white belly and wingbars. It had a bill like a House Sparrow, conical, but again, not so “chunky” a bill. I ran with the bird back to the window of my apartment and my wife brought out two field guides. There is absolutely no doubt in either my wife’s or my mind that the bird in my hand was a Lazuli Bunting. We are both amateur bird watchers, and have a good knowledge of most local species. The discovery of what the bird was excited both, but at the time, we had a screaming one year old son ready for bed, and I had to get ready for work, so we didn’t read any of the information available about the Lazuli Bunting until later. If we had known how uncommon a visitor it is to Minnesota I would have taken some pictures of it. I had a 35mm Nikon available only 15 feet away. The bird was still alive, so I placed it in the boughs of a small spruce tree outside our window. One half hour later it was gone. **Steve W. Hansmann, Rt. 3, Box 2111, North Branch, MN 55056.**

**HENSLOW’S SPARROW IN RED LAKE PEATLAND** — A Henslow’s Sparrow was heard on May 22, 1982 by Niemi in a low shrub area approximately 27 km N of Washish, Beltrami County. The song was the distinct “hiccup”, two syllable song but distance to, and light on the singing bird (about 75 m) was inadequate for a visual identification. On June 16, Hanowski heard an individual singing about 2 km S of the first location. The two syllable song was very distinctive. The bird was located on the edge of a set sedge meadow adjacent to a black spruce island. The bird could be heard from a distance of more than 500 m. On June 19 the bird was heard in the same location and seen singing in a black spruce tree (2 m high) from a distance of 15 m with 7 X 50 power binoculars. The following notes were taken before consulting any field guides:

sparrow-like bird, slightly smaller than a Savannah Sparrow; short, thin tail; striped head, flattened on top; streaked breast and streaking on back but not on nape. This observation was made with sun behind bird, thus, color was difficult to distinguish. The bird sang constantly, with the same hiccupping, two syllable song and acted nervously when approached. The flight was short, erratic, and jerky with tail flips. According to Green and Janssen (1975) the Henslow's Sparrow is a summer resident in the southern half of the state and along the western margin to Mahnomen and Norman counties. We believe that this sighting is the northern-most observation for this species in the state. **JoAnn M. Hanowski and Gerald J. Niemi, Lake Superior Basin Studies Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth MN 55812.**

**BÉWICK'S WREN IN SHERBURNE COUNTY** — While checking a line of bluebird boxes near Zimmerman in Sherburne County on June 3, 1983, I was delighted to again hear the clear ringing song of the Bewick's Wren at the rural farm home where I first heard it more than 30 years ago. The species was present there and at a few other places nearby for 3-4 years in the early 50's. At that time they also nested in the area, fledging at least one brood from the twin box of a corn binder at the farm. At about the same time E.E. Bjuge, late Sherburne County Ag. Extension Agent, and I found another pair nesting in a cranny under the eaves of the 4-H Camp Building at the Sand Dunes State Forest. The 1983 bird appeared to be unmated, spending most of its time singing persistently from the top of a tall oak through June. We can only speculate about the coincidence and circumstances that brought this species to the same location out of its normal range after an apparent absence of 30 years. **Bob Bystrom, 6533 Lucia Lane N.E., Fridley, MN 55432.**

**GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN SURVEY - 1983**

Inventory of Greater Prairie-Chickens on Minnesota Booming Grounds during 1983 are as follows:

County	Total Males	Males/Ground
Becker	174	10.24
Cass	65	4.33
Chippewa (Introduced birds)	2	2.00
Clay	161	10.70
Hubbard	3	3.00
Mahnomen	316	14.36
Marshall	3	3.00
Norman	194	17.64
Ottertail	10	3.33
Pennington	5	5.00
Polk	232	8.92
Red Lake	14	7.00
Wadena	18	3.00
Wilkin	223	12.39

Yearly Total Males/Booming Ground and average Males/Booming Ground.

Year	Total Males	Avg. Males/Ground
1979	948	11.70
1980	1258	10.75
1981	1410	9.79
1982	1648	11.21
1983	1420	10.22

**AN ADULT MALE WESTERN Tanager IN BEMIDJI** — On May 17, 1983 I received a call from Diane Morris, curaturnaturalist at Bemidji State University, reporting a possible sighting of a Western Tanager near Bemidji, Don and Terry Bradel of 4650 Sherman Drive had contacted Diane; the bird was coming to orange-halves set out in their backyard for the Northern Orioles. Enroute to their house, located along the Mississippi River approximately one mile downstream from the outlet, I reviewed the field characteristics of a Western Tanager in Peterson's new Eastern Field Guide since I had never observed the species before. After arriving, I waited approximately 15 minutes before the bird flew up from some trees along the river to an orange 10-15 yards away from where I was sitting in a lawn chair. During the next half-hour I viewed the bird in excellent light. The size of a tanager, the bird was colored bright yellow with a black back, wings, and tail. The top of the head and the throat was orange-red. Two distinct



wingbars were noted, the proximal yellow and the distal white. Without difficulty I identified the bird as an adult male Western Tanager. It was not quite in full summer plumage; the head was still orange-red rather than bright red and the cheeks were not yet colored. An hour later I returned and photographed the bird with a 600 mm Vivitar lens. Nancy Noben, Caroline Voelkers, and Diane Morris were also able to observe the bird. Al Schmierer, the neighbor and an experienced birder later told me that he believed he may have seen the bird as early as May as it flew from his garden; the Bradel's last reported sighting the bird on May 18. **Jeffrey S. Palmer, 4650 Sherman Dr. Bemidji, MN.**

**PRAIRIE FALCON OBSERVATIONS** — With the publication of the most recent **Checklist of Minnesota Birds**, the Prairie Falcon becomes a regular species in the state. We would like to add two sightings in the Red River Valley to give additional support to the recent status change of this species. On September 18, 1982, we were birding in O'Leary Park in East Grand Forks which runs along the Red Lake River. A Prairie Falcon flew directly overhead just above tree-top level. The dark axillars extending toward the wrist were readily apparent with the naked eye. The bird had pointed wings, a brown-streaked breast, and glided over us for about 15 seconds, disappeared below the trees, then reappeared for a few seconds. On October 24, 1982, we were birding in the vicinity of the East Grand Forks sugar beet lagoons. As part of our routine inspection

of the area, we checked the cross bars on the utility poles running northwest to southeast on the northeast edge of the lagoons. We sighted a perched raptor with a slim profile which we then made efforts to approach. At a distance of 300 feet, we observed the bird thru a 20x scope. Field marks observed were the light brown moustachial streak on the side of the head, brown streaking on the breast with a brown back. As we attempted to move closer to take photographs, the bird flew away from us exhibiting pointed wings with a narrow tail and the characteristic falcon flight. After following the bird for some distance, we did observe the dark axillars. During the six years that we have lived in Grand Forks, we have become aware of the regular appearance of Prairie Falcons in the area in the fall. They have been seen from late July through November on a regular basis as well as occasional observations made in the winter. Ten to twenty sightings each Fall have been recording around Grand Forks, North Dakota, during the past six years. They are often observed sitting on cross bars of power line poles in the vicinity of the Grand Forks sewage lagoons. It seems reasonable that given very similar circumstances approximately five miles east in Minnesota, the species could occur as a regular Fall visitor there. **Sharon and David Lambeth 1909 - 20th Avenue South Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201.**

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN ROSEAU COUNTY** — On Saturday, June 11, 1983, at 10:20 a.m., we stopped to check out the sewage lagoons at Greenbush, Roseau County, MN. We spotted an unusual gull flying toward us from the west lagoon. It passed in front of us about 75 feet away. It landed on the water about 300 feet away and then flew away to the northeast. As it passed us we noticed that it had a black band over the back of its neck, and all-white head except for a black spot behind the eye, a pattern on its wings, an all-white underneath except for black wingtips and a distinctive inverted-V shaped black terminal band on its tail. While it was on the water we compared it to a Wilson's Phalarope and noted that it was twice as big. The total observation lasted only about 1½ to 2 minutes. Because of the black band over the back of the neck and the distinctively shaped black terminal tail band we suspected we had seen a Black-legged Kittiwake. I quickly wrote down notes on what we had seen then we looked in Robbins *Birds of North America* and Peterson *A Field to the Birds* to confirm our sighting. Both books showed the immature Black-legged Kittiwake as being the only gull with all of those field marks. At 6:00 that evening we returned. There were two Ring-billed Gulls and the kittiwake side by side on the dike as we drove up. For the next twenty minutes we watched the kittiwake fly back and forth across the far side of the west lagoon and occasionally return to fly right over our heads. We observed all of the field marks we had seen in the morning plus we saw that it had a black bill and black legs and feet. We discussed how white the wings were underneath but both bird books only showed the top view (the next night we were able to check Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* which stated "First-year: Clear white below...") **Dick & Gloria Wachtler, 17 Oakridge Dr., Birchwood, MN 55110.**

**BUFFLEHEAD AND DUCKLINGS FOUND IN CARVER PARK RESERVE** — On June 5, 1983, at 5:15 p.m. Dale Rock, naturalist at Lowry Nature Center in Carver Park Reserve, spotted a brood of ducklings with their mother on a small pond adjacent to a park road. Thinking they might be Wood Ducks and wanting a closer look, Rock trained his Bushnell 10X50 binoculars on the birds which had just emerged from the cattail edge of the pond. The ducklings, eight or nine in number, were patterned black and white instead of the brown and yellow that Rock expected. The female duck was quite small, dark in color, had a short dark bill which definitely was not a merganser bill shape, high forehead and a white patch on the cheek below and behind the eye. The white patch

was surrounded by the dark head feathers and was not an eye ring so the bird was thus separated from Ruddy Duck, Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser, all of which have nested in Carver Park. On the morning of June 7, at 8:15 a.m. Rock again spotted the duck family on the same pond. They were about 200 feet away. The sun was behind the observer and shining "full-face" on the ducks, ideal light conditions for excellent viewing. Checking Robbins' **Birds of North America**, Rock, who is an exceptionally careful observer, determined the duck to be a Bufflehead. He was surprised at his sighting because he knew Buffleheads are not known to nest in the area. In fact, the only other nesting record for the state is from Marshall County. At 2:30 p.m. on June 7, Rock and Kathy Heidel, also a naturalist in Carver Park Reserve, went to the pond to look at the Bufflehead family. At this time only the nine ducklings could be seen. Using Leitz Trinovoid 8X40 binoculars, Heidel determined that the ducklings looked like little swimming chickadees. The ducklings were feeding in a tight group, diving underwater, staying under for three to four seconds and often popping up in places two to three feet away from where they went down. They had white spots on their blackish backs and some of the spots seemed to form a patchy line near the wings. Heidel estimates that the ducklings were up to a week old. After watching for about ten minutes, Heidel and Rock returned to Lowry Nature Center to check more references. The female matched the pictures in both Robbins' **Birds of North America** and the new Peterson **Field Guide to the Birds**. The ducklings fit the description for Buffleheads in Harrison's **Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds**. Range and notes on nesting were checked in Green and Janssen's **Minnesota Birds** and a call was placed to Bob Janssen regarding the significance of the observations. Two photographers and naturalist Rock attempted to locate and photograph the duck family on June 8, 1983, without success. The ducks have not been seen in that Carver Park pond since June 7. However, there are two larger lakes in proximity to the pond and the ducks may have walked to those wet areas. Heidel and Rock have not been able to make further sightings. **Kathy Heidel, Naturalist, Hennepin County Park Reserve District, 7025 County Road 11, Excelsior, MN 55331.**

**ANOTHER SUMMER TANAGER IN LYON COUNTY** — Because we had sighted a male Summer Tanager in our yard on May 7, 1982 we were hoping we might see him again. On May 18, 1983 in the evening my husband sighted a yellowish green bird. In looking through my book we hopefully thought it must be the female Summer Tanager. It was a dull rainy evening so we couldn't make a definite identification. In the morning after seeing it again we decided to call a few of our friends to get their opinions. Netter Holm, Elaine Bicek and Barb Purves also got excited on seeing it. Henry Kyllingstad arrived and immediately identified it as a female Summer Tanager which pleased all of us. The bird stayed three days during which we sighted it several times feeding on oranges we had put out for our orioles. **Marge and Larry Fischer RR 1 Tracy, MN.**

**HOODED WARBLER IN CROW WING COUNTY** — On May 24, 1983 while picking up waves of passing warblers, a Hooded Warbler was seen and heard over a half-hour period in central Crow Wing County. The area where the bird was seen was a logged over Aspen stand with a few residual hard woods and pine. With the dense five year old under story of Aspen sprouts, the habitat was ideal for the Nashville, Mourning and Wilson's Warblers, and Northern Yellowthroats which had been identified. As a relative beginner I failed to note the rarity of the Hooded Warbler to central Minnesota. A week later on May 31 my father and I again found the warbler singing in the same area. The male bird was singing all morning and appeared to begin feeding activity in low



underbrush during afternoon and evening hours. After consulting **Minnesota Birds** by Green and Janssen, the local bird club was alerted to this unusual find. Over the next couple of weeks others observed the bird in the same locality and photographs were attempted. Although it is not known if the bird left the area the male diminished singing activity after about three weeks. A female was never observed but the dense understorey made low level observation most difficult. The last observation of the male was a fleeting glimpse on June 18. **Bill Brown, Jr., Star Rt., Box 164, Brainerd, MN 56401.**

**LAUGHING GULL SEEN ON LAKE PEPIN** — On Thursday June 9, 1983, a casual trip was made through Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County, to look for Prothonotary Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Cerulean Warblers. While in the area I hiked out to Sand Point to look for any lingering shore birds. While on the point, a black-headed gull flew toward me at about 50 feet out from the South. Careful observation was made to pick out the wing pattern. After clearly noting the upper wing was solid with black tips on the adult bird, I consulted by Peterson's guide to verify the identification of the Laughing Gull. As I had previously observed Laughing Gulls on the Gulf Coast of Texas, it was not a difficult identification. As the bird flew north away from me, I noted three other gull-like birds sitting on a sand bar about a quarter of a mile north. My 8x35 binoculars did not have the power or resolution to pick out any distinguishing marks on the other birds. Upon returning to the Brainerd area I reported my findings to Joe Blanich. The next day Terry Savaloja and others verified the identification of as many as four different Laughing Gulls from Frontenac to Lake City. **William L. Brown, Sr., Star Route, Box 164, Brainerd, MN 56401.**

**SUB-ADULT LAUGHING GULL AT SANDPOINT, FRONTENAC,** — On June 15, 1983 Gary Simonsen and I drove down to Frontenac, Goodhue County to see if we could view the adult Laughing Gull that had been seen by Bill Brown, Jr. (see report above) on June 9 and by a number of other observers since that time. When Ray Glassel saw the adult Laughing Gull on June 14, he thought he had seen another possible Laughing Gull, but this bird was in a sub-adult plumage. Gary and I walked out to the point, arriving about 5:45 p.m. at the end of the point. There were five gulls present near the tip of the point, three adult Ring-billed Gulls, one first year Herring Gull and the last bird was eventually identified as a sub-adult Laughing Gull. Upon first viewing the bird I thought there was a possibility this bird might be a Black-headed Gull. I am not familiar with that species and we had no field guides with us, so Gary and I made careful observations and mental notes on this bird for a period of 45 minutes. We observed the bird from distances of 50 yards to 25 feet and both at rest and in flight. The following notes were written approximately 20 minutes after the last observation: **Size** —  $\frac{3}{5}$  that of Ring-billed Gull by direct side by side comparison. **Bill** — dark with reddish cast especially lower mandible, 80% length of head. Slightly smaller than that of Ring-billed. Appeared a little longer but more narrow, slight droop at tip, more pointed. **Head** — speckled, mottled, forming a cap, light on forehead and nape. White eye-ring, broken front and back. Eye-dark. **Body** — Mantle, gray including wing coverts, contrasting with black primaries when at rest. Wings extended beyond tail. The bird lifted its wings when at rest, showing an all white tail. The breast, belly and under tail coverts were white. **Legs** — dark gray, tinge of red or pinkish. The bird took to the air for about 5-10 seconds while under observation and then returned to the ground. While in flight we noted that the wings from above were gray (secondaries) and the primaries were a contrasting black with no white. From underneath the primaries were black and the secondaries were a grayish white. The tail was white from underneath, with no hint of a band. When Gary and I returned to the car we looked up gulls in the field guides and immediately elimi-

nated the Black-headed Gull because of a lack of white in the primaries, which is present in all plumages of the Black-headed Gull. We also eliminated the Franklin's Gull because of size and shape of the bill and lack of any white spotting in the primaries. Upon returning home I checked P.J. Grant, **Gulls, A Guide To Identification** and found a likeness to the bird we had seen (page 192), a first-summer Laughing Gull. The only problem is that a first summer Laughing Gull has a dark tail with a band, the breast is somewhat mottled, and the primaries do not contrast with the secondaries as much as the bird we viewed. It was my conclusion that the bird was mostly in adult summer plumage especially in the body, wings and tail. The head was still in the winter plumage, not fully moulted to adult. A difficult but extremely interesting bird to identify. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

#### **WORM-EATING WARBLERS IN BROWN AND BLUE EARTH COUNTIES —**

On May 11, 1983 a Worm-eating Warbler was seen at Flandreau State Park, New Ulm, Brown County. Observed with binoculars under ideal conditions - noontime, in full or partial sunlight. It fed on north slope of Cottonwood River Valley picking under leaves mostly in and around small plants, rarely on low branches. Perched often on dead elm debris. This area formerly covered with mature trees, but now has more low growth due to the loss of the elms. Bird usually called a series of three notes (DZT). First view was broadside and reminded me a bit of a faded immature Mourning Warbler, then it turned its head and showed the tan and dark brown stripes along the full length of its head. I immediately knew it was a Worm-eating. About length of Mourning Warbler but slimmer. Pinkish legs. Thin, straight bill — upper mandible darker horn color and lower was lightly orangish-tan. Olive back and tail — no wing bars. Bottom is lighter than back, but generally same color fading into grayish rear. Tan on throat as well as belly. Slightly yellowish over center of breast. Bottom of tail was plain grayish tan. I observed it for a half-hour. I saw a singing bird a mile upstream from this spot on May 20, 1956. **Jack A. Sprenger, 615 N. Jefferson St., New Ulm, MN 56073.**

I observed a Worm-eating Warbler at Minneopa State Park, five miles east of Mankato, Blue Earth Co., MN on May 17, 1983. The individual was in a wave of warblers which included many Tennessee Warblers. Its trill-like song (with which I was unfamiliar) first attracted my attention. The brownish back and somewhat tannish-breast with the dark and light head stripes identified it as a Worm-eating Warbler. It was observed from 20 to 25 feet with 8x40 binoculars. **Merrill Frydendall, 136 Swiss, Mankato, MN 56601.**

**WHITE-EYED VIREO IN RAMSEY COUNTY —** On June 4, 1983 after locating the Yellow-breasted Chat along Gramsie Road in Ramsey County, I looked over what I thought to be good flycatcher habitat. The area was comprised of willow scrub in standing water with a few small cottonwoods near the road. The first movement I noted turned out to a vireo a hundred feet away on the edge of the willows. I observed the yellowish sides, olive green back and prominent wing bars. The bird worked its way toward me and eventually flew up into one of the cottonwoods. Yellow spectacles and white throat contrasting with the grayer breast were evident. Keeping in mind the song, which was given approximately 15 times per minute almost constantly throughout the observation, I walked back to my car to compare book to bird. All details concurred with that of the White-eyed Vireo, but due to it being overcast and the birds continual flitting, I hadn't seen the "white eye". At this time I met Greg Piefila who had come to see the chat. With renewed interest we tracked down the bird by its continued calling. The off-white eye with large dark iris was seen clearly from 20 feet at eye level. I used 7x25

binoculars and 20x to 45x spotting scope. Gary Swanson, Rt. 3, Box 166D, Buffalo, MN 55313. Editors Note: See *The Loon* 55:90-91 for a record of a White-eyed Vireo in Roseville, Ramsey County on June 5, 1983. It is possible that the above bird moved to another area in Ramsey County, or could there have been more than one White-eyed Vireo in Ramsey County in early June?

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK NEST IN MAPLEWOOD** — A pair of Broad-winged Hawks nested at Maplewood Nature Center, Ramsey County this summer (1983). The nature center is a small 40 acre preserve operated by the city of Maplewood and is located in the heart of suburbia. The pair, first observed mating in early May, built a nest of twigs and green leaves about 25 feet up in the fork of a Boxelder tree. The nest tree stands beside a trail and is 100 feet from a small woodland pond. The adults defended the area in two ways. In a distracting maneuver, the adult sitting on the nest would fly silently from the nest to a distant tree, where it would then call repeatedly. If this didn't discourage the hiker, the adult would then fly towards the intruder and swoop down repeatedly while calling loudly. Repeated passes were made until the intruder was well out of the area. Despite being on a well-used trail, the nesting was successful. Two downy white young were observed in the nest by mid-July, and by the end of the month the now feathered young were seen sitting on nearby branches of the nest tree. On August 2, the immatures were flying to trees 30 feet distant. When checked on August 15, the nest was found to be abandoned. Judith A. Horsnell, Naturalist, Maplewood Nature Center, 2659 East Seventh St., Maplewood, MN 55119.

**FOURTH MINNESOTA RECORD OF ARCTIC TERN** — At the Port Terminal in Duluth from May 29 until June 2, 1983, as many as four Arctic Terns were present and were seen by many observers. Terry Savaloja first spotted at least two of these terns loafing in the company of several Common Terns in an open sandy area at the southeast corner of the Port Terminal on the evening of May 29. Because it was getting dark at the time, Terry was unsure how many Arctics were present, but on the next day four Arctics were definitely present here standing together at various times of the day. Most of the time only one or two were found by the various observers who birded here on the 30th, and a few observers could find no Arctics only to learn later that one or more would return to the Port Terminal a few minutes later. The last sighting was June 2 of a single Arctic standing in the same area in the company of Common Terns, five Forster's Terns (a relatively rare species for Duluth), and a Black Tern. Identification was based on the following field marks: bill color was uniformly dark red from base to tip, in some lights the red color appeared darker than the Common's orange-red bill (this field mark must be used with caution since some Commons have only a slight black tip which is hard to see); in direct comparison with Common Terns, Arctics' bills were shorter, thinner (especially at the base), and of more uniform thickness (or thinness); at rest legs obviously shorter than Common Tern (this feature not always visible, but when seen in direct comparison with Commons it was diagnostic); at rest tail projected beyond wing tips (tail and wing tips even in Common Tern — however, note that Forster's tail also projects beyond wing tips like the Arctic); in favorable light the Arctics were grayish on the underparts so that these terns appeared uniform gray above and below except for a narrow whitish line between the black cap and the gray throat/neck (this is another mark that must be used with caution since some Commons in flight or in poor light can appear the same way); and once in flight an Arctic gave a soft, piping whistling note of a single syllable, unlike any of the Common Tern's call notes. Neither I or any other observers were able to see any of the Arctics well enough in flight to see this species' different wing markings (more translucent primaries, narrower black edge to underside of primaries, more uniform color of upper wing surface). Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.

**RUFF AT THE ALBANY SEWAGE PONDS** — On May 16, 1983 Paul Egeland and I spotted a female or immature male Ruff at the Albany sewage ponds. Since this was the M.O.U. spring field trip weekend, several other birders were also present and also got to see the bird. It was first spotted as it happened to fly with some other shorebirds from one shore to another of one of the ponds: the bird was relatively large (we guessed about Greater Yellowlegs-sized), brownish overall on the upperparts (not grayish like a yellowlegs), with an obvious brown breast, and long white ovals on the sides of the tail (Pectorals, peeps and other shorebirds also have white sides to their tails, but the white ovals on this bird were larger and more obvious). After the Ruff landed, we could also see its bright orange legs, pale base to its dark-tipped bill, and brown breast streaking extending farther down on the underparts than on the Pectoral — the breast also appeared darker than a Pectoral and appeared to be slightly puffed out at times, suggesting, along with its overall size, that this was an immature male rather than a female. While a Ruff in this plumage may not be as obvious as a breeding-plumaged male, it is still a distinctive bird: its slimmer, longer-necker, more upright profile and posture suggest yellowlegs, but its brown breast and upperparts are more like a Pectoral. It is interesting to note that no fewer than six Ruffs were found in Minnesota records prior to 1983. Besides the bird at Albany, two were found the same day at the Sartell sewage ponds by Nestor Hiemenz (three Ruffs in the same county on the same day!), a breeding-plumaged male was found by Jeff Newman April 29 at Island Lake near Duluth and it was seen and photographed by many through May 1, and Henry Kyllingstad reported two female or immature Ruffs at Marshall, Lyon Co. on May 20. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**AN IBIS AT THE CROOKSTON SEWAGE PONDS** — While doing our annual Big Day May 21, 1983, Paul Egeland, Terry Savaloja, Henry Kyllingstad and I found an ibis (*Plegadis*, sp.) at the Crookston sewage ponds in Polk County. The ibis was hidden in some tall grass at the edge of one of the ponds and was not seen until it flushed and flew as we walked by. My first thought that this blackish-brown heron was a Green-backed Heron (since it flew directly away from us and its bill was not visible), but it was too large and lacked the Green-backed's orange legs and feet. When the bird was about 50 feet away it turned showing its long decurved bill, and the four of us simultaneously called it an ibis. It continued to fly over the sewage ponds in wide circles for a few minutes, and we noted the legs projecting beyond the tail and its fast, steady flapping interrupted occasionally by glides. However, we were never able to determine the color of the bill, lores or legs, and three of us were unable to see if there was any white on the face; just after the ibis took off, however, Paul clearly saw some white at the base of the bill suggesting strongly this was a White-faced, rather than a Glossy Ibis (the small amount of white on the Glossy's face would probably not have been as visible in flight some 50 feet away). Eventually the ibis flew out of sight towards the north and was not seen again. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

# Minnesota Bird Distribution (Part I)

Robert B. Janssen

On the following pages are maps of Minnesota indicating the present known distribution of each Minnesota bird species by county. The number after each species name indicates how many of the state's 87 counties in which the species has been recorded.

These maps have been compiled from many different sources including Green and Janssen, "*Minnesota Birds: Where, When and How Many*," all issues of "*The Flicker/Loon*" plus many county lists from individuals including all of those listed under the Minnesota 200 County Club. Data used is generally but not exclusively from 1950 to the present.

These maps are not intended to be the final word on present day Minnesota bird distribution. In fact, this is the reason why the maps are being published so that you, the reader of *The Loon*, can contribute any missing county records that have never been published. Please send any additions to these maps to Robert B. Janssen, Editor, giving species name, date and county location. Any additional records of casual or accidental species(\*) must be documented with written details and cleared through the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee.

These 16 species have been recorded in every county in Minnesota and are not mapped on the following pages:

Pied-billed Grebe,  
Great Blue Heron,  
Wood Duck,  
Green-winged Teal,  
Mallard,  
Northern Pintail,  
Blue-winged Teal,  
American Wigeon,

Redhead,  
Ring-necked Duck,  
Lesser Scaup,  
Common Goldeneye,  
Bufflehead,  
Northern Harrier,  
Red-tailed Hawk,  
American Kestrel.

Also, maps are not included for the following eight species which are only needed for one or two counties as indicated:

Horned Grebe — Redwood, Wilkin  
Double-crested Cormorant — Fillmore  
Canada Goose — Koochiching  
Northern Shoveler — Koochiching  
Canvasback — Koochiching, Red Lake  
Common Merganser — Norman, Red Lake  
Ruddy Duck — Koochiching  
Broad-winged Hawk — Cottonwood, Wilkin

The following publication schedule will be followed in *The Loon* for the total 395 Minnesota species:

Red-throated Loon thru Northern Bobwhite — Fall 1983 (Part 1)  
Yellow Rail thru Belted Kingfisher — Winter 1983 (Part 2)  
Lewis' Woodpecker thru Red-eyed Vireo — Spring 1984 (Part 3)  
Blue-winged Warbler thru House Sparrow — Summer 1984 (Part 4)



**Red-throated Loon — 9**



**\*Arctic Loon — 7**



**Common Loon — 81**



**\*Yellow-billed Loon — 3**





**Red-necked Grebe — 60**



**Eared Grebe — 59**



**Western Grebe — 67**



**American White Pelican — 77**



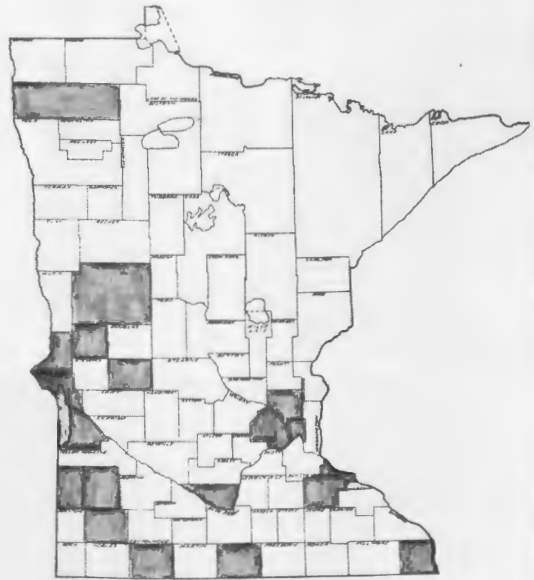
**American Bittern — 82**



**Least Bittern — 58**



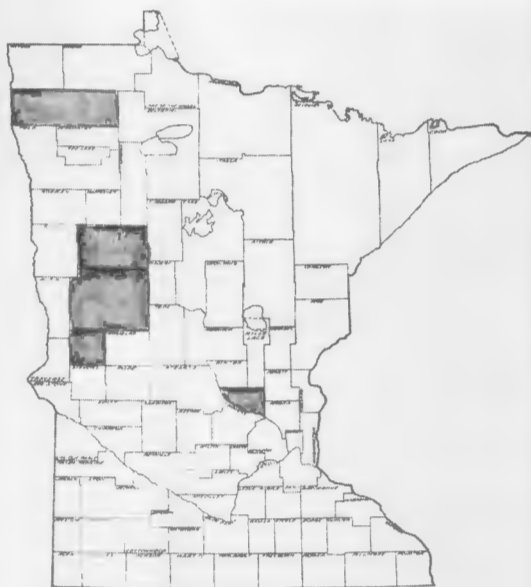
**Great Egret — 74**



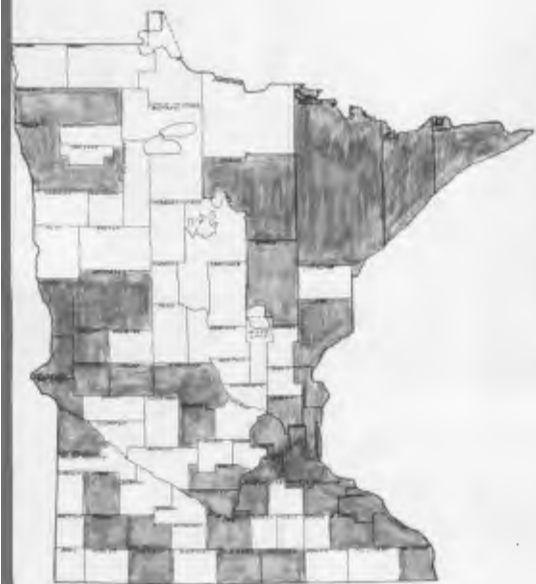
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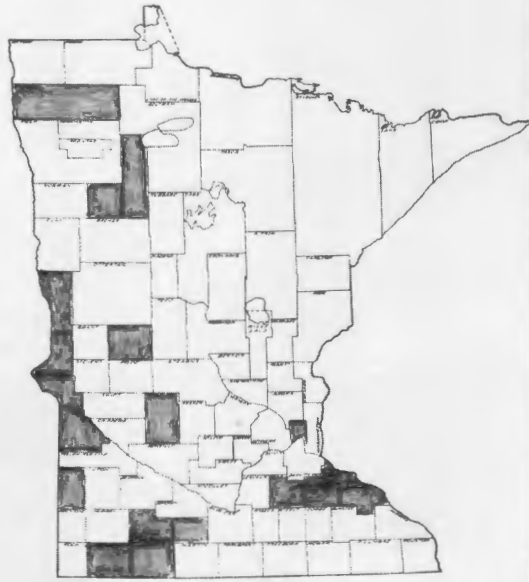
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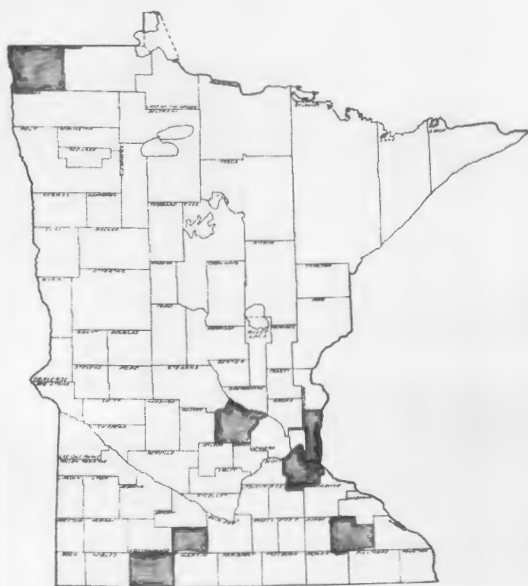
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**Greater White-fronted Goose — 47**



**Snow Goose — 84**



**\*Ross' Goose — 7**



**\*Brant — 6**





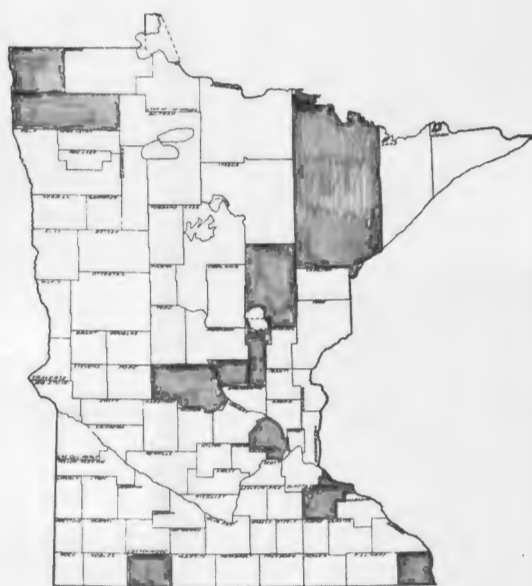
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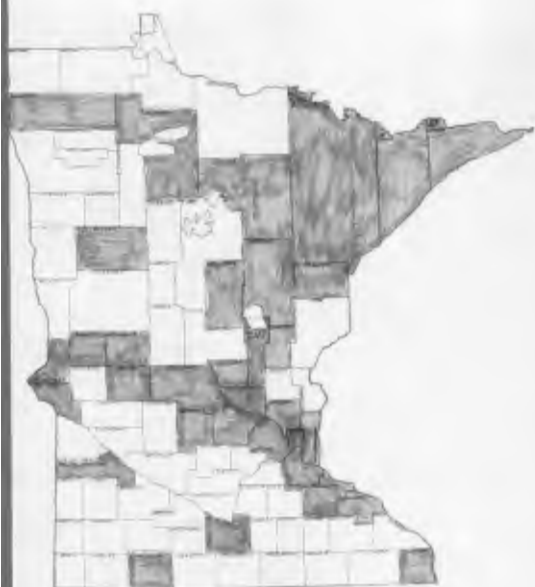
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**\*King Eider — 6**



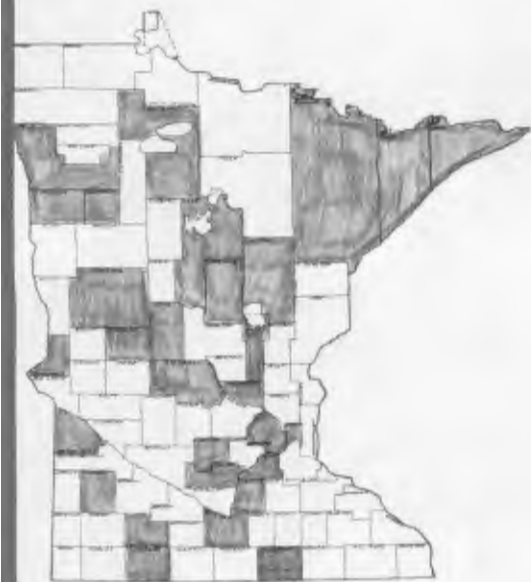
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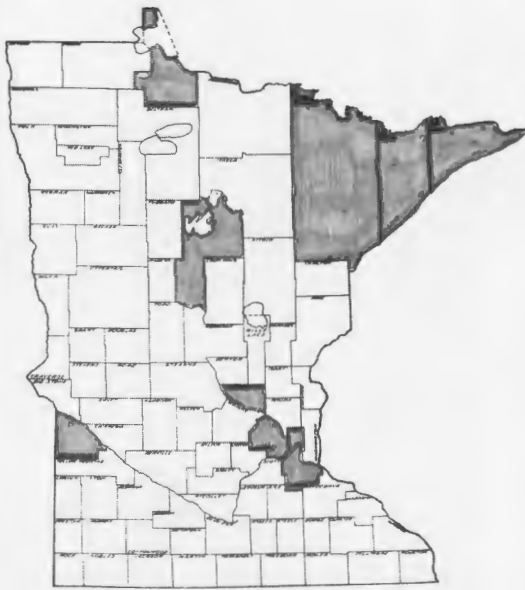
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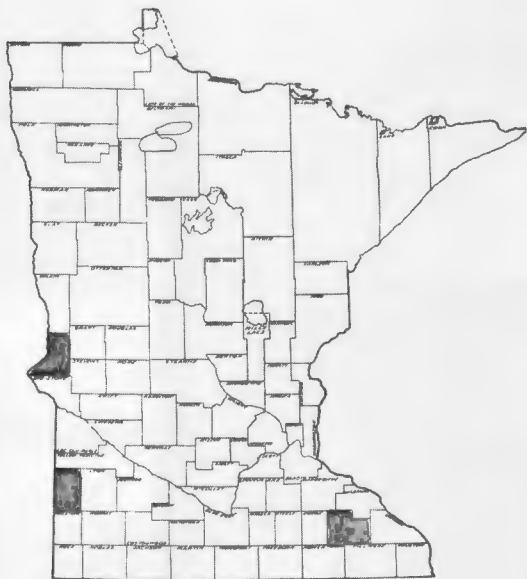
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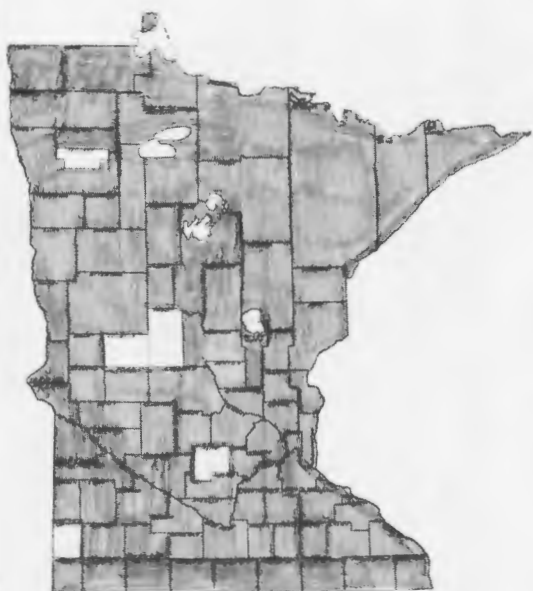
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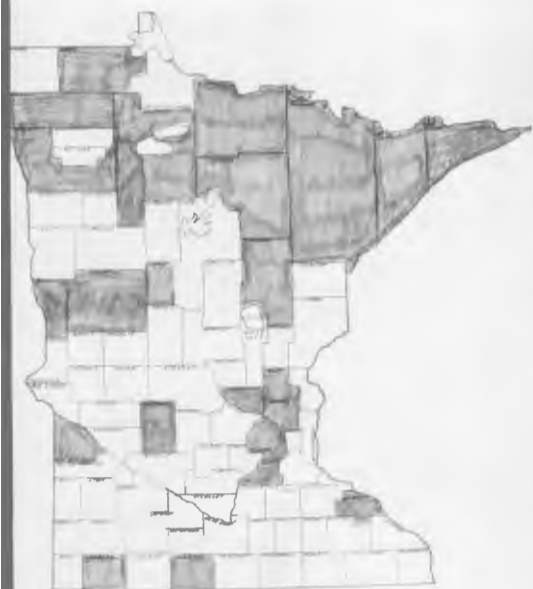
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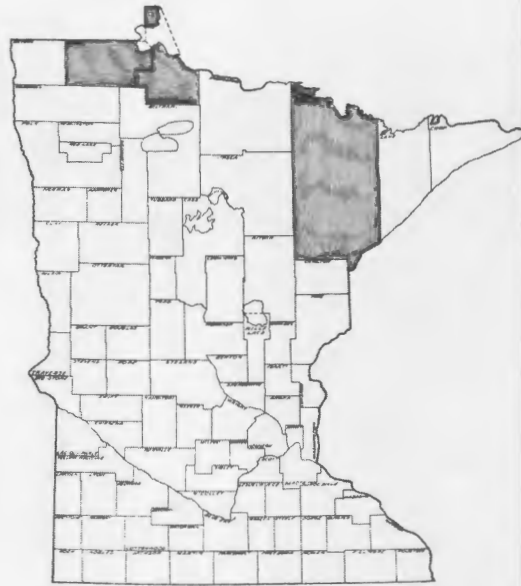
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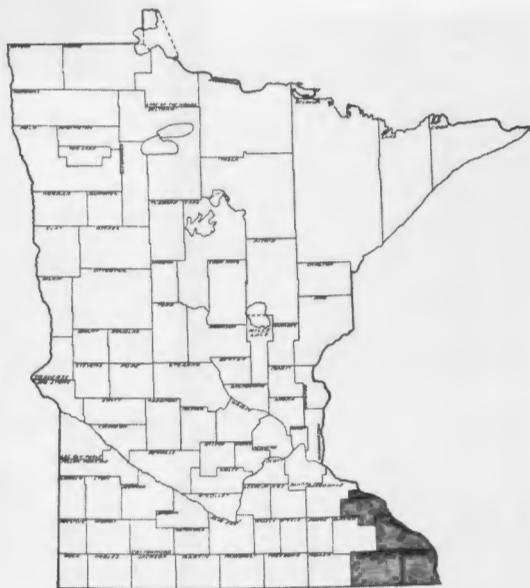
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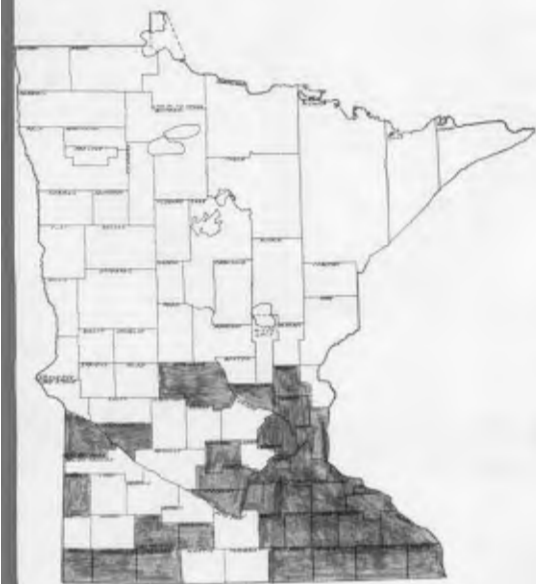
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**0 - Previous**



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## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

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

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



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

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

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

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*The*  
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WINTER 1983

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Andy Buggs

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

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send \$10.00 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$12.50 yearly; Supporting \$15.00 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$12.50 yearly. All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$2.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 postage paid). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to the treasurer.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:** Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). The editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details.

"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Bette Bell, 5868 Pioneer Rd. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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# A NORTHERN WHEATEAR SIGHTED IN WINONA COUNTY

Andy Buggs

The name Northern Wheatear is one that is not a household word among most birders and outdoorsmen. However, a sighting of such a bird stirs the imagination and thrills one greatly — if you happen to be an avid birder.

So goes our experience on 15 May 1982, for on that day four of us, Will and Betty Snyder, my wife, Joyce and myself were on our way up river from Winona to do some serious birding and to enjoy a pleasant late spring day.

As we meandered up river, we stopped here and there to enjoy the scenery and glass bird subjects at closer distances.

In a valley near Whitman Dam and below John Latsch Park in Winona County, we stopped, binocs in hand, to see if any new species were around to add to our growing yearly list. Almost instantly we heard a very unusual call or song of a bird. All of us stopped to listen more intently and were rewarded with several repeat songs — each two or three notes with no pattern, very loud. Again, the same call — several loud notes or more at a time, repeated again and again. We advanced knowing not what to expect. None of us had heard this call or song before.

On the edge of the woods in a lightly brushy area we soon spotted the subject, sitting on a low branch of a medium sized birch tree. It was in plain sight and very well lighted. We were less than (50) fifty feet from the bird at all times and maybe as close as twenty-five or thirty-five (25-35) feet at other times.

Our first impression was that of a sparrow-sized bird, brownish above (back), tan or pinkish (pale burnt sienna) breast and below area, with a distinct **white rump** patch — this was eye catching and outstanding.

On closer look with the binocs, (I had them on the bird the entire viewing time up to 10 minutes) I saw a bold black band on the end of the tail. It also had white

edges. After researching many bird books, the black area on the tail is described as an inverted "T" design.

Betty and Joyce continued to observe visually as I described in detail using my Swift Audubon Mark II 8.5x44 Model 804 binocs, the markings of the bird that sat serenely in very good observational poses, from time to time flitting to a new branch, but always in full view.

We knew we had a very unusual species but unaware that it might be a Minnesota record.

As we continued to view the bird in good light and most times out in the open, a light breeze fanned the balmy late spring air.

When the bird changed positions, a slender bill, a little heavier than a warblers (thicker) was noticeable. The bird had dark eyes and a face patch somewhat darker than the surrounding area of the head. The back was a brownish color, tan and burnt sienna mixed colored breast (sort of pinkish cast) and the striking totally different tail color and pattern. A bold white rump patch, black and white tail with a black terminal band. This tail color was white along the edges and black down the center and with a black terminal band — an inverted "T" design best describes the tail color assembly.

This observation is the most unusual and striking that I have seen in 50 years of birding, nature observation, and wildlife art. As an active wildlife artist this bird held real potential as a subject for a future painting.

Please see the hastily drawn, but detailed field sketches; they visually tell our story that we so vividly had seen.

Highlights of our most unusual sighting are:

1. Sparrow sized bird.
2. Brownish back color and other areas.
3. Tan and burnt sienna mixed breast color (pinkish cast).

Saw Bird  
Below John Bush Park + Whitman Dam  
area —

Spurred swift bird  
Brimish above (Back) Breast + below

tan or pinkish (Scimitar Pale) white rump patch — outstanding  
Black Band on tail plus black + white  
edges of rump + tail.

Bill - slender - a little  
heavier than warbler  
(thicker)

Dark eye  
face patch a  
little darker than  
surrounding area,



back -  
Brownish  
color

tan or tan  
burnt scimitar mixed  
Breast (sort of pinkish)

white  
rump!  
tail.

All field birds  
when we got  
home —

Black terminal  
Band  
White along  
edges of tail.

Field notes taken by Andy Buggs on 15 May 1982 on sighting of a Northern Wheatear



4. Black and white tail color having an inverted "T" shape with distinct black terminal tail band, (BEST field mark).

5. Rather long wings.

6. Somewhat nervous character.

We field checked our bird books at the car and upon returning home I researched many notable bird books including the following:

1. A Guide to Field Identification of North American Birds by Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun and Herbert S. Zim.

2. A Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger Torrey Peterson.

3. The Audubon Society — Field Guide to North American Birds.

I also refined my notes about the bird and finalized the sketches made in the field.

In conclusion, and without a doubt, we confirmed our new bird find as being an unbelievable visitor: **A Northern Wheatear.**

**Rt. 1, Box 243, Minnesota City, MN 55959**

## TROPICAL DEFORESTATION AND NORTH AMERICAN MIGRANT BIRDS

Moist climax forest covers 5 million square km, or 53.5 percent of Central and South America, and comprises nearly half of all the tropical moist forest in the world. In addition, these neotropical forests contain approximately one-tenth of all species (both plant and animal) on earth.

These forests lie mostly, but not exclusively, in developing nations, and there are great pressures to exploit these resources based upon short term benefit analysis. Among the primary factors affecting these forests, conversion by local farmers using slash and burn techniques accounts for 20-50,000 square km annually. Timbering, particularly along waterways, accounted for 20 million cubic meters of hardwood in 1973, and is projected to account for up to 118 million cubic meters by the year 2000. Even when only particular trees are culled from a forest, the actual logging procedure does considerable damage to about one-half of the remaining trees. Clearing for cattle raising accounted for 80,000 square km in Brasil alone between 1966 and 1978. As a consequence of these various factors, these forests are disappearing at a rate of 1-2 percent annually, so that by the year 2000 one-half to two-thirds of existing neotropical forests will be lost, and with them perhaps 3-5 percent of all the world's plant and animal species (Lovejoy 1980).

Of the 650 species composing the avifauna of the contiguous United States, 332 or 51 percent migrate annually to the neotropics. Of these, 107 species live primarily in the neotropical forests during our winter. Approximately 230 species actually migrate through them, spending one-half to two-thirds of their life cycle in the neotropics.

The traditional view has been that migratory, forest passerines use secondary vegetation on their wintering grounds and would not be particularly affected by tropical deforestation, but it has become increasingly apparent that the story is far more complex (Keast and Morton 1980). Indeed, our migratory birds, even the migratory forest passerines, can

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hardly be treated as a unit, except in the sense that they all migrate. Some species, such as the Kentucky Warbler, depend very much on mature tropical forest. Others, such as the Kirtland's Warbler, are scrub habitat birds; yet others move from habitat to habitat. It is clear in any case that those which use forest habitat or secondary vegetation will be affected by extensive conversion of the landscape to pasture.

Evidence indicates that even just-logged forests can only sustain 60 percent of their species (Rappole, Morton and Lovejoy 1981). This combined with the high annual rate of deforestation in the neotropics would seem to presage an imminent crisis for our North American migrant birds, particularly for those wintering in Central America and northern South America (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Deforestation rates in several Latin American countries**

Country	Total land area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Present forest cover (km <sup>2</sup> )	Deforestation rates/year	
			Sommer (1976)	Myers (1980) or others
Mexico	1,963,000	400,000	—	16,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Honduras	112,000	70,000	—	—
Guatemala	109,000	53,000	—	1,325 km <sup>2</sup>
El Salvador	21,300	2,600	—	—
Nicaragua	148,000	64,000	—	1-2,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Costa Rica	49,000	15,000	60,000 km <sup>2</sup>	300-500 km <sup>2</sup> but now less
Panama	75,500	30,000	—	—
Columbia	1,138,000	364,000	250,000 km <sup>2</sup>	22,000 km <sup>2</sup> (1966-72) 14,600 km <sup>2</sup> (1972-75) 5,000 km <sup>2</sup> (1975-76)
Venezuela	916,000	352,000	—	—
Ecuador	300,000	180,000	50,000 km <sup>2</sup>	—

Yet curiously, nationwide breeding bird censuses do not show as many declines as one might expect (Robbins, pers. comm.); indeed censuses of some bird species show increases. Since these censuses only date to 1966, it is possible that populations of birds such as Parulids may have been low at that time, due to pesticide impact on the environment, but are usually high today because of a major bulge in food availability from spruce budworm outbreaks.

A number of initiatives have been taken on the tropical deforestation issue. The State Department held a meeting in June 1978, ultimately resulting in the production of a report by the Interagency Task Force on Tropical Deforestation, and Presidential notice in the Environmental Message of 1980. The United Nations Environment Program held an experts' meeting on the topic in February 1980. In 1981 World Wildlife Fund-U.S. has declared its intention to develop a program to address this problem, and in the past several months has even added extra staff to work on this issue.

The Western Hemisphere Convention may be a useful instrument to promote hemispheric cooperation in protecting our migrants and the forest vegetation on which they depend, even though the neotropical forest/migratory bird relationship is as yet imprecisely known. Fundamental to that potential is the recognition that, while from a U.S. view they can be thought of as U.S. migrants, this is really a concern about birds of Latin America and the Caribbean which just happen to spend a few months for breeding purposes in North America. They play important roles in the neotropical forest communities, aiding in pollination and dispersal of a number of plant species. These migrants



play important ecological roles at both ends of their journeys and can only do so when the full extent of their annual cycles is secure. Thomas E. Lovejoy, World Wildlife Fund, 1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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## THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

Minnesota Life Lists grew at a much slower pace than during 1982. It just wasn't the year for rarities. It wasn't until November that some of us added a Minnesota Lifer when the Groove-billed Ani showed up in Brown County. Kim Eckert took over undisputed first place with the addition of the Ross' Goose. Here are the totals as of December 31, 1983.

Kim Eckert .....	356	Evelyn Stanley .....	322
Ray Glassel .....	355	Oscar Johnson .....	322
Bob Janssen .....	355	Ruth Andberg .....	318
Terry Savaloja .....	348	Allison Bolduc .....	318
William Pieper .....	345	Wally Jiracek .....	314
Paul Egeland .....	345	Brother Theodore Voelker .....	310
Richard Ruhme .....	344	Warren Nelson .....	310
William Litkey .....	340	Jon Peterson .....	310
Jo Blanich .....	339	Douglas Campbell .....	309
Elizabeth Campbell .....	338	Henry Kyllingstad .....	309
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Ron Huber .....	337	Diane Millard .....	309
Karol Gresser .....	333	Nestor Hiemenz .....	309
Don Bolduc .....	332	Betty Campbell .....	307
Jerry Gresser .....	327	Byron Bratlie .....	306
Steve Millard .....	324	Violet Lender .....	303
Richard Wachtler .....	323	Josephine Herz .....	301
Gloria Wachtler .....	323	Ken LaFond .....	300

# NEWLY DISCOVERED RING-BILLED GULL COLONIES IN LAKE OF THE WOODS

John P. Ryder, P. Lynn Ryder and Beatrice Termaat

The nesting population of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) in Canada has an apparent east-west disjunct distribution (Godfrey 1966). The western component extends east from British Columbia (Merilees 1974) to Lake Manitoba. These birds migrate primarily south and south west resulting in a postbreeding distribution along the Pacific Coast (Vermeer 1970) and Gulf Coast (C.S. Houston, Pers. comm.). The eastern segment nests mostly on small islands in the Great Lakes, as far west as Black Bay in northern Lake Superior. The range extends northeast along the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the east coast of Labrador (Southern 1980). Breeding colonies have also been reported at the southern tip of James Bay (Goodwin 1974). Individuals of this eastern population migrate south and southeast to the Atlantic Coast and the Florida Peninsula (Southern 1980). Gulls within these two populations seldom mix on the breeding grounds. Southern and Moore (1974) calculated that only 47 (0.3% of 15,054) banded Ring-billed Gulls, that were recovered to August 1970, had moved between the eastern and western segments. Of these, 94% were young, presumably non-breeding birds.

The hiatus between the western and eastern populations is between Lake Manitoba on the west and Lake Superior on the east. No records of Ring-billed Gulls were known in this area until 1981 when Hirsch (1982) and her colleagues discovered two colonies on the United States side of Lake of the Woods. One colony of 640 pairs was found on Fourblock Island (49°16'N,

94°53'W) and the other, containing 2255 pairs, was located on Techout Island (49°16'N, 94°52'W).

Stimulated by Hirsch's report, on 14 June 1982 we surveyed by air the area west of Dryden, Ontario and the southern part of the Lake of the Woods on the Canadian side of the border to determine whether Ring-billed Gulls nested in Canada within the region that was considered the area of separation of the eastern and western nesting populations. We used a Cessna 180 aircraft equipped with floats and three observers plus the pilot. Whenever a colony of gulls was observed, the normal survey altitude of approximately 250 m was reduced to 60 m. This enabled us to identify the birds and estimate their numbers, as well as determine whether they were nesting. Depending on water conditions, landing attempts were made at some colony sites.

We located two previously unreported Ring-billed Gull colonies in the lake. One colony, with an estimated 500 nesting pairs, was on an unnamed island situated at 49°09'N, 94°27'W, directly east of the large Basil Island. The nesting island is a bare granite rock about 60 m long and 60 m wide. The summit extends approximately 10-15 m above the surrounding water. There was virtually no vegetation on the island except for a very small copse of small dead trees on the south end. Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) also nested on the south end of the island. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain an accurate count of the nests at this time because of unfavourable landing conditions.

The second colony was located on Burton Island (48°57'N, 94°37'W), about 500 m N.W. off the north tip of Sable Island. This nesting island measured 300 m by 100 m and had a very low topography that rose no more than 3 m above the surrounding water. Burton Island is heavily vegetated with a variety of deciduous trees and low-lying bush species. Although we were able to land and visit the island, in the interest of minimizing disturbance to the incubating birds, we did not conduct a nest count. From observations of the birds flying overhead, we estimated 100 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls, five pairs of Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), and 75 pairs of Common Terns nesting on the eastern end of the island. On the western side of the island were 15-20 pairs each of American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). A variety of songbirds also used the island for nesting.

These two newly-discovered Ring-billed Gull colonies and those documented by Hirsch (1982) represent the only ones formally reported from the Lake of the Woods. The colonies are biologically important because of their unique location between the large eastern and western Canadian populations. There is no current information known to us regarding the wintering distribution of the Lake of the Woods Ring-billed Gulls. On 6 July and 28 July 1983, we banded a total of 254 Ring-billed Gull chicks on both colonies found in 1982. This initial attempt was to determine, from their post breeding distribution, whether these gulls are part of one or the other larger Canadian populations or whether they form a distinct sub-population. In any event, the presence of these gulls nesting in the Lake of the Woods strongly suggests that the reported disjunct characteristic of the Canadian Ring-billed Gull population may be in the process of breaking down. Depending on any mixing of individuals between nesting and/or wintering areas, the Lake of the Woods Ring-billed Gulls might well act as a means of gene flow between the other Canadian

populations. We plan to continue banding operations in future years to determine what the relationship and significance of this relatively isolated population is to other Ring-billed Gull populations both in Canada and the United States.

We appreciate the financial support for this and related studies of Ring-billed Gulls provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (A6520 to JPR) and a Lakehead University President's NSERC Award from the Senate Research Committee. We thank our pilot Vern Hollett of Slate Falls Airways, Ltd., Sioux Lookout, Ontario, for his survey expertise, interest and help with the 1983 banding operation, along with Kim Armstrong and Scott Lockhart.

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# THE SPRING SEASON

(March 1 to May 31, 1983)

Don Bolduc, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

For this season, more than 70 reports and individual sightings were received, many of them compilations of two or more observers. In addition to most Regular species, seven Casual and three Accidentals were recorded.

After several years of tallying seasonal reports, we've come to the conclusion that no migration ever proceeds according to "average" dates. Last Spring, mild weather during late February and early March encouraged a number of exceptionally early arrivals, including the state's first March records for Swainson's Hawks. Note the many early dates on waterfowl. Following that, however, were much colder temperatures and heavy snows during March and April and lingering coolness into May. The result was a hiatus in the migration and some "leapfrogging" that brought a confusion of sightings earlier in the north of the state than in the south.

To reward faithful watchers, Spring '83 brought a good share of rarities and unexpected observations: Mute Swan at Duluth, Ross' Goose in Washington and Olmsted Counties, Ruff in Lyon, St. Louis and Stearns. Also noted were: Arctic Tern in Duluth, Say's Phoebe in Cook County (!), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Cook and Hennepin Counties, Hermit Warbler in Lac Qui Parle, Worm-eating Warbler in Blue Earth and Brown Counties and Western Tanager in Beltrami.

Reports of scarce or elusive Regular species included Yellow Rail, Red Knot, Little Gull, Burrowing Owl, Mountain

Bluebird, Mockingbird (four different locations), and the all-but-extirpated Sprague's Pipit. Also, of special interest were Parasitic Jaegers, uncommon in Spring, at Lake Pepin in March and Duluth in June. Well outside their normal ranges were Northern Shovelers off the North Shore in Cook County.

This report concludes with a final word, a plea really, from your compilers. New report forms have been designed and mailed to all regular contributors. Please use them in place of any older forms you may have on hand. You see, each of us handles one page of the form, and now, the new taxonomic order has moved certain species from their previous locations. The task of tallying them will become much more complicated, and more likely to result in errors or oversights, if we must reconcile two or more different species lists handled by different people. Thank you for your cooperation and your continued service to ornithology in Minnesota.

## Common Loon

Early south 4/1 Ramsey WL, 4/3 Anoka KL, 4/6 Sherburne EH/SS; early north 4/4 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/11 Itasca TCS, 4/16 Carlton AB, Aitkin WN.

## Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3/4 Nicollet JCF, 3/5 Dakota DB, JD, (wintering?) 3/7 Wabasha WDM; early north 3/30 Beltrami JP, 4/11 Marshall ANWR, 4/16 St. Louis AB.

**Horned Grebe**

Early south 4/9 Nobles BL, 4/11 Hennepin BDC, 4/13 Olmsted JEB, BE; early north 4/21 Polk TT, 4/22 Beltrami JP, Crow Wing JB, Marshall KSS, Mille Lacs MLWMA.

**Red-necked Grebe**

South 4/21 Wabasha WDM, 5/3 Nicollet MF, Redwood KL; early north 4/7 St. Louis KE, 4/17 Lake SW/MS, Lake of the Woods TW, Pennington KSS.

**Eared Grebe**

South 4/23 Nobles KL, 4/29 Nicollet JCF, 5/19 Yellow Medicine JS; early north 4/20 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/23 Traverse RJ, 4/25 Marshall ANWR.

**Western Grebe**

Early south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle RH, 4/24 Kandiyohi AB, 4/28 Blue Earth MF; early north 4/23 Grant RJ, 4/24 Otter Tail SDM, 4/26 Marshall ANWR.

**American White Pelican**

Early south 3/13 Freeborn RRK, (Earliest date ever!) 4/2 Blue Earth MF, 4/13 Faribault JCF; early north 3/24 Hubbard H. Warrington fide DJ, 4/19 Marshall ANWR, 4/20 Otter Tail SDM, GMO.

**Double-crested Cormorant**

Early south 3/30 Goodhue JD, 4/12 Blue Earth MF, Kandiyohi JS; early north 4/9 Otter Tail GMO, 4/19 Marshall ANWR, 4/20 Pennington KSS.

**American Bittern**

Early south 4/19 Stearns NH, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle JD, 4/24 Murray DGW; early north 4/21 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/23 Beltrami JP, 4/26 Marshall ANWR.

**Least Bittern**

5/13 Rice KJ, 5/16 Marshall ANWR, 5/21 Faribault KL, 4/24 Hennepin VL.

**Great Blue Heron**

Early south 3/5 Mower BJ, 3/10 Washington TBB, 3/13 Wabasha AB; early north 3/13 Hubbard BM, 3/26 Beltrami AS, 3/30 Otter Tail GMO.

**Great Egret**

3/23 Washington TBB, 4/1 Nicollet JCF, 4/5 Ramsey BDC; early north 3/11 Otter Tail SDM, GMO 4/23 Douglas RJ, 4/26 Mille Lacs, MLWMA.

**Snowy Egret**

4/26 Cottonwood WH, 5/18 Marshall ANWR.

**Little Blue Heron**

5/21 Olmsted JEB, only report.

**Green-backed Heron**

Early south 4/7 Washington WL, 4/17 Dakota JD, 4/27 Mower BJ; early north 5/8 Clay TT, 5/9 Marshall ANWR, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

Early south 4/1 Hennepin ES, 4/16 Rice KJ, Washington AB, DB; early north 4/23 Douglas RJ, 5/15 Marshall KSS, 5/17 Clay LCF.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

5/21 Aitkin WN, 5/22 Olmsted JEB, 5/23 Dakota B. Fall.

**IBIS (sp?)**

5/21 Polk (Crookston) KE, HK, TS. (*The Loon* 55:128)

**Tundra Swan**

3/4 Wabasha KE, (overwintering - ?) 3/5 Houston FL, Washington WL; peak 3/22 Wabasha (1000) WDM; early north 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/2 Aitkin WM, Duluth KE, late south 5/2 Lyon HK, 5/16 Winona RE; late north 5/15 Clearwater AB, 5/22 Mahnomen KE.

**MUTE SWAN**

3/24 to 26 Duluth KE, others.

**Greater White-fronted Goose**

Early south 3/13 Lincoln KL, 3/19 Rice BL, 3/26 Wabasha DGW; early north 3/21 Otter Tail GMO, 4/27 Marshall ANWR, 3/30 Clearwater AB, late north 5/14 Roseau KL.

**Snow Goose**

Early south 3/4 Anoka DS, 3/5 Lyon HK; early north 3/24 Polk KSS, 4/2 Aitkin WN; late south 4/12 Hennepin ES, 4/24 Cottonwood WH; late north 5/18 Marshall ANWR, 5/19 St. Louis GMO.

**ROSS' GOOSE**

3/24 Olmsted JEB, 3/26 to 5/14 Washington DGW, many observers.

**Canda Goose**

Permanent resident; reported from 15 counties north, 27 counties south.

**Wood Duck**

Early south 3/4 Nicollet JCF, 3/5 Dakota DB, OJ, Brown JSp; early north 4/5 Beltrami JP, 4/7 Pennington KSS, 4/8 Hubbard DJ.

**Green-winged Teal**

Early south 3/2 Lac Qui Parle GMO, 3/3 Olmsted RE, 3/4 Wabasha KE; early north 4/3 Hubbard AB, Otter Tail SDM, 4/9 Aitkin WN.

**American Black Duck**

Early south 3/5 Wabasha DB, Dakota OJ, 3/21 Hennepin RH; early north 3/31 Otter Tail GMO, 4/9 St. Louis TL, 4/12 Marshall ANWR.

**Mallard**

Permanent resident; reported from 22 counties north, 28 counties south.

**Northern Pintail**

Early south 3/3 Lac Qui Parle GMO, 3/4 Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF, Wabasha KE; early north 3/8 Cook KMH, 3/31 Marshall ANWR, 4/1 Clay TT.

**Blue-winged Teal**

Early south 3/1 Dakota GS, 3/4 Lyon HK, 4/1 Nicollet JCF; early north 4/9 Aitkin WN, St. Louis TL, 4/11 Marshall ANWR, Otter Tail GMO.

**Cinnamon Teal**

4/1 Cottonwood KL, 4/15 to 18 Nicollet JCF.

**Northern Shoveler**

Early south 3/4 Nicollet JCF, 3/5 Freeborn KL, 3/6 Dakota JD; early north 4/7 Pennington KSS, St. Louis TL, 4/8 Marshall ANWR; 4/30 Cook KMH!

**Gadwall**

Early south 3/4 Le Sueur KL, Anoka DS, 3/5 Houston FL, early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 Marshall ANWR, 4/29 Polk MH.

**American Wigeon**

Early south 3/4 Houston KE, Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF; early north 4/2 Otter Tail GMO, 4/9 Clay TT, 4/11 Marshall ANWR.

**Canvasback**

Early south 3/1 Anoka KL, Olmsted RE, 3/4 Houston KE, Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF; early north 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 Clay TT, 4/5 Becker TNWR.

**Redhead**

Early south 3/3 Olmsted JEB, 3/4 Houston KE, Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF; early north 3/6 Otter Tail SDM, 3/8 Polk JP, 3/11 Marshall ANWR, St. Louis AE.

**Ring-necked Duck**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted RE, 3/2 Lac Qui Parle GMO, 3/4 Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF, Wabasha WDM; early north 4/3 Hubbard AB, 4/4 Clay TT, Marshall ANWR.

**Greater Scaup**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted RE, 3/27 Anoka KL, Winona AM/JP, early north 3/2 Otter Tail GMO, 4/1 Wadena AB, 4/9 Aitkin WN.

**Lesser Scaup**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted RE, 3/2 Lac Qui Parle GMO, 3/4 Houston FL, Le Sueur KL, Lyon HK, Nicollet JCF, Wabasha KE; early north 3/2 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Wadena AB, 4/2 Aitkin

**Oldsquaw**

4/30 Cook KMH, 5/26 Cook KL.

**Black Scoter**

4/30 Cook KMH, 5/26 Cook KL.

**White-winged Scoter**

5/14 St. Louis KE, 5/20 St. Louis AB, SDM.

**Common Goldeneye**

Late south 4/24 Hennepin ES, 4/27 Wabasha WDM, 5/1 Sibley KL.

**Bufflehead**

Early south 3/4 Nicollet JCF, 3/8 Dakota VL; early north 3/13 Otter Tail GMO, 3/19 Beltrami JC; late south 5/18 Stearns NH, 5/25 Carver PF; late north 5/21 St. Louis AB, 5/28 Cook KMH.

**Hooded Merganser**

Early south 3/2 Dakota RJ, 3/3 Sherburne EH/SS, Wabasha WDM; early north 3/28 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Beltrami JP, 4/1 Marshall ANWR.



**Common Merganser**

Late south 4/22 Wabasha WDM, 4/25 Anoka KL, 4/28 Blue Earth MF.

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Early south 3/5 Dakota RJ, 3/8 Washington TBB, 3/13 Cottonwood WH; early north 4/15 Beltrami JP, Marshall ANWR, 4/17 Aitkin WN, Lake SW/MS, Otter Tail SDM, St. Louis AB.

**Ruddy Duck**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted RE, 3/4 Houston KE, 3/11 Rice KJ, KL; early north 4/11 Otter Tail GMO, 4/12 Marshall ANWR, 4/16 Duluth DB.

**Turkey Vulture**

Early south 3/3 Washington WL, 3/27 Goodhue JD, 4/1 Houston FL; early north 4/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/16 Aitkin WN, Beltrami AS, Carlton AB.

**Osprey**

Early south 4/7 Steele KL, 4/10 Dakota JD, Mower RRR; early north 4/18 Aitkin WN, 4/19 Becker DJ, Cass JC.

**Bald Eagle**

Reported from 40 counties. Winter peak 3/5 along Mississippi River in Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha 46A, 32I, OJ.

**Northern Harrier**

Early south 3/1 Anoka KL, Le Sueur EK, 3/3 Lyon HK, Watonwan JS; early north 3/2 Clay TT, 3/5 Aitkin WN, Hubbard H. Warrington fide DJ.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Early south 3/6 Houston EMF, 3/21 Wilkin KL, 3/26 Dakota OJ; early north 4/4 Hubbard AB, 4/10 Otter Tail GMO, 4/19 Pennington KSS.

**Cooper's Hawk**

Early south 3/1 Houston EMF, 3/2 Wabasha WDM, (wintering birds?) 4/2 Anoka SC; early north 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/10 Crow Wing DJ, 4/21 Clearwater KSS.

**Northern Goshawk**

Late south 5/4 Dakota JD, Lac Qui Parle KL, Olmsted JEB, 5/6 Anoka AM/JP.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**

Early south 3/2 Wabasha WDM, (wintering?) 3/5 Dakota OJ, Winona DB; early

north 3/12 Beltrami AS, 3/14 Crow Wing JB, 3/28 Otter Tail SDM.

**Broad-winged Hawk**

Early south 3/27 Goodhue JD, 4/3 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/20 Olmsted JEB; early north 4/11 Otter Tail GMO, 4/12 Beltrami AS, 4/22 Hubbard BM.

**Swainson's Hawk**

Early south **first March records** 3/23 Winona AM/JP, 3/30 Dakota, Goodhue JD; early north 4/1 Otter Tail GMO, 5/11 Grant SDM.

**Red-tailed Hawk**

Early north 3/11 Becker DJ, 3/13 Otter Tail GMO, SDM, 3/15 Marshall ANWR, permanent resident south.

**Rough-legged Hawk**

Late south 4/10 Anoka DZ/MC, Ramsey, Sherburne AM/JP, 4/20 Dakota JD, 5/1 Olmsted RE; late north 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/9 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/30 Duluth KE.

**Golden Eagle**

3/18 Marshall ANWR, 3/29 Scott VL (2), 4/10 Anoka AM/JP.

**American Kestrel**

Early north 3/2 Otter Tail SDM, GMO, 3/5 Aitkin WN, 3/11 Becker DJ; permanent resident south.

**Merlin**

South 4/7 Goodhue KL, 4/17 Ramsey RH, 4/10 Dakota AM/JP; early north 3/27 Otter Tail GMO, 4/15 Polk KSS, 4/16 Cook, Lake AB, DB.

**Peregrine Falcon**

South 4/8 Ramsey AM/JP, 5/4 Dakota JD, 5/14 Stearns EC; early north 4/27 Marshall ANWR, Lake of the Woods TW, 4/30 Cook KMH; also reported returning to hacking site in Wabasha County where released last year.

**Gyr Falcon**

3/16 Marshall ANWR, only report.

**Prairie Falcon**

4/20 Clay SDM, 5/3 Lyon HK.

**Gray Partridge**

Permanent resident, reported from 19 counties south, 12 north. Many observers reported numbers significantly down.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

Permanent resident, reported from 22 counties south, 8 north.

**Spruce Grouse**

4/28 Lake SW/MS, only report.

**Ruffed Grouse**

Permanent resident, reported from 10 counties south, 16 north. Many observers reported numbers down.

**Greater Prairie Chicken**

Permanent resident, reported 4/4 Clay TT, 4/6 Marshall ANWR, 4/17 Pennington KSS, Wilkin (52) SC.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Permanent resident, reported 4/16 Aitkin WN, 4/17 Pennington KSS, 4/22 Marshall ANWR, 4/23 Beltrami JP, 5/1 Clearwater AB.

**Wild Turkey**

Permanent resident, reported Houston EMF.

**Northern Bobwhite**

Permanent resident, reported 3/14 Houston EMF, 4/29 Fillmore KL.

**Yellow Rail**

20+ reported 5/29 Aitkin TS.

**Virginia Rail**

Early south 4/19 Anoka KL, 5/3 Hennepin SC, 5/6 Stearns NH; early north 5/8 Beltrami AS, 5/13 Marshall ANWR, 5/14 Polk MH.

**Sora**

Early south 4/12 Washington WL, 4/20 Hennepin SC, 4/22 Sherburne EH/SS; early north 4/18 Wadena DJ, 5/1 Mille Lacs MLWMA, Otter Tail SDM.

**Common Moorhen**

Reported 5/1 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/28 Houston KJ.

**American Coot**

Early south 3/3 Meeker FKS, Olmsted JEB, 3/4 Le Sueur KL; early north 4/12 Marshall ANWR, 4/19 Becker TNWR, 4/21 Itasca MSc, Lake of the Woods TW.

**Sandhill Crane**

Early south 3/19 Mower RJ, (earliest date on record), 4/2 Anoka SC, 4/19 Stearns EH/SS; early north 4/6 Pennington KSS, 4/

7 Otter Tail GMO, 4/8 Clay TT; first county record 4/30 Scott, Karol Gresser.

**Black-bellied Plover**

Early south 5/13 Lyon HK, 5/14 Nobles RJ; early north 5/18 Pennington KSS, 5/19 Duluth SDM; late south 5/24 Wabasha WDM; late north 5/27 Cook KHM, Lake of the Woods TW.

**Lesser Golden-Plover**

Early south 3/14 Cottonwood WH, 4/27 Wabasha WDM; early north 5/21 St. Louis TL, 5/22 Wilkin DGW; late south 5/20 Martin EB/K, Nicollet KL; late north 5/25 Cook KL, 5/27 Lake of the Woods TW.

**Semipalmated Plover**

Early south 4/12 Blue Earth MF, 4/27 Wabasha WDM; early north 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/13 Lake of the Woods TW; late south 5/17 Martin EB/K, 5/25 Hennepin AB; late north 5/20 St. Louis AB, 5/23 Polk MA.

**Piping Plover**

Reported 4/24 Lake of the Woods TW (35+), 5/15 Otter Tail AM/JP, 5/20 Duluth SDM, others.

**Killdeer**

Early south 3/1 Murray AD, 3/2 Lac Qui Parle GMO, 3/3 five southern counties; early north 3/26 Otter Tail GMO, 3/28 Marshall ANWR, 4/1 Cass HF, Wadena AB.

**American Avocet**

South 4/22 Lac Qui Parle DGW, 4/30 Mower RRR, 5/1 Chippewa KL; north 4/28 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 Marshall ANWR, 5/29 Duluth many observers.

**Greater Yellowlegs**

Early south 4/6 Wabasha AM/JP, 4/13 Dakota JD, 4/20 Olmsted JEB, Blue Earth-JCF; early north 4/14 Otter Tail GMO, 4/19 Polk TT; late south 5/21 Stearns NH, 5/25 Blue Earth JCF; late north 5/13 Cook KMH, 5/21 Clay LCF.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Early south 4/13 Dakota JD, 4/15 Wabasha WDM; early north 4/11 Otter Tail GMO, 4/20 Aitkin JB, Pennington KSS; late south 5/20 Blue Earth JCF, 5/21 Olmsted RE, Stearns NH; late north 5/23 Lake W/MS, 5/28 Wadena RJ.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Early south 4/23 Stevens RJ, 4/29 Olmsted JEB, RE, Mower RRK; early north 4/28 Wilkin SDM, 5/3 Lake of the Woods TW; late south 5/17 Watonwan EB/K, 5/20 Olmsted RE; late north 5/22 Pennington KSS, 5/23 Lake SW/MS.

### **Willet**

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle many observers, 5/8 Nicollet JCF; early south 4/25 Cook KMH, 5/7 Otter Tail GMO, 5/12 to 21 Duluth KE, SDM.

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Early south 4/29 Olmsted RE, 4/30 Freeborn RJ, 5/1 Anoka SC, Washington TBB; early north 4/29 Polk KSS, 5/3 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/4 St. Louis AE.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

Early south 5/7 Hennepin OJ, 5/8 Pipestone AB, 5/10 Chippewa RJ; early north 4/20 Otter Tail GMO; 5/7 Beltrami JP, 5/10 Polk KSS.

### **Whimbrel**

5/13 Lyon HK, 5/21 Lake S. Wilson, 5/23 Cook SDM (135), 5/25 Duluth MH, SDM; peak 5/31 Cook (300) D. Goodermote.

### **Hudsonian Godwit**

Early south 4/14 Stearns MF, 4/23 Murray KL; early north 4/22 Marshall KSS, 5/17 Lake of the Woods TW; late south 4/24 Hennepin OJ, 4/25 Blue Earth JCF; late north 5/22 Clay LCF, Otter Tail DGW.

### **Marbled Godwit**

South 4/22 Chippewa JD, Lac Qui Parle RH; north 4/16 Otter Tail GMO, Wilkin (41) SC, 4/19 Polk TT.

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Early south 5/14 Dakota AM/JP, Lac Qui Parle BL, 5/15 Rock RJ; early north 5/12 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/15 Crow Wing TS, Duluth KL; late south 5/29 Anoka KL, Nicollet JCF, 5/31 Martin EB/K; late north 5/29 St. Louis DGW, 5/30 Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Red Knot**

Reported 5/21 Roseau (20) KE, Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Sanderling**

Early south 5-8 Cottonwood WH, 5-9 Olmsted JEB, early north Lake of the

Woods 4/27 TW, 5/14 KL; Late south 5/20 Blue Earth JCF, 5/21 Stearns NH, ES; late north 5/29 Lake of the Woods TW.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early south Lac Qui Parle 4/23 AB, BDC, OJ, 4/24 JD; early north 5/14 Clearwater AB, Mahnomen MHa, 5/16 Polk MH, TT, 5/17 Lake of the Woods TW. Late south 5/27 Olmsted RE, Blue Earth JCF; late north 5/31 St. Louis AE. Stragglers into June.

### **Western Sandpiper**

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle OJ, AB, DB, 5/6 Nicollet KL, 5/9 Olmsted JEB, RE, Cottonwood WH; late south Olmsted 5/19 JF, 5/27 RE. Only reports north 5/19 Marshall ANWR, 5/21 Otter Tail DGW, 5/23 Polk KSS.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle TBB, 4/29 Mower RRK, 4/30 Cottonwood WH, Goodhue BL; early north 4/29 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/10 Pennington KSS, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Cook EH. Late south 5/25 Hennepin AB, DB, 5/27 Olmsted RE; late north 5/31 St. Louis AE. Stragglers into June.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle AB, OJ, DB, 5/7 Olmsted JEB, RE, 5/10 Stearns NH, Olmsted JF, 5/14 Stearns, DB, Lac Qui Parle BL, Watonwan RJ; early north 5/15 Ottertail JP/AM 5/18 Marshall ANWR, 5/21 Otter Tail DGW, 5/22 Lake SW/MS, 5/23 Lake of the Woods TW. Late south 5/27 Blue Earth JCF; late north 5/31 Clay TT. Stragglers into June.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early south 4/22 Chippewa JD, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle TBB, AB, DB, BDC, MF, MH, RH, OJ, 5/6 Cottonwood WH, Nicollet KL; late south 5/17 Martin EB/K, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle JS, Stearns ES. Only reports north 5/12 Polk TT, 5/14 Clearwater AB, 5/15 Otter Tail, Wilkin JP/AM 5/22 Lake SW/MS.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Early south 4/9 Nobles BL, 4/23 Rock KL, Lac Qui Parle JS, RH, BDC, TBB, 4/27 Blue Earth JCF, Dakota JD, Wabasha WDM, Lac Qui Parle MH; early north 3/

**28 Otter Tail SDM, 4/21 Marshall ANWR.** Late south 5/24 Olmsted RE, 5/27 Blue Earth JCF; late north 5/23 Lake SW/MS, 5/28 Wadena RJ.

#### **Dunlin**

Early south 4/28 Hennepin OJ, 5/6 Nicollet KL, 5/7 Fillmore RJ, 5/9 Cottonwood WH; early north 5/14 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/15 Otter Tail JP/AM 5/18 Marshall ANWR, 5/19 St. Louis SDM, 5/20 St. Louis AB. Late south 5/30 Anoka KL, 5/27 Blue Earth (65) MF; late north 5/31 Clay TT, Lake SW/MS. Stragglers into June.

#### **Stilt Sandpiper**

Early south 5/6 Nicollet KL, 5/14 Watonwan RJ, Lac Qui Parle BL; late south 5/23 Nicollet JCF, 5/24 Hennepin OJ. Only north reports 5/16 Polk MH, 5/22 Clay TT.

#### **RUFF**

All reports: 4/29 to 5/1 St. Louis J. Newman, 4/30 St. Louis TL, MF, JP, 5/14 Stearns Mob, 5/20 Lyon (2) HK.

#### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Early south 4/29 Mower RRR, 5/6 Nicollet JCF, 5/8 Lyon HK, KL, 5/14 Stearns MF; late south 5/25 Blue Earth JCF. Only reports north 5/10 Pennington KSS, 5/22 Mahnomen MHa, Clay TT.

#### **Dowitcher sp. ?**

5/15 Stearns TBB, 5/18 Marshall ANWR. Stragglers into June.

#### **Common Snipe**

Early south 4/9 Le Sueur EK, 4/10 Anoka KL, DZ/MC, 4/11 Mower RRR, 4/12 Ramsey BDC, Blue Earth MF; early north 4/4 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/8 Clay TT, 4/9 Mahnomen MHa.

#### **American Woodcock**

Early south 3/3 Washington TBB, 3/4 Anoka DS, Ramsey WL, RH, 3/5 Brown JSp, 3/6 Houston EMF; early north 3/30 Beltrami AS, 4/3 Marshall ANWR, 4/4 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/8 Becker TNWR.

#### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Early south 4/20 Hennepin OJ, 4/23 Nobles, Rock KL, Lac Qui Parle TBB, AB,



**Ruff, Island Lake, St. Louis County, 30 April 1983 — Photo by Marj Carr**

#### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Early south 5/8 Anoka KL, Cottonwood WH, 5/14 Stearns OJ, Martin RJ; early north 5/19 Lake of The Woods TW, Late south 5/24 Blue Earth MF; late north 5/20 St. Louis AB, SDM, 5/21 Kanabec RJ, St. Louis MH, Wilkin DGW, 5/23 Lake SW/MS.

JD, MF, RH, JS, 4/24 Lac Qui Parle BDC; early north 4/28 Otter Tail SDM, 4/29 Polk KSS, 4/30 Mahnomen MHa, 5/6 Beltrami JP, Polk TT. 5/11 Lac Qui Parle (200) JS.

#### **Red-necked Phalarope**

All reports: 5/8 Yellow Medicine HK, 5/

14 Roseau KL, Stearns 5/18 NH, 5/21 NH, ES, DGW, 5/23 Polk MHa, KSS, 5/29 Mahnomen MHa.

#### **Franklin's Gull**

Early south 3/5 Lyon HK, 4/1 Olmsted JEB, Jackson KL, 4/2 Brown JSp, 4/13 Redwood JS, Dakota JD; early north 3/2 Clay (good details) TT, Marshall 4/12 ANWR, 4/15 KSS, 4/17 Wilkin SC. 200 reported 5/16 Aitkin WN.

#### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early south 4/16 Wabasha WDM, 4/20 Blue Earth JCF, 4/22 Nicollet JCF, Lac Qui Parle 4/22 RH, 4/23 AB, DB, OJ; early north 4/25 Douglas RJ, 4/28 Otter Tail SDM, Marshall KSS, 5/1 St. Louis JP. Late south 5/13 Nicollet JCF; late north 5/21 Pine RJ, St. Louis MH, 5/23 Polk MHa, KSS.

#### **Ring-billed Gull**

Reported from 20 counties south, 18 north.

#### **Herring Gull**

Reported from 16 counties south, 12 north.

#### **Glaucous Gull**

All reports: 3/15 Houston FL, St. Louis 3/26, 4/2, 7, 10 KE, 4/25 Cook (ad)KMH, 5/1 St. Louis JP.

#### **Caspian Tern**

Early south 4/24 Washington JP/AM, 5/8 Jackson AB, 5/13 Ramsey BL, 5/15 Hennepin SC; early north 5/2 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/10 St. Louis TL, 5/14 Clearwater AB.

#### **Common Tern**

Early south 4/19 Hennepin VL, 5/21 McLeod RH, 4/23 Mower RS, 4/28 Washington WL; early north 5/3 Becker TNWR, Lake of the Woods TW, 5/7 Itasca MSc, 5/10 Crow Wing JB, St. Louis TL.

#### **ARCTIC TERN**

5/29 to 6/2 Duluth (4) Mob (*The Loon* 55:127).

#### **Forster's Tern**

Early south 4/16 Dakota DZ/MC 4/20 Ramsey RH, Washington TBB, Dakota JP/AM, Hennepin SC, ES, 4/21 Anoka KL;

early north 4/23 Todd RJ, Marshall JP, 4/24 Otter Tail SDM, 4/26 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Black Tern**

Early south 4/28 Hennepin ES, 4/29 Rice KJ, 4/30 Fillmore RJ, 5/1 Hennepin SC; early north 5/10 Becker TNWR, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Itasca MSc, Polk TT, 5/13 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Rock Dove**

Reported from 21 counties south, 12 north.

#### **Mourning Dove**

Over-wintered in the south; early north 4/3 Clearwater AB, 4/4 Pennington KSS, 4/6 Clay TT, 4/7 Otter Tail GMO.

#### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Early south 4/14 Stearns MF, 5/23 Sherburne EH/SS, 5/27 Brown JSp, 5/28 Blue Earth GS; early north 5/16 Cass JC, 5/20 Marshall ANWR, 5/26 Cook KL, 5/31 Beltrami AS.

#### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Only report 5/12 Crow Wing JB, WN.

#### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Reported from these counties: Dakota, Hennepin, Houston, Fillmore, Lac Qui Parle, Stearns, Washington and Otter Tail.

#### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from 22 counties south, 15 north.

#### **Snowy Owl**

All reports: 3/13 Lyon HK, 3/16 Otter Tail GMO, 4/15, 5/10 Aitkin WN, 4/21 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Burrowing Owl**

Rock County 5/9 JS, 5/14 two at nest site RJ.

#### **Barred Owl**

Reported from 11 counties south, 7 north.

#### **Great Gray Owl**

All reports: 5/11 Cook SL, 5/23 St. Louis KE, 5/28 Aitkin JB, WN.

#### **Long-eared Owl**

All reports: 4/2 Watonwan RJ, 4/20 Washington DS, 5/8 Lyon KL.

### **Short-eared Owl**

All reports: 3/21 Douglas KL, 4/7 Otter Tail GMO, 4/17 Wilkin SC, 4/23 Sherburne EH/SS, 5/21 Roseau KE.

### **Boreal Owl**

All reports: Cook 4/5 (5) KMH, 4/16 AB, DB, 4/23 AS, 4/25 KE, 5/21 Roseau P. Egeland, TS.

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

Reported 3/12 Dakota JD, JP/AM and Carlton, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods and Polk Counties north.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Early south, 5/3 Ramsey DZ/MC, 5/6 Mower BJ, Pipestone KL; early north 5/11 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/14 Beltrami JP, 5/17 Polk TT. 200+ Houston 5/24 EMF.

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

Early south 4/26 Houston EMF, Mower RRK, 4/30 Washington BL, 5/6 Olmsted RE; early north 5/9 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/13 Cook SL, 5/18 St. Louis J. Newman, Becker TNWR.

### **Chimney Swift**

Early south 4/22 Olmsted JEB, Lac Qui Parle 4/23 AB, DB, MH, OJ, 4/26 Houston EMF; early north 4/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Morrison AB, 5/1 Crow Wing JB. (1000 Chippewa 5/19 EB/K).

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Early south 5/7 Nicollet MF, Cottonwood KL, 5/9 Mower BJ, 5/10 Sherburne EH/SS, Houston EMF, 5/11 Lac Qui Parle FAE; early north 5/10 Crow Wing JB, 5/11 Clay LCF, Hubbard DJ, 5/12 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/13 Beltrami AS, Itasca MSc.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Some over-wintered in south; early north 4/6 Pennington KSS, 4/9 St. Louis TL, 4/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/17 St. Louis AB, Otter Tail SDM.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Some overwintered in the south. More reports from the northeast and as far as Cook. Early north 3/5 Aitkiin WN (over-wintered), 4/17 Crow Wing DJ, Otter Tail SCM, 4/23 Douglas RJ.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from 26 counties south and Aitkin, Cook, Mille Lacs and **Otter Tail** north.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Early south 4/6 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/12 Mower BJ, RRK, Hennepin VL, ES, Dakota JD, Blue Earth MF, Olmsted JEB, Ramsey EC; early north 3/27 Beltrami AS, 4/15 Otter Tail GMO, 4/16 Cook SL, Otter Tail SDM.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 26 counties south, 15 north.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 27 counties south, 17 north.

### **Three-toed Woodpecker**

3/26 Nickerson, Pine Co. (1 f.) RJ.

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

Reported as permanent resident Cook KMH, 3/30 Becker TNWR, 5/6 to 28 Lake SW/MS.

### **Northern Flicker**

Probably overwintered north and south migrants in late March south. Reported from 23 counties south, 19 north.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 25 counties south, 15 north.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south Hennepin 5/6 AB, 5/7 SC, 5/8 ES, DB, 5/11 OJ, 5/7 Olmsted JEB; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Clearwater AB, Clay TL, 5/17 Lake of the Woods TW. Late south 5/29 Hennepin DZ/MC, Houston EMF, stragglers into June.

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Early south 4/26 Cottonwood WH, 5/7 Martin KL, Murray HK, Nicollet 5/10 MF, 5/13 JCF, 5/13 Olmsted JF, Stearns NH, Houston EMF; early north 4/29 Marshall ANWR, 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/21 St. Louis TL, 5/22 Itasca MSc.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 5/8 Rock AB, 5/10 Lyon HK, 5/11 Hennepin OJ, ES; early north 5/9 Marshall ANWR, 5/12 Lake SW/MS, 5/



14 Roseau KL, Mille Lacs MLWMA. Late south 5/27 Olmsted JF, 5/29 Brown JSp, 5/31 Hennepin SC.

#### **Acadian Flycatcher**

5/28 Houston KJ.

#### **Alder Flycatcher**

Early south 5/17 Hennepin ES, 5/20 Anoka DS, 5/22 Olmsted JEB; early north 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/13 Cook KMH, 5/14 Lake of the Woods KL, Polk MH, 5/15 Marshall ANWR.

#### **Willow Flycatcher**

All reports: 5/7 Martin KL, Houston EMF, 5/23 Wabasha WDM, 5/27 Olmsted JF, 5/28 Hennepin OJ, Houston 5/28 KJ, 5/31 EMF.

#### **Least Flycatcher**

Early south 4/29 Brown JSp, 5/4 Murray AD, 5/5 Hennepin SC, 5/6 Olmsted JEB, Murray HK, Nicollet JCF; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/8 Clay TT, 5/10 Itasca MSc, 5/11 Crow Wing JB, St. Louis AE, Lake SW/MS, Mille Lacs MLWMA.

#### **Eastern Phoebe**

Early south 4/7 Wabasha KL, 4/9 Winona RE, 4/13 Mower BJ, 4/14 Houston EMF; early north 4/15 Beltrami JC, 4/19 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/20 Polk TT, Pennington KSS, Otter Tail SDM, Crow Wing JB.

#### **SAY'S PHOEBE**

Grand Marais, Cook Co. 4/30 KMH, 5/1 KE (1 im) (*The Loon* 55:90).

#### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Early south 5/6 Nicollet JCF, Houston EMF, Murray HK, Mower BJ, Hennepin RH, 5/7 Olmsted RJ, Scott DB, Brown JSp, Hennepin SC, Le Sueur EK, Mower RRK, 5/8 Olmsted JF, Dakota JD; early north 5/9 Polk TT, 5/11 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/12 Crow Wing JB.

#### **Western Kingbird**

Early south 5/8 Lincoln AB, 5/14 Lac Quie Parle BL, Stearns MF, 5/17 Murray AD; early north 5/9 Clay LCF, Traverse RJ, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Clearwater AB, Marshall ANWR, KL, Beltrami JP, Clay TL.

#### **Eastern Kingbird**

Early south 5/6 Hennepin OJ, Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Goodhue BL, 5/8 Washington DZ/MC, JP/AM, Blue Earth MF, Dakota JD; early north 5/10 Aitkin WN, Crow Wing JB, 5/11 Polk TT, Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Itasca TCS, 5/13 Beltrami JC, Marshall ANWR, Becker DJ.

#### **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**

4/27 Grand Portage M. Lindemann, Hendricks fide SL; 5/10 Robert's Sanctuary, Hennepin Co. (*The Loon* 55:92)

#### **Horned Lark**

Reported from 25 counties south, 15 north.

#### **Purple Martin**

Early south 4/16 Dakota DZ/MC, Stearns NH, 4/18 Lyon FAE, Anoka SC, 4/19 Mower RRK; early north 4/10 Pennington KSS, 4/18 Otter Tail GMO, 4/20 Lake of the Woods TW, Becker TNWR, Mille Lacs MLWMA.

#### **Tree Swallow**

Early south 3/12 (earliest date on record) Reno FL, 3/27 Dakota JD, 4/3 Wabasha WDM, 4/8 Ramsey JP/AM, 4/9 Rice KJ, Olmsted JEB, Winona RE, Washington EC; early north 4/15 Marshall KSS, Beltrami JP, 4/19 Otter Tail SDM, 4/20 Mille Lacs MLWMA, Marshall ANWR.

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

Early south 4/19 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/20 Ramsey RH, Houston EMF, 4/21 Anoka SC, 4/22 Nicollet JCF; early north 4/20 Otter Tail SDM, 4/23 Douglas RJ, 4/30 Lake of the Woods TW, St. Louis TL, Clearwater, AB.

#### **Bank Swallow**

Early south 4/18 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/23 Washington BL, 4/27 Blue Earth JCF, 4/28 Washington TBB; early north 4/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Clearwater AB, 5/10 Aitkin WN, Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/11 Red Lake TT.

#### **Cliff Swallow**

Early south 4/19 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/23 Hennepin ES, Houston FL, 4/27 Washington WL; early north 4/24 Beltrami JP, 4/26 St. Louis TL, 4/30 Clearwater AB, Lake of the Woods TW.

**Barn Swallow**

Early south 4/13 Dakota JD, 4/18 Anoka SC, 4/19 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/22 Goodhue BL, Ramsey RJ; early north 4/25 Otter Tail SDM, 4/28 Cook SL, 4/29 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/30 Aitkin, WN, St. Louis TL, Clearwater AB.

**Gray Jay**

Reported from Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook (4/10 nest with 3 young KMH). Itasca, Lake and Marshall.

**Blue Jay**

Reported from 26 counties, south 18 north.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Reported from Clearwater, Itasca, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Pennington, Polk and Roseau Counties.

**American Crow**

Reported from 27 counties south, 22 north.

**Common Raven**

Reported from 17 counties north.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 27 counties south, 20 north.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Reported from Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties.

**Tufted Titmouse**

All reports: Houston 3/1 to 5/31 (2-4) EMF, 3/4 KE, 3/5 FL, 3/6 RJ, 4/13 JP/AM, 5/4 ES.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 14 counties south and 14 north. Late south 5/17 Rice BDC, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Chisago RJ, 5/26 Ramsey EC. (5/27 reported at nest hole, Hubbard RJ)..

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 27 counties south, 19 north.

**Brown Creeper**

Overwintered south. Late south 5/24 Ramsey SC, 5/26 Brown JSp.

**House Wren**

Early south 4/1 Houston EMF, 4/20

Dakota JP/AM, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4/27 Hennepin ES, 4/28 Le Sueur EK; early north 4/18 Itasca MSc, 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/10 Polk KSS, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Lake of the Woods.

**Winter Wren**

Early south 3/26 Houston FL, 4/13 Olmsted JEB, 4/16 Brown JSp, 4/17 Olmsted RE; early north 4/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/21 Cook KMH, 4/22 Lake SW/MS, 4/23 Aitkin WN. Late south 5/2 Brown JSp, 5/14 Cottonwood WH.

**Sedge Wren**

Early south 5/5 Sherburne EH/SS, 5/8 Olmsted RE, JEB, 5-10 Mower RRR, RH; early north 4/20 Polk TT, 4/26 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/11 Beltrami AS, 5/13 Becker DJ, Marshall ANWR.

**Marsh Wren**

Early south 5/5 Sherburne EH/SS, 5/8 Rock AB, Cottonwood WH, 5/10 Olmsted JF, 5/11 Washington WL; early north 4/29 Polk KSS, 5/13 Marshall ANWR, 5/18 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Early north 3/10 Crow Wing WL, 3/23 Hubbard DJ, 3/27 Beltrami JP; late south 5/4 Dakota JD, 5/6 Sherburne EH/SS, Murray HK, 5/8 Houston EMF.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 4/13 Mower RRR, Olmsted JEB, 4/16 Brown JSp, Le Sueur EK, 4/17 Hennepin DZ/MC, PF; early north 3/18 Koochiching KSS, 4/20 Otter Tail GMO. Late south 5/20 Olmsted JF, 5/24 Ramsey SC.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Early south 4/28 Hennepin ES, DB, 4/29 Brown JSp, 4/30 Goodhue BL, Olmsted JF, Houston EMF, Hennepin SC. Reported in Crow Wing, Swift and Yellow Medicine RJ.

**Eastern Bluebird**

Early south Mower 3/1 JEB, 3/2 RRR, 3/2 Houston EMF, 3-3 Le Sueur HC, Brown JSp, Sherburne EH/SS, Chippewa FAE, 3/4 Lyon HK, Olmsted RE; early north 3/14 Clay TT, 3/25 Mahnomen

MHa, 4/5 Otter Tail GMO, 4/6 Becker TNWR.

### **Mountain Bluebird**

3/20, 23 Stoney Point, St. Louis KE, 4/19 Otter Tail GMO.

### **Veery**

Early south Hennepin 4/18 RH, 4/26 VL, 5/6 AB, 4/24 Dakota JP/AM, 5/4 Houston EMF, 5/6 Olmsted JF, RE, JEB, Murray HK, Nicollet JCF; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/10 Cook KMH, 5/11 Becker TNWR. Late south 5/31 Stearns NH.

### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Early south Olmsted 4/19 JEB, 4/21 RE, 4/22 Washington DS, 4/25 Le Sueur HC, 4/27 Dakota JD; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, 5/6 Otter Tail SDM. Late south 5/31 Dakota JD; late north 5/31 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south Olmsted 4/19 JEB, 4/21 RE, 4/21 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/22 Nicollet JCF, 4/24 Washington DS; early north 5/5 Otter Tail SDM, 5/8 Clay LCF, TT, 5/10 Pennington KSS. Late south 5/31 Ramsey DZ/MC, Brown JSp, Lyon HK, Hennepin SC, Stearns NH; late north 5/31 Otter Tail SDM. Stragglers into June.

### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 4/3 Stearns NH, 4/13 Mower RRK, Olmsted JEB, Hennepin DB; early north 4/18 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/19 Itasca MSc, St. Louis TL. Late south 5/12 Rice KJ, 5/18 Olmsted JEB.

### **Wood Thrush**

Early south Nicollet 5/6, JCF, 5/7 MF, 5/11 Hennepin OJ, Brown JSp, Wabasha WDM, 5/12 Dakota RJ; early north 5/12 Crow Wing JB, 5/14 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/15 Carlton KL..

### **American Robin**

Overwintered northeast and south. Early north 3/5 Clay TT, Otter Tail 3/10 GMO, 3/12 SDM, 3/14 Becker TNWR. 4/14 4000+ from La Crescent to Hastings JP/AM.

### **Gray Catbird**

Early south 4/29 Fillmore KL, 5/4 Hous-

ton EMF, 5/7 Brown JSp, Wabasha WDM, Mower RRK, Muray HK, Houston FL, Nicollet MF, Olmsted JEB, Fillmore RJ; early north 4/17 Marshall ANWR, 5/3 Itasca MSc, 5/6 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

### **Northern Mockingbird**

All reports: 4/8 Ramsey BL, 4/23 Olmsted RE, JEB, 4/29 St. Louis KE, 5/12 Blue Earth MF, 5/13 Otter Tail RBA, 5/17 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/18 Ramsey J. Gislason fide KL, 5/21 Lake RBA, 5/23 St. Louis SDM, Stearns NH.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Early south 4/20 Olmsted JEB, 4/22 Nicollet JCF, Houston EMF, 4/23 Houston FL; early north 4/18 Aitkin WN, 4/25 Marshall ANWR, 4/26 Cook SL.

### **Water Pipit**

Early south 4/29 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted 5/9 JEB, 5/10 RE; early north 4/9 Otter Tail GMO, 4/29 Lake of the Woods TW, 4/30 Cook KMH. Late south 5/22 Goodhue KL; late north 5/22 St. Louis AB, 5/25 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/31 Lake SW/MS.

### **Sprague's Pipit**

5/1 Lac Qui Parle KL.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

All reports: 3/21 Beltrami JP, St. Louis Mob, 4/2 MH, 4/7 Crow Wing JB, 4/22 Aitkin WN.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 13 counties south, 9 north.

### **Northern Shrike**

Late south 4/3 Isanti OJ, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle RH; late north 4/1 Wadena AB, 4/4 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 4/15 Cook KMH.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

Early south 3/12 Brown JSp, 3/22 Carver VL, 3/23 Sherburne EH/SS; early north 3/6 Hubbard DJ, 3/18 Clay LCF, 3/19 Wadena TT, 4/4 Clay LCF.

### **European Starling**

Reported from forty counties throughout the state.

### **Bell's Vireo**

One report: 5/11 Wabasha WDM.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Early south 4/30 Goodhue BL, Murray AD, 5/5 Anoka SC, 5/6 Brown JSp, Mower BJ, Murray HK, Olmsted JF; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 5/10 Lake SW/MS, Mille Lacs MLWMA, Pennington TT, 5/11 St. Louis AE.

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Early south 5/6 Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Jackson KL, Ramsey DZ/MC, 5/8 Dakota JD, Hennepin DB; early north 5/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/17 Hubbard BM, 5/18 Beltrami SDM.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Early south 4/30 Houston EMF, 5/6 Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Martin EB/K; early north 5/8 Otter Tail SDM, 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/11 St. Louis AE.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 5/8 Dakota JD, 5/10 Hennepin AB, 5/11 Hennepin DB, SC, Nicollet MF; early north 5/7 Otter Tail SDM, 5/13 St. Louis AE, 5/14 Koochiching KL.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Early south 4/27 Murray AD, 5/10 Olmsted RE, 5/11 Hennepin GS; early north 5/8 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/13 Beltrami AS, 5/14 Red Lake KL.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Early south 5/7 Goodhue DGW, 5/10 Hennepin OJ, 5/15 Hennepin SC, Ramsey DZ/MC; Brewster's race 5/24 Scott JD.

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Early south 5/7 Mower RRK, 5/10 Hennepin ES, 5/11 Hennepin AB; early north 5/11 Crow Wing JB, 5/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/18 Becker TNWR.

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early south 5/1 Houston EMF, Mower RRK, 5/3 Freeborn RS, 5/6 Anoka SC, Mower BJ, Olmsted JEB, RE; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/10 Crow Wing JB, 5/13 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early south 4/26 Brown JSp, Hennepin BDC, SC, ES, Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4/28 Hennepin DB; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 4/29 Polk KSS, 5/1 Clay TT, Clearwater AB; late south 5/24 Wabasha WDM, 5/25

Sherburne EH/SS, 5/27 Blue Earth JCF; late north 5/21 Kanabec RJ, 5/23 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/24 Clay LCF.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 4/26 Hennepin SC, 5/3 Freeborn RS, 5/4 Houston EMF; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, Mille Lacs MLWMA, Otter Tail SDM, 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/11 Cook KMH, St. Louis AE; late south 5/25 Sherburne EH/SS, 5/26 Hennepin ES.

### **Northern Parula**

Early south 5/6 Olmsted JF, 5/7 Dakota GS, Goodhue DGW, Hennepin SC, Murray HK, Olmsted JEB, RE, Ramsey DZ/MC, 5/10 Hennepin AB; early north 5/10 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/11 St. Louis AE, 5/13 Cook KMH; late south 5/24 Scott JD.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Early south 5/6 Anoka SC, Brown JSp, Murray HK, Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Dakota BL, DGW, Hennepin DB, Houston EMF, FL, Le Sueur EK, Martin KL, Murray AD, Olmsted RE, RJ, 5/8 Cottonwood WH, Olmsted JF, Washington TBB, DZ/MC; early north 5/9 Clay LCF, Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/10 Aitkin WN, Crow Wing JB, Lake of the Woods TW, Otter Tail SDM, Polk TT, St. Louis TL.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Early south 5/6 Anoka SC, Olmsted JF, 5/7 Fillmore RJ, Houston EMF, Martin KL, Mower RRK, 5/8 Brown JSp, Olmsted JEB, RE, Wabasha WDM; early north 5/7 Mille lacs MLWMA, 5/13 Cook KMH, 5/14 Beltrami AS, Clearwater AB, Mahnomen MHa, St. Louis AE.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 5/5 Mower RRK, 5/6 Anoka SC, Mower BJ, Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Dakota BL, GS, Goodhue DGW, Houston EMF, Martin KL, Murray HK, Olmsted RJ, Ramsey DZ/MC; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, Mille Lacs MLWMA, Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Lake SW/MS, 5/13 Cook KMH; late south 5/26 Hennepin DB, SC, ES, 5/28 Brown JSp.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Early south 5/6 Anoka SC, 5/7 Goodhue DGW, 5/10 Hennepin AB, Wabasha WDM; early north 5/9 Clay LCF 5/12

Lake of the Woods TW, Pennington KSS, St. Louis AE, 5/13 Cook KMH; late south 5/21 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

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

Early south 5/15 Hennepin BDC, Pipestone RJ, 5/19 Blue Earth JCF, early north 5/5 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/18 Cook KMH, Lake SW/MS, 5/19 St. Louis TL, 5/21 St. Louis EA.

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

Early south 4/9 Rock BL, 4/12 Hennepin ES, Washington WL, 4/13 Mower RRK, Olmsted JEB; early north 4/6 St. Louis KE, 4/16 Otter Tail GMO, 4/19 Clay LCF; late south 5/31 Houston EMF. **Audubon's race** 5/3 Hennepin DB, SC.

#### **HERMIT WARBLER**

5/14 Lac Qui Parle BL. Second state record (*The Loon* 55:88).

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

Early south 5/6 Anoka SC, Olmsted JF, 5/7 Ten reports from eight counties; early north 5/5 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/6 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 5/10 St. Louis AE; late south 5/27 Blue Earth JCF.

#### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 5/2 Dakota RJ, 5/6 Olmsted JEB, RE, 5/7 Dakota BL, DGW, Houston EMF, Martin KL, Mower BJ; early north 5/13 Cook KMH, Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/14 Beltrami JP, Clearwater AB, 5/16 Hubbard DJ; late south 5/27 Blue Earth JCF, Murray AD, 5/31 Hennepin PF, Mower RRK.

#### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 4/30 Mower RJ, 5/3 Ramsey BL, 5/7 Martin KL; early north 4/30 Hubbard BM, 5/1 Crow Wing JB, 5/14 Clearwater JP; no late reports south.

#### **Palm Warbler**

Early south 4/21 Olmsted RE, 4/29 Fillmore KL, 4/30 Mower RJ; early north 4/23 Aitkin WN, 4/30 Clearwater AB, 5/2 Clay LCF, Mille Lacs MLWMA; late south 5/27 Blue Earth JCF.

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

Early south 5/5 Murray AD, 5/10 Wabasha WDM, 5/11 Hennepin SC, ES;

early north 5/12 Crow Wing JB, 5/14 Hubbard BM, 5/19 Clay LCF, Cook KMH, St. Louis TL; late south 5/26 Hennepin SC, ES, Ramsey RJ, 5/27 Blue Earth JCF.

#### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early south 5/6 Anoka SC, Olmsted FEB, RE, JF, 5/7 Dakota DGW, Martin KL, Mower BJ, 5/8 Washington TBB; early north Clay LCF, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, Pennington KSS; late south 5/26 Hennepin SC, 5/27 Blue Earth JCF, Brown JSp, Hennepin ES, Lyon HK, Murray AD, Olmsted JF.

#### **Cerulean Warbler**

Early south 5/15 Hennepin SC, 5/18 Hennepin ES, 5/20 Hennepin DB; one report north 5/30 Otter Tail SDM.

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

Early south 4/23 Rock KL, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4/28 Houston EMF; early north 5/5 Mille Lacs MLWMA, Otter Tail SDM, 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/8 Aitkin WN, Clay TT, Kittson KSS; late south 5/27 Olmsted JF, 5/28 Houston KJ.

#### **American Redstart**

5/6 Nicollet JCF, 5/7 Dakota DGW, Fillmore RJ, Houston EMF, Mower BJ, RRK, Murray AD, Washington RH, 5/8 Brown JSp, Cottonwood WH, Hennepin SC; early north 5/6 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/9 Clay LCF.

#### **Prothonotary Warbler**

Five reports south 5/5 Mower RRK, 5/11 Hennepin ES, 5/14 Ramsey SC, 5/15 Olmsted JEB, 5/28 Houston KJ.

#### **WORM-EATING WARBLER**

Two reports 5/11 Brown JSp, 5/17 Blue Earth MF (*The Loon* 55:126).

#### **Ovenbird**

Early south 5/3 Dakota JD, 5/5 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Washington RH, 5/6 Anoka SC, Brown JSp, Hennepin DB, Mower RRK, Murray AD, HK, Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JEB; early north 5/3 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/6 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, 5/8 Clay TT.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 4/27 Brown JSp, 4/29 Hennepin DB, 5/2 Anoka SC, Hennepin ES; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/8 Clay TT, 5/10 St. Louis TL; late south 5/25 Brown JSp, Hennepin DB, Olmsted RE.

### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

Early south 5/7 Fillmore RJ, 5/15 Hennepin SC, 5/17 Anoka SC; two reports north 5/22 and 5/29 Pine DZ/MC (*The Loon* 55:89).

### **Kentucky Warbler**

One report 5/15 Olmsted EBK.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

Early south 5/19 Cottonwood WH, 5/21 Brown JSp, Goodhue BL, Hennepin DB, 5/23 Hennepin ES; early north 5/20 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/21 St. Louis AB, SDM, TL. 5/23 Polk KSS; late south 5/28 Brown JSp, 5/30 Hennepin OJ.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Early south 5/8 Cottonwood WH, Ramsey DZ/MC, 5/10 Hennepin VL, 5/11 Hennepin OJ; early north 5/19 St. Louis TL, 5/20 Crow Wing JB, 5/21 Mille Lacs MLWMA, RJ, St. Louis AB, SDM; late south 5/30 Washington WL, 5/31 Brown JSp, Lyon HK.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Early south 5/1 Washington DS, 5/5 Cottonwood WH, Murray AD, 5/6 Brown JSp, Dakota JD, Houston EMF, Nicollet JCF, Sherburne EH/SS; early north 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/10 Mille Lacs MLWMA, St. Louis TL, 5/11 Crown Wing JB.

### **Hooded Warbler**

One report south 5/10 Hennepin SC; one report north 5/31 Crow Wing JB.

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Early south 5/5 Mower RRK, 5/6 Murray AD, 5/7 Brown JSp, Le Sueur EK; early north 5/9 Clay LCF, 5/11 Aitkin WN, Becker TNWR, 5/12 Polk TT; late south 5/29 Lyon HK, 5/30 Washington EC; late north 5/29 Otter Tail SDM, 5/31 Lake SW/MS, St. Louis AE.

### **Canada Warbler**

Early south Cottonwood WH, 5/14 Stearns HK, 5/17 Houston EMF, Rice KJ; early north 5/11 Otter Tail SDM, 5/20

Itasca MSc, 5/21 Lake of the Woods TW, St. Louis AB, OJ, TL; late south 5/31 Brown Jsp, Hennepin SC, ES, Washington DS.

### **Yellow-breasted Chat**

Two reports 5/30 Ramsey EC, 5/31 Ramsey RJ.

### **Summer Tanager**

Three reports 5/12 Brown JSp, Washington DS, 5/15 Big Stone KE.

### **Scarlet Tanager**

Early south 5/7 Houton EMF, Ramsey DZ/MC, 5/10 Blue Earth JCF, Hennepin SC, OJ, 5/11 Hennepin DB, ES; early north 5/11 Becker TNWR, 5/12 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/21 St. Louis MH, TL.

### **WESTERN TANAGER**

Two reports 5/14 Beltrami AS, 5/17 Beltrami JP (*The Loon* 55:122).

### **Northern Cardinal**

Reported from twenty two counties south and from Crow Wing, Mille Lacs and St. Louis counties north.

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Early south 5/1 Hennepin PF, 5/3 Houston EMF, Murray AD, 5/6 Eleven reports from seven counties; early north 5/6 Clay LCF, 5/9 Crow Wing JB, 5/10 Aitkin WN, Mille Lacs MLWMA, Polk TT, St. Louis AE.

### **Blue Grosbeak**

Two reports 5/10 Murray AD, 5/24 Rock AD.

### **Indigo Bunting**

Early south 5/6 Murray HK, 5/7 Brown JSp, Martin KL, 5/9 Ramsey RH; early north 5/9 Crow Wing JB, 5/11 Hubbard HJF, 5/17 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Dickcissel**

Four reports 5/7 Renville MLF, 5/7 thru 5/9 Cook Mike and May Shere observed a pair at feeder, 5/25 Brown JSp, 5/28 Murray AD.

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Early south 4/16 Mower RS, 4/19 Houston EMF, 4/29 Anoka KL; early north 4/27 St. Louis TL, 5/13 Hubbard BM, 5/15 Cook SL.





Dickcissel - Grand Portage, Cook County, 7 May 1983 — Photo by Mike & Mary Shere

#### **American Tree Sparrow**

Late south 4/25 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4/29 Dakota JD, Ramsey RH, 5/1 Washington TBB; late north 5/3 St. Louis AE, 5/6 Cook KMH, 5/15 Koochiching KL.

#### **Chipping Sparrow**

Early south 4/11 Blue Earth MF, Sherburne EH/SS, 4/15 LeSueur HC, 4/17 Washington DS; early north 4/23 Beltrami JC, 4/24 Clay LCF, 4/26 Otter Tail SDM, Pennington TT.

#### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Early south 4/26 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/29 Anoka SC, Murray AD, 4/30 Mower RJ, Olmsted JEB, Washington BL; early north 4/29 Clay LCF, Lake SW/MS, 5/1 Clay TT, Otter Tail SDM, 5/7 St. Louis AE.

#### **Field Sparrow**

Early south 4/10 LeSueur HC, 4/16 Olmsted RE, 4/17 Houston EMF, Martin EB/K, Mower RRR; early north 4/29 Otter Tail GMO, 5/7 Otter Tail SDM, 5/16 Mille Lacs MLWMA.

#### **Vesper Sparrow**

Early south 4/19 Brown JSp, 4/20 Dakota JD, Hennepin SC, Wabasha WDM, Washington DS, 4/21 Murray AD,

Olmsted JEB, Ramsey EC, Sherburne EH/SS; early north 4/18 Otter Tail GMO, 4/20 Crow Wing JB, 4/21 Otter Tail SDM.

#### **Lark Sparrow**

Early south 5/1 Anoka SC, 5/7 Houston FL, 5/16 Nicollet JSp; early north 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/15 Polk TL, 5/27 Norman RJ.

#### **Savannah Sparrow**

Early south 4/17 Anoka KL, 4/22 Anoka RJ, Goodhue BL, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB, JD, OJ, MH, DEW; early north 4/23 Aitkin WN, 4/28 Otter Tail SDM, 4/29 Lake SW/MS.

#### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Early south 5/8 Olmsted RE, 5/15 Washington DZ/MC, 5/17 Blue Earth MR; early north 5/15 Pennington KL, 5/22 Mille Lacs MLWMA, 5/23 Polk KSS.

#### **LeConte's Sparrow**

Early south 5/5 Hennepin SC, 5/10 Washington DS, 5/11 Hennepin ES; early north 4/24 St. Louis MH, 4/26 Lake SW/MS, 5/5 Hubbard DJ.

#### **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

One report 5/29 Aitkin TS.

#### **Fox Sparrow**

3/5 Brown JSp, 3/6 Fillmore RJ, 3/9

Hennepin SC; early north 4/9 Otter Tail GMO, 4/12 Clay LCF, 4/14 Aitkin WN, Cook SC, St. Louis AE; late south 5/7 Olmsted RE; late north 5/3 St. Louis AE.

### **Song Sparrow**

Early north 3/12 Otter Tail GMO, 4/17 Otter Tail SDM, 4/20 Aitkin WN, Mille Lacs MLWMA, Pennington KSS.

### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle EC, 4/26 Olmsted JEB, 4/27 Mower RS; early north 4/26 Otter Tail SDM, 4/27 Clay LCF, Crow Wing JB, 4/29 Polk KSS; late south 5/21 Hennepin DB, 5/25 Martin EB/K.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

Early south 4/4 Kandiyohi KL, 4/10 Washington DS, 4/12 Blue Earth MF; early north 4/16 Pennington KSS, 4/21 Itasca DB, 4/22 Red Lake TT.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Early south 3/1 Hennepin SC, (probable wintering bird?) 3/11 Ramsey DZ/MC, (wintering bird) 3/13 Houston EMF; early north 4/8 Otter Tail SDM, 4/24 Crow Wing JB, 4/26 St. Louis AE; late south 5/24 Cottonwood WH, 5/25 Brown JSp, Olmsted RE, Washington WL.

### **White-crowned Sparrow**

Early south 3/1 Olmsted JEB (wintering bird) 4/22 Brown Brown KL, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle FAE; early north 3/12 Otter Tail GMO, (wintering bird) 4/27 Clay LCF, 5/8 Aitkin WN; late south 5/24 Cottonwood WH, Murray AD; late north 5/25 Cook SW/MS, 5/27 Aitkin WN, Cook KMH.

### **Harris' Sparrow**

Early south 4/10 Le Sueur HC, 5/8 Rock AB, 5/10 Chippewa RJ, Lyon HK; early north 5/4 Clay LCF, 5/6 Polk TT, 5/10 Otter Tail SDM, Polk KSS; late south 5/28 Yellow Medicine FAE; late north Lake fide SW/MS.

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Late south 5/10 Ramsey RH, 5/13 Cottonwood WH.

### **Lapland Longspur**

Early north 3/2 Clay TT, 3/20 Polk KSS; late south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle RH, 4/30 Mower RJ; late north 5/22 St. Louis TL, 5/23 Lake fide SW/MS.

### **Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Two reports 4/17 Pennington KSS, 4/24 Clay TT.

### **Snow Bunting**

Late south 3/25 Nicollet JCF; late north 5/11 Lake of the Woods TW, 5/23 Lake fide SW/MS.

### **Bobolink**

Early south 5/5 Washington RH, 5/6 Olmsted JEB, 5/7 Brown JSp, Houston EMF; early north 5/9 Polk TT, 5/10 Mille Lacs MLWMA, Polk KSS, 5/11 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Early north 3/1 Aitkin WN, 3/5 Otter Tail GMO, 3/16 Becker DJ, Beltrami JP.

### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Early north 4/5 Becker TNWR, 4/9 Mahnomen MHA, 4/13 Cass JC.

### **Western Meadowlark**

Early north 3/13 Otter Tail GMO, 3/15 Clay TT, 3/27 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Early south 3/25 Cottonwood WH, 3/29 Sherburne EH/SS, 4/7 Yellow Medicine JS; early north 3/24 Clay TT, 4/17 Otter Tail SDM, 4/20 Otter Tail GMO, 4/20 Otter Tail GMO, 4/22 Marshall KSS.

### **Rusty Blackbird**

Early north 4/6 Clay TT, 4/10 Otter Tail SDM, 4/17 Cook AB, DB; late south 5/22 Rice KJ; north 4/21 Cook KMH.

### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Early south 3/15 Ramsey RH, 3/24 Washington DS, 3/26 Olmsted JEB; early north 4/16 Pennington KSS, 4/19 Otter Tail SDM, 4/23 Polk MH.

### **Common Grackle**

Early north 3/1 Aitkin WN (wintering bird?) Cook KMH, 3/21 Otter Tail GMO, 3/24 Otter Tail SDM.

### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Early south 3/4 Nicollet JCF (wintering bird?) 3/19 Fillmore RJ, 3/31 LeSueur EK; early north 4/12 Aitkin WN, 4/18 Cook KMH, 4/20 Cook SL, Otter Tail SDM.

### **Orchard Oriole**

Early south 5/12 Blue Earth MF, 5/13 Brown JSp, Houston EMF, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle FAE, Olmsted KL; early north 5/12 Clay LCF, 5/15 Otter Tail GMO.

### **Northern Oriole**

Early south, 5/5 Wabasha WDM, 5/6 Nicollet JCF, Washington DGW; early north 5/6 Beltrami JP, 5/7 Clay LCF, 5/9 Crow Wing JB, Pennington KSS.

### **Pine Grosbeak**

Five reports 3/1 St. Louis AE, 3/12 Beltrami JP, 3/18 St. Louis AE, 3/23 Cook KMH, 4/9 Hubbard DJ.

### **Purple Finch**

Reported from twenty-two counties south and nineteen counties north.

### **Red Crossbill**

Nine reports 3/1 Lake SW/MS, 3/19 Beltrami JP, 4/2 Crow Wing JB, 4/10 Cass WN, Clay JB, 4/20 Cook KMH, 5/1 Becker AB, 5/15 Hubbard AB.

### **White-winged Crossbill**

One report 4/12 Cook SL.

### **Common Redpoll**

Two reports 3/12 Cook KMH, 5/4 Itasca fide OJ.

### **Pine Siskin**

Reported from six counties south and thirteen counties north.

### **American Goldfinch**

Reported from twenty-three counties south and fourteen counties north.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

One report south 3/28 Olmsted JEB. Reported from twelve counties north.

### **House Sparrow**

Reported from twenty one counties south and ten counties north.

Betty/Doug Campbell (BDC)

Elizabeth Campbell (EC)

Steve Carlson (SC)

Horace Chamberlain (HC)

Jane Cliff (JC)

Mrs. Arnold DeKam (AD)

Joanne Dempsey (JD)

Kim Eckerd (KE)

Fred/Alpha Eckhardt (FAE)

Robert Ekblad (RE)

Audrey Evers (AE)

Laurence/Carol Falk (LCF)

Herbert/Jeanette Fisher (HJF)

Eugene/Marilyn Ford (EMF)

Joan Fowler (JF)

Mary Lou Freitag (MLF)

John C. Frentz (JCF)

Merrill Frydendall (MF)

Pepper Fuller (PF)

Margo Hanson (MHa)

Walter Harder (WH)

E. Hawkins (EH)

Mike Hendrickson (MH)

Nestor Hiemenz (NH)

Ed Hibbard/Sarappo (EH/SS)

Ken/Molly Hoffman (KMH)

Robert E. Holtz (RH)

Robert Janssen (RJ)

Kirk Jeffrey (KJ)

Bob Jessen (BJ)

David H. Johnson (DJ)

Oscar Johnson (OJ)

Ron/Rose Kneeskern (RRK)

Erllys Krueger (EK)

Henry C. Kyllingstad (HK)

Ken LaFond (KL)

Tim Lamey (TL)

Violet Lender (VL)

Fred Leshar (FL)

Bill Litkey (BL)

William Longley (WL)

Sandy Lunke (SL)

Wynn/Don Mahle (WDM)

B.J. Mettler (BM)

Steve/Diane Millard (SDM)

Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area (MLWMA)

Clare Mohs (CM)

Warren Nelson (WN)

Gary/Marion Otnes (GMO)

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# NOTES OF INTEREST

**JAEGERS AT GRAND MARAIS** — Alice Searles and I were birding the Grand Marais Harbor area on Sunday, September 4, 1983 between 8 and 10 a.m. We had seen several different migrating warblers in the wooded area near the campground overflow, but nothing for shore birds. We walked out on the wooded point beyond the Coast Guard Station and were checking out some Red-breasted Mergansers when suddenly a very dark bird flew out onto the lake to the southeast of us. It flew across in front of us back and forth over a fishing boat and then flew out further on the lake out of range. While we pondered, another similar bird flew east past us, out over a fishing boat, caught a much smaller bird, turned and came back past us at a range of no more than 25 feet and flew over the woods where we lost it. As we observed these individuals, me with my 10x50 Holiday specials and Alice with her Jenson 7-15x35 binoculars set at about 12 power, we called out identifying characteristics as we noted them. When the birds were gone, we jotted them down, and made drawings, and only then did we turn to the books to verify what we thought must be some kind of jaeger. Field notes are as follows: a very dark trim bird about tern sized, dark above and below, swept back wings like a tern, wings dark with lighter area across the middle - base of primaries - flight - strong, rapid wing-beats with sparse short periods of glide. Tail sharply angled. When in between sightings we thought maybe we had seen a jaeger, we mentioned that we had seen no tail projections, so knew we were dealing with an immature specimen. We double-checked this observation when we sighted the second individual. As the second bird flew by us so closely, I noted a slim bill (I did not see a hook at the end, but it was **not** curved like a falcon's), and dark chest and abdomen that looked almost banded - definitely spotted. The area at the bottom of the belly appeared to be almost a dark rust or dark burnt orange color with the darker banding. The feet were hanging somewhat low as if it was still carrying what it had appeared to catch, but it flew by so quickly I could not identify what it held. As the second bird flew toward me, I thought, "Could it be one of the Merlins we had seen two weeks before, instead of the hoped-for jaeger?", so I really tried to check things to rule that out as it went by. The tail shape

and bill were both definitely wrong for a Merlin, and there was no Merlin face pattern, but a fairly uniform dark brown coloring on the head and back. I would say the total observation time of the two specimens was not over three minutes — with a little time in between — enough to help us collect our thoughts. We noted the time as 9:40 a.m., sky mostly cloudy, temperature in the low 70's, and a slight breeze coming from the southwest. We then checked both Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*, c. 1980, and Robbins' et al, *Birds of North America* to determine which jaeger we had seen. The tail was more sharply angled than that of a Pomarine Jaeger and there was no white on the underside of the bird. It also seemed more trim than that species. Based on the darkness of the bird and the sharp angle of the tail, we finally concluded that what we had seen were two immature Parasitic Jaegers, probably dark phase. I'm not one to jump to conclusions, and I tried to rule out all other possibilities, so it wouldn't be a case of wishful thinking making it so. One thing bothered me — the bird capturing a smaller warbler-sized bird. Both field guides we had with us mentioned that they eat fish, or young birds or food taken from other birds or the water, but no mention is made of them capturing small birds in flight. We definitely saw the larger bird chasing a smaller bird and apparently nab it, as when the larger bird turned, the smaller bird was no longer there. I feel that if the jaeger had just nudged or injured the small bird, we would have seen it veer or drop, and we didn't. In looking at the field guides, we noted the apparently webbed feet and wondered how our bird could have caught the smaller one in webbed feet. So, when I got home, I checked Terres' *Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. In looking at the picture of the leg of the skua family, I felt that it was within the realm of possibility that a bird with such a claw could catch and hold onto a smaller bird, even though the foot was webbed. Terres also says the Parasitic Jaeger swallows small birds whole with feathers on, so that could have happened. I did not actually see the small bird in its claws as it flew by at less than 25 feet — it was flying fast and it seemed there were too many things to look for at once, but I did notice that its feet were hanging down somewhat. **Helen Tucker, Box 38, Millville, MN 55957.**

**ANOTHER SNOWY PLOVER AT LAKE OF THE WOODS** — The date was July 28, 1983 at Zippel Bay on Lake of the Woods. The bird was seen with two Spotted Sandpipers at a distance of 25 feet. I studied it for over five minutes through Leitz 7x42 binoculars. At first I thought it was an immature Piping Plover, but something wasn't right. It had a very noticeable black ear patch and the back was very light. Looking closer I noted the slim black bill and dark legs. It had an incomplete black breast ring — on the sides only. The bird was quite inactive. It would run a few feet one way, then come back again. I watched the bird for over five minutes (wishing I had my camera with 1000 ml lens which was back at the car, over a mile away) when I decided to flush it to see it in flight. Sure enough the bird had a dark rump, not white like the Piping Plover. Back at the car I checked "Peterson" and the bird fit the description of the Snowy Plover on all counts — black ear mark — black bill — dark legs — black on sides of breast only — rump dark and pale black. **Nestor Hiemenz, 705 - 18th Avenue, St. Cloud, MN 56301.**

**FIRST RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER SIGHTING AT NORTHWOODS AUDUBON CENTER** — On October 4, 1983, at 10:00 a.m., a Red-bellied Woodpecker was on the feeder outside of my office window at the house. It was the first Red-bellied Woodpecker that I have seen north of the Pine City area. To date this woodpecker has been present only in the hardwood forests of the Des Moines lobe till in the southern end of Pine County. It was not observed during the summer, so it may have moved during the autumn storms which had been moving from SW to NE across the state. This bird represents the 174th species observed within the National Audubon Society Sanctuary at the Northwoods Audubon Center. **Michael Link, Route 1, Sandstone, MN 55072.**

**SABINE'S GULL AT LAKE BENTON** — On October 2, 1983 Ray Glassel and I had been birding in southwestern Minnesota. We had just completed a walk through Hole-in-the-Mountain Park in Lake Benton, Lincoln County. We decided to scan the lake (Lake Benton) for any water birds that might be present. There was a large flock of Franklin's Gulls far out in the lake. As we were watching these gulls, from the west end of the lake, we noted a single very dark appearing gull about 50 yards off shore, sitting on the water by itself. We at first thought it was a Franklin's Gull, but the darkness of the gull, the white forehead and long pointed wings extending beyond the tail made us stop to give the bird a closer look. The bird took flight after about ten seconds and we immediately noted the following: notched tail with black terminal band, rest of the tail white, the back was brown, the most striking thing about the bird was the wing pattern. The brown of the back extended onto the forewing, the outer primaries were black and the rear of the secondaries and inner primaries were a striking white, an obvious winter plumaged Sabine's Gull. The bird flew out over the lake away from us and then made a wide circle returning to the area of our first observation. It was joined by several Ring-billed Gulls and we noted that the Sabine's was smaller than the Ring-bills. The bird sat momentarily on the water, then flew out to the middle of the lake toward the flock of Franklin's Gulls and was lost from view. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

**SUMMER RECORD OF A LAPLAND LONGSPUR** — Since the Lapland Longspur nests in the Arctic tundra, no farther south than the vicinity of Churchill on Hudson Bay, this species has never been recorded in Minnesota (or anywhere else in the lower 48 U.S.?) during summer. But on June 26, 1983, while leading a WINGS tour in Rice Lake N.W.R. in Aitkin Co., a male Lapland Longspur in breeding plumage flushed from the grass in front of me as the group was walking through a field in search of Sharp-tailed Grouse. The bird flew directly away from me for several yards giving its distinctive rattling call, and I knew immediately it sounded like a Lapland Longspur but I hesitated to identify it because of the season. After a few seconds the bird turned, circled back and flew past me no more than 15 feet away. As it did so I could clearly see, without having to use binoculars, the diagnostic field marks: black face and throat, white stripe behind the eye and down the neck, chestnut collar, white breast and belly, and brown upperparts (I was unable to see the white outer tail feathers which are often difficult to see on this species). The longspur landed in the grass out of sight about 100 yards or so behind me; I did not walk back for another look since those in the group within earshot were more interested in looking for grouse in the field ahead of us, and since there was nothing to be gained by getting a second look. Whether this was a migrant a month later than normal or a non-breeding, summering bird is difficult to say. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS AT GRAND MARAIS** — At 10:30 a.m. on October 3, 1983 while following the progress of an active flock of kinglets through trees and brush near the end of the point south and east of the Coast Guard Station in Grand Marais, we observed a long-tailed bird (Brown Thrasher size) fly into a shrubby Birch tree at the edge of the rock beach. We had split up before encountering the bird and so one of us observed from the rock beach from 25 feet and the other from a path on the opposite (inland) side of the bush from 15 feet. The bird was perched about eight feet up, not obscured by leaves or branches and sitting very still. The eye was dark with a narrow yellowish ring; head and back were unmarked medium brown; breast and belly were white. The rufous of the primaries was very evident as were the large white tail spots (the bird allowed us to move about to observe the underside of the tail). The upper mandible was yellow at the base and shaded to black at the tip, the lower mandible was yellow except for the very tip which was black. The cuckoo remained and we moved

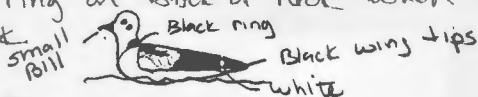


on. At about 11:15 a.m. while driving from downtown Grand Marais toward the city Tourist Park we observed a Yellow-billed Cuckoo fly across the road and land in a small bush near the fishing shacks on the north side of the Grand Marais harbor (about 1/2 mile from the first sighting). We were able to locate the bird and from close range determined that it was not the same bird we had just seen on the point. The difference: the upper mandible was nearly all black and not noticeably yellow at the base. A third observation of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo occurred at 12:30 p.m. in the overflow camping area of the Tourist Park (1/2 mile from the second sighting, 1 mile from the first sighting), but as we did not get a close enough look we could not determine if this might have been perhaps one of the birds we had seen earlier. We observed the birds with 7x35 binoculars. It was cloudy all day with some periods of very light rain, 45 to 50 degrees and very little wind. We believe this observation to be unusual not only because of the late date but because it is the first record of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Cook County. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

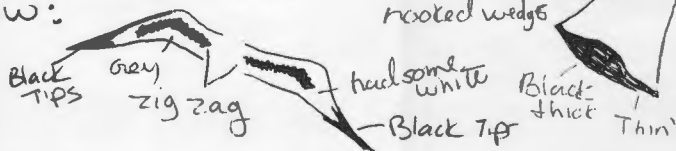
**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT STONEY POINT** — On September 11, 1983 Kieth Camburn and I went to Stoney Point to check out the area for rare birds. When we arrived we noticed many Bonaparte's Gulls flying along the edge of the lake. We decided to walk out to the fishing shacks where we noticed that the Bonaparte's Gulls were flying closer to shore, so we checked them all. We walked down a little further where we noticed some warblers and chickadees in the small woods by the lake. We went into the woods where we saw Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green and Cape May Warblers. We noticed that here we could get a better look at the Bonaparte's Gulls and then we noticed a small flock swimming in the water no further than 1/2 block away. I mentioned to Kieth that there was a larger bird swimming with them. I knew right away it was a Black-legged Kittiwake. I had seen one before in June 1982 at Herding Island on Minnesota Point, Duluth with Kim Eckert and Bob Janssen. This bird had some similarities, except on that bird the neck ring was harder to see. This bird was a first year immature just like in the book (see sketch below). **Mike Hendrickson, 1022 N. 11th Ave., Duluth, MN 55805.**

NOTES:

a larger Bird, smaller than ring-billed, larger than Bonaparte's. white head, dainty, Black bill, Black eye, Black ring on back of neck when the Bird stretched out its neck



when Bird flew:



**TRICOLORED HERON NEAR ALDEN IN BRYSON-PEDERSEN MARSH AREA**

— On July 7, 1983 while cultivating corn, I saw a small heron under poor light conditions (against a setting sun) and only briefly, without binoculars at about 75 yards, at about 8:00 p.m. It was near a Great Blue Heron and size difference was very noticeable. I dismissed it as a Little Blue Heron. On Monday, July 11, Tom Sterling, a Audubon Wildlife Film photographer-lecturer from Jackson, Michigan, my son Donald Bryson, and I were watching a brood of Canada Geese in the Pedersen portion of the wetland

when Tom said "Bill, you're so enthused about those geese you're overlooking the most significant thing out there." I swung my binoculars around the marsh and picked up the heron. I again thought, and said, "Little Blue." Tom said, "No, it's a Tricolored." He then pointed out the white stripe on the front of the neck and the white tuft on the back of the head. When it turned away from us the white belly and rump showed from behind. He was feeding in shallow water, near the shore, about 85 yards from us. We watched the bird feeding for some time, at least 20 minutes, and checked Tricolored Heron in Robbins *Birds of North America*. We then went to my home and called the Albert Lea Audubon "hot line" and Robert Janssen, Editor of the *Loon*. We then took Mrs. Sandy Sterling and my wife Arlene, and the spotting scope and Peterson's guides and Richard Pough's *Audubon Waterbird Guide* with us and went back to the marsh. We were joined by Nancy Holway from Alden. The bird was still feeding in the same area. We observed the bird through both binoculars and the 15X scope. After a few minutes, and while we were "setting up" a camera, he flew about 40 yards and lit on a muskrat house, stretched and preened himself briefly, then flew around the marsh several times before disappearing behind some willows. The white belly was very conspicuous when the bird was on the muskrat house and in flight. We could not locate the bird again. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Pedersen, who live near the marsh, said the little heron had been "around" for over a week and they saw him last on Tuesday, July 12. **William Bryson, Rt. 2, Alden, MN 56009.**

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW AT GRAND MARAIS** — In spite of the periods of light rain the birding was excellent and so on October 3, 1983 at about 11:45 a.m. we found ourselves in the recreation area of the Grand Marais Tourist Park. As we approached a weedy grassy area near heavy brush a small sparrow jumped up from grass and perched in a bush six feet off the ground. Although the sparrow was inside the bush we were in such a position that from 25 feet away our view was unobstructed. The sparrow was wet and began preening. Its large-headed appearance immediately caused us to look more carefully. The bill seemed disproportionately large and thick when compared to sparrows we are more accustomed to seeing (such as Savannah, Song, White-throated, White-crowned). The large head was marked with a light median stripe bordered by darker stripes. Below the darker stripe was a broad tan or buff stripe — above the eye and extending back to the nape of the neck. A thin dark stripe extended back from the eye to the nape. The cheek area was buffy. The nape contrasted with the heavy striping of the back, being more finely striped and lighter in color. The bill, legs and feet were so pale in color as to appear almost white. The throat and chest were light buff; the belly and under the tail were white — a pattern similar to the Clay-colored Sparrow's chest and belly. Streaking was not evident on chest, belly or sides. The tail seemed very thin as though feathers were missing. As the bird twisted and preened and got ready to fly we could not see any unusual markings or color on its striped back. After five minutes of observation the small sparrow flew into a nearby weed patch. We flushed it and again observed its flight. The bird seemed to flap and glide without any regular pattern and seemed to hold its tail slightly below the plane of the body, as if it was always ready to land again. The overall impression of its flight was that it was very weak and irregular and after about thirty feet the sparrow dropped again into heavy grass not to be seen again. At this time a sketch of the head was made. We have not had any experience with this species. It was only after consulting field guides we determined the bird to be a Grasshopper Sparrow. Observations were made with 7x35 binoculars and light conditions were excellent for seeing colors. **Ken and Molly Hoffman, Gunflint Trail, Box 58, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

**EASTERN BLUEBIRDS RAISE THREE BROODS IN HUBBARD COUNTY** — 1983 was an excellent year for bluebirds in the Park Rapids area. One-hundred twelve (105 young and seven adult) bluebirds were banded at 24 nest sites within a 15 mile

radius of Park Rapids. One nest site is of particular interest in that 13 young were fledged from it. The nest site (a nest box) was located at the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  section 19 T140N R34W Hubbard County, MN. My banding records indicate the following: five young banded on 5/26/83, four young banded on 7/9/83, and four young banded on 8/20/83. The adult female was banded on 6/18/83 and was recaptured on several occasions later — indicating that she laid the 13 eggs which produced the young. The adult male eluded capture and was not banded. This is the first occurrence of a triple brood on the study area (see *Loon* 55(1):17-22) and the first I am familiar with for northern Minnesota. **David H. Johnson, Red Lake W.M.A., Box 100, Roosevelt, MN 56673.**

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN CARLTON COUNTY** — We were driving north on Minnesota Highway #73 about five mile north of the town of Kettle River in Carlton County at 1:00 PM on November 20, 1983. Out of the drizzle ahead of us a gull flew towards us only several yards above the pavement. The brief glimpse we got of the underside and the light flight suggested either an immature Sabine's Gull or immature kittiwake. We turned around and were able to race ahead of the bird, stop, and let it pass by us four times as it continued south. It never went more than thirty yards from the highway and appeared to be "hunting" the road much as a gull "hunts" a shoreline. Though it was totally overcast and drizzling with a visibility of only 100 yards, the bird was seen for a total time of about two minutes and once approached within a few yards. It seemed to make a point of deviating from its course to check us out and even circled us at one stop. The bird was a small gull with a distinctly notched tail terminating in a black band (no white beyond the black). Occasionally the bird would fan its tail out and the notch would disappear. The bill was small and black, the eye was dark, there was a black spot behind the eye, and a thick black band behind the spot which went from one side over the nape and down the other side. The feet were black and were pulled in, ending at about the vent. As the bird flew towards us the white forehead was striking and the black leading edge of the outerwing was easily seen. When the bird banked, the upper surface of the wings was visible. The tips were nearly all black (some white) and the remainder of the upper surface was gray in front, followed by a diagonal black line with white behind it. Essentially, the bird looked like the immature Black-legged Kittiwake in Robbins' field guide except the upper wing surface was white behind the black wing stripe (as in his illustration of an immature Sabine's Gull) and the neck band was thicker. A photograph of a bird looking precisely like this is found in **Gulls - A Guide to Identification**; by P. J. Grant, 1982 on p. 252, photograph 302. Field guides were consulted between views to see if there were any characteristics we had failed to note which might discriminate this from other immature gulls even though we were both familiar with immature and adult kittiwakes from the Pribilof Islands. Ann's parents, Roy and Elaine McKenzie, also observed the bird and contributed parts of this description. Various binoculars in the 7x to 8.5x range were used. **Ann McKenzie & Jon Peterson 15630 Upper 194th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033.**

**JAEGER (SP.) AT ITASCA STATE PARK** — At noon on 2 October, 1983, I was walking alone on a trail along the east shore of Lake Itasca, Itasca State Park (Clearwater Co.), about  $\frac{1}{2}$  km north of the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biology Station. The weather was poor: temperature about 40° F, heavy overcast with light rain, and strong north winds. I noticed a solitary medium-sized dark bird flying south, about 300 m offshore and the same distance from me, and only 1-2 m above the water. I quickly looked through my binoculars, and recognized it within a few seconds as a jaeger. Although I had never before seen a jaeger in Minnesota, I have seen both Pomarine and Parasitic elsewhere. The bird appeared entirely mottled sooty-brown above and below, with no field marks except a small amount of white on the outer primaries (this bird

was flying so low over the water that I was unable to see the underside of the wings). The manner of flight was distinctive: powerful, shallow, falcon-like wingbeats, with the wing angled back sharply at the "wrist." I did not see elongated central rectrices, and thus believe the bird was an immature; however, the viewing conditions were admittedly poor. I watched the jaeger for about 15 seconds until it disappeared to the south. A minute or so later, it reappeared about 1 km. away and began harrying a Ring-billed Gull, but it quickly went out of view again. I spent the next hour scanning the lake, and especially the 75 gulls present, but I never saw the jaeger again. Since the jaeger was somewhat smaller than the Ring-billed Gull it was chasing, I feel it probably was not a Pomarine, but unfortunately I was unable to identify it to species. This is the first jaeger record for Itasca State Park, and one of only a few state records away from Lake Superior. **Bruce A. Fall, Bell Museum of Natural History University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

**ADULT PARASITIC JAEGER AT STONEY POINT** — On Sept. 17, 1983, Jerry Pruett, Joel Dunnette, and I were birding at Stoney Point near Duluth as part of "The Hawk Watch" weekend. We had stopped to scan Lake Superior and were watching several Horned Grebes near shore. As I scanned further out near the edge of the fog I suddenly saw a dark gull sized bird fly up out of the fog. I immediately called out "jaeger." We observed the bird for about 30 seconds as it flew rapidly on to the northeast. The bird was dark on top and light underneath with a dark band across the top of the breast. It had a dark tail and the two central feathers extended beyond the tail to a length approximately twice as long as the rest of the tail. I had observed several Parasitic Jaegers in Churchill, Manitoba this past July and was sure this bird was a Parasitic Jaeger. We also noted that though its wing flapping was about the same rate as the Herring Gulls flying in the same area, the jaeger flew much faster than the gulls. Several other people in the area also saw the bird and agreed with our identification. **Jerry Bonkoski Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

**A FIRST OLDSQUAW (*Clangula hyemalis*) RECORD FOR MOWER COUNTY** — On November 6, 1983 at about 10 a.m. I was bicycling out to the Hormel Nature Center under overcast skies, and as I pedaled along the shore of Eastside Lake, I made stops for ducks. On the second stop, I noticed a lone duck across the lake near the freeway. It was "roundish" with white on the side of the head, but for some reason, I didn't think of female Bufflehead. If I had, I might have simply gone on. The white was too high and large, the forehead a little "squarish." I thought first of female Harlequin, wishfully, then of Oldsquaw. Eventually, I was able to approach with a hundred feet and drew the accompanying notebook sketch. This was clearly transitional plumage, and as the duck preened extensively, I felt that I was able to see virtually every external feather. The wings were all dark, so was the back, the sides were dark gray, and as it rolled in the water to preen, the breast below the waterline was light gray. I left at this point, and returned with Ron Kneeskern at 1 p.m. We watched the bird with Ron's 30x scope for a half hour as it preened and fished (spreading its wings and rectrices scoter-fashion as it dived). Finally it flew, and we both noted a median dorsal black stripe with wide white lateral stripes — which we had both somehow missed while watching it preen. There was simply too much white, and the black stripe was too wide for a male Harlequin, so I reluctantly concluded this was a male Oldsquaw changing into winter plumage, with the black feathers on the top of the head remaining. Perhaps it was immature, making the plumage still less textbook-like. On November 12th, Ron and I observed the duck swimming with a hen Ring-necked Duck and a hen Redhead. The Oldsquaw seemed to "pursue" the Ring-necked Duck a little. Once, after diving, the Oldsquaw surfaced within



# BOOK REVIEWS

**Seabirds. An Identification Guide.** By Peter Harrison. Illustrated by the author. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 448 pages, including 88 color plates, numerous black and white illustrations, 324 distribution maps, index, and glossary. 1983. \$29.95.

Bird identification guides are popular books because of their great demand by a seemingly ever increasing number of professional and non-professional birders. In Peter Harrison's *Seabirds* we have a fairly large, hard-cover, sort of super guide packed so full of information that it is bound to overwhelm you at first glance. The book's coverage is ocean wide. One also learns from the text that birding at sea is not the easy sport it appears to be.

Seabirds are numerous and many of them range over enormous distances. Moreover, many are strikingly similar and provide few clues as to their true identities. Compounding the problem are the many plumages of different age groups, in some cases as many as a half dozen types or stages. Nor can we easily dismiss the special problems relating to melanism, leucism, aberrant conditions, interbreeding, etc., which are all too visible in the world of seabirds. There are other problems too!

If you have ever stood on the deck of a bouncing ship, no doubt you soon discovered how difficult it is to judge distance and the size of birds over water. The rougher the waters the more difficult to make these judgments, not to mention difficulties relating to colors and patterns, and that old drudgery of seasickness. Since seabirds often avoid the ocean doldrums, and concentrate in the windy areas, the serious seabirder heads for the roughest seas imaginable.

Probably no more diehard seabirder exists than the author Harrison who, according to Roger Tory Peterson, probably has seen more wild seabirds than any other ornithologist or birder. With this kind of

experience and background, one can readily understand why Harrison crammed so much material in his guide, including a preponderance of illustrations, descriptions, maps and just about everything that fits in a 6- by 9-inch volume. He did this simply because they are needed. Harrison's use of term "Jizz" is especially revealing because it clearly points up this problem of seabird identification. According to the author, "Jizz is not created by any particular feature of plumage, nor by behavioral traits or even by shape, though much does depend on shape. Jizz is rather a combination of ill-defined elements which allows a bird to be labelled as 'elegant,' 'powerful,' 'impressive,' etc. Despite its abstract connotations, jizz can enable a bird to be recognized instantly without recourse to critical examination of such things as wingtips etc., and this is one of the most important characters of all to look for." The author continues his discourse on the importance of jizz, leaving no stone unturned in his attempt to assist the untrained.

*Seabirds* is not the kind of book that is read from cover to cover, but rather one that is frequently used as a reference in the field. Although it has the appearance of a handbook it is anything but that because other than written and illustrated descriptions of birds and their distributions, it contains little factual life-history material on the many species. The egg dates included do little more than give the reader a clue as to when to expect adults in breeding plumage. The book is what it claims to be — an identification guide. It certainly is that.

The illustrations, like the written material, are compressed into tight composites. Seabirds with their long wings lend themselves well to this kind of treatment. Seabirds at rest also look somewhat natural in composites since many of these birds roost in flocks. Even though much artistic beauty is lost in composites, Peter Harri-



son's illustrations are of high quality and they do precisely what they are supposed to do, namely give the reader very good clues in identifying seabirds accurately. They also speak well of the talents of Harrison who manages not only the text but all of the illustrations as well.

As good as this book is, like most it has some shortcomings. One that disturbs me is the rather flimsy coverage of seabird literature that results in some important inaccuracies in the text and map distributions. By and large it is a very impressive piece of work, one that most of us would be hard put to duplicate.

Whether you are content to watch seabirds from the seashore, or prone to endure the discomforts of riding the high waves, all is worth the effort to study seabird identification, for there is no greater spectacle on this earth than the myriads of seabirds that grace the mighty oceans. I strongly recommend the great Southern Ocean, but whether you go to the serene tropics, or to the more inhospitable waters of high latitudes, you will surely want to take Harrison's *Seabirds* with you. Count on an extra camera bag, for the book will not fit your purse or coat pocket. But, by all means, take the book with you. — **David F. Parmelee, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

### **Publications of the Peregrine Fund**

**Hacking: A Method for Releasing Peregrine Falcons and Other Birds of Prey.** By Steve K. Sherrod, William R. Heinrich, William A. Burnham, John H. Barclay, and Tom J. Cade. The Peregrine Fund, Ithaca, N.Y. and Ft. Collins, Colo. 1981, vi + 61 pp. Paperback, \$5.00, plus \$1.25 for mailing.

**Falcon Propagation. A Manual on Captive Breeding.** Edited by James D. Weaver and Tom Cade (10 authors). The Peregrine Fund, Ithaca, N.Y., Ft. Collins, Colo., Santa Cruz, Calif., 1983, viii + 100 pages. Paperback, \$5.00 plus \$1.25 for mailing.

**Behavior of Fledgling Peregrines.** By Steve K. Sherrod. The Peregrine Fund, Ithaca, N.Y., Ft. Collins, Colo., Santa

Cruz, Calif., 1983, xi + 202 pp. Paperback, \$10.00, postage included.

Anyone familiar with our efforts to reestablish Peregrine Falcons as breeding birds in Minnesota will understand my admiration for the work of the falcon biologists of The Peregrine Fund. Led by Tom Cade, Cornell University, they pioneered in developing techniques for rearing peregrines in captivity for release in the wild. This past summer, 1983, as result of their efforts at least 14 pairs of peregrines held territories in the eastern U.S., nine pairs laid eggs, and eight of these pairs fledged a total of 23 young. In the West, the decline in wild peregrines has been reversed, and peregrines are again established at sites in California where they disappeared at the height of the disastrous DDT episode. The peregrine story is one of the outstanding conservation achievements of this century.

The first of the three publications reviewed here is a detailed manual prepared primarily for attendants at peregrine release sites. It includes selection of release sites for hacking; construction of hack site, towers, hack boxes; care of "food birds;" care of young falcons before and after flight; instructions on rock climbing, for cliff sites; safety tips, ranging from dealing with bears to avoiding getting hit by lightning; falcon marking techniques. The topics are covered in detail because attention to details can make the difference between a successful release or a failure. The book is well illustrated with photographs and drawings.

The booklet on falcon propagation, with chapters contributed by 10 authors, describes the building facilities needed, management and maintenance of the adult falcons, artificial insemination, training imprinted semen donors, imprinted females, incubation and rearing, and pharmacology. Again, excellent illustrations add to the attractiveness and usefulness of the book.

The publication on behavior of fledged peregrines is from a doctoral dissertation by Steve Sherrod. He studied the behavior of young peregrines from the time of first flight to independence at release sites in the U.S. and at wild nest sites in Greenland and Australia. Topics covered include

leaving the nest, behavior in flight, the act of killing, food transfers from adults to young, aggression of young toward adults and solicitation for food, interspecific aggression by adults and young, length of dependency period, perched behavior, hunting flights by young, and ranging from the nest cliff. Sherrod's study is a detailed scientific report, fully referenced to the appropriate literature. Readers with a general interest in peregrines will find it too detailed for easy reading, but still rewarding for its wealth of new information. For example, the development hunting skills is a matter of survival to young falcons and of great interest to falcon buffs. Sherrod's discussion of this, from the first clumsy pursuit flights at inappropriate prey to the skillful selection and capture of prey after a month or so on the wing, is the finest I've seen for any bird of prey.

Falconers and falconry have been viewed with uneasiness and sometimes hostility by people concerned about birds of prey. However, when the crunch came for peregrines, it was the falconers who had the interest, skills, and dedication to figure out what needed to be done to restore the birds to the wild. No matter that they were motivated by self-interest. Nothing works better. All of us who admire birds of prey should understand our debt to falconers.

These publications can be purchased from The Peregrine Fund, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 — **Harri-son B. Tordoff, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

**Bird Conservation:** No. 1 Edited by Stanley A. Temple. 1983. 192 pages. Paperback, \$12.95.

This new publication by the U.S. Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) will be a welcomed addition to the libraries of ornithologists and natural resource managers. Designed as an annual publication, the primary objective of BIRD CONSERVATION is to facilitate the exchange of information about research, management and conservation

programs directed at protecting and restoring native bird populations. Although popularized accounts of highly visible or controversial programs, such as the California Condor recovery effort, often appear in newspapers or magazines, many years pass before the technical data is published in scientific journals. Most conservation efforts are not in the public's eye and may not be familiar even to professional biologists. The ICBP's publication aims to overcome these problems and its first attempt is commendable.

The book's well-structured format not only simplifies the task of preparing future issues, but also establishes its utility as a handy reference. The first of three sections provides a comprehensive account of specific conservation programs. Three birds of prey are highlighted in the first issue: the Peregrine Falcon and recent efforts to restore a breeding population to the eastern United States; the Bald Eagle and its status, distribution and management needs in the northern United States, and the California Condor and recent efforts to save the species from extinction. I was a little disappointed that the article on Bald Eagles was simply an excerpt from the Northern States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan and that it did not, like the articles on the condor and falcon, review current efforts designed to restore breeding populations. The reader will, however, find a summary of eagle restoration projects in the second section of the book. The articles on the Peregrine Falcon and California Condor were very informative and helped to clarify the details of each project. The authors, however, seemed overly sensitive to criticism that is frequently directed at these projects, particularly the condor project. Although I felt that an undue amount of space was allotted to countering these criticisms and justifying the scope and content of the respective programs, the discussions do give readers some insight into the controversies.

The second section, "Bird Conservation News and Update", provides a brief summary and update on a host of bird conservation items. Included are a review of pertinent legislation, short summaries of a variety of recovery and conservation projects (including those for the Harris' Hawk,

Whooping Crane and the Red-cockaded Woodpecker) and a brief review of current conservation issues such as the effects of tropical deforestation on neotropical migrants (see page 153 of this issue). I found the status report on the Dusky Seaside Sparrow particularly informative as was the review of conservation programs for four endangered parrots endemic to the Lesser Antilles.

Unfortunately, the "News and Update" section is actually a bit out-of-date. Only one of the thirteen articles included information more recent than the spring of 1981. Perhaps there will be less lag-time once the ICBP is able to produce an annual publication. At the very least, the beginning of the section should include a footnote to state the time period covered.

A similar footnote would help the third and final section of the book: "Review of Bird Conservation Literature." Over 150 references are provided on federally endangered and threatened species as well as other species of national or regional significance. A simple annotation stating the years covered by the literature review would expand the sections overall utility to readers interested in pursuing more information.

Prevalent throughout the ICBP's first issue of BIRD CONSERVATION was an expression of frustration concerning the political aspects and overtones of bird conservation. Federal biologists, for example, have argued against introducing Alaskan Bald Eagles into New York, fearing that the non-native stock would be ill-adapted to the New York environment. (The

same argument has been made against introducing European Peregrine Falcons into the U.S.). Baffled by this line of reasoning, raptor expert Tom Cade made reference to the "armchair biologists in Washington, D.C. . . who are enamoured by the pseudo-philosophy about "genetic purity of the races." Although I also disagree with the federal biologists, Cade could have easily made his point without resorting to such strong personal opinion. Herbert Kale, on the otherhand, was able to succinctly express the political and economic dilemmas that only have served to further accelerate the demise of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow in Florida. Additional articles illustrate how policy set by the current administration has been responsible for setbacks in conservation matters of international concern.

One final, yet minor criticism of the first issue is the frequent occurrence of printing errors, particularly given the relatively small size of the publication. Overall, however, BIRD CONSERVATION fills an important need to keep those interested in the protection and conservation of bird populations well-informed. Creating communication channels such as this will help guarantee that future progress proceeds effectively and efficiently. If the publishers of BIRD CONSERVATION are able to keep pace with the work necessary to produce an annual publication, they will have succeeded in ensuring that at least one communication channel remains open. **Lee Pfanmuller, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, MN 55155.**

## 200 COUNTY CLUB

The totals for the Minnesota 200 County Club will be printed in the next issue of *The Loon* (Spring 1984). Please send your totals to the editor by February 28, 1984.

# ICELAND/THAYER'S GULL: AN IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM

Oscar L. Johnson

On January 29, 1983 Don and Alison Bolduc and I made a trip to Duluth to look for the Great Black-backed Gull which had been reported to be in the area (see **The Loon**, Volume 55: 85-86). We did not find the Black-backed Gull present at the Duluth Landfill but while there we did observe a first winter 'light-winged' gull which we believed to be an Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*).

In that the Iceland Gull is a casual species in Minnesota it is the practice of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) to request written details to substantiate such observations. The initial response of the committee to our description was to reject the observation as acceptable because of the similarity of first year Iceland and Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

A careful review of some of the literature available on the identification of first year gulls does provide a means of separat-

ing Iceland and Thayer's Gulls. Gosselin and David of the National Museum of Canada, writing in **American Birds**, (December 1975, Volume 29: 1059-1066) discussing the primaries of immature juvenal and first winter Iceland, Thayer's and Herring Gulls state:

"As a general rule, *glaucooides* is a whitish bird with distinctive light primaries; the back feathers and wing coverts are more or less marked with drab or light brown bars. When the bird is at rest, its primaries are often distinctly paler than the wing coverts and back feathers, even when the primaries are marked with pale drab smudges as often is the case. Such paler primaries of *glaucooides* are diagnostic and they never occur in *thayeri*. Furthermore, in most *glaucooides* specimens, there are dusky subapical spots on the primaries, no such spots are visible on *thayeri* specimens."



Probable first winter Iceland Gull (left), Duluth Landfill, 29 January 1983 — Photo by Oscar L. Johnson

Close examination of one of the slides which I had taken of the gull in question revealed the presence of subapical spots on the primaries. This slide was sent to Mr. Gosselin in late September 1983 and his reply was:

"I have examined your slides of the Duluth gull and I feel satisfied that the bird is an Iceland Gull. Intermediates between Iceland and Thayer's do occur but the present bird is well within the range of Iceland (Kumlein's) Gull. The subapical spots you mention and the overall light coloration (when compared to the Herring Gull beside) are typical. I have shown your slides to Dr. W. E. Godfrey and R.M. Poulin, of this museum, who both have a keen interest in the Thayer's/Iceland Gull problem, and they both concur with the identification."

In early November 1983 at the suggestion of Bob Janssen, chairperson of MORC, the slides were sent to Guy McCaskie of San Diego, California, a recognized expert on North American gull identification. I called and spoke to Mr. McCaskie on December 2, 1983 and asked

about the gull in question and his comments regarding the identity of the bird were in part:

"If indeed those marks (subapical spots) are real and not an artifact on the photograph then the bird is most likely an Iceland Gull since those marks do not exist on Thayer's Gulls, however I will also say that the overall coloration (and) shape could be matched by Thayer's Gulls here on the West Coast."

Birders observing confusing immature gulls should make particular note of the following characteristics: 1) upper wing patterns, including carpal and secondary bars, 2) number of 'mirrors' on primaries 3) extent of black on wingtip and also 4) the extent of any tail banding.

Two recent publications which should help birders with gull identification are 1) **Gulls, A Guide To Identification**, P. J. Grant, Buteo Books, 1982 and 2) **Seabirds, An Identification Guide**, Peter Harrison, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983. I would highly recommend both of these books to anyone interested in gull identification. 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.



Probable first winter Iceland Gull (left), Duluth Landfill, 29 January 1983 — Photo by Oscar L. Johnson

# Minnesota Bird Distribution (Part II)

Robert B. Janssen

Reader response to Part I of the Minnesota Bird Distribution maps was excellent. Over 100 additional County records were received. On the following pages are maps of Minnesota species from Yellow Rail through Belted Kingfisher. Refer to *The Loon* 55:129 for details on how these maps were compiled.

These 17 species have been recorded in every County in Minnesota and are not mapped on the following pages:

Sora  
American Coot  
Killdeer  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper

Common Snipe  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Great Horned Owl  
Common Nighthawk  
Chimney Swift

## Belted Kingfisher

Also, maps are not included for the following three species which are only needed for one of two counties as indicated:

Semipalmated Sandpiper — Hubbard  
Least Sandpiper — Hubbard  
Black Tern — Cook, Lake

Part 3 Lewis' Woodpecker thru Red-eyed Vireo will be published in the Spring 1984 issue and Part 4 Blue-winged Warbler thru House Sparrow will be in the Summer 1984 issue.



Yellow Rail — 33



\*Black Rail — 5





**\*King Rail — 27**



**Virginia Rail — 77**



**\*Purple Gallinule — 3**



**Common Moorhen — 35**



**Sandhill Crane — 62**



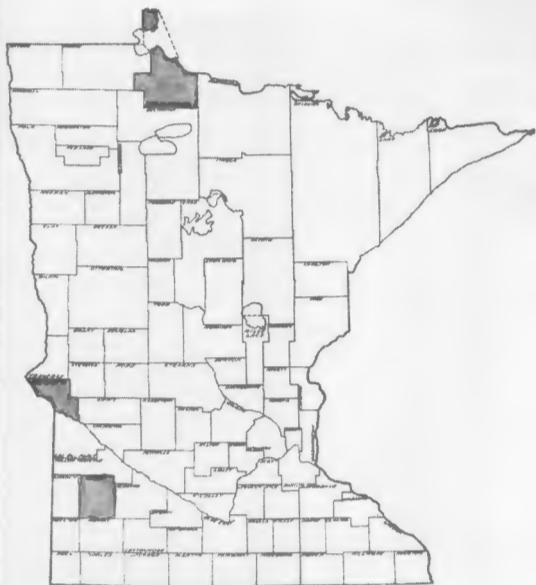
**\*Whooping Crane — 1**



**Black-bellied Plover — 76**



**Lesser Golden-Plover — 79**



**\*Snowy Plover — 3**



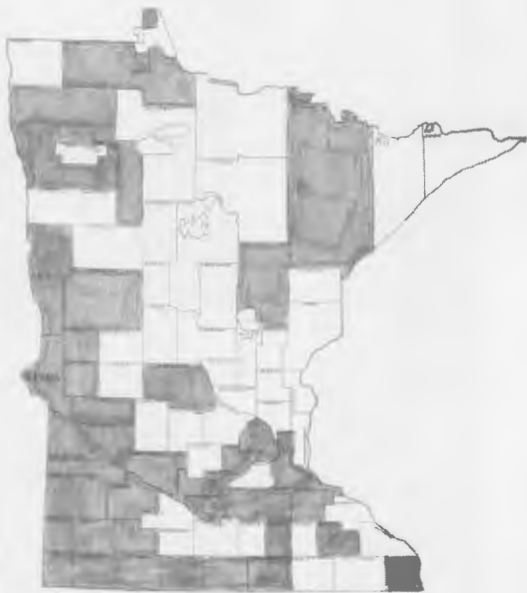
**\*Wilson's Plover — 1**



**Semipalmated Plover — 82**



**Piping Plover — 38**



**American Avocet — 45**



**Willet — 57**



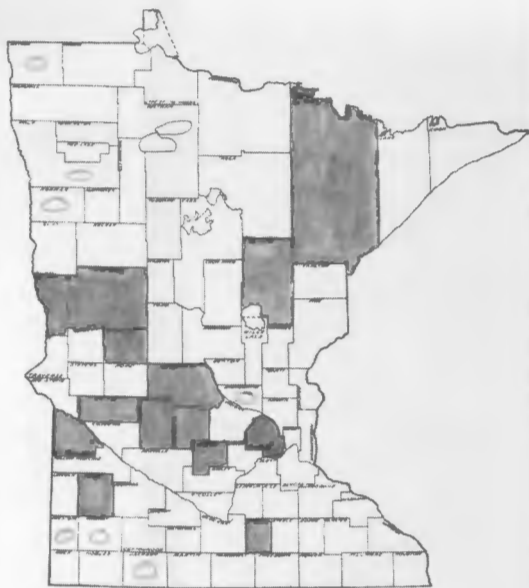
**Upland Sandpiper — 80**



**\*Eskimo Curlew — ?**



**Whimbrel — 12**



**\*Long-billed Curlew — 14**



**Hudsonian Godwit — 64**



**Marbled Godwit — 57**



**Ruddy Turnstone — 56**



**Red Knot — 22**



**Sanderling — 62**



**Western Sandpiper — 48**





**White-rumped Sandpiper — 69**



**Baird's Sandpiper — 79**



**\*Purple Sandpiper — 3**



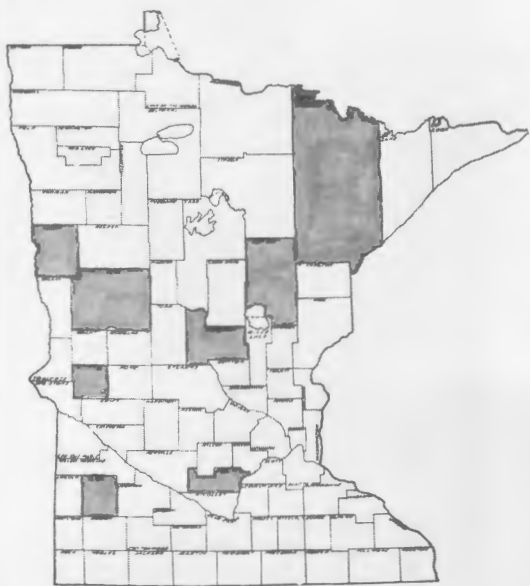
**Dunlin — 81**



**Stilt Sandpiper — 78**



**Buff-breasted Sandpiper — 34**



**\*Ruff — 8**



**Short-billed Dowitcher — 73**



**Long-billed Dowitcher — 73**



**American Woodcock — 75**



**Wilson's Phalarope — 84**



**Red-necked Phalarope — 58**



**\*Red Phalarope — 5**



**\*Pomarine Jaeger — 1**



**Parasitic Jaeger — 7**



**\*Long-tailed Jaeger — 5**



**\*Laughing Gull — 2**



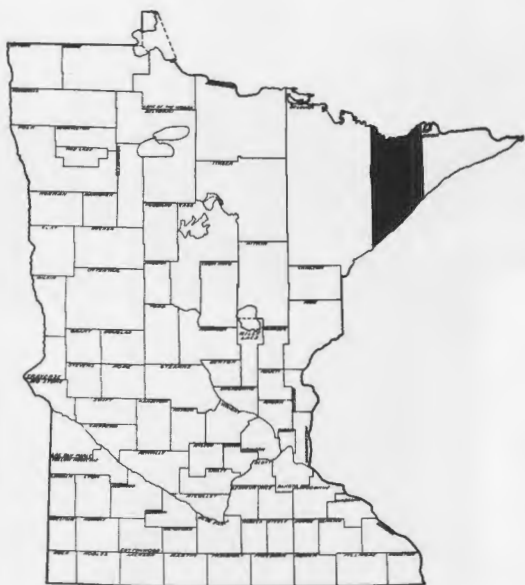
**Franklin's Gull — 79**



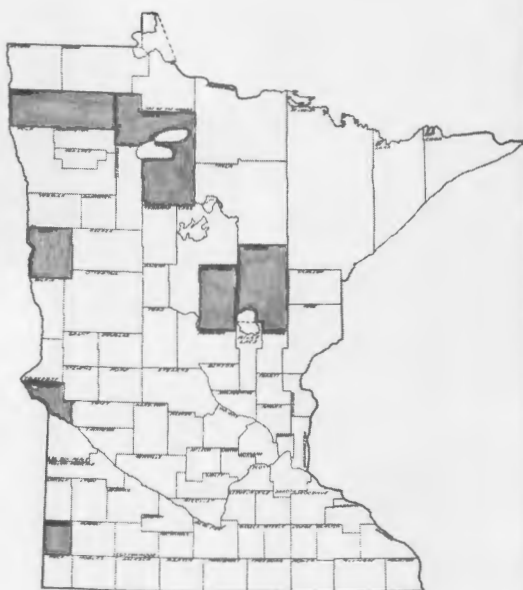
**Little Gull — 5**



**Bonaparte's Gull — 78**



**\*Mew Gull — 1**



**\*California Gull — 7**



**Herring Gull — 83**

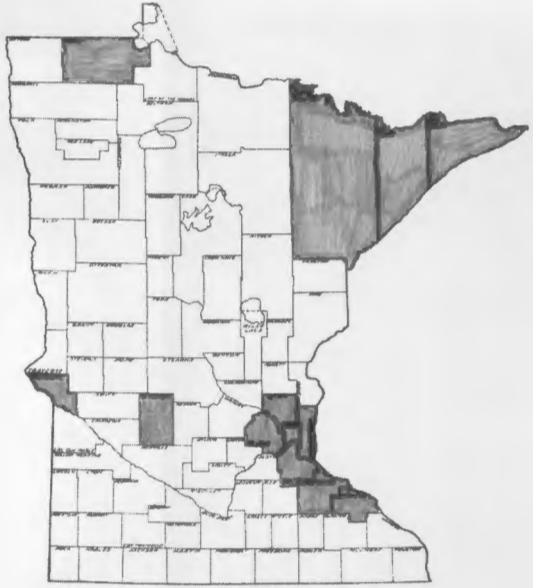


**Thayer's Gull — 7**





**\*Iceland Gull — 4**



**Glaucous Gull — 13**



**\*Great Black-backed Gull — 1**



**\*Black-legged Kittiwake — 5**



**\*Sabine's Gull — 3**



**\*Ivory Gull — 3**



**Caspian Tern — 72**



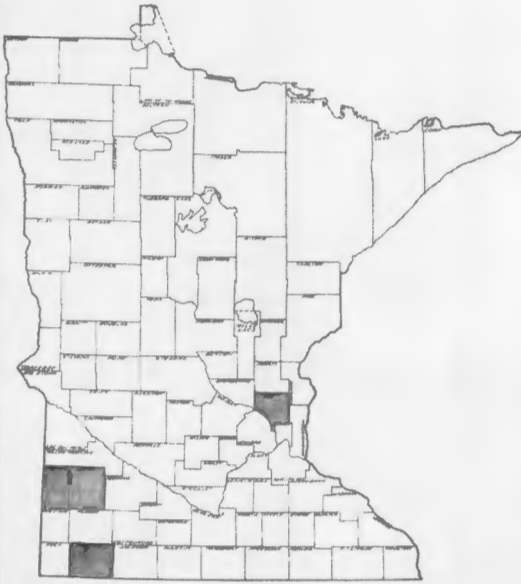
**Common Tern — 59**



**\*Arctic Tern — 1**



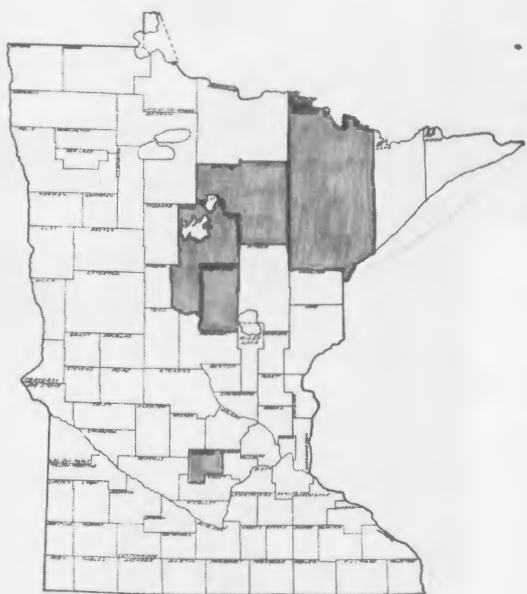
**Forster's Tern — 83**



**\*Least Tern — 4**



**\*Dovekie — 2**



**\*Ancient Murrelet — 5**



**\*Band-tailed Pigeon — 3**



**\*Passenger Pigeon — 12**



**Yellow-billed Cuckoo — 72**



**\*Groove-billed Ani — 8**



**\*Common Barn-Owl — 26**



**Eastern Screech-Owl — 61**



**Snowy Owl — 71**



**Northern Hawk-Owl — 28**



**Burrowing Owl — 28**

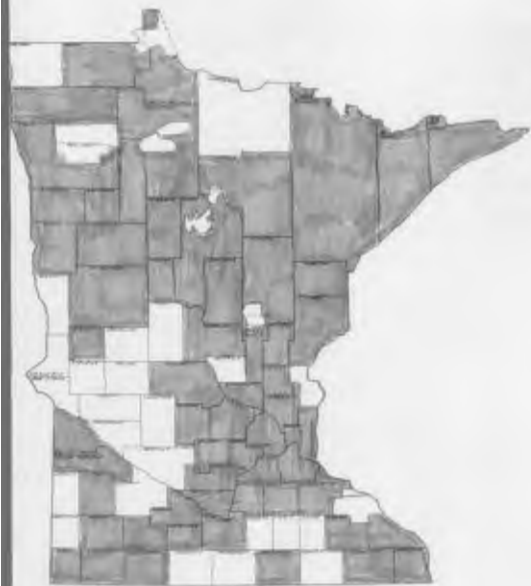


**Barred Owl — 65**



**Great Gray Owl — 32**





**Long-eared Owl — 60**



**Short-eared Owl — 75**



**Boreal Owl — 24**



**Northern Saw-whet Owl — 53**



**\*Common Poorwill — 1**



**\*Chuck-will's-widow — 1**



**Whip-poor-will — 59**



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird — 83**



Any additional records for the preceding species marked with an asterisk(\*) must be accompanied by written details.

**\*Rufous Hummingbird — 5**

**WANTED: Information from Lake of the Woods**

I am writing a book on Birds of Lake of the Woods and would appreciate any information from MOU members. Area covered is entire lake — Minnesota and Canadian portions. Any information — checklists, late and early dates, relative abundance, and notes on unusual sightings — would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Send information, or if you desire more about scope of this book, to:

Mark Johnson  
1906 Sheridan Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55116

**CORRECTION**

In the last issue of *The Loon* (Vol. 55, No. 3) on page 120 in the Note of Interest concerning **Lazuli Bunting in Chisago County**, the date of the observation was inadvertently omitted. The date Mr. Hansmann saw the bird was June 26, 1983.

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

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

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