

## WSO Awards—2012

The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was pleased to present six awards for 2012; a Bronze Passenger Pigeon, a Green Passenger Pigeon, two Silver Passenger Pigeons, and two Sam Robins Lifetime Achievement Awards.

### BRONZE PASSENGER PIGEON AWARD

The Bronze Passenger Pigeon was created to honor individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the study and appreciation of birds outside of activities of WSO and who have promoted the cause of birds and birding to the general public.

The 2012 Bronze Passenger Pigeon was awarded to Mike McDowell of Madison, Wisconsin for his outstanding work as a field trip leader, bird photographer, teacher of bird photography and digiscoping, creator of a Facebook for Wisconsin birders, and his years of assisting many, many individuals in their search for the “perfect” binoculars, scopes, and cameras.

Mike has lead numerous field trips for Madison Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Holy Wisdom Monastery, at the Horicon Marsh Bird Festival, and, most of all, for Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy. To many birders, Mike is Mr. Pheasant Branch.

Through his photography, Mike contributed an Eastern Meadowlark photo for use on the Endangered Resources license plates in Wisconsin,

and many photos to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism for use in the Great Wisconsin Birding Trail pamphlets.

In order to give many Wisconsin bird photographers an easy way to share their photos, Mike created Wisconsin Birding as a facebook page a few years ago.

Mike was one of the first to encourage digiscoping of birds and taught many Wisconsin birders just now it is done.

And finally, Mike has shared his love of birds and birding through his work at Eagle Optics as he guided hundreds, if not thousands, of cus-



Mike McDowell

tomers in their search for the optics best for them.

WSO is honored to present Mike McDowell with the 2012 Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award.

### **GREEN PASSENGER PIGEON AWARD**

The Green Passenger Pigeon Award is given for outstanding contributions to and excellent work in conservation on behalf of birds in Wisconsin. The 2012 Green Passenger Pigeon Award was presented to Andy Paulios, Coordinator for Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI). Although from Minnesota, Andy has spent most of his adult life in Wisconsin, getting his Masters degree from UW-Green Bay where he started his bird work with owl research. He has served as WBCI's coordinator since its inception. Andy has: developed and implemented the

innovative state-wide Grassland Bird Conservation Plan, advanced the Bird Protection Fund, pioneered a Prothonary Warbler nest box project on the Sugar River, served as the mastermind and editor of WBCI's All Bird Conservation Plan, started WBCI's owl and nightjar surveys, advocated strategic habitat for bird conservation, advised Bird City Wisconsin, Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership, and Wisconsin's Important Bird Areas program.

In addition, Andy leads numerous field trips for many different groups and gives dozens of presentations each year about WBCI's work and his own activities on behalf of birds.

WSO is delighted to present Andy Paulios with the 2012 Green Passenger Pigeon Award.

### **SILVER PASSENGER PIGEON AWARDS**

The Silver Passenger Pigeon Award is given to individuals who have served the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in an outstanding and dedicated manner—both in quality and length of service to the Society.

This year the Board of Directors of the Society decided two persons were most worthy of a Silver Pigeon. One of the 2012 Silver Passenger Pigeon Awards went to Jesse Peterson. Jesse has served WSO as its Membership Chair since 2002 and continues to do so. This task includes sending renewal notices, updating contact information on members, dealing with requests for old or additional copies of *The Passenger Pigeon*, providing the printer with the journal mailing list, and sending out *The Badger Birder*.

While serving as Membership



Andy Paulios



Jesse Peterson

Chair, Jesse also served WSO as Vice President (2006–2008) and President (2008–2010), doing both jobs exceedingly well.

He works behind the scenes on the WSO website for both past and present webmasters, and helped a great deal in the transition from the old to new sites. He has been a faithful observer at the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon since he was President, adding species to the total each year. Jesse leads many field trips for both WSO and other groups. And he does many small, but vital tasks to assist other members of the Board.

It gives WSO great pleasure to present Jesse Peterson with a 2012 Silver Passenger Pigeon Award.

The second 2012 Silver Passenger Pigeon was given to Jane Dennis for



Jane Dennis

her extended service as Secretary to the Board and the Society with 16 years of exceptional dedication. As Secretary Jane not only recorded the minutes for every Board meeting, but for each annual meeting of the Society during her tenure. She also served as keeper of the Society's official documents and dealt with many of the official mailings—such as mailing out all the Hospitality Awards that WSO gives to birders hosting a rare species.

WSO is honored to present Jane Dennis with a 2012 Silver Passenger Pigeon Award.

#### **SAM ROBBINS**

#### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

In 2001, the WSO Board of Directors created the Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award to honor individ-



Noel J. Cutright

uals who continue to give outstanding service to the Society after receiving both the Silver Passenger Pigeon and a Certificate of Appreciation. This award also serves to pay tribute to the late Sam Robbins and the level of commitment to WSO that he exemplified. Previous recipients are Mary Donald (2001), Bill Hilsenhof (2002), Alex Kailing (2003), and Charles Kemper (2004). In 2012 the WSO Board of Directors was delighted to recognize two individuals who fulfill this level of dedication to our Society.

The first 2012 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Noel J. Cutright who started birdwatching while growing up in southern Ohio, before moving to Wisconsin in 1977 and joining WSO. Noel first served the Society as Publicity Chair (starting in 1981), then became Vice-

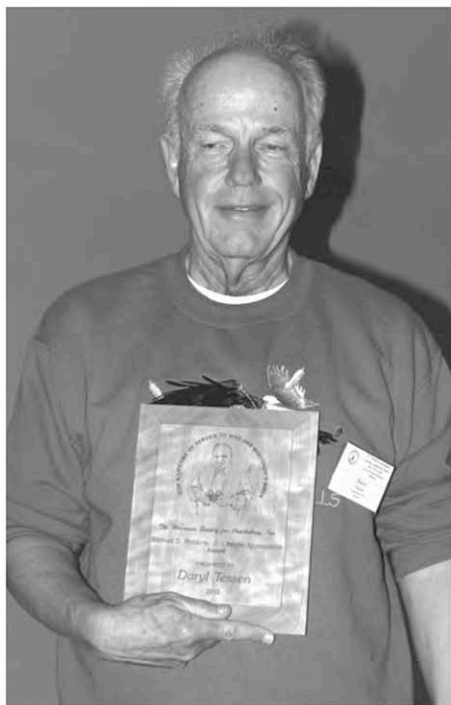
President in 1984, and President for 1985–1987, and then again for one year in 2003–2004. While President, he established the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon, running it for 19 years and raising over \$42,000 to support the property. Noel received the Silver Passenger Pigeon in 1989. He moved from Publicity to Conservation Chair on the board from 1992 to 2002. During this time he received the Certificate of Appreciation (2001). Noel now serves WSO as Historian.

Noel served on the Steering Committee for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, writing the Atlas Handbook at the beginning of the project and serving as lead Editor on the final book, "Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin." He also submitted many, many observation records during the six years of field work.

Noel was part of the planning group which created the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initial (WBCI) and served as Chair of the Important Bird Areas Committee of WBCI. He continues to be much involved in WBCI activities.

He has conducted BBS routes since the early 1970s when he began running routes in New York during his graduate work at Cornell University. His BBS runs have been in New York, Florida, Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Minnesota. In 2004, he fulfilled a lifelong desire by doing 33 BBS routes in 33 days (in 4 states) and raising over \$52,000 for conservation work. Noel received the Green Passenger Pigeon Award in 2005 in recognition of his extensive work in bird conservation.

Noel serves on the Board of Directors of the Washington/Ozaukee County Land Trust and helped estab-



Daryl D. Tessen

lish the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve from an old golf club in Ozaukee County. He continues to do point counts of birds at the property.

Noel had a lead role in organizing Bird City Wisconsin and serves on the Advisory Board for the project.

His most recent endeavor was the establishment of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory in 2010. One has only to visit the website of the Observatory to obtain an idea of all it involves—[wglbbo.org](http://wglbbo.org)

WSO is deeply honored to present

a 2012 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award to Noel J. Cutright.

The second 2012 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Daryl D. Tessen. Daryl began serving WSO as Autumn Seasonal Editor for the *Passenger Pigeon* from 1965 to 1975, compiling and analyzing bird reports for this publication, and worked as Associate Editor for the *Passenger Pigeon* from 1972 to 1999, processing and sharing submitted bird reports with the appropriate editors and the Records Committee for each season.

Daryl provided leadership to WSO as Vice President from 1975 to 1977, and subsequently as President from 1977 to 1979. He was awarded the Silver Passenger Pigeon award in 1980 for his long and accomplished service.

Daryl continued serving WSO as Compiler and Editor for the 2nd, 3rd (1989), 4th (2000) and 5th editions (2010) of *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts* and was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation in 1996 to recognize his continuing substantial service to our organization. He has continued to serve on the WSO board for many years, most recently as chair of the Awards Committee.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is most pleased to express its grateful appreciation to Daryl D. Tessen in recognition of his long and continuing dedication and diligent service to our organization with a 2012 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award.



Pine Warbler from Dennis Malueg