ciduous woodlots. 27 observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 65, 22½ on foot, 42½ by car. Total party miles 492, 52 on foot, 440 by car. Total species 43, individuals 6,353. Observers: Robert Adams, Clarence Anthes, Robert Barndt, John Bielefeldt, Harlow Bielefelt, Jr., Helen Brown, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Cuthbert, Olive Compton, Walter D. Elmer, Richard Gerstner, Clarence Hendricks, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klug, James McCombe, Charlotte McCombe, Ted C. Michaud, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nelson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Rutenberg, Scott Schroeder, Lydia Schwartz, Marilyn Sontag, Charles Sontag.

WAUSAU: December 30, 7:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Cloudy to partly cloudy. Wind NW, 5 m. p. h. Temperature —3° to 5°. 5 inches snow on ground. Water open below power dam. Area: 7½ mile radius circle centered in Wausau. 50% woodland, 30% open fields, 19% urban, 1% open water. 30 observers in 14 parties. Total party hours 95, 18 on foot, 77 by car. Total party miles 277, 37 on foot, 240 by car. Total species 36, individuals 2,967. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. David Bierbrauer, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Buerger, Miss Fay Crow, Miss Nora Englin, Mrs. Matthew Gjelson, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Hyde, Miss Florence Hensey, Mrs. Kenneth Kann, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Mattner, Pamela Mattner, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Meeks, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Oatman, Miss Bertha Pearson, Tom Utehlt, Mrs. George Urban, James Ward, Miss Olive Wells, Mrs. Ernst Wetzel, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Williams, Mrs. Richard Taylor, Mrs. Harry Zillman.

WAUTOMA: December 29, 6:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Cloudy. Wind NW, 20-25 m. p. h. Temperature 8° to 10°. 6 inches snow on ground. Lakes frozen, rivers and creeks open. Area: All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at village of Mount Morris. Deciduous woods 30%, open fields 20%, residential 30%, marshes and river banks 10%, coniferous woods 10%. 6 observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 39, 9 on foot, 30 by car. Total party miles 220, 12 on foot, 208 by car. Total species 28, individuals 1,813. Observers: Mrs. G. Anderson, Richard Anderson, William Boone, Merwood Chipman, Mrs. Merwood Chipman (compiler), Mrs. Miles Colligan.

WILLIAMS BAY: December 29, 9:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Clear. Wind NW, 5-12 m. p. h. Temperature —7° to 10°. 4 inches snow on ground. Area: Five feeding stations at Williams Bay and Lake Geneva, plus selected areas around the lake. 13 observers. Total hours, 7 by car. Total miles, 50 by car. Total species 13, individuals 661. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Anderson, Mrs. Fred Beland, Mrs. Frank Drabek, Lorine, Jean, Robin, and Leroy Friedell (compiler), Glenn Granberg, Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Spence.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS: December 24, 7:45 a. m. to 12:45 p. m. Clear. Wind S, 5-10 m. p. h. Temperature —11° to 13°. 4 inches snow on ground. Water open below dams and on fast flowing creeks. Area: circle of 4 mile radius centered six miles south of Wisconsin Rapids. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 5, 1 on foot, 4 by car. Total party miles 61, 2 on foot, 59 by car. Total species 14, individuals 357. Observers: Donn G. Gay, D. Stout.

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THE 1962 MAY COUNT

By THOMAS K. SOULEN

In the change of personnel handling seasonal field notes for The Passenger Pigeon, your new spring field notes editor neglected to publicize or announce dates for the 1962 May count. That the tradition is well entrenched in many areas, however, is shown by the submitting of no less than 14 counts, certainly on a par with other recent years. There was apparently a count also taken at Racine on May 19, but no details of it were received. Counts were taken May 9-22, with most of them falling in the period May 12-20. Two hundred-thirty species and one hybrid were recorded on the counts, and an additional 11 species were reported by miscellaneous observers during the count period.

The few counts which took place on dates of massive migration were staffed by too few observers for any record number of species to be noted. The Madison count, in fact, was not even organized; data was
collected from various people who had been out that day, after it was apparent just how many birds had been in the area, particularly in the morning.

Better Documentation Desired

Last year your spring field notes editor mentioned that certain species are apt to be reported on May counts without adequate supporting details. This was again true this year. The trouble is not so much with exceptional rarities, although some groups persist in reporting very unusual species with poor details or none at all. But some species which normally have departed from the state by the May count period are consistently reported on the counts, while at the same time these same species go unreported on other field note reports. It is certainly possible for people to see late stragglers, but we hope that future reports of them will be accompanied by some details. It should be noted that none of the May count reports documented the following species in any way this year: Rough-legged Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Slate-colored Junco, Tree and Fox Sparrow.

What Can We Learn from May Counts?

May counts cannot give us as comprehensive a picture of migration as reports from the five or six dozen Wisconsin observers who are afield more or less regularly throughout the spring season. In the case of many species, the May counts will not bear out and may even contradict what is observed more generally. Certain aspects of the counts, however, do reflect the broader picture. That certain relatively common species can go undetected on a May count, for instance, is indicated by the fact that only one Screech Owl and no Least Bitterns were reported. The fact that Evening Grosbeaks remained until quite late in the spring of 1962 is shown by their presence in Antigo, Green Bay, Madison, and Wausau at May count time. The White-eyed Vireos, noted in the Madison area and along Lake Michigan during much of May, were represented by four counts in those localities. The greater than usual number of Worm-eating Warblers found in many sections of the midwest also were reflected by records of this species on no less than four counts. It even happens that a May count occasionally will point up information about a species which is not usually revealed by any other method of reporting bird observations. It is not generally recognized, for example, how common the Clay-colored Sparrow is in some sections of central Wisconsin. The 16 seen on the Wausau count is one of the highest counts of this species that has ever been reported in Wisconsin. (Others may have seen more, perhaps frequently, but they very likely have not reported them). Some of these might have been only migrants, of course, but the likelihood is that a fair share of them would remain. Some central Wisconsin areas appear also to be pretty good territory for Eastern Bluebirds. It is heartening for many of us who have seen perhaps only a half dozen or less each year for some years now to note that Antigo and Wausau totaled 19 and 16, respectively, on their 1962 May counts.

More interesting material can be gleaned from May count reports if numbers of individuals of each species are reported or individuals of just a few selected species. We hope that in future years groups might at least comment on unusual scarcity or abundance of any species which are
noticed by May count participants, even if they do not wish to provide a full-fledged tally. Our thanks go again to the Antigo and Wausau groups for the complete information which they provided. The counts reported this year by Donald Hendrick and Keith Brown also were nicely detailed. All the compilers did a fine job of preparing their reports.

Summary of the Counts

MADISON: 164 species plus one hybrid. On May 13 observers ranged up to 25 miles west and north of Madison from 5:00 a.m. on. Seen were: Hudsonian Godwit, Northern Phalarope, Hermit Thrush, White-eyed and Bell’s Vireo, and these warblers—Worm-eating, Brewster’s, Black-throated Blue, and Kentucky. A total of 30 warbler species plus one hybrid. Reported by Tom Soulen.

MILWAUKEE: 156 species. Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties were covered on May 13 from 4:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Of interest were: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Long-eared Owl, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, and these sparrows—Tree, Harris’, and Fox. 26 warbler species. Reported by Mary Donald.

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN: 154 species. Keith Brown and Tom Soulen ranged some distance on May 18 from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., visiting various parts of Madison, Horicon Marsh, the Goose Lake area, Fish and Crystal Lakes, and river bottoms near Mazomanie and at Tower Hill State Park. The day was warm and partly cloudy. Noted were American Golden Plover, White-eyed and Bell’s Vireo, Worm-eating and Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. 28 warbler species.

MADISON-GOOSE LAKE-TOWER HILL: 158 species. Kay and Keith Brown visited on May 20 the same areas as those covered in the South Central Wisconsin count with the exception of Horicon Marsh. The eleven-plus hours spent on this sunny and warm day were from 5:30-10:45 a.m. and 2:00-8:00 p.m. American Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, White-eyed and Bell’s Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Kentucky and Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, and Clay-colored Sparrow were encountered. 27 warbler species.

GREEN BAY: 148 species. Green Bay Bird Club members were in the field from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 20. Seen were Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Long-eared Owl, Winter Wren, Pine and Prairie Warbler. 22 warbler species. Reported by Edwin D. Cleary.

BELOIT: 143 species. Thirty members of the Ned Hollister Bird Club saw among other things Whistling Swan (“probably an injured bird”), Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Prothonotary and Worm-eating Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and these sparrows: Lark, Tree, and Fox. No date given. 23 species of warblers. Reported in the club’s newsletter, The Flyer.

WAUSAU: 137 species. Twenty-seven members of the Wausau Bird Club searched a 15-mile diameter circle around Wausau for 122½ party-hours on May 13 from 5:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Habitats covered were woodland 50%, field 30%, urban 15%, and water 5%. 5,380 individuals
were counted in the 45 miles walked and 199 miles driven. The morning was cloudy with showers, the afternoon clear, warm, and humid. Temperature 60-80°. Light wind. Of interest were White-rumped Sandpiper, Bonaparte’s Gull, 77 Evening Grosbeaks, Slate-colored Junco, Tree and Fox Sparrow. 19 warbler species. Reported by Emily Bierbrauer.

**ST. CROIX COUNTY:** 135 species. Sam Robbins was out from 4:30 to 10:30 on May 18, mostly near Hudson and Roberts. He found Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Kingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Worm-eating and Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. 21 warbler species.

**OCONOMOWOC:** 124 species. On May 13 the members of the S. Paul Jones Bird Club covered the Oconomowoc area from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The sky was partly cloudy to clear and the wind light, ESE to SW. Common Egret, Canvasback, Baird’s Sandpiper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Harris’ Sparrow were seen. 19 warbler species. Reported by Ed Peartree.

**APPLETON:** 122 species. Daryl Tessen traveled 79 miles (3 on foot) on May 12 covering the area within a 7½-mile radius circle centered on Appleton. Morning cloudy, afternoon clear; winds 5-15 mph; temperature 48-60°. Noted were Common Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Water Pipit, and Blue-winged Warbler. 21 warbler species.

**ADAMS COUNTY:** 112 species. Three observers spent a large part of May 9 visiting various parts of the county, including the Petenwell area and Leola Marsh. The day began cool (36°), and a raw wind and overcast sky made conditions none too good. Seen were Sandhill Crane, Trill’s Flycatcher, Bewick’s Wren, Pine Warbler, Lark Sparrow, and Slate-colored Junco. 15 warbler species. Reported by Mary Donald.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY:** 74 species. Harold Koopman was in the field on May 14, with mostly cloudy skies, moderate southerly winds, and 83°. Of interest were Bufflehead, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Henslow’s Sparrow. 13 warbler species.

**ANTIGO:** 72 species. Twelve members of the Audubon Club and their friends searched the territory within 7½ miles of Antigo on May 20. They located 1,583 individuals from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. under partly cloudy skies with precipitation before noon, a 15 mph wind, and 50-70° temperatures. Party-hours, 45; party-miles, 120. Noted were Upland Plover, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Loggerhead Shrike, Pine Warbler, and Tree Sparrow. 13 warbler species. No reporter indicated.

**TOMAHAWK:** 49 species. Beginning at 5:30 a.m., Donald Hendrick spent 7 hours on May 22 observing within 12 miles of Tomahawk, including the Wisconsin, Tomahawk, and Somo rivers. He traveled 7 miles on foot and 55 by car, finding 377 individuals. Temperature 65-78°. Sky partly cloudy early, clearing about 7:30 a.m. Wind SW, 15 mph with gusts to 25-30 mph. The only Common Ravens specifically reported during the May count period were seen on this count. Five warbler species.

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