Spring Season

March 1 - May 31, 1971

A NOTE FROM THE SPRING SEASONAL EDITOR:

Only after I had been working for a few weeks on this year's Spring Field Notes did I begin to appreciate the great amount of time and energy Irma Chipman invested in turning out such an excellent column year after year. As your new Spring Seasonal Editor, I only hope I will be able to do as admirable a job as she has done.

In view of the fact that this is my first attempt as an editor, I have followed quite closely the format of previous years. This form has generally been well received by readers and contributors although some comments have also been received to the contrary. In particular, using terms such as "arrival, peak, and departure" leave questions unanswered. Does arrival mean first of a species or first large numbers of a species? Also the peak does not indicate any quantity or if there was more than one peak during the period. In addition, the large amount of time in preparing the report forms to turn in and the greater amount of time needed in editing those reports may be resulting in fewer participants. Any suggestions or constructive criticism on how to improve our procedure on field notes will be welcomed.

Dennis Gustafson
Spring Seasonal Editor

Winter was very slow in relaxing its icy grip on Wisconsin this spring, particularly with the heavy snow cover which had accumulated earlier. Irma Chipman writes that "Our winter was the worst in Waushara County in 41 years." Excepting a small movement of waterfowl and blackbirds at the very end of February, spring did not really begin until the last part of March in the southern half of Wisconsin. With the insulation of snow and cold temperatures, many lakes in southern or central Wisconsin did not open up until early or mid-April. Madison's Lake Mendota opened April 9th, Green Bay was mostly closed until April 20th, and smaller lakes also in Brown County or Waushara County remained closed until April 20th or later. This late cover of ice delayed waterfowl migration in many areas, although it did not seem to have as much of an effect on other migrants which were only slightly behind schedule during most of April. John Woodcock of Oconto County writes "When the migrants began to arrive in early April, there was still snow on the ground up to two feet deep in places. The arrival of the tree swallow and hermit thrush under those conditions seemed remarkable to me. (I noted that about that time, the southern part of the country was experiencing record-breaking high temperatures.)"
The snow cover did delay the arrival of many March migrants and as Irma Chipman puts it: “... if I had any idea about readying my bluebird houses by March 15 — I would have to have done it on snowshoes.” The snow finally did begin disappearing in late March, but held on until late April in some northern counties. Part of the reason for its lingering so long was that April was abnormally dry and the infrequent rain showers hardly made more than a dent in the accumulated snow. The dryness also made its effect felt on the migration of shorebirds which were “late in arriving throughout the period; deficiency of waterholes everywhere made for poor migration — very poor in Appleton - Neenah areas!” according to Daryl Tessen. Mary Donald agreed on their scarcity around Milwaukee and noted that the only bright spot was the “flooding of the Rock River this year made that area very attractive and maybe the main group went through there. It certainly was a joy all spring.”

A prolonged cold wave set in around April 20th and did not relent until “The warm south winds on the night of May 14 produced a flood of migrants on May 15, and species continued to move in and out of the area for the next week as southerly winds and warm fronts were frequent. Unfortunately, most of the migrants did not linger in numbers but moved rapidly on to the north.” (William Hilsenhoff). This “flood of migrants” on May 15-16 was noted by most of the 60 contributors and occurs repeatedly as a peak or arrival in the Spring Field Notes. After the very slow start of passerine migration in the first half of May, this mid-May influx eventually developed into what Daryl Tessen describes as the “best warbler, thrush, vireo, finch, grosbeak, flycatcher, tanager migration in 5 - 7 years — very abundant.”

It was almost impossible to construct a quantitative picture of this year’s spring migration as only two banders contributed information and no one apparently tried the nocturnal activity of counting the number of “chips” per minute made by migrants as they pass overhead. One excellent idea was received, however, from Jim Zimmerman in regards to taking counts of species which normally are difficult to census. He was able to obtain an accurate account of local rail populations in Dane County by using tape-recorded voices of the rails. There is no reason why this should not work with owls, other songbirds, or even those frustrating Empidonax flycatchers that refuse to sing.

A number of exotics did turn up among the 275 species recorded this spring. Among those, the two which best qualify as highlights of the season are both sandpipers: the Curlew Sandpiper and the new state record Black Turnstone. Significantly, both appeared during the week of heaviest migratory activity of the season, May 15-22. Warblers also were very much in evidence with almost every species ever recorded in Wisconsin showing up in May. This included the Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kirtland’s Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, and Brewster’s hybrid Warbler. Other strays which often miss Wisconsin were on target this year and include the Snowy Egret, European Widgeon, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Iceland Gull, Burrowing Owl, Carolina Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Lark Bunting.
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Common Loon: First were a group of three in Dane county on 4-4 (Daryl Tessen). Arrivals on April 10-12 penetrated as far north as Burnett county (Norman Stone) and were quite widespread. The week of April 25 to May 1 brought arrivals to most remaining parts of the state with one still remaining in Waushara county on May 29th (Irma Chipman). Carl Richter found a nest with two eggs in it on June 5 in Iron county.

Red-throated Loon: Mary Donald's report came first on April 5 from Milwaukee county. 7-8 individuals were found in Ozaukee county April 16-25 (Tessen, Dennis Gustafson). Still present in Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties on May 22 (Donald, Sam Robbins).

Red-necked Grebe: Two showed up April 13 in St. Croix county and remained until May 4 (Steven Goddard). One on Lake Mendota in Dane county on May 8 (Thomas Ashman et al.). The pre-convention Audubon tour group reported some on Rush Lake in Winnebago county on May 20th.

Horned Grebe: Earliest arrival was March 51 in Milwaukee county (Donald). Tessen found the next in Dane county on 4-4 followed by arrivals in several southern and central counties April 11-12. Subsequent appearances scattered in the state 4-11 and 4-12 with 12 remaining in Ozaukee county until May 2 (Gustafson) and the last on 5-8 in Winnebago county (Tessen). Missed completely by many observers.

Pied-billed Grebe: Had appeared in seven counties by the end of March with the two earliest being on March 20 in Jefferson county (Richard Sharp) and March 21 in Wood county (Bernice Athorp). Most northerly of these observations were arrivals around 3-27 in St. Croix (Goddard) and LaCrosse counties (Jerome Rosso). Two more movements April 3-4 and 12-17 brought birds to most remaining parts of Wisconsin with little pattern to the spread over the state.

Double-crested Cormorant: Only seven reports with the earliest coming from LaCrosse county on April 15 (Rosso). Also reported from Kewaunee, Adams, Ozaukee, Burnett, and Dodge counties while Brown county had the last on May 24 (Edwin Cleary & Brother Columban).

Great Blue Heron: Reports from Milwaukee county (Casimir Magulski) and Burnett county (Stone) on 3-14 and Rosso's March 17 record in LaCrosse county preceded all others by 1/2 weeks. Many arrivals in southern and central counties March 28 and 31. Noted in several more counties April 4-5 with a spread into many northern counties April 17-19.

Green Heron: Made its first appearance in Wisconsin in St. Croix county about the third weekend in April (Goddard) followed closely by sightings in three southern counties April 22-24. One more April report on the 28th from LaCrosse county (Frederick Lesher) preceded May 1 observations in three central Wisconsin counties. No regular pattern developed in the subsequent spread of this species into the state.

Little Blue Heron: The only report of this unusual spring migrant was on April 22 in Jefferson county (Sharp). No details were given.

Cattle Egret: Spring of 1971 was above average for this species with four records received beginning on April 20 at Horicon Marsh, only two days beyond the state arrival record (Donald). Rosso and Lesher found one at the Genoa Fish Hatchery in Vernon county on April 25-26. During May reports came from the pre-convention Audubon Tour group of three in Sheboygan county on the 18th and two to four were seen by Cleary in Brown county on the 30th extending their stay into June. See “By the Wayside”.

Common Egret: Only a week later than the state arrival record was a sighting from Vernon county on March 17 (Rosso). The next arrival was not until April 4 in Jefferson county (Sharp). Rather diffuse spreading occurred after this, reaching as far north as St. Croix county and Chippewa county in the west and Brown county in the east.

Snowy Egret: Although one was reported by the Audubon Convention tour groups at Horicon Marsh on May 21, no details were received.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Surprisingly, only three April reports of this species with the first in Milwaukee county on the 19th (Elmer Strehlow, Gustafson) and one on
the 30th in LaCrosse county (Lesher). No reports from the more northern counties until mid-May or later.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: This heron was seen on four occasions beginning with their return to the Pugh home in Racine on April 12 (William Pugh). Two were back at their LaCrescent Pike haunts in LaCrosse county on April 29 (Lesher). In the same county on Goose Island, Rosso found one May 29th and Goddard found the last in St. Croix county at the end of May.

Least Bittern: All the nine counties reporting were in May starting on the 3rd in Wood county (Athurp) and LaCrosse county (Rosso). Most northertly of the remaining observations was in St. Croix county. Jim Zimmerman heard at least 21 singing on June 1 by Fish Lake, Dane county.

American Bittern: La Fonda Kinnaman of Milwaukee writes of one there for eight days in March. The closest report was on April 12 in Jefferson county (Sharpe) and then on 4-20 in Oconto county (John Woodcock). Most remaining activity was in May with two major movements May 1-2 and on May 16 in widely scattered parts of the state.

Mute Swan: A single bird, apparently feral, which had been present in February was last seen on March 7 in Milwaukee (Tessen)

Whistling Swan: An excellent year for this species as mentioned by several observers. One early report on March 8 in Milwaukee county (Donald) was followed by major movements on March 26-27 and 30-31 into southern and central counties. April peaks noted were within the period from the 2nd to the 11th including two reports of 1000+ swans (Delbert Greenman, Tessen). Latest of four May records was the May 16th one on the Green Bay May Day Count.

Canada Goose: Small numbers had filtered into southern counties by the end of February. No large flights occurred until March 13-14 when a mass invasion took place being noted as arrivals or peaks in a dozen central or southern counties. Many northern counties recorded peaks or arrivals April 19-23. Present after mid-May in Milwaukee, Rock, and Dodge counties.

White-fronted Goose: Four reports this spring with the most cooperative being those at Goose Pond in Columbia county where one to four geese stayed from April 9-17 (David Bratley, Evelyn Werner, et al.). Other sightings included about two dozen in Ozaukee county on April 11 (the Tom Bintz family); one on April 3 in LaCrosse county (Lesher) and three in St. Croix county on April 7 (Goddard).

Snow & Blue Goose: Except for one March 9 observation from Kenosha county (James Hammers), arrivals began March 21 in Jefferson county (Sharpe) and continued until mid-May being noted in these counties: LaCrosse, Dodge, Burnett, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Brown, and Portage.

Mallard & Black Duck: Arrivals mentioned in northernmost counties March 24 to April 9.

Gadwall: Present at the beginning of the period in Dane county (Hilsenhoff). Observed March 17 in LaCrosse county (Rosso). Weak movements noted on March 27-28 and April 17-18 covering only five counties. Present May 31 in Columbia and Dodge counties.

Pintail: Wintered in Winnebago county (Tessen). First push into southern counties noted March 13-15 followed by a very diffuse movement into Wisconsin. The only other major flight took place on April 10-11 carrying birds into several northern counties. Present and probably nesting at the end of May were birds in St. Croix, Dodge, and Columbia counties.

Green-winged Teal: A pair wintered in Milwaukee and possibly the one seen March 5 in Jefferson county (Sharpe) may also have wintered. Migrants first noted March 28 in two southern counties. Widely scattered arrival dates followed from 17 counties with one peak mentioned in Milwaukee April 4. Present in at least five counties at the end of the period.

Blue-winged Teal: Except for two wintering birds in Winnebago county (Tessen), the first record of this teal comes from Milwaukee on March 16 (Donald). General arrivals in southern counties began at the end of March. A peak on April 15 was within one day of several arrivals in northern counties. A late peak on May 16 was mentioned in Brown county by Cleary & Columban.
**European Widgeon:** Two males with their “reddish-brown heads and buffy crown were quite distinctive” and were seen by Barbara Vogelsang and Mrs. Winfield Severson on Lake Kegonsa in Dane county on April 30. Another observation from Goose Pond in Columbia county on April 24 (Peter Connors, fide Evelyn Werner) gave no details about the bird.

**American Widgeon:** Milwaukee and Jefferson county provided the first reports on March 7. Other migrants starting on March 20 began reaching northern counties just before or during peaks on April 16-17. Still present near the end of May in at least four counties.

**Shoveler:** Wintered in Dane county (Hilsenhoff). Found migrants in Milwaukee March 14 (Charles and Dorothy Juneau). Northern counties began recording their first birds by the second week in April followed by a widespread peak April 16-17. Toward the last of May it was still present in six counties.

**Wood Duck:** Wintered in Winnebago county (Tessen). An early report from Milwaukee county on March 11 (Strehlow) preceded general arrival in southern counties toward the last of March. Migrants did not reach northern counties until mid-April. Richter found a nest in Oconto county on April 29 which had already been victimized by some predator with only eight eggs remaining.

**Redhead:** Only Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Winnebago counties furnished reports of the Redhead’s presence on March 1. March 27 led a cluster of sightings at the end of that month. The only movements of any size seemed to be about April 10 in northern counties and again on April 25 which included one peak. Present at the end of May in Columbia, Dodge, and Brown counties.

**Ring-necked Duck:** The first observation was in Milwaukee on March 14 (Gustafson), closely followed by arrivals in LaCrosse and Jefferson counties. As with the Redhead, general arrivals began about March 27 in southern counties and April 10 in northern counties. Present near the end of May in Price, Rusk, and Columbia counties.

**Canvasback:** Several participants indicated a scarcity of this species although 17 counties reported observations. Wintering records and movements of this species followed those of the two previous species very closely with the exception of a major movement and peak on April 24 in central counties. Only one report after mid-May from Goose Pond in Columbia county on May 31 (Tessen, Werner).

**Greater Scaup:** Only three March reports of wintering birds in Milwaukee and Ozaukee county and an arrival in LaCrosse county on March 17 (Rosso). The only observations away from the Great Lakes or Mississippi River were in Chippewa and Adams county (Robbins). Only recorded six times in May, the last about the middle of the month.

**Lesser Scaup:** Wintered as far north as Winnebago (Tessen) and Brown county (Cleary & Columban). A widespread movement occurred on March 27-29 reaching up into Burnett county (Stone). All peaks mentioned fell into the April 6-17 period with migrants lingering in Brown, Columbia, and Milwaukee counties until May 31.

**Common Goldeneye:** Northern arrivals during the second week of April were closely followed by departures in southern counties the next week. The first few days of May saw departures from an additional four counties, the last of which was a May 15 departure in Calumet county (Mrs. Fred Guenther fide Tessen).

**Barrow’s Goldeneye:** A male which had wintered around Port Washington in Ozaukee county was last seen there on March 7 by the Tom Bintz family.

**Bufflehead:** Following the usual March records was one major April peak on the 10-11th succeeded by a surprising total of eight sightings during the first ten days of May. Two lingered until the May Day Counts on the 16th in Brown (Cleary & Columban) and Waukesha counties (Walter Klug).

**Oldsquaw:** What happened? Only four counties reported with all departures before April 20 except in Ozaukee county on May 2 where 10 were seen (Gustafson).

**White-winged Scoter:** Wintered in Milwaukee county and last seen there on April 15 (Ronald Fassbender). Only other report of two in Ozaukee county on April 16 by Tessen.
Ruddy Duck: Wintered in Milwaukee county. The last week of March brought the first migrants to southern counties while peaks between April 14-25 pushed these ducks into most of the other reporting counties of the state. Remained up to June in Brown, Dodge, Columbia, and Milwaukee counties.

Hooded Merganser: First appeared in Jefferson (Sharp) and LaCrosse counties (Lesher) on March 16. The last few days of March produced a few more arrivals in southern counties. Another small push took place during the first week of April in eight counties, but after mid-April virtually no migration occurred for a month. Finally, during the second week of May, the northern tier of counties were penetrated leaving individuals in LaCrosse, Columbia, and Price counties at the end of the month.

Common Merganser: On March 25, this merganser first reached several northern counties followed by April movements centered around April 4 and 11. The only report near the end of May was from Door county (the A. M. Baumgartners).

Red-breasted Merganser: Northern counties did not begin reporting until April 10 while inland areas were also devoid of reports until April. Heavy peaks were noted in Ozaukee and Dane counties on April 6 and 16. Again the Baumgartners had the only late May record from Door county.

Turkey Vulture: Phillip Ashman’s March 28 observation in Sauk county preceded the next sightings by only a few days. Minor movements took place April 6-7 and during the last week of April. May reports were well scattered and reached into the last of the month in Sauk, Milwaukee, LaCrosse, and Oconto counties.

Goshawk: Only four records this spring beginning on March 7 in Kenosha county (Tessen) and ending about the third week of May in St. Croix county (Goddard). The other two reports were a day apart on April 20 in Milwaukee county (Strehlow) and April 21 in LaCrosse county (Rosso).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: An early report on March 4 from Rock county may have been a wintering bird (the J. H. Brakefields). One other March sighting from Dane county on the 27th (P. Ashman) was followed by two well defined movements centered around April 17 and 25. The last of five May observations was one on the 16th seen on the Wausau May Day Count. Both this and the following species were listed by many observers to be very depleted in numbers this spring.

Cooper’s Hawk: The earliest report comes from way up in Marinette county on April 5 (Harold Lindberg). April reports were very scattered with the greatest bulk of the reports falling in May. The dates were also well distributed and included 10 counties with the last coming from Robbins in Chippewa county on May 29.

Red-tailed Hawk: Numbers of this species were up in Brown county (Paul Kane) but down in several other areas. Reports from 20 counties exhibited little pattern to movements. Very few reports from northernmost counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Very few observations of this buteo until May. It had wintered in Milwaukee (Donald) and Iowa counties (Robert Hanson). A flurry of activity on March 14 in southern counties reached up into Chippewa county and central counties on April 9-11. Eight counties were heard from in May.

Broad-winged Hawk: Quite a large number of participants indicated a scarcity of this hawk along with most other species of hawks. Three extremely early observations were reported on March 14 in Dane (Nancy Ashman) and Ozaukee county (Bintz) and on March 26 in Burnett county (Stone). Two records on April 14-15 then preceded well-defined influxes April 24-26 and May 1-3 with four peaks between these periods. By the end of May, they were still as far south as Milwaukee and Dane county.

Swainson’s Hawk: Tessen observed one in Winnebago county on April 17 soaring overhead for 5-10 minutes. No other observations.

Rough-legged Hawk: All status comments about this hawk indicated above average to record numbers. Of the 15 counties reporting, peaks ran from March 17 in two central counties to April 4 in Taylor county (Jim Evrard). 32 were found along just one road in Ozaukee county on April 3 where they had been numerous all winter (Gustafson). Last of five May reports was from a southern county (Milwaukee) on May 19 (Strehlow).
Golden Eagle: One possible sighting from March to early April in Milwaukee county by Magulski.

Bald Eagle: Only eight counties reporting mostly in wintering or nesting areas except two early April observations from Columbia county (Vogelsang). Two eagles were seen in what appeared to be a courtship flight over Forest county on April 6 (John Woodcock).

Marsh Hawk: A major influx March 28-30 across much of the state was preceded by several reports of wintering birds and a few early migrants. Most remaining areas of the state had their first arrivals by the second big push northward on April 1-3.

Osprey: An “early bird” on April 3 in Ozaukee county (Gustafson) was followed by several mid-April reports as far north as Burnett county (Stone). No migrants were seen away from nesting areas after the first week of May.

Peregrine Falcon: The one lone duck hawk seen this spring was spotted by Stone in Burnett county on May 7.

Pigeon Hawk: A March 4 sighting in Dane county by Vogelsang suggests a wintering bird. The only other reports were four ranging from an early sighting on March 27 in Ozaukee county to a late migrant spotted on May 17 in Brown county.

Sparrow Hawk: Only one pronounced period of migration emerged out of the 27 counties that reported, that being on March 25-27. Maybelle Hardy noted that this hawk had increased noticeably in Price county.

Ruffed Grouse: Drumming began as early as March 18 in Waushara county (Irma Chipman). Of the other 19 counties reporting, no other drumming was mentioned until mid-May.

Greater Prairie Chicken: All the observations came from the Buena Vista Marsh area in Portage county where a peak was reached on April 14-15 when up to 60 were found.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Only Price, Taylor and Burnett county recorded these grouse in mid-April and May.

Bobwhite: Reports from five counties as far north as Chippewa county.

Gray Partridge: Jackson county provided the only report away from the southern or eastern parts of the state, that being on April 4 (Mrs. Dorothy Harmer).

Sandhill Crane: A March 14 observation in Dane county (N. Ashman) preceded reports from seven other southeastern Wisconsin counties during the last week of March. Subsequently, April and May held scattered reports including eight additional counties.

King Rail: May reports from only Oconto, Jefferson, and Milwaukee counties, with the last lingering until May 26 in Milwaukee county (Strehlow).

Virginia Rail: Besting the old arrival record by one day was a sighting in Dane county on April 4 by Nancy Ashman. Tom Ashman’s observation of one also in Dane county two days later may have been the same bird but no details were given on either bird. The last two weeks of April provided three more reports as far north as Winnebago county. May migration fell into two blocks on May 2-3 and 8-9 reaching up to, but not into the northern tier of states.

Sora Rail: A Rock county report on April 18 (Brakefield) was only a step ahead of three well defined movements on April 24-25, May 1-2, and May 8. The scarcity of northern reports indicates a possible decline there.

Yellow Rail: Again Carl Richter furnishes the only report of “several” near Peshtigo in Marinette county on May 6.

Common Gallinule: An early April 12 report from Brown county (Kane) was followed by only two more April reports from Milwaukee and Winnebago counties. Even in May, only six additional reports came in.

Coot: Wintered in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Dane counties. No marked movements until April 1, 10, and 16-18 when many peaks were noted, primarily in the eastern third of the state.
Sempipalmed Plover: Arrivals reached southern counties during the first week of May and up to St. Croix county by mid-May. Brown and Dane counties still held birds at the end of the period.

Piping Plover: Sharp found the only one reported in Milwaukee on April 29.

Kildeer: Seen in Milwaukee before March, but the first real trickle of migrants appeared on March 13. The next day a mass invasion of the state took place when several counties were already indicating peaks. A flight on March 27-31 and another in northern counties April 4-7 blanketed most remaining parts of the state.

Golden Plover: A small flight covering only eight counties began April 7 in Waupaca county (Katherine RiU) and terminated on May 21 in Columbia county (Hilsenhoff).

Black-bellied Plover: All observations were in May beginning on the 8th in Racine county (Gustafson) and extending throughout May in Columbia and Kenosha counties.

Ruddy Turnstone: All observations were limited to May for this plover also. Reports from seven counties began after mid-May reaching a peak of several hundred in Winnebago county around the 25th and lasting to the end of the period in Brown and Columbia counties.

Black Turnstone: An amazing new state record, complete with definitive color photographs, comes from Oshkosh on May 22. See “By the Wayside”.

American Woodcock: Nancy Ashman’s March 14 arrival in Dane county was just barely ahead of two March 16 sightings in Milwaukee (Donald) and Ozaukee county (Bintz). Flights on March 29-30 brought woodcock to many central counties while northern counties noticed their first on April 3-6. The third week of April brought migrants to most other reporting counties.

Common Snipe: Dane, Kenosha, and Jefferson counties all tallied their first snipe on March 31. The only other marked influx occurred on April 10-12 penetrating several northern counties. A late peak on May 16 was noted in Brown county (Cleary & Columban).

Whimbrel: On June 5, just beyond the end of the period, one was seen by Joe Bader and Gorden Delsart in Brown county. (fide Cleary)

Upland Plover: Appeared first in Portage (Athorp) and Brown counties (Kane) on April 20, spreading into five more widespread counties on April 25-26. One other minor movement on May 8-10 completed the arrivals for this species which was very low in numbers according to many observers.

Spotted Sandpiper: Price county way up north managed to attract the first migrant seen on April 16 (Alice Vincent). The subsequent arrival dates were about as diffuse as possible with the exception of a minor migratory push May 4-6 in widespread areas of the state.

Solitary Sandpiper: Ruth Lender found one in Trempealeau county on April 20. This preceded weak flights on April 22-26 and May 5-8 into southern and central counties. Only a handful of records from northern counties all in mid-May.

Willett: One found at Goose Pond on May 1. See “By the Wayside”. Another was also found there from May 31 to June 3 (Werner). These two reports from Columbia county were the only ones this spring.

Greater Yellowlegs: This species and its smaller relative were both not only few in number but later than usual this spring. Timewise, arrivals were widely scattered beginning the second week of April in Brown (Kane) and St. Croix county (Godlard). April 17-18 seemed to be the only clearly defined flight.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Two minor flights on April 10-11 and 17 were preceded by a few earlier sightings as far north as LaCrosse county on April 6 (Lesher). Cleary and Columban found this shorebird peaking in Brown county on May 16 while it lingered there and in Columbia county (Werner) until May 31.

Knot: This shorebird is rarely found in Wisconsin in the spring, but John Woodcock described one very well which he found in Manitowoc county, May 21.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Were found in Ozaukee county on March 27 (Gustafson), two weeks before other arrivals. Other than concentrations noted by Tessen around April 24, migration did not appear to conform to any pattern. Individuals did linger to the end of the period in Dane and Columbia counties.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Only six counties entered records starting May 13 in Jefferson county (Sharpe) to the end of May in Columbia county (Werner).

Baird's Sandpiper: Four sightings in May in Winnebago, Trempealeau, Dodge, and LaCrosse counties followed close on the heels of the lone April observation on the 30th in Columbia county (Vogelsang).

Least Sandpiper: The western boundaries of the state provided the first two reports of this “peep” during the last week of April in St. Croix county (Goddard) and on May 1 in Eau Claire county (Robbins). Diffuse May arrivals and departures in 15 counties included peaks on May 16 and 21.

Curlew Sandpiper: A gorgeous spring adult was found independently by Phillip Mallow and also Dick Sharp (fide Badger Birder) in Jefferson county on May 15 where it stayed until the 19th. Wisconsin has only one other hypothetically record of this rare bird by Daryl Tessen on September 15, 1965. Even though most members of the S. Paul Jones Naturalist’s Club and many others were fortunate enough to see this shorebird, it still must be considered hypothetical, unless someone had the foresight to take pictures of this Siberian visitor. Your editor confesses to not bringing a camera, and knows of no one else who did. If any photographs were taken, please forward them to N. R. Barger for documentation. They will be returned. See “By the Wayside” for details.

Dunlin: Observation of this species in Ozaukee county on April 18 by the Bintz family led other sightings by almost three weeks. May movements were very irregular in the 10 counties reporting. Late migrants tarried to the end of the month in Dane, Brown, Columbia, and Chippewa counties.

Dowitcher: Only three Long-billed Dowitchers were mentioned by species and double-checked by call note. These were found on May 16 in Milwaukee and Waukesha on the May Day Counts and on May 22 in Columbia county (Tessen). All other reports were either short-billed or just left as Dowitches. All migration was in May, with a pronounced movement on May 16-17.

Stilt Sandpiper: This uncommon spring migrant was located in five counties starting with St. Croix during the second week of April (Goddard) and ending with Chippewa county May 25. Other counties playing host included Outagamie (Tessen), Columbia (Vogelsang), and Dane (Hilsenhoff).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Robert Hanson found the first in Iowa county on April 20. Later arrivals were well spread outside of a small flight on May 15-16. Brown, Columbia, and Chippewa counties still held individuals at the end of May.

Western Sandpiper: A well documented observation of this species was received from the Baumgartners. It was found late in the season on May 25 in Door county. In addition, one was reported on the Beloit May Day Count May 16, but no details of the observation were provided.

Marbled Godwit: Only one individual managed to show up this spring, and that one just barely. It was found in Columbia county from May 29-31 (Tessen, Werner).

Hudsonian Godwit: No less than seven counties were fortunate in finding this shorebird as early as May 12 in Jefferson county (Sharpe). Tailin after a well defined arrival into five counties on May 16-17 was a straggler in Columbia county into June (Werner).

Sanderling: Only six counties reported, all in May, the earliest being May 5 in LaCrosse county (Rosso). Present in Milwaukee and Brown counties May 31.

Wilson's Phalarope: Goddard’s sighting in St. Croix county about the third week of April came first. Two reasonably large flights occurred May 1 and May 8-9. May 31 found birds still in Brown, Columbia, and Racine counties.

Northern Phalarope: In the absence of any details, an extremely early discovery of one in St. Croix county during the last week of April must be considered hypothetical (Goddard). The current state arrival record is May 6. May migration began in
Ozaukee county on the 16th (Bintz), continued into Brown county on the 20th (Cleary and Columban), finally finishing in Columbia county between May 20 and June (Werner).

**Glauous Gull:** Discovered in Milwaukee county beginning March 7 (Tessen), reaching a peak of four on March 12 with one remaining until May 2 (Gustafson). Individuals also found in Ozaukee county on March 13 and Winnebago county April 10. All reports were documented.

**Iceland Gull:** Milwaukee harbor was host to one of these unusual white-winged gulls on March 12. An excellent opportunity was presented to see this second year gull side by side with both Herring and Glauous Gulls not only in flight but also standing on ice (Gustafson).

**Herring Gull:** The only flight of any size occurred in central counties on April 10-11.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Diffuse March arrivals were followed by peaks on April 1-2 in Brown and LaCrosse counties.

**Franklin's Gull:** A documented record of an adult with a trace of winter plumage comes from Ozaukee county on the new record date of March 30 (Gustafson). Goddard in St. Croix county furnished the next report in the third week of April. Werner provided the last sighting on May 20, in Columbia county. Also found in LaCrosse and Burnett counties this spring.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Several comments were made on the abundance of this gull, yet the limited number of reports indicate it was not wide spread. Lake Michigan shoreline counties began reporting late on April 17 in Kenosha county (Hamers) while inland, Sharp did not find the first migrants until April 29 in Jefferson county. Only seven additional counties recorded birds during April or May.

**Forster's Tern:** Of the nine counties reporting, Milwaukee furnished the first report on April 14 (Donald). The end of May caught several terns still in Brown and Dodge counties which may have nested there.

**Common Tern:** This species along with the Forster's Tern are frequently confused and misidentified, particularly during April, when the Forster's is normally the early tern, even along Lake Michigan. Observers should be cautioned not to assume that any early white tern is a Common Tern, despite its name. Two early April reports from Milwaukee and Brown counties April 11-13 were not documented, but hopefully will be in the future. Reports indicate general arrival begins about April 22 in southern counties and April 30 farther north.

**Caspian Tern:** Fassbender located 10 early migrants up in Kewaunee county on April 20. Lesher found several in LaCrosse county April 30 while May reports seemed concentrated in Brown county where this tern peaked on May 16 (Cleary & Columban). Phillip Ashman found it in Dane county in June.

**Black Tern:** April 28-29 pushed the first trickle of birds into Milwaukee (Donald) and Columbia counties (the Zimmermanns), but it was on May 8-9 that Wisconsin experienced its first mass invasion of this species reaching into most sections of the state. A similar scale influx occurred about May 20, when quite a few peaks were indicated.

**Mourning Dove:** The only noticeable movement took place in northern counties April 5-6. It wintered in at least 12 of the reporting counties in central and southern Wisconsin.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Both this and the Black-billed Cuckoo were definitely low in numbers as indicated by several observers. All but a May 8 report from Columbia county (the R.B. Dryers) came after May 15 with many first arrivals coming in several central counties at the very end of May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** As with many other record breaking arrivals this spring, an April 16 record from Ozaukee county (the Bintzes) lacked documentation. The only other report before mid-May comes from Florence county in the north on May 13 (Hilsenhoft). Quite a few arrivals were noted around May 16 in central counties.

**Screech Owl:** Found throughout the period in Milwaukee and Brown counties. Mrs. Henry Koenig in Sauk county told of a red phased adult seen on March 29 that stayed around to raise young which were seen on May 23. This owl was also included on the Beloit May Day Count on May 16.
Great-Horned Owl: Recorded from a dozen scattered counties with a peak in Burnett county on April 4 (Stone).

Snowy Owl: Straggler after a relatively poor invasion this past winter were seen in Winnebago county on April 10 and in Columbia county between March 20-27 (1-2 owls by Vogelsang and Werner).

Burrowing Owl: Once again Wisconsin had the great fortune to be host to one of these rare migrants in Green Bay on April 6. It was first discovered by John and Eugene Jacobs and later trapped and banded by Tom Erdman (fide Badger Birder).

Barred Owl: Reported only from Oconto, Price, Ozaukee, LaCrosse, and Brown counties.

Long-eared Owl: The only two reports outside of several in Milwaukee county were on March 7 in Jefferson county (Sharp) and March 31 in Columbia county (Werner).

Short-eared Owl: March and early April observation came from Milwaukee, Jefferson, Kenosha, St. Croix, LaCrosse, and Burnett counties. The last was seen on April 10 in Columbia county (Werner).

Saw Whet Owl: Paul Kane turned in the only report of this delightful owl on March 1 in Brown county.

Whip-poor-will: Both this and the nighthawk were somewhat down in numbers according to several observers. All reports were in May starting with Buena Vista Marsh in Portage county on May 3 (Athorp). Virtually all other arrivals were between May 5-15, especially on May 8 and 15.

Nighthawk: Two record breaking arrivals were observed this spring. The first was a bird seen and heard by Stephen Zitzer on April 11 (fide P. Ashman) a full 12 days earlier than the previous record. An undocumented report from Portage county on April 20 (Athorp) followed. Several widespread migratory waves succeeded this in May, particularly on May 7, 16, and 21.

Chimney Swift: Hilsenhoff uncovered the first in Dane county on April 29. Almost all May arrivals were squeezed into the first 10 days with peaks on May 6-7 and 9-10.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Several days ahead of other arrivals was a bird seen by the Breakefields in Rock county on May 9. Northern counties began reporting almost as soon as southern ones with birds on May 14 both in Vilas county (Alfred Bradford) and farther south in Jackson county (Harmer). Arrivals after mid-May were steady, but well dispersed geographically.

Belted Kingfisher: Found throughout the period in Waushara (Chipman) and LaCrosse counties (Rosso). Southern counties recorded their first birds about March 28, central counties about April 5, and northern counties around April 18 providing a nice uniform dispersal pattern. Numerous contributors indicated a scarcity of kingfishers this spring.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: Present at the start of the period in Outagamie, Columbia, and Dane counties. The first migrants appeared on March 28 in Ozaukee (Bintz) and Green counties (Rohde). Later arrivals were scattered mostly through the first half of April with a peak around April 4.

Pileated Woodpecker: 12 counties in the usual range outside of southeastern Wisconsin submitted reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Observations in 15 counties, mostly of permanent or wintering residents.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Hanson found this species throughout the period in Iowa county. Following Goddard's mid-March report from St. Croix county were waves around the following dates: April 3 and 23, May 5-8 which reached into northern Wisconsin.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Two March reports led the way on March 30 in Sheboygan county (Harold Koopman) and the 31st in Outagamie county (Tessen). At least a dozen additional counties had located their first sapsuckers within the next five days. Most peaks occurred about mid-April or just slightly later.

Eastern Kingbird: First three reports all from the first week of May and all from more northerly counties including St. Croix, Portage, and LaCrosse. Almost half of all arrival dates occurred May 15-16.
Western Kingbird: The only definite report received was of one in Sauk county just after the period ended on June 3 (Donald).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Migratory patterns closely followed that of the Eastern Kingbird except for the early May reports beginning in southern counties and a large additional peak about May 11.

Eastern Phoebe: Dane county hosted a very early arrival on March 16 (Vogelsang) followed by Phoebes on the last day of March in Ozaukee (Gustafson) and Milwaukee counties (Donald). Most contributing counties had found birds by April 12 with peaks around April 7 and 9-10. Richter found a nest with one egg in Marinette county on May 10.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Nine counties entertained this species as early as May 5 in Kenosha county (Hamers). Waves appeared to occur about May 19 and 26. Still in Milwaukee, Dane, and Brown counties at the end of May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Kenosha county also hosted the first of these Empidonax flycatcher arrivals on May 16 (Hamers). Of the five additional counties providing reports scattered throughout the rest of May, the northernmost were Waushara (Chipman) and Brown counties (three observers).

Traill’s Flycatcher: May reports began on the 8th in Winnebago county (Tessen). Major movements noted only on May 23 and 29.

Least Flycatcher: Vogelsang found the first migrants in Dane county May 3. Major influxes took place on May 8-9 (as far north as Price county—Vincent) and on May 16-17.

Eastern Wood Peewee: Several days earlier than its relative was a Peewee in Ozaukee county on May 5 (Bintz). The remaining migratory pattern was so diffuse both chronologically and geographically as to be non-existent.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Although no observers mentioned it, the scarcity of reports from only eight counties indicates a very weak migration of this flycatcher. The first was not located until May 16 in Milwaukee (Donald) while the majority were found after May 26 with one late bird in Dane county into June (Zimmerman).

Horned Lark: Most peaks mentioned were in the March 2-6 period with one additional peak in Ozaukee county on March 27.

Tree Swallow: A brave early swallow was seen flying over an open pond in Ozaukee county on March 20 (Gustafson), one day shy of the arrival record. Lesher found the species a week later in LaCrosse county on March 27. April peaks took place on April 4-5, 9-10, 13, and 25-27.

Bank Swallow: A week or more before all other observations were birds seen on April 14 in Juneau county (Tessen) and April 18 in Vernon county (Viratine Weber). The last few days of April brought migrants to an additional seven counties as far north as Price county on April 29 (Vincent). Arrivals continued as late as May 25-27.

Rough-winged Swallow: Weber in Vernon county again provided the earliest report on April 18. Subsequent April arrivals were clustered around a big penetration into central Wisconsin on the 24th. Migration continued through May up to a late peak on May 25 in Waushara county (Chipman).

Barn Swallow: A near record bird was observed in St. Croix county by S. Goddard during the first week in April. Following a second early report from E. Werner in Columbia county on April 10 were widespread advances centered around April 15, 20, and 25. Milwaukee and Waushara county also noted a late peak for this species on May 25.

Cliff Swallow: Katherine Rill furnished the first entry for this swallow on April 30 in Waupaca county. May dispersal was weak and diffuse with only 15 counties reporting.

Purple Martin: The swallow family certainly seemed favored by the early spring weather patterns, this one arriving March 31 in Dane county (Harry Thorne fide N. R. Barger). April peaks also began early, notably on the 10th. Almost all sections of the state had found their first martins by the 25th of April.
Gray Jay: The usual reports from northern counties were joined by March or April reports from Waushara (Chipman) and Brown counties (Kane), both a little south of the normal range. The Waushara county bird had wintered. The northern reports were from Price, Oneida, and Forest counties.

Blue Jay: Peaks began about April 23 and extended at least to May 8 in Milwaukee county (Strehlow).

Common Raven: Southernmost of 11 reports was one by Robbins in Eau Claire county on May 17 when two ravens were seen circling and calling.

Boreal Chickadee: News came only from Forest (several observers) and Price counties (Evrard). See "By the Wayside".

Tufted Titmouse: 11 counties furnished reports as far north as St. Croix (Goddard) and Eau Claire counties (Robbins).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Comments and lack of reports both indicate a marked decline in numbers for this nuthatch this spring. Only during May was there any deviation from this situation with a peak mentioned in Manitowoc county on May 10 (Marjorie Albrecht). About normal departure dates came in southern counties May 8-12 and May 15-17 in central counties.

Brown Creeper: Migratory patterns were difficult to distinguish in the 15 contributing counties outside of an influx on the first three days of April. Richter found a nearly completed nest in Oconto county on April 29. A flock of 10 were still together in Door county during the last week in May (Baumgartner).

House Wren: Kenosha and Brown counties came up with two early migrants on April 10 and 12 respectively (Hamers, Cleary & Columban), but not before one was found by a bander — of all places — in a corn crib — in Brown county on the very early date of April 5 (Richard Hasterlik fide Melvin Wierzbicki). Consequent arrivals were well dispersed in April before a peak in central counties on May 4-6 and farther north on May 15-16.

Winter Wren: Late in arriving this spring with P. Ashman finding the first in Dane county on April 3. With only 12 counties reporting, trends in migration were difficult to ascertain. The one found on the May (16th) Day Count in Milwaukee was the latest in southern counties to depart.

Carolina Wren: Only one individual of this southern species of wren was seen and described well by A. Baumgartner in Door county on May 26.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: The first of two early arrivals in western Wisconsin came on the third week of April in St. Croix county (Goddard). The second appeared April 30 in LaCrosse county (Leshier). Two more counties discovered birds shortly before a large scale penetration began May 15 reaching eventually 11 counties all together.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: This marsh wren also was recorded in only 11 counties, first in Manitowoc on April 30 (Albrecht). Migration was quite diffuse and reached only as far north as Chippewa county (Robbins).

Mockingbird: This southern mimic was present in about average numbers this spring with four sightings occurring. Mrs. Joseph Mahlum found the first one dead in Rock county on April 14. Nancy Ashman had the last April record on the 21st in Dane county. Tessen found one in Winnebago county on May 15 while the Baumgartners had one in Portage county three times on May 15, May 22, June 3.

Catbird: Of the five April reports, two were extremely early coming from Portage county on the 11th (Jane Bubford) and Manitowoc county on the 15th (Lyene Scholz). May brought a veritable deluge of reports with the main emphasis in southern counties coming on May 5 while central and northern counties were most affected during a May 14-17 period.

Brown Thrasher: Present at the beginning of the period in Iowa (Hanson) and Waushara counties (Chipman). Two more thrashers which possibly may also have wintered were seen on April 1 in Price county (Hardy) and April 3 in Brown county (Cleary & Columban). Several scattered sightings around April 12 were more likely the first true migrants. April ended with uniform migration, but May had two well marked peaks on the 5th and 10th.
Robin: Early March reports were scattered until a major eruption of migrants took place on March 14-16 blanketing 12 counties in both northern and southern sections of the state. A similar, but smaller scale, invasion occurred again on March 28-30 in both ends of the state. All other peaks neatly filled the April 1-4 period. Most comments were indicative of an above average population of Robins.

Varied Thrush: John Semo last saw the Varied Thrush which had been visiting the feeder at the game farm at Poynette in Columbia county on March 25. It had first arrived December 14, 1970.

Wood Thrush: B. Vogelsang found one hardy bird in Dane county April 20. After M. Albrecht found another April 28 in Manitowoc county; movements approached mid-state about May 11 but northern counties were not entered until the last week of May. Peaks occurred around May 8-11 and 16th.

Hermit Thrush: Cleary & Columban recorded the first migrant on March 30 in Brown county. A few days later, migrants appeared on April 2 in Milwaukee (Juneau) and on the 3rd in Oconto and Dane counties (Woodcock, Hilsenhoff). All but the northernmost counties had recorded their first birds by the April 11 peak. The only late straggler away from the northern nesting areas was a thrush in Milwaukee on May 31 (Donald). Quite a few observers mentioned a scarcity of this, as well as the following, species of thrushes.

Swainson’s Thrush: Two “early birds” showed up in Brown county April 16 (Cleary & Columban) and in Milwaukee county April 22 (Strehlow). Most noteworthy during the May migration were large movements on May 11 and 15-16th covering over 10 counties throughout the state. The end of the period found birds still in Outagamie, Brown, Dane, and Forest counties.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Dane and again Milwaukee counties entertained the only April migrants on the 20th (Vogelsang) and 23rd (Strehlow) respectively. May 15th appears to have been a tremendous “thrush” day as that date alone accounted for almost half of the arrival records for this thrush as well as many of the preceding species. Migrants lingered near the end of the period in Milwaukee county (Strehlow) and into June in Brown county (Wierzbicki).

Veery: During the third week in April, S. Goddard found an early Veery all the way up in St. Croix county. Subsequent migration patterns were equally unusual with central counties recording the next waves and northernmost counties, such as Taylor, hosting arrivals on May 15 (Robbins), even before such southern counties as Kenosha had found their first arrivals on the 16th (Hamers).

Eastern Bluebird: By March 17, Dane, Iowa, and LaCrosse counties had already found the first heralds of spring with Dane county being the first on March 13 (T. Ashman). A widespread movement on March 30th brought migrants all the way to Taylor county where J. Evard spotted 10. April dispersal peaked between the 6th and 8th reaching most observers by the end of that month.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two hardy migrants appeared only a day apart in Milwaukee county on the 16th of April and in Dane county on the 17th (Juneau, Hilsenhoff). The same counties also furnished two late April reports followed by May reports from only six additional counties. Northernmost of these was Wierzbicki’s record in Brown county May 12.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Limited movement began late in March in Milwaukee county on the 23rd (Strehlow). April activity centered around the 1st and 9th in widely scattered areas. Between May 6-10 were late reports away from nesting areas in Outagamie (Tessen), Ozaukee (Bintz), Rock (Brakefield), and Milwaukee counties (Strehlow).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A very evenly distributed April migration for this kinglet was preceded by N. Ashman’s sighting on March 31 in Dane county. April 18-20 did include the only noticeable push of the season. Late May observations did include two very southern counties on the 27th in Milwaukee (Strehlow) and the 29th in Ozaukee (Bintz).

Water Pipit: The only four reports, all in May, ranged from the 2nd in Ozaukee (Bintz) and Racine counties (Gustafson) to the 20th, also in Ozaukee county (Gustafson).
Cedar Waxwing: No conclusions can be drawn from the reports submitted as they indicate the absence of any migratory patterns. A number of participants indicated a reduction in numbers for this waxwing.

Northern Shrike: 10 counties reported this shrike still around in March, with two remaining until the very last week in St. Croix county (Goddard) and Outagamie county (3/28—Tessen).

Loggerhead Shrike: Strangely enough, this shrike first appeared way up in Marinette county on April 6 (Lindberg) only about two weeks after its northern cousin had departed. After appearing in Sauk county on April 11 (P. Ashman) the last two April departures moves west to LaCrosse and St. Croix county. By June, four more counties had reported with a nest being found in Jackson county on June 6 (Harmer). See “By the Wayside”.

White-eyed Vireo: E. Strehlow sends in the only record this spring (without any details) of one in Milwaukee county on May 19.

Bell’s Vireo: The only two counties to report were LaCrosse county May 17-21 (Lesher, Rosso) and Dane county May 20 into June (Gustafson, Tessen). J. Zimmerman concentrated on the Madison arboretum and came up with 3-5 individuals there alone. Present on Milwaukee May Day Count May 16th.

Yellow-throated Vireo: A third of the 15 counties with observations indicated a moderate influx on May 15-16. Northernmost records came from Price (Vincent) and Marinette counties (Lindberg). Sharp provided the first news on May 5 in Jefferson county on this vireo.

Solitary Vireo: May 14-16 provided the impetus to the spread of this vireo through the southern two-thirds of the state following its first appearance in Dane county May 1 (Hilsenhoff). Two lingering migrants were found as late as the 28th of May in Milwaukee (Strehlow) and Outagamie (Tessen) counties. This species was scarcer than normal in May.

Red-eyed Vireo: May 15-16 again was the peak yielding arrival dates in at least 10 counties after the first appearance on May 5 in Vernon county (Weber). A less intense push occurred on May 9-10, reaching north into Price county (Vincent).

Philadelphia Vireo: Only two were seen before mid-May coming on May 5 in Columbia county (Dryer) and May 6 in Milwaukee (Donald). Repetitious is an understatement here, but May 15-16 once again provided half of the arrival dates in the dozen counties reporting. It was present to May 31 or later in Brown (Wierzchicki) and Milwaukee counties (Gustafson).

Warbling Vireo: Migration peaked on May 5-6, 10-11, and most notably, of course, on May 15-16.

Black and White Warbler: E. Strehlow’s sighting on April 29th in Milwaukee county was the only one seen in April. The push on the 8th of May brought arrivals to each corner of the state. By May 17, almost every participant had found the first migrant.

Prothonotary Warbler: Of the eight reporting counties, Dane was first on May 5 (Hilsenhoff). All other counties were either along the lake and bay shores or along the Mississippi River except Rock and Marathon counties which found this warbler on their May Day Counts on May 16.

Worm-eating Warbler: Only three undocumented reports came in from Waukesha county on May 5 (Sharp), on the Beloit May Day Count May 16, and in Ozaukee county on May 90 (Bintz).

Golden-winged Warbler: First reached Chippewa (Robbins) and Milwaukee counties on the 8th of May (Strehlow). The resulting dispersal was seemingly without any pattern leaving individuals at the end of May in Milwaukee, Dane, Sauk, and Chippewa counties.

Blue-winged Warbler: An equally diffuse migratory pattern unfolded for this relative after arriving May 5th in Milwaukee (Strehlow) and Jefferson counties (Sharp). Robbins’ report in Rusk county on May 29th was most northerly of the eight counties reporting.
Brewster’s Warbler Hybrid: One was reported on the Milwaukee May Day Count on May 16th. No details were given.

Tennessee Warbler: The first week in May pushed individuals into four counties including Dane on May 4 (Vogelsang), Green on May 6 (Rohde), and farther west in Vernon (M. Morse) and St. Croix counties (Goddard). May 15-18 created a pattern which blanketed most of the state and accounted for almost all peaks mentioned. Zimmerman found them still in Dane county in June.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Only eight counties recorded this warbler with Dane county being first on May 5 (Hilsenhoff). It moved relatively rapidly through the state with only one report after the 20th, that coming on May 26 in Outagamie county (Tessen).

Nashville Warbler: Milwaukee (Gustafson) and Dane counties (Vogelsang) provided records of the first migrants on May 3. Within a week, 12 more counties had uncovered their first Nashville Warblers, as far north as Oconto and Chippewa counties. Remaining counties found theirs, for the most part, during the May 16-17 peak.

Parula Warbler: With only 10 counties sending in records, this warbler was quite scarce. P. Ashman commented that he missed this species completely and couldn’t explain why. The few reports were scattered around mid-May and all but one were from the eastern half of Wisconsin.

Yellow Warbler: Records from two northern counties coincided with the early dates in several southern counties. These were on May 3 in Waupaca county (Rill) and May 4 in Price county (Vincent). Widespread movement followed on May 7-9 so that most reporters had seen this species before mid-May.

Magnolia Warbler: Several days before any other observations was one in Milwaukee county on May 6 (Strehlow). The first real movement did not occur until a day or two before and after the 16th of May, when most peaks and arrivals were recorded. Present into June as far south as Milwaukee county (Juneau, Gustafson).

Cape May Warbler: All 12 counties reported within a three week period starting May 5 in Dane county (P. Ashman). No reports north of Chippewa county.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Of the eight counties reporting, Milwaukee and Brown counties were first to locate this warbler on May 11. Numbers increased mildly around mid-May with two singing birds (possibly nesting?) remaining in Menominee county on May 29-30 (Zimmerman).

Myrtle Warbler: All contributors who commented on the status of this warbler, indicated a scarcity of numbers. The time of migration, however, was about normal with the first arrival April 1 in a southern county as expected, Milwaukee (Donald). The next day, individuals popped up all the way in Price county in a late spring blizzard (Hardy, Vincent). No widespread influx took place until April 9-11, and by May 1, was present in most parts of the state.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Seldom do peaks stand out so well defined, but that was certainly true of this warbler after its May 1 arrival in Kenosha county (Hamers). Peaks on May 4 were limited to southern counties, May 8-9 to central counties, and May 16 to northern counties. The only southern report into June was from Milwaukee county (Gustafson).

Cerulean Warbler: Almost all nine reports came around May 13 or 23rd. The only report away from the usual haunts near the Mississippi River or southern Wisconsin was Zimmerman’s report from Menominee county on May 29.

Blackburnian Warbler: Generally a late arrival this spring beginning with a trickle around May 9-10 in a few southern and central counties. It needed the huge May 16 invasion to distribute this species to most of the reporting areas. By June, Dane and Milwaukee counties still held a few.

Yellow-throated Warbler: The only spring record in seven or more years comes from H. Koopman in Sheboygan county. See “By the Wayside” for details.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: This was another one of many late arrivals, not being seen in any numbers until May 10-11 in widely scattered counties. May 16th once again provided the greatest impact to the dispersal of this species, carrying individuals
to all but the most northerly counties, which recorded theirs a few days later. By June it was still in Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties as well as its usual nesting areas.

Bay-breasted Warbler: It was not until May 10 when Dane county finally hosted the first arrival for the state (P. Ashman). They began rolling in with large numbers on May 14 and were quite well distributed five days later.

Black-poll Warbler: Almost a full week before all others was a report from Milwaukee county on May 4 (Strehlow). Peaks of about equal magnitude occurred on May 11, 16, and 18-19 which covered most of the state with no apparent geographical stratification.

Pine Warbler: The first regular migrant appeared in Chippewa county (Robbins) on April 25, which is still early. Subsequent arrivals reached 10 mostly northern counties and were very well dispersed throughout the month of May.

Kirtland’s Warbler: The first record since 1967 and only the seventh for the state occurred in Waushara county May 21st. See “By the Wayside”.

Prairie Warbler: Joining the parade of warbler rarities was the lone report of this infrequent visitor to our state in Door county on May 26th seen by M. Baumgartner. See “By the Wayside” for the details.

Palm Warbler: Spring migration began on April 26 for this early migrant in Milwaukee (Gustafson) followed by arrivals on the 30th in Waushara (Chipman) and Jefferson counties (Sharp). Northern counties were reached within a few days of the time when central and southern counties were first entered. May 16 was a late peak in central counties. Generally low in numbers this year.

Ovenbird: Arrivals were remarkably evenly distributed through the first two weeks of May beginning on the 3rd of May in Dane county (Vogelsang). Most remaining counties that reported had either their first arrivals or peaks during the big May 15-16th invasion.

Northern Waterthrush: A week before other sightings was one of the two April reports on the 24th in Dane county (Hilsenhoff). Also in Dane county was P. Ashman’s report on the 30th. Peaks on May 8 and 15-16 completed the migratory picture for most counties. A straggler stayed in Milwaukee county into June.

Louisiana Waterthrush: First of ten reporting counties was Columbia on April 27 (Dryer). May 9-10 included the heaviest number of arrivals while migrants reached, by the end of May, as far north as Eau Claire (Robbins) and Menominee counties (Zimmerman).

Kentucky Warbler: Only three counties reported as follows: Vogelsang in Dane county on May 19, Jefferson county on the 22nd (many members of W. S. O. and the National Audubon Society), and Kenosha county on May 31 (Hamers).

Connecticut Warbler: J. Hamers found an early one in Kenosha county on May 8. The remaining five counties to report continued about mid-May and finished up with a May 29 report from Chippewa county (Robbins).

Mourning Warbler: Only one individual preceded the first general arrival on May 15-16, that one arriving on May 12 in Dane county (Vogelsang). No conclusions could be drawn from the other 11 counties that submitted reports other than to say arrivals were well spread out timewise.

Yellowthroat: Preceded only by a few sightings a day or two earlier, was the initial penetration into Wisconsin on May 9, all in southern counties. By the time the first northern counties were reporting during the second major flight on May 15-16, most other counties had already found birds.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Seven reports this spring was above average for this southern warbler. The Brakefields found the first in Rock county on May 11th (See “By the Wayside”). Sharp found another May 13, along a new park hiking trail in Waukesha county. Again two days later, two turned up in Lafayette county (Bargcr) and on the Appleton May Day Count, May 16th, two more again showed up on two May Day Counts in Milwaukee and Beloit. Finally, on May 19th, also in Milwaukee, the last was seen (Gustafson).
Hooded Warbler: A beautiful cooperative male hung around the same spot in Milwaukee from May 18-17 (Donald, Gustafson) so several had a chance to observe it. A female was later seen on May 22 by D. Tessen in Dane county.

Wilson's Warbler: Although a few reports turned up as early as May 11, fully half of the arrival dates for this warbler fell within the May 15-16th flight. There were the usual stragglers, even into June, as far south as Milwaukee county.

Canada Warbler: Patterns were difficult to detect in this spring's migration, as this warbler was seen in only 10 counties. Perhaps May 15-16 and May 19-21 may have been peaks, but not dramatic ones as with other species. Migrants lingered to the end of May in Kenosha and Milwaukee counties.

American Redstart: P. Ashman spotted the first Redstart in Dane county on May 7th. The migratory tempo picked up in southern and central counties on May 10-11. "When it rains, it pours" was again illustrated by the May 15-17 invasion in which half of all the many arrival dates were found. Only a sprinkling of arrivals in northern counties followed.

Bobolink: Two early migrants showed up, both about April 19th; one in Rock county (Brakefield) and one in St. Croix county (Goddard). May peaks fell around May 8, 12, and 17th and were geographically well scattered.

Eastern Meadowlark: Present in at least Green (Rohde) and Dane (Hilsenhoff) counties by March 1. Influx of this meadowlark really began about March 7th in southern counties and very steadily spread to all but the northernmost counties in the next two weeks. The last peaks occurred in central and northern counties between March 20th and April 1.

Western Meadowlark: Arrivals March 5th in Jefferson county (Sharp) and March 6th in St. Croix county (Robbins) were preceded only by birds present at the start of the period in Dane county (Hilsenhoff). The greatest bulk of March arrivals fell within the March 13-16 period, while April peaks centered around April 10-12.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A bird in Kenosha county on April 10th (Hamers) was followed a week later by arrivals in four additional counties including Brown, St. Croix, Dodge, and Columbia. Migrants reached the 10 extra counties reporting chiefly during flights on April 24th and May 9-10th.

Red-winged Blackbird: Sorting out the deluge of reports seemed to indicate that March 14th was the first spring invasion of any consequence. This date included many peaks as well as arrivals, but were limited to southern counties for the most part. A number of earlier reports had preceded this, basically of wintering birds or of early March strays. March 18-20 brought in another flood of reports, although no observers mentioned when females first began arriving. An April 1-3 flight seemed to be the last widespread movement in the state.

Orchard Oriole: P. Kane found the first bird in Brown county on May 19th. This was closely followed by arrivals May 11-12 in LaCrosse (Lesh) and Milwaukee counties (Donald, Gustafson). Chet Skelly also had one in his yard in Rock county about this time. Additional records came from Sauk, LaFayette, and Dane counties.

Baltimore Oriole: A record tying arrival date of April 10th was recorded in Portage county by J. Bubford, but lacked any documentation and was not even underlined as being unusual. Most observers agreed on the abundance of this oriole this spring, particularly when 14 counties all recorded it between May 6-8. Almost as large an influx succeeded that on May 10-12. By the last push on May 16th, most observers had seen their first migrants.

Rusty Blackbird: March included only three reports from LaCrosse county on the 7th (Lesh), Ozaukee county on the 16th (Bintz), and Chippewa county on the 31st (Robbins). April dates were also limited, except for Tessen's report of 300 in Winnebago and Outagamie counties on April 10. Stragglers stayed in Columbia county until May 7th, Milwaukee county until May 9th, and Marathon county on May 16th (Wausau May Day Count).

Brewer's Blackbird: E. Werner's March 3rd report from Columbia county was far earlier than any other observations. Starting out about the third week of March, migrants slowly dispersed into the state with no well defined peaks. By the first week of May, most birds had departed from all counties except their nesting areas.
Common Grackle: Following the usual reports of wintering birds and early strays was a large scale movement affecting a dozen counties on March 13-15 all the way north to Oconto county (Woodcock). Later penetration, even into April, was much more diffuse by comparison with March 1st being the only northern peak of any consequence.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Leading other sightings by over a week was Sharp's March 5th observation in Jefferson county, possibly of a wintering bird. March 17-19 appears to have been the first real penetration of cowbirds, at least in southern counties. Beginning with the fourth week in March, new arrivals seemed to occur almost on a daily basis up to about April 13. No distinguishing time differences were noted between arrivals in northern and southern counties during the period.

Scarlet Tanager: Again, as with so many other records, a record arrival of April 20th was turned in for this species, yet no documentation was provided and the date was not even underlined as being unusual (Weber—Vernon county). May records for this tanager stretch from peaks on the 11th and 15-16th to a late May 19th peak covering most remaining counties.

Summer Tanager: Milwaukee had the only two records of this southern tanager this spring with the first coming on May 10th. This was an immature male which stayed around until May 16th (Donald, Gustafson). An adult male was found in the same area on May 28th (Gustafson).

Cardinal: Of special interest was a report from D. Harmer of a Cardinal nest which had a set of disappearing Cardinal eggs in them on May 13. After the eggs disappeared, a pair of Robins appropriated the nest and used it to successfully hatch young in early June.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: After an early May 2 sighting in Waushara county (Greenman), a realistic flood of migrants came on May 5 covering northern and central counties. A weaker front continued to push arrivals north on May 8-10 and climaxd with another large influx May 15-17.

Blue Grosbeak: One report of a pair seen near dusk in Portage county on May 28 (Bubford). A comment mentioned that they were "not indigo buntings", but no other documentation was given.

Indigo Bunting: The two earliest reports were from Dane (Hilsenhoff) and Vernon counties (Weber) on May 8th and 9th. A weak penetration May 11 and increased in intensity May 15-16 when the first northern counties were reached. It was also then that Mrs. H. Koenig played hostess to a tailless male Indigo Bunting in Sauk county along with a hospital full of other feathered guests. By May 22nd, migration was limited to stragglers. Most contributors noted a small decline in numbers this spring.

Dickcissel: Once again, an early record arrival of April 16th in Dane county by B. Vogelsang was not documented or indicated as being unusual. Irma Chipman had the thrill of banding one in Waushara county May 6th, which is unusual for that area. Most other reports came after May 20th and included seven additional counties.

Evening Grosbeak: Even though several participants indicated a decline in numbers, this northern grosbeak was found in at least 15 counties, mostly in central and northern Wisconsin. Departures in central counties took place chiefly during the first two weeks of April with the notable exception of a May 15 report from Outagamie county (Defferding fide Tessen). The only report from northern counties after this was Richter's observation in Forest county on May 31.

Purple Finch: Even though almost 30 counties sent in records, movements were difficult to detect, as they were thoroughly dispersed from March 27th to the second half of May. Only around May 6th was there any widespread movements, mostly departures. April activity was heaviest during the first few days and the last week or so. Donald's report from Milwaukee on May 30 was the latest record from a southern county. M. Hardy observed courtship behavior between a pair on May 24th in Price county.

Pine Siskin: Other northern finches were conspicuous by their absence and even the siskin was seen only in three counties, first in St. Croix the second week in May (Goddard). Cleary & Columban found them in Brown county May 10-16 while they were also seen on the Wausau May Day County May 16th.
American Goldfinch: Very few comments on this finch except for I. Chipman’s report on large numbers in Waushara county. The few peaks mentioned were late, first on April 11 in Milwaukee (Juneau) and then on May 14-16 in Price, Brown, and Milwaukee counties.

Red Crossbill: Also conspicuous by its absence was this finch seen only once in the period on April 19th in Vilas county (Thomas).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Other than one male which had successfully wintered in Milwaukee, the first towhees appeared April 4th in Kenosha county (Hamers) and in Brown county (Cleary & Columban). Close on their heels came more migrants April 6-7 in Milwaukee and Manistowoc counties. April 16-17th brought another major influx. By the end of the first week in May, most contributing observers had recorded their first arrivals and no well defined peaks occurred after them.

Lark Bunting: One of our few state records for this bunting was tallied on May 20th in Ozaukee county, when the Bintz family found an adult male. This brings the number of records in our state to about six. H. Koopman, who also saw it later, mentions the all black coloring with the unmistakable white wing patch.

Savannah Sparrow: This sparrow first turned up in LaCrosse county on April 6 (Rosso). Harmer’s earlier March 15th report from Jackson county was either a record breaking early arrival or a possible wintering bird (one had wintered in Waukesha county). No details were given and the date was not indicated as being unusual. The trill of migrants became a more steady flow about April 14-15, but still did not penetrate many northern counties until the first week of May or even later.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Of the seven counties reporting, Dryer’s report in Columbia county on May 7 was first with St. Croix (Goddard) and Chippewa counties (Robbins) being the northernmost on the second week of May and May 16th respectively.

LeConte’s Sparrow: One migrant on April 20 was seen a mile from the reactor near Manitowoc by R. Fassbender. S. Robbins, while not doing any extensive survey, did turn up this sparrow May 9th in Portage county, and in Chippewa county on May 8th and 29th.

Henslow’s Sparrow: While only nine counties reported, at least two reported before the only influx in mid-May. These were Jefferson county on May 1 and Chippewa county on May 4th (Robbins).

Vesper Sparrow: Two “early birds” popped up as early as March 31st in Dane (N. Ashman) and LaCrosse counties (Rosso). Movements in Green county on April 5-6 (Rohde) carried to quite a few counties in the next three days, principally in central and northern Wisconsin. The last penetration reached the most northerly counties on April 18-19.

Lark Sparrow: A very early Lark Sparrow appeared on April 20th in Pierce county (Goddard). The three other counties reporting included Eau Claire on May 1, Sauk on May 9, and LaCrosse county on May 31 (Robbins, T. Ashman, Rosso).

 Slate-colored Junco: Except for an early March 18th peak in Vernon county (Weber), migrating flocks reached their greatest peaks during the April 11-14 period in over half of the counties reporting. Many departures occurred about April 21st and again on May 4th. Late stragglers were in Kenosha county on May 8 and in Milwaukee county on May 11th (Strehlow).

Oregon Junco: Of the eight counties reporting, only one peak stood out, that one on April 11. Two quite late dates were also recorded for this junco on May 2 in Ozaukee county (Bintz) and May 4 in Outagamie county (Tessen).

Tree Sparrow: The greatest period of movement for this sparrow occurred between April 12th and 18th, leaving several southern counties and entering northern ones. Some earlier activity also occurred just after mid-March in central counties while stragglers were still found in five counties in May. Latest of these were May 16th reports from Ozaukee county (Bintz) and the Wausau May Day Count and Kane’s report from Brown county on May 20.

Chipping Sparrow: Almost half of the many April arrivals occurred April 15-17 preceded by only two much earlier reports on April 3 in Columbia county (Werner) and April 4 in Brown county (Cleary & Columban). Three pronounced influxes took place in May on the 4-6th, 12th, and 16th which together completed the returns for almost every county.
Clay-colored Sparrow: A mild advance into three western counties May 4-6 was led by only two April reports both from the middle of the month in St. Croix (Goddard) and Columbia counties (Werner). Most of the remaining nine reporting counties uncovered their first migrants during a May 10th influx or shortly thereafter.

Field Sparrow: One always wonders if very early arrival dates reflect the true migrants or perhaps wintering birds. There were three such records for the field sparrow in March earliest of which was a March 17th record in Milwaukee county (Donald). April migration centered around two periods on April 14-16 and April 24-25 in western counties. No patterns could be distinguished from the pot pourri of May arrival dates except a mild May 12th influx in the north.

Harris’ Sparrow: M. Hardy furnished the one lone record this spring after spotting one in Price county on May 16th.

White-crowned Sparrow: This sparrow appeared in two counties in April, on the 21st in Waushara county (Greenman) and the 26th in Price county (Vincent). May 5-6 provided the impetus for the first penetration of southern and central counties, followed closely by another into northern counties on May 10-11. Many departures were already occurring by mid-May with only the northern tier of counties reporting any near the end of May. Numbers were down considerably, with Hilsenhoff missing them completely in Dane county.

White-throated Sparrow: A few wintering or possible wintering birds were seen near the beginning of the period in five southern or central counties. April migration reached its peak on April 18-19th, yet many observers felt that even then their population was depleted in numbers. May 4-7th was the period during which most remaining counties discovered their first migrants or reached their spring peaks.

Fox Sparrow: Mid-March began the spring flight for this sparrow in three counties: Dane (T. & N. Ashman), Oconto (Woodcock), and Outagamie (Tessen). Before the end of that month observers had located birds in five additional counties. Most of the April arrival dates fell within the April 1-5 interval with the remaining peaks and first departures coming between the 12th and 15th. Mid-May found stragglers still in three counties. These were: Calumet county May 15th (Mrs. G. Gaenther fide Tessen), the 16th in Milwaukee county (Juneau), and in Brown county (Cleary & Columban) on May 16.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: Breaking the old arrival record by one day was an April 9th arrival in Brown county (Cleary & Columban). Waushara (Chipman) and St. Croix counties (Goddard) completed the April records toward the end of the month. May movements, with the exception of May 10-11th activity, were light and sporadic. In all, only a dozen counties contributed records.

Swamp Sparrow: Probably a wintering bird from some Wisconsin swamp was an arrival in Brown county on March 14 (Kane). April movements were quite light with only a mild push on April 17th. Late peaks were reached in May on the 5th and 16th covering only four southern counties.

Song Sparrow: Because of wintering birds in a half dozen or more counties, it is difficult to categorize any movements in March, other than to say there was a steady influx. Only on the 31st and April 1st did the influx appear to be more widespread affecting counties as far north as Price (Vincent). Local peaks were scattered in April with the latest falling on April 20th in Oconto county (Woodcock) and April 23rd in Price county (Hardy).

Lapland Longspur: All movements were limited in the eight counties reporting within an interval between March 1 and April 17th. The last two sightings on the 17th were in Fond du Lac (Tessen) and Chippewa counties (Robbins). The last peak was the only one of any size occurring in Brown county on April 2nd (Cleary & Columban).

Snow Bunting: Five of the nine counties reporting were in April, with half of those reports coming during the first three days of April when a mild peak took place. Latest of the April reports were Kane’s in Brown county on April 28th and Stone’s in Burnett county on April 30th.