The Passenger Pigeon owes a great debt of gratitude to Hal and Nancy Roberts for the years they have given us as field editors for the Summer Season. This is their last contribution after many years. What can one say to such loyal help. "Thanks" seems very trite somehow - but we wish them well.

By Hal and Nancy Roberts

The Summer Season June 1 to July 31, 1981

The summer season started with two weeks of above normal temperatures and a shortage of rainfall which was followed by locally heavy rains in the second week with 9.5 inches falling within a 24 hour period at Rainbow Dam. The last half of June saw below normal temperatures and little rain. Early July turned hot with numerous days of 90 degrees or better and moderate precipitation. The end of July was again cool with temperatures four to five degrees below normal. Heaviest rains were in the south with the northeast remaining dry.

Some highlights of the Field Notes 1981 published by The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office of Endangered and Nongame Species: Double-crested Cormorants reached an all-time high in Green Bay. An Apostle Island colony was up from 40 active nests in 1980 to 128 this year. There were 47 nests at Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Burnett County, compared to 39 last year. A colony at Delta Marsh, Trempealeau County, started with 43 nests, up from 20 in 1980, but was destroyed by July windstorms. Artificial nesting platforms may have had something to do with the dramatic increase, but it is speculated that a population shift from other parts of the United States and Canada may be taking place.

Chuck Sindelar field-checked 202 nest territories which showed some degree of Bald Eagle activity. Of these, 137 were successful. This is up from 131 productive nests out of 175 active territories in 1980. The average number of young fledged was 1.66, down from 1.76 last year. Heavy summer windstorms took a toll of eagle nests and eaglets.

Osprey nests were counted along with eagles by spring and summer aerial surveys. The number of nests was up to 176 compared to 161 in 1980. However, only 57 percent were successful and fledged an average of 1.7 per nest, both figures a decline from last year. This apparent decline may reflect a "young" osprey population. With accumulating years of date and increased public awareness, nesting territories may be discovered earlier than in the past and the figures may represent a lot of first-try nest failures. Again, summer windstorms took a toll of nests and young.
No nests of Peregrine Falcon have been known in the state since 1965.

OENS researcher Sumner Matteson in his annual Piping Plover survey located only one nest with four eggs in the traditional Lake Superior beach habitat. A combination of dirt bikes that ran within five yards of the nest, possible predation by raccoons and skunks and heavy rains destroyed the nesting; no chicks hatched. Only one adult was seen nearby. A Piping Plover pair was seen at another traditional nest site, but there was no nest.

There were eight nesting colonies of Forster's Terns in eastern Wisconsin with 450 nests compared to about 300 in 1980. The largest colony was at Lake Poygan, Green Lake County, where 200 young were fledged from as many nests. Artificial styrofoam nesting platforms covered with vegetation were very successful.

Of the fourteen historical Common Tern colonies in the state, two remain: Green Bay and Chequamegon Bay. The Green Bay colony consisted of forty nests which brought off 100 young. The Chequamegon Bay colony had 48 nests with 47 young. Regrowth of vegetation, competition with gulls and human disturbance of beach habitat endanger Common Terns.

Field study showed dramatic population shifts in Black Terns with a 104 percent increase in Vilas county to a 46 percent decline in the Ashland area. Overall there was an increase of about two percent.

Only one confirmed nesting of Barn Owls brought off six owlets from a Green county silo. Southern Wisconsin landowners are being encouraged to build nest boxes to attempt to help the Barn Owl population.

In independent research, Don Follen, Sr., is trying to determine if Great Gray Owls are regular nesters in the state and reports three probable sightings in northwestern locations this summer. The yellow-eyed Owl is the largest in North America.

Following are the highlights of the summer season:

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS**

**Common Loon:** Midsummer observations were made in a number of areas farther south than usual; LaCrosse County (David Johnson, Fred Lesher), Monroe County (Eric Epstein, Daryl Tessen) and Marathon County (Sam Robbins). Along Lake Michigan, Loons were also noted in greater than normal numbers in Door County (Roy and Charlotte Lukes) and in Manitowoc County (James Steffen).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Nesting occurred in three areas; Oakridge Lake in St. Croix County (Janine Polk, Mike Mossman), Winnebago County where 67 birds were counted on June 11 (Thomas Ziebell, Tessen) and at Grassy Lake Wildlife Area, Columbia County (Mossman).

**Eared Grebe:** Two observations; one on June 11 in Winnebago County (Ziebell) and ten present at Lake Maria, Green Lake County, in late June (Bruce A. Eichhorst) See **By the Wayside**.

**Western Grebe:** Two observations; five present in Douglas County on June 3 and again on June 26 (Robbye Johnson) and one noted in Burnett County on June 13 and 14 (James Hoefer). See **By the Wayside**.

**White Pelican:** One was observed in Burnett County on June 17 (Hoefer). See **By the Wayside**.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Quoting Tom Erdman, “A major shift is taking place; probably the western and prairie (northern) populations are spreading back onto the Great Lakes. Gull Island on Lake Superior now has 120 or more nests (30 last year), lower Green Bay has 250 to 300 nesting pairs. Mid Green Bay birds nested on Hat and Jode Islands for the first time since 1956. The upper bay and Door peninsula colonies on Spider and Gravel National Wildlife Refuge continue to increase. There are approximately 250 pairs on those two islands. The total population for Door, Green Bay and Lake Michigan islands is over 600 pairs, possibly as high as 700 pairs. This number exceeds all recorded historical popula-
tions.” Other colonies were present in Burnett with 90 (Hoefler), Marathon with as many as 350 (Tessen, Ken and Jan Luepke), Taylor with 27 (Robbins), 25 to 30 in Clark for the second year (Robbins), 100 or more in Green Lake county (Tessen) and smaller numbers reported in Marquette, Fond du Lac and Dodge counties. Also found Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Oneida for the first time in summer (P. Vanderschaegen), Barron, St. Croix, Dunn and Winnebago Counties.

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS

Little Blue Heron: One was noted at the Mead Wildlife Area on July 11 (Luepkes) See By the Wayside.

Cattle Egret: Reported from three counties; Brown, where there were 13 to 15 pairs with at least 30 young (Erdman). Fond du Lac county where there were 10 to 20 on July 11 (Tessen) and Dodge County where they were seen by many observers (Gary Casper, Judy Haseleu, Dennis Gustafson, Tessen, Steve Thiessen).

Great Egret: Found in the usual locations and also in Marathon County where three were recorded on July 11 (Luepkes).

Snowy Egret: One pair bred in Brown County (Erdman). Others were found in Dodge County where one was noted on July 3 (Bill Cowart, Gustafson) one July 11 (Tessen) and on July 14 (Haseley). Located in Fond du Lac County on July 11 (Tessen) and one at Grand River Marsh, Green Lake County on July 18 (Ziebell).

Louisiana Heron: One was observed at Horicon on July 31 (Haseleu). See By the Wayside.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: One seen in St. Croix County on July 20 may be a first record for the county according to Faanes (1981). However it is only moderately north of the Red-wing area where they have summered for years (Robbins). Additionally reported only from Dodge (Haseleu, Gustafson) and Outagamie (Jim Anderson, Mary Goodwin, Larry Prickett all of Mosquito Hill Nature Center; Richard Biss, Mark Peterson).

Least Bittern: Good numbers noted in south and east areas. Also found in Burnett County where two were seen on June 26 (Hoefler) and two on June 3 in Kakagon Sloughs of Ashland County (Mossman).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS, MERGANSERS

Mute Swan: Noted by many observers in the Ashland area where they have nested for several years. Two were also present on July 31 at Wisconsin Point, Superior (R. Johnson) and two were in Manitowoc County on Juny 17 (Charles Sontag).

Whistling Swan: Summering birds were noted on July 1 to 3 in Burnett County (Hoefler), on July 30 in Oconto Marsh (Erdman and Joel Trick) and June 5 in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

Blue Goose: A Snow Goose was resident with a domestic flock in St. Croix County where it was present last year also (Polk).

Gadwall: Again found in Marathon County (Robbins) and also in Wood County (Luepkes) in addition to north and east locations.

Pintail: Observations were reported from Eau Claire and Chippewa (Polk), Marathon (Luepkes, Robbins), Winnebago (Ziebell), Columbia (William Mueller), Fond du Lac (Thiessen) and Dodge (Ziebell) Counties.

Cinnamon Teal: On June 19, a pair with male in breeding plumage were in Horicon Marsh (Biss and Mary Czaplinski).

Shoveler: Discovered in Douglas (R. Johnson), Barron (Alta Goff), Eau Claire and Chippewa (Polk), Clark (Robbins) Marathon (Luepkes, Robbins), Brown (Tessen), Winnebago (Ziebell), Columbia (Tessen) and Dodge (Ziebell) Counties.

Redhead: A brood of 15 was noted in Dodge County on July 11 (Casper) and one of 12 in Winnebago on June 19 (Ziebell). Other observations came from Ashland (Robbins), St. Croix (Polk), Manitowoc (Robbins, Sontag, Tessen), LaCrosse (Leshier), Marathon (Luepkes) and Dodge (Casper, Haseleu) Counties.

Ring-necked Duck: Several hens with broods were noted in Monroe County on June 13 (Epstein). Reported also in Burnett (Hoefler), Barron (Goff), Marathon (Luepkes, Robbins), and Oneida (Vanderschaegen) Counties.

Canvasback: One was seen in Douglas County on June 23 (R. Johnson), in St. Croix County on July 13 (Polk), a male in Marathon County on June 21 (Luepkes), above normal numbers in LaCrosse on July 4 (Leshier) and four were present mid June in Winnebago County (Ziebell).
Greater Scaup: One was observed in Manitowoc on June 18 (Robbins and Tessen).

Lesser Scaup: Apart from expected north and east locations, birds were found in LaCrosse County on July 4 (Lesh), one in Monroe County on June 2 (Epstein) and one in Columbia County on June 6 (Tessen).

Common Goldeneye: Birds were seen until June 3 in Douglas County (R. Johnson), in Iron County (Mary Butterbrodt), one on June 6 in Burnett (Hoeftler), in Barron (Jannelle Humphrey), Door (Lukes) and one on July 27 in Outagamie County (Tessen).

Black Scoter: A first nesting record for the state was approved by the WSO Records Committee; in Door County on July 6 (James Hale). See By the Wayside.

Hooded Merganser: Southernmost birds were again in Outagamie County as in 1980; a late migrant on June 3 (Anderson) and one on July 27 (Tessen).

Common Merganser: Four observations; Iron County (Butterbrodt), Sawyer County from June 9 to 29 (David Chasson), two in Price County on July 5 (Luepkes) and two in Oneida County on July 24 (Tessen).

Red-breasted Merganser: One was noted on Stockton Island of the Apostle Islands on June 25 (Butterbrodt), six were present in Douglas County until June 3 (R. Johnson), in Vilas County on June 28 (Robert and Susan Spanhn), present in Door County (Lukes) and two in Outagamie County on July 27 (Tessen).

VULTURES, HAWKS, GROUSE

Turkey Vulture: Eight new nests were located in the Baraboo Hills (Mossman). Other observations covered the state including Ashland (Mueller), Burnett, (Hoeftler), Sawyer (Chasson) and St. Croix (Robbins) Counties.

Goshawk: Tom Erdman reports a population explosion with a total of up to 42 nests with 2.6 young per active nest (1.7 needed for stable population). New nesting sites were found in Brown, Shawano and Monroe Counties. Juneau County nest was again active and successful. Another new site was in Portage County and three new ones in Door County. Others observing this bird were Harold Lindberg in Marinette County, Luepkes in Marathon County, Spanhn in Vilas County and Tessen in Forest County.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Reported by 14 observers in 13 counties. Erdman found three nests in Brown County.

Cooper's Hawk: Five nests were in Brown County (Erdman). A DNR-USDI study at Stevens Point by Bob Rosenfield had over 25 nests. About half of these failed, due mainly to predation by Great Horned Owls and raccoons (fide Erdman). Reports came from Iron County (Butterbrodt), Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties (Polk, Robbins), Monroe County (Epstein, Robbins), Oconto (Tessen) and Manitowoc (Steffen) Counties.


Osprey: Listed in eighteen counties by as many observers. Four observers found birds in Manitowoc County.

Peregrine Falcon: One was noted in Price County on July 21 (Maybelle Hardy)

Merlin (Pigeon Hawk): Birds were located in five counties; Iron (Butterbrodt), Price on June 4 (Hardy), Oneida on July 24 (Tessen), Barron (Humphrey) and Jackson on July 28 (Dorothy Harmer).

Spruce Grouse: The only observation reported was of one in Forest County on June 29 (Spanhs).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Noted in Iron County (Butterbrodt), Vilas County where there were five on July 6 (Spanhs), Taylor (Peterson), Marinette (Lindberg) and Jackson (Harmer).

Common Bobwhite: Most northerly observation was in Barron County on June 10 (Humphrey). Birds were found in Dunn County by both Polk and Robbins.

CRANES, RAILS, GALLINULES

Wild Turkey: An unusual observation in Marinette County (Lindberg).

Sandhill Crane: Reported in sixteen counties by fifteen observers.

King Rail: On July 30, one was feeding on fish in a ditch at the Oconto-Brown County line (Erdman and Joel Trick).

Virginia Rail: Sam Robbins found an adult with one young in Mead Wildlife Area on June 6 and wonders if this is an early date for young.
SHOREBIRDS

Semipalmated Plover: Last seen in Douglas County where there were five on June 3 (R. Johnson). Earliest fall arrivals were July 9 in Dunn County (Polk) followed by three in Fond du Lac County on July 11 (Tessen).

Piping Plover: One was seen on July 12 in Manitowoc where the birds have been irregular visitors (Sontag).

Lesser Golden Plover: Single birds were seen in Horicon on July 3 (Gustafson) and July 26 (Tessen). Also located in Fond du Lac County on July 11 and 26 (Tessen) and three on July 12 (Thiessen).

Black-bellied Plover: Fall birds were in Milwaukee on July 26 (Casper) and July 30 at Oconto Marsh (Erdman and Trick).

Ruddy Turnstone: Latest spring birds were two in Manitowoc on June 13 (Tessen). Early fall arrivals were in Fond du Lac by July 17 (Tessen). Over 250 spring birds lingered in Douglas County until June 3 (R. Johnson).

Whimbrel: A single spring migrant was found at Wisconsin Point, Superior, on June 3 (R. Johnson). Fall observations were July 30 at the Coast Guard Impoundment in Milwaukee (Bill Cowart, Thiessen).

Upland Sandpiper (Plover): Noted to be scarce in the Milwaukee area (Cowart), but otherwise appeared in normal numbers in appropriate habitat throughout the state.

Solitary Sandpiper: Last spring birds were seen in Dane County on June 6 (Thiessen); early fall migrants were June 24 in Chippewa and June 28 in Eau Claire Counties (both Polk).

Willet: One was present in the Mead Wildlife Area, Marathon County, on June 6 (Luepkes and Robbins) and one was noted in Manitowoc on July 16 (Tessen).

Greater Yellowlegs: Arrived in large concentration in Horicon on July 3 (Cowart) and in Eau Claire on July 4 (Polk).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Spring birds lingered in Barron County until June 2 (Goff) and to June 6 in Marathon County (Robbins). One was noted in Winnebago County on June 24 (Clark Schultz) and 70 were in Chippewa County the same date (Polk). A large concentration was present in Horicon with the Greater Yellowlegs on July 3 (Cowart).

Red Knot: Spring birds were in Douglas County on June 3 (R. Johnson) and at the Coast Guard Impoundment in Milwaukee on June 12. Unusual July observations in Milwaukee from July 8 to 11 (Casper) and Dodge County on July 11 (Tessen).

Pectoral Sandpiper: One in Horicon on June 26 may have been a summer wanderer (Gustafson). Fall migrants arrived in Dane County on July 3 (Thiessen) and Eau Claire County on July 4 (Polk).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last spring date was June 11 in St. Croix County (Polk) and Winnebago County (Ziebell). The early fall bird was in Horicon on July 18 (Gustafson).

Baird’s Sandpiper: Spring birds lingered until June 1 in Taylor County (Robbins), five in Columbia County on June 6 (Tessen) and in Milwaukee on June 10 (Gustafson). Fall migrants were recorded in Fond du Lac County on July 17 (Tessen). These are the only reported observations.

Least Sandpiper: Latest spring birds were noted in Marathon County on June 6 (Luepkes, Robbins) and same date in Columbia County (Tessen). Fall arrivals were in Iron County on July 2 (Butterbrodt) and in Dane County on July 3 (Thiessen).

Dunlin: Three dallied in Winnebago County from June 5 to 11 (Ziebell). One was still in Marathon County on June 6 (Luepkes, Robbins). Fall birds were found in Ashland County on July 18 (Dick Verch).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Early fall birds were in Dane County on July 10 (Thiessen) and in Dodge (Casper) and Fond du Lac (Tessen) Counties the next day, July 11.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Two fall birds were present in Fond du Lac County on July 17; one still in spring plumage was in Horicon on July 18 (Gustafson).

Dowitcher (sp): A large concentration was observed in Horicon on July 7 (Cowart).

Stilt Sandpiper: Earliest birds were found in Dane County on July 10 (Thiessen) and July 11 in Fond du Lac County (Tessen).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Lingered until June 11 in St. Croix County (Polk) and in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Returned to Manitowoc County by July 6 (Steffen) and Fond du
Lac County by July 11 (Tessen).

**Western Sandpiper:** One was observed in Marathon County's Mead Wildlife Area on June 6 (Luepkes, Robbins), another was in Milwaukee on July 21 (Jim Frank) and a third in Manitowoc on July 28 (Sontag).

**Marbled Godwit:** Sam Robbins was the lucky observer in Marathon County on June 6.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Noted in Barron County to June 7 (Goff) and a pair in Polk County on the same date (Stauffer and Elinor Miller).

**Sanderling:** Four delayed in Manitowoc until June 13 (Tessen). Fall birds arrived in Manitowoc on July 20 (Sontag).

**Avocet:** One was observed at Horicon on July 3 (Gustafson) and one at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment on July 8 (Casper) which could possibly have been the same bird.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** On July 18, fifteen were found in Clark County on mile west of Dorchester where some probably nested although they could not be found later in July when the wetland dried up (Robbins). Other summer observations were in Ashland, Taylor, Marinette, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Columbia, Dodge and Dane Counties.

**Northern Phalarope:** On June 6, a pair was noted in Marathon County (Luepkes, Robbins) and a pair was recorded in Fond du Lac County on July 17 (Tessen).

### GULLS AND TERNs

**Glaucous Gull:** A second year bird was identified in Milwaukee Harbor on June 23 (Biss). One was also seen in Manitowoc on June 28, a first year bird (Sontag), and on July 18 (Steffen).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Continuing to increase statewide with as many as 800 present in Manitowoc on June 19 (Sontag).

**Laughing Gull:** Found in three locations this summer; observed in Manitowoc where four adults were seen on June 18 (Robbins and Tessen) and up to three observed there on June 15, 25 and 28 (Sontag). A second year bird was seen in Oconto County on July 30 (Erdman and Trick) and a bird was noted in Marathon County on June 21 (Luepkes).

**Franklin's Gull:** Four observations; six individuals in Manitowoc on June 15 (Sontag), two in LaCrosse on June 4 and July 12 (Lesh) and one in adult plumage on Lake Pepin, Pierce County on June 10 (Epstein).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Found in numbers along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior with a maximum reported of 500 in Manitowoc on June 27 (Sontag).

**Little Gull:** Found by many observers in Milwaukee and Manitowoc Counties. The five or six birds present at Two Rivers apparently did not nest (Erdman).

**Forster's Tern:** Erdman says that of three colonies, two produced well and one was wiped out by high water (Seiche). About 100 young were flying around the three colonies in late July with a total of about 250 pairs. Brown County. Colonies at Lake Poygan, Big Muskego Lake and Horicon seem to be doing well; nesting platforms at Poygan were a great success (Mossman).

**Common Tern:** Fifteen were found in Douglas County on June 11 (Mueller) and eight were seen there on June 23 (R. Johnson). Mossman observed 58 pairs in Ashland County which he considers the last remaining colony out in the state. Ashland bird were also seen on June 26 (Robbins) and by Verch. Six were noted in Burnett County on June 7 (Hoefler), in Taylor County June 1 (Robbins), two on Lake Pepin, Pierce County, on June 10 (Epstein), Marinette County where numbers were down from last year (Lindberg), in Shawano County three were seen on July 22 and 23 (Peterson), in Brown County (Ed Cleary and Brother Columban) in Manitowoc there were 30 on June 24 (Sontag) and also noted there by Tessen; A maximum of 22 was present from June 14 to July 19 in Winnebago County (Ziebell); Milwaukee birds were seen by several observers (Thiesse, Casper, Frank, Mueller). Erdman says that of the 75 pairs he observed, less than six young were produced; he considers the species to be in very bad shape.

**Caspian Tern:** Found in areas bordering the two Great Lakes plus Burnett County where there were eight on July 3 (Hoefler), Buffalo County on July 27 (Polk), LaCrosse County (Lesh), one in Outagamie County on July 2 (Tessen) and two in Winnebago County on July 4 (Ziebell).

**Black Tern:** Most observers found populations to be similar to or increased over 1980. Largest number reported was 256 in Winnebago County on June 11 (Ziebell).
DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS

Ringed Turtle Dove: One at a feeder three miles south of Gilman, Taylor County, is presumed to be an escaped bird (Robbins).

Barn Owl: None reported.

Screech Owl: Reported in Ironton, Barron, Marinette, Brown, Winnebago, Jefferson, Ozaukee and Grant Counties.

Snowy Owl: Three unusual summer observations with speculation that all three may have been the same bird. One was in Clark County from early May to June 15 (Luepkes); one was in Marathon County near Spencer on June 6 and was quite probably the same individual. The third sighting was in Langlade County near Antigo on June 17 (Hal Roberts). See By the Wayside.

Long-eared Owl: Three were present in Marathon County on June 6 (Luepkes). Also noted in Manitowoc County (Steffen).

Short-eared Owl: One at UW-GB on June 20 was “the first I’ve seen here in summer” (Erdman). One was noted in Eau Claire County on July 9 (Polk). A pair and five fledged young were present in late July in Taylor County. Two of the young were road kills in early July and two adults and two young remained by July 7 (Robbins). Also seen in Marathon County on June 6 (Robbins) and seven there on July 26 (Luepkes).

Saw-whet Owl: Noted in Barron County (Hopkins). A nest was discovered in Juneau County (Follen, fide Erdman). A juvenile hit a window near Chilton (C. Rudy, fide Erdman) and a juvenile was found dead, adults and other young were seen near Campbellsport, Fond du Lac County (Steffen, fide Erdman).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Found in a remarkable five locations! A pair was noted in Bayfield County on June 25 (Chasson), adults and one young at a nest in Ashland County on July 27 (Larry Gregg), one observed in Forest County near Scott and Shelp Lakes on June 24 (Tessen) an adult male feeding young on June 4 near Island Lake, Washburn County (Vicki Black) and the remains of one in a Red-shouldered Hawk’s nest near Snow Falls Creek, Oconto County, in the first week of June (Orr). yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Surprisingly far south are the observations on June 6 in Sauk County (Tessen) and in Milwaukee (Winnie Woodmansee). Otherwise, the farthest south was in Taylor County on July 7 (Robbins).

Acadian Flycatcher: Found in Monroe County on June 7 (Epstein); one in Manitowoc on June 26 and 27 (Sontag); in Sauk County (Peterson, Polk, Tessen, Thiessen) and Grant County on June 16 (Polk).

Western Pewee: The one noted in Bayfield County on June 7 must be considered hypothetical in the absence of specimen or photo. The observation is accepted by the WSO Records Committee. See By the Wayside.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: This little fellow was calling for his three beers in Iron County on June 6 (Butterbrodt), Forest and Oneida counties (Vanderschaegen), Door County (Lukes) and Manitowoc County (Ken Lange).

JAYS, CHICKADEES, TITMOUSE, NUTHATCHES

Gray Jay: Found in Ashland (Robbins), Vilas (Spahn), Sawyer and Taylor (Polk) Counties.

Northern Raven: Southernmost was one on June 19 in Monroe County (Tessen).

Boreal Chickadee: Only two lucky people found these: one in Lincoln County on June 23 (Robbins) and two in Vilas County on July 2 (Spahn).

Tufted Titmouse: Observations in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties (Polk). As expected, found in Grant County (Polk) and Rock County (Gyda Mahlum).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Farther south than most was the one in Milwaukee on July 29 (Woodmansee).

WRENS, MIMICS, THRUSHES

Winter Wren: Farthest south were the reports from Fond du Lac County where two birds were seen on June 8 (Lange) and from Outagamie County (Anderson).

Swainson’s Thrush: A migrant lingered in Taylor County until June 1 (Robbins). Summer residents were found on July 1 in Sawyer County (Polk), July 4 in Vilas County (Spahn), July 24 in Forest County (Tessen) and, surprisingly, July 29 and 30 in Milwaukee (Woodmansee).
GNATCATCHER, KINGLETS, SHRIKES, VIREOS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Only three observations were reported: Iron County (Butterbrodt), Vilas County on July 2 (Spahn), Sawyer County on June 1 (Chasson).

Loggerhead Shrike: In two west central locations; Eau Claire County (Polk) and at Chippewa-Eau Claire County line on July 30 (Tessen).

White-eyed Vireo: One was seen and heard singing at Estabrook Park, Milwaukee, on June 2 (Gustafson).

Solitary Vireo: Found in northern counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Oneida, Barron, and as far south as Chippewa County on July 26 (Robbins) and Jackson County on June 4 (Epstein).

Bell’s Vireo: In Dane County on June 6 (Gustafson, Tessen) and Grant County on June 16 (Polk).

WARBLERS

Prothonotary Warbler: In Outagamie County, both male and female were observed carrying food to a cavity about six feet off the ground in a sapling at Mosquito Hill Nature Center (Anderson). Outagamie birds were also seen by Tessen.

Worm-eating Warbler: A good number of observations, all from Hemlock Draw or Baxter’s Hollow in Sauk County. Dates and observers are as follows: June 4 (Polk), June 6 (Gustafson, Tessen) June 13 (Robbins), June 15 (Peterson), June 16 (Polk) and three in Hemlock Draw on June 23 (Lange).

Blue-winged Warbler: Sauk County was the place to go to see this bird (Peterson, Polk, Robbins, Tessen, Thiessen). Also noted in Buffalo County on June 21 (Polk), Clark County on June 11 (Robbins), Monroe County on June 17 (Epstein) and Manitowoc County (Steffen).

Tennessee Warbler: The only observation was on July 31, Chippewa County (Robbins).

Nashville Warbler: Found nesting in the Cedarburg Bog area of Ozaukee County (Noel Cuthright) in addition to many other north and central locations.

Northern Parula Warbler: Found in ten northernmost counties.

Cape May Warbler: Sighted in Sawyer County from June 9 to 30 (Chasson), Ashland County on June 26 (Robbins), Vilas County on July 6 (Spahn) and Oneida County on June 3 (Vanderschaegen). The one seen in Taylor County on June 19 was believed to be a summer resident although it was farther south than most summer observations (Robbins).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Located in Iron County from June 15 through the period with two present on July 2 (Butterbrodt).

Cerulean Warbler: Farthest north was the observation in Outagamie County (Tessen).

Blackburnian Warbler: Found in Sauk County on June 13 (Robbins) and at Pine Hollow near Denzer on June 24 (Lange). All others were seen in northernmost areas.

Yellow-throated Warbler: One was identified in Wyalusing Park, Grant County, on June 16 (Polk). See By the Wayside.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The one seen in Milwaukee from June 8 to 21 was unusually far south (Frank). In Iron County, 24 were counted on July 2 (Butterbrodt).

Blackpoll Warbler: One was carefully identified on June 23 in Douglas County (R. Johnson). See By the Wayside.

Prairie Warbler: One was found in Fond du Lac County on June 13 (Tessen).

Palm Warbler: Only two observations; to June 23 in Douglas County (R. Johnson) and the same date in Lincoln County, June 23, in open bog habitat north on Tomahawk (Robbins).

Louisiana Waterthrush: A single report was of two seen on July 17 in Pierce County (Epstein).

Kentucky Warbler: After a blank last year, there were four observations, two of which were surprisingly far north. Epstein found two in Pierce County on July 7 and at least one singing male in Monroe County on June 1. Also found at Hemlock Draw, Sauk County, on June 6 (Gustafson) and in Grant County on June 16 (Polk).
Connecticut Warbler: Robbye Johnson found a maximum of six in Douglas County on June 17; five were listed in Vilas County on July 2 (Spahn) and also noted in Oneida County (Vanderschaeugen).

Mourning Warbler: Unusually far south were Milwaukee observations on June 4 (Woodmansee) and two males from June 11 to 20 (Frank).

Yellow-breasted Chat: On July 5, one was discovered in an area of Monroe County which had been clear cut in 1978 (Epstein). The Red Hollister Flyer reported that Tom Ellis and Bill Miles located nine nesting sites in the Beloit area of Rock County.

Hooded Warbler: On June 6, one was heard in Hemlock Draw, Sauk County (Tessen). On June 1, one was heard and responded to a recording at Lapham Peak, Waukesha County but was not seen (Casper and Idzikowski).

Wilson’s Warbler: A male was present in Milwaukee from June 14 to 21 (Frank).

Canada Warbler: Found in mid-June in Sauk County by three observers (Robbins, Tessen, Thiessen). Other sightings were in northern counties of Ashland, Vilas, Forest, Oneida, Oconto and Lincoln.

BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS, FINCHES

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Found in several new areas. Robbins reports that the dozen pair and numerous young found south of Medford were the first summer birds in Taylor County to his knowledge. They were also resident in two other Tyalor County Locations (Robbins). There was a new colony in Clark County (Robbins) and were noted at a new site in Portage County (Hall and Nancy Roberts).

Orchard Oriole: Four observations in far west central counties: Chippewa County on July 30 (Tessen), Eau Claire County (Polk), Buffalo County on June 21 (Polk) and LaCrosse County on June 19 (Lesher).

Dickcissel: It seems not to have been a big year. Small numbers were reported in fourteen counties mainly southwest and west central with the exception of one in Marinette County (Lindberg).

Evening Grosbeak: Again found in Shawano County where three were noted on July 9 (Peterson). Elsewhere, in ten northern counties.

Purple Finch: Also found in Shawano from June 7 to July 12 (Peterson) and one on June 17 (Tessen). Also south of usual was one in Jackson County on June 20 (Lesher).

Pine Grosbeak: Two were found in Vilas County on July 2 (Spahn). See By the Wayside.

Pine Siskin: After no reports in 1980, there were sixteen observations in thirteen counties.

Red Crossbill: The four in Milwaukee on July 22 (Gustafson) are unusually far south. Others were found in Ashland (Robbins, Verch.), Vilas (Spahn), Forest (Tessen) Sawyer and Eau Claire (Polk) Counties.

SPARROWS

LeConte’s Sparrow: The one found singing in Clark County on June 11 must be near the southern edge of its nesting range (Robbins).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Three were identified in Vilas County on July 4 (Spahn). See By the Wayside.

Lark Sparrow: On July 7, Epstein found an adult and a nest with four eggs in Pierce County in an abandoned quarry. Others were seen in Eau Claire County (Polk), Jackson County (Robbins) and Sauk County (Gustafson, Tessen).

Northern Junco: The birds in Brown County on June 3 were believed to be late migrants (Cleave and Columban).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Farthest south were those in Sauk County (Gustafson, Thiessen).

White-throated Sparrow: Farthest south were those in Portage County on June 11 (Roberts) and Ozaekee County (Curtright).

Lincoln’s Sparrow: Again, farther south than usual was the observation on June 19 in Taylor County (Robbins).

1981 OBSERVERS

Jim Anderson with Mary Goodwin and Larry Prickette at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center, Homer C. Bishop, Richard Biss, Vicki H. Black, Mary Butterbrodt, Gary Casper, David Chasson, Bill Cowart, Ed Cleave and Brother Columban, Noel Curtright, Tom Ellis and Bill
Little Blue Heron at Mead Wildlife Area
Don Follen, Sr., said he had seen a Little Blue Heron on North Honey Island Flowage while banding Ospreys. The following day, July 11, 1981, Jan and I checked the area. On arriving at the location where the bird had been seen, a medium-sized heron flew up from the brush and cattails and alighted on an old aspen stub approximately 15 feet high. The bird preened and changed position several times before flying farther out into the marsh. The bird was a mixed patchwork of white and bluish purple. It looked mostly white while flying, but was quite dark when perched. The legs were bluish-gray, the bill was flesh-colored with the tip (approximately 1/3) very dark. The heron closely resembled the molting bird in the Audubon Water Bird Guide. The bird could not be found at a later date.

Ken and Jan Luepke
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A Louisiana Heron at Horicon Marsh
On July 31, 1981, we saw a small dainty heron-type bird feeding with Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. At first glance it looked mostly bluish-gray. Closer observation showed a white tuft of feathers on the head, white stripe up the front of the neck, white underneath and an orangey-buf wash color over the back. The dark tip of the bill was also visible.

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