some 300 yards to the northeast. It circled and flapped occasionally. Two of us reached for binoculars to identify the bird. Eric Bienvenu was the first to get it in focus and immediately called ‘Anhinga’. A second later Berger confirmed the identification. During the next two minutes all seven observers had the opportunity to see the bird -- most of us viewing it through 9X binoculars. Those present were: George Allez, Daniel Berger, Eric Bienvenu, Claude Berwick, Helmut and Nancy Mueller, and Chris Whelan. Several of the above observers were present when another of this species was seen at the refuge in 1965.

Daniel D. Berger
1806 Grevelia St.
S. Pasadena, CA 91030

Notes from Don Follen
By Don G. Follen, Sr.

Hawk Owl North of Ladysmith

On November 6, 1982, while driving home from a most successful day in northern Wisconsin, we trapped and banded a Hawk Owl (Surnia ulula). This was twelve miles north of Ladysmith on Highway 27 at the Rusk and Sawyer County lines with Sawyer getting the bird by approximately thirty feet. The only other banding of this species in the state of Wisconsin was on December 18, 1965 in Arpin Township in central Wisconsin, (see Hawk Owl at Arpin, Wisconsin, Passenger Pigeon 28: 4: 149-150 by the senior author.)

The Hawk Owl was spotted sitting on the tip of a tamarack that is adjacent to both sides of the road. Upon placing a live baited trap on the road shoulder of the highway and waiting for the bird to react, the traffic obliged from both directions just as sudden as if planned with five cars coming from the north and three and a truck from the south. This seems to always be the case. The owl no sooner landed on the road next to the trap when it was flushed by an auto and flew to the east into the trees along the roadway. When the owl returned to the trap and started footing at the side of it another car came along and the bird just mantled over the bait (two mice -one white, one brown). As we anxiously waited at approximately one hundred yards distant another car slowly came to a halt and at this time we could see that the Hawk Owl had been caught. The driver of the full car briskly stepped out and toward the trapped bird as we raced toward it and blew our vehicle’s horn. Ken jumped out of the car and grabbed the bird while I stopped the car at the roadside. The man who was an insurance agent from Stone Lake explained that he was going to cut the bird loose at it looked as though it were helplessly caught. Upon our explanation and showing him the bird, he proceeded south on the highway.

Neither of us had a camera and we debated if we should take the bird with us to Ladysmith and see if we could find a camera or not and decided to the contrary. We could find no evidence of a brood patch and think this bird may have been a male. Some of the other features were two generations of feathers. The rectrices, primaries, and secondaries were all new feathers while the coverts of the two latter were old and brown. There also appeared to be two different ages of brown feathers at the top and sides of the breast. The pointedness of the tail feathers suggested that this may have been a juvenile bird as suggested by R.B. Payne.
Band number 877-54404 was placed on the left tarsi of the bird and after taking wing and tail measurements the bird was released. It flew to a tree in the ditch and remained there while we turned the car around and continued on our way.

**Literature Cited**

Follen, D. Sr. Hawk Owl at Arpin, PP. 28:4

**Great Gray Owl Specimen for Washburn County**

After a number of recent media requests for any reports or records of Great Gray Owls (*Strix nebulosa*), I received a letter from Fred and Lucille Bohne of Trego, Wisconsin. The Bohnes live three miles north of Trego, Washburn County off on the east side of Highway 53. They happened upon an experience in 1969 that would put a mounted Great Gray Owl in their porch for the next thirteen years.

According to Mrs. Bohne, in early 1969, more than likely in late March, their rural mail carrier had told them of a large owl he had seen sitting along the highway around the Bohne’s farm for some time. One day, the carrier found the owl lying in the snow dead along the fence line. There was no physical evidence that the owl had been hit by an automobile and as the bird was very gaunt, it was suspicioned that the bird had starved to death. The mailman had shown the carcass to Mr. Bohne and asked if he wanted it. Seeing how beautiful the bird was, Mr. Bohne took it and contacted the local warden and obtained a red tag in order to keep the specimen. After having the bird mounted, it was placed in the porch of the Bohne's home until November 6, 1982 when it was picked up by the author and Ken Luepke. The date on the tag is April 1, 1969.

This represents the only known specimen from Washburn County of a Great Gray Owl. It will be cleaned and put into a permanent display in the new Park Falls High School natural history exhibit.

**Job Trip to Birding Experience**

On August 31, 1982 while delivering materials to the sewage lagoons of the Glenwood City-Downy wastewater treatment facility, I had an unusual birding experience that is noteworthy. These lagoons have been expanded this summer and have gone from one to three lagoons and are located south of Highway 170 between Glenwood City and Downing in St. Croix County.

The first thing I noticed upon my arrival was an adult plumaged Whistling Swan which some of our men working there said had been first observed for some time on Tainter Lake in Dunn County. This particular bird showed up approximately the ninth of August and had been on the lagoon ever since. Also present were numbers of shorebirds; Semipalmated, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Least, Pectoral, and amazingly, an immature plumaged Willet just as described in Bent, “pail pinkish buff” on throat and chest and flanks. I sat twenty feet from this bird for half an hour at lunch time to try and figure it out without the aid of field guide or binoculars. I wrote down everything I could see and upon arriving home and checking the field guides, it didn’t look the same until I decided to check into T. Gilbert Pearson’s *Birds of America* and surely there it was in a color plate. Both of these references did not mention anything about a white stripe down the center of the back, but the bird that I was watching twice flew directly away from me.
and around the lagoon only to land almost in the same spot that it had left and both times, there showed a line nearly up to the back of the neck to the tail a white or featherless stripe nearing one inch in width. The bird was still sitting there when I left in mid afternoon. (Ed. Note: Dowitcher?)

As I left, I noticed a number of Green Herons sitting on little tufts of vegetation sticking of what is the western or old lagoon and there were a number of them. As I neared the dirt road that bisects Highway 170 and the blacktop to the south, I stopped to adjust some item in the truck. As I looked up into an old dead elm, I saw what appeared to at first be just another young Kestrel sitting in open view of me yet it seemed different. This was about thirty feet above and to the left of me. I noticed that in appearance the bird seemed very dark on the back. The bird also was very streaked on the under sides and had light barring in the tail in contrast to the dark in a kestrel. So here I was sitting and looking at an immature Merlin. Although I have seen a good number of Merlins, most of them have been in flight; I got out of the truck and walked directly under the bird and it sat there bobbing its head. The bill appeared to be shorter in relation to the head in this species compared to a Kestrel. In about two minutes it flew to another elm approximately one quarter of a mile away and since it was right on the way, I stopped again and walked up to and under the bird, but this time it did not let me get as close and soon flew back past the first tree and down into a dead alder bush beside a little stream. At this time I left the area and headed home.

Literature Cited


Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my employer, Cepak Construction and Engineering Corporation of Marshfield and Madison for the opportunity to be in the right place at the time.

Clarification of the 1981 Snowy Owl Records

The Passenger Pigeon, Summer, 1982, Volume 44, No. 2 issued carried an account of two Snowy Owls (Nyctea scandiaca) that stayed in Wisconsin well into the summer of 1981. On page 86, the accounts of both these birds are given. On page 80 in The Summer Season report, are speculations that there may have been three birds and that they may have been the same bird. I would like to clarify the 1981 summer records and therefore erase any inconsistencies.

Ken and Jan’s report of the Spencer bird is valid, sex - female, while their last observation was on June 15. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cook who also live on the spot gave me June 19 as the last time they had seen this bird and according to the authors this may not be authentic.

Without a doubt from the photographs Hal Roberts sent me of the Antigo-Langlade County owl, the bird is also identified as a male and probably an old male. Although Hal took both Ken and I to the area we could not find the bird at that time.

There was however, a bird that was also in Clark County between Loyal and Greenwood until at least April 30, 1981. This was a quite dark and large
bird. The company I work for had a job at Greenwood and I often took this particular road as the fastest way back home and later to change routes of observation. At one point there were a number of Snowy Owls in this area, my guess (yes) is five as they were never seen at one time or during one trip by me. This particular bird I believed to be a AHY female and in no possible way the same bird that was at the NE of Spencer.

The Antigo and Spencer birds both showed dirty breasts and both were near cultivated fields. In one of the photos that Hal Roberts sent me is a tractor working in the field at the time of the snapshot. Foraging for prey in these cultivated fields or even sitting in the loose dirt of these fields would make a nearly white bird have an off color.

Since both of the late birds (Spencer and Antigo) appeared to be aged, this may indeed have been a factor in their late departure. Since 1981 was also a year of peak vole populations in some areas of the state, this, too, may have been a contributor to the late departures.

9201 Rock Inn Road
Arpin, Wisconsin 54410

Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper:

On early morning bike rides this summer, I would see two large birds soaring over Big Butternut Lake and along Butternut Creek as it winds through the swamps and meadows. Then one morning I noticed one bird land on top of one of the light poles by the Luck High School football field. On another morning I saw both birds on the pole. Upon closer observation, a pile of large sticks was noticeable on the top of the pole. At first I thought of Bald Eagles, and other people who saw them thought the same.

However, when our Conservation Warden identified them as Osprey, he had me look at one through his spotting scope. The bird was dark above, white below, with the head largely white, but a black patch through the cheeks.

I have read that Ospreys have been known to build nests on utility poles. This nest will have to be removed before football games are played this fall because of the danger of trouble with the electric lights.

Sincerely,
Howard Jorgenson
Route 2
Luck, Wisconsin 54854

Dear Charles Kemper:

My name is Steven M. Kruger, and I am a Wildlife/Fisheries Intern at Fort McCoy, Wi. While working at Fort McCoy, I will be conducting a research study on bluebird populations in Wisconsin for my master’s degree at the University of WI-Stevens Point. My research goals are to conduct a