

Turkey Vulture Nest Records from Wisconsin

Turkey Vultures have been increasing in abundance in Wisconsin, but there have been few investigations of their nesting biology. We report on 191 nests in Wisconsin.

by Michael J. Mossman and Lisa M. Hartman

The Turkey Vulture has been part of Wisconsin's avifauna since pre-settlement and even prehistoric times (e.g., Schoolcraft 1821, Graustein 1951, Parmalee 1959). It was considered uncommon to rare in the late 1800s and early 1900s, with most birds reported from southwestern counties (Barger 1940, Barger et al. 1942, Kumlien et al. 1951). A population increase became apparent in some parts of the state by the late 1940s and has continued until present, with major concentrations still in the southwest, and minor ones in the Kettle Moraine country of the southeast and near Mountain in the northeast (Knudsen 1976, Thiel 1977, Mossman and Lange 1982, Temple and Cary 1987, Robbins 1991, Mossman 1991). Despite this long history of observations, the recent rise in numbers, and the vulture's habit of nesting in accessible and noteworthy sites such as caves and abandoned buildings, few Wisconsin nest records have been published. Here we summarize information from 191 nests at 67 sites, suggest that the population

increase is associated with an increase in nesting, and conclude that the species is now a fairly common breeder locally in the state.

METHODS

We learned of many nests from personal contacts and reports to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) during 1973–1991. We also made annual nest searches in a 31-km² study area in the Baraboo Hills (Sauk County), 1983–91, and occasionally searched for nests in likely habitat elsewhere in the state. We sought specimens and other records at the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM), University of Wisconsin museums at Green Bay, LaCrosse, Madison, Oshkosh, and Stevens Point, and several local museums. In 1989 we requested nest records from 95 North American museums with egg or skin collections, of which 69 responded. We searched for nest reports in the *Passenger Pigeon*, standard and obscure historical literature, unpublished field

notes, North American Nest Record Cards, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service bird banding records. We visited nearly all reported nest sites at least once during the period 1973–1991, and corresponded directly with all living nest observers.

RESULTS

Although H.L. Stoddard reported that a local resident had killed a young, apparently unfledged Turkey Vulture in the Baraboo Hills circa 1917 (Mossman and Lange 1982), the first positive Wisconsin nest (OC1) in Table 1 was recorded by C.H. Richter in Oconto County in 1947 (*Passenger Pigeon* 9:134. 1947). In about the same year LeRoy Lintereur (pers. comm. and Knudsen 1976) found another nest (OC2) in the same vicinity (Table 1). Both were in granite outcrops. In 1955 Manley Olson found a nest (PI1) in a Pierce County cave (Robbins 1991 and pers. comm.).

No other nests were reported until the 1970s, when records increased dramatically. Mossman (1976) found a nest in quartzite talus in the Baraboo Hills in 1973, and Mossman and Lange (1982) later reported on a total of 16 nests (SK1–10) at 10 Baraboo Hills sites during 1973–81. In 1974, Erdman (*Passenger Pigeon* 38:110. 1976) found a nest (OC3) on a granite knoll in Oconto County, and Smith (1977, 1985) began 3 years' observations of a nest (VE3) in a sandstone cave in Vernon County. Smith (1985) also mentioned 3 more nests reported by other observers from southwestern Wisconsin caves: in Vernon County near Ontario prior to 1977 (VE1); in Monroe County in 1976 (MO1); and in LaCrosse County in 1981 (LC1). A 1979

nest (WB2) in a barn loft in Washburn County was reported in the Chippewa Falls Herald Telegram (23 January 1982). Bielefeldt (Robbins 1991 and pers. comm.) found a nest (WK1) beneath a fallen elm in Waukesha County in 1980, and Steffen (1984) found one (MW1) in a Manitowoc County barn loft in 1984.

These 29 nestings at 21 sites constitute all previously published accounts of active vulture nests in Wisconsin.

Table 1 summarizes the preceding nest records plus additional records, previously unpublished, for a total of 191 nestings at 67 sites in 27 counties. Of these, 108 nestings occurred at 24 sites (SK1–17, SK19–24, SK26) in the Baraboo Hills. Nestings were documented for up to 14 years at a single site (SK1). Of the 46 newly reported sites, only 3 were known to be active before 1976: PE1 in 1958, RA1 in 1960, and VE2 in 1968. Each year during 1983–91, we documented 10–24 active nests statewide. At least 16 nests were active in 1991. No new nest records were obtained from museums, banding records, or nest record cards, except for a written description of nest RA1 in Owen Gromme's field notes at MPM.

In addition to the records in Table 1 is a verified report of a 2-week-old nestling in June 1991 on a roadside near Bagley (Grant County), a bird that had probably fallen from a nearby cliff nest (Joe Price pers. comm.). We have several suggestive reports of adults, unidentified eggs, or vulture feathers and whitewash found in typical nest situations, e.g., in sandstone or dolomite caves and ledges in Adams, Clark, LaCrosse, and Trempealeau counties, among boulders in Iowa and Oconto counties, and beneath an upturned

Table 1. Summary of Turkey Vulture nest records from Wisconsin (1947-91).

County	Site Code	Legal Description	Substrate ¹	Years Active	History ²	Observers ³
Adams	AD1	T19N R6E	Cave(s)	7	77?-2e,x; 81-2y; 82-i; 83-2y; 84-2e,x; 85-2y;86-2y; 88-2y; 89 to 90-i	MMA,LL,MM,LH
Bayfield	BA1	T44N R5W	Building	1	85-1y	SD,TD
Bayfield	BA2	T49N R4W	Building	1	86-a; 88-i; 91-i	TD,MM,LH
Clark	CL1	T24N R2W	Rocks (s)	6	76-1y; 84-2y; 86-1y; 88-2y; 89-2y; 90-e,x	DFo,MM,LH
Clark	CL2	T26N R3W	Rocks (s)	5	79-2y; 81-2e; 83?-a; 85-2y; 86-2e,x	RMF,MM,LH
Columbia	CO1	T13N R8E	Rocks (s)	1	78-2y; 79-i	WS,MM
Dodge	DD1	T10N R6E	Log	1	83-2e,1y; 84-i	HZ,MM
Door	DR1	T31N R28E	Cave (d)	1	88-2y	VW,TE,LLH
Door	DR2	T34N R30E	Cave (d)	2	88-a; 89-2e,x	RVv,LH
Douglas	DL1	T46N R10W	Building	1	91-1e	MR
Douglas	DL2	T47N R11W	Building	1	91-2y	LJJH,LS
Fond du Lac	FD1	T14N R18E	Stump	1	83-a; 84 to 86-i	TC,RR,MM
Green	GN1	T2N R6E	Building	1	91-2y	AK,MM
Grant	GT1	T3N R5W	Cave (d)	2	84-2y; 85-1y	EE,MM,LH
Grant	GT2	T6N R1W	Cave (s)	1	78-1e; 84-i	JSi,MM
Iowa	I01	T6N R3E	Rocks (s)	1	82-2y; 83 to 85-i	GW,MM,LH
Iowa	I02	T7N R3E	Rocks (s)	5	84-2y; 85-i; 87-1e; 88-2y; 89-2y; 90-2y	MM,LH
Iowa	I03	T7N R2E	Rocks (s)	1	88-2y; 89 to 90-i	BC,MM,LH
LaCrosse	LC1	T16N R7W	Cave (s)	1	81-2e; 89-i	JSo,MM,LH, Smith 1985
Manitowoc	MW1	T20N R25E	Building	1	84-1y; 85-i	JSt,DF,MM, Steffen 1984
Marquette	MQ1	T15N R10E	Brush	2	86-2y; 87-a,x; 88 to 89-i	DC,MM,LH
Monroe	M01	T18N R2W	Cave (s)	1	76-2e,1y; 83 to 84-i	BK,MM
Monroe	M02	T17N R1E	Cave (s)	1	88-2y; 89-i	SW,MM
Monroe	M03	T15N R2W	Cave (s)	1	91-1y	EE
Oconto	OC1	T31N R17E	Rocks (g)	1	47-1y	CR
Oconto	OC2	T31N R17E	Rocks (g)	1	48?-2e	LL
Oconto	OC3	T31N R17E	Rocks (g)	1	74-2e	TE
Pepin	PE1	T25N R14W	Cave (d)	2	58?-a, 80?-2y	RH
Pierce	PI1	T24-25N R16W	Cave (s)	1	55-2y	MO, Robbins 1991
Portage	P02	T23N R7E	Building	1	88-2y	GF,MM,LH
Racine	RA1	T4N R20E	Brush	1	60-1e,x	OG
Rock	R01	T2N R13E	Stump	1	88-2y	STe
Richland	RI1	T12N R2W	Cave (d)	1	88-2e,x; 89-i	JC,DS
Richland	RI2	T12N R2W	Cave (d)	1	88-2e,2y; 89-i	JC,DS
Sauk	SK1	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	14	73-2y; 74-2y; 75-2e,2y; 76-2y,x; 77-2y; 78-2y; 79 to 81-i; 83-2e,2y; 84-2e,1y; 85-2e,x; 86-i; 87-1e,1y; 88-2e,1y; 89-2e,x; 90-3e,x; 91-2e,x	MM,LH,WS
Sauk	SK2	T11N R6E	Rocks(q)	2	74-2e,2y,x; 75-1y,x; 76 to 81-i; 83 to 91-i	VF,MM,LH
Sauk	SK3	T11N R6E	Rocks(q)	4	81-1y; 82-i; 83-2e,2y; 84-i; 85-2e,x; 86 to 90-i; 91-2e,1y,x	MM,LH
Sauk	SK4	T11N R6E	Rocks(q)	10	81-2y; 82-2y; 83-2e,2y; 84-2e,x; 85-2e,x; 86-i; 87-2e,2y; 88-2e,2y; 89-2e,2y; 90-2e,x; 91-e,x	MM,LH
Sauk	SK5	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	3	81-2y; 83 to 84-i; 85-1e,x; 86 to 90-i; 91-1e,x	MM,LH
Sauk	SK6	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	4	81-1e,1y; 83-2e,1y; 84-2e,x; 85-2e,x; 86 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK7	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	4	81-2y; 82 to 85-i; 86-e,x; 87-2y; 88-2y,x; 89 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK8	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	9	81-2y; 82-2y; 83-2e,2y; 84-2e,2y; 85-2e,2y; 86-2e,2y; 87-2e,2y; 88-2e,2y; 89-2e,2y; 90 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK9	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	3	81-2y; 83-2e,2y; 84-2e,2y; 85 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK10	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	5	81-2y; 82-2y; 83-2e,2y; 85 to 87-i; 88-2e,1y; 89-2e,2y; 90 to 91-i	MM,LH

continued

Table 1. (Continued)

County	Site Code	Legal Description	Substrate ¹	Years Active	History ²	Observers ³
Sauk	SK11	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	3	83-2e,x; 84 to 85-i; 86-3e,x; 87 to 90-i; 91-1y	MM,LH
Sauk	SK12	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	4	83-2y; 84-2e,2y; 85-2e,2y,x; 86 to 87-i; 88-2y; 89 to 91-i	LH,MM
Sauk	SK13	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	5	83-2y; 84 to 85-i; 86-2e,2y; 87-2e,2y; 88 to 89-i; 90-2e,2y; 91-2e,x	LH,MM
Sauk	SK14	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	3	83-2y; 84-i; 85-1e,1y; 86-i; 87-2e,2y; 88 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK15	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	5	83-2e,2y; 84-2e,2y; 85-2e,1y; 86-1e,x; 87 to 88-i; 89-2e,2y; 90 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK16	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	8	84-1y; 85-2y; 86-2y; 87-2e,2y; 88-2y; 89-2e,2y; 90-2e,2y; 91-2e,x	RP,MM,LH
Sauk	SK17	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	5	84-1y; 85-i; 86-2e,1y; 87-i; 88-2e,2y; 89-i;90-2e,2y; 91-e,x	MM,LH
Sauk	SK18	T4N R6E	Cave (s)	4	85-2y; 86-1y; 88-2y; 89-2y	KW,MM,LH
Sauk	SK19	T11N R7E	Rocks (s)	2	84-2y; 85-2y; 86-i	BZ,MM,LH
Sauk	SK20	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	5	85-1e,x; 86-2e,2y; 87-2e,2y; 88-2y; 89-2e,x; 90 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK21	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	5	86-1y; 87-2y; 88-2y; 89-2e,x; 90-2e,x; 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK22	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	2	87-2y; 88-2e,2y; 89 to 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK23	T11N R6E	Rocks (q)	1	91-1y,x	MM,LH
Sauk	SK24	T11N R5E	Rocks (q)	1	90-2y; 91-i	MM,LH
Sauk	SK25	T8N R4E	Cave (s)	1	91-2e,1y	STh,MM,LH
Sauk	SK26	T11N R5E	Rocks (q)	1	91-2y	BI,MM
Trempealeau	TR1	T18N R9W	Cave (s)	1	85-1y	JE,MM
Vernon	VE1	T14N R2W	Cave (s)	4	60-2y; 61-2y; 62-2e,x; 81 to 84-i; 85-2y	BB, Smith 1985
Vernon	VE2	T14N R1-2W	Cave (s)	2	68-1y; 69-a	CS
Vernon	VE3	T13N R3W	Cave (s)	3	74-1y; 75-1y; 76-1e,1y; 77 to 78-i	JSh,Smith 1985
Washburn	WB1	T41N R11W	Building	3	77-2y; 79-1y; 80-2y; 82-i	MG,RVa
Washburn	WB2	T41N R12W	Building	6	79-2y; 85-2y; 88-2y; 89-1y; 90-2e,2y; 91-2y	JSm,MM,LH
Waukesha	WK1	T7N R17E	Log	2	80-2e,2y; 81-2y; 82 to 84-i	JB,MM, Robbins 1991

¹Substrate rock types: s = sandstone, d = dolomite, g = granite, q = quartzite.

²Year (abbreviated to last 2 digits) is followed by activity, as indicated by the following codes: ? = year approximate, e = eggs, y = young, a = active (contents unknown), i = inactive, x = nest failed.

³Observers: Bob Breidenstein (BB), John Bielefeldt (JB), Daryl Christenson (DC), Tom Campagna (TC), Brian Clock (BC), Jody Cornell (JC), Scott Dufal (SD), Tom Doolittle (TD), Eric Epstein (EE), John Ebersold (JE), Tom Erdman (TE), Donna Feest (DFe), Don Follen (DFO), Randy and Mary Jo Fox (RMF), Vernon Frame (VF), Garth Frost (GF), Michael Gratson (MG), Owen Gromme (OG), John Haack (JH), Lisa Hartman (LH), Randy Hoffman (RH), Becky Isenring (BI), L. Johnson (LJ), Alan Kiel (AK), Bessie Kmiecik (BK), Ian Livingston (IL), Leroy Lintereur (LL), Mary MacDonald (MMa), Mike Mossman (MM), Manley Olson (MO), Richard Prange (RP), Mark Radzak (MR), Roger Reif (RR), Carl Richter (CR), Larry Semo (LS), Jim Sime (JSi), Jim Simmons (JSm), Charles Sindelar (CS), Daryl Skrupky (DS), William A. Smith (WS), Jeanne Smith (JSh), Jim Solberg (JSO), Jim Steffen (JSs), Stan Temple (STe), Steve Thiessen (STh), Ray Vallen (RVa), Ron Vandervelden (RVV), Steve Walker (SW), Gary Walz (GW), Keith White (KW), Volney Wilson (VW), Howard Zubke (HZ), Bill Zuch (BZ)

tree stump in Green County. We visited most of these sites, often several years after the initial observation, and found them to be inactive. We received several misleading reports of "nesting pairs," which simply referred to 2 or more vultures being seen repeatedly in a particular area.

Nest-sites are summarized according to substrate in Table 2, and their geographic distribution is presented in Figure 1.

Nearly half of all known nest-sites were on the ground among rocks, and of these, 23 were beneath tumbled, angular boulders or in clefts of adjacent 2–4m tall cliffs, in quartzite outcrops of the Baraboo Hills (Fig. 2, 3). Others in this category have been in large sandstone talus (e.g., CL1, IO1, IO3, SK19) or beneath isolated rocks and boulders of sandstone, granite, or dolomite (e.g., CL2, CO1). At most or all sites, some rocks were at least 2m long. In one case (IO2), the nest cavity beneath a boulder was evidently enlarged by mammalian digging. All nests among rocks were beneath partial tree canopy and within forest, and nearly all were in the rugged, largely unglaciated "Western Upland" region (Martin 1965) of southwestern and west-central Wisconsin. Exceptions were 3

nests (CL1, CL2, CO1) on steep, rocky sandstone bluffs just outside the region, and 3 (OC1–3) on the granitic bluffs near Mountain in northeastern Wisconsin.

Nineteen nest-sites were reported from cliff ledges, erosional clefts, and caves of sedimentary rocks. Some nest cavities (e.g., MO2) were at ground level in cliffs as low as 3–4m; most (e.g., LC1, SK25) were elevated one to a few meters on relatively accessible ledges (Fig. 4); and 3 (AD1, GT1, TR1) were at or above the canopy on sheer, exposed cliffs (Fig. 5). All were in the Western Upland, except for one (AD1) on a sandstone butte of the unglaciated Central Sand Plain, and 2 along the Niagara escarpment in Door County. Nests were in forested settings.

Of the 9 nest-sites in abandoned buildings, 3 (GN1, MW1, WB2) were in second-story rooms or barn lofts, 4 (BA1, DL1, DL2, WB1) were on the ground floor of hunting shacks, barns, or houses, and 2 (PO1, BA2) were in basements of collapsed houses. At site MW1 (Fig. 6) the small barn was in good condition but described as "unused" (Steffen 1984). All other buildings containing nests were unused and dilapidated. At WB2 (Fig. 7, 8) birds nested in the hay loft of a former calf barn, but the loft gradually collapsed during the ensuing decade and eggs were eventually laid on the ground floor. Site MW1 was among open fields, 2 sites were within forest, and the remaining 6 were at the border of field and forest. All were isolated or otherwise free from regular human disturbance.

Two nests were found near ground level in hollow stumps, perhaps better described as "chimneys." Nest RO1

Table 2. Substrates of Wisconsin Turkey Vulture nests.

Substrate Type	Number of nest-sites	Percent of nest-sites
Among rocks	33	49
Cave or ledge	19	28
Abandoned building	9	13
Tree stump	2	3
Brush pile	2	3
Log	2	3
Total	67	99

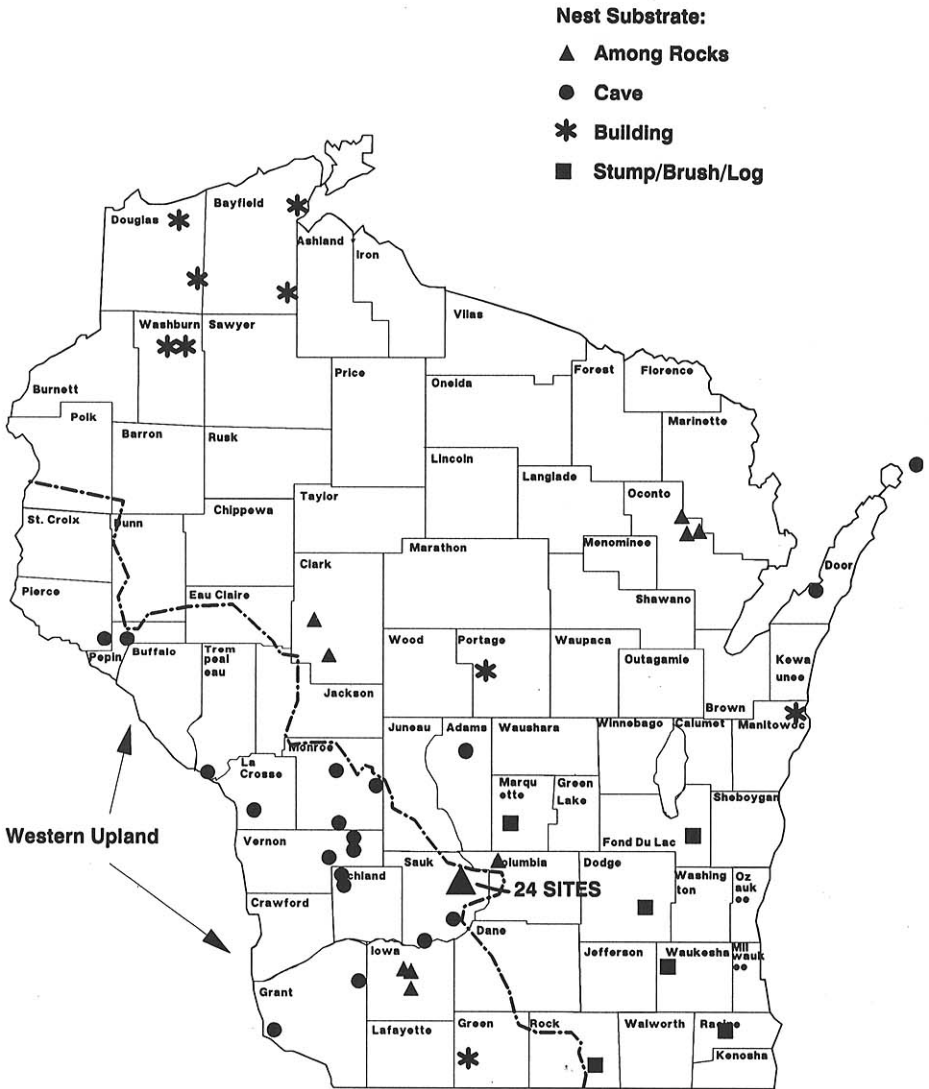


Figure 1. Known locations of Wisconsin Turkey Vulture nests, 1947–91.

was in a large oak along Interstate Hwy 90, a few kilometers north of the Illinois border. Nest FD1 (Fig. 9) was in a very large basswood (*Tilia americana*) with an inner diameter of 70cm. Another tree “chimney” nest we were shown in 1985 near the Mississippi

River in adjacent Wabasha County, Minnesota, was in an American elm (*Ulmus americana*) with an inside diameter of 71cm. All were in areas of scattered trees and shrubs, near forest.

The 2 nests found under brush piles included one (MQ1) beneath bull-

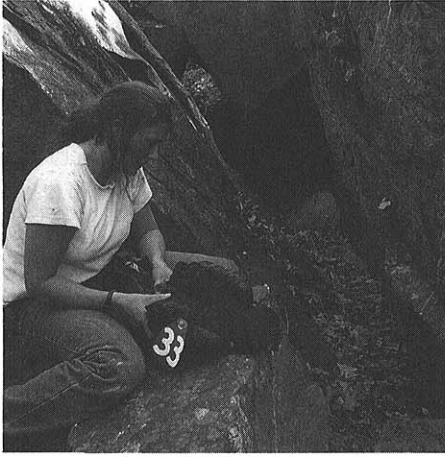


Figure 2. LH with adult vulture removed from quartzite talus nest SK12, beneath boulder in background. 20 May 1984 (photo by M.J. Mossman).

dozed trees, limbs, and rocks on the border of woods and oldfield, and another (RA1) in a brushy oak-hickory grove "a few acres in extent" among extensive, open muck farms (Owen

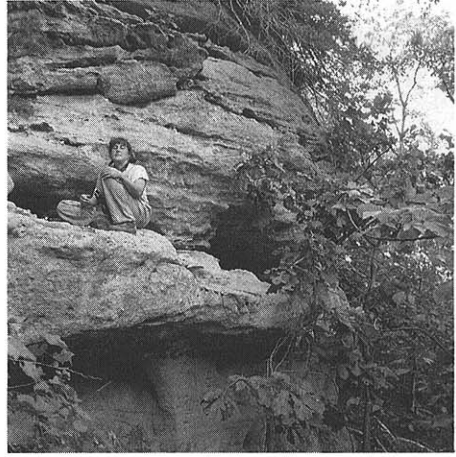


Figure 4. Sandstone cave nest LC1 is to right of LH. 3 Aug 1989 (photo by M.J. Mossman).

Gromme, MPM files). Two nests were associated with prostrate logs: DD1 was within a hollow log in an oldfield almost grown to woods, and WK1 (Fig. 10) was beneath the arched limbs of a fallen American elm in a lowland forest.

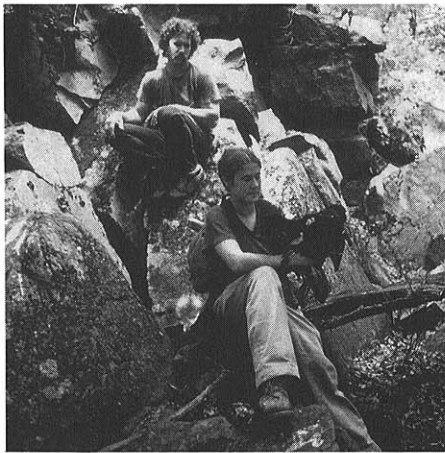


Figure 3. LH, Tom Schabacker, and nestling at quartzite talus nest SK17, which is in cavity below and left of TS. 4 August 1984 (photo by M.J. Mossman).

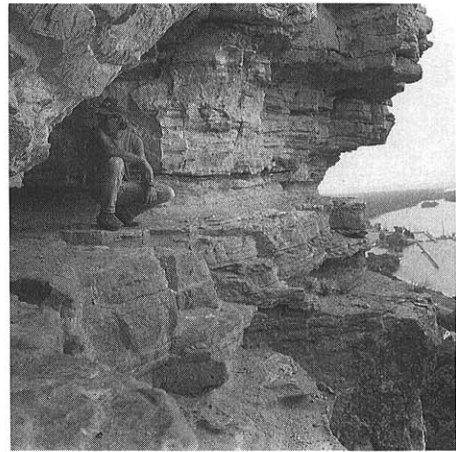


Figure 5. John Ebersold at sandstone cave nest TR1, high above the Mississippi River. 5 August 1989 (photo by M.J. Mossman).



Figure 6. Nest MN1 is in loft of barn in foreground. 8 August 1985 (photo by M.J. Mossman).



Figure 8. Nestlings in loft, nest WB2. 4 July 1985 (photo by M.J. Mossman).

DISCUSSION

The 67 Turkey Vulture nest-sites reported here include situations similar to those described elsewhere (e.g., Bent 1937, Jackson 1983, Mossman 1991). Nesting situations reported

from other areas, but for which there are no Wisconsin records, include mammal den burrows not associated with boulders (Babcock 1886), tree cavities far above the ground, and dense thickets of live vegetation (Bent 1937).

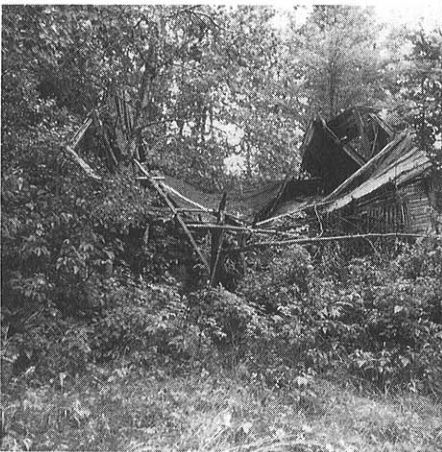


Figure 7. Nest WB2 is in loft beneath right-hand peak of collapsed barn roof. 4 July 1985 (photo by M.J. Mossman).



Figure 9. Basswood stump containing nest FD1. 9 August 1984 (photo by M.J. Mossman).

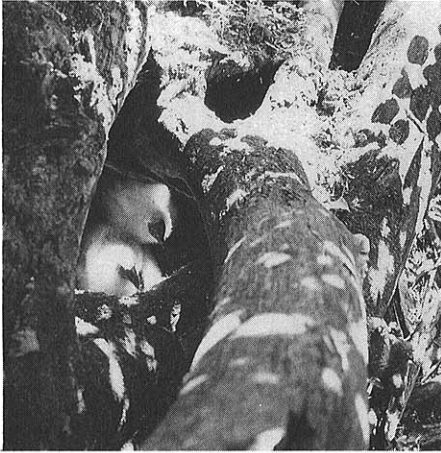


Figure 10. Nestlings under fallen elm, nest WK1. 22 July 1980 (photo by M.J. Mossman).

Wisconsin records include an unusually large proportion (49%) of nests among rock talus and scattered boulders, a situation described in the literature only rarely. Only 3% of 742 North American Turkey Vulture nests were reported "among rocks" by Jackson (1983). The frequency of this type of nest in Wisconsin reflects the prominence of resistant rocks such as quartzite, granite, and certain sandstones that break into large (>2m long) pieces, in forested Paleozoic and Precambrian outcrops, primarily in the unglaciated terrain of the southwestern counties. It also reflects the concentration of nest searches in one unglaciated area in the Baraboo Hills.

The distribution of nests throughout Wisconsin (Fig. 1) and our field investigations indicate that in areas where suitable rock, ledge, or cave nest habitat exists, vultures use these sites to the exclusion of others such as trees, logs, brush piles, or buildings. All known Wisconsin nests of the latter types were in areas where no suitable

rock outcrops occurred within at least 10 km, and usually at least 50 km. For example, nest-site BA1 was located in an abandoned building within 2 km of several cliffs and talus slopes along the Marengo River, but none of these had clefts or boulders large enough to provide for nesting. The only non-outcrop nest (GN1) in the Western Upland was in a building of the rolling, glaciated farm country of Green County, where potential nest outcrops are rare or nonexistent. In the Baraboo Hills, where suitable outcrops are common, we have failed to locate nests in any of the apparently suitable abandoned cabins and farmsteads.

The availability of rock and cave nest habitat is one reason for the concentration of Wisconsin's vulture population in the Western Upland. Rough topography probably plays another significant role by providing updrafts for soaring flight, as suggested by minor vulture concentrations in hilly areas without suitable nest outcrops, such as the Kettle Moraine.

Abandoned buildings are an important nest substrate in the forested northern counties (Fig. 1), where they are used almost exclusively. The first Wisconsin nest in a building was reported in 1977, and new sites have been reported with increasing frequency. Turkey Vultures apparently began nesting in buildings in the Midwest in the 1920s, and have since done so increasingly, while nesting less often in hollow trees (Mossman 1991). This change may reflect a continentwide response to the loss of large, heart-rotted trees suitable for nesting (Jackson 1983). The concentration of "building" nests in the north and of log and stump nests in the southeast is probably due to the relatively greater iso-

lation of buildings and greater logging activity in the north.

The proliferation of Wisconsin Turkey Vulture nest records since 1973 stems partly from our increased attention to the species. However, we feel it also reflects the well documented statewide population increase over the past 40–50 years, because: (1) published nest records have increased since 1973 independent of our work, and (2) most observers reporting nests during the past 20 years were also active in the field for one or more earlier decades without having located any nests. The growth of Wisconsin's Turkey Vulture population probably resulted from habitat changes farther south (Mossman 1991), but it has certainly been accommodated by the availability of suitable outcrops in western Wisconsin, and of isolated abandoned buildings elsewhere.

Because many of the state's summer resident vultures are probably non-breeders (unpublished data), and because individuals can travel widely on daily foraging flights, summer sightings of Turkey Vultures do not necessarily imply local nesting. Yet nesting has been documented for more than one-third of Wisconsin's 72 counties, and probably occurs regularly in most counties and occasionally in others. In the Baraboo Hills and perhaps a few other areas within the Western Upland and Oconto County, it should be considered a fairly common nester.

We encourage observers in Wisconsin and adjacent states to contact us with information on additional Turkey Vulture nests.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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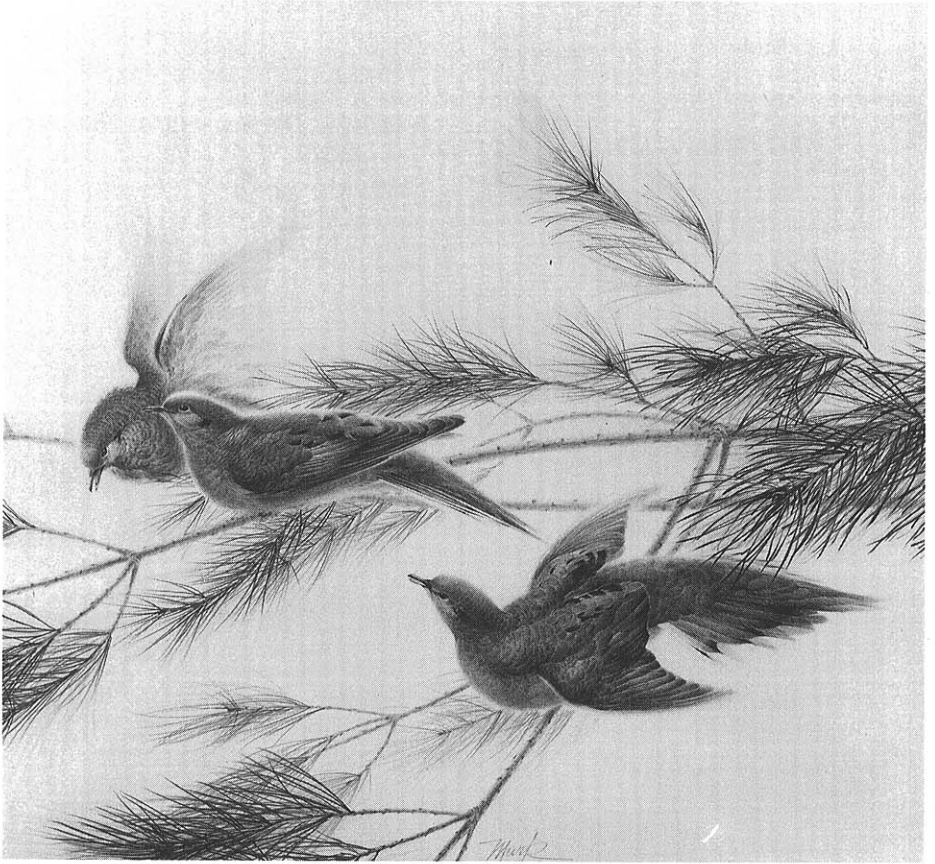
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