Vol. 80, No. 3 • Fall 2018

WISCONSIN SOCIETY *for* ORNITHOLOGY

The *Passenger* PIGEON

Journal of the WISCONSIN SOCIETY *for* ORNITHOLOGY

The *Passenger* PIGEON

WSO website: wsobirds.org

Vol. 80, No. 3 • Fall 2018

EDITORS
Charles A. Heikkinen and
Delia O. Unson
608. 206. 0324 • 608. 235. 8914
passengerpigeon@wsobirds.org

PEER REVIEW EDITOR
Vacant

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Amy Staffen
608. 238. 0450
astaffen@tds.net

ASSISTANT EDITOR (Art)
Todd Leech
414. 324. 3328
leechtodd@yahoo.com

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Spring)
Sunil Gopalan
8901 Blackhawk Rd.
Middleton, WI 53562
608. 824. 9286
sgopalan@umich.edu

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Summer)
Darwin Tiede
2809 Schaefer Circle
Appleton, WI 54915
920. 997. 9418
crepuscular@new.rr.com

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Autumn)
Robert C. Domagalski
P.O. Box 396
St. Nazianz, WI 54232
920. 881. 4002
rcd2@new.rr.com

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Winter)
Ted Keyel
825 Pilgrim Tr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
715. 326. 0899
erkeyel@gmail.com

The Passenger Pigeon (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, 654 W Hillcrest Rd Apt 202, Saukville, WI 53080. Periodicals Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI and at additional mailing offices, including Lawrence, KS 66044. Subscription rates are $35 domestic; $45 foreign. Back issues may be obtained for $8 each. "POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Passenger Pigeon*, Kim Kreitinger, PO Box 3024, Madison, WI 53704-3024."

Membership rates per year are: Conservation Advocate $200; Sustaining $100; Household $40; Senior $25; Student $25. There is a $10 surcharge for members wishing to receive the printed version of our Badger Birder newsletter. Contact Kim Kreitinger, PO Box 3024, Madison, WI 53704-3024 with membership and mailing-related questions.

Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Field Note Compiler for that season (see left column). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Assistant Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, please refer to "Guidelines for Authors and Artists," found near the back of this and following issues.

Copyright © 2018 by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. Except for purposes of review, material contained herein may not be reproduced without written consent.

Front Cover: For this issue's cover, David Franzen shared his beautiful, colorful photo of a Red-bellied Woodpecker taken in Vilas County in mid-October.

CONTENTS FALL 2018

Volume 80, Number 3

Incoming WSO President's Statement: Greetings! 173
Myles Hurlburt

Outgoing President's Statement:
Keeping Engaged in a Trying Time 175
Michael John Jaeger

From the Editors' Desk: What About Cats? 177
Charles A. Heikkinen and Delia O. Unson

Prothonotary Warbler Artificial Nest Box Productivity
in a Northern Illinois Floodplain Forest (Peer-Reviewed)) 179
Thomas A. Davis

Fall and Winter-Hardy Hummingbirds 189
Cynthia Bridge

The Fall Season: 2017 195
Bob Domagalski

50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon* 241
Nancy Nabak

"By the Wayside"—Fall 2017 243

WSO Records Committee Report: Fall 2017 245
Quentin Yoerger

About the Artists 253

Revised Guidelines for Authors and Artists 255

Notes and Announcements 259

Greetings!

Thank you to all members for your support of WSO. It has been a great honor to serve as President these past few months. I hope to build on the legacy established by Michael John Jaeger who, during his two-year tenure as President, did an outstanding job. Michael John has served on the Conservation Committee and has stepped in as interim chair while we seek a new one. He has visited numerous local bird clubs around the state and has advocated for the WSO at the state and local level. He was the driving force within the WSO to acquire additional land at Honey Creek Preserve, adding 104 acres for a total holding of about 372 acres.

My love of birding grew from my love of the Wisconsin outdoors and later from participation in WSO events. I am a lifelong resident of Wisconsin and a native of Durand (Pepin County), where I grew up hunting, fishing, trapping and, overall, enjoying the beauty of nature with my dad and brothers. It wasn't until I started observing birds in my own backyard that an interest in birding and conservation developed. This is where I learned to identify and understand the species around me and that curiosity took me down a path to gain a deeper understanding of our Wisconsin birds. Furthermore, I started participating in many WSO field trips in addition to the annual WSO Convention, getting to know like-minded birders. Because of all that I was learning from these events, I knew I wanted to give back to WSO. I first became Vice President in 2017 which was a year of learning and understanding what WSO is really all about.

Now, being President, my goal is to support and grow our Mission, Vision and Values, with an emphasis on increasing involvement from younger generations and inspiring them to help preserve what our beautiful state has to offer. In particular, while we have a young birders initiative / program within the WSO we need to continue to work and expand this to reach more youth. I thought I would share the WSO Mission, Vision and Values:

Mission

Promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of Wisconsin's birds.

Vision

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology provides opportunities for all people to enjoy resident and migratory birds, while being a leading steward of and ambassador for Wisconsin Birds.

Values

WSO is a volunteer, non-profit organization that advocates for birds, birders and avian researchers. To guide its work, WSO:

- Supports the conservation of bird populations and habitats.
- Commits to the stewardship of its Carla and Harold Kruse Nature Preserve at Honey Creek and its other properties.
- Gives public voice to important birder concerns.
- Fosters ethical birding behavior.
- Welcomes all birders—young and old, beginners, backyard enthusiasts, tourists, conservationists and professional ornithologists.
- Inspires members and others to share the joy of birding.
- Seeks to strengthen the state's birding community.
- Encourages and supports young birders.
- Communicates effectively with members, birders and the general public regarding birds and birders.
- Supports the study of birds by professional and citizen scientists.
- Recognizes the invaluable contributions of its volunteers.
- Commits to preserving its rich history.

The WSO has a number of committees that carry out tasks needed to accomplish our Mission, Vision and Values. Currently most committees are seeking new members. We have just secured a Research Chair and a Convention Chair, but there are several board positions that have opened up recently, including Communications Chair. We also do not have a Marketing Chair but could use someone on the communications or membership committee that would assist in helping us get our message out.

In closing, I'm told this is a hard job, but with the help of the WSO Board and our membership—present and future—we will succeed in advancing WSO's mission and improving how we market ourselves to other bird and conservation organizations and the broader statewide community. As an advance notice, keep in mind our 2019 Annual Convention will be in Eau Claire, Memorial Day weekend, May 24th through May 28th 2019. I hope you can make it!

I hope to see you out there at our next WSO field events enjoying our Wisconsin birds.

Best Regards,
Myles Hurlburt

Keeping Engaged in a Trying Time

I write this column in the hopes that I won't completely give up. I'm extremely discouraged with the current massive attacks on natural resources and their protections, along with the apparent lack of interest or concern by our public at large about why these resources are important.

Maybe a little history will help put things in perspective for me. I've been a WSO member for 50 years. And I've been a small actor in the incredible environmental crusade that's occurred over that time.

When I was young, Aldo Leopold's writings were becoming very popular. My mentors clued me into his work. One passage in his *Round River* essay stood out and has stayed with me to this day: "One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds." He continued by saying: "Much of the damage inflicted on the land is quite invisible to laymen."

At the time when these passages were new to me, I was a high school student with an incredible love of birds, but still focused on watching them and doing some initial research about habitat needs. When I start college in the early 1970s I thought I wanted to focus on research. I showed up at the UW-Madison when the "Environmental Movement" in the U.S. was still young. During college I shifted away from basic ornithological research to focus on what I could do to help preserve and enhance bird life. That research interest has stayed with me, even though I wasn't working directly in that field.

As a young student I caught the environmentalism bug. Leopold's words about a "world of wounds" were indeed true. Rivers were catching fire, the air was dangerous to breathe, population growth put increasing pressure on our landscapes, and many of our bird populations were in severe decline from pesticides poisoning. The "wounds" were many and widespread.

While "wounds" were everywhere you looked, the environmental movement was spreading. In particular, Leopold's lament on these being "quite invisible to laymen" was beginning a long-term change.

A particular success of the movement was the stepping up of environmental education, both formal and informal. Our friends and neighbors, not just the experts, were learning about resource threats. And, importantly, large numbers of them were starting to care. The "laymen" were becoming knowledgeable and engaged.

As the levels of concern rose in the general public, policy makers started paying attention. Huge steps were taken to protect our resources. Laws regarding clean air, clean water, waste disposal, pesticide use, endangered resources, and much more were enacted and expanded. And we saw marked improvements. And I was in small ways a part of that.

Fast forward to today. We're seeing protection after protection criticized, rolled

back or eliminated, both at the state and federal level. I don't want to imply that all resource protections put into place over the last 40 years were well thought out, some probably went too far or were not set up to actually accomplish what was desired. The overall attitude of many in today's governments seems to be, however, that if it relates to the environment, it needs to go. This attitude, and the resulting policy actions, are what is so disturbing to me these days.

What happened? Did the environmental movement really go too far? Were we, in our youthful enthusiasm, wrong? Or did we do so well that those that followed didn't experience the widespread "wounds" that we grew up with? I bet most of our current soccer moms don't remember rivers catching on fire.

Going forward, I have to remind myself that we can indeed reverse many of our current setbacks, that we can, and must, continue to protect and enhance our natural resources. We need to reinforce environmental education, we need to remember why we fought so hard for our past gains, and to continue to support resource protection. And WSO has a continuing role to play, as our mission is to "promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of Wisconsin's birds."

—Michael John Jaeger, President

A wary White-breast Nuthatch stopped long enough on a tree in late October Vilas County for David Franzen to get this portrait.

What About Cats?

We recently ran across a website (www.alleycat.org) run by the group Alley Cat Allies, a group dedicated to fostering the health and responsible treatment of feral cats. They question the statistics on how many birds are killed each year by feral cats, arguing instead that humans are the number one threat to birds and other wildlife. Humans and human structures, indeed are the biggest threat, and not only to wildlife.

Overall, however, there seems little argument that cats do kill birds when outdoors. It's been estimated (http://www.flap.org/pdfs/HierarchyofThreats.pdf) that almost as many birds are killed each year by house cats (118,000,000 in Canada and the United States as are killed by hunters (120,000,000). Feral cats are likely even more destructive to birdlife simply because they must eat and have no human-provided food.

It could be argued that even the life of a single bird is worth protecting, and if that could be achieved by keeping a pet cat indoors, then it would be worth it. How much more so when we are talking about saving literally millions of lives? From a house cat's perspective, does it require being outdoors in order to lead a fulfilling life? Are bird deaths by cat predation necessary? Should feral cats be allowed to continue to survive with the resultant large numbers of additional bird deaths?

Perhaps these questions will never be answered to everyone's satisfaction and the debate will continue. We believe the questions to be vital and deserving of thoughtful consideration. For more information about the issue of cat predation of birds, please refer to the "Cats Indoors Program" sponsored by the American Bird Conservancy, https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/

—Charles A. Heikkinen and Delia O. Unson

In this photo, David Franzen captured the drama of a Parasitic Jaeger chasing a Ring-billed Gull at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County in late September.

Peer-reviewed

Prothonotary Warbler Artificial Nest Box Productivity in a Northern Illinois Floodplain Forest

Thomas A. Davis

Program in Biology
Loras College
1450 Alta Vista St.
Dubuque, IA 52003
563-588-7767
Tom.davis@loras.edu

Abstract

Artificial nest boxes made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) and milk cartons were erected on metal conduit poles in the floodplain forest along the Mississippi River near East Dubuque, IL one mile south of the Wisconsin border. Artificial nest boxes for Prothonotary Warbers (PROW) had not been used in this area previously. Boxes were checked every six to 10 days for nests, eggs or hatchling birds from 1 May through 20 July during the breeding season. During the first two seasons (2013, 2014) and the last year (2017) of the five-year study, the floodplain habitat was flooded with 1–2.5 m (3–8 ft) of water under all boxes. For two seasons (2015, 2016) the floodplain habitat was dry. Birds used both types of boxes equally accepting 58 of 66 (88%) boxes in the first two breeding seasons. Nest productivity, measured as number of fledged birds divided by the number of eggs laid, averaged 79.1% (363 fledged from 459 eggs) during three flooded habitat seasons versus an average of 77.1% (236 fledged from 306 eggs) during two dry habitat seasons. Nest box entry hole design of 3.5 cm (1-3/8 in.) diameter resulted in zero cowbird brood parasitism during the five year study. Increased nest box density in 2016 resulted in higher nest productivity and in much less competition from House Wrens and Black-capped Chickadees compared to areas with original nest box density. Competition for nest boxes by House Wrens and Black-capped Chickadees was significantly higher in dry habitat seasons versus flooded habitat seasons. Results from this study indicate that Milk Carton and PVC nest boxes were successful in producing PROW each year and their increased use is recommended as a conservation tool to benefit PROW future populations.

Keywords: Prothonotary Warbler, artificial nest boxes, nest productivity, cowbird brood parasitism, nest site competition

Introduction

Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea;* PROW) prefer floodplain forests for nesting habitat (Petit 1999). These

birds have been used as a major indicator species for floodplain forest ecosystem integrity (Cooper et al. 2009). Several studies have noted that these floodplain habitats are decreasing in area from human intervention which has been linked to a slow decline in PROW populations in several midwestern states in the last 30 years (Flaspohler 1996, Hoover 2006). These warblers are listed as birds of Conservation Concern by the USFWS and by the states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Partners in Flight and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative placed PROW on their watch lists in 2015.

These wood warblers use natural nest cavities in trees not higher than 6 m (19.7 ft) above the water (Petit 1999). In contrast, other studies by Petit (1987), Blem and Blem (1991) and Hoover (2003, 2006) have shown that these warblers readily accepted artificial nest boxes rather than natural cavities and that reproductive success in man-made boxes was higher as well. Most floodplain forests are subject to natural or man-made variations in water levels.

During nesting seasons when the floodplain forests are dry, do these birds move to find flooded areas to nest or do they continue to nest in the same area if a nest box is provided? Cooper et al. (2009) showed in a study in natural nest cavities in Arkansas, PROW reproductive success was strongly influenced by water level variations. Birds produced more fledglings in an early flood year and less in a late flood year as many nest sites were flooded. Hoover (2006) manipulated water levels in flood plain forests in southern Illinois and showed that PROW nested more successfully when milk carton boxes were over water deeper than 45cm (1.5 ft). Little information is currently available, however, about how PROW respond to variation in water levels in the presence of specially designed PVC nest boxes in the northern part of their breeding range.

PROW nests have suffered from Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) nest parasitism throughout their breeding range (Petit 1989, Petit 1991 in Tennessee in milk carton houses; Flaspohler 1996 in western Wisconsin in natural nest cavities). Can specific entrance hole diameter in artificial next boxes reduce cowbird parasitism?

In this study I attempted to increase PROW numbers by erecting artificial milk carton (MC) and PVC nest boxes. I checked their preference for MC or PVC boxes. As a result of natural variations in river water levels occurring during the five-year study, I tested the hypothesis that PROW nest productivity would be lower in unflooded habitat with low water levels compared to flooded floodplain forest habitat. Due to high nest productivity in the first three years, I added an additional 18 boxes in 2016 to test the hypothesis that higher nest box density would increase nest productivity. I also measured the rate of cowbird parasitism in these artificial nest boxes.

Study Area and Methods

A total of 35 artificial nest boxes made from PVC (N = 23; Matthews 2010; Fig. 1) or milk cartons (MC; N = 12; Fleming and Petit 1986) were placed in heavy shade in floodplain forest of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge near East Dubuque, IL approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) south of the Wisconsin border (GPS coordi-

Figure 1. PVC nest box designed by Mike Foy, WI DNR (Matthews, 2010).

nates: LAT 42.483, LONG. –90.637). I obtained a research special use permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service office in Savannah, IL.

The floodplain forest study area was approximately 1.2 km (0.75 mi) long by 0.4 km (0.25 mi) wide equal to about 200 ha (0.75 sq. miles) in land area. Approximately 70% of the study area, however, was open water resulting in approximately 60 ha (0.23 sq. mi) of floodplain forest habitat in which nest boxes were placed. PVC nest boxes were obtained free from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Matthews 2010).

PVC boxes were mounted on single, 1.25 cm (½ in.) metal, electrical conduit poles 2.4–3 m (8–10 ft) in length. Conduit extensions were added with conduit couplers to raise the boxes during flooding. MC boxes were attached

to tree trunks with clear packing tape which was then spray-painted black. In 2013 boxes were placed in flooded floodplain forests approximately 100 m (325 ft) apart and 5–10 m (16–32 ft) inland from open water areas in dense shade. Nest boxes remained at the same sites for the five-year study. This area had approximately 90% mature silver maple and 10% mature cottonwood trees most of which were between 15–25 m (50–80 ft) tall. Understory vegetation ranged from 1 m (3 ft) in height to none. Water levels in this area were subject to high and low seasonal river water levels. River levels were recorded before each site visit from the on-line river gauge website operated by the National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the railroad bridge in Dubuque, IA. (http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil) Nest box poles were in flooded habitat in 2013, 2014 and 2017 seasons and on dry land not in contact with water (unflooded) in 2015 and 2106.

MC nest boxes lasted for two breeding seasons. All MC boxes were replaced with PVC boxes in 2015. Nest boxes were visited every six to 10 days from 1 May until 20 July during the breeding season. Presence of nests, number of eggs, and number and approximate age of young were recorded at each nest box visit. Nest productivity was measured by dividing the total number of fledgling birds by the total number of eggs laid. Productivity was compared between the three flooded years (2013, 14, 17) and the two unflooded, dry years (2015, 16). Also, nests were also monitored for the presence of Brown-headed Cowbird eggs.

Results

Preference of MC vs PVC nest boxes. Birds readily accepted each kind of artificial nest box equally. In the first two years of the study, birds nested in 58 of 66 (88%) boxes (Fig. 2). Milk carton boxes began to degrade after two sea-

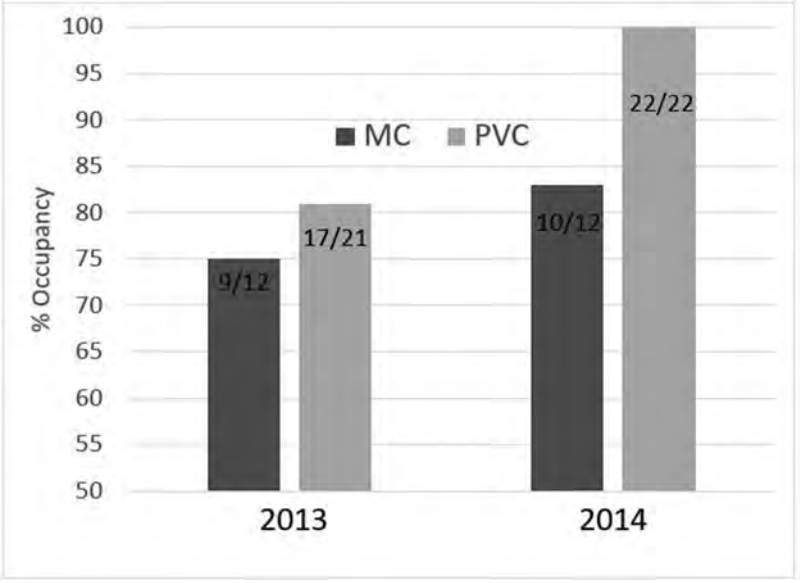


Figure 2. Percent nest box occupancy: Milk Carton vs. PVC.

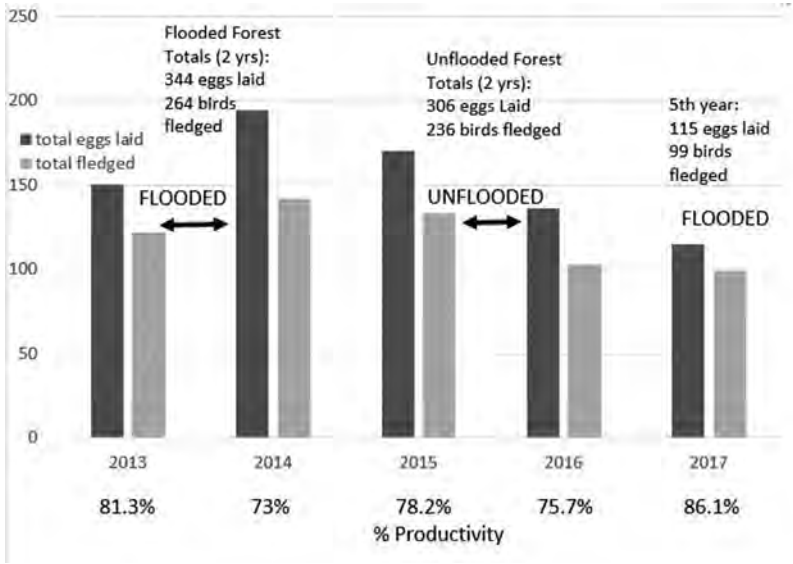


Figure 3. Prothonotary Warbler nest output = eggs laid and birds fledged: flooded vs. unflooded forest.

son in the field and were all replaced by more durable PVC boxes in 2015.

Reproductive success. Reproductive success in PROW using some milk carton but mostly PVC nest boxes in this study was quite high and consistent from year to year despite natural annual changes in floodplain forest water levels. (Fig. 3) In total over the five-year study, 599 PROW were fledged from 765 eggs resulting in an average 78.3% nest productivity.

Effects of water levels on reproductive success. Though nest productivity numbers were similar in all five years of the study (water levels were high in 2013, 2014, 2017 vs low and dry in 2015, 2016), the total number of PROW eggs laid and young fledged decreased as the study progressed (Fig. 3). The complete absence of House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) and Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) nests in the first two years of the study (Fig. 4) when the habitat was flooded indicated reduced competition for next boxes from these species. In the next two dry years (2015, 2016) however, Black-capped Chickadee and especially House Wren use of nest boxes increased (Fig. 4).

Effect of presence of nest boxes on breeding pair density. The presence of milk carton and PVC nest boxes attracted large numbers of mating pairs of PROW in a relatively small floodplain forest area. In approximately 60 ha (148 acres) of floodplain forest habitat, an average of 27.3 breeding pairs per year used the next boxes resulting in a density of 2.2 pairs per ha (5.4 pairs per acre).

Effect of increased nest box density on reproductive success in 2016, a dry year. Two areas with original nest box density (100 m (325 ft) apart; N = 18 nest boxes) produced 16 fledglings from 26 eggs resulting in 61.5% nest productivity. In these same areas House Wrens occupied 10 of 17 (59%) boxes and Black-capped Chickadees used 2 of 17 (12%) boxes. Thus, PROW used only 4

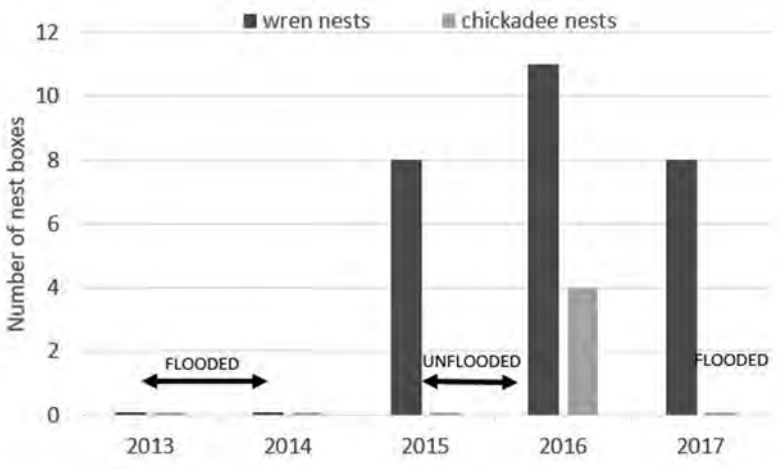


Figure 4. Nest box use by House Wrens and Black-capped Chickadees.

of 17 (23.5%) boxes to nest and produce young. Other areas with increased nest box density (~50 m (165 ft) apart; N = 32 nest boxes) were much more successful and had much less competition from House Wrens and Black-capped Chickadees. Nesting pairs in these boxes produced 80 fledglings from 106 eggs for a nest productivity of 75.4%. Seven of 33 (21%) boxes were not used during the whole breeding season. Only two Black-capped Chickadee nests and one House Wren nest were found in these boxes with higher nest box density. In three previous years, the average nest productivity per year of the two areas was not different (81.3% vs 81.7%).

Cowbird brood parasitism. Natural PROW nests have been common targets for brood parasitism by Brown headed Cowbirds. PVC nest boxes with 3.5 cm (1 3/8 inch) entrance holes used in this study prevented cowbird use completely; no cowbird eggs were found in any nests during the entire five-year study.

Discussion

Use of artificial nest boxes. The acceptance of artificial nest boxes by PROW is well known from many past studies, which has resulted in much valuable information about their reproduction, habitat use and natural history (Blem and Blem 1991, Petit and Petit 1996, Petit 1999, Hoover 2003). The present study is the first to document successful use of MC and PVC nest boxes in the northern part of their range. PROW here showed higher nest productivity compared to most other studies. In 13 other hole-nesting, altricial species, average nest productivity was 66% (Nice 1957). A study by Flaspohler (1996) in the floodplain forest of the Upper Mississippi River in Wisconsin (160 km (100 mi) north of the current study site using natural nest cavities) PROW nest productivity was 27.8% and 30.1% in 1993 and 1994 respectively. Walkinshaw (1941) reported only 25.7% of eggs laid resulted in fledged birds in a study in Michigan, whereas Petit (1989) in Tennessee recorded 74.6% of eggs laid re-

sulted in fledged birds mostly from milk carton nest boxes. PROW used only 40% of PVC nest boxes in a preliminary study in Wisconsin (Matthews 2010).

Competition for nest boxes. Petit and Petit (1996) showed that PROW nesting in flooded habitat produced more young per nest than birds nesting in dry habitat. Nest productivity, however, was not different between flooded and dry habitats, a situation also seen in this study. The complete absence of House Wren and Black-capped Chickadee nests in the first two years of the study (Fig. 3) when the habitat was flooded, indicated reduced competition for next boxes from these species. House Wrens prefer low, dense vegetation for breeding. Apparently the open, tree-trunk-only habitat of flooded floodplain forest discouraged their nesting (Knutson and Klaas 1997). In the next two dry years (2015, 2016), however, Black-capped Chickadee and especially House Wren use of nest boxes increased (Fig. 3).

PROW males generally arrive on the breeding grounds before House Wrens. In my study, PROW defended nest box territories successfully and usually produced at least one clutch at the beginning of the breeding season. Given the pattern of almost zero competition from House Wrens during breeding seasons when the habitat was flooded, I predicted a similar pattern in 2017, a flood year. This prediction was not upheld as many wren nests were built in nest boxes despite having 0.3–1.5 m (1–5 ft) of water beneath each nest box. In 2015 and 2016, two dry habitat years, many House Wrens built nests and raised young in nest boxes *after* PROW used them successfully early in the breeding season.

House Wrens show high nest site fidelity especially when nesting occurs late in the season and productivity is high the previous year (Belles-Isles and Picman, 1986). In my study, as more and more wrens were produced from these PVC nest boxes, conspecific attraction from singing male House Wrens may have resulted in reduced opportunities for nest sites for PROW in flooded floodplain forest habitat in 2017.

Breeding pair density and conspecific attraction. Hoover (2009) showed individual PROW densities increased from 1.20 adults/ha to 2.06 birds/ha after floodplain wetlands increased water depth. In other studies by Hoover (2003, 2006) the higher nest success produced by PROW resulted in these birds returning to the same area the next year. In fact, his data showed that adult and first year birds usually returned to within 2 km (1.2 mi) of where they were produced. (Hoover and Retz, 2006).

Artificial next boxes along with singing males, especially early in the breeding season, enhance conspecific attraction. PROW rarely appear on local Breeding Bird Survey routes due to their relatively low numbers in local habitats and inaccessibility of the floodplain forest habitat. The author rarely saw PROW in the surrounding area before the study started.

Conspecific attraction, usually signaled by singing males on territories in preferred habitat, indicates to migrating males and females the presence of quality habitat (Stamps 1991). Ward and Schlossberg (2004) used audio playback of singing male Black-capped Vireos in central Texas to attract passing males and females into a forest habitat that had few if any breeding

pairs of these birds previously. Birds attracted to these sites had high reproductive success. This same conspecific attraction effect was measured in this study and might help explain the high density of PROW breeding pairs at artificial next boxes in my study area.

Cowbird brood parasitism. No cowbird eggs were found in any nests during the entire five-year study. The best reason for this reduction was the 3.5 cm (1 3/8 in) entrance hole that seemed to prevent cowbird access. Flaspohler (1996) reported 26.9% parasitism rate in natural PROW nests in west central Wisconsin. Though Petit (1989) saw no parasitism in milk carton houses in 1987, 20.3% of 128 nests were parasitized in 1985 in Tennessee. Use of more of these PVC nest boxes in floodplain forest habitats may be key to increasing PROW populations in the future.

In conclusion, results from this study show that PROW used milk carton and PVC nest boxes successfully. This is the first study to show high nest productivity by PROW in artificial nest boxes in the northern part of the U.S. breeding range.

Once nest boxes were installed, singing males attracted other singing males via conspecific attraction to take advantage of favorable habitat to produce many offspring in each year of the five-year study. The entrance holes of PVC boxes completely eliminated cowbird brood parasitism in PROW nests.

Results from my study suggest a greater reliance on PVC nest boxes in more floodplain forest locations will increase the populations of PROW in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Acknowledgements

I sincerely appreciate the free use of the PVC nest boxes supplied by Andy Paulios and Mike Foy (retired) at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Fitchburg, WI. A big thank you goes to Dan Wenny for saving many milk cartons for conversion into nest boxes. I also appreciate the feedback and approval of a research and monitoring special use permit from Russ Engelke at the USFWS Center headquarters in Savannah, IL for use of the study site at Lake Lacoma in the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge. I thank David Shealer and Loras College and the faculty and staff in Biology for my use of the solo canoe, paddles, and life vests and for their administrative and moral support. Construction plans for both types of nest boxes are available from the author upon request.

Literature Cited

Belles-Isles, J.-C. and J. Picman. 1986. Nesting losses and nest site preferences in House Wrens. Condor 88:483–486.

Blem, C. R. and L.B. Blem. 1991. Nest box selection by Prothonotary Warblers. J. Field Ornithol. 62:299–307.

Cooper, R. J., L. A. Wood, J. J. Gannon and R. Wilson. 2009. Effects of timber harvest and other factors on a floodplain forest indicator species, the Prothonotary Warbler. Wetlands 29 (2) 574–585.

Flaspohler, D. J. 1996. Nesting Success of the Prothonotary Warbler in the Upper Mississippi River Bottomlands. Wilson Bull., 108 (3): 457–466.

Fleming, W. J. and D. R. Petit. 1986. Modified Milk Carton Nest Box for Studies of Prothonotary Warblers. J. Field Ornithol. 57(4): 313–315.

Hoover, J. P. 2003. Decision Rules for Site Fidelity in a migratory bird, the Prothonotary Warbler. Ecology 84:416–430.

Hoover, J. P. 2006. Water depth influences nest predation in for a wetland dependent bird in

fragmented bottomland forests. Biological Conservation 127:37–45.

Hoover, J. P. 2009. Effects of hydrological restoration on birds breeding in forested wetlands. Wetlands 29(2): 563–573.

Hoover, J. P. and M. J. Retz. 2006. Brood parasitism increases provisioning rate and reduces offspring recruitment and adult return rates, in a cowbird host. Oecologica 149:165–173.

Knutson, M. G. and E. E. Klaas. 1997. Declines in abundance and species richness of birds following a major flood on the Upper Mississippi River. Auk 114 (3): 367–380.

Matthews, G. 2010. New kingdoms for little birds in golden robes. Wisc. Nat. Resources Mag. August. http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2010/08/warbler.htm.

Nice, M. M. 1957. Nesting success in altricial birds. Auk 74:305–321.

Petit, L. J. 1987. Nest-box use by Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea)* in riverine habitat. Wilson Bull. 99:485–488.

Petit, L. J. 1989. Breeding biology of Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea)* in riverine habitat in Tennessee. Wilson Bull. 101: 51–61.

Petit, L. J. 1991. Adaptive Tolerance of cowbird parasitism by Prothonotary Warblers: a consequence of nest site limitations? Animal Behaviour 41:425–432.

Petit, L. J. 1999. Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonaria citrea)* In: A.Poole and F. Gill (eds.) The Birds of North America. No. 408. The Birds of North America, Incorporated. Philadephia, PA. USA. http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/408.

Petit, L. J. and D. R. Petit. 1996. Factors governing habitat selection by Prothonotary Warblers: field tests of the Fretwell-Lucas models. Ecological Monographs 66:367–387.

Stamps, J. A. 1991. The effect of conspecifics on habitat selection in territorial species. Behavioral Ecology and Social Biology 28:29–36.

Walkinshaw, L. H. 1941. The Prothonotary Warbler, a comparison of nesting conditions in Tennessee and Michigan. Wilson Bull. 53:3–21.

Ward, M. P. and S. Schlossberg. 2004. Conspecific attraction and the conservation of territorial songbirds. Conservation Biol. 18:519–525.

A Solitary Sandpiper makes its way along a shoreline In Eau Claire County in mid-August, as imaged by David Lund.

Kristie Pinnow found this Hermit Thrush perching out in the open in Vilas County in late September.

Fall and Winter-Hardy Hummingbirds

Cynthia Bridge

wi.hummingbirds@gmail.com
(608) 333-5417

Fall is an exciting season for hummingbird enthusiasts. Wisconsinites who feed and garden for hummingbirds typically enjoy increased numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visiting their yards during fall. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species of hummingbird to nest in the eastern half of the United States. Adults and juveniles of this species commence their dispersal and southward migration during August and September. Adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, which are the birds we see with the full red gorget (throat), are typically the first to migrate. Most of these males leave Wisconsin by the end of August. Thus the majority of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seen late-August through October are birds born that summer, referred to as "hatch-year" birds, along with some adult females. These comprise the "green and white" hummingbirds of this species that lack a full red gorget. By the second week of October, the majority of these remaining Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will also have left the state.

The fall exodus of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds from Wisconsin coincides with the migration of what are referred to as "winter hummingbirds." These are western hummingbird species such as Rufous Hummingbird and Anna's Hummingbird. Their occurrence in Wisconsin during fall and winter coincides with their post-breeding migration and "winter" season. Mid-October typically ushers in one to a few reports of Rufous Hummingbirds. In fact, if you observe a hummingbird in Wisconsin after October 15th, odds are significantly increased that the hummingbird is something other than a Ruby-throated. These odds will continue to rise as we enter November and throughout the winter. That being said, there are year-to-year fluctuations in the departure of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds from our state. For example during the fall of 2017 a number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered in southern Wisconsin a few days beyond October 15th.

Rufous Hummingbird is the most likely winter hummingbird species we encounter in Wisconsin. They occur annually in small numbers. Wisconsin has multiple records of Rufous Hummingbirds spanning the months of July through January. Early reports of this species in July and August are usually adult males. Like Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, adult male Rufous Hummingbirds are the first to migrate post-breeding. Hence they arrive first in Wisconsin. Overall, October holds the

Figure 1. Ruby-throated hummingbird—hatch-year—sex unknown.

Figure 2. Rufous Hummingbird adult female and hybrid male.

Figure 3. Anna's hummingbird—age unknown—female (left) and adult male (right).

Figure 4. Anna's Hummingbird, Wauwautosa, Milwaukee County, WI—11 December 2016.

most Wisconsin records for Rufous Hummingbird.

In contrast, though the occurrence of Anna's Hummingbird has increased in recent years, Wisconsin has ten records of this species. Half of these have occurred in the last five years.

Foreign recaptures of banded Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds (birds recaptured at a location other than where they were originally banded) demonstrate emerging evidence that the occurrence of these species in Wisconsin and other eastern states are part of the migration strategy for some individuals of these species.

Late September in Wisconsin usually brings our first frost followed by progressively colder weather throughout late fall and early winter. Observations of hummingbirds during this winter-like weather often generates a cause for concern that these birds are in need of rescue. It appears that because hummingbirds are small they are often associated with frailty and as such we seem to consistently underestimate what hummingbirds are capable of doing. However, it is well documented that both Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds are relatively cold-hardy species. Therefore in the majority of cases where these hummingbirds are observed in Wisconsin, rescue efforts are not indicated. In fact, such measures can significantly interfere with the migration of an otherwise healthy bird. In addition, once one of these hummingbirds has found its way to a hummingbird feeder late in the season, removal of that feeder will not necessarily "force the bird to migrate" and can actually serve as a detriment to the bird's survival. For a late season hummingbird that finds its way to a feeder, that feeder provides carbohydrates for an energy kick. However, protein is also an important dietary component which these winter hummingbirds find by gleaning pine trees and foliage for midges and other cold-hardy insects. A bird's decision to migrate is multi-factorial, triggered by a variety of factors including hormones, weather, the bird's overall condition, and food availability.

The tenacity and strong migratory instincts of "winter hummingbirds" can best be summarized in conversations I have had on this topic with my mentor, author and veteran hummingbird bander, Scott Weidensaul. According to Scott, "Rufous Hummers have an exceptional ability to thrive in cold weather, which is what they face annually at high elevations and high latitudes (i.e., the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska in late April, when the snow still lies deep)." In Pennsylvania where they have a wealth of winter hummingbird data, he reports he and other banders have documented banded Rufous Hummingbirds that survived air temperatures of –9F° and wind chills of –36F°, and Anna's that handled multiple nights of –8 to –10F°. He states regarding the timing of their migration that it "may seem way too late (and too cold) from our biased perspective, since we associate hummers with warm summer conditions" further explaining, "Hummers are using a genetically coded map and timetable, and that within any population there are some individuals that are programmed to migrate very early, some at the "normal" time (the bulk of the bell curve), and some that are hardwired to linger as far north, as late as possible. You see this with any migratory species, from waterfowl to warblers. That's evolution's way of covering all the bases."

It is my hope as we enter another winter hummingbird season this fall, and going forward into the future, that the words above will allay some of concerns and misperceptions about late season hummingbirds in Wisconsin. It remains to be seen what the 2018–2019 winter hummingbird season will bring in our state. The 2017–2018 season was slow with only two Rufous Hummingbirds reported. Perhaps fall 2018 will bring Wisconsin more winter hummingbirds along with some of the even rarer vagrants such as Mexican Violetear, Broad-billed Hummingbird or maybe our first Black-chinned, Allen's or Calliope Hummingbird. Increased vigilance for late season hummingbirds, photographs of these birds, timely reporting to eBird, and participating in Wisconsin's winter hummingbird banding program will serve to strengthen Wisconsin's ornithological data. Winter hummingbird banding provides valuable information that increases our knowledge regarding hummingbird migration, biology, site fidelity, and longevity as well as assisting in the identification of rare hummingbird species. Despite the misperception that banding will cause a bird to leave its host location, by far the majority of winter hummingbirds banded in Wisconsin have remained at the site they were banded anywhere from a few days to weeks following banding. Cynthia Bridge and Mickey O'Connor are Wisconsin's two federally permitted hummingbird banders collaborating on Wisconsin's winter hummingbird program. Please contact them with any questions regarding hummingbirds or to report an unusual hummingbird species.

Contact information

Cynthia Bridge:
wi.hummingbirds@gmail.com
(608) 333-5417
Michelene (Mickey) O'Connor:
sharpbill@aol.com (214) 980-3103

David Franzen photographed this Pine Siskin perched regally in Vilas County in late November.

The Fall Season: 2017

Bob Domagalski

PO Box 396
St. Nazianz, WI 54232

Despite that worldwide 2017 was the third warmest year on record (out paced only by 2016 and 2015), the summer season in Wisconsin was cloudy, wet, and cool with no days in that season reaching the 90-degree mark. The first cool front of the fall arrived on 22 August. This front began the movement of birds south of their nesting counties. The cold front of 5 September produced great weather for finding migrants. This front was followed by a long period of mild, sunny days with southerly breezes. Temperatures then spiked in late September. After a year without a 90-degree day, the period 20–26 September produced days of record breaking highs well into the 90s. Opening night for the Green Bay Packers on 25 September had a muggy starting temperature of 89 degrees, which was the warmest start of a home game in Packer history. This string of 90-degree days in Green Bay set the record for 90-degree days so late in the year. The same could be said for other cities. On 22 September Milwaukee experienced a record high of 95. This warmth was quickly put to an end by a stiff cold front on 26 September. This front was then followed by equally strong fronts of 15 and 26 October. The front of 26 October brought the first snow of the season to northern Wisconsin. The front of 9 November brought the first freezing temperatures to the greater part of the state. After a period of freezing and thawing of ice on ponds and small lakes, the last week of the fall season was unusually warm. Temperatures ranged from the upper 50's to the mid-60's. By the end of the fall season there was little if any snow or ice. These mild conditions came to an abrupted end on the night of 4 December with the arrival of a powerful cold front.

There were ebird reports from all 72 counties. Of these 72, there were 11 counties with 200 or more species for the fall season, which compares to 10 in 2016 and 9 in 2014 and 2015. Those 11, in order of how many species were found, were Dane (241), Ozaukee (231), Milwaukee (227), Manitowoc (224), Brown (216), Outagamie (214), Kenosha (213), Jefferson (211), Racine (209), Dodge (207), and Waukesha (202). In the yet brief history of ebird, the only fall season with more than 241 species for a single county was 242 in Dane County in 2012. Unlike other years in which there were counties reporting fewer than 50 species, the low count for species this year was 69 in Pepin.

There were 306 species reported for the fall season. This compares to 312 in 2016 and 308 in 2015. This was a diffi-

cult fall for birders to find unusual birds. And most rare species stayed so briefly that few people were able to enjoy them. Among the rarities were Eurasian Wigeon, White-winged Dove, King Rail, Long-tailed Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Little Gull, Arctic Tern, Pacific Loon, Magnificent Frigatebird, Swainson's Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Blue Grosbeak. Among the misses were Gray Partridge, Loggerhead Shrike, Varied Thrush, and Hoary Redpoll.

Reports
(1 August to 30 November 2017)

Species marked with "*" need documentation that is sent to the records committee.

Greater White-fronted Goose – Reported from 17 counties, which compares to 16 in 2016 and five in 2015. The first fall date was 8 October in the counties of Green (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger) and Juneau (Ken Milender). Individuals then continued to be found for the remainder of the season. The high count was 230 on 23 October from the counties of Grant (Karen Etter Hale) and Trempealeau (Emily Weiser). These 230 break the record fall high of 200 set on 1 November 2016 at Goose Pond in Columbia County.

Snow Goose – The first fall date was 1 September in Vilas County (Cheryl Richter) followed by 14 September in Sauk County (Lauren Vaughn). Snow Geese then continued to be found into the winter season. The high count was 60 on 6 November in Waukesha County (Nick Mimier) followed by 50 on 15 November in Dodge County (Barbara Duerksen and Karen Etter Hale).

Ross's Goose – Reported from nine counties, which compares to seven in 2016 and three in 2015. The first reports were 14–16 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (first by Jim Frank) followed by 19 September at Herbster in Bayfield County (Barbara Moldenhauer). There are only two fall arrival dates earlier than 14 September. Ross's Geese then continued to be found for the remainder of the season. The only find of more than one individual was of two at Herbster over the period 19–23 September.

Cackling Goose – The first sighting was 12 September in La Crosse County (Andrew Meiborg) followed by15 September in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach). Sightings then continued into the winter season. The high count was 41 on 15 September in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach) followed by 28 on 26 October in St. Croix County (David George).

Canada Goose – The high count was 2,500 in the counties of Kenosha on 5 November (Tom Lally) and Ozaukee on 18 November (Jim Frank).

Mute Swan – Reported from 15 counties, which compares to 16 in 2016. Early August finds came from the counties of Door, Rock, and Washington. The high count was 14 on 13 November on Washington Island in Door County (Donna Benson and Melody Walsh) followed by nine on 3 November at Wind Lake in Racine County (Paul Kinzer).

Trumpeter Swan – Early season finds came from 13 counties, which is a match for 13 in 2016. The high counts were 164 and 126 on 20–21 November at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 100 on 2 September at the Necedah NWR in Juneau County (Oliver Burrus), 86 on 12 November in Dunn County (David George), and 70 on 11 November in Lincoln County (Elmer Verhasselt). The count of 164 is record high for the fall season. The previous high had been 125 in 2016.

Tundra Swan – The first date was 11 October in Sawyer County (Jeffrey Sole) followed by15 October in Columbia County (Matthew Daw, Shawn Miller, and Michael McCloy) and 18 October in Douglas County (Peder Svingen). Tundra Swans then remained into the winter season. Counts of better than 1,000 were 5,000 on 16 November in Crawford County (Fred and Kate Dike), 2,000 on 18 November in Vernon County (Sandy Hokanson), and 1,100 on 9 November in Columbia County (Carl Schwartz).

Wood Duck – As is customary Wood Ducks were found throughout the period with finds extending into the winter season. From 15 to 29 Au-

gust Jeff Bahls was reporting better than 350 Wood Ducks from Dodge County with the high of 541 coming on 23 August. Outside of Dodge County, the high was 300 on 17 September in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser).

Gadwall – Early season reports came from the counties of Brown, Dodge, Door, and Fond du Lac. The high count was 500 on 13 October in Vernon County (Joe Hanfman) followed by 300 on 9 October in Trempealeau County (Emily Weiser) and 300 on 22 November in Dane County (Jim Schwarz).

Eurasian Wigeon* – One bird was documented on 24 November from the Goose Island Overlook in Vernon County (Molly Tuma). Eurasian Wigeon are less likely to be found in the fall than in the spring. There are but seven fall records plus one winter record. There are only two reports later than 24 November. Those two are 30 November in Brown County by Edwin O. Paulson and 3 December in Racine County by Louise Erickson.

American Wigeon – After three years of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, American Wigeon have been confirmed for breeding at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County. The only early August reports came from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties and from Marinette County on 3 August (Joan Campbell). This wigeon then remained into the winter season. The high count was 500 on 25 November in Vernon County (Alex Sundvall) followed by 300 on 26 October in Vernon County (Jay Roth-Reynolds).

American Black Duck – Reports from early August came from the counties of Brown, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Manitowoc, Marinette, Ozaukee, and Racine. In the period 17 to 26 November there were reports of 50 to 144 Black Ducks at Bay Beach in Brown County, with the high of 144 coming on 26 November (Jayson Giese). Outside of Bay Beach the high was 25 on a number of dates at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County.

Mallard – The high count was 2,000 on a number of dates between 7 and 24 November at Goose Pond in Columbia County. Outside of Goose Pond, the high was 1,800 on 26 November at Bay Beach in Brown County (Jayson Giese).

Blue-winged Teal – The last date was 16 November in the counties of Vernon (Gwyneth Calvetti) and Waukesha (Tom Mertins). There were no further finds in the winter season. The high count was 557 on 18 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Jan and Larry Kraemer) followed by 200 on 23 September in Fond du Lac County (Jayson Giese) and 136 on 16 September in Dodge County (Kay Kavanagh).

Northern Shoveler – Early August reports came from the counties of Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, and Outagamie. The high count was 200 on 9 October at the Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County (Emily Wieser), 200 on 15 October at Nine Springs in Dane County (Kenny Younger), and 200 on 8 November at Nine Springs in Dane County (Jim Schwarz).

Northern Pintail – After three years of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project there has yet to be confirmed nesting for this species. The only early August find came from the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County. Pintails then continued to be found into the winter season. In the period 13 October through 25 November there were a number of reports of 200 to 500 Pintails in Vernon County. The high of 500 was on 13 October (Joe Hanfman) and 26 October (Jay Roth-Reynolds). Nearest to this were reports of 280 to 400 birds over the period 2 to 29 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County.

Green-winged Teal – Green-winged Teal were found throughout the period and into the winter season. The high count was 450 on 31 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Rich DeCoster) followed by 304 on 27 October at the same marsh (Thomas Wood) and 275 on 15 October at Goose Pond in Columbia County (Matthew Daw and Michael McCloy).

Canvasback – There was a single bird found on 2 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Emily Weber, Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, and Erwin Giese). The next find was 3 September at the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Patrick Palines and Mary Schulz) followed by 4 September at the Necedah NWR in Juneau County (Oliver Burns). The high count was 2,254 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 900 on 29 October in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser).

David Lund caught this female American Redstart perching in early September in Eau Claire County.

Beverly Engstrom secured this image of Chimney Swifts near their nest in Oneida County in August.

An American Robin selects some red berries in this early October capture in Vilas County by David Franzen.

A Black-capped Chickadee surveys what lies beneath it in this photo taken by David Franzen in Vilas County in late October.

Redhead – Found in early August in the counties of Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, and Marinette. The high count was 800 on 1 November in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula) followed by 500 on 12 October in Kewaunee County (Tom Zenner).

Ring-necked Duck – Early August finds came from the counties of Burnet, Juneau, Oneida, and Vilas. The high count was 750 on 25 November in Vernon County (Alex Sundvall) followed by 400 on 6 and 8 November at Lacy Lake Pond in Dane County (Jim Schwarz) and 400 on 20 November at Potosi Point in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Greater Scaup – During the month of August, one to four Greater Scaup were seen at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby). The first find outside of Cat Island was on 6 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The high count was 5,000 on 23 November at Red River County Park in Kewaunee County (Paul Kinzer) followed by 1,200 in Brown County on 12 November (Tom Prestby).

Lesser Scaup – The first August find was 5 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Joel Trick and Jay Watson). Outside of Cat Island, the only August sightings were 20 August in Kenosha County (Paul Zinger) and 29–31 August in Milwaukee County (Rita Flores Wiskowski). The high count was 6,100 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 600 on 20 November at Potosi Point in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 400 on 4 November in Brown County (Kay Kavanagh).

Harlequin Duck – There were five reports. Those five were 10–16 October at Kewaunee in Kewaunee County (first by Adam Sinkula), 29 October into the winter season at Sheboygan in Sheboygan County (first by Tom Schaefer and Andrea Szymczak), 2 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan), 5–29 November at Milwaukee in Milwaukee County (first by Cynthia Bridge and Aaron Stutz), and 11–15 November at Kewaunee in Kewaunee County (first by Carl Schroeder). The high count was four on 16 November in Milwaukee County (Jennifer Ambrose).

Surf Scoter – The only September sighting was 29–30 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). Inland counties reporting this scoter were Chippewa, Dane, Forest, Jefferson, La Crosse, Oneida, Rock, Sauk, and Sawyer. All counts of 20 or more individuals came from Milwaukee County with the high being 27 on 16 October off Bradford Beach (John Dixon). Outside of Milwaukee County, the high was 19 on 12 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Brennan).

White-winged Scoter – The only September sighting was 18–23 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (first by Jan and Larry Kraemer and Daryl Tessen). The high count was 25 on 27 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 21 on 27 November at the same location and 16 on 6 November in Milwaukee County (Rita Flores Wiskowski).

Black Scoter – The only September sighting was 30 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). Inland counties reporting this scoter were Dane, Jefferson, Oneida, Portage, Sauk, and Winnebago. Counts of 20 or more were 24 on 7 November at Bradford Beach in Milwaukee County (Maxwell Kotelnicki) and 21 on 5 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Cynthia Bridge and Aaron Stutz).

Long-tailed Duck – A single bird was sighted on 9 August in Door County (Carolyn and Chuck Fields). This is an unusual date and the first ever for Wisconsin for the month of August. The next report was of a single bird on 30 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The start of true migration began on 11 October at Harrington Beach (Brennan). Inland counties reporting this species were Dane, Portage, and Winnebago. All reports of 100+ individuals came from Harrington Beach SP over the period 31 October through 4 November, with the high of 373 coming on 3 November (Brennan).

Bufflehead – September finds were of single birds on 7 September in Milwaukee County (Jym Mooney), 18 September in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan), and 22 September in Dunn County (Rory Cameron and Pam Campbell). The high count was 200 on 3 November in Dane County (Jim Schwarz), 200 on 6 November in Winnebago County (Jack Fry), and 200 on 28 November in Dane County (Kyle Schumacher and Kenny Younger).

Common Goldeneye – An unusual find was of three birds on 7–8 August in Langlade County (Jay Roth-Reynolds). The next sighting was of one bird over the period 27 August through 8 September in Ashland County (Tim Oksiuta). The next finds were 27 September in Ashland County (Richard Ouren) and 29 September in Bayfield County (Ouren). The high count was 8,000 on 12 November in Brown County (Tom Prestby) followed by 701 in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 500 on 23 November in Kewaunee County (Paul Kinzer). The count of 8,000 is record high for the fall season. The previous high had been 3,560 on 24 November 1998 in Vernon County by Eric Nelson.

Hooded Merganser – This nesting species was found throughout the fall and into the winter season. The high counts were 110–120 in the period 3–6 November in Eau Claire County (Janine Polk), 102 on 19 November in Eau Claire County (Anne Geraghty), and 100 on 23 November in Rusk County (Aaron Stutz).

Common Merganser – Early August reports came from the counties of Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Vilas, and Washburn. Unusual was the find of a single bird in Grant County on 6 August (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger). The high count was 500 on 22 November in Shawano County (Mike Wilken) followed by 400 on 22 November in Winnebago County (Stuart Malcolm) and 300 on 24 November in Outagamie County (Tony Nowak).

Red-breasted Merganser – August reports for this merganser were 5 August at Sensiba SWA in Brown County (Jayson Giese), 8 August at Point Creek County Park in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski), 13 August at Washington Island in Door County (Eric Howe and Kristin Wegner), and 23 and 25 August at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski). After three years of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, the Red-breasted Merganser has been confirmed as breeding in the counties of Ashland, Door, and Washburn. In the period 1–9 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County there were counts of Red-breasted Mergansers ranging from 10,221 to 21,529 per day (Calvin Brennan). The high of 21,529 was on 7 November. On 2 November in Manitowoc County there were counted 20,000 such mergansers (Jim Knickelbine). Previous to this fall the record high had been 16,667 set on 2 November 2015 in Ozaukee County by Brennan.

Ruddy Duck – Early August reports came from the counties of Brown, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Kenosha. Finds then continued into the winter season. The high count was 4,000 on 19 November at Lake Koshkonong in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz). The nearest count to this was 670 on 13 November in Dane County (Steve Thiessen).

Northern Bobwhite – Reported from the counties of Door, Douglas, Dunn, Kenosha, Ozaukee, and Richland. The high count was 30 on 3 October on Washington Island in Door County (Melody Walsh). The total of 30 is second in the fall season only to 60 in 1978 in Marquette County. All of these reports are likely of recently released birds.

Gray Partridge – For the seventh consecutive fall there were no reports.

Ring-necked Pheasant – The high count was 15 on 21 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jacob Collison) followed by 12 from a number of locations.

Ruffed Grouse – Reported from 32 counties, which compares to 36 in 2016 and 39 in 2015. The high count was 10 and 11 on 10 and 11 October in Sawyer County (Jeffrey Sole). Nearest to this was seven on 26 August in Clark County (Paul Noeldner).

Spruce Grouse – There was one report from Forest County (Tim Hahn) and three from Vilas County. The only count greater than one was five on 5 August in Vilas County (Cynthia Bridge).

Sharp-tailed Grouse – There was one report from Ashland County, seven from Bayfield, three from Burnett, and two from Douglas. The high count was nine on 7 November along Fire Road 241 in Bayfield County followed by four from several locations.

Greater Prairie-Chicken – Outside of the Buena Vista Marsh in Portage County, the only find was of a single bird at the Leola Marsh SWA in Adams County (Rick Anderson). The high count at Buena Vista was 53 on 23 November (Rick Anderson) followed by 32 on 30 November (Anderson).

A Blue Jay glows in the autumn colors as seen by David Franzen in mid-October in Vilas County.

A female Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco posed for David Franzen

This mid-November shot by David Franzen in Oneida County illustrates the beautiful coloring of the Northern Cardinal against the surrounding snow.

Wild Turkey – The high count was 88 on 3 September in Outagamie County (Jeff Brinkman) and 88 on 26 November in Portage County (Gerry Janz). Nearest to this was 51 on 18 November at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Charles Henrikson).

Pied-billed Grebe – This grebe was found throughout the fall and into the winter season. The high count was 98 on 10 October at Lake Kegonsa in Dane County (Steve Thiessen) followed by 90 on 3 November at Lake Farm Park in Dane County (Jon Peacock) and 85 on 9 October at Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jim Frank).

Horned Grebe – August arrivals were 13 August at Washington Island in Door County (Eric Howe and Kristin Wegner), 21 August at Butternut Lake in Forest County (Kay Kavanagh), and 26 August at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County (Davor Grgic and Carl Schroeder). Counts of 100 or more were 144 on 23 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 100 on 5 November at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County (Cynthia Bridge and Aaron Stutz).

Red-necked Grebe – Reported from 13 counties, which compares to 14 in 2016 and 11 in 2015. Early August finds came from the Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County and the Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County. The one other August find was 30–31 August at Trout Lake in Vilas County (Elizabeth Stone). The last dates were 18 November at Green Lake in Green Lake County (Jon Roti Roti and Tom Schultz) and 19 November at University Bay in Madison, Dane County (Marty Evanson). The high count was eight on 23 October at Rock Island in Door County (Melody Walsh) followed by four on 20 October at Cornucopia in Bayfield County (Pamela Hoyland).

Eared Grebe – There were two reports, each of single birds. Those two were 12–16 November at Sandy Beach in Jefferson County (first by Aaron Stutz) and 13–16 November at Burrows Park in Dane County (first by Matthew Daw).

Western Grebe – There were seven reports, all of single birds. Those seven were 19–23 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (first by Jane and Larry Kraemer, Ted Keyel, and Daryl Tessen), 9–26 October at Port Washington in Ozaukee County (first by Jim Frank and Tom Uttech), 13–20 October at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (first by Nick Anich, Ryan Brady, and Tim Oksiuta), 22 October in Oneida County (Ken Milender), 5–9 November at the Texas Avenue Overlook in Milwaukee County (first by John McCaw), 8 November in Ozaukee County (Daryl Tessen), and 26 November at the Kewaunee Harbor in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula).

Rock Pigeon – The high count was 450 on 19 November in Douglas County (Jan and Larry Kraemer) followed by 284 on 2 November in Rock County (Kelly McKay).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – Reported from 19 counties, which compares to 14 in 2016, 16 in 2015, and seven in 2014. These 19 counties are record high for the fall season. The previous high was 16 in 2015. The high count of individuals was 23 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 14 on 28 October at Milton in Rock County (Scott Weberpal).

White-winged Dove* – The one report was of a single bird on 31 October in Racine County (John Dixon).

Mourning Dove – Counts of 100 or more were 106 on 23 October at the Mequon Nature Preserve in Ozaukee County (Christine Stanke) and 120 on 6 August at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – Reported from 31 counties, which compares to 23 in 2016 and 20 in 2015. The last dates were 17 September in the counties of Dane (Cynthia Bridge) and Waukesha (Paul Kinzer), 21 September in Ozaukee County (Matthew Page), and 22 September in Iowa County (John Kivikoski). The high count was four on 6 August in Grant County (Shane Patterson) and four on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Black-billed Cuckoo – Reported from 36 counties, which compares to 22 in 2016 and 27 in 2015. The last September date was 15 September in Waukesha County (Patrick Horn) followed by a find on 1 October in La Crosse County (Elista Fisher). The high count was three on 1 August in Taylor County (Tom Zenner) and three on 2 August in Price County (Shane Patterson).

Common Nighthawk – Found in early August in the counties of Adams, Brown, Douglas, Iron, Juneau, Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Sauk. October departure dates were 2 October in Washington County (Mike Wanger) and 10 October in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw). All three of the high counts came on 30 August. Those counts were 500 in La Crosse County (Mary Strasser), 800 in Sauk County (Tome Pier), and 1,000 in Vernon County (Leanne Hinke).

Eastern Whip-poor-will – Reported from 18 counties, which compares to 12 in 2016 and 11 in 2015. The last dates were 17 September in Grant County (Laura Coglan), 19–20 September in Florence County (Kay Kavanagh), and 21 September in Vilas County (John Dixon and Jennifer Wenzel). The high count was eight on 1 August in Oneida County (Shane Patterson) followed by three from several locations. The count of eight is second for the fall season only to 15 on 21 August in Bayfield County by Dick Verch.

Chimney Swift – The last dates were 15 October in Kenosha County (Tom Lally), 18 October in Racine County (Paul Kinzer), and 17–21 October in Dane County (Kenny Younger). Many of the high counts came from the Cherokee School in Dane County with the highest being 1,770 on 25 September (Fred and Kate Dike). Outside of Dane County, the high was 1,711 on 26 September at Fredonia in Ozaukee County (Joan Sommer and Norma Zehner) followed by 1,555 at Washington School in Rock County (Neil Deupree), and 1,300 at Lake Geneva in Walworth County (Mariette Nowak).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – The last dates were 20–24 October at the feeder of Katherin Hern at Ixonia in Jefferson County and 25 and 29 October at the feeder of Rebecca Rucker-Keegan in Eau Claire County. As is usual, all of the high counts came from the feeders of Judy Lund at Hazel Run in Clark County. Between 2 and 31 August Lund had daily counts of 20 to 55 hummingbirds. The high of 55 came on 12 and 17 August. Outside of the Lund feeders, the high was 28 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Rufous Hummingbird* – There was one report. That report was of a single bird over the period 12 October to 11 November at the feeder of Nancy Gill in Manitowoc County.

King Rail* – The King Rail was reported a number of times between 13 August and 23 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County with all reports being of one or two birds. Through this third year of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, this rail has been confirmed as nesting only at Horicon Marsh.

Virginia Rail – The last dates were 8 October at the Zeloski Marsh in Jefferson County (Brian Rolek) and 12 October at Point au Sauble in Brown County (Tara Hohman). Despite that the last fall dates were in the first half of October, this rail was found as usual on Christmas Counts in late December. The high count was 14 on 3 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael O'Connell).

Sora – November dates were 3–6 November at East Bay in Milwaukee County (Barry and Carol Moerke) and 3–28 November at Northridge Lakes in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann). The high count was 22 on 3 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael O'Connell) followed by 20 on 22 September at Potosi Landing in Grant County (Laura Coglan).

Common Gallinule – Reported from 11 counties, which compares to 11 in 2016 and 10 in 2015. October departure dates were 1 October at the County V Ponds in Dane County (Shawn Miller and Kenny Younger), 5 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Douglas Klein), 7 October at the Adam Bird Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz), and 13 October at Van Patten Road in Outagamie County (Dan Abel). The high count was 12 on 3 and 7 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael O'Connell and Stuart Malcolm), 18 August at the Paradise Valley SWA in Waukesha County (Paul Kinzer and Anne Moretti), and 27 August at the Sensiba SWA in Brown County (Mike Peczynski).

American Coot – Found throughout the fall and into the winter season. The largest concentrations were at Shawano Lake in Shawano County where 6,000 were estimated on 19 October (Mike Wilken), Eagle Point in Grant County where 5,000 were estimated on 27 October and 3 November (Tony Moline), and Rock Lake in Jefferson County where 4,000 were estimated on 13 November (Karen Etter Hale).

A freshly cloaked European Starling, imaged by David Franzen, pauses in mid-November in Vilas County.

A parting glimpse of summer taken by Greg Hottman, this Ruby-throated Hummingbird gets set to feed in mid-September in Dane County.

Rory Cameron found this Harris's Sparrow in late October passing through Chippewa County.

Kristie Pinnow garnered this image of a hungry Hermit Thrush in late September Vilas County.

Sandhill Crane – As is normal, large numbers of cranes remained into the winter season. The high count was 8,000 on 28 November at Fairfield in Sauk County (Karen Etter Hale) followed by 5,000 on 4 November at Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (Nick Seeger) and 4,500 on 30 November at the Navarino SWA in Shawano County (Michael Gray).

Whooping Crane – Due to concern about this re-introduced species, ebird no longer shows the specific dates and locations where this crane was found. Thus this seasonal report cannot give specific details. From the ebird species bar graph, it can be known that the Whooping Crane was found in Wisconsin into the last week of November with no sightings into December.

Black-necked Stilt – Summer reports of Black-necked Stilts at Horicon Marsh continued into the fall. Most fall season reports came from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County. The high count was nine on 20 August (Patrick Letterer). The only September report (and the only report outside of Horicon Marsh) was of one bird at the intersection of Highway 151 and County A on 3 September (Aaron Holschbach).

American Avocet – There were three fall reports. Those three were two birds on 3 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby), three birds on 21 September at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag), and four birds on 5 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan).

Black-bellied Plover – The first fall migrants arrived in the last week of July. November departure dates were 1 November at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby and Adam Sinkula), 5 November at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County (Cynthia Bridge and Aaron Stutz), 9 November at Marquette Park in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula), and 9 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The high count was 24 on 6 October at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby) followed by 18 on 5 November at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County (Bridge and Stutz).

American Golden-Plover – The first fall migrants were found in the last week of July. The first fall season dates were 8 August at Des Plaine in Kenosha County (John Dixon), 17 August in Portage County (Daryl Tessen), 19 August at Wind Lake in Racine County (Drew Goldberg), and 20 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray). The last dates were 18–22 October at Superior in Douglas County (Peder Svingen), 26 October at the Bong SRA in Kenosha County (Drew Goldberg), and 27 October at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (John Dixon). The only counts better than 12 were 30 on 7 September at Leeds in Columbia County (Ted Keyel) and 39 on 27 October at the Buena Vista Grassland in Portage County (John Dixon).

Semipalmated Plover – The first fall migrants arrived in July of the summer season. The only October departure dates were 1–22 October at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag) and 8 October in Outagamie County (Jeff Brinkman). The high count was 20–30 over the period 2 to 8 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Aaron Haycraft, Daryl Tessen, and Thomas Wood) followed by 14 on 9 September at Cat Island in Brown County (a number of birders) and 13 on 3 September at the Killsnake SWA in Calumet County (Steve Murkowski).

Piping Plover – The only fall find was of one bird on 19 and 21 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby and Jack Swelstad).

Killdeer – Killdeer were found through the fall season with individuals then found through the winter season. The high count was 140 on 17 August in Portage County (Daryl Tessen) followed by 131 on 2 September at Wind Lake in Racine County (Thomas Wood) and 120 on 13 August in Rock County (Kris Perlberg).

Upland Sandpiper – The only fall find was of three birds on 5 August in Douglas County (Richard Erickson). This is one of the earliest departure dates in the history of fall birding. The only earlier departure was 3 August 2015.

Whimbrel – The only fall find was of one bird on 11 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Erin Giese, Tara Hohman, Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, and Emily Weber).

Hudsonian Godwit – There were two sighting. Those two were of one bird on 5 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Joel Trick and Jay Watson) and four birds on 29 August at the Har-

vey-Wangsness Wetland in Columbia County (Aaron Holschbach and Jim Schwarz).

Marbled Godwit – The only fall sighting was of a single bird on 25 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Jack Swelstad).

Ruddy Turnstone – Reported from 10 counties, which compares to eight in 2016. Of these 10, four were inland counties. Those inland counties were Calumet, Columbia, Dodge, and Winnebago. The first fall migrants arrived during the summer season. The last dates were 14 September in Door County (Jay Watson), 17 September in Douglas County, and 18 September in Manitowoc County (Chandler Mancuso). The high count was six on 17 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Keith Boardway and Joe Stojak).

Red Knot – There were a number of reports from Cat Island in Brown County over the period 3–21 August. Outside of Cat Island, the only find was of a single bird on 2 September at Simmons Island Park in Kenosha County (Tom Lally). The high count was six on 19 August at Cat Island (Tom Prestby).

Stilt Sandpiper – Fall migrants began arriving in July of the summer season. The last September dates were 23 September at the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Jayson Giese), 24 September at Echo Park in Racine County (Lorri Howski), and 27 September at Wagner Park in Racine County (Thomas Wood). These were followed by the find of a single bird on 28 October in Dodge County (Daryl Tessen). The high count was 40 on 15 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby) followed by 26 and 27 on 29 August and 3 September at the Harvey-Wangsness Wetland in Columbia County (Aaron Holschbach).

Sanderling – November departure dates were 2 November at McKinley Beach in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger), 8–15 November in the City of Sheboygan (first by Cathy Del Valle and Thomas Wood), and 9 November at Marquette Park in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula). In the period 27 August through 3 September there were a number of finds of 26 to 35 Sanderlings along the beaches of Milwaukee County with the high of 35 on 2 September at Lake Park (Jym Mooney). Outside of Milwaukee County, the high was 15 on 17 and 22 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Tim Oksiuta) and 15 on 21 September at Seagull Bar in Marinette County (Joan Campbell).

Dunlin – The first fall sighting was on 16 September at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag) followed by 18 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Jan and Larry Kraemer). The last dates were 10–15 November in Sheboygan County (first by Dave Brasser), 19 November in Winnebago County (Connor Langan), and 20 November in Kenosha County (Jeffrey Sanders). The high count was 225 on 5 November at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jim Frank) followed by 122 on 31 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Rich DeCoster) and 80 on 1 November at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby and Adam Sinkula).

Baird's Sandpiper – The last dates were 15–16 September at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby), 16 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan), and 15–21 September at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag). The high count was eight on 5 August at Dover in Racine County (John Dixon) and eight on 21 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Jack Swelstad) followed by seven on 4 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan).

Least Sandpiper – Fall migrants began arriving in late June of the summer season. The last October dates were 21 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jacob Collison), 22 October at the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Thomas and Wendy Schultz), and 30 October in Dane County (Steve Thiessen). Beyond these was a documented find on 20 November at Nine Springs in Dane County (Jim Schwarz). This 20 November date is record late. The previous record date had been 18 November 1994 in Columbia County by Kay Kavanagh. The high count was 90 on 8 August in Dodge County (Daryl Tessen) followed by 80 on 15 August at the Powell Marsh in Vilas County (Guy David) and 60 on 17 August at the Powell Marsh (Michele Woodford).

White-rumped Sandpiper – There were no summer season arrival reports. The first fall date was 6 August in Lafayette County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger) followed by 18 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County

This late November Northern Shrike appeared in just the right area of Oneida County for Kristie Pinnow to get this image.

David Franzen secured this beautiful image of an adult male Pine Grosbeak in late November in Vilas County.

This late November female Pine Grosbeak was imaged by David Franzen during snowfall in Vilas County.

A Ruffed Grouse strides through the snow in this mid-November photo by David Franzen in Vilas County.

(Michael Gray, Kay Kavanagh, and Mary Maertz). The last dates were 1 November at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby and Adam Sinkula) and 9 November at Marquette Park in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula). The only count better than one was 15 on 1 November at Cat Island (Prestby and Sinkula).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Reported from 11 counties, which compares to 11 in both 2015 and 2016. There were no summer season reports. The first dates were 10 August in Price County (Tom Nicholls), 11 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Alec Olivier), and 15 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby). The last dates were 23 September at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby) and 30 September in Adams County (Rick Anderson). The high count was six on 2 September at the Wind Lake Sod Farms in Racine County (John Dixon, Rick Fare, Helen Pugh, and Jennifer Wenzel).

Pectoral Sandpiper – The bulk of fall migrants arrived in July of the summer season. November departure dates were 1 November at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby and Adam Sinkula) and 2 November at Goose Pond in Columbia County (Tom Prestby). The high count was 200 on 25 August at Echo Park in Racine County (John Dixon and Jennifer Wenzel) followed by 150 on 18 August at Echo Park (Wenzel) and 106 on 15 August at Schumacher Road in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – The first fall migrants began arriving in late June of the summer season. The last September dates were 27 September at Nine Springs in Dane County (Mary Hampton) and 29 September at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby) and at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag). Beyond September there was a finds on 6 October at Cat Island (Prestby) and 3 November in Dodge County (Daryl Tessen). The high count was 50 on 2 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Erin Giese, Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, and Emily Weber) followed by 44 on 2 August at Utica in Winnebago County (Todd Ward).

Short-billed Dowitcher – The first fall migrants arrived in late June of the summer season. The last September dates were 15 September at the Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (Jonathan Heller), 20–21 September at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag), and 24 September at Sterling in Polk County (Paul Kinzer). These were followed by the find of a single bird on 28 October in Fond du Lac County (Daryl Tessen). This 28 October date is record late. The previous late date had been 23 October 2014 in Dodge County by Jim Frank. The high count was 40 on 27 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Tom Lally) followed by 20 on 21 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Jack Swelstad).

Long-billed Dowitcher – The first fall migrants arrived in July of the summer season. The only August find was 21 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Jack Swelstad). The nearest finds to this were 14 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jim Frank) and 24 September at Sterling in Polk County (Paul Kinzer). November departure dates were 5 November at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jack Coulter, Jim Frank, and Adam Kent) and 3–6 November at the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (last by Anne Moretti). The high count was 250 on 28 October at the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Daryl Tessen). Nearest to this was 96 on 27 October at the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Thomas Wood).

Wilson's Snipe – This snipe was found throughout the fall and into the winter season. The high count was 72 on 18 November at the Albany SWA in Green County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger) followed by 60 at this same location on 11 November. Nearest to these was 21 found on 23 August and 15 October in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) and 21 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

American Woodcock – November departure dates were 3 November in Dunn County (Mitch Bergeson) and 6 November in Milwaukee County (Thomas Wood). The high count was 20 on 12 October at Winter in Sawyer County (Jeffery Sole) with the nearest count to this being eight on 11 October at the same location and by the same birder.

Spotted Sandpiper – The last October dates were 16 October at Lake Onalaska in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser) and 18 October at Governor Nelson SP in Dane County (Marty Evanson). Beyond these were finds on 8 November in Grant County (Craig Kruse) and 24 November in Brown County (Paul Schilke). In the period 1–15 August there were a number of reports of 20 or

more Spotted Sandpipers at Cat Island in Brown County. The high was 30 on 9 August (Erin Giese, Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, and Emily Weber). Beyond Cat Island the high was 15 from a number of locations on a number of dates.

Solitary Sandpiper – The bulk of fall migrants arrived in July of the summer season. The last fall dates were 13 October in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger) and 19 October in Dane County (Diane Berry). The high count was 15 on 27 August in Waukesha County (Jack Coulter) followed by 11 on 6 August in Rock County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger).

Greater Yellowlegs – The last dates were 8 November in Waukesha County (Tom Mertins), 9 November in St. Croix County (Justin Goldberg), and 11 and 18 November at the Albany SWA in Green County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger). The high count was 20 on 21 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County followed by 15 on 27 August as the same location (Tom Lally).

Willet – There were three reports. Those three were 1 August one bird at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby), 13 August two birds at Washington Island in Door County (Eric Howe and Kristin Wegner), and 2 September one bird in Dane County (Kris Perlberg).

Lesser Yellowlegs – The last October dates were 22 October at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Drew Goldberg) and 21–29 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (last by Aaron Holschbach and John McCaw). Beyond October there were reports for 3–4 November from the Horicon Marsh (first by Daryl Tessen and Thomas Wood). The high count was 300 on 27 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Tom Lally) followed by 175 on 25 August at Burlington in Racine County (Jennifer Wenzel).

Wilson's Phalarope – This nesting species was found in nine counties. The last August dates were 24 August in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz), 25–26 August in Kenosha County (a number of birders), and 30 August in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski). These were followed by a find on 12 September in Douglas County (Laura and Steve LaValley). The high count was seven on 5 August in Dodge County (Daryl Tessen) followed by three on 16 August at the Schumacher Ponds in Dane County (Steve Thiessen).

Red-necked Phalarope – There were four reports. Those four were 9–12 August at Cat Island in Brown County (first by Tom Prestby), 17–22 August at the Schumacher Ponds in Dane County (first by Steve Thiessen), 4 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jon Thometz), and 5 September at the containment vessel in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag). All finds were of one or two birds.

Parasitic Jaeger – The only location reporting Parasitic Jaegers was Wisconsin Point in Douglas County. The first find was 8 September (Kris Perlberg and Tom Reed) with nearly daily reports through to the last date, which was 14 October (Tom Prestby and Peder Swingen). The high count was five on 15 September (Dan Jackson) with other counts of four on other days by other birders.

Long-tailed Jaeger* – One bird was documented (including photos) on 17 September in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz and Steve Thiessen). A second such jaeger was documented (including photos) on 19 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County by Ben Barkley, Ted Keyel, Tom Reed, Peder Svingen, and Daryl Tessen.

Sabine's Gull* – One bird was documented with photos on 11 September at Spirit Lake in Burnett County (Kathy Java). Sabine's Gulls were also found on 18 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Ted Keyel and Daryl Tessen).

Bonaparte's Gull – The last dates were 23 November at the Leola Marsh in Adams County (Rick Anderson) and 26 November at Lac LaBelle in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak). Counts of 100+ were 225 on 12 October at Eagle Point in Grant County (Tony Moline), 130 on 20 October at Washburn in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady), and 112 on 18 September at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (Tim Oksiuta).

Little Gull* – A single bird was seen 18 October at Lake Altoona in Eau Claire County (Anne Geraghty and Janine Polk).

Franklin's Gull – Reported from 16 counties, which compares to 11 in 2016 and 18 in 2015. The only August report was of a single bird

David Franzen took advantage of the fall backdrop to get this striking image of a Downy Woodpecker in Vilas County in mid-October.

Beverly Engstrom imaged this mid-September Solitary Sandpiper as it migrated south through Oneida County.

Greg Hottman discovered this migrant Black-throated Green Warbler in early September in Dane County.

on 6 August at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (Tim Oksiuta). The next find was a single bird on 4 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Peder Svingen) followed by a single bird on 23 September at Wisconsin Point (many Jaeger Fest birders). The last dates were 3 November in the counties of Jefferson (Aaron Stutz) and Trempealeau (Emily Weiser) followed by 6 November in Dane County (Steve Thiessen). The high count was 85 on 9 October in Trempealeau County (Emily Weiser) followed by 40 on 8 October in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser) and 20 on 12 October in Grant County (Tony Moline).

Ring-billed Gull – The greatest concentration of Ring-billed Gulls seemed to be at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County and at Rock Lake in Jefferson County. At Wisconsin Point in the period 4 September through 14 October there were regular estimates of 5,000 to 11,500 individuals with the high of 11,500 coming on 18 September (Ben Barkley and Ted Keyel). As early as 29 August Peder Svingen had an estimate of 4,000. At Rock Lake in Jefferson County there were estimates of 5,000 to 10,000 over the period 11 October through 11 November with the high of 10,000 coming on 3 and 7 November (Aaron Stutz). Outside of these two areas, the high count was 5,000 on 31 October at Green Lake in Green Lake County (Tom Schultz). On 1 August there was an estimate of 4,000 at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby).

Herring Gull – Most of the high counts for Herring Gulls came from Wisconsin Point in Douglas County. The high there was 3,000 on 7 October (Robbye Johnson and Peder Svingen). Outside of Wisconsin Point, the high was 1,500 on 1 and 18 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby).

Iceland Gull – With the Thayer's Gull now lumped with the Iceland there will be a report only under the heading of Iceland Gull. All the early finds of this gull were of the Thayer's subspecies. The first such date was 3 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 7 October at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Matthew Sabatine). The first Iceland was found on 19 October in Outagamie County (Ross Mueller). The high count at Wisconsin Point was 12 on 5 November (a number of birders). Outside of Wisconsin Point the high was nine on 31 October at Little Chute in Outagamie County (Stuart Malcolm). Most of the 12 Iceland counted on 5 November were likely Thayer's. Before this lumping, the record fall high count of Iceland was three.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Reported from 13 counties, which compares to 14 in 2016 and 12 in 2015. After having been found through the summer season, the only August find was 18 August in Kewaunee County (Jayson Giese) followed by 2 September in Kenosha County (Tom Lally). The only location with better than two individuals was at the 1000 Island Environmental Center in Outagamie County. The best count there was nine on 15 October followed by eight on 31 October (Stuart Malcolm).

Glaucous Gull – Reported from 14 counties, which compares to 10 in 2016 and seven in 2015. The first fall find was on 29 August in Milwaukee County (Casey Idzikowski) followed by 7 September in Kenosha County (John Dixon) and 20 September in Marinette County (Ryne Rutherford). The high count was four on 28 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan).

Great Black-backed Gull – Reported from eight counties, which compares to 12 in 2016 and nine in 2015. The only inland find was on 11 October in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz). The first fall find was 22–24 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (many Jaeger Fest birders) followed by 26 September at Samuel Myers Park in Racine County (Drew Goldberg). The high count was four on 16 November in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag).

Caspian Tern – October departure dates were 1 October at Echo Park in Racine County (Thomas Wood), 3–6 October at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby), and 13–15 October at 1000 Island Environmental Center in Outagamie County (Stuart Malcolm). The only count of 100+ was 125 on 1 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby).

Black Tern – Reported from 20 counties, which compares to 15 in 2016 and 16 in 2015.

The great majority of reports came from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge and Fond du Lac counties.

September departure dates were 2 September at Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (Ryan Candee), 1–3 September at Trout Lake in Vilas

County (Elizabeth Stone), and 19 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Peder Svingen). The high count was 55 on 1 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Ronald Rohde) followed by 30 on 7 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Tom Prestby).

Common Tern – All nine counties reporting this tern were connected to a Great Lake. October departure dates were 6 October at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (Nick Anich and Sarah Johnson) and 5–11 October at Harrington Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The high count was 200 on 18 September at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (Nick Anich and Ryan Brady) followed by 70–86 on 18–19 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Jaeger Fest birders), and 40 on 1–3 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby). The only previous fall count higher than 200 was 500 on 5 September 1987 at Wisconsin Point by Robbye Johnson.

Arctic Tern* – There were two reports. Those two were one bird on 20 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Daryl Tessen) and one bird on 13 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The 13 October date is record late, the old record being 5 October 2013 in Marathon County by Dan Belter.

Forster's Tern – Reported from 18 counties, which compares to 22 in 2016 and 23 in 2015. The last dates were 15 October at Myers Park in Racine County (Drew Goldberg), 15–16 October at Lake Altoona in Eau Claire County (Janine Polk), and 17–30 October at Harrington Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The only double digit counts were 18 on 1 August in Fond du Lac County (Derek, Lori, and Ryan Sallmann) and 60 on 18 September at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (Nick Anich and Ryan Brady).

Red-throated Loon – Reported from the Great Lakes counties of Bayfield, Douglas, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan. The one inland find was on 2 November at Rock Lake in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz). The only September find was 12 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Nick Anich). The first October find was 5 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). Red-throated Loons then continued to be found into the winter season. The only fall season arrival date earlier than 12 September was 5 September 2004 in Douglas County by Andy Paulios. The only count better than 10 was 17 on 28 November at Harrington Beach (Brennan).

Pacific Loon* – One bird was documented for 13 November in Milwaukee County by Jim Frank.

Common Loon – Common Loons were found throughout the fall and into the winter season. Counts of better than 100 were 253 on 30 October and 120 on 31 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). Outside of Harrington Beach the high was 78 on 23 October at Rock Island in Door County (Melody Walsh).

Magnificent Frigatebird* – One bird was documented with photographs on 22 September along the Wisconsin River at Bluegill Park in Marathon County (Melanie Coulthurst). This is the fourth state record of a frigatebird with all four records coming from the fall season.

Double-crested Cormorant – Cormorants were found throughout the fall and winter seasons. From the start of the fall season to 6 October there were reports of thousands of cormorants at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby). The highest estimate was 35,000 on 6 September. In the period 27 September through 11 October there were reports of 1,000+ cormorants from the counties of La Crosse, Ozaukee, Trempealeau, and Winnebago. The highest of these was 2,000 on 28 September in Trempealeau County (Karen Etter Hale) and 2,000 on 11 October in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser).

American White Pelican – As with the Double-crested Cormorant, the greatest concentration of pelicans came from the waters near Cat Island in Brown County. Over the period 1–18 August there were estimates of 1,500+ with the high of 3,000 coming on 1 August (Tom Prestby). Outside of Cat Island the high was 1,000 in the period 17–29 September in Trempealeau County followed by 800 on 11 October in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser). As in past years, small numbers of pelicans remained through the winter season. The count of 3,000 is second for the fall season only to 4,000 on 8 August 2015 at Cat Island by Prestby.

American Bittern – Reported from 27 counties, which compares to 24 in both 2015 and

Kristie Pinnow captured this photo of a male Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker as it paused on a frosty mountain ash in Vilas County in late September.

Greg Hottman captured this photo of a migrating LeConte's Sparrow that was passing through Dane County in mid-October.

A Northern Saw-whet Owl sleepily greeted Greg Hottman for this image in late November in Dane County.

A late August Great Horned Owl stared as Greg Hottman took its portrait in Dane County.

2016. The last October finds were 14 October in Outagamie County (Dan Abel) and 15 October in Adams County (Helen Bolgrien). These were followed by a sighting on 3 November at Eagle Point in Grant County (Elista Fisher). The high count was seven on 9 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jeremy Meyer). Nearest to this were several counts of four.

Least Bittern – Reported from 12 counties, which compares 10 in 2016 and six in 2015. September finds were 2 September in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula), 4 September in Outagamie County (Drew Goldberg), 11 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Thomas Wood), and 22 September at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (William Mueller and Carl Schwartz). The high count was six on 5 August at the Sensiba SWA in Brown County (Jayson Giese) followed by five on 10 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray).

Great Blue Heron – The high count was 35 on 20 August at the Adam Birding Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 25 on 19 August at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (Tom Mertins).

Great Egret – The last dates were 13 November in Dane County (Fred Dike), 18 November in Dodge County (Sandy Brunette-Hill), and 20 November in Brown County (Katrina DeWitt). The high count was 100 on 20 August at the Adam Birding Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 70 on 16 September in La Crosse County (Danny De Grace) and 46 on 26 August in Kenosha County (Janet Lyons).

Cattle Egret – Reported from the counties of Calumet, Dodge, Green Lake, Kenosha, and Winnebago with most of the reports coming from Brothertown in Calumet County. The last October dates were 27 October in Calumet County (Tom Ziebell) and 29 October in Kenosha County (Tim Hansen). These were followed by a single bird over the period 9–15 November at the Bong SRA in Kenosha County (first by Christin Grasch). The high count was 50 on 4 September at Brothertown in Calumet County followed by 45 on 20 August from the same area (Fred and Kate Dike). Outside of Brothertown, the high was nine on 21 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jeremy Meyer).

Green Heron – The last dates were 13 October in Ozaukee County (John O'Donnell) and 14 October in Dodge County (Bill Hoeltke). The only double digit counts were 10–12 between 21and 29 August at the Zeloski Marsh of Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) and 13–24 between 5 and 28 August at the Sensiba SWA in Brown County with the high of 24 on 28 August (Jayson Giese).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – Reported from 18 counties, which compares to 20 in 2016 and 19 in 2015. The last dates were18 October in Rock County (Joshua Erdman) and 18 and 21 October at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Jacob Collison). The high count was 20 on 26 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (James Popp) followed by 12 from a number of dates and locations.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* – There were three reports, all of single birds. Those three were 25 August at Burlington, Racine County (a number of observers), 4 September at Myrick Marsh in La Crosse County (Danny De Grace), and 24 September at Burlington in Racine County (Lorri Howski).

White-faced Ibis – There was a single bird on 15–16 October at Goose Pond in Columbia County (first by Matthew Daw and Michael McCloy). There was also an ibis species over the period 30 October to 5 November at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (first by Liz Herzmann).

Turkey Vulture – This vulture was found through the fall season with sightings continuing into early December. The high count was 176 on 9 October at Yahara Park in Dane County (Mike Myers) followed by 129 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 123 on 6 October in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Osprey – November departure dates were 10–11 November in Waupaca County (Karen Brown and Mary Maertz), 11 November in Green County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger), 16 November in Dane County (Guy Williams), and 18 November in Oconto County (Jayson Giese). The high count was five on 11 August at the Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Manitowoc County (Jim Knickelbine).

Northern Harrier – This harrier was found throughout the season. The only double digit

counts came from the Killsnake SWA in Calumet County. Those counts were 13 on 15 November (Pat Fojut) and 15 on 24 November (Annie and Paul Mueller). Outside of Killsnake, the high was nine at the Buena Vista Grasslands on 22 October (Robert Bergen) and on 27 October (John Dixon).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – Early August finds came from the counties of Chippewa, Door, Dunn, Jackson, and Rusk. The high count was 57 on 28 October at the Cedar Grove SNA banding station in Ozaukee County (Rachel and Steve Holzman) followed by 37 at the same location on 31 October (Rachel and Steve Holzman) and 22 on 17 October at Concordia University in Ozaukee County (Jim Frank). The total of 57 is the lowest fall count since 30 in 2004.

Cooper's Hawk – After a record high 100 Cooper's Hawk on 8 October of last fall, the high count this year was six on 6 September in Brown County (Daryl Tessen) and six on 9 October in Dane County (Mike Myers).

Northern Goshawk – Reported from six counties, which compares to 12 in 2016 and nine in 2015. The most southern sightings were 30 October and 1 November at the Cedar Grave banding station in Ozaukee County (Rachel and Steve Holzman). All finds were of single birds.

Bald Eagle – The high count was 226 on 21 November at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 40 on 24 November in Outagamie County (Max Seeger) and 32 on 22 November in Outagamie County (Stuart Malcolm).

Red-shouldered Hawk – Reported from 26 counties, which compares to 31 in 2016 and 32 in 2015. The high count was three on 2 August in Menominee County (Tom Prestby), 3 August in Waupaca County (Michael O'Connell), and 19 September in Waupaca County (Ross Mueller).

Broad-winged Hawk – The last dates were 20 October in Waupaca County (Michael Gray) and 23 October in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge). Counts of 100+ were 230 on 25 September in Green County (Aaron Haycraft) followed by 120 on 19 September in Polk County (Robin Maercklein) and 120 on 21 September in Marinette County (Jack Swelstad).

Swainson's Hawk* – One bird was documented on 27 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (William Mueller). A second bird was documented with photos on 25 October at Washington Island in Door County (Randy Holm and Melody Walsh).

Red-tailed Hawk – In the period 22 August through 9 November the Cedar Grove banding station in Sheboygan County had a number of days with 20+ Red-tailed. The high count was 64 on 22 August (Spencer Parkinson). Outside of Cedar Grove, the high was 26 on 2 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Rough-legged Hawk – The first fall dates were 4 October at Washburn in Bayfield County followed by 5 October at Maslowski Beach in Ashland County (Nick Anich). The next finds were 12 October in Ashland County (Ryan Brady) and 15 October in Burnett County (Martha Fleck). The high count was 10 on 28 October at the Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (P. Albin) followed by nine on 11 November at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Sean Burns and Melinda Houtman).

Golden Eagle – Reported from nine counties, which compares to 10 in 2016 and 13 in 2015. The first fall date was 21 September in Iron County (Jim Peck) followed by 11 October in Dane County (Mike Myers) and 13 October in Crawford County (Joe Hanfman). The only count better than one was two on 30 November in Sauk County (Jane Furchgott).

Barn Owl – There were two reports. Those two were one bird on 17 October flying along Lake Michigan at Kewaunee in Kewaunee County, documented with a photo (Adam Sinkula) and 28 October one bird at Reedsburg in Sauk County. These are the first fall reports of Barn Owls since 2006.

Eastern Screech-Owl – Reported from 31 counties, which compares to 28 in 2016 and 25 in 2015. Unusually far north were finds on 12 August in Oneida County (Neil Kent), 30 September in Oconto County (Joe Stojak), and 7 November in Bayfield County (Ted Gostomski). The high count was seven on 20 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by five on 11 November in Grant County (McKay). The total of seven is record high for the fall season. The pre-

vious high of six was set on 19 September 1991 in Winnebago County by Tom Ziebell.

Great Horned Owl – The high count was five on 5 September in Dane County (Kristy Larson) and five on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Snowy Owl – This was another major invasion year. There were reports from 51 counties. This was a record high number of counties. The previous high had been 42 in 2011 followed by 21 in 2014. The first fall finds were 20 October in Langlade County (Janet Brehm), 21 October in Bayfield County (Konrad Holtz), and 27 October in Ashland County. Snowy Owls were then found into the winter season. The high counts were seven and eight on 27 and 28 November at the Oconto Harbor in Oconto County (Jinny Koehler and Howard Lorenz). The total of eight on 27 November was record high for the fall season. The old record was six on 26 November 1972 in Brown County by Thomas Erdman.

Barred Owl – The high count was eight on 20 August in Outagamie County followed by four on 9 September in Sauk County (William Mueller).

Long-eared Owl – There were three reports. Those three were 9 September with one bird in Sauk County (William Mueller), 28 October with six birds in Portage County (Brad Zinda), and 29 October with one bird in Sheboygan County (Rachel and Steve Holzman).

Short-eared Owl – Reported from 27 counties, which compares to 13 in 2016 and 17 in 2015. Although the Short-eared Owl is a nesting species in the state, the first fall find was not until 29 September at Marquette Park in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula) followed by 30 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The high count was 10 on 2 November at Killsnake SWA in Calumet County (Mike Reese) followed by nine on 23 November at the Buena Vista Grassland in Portage County (Rick Anderson and David Edlund).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – Reported from 18 counties, which compares to 11 in 2016 and 14 in 2015. The only August finds were 3 August in Waushara County (Michael O'Connell) and 11 August in Vilas County (Eddie Hicks). The only September finds were 16 September in Ashland County (Janice Sharp) and 17 September in Door County (Paul Noeldner). Double digit counts were 29 on 28 October at the Linwood Springs Banding Station in Portage County (Brad Zinda) and 11 on 29 October at the Cedar Grove Banding Station in Sheboygan County (Rachel and Steve Holzman).

Belted Kingfisher – The high count was nine on 4 August in Kewaunee County (Pam Schwedler) followed by seven on 5 August in Burnett County (Carolyn Buvala) and seven on 12 August in Vilas County (Josh Berman).

Red-headed Woodpecker – Reported from 52 counties, which compares to 44 in 2016 and 48 in 2015. The high count was 23 on 8 August in Juneau County during a Red-headed Woodpecker survey (Paul Hays). This was followed by 15 on 23 August at the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Areas in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) and 14 on 15 August and 10 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Red-bellied Woodpecker – In the period of 30 August through 20 November, Kelly McKay had counts of 30+ Red-bellied in Grant County with the high of 36 coming on 10 November. Outside of Grant County the high was 14 on 19 October at the Cherokee Marsh in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw) and 14 on 23 October in Kenosha (John Dixon).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – The high count was 61 on 28 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by 17 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 11 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay).

Downy Woodpecker – The high count was 36 on 10 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 34 on 11 November and 33 on 30 August in Grant County (McKay). Outside of Grant County, the high was 14 on 12 November at the Apostle Islands NL in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady).

Hairy Woodpecker – All double digit counts came from Kelly McKay in Grant County, with the high of 13 coming on 15 August and 20 November.

Black-backed Woodpecker – The only August find of this nesting species was 2 August along the Brule River in Douglas County (Lynn

Janik). There were also reports from the northern counties of Bayfield and Vilas. Unusual was the sighting of a single bird on 6 October on Washington Island in Door County (Eric Howe, Melody Walsh, and Kristin Wegner). All reports were of one or two birds. After three years of the current Breeding Bird Atlas Project the only confirmed nesting is from a single location in Oneida County.

Northern Flicker – The high count was 53 on 18 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Jan and Larry Kraemer) followed by 45 on 28 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) and 40 on 27 September in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann).

Pileated Woodpecker – The high count was 12 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 10 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay). The total of 12 matches the fall season record high of 12 set on 2 October 2013 in Grant County by McKay.

American Kestrel – The high count was 10 on 11 August at the Anderson Sod Farm in Winnebago County (Stuart Malcolm) followed by nine on 14 August in Iowa County (Jim Kivikoski) and nine on 18 August in St. Croix County (David George).

Merlin – Found in early August in 14 counties, which compares to 13 in both 2015 and 2016. Even with reports from hawk watch locations, the only double digit count was 10 on 17 October at Concordia University in Ozaukee County (Jim Frank). This is a comparatively low count. The high last year was 123. The record fall high is 554 set on 9 October 2007 at Concordia University followed by 479 on 14 October at Concordia with both records belonging to William Cowart.

Peregrine Falcon – Reported from 30 counties, which compares to 36 in 2016 and 28 in 2015. Despite reports from hawk watch locations, the high count was seven on 9 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by five on 7 October at the same location (Brennan).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – There were no early August reports from nesting counties. The first finds south of nesting counties were 5 August in Langlade County (Emily Hjalmarson), 8 August in Dane County (Mike Bailey), and 11 August in Dodge County (Thomas Wood). The last dates were 15 September in Richland County (Richard Ouren), 24 September in Dane County (Brian Rolek), and 24 September in Douglas County (Aaron Balogh). The high count was four on 3 September in St. Croix County (Larry Persico) and three on 20 August in Forest County (Mary Maertz).

Eastern Wood-Pewee – The last dates were 5 October in Dane County (Charles Henrikson), 5 October in Grant County (Richard Ouren), and 8 October at the River Bend Nature Center in Racine County (Helen Pugh). The high count was 60 on 15 and 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 35 on 15 August in Vernon County during a five-hour canoe trip down the Kickapoo River (Laura Coglan and Jane Furchgott). The 35 on 15 August matches the previous fall high of 35 set on 24 August 1988 in St. Croix County by Murray Berner. The 60 on 15 and 30 August are well above this former high.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Early August sightings came from the counties of Douglas, Langlade, Menomonee, and Oconto. The first reports of migrants south of nesting counties were 12 August in Monroe County (Eric Epstein), 14 August in Fond du Lac County (Matthew Wistrand), and 19 August in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski). The last fall dates were 24 September in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellerman), 25 September in Dane County (Kris Perlberg), and 27 and 28 September in Milwaukee County (Michelle Abel, Lorri Howski, and Jeremy Meyer). The high count was three on 29 August at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady).

Acadian Flycatcher – Reported from 10 counties, which compares to eight in 2015. The only September finds were from Waukesha County with the last date being 24 September along the Scuppernong Tail of the Kettle Moraine SF in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak). The high count was eight on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by five on 6 August in Grant County (Shane Patterson).

Alder Flycatcher – This more northern flycatcher was found in early August in the southern counties of Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington. The last dates on which this flycatcher could be

safely identified were 22 August at the Carpenter Nature Center in St. Croix County (Dan Carrick, Thomas Christ, and Kevin Smith), 23 August at the Kavanagh House in Florence County (Kay Kavanagh), and 25 August at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Nich Anich and Ryan Brady). The high count was eight on 1 August in Fond du Lac County (Jim Frank) and eight on 5 August in Sheboygan County (Andy and Janet Raddatz).

Willow Flycatcher – The northern line of counties reporting this more southern flycatcher were (from west to east) Trempealeau, Monroe, Juneau, Outagamie, Oconto, and Kewaunee. September departure dates were 3 September at Stoughton in Dane County (Kris Perlberg), 4 September at the Edna Taylor Conservation Park in Dane County (Steve Brezinski and Mary Murrell), and 4 September in Outagamie County (Ross Mueller). The high count was four from a number of locations.

Least Flycatcher – The last September date was 29 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Birders of Lake Park). The only October find was 1 October at Indian Lake in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach). The high count was seven on 29 August at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by six on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and six on 2 September at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Joan Sommer).

Eastern Phoebe – The last November dates were 19 November in Dane County (Fred and Kate Dike), 22 November in Milwaukee County (Michelle Abel, Jacob Collison, and Jim Edlhuber), and 25 November in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag). These were followed by several finds in December. The high count was 30 on 2 August at Rice Lake in Barron County (Sam Krah) followed by 15 on 10 September at Middleton in Dane County (Bruce Edmonson) and 13 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Say's Phoebe* – One bird was documented with photos on 23 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Nick Anich and Ryan Brady). This find marks the eighth state record for this species and the fourth fall record.

Great Crested Flycatcher – The last dates were 28 September in Sauk County (Terry Rich), 29 September in Dane County (Kenny Younger), and 30 September in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw). The high count was six on 10 August in Dunn County (Pamela Hoyland) and six on 23 August in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) followed by five on 19 August in Ozaukee County (Andrea Szymczak).

Western Kingbird* – There was one report that being of a single bird on 9 September in Dodge County (John McCaw).

Eastern Kingbird – The last dates were 15 September at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Jonathan Heller), 15–16 September in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag), and 28 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Michelle Abel). The high count was 22 on 14 August at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 17 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* – There were three reports. Those three were 6 August in Rock County (Erik Bruhnke), 18 October at Port Wing in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady, Paula Lozano, and Tim Oksiuta), and 20 October in Ashland County (Nick Anich, Ryan Brady, and Tim Oksiuta).

Loggerhead Shrike – There were no reports. This makes six out of the last eight years without a fall sighting.

Northern Shrike – The first fall find was 21 September in Douglas County (Laura and Steve LaValley) followed by 7 October in Clark County (Matthew Sabatine) and 13 October in Outagamie County (Dan Abel). All counts were of one bird.

Bell's Vireo – There were four reports. Those four were 8 August in Iowa County (Greg Hottman), 22 August in St. Croix County (Thomas Christ), 24 August in Dane County (Richard Steffen), and 14 September in Dunn County (Nina Koch). The Iowa County report was of two birds while the others were of one.

Yellow-throated Vireo – The last dates were 6 October at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski) and 15 October at Indian Lake in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach). There are only two departure dates later than 15 October. Those two are 19 October 2011 in Outagamie County by Ari Rice and 2–3 November 1991 in Milwaukee County by Bob Domagalski.

The high count was 21 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by six on 1 August in Washburn County (Matthew Berg) and six on 15 August in Grant County (McKay). The count of 21 is record high for the fall season. The former high was 11 on 14 September 2007 in Iowa County by Aaron Holschbach.

Blue-headed Vireo – Found in early August in 12 northern counties plus the southern outlier county of Jackson (William Mueller). The last dates were 21 October in Green County (Aaron Haycraft) and 22 October in Racine County (Eric Howe and Kristin Wegner). The high count was six on 15 September at the Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (Jonathan Heller) followed by four from a number of locations.

Philadelphia Vireo – The first arrival date was 19 August at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann and Jym Mooney) and 19 August in Oconto County (Joe Stojak) followed by 20 August in Forest County (Mary Maertz). October departure dates were 1 October at the Chiwaukee Prairie SNA in Kenosha County (David Willard), 4 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge), 9 October at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Charles Henrikson and Kenny Younger), and 9 October at the Bong SRA in Kenosha County (Tom Lally). The high count was three on 16 September in Sheboygan County (Will Weyandt).

Warbling Vireo – October departure dates were 4 October at Nine Springs in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw) and 10 October at Lake Du Bay in Portage County (Maureen Brocken and Gerry Janz). The high count was 16 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 13 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay) and 11 on 3 September at Governor's Island in Dane County (Jon Peacock).

Red-eyed Vireo – The last October dates were 11 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 16 October at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Kenny Younger). These were followed by a find on 6 November at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski). The high count was 42 on 2 September at Willow River SP in St. Croix County (Larry Persico) followed by 23 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 21 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay).

Gray Jay – There were only four fall reports. Those four were one bird on 11 August at Oxbow Lake in Vilas County (Eddie Hicks), one bird on 24 September along Giant Pine Road in Forest County (Dave and Kerry Sehloff), four birds on 25 September in Vilas County (Sarah Besadny), and two birds on 18 October along Old Farm Road in Vilas County (Sarah Besadny and Mike Peczynski).

Blue Jay – After last fall's record breaking highs of 6,297 on 5 October at the Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 4,434 on 28 September at the same location (McKay), this year's high was 100 on 23 September at Bark Point in Bayfield County (Nick Anich) . The high in 2017 at Eagle Valley was 90 on 11 November (McKay). The high at the Cedar Grove Banding Station in Ozaukee County was 75 on 21 September (Spencer Parkinson). This compares to a high of 900 on 2 October 2016 at the same location.

American Crow – The high count was 362 on 28 September in Douglas County (Peder Svingen) followed by 200 on 26 September in Douglas County (Svingen) and 200 on 29 November in Dane County (Fred and Kate Dike).

Common Raven – Double digit counts were 14 on 24 November in Rusk County (Tom Prestby and Aaron Stutz), 12 on 4 September in Vilas County (Mike Peczynski), and 12 on 27 September and 23 October at Washburn in Bayfield County.

Horned Lark – This lark was present throughout the period. In the period 12–22 October at Superior in Douglas County Peder Svingen was finding 46 to 72 Horned Larks, with the high of 72 coming on 15 October. Outside of Superior, the high was 41 on 11 November at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Sean Burns and Melinda Houtman).

Purple Martin – September departure dates were 3 September in Sheboygan County (Sidhu and White), 3 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan), 4 September in Iowa County (John Kivikoski), 4 September in Outagamie County (Ross Mueller), and 8 September at Harrington Beach (Brennan). The departure date of 8 September is one of the earliest in state records. The only fall departure at an earlier date is 4 September 2012. The high

count was 50 on 1 August at the Rose Lake SNA in Jefferson County (Robert Volenec) followed by 35 on 6 August in Kewaunee County (Tom Zenner) and 34 on 8 August in Ozaukee County (William Mueller).

Tree Swallow – Nearly all the late October departure dates came from various locations in Dane County. The latest of these were 26 October at Yahara Place Park (Mike Myers), 28 October at Cherokee Marsh (Jon Peacock), and 30 October at Lake Waubesa (Steve Thiessen). The high count was 1,000 on 15 October at the Adam Birding Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 500 on 6 October in Rock County (Tom Klubertanz) and 415 on 10 September at Meadowbrook Park in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – The last September dates were 17 September in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser) and 24 September in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz). Well beyond these was documentation of a single bird on 28 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). The 28 November departure date is record late by nearly a month. The former record had been 29 October 1969 in Fond du Lac County by Rockne A. Knuth. The high count was 316 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 165 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay) and 50 on 12 August at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Shawn Miller). The total of 316 is record high for the fall season. The previous record had been 300 set in both 1978 and 1980.

Bank Swallow – The last dates were 13 September at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Jay Watson) and 16 September at Muskrat Lake in Rock County (Joshua Erdman). Counts of 100 or more were 150 on 1 August at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby), 250 on 3 August at Cat Island (Prestby), and 450 on 20 August at Wind Lake in Racine County (Tom Lally).

Cliff Swallow – The last September dates were 16 September at Lake Mills in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) and 27 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). These were then followed by 9 October at Lake Barney in Dane County (Timothy Baker and Kyle Lindemer). The high count was 200 on 20 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) followed by 100 on 10 August at the Mack SWA (Gray) and 85 on 1 August in Rock County (Quentin Yoerger).

Barn Swallow – The last dates were 27 October at Wind Point in Racine County (Jennifer Wenzel) and 28 October at Potosi Landing in Grant County (John and Kristin Anderson-Bricker). The high count was 1,000 on 20 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) followed by 220 in Fond du Lac County (William Mueller) and 225 on 27 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Tom Lally).

Black-capped Chickadee – The high count was 107 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 76 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay) and 75 on 10 September in Door County (Jack Fry).

Boreal Chickadee – There were three reports from Forest County and two from Vilas. The high count was six on 20 August along Pine River Road in Forest County (Mary Maertz) followed by three on 21 and 25 September along Divide Road in Forest County (John Dixon, Tim Hahn, and Jennifer Wenzel).

Tufted Titmouse – The high count was 14 on 10 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 10 on 30 August in Grant County (McKay) and eight on 31 August at Lapham Peak in Waukesha County (Michelle Abel).

Great Tit – This exotic species was reported from the counties of Ozaukee and Sheboygan. The Breeding Bird Atlas Project has confirmed nesting of this bird in several locations in Ozaukee County. The high count was six on 23 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by four on 10 October at Indian Mound Park in Sheboygan County (Barry Baumann).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – The high count was 31 on 29 November in Bayfield County (Brian McCaffery) followed by 25 on 30 September in Bayfield County (Nick Anich), 22 on 25 September in Forest County (Tim Hahn), and 21 on 20 October in Racine County (John Dixon).

White-breasted Nuthatch – The high count was 47 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 35 on 20 November in Grant County (McKay) and 34 on 15 August and 10 November in Grant County (McKay). Outside of

Grant County the high was 17 on 13 October at Gibraltar Rock in Columbia County (Keegan Gering). The total of 47 is record high for the fall season. The previous high had been 40 on 24 October 2014 in Grant County by McKay.

Brown Creeper – Early August reports came from the counties of Door, Florence, Forest, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Vilas, and Washburn. The high count was 22 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 18 on 10 November and 17 on 21 November in Grant County (McKay). Outside of Grant County the high was eight from a number of locations.

House Wren – The last dates were 25 October in Dane County (Kristy Larson), 25 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan and Marty Evanson), 25–26 October at Northridge Lakes in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann), and 26 October at East Bay in Milwaukee County (Barry and Carol Moerke). The high count was 27 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 23 on 8 August at Point Creek Park in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski) and 21 on 30 August in Grant County (McKay).

Winter Wren – This wren was found throughout the fall and into the winter season. The high count was eight on 10 October at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf) followed by six from a number of locations.

Sedge Wren – The last October dates were 19 October at the Lund WPA in Rock County (Steve Thiessen) and 25 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Mike McDowell). These were followed by a find on 2 November at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Erik Thomas). There are only three state records later than 2 November. The high count was 23 on 2 August in Washington County (Marilyn Bontly, Mike Wanger, and Norma Zehner) followed by 12 on 4 August along Knapp Creek in Richland County (Shane Patterson) and 12 on 8 September at Lake Barney in Dane County (Shawn Miller).

Marsh Wren – November departure dates were 2 November at Lakeshore SP in Milwaukee County (Jim Frank) and 19 November at Middleton in Dane County (Kevin McKown). The high count was 20 on 20 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County (Bill Grossmeyer), 20 on 23 August at the Vernon Marsh of Waukesha County (Tom Mertins), 20 on 25 August at the Vernon Marsh (Jack Coulter), and 20 on 6 October along Van Patton Drive in Outagamie County (Dan Abel).

Carolina Wren – Reported from 18 counties, which compares to 16 in 2016 and 10 in 2015. The high count was nine on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by five on 30 August in Grant County (McKay) and four on 27 August in Dane County (Robert Plamann). The total of nine is record high for the fall season. The previous high had been five set in 2007 and 2016.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – October departure dates were 1 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 1 October at Lapham Peak in Waukesha County (Jeff Rash). The high count was 12 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 10 on 26 August at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Birders of Lake Park).

Golden-crowned Kinglet – Early August finds came from the counties of Bayfield, Door, Forest, Iron, Marinette, Menominee, Oneida, and Price. The high count was 47 on 12 October at Riverside Park in Milwaukee County (Dennis Casper) followed by 46 on 1 October at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Marilyn Bontly and Joan Sommer) and 46 on 10 October at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Early August finds came from the counties of Door (Pamela Harting) and Langlade (Emily Hjalmarson). The first find of a migrant beyond a possible nesting county was 31 August in Kewaunee County (Tom Zenner). The last fall date was 16 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by several sightings in December. All of the high counts occurred on 12 October. Those highs were 40 at the Cousins Center in Milwaukee County (Jennifer Ambrose), 36 at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski), and 30 at UW Milwaukee in Milwaukee County (Jacob Collison).

Eastern Bluebird – The high count was 87 on 29 October at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (William Mueller) followed by 30 on 10 October at Lake Menomin Park in Dunn County (Pam Campbell) and 30 on 12 October

at Hoffman Hills SRA in Dunn County (Pam Campbell).

Townsend's Solitaire – There was one report. That report (with photos) was of one bird on 14 October in Richland County (Donald Benson).

Veery – October departure dates were 3 October in Ozaukee County (William Mueller) and 14 October at Stricker's Pond in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge). The high count was three from a number of locations.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – August arrival dates were 29 August in the counties of Ashland (Nick Anich), Bayfield (Ryan Brady), and Oneida (Steve Brezinski and Mary Murrell) followed by 31 August in Walworth County (Cameron Cass and Chris Kaplan). The last dates were 9 October at Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County (Thomas Wood) and 12 October at Crivitz in Marinette County (Thomas Schultz). The high count was 20 on 3 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 10 on 29 August in Ashland County (Nich Anich) and seven on 29 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Jeremy Meyer).

Swainson's Thrush – The first August dates were 5 August at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee (Norma Zehner), 10 August at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger), and 19 August at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski). The last dates were 17 October at Bay Beach in Brown County (Kay Kavanagh), 18 October at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Bill Bauer), and 23 October at Rock Island in Door County (Melody Walsh). The high count was 530 on 3 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 50 on 29 August in Ashland County (Nick Anich) and 36 on 12 September at Forest Beach (Brennan).

Hermit Thrush – Early August reports of this nesting species came from 11 northern counties. The first finds of migrants south of nesting counties were 11 September at Perrott SP in Trempealeau County (Hal and Kathleen Robins), 12 September in Kewaunee County (Pam Schwedler), 13 September at High Cliff SP in Calumet County (John Hauser), and 13 September at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Andrew Meiborg). The high count was 18 on 29 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Jeremy Meyer) and 18 on 9 October at Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County (Thomas Wood) followed by 14 on 10 October in the City of Sheboygan (Barry Baumann).

Wood Thrush – Reported from 26 counties, which compares to 22 in 2016 and 29 in 2015. The last October dates were 8 October in Milwaukee County (Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale), 8 October in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak), and 20 October in Dunn County (Nina Koch). These were followed by a find on 23 November in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw). There are but two departure records later than 23 November. Those two are 1–8 December 1996 in Milwaukee County by Jerry and Karen Smith and 19 December 1998 in Dane County by Glenda Denniston. The high count was 13 on 5 August in Grant County (Shane Patterson) followed by five on 20 August in Dane County (Diane Berry).

American Robin – The high count was 750 on 28 September at Mauthe Lake in Fond du Lac County (William Mueller) followed by 518 on 28 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) and 394 on 5 October at the Brady House.

Varied Thrush – For the second consecutive year there was no fall report of a Varied Thrush.

Gray Catbird – November departure dates were 1–2 November in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge), 2 November in Ashland County (Ryan Brady), and 17 November in Dane County (Rosemary Jones). These were followed by several finds in December. The high count was 39 on 30 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 35 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay) and 28 on 30 September at Cadiz Springs SRA in Browntown, Green County (Aaron Haycraft).

Brown Thrasher – Reports of this thrasher continued into the winter season. The high count was six on 24 August at Ephraim in Door County (Keegan Gering) followed by five from a number of locations.

Northern Mockingbird – There were three reports, each of single birds. Those three were 19 August at Yellowstone SWA in Lafayette County (Ken Milender), 26 September in Dane County (Heather Kauffman), and 31 October at Grantsburg in Burnett County (Matthew Berg).

European Starling – The high count was 4,000 on 28 November in Milwaukee County (William Holton) followed by 2,000 on 11 September in Brown County (Jayson Giese) and 1,500 on 27 August in Brown County (Jayson Giese).

Bohemian Waxwing – There were two fall reports. Those two were three birds on 28 October at Houghton Falls SNA in Bayfield County (Ben Baldwin) and 20 birds on 31 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady).

Cedar Waxwing – In the period 18–22 August there were counts of 700 to 1,300 waxwings flying past the Cedar Grove Banding Station in Ozaukee County with the high count of 1,300 coming on 18 August (Spencer Parkinson). Outside of Cedar Grove the high was 250 on 15 August along the Kickapoo River in Vernon County (Laura Coglan and Jane Furchgott).

House Sparrow – The high count was 273 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 237 on 30 August and 222 on 20 November in Grant County (McKay). Outside of Grant County the high was 100 on 19 and 24 September in Dane County (Brian Rolek).

American Pipit – The first fall dates were 5 September at Kewaunee in Kewaunee County (Tom Zenner), 8 September at Cat Island in Door County (Tom Prestby), and 9 September at Lake Barney in Dane County (Charles Henrikson and Kenny Younger). Pipits then continued to be found into the winter season. The high count was 100 on 26 and 28 September in Douglas County (Peder Svingen) and 100 on 23 October in Racine County (John Dixon) followed by 80 on 13 October in Manitowoc County (Jay Watson) and 75 on 3 October in Door County (Melody Walsh).

Pine Grosbeak – Reported from the northern counties of Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Florence, Forest, Marinette, and Vilas. October arrival dates were 25 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) and 31 October at Lake Menomin Park in Dunn County (Pam Campbell). The high count was 15 on 3 November at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Brady) followed by 11 on 31 October at the Brady House. Outside of the Brady House, the high count was eight on 17 November in Forest County (Aaron Holschbach).

House Finch – The high count was 200 on 11 October at the Lacy Road Pond in Dane County (Jim Schwarz). The nearest count to this was 60 on 20 August in Kenosha County (Tom Lally) and 55 on 11 October at Elver Park in Dane County (Marty Evanson).

Purple Finch – This nesting species was reported in early August from 20 counties, which compares to 12 in 2016 and 14 in 2015. The high count was 71 on 5 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by 33 on 2 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 27 on 3 September at the Brady House and 27 on 20 November in Grant County (McKay).

Red Crossbill – This fall was the start of an eruptive year for Red Crossbills. They were found in 39 counties, which compares to 10 in 2016. Crossbills were reported as far south as the counties of Dane, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Waukesha. By flight calls many of these crossbills could be separated into types. The types identified in Wisconsin this fall were Ponderosa Pine (Type 2), Western Hemlock (Type 3), Douglas-fir (Type 4), Lodgepole Pine (Type 5), and Sitka Spruce (Type 10). Early fall dates were 8 August in Waushara County (Michael Gray), 11 August in Marinette County (Jack Swelstad), 12 August in Sheboygan County (Andrea Szymczak), 13 August in Shawano County (Brad Steger), 15 August in Ashland County (Ryan Brady), and 16 August in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady). The high count was 90 on 11 November in Jefferson County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger) followed by 62 on 8 November in Jefferson County (Derek and Ryan Sallmann), 60 on 8 November in Bayfield County (Brian McCaffery), and 55 on 29 October in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan).

White-winged Crossbill – Reported from the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Eau Claire, Grant, Lincoln, Marinette, Ozaukee, and Rusk. The first fall reports were 17 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by 24 October in Ashland County (Ryan Brady). The only finds in the southern half of the state were of two birds on 29 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and two birds on 20 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay). The high count was 20 on 2 November in Ashland County (Nick Anich) followed by eight at the same location on 29 October (Nick Anich).

Common Redpoll – This fall was the start of an invasion year for redpolls. Common Redpolls were reported from 36 counties, which compares to 11 in 2016 and 28 in 2015. These redpolls were found as far south as the counties of Dane, Jefferson, Milwaukee, and Racine. The first dates were 19 October in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) and 24 October in Ashland County (Brady). On 25 October redpolls were found in the counties of Dane (Steve Thiessen) and Ozaukee (Jim Frank) and by 30 October in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf). The high count was 220 on 27 November in Forest County (Bob and Kay Kavanagh) followed by 115 on 28 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady).

Hoary Redpoll – Despite the abundance of Common Redpolls, there were no reports of the Hoary.

Pine Siskin – Early August reports came from 13 northern counties. The high count was 487 on 29 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by 428 on 17 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 350 on 19 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (William Mueller).

American Goldfinch – The high count was 323 on 3 October at Concordia University in Ozaukee County (Jim Frank) followed by 250 on 1 October at the Evansville SWA in Rock County (John Dixon), 200 on 12 October at the Evansville SWA (Steve Thiessen), and 200 on 23 October at the Brooklyn Wildlife Area in Dane County (Steve Thiessen).

European Goldfinch – Due to its breeding success, this introduced bird might become a valid species on the state list. There were fall reports from the counties of Kenosha and Racine with a high count of six on 26 November in Kenosha County (Lorri Howski).

Evening Grosbeak – There were two reports. Those two were four birds on 26 October at the Kavanagh feeders in Florence County (Kay Kavanagh) and two birds on 17 November at Alvin in Forest County (Aaron Holschbach). The total of four individuals matches the record low fall count of four in 2013.

Lapland Longspur – The first date was 16 September at Cat Island in Brown County (Tom Prestby) followed by 18 September at the Seagull Bar SNA in Marinette County (Howard Lorenz) and 26 September in Douglas County (Peder Svingen). Counts of 100 or more were 100 on 24 November at Goose Pond in Columbia County (Mike McDowell), 150 on 22 October at Superior in Douglas County (Svingen), 150 on 6 November in Iowa County (John Kivikoski), and 200 on 8 November at Cambridge in Jefferson County (Scott Weberpal).

Snow Bunting – The first fall date was 15 October at Ashland in Ashland County (Tim Oksiuta) followed by 20 October in the counties of Ashland (Nick Anich) and Douglas (Laura and Steve LaValley). The high count was 500 on 11 November at Crivitz in Marinette County (Dave and Kerry Sehloff) followed by 191 on 27 October in Forest County (John Dixon) and 180 on 4 November at Eagle River in Vilas County (Mike Peczynski).

Ovenbird – The last October date was 10 October at Indian Mound Park in Sheboygan County (Barry Baumann). This was followed by finds on 1 November in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw) and 24 November in Madison, Dane County (David Rihn). The high count was eight on 4 September at Lake Menomin Park in Dunn County (Pam Campbell) followed by five on 1 August in Oneida County (Shane Patterson).

Louisiana Waterthrush – The only reports were of three birds on 6 August in Grant County (Shane Patterson) and one bird on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay). The total of three birds on 6 August is record high for the fall season. The previous high had been two on 15 August 1982 in Sauk County by Steve Thiessen.

Northern Waterthrush – Early August reports came from the counties of Ashland, Menominee, Milwaukee, and Oneida. The last dates were 8 October at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Kenny Younger), 9 October at the Bong SRA in Kenosha County (Tom Lally), and 12 October at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Marilyn Bontly). The high count was six on 14 September in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula) followed by four on 23 September at Lake Kegonsa in Dane County (Kris Perlberg).

Golden-winged Warbler – Early August reports came from the northern and the central sand counties of Burnett, Douglas, Forest,

Juneau, Marathon, Marinette, Price, Sawyer, Washburn, and Wood. The last dates were 27 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 2 October at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Roberta Donaldson). The high count was five on 12 August in Price County (Jim Krakowski) followed by four from a number of locations.

Blue-winged Warbler – The most northern line of reports (from west to east) were the counties of Polk, Barron, Eau Claire, Clark, Marathon, Outagamie, and Kewaunee. This is north of last year's line of counties (going west to east) of St. Croix, Dunn, Eau Claire, Marathon, Outagamie, and Manitowoc. The last dates were 21 September at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Steve Glass), 26 September in Kenosha County (John Dixon), and 29 September at Dundee Mountain in Fond du Lac County (Michael Janke). The high count was three from a number of locations.

Golden-winged × Blue-winged hybrid – The only report of this hybrid (and that not differentiated as to Brewster's or Lawrence's) was 13 August at Bridget Lake in Polk County (Robin Maercklein).

Black-and-white Warbler – The last dates were 5 October at Haskin's Savanna in Iowa County (John Kivikoski), 8 October in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak), and 8 October at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Kenny Younger). The high count was six on 4 September at Lake Menomin Park in Dunn County (Pam Campbell) and six on 16 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee (a number of birders).

Prothonotary Warbler – There were six reports. Those six were six birds on 4 August in Crawford County (Jan Collins), one and three birds on 12–13 August at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Shawn Miller), 12 birds on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay), three birds on 19 August at Eagle Point in Grant County (John and Kristin Anderson-Bricker), one bird on 26 August at Caledonia in Columbia County (Any Paulios), and two birds on 30 August in Grant County (McKay). The reports of six birds on 4 August and 12 on 15 August both exceed the former fall high of four set in a number of years.

Tennessee Warbler – The first fall finds of this warbler began in July of the summer season. The first August reports were 2 August in Dane County (Eric Peterson), 4 August in Vilas County (Marge Anderson), and 5 August in Douglas County (Richard Erickson). The last October dates were 30 October at Northridge Lake in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann) and 30 October at the Milwaukee County Grounds in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger). These were followed by finds on 2 November at Northridge Lake (Kellermann) and 23 November at Port Washington in Ozaukee County (Mike Wanger). The only records later than 23 November are 24 November 1975 in Milwaukee County by Eric Epstein and 25 November 1999 in Dane County by Philip Ashman. The high count was 42 on 25 August in the Wolf River Bottoms SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) and 42 on 12 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 40 on 5 September at Lake Kegonsa SP in Dane County (Steve Thiessen).

Orange-crowned Warbler – The first fall date was 2 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Birders of Lake Park) followed by 3 September at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Marilyn Bontly) and 8 September at Eagle Point in Grant County (Andrew Meiborg). The last November dates were 22 November at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 27 November at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in Dane County (Shawn Miller). These were followed by further finds in December. The high count was six on 8 October at the Cadiz Springs SRA in Green County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger) followed by five from a number of locations.

Nashville Warbler – November departure dates were 1 and 3 November in Dane County (Kim Kreitinger), 1 November at the Milwaukee County Grounds in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf), and 2 November at Lakeshore SP in Milwaukee County (Jim Frank). These were followed by a find in early December. The high count was 17 on 23 August at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by 12 on 19 September at Kinnickinnic SP in Pierce County (Dan Versaw), 11 on 30 August at Tomahawk in Lincoln County (Sean Burns), and 11 on 22 September at Amery in Polk County (Rachel Justice).

Connecticut Warbler – Reported from nine counties, which compares to eight in 2016 and 12 in 2015. The last dates were 16 September at Lake

Park in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann and Jym Mooney), 16 September at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Jim Frank), and 4 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). All reports were of single birds.

Mourning Warbler – The last dates were 18 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Jan and Larry Kraemer), 23 September at Cliffside Park in Racine County (Drew Goldberg), and 26 September at Lapham Peak in Waukesha County (Paul Kinzer). The high count was eight on 1 August in Oneida County (Shane Patterson) followed by three from a number of locations.

Kentucky Warbler – The only reports were of two birds on 15 August in Grant County (Dennis Kirschbaum) and one bird on 15 August at the Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County (Kelly McKay).

Common Yellowthroat – November departure dates were 1 November at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski), 2 November at Grobschmidt Park in Milwaukee County (the Natural Areas Staff), and 11 November at the Cadiz Springs SRA in Green County (Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger). These were followed by a find in early December. The high count was 30 on 17 September at Lapham Peak in Waukesha County (Jack Coulter) and 30 on 25 September along Van Patton Drive in Outagamie County (Dan Abel) followed by 26 on 6 August at the Zeloski Marsh in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz).

Hooded Warbler – Reported from seven counties, which compares to seven in 2016 and six in 2015. The great majority of reports came from the Kettle Moraine SF of Waukesha County. The last dates were 1 and 5 October from the Southern Kettle Moraine SF of Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak). The high count was seven on the dates of 13 August and two September in Waukesha County (Szymczak).

American Redstart – The last October dates were 9 October at a number of locations followed by 11 October at Samuel Meyers Park in Racine County (Drew Goldberg). This was followed by a find on 21 November at University Bay in Dane County (Grant Witynski). There was then another report from early December. There is only one departure date later than 21 November. That date is 26 November 1966 in Milwaukee County by Dennis Gustafson. The report for early December would be record early and the first winter record for this species. The high count was 47 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 32 on 5 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 24 on 5 September at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Thomas Wood).

Cape May Warbler – Early August finds came from the counties of Forest (Mary Maertz) and Oneida (Shane Patterson). The first finds south of nesting counties were 19 August at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann and Jym Mooney), 23 August at Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County (Jeremy Meyer), and 24 August in Monroe County (Eric Epstein). The last dates were 12 October at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Daniel Sieber) and 16 October at Ridgeway in Iowa County (John Kivikoski). The high count was seven on 12 September in Outagamie County (Ross Mueller) followed by six from a number of locations.

Cerulean Warbler – There were six reports. Those six were one bird on 1 August in Crawford County (Dennis Kirschbaum), one bird on 1 August in Fond du Lac County (Jim Frank), four birds on 6 August in Grant County (Shane Patterson), five birds on 12 August at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Shawn Miller), one bird on 15 August in Grant County (Dennis Kirschbaum), and three birds on 15 August at the Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County (Kelly McKay). The total of five birds on 12 August is record high. The old high had been four set in 1978 and 2001.

Northern Parula – Early August finds came from the counties of Ashland, Forest, and Vilas. The first finds of migrants beyond nesting counties were 13 August at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (John O'Donnell) and 18 August in Dane County (Ted Keyel). The last October dates were 5 October in Outagamie County (Steve Petznick) and 11 October at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski). These were followed by a documented find on 1 November in Dane County (Kim Kreitinger). The high count was four on 25 August at the Wolf River Bottoms SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray).

Magnolia Warbler – Early August reports came from the counties of Door and Oneida. The first find of migrants beyond nesting counties was

13 August at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (John O'Donnell) followed by 15 August at the Hoffmann Hills SRA in Dunn County (Pam Campbell) and 22 August at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Marilyn Bontly and Norma Zehner). The last fall dates were 15 October at Warner Park in Dane County (Paul Noeldner), 20 October at Baxter's Hollow SNA in Sauk County (Chuck Heikkinen), and 28 October at his house in Dane County (Peter Fissel). The high count was 12 on 9 September at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge) followed by nine on 16 September at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Karen Brown, Michael Gray, and Mary Maertz), and nine on 21 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Cynthia Bridge).

Bay-breasted Warbler – The first fall date was 20 August at Prentice Park in Ashland County (Nick Anich) followed by 21 August at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady), 23 August in Dane County (Steve Thiessen) and 23 August in Outagamie County (Michael Gray). The last October dates were 22 October at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Bill Grossmeyer) and 23 October at her house in Dane County (Kim Kreitinger). These were followed by a documented find on 6 November at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County (Thomas Wood). The high count was 11 on 16 September at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Erik Enbody) followed by eight on 10 September at Pheasant Branch (Mike McDowell) and eight on 12 September at Peninsula SP in Door County (Sue Peterson).

Blackburnian Warbler – Early August reports of this primarily northern nester came from the counties of Door, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn. The first find of migrants beyond nesting counties was on 22 August in the counties of Dodge (Thomas Wood), Dunn (Pamela Hoyland), and Outagamie (Michael Gray) followed by a number of other counties on 23 August. The last dates were 27 September in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw), 27 September at Scout Lake in Milwaukee County (Andrea Szymczak), and 28 September at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge in Racine County (Drew Goldberg). The high count was five on 9 September at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Mike McDowell) and five on 22 September at Coon Valley in Vernon County (Ross Mueller).

Yellow Warbler – The last September finds were on 18 September in the counties of Bayfield (Ryan Brady) and Douglas (Jan and Larry Kraemer). These were followed by October finds on 9 October at Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County (Thomas Wood) and 24 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan). There are only three state records later than 24 October. The high count was 12 on 7 August in Oconto County (Jack Swelstad) followed by 10 on 4 August in Barron County (Matthew Berg).

Chestnut-sided Warbler – The last dates were 4 October at a number of locations followed by 9 October at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Marilyn Bontly, Judith Huf, and Norma Zehner). The high count was 10 on 12 August in Price County (Jim Krakowski) followed by nine on 9 September at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Mike McDowell) and nine on 1 August in Oneida County (Shane Patterson).

Blackpoll Warbler – The first fall date was 22 August at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski) followed by finds on 23 August in the counties of Bayfield (Ryan Brady), Douglas (Jan and Larry Kraemer), Milwaukee (Jym Mooney and Mike Wanger), Outagamie (Michael Gray), and Ozaukee (Thomas Wood). The last dates were 9 October at the Bong SRA in Kenosha County (Tom Lally), 9 October at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Marilyn Bontly and Norma Zehner), 10 October in Kewaunee County (Pam Schwedler), and 11 October at Whitefish Bay in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf). The high count was 35 on 16 September in Oconto County (Keith Boardway and Joe Stojak) followed by 16 on 21 September at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) and 14 on 12 September in Outagamie County (Ross Mueller).

Black-throated Blue Warbler – Early August reports of this northern nester came from the counties of Marinette (Aaron Holschbach and Kay Kavanagh) and Menominee (Tom Prestby). The first finds of migrants south of nesting counties were 26–27 August at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Mike McDowell) and 28 August at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf). The last dates were 8 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Joan Sommer), 15 October at Northridge Lake in Milwaukee County (Barbara Keller-

mann), and 20 October at Glendale in Milwaukee County (Martha Spencer). The high count was three on 3 September at the Ken Euers Preserve in Brown County (Jeff Brinkman) and three on 29 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Jennifer Wenzel).

Palm Warbler – The only early August reports of this northern nesting species were from Vilas County (Marge Anderson and David Wittrock). The first find south of a nesting county was 19 August in Oconto County (Joe Stojak) followed by 27 August at the Odana Marsh in Dane County (Marty Evanson) and 28 August at his home in Dane County (Aaron Nolan). The only November departure date was 2 November at both Lakeshore SP and at Juneau Park in Milwaukee County (Jim Frank) and 2 November in Sheboygan County (Rachel Holzman). The high count was 96 on 12 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 55 on 12 October at Forest Beach and 35 on 12 September at Kohler-Andrae SP in Sheboygan County (Andy and Janet Raddatz).

Pine Warbler – The last dates were 13 October at the Cherokee Marsh in Dane County (Jon Peacock), 15 October at Lake Farm Park in Dane County (Matthew Daw and Michael McCloy), and 17 October at Warner Park in Dane County (Kris Perlberg). The high count was six on 19 September at Kohler-Andrae SP in Sheboygan County (Thomas Wood) and six on 30 September in Oneida County (Ken Milender).

Yellow-rumped Warbler – This warbler was found throughout the fall and through the entire month of December. There were three counts of 100+ Yellow-rumped. All three came from the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady). Those three were 482 on 21 September, 222 on 28 September, and 186 on 5 October. Outside of the Brady House, the high was 82 on 8 October in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz).

Yellow-throated Warbler – There was one report that being of one bird on 13 September at Platteville in Grant County (Alex Harman).

Black-throated Green Warbler – The last dates were 15 October at the Owen Conservation Park in Dane County (Meredith Penthorn) and 19 October at the Cook Arboretum in Rock County (Joshua Erdman). The high count was seven on 12 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by six from a number of locations.

Canada Warbler – Early August reports of this nesting species came from the counties of Marinette (Aaron Holschbach), Menomonee (Tom Prestby), Oconto (Joe Stojak), and Vilas (Marge Gibson). The last dates were 17 September from a number of locations, 24 September in Grant County (Laura Coglan), and 25 September in Dane County (Erin Lemley). The only count better than two was four on 23 August at the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area in Outagamie County (Michael Gray).

Wilson's Warbler – The first fall date was 12 August in Fond du Lac County (John O'Donnell and Nathaniel Reinartz) followed by 20 August at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) and 20 August at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County (Norma Zehner). October departure dates were 2 and 5 October at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (Marilyn Bontly) and 15 October at Northridge Lake in Milwaukee County (Barbara Kellermann). The high count was five on 2 September at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Joan Sommer) and five on 2 September in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula) followed by four on 26 August in Outagamie County (Ross Mueller) and four on 2 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Dennis Casper, Barbara Kellermann, and Jym Mooney).

Yellow-breasted Chat – There was a report of one bird on 12 September at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County (Danielle Baumann).

Eastern Towhee – The last fall season finds were 5 November in Dane County (Rebecca Herb), 5 November at another location in Dane County (Steve Brezinski), and 6 November in Milwaukee County (Thomas Hickey). There were then further finds in December. The high count was 21 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 12 on 17 August at Hazel Run in Clark County (Judy Lund) and 11 on 24 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Jaeger Fest birders).

American Tree Sparrow – The first dates were 4 October at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Ed and Ginny Blair), 6 October at Rhinelander in Oneida County (Norma Zehner),

and 8 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Dale Bonk). The high count was 260 on 29 October at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Maureen Brocken and Jerry Janz) followed by 132 on 11 November at the same location (Sean Burns). Outside of Buena Vista, the high was 60 on 1 November in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf).

Chipping Sparrow – Chipping Sparrows were found into the winter season. The high count was 43 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 35 on 25 September at Peshtigo in Marinette County (Howard Lorenz) and 32 on 2 November at Madison in Dane County (Marty Evanson).

Clay-colored Sparrow – The last dates were 10 October at Lake Menomin Park in Dunn County (Rory Cameron and Pam Campbell), 11 October in Dane County (Marty Evanson), and 29 October at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Thomas Wood). The high count was 12 on 14 August at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 10 on 30 September in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser).

Field Sparrow – There were a number of sightings on 1–2 November with the only find beyond that being 5 November at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Mike McDowell). The high count was 18 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 15 at a number of locations).

Vesper Sparrow – The last dates were 25 October at the Owen Conservation Park in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge), 26 October at the Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (Judy Haseleu), and 31 October in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser). The high count was nine on 15 September at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Jonathan Heller) followed by six on 23 September in Douglas County (Andrew Tordoff) and six on 30 September in La Crosse County (Emily Weiser).

Lark Sparrow – There were reports from the Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County until 26 August (Mary Hampton). Reports outside of Spring Green were 5 August at Fort McCoy in Monroe County (Brenda Schultze) and 27 September in Milwaukee County (Christine Stanke). The high count was 16 at Spring Green on 12 August (Mary Hampton).

Savannah Sparrow – November departure dates were 3 November in Dodge County (Taylor Paez), 3 November in Outagamie County (Jeff Brinkman), 6 November at Rock Island in Door County (Melody Walsh), and 12 November at three different locations in Dane County (Steve Thiessen). The high count was 30 on 26 September in Dane County (Steve Thiessen) followed by 23 on 10 September in Columbia County (Aaron Holschbach).

Grasshopper Sparrow – Reported from 10 counties, which compares to eight in 2016 and six in 2015. The last dates were 15 August in Brown County (Jack Swelstad) and 16 August at another location in Brown County (Adam Sinkula). The high count was four on 3 August at Brodhead in Rock County (Aaron Haycraft).

Henslow's Sparrow – Reported from 11 counties, which compares to 10 in 2016 and eight in 2015. October departure dates were 9 October at Lake Barney in Dane County (Timothy Baker and Kyle Lindemer) and 17 October at the same location (Jay Watson). The high count was nine on 3 August in Rock County (Aaron Haycraft) followed by six on 19 August in Iowa County (John Kivikoski). The only fall total higher than nine is 10 set on 6 August 2011 in Green County by Alan Anderson.

Le Conte's Sparrow – Reported from 10 counties with most reports being of migrants in Dane County. Despite that the Le Conte's is a nesting species, the first sighting was on 7–8 September at Lake Barney in Dane County (Charles Henrikson). November departure dates were 2 and 22 November at Stoughton in Dane County (Steve Thiessen) and 3 November at the Bubolz Nature Preserve in Outagamie County (Jeff Brinkman). There is but one state departure date later than 22 November. That date is 23 December 2012 in Dodge County by Scott Diehl. The high count was six on 9 October at Lake Barney in Dane County (Timothy Baker and Kyle Lindemer) and six on 26 October at the Brooklyn Wildlife Area in Dane County (Charles Henrikson, Shawn Miller, and Kenny Younger). The only fall season total greater than six is 20 set on 2 October 1955 in Iowa County by Tom Soulen.

Nelson's Sparrow – Reported from five counties, which compares to six in both 2015 and 2016. Most of the reports were of migrants in Dane County. The first find was 31 August at For-

est Beach in Ozaukee County (William Mueller). This sighting was not to be followed until 9 September at Lake Barney in Dane County (Greg Hottman). The last date was 17 October at Lake Barney in Dane County (Jay Watson) and 17 October in Outagamie County (Dan Abel). The high count was six on 9 October at Lake Barney in Dane County (Timothy Baker and Kyle Lindemer).

Fox Sparrow – The first fall date was 7 September at Mosquito Hill in Outagamie County (Steve Petznick) followed by 20 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Peder Svingen). Sighting of this sparrow then continued into the winter season. The high count was 27 on 6 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady) followed by 18 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) and 12 on 23 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge).

Song Sparrow – This sparrow was found throughout the period and into the winter season. The high count was 60 on 30 September at the Adam Birding Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 40 on 23 September at the same location (Aaron Stutz) and 40 on 28 September in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge).

Lincoln's Sparrow – Early August finds came from the counties of Chippewa, Florence, Forest, Jackson, Lincoln, Marinette, Price, and Vilas. The first notice of migrants south of nesting counties was 26 August in Manitowoc County (Davor Grgic and Carl Schroeder) and 29 August in Milwaukee County (the Natural Areas Staff). November departure dates were 1 November at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Thomas Wood), 2 November at Platteville in Grant County (Alex Harman), and 2 November at the Havenwoods SF in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger). The high count was 14 on 28 September at Mauthe Lake in Fond du Lac County (William Mueller) followed by eight from a number of dates and counties.

Swamp Sparrow – This sparrow was found throughout the fall and into the winter. The high count was 60 on 30 September at the Adam Birding Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz) followed by 36 on 12 September in Outagamie County (Dan Able).

White-throated Sparrow – The high count was 77 on 9 October in Richland County (Barbara Duerksen) followed by 71 on 25 October in Kenosha County (John Dixon) and 68 on 14 October in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach).

Harris's Sparrow – Reported from 15 counties, which compares to 12 in 2016 and 15 in 2015. The first fall arrival dates were 24 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Peder Svingen), 29 September at Wisconsin Point (Peder Svingen), 30 September at Washburn in Bayfield County (Nick Anich), and 30 September at Washington Island in Door County (Donna Benson and Melody Walsh). All counts were of one or two birds.

White-crowned Sparrow – An unusual find that was documented with photos was a White-crowned on 23 August in Milwaukee County (Lorri Howski). The first September dates were 15–16 September at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady), 18 September in Washburn County (Eric Julson and Kathy Morales), and 19 September in Sheboygan County (Thomas Wood). The high count was 202 on 30 September at Washington Island in Door County (Kristy Larson and Melody Walsh) followed by 50 on 1 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Barry Baumann and Bill Grossmeyer) and 46 on 9 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Cynthia Bridge). The total of 202 is record high for the fall season. The previous high had been 180 set on 6 October 2014 in Door County by Melody Walsh.

Dark-eyed Junco – The only August reports for this nesting species were 2 August in Vilas County (Elizabeth Stone), 11 August at Oxbow Lake in Vilas County (Eddie Hicks), and 20 August at Mountain in Oconto County (Joe Stojak). Counts of better than 175 were 177 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay), 200 on 4 November at Leola Marsh in Adams County (Rick Anderson), 400 on 15 October in Vilas County (Tom Prestby), and 550 on 17 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (William Mueller).

Summer Tanager – There were three reports. Those three were 27–28 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Jim Frank, Lorri Howski, and Jeremy Meyer), 6 and 11 October at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County (Bob Do-

magalski), and 26 November in Barron County (Marie Friesen).

Scarlet Tanager – October departure dates were 1 October in the counties of Dane, Eau Claire, Grant, and Manitowoc, 2 October in Ozaukee County (Jason Nickels), and 4 October in Iowa County (John Kivikoski). The high count was 14 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 11 on 30 August in Grant County (McKay) and five on 4 August in Richland County (Shane Patterson).

Northern Cardinal – The high count was 85 on 11 November in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 44 on 30 August and 42 on 15 August in Grant County (McKay). Outside of Grant County the high was 21 on 26 August and 12 October in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach). The only fall total higher than 85 is 87 set on 30 September 2007 in Iowa County by Aaron Holschbach.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – The only November find was a single bird seen until 11 November likely at the feeder of Jack Swelstad in Brown County. The high count was 18 on 15 August in the yard of Judy Lund at Hazel Run in Clark County. Nearest to this was 16 on 7 September in Green Lake County (Jon Roti Roti) and 14 on 10 August in Clark County (Judy Lund).

Blue Grosbeak* – The only report was of a single bird found until 14 August at the Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County (last reported by Jennie Lanzendorf).

Indigo Bunting – The last dates were 16 October in Milwaukee County (the Natural Areas Staff) and 21–23 October at the home of Joan Campbell in Marinette County. The high count was 41 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay) followed by 22 on 30 August in Grant County (McKay) and 17 on 3 August in Vernon County (Shane Patterson).

Dickcissel – Reported from 30 counties, which compares to 16 in 2016 and 10 in 2015. September departure dates were 3 September at Bender Park in Milwaukee County (John Dixon and Rita Flores Wiskowski), 8 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan), 14 September at Bender Park in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger), and 15 September along the Little Menomonee River in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger). The high count was eight on 6 August at the Mequon Nature Preserve in Ozaukee County (Jim Frank).

Bobolink – October departure dates were 4 October at Samuel Myers Park in Racine County (Drew Goldberg) and 4 October along Van Patton Road in Outagamie County (Dan Able). The high count was 139 on 17 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Calvin Brennan) followed by 60 on 25 August at Goose Pond in Columbia County (Mark and Sue Martin) and 55 on 23 September at the Adam Bird Conservancy in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz).

Red-winged Blackbird – The high count was 6,000 on 29 October at Eagle Point in Grant County (Tony Moline) followed by 3,000 on 20 September at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) and 2,400 on 7 August in Oconto County (Jack Swelstad).

Eastern Meadowlark – The last dates were 11–12 November in Bayfield County (Tim Oksiuta) and 25 November in Kewaunee County (Paul Schilke). The high count was 16 on 12 September in Monroe County (Eric Epstein) followed by 14 on 29 August in Dane County (Kathy Kershaw), 12 on 8 August in Iowa County (Greg Hottman), and 12 on 3 October in St. Croix County (David George).

Western Meadowlark – There were four reports. Those four were 14 August of four birds at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Aaron Stutz), 14 August of one bird in Iowa County (John Kivikoski), 15 October of one bird in Bayfield County (Jim Link), and 17 October of one bird at the Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Charles Henrikson, Mary Murrell, and Kenny Younger).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – Reported from 15 counties, which compares to 14 in 2016 and nine in 2015. The great majority of reports came from Cat Island in Brown County and from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge and Fond du Lac counties. The last dates were 27 September in Bayfield County (Ben Baldwin), 27 September in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag), and 30 September at the Adam Bird Conservancy in Jefferson County (Kris Perlberg). There were a number of double digit counts from Cat Island in Brown County with the high of 75 coming on 5 August

(Joel Trick and Jay Watson). Outside of Cat Island, the high was 11 on 3 August at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Michael O'Connell).

Rusty Blackbird – The first fall date was 17 September at the Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County (Jeanne Scherer) followed by 20 September at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski) and 21 September in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady). The last dates were 16 November in Dane County (Jim Schwarz), 23 November in Oconto County (Sue Ascher), and 25 November in Milwaukee County (Tracy Chiconas). The high count was 500 on 20 September at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Bob Domagalski) followed by 300 on 4 November at Genoa in Vernon County (Dan Jackson and Scott Puchalski) and 279 on 5 October at the Brady House in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady).

Brewer's Blackbird – Reported from 14 counties. Early August reports of this nesting species came from the counties of Chippewa, Florence, Oconto, Racine, and St. Croix. The last dates were 11 October in Oconto County (Mike Wilken), 23 October in Trempealeau County (Emily Weiser), and 3 November in Sauk County (David Antieau). The high count was 61 on 2 September at Wind Lake in Racine County (Thomas Wood) followed by 50 on 5 October in Oneida County (Sarah Besadny, Guy David, Mary Jenks, and Donna Roche). The count of 61 is the lowest fall total since 50 in 1983.

Common Grackle – The high count was 2,242 on 16 October at Bridget Lake in Polk County (Robin Maercklein) followed by 1,500 on 8 October in Dane County (Diane Berry) and 1,450 on 24 August in Rock County (Joshua Cullum).

Brown-headed Cowbird – This species was found throughout the fall and then into the winter season. The high count was 90 on 10 September in Dane County (Aaron Holschbach) followed by 75 on 17 August in Calumet County (Travis Moore) and 60 on 14 September in Rock County (Steve Thiessen).

Orchard Oriole – Reported from 16 counties, which compares to 15 in 2016 and 14 in 2015. September departure dates were 1 September in Crawford County (Mike Sandstrom) and 13 September in Monroe County (Eric Epstein). In the period 1–19 August five to eight Orchard Orioles were found at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County with the high of eight on 1 August (Bob Domagalski). Outside of Kingfisher Farm, the high was five on 7 August in Crawford County (Sandstrom). The total of eight is second only to nine set on 12 September 2003 in St. Croix County by Larry Persico. The total of 16 counties reporting Orchard Orioles is record high.

Baltimore Oriole – The last dates were 14 and 17 September in Marathon County (Myles Hurlburt) and 21 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Myles Hurlburt, Tim Oksiuta, and Adam Sinkula). The high count was 26 on 23 August at the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area in Outagamie County (Michael Gray) followed by 24 on 15 August in Grant County (Kelly McKay), 19 on 30 August in Grant County (McKay), and 18 on 15 August in Clark County (Judy Lund).

Contributors

Dan Abel, Michelle Abel, P. Albin, Jennifer Ambrose, Alan Anderson, John Anderson-Bricker, Kristen Anderson-Bricker, Marge Anderson, Rick Anderson, Nick Anich, David Antieau, Sue Ascher, Philip Ashman, Jeff Bahls, Mike Bailey, Timothy Baker, Ben Baldwin, Aaron Balogh, Ben Barkley, Bill Bauer, Barry Baumann, Danielle Baumann, Dan Belter, Donald Benson, Donna Benson, Matthew Berg, Robert Bergen, Mitch Bergeson, Josh Berman, Murray Berner, Diane Berry, Sarah Besadny, Jeff Bilsky, Birders of Lake Park, Ed Blair, Ginny Blair, Keith Boardway, Helen Bolgrien, Dale Bonk, Marilyn Bontly, Ryan Brady, Dave Brasser, Janet Brehm, Calvin Brennan, Steve Brezinski, Cynthia Bridge, Jeff Brinkman, Maureen Brocken, Karen Brown, Sandy Burnett-Hill, Sean Burns, Oliver Burrus, Carolyn Buvala, Gwyneth Calvetti, Rory Cameron, Joan Campbell, Pam Campbell, Ryan Candee, Dan Carrick, Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, Dennis

Casper, Cameron Cass, Tracy Chiconas, Thomas Christ, Laura Coglan, Jan Collins, Jacob Collison, Jack Coulter, Melanie Coulthurst, William Cowart, Joshua Cullum, Guy David, Matthew Daw, Danny De Grace, Rich DeCoster, Cathy Del Valle, Glenda Denniston, Neil Deupree, Katrina DeWitt, Scott Diehl, Fred Dike, Kate Dike, John Dixon, Bob Domagalski, Roberta Donaldson, Barbara Duerksen, Jim Edlhuber, David Edlund, Bruce Edmonson, Erik Enbody, Eric Epstein, Joshua Erdman, Thomas Erdman, Louise Erickson, Richard Erickson, Marty Evanson, Rick Fare, Carolyn Fields, Chuck Fields, Elista Fisher, Peter Fissel, Martha Fleck, Pat Fojut, Jim Frank, Marie Friesen, Jack Fry, Jane Furchgott, David George, Ann Geraghty, Keegan Gering, Marge Gibson, Erwin Giese, Jayson Giese, Nancy Gill, Steve Glass, Drew Goldberg, Justin Goldberg, Ted Gostomski, Christin Grasch, Michael Gray, Davor Grgic, Bill Grossmeyer, Dennis Gustafson, Mark Habermann, Tim Hahn, Karen Etter Hale, Mary Hampton, Joe Hanfman, Tim Hansen, Alex Harman, Pamela Harting, Judy Haseleu, John Hauser, Aaron Haycraft, Paul Hayes, Chuck Heikkinen, Jonathan Heller, Charles Henrikson, Rebecca Herb, Katherin Hern, Liz Herzmann, Thomas Hickey, Eddie Hicks, Leanne Hinke, Emily Hjalmarson, Bill Hoeltke, Randy Holm, Tara Hohman, Sandy Hokanson, Aaron Holschbach, William Holton, Konrad Holtz, Rachel Holzman, Steve Holzman, Patrick Horn, Greg Hottman, Melinda Houtman, Eric Howe, Lorri Howski, Pamela Hoyland, Judith Huf, Myles Hurlburt, Casey Idzikowski, Dan Jackson, Lynn Janik, Michael Janke, Gerry Janz, Kathy Java, Mary Jenks, Robbye Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Rosemary Jones, Eric Julson, Rachel Justice, Chris Kaplan, Heather Kauffman, Bob Kavanagh, Kay Kavanagh, Barbara Kellerman, Adam Kent, Neil Kent, Kathy Kershaw, Ted Keyel, Paul Kinzer, Dennis Kirschbaum, John Kivikoski, Douglas Klein, Tom Klubertanz, Jim Knickelbine, Rockne A. Knuth, Nina Koch, Jinny Koehler, Maxwell Kotelnicki, Jan Kraemer, Larry Kraemer, Sam Krah, Jim Krakowski, Kim Kreitinger, Sam Krerowicz, Craig Kruse, Tom Lally, Connor Langan, Jennie Lanzendorf, Laura LaValley, Steve LaValley, Patrick Letterer, David Larson, Kristy Larson, Erin Lemley, Kyle Lindemer, Jim Link, Howard Lorenz, Paula Lozano, Judy Lund, Janet Lyons, Stuart Malcolm, Kevin McKown, Robin Maercklein, Mary Maertz, Stuart Malcolm, Chandler Mancuso, Mark Martin, Sue Martin, Brian McCaffery, John McCaw, Michael McCloy, Mike McDowell, Kelly McKay, Andrew Meiborg, Tom Mertins, Jeremy Meyer, Ken Milender, Shawn Miller, Nick Mimier, Barry Moerke, Carol Moerke, Barbara Moldenhauer, Tony Moline, Jym Mooney, Travis Moore, Kathy Morales, Anne Moretti, Annie Mueller, Paul Mueller, Ross Mueller, William Mueller, Steve Murkowski, Mary Murrell, Mike Myers, Natural Areas Staff, Erik Nelson, Jason Nickels, Tom Nicholls, Clinton Nienhaus, Paul Noeldner, Aaron Nolan, Mariette Nowak, Tony Nowak, Michael O'Connell, John O'Donnell, Tim Oksiuta, Alec Olivier, Richard Ouren, Taylor Paez, Matthew Page, Patrick Palines, Spencer Parkinson, Shane Patterson, Andy Paulios, Edwin O. Paulson, Jon Peacock, Jim Peck, Mike Peczynski, Meredith Penthorn, Kris Perlberg, Larry Persico, Eric Peterson, Sue Peterson, Steve Petznick, Tome Pier, Robert Plamann, Janine Polk, James Popp, Tom Prestby, Scott Puchalski, Helen

Pugh, Andy Raddatz, Janet Raddatz, Jeff Rash, Katie Ray, Tom Reed, Mike Reese, Nathaniel Reinartz, Ari Rice, Terry Rich, Cheryl Richter, David Rihn, Hal Robins, Kathleen Robins, Donna Roche, Ronald Rohde, Brian Rolek, Jay Roth-Reynolds, Jon Roti Roti, Rebecca Rucker-Keegan, Ryne Rutherford, Matthew Sabatine, Derik Sallmann, Lori Sallmann, Ryan Sallmann, Jeffrey Sanders, Mike Sandstrom, Tom Schaefer, Jeanne Scherer, Paul Schilke, Carl Schroeder, Tom Schultz, Wendy Schultz, Brenda Schultze, Mary Schulz, Kyle Schumacher, Carl Schwartz, Jim Schwarz, Pam Schwedler, Max Seeger, Nick Seeger, Dave Sehloff, Kerry Sehloff, Janice Sharp, Sidhu, Daniel Sieber, Adam Sinkula, Jerry Smith, Karen Smith, Kevin Smith, Jeffery Sole, Joan Sommer, Charles Sontag, Tom Soulen, Martha Spencer, Christine Stanke, Richard Steffen, Brad Steger, Elizabeth Stone, Mary Strasser, Joe Stojak, Aaron Stutz, Alex Sundvall, Peder Svingen, Jack Swelstad, Andrea Szymczak, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, Erik Thomas, Jon Thometz, Andrew Tordoff, Joel Trick, Molly Tuma, Tom Uttech, Lauren Vaughn, Elmer Verhasselt, Dan Versaw, Dick Verch, Robert Volenec, Melody Walsh, Eric Walters, Mike Wanger, Jay Watson, Emily Weber, Scott Weberpal, Kristin Wegner, Emily Weiser, Jennifer Wenzel, Will Weyandt, White, Mike Wilken, David Willard, Guy Williams, Rita Flores Wiskowski, Matthew Wistrand, David Wittrock, Grant Witynski, Thomas Wood, Michele Woodford, Quentin Yoerger, Kenny Younger, Norma Zehner, Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale, Tom Zenner, Tom Ziebell, Brad Zinda, Paul Zinger

50 Years Ago, in *The Passenger Pigeon*

by Nancy Nabak

Excerpts from Fall 1968, Volume 30, Number 3

Wisconsin's 1966-67 Snowy Owl Invasion by Thomas H. Nicholls

. . . The objective of the survey was to determine the number, distribution, and activities of Snowy Owls, the duration of the invasion, and the habitats used by the owls. This information was obtained for use in a possible Snowy Owl radio tracking study that may become a reality in the years ahead. It is hoped that such a study will reveal some of the secrets of this magnificent bird. For example, the specific geographical origin of Snowy Owls coming to the Midwest is virtually unknown and it is uncertain whether they return to the same local area in the Arctic from which they came. Following these birds with the use of radio transmitters may answer such questions.

. . . Observers were asked to report perches used by Snowy Owls at the time of observation... Perch selection by owls may be important in their survival as related to their hunting habits and their avoidance of predators such as fox. From the standpoint of radio telemetry, height of perch is important. The higher the perch is from the ground, the greater the distance a receiving antenna can detect signals from owls wearing radio transmitters.

Notes from observers who sent in reports were interesting. One owl (Superior) was observed perched on a car in a parking lot near a dormitory. The owl fed mainly on pigeons and rats with an occasional pheasant taken. Conservation warden at Winneconne, William D. Laut and Federal Game Warden Lloyd Lindvall were observing a Snowy Owl perched on a muskrat house. An unlucky duck hunter shot the owl, was arrested and fined for shooting a protected bird.

There was a total of 93 Snowy Owls reported in Wisconsin in the winter of 1966–67.

By the Wayside . . .

Summer Tanager Observation: On September 29, 1967 in mid-afternoon and in good light, a Summer Tanager came to our yard. It lit in a large poplar about 15 feet from the ground. I am well acquainted with the Scarlet Tanager, but this bird was all red! The red on the wings and tail was duller red than the rest of its body. The beak was quite long and a dull yellow in color. This sighting took place on our farm in southern Burnett county.—Helen Caldwell, Grantsburg

Herring Gull Attacking Ducks: On October 22, 1967, I watched a Herring Gull harassing a raft of ducks on Lake Winnebago—hundreds would flee as it approached. During the afternoon of that day, two Ruddy Ducks were approached by the gull. It was a near adult gull, probably in its third year bearing only freckles of brown or gray on its neck. It made two sweeps at the ducks and each time they would dive. On the third attack it grabbed one by the back of its neck. While the gull continued to flap its wings, it pushed on the duck's back with its feet and pulled up as if attempting to decapitate it. The duck managed to free itself and dove. After two more attempts the gull gave up and flew out again.—Rockne Knuth, Fond du Lac

A Ruffed Grouse strides along in the snow in this image taken by David Franzen in Vilas County in mid-November.

"By the Wayside"—Fall 2017

Pacific Loon
13 November 2017, Milwaukee County

This small loon was seen in close size comparison to red-breasted mergansers and herring gulls and seemed to be the same size. Much larger common loons were seen farther out on the lake from this bird. The straight bill never was seen above horizontal during the entire observation and it appeared thicker than that of a red-throated loon. Overall the bird appeared darker than a red-throated loon, the head larger in proportion to the body than a red-throated. At certain angles, the forehead appeared to have a slight "bump" to it. The crown was dark gray, extending down the face to encompass the eye making defining the eye difficult at this distance. In addition, this dark gray extended down the side and back of the neck with a straight sharp demarcation between the dark hindneck and white foreneck. The white chin and white throat didn't appear to be contiguous, instead a pale gray seemed to undercut the hindthroat. The dark back wasn't uniform, rather having lighter gray edgings or patterning to the feathers in certain light angles. The gray of the back extended down the sides to the waterline.—James Frank, Mequon, Ozaukee County

Swainson's Hawk
27 September 2017, Ozaukee County

1 light morph adult Swainson's Hawk; approximate size of Red-tailed Hawk but with long pointed wings for a buteo, wings held in distinct dihedral. Dark rich brown upper breast, light belly, bright white wing linings and darker primaries and secondaries, grayish lightly-banded tail.—William Mueller, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County

Long-tailed Jaeger
17 September 2017, Jefferson County

Jaeger spotted swimming near shore, it swam right by me. I wasn't sure whether it was a Parasitic or L-t Jaeger, but I could see it was a 1st year bird. It flew and I thought I saw thicker pointed tail feathers than a Parasitic. I lost the bird when it flew again. After Aaron and Jonas Stutz and Jim Schwarz showed up, we looked again from the boat. Aaron spotted it and we [had] very close sitting and flying looks. What I saw was a buoyant 1st year jaeger with a pale brown color to the body, with a slight gray tone, and some light edges to back feathers, very dark folded primaries. The nape area was light pale brown, the bill was short with the outer part half black, under tail coverts were very brightly barred, dark and white. In flight the outer two upper primary shafts were bright white, on the fully extended wing you could see some white near the base of the primaries. From

the bottom there was a very bright across the base of the primaries. In flight the wings were narrow and the bird flew buoyant like a tern. No gulls were in the area, but to me it seemed a bit smaller than a Ring-billed Gull. —Steve Thiessen, Stoughton, Dane County

Arctic Tern
13 October 2017, Ozaukee County

Typical Stema type tern with dark rear crown to otherwise white head, appearing round-headed and short-necked with thin bill. Upper wings were uniformly gray with just the narrowest black markings on trailing edge of primaries. No obvious dark carpal markings evident. Appeared front-heavy and comparatively flat-bellied. The wing stroke was deep and strong giving the flight a more even and less jerky quality. —Calvin Brennan, Grayling, Michigan

King Rail
11 September 2017, Dodge County

This large rail was preening in the open among some grasses, emerging cattail stalks, and arrowhead. A Sora ran in front of it and the Sora was much smaller. The size difference was exaggerated because the King Rail was standing erect, and the nervous Sora was crouched down as low to the ground as possible as it scurried across the opening in the cattails in front of the King Rail.

The crown of the King Rail was dark gray and the face brown. There was a pale supraloral stripe, but this stripe did not extend to the back of the eye, so I can't call it a supercilium. There was also a partial white eyering which wrapped around only the rear of the eye. The breast was brown and the belly white. The throat was also white. There was distinct black and white vertical striping on the rear flanks, and the sides had a rufous coloration. There was also rufous areas on the wing coverts. The scapulars and wing coverts in areas that weren't rufous had long black internal markings. Some of the scapulars showed thin white edging. The undertail coverts appeared nearly entirely white at times, but at other times seemed to have substantial black streaking. I think this had to do with the degree that the bird spread its tail.

The legs were long and black and the long stout bill was gray.—Thomas Wood, Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County

White-winged Dove
31 October 2017, Racine County

Saw dove flying directly away from me. Noted large white wing patches on inside of upper wings, black primaries and secondaries, white tip of tail except the very center of tail, and tannish back. The bird then perched for about ten seconds. The red eye and blue orbital ring were well seen along with the white line along the lower edge of the wing.—John Dixon, Kansasville, Racine County

WSO Records Committee Report: Fall 2017

Quentin Yoerger

6831 N. Francis Dr
Evansville, Wisconsin 53536
608.449.5261
harrierqman@gmail.com

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 43 records of 30 species for the Fall 2017 season, accepting 28 of them (65%). The highlights of the Fall season were six species of warbler lingering into November, Long-tailed Jaegers, including one in Jefferson County, and multiple Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Swainson's Hawks.

Accepted Records

Table 1 provides a list of records accepted by the WSO Records Committee during the Fall 2017 season. Information on each record, such as species, location, observer(s), and date(s), is accompanied by the tally of votes made by the five-person committee. Records with one or fewer dissenting votes are accepted into the state records.

Records Not Accepted

In the header for each record, voting tallies are shown in parentheses. Votes to accept are listed first. Two or more dissenting votes from the five-person committee results in a Record Not Accepted.

Anhinga—
Milwaukee County, 09 Aug 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a "Female anhinga, yellow beak, dark head, light brown breast and a dark back sitting on a large boulder on the lakefront. Flew off over the water in a straight flight, settled quarter mile away."

This very brief report fails to compare and contrast the bird observed with the much more common and similar looking juvenile Double-crested Cormorant.

Ash-throated Flycatcher—
Dodge County, 13 Aug 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a "Large flycatcher, slightly smaller than a great-crested flycatcher, but larger than an eastern phoebe with light grey-brown head and back with slightly darker wings and tail. Tail had slight rusty tinge to it with a fairly deep fork, but nowhere near as forked as a scissor-tailed flycatcher. Flicked its tail on occasion. Throat was a dirty white rather than grey. Didn't see much of the front, but appeared pretty pale all the way down. Head very

Table 1. Records accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Species	Date	Observer	Location	County	Notes	Vote
American Redstart	11/21	Grant Witynski	Picnic Point, UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve	Dane	Late	5 - 0
Arctic Tern	10/13	Calvin Brennan	Harrington Beach State Park	Ozaukee		5 - 0
Barn Owl	10/17	Adam Sinkula	Kewaunee Harbor-Lighthouse Pier	Kewaunee	Photo	5 - 0
Bay-breasted Warbler	11/06	Thomas Wood	Doctor's Park	Milwaukee	Late	5 - 0
King Rail	9/11	Thomas Wood	Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour	Dodge		5 - 0
Least Sandpiper	11/20	Jim Schwarz	Nine Springs Natural Area	Dane	Photo	5 - 0
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/17	Aaron Stutz	Lake Koshkonong	Jefferson	Photo	5 - 0
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/17	Steve Thiessen	Lake Koshkonong	Jefferson		5 - 0
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/19	Ted Keyel	Lot 1, WI point	Douglas	Photo	5 - 0
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/19	Peder Svingen	Lot 1, WI point	Douglas	Photo	5 - 0
Magnificent Frigatebird	9/22	Melanie Coulthurst	Wisconsin River, Wausau	Marathon	Photo	5 - 0
Northern Parula	11/01	Kim Kreitinger	2417 Center Ave. Madison	Dane	Photo	5 - 0
Orange-crowned Warbler	9/2	Jym Mooney	Lake Park	Milwaukee	Early	5 - 0
Ovenbird	11/1	Kathy Kershaw	4947 Felland Road, Madison	Dane	Late	5 - 0
Pacific Loon	11/13	James Frank	Doctor's Park	Milwaukee		5 - 0
Sabine's Gull	9/11	Kathy Java	Spirit Lake	Burnett	Photo	5 - 0
Sabine's Gull	9/18	Ted Keyel	Lot 1, WI point	Douglas		5 - 0
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	8/6	Erik Bruhnke	Adjacent to Janesville Youth Sports Complex	Rock		5 - 0
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/18	Tim Oksiuta	Port Wing Harbor Beach	Bayfield	Photo	5 - 0
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/20	Nicolas Anich	Woodbury Lane	Ashland	Photo	5 - 0
Spotted Sandpiper	11/24	Paul Schilke	DePere Dam/Voyageur Park	Brown	Late	5 - 0
Swainson's Hawk	9/27	William Mueller	Forest Beach Migratory Preserve	Ozaukee		5 - 0
Swainson's Hawk	10/25	Melody Walsh	Michigan Road on Washington Island	Door	Photo	5 - 0
Tennessee Warbler	11/23	Mike Wanger	Coal Dock Park's impoundment	Ozaukee	Late	4 - 1
Western Kingbird	9/09	John McCaw	Rockvale Rd	Dodge	Photo	5 - 0
White-winged Dove	10/31	John Dixon	Wind Point	Racine		5 - 0
Wood Thrush	11/23	Kathy Kershaw	4947 Felland Road, Madison	Dane	Late	5 - 0
Yellow-throated Warbler	9/13	Alex Harman	Memorial Park, UW-Platteville	Grant	Late	5 - 0
Myiarchus flycatcher	11/14	Mike Wanger	Virmond Park	Ozaukee	Photo	5 - 0

round, much rounder than a GCFL, but beak had similar length and heft in proportion to the head, maybe slightly less chunky."

Included in the report is a discussion about similar species.

"Great-crested Flycatcher: a very round head shape was the main thing I noticed when I first saw the bird, but the smaller size and sleeker build gave an overall impression of not being a GCFL; the deep fork in the tail was very different from the tail of a GCFL; throat was lighter than I would expect from a GCFL; habitat was completely wrong, with the bird spending time in a scrubby grassland with almost no trees and never spent any time in the few trees that were around

Dusky-capped Flycatcher: tail seemed a little rusty; head and back seemed a little lighter and had more contrast with wings than what's in my bird book for DCFL; seemed bigger than a phoebe while DCFL is same size as phoebe; throat seemed lighter than a DCFL; beak seamed chunkier than DCFL; habitat more like that described for ATFL (semiarid country, brush), than DCFL (pine-oak and deciduous canyons)"

The report focuses on the size of the bird and its head. Neither of these are diagnostic for an Ash-throated Flycatcher. The committee would like to see comments regarding the underside of the tail and rufous edges to the wings and tail. The timing of this bird does not match the established vagrancy period for Ash-throated.

Ash-throated Flycatcher—
Ozaukee County, 11 Nov 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird with "Darker brown edges on tail, gray face with light brown cap, rufous in the wings and tail, brighter yellow on the belly, slightly longer but still slim bill, gray throat, brown crest." Also discussion the most common similar species" Great-crested Flycatcher is a "brighter" bird colorwise, with a dark gray face and breast, sharply-contrasting white wing bars and wing-edges, and a more robust bill with pale on the base. Dusky-capped Flycatcher (no Wisconsin records) is duller overall, smaller, plainer, with a smaller, more rounded bill."

Pictures of the bird were also provided.

After much discussion and review of the photos including review by individuals more familiar with Ash-throated Flycatchers than the Wisconsin Records Committee, no clear identification of this bird to species can be made. The pictures show a M*yiarchus* flycatcher. The November date falls within the typical vagrancy of the Ash-throated Flycatcher.

This record is being accepted as a *Myiarchus* flycatcher. Unable to determine exact species.

Baird's Sparrow—
Dodge County, 29 Sep 2017 (0-5).

The report is very brief "Sparrow size, thought it was a grasshopper sparrow but markings were different." Pictures of the bird were provided.

The bird pictured is a Savannah Sparrow.

Black-headed Grosbeak—
Barron County, 04 Aug 2017 (0-5).

The report submitted was "Size: the bird was slightly smaller than a robin, maybe a little more than 7 inches in length. I noticed the bird was slightly

smaller than and not quite as chunky as one would expect from a Rose breasted grosbeak.

Shape: The bird had the overall shape of a grosbeak or finch (except too large to be a finch)

Coloration: I immediately noticed that this bird unlike the many other Rose breasted grosbeaks I have seen had a breast which was nearly entirely rust/light orange in color. The breast also had small amounts of streaking. The back was a brown color and the wings had several small white patches on them. When studying the head of the bird, I noticed a thick white stripe just above the eye. Near the chin of the bird I noticed 'large' white patches seen on both sides of the head. I did NOT see a white/pale bill, the bill on this bird appeared to be darker.

Similar Species: A female or young male Rose breasted grosbeak is the most likely species to be confused with this bird. I ruled out this bird (RBGB) based on the following field marks and behaviors.

The breast of this bird was almost entirely a rust/light orange color. The female Rose breasted grosbeak will typically be a light cream color with heavy streaks. A young male Rose breasted will typically show small amounts pink/red on the breast. I could clearly see that my bird did not have and red/pink on the breast.

The size of the bird is another feature that helps eliminate the similar Rose breasted grosbeak, the bird I observed was slightly smaller overall (approximately 7'') and not as chunky. Rose breasted grosbeaks are typically an inch larger and much heavier. The bill on a Rose breasted grosbeak is a white or bone color. This bird did not have a bill of that color.

After initially spotting the bird, it disappeared until I played a short recording of the Black headed grosbeak call. Shortly after playing the recording the bird flew directly towards me and landed in a branch directly above me. The bird flew off about a minute later but returned after playing the recording again. In my experience a bird will typically ignore a recording unless it is of the same species, meaning this bird was a Black headed grosbeak. Other birders I have spoken with share the same opinion.

Once the bird had landed in the tree directly above me, I heard it make about 6 ‘chink’ calls. Being familiar with the ‘chink’ calls of the Rose breasted Grosbeak, I immediately knew that these were different. The ‘chink’ of a RBGB is a very short note while the ‘chink’ I heard was a longer note.”

The committee feels that this report does not adequately rule out an immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The main point given for identification can be variable, especially with young birds. Size is not a good indicator. Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks are very nearly identical in size with the Black-headed slightly larger. This is contrary to what the report indicates.

Great Gray Owl—
Dane County, 15 Sep 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird seen for 15 seconds described as “It was a very large owl with no tufts. Grey in color”.

This report contains none of the diagnostic field marks for a Grey-gray Owl and fails to eliminate the very common Barred Owl.

Harris's Sparrow—
Juneau County, 02 Aug 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird first seen "while we were driving a large Sparrow flew up right in front of us! We stopped and viewed the bird through binoculars for about thirty seconds and after getting most of the field marks (large Sparrow, black cap so juvenile, bright pink bill, and black band on breast) I unfortunately could not see the leg color." "Field's and Vesper's have a pink bill but neither are nearly as big as a Harris's and neither have the same plumage pattern"

The records committee feels that there is not enough detail included in this report to identify the bird to species. The timing of this report is 30 days after the latest summer record and 37 days before the earliest fall record. A juvenile bird at this time would be very highly unlikely.

King Rail—
Fond du Lac County, 11 Aug 2017 (1-4). Report submitted by two observers.

The report is of heard only birds; "I played a recording and a KIRA responded immediately. Vocalization as given" then a reference to online recordings. "On July 1, I did likewise and received a response again. On Aug. 11, after playing recording, 2 juveniles responded from approx 12 m. 1 or possibly 2 adults then called from a different location, approx 30 m away. Juvenile responses were as given at" another online recording reference.

When submitting a report for review the report must contain a description of the bird or for heard only birds a description of vocalization heard. Reports of birds that looks like a picture in a field guide or of vocalizations like an online recording will not be accepted. This report did not describe the call in any way.

Pomarine Jaeger—
Doulas County, 12 Sep 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird that "flew by low over the water directly in front of us once, then made one brief successful chase and then flew toward Gull Bluff and did not return. It was bigger than the Ring-billed Gull it was chasing. It looked dark brown, deep chested and deep bellied with a thick neck and large head. Its flight was direct and powerful with constant flapping and no gliding.

Similar Species: Parasitic and Long-tailed are slimmer bodied and wings are more slender."

There is very little in this report that supports the identification of this bird as a Pomarine vs other jaegers. A detailed description of the wings including the double white wing flash would help support the identification. Size can be very difficult to judge unless in direct comparison with another bird.

Pomarine Jaeger—
Kenosha County, 03 Nov 2017 (0-5).

The report is of an observation where the "bird immediately was noticed as bulky bodied, short tailed and wide wings (where they attached to the body) and very long wings proportionally. It was like a 'Peregrine Nighthawk' in jizz. That is, it seemed to have the body bulk of that falcon, along with an expressed strength and speed (even more evident in that it was forcing its way INTO the strong north/northeast 10 mph winds!). At the same time, it

has that long, pointed wings with a white marking near the tip of the underwing (which was seen a couple times), like a Nighthawk has. From the moment I saw the bird in binocs, it stood out at something very likely different than a gull and once I got it in the scope, there was never a moment that it came across as a gull, rather it was very obviously a jaeger species.

This Jaeger was most of the time seen as all dark, except for the occasional view of the white underwing arch near the wingtip. Thus, a dark phase bird. Tail was short, and a couple times it seemed as if the underbody had a tone of dark brown instead of all black, both marking which would fit an immature more than an adult. Lighting was quickly waning as sunset was only 7 minutes away when I last saw the bird flying into Wisconsin. I suppose there's still a chance this was an adult dark phase but listing it as immature dark as the markings pointed more likely to that age.

The November date also supports Pomarine (and immature jaeger) more than Parasitic (and an adult jaeger), as a high percentage of November and later jaeger sightings in Illinois have been of Pomarine."

"Long-tailed would be much smaller (something would stand out in the midst of 600+ Herring Gulls heading out to the Lake for roosting) and its flight wouldn't be considering powerful as a Pomarine. As well, they are the early jaeger migrant (Aug/Sept), don't even know if there's ever been a mid-Oct onward record for this species.

Herring Gull immature can sometimes be overall all dark, but they don't have a flash of white arc near the wing tip, don't have this shape akin more similar to a Peregrine, don't have such powerful and capable flight.

Parasitic is the only other challenging species, but with a good extended view, one should notice they are a little smaller, less 'thick' breast/chest, less wide wings. The overall very powerful flight, with challenging winds seemingly not even impacting or bothering its flight rhythm is something I also associate with the views and experiences I've had with Pomarine, more so than the other jaegers.

Also, Parasitic, while there have been some November records, typically passes through prior to then, so the date found is a general field mark more supportive of a Pomarine."

The committee found this report to be lacking in noting the diagnostic field marks that differentiate Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. Much of the identification seems to rely on the date of the sighting. Would like to see more detail regarding the wing markings, Wing width, the double white wing flash or the tail projection.

Pomarine Jaeger—
Doulas County, 11 Sep 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a "dark morph, juvenile bird. On water: Bulky jaeger, with stout neck and robust profile. In flight: Noticeably broad wings in direct comparison with PAJA and RBGU. Center retrices round tipped. Double wing flashes noted by photos and seen in flight.

Similar Species: Parasitic Jaeger: Also present and at times in direct comparison with POJA. POJA was nearly twice as bulky on the water and wings obviously more robust in flight. The observed POJA would spend lots of time on the water near a sub-adult light

morph PAJA, giving great looks on the water and in the water in direct comparison. Juvenile dark morph PAJA also present. This bird had noticeably squared center retrices and was more slender in appearance in flight than the POJA.

Long-tailed Jaeger: Much more bulky and larger than expected from LTJA."

Pictures were also provided.

This bird was seen many time along Wisconsin Point and photographed many times. Experts reviewed the photos and also through personal observation of the bird it was determined to be a Parasitic Jaeger.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—
Ozaukee County, 27 Oct 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird that "looks like the same hummingbird that has been here all summer" that has been "feeding for long periods @ feeder".

The report provides no description of the bird to identify it to a species.

Sabine's Gull –
Douglas County, 21 Sep 2017 (2-3).

The report is of a bird seen while scanning with a scope and the observer "came upon a loafing group of gulls, mostly ring-billed with some herring gulls. I then noticed one gull substantially smaller than the others. My initial thought was Bonaparte's because up to 3 individuals have been around that morning, but something made me look closer. It was the coloring over the back of neck through the shoulders, onto the back. The color was sandy brown instead of white, then gray of an immature/winter plumage of a Bonaparte's. I made sure to stay on the bird and wait until I get different angles to rule out sunlight playing tricks on me and the color stayed consistent.

Similar Species: The size alone ruled out most gulls except Bonaparte's, Little, or something rarer. I have never seen any Little Gulls showing the shade of brown that consistent throughout the upper half of the body. Immature/Winter Bonaparte's would seem to be the easiest to confuse it with, but again, I have never seen that sandy brown color throughout the upper half of the body extending to the back of the neck.

Shape of body and bill was not tern-like, eliminating any tern species"

The committee found that this report failed to note the bill color and wing pattern. Therefore the report does not contain enough detail to eliminate the possibility of it being a Bonaparte's Gull.

Chuck-will's-widow—
Manitowoc County, 16 May 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird perched in a backyard tree. "The bird was quite large, I'm guessing 10–12 inches, perched on a limb about 8 feet above the ground with most of its body obscured by foliage. I did not get a good visual on it when it flew but saw no white wing bars." Photos of the bird were also provided. The bird was also heard and identified by call, but no description of the call was provided.

The committee reviewed the report and photos provided. We also consulted with experts not on the Records Committee. The committee feels the bird in the photos is an Eastern Whip-or-will.

Beverly Engstrom took this portrait of a family of Trumpeter Swans gracefully swimming in a lake in Oneida County in mid-September.

About the Artists

Rory Cameron is a lifelong Wisconsin resident who has been interested in birds since first grade when his cousin identified chickadees and a ring-necked pheasant for him. Now retired, he served over 33 years as a circuit judge in Chippewa County. He also enjoys running (he found a lifer Canada Jay while running a marathon in Thunder Bay), reading, and bagpiping.

Beverly Engstrom is a retired elementary school teacher who lives on the Wisconsin River in Oneida County on property that is protected through a conservation easement with Northwoods Land Trust. She enjoys many outdoor activities, especially nature photography.

David Franzen and his wife, June, have lived in Phelps, Wisconsin since 1969. He worked for 34 years in the woods of northern Wisconsin, retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2001 and from a private forestry consulting business in 2004. After retirement, he took up bird photography with most of his work being shot within 100 yards of his house. His primary interest is in photographing bird behavior. He does not use blinds, but quietly waits in a chair for a bird to strike an interesting pose within close range. During 34 years of forestry work, he captured with the mind, many images that far surpass what he has captured with the camera. The most beautiful nature scene he ever viewed was encountered while trout fishing a small stream surrounded by maple forest that had sparse understory prior to spring leaf emergence. On that misty morning, a huge timber wolf glided over a hill across the stream and came toward him to stream's edge. When a wolf moves slowly, it kind of glides effortlessly, and this big guy was more like a spirit than a real animal. A real magical moment. David does occasional slide programs for local groups.

Greg Hottman is an amateur wildlife photographer from Oregon, Wisconsin. Greg started out taking pictures of birds, mostly warblers to help with identification. As a youngster in the 60's he can remember seeing flashes of red going through the yard in his hometown of Cross Plains and running inside to the Encyclopedia Britannia to see what bird that might have been. He inherited that "those cows ain't gonna milk themselves" gene so he gets up early, gets most of his work done by 6am which frees him up for the rest of the day. Greg's favorite birds to photograph are owls. The neighborhood foxes are fun too.

David Lund is an amateur photographer who lives near Eau Claire. Following his retirement as a Mathematics

Professor at UW-Eau Claire in 2000, he and his wife, Judy, now include birding and photography as part of all of their travels. Although many of his pictures are taken in Wisconsin, wintering in the southern US has provided many additional opportunities birding photography experiences. He has recently begun making presentations on birds and birding.

Kristie L Pinnow is a native of northern Wisconsin and has always loved nature. She has enjoyed backyard birding since childhood, and over the years has added photography to that interest. She has recently discovered the beauty of warblers, and it has become a desire to photograph as many local species as she can. Along with birding and photography, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and baking.

Greg Hottman spotted this classy, watchful Snowy Owl in mid-November in Winnebago County.

Guidelines for Authors and Artists

Authors

The Passenger Pigeon, issued quarterly by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO), publishes articles on Wisconsin birds, on ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and on WSO activities and business. Anyone with a serious interest in Wisconsin birdlife—whether a professional ornithologist or an amateur birder— is encouraged to submit articles and observations to this journal. The Editors are happy to discuss ideas for articles with potential authors.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles to be considered for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon*. It should be noted that all research articles will be submitted for peer review. Articles not presenting research will go through the traditional editorial process. The editors will do as much as possible to see that work is published, including offering suggestions for improvement when pertinent.

All articles should be sent via email to PassengerPigeon@WSOBirds.org. If necessary, articles may be sent by surface mail to: Passenger Pigeon, 5018 Odana Rd, Madison, WI 53711.Following are specific guidelines for submission:

- Articles and art for each issue should be submitted by the following dates in order to be considered: spring – December 1; summer – March 1; fall – April 15; winter – August 1.
- The article should have not been previously published in a different journal.
- The text must be in Word format (.doc or .docx), either Word for Windows or Word for Mac. "Pages" format is also acceptable.
- The manuscript should be double-spaced throughout (including figure and table captions) and use 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font style.
- The text must be on pages separate from figures and tables.
- On the title page, provide the article title, name, address, telephone number, and email address of all authors of the article.
- Include the acknowledgments, literature cited, and a brief biographical sketch of each author at the end of the manuscript.
- Research articles should generally follow standard scientific format, with separate sections for abstract, 5–7 key words, introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusions, and bibliography. Deviations from this format (e.g., combined results and discussion section) will be considered on an individual manuscript basis. Key words should be different from key terms present in the title.
- Please use metric measures (for example: millimeters, kilograms, microliters).

- The spelling of common and scientific bird names should follow the most recent edition of the Checklist of North American Birds (see http://checklist.aou.org), published by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), or the most recent updates to the checklist. Please include Genus and species (*italicized*) following the first time that the common name of a species is introduced in text.
- When appropriate, lists of species in tables or text should follow the most current AOU taxonomic sequence.
- Use capital letters for the full common names of birds (e.g., American Robin, Red-headed Woodpecker). Avoid use of four letter abbreviations often used to shorten the species name. For example, do not use RBWO for Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Guidelines for submitting figures and tables:

- Each figure and each table must be on a separate page.
- Captions for all figures should be sent as a separate text file, not embedded with the figure.
- Figures and table should be submitted in a way suitable for black-and-white reproduction.
- Tables are encouraged to be submitted as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. All tables for each manuscript may be included in the same Microsoft Excel Book with separate sheets comprising each table. Alternatively, tables can be created as 'typists' tables' in Microsoft Word. This involves creating a tabular version of your table in Microsoft Word without using the actual "Table" function in that program. Instead, use tabs to separate your columns and a carriage return to separate rows — do not add spaces to make columns line up.

Guidelines for citing literature in text:

Citations should be listed chronologically in parentheses:

- No comma between author(s) and date: (McGhee 1995)
- Use "and" between two authors: (Li and Aschenbrenner 2007)
- If more than two authors, use "et al.:" (Moreau et al. 2015)
- Personal communication or reference to unpublished data: Cite the person's initials and surname, institutional affiliation, followed by "pers. comm." or ."unpub. data." Example: (E. Ramirez, University of Wisconsin-Madison, unpub. data).
- Works by the same author(s) in the same year are arranged alphabetically by article title and differentiated by letter (1998a, 1998b).

Guidelines for formatting references in bibliography section

References at end of document should be listed alphabetically by last name of first author, then in increasing chronological order. Follow the models below for citing books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.

Sample References:

Reller, A.W. 1972. Aspects of behavioral ecology of Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers. American Midland Naturalist 88(2): 270–290.

Bajema, R.A. and S.L. Lima. 2001. Landscape-level Analyses of Henslow's Sparrow (Ammodramus henslowii) Abundance in Reclaimed Coal Mine Grasslands. The American Midland Naturalist 145(2): 288–298.

Curtis, J.T. 1959. Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Gregg, L. 2006. Gray Jay. Pages 296–297 in N.J. Cutright, B.R. Harriman, and R.W. Howe (Eds.), Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin. Waukesha: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Estades, C.F. 1997. Habitat fragmentation, pine plantation forestry and the conservation of forest bird communities in central Chile. Master of Science Thesis, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kilvington, M., J. Rosier, R. Wilkinson and C. Freeman. 1998. Urban restoration: Social opportunities and constraints. Paper presented to the Symposium on Restoring the Health and Wealth of Ecosystems, Christchurch, New Zealand, September 28–30.

National Audubon Society. 2014. Christmas Bird Count Historical Results. www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/index.html [accessed September 1, 2013].

Strickland, D. and H. Ouellet. 2011. Gray Jay (Perisoreus canadensis). In A. Poole (Ed.), The Birds of North America Online. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/040 [accessed December 31, 2015].

Artists

All photos must be submitted as jpeg digital images in e-mail attachments to Todd Leech, the Assistant Editor for Art, at leechtodd@yahoo.com. They will be stored in secure digital files until recommended for a given quarterly issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Although we would prefer to print all images chosen for *The Passenger Pigeon* in color, many will be printed in black & white due to the prohibitive cost of printing everything in color. One image per issue will be selected as a color cover photo. Every effort will be made to use the best photos submitted by as many contributors as possible. Final selections will be made by the editors.

Following are the criteria for submitted work:

1. Jpeg digital images of photos, drawings, paintings, sculptures, wood carvings, quilts or other artistic works featuring birds seen or photographed in Wisconsin should be sent as email attachments and should be in as large a size as possible, with resolution of at least 300 d.p.i. (1.2 megabytes for black-and-white and 1.5 megabytes for color). Lower resolution simply does not print well and pixel-dense images make the best candidates for printing since they often need to be cropped. All photos of birds submitted must have been taken in Wisconsin.

2. Please note: since the seasonal reports are for the year previous to the current issue, any photographs for a given issue should also be from the same period. For example, photographs for the Winter, 2015 issue should have been taken on or between December 1, 2014 and February 28,

2015; photographs for Spring, 2016 should have been taken on or between March 1, 2015 and May 31, 2015; and so on.

3. All images submitted must be material not previously published in *The Passenger Pigeon.*

4. All images must include the bird species name and name of the artist. Date and location are also necessary in the case of photographs. Images of works other than photographs should have a title if one has been selected.

5. The most useful images are those in "portrait" format, rather than "landscape" format. A cropped photo 4″ horizontal by 5″ vertical is ideal for consideration for a cover photo. The "fill page" images are also best done in portrait format and might run as large as 4.75″ × 7″. The editors may do some additional cropping of images for publication.

6. Since no images will be returned, the submission must be high-resolution copy of the original. In most cases contributors will have cropped the images for the best effect. Cropping the images too tightly should be avoided since the editors may choose to do more cropping. All unused or unusable digital images will be destroyed after a certain time period.

7. It is the policy of Wisconsin Society for Ornithology not to offer monetary compensation to contributing artists for use of their images in *The Passenger Pigeon.* The Society is grateful for those who have contributed limited use of their images for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon* in the past and to those who will do so in the future.

8. When images have been selected and approved for each quarterly issue, a short biography from each contributing artist will be requested. It is tradition to publish those in the "About the Artists" pages of each issue. As a result, the Editors request that contributors include a short biographical statement along with their artwork.ographical statement along with their artwork.

Errata
The Passenger Pigeon, Vol. 80, No. 2

p. 128—The confirmation of Loggerhead Shrike found by Pam Campbell, was erroneously attributed to J. Campbell.

p. 156—The birds in the photo at the bottom of the page are, in fact, Greater Prairie-Chickens, not Ring-necked Pheasants.

This White-breasted Nuthatch assumed a classic pose for Beverly Engstrom in Oneida County in November.

Federal Duck Stamps = Big Win for Conservation

Officially the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the federal Duck Stamp provides revenue to help acquire and protect wetlands within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sales have raised more than $800 million since the program began in 1934, and they have helped acquire and protect more than six million acres of irreplaceable bird-friendly habitat.

Wisconsin refuges funded in part by sales of Duck Stamps include:

- Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
- Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
- Wisconsin Waterfowl Production Areas

For a form that includes price and ordering information, visit the Conservation section of the WSO website, www.wsobirds.org.

Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts,

Fifth Edition (2009)

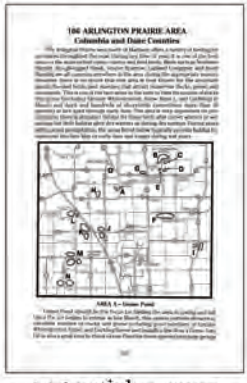
Reduced 50%!

Now $15.00

Plus shipping, handling and sales tax

This edition marks the fourth time this comprehensive bird-finding guide to Wisconsin has been compiled and edited by Daryl Tessen.

- New in this edition: An **annotated checklist** of 443 species and a **birding highlights** quick reference.
- Nearly 40 bird illustrations (many in color) by Wisconsin artists Thomas Schultz, David Kuecherer, Jeannie Perry, Tom Uttech, and Robbye Johnson.
- Contributions from birders throughout the state.

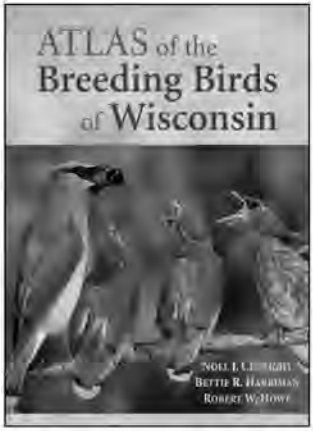


145 articles cover some 1,100 areas and include detailed maps.

Designed for durability and functionality, this book is printed on heavy coated paper and has a spiral binding so it lies flat when open. 6" by 9", 556 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9774986-3-5.

Published by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., with proceeds used for projects supported by the organization.

Visit the WSO website, www.wsobirds.org, for an order form that includes price and ordering information, or contact the Bookstore Manager (see contact information on Inside Back Cover).



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin

- Features almost 1,400 photographs, distribution maps, and figures – **all in color**!
- Based on studies done by more than 1,600 field observers between 1995 and 2000.
- Edited by Noel J. Cutright, Bettie R. Harriman, and Robert W. Howe.

The largest natural history survey ever conducted in Wisconsin has resulted in this comprehensive guide to birds that breed in the state.

Hardcover, large format (9" x 11.25"), 624 pages. Copyright 2006. ISBN: 978-0-9774986-0-4.

Published by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., with proceeds used for projects supported by the organization.

The two-page species accounts – 214 of them in all – provide a host of information on the state's breeding species, including their range, habitat preference, breeding biology, conservation concerns, and population trends. An additional 23 less-common species also are covered. Also included are chapters on Atlas methodology, results, history, habitats, and conservation.

Visit the WSO website, www.wsobirds.org, for an order form that includes price and ordering information, or contact the Bookstore Manager (see contact information on Inside Back Cover).

A White-crowned Sparrow in Vilas County was likely wary about having this picture taken by David Franzen in early October.

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 "to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds." The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation and publication.

OFFICERS (2018–2019)

President Michael John Jaeger, president@wsobirds.org, 608-335-2546

Vice President Myles Hurlburt, vicepresident@wsobirds.org, 715-574-1003

Secretary Jennifer Wenzel, secretary@wsobirds.org, 262-488-8077

Treasurer Dani Baumann, treasurer@wsobirds.org, 262-617-1268

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2018–2019)

Annual Convention Christine Zimmerman, convention@wsobirds.org

Awards Wendy Schultz, awards@wsobirds.org

Badger Birder Carl Schwartz, badgerbirder@wsobirds.org

Bookstore Darwin Tiede, 920-997-9418, bookstore@wsobirds.org

Communications Kristin Bowers, communications@wsobirds.org

Conservation Michael John Jaeger, Acting Chair, president@wsobirds.org

Development Mary Korkor, development@wsobirds.org

Education Jim Knickelbine, education@wsobirds.org; Ed Hahn, youtheducation@wsobirds.org

Field Trips Thomas R. Schultz, 920-960-1796 and Jeffrey L. Baughman, 920-960-4732; fieldtrips@wsobirds.org

Historian Nancy J. Nabak, historian@wsobirds.org

Honey Creek Levi Wood, honeycreek@wsobirds.org

Membership Kim Kreitinger, membership@wsobirds.org

Passenger Pigeon Editors Charles A. Heikkinen and Delia O. Unson, passengerpigeon@wsobirds.org, 608-206-0324 (Chuck); 608-235-8914 (Delia)

Records Quentin Yoerger, records@wsobirds.org

Research Vacant

Scholarships and Grants Aaron Greene; grants@wsobirds.org