

WISCONSIN ENDANGERED RESOURCES REPORT 4

SUMMARY OF THE SCIENTIFIC AREAS BREEDING BIRD SURVEY, 1983

by Michael J. Mossman

SUMMARY

Cooperators surveyed 65 sites by walking or canoeing in 1983. Thirty-four (34) of these were designated Scientific Areas and the others were sites of interest as potential additions to the Scientific Areas system. Results from each survey are briefly summarized. Cooperators provided 24 records of endangered or threatened species as well as observations of uncommon species, including the red-breasted merganser, yellow rail, long-eared owl, Bell's vireo, and worm-eating, Kentucky, and hooded warblers. Sites of particular interest were the prairies of southern Wisconsin, the Mississippi River bottoms (home to several rare species), the White River Marsh Wildlife Area (a potential waterfowl impoundment), and tamarack relics in southern Wisconsin. Surveys have now been completed for 124 (65%) of the state's 190 designated Scientific Areas, and data from the survey were recently used in a publication on the birds of the Baraboo Hills. Future plans include more thorough coverage of areas in the northern half of the state.

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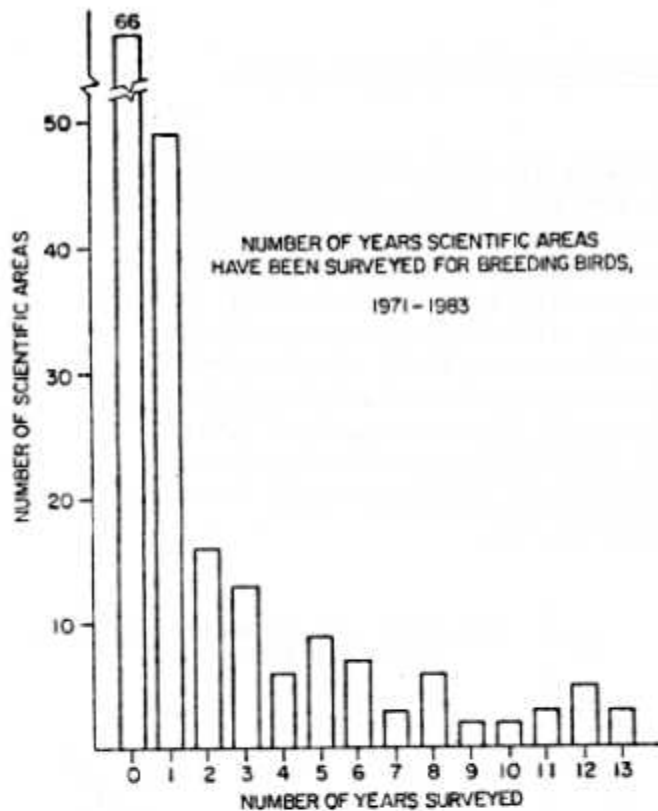


FIGURE 3.

The 1983 bird survey was highlighted by a number of interesting finds (Table 1). Twenty-four records of endangered or threatened species were obtained, as were sightings of other uncommon species such as red-breasted merganser; yellow rail; long-eared owl; Bell's vireo; and worm-eating, Kentucky and hooded warblers. Coverage of southern Wisconsin prairies is becoming more thorough, with the addition this year of Ripon, Swenson, Westport, Drumlin, Snapper, and Puchyan prairies. Surveys conducted in the Mississippi River bottoms greatly improved our understanding of the bird communities in relatively undisturbed lowland hardwood tracts, and produced several nesting records of yellow-bellied sapsucker, prothonotary warbler, and brown creeper, species that are uncommon or rare elsewhere in southern Wisconsin.

Survey data from the White River in Green Lake County will hopefully help determine if the area should be impounded for a Canada goose refuge or whether it should remain in a natural state, with its acadian flycatchers, cerulean warblers, red-shouldered hawk, bobolinks, etc.

The Scientific Areas program is also helping support a 3-year study of the breeding birds of southern Wisconsin tamarack relics, a bird community type for which very little information exists; among other things, the study uses breeding bird survey data to help indicate the integrity of each relic community and determine its preservation priority. Several northern species have been found, including sharp-shinned hawks and northern waterthrushes.

Coverage of the southern half of the state has been good, although many scientific and natural areas have yet to be surveyed. Northern Wisconsin has been covered less thoroughly and we hope to place more emphasis on that region in the next few years.

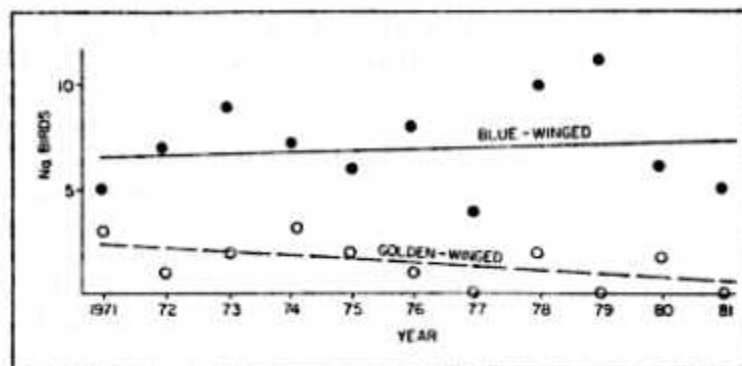


FIGURE 4. Blue-winged and golden-winged warblers recorded on combined annual surveys of Hemlock Draw and Honey Creek Valley, 1971-81. From: Mossman & Lange. 1982. *The Breeding Birds of the Baraboo Hills: Their History, Distribution, and Ecology*. Wis. DNR and Wis. Soc. Ornithol. Madison. 197pp.

Cooperators for 1983:

Evelyn Batchelor
Harold Bauers
John Bielefeldt
Steve DeStefano
Karen Etter Hale
Lisa Hartman
William Hilsenhoff
Ron Hoffmann
Robbye Johnson
Ken Lange
Robert Lewke

Sister Mary Linders
Mark and Sue Martin
Sumner Matteson
Michael Mossman
Sister Vera Osterhaut
Ed Peartree
Sam Robbins
Carol Rudy
David Sample
Bruce Sedloff
Barbara Vogelsang

Table 1. BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS ON WISCONSIN SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS, 1983

County	Sci. Area Number	Area Name	Date	No. of Species	Observer	Comments
Ashland	156	Big Bay Sand Spit & Bog	11 July	39	Matteson	Am. bittern, r-b. merganser, olive-sided flycatcher, black-&-white, Tennessee, Nashville, yellow-rumped, bi-thr. green, blackburnian, pine, & other warblers.
Buffalo	NA*	Whitman Bottoms Non-Sci. Area	28 July	28	Mossman & Fallow	Great blue & green heron; egrets, prothonotary family, crested flycatchers, house wrens, spotted sandpipers.
Calumet	176	High Cliff	23 June	30	Rudy	Winter wren, brown creepers, broad-winged hawk. Nesting evidence for redbellies, downy, jay, oriole, robin.
Clark	84	Schmidt Maple Woods	29 June	25	Robbins	Great blue herons, pileated, red-headed woodpeckers, y-thr. and red-eyed vireos, edge species.
Columbia	86	Audubon Goose Pond	24 June	26	Martin & Martin	Ruddy ducks, black duck, yellow-headed blackbirds; sedge wrens appear between 1 & 5 July.
Columbia	NA	Lewiston Tamarack Swamp	6 June	34	Mossman	Redshoulder, alder flycatchers, veeries, Bell's vireo; blue-winged, Nashville, mourning & Canada warblers; most trees dead.
Crawford	NA	Ambrough Slough	5 July	48	Mossman	Colony of g.b. herons, cormorants & egrets; prothonotary & sapsucker nests; osprey, titmouse, redstarts, gnatcatchers.
Crawford	NA	Henderson Slough	6 July	36	Mossman	Sapsuckers, house wrens, gnatcatchers, crested flycatchers, warbling vireos, prothonotaries, redstarts.
Crawford	170 (part)	Rush Creek Bluffs (Oldfield)	5 July	18	Mossman	Mallard, willow flycatcher, waxwings, field sparrow; orchard oriole, redwing, phoebe & robin nests.

*NA = Natural Area, not a designated Scientific Area.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS ON WISCONSIN SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS, 1983

3.

County	Sci. Area Number	Area Name	Date	No. of Species	Observer	Comments
Dodge	143	Mayville Ledge Beech-Maple Woods	16 June	27	Mossman	Pewees, crested flycatchers, house wrens, gnatcatcher, red-eyed vireo, ovenbirds, mourning warbler.
Dodge	144	Neda Mine	16 June	28	Mossman	Turkey vulture, cuckoos, mourning warbler, edge species.
Douglas	NA	Wisconsin Point	29 June	49	Johnson	Common & black terns; Nashville, yellow-rumped, etc. warblers; Brewer's blackbirds, clay-colored sparrow.
Eau Claire	134	Putnam Park	9 June	30	Lewke	Urban park. Mallards, crested flycatchers, red-eyed vireos, cardinals.
Fond du Lac	35	Ripon Prairie	1 June	8	Mossman	1.3-acre area. Pheasant, catbird, tanager, song sparrow. Needs brushing and burning.
Grant & Crawford	NA (5 in part)	Wyalusing River Bottoms (3 sections)	4 July	56	Mossman	Redshoulders, vultures, sapsuckers, prothonotaries, creepers, gnatcatchers, cerulean, La. waterthrush.
Green	139	Muralt Bluff Prairie	9 June	36	Batchelor & Vogelsang	Birdfoot violet and shooting stars prolific in area recently burned. Both meadowlarks, grassland sparrows.
Green Lake	172	Puchyan Prairie	18 June	33	Mossman & Hartman	Least and Am. bitterns; crane family; King, sora & Virginia rails; bobolinks (nest); Henstow's sparrows.
Green Lake	NA	Puchyan River & Marsh	18 June	40	Mossman & Hartman	Bitterns, b-c. night heron, cranes, rails, black tern colony, marsh wrens, yellow warblers.
Green Lake	NA	White River - East Natural Area	17 June	40	Mossman & Hartman	Cranes, brown creeper, sedge wrens, veeries, gnatcatchers, prothonotary, cerulean, redstarts.

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County	Sci. Area Number	Area Name	Date	No. of Species	Observer	Comments
La Crosse	NA	Black River Bottoms I	7 July	37	Mossman	Former g.b. heron/egret colony; sapsucker nest, crested flycatchers, house wrens, gnatcatchers, prothonotaries.
La Crosse	NA	Black River Bottoms II	8 July	46	Mossman	Redshoulder, 6 woodpecker species, crested flycatchers, house wrens, gnatcatchers, redstarts.
Manitowoc	46	VanderBloemen Bog	12 June	35	Osterhout & Linders	Bluebird, veery, black duck, ovenbird. No wood thrushes this year.
Marquette	NA	Peshtigo Harbor	22 & 23 June	29	Mossman	B-c. night herons, yellow rails; large colony of ring-billed & herring gulls; black tern nests.
Marquette	37	Seagull Bar	23 June	34	Mossman	Loafing common & Caspian terns, gulls; black tern nests; soars, yellow-headed blackbirds.
Marquette	NA	Fox River Crane Marsh	24 June	40	Mossman & Hartman	Least bittern, cranes; black tern nests; bank and r-wing swallow nests.
Marquette	70	Lawrence Creek	9 June	22	Bauers	Mallard, veery, redstart, least flycatcher, yellowthroat, etc.
Marquette	42	Summerton Bog & Vicinity	20 June	46	Mossman	Sharpshin, harrisers, bobwhites, cranes, Bell's vireo; nests of hairy, jay, catbird, waxwing, alder flycatcher, sedge wren, etc.
Marquette	NA	Swamp Lake Tamarack-Spruce	21 June	21	Mossman	Harrler, long-eared owls, black tern; many Nashvilles; Canada and black & white warblers. Much sphagnum, huckleberry.
Outagamie	180	Sheky Lake	19 & 26 June	33	Sedloff	Veery, ovenbird, crane, white-throated sparrow, mosquitoes.
Ozaukee	67	Fairy Chasm	16 & 22 June	24	Bauers	Probable Cooper's hawk, great horned owl, kingfisher, red-eyed vireos, ovenbird, edge species.

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County	Sci. Area Number	Area Name	Date	No. of Species	Observer	Comments
Waupaca	NA	Wolf River/Partridge Lake	10 July	40	Hartman & Mossman	Cranes, Forster's terns (not nesting here), huge swallow roost, black tern nest (and "twilight flight" flock), prothonotary, redstarts.
Winnebago	NA	Rush Lake	1 June	46	Mossman et al.	Pied-billed and red-necked grebes; 9 duck species; herons, bitterns, egrets, rails, moorhen, 3 tern species, yellow-heads.

Total number of Scientific Areas surveyed: 34
 Total number of Natural Areas surveyed: 31
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