

Six Red Crossbills were at Cranberry Glades 28 Mar (WA), up to 10 were at 3 other sites in *Pocahontas*, WV, 25–26 Apr (JC), and as many as 13 were on Roan Mt. in May (RK). Two Pine Siskins were at Cranberry Nature Center, *Pocahontas*, 25 Apr (JC), and up to 20 were on Roan Mt. during late May (RK). The only report of Evening Grosbeak was of one 16 Mar in *Washington*, WV (JE).

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western great lakes region

JIM GRANLUND

It was a good season for rarities and there were a good number of early arrivals and species north of their normal range, particularly southern warblers in Minnesota. However, most observers found the migration to be average to slow through much of the Region. Noteworthy sightings included a Smew in Minnesota, providing a first state and Regional record, possible first Michigan records of White-tailed Kite and Western Wood-Pewee, and a Wisconsin's first of Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle.

Weather was variable throughout the Region. Minnesota had temperatures which were 2–3° F above normal and above-average amounts of precipitation in April and May. Both Michigan and Wisconsin had colder than normal temperatures in early March and average temperatures in May. Wisconsin's April temperatures were average while Michigan's were above average. The first two states had highly variable precipitation, with the southern portions being wet in April and the northern areas being very dry. Wisconsin had normal precipitation in May while Michigan's precipitation was the reverse of April (wet north and dry south).

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*); N.C. (*Nature Center*); S.G.A. (*State Game Area*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa Co., MI*).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Above average this season was the 813 Red-throated Loons censused at W.P.B.O. with a peak of 122 on 2 May (staff). Eared Grebes were reported as scarce in Wisconsin with singles 4 Apr in *Bayfield* (RB, DVe), 19 May in *Dunn* (SR et al.), and 31 May in *Washington* (BD); two to three were at the Muskegon Wastewater, *Muskegon*, MI, 10–28 Apr (AB, CF). Wisconsin had W. Grebe reports 10–11 Apr in *Ozaukee* (MK, et al) and 25–28 May at Crex Meadows W.A. (DT, RH, MP). A Clark's Grebe was reported in Minnesota 8 Apr on L. Traverse, *Traverse* (CM). American White Pelicans continue to be more common in Wisconsin,



sin, with reports from 10 counties this spring. In Michigan groups of 3 on 18 May, 16 on 20 May, and 11 on 29 May at W.P.B.O. were exceptional for that location. All 3 states reported Snowy Egrets with 9 individuals in Minnesota, 3 reports in Wisconsin, and an unusual report of one on the beach at St. Joseph, *Berrien*, MI (KM). Minnesota had Little Blue Herons on 16 May in *Fletcher*, *Hennepin* (SC), and 22 May at Agassiz N.W.R. (m.ob.), while Michigan had individuals 8 May at Saugatuck, *Allegan* (JG), and 16 May in *Alpena* (CR). A Tricolored Heron was reported from Wisconsin 6–17 May at Crex Meadows W.A. (JH, FL, et al) and another was seen 28 Apr–20 May at the Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (AB) in Michigan. In Wisconsin a **White-faced Ibis** was seen 26 Apr n. of Beaver Dam, *Dodge* (AM, CH), and another was reported in Minnesota 5–8 May in *Dakota* (m.ob.).

WATERFOWL

Minnesota had unprecedented numbers of Ross's Geese this season, including flocks of 50 in *Nobles* 20 Mar (PJ), 18–20 in *Otter Tail* 2 Apr (SM, DM), 70+ at Shaokatan W.M.A., *Lincoln*, 3 Apr (PJ, DN), and 28–30 in *Wilkin* 4 Apr (SM, DM). Wisconsin also had an exceptional migration, with reports from 6 counties. Michigan had individuals 17–18 Apr at the Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon* (DS, CF) and 26 Mar–10 Apr at the Michigan State Univ. Sewage Ponds, *Ingham* (AB, BC, AC). Also in Michigan was a Brant at W.P.B.O. 25 May (KB, PC, AB). A male Eur. Wigeon, and a possible female, were seen 4–5 Apr in *Dane*,

WI (SR, et al). Very unusual in Michigan were two male and two female Harlequin Ducks 10 Apr–2 May at Muskegon (AB, CF). The Barrow's Goldeneye at Virmond Park in Wisconsin remained into early March. Certainly the rarest bird reported this season was an imm. male **Smew** 17 Mar in *Jackson* (KB), providing a first state record for Minnesota as well as a first for the Region. Although the question of natural occurrence of this individual will surface, the species is rare in collections, and the behavior of the bird and its timing favor a wild origin.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** 15–28 May on Lower Sacatah L. (CK, VK, m.ob.) provided Minnesota its first record of this species since the mid-1970s; another on 23 May in *Dane* (ST) was Wisconsin's 6th. A possible first for Michigan was the **White-tailed Kite** reported 15 May in *Wayne* (RC); the report is pending review by the M.B.R.C. Wisconsin had Mississippi Kites 16 May near Vernon Marsh, *Waukesha* (DG), and 22 May at the Brooklyn W.A., *Green* (BB). In Minnesota, a Ferruginous Hawk was seen 23–24 Apr at *Lac Qui Parle* (m.ob.).

Early and n. in Minnesota was an Am. Golden-Plover 10 Apr in *Polk* (KE, et al.). Encouraging was an increase of reports of Piping Plover. In Michigan there were individuals in 4 counties, while Minnesota had one 17 May and two 29 May–1 Jun at Duluth, *St. Louis* (PS). In Wisconsin, six–seven were present at Long I. and Apostle Is., *Ashland*, during late May (SMa). Also in that state were reports of **Black-necked Stilt** 8 May at Tichigan W.A., *Racine* (JB, MK), and two 27 May and three 28 May into June at Horicon N.W.R. (JBa). Record early in Minnesota was a Greater Yellowlegs 20 Mar in *Washington* (KB). A flock of 65 Ruddy Turnstone 27 May in Duluth (DBe) was the largest spring flock of this species in Minnesota since the early 1970s. Record early were Dunlins 31 Mar in *Outagamie*, WI (DT), and 28 Mar in *LeSeur*, MN (JD). Also in Wisconsin were a Curlew Sandpiper 29 May on Washington I., *Door* (CRt), and a Ruff 19 May in *Kenosha* (KD). A black Ruff 18 May in *Kalamazoo* (RSp) provided a rare inland record in Michigan. Rare in spring were Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports of two in *Meeker* 8 May (RS) and one in Duluth 23 May (DMa, BM), both Minnesota. Also exceptional was a male **Red Phalarope** 29 May on L. Superior at Duluth (KE, PS, et al), the 11th Minnesota record and only the 2nd in spring.



One of North America's more dramatic species, the Swallow-tailed Kite occasionally wanders north of its breeding range in the Southeast during spring, as did this one at Lower Sacatah Lake, Minnesota, 16 May 1999. Photograph/Peder Svingen

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

For the 5th consecutive spring Minnesota reported a jaeger, this one 22 May in Duluth (m.ob.). Whitefish Point had another excellent spring for jaegers with 12 seen 21–28 May, a peak of five on the last date; five were identified as Parasitic Jaegers (W.P.B.O. staff). Also in Michigan were two **Long-tailed Jaegers** 17 May on Thunder Bay, *Alpena* (BG); the record is pending M.B.R.C. review. Wisconsin had what was characterized as an "unbelievable spring" for Little Gulls, with a record early date of two 10 Mar at Port Washington (TU et al) followed by eight others along the L. Michigan shoreline, including a maximum of four–five from 10 May to the end of the period in Manitowoc (CS et al). An adult 17–20 May in Duluth (PS) was the first at that Minnesota location since 1993, while Michigan had two 9 May at Tawas Pt., *Iosco* (GN), and another 10 May at W.P.B.O. An ad. **California Gull** was reported 7 Apr at Charles Mear S.P., *Oceana* (DMc); the report is pending M.B.R.C. review. Unusual at an inland site in Wisconsin was an Iceland Gull 25 Apr near Madison (PA, EH). A Lesser Black-backed Gull 24 May provided W.P.B.O. with its first spring record; Minnesota hosted one 5–9 Apr in Burnsville, *Dakota* (KB), and Wisconsin had up to five along the L. Michigan shoreline, with a maximum of three at

Manitowoc–Two Rivers 15 Apr (MP). The **Black-legged Kittiwake** that overwintered along L. Michigan in Wisconsin was reported from Milwaukee 12 Mar, 12 Apr, and 14 Apr (MK, SLu). Also exceptional in the Region were two **Least Terns** 18 May at the Nine Springs Treatment Ponds near Madison, WI (AS), as were ad. **Arctic Terns** in Duluth, MN, 11 May (AH) and 21 May (PS).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

A pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** first reported 29 May in *Mower* (AHe, AH) provided Minnesota its 5th state record; the three at *Lyon* were seen to at least 9 Mar (RS). A N. Hawk Owl was reported 7 Mar in *Beltrami*, MN (MA). Great Gray Owls nested in the Sax-Zim bog, *St. Louis*, MN, while in Wisconsin the resident bird at Port Wing, *Bayfield*, was seen 17 May (SL, LL). Michigan had a maximum of two Great Grays 5–26 Apr at W.P.B.O. Long-eared Owls made an excellent showing in Michigan with reports from several s. counties and 239 at W.P.B.O., with a maximum of 70 on 8 Apr. In Minnesota 15 singing Boreal Owls, and the highest number of N. Saw-whet Owls since 1989, were recorded in the n.e. portion of the state during the spring owl census (BL). A Three-toed Woodpecker 26 May s. of Ashland (NF et al) was a rare sighting for Wisconsin.

A **Western Wood-Pewee** report would constitute a first Michigan record if accepted by the M.B.R.C. The individual was found 8 May in *Ionia* (KT) during the North American Migration Count and a recording was made of its call. A **Say's Phoebe** 12 Apr in *Kenosha* (KD) furnished only the 2nd Wisconsin record, the last being 151 years ago. A W. Kingbird 27 May at Warren Dunes, *Berrien* (JW), was an exceptional find in s. Michigan. Minnesota had two Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports, with individuals 22–23 May in Duluth (m.ob.) and another 27 May in *Hubbard* (PP), while Michigan had a report from W.P.B.O. 31 May (NM). Minnesota had reports of Loggerhead Shrike from 13 counties, down from the previous 5-year average of 20 counties. Michigan also had a poor showing with individuals 25 Apr in *Allegan* (CF) and another 3 May (RP) and 24 May (JY) in *Keweenaw*. In contrast, Wisconsin had a better spring for this species with reports from at least 5 counties. Wisconsin also had good numbers of White-eyed Vireos, with reports of 15–20 birds. In Minnesota, where the species is considered casual, there were reports of

White-eyed Vireos 8 May at Hok-si-la Park, *Goodhue* (DN), 13–29 May in Austin, *Mower* (m.ob.), and 16 May at Forestville SP, *Fillmore* (JSt).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Also casual in Minnesota was a **Rock Wren** 22–23 May in *Houston* (CMa et al.). In Wisconsin a **Mountain Bluebird** was observed for a few hours near Ashland 6 May (*fide* DVe), in Minnesota a female was seen 5 Apr in Duluth (JN) and an individual was reported 24 Apr in *Kanabec* (KR). A Townsend's Solitaire in Michigan was seen by many at W.P.B.O. 20–24 Apr, while Wisconsin had one 26–27 May in *Fond du Lac* (JBU, TW). In Minnesota individuals were reported in Duluth 10 Apr (TWi) and in Morris, *Stevens*, 22–23 Apr (MKu). A Varied Thrush remained to 30 Mar in *Door*, WI (RL, CL), and another was observed 7 Apr in *Marquette*, MI (LT). In Minnesota a Varied Thrush remained to 9 Mar in Maple Grove, *Hennepin* (*fide* AH), and into March in *Kandiyohi* (*fide* RF, JF). Present for just a few hours in Minnesota was a **Sage Thrasher** in Duluth 21 May (RSh, RSc). Late in Michigan were 19 Bohemian Waxwings 4 May at Copper Harbor, *Keweenaw* (LB).

A Black-throated Green Warbler 10 Apr in *Dane* (DC) tied the earliest Wisconsin arrival. A Yellow-throated Warbler found 6 May was soon joined by another at Sibley SP, *Kandiyohi* (RE), the site of the first Minnesota nesting of this species. Wisconsin had migrant Yellow-throateds 8 May in *Ozaukee* (JF) and 15 May in *Outagamie* (TT, SB), and least four were back on breeding territory at Wyalusing S.P., *Grant*. The first individuals in Michigan arrived 10 Apr in *Berrien* (DV, TB, JWa) at their normal locations, and an additional report came from *Branch* (JG). Two Kirtland's Warblers in Gwinn, *Marquette* (LT), were n. of their normal range in Michigan. Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported good numbers of Prairie Warblers, from at least 3 counties in each state. Unusually high for Minnesota were reports of Prothonotary Warblers from 10 counties. Wisconsin reported a good migration of Worm-eating Warblers, with individuals on 5, 7, & 30 May in *Dane* (PA), 6 May in Racine (KD), 25 May in *Buffalo* (DT, RH), and at least one pair on territory in *Sauk*. Minnesota had reports of this species 2–3 May in Wilmar, *Kandiyohi* (RF, JF), 8 May at Sibley S.P., *Kandiyohi* (RE), 9–12 May at Whitewater S.P., *Winona* (m.ob.), 29 May at Hormel N.C., *Mower* (AH), and 31 May at Whitewater W.M.A., *Wabasha* (PS). Also in that state were

increased numbers of Louisiana Water-thrush, with reports from 9 counties. Kentucky Warblers continued the trend in Minnesota, with reports 14 May at Cannon R. Wilderness, *Rice* (TBo), 15 May at Robbins I., *Kandiyohi* (RF, JF), 15 May at Kilen Woods S.P., *Jackson* (DJ), 16 May in Murphy-Hanrahan, *Scott* (DN), and 17 May at Wood Lake N.C., *Hennepin* (DW, m.ob.). Michigan also had above-average numbers, with up to 4 after 4 May in *Berrien*, and singles 8 May at Lost Nations S.G.A., *Hillsdale* (JR), 15 May in Waterloo Twp., *Jackson* (DB), 18 May in *Hillsdale* (JR), and in Ann Arbor, *Washtenaw* (MJ). North of normal was a female Hooded Warbler 6–7 May and a male 7 May in Duluth (DGr, DBE, MS).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Summer Tanagers were recorded in unprecedented numbers in the Region. Wisconsin reported 12–15 individuals in May. Minnesota had 16 individuals during May, which is amazing in light of the fact there were only 15 spring records from 1989–1998. Michigan had individuals 2 May at Warren Dunes, *Berrien* (RSe), 7 May at Tawas Pt., *Iosco* (GN, PR), and 8 May at Saugatuck, *Allegan* (CF, GW). Minnesota reported W. Tanagers 30 Apr–1 May in *Kandiyohi* (RF, JF) and 8–9 May in *Goodhue*. A female Spotted Towhee was reported in Wisconsin 4 May in Milwaukee (DSw), while Minnesota had reports 3 May at Mt. Lake, *Cottonwood* (ED), and 30 May at River Bend N.C., *Rice* (TBo). The only Lark Bunting in the Region came from Minnesota, where a male was reported 20 May in *Lyon* (PE). Also in that state was a Smith's Longspur 23–24 May in Duluth (WM et al). A female Black-headed Grosbeak was reported in Minnesota 13 May at Anderson County Park, *Jackson* (PS). Surprising in Michigan were reports of two Blue Grosbeaks, a female 14–15 May in Holland, *Ottawa* (MV), and an individual heard 17 May in *Hillsdale* (JR); both are pending M.B.R.C. review. Minnesota reported a Lazuli Bunting 19–21 May in Boyd, *Lac Qui Parle* (FE). A first state record for Wisconsin of **Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle** was reported on 17 Apr s.e. of Antigo, *Langlade* (MG), while Great-tailed Grackles returned to the breeding colony on the Minnesota-Iowa state line in Grovers Lake W.M.A., *Jackson*. A **Brambling** visited a feeder in St. Joseph, *Berrien* 9–14 Apr (IA), providing Michigan with its 2nd state record

CORRIGENDA

Delete the 18 Dec 1997–1 Jan 1998 Glaucous-winged Gull in *Dakota* (*Field Notes* 52:201). Change the date for the Pacific Loon in *St. Louis* from 16–31 May 1998 to 30 May 1998. Delete the 29 May 1998 ad. and imm. Black-headed Gull in *St. Louis* (*Field Notes* 52:333).

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