

MB), and a few remained at Davis, *Tucker*, WV at least through the end of Mar (GF), the season's only reports. Pine Siskins nested at Hocking Hills S.P., OH, where one was feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird 31 May (FR).

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# Western Great Lakes



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**T**he weather during the season was changeable and unpredictable. March was cool and dry throughout the Region. April alternated between cool and warm periods, with near normal precipitation. In particular, the end of April was warm, nearly nine degrees Fahrenheit above average in parts of Michigan. This early warm air seemed responsible for the early arrival of many migrants. The warmth also caused the trees to leaf out early, making detection of migrants later in the season more difficult. May's temperatures were erratic but averaged cooler overall. It was particularly cool in the latter half of the month. Precipitation ranged from average to above average.

Michigan had a fine season for unusual species, with two new state records, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Swainson's Warbler, and second state records for Common Eider, Wilson's Plover, and Painted Redstart. Highlights in Minnesota included White-faced Ibis, Black-headed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Great-tailed Grackle. Records of note in Wisconsin were Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, King Eider, and Black-headed Gull.

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

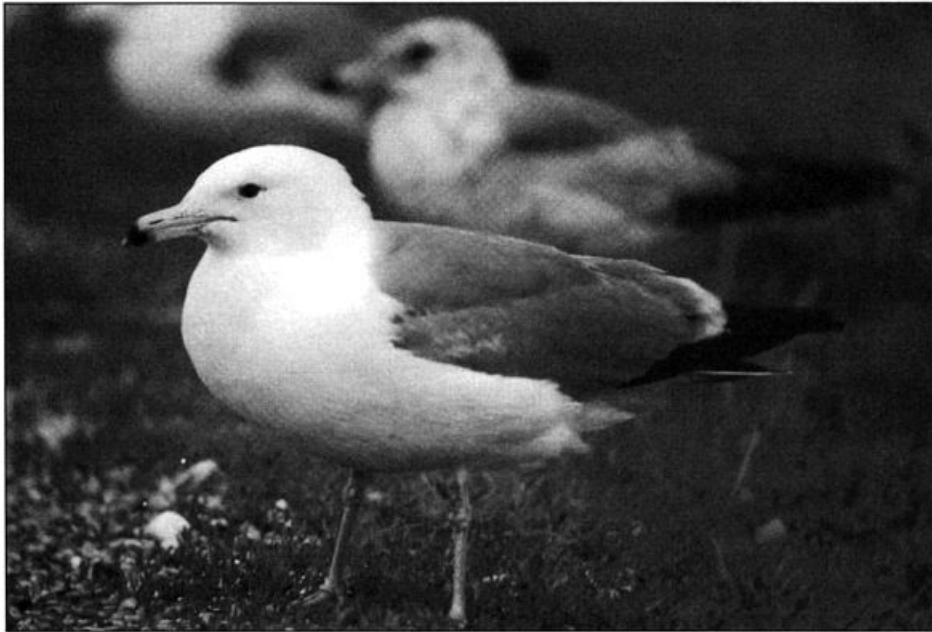
## LOONS THROUGH IBIS

Minnesota reported a record number of Red-throated Loons, with 39 on 9 May at Duluth, *St Louis* (KB). In Michigan, numbers were down at W.P.B.O., with 285 individuals and a peak of 39 on 19 May, while elsewhere the species was more widespread: reports came from six other counties, including an unusual inland report from 29–30 Mar on L. Lansing, *Ingham* (BC). Wisconsin reported 2 on 17 Mar at Manitowoc (DT). An alternate-plumaged **Pacific Loon** was reported 27 May at W.P.B.O. (staff), pending acceptance by the M.B.R.C. Common Loon numbers were down at W.P.B.O. for the 3rd consecutive season, with only 5035 recorded during the season, with a peak of 821 on 5 May. Hundreds of Red-necked Grebes were staging at Wisconsin Pt., WI (RJo) and nearby Park Point in Duluth, MN (PS) during mid-Apr. The migration was average in Michigan, with W.P.B.O. staff reporting 407 during the season and a peak of 102 on 3 May. Minnesota contributed the only Clark's Grebes in the Region, including individuals 9–25 Apr at Coon Rapids

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This is one of three third-year California Gulls at Breckenridge, Wilkin County, Minnesota 22 May. Though still rare in Minnesota, the species has an annual presence across the border in southern Manitoba. Photograph by Karl Bardon.

Dam, *Hennepin* (OJ), 27 Apr at Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall* (KB), and 5 May at Boon L., *Renville* (DF). Wisconsin had an excellent Eared Grebe migration, with 7 reported, including an individual 17 Mar–6 Apr in *Milwaukee* (JI, DG), only the 3rd March record for that state.

American White Pelican numbers continue to increase in the Region. On the Minnesota (*Hastings*)–Wisconsin (*Prescott*) border, a season total of 3147 was counted, with peaks of over 900 (KB). In e. Wisconsin, the breeding colony in Green Bay at Cat I. has grown to 217 nests (TE); Michigan had a peak of 12 migrants on 26 Apr near Chassell, *Houghton* (LB). Very unexpected were 2 **Brown Pelicans** 16 May at Wyalusing S.P., *Grant* (KBu, JHe); if accepted by the W.B.R.C., they will constitute the 6th state record. All three states had good numbers of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons this season. Noteworthy in Wisconsin was a Tricolored Heron from 17–22 May in *Dane* (NR), while in Minnesota an individual was seen 21 May at Flood Bay, *Lake* (KE et al.). Minnesota had its best migration for Cattle Egret since 1993, with approximately 60 reported from 17 counties. Wisconsin had a more typical migration, while Michigan had only 3 reports. All three states had single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons: 1 May in Kalamazoo, MI (RS), 13 May at Pigeon L., *Meeker*, MN (DF), and Ft. Atkinson, WI 30 Apr (NW).

A **White Ibis** 22 Apr–5 May near Bootjack, *Houghton* (LB, RB, BM) was a first in spring for Michigan and only the 5th state record. Michigan

also hosted above-average numbers of **Glossy Ibis**, with individuals 13 May at Nyanquing W.A., *Bay* (BM, AB), 18 May at Andrews University, *Berrien* (GA), and 30 May at Sumac I., *Huron* (MW). Wisconsin reported only its 7th state record for **Glossy Ibis**, an individual 2 May in *Oconto* (DT, KS, JS); the record is pending acceptance by W.B.R.C. A 7th state record for Michigan was a **White-faced Ibis** on 26 & 30 May at Nyanquing W.A. (JZ, DD); the sighting is pending acceptance by the M.B.R.C. In Minnesota single **White-faced Ibis** were photographed 15 Apr in Rochester, *Olmsted* (JSe) and 26 Apr in *Scott* (KG, DMA).

## WATERFOWL

An impressive 3415 Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in Minnesota 14 Apr in *Big Stone* (PJ), while Wisconsin's high total was 65 on 28 Mar in *Dodge* (DT), much lower than last spring. Michigan had White-fronted Goose reports from six counties. Ross's Geese were reported from four counties in Wisconsin and two counties in Michigan. Minnesota had reports of Ross's Geese from 14 counties, down from 24 a year ago. A **Cinnamon Teal** was seen briefly 12 Apr at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment (JI), providing Wisconsin's first record since 1992. A female **Common Eider** 25–26 May at W.P.B.O. (m. ob.) provided only the 2nd state record for Michigan and one of very few in the Region. The 3rd spring record in Wisconsin for **King Eider** came in the form of a

female 8–24 Mar in *Milwaukee* (SL, m. ob.) and perhaps the same bird on 14 Apr at Virmond Park, *Ozaukee* (CS). The Barrow's Goldeneye in Wisconsin at Virmond Park, *Ozaukee* remained through 15 Apr (TW), while another was found in Milwaukee on 18 Apr (JI, m. ob.). In Minnesota, a male Barrow's was present 4 Feb–19 Mar in Duluth (*fide* KE), and an imm female appeared 1 Mar in *Otter Tail* (KB).

## RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Overall numbers of raptors during the annual diurnal raptor count at W.P.B.O. were very low—only 9938 individuals were tallied, nearly 5500 lower than the average count since 1984 and less than half of last year's total of 24,199. A major reason for these low totals was the lack of Sharp-shinned Hawks, whose count of 3665 was 4500 below average.

In Minnesota, an impressive count of 113 Osprey was reported 24 Apr at the West Skyline Hawkwatch in Duluth (FN), while a subad **Mississippi Kite** was seen there on 16 May (FN, DC). The subad. Gyrfalcon that overwintered in Minnesota at Duluth was seen until 5 Mar (*fide* KE), while an imm. was seen on the West Skyline Hawkwatch 14 Mar (FN). Yellow Rails were scarce in Michigan, with the only report being 2 from 24 May+ near Trout Lake, *Chippewa* (AB).

Unexpected in Wisconsin was a pair of **Whooping Cranes** present 13 Mar in *Ozaukee* (WN, RF), while another pair, thought to be the same birds, was videotaped later in the month in *Outagamie* (RZ). The Wisconsin birds were thought to be strays from the re-introduced Florida population.

A record spring total of 190 Black-bellied Plovers was counted 30 May at W.P.B.O. An American Golden-Plover 20 Mar in *Brown* (RSc) was the 2nd earliest ever in Minnesota. Piping Plover numbers were low in the Region this season. In Minnesota 2 were seen 24 Apr at L. Byllesby, *Dakota* (AS), while a pair was found at the state's only breeding site on Pine-Currys I., *Lake of the Woods*. Wisconsin also had two reports: 3 at Green Bay from 25–27 Apr (PSc, DT) and one 10 May in *Douglas* (RJo). Michigan reported 28 pairs of Piping Plovers with 26 nests (LG). Wisconsin reported unusually high numbers of American Avocet this season, including a record-high count of 78 on 25 Apr in Milwaukee (BB) and a record-early arrival of one 13 Apr in *Milwaukee* (BB).

Minnesota reported a new record total for Willet with 70–75 on 1 May in *Rice* (TB). Whimbrel numbers were characterized as being low in all three states. Michigan had a record 30 Marbled Godwits 18 May at the Pilgrim R. mouth in *Houghton* (LB), only the 2nd local record. An excellent count of 260 Ruddy

Turnstones 29 May in *Manitowoc* (CS) was reported in Wisconsin. A total of 17 Red Knots 16 May in *Lake of the Woods* (PS) was the 2nd highest ever in Minnesota, while the 15 on 19 May at W.P.B.O. was high for Michigan. A White-rumped Sandpiper 25 Apr in *Brown* (DT) was only the 4th April record in that state. Impressive in Michigan was a peak of 1500 Dunlin 20 May in *Bay* (DD); one 29 Mar was record early in Wisconsin (EH). A female Ruff 26 Apr at Empire, *Dakota* (AS) was unusual in Minnesota. The peak of 320 Wilson's Phalaropes 17 May in Crookston, *Polk* (PS) reversed a three-year trend in Minnesota of decreasing peak counts in spring.

Individual Parasitic Jaegers were seen 14 & 25 May, while 2 were seen 26 May at W.P.B.O., where 2 unidentified jaegers were seen 31 May. Minnesota had an unidentified jaeger 19 May at Duluth, *St. Louis* (PC). Wisconsin had 4 Laughing Gull reports during the season, above average for that state. Michigan had a very early Laughing Gull 3 Apr in *Berrien* (RB), an ad. on 7 May at Metrobeach, *Macomb* (AR), and singles 18 & 19 May at W.P.B.O. Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported small numbers of Franklin's Gulls this season, and all three states reported Little Gulls. A Black-headed Gull 28 May at *Milwaukee* (BB, JI, m. ob.) was only the 10th state record for Wisconsin. In Minnesota, another Black-headed Gull was seen 7 Apr in *Jackson* (KB) n. of the area in Iowa where birds have been almost annual since 1994. Unexpected in Minnesota were 3 third-winter California Gulls 22 May at Breckenridge, *Wilkin* (KB). An Arctic Tern 30–31 May at W.P.B.O. was only the 2nd May record for this species in Michigan; the record is pending M.B.R.C. review.

## DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

In Wisconsin, a pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves overwintered in *Oconto* (ME, JS, KS), while in Minnesota one was present after 23 May in *Roseau* (KB). The Northern Hawk Owl at Sault Ste. Marie, *Chippewa* (JR, JG) remained until at least 4 Mar in Michigan, and one in Wisconsin lingered to 27 Mar in *Vilas* (BR). W.P.B.O. had a fair movement of Great Gray Owls, with 10 noted 25 Apr–27 May and a peak of 3 on 25 Apr. Wisconsin had a single report from *Bayfield* (AHO, JHo). Minnesota reported a record-high 51 Short-eared Owls 23 Apr in *Kittson* (GB). Associated with last winter's irruption but unusually far s. in Minnesota was a Boreal Owl 18 Mar in *Carver* (JBr). At W.P.B.O., 70 were tallied 10 Apr–31 May (peak of 12 on 25 Apr), along with 104 Northern Saw-whet Owls (peak of 59 on 10 Apr). A Lewis's Woodpecker made a brief appearance at W.P.B.O. 18 May (RB, DL, JB, DBr), a first state record for

Michigan accepted by the M.B.R.C. An Acadian Flycatcher 5 May in *Freeborn* (RJ) constituted a new early date for Minnesota. A Say's Phoebe 11 May at Big Stone N.W.R., *Lac Qui Parle* (MK, LV) was about the 20th record in that state. Michigan had a single report of a Western Kingbird on 31 May in Weesaw Twp., *Berrien* (JJ, DM). It was encouraging that Michigan had reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from five counties; the species has been quite scarce in recent years. Minnesota had reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from 14 counties, including one n. of normal 19–27 May in Duluth, *St. Louis* (RR), while Wisconsin had five reports. A Northern Shrike 25 Apr in *Stevens* was record late in s. Minnesota (SM). Wisconsin reported an excellent movement of White-eyed Vireos, with seven reports including an early arrival 29 Apr in Milwaukee (JSt). In Minnesota there were five reports including the 2nd breeding record for White-eyed Vireo at Rice Lake S.P., *Steele* (ABA, NSw) and an early report 29 Apr at Cedar L., *Hennepin* (SC). A Philadelphia Vireo 29 Apr in *Carver* (TWi) was a first Apr record for Minnesota and was followed by three more reports 30 Apr.

## THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Wisconsin had a late report of Townsend's Solitaire 13 Apr in *Calumet* (DT), while in Minnesota there were six reports. Early in Wisconsin was a Swainson's Thrush 18 Apr in *Walworth* (PP). The latest of six reports of Varied Thrush in Minnesota was an individual 20 Apr in Duluth, *St. Louis* (*vide* DB); the individual in Michigan remained near Atlanta, *Montmorency* to 17 Mar (HW). All three states characterized the warbler migration as being poor this season, but despite lower counts, observers at most locations found a good variety. Many species arrived earlier than normal, and numerous early dates were set. A Golden-winged Warbler 24 Apr in *Dane* (TK) was record early in Wisconsin, and one on 30 Apr in Duluth, *St. Louis* (SM) was the 2nd earliest date for Minnesota. A Yellow Warbler 9 Apr in Niles Twp., *Berrien* (JW) was early in Michigan. Yellow-throated Warblers made a good showing in Michigan, with the earliest being 9 Apr in *Berrien* (KM) and another n. of normal 8 May in the Muskegon S.G.A., *Muskegon* (JP, RM, GW). In Wisconsin, Yellow-throateds returned to their traditional locations at Wyalusing S.P.; more unusual was a pair to the end of the period in *Sauk*. Wisconsin reported a good showing for Prairie Warblers, including one 28 Apr in *Ozaukee* (JSt), only the 3rd April record in that state. A Bay-breasted Warbler 1 May in *Hennepin* (TT) was the 2nd earliest record for Minnesota. A Prothonotary Warbler 15 May in

*Lake of the Woods* was far n. of normal in Minnesota (CM). Also very early in Wisconsin was a Worm-eating Warbler 23 Apr near Horicon (BV). Michigan had increased numbers of Worm-eatings, with 7 reports, while Minnesota had individuals 1 May in Minneapolis, *Hennepin* (LE, TT) and 12–20 May in Bloomington, *Hennepin* (PJ). A Swainson's Warbler that hit a window 3 May in Nashville, *Barry* (WS) provided Michigan a first state record; the specimen is now at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Pending M.B.R.C. review, Michigan had another report of this s. warbler from 2–3 May at Nichol's Arb, *Washtenaw* (MKe, MS). Kentucky Warblers were more common in the Region this spring: a high total of 21 came from Wyalusing S.P., *Grant* (KBu) in Wisconsin and a record early bird 29 Apr was at Litchfield N.C., *Meeker* (DF) in Minnesota. A Hooded Warbler 27 May at Wisconsin Pt., *Douglas*, WI was n. of normal (RJo), and a Canada Warbler 2 May at Warren Dunes S.P., *Berrien* (JW) was early in Michigan. A Painted Redstart made a brief appearance 4 May at Ludington, *Mason* (GBe), this being the 2nd Michigan record if accepted by the M.B.R.C.

## TANAGERS THROUGH GRACKLES

Michigan had four reports of Summer Tanager this season, including a first record at W.P.B.O. 28 Apr (JBU, m. ob.). A Western Tanager in Wisconsin was seen in *Waukesha* 27 Apr (JM). The Black-throated Sparrow that overwintered in Wisconsin at *Dane* remained to 10 Mar (TW). A Lark Bunting was seen briefly 3 May at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment (DG), constituting the earliest sighting of this species in Wisconsin. Also in that state, a count of 60 Henslow's Sparrows 3 May in *Grant* was noteworthy (RD). A total of 8 Smith's Longspur 28 Apr at Plover Prairie, *Lac Qui Parle* (CG, JHc) was good in Minnesota, while a Chestnut-collared Longspur 7 Apr in *Kandiyohi* (RE) made for a first county record in that state. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak 10 Apr at Sussex (BBa) was a new early date for Wisconsin. A Blue Grosbeak 13 May in *Pine* was a first record in that Minnesota county and was also seen at Crex Meadows W.M.A. in Wisconsin (CH, DU). Casual in Minnesota, a male Lazuli Bunting was photographed 18 May in *Polk* (LT, DTh). Dickcissels returned early to Michigan, with the first 12 May in *Berrien* (DSc, JW). A Bobolink 26 Apr in *Ozaukee* was early in Wisconsin (JF). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles from 7 May was reported in *Olmsted*, MN (DSq), and there were three other undocumented reports from other counties in that state.

## CORRIGENDA

Dates for last spring's White-tailed Kite in *Washington*, MN should be 10–19 May. Last spring's reports of Ivory Gull and Plumbeous Vireo were not accepted by the Minnesota Ornithological Review Committee. In Wisconsin, the Cape May Warbler 2 Nov 2000 was seen in *Buffalo* rather than *Portage*. The recent report of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was not accepted by the W.B.R.C., while the White-cheeked Pintail reported last spring in Michigan was rejected by the M.B.R.C. on account of questions about its origin. A few errors noted involving the records of Murray Berner (MB): in *N.A.B.* 54, p. 219, for Chestnut-collared Longspur, "28 Jan" should read "12 Feb"; in *N.A.B.* 55, p. 54, MB should be indicated as finder of the Pacific Loon; and p. 99, Willow Flycatcher data should read "21 at NRER, *Napa*, 8 Sep–8 Oct."

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# Midwestern Prairie



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**A**s is typical, the Region's weather was more erratic than the Nasdaq. March was uniformly cold, retaining February's snow cover and frozen water throughout most of the month. In contrast, April averaged some 5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, with some days reaching 90° F. This warmth was accompanied by strong southerly winds. Temperate conditions prevailed through the first half of May. At mid-month, however, the jet stream looped south of the Region and locked into place, generating cool temperatures and northerly airflow that remained for the balance of the period.

For the most part, gelid March temperatures delayed the migration; however, despite ice and snow, nearly all waterfowl moved through early and in good numbers. Balmy April breezes accelerated the migration, moving the passerine flight two weeks ahead of normal and generating a plethora of early arrival dates, especially among passerines. Indeed, the singular

distinguishing aspect of the spring 2001 season was the number of early records.

Cool conditions in late May proved unfavorable for generating migratory waves; consequently, many correspondents relegated the spring flight to the mediocre category (or worse). However, in addition to numerous early arrivals, the season produced a surprising number of record-high duck and shorebird counts. Although the rarity list was skimpy, it included some notable birds, e.g., a Snowy Plover, several White-winged Doves, a Glossy Ibis invasion, plus nesting Painted Buntings east of the Mississippi River. Clearly, the spring flight had its redeeming aspects.

**Abbreviations:** Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. IL), H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., OH); L. Cal. (L. Calumet, s. Chicago); Jax. P. (Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO), S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO); Spfld (Springfield, IL).

## LOONS TO VULTURES

The Region's spring Red-throated Loon flight was normal except on the Indiana lakefront,