

Western Great Lakes



Peder H. Svingen

2602 East 4th Street

Duluth, Minnesota 55812

(psvingen@d.umn.edu)

Most of the Region experienced near-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation, although above-average rainfall and localized flooding occurred in northwestern Minnesota and at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Shorebird habitat was poor in western Minnesota and Michigan.

Abbreviations: Horicon (Horicon Marsh, Dodge, WI); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Dakota and Scott, MN); Muskegon (Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon, MI); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

A Pacific Loon moved from Duluth, MN 4 Jun to Superior, WI until 11 Jun (JLR, JiS,

ph. TL). Horned Grebes lingered on Lake Superior in Ashland, WI 5 Jun (RB) and St. Louis, MN 15 & 22 Jun (*vide* DRB); even more unusual was one at Pte. Mouillee 12 Jun (AMB). Providing only the 2nd Michigan breeding record were two pairs of Red-necked Grebes in Delta (SH). More than 150 Eared Grebe nests were at East Grand Forks W.T.P., Polk, MN 19 Jul (DOL). East of its normal range was a Western Grebe in Washington, WI 12 Jun (MK). An intermediate-type *Aechmophorus* paired with a Clark's Grebe ferried 2 chicks on its back at L. Osakis, MN 5 Jul (JE).

Hoffman reported an *Anhinga* overhead in Dane, WI 10 Jun (p.a., RH). Snowy Egrets were in two Michigan, three Minnesota, and four Wisconsin locations, including one as

SA Minnesota's first **Brown Pelican**, an immature bird, was discovered by birders at Little Spirit L., Jackson 16 Jul (p.a., ph. PHS, AXH, ET, m.ob.); the same individual had been sighted by Thelen at Spirit L. (on the Iowa side of the border) two days earlier. It lingered in the area on both sides of the border 16–27 Jul. Three days after its disappearance, a similar-looking bird was found at Saylorville Res. in cen. Iowa, fueling speculation that the same individual was involved.

far n. as Ashland, WI 1 Jun (RB). An amazing 14 Little Blue Herons congregated in Kenosha 28 Jul+ (JD, AS, MBo, TP); Wisconsin's only other Little Blue visited *Winnebago* 25 Jun (DTe). In Minnesota, single Little Blue Herons graced *Wilkin* 10 Jun (JPS) and *Sherburne N.W.R.* 28 Jul (ASc). Michigan reported an imm. Little Blue in *Monroe* 27 Jul; it was joined by another on the 30th (LW). A cooperative Tricolored Heron lingered in *Brown*, WI 25 Jun–5 Jul (T&IB et al.). Disappointing after an excellent spring showing were Cattle Egrets in only three Minnesota counties. For the 3rd consecutive summer, 2 ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons vacationed in *Jackson*, MI (C&SB, AMB, SJ). In Minnesota, 2 ad. Yellow-crowns in *Dakota* 30 Jun (RPR) were unrelated to 2 juvs. in *Lac qui Parle* 31 Jul+ (PCC). The Region's only *Plegadis* were 2 Glossy Ibis at Pte. Mouillee 1–2 Jul (p.a., JJ, AMB, SJ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Lingering from spring was an ad. Ross's Goose in Duluth, MN 4 Jun (ph. PHS). Unseasonal were 2 Cackling Geese at Pte. Mouillee 12 Jun (AMB, BCM) and a female King Eider at Whitefish Pt. 3 Jun (KM, AMB, CN). A Mississippi Kite soared over *Rock* 22 Jul (p.a., RSR); Wisconsin has 20 previous records. Michigan's only Sharp-tailed Grouse were in the U.P. in *Chippewa*. Northern Bobwhite was found in five s.-cen. Wisconsin counties. Though rare and local in Michigan, bobwhite reports were up from last year; this species is now extirpated from Minnesota. Lingering in Michigan were Rough-legged Hawks in *Marquette* 7 Jun (SH) and *Gogebic* 10 Jun (ATC).

Wet conditions precipitated a banner year for Yellow Rails in nw. Minnesota, but Michigan and Wisconsin had only single reports from *Chippewa* and *Marquette*, respectively. A pair of King Rails with at least one young was at Pte. Mouillee (p.a., BCM, AMB, LW); Wisconsin heralded Kings in *Columbia*, WI 4 Jun (ST) and *Horicon* 25 Jun+ (CS, SC, T&IB). Common Moorhen has declined in Minnesota, so an ad. with 6 chicks in *Stearns* 27 Jul+ (BR et al.), 2 ads. in *Meeher* 19 Jun (DMF), and singles in *Olmsted* 16–18 Jul (JWH, LS, PWP) and *Wright* 27 Jul (DMF) were encouraging; good numbers were also reported in Michigan at *Maple River S.G.A.* and at Pte. Mouillee. Whooping Cranes from the experimental flock wandered around Wisconsin to *Dane* (BD) and *Walworth* (WR) in early Jun, as well as to *Horicon* 2–30 Jul (JE, LM).

SHOREBIRDS

Piping Plover nesting success was good in Michigan (*vide* AMB). Also noteworthy in Michigan was a migrant Piping Plover at

St. Joseph, *Berrien* 21 Jul (AM, MO). An unknown number of Piping Plovers attempted nesting at Pine Is., *Lake of the Woods*, MN (BB, *fide* JM). Another Black-necked Stilt visited Horicon 2 Jul (T&IB). An American Avocet with one chick was seen in *Big Stone*, MN through 3 Jul (PCC). In Michigan, apparent fall migrant avocets arrived as early as 1 Jul in *Berrien* (RHO); another was in *Oakland* 21 Jul (PB, DF). Two avocets visited Horicon 24 Jul (LM). Solitary Sandpipers in *Berrien*, MI 16 Jun (DCV) and *Walworth*, WI 18 Jun (SF) were probably still northbound. Wisconsin had Willets in *Ashland* 19 Jun (EB), *Milwaukee* 12 & 21 Jul (JI, TP), and *Manitowoc* 20 Jul (CSO). Michigan had numerous reports of Willets in *Berrien* beginning 21 Jun (DH, m.ob.), while Minnesota had scattered reports from five counties in Jul. Two Whimbrels in *Sheboygan* (MM, JP, NP) and one in *Milwaukee* 5 Jun (SL) were still northbound; one in *Cook* 9 Jun (*fide* JWJ) furnished only the 2nd Minnesota report for 2005. Most unusual among several godwit reports were single Hudsonians in *Manitowoc*, WI 22 Jun–4 Jul (CSO) and *Berrien*, MI 12 Jul (AMB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper counts peaked at 1101 and Least Sandpipers at 1197 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 24 Jul (PHS). Wisconsin reported a Western Sandpiper in *Iowa* 7 Jun (p.a., AH). A first-summer Curlew Sandpiper at Pte. Mouillee 11–13 Jul (p.a., AMB, MH, JJ, KT) was followed by an ad. at *Lakewood W.T.P.*, *Ionia* 20–21 Jul (p.a., TBa, ST, KT). Buff-breasted Sandpipers arrived in all three states by the end of Jul, including a record-early arrival in *Racine*, WI 23 Jul (p.a., SF). The Region's only Ruff was a Reeve in *Delta*, MI 28 Jul (p.a., SH). A count of 319 Short-billed Dowitchers was noteworthy at Pte. Mouillee 9 Jul (AMB). Wilson's Phalarope nested at *Muskegon*; in Minnesota, most of the 272 Wilson's at *Salt L.*, *Lac Qui Parle* 24 Jul were juvs. (PHS).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Wisconsin had a Laughing Gull in *Manitowoc* 28–29 Jun (CSO), but none were reported in Michigan through Jul. Out of range were single Franklin's Gulls at *W.P.B.O.* 19 Jun (LD) and Pte. Mouillee 21–23 Jun (AMB, LW), 3 in *Ashland*, WI 3–13 Jun (RB), and one at *Ely*, *St. Louis*, MN 6 Jun (RG). Providing Minnesota's 2nd summer record was an ad. Black-headed Gull in *Jackson* 16 Jul+ (p.a., PHS, AXH, m.ob.). Unseasonal was the Thayer's Gull in *Manitowoc* 30 Jun (CSO). Establishing Minnesota's 19th record and first since 1999 was an ad. Least Tern at *Sherburne N.W.R.* 8–9 Jun (PLJ, ph. AXH, ph. DWK, PCC).

Lingering from spring was at least one Eurasian Collared-Dove at *Three Oaks*,

Berrien, MI (p.a., AMB, JTW et al.). Wisconsin had Eurasian Collared-Doves in *Green* 11 Jun (QY) and *Grant* 16 Jun (ME); in Minnesota, they nested again in *Dakota* and *Houston* and were seen in at least six more counties. Michigan reported single White-winged Doves in *Alger* 12–16 Jun (p.a., BH, SHi, AMB, ATC, m.ob.) and *Chippewa* 13 Jun (p.a., DM). Furnishing Minnesota's 8th record was a White-winged Dove in *Cook* 10–16 Jul (JGW, ph. PHS, PCC). Unusual for Michigan's Lower Peninsula was a Great Gray Owl in *Emmet* 21 Jun (BK). Unprecedented numbers of Great Gray Owls summered in *Bayfield*, WI following last winter's irruption, but none of the 28+ Great Grays there nested (RB). Also unusual for Wisconsin was a Boreal Owl in *Douglas* 22 Jun (RJ). The Chuck-will's-widow in *Berrien*, MI called through 3 Jul (MBu, m.ob.), while one in *Vernon*, WI was last heard 29 Jun (J&KS, DJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Far from its usual Minnesota haunts was an Acadian Flycatcher in *Spencer Twp.*, *Aitkin* 10–11 Jun (WEN, WMS et al.). A pair of Say's Phoebes summered at *Felton Prairie*, *Clay* (m.ob.); nesting by this casual species has never been confirmed in Minnesota. Loggerhead Shrikes in nine Minnesota counties was typical for recent years, but Wisconsin's only reports were from *St. Croix*, and Michigan's last summer record was in 2001. White-eyed Vireos were found in three Wisconsin and four Michigan counties. Michigan hosted a territorial Bell's Vireo at *Romulus*, *Wayne* 27 Jun–23 Jul (p.a., JCr, DO). Wisconsin had Bell's Vireos in *Dane*, *Green*, *Iowa*, and *LaCrosse*, while Minnesota reported a county first in *Brown* (BTS). In Michigan, Philadelphia Vireo breeding was confirmed in *Marquette* 7 Jul (SH).

Unusually far s. and of uncertain provenance was a Black-billed Magpie in *Anoka*, MN 16 Jul (JEH). At least one Rock Wren returned to the same location at *Felton Prairie* where Minnesota's first nesting occurred last year. Carolina Wrens were in five Wisconsin counties; Minnesota had 2 in *Scott* (RBW, BAF) and one in *Fillmore* (NBO). Carolina Wren breeding was confirmed for the first time in the U.P. in *Delta* (SH). South of its usual Wisconsin range was a Golden-crowned Kinglet in *Waukesha* 19 Jun (ASz); similarly lost in Michigan was a Hermit Thrush in *Allegan* 2 Jul (JR).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Black-throated Blue Warbler was tardy in *Hillsdale*, MI 2 Jun (JR). Yellow-throated Warblers graced *Berrien* and *Lenawee* in Michigan and *Grant* and *Sheboygan* in Wisconsin. Michigan's record-high total of 1415 singing male Kirtland's Warblers included

18 birds in five U.P. counties; up to 3 Kirtland's in *Jackson* (p.a., JPo) was noteworthy for Wisconsin. Three Prairie Warblers in *Sheboygan*, WI were no match for Michigan's multiple pairs in three counties. In Minnesota, where the species is considered casual, a territorial Prairie Warbler sang for naught in *Dakota* 6 Jun–2 Jul (ph. JPM, m.ob.). A remarkable 80 Cerulean Warblers at *Allegan S.G.A.*, *Allegan*, MI was the highest tallied there in a decade (RS). Michigan's only Kentucky Warblers were in *Hillsdale*; Kentucky Warblers were in two Wisconsin and three s. Minnesota locations in early Jun. Wisconsin reported Hooded Warblers in five counties, including nesting in *Dane* (TB). Yellow-breasted Chats were in five Michigan and six Wisconsin counties, including one as far n. as *Bayfield*, WI 11–13 Jun (TO, RB).

In Minnesota, a male Summer Tanager paired with a female Scarlet Tanager in *Dakota* and fledged 2 young 29 Jun: one Brown-headed Cowbird and one Summer Tanager x Scarlet Tanager (ph. JPM). The nest was found 17 Jun; the young cowbird was seen on the 21st and the tanager chick, which was fed by both parents, was first seen on the 28th. In Wisconsin, Lark Sparrows were found in *Portage* (MBe) and *Sauk* (DT, BDu) in early Jun, and in *Burnett* on 23 Jul (LS). Henslow's Sparrows fared well in all three states, including 11 Lower Peninsula counties in Michigan and five Wisconsin counties as far ne. as *Door* 5 Jun (T&IB). Unprecedented numbers of Henslow's were in 28 Minnesota counties as far n. as *Polk* 17 Jun–1 Jul (NGE, ph. PHS), *Mille Lacs* 4 Jul (HHD), and *Traverse* 30 Jul (KRE et al.); at least 18 individuals were at *Murphy-Hanrehan* (RBW). Unseasonal in Wisconsin were White-crowned Sparrows in *Milwaukee* in late Jun (BBo), *Oneida* 18–31 Jul (J&KS), and *Portage* 29 Jul (RW). In nw. Minnesota, an accommodating Black-headed Grosbeak extended its late May visit in *Marshall* through 16 Jun (MBr, PCC, JMJ). Straying outside of its usual Minnesota range were single Blue Grosbeaks in *Dakota* (CM) and *Yellow Medicine* (D&BM) 13 Jun; a pair was in *Brown* 25 Jun+ (BTS). Michigan reported "fair numbers" of Evening Grosbeaks, with nesting in the Lower Peninsula, while Wisconsin's only reports were in *Vilas* (JBa).

Corrigenda: Michigan: Change Cinnamon Teal in *Crawford* during winter 2003–2004 from Michigan to Wisconsin (N.A.B. 58: 230). Delete Tufted Duck in *Van Buren* 6 Mar 2004 (N.A.B. 58: 375); the documentation suggested possible hybrid derivation. Delete undocumented Baird's Sandpipers in *Saginaw* and *Houghton*, Spring 2004 (N.A.B. 58: 375). Delete Ancient Murrelet 7 Nov 2004



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due to uncertainty about whether the murrelet actually entered Michigan waters (N.A.B. 59: 81). Change maximum number of Eurasian Collared-Doves to 4 in *Grand Traverse* (N.A.B. 58: 231, 375), and delete one in *Berrien* 7 May 2004 (N.A.B. 58: 375). Change number of Cave Swallows at S.M.R.R., *Wayne* 5-6 Nov 2004 to 2 (N.A.B. 59: 81). Delete undocumented Lark Sparrow in *Wayne* 7 May 2004 (N.A.B. 58: 376). Minnesota: Delete Prairie Falcon in *Ramsey* 27 Dec 2004 (N.A.B. 59: 270).

Cited observers (subregional editors bold-faced): Tim Baerwald (TBa), Pat Baize, Jim Baughman (JBa), Ty & Ida Baumann, David R. Benson, Murray Berner (MBE), Bill Berg, Tom Bethell, Brian Boldt (BB0), Marilyn Bontly (MB0), Chuck & Sue Bradford, Ryan Brady, Mary Broten (MBR), Erik Bruhnke, Marvin Budd (MBu), Adam M. Byrne (Michigan), Allen T. Chartier, Philip C. Chu, Julie Craves (JCr), Seth Cutright, Herb H. Dingmann, John Dixon, Louie Dombroski, Becca DuBey, Kim R. Eckert, Jessie Ellis, Nathaniel G. Emery, Marty Evanson, Bruce A. Fall, Sean Fitzgerald, Dan M. Floren, Jim Frank, Darlene Friedman, Richard Gibson, Skye Haas, Jay E. Hamernick, Don Henise, Anthony X. Hertz, Scott Hickman (SHi), John W. Hockema, Pete Hoeger, Randy Hoffman, Ronald Hoffman (RHo), Aaron Holschbach, Bill Hurst, Matt Hysell, John Idzikowski, Dan Jackson, Scott Jennex, Robbye Johnson, Paul L. Johnson, Jeanie M. Joppru, Jerry Jourdan, Douglas W. Kieser, Ann E. Kessen (Minnesota), Ben Klaver, Mark Kordecki, David O. Lambeth, Tim Lamey, James W. Lind, Steve Lubahn, Chris Mansfield, Dennis & Barbara Martin, James P. Mattsson, Mike McDowell, Ken Mettie, Jr., Larry Michael, Andre Moncrief, Jenny Moorman, Doug Munson, Brad C. Murphy, Warren E. Nelson, Chris Neri, Darrin O'Brien, Tim Oksiuta, Marie Ostrander, Nancy B. Overcott, Paul W. Pedersen, Jesse Peterson, Janine Polk (JPo), Nolan Pope, Tom Prestby, Jack Reinhoehl, Janet L. Riegle, Wayne Rohde (Wisconsin), Bob Rogers, Robert P. Russell, Jr., Russ Schipper, Al Schirmacher (ASc), Jim Schnur (JIS), Carl Schwartz, Julian P. Sellers, Larry Semo, Richard Smallwood-Roberts (RSR), Brian T. Smith, Jerry & Karen Smith, Charles Sontag (CS0), Linda Sparling, William M. Stauffer, Aaron Stutz, Peder H. Svingen, Andrea Szymczak (ASz), Daryl Tessen (DTe), Kevin Thomas, Dar Tiede, Ed Thelen, Steve Thiessen, David C. Vinnedge, Josh G. Watson, LaRue Wells, Rob Whitmire, Robert B. Williams, Jonathan T. Wuepper, and Quentin Yoerger. Our sincere thanks to hundreds more contributors who could not be acknowledged individually. ☺

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