

Illinois & Indiana



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The cold spell that hit the Region in late November continued through the first three weeks of December. During this period of December, temperatures averaged 11° F below normal, and the highs rarely reached normal. These low temperatures resulted in the freezing of all inland lakes and Lake Michigan's harbors. By 22-23 December, the weather mellowed, bringing some 44 days (through 3 February) of temperatures that never dipped below normal. In Chicago, temperatures averaged 13.8° F above normal during that period, with no single day less than 5° F above the historic mean temperature. For the Region as a whole, January was the warmest on record; Bloomington, Indiana experienced 15 January days with highs exceeding 50° F. During this warm spell, all ice disappeared on Lake Michigan and the adjacent harbors.

Seasonal highlights included strong migrations of geese in late winter, few rarities, and several unexpected lingering species, such as Common Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, and Blue-headed Vireo.

Abbreviations: Arklands (Arklands Reclamation Area, Perry, IL); Bee. M. (Beehunter Marsh, Greene, IN); Bev. Sh. (Beverly Shores, Porter, IN); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., Clinton, Fayette, & Bond, IL); F.W.A. (Fish & Wildlife Area); Mich. City (Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, IN); Miller (Miller Beach, Lake, IN).

WATERFOWL

There was an impressive flight of geese throughout the Region. Greater White-fronted Geese were widespread and continued a

pattern of increasing abundance. Four of the top-ten all-time Illinois counts occurred this winter, with the 15,000 at Arklands 25 Dec (KJM) setting a new record high count and 7500 at Union County C.A. 30 Dec (KJM, HDB) providing the state's 3rd highest count. Of six triple-digit tallies of Greater White-fronted Geese in Indiana, the peak count was 343 at Universal Mines 16 Jan (DG). By far the highest ever count of Snow Geese in Indiana was made at L. Gibson 25 Feb (DL, G&LB), when clouds of these birds were estimated at 75,000. Snow Goose counts of 300,000 at Carl. L. 22 Jan (DMK) and 90,000 at Arklands 25 Dec (KJM) exemplified the strong presence of this species in the s. tier of Illinois. More impressive, however, was the record-setting presence of Ross's Geese in the Region. Indiana's highest ever tally of Ross's Geese, 37, was logged at Kankakee F.W.A. 19 Jan (BJG). Numerous and widespread Illinois reports were led by a count of 200 at Arklands 25 Dec (KJM), more than triple the previous record high count of 65. The total of 23 at Union County C.A. 18 Jan (KAM), Illinois's 5th highest count ever, seemed small by comparison. Indiana's 2nd highest ever winter tally of Cackling Geese consisted of a single-species flock of 64 at Hawthorn Mines 12 Feb (J&SH, BK, KRy). A report without details of



This second-winter Kumlien's Iceland Gull at the Hammond Marina, Indiana 7 January 2006 was notable in having very light primaries, more like those of nominate *glaucoideus*. Photograph by John K. Cassidy.

20 Trumpeter Swans 27 Dec in Jackson, IL (DGd) would represent a record winter high count in modern times for Illinois. Tundra Swans were not recorded on the Indiana lakefront this season, though 100 were seen in s. La Porte 2 Dec (DG).

Counts of 97 Wood Ducks in Alexander 29 Dec (KJM) and 150,000 Mallards at Carl. L. 3 Dec (DMK) were reflective of above-average numbers in Illinois this year. A late Blue-winged Teal 31 Dec at Mermet L. (KAM, DMK) and an early one 25 Feb at Carl. L.

(DMK) made for a typical winter showing of this species. Numbers of most other dabblers were close to normal. Greater Scaup, though scarce on L. Michigan, with high counts of just 764 at Illinois Beach S.P. 1 Jan (GAW) and 100 at Mich. City 10 Dec (JJM), showed numbers higher than average inland: 22 at L. Lemon 13 Dec (J&SH) was the highest ever inland count for Indiana. Other *Aythya* duck numbers were rather typical, aside from 5000 Lesser Scaup at Carl. L. 3 Dec (DMK), an above-average congregation for winter. The season's rarest waterfowl was a female Tufted Duck seen 16 Dec at East Fork L., Richland, IL (p.a., †LH, †BS), potentially Illinois's 5th.

A new Indiana seasonal maximum was set for Harlequin Duck with 4 birds, 2 imm. males and 2 females, at Mich. City 17 Dec (JKC, PBG, DG, AS et al.). One male and 2 female Harlequin Ducks were also noted 8 Feb in Chicago (JSp, m.ob.). This species is only rarely seen in numbers greater than 2 in the Region. It is also quite rare away from L. Michigan, making a Harlequin Duck 17 Dec-25 Feb at L. Decatur (ph. TAM, †HDB, m.ob.) a pleasant surprise there. Scoters were in short supply in the Region. Two Surf Scoters at Winthrop Harbor 26 Feb (AFS), one at L. Decatur 11 Feb (TAM et al.), and an ad. female on L. Lemon 16 Dec (J&SH) were the only reports. The only report of White-winged Scoter consisted of 5 at Bev. Sh. 11 Feb (BJG). Single Black Scoters were at West Beach, Porter, IN 7 Jan and Bev. Sh. 14 Jan, and a pair was at Indiana Dunes S.P. 28 Jan (SRB, m.ob.). Long-tailed Ducks also posted a below-average season. The peak lakefront counts were 19 in Waukegan, IL 28 Jan (AFS) and 5 at Bev. Sh. 24 Dec (BJG). Singles 5 Dec (DG) and 3 & 16 Jan (LP, JCr) in Indianapolis and 30 Jan in Lafayette (EMH) joined five inland reports from Illinois. Common Merganser numbers were diminished, too: a peak tally of only 1545 was made 16 Feb at Chautauqua N.W.R. (R&SB), and they were scarce at the Indiana lakefront, with the maximum consisting only of 70 birds at the Port of Indiana, Porter 18 Feb (JKC et al.).

GALLIFORMS THROUGH HERONS

Two Gray Partridges in Kendall, IL 22 Jan (DFS) were the only ones reported. Greater Prairie-Chickens were restricted to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, where 52 were noted 23 Dec (JW). That Northern Bobwhites were not reported at all from the cen. portion of Illinois causes some concern. Red-throated

Loons were restricted to Indiana but appeared there in good numbers. A record winter count of 11 was logged at Mich. City 17 Dec (KJB et al.). Other lakefront records included counts of 7 at Indiana Dunes S.P. 28 Jan (JKC et al.), an all-time high for Jan, and 8 at Indiana Dunes S.P. and Bev. Sh. 11 Feb (BJG), the highest ever Feb tally. There were no inland reports. For Common Loons, the Indiana lakefront experienced its lowest winter total in 15 years, while numbers inland were higher, especially in early Dec. Commons Loons were also scarce in Illinois, with just two reports, both in the far south. A count of 57 Pied-billed Grebes at Patoka L. 20 Dec (J&SH) was Indiana's 3rd largest for the winter, and a single wintered along the Grand Calumet R. in Hammond, IN (KJB et al.). Horned Grebes were less abundant than usual in Illinois, but several were reported at the Indiana lakefront through Jan. An Eared Grebe, representing Indiana's 3rd Jan lakefront record, was discovered at Mich. City 2 Jan (JM) and was subsequently observed through 10 Jan (DS, RJP et al.). The Region hosted 2 additional Eared Grebes: one 17 Dec at Rend L. (DMK) and one in Elkhart, IN 18 Dec (DS). No Red-necked or Western Grebes were reported.

The high count for Double-crested Cormorants for the season, 55, was made on 25 Feb at L. Gibson (G&LB, DL, TT et al.). The 28 Double-crested Cormorants tallied 24 Feb at Rend L. was well below the normal wintering population at that location (KAM). Just a handful of Jan records of Great Egret in Illinois exist, all from the s. part of the state, making the 8 Jan sighting in the n. county of Will (†UG) quite exceptional. A Black-crowned Night-Heron that appeared to be in fresh juv. plumage was found along the Grand Calumet R. in Hammond, IN 21 Jan (SRB, JKC, KJB).

VULTURES THROUGH SANDPIPERS

Black Vultures continue to be seen in good numbers to the n. and w. of their stronghold in the se. part of Indiana, but they appeared to be less abundant in Illinois, with 25 at Mermet L. 31 Dec (KAM, DMK) providing the best count in the state. Impressive counts of Turkey Vultures were made in Indiana throughout the period; particularly noteworthy were 20 birds in n.-cen. Indiana (Marshall) 22 Jan (MH). There are only about 10 winter Turkey Vulture records from n. Illinois, making sightings in Kane 14 Jan (RH), in Kankakee 1 Feb (JBH), and of 4 in DuPage 1 Feb (KF) quite notable.

Good numbers of Bald Eagles along the Mississippi R., though reduced from the level of the past two years, were evidenced by 626 in Rock Island, IL 14 Jan (KJM). The mid-winter eagle count in Indiana 9 & 11 Jan tallied 195 Bald Eagles (JC, AH), the 3rd highest state total. Raptor numbers in general were fairly typical in Illinois, with the more notable totals being 56 Northern Harriers at Arklands 25 Dec (KJM) and 13 Cooper's Hawks in Champaign 17 Dec (EJC). Four Northern Goshawk reports from Illinois was typical for that state. Three Golden Eagles logged at L. Monroe 29 Jan (DRW) provided a record Indiana winter high count. Twenty-two Merlins were reported throughout the Region, but the most exciting falcon of the season was Indiana's 6th Prairie Falcon, found at Hawthorn



Harlequin Ducks are rare in the Illinois & Indiana region away from Lake Michigan. This female was photographed 21 December 2005 on inland Lake Decatur, Illinois, where the photographer had found it 17 December 2005 during the local Christmas Bird Count. The bird remained through 25 February 2006.

Photograph by Travis Mahan.

Mines 21 Dec (BW, †DRW, D&IB). Interestingly, all but one of these records occurred during the winter period.

A notable concentration of 10,000 American Coots was observed at Arklands 25 Dec (KJM). In addition to staging at the traditional site at Jasper-Pulaski F.W.A., Sandhill Cranes have been stopping at the Ewing Bottoms near Brownstown, Jackson, IN, where 10,000 were estimated to have gathered 1 Feb (AM); a single Whooping Crane from the reintroduced Wisconsin population was seen with the Sandhills on 19 & 25 Feb (JD, J&SH). Also noteworthy were 2 Sandhill Cranes discovered 17 Dec at Rend L. (KAM), furnishing only the 2nd C.B.C. record there in the past 10 years. Single Virginia Rails were heard at Bev. Sh. 17 Dec (JKC) and at Pigeon River F.W.A., Steuben, IN 18 Dec and 5 Jan (JJM, JAH). Indiana's latest ever Baird's Sandpiper, representing only the 3rd winter record

for the state, was seen at L. Monroe 16–17 Dec (†JDk, CB, KG). A Dunlin was noted 31 Dec at Mermet L. (KAM, DMK, FB); one winter report of this species is typical.

JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Winter records of jaegers are very rare in the Region, so 2 was an exceptional number: a well-described Parasitic Jaeger 25 Dec in Chicago (p.a., †SH) and an unidentified jaeger observed flying past Bev. Sh. 5 Jan (BJG), the latter only the 2nd Jan record for any jaeger in Indiana. A notable congregation of 60,000 Ring-billed Gulls was at Carl. L. 14 Jan (DMK). This winter featured 2 California Gulls: a first-year bird at Carl. L. 3 Dec (DMK) and an ad. at L. Calumet 4 Feb (ph RDH, ph WSS, †WJM). Numbers of other gulls were much reduced in Illinois this winter, and with the closing of the La Porte landfill four years ago, Indiana lakefront gull numbers have continued to slide. A total of 37 Thayer's Gulls was reported Regionwide, with 10 Thayer's Gulls 11 Feb in Winthrop Harbor (GAW) the highest count. Only 10 Iceland Gulls were noted, including an interesting pale-primaried, second-year Iceland that lingered at Hammond Marina 7 Jan–11 Feb (JKC, KJB, JAH, LP et al.). Just one Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported at the Indiana lakefront, while an inland ad. at L. Lemon 13 Dec (J&SH) was noteworthy. In Illinois, 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were tallied at three different locations. In addition to 28 Glaucous Gulls recorded at L. Michigan sites, a single first-year bird at L. Monroe 3 Jan (†SE) was a notable record for s. Indiana. The peak tally for Illinois came from the Mississippi R., with 4 noted in Rock Island 5 Jan (SF). All but 3 of 90 Great Black-backed Gulls reported at L. Michigan were at Indiana locations. The high count consisted of an impressive 20 birds between two Lake, IN sites 25 Feb (SRB, JKC, RJP). One of the most remarkable finds in Indiana this season, representing only the 2nd ever winter record (first since 1948), was that of a Common Tern in basic plumage seen at Miller 26 Dec (J&AC).

The count of 46 Eurasian Collared-Doves in Macon 26 Dec (TAM) tied Illinois's 2nd highest daily total; a state high count of 13 was set 2 Jan in rural Newton, IN (SRB, KJB, LyH et al.). Individuals continue to show up at new locations. A new high tally of Monk Parakeets in Indiana was also registered this season, as 16 were seen at the Hammond nesting site 11 Feb (LP). Illinois hosted 12 Snowy Owls this winter, with 3 in La Salle 18

Feb (DJS, m.ob.). Two Snowy Owl reports from Indiana included an unusually dark imm. found in *Jasper* 7–16 Jan (BJG, JGi, m.ob.) and one in *Starke* 20 Jan (BH) that unfortunately was found dead beside the road 23 Jan. The **Burrowing Owl** in Pyramid S.P., IL continued into the winter and was reported as late as 9 Jan (DMK, KAM, MM, AFS). The peak counts among a relatively small number of Long-eared Owl reports were 5 at Green River W.A., IL 24 Dec (KJM) and 2 at Kingsbury F.W.A., IN 31 Dec (JJM et al.). Though numbers were down slightly in Indiana relative to recent years, overall Short-eared Owls appeared in good numbers, with notable gatherings of 38 at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 23 Dec (JW, m.ob.), 32 at Hawthorn Mines 3 Dec (LWS), 11 at Glacial Park, *McHenry*, IL 21 Jan (EWW), and 7 at Rollins Savanna, *Lake*, IL all winter (EWW). Only four reports of Northern Saw-whet Owl came from Illinois. In Indiana, 4 were heard at Jasper–Pulaski F.W.A. 7 Jan (BJG), and 2 were heard at Patoka L., IN 20 Dec (RB, LWS). The traditional Tremont, *Porter*, IN site yielded a single bird on only one occasion, 2 Dec (AS, JGr). An imm. female Rufous Hummingbird that was banded in *Posey* (CHu, *vide* DG) attended the same feeder throughout the period (S&WB, C&SS, *vide* DG), providing Indiana's first successfully wintering individual of the species.

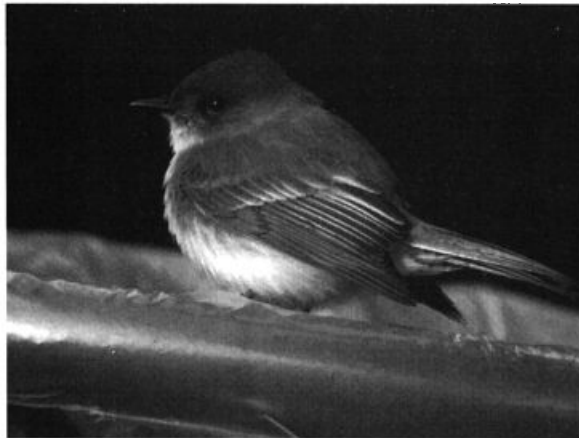
FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An Eastern Phoebe found 29 Dec in Chicago remained at least through 15 Jan (CHi, ph. SH); there are only four prior Jan or Feb records from n. Illinois. Late lingering Eastern Phoebes were also more numerous in s. Illinois, with 12 noted up to 1 Jan. Another was seen 24 Feb in *Johnson*, IL (KAM), possibly an early spring migrant. Illinois's 12th and 13th Say's Phoebes appeared during the season. One was present at Crane L. in *Mason* 17–22 Dec (ph. †HDB, ph. PSW); another was at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State F.W.A. in *Cass* 3 Jan–13 Feb (CSw, KR, ph. EWW).

Only 10 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Illinois, all in the s. section, with half of those noted at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 23 Dec (JW et al.). Northern Shrikes put on a fine showing, with 12 in Illinois and 13 in Indiana, all single birds except for 2 at Goose Pond F.W.A., *Greene*, IN 21 Dec (LWS, JB, BF) and 2 at Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, *Cook*, IL 1 Jan (CF). At Big Oaks N.W.R., *Jackson* P. Lewis was able to study in-hand a Blue-headed Vireo that had struck a window 20

Jan (the bird was apparently uninjured). This bird represented not only the first winter season record for Indiana but the first report between 19 Nov and 3 Apr. The only Illinois winter record for this species was one 10–11 Dec 1992 in Springfield.

A Fish Crow heard and seen 24 Feb at Mermet L., IL was likely an early spring migrant (KAM). Two Tree Swallows at L. Gibson 25 Feb were also early (DL, G&LB et al.), while



This Eastern Phoebe was located 29 December 2005 in Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo and remained there through at least 15 January 2006 (here); the species is quite rare in winter in northern Illinois, with only a handful of records for January or February. Photograph by Steve Huggins.

2 Barn Swallows recorded 30 Dec in *Union*, IL were very late (KJM, HDB). This Dec was the 4th of the last five in which Barn Swallows have been noted in Illinois. The season's only double-digit record of Red-breasted Nuthatch in Illinois was of 23 in *Champaign* 17 Dec (EJC). Three lingering House Wrens were noted in *Massac*, IL 31 Dec (KJM, RSR). The peak tally of Winter Wrens for Indiana consisted of 4 at the Marian College Ecolab, *Marion* 5 Jan (JC), while 13 in *Alexander* 29 Dec was an excellent count for Illinois (KJM). Four Marsh Wrens at Bee. M. 21 Dec (J&SH, JD, BH) constituted the state's first winter record of multiple birds.

Thrushes were evident in good numbers. A tally of 93 Eastern Bluebirds in *Jackson*, IL 1 Jan (KJM, VL, SJ) was impressive. One of the Townsend's Solitaires that was at West Beach, *Porter*, IN through the fall lingered well into winter, with sightings in the period 5 Dec–9 Jan (CS, MT). Hermit Thrushes were quite abundant this winter: 51 were seen 29 Dec in *Alexander*, IL (KJM), a large total. American Robins were plentiful throughout the Region: 46 were tallied at Bev. Sh. 24 Dec (SRB, KJB, JKC, CM), a nice total for the Indiana lakefront, and 900 in Bloomington, IN 12 Jan (GH) and 1500 at Carl. L. 22 Jan (DMK) represented significant concentrations. An astounding 8000 American Robins were seen

migrating southward 18 Dec in *Cook* (WJM, WSS), tying the record winter season high count for Illinois.

Only 2 Gray Catbirds were noted this season, both from n. Illinois. Two lakefront records of Northern Mockingbird consisted of a Michigan City bird that was seen multiple times and one seen in Bev. Sh. 3 Dec and 21 Jan (DG, JKC, KJB, SRB). A late-lingering American Pipit was observed 3 Jan at Illinois Beach S.P. (EWW). Cedar Waxwings were generally present in low numbers in Indiana, with the maximum count consisting of 300 in Valparaiso 29 Jan (CS); Illinois saw three reports of 300 or more individuals.

WARBLERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Yellow-rumped Warblers remained in above-average numbers through the winter, especially in the s. sections, with a peak of 75 noted at Carl. L. 22 Jan (DMK). Two Orange-crowned Warblers were reported without details: 2 Dec in *Urbana*, IL (RJ) and 17 Jan at Horseshoe L., *Madison*, IL (JPZ, YH, SM). A Pine Warbler was at Carl. L. 22 Jan and 26 Feb (DMK), and another was in *Cook*, IL 25 Jan (ph. ASz).

A Palm Warbler at L. Gibson 25 Feb (G&LB, TT, DL et al.) provided Indiana's 2nd Feb record and the first since 1950.

Two Eastern Towhees were in Chicago, one 26 Dec–21 Jan (KW) and the other 10 Jan (JA), providing two of only seven Jan records for n. Illinois. Spotted Towhees included one in *Kane*, IL 2 Dec (KAM) and another in *Fulton*, IL 12 Feb (KAM). Less common sparrows included a Vesper Sparrow 24 Dec in *Lee*, IL (†KJM) and 3 Le Conte's Sparrows 9 Jan at Rend L. (KAM). Fox Sparrows were present in above-average numbers around the Region. The largest among three double-digit counts in Illinois was 17 at Oakwood Bottoms 1 Jan (KJM, VL, SJ). A single at Bev. Sh. 21 Jan (JKC, SRB) was especially notable, as the species is rare on the lakefront in winter. Three winter reports of Lincoln's Sparrow made an above-average count for Illinois. The only Harris's Sparrow was at Horseshoe L., *Madison* 6 & 12 Feb (KAM, FRH). The Region's peak winter count of Snow Buntings consisted of 80 birds at Pigeon River F.W.A., *Steuben*, IN 18 Dec (JJM et al.). A nice count of 1500 Lapland Longspurs was tallied 22 Jan at Carl. L. (DMK).

Indigo Buntings are absent from Illinois most winters, making notable the reports of single birds 11 Dec and 20 Feb at Carl. L. (DMK) and 31 Dec and 11 Jan in *Jasper* (LH,

BS). A huge flock of blackbirds, estimated at 1,000,000+, was seen flying over Bee. M. 21 Dec (J&SH, JD, BH). The flock consisted of approximately 300,000 European Starlings, 200,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 400,000 Common Grackles, and 100,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds, providing Indiana high counts for all of the species except Red-winged Blackbird. The maximum seasonal count of Brewer's Blackbird (14) was recorded at Hawthorn Mines, IN 3 Dec (LWS et al.). A very late Baltimore Oriole was photographed at a feeder in Greenfield, Hancock, IN 20 Dec (ph. J&DW, *vide* JC).

The peak Purple Finch tally was 80 in Rock Island, IL 4 Jan (BLB, KJM). Purple Finches were well represented in downstate Indiana, with 65 birds in Washington (JSe) providing the high count. Other winter finches were quite scarce. Five Red Crossbills in Rockford 3 Dec (DTW) and one in Kane, IL 17 Dec (EES) were the only reports. Common Redpoll sightings were limited to 7 birds at Indiana Dunes S.P. 28 Jan (BJG), 3 in Cass, IL 6 Jan (EES), and one at Carl. L. 14 Dec (RSR). The highest total for Pine Siskins was 32, recorded in Highland Park, IL 4 Dec (DRD). In Indiana, Pine Siskins were remarkably scarce statewide, as the high count for the season was a paltry 4 in Greene 2 Dec (J&MG). Numbers of Eurasian Tree Sparrows were up

this winter, with a peak total of 232 in Mercer, IL 28 Dec (KJM, m.ob.).

Undocumented reports: A Prairie Falcon in Champaign, IL 22–27 Jan was reported without details. This species is on the Illinois review list.

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Western Great Lakes



Adam M. Byrne

December started out very cold, but by Christmas the Region was experiencing a warming trend. All three states reported an exceptionally mild January; Duluth, Minnesota had its warmest January on record. This long warm stretch helped many semi-hardy species to overwinter successfully, highlighted by a handful of Tree Swallows in southern Michigan! The season finished with a return to cold temperatures in late February.

Snow cover in southern areas was below average, with many areas having little or no snow most of the winter; northern areas had average to above-average snowfall.

Northern Hawk and Great Gray Owl numbers were down from last winter, but all three states reported the largest Snowy Owl invasion in many years. Other highlights were a Barrow's Goldeneye, several Gyrfalcons, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Barn Owl in Minnesota, and Ferruginous Hawk and Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Wisconsin. Michigan had an exceptional season, with multiple Ross's Geese, a Barrow's Goldeneye, two Pacific Loons, two Western Grebes, Northern Gannet, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Spotted Towhee, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in four Michigan counties, with a maximum of 38 in Berrien 21–22 Feb (TB). Wisconsin had numerous Feb sightings of Greater White-

fronteds, with the first in Dodge 2 Feb (JB) Also in Wisconsin was a late fall migrant Ross's Goose in Dane 2 Dec (ST) and 6 spring arrivals in Racine 23 Feb (EH). Michigan records were 3 on 17–27 Feb (TB, m.ob., p.a.) and another 6 on 22 Feb (TB, p.a.) at Paw Paw L., Berrien and one in Huron 26 Feb (JCD). Cackling Goose was reported from all three states, with Wisconsin having 3 spend the winter in Dane (ST). Minnesota had reports from four counties, while Michigan birders found at least 25 birds in six counties Wisconsin reported a high of only 6 Trumpeter Swans 21 Jan in Winnebago (DT). An American Wigeon 17 Dec–4 Jan at Grand Marais, Cook was an unusual mid-winter record for far ne. Minnesota. Rare for Michigan were 4 Blue-winged Teal 27 Dec in Cass (SMG). Providing the first overwintering record for n. Minnesota, and one of few from anywhere in the state, were 5 Greater Scaup at Duluth, St. Louis (PHS, m.ob.).

Minnesota had near-average numbers of