



Adam M. Byrne

Slightly above-average temperatures and normal to above-average precipitation ushered in the season in all three states. Drier and unusually warm weather in April continued in the Region through 8 May; however, on the next day, a massive low-pressure system brought an abrupt change in this pattern, stalling over Lake Michigan for several days and bringing cold, wet conditions. For Michigan, the Midwest Climate Center noted: "The month of May was as bizarre as they come." In the Upper Peninsula, Marquette reached daily high temperatures of 27° F on 22 May and 93° F on 29 May, while in the south, Lansing had precipitation every day 10-21 May, with temperatures five degrees below normal during this period. Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported a cessation of migration during this prolonged cold and wet spell, and Minnesota described the warbler migration as pathetic! Late May turned quickly to summer, with very warm temperatures by Memorial Day weekend.

WATERFOWL

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck in *Lafayette* 23 Mar (p.a., JR) provided Wisconsin its 2nd record. Geese were seen in exceptional numbers Regionwide. Minnesota reported a record-high count of 18,200 Greater White-fronted Geese at Mud L., *Traverse* 4 Apr (KJB). Michigan had almost 100 individuals from seven counties, more than doubling its highest total over the past five years. Wisconsin reports came from seven counties. Minnesota's first blue-morph Ross's Goose was part of a record-high 529 Ross's in *Traverse* 2 Apr (KJB). Minnesota had a statewide total of 867+ Ross's Geese this spring! This once rarely observed species was recorded in 10 Wisconsin counties. Michigan had 2 in *Washtenaw* 1-5 Mar (MJ, SJ, m.ob.), 3 through 5 Mar at Brown Sanctuary, *Berrien* (m.ob.), one from winter through 6 Mar at Harbor Beach, *Huron* (JD), and one at Eau Claire, *Berrien* 18-21 Mar (JW, KM, TB), all pending acceptance. Illustrating the potential magni-

tude of Cackling Goose migration through w. Minnesota was a record-high count of 3000 in *Cottonwood* 25 Mar (BRB) and another strong count of 2317 in *Traverse* 2-3 Apr (KJB).

Wisconsin reported its first Bewick's Swan in *Rock* 24 Mar (JB, p.a.). A Eurasian Wigeon was present 17 May in *Beltrami*, MN (JEB, RBJ), while Wisconsin had singles in *Sheboygan* 19-29 Mar (m.ob.), *Dane* 29 Mar (ST), and *Kenosha* 19 Apr (JM). An ad. male Cinnamon Teal treated Wisconsin birders 7-13 May in *Ozaukee* (TU). Minnesota had ad. males in *Cass* 12-13 Apr (ph. LO, DY, ph. CMB, PHS) and *Nobles* 26 May (BTS). A male Tufted Duck in *Huron* 15-21 May (JBU, JZ, m.ob., p.a.) would represent Michigan's 4th state record. Michigan had 2 Harlequin Ducks through 4 Mar in *Berrien* (JW), one in *St. Clair* 19 Apr (SJ), and a male in *Keweenaw* 23 Apr (JY), while in Wisconsin, 3 in *Racine* from winter lingered through 29 Apr (RH). Michigan reported good numbers of scoters, including a surprising 5 Surfs at an inland gravel pit in *Hillsdale* 17 Mar (JRE). Long-tailed Duck numbers were way above those from recent years at Whitefish Point B.O. (hereafter W.P.B.O.), *Chippewa*, MI, with a peak of 1430 on 17 May. Wisconsin's wintering Barrow's Goldeneyes were last reported 4 Mar in *Milwaukee* (AP) and 5 Mar in *Sheboygan* (TW); Minnesota had a male in *Aitkin* 13 Apr (PEJ). Rare in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was a Ruddy Duck in *Keweenaw* 21-29 Apr (TA).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A Red-throated Loon at L. Byllesby, *Dakota* MN 30 Apr (JPM) furnished only the 2nd county record. Wisconsin had a good spring, with seven reports from L. Michigan, topped by 9 in *Sheboygan* 20 Apr (JF). Michigan had average numbers of Red-throateds at W.P.B.O., where 504 were tallied after 15 Apr, with a peak of 116 on 27 Apr. A systematic count at Chequamegon Bay, *Ashland* WI on 22 Apr tallied a remarkable 1482 Horned Grebes (RB). Eared Grebes were scarce this spring, with only 3 in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. Wisconsin had 2 Western Grebes in *Kenosha* 11 Mar (RHo) and one in *Eau Claire* 23 May (JP), while Michigan had one from winter through 1 Mar in *Marquette* (SH). Not surprisingly, Minnesota hosted the only Clark's Grebes at Thielke L., *Big Stone* 17 Apr (BJU), L. Osakis, *Douglas* 21 May (DB et al.), and South Rockwell L., *Big Stone* 28 May (PHS). Michigan has been recording more American White Pelicans in recent years; this year there were 50+ birds reported from 12 counties.

Minnesota reported 26 Snowy Egrets from 16 counties, while Wisconsin had 9 in five counties. In Michigan, there were 3 Snowy

Egrets, including one n. of normal 8 May in *Alger* (ph. SHI). Continuing the trend of s herons in extreme n. Michigan locations were a Little Blue Heron 4-6 May (DJ, SH) and a Tricolored Heron 13-24 Apr (C&RY, SH), both in *Marquette*, the former constituting only the 2nd Upper Peninsula record. Michigan also had a Little Blue in *Berrien* 17 May (JO) and a Tricolored in *Macomb* 8 May (ph. JA, ph. RP). Minnesota's 7 Little Blue Herons was the highest number in recent memory, the ad. in *Lake* 20 May (ph. JW, SLL) furnished a first county record. Wisconsin's only Little Blue was an ad. in *Kenosha* 13 Apr (RHo). Minnesota had at least 76 Cattle Egrets in 21 counties, including one n. to Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall* 5 May (JN), while Michigan had 4 in three counties. All three states reported Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Michigan had singles in *Washtenaw* 17 Apr (EL, p.a.) and *Allegan* 20-21 Apr (CM, ph.), Wisconsin had one 4-7 May in *Iowa* (AH, RaH), and Minnesota had one in *Anoka* 5 May (TM). A lone White-faced Ibis made a brief appearance in *Grant*, WI 5 May (MG, p.a.), while Minnesota had singles in *Lac Qui Parle* 21-22 Apr (ph. BJU), *Anoka* 22 Apr (ph. JMc, AXH), and *Otter Trail* 1-2 May (ph. SPM, D&ST). The only Glossy Ibis was in *Dodge*, WI 12-16 May (TW), and an additional Plegadis ibis was in *Swift*, MN 4-6 May (CV).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Most raptor totals were well below those from recent years at W.P.B.O., most likely due to the poor weather conditions. Michigan claimed the only Black Vulture, one in *Clare* 6 Apr (MP, p.a.), while the only Mississippi Kite flew over a softball game in *Calumet*, WI 4 Apr (JeB). Minnesota reported a record-high count of 1213 Bald Eagles at L. Pepin, *Goodhue/Wabasha* 12 Mar (KJB). Michigan had Swainson's Hawks 3 May in *Keweenaw* (BJ) and 20 & 21 May at W.P.B.O., and a Ferruginous Hawk 6 Apr in *Houghton* (ph. JK, ph. TA). Both Minnesota and Wisconsin had wintering Gyrfalcons linger into Mar. Minnesota reported Prairie Falcons from *Wilkin* 19 Mar (PBB) and *Lac Qui Parle* 15 May (BJU). Rarely detected during migration were 3 Yellow Rails in *Anoka*, MN 23-27 Apr (WCM, SBM). The only King Rail reports came from s. Wisconsin.

A female Wilson's Plover 13-14 May in *Bayfield* (RB) gave Wisconsin its 2nd record, and a Semipalmated Plover in *Racine* 14 Apr (JDi) was the state's 3rd earliest record. Distressing was the absence of Piping Plovers in Minnesota and only 2 in Wisconsin. Black-necked Stilts continued their recent invasive trend. Wisconsin had stilts in *Ashland* 16 Apr (TO), *Dodge* 5-6 May (JBa), and *Manitowoc* 16 May (CS),

while Minnesota had 2 ads. 27 May in *Anoka* (SM, DFR, ph. RPF). One in *Hillsdale* 14 Apr (JRe) provided Michigan its 5th record. Minnesota had 89 American Avocets in 12 counties, including 4 on the 2nd earliest date of 9 Apr in *Big Stone* (DFN) and a record-high spring count of 41 along the Minnesota River Valley, *Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle* 14 Apr (BJU). Wisconsin also had one its largest flocks ever recorded (41) on 22 Apr in *Columbia* (MM). Michigan had avocets in *Saginaw* 5-8 & 23-27 May (DP, m.ob.) and in *Ottawa* 18 May (CF). Wisconsin birders experienced a huge Willet migration on 29 Apr, with hundreds moving through the state in flocks ranging from 30 to 70 birds. Minnesota had 157+ Willets in 23 counties, while Michigan had 36 in three counties. Whimbrels were scarce in Minnesota, but noteworthy were inland records in *Lac Qui Parle* 25 May (BJU) and *Anoka* 31 May (BRL et al.). Wisconsin had one of the best Whimbrel migrations in recent memory, while numbers were normal in Michigan. Both godwits were reported in very low numbers. A Ruddy Turnstone in *Dakota*, MN 1 May (DWK) was the state's 2nd earliest record. Both Michigan and Wisconsin had only two reports of the declining Red Knot. Noteworthy for Michigan were single Stilt Sandpipers in *Saginaw* 3 May (DP) and *Berrien* 18 May (PC).

JAEGERS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

The only jaeger reports were 2 Parasitics and one unidentified at W.P.B.O. Michigan had Laughing Gulls in *Benzie* 12 May (SJ) and *Berrien* 14 May (JJ, DV, JW) and Franklin's Gulls in *Berrien* 12 May (JJ) and at W.P.B.O. 30 May Wisconsin's only Franklin's Gulls were in *Racine* 23 May (EK) and *Bayfield* 28 May (RB). Wisconsin had its best Little Gull season in decades, with reports from six counties; in contrast, Michigan and Minnesota had no reports. Rare were California Gulls 11 Mar in *Racine*, WI (p.a., RH) and 6 May in *Keweenaw*, MI (ph. BJ, p.a.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in good numbers from Wisconsin and Minnesota. Wisconsin had a **Glaucous-winged Gull** in *LaCrosse* 22-24 Mar (DJa) and a Black-legged Kittiwake in *Milwaukee* 10 May (DG). A large flock of 1100 Forster's Terns was recorded in *Ozaukee*, WI 11 May (SF), while Michigan had the only **Least Tern** at W.P.B.O. 29 May (JoM, AMB, PC).

Wisconsin's wintering **Band-tailed Pigeon** remained through 1 Apr in *St. Croix* (MB). Eurasian Collared-Doves have a strong foothold in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, with reports from 13+ and nine counties, respectively. The only Michigan report was of the continuing birds in *Berrien* (JW, m.ob.). The only **White-winged Dove** was at Mora, Kan-

abec, MN 10-16 May (CAM, ph. DAC). Some of the winter's Snowy Owls lingered late into the season, with one in *Portage*, WI 29 May (DC) and another through end of period in *Grand Traverse*, MI (EW). Minnesota had Burrowing Owl pairs in *Polk* 27 Apr+ (JE, JM, ph. PHS) and *Norman* 6 May+ (ABL, JM, ph. PHS) and one in *Olmsted* from early May+ (CCB, m.ob.). Representing Minnesota's 3rd highest count from a single location were 22 Short-eared Owls in *Pennington* 22 Apr (JM, PHS). Michigan had **Chuck-will's-widows** in *Livingston* 4 May (p.a., DW, LH) and after 7 May in *Berrien* (JW, p.a.), while the bird at Chaseburg, *Vernon* WI (DJa) returned for its 3rd year.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

In Michigan, Western Kingbirds were reported from *Allegan* 22 May (SJ) and *Delta* 25 May (SH). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed in Minnesota 23 Apr in *Lac Qui Parle* (HF et al., ph. BJU) and 1-2 May in *Clay* (MM et al.), while Wisconsin had reports from *Douglas* 17 May (RaH) and *Jackson* 28 May (*fide* GG). Loggerhead Shrikes continue to decline in the Region. Minnesota reported only 29 birds in 12 counties, below normal for the 10th consecutive spring. Wisconsin had a nesting pair in *Oconto* (T&IB) and one in *Bayfield* 23 Apr (RB). Michigan hasn't had a spring bird in four years! Wisconsin had White-eyed Vireos in six counties; Minnesota had one in *Rock* 29 May (RL, DML). Bell's Vireos were found in traditional areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but one in *Wayne* 6 May (CP, p.a.) would be Michigan's first spring record since 1997.

A **Black-billed Magpie** in *Keweenaw* 30 Mar (NA, TA) provided Michigan its 7th state record. Minnesota had a record-early Cliff Swallow in *Dakota* 31 Mar (BRL), while Wisconsin had an early Barn Swallow on 17 Mar in *Waukesha* (MG). Wisconsin reports the presence of Great Tits (escapees) in four counties, including confirmed breeding. Minnesota reported the only Rock Wren from *Rice* 7-8 May (GDB, LM), a record-early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Douglas* 13 Apr (SPM), and 3 Mountain Bluebirds and a Townsend's Solitaire in *Lac Qui Parle* (BJU). Wisconsin had solitaires linger through 3 Mar in *Sauk* (JDi) and 6 Mar in *Ashland* (RB), while Michigan had one through 6 Mar in *Marquette* (LT) and one in *Keweenaw* 2 Apr (ph. TA). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were very scarce this spring, the exception being 22 seen on 9 May in *Grant*, WI (RaH). Winter Varied Thrushes remained into early Mar in *Winnebago*, WI (RK) and in *Benzie*, *Manistee*, and *Muskegon* in Michigan.

Very rare for Michigan's Upper Peninsula was a Blue-winged Warbler in *Schoolcraft* 20 May (LD). A Golden-winged Warbler on 8

Apr (p.a., MH) and a Tennessee Warbler on 20 Apr (MM), both in *Dane*, were reported on record-early dates, while an **Audubon's Warbler** in *Milwaukee* 27 Mar provided Wisconsin its 2nd record. Also noteworthy for Wisconsin were three reports each of Yellow-throated and Prairie Warblers. The first ne. Minnesota record of the declining Cerulean Warbler came from *Lake* 4 May (ph. JW, SLL), while a Prothonotary Warbler on 16 May in *Polk* (BDF) was far from the usual state haunts and provided only the 2nd county record. Worm-eating Warblers were recorded in eight Wisconsin counties; Michigan had one in *Berrien* 16 May (PC, TWe). A male Kentucky Warbler returned for the 7th consecutive year in *Blue Earth*, MN 24 May+ (CMB); Michigan had at least 2 at their usual haunt in *Hillsdale* (JRe) and one in *Berrien* 27 May (KM). A Hooded Warbler in *Delta* 24 May was the first Upper Peninsula report since 1992. Michigan reported a poor year for Yellow-breasted Chats, with regular birds in *Hillsdale* not detected until Jun (JRe); Wisconsin had six reports from four counties, and Minnesota had chats in *Freeborn* 22 May (ARW), *Olmsted* 23 May (LAV), and *Lac Qui Parle* 27 May (BJU).

TANAGERS THROUGH OLD WORLD SPARROWS

Michigan had Summer Tanagers in three counties, including an unprecedented 2 together in the Upper Peninsula's *Delta* 25 May (SH). Wisconsin had reports from four counties and Minnesota from only two. Minnesota had an influx of Western Tanagers, with 7 total in six counties. Wisconsin reported them in *Milwaukee* 16 May (JM) and *Juneau* 22 May (TM), and Michigan had sightings in *Baraga* 9-15 May (ph. CW, ph. SH, ph. JK), *Washkeweenaw* 13 May (p.a., JS), and *Iosco* 26-27 May (p.a., JS, SJ, SF). In Minnesota, a wintering Spotted Towhee lingered through 8 Mar in *St. Louis* (m.ob.), while migrants were recorded on 21 Apr in *Chippewa* (BJU), 9-11 May in *Chippewa* (SPM) and *Polk* (ph. D<), and 10-12 May in *Martin* (JNB). A Lark Sparrow in *Sauk* 11 Apr (AH) established the 2nd earliest date for Wisconsin. Early in Wisconsin were a Le Conte's Sparrow in *Milwaukee* 1 Apr (JM) and a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Iowa* 9 May (RaH). Michigan had a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Muskegon* 29 May (p.a., SMi) and a Harris's Sparrow in *Keweenaw* 8 May (JY). A Smith's Longspur in *Keweenaw* 23 Apr (ph. JY, ZG) provided Michigan with its first spring record since 1998. Minnesota had some good Smith's Longspur totals, with 90 and 106 in *Lac Qui Parle* on 22 & 28 Apr, respectively (BJU), and 60+ in *Polk* 9 May (RPR). Rarely detected as a

migrant anywhere away from its last remaining stronghold in *Clay*, MN was a Chestnut-collared Longspur in *Lac Qui Parle* 17 Apr (BJU). A tardy flock of 20 Snow Buntings was found in *Columbia*, WI 7 May (CMA).

Michigan reported the only Painted Bunting, a male in *Marquette* 10 May (ph. GJ, LT). Not surprisingly, the only Great-tailed Grackle reports came from Minnesota, one 15-17 Apr in *Wright* (KTP, CMB) and 2 males and a female courting and nest-building in *Brown* 6 May+ (BTS). Michigan's winter Bullock's Oriole lingered through 5 Mar, while one in *Milwaukee* 3 May provided Wisconsin its 2nd record. Winter finches were reported in low numbers from Michigan, highlighted by a Hoary Redpoll in *Schoolcraft* 15 Mar (BJ) and singles at W.P.B.O. on 25 & 26 Mar and 8 Apr. Michigan had 2 Common Chaffinches in *Keweenaw* and another 2+ at W.P.B.O., all appearing in early May; these are certainly either escapees or the offspring of escapees. The wintering Eurasian Tree Sparrow in *Cass* lingered through 2 Apr, and another visited a feeder in *Ontonagon* 18 Apr-6 May (ph. RS, KW); these are Michigan's only state records!

Corrigenda: The Western Grebe in *Portage*, WI 25 Apr was reported by Murray Berner (MBe, not MB); the Black Vulture in *Shi-*

awassee, WI should have been from *Shiawassee*, MI; delete the Mississippi Kite from *Dane*, WI 22 May; and the Eurasian Tree Sparrow from *Schroeder*. *Cook* was erroneously attributed to Wisconsin instead of Minnesota (N.A.B. 59: 438-440).

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Iowa & Missouri



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The 2006 spring season was characterized by continued drought conditions throughout the Region. The season began with a strong southerly air flow in early

March that produced 38 tornadoes on 12 March in Missouri. Cooler weather returned in late March and retarded migration throughout the Region. April was generally warm, dry, and windy and saw a good push of migrants with the southerly winds during the latter half of the month. May was less consistent weather-wise, as several cold fronts swept across the Region in mid-month. This caused moderate groundings of Neotropical migrants, and the active weather produced good movements of migrants through the end of the month, especially in parts of Iowa. A big theme this spring was the excellent shorebird migration, especially on the western edge of the Region, and perhaps related to this was the exceptional flight of dark ibis. Rarities included Garganey, Ruff, Inca Dove, and Gray Kingbird, plus a nice assortment of lesser strays, many with a southern or western flavor.

Abbreviations: C.C.N.W.R. (Clarence Cannon N.W.R.); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone, MO); Hawkeye (W.A.,

Johnson, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Riverton (W.A., Fremont, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); I.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, MO).

WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their pattern of spring occurrence in the Region, with two reports from Missouri: 2 on 13-15 May at Pertle Springs, *Johnson* (†Kurt Dean) and one on 14 May in *Greene* (Jerry Sowers, †Dean Rising et al.). Greater White-fronted Geese were well represented across the Region this spring: high counts were 800 on 2 Mar at Ted Shanks C.A. (PHa), 2600 on 4 Mar at Riverton W.A. (SJD), 17,830 on 7 Mar at S.C.R. (FD), and 3000 on 17 Mar at Badger L., *Monona* (GLV). White geese were also numerous, and Ross's Geese continue their slow increase, with numerous double-digit counts in Mar in the w. half of the Region. Tundra Swans were again scarce this spring, with one Missouri and three Iowa re-