

The only crossbill reports were of Red Crossbills on Unaka Mt., TN Apr. 26 (JN), and Roan Mt., TN May 14 (m.ob.). The Com. Redpoll invasion of the winter lasted well into March, and a few birds remained even later; Apr. 23 in *Elk*, PA (LC) and May 10 at Edinboro, PA (CI). A **Hoary Redpoll** was at a feeder at Meadville, PA Mar. 19 (RFL) and three were at a feeder at King's Mountain, PA through March (CSy). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks continued to be in good numbers throughout the Region well into April. Siskins remained in *Union*, GA until May 30 (DF) and at State College, PA until the end of the period (JPe). The late dates suggest possible nestings in the Region.

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# Western Great Lakes Region

## JAMES GRANLUND

The weather during the period was best characterized as mild. March was particularly mild, with little snow or extremes in temperature. April was about average in the first two-thirds of the month, but was decidedly warmer in the latter third. May temperatures were average to slightly below average, and the month was very dry, resulting in near drought conditions in many locations by the end of the month. As the weather went, so went the migration. There were very little extremes but a good number of rarities were found, including a first state record of Curlew Sandpiper for Minnesota and a possible first state record of Hermit Warbler for Michigan.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa County, Michigan*).

## Loons to Herons

A group of 12 Red-throated Loons in Duluth (KE, MH) was reported as the largest group in modern times for Minnesota. That seems incredible, since at the other end of L. Superior at W.P.B.O. this species is often seen in groups exceeding that number. This spring 366 individuals were reported there for a new season-high total, the peak was 85 May 10. In Wisconsin, where the species is also rare, a few individuals were reported from traditional locations on L. Michigan. Two sightings of Arctic/Pacific Loon May 26 & 27 at W.P.B.O. (AB) was exceptional for Michigan. After 3 consecutive years of declining Com. Loon numbers at W.P.B.O., a record seasonal total of 9624 individuals was counted, with a peak of 1117 May 3. W.P.B.O. also had an excellent count of 406 Red-necked Grebes, while Wisconsin reported 4 nesting records for this increasingly rare breeder. In Michigan two-three Eared Grebes were seen at the Muskegon Wastewater System from May 1–10, while singles were seen at the Karn Plant, Bay Mar. 23 (AB); at the Dow Ponds, Midland Apr. 4–24 (EK); and at Pottersville, Eaton Apr. 27–May 10 (KT, DMc). Wisconsin



**Male Yellow-headed Blackbird at McClintic Wildlife Station, West Virginia, April 9, 1994. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.**

had two in April in Milwaukee, two in late May in *Dane*, seven in April and May, one each in *Ozaukee* and *Oconto*. Minnesota had an increased number of Clark's Grebe reports with two Apr. 16 in *Lac Qui Parle* (CM), and singles Apr. 30 in *Traverse* (DJ) and May 12 in *Big Stone* (WM). Wisconsin had sightings of W. Grebe Apr. 9 (EK) and mid-May in *Ozaukee*. American White Pelicans made a minor invasion into Michigan with reports from 6 counties, including a first county record for *Mecosta* (SRs). Wisconsin also reported the species in good numbers, with records from Bayfield Apr. 23–May 9 (DV), 10 in *Marathon* Apr. 24, 20 into June in Green Bay, as well reports in more traditional locations in the w. portions of the state.

Snowy Egrets were reported from all 3 states. Minnesota had reports May 1 in *Lac Qui Parle* and May 12 in *Carver* (BM, DMA), while Michigan reported an individual May 29 at Point Mouillee, Monroe (PC, TW). Nesting was suspected in Wisconsin, where four birds were reported in *Green Bay*; also reported was an individual seen May 25–29 in *Bayfield* (BB, DV). Minnesota reported an excellent showing of Little Blue Herons, with six reported from the s. portion of the state. Wisconsin also had a good number of reports, with individuals in *Ozaukee* Apr. 16 (BD), *Dodge* May 15 (TWO), and *Green Bay* May 16 (DH *et al.*). For the first time in several years Michigan had no reports of this species. Cattle Egret were much less common this year in Minnesota, with only 22 individuals as compared with 105 last year. Exceptionally far north was an individual in Duluth May 21. Wisconsin had several sightings including nesting in *Green Bay*, while Michigan had one report in Elk Rapids, *Antrim* Apr. 30 (DJe). Wisconsin reported a pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in s. Rock, while Minnesota had a single Apr. 30 in *Hennepin* (TB).

### Waterfowl

A Tundra Swan in *Dane* was unusual for Wisconsin; it lingered into June (EH). Wisconsin reported a good number of Greater White-fronted Geese with several flocks of 10–20 individuals in the s. portion of the state. In Michigan, individuals at Fish Pt., *Tuscola* Apr. 4 (AB) and *Midland* Apr. 9 (AB) represented a typical spring. Snow Geese lingered in both states, with individuals to May 20 in *Ashland*, May 22 in Milwaukee, WI, and into June at W.P.B.O. Ross' Goose made a major incursion into the Region. In Minnesota an individual at Duluth Mar. 27–28 (PS *et al.*) provided only the 2nd record for the n.e. portion of the state. Other unusual reports

from Minnesota included eight in *Roseau* May 8–15 (PS) and an individual May 27 in *Le Seur* (RJ). Wisconsin observers categorized this species spring migration as "amazing," with records of two Mar. 19, >11 Apr. 4, and three Apr. 17, all in *Columbia* (DT, m.ob.). Michigan, where the species is still considered accidental, had a single bird in *Midland* Apr. 10 (AB, DJe, EK). Exceptional for the spring season were three Brant present at W.P.B.O., May 20–23. In Minnesota Cinnamon Teal were reported in *Cottonwood* Apr. 6 (ED); *Freeborn* May 4–6 (RG *et al.*), *Wilkin* May 8 (DM, SM), and *Hennepin* May 11 (JP, m.ob.). Spring King Eider records are rare in Michigan, making the bird at W.P.B.O., May 6–June (AB) noteworthy. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was reported through Apr. 26 near Minneapolis, MN on the Mississippi R., while another was seen in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Mar. 13 (BD). Oldsquaw continued their increase from the previous season, peaking in *Manistee*, MI at an astounding 35,000 Mar. 20 (BA). Also amazing were the 10,200 White-winged Scoters counted Mar. 5 near the same location. Noteworthy were 1100 Oldsquaw in *Ozaukee*, WI Apr. 7 (JF). Scoters were reported in good numbers throughout the Region, particularly at W.P.B.O. where seven Blacks, 74 Surfs, and 2942 White-wingeds were tallied during the standard waterbird census. Minnesota had an usual number of scoters away from L. Superior, including a Black Scoter in *Winona* May 7–9 (CS *et al.*), a Surf in *Carver* May 9–11 (TB *et al.*), and two White-wingeds in *Winona* May 22–23 (CS *et al.*).

### Raptors

The hawk flight at standard count sites in Michigan was described as light. W.P.B.O. had its worst flight to date primarily due to low numbers of buteos, including Broad-wingeds and Red-taileds, as well as record-low numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks. Unprecedented were two adult and one sub-ad. Mississippi Kites at W.P.B.O., May 21–23 (JH, m.ob.). Michigan had only 5 records of this species prior to these sightings. Minnesota also had an individual May 12 in *Carver* (BM, SM). Also in Minnesota, 66 Bald Eagles at Rice Lake N.W.R., *Aitken* Apr. 16 (WN) was noted as an "incredible one-day count." Exceptional for Michigan were 4108 Broad-winged Hawks at Port Crescent S.P., *Huron* Apr. 26 (ME). Single Swainson's Hawks were reported in *Ozaukee*, WI May 1 (DG) and *Huron*, MI Mar. 19 (MW, MWi). An unexpected Gyrfalcon was reported in s. Michigan Mar. 12–27 at Point Mouillee, *Monroe* (PC, TW, GM, m.ob.). Minnesota had a single Prairie Falcon report Apr. 20 in *Red Lake* (KSt, SS).

### Rails to Shorebirds

Yellow Rails returned to their traditional breeding areas in Minnesota in *Aitkin*, and were also seen May 21 at a new location found last spring near Duluth. In Michigan Yellow Rails also returned to traditional locations at the Seney N.W.R. and in *Roscommon*, while an unexpected migrant was found at Metrobeach, *Macomb* May 7 (EC). Wisconsin reported King Rails from 5 counties, while Michigan had reports



from Point Mouillee, *Monroe* (WP) and near Houghton L., *Roscommon* May 14 (JU, MP). The number of Piping Plover reports was encouraging. Wisconsin had individuals in *Dane* Apr. 29–May 1 (EH *et al.*) and in *Rock* Apr. 30 (DT). Minnesota reported 7 migrants, most in *St. Louis* but one also from *Yellow Medicine* Apr. 30. Michigan reported birds from traditional nesting sites in *Chippewa* and *Emmett* and a migrant at Tawas Point, *Iosco* May 13 (DMc). American Avocet reports in Wisconsin included individuals in Milwaukee Apr. 19 and May 31 (DG) and in *Washington* May 9 (BG), while Minnesota had a remarkable >19 in *Rice* Apr. 14 (OR, FS, KS), as well as reports from 4 other counties. Minnesota also had a report of a group of 32 Willets in *Winona* Apr. 25 (*fide* CS), one the largest flocks ever recorded in that state. Wisconsin had Willet reports from 5 counties, while in Michigan singles were reported at W.P.B.O., May 16 (AB) and May 10–11 at Bay City S.P., *Bay* (RW, SR, KK). Whimbrel numbers at W.P.B.O. were about typical, with 698 seen May 22–31, peaking at 508 May 27. Wisconsin reported low numbers along L. Michigan with the exception of 152 at Manitowac May 22 (BD) and an unusual inland record of four birds in *Dane*. Hudsonian Godwits were reported from 5 counties in Wisconsin, while Michigan had only one report from W.P.B.O., May 5. Minnesota had a literal invasion of this species, with reports of >80 individuals from 16 counties—including 50 birds in *Kandiyohi* May 12 (RF). Marbled Godwits were reported in 4 counties in Wisconsin. Michigan had a good number of reports, including individuals at W.P.B.O., May 5; *Benzie* May 14 (KW, CF, LO); *Bay* May 20–25 (m.ob.); and *Mackinac* May 28 (DMc). Minnesota had single Red Knots May 14 in *Lac Qui Parle* (DN) and May 31 in *Marshall* (KSt, SS). A W. Sandpiper in Theresa Marsh, WI May 29 (DT) was an unexpected visitor to the Region. Long overdue, Minnesota got its first state record of **Curlew Sandpiper** May 21–22 in *Goodhue* (BL, m.ob.). Also in that state, a Ruff was seen May 11 in *Lac Qui Parle* (WM), while Wisconsin had a Reeve May 14–15 at Theresa Marsh, *Dane* (DT).

### Jaegers to Terns

The only jaegers in the Region were three Parasitics at W.P.B.O.: two May 21 and one May 27. A **Laughing Gull** spent most of May at Milwaukee (m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls were found May 13 at Tawas Point, *Iosco* (DMc) and May 22 & 24 at W.P.B.O. in Michigan. Wisconsin reported birds in *Dane* Apr. 25 (SRo) and in *Bayfield* May 17–25 (DV). Little Gulls were reported from

W.P.B.O., May 21 and in *Hennepin*, MN May 15 (ES, PBa *et al.*). Wisconsin had several Little Gull reports from Milwaukee and Manitowac in May and a report from *Bayfield* (DV). A report of 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 16–30 in *Columbia* and *Bayfield*, WI was impressive. Michigan had Iceland Gulls at the Muskegon Wastewater plant Mar. 26 (JG, PC) and Apr. 1–13 (AB, ESL, GW). In Minnesota a bird was found in *Anoka* Apr. 9 (KB), and Wisconsin had reports at Milwaukee Mar. 16 (DG) and Sheboygan Mar. 27 (TWO).

Thayer's Gulls were reported in *Ozaukee*, WI May 22 (JF) and at the Muskegon Wastewater System, MI Mar. 26–Apr. 1 (JG, PC, ES, GW). Lesser Black-backed Gull reports continued to increase Region-wide. Individuals were seen at Bay City S.P., *Bay*, MI Mar. 26–Apr. 4 (AB), *Anoka*, MN Apr. 9–14 (KB *et al.*), *Dane*, WI Apr. 4–13 (KBU), and Milwaukee, WI Apr. 20 (DG). A Glaucous Gull lingered in *Ozaukee*, WI to May 22 (JF). Great Black-backed Gulls are still considered uncommon in the w. portions of the Region, making an adult on the Mississippi R. in *Goodhue*, MN May 24 noteworthy (PB). An **Arctic Tern** in mid-May at Milwaukee provided a rare spring record for both Wisconsin and the Region.

### Owls to Shrikes

An injured Barn Owl found Apr. 3 in *Cass*, MI (*fide* MB) provided one of very few records for the state in the past 10 years. An owl survey in Minnesota, conducted by S. Wilson in the Superior N.E., March 3 & 4 found 46 different owls, including 12 Great Gray, eight Long-eared, and 14 Boreal owls. One of the Boreals in *Lake* nested. Also in Minnesota, 2 pairs of Great Grays continued along the Hwy 310 bog in *Roseau* and another pair nested in *Aitkin* (WN). The standard owl census at W.P.B.O. was extremely poor, with only 27 owls banded, including 16 N. Saw-whet, six Long-eared, and five Barred owls. No Boreals or Great Grays were captured, although an individual of the latter species was seen s. of the Point May 3. A Great Gray Owl was also seen in the Sault Ste. Marie area May 14 (BT). Also in Michigan, Boreal Owls were reported Apr. 1 in *Keweenaw* (SA, RBa) and another May 21 in *Chippewa* (JG). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** made a brief appearance in Michigan at Vermilion, *Chippewa* (JH, LO). In Wisconsin, a W. Kingbird was present May 14–15 in *Polk* (JHu). Mountain Bluebirds made an excellent showing in Minnesota with reports of individuals in *Traverse* Mar. 12 (MO), *Anoka* Apr. 10 (PL, KL), *St. Louis* Apr. 16–17 (SSc, BTe *et al.*), as well as four birds Mar. 20 in *Marshall* (KSt, SS). Also reported was a Mountain x

E. Bluebird hybrid May 19 in *Todd* (Sm, DM). A Varied Thrush remained in *Dane*, WI to Mar. 3 (DF), while another was seen Apr. 6 in Oshkosh (JPe). Minnesota reported at least 8 pairs of N. Mockingbirds, including four along the n. shore of L. Superior. Wisconsin also reported increased numbers, with mockers in *Door* May 9 (RR), *Marathon* May 14–19, *Vilas* May 18 (BR), and *Ashland* May 23 (DV). Loggerhead Shrikes seem to be holding their own in Minnesota, where reports came from 18 counties involving >25 individuals. Wisconsin had only one report Apr. 17 in *Oconto*, (JS) while in Michigan two were seen in *Allegan* Apr. 10 and another in *Manistee* May 14 (BA).

### Vireos to Warblers

White-eyed Vireos were more common throughout the Region. Wisconsin reported >10 individuals, including probable breeding pairs. Minnesota had individuals in *Nicollet* May 21 (PJ, DN), and in *Chippewa* May 22 (ABO). In Michigan, where the species is regular in the s. portion of the state, a noteworthy n. record was of an individual in *Alpena* May 22 (BG). Bell's Vireo were reported in *Kent*, MI May 15 (JW) and in the s.w. portion of Wisconsin. A Blue-winged Warbler in *Roseau* May 21 (SB) provided Minnesota with its farthest north record to date, while four birds in *Alpena* May 21–22 (BG) were n. of normal in Michigan. An "Audubon's" form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported in *Dane*, WI May 1 (PA). A ♀ **Townsend's Warbler** made a brief appearance in *Lac Qui Parle* Apr. 30 (AH, AV), providing a 3rd Minnesota record. It was followed the same day by a male farther west in the same county. The latter bird remained through May 1 and was incredibly found in the same clump of trees that produced a Hermit Warbler May 14, 1983! In Michigan, a **Hermit Warbler** made a brief appearance in Ann Arbor, *Washtenaw* (MK); if accepted by M.B.R.C., the report would provide a first state record for Michigan. A Yellow-throated Warbler was reported in *Kandiyohi*, MN May 30 (RF). Wisconsin had individuals in *Door* Apr. 24–25 *Door* (GY), *Waukesha* May 21 (DE, SK), and *Ashland* May 30 (DV), as well as three territorial birds in *Sauk*. A Prairie Warbler in *Anoka* May 31 (JHo) provided Minnesota with a 7th state record. Wisconsin reported an individual on territory in *Sheboygan* and a migrant in Madison May 11 (SR), while Michigan had an individual n. of normal in *Mackinac* (DMc). Wisconsin had 9 scattered reports of Worm-eating Warblers, including nesting in *Sauk*, while Minnesota had a

bird in *Hennepin* May 14 (TT *et al.*). Michigan had reports in *Kent* May 9 (GWr) and an individual banded at Vermilion, *Chippewa* May 22 (WJ), far n. of normal. Kentucky Warblers were found at scattered Wisconsin locations, including territorial birds in *Dane* and *Grant*. In Minnesota an individual was reported in *Olmsted* May 8 (*fide* JB), and the *Nicollet* bird returned for the 3rd consecutive year. Michigan had three different birds Apr. 30–May 1 at Metrobeach, *Macomb* (DL, EC), and individuals in *Washtenaw* May 13 (MK), and in *Muskegon* May 14 (JG, HG). A Yellow-breasted Chat was reported in *Otter Tail*, MN May 18 (CSc).

### Tanagers to Finches

Michigan had Summer Tanager reports in *Kalamazoo* Apr. 26 (JG, JPi) and in *Kent* May 12 (BJ). Minnesota had a single report from Winona Apr. 28–29 (m.ob.), while Wisconsin had reports in Milwaukee May 15 (JF), *Door* May 18 (RB), and Madison May 25 (PA). **Western Tanagers** made appearances in Wisconsin: *Waukesha* Apr. 25 (FH) and Devil's Lake S.P., May 2–6 (KLa). Minnesota had a single report in *Kandiyohi* May 4–7 (*fide* RF). A **Blue Grosbeak** was photographed May 29 at Vermilion, *Chippewa* (JH, LO), providing Michigan only its 3rd state record, while in Wisconsin another was found in *Door* May 17 (CSc). Minnesota had its 4th state record for **Painted Bunting**, a male in *Cook* May 23–24 (AR, RRa). Another male appeared in Michigan May 17 at 2 different feeders in *Benzie* (DW, FL).

A Lark Bunting present May 15 in *Marquette* (CW, SW), and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow May 30 at W.P.B.O. (JK, m.ob.) provided noteworthy Michigan sightings. Henslow's Sparrow, an increasingly rare Minnesota species, returned after 2 years absence to *Wabasha* (*fide* CS). Harris' Sparrows successfully overwintered in *Benzie* (KW) in Michigan and *Wautoma* (DN) in Wisconsin. The **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** in Wisconsin remained into March at a feeder w. of Beloit.

### Corrigendum

Minnesota's 3rd record for Brambling (*FN*: Vol. 48:1) was found October 22 in *Cook* (H. Marsh).

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# Middle-western Prairie Region

## KENNETH J. BROCK

Spring migration was characterized by a series of waves interspersed between deep wide troughs. This pattern generated a markedly unbalanced spring passage. Advancement of the first wave, a waterfowl movement that followed the late February warm spell, was stalled by cold weather in March. Mid-April brought strong southerly winds that produced an unprecedented number of early passerine records. Though early arrivals were distributed across the Region, the magnitude of this event was most graphically captured by Paul Clyne's observations in Chicago's Jackson Park. Using data collected over 15 years, Paul calculated that this spring's mean arrival date for 155 migrant species was a full six days earlier than average. Heavy April rains across southern reaches of the Region produced local flooding as the ground remained saturated following last year's deluge.

Though May was generally warm and dry, most correspondents judged the birding mediocre at best; good passerine numbers occurred only on a few days, with many birdless days in between. Indeed, many local birders deemed the April passerine flight better than May's; the traditionally strong May migration was recorded only in eastern Ohio.

Along the Mississippi River system wader ranks were seriously depleted; last summer's flooding apparently destroyed invertebrate fauna in the floodplains, thereby eliminating a major food source for many waterbirds. Residuals from the winter invasion produced impressive Red-necked Grebe counts and respectable winter finches. Seasonal highlights included several rarities (especially in the western states), excellent rails, and an upsurge in bitterns.

Abbreviations: L. Cal. (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); Jax. P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); G.M.R.O. (*Greater Miami River Oxbow, Dearborn, IN*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*)