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Western Great Lakes Region

DARYL D. TESSEN.

Unseasonably mild weather characterized this autumn, lasting until Thanksgiving when it turned sharply cooler. For Minnesota the cold was accompanied by a major snowstorm that swept across the state. With such mild temperatures major cold fronts were noticeably lacking. Consequently, this autumn's migration proved highly predictable. For example, the passerine flight was average and relatively uneventful. Its most notable aspect were the numerous late departure dates, as many birds were induced to linger. A pleasant surprise was the exceptional waterfowl movement along the Mississippi River (Wisconsin-Minnesota). Concentrations were the best since the 1970s! By contrast, the diver flight in southern Wisconsin and southern Michigan was considerably delayed, not peaking until December. Shorebird movement proved variable—poor for most of Wisconsin but excellent in several southern Michigan locales. Finches were virtually nonexistent in most areas of the Region.

The exception to this predictability was the rarities. One would expect a limited number of unusual sightings. However, the opposite proved true as an excellent assortment was seen, albeit too briefly in many instances. All three states added to their state lists, although in Wisconsin's case the "jury is still out." Michigan had an impressive nine noteworthy finds, headlined by its first Ash-throated Flycatcher. Minnesota followed closely with eight, led by its first Calliope Hummingbird. Wisconsin had a considerably quieter season, as evidenced by only five headliners, with the top find—a second-year female Harris's Hawk—debated as to origin.

Abbreviations: P.M.S.G.A. (*Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, MI*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI*).

Loons to Ibises

Good numbers of Red-throated Loons were counted at W.P.B.O., with a total of 377 between Aug. 18–Nov. 4, 78 Sept. 24 a record high. A few additional birds were recorded elsewhere in the state, while Minnesota had only four and Wisconsin none. Single Pacific Loons were observed in Michigan Sept. 22 at W.P.B.O. (AB, DJ), and in Minnesota Oct. 29–30 in *Lake* (KE *et al.*) and Nov. 8–12 in *St. Louis* (KE). The W.P.B.O. staff also recorded impressive numbers of Com. Loons (5503), Horned Grebes (721), and Red-necked Grebes (17,720) for the season. Eared Grebes were found in 5 Wisconsin sites, totaling about ten birds; 3 Michigan sites yielded about 20 bird. A W. Grebe was seen by Berger Nov. 7 in *Sheboygan*, WI. American White Pelicans were found at 2 Wisconsin sites, Green Bay and along the Mississippi R. in *LaCrosse* and *Vernon*, a maximum of 30–60 birds at each site. In Michigan the six individuals (max.) present at the P.M.S.G.A. during the summer remained until Sept. 24.

Great Egrets lingered in 2 states. One was in *Washington*, MN Nov. 20 (DS), while in Michigan the latest was a single into December at P.M.S.G.A. (CP, PC, TW). Record-late Snowy Egrets were found in *Winona*, MN Oct. 23 (JW) and in *Milwaukee*, WI Nov. 2–6 (m.ob.). More normal was a maximum of six birds between Aug. 2–Sept. 24 at P.M.S.G.A. (m.ob.). Single Little Blue Herons were reported in 2 Michigan sites: *Berrien* Aug. 10 (WJ, RWi) and at the *Erie Marsh Preserve* Aug. 20–28 (TW). Wisconsin had one Aug. 16 at *Fremont* (DT) and a record-late individual accompanying a Snowy Egret Oct. 8 at *Green Bay* (TBa). The Tricolored Heron remained at Michigan's P.M.S.G.A. until Aug. 7 (SS). Cattle Egrets lingered well into October in all 3



states. Unusual was the lack of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sightings this autumn. Michigan had an ibis bonanza with sightings of 3 species! A **White Ibis** was found by Peters and Grefe at the Shiawassee N.W.R., Sept. 2. A Glossy Ibis spent Sept. 5–17 at the Wolf L. Fish Hatchery (RS). Last, a **White-faced Ibis** at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 3–12 represented the 3rd state record (SS *et al.*). In Wisconsin, Ziebell watched a *Plegadis* ibis fly by Oct. 1–2 in *Winnebago*.

Swans to Cranes

Summering Tundra Swans in Wisconsin (Madison) and Michigan lingered until mid-August. Maximum number for the migration was 5500 in Wisconsin's *LaCrosse* and *Vernon* Nov. 15. Two Greater White-fronted Geese were in *Oconto*, WI Oct. 8 (JS). A Snow Goose was early Aug. 14 at Belle Isle, MI (CP). Ross' Geese appeared in all 3 states: Oct. 5 in *Dakota*, MN (SW); Oct. 13–22 in *Columbia* (m.ob.) and Nov. 25–26 at Green Bay, WI (TBA); Nov. 10+ at Shiawassee N.W.R., MI (DP, BG, MP). Brant were present at 2 Michigan sites: five Nov. 1 at Port Huron (CP *et al.*) and two Nov. 26 at P.M.S.G.A. (DS). Due to the mild autumn weather, only 125,000 Canada Geese were present at Horicon N.W.R. during mid-November. Instead, they peaked Dec. 12 when 608,500 Canadas were counted in *e.c.* Wisconsin (BV). These included 110,000 at Fox Lake and 175,000 at Horicon.

Impressive numbers of waterfowl were recorded this autumn. The most outstanding was 200,000 Canvasbacks Nov. 15, mainly on Pool 9 in the Upper Mississippi N.W.R., which includes Wisconsin and Minnesota (EN *et al.*); 65,000 scaup sp. were also present. The total number of divers found along this part of the Mississippi R. was 334,000, representing the best count since the 1970s! It is a most encouraging figure in the hoped for duck recovery. Additional counts elsewhere included 1500 N. Pintails Oct. 27 in *Monroe*, WI (DK); 2000 Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 23 at Tobico Lagoon, MI (SR, RW); 11,668 Lesser Scaup and 10,913 Red-breasted Mergansers between Aug. 10–Nov. 15 at W.P.B.O. (staff); and 3000 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 20 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (GW). Interesting waterfowl sightings included a Blue-winged Teal lingering into December in Madison, WI (KB) and single Eur. Wigeon Nov. 18–23 at Grand Haveb, MI (AB, KM) and Nov. 29 at Muskegon Wastewater System (TW). Two **King Eiders** at the Grand Marais harbor Nov. 28–30 (MB, KE *et al.*), represented Minnesota's 12th record, while Michigan had 12 eider sp. fly by W.P.B.O., Oct. 26 (AB, DJ, TW). Also at W.P.B.O., seven Harlequin Ducks were seen between Sept.

28–Oct. 31 (staff), while one was present at the mouth of the Au Sable R., Nov. 1+ (MW, RW, SR *et al.*). Two appeared in the Algoma, WI, harbor Nov. 28+ (JR). Oldsquaws were seen at several inland sites in Minnesota and Wisconsin with an early sighting Sept. 19 in Michigan's Tawas Point S.P. (BB). Also early was a Bufflehead Aug. 15 in Manitowoc, WI (CS). The scoter migration elicited a variety of comments: good, poor, late, etc. Michigan had good numbers, as witnessed by totals at W.P.B.O.: 217 Blacks, 1504 Surfs and 3084 White-wingeds, the latter being a record number. Besides the usual L. Superior sightings, Minnesota found all 3 species inland, including a raft of 25 White-wingeds in *Aitkin* (TB). Wisconsin found scoters arriving later than usual with peak numbers not until December.

A Turkey Vulture was late Nov. 26 in *St. Louis*, MN (FN), as was an Osprey Nov. 25 in Milwaukee (TWO). Two Mississippi Kites appeared in Minnesota—an adult in *Rosseau* Aug. 6 (AH, PS) and an immature in *Anoka* Sept. 16 (KBA). The potential "find" of the raptors was a **Harris's Hawk** at the Cedar Grove Banding Station in *Sheboygan*, WI, Oct. 25 (DB *et al.*). The 2nd-year female was trapped, banded, and photographed. It had no markings indicating a captured bird, but its possible origin is currently being debated. If resolved favorably by the records committee, it would represent the first Wisconsin as well as Regional record. Four Swainson's Hawks were recorded at the Concordia University hawk watching site between Sept. 28–Oct. 25, including two Oct. 9 (BC *et al.*). Golden Eagles were found in all 3 states. The Merlin flight Oct. 9 in Wisconsin's *Ozaukee* and *Sheboygan* was particularly impressive with an average of 45 per hour during an afternoon (m.ob.). Another peak occurred Oct. 19 when 154 flew by the Concordia site (BD). Gyrfalcon sightings included birds at the Concordia site Oct. 20 (BC), at W.P.B.O., Oct. 23 (staff), and Nov. 12 at Sault Ste. Marie (JG). Minnesota had two early Prairie Falcon sightings: at *Rosseau* Aug. 6 (AH, PS) and *Cass* Aug. 13 (RG, RO), plus Oct. 19 in *Wilkin* (AH) and Oct. 23–Nov. 6 in *Hennepin* (m.ob.).

The Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth (FN, ME *et al.*) recorded impressive flights for Bald Eagle, N. Harrier, Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks, Golden Eagle, and Merlin. Totals for the season are tabulated in Table 1. Interesting totals from other hawk watching stations included 4417 Sharp-shinned and 472 Merlin at Wisconsin's Concordia site (BC); 1000 N. Harriers, 7499 Sharp-shinneds, 21 N. Goshawks, 64 Golden Eagles and 2803 Am. Kestrels at Michigan's Eric Metropark.

Table 1: Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve

Turkey Vulture	841
Osprey	315
Bald Eagle	4368
(including record day of 743 Nov. 22)	
N. Harrier	1370
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19,183
Cooper's Hawk	192
N. Goshawk	305
Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Broad-winged Hawk	51,383
Swainson's Hawk	7
Red-tailed Hawk	15,448
(including record day of 3991 Oct. 24)	
Rough-legged Hawk	1011
Golden Eagle	133
(including record day of 25 Oct. 24)	
Am. Kestrel	2391
Merlin	453
Peregrine Falcon	50

The only Yellow Rail report was Oct. 9 at Eric Metropark (WP). King Rails were present at P.M.S.G.A. through Aug. 13, with a juvenile found Aug. 7. A Com. Moorhen in *Columbia*, WI Oct. 20 was late (SRo).

Shorebirds

The maximum Am. Golden-Plover number was 245 in *Dane*, WI, Sept. 13 (KB). A **Snowy Plover** that spent Aug. 7–Sept. 4 at P.M.S.G.A. provided Michigan's 2nd record (ph., m.ob.). Two Piping Plovers were found in Wisconsin's *Dane* Aug. 12–14 (SRo, KB, PA) with two in Michigan's *Marquette* Aug. 22 (NI). The Am. Avocet flight was excellent. Wisconsin had 36 birds (!), including 12 that appeared in Milwaukee Oct. 9, with birds lingering until Oct. 23 (m.ob.). Michigan had five birds, including three between Nov. 5–18 in *Monroe* (TW *et al.*), which is late. Minnesota had two in *Cottonwood* Oct. 22 (ED). By contrast, Willets were scarce, with totals of four in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one in Wisconsin. Likewise there were limited Whimbrel sightings: Michigan had 17 Aug. 16 at W.P.B.O. (staff), and one Sept. 14 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC); Wisconsin had one Aug. 14 at Milwaukee (BD); and Minnesota had five Sept. 21 in *St. Louis* (AH). Michigan had 5 Hudsonian Godwit sightings between Aug. 2–Sept. 13. Red Knots were found in all 3 states. Powell had 1084 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 1 at P.M.S.G.A.. Twelve W. Sandpipers were found in Michigan, with two in Wisconsin. The Least Sandpiper found Nov. 18 in *Columbia* was a record departure for Wisconsin (KB). Michigan had good flights of White-rumped and especially Baird's sandpipers. For the latter a record 82 were tallied

Aug. 11 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (GW). Late was a Baird's Nov. 12 in *Columbia* (SRo) and very late was a Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 24 at Manitowoc (CS), both Wisconsin. Also late was a Dunlin Nov. 12 in *Stevens*, MN (RG). Single Purple Sandpipers were at Sheboygan, WI Nov. 26 (TWo) and *Iosco*, MI Nov. 25–26 (RW, SR, BB *et al.*). The Curlew Sandpiper present at P.M.S.G.A. lingered until Aug. 9 (PC). Observers called it a poorer Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight than last fall, but decent numbers were nevertheless reported as evidenced by 35–40 in Michigan, 25–30 in Minnesota, and 10–15 in Wisconsin. Record late was a Long-billed Dowitcher Nov. 12 in *Stevens*, MN (RG). There was a good Red-necked Phalarope flight in Michigan, but it was considerably poorer in Wisconsin. Red Phalaropes appeared at 3 Michigan sites: Sept. 10 at Erie Marsh Preserve (CPO), Oct. 16 at Muskegon Wastewater System (LBU, SM, GW) and Oct. 27–28 at W.P.B.O. (staff).

Jaegers to Terns

Jaegers made news in 2 states. For the 3rd consecutive autumn Michigan found all 3 species. Single Pomarines were seen at W.P.B.O., Aug. 29 (AB, KT) and Oct. 24 (AB). Eleven Parasitics were tallied, including eight between Aug. 30–Oct. 19 also at W.P.B.O. (staff), plus singles at Agate Harbor Sept. 18 (LB) and New Buffalo Sept. 17 & 26 (KM). **Long-tailed Jaegers** appeared Sept. 7 at W.P.B.O. (AB) and Sept. 24 at Whitehall (BBo). Several other unidentified jaegers were seen at W.P.B.O. and Port Huron. Minnesota recorded its first **Pomarine Jaeger** since 1982 when Svingen watched one with four Parasitics Sept. 20 in *St. Louis*. Other Minnesota jaeger sightings—Parasitic and unidentified—occurred between Sept. 10–Oct. 15 along L. Superior with better numbers than last year. No jaegers were seen in Wisconsin. Single Laughing Gulls were seen in Michigan—at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 4 (AB, KT, RB) and *Orter Tail*, MN Oct. 19 (AH). Again this fall Franklin's Gulls were found in low numbers in Michigan: (five–seven) and Wisconsin (two). A few Little Gulls were seen intermittently in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Numbers continue down in contrast to several years ago. The latest observation was one at the Algoma Harbor, WI until Dec. 1 (JR). A pleasant surprise was the appearance of **Common Black-headed Gulls** in all 3 states. Minnesota recorded only its 2nd sighting when one of three on Spirit L., Iowa, strayed briefly to the north end Aug. 4 (AH). One was found at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 6 (WP, VJ, JM) and Aug. 27 (SS). Aune watched one in Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment

Nov. 22. Also in Wisconsin, an ad. **Mew Gull** was sighted by Boldt Nov. 9 in the Port Washington harbor. A **California Gull** was present Nov. 5 at St. Joseph, MI (KM). Record early were two Thayer's Gulls in *Anoka*, MN Oct. 5 (KBa).

↪ An Iceland Gull was seen at W.P.B.O., Nov. 2 and another was at New Buffalo, MI Nov. 6 (KM). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in all 3 states. In Wisconsin one that returned to the Madison area Sept. 24 was seen intermittently into December (m.ob.). Mueller had one in Milwaukee Oct. 21. Also returning to Minnesota, for the 3rd year, was one to the Twin Cities area lakes Nov. 16+ (SC *et al.*). For Michigan, singles were seen Sept. 5+ at Bay City S.P. (JGi) and Nov. 25+ in *Monroe* (TW). Early was a Glaucous Gull Sept. 6 in *Ozaukee*, WI (BC). A Glaucous x Herring hybrid was seen Oct. 17 in *Cook*, MN (PS, KE). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was at Green Bay Nov. 18 (JR). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were found in Michigan at W.P.B.O., Sept. 29, Oct. 26, and Nov. 5 (staff) and at the Erie Power Plant Nov. 30 (TW). Michigan had the only Sabine's Gull sightings with four between Sept. 18–Oct. 21 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and one Nov. 1 at Port Huron (CP *et al.*). The Baumanns had an exciting half hour watching an imm. **Ivory Gull** among Ring-billeds and Herrings on the bay n. of Green Bay Nov. 26. Unfortunately it could not be relocated later that day. This represented about the 6th Wisconsin record. Late were three Caspian Terns Nov. 5 at the Erie Power Plant (AC). Brock found a **Least Tern** Aug. 18 at P.M.S.G.A..

Doves to Woodpeckers

A **White-winged Dove** cruised past the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve main overlook in Duluth Sept. 15 (FN *et al.*), giving Minnesota its 2nd record. In stark contrast to last autumn, Snowy Owls were almost nonexistent Regionwide. Seven Boreal Owls were banded at W.P.B.O. between Oct. 2–11. Banding totals for N. Sawwhet Owls included 980 at Hawk Ridge–Duluth (FN) and 945 at three *Oconto* stations, WI (JS *et al.*). The Com. Nighthawk migration featured no big waves, with a maximum of 1795 Aug. 23 at the Cedar Grove Banding Station, WI (DB).

↪ A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was late Nov. 7 in *Door*, WI (R&CL). Record late for Minnesota was an imm. male that was killed when it hit a window in *Dakota* Nov. 8 (*vide* PB). A ♀ hummingbird began coming to a feeder in *Hennepin*, MN during early November. It was finally observed by birders Nov. 30, with positive identification occurring Dec. 5 when heroic attempts to rescue it for emergency transport were unsuccessful

(it died *en route*). While the specimen will be examined by experts, exhaustive photographs, video, and recordings of the call note indicate it to be a ♀ **Calliope Hummingbird**, a first Minnesota and Region record (JH, TT *et al.*). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** came to Bergen's (MBe) feeder in *Washington* between Aug. 7–10 (DG, MK, BD), providing Wisconsin with its 4th confirmed record. In Michigan, two Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen Aug. 21 at Ziegler L., *Chippewa* (LC), with another Oct. 19 at W.P.B.O. (AB). Wisconsin had one of its infrequent sightings when Heim watched one Oct. 2 in *Sawyer*.

Flycatchers to Shrikes

Early for c. Wisconsin was an Olive-sided Flycatcher Aug. 4 in *Portage* (MBr). Record late was an E. Wood-Pewee Oct. 11 in *Winona*, MN (CSc). Two excellent finds occurred within this group. An imm. ♀ **Vermilion Flycatcher** was present Nov. 25–27 in *Kandiyohi* (JW, RF) for Minnesota's 3rd record (ph.). Even more exciting was Michigan's first **Ash-throated Flycatcher** found at Manistee Nov. 13 (ph., KW, BA, TG). Western Kingbirds were in Minnesota's *St. Louis* Sept. 6 (FN) and *Cook* Sept. 9 (K&MH). Also in Minnesota were Scissor-tailed Flycatchers Oct. 16–20 in *St. Louis* (SSc *et al.*) and Oct. 21 in *Wilkin* (KE *et al.*). Fall swallow concentrations in Wisconsin included 3000 Purple Martins Sept. 5 in *Oconto* (JS) and 990 Barns Aug. 20 in *Ozaukee* (BC). Very late was a Cliff Swallow Nov. 19, also in *Ozaukee* (bc), and two Barn Swallows Nov. 20 at the Erie Metropark, MI (JF). South of its normal range were Com. Ravens passing over the Cedar Grove Banding Station, WI



A first for Michigan was this Ash-throated Flycatcher at Manistee Nov. 13, 1994. The November date fits the pattern for other eastern occurrences. Photograph/Brian Allen.

Oct. 20–23 (DB). After last year's cold winter, Carolina Wren sightings continue to be limited. Two were found in Michigan: Aug. 1–2 at W.P.B.O. (first local record) and Oct. 12 at Peninsula Pt., *Delta* (T&CP), both unusually far north. Wisconsin also recorded two: Oct. 16+ in *La Crosse* (JD, FL) and Nov. 19 at Devil's Lake S.P. (KB, BD). Minnesota had none. Tardy Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported Oct. 21 in *Marquette*, MI, and Nov. 6 in *Cook*, MN (MHe *et al.*), the latter a record departure date for the state. A Northern Wheatear was seen by Swiderski Sept. 7–8 in Mackinaw City, representing Michigan's 6th record. Three Mt. Bluebirds were found in Minnesota: a female in *Otter Tail* Oct. 19 (S&DM) and a pair in *Fairbault* Nov. 5 (RG, RJ). Wisconsin had a female briefly s. of Port Washington Oct. 29 (RH, AS) for one of its infrequent records. There was a surprising number of Townsend's Solitaire sightings in the 2 w. states. Minnesota had a total of nine birds, including eight along the N. Shore and one in *Becker* Nov. 4 (BBE). In Wisconsin three appeared Nov. 12 at Devil's Lake S.P. remaining well into December (KB *et al.*). Late thrush sightings included Swainson's Oct. 22 at Metrobeach (DL) and Oakwoods Metropark (WP) and a Gray-cheeked Oct. 27 at Estral Beach (WP), all Michigan. Minnesota had six and Wisconsin two Varied Thrushes. Very late was a Gray Catbird Nov. 30 in *Langlade*, WI (BP). Domagalski had a N. Mockingbird in Harrington Beach S.P., WI, Sept. 11. A Sage Thrasher resided in a community vegetable garden in *Hennepin* Oct. 23–29 (TT *et al.*), providing Minnesota with its 6th record (ph.). Fifty-five Am. Pipits were counted in *Columbia*, WI Nov. 19 (KB). There was little Bohemian Waxwing movement this autumn. The Cedar Waxwing migration along Wisconsin's L. Michigan shore included 2460 Aug. 24 at the Cedar Grove Banding Station (DB) and 1900 Aug. 28 at Concordia University (BC). Good numbers of N.



Sage Thrasher in Hennepin County, Minnesota, Oct. 26, 1994. Sixth state record. Photograph/Terence P. Brashear.



Smith's Longspur at Whitefish Point, Michigan, Sept. 9, 1994. At least four were thought to be present during September, establishing a 3rd state record. Photograph/Carl Freeman.

Shrikes appeared during the 2nd half of the period. Loggerhead Shrike sightings included four in Minnesota, a nesting pair in Michigan, and none in Wisconsin.

Vireos to Finches

White-eyed Vireos were found at 3 Wisconsin sites: in *Sauk* Aug. 2 (SRo), at *LaCrosse* Aug. 5–16 (JD), and in *Jefferson* Sept. 8–9 (KH). Michigan had four Aug. 27, with one until Sept. 20 at Lost Nations State Game Area (JRe). Bell's Vireos were seen in Wisconsin in *LaCrosse* Aug. 5 (JD) and at Governor Dodge S.P., Aug. 31 (SRo). Tardy vireos in Minnesota included a Solitary in *Winona* Oct. 28 (CSc), a record-late Philadelphia in *Lake* Nov. 5 (MHe *et al.*), and a Red-eyed in *Koochiching* Oct. 31 (GM).

As expected with the mild weather, there were numerous late warbler sightings. In Minnesota, the most significant included a Tennessee Nov. 5 (RJ), a record-late Bay-breasted in *Cook* Oct. 30 (PE *et al.*), and a record-late Connecticut Nov. 2 (AH), a Mourning Oct. 16 (SW), and Com. Yellowthroat Nov. 24 (SC) all in *Hennepin*. Wisconsin's contributions included Black-throated Blue at Harrington Beach S.P., Oct. 22 (DG), Am. Redstart at Madison Nov. 5 (PA), and Mourning in *Dane* Oct. 12 (KB). For Michigan there was an Orange-crowned in *Huron* Oct. 31 (DM), an Ovenbird in downtown Detroit Oct. 31 (KO), and Com. Yellowthroat at Metrobeach Nov. 19 (DL). By contrast, there was an early Bay-breasted Warbler Aug. 4 at Stevens Point, WI (MBr). Several interesting warbler sightings occurred, highlighted by a Black-throated Gray Warbler photographed Oct. 29 by Waddell in *Chisago*. This represented Minnesota's 4th

record. Other noteworthy reports, all in Minnesota, included an above-average 11 Black-throated Blue Warblers between Aug. 18–Oct. 18; a Yellow-throated Warbler Oct. 8 in *Washington* (JL); and a Prairie Warbler Oct. 15 in *Cook* (PE *et al.*) representing the state's first fall and 8th record. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found by Robbins Sept. 9 in *Dane*, WI.

Summer Tanagers were in Minnesota's *Olmsted* Aug. 19–28 (m.ob.) and *Lake* Oct. 24–26 (SSc). An Indigo Bunting was tardy Oct. 24 at W.P.B.O. Unexpected in a non-invasion year was a Dickcissel in *St. Louis*, MN Sept. 20 (KE). The Clay-colored Sparrow seen in *Lake* Nov. 8 (KE *et al.*) was a record departure date for Minnesota. Late was a LeConte's Sparrow in *Iowa*, WI Nov. 3 (KB). About five Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present for approximately 2 weeks during September at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment (m.ob.). One was photographed Sept. 25 in *Manistee*, MI (BA, CFr). A minimum of four Smith's Longspurs (ph.) were seen intermittently between Sept. 7–25 at W.P.B.O. (staff). This provided only the 3rd Michigan sighting.

Fall finch migration was terrible. Almost no Com. Redpolls were seen, in stark contrast to last year's invasion. Pine Grosbeaks were present in fair numbers in n. Wisconsin, but not elsewhere. Red Crossbills were found in good numbers in Minnesota, but far fewer were in Wisconsin and Michigan. Very few White-winged Crossbills were seen Regionwide. Evening Grosbeaks were far below average Regionally. If this fall was an indication, the winter season will yield exceptionally low finch numbers.

Addenda

Minnesota had 3 remarkable additions to its 1994 spring and summer seasons. A **Lewis' Woodpecker** was seen in *Cass* by B. Huser May 31, providing a 3rd state record. Just confirmed by photos was a ♀ **Magnificent Hummingbird** that came to A. Brage's feeder in *Kanabec* June 16, also for the 3rd state record. The third sighting was a **Crested Caracara** watched by Glassel in *Scott* July 18, representing a first for the state and Region.

Corrigendum

Delete the Com. Ground-Dove sighting in Wisconsin during mid-October 1993 (*AB* 48:1).

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Middle Western Prairie Region

KENNETH J. BROCK

Though early August was cool, Regional temperatures were pleasantly warm through the end of the period. The cool August days stimulated passerine movement, resulting in some early records, but the ensuing mild temperatures caused most southbound migrants to linger, leading to a generally late migration. The season was dry. A perspective on relative autumn precipitation levels was provided by Dick Anderson, who noted that the Mississippi River was 25 feet below normal at St. Louis, a mark 45 feet below last year's flood level.

Correspondents in the central states lamented the low numbers of migrants and dearth of rarities, dubbing the season quite boring. In putting the best possible spin on the northeast Indiana flight, Jim Haw optimistically suggested that the season's dullness for birders might have rendered it good for the birds. In contrast, birders in Ohio and Iowa enjoyed a plethora of rarities and

offered a much brighter assessment of the season. Indeed, Tom Kent deemed Iowa's fall season outstanding for rarities.

This season brought continued reason to be concerned about dwindling numbers of marsh nesting species, such as American Bitterns and Black Terns, but also yielded good news about Double-crested Cormorant and Mississippi Kite populations. The data were less definitive on many other species, but it was encouraging that counts of several formerly abundant shorebirds returned to previous high levels.

Abbreviations: L. Cal. (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); O.N.W.R. (*Ottawa N.W.R., OH*), S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

Loons to Ibises

Red-throated Loons were widespread, with 12 in Indiana, three in Ohio, and one in Iowa. The Pacific Loon reported at Anderson L., IA during summer remained until Sept. 16 (JDi), and another was found at Black Hawk L., IA Nov. 7 (†PE). It was a good season for Pied-billed Grebes, with peak counts of 150 at West Hotters L., IA Sept. 25 (LSc), 143 at L. Manawa, IA Sept. 22 (B&LP), and 125 at L. Gibson, IN Nov. 12 (JCb). Six Red-necked Grebes were reported across the 4 n. states. Eared Grebes were reported in good numbers, with high counts of four in Illinois and three in Iowa. Western Grebe reports were confined to the w. states and Illinois; they were unusually common in Iowa, where >20 were found. A **Clark's Grebe** was stranded on ice at South Twin L., IA Nov. 25 (†SD). Most remarkably, an ad. **Northern**

