

*Pike*, KY (SSt), and Breaks Interstate Park, KY/VA (FR).

— A "Brewster's" Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler was seen in *Tyler*, WV in early June (B.B.C.F.), a "Lawrence's" Warbler was banded at the *Raleigh*, WV study site (RCa), but a most remarkable report was of *three* "Lawrence's" Warblers seen at a campground in Allegheny N.E., PA July 16 (PY).

— The first signs of fall migration came from Morgantown, WV, where small flocks of Am. Redstarts and Black-and-white Warblers were seen in late July (SS).

### Tanagers to Finches

Only 13 Scarlet Tanagers were reported on 3 BBS areas in the Pittsburgh area (PH), but most other areas found normal numbers. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak had a good nesting season at P.N.R. (RM, RCL) at the Mt. Davis, PA area (JT) and seems to be increasing at low elevations in w. Pennsylvania (DK), but they were thought to be scarce at Brassstown Bald, GA at the s. extremity of the range (WB). After being present in the spring in the *Jefferson/Berkeley*, WV region, the Blue Grosbeak disappeared in June but began to reappear in July (RD). Blue Grosbeaks were also reported from Elkton, VA June 24 & 25 (MGS) and, most interestingly, nested at Imperial, PA, the 2nd year at that station, the first in w. Pennsylvania (ME, WS).

— The Savannah Sparrow is consolidating its new range in the south. They were present at Waynesboro, VA in June and July (RS); four singing males were found in *Patrick*, VA at an elevation of 3100–3200 ft., and in *Bath*, VA, at 2000 ft., July 6 (J&TD); and singing males were found in *Washington* and *Johnson*, TN (FA). Henslow's Sparrows were reported only from near Cranesville, WV (GB) and near Steubenville, OH, where 12 were found on a recovered surface mine (MA). Swamp Sparrows were at Guilford L., OH June 13 (NB) and, surprisingly, nested at Morgantown, WV (SS). White-throated Sparrows were at Mt. Davis, PA all season (JT) and one was at Howland, OH June 13 (CB).

— Purple Finches brought young to a feeder in *Mahoning* (NB), and were at feeders at 2 locations in *Trumbull*, OH (CB, J&DH). Pine Siskins brought young to a feeder at Terra Alta, *Preston*, WV (WW), and 2 nestings were observed at the Fort Hill, PA area (JT). Small numbers were found on Roan and Unaka mountains, TN (RK, FA). Red Crossbills were found in *Highland*, VA July 28–31 (JB), on Roan Mt., TN June 9–10 (RK), and Unaka Mt., TN June 9 (RMA).

**Contributors:** Fred Alsop, Michael Arabia, Carole Babyak (CB), James Barker (JBk), John Bazuin (JB), Ralph Bell, Clay Black

(CBl), William Blakeslee, George Breiding, Brooks Bird Club Foray (B.B.C.F.), Nancy Brundage (NB), Fred Busroe, Sue Butcher, Ronald Canterbury (RCa), Linda Christenson, Alan Clark, Ruth Crawford (RC), Barbara Dean, George Dean, Robert Dean, John Delmas, Thelma Delmas, Harriett Di-Gioia, Jeanette Esker, Lynne Feinberg, Mike Fialkovich, Isaac Fields, Jim Flynn, Kent Ford, Dennis Forsyth (DFo), Tom Fox, Dot Freeman (DF), John Heninger, Paul Hess, David Hochadel, Judy Hochadel, Rick Knight, Don Koch, Ed Kwater, Carroll Labarthe, Alan Lerner, YuLee Lerner, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Anthony Marich, Rad Mayfield (RMA), Jerry McWilliams, Linda McWilliams, Donna Mitchell, Robert Mulvihill, Jeff Nixon, Margery Plymire, William Principe, Frank Renfrow, Geoff Robinson, Glenna Schwalbe, Paul Schwalbe,

Jeff Sewall (JS), Walt Shaffer, Sam Sinder-son (SSi), Dennis Smeltzer (DSm), Michael G. Smith (MGS), Donald Snyder, Ruth Snyder (RS), Jeff Sprites (JSp), Sally Stebins (SS), Stephen Stedman (SSt), Craig Stihler, Chuck Tague, John Tilley, Mary Twigg, Bob Walczak, Evaleen Watko, Mike Watko, Dave Wolfe, William Wylie, Peter Yoerg.

—George A. Hall, P.O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6045.

# Western Great Lakes Region

## DARRYL D. TESSEN

Weather conditions were highly variable, not only Regionally, but within each state. This was especially true for rainfall, with some areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin *extremely dry*, while others had average or above-average amounts. Particularly dry were northeastern Minnesota (Boundary Waters Canoe Area) and the eastern third of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Green Bay, Fox Cities). Michigan had slightly less variable rainfall, averaging normal to slightly above.

— Early June was a continuation of the spring—cool, cloudy, and moist. However, things commenced changing by mid-month. The last half had the first of several heat waves, with temperatures consistently in the 90s° F., accompanied by exceptionally high humidity. After a brief respite in early July, the second heat wave arrived. Temperatures ranged between the mid-90s to the low 100s. Many cities had record highs between



102°—110° F. Again, oppressive humidity accompanied the heat, giving heat indices between 110–125°. This proved to be a killer wave, with 120 related deaths in Wisconsin alone. After a brief “cooling” to the mid-upper 80s° F, temperatures during late July again soared toward 100° F, also with excessive humidity. Due to the high humidity and night time temperatures, many communities found this year to be the hottest ever, even surpassing the infamous 1988 summer.

— As would be expected with such hot, humid conditions, severe thunderstorms developed, especially in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Extensive damage occurred to eagle and Osprey nests in north-central Minnesota due to the high wind accompanying the storms. Due to the extreme forest damage, more than 12 Minnesota counties were declared disaster areas.

— Because of the hot, humid summer, birds did not spend as much time in the field. This was especially difficult for Wisconsin, which was in its pilot year of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Both Wisconsin and Michigan commented on the exceptionally low number of summer reports. For Wisconsin, it was the fewest ever.

Apparently birders were not the only ones “taking it easy.” This had to be the quietest summer since I commenced analyzing the season 20 years ago. Only two rarities appeared in the Region—the Wood Stork in Wisconsin and Wilson’s Plover in Minnesota. On a positive note, a record number of Kirtland’s Warblers were tallied in Michigan, with one even appearing in Wisconsin.

### Loons to Wood Stork

A Horned Grebe was present during early June in *Marshall*, MN (PB). Nesting Red-necked Grebe numbers were up in Wisconsin compared to the previous two summers. A Clark’s Grebe was seen by Budde and Ochs July 15 in *Marshall*, MN. Again this summer good numbers of Am. White Pelicans were found in Wisconsin. This was especially true along the Mississippi R. in *La Crosse*, *Buffalo*, and *Trempealeau* (90) at Green Bay (30–35), where for the 2nd consecutive year they nested. There were 9 nests, with one fledged young (TE). Michigan had 2 sightings: June 1–July 1 at Pt. Mouillee (m.ob.) and June 28–29 in *Delta* (C&BT). The Least Bittern was reported more frequently than normal in Michigan. All 3 states found Snowy Egrets. For Michigan, one summered at Pt. Mouillee (m.ob.) Two were present in *Ramsey*, MN between July 9–25 (TT *et al.*). Two pairs nested on Cat I., Green Bay, WI (TE), being frequently seen feeding along the bay shoreline. A Tricolored Heron spent the summer at Nayanquing Pt.

Wildlife Area, MI (m.ob.). Cattle Egrets were reported in 4 Minnesota counties, with a maximum of 22 June 6 in *Nobles* (ND, JP). Twenty-nine nests were tallied on Cat I., Green Bay (TE). No Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in the Region this summer. The rarity of the summer was an imm. **Wood Stork** discovered feeding along a ditch on the w. side of Horican N.W.R., June 3 by David and Smith. The bird flushed at their approach and for 10 minutes circled higher into the sky before catching a thermal and moving off. If accepted by the records committee, this would provide Wisconsin’s 7th record, the first since 1981.

### Swans to Rails

A Tundra Swan lingered in *Eau Claire*, WI until June 4 (JPo). A Snow Good summered at Menasha, WI (DN). In Wisconsin, out-of-range ducks included single Canvasbacks during mid-June in *Marathon* (LO), *Winnebago*, (TZ), and Manitowoc (CS); Ring-necked during mid-July in *Dane* (SR) and *La Crosse* (JD, FL); Greater Scaups until July 7 at Manitowoc (CS) and a pair on L. Wisconsin, *Chippewa*, June 1 (JPo); Lesser Scaups summering at 6 locales; and at Neenah/Menasha Com. Goldeneye until June 5, Bufflehead June 5–29 and four Com. Mergansers until June 9 (DN). Michigan had an Oldsquaw Shiawassee N.W.R., June 1 (DP) and a White-winged Scoter in *Marquette* June 22 (NI, DR). Two pairs of Hooded Mergansers nesting in *Washtenaw*, MI were only the 2nd for the county (MK).

— An ad. Ferruginous Hawk was seen June 17 in *Rock*, MN (AH). A tardy Rough-legged Hawk was found in n.w. Minnesota when Steva (SST) watched one in *Clearwater* June 12. Unusual were three Spruce Grouse June 14 in *Ogemaw*, MI (MP). Yellow Rails were reported in Wisconsin. A calling Virginia Rail June 3–4 in Minnesota’s *Cook* provided only the 2nd record for the county. (PS)

### Shorebirds

Fourteen species extended their spring migration into June. For Wisconsin, the more interesting sightings/dates included an Am. Golden Plover June 5 at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area (TW), a Piping Plover at Manitowoc June 8 (CS), Ruddy Turnstones in *Winnebago* until June 22 (TZ), a Western June 18 (CS), Semipalmated until and Dunlins June 24 all at Manitowoc (CS). A White-winged Sandpiper was seen June 15 at Port Washington (RGr). A Long-billed Dowitcher was found by Erdman June 14 at Pensaukee for a Wisconsin spring departure record. The find within this group as a **Wilson’s Plover** seen by the Randlekvs June 8 in Minnesota’s *Cook*. Six Piping Plovers were

found June 15 by Budde in *Lake of the Woods*, MN. For Michigan a Marbled Godwit summered at Nayanquing Point W.A. (m.ob.).

— Fall migrants commenced appearing during late June, beginning with a Least Sandpiper June 26 in *Dane*, WI (SR) and Lesser Yellowlegs June 27 in Pensaukee, WI (TE). Two Am. Avocets appeared July 13 in *Polk* (P&KL) and July 15 in *Wabasha* (CSc), both Minnesota. Willets appeared at Manitowoc July 3 (CS), and in *Jackson*, MN (KB). Impressive, especially considering the early date, were 40–50 Buff-breasted Sandpipers discovered by Ott and Belter July 29 near Wausau, WI. The number had dramatically decreased by the following day (m.ob.), with none present thereafter. One was at Michigan’s Pt. Mouillee July 30 (DO).

### Gulls to Flycatchers

Laughing Gulls were reported from all 3 states. Wisconsin had 3 sightings, including June 27 near Stevens Pt. (MB), July 7 at Port Washington (TU), and July 21 at Manitowoc (CS). Michigan had one between June 1–14 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP, BG), with another June 30 at St. Joseph (MW). For Minnesota, one was in *Polk* June 15 (RJ *et al.*). Franklin’s Gulls were found at 4 Wisconsin sites: June 1 at *Chippewa* (JPI), two until June 8 in *Winnebago* (TZ), two June 10–12 at Manitowoc (CS), and three July 16–30 in *La Crosse* (JD, FL). Michigan had one July 1 at New Buffalo (KM, MW). Little Gulls were found only in Wisconsin, with single birds June 10 in *Oconto* (J&KS) and July 15 in Milwaukee (TW). Four summered at Manitowoc (CS), although they were not always easily located. Also at Manitowoc was an Iceland Gull that lingered until June 13 (CS), with a Glaucous Gull there June 5 (CS).

— Both cuckoo species were widely reported by Minnesota observers. Wisconsin had its first Barn Owl nesting in years in a barn (!) w. of Antigo (MG). Unfortunately two young were killed by a truck. Great Gray Owls were found in Minnesota’s *Aitkin* and *St. Louis*. In Wisconsin, one was photographed in e. *Douglas* July 8 (LH). A pair spent the summer w. of Washburn (BB, TD). The Long-eared Owl again nested in *Aitkin*, MN (WN). The Short-eared Owl was only reported from *Roseau*, MN. For the 3rd consecutive year a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers nested in the same tree in *St. Louis* (SS), the 5th Minnesota nesting record. Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported in six Minnesota counties, above average. Nesting occurred in 3 counties. Tardy spring flycatchers included an Olive-sided in early June (KBu) and a Yellow-bellied June 6 (SR), both *Iowa*, WI. The nesting Acadian



**Great Gray Owl in eastern Douglas County, Wisconsin, July 8, 1995. Photograph/Loren Hays.**

Flycatcher pair in *Marathon*, WI was n. of normal (MB). Minnesota observers reported W. Kingbirds as scarce, although sightings came from 21 counties.

#### Swallows to Shrikes

Out-of-range Com. Ravens included five during the period in *Outagamie*, WI (DNO), plus a few during the first half of June in *Waushara*, WI (DT, DN). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in several c. and s. Wisconsin counties. Carolina Wrens were sighted at 3 Wisconsin sites: Milwaukee June 23 (RG), Manitowoc June 29 (CS), and two in *Richland* July 14–31 (BD). Disturbing was the lack of Sedge Wren sightings in Wisconsin this spring and summer. Minnesota had N. Mockingbirds sighting in *Douglas*, *Hennepin*, and *Scott*. One was in Sault Ste. Marie June 3 (WPO). A Sprague's Pipit was found in *Polk*, MN June 1 (MCBS). Loggerhead Shrikes nesting in 3 Minnesota counties, each having three–five young, with sightings in 5 other counties, above average. Wisconsin had a nesting pair in s. *Door* (m.ob.).

#### Vireos to Warblers

All 3 states had White-eyed Vireos. Wisconsin had probable nesting birds at Governor Dodge S.P. and Sauk City (m.ob.), Michigan in Hillsdale (m.ob.), and Minnesota had one individual in *Winona* June 5 (RO). Bell's Vireos were found in their usual range in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, plus out-of-range sightings for the latter state in *Blue Earth* and *Carver*.

As expected with the late spring migration there were many late warbler sightings. This was especially true for Wisconsin, as evidenced by the following observations. A Tennessee Warbler was in Appleton June 12 (DT), with two in Milwaukee June 12 (MBo). A N. Parula lingered in Manitowoc until June 20 (CS). A Cape May was at Mosquito Hill N.C., June 1 (JA). Single Black-throated Greens were present June 19 in *Sauk* (SR) and June 20 in *Iowa* (PA). Gutschow found several tardy migrants in Milwaukee that included a Blackburnian until June 23, Blackpoll until June 9, and Wilson's until June 5.

Out-of-range observations for Minnesota included a Blue-winged in *Otter Tail* June 18 (S&DM) and Cerulean in *Clay* June 12–18 (RO). Wisconsin's contributions included three Yellow-rumpeds in *Waushara* during June (DN), a Cerulean in Milwaukee until



**Surveys in Michigan turned up record numbers of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler during this season, but this individual was in Wisconsin, in Jackson County June 4, 1995. Photograph/Janine Polk.**

July 23, and pair of Hoodeds in *Marathon* during June (MPI *et al.*), with one in *Door* also during June (R&CL). Significant records this summer were headlined by the Kirtland's Warbler, with 765 singing males were tallied in Michigan for a record high. Included in this were eight in the Upper Pen., including a nesting pair in *Baraga*, with other Upper Pen. sightings in *Delta*, *Marquette*, and *Schoolcraft*. For the first time in several years, Wisconsin had a Kirtland's Warbler when Polk found and photographed one in *Jackson* June 4. This is the site where one was banded in 1990, returning again in 1991. This one was unbanded and unfortunately could not be relocated on ensuing days. Yellow-throated Warblers appeared in all 3 states. Michigan's was at Tecumseh June 1 (DO), Minnesota's was at Sibley S.P. until June 17, where it was also present in 1994 (m.ob.), and Wisconsin's was at the usual site in Wyalusing S.P. (v.o.). The Prairie Warbler that appeared during May in s.e. *Iowa*, WI remained until mid-June (v.o.). Worm-eating Warblers were present at two *Sauk*, WI sites. A pair of Kentucky Warblers returned to their *Nicollet*, MN nest site of 1994, although no nest could be located this year. Eight singing Hooding Warblers were found in Michigan's *Washnaw*, including a nest (MK, SK). Three Yellow-breasted Chats were again present in Wisconsin's Bong W.A. during June (TW). Minnesota had its first summer sightings since 1988 when one was in *Rice* June 25–early July (GB *et al.*). And, last, a Tennessee Warbler in Minnesota's *Rock* July 1 (ND) represented the state's earliest fall arrival date.

### Tanagers to Finches

Wisconsin had one of its rare Blue Grosbeak sightings when a singling male was watched by Chris Wood e. of the Wisconsin Dells June 22. A diligent search the following day failed to relocate it. After the poor Dickcissel showing in Wisconsin last summer, better numbers were found in the s. two-thirds of the state. In contrast, Michigan reported lower numbers than last year, with observations occurring in the lower third of the Lower Pen. at scattered sites. A ♂ Lark Bunting was present in Minnesota's *Clay* June 12 (MN). Minnesota found single Henslow's Sparrow in *Wilkin* June 9–21 (S&DM) and *Clay* June 25. In Wisconsin, Henslow's were present in isolated sites scattered through the s. half of the state. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in 6 Minnesota counties, with the only out-of-range report coming from *Cass* July 20 (PS). None were found in Wisconsin. Out-of-range were Lincoln's Sparrows in *Wausara*, WI during June (DN). Orchard Orioles were reported

in average of slightly above numbers in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. And to close out this quiet summer, none of the 3 states found anything noteworthy to report about the finches.

**Contributors:** Jim Anderson, Philip Ashman, Karl Bardon, Betsy Bartelt, Gene Bauer, Murray Berner, Marilyn Bontly (MBo), Paul Budde, Kay curcar (KBU), Jeff Dankert, Diana David, Nelvina Dekam, Tom Doolittle, Barbara Duerksen, Tom Erdman, Marge Givson, Robert Green (RGr), Bob Grefe, Ron Gutschow, Loren Hays, Anthony Hertzell, Nick Ilnicky, Robert Janssen, Mike Kielb (Michigan), Susan Kielb, Pat & Ken Lafon, Fred Lesher, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Steve & Diane Millard, Kip Miller, Minnesota County Biological Survey, Warren Nelson, Michael North, Don Nussbaum, Darrin O'Brien, Mark Ochs, Lynn Ott, Johanna Pals, Warren Parker, David Peters, Mike Petrucha, Mike Plant (MPI), Janine Polk (JPo), Randy & Arlene Randklev, D. Richards, Sam Robbins, Steve Schon, Carol Schumacher (CSc), Jerry & Karen Smith, Todd Smith, Charles Sontag, Shelley Steva (SSSt), Peder Svungen (Minnesota), Charlotte & Bill Taylor, Daryl D. Tessen (Wisconsin), Tom Tustinson, Tom Uttech, Mindy Walker, Chris Wood, Tom Wood, Tom Ziebell.

—Daryl D. Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI 54911.

# Middle-western Prairie Region

### KENNETH J. BROCK

The 1995 breeding season could be characterized as hot and very hot. June temperatures ranged from moderate to well above average; precipitation was locally heavy. Floodplains along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers were inundated through mid-June, though the high waters receded rapidly. July brought above-average temperatures with stifling hot spells and unusually high humidity. Record-high daily temperatures were established at numerous locations.

Fortunately, the extreme heat followed the major nesting season, minimizing the impact on breeding birds. Indeed, these seemingly contrary meteorological conditions contributed to a fine season for waders in Illinois and Missouri, where receding floodwaters produced ideal conditions for herons and egrets. Perhaps the season's major negative

