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# Western Great Lakes Region

## DARYL D. TESSEN

Weather proved uneventful, which undoubtedly contributed to the lackluster migration. For most of the Region the season commenced very mild, remaining so until the arrival of the first major front during the late October (unusually late). This ushered in significantly colder air that remained for the duration of the period. As a result, November was an unusually cold month that saw the early freeze-up of numerous lakes. Precipitation proved more variable, with Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula characterized by mainly below-average rainfall. However, the Lower Peninsula was considerably wetter, especially in the southeastern portion, where remnants of two hurricanes (*Fran* and *Hortense*) dropped substantial rain during early and late September. Unfortunately, no hurricane-displaced birds could be located as a result of either storm.

This fall's migration was unbelievably quiet, even exceeding last year. There was

a remarkable absence of migrants, including even the common species, with many observers commenting on the low numbers for various species, especially the passerines. For example, the Lake Pumping Station at Duluth tallied 790 migrants/hour this year in contrast to 1340/hour last autumn (RE). What caused this lackluster migration? There are any number of possible causes, including the abnormally late spring, the wet June, and the lack of major fronts during September and October. Even more disturbing would be if this migration became the pattern for ensuing autumns.

Shorebirds proved the exception this fall. Good concentrations (100s-1500) and variety 15-25 species at specific sites for a total of 36 species) were found, especially in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Best sites included the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Shiocton areas for Wisconsin and the *Roseau* and Lewiston sewage ponds and Duluth for Minnesota.

The season produced a limited number of rarities. Best finds included Pomarine Jaeger, Mew Gull (second), and Pygmy Nuthatch (first) for Minnesota. Michigan's contributions included the Curlew Sandpiper, White-winged Dove (third), and Green Violet-ear (first), the latter being a carry-over from summer. Wisconsin had an interesting collection, including Black Vulture (fourth), Prairie Falcon, Curlew Sandpiper, Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers, Chuck-will's-widow, two Rufous Hummingbirds, Western Wood-Pewee (first) and Dusky Flycatcher (first).



Last, a request/plea from the three state compilers. It is *vitaly important* that *complete* documentation be provided for *all* rarities seen in your state, even though the species has been recorded before. Also, for multiple sightings for a species, do not depend upon other birders to provide the documentation. Unfortunately, this fall there was an unusual number of rare sightings that had little or no documentation, necessitating their exclusion from this report.

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

### Loons to Ibises

For the season, 490 Red-throated Loons were counted at W.P.B.O., including 163 Sept. 24. There were ten seen elsewhere in Michigan. Wisconsin had 3 sightings: *Ozaukee* Oct. 28 (TU); *Racine* Nov. 19 & 24 (CW *et al.*, JO), and two in Milwaukee Nov. 28 (DG). Minnesota had a juvenile at Duluth Sept. 27 (KE) and an adult at Gooseberry S.P., *Lake*, Oct. 24 (MB). Three Pacific Loons were found in Minnesota, including adults at Duluth Oct. 21 (PS *et al.*) and Mille Lacs L., Oct. 25 (KB), with a juvenile at White Bear L., *Ramsey*, Nov. 7 (KB). The W.P.B.O. staff counted 4474 Com. Loons, with a peak of 214 Sept. 5. The 1497 Com. Loons counted on L. Winnibigoshish Oct. 20 represented a record-high count for a Minnesota lake (KB, PS). Late birds included Marquette, MI Nov. 22 (BJ) and into December at Madison, WI (PA). Over 100 Horned Grebes were seen in Milwaukee Oct. 24 (MBo). A similar number was counted at Little Traverse Bay, MI Oct. 22 (WG), with an early individual in *St. Clair* Sept. 8 (MP). An impressive 1884 Red-necked Grebes were counted at W.P.B.O., Sept. 11, with a season total of 11,837. Late lingering birds were found in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Single Eared Grebes were found at the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment Area Aug. 24 (TW, ES) and Oct. 13 (SS, KO). In Wisconsin it was found in *Door* Sept. 11 (BSt), and two were in *Sheboygan* Oct. 20. The W. Grebe migration peaked in Minnesota with 800 on L. Osakis, *Douglas*, Oct. 28 (RJ). Wisconsin had 3 sightings, including in Milwaukee Oct. 20–27 (MBo, DG *et al.*), at Madison Nov. 1–3 (SR, KBU *et al.*), and two at Virmond Park, *Ozaukee*, Nov. 2 (DG). In Michigan, a late bird was found at South Haven Nov. 24–27+ (JG, KT, TW *et al.*). Minnesota had five Clark's Grebes that included one at Clear L., *Stevens*, Aug. 18 (KE *et al.*),

two on Minnesota L., *Fairbault*, Sept. 8 (PP *et al.*), and two on L. Traverse Oct. 4 (S&KS). American White Pelicans were recorded in 9 Wisconsin locales besides the nesting site at Green Bay. Peaks included >100 at Green Bay, 275 in *Trempealeau* Aug. 21 (WM), and 110 in *LaCrosse* Oct. 9 (FL). Michigan had six until Sept. 1 at P.M.S.G.A. (m.ob.), with singles at Keweenaw Oct. 5–6 (JY, LM) and at North Pt., *Alpena*, Oct. 14 (WG).

An exhausted Am. Bittern was brought to a rehab center in Milwaukee Nov. 1 (DA). A Great Egret at Sterling S.P., MI Nov. 11 was late (SS). Snowy Egrets were present in all 3 states. For Wisconsin, four–six were at the Green Bay nesting site, plus singles at Horicon N.W.R. and Milwaukee. Both Michigan and Minnesota had single birds Aug. 10, at the Karn Plant, *Bay* (DM, KT,) and Red Rock L., *Washington* (BL), respectively. The two Little Blue Herons that spend part of the summer at Horicon N.W.R. were last seen Aug. 16 (m.ob.). Likewise, the two **Tricolored Herons** that summered at Horicon N. W.R. remained until Sept. 7 (m.ob.). Michigan also recorded both species, with a Little Blue at the Wolf L. Fish Hatchery, *Van Buren*, Sept. 1 & 3 (DM, TW, ES, KT). A Tricolored was in *Bay* Aug. 10 & 17 (DM, KT, JB, TG, SRo). Good numbers of Cattle Egrets were noted in Minnesota, with >122 in *Big Stone* (LE), and in Wisconsin, with 26 at Green Bay, 29 in *Winnebago*, and 42 at Horicon N.W.R. Michigan had two at Shiawassee N.W.R., Oct. 10–11 (DP, BG), with one at Houghton Oct. 26–30 (*vide* LB). Wisconsin had the only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron observations, with one at Madison between Aug. 31–Sept. 10 (PA, SR) and, at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment, a maximum of three Aug. 10–15 (DG, MK). A *Plegadis* ibis flew by the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, WI Oct. 18 (DB, HM, J&CK).

### Waterfowl to Cranes

Tundra Swan concentrations were more scattered throughout the Region than usual, with maximums of 300–500. The exception was at the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R., MN and WI (Pools 4–13), where 16,000–17,000 were present between Nov. 4–18 (EN). Unexpected were Greater White-fronted Goose flocks in Duluth totaling 18 Sept. 22 (US) and 17 Sept. 28 (FN). Michigan had seven at Hale Oct. 10 (GN, HR), one at the L. Erie Metropark Nov. 2 (JB, JS), and two at Lexington Nov. 6 (MW). In Wisconsin, two accompanied a Snow Goose flock in *Ozaukee* Nov. 2 (DT). All 3 states recorded

Ross' Geese. One was at Minnesota's Rice Lake N.W.R., Sept. 21–22 (WN). Michigan's Shiawassee N.W.R. had one Oct. 31 (DP), with a remarkable *ten* there Nov. 14 (DP, BF). In Wisconsin, one was at Goose Pond, *Columbia*, Nov. 16–24 (PA, KBU). Four Brant were seen at W.P.B.O., Nov. 7. Peak Canada Goose numbers could only be estimated in Wisconsin, because the state did not have sufficient funds for flights to count the waterfowl. For Horicon N.W.R. and the e.c. section, estimates ranged between 150,000–250,000. In Michigan, the peak at Shiawassee N.W.R. was 17,323 Oct. 17 (DP). Peak waterfowl concentrations at Pools 4–14 in the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. included 51,680 puddle ducks Nov. 9, 252,175 divers Nov. 6 (including 136,265 Canvasbacks and 98,775 scaup), and 334,765 Nov. 15 (with 90,000–100,000 Canvasbacks and 50,000 scaups). Numbers decreased sharply after Nov. 22. Waterfowl numbers for Michigan included 1464 Am. Black Ducks Nov. 7 and 19,062 Mallard Nov. 14, both at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP), 1200 N. Shovelers at the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment Area Nov. 18 (KT), and 8000 Canvasbacks at L. Erie Metropark Nov. 21 (WP). At W.P.B.O., there were 2195 Greater scaup Oct. 19, 1867 Oldsquaws Oct. 27, 408 Surf Scoters Sept. 29, 547 White-winged Scoters Oct. 19, and 2647 Red-breasted Mergansers Oct. 25. Also in Michigan were 2670 Com. Mergansers at Shiawassee N.W.R., Nov. 14 (DP), and 3000 Ruddy Ducks at the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment Areas Oct. 13 (SS, KO). Wisconsin had 1500–>3000 Greater Scaup on L. Michigan during mid- to late October in *Manitowoc* and *Ozaukee* (CS, BD), with 3250 Red-breasted Mergansers in the latter county Oct. 30 (BD). A **King Eider** was found at Minnesota's Ray Berglund Wayside in *Cook* Nov. 2 (m.ob.). Singles were in Michigan at W.P.B.O., Oct. 10 (JR, LD) and at Sault St. Marie Nov. 27+ (GS, KA, KT). Good numbers of Harlequin Ducks appeared in the Region. Michigan led with 14 birds from 9 sites. Wisconsin had six from 3 sites, while Minnesota had four from 3 sites. Again this autumn the scoter flight was poor, with an especially lackluster migration in Wisconsin. Totals for W.P.B.O. included 136 Blacks, 719 Surfs, and 3067 White-winged. Male *Barrow's Goldeneyes* returned to both Wisconsin and Minnesota. For Wisconsin it was the 3rd consecutive year that the species has been at Virmond Park. It first appeared Nov. 7 (TU *et al.*). In Minnesota, one appeared for the 2nd year at the Blue L. Lagoons, *Scott*, first seen Nov. 13 (*vide* AH).

The raptor flight was very disappointing, especially in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Many species were noted in low to record-low numbers. Undoubtedly a contributing factor was the lack of strong cold fronts during September and most of October. On the positive side, this was the first time totals were received from raptor stations in all 3 states. These results appear in Table 1-4. Of particular interest are the totals and comments for various species. Interesting sightings include a **Black Vulture**, first observed at the Cedar Grove Hawk Station Nov. 13-14 (DB *et al.*). It reappeared about a week later, proving most cooperative for about an additional week. Surprisingly, it resurfaced about 10 mi s. in mid-December. This represents about the 4th Wisconsin record. Not to be outdone, a Turkey Vulture was in *Monroe*, WI Dec. 1 (DK). An imm. **Mississippi Kite** was watched by Nicoletti at Hawk Ridge Sept. 9. Swainson's Hawks were seen at P.M.S.G.A., MI Sept. 18 (AC), at Appleton, WI Oct. 7 (DT), and in *Ozaukee*, WI Nov. 1 (Tu), in addition to those in the tables. Two imm. Ferruginous Hawks were watched by the Stevas in *Red Lake*, MN Aug. 17. Very early Rough-legged Hawks were individuals at Michigan's North Pt., Aug. 8 (WG) and W.P.B.O., Aug. 9. Considering how late and poor the Rough-legged flight was, these are remarkable observations. Good numbers of Golden Eagles were noted in Minnesota and especially Wisconsin. In the latter state significant numbers were even found migrating along L. Michigan. Two Gyrfalcons (gray and dark morphs) were observed migrating along the L. Michigan shoreline in *Ozaukee*, WI Nov. 2 (DT, HC). One was present at Sault St. Marie Nov. 27+ (KT, KA). Dankert was fortunate enough to watch a **Prairie Falcon** migrating along the Mississippi R. bluffs at the Eagle Valley Nature Preserve, *Grant*, Oct. 12. There are very few Wisconsin records for this species. In Minnesota, where it is annually recorded, there were 4 sightings. They included singles in *Otter Tail* Aug. 8 (S&DM), representing the 4th earliest record; in *Roseau* Aug. 20 (BS), found injured and dying a few hours later; at Hawk Ridge N.W.R., Nov. 10 (DE); and in *Ramsey* Nov. 29, where Sellers watched it bathing in the Mississippi R. at the Ford Dam. Gray Partridges were reported from 13 Minnesota counties, representing an increase from previous years. Yellow Rails were found on breeding territory in *Kitson* (PS) and *Roseau*, MN (PS), during August. A migrant appeared at W.P.B.O., Sept. 6. An exhausted Virginia Rail was brought to a rehab center in Milwaukee Nov. 19 (DS). Peak Sandhill Crane numbers included

>1000 at Sandhill Wildlife Area Oct. 13 (JW) and 4300 at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area Nov. 1 (JH), both in Wisconsin. In Michigan, 2770 were at the Haenle Sanctuary Oct. 25 (RH).

### Shorebirds

Peak plover flights included 62 Am Golden-Plovers in *Roseau*, MN Sept. 15 (PS), 60 Semipalmated Plovers at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 18 (CP, TW), and an amazing 2000 Killdeer in *Brown*, WI Aug. 17 (BM). Tardy were two Black-bellied Plovers in *Dunn*, WI Nov. 17 (AG) and an Am. Golden-Plover at Horicon N.W.R., Nov. 6 (MPe). Piping Plovers were found in all 3 states. For Wisconsin, one was near Shiocton Aug. 13 (DT). Michigan's was at Manistee Aug. 23 (BA), while Minnesota had two in *Yellow Medicine* Aug. 5 (TT), and one at *Goodhue* Aug. 22 (BL). Likewise, Am. Avocets were recorded in all 3 states. Minnesota had a total of 22 individuals from 7 counties that included eight Sept. 5-6 for the first record in *Wadena* (PB), and the latest being three in *Polk* Oct. 17 (PS, KB, TT). Michigan found single birds at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 8 (WP), Erie Marsh Preserve Aug. 12, and Elk Rapids Beach Sept. 3 (DJ *et al.*). Wisconsin had one at Milwaukee between Sept. 7-18 (BD, JF, TU, MK), with six in *Dunn* Sept. 23 (AG). The last Greater Yellowlegs for the season were individuals in Milwaukee Nov. 2 (DG) and at Horicon N.W.R., Nov. 3 (SSR). An impressive 800 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen by Svingen in *Roseau*, MN Aug. 3. For Wisconsin, peaks included 150 near Shiocton Aug. 13 and 200 at Horicon N.W.R., Sept. 21 (DT). Peak Solitary Sandpipers included 33 at Madison, WI Aug. 12 (PA) and 30 at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 3 (CP, TW). An individual seen by Bardon in *Anoka* Oct. 14 represented the 3rd latest date for Minnesota. Willets were found Regionwide. Minnesota had about 13 individuals reported from 4 counties, Wisconsin had about seven from 4 counties, while Michigan had single birds in 3 counties. The Spotted Sandpiper seen by Eckert in *Lake* Nov. 3 was record late for Minnesota. Gamache had one in Wisconsin's *Dunn* Nov. 8. Large shorebirds appeared in surprising numbers throughout the Region, as evidenced by the avocet and Willet sightings and Whimbrels and godwits. Whimbrels totaled 12 at W.P.B.O. between Aug. 15-Sept. 15. Additional Michigan sightings included singles Aug. 21 at P.M.S.G.A. (TW) and at the Ludington breakwall Sept. 2 (TG, BA *et al.*). Wisconsin had singles at Manitowoc Aug. 29 (CS), on Seagull Bar at Marinette Aug. 30

(DBe), with three-four on Milwaukee's Harbor I., Sept. 3-21 and an additional one there Oct. 4 (m.ob.). Minnesota had seven Hudsonian Godwits during September and October, with the latest in *Polk* Oct. 21 (PS, KB). Wisconsin had four individuals, with three spending a month (Sept. 28-Oct. 25) at Horicon N.W.R. along Hwy 49, enabling numerous birders to enjoy them along with one-two Marbled Godwits also at Horicon N.W.R. between Sept. 27-Oct. 5. Additional Wisconsin sightings included lone birds at Manitowoc between Aug. 13-17 (CS *et al.*) and near Shiocton Aug. 28 (DT). One was found at Michigan's P.M.S.G.A. between Aug. 14-29 (m.ob.). A Ruddy Turnstone at Duluth Oct. 24 represented the 4th latest Minnesota date (KB). There was a good Red Knot flight, as indicated by 20 in Michigan, 18 in Minnesota, and 10 for Wisconsin. Latest were birds at Horicon N.W.R., Oct. 1 (DT) and at Michigan's Tawas Point S.P., Oct. 3 (GN). Late, especially for the upper Peninsula, was a Sanderling at W.P.B.O., Nov. 7. Maximum Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers included 300 at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 11 and 384 at the Erie Marsh Preserve, MI Aug. 19 (KT). Western Sandpipers were found in Wisconsin (six birds) and Michigan (eight birds), with a tardy individual in the latter state Oct. 12 at the Elk Rapids Sewage Ponds (DJ). Pawloski counted 377 Least Sandpipers at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 10. Normally a spring migrant, there was a good fall flight of White-rumped Sandpipers. This was true at Wisconsin's Horicon N.W.R., where >50 were present Oct. 17-18 (DT). Latest were birds in *Lake*, MN Nov. 2 (m.ob.), New Buffalo, MI Nov. 2 (JG), and at Horicon N.W.R., MI Nov. 7 (DT). Twenty-six Baird's Sandpipers were at P.M.S.G.A., Sept. 8 (CP). Last were birds in *LeSueur*, MN Nov. 6 (KB) and Madison, WI Nov. 9 (PA). Peak Pectoral Sandpiper numbers included 450 in *Roseau*, MN Aug. 3 (PS), 200 at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 18 (CP, TW), and 135 near Shiocton, WI Aug. 13 (DT). Late was one in *Dane*, WI Nov. 11 (KIBu). There was a good Purple Sandpiper flight on both sides of L. Michigan. Michigan's contributions included two at New Buffalo Nov. 2, and singles at the Lexington Breakwall Nov. 17 (TW, ES, DC, TC, KT), at New Buffalo Nov. 27 & 29 (AB, JM, DV), and at Ludington Nov. 30 (TW, GB, ES, BA). Wisconsin had one at Kewaunee Nov. 17 that was photographed (SB *et al.*), another at Two Rivers Nov. 20 (MPe), and a very cooperative individual at Sheboygan Nov. 20-30+ (MPe *et al.*). Dunlin peaks includ-

ed 600 at Erie Marsh Preserve, MI Nov. 3 (BA) and 180 at *Polk*, MN Oct. 21 (KB). Late were two Dunlins at Kewaunee, WI Nov. 24 (JRe). A **Curlew Sandpiper** was found at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 11 (KT), and one was at Horicon N.W.R., Oct. 8 (DT). Fall sightings of this species in the Region are especially rare. There was an excellent Stilt Sandpiper flight, as evidenced by 120 at Duluth Aug. 23–24 and 110 at Horicon N.W.R., Sept. 21. Likewise, there was an outstanding Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight. Maximum flocks were 25 in all 3 states. Totals for each state were 90–100 for both Minnesota and Michigan and 60–70 in Wisconsin. There was a good Short-billed Dowitcher flight in both Michigan (143 peak) and Wisconsin (70–75 peak). In the latter state there also was a fine Long-billed Dowitcher flight, especially at Horicon N.W.R., where 100–150 were found during early to mid-October. The last Long-billed was at Madison Nov. 4 (KBU). Wilson's Phalaropes peaked in *Big Stone*, MN, with 200 Aug. 25 (LE). Red-necked Phalaropes were recorded in all 3 states, with flocks ranging to about 20. Most sightings were of single to several birds. Single Red Phalaropes were found at St. Joseph Nov. 4 (KT) and the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment Area Nov. 27 (AB, JM), both Michigan.

### Jaegers to Terns

There was an unusual jaeger flight this fall—that is, Michigan only recorded one species, the Parasitic, while Minnesota had two, and—truly surprising—Wisconsin had all three. The only **Pomarine Jaeger** was discovered by Bardon on the Minnesota side of L. Pepin Nov. 8. The juvenile proved most cooperative as it alternated between the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides of the lake through Nov. 24, enabling many birders to catch brief/moderate views as it harassed gulls and even Bald Eagles. This represents a record-late date, in excess of a month for both states. Parasitic Jaegers included 13 between Sept. 10–25 at W.P.B.O., with other Michigan sightings in *St. Clair* Sept 8 (DM, MPL, KT) and three at Port Huron Nov. 8 (KT). Duluth had Parasitics Sept. 21 (one) & 28 (two) (*vide* KE). For Wisconsin, a dead juvenile was found along the beach in *Manitowoc* Sept. 12 (BB). Two were found at Superior Sept. 28–30 (DT *et al.*). A dead dark-phase juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was found along a road near Plymouth Sept. 6 (ML). Reportedly it had been seen for several days feeding with Ring-billed Gulls on farm fields prior to its demise. The Pomarine and Long-tailed sightings represented about the 7th and

6th, respectively, for Wisconsin. Unidentified jaegers totaled 22 at W.P.B.O. and five at Duluth. A Laughing Gull that appeared intermittently during the summer at Manitowoc was last seen Aug. 4 (SR *et al.*). One lingered at Milwaukee between Aug. 9–25 and Sept. 5 (BBo, JF *et al.*). A juvenile was at Shiawassee N.W.R., MI between Aug. 15–Sept. 5 (DP, MW). There were 15,000 Franklin's Gulls on L. Waconia, *Carver*, MN Oct. 10 (KB). The one on Mille Lacs L., Nov. 17 (KB, PS) represented one of Minnesota's latest sightings. Franklin's were found in 10 Wisconsin sites including 160 in *Dunn* Sept. 25 (AG). Single birds were found during late October in Michigan. Little Gulls were recorded in all 3 states. The adult at Thief R. Falls Sept. 30 (PS *et al.*) represented the first for *Pennington*, MN. Two were at New Buffalo, MI Nov. 2 (JG). In Wisconsin, one was at Manitowoc Sept. 1 (MPE), with a tardy individual there Nov. 16 (CS) and at Kenosha Nov. 24 (JO). Minnesota had just its 2nd **Mew Gull** record when Svingen watched an adult on L. Winnibigoshish, *Cass*, Nov. 10. Unfortunately, it could not be located later that or ensuing days. Thayer's Gulls appeared at W.P.B.O., Aug. 18 and Sept. 22. In Wisconsin, one—four individuals were found along L. Michigan at Sheboygan, Two Rivers, Manitowoc, *etc.*, during October and November. An adult on L. Calhoun Sept. 30 (KB) was record early for Minnesota. Birds were also found in *McLeod* (two) Nov. 2 and *Aitken* (one) Nov. 3. Michigan had Iceland Gulls at Manistee Nov. 10 (KT, BA), and in the Muskegon area Nov. 18 (KT) & 27 (AB). In Wisconsin, single birds were at Sheboygan Nov. 8 & 29 (DT *et al.*), with one at Superior Nov. 24 (PS). The Lesser Black-backed Gull is obviously increasing in the Region. Nevertheless, it is still important to document all observations. Substantiated sightings in Minnesota included a 3rd-winter and an adult in *Dakota* and *Hennepin* between Sept. 30–Oct. 31 (KB). The adult that had frequented the Madison, WI, area returned for the 3rd year, being seen between Sept. 12–Nov. 19 (SR, KBU *et al.*) Another adult was seen at Two Rivers Oct. 12+ (DT *et al.*), with one in Milwaukee Nov. 14 (BBo). Documented Michigan sightings included two at Ann Arbor Oct. 20 (SS), at Port Austin Oct. 30 (MW), two in *Monroe* Nov. 1–30+ (m.ob.), one at Holloway Dam Nov. 22 & 24 (DM, MW), and *four* (three adults, one 3rd-winter) in Erie Township Nov. 23 (WP). Good numbers of Glaucous Gulls were found in the Region, as expected, with some arriving by mid-October.

Great Black-backed Gulls were present in all 3 states, with August sightings at Green Bay and Sheboygan, WI, and at P.M.S.G.A. All 3 states found Black-legged Kittiwakes, which is unexpected. As usual, Michigan had the most sightings, with singles Sept. 16 and Oct. 4 at W.P.B.O., and Nov. 4 at Pt. Iroquois (LD, RP, MP). Minnesota's sighting was of an individual on L. Winnibigoshish Sept. 28 (PS), with the same or another bird there Nov. 10 (PS). In Wisconsin, one was at Kenosha Nov. 24 (JO). There was an unprecedented number of **Sabine's Gull** sightings from all 3 states. Minnesota's contributions included two juveniles at Waterville Sept. 27+ (m.ob.), on the Mississippi R. in *Goodhue* Oct. 5 (BL), a juvenile on Big Stone L. (LE), another juvenile on Fox L., *Martin*, in early November, and Oct. 25 in *Mille Lacs* (KB), which provided the latest date for the n. Section. Michigan had single birds at W.P.B.O., Sept. 15 and Oct. 10 & 31, and one at 2 *Berrien* sites Nov. 2 (JG, DV *et al.*). Wisconsin had a most cooperative adult that fed at the s. end of L. Winnebago and along the Fond du Lac R. in Fond du Lac between Oct. 11–27. It often could be approached to within 10 feet, enabling birders to get fantastic views, plus excellent photos (RK *et al.*). Other sightings involved juveniles and were at L. Michigan harbors: Port Washington Nov. 16 (JF), Kenosha Nov. 23–24 (AS, BH, JO), and Sheboygan Nov. 29 (BD). Very late for Minnesota was a Com. Tern in *Mille Lacs* Oct. 25 (KB) and a Forster's Tern Oct. 19 in *Roseau* (KB). Tardy dates for Michigan included 17 Caspian Terns Nov. 2 (CT), a remarkable number at that date, and a Common Nov. 11 (SS), both at L. Erie Metropark, and a Forster's at Lexington Nov. 6 (MW). Record late for Wisconsin was a Forster's Tern at Manitowoc Nov. 16 (CS).

### Doves to Woodpeckers

A **White-winged Dove** was present in Empire Aug. 5–6, with good photos obtained (JG *et al.*). This is about the 3rd Michigan record. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo seen in *Hennepin* Oct. 15 (OJ) provided the 3rd latest Minnesota date. There was an *excellent* Snowy Owl invasion during November in all 3 states. As many as five-ten could be seen at individual sites. Michigan commented on most not remaining for more than a day. However, this was not true in the other 2 states, especially Wisconsin, where the main movement was along L. Michigan at various harbors, moving inland as December progressed. Both Minnesota and Michigan

had good number of N. Hawk Owls, with 14 in the former and 10 in the latter. Wisconsin had no sightings. Great Gray Owls were found in all 3 states. In Minnesota, where it is the most common, it was reported as scarce. Wisconsin had one-two birds that had summered in *Bayfield* seen intermittently during the fall (m.ob.), plus one heard in *Douglas* Aug. 9 (RJo). For Michigan, one was in *Chippewas* Nov. 21 (KA). Short-eared Owls appeared in all 3 states in modest numbers. Boreal Owls were banded in all 3 states! Michigan led with a total of 163 between Sept. 24–Oct. 29 at W.P.B.O., with a peak of 24 Oct. 13. Twelve were banded between Oct. 4–Nov. 5 at Rogers City, MI (WG). Two were banded at Hawk Ridge, Duluth (DEv). For Wisconsin, the total of 10 banded at 4 sites almost represented an invasion. They included six at Stevens Pt. (GJ), one at Little Suamico (TE), two at Lena (JSm), and one in Appleton at the Bubolz Nature Center (EM), which represented a first *Outagamie* record. The only substantial Com. Nighthawk movement was 1500 at LaCrosse, WI Sept. 6 (FL). A **Chuckwill's-widow** was heard calling near Lakewood, WI Aug. 29–30 (JDe, DT). Late for n. Michigan was a Chimney Swift Oct. 17 at W.P.B.O.

Because no Michigan summer summary was received, the **Green Violet-ear** that appeared at a feeder during July escaped publication. Fortunately, it lingered into the fall at the Callog feeder in Edwardsburg, where several hundred birders were treated to the unique bird. Officially it was present between July 16–Aug. 18, obviously representing the first sighting for Michigan as well as the Region. Two ♂ **Rufous Hummingbirds** were found in Wisconsin. The first appeared at Gleason's feeder in L. Geneva about Oct. 1, remaining until Nov. 7, when concern for its health arose with the advent of unusually cold water. It was captured and brought to a Milwaukee rehab center, where plans were pending to send it to a warmer climate. Many birders were able to enjoy its antics during the stay. Another appeared at the Krahn feeder near Tomahawk during mid-October. Unfortunately, word of the individual did not reach the birding world until early November. A few birders enjoyed it before it was captured Nov. 8, again due to the very cold weather. Unfortunately it died the following day. An ad. ♂ *Selasphorus* commenced coming to a feeder near Fowlerville Sept. 10, remaining through the period (DM, RB *et al.*). There was some doubt as to whether it could be positively identified, as conclu-

sive documentation may be lacking. This made the 4th (!) hummingbird species present in Michigan this year! A Red-bellied Woodpecker was present at W.P.B.O., Oct. 12. As usual, several Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen in n. Wisconsin and Michigan. However, they were reported as scarce in Minnesota.

### Flycatchers to Shrikes

The Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Itasca* Oct. 1 represented the 2nd latest date for n. Minnesota (ABo). The Little Suamic Ornithological Station caught two flycatchers that provided first records for Wisconsin. The first was a **Western Wood-Pewee** Sept. 17 (TE, JSm) and the other was a **Dusky Flycatcher** Oct. 8 (TE). The latter also furnishes a first Regional record. The Willow Flycatcher heard in *Marshall* Sept. 15 (PS) represented the latest date for n. Minnesota. Good numbers of W. Kingbirds were found in Minnesota, with 10 in *Big Stone* Aug. 4 (LE) and 23 in *Lac Qui Parle* Aug. 5 (TT). Late was an E. Kingbird in *Marquette* MI Oct. 4 (NI *et al.*). Michigan had 3 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher sightings, all from the Upper Peninsula. Single birds were at W.P.B.O., Oct. 11 (JR, LD, ES) & 26 (staff), and one at Copper Harbor Oct. 16 (LB). One was seen by Parnell in Wisconsin's Cherokee Marsh, just n. of Madison, Sept. 21.

Concentrations of 1000–3000 Tree Swallows were reported from several Michigan sites. The maximum Black-billed Magpie flock in Minnesota was 46 in *Kittson* (KB). The Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve recorded 1740 Com. Ravens for the season, including 350 Oct. 25 (FN). One wonders where they were going! In contrast to last autumn, Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in *very low* numbers in Wisconsin and Michigan. A **Pygmy Nuthatch** apparently was induced by suet and tapes to cross the Red R. that forms the boundary between North Dakota and Minnesota. It was present at Fargo feeders between mid-October–Oct. 30, appearing on the Minnesota side Oct. 26–28 (RO *et al.*). It provided the first record for Minnesota (2nd for North Dakota), and apparently has stirred up a controversy for Minnesota birders. The only Carolina Wrens were found in Michigan, where two adults were feeding two young Sept. 5 in Inkster (AC), while two were present for the period in Flint (TP). The Marsh Wren at Duly Nov. 2 provided the latest date for the n. part of the state (JGr). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in *Lake*, MI Aug. 25 was early (JWo).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appeared unusually far north in Michigan and Min-

nesota. In Michigan, one was at Agate Harbor Sept. 28 (LB), representing only the 3rd record for the Keweenaw Pen. For Minnesota, single birds were found at Two Harbors Sept. 29, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Oct. 15–16 (FN), and at Knife R. Oct. 26 (m.ob.). Jerry Smith had 205 E. Bluebirds in *Oconto*, WI Oct. 26. Mountain Bluebirds were found in Minnesota, with a male at the Tamarc N.W.R., Oct. 18–19 (BBE) and a female at Crow Hassan Park Oct. 27 (SC). A Townsend's Solitaire was observed near Fified Oct. 2–3 (TN, LG), unusually early for Wisconsin. Michigan's W.P.B.O. had a remarkable number of solitaire sightings, with singles Oct. 21 and Nov. 4 & 13, two Nov. 9, and three accompanying Am. Robins Nov. 20 (m.ob.). Tardy thrushes in Michigan included a Gray-checked at W.P.B.O., Oct. 13, a Swainson's at Grand Mere Oct. 16 (MWa), and a Wood at Warren Woods S.P., Oct. 5 (WJ). Five Varied Thrushes were present for varying lengths of time during November in Minnesota. A N. Mockingbird was in *Brown*, MN Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (JSp). For Michigan, singles were seen in *Monroe* Nov. 10 (WP) and in *Mecosta* Nov. 11 (GV). Good numbers of Am. Pipits were seen in Wisconsin and Michigan. In the latter state, flocks ranging between 60–115 were noted from several sites. Only a limited number of Bohemian Waxwing reports were received from the n. areas of all 3 states.

Northern Shrikes were only noted in low to fair numbers, in contrast to last year. Minnesota had Loggerhead Shrike reports from 7 counties, including multiple reports of five in *Dakota*. Unexpected was an immature at the Bubolz Nature Center by Appleton, WI Oct. 28 (EM, MBr).

### Vireos to Finches

The White-eyed Vireo was present at its Governor Dodge S.P., WI, site until Aug. 21 (KB). In Michigan, summer birds were present in *Hillsdale* until Sept. 17, with a maximum of four (JRei). Single birds were found at Grand Mere Sept. 18 (MWa) and at Estral Beach Oct. 6 (SS), which is late. Bell's Vireos were only reported from Wisconsin, with single at *Dunn* Aug. 11 (AG) and *Buffalo* Aug. 20 (WM). Late vireo sightings included a Solitary at Duluth Nov. 2 (DS), the latest for n. Minnesota; an extremely late (record?) Philadelphia at Michigan's Silver Lake S.P., Nov. 29; and a Red-eyed at Croftville Oct. 26 (Pba, AH, PS), the 2nd latest n. Minnesota date. There were several interesting warblers in the Region. For Minnesota, they included the Yellow-throated at Sibley S.P. through Aug. 27 (TB), a Worm-eating in *Goodhue*

Sept. 4 (MF), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Breckenridge Sept. 8 (KB). For Michigan, a total of 33 Kirtland's Warblers were found at 4 sites between Aug. 1–Sept. 5 (MP). A Prairie Warbler present in *Oscoda* Sept. 5–6 (MP) was banded. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at Forest Lawn Sept. 28 (JG), while a Hooded was seen at Warren Dunes Sept. 9 (DV, WJ). Wisconsin's contributions included single "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warblers at the Little Suamico Ornithological Station Oct. 2 & 13 (TE, JSm). There were several late warbler sightings. Nashvilles were seen Nov. 6 in *Ozaukee*, WI (TU) and at Sterling S.P., MI Nov. 11 (SS). A record-late ♂ Black-throated Blue came to a feeder in Wisconsin's *Ozaukee* between Nov. 27–Dec. 1 (DPa). Domagalski had a Bay-breasted Warbler in Milwaukee Oct. 19. Very late was an Ovenbird at New Troy, MI Nov. 29+ (DV). Record late was a Louisiana Waterthrush in *Kittson*, MN Oct. 6 (PS). Also very late were Com. Yellowthroats in *Lake*, MN Nov. 2 (m.ob.) and Madison, WI Nov. 23 (PA). And there was a record-late Hooded Warbler at Harrington Beach S.P., WI Oct. 20 (TWO).

Unusually far north was a N. Cardinal at Marquette, MI Nov. 12 (LT). Late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison Nov. 18 (PA). Tardy Dickcissels were in *Ozaukee*, WI Oct. 5 (TU) and at W.P.B.O., Oct. 12 & 27. A Spotted Towhee was seen in *Murray*, MN Sept. 29–Oct. 2 (ND). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at 2 sites in Wisconsin: three in *Monroe* Sept. 30 (DK) and several in Milwaukee between Sept. 11–Oct. 1 (MK, BBo *et al.*; and 2 in Minnesota: at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Oct. 8 (KB) and Duluth Oct. 12 (CK *et al.*). Again this fall there were only a few Harris Sparrows migrating through Wisconsin and Michigan. Smith's Longspurs were found in *Kittson*, MN, with two Sept. 29 (Ps), and at Rothsay W.M.A., with multiple reports between Oct. 12–27, including >50 Oct. 16 (S&DM). Plant found >2000 Snow Buntings near Dorchester, WI Nov. 23. A Bobolink near Illgen City Nov. 11 was record late for Minnesota (KE, PS). Photos were taken.

After last year's fine winter finch flight, things returned to "normal," with dismal numbers of most species reported. This was especially true for Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Com. Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. Only both crossbill species, in particular, the White-winged, were found in average to above-average numbers in the n. sections of all 3 states.

### Corrigenda

Delete the spring 1996 sightings of Rufous-necked (Red-necked) Stint and Say's Phoebe in Wisconsin. The records committee rejected both sightings.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Susan Roney Drennan, Editor