

# western great lakes region



## JIM GRANLUND

While writing this winter's summary, it was difficult to remember what season was being reported. The extremely mild weather resulted in new late date records and overwintering for a number of species. For example, six species of warblers were reported within the Region! Many of these reports came from feeders or on Christmas Bird Counts, so one only wonders how many other remarkable records eluded observers as birds overwintered in dense marshes or similar habitats. Many spring migrants also returned early this season, although it would be difficult to ascertain if they were truly migrants or overwintering birds from nearby locations. In contrast, it was fairly quiet in terms of rarities. Exceptional sightings included Glaucous-winged Gull in all three states, while Wisconsin played host to two Ivory Gulls.

Unlike last year, the winter of 1997 to 1998 was extremely mild throughout the Region. Michigan reported above-normal temperatures in all three months, particularly in February. Precipitation in that state was about normal, although snowfall was

well below normal. Wisconsin had similar conditions, with a record mild December and February and only normal winter conditions in January. Regardless, the snow cover was well below normal through the season. Minnesota was a carbon copy of the other states. As a result, water stayed open longer and thawed earlier than usual.

To avoid duplication of effort, Christmas Bird Count records were excluded from this column unless deemed exceptional, or unless their inclusion added to the completeness of other reports.

**Abbreviations:** MBRC (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*).

## LOONS TO HERONS

Michigan reported Red-throated Loon along the L. Michigan shoreline to Jan. 19 in *Muskegon* (GW, ES), while Wisconsin had reports into late December in *Manitowoc* (DT, *vide* CS). A **Pacific Loon** in *Green Lake* from Jan. 3–Jan. 10 (TS, JB, SB) provided a first winter record for Wisconsin. Common Loons were reported from a number of sites throughout Michigan, and likely overwintered there. The latest report of this species

in Wisconsin was one Jan. 3 at *Green Lake*; in Minnesota, the latest were two Dec. 20 in *St. Louis* (AH, KS, PS).

In Wisconsin, a Horned Grebe remained to Jan. 6 in Milwaukee (MK, BD), while two Feb. 8 in *Ozaukee* (BD) may have been early migrants. Also in that state was a Red-necked Grebe Dec. 6 in *Washington* (BD). Michigan had an above-average number of reports of Red-necked Grebes with individuals from 10 counties, including overwintering individuals in *Presque Isle* with a maximum of 10 Feb. 1 (BG). Double-crested Cormorants overwintered in 3 Michigan counties and remained into early January in several others, while Minnesota reported overwintering in *Ramsey* (AH). Exceptional for Michigan were reports of Am. Bittern Jan. 6 in *Tuscola* (JS) and Jan. 24 at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (BW). All 3 states reported Black-crowned Night-Herons, including overwintering in *Monroe* and *Wayne*, MI, and five remaining through Dec. 24 in Milwaukee, WI. In Minnesota, an individual was seen to Dec. 7 in *Dakota* (KB, TT), and another in *Otter Tail* (DMa, SM) provided the first state overwintering record.

## WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans overwintered in all 3 states, with spring migration commencing by the last week of February in Michigan and Wisconsin. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota had record-early arrivals for Greater White-fronted Goose, with one in Feb. 14 in *Racine*, WI (JD), and 10 Feb. 24 in *Olmsted*, MN (DA, BE). Wisconsin also reported increased numbers of this species, with flocks of 20–60 individuals in *Columbia* and *Dane* through the latter part of February. All 3 states had overwintering Snow Geese, while Minnesota also reported a record-early return for the species, with eight Feb. 24 in *Olmsted* (DA, BE). Five Canada Geese in Grand Marais, *Cook* (KH, MH), provided a first overwintering record for that n. Minnesota county. The Canada Goose migration in Wisconsin was noteworthy, with thousands of birds arriving from Feb. 14–15 and continuing through the latter half of the month.

With the mild weather it was not surprising that dabbling and diving ducks overwintered in unusual numbers throughout the Region. In Michigan, most species of these ducks overwinter in small numbers; however, this year Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, Am. Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, and Ruddy Duck were reported overwintering in greater numbers and with a wider than normal distribution. More unusual were the reports of overwintering Blue-winged Teal and N. Shoveler in *Berrien*. Also noteworthy was the report of large numbers of Greater Scaup on L. Michigan off *Manistee*; maximum totals reached 4000 Jan. 24 (BA). Reports deemed worthy of mention in *Field Notes* by the Minnesota compiler included the overwintering of two Redhead and one Ring-necked Duck in *Otter Tail* (DMA, SM), four N. Pintails in *Dakota* (PJ, DN), and the exceptionally early arrival of three N. Pintails Feb. 22 in *Otter Tail* (DMA, SM).

Wisconsin reported greater numbers of overwintering Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Duck. Nearly all the spring migrants of these species arrived by late February. As in Michigan, Wisconsin reported an impressive number of Greater Scaup along the L. Michigan shoreline.

In Wisconsin, a female King Eider was found in Milwaukee Jan. 10–13; this is the 3rd consecutive winter that species was present at this location. Harlequin Duck appears to be becoming more common in the Region in winter. This year Wisconsin had a report of a female and a young male in Milwaukee from January through the period, while Minnesota had reports of individuals Dec. 9 in *Tofte*, *Cook* (*fide* KE); Dec. 9 at *Split Rock Lighthouse*, *Lake* (*fide* KE); and Dec. 20 on L. Minnetonka, *Hennepin* (DS). In Michigan, individuals were reported Dec. 27 in *Alger* (LD), Jan. 3 in *Charlevoix* (LD), Feb. 22 in *Emmet* (LD), and an ad. male from Jan. 25 through the period in *Berrien* (m.ob.). All 3 scoter species were reported through the winter in both Michigan and Wisconsin; Black Scoter overwintering in the latter state for just the 2nd time. In Minnesota, three Black Scoters Dec. 1 on L. Calhoun, *Hennepin* (KB), was considered noteworthy. Impressive concentrations of Oldsquaw were reported in Michigan along L. Michigan in *Manistee*, with maximum totals of 7100 Jan. 15 (BA). Also at that location were 3000 Com.

Goldeneye Jan. 17 (KW). For the 4th consecutive winter, an ad. male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found at Virmond Park in Wisconsin; this season it was joined by a 2nd male and a female in late February. Michigan had reports of a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** seen occasionally from Dec. 29–Jan. 23 in *Berrien* (KM, m.ob.), while a male was found Feb. 22–23 at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (AB, PC, m.ob.). Finally, in Minnesota a male **Barrow's Goldeneye** wintered for the 3rd consecutive winter at Blue L., *Scott* (*fide* AH), and was seen Feb. 22–23 at Black Dog L., *Dakota* (PJ).

#### RAPTORS

A Turkey Vulture overwintered in Michigan in *Washtenaw*, while migrants appeared in that state by the end of February. Wisconsin reported "impressive" numbers of Golden Eagles along the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, while Minnesota had a noteworthy report of an imm. Golden Eagle from Jan. 7–8 in *Cook* (KH, MH). There was a remarkable number of Merlin reports in the Region this season, including seven–ten individuals in Wisconsin, 6 reports in Michigan, and 3 reports of the *richardsonii* subspecies in *Otter Tail*, MN (DMA, SM). As usual, the only Prairie Falcon report came from Minnesota, where one overwintered in *Hennepin*. Peregrine Falcons overwintered in Milwaukee and possibly Green Bay in Wisconsin, and were reported in *Wayne*, Michigan. Wisconsin had a single Gyrfalcon report on the Appleton CBC, while a dark-morph bird was present at its normal Michigan haunt in Sault Ste. Marie.

#### RAILS TO GULLS

Wisconsin reported four King and five Virginia rails on the Poynette CBC, with an additional Virginia on the Madison CBC. Sandhill Cranes arrived slightly early in Michigan, with the first presumed spring migrants reported in *Hillsdale* Feb. 8 (JRe). Even earlier in that state were Killdeer, with the first arrival Feb. 7 in *Calhoun* (RF). At the opposite extreme, Wisconsin had record-late dates for both Pectoral Sandpiper, with one Dec. 1 in Kewaunee harbor (JR), and Dunlin, with an individual to Jan. 3 at Sheboygan. Purple Sandpipers made a poor showing, with the only reports coming from Michigan, where one was reported sporadically from Dec. 14–Feb. 4 at Muskegon (GW, ES, JP), and another was seen Dec. 16 in *Ottawa* (JP). Both Wisconsin and Minnesota had record-early arrivals of Am. Woodcock; in the former state an individual was reported Feb. 19 in Madison (EH), and the latter state Feb. 28 in *Houston* (FL). The species also arrived early in Michigan, with the first report being Feb. 23 in *Berrien* (KM).

A **Laughing Gull** from Jan. 5–6 in *Berrien* (JRo, KM) provided Michigan with only its 2nd documented winter record. Also very late in that state was a Little Gull from Jan. 1–3 at Grand Haven, *Ottawa* (JW et al.). Wisconsin had 2 reports of **Mew Gull**, a young bird in mid-to late December (v.o.), and a probable adult Jan. 3, both in Milwaukee. All 3 states reported excellent numbers of Thayer's Gull. Iceland Gulls were reported in good numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin, and in Minnesota, where the species is considered casual,



**Ivory Gull in first-winter plumage at Port Washington, Wisconsin, on January 3, 1998. Photograph/Jeff Baughman**

there were 4 reports. Lesser Black-backed Gull reports in Wisconsin included individuals at Middleton/Madison Jan. 1, in Milwaukee Dec. 20 (DG), at DePere from Dec. 1–24 (JR, JH), and in LaCrosse from Feb. 28 through the period (DB, FL). In Minnesota there was a single 3rd-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull on L. Pepin, *Wabasha*, Dec. 1–2 (KB, RG, RJ), a first for that county. In Michigan, where the species continues to increase, there were reports from 7 counties with a maximum of four Dec. 7 in *Monroe* (WP). Remarkably, there were 4 reports of **Glaucous-winged Gull** in the Region, including reports in Minnesota of a first-winter bird Dec. 1 in Grand Marais, *Cook* (PS), a 2nd-winter bird on Dec. 13 in *St. Louis* (KB, PS), and a first-winter bird on Black Dog L., *Dakota*, from Dec. 18–Jan. 1 (KB, m.ob.). The *St. Louis* bird was also seen at the Superior Landfill in Wisconsin for several weeks (*vide* PS). A 2nd-winter individual found Dec. 29 in *Genessee* (AB, PC) would provide Michigan a first state record, if accepted by the MBRC.

Great Black-backed Gulls continue to increase in the w. part of the Region. This year Wisconsin had unprecedented numbers with reports from 6 counties, including a maximum of 25 individuals at Three Rivers. In Minnesota, where the species is considered casual, there were 3 reports, including first-winter birds Dec. 13 at Duluth (PS, KB), Dec. 21 in *Lake* (PS, KS), and the bird from late fall at Black Dog L., *Dakota*, found dead Dec. 20 (PB), providing a first specimen for the state. Black-legged Kittiwake is rare at best in the Region in winter, making the reports of immatures from Jan. 5–15 in *Bay*, MI (MW, m.ob.), and Dec. 24 in Port Washington, WI (TU), quite unusual. Even more remarkable were reports of an imm. **Ivory Gull** Dec. 31–Jan. 3 (SP, TU), and of an adult Jan. 10–13 (LMi, DT), both at Port Washington, only the 7th and 8th Wisconsin records of this rare Arctic gull.

#### OWLS TO KINGLETS

Barn Owl is extremely rare in the Region, making the roadkill Jan. 1 in Milwaukee, WI (DS), an exceptional find. Snowy Owls were found in good, but not exceptional, numbers in all 3 states. Minnesota reported average numbers of both N. Hawk Owl and Great Gray Owl (*vide* KE, WN). In Michigan, the only N. Hawk Owl outside the CBCs was s. of normal in *Charlevoix*, remaining from Feb. 5 through the period (HP, m.ob.). Also in that state were 3 Great



The winter range of Varied Thrush trails out into the region around the western Great Lakes, where 16 individuals were recorded this season. This male was photographed January 27, 1998, in Oconto County, Wisconsin. Photograph/ Tom Erdman

Gray Owl reports, including individuals in *Houghton* Dec. 12–20 (LM, JY), and on Neebish I. Feb. 22 (BT) and Drummond I. (KA), both *Chippewa*. Wisconsin had two Great Gray reports with individuals Jan. 14 near Brule, *Douglas* (GK), and on Washington Is., *Door* (MG). Both Short-eared and Long-eared owls were reported in average numbers throughout the Region. Northern Saw-whet Owls were a bit more numerous in Michigan, particularly in the s. Lower Peninsula.

Unprecedented for Michigan were two **Rufous Hummingbird** reports, including the adult present in the fall to Jan. 12 in Ludington, *Mason* (LR), and an immature Dec. 31–Jan. 11 which was caught and measured in Holland, *Ottawa* (TH, GM, m.ob.). A Red-headed Woodpecker that overwintered on Neebish I., *Chippewa* (BT), was well n. of normal in Michigan, as was one in *Otter Tail*, MN (DMA, SM). In Wisconsin, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Washington* Feb. 18–24 (SD) was considered noteworthy, as was a lingering E. Phoebe from Dec. 2–20 in Milwaukee (MB). The latter species also lingered in Michigan to Dec. 27 in *Wayne* (WP) and returned quite early, with the first report Feb. 28 in *Van Buren* (RS).

Carolina Wren reports were about normal in the Region. Winter Wrens lingered in all 3 states and certainly overwintered in Michigan. Wisconsin noted a Winter Wren from Dec. 20 to Jan. 16 in *Dane* (SR), while Minnesota noted one through Jan. 19 in *Hennepin*. Marsh Wren also likely overwintered in Michigan in *Monroe*, and was noted Dec. 20 in *Ozaukee*, WI (JF), while one Dec. 13–Jan. 1 in *Hennepin* provided a

rare winter record for Minnesota. There were 4 Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports in Wisconsin, including individuals Dec. 31 in *Crawford* (DK), Dec. 29–Jan. 29 in *Waupaca* (MP, JHe), Jan. 1–20 in *Dane* (SR), and “eating donuts” at several feeders in *Door* (BS, MB). In Minnesota, an exceptionally late migrant Ruby-crowned was found Dec. 21 in *St. Louis* (FN).

#### THRUSHES TO VIREOS

The only Mt. Bluebird report came from Minnesota, where 2 were reported Feb. 26 in *Freeborne* (WL), although all 3 states reported above-average numbers of E. Bluebirds. Wisconsin had 2 Townsend's Solitaire reports with individuals Jan. 31 in Devil's Lake S.P. (TW), and another from Jan. 29 through the period in *Kewaunee* (DT, m.ob.). Minnesota reports included first county records in *Sherburne* in late December (*vide* AH) and *Renville* from Feb. 19–20 (CM), as well as at more typical locations, with singles in *Wabasha*, *Winona*, and two in the Duluth area. A record-late Swainson's Thrush in Wisconsin was noted Dec. 20–21 in Milwaukee (BC, BD). Hermit Thrush overwintered in Michigan at several locations, including *Allegan* (JG), and in Wisconsin at Little Chute/Kimberly (DT). In Michigan, a first county record of Varied Thrush was noted in *Monroe* (CC); other individuals included one from Dec. 10 through the period in *Washtenaw* (JB) and one in *Arenac* Feb. 3 (GN). Wisconsin had 5 Varied Thrush reports, including individuals Dec. 28 through the period in *Sauk* (JM), Jan. 2 through the period in Park Falls (FK, KK), Dec. 29–Jan. 26 near

Gordon (FH), Jan. 10–Feb. 11 in *Oconto* (TE, KS, JSm), and Jan. 13 in *Luck* (CP). Minnesota had 8 Varied Thrush reports; those considered noteworthy included singles in Leota Twp., *Nobles*, Feb. 2–28 (ND); in Pine City, *Pine*, Jan. 24–Feb. 14 (m.ob.); and two at *Morrison* Jan. 24 (RJ); as well as more normal reports in *Becker*, *Otter Tail*, *St. Louis* and *Wright*.

Gray Catbirds lingered in greater numbers, with Wisconsin reporting one Dec. 18–20 in *Appleton* (DT), while Minnesota had singles Jan. 24 in *Anoka* (JHo) and Feb. 21–28 in *Dakota* (TT). Michigan had individuals Jan. 1 in *Manistee* (BA), and in *Berrien*, *Ingaham* (JMc), and *Lapeer*. Wisconsin had only one report of N. Mockingbird, an individual Dec. 9 in *Madison* (PA). Minnesota had 2 reports: individuals Feb. 7 in *Wabasha* (fide AH) and from January to February in *Becker* (BB). Michigan had 3 reports of Brown Thrasher, all well n. of normal, with individuals in *Iron*, in *Marquette* Jan. 21 (LT), and overwintering in *Calumet*, *Houghton* (LM). Wisconsin had one report of an individual, which wintered in *St. Croix Falls* (IW). Bohemian Waxwings appeared in average numbers throughout the Region, while N. Shrike numbers were considered low in all 3 states.

A **White-eyed Vireo** remained to Dec. 8 in *Madison* (PA et al.), providing only the 2nd winter record for Wisconsin.

## WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The mild winter produced an outstanding diversity of warblers in the Region. Wisconsin had a remarkable 3 reports of **Orange-crowned Warblers**, including one on the *Montello* CBC (TS), another Jan. 22 in *Oshkosh* (TZ), and a third on that date in *Milwaukee* (CB, PBu). The latter bird remained through the period and provided a first overwintering record for the state. Yellow-rumped Warblers lingered throughout the Region, being present to mid-winter in *Olmsted* and *Winona* in Minnesota and overwintering at several locations in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Also in Michigan, a **Yellow Warbler** was reported Dec. 27 in *Wayne* (JF). Wisconsin had a first winter record for **Yellow-throated Warbler** with an individual which first appeared Dec. 8 and successfully overwintered at a feeder w. of Onalaska. Michigan also had a rare report of this species with an individual from late January through Feb. 3 in *Bay* (JL, CA).

Even more uncommon in Michigan was an **Ovenbird**, which remained Dec. 6–Jan. 21 in *Pontiac*, *Oakland* (Cbo). A **Northern**



**At a feeder west of Onalaska, Wisconsin, this Yellow-throated Warbler (photographed in January 1998) survived the winter, the first of its species to do so in the state.**  
Photograph/ Leif Marking

**Waterthrush** in *Madison* from Dec. 12–20 provided only the 2nd wintering record for Wisconsin (PA). Minnesota reported a lingering Com. Yellowthroat to Dec. 13 in *Hennepin* (TT). Michigan had an unusually high number of reports of this species and they likely overwintered in some locations. Reports included individuals Dec. 20 on the *Manistee* and *E. Lansing* CBCs; Jan. 2 on the *Gobles* CBC, *Van Buren*; Jan. 6 in *Macomb* (MM); Jan. 19 at the *Shiawassee N.W.R.*, *Saginaw* (DP, MW); and to at least Jan. 17 in *Hillsdale* (JRe).

A female **Summer Tanager** that first appeared at a feeder in *Prescott* Dec. 7 remained to Christmas Day, and then reappeared Jan. 8–9 (JS), providing Wisconsin's first winter record. Wisconsin reported single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** Dec. 20 in *Green Bay* (JHa) and until Jan. 4 in *Prairie du Chien* (DK). Michigan had individuals in mid-December in *Berrien* (fide KM), and another in *Shiawassee* Dec. 24 (MPe). Rare at any season, a female **Black-headed Grosbeak** was present in Wisconsin Dec. 20–31 near *Gordon* (FH). Also in that state was a male **Indigo Bunting** found at a feeder from Jan. 7–11 in *Appleton* (DBr, RB), providing only the 2nd Wisconsin winter record of this species. Eastern Towhees overwintered in all 3 states, while its recent split, the **Spotted Towhee**, was reported only in Minnesota, with one from Dec. 21–Jan. 3 in *Fergus Falls*, *Otter Tail* (DMA, SM).

Chipping Sparrow, a very rare winter

species in the Region, was reported in Michigan with individuals Dec. 20 on the *Ann Arbor* CBC and another on Jan. 31 in *Berrien* (JG), while Minnesota had individuals from Dec. 18–Jan. 11 in *Hennepin* (SC) and another in *Fergus Falls*, *Otter Tail* (fide KE), providing a first overwintering record for that state. A **Field Sparrow** Jan. 25–Feb. 8 in *Dakota* (BM, DMi) was considered noteworthy in Minnesota. **Fox Sparrows** overwintered in *Wayne*, MI (JC), and in Wisconsin at *Vernon Marsh*, *Waukesha*. An overwintering **Lincoln's Sparrow** in *Fergus Falls*, *Otter Tail*, provided Minnesota's first such record for that species. Rare for Michigan, and n. of normal, was an overwintering **Harris's Sparrow** in *Baraga* (JY), while also n. were two which overwintered in Minnesota in *St. Louis*. Wisconsin had individuals on Dec. 11 in *Dane* (SR) and Dec. 25–Jan. 7 in *Milwaukee* (JM).

**Lapland Longspurs** were reported in good numbers in Wisconsin during December and January with flocks of 200–600. Wisconsin reported wintering **Red-winged**, **Brewer's**, and possibly **Rusty blackbirds**, along with wintering **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and **E. Meadowlarks**. Michigan had similar reports of late lingering individuals, and both states reported an early spring return of these "blackbird" species, with thousands seen by mid- to late February. In Michigan, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** on the *Bessemer* CBC was very late and n. of normal, while another Dec. 12 in *Monroe* (AB, KT) was slightly less surprising.

Exceptional were two **Baltimore Orioles** in Wisconsin, including a male Dec. 2 at a feeder in *Neenah* which attempted to overwinter, but succumbed Jan. 10 during a cold snap (BF). Another male was seen infrequently at an *Appleton* feeder into early January. **Pine Grosbeak** numbers were excellent in both Michigan and Wisconsin, while **Purple Finches** were considered scarce. **Red Crossbills** were considered scarce in Wisconsin, but came into s. Michigan in fair numbers. **White-winged Crossbills** made a good showing in all 3 states. They were reported in above-average numbers in s. Minnesota with a report of 150 Dec. 1 in *Brown* (JSp), while a report of 225 Jan. 10 in *Allegan* (RS) represented an exceptional total for s. Michigan. **Redpolls** made an outstanding showing in all 3 states with mainly **Commons** reported, but each state had excellent numbers of **Hoarys** as well. Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported poor numbers of **Pine Siskins**, good numbers of **Am. Goldfinches**, and fair numbers of **Evening Grosbeaks**, the latter

being more common in s. Michigan than in the past few years.

#### CORRIGENDUM

Delete the Spring 1997 (*Field Notes* 51:872) Ross's Goose reports in Michigan from *Huron* Mar. 23 and *Muskegon* Apr. 14; documentation was not submitted to support the sightings.

#### Cited Observers (state compilers in bold):

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# midwestern prairie region



#### KENNETH J. BROCK

This season numerous correspondents attributed birding quality to El Niño; others blamed this global phenomenon for everything from allergies to viruses. El Niño or not, the Midwestern Prairie Region experienced a very unusual winter. December temperatures were cool, but January and February brought April-like weather to the Region. In central Indiana, Alan Bruner noted that having to clean insects off his windshield was a rare treat for January. Even more extraordinary for January was the sight of a Yellow-breasted Chat feeding on bees in Chicago!

Virtually all water was open for the last two-thirds of the season. Winter precipitation levels varied across the Region; February was snowless in Chicago, but Louisville received a hefty 22+ inches from a storm that passed through February 4. Bob Danley suggested that the weather pattern was remarkably similar to the strong El Niño winter of 1982–1983.

The mild conditions and open water enticed scores of fall migrants to dally in the

Region. Others simply spent the winter. Brad Jacobs explained the dearth of American Robins wintering in Texas (to a puzzled Texan) by simply noting that they had all remained in Missouri. Taking advantage of the “early spring,” many migrants also headed north in February. Several correspondents concluded that the winter of 1997–1998, with its late departures, early arrivals, and comfortable birding conditions, was the most memorable ever. Indeed, there were far more birds present than in typical years. In January, Jim Haw found 101 species in northern Indiana (his previous maximum was 80), and a late February team count in northwest Indiana found 77 species in one day (previous maximum less than 50). Several observers were less sanguine about the season; in central Illinois, H. David Bohlen noted that following the departure of the December stragglers, this was one of the most boring winter seasons ever.

In addition to many more birds than normal, the season yielded great loons, excellent grebes, a bevy of shorebirds, and a dozen warbler species. With the mild tem-