

thinned out (NE). Boreal Owls reached a maximum of 4 on Amherst I. 13–17 Jan. Also present here were up to 30 Short-eareds, 20 Long-eareds, 13 Snowy Owls, and 11 Northern Sawwhets. The Belted Kingfisher at Atikokan 1–3 Feb (DHE) provided a first winter record for the Rainy River district.

Flycatchers Through Blackbirds

An Eastern Phoebe at Wheatley 1–3 Jan (TH) was unique. A Northern Mockingbird at Sudbury somehow survived the winter there. The only Mountain Bluebird was seen just w. of Port Rowan 8 Dec (MH). This will be just the third Long Point record if accepted. A Townsend's Solitaire was at Toronto 14 Jan (AD) and remained until the end of the period, though it proved very elusive. Another was at Dryden until 6 Dec. A Varied Thrush was fairly dependable at Port Franks until about 15 Jan. A male attended a feeder near the Petroglyphs P.P. 8 Jan to at least 23 Feb. The homeowner reports seeing 2 at once. Another was at the Soo throughout the period. Yet another attended feeders in Baysville, Muskoka (F & SW et al.) 13–18 Dec.

Pine Grosbeaks appeared in modest numbers at Algonquin but rarely farther south. At Algonquin, the peak count was 101 on the C.B.C. 30 Dec. In the Rainy River district, they remained all winter in record-high numbers. White-winged Crossbills were abundant after 23 Dec at Algonquin with 2154 counted on the C.B.C. At Rainy River, and even at Sudbury, they were very scarce. A nest was found at the Palgrave Conservation Area 25 Feb (vt. GC, RS), one of fewer than 10 nests ever found in the province. A flock of 50 Common Redpolls was at Espanola 17 Feb, but they were very scarce any farther south. A Yellow-throated Warbler turned up at a feeder in Georgetown (vt. P. Kimber) 3–12 Dec. Another remained at Thunder Bay until 4 Dec. An Ovenbird attended a feeder in London until 17 Dec (EG). A Pine Warbler spent the winter at Long Point (m.ob.), with another on the Pt. Colborne C.B.C. 17 Dec. A Field Sparrow survived at Toronto I. 4 Dec–8 Jan (m.ob.). A Vesper Sparrow was present at Cherrywood in Durham (AGC, TS, m.ob.) 1–12 Jan. Two Harris's Sparrows were seen by many, one just e. of St. Catharines to at least 18 Feb, another attending a Pickering feeder 26 Dec–31 Jan. Another more northerly Harris's Sparrow was at Thunder Bay until at least Christmas Day (GW). A male Dickcissel was seen 19 Dec at Cobourg (RN). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Durham 17 Dec (C.B.C.). The female Red-winged Blackbird at Algonquin Park on the C.B.C. represented a first winter record for the

park. Brewer's Blackbird reports include two at Port Rowan (RR) 9–16 Dec and one at Long Point (DM) 10 Jan.

Corrigenda

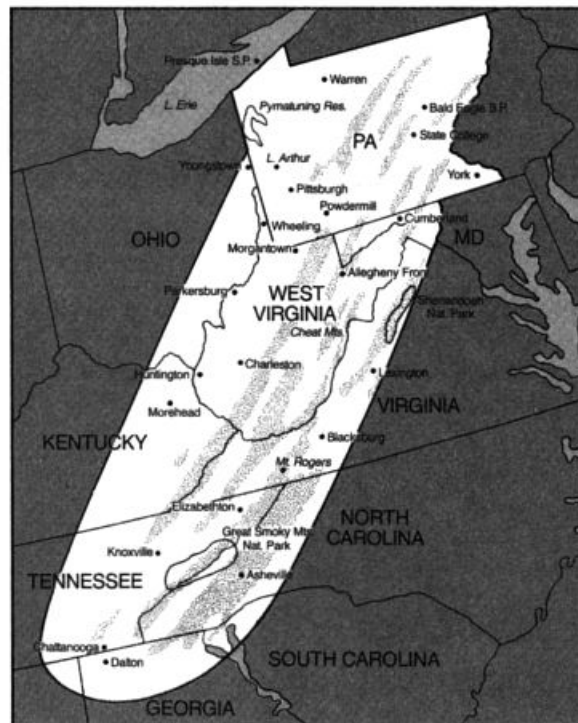
From Vol. 54, No. 4: The Tricolored Heron reported at Hillman Marsh 31 Jul was unconfirmed and should be struck, and the Swainson's Thrush at Pelee was seen 22 Jul (*not* 7 Jun), a probable early fall migrant.

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Appalachia



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After a series of milder than usual winters, Appalachia experienced what can best be described as “a good old-fashioned winter,” with plenty of snow throughout the season and persistently cold, if not really harsh, temperatures. Throughout much of the northern

half of region, snow cover and frozen lakes were the norm from early December on. Total snow accumulations were heavy along the Lake Erie shore, where 120" was measured through February. With small mammal prey hidden beneath deep snowcover, some raptors such as Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged Hawks, as well as American Kestrel, wintered farther south in larger numbers than usual. Similarly, American Tree Sparrows wandered somewhat farther south than usual this winter, perhaps because wild seed crops were inaccessible due to snow farther north. Despite the snowcover, and no doubt thanks to the general lack of extended periods of bitterly cold weather, semi-hardy species like Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, and White-throated Sparrow wintered well through most of the Region.

Abbreviations: P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, *Westmoreland*, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA).

Loons Through Vultures

Rather late southbound Red-throated Loons were at Keystone Res., *Armstrong*, PA 3 Dec (MH, RH), and P.I.S.P. 10 & 16 Dec (JM), while rare midwinter sightings included one at Chambersburg, PA 23 Jan (DG) and one at Chickamauga L., TN 22–23 Jan (KC, JN). A Common Loon was on a patch of open water at Meander L., *Mahoning*, OH 13 Feb (CB); in Tennessee 2 birds each wintered at Watauga and S. Holston Lakes (RKn). With lakes in the north frozen by mid-Dec, a Pied-billed Grebe found some wintering habitat on the Allegheny R. at Oil City, 20 Jan (JS); high count in the south was of 125+ at Douglas L., TN 12 Jan (RKn). A total of 224 Horned Grebes was on Boone L., TN 3 Dec, and 30 were at Watauga L. 14 Jan (RKn). An Eared Grebe was a first for Keystone Res., *Indiana*, PA 3 Dec (MH, RH), and at least 11 were found wintering on S. Holston L., TN (RKn, WCo). A Double-crested Cormorant lingered at Pymatuning Res., PA until 9 Dec (RFL), one was at Codorus S.P., *York*, PA 10 Dec (JJP), and up to 40 wintered at Kingsport, TN (RKn).

A few Great Blue Herons successfully overwintered along rivers and streams in w. Pennsylvania despite the lack of open still water habitats (m.ob.), and the first known Great Blue rookery in *Sullivan*, TN contained 9 occupied nests by 27 Feb (RKn). A **Great White Heron**, first observed near Brevard, NC, last summer, remained through 25 Jan (NS). The only Great Egret reported was in *Bledsoe*, TN 3 Dec (BJ), and the lone Green Heron was at Brevard, NC until 15 Dec (NS). Up to 19

Black-crowned Night-Herons wintered at Kingsport, TN (RKn). Black Vultures continue to expand their range northwestward and are now found as permanent residents in Blackwater Canyon, *Tucker*, WV (GF). Unknown in w. Pennsylvania in midwinter until the last few years, a Turkey Vulture was at Connemaugh Dam, *Indiana* 11 Jan (LLH), one was at New Castle 17 Jan (BD), and 2 were at *Corsica*, *Jefferson* 20 Jan (JF).

Waterfowl

Two Greater White-fronted Geese were rare finds in *Bledsoe*, TN 27 Dec, as were 3 at Brainerd Levee, *Hamilton*, TN 28 Dec (both BJ, JN); even more unusual was one at New Bethlehem, PA 12 Feb (JF). A flock of 1500 Snow Geese was seen feeding in fields near Stewartstown, *York*, PA 4 Feb (RP), and there were numerous reports of individual birds or small flocks elsewhere in w. Pennsylvania and w. Maryland; 10 Snows were at Hiwassee W.R., *Meigs*, TN 1 Jan (KC), 3 at Brainerd Levee, TN 16–17 Jan (JG), and 2 in *Walker*, GA 6 Jan (*vide* MB). At Pymatuning L., PA, Canada Geese peaked at 10,315 on 26 Jan (RFL). A Brant at Coudersport, PA 25 Jan (GW) was both out of season and out of place! On 9 Dec a flock of 352 southbound Tundra Swans stopped at L. Arthur, PA (DDr, DY), and 50 were on Cheat L., WV (JC); early spring migrants included a flock of 64 at Mercer, PA 28 Feb (NT).

Wood Ducks began returning n. during the last week of Feb, with 2 at Yellow Cr. S.P., PA 20 Feb (MH), and one at P.I.S.P. on the 25th (JM). Twenty-three Gadwall was a good count at L. Osceola, *Henderson*, NC 24 Dec (WF), 90 were listed in *Augusta*, VA 26 Feb (YL), and a high count of 226 was made at Kingsport, TN 18 Feb (RKn). A flock of 22 American Black Ducks in *Towns*, GA 1 Jan was unusual for the mountains there (*vide* MB), as were 116 in s. *Garrett*, MD 16 Dec (FP). High Mallard counts included 7378 at Pymatuning L., PA 26 Jan (RFL), and 3,907 on the *Trumbull*, OH C.B.C. 17 Dec. Better midwinter counts of Northern Pintail were of 5 at L. Osceola 21 Dec (WF, RSe), 8 in *Walker*, GA 6 Jan (MD), and 17 at Reedsville, *Preston*, WV 7 Feb (GF). A Northern Pintail x Mallard hybrid was well described from Harrisonville, *Fulton*, PA 20 Feb (DS). Seventy southbound Redheads were on Boone L., TN 3 Dec (RKn); and 132 spring migrants were on L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 28 Feb (WF, RSe). On 9 Dec, 3 Surf Scoters were at P.I.S.P., and there were six sightings there between 13–30 Jan (JM); one was on Deep Cr. L., MD 9 Dec (JC); in Tennessee singles were at Cove L. S.P. 2 Dec (NM) and Chickamauga L. 9–29 Dec (MP). A total of 5 White-winged

Scoters was listed at P.I.S.P. 16 Dec–18 Jan (JM, MF), and a male on Chickamauga L. 23 Dec–15 Jan (*vide* KC) was the first for *Hamilton*, TN in many years. Single Black Scoters were at P.I.S.P. 9 Dec (JM) and at Chickamauga L. 3–10 Dec (KC). The only Long-tailed Duck sightings s. of L. Erie were of singles on the Ohio R. at Newberry I., *Wood*, WV 14 Jan (JE) and at Chickamauga L. 11–16 Dec (KC). A bird identified as a probable Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye was on the Allegheny R. near Oil City, PA 1–7 Jan (JS). Better Ruddy Duck counts included 75 at Tamarack L., Meadville, PA 2 Dec (RFL) and 45 on Deep Cr L., MD 10 Dec (FP).

Raptors Through Gulls

A late Osprey was observed in *Greene*, TN 16 Dec (DM), and a midwinter bird was at Pymatuning Res., PA 7 Jan (RFL). There were some excellent C.B.C. Bald Eagle totals, including a record 24 at Pymatuning 17 Dec, a dozen in *Trumbull*, OH 17 Dec, and 20 at Hiwassee W.R., TN 1 Jan. Nine Bald Eagles wintered on the Ohio R. at Parkersburg, WV (JE), and 31 were listed on a survey in w. Pennsylvania 11–17 Jan (*vide* DBr). More than the usual number of Northern Goshawks were found w. of the mt. ridges in Pennsylvania: 3 were in *Crawford* 15 Dec–9 Feb (RFL, RCL), and singles were at Franklin 21 Jan (JS), W. Lebanon, *Indiana* 7 Dec (MM), and Marion Twp, *Butler* 17 Dec (RC). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was a midwinter rarity on the Hiwassee, TN C.B.C. 1 Jan (BJ, JN, DA). Rough-legged Hawks were numerous nearly throughout w. Pennsylvania (m.ob.), 6 were listed on the *Trumbull*, OH, C.B.C. 17 Dec, and a few wintered near Frostburg and Cumberland, MD (JC). E. Tennessee sightings included one near Knoxville 31 Dec (DT, AT), one in *Meigs* 9 Dec, and 4 from *Bledsoe* 3 Dec–2 Feb (*vide* KC). Two were at Burkes Garden, VA 17 Feb (WCo, RKn). An ad. Golden Eagle wintered at Pigeon Mt. N.W.A., *Walker*, GA (*vide* MB), 2 were at Burke's Garden 17 Feb (WC, RKn), and one was at Hiwassee 1 Jan (KC); an early northbound migrant passed by Allegheny Front, *Bedford*, PA 19 Feb (DBy). In recent years, Merlins have begun wintering regularly in w. Pennsylvania: at least 4 were at Schenley Park, Pittsburgh all season (PH), four sightings came from *Erie*, 6 Jan–13 Feb (*vide* JM), and singles were at Latrobe 20 Dec (TV) and Ligonier 4 Dec (MM). A dark-morph **Gyr Falcon** was an exciting find, sparking considerable birder interest, at P.I.S.P. 27 Jan–2 Feb (RSt, DC, v.o.).

On 15 Dec, just before freeze-over, 1750 American Coots were on Conneaut L., PA

(RCL, RFL), 1000 were at L. Moomaw, *Bath*, VA 13 Jan (YL), and a remarkable 17,094 were listed on the Nickajack, TN C.B.C. 30 Dec. Four Sandhill Cranes stopped over in the Mills River area, *Henderson*, NC 6–12 Dec (WF), 11,053 were censused by the Tennessee W.R.A. at Hiwassee W.R. 6 Dec (WA), and 2 early migrants appeared near Bald Eagle S.P., *Centre*, PA 26 Feb (RSn, m.ob.). In Tennessee 20 Least Sandpipers were at Hiwassee 1 Jan (KC), and one was at S. Holston L. 2 Jan (RKn). A late Dunlin appeared at P.I.S.P. 10 Dec (JM), while a late American Woodcock was found on the *York*, PA C.B.C. 17 Dec. There were two rare winter records of Laughing Gull for e. Tennessee: one at Cherokee L. 1 Jan (RKn) and another at Chickamauga L. 12 Feb (KC). The season's only Little Gull was at P.I.S.P. 16 Dec (JM), and a Black-headed Gull was there 1 Dec (PH, SS). A concentration of 1700 Bonaparte's and 2850 Ring-billed Gulls had gathered at Cherokee L. 11 Jan (RKn). An extensive survey of the Ohio R. from Pittsburgh, PA w. to the Ohio border listed 3400 Ring-billed and 50 Herring Gulls 18–19 Dec (SK). There were four sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at P.I.S.P. 11–15 Feb (JM), and one was on the Ohio R. at Edgeworth, *Allegheny*, PA 6 Jan (SK, m.ob.) A Glaucous Gull was at P.I.S.P. 10 Dec (JM), and up to 3 were there 31 Jan–24 Feb (m.ob.). Rare in the Region away from L. Erie, a Great Black-backed Gull was on the Ohio R. at Pittsburgh 30 Dec (CT), and one (same bird?) was a few miles upriver on the *Allegheny* 26–29 Jan (SK, PH).

Doves Through Warblers

The Eurasian Collared-Dove population explosion continued in se. Tennessee, where 198 were listed on the Chattanooga C.B.C. 16 Dec. Two Barn Owls were at a regular site in Johnson City, TN this season (RKn), and one was found roosting in a spruce thicket with 2 Long-eared Owls in *Clarion*, PA mid-Feb (JF). A Snowy Owl frequented P.I.S.P. until at least 3 Feb (JM, ME, v.o.), and one was in Greene Twp., *Erie* the first week of Jan (GM); others were at Biglerville, *Adams*, PA for several days in late Nov (*fide* PR), at Pymatuning Res. 1 Dec (RFL) and 17 Dec (RCL), and in w. *Westmoreland*, PA 7 Feb (JPO). Short-eared Owls were widely reported from w. Pennsylvania, where better counts included 5 at W Lebanon, *Indiana*, in Dec (MH, RH), 5 along Pumping Station Rd., *Adams* (AK) 21 Dec, and a high of 14 in Dec in Marion Twp., *Butler* (RC). In Maryland a Short-eared was in *Garrett* 9 Dec (JC). A scattering of Northern Saw-whet Owls was reported from across w. Pennsylvania (v.o.), and one was heard calling

at Cranesville Swamp, MD 27 Feb (FP). The no-longer-unexpected occurrence of one or more western hummingbird species wintering in the southern Appalachians included a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** banded at Ringold, *Catoosa*, GA 29 Dec (*fide* MB), an imm. male **Calliope Hummingbird** in *Hamilton*, TN 22–28 Jan (DW) which also was trapped and banded (BS), and 3 different Rufous Hummingbirds banded (CS, FM) in *Hamilton*, at least one of which remained throughout the period (*fide* KC).

Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen on the *Trumbull*, OH C.B.C., one visited a feeder at Mercer, PA, all season (NT), and another was a rare winter find near Parkersburg, WV 15 Feb (*fide* JE). Eastern Phoebes were on C.B.C. lists in *Trumbull*, OH 20 Dec, and Raystown, PA 20 Dec; others were at Whitesburg, *Armstrong*, PA 19 Dec, Elderton 5 Jan, and Shelocta, *Indiana* 22 Feb (all MH, RH). A Loggerhead Shrike was at Fairfield, *Adams*, PA 3 Dec, for a rare Pennsylvania winter record (JNL); however, the species was considered scarce in ne. Tennessee, where it winters regularly (RKn). At least 19 Northern Shrikes were tallied from 14 counties in w. Pennsylvania (*fide* PH); 2 were in *Trumbull*, OH 17 Dec (CB). Horned Larks were found in good numbers throughout the Region, including a total of 930 at two locations near New Castle, PA 28 Jan (BD, GD), 300 at Berlin, *Somerset*, PA 10 Dec (JP), and 436 on the Nickajack, TN, C.B.C. 30 Dec. An early Tree Swallow appeared in *Greene*, TN 25 Feb (DM), and 4 were in *Washington*, TN on the 26th (RKn). Although several Red-breasted Nuthatches were found as far s. as *Rabun*, GA 13 and 25 Jan (*fide* MB), they were either missing or uncommon over most of the Region. Two Brown-headed Nuthatches were a good find at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 15 Feb (WF). Despite the cold weather and continuous snow cover, Carolina Wrens did well, wintering successfully as far n. as *Mahoning*, OH (CB) and Warren, PA (TG). A House Wren was well n. of its usual wintering range at Parkersburg, WV 30 Dec (*fide* JE), and another was in the Mills River area, *Henderson*, NC 28 Jan (WF). In Tennessee 2 Sedge Wrens were found at Brainerd Levee 16 Dec (KC), one was in *Marion* 30 Dec (*fide* KC), and one was in *Blount* 20 Jan (AW). A Marsh Wren also was at Brainerd Levee 16 Dec (KC), and another in the French Broad R. Valley, NC 28 Feb (WF, RSe). A Gray Catbird was a rare winter find at Warren, PA 16 Dec (TG), as were 2 at Yellow Cr. S.P., PA 29 Jan (MH, RH), and a Brown Thrasher was even more unusual on the *Indiana*, PA C.B.C. 26 Dec. An American Pipit

was very late so far north at P.I.S.P. 16 Dec (JM), while in the south a flock of 100+ was at Mills River, NC 3 Feb (WF, BO). Rare in winter, 2 Orange-crowned Warblers were listed during the Chattanooga C.B.C. 16 Dec, and one was at Amnicola Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN 7 Jan (*fide* KC). A Pine Warbler visited a Warren, PA feeder 1 Jan–18 Feb (BH, JK); in Tennessee one was at Mountain City 23 Dec, and one in *Washington* 6 Jan (RKn). A Western Palm Warbler was found on the Bushy Run, *Westmoreland*, PA C.B.C. 17 Dec, and a Palm was at Long Level, *York*, PA 13 Dec (DH)—both well n. of their usual wintering range in the Appalachians.

Finches

The passerine of the season was the **Green-tailed Towhee** observed in the N. Branch area of the C&O Canal, *Allegheny*, MD, 1 Jan (†RK1, BMT, RB)—a first for the state! American Tree Sparrows were in the best numbers in several years: the 483 on the *Indiana*, PA C.B.C. was 65% over the previous high, and Butler's 285 was more than double average (*fide* PH), one or 2 ventured as far s. as the Kingston Steam Plant 5–10 Jan (AW), and one at Amnicola Marsh was the first for se. Tennessee since the 1980s (KC). One or 2 Le Conte's Sparrows wintered in Shady Valley, TN, for just the 2nd known occurrence there (HPL, RKn). Although Dark-eyed Juncos numbers were low in much of the Region, including P.N.R. (RM, RCL), a total of 1346 was a record high C B C count at Warren, PA. An Oregon Junco was at Edinboro, *Erie* PA, 5–6 Jan (PP), and one was at Rosman, *Transylvania*, NC in late Feb (ph NS). Numerous sightings of Lapland Longspurs across w. Pennsylvania included a remarkably high count of 150 near Guy's Mills, *Crawford* 10 Feb (IK), and better Snow Bunting counts were of 100 at Kahle L., *Venango*, PA (JS) and 180 at New Castle 28 Jan (BD). An out-of-season Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Warren, PA 16 Dec (*fide* TG), and another was at a Johnson City, TN feeder 7 Dec (JB), while a Dickcissel lingered at Brevard, NC until 14 Dec (NS). This winter's lone report of a Brewer's Blackbird came from *Sequatchie*, TN 8 Feb (BJ), and the only Baltimore Oriole, an ad. male, was seen near Ligonier, PA 1 Jan (DL).

Purple Finches were scarce throughout the Region, but better counts included 20 at McAlvey's Ft., *Huntingdon*, PA 11 Feb (GG) and 47 on the *Indiana*, PA C.B.C. 26 Dec. Red Crossbills, while not widely reported, were present through the entire period in *Tucker*, WV, where breeding had been suspected earlier in 2000 (GF). Pine Siskin numbers were the

lowest in several winters, but small numbers reached as far south as ne. Tennessee (RKn) and n. Georgia (MB). The 2 Evening Grosbeaks listed on the Indiana, PA C.B.C. 26 Dec comprised the only report from Appalachia during the period.

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Western Great Lakes



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Unlike the past several mild winters, this season was characterized by cold temperatures and high snowfalls. It was particularly harsh in Minnesota during December, where temperatures were 11° F below average, the 3rd coldest since 1895, while snowfall was 200% above normal for the month. Wisconsin and Michigan had similar Decembers, perhaps a little less harsh. January was warmer in

Minnesota, although the cold weather returned in February. Michigan and Wisconsin had warmer conditions in January and February and less precipitation. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan received considerable amounts of snow in the latter part of February.

The most notable occurrence during the season was the northern owl invasion in the northern portions of the Region. Minnesota fared best, with record numbers of both Northern Hawk Owls and Great Gray Owls. Michigan had good numbers of owls in the Sault Ste. Marie area, while Wisconsin nearly missed out, with just a few sightings. In con-

trast, winter finches were nearly absent in much of the Region. As normal a few real rarities showed up this season including a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in Minnesota, a Black-throated Sparrow in Wisconsin, and a Rufous Hummingbird in Michigan. There were also an unusual number of lingering species, particularly sparrows.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (Michigan Bird Records Committee), M.O.R.C. (Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee), N.C. (Nature Center).

Loons Through Vulture

As in the past few years, Red-throated Loons lingered on s. L. Michigan in both Wisconsin and Michigan, the latest being 7 Jan at Muskegon, MI (AB). A **Pacific Loon** 21 Jan on L. Superior in *St. Louis* (SP) provided Minnesota only its 2nd winter record. Unusual in Minnesota were up to 4 Horned Grebes which overwintered on L. Superior in *St. Louis* and *Lake*. An Eared Grebe 17 Dec at Neenah (TW) was Wisconsin's 7th Dec record. A Red-necked Grebe was recorded in Michigan 2 Jan at Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (AB) and one in Wisconsin 16 Dec at Milwaukee (TW), while another was reported from 13 Jan–mid-Feb in Minnesota on L. Superior in *St. Louis* and *Lake*. A Western Grebe 26 Nov–20 Jan in Two Harbors, *Lake* (JL, m.ob.) was Minnesota's 6th winter record and its 2nd latest date. Late in Michigan was an American Bittern 11 Dec at L. Erie Metropark, *Wayne* (PC). A Great Egret was present in Minnesota 2 Dec at Black Dog L., *Dakota* (PB et al.), while another was reported in Wisconsin 4 Dec in *Marquette*