

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.

Contributors and cited observers: David Aborn, Wally Akins, Carole Babyak, Michael Bell, Ralph K. Bell, Dan Brauning (DBr), George Breiding, Janet Brown, Roy Brown (RBr), Dick Byers (DBy), Kevin Calhoon, John Churchill, Wallace Coffey (WCo), Doug Couchman, Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney

(DDr), David Davis, Barb Dean, George Dean, Marion Dobbs, Jeanette Esker, John Fedak, Gary Felton, Mike Fialkovich, Wayne Forsythe, Dale Gearhart, John Gentle, Ted Grisez, Greg Grove, Dan Heathcote, Len and Linda Hess (LLH), Paul Hess (PH), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Bill Hill, Bonnie Johnson, Art Kennell, Isaac Kerns, Ray Kiddy (RKi), Jim King, Scott Kinzey, Rick Knight (RKn), H. P. Langridge, YuLee Larner, Dennis Lauffer, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Jack and Nancy Locher (JNL), Tony Marich, Mark McConaughy, Jerry McWilliams (JM), Don Miller, Gloria Miller,

Fred Moore, Nell Moore, Robert Mulvihill, Judy Newsome, Julia Pahountis-Opacic, Marty Paige, Peg Paxon, Jeff Payne, Randy Phillips, Fran Pope, John and Jean Prescott (JJP), Peter Robinson, Bob Sargent, Ron Selvey (RSe), Richard Shelling, Sam Sinderson, Chris Sloan, Robert Snyder (RSn), Randy Stringer (RSt), Norma Siebenheller, Daniel Snell, Jerry Stanley, Chuck Tague, John Trapp, Allen Trently, David Trently, Neil Troyer, Bob and Mary Twigg (BMT), Anthony Whitted, Diane Whitman, Gary Witmore, Tim Vechter, Debra Yovanovich.



Western Great Lakes



Jim Granlund
Research Associate
Kalamazoo Nature Center
6253 North Westnedge
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009

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*

(DC), both provided 2nd winter records in their respective states. A report of 165 Great Blue Herons 17 Feb in Trenton, *Wayne* (WP) was an unusually high total for such an early date in Michigan. Also in that state, Turkey Vultures overwintered in *Washtenaw* for the 2nd consecutive year.

Waterfowl

A record 522 Trumpeter Swans was reported in Minnesota 25 Jan along the Mississippi River near Monticello, *Sherburne, Wright* (SK), while another 204 were present on the Otter Tail River at Fergus Falls, *Otter Tail* (DM, SM). Early in Wisconsin was a Greater White-fronted Goose 17 Feb in *Dodge* (BD), while a Ross's Goose on 21 Feb in *Ozaukee* (JF) was record early in that state. Another Ross's Goose was present 3 Dec in *Washtenaw* (AC, TW) in Michigan. As might be expected with the early cold weather and the resulting icing of open water, the number of lingering ducks was low throughout the Region. Exceptions included 2 Wood Ducks 23–27 Jan in *Marquette* (LT), both late and n. of normal in Michigan, and a very early Blue-winged Teal 16 Feb in Wisconsin (PP). As usual a good concentration of diving ducks was present in se. Michigan including 12,000 Canvasback and 8,000 Redhead in L. St. Clair, *Macomb* (AR). A **King Eider** 29 Dec–15 Jan at Two Harbors, *Lake* (JL, PS, m.ob.) was the 15th winter record for Minnesota and a new record late date. Harlequin Ducks reports in Michigan included an individual in *Berrien* 4 Dec (KM), 2 at South Haven, *Van Buren* 3 Dec (JG, RS), an individual at Muskegon, *Muskegon* 6 Jan (SM), an ad. male 24 Dec–Feb on the Grand R in downtown Grand Rapids, *Kent* (BSw), and a female 5 Jan in *St. Clair* (DMc). Wisconsin reported Harlequins from *Milwaukee* 6 Jan (DT) and *Sheboygan* 10 Feb (DW), while Minnesota had reports from L. Superior of an individual 19 Dec in *Cook* (KH, MH) and an ad. male 29 Dec–3 Feb in *St. Louis*. Several Surf Scoters at Harrington Beach S.P provided Wisconsin its 6th overwintering record (BD). Up to 2 White-winged Scoters on L. Superior in *Lake* and *St. Louis* that remained to 3 Feb (CMe) were considered unusual in Minnesota. Black Scoters were seen in better-than-average numbers in Michigan this winter, with individuals in *Berrien* (KM), *Muskegon* (m.ob.), and an inland record 27 Jan on the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids, *Kent* (JG). Unusual away from L. Superior in Minnesota were 2 overwintering Long-tailed Ducks on the Mississippi River in *Dakota* (BL, JM et al.). For the first time in several years, impressive totals of Long-tailed Ducks were

reported from the e.-cen. shore of L. Michigan, with 700 on 28 Dec in *Leelanau* (KW), 2000 on 11 Feb in *Benzie* (CFr), and 11,300 on 12 Feb in *Manistee* (BA). For the 7th consecutive year, a male **Barrow's Goldeneye** overwintered at Virmond Park in Wisconsin, while singles of this species were reported 11 Feb at Wisconsin Point (RJo) and 31 Dec at *Manitowoc* (JN). In Minnesota another ad. male was present 3 Feb+ in Duluth, *St. Louis* (HD, PS, KE).

Hawks Through Gulls

Northern Goshawk numbers were up this season in Minnesota, where over 50 reports were submitted from 25 counties, this after several years of declines. In Michigan, overwintering Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in greater numbers this season, including one in *Chippewa* n. of their normal winter range. Also n. of normal in that state were reports of Golden Eagles from *Mackinac* (JG, JR) 27 Dec and *Chippewa* 2 Jan (AB, PCh). Unusual for the Twin Cities area of Minnesota was a report of a Golden Eagle from 23 Dec–20 Jan on the Minnesota River, *Dakota/Hennepin* (TT, m.ob.). Winter Merlins continue to increase in both Michigan and Wisconsin. This year both states had reports from six counties. All three states hosted Gyrfalcons this season. Michigan had a gray-morph bird through the period in Sault Ste. Marie, *Chippewa* (CL, HW). Minnesota had numerous reports, including a subadult gray morph from 23 Dec+ (DE, m.ob.) and an immature gray morph 18 Dec (PS) in Duluth. Also in that state were an individual on the Grand Marais C.B.C., an ad. gray morph from 11–13 Jan in Virginia, *St. Louis* (BY), an individual 18 Feb (MG) and an ad. gray morph 12 Jan (MO), both in *Roseau*, and an imm. gray morph in Donaldson, *Kittson* (CA). One of the Gyrfalcons in Duluth was also seen sporadically in Superior through the period, providing Wisconsin its only report. Winter Peregrine Falcon reports are increasing in Michigan: this season birds were reported from 4 counties. Gray Partridge were more numerous this season in Minnesota, with 179 individuals reported from 19 counties. Wisconsin had good numbers of Gray Partridge in *Outagamie* (DT). Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were up significantly from the past few winters in the Sault Ste. Marie area of Michigan: as many as 100 birds were seen in a single day. In Minnesota, a Virginia Rail 19 Dec at Mound Springs Park, *Hennepin* (SC) provided Minnesota with only its 9th winter record. Equally unusual was a Sora 17 Dec in Michigan during the Berrien Springs C.B.C., *Berrien* (KM). Well n. of normal at the late date of 13 Jan in Michigan was a Killdeer observed

in Sault Ste. Marie (CG). After a remarkable season last year, Purple Sandpipers were much scarcer this winter in Michigan, with reports of an individual 2 Dec (KM) and 2 on 3 Dec (PK) at Muskegon, and 1 from 20 Jan–12 Feb at Port Sheldon, *Ottawa* (CG, DS, m.ob.) Wisconsin reported a single Purple Sandpiper 2 Dec at *Milwaukee* (DT). North of normal in Minnesota were a Common Snipe 4 Dec in Duluth (*fide* KE) and one that overwintered in *Otter Tail* (DM, SM). The only jaeger in the Region this winter came from Michigan, where an individual was seen 23 Dec in *Berrien* (KM). Gull numbers were reported as being down along the L. Michigan coast of Wisconsin and were similarly scarce in Michigan. Very unexpected in Michigan was an ad. Franklin's Gull in alternate plumage 21 Jan at the Muskegon Wastewater, *Muskegon* (AB, GB). Also in that state was the only Little Gull report in the Region, an ad. 10 Dec at *Muskegon* (CF). Late in Minnesota were 15 Bonaparte's Gulls 2 Dec at Afton, *Washington* (BL). The **Mew Gull** first seen in Nov in Wisconsin remained to 2 Dec in *Milwaukee* (DG, DT). Thayer's Gull numbers were reported as down in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, but about an average number was seen in Michigan. Unusual in Wisconsin were inland Iceland Gull reports 16 Dec in *Brown* (JH), 4 Jan in *Outagamie* (DT), and 10 Feb in *Winnebago* (ME). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also scarce this season, with fewer than normal reports in Michigan, a single report in Dec in *Dane* (ME, PA) in Wisconsin, and an ad. 2 Dec at Black Dog L., *Dakota* (TT) in Minnesota.

Doves Through Thrushes

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** overwintered in Minnesota at Russell, *Lyon* (RSc, m.ob.) and an individual was seen until 28 Jan at Oconto in Wisconsin (MP). Fewer than 100 Snowy Owls were reported in Minnesota during the season, which is not exceptional, while Michigan also had lackluster numbers, with a few scattered reports throughout the state. In contrast Wisconsin had an excellent year for this species, with reports from 14 different counties and a maximum of 4 from Buena Vista Grasslands in *Portage* (KH). Minnesota had a remarkable migration of Northern Hawk Owls this season: 159 reports, surpassing the old record set in 1991–1992 (*fide* PS). Unusual in that state were reports from the periphery of the coniferous region including individuals in *Polk*, *Becker*, *Hubbard*, and *Pine*. Michigan also had a good year: reports of 3 to 4 birds in the Sault Ste. Marie area (m.ob.), one on 4 Jan (EM) and 24 Jan (SO) in Alpena,

Alpena, and a very southerly bird 27 Nov–16 Dec in *Manistee* (BA, m.ob.). Wisconsin saw fewer than the other states, having just 2 birds, one from 12 Dec+ in Vilas (BR) and another 18 Feb in *Douglas* (LS). Great Gray Owls also arrived in outstanding numbers in Minnesota with over 300 reports; when all records have been totaled, they will likely set a record high for that state (*vide* PS). One Great Gray strayed outside the coniferous zone in *Polk*, Michigan had up to 7 Great Grays in the Sault Ste. Marie area, while Wisconsin's several reports included one quite far south near Appleton 3–9 Dec (TS, CS), an individual 14 Dec at *Bayfield* (PJ), and 2 in *Douglas* (SL). Minnesota posted 110 reports of Boreal Owls this season, with up to 4 reaching as far s. as the Twin Cities area. Michigan also had good numbers: single individuals were noted 30 Dec on Les Cheneux C.B.C., from 1–3 Jan in *Alpena* (JSt), 14 Jan in Rogers City, *Presque Ilse* (PG, MG), 10 Feb in *Marquette* (per LT), and 17 Feb in *Presque Ilse* (JHa, IH). Northern Saw-whet Owls remained n. of normal in Minnesota where reports came from 10 counties, including multiple sightings around Duluth.

In Michigan a **Rufous Hummingbird** in *Ottawa* was captured 5 Dec, but attempts to rehabilitate the bird failed and it later died. The specimen was transferred to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, where it was identified as a first-basic female. The only Three-toed Woodpecker reports came from Minnesota, where about 5 individuals were reported from *Cook* and *Lake*. All three states had a scattering of Black-backed Woodpecker reports from their traditional areas. Northern Shrike numbers were characterized as average throughout the Region. A Common Raven in *Douglas* 8 Feb provided a first record for this Minnesota county. The report of a **Veery** in winter in the Region is exceptional, making the report of 2 even more astounding. A well-documented individual seen from 12–23 Dec at Madison (RD) provided a first winter record in Wisconsin, while an individual in Michigan was present 13–14 Feb at the Detroit Zoo, *Wayne* (CPa, PSm), this record pending M.B.R.C. review. Minnesota had a scattering of Townsend's Solitaires, including 2 on 2–6 Dec (JL) and one that overwintered at Knife River, *Lake*. Also in Minnesota were individuals 3 Feb in Two Harbors, *Lake* (*vide* DB), 23 Dec at Grand Marais, *Cook* (KH, MH), and 1 Jan in *Elba*, *Winona* (JS et al.). Wisconsin had three Townsend's Solitaire reports: 3 Dec in Eagle River (JB), 15 Dec in *Kewaunee* (JH), and one overwintering in *Dane* (m.ob.). Varied Thrushes were present in good numbers throughout the Region, with Wisconsin having

reports from seven counties, Minnesota from 11 counties, and Michigan from four counties.

Mimids Through Finches

Both late and n. of normal in Michigan was a Gray Catbird 1 Jan in *Manistee* (KW, JHe). Also late in that state was an American Pipit 9 Dec–8 Jan in Berrien Springs, *Berrien* (JW). Bohemian Waxwings were reported as relatively scarce in Minnesota and Wisconsin, while Michigan reported good numbers early in the season around Sault Ste. Marie. A Yellow-rumped Warbler that overwintered in Duluth (KE) was n. of normal in Minnesota. A Summer Tanager remained to 5 Dec in Faribault, *Rice* (TBo), only the 2nd Minnesota winter record. Also in that state were Spotted Towhee reports from 9–31 Dec in Burnsville, *Dakota* (DS, BS et al.), 31 Jan+ in *Murray* (ND), and 2 overwintering in *Lyon* (RSc, m.ob.). Two Chipping Sparrows overwintering in *Dane* (SM) provided the 5th such record in Wisconsin. Even rarer in the Region were reports from Minnesota of Clay-colored Sparrow 6 Dec at Mound Springs Park, *Hennepin* (SC) and to 9 Jan in Richfield, *Hennepin* (CB, CM, RJ), both pending M.O.R.C. review. A **Black-throated Sparrow** from 6 Jan+ in *Dane* (TSc) was the 7th Wisconsin record, and the first since 1992. Rare in Michigan was an overwintering Vesper Sparrow at a feeder in *Van Buren* (DBu), while another 22 Jan in *Dakota* (DS, BS) was the 11th winter record for Minnesota. Only the 4th Minnesota winter record for a Savannah

Sparrow was reported 9 Feb at the Carpenter N.C., *Washington* (TBe, EB). A report of a Savannah Sparrow 1 Jan in *Ozaukee* (MB) in Wisconsin was also exceptional. Harris's Sparrows were more common than normal in Minnesota, where reports came from 11 counties; both Michigan and Wisconsin had 2 reports. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak through 1 Jan in *Jackson* (JA) provided Wisconsin only its 4th Jan record. A Yellow-headed Blackbird that overwintered in *Dodge* (BD, DT) was only the 5th such record in Wisconsin. In Minnesota, a Baltimore Oriole lingered to mid-Dec in *Cook* (KH, MH), while another was seen to 10 Dec in Michigan in *Berrien* (*vide* KM). A **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** 13 Jan–4 Feb in Duluth (CH, JHo, DCa, m.ob.) constituted the 11th Minnesota record. Unlike several of the previous records for this species, which were of the Coastal population, this individual was identified as being from the Interior population. Winter finches were reported as scarce in Wisconsin with exception of Pine Siskins, which made a reasonable showing. Michigan also had a quiet season, with average numbers of finches in the n. portion of the state with the exception of redpolls, which were extremely scarce. Minnesota reported average numbers of finches in the n. and contributed the only Hoary Redpoll reports from the entire Region.

Corrigenda

For the winter season 1999–2000 (NAB 54 180–182): The Pacific Loon in Minnesota was



A Black-throated Sparrow graced a feeding station in Deforest, Wisconsin for much of the winter, a state seventh. This image was taken 15 January 2001. Photograph by Tom Schultz.

Middlewestern Prairie

reported by JS (John Schladweiler) and not JC (Julie Craves). The word “late” should be replaced by “early” in the text concerning records of Turkey Vulture in Minnesota. Common Snipe and American Woodcock returned early to Michigan and Wisconsin, and *not* to Minnesota. Add a Barn Owl found dead in Michigan 20 Feb in Sault Ste. Marie, *Chippewa*. The Fox Sparrow that wintered in *Dane* was reported by Kay Burcar; all other KBs in the report are for Karl Bardon. Omit the Eurasian Collared-Dove from *Brown* due to lack of documentation, the record from *Kandiyohi* due to insufficient documentation, and extend the date of the *Martin* bird to overwintering. Add a **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** 17–27 Feb in Connelly Twp., *Wilkin*, the 10th Minnesota record. For the summer season 2000 (NAB 54 : 386): There was one Rough-legged Hawk reported in *Portage*, WI, rather than 10 as indicated in the article.

Observers: Brian Allen, Judy Allen, Christian Artuso, Philip Ashman, **Karl Bardon (Minnesota)**, Jim Baughman, Tom Beachy, Elizabeth Bell, Tom Bell (TBe), Dave Benson, Tom Boevers (TBo), Marilyn Bontly, Connie Brunell, Paul Budde, Dixie Burkhart (DBu), Adam Byrne, Dave Chalander (DCa), Steve Carlson, Allen Chartier, Daryl Christensen, Phil Chu (PCh), Paul Cypher, Nelvina DeKam, Herb Dingmann, Bob Domagalski, Kim Eckert, Dave Evans, Marty Evanson, Chip Francke, Carl Freeman (CFr), Jim Granlund, Cory Gregory, Mark Grulke, Pam Grulke, Dennis Gustafson, Kent Hall, Iris Hallauer (IHa), Jim Hallauer (JHa), **Jan Hansen (Wisconsin)**, Judy Heiler (JHe), Chris Hockema, John Hockema (JHo), Ken Hoffman, Molly Hoffman, Steve LaValley, Bill Litkey, James Lind, Craig Lipski, Robert B. Janssen, Phyllis Johnson, Robbye Johnson (RJo), Phil Kelly, Steve Kittelson, Craig Mandel, Sylvia Marek, Jim Mattsson, E. Bruce McLean, **Doug McWhirter (Michigan)** (DMc), Diane Millard, Steve Millard, Kip Miller, Steve Minard (SMi), Jackie Nooker, Mark Otnes, Scott Oulette, Pat Parsons, Craig Paulk (CPa), Walter Pawloski, Shaun Putz, Bill Reardon, Jack Reinoehl, Alan Ryff, Russ Schipper, Roger Schroeder (RSc), Tom Schultz (TSc), David Slater, Becky Smith, Drew Smith, Patrick Smyth (PSm), Jeff Stephenson, Peder Svingen, Jane St. Onge (JSt), Bill Sweetman (BSw), Carol Sykes, Tom Sykes, Louis Taccolini, Daryl Tessen, Tom Tustinson, Keith Westphal, Dan Williams, Heather Wise, Thomas Wood, Jon Wuepper, Ben Yokel.



Kenneth J. Brock
1265 Red Bud
Chesterton, Indiana 46304
(kebrock@ucs.indiana.edu)

Following three years of mild winters some of us were finally beginning to believe in global warming. Indeed, Robert Cecil noted that Iowa birders had almost forgotten terms like “ground blizzard” or “two feet of snow.” This season, however, the Region enjoyed one of those “old-fashioned” Arctic winters with low temperatures and heavy snow. December was especially brutal. Temperatures in Iowa averaged 12.6 degrees below normal (second coldest December in 126 years), and the snowfall was very heavy. At Chicago’s Midway Airport, December had the highest snowfall of any month on record. Although January and February were more seasonable, they never approached the balmy months of recent years. In the St. Louis area, William Rowe noted that the Mississippi River remained icy until mid-February.

December’s gelid climate eliminated most open water and blanketed the countryside with a deep cover of snow. These conditions sent

most of the waterfowl south early in the month. In addition, the deep snow provided difficult foraging conditions for most ground feeders, many of which also moved southward. Despite this inhospitable environment, a fair number of semi-hardy passerines lingered in the Region. Indeed, it was an unusually good winter for sparrows. However, several correspondents noted that the hard winter resulted in fewer species reported in the Region. John Cassidy’s resounding “Viva El Niño!” captured the sentiments of many of the Region’s birders.

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle Lake in Clinton, *Fayette & Bond*, IL), H.B.S.P (Headlands Beach S.P., OH); Jax. P. (Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront); L. Cal. (Lake Calumet, Chicago); R.E.D.A (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO).

Loons Through Vultures

In Dec 6 Red-throated Loons appeared along the Indiana lakefront where they have become regular in early winter. Inland reports included singles in *Clinton*, OH 3 Dec (DOv, LGr), an imm. in *Barren*, KY 3–6 Dec (DR et al.), and another imm. in *Adair*, KY 14 Dec (BPB). The