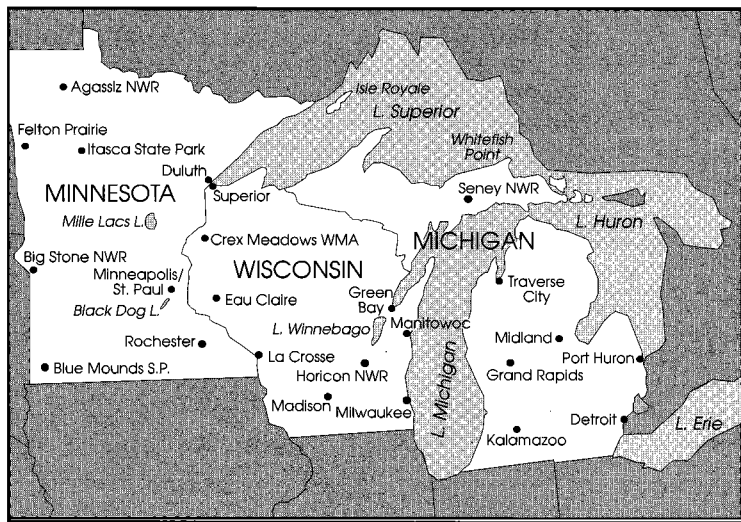


Western Great Lakes



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Many species lingered while temperatures were above normal this season. Drought continued in Michigan until September but was relieved in Wisconsin by above-average rainfall during August. November weather seemed like September! Yellow-billed Loon, Black Vulture, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Black-throated Sparrow were outstanding in Minnesota, while Wisconsin highlights included Vermilion Flycatcher, Brambling, and a probable first state record Slaty-backed Gull. Under review in Michigan were Northern Gannet, Least Tern, Ancient Murrelet, White-winged Dove, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Rock Wren, and Sage Thrasher.

Abbreviations: Big Stone (Big Stone N.W.R., Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle, MN); H.R.N.R. (Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth, MN); M.B.R.C. (Michigan Bird Records Committee); M.C.G.I. (Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, WI); Muskegon (Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon, MI); p. a. (pending acceptance); Park Pt (Park Point, St. Louis, MN); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); S M R R (Southeast Michigan Raptor Research, including Lake Erie Metropolitan and Pte. Mouillee HQ, Wayne, MI); W.B.R.C. (Wisconsin Bird Records Committee); Wisc. Pt. (Wisconsin Point, Douglas, WI); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Minnesota had 2–3 Red-throated Loons on L. Superior, including one in Cook 26–29 Oct (m. ob.); Wisconsin had four reports from L. Michigan. W.P.B.O. counted 535 between 27 Aug and 10 Nov, peaking at 117 on 20 Sep. Eight more Red-throateds in Michigan included one inland at Park L., Clinton 29 Nov (BRC). Six Pacific Loons was near the recent Minnesota average, but Wisconsin had only 2, far fewer than last fall's 9. One at Wisc. Pt. 15 Oct (RJ) was likely the same individual seen at Park Pt. 13–29 Oct (CRG et al.); the other was in Dane 18–23 Nov (AS, m. ob.). Pacific Loon is casual in Michigan; among 3 reports, best documented was one at W.P.B.O. 20 Sep (p.a., KMe). Common Loons peaked at 1163 on Mille Lacs L., MN 4 Nov (PCC, PHS). At W.P.B.O., 3613 were counted 1 Aug–14 Nov, peaking at 482 on 2 Oct. Providing Minnesota's 5th record was the juv. **Yellow-billed Loon** in Mille Lacs 4 Nov (PHS, PCC).

W.P.B.O. tallied 19,325 Red-necked Grebes 10 Aug–15 Nov, peaking at 2212 on 17 Aug. Wisconsin had Eared Grebes at Wisc. Pt. 9 Sep (RJ) and Milwaukee 25 Nov (LH); up to 3 were at Muskegon (m. ob.). Western Grebes were in three se. Wisconsin counties; casual in Michigan, one was at Keweenaw Bay, Baraga 26 Oct–2 Nov (MTA, JAY et al.). An ad. **Northern Gannet** at Pte. Mouillee HQ, Wayne 11 Nov (DS, JSc) furnished an 8th Michigan record.

Snowy Egrets included an imm. in Houston, MN 7–8 Aug (FZL, RZ), 3 in Brown, WI through 3 Sep (JH), and one in Bay, MI 17 Aug (ES). Little Blue Herons (all imm.) were in Branch, MI 5 Aug (SS), Carver, MN 16–24 Aug (RMD et al.), and

Wayne, MI 20 Sep–1 Oct (TS, m. ob.) Four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were in se Wisconsin; casual in Michigan, one strayed to Pte. Mouillee 1 Sep (AMB). In Minnesota, unidentified *Plegadis* were in Clay 28 Sep (MO) and Lyon 17–18 Oct (RJS et al.). Anticipated for years, Minnesota's first **Black Vulture** was photographed at H.R.N.R. 28 Aug (FJN, KRE et al.)

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Ross's Geese were in four Minnesota locations, including one in Duluth 3–26 Nov (CRG et al.) and 13 in Big Stone 21 Nov (PCC). No longer reviewed by W.B.R.C., one in Chippewa 3 Oct was record early (JP). Unusual away from L. Superior was the Harlequin Duck in Mille Lacs, MN 5 Nov (CRM et al.); up to 8 were in ne. Minnesota, including an ad. male at Paradise, Cook 24 Nov+ (DPJ). Wisconsin had Harlequins in three counties, including 3 in Sheboygan 26 Nov (DT, TCW) Unusually early were Harlequins in Alger, MI 9 Sep and 3 Oct (SH); more seasonal were 3 at Muskegon 12–18 Nov (m. ob.). Seasonal totals at W.P.B.O. were 287 Surf, 3236 White-winged, and 158 Black Scoters, plus 10,428 Long-tailed Ducks A male Barrow's Goldeneye was photographed near Reno, Houston, MN 17 Nov (PEJ) In Wisconsin, Tessen reported Barrow's in Ozaukee 10 Nov and Sheboygan 20 Nov.

Late were single Ospreys in Green, WI 18 Nov (WR) and Wayne, MI 12–23 Nov (KO, MM, GAS) Except for a record-high 190 Golden Eagles, H.R.N.R. had a poor season, but S.M.R.R. (JSc, CRE, PCy) set records for Osprey (268), Bald Eagle (176), Sharp-shinned Hawk (19,981), Northern Goshawk (70), Red-shouldered Hawk (1134), and Peregrine Falcon (94). A Swainson's Hawk strayed to Little Suamico, WI 18 Sep (TE), while 6 were at S.M.R.R. during Sep (JSc, CRE, PCy). Wisconsin had only 2 Golden Eagles, but 174 were at S.M.R.R., including 32 on 3 Nov (JSc, CRE, PCy) Minnesota reported the only Gyrfalcon, an imm gray morph at H.R.N.R. 28 Oct (FJN et al.). Prairie Falcons were in Rock 26 Aug (AXH, PHS) and Wilkin 15 Sep (MO), both Minnesota. Each state had one Yellow Rail: Jackson, MN 4 Sep (BRB), M.C.G.I. 5–6 Oct (SL, KD, m. ob.), and Shiawassee 13 Sep (DP). A family of 9 Common Moorhens dawdled at Minnesota L., Meeker, MN through 28 Sep (DMF).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Noteworthy counts included 800+ American Golden-Plovers in Marshall, MN 9 Oct (BAB) and 136 Semipalmated Plovers at Big Stone 8 Aug (BEO). Single Piping Plovers were in Big Stone, MN 12–27 Aug (PCC, PHS et al.), W.P.B.O. 17–26 Aug, and Ludington, Mason, MI 31 Aug (fide KM). The Killdeer crescendo was 866 at Pte. Mouillee 15 Aug (AMB, ST, TW, ES). American

Avocets were in three Minnesota, five Wisconsin, and four Michigan counties; peak counts were 11 in *Big Stone*, MN 30 Aug (KJB) and 7 at Lake Erie Metropark, *Wayne*, MI 28 Oct (WGP), the latter a first county record. Estimates by others varied, but Byrne systematically counted 1942 Lesser Yellowlegs at Pte. Mouillee 19 Aug, apparently a record-high tally for Michigan. Late was the Willet in *Wayne*, MI 15 Aug–20 Oct (m. ob.).

Hudsonian Godwit normally occurs in small numbers during fall migration, but double-digit counts were routine during Aug in w. Minnesota, e.g., 27 in Toqua Twp., *Big Stone* 16 Aug (DBz) and 17 at *Big Stone* 25 Aug (TAT). Wisconsin's only report was of 4 in *Brown* 26 Aug (DT), but Michigan had up to 24 at Huron R. mouth, *Wayne* 17–19 Aug (m. ob.) and 13 at Pte. Mouillee 18 Aug (DF). Infrequently counted, 48 Marbled Godwits were at *Big Stone* 8 Aug (BEO).

Red Knot was scarce in Minnesota (one or 2) and Wisconsin (3), but 14 knots were scattered among six Michigan locations, including 5 at Portage Point Marsh, *Delta* 26 Aug (SS). Record high for Minnesota was a count of 1722 Semipalmated Sandpipers at *Big Stone* 8 Aug (BEO et al.). Providing the first acceptable Minnesota record since May 1991 was an imm. Western Sandpiper at L. Bylesby, *Dakota* 26–27 Oct (ADS et al.). Wisconsin reported single Westerns in *Door* 7 Aug (BS) and M.C.G.I. 30 Aug (KD), while Michigan had five records, including a very late bird at Thunder Bay, *Alpena* 17 Nov (FMc). Also record high was a total of 2105 Least Sandpipers at *Big Stone* 8 Aug (BEO et al.).

Normally a scarce fall migrant, about 60 White-rumped Sandpipers were in 12 Michigan counties, including 30 in *Monroe* 30 Sep (AMB). At Pte. Mouillee, record-high counts were 73

Baird's Sandpipers 1 Sep (AMB) and 1339 Pectoral Sandpipers 15 Aug (AMB, ST, TW, ES). Michigan had 6 Purple Sandpipers in five locations and 1150 Dunlin in *Wayne* 5 Nov (WGP). Peak Stilt Sandpiper counts were 615 at *Big Stone* 8 Aug (BEO et al.), 125 in *Brown*, WI 16 Aug (DT), and 109 at Pte. Mouillee 19 Aug (AMB).

Minnesota's Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration was exceptional, with 550+ birds in 12 counties, including 164 at *Empire*, *Dakota* 6 Aug (CRM) and 162 at *Big Stone* 8 Aug (BEO et al.). Wisconsin had reports from seven counties, including 35 in *Racine* 10 Aug (KD), while Michigan had about 35 in six counties. Furnishing Wisconsin's 8th fall record was the Ruff at M.C.G.I. 9 Aug (BB). All three states had unconfirmed reports of Red Phalarope, but singles were well documented in *Kewaunee*, WI 25 Nov (PS), *Van Buren*, MI 27 Oct (RGS et al.), *Muskegon* 27–29 Oct (JPo et al.), and *Baraga*, MI 29 Nov+ (JAY, ph. MTA).

JAEGERS THROUGH MURRELETS

Providing the 14th Minnesota record was an ad. Pomarine Jaeger at Duluth 19 Sep (KRE et al.). A juv. Pomarine was carefully identified at St. Joseph, *Berrien* 9 Sep (p.a., CJG); M.B.R.C. will consider additional reports. A total of 5–8 Parasitics plus 3 unidentified jaegers was at Park Pt. and/or Wisc. Pt. (m. ob.). Eight Parasitics plus 25 unidentified jaegers were in Michigan, mostly (19) at W.P.B.O. A Long-tailed Jaeger on the St. Croix R. between Bayport, MN and Hudson, WI 5–7 Sep (TR, NG, m. ob.) provided 8th and 7th state records, respectively. Casual in Michigan and under review by M.B.R.C. were Long-taileds at W.P.B.O. 30 Aug (SH, RP), New Buffalo,



Minnesota joined the ranks of other northern tier states when this Black Vulture, a state first, flapped and sailed by the Hawk Ridge hawkwatch site at Duluth on 28 August 2001. Photograph by Frank J. Nicoletti.

Berrien 10 Sep (KM), and Grand Haven, *Van Buren* 6 Oct (JGG). Early and intriguing was a jaeger sp. in *Cass*, MN 1 Aug (SCH).

Single imm. Little Gulls were at Park Pt. 16 Sep (CRG, JWH) and *Brown*, WI 1–3 Sep (NC, BH et al.). Michigan had singles in *Berrien* 9 & 15 Sep (CJG, WMB, PU) and *Ottawa* 13 Oct (SM). For the 4th consecutive Oct, a Black-headed Gull was in *Jackson* on the Minnesota-Iowa border. Bonaparte's Gulls peaked at 3175 on L. Winnibigoshish, MN 11 Nov (PHS). Record early was an ad. Thayer's Gull in *Hennepin*, MN 23 Sep (PEB). Iceland Gulls were in all three states, including early juvs. at W.P.B.O. 6 Oct (AMB, JMc) and *Cook*, MN 12–14 Oct (KRE et al.). A dark-mantled gull in Milwaukee, WI 13 Nov (p.a., ph. BB) was tentatively identified as a third or fourth-basic Slaty-backed Gull. To recapitulate last fall's bonanza (cf. *N. A. B.* 55: 55) 8–10 Sabine's Gulls were at Park Pt. and/or Wisc. Pt. during late Sep, though most lacked details, one was late at Wisc. Pt. 12 Oct (RJ). Providing first county records were juv. Sabine's in *Stearns*, MN 21 Sep (HHD), *Washtenaw*, MI 1 Nov (MS, DCC, JGe, ph. HP), and *Wayne/Monroe*, MI 24 Nov (DS, WGP); another was in *Chippewa*, MI 19 Nov (DL). Minnesota had single imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes in *Cook* 12 Nov (CRM et al.) and *St. Louis* 30 Nov (DAG, JWJ). Michigan had one at Port Huron, *St. Clair* 16 Oct (AMB), plus 3 at W.P.B.O. An ad. Arctic Tern with a juv. at Wisc. Pt. 19–21 Sep (vt. SP, RJ et al.) briefly strayed into Minnesota. Representing the 6th *Monroe* and 8th Michigan occurrence was the Least Tern at Pte. Mouillee 1 Sep (p.a. KM, CJG) An Ancient Murrelet found in *Paradise*, *Chippewa* on 14 Nov (p. a. KMe, SH) was the 5th Michigan and 3rd *Chippewa* record.



On 6 October 2001, a Black-headed Gull, a species rather rare away from northeastern coasts, turned up at Spirit Lake in Jackson County, on the Minnesota-Iowa border; this is the fourth October in a row for the species here. Birders away from the Atlantic coasts are finding the lakes and rivers in the interior productive for this and indeed virtually any gull species. This photograph was taken 24 October. Photograph by Brad Bolduan.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Providing the 8th Minnesota record was a **Band-tailed Pigeon** at Golden Valley, *Hennepin* 18–20 Oct (m. ob.). A pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves at Caledonia, *Houston*, MN fledged their 3rd brood of the year in Sep (KAK); probable breeding was indicated by an ad. and a juv. at Russell, *Lyon* 11 Aug (ph. PHS). Intermittently documented at Jasper since Jan 1999, 3 were in *Prestone/Rock*, MN 8–9 Sep (ph. PHS et al.). Present since summer 2000 were 2 Eurasian Collared-Doves in *Oconto*, WI (J&KS); another was at Holy Cross (JSo). Providing the 6th Michigan record was a **White-winged Dove** on 14 Oct in *Keweenaw* (ZG).

Echoing last winter's invasion, about one-fourth of the 64 Snowy Owls in Minnesota were injured, starving, or found dead. Snowy Owls were in eight Wisconsin counties, including 5 at Green Bay 5 Nov+ (J&KS, m. ob.), while 34+ were in 19 Michigan counties. Six Northern Hawk Owls in ne. Minnesota was an above-average number but probably included breeding birds, one at W.P.B.O. 1 Nov was Michigan's only report. Tardy was the Chimney Swift in *Dane*, WI 1 Nov (WH). Wisconsin had 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, at Montello 1 Aug–20 Sep (DC et al.) and Greendale 17–19 Aug (p.a. PA). Michigan had ad. males near Paw Paw, *Van Buren* 4 Oct–2 Nov (KM, RGS, AMB, ph. ATC) and Ortonville, *Oakland* 26 Oct+ (MC, ph. ATC, m. ob.), Chartier found the latter *already banded*—by Susan Campbell, 2 Dec 2000 near Hendersonville, North Carolina!

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Record late was an Eastern Wood-Pewee in *Milwaukee*, WI 7 Nov (JL, DG). Photographed in Wisconsin for the first time and furnishing a 5th state record was the **Vermilion Flycatcher** in *Jefferson* 10 Nov+ (BR). Normally a rare early Sep migrant along the North Shore of L. Superior in Minnesota, single Western Kingbirds were in *Lake* 9–11 Oct (JWL) and Duluth 14 Oct (AXH). Record late was an Eastern Kingbird in *Waukesha*, WI 5 Nov (MW). Resubmitted to M.B.R.C. after a split vote was the **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Bay City S.P., *Bay* 15 Sep (R&DC).

Record late and exceptional along the North Shore was an imm. White-eyed Vireo at Lutsen, *Cook*, MN 25–28 Oct (CAK, JJS, m. ob.); more expected was one in *Hillsdale*, MI 22 Sep (JR). The provenance of a Black-billed Magpie in *Brown*, WI 26 Aug (DC) was uncertain. Potentially a 4th Michigan record was the **Rock Wren** at New Buffalo, *Berrien* 15 Nov (p.a., DBu). Carolina Wrens increased in all three states; most unusual was one at Grand Marais, *Cook*, MN Aug–late Oct (K&MH). Recently a late fall vagrant along the North Shore of L. Superior, a

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in *Lake*, MN 2 Nov (JWL), but one was even later in *Wayne*, MI 7 Nov (JSc, CRF, PCy, WGP).

No fewer than 20 Townsend's Solitaires were in Minnesota, including first county records in *Kandiyohi* 13 Oct (RSF) and *Rock* 18 Oct (NED, PHS). Early was one in *Lyon*, MN 23 Sep (RJS). Wisconsin's only solitaire was at Devils Lake S.P., *Sauk* 20 Nov (AH), but Michigan had singles in *Bay* 20 Oct (DD), *St. Clair* 23 Oct (PF), and W.P.B.O. 28 Oct (AMB). A Varied Thrush visited a feeder in *Eau Claire*, WI 10 Nov (*vide* LE); 3–4 were in Minnesota. Northern Mockingbirds were scarce in MN (3) and WI (one), but 8–9 were in Michigan. Providing the 2nd Michigan record was a **Sage Thrasher** at W.P.B.O. 30 Sep–3 Oct (KMe, ph. JGG & BCM, m. ob.). Unexpected was a Sprague's Pipit at Resurrection Cemetery, *Dakota* 21–22 Sep (TAT, ADS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Unusual was a total of 24+ Black-throated Blue Warblers in eight Minnesota counties between 30 Aug and 4 Oct (m. ob.); late were 2 at W.P.B.O. 3 Nov. At or near summer 2001 nesting locations were single Yellow-throated Warblers at Fort Snelling S.P. 24 Aug (RBJ) and Acacia Cemetery 8–9 Sep (TAT), both in *Dakota*, MN, and 2 near Three Oaks, *Berrien*, MI 22 Sep (DCV). Noteworthy in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was the juv. Kirtland's Warbler banded near Little L., *Marquette* 3 Aug (MEP). Apparently a first for the U. P. was the Worm-eating Warbler n. of Paradise, *Chippewa* 4 Sep (KMe).

Extremely late was the Scarlet Tanager in *Berrien*, MI 27 Nov+ (JTW, WJ, WBW, ph. SW). Briefly seen were a Western Tanager in *Brown* 10 Sep (DT) and a Green-tailed Towhee at M.C.G.I. 14 Oct (JI); both will be reviewed by W.B.R.C. Scarce for the 3rd consecutive fall, a Spotted Towhee at Rochester in late Oct (RLE) was the only Minnesota report. Wisconsin also had one, at M.C.G.I. 16 Oct (DG, MBo). Furnishing the 5th Minnesota record was an imm. **Black-throated Sparrow** at Knife River, *Lake* 7 Oct (PB et al.). Late *Ammodramus* included a Grasshopper Sparrow at W.P.B.O. 2–4 & 6 Nov (AMB et al.) and a Henslow's Sparrow in *Milwaukee*, WI 5 Nov (KD). Migrant Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were in six Minnesota and three Wisconsin locations; Wisconsin's were at M.C.G.I. 22 Sep–5 Oct (m. ob.), 4 in *Milwaukee* 23 Sep (AS), and one in *St. Croix* 11 Oct (MBe). High counts included 222 Lincoln's Sparrows at W.P.B.O. 19 Sep and 218 White-crowned Sparrows in *Alpena*, MI 28 Sep (WNG). During late Oct, dozens of "hundreds" of Smith's Longspurs were at Jefferson Petroglyphs, *Cottonwood*, MN (m. ob.), but one was unexpected in Duluth 21 Oct (PHS). Great-tailed Grackles

peaked at about 50 in *Jackson*, MN 17 Oct (PHS). Providing Wisconsin's 2nd record during its all-too-short stay was the **Brambling** at Franklin, *Milwaukee* 1–2 Nov (ph. PBr, m. ob.). Crossbills and redpolls irrupted in all three states.

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