

# Western Great Lakes



## Peder H. Svingen

2602 East 4th Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55812  
(psvingen@d.umn.edu)

Each state reported different weather conditions. Michigan was mostly hot and dry until late July, Wisconsin was cool and rainy in June, then very hot and dry in July, and Minnesota was warmer and wetter than normal all summer. Vast portions of nw. Minnesota including Agassiz N.W.R. were inundated after heavy rains in June.

**Abbreviations:** Horicon (Horicon Marsh, Dodge, WI); M.C.G.I. (Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, WI); Mud L. (Mud Lake, Traverse, MN); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park, Dakota and Scott, MN); p. a. (pending acceptance); Port Huron (Port Huron State Game Area, St. Clair, MI); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); Tawas Pt. (Tawas Point State Park, Iosco, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Migrant Red-throated Loons were at Duluth, MN 11 & 14 Jun (SWe et al.) and W.P.B.O. 18 Jun (LD). Unexpected were three reports of Horned Grebes on L. Superior in Minnesota 30 Jun—late Jul (m. ob.), but even more unusual were 2 or 3 throughout Jul in Alpena, MI (WNG). Earlier than usual was the Red-

necked Grebe at W.P.B.O. 2–7 Jul (DL, JTW), while others summered (max. 4, 13 Jun) in Alpena, MI (WNG). Impressive were the 400+ Eared Grebe nests at Swan L., Sibley, MN (DDM). An Eared Grebe at Shiawassee 6 Jun was a wanderer (DP). Away from the Great Lakes (as are most of Wisconsin's Western Grebes), singles were at Horicon 10–16 Jun (m. ob.) and Winnebago 17 Jun (TZ). An ad. Clark's Grebe at Long L., Meeker 4–15 Jul (DMF, CBe) and 2 at Thielke L., Big Stone (PCC, PHS) were at Minnesota locations where this species occurred in past years; by early Aug, 2 chicks accompanied one ad. at Thielke L., but the identity of the non-custodial parent was unknown. A new Minnesota breeding colony produced 48 American White Pelicans at Pigeon L., Meeker 18 Jul (RBJ et al.), while 140+ in Oconto, WI (JSm) indicated continuing growth of the Green Bay colony. Potentially a 2nd summer record for Michigan was the **frigatebird** n. of Anchor Bay, Casco Twp., St. Clair (p. a., REE).

Single Snowy Egrets were in Kandiyohi, MN (RSF), Dodge, WI (AH), and Fond du Lac, WI (DT). Little Blue Heron was not reported. Unexpected was a **Tricolored Heron** in Bay, MI 26 Jun (p. a., JGi, GP). Against the grain of scarcity among the Ardeidae and furnishing Minnesota's 2nd highest count were the 90 Cattle Egrets near Boisberg, Traverse 14 Jul (PHS). Wisconsin had Cattle Egrets in three counties, including 30+ in Fond du Lac (DT), while up to 5 spent the period in Bay, MI (fide GP). Yellow-

crowned Night-Heron was unreported Regionwide. In Minnesota, at least 4 of 5 White-faced Ibis from spring lingered in Murray through 2 Jun (MSS), and 2 more visited Meeker 13–17 Jul (DMF et al.) Potentially a first summer record for Michigan was the **Black Vulture** at Manitow Is., Keweenaw 16 Jul (p. a., JY).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES

Providing the 4th Wisconsin record was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at M.C.G.I. 25–26 Jul (SL, ph. JI). Greater White-fronted Goose had occurred only about five times during summer in Minnesota, so singles in Sherburne 6 Jun (RBJ), Isanti 7 Jun (fide AXH), and Stearns 3 Jul (RPR) were noteworthy. Furnishing Minnesota's 4th summer record was an ad. Ross's Goose at L. Byllesby, Dakota 20–21 Jun (ADS et al.). Minnesota D.N.R. estimated 367,000 Mallards and 430,000 Blue-winged Teal, both up from last year's counts. Establishing Wisconsin's 2nd summer record was the Cinnamon Teal at Horicon 10 Jun (p. a., DC). Rarely documented as a breeding species in Wisconsin, a female Canvasback attended 2 young in Oneida 28 Jul (BF). Unusual for Michigan were single Long-tailed Ducks at Brimley W.T.P., Chippewa 16 Jun (SS) and Baraga Marina, Baraga 8–11 Jul (JY).

A well-documented ad. Mississippi Kite in Golden Valley, Hennepin, MN 9 Jun (TPB) followed a spate of unconfirmed reports in May. Still migrating were 250 Broad-winged Hawks at Fort Gratiot, St. Clair, MI 8 Jun (DM). Rare as a summer straggler and just 6 km s. of the Canadian border was the Rough-legged Hawk in Roseau, MN 2 Jul (GG). Noteworthy was a female Spruce Grouse with young at Little King L., Baraga, MI 30 Jun (JY). Sharp-tailed Grouse declined slightly—again—in nw. and e.-cen. Minnesota, while Michigan had reports from Chippewa and Mackinac in the U.P. Yellow Rails were in all three states, including Marquette (AS) and Oneida (BF) in Wisconsin, and 2 near Houghton L., Roscommon, MI (MEP). Common Moorhens in four Minnesota locations were mildly encouraging.

## SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 42 in Alpena, MI 1 Jun; possibly summering were 2 there 28 Jun (WNG). Weekly surveys at Mud L found American Golden-Plovers through at least 7 Jul (PCC, PHS), while one was in Houghton, MI 6 Jul (JY). Semipalmated Plovers peaked at 66 at Pte. Mouillee 2 Jun

(AMB). Michigan hosted 50 of the record-high 52 Piping Plover pairs breeding in the Great Lakes region; 140 eggs hatched, but only 65 fledglings survived (*vide* LG). Storms and high water levels precluded nesting at the traditional *Lake of the Woods*, MN site (JPE, PHS). Wisconsin's only Piping Plover was in *Marinette* 6 Jul (DT), where this species nested last year for the first time since 1941. A new record-high count for Minnesota was 530 Killdeer at Mud L. 7 Jul (PHS).

Exceptional for summer, American Avocets were in eight Minnesota counties, including nesting in *Becker*. Wisconsin had 2 in Milwaukee 13 Jul (KD, TCW) and one in *Vernon* (FZL). Michigan also had more avocets than usual, including one at Shiawassee 2 Jul (BG) and four reports from *Berrien* beginning 15 Jul (max. 5 at St. Joseph, 26 Jul). Willets were in three Minnesota counties, Michigan had multiple reports in *Berrien* between 29 Jun and 17 Jul, but most unusual were single Willets at Tawas Pt. 16–18 Jun (GN) and W.P.B.O. 14 Jul (LD, SH). Still northbound were 3 Whimbrels in *Monroe/Wayne*, MI 18 Jun (WGP); less easily classified were singles in *Vernon*, WI 17 Jul (FZL), *Alpena*, MI 18 Jul (WNG), and *Berrien*, MI 26 Jul (CJG). Providing Minnesota's 2nd summer record in modern times was the **Long-billed Curlew** at a sod farm in *Anoka* 19–28 Jul (PA, m. ob.). Except for 4 at Mud L. 28 Jul (PCC), the Region's only Hudsonian Godwit was at Horicon 21 Jun (DT). Small numbers of Marbled Godwits were in five Michigan locations, including the first for *South Haven* 28 Jul (JTW).

Minnesota had a northbound knot at Duluth 4 Jun (JBa) and an early fall migrant in *Dakota* 16 Jul (ADS). Sanderlings peaked at 56 at Mud L. 8 Jun (PCC), and 20 arrived in *Iosco*, MI 25 Jul (JSo). Probable late spring migrants included Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Dakota*, MN 20 Jun (ADS), *Meeker*, MN 23 Jun (DMF), and Pte. Mouillee 23 Jun (AMB); peak counts were 1072 at Pte. Mouillee 2 Jun (AMB) and 832 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 28 Jul (PCC). Most of the 1253 White-rumped Sandpipers at Mud L. 8 Jun were on the Minnesota side of the state line (PCC). White-rumped in *Baraga*, MI 21 Jun (JY) and two Minnesota locations 24 Jun (ADS, MCBS) were presumably northbound, but singles in *Berrien*, MI 7 (SS) & 13 Jul (GA) were likely summering. Difficult to classify was the Pectoral Sandpiper at Mud L. 17 Jun (PCC et al.). Dunlin not only peaked at 668 at Pte. Mouillee 2 Jun (AMB) but also sum-

mered there in small numbers. Apparently southbound and thus record-early was the Short-billed Dowitcher in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 21 Jun (PCC); noteworthy were 395 at Pte. Mouillee 14 Jul (AMB). Wilson's Phalaropes in 35 Minnesota counties more than tripled the recent summer average and included the first *Lake* nesting (SGW). Single Red-necked Phalaropes lingered at Horicon 15 Jun (m. ob.) and Mud L. 16 Jun (PCC, PHS, RSF).

### JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Potentially Michigan's first summer occurrence was a Pomarine Jaeger in *Charlevoix* 11 Jun (p. a., *vide* JI). Single Laughing Gulls visited New Buffalo, *Berrien*, MI 22 Jun (AMB, PCC, JTW) and *Washburn*, WI 9 Jul (DV). Wisconsin had stray Franklin's Gulls in *Dane* (m. ob.) and *Chippewa* (JPo). A second-summer Little Gull was at the Carp R. mouth, *Mackinac*, MI 11 Jul (DL). The Region's only other Little Gull was in *Sheboygan*, WI 21 Jul (ES, TCW, DT). Still unexpected at this time of year, a Lesser Black-backed Gull spent the summer in *Manitowoc*, WI (CS), and possibly the same bird visited *Sheboygan* 14–17 Jun (D&MB). Furnishing about the 17th Wisconsin record was a Least Tern in *Marinette* 10 Jun (ph. JT).

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Alamo Twp., *Kalamazoo* in late Jun enrolled this species on the Michigan list (p. a., m. ob.). Wisconsin reported one at Milwaukee 22 Jun (DG); others continued in *Ozaukee* (DG) and *Oconto* (MSP, JSm). Minnesota chimed in with one Eurasian Collared-Dove at Herman, *Grant* 23 Jun (ph. PHS), plus many reports from last year's nesting location in *Houston*. Also near a known nesting location was the Northern Hawk Owl at Seagull L., *Cook*, MN 22 Jun (CBe). The Burrowing Owl in *Murray*, MN was last reported 2 Jun (MSS). Great Gray Owls in several Sax-Zim bog locations delighted A.B.A. members attending the Duluth, MN conference. A Great Gray was unfortunately hit by a car in *Chippewa*, MI 19 Jun (DL). Appearing at Timm's feeder for the 2nd consecutive year was a male Rufous Hummingbird at Montello, *Marquette*, WI 28 Jul (RC). Minnesota had Three-toed Woodpeckers in *Lake* (KRE) and *Cook* (CBe).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Port Huron 7 Jun was near end of the species's migration, which is typically late in spring (ATC). Out of range was the Willow Flycatcher in *St. Louis*, MN 19 Jun (RBJ). Ephemeral, as are many, was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in

*Kenosha*, WI 7 Jul (KD). Small numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes in nine Minnesota counties was near the average; Wisconsin reported 3 at Roberts, *St. Croix* 26 Jul (MP) and a pair in *Oconto* all summer (JSm). Michigan's only White-eyed Vireos were in *Hillsdale* and *Oakland*, while Wisconsin had one in *Dane* (AS) and another in *Green* (PAs). Officially casual but recently annual in Minnesota, a White-eyed was at Great River Bluffs S P, *Winona* 13–20 Jun (CRG, JWH et al.) A Bell's Vireo at Tawas Pt. 1 Jun (p. a., JD) was new to *Iosco*. Another county first, though within its usual Minnesota range, was the Bell's Vireo in *Meeker* 8 Jun (DMF).

Michigan celebrated Carolina Wrens in no fewer than 16 Lower Peninsula counties, but none were reported in Wisconsin. After only two summer records 1980–1996, and only one each summer for the next five years, single Carolina Wrens in six se. Minnesota locations were unexpected. South of their usual summer range in Minnesota were singing Hermit Thrushes in *Washington* 15 Jun (DCZ) and 17 Jul (KJB). As last summer, Northern Mockingbirds were in nine Michigan counties; Minnesota reported a pair nesting in *Dakota* (m. ob.), one at Whipholt, *Cass* 24 Jun (*vide* AXH), and a county first in *Fillmore* 29 Jun (JPE).

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Tardy migrant warblers included a Cape May in *Bay*, MI 1 Jun (J&MH) and single Black-throated Blues at Agassiz N.W.R., MN 1 Jun (JMJ) and Cedar L., *Hennepin*, MN 3 Jun (SLC). Michigan reported Yellow-throated Warblers in *Berrien*, *Branch*, and *Van Buren*. Wisconsin had Yellow-throateds in *Grant* and *Sauk*, but none could be found in Minnesota after nesting there last year. This year's Kirtland's Warbler census recorded 1050 singing males, second only to last year's 1085. Six were in four U.P. counties and 1044 were in 11 Lower Peninsula counties. The production of young Kirtland's has been confirmed in the U.P. annually since 1996. No singing males were reported this year from either Wisconsin or Ontario; many thanks to AMB for this summary. Michigan had Prairie Warblers in *Allegan*, *Berrien*, and *Muskegon*, but more unusual were singles at Tawas Pt. 10 Jun (LA, MB, CSz, JS) and *Tuscola* 15–23 Jun (JAB). Following three reports last summer, the lack of Prairie Warblers in Wisconsin was disappointing. Further evidence of protracted spring warbler migration in Michigan was provided by a Palm Warbler at Oscoda, *Iosco* 7 Jun (CMS), Bay-breasted Warblers in *Cheboygan*

13 & 18 Jun (MS), and a Blackpoll Warbler at Manitou Is., *Keweenaw* 19 Jun (JY). Encouraging were Cerulean Warblers in 17 s. Michigan counties, plus *Arenac* 8 Jul (RW). Wisconsin reported average numbers, while Minnesota had Ceruleans as far w. and n. as *Kandiyohi*, *Pope*, *Otter Tail*, and *Mille Lacs*.

Michigan hosted single Worm-eating Warblers at Port Huron 3 Jun (SES) and Warren Woods S.P., *Berrien* 18–22 Jun (AMB, PCC, CF, JTW). Another late Michigan migrant was the Northern Waterthrush in *Wayne* 1 Jun (WGP). Wisconsin reported average numbers of Kentucky Warblers at Wyalusing S.P., but above average for Minnesota were 2 territorial males at Murphy-Hanrehan (BAF), another in *Blue Earth* (m. ob.), and a vagrant at Moorhead, *Clay* 9 Jun (audiotape DDW; also recorded in North Dakota). Michigan's only Kentucky Warbler was in *Hillsdale* (JR). Though possibly extending its Minnesota breeding range farther se., singing male Mourning Warblers in *Olmsted* 13 Jun (CBe), *Winona* 15 Jun (CB), and *Scott* 17 Jun (RMD) probably represented the tail end of spring migration. North of its usual breeding range in Wisconsin was a territorial Hooded Warbler in *Marathon* (MBe). Yet another late Michigan warbler was the Wilson's in *Alpena* 13 Jun (WNG). Yellow-breasted Chat was absent from the Region except for two Wisconsin reports: *Dane* (m. ob.) and n. of usual in *Outagamie* 4–5 Jul (SPe).

Undeniably cooperative was a singing Baird's Sparrow in *Polk*, MN 18 Jun+ (JPR, m. ob.). Another singing Baird's was discovered by the same observer while conducting surveys at a different *Polk* location 14 Jul. Single Henslow's Sparrows were at four Minnesota locations, including a first county occurrence in *Pope* 3–4 Jun (MCBS). Two White-crowned Sparrows visited W.P.B.O. 3 Jul (JTW). Providing Minnesota's 11th record was a male Painted Bunting in Wouri Twp., *St. Louis* 5 Jun (ph. DJ). An incursion of Dickcissels was readily apparent in Minnesota (47 counties) and Wisconsin (17 counties), but less so in Michigan (8 s. counties). Several reports of both White-winged and Red Crossbills from n. Minnesota and the U.P. raised expectations for a fall flight.

**Cited observers** (subregional editors in boldface): Larry Abraham, Phil Albin, Philip Ashman (PAs), Gordon Atkins, Karl J. Bardon, Jim Barrett (JBa), Marianne Barrowman, Chris Benson (CBe), Murray Berner (MBe), Laurence C. Binford, Terry P. Brashear, David & Margaret Brassier, Conny

Brunell, Jeff A. Buecking, **Adam M. Byrne** (Michigan), Rosemary Carlson, Steven L. Carlson, Allen T. Chartier, Daryl Christensen, Philip C. Chu, Karl David, Jim Dawe, Louis Dombroski, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, John P. Ellis, Russell E. Emmons, Bruce A. Fall, Bob Fisher, Dan M. Floren, Randy S. Frederickson, Carl Freeman, Lisa Gamero, Jack Gillespie (JGi), Colin R. Gjervold, Bob Grefe, Cory J. Gregory, William N. Grigg, Greg Grove, Dennis Gustafson, Skye Haas, **Jan Hansen** (Wisconsin), Anthony X. Hertzler, John W. Hockema, Aaron Holschbach, Joanie & Mark Hubinger, John Idzikowski, Dorothy Jalonen, Robert B. Janssen, Jeanie M. Joppru, Fred Z. Lesher, Derek Lovitch, Steve Lubahn, Dennis D. Martin, Dan Miller, Gary Nelkie, Mark Palas, Walter G. Pawloski (W.P.B.O.), Dave Peters, Glenn Peterson, Mark S. Peterson, Michael E. Petrucha, Steve Petznick (SPe), Janine Polk

(JPo), Jack Reinoehl, John P. Richardson, Robert P. Russell, Jr., Steve Santner, Ed Saur, Chris M. Schumacher, Scott E. Shaum, Brian Smith (BSm), Jerry Smith (JSm), Joe Soehnel (JSo), Jeff Sommer, Charles Sontag, Mark Sparky Stensaas, Aaron Stutz, Mike Supernault, Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS), Peder H. Svingen, Carolyn Szaroletta (CSz), Daryl Tessen, Joel Trick, Dick Verch, Ron Weeks, Steve Weston (SWe), **Terry P. Wiens** (Minnesota), Dennis D. Wiesenborn, Steven G. Wilson, Thomas C. Wood, Jonathan T. Wuepper, Joseph Youngman, Tom Ziebell, and David C. Zumeta. Our sincere thanks to the hundreds of additional contributors who could not be acknowledged individually.



# Midwestern Prairie



**Kenneth J. Brock**  
1265 Red Bud Drive  
Chesterton, Indiana 46304  
(kebrock@iun.edu)  
(kj.brock@attbi.com)

**I**t was a hot, hot summer across the Region. Precipitation, which primarily originated from thunderstorms, was spotty, producing excess moisture in some areas and deficits in others. Although many correspondents felt the season was interesting, few noted any trends.