

Western Great Lakes



Jim Granlund

Kalamazoo Nature Center
6253 North Westnedge
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009
(granlund@chartermi.net)

As always, weather played a role in the progression of the migration. In general, March was cold throughout the Region, while April was more seasonable. May was quite cool both at the beginning and the end of the month. As a result, migration occurred in spurts, with some migrants showing up early in the warmer spells, while others lingered during the cooler spells. The Region remained dry through much of the period, with significant precipitation in some portions only at the end of May.

Minnesota's most interesting highlights included good numbers of *Plegadis* ibis, a Ruff, and a cooperative Rock Wren. Michigan fared better, with an impressive number of rarities that included Common Eider, Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Say's Phoebe, Blue Grosbeak, and a possible

first state record of Lazuli Bunting. Wisconsin's highlights were multiple White-faced Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Reeve, and two Baird's Sparrows.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (Michigan Bird Records Committee); P.M. (Point Mouillee, Monroe, MI); W.B.R.C. (Wisconsin Bird Records Committee); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Unusual in Minnesota were reports of Red-throated Loons away from L. Superior, with 2 on 22 Apr at Little Rock L., Benton (HD, PC) and one 17 May at Sham L., Lyon (AH, PS, RSc). Wisconsin had two reports of Red-throated Loons in Manitowoc from 9 Apr to 1 May (MP, TW, JH, DV, DT) and Ozaukee 11 Apr (TU). In Michigan, W.P.B.O. reported 579, with a peak of 129 on 14 May (staff). The only Arctic/Pacific Loon report came from W.P.B.O., where individuals were reported on 29 May (staff) and 9 May (KM); both are pending M.B.R.C. review. Wisconsin reported Red-necked Grebes from five counties, while in Michigan this species was found at several inland sites as well as in good numbers on the Great Lakes, the maximum being 130 on 3 May at W.P.B.O. (staff). An Eared

Grebe 10–13 May at Two Harbors, Lake (JLi PS) was n. of normal in Minnesota, and another was seen on 29 May at Moose Lake sewage treatment plant, Carlton (MS). Wisconsin reported this species from seven counties, with high of 5 on 18 May at Horicon Marsh (TW). Michigan also had a good number of Eared Grebes, with reports from six counties including 2 on 9 May in Mecosta (PCa, MCa). Northeast of normal in Minnesota were 2 Western Grebes at Duluth 25 May (AH, PS), while the only report in Wisconsin was of one 13 May in Oneida (AR). Clark's Grebes were reported in Minnesota as single individuals 12 Apr on L. Byllesby, Dakota (BL, AS, JMA), 27 Apr+ on Thielke L., Big Stone (PS, BU, m. ob.), and 30 May at Agassiz NWR, Marshall (PJ). Michigan had a good season for American White Pelican; the maximum of 9 came on 22 May at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw (LB).

Early in Wisconsin were Great Egrets 23 Mar in Milwaukee (JM) and 30 Mar in Rock (AP). Wisconsin had a Snowy Egret 15 & 29 May in Kenosha (RH), while in Michigan one was present 10–19 May in Allegan (CF, RB, JG, TW). In Minnesota, one was noted 19 Apr between Swift and Big Stone along US-12 (MD et al.), and another was reported 10 May in Greenleaf Twp., Meeker (DF). Also in that state, a Little Blue Heron was photographed 28 May at Grand Portage, Cook (SV, SG), and an ad. was seen 31 May in Roseau (ML, EHe). Wisconsin had reports of Little Blues 6 Apr in Crawford (SS), 5 May in Fond du Lac (BV), and 27 Apr–1 May in Outagamie (m. ob.). Cattle Egret numbers remained low in the Region. Michigan had a single report 25 May in Bay (JGi), while Wisconsin managed two reports with singles 13–17 May in Manitowoc (WR, EH, MR et al.) and 21 May in Manitowoc (TW). Minnesota reported Cattle Egrets from 13 counties (~23 individuals), including one 22–24 Apr at Waubun, Mahnomon (LZ et al.). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen 19–27 Apr at Austin, Mower, MN (RK, RKn, DMa, m. ob.), and another was reported in Wisconsin 19 May at Buffalo (MP). As many as 4 White-faced Ibis were found in Dodge 18 Apr–2 May (JBa, MP, DT, m. ob.), an 11th state record for Wisconsin if accepted by the W.B.R.C. Minnesota also had an influx of this species, with 6 seen 17–19 May at Cottonwood S.P., Lyon (PS et al.). Also in Minnesota were 11 unidentified *Plegadis* 17 Apr in Jackson (BB) and 2 at Bass Ponds, Hennepin 3 May (BF). A few undocumented ibises, claimed as either Glossy or White-faced, were reported from several other locations. Only the 3rd Michigan spring record, a White-faced

SA For the third consecutive spring, Karl Bardon conducted the Hastings-Prescott Bird Count at Hastings (Minnesota) and Prescott (Wisconsin), where a natural bottleneck funnels birds through the Mississippi River Valley. Total hours (183+) of coverage were comparable to spring 2001 and increased by about 73% over last spring. Total waterbird counts (100,850) were the highest among the three years; adding raptors (4,384) and passerines (15,402) brought the spring 2003 grand total to 120,636 birds. Exceptional numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese (4759), Mallards (23,424), and Northern Pintails (2222) were tallied. Totals for Bald Eagle (2564) and Ring-billed Gull (28,181) were up significantly from the previous two years. Bardon pooled data from all three years and calculated an average of 686 birds/hour at this site; using only counts obtained before sunrise plus the first two hours of the day increased the yield to 1215 birds/hour.

Ibis was present 13–16 May in *Berrien* (JW, KM, TB).

WATERFOWL

Michigan had a poor season for Greater White-fronted Goose, with only two reports, while in Wisconsin the high total was 700+ on 29 Mar in *Columbia* (DT). Also in Wisconsin, a Snow Goose lingered to 31 May in *Kewaunee* (SF). Ross's Goose was less common this season in Minnesota, with 152 birds in 17 counties. Wisconsin had this species 18 Mar–9 Apr in *Dane* (PA et al.), on 12 Apr in *Dodge* (TP), and 23 Mar in *Outagamie* (MP). A Brant was reported 10 May at W.P.B.O. (KM). In Wisconsin, 109 Trumpeter Swans 9 Mar in *St. Croix* (LP) testified to their continued increase in the Region. Mute Swans are still uncommon in Minnesota, making the 2 apparent migrants 19 Mar at the Hastings-Prescott Bird Count, *Dakota* (KB) noteworthy. There were additional reports from six counties, although the origin of the birds was uncertain. In Michigan, a Eurasian Wigeon was found 12 Apr at P.M. (BM, AB, GB). The only Cinnamon Teal reports came from Minnesota at Lac Qui Parle S.P., *Lac Qui Parle* 22 Apr (JB, RJ) and at Gilman, *Benton* 23–25 Apr (a male; HD). Exceptional in Michigan were 25,000 Canvasbacks 31 Mar at Anchor Bay, *St. Clair* (SSa). Only the 3rd Michigan record, a Common Eider first found 17 May remained through the period at P.M. (AB, WW).

Wisconsin reported Harlequin Ducks 24 Apr in *Milwaukee* (PH) and 9 Mar in *Manitowoc* (TW). In Michigan, there were multiple reports of Harlequin Ducks, with a maximum of 4 birds until 16 May at Oval Beach, *Allegan* (CF, RB) and one as late as 23 May at P.M. (WP, AC). Good numbers of all three scoters were reported throughout the Region this season, mostly from the Great Lakes, but some were inland as well. Noteworthy were 1000 Long-tailed Ducks 16 May at W.P.B.O. (staff). Minnesota had reports of Barrow's Goldeneye to 11 Mar at Fergus Falls, *Otter Tail* (m. ob.) and 2 Apr at Long Meadow L., *Hennepin* (TT, PB, AS, JMa). Wisconsin also had two reports, with one 9 Mar in *Sheboygan* (AS, DT,

TW) and another 15 Mar in *Milwaukee* (MP et al.).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Highlights from the West Skyline Hawk Count in Duluth, Minnesota included totals of 2866 Bald Eagles, 4 Swainson's Hawks, and 71 Golden Eagles. A Swallow-tailed Kite 2–16 May in *Berrien* (TB, MC) was a first spring record for Michigan. In Minnesota, a Mississippi Kite was reported 10 May at Hyland Lake Park Reserve, *Hennepin* (AH, NW). In Michigan, 223 Red-shouldered Hawks 22 Mar in *St. Clair* (DM) was an exceptional total. Also noteworthy in that state was a Swainson's Hawk 14 May at W.P.B.O. (KM, LD). The only Ferruginous Hawk in the Region was reported from Minnesota, where one was seen 23 Apr at Odessa Twp., *Big Stone* (BU). High for Michigan were 30 Peregrine Falcons on 10 May at W.P.B.O. (staff). A Gyrfalcon was reported in Wisconsin 8 Mar in *Douglas* (DW, LSa), while another was photographed in Michigan 8 Mar at P.M. (WP, TS, JF).

Yellow Rails were reported from three Wisconsin counties, while Minnesota had reports from the traditional locations, including an astounding 51+ on 23 May at the Neal W.M.A., *Norman* (AH, PS). Wisconsin had five reports of King Rail, while in Michigan, where the species is rare, a pair was videotaped 8 May at Petoskey, *Emmet* (KG, HP). Outstanding in Wisconsin was a Purple Gallinule 22 May in *Waupaca* (CE); the sighting is pending W.B.R.C. review. Four reports of Common Moorhens in Minnesota, where the species has declined, were encouraging. Record high in Minnesota was the count of 233 Semipalmated Plovers 22 May at Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall* (PS). Piping Plovers continue to do well in the Region, with both Minnesota and Michigan having six reports. The only report in Wisconsin was an individual 10 & 19 May in *Bayfield* (DVe).

Minnesota had lower numbers of both Willet and American Avocet this season compared to the past few springs. Wisconsin had a peak of 50 American Avocets 28 Apr in *Ozaukee* (TU) and outstanding numbers of Willets, including an estimated 400

scattered through the state 6 May (DT). Minnesota reported its 2nd highest total for Whimbrel, with 226 on 26 May in *Cook* (DN). Hudsonian Godwits were scarce in Wisconsin, with only one report, while Michigan had only two. Minnesota also reported the species as being scarce but did have a peak of 240 on 18 May at Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall* (RJ et al.). In Wisconsin, a high of 36 Marbled Godwits was tallied 20–28 Apr in *Dane* (PA), while Michigan had reports from three counties. Minnesota and Wisconsin had four reports of Red Knot; Michigan mustered two.

Western Sandpipers were reported 5–6 May at Lewiston S.P., *Winona* (ph. CS, JHo) in Minnesota, and in Wisconsin 19 & 31 May in *Dane* (DT, CM); both are pending review by records committees. In Minnesota, a record 473 Baird's Sandpipers were reported 17 May at Mud L., *Traverse* (KB). Some 609 Dunlin 27 May at Agassiz N.W.R. (KB) also provided a record-high count for that state. Record-early in Wisconsin was a Stilt Sandpiper 13 Apr in *Dane* (SM), the report pending W.R.B.C. review. Rare anywhere in the Region in spring, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found 19 May in *Big Stone*, MN (KB). A Reeve remained in Wisconsin 12–17 May in *Brown* (MP, m. ob.), while a Ruff in Minnesota was present 17 May at Bunker Hills, *Anoka* (GP, KB). Minnesota reported a good migration of Red-necked Phalaropes, with 111+ statewide. Michigan also had a good season for this species, with double the number of normal reports.

As is typical, the only jaeger reports for the Region came from W.P.B.O., where 3 unidentified and one Parasitic were recorded. The only Laughing Gulls reported this spring came from Wisconsin, where individuals were seen 6 May in *Racine* (RF) and 10 May in *Ozaukee* (TU). Both Michigan and Wisconsin had typical numbers of Franklin's Gulls, while Little Gull was seen in better numbers Region-wide: 2 reports in Minnesota, 5 reports in Michigan, and reports from 6 Wisconsin counties. A lingering Thayer's Gull was reported 27 May at W.P.B.O. (PC). Minnesota missed Lesser Black-backed Gull this season, while both Wisconsin and Michigan had three reports. A Black-legged Kittiwake in Wisconsin 2–3 Mar in *Sheboygan* (CG, TW et al.) was very rare in the Region in spring; the report is pending W.B.R.C. review.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

The Band-tailed Pigeon in Minnesota overwintered to 2 Apr in Ravenna Twp., *Dakota* (CT, HT). The Eurasian Collared-Dove present for the past few years continues in *Ozaukee*, WI; another was in *Green* (RS).

The collared-doves in Minnesota at Caledonia, *Houston* returned for the 3rd year, with nesting detected 2 Apr (FL, KN). Two to 3 collared-doves also returned to *Grant*, MN 21 Mar (SM, DMi, DTh, STh); a new location was near Claremont, *Dodge* 9-20 Apr (CK, JS, m. ob.). There were 12 other undocumented Minnesota reports of the species this spring.

A **Burrowing Owl** was found dead, possibly hit by a car, 13 May at Moyer Twp., *Swift*, MN (m. ob.). Great Gray Owls were reported from the typical locations of *Lake*, *Lake of the Woods*, and *St. Louis* in Minnesota, and on 14 & 20 May in Michigan at W.P.B.O. Also at W.P.B.O., 86 Long-eared Owls were banded during season, the 3rd best spring since standard banding began in 1988 (staff).

Two Common Nighthawks 13 Apr in *Sheboygan* (SB) represented the 3rd earliest arrival for Wisconsin. A *Say's Pheobe* was photographed 25 Apr at W.P.B.O. (ST), while a *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* in Minnesota was photographed 24-27 May at Two Harbors, *Lake* (RD et al.). Loggerhead Shrikes declined again this spring in Minnesota, with 21 birds in 10 counties, down from last year's 26 birds in 16 counties. Wisconsin had Loggerheads in three counties, while Michigan had a single report of one 18-19 May near Calumet, *Houghton* (RH, TA, JMu). Michigan had a good spring for *White-eyed Vireo*, with reports as far n. as *Manistee* (KW). Wisconsin had this species 1 May in *Manitowoc* (MP), 1-6 May in *Walworth* (SF), and 17-31 May in *Dane* (AS, m. ob.). In Minnesota, where *White-eyed Vireo* is casual, an individual was present 17 May at Old Frontenac, *Goodhue* (KB). Also in Minnesota, a *Rock Wren* was reported 28 Apr-2 May at the Arcadia Cemetery, *Dakota* (DK, JO, CFA).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

As is typical, the only Mountain Bluebird in the Region came from Minnesota, where one was present 10-12 Apr near *Kandiyohi*, *Kandiyohi* (ES, CBr). In Minnesota, *Townsend's Solitaires* were reported in two locations in *Lake*, while in Wisconsin one lingered until 15 Apr at *Devil's Lake S.P.* (AHO). Minnesota had three reports of *Variied Thrush*, the latest being 19 Apr s. of *Park Rapids*, *Hubbard* (WH). Also in that state, *Northern Mockingbird* was found in greater numbers, some 20 statewide.

A *Northern Parula* 13 Apr in *Milwaukee* (CHA) was the 6th earliest in Wisconsin, while 7 *Magnolia Warblers* 16 Apr in *Ozaukee* (DP) were the earliest records in that state; both records are pending W.B.R.C. review. North of normal in Michigan was a *Yellow-throated Warbler* 6-7 May near *Benzonia*, *Benzie* (KW). A *Pine Warbler* 11 Apr

at *Lindbergh S.P.*, *Morrison* (DMA, BFr) was record early in Minnesota. A *Palm Warbler* 24 Mar in *Waukesha* (MF) was record early in Wisconsin, while a *Black-and-white Warbler* 5 Apr in *Grant* (SJ) was the 2nd earliest, and an *Ovenbird* 5 Apr in *Langlade* (ABA) was the 3rd earliest in that state; all are pending W.B.R.C. review. A *Prothonotary Warbler* 12-13 May in *Escanaba*, *Delta* (JFI) is only the 2nd record in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Minnesota and Wisconsin had five reports of *Summer Tanager*, while Michigan had six reports. In Michigan, a *Western Tanager* 26 May at *Lincoln Twp.*, *Berrien* (LG) was the 8th record in the past nine springs. Wisconsin had *Western Tanagers* 12 May in *Sheboygan* (SB), 12-14 May in *Winnebago* (MR, m. ob.), and 7 May in *Dane* (PW); all are pending review. Minnesota had a similar number of reports, with individuals 11-15 May at *Wood L.*, *Hennepin* (SA, CBr, PB, m. ob.), 14 May at *L. Byllesby*, *Dakota* (AS), and 23-24 May at *Ann L.*, *Kanabec* (*vide* CMn).

A *Spotted Towhee* was found 17 May near *Luverne*, *Rock*, MN (AH, PS). A *Lark Sparrow* 8 Apr in *Monroe* (DK) was the earliest ever in Wisconsin; the report is pending review. Michigan had a single *Lark Sparrow* 27 Apr near *Newberry*, *Luce* (CMA). Wisconsin had two reports of *Baird's Sparrow*, a review species in that state: 6 May in *Buffalo* (JJ) and 8 May in *Milwaukee* (SL). A *Smith's Longspur* 27 Mar in *Martin* (CK, JS) was the 3rd earliest date for Minnesota. A female *Blue Grosbeak* was photographed at W.P.B.O. and remained 15-18 May (AB, JMc, m. ob.). Wisconsin also had a *Blue Grosbeak* 11 & 17 May in *Milwaukee* (BBo, JHu). A possible first state record in Michigan was a first-year male *Lazuli Bunting* photographed 19 May in *Ogemaw* (CMe, GG, KG, AT); the report is pending M.B.R.C. review. Minnesota also had a male *Lazuli Bunting* 31 May at *Blue Mounds S.P.*, *Rock* (KE). A *Painted Bunting* was reported 29 May at *Bruno*, *Pine*, MN (TBu), while Wisconsin reported the species 13 May in *Sheboygan* (SB). Michigan had one 19-20 May near *L'Anse*, *Baraga* (RH, LT) and another 16 May in *Manistee* (DKo, BA). *Great-tailed Grackles* were present once again in Minnesota: reports came 26 Apr from *Dakota* (JRy, DMA, AS), 31 May+ from *Hills*, *Rock* (KE et al.), and from several other locations where the documentation is pending review.

Corrigenda: From N.A.B 56: 308—the correct date for *Ferruginous Hawk* in *Duluth* is 19 Apr. In N.A.B 56: 440—the mention of a territorial *Hooded Warbler* in *Marathon*, WI

was in error. The correct information is: "*Hooded Warblers* fledged from a nest in *Portage*, WI 18 Jul (MBe)."

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Brian Allen, Susan Arquette, Philip Ashman, T. Auer, Jeff Bahls (JBA), Tim Baerwald, Alicia Bailey (ABA), Karl J. Bardon, Scott Baughman, Glenn Belyea, David R. Benson, Laurie Binford, Brian Boldt (BBo), Brad R. Bolduan, Jerry E. Bonkoski, Rick Brigham, Paul E. Budde, Tony Bundschuh (TBu), Connie Brunnel (CBr), Adam Byrne, Mike Cady (MCA), Pat Cady (PCA). Allen Chartier, Phil C. Chu, Mary Creager, Mark A. Davis, Herb H. Dingmann, Louis Dombroski, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Chuck Egle, Chris Fagyal (CFA), Bruce A. Fall, Rick Fare, Sean Fitzgerald, Dan M. Floren, Jim Flory (JFI), Mike Fort, Jim Fowler, Chip Francke, Ben W. Fritchman (BFr), Charles Geiger, Jack Gillespie (JGi), Lila Godfrey, Ken Good, Gail Good, Jim Granlund, Suzanne Gucciardo, Charles Hagner (CHA), Walt Hannemann, R. Hansen (RHA), Eric Henze (EHe), Anthony X. Hertz, John W. Hockema (JHo), Ron Hoffman, Aaron Holschbach (AHO), John Holschbach, Eric Howe, Judith Huf (JHu), Paul Hunter, Joe Jacyna, Robert B. Janssen, Paul L. Johnson, Scott Johnson, Doug W. Keiser (DKe), Ron Kneeskern, Rose Kneeskern (RKn), Doug Kogut (DKo), Dennis Kuecherer, Chuck A. Krulas, Margaret La Faive, Fred Z. Leshner, Noble Lewallen, James W. Lind (JLi), Bill R. Litkey, Steve Lubahn, Carl Manning (CMA), Steve Marfilus, Chester Martin, Dennis D. Martin (DMA), James P. Mattsson (JMa), John McDaniel (JMc), Jim McGinity, Cynthia Mead (CMe), Craig A. Menze (CMn), Ken Mettie, Diane Millard (DMi), Steve Millard, Dan Miller, Kip Miller (KM), Brad Murphy, J. Musser (JMu), David F. Neitzel, Gary Nelkie, Tess Nelkey, Kent Nickell, Jim Otto, Dan Panetti, Andy Paulios, Walter Pawloski, Larry Persico, Mark Peterson, Henry Pfieler, Greg Pietila, Tom Prestby, Mike Ramsden, Jack Reinoehl (Michigan), Amber Roth, Wayne Rohde (Wisconsin), Marie Rohrer, Jim Ryan (JRy), Steve Santner (MSa), Lilian Saul (LSa), Roger J. Schroeder (RSc), Carol Schumacher, Erika Sitz, Tim Smart, Andrew D. Smith, R. Martin Smith, Sally Steele, Mark Sparky Stensaas (MS), Jeff J. Stephenson, Jean Strelka (JSt), Aaron Stutz (AS), Peder H. Svingen Minnesota, Louis Taccolini, Scott Terry, Daryl Tessen, Dan Thimgan (DTh), Sandy Thimgan (STh), Carol Tressel, Hank Tressel, Al Turner, Tom A. Tustison, Billy J. Unzen, Don Van Duyse, Steve Veit, Dick Verch (DVe), Bill Volkert, Doug Wassmer, Nancy Weber, Will Weber, Paula Westaway, Keith Westphal, Tom Wheeler (TWh), Thomas Wood, Jon Wuepper, Lisa Zluticky. 🐦