

Western Great Lakes



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Most of the Region reported normal to slightly below normal temperatures and dry conditions, except in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, where precipitation was highly variable. Despite localized flooding, the majority of Minnesota's 87 counties were declared eligible for federal assistance due to drought. Shorebirds and gulls provided most of the excitement.

Abbreviations: Agassiz (Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall, MN); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park, Dakota and Scott, MN); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Single Red-throated Loons at W.P.B.O. (JMc) and Duluth, MN 1 Jun (MSS) were followed by 6 at the latter location 3 Jun (PHS). Mattson spotted a Red-throated Loon in flight in Murray, MN 7 Jun (JPM). Horned Grebes in Minnesota on L. Superior (PHS) and in Polk (EEF) in early Jun were probably late spring migrants; the only other Regional report came from Oscoda, MI (JD). Unusual for location and date was the Eared Grebe at Horicon Marsh, WI 3 Jul (JB).

Dramatically different from last summer's Regional absence were Little Blue Herons in all three states. Minnesota reported singles at Agassiz 16 Jun (JMJ, MB) and Hennepin 12 Jul (OLJ), plus a pair with one imm. in Douglas 20 Jul+ (JPE, m. ob.). One in Juneau, WI 2 Jul (JW) and an imm. at Pte. Mouillee 1–12 Jun (PB, AMB) completed the Little Blue sweep. Cattle Egrets were in six Minnesota locations, including late Jul maxima of 35 in Grant (CBr, JPE) and 54 in Douglas (CRM et al.). By contrast, Wisconsin had none, and Michigan had only one Cattle Egret in Bay 5–7 Jun (JS). Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were in Shawano, WI 24 & 28 Jul (MP,

DT) and Jackson, MI 1–27 Jun (p. a., CB, SB, SJ). *Plegadis* were confined to Minnesota, where 5 White-faced Ibis in Rock 1 Jun (RMD, KRE et al.) and 2 in Big Stone 15 Jun (PCC) were followed by an unidentified ibis in Rock 26 Jun (DFN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH MOORHEN

One or 2 Snow Geese in nine Minnesota locations were possibly the most ever reported there in summer. An ad. Tundra Swan in Wayne, MI 2 Jun (WGP) was a late spring migrant, but an imm. at Agassiz 19 Jul+ (PCC et al.) was probably summering. Wearing basic plumage was a male Cinnamon Teal in Dakota, MN 7–16 Jun (CH, m. ob.). Rarely reported in summer, up to 10 Greater Scaup loitered on L. Superior in St. Louis, MN 3–8 Jun (KJB et al.). Michigan's 3rd Common Eider lingered at Pte. Mouillee through the period (m. ob.). An imm. Surf Scoter in Pipestone, MN 1 Jun (KRE et al.) was a county first. Tardy White-winged Scoters were at W.P.B.O. 1 Jun (JMc), Milwaukee, WI 11 Jun (DT), and Alpena, MI 15 Jun (WNG). Even more unusual was a female Black Scoter in Mackinac, MI 14 Jun (JD). Lingering from spring was a Long-tailed Duck in Dane, WI through 16 Jun (ME).

Wisconsin's 19th Mississippi Kite graced Door, WI 17–19 Jun (p. a., BS, B&MH). An ad. Mississippi in Kalamazoo, MI 12–26 Jul (p. a., SJ, RS) was at the same location that hosted a juv. Swallow-tailed and 2 Mississippi Kites in early Aug 2002. Unusually far s. for a late spring migrant was the Rough-legged Hawk in Winnebago, WI 1 Jun (KEH). Merlin nesting was confirmed in six Minnesota counties, including three pairs in the Twin Cities (MJS).

Unusual for Michigan's Lower Peninsula were single Spruce Grouse in Oscoda (m. ob.). Sharp-tailed Grouse counts rose 21% in nw. Minnesota. Cooperative even in mid-day was an ad. King Rail in Kenosha, WI 1–4 Jun (RF, TP, EH, KJ). A spring King lingered into Jun in Emmet, MI (p. a., CK), and a juv. was discovered at Pte. Mouillee 13 Jul (p. a., AMB). Far from its usual Minnesota haunts was the pair of Common Moorhens at Hamden Slough N.W.R. that eventually fledged 6 young.

SHOREBIRDS

Drawdowns at Agassiz and dry conditions in w. Minnesota attracted good numbers of shorebirds, especially in late Jul, when surveys consistently

turned up ± 3000 individuals of 17–19 species. Black-bellied Plover numbers peaked at 29 in *Alpena*, MI 2 Jun (WNG), and a few probably summered there; one in *Allegan*, MI 27 June (RB) and one or 2 at Pte. Mouillee 16 Jun–12 Jul (WGP) may also have summered. In Minnesota, a Black-bellied Plover at Agassiz 6 Jul (PHS, JMJ) and single American Golden-Plovers in *Big Stone* 20 Jul (PCC) and *Yellow Medicine* 23 Jul (KJB) were thought to be returning fall migrants. Piping Plovers were absent again from their last known Minnesota nesting location, but 54 breeding pairs were located in Michigan, where 150+ chicks hatched from 51 nests (*vide* LG).

The 3rd Michigan record of Black-necked Stilt was a zinger! Each of two nesting pairs at Pte. Mouillee fledged 4 young, for the state's first breeding record. In Minnesota, American Avocets nested at Agassiz and two or more *Big Stone* locations (m. ob.). Michigan had the first fall migrants in *Berrien*, MI 5 & 13 Jul (RHu) and at Pte. Mouillee 13 Jul (AMB, ATC), while Wisconsin's only report was of 6 avocets in *Dodge* 26 Jul (DT et al.). Yellowlegs peak counts at Agassiz were 121 Greater 30 Jul (KJB) and 1677 Lessers 27 Jul (PHS, SAS). Two Lesser Yellowlegs apparently summered at Pte. Mouillee (WGP). Almost record-high in Minnesota was the count of 24 Solitary Sandpipers at Agassiz 24 Jul (KJB). Willets were in all three states; maxima were 16 in *Berrien*, MI 29 Jun (RHu, JTW) and 11 in *Dane*, WI 4 Jul (ME). Northbound Whimbrels were in three Wisconsin counties, including 24 in *Manitowoc* 1 Jun (LM); Michigan had the only fall migrant, in *Alpena* 16 Jul (WNG). Presumably northbound was a very late Hudsonian Godwit in *Big Stone*, MN 15 Jun (PCC); 3 at Agassiz 27–30 Jul (PHS, KJB) were early returnees. Michigan reported a Marbled Godwit in *Allegan* 27 Jun (RB) and 3 more with the Willets in *Berrien* 29 Jun (RHu, JTW).

Wisconsin had one or 2 Red Knots at each of three locations on 1 Jun; 3 at Pte. Mouillee 2 Jun (ATC, SES) constituted the only other report. Relatively early were a Ruddy Turnstone at Agassiz 20 Jul (JMJ, PHS) and 8 Sanderlings in *Berrien*, MI 18 Jul (JTW). Tardy were 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Pte. Mouillee 23 Jun (WGP); 728 were there 30 Jul (MK, AR). A Western Sandpiper was photographed in *Dane*, WI 28–30 Jul (p. a., CM, MM). Least Sandpiper high counts included 570 at Agassiz 6 Jul (PHS, JMJ) and 504 at

Shiawassee 11 Jul (DP). Minnesota's 3rd highest White-rumped Sandpiper count was of 624 in *Rock* 3 Jun (RBJ). Possibly summering were one or 2 White-rumpeds at Pte. Mouillee 12 Jul+ (AMB, WGP).

Pectoral Sandpiper numbers peaked at 520 in *Big Stone*, MN 29 Jul (KJB). Single Baird's Sandpipers returned to Agassiz 6 Jul (PHS, JMJ) and Pte. Mouillee 13 Jul (AMB, PCC). Dunlin migration peaked at 1185 at Pte. Mouillee 1 Jun (AMB); 2 Dunlin there 30 Jun (WGP) & 13 Jul (AMB) and one in *Hennepin*, MN 1 Jul (OLJ) were likely summering s. of breeding grounds. Stilt Sandpiper numbers peaked at 652 at Agassiz 30 Jul (KJB), while 60 was a good count for Wisconsin in *Dodge* 26 Jul (DT). Minnesota had the only Buff-breasted Sandpipers, including 5 early birds in *Meeker* 19 Jul (DMF) and one at Agassiz 24 Jul (KJB). Short-billed Dowitcher numbers peaked 19 Jul, with 671 at Pte. Mouillee (AMB) and 113 at Agassiz (PCC, PHS). A total of 198 Wilson's Phalaropes was spinning at Salt L., *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 29 Jul (KJB). Northbound Red-necked Phalaropes were in all three states; Wisconsin had the Region's first fall migrant in *Dodge* 13 Jul (TCW).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An unknown number of Laughing Gulls was responsible for Wisconsin reports along L. Michigan in *Racine* 4 Jun–9 Jul (RF, EH), *Sheboygan* 20 Jun–5 Jul (m. ob.), *Milwaukee* 4–8 Jun (JI, PH), and *Manitowoc* 18 Jul (CS). Michigan's only Laughing Gull was a second-summer in *Berrien* 14 Jul (PCC). Wisconsin had Franklin's Gulls in four locations along L. Michigan, plus one "inland" in *Dane* 14 Jun (TP). Wisconsin had Little Gulls in *Sheboygan* 1–28 Jun (LM, MP, DT) and *Manitowoc* 26–27 Jun (CS), while Michigan had one ad. in *Emmet* 26 Jul+ (JWe). Lingering larids in Wisconsin included an Iceland Gull in *Milwaukee* 5 Jun (JI) and a Glaucous Gull in *Manitowoc* 3 Jun (CS). Unusual for "inland" Wisconsin was a Caspian Tern in *Jefferson* 22 Jun (KEH).

Providing only the 2nd n. Minnesota

record was the Eurasian Collared-Dove in *Pennington* 30 Jun+ (GM, ph. PHS, m. ob.). Newly discovered but reported by homeowners as present for three years were 3+ Eurasian Collared-Doves in *Dakota*, MN 31 Jul+ (BSe). Three Eurasian Collared-Doves in *Columbia* established a new Wisconsin location for this species 25 Jun–1 Jul (m. ob.). Minnesota's 3rd White-winged Dove was briefly seen in *Cook* 5 Jul (p. a., JWH). Rarely confirmed as breeders in Minnesota, Long-eared Owls nested in *Todd* (BWF) and *Otter Tail* (m. ob.). Also in Minnesota, Short-eared Owls probably nested in *Polk* (LB, JMJ), and 6 were in *Pennington* 22 Jun+ (PCC, PHS et al.). Single Black-backed Woodpeckers at Trout L., *Chippewa* 17 (TW) & 21 Jun (JHa) were the only reports for Michigan.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRD

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was late in *Hillsdale*, MI 6 Jun (JRe). Also northbound in Michigan were Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in *Wayne* 6 Jun (JC) and *Oakland* 7 Jun (SES). Thirteen Acadian Flycatcher territories at Murphy-Hanrehan were more than usual for this location near the Twin Cities (BAF). Loggerhead Shrikes nested in *Dakota*, *Lac Qui Parle*, and *Sherburne*, and appeared in six additional Minnesota counties. Wisconsin's only nesting pair was in *St. Croix* 28 Jun (LP). White-eyed Vireos were in three Wisconsin and five Michigan locations, including a family group in *Berrien*, MI 27–28 Jun (TB). Bell's Vireos nested in *Dakota*, MN (JPM) and occurred in four Wisconsin counties as far nw. as *Trempealeau* (FZL). Single Philadelphia Vireos in *Wayne*, MI 4 Jun (ATC) and *Steele*, MN 6 Jun (NFT) represented late spring migrants.

Providing Michigan's first summer record and 6th overall was a Black-billed Magpie near Pelkie, *Baraga* 29 Jul (p. a., LCB). Carolina Wren reports were back to normal after an excellent showing in Minnesota and Michigan last summer. Wisconsin's only Carolina Wrens were in *Rock* 2 Jun (TK, AP) and *Grant* 27 Jul (AH). Providing further evidence of its summer range expan-

SA Providing the first Wisconsin and first Regional record was an ad. Black-tailed Gull in *Racine* 12 Jun. Discovered at about 7:00 a.m. and photographed by Eric Howe and Ted Keyel near Wind Point Lighthouse in Racine, it was identified from these photographs and refound mid-day by John Idzikowski at Pugh Marina in downtown Racine. At 6:30 p.m., it was seen even farther s. in Kenosha (BB). Despite much searching, it could not be refound in Wisconsin but was subsequently reported along L. Michigan in Illinois and Indiana.

sion into nw. Minnesota were *Kittson's* first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at L. Bronson 2 Jun (PHS) and a pair feeding a juv. in *Pennington* 21–23 Jul (PHS, JMJ, SAS). Still northbound in Michigan were single Gray-cheeked Thrushes in *St. Clair* 1–3 Jun (DM) and *Washtenaw* 8 Jun (SJ). A few northbound Swainson's Thrushes lingered into early Jun, yet fall migrants arrived in *Kalamazoo*, MI 20 Jul (RSK) and *Dane*, WI 28 Jul (DFa). In spite of an excellent spring showing of the species, 3 Northern Mockingbirds in Minnesota and 2 in Wisconsin were all the summer could muster; singles in 10 Michigan counties were near average.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late warblers were commonplace, especially in Michigan, where northbound stragglers were reported for 16 warbler species. No fewer than 34 male Golden-winged Warblers inhabited a 100-ha plot in *Douglas*, WI 4 Jun (RH). Early fall migrant Tennessee Warblers reached *Hennepin*, MN 13 Jul (SLC) and *Kalamazoo*, MI 17 Jul (RSK). Probably a late spring migrant but furnishing Minnesota's first summer record since 1996 was a singing Orange-crowned Warbler at Fort Charlotte, *Cook* 4 Jun (DRB). Five Magnolia Warblers in two Michigan locations 1 Jun represented late spring migrants, but one in *Berrien* 13 Jul (RB, JTW) furnished the first Jul record there since 1994. Yellow-throated Warbler was scarce; Wisconsin had singles in *Dane* 20–23 Jun (m. ob.) and *Grant* 27 Jul (AH), while Michigan's only Yellow-throateds were in *Berrien*. Good news for Kirtland's Warbler: a total of 1202 singing males in Michigan (MEP) was the highest found since the annual census began in 1951!

Two Prairie Warblers visited Murphy-Hanrehan 2–3 Jun (WMS, m. ob.). More expected in Wisconsin were Prairie Warblers in *Pierce* 1 Jun (RH) and *Florence* 23 Jun (NC), while Michigan had Prairies in seven counties. West of its usual Minnesota range was the Cerulean Warbler in *Lyon* 23–30 Jun (RJS). Single Worm-eating Warblers in *Allegan* 2–28 Jun (RB, SJ) and *Berrien* 1 Jun–5 Jul (KM, JTW) were Michigan's and the Region's only reports. Record-high in Minnesota was the count of 53 Ovenbirds at Lookout Mt., *St. Louis* 3 Jun (SLF). Two territorial Kentucky Warblers at Murphy-Hanrehan failed to attract mates (BAF et al.). Kentucky Warbler was scarce in Michigan; 2 in *Hillsdale* during Jun

(JRe) furnished the only report. Possibly mirroring recent extension of its summer range in Minnesota, Wisconsin had southerly Mourning Warblers in *Dane*, *Kenosha*, and *Milwaukee* in late Jun. Hooded Warbler nested for the first time in *Anoka*, MN (KJB); only one of the five nests found at Murphy-Hanrehan was parasitized by cowbirds (BAF). Yellow-breasted Chats were in s. Wisconsin and four Michigan counties.

A male Summer Tanager paired with a female Scarlet Tanager at Murphy-Hanrehan fledged a single cowbird but no hybrid tanagers (BAF). Apparently a late spring migrant was the Summer Tanager in *Brown*, WI 2 Jun (JG). Furnishing Minnesota's first summer record since 1983 was a male Western Tanager at Fergus Falls, *Otter Tail* 1 Jun (SPM). Well n. of its usual Minnesota range was a singing Field Sparrow in *Polk* 26–27 Jul (SAS, PHS). Providing Michigan's first summer record since 1987 was an ad. male Lark Bunting at Pte. Mouillee 11 Jun (p. a., TS). Rare for the U.P. was a Grasshopper Sparrow on Manitou I., *Keweenaw* 29 Jun (BJ). It was a banner year for Henslow's Sparrow in eight Minnesota counties as far n. as *Morrison* 1 Jun (WEN), *Todd* 13 Jul+ (BWF et al.), and *Red Lake* 25 Jul+ (PHS). Out of season was the Fox Sparrow in *Isabella*, MI 12 Jun (SL). Also unseasonal in Michigan were White-crowned Sparrows in *St. Clair* 2 Jun (DM), *Wayne* 8 Jun (JC, DO), *Oscoda* 17 Jun (JZ), and *Chippewa* 19 Jun (JHa). Chestnut-collared Longspur historically occurred in sw. Minnesota, so a female in *Pipestone* 4 Jun (KLP) was noteworthy.

Dickcissels were reported as far n. as *Cass*, *Polk*, and *Red Lake* in Minnesota, and high counts in Wisconsin of 26 males in *Walworth* 12 Jul (EH) and 20+ in *Dane* 12 Jul (MM) were not matched in Michigan, where it occurred in only four s. counties. A good count for Wisconsin was of 250+ Yellow-headed Blackbirds in *Winnebago*, WI 14 Jun (TZ). Merely unexpected was the Yellow-headed Blackbird at W.P.B.O. 4 Jun (BJ, LU), but a male in *Cass*, MI 10–11 Jun provided the first county record since 1958. Orchard Orioles fared well in Michigan, with reports from 20 counties. Exceptional numbers of White-winged Crossbills in ne. Minnesota late last winter were followed by the discovery of two nests in *Lake* (JWL) and another in *Cook* (NRRI), all the more remarkable since the state's

only previous confirmed nesting was in *Rice*. Michigan's White-winged Crossbills were in *Alger* and *Keweenaw* in the U.P. Wisconsin's only Evening Grosbeaks were in *Oconto* 28 Jun (J&KS), but Michigan had Lower Peninsula reports in *Gratiot*, *Hillsdale*, and *Oakland*.

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