

Western Great Lakes



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Much of the Region was cool and wet through June, with localized flooding. July was relatively dry but still cool. Shorebird habitat was excellent in western Minnesota but very poor in Michigan.

Abbreviations: Horicon (Horicon Marsh, Dodge, WI); Mud L. (Traverse, MN); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Dakota/Scott, MN); Muskegon (Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon, MI); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Two Horned Grebes on L. Superior in Lake, MN 19 Jun (RSF) were apparently non-breeders. Despite massive flooding, Red-

necked Grebes nested at Horicon (JBa, m.ob.). Single Eared Grebes visited Muskegon 20 Jun (BJ) and Columbia, WI 28 Jun (p.a., MP). A Western Grebe showed up at Horicon 27–28 Jun (p.a., m.ob.). Clark's Grebe was reported from traditional Minnesota locations in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, and Todd. A few American White Pelicans wandered as far e. as Mackinac and Whitefish Pt. in the U.P. and Pte. Mouillee in se. Michigan. A Brown Pelican in Sheboygan, WI 13 Jul (p.a., J&FS) may have embarked on a circle tour of the Great Lakes.

Snowy Egrets were at Pte. Mouillee 5 Jun (SJ), Brown, WI 11 Jun (T&IB), and Horicon 27 Jun–10 Jul (TW, DG, MP, TP). Thirteen Snowy Egrets in w. Minnesota was exceptional for summer but followed an excellent spring showing there. The only Little Blue Herons were an ad. in Big Stone, MN 2 Jun (BU) and an imm. in Berrien, MI 25 Jul+ (m.ob.). Furnishing Michigan's first summer record since 2000 was a Tricolored Heron at

Pte. Mouillee 27 Jun (p.a., AMB). Refound through at least 13 Jul was a Tricolored at Horicon 27 Jun+ (p.a., AM et al.). Cattle Egrets peaked at 17 in Wayne, MI 12 Jun (WGP, m.ob.), 20+ at Horicon 26 Jul (BW), and 38 in Grant, MN 16 Jul (DAB). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found in all three states, including an ad. and imm. at last year's location in Jackson, MI 17–20 Jul (p.a., m.ob.) and one in Jefferson, WI 3 Jun (p.a., LZ). Thirteen Plegadis in Lac Qui Parle, MN 2 Jul (BU) were most likely White-faced.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Salt L., Lac Qui Parle 26 Jun–17 Jul (BU, JM, PHS, PCC) was one of very few ever found lingering into Jul in Minnesota. Reflecting late migration and/or poor conditions on their Arctic breeding grounds were Snow Geese in seven Minnesota locations and 3 Ross's Geese at Black Rush L., Lyon, MN 10–11 Jun (RJS, ph. JGW). Providing Minnesota's 4th summer record in the past five years was a drake Cinnamon Teal in Lac Qui Parle 1 Jun (ph. BU). Uncharacteristic of the season were a Harlequin Duck in Door, WI 5 Jun (T&IB) and a drake Red-breasted Merganser at Pte. Mouillee 20–27 Jun (AMB).

Single Mississippi Kites in Milwaukee, WI 5 Jun (p.a., MK) and at Muskegon S.G.A., Muskegon, MI 26 Jun (p.a., CF) were presumably spring overshoots; Michigan's first summer record of this species was from 2003. Rare enough in summer was an ad. Ferruginous Hawk in Yellow Medicine, MN 9 Jul (BU), but even more unusual was the imm. Rough-legged Hawk in Cottonwood, MN 23 Jul (BRB). This species is casual in summer, and previous records have been from areas much farther north. Spruce Grouse were found in Alger and Chippewa in the U.P. and Forest (ST) and Vilas (JaB) in n. Wisconsin. Michigan's only Sharp-tailed Grouse report was from Alger in the U.P. Northern Bobwhite was reported in only 11 Michigan counties vs. 20 last summer; this species is now considered extirpated in Minnesota. Wisconsin had Bobwhite in Dane, Marquette, and Rock. Providing Michigan's 3rd record and first for the U.P. was a Black Rail at Munscong W.M.A., Chippewa 3–4 Jun (p.a., BJ). King Rail was not reported in the Region; Minnesota's last accepted record was in 1992. A pair of Common Moorhens pro-

SA Three-and-a-half-year-old Lynden Blomberg discovered Minnesota's first Wood Stork perched on top of a tree stump in his family's backyard near Grand Marais, Cook 17 Jun. He exclaimed to his father, "Papa, there's a really big bird out there." Lynden's father looked out the window, grabbed his camcorder, and began videotaping as Lynden said, "He's in trouble, papa." The bird stayed for at least 45 minutes and was seen by other family members before it flew away. This species has long been anticipated in Minnesota, but no one could have predicted this scenario!

duced 8 young in *Brown*, MN (PH et al.); Minnesota's only other report was one in *Stearns* 16 Jul (BU).

SHOREBIRDS

The only southbound Black-bellied Plover reported was at Horicon 30 Jul (SF). Eleven American Golden-Plovers at Mud L. 3 Jul (PCC) possibly attempted to summer; the Region's first unequivocal fall migrant was in *Green*, WI 24 Jul (ME). Minnesota's 8th *Snowy Plover* was at Albany W.T.P., *Stearns* 4–5 Jun (ph. †KJB, m.ob.), the first to be found since one at Lake of the Woods in 1982! Piping Plovers fared well in Michigan, with 55 pairs producing 93 fledglings (*fide* JTW); nesting was not documented in Minnesota or Wisconsin.

Two Black-necked Stilts lingered at Horicon through 17 Jul (JBa et al.), and 2 more visited *Jefferson*, WI 28 Jul (p.a., JBi). American Avocets nested again in *Big Stone*, MN (PCC, PHS). Difficult to classify was an avocet at New Buffalo, MI 29 Jun (JTW), but 2 near St. Joseph 13 Jul (WEJ) and 2 in *Milwaukee* 30–31 Jul (m.ob.) represented first fall migrants in Michigan and Wisconsin, respectively. A Solitary Sandpiper was late in *Ozaukee*, WI 25 Jun (JF); 42 in *Big Stone*, MN 18 Jul (PCC, PHS) was a record high for Minnesota. Willets peaked at 9 in *Berrien*, MI 13 Jul (*fide* JTW), following many reports 20 Jun–31 Jul. Wisconsin reported Willets in *Milwaukee* 25 Jul (SL) and *Sauk* 28 Jul (AH). Another high count was 132 Spotted Sandpipers at Muskegon 26 Jul (PCC). Rare in fall, up to 4 Hudsonian Godwits transited Mud L. 30–31 Jul (KJB, PCC et al.). Marbled Godwits visited *Berrien*, MI 14 Jul (JS) and Horicon 8 Jul (DT, MP).

Unusual for Michigan was the Semipalmated Sandpiper summering at Pte. Mouillee (AMB). A Western Sandpiper was reported at Horicon 8 Jul (p.a., DT). Single White-rumped Sandpipers were documented in *Big Stone*, MN 18 Jul (PCC, PHS), *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 22 Jul (BU), and *Berrien*, MI 25 Jul (TB). Seven Dunlin summered at Pte. Mouillee (AMB), while singles at Horicon 16 Jul (TP) and 30 Jul (SF) were deemed early migrants. An injured Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Big Stone* 26 Jun (PCC) furnished only the 2nd mid-summer record for Minnesota. An ad. male Ruff in *Big Stone*, MN 25–29 Jul (PHS, JMJ, m.ob.) unfortunately disappeared just before the start of the Big Stone N.W.R. shorebird workshop. Short-billed Dowitcher counts peaked at 267 at Pte. Mouillee 23 Jul (ATC). An ad. Wilson's Phalarope with 4 chicks at Shiawassee 18 Jul (BG, CS) furnished Michigan's first nesting record in many years. Two Wilson's were southerly in *Walworth*, WI 18–19 Jun (KD, WR). Two Red-necked Phalaropes were early at Horicon 8–31 Jul (DT, TW, TP).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Presumably the same Laughing Gull visited *Milwaukee*, WI 9 Jun (SL), 25 Jun (KJ), and 28 Jul (JI); an apparent Laughing Gull x Ring-billed Gull hybrid was also reported on the latter date (JI). An ad. Laughing Gull frequented the beaches in *Berrien*, MI 26 Jun–13 Jul (m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls stayed in three Michigan and four Wisconsin locations. Wisconsin hosted the Region's only Little Gulls in *Manitowoc* 26 Jun (RH) and *Brown* 10 Jul (PS). Small numbers of mostly imm. Bonaparte's Gulls normally summer in n. Minnesota, but the flock of 216 in *Roseau* 27 Jun (PHS) was extraordinary. Amazingly early was a Sabine's Gull in *Sauk*, WI 28 Jul (p.a., AH). Establishing Michigan's 10th record was a pair of Least Terns at New Buffalo, *Berrien* 8 Jul (p.a., TR).

Eurasian Collared-Doves were at six Minnesota locations, including nesting in *Dakota* (TN) and *Houston* (ph. FZL, KAK). In Wisconsin, single collared-doves cooed in *Columbia* 8 Jun–10 Jul (KB, TP), *Green* 11 Jul (QY), and *Milwaukee* 28 Jul (BA). Visiting a feeder near Duluth 16 Jun (CE et al.) was Minnesota's 6th White-winged Dove—also the 3rd for the state this year. Another White-winged strayed to *Kenosha*, WI 26 Jun (p.a., EH). A pair of Burrowing Owls in *Watsonwan*, MN disappeared after their burrow was dug out by a fox (*fide* AXH). Michigan's first Great Gray Owl nesting was confirmed near Seney N.W.R., *Schoolcraft* (RB, KA). More widespread than usual were Great Grays in nine Minnesota counties. Two Chuck-wills-widows from spring were still in *Vernon*, WI 6 Jul (DJ, DT, MP, DB). Poor-quality digital images of an alleged Magnificent Hummingbird in *Anoka* 12 Jun (CR) were astutely recognized as Minnesota's first Green Violet-ear.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Acadian Flycatcher extended its breeding range in Wisconsin to *Eau Claire* (JP). Loggerhead Shrike was absent from Michigan this summer and appeared in only three Wisconsin locations, but shrikes occurred in 12 Minnesota counties as far nw. as *Kittson* 28 Jun (SSP). Casual in Minnesota yet establishing the 3rd *Clay* record was a White-eyed Vireo banded at Buffalo River S.P. 5 Jun (GEN, ph. JGa). White-eyed were in four Michigan and four Wisconsin counties, including one as far n. as *Marathon*, WI 5 Jun (DB). A Philadelphia Vireo in *Berrien*, MI 1 Jun (AV) was a bit behind schedule.

Inspiring were 18,000 Tree Swallows at Shiawassee 14 Jul (LA, BG, CS). May's Rock Wren at Felton Prairie, *Clay*, MN attracted a mate and produced 4 young (PCC), providing Minnesota's first breeding record. The range of Carolina Wren has contracted throughout the Region; Michigan had the

species in nine counties (17 last year), while Wisconsin and Minnesota managed only one report each. Red-breasted Nuthatches ranged farther southward than usual in Michigan and provided a 2nd breeding record for *Berrien*; also unusual was a Red-breasted in *Milwaukee*, WI 12 Jun (MB). Northern Mockingbirds were in eight Michigan counties, including *Marquette* in the U.P., but only half that many Minnesota and Wisconsin locations. Adroitly photographed in flight was Minnesota's 11th Sage Thrasher at Dodge Nature Center, *Ramsey* 26 Jun (DN).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Tennessee Warblers in *Sheboygan*, WI 15 Jun (SB) and at Shiawassee 25 Jun (LA, BG) were apparently still northbound. Fall migrant Tennessees normally first appear in late Jul, e.g., one in *Portage*, WI 17 Jul (JSc). Unusually late were Black-throated Blue Warblers in *Anoka*, MN 16 Jun (PG), *Dane*, WI 19 Jun (CM), and *Sherburne*, MN 23 Jun (P&JG). Wisconsin had several tardy Blackburnian Warblers, including one in *Ozaukee* 7 Jul (JF). Yellow-throated Warblers were confined to *Berrien*, MI (m.ob.) and *Grant*, WI (MP, TW, JI). Michigan's 1341 singing male Kirtland's Warblers was the highest total since the first census in 1951 and included 9 males in four U.P. counties. Inexplicable was a male Bay-breasted Warbler in *Berrien*, MI 8 Jul (MW). Encouraging were Cerulean Warblers in 12 Minnesota counties, including one as far n. as *Todd* (BU). A Worm-eating Warbler visited Warren Dunes S.P., *Berrien*, MI 1 Jun (JTW). Early Jun Kentucky Warblers were in all three states. Out of range was a Kentucky in *Big Stone*, MN 24 Jun (BU). Wisconsin had Hooded Warblers in *Ozaukee* 13 Jun and *Fond du Lac* 20 Jun (both WM). At Murphy-Hanrehan, 22 Hooded Warbler territories were mapped; six parasitized nests failed, one unparasitized nest fledged 3 young, and a recently fledged brood was seen (BAF). Michigan's only Yellow-breasted Chats were in *Hillsdale*, *Van Buren*, and *Washtenaw*, while Wisconsin had one in *Waukesha* 13 Jun (DG), 2 in *Rock* in mid-Jul (AP), and up to 4 in *Dane* (m.ob.). Chats in five Minnesota locations represented that state's best summer showing in 25+ years.

Male Summer Tanagers in *Dakota* (JPM et al.) and *Scott*, MN (BAF, m.ob.) were presumably the same individuals that paired with female Scarlet Tanagers at these locations in 2003, as their territories were virtually identical. If accepted, a male Western Tanager at Gobles, *Berrien* 24 Jul would furnish Michigan's 2nd summer record. A Lark Bunting could not be refund in *Burnett*, WI 9 Jun (p.a., GJ). Henslow's Sparrows were in seven counties each in Wisconsin and Minnesota, including *Otter Tail* 10 Jun+ (CB et

al.) and Polk 25 Jun (KLP) in nw. Minnesota. Wisconsin's only Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in Burnett, WI 19 Jun (AP). Twenty Lincoln's Sparrows comprised a unique breeding population in Sanilac, MI; a nest with 2 eggs was found 10 Jul (DF, KO, NS). White-crowned Sparrows lingered in all three states; the latest was in Racine, WI 8 Jul (TK). Also tardy were single Dark-eyed Juncos in Monroe, MI 24 Jun (GL) and Milwaukee, WI 4 Jul (SS). For the 2nd consecutive summer, Chestnut-collared Longspur was found s. of its traditional Minnesota location at Felton Prairie: single males were in Yellow Medicine 9 Jun and Lac Qui Parle 11 Jun (both BU).

An ad. female and a first-year male Blue Grosbeak established Michigan's first summer record in Constantine Twp., St. Joseph 19–26 Jul (ATC, JG, m.ob.). The male Lazuli Bunting in Leelanau, MI lingered until 16 Jun (GS) and has been accepted as that state's first record. The influx of Painted Buntings continued in Minnesota with an ad. male in Lyon 9–11 Jun (P&RD et al.) and an imm. male at Rochester 17 or 18–22 Jun

(ph. RLE, m.ob.). All but four of Minnesota's 16 records have occurred within the past 10 years. A pair of Great-tailed Grackles was at last year's location in Rock, MN in Jun (ph. CBr). Evening Grosbeaks were found in four Wisconsin and five Michigan counties, including Crawford and Iosco in the n. Lower Peninsula.

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State of the Region

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Many of the bird conservation concerns that face Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan are shared with surrounding regions: the impact of feral cats, brood parasitism by cowbirds, window and building strikes, and over-browsing by deer will undoubtedly surface repeatedly in other conservation summaries. We err if we assume that these concerns are "global" rather than regional issues, unlikely to be improved by actions at the state level. In fact, were each such issue to be addressed and remedied seriously at the state level as well as the national, the benefit to birdlife would certainly be remarkable. We do not mean to minimize the importance of such issues in giving them only a brief mention here, but we will focus in this summary more on the specifics of bird conservation in the three Western Great Lakes states.

The avian biogeography of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan is similar: in the south, the Prairie Hardwood Transition (BCR 23) of the Upper Great Lakes Plain is predominant, with broadleaf forests and oak savannahs, while in the north, the Boreal Hardwood Transition (BCR 12) forests are a heterogeneous matrix of oaks, maples, birch, pines, spruces, tamarack, and balsam fir, with aspen a common early successional species. Minnesota's western and southwestern reaches differ from the other two states in having extensive Prairie Pothole (BCR 11) country, and there are small sections of southeastern Michigan and southeastern Minnesota with Eastern Tall-grass Prairie habitats or habitat potential (BCR 22). Not treated explicitly in these BCR labels, but of vital importance for bird conservation, are the tremendous lacustrine habitats of Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan, shared with the enormous province of Ontario. The Great Lakes affect both regional climates and forest community composition and deeply affect human settlement patterns as well.

The three-state area contains only three federally listed species: Bald Eagle (Threatened), Piping Plover (Endangered), and Kirtland's Warbler (Endangered). The warbler has been one of the key species in public relations and awareness campaigns for endangered species generally, and it is the most endangered American songbird, with 1341 singing males in 2004—the highest count since surveys began in 1951. This species provides a clear model for species-based bird conservation: it has been carefully studied, its breeding ecology is well understood, the management of Jack Pine habitats and the exclusion of cowbirds have been measurably successful in increasing productivity, and the ecotourism developed around the species has been carefully managed as well. But there are many other bird species (Table 1) whose populations are small, declining, or otherwise imperiled in the three states. Some of these species are birds that reach the edges of range in the Region, whether from the prairies, eastern woodlands, or boreal forests. Others, however, include species whose Regional populations are significant in continental terms—Baird's Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Rail, and Henslow's Sparrow, for instance. Some of these species are monitored by state Department of Natural Resources agencies, often in partnerships with other organizations; some of these, and other species, are included in long-term monitoring studies as well. Species on other lists, such as the PIF WatchList and the ABC's Green List, occupy what might be called the next



Kirtland's Warbler is a benchmark species for conservationists seeking to understand local, specialized passerines. Though some of the management issues for this warbler are particular to its Jack Pine habitat, lessons learned from its successful recovery have broad applications and implications for other songbird conservation efforts.

Photograph by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr./VIREO.

level of concern; we will attempt to incorporate consideration of some of those species, by crude habitat type, in what follows, as they complement state lists in several important respects.

Forested and early successional habitats

Loss, degradation, and fragmentation of woodland habitats by land conversion, sprawl, timber harvest, and other uses have combined to produce alarming reductions in species considered relatively common, both in northern and southern forests of the Region. Although the total forested acreages in northern Wisconsin, for instance, may be close to those of precolonial times, the age, composition, and fragmentation levels are drastically different. Many of the industrial forests and other private lands are being rapidly subdivided into increasingly smaller ownerships, with more houses and roads—and fewer opportunities for large-scale conservation or restoration. In addition to such clear causes of habitat loss, there are documented failures of certain forests (e.g., hemlock, White Cedar) to regenerate fully, but whether such failures are caused by herbivory or altered fire or hydrological regimes is unclear.

Cerulean Warbler, whose forest habitats are threatened by invasive plants in this Region, is a familiar species from recent awareness campaigns concerning declining Neotropical migrants. It is less well known that Hermit Thrush, Brown Creeper, and Eastern Wood-Pewee are declining in parts of the Region. These and others—among them, Winter Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow—do not figure on most lists of threatened fauna, but all feature on the WatchList of the Natural Resources Research Institute (University of Minnesota/Duluth: <<http://www.nrri.umn.edu/mnbirds/>>) because of documented drops in their populations from 1991 to 2002 on National Forest lands, including Chippewa, Superior, and Chequamegon. It is perhaps disturbing that no single theme links these ten species; seven nest on the ground, but their nesting and wintering ecologies differ. The NRRI suggests that the overall increase in edge habitat and the decrease in the size and quality of forest patches are potentially responsible for some of the observed declines. In Wisconsin, there is some evidence that changes in predator communities may be responsible for documented declines in ground-nesting woodland birds. The Priority Species list of the Great Lakes Bird Conservation group (<<http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/greatlakes/>>) includes a further 18 woodland species of the Laurentian mixed forests, among them Least and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 10 additional warbler species. Consult these websites for more details.

In savannahs and in early successional habitats, patchy and scarce (in part owing to fire suppression practices), Golden-winged Warbler joins Kirtland's as a key species of concern, and the Region may in fact hold much of the world population of this species, estimated at some 210,000 individuals. Bell's Vireo (here at the northeastern edge of range), Field Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, and Orchard Oriole are also species of concern in more open forested habitats (see <www.partnersinflight.org>).

Aquatic, wetland, riparian, and lakeshore habitats

Habitats associated with water are some of the most fragile and threatened, both globally and in the Western Great Lakes. The past century in the Great Lakes has seen changes in fish populations; contamination by myriad pollutants; the proliferation of detrimental exotic species (such as carp); increases in shoreline development and recreation; losses of nesting trees and cavities for waterbirds; and the filling and draining of wetlands of all sorts: 75% of Michigan's wetlands are gone (or about 11 million acres), 57% of Minnesota's (roughly 9 million acres), and 45% of Wisconsin's (4.5 million acres). Species such as American Black Duck, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Sedge Wren that nest in wetlands—especially the shallow wetlands, wet prairies, and sedge meadows in agricultural landscapes—have all surely undergone declines in the Region, but data are most reliable for waterfowl and grebes, which have suffered especially steep declines in the pothole country, where restoration projects are ongoing. Additionally, many wetlands and wetland plant communities along lakeshores are suffering from development and high water. A number of high quality emergent wetlands have been lost because of unnaturally high water levels in flowages, reservoirs, lakes, and other waterbodies. In Wisconsin, portions of some wetland impoundments (at Horicon N.W.R., Crex Meadows N.W.R., and Mead W.A., for example) are now set aside and managed for shorebird migration, in addition to regenerating the wetland plants for waterfowl nesting and feeding. Grant programs under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and several Joint Ventures have restored many Regional wetlands, and future efforts will increasingly incorporate species other than waterfowl. Endangered species, such as Piping Plover, recovering in Michigan, and Whooping Cranes, now being reintroduced in Wisconsin, make popular flagship species for their respective lakeshore and wetland habitats.

Grasslands and agricultural habitats

Almost half of the arable portions of the Upper Great Lakes Plain is planted to soybeans or corn, with another quarter devoted to pasture, hay, and other crops; 95% of this region is in private hands, which makes coordination of preservation and restoration efforts very difficult. Agricultural practices over a century ago led to the demise of Greater Prairie-Chicken in the Region, with the exception of central Wisconsin, where a few thousand persist, thanks to tenacious early conservationists. Populations of the similarly specialized Henslow's Sparrow are much reduced in the Region, as well, while generalists in medium-height fields such as Dickcissel and Bobolink are widespread but still diminished from past abundance. Loggerhead Shrike continues to decline in each state, for reasons as yet unknown. Surprisingly, Upland Sandpiper figures on no state's list of imperiled species; its preferred short-grass habitats are patchy and declining Regionwide. Likewise, the scarce Northern Harrier is missing from such lists, though the ecologically similar Short-eared Owl is represented on two lists. These and additional species are included in the

Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for the Upper Great Lakes Plain, which can be downloaded at the organization's website. Of all the habitats represented in the three states, prairie habitat is both the most altered Regionally and the most threatened globally.

Ongoing initiatives

In addition to those mentioned above, there are many promising efforts underway that will aid bird conservation in each state. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project (<www.uwgb.edu/birds/wbba/>) mustered 1604 participants to map nesting birds in that state; these data help guide conservation decisions by several agencies. The Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (<www.wisconsinbirds.org/>) set goals of developing a comprehensive bird-monitoring program by May 2003, a forest inventory system by 2004, and a statewide bird assessment by 2006 that includes trends in bird populations and their habitats, management opportunities, and management priorities. The results of these assessments will be provided to land managing partners for potential integration into planning efforts and should help refine conservation priorities at the state and landscape levels. Recently, the similar Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative (<www.nabci-us.org/michigan/>) was also launched. We hope that the spirit of increasing cooperation among natural resource agencies and private organizations brings forth, in the near future, successful efforts to identify and restore large tracts of high-quality habitat across all three states. Time is of the essence.

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Table 1. State-listed endangered (E), threatened (T), and special-concern (C) bird species in the Western Great Lakes.

Species	State List Status		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota	Michigan
Common Loon	*	*	T
Horned Grebe	*	T	*
Red-necked Grebe	E	*	*
American White Pelican	*	C	*
Great Egret	T	*	*
Snowy Egret	E	*	*
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	T	*	*
Least Bittern	*	*	T
Trumpeter Swan	E	T	T
Red-shouldered Hawk	T	C	T
Osprey	T	*	T
Merlin	*	*	T
Peregrine Falcon	E	*	T
Spruce Grouse	T	*	*
Greater Prairie-Chicken	T	C	*
Yellow Rail	T	C	T
King Rail	*	E	E
Common Moorhen	*	C	*
Marbled Godwit	*	C	*
Wilson's Phalarope	*	T	*
Franklin's Gull	*	C	*
Caspian Tern	E	*	T
Common Tern	E	T	T
Forster's Tern	E	C	*
Barn Owl	E	*	E
Burrowing Owl	*	E	*
Long-eared Owl	*	*	T
Short-eared Owl	*	C	E
Acadian Flycatcher	T	C	*
Sprague's Pipit	*	E	*
Loggerhead Shrike	E	T	E
Bell's Vireo	T	*	*
Yellow-throated Warbler	E	*	T
Prairie Warbler	*	*	E
Cerulean Warbler	T	C	*
Worm-eating Warbler	E	*	*
Louisiana Waterthrush	*	C	*
Kentucky Warbler	T	*	*
Hooded Warbler	T	C	*
Lark Sparrow	*	*	T*
Henslow's Sparrow	T	E	T
Baird's Sparrow	*	E	*
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	*	C	*
Chestnut-collared Longspur	*	E	*

* = assumed to be extirpated; will be listed as Threatened if refund.
 • = not listed for that state.