

Western Great Lakes



Jim Granlund

Research Associate

Kalamazoo Nature Center

6253 North Westnedge

Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009

(granlund@chartermi.net)

This spring of 2005 was much like that of 2004, boasting a diversity of rarities but with a lackluster migration of Neotropical songbirds. Minnesota observers complained that the warbler migration was the “worst in recent memory.” Wisconsin was the exception; one observed commented on a “fair migration, including some spectacular warbler viewing in the middle of May.” As always, weather likely had an important impact on the migration and perceptions of it. All three states posted above-average temperatures in April and below-average temperatures in May. Instead of southerly winds in May, the Region often had northerly or easterly winds. Precipitation varied from above av-

erage in May in Minnesota to well below average in Michigan.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Michigan had the bulk of the Red-throated Loon reports, with most coming from Whitefish Point B.O., Chippewa, MI (hereafter, W.P.B.O.), where 686 were tallied 18 Apr–31 May, with a peak of 77 on 4 May, an above-average total. A Pacific Loon was found 22 Apr at Garrison, Crow Wing, MN (AH), while Wisconsin had individuals 7 Mar in Sheboygan (CM), 3 Apr–8 May in Manitowoc and 14 Apr in Dane (WH). Both Wisconsin and Minnesota had good numbers of Red-necked Grebes; the maximum in Minnesota was 325+ on 13 Apr at Park Point in Duluth (TA). W.P.B.O. had a good migration of this species as well: 1115 were tallied 9 Apr–25 May, with a peak of 82 on 4 May. Unusual in ne. Minnesota was an Eared Grebe at Biwabik W.T.P., St. Louis 14–22 May (AE); a Western Grebe at Duluth, St. Louis 21–23 May (TA, MH, MOc et al.) was also locally rare. Eared Grebes made a fair showing in Wisconsin, with reports from six counties and a high of 6 on 10 May in Bayfield (RB). Michigan had reports of 2 after 29 Mar at Muskegon Wastewater System (BJ, SM, m.ob.) and 2 on Reed L., Kent (FP). Wisconsin had single Western Grebes

25 Apr in Portage (MB) and 22 May in Douglas (RJ).

American White Pelicans were reported in fewer counties in Michigan this spring than last year but in larger numbers. Minnesota reported about 10 Snowy Egrets from the same number of counties, less than a third of last spring's total. Wisconsin reported this species from 11 counties, including 4 on 31 May in Brown. In Michigan there were six reports of Snowy Egret, including one n. of normal 29 May on Manitou I., Keweenaw (ZG, JK, LD). A Little Blue Heron in Tuscola, MI 30 Apr (JD), one in Burnett, WI 26 May (DK), and another in Austin, Mower, MN 10 May (RK, JMo) were the only ones verified. Cattle Egrets in 26 Minnesota counties made the best showing in that state since the spring of 1993. Wisconsin had Cattle Egrets in four counties, the highest total being 12 on 10 May in Winnebago (BH). Michigan had reports of this species from two counties. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron came from Minnesota, with one 12–22 May in Wilmar, Kandiyohi (RF et al.). Minnesota reported White-faced Ibis on 19 Apr (DBz et al.) and 1 May (RD), both at Hills W.T.P., Rock; another was at Osakis W.T.P., Douglas 13–15 May (JE). Wisconsin had a White-faced Ibis 18 May in Trempealeau (JT, MP). A Glossy Ibis near Cedarbrook, Aitkin 19–22 Apr (JBl, SBl, KR, m.ob.) was only the 2nd Minnesota record of this species. In addition, Minnesota reported several *Plegadis* species, with 2 on 30 Apr–2 May at Clare Johnson W.M.A., Lincoln (BS) and 7 on 28 May at Plover Prairie, Lac Qui Parle (DB).

WATERFOWL

Four Ross's Goose reports in Michigan were well above the average, while Minnesota reported record-high counts of 460+ in Nobles and 400+ in Jackson (DN, PJ). Wisconsin had reports of Ross's Geese from three counties. A Eurasian Wigeon was present 6–8 Apr at Pointe Mouillee, Monroe (AB, EE, KT), while Minnesota had individuals 28–31 Mar at Verchota Landing, Winona (KB et al.) and 8 May at Red Lake Falls, Red Lake (JJ, PS). An ad. male Cinnamon Teal in Oakland Twp., Mahanomen, MN 26–27 May (HD, PS) was the only one reported. In Michigan, 3800 Long-tailed Ducks at South Haven, Van Buren 27 Mar (JG, RS, DP) was an unusually high total so far south. Also in Michigan, a male Barrow's Goldeneye was studied 6–15 Mar in Washtenaw (JSc).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Diurnal raptor numbers were generally higher than the past several years' count at W.P.B.O., particularly accipiters. Black Vultures were seen 9–12 Apr in Berrien, MI (AV) and 1 May in Shiawassee, WI (DMC), with another one in Wisconsin 19 Apr in

Racine (p.a., TK). The only Mississippi Kite came from Wisconsin with one 22 May in *Dane* (p.a., MB). The 9206 Broad-winged Hawks 6 May at the West Skyline Hawk Count, Duluth, MN (FN, DC) was a record single-day total for that count. There were seven reports of Swainson's Hawks at W.P.B.O., above average for that location, while in Wisconsin, singles were seen in *Ashland/Bayfield* 28 May (RB) and in *Dodge* 2 May (DT). Gyrfalcons were seen in all three states: Wisconsin had one through 1 Mar in *Ashland* (RB), Minnesotans enjoyed one 3 Feb–10 Apr at Nininger Twp., *Dakota* (m.ob.), and a white morph graced Pointe Mouillee, *Monroe*, MI 3 Apr (TW, AB).

A King Rail 9 May in New Buffalo, *Berrien* (DV, JJa) provided a rare Michigan record. Wisconsin reported King Rails from four counties. Minnesota had two reports of Common Moorhen, a species quite rare in that state, with individuals on 15 May in *Rice* (TB) and 17 May at Rum River S.F., *Kanabec* (BF et al.). Part of the reintroduction program, Whooping Cranes were noted in *LaFayette* and *Walworth* in Wisconsin, where 3 hatched in 2004.

There were 5 Piping Plovers from four locations in Minnesota, with four reports in Wisconsin and five in Michigan. The Black-necked Stilt present in 2004 returned to Horicon in Wisconsin 16 Apr (JB, TP, SC, TW, AS); in Minnesota, individuals were seen 21–24 Apr at Centennial Waterfowl Production Area, *Big Stone* (LW, PC, PS) and 8–10 (NT, KV) & 30 May (p.a., FVS) near Rice Lake S.P., *Steele*. The count of 50+ American Avocets seen in Minnesota this season was down slightly from last season. Wisconsin had avocets 11 May in *Manitowoc* (CS), 6–7 May in *Dodge* (TW, JSm, KS), and 6 May in *Ozaukee* (CSc, TU), while Michigan had just one 23 Apr at Pointe Mouillee, *Monroe* (AB). There was a single Whimbrel report in Minnesota 24 May in Duluth, *St. Louis* (LS). Numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin were about average, with a notable peak of 672 on 25 May at North Point, *Alpena*, MI (BG). A Long-billed Curlew in Fleming Twp., *Aitkin*, MN 16–18 Apr (WN, KR) provided a 2nd county record. In Minnesota, 68+ Hudsonian Godwits was down significantly from last year's 347; a report of 75 Marbled Godwits at Interstate Is., Duluth, *St. Louis* 21 May (PS) was unusual along the North Shore of L. Superior. Reports in Michigan and Wis-

consin were about average for both godwits.

Red Knots were reported in Wisconsin 20 May in *Marinette* (JSm, KS) and 27 May at Horicon (LM). In Michigan, up to 13 were tallied 22–28 May at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* (MHu, GN, KT) and 17 on 24 May at North Pt., *Alpena* (BG). In Minnesota, 515 Baird's Sandpipers 1 May in *Big Stone* (PC, PS) established a record-high count for the spring. In Wisconsin, a female Ruff 6 May in *Dodge* (DT) was an exceptional find. Peak counts for Wilson's Phalarope in Minnesota included 260 on 15 May at Barnesville W.T.P., *Clay* (CBr) and 246 on 9 May at Crookston W.T.P., *Polk* (PS). Minnesota reported 21 Red-necked Phalaropes from 12 counties, while Wisconsin had re-

DV, TB, AM), at W.P.B.O. 3 May (and 3 on 18 May there), at North Point, *Alpena* 7 May (BG), and at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* 22 May (MHu, GN, TN, RE). Minnesota had an ad. Little Gull 13 May at Duluth, *St. Louis* (KE), the same day over 2000 Bonaparte Gulls were present.

California Gulls were reported in Minnesota 30 Mar at Inner Grove Heights, *Dakota* (KB) and Breckenridge W.T.P., *Wilken* (PS). Average numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in Wisconsin and Michigan; in Minnesota, where the species is still very uncommon, there were five reports. A Glaucous-winged Gull or possibly Glaucous-winged Gull × Herring Gull hybrid was photographed 26 Mar in *Douglas* (RJ, SP); Wisconsin has three accepted records of Glaucous-winged. Still rare in Minnesota, a Great Black-backed Gull was seen 15 Mar at Spring Lake Park, *Dakota* (CBr). A total of 550 Caspian Terns 16 May at Purgatory Creek, *Hennepin* (SW) was the 2nd highest count on record for Minnesota. Also in that state, an Arctic Tern was present 20–22 May in Duluth, *St. Louis* (MH, PS).

DOVES THROUGH CAPRIMULGIDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to spread in the Region. Wisconsin had reports from four counties, Minnesota from seven, and in Michigan, which only had two accepted records, there were 2

after 15 May near Three Oaks, *Berrien* (p.a., KM, PC, m.ob.). Single White-winged Doves were noted 7–8 May in Farmington, *Dakota*, MN (BSe), a 7th state record, and in *Milwaukee*, WI one 19–26 Apr (BA, BC), a 5th state record. In Minnesota, there were Northern Hawk Owls in May from *Lake of the Woods* and *St. Louis*; in Michigan, one stayed through 14 Mar in *Chippewa* (SHA), and in Wisconsin the species remained into late Mar, with a remarkable total of 26 in *Douglas* 7 Mar (LL, SLa). A Burrowing Owl attended a burrow through at least 24 May in Hantho Twp., *Lac Qui Parle*, MN (MH, PS) but apparently did not attract a mate; another was seen on 19 Apr in *Burnett*, WI (JHo). Following the major winter invasion, Great Gray Owls continued to be common well into May in Wisconsin, where "dozens" were reported in *Ashland/Bayfield* (RB). In Michigan, 44 were seen and many of those were banded 8 Apr–22 May at W.P.B.O., where the peak tally of 9 came 21 Apr. There were 43 Long-



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was present 29 May 2005 at Grand Marais, Alger County, Michigan; the species is quite rare in the state, but records appear to be increasing in the Western Great Lakes region. Photograph by Cory Gregory.

ports 27 May in *Dane* (PA, EH), 11 May in *Clark* (PR), and 7 May in *Milwaukee* (SL). The only report of this species in Michigan came from the Muskegon Wastewater System, 3 on 31 May (MM).

LARIDS

Parasitic Jaegers were well represented in the Region: 3 were seen 21–23 May in Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN (TA, MH, PS, JL), and one was noted 15 May in *Douglas*, WI (RJ). As is normal, Michigan had the most jaegers, all at at W.P.B.O.: Parasitics on 12, 22, & 27 May and unidentified jaegers on 23, 26, & 31 May. In Wisconsin, a Franklin's Gull was present 18 May in *Eau Claire* (JP), and in Michigan, there was one at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* 3 May (WW) and singles 12 & 22 May at W.P.B.O. Unusually early in Wisconsin was a Little Gull 26 Mar at *Racine*; other reports included singles in *Chippewa* 17 Apr (JP), in *Portage* 15 May (MBe), and in *Kewaunee* 20 May (MB). Michigan had single Little Gulls at New Buffalo, *Berrien* 27 Apr–7 May (JW,

eared Owls recorded at W.P.B.O. 5 Apr–17 May and 95 Boreal Owls found 8 Apr–24 May, with a peak of 9 on 21 Apr. Wisconsin had reports of Boreals on 20 & 25 Mar in Douglas (TP, DT, LL, SLa, SP). A **Chuckwill's-widow** 16 May+ in Benton Twp., Berrien (JW, AB, m.ob.) provided a rare Michigan record, while Wisconsin had one in Vernon 27–31 May (DJ). Early in Minnesota was a Whip-poor-will seen flying during the daylight 15 Apr in Wilkin (CMA et al.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A pair of Say's Phoebes was seen 15 May+ at Felton Prairie, Clay, MN (CBr, LMa, SSc, JM); in Michigan, individuals were seen 11 Apr at Allegan S.G.A., Allegan (PW) and from 6–7 May near Newberry, Luce (LD, JK, CG). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported 17 Apr in Vilas, WI (AR, DH) and 15–16 May in Oronoko Twp., Berrien, MI (AM, AV, MO, m.ob.) and after 27 May in Grand Marias, Alger, MI (CG, SH, m.ob.). Wisconsin had a single Loggerhead Shrike report in Portage 9 Apr (KKA), while in Minnesota there were 31 birds in 16 counties. In Minnesota, 15+ Philadelphia Vireos and 150+ Red-eyed Vireos 24 May were tallied at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, Lincoln (PS), both record-high spring counts. An estimated 3200 Cliff Swallows at Thief Fall, W.T.P., Pennington, MN 26 May (RR) was also a state high count. A Rock Wren returned for a 2nd season to its gravel pit in Felton Prairie, Clay, MN 10 May+ (JBo, RJa, m.ob.).

An ad. female Northern Wheatear was photographed 30 May in Grand Marais, Cook (p.a., SSt), providing a potential 3rd state record in Minnesota. A report of Mountain Bluebird at W.P.B.O. 31 Mar is under review (p.a., CB); there are two previous accepted state records. Minnesota also reported this species 15 Mar near Hastings, Dakota (fide AH) and 9 Apr in Greenleaf Twp., Meeker (DF). Townsend's Solitaire reports came from Shoreview, Ramsay, MN 6 Mar (AH) and Sauk, WI the day before (QY). Varied Thrushes were still present in Wisconsin 1–30 Mar in Bayfield (RB) and 15 Mar–10 Apr in Fond du Lac (KH). Up to 1000 Bohemian Waxwings in Ashland, WI 27–28 Mar (RB, EB) was exceptional. Single Audubon's Warblers were reported 12 May in Eagan, Dakota, MN (ASm) and 15 May in Racine, WI (TK). Well away from any breeding area in Michigan, a Kirtland's Warbler was present after 28 May on FR. 3344, Chippewa (CP, CG, AB, PC). Casual in Minnesota, a Yellow-throated Warbler 15 May near Little Falls, Morrison (p.a., BF) and a Worm-eating Warbler 15 Apr at Warner Nature Center, Washington (MPa, KM) were excellent finds, the latter was also record early. Noteworthy in Wisconsin were Prairie War-

blers on 14, 30, & 31 May in Sheboygan (AP, TP) and 10 May in Milwaukee (SL). A Black-throated Gray Warbler in Jefferson 4 May (p.a., DL) is potentially a 3rd Wisconsin record.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

There were seven documented Summer Tanager records in Minnesota and 14 reports from Wisconsin but only one from Michigan. An influx of male Western Tanagers to five Minnesota locations during the 2nd week of May correlated nicely with Wisconsin records in Ozaukee 12 & 17 May (TU, DT, TP, MB), Winnebago 14 May (KK), Milwaukee 17 May (EG), and Horicon 31 May (LM). Western Tanagers in Michigan were noted 8 May in Washtenaw (MHe, CW, m.ob.) and 17 May at W.P.B.O. (p.a.). Wisconsin hosted the only Spotted Towhees this season: singles were seen 27 Mar in Waukesha (JP, DG), 3 Mar and 14 Apr in Iowa (JR), and through 5 May in Winnebago (DK). Notable at W.P.B.O. was an enormous fallout of sparrows 7 May, which included 3500 White-throated and 500 White-crowned. Michigan hosted several Lark Sparrows, including singles 30 Apr and 17 May at W.P.B.O. and 2 at Tawas Point S.P., Iosco 7–24 May (p.a., GN). Single Lark Buntings were seen in Ely, St. Louis, MN 26 May (BT, PS) and two days later in Bayfield, WI (SHo, RB). A potential 9th Wisconsin state record, a Golden-crowned Sparrow was reported 13 May in Waukesha (p.a., VA). Equally unusual, a Smith's Longspur in Ashland/Bayfield, WI 13 May (RB) would be the 8th record for that state.

Minnesota had ad. male Black-headed Grosbeaks 24 May near Luverne, Rock (PS) and 29 May+ near Newfolden, Marshall (MBr, m.ob.). Blue Grosbeak reports in Wisconsin included individuals 20–28 May in Rock (AP, TP, AS, WM) and singles n. of normal 20 May in Ashland (EBo) and 23 May in Washburn (JH). A second-year male was reported 12 May at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus, Wayne, MI (JC). A Painted Bunting was seen in Calumet, WI 5–7 May (LO, BH). Recently established in Minnesota, Great-tailed Grackles were reported from five counties. Amazingly, after the winter record in Wisconsin, another Hooded Oriole appeared in the Region, this time in Michigan 6–10 May at Lake George, Clare (RC), a first state record. Also in Michigan, a Bullock's Oriole was reported 17 May in Hancock, Houghton (JK), the 3rd state record. A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in Houghton, MI 30–31 Mar (BQ, PQ, MSt) provided a 4th state record. Rather unexpected, a Eurasian Tree Sparrow was seen 9 May in Oconto, WI (p.a., JSm, KS), and another was present 16 Apr at Schroeder, Cook, WI (CT, JTv).

Observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Betsy Abert, Toss F. Anderson (TAN), Philip Ashman, Tom Auer, Vern Aune, Karl J. Bardon, Jim Barnes, Noah Benson, Derrick Benz (DBz), Murray Berner (MBe), Jo Blanich (JBl), Steve Blanich (SBl), Tom Boevers, Jerry E. Bonkoski (JBo), Erik Bonde (EBo), Marilyn Bontly, Ryan Brady, Mary Broten (MBr), Erik Brunke, Calvin Brennan, Conny Brunell (CBr), Doug Buri, Adam M. Byrne, R. Carey, Dave S. Carman, Philip C. Chu, Julie Craves, Bill Cowhert, Seth Cutright, Jim Dawe, Herb Dingmann, Louis Dombroski, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, George Eckman, John P. Ellis, E. Enbody, Roger Erickson, Audrey L. Evers, Ben W. Fritchman, Dan M. Floren, Randy S. Frederickson, Zac Gayk, Ellen Genrich, Bill Grigg, Jim Granlund, Cory Gregory, Dennis Gustafson, Karen Etter Hale, Ellen Hansen, Bettie Harriman, Dan Haskel, Skye Hass, Matt Heisel (MHe), Mike Hendrickson, Anthony X. Hertzler, William Hilsenhoff, Jim Hoefler (JHo), Steve Hoecker (SHo), John Hoepfner, Mark Hubinger (MHu), Dan Jackson, John Jann (JJa), Robert B. Janssen (RJa), Paul E. Jantscher (PJ), Brian Johnson, Robbye Johnson, Jeanie M. Joppru, Joe Kaplan, Kevin Kearns, Ted Keyel, Doug Kieser, Rose C. Kneeskern, David Larson, Laura LaValley, Steve LaValley (SLa), Fred Leshar, James W. Lind, Steve Lubahn, Craig R. Mandel (CMA), Leslie Marcus (LMA), Chester Martin, James P. Mattisson, Doug McWhirter (DMc), Kip Miller, Steve Minard, Larry Michael, Kirk Mona, Andre Moncrieff, Mike Moran, John E. Morrison (JMo), William Mueller, David F. Neitzel (DN), Gary Nelkie, Tess Nelkie, Warren E. Nelson, C. Newton, Frank J. Nicoletti, Mike Ochs (MOc), Marie Ostrander, Lynn Ott, Andy Paulios, Missy Patty (MPa), Matt Paulson, Felix Perdue, Janine Polk, Dave Powell, Tom Prestby, Shaun Putz, Barb Quenzi, Phil Quenzi, Jack Reinoehl (Michigan), Kim W. Risen, Paul Risch, Wayne Rohde (Wisconsin), John Romano (JRo), Amber Roth, Robert P. Russell, Jr., Russ Schipper, Bill Schnua, Jeff Schultz (JSc), Carl Schmartz (CSc), Susan Schumacher (SSc), Blaine Seelinger (BSe), Julian P. Sellers (JS), Andrew D. Smith (ASm), Elizabeth Smith (ES), Jerry Smith (JSm), Karen Smith, M. Snable, Charles Sontag, Linda Sparling, Mark Stensaas, Mike Stockwell (MSt), Forest V. Strnad, Aaron Stutz, Peder Svingen (Minnesota), Stiv Stevland (SSt), Bill R. Tefft, Daryl Tessen, Jon Thometz, Nels F. Thompson, Carol Tveekrum, Jim Tveekrum (JTv), Alison Village, Kevin Thomas, G. Tyler, Tom Uttech, Ken Vail, Allison Village, Dave Vinnedge, Warren Whaley, Tex Wells, Steve Weston, Tom Wood, Caitlin Woods, Leo Wexler-Mann, Jon Wuepper, Quentin Yoerger. 🐦