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Precipitation levels were a little above average for areas to the north, while many southern regions, especially in Illinois, were extremely dry and very warm, as in 2005. The scarce precipitation at these southern locales was as much as 25 cm below normal for the season. The rest of the Region did receive ample rainfall, which seemed to have a positive influence on the reproductive success of grassland species as well as of marsh-breeding species. Nearly a dozen rarities provided some excitement to the season, including Pacific Loon, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Ruff, Burrowing Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Bewick's Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Painted Bunting.

**Abbreviations:** Bev. Sh. (Beverly Shores, Porter, IN); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. IL); Chau. (Chautauqua N.W.R., IL); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); EP. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish & Wildlife Area); G.P.F.W.A. (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Hennepin (Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area, Putnam, IL); Horseshoe L. (Madison, IL); L. Cal. (L. Calumet, Chicago); Miller (Miller Beach, Lake, IN); S.R.A. (State Recreation Area); Twin Swamps (Twin Swamps Nature Preserve, Posey, IN).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH QUAIL

An imm. Mute Swan, very rare in s. Indiana in summer, was on L. Lemon 12 Jun (J&SH). A Greater White-fronted Goose lingered 23 Jun-1 Jul at Horseshoe L. (FRH). Not to be outdone was a single Cackling Goose seen at Beall Woods S.P., Wabash, IL 1-2 Jun (LH, ph. RES). Ad. Trumpeter Swans with young were documented near Savanna, Carroll, IL 21 Jun (RN, DWe, m.ob.). Though Trumpeters were assumed to have bred in the state prior to

their extirpation in colonial times, this constitutes the first confirmed modern breeding record in Illinois. A brood of 3 Gadwalls was observed 4 Jul at Hennepin, and a pair of American Wigeons was noted there as well (DFS). A male American Wigeon in eclipse plumage at G.P.F.W.A. 18 (BF, DL) & 27 Jul (DW) was just the 6th recorded in Jul in the state. Dabblers thought to be nonbreeding summering birds included 2 and 5 Northern Shovelers at Hennepin 4 Jul (DFS) and Chau. 30 Jun (R&SB), respectively, and male Northern Pintails 13 Jun at Rollins Savanna, Lake, IL (ph. JSo) and Horseshoe L. 25 Jun-21 Jul (FRH). Seven Green-winged Teal were distributed among three Illinois locations. Lingered diving ducks included a Canvasback at Hennepin 14 Jun (DFS) and another in St. Clair, IL 8 Jul (DMK). Also at Hennepin were 8 Redheads 14 Jun (DFS) and one at Horseshoe L. 3 Jun-30 Jul (FRH). An ad. male Ring-necked Duck was at Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake, IN 17 Jun (KJB, SRB, JKC, LSH), and a male Common Goldeneye was seen in se. Livingston, IL at a quarry 8 Jul (DFS).

An ad. Greater Prairie-Chicken with 11 young was seen 20 Jul at Prairie Ridge S.N.A., Jasper, IL (RES), and 9 males were detected on the booming grounds there 13 Jun (JWW et al.). Ruffed Grouse have been declining significantly throughout s. Indiana, so a report of an ad. with 2 young at Crane Naval Center, Martin 22 Jun was noteworthy (RLH, MH). Encouraging was a count of 112 Northern Bobwhite on 12 Jun at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. (JWW).

## LOONS THROUGH IBIS

A Pacific Loon in alternate plumage, representing Indiana's 2nd summer record, was discovered at Raccoon S.R.A., Parke, in early Jun (JS, CCM, C&DM); it remained there until 8 Jul. A Common Loon was at the same location for much of that time period, and another was at Eagle Creek Park, Marion 4-11 Jun (TA). In addition, there were 4 Common Loons reported from Illinois. Pied-billed Grebes continued to have sporadic breeding success across the Region: an excellent total of 140 young was tallied at Chau. 21 Jul (R&SB), while 12 young were found in se. Chicago (WJM). A large number of American White Pelicans remained in the Region, as evidenced by a combined total of 1075 at Chau. and Clear L., Mason, IL 30 Jun (R&SB). Four thousand were noted 20-22 Jul at Two Rivers N.W.R., Calhoun, IL (DMK), a high count for Jul and well ahead of the normal Aug maximum for the Region. On 12 Jun, an amazing 686 Double-crested Cormorant nests, more than double the previous high count, were

tallied at the East Chicago, IN rookery (JSC)

Two counts each of 3 American Bitterns were reported from G.P.F.W.A. 8 Jul (LWS, TG, VZ) and Kankakee Sands, Newton, IN 3 Jun (JKC, B&MB, LSH, JR, KJB). Least Bitterns were reported from seven locations in Indiana and dozens of locations in Illinois, with by far the largest numbers coming from G.P.F.W.A. The highest count there (12) came on 15 Jul, including at least 4 juvs. (LWS). In Illinois, 4 were reported 12 Jun from Prairie Ridge S.N.A. (LH) and 3 the same day at Mermet L., Massac. (KAM). Several observers in Illinois mentioned "lower numbers" of breeding herons and egrets from known rookeries, however, maximum counts of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets were normal. Nest totals reported at the Alorton, St. Clair, IL rookery 23 Jun (VMK) were much lower than those in the early part of the decade, with nest counts of 50 for Little Blue Heron, 50 for Cattle Egret, and 150 for Black-crowned Night-Heron, down from averages of 700, 1000, and 415, respectively, during the period 2001-2003. However, the 975 Great Egrets reported for the season in Indiana was more than four times the 20-year average for the species and included a count of 31 nests at the East Chicago rookery 12 Jun (JSC). Notable high counts in Illinois included 210 Snowy Egrets 14 Jul (FRH) and 425 Little Blue Herons 16 Jul (KAM) at Horseshoe L. At the East Chicago rookery, the 160 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests represented yet another increase over last year's total (JSC), while approximately 100 nests, a low total that was possibly related to the 2005 drought, were noted at the L. Cal. rookery 28 Jun (WJM). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons fared well locally, as evidenced by a report of nine nests with 36 imms. 21 Jun in Granite City, Madison, IL (FRH); a total of 3 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was reported in Indiana.

A Black Vulture in Parke, IN 28 Jun (GO) was the first reported there in 52 years. One of the highlights of the season was provided by the appearance of 3 Wood Storks at Cane Ridge W.M.A., Gibson 24 Jun (MRB, G&LB CM, BFz, KH, m.ob.). The birds lingered through 3 Jul and provided only the 3rd record in Indiana since 1945. Ibis were scarce throughout the Region this season, so a Glossy Ibis recorded 4 Jun at Horseshoe L. (FRH) and an imm. White Ibis seen in St. Clair, IL 8-16 Jul (TD, ph. DMK) deserve mention.

## HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

Nesting Ospreys were evident in the Region again this summer; however, only two pairs were successful: 2 young fledged at Banner

Marsh, *Fulton*, IL in late Jul (MS *vide* R&SB), and a nest at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange*, IN had 3 large nestlings 22 Jul (JAH, SS). In addition to several reports of Mississippi Kites at the traditional Lincoln S.P. breeding area, 2 were discovered at Twin Swamps 17 Jun (B&MB), representing only the 2nd ever Posey, IN record. A Mississippi Kite was noted 20-22 Jul at Two Rivers N.W.R., *Calhoun*, IL (DMK), at the n. limits of their current breeding range in the Region. Twelve locations in Illinois reported nesting Bald Eagles, five having young or imm. birds present at the nest during the summer months. There were three reports of Northern Harrier in Illinois, with a high count of 5 made 13 Jun at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. (LH et al.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen 28 Jul in *St. Clair*, IL may have been an early fall migrant (KAM). Breeding Cooper's Hawks were reported from eight locations, with 3 fledglings noted 15 Jul at Illinois Beach S.P., *Lake*, IL (EWW) and 24 Jun at Pine Hills, *Union*, IL (KAM). Illinois's isolated Swainson's Hawk population continues to survive, with the report of five nesting pairs, three in *McHenry* and two in *Kane* (VB *vide* EWW).

It was an incredible summer for King Rails in Indiana, where they were reported at three different sites, the majority of the birds being seen at G.P.F.W.A. There were at least four successful nesting pairs there, and the maximum daily count was of 9 birds, including 2 downy chicks, on 15 Jul (LWS); 4 additional juvs. were seen there on the same day (JC), bringing the one-day total to 13 birds. This cluster of breeding King Rails may represent the largest such population on record for Indiana. An ad. and young King Rail were seen 17 Jun at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. (ph. RES), and an ad. and 3 young were witnessed 25 Jun at Rose Farms, *Johnson*, IL (KAM et al.). In Illinois at Rollins Savanna, *Lake*, 12 Virginia Rails, including 2 young, were seen 6 Jul (ph. JSo). Soras were reported from six Illinois and several Indiana locations but no known breeding occurred. Always elusive, a Purple Gallinule at Mermet L., *Massac*, IL was heard 2 & 26 Jun and photographed 3 Jun (DMK). This location hosted the only confirmed breeding record for Illinois. Common Moorhens were widely reported, highlighted by 6 ads. and 12 young at Rollins Savanna, *Lake*, IL 6 Jul (JSo) and by four family groups at G.P.F.W.A., where a high count of 15 birds, including 4 downy chicks, was made 15 Jul (LWS, JC). Small numbers of Sandhill Cranes breed in the ne. Illinois marshes; a pair with young noted 9 Jun at Lock and Dam 13, in nw. Illinois was noteworthy (VMK et al.).

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Two Piping Plovers (one banded) were at Miller 21 Jul (MT), and another banded bird was there 25-26 Jul (MT, JKC, KJB). Three were reported in Illinois, highlighted by a color-banded bird seen 1 Aug at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, *Lake* (DRD). It was a spectacular season in Indiana for Black-necked Stilts, with nine nests recorded 13 Jun at Cane Ridge W.M.A., *Gibson* (WM, RD, KH, CM), where the single-day high count was of 20 birds 29 Jul (DG). At least four successful pairs were also noted at G.P.F.W.A. (LWS), where the high count was of 17 birds 30 Jul (LWS, JWJ). The only Black-necked Stilts reported in Illi-



A rarity in Indiana at any season, this Pacific Loon remained at Raccoon State Recreation Area for close to a month, early June through 8 (here 1) July 2006, allowing scores of birders to see it; there is only one previous summer record of the species for the state. Photograph by Michael R. Brown.

nois were of 4 ads. at two nests in *Alexander* 3 Jun (DMK). It was also a record summer for American Avocets in Indiana, where 15 birds were reported, well above the seasonal 20-year average of 4. The high count was of 6 birds in *Spencer* 23 Jul (DA). Three American Avocets arrived 14 Jul at Chau. (R&SB), while 2 more were seen 23 Jul at Carl. L. (DMK, KAM). The Greater Yellowlegs seen 24 Jun at East Cape Girardeau, *Alexander*, IL (KAM et al.) might have been an early migrant or simply a non-breeding bird that never made the trip to the breeding grounds. A Willet at Carl. L. 10 Jul was early (DMK). An ad. and 2 young Upland Sandpipers were photographed at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. 6 Jun (RES), and the season's only Whimbrel was seen at Miller 18 Jul (KJB, JKC). The 271 Sanderlings reported were well above average, the peak count being 65 at Miller 21 Jul (MT). Two tardy Dunlins remained through 5 Jun at Eagle Marsh, *Allen*, IN (RR). A Ruff excited birders on 18-19 Jul at Horseshoe L., *Madison*, IL (vt. JZ, ph. FRH, DMK, KAM, m.ob.), though there was some debate about the sex of the bird. A 20 Jul Wilson's Snipe at Two Rivers N.W.R., *Calhoun*, IL was several weeks early (DMK), as were the 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers reported 29 Jul at Horseshoe L. (DMK, TAM). The Wilson's Phalarope on 30 Jul at Horseshoe L. was the

only one reported for the season (KAM).

The first summer record of a jaeger in more than a decade was provided by an ad. Parasitic at Miller 22 Jul (MT, JKC, LSH, EMH). Four Laughing Gulls were reported from the Region, all in Illinois. Three Franklin's Gulls were reported in the Region, including one at E. Fork L., *Richland*, IL 23 Jun (LH), an ad. at Clear L., *Mason*, IL 30 Jun (R&SB), and an inland bird in *Marshall*, IN 3 Jun (MT). The apparent hybrid Laughing Gull × Ring-billed Gull that arrived in spring for its 3rd year in se. Chicago continued there through at least 12 Jun (WJM). Tern numbers were up slightly in the Region, led by a group of 39 Caspians 31 Jul at L. Cal. (WJM) that included 7 juvs. The Common Tern nesting site at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, the only one in the Region, produced just 2 fledged young (DRD). At the end of Jun, 27 chicks died following a severe thunderstorm and associated steep drop in temperature. Predation was suspected as the cause of failure for the remaining eggs. It was a good season for Least Terns in s. Illinois, with an ad. seen 10 Jul at Baldwin L., *St. Clair* (DMK) and 4 ads. reported from Grand Tower, *Jackson* 3 (DMK) & 24 Jun (KAM). Other sightings occurred 24 Jun at Rose Farms, *Johnson* (KAM) and 25 Jun at Mermet L. (KAM et al.). Besides the traditional *Gibson*, IN nesting sites, Least Terns were once again confirmed along the Ohio R. in *Spencer* 17 Jun (DA). Single Least Terns were also seen 17 Jun at Eagle Creek Park, *Marion* (RB) and on L. Monroe (JK). In cen. Indiana, where summer Black Terns are rare, 2 were seen in *Hamilton* 8 Jun (DG) and another in e. *Franklin* 21 Jun (WRB).

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Another first county record was established for Eurasian Collared-Dove in Indiana with 2 in *Madison* 9 Jul (BKJ). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported in above-average numbers throughout the Region. Five Barn Owls were reported in *Clinton*, IL in mid-Jul (DWE, *vide* KAM). Excitement about a Burrowing Owl discovered in *Warren*, IL 28-29 Jun (†RJ) was short lived, as it was found dead and half-eaten 29 Jun (PR, \*JM). Goatsuckers were rather uncommon this summer, with only single-digit maxima for Common Nighthawk and Chuck-will's-widow; however, a tally of 11 Whip-poor-wills 30 Jun at Lost Mound N.W.R., *Jo Daviess*, IL was noteworthy (EWW). An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird was reported from a feeder in *Wabash*, IL 21 Jul (†CS, †KD). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were tallied 8 Jun (SDB) at Lost Mound N.W.R.; this area of the Region has hosted a few breeding pairs in the past.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A singing Olive-sided Flycatcher was found n. of Nashville, *Brown*, IN on the late date of 6 Jun (GAK, *fide* BKJ). There was a strong showing of Alder Flycatchers in the Region, including 7 on 1 Jun at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange*, IN where they nest, and one at Chain O'Lakes S.P. 24 Jun–13 Jul (JAH, SS). In Illinois, 4 Alder Flycatchers were located at three *Lake* locations, including 2 males 30 Jun at Lyons Woods F.P. (EWW); breeding by the species has yet to be confirmed here. Least Flycatchers were recorded in four locations; a pair 20 Jun–15 Jul at Illinois Beach S.P. furnished the only sighting of multiple birds (EWW). A maximum count of 12 Western Kingbirds was tallied 16 Jul in E. St. Louis, *St. Clair*, IL (DMK), and 4 others were reported in Illinois. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported was a male 19 Jun near Thomson, *Carroll*, IL (AS). At a new site for the species, Fish Crows were reported at Twin Swamps, where an unspecified number were noted 3 Jun (CC), and 2 were recorded there 6 (JK) & 17 Jun (B&MB).

Four Loggerhead Shrikes seen 24 Jun at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, *Will*, IL (AFS) were the only reported in the Region. Swallows displayed some large late-summer peaks, with 2000 Banks and 1500 Northern Rough-wingeds tallied 20 Jul at Two Rivers N.W.R., *Calhoun*, IL (DMK). A Brown Creeper was seen 8 Jun at Lowden-Miller S.F. carrying food for its young (DFS), while 6 were noted on a return trip there 23 Jun (DFS). Having been essentially extirpated from the state, a singing Bewick's Wren near Greencastle, *Putnam*, IN 16–22 Jun was quite a surprise (C&DM, CCM, LP, m.ob.). Encouraging was the report of 25+ Sedge Wrens from three Illinois locations, and more than three times the average number of Sedge Wrens were reported in Indiana for the season, the maximum consisting of 14 at Kankakee Sands 8 Jul (JKC). An excellent count of 39 Veeries was made 8 Jun at Lowden-Miller S.F. (DFS), while Wood Thrushes were reported in double-digits at five Illinois locations.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An ad. male Lawrence's Warbler at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange* 1 Jul (JAH, SS) represented the first summer record for ne. Indiana. Two counts each of 3 Black-throated Green Warblers were made 24 Jun in Dunes (RJP) and in Furnessville, *Porter*, IN (SRB). Nice counts of 9 and 6 Chestnut-sided Warblers, respectively, were made 23 Jun at Lowden-Miller S.F. (DFS) and 30 Jun at Lyons Woods F.P. (EWW). This species also fared well in ne. Indiana, where it is a sparse breed-

er (*fide* JAH). On 13 Jun, a Blackburnian Warbler was heard at Dunes (SRB), representing the 11th consecutive summer the species was recorded at this location. This species also made an appearance at Lowden-Miller S.F., where 2 males 8 Jun and another 23 Jun (DFS) marked the 4th consecutive summer they have been tallied there. Yellow-throated Warblers had an unusually strong presence in n. Illinois this season, led by a maximum count of 28 Yellow-throated Warblers 8 Jun at Lowden-Miller S.F. (DFS). A singing male Blackpoll Warbler was detected 21 Jul in Chicago's Grant Park (†DFS). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen 29 Jul at



Three Wood Storks, a species accidental in the Midwest, tarried 24 June (here) through 3 July 2006 at Cane Ridge Wildlife Management Area in Gibson County, Indiana. Photograph by Michael R. Brown.

Ramsey L., *Fayette*, IL (DMK, TAM), indicating a possible breeding territory. Worm-eating Warblers were present in good numbers, as evidenced by 15 seen 3 Jun in *Jackson*, IL (RRo), and a nice count of 77 Ovenbirds was made 8 Jun at Lowden-Miller S.F. (DFS). A singing male Mourning Warbler was discovered at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange* 28 Jun (LAC) and was still singing there 5 Jul (BB, FW), providing Indiana's 5th Jul record. A male Wilson's Warbler at Fox Island Nature Preserve, *Allen* 4 Jun was ne. Indiana's latest by three days. For the 2nd consecutive year, a singing Canada Warbler was found at Cowles Bog, *Porter*, IN 4 Jul (RJP).

A pair of Summer Tanagers was photographed at a nest at Swallow Cliff Woods F.P. (ph. WSS, WJM et al.), documenting the first confirmed nesting for *Cook*, IL. Later, keen observers witnessed a male Scarlet Tanager attempting to feed the young Summer nestlings (ph. PD). Not to be outdone were 2 male Summer Tanagers, one carrying nesting material, in Dunes 27 Jun (D&PM). A male was also seen at Bev. Sh. 10 Jun and 1 Jul (m.ob.). The only reported Clay-colored Sparrows in the Region consisted of 2 males 10 Jun in *Lake*, IL (EWW). It was a good season for Vesper Sparrows with double-digit

counts at four Illinois locations. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows fared well, too, with six counts of 15 or more Grasshoppers and a maximum count of 58 Henslow's at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. 12 Jun (JWW et al.). A male White-throated Sparrow seen 25 Jun at Chicago's Millenium Park was of interest (EWW), as were singles in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore 6 Jun (RG), in *Boone*, IN 8 Jun (RLH), and a singing male at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange*, IN 3 Jul (PM, DS et al.). Indiana's 3rd Jul White-crowned Sparrow was found on the 13th at the Marian College Ecocenter, *Marion* (JC, DM).

A window-killed Black-headed Grosbeak was found 11 Jun in Chicago by Patrick Mallory, providing the first specimen record for Illinois. There are eight prior accepted records for the state. The first *Lake*, IL breeding record for Blue Grosbeak occurred at Illinois Beach S.P., with documentation of a pair and young (ph. EWW). For the 3rd consecutive year, a Blue Grosbeak was observed at Miller, a singing male noted there 15 Jun (JKC, EE, RJP). A first-year male Painted Bunting was seen 16 & 22 Jul at the regular E. St. Louis, *St. Clair*, IL nesting location (DMK). Part of a good year for the species, Indiana's 2nd highest one-day count of Dickcissels, 164, was logged in *Gibson* 1 Jul (JD). Three tallies of 120+ Dickcissels in Illinois was encouraging for this grassland species, as was the maximum count of 94 Bobolinks made 19 Jun in *Fulton*, IL (JWW). Yellow-headed Blackbirds raised young at three Illinois locations and were reported from four other marshes in the n. part of the state. A pair and 2 young Brewer's Blackbirds were noted 30 Jul at Illinois Beach S.P. (EWW), a known nesting location for this uncommon species in the Region.

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## Western Great Lakes



### Peder H. Svingen

Most of the Region received below-normal precipitation. Good habitat for shorebirds was found in western Minnesota and along the Lake Michigan shoreline of the Upper Peninsula.

**Abbreviations:** Agassiz (Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall, MN); Big Stone (Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle, MN); C.G.I. (Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee, WI); L.P. (Lower Peninsula of Michigan); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Single Tundra Swans summered in each state. Wisconsin's was healthy in Ashland (RB), but the others were injured or unable to fly. Michigan reported a male White-winged Scoter in *Houghton* 14 Jun (JK). A female Spruce Grouse with 3 downy young in *Ogemaw* (HB, *fide* CP) provided a rare breeding record for Michigan's L.P. Wisconsin's only Spruce Grouse was in *Vilas* 21 Jun (JS). Unseasonable were summer Horned Grebes in *Baraga* and *Alger* in the U.P., and Wisconsin had one in *Ozaukee*, WI 29 Jul (JF). Red-necked Grebes nested in *Delta*, MI (SH) for the 2nd consecutive year. Clark's Grebe was found in four Minnesota locations, including one paired with a probable Western Grebe x

Clark's Grebe hybrid at Thielke L. (ph. PBB).

Unusual for ne. Minnesota was a Snowy Egret at Duluth 1-3 Jun (LWM, SLF). In the U.P., a juv. Little Blue Heron was a rare find at Elmwood Wildlife Area, *Menominee* 22 Jul (ph. SH); Michigan also had Little Blues in *Berrien* and *Mason*. In Minnesota, the ad. Little Blue at Lubenow W.M.A. provided a first county record for *Swift* 27 Jul (BJU). Michigan reported a Tricolored Heron at Pte. Mouillee 12 Jun+ TP (p.a., BMu, ST, AMB, m.ob.). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were in two Michigan and six Minnesota counties. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron graced *Jackson*, MI for the 4th consecutive year 5-12 Jun (m.ob.). Minnesota had single ad. Yellow-crowneds in *Murray* 11 Jun (KJB) and *Nicollet* 17 Jun (BJU). A Glossy Ibis visited Pte. Mouillee 4-12 Jun (p.a., ST, BMu, AMB).

Wisconsin reported an ad. Mississippi Kite soaring over the Rock River, *Rock* 4 Jun (QY). A Rough-legged Hawk lingered through 12 Jun on Manitou I. in *Keweenaw*, MI (JY, ZG). A Yellow Rail at Thunder Lake W.M.A., *Oneida* 15 Jun (RHo) inhabited a new Wisconsin location for this species; Michigan's only reports were from the traditional location at Seney N.W.R. King Rail was found in three Wisconsin locations: *Columbia* 13 Jun (TP), *Door* 5 Jul (CS), and *Dodge* 23 Jul (SCu). Common Moorhens in 12 Minnesota counties made that state's best showing in decades; unusually far n. was one in *Wexford*, MI 6 Jun (AVP).

### SHOREBIRDS

Shorebird surveys in w. Minnesota (PCC, PHS) found good numbers and diversity attributable to scheduled drawdowns at Agassiz and at Big Stone N.W.R. The highlight was Chu and Svingen's discovery of an ad. male Snowy Plover at Big Stone 1 Jul, which led to



Long anticipated in the state but not predicted to arrive in July was Minnesota's first Slaty-backed Gull at Grand Marais, Cook County. Discovered by Molly and Ken Hoffman 21 (here 22) July 2006, this adult was subsequently seen and photographed by many. Photograph by David A. Cahlander.

the discovery of an ad. female on the 3rd (ph. DWK, JLO) and 2 recently hatched chicks on the 8th (DBz, CCB, ph. RLE). The chicks were faithfully attended by the male through at least 29 Jul, when both apparently fledged; at least one lingered at the refuge through 27 Aug. Michigan had 50 breeding pairs of Piping Plovers, down slightly from last year; an apparent migrant was in *Berrien* 23 Jul (TB). In Wisconsin, 5 nesting pairs on the Apostle Is. produced 5 chicks; 2 birds in *Manitowoc* 17 Jun (JH) showed no signs of nesting; and a loner lingered at Kohler Andrea S.P., *Sheboygan* 1-11 Jul (JF). In Minnesota, a Piping

**SA** For the first time in over 100 years, wild-hatched Whooping Cranes walked Wisconsin wetlands. Two Whooping Cranes pecked out of their shells 22 Jun. The parents are captive born four-year-old birds hatched at Patuxent, MD, which were then released at Necedah N.W.R. as part of the experimental flock. This pair lost their first eggs but nested again and hatched these avian vanguards.