



in Minnesota, Baird's Sandpipers peaked at 267 in *Lac Qui Parle* 20 Aug (PHS, JM). Minnesota's 5th Purple Sandpiper, at L. Winnibigoshish, Cass 26-29 Sep (vt. BAW, m.ob.), was that state's earliest ever by more than a month. Wisconsin reported one in *Sheboygan* 5-7 Nov (TCW) and another in *Manitowoc* 26 Nov (AH). Purple Sandpipers arrived in no fewer than eight Michigan locations in Nov, including a flock of 3 at the AuSable R. mouth, Iosco 8 Nov (BH, GM). Stilt Sandpipers peaked at 845 at Big Stone 6 Aug (PCC, PHS).

Wisconsin experienced another good migration of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with 22 reports from 10 counties; 106 birds in 16 Minnesota counties, however, was low for the 4th consecutive fall. Unusual for W.P.B.O. was a high count of 12 Buff-breasteds 23 Aug. Co-operative in Wisconsin was a juv. Ruff in *Oconto* 16-18 Aug (TIB, m.ob.). Possibly Minnesota's best migration of Red-necked Phalaropes included a flock of 200 birds at Heron Lake W.T.P., Jackson 22 Aug (JSc); the statewide total was ca. 600 birds in 25 counties. Wisconsin had single Red Phalaropes in *Milwaukee* 13-18 Sep (JI) and *Waukesha* 18 Oct (MG).

## GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Michigan hosted the Region's only Laughing Gull at Baw Beese L., Hillsdale 12-13 Sep (JR). All three states reported above-average numbers of Little Gulls. Minnesota welcomed an ad. at L. Winnibigoshish, Cass 15 Oct (BAW) and an imm. at Ironton W.T.P., Crow Wing 17-27 Oct (JSB, BAW, DST). Up to 4 visited Duluth 18 Sep-7 Oct (m.ob.), with one also seen across the state line in *Douglas*, WI 9-22 Sep (RJ). Wisconsin had 7 Little Gulls in *Sheboygan* 6 Aug (TCW) and one in *Ashland* 17-25 Oct (RSB). Michigan reported single Little Gulls in *Arenac* and *Berrien*, several in *Iosco*, including a juv. 27 Aug (RDz), 3 in *Huron* 19 Oct (DD, MW), and one at W.P.B.O. 12 Nov. Black-headed Gull was documented in *Douglas*, WI 30 Sep (RJ), *Milwaukee*, WI 11 Nov (DT), and *Jackson*, MN 21-22 Oct (CMB, JWH, ph. DWK). Almost expected was the Mew Gull in *Milwaukee*, WI 4-14 Nov (TCW, m.ob.). Neither Michigan's California Gull at St. Joseph, *Berrien* 1 Nov (ph. CB) nor Minnesota's in *Clay* (BWF, ph. RMD, KRE et al.) could be refound. Furnishing a 2nd Wisconsin record was an ad. Slaty-backed Gull at Superior, *Douglas* 17-19 Nov (RJ, ph. LS). Present since 21 Jul, Minnesota's first Slaty-backed was found dead in



Establishing the fifth Minnesota record, and earliest ever by more than a month, was this juvenile Purple Sandpiper at Lake Winnibigoshish 26-29 (here 26) September 2006. Photograph by Ben A. Wieland.

*Cook* 15 Aug (\*Bell Museum of Natural History). Stay tuned for more in winter!

Unusual for Michigan was a flock of 6 Sabine's Gulls at Keweenaw Bay, *Baraga* 22 Sep (ph. JY et al.). Most Michigan sightings are singles, such as the ad. in *Berrien* 13 Sep (TBa). Up to 4 Sabine's were shared by Minnesota and Wisconsin at Duluth-Superior 20-23 Sep, and singles visited *Brown*, MN 9 Sep (ph. BTS) and *Portage*, WI 30 Sep-3 Oct (GJ). Michigan had another good flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes, including 4 at W.P.B.O.,



This stunning juvenile Little Gull was found at Tiscornia Beach in Berrien County, Michigan 1 September 2006. Photograph by Matt Hysell.

one in *Berrien* 3 Nov (TBa), and one in *St. Clair* 19 Nov (JPe, ph. AR). Two kittiwakes loitered in *Ashland*, WI 10-19 Nov (ph. RSB). An Arctic Tern visited Wisconsin Pt. 23 Sep (m.ob.). Exceptional numbers of jaegers at relatively close range were enjoyed by many at Wisconsin Pt. and Park Point, Duluth, MN. At least 2 Pomarines and 10 Parasitics were

documented, plus up to a dozen unidentified jaegers. During late Sep, it was not uncommon to have 6 jaegers in view simultaneously! Also exceptional were "inland" Pomarine Jaegers in *Marquette*, WI 30 Sep (DC, TRS) and *Blue Earth*, MN 15-19 Oct (RMD, CCB, ph. JPM). Michigan also reported good numbers of jaegers, including a juv. Pomarine in *Wayne* 11 Nov (AR) and 5 Parasitics (plus 54 unidentified jaegers) at W.P.B.O. Also at Whitefish Pt. was a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger 23 Sep (TA, DJ); another flew by Wisconsin Pt. 22 Sep (RJ).

For the 2nd consecutive fall, Ancient Murrelet showed up at W.P.B.O. (p.a., TA); though 24 km away and four days later, this may have been the bird found at the mouth of the Tahquamenon R. 14 Oct (ph. TA). Elsewhere in Michigan, up to 4 Eurasian Collared-Doves continued at Chum's Corners, *Grand Traverse* (fide AMB), and 2 lingered in *Berrien*, MI through mid-Aug; Wisconsin had them in three counties. Outstanding was the presence of a White-winged Dove at W.P.B.O. 1-15 Nov (EBu, TA, KZ), and 2 birds were seen together there 4-11 Nov. Tardy Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at W.P.B.O. 2 Oct and *Dane*, WI 16 Oct (PA). A Barn Owl was picked up dead in *Milwaukee*, WI 4 Nov (SD). Probably related to last winter's irruption were Snowy Owls in *Bay*, MI 22 Aug (LD) and *Marathon*, WI 29 Aug (DB). The 4th occurrence of Burrowing Owl in Minnesota for 2006 was a pair in *Stevens* Jul-14 Aug (ph. DO). Exceptionally late was the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Clinton*, MI 9 Nov (RBa,



Michigan's sixth Ancient Murrelet spent an hour at the Tahquamenon River mouth, Chippewa County 29 October 2006 (here). Photograph by Tom Auer.

*fide* ATC). Minnesota's 4th Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder in Dakota 29-31 Oct (p.a., ph. SY). Also at feeders were a Rufous Hummingbird in Dane, WI 15 Oct-4 Nov (JL) and single Rufous/Allen's in Roseau, MN 10 Aug (ph. TAd) and Kenosha, WI early Sep+ (EB).

## WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two-dozen American Three-toed Woodpeckers in n. Minnesota was the most reported there in decades. Michigan reported up to 3 birds in Keweenaw (p.a.), and Wisconsin attracted one in Douglas 24 Nov+ (LS). Wisconsin's 3rd Say's Phoebe was found 10 Sep at Mequon Nature Preserve in Ozaukee (JSt). Less unusual was one at Big Stone 4 Sep (ph. BJU). Providing a 3rd Michigan record was an imm. male Vermilion Flycatcher at Big Bay, Marquette 11 Oct+ (ph. HC, SH, PCC, CP, m.ob.). The Region's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Keweenaw, MI 30 Sep (ph. JK, KT et al.).

A White-eyed Vireo lingered through 24 Aug in Iowa, WI (AH). The largest irruption of Gray Jays in 20 years was evident by Oct along the North Shore and subsequently in nw. Minnesota. Tufted Titmouse strayed as far n. as Iron, WI 15 Oct (BRo) and Dickinson in the U.P. (RWa, *fide* GO, EO). Carolina Wrens also marched northward to Itasca and Otter Tail in Minnesota, and Delta and Emmet in Michigan. Nicely documented was a Rock Wren in Alger, MI 15 Oct (ph. Al). Loitering

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included one in Milwaukee, WI 20 Oct (TW) and one at W.P.B.O. 15 Nov.

Mountain Bluebird was found in five Minnesota locations, including 2 females in Chippewa 19 Aug (RBJ) and a male in Big Stone 30 Oct (BJU); the others were along the North Shore. A total of 39 Townsend's Solitaires was the most ever found in one season in Minnesota. Michigan also had more than usual, with four reports from the U.P., including 2 in Keweenaw 19 Nov (LD, JK) and 2 in Alger 24

Nov (PM, *fide* SH). In Wisconsin, a Townsend's Solitaire passed through Douglas 5 Oct (RSB), and 2 returned to their usual wintering location in Sauk 11 Nov (PR). Most unusual for the North Shore was a Sprague's Pipit in St. Louis 17 Sep (JCG, JG).

Lingering warblers in Wisconsin included a Blue-winged in Milwaukee 22 Oct (RD), a Magnolia in Door 8 Nov (SP), and a Cape May in Milwaukee 14 Nov (DG). Easterly was an Audubon's Warbler in Milwaukee, WI 2 Nov (DG). Wisconsin's 2nd Townsend's Warbler was found by many and photographed (JL) in Milwaukee 29 Oct-4 Nov; another was briefly seen in Houghton, MI 7 Nov (p.a., JK, RHa). A Yellow-throated Warbler appeared in Berrien, MI 5 Oct (WEJ). Late warblers in Milwaukee included Prairie 5 Nov+ (BC, m.ob.), Blackpoll 14 Nov (DG), and Hooded 5 Nov (TW); the latter 2 were record late for Wisconsin.

Another Summer Tanager strayed to the North Shore in Lake 8-25 Nov (KEH, ph. LME, JWL); s. Minnesota had Summer Tanagers in Hennepin, Olmsted, and Steele. Michigan's summer pair lingered in Berrien through 16 Aug, and another Summer Tanager was late in Alger, MI 26 Nov+ (TB, ph. SCH). In Michigan, Marquette's first Green-tailed

Towhee lingered in Taccolini's back yard 13 Oct+ (LT, AMB, CP, m.ob.). Most unusual among 4 Spotted Towhees in Minnesota was one at Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis 14 Oct (ALE, NAJ). Behind schedule were Clay-colored Sparrows in Ashland, WI 5 Nov (RSB) and Keweenaw, MI 17 Nov (ph. JK, LD). The North Shore attracted a Lark Bunting at Split Rock Lighthouse S.P. 18 Aug (ph. DAG). Less widespread than normal for Wisconsin were Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Milwaukee 18 Sep-8 Oct and Dane 20 Sep-4 Oct (ST), but more than usual were migrants in nine Minnesota counties. Away from its usual migration route in w. Minnesota was a Smith's Longspur at Castle Danger, Lake 5-7 Oct (JWL et al.). An ad. male Painted Bunting was photographed at Maplewood, Ramsey, MN 18 Nov (p.a., RA). An early Rusty Blackbird reached Ashland, WI 31 Aug (TO). Late for Wisconsin was a Baltimore Oriole in Dane 5 Nov (AP); even later was a male in Rochester, MN 10 Nov (ph. WJK). Furnishing Minnesota's 13th record were 3 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Carlton 27 Nov+



Michigan's ninth Green-tailed Towhee appeared in the Marquette backyard of Louis Taccolini 13 October 2006 and remained through the fall (here 28 October) and winter seasons. Photograph by Robert Epstein.

(ph. MS, m.ob.). Michigan's long-staying Eurasian Tree Sparrow was last reported in Cass 12 Nov (DLJ).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Betsy Abert, Tom Adams (TAd), Robert Amos, Stan Anthony, Phil Ashman, Tom Auer, Sean Bachman, Tim Baerwald (TBa), Robin Ballard (RBa), Chris Barrigar, Ty & Ida Baumann (TIB), Patrick B. Beauzay, Ericka Behling, Dan Belter, Chris C. Benson, Jo & Steve Blanich (JSB), Tony Block, Ryan S. Brady, Rick Brigham, Conny M. Brunell, Erin Burke (EBu), Adam M. Byrne, Allen T. Chartier, Philip C. Chu, Daryl Christensen, Bill Cowart, Hiram Cram, Seth Cutright, Scott Diehl, Robert Domagalski, Louie Dombroski (Michigan), Brian Doverspike, Robert M. Dunlap, Dan Duso, Ryan Dziedzic (RDZ),

**SA** Experienced Wisconsin birder Jim Frank encountered an unfamiliar warbler near Bradford Beach, Milwaukee 21 Oct. Careful observation from as close as 15 feet as it foraged for 20 minutes with numerous kinglets, permitted minute documentation of every field mark. Frank eventually concluded that it was a Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*). If accepted by the Wisconsin records committee, it would be placed on the state list as a hypothetical species, since it was a single-observer sight record. This would be the first interior report of this Siberian species known for its vagrancy to w. Alaska; the species was also located in Baja California Sur, Mexico in Mar 2007.

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## Iowa & Missouri



### Bill Eddleman

**M**odest rain across Iowa in early August accompanied a welcome relief from 90–100° F temperatures, while Missouri remained dry and hot; in Iowa, temperatures returned to near normal, and precipitation levels were slightly above normal there but much below normal in much of Missouri. The first half of September was mild, and much of Missouri continued dry except for isolated thunderstorms. September gradually grew drier and cooler, and the first freeze of the season was recorded at Spencer, Iowa on the 20th. Relatively mild conditions over most of the Region persisted into early October. Continued southerly winds kept both weather and birds quiet in the skies, but precipitation began to fall in many areas that had seen little in Missouri. A strong cold front 10–12 October resulted in a statewide freeze

in Iowa, with significant snowfall in the north. Another front pushed through at the end of October, plunging temperatures to well below normal. Much of November saw erratic fluctuations in temperature between cold and above-normal temperatures. Heavy snow hit northern Iowa in early November, only to be washed away within a week by rain. The result was a relatively slow and erratic migration, with some early arrival records and some birds lingering late.

**Abbreviations:** Grammer (Grammer Grove, Marshall, IA); Hitchcock (Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch, Pottawattamie, IA); M.S.L. (Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway, MO); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, formerly Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); S.R. (Smithville Res., Clay/Clinton, MO); T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, MO); T.R.W. (Thompson River Wetlands, Livingston, MO).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Low waterfowl numbers in n. Iowa contrasted with large numbers along the Mississippi R. and cen. reservoirs. Waterfowl increased in Missouri after water conditions improved in mid-season. A record of 6 **Black-billed Whistling-Ducks**, documented at the St. Louis Zoo 8 Aug 2005, is being evaluated by the Missouri Bird Records Committee. A summering Greater White-fronted Goose at R.M.B.S. remained through fall (SS, CM, BR, †JPU, m.ob.). Snow Goose numbers peaked at 102,000 at S.C.R. 28–29 Nov (DE, TR), and 300,000+ flew over Hitchcock 29 Nov (JT).

Ross's Geese peaked at 624 at S.C.R. 28 Nov (DE). Two **Black Brant** in Clay, IA 10 Oct provided the 2nd state record for the *nigricans* subspecies (†LAS, †DB, †DA). Cackling Geese arrived early in Iowa, with 4 at Saylorville 21 Sep (AB); the peak was 1630 in Guthrie, IA 29 Nov (SJD). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service counted 52,700 Tundra Swans along the Mississippi R. between Pools 4 and 14 (partly in Minnesota and Wisconsin) 20 Nov. Thousands of wigeon, scaup, and Canvasbacks on the Mississippi R. in Allamakee, IA arrived with the 10–12 Oct cold front, as did 700 Blue-winged Teal at De Soto N.W.R., Harrison, IA (BB), 3045 Green-winged Teal at Saylorville, and 30 American Black Ducks at Pool 9, Allamakee, IA (U.S.F.W.S.). Canvasback numbers peaked at 161,750 in Pool 9 on 7 Nov (U.S.F.W.S.). Continuing a recent fall trend, all three scoters were widespread. The first Surf Scoters were at four locations in Iowa on 11–12 Oct; Regional totals were 17 at 10 Iowa sites and 8 at six Missouri sites. White-winged Scoters appeared in Missouri at R.M.B.S. 1 Nov (JWE, JPU); totals were 14 at four Iowa locations and 6 at four Missouri sites. The first Black Scoter was a record-early bird at Saylorville 12 Oct (JG); 7 were at four Iowa sites; and 10 were at six Missouri sites. Each state had five Long-tailed Duck sightings. An early female Bufflehead was at Cardinal Marsh, Winneshiok, IA 20 Aug (DK). Similarly, a Common Merganser was at Saylorville through Sep (†JG, AB, SJD, RC).

Gray Partridge was 35% below the 10-year average in Iowa and only reported n. of Story (Iowa Department of Natural Resources). Ring-necked Pheasants declined 22% since