



Adam M. Byrne

A very warm late March brought many species north earlier than usual. Winter returned in early April when a powerful storm brought cold weather and snow Regionwide. Southern Michigan had only a few inches of snow, but Marquette in the Upper Peninsula accumulated four feet in just four days. The rest of the season experienced rather uneventful weather, with very few intense low-pressure systems. Many species arrived earlier than expected, but numbers remained low; many birders characterized this spring as one of the worst warbler migrations in decades.

WATERFOWL

Michigan had very few rare geese this spring, with only 7 Greater White-fronted Geese in three counties and one Ross's Goose in Cass 27 Mar (JTW, p.a.). Minnesota reported a high count of 13,695 Greater White-fronteds in *Lac Qui Parle* 16 Mar (BJU) and a statewide total of 716 Ross's Geese in 25 counties that included a high count of 208 in *Lac Qui Parle* 15 Mar (BJU). Wisconsin recorded Ross's Geese in 11 counties. Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (hereafter P.M.S.G.A.), *Monroe*, MI had some impressive duck totals this spring, with peaks of 2329 Gadwalls 17 Mar and 2096 American Wigeons 23 Mar (AMB). Male Eurasian Wigeons were photographed in *Outagamie*, WI 6-14 Apr (m.ob.) and in *Mackinac*, MI 26 Apr (JZ). A bird originally reported as a Eurasian Wigeon at *Hyland L., Bloomington*, MN 25-26 Mar was actually an Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrid (PCC). Wisconsin also had an unusual hybrid, a male Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal in *Sauk* 6 Apr (AH).

The 1304 Ring-necked Ducks on 29 Mar at *Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw*, MI (DP) was the highest Saginaw Bay area total since 1990, while 44,500 Greater Scaup in *Oconto* 4 Apr (JS) was Wisconsin's largest flock in many years. Wisconsin had wintering Harlequin Ducks stay through 25 May in *Sheboygan* (JC) and additional birds in *Racine* 20-28 Apr (RJ)

and *Ozaukee* 13 Apr+ (OB). A Black Scoter in *Renville*, MN 9-15 Apr made a first county record (RBW, m.ob.); Wisconsin had an unusual report of a young male Black Scoter at *Horicon Marsh, Fond du Lac* 12-19 May (TS). In Wisconsin, wintering male Barrow's Goldeneyes lingered through 10 Mar in *Milwaukee* (TW), and another was in *Ashland* 24-31 Mar (RB); Minnesota had a male in *Cass* 26 Mar-10 Apr (BAW).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Wisconsin had a poor spring for Red-throated Loons, with only four reports from L. Michigan. Minnesota reported Red-throateds as usual at *Duluth, St. Louis* in May. Whitefish Point B.O. (hereafter, W.P.B.O.), *Chippewa*, MI had 478 after 20 Apr, with a peak of 73 on 1 May. Two Horned Grebes in *Keweenaw*, MI 31 May were late (LCB). Michigan and Wisconsin both had two Eared Grebe reports, while one out of range in Minnesota was in *Lake* 19-20 May (JWL), and 2 were in *St. Louis* 19-22 May (AS, m.ob.). Interesting for Minnesota were 2 Western Grebes in *St. Louis* 19-24 May (AS, m.ob.), while Wisconsin reported one in *Dane* 23 May (CH, AS†). Minnesota hosted the only Clark's Grebe at *Thielke L., Big Stone* 30 Apr+ (CMB, DBF, SLF, m.ob.). Large numbers of American White Pelicans in Michigan's Upper Peninsula were quite expected, as the status of this species changes to breeder. Minnesota's 4th Neotropic Cormorant was at *Diamond L., Hennepin* 9-18 May (PEB, m.ob.).

Southern heron diversity and numbers were down Regionwide. Michigan had only 3 Snowy Egrets and Wisconsin only one, while Minnesota had 13 in seven counties, including a record-early Snowy in *Dakota* 25-26 Mar (CMB, m.ob.). The only Little Blue Herons were singles in *Brown*, WI 10 May (TB) and *Rice*, MN 23 May (TFB). Tricolored Herons were found in *Roseau*, MN 14 May (JK et al., p.a.) and *Iosco*, MI 22 May (JD, GN, p.a.). Minnesota had 28 Cattle Egrets statewide in 13 counties, including one n. report in *Marshall* 10 May (GT). Michigan had 3 Cattle Egrets 19 May+ in *Bay* (JSo, GP, DJ, DD, m.ob.) and one at P.M.S.G.A. 19 May (AMB), while Wisconsin had only 4 birds in four counties. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was an ad. in *Racine*, WI 27 Apr (PH). Ibis numbers were the only bright spot amongst the heron group, with good numbers reported in all three states. Minnesota's 3rd Glossy Ibis was in *Lac Qui Parle* 29 Apr-1 May amongst a flock of 22 White-faced Ibis (WCM, PME, PN, JPE, m.ob.). Michigan had 6 Glossy Ibis 20 May+ at P.M.S.G.A. (SM, m.ob., p.a.), and Wisconsin had one in *Grant* 18 May (TS) and 8 in *Fond du Lac* 19-27 May (TW).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Minnesota recorded its 4th Black Vulture in *Washington* 24-25 Mar (BRL, m.ob.), while Wisconsin's 7th record was in *Brown* 28 Apr (TB). Michigan had only one Swainson's Hawk, on 22 Apr at W.P.B.O., while the only Ferruginous Hawks were 2 light-morph ads. at different locales in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN (BJU). Minnesota also hosted a wintering Gyrfalcon that lingered through 23 Mar in *Dakota* and a Prairie Falcon in *Meeker* 25 Mar (DMF). A Black Rail was heard by many 13-24 May in *Berrien*, furnishing Michigan with its 4th record and first for the spring season (JW, m.ob., p.a.). Michigan also reported the only King Rails, 2 in *St. Clair* 8 May (MS, p.a.). Far north were 3 Common Moorhens in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and one at *Duluth, St. Louis*, MN; this species seems to be doing quite well in Michigan of late, perhaps lending to the increase in the number of wandering birds.

Michigan had its best spring for American Golden-Plovers since 2004, with 9 birds in four counties. Minnesota recorded its 10th Snowy Plover at *Duluth, St. Louis* 30-31 May (SCZ, KRE, PHS, CLW) and a record-high spring tally of 300 Semipalmated Plovers at *L. Byllesby, Dakota* 15 May (JPM). Four Piping Plovers in three Minnesota counties was a major improvement after having none last spring; Wisconsin reported birds from three counties. Once again, all three states reported Black-necked Stilts. Wisconsin had one stilt on 23 Apr in *Eau Claire* (JP) and 2 there on 23 Apr (BS), plus another 19-23 May (PB) in *Jefferson*. Two stilts in *Berrien* 6 May+ (DV, m.ob., p.a.) provided Michigan its 6th record, while Minnesota had one in *Rock* 26 May (LS, KRE). Wisconsin had 14 American Avocets in 10 counties, making this season one of the best for this species in decades. Minnesota also had large numbers of avocets, with 85 birds in 15 counties; Michigan had only one in *Muskegon* 28 Apr (JL). Minnesota had a record-high count of 63 Upland Sandpipers in *Polk* 9 May (RPR et al.). Minnesota's only significant numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were at *Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall*, while Michigan and Wisconsin had very few godwits of either species. Minnesota had single Red Knots in *Pope* 17-18 May (HHD, RBW, CMB), *Lac Qui Parle* 19 May (PHS), and *St. Louis* 25 May (JLR). Wisconsin had only 2 knots in *Kewaunee* 3 May (TB), and Michigan had 2 in *Iosco* 24 May (SF) and one at W.P.B.O. 28 May. Unusual for Michigan were a Stilt Sandpiper 19 May (AMB) and a Long-billed Dowitcher 13 May (JJ), both at P.M.S.G.A. Casual in spring was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Marshall*, MN

14 May (PHS). Red-necked Phalaropes were scarce Regionwide; Michigan had only one in *Alger* 23 May (DS). One Red-necked at Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN 27 May (JLR) was unusual for that locale. Providing Minnesota's 3rd spring record and 15th overall was a female Red Phalarope in *Big Stone* 28 May (PHS).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Michigan had three Laughing Gull reports in *Berrien* and one in the Upper Peninsula's *Keweenaw* 24-25 May (JKa, MH), all of single birds, while Wisconsin had five reports along L. Michigan, with a peak of 4 in *Ozaukee* 26 May (TU). Franklin's Gulls were scarce in both Wisconsin and Michigan; Wisconsin had only 3 Franklin's, while Michigan had only one in *Berrien* 26 May (TBa). Wisconsin had an incredible spring for Little Gull, totaling at least 10 birds from seven counties, including 4 in *Sheboygan* 31 May (JF). Minnesota had an ad. 23 May (KRE, RLE et al.) and first-year bird 27 May (TCL, CLW), both at Duluth, while Michigan had only one in *Iosco* 27 May (JZ). An imm. Black-headed Gull was found in *Sheboygan*, WI 30 May (DT, p.a.). A California Gull found in *St. Louis*, MN 27 May (CLW, TCL) was also reported from *Douglas*, WI. Casual for Michigan was a California Gull in *Berrien* 30 May (MHy, p.a.). A late Thayer's Gull was in *Lake*, MN 20 May (JCG, JWJ). Wisconsin's wintering Slaty-backed Gull in *Winnebago* remained through 11 Mar (SFr). A Black-legged Kittiwake in *Sheboygan* 27 May+ (SC) represents Wisconsin's 2nd spring record. An Arctic Tern frequented Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN 22-29 May (KRE, m.ob.); the same location hosted the Region's only jaeger, an ad. light-morph Parasitic 22 May (KRE).

Eurasian Collared-Doves are becoming very difficult to track in Minnesota, with reports coming from 20 different counties. Wisconsin had collared-doves in 11 counties, yet Michigan had only one in *Marquette* 30 May (SH, p.a.). Minnesota's 11th White-winged Dove visited a feeder in *Kittson*, MN 4-22 May (LW, m.ob.). A very cooperative Barn Owl spent the day roosting at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* 17 May (JDu, LC, LG, m.ob., p.a.), providing Michigan with only its 4th record since 1987; Wisconsin had a Barn Owl in *Dane* 3-6 Mar (ASt, TP). Snowy Owls lingered in one Michigan and three Wisconsin counties. Minnesota had around 110 Short-eared Owls statewide, including high counts of 35 in *Wilkin* 9 Mar (JPE) and 27 in *Polk* 10 Mar (JMJ). A change in methodology led to an amazing number of captured Northern Saw-whet Owls at W.P.B.O., with 835 after 16 Mar.

For the 3rd consecutive spring, Chuck-will's-widows returned to sites in both Michigan and Wisconsin; Michigan's bird was present in *Berrien* 2 May+ (MB), and Wisconsin had one in *Jackson* 21 May (AP). Unprecedented in spring for Michigan was an ad. Rufous Hummingbird in *Keweenaw* 16 May (FR, LCB, p.a.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Remaining from the impressive winter invasion were American Three-toed Woodpeckers in *Aitkin* and *Pine* in Minnesota and in *Marquette*, MI. The Region's first Couch's Kingbird was heard and photographed at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco*, MI 26-28 May (KO, BM, AMB, KZ, m.ob.). Wisconsin had Western Kingbirds in *Dane* 8 May (BB) and *Dunn* 26 May (PC), while Michigan had singles in *Delta* 21-22 May (MHe) and at W.P.B.O. 29 May (CB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed in Minnesota 23-26 Apr in *Olmsted* (LAV, CMB, JPM) and 23-25 May at Duluth (SCZ). Wisconsin had Scissor-tailed in *Bayfield* 3-4 May (WV) and in *St. Croix* 28 May (LP), while Michigan had reports from *Chippewa* 7-8 May (MHe) and *Iosco* 25 May (JKe). Minnesota still supports breeding Loggerhead Shrikes, but their numbers continue to decline; this year, the statewide total was 24 shrikes in 14 counties, below the 1992-1996 average for the 11th consecutive spring. Wisconsin had four Loggerhead reports, including a nesting pair in *Bayfield* 19 May (TO), while a migrant in *Berrien* 19 May (EE) was Michigan's first spring record since 2003.

Minnesota reported a White-eyed Vireo in *Hennepin* 7-8 May (JEP, CMB, DAC) and Bell's Vireos at the usual Twin Cities and south-central/southeast locations. Wisconsin had a record-early Northern Rough-winged Swallow 26 Mar in *Portage* (JS). A Mountain Bluebird in *St. Clair* 2-4 Apr (TD, m.ob., p.a.) provided Michigan's 4th state record, while Minnesota had reports from *Pennington* 23 Mar (SAS) and *Clay* 28 Apr (PBB). Michigan had Townsend's Solitaires through 17 Mar in *Keweenaw* (TA) and on 16 Apr in *Marquette* (RR). Minnesota reported 5 solitaires in four counties and 8 Varied Thrushes in seven counties; the last of Wisconsin's wintering Varied Thrushes lingered through 13 Apr in *Bayfield* (RB). Northern Mockingbirds put on a great showing in Wisconsin, with reports from eight counties.

Wisconsin hosted its 3rd Audubon's Warbler in *Milwaukee* 23 Apr (SL), while Michigan's 7th Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Ann Arbor, *Washtenaw* 24 Apr (RK, AK, LSh). A Yellow-throated Warbler in *Bay*,

MI 15 May (DD) was only the 3rd Saginaw Bay area record, and W.P.B.O. had its first record on 18 May (SZ, MHe); Wisconsin had Yellow-throateds in *Grant* and *Milwaukee* (SL). Pine Warblers in *Dane* (ML) and *LaCrosse* (JR) on 28 Mar tied for Wisconsin's record-early arrival date. A male Prairie Warbler set up territory in *Dakota*, MN 30 May+ (JSw, TPB, CLW, m.ob.); this same location hosted a Prairie Warbler during the summer of 2005. Wisconsin reported a Prairie Warbler in *Sauk* 23 May (RH). Cerulean Warblers were reported from 15 s. Minnesota counties, including a first county record in *Stevens* 20 May (BJU). Michigan reported 4 Worm-eating Warblers in *Berrien* after 3 May, while Wisconsin had one in *Brown* 4 May (TB). One Worm-eating Warbler in *Clay* 6 May (DPW, PBB) was Minnesota's 2nd record since 2001 of this formerly regular species. Minnesota had a male Kentucky Warbler return to *Blue Earth* 14-28 May for the 8th consecutive year and an out-of-range Hooded Warbler in *Lac Qui Parle* 15 May (BJU). North of normal for Michigan was a pair of Hoodeds in *Emmet* 29 May (K&SS).

TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Minnesota had Summer Tanagers in six counties, including first county records in *Fairbault* 8 May (WAF) and *Kittson* 28 May (GB), while Michigan had 6 birds in five counties. Wisconsin had 8 Summer Tanagers in seven counties and Western Tanagers in *Clark* 26 Apr (DF) and *Portage* 14 May (TS). Minnesota had Westerns in *Freeborn* 24-27 Apr (AEB, CMB, JEM), *Anoka* 25-29 Apr (TM, m.ob.), and *Lac Qui Parle* 21 May (BJU). Wintering Green-tailed Towhees remained through 5 Mar in *Marquette*, MI and 23 Apr in *Cottonwood*, MN, while the only Spotted Towhee was a male in *Hennepin*, MN 24-29 Apr (TMo, CMB, JPM). Migrant Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in *Milwaukee*, WI 22 May (SL) and *Muskegon*, MI 26 May (JVK). Minnesota had an impressive 240 Harris's Sparrows in *Lac Qui Parle* 6 May (BJU). Wisconsin recorded them in four counties, while Michigan had singles at W.P.B.O. 8 May and in *Keweenaw* 10 May (LCB). Unique to Minnesota were Smith's Longspurs in four counties, including a high count of 42 in *Big Stone* 26 Apr (BJU), a late May male Black-headed Grosbeak in *Wilkin* (L&PT, p.a.), and a Blue Grosbeak in *Clay* 6 May (RHO, PBB). Each state reported an ad. male Painted Bunting, Wisconsin had one in *Milwaukee* 10 May (TW), Michigan in *Berrien* 19 May (MW), and Minnesota in *Lake* 19-23 May (S&RC, JWJ, p.a.). Dickcissel reports from four

Michigan counties were strong indicators of a good summer invasion.

A record-high spring count in Minnesota was 1300 Rusty Blackbirds in *Lac Qui Parle* 21 Mar (BJU). Wisconsin's first Great-tailed Grackle from winter lingered through 19 Apr in *Dodge* (LM), and a 2nd grackle was located in *Grant* 3 May (JR); Minnesota reported Great-taileds from four counties. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at *L'Anse, Baraga*, MI stayed through 16 Mar (TA), while the 3 in *Carlton*, MN lingered through 26 Mar (MSc, m.ob.). Michigan reported no Pine Grosbeaks but had impressive numbers of Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills that far exceeded anything in the last decade. W.P.B.O. reported 2182 White-wingeds for the season, with a peak of 937 on 30 Mar. Minnesota's 7th Eurasian Tree Sparrow was found in *St. Louis* 15 Apr (A&AB), while Michigan had one continuing in *Cass* until at least 4 May and a surprising group of 3 in *Keeweenaw* 5-11 May (LCB, m.ob., p.a.).

Corrigenda: From spring 2006, delete the Ross's Goose at *Eau Claire, Berrien* 18-21 Mar, the Tufted Duck in *Huron* 15-21 May, Bell's Vireo in *Wayne* 6 May, and Western Tanager in *Iosco* 26-27 May, all in Michigan.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Tom Auer, Tim Baerwald (TBa), Al E. Batt, Ty Baumann (TB), Patrick A. Beauzay, Anne & Allan Bier, Laurence C. Binford, Tom F. Boevers, Owen Boyle, Ryan Brady, Terry P. Brashear, Calvin Brennan (CB), Peter Bridge (PB), Glenn Browne, Connie M. Brunell, Bob Bucci, Marvin Budd, Paul E. Budde, Deb Buria-Falkowski, Adam M. Byrne, David A. Cahlander, Linda Camburn, Joan Campbell, Pamela Campbell (PC), Philip C. Chu, Sue & Ray Churack, Seth Cutright (SC), Jim Dawe (JD), Tom Dennis, Herb H. Dingmann, Jon Dunn (JDu), Dan Duso, Kim R. Eckert, Paul M. Egeland, Robert E. Ekblad, John P. Ellis, Erik Enbody, Steven L. Falkowski, Dave Farris (DF), Wayne A. Feder, Sean Fitzgerald (SF), Scott Franke (SFr), Dan M. Floren, Leonard Graf, Janet C. Green, Skye Haas, Chuck Heikkinen, Max Henschell (MHe), Anthony X. Hertzler, Randy Hoffman, Aaron Holschbach (AH), Patrick Horn, Mark Hubinger (MH), Matt Hysell (MHy), Doug Jackson, Paul E. Jantscher, Rebecca Jarvis, Jeanie M. Joppru, Jerry Jourdan (JJ), Andreas Kanon, Joe Kaplan (JKa), Joey Kellner (JKe), Jim Kiehne (JK), Douglas W. Kieser, Jonathan V. Koppel, Roger Kuhlman, Joseph Lautenbach (JL), Timothy C. Lenz, James W. Lind, Bill R.

Litkey, Michael Lohre, Steve Lubahn, Thomas Maiello™, Scott Manly, William C. Marengo, James P. Mattsson, Tom Molfatt, John E. Morrison, Brad Murphy, Gary Nelkie, Peter Neubeck, Robert H. O'Connor, Tim Oksiuta, Karl Overman, Andy Paulios, Larry Persico, David Peters, Glenn Peterson, Janine Polk (JP), James E. Pomplun, Tom Prestby, Fred Reese, Jack Reinoehl, Janet L. Riegle, Jean Rusher (JR), Robert P. Russell, Jr., Ryne Rutherford (RR), Michael Sanders (MS), Joe Schaufenbuel (JS), Tricia Schaufenbuel (TSc), Al Schirmacher (AS), Mike Schrage (MSc), Tom Schultz (TS), Larry Sheldon (LSh), Brand Smith, Don Snignen, Joe Soehnel (JSO), Linda Sparling (LS), Ken & Sally Stebbins, Shelly A. Steva, Aaron Stutz (ASt), Peder H. Svingen, Jon Swanson (JSw), Daryl Tessen, Linda & Paul Thulin, Gary Tischer, Bill J. Unzen, Tom Uttech, Wally Vietmeier, David Vinnedge, Lance A. Vrieze, Mindy Walker, Ben A. Wieland, Dennis P. Wiesenborn, Larry Wilebski, Robert B. Williams, Todd Wilson (TWi), Christopher L. Wood, Tom Wood (TW), Jon Wuepper, Skip Zabel (SZ), Jerry Ziarno, Shawn C. Zierman, Kirk Zufelt. ☺

Adam M. Byrne, 11771 Rachel Lane
DeWitt, Michigan 48820, (byrnea@msu.edu)

Iowa & Missouri



Stephen J. Dinsmore

The 2007 spring season was one of weather contrasts across the Region. A blizzard enveloped Iowa at the start of the season, but temperatures were above normal for the last two thirds of the month. This

warm weather and southerly airflow was responsible for record- or near-record-early arrivals of many passerines in both states. Colder weather and snow returned during the first half of April, slowing migration, but warmer temperatures quickly returned and reached record highs in some areas by month's end. The April cold snap negatively impacted many early shorebirds, Purple Martins, and Tree Swallows, as it refroze some wetlands and damaged early blooming plants. May saw above-normal temperatures and precipitation for much of the Region, finally ending the prolonged drought in most areas. A series of strong cold fronts with heavy rains passed through the Region in mid-May but generally resulted in a poor grounding of Neotropical migrants. Consequently, the spring passerine migration was considered slow. Rarities included Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, and Bullock's Oriole. In addition, a nice flurry of White-faced Ibis, more White-winged Doves, 2 Western Tanagers, and a passle of Lazuli and Painted Buntings added spice to a good spring season.

Abbreviations: E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); Hawkeye (Hawkeye W.A., Johnson, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Riverton (Riverton W.A., Fremont, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, MO).

WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their presence in the Region, with two Iowa reports: 6 May at L. Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (TKDy) and 6 near Mt. Pleasant, *Henry* 27 May-4 Jun (Dick Peterson, ph.). The waterfowl migration was about average, with excellent numbers of *Chen* geese in both states. Along the Missouri R., counts of 500,000 Snow Geese 5 Mar in *Saline*, MO (SH, EW) and 3200 Ross's Geese 14 Mar at Riverton (SJD) were quite high. Trumpeter Swans are becoming routine, with good concentrations of 26 (all unmarked) on 10 Mar at Runnells W.A., Polk, IA (AB, JG) and 14 on 17 Mar at S.C.R. (LL), with one there through 26 Apr