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"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season" request the report form from the Editor of "The Season," Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th St, Duluth, MN 55812-1533.

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First Minnesota Record of the Common Ground-Dove

David L. Evans

On 16 October 1993, Mike Ayers, Jason Malzak, and I were manning the Hawk Ridge Research Station. At 8:25 A.M. I noticed two birds flying towards us from the north, which I initially surmised to be Northern Shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*). I paid little further attention to them until one flew through a large hole in the front perimeter net and became caught in an interior net. I put the binoculars on it since it didn't appear to be a shrike. I saw what appeared to be a very small and colorful dove! At the moment I decided I wished to see this bird a lot closer. The second bird, a shrike, flew in and was caught in the outer perimeter net. I sent Jason to the shrike while I took out the dove. Upon returning to the banding shack, Mike and I quickly determined that we had captured a Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*).

The dove was small, weighing only 37 grams, with a short stubby tail measuring 62 mm. The most striking feature was the rich rufous coloring on the entire underwing and, on top, evident on the primaries and greater primary coverts, which were thinly edged with black on the leading edge and black tipped. It was bluish gray above with black feather edging (scaling) on head and nape and prominent black spots on the secondary coverts, diminishing to smaller spots on the leading edge of the inner wing. Below, it was pinkish gray with black scaling on the throat. The short tail and spotted, rather than scaled, wings eliminated the Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) while the scaled head and breast eliminated the possibility of it being a Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*).

Upon close inspection, we could discern no abnormal feather wear or other evidence of captivity so I decided to band it. Since the Bird Banding Manual did not cover the aging and sexing of Common Ground-

Doves, I relied primarily on the presence of a mostly completed post-juvinal molt to age it as a bird of the year and new pinkish or rosy breast plumage as well as being bluish-gray above to sex it as a male (National Geographic Society, 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.) The underparts appeared to be completely molted, while above, the new grayish blue feathers contrasted with a small patch of old, dull brownish, feathers on the crown. The outer two primaries and a few inner secondaries were old, slightly shorter and brownish, contrasting with the black coloration of the new feathers.

I subsequently took the dove to the Main Overlook to show Frank Nicoletti, our raptor counter. One of the visiting hawk-watchers had a copy of *Birds in Minnesota* (Janssen 1987) which indicated we had caught the first Minnesota record of the Common Ground-Dove. This was later confirmed by Kim Eckert, who was able to show it to a number of visitors as well as participants in the Hawk Ridge October Weekend.

The Common Ground-Dove is resident from southern California, central Arizona, and Texas to Florida, north to southeastern North Carolina, *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (Farrand, J. Jr. 1983). It is listed as casual as far north as New York and Oregon in fall and winter, *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society 1987). Janssen (1987:345) refers to a specimen of uncertain origin (*The Loon* 40:18-19) that was not added to the state list; the Common Ground-Dove has been recorded from the neighboring states of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan (Kim Eckert, pers. comm.).

Hawk Ridge Research Station, 2928 Greysolon Rd., Duluth, MN 55812.

Immature Anna's Hummingbird in Southern Chisago County

Richard and Marlys Hjort



Anna's Hummingbird, 11 October 1993, Wyoming Twp., Chisago County. Photo by Marlys Hjort.

This past fall my wife and I have been following Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's advice to maintain a hummingbird feeder in order to help out the late migrants and/or any rare vagrants. On 7 October 1993 it paid off! We and our daughter spotted a hummingbird by our north kitchen window flying back and forth. We thought it was a late immature male Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

On 8 October it was seen again in an oak tree in our yard and on the feeder. Marlys said that she thought it looked different. I replied that it was just a young one. At this time we put out another feeder by our south kitchen window for a closer look. It soon found this feeder and would rest on the perch. Now we thought it sure looked like a female Rufous Hummingbird! As it says in

Robert Janssen's book, *Birds in Minnesota*, Rufous Hummingbirds have been seen in Minnesota six other times. We alerted our "through the woods neighbor" Carol Sandgren, and she promptly put her feeder out. The hummingbird soon was using it as another feeding stop. Our Wild River Audubon Chapter president and his wife came to view "her" and we convinced them that it was a female Rufous.

We decided to call it into the Rare Bird Hotline and received a call back from Parker Backstrom saying he would be here the next day (18 October) at dawn with another birder or two. At dawn five men arrived, including Parker, Ray Glassel and Robert Janssen. At 7:25 the bird arrived at the feeder just two feet away for good viewing. They all mumbled excitedly to each

other in debate. Next they moved outside to use the spotting scope. The hummingbird appeared again and went to rest on a twig just four feet off the ground at the east end of the garden. Perfect for seeing the flash of purple on top of "her" head and throat, and now singing — yes singing. They then all agreed "you have an immature male Anna's Hummingbird, not a female Rufous."

Ray Glassel said "this is even better yet, we were hoping for a Rufous and we got us an Anna's!" We were pleased that we called the Hotline.

We talked to many hummingbird experts both here and in Georgia, and the DNR and they all advised us to keep on feeding — as the bird needs the fat buildup for migration

and will leave when his biological clock dictates. We used three mixes in four feeders: 4 to 1, 2 to 1, and 1 to 1 — absolutely no food coloring, and cleaned them regularly. Following one person's advice we used an avian vitamin/mineral supplement in one of the 2 to 1 mixtures. This he preferred over all the others.

On 2 November 1993, with a temperature of 52 degrees F and west/southwest winds he was last seen at the feeder at 3:15 P.M. (he usually fed until dusk). 3 November — no Anna's, 52 degrees again and a low of 35. 4 November, 46 degrees we said goodbye for sure now. Snow came on 5 November. We sure hope he made it. 9571 — 270th St. North, Chisago City, MN 55013.

Minnesota's Second Anna's Hummingbird

Robert B. Janssen

Serious Minnesota listers remember well the first Minnesota record of an Anna's Hummingbird. This record, reported in *The Loon* 63:225-231, was of an individual that was seen at a Grand Marais feeder from 11 November to 1 December 1991.

On 17 October 1993 a hummingbird, thought to be a Rufous Hummingbird, was reported to the Minnesota Rare Bird Alert by Richard Hjort of rural Wyoming, Chisago County. At 7:00 A.M. on 18 October 1993 Parker Backstrom, Ray Glassel, Tony Hertzell, John Futcher and I went to the Hjort's feeder at 9571 — 270th Ave., which is near Green Lake in Wyoming Twp, Chisago County.

The light was very dim when we arrived at their residence, skies were cloudy, rather heavily overcast, it was mild with temperatures in the mid 40s with no wind. As we were watching the feeder in this dim light a

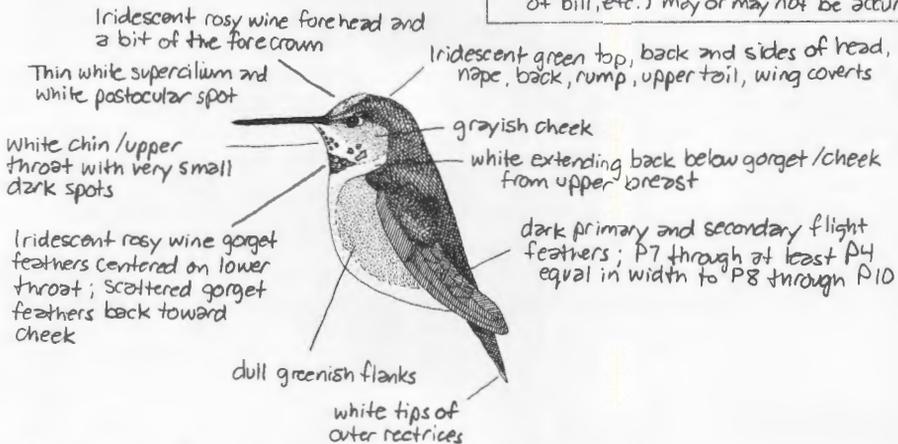
hummingbird made a brief appearance about 7:30 A.M. My first reaction was that it was an obvious hummingbird but not a Rufous Hummingbird. The bird disappeared in a few seconds but reappeared about 15 minutes later and remained at the feeder for at least 20 seconds. It was at this time I was convinced that we were looking at a young male Anna's Hummingbird.

Parker Backstrom took extensive notes on the bird during several observation periods throughout that day. The following is his description of the bird:

"Obvious hummingbird resembling at first glance a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in that it was iridescent green above, dull grayish-green on flanks and white/gray on the breast and belly. Eye was dark. It had a slightly ragged white postocular spot. Bill was all dark, of moderate length with a very slight down curve through its length. Chin and uppermost throat were white with sev-

Immature ♂ Anna's Hummingbird
 Wyoming Township, Chisago County, MN
 18 October 1993
 observer: Parker Backstrom

* Sketched from memory 1 1/2 days after last sighting - no references consulted before or after sighting. Attempt was to capture major field marks while memory was fresh. Other characters (e.g. wing length / tail ratio, exact length of bill, etc.) may or may not be accurate



Sketch of Anna's Hummingbird by Parker Backstrom.

eral rows of very small dark spots. Bird showed portion of iridescent gorget on lower throat. It was most completely filled in at the center, extending slightly back toward the cheek on the bottom edge. There were several individual gorget feathers scattered across the lower rear portion of the gorget area. These iridescent feathers shone a distinct rosy wine color, not the deeper ruby red of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The forehead and a bit of the forecrown were the same iridescent rosy wine color as the gorget. There appeared to be a thin whitish supercilium separating the lower edges of the iridescent forehead/forecrown from the darker lore area and eye. However, there were one or two very small iridescent rosy feathers immediately above the eye, set off by themselves. The color of the gorget/forehead matched the color shown in these areas by Anna's Hummingbird. Cheeks were distinctly grayish. Below the bottom edge of the gorget and grayish cheek and above the dull grayish-green flank patch was a narrow strip of white running back along the sides of the neck from a white upper breast. The top and back of the head, the nape, the back, the rump, the upper surface

of the tail and the wing coverts were the same iridescent emerald green. On a couple of glimpses of the underside of the tail I could see white tips to two or three outer rectrices but did not determine the shape or extent of these white areas. The tail appeared to be slightly forked at rest but this was hard to determine. In hovering flight the tail (spread) was roughly squared off. There was no rufous in the base of the tail. The primary and secondary flight feathers were dark. I examined closely the size and shape of the middle and inner primaries as best I could (the innermost three-four primaries were hidden most of the time). P7 through about P4 were equal in width to each other and to the outer (P8-P10) primaries. This character alone rules out the genus *Archilochus* and points to the genus *Calypte*. I saw and heard the bird vocalize on at least two different occasions. These phrases, what I would describe as a jumbled squeaking, each lasted from between five and ten seconds and were given while the bird perched a few feet off the ground in a nearby hedge. I have heard this species give this vocalization on their breeding grounds in California. In my mind it was the song of

Anna's Hummingbird. On the day I saw the bird it was quite mild (upper 40s in the morning, lower 60s in the afternoon) so the bird visited the feeder only infrequently, two to three times in the morning and just once in the afternoon. When it did visit the feeder it perched and fed for only about seven to ten seconds before flying off quickly into the side yard and usually disappearing. Three times the bird was located on its perch. Twice it was found perching about three feet off the ground in a row of hedges about 60 feet up from the feeder. Once it was found perched about 12–15 feet up in a dead apple tree about 30 feet from the feeder. I watched and examined the bird through a scope for a total of about five

minutes.”

The bird was last seen at the Hjort's feeder on 2 November 1993. Numerous photos of the bird were taken by Marlys Hjort and Terrence Braesher but only one of the photos showed the bird well enough for reproduction. This photo shows the wing structure (i.e., shape of the primaries) allowing us to definitively rule out the genus *Archilocus* (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, etc.) and confirm this bird to be of the genus *Calypte*.

The excellent sketch done by Parker Backstrom reproduced here contains all of the features observed on this individual. 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305.

Flying Into Trouble

Howard Youth

(Reprinted with permission from the January–February 1994 issue of WORLD WATCH magazine, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20036)

All over the world, birds are in decline. Some will never be seen again. But long after their passing, the causes of their demise will continue to haunt us — unless we can make profound changes in the way we view our environment.

Visit some of the world's most environmentally compromised areas, and you will find plenty of birds. House sparrows hop between pedestrians' legs on New York City's crowded streets, common mynas nest in crumbling walls in downtown Delhi, flocks of hooded crows swirl over Moscow's polluted industrial districts. Thanks to such hardy survivors, there may never be a completely silent spring. As long as marginal water and air remain and a little vegetation pokes through the soil, at least a few types of birds will flourish. But most will not.

As the planet's human population swells and spreads over once-wild areas, some 70 percent of the world's 9,600 bird species are responding with declines, and 1,000 species are threatened with extinction in the near future, according to a recent report by BirdLife International, a Cambridge, England-based conservation group that charts habitat and species loss.

The phenomenon of disappearing birds has not only alarmed ornithologists, but has caused apprehension among botanists, foresters, farmers, agronomists, and ecologists. What is alarming, beyond the direct losses taking place, is that birds, unlike many other life forms, are particularly good indicators of the health of other species — and of whole ecosystems. Just as coal miners once carried canaries into the mines with them to test for dangerous air, we can monitor birds at large to spot incipient dangers in

the world at large. Birds are ideal environmental indicators; they live in every climate, respond quickly to changes within their habitats, and are easily tracked (even many of the more elusive species have loud calls). A diverse, healthy bird population is a good index for the overall well-being of an ecosystem. In the U.S. Pacific Northwest, for example, the continued wrangling over timber jobs and the remaining virgin habitat of the spotted owl affects the survival not only of the owl, but of the Pacific yew tree, the red-backed vole, and a spectrum of other species.

When birds die off in unnatural numbers, however, what we are seeing is not just a

natural balance is being knocked askew by the global expansion of humanity: their habitat is being destroyed, or they are overhunted or poisoned or out-competed by human-introduced species. But usually, the decline is caused by a combination of these factors. "Multiple causes are more often the rule than the exception," writes John Terborgh, director of Duke University's Center for Tropical Conservation, in his book on neotropical migrants, *Where Have All the Birds Gone?*

A look into the life of the white stork, a species that has shared settlements with Europeans for centuries, illustrates the gauntlet many species must run just to survive in a human-dominated world.

"White storks used to be common throughout Europe ... In some villages their nests adorned nearly every house," write Rudolf Schreiber and Antony Diamond in their report *Save the Birds*. But since the 1960s, according to cen-

suses conducted throughout the birds' European range, breeding stork populations have fallen by two-thirds, and in many areas, they have disappeared entirely.

Though the white storks can nest in villages, they require nearby wetlands to supply them with frogs and other aquatic foods. Unfortunately, most European wetlands have been drained to make way for farms and development. And in the fall, when storks flee the northern cold to winter in sub-Saharan Africa, thousands of hunters, from Italy to Egypt, take aim at them as they soar southward along their ancestral flyway. Those that reach their African wintering grounds often land in agricultural fields laced with toxic pesticides and are stalked by subsistence hunters, who shoot them or catch the travel-weary birds with their bare hands. Those that survive the southward ordeal must repeat it northbound in the spring.

To a Wood Thrush, bulldozers transforming a close-canopy forest into a suburban development are the equivalent of a hurricane raging through a human settlement.

warning of impending degradation, but a part of the degradation itself — a tearing of the ecological web that keeps the planet's health in balance. Birds are main players, as well as messengers. Large birds, such as owls, hawks, and crows, are essential to suppressing population explosions of rodents. Smaller birds, searching almost constantly for food to fuel their high metabolisms, prevent potentially devastating plagues of insects. The stomach of a single flicker (a North American woodpecker), for example, was found to contain five thousand ants.

While keeping animal pests in check, birds are essential to the vitality of plants. Hummingbirds and other nectar-feeding species pollinate a wide variety of flowers, including those too deep for insects to reach. Fruit-eating species act as winged protectors of forests, scattering tree seeds throughout their habitats via their droppings.

The Dying of the White Stork

Most bird species are declining because

Their Land is Our Land

Even the freedom of flight cannot save many birds from the destruction of their

feeding, breeding, and resting areas. To a wood thrush, bulldozers transforming a close-canopy forest into a suburban development are the equivalent of a hurricane raging through a human settlement. Over the millennia, most birds have developed a fixed menu of feeding and breeding needs linked to their particular habitats. A few have benefited from human alterations: birds like the rock dove (or common pigeon), the cattle egret, and many common backyard birds have undergone population explosions as wild habitats have yielded to buildings and farm fields, which simulate their traditional haunts (cliff ledges for the pigeon, open savannahs for the egret). But the majority of species have different needs, and where their habitat disappears, they vanish too.

A quick tour of the world's habitats produces a grim picture for the future of birds and the other life forms to which they are linked. As the last large pockets of tropical forest — home to at least 3,500 bird species — fall to satisfy human needs for food, lumber, and minerals, the birds' wings fail them; there is no refuge to which they can escape. Even Amazonia and the expansive forests of New Guinea, not long ago considered impenetrable wilderness, will most likely not last another century of abuse.

Temperate and boreal forests, too, are under attack. From Siberia to southern Australia, once-vast tracts have been hacked into patchworks of woods and openings that give greater advantage to bird predators by depriving the forest birds of protective cover. At the same time, the clearings reduce the birds' forest-dependent food base. As a result, even once-abundant species are disappearing: populations are declining for the hooded robin in southeast Australia, the wood thrush in eastern North America, and a vulture-sized partridge called the capercaillie in the Eurasian taiga.

Less publicized than the savaging of forests, but with similar consequences for

birds, has been the demise of the world's natural open spaces — which are ecologically quite different from the clearings chopped out of woodlands. As grazing and plowing chew away at the remaining native grasslands of Pakistan, India, or Spain, once-plentiful bustards and other birds of the open plains disappear along with the grasses. The same pattern can be seen in the collapse of prairie-chicken populations on the great plains of North America, and of the ostrich-like rheas of the South American Pampas.

But it is not only on dry land that birds are threatened. Wetlands, which are breeding, resting, and feeding grounds for waterbirds ranging from pelicans to sandpipers, are being drained all over the world (see the review of Wetlands in Danger in this issue). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), for example, estimates that 53 percent of the country's wetlands remain — a statistic that is grimly reflected in the steady decline of waterfowl dependent on these areas. USFWS surveys show a 30 percent drop in the populations

Wetlands, which are breeding, resting, and feeding grounds for waterbirds ranging from pelicans to sandpipers, are being drained all over the world.

of North America's 10 most common duck species, from 37 million in 1955 to 26 million in 1992.

Meanwhile, throughout the coastal tropics, mangrove forests that provide nesting and feeding grounds for aquatic life and waterbirds continue to be cut for timber, beach resorts, and conversion to shrimp farming for upscale consumers, leaving coastlines more vulnerable to erosion and pollution.

In many places, too, entire mosaics of ecosystems — woodland, wetland, grassland — face obliteration by massive dam projects. The Sardar Sarovar project now

underway in northwest India, for example, and the gargantuan James Bay system in Quebec, have drowned the homes of uncountable numbers of birds. The James Bay project alone is expected to immerse an area the size of California.

Ingesting Pesticides

A more insidious threat to birds comes from the pervasive spread of chemicals. DDT, considered a miracle pesticide during World War II, was found to be an environmental menace after populations of pelicans, falcons, and eagles collapsed in Europe and the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. As these hunting and fishing birds

mussels, and bats in that area.

DDT is only the most highly publicized of the chemical threats to birds. The dangers of human-made chemicals — which are quickly developed, but usually poorly tested — typically come to light only after many birds have been poisoned. Reporting on a pesticide called fenitrothion, Crick wrote: “The dosage rates used against locusts during the campaigns in Africa in 1986 and 1987 would kill most birds caught in the spray.” Carbofuran, a pesticide that was spread on fields in granulated form, was banned in 1991 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (which will phase out its use over a period of years), after it killed tens of thousands of birds in Virginia, according to the National Audubon Society.

... the current populations of forest-living tropical migrants are probably no more than a quarter of their pre-settlement levels ...

gathered DDT-tainted prey, the chemical accumulated in their tissues, causing them to lay eggs with flimsy shells that cracked under the incubating parents' weight.

In the early 1970s, after environmentalists had traced DDT as the cause of the population declines, the chemical was banned in most western countries — and many of the birds have since rebounded. But DDT remains one of the cheapest and most widely used insecticides in many developing nations. Twenty studies of the effects of DDT and its derivatives on six species of African birds of prey have shown that DDT-caused thinning of eggshells is “high enough to cause a decline in local populations,” writes Humphrey Crick of the British Trust for Ornithology in the New Scientist. Some countries, including India, have banned DDT as an agricultural pesticide, but still use it widely to battle malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Spraying for tsetse flies in western Zimbabwe, according to a British Overseas Development Administration study, has been the main cause of DDT contamination in birds, freshwater fish and

Bathing in Chemicals

The toxic residues of agriculture and industry often wash into the waters birds drink and feed in. One common effluent is mercury, a by-product of coal-burning power plants, and a common fungicide in papermaking. Much of the mercury ends up in lakes, rivers, and estuaries. Where fish ingest mercury, so do birds — and often, humans. Defenders of Wildlife, a Washington-based conservation organization, reports that high levels of mercury were found in the tissues of eared grebes, waterbirds that mysteriously died at southern California's Salton Sea in the spring of 1992. The dead birds also contained high levels of selenium, an element that builds up to toxic levels in agricultural runoff.

Altogether, 150,000 eared grebes washed up on the shores of the “sea,” which serves as a drainage area for three polluted rivers. Though the chemicals may not have been the only cause of the birds' death, they seem certain to have played a role. Selenium poisoning has also been blamed for hundreds of birth defects and high embryo mortality in waterbirds nesting at a number of other western U.S. wildlife refuges.

Rod and gun enthusiasts have been creating another toxic nightmare for birds: lead poisoning. Loons, swans, ducks, and other

waterfowl are as likely to die from eating shotgun pellets as from getting hit by them, in places where hunters prowl. Lead-shot bans have recently gone into effect in the United States, Canada, and Denmark, where hunters will now use nontoxic steel shot. In Britain, fishers can no longer use lead sinkers. But outside the ban areas, lead contamination continues as waterfowl swallow the spent buckshot or discarded sinkers while foraging for food, then succumb to poisoning within a few weeks.

The opalescent sheen of oil, so commonly seen on wet roads, also marks the spots where thousands of birds have met grisly deaths each year. When seabirds come into contact with spilled oil, those that aren't poisoned often die from hypothermia, since they lose their insulation and waterproofing once their feathers are mired. The Exxon Valdez oil spill in March 1989 killed 300,000 birds, and was the largest chemical-caused bird die-off in North American history. Tallies for most other spills are less precise, but the avian casualties of the Persian Gulf War must have been just as catastrophic. That war not only destroyed wetlands and nesting grounds, but gave a new meaning to the concept of a desert "mirage" by leaving behind shimmering inland lakes of oil — which to birds in the air looked like water. Thousands of waterbirds

landed in these "lakes" and became fatally mired. Each year, of course, hundreds of smaller, but still damaging, oil spills (some accidental, some not) occur worldwide.

Acid rain makes once-prime habitat uninhabitable to fowl, fish, and other life forms. Acidification caused primarily by sulphur dioxides and nitrogen oxides from industrial plants and motor vehicles gathers in clouds and rains down an acidic brew that sterilizes remote lakes and defoliates forests.

The planting of non-indigenous species of plants can have a similar effect. In Wales, for example, populations of a semiaquatic bird called the dipper have disappeared in

places where fast-growing conifer plantations have been planted to replace native oak woods — a transformation that has occurred over some 10 percent of the Welsh countryside. In these areas, acids washing off the conifers' needles have contaminated nearby streams, killing off aquatic insects and small fish — thereby depriving the dippers of their main sources of food.

Rainforest Crunch

"Birds are the earth's global ambassadors. They recognize no human-made boundaries, only those of the natural world," write Schreiber and Diamond. This is especially true for long-distance migratory birds. The mysterious 75 percent drop in whitethroat warbler populations breeding in Britain over the past 27 years turned out to be caused by expanding drought and desertification in this bird's distant wintering grounds in the African Sahel. Those concerned about the health of migrating British birds, therefore, must also care about the environmental state of affairs in Africa.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Ameri-

At least half of the neotropical migrants, the 250 species breeding in North America but wintering in points south, have declined significantly in recent years.

can and Canadian scientists are scouring habitats as far south as Argentina for clues to the decline of many familiar North American birds. At least half of the neotropical migrants, the 250 species breeding in North America but wintering in points south, have declined significantly in recent years. According to USFWS records from 1978 through 1987, 44 of the 62 surveyed neotropical forest species declined, including some of the more common species: the yellow-billed cuckoo (down 5 percent per year), wood thrush (4 percent), black-throated green warbler (3 percent), and northern oriole (2.9 percent).

Over the past 10 years, as research in the

neotropical migrants' wintering areas has intensified, researchers have discovered many species to be particularly vulnerable because of their limited winter ranges. Duke University's Terborgh estimates that more than 50 percent of neotropical migrants winter in Mexico, the Bahamas, and Greater Antilles islands, a much smaller area than their summer haunts. Deforestation in these tropical areas has been acute: most of the evergreen, deciduous, and mangrove forests the birds concentrate in have been cut and planted over with crops of exotic vegetation. Those few migrants that can tolerate such transformed habitats risk increased exposure to pesticides once they venture out

In Cyprus, a small island nation set along a major Mediterranean migration path, about 3 million transiting birds are shot each year for fun or food.

of the natural forest.

The condition of the birds' breeding grounds is not healthy either. "Taking into account a 40 percent reduction in the total area of eastern (North American) forests, the fragmented ... state of most of today's forest, and the prevalence in the south (U.S.) of biologically sterile pine plantations ... the current populations of forest-living tropical migrants are probably no more than a quarter of their pre-settlement levels," writes Terborgh. The increasing number of cleared areas (for roads, developments, power lines, and the like) in these woodlands has increased the pressure on the birds, as populations of egg- and nestling-eating predators like opossums and blue jays have exploded, and the brown-headed cowbird, an open-area blackbird that lays its eggs in other species' nests, has become much more abundant. In many areas, cowbird eggs can now be found in more than half the songbird nests. Young cowbirds, stronger and more aggressive than their hosts' young, usually kill or starve their nest mates.

Neotropical forest birds are primarily insectivores, devouring large numbers and varieties of insects, including harmful forest pests like the spruce budworm, gypsy moth, and tent caterpillar. Although no definitive studies have yet been done, it seems likely that a decline in the numbers of these birds could result in more frequent pest epidemics. The birds that have remained stable, or increased in numbers, are mostly the year-round residents, which have more varied diets and may not eat as many pests.

In southeastern Australia, woodland fragmentation has raised troubling ecological questions. "The loss of ... birds from isolated woodland patches may eventually lead to a decline in the seed set of bird-pollinated plants," writes Doug Robinson, who researches bird declines for the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. "The loss of white-winged choughs, painted buttonquail, and babblers (in southeast Australia) ... means that no bird species remain to

turn over the (leaf) litter and weed out annuals." The disappearance of these underbrush-tending species could bring about drastic changes in the botanical composition of the forest.

Though effective hunting regulations prevail in North America and Britain, unregulated hunting and trapping in most other parts of the world claim tens of millions of birds each year. In Cyprus, a small island nation set along a major Mediterranean migration path, about 3 million transiting birds are shot each year for fun or food, reports the U.S.-based National Audubon Society. In Greece, at least 700,000 "protected" birds are gunned down annually, according to the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature. Hundreds of thousands more are shot as they pass over Egypt.

On the European mainland, culinary tastes have turned orioles, finches, and other songbirds into tempting targets. Italians snare them, the French catch them in nets, and the Spanish trap them by daubing glue on tree branches — all to garnish dinner plates. In Italy alone, despite "legal protec-

tion," 50 million songbirds are killed for diners seeking delicacies each year.

Snakes and Cats

Bird species also succumb to the predations of animals that are not a part of their evolutionary ecosystem, but are disruptively introduced — whether or not wittingly — by migrating humans. In the 16th and 17th centuries, an exotic menagerie normally followed European explorers to new islands and continents: most ships unintentionally deposited rats at their ports of call, while intentionally introducing goats, cats, mongooses, and dogs — which feasted on the local foliage or fauna. In most places, these introductions shattered fragile natural balances and caused rapid extinctions.

Today, introduced species continue to devastate bird populations. A study in Britain, for example, found that the country's domestic cats had killed 20 million birds. A survey conducted in the Australian state of Victoria, similarly, estimated that the 500,000 cats in Victoria kill 13 million small animals a year, including members of 67 native bird species.

Accidentally introduced animals can be just as devastating. The brown tree snake, for example, arrived on the Pacific island of Guam around the 1950s in cargo shipments from Australia, New Guinea, or the Solomon Islands. By 1986, the snake had eaten four of the island's five endemic bird species into extinction (one, the Guam rail, was extinct in the wild but has been bred in captivity and re-released on a nearby — snake-free — island; the other three are extinct). The island's small mammals and reptiles have also suffered; Guam had never had a predator that ate serpents, so the snakes have proliferated.

In the United States, the eastern bluebird and red-headed woodpecker, two of the most common backyard birds last century, have been diminished throughout their ranges by the more aggressive, introduced house sparrows and starlings, which oust these birds from their nests in tree cavities.

The Pace of Extinction

Many species of birds have benefited

from nature reserves set aside to protect their wintering, migrating, and breeding grounds. But existing sanctuaries constitute less than 5 percent of the world's land area — a good part of which is barren tundra or desert. And even in these areas, wildlife often cannot be adequately protected. The civil war in Rwanda, for example, has left that country's few remaining gorillas and threatened forest birds in an extremely vulnerable situation as game wardens and tourists have fled the Parc des Volcans National Park — which until last year was the country's second largest source of foreign exchange.

Even without war, many of the world's parks are safe havens only on paper. Poaching and encroachment into protected habitats occur on every continent. In Mexico's Ixta-Popo National Park, free-ranging cattle strip vegetation from the grassy woodlands; in India's Guindy National Park, the park's only dry-season watering hole is drained to supply nearby housing developments with water; and in Taiwan's Kenting National Park, hunters make an annual event of shooting gray-faced buzzard eagles.

Troubles abound also in U.S. parks, which have long provided a model for other countries aspiring to protect their wild heritage. All told, the USFWS administers more than 91 million acres of wildlife habitat, much of it in the country's 470-unit national wildlife refuge system. A 1991 USFWS study found that activities harmful to wildlife — from military bombing and mining to logging — were occurring on 60 percent of the country's refuges. The study did not account, however, for such harmful secondary threats as oil spills or industrial and agricultural runoff like that which flows into the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

Bird extinctions at the hands of human beings are not new, but are increasing at an alarming rate. In the Polynesian Islands, about 35 of 50 now-extinct species were killed off by the islands' inhabitants well before Captain James Cook arrived there in 1778, according to a study by the Washington D.C.-based Smithsonian Institution. Since the 1600s, some 150 bird species have been lost, including North America's

passenger pigeon — one of the world's most abundant birds (more than three billion) until the second decade of this century, when deforestation and over-hunting wiped it out. Some of the most recent losses include the Atitlan grebe in Guatemala in 1987, the imperial woodpecker of Mexico (last seen in 1958), and possibly the Bachman's warbler (last seen in 1981), a small yellow and black bird that nested in southeastern U.S. swamp forest and wintered in Cuba's evergreen forest before it was converted to sugarcane fields.

The pace of bird extinctions — along with those of other animals and plants — appears likely to accelerate rapidly. Many scientists predict that humanity is about to cause the greatest wave of plant and animal extinctions since the die-off of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, and many of the first victims will be birds.

Human Allies

Not all of humankind is resigned to participating in this ornithicide, however. Birds, with their inspiring powers of song and flight, have strong allies. In the past few decades, the ranks of amateur naturalists have swelled worldwide, aiding scientists in censuses and conservation efforts. The Britain-based IWRB, for instance, has been able to expand its operations because citizens in more than 70 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America have conducted many of the organization's bird surveys and conservation efforts. Meanwhile, countrywide winter and breeding bird surveys are drawing thousands of volunteers each year in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, and Britain.

Unfortunately, developing nations still lag far behind in these activities, and many of their bird populations remain poorly studied. Nonetheless, international concern over wildlife conservation was given greater prominence by the signing of the biodiversity treaty at the Rio Summit in 1992. An increasingly global approach to conservation is emerging — one that emphasizes not just individual species, but entire ecosystems.

A BirdLife International study published in 1992 revealed that 20 percent of all bird species were confined to two percent of the earth's surface in pockets of endemism it called Endemic Bird Areas, or EBAs. But EBAs are not just special places for birds. "Wherever avian endemism is pronounced, usually there also appears to be a high degree of endemism in other life forms," notes the report. A majority of these hotspots fall in tropical countries: of a total of 221 EBAs tallied, two-thirds occur in the tropics. Ultimately, only widespread concern within these high-diversity countries, and particularly within the endemic areas, can avert a devastating wave of extinctions.

In the long run, therefore, global efforts to organize bird-saving projects will only succeed in raising consciousness and preserving essential habitat if there is a strong local interest, especially in the vulnerable tropics. Each nation can start by protecting key areas and engaging local people to zealously enforce its wildlife laws. That may be difficult, though, since the tropical countries where biodiversity is greatest — and bird habitats are most decimated — are likely to be the very ones where widespread poverty and government corruption tend to keep funds away from wildlife programs and education.

It is January, and Europe's white storks are now Africa's white storks. Though traditionally these birds have been considered good luck, their own luck may be running out. In a few decades, they may be gone. People will sadly recall the white and black birds that once strutted across their fields or nested atop local church steeples. But will the stork's extinction bring more than a sentimental farewell?

Certainly, when there are no longer enough wetlands to sustain these leggy birds, scores of other species will also have vanished. If pesticides have contaminated storks, they will also have done damage to other creatures, including humans. And if the stork — a bird inhabiting our folklore and settlements for ages — cannot thrive under rapidly changing global conditions, how long can we?



Young Great Gray Owls, June 1993, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

The Summer Season 1 June to 31 July 1993

Terry Wiens

Some blame it on a volcano, others suspect a new ice age is coming... whatever the reason, global warming was put on hold once again in Minnesota. For the second straight year the birds and birders of the state experienced a cool summer. In contrast to 1992, however, this summer was wet! As everyone well knows, extensive flooding occurred throughout much of Minnesota. The Minnesota River hit its highest water levels since 1969. After it was all over, more than half of Minnesota's 87 counties (mostly in the south and west) were declared disaster areas. Surely this extreme weather had a major impact on both birds and observers. One would guess that nesting success was greatly reduced, and that birders found it difficult to get out as

much as usual.

June was much cooler than normal throughout the state. Temperatures were two to five degrees below average for every region. The thermometer rarely hit 90° anywhere in the state. As mentioned, the month was extremely wet, although not in all regions — the northwest and north central received about average rainfall, and the northeast was actually a bit below normal. In contrast, the hard-hit southwest recorded totals that were almost seven inches above average!

July was very similar to June, although the weather was spread out a little more evenly statewide. It was very cool with temperatures remaining below 90° until the very end of the month. The rain continued

to fall; every region recorded above normal precipitation.

No fewer than 94 observers (roughly the same number as in recent years) submitted seasonal reports and/or breeding information for the summer. A total of 265 species was observed, about the same as the previous ten-year average of 266. Contributors sent in 942 nest or brood cards, even more than last year and the most since 1986. Good work! Breeding data were collected for 165 species, also the highest total since 1986. Special thanks go to the members of the Hiawatha Valley Audubon: Margaret Boller, Andy and Joyce Buggs, Marian and Walt Carroll, Gwen Goetzman, Anah and Howard Munson, Marian and Albert Schloegel, Carol Schumacher, Kay Shaw, Rick Swanson, and Jo Anne Thiesse. The HVA volunteers contributed 87 nest/brood cards from Winona Co. Other top contributors of breeding information included Mark Newstrom/Jean Segerstrom (151), Russell Hofstead (117), Karl Bardon (65), Jack Sprenger (59), and William Longley (52). As always, a hearty thanks to all contributors for your excellent efforts. Each sighting and breeding record is important — keep up the good work!

The most unusual species to appear this summer was surely the American Dipper discovered along the Temperance River in northeastern Minnesota. Unfortunately, the bird was belatedly reported so it is not known how long it was present. This represents the second verified record for this accidental species in the state; the first, in 1970, was at the same location! Beyond the dipper, four casual species were reported this season; Clark's Grebes were seen in both Traverse and Meeker counties (it seems likely this species will eventually be considered regular), Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were spotted at Duluth and in Hubbard County, a Black-headed Grosbeak made a short appearance in Jackson County as well, and up to three Baird's Sparrows were singing at the Felton Prairie in Clay County.

Other observations of note included a pair of Red-throated Loons on Lake Superior in mid-summer (the status of this species has recently been changed from casual

to regular, but a summer record is still unusual); Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, and Surf Scoter lingering on Lake Superior into early June; three separate sightings of Ferruginous Hawks in western Minnesota and one Rough-legged Hawk in Aitkin County; a decline in Ruffed Grouse (to be expected) and a decline in Gray Partridge (for unknown reasons); an unusually high number of Yellow Rail records including discoveries in St. Louis, Pine, and Cook counties; the encouraging report of nesting Piping Plovers at Lake of the Woods; the nesting of Three-toed Woodpeckers in St. Louis County (only the third documented nesting record for the state); a hybrid nesting of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers in Becker County, well northwest of the usual Blue-winged Warbler range; and the continued explosion of House Finches into all corners of the state.

As mentioned earlier, it seems likely that the massive flooding had a profound impact on many species, but if so, no pattern was apparent in the seasonal reports. The number of species for which reports were significantly up was roughly the same as the number for which reports were down. A few waterbirds, such as Cattle Egret and Hooded Merganser, were more abundant; others, such as Pied-billed Grebe, were less common. Despite the abundance of shallow water, shorebird reports were generally average to below average (perhaps all that ideal habitat made locating them difficult). Other species for which reports declined were diverse; some examples include Osprey, Gray Partridge, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bank Swallow, Yellow Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrow. The same can be said for those that were up; examples are Wild Turkey, Sandhill Crane, Black-billed Magpie, Winter Wren, American Redstart, and Lark Sparrow.

As always, there were a few species conspicuous by their absence. No Horned Grebes or Red-necked Phalaropes were reported this summer; both species were recorded in all but one of the past 13 years. For the second straight year both Boreal and Burrowing owls were not reported. The lack of Boreal Owl reports is merely due to the

difficulty in detecting the species during June and July, but the lack of Burrowing Owl reports reflects the sad fact that this species has been all but extirpated from Minnesota; in fact, the status of the species has recently been changed from regular to casual. Mountain Bluebirds, present (and breeding!) the past three years, were not observed this summer. Other missing species that have been reported in seven or more of the past ten summers were Tundra Swan(!), Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-plover, and Whimbrel.

The format for the species accounts is the same as the past several years. The key to the seasonal reports is shown below. Breeding records are classified based on the

criteria found in *The Loon* 58:22 or in *Minnesota Birds*, p.7 (Green and Janssen 1975). Counties for which positive breeding is documented for the first time since 1970 are in italics and identified as such according to updated versions of Janssen and Simonson's breeding maps (*The Loon* 56:167-186, 219-239 and 57:15-34). Divisions of the state into regions (e.g. west central, south-east) are based on those delineated in *Birds in Minnesota*, p.25 (Janssen 1987).

A final thanks to all of the summer season reporters who make it possible to document avian distribution and migration. Thanks also to Peder Svingen for his assistance in preparing this report. 117 W. Anoka St, Duluth, MN 55803.

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Species listed in upper case (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicate a Casual or Accidental occurrence in the state.
2. Dates listed in boldface (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later or within the earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in boldface (**Aitkin**) indicate either a first county record or an unusual occurrence for that county. City of **Duluth** also boldface when applicable.
4. Counties listed in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. Brackets [] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.

RED-THROATED LOON

Two birds in breeding plumage observed on L. Superior at Stony Point, St. Louis Co. (6/28, TNB). This represents the fifth summer sighting since 1980.

Common Loon

Nested in seven counties; probable nesting in Clay, Chisago. Seen in 22 additional counties as far south as Murray, Cottonwood, Winona.

Pied-billed Grebe

Fewest reports in at least nine years. Nested in seven counties, probable nesting in four; seen in 18 other counties in all regions.

Red-necked Grebe

Nested in Clearwater; probable nesting in

Marshall, Crow Wing. Seen in 14 additional counties as far south as Lincoln, Rice.

Eared Grebe

Nested in *Murray* KB; probable nesting in Roseau, Yellow Medicine. Observed in seven other western counties plus Renville, Hennepin, Rice.

Western Grebe

Nested in Hennepin (up to 232 birds present by end of July); seen in nine western counties plus Todd, Meeker, Renville, Sibley, Carver, Ramsey.

CLARK'S GREBE

Reported for third consecutive summer. One bird was seen on 6/8 at Lake Traverse, Traverse County PS (this individual was

probably the same bird first discovered there in spring); another bird was observed on 6/20 at Long Lake in Meeker County AB.

American White Pelican

Many reports, similar to previous two years. Nested in Lake of the Woods; seen in 42 additional counties in all regions of the state and as far east as Cook (6/26, *fide* PB) and Houston EMF.

Double-crested Cormorant

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Ramsey; probable nesting in Cook. Observed in 37 other counties statewide.

American Bittern

Reported in 15 northern and central counties plus Lyon, Nicollet, Rock, Cottonwood.

Least Bittern

Observed in Pennington, Anoka, Hennepin, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Faribault, Winona.

Great Blue Heron

Nested in seven counties, probable nesting in Cottonwood; seen in 45 additional counties statewide.

Great Egret

Nested in Ramsey. Seen in 30 additional counties as far north as a line connecting Clay, Chisago; plus 7/31 St. Louis TW.

Snowy Egret

Two reports: one bird discovered on 6/23 and present for about two weeks near Willmar, Kandiyohi Co. SE; three birds observed on 7/30 near Bellingham, Lac Qui Parle Co. FE.

Cattle Egret

Twice the usual number of reports. Observed in Becker, Traverse, Stevens, Renville, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Martin, Waseca, Hennepin.

Green Heron

Nested in Ramsey, probable nesting in Wabasha; seen in 33 other counties as far north as Kittson, Beltrami, St. Louis.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nested in Ramsey. Seen in 17 additional southern counties (although none in southeast region) plus Otter Tail, Clay, and Marshall.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Only report: single bird (see spring report) observed 6/5 Cottonwood RJ.

[TRUMPETER SWAN]

Reintroduced birds nested (producing six eggs) at Flat Lake, Tamarac NWR, Becker Co. LF. A pair with five cygnets was observed near Pine Tree L. on 7/29 in Washington Co. PC.

Snow Goose

Single bird observed 6/5 Kandiyohi CJ.

Canada Goose

Nested in 14 counties including Kanabec DN; probable nesting in six. Seen in 27 additional counties statewide.

Wood Duck

Nested in 15 counties; probable nesting in Todd, Cottonwood. Observed in 34 other counties throughout state.

Green-winged Teal

Third straight year of above-average number of reports. Seen in 18 counties in all regions except north central.

American Black Duck

Nested in Cass SKS; probable nesting in Cook. Also observed in Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Big Stone, Lyon, Wabasha.

Mallard

Nested in 17 counties; probable breeding in three. Seen in 38 additional counties statewide.

Northern Pintail

Probable nesting in Stevens; also seen in Roseau, Beltrami, St. Louis, Wilkin, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Rice.

Blue-winged Teal

Nested in nine counties including Polk

SKS, Meeker AB; probable nesting in Stevens, Pope, Cottonwood. Observed in 32 additional counties statewide.

Northern Shoveler

Seen in 11 western counties plus Aitkin, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Hennepin, Rice, Martin, Mower.

Gadwall

Probable nesting in Stevens. Observed in seven other western counties plus Todd, Meeker, Rice.

American Wigeon

Seen in Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake; plus 6/25 & 7/5 Hennepin SC, HT and Lyon (no date).

Canvasback

Nested in Marshall, Hennepin; seen in 10 additional western counties.

Redhead

Nested in *Le Sueur* EK, Meeker, Hennepin. Observed in ten western counties plus Todd, Wright, Carver, Rice, Watonwan, Martin.

Ring-necked Duck

Nested in Anoka, Hennepin; probable breeding in Crow Wing, Cottonwood. Seen in 13 additional counties in all regions except west central and southeast.

Greater Scaup

First summer report since 1989; late migrant 6/1-2 Lake RG.

Lesser Scaup

More reports than usual, for second consecutive year. Seen in 16 counties in all regions except north central and southeast.

Oldsquaw

First summer report since 1985. Small flock observed on L. Superior (6/2, PS).

Surf Scoter

Late migrants: 6/1-2 Lake RG (one female at Beaver Bay), 6/2 Cook PS (two males at Paradise Beach).

Common Goldeneye

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Cass, St. Louis, Cook; also seen in Becker, Beltrami, Lake.

Bufflehead

Observed in Marshall, Otter Tail, 7/18 Carver DBM.

Hooded Merganser

Most reports in ten+ years; double the number reported in the mid-1980s. Nested in six counties including *Dakota* RHF; probable nesting in seven. Seen in 14 additional counties in all regions including Nobles in southwest.

Common Merganser

Nested in Lake of the Woods. Seen in Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus early migrant(?) 7/24 Rice TB.

Red-breasted Merganser

Probable nesting in Cook; also seen in St. Louis, Lake. Reported 6/12, 7/23 in Aitkin DBe, WN; plus late migrants(?) 6/1 Washington PC, 6/18 Stevens BBo.

Ruddy Duck

Many reports, similar to 1990 and 1991. Nested in *Le Sueur* EK; probable nesting in Hennepin, Cottonwood. Seen in 22 additional counties in all regions except north central and northeast; including Mower, Winona in southeast.

Turkey Vulture

Many reports, similar to previous three years. Probable nesting in Houston; seen in 33 additional counties in all regions.

Osprey

Fewest reports since 1985. Nested in Aitkin, Crow Wing, Anoka, Carver, Winona; probable nesting in Otter Tail. Also seen in Becker, Mahnomen, Beltrami, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Mille Lacs.

Bald Eagle

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Becker, St. Louis, Crow Wing, Anoka, Ramsey; probable nesting in Cass, Goodhue. Seen in 15

other counties as far south and west as a Marshall, Otter Tail, Houston.

Northern Harrier

Probable nesting in Marshall. Observed in 31 additional counties in all regions except southeast.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Seen in Becker, Beltrami, Crow Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Cook. Sharp-shinned reports this summer from Clay, Anoka, Chisago, Houston lack documentation and are probable Cooper's.

Cooper's Hawk

Nested in *Otter Tail* CS/KC, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey; probable nesting in Dakota, Olmsted. Seen in 14 additional counties in all regions except northeast and southwest.

Northern Goshawk

Only report: nested in St. Louis.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Nested in Becker, Ramsey; also seen in Aitkin, Anoka, Washington, Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Brown.

Broad-winged Hawk

Nested in *Lake of the Woods* KB, Winona; probable nesting in St. Louis, Crow Wing. Seen in 13 additional counties in north central, northeast, and east central regions; plus Becker, Sherburne, Scott, Olmsted, Houston.

Swainson's Hawk

Seen in eight western counties plus Clearwater, Dakota, Mower; an injured bird was found on 7/8 in Virginia, St. Louis Co. SW/MS.

Red-tailed Hawk

Nested in *St. Louis* KB, *Aitkin* WN, Washington, Hennepin, Dakota; probable nesting in Pennington, Crow Wing, Anoka, Ramsey. Seen in 45 additional counties statewide.

Ferruginous Hawk

Most summer reports in 14+ years. Single immatures were reported at three locations:

6/5 Wilkin KB, 6/15 Traverse BF, 6/16 Clay BF. This species nested in North Dakota near Grand Rapids, within 13 miles of the Minnesota border!

Rough-legged Hawk

Following last year's record high, only one report this summer: a single bird observed on 6/12 in Aitkin WN.

American Kestrel

Nested in Aitkin; probable nesting in Rock, Murray, Ramsey, Washington, Winona. Seen in 47 additional counties statewide.

Merlin

Nested in *Lake of the Woods* JM. Also reported in Beltrami, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus 7/18 Clay LCF.

Peregrine Falcon

Nested in Ramsey; also observed in Rice, Hennepin, St. Louis.

Gray Partridge

Sharp decline in number of reports continues for second straight year; many observers noted seeing fewer birds. Probable nesting in Cottonwood. Seen in ten other western counties as far north as Clay; plus Martin, Wabasha, Winona, Houston.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Nested in *Stevens* BBo, Pope, Carver, Mower; probable nesting in Otter Tail, Cottonwood, Hennepin, Ramsey. Seen in 21 additional southern counties plus Clay, Becker, Todd, Kanabec, St. Louis.

Spruce Grouse

Nested in St. Louis; also seen in Cook.

Ruffed Grouse

Fewest reports since mid-1980s. Nested in Wabasha, probable nesting in Cook, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Winona. Also reported in Becker, Wadena, Itasca, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Kandiyohi, Anoka, Sibley, Rice, Houston.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Nested in Clay; probable breeding (boom-

ing observed) in Wilkin.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Fewest reports since 1986; observed only in Polk, Aitkin.

Wild Turkey

More reports than usual, for second consecutive year. Nested in *Winona* JPo; also seen in Houston. There are additional records from areas where the status of the species is in question: probable breeding in Goodhue and sightings in Chisago, Washington, Scott, Rice, Clay.

Yellow Rail

Seen at usual McGregor Marsh area in Aitkin. As many as 14 individuals heard throughout most of summer in the Sax-Zim bog area, **St. Louis** Co.; plus three or four calling birds located in July just south of Hwy 70 in **Pine** Co. (KR *et al.* *The Loon* 65:196-199). In addition, two migrants(?) first discovered in May lingered into early June near Grand Marais, **Cook** Co. (KE *et al.*).

Virginia Rail

Probable breeding in Cottonwood; seen in 15 additional counties in all regions except south central and southeast.

Sora

Nested in *Lake of the Woods* JM, **Aitkin** WN, Hennepin; probable nesting in Stevens. Seen in 27 additional counties statewide.

Common Moorhen

Nested in Anoka (Carlos Avery WMA); also seen in Rice, Winona, 7/27 Stevens (*vide* PB).

American Coot

Nested in nine counties including *Winona* HVA; probable nesting in four. Observed in 24 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Sandhill Crane

Many reports, similar to previous year. Nested in Kittson, Roseau, Anoka; seen in

Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Hubbard, Aitkin, Morrison, Kanabec, Sherburne. Also seen away from breeding range: 6/3 Rice TB, 6/27 Wabasha (*vide* PB).

Semipalmated Plover

All records: 6/2 Hennepin and Cook, 7/27 Renville, 7/29 Goodhue.

Piping Plover

First summer report since 1989; nested in Lake of the Woods (nine adults fledged nine chicks on Pine & Curry Island).

Killdeer

Nested in 12 counties including *Kanabec* CM; probable nesting in Cottonwood. Seen in 39 additional counties statewide.

American Avocet

Only report: nested in *Becker*, deserted in early June due to heavy rain. This is the fewest number of reports since 1982.



American Avocet, June 1993, Hamden Slough, Becker Co. Photo by Betsy Beneke.

Greater Yellowlegs

Fall migrants seen in ten counties; early migrant 7/8 Clearwater.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Only spring migrant: 6/13 Murray. Fall migrants reported in 19 counties. Midsummer records (late migrants?) 6/20-21 Pennington HT, 6/26 Kittson.

Solitary Sandpiper

Fall migrants observed in 17 counties; early south 7/10 Anoka, Hennepin and Martin counties.

Willet

Only records: 7/27,31 Goodhue RJ, RG.

Spotted Sandpiper

Fewest reports in at least 14 years. Nested in Lake of the Woods, Dakota; seen in 20 additional counties statewide.

Upland Sandpiper

Probable nesting in Stevens. Observed in 16 other counties throughout state as far north-east as St. Louis.

Hudsonian Godwit

Only records: 7/18 Yellow Medicine, 7/19 Lyon.

Marbled Godwit

Nested in Kittson; probable nesting in Clay. Also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Norman, Becker, Wilkin, Otter Tail.

Ruddy Turnstone

Only record: 6/6 Crow Wing.

Red Knot

First summer report since 1984; two birds (first seen 5/30, see spring report) on 6/2 at Morris Point, Lake of the Woods County AH.

Sanderling

Only records: 7/23 Clay, 7/29–30 Goodhue.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Migrants seen in 12 counties; late migrant 6/9 Hennepin, early migrants 7/18 Lyon and Carver.

Least Sandpiper

Fall migrants seen in 16 counties; early migrant 7/4 Winona.

White-rumped Sandpiper

All records: 6/2 Clay, 6/9 Hennepin, 7/18 Lyon, 7/25 Aitkin, 7/29 Goodhue, 7/31 Wilkin.

Baird's Sandpiper

Only late migrant: 6/2 Lake of the Woods. Fall migrants seen in six counties; early migrant 7/19 Lyon.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Fall migrants observed in 16 counties; early migrant 7/10 Watonwan.

Dunlin

Only report: 7/19 Lyon.

Stilt Sandpiper

Fall migrants seen in five counties; early migrant 7/11 Dakota.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Only reports: 7/29,31 Goodhue.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Fall migrants observed in seven counties; early migrant 7/10 Martin.

Common Snipe

Seen in 12 northern counties plus Chisago, Anoka, Hennepin, Washington, Rice.

American Woodcock

Probable nesting in Cook, Aitkin; also seen in Polk, St. Louis, Wright, Anoka, Dakota, Goodhue, Brown, Blue Earth.

Wilson's Phalarope

Seen in Kittson, Roseau, Pennington, Wilkin, Stevens, Lac Qui Parle; plus 6/1 Lake, 7/10 Martin, 7/16 Hennepin.

Franklin's Gull

Seen in 12 western counties plus Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, 7/27 Cook.

Little Gull

First summer report since 1986. One adult photographed on 7/23–24 with Bonaparte's Gulls at Rainy Lake, Koochiching Co. WJB.

Bonaparte's Gull

All records: 6/2 Hennepin, 6/5 & 7/23 Aitkin, 6/5 & 7/28 Beltrami, 7/23 Koochiching, 7/24 Crow Wing, 7/31 Lake; plus St. Louis and Cottonwood (no dates).



Little Gull, Rainey Lake, Koochiching County, 24 July 1993. Photo by William and Janice Batte.

Ring-billed Gull

Nested in Lake of the Woods, St. Louis; seen in 36 additional counties statewide.

Herring Gull

Nested in Lake of the Woods; observed in eight other northern counties plus Hennepin, Carver, Cottonwood.

Caspian Tern

Reported in 14 counties in all regions except west central and southeast.

Common Tern

Nested in Lake of the Woods, St. Louis; also seen in Aitkin, Mille Lacs. Migrants reported: 6/1 Ramsey, 6/2 Mower & Rice, 6/4 Todd, 6/5 Wilkin & Becker, 7/21 Anoka, 7/31 Sibley.

Forster's Tern

Nested in Hennepin; seen in 22 additional counties in all regions except northeast and southeast.

Black Tern

Nested in *Redwood* HK; probable nesting in Kanabec, Murray; seen in 42 additional counties in all regions except northeast.

Rock Dove

Nested in *Winona* JPo, Ramsey; probable nesting in Otter Tail. Observed in 44 other

counties statewide.

Mourning Dove

Nested in Pennington, Kanabec, Carver, Le Sueur, Winona; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Aitkin, Hennepin, Dakota. Seen in 51 additional counties statewide.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Numbers greatly reduced; fewest number of reports in at least ten years and only half the number reported in 1992. Observed in 24 counties statewide.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Seen in 11 southern counties plus Todd, Becker, Roseau.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Nested in Steele; probable nesting in Cottonwood. Also observed in Yellow Medicine, Murray, Rock, Houston.

Great Horned Owl

Nested in *Carver* DBM, Brown; probable nesting in Lincoln, Hennepin, Washington, Olmsted. Seen in 24 additional counties in all regions except northeast.

Barred Owl

Nested in *Hennepin* KB, Brown; probable nesting in Winona. Seen in ten additional eastern counties plus Becker, Aitkin, Carver, Scott, Rice.

Great Gray Owl

Nested in Aitkin; also observed in Roseau, St. Louis, Lake.

Long-eared Owl

Only report: nested in Marshall.

Short-eared Owl

Only reports from Marshall, Polk.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Observed on 6/9 at Winnebago Creek, Houston Co. (*fide* PB); also reported in St. Louis.

Common Nighthawk

Seen in 38 counties statewide.

Whip-poor-will

Reported in Roseau, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Cook, Anoka, Carver, Winona, Houston.

Chimney Swift

Probable nesting in Hennepin; seen in 46 additional counties statewide.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Probable breeding in Crow Wing, Scott, Winona; observed in 33 additional counties throughout state.

Belted Kingfisher

Nested in *Aitkin* WN; probable nesting in Washington, Dakota. Seen in 43 other counties statewide.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Nested in *Winona* JPo; probable nesting in Becker, Aitkin, Anoka. Seen in 38 additional counties in all regions except northeast.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Probable nesting in Anoka, Hennepin, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona; seen in 21 other counties as far north as Becker, Aitkin.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Nested in Cook, Anoka, Washington, Brown, Winona; probable nesting in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Pine, Cottonwood. Seen in 26 additional counties statewide.

Downy Woodpecker

Nested in seven counties including *Dakota* RHf; probable nesting in five. Observed in 34 other counties statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker

Nested in five counties, probable nesting in five; seen in 30 additional counties throughout state.

Three-toed Woodpecker

Nested along High Lake Road in St. Louis Co. SSc (only other fully documented nesting records for the state are from Cook in 1981 and St. Louis in 1991). Also one male observed on 6/23 along Gunflint Trail near

S. Brule River in Cook Co. KE.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Nested in Itasca, St. Louis; also observed in Beltrami, Cook.

Northern Flicker

Nested in six counties including *Winona* JPo; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka. Seen in 46 other counties statewide.

Pileated Woodpecker

Probable nesting in Crow Wing, Wabasha; seen in 36 other counties in all regions, including Lyon in southwest.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Many reports, similar to previous year. Seen in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Late migrants observed in 12 southern and western counties; latest date 6/10 Brown, Nicollet. One early fall record; 7/31 Rock KE *et al.*

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Nested in *Becker* BBk, Crow Wing, Brown; probable nesting in Cook, Anoka, Winona. Seen in 39 additional counties statewide.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

More reports than usual. Probable breeding in Crow Wing; also seen in Roseau, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton. Late migrants reported from five counties south of breeding range; latest date 6/6 Otter Tail, Dakota.

Acadian Flycatcher

Probable nesting in *Nicollet* (Seven Mile Creek County Park DBo *et al.*); also observed in Hennepin (Elm Creek Park and Wolsfeld Woods), Scott (Murphy-Hanrahan Park), Winona (Fremont Township).

Alder Flycatcher

Seen in 17 northern counties plus Chisago, Anoka. Late migrants observed in Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Rice; latest date 6/19 Scott WM.

Willow Flycatcher

Seen in 20 counties as far north as Mah-

nomen in the west and Anoka in the east; also observed in St. Louis (singing bird in Duluth throughout most of June, mob).

Least Flycatcher

Probable nesting in Lake of the Woods; seen in 37 additional counties statewide.

Eastern Phoebe

Nested in eight counties including *Otter Tail* KKW, *Cook* KMH; probable nesting in four. Seen in 30 other counties statewide.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Nested in Brown, Wabasha; probable breeding in Hubbard, Crow Wing. Seen in 43 additional counties in all regions.

Western Kingbird

Fewest reports in past ten+ years; several observers noted a decrease. Seen in ten western counties plus Beltrami, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Brown.

Eastern Kingbird

Nested in Brown, Hennepin, Winona; probable nesting in Kittson, Crow Wing, Anoka, Dakota. Seen in 49 additional counties statewide.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Two reports: 6/10 St. Louis TW (one bird at Park Point, Duluth) and 7/25-26 Hubbard AB (single bird near Hubbard; *The Loon* 65:214). There have now been summer records in three of the past four years.

Horned Lark

Observed in 36 counties in all regions except northeast but only Beltrami and Wadena in north central.

Purple Martin

Reports down for third straight year. Nested in Crow Wing, Dakota; probable nesting in Washington, Cottonwood. Seen in 37 additional counties statewide.

Tree Swallow

Nested in six counties including *Kanabec* CM; probable nesting in five. Observed in 43 additional counties throughout state.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Nested in *Aitkin* WN, Dakota; probable breeding in Crow Wing, Hennepin, Washington. Seen in 26 other counties statewide.

Bank Swallow

Fewest reports in ten+ years (only half the number of reports for 1988). Nested in Dakota, Winona; probable breeding in Becker, Washington. Seen in 21 additional counties statewide.

Cliff Swallow

Nested in Anoka, Dakota; probable nesting in six counties. Seen in 39 additional counties throughout state.

Barn Swallow

Nested in nine counties including *Douglas* KKW, *Kanabec* CM; probable breeding in Anoka, Rice, Cottonwood. Observed in 50 other counties statewide.

Gray Jay

Probable breeding in St. Louis, Lake, Aitkin, Carlton; also seen in Roseau, Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Cook.

Blue Jay

Nested in Anoka, Washington, *Winona* HVA, JPo; probable nesting in Aitkin, Crow Wing, Sherburne, Dakota. Seen in 48 additional counties statewide.

Black-billed Magpie

Many reports; nested in Marshall, Aitkin; seen in eight additional northwest and north central counties plus St. Louis.

American Crow

Nested in Lake of the Woods, *Lyon* HK, Anoka; probable breeding in Crow Wing, Ramsey, Washington. Seen in 49 additional counties statewide.

Common Raven

Probable breeding in Beltrami; seen in all seven counties bordering Canada plus Marshall, Aitkin, Anoka.

Black-capped Chickadee

Nested in Itasca, Anoka, Washington,

Brown; probable nesting in seven counties. Seen in 41 additional counties statewide.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported in Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Carlton PS.

Tufted Titmouse

Only report from Houston.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

More reports than usual. Nested in Crow Wing; probable nesting in St. Louis. Seen in 12 additional northern counties as far west as Roseau, Clay LCF; plus Hennepin, Washington, Dakota.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Nested in Pennington, Crow Wing; probable nesting in five counties. Seen in 35 other counties statewide.

Brown Creeper

Probable nesting in Hennepin; also observed in Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Ramsey, Winona.

House Wren

Nested in 13 counties including *Douglas* KKW, *Kanabec* CM, *Nicollet* LF; probable nesting in Anoka, Cottonwood. Seen in 40 additional counties statewide.

Winter Wren

Probable breeding in Cook, **Winona** (singing male with three fledged young near John Latsch S.P. on 6/24; MCBS). Also observed 6/19–7/5 Scott mob (Murphy-Hanrahan S.P.), 6/21 Hennepin BL; plus eight other counties within breeding range.

Sedge Wren

Nested in *Stevens* BBo, Washington; seen in 37 additional counties throughout state.

Marsh Wren

Nested in *Anoka* WL; observed in 30 other counties statewide as far northeast as St. Louis.

AMERICAN DIPPER

Single bird observed along the Temperance

River on 6/10 in Cook Co. SSa (*The Loon* 65:212–213). The only other verified record of this species in Minnesota occurred in 1970, also along the Temperance and other streams in Cook Co.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Reported from St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton, Aitkin, Cass.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Seen in Roseau, Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton; plus late migrant 6/1 Mower.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Nested in Washington, Brown; probable nesting in Carver, Nicollet, Winona. Seen in 13 additional counties roughly along a line from Houston to Todd and bordering the Minnesota River as far west as Brown; plus Crow Wing JS/MN, Otter Tail RJ, 6/27 Clay PS.

Eastern Bluebird

Nested in seven counties, probable nesting in three. Seen in 41 other counties throughout state.

Veery

Nested in Cook, probable nesting in Crow Wing. Observed in 30 additional counties as far south as a line from Clay to Winona; plus Carver, Scott, Nicollet.

Swainson's Thrush

Reported from Roseau, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus late migrants 6/5 Clay LCF, 6/9 Hennepin DZ.

Hermit Thrush

A few more reports than usual. Probable nesting in Aitkin; seen in 11 other north central and northeast counties plus Roseau, Becker, Pine.

Wood Thrush

Nested in Hennepin. Observed in 16 counties roughly along a line from Itasca through Hennepin to Houston, and bordering the Minnesota River as far west as Yellow Medicine; plus Cook, Clearwater, Becker, Clay PS.

American Robin

Nested in 13 counties including *Pine* DBe, *Waseca* OJ; probable nesting in four. Seen in 42 additional counties statewide.

Gray Catbird

Nested in six counties, probable nesting in two; seen in 46 other counties throughout state.

Northern Mockingbird

Only report: one bird observed in Watonwan Co. from 6/15 through end of period (RG *et al.*).

Brown Thrasher

Nested in *Kanabec*, Brown, Wabasha, Winona; probable breeding in Crow Wing, Dakota, Le Sueur. Seen in 35 additional counties statewide.

American Pipit

First summer record since 1985; late migrant 6/3 Cook KMH.

Cedar Waxwing

Nested in *Aitkin* WN, Crow Wing, Washington, Winona; probable nesting in Hennepin. Seen in 44 other counties throughout state.

Loggerhead Shrike

Nested in *Scott* DC; also observed in Marshall AJ, Clay, Wilkin, Lyon, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Carver, Dakota, Washington.

European Starling

Nested in seven counties including *Winona* JPo, *Lyon* HK; probable nesting in three. Seen in 37 additional counties statewide.

Bell's Vireo

Reported in Washington, Dakota, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona.

Solitary Vireo

Probable nesting in Cook; seen in seven other north central and northeastern counties plus Roseau. Late migrants 6/2 Brown, 6/6 Hennepin TT, 6/18 Dakota MCBS.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Observed in 31 counties in all regions ex-

cept northeast and southwest.

Warbling Vireo

Nested in *Rock* ND, Dakota; probable nesting in Winona. Seen in 34 additional counties in all regions, including St. Louis and Carlton in northeast.

Philadelphia Vireo

Probable breeding in Cook; late migrant 6/5 Clay WM.

Red-eyed Vireo

Nested in Crow Wing, Anoka; seen in 49 additional counties statewide.

Blue-winged Warbler

Probable hybrid nesting (Blue-winged male with Golden-winged female) at Tamarac N.W.R. in Becker Co. (PS, BBk; *The Loon* 65:215); Lawrence's hybrid observed 6/24 at same location. Also observed in Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Nicollet, Scott, Dakota, Rice, Winona, Houston.

Golden-winged Warbler

Nested in Aitkin; probable breeding in Crow Wing and hybridization in Becker (see Blue-winged Warbler). Also seen in Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Cook KMH, Cass, Kanabec, Sherburne, Chisago, Anoka, Washington; plus 6/4,10 Rice TB (migrants?).

Tennessee Warbler

Seen in Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus late migrant 6/2 Hennepin and early migrants 7/12 Anoka CF; 7/16,18 Hennepin SC, TT; 7/23 Brown.

Nashville Warbler

Observed in 17 northern counties as far west as Roseau, Otter Tail; plus Anoka and early migrants(?) 7/20,31 Hennepin.

Northern Parula

Seen in seven north central and northeast counties plus Becker; late migrants 6/1 Hennepin, 6/4,5 Nicollet PS, SC.

Yellow Warbler

Fewer reports than usual. Nested in Crow

Wing, Anoka, Ramsey, Brown; probable nesting in Hennepin, Winona. Seen in 36 additional counties statewide.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Probable breeding in Crow Wing. Seen in 11 additional northern counties as far west as Roseau, Otter Tail; plus Chisago, Anoka. Late migrants 6/2 Hennepin, 6/3 Nicollet, 6/5 Scott, 6/15 Nobles ND.

Magnolia Warbler

Reported in Beltrami, Cass, Aitkin, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus late migrants 6/1 Washington and Mower.

Cape May Warbler

Only reports from Cook and 7/11 Aitkin WN.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Observed in usual locations in Lake, Cook; plus singing bird observed 7/17 St. Louis DZ (Tower Soudan S.P.).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Nested in St. Louis; seen in 11 additional northern counties as far west as Roseau, Otter Tail. Late migrant(?) 6/28 Stevens BBo.



Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 July 1993, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Most reports in at least 14 years. Nested in Aitkin WN; seen in nine additional north central and northeastern counties plus Roseau, Becker, Pine. Late migrant in Winona (no date); late migrants or possible breeding in Anoka (6/14 RHL, 6/24 CF).

Blackburnian Warbler

Reported in Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus late migrants 6/2 Washington WS, 6/2-3 Murray ND.

Pine Warbler

Probable nesting in Becker, Aitkin; also seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Otter Tail, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake.

Palm Warbler

Seen in Beltrami, St. Louis; plus late migrants(?) 6/12 Kanabec CM, 6/30 Carlton PS.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Observed in Cook; plus early migrant 7/16 Clay LCF.

Blackpoll Warbler

Late migrant reported 6/1-5 Otter Tail CS/KC.

Cerulean Warbler

Probable nesting in Brown, Nicollet. Also seen in Winona, Scott, Hennepin, Anoka; plus 6/1-8 Otter Tail CS/KC.

Black-and-white Warbler

Seen in 14 northern counties as far west as Roseau, Becker, Otter Tail. Also reported from Anoka, Washington; plus 7/27 Dakota (early migrant?).

American Redstart

Most reports since 1988. Nested in Anoka, Hennepin, Nicollet, Winona; probable nesting in Becker, Crow Wing, Brown. Seen in 36 additional counties in all regions except southwest.

Prothonotary Warbler

Probable nesting in Ramsey; also seen in Washington, Scott, Winona.

Ovenbird

Nested in Nicollet DBM, DBo; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Anoka. Seen in 30 additional counties as far south and west as a line connecting Polk, Otter Tail, Rice, Houston and along the Minnesota River as

far west as Brown.

Northern Waterthrush

Seen in Roseau, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine; plus late migrant in Winona (no date).

Louisiana Waterthrush

Only report from Winona.

Kentucky Warbler

Most reports in 14+ years. Singing male on territory observed from spring through 6/26 at Seven Mile Creek Co. Park, Nicollet Co. mob (same bird as last year?); plus single male 6/9 Winona PB (Whitewater W.M.A.) and single male 6/5 Waseca RG.

Connecticut Warbler

Nested in Aitkin; also seen in Roseau, Beltrami, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake.

Mourning Warbler

Seen in 16 northern counties as far west as Roseau, Becker, Otter Tail; plus late migrants 6/2 Cottonwood, 6/3 Nicollet, 6/4 Murray, 6/12,16 Hennepin SC,OJ. Of unknown status are observations from 6/26 to 7/5 at Murphy-Hanrahan Park, Scott Co. (mob).

Common Yellowthroat

Probable nesting in six counties; observed in 46 additional counties statewide.

Hooded Warbler

Up to three birds observed in Murphy-Hanrahan Park, Scott Co. from 6/19 through 7/5 (mob); plus a singing male at Cedar Creek Natural History Area, Anoka Co. on 6/10 (only the second Cedar Creek Record; JH).

Wilson's Warbler

Reported in Lake, Cook; plus late migrant 6/5 Hennepin.

Canada Warbler

Observed in St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus late migrants 6/1 Mower, 6/4 Hennepin.

Scarlet Tanager

Nested in Anoka; probable nesting in Crow

Wing, Isanti, Winona. Seen in 33 additional counties in all regions including Lyon in southwest.

Northern Cardinal

Nested in Hennepin, Ramsey, Winona; probable breeding in Nicollet, Olmsted. Seen in 23 southern counties plus Clay, Becker, Aitkin, Kanabec, St. Louis.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Nested in Dakota RHf, Brown, Winona; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Kanabec. Observed in 39 other counties statewide.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

The fourth summer record for Minnesota; a single bird identified on 6/9 near Heron Lake, Jackson Co. ES (*The Loon* 65:159).

Blue Grosbeak

Reported in Pipestone, Murray, Rock, Nobles.

Indigo Bunting

Nested in Anoka, Brown; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Winona. Seen in 44 additional counties statewide.

Dickcissel

Continued decrease in number of reports since 1988 high. Probable nesting in Stevens; seen in 27 other southern counties.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Probable breeding in Pennington; also observed in Beltrami, Mahnomen, Becker, Crow Wing, Anoka, Washington, Brown, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Rice, Dakota, Winona, Houston.

Chipping Sparrow

Nested in eight counties including Marshall SKS, Otter Tail KKW, Kanabec CM; probable nesting in three. Seen in 45 additional counties statewide.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Fewest reports in over ten years. Nested in Stevens BBo; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 24 other counties as far south as Yellow Medicine, Cottonwood, Rice.



Grasshopper Sparrow, 4 July 1993, Blazing Star Prairie, Clay County. Photo by Dennis Martin.

Field Sparrow

Nested in Brown, Goodhue, Winona; probable breeding in Anoka, Washington. Observed in 26 additional counties as far north as Clay, Becker, Crow Wing.

Vesper Sparrow

Probable breeding in Stevens and Hennepin counties; reported from 48 additional counties in all regions including St. Louis in northeast.

Lark Sparrow

More reports than usual. Nested in Anoka, Wabasha; probable nesting in Kittson, Becker, Carver. Also reported in Roseau, Marshall, Grant, Crow Wing, Sherburne, Chisago, Washington, Hennepin, Sibley, Brown, Goodhue.

Lark Bunting

Only report: one male in a field near Cyrus, Pope Co. on 6/1 BBo (migrant?).

Savannah Sparrow

Nested in *Dakota* RHf, *Winona* JPo; probable nesting in Stevens, Pope. Seen in 42 additional counties statewide.

BAIRD'S SPARROW

As many as three singing males observed from 6/26 to 7/5 at Felton Prairie, Clay Co. (KE *et al.*). This species has now been reported in five of the past fourteen summers.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Fewest reports since 1983. Nested in *Stevens* BBo, Clay; seen in 21 other counties as far north as a line connecting Marshall, Morrison, Chisago.

Henslow's Sparrow

Only report: one singing male on 6/30 near John Latsch S.P., Winona Co. MCBS. Despite efforts by MCBS staff, no birds were observed at O.L. Kipp S.P.; they have now been absent from this last breeding stronghold for two consecutive summers.

Le Conte's Sparrow

Observed in eight northwestern counties plus Beltrami, Otter Tail, Aitkin, St. Louis,

and Pine counties.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Seen in Kittson, Clay, Aitkin (within traditional range). Also reported in Morrison for second consecutive year; plus at least one bird singing in the Sax-Zim bog area, St. Louis Co. (6/14-19 KR *et al.*).

Song Sparrow

Nested in five counties including *Kanabec* CM, *Winona* HVA, JPo; probable nesting in five. Seen in 49 additional counties statewide.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Nested in *Cook* KMH; also observed in Roseau, St. Louis, Lake, Carlton. Early migrant 7/29 Hennepin SC.

Swamp Sparrow

Probable nesting in Crow Wing; seen in 36 other counties statewide.

White-throated Sparrow

Nested in St. Louis; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in nine additional counties in north central and northeast plus Roseau, Becker; also reported 6/1,21 and 7/26 in Hennepin SC (breeding?).

Harris' Sparrow

Late migrant 6/2 Otter Tail CS/KC; only the second summer report since 1980.

Dark-eyed Junco

Seen in Roseau, Becker, Lake of the Woods, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus early migrant 7/29 Hennepin TJB.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Observed at usual Felton Prairie location in Clay Co.; plus one bird observed on 6/4 two miles SW of Lockhart in Norman County BBk.

Bobolink

Nested in *Stevens* BBo, Aitkin; seen in 41 additional counties statewide.

Red-winged Blackbird

Nested in *Stevens* BBo, *Dakota* RHf, St.

Louis, Le Sueur, Winona; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Hennepin, Ramsey, Cottonwood, Olmsted. Seen in 57 additional counties statewide.

Eastern Meadowlark

Probable breeding in Dakota, Winona; observed in 18 other counties as far west as Beltrami, Wadena, Blue Earth.

Western Meadowlark

Probable nesting in Stevens; seen in 46 additional counties in all regions except northeast.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Nested in Washington; probable nesting in Cottonwood, Watonwan. Seen in 44 other counties in all regions but only St. Louis in northeast.

Brewer's Blackbird

Fewest reports in more than years. Probable nesting in Clay, Cass; observed in 22 additional counties as far south as Lyon, Sibley, Dakota.

Common Grackle

Nested in eight counties including Winona JPo; probable nesting in Washington, Cottonwood. Seen in 53 additional counties throughout state.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Breeding reported in six counties, probable breeding in an additional five other counties; observed in 37 other counties statewide. Parasitized species included Sedge Wren, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird and Orchard Oriole.

Orchard Oriole

Nested in Dakota RHf; probable nesting in Hennepin. Seen in 12 western counties as far north as Roseau; plus Meeker, Brown, Le Sueur, Winona, Houston.

Northern Oriole

Nested in Kanabec CM, Brown, Dakota, Winona; probable nesting in eight counties. Observed in 39 additional counties statewide.

Purple Finch

Nested in Becker BBk; probable breeding in Crow Wing. Seen in 12 other northern counties as far west as Roseau, Otter Tail; plus Anoka, Carver MB.

House Finch

The explosive invasion into the state is essentially complete; virtually every county has recorded this species. Nested in Nobles ND, Brown JS, Hennepin TJB, Goodhue HH, Wabasha DWM, Mower, Winona; probable nesting in Aitkin, Washington, Dakota, Nicollet, Cottonwood, Olmsted. Seen in 30 additional counties in all regions of the state; this includes counties as far north as Kittson, Roseau, Beltrami, St. Louis (Ely, SSc), Lake (Two Harbors, DPV).

Red Crossbill

Observed 6/6,24 Otter Tail SDM; plus St. Louis, Cook.

White-winged Crossbill

Only report: 7/18 St. Louis KE.

Pine Siskin

Seen in 11 northern counties plus Stearns, Meeker, Anoka, Hennepin, Lyon (no date) HK, 6/1-19 Winona JPo.

American Goldfinch

Nested in Dakota RHf, Crow Wing, Washington, Winona; seen in 54 additional counties statewide.

Evening Grosbeak

Seen in nine north central and northeastern counties plus Becker.

House Sparrow

Nested in Dakota, Brown, Winona HVA, JPo; probable breeding in Cottonwood, Hennepin, Ramsey. Observed in 42 other counties statewide.

Contributors

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DJo	Douglas Johnson	mob	many observers
OJ	Oscar Johnson		

Birds of the Lamprey Pass Wildlife Management Area, Anoka County, 1993

William H. Longley

1. History and Description of the Area

Lamprey Pass Wildlife Management Area was acquired by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Section of Wildlife, through the cooperation of The Nature Conservancy, on 18 November 1981. Located in east-central Anoka County and partly in Washington County, the area is named after Uri Lamprey who founded the Lamprey Pass Hunting Club in 1881. Lamprey was a lawyer/politician who is said to have been a factor in causing Minnesota's wildlife protection laws to be far ahead of the rest of the nation's. The main duck hunting pass was along the channel between Mud Lake and Howard Lake in Anoka County, but there was another pass, perhaps of lesser importance, between Mud Lake and Clear Lake in Washington County. The latter pass was obliterated in the 1960s by Highway I-35.

Apparently, the area lost its special value for ducks when carp became established and eliminated waterfowl foods, particularly wild rice. That sad occurrence played a part in the dissolution of the hunting club. An electric fish barrier has been installed to curb carp numbers, to keep the fish from moving up Rice Creek into Howard Lake and into Mud Lake, whose very shallow water is a superb carp incubator. A barrier is also needed at the outlet of Clear Lake which runs into Mud Lake.

Approximately 1,027 acres of the WMA lie in Anoka County on which to map breeding bird territories. This area is bounded by Mud Lake on the north, Howard Lake on the west, the channel between the lakes on the northwest, the county line and the highway on the east. To the southwest, the boundary is largely an imaginary line in a quite inaccessible cattail-

brush swamp, beyond which line birds could not be plotted reliably on a map, and eastward, a part of the south line is the property line.

Vegetation is diverse. There are about 68 acres of old deciduous woods containing Northern Red Oak, American Hackberry, American Basswood, Red Maple, and Green Ash, with an understory of Hornbeam, Ironwood, and European Buckthorn. There are scattered patches of American Elm, Trembling Aspen, and Box Elder. Open land consists of about 23 acres planted to Big Bluestem and other prairie plants in 1993 (formerly in corn for wildlife management purposes) and 23 acres of former hayfields largely in two widely-separated patches. Aspen is invading these hayfields. Lowland shrub type (willows and Speckled Alder) occupies about 20 acres. Emergent wetland (comprised of cattail, sedges, and reed grass) occupies 30+ acres. The power line corridor which runs through the area distance of about 1,700 yards had been filling in with young Box Elder, and so was sprayed with chemicals in 1992. Reed Canary Grass and dead "brush" now fill this four- to five-acre lane.

II. Methods

1. The spot mapping method was used, as described in Longley, Wm. H., 1990, Birds of the Boot Lake Scientific and Natural Area, Anoka County, Minnesota, *The Loon* 62:46-50 and its bibliography.

2. On 18 days from 29 March to 20 October, I walked a total of 118 hours, as little as two hours (on two trips interrupted by rain) to 11.75 hours per trip, but usually 9.5 hours. After 7 July, trips averaged four hours. From 29 March to 7 September, trips averaged ten days apart. Observations be-

**Table One: Nesting and Inferred Nesting
Birds Present Throughout the 1993 Breeding Season**

1. Wood Duck: Two, possibly three, pairs; two nesting boxes used, one brood seen.
2. Mallard: Two, possibly three, pairs.
3. Sora: Three calling on 11 May, last one on 7 July; one pair indicated.
4. Mourning Dove: Two pairs.
5. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Although I saw only one (on 11 July), James H. Jensen, who maintains feeders on the area for photography, saw them many times; probably one pair.
6. Downy Woodpecker: Four pairs; one nest with young.
7. Hairy Woodpecker: Two pairs.
8. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Two pairs; one nest with young.
9. Pileated Woodpecker: One pair present.
10. Eastern Wood-Pewee: Five territories.
11. Willow Flycatcher: Five calling on 11 June; five pairs probable.
12. Least Flycatcher: Seven calling on 21 June; five pairs probable.
13. Great Crested Flycatcher: Three calling on 11 May; one pair, possibly two.
14. Eastern Kingbird: One pair.
15. Tree Swallows: Three pairs, or four; two bluebird boxes used.
16. Blue Jay: One pair.
17. Black-capped Chickadee: Five pairs.
18. White-breasted Nuthatch: One pair.
19. House Wren: Five pairs.
20. Sedge Wren: Three territories; no singing after 11 June; possibly high water caused dispersal.
21. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two pairs; one pair busy carrying food on 11 June.
22. Veery: Seven singing on 11 June, eight on 28 June. Eight or nine pairs.
23. Wood Thrush: Two territories.
24. American Robin: Eight territories; four nests found, with eggs or young.
25. Gray Catbird: As many as 13 singing males, representing 10 or 11 territories, were noted; two nests found.
26. Cedar Waxwing: One pair.
27. Yellow-throated Vireo: Four singing males, three territories.
28. Warbling Vireo: Three singing males, three territories.
29. Red-eyed Vireo: Seven territories; one nest with eggs found.
30. Yellow Warbler: As many as 24 singing males (on 28 June); at least 19 territories; three nests found.
31. American Redstart: At least 13 territories; one nest found with three young and two out of the nest at another territory.
32. Ovenbird: One, possibly two, territories.
33. Common Yellowthroat: 32 singing males on 28 June; at least 28 territories; two young found out of nest.
34. Scarlet Tanager: One territory.
35. Northern Cardinal: Five territories; young out of nest in one territory.
36. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Eight territories.
37. Song Sparrow: 22 territories.
38. Swamp Sparrow: 12 territories.
39. Red-winged Blackbird: Nine, possibly ten, territories.
40. Brown-headed Cowbird: At least four females noted.
41. Northern Oriole: Four males on 11 May; young noted at two places on 29 June and 7 July; two territories.
42. American Goldfinch: Nine territories; some young noted in August.

Table Two
Summer Residents Recorded but Probably Not Nesting

1. Common Loon: One present in April, and flying over.
2. Double-crested Cormorant: One or two pairs in Howard Lake heronry and on channel; flock of 24 on 18 May.
3. Great Blue Heron: About 86 nests in Howard Lake heronry; often flying over and feeding at channel and shores.
4. Great Egret: One or two fed at channel in summer; formerly several nested in Howard Lake heronry.
5. Green-backed Heron: As many as four fed at channel and shores; apparently nested on northwest Mud Lake.
6. Canada Goose: Four pairs nested nearby, produced 16 young; families used channel and shores.
7. Blue-winged Teal: Pair present in mid-May.
8. Hooded Merganser: Pair on shore 9 April near Wood Duck box.
9. Turkey Vulture: One present on two dates in April.
10. Osprey: One perched on power pole, 28 April.
11. Bald Eagle: Present on four dates in July and August, one or two adults, one first-year bird.
12. Cooper's Hawk: One present on 11 May.
13. Red-tailed Hawk: One or pair on five dates in summer.
14. American Kestrel: One on 10 August.
15. Ring-necked Pheasant: One crowing in April.
16. American Coot: 1,200 on Mud Lake in late October.
17. Killdeer: One present on two days in April.
18. Common Snipe: Courtship flight, 28 April; calls 11 May.
19. American Woodcock: One flushed, 9 April.
20. Forster's Tern: One pair, possibly two, probably raised young on northwest Mud Lake; usually two fishing at channel, 11 May to 7 September; seven birds over lake on 31 July.
21. Great Horned Owl: One present on 11 May.
22. Belted Kingfisher: One seen in August and September.
23. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Noted on only three dates.
24. Red-headed Woodpecker: One on 6 September.
25. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One seen only once.
26. Barn Swallow: Noted on two days.
27. American Crow: Two to five seen on most days.
28. Marsh Wren: One singing on 10 August. Two nests found in northwest part of Mud Lake.
29. Eastern Bluebird: One seen on two dates.
30. Brown Thrasher: Pair on 18 May.
31. European Starling: Two flew over on one day.
32. Field Sparrow: One singing on 11 May.
33. Common Grackle: Two to six seen on six days.
34. House Finch: Pair at feeder on 9 April.

gan at first light, before sunrise.

III. Results

1. I recorded 104 species of birds at the 170-acre portion of the WMA.

2. I consider that 43 species nested on the study area, either from finding nests or broods or from the continued presence of singing males and/or females (Table One).

3. I recorded 34 other local resident spe-

Table Three
Transients/Migrants Not Ordinarily Nesting in the Vicinity

1. American White Pelican: Present from 2 May (four birds) to 9 September (eight birds), in July (60 birds which may have moved to Carlos Avery WMA). Birds frequently moved between Howard and Mud Lakes.
2. Bufflehead: One on 17 April.
3. Common Merganser: 90 on 9 April.
4. Red-breasted Merganser: Pair on 17 April.
5. Sharp-shinned Hawk: One on 18 May and 6 September.
6. Ring-billed Gull: Present from 9 April (80 birds) to late November (a few birds), up to 106 on 31 July.
7. Alder Flycatcher: One on 11 June and 28 June. This species might have nested nearby.
8. Red-breasted Nuthatch: One on 24 August.
9. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Two on 28 April and 11 May.
10. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One to three from 9 April to 11 May.
11. Swainson's Thrush: One on 11 May.
12. Tennessee Warbler: Two or three in April, five on 17 October.
13. Orange-crowned Warbler: One on 11 May.
14. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Two on 11 May.
15. Magnolia Warbler: One on 11 May.
16. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Three on 28 April, 30 on 11 May.
17. Black-throated Green Warbler: One on 11 May.
18. Blackburnian Warbler: Three on 11 May.
19. Palm Warbler: Three on 11 May.
20. Blackpoll Warbler: Six on 11 May, two on 18 May.
21. Black-and-white Warbler: Two singing on 11 June.
22. Hooded Warbler: Singing male on 11 May.
23. Wilson's Warbler: Two on 11 and 18 May.
24. American Tree Sparrow: Up to 13 in April and October.
25. Fox Sparrow: One on 20 October.
26. White-throated Sparrow: One on 28 April, two on 20 October.
27. Dark-eyed Junco: Two on 29 March, two on 9 April.

cies evidently not nesting on the study area, but some of these nested elsewhere on the Wildlife Management Area (Table Two).

4. Transient species/migrants numbered 27 (Table Three).

5. Population density based upon 228 nesting or inferred nesting pairs and an area of 175 acres was:

130 pairs/100 acres

322 pairs per 100 hectares

832 pairs per square mile

IV. Discussion

Because of the excessive precipitation in 1993, there was standing water till late fall in wooded areas which usually dry out soon after spring runoff. Similarly, the emergent

wetlands were full to the brim, with high water in areas of sedges, reed grass, and reed canary grass. Sedge Wrens ceased singing in late June, probably having relocated to dryer habitats. Such behavior was indicated by appearance of several singing males in an old alfalfa-brome field mixed with Russian thistle and goldenrods in mid-July, where none had been earlier. This field was in the Bayport Wildlife Management Area, on high bluffland.

The exceedingly cool summer probably had deleterious effects upon nesting birds and the survival of young birds. Seeds and/or fruits of several species of plants failed to mature. 532 W Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

Nesting Waterfowl and Other Water Birds on Islands in Western Minnesota

John T. Lokemoen

Introduction

Islands can be productive nesting sites for waterfowl and other water birds because they provide security from mammalian predators (Giroux 1981, Lokemoen and Woodward 1992). Islands recently received increased attention from waterfowl managers because of generally low success of upland nests in the prairie pothole region of North America (Sargeant and Arnold 1984). Due to the interest in island management for nesting birds, I studied islands in 1988 and 1989 in the prairie pothole region of Becker and Clay counties. My objectives were to estimate the number and distribution of islands in the two counties, determine their value to nesting waterfowl and other water birds, and identify island habitats preferred by nesting waterfowl.

Study Area and Methods

I surveyed islands in natural wetlands (mainly named lakes). An island was defined as any upland area that was completely surrounded by water during April through July. Islands were located by examining black-and-white aerial photographs (scale 6" = 1 mile). Wetland size, island size, and the distance to nearest shore were measured on the aerial photographs. In Becker County, the total number of islands in 5 of the 30 townships with wetlands was multiplied by six to estimate the total number of islands in the county. In Clay County, islands were tallied in all five townships that contained wetlands.

A search for waterfowl and other water bird nests was made at each island in May and in June. Nests were located by 2-6 people walking along the shoreline and through all potential nesting vegetation. Nest locations, species identification, egg incubation stage, and nesting success were

determined as described by Klett *et al.* (1986). I used the *apparent estimator* to determine nest success as recommended by Johnson and Shaffer (1990) for island studies.

Wetland class, subclass, and cover type were recorded during the first visit to each island (Stewart and Kantrud 1971). A visual estimate of percent bare ground, grass, forbs, low shrubs (<4 feet, mainly eastern snowberry, tall shrubs (>4 feet, mainly hazelnut and northern hawthorn, and trees was made at each island. Island vegetation was not modified by haying, grazing, or tillage.

Two-sample t-tests were used to compare the composition of vegetation on islands with waterfowl nests to islands without waterfowl nests. The 1988 and 1989 data were tested separately. Relationships between numbers of waterfowl nests and wetland size, island size, and distance to shore were examined using simple Pearson correlation coefficients.

Results

Size, Numbers, and Location Characteristics of Islands

Fourteen islands were studied in 1988; ten of these were reexamined in 1989. The estimated number of islands was 140 in Becker County and 19 in Clay County. Whereas numerous wetlands occur throughout Becker County, only the eastern tier of townships contains wetlands in Clay County, which is situated mainly in glacial lake Agassiz.

The mean size of the islands was 2.2 acres (range 0.5-4.0 acres). The mean size of wetlands containing islands was 180 acres (range 49-522 acres). Islands were an average of 245 feet from shore (range 30-660 feet), mostly in wetlands with little emergent vegetation.

There was no relationship between the number of nests on an island and island size ($r=0.25$, $df=12$, $P=0.38$) or the size of wetlands containing the islands ($r=0.08$, $df=12$, $P=0.78$). However, islands located farther from shore contained significantly ($r=0.59$, $df=12$, $P=0.024$) more nests.

Species Composition, Nest Success, and Nest Densities

Fifty waterfowl nests were located during the study (Table 1). One or more nests were found on 16 islands and no nests were found on eight islands. As many as eight nests in a year were found on two islands. Seventy percent of the nests were of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), 26% of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and 4% of Blue-winged Teals (*Anas discors*). The only other water bird nest was of one Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).

Nest success was 63% for Canada Geese, 27% for ducks, and 52% for all species combined. During the two years, the nest density on islands was 0.3 duck nests/acre, 0.7 goose nests/acre, and 0.95 nests/acre.

Vegetative Factors Preferred by Nesting Waterfowl

The mean vegetative composition on islands was 37% grass, 10% forbs, 10% low shrubs, 11% tall shrubs, and 31% trees. There were fewer nests ($t=2.11$, $df=12$, $P=0.056$) on islands with a larger proportion of tall shrubs in 1988 and more nests ($t=3.35$, $df=8$, $P=0.01$) on islands with more low shrubs in 1989. Other vegetation on islands did not affect the number of waterfowl nests ($P > 0.10$).

Discussion

Size, Numbers, and Location Characteristics of Islands

Islands farther from shore probably had more nests because it is difficult for predators to cross long stretches of open water and nests are safer on these islands. In North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana, Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) found more Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) nests (\bar{x} 440 feet) and Blue-winged teal nests (\bar{x} 410 feet) on islands located farther from shore.

[“ \bar{x} ” is the symbol used to indicate a mean or average—ed.] Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) also reported no association between nest numbers and island size.

Species Composition, Nest Success, and Nest Densities

The species composition of waterfowl nests was similar to that in Otter Tail County, (Jim Piehl, pers. comm.). There, the species composition of 64 waterfowl nests was Canada Geese 61%, Mallard 37%, and Blue-winged Teal 2%. In the prairie region of the North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana, Gadwalls and Mallards were the most common nesting birds on islands, typically constituting 60 to 70% of the population (Duebbert 1982, Lokemoen and Woodward 1992). Canada Geese and Lesser Scaups (*Aythya affinis*) were the next most numerous species. Gadwall and Lesser Scaup nests were not found on Minnesota islands, probably because they are uncommon to scarce breeding species in the state (Green and Janssen 1975).

Duck nest success on Minnesota islands was somewhat higher than typical on Minnesota uplands, where predation is severe. In three nearby counties, Piehl (1989) estimated 12% nest success for 494 upland duck nests during the 1980s. I found higher nest success on islands compared with Minnesota uplands, but most researchers found much higher nest success on islands elsewhere. On islands in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana, Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) found 60% nest success and on islands in Alberta, Giroux (1981) noted 48% nest success.

Higher waterfowl nest success has been observed on islands in Minnesota where predators were controlled. In 1991, Jim Piehl (pers. comm.) estimated a nest success rate of 46% for Mallards and 83% for Canada Geese on 14 islands in Otter Tail County. In addition, clutches of five of six Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) and Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) hatched on the islands.

In this study, islands were of marginal benefit to nesting ducks because predators destroyed most nests. Minks and Raccoons,

	1988	1989	Total or average
No. of islands surveyed	14	10	24
Total duck nests	15	0	15 (4) ¹
Total goose nests	19	16	35 (22) ¹
Total island acres	28.4	24.2	52.6
Mean nests/island	2.4	1.6	2.1
Mean duck nests/acre	0.5	0.0	0.3
Mean goose nests/acre	0.7	0.7	0.7
Mean nests/acre	1.2	0.7	1.0

¹Number of successful nests noted in parentheses.

Table 1. Number of waterfowl nests and nest densities on islands surveyed in west-central Minnesota in 1988 and 1989.

both strongly associated with wetlands, probably destroyed most nests. These two species are probably more numerous in Minnesota where there is more permanent wetland habitat than in the prairie to the west. In Otter Tail County 87% of the 45 predators trapped on islands were Minks or Raccoons. In several situations Minks and Raccoons had to swim several hundred yards to reach islands in Otter Tail County.

Nest success of Canada Geese in this study was similar to the 70% estimated by Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) and Giroux (1981) on islands. Nest success of Canada Geese is usually high because geese defend nests against predators. Cooper (1978) noted, however, that Canada Geese are probably more successful in deterring Minks and Raccoons from nests and less successful in deterring Red Foxes. Water barriers probably benefit nesting geese on islands by restricting access of Red Foxes and possibly Coyotes.

Densities of duck nests on islands in this study were much lower than 3.4 to 5.6 nests/acre on islands in the western prairies (Lokemoen and Woodward 1992, Duebbert 1982, and Giroux 1981). Densities of Canada Goose nests were similar or higher than the 0.1 to 0.7 nests/acre Giroux (1981), Duebbert (1982), Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) found in the prairie region.

Vegetative Factors Preferred by Nesting Waterfowl

The positive association between in-

creased numbers of duck nests and presence of low shrubs and absence of tall shrubs is similar to findings by others. For instance, Hines and Mitchell (1983) and Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) found that low shrubs such as western snowberry and woods rose provide ideal nesting cover for Mallards and Gadwalls. Lokemoen and Woodward (1992) suggested that waterfowl avoid nesting under trees and tall shrubs such as hawthorn and plum because the foliage shades out ground cover that ducks prefer and obscures visibility of the surrounding area sought by Canada Geese.

Management Suggestions

A substantial number of natural islands occur in Becker and Clay counties. If these counties are representative of western Minnesota, then there are many islands of potential value to nesting waterfowl and other water birds in this region. Most islands are not used for agricultural purposes and probably are available for breeding-bird management.

Islands currently have low value to nesting waterfowl and other water birds, except for Canada Geese, due to high rates of predation. Use of islands by nesting ducks might be improved by reducing predator numbers on islands. Besides waterfowl, island management could benefit unique nesting species such as Common Loons, Red-necked Grebes, and Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*). Predators would have to be trapped annually from late April until early July, when nesting is completed. All egg-eating predators must be removed. Trapping should be attempted only on nesting islands with suitable qualities for nesting waterfowl and other water birds. Preferred nesting habitats on islands include low shrub and grass cover but few tall shrubs and trees. Favored island locations for management are sites far from shore in larger wetlands but with numerous small wetlands nearby to support waterfowl breeding pairs. Managed islands should be 0.5 acre or larger so there is an adequate area to attract nesting females. Records of predators removed and costs incurred and data on bird nesting use and success should be maintained to deter-

mine program value.

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- Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Route 1, Box 96C, Jamestown, ND 58404.**



BIRDS OF EUROPE WITH NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, Lars Jonsson, Princeton University Press, 559 pages, color plates and illustrations by Lars

Jonsson, hardcover, \$39.95.

The author of this addition to the burgeoning list of European bird books may be unfamiliar to most M.O.U. members. This

should change, and soon! Lars Jonsson is probably most recognized by birders in the U.S. for an authoritative article he illustrated on the *Calidris* sandpipers that was published in *American Birds*. European birders have known him as a result of his artistically impressive *Birds in the Wild*. This series of five volumes — *Birds of the Mediterranean and Alps*; *Birds of Lake, River, Marsh and Field*; *Birds of Sea and Coast*; *Birds of Wood, Park and Garden*; *Birds of Mountain Regions* — are out of print but still sought due to the artwork. *Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* is an updated compilation of those earlier works.

This compact (5.25 × 8.25) hardcover covers all the regularly occurring European bird species with a few additions from North Africa and the Middle East. It has important and well presented topics in an introduction that should be read by all birders. Birds' feathers, topography, molt, plumage (age) terminology, calendar-year terminology, color variation and how it can be affected, voice, behavior, distribution, migration, vagrants and systematics are some of the topics covered. They are all presented with an easy to read and understand style and accompanied by all new illustrations.

Illustration. A simple word used to describe the artwork presented in a book. The illustrations contained in *Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* are better described as works of art. Lars Jonsson has, in my opinion, no peer when it comes to bird illustration. He has taken field guide illustration to a higher level, one that we can only hope to see others emulate. These plates are not what you have come to expect in a field guide. The birds are presented in various lifelike positions, not the stiff (and often unrealistic) poses we see in many guides. Jonsson's knack of showing birds from many different angles, with exacting accuracy, and in a lifelike manner define his style — and this field guide. Each plate has more plumages illustrated than we have been used to seeing in a field guide, all of them in Jonsson's exacting and artistic manner. I particularly enjoy the fact that many species are illustrated in flight on the

same page as the species account and primary illustrations. This gives you, in an instant, a complete picture of the bird. This prevents the aggravating page flipping to find a single in-flight illustration on a page with 20 other species that I find so irritating with other field guides. While such comparison plates are found in *Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East*, they are always beneficial for comparative reasons, and not done to conserve space or an artist's effort. Jonsson seems to be at his best when working with shorebirds. One of the most difficult groups of birds to illustrate well, the shorebird plates are incredible and are worth the price of this book alone. The plate showing a number of Ruffs displaying on a lek deserves special mention, and is by far my favorite. Other plates that stand out include: a Scops Owl showing its protective coloration, the sandgrouse plate, the Bee-eaters and 99% of the shorebird plates.

Criticisms of this book are minimal. While a few of the plates seem to be blurry or out of focus, this appears to be limited to those plates from the *Birds in the Wild* series that were not redone. This indicates to me that this effect is a result of printing or reproduction difficulties, as comparisons to the earlier work showed none of these problems. Of minor inconvenience to U.S. birders may be the use of British names (this is a European field guide after all!) but this by itself is not much of a problem for more experienced birders.

Minnesota birders may ask, "Why would I want to buy a European field guide?" Assuming that you are not traveling to Europe (where this would be THE field guide to use), here are just a few reasons. While the price may be slightly higher than your typical field guide, THIS IS NOT A TYPICAL FIELD GUIDE! Many species that occur regularly in Minnesota are illustrated in an exacting manner. The introduction topics and presentation, highly accurate treatment of many of Minnesota's birds (or potential birds) and the fantastic artwork are all reason enough to add this book to your collection. **Kim Risen, 5756 Brunswick Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428.**

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

There was a meeting of the Committee on 5 December 1993, and, among the items on the agenda, the following decisions were reached:

- It was decided to proceed with the publication of the Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota without waiting for the publication of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist, tentatively scheduled for later in 1994.

The Minnesota list was distributed with the Winter 1993 issue of *The Loon*, and it uses the nomenclature, sequence, and taxonomy of the sixth edition of the A.O.U. checklist and its supplements. One of these supplements, the 39th, scheduled for publication in the July 1993 issue of *The Auk*, includes three name changes affecting the Minnesota list:

Green-backed Heron

becomes

Green Heron

Lesser Golden-Plover

becomes

American Golden-Plover

Rosy Finch

becomes

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.

(Also note that one error appears in the new Minnesota Checklist: an asterisk indicating a confirmed breeding record was included for Kentucky Warbler; however, the Committee has not yet accepted any breeding records for this species.)

- Because of the delay in producing the

new Minnesota checklist (normally, it would have appeared with the Spring 1993 issue of *The Loon*), it was necessary to discuss the status of two species whose situation had changed since the December 1992 meeting of the Committee (see *The Loon* 65:33). Accordingly, it was decided to keep Ruff on the Casual list; and Burrowing Owl, formerly Regular, is now considered Casual.

- It was decided that votes on recirculated records and on potential first state records will no longer be taken by mail as other records are; these will now be held for discussion and vote at the next meeting of the Committee.

- A Common Ground-Dove record from Duluth on 16 October 1993 was discussed and found Acceptable as a first state record on a 10-0 vote.

- A second Black-shouldered Kite (now White-tailed Kite) record from Bloomington on 7 May 1993 (also see *The Loon* 65:147) was discussed and found Unacceptable on a 1-9 vote. Although the description was convincing enough to be accepted by a majority of the Committee on earlier votes, it was decided that a first state record should have more complete documentation. There was no description of the dorsal surface of the bird, its relative size was unclear, and the distance of the bird from the observer was not given.

- A photograph record of a possible Barn Owl from Shorewood, Hennepin Co. on 9 September 1993 was discussed and found Unacceptable on a 0-7 vote. The

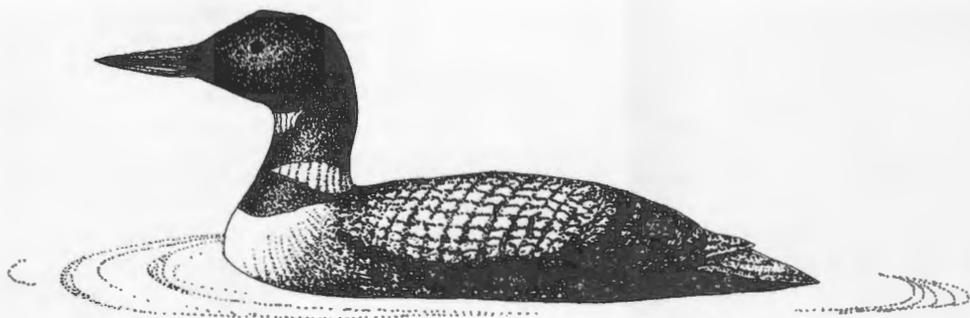
quality of the photo wasn't clear enough to positively identify the bird, which the majority felt was more likely a Barred Owl.

• The next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for 20 July 1994, and, as always, these meetings are open to all interested M.O.U. members. For the time and location of this meeting, contact Committee Chairman Bob Janssen.

The following records were voted by mail July–December 1993, and all were found to be Acceptable (this is the first time since these semi-annual Proceedings articles began in 1981 that there were no Unacceptable records):

- Yellow-throated Warbler, 13 May 1993, near Sibley State Park, Kandiyohi County (vote 5–2; *The Loon* 65:156).
- Western Tanager, 2 May 1993, near Waubun, Becker County (vote 7–0).
- White-eyed Vireo, 9–15 May 1993, near Reno, Houston County (vote 7–0).
- Baird's Sparrow, 26–30 June 1993, Felton Prairie, Clay County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:157–158).
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 9 June 1993, near Heron Lake, Jackson County (vote 6–1; *The Loon* 65:159).
- Red-throated Loon, 28 June 1993, Stony Point, St. Louis County (vote 7–0).
- American Dipper, 10 June 1993, Temperance River, Cook County (vote 6–1; *The Loon* 65:212–213).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 10 June 1993, Duluth, St. Louis County (vote 7–0).
- Carolina Wren, 7–8 August 1993, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (vote 7–0).
- Sabine's Gull, 4 September 1993, Ruthton, Pipestone County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:210).
- Red Phalarope, 20–21 September 1993, Diamond Lake, Hennepin County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:208–209).
- Pacific Loon, 18 September 1993, Duluth, St. Louis County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:45–46).
- Red-throated Loon, 17 September 1993, Good Harbor Bay, Cook County (vote 7–0).
- Red Phalarope, 8 October 1993, Lost River W.M.A., Roseau County (vote 7–0).
- California Gull, 9 October 1993, Ortonville, Big Stone County (vote 7–0).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 11 September 1993, near Lake George, Anoka County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:207–208).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 25–26 July 1993, near Hubbard, Hubbard County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:214).
- Pacific Loon, 18–21 October 1993, Forest Lake, Washington County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:45–46).
- Red-throated Loon, 17 October 1993, Duluth, St. Louis County (vote 7–0).
- Pacific Loon, 25 September 1993, Duluth, St. Louis County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:45–46).
- Anna's Hummingbird, 18 October 1993, Wyoming Township, Chisago County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:3–5).
- Sabine's Gull, 20–27 September 1993, Waterville, Le Sueur County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:210–212).
- California Gull, 20 October 1993, Forest Lake, Washington County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:45).
- Pacific Loon, 15–24 October 1993, Garrison, Crow Wing County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:45–46).
- Townsend's Warbler, 27 August 1993, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 65:206–207).
- Pacific Loon, 30 October – 7 November 1993, Two Harbors, Lake County (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:45–46).
- Louisiana Waterthrush, 4 October 1993, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (vote 7–0).
- Gyrfalcon, 28 November – 4 December 1993, Grand Marais, Cook County (vote 7–0).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 29 September – 3 December 1993, Hennepin and Dakota counties (vote 7–0; *The Loon* 66:46–47).
- Iceland Gull, 10 November 1993, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (vote 5–2).

8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.



NOTES OF INTEREST

CALIFORNIA GULL AT FOREST LAKE — While looking for a Pacific Loon that had been reported previously on Forest Lake, Washington County, I had the opportunity to observe a second-winter California Gull. The date was 20 October 1993 at 7:45 A.M. There were partly cloudy skies with a light westerly breeze. The gull was first seen flying along the west shore of the lake. What drew my attention to the bird was the all-dark tail and white rump. There was no terminal band on the tail that would be typical of a second-year Ring-billed Gull. The bird landed on the concrete boat land-



ing, where I could compare it directly with Ring-billed Gulls. The individual was larger; the bill was black-tipped; the head and breast white but heavily flecked with brownish streaks, especially on the breast. The eye was dark; the legs greenish; the mantle was gray; the primaries were dark, blackish brown; the secondaries were the same but outlined with white; the wing coverts brownish. After noting these field marks (in less than 30 seconds), the bird flew out over the lake and I noted the all-dark tail and white rump. I went back to the car and sketched the tail. I feel the all-dark tail in this plumage of a California Gull is a good field mark for this species, when comparing a Ring-billed Gull of the same age. I have never seen a Ring-billed Gull in Minnesota with more than approximately one-fourth or less of the tail dark, giving a definite terminal-banded appearance. This represents the first record for a California Gull in Washington County and one of few records for this species in eastern Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305.**

FALL 1993 PACIFIC LOON RECORDS — From mid-September to mid-November 1993, there were at least seven records of Pacific Loons in Minnesota. These records were from the eastern part of the state, four from Lake Superior, one from Mille Lacs Lake, another from Forest Lake, and the final record from Albert Lea Lake along the Iowa border. The following is a summary of these records. On 18 September, Tony Hertzell and others saw a winter-plumaged individual along the north shore of Lake Superior in St. Louis County. On 25 and 26 September, Karl Bardon, Dudley Edmondson and others saw a breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon on Lake Superior off Park Point, Duluth. From their descriptions and sketch, it was probably the same individual that



was seen on both dates. At almost the exact same location, a breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon was seen again by Karl Bardon on 15 October. Whether or not this was the same individual seen in September could not be determined. Mike Hendrickson found a winter-plumaged individual on Lake Superior, Good Harbor Bay, Cook County, on 15 October. From 15 to 24 October, a juvenile individual was seen on Mille Lacs Lake, Crow Wing County, by many observers; it was originally discovered by Bill Marengo. Karl Bardon located another juvenile individual on Forest Lake, Washington County, on 18 October. This bird remained in this area until 20 October. Paul Egeland, Mike Hendrickson, and others identified a winter-plumaged Pacific Loon in the harbor at Two Harbors, Lake County, on 30 October. This bird remained in the harbor until 7 November. On 15 and 16 November, Scott Mehus and Ray Glassel observed a winter-plumaged individual on Albert Lea Lake, Freeborn County. These seven, possibly eight, records of individual Pacific Loons represent the largest influx of this casual species into the state. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305.**

“WILD” TRUMPETER RAISES A FAMILY — A “first” documented in the continuing saga of the Minnesota DNR’s Trumpeter Swan restoration population was recorded in the summer of 1993. A female trumpeter, hatched and fledged from the Hubbel Pond Wildlife Management Area (Becker County) during the summer of 1989, has mated and the pair successfully reared a family of five cygnets in northwestern Minnesota. This female bird was captured and tagged at the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in the fall of 1989. Her mate was a bird released in 1992 in the same area. Both birds have spent the winters on the Mississippi River near Monticello, Wright County. On 3 June 1993, Tamarac Refuge personnel received a call from a landowner in northwestern Becker County, stating that a pair of swans had nested in a marsh on their property. A visit to the site confirmed that the pair indeed had five cygnets, and the wing tag numbers were noted. The family, with all five cygnets, has been seen at Monticello as late as 12 December 1993, and are doing well. The family group was included in the total of more than 75 swans counted on the river that weekend. **Betsy Beneke and Lowell Deede, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Rochert, MN 56578; and Steve Kittelson, Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, MN 55155.**



ADULT LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL IN THE TWIN CITIES — During the fall and early winter of 1993, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was once again seen in the Twin Cities. This is the second fall in a row that an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull has been seen with the large gull concentrations at Lakes Calhoun and Harriet, Hennepin County, and Black Dog Lake, Dakota County, and quite possibly involves the same individual. My first observation of a possible adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in 1993 was at dusk on Lake Minnetonka, Hennepin County on 29 September, when I tentatively identified one with roosting Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, but I failed to relocate this bird at this location on subsequent days. Interestingly, the adult Lesser Black-backed Gull seen in the Twin Cities in 1992 was also first seen at Lake Minnetonka, but the date was considerably later — 21 November (*The Loon* 64:232). The first positive sighting of the 1993 individual did not occur until 27 October at Lake Calhoun, when I observed the bird again at dusk with other roosting gulls, but the light conditions were better, and I was able to observe the nearly black mantle, the black primaries with white primary tips, the small size (size of a small Herring Gull) and slim appearance, and the small, yellowish bill with little swelling at the gonyes as on larger gulls. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was not seen again at Lake Calhoun until 13 November when Steve Carlson observed the bird roosting with other gulls, and it was seen there again on 18–19 November, but was not

present on the weekend 20–21 November when many observers showed up to look for it. Similar to the 1992 sightings, the bird ranged back and forth between the city lakes and Black Dog Lake, where it was observed on 28 November on the Lake Calhoun with 1000 Herring Gulls, and on 3 December when it was seen roosting on the lake at dusk. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was last seen on the city lakes on 8–9 December, and it was last reported at Black Dog Lake on 11 December. Throughout this period the bird remained somewhat elusive, often only being seen at dusk far out on the lakes with other gulls, but several observers including Steve Carlson and Jeff Dains observed it well enough to see the yellow leg color, clinching the identification. Throughout these observations, the bird maintained its small size and slim appearance, never appearing any larger than a small Herring Gull. The head was moderately streaked with gray/brown, forming a vague hooded effect, the small bill was all yellow with a reddish spot on the lower mandible, and the black primaries were slightly darker than the mantle. Lesser Black-backed Gulls have become almost regular in the Twin Cities, with ten records in five of the past seven years. Additional sightings can be expected. **Karl Bardon, 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.**

FIRST SUMMER SEASON RECORD OF SWAINSON'S HAWK IN ST LOUIS COUNTY

COUNTY — On 8 July 1993, I received a call at the DNR Area Wildlife Office in Eveleth from a farmer in Britt, Minnesota, who had found an injured hawk. I queried the caller on the identity of the hawk and he responded that it was a “big hawk!!”? Expecting to find a Red-tailed Hawk, I drove north to his farm. We walked a quarter mile to a power line on the south side of his hay field. I immediately determined that it was not a Red-tailed Hawk. The large *buteo* was alive, but could not fly. After a short chase, I was able to capture it. There appeared to be no external physical injuries.



Swainson's Hawk, 8 July 1993, St. Louis County. Photo by Steve Wilson.

Unfortunately, the bird died before it could be flown to The Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Minneapolis. My initial feeling was that I had a Red-shouldered Hawk, which does not nest in St. Louis County. I asked Steve Wilson for an assist in identifying the bird. After reviewing a half dozen bird books, we are confident that it was a dark morph Swainson's Hawk. The bird measured 48cm bill to tail and had a 120cm wingspan. According to *Birds of Minnesota*, this is the first summer season record of a Swainson's Hawk in northeast Minnesota, including St. Louis County. The summer period sighting is even more perplexing. Was it an isolated individual, blown in by the 3 July 1993 storm that dropped five inches of rain across central St. Louis County? Or was it a breeding adult? Credit is due Wesley Esalla of Britt, Minnesota, for finding the bird, and Steve Wilson of Tower, Minnesota, for identifying and photographing it. **Tom Rusch, Department of Natural Resources, Section of Wildlife, 2005 Highway 37, Eveleth, MN 55734.**

RECORD LATE TENNESSEE WARBLER — This is to let you know about a case we had at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, at the University of Minnesota. On 20 November 1993, we received a Tennessee Warbler, which had been observed flying into a window earlier that same day. The bird was an adult. It suffered head trauma from the impact with the window and died on 22 November 1993 as a result. Its case number at the clinic was 4754-93. Its weight was nine grams. The latest sighting of a Tennessee Warbler in Minnesota, according to *Birds in Minnesota* (Janssen 1987) is 11 November. **Sheila Sewell, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.**



A LATE EASTERN PHOEBE — I observed an Eastern Phoebe in Hennepin County at Bass Ponds Environmental Study Area, which is part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, at midday on 24 November 1994. It was an overcast day and the temperature was in the low 30s. The wind made it feel considerably colder. There was no snow cover and the ponds were free of ice. (It snowed several inches that evening and the next day.) I was hoping to locate some late stragglers, e.g. American Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds. I had seen only a few species — Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Mallards, and Ring-necked Duck (one) when I spotted a bird in some small trees along the trail near the stream flowing out of Minnow Pond. I didn't get a good look at the bird then, but from its posture and profile, it looked like some kind of tyrant flycatcher. I thought it could be an Eastern Phoebe, but got too brief a glimpse to be sure. I walked to the edge of Minnow Pond and looked across to the overhanging brush and saplings. The phoebe was there, moving about in the small trees and brush. I had a good, unobstructed view across the pond, a distance of about 75 feet. I observed the bird for about five minutes with 7x35 binoculars. The most striking feature of the bird was the frequent bobbing of its tail. It had no discernible eye rings or wing bars. These features eliminated the species with which it could most easily be confused — Eastern Wood-Pewee and the empidonax flycatchers. Moreover, it was clearly larger than the empidonax species and in fact, due to fluffing of its feathers, seemed a little larger than phoebes normally appear. It had a whitish throat and was yellowish-white on underparts. (It seemed a bit more yellowish than I'm used to seeing on phoebes earlier in the year.) There was no vocalization. Although positive of my identification, I consulted my Peterson field guide while the bird was still in sight, to double-check all field marks. I knew this was late in the season for Eastern Phoebes, but I didn't know exactly what the record showed. When I arrived at home a couple of hours later, I checked *The Loon* (vol. 65:2) for the 1992 fall season report. I learned that the latest record for southern Minnesota was 28 October in Olmsted County. I then checked *Birds in Minnesota* (Janssen 1987), where I found the

records of four sightings in November in southern Minnesota (9, 11, 13, and 30 November). Douglas Jenness, 2061 Shepard Road, #206, St. Paul, MN 55116.

Editor's Note: The above report constitutes the third latest date on record for the Eastern Phoebe in Minnesota. The latest date in November is 30 November 1986 of a single bird seen on the campus of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis (*The Loon* 59:47). Most unusual was a single bird seen on 15 and 16 December 1990 near Dresbach, Winona County (*The Loon* 63:62).

EUROPEAN STARLINGS DIE FROM BATHING IN FRIGID WEATHER —



The outdoor temperature was -22°F , with a wind-chill factor in the -50s on 18 January 1994, so I was surprised to see a European Starling and a House Sparrow bathing in my heated bird bath. I realized there was a problem in the making, so I continued watching. Before the starling finished its bath, a second starling flew from a nearby shrub in labored flight just above the ground to land in the snow. Then clambering up on a branch, it attempted to fly again, but merely ran, using its wings for extra push. Making a very strange track in the snow, it fell into a hole in the snow, where it died. The starling in the bird bath flew to the same shrub and began the usual drying procedure, shaking its wings and tail, fluffing its body feathers, and trying to preen. But there was a difference. The bird became more jerky in its movements and may have seemed a bit frantic. Probably five minutes passed (it seemed like 15); after it moved to three or four different branches, each one lower than the last, it fell dead on the snow. Later, I found three more frozen starlings nearby, by following the strange tracks, and the mail carrier told me about another one not far away. The House Sparrow disappeared. I think it was much less wet than the starling and might not have died. On many days since late November, 50 to more than 100 House Sparrows were at my feeders, and many bathed even when the temperature was below freezing. Sometimes they took a communal bath in a frenzy of excitement; however, I didn't notice any problems. What could possess a bird to cause it to bathe in really frigid weather? Excepting specially adapted water birds, few birds venture into water at such a time. Many birds bathe in snow melt water on warm winter days. I remember numbers of Red Crossbills in March 1988 reveling in a little pool of water on the frozen black dirt of my garden during a warm spell. Though they had been using the heated bird bath to some extent (not in subzero temperatures), they didn't display such exuberance then. After a note about the starling deaths appeared in Ron Schara's column of 10 January 1994 in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, a birder called me to say that starlings were about the only bird to use her bird bath. William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

A BELL'S VIREO NEAR BAYPORT, WASHINGTON COUNTY —



On 19 September 1993, while engaged in one of my breeding bird surveys on the St. Croix Savanna Scientific and Natural Area, I came across a small group of migrants and Black-capped Chickadees moving along the edge of the large ravine which runs to the St. Croix River. The little flock included a Scarlet Tanager, a couple of Nashville Warblers, a Black-throated Green Warbler, two Chestnut-sided Warblers (one with some chestnut markings on its side), one Solitary Vireo, and a vireo that some writers have described as nondescript, a Bell's Vireo! Compared to the Solitary Vireo, this bird was smaller and more active. It had a hint of an eye-ring and it had a wingbar (not two, as in the Chestnut-sided). It was colored rather like the Orange-crowned Warbler and like a female Nashville Warbler, but with less yellow underneath. It was very much like the description of the Bell's Vireo in the National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, which I was consulting at the time. In about 53 years of fairly intensive bird study, I have

seen many nondescript birds which turn out to be "descript" if observed long enough under favorable conditions. But even this bird might have been a question if it had not "sung" out in the way Bell's Vireo are said to do, even as I watched it! Some books say its voice is not musical, but this bird's voice was music to my ears. It sang three times, "Cheedle cheedle chee, cheedle cheedle chew," as R. T. Peterson's *Field Guide To Eastern Birds* have indicated. I was heading east perhaps 200 yards west of the St. Croix River and just west of Highway 95 as I encountered the birds heading west. I was on the bank of the ravine. The birds were at shrubtop and lower tree canopy height, which placed them a little above my eye level, as the ravine bank here drops sharply about 20 feet down. They were close, 20 to 30 feet away; the day was bright and partly cloudy, the sun was high, and the time was 12:10 P.M. William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

Editor's Note: This represents the second latest date on record for a Bell's Vireo in Minnesota. The latest date is 24 September in Rock County.

A FIRST-WINTER GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL — Saturday, 18 December



1993, Peder Svingen and I were covering part of our territory during the Duluth Christmas Bird Count in the Canal Park area. Peder spotted a first-winter Great Black-backed Gull sitting on the port of entry break wall. The bird was observed approximately 75 yards away through his Kowa spotting scope with a 40x eye piece. It was 3:15 P.M. and we were looking east into overcast skies. The gull sat on the wall between numerous juvenile and adult Herring Gulls, with a distant adult Glaucous Gull further

down the line. All the birds sat on the far left break wall, facing town. After Peder returned from his car with a pencil and paper, I wrote the entire description as he called it out, observing the bird through his own scope. The following notes were transcribed directly and unedited, and are as follows: "Larger gull, larger than Herring. Light pink legs. All black bill, very large. Thickest at the gonys. Length of legs nearly 50% longer than Herring. Underparts overall pale tan, with dark brown spotting along sides of upper breast. Upper parts show neatly checkered pattern. Large, squarish, dark brown back feathers, each edged in tan or white. Head pale, finely streaked on crown, nape and sides of neck. Bird was especially white on the face at the base of the upper mandible. Under side of tail showing sub-terminal blackish band. Under tail coverts showing whitish with brown tips." Peder and I would trade places for awhile so I could confirm the description he gave me with my own eyes through the scope. While Peder and I took a break from the scope to review the notes he had given me, the bird took flight. At that time, the following field marks were noted: "Narrow terminal band about 3/4 of an inch thick, on tail. Upper tail coverts all white. Underside of bird uniformly gray, including underwing. Dorsal side of primaries was dark. In flight, bird was also obviously larger than Herrings." Observation ended at 3:30 P.M., when bird flew into the harbor near Bayfront Park. Dudley Edmondson, 4302 Cooke St., Duluth, MN 55804.

FALL MIGRATION OF CASPIAN TERNS IN THE TWIN CITIES — For the past



seven years (1987–1993), I have made counts of Caspian Terns migrating through the Twin Cities region during the fall season from July to October. Although most counts were taken from the sandbar on the west side of Lake Vadnais, Ramsey County, other locations where counts were taken include the main beach at White Bear Lake, Ramsey County, and the sandbar just east of the power plant at Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. These locations provide loafing areas for the birds during the day.

Although Janssen (*Birds in Minnesota*, 1987) states that no peak period is noted during the fall migration period, and that most birds have left by mid-September, I have observed a

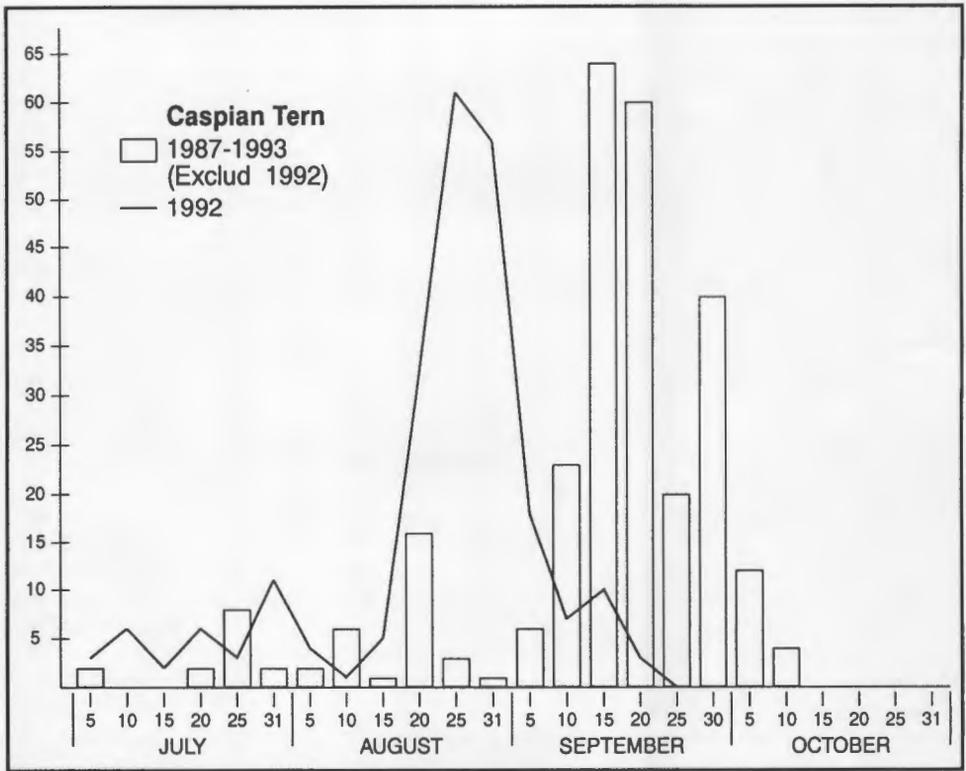


Figure 1. Highest counts of Caspian Terns for each 5-day period, July-October.

consistent peak in mid- to late-September (Figure 1). Counts at one location on one day have been as high as fifty to sixty birds. The peak of Caspian Tern migration generally coincides with the first major cold front in mid-September. Although seasonal reports in *The Loon* regularly list “early south” dates in August (average early south date over past ten year period is 17 August), fall migration probably begins in late July. During this study, observations were recorded in late July in five out of the past seven years. Although the average “late south” date over the past ten years (from seasonal reports in *The Loon*) is 7 October, Caspian Terns were recorded in early October from only three out of the past seven years during this study. A significant percentage of the Caspian Terns in September are often juvenile birds, which are often accompanied and fed by the adults. Juvenile birds have been recorded as early as 31 August, and as late as 7 October. The fall 1992 migration was exceptional: it began sooner than normal, with small numbers present throughout July, and it peaked nearly a month earlier than normal (Figure 1). The presence of two, three and six Caspian Terns on (coincidentally) 2, 3 and 6 July respectively is unusual since the previous early dates reported for southern Minnesota were 8, 9, 14 and 24 July (Janssen, 1987). There were “roughly twice the usual number of reports” during the 1992 summer season in Minnesota (*The Loon* 65:23), and an amazing 28 birds were seen at Forest Lake, Washington County on 25 June 1992 (*American Birds* 46:1138). This exceptional migration can possibly be attributed to the very cold and wet summer in the north, causing a poor breeding season. This conclusion is further supported by the observation of only one juvenile seen during the fall 1992 migration. Karl Bardon, 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

FEATHER ICING AS A POSSIBLE ICE STORM MORTALITY FACTOR — A severe ice storm on 7 February 1994 left everything — trees, shrubs and roads — covered with a 3/8th inch coating of ice making feeding difficult for local birds. This was in the Columbus, Ohio area, where I am a temporary resident while teaching. After the storm ended, my wife and I watched as American Robins attempted to feed on ice encrusted small crab apples of the massive flowering crab tree just off our second floor porch. My wife took pity on the robins and thawed buckets of the small apples in warm water to remove the ice and soften them to a “mushy” consistency before scattering them on the ground. She also increased the seed available on our porch feeder and deck for the numerous Northern Cardinals, House Finches, Mourning Doves and House Sparrows that came to use it. Rarely have I sat so near to feeding birds in the past, less than three feet from them in my easy chair. I first noticed ice on the tail feathers of a crippled female cardinal who comes to feed daily, then on several others. Small patches of ice on the head and back (less than .5 cm) were common to nearly half the cardinals I saw. Most had some ice on their tail feathers varying from none to ice occupying .5 to 3 square centimeters of the tail surface and the latter actually preventing the complete spreading of the tail for flight as they attempted departure. By early afternoon we had acquired 45–50 robins on the ground below our porch and had distributed three to four gallons of thawed crab apples. As I went down to a neighboring tree to get more apples, I took the opportunity to inspect the robins closely as they fed. Fully one in four of the robins also had iced tails, some with heavy layers over more than half the tail surface. As I had noted with the cardinals earlier, the robins made numerous attempts, largely ineffectual, to remove the ice by preening actions when they were not actively feeding. I approached five robins with the heaviest coatings to determine the possible affect of the ice on their flight performance. None of these birds was able to fan the tail for takeoff or landing. At best, they could move one or two of the outer tail feathers independently on one side of the tail. Their attempts at flight appeared very labored and they were unable to change directions abruptly to avoid obstacles and branches while airborne. As a pilot, I could sympathize with them and understand their difficulties. The ice created two separate, though related, problems when dealing with the physics of flight, thus for the birds as they tried to fly. The first problem is that of inability to use the tail for “ruddering” during turns. Normally the tail fans and slants to create the appropriate coordination needed for smooth banking turns, helping to pivot the body in the air. Failure to rudder properly produces uncoordinated “skidding or slipping” turns. While birds are not airplanes and may have more flexibility in altering flight actions, our best understanding of the mechanism of their control is that it is “hard-wired” into the neural circuits during early flight experience. It becomes a “reflex” type of muscle control, much like human walking which we do without thinking about the actions involved. As such, it is unlikely that immediate conscious adjustments could be made by the bird to compensate for ice preventing tail feather functions. The second problem is one of weight and balance. Ice on the tail adds weight to the bird and increases the energy needed to overcome gravity and accomplish flight. As if added weight alone weren’t enough of a handicap, the placement of that weight on the tail makes the bird very tail-heavy. Flight normally requires weight to be placed near the center of gravity near the wing base of the bird for greatest efficiency. In aircraft, as added weight is moved farther back from the center of gravity the effect of that weight in pivoting the tail downward increases as a square of the distance from the center of gravity. To illustrate, if I place a 12 pound battery in my 1946 Aeronica Chief light aircraft, it has little noticeable influence on flight or climb performance, if it is placed in the passenger compartment close to the center of gravity of the plane. However, when that same battery is installed 12 feet behind the plane’s center of gravity, it is beyond the ability of control surfaces to compensate for its presence and I can’t even raise the tail off the ground to obtain flight. Even a few grams of ice on the tail of a small bird might be expected to have a similar effect on flight energetics and ability. So, what’s the point of this

long narrative, you might well ask? Upon seeing these birds with ice build up on their tails, it occurred to me that this might help explain reports of high mortality of birds following ice storms. Four possible causes of increased mortality present themselves: first increased accidental deaths from striking trees and wires due to reduced maneuverability in flight when the tail feathers are restricted in movement; second, increased predation as a result of greater vulnerability and reduced escape capability; third, reduced access to food since much of it is locked away beneath the ice and unavailable; and fourth, increased energy demands of flight with additional weight of ice on tail surfaces well behind the center of gravity. The latter causes the bird to fly in a "tail down" attitude and present a much larger surface to the airstream, thus increasing overall drag. At a time when food is scarce or inaccessible because of ice cover, such additional energy demands may spell the difference between life and death for birds already stressed by a long winter of short rations. Studies reported by Calder and King (Calder, W. A. and J. R. King. 1974. Thermal and Caloric Relations in Birds. In D. S. Farner, J. R. King, and K. C. Parkes (eds.), Avian Biology. Academic Press, New York, Vol. 4, pp. 259-413.) have shown many passerine species have energy reserves barely adequate to last 24-36 hours in extreme cold without food. Due to a spell of cold weather that followed the ice storm, ice was still present on the tails of some of the robins we were feeding 72 hours after the storm ended. This is a long time to try to survive until returning warmth melted the ice away. I think the evidence suggests that accidents, and icing may be contributors to avian mortality following ice storms, and that food shortage alone may not be the sole cause of death in such cases. A comparison of mortality between cavity roosting species (which theoretically would be protected from icing) and those species which roost in unprotected sites, might yield further insight in the matter of whether residual icing increased mortality in the days following the storm or not.

Dr. Philip C. Whitford, Biology Department, Capital University, Columbus, OH 43209.

Editors Note: My editorial policy concerning articles published in *The Loon* has been to use only Minnesota material. Dr. Whiteford is a Minnesota resident on temporary teaching assignment in Ohio and a long term member of the M.O.U. I felt this article was of general interest to Minnesota birders, thus the exception to previous policy.

SUMMER RECORD FOR FERRUGINOUS HAWK — On 5 June 1993, an immature



Ferruginous Hawk was seen at Rothsay Wildlife Management Area in Wilkin County. The bird was briefly observed standing on the ground, and then carefully studied in flight as it took off and soared northward out of sight. Details of this observation were recorded at the time of the observation, and a sketch of the bird was made. In flight, this large buteo showed prominent white wing patches at the base of most flight feathers, extending from the leading edge of the wing inward into the secondaries. The

white markings were confined to the basal portion of each flight feather, while the tip of all flight feathers were darker, resulting in the white wing patches appearing as long white wing stripes, similar to that shown on a species such as Sanderling. The white wing stripe was most prominent on the base of the primaries, and became somewhat broken on the inner secondaries. These white wing patches were dramatically different from the rectangular wing patches extending to the trailing edge of the inner primaries occasionally shown by Red-tailed Hawks. The tips of the outer primaries on the Ferruginous Hawk were blackish, contrasting sharply with the white wing stripe. The coverts and mantle were a uniform warm brown, without the whitish spotting shown by many Red-tailed Hawks, but without the distinct reddish cast shown by an adult Ferruginous. The dorsal surface of the tail and upper tail coverts was tinged with a light, warm brown on the distal one third, and white on the basal two thirds. The ventral surface of the tail was not seen well, but no

distinct banding or color was noted. Ventrally, the wing surface was very white, with only the tips of the outer primaries blackish, forming black wing tips. There was no distinct band along the trailing edge of the wing, and the lack of a dark patagial bar as shown on Red-tailed Hawks was carefully noted. The tip of the primary coverts were blackish, forming a conspicuous, comma-shaped black mark on the underside of the wing at the wrist. The entire underparts from the throat to the vent were white, with no streaking on the belly. Finally, the reddish tarsal feathering shown by adult Ferruginous Hawks was lacking on this immature. Although this species is a rare but regular migrant in western Minnesota, it is only casual in summer. This observation, limited experience with this species in the



RED-TAILED HAWK
DORSAL VIEW



FERRUGINOUS HAWK
DORSAL VIEW



FERRUGINOUS HAWK
VENTRAL VIEW

Immature Ferruginous Hawk, 5 June 1993, Rothsay, Wilkin County, compared to immature Red-tailed Hawk. Sketch by Karl Bardon.

western United States, and examination of photos and illustrations in all current field guides suggest to me that there is a distinct difference in the location and shape of the white wing patches of Red-tailed Hawks and Ferruginous Hawks. This problem has not been adequately addressed in the literature. Clark claims the white patch on the upper surface of

the wing of Ferruginous Hawks is shared by other buteos and is not diagnostic. Although the white wing patch shown by Red-tailed Hawks can be variable, and it is not shown by all individuals, it is generally rectangular in shape and occurs parallel to the axis of the body. This patch occurs on the basal portion of the outer primaries, on the entire feather of most inner primaries, and on the primary coverts. It does not extend into the secondaries (look especially at the photo in Clark on page 145, and the illustration in the Audubon Society *Master Guide to Birding* on page 249). The patch on Ferruginous Hawks is usually wider than Red-tailed Hawks, and occurs perpendicular to the axis of the body. It usually occurs as shafts of white on the basal portion of the outer and inner primaries, and it also may extend into the secondaries (look especially at the photos in Dunne on page 188, in Peterson on page 146, the illustration in National Geographic, and the excellent drawing by Steve Millard in *The Loon* 56:268). The patch on Ferruginous Hawks does not extend all the way to trailing edge of the wing on the inner primaries as on Red-tailed Hawks, and nor does it occur on the primary coverts. This difference in white wing patches on Ferruginous Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks was acknowledged by Dunne, who states (page 28) that the white patches on Ferruginous hawks are "more restricted," and "the white does not extend down the length of the flight feather but is confined to the feather base. The wing patch on Krider's forms large rectangular patches which encompass the outer flight feathers." Given the many similarities between Krider's Red-tailed and Ferruginous hawks, and the rarity of Ferruginous Hawks in Minnesota, more accurate attention to this important difference between these two species is warranted.

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Karl Bardon, 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

MOURNING DOVES HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HEATED BIRD BATHS — A few



Mourning Doves began using my bird bath, for drinking only, in the winter of 1988–89. They stayed in the area all winter. They stayed in increasing numbers over the next two winters. In the winter of 1990–91, about 30 Mourning Doves were here continually. At that time, I noticed that after drinking at the bird bath, the doves would turn around on the edge of the bird bath and sit with their tails in the water. A few picked up enough ice to hinder their flight. Since I band birds during the warm seasons of the year, I was able to examine some trapped doves. I found in the next couple of years that 12 of them had lost a few toenails, some even lost all of their nails, or suffered other injury to their toes. I am forced to conclude that getting their feet wet in exceptionally cold weather was the cause of these injuries. Because of such a possibility, I have experimented with several devices to prevent birds from getting wet, while still permitting them to drink from the bath. A section of plastic-coated wire fencing fitted over the bird bath is effective. Just an aluminum pot turned over to cover all but the outer inch or two around the bird bath rim has worked quite well. **William H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.**

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds; we aim to create and increase public interest in birds; and to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims: through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field



trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.

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SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* welcome submissions of articles, "Notes of Interest" and color or black & white photographs. Preferably, articles and Notes of Interest should be typed, double-spaced and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two pages. Photographs should be 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a copy of your manuscript on a 3½ inch MS/DOS or Macintosh disk. If reprints are desired, the author should so specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editors. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Peder Svngen. See inside front cover.

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"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season" request the report form from the Editor of "The Season," Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th St, Duluth, MN 55812-1533.

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Minnesota's First Documented* Record of Townsend's Warbler

Kim Risen

While leading a group of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis birders attending the annual M.O.U. Salt Lake Weekend in Lac Qui Parle County, I was shocked by the sudden appearance of a male Townsend's Warbler. We were birding along the Yellow Bank River in extreme northwestern Lac Qui Parle County, less than a mile east of the South Dakota border (Section 17, Yellow Bank Township). This area, containing a small stream with heavily wooded banks completely surrounded by open farmland, is a recognized migrant trap. The wooded area also contains a small grove of spruce and cedar trees that hosted Minnesota's second Hermit Warbler (Rhume, 1983). Because of its reputation gained by that previous sighting, and by limited success there during earlier birding trips, I felt that it was an area our group should visit during our trip. Sometimes lightning does strike twice!

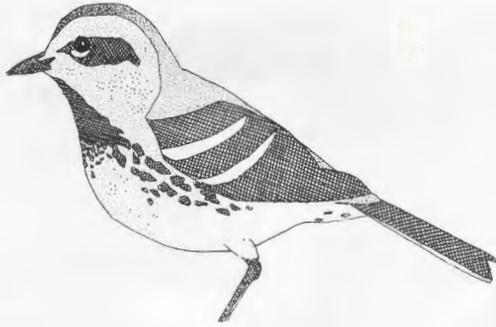
While checking the spruces along the road for passerines, a warbler with much yellow anteriorly was seen to fly from one spruce to another. Speculation was made by some observers present that it may have been a Blackburnian Warbler. I was able to catch a brief glimpse of the bird's head before it disappeared into the spruce once again. Having just returned from California, where I was able to observe many Townsend's Warblers, I readily identified it as a Townsend's Warbler. My disbelief made me want to get a better look at the bird just to make sure my eyes were not deceiving me. For a few very tense moments the bird was content to remain hidden within the spruce boughs. When the bird did present itself once again for a few seconds, I confirmed those field marks of a Townsend's Warbler: yellow on the face and upper breast, black cheek and throat, white

belly. At this point, oblivious to the group I was supposed to be leading, I blurted out a very animated cry of "Townsend's Warbler!" Of course the bird disappeared into the spruce tree, and was once again hidden from view for a few minutes. Parker Backstrom, who had not yet seen the bird, appeared somewhat tense (for someone who did not believe, at the time, that the identification was correct) as we tried to get a better view of the warbler. The warbler soon reappeared and remained content to feed in the outer portions of the spruce trees present allowing the entire group ample study time.

Both Parker and I recognized immediately the significance of this observation — only the third record for Minnesota and that it was a species that had never been fully documented (by specimen, photograph or recording) in the state. Two birders/photographers in the group, Yung-i Chien and Wen Kai Weng, ran to the van to get cameras and film. Soon all three of us had photographs that we could only hope would turn out.

As the warbler continued to feed and move about in the spruce trees Parker made some field sketches/notes and I attempted to photograph as many features of the bird as I could. A detailed and complete description, documented with photographs, was obtained as follows: bill and legs black; black mask against a yellow face was broken only by a yellow crescent directly below the black eye; forehead and crown were black blending to olive green on the nape; back was olive green showing thin dark streaks, chin and throat were black with the bottom edge of the throat ragged and fading to black speckling on a yellow breast; black streaks from the throat running along the flanks diminishing posteriorly; yellow breast fading to a white belly, flanks and vent; the vent had a few dark streaks when

* By photograph.



Townsend's Warbler, 30 April 1994. Sketch by Parker Backstrom.

viewed from below; wings were dark with two obvious, moderate width whitish wingbars; tail was dark in the center on the dorsal surface showing white outer two rectrices with dark inner webs creating a largely white ventral surface when viewed from below; no songs were heard but several calls given infrequently consisted of short, sharp and slightly metallic "tsip" notes. Another group of birders attending the Salt Lake Weekend soon showed up and were treated to this unexpected surprise! Although everyone in this group was able to observe the bird, other birders directed to this location later in the day were unable to relocate it. However, the bird was relocated by other birders the next day, and, at one point, in the same tree as the aforementioned Hermit Warbler (Dick Rhume, Bill Litkey pers. comm.).

The Townsend's Warbler is a bird of the coniferous forest areas from central Alaska south and east to western Montana and northwestern Wyoming (Farrand, 1983, Peterson, 1990). It is a regular vagrant to the eastern U.S., although a majority of the records I found in American Birds appear to be from the fall/winter. Minnesota's first record of Townsend's Warbler was also of a male, and in the spring (22 May 1979), but was seen only for a few minutes by a single observer and was unable to be relocated later in the day (Clauson, 1979). Minnesota's second record occurred only last fall (27 August 1993) and once again

could not be relocated by other observers. Some discussion of Townsend's Warbler vagrancy was made as a result of that observation, also indicating that the more expected pattern would have more records in the fall versus spring (Wanschura and Tustison, 1993). I find it very interesting that three of Minnesota's four records have occurred in the spring. Wait a minute! This was only the third Minnesota record. That's true, but it was soon followed (by only a few hours!) by Minnesota's fourth, and also in Lac Qui Parle County! That observation by Tony Hertzell and Ann Vogel, further documents one of Minnesota's most unusual bird events.

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5756 Brunswick Ave. N., Crystal, MN, 55429.

Another Townsend's Warbler Record

Anthony Hertzell and Ann Vogel

On Saturday 30 April 1994, we were birding the eastern edge of Lac Qui Parle County when we discovered and identified a female Townsend's Warbler. The bird was actively feeding at or near the top of a Juniper along the southwestern bank of Lac Qui Parle Lake. Specifically, this location was 2.1 miles north of County Road 48 along County Road 33 in section 9 of Lac Qui Parle County. The time was approximately 6:30 P.M. and the sun was to our backs. There was no wind and the early evening sky was still bright.

While observing the bird for about fifteen minutes, we each independently noted and discussed the following field marks:

A warbler, dark gray with a slight greenish tinge overall. The back was slightly lighter and the wings a shade darker gray. The crown and hind neck were dark, nearly black. The face had a distinctive pattern of bright yellow with a dark mask. The mask caused the yellow to appear as a wide, open triangle: beginning at the bill, this yellow marking extended from the base of the upper mandible, over and back (above the eye), then angling slightly downward, stopping at the junction of the hind neck and the shoulder of the wing. Turning, it angled down the outer edge of the face following the shoulder line and, finally, swept up to meet the lower mandible. The yellow passed both above and beneath the bill to then mirror this pattern on the other side of the face. The eye was black within the dark mask, and was accompanied by a small but bold, yellow, U-shaped mark directly below it. The chin and upper throat were bright yellow. A thick, nearly black necklace extended completely across the throat, blending into (or becoming) dark streaking along the bird's flanks, bordering an otherwise bright yellow breast and upper belly, which

faded to white at the lower belly and undertail coverts. This necklace appeared to partially invade the otherwise yellow throat in a manner more suggestive of an incomplete molt rather than a plumage pattern. The tail was dark above and showed at least two whitish outer feathers. The wings held two wide, bold, white wingbars of approximate equal size, the upper wingbar being slightly larger. Legs and bill were dark. The bird did not vocalize.

This bird was often seen flycatching, picking at a large swarm of gnats that hovered nearby. It otherwise gleaned insects from the upper branches of the tree, moving nearly constantly.

We considered — and rejected — several other possible species. Black-throated Green Warbler has no yellow on the chin, throat or belly, and it lacks the wide, dark mask and dark crown. Hermit Warbler also lacks these field marks. The black markings of Blackburnian Warbler are similarly patterned to Townsend's Warbler, and immature males can be yellowish. However, Blackburnians lack the extensive black across the throat, being confined to a streaking along the flanks. Blackburnian would also show a patch of color (either yellow or orange, depending on the age of the bird) on the top of the head, which this bird lacked. Furthermore, the wingbars of Blackburnians are "weighted" quite differently. While improbable, Golden-cheeked Warbler could be considered. The wide mask of our bird, along with the extensive yellow of the chin, throat and breast effectively rule out this species. Magnolia Warbler has no yellow above the eye, and shows a yellow rump, which this bird lacked.

While we initially identified this as a female, after considering several references it is possible this bird was a male in incom-



TOWNSEND'S
WARBLER
4/30/94

Townsend's Warbler, 30 April 1994. Sketch by Anthony Hertzell.

plete spring molt. The spring molt of the Townsend's Warbler is usually completed sometime in April. Winter plumaged males take on the general appearance of females, with the exception of a more extensive dark band across the throat, a darker mask and crown and possibly bolder wingbars. This bird had all these characteristics.

References:

Pyle, Howell, Yunick and DeSante, *Identification Guide to North American Passerines*.
National Geographic, *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.
2509 Talmage Ave. SE Minneapolis MN 55414

Joanne Dempsey
1935-1993

Carol Schumacher
Jon Peterson

Joanne Dempsey was a consistent field person. Birding was a daily, exciting, "must do" that she worked into life and work. She had a keen eye and ear and could also pause to take in the primitive elegance

of a Sandhill Crane.

She most loved birding in Dakota County and knew it well. She documented sightings there of a Harlequin Duck, a Black-legged Kittiwake, Blue Grosbeaks,



Joanne Dempsey (left) with Rex Campbell and Elizabeth Bell. Photo taken on the Chippewa Prairie, Chippewa County, April 1980.

Barrow's Goldeneye and King Rail. She was a Seasonal Reporter since the Fall of 1975 and reported a Swainson's Hawk nest the following summer.

Joanne's birding expertise was well known in Hastings and she compiled the Christmas Bird Count there. It was like her to help Dr. Tordoff by checking daily for the Peregrine's arrival, (*Loon* 65:3). She was generous in sharing information. She nurtured "new" birders giving us her field guides, old scope, and most of all, her time and enthusiasm. 1411 Skyline Dr., Winona MN, 55987

For ten years Ann and I birded with Joanne. Some of us like birding; Joanne also liked the birds. While some of us scanned the Black Terns for a White-winged, Joanne also enjoyed the Black Terns. Around some birders I could feel I should have known what an immature male Orchard Oriole looked like. Some insecurity inside me was triggered by them. Joanne never triggered that in me. When someone in the group yelled "Peregrine" and it was a

Common Nighthawk, we could laugh and top each others' stories of misidentification. Joanne was "releasing"... I always felt better after being with her.

She was gentle in her questionings that invited me to critique my own sightings. She also accepted questioning of her sightings well, almost too well. She minimized her abilities and knowledge. She undercalled a lot of birds.

If there was anything about Joanne I marveled at and wish to develop in myself, it is balance. "Want to chase a Whooping Crane?" I'd ask. She'd respond with "...have to go to Katy's meet.... wait 'til your kids..." At first I felt bad for her with all her commitments until it dawned on me: these were thinly veiled "excuses". She really enjoyed her family's hectic schedule. This delighted her deep down, I feel, because she knew this phase of life would someday end, and like the flitting presence of a warbler, you better enjoy it while you can. Unhappily she was right and not as we expected. Joanne was someone I learned much from. Box 266, Wabasha MN, 55981

Breeding Bird Abundance Patterns in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests from 1991 to 1993

JoAnn M. Hanowski and Gerald J. Niemi

Introduction

Minnesota's unique geographical location and variety of habitats provides a home for a rich and diverse avifauna. About 304 species regularly occur in the State each year (Janssen 1987) and about 140 of these species are associated with forest habitats (Jaako Poyry 1993). Northern Minnesota's forests provide habitat for over 90% (130 species) of the species that require forested habitat in the State. Much of the forested land of northern Minnesota is under public ownership including about 3.5 million acres in the Superior and 660,000 acres in the Chippewa National Forests. These areas provide breeding habitat for a large proportion of the population of forest birds in the State and, therefore, information regarding the status of birds in these areas is integral to the future of these species.

We established habitat specific breeding bird monitoring programs in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests in 1991 (Hanowski and Niemi 1994). The objectives of the monitoring were to document annual trends in breeding bird abundance in the Forests, define avian/habitat relationships, and relate changes in forest composition to changes in bird numbers. Here we present results of data collected during a three year period and report: (1) analyses for species that have significantly increased or decreased in abundance over the three year period, and (2) comparisons of patterns of change in species abundance between the two Forests.

Study Areas

We randomly selected stands > 40 acres within forested habitat types in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests in

1991. Number of stands within each habitat type were proportional to the amount of each habitat within each Forest (see Hanowski and Niemi 1994). For example, because the most common habitat type in the Chippewa National Forest is upland deciduous, the most samples were placed in this habitat type. A total of 140 and 154 stands were selected within the Chippewa and Superior National Forests respectively. Each stand included three point counts, therefore 882 point counts were conducted in each year.

Methods

Bird census. We censused three point counts (10 minutes in duration) within each stand during the month of June in 1991, 1992, and 1993 with a 100 m fixed radius point count (Reynolds *et al.* 1980). This method is excellent for determining relative abundance of singing passerine species, but is inadequate for most raptors and waterfowl species. Censuses were conducted by observers trained in the identification of bird songs and were conducted from 0.5 hours before to 4 hours after sunrise. Censuses were generally conducted during good weather (e.g., wind < 15 mph and no precipitation). We recorded weather (cloud cover, temperature, and wind speed) and time of day the census was conducted. All birds heard or seen within 100 m from the center point were recorded in a circle with estimates of their distance from the center point.

Types of stands censused (forest cover type) were stratified by time of morning. For example, we avoided sampling all upland pine stands early or late in the morning. An exception to this time stratification

applied to lowland conifer stands which were on average censused later in the morning. This was due to the distance most of these stands were from a convenient access point. We controlled for observer variation by having each observer sample relatively the same number of stands in each forest type.

Statistical analyses. We used a repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) to test for differences in bird abundance between stands sampled from 1991 to 1993 (BMDP Statistical Software, Inc. 1992). Only bird species which were found in a minimum of 15 stands in one or more years were included in the analyses. Because bird species are closely associated with forest types, we did not include stands that had changed (e.g., logged) between years in tests of annual variation. The repeated measures technique is relevant when several measurements (e.g., multiple years) are taken on each experimental unit (the stand) and the measurements taken are correlated. The test is analogous to determining whether the health of a group of people is changing over time. Here the people are the stands and instead of monitoring blood pressure we are examining bird species relative abundance within each stand over time.

Results

A total of 117 species were recorded in both forests from 1991 to 1993 (Table 1). We observed 101 species in the Chippewa National Forest and 104 species in the Superior National Forest. Thirteen species were observed only in the Chippewa National Forest including the Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Black-backed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Warbling Vireo, Vesper Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. Sixteen species were counted exclusively in the Superior National Forest including the Wood Duck, American Kestrel, Spruce Grouse, American Woodcock, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Cliff Swallow, Marsh Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush,

Bay-breasted Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin (Table 1).

Relative abundance of individual species was similar among both forests for most species (Table 1). Overall, the mean number of individuals observed/stand was < 0.01 for many species (e.g., 44% and 55% of species in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests respectively). Only 8% and 7% of species in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests respectively had relative abundance > 1.0 individuals/stand.

A total of 63 species were abundant enough to conduct statistical analyses for trends in abundance from 1991 to 1993 (Table 1). Of these, 45 species were tested in both forests and were placed within four groups. The first group included four species that showed a significant increase in both forests including the Gray Jay, Winter Wren, Nashville Warbler, and American Redstart. A second group of 20 species increased, but not significantly so in both forests. These species were the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Solitary Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Pine Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Common Yellowthroat, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Table 1).

Only two species, the Red-eyed Vireo and White-throated Sparrow declined significantly in both Forests from 1991 to 1993. Nine species declined, but not significantly in both Forests. These species were the Ruffed Grouse, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Wood Pewee, Veery, Mourning Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak (Table 1).

Four species increased or decreased significantly in one forest from 1991 to 1993, but the pattern of change was opposite between the forests. The Cedar Waxwing and Yellow-rumped Warbler increased significantly in the Superior National Forest, but decreased significantly in the Chippewa National Forest. In contrast, the Red-breasted

Species	CHIPPEWA				SUPERIOR			
	1991	1992	1993	Change	1991	1992	1993	Change
Great Blue Heron	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.01	
Wood Duck	0.01	0.00	0.00					
Bald Eagle					0.01	0.00	0.00	
Sharp-shinned Hawk					0.01	0.00	0.00	
Cooper's Hawk					0.00	0.02	0.00	
Northern Goshawk					0.00	0.01	0.00	
Broad-winged Hawk	0.00	0.03	0.04		0.03	0.02	0.02	
Red-tailed Hawk	0.01	0.00	0.00					
American Kestrel					0.00	0.00	0.01	
Spruce Grouse					0.00	0.01	0.00	
Ruffed Grouse	0.03	0.11	0.02	↓↓	0.16	0.16	0.18	NS
Killdeer	0.01	0.01	0.00					
Common Snipe	0.01	0.01	0.04		0.01	0.01	0.01	
American Woodcock					0.00	0.01	0.00	
Mourning Dove	0.01	0.00	0.00					
Black-billed Cuckoo	0.04	0.02	0.00		0.02	0.08	0.01	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.01	0.00	0.00	
Barred Owl	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.01	0.00	
Great Gray Owl					0.01	0.00	0.00	
Boreal Owl					0.01	0.00	0.00	
Northern Saw-whet Owl					0.01	0.00	0.00	
Common Nighthawk					0.00	0.01	0.02	
Chimney Swift	0.00	0.02	0.00					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0.02	0.03	0.03		0.01	0.04	0.04	
Belted Kingfisher					0.01	0.01	0.00	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0.42	0.44	0.38	NS	0.24	0.29	0.32	NS
Downy Woodpecker	0.14	0.11	0.18	NS	0.03	0.06	0.05	NS
Hairy Woodpecker	0.12	0.10	0.04	↓	0.11	0.09	0.05	NS
Black-backed Woodpecker	0.00	0.01	0.00					
Northern Flicker	0.07	0.08	0.04	NS	0.08	0.12	0.16	NS
Pileated Woodpecker	0.08	0.04	0.02	↓	0.05	0.04	0.05	NS
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0.08	0.11	0.07	NS	0.09	0.06	0.03	NS
Eastern Wood-Pewee	0.85	0.57	0.65	↓	0.27	0.20	0.16	NS
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0.14	0.16	0.29	NS	0.21	0.46	0.75	↑↑↑
Alder Flycatcher	0.17	0.20	0.19	NS	0.19	0.20	0.19	NS
Least Flycatcher	1.44	1.40	1.58	NS	0.66	0.60	0.69	↑
Eastern Phoebe	0.02	0.02	0.00		0.01	0.01	0.00	
Great Crested Flycatcher	0.35	0.25	0.35	NS	0.02	0.05	0.05	
Eastern Kingbird	0.04	0.02	0.01		0.01	0.02	0.03	
Purple Martin	0.00	0.01	0.00					
Tree Swallow	0.00	0.03	0.07		0.00	0.00	0.01	
Cliff Swallow					0.00	0.01	0.00	
Gray Jay	0.06	0.20	0.19	↑	0.07	0.06	0.25	↑↑
Blue Jay	0.41	0.43	0.60	NS	0.25	0.35	0.39	NS
American Crow	0.04	0.03	0.04		0.00	0.01	0.01	
Common Raven	0.01	0.01	0.00		0.01	0.03	0.01	
Black-capped Chickadee	0.36	0.28	0.53	NS	0.11	0.13	0.38	↑↑↑
Boreal Chickadee	0.02	0.00	0.00		0.01	0.00	0.01	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.19	0.15	0.32	↑	0.21	0.12	0.40	↓↓↓
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.07	0.10	0.24	↑	0.00	0.06	0.03	
Brown Creeper	0.38	0.20	0.25	↓↓	0.11	0.15	0.17	NS
House Wren	0.00	0.00	0.01		0.01	0.01	0.01	
Winter Wren	0.49	0.23	0.53	↑↑↑	0.49	0.61	0.83	↑↑
Sedge Wren	0.01	0.00	0.01		0.03	0.01	0.01	
Marsh Wren					0.00	0.01	0.00	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.31	0.13	0.15	↓↓	0.24	0.26	0.31	NS
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0.00	0.01	0.04		0.06	0.05	0.15	↑

Table 1. Mean number of individuals/stand in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests in 1991 to 1993. Up and down arrows indicated degree and direction of change (single = $P < 0.05$; double = $P < 0.01$; triple = $P < 0.001$). Blanks indicate that the species was not abundant enough to test and NS indicates that no change in abundance was detected.

Species	CHIPPEWA				SUPERIOR			
	1991	1992	1993	Change	1991	1992	1993	Change
Eastern Bluebird	0.00	0.02	0.00		0.01	0.00	0.00	
Veery	1.46	1.34	1.36	NS	1.69	1.03	1.39	↓↓↓
Gray-cheeked Thrush					0.00	0.00	0.01	
Swainson's Thrush	0.01	0.01	0.02		0.25	0.20	0.13	NS
Hermit Thrush	0.82	0.56	0.74	NS	0.43	0.35	0.44	NS
Wood Thrush	0.03	0.01	0.02		0.00	0.02	0.01	
American Robin	0.46	0.38	0.34	NS	0.66	0.45	0.64	↑
Gray Catbird	0.03	0.11	0.03		0.00	0.01	0.00	
Brown Thrasher	0.00	0.01	0.01		0.00	0.01	0.01	
Cedar Waxwing	0.14	0.05	0.15	↓	0.06	0.26	0.11	↑↑
Solitary Vireo	0.07	0.06	0.15	NS	0.04	0.06	0.19	↑↑
Yellow-throated Vireo	0.17	0.12	0.20	NS	0.00	0.01	0.01	
Warbling Vireo	0.01	0.01	0.00					
Red-eyed Vireo	3.82	3.33	3.54	↓	2.50	1.87	1.79	↓↓↓
Golden-winged Warbler	0.17	0.17	0.27	NS	0.11	0.06	0.07	NS
Tennessee Warbler	0.00	0.01	0.01		0.00	0.03	0.54	↑↑↑
Nashville Warbler	1.59	2.17	3.25	↑↑↑	2.59	2.63	3.38	↑↑↑
Northern Parula	0.30	0.30	0.34	NS	0.32	0.25	0.49	↑↑↑
Yellow Warbler	0.17	0.10	0.22	NS	0.01	0.04	0.01	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1.16	1.11	1.37	NS	2.30	2.01	2.50	NS
Magnolia Warbler	0.07	0.04	0.08	NS	0.54	0.47	1.00	↑↑↑
Cape May Warbler	0.01	0.00	0.00		0.01	0.06	0.10	↑↑
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0.01	0.01	0.01		0.03	0.08	0.06	NS
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0.56	0.21	0.37	↓↓↓	0.28	0.13	0.32	↑↑
Black-throated Green Warbler	0.73	0.50	0.52	NS	0.60	0.68	0.9	↑↑↑
Blackburnian Warbler	0.44	0.51	0.60	NS	0.77	0.58	0.85	↑
Pine Warbler	0.42	0.25	0.58	↑↑↑	0.06	0.03	0.05	
Palm Warbler	0.08	0.06	0.09		0.00	0.01	0.04	
Bay-breasted Warbler					0.00	0.01	0.00	
Black-and-white Warbler	0.22	0.29	0.36	↑↑	0.97	0.63	0.92	↓↓↓
American Redstart	1.01	1.17	1.24	↑	0.09	0.47	0.44	↑↑↑
Ovenbird	4.31	4.13	4.08	NS	4.03	3.84	4.51	↑↑↑
Northern Waterthrush	0.04	0.02	0.14		0.00	0.04	0.11	↑↑
Connecticut Warbler	0.36	0.41	0.32	NS	0.07	0.05	0.08	
Mourning Warbler	0.57	0.46	0.38	NS	1.28	1.01	0.93	↓
Common Yellowthroat	0.90	1.21	1.25	↑↑	0.48	0.31	0.46	NS
Wilson's Warbler					0.00	0.00	0.01	
Canada Warbler	0.08	0.03	0.09		0.67	0.74	0.72	NS
Scarlet Tanager	0.49	0.57	0.56	NS	0.09	0.25	0.18	↑↑
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0.33	0.44	0.25	NS	0.41	0.46	0.77	↑↑↑
Indigo Bunting	0.10	0.16	0.09	NS	0.04	0.00	0.01	
Chipping Sparrow	0.49	0.57	0.51	NS	0.30	0.30	0.29	NS
Clay-colored Sparrow	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.01	0.00	0.00	
Vesper Sparrow	0.00	0.00	0.01		0.01	0.00	0.01	
Savannah Sparrow	0.00	0.00	0.01					
Le Conte's Sparrow	0.01	0.00	0.00					
Song Sparrow	0.55	0.62	0.73	NS	0.30	0.27	0.30	NS
Lincoln's Sparrow	0.03	0.01	0.00		0.04	0.03	0.05	
Swamp Sparrow	0.26	0.21	0.43	NS	0.07	0.04	0.13	NS
White-throated Sparrow	1.43	1.05	1.28	↓↓	2.41	1.92	2.18	↓↓
Dark-eyed Junco	0.11	0.01	0.00		0.01	0.03	0.00	
Red-winged blackbird	0.09	0.09	0.11	NS	0.09	0.03	0.04	
Rusty Blackbird					0.00	0.03	0.00	
Brewer's Blackbird	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.03	
Common Grackle	0.01	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.03	0.01	
Brown-headed Cowbird	0.36	0.22	0.27	NS	0.06	0.02	0.01	
Northern Oriole	0.02	0.04	0.09		0.01	0.00	0.01	
Purple Finch	0.13	0.06	0.19	↑	0.09	0.05	0.12	NS
Pine Siskin					0.00	0.00	0.06	
American Goldfinch	0.07	0.07	0.08	NS	0.02	0.01	0.03	
Evening Grosbeak	0.05	0.09	0.01	↓	0.09	0.06	0.18	NS

Table 1, continued.

Nuthatch and Black-and-white Warbler increased significantly in the Chippewa National Forest, but decreased significantly in the Superior National Forest.

Discussion

Bird communities. Breeding bird species composition of the Chippewa and Superior National Forests was very similar. Of the species that were observed in only one forest, about half were either very rare or had ranges in the State that did not occur in both forests (e.g., Spruce Grouse and Boreal Owl in the Superior National Forest). Some species observed only in the Superior National Forest were likely late migrants (e.g., Gray-cheeked Thrush) and others observed only in the Chippewa were likely due to a higher proportion of suitable habitat sampled in that area. For example, the Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed only in the Chippewa most likely because we sampled less lowland conifer habitat in the Superior National Forest.

Of the 130 forest bird species that occur in northern Minnesota, only 15 (12%) of the species were not detected with our counts in these forests. Many of these species are rare in the area (e.g., Three-toed Woodpecker), are associated with riparian areas (e.g., Hooded Merganser, Green-backed Heron), or are early nesting species (e.g., Great Horned Owl). In contrast, we observed several bird species within our forest plots that are not true forest birds (e.g., Marsh Wren). These species were associated with small wetland areas within the forested landscape.

Species relative abundance patterns. Differences observed in species relative abundance patterns between the two forests can generally be attributed to the species range distribution in Minnesota, to habitat specificity, or to differences in amounts of habitat sampled between forests. For example, three species in the Chippewa National Forest had higher relative abundance than in the Superior because they are associated with lowland conifer habitat and more of this habitat type was sampled in the Chippewa (e.g., Palm Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco). Several species (Swainson's Thrush, Tennessee

Warbler, and Cape May Warbler) have a more boreal distribution in the State and were more abundant in the Superior National Forest. In contrast, centers of distribution patterns for the Pine Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Yellow-throated Vireo are closer to the Chippewa National Forest and we observed these species more commonly in this forest.

Species abundance trends. The magnitude and direction of change in abundance over a three year period for individual species was highly variable between the forests. This is not unexpected given the short duration of the time period in which we have assessed trends. However, it does not appear that any species is in a severe downward trend. Results here are similar to data we have gathered in a region of northern Michigan and Wisconsin from 1985 to 1993. In this region, two study areas separated by about 100 miles showed many inconsistent trends based on a three year period. However, when trends were assessed over an eight year period, there was generally better agreement in trends between the study areas (Blake *et al.* in press).

A three year period is likely insufficient to identify species of concern or at risk unless there are large declines in both areas. In this study, two species have declined significantly over the past three years in both forests. The White-throated Sparrow is a short-distance migrant and prefers early-successional habitat for nesting. The nest is placed on or slightly above the ground. The Red-eyed Vireo is a long-distance migrant, nests in a variety of upland coniferous and deciduous forest habitat types, and places its nest in shrubs or saplings. Ecologically, these two species have little in common. The Red-eyed Vireo, however was found to have low reproductive success (< 20% of nests were successful) in the Chippewa National Forest (Manolis *et al.* 1993). In another study in the Chippewa National Forest in 1993, only two of eleven Red-eyed Vireo nests successfully produced young (personal data). Across the region, these two species have remained relatively stable in the Chequamegon National Forest from 1992 to

1993 (Hawrot *et al.* 1993). Both species declined significantly from 1985 to 1989 in northern Michigan and Wisconsin which may have been due to a drought (Blake *et al.* 1992). These species then increased from 1990 to 1992 before showing a slight decrease from 1992 to 1993 (Hanowski *et al.* 1993).

Conclusions

Minnesota's diverse northern forests are home to a large number of avian species. Our monitoring programs, established in 1991 in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests consists of about 900 point counts that have been censused for birds in 1991 through 1993. A total of 117 species have been recorded during this time period with 90% of the species observed in both forests. Species not observed in both forests were rare or did not have distribution ranges within both forests. Relative abundance of most species observed was similar in both forests and most were relatively uncommon. A total of 63 species were abundant enough to conduct statistical analyses for differences in abundance over the three year period. Four species including the Gray Jay, Winter Wren, Nashville Warbler, and American Redstart increased significantly in both forests. Two species, the White-throated Sparrow and Red-eyed Vireo decreased significantly in both forests. Based on these data, no species exhibited a severe downward trend in the past three years. The trend data will become increasingly valuable as more years of data are collected.

Acknowledgments

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A Home for a Wandering Gyrfalcon

Ron and Arlene Randklev

Winter mornings on the north shore of Lake Superior begin for us with the daily feeding of resident flocks of Herring Gulls, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Common Ravens, and a few American Crows. The food consists of butcher shop meat scraps, road kills, outdated bread, and whatever leftovers we can spare. Ducks are fed separately with cracked and whole corn.

The Herring Gulls are the first feeders, and after the feeding frenzy is over, the scraps that remain are those that are too large for these gulls to wolf down. Next, the ravens fly in and engage the gulls in a tug of war for the remaining scraps. The crows wait until all is quiet and then calmly pick morsels that have fallen under the beach shale.

But the morning of 8 January 1994 was quite different — the gulls suddenly left their half-finished meal and flew high up over the lake. The ducks joined them and flew back and forth through the circling gulls in complete confusion. Our first

thought was that the Bald Eagles were making an early morning appearance, but this was not the case. A large, fast-flying raptor flew straight in and landed on the bare limb of a large birch tree directly over the feeding area. A quick check with the spotting scope identified the visitor as a Gyrfalcon. This reportedly shy bird peered directly at us while we stared back at him through a picture window.

The falcon then flew down to a meaty bone and continued to tear shreds of meat from the bone for about an hour. The gulls and ducks disappeared, while the ravens — which normally crowd around a feeding eagle — continued to stay in the trees at a safe distance, as if they did not recognize this stranger.

After a short flight over the lake, the Gyrfalcon returned and roosted on a large beach rock until evening. During this time, we moved in and out of the house, and while the falcon watched our every movement, he did not fly away. We began to worry that the newcomer might be sick;

however, his performance during the ensuing weeks proved that he was indeed a healthy and active bird.

The visits to our beach continued daily for the next three weeks. We began to partially freeze large meat scraps and clumps of smaller scraps to ensure their surviving the gulls' onslaught until the falcon arrived. Each time the falcon approached the beach, the gulls and ducks quickly vacated the area. The ravens in time became bolder and even stole some of the food in close proximity to the falcon. This usually resulted in the Gyrfalcon chasing the raven until the food was dropped. Meanwhile, during the chase, the remaining ravens would quickly feed until the Gyrfalcon returned. This game was repeated many times until the falcon apparently realized that he was being duped — thereafter, he did not leave his food supply.

When there was no food on the beach, the falcon would perch in the same tree, waiting for a handout. During these times, we were able to walk directly below his perch (about thirty feet high) to place food on the beach. He seemed to recognize us as his food suppliers. The Gyrfalcon would follow our every movement until we were back in the house, and would then fly down to feed.

Several attempts by neighbors to take his picture from a distance of 150–175 feet were unsuccessful; he always left immediately. Yet the same neighbors and other strangers could enter our house and observe the falcon without spooking him.

The birch roosting tree was also used as a launching point for attacks on ducks flying by. On one occasion, we watched the falcon fly high over the lake, and a moment later, a Common Goldeneye appeared, flying about ten feet over the lake surface. The falcon began a long power dive with perfect timing. At the last split second before impact, the duck angled directly downward into the water and disappeared. The falcon flew around the area, but did not try again to attack the surfacing duck. We decided that this goldeneye had been through a similar experience before.

The Gyrfalcon never attempted to prey

on the Oldsquaws which always winter in a feeding area directly in front of our beach. On another occasion, we observed that the falcon's breast was covered with blood and bits of meat and tallow — an obvious success.

Other peculiarities of this bird should be mentioned. He appeared to push his long and ample tail into the beach shale as a steadying support against the strong north-east winds that blow at this time of the year. Also, while holding meat in his talons, he again pushed his tail downward into the shale as a support while stretching his head and neck upward in a tearing action to pull bite-size meat from the chunk.

The falcon also had a very strange gait; his efforts to walk on the beach were mindful of someone in pantaloons high-stepping quickly through a water puddle.

We believe that the Gyrfalcon would have stayed even longer had not a territorial dispute arisen between two Bald Eagles. The eagles were also regular visitors to our beach and used the same perch. The first battles were with the mature eagle (female?) and were won handily by the falcon — the eagle always retreated. The accompanying immature eagle was, however, so clumsy and foolish that he seemed to unnerve the falcon. When the young eagle spotted food, he rushed in, bowling over anything in his way — ravens and Gyrfalcon included. The ungraceful young eagle was even observed falling off his perch and barely recovering before hitting the ground. The immature eagle was also completely oblivious to the falcon's attempts to drive him off. After awhile, the Gyrfalcon would stand well apart from the young eagle and stare at him. The young Bald Eagle soon replaced the Gyrfalcon as the dominant force on the beach. After two more visits, the falcon did not land on our beach again. We did see him flying by several times during an additional week.

We hope this magnificent transient, who became known as Gyrfellow, can safely return to the arctic barrens. He will be most welcome if he decides to winter here again.

230 Croftville, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

The Fall Season

(1 August to 30 November 1993)

Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson, Scott Krych, and Dick Ruhme
Foreword by Peder Svingen

Fall 1993 in Minnesota was punctuated by early cold fronts with an early movement of passerines, followed by mild weather in late October and most of November that induced a variety of migrants to linger. Later than normal nesting (or possibly re-nesting after record flooding — see Summer report) was suspected among grebes and rails. An incredible season at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth and an impressive list of rarities were notable, even though many of these latter were seen only briefly.

Loon migration was especially noteworthy. Three Red-throateds were reported; this species status continues to vacillate between Casual and rare/Regular in the state, with fall records greatly outnumbered by those from late spring and early summer. Even more outstanding were an unprecedented six Pacific Loons; three of these were away from Lake Superior, where the vast majority of previous fall records have occurred. There were only 14 total records of this Casual species during the past decade (1983–1992).

Five small, young Pied-billed Grebes on 21 August and two downy Eared Grebes on 5 September provided evidence of late nesting among grebes (there was also an unconfirmed report of a “rescued” grebe surviving through late November in a bathtub but no word on the condition of the home owner). Downy moorhens were observed through late August at Carlos Avery WMA and the juvenile Sora turned in (alive) to Tamarac NWR by deer hunters on 8 November was a record late date for northern Minnesota. These few observations cannot represent a trend but how about Yellow Rails still ticking into mid-August in St. Louis County while invasion numbers were recorded a

few miles from the MN/ND border at about the same time (*North Dakota Natural Science Society Newsletter* 11:8–10). The record floods of 1993 in our region must have skewed hatching dates and reproductive success for a variety of species, not just those intimately associated with wetlands.

Among other waterbirds, the migration of Cattle Egrets recapitulated their excellent spring showing in the state. A single Ross’ Goose on 18 September established a new earliest fall date and some of the ducks started migrating earlier than usual. Both Black and Surf Scoters were increasingly detected away from Lake Superior and one of the largest “inland” flocks of White-winged ever reported in Minnesota was the 15 birds on White Bear Lake, Washington County.

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve (HRNR) in Duluth had an incredible season, with many new records set for daily counts and season totals. Most incredible was the total of 49,615 hawks (the previous daily high count was 33,588) on 18 September! The 47,922 Broad-winged Hawks counted on that day by a team of observers (including Frank Nicoletti, returning for the third consecutive season) contributed to a new season high for that species and to an all-time record of 148,615 total hawks in one season (the previous high was 85,798 in 1991). The total days (103) and total hours (1094) counting were close to the average of previous years; the excellent flight was attributed to favorable weather for counting, with successive cold fronts early in the season and frequent west to northwest winds (data courtesy of HRNR). A Gyrfalcon and a Prairie Falcon were among the unusual sightings. For the third fall in a row, a Mississippi Kite was reported from Hawk

Ridge; unfortunately (as of this writing) only the 1991 record has been documented by the observers for evaluation by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee.

The record flooding in 1993 produced abundant habitat for shorebirds but also diluted detection by observers. Upland Sandpipers are rarely detected as fall migrants but one perched on a tombstone in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis must have been startling! Red Knots continue hard-to-find anywhere in the state although Duluth is still the best place to look. Singles or small flocks of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widely reported. The only rare shorebirds were the seventh and eighth state records for Red Phalarope, both of which promptly disappeared.

Ray Glassel and Robert Janssen cornered the market on California Gulls this fall. Why is this species not found more regularly during migration along our western border? Few observers study gull movements between feeding areas and roosts; Karl Bardon does and provides unique insights as well as data. Thayer's Gulls must be overlooked away from Lake Superior, if this fall's reports represent usual migration—which may not be the case, since a new earliest fall date was established on 8 October in *southern* Minnesota. Also of interest was the brief return of a Lesser Black-backed Gull to the same Anoka County fallow field that it had been found in as a spring migrant! For most observers, the adult and two juvenal-plumaged Sabine's Gulls at the DNR's fish hatchery ponds near Lake Tetonka was *the* 1993 gull event.

The appearance of a first state record Common Ground-Dove at HRNR spiced an otherwise desultory day, especially for the hawk banders who caught it in their nets! An early October influx of emaciated Snowy Owls was followed by healthier individuals in late fall. Minnesota's second Anna's Hummingbird was not correctly identified as such until 18 October; the property owner then requested no birders after the 19th, which was fully respected to the best of my knowledge — a refreshing outcome.

There were few noteworthy data among

the flycatchers and thrushes this fall, except for a one day appearance of a Scissor-tailed on Park Point and at least five reports of Townsend's Solitaire, including a first Houston County record. Townsend will be remembered differently this fall, as the state's second Townsend's Warbler put in a brief appearance at the famous Lakewood Cemetery on 27 August. Readers will recall that this location produced a third state record Black-throated Gray Warbler on 31 August 1991. Several species of warblers were detected later than usual, including a record late Louisiana Waterthrush on 4 October, more than two weeks later than any previous occurrence in the state. No fewer than *four* Summer Tanagers were reported this fall. Other interesting passerine reports are detailed in the species accounts.

In comparison to fall 1992 (which also followed a cool, wet summer), even fewer migration data were available that could be related to nesting success. The only banding data forwarded came from Judith Bell in Dodge County, where peak migration waves were 18 September and 9 October. The former date supports Henry Kyllingstad's report of a warbler wave in Lyon County on 19 September, while warblers were "dripping from the trees" on 18 September in Winona County (CS). Indeed, Ms. Schumacher described an exceptional daily migration of warblers between 3–23 September, mostly in a 50 x 100 meter area along a Prairie Island dike near Winona, with increased numbers of Golden-winged, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, and Bay-breasted warblers. In contrast, Steve Carlson documented reductions in total migration of *nine* species through the Twin Cities, including a 30% reduction in Magnolias compared to fall 1991 and 1992. It would be nice to conclude that they preferentially went to Winona this fall; local conditions can certainly explain both short-term and long-term changes in migration. However, Mr. Carlson's impressions were based upon a decade of data and also included his lowest count of Black-throated Greens in nine years (1993 totals were 70% off the nine year average), lowest count of Black-and-whites since 1987 (about 50% of the 1991

and 1992 totals), and lowest count of Canadas since 1986 (less than 50% of 1991 and 1992 totals). My thanks to Ms. Bell, Mr. Carlson and Ms. Schumacher for permission to summarize interpretations of their data.

Have conflicting impressions of warbler migration become the new "norm" in Minnesota? What can we conclude from the fact that not a single vireo of any species was seen by Mr. Kyllingstad in Lyon County this entire season? Should observers focus on Breeding Bird Surveys, single day counts over a large area such as the new North American count held in May, migration surveys such as the now defunct Lake-wood Pumping Station Census, or yearly group-specific surveys such as hawks and

warblers? Peak numbers and dates of migration are more indicative of population status than record early arrivals and late stragglers, yet these former data are rarely reported (and more difficult to interpret). If year-to-year reports of Loggerhead Shrikes and Henslow's Sparrows really are important, how can we allow for differences in observers' effort, skill, and time? There are no easy answers to such questions. As always, reports in *The Loon* provide a framework for further inquiry, in addition to their role as chronicle of "The Season". Thanks to all observers who contribute to this framework, and especially to the seasonal report compilers who build it. I would also like to thank Parker Backstrom for compiling and editing data called in to the Minnesota Bird Report.

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Species listed in upper case (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicate a Casual or Accidental occurrence in the state.
2. Dates listed in boldface (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later or within the earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in boldface (**Aitkin**) indicate either a first county record or an unusual occurrence for that county. City of **Duluth** also boldface when applicable.
4. Counties listed in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. Brackets [] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.

Red-throated Loon

Reported **9/17** Cook PS, Duluth PB, 10/17-20 St. Louis mob, 10/24 Cook TD.

PACIFIC LOON

Reported **9/18** St. Louis AH, 9/25-26 KB, mob, 10/15-24 Crow Wing WN, mob, 10/18-20 Washington KB, RJ, 10/30-11/7 Lake KE, mob, 11/15-16 Freeborn RG, SM.

Common Loon

Late north 11/20 Aitkin WN, 11/21 Crow Wing KB, 11/24 Becker BK. Late south 11/13 Dakota TT, Wabasha KE, 11/30 Hennepin KB, SC.

Pied-billed Grebe

Late north 10/25 Polk RJ, 11/16 Aitkin WN,

11/30 Beltrami DJ. Late south 11/13 Martin BBo, 11/27 Hennepin SC, 11/29 Winona CS.

Horned Grebe

Late north 9/18 St. Louis RH, 10/2 Lake KB. Late south 10/10 Ramsey KB, 11/4 Rice TB, 11/27 Hennepin SC.

Red-necked Grebe

Late north 10/21 Cook PS, 10/24 Todd RJ, 11/17 Lake DPV. Late south 10/10 Carver WM, 11/18 Hennepin KB, SC.

Eared Grebe

Late north 10/16 St. Louis PBU, 10/23 Wilkin WM, 10/25 Pennington RJ. Late south 10/14 Washington DS, 10/16 Faribault RJ, 10/30 Chippewa AB.

Western Grebe

Late north 9/17 St. Louis FN, 10/17 Grant KB, 10/24 Todd RJ. Late south 9/6 Yellow Medicine DSM, 10/30 Chippewa AB, 10/31 Hennepin TBr, SC.

American White Pelican

Late north 8/26 Koochiching GM, 8/29 Beltrami DJ, 8/31 Becker BK. Late south 10/30 Chippewa AB, Washington DS, 11/10 Cottonwood ED, 11/16 Freeborn RG.

Double-crested Cormorant

Late north 10/24 Crow Wing DSM, Otter Tail RJ, 11/17 Pennington KSS, 11/30 Beltrami County DJ. Late south 11/6 Chisago RJ, Ramsey KB, 11/11 Dakota TT, 11/13 Martin BBo.

American Bittern

Reported 8/6 Mille Lacs DB, 8/15 Jackson KB, 8/22 Becker KB, 10/11 Aitkin WN, 10/1 Martin BBo.

Least Bittern

Reported 10/2 Sibley RG, EJ.

Great Blue Heron

Late north 10/23 Aitkin WN, 10/24 Otter Tail WM, 11/16 Becker BK. Late south 11/13 Freeborn RJ, Winona JPo, 11/18 Goodhue DS, 11/30 Ramsey KB.

Great Egret

Late north 9/29 Becker BK, 10/4 Polk DS, 10/16 Douglas DN. Late south 10/22 Houston JD, Lac Qui Parle AB, 10/30 Hennepin KB, 11/30 Dakota KB.

Snowy Egret

Reported 8/21 Cottonwood *fide* ED.

Little Blue Heron

Reported 8/22 Anoka, DT.

Cattle Egret

Many reports. North: 8/28 Becker KSS, 9/1 Crow Wing JS. South: 8/2–9/6 Murray ND, 8/3–10/18 Cottonwood ED (50), 8/19 Chippewa PS (30), 8/29–9/16 Lyon HK, mob, 9/4–9/6 Lincoln RG, RJ, JP, 9/6 Pipestone JP.

Green Heron

Late north 9/18 Kanabec CM, 9/19 Duluth EL, 10/4 Polk DS. Late south 10/9 Chippewa AB, 10/16 Anoka JH, 11/4 Rice TB.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Reported north 8/13 Polk HK. Late south 10/17 Washington TEB, Watonwan ED, 10/20 Dakota KB, 10/22 Chippewa AB.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Reported 8/28 Dakota, BB.

Tundra Swan

Early north 10/1 Becker BK, 10/4 Red Lake KSS. Early south 10/2 Washington WL, 10/6 Ramsey RH. Late north 11/14 Otter Tail SDM, 11/20 Aitkin WN. Late south 11/30 Wabasha DWM, Winona AM.

Trumpeter Swan

Reported 8/12 Washington PC, banded individual.

Mute Swan

Reported 8/17 Sherburne *fide* PB.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Reported 9/2, 9/30 Aitkin *fide* WN, 10/14 Red Lake KSS.

Snow Goose

Early north 9/12 Otter Tail SDM, 9/18 Marshall KSS. Early south 9/28 Hennepin SC, 10/2 McLeod RJ. Late north 10/31 Clay LCF, St. Louis ME/SK, 11/30 Cook RJ. Late south 11/29 Olmsted JB, 11/30 Dakota KB.

Ross' Goose

Reported 9/18 Kandiyohi RE, RF, 10/15? Stevens *fide* LL.

Canada Goose

Reported from 18 counties north, 27 counties south.

Wood Duck

Late north 10/24 Clay RJ, 11/13 Aitkin WN, 11/28 Otter Tail SDM. Late south 11/25 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Anoka KB, Winona CS.



Greater White-fronted Goose, 5 September 1993, Mille Lacs Lake, Aitkin County.
 Photo by Warren Nelson.

Green-winged Teal

Late north 10/20 Polk KSS, 10/21 Douglas DN, 10/28 RJ. Late south 11/15 Olmsted JB, 11/19 Wabasha TEB, 11/24 Hennepin DJe.

American Black Duck

Late north 11/9 Mille Lacs WM, St. Louis TW, 11/30 Cook KMH. Late south 11/30 Hennepin AB, KB, SC, Olmsted JB, Winona CS.

Mallard

Reported from 16 counties north, 28 counties south.

Northern Pintail

Late north 10/20 Polk KSS, 10/25 Pennington RJ, 11/28 Otter Tail SDM. Late south 11/11 Wabasha DN, 11/21 Hennepin TT, 11/27 Winona KE.

Blue-winged Teal

Late north 9/30 Grant KKW, 10/11 Becker

BK, 10/21 Cook SOL. Late south 10/24 Faribault CS, 10/27 Hennepin SC, 11/11 Le Sueur KB.

Northern Shoveler

Late north 9/19 Clay LCF, 10/10 St. Louis TW, 10/13 Polk KSS. Late south 11/13 Freeborn RJ, 11/19 Wabasha TEB, 11/30 Hennepin AB, KB, SC.

Gadwall

Late north 8/23 St. Louis TW, 10/23 Wilkin WM, 10/30 Douglas DN. Late south 11/19 Wabasha TEB, 11/20 Washington PC, 11/30 Hennepin AB, KB, SC.

American Wigeon

Late north 10/15 Crow Wing WM, 10/30 Douglas DN, 11/4 Cook KMH. Late south 11/13 Martin BBo, Wabasha DWM, 11/23 Washington KB, 11/27 Hennepin SC.

Canvasback

Late north 11/30 Beltrami DJ, Douglas DN,

11/30 Otter Tail SDM. Late south 11/26 Olmsted JB, Winona CS, 11/30 Hennepin KB, SC, Wabasha SWM.

Redhead

Late north 8/21 Becker BBe, 10/30 Beltrami DJ, Douglas DN. Late south 11/26 Olmsted JB, 11/27 Rice TB, 11/30 Hennepin CF, Ramsey KB.

Ring-necked Duck

Late north 11/21 Crow Wing KB, 11/28 Otter Tail SDM, 11/30 Beltrami DJ. Late south 11/23 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Dakota KB, Hennepin AB, SC.

Greater Scaup

Late north 11/7 Cook KE, 11/21 Crow Wing KB, 11/30 Beltrami DJ. Late south 10/10 Chippewa AB, 10/28 Rice TB, 10/29 Hennepin KB, SC.

Lesser Scaup

Late north 11/11 Cook KMH, 11/17 Pennington KSS, 11/30 Beltrami DJ. Late south 11/25 Wabasha DWM, 11/26 Winona CS, 11/30 Hennepin KB, SC.

Harlequin Duck

Reported 10/17 St. Louis MN, 10/23–11/20 Cook mob.

Oldsquaw

Reported 9/25 Lake PB, AH, Cook MH, 10/16 Cook mob, Lake WM, also 10/29, 31, 11/20 Cook mob.

Black Scoter

Reported north 9/22 Lake *fide* KE, 10/8 Roseau PS, 10/9–17 Duluth PB, WL, 10/15 Pennington KB, 10/16 Cook mob, 10/23–11/13 Mille Lacs TEB, PKL, Crow Wing 10/24 KE, WN, Otter Tail 10/24 DS. South 10/19 McLeod RG, 10/27–11/9 Rice mob, 11/26 Isanti PRL.

Surf Scoter

Reported north 9/22–10/16 Lake mob, 10/6–31 Cook mob, 10/17–24 Wilkin mob, 10/23–11/13 Mille Lacs mob, 10/24 Crow Wing KE, 10/30 Duluth CM. South 10/16 Faribault RG.

White-winged Scoter

Reported north 10/7 Roseau PS, 10/10 Duluth PB, 10/16–31 Cook mob, 11/2 St. Louis TW, 11/13 Mille Lacs PKL, Lake DPV. South 10/2 McLeod RG, 10/20 Washington KB (15), 10/29 Rice mob.

Common Goldeneye

Early south 10/14 Ramsey RH, 10/17 Rock ND, 10/24 Hennepin SC.

Bufflehead

Early north 10/8 Roseau PS, 10/11 St. Louis TW. Early south 10/2 Anoka DZ, 10/4 Hennepin KB, Rice TB. Late north 11/20 SOL, Aitkin WN, Lake DPV, 11/24 Cook SOL. Late south 11/26 Olmsted JB, Winona CS, 11/30 Hennepin AB, KB, SC.

Hooded Merganser

Late north 11/21 Otter Tail SDM, St. Louis TW, 11/24 Mille Lacs PKL. Late south 11/20 Anoka CF, 11/28 Rice TB, 11/30 Hennepin AB, KB, SC.

Common Merganser

Early south 8/5 Rice TB, 8/26 Dakota DSm, 9/6 Hennepin TBr.

Red-breasted Merganser

Late north 11/16 Hubbard HJF, 11/20 Aitkin WN, 11/28 Lake CM. Late south 11/21 Hennepin SC, Olmsted JB, 11/25 Ramsey KB.

Ruddy Duck

Late north 10/21 Becker BBe, 10/23 Wilkin WM, 10/27 Polk KSS. Late south 11/24 Faribault CS, 11/25 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Hennepin AB, KB.

Turkey Vulture

Hawk Ridge count: 1,740, a new high. Late north 10/11 Lake PB, 10/12 Hawk Ridge, 10/21 Cook PS. Late south 10/7 Olmsted JB, 10/22 Goodhue PBU, 10/23 Houston EMF.

Osprey

Hawk Ridge count: 475, a new high. Late north 10/16 St. Louis PB, PS, 10/29 Otter Tail SDM, 11/27 Aitkin *fide* WN. Late south

10/21 Blue Earth RG, 10/25 Washington DS, 11/20 Goodhue CR/CD.

MISSISSIPPI KITE

One reported 9/5 again from Hawk Ridge.

Bald Eagle

Hawk Ridge count: 1,725, another new high. Late north 11/29 Hawk Ridge, 11/30 Becker BBe, Beltrami DJ.

Northern Harrier

Hawk Ridge count: 807, nearly double 1992. Late north 10/29 Pennington KSS, 10/30 Douglas DN, 10/31 Clay LCF. Late south 11/20 Rice OR, 11/21 Hennepin SC, Olmsted BJ.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 20,206. Late north 10/15 Crow Wing WM, 11/19 Hawk Ridge, 11/27 Aitkin WN. Late south 11/23 Olmsted JB, 11/28 Nicollet LF, 12/1 Washington WL.

Cooper's Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 356, a new high. Late north 10/14 Douglas DN, 10/23 Hawk Ridge, Wilkin WM. Late south 11/11 Scott KB, 11/13 Olmsted BJ, 11/21 Hennepin JF.

Northern Goshawk

Hawk Ridge count: 1,393, down sharply. Early north 8/15 Aitkin WN, 9/2 Hawk Ridge, 9/30 Cook DPV. Early south 9/12 Isanti PKL, 10/8 Washington WL, 10/14 Brown JS.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: six. Late north 8/14 Aitkin WN, 10/4 Becker DN, 11/5 Hawk Ridge. South 10/3 Washington WL, 10/21 Anoka KB, 11/11 Hennepin TT.

Broad-winged Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 110,272, up nearly 300%. Late north 9/18 Aitkin WN, Cook KMH, 10/15 Hawk Ridge. Late south 10/5 Waseca OJ, 10/24 Mower RRR, 10/27 Rice OR, FKS.

Swainson's Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: four. Late north 8/22

Clearwater RG, 9/24 Hawk Ridge, 10/2 Otter Tail SDM. Late south 9/12 Brown JS, 9/18 Hennepin KB, 10/13 Rice OR.

Red-tailed Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 8,195. Reported from 18 counties north, 22 south.

Ferruginous Hawk

Reported 9/5 Clay SDM.

Rough-legged Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 311. Early north 9/4 Roseau PS, 9/13 Pennington KSS, 9/30 Carlton CM. Early south 9/9 Winona JPo, 10/16 Washington WL, 10/17 Kandiyohi AB.

Golden Eagle

Hawk Ridge count: 58. Early south 10/24 Mower RRR, 11/15 Wabasha DWM, 11/21 Winona CS. Late north 10/29 Lake DBE, 10/30 Cook WM, 11/29 Hawk Ridge.

American Kestrel

Hawk Ridge count: 2,686. Late north 11/7 Hawk Ridge, 11/14 Kanabec CM, 11/21 Aitkin WN.

Merlin

Hawk Ridge count: 311, up 30%. Late north 10/13 Lake PBU, 11/23 Otter Tail SDM, 11/24 Duluth SDM.

Peregrine Falcon

Hawk Ridge count: 67. Late north 10/2 Otter Tail SDM, 10/8 Roseau PS, 10/9 Duluth PB. Late south 9/22 Hennepin SK, Winona CS, 9/24 Watonwan RJ, 10/5 Ramsey RH.

Gyrfalcon

Reported 11/10 Hawk Ridge, 11/28 Cook PS.

Prairie Falcon

Reported north: 9/22 Clay SDM, 10/9 Polk MO, 11/6 Hawk Ridge, 11/14 Clay LCF, 11/17 Wilkin SDM. South 8/29 Dakota SK, 10/11-11/30 Hennepin mob.

Gray Partridge

Reported from one county north, nine counties south, far fewer than usual.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from four north and 17 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

All reports: 8/7 St. Louis KB, 10/8 Roseau PS.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 12 north and four south counties.

Greater Prairie Chicken

All reports: 10/15 Polk, 10/17 Wilkin (40) KB, 10/24 Wilkin (54) WM, 11/28 Wilkin, Clay SDM.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Roseau and St. Louis counties.

Wild Turkey

Reported from two north and eight south counties.

Yellow Rail

One report from Zim area 8/9 St. Louis KR.

Virginia Rail

Only reports: 8/4 Anoka KB, 8/27 Hennepin TT, 9/12 Kanabec CM, 10/7 Washington, 10/7 Dakota SK.

Sora

Only report north: 11/8 Becker (a juvenile bird brought in by deer hunters!) BBe; early south 8/8 Hennepin TT, 9/5 Jackson KB; late south 9/10 Martin BBo, 9/25 Rice SK.

Common Moorhen

Only reports from Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area from 8/19-8/28 mob. Downy young seen in late August.

American Coot

Late north 10/10 St. Louis TW, 10/17 Douglas KB, 10/23 Otter Tail DS; late south 11/16 Waseca LF, 11/20 Winona RJ, 11/30 Hennepin SC KB.

Sandhill Crane

Reports up: late north 10/16 Roseau KB,



Sandhill Crane, 23 November 1993, Edina, Hennepin County. Photo by Shirley Mahowald.

10/21 Kanabec CM, 10/25 Polk RJ; late south 9/25 Anoka RH, 10/2 Chisago LF, 10/8 Washington RG.

Black-bellied Plover

Early north 8/21 Becker BBe, 8/29 Wilkin SDM, late north 10/15 Crow Wing WM, 10/16 Roseau KB, 10/25 Polk RJ; early south 8/14 Jackson KB; late south 10/10 Martin BBo, 10/20 Blue Earth MF, 10/30 Chippewa AB.

Lesser Golden Plover

Early north 8/11 Becker PS, 8/29 Wilkin SDM; early south 8/14 Jackson KB; late north 10/10 Roseau KB, 10/26 Lake PB; late south 10/22 Lac Qui Parle AB, 10/25 Martin BBo, 11/11 Sibley/Le Sueur KB.

Semipalmated Plover

All north reports 8/4 Kanabec CM, 8/21 Becker BBe, 9/5 Polk PS, 9/14 St. Louis PBa, 9/17 Cook KMH; early south 8/6 Dakota SK, 8/7 Goodhue TEB, 8/7 Swift RJ; late south 9/3 Hennepin SC, 9/14 Rice TB.

Killdeer

Late north 10/30 Wilkin WM; late south 10/28 Martin BBo, 10/30 Kandiyohi AB, 10/31 Rice RJ.

Greater Yellowlegs

Late north 10/22 Cook SOL, 10/24 Otter Tail RJ, 11/5 St. Louis KE; late south 10/25 Olmsted JB, 10/30 Houston JD, 11/11 Le Sueur KB.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late north 9/18 St. Louis RH, 9/29 Clay BK, 10/30 Wilkin WM; late south 10/20 Blue Earth MF, 10/24 Hennepin SC, 10/31 Winona CS.

Solitary Sandpiper

All late reports 9/25 Le Sueur SC, 9/25 Dakota SK, 10/10 Hennepin TT, 10/18 Wabasha DWM.

Willet

All reports: 8/1 Murray DSm, 8/9 St. Louis TW, 8/16 Lyon HK, 9/13 St. Louis KE.

Spotted Sandpiper

Late north 8/29 Wilkin SDM, 9/27 Cook KMH, 10/2 Cook SOL; late south 9/24 Mower RRK, 9/26 Washington DS, 10/5 Carver DN.

Upland Sandpiper

All reports: Lyon HK, 8/31 Hennepin SC, DB, TBR, a startling sight in an urban cemetery, perched on a tombstone!

Whimbrel

All reports 9/17–10/6 St. Louis mob (2nd latest date for state).

Hudsonian Godwit

All reports 8/16 Pennington HK, 9/17 Cook KMH, 9/19 St. Louis mob.

Marbled Godwit

All reports 8/1 Murray DSm, 8/11 Becker PS, 8/15 Cottonwood ED, 9/18 St. Louis TBr.

Ruddy Turnstone

All reports 8/23 Carver RJ, 9/27–10/10 St. Louis mob, 10/16 Cook PB, 10/21 Cook PS, 11/6 Cook KE.

Red Knot

All reports: 8/11 Becker (4) PS, 8/28–9/11

St. Louis (2) mob.

Sanderling

Late north 10/12 Olmsted JB, 10/15 Pennington KB; late south 9/29 Anoka KB, 10/9 Chippewa RJ, 10/12 St. Louis TW.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Late north 9/5 Polk PS, 9/11 St. Louis CM, 10/8 Roseau PS; late south 9/5 Jackson KB, 9/16 Rice TB, 10/21 Blue Earth OJ.

Least Sandpiper

Late north 9/18 St. Louis RH, 9/26 Aitkin WN, 10/8 Roseau PS; late south 9/11 Martin RJ, 10/7 Carver KB, 10/20 Blue Earth MF.

White-rumped Sandpiper

All reports 8/22 Lyon HK, 10/14 Cook (2) PS.

Baird's Sandpiper

Late north 9/9 Clearwater PS, 9/13 Cook KMH, 9/14 St. Louis PBU; late south 9/6 Lyon DSm, 9/7 Rice TB, 9/11 Watonwan RJ.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late north 10/8 Roseau PS, 10/16 Roseau KB, 10/25 Polk RJ; late south 10/9 Chippewa RJ, 10/22 Olmsted JB, 10/24 Rice TB.

Dunlin

Late north 10/16 Roseau KB, 10/16 Cook PB, 10/29 Cook RJ; late south 10/10 Carver WM, 10/24 Rice TB, 11/11 Sibley KB.

Stilt Sandpiper

Early north 8/4 Kanabec CM, 8/27 St. Louis DN; early south 8/7 Chippewa RJ, 8/11 Becker PS, 8/18 Hennepin SC; late north 9/5 Polk PS, 9/18 St. Louis TBR, 10/7 Roseau PS; late south 9/6 Carver DSM, 9/8 Rice FKS, 9/19 Ramsey RH.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Early north 8/3 Lake DPV, 8/3 Lake KE, 8/12 Beltrami PS; early south 8/11 Becker PS, 8/14 Hennepin RG; late north 9/3 St. Louis BL, 9/5 Aitkin WN, 9/8 Polk PS; late south



Dunlin, 18 September 1993, Duluth. Photo by Warren Nelson.

9/5 Lyon DBM, 9/7 Rice FKS.

Short-billed Dowitcher

All reports 8/6 Dakota SK, 8/7 Hennepin OJ, 8/11 Becker PS, 8/14 Jackson KB, 8/26 St. Louis CM, 8/26 Hennepin SC, 9/11 Anoka PKL, 9/11 St. Louis CM.

Long-billed Dowitcher

All reports 8/1 Murray DSM, 8/7 Lyon HK, 8/8 Washington PC, 8/10 Goodhue SK, 9/18 McLeod KB, 9/15 Rice FKS, 10/8 Roseau PS, 10/9 Chippewa RJ, 10/16 Roseau KB, 10/21 Waseca OJ.

Common Snipe

Late north 10/3 Itasca AB, 10/6 Lake DPV, 11/6 Aitkin WN; late south 11/6 Anoka DSm, 11/14 Winona CS, 11/30 Hennepin AB.

American Woodcock

Late north 10/25 Pine DN, 10/15 Cook KMH, 10/3 Aitkin WN; late south 9/30 Anoka SK, 10/5 Hennepin SC, 10/11 Brown WN.

RED PHALAROPE

Two reports: 7th state record 9/21 Hennepin



Short-billed Dowitcher, 1 September 1993, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

KB (*The Loon* 65:208–209), 8th state record 10/8 Roseau PS.

Wilson's Phalarope

All reports 8/1 Murray DSm, 8/11 Becker PS, 8/13 Rice TB, 8/15 Jackson KB, 8/22 Lyon HK, 8/28 St. Louis KE, 9/25 Lac Qui Parle BL.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 8/11 Becker PS, 9/4 Pipestone RJ.

Parasitic Jaeger

All reports: 9/8, 18, 25 St. Louis KE, BL.

Franklin's Gull

Only reports north 9/18 St. Louis KE, 10/17 Todd KB; late south 10/17 Hennepin (200) SC, 10/24 Washington DS, 10/24 Rice AP.

Bonaparte's Gull

Late north 11/9 Mille Lacs WC, 11/20 Aitkin WN, 11/21 Crow Wing KB; late south 11/7 Carver WM, 11/8 Dakota DJe, 11/11 Sibley KB.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 11 north and 21 south counties. Late dates 11/26 Winona CS, 11/30 Hennepin SC; 11/30 Ramsey RH.

CALIFORNIA GULL

Two reports; 10/9 Big Stone RJ, RG, 10/20 Washington RJ (*The Loon* 66:45).

Herring Gull

Reported from five north and 14 south counties.

Thayer's Gull

Early north 10/14 Cook, 10/15 St. Louis PS, 10/30 Cook KE; early south 10/8 Anoka, 10/23 Hennepin KB, 10/29 Rice FKS; late south 11/16 Waseca LF, 11/20 Hennepin DBM, 11/30 Hennepin AB.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

9/11 Anoka KB (*The Loon* 65:207-208), 10/27 to 11/30 Hennepin and Dakota KB (*The Loon* 66:46-47).

Glaucous Gull

Early north 11/21,16 Cook PS, KE, 11/16 St. Louis; Early south 11/20 Anoka KB, 11/24-30 Hennepin mob, 11/30 Ramsey CB.

SABINE'S GULL

9/6 Pipestone (Ruthton sewage ponds one imm.) (*The Loon* 65:210), 9/20-27 Le Sueur (DNR fish hatchery near Waterville, one adult, two imm.) mob (*The Loon* 65:210-212).

Caspian Tern

Late north 8/29 Clearwater AB, 9/13 Crow Wing TT, 9/25 Cass RJ; late south 9/21 Dakota KB, 9/22 Hennepin SC, 9/23 Washington TEB.

Common Tern

All reports 8/7-24 St. Louis mob, 8/22,28 Aitkin WN, 8/31 Becker BBe, 9/3-4 Roseau PS, 9/24 Mille Lacs AB, 10/2 McLeod RJ, RG, 10/9 Chippewa AB.

Forster's Tern

Late north 9/4 Roseau PS, 10/6 St. Louis KE, 10/7 Roseau PS, 10/24 Douglas RJ (latest date on record); late south 8/22 Winona CS, 9/4 Dakota TT, 9/17 Hennepin SC.

Black Tern

Late north 8/8 Aitkin WN, 8/22 Todd KB, 9/

3-4 Roseau PS; late south 8/26 Olmsted JB, 9/1 Goodhue KB, 10/19 Carver MB (3rd latest date on record).

Rock Dove

Reported from seven north and 16 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Reported from 13 north and 20 south counties. Late north 11/27 Aitkin WN, 11/30 Koochiching GM; late south 11/26 Washington TEB, 11/30 Hennepin RJ.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE

First state record. Netted, banded, and photographed at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve by hawk banders. 10/16 St. Louis DE *et al* (*The Loon* 66:3)

Black-billed Cuckoo

All reports 8/1-23 Houston EMF, 8/1 Rock DSm, 8/7 Olmsted JB, 8/11 Hennepin SC, 8/12 Cook SOL, 8/13 Anoka CF, 8/22 Washington DS, 8/27 Hennepin DZ, 9/19 Winona CS, 10/16 Rice TB.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All reports: 8/1 Cottonwood DSm, 9/7 Winona CS, 9/11 Jackson RJ, 10/11 Houston JD (3rd latest date on record)

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Cottonwood, Hennepin, Jackson, Dodge, Washington, Pipestone, Aitkin, Lyon, Nobles and Martin counties.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 19 south and seven north counties.

Snowy Owl

The fall season had over 80 reports from as far south as Watonwan County. A full report of the Snowy Owl invasion of 1993 will appear in the next issue of *The Loon*.

Northern Hawk Owl

Only report 11/14 St. Louis TD.

Barred Owl

Reports from 11 south and ten north counties.



Snowy Owl, 22 October 1993, Duluth.
Photo by Sr. Pamela Rae Kern.

Great Gray Owl

All reports 8/9 St. Louis KR, 11/27,28 Aitkin (3) WN.

Long-eared Owl

All reports: 10/9 ST. Louis BK, 10/11 Washington SK, 10/21 St. Louis SDM, 11/11 Cook SOL.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 10/2 St. Louis *fide* KE, 10/16 Cook PB *et al*, 10/21 Rice (found dead) TF, 11/6 Hennepin TT, 11/28 Watonwan (two) LR.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

All reports 8/7 St. Louis KB, 10/9,23 St. Louis TW.

Common Nighthawk

Late north 8/24 Lake DPV, 9/8 Polk PS, 9/10 Aitkin WN; late south 10/6 Anoka CF, 10/6 Martin TB, Ramsey.

Whip-poor-will

All reports 8/2 Anoka JH, 8/27 Cook KMH, 9/1 Houston EMF, 9/2 Cook SOL, 9/4,10 Anoka SC.

Chimney Swift

Late north 9/5 Polk PS, 9/17 Koochiching GM, 9/19 Aitkin WN; late south 9/24 Brown JS, 10/3 Ramsey TT, 10/3 Hennepin SC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Late north 9/14 Otter Tail KKW, 9/19 Kanabec CM, 9/19 Aitkin WN; late south 9/27 Olmsted AP, 9/30 Mower RRR, 11/6 Nicollet LF (2nd latest date on record).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Second state record 10/17 Chisago RJ (*The Loon* 66:4-5)

Belted Kingfisher

Late north 9/25 Mille Lacs RJ, 9/25 Polk PS, 11/27 Kanabec CM.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from eight north and 15 south counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from Mille Lacs County in the north and 14 south counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Late north 9/23 Lake DPV, 9/26 St. Louis TW, 10/4 Kanabec Cm; late south 10/24 Hennepin CR/CD, 11/11 Rock ND, 11/30 Dakota KB.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 12 south and 12 north counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 16 south and 12 north counties.

Three-toed Woodpecker

Only report: 11/27 Cook JH.

Black-backed Woodpecker

All reports: 9/3-4 Roseau PS, 9/6-10/27 Cook KMH, SOL, 9/25 Itasca AB, 9/25-10/24 St. Louis mob, 10/10 Lake WB, 10/31 Beltrami DJ.

Northern Flicker

Reported from 16 north and 28 south coun-

ties. Late north 10/15 Crow Wing WM, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 10/25 Pine DN.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 23 north and 24 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 8/7 Anoka RH, 8/13 Brown JS. Late north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/6 Kanabec CM, 10/2 Lake AH. Late south 9/18 Houston EMF, 9/21 Brown JS, Hennepin TBR and Winona CS.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Late north 9/12 Beltrami DJ, TT, 9/15 Kanabec CM, 9/17 Polk KSS. Late south 9/23 Washington TEB, 10/5 Winona JPo, 10/10 (latest date on record) Hennepin TT.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 8/15 Hennepin SC, 8/16 Brown JS. Late north 9/5 Aitkin WN and Cook KMH, 9/14 Clay LCF. Late south 8/28 Winona CS, 9/21 Hennepin SC.

Acadian Flycatcher

All reports: 8/1 Winona CS, 8/10-16 Hennepin KB, SC, 8/15 Rice KBu, 9/2 (ties record late date) Houston MCBS.

Alder Flycatcher

Reported 8/4 Anoka KB, 8/22 Aitkin WN.

Willow Flycatcher

All reports: 8/4 Anoka KB, 8/10 Washington WL, 8/18-9/10 Hennepin mob, 8/20-22 Winona mob.

Least Flycatcher

Late north 9/22 Beltrami DJ, 9/26 St. Louis KB, 10/1 Cook KMH. Late south 9/22 Winona CS, 9/23 Brown JS, 9/25 Olmsted JB.

Eastern Phoebe

Late north 9/25 Cook KMH, 9/26 Aitkin WN, 10/10 Kanabec CM. Late south 10/13 Houston EMF, 10/18 Winona CS, 11/20-24 Hennepin TT, DJe.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Late north 9/28 Lake SDM, 10/14 Becker

BBe, 10/16 Cook PS. Late south 9/19 Winona CS, 9/20 Washington DS, 9/22 Olmsted AP.

Western Kingbird

All reports: 8/2-9 Clay LCF, 8/16 Lyon HK, 8/26 Hennepin OJ.

Eastern Kingbird

Late north 9/9 Cook KMH, 9/11 Clay LCF, 9/12 Aitkin WN. Late south 9/11 Jackson RJ, 9/16 Winona CS, 9/22 Le Sueur SC.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

10/23 Park Point, Duluth mob.

Horned Lark

Reported from nine north and 17 south counties. Late north 10/23 Wilkin WM, 11/21 Cook MB, 11/30 Polk KSS.

Purple Martin

Late north 8/22 Aitkin WN, 8/28 Becker KSS, 9/1 Clay LCF. Late south 8/30 Ramsey KB, 9/2 Pipestone JP, 9/3 Hennepin SC.

Tree Swallow

Late north 9/8 Kanabec NJ, 9/12 Aitkin WN, 10/2 Lake KB. Late south 10/11 Olmsted JB, 10/13 Washington WL, 10/15 Winona CS.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Late north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/14 Marshall KSS, 9/19 Clay LCF. Late south 9/5 Jackson KB, 9/15 Olmsted JB, 10/3 Hennepin TT.

Bank Swallow

Late north 8/31 Kanabec CM, 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/18 Douglas RJ. Late south 9/5 Jackson KB, 9/6 Pipestone JP, 9/15 Olmsted JB.

Cliff Swallow

Late north 9/5 Aitkin WN, 9/6 Wadena AB, 10/2 St. Louis PB, FN. Late south 9/11 Martin RJ, 9/15 Olmsted JB, 9/22 Hennepin OJ.

Barn Swallow

Late north 10/18 Marshall KSS, 10/26 St. Louis PBu, 11/6 (record late north date) St.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23 October 1993, Duluth. Photo by Anthony Hartzel.

Louis FN. Late south 10/12 Olmsted JB, 10/30 Hennepin OJ and Ramsey KB, 11/8 Sibley KB, JF.

Gray Jay

Reported from ten north counties. Two south reports: 10/22 Washington BJo, 10/30 Anoka (two) DS.

Blue Jay

Reported from 23 north and 31 south counties. Peak 9/19 Mille Lacs (1,100 counted on east side of Mille Lacs Lake in one hour) KB.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Aitkin, Becker, Clay, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, St. Louis and Wilkin counties. Noteworthy: 8/22 Red Lake (40) RJ, 9/19 Aitkin (12) WN.

American Crow

Reported from 16 north and 32 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from 18 north counties, including 11/14 Otter Tail (two) SDM. Only south report: Anoka (resident) JH.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 24 north and 35 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Cook, Itasca, Kittson, Lake of the Woods and St. Louis counties.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports: 8/1–11/22 Houston (two) EMF, 10/10–31 Olmsted JB, 11/5–7 Winona JK.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 23 (13 last year) north and 24 (12 last year) south counties. Early south 8/4 Dakota TT, 8/7 Hennepin TBr, SC.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 19 north and 31 south counties.

Brown Creeper

Reported from 11 north and 22 south counties. Late north 11/7 Itasca AB, 11/26 Otter Tail SDM.

Carolina Wren

All reports: 8/7–8 Minneapolis JoB, CF, 8/16 Austin BJ, 10/14–11/14 Hennepin JiP, 11/4–22 Winona JK.

House Wren

Late north 9/4 Kanabec CM, 9/11 Otter Tail KKW, 9/27 Polk KSS. Late south 10/7 Winona JPo, 10/11 Hennepin TT and Ramsey RH, 11/14 (second latest date on record) Anoka CF.

Winter Wren

Early south 9/16 Ramsey KB, 9/17 Hennepin DB, SC and Washington WL. Late north 10/6 Lake DPV, 10/17 Aitkin WN, 10/21 Cook KMH. Late south 10/22 Houston JD, 10/24 Anoka CF and Goodhue KB.

Sedge Wren

Late north 8/7 Lake DPV, 9/19 Aitkin WN, 10/15 Polk KB. Late south 9/23 Hennepin SK, 9/25 Anoka RH, 10/2 Murray ND.

Marsh Wren

Late north 8/15 Aitkin WN, 9/12 Kanabec CM, 10/23 Douglas DN. Late south 10/4 Hennepin TT, 10/10 Chippewa AB, 10/16 Faribault RJ.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early south 9/17 Hennepin SC, 9/19 Dakota TT. Late north 11/3 Lake DPV, 11/4 Kanabec CM, 11/6 Aitkin WN. Late south 11/26 Brown JS, 11/28 Winona CS.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 8/28 Anoka KB, 9/4 Hennepin DB, SC. Late north 10/24 Clay RJ, 10/31 St. Louis TW, 11/2 Lake DPV. Late south 11/2 Winona JPo, 11/11 Hennepin SC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Only north reports 8/11 and 22 Aitkin MG, WN, 8/24 Kanabec CM. Late south 9/14 Rice TB, 9/19 Hennepin SC and Winona CS.

Eastern Bluebird

Late north 10/26 Kanabec CM, 10/30 Cook KMH, 11/27 St. Louis TW. Late south 10/28 Olmsted JB, 10/30 Kandiyohi AB, 11/21 Winona CS.

Mountain Bluebird

Two reports: 10/7 Roseau (one) PS, 10/30 Cook (one) mob.

Townsend's Solitaire

All reports: 10/11 and 13 Hawk Ridge, Duluth (different birds) FN, 10/16 Houston JD, 11/3 French River, St. Louis *vide* KE, 11/26 Anoka PKL.

Veery

Late north 8/25 Kanabec CM, 9/1 Crow Wing MN/JS, 9/9 Cook KMH. Late south 8/31 Anoka KB, 9/6 Goodhue DZ and Winona CS, 9/13 Hennepin SC.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

All reports: 9/9 Hennepin SC, 9/18 Carver KB, 10/2 St. Louis PB, 10/10 Winona AM.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 8/2 Hennepin SC, 8/26 Brown JS. Late north 9/26 St. Louis TW, 10/3 Becker DN, 10/5 Cook KMH. Late south 9/26 Hennepin DZ, 10/13 Wabasha DWM.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 9/3 Winona CS, 9/23 Anoka CF and Ramsey KB. Late north 10/15 St. Louis PS, 10/16 Aitkin WN, 10/17 Kanabec CM. Late south 11/6 Nicollet LF, 11/26 Hennepin JoB, CF.

Wood Thrush

All reports: 8/1 Houston EMF, 8/24 Cook KMH and Dakota KB, 9/2 and 9/19 Hennepin SC, DZ, 9/3 Ramsey KB, 9/7 Winona AM, 9/24 Nicollet MF.

American Robin

Reported from 18 north and 30 south counties. Late north 11/28 Clay LCF, 11/29 St. Louis ME/SK.

Varied Thrush

All reports: 10/30 St. Louis BY, 11/1 Aitkin

MG, "early Nov." Carlton *vide* KE, 11/6-16 Lake mob, 11/13 Hennepin KO, 11/29 Brainerd, Crow Wing Co. and Deerwood, Crow Wing Co. *vide* WN.

Gray Catbird

Late north 9/25 Cass RJ, 11/6 Cook KE, 11/22 Itasca *vide* KE. Late south 10/20 Rice TF, 10/25 Houston EMF and Ramsey RH, 11/3 Washington TEB.

Brown Thrasher

Late north 9/10 Clay LCF, 9/12 Aitkin WN. Late south 10/2 McLeod RJ and Rice TB, 10/18 Hennepin TT.

American Pipit

Early north 9/10 Cook KMH, 9/22 Roseau PS. Early south 9/18 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Ramsey KB. Late north 10/30 Lake WM, 11/3 Pennington KSS. Late south 11/6 Hennepin TT, 11/8 Le Sueur KB.

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from nine north counties. Early north 9/21 St. Louis *vide* KE, 10/10 Aitkin WN, 10/16 Cook mob.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 17 north and 29 south counties. Late north 11/21 Aitkin WN, 11/28 Lake PS and Otter Tail SDM.

Northern Shrike

Early north 10/4 St. Louis FN, 10/9 Traverse RG, RJ, 10/11 Cass KB. Early south 10/13 Hennepin OJ, 10/16 Sherburne RB, 10/21 Wabasha DWM.

Loggerhead Shrike

All reports: 8/8 Otter Tail (one) SDM, 8/16 Dakota SK, 8/20 Rock (one) ND, 10/13 Washington WL, Lyon (no date) HK.

European Starling

Reported from 19 north and 26 south counties.

Bell's Vireo

Two reports: 8/20 Wabasha DBM, 9/19 Washington (one) WL (*The Loon* 66:49-50).

Solitary Vireo

Early south 8/4 Anoka CF, 8/16 Houston EMF. Late north 9/17 St. Louis RH, 9/18 Marshall KSS, 10/6 Cook KMH. Late south 10/5 Houston JD, 10/9 Hennepin SC, CF and Winona AM.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Late north 8/31 Beltrami AB, 9/5 Aitkin WN and Polk PS, 9/6 Kanabec CM. Late south 9/22 Houston EMF, 9/23 Brown JS and Rice TB, 9/25 Anoka KB.

Warbling Vireo

Late north 8/22 Aitkin WN, 8/23 Red Lake RJ, 9/10 Kanabec CM. Late south 9/18 Olmsted JB, 9/24 Hennepin TT and Winona CS, 9/25 Pipestone JP.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 8/19 Hennepin DB, 8/30 Anoka CF. Late north 9/18 Cook KMH and Douglas RJ, 9/23 Lake DPV, 9/26 St. Louis KB. Late south 9/25 Hennepin TT, 9/26 Anoka CF.

Red-eyed Vireo

Late north 9/23 Lake DPV, 9/26 St. Louis KB, 10/1 Cook KMH. Late south 9/23 Dakota DZ, 9/25 Brown JS, 9/28 Hennepin DB, SC.

Blue-winged Warbler

One north report: 8/21 Kanabec RG, RJ. Late south 9/1 Winona CS, 9/2 Houston MCBS, 9/14 Rice TB.

Golden-winged Warbler

Late north 9/1 Clearwater AB, 9/6 Kanabec CM, 9/11 Becker MO. Late south 9/13 Anoka CF, 9/14 Brown JS and Winona CS, 10/15-19 (latest dates on record) Hennepin SC.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 8/4 Anoka KB and Hennepin SC. Late north 9/26 St. Louis TW, 10/1 Cook KMH, 10/16 Cook mob. Late south 10/7 Washington WL, 10/10 Anoka CF and Ramsey EL, 11/1 and 11/15 (these two represent the latest fall dates on record) Hennepin SC.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early north 8/20 Clay LCF, 8/31 Lake DPV. Early south 8/26 Dakota DSm, 8/28 Olmsted JB and Winona CS. Late north 10/3 Clay LCF and Itasca AB, 10/11 Beltrami DJ. Late south 10/19 Hennepin SC, 10/23 Anoka CF.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 8/2 Anoka JH and Hennepin SC. Late north 10/12 Kanabec CM, 10/24 St. Louis TW, 10/30 Cook DPV. Late south 10/20 Dodge JBe, 11/1 and 11/2 Hennepin (different locations) CF, SC.

Northern Parula

Early south 8/26 Anoka CF and Hennepin TT, 9/1 Winona CS. Late north 9/16 Lake DPV, 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/26 St. Louis TW. Late south 9/23 Olmsted JB, 9/24 Anoka CF and Winona CS.

Yellow Warbler

Late north 9/16 Lake DPV, 9/18 Todd RJ, 9/26 St. Louis KB. Late south 9/12 Winona CS, 9/18 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Anoka CF.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Early south 8/4 Anoka KB, 8/16 Hennepin DBM. Late north 9/15 Kanabec CM, 9/26 St. Louis KB, TW, 9/30 Cook KMH. Late south 9/23 Brown JS, Hennepin DB, Ramsey TT, Rice TB and Winona CS, 10/10 Washington PC.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 8/15 Hennepin SC, 8/18 Brown JS and Rice TB. Late north 9/23 Lake DPV, 9/30 St. Louis TW, 10/1 Cook KMH. Late south 9/27 Winona CS, 9/28 Hennepin DB, SC.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 8/18 Olmsted JB, 8/19 Hennepin DB. Late north 10/16 St. Louis CF, EL, 10/24 Crow Wing KE, DSm and Mille Lacs WN, 10/29 Cook KMH, RJ. Late south 9/27 Goodhue DSm, 10/11 Hennepin SC.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Reported 8/28 Cook KMH, 9/3 Ramsey KB, 9/9-10/8 Hennepin (nine individuals) mob.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 8/22 Anoka CF, 8/28 Olmsted JB. Late north 10/20 Becker BBe, 10/30–11/1 Cook (“Audubon’s” race) mob, 11/4 St. Louis SS. Late south 11/3 Hennepin SC, 11/22 Wabasha DWM.

TOWNSEND’S WARBLER

8/27 Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis (second state record) TT, DW (*The Loon* 65:206–207).

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 8/16 Hennepin TT, 8/21 Anoka CF. Late north 9/23 Lake DPV, 9/26 St. Louis TW, 9/30 Cook KMH. Late south 9/29 Winona CS, 11/1 Hennepin SC.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 8/4 Anoka CF, 8/15 Brown JS. Late north 9/5 Aitkin WN and Polk PS, 9/23 Cook KMH. Late south 9/20 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Anoka CF and Houston EMF.

Pine Warbler

Late north 9/12 Beltrami TT, 9/25 Cass RJ, 10/2 St. Louis KE. Late south 9/6 Houston EMF, 9/10 Rice OR, 9/11 Anoka JH.

Palm Warbler

Early south 8/21 Murray ND, 9/3 Winona CS. Late north 10/5 Beltrami DJ, 10/16 Lake mob and St. Louis WM, 10/22 Cook KMH. Late south 10/18 Hennepin TT, 10/20 Cottonwood ED.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 8/13 Hennepin SC, 8/16 Anoka CF. Late north 9/16 Lake DPV, 9/21 Cook KMH, 9/26 St. Louis KB. Late south 9/19 Winona CS, 9/26 Hennepin TT, DZ.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early north 8/22 Beltrami RJ, 8/27 Clay LCF. Early south 8/20 Brown JS, 8/21 Anoka DZ. Late north 10/11 Lake DPV, 10/14 Cook KMH. Late south 9/25 Brown JS, 9/26 Anoka CF.

Cerulean Warbler

All reports: 8/8 Becker (one) *fide* BBe, 8/13–27 Rice TB.

Black-and-white Warbler

Late north 9/26 St. Louis KB, TW, 9/28 Cook KMH. Late south 9/30 Washington TEB, 10/31 Hennepin CF, 11/5 Hennepin SC.

American Redstart

Late north 9/26 St. Louis KB, TW, 9/30 Cook KMH. Late south 9/23 Hennepin DB, 10/3 Anoka CF, 11/14 Hennepin *fide* SC.

Prothonotary Warbler

Late south 8/21 Hennepin TT, Winona KE, 9/5 Winona ASM.

Ovenbird

Late north 9/11 Aitkin WN, St. Louis SS, 9/13 Cook KMH. Late south 10/9 Hennepin SC, 10/17 Rice TB, 11/1–11/30 JB Olmsted (*The Loon* 66:107).

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 8/4 Anoka KB, 8/6 Hennepin SC. Late north 9/21 Beltrami DJ, 10/3 Clay LCF. Late south 9/21 Brown JS, Hennepin SC, TT, 9/23 Hennepin PBu.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Late south 9/2 Houston MCBS, 10/4 (latest date on record) Hennepin SC.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 8/20 Anoka JH, 9/6 Jackson KB. Late north 10/5 Lake DPV. Late south 9/16 Ramsey KB, 9/18 Olmsted AP.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 8/15 Hennepin SC, 8/22 Brown JS. Late north 8/9 Lake DPV, 9/11 Cook KMH. Late south 9/24 Freeborn TT, 9/27 Hennepin TT.

Common Yellowthroat

Late north 9/26 St. Louis KB, TW, 9/28 Cook KMH. Late south 10/16 Sherburne RB, 10/26 Hennepin SC.

Wilson’s Warbler

Early north 8/3 Koochiching GM, 8/19 Clay LCF. Early south 8/18 Anoka CF, Hennepin TT, Washington WL, 8/19 Hennepin DB. Late north 9/12 Clay LCF, Cook KMH, 9/

19 Aitkin WN. Late south 9/29 Dodge JBe, 10/10 Anoka CF.

Canada Warbler

Early south 8/15 CF, 8/17 Hennepin SC, Rice TB. Late north 9/12 Aitkin WN, 9/17 Clay LCF. Late south 9/19 Winona JPo, 9/21 Hennepin TBr, SC.

Summer Tanager

Four reported individuals: 9/30 Cook KMH, 10/30–11/23 Hennepin mob, 11/1–11/17 Olmsted *fide* JB, 11/13 Pennington KSS.



Summer Tanager, 4 November 1993, Rochester, Olmsted County. Photo by Howard Munson.

Scarlet Tanager

Late north 9/12 Beltrami TT, 10/31 Cook KMH. Late south 9/23 Hennepin PBU, Olmsted JB, Rice TB, 9/26 Hennepin SC.

Northern Cardinal

Reported from seven counties north and 19 counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Late north 10/5 Lake DPV, 10/10 Lake ME/SK. Late south 9/25 Hennepin TT, 10/4 Washington AB.

Blue Grosbeak

Two reports: 8/20 Nobles ND, 8/22 Rock ND.

Indigo Bunting

Late north 8/19 Clay LCF, 9/1 Aitkin WN. Late south 10/2 Winona CS, 10/9 Brown JS.

Dickcissel

Late south 8/2 Cottonwood DSm, 8/13 Olmsted JB.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Late north 9/4 Roseau PS, 9/8 Becker BBe. Late south 10/9 Dakota TT, 11/7 Carver DBM.



Rufous-sided Towhee ("Spotted" race), 7 November 1993, Carver Park, Carver County. Photo by Dennis Martin.

American Tree Sparrow

Early north 9/18 Cook KMH, 9/26 Aitkin WN. Early south 9/18 Winona CS, 10/3 Washington WL.

Chipping Sparrow

Late north 10/14 Roseau KB, 10/16 St. Louis SS. Late south 11/5 Dakota DSm, 11/11 Hennepin TT.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Late north 9/30 Cook KMH, 11/2 St. Louis PB. Late south 10/4 Washington AB, Winona JPo, 10/19 Olmsted JB.

Field Sparrow

Late north 10/10 Lake DPV, 10/27 St. Louis

JG. Late south 10/16 Brown JS, Houston JD, EMF, 10/18 Winona CS.

Vesper Sparrow

Late north 10/7 Aitkin DN, 10/30 Aitkin BL. Late south 10/18 Goodhue DSm, Winona JPo, 10/20 Lac Qui Parle AB.

Lark Sparrow

Late north 8/21 Wadena RG. Late south 8/21 Wabasha WM, 8/22 Wabasha PB, Winona KE.

Savannah Sparrow

Late north 10/23 Cook BL, 10/25 Polk RJ. Late south 10/31 Hennepin TT, 11/11 Sibley KB.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Late south 8/1 Murray DSm, 8/2 Ramsey KB.

LeConte's Sparrow

Late north 10/3 St. Louis SS, 10/17 St. Louis PBu. Late south 10/2 McLeod RG, Sibley RG, 10/4 Carver RJ, Steele RG.

Fox Sparrow

Early north 9/18 St. Louis BBo, 9/23 Lake DPV. Early south 9/11 Anoka KB, 9/19 Hennepin SC. Late north 11/3 Cook KMH, 11/7 St. Louis ME/SK, NJ. Late south 11/11 Hennepin TT, Washington WL, 11/15 Houston EMF.

Song Sparrow

Late north 10/29 Cook KMH, RJ, SOL, 11/30 St. Louis KE.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 9/4 Hennepin SC, 9/6 Cottonwood ED, Winona CS. Late north 10/2 Itasca AB, 10/13 Cook KMH. Late south Hennepin SC, 11/21 Dakota AB.

Swamp Sparrow

Late north 10/30 Cook DPV, 11/15 Polk KB. Late south 11/7 Hennepin TT, Washington TEB, 11/11 Hennepin SC.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 9/1 Ramsey KB, 9/10 Anoka

CF, Washington WL. Late north 11/18 St. Louis NJ, 11/27 Aitkin WN. Late south 11/22 Martin BBo, 11/30 Olmsted AP.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early north 9/11 Cook KMH, St. Louis SS, 9/14 Kanabec CM. Early south 9/11 Anoka CF, 9/18 Hennepin SC. Late north 10/29 Cook RJ, 11/11 Cook KMH. Late south 10/18 Goodhue DSm, 10/31 Chisago TBr.

Harris' Sparrow

Early north 9/12 Kanabec CM, 9/16 Lake DPV. Early south 9/15 Hennepin DB, 9/16 Winona CS. Late north 10/26 Koochiching GM, 10/31 Clay LCF. Late south 11/19 Lac Qui Parle FE, 11/26 Martin BBo.

Dark-eyed Junco

Early south 8/12 Hennepin SC, 8/17 Olmsted JB.

Lapland Longspur

Early north 9/10 Cook KMH, 9/16 Lake DPV. Early south 9/24 Ramsey KB, 10/2 McLeod RJ. Late north 11/27 Aitkin WN, 11/28 Clay LCF.

Smith's Longspur

Reported 9/11 Cook RK, 10/8 Roseau PS.

Snow Bunting

Early north 10/1 *vide* KE, 10/3 Cook SOL. Early south 10/10 Dakota TT, 10/16 Sherburne RB.

Bobolink

Late north 8/22 Aitkin WN, Clearwater RJ, Becker KB, 8/29 Clearwater AB. Late south 8/17 Rice OR, 8/24 Washington WL.

Red-winged Blackbird

Late north 11/9 Lake DPV, 11/28 Aitkin WN.

Eastern Meadowlark

Late north reports on 9/18 Todd RJ, 10/17 Aitkin WN.

Western Meadowlark

Late north 10/25 Red Lake RJ, 11/14 Wilkin SDM.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Late north 8/22 Clay LCF, 9/12 Aitkin WN.
Late south 9/11 Martin RJ, 9/12 Hennepin SC.

Rusty Blackbird

Early north 10/8 Cook KMH, 10/10 St. Louis TW. Early south 9/8 Hennepin KB, 10/11 Washington SK. Late north 11/8 Becker BK, 11/26 St. Louis TW. Late south 11/10 Cottonwood ED, Hennepin KB, 11/13 Freeborn RJ.

Brewer's Blackbird

Late north 9/19 Clay LCF, 11/6 Aitkin WN.
Late south 11/8 Sibley KB, 11/25 Cottonwood ED.

Common Grackle

Late north 11/28 Aitkin WN, 11/30 St. Louis ME/SK, NJ.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Late north 8/14 WN. Late south 11/3 Rock ND, 11/25 Murray ND.

Orchard Oriole

Late south 8/24 Hennepin SC.

Northern Oriole

Late north 11/7 Becker BBe, 11/25 Aitkin

WN. Late south 9/15 Carver MB, 9/18 Houston EMF.

Pine Grosbeak

Early north 9/27 Duluth SDM, FN, 10/16 Becker BBe.

Purple Finch

Early south 9/16 Hennepin KB, 9/18 Hennepin SC.

House Finch

Reported from five counties north and 21 counties south.

Red Crossbill

Early south 8/19 Anoka KB, 9/19 Hennepin SC.

White-winged Crossbill

Reported from six counties north.

Common Redpoll

Early north 10/12 Cook KMH, St. Louis KE, 11/13 Lake of the Woods KB. Early south 10/24 Hennepin KB, TT, 10/31 Anoka CF, JH.

Hoary Redpoll

Reported 10/30 Cook MH, 11/21 Aitkin WN.



Northern Oriole, 18 November 1993, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

Pine Siskin
Reported from 15 counties north and 22 counties south.

Evening Grosbeak
Early south 8/19 Anoka KB, 10/17 Hennepin TT.

American Goldfinch
Reported from 15 counties north and 26 counties south.

House Sparrow
Reported from 11 counties north and 22 counties south.

Contributors

Parker Backstrom	PB	Anthony Hertzell	AH
Bruce Baer	BB	Joel Hessen	JHe
Karl Bardon	KB	Ken & Molly Hoffman	KMH
Joe Beck	JoB	Robert Holtz	RH
Judith Bell	JBe	Harlan Hostager	HH
Tom & Elizabeth Bell	TEB	James Howitz	JH
Betsy Beneke	BBe	Nancy Jackson	NJ
David Benson	DBe	Coralie Jacobson	CJ
Tom Boevers	TB	Robert Janssen	RJ
Brad Bolduan	BBo	Douglas Jenness	DJe
Al Bolduc	AB	Bob Jessen	BJ
Don Bolduc	DB	Blair Jocelyn	BJo
Jerry Bonkoski	JB	Douglas Johnson	DJ
Terry Brashear	TBr	Oscar Johnson	OJ
Richard Brasket	RB	Byron Kinkade	BK
Paul Budde	PBu	Joan Kline	JK
Ken Burton	KBu	Ron & Rose Kneeskern	RRK
Mike Butterfield	MB	Scott Krych	SK
Steve Carlson	SC	Henry Kyllingstad	HK
Pat Colon	PC	Pat & Ken Lafond	PKL
Jeff Dankert	JD	Larry Lewis	LL
Tim Dawson	TD	Edwin Lins	EL
Nelvina DeKam	ND	Bill Litkey	BL
Ed Duerksen	ED	William Longley	WL
Kim Eckert	KE	Sandy & Orvis Lunke	SOL
Fred Eckhardt	FE	Don & Wynn Mahle	DWM
Molly Evans and Sarah Kolbry	ME/SK	Shirley Mahowald	SM
Laurence & Carol Folk	LCF	William Marengo	WM
Lawrence W. Filter	LF	Grace Marquardt	GM
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Mike Hendrickson	MH		

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Ken Olman	KO	Keith & Shelly Steva	KSS
Dan Orr	DO	Bill Stjern	BS
Mark Otnes	MO	Forest & Kirsten Strnad	FKS
Johanna Pals	JP	Peder Svingen	PS
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Orwin Rustad	OR	Kristine & Kyle Wicklund	KKW
Steve Schon	SS	Terry Wiens	TW
Carol Schumacher	CS	Ben Yokel	BY
Larry Semo	LS	Dave Zumeta	DZ
Drew Smith	DSm		
Dave Sovereign	DS	many observers	mob

Searching For Dippers

Jim Williams

“It looks like a dipper, but dippers aren’t supposed to be up here.”

Gudren Hodnefield wrote that to the MOU in a 1983 letter which now resides in a modest file of similar communications about American Dippers seen or thought to have been seen in Minnesota.

With the letters are the recorded votes of members of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee, passing judgment on those sightings, thumbs up here, thumbs down there. All of the letters and notes, accepted or not, are intriguing, however. They feed the thought, growing more serious lately, that perhaps American Dippers are residents of the state, not just occasional visitors.

Ms. Hodnefield and her sister were at Big Falls, Minn., bird watching “west of the bridge on the north end of town where the water rushes over the rocks. We saw this black-gray sooty bird with a short tail,” she wrote.

It looks like a dipper, the women told

each other, then laughed and said it couldn’t be.

Five of us are standing in the rain in the valley of the Temperance River in Cook County in early June 1994. The rain is soft, rich with fragrance, mist from the river rising to meet it, everything glistening wet, the flowing water high and fast, beating itself white as it pours over the first ledges that mark the downhill rush to Lake Superior.

You could say it’s a great day for ducks. If you read the letter from Steve Bouricius which all of us have tucked into a pocket, you also could say it’s a great place for dippers.

Mr. Bouricius is another writer who has sharpened the appetite of Minnesota dipper aficionados. He wrote in early May from Colorado, where dippers nest (in a nesting box he built) 50 feet from his living room window. He responded to a request for dipper information from MOU member Steve Millard, sending five single-spaced typed pages that provide everything you need for



Temperance River, Cook County. Potential American Dipper feeding habitat, 11 June 1994. Photo by Jim Williams.

finding dippers except map coordinates.

If you look at the Temperance River or the Devil Track or Cascade or Baptism or Manitou or any of several other rivers along Minnesota's North Shore, if you read the Bouricius letter, you want to walk just a bit farther upstream, take one more look, just in case. You get the same feeling thumbing through that MOU file.

One of the most intriguing records there was submitted in 1971 by a man named Don Woods, an employee of the Department of Natural Resources. He reported a "15-minute sighting in good light at 50 feet" of a dipper at the outlet of Mink Lake in Cook County. He said he had seen the bird there each year late in May from 1966 through 1971.

"There are too many sightings to casually dismiss" the possibility of dippers as regulars in Minnesota, said Mr. Millard. He and Diane Millard, Dudley Edmondson, Warren Nelson, Dave Gilbertson, and Steve and Jo Blanich comprised the first team of hunters. They worked the Temperance, Bap-

tism, and Cascade rivers in May 1994.

Bonnie Mulligan, Charlie Greenman, Dick Sandve, Jude Hughes-Williams, and this reporter hiked some of the same trails and others two weeks later.

Neither team found dippers. Both teams believe Minnesota birders should continue to look for that species in their home state.

"Access is one of the big limiting factors." Mr. Millard said. There are trails, but not along every river and then along but a small fraction of the total shoreline. Brush is thick. The best one can do is work in, find the river bank, look upstream and down, then repeat that at some other point. It is difficult to cover any stretch of any of those rivers thoroughly. The search requires people and time.

But it's not hard to find more dipper stories. On their weekend expedition, Mr. Edmondson talked with a Tettegouche State Park ranger who said he had seen a dipper there while trout fishing. Mr. Millard has a fisherman friend who says he saw a dipper in the late 1980s while fishing the Temper-



Temperance River, Cook County. Potential American Dipper nesting habitat, 11 June 1994. Photo by Jim Williams.

ance River near the national forest campground several miles inland from Lake Superior.

"The habitat is there," said Mr. Sandve. "There's no reason why dippers couldn't be nesting on those rivers."

"In terms of habitat where I've seen them, the North Shore rivers look perfect," said Ms. Mulligan. "The question is, do they migrate laterally? If they do, I can't imagine they're not there."

Mr. Bouricius lives in a cabin on the Middle St. Vrain Creek in Boulder County, Colorado. "I see dippers almost every day from my living room," he writes. He oversees a statewide dipper nesting box program in Colorado, is compiling a bibliography of dipper literature for publication, and is writing a book on dippers.

Speaking of the lower portion of the North Shore rivers, where the water runs the hardest and fastest, he says, "My guess is that this is where you need to look most closely for them (dippers) and their nests. The steeper (the river drop), the better.

"I am continually amazed at their skill in maneuvering in waters that would surely kill any human being.... For dippers, turbulence is terrific, because that's where their food and nesting sites are.

"It seems to me that the two keys to finding nesting dippers," Mr. Bouricius says, "are locating the habitats of preferred foods and suitable nesting sites. First, the aquatic insects (stonefly, mayfly, and caddis fly larvae) and the small fish they feed on need a quality rubble substrate. (There is some correlation between habitat appropriate for trout and habitat good for dippers.)

"Forget the territory-sized portions of river (territories can vary from a quarter-mile to a mile of river) that don't have lots of rocks on the bottom," he writes, adding that dippers may feed in the rocky estuaries at the mouth of a river flowing into a lake. They would not nest there, however.

"Quality dipper nesting sites require a ledge, any ledge, preferably sheltered from above and directly over moving water," he says. "Check carefully under every bridge

and along ever cliff or large boulder with protected crevices adjacent to the stream.”

“The onset of courtship and especially nest-building will depend largely on the timing of peak production of aquatic invertebrates,” he says. “If there are dippers nesting along the streams emerging from the Sawtooth Mountains, dippers surely will be defending territories in May. The males will frequently patrol, cruising up and down the stream at high speed, following the main flow, and sounding a single warning ‘zeet’ as they pass any minor threat, such as a human.

“Since you don’t know whether dippers nest there,” he writes, I wouldn’t recommend sitting and waiting. It could be a loooooong wait. It’s probably best to walk upstream, one person on each side of the stream. And remember to scan carefully because the birds can stay under water for 20 seconds.

“Familiarize yourself well with their song and call. I can sometimes hear them at a quarter mile over the sound of a rushing stream, but I find that most good birders simply miss them as they fly by and call.

“When dippers forage, they usually move up or down a stream fairly slowly, often stopping to preen. At any time they may take off to patrol and be out of sight quickly. Then, follow the bird discreetly. It will turn around by the end of its territory... If you verify territorial behavior, stay well back in the woods to watch for behavior which may lead to a nest. Begging young are very noisy and will readily reveal the location of a nest,” Mr. Bouricius writes.

Dippers sing any time of day, every day of the year, Mr. Bouricius says, regardless of territorial or mating status or sex. “Blizzard conditions and 20-below temperatures will not discourage an undisturbed dipper from singing,” he writes. “Dippers are well equipped to tolerate cold temperatures and will preferentially select colder nesting sites. In winter, as streams ice over, some dippers will remain as high in the drainage as there are open holes in which to feed.”

Is it likely that dippers move from west to east? There is some evidence of that possibility, Mr. Bouricius says, but it is uncon-

firmed, and he suspects it takes place infrequently. He adds, however, that he believes dippers might eventually be recognized as more highly migratory than is currently known. In North American, dippers are both altitudinal and (probably) latitudinal migrants, he says, but just how many birds travel long distances south (or east) is not known because no one is banding dippers regularly.

He says that he has never seen a dipper more than 20 feet from a river or a lake. He guesses that the dipper sightings along the North Shore in Minnesota in 1970 — from late January into April on five different streams — were of different individuals. He says the two June sightings in Minnesota and even the April sighting “strongly suggest the possibility of local nesting.”

He adds, however, that “it also seems, if breeding is occurring (in Minnesota), that birders would have seen the easily found juveniles from mid-summer into fall IF (author’s emphasis) they bird the upper portions of the stream.”

“I’ve always wondered why dippers haven’t expanded into eastern mountain ranges,” he says at the end of his letter.

Mr. Bouricius suggests that Minnesota birders organize a field trip, getting as many people together as possible to survey rivers on the same day in September, February, and June. “Call it Minnesota dipper Day, offer prizes, and have a rendezvous party afterwards,” he says.

Two portions of the double-team dipper hunt from early summer ’94 continue. Mr. Edmondson created a dipper poster which he placed at the Tettegouche State Park headquarters. It alerts park users to the birds’ possible presence and asks for information. And in late June the *Cook County News-Herald* was given a story asking county residents to report any dipper sightings to the MOU.

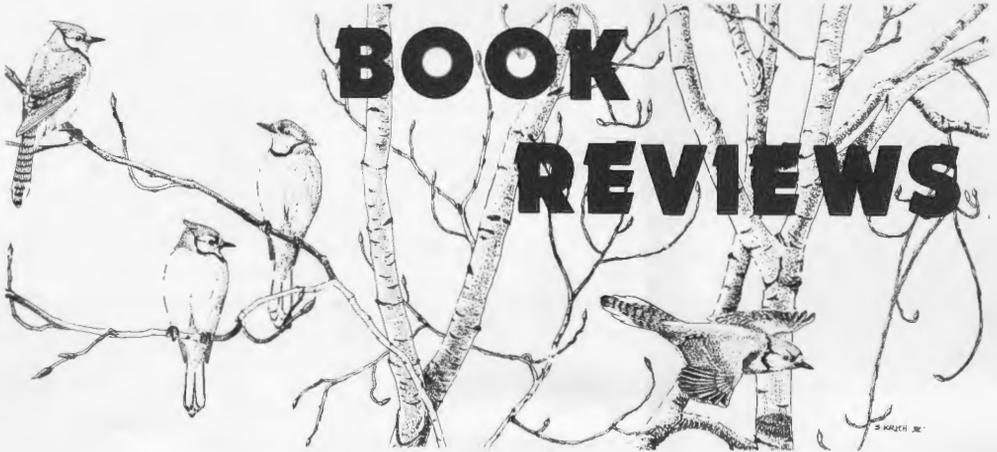
And what if nobody ever sees another dipper here? “You get to see the rivers,” Ms. Mulligan said. And the canyons through which they run, the rock, the hearts of our mountain range, places where few of our contemporaries, or predecessors ever have been. You get to explore — and contribute.

"Your investigation," Mr. Bourcius writes, "if carefully undertaken and reported will be of value whether or not you find dippers. The insight, creativity, and efforts of amateur field ornithologists like us con-

tinue to move and shake the science."

And then, even though dippers "aren't supposed to be here," they just might be.

3326 Martha Lane, Minnetonka, MN 55345



THE BIRDS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN by Michael A. Kielb, John M. Swales, and Richard A. Wolinski, The University of Michigan Press, 261pp, a few migration graphs and maps, comprehensive bar graph, softcover.

The Birds of Washtenaw County, Michigan (BW) is a comprehensive look at the birdlife of a relatively small and insignificant (bird-wise) county. What it does have is a long history of ornithological work associated with the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. The authors have extensive field experience in the county, on a nearly daily basis, providing the foundation for the data provided in BW. Covering all species recorded in the county since 1976, the authors have put a lot of information in a small volume. In fact that is one of the stated purposes of this book, "...to provide a baseline account of species occurrence in Washtenaw County during the last fifteen years. We hope that this account will be of value in gauging the possible effects of future environmental and ecological

change and that it can serve as a reference for input into policy-making."

BW does an admirable job of providing information to its stated audience: "inhabitants of Washtenaw and adjacent counties who have only a minor interest in birds and who might therefor only use the book for occasional reference; participants in bird courses offered throughout the county; visitors to the region with an interest in birds; ornithologists and bird libraries in the USA and Ontario" to name a few.

Arranged in five chapters: Topography of Washtenaw County and its ornithological history over the last 100 years; a site-chart and guide with directions and maps to all of the counties best birding areas; detailed species accounts of the 267 species recorded in the county between 1977 and 1991; a section detailing those species which have been recorded in the county prior to 1977, bringing the number of species covered to 297; and an annual bar graph that provides a graphic generalization of the seasonal occurrence and abundance of the counties

birdlife.

BW is a well written and authoritative look at a well covered but very average county. It has only one irritating fault in my opinion. The use, of what the authors termed, a "finding code". Although it is defined exhaustively in the introduction I found it difficult to understand, confusing and unnecessary. Each account begins with a finding code followed by a status description. Looking at Cerulean Warbler, (Finding Code: 6 Uncommon migrant and summer resident) and Blackpoll Warbler (Finding Code 5 Fairly Uncommon migrant) as examples, we can see that Blackpolls are more likely to be seen than Cerulean Warblers. Each of the status descriptions is defined very well, and the authors are to be congratulated on this, and the finding code seems to be just additional and confusing information.

I can recommend *The Birds of Washtenaw County, Michigan* to anyone who may be traveling to that area, who may have an interest in Michigan's birdlife or to anyone looking for a model of an authoritative, detailed, well written and presented book on the birdlife of a small but well covered region. **Kim Risen, 5756 Brunswick Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55428.**

FOR THE BIRDS: An Uncommon Guide by Laura Erickson, illustrations by Jeff Sonstegard, Pfeifer-Hamilton Publishers, Duluth; 1994, 397 pp, many black and white illustrations, softcover, \$19.95.

Laura Erickson is well known to birders in northern Minnesota as a result of her activities with Duluth Audubon and her radio program "For the Birds". Visitors to Hawk Ridge may not know her name, but know her instead as "the lady with the red hat" who holds forth with unending discussion of birdlore during the crowded weekends each fall. These latter individuals will recognize immediately the style in which *For The Birds* is written.

Consisting of 365 day-by-day sketches, covering an incredibly wide variety of topics, *For The Birds* (BIRDS) is certainly, as its subtitle indicates, an uncommon guide. Each account has a short, two or three para-

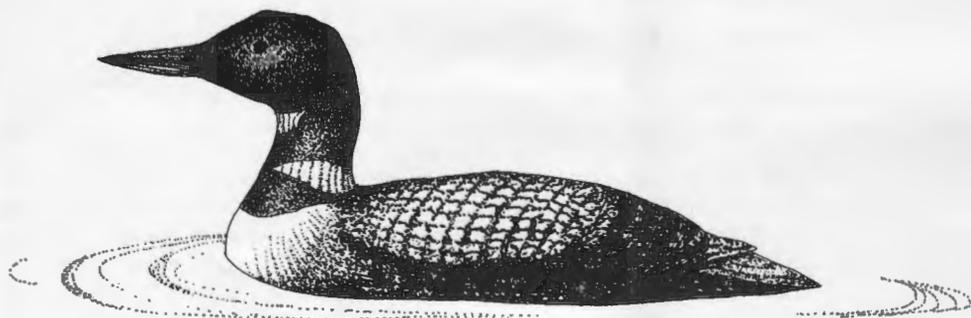
graph account that could only be described as "bird related". The differing subjects of these accounts is as varied as an individual's imagination: bird feeding, heat regulation of winter birds, tongue-in-cheek bird rehabilitation tips, discourse on the avian heart (on Valentine's Day of course!), birds and their songs, aspen trees, cowbird parasitism, Fork-tailed Flycatchers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, spring migration, chicken pox, eggs, *Bartlett's Quotations*, breeding bird surveys, raising children or rehabilitating birds (amazingly similar tasks!), Common Yellowthroats, Common Terns or Common Nighthawks, Hawk Ridge, "dawn dickey duty", Passenger Pigeons, fall migration, rare birds in Grand Marais, the U.S. military and birds, turkeys (Thanksgiving naturally!), analysis of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and hundreds of others. Personal glimpses of how birds affect the author, her family, children and friends are mixed in as well, often providing a lighthearted view of the bird world.

The illustrations by Jeff Sonstegard are, for the most part, quite well done. Each daily account will have its own "thumbnail" illustration, but their small size limits their impact. They do help to illustrate or show some facet of the topic at hand accomplishing their designed use. Larger illustrations accompany the faceplate announcing each new month. Some of these larger format illustrations are quite good. My favorites would have to be August's Cedar Waxwings and November's Blue Jay. The only illustration I disliked appears, unfortunately, on the front cover and consists of a misshapen Northern Hawk Owl.

When one considers the ever-growing popularity of birding or casual "bird watching" it is easy to understand how a book as different, and difficult to describe, as this one can be published. While I think even the most avid and knowledgeable birders would enjoy some accounts and could learn something from BIRDS, the intended audience is certainly that of the more casual "bird watcher". With that in mind, I think BIRDS does a great job in illustrating one of the best things about our interest, hobby, avocation—birding can be to each indi-

vidual whatever they wish it to be. BIRDS shows well the wide variety of interests that exist. Enough so that I think every birder in the United States could identify with at least one account. While I personally find some of the accounts unappealing or condescending, the majority of them are well written, revealing, humorous, insightful and sometimes thought provoking. As a parent of a young child, I can empathize particularly with some of the logistical difficulty that occurs when details of parenthood conflict with the appearance of a rare bird. BIRDS may not appeal to some of the more "hard-core" birding crowd, although I think anyone with a true interest in birds would enjoy much of this book. I can recommend

BIRDS to birders of all levels as there is certainly something here to appeal to every taste. Read an account a day for pleasures sake, make some notations in the provided space detailing your bird related experiences of the day, learn some new facet of bird behavior, visit your library to check out some of the described literature or become active in your local bird club to provide even more protection for the birds. The next time your birthday rolls around, and friends and relatives say, "He/she is into birds. Get them something bird related." Ask for this book. It certainly beats those glass bluebirds or birds nest candleholders. **Kim W. Risen, 5756 Brunswick Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55429.**



NOTES OF INTEREST

HARLEQUIN DUCK IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — A first-winter male Harlequin Duck was seen on Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, Hennepin County on 7 December 1993. It was noticeably smaller than the Common Goldeneyes with which it associated, and its plumage was uniformly dark brown except for several whitish marks which echoed the plumage present on adult males. There were two whitish spots at the base of the bill which formed one larger, crescent shaped mark; there was a small, round spot behind the eye; there was a white slash running downward from just posterior to the round spot, and there was another vertical white mark on the side of the breast that met the water line. The stubby bill was grayish. In flight, the Harlequin Duck lacked white patches in the wings. Although Steve Carlson and other observers were able to see the Harlequin later that same day, it was not relocated on subsequent days, even though the lake remained open. The only previous record of Harlequin Duck in Hennepin County was also a first-winter male seen at Lake Harriet on 16 December 1987 (*The Loon* 60:44).



Although this latter individual was also seen for only one day in Hennepin County, it was subsequently seen nearby at Black Dog Lake, Dakota County until 1 January 1988 (*The Loon* 60:112). Although the Harlequin Duck is a rare but regular spring and fall migrant on the North Shore, it is considered accidental away from Lake Superior (Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987). I was therefore quite surprised to discover that in the winter months (December to February), this species is actually more likely to occur away from Lake Superior. In the past ten years (as reported in winter seasonal reports in *The Loon*), there have been only four Lake Superior records, and six non-Lake Superior records. Furthermore, the only locations where this species has been noted overwintering are away from Lake Superior (Virginia, St. Louis County; Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County; and Austin, Mower County). Also interesting is the marked increase in records away from Lake Superior; there have been more non-Lake Superior records in the past three years than any preceding decade. **Karl Bardon, 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.**

ICELAND GULL IN THE TWIN CITIES — From 10–14 December 1993, a first-winter



Iceland Gull was observed at several locations in the Twin Cities. It flew daily from a large, communal roost on Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, Hennepin County northward to a field near Lake George in Oak Grove Township of northern Anoka County where it fed on food waste with other gulls. This is a round trip of approximately 54 miles. The Iceland Gull and other gulls often stopped at the Coon Rapids Dam on the Mississippi River on their way to and from Lake Calhoun and northern Anoka County. The dam lies halfway between the latter two locations, and provides a convenient feeding and resting location for the gulls. On 10 December I saw the Iceland Gull at all three widely spaced locations: at the Coon Rapids dam early in the morning, at the field in northern Anoka County in the afternoon, and down at Lake Calhoun in the evening. The Iceland Gull was seen at the Coon Rapids Dam at 8:00–8:30 A.M. for the next four mornings, and was relocated near Lake George in Oak Grove Township on several subsequent afternoons, but was not seen at Lake Calhoun after 10 December. This is no doubt because the gull usually flew to roost so late in the afternoon; it often stopped at the Coon Rapids Dam in the evening around 3:30–4:00, but it was usually one of the last gulls to leave southward to roost, as late as 4:30, and would therefore not arrive at Lake Calhoun until dark. The many observers at Lake Calhoun and Harriet on these evenings did not see the bird. Other observers were able to see the Iceland Gull at the Coon Rapids Dam, and in the field near Lake George, including Bob Janssen, Ray Glassel, Steve Carlson, Jeff Dains, and Greg Pietila. During this period, the gull was observed numerous times, and excellent views were obtained as close as 100 feet as it fed on bread with Ring-billed Gulls at the boat landing on the Anoka County side of the Coon Rapids Dam. Direct comparisons were made with two first-winter and one adult Glaucous Gulls, as many as eight first-winter Thayer's Gulls, and hundreds of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. It was similar in body and bill size to a small Herring Gull or a large Thayer's Gull, but it was substantially smaller than all the Glaucous Gulls, with a slimmer, more attenuated look, since the wingtips extended about a bill length beyond the tail. Although the overall pale plumage and whitish primary tips resembled a Glaucous Gull, the bill was entirely black, even at close range in excellent light. The body plumage was a pale tan color, becoming whitest on the head, especially near the bill. There was a slight darkening around the eye and upward toward the nape, forming a vague hood, but this was not nearly as dark or distinct as the same area on a typical first-winter Thayer's Gull. This gull was uniformly checkered and mottled on the mantle, coverts, tertials, uppertail and undertail. The tertials were mottled and checkered throughout, with no area of solid brown color as on a typical first-winter Thayer's Gull. The tertials appeared slightly darker than the folded wingtips, which were the whitest part of the bird. Each primary tip (when folded) was white with a distinct light

tan wedge running longitudinally along the vane, and a small, triangular subapical spot at the terminus of this light brown wedge. The rectrices were extensively barred and mottled on the edges, and lacked the smooth, broad-banded appearance of a typical Thayer's Gull. There was virtually no contrast between the rump and the tail. The dorsal surface of the wings and mantle in flight were uniformly pale, checkered white, becoming whitest on the primaries and secondaries, which were paler than the adjacent primary and secondary coverts. There was definitely no dark-light-dark pattern formed by dark outer primaries, paler inner primaries, and darker secondaries as on first-winter Thayer's Gulls. Ventrally, the tip of the outer primaries lacked the thin, light gray trailing edge typical of Thayer's Gull. This feature was seen well when the Iceland Gull was flying directly overhead with a first-winter Thayer's Gull, which clearly had a thin, light gray trailing edge to the outer primaries. This record represents the seventh record for the Twin Cities, and the first record for Anoka County; all other Twin Cities records for this species have been at Lakes Calhoun/Harriet in Hennepin County, at Black Dog Lake in Dakota County, and along the Mississippi River at Holman Field in Ramsey County. In the past 10 years, Iceland Gulls have occurred in the Twin Cities just as often as along the North Shore. Of the 15 acceptable records in the past ten years, seven have been from the North Shore, and seven have been from the Twin Cities (and one was from Lake City). **Karl Bardon, 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433**

REVISED IDENTIFICATION OF AN ACCIPITER PHOTOGRAPH — In the Winter 1992 issue of *The Loon* (64:205), a photograph of a hawk identified as a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) was published. When I first saw this photo, however, my impression was that it was actually a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*A. striatus*), but I was not entirely certain of this until I recently had the opportunity to see the original slide. Indeed, in my opinion, this hawk is a Sharp-shinned. I also showed this slide to other Duluth birders with considerable experience with accipiters at Hawk Ridge — bander Dave Evans, Dudley Edmondson, Mike Hendrickson, and Peder Svingen — and all agree with this identification. Note the crown shape is rounded, not flat as in Cooper's Hawk, and the crown color appears to be the same as what can be seen of the nape; on a Cooper's, the crown would appear darker than the nape. Also, the over-all size of the bird compared to the starling in the photo is entirely consistent with a female Sharp-shinned. **Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

HYBRID DUCK IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY — 31 March 1994 was a clear, mild day



with moderate NW winds. My wife Diane and I were birding several western Minnesota counties, enjoying a great movement of raptors and waterfowl. One of our first stops was a flooded field about six miles southwest of Fergus Falls. Every year, this temporary melt-water pond hosts a good mixture of swans, ducks, and geese. As I slowly scanned through the flock, a duck caught my attention due to its unfamiliar pattern of markings. I set up my window-mounted Kowa scope with 25X eye-

piece. Sunlight behind us showed off the bird to good advantage. The distance was about 100 yards. The duck was medium-sized and an obvious male. The bill was all dark and very thin, like that of a Hooded Merganser. The head was a dark, glossy greenish-black with a yellow or gold eye. The shape of the head was that of a Common Goldeneye, but without the white cheek patch. There was a small but noticeable wispy crest on the crown. The head color extended down the neck, where there was a sharp demarcation between the dark neck and a snow-white breast. A thin, dark line angled forward from the shoulder, coming to a sharp point midway between the shoulder and the waterline on either side of the breast. The sides and flanks appeared medium gray, contrasting sharply with the white breast. The back and tail were dark, with thin white scapulars trailing down

the back. Foot and leg color were not noted. The bird was actively diving for most of the 15 to 20 minutes of observation. The predominant characteristics suggested Hooded Merganser, except for the shape and color of the head, which obviously was that of a male Common Goldeneye. Diane and I both agreed that it was indeed a Hooded Merganser/Common Goldeneye hybrid. At home, I checked *The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* by F. H. Kortright. This older work is still one of my favorite waterfowl books and contains a lot of useful information. On page 460 is an illustration of the bird we saw. The text on hybridism (pp. 43-44) refers to this pairing as "a rare cross." It was indeed a handsome and distinct individual. Steve Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

PIED-BILLED GREBE ATTACKS CANADA GOOSE —

At about 5:30 P.M. on 19 April 1994, I was hiking between Lake McKusick and the marsh on the south side in Stillwater, Washington County, when three large Canada Geese flew over me from the lake into a patch of open water in the marsh. The gander with the mate immediately started to chase the other gander. They caused a lot of noise and commotion. They were about 20 yards from the shoreline of the marsh. About this time, a Pied-billed Grebe showed up between the geese and the cattails. As the geese moved closer to the grebe, it reacted by swimming towards the geese in an attempt to move them away from its territory. The geese finally slowed down and turned away from the grebe. At this point, the grebe attacked! It flew about one foot off the water for about ten yards, straight to the rear of one of the ganders. I couldn't tell if it actually hit the tail feathers (it was close enough to do so), but as soon as it reached the tail end, it went underwater. This was all done in what one would call split-second action. One wonders if it hit or touched the goose from underneath. The grebe was next seen back in its territory and the geese slowly moved away. David B. Vesall, 709 W. Linden St., Stillwater, MN 55082.



GYRFALCON IN DULUTH —

On Saturday afternoon, 29 January 1994, I was searching around the Duluth harbor area for the immature Gyrfalcon which had been reported earlier that week. After turning off Garfield Ave., I headed towards the grain elevators when I spotted the Gyrfalcon chasing a flock of pigeons about 70 yards away. While watching him chase the pigeons around with my binoculars, it was exciting to see the Gyrfalcon grab a pigeon right out of mid-air. I was thinking that things couldn't get any better or more exciting, when a Red-tailed Hawk and a Bald Eagle came swooping in out of nowhere, causing the Gyrfalcon to drop the pigeon.

After watching all three birds chase each other around, the Gyrfalcon finally landed on a power pole about 25 feet away from where I was sitting. I continued watching the Gyrfalcon for the next 20 minutes or so, while he flew around the area looking for the fallen pigeon. As I sat there watching the Gyrfalcon, I thought to myself, if only I had a video camera. Craig Menze, Route 1, Box 178, Mora, MN 55051.



AN UNUSUAL CONCENTRATION OF RED-THROATED LOONS —

On the morning of 5 May 1994, Tim Dawson called to report two Red-throated Loons he had just seen on Lake Superior from the recreation area on Park Point. Although this species is currently on Minnesota's Regular list, it is only reported once or twice in an average year, and until recently it was on the Casual list. Accordingly, after calling a few other Duluth birders, I went down to Park Point to try and relocate these loons. When I arrived in the early afternoon, Mike Hendrickson was already there and had tentatively identified a Red-throated Loon swimming in the distance. Using my



Kowa TSN-4 40X spotting scope, which provided a better view than the scope Mike had been using, we were able to positively identify this loon as a Red-throated in what appeared to be full alternate or breeding plumage. It appeared smaller and thinner in over-all size and shape than a Common Loon; it had a relatively flat crown profile; a consistently uptilted thin bill; a relatively straight culmen; a distinctively upturned shape to the lower mandible; a pale gray head; and its dark red oval throat patch eventually became visible after it swam closer to shore. After identifying this loon, we began scanning a larger area of the lake from the recreation area and were surprised as more Red-throated Loons came into view. As far as we could see, all of them were in full alternate plumage, and on some of the closer individuals, we could also see the vertical stripes on the hindneck. They were all actively swimming and diving, and occasionally some of the loons would take flight, so it was difficult to exactly determine how many individuals there were. However, during the next hour or so, we were able to see a minimum of 10 individuals simultaneously a few times; at one point, we were virtually certain that 12 loons were present, and it is quite possible that we actually saw a total of 18 different Red-throated Loons — 12 swimming in the lake plus six others flying in the distance. We later scanned the lake from a couple of vantage points near downtown Duluth and from several spots along the north shore as far as Stony Point, but we saw no other Red-throated Loons. Other observers later arrived to look for Red-throated Loons, but only one was seen from the recreation area that evening. The next morning, one was seen near downtown Duluth, and no others have been reported as of the time of this writing (26 May). Whether there were 10 or 18 Red-throated Loons present that day, this sighting is significant since in recent years I have only been aware of two Red-throateds at most being seen on one day on Lake Superior in Minnesota. Normally, only one individual is ever seen, and again, in some years there have been no records of this species at all. However, a search of past issues of *The Loon* and *The Flicker* turned up accounts of three other Red-throated Loon concentrations of similar size, all on Lake Superior and observed from Park Point. According to *The Flicker* 11:21, there was “a flock of some 15 individuals flying in scattered groups” on 17 June 1939; however, this is only a second-hand report, the actual observer is of unknown experience, and there is no description of the birds. A more convincing account appears in *The Flicker* 18:11-12: a total of 14 Red-throated Loons were observed on 13 June 1945 “swimming in two formations, seven in each,” by an experienced observer. And much more recently, on 3 July 1981, two experienced observers documented a count of “twelve on the surface (of Lake Superior) at one time” (*The Loon* 53:168). It is interesting to note that these sightings were in June or July, not in May when most recent Red-throated Loon records in the state have occurred. **Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

BALD EAGLE MIGRATION — A huge congregation of Bald Eagles was present on the



Mississippi River between Reads Landing and Lake City, Wabasha County (Pool 4 and the lower end of Lake Pepin) during December 1993. Several observers from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and local residents counted between 350 and 500 Bald Eagles in the area for a minimum period of 12 days, 2 December to 13 December. The birds were concentrated on the edge of ice floes (210 on the ice alone on 4 December) and in trees on the bluff and in the floodplain. They flew in flocks of 20-30 over the water, occa-

sionally picking up fish off the surface. There was a constant mid-air tussling and sparring for fish by the birds. Eagles were seen perched in trees right next to Highway 61, feeding and loafing, with little apparent concern for traffic or onlookers, who jammed the roadway. The eagles were probably responding to an abundance of gizzard shad and freshwater drum available just prior to freeze-up of the river. An added attraction to the scene was a flock of about 4,000 Common Mergansers fishing in open water a mile above Reads Landing.

Eagles would dive at the flock (many of which dove to escape) and then pluck fish off the water right in the midst of the ducks. Large concentrations of eagles like this are only common in Alaska (e.g., the Chilkat River Valley, where thousands annually work the chum salmon run). It is much rarer in the lower 48 states, but used to occur in the 1980s at Glacier Park, Montana, where up to 600 Bald Eagles would feed on spawning kokinee salmon; now that the salmon are extirpated, only a few eagles are present. In 1993, there were similar large groups of eagles observed on the Missouri River for a two-week period in January. Eric Nelson, Refuge Biologist, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, 51 East 4th St., Room 101, Winona, MN 55987.

CLARK'S GREBE FOUND IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — In my attempt to get



pictures of Western Grebes on 16 April 1994 along Hwy. 119 on the north end of Lac Qui Parle Lake, I noticed two grebes that looked different from the Western Grebes. While viewing them, I immediately realized that they were Clark's Grebes. The viewing distance ranged from about 70 ft. to as far as 120 ft., and from these distances, this is what I saw: The head of the grebe was the first and most noticeable field mark, as the eyes were surrounded in white, which extended to the base of an orange-colored bill.

The neck appeared to have more white on it than that of the Western Grebe, which seemed to have more black on the back of its neck. While sitting in the water, it appeared the Clark's Grebe had whitish-looking sides, whereas the Western Grebe had darker sides. Also, the back of the Clark's had a mottled gray color and the back of the Western Grebe was a dark gray to an almost black color. Craig Menze, Route 1, Box 178, Mora, MN 55051.



Clark's Grebe (center) with Western Grebes, 16 April 1994, Lac Qui Parle Lake, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by Craig Menze.

EURASIAN WIGEON IN COOK COUNTY — The spring waterfowl migration began in earnest along the Cook County shore of Lake Superior on 19 April 1994. During the following four days, passing flocks of ducks, geese, and some swans could be seen almost continuously. On the morning of 22 April, we awoke to find a large concentration of ducks in a backwater where the Devil Track River enters Lake Superior. In a relatively short time, we identified 22 species of waterfowl, with especially large flocks of Green-winged Teal, American Wigeons, Common Goldeneyes, and Ring-necked Ducks. Later in the day, the combination of a rare calm sea



along with late afternoon sunlight created ideal viewing conditions. A warm temperature of 70+ brought about a good hatch of insects, which held the ducks' interest and kept them feeding in the backwater. While eating our evening meal, we continued to glance at the ducks milling about. A bright, rusty red-headed duck suddenly came into view with a small group of American Wigeons near the river mouth or about 75 yards from our dining room window. We immediately ran into our living room and located the red-headed duck with a Nikon 20-45X spotting scope. Identification of the Eurasian Wigeon drake was instantaneous when we saw the cream-white crown. We were privileged to watch this striking bird for the next two hours (until dark), during which time the Eurasian Wigeon stayed in the same area in company with American Wigeons and/or Green-winged Teal. At times, to our delight, the Eurasian Wigeon made complete 360 degree turns while continuously picking insects and thereby allowing us to view him from all angles. None of our bird books showed the wigeon's color as vividly as we saw it in the afternoon sunlight. Attempts were made to contact other birders, to no avail. The following morning, nearly all of the ducks were gone on the heels of a cold northwest wind. Approximately 10 miles of shoreline were checked by Ken and Molly Hoffman, but the Eurasian Wigeon was not seen again. **R. M. Randklev, 230 Croftville, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

A WINTER OVENBIRD IN OLMSTED COUNTY — As I was compiling the results of the Rochester Christmas Bird Count which was done on 18 December 1993, one of the "feeder report forms" included an Ovenbird which was coming a feeder in SW Rochester. I called the home of Jeanne and George Jones, who are active bird feeders and have counted the birds at their feeders for the Rochester CBC for several years. Jeanne Jones described the bird to me, and said that it had been coming to their feeders since early November. I went to the Jones' residence on 23 December 1993 to verify the sighting and from approximately 2:00 to 2:45 P.M. I observed



the Ovenbird at their feeders. It was easily identified as an Ovenbird, with its orange crown and dark stripes on the head and an eye-ring. The back was olive-green with no wing-bars. The breast was light with very dark stripes. It had pink legs. The bird appeared very alert, flew to and landed in a tree in the backyard before flying down to the ground and fed on birdseed that had been placed under a picnic table. The Ovenbird appeared to be in very good health and ate quite a bit of food while on the ground. It was still there when I left at 2:45 P.M. Jeanne Jones said that the bird was coming everyday both in the morning and afternoon and would spend an hour or more feeding at each stay. The Ovenbird was last seen on 8 January 1994. The Jones left for a two week vacation on the 9th. They had arranged to keep food out for the bird, but the weather was extremely cold while they were gone, with the temperature falling to well below -25 degrees on several nights. **Jerry Bonkoski, 9022 Southridge St. SW, Byron, MN 55920.**

Editor's Note: The only other winter occurrence of an Ovenbird in Minnesota is one in Minneapolis from 27 December 1974 to 9 January 1975 (*The Loon* 47:97-98).

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds; we aim to create and increase public interest in birds; and to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims: through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field



trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.

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SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* welcome submissions of articles, "Notes of Interest" and color or black & white photographs. Preferably, submissions should be typed, double-spaced and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two pages. Photographs should be 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a copy of your submission on any 3 1/2 inch computer disk.

Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editors. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Peder Svingen. See inside front cover.



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EDITOR OF *The Loon*: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305 (612-546-4220). The Editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details.

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Newly Discovered American White Pelican Colonies in Southern Minnesota

Minnesota Lake

Bruce Fall

On 16 July 1994, Susan Fall and I investigated a colony of American White Pelicans that had been discovered the previous week by Ray Glassel and Bob Janssen. This nesting colony, only the fourth one known in the state, was on a small island in the far west end of Minnesota Lake in Faribault County; the other known Minnesota colonies include one in Lake of the Woods Co. and two in Marsh Lake, Big Stone Co. (*The Loon* 57:67-78). Minnesota Lake is a shallow, oval lake about 3.8 X 2.2 km (roughly 700 ha), with the extreme northern edge extending barely into Blue Earth Co. According to several local resi-

idents the maximum depth is only about 1.8m. There is public access in the town of Minnesota Lake, on the east end of the lake; a public boat ramp is scheduled for construction. We saw much evidence of rough fish, including carp, but because the lake is so shallow there are no game fish and thus no sport fishing. In autumn, residents report that it is very popular with duck hunters, but in summer almost no one uses it for recreation, and the day we visited there were no other boats on the lake.

The island is several hundred meters off the west lake shore, where the only access is at several farms. From one farm, immedi-



Double-crested Cormorant / American White Pelican colony, 16 July 1994, Minnesota Lake, Faribault County. Photo by Bruce Fall.

ately west of the island, one can scan its entire west side with a spotting scope, but its east side is not visible. We launched a canoe from this farm and paddled around the island, remaining offshore. The island was only about 50–75m long and less than 10m wide, and its highest point was about 2m above the lake surface. On it were a dozen tall dead trees, several shorter living trees, and numerous dense shrubs in the center; the ground beneath them was bare. On the east side, waves had eroded a substantial part of the island (which seemed to be entirely earth substrate, not sand, gravel or rocks), and it is not likely to persist in its present form for many more years without human intervention. Residents remarked that the water level in the lake had been rising over the past years, and they were experiencing considerable shoreline erosion in town also. We counted about 70–80 flightless White Pelican young, which ranged from about cormorant-sized up to about 2/3 grown. They were in two “pods” or creches being attended by several adults, one with about 15–20 and the other with about 55–60 young. In addition, we counted 120–130 nests of other waterbirds in the trees and shrubs: Double-crested Cormorant

(about 100), Great Egret (ten), Great Blue Heron (ten) and Black-crowned Night Heron (five). Most of the herons and egrets had young that were nearly adult-sized. Several hundred meters to the south, there were 30–40 Forster’s Terns, including about 15 free-flying juveniles, that angrily mobbed us when we approached a localized area of cattails and rushes. We investigated that area but found no active nests, although it seems likely that a small tern colony had existed there earlier in the summer. In addition, there were perhaps 200–300 adult Western Grebes on the lake, many feeding young; most were around the perimeter, especially the west and east ends but some also were scattered throughout the lake. The owner of a farm just NW of the island and some of his friends told us that the pelicans had been on the island for perhaps 20 years, but, ignoring the obvious, they did not believe they were nesting there. One town resident said that the pelicans had been on the island for over a decade. He also told us that about five years ago during a drought, the island was connected to the mainland and could be reached on foot; few or no nesting birds were present that year. 4300 29th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Lake Johanna

Nestor Hiemenz

On 21 June 1994, Zack Wenz, son of a former student of mine, and I set sail for Lake Johanna, Pope County, to check the nesting birds on Heron Island. The public entrance to the lake was flooded, so Zack unhooked the boat trailer and pushed it down into the water while I backed up as far as I could.

We headed south to the heron colony and circled the island before landing on the south shore, the only place that there was some sort of beach. The island is like a jungle with tall nettle and a tangled mass of red-berried elder bushes. Most of the big trees are gone and the remaining trees are not very tall.

As we headed into the tangled elders, Zack shouted, “There’s one naked young

bird on the ground!” I hurried up and almost fell over when I saw two nests with small young White Pelicans. We had seen over 50 pelicans in various places on the lake, 19 in one group, but this was not unusual, as the lake usually holds its complement of non-breeding birds. We even saw several Western Grebes on the lake.

The young pelicans were about ten days old, one on the first nest, and one plus a very small dead young on the second nest. Then looking about, we saw a third nest with two eggs. No adults were seen around the island, even when we returned to visit the nests after we had explored the island with its many Great Egret and Double-crested Cormorant nests. We were looking for Cattle Egrets, but none were

seen. There were a few Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons also nesting. All of the heron, egret, and cormorant

nests held young, some small and others ready to leave. 705 - 18th Ave. S, St. Cloud, MN 56301.



Young American White Pelican, 21 June 1994, Lake Johanna, Pope County. Photo by Nestor Hiemenz.

Minnesota's First Curlew Sandpiper

Bill Litkey

A single bird was observed in a flooded field on Prairie Island in northern Goodhue County on 21 May 1994. Also in the area were several Dunlins and Black-bellied Plovers, many peeps and Semipalmated Plovers, and two Short-billed Dowitchers. Observation was made intermittently from 7:45 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. at a distance of 20 to 50 yards with binoculars and 40X spotting scope. The bird was observed feeding (in water and on mud), resting, preening, and flying. The sky was clear, with the sun's relative position ranging from in front of me to the side, over the course of observation.

When the bird was standing alongside the Dunlins, its body appeared to be the same length, but a little slimmer, and its black legs appeared to be slightly longer. The black bill was broad at the base, quickly narrowing to being thinner and slightly shorter than the Dunlins', but slightly decurved the entire length. The crown was densely dark-streaked, with the nape and hindneck being less densely streaked, thus appearing a little lighter in color. There was a narrow whitish supercilium. The ear coverts, side of neck, foreneck, throat, breast, and upper belly were a very dull reddish-brown mixing into



Curlew Sandpiper, 22 May 1994, Goodhue County. Photo by Bonnie Mulligan.



Curlew Sandpiper, 22 May 1994, Goodhue County. Photo by Dennis Martin.

a white lower belly. The undertail coverts were also white, but with some black flecking along the edges. In a folded-wing position, the back and the wing coverts were grayish-brown with lighter-colored feather edging. Some of the scapulars were blackish with rusty centers. The extended wing showed a narrow white stripe at the base of dark secondaries; the primaries were blackish. The rump was white with some black

flecking, and the tail was brownish-gray. I never was able to distinguish any vocalization of this bird from that of the other species in association. 589 Granite Ave. N, Oakdale, MN 55128.

Editor's Note: The Curlew Sandpiper was present at the above location until 22 May 1994. It was seen by numerous Minnesota birders.

First Confirmed Kentucky Warbler Breeding Record in Minnesota

Bruce Fall

On 23 June 1992, Lawrence Filter discovered a pair of Kentucky Warblers (*Oporornis formosus*) in Seven Mile Creek County Park, Nicollet County, about 8 km north of Mankato in the Minnesota River Valley (*The Loon* 65:45-46). He found them together at the junction of hiking trails 2 and 3 on the east side of a small

written documentation of that information was submitted, and consequently the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee did not accept this second-hand account as positive evidence of breeding, even though it very likely was valid. The following spring (11 May 1993), a male was reported in the same location, and again was seen by



Kentucky Warbler fledgling, 10-12 days old, 9 July 1994. Seven Mile Creek, Nicollet County. Photo by Bruce Fall.

tributary into Seven Mile Creek; they were conspicuous and calling almost constantly. He saw them again on 29 June and 6 July. The birds' behavior strongly suggested that they were a breeding pair with recently fledged young nearby. Although he noted that another observer had later reported seeing a juvenile warbler with these adults, no

other observers into mid-summer. However, heavy flooding made access difficult, and there were no reports of a female. In May 1994, a male once again returned to this location. Since almost exactly the same territory was occupied each year, it is likely that the same individual male was involved.

Susan Fall and I visited the park three

times in June and July 1994 and spent a total of 12.5 hr in the male's territory before we finally were able to obtain conclusive evidence of breeding. Our observations were facilitated by the trails on either side of the creek and the creek bed itself which permitted access to most of the territory. During the morning of 11 June, the male sang very infrequently (only two short periods of song in 3.5 hr). We never saw him well, nor was there any evidence of a female. On 2 July, he sang somewhat more often (about ten short periods of song in 5 hr in the morning), but we were able to get only a few very brief views of him, and again there was no evidence of a female. Finally on 9 July, about 9:00 A.M., we investigated excited call notes from west of the creek and found the male, as well as a female, "chipping" at two birders who had just arrived. After the birders left, we took inconspicuous seated positions along the trail and continued observing the warblers for the next 3 hr, noting their behavior and several times initiating unsuccessful nest searches in areas where they seemed most attentive. Typically the adults, sometimes carrying food, remained agitated for up to 45 min but eventually would seem to lose interest and wander away from us, only to resume this behavior when we moved to a new location. The female (distinguished from the male by a dark olive rather than black crown, charcoal rather than jet black "sideburns" and generally duller yellow underparts) was typically bolder, approached us more closely and was more conspicuous than the male throughout these observations, although the male frequently moved about in the trees overhead. Finally, shortly after noon, we watched the female with a small insect larva repeatedly approach into a low dense shrub about 5 m from our new position. When we investigated, a well-hidden fledgling hopped off a low branch in the shrub onto the ground and remained motionless there until we captured it by hand, upon which it uttered a few "chip" (or "check") notes which sounded very similar to those given repeatedly by the adults. We took several photographs of the fledgling and then placed it back on the low perch,

after which it flew about 4 m in descending flight until it reached the ground and the cover of a thicket. It did not have the ability for sustained flight, and almost certainly could not have launched itself into the air from the ground. We then left the area, with the parents still chipping excitedly. The area over which the adults exhibited agitated chipping, close approach and food carrying was about 35 X 15 m, and while we found only one fledgling, the adults' behavior indicated that there probably were several others. Based on the fledgling's ability for short but not sustained flight, and its general overall plumage development (in comparison with other warbler species with which I am familiar), I estimated that it was about 2-4 days out of the nest, or 10-12 days after hatching. If her clutch size was four, the female probably laid the first egg of this undiscovered nest about 12-14 June, with the eggs hatching about 27-29 June. Young of some other ground nesting warblers that also leave the nest at age eight days (before they can fly) typically scatter and crawl some distance (as much as 25-50 m) from the nest during the first day or two after leaving it, and thus the location of this fledgling does not necessarily indicate that the nest was close by, although I feel it probably was on the west side of the creek. The young was plain unmarked yellowish-brown below (yellower on flanks, belly and crissum) and somewhat darker olive brown above without facial markings; the outer webs of the remiges (especially the secondaries) had a strong greenish-olive tinge. It was virtually tailless (feather sheaths projected only a few mm), with large, strong pinkish-flesh legs and feet, and looked similar to a juvenile Common Yellowthroat, a species we did not record in or near this territory. The general habitat of the male's territory included the partly open-canopy creek bottom and ravine with scattered tall trees, a substantial understory of shrubs and saplings and a complete ground cover of forbs, and heavily wooded closed-canopy slopes both east and west of the creek consisting primarily of mature sugar maple and basswood, with some hackberry, elm and bur oak. At least 23 other passerine species

held territories that overlapped the Kentucky's territory, including Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler and Rufous-sided Towhee.

This is the first documented breeding record of Kentucky Warbler in Minnesota (the MOU Checklist of the birds of Minnesota, 1993, erroneously indicates this species as confirmed breeding). Typically one or a few individuals (nearly always males) of this barely regular and very rare species are recorded annually, usually in spring in the southeastern part of the state, although

there are some previous summer records (R.B. Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987). Its discovery as a breeding species in Minnesota is not surprising, since it regularly breeds in southwestern Wisconsin (Grant Co.), and its summer range in that state extends north to Fountain City (S.D. Robbins, *Wisconsin Birdlife*, 1991), which is just across the Mississippi River from Winona, MN. It is likely that this species nests very rarely elsewhere in southeastern Minnesota, and future reports of singing males that linger into June should be investigated for such occurrences. 4300 29th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

The Birds of Camp Ripley

Samuel B. Merrill

The northern part of Morrison county hides a genuine ornithological treasure. Camp Ripley, a National Guard military training site, is a 53,000 acre plot on the prairie-hardwood forest transition zone. Its rolling terrain harbors a diversity of habitat types, including open grasslands, scattered wetlands, fens, a black ash swamp, and large blocks of contiguous oak forest. This diversity, comprising over 600 plant species, provides habitat for 123 summer resident bird species, many of which breed there. Birds observed at Camp Ripley can contribute valuable information to distributional records for central Minnesota.

In the last five years state, federal, and international branches of the military have directed substantial resources toward minimizing the impact of military activities on natural communities. These resources have come in the form of regulations and programs to enhance natural areas, mitigate environmental impacts, and initiate long-term trend analysis of plant and animal communities. In Minnesota, the military has estab-

lished extensive programs to evaluate vegetative changes over time, and has contracted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) to hire biologists to survey the animal communities on the base. Projects have already been completed that provide species lists for birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians (Dorff and Nordquist 1993), fish (Schmidt 1992), mussels (MN DNR, final report pending), aquatic invertebrates (Montz and Hirsch 1993), and butterflies (MN DNR, final report pending). I was hired by the MN DNR early this year to continue ongoing surveys of the animal communities of Camp Ripley and to develop new projects tailored to the rare and endangered species on the base. This paper presents the bird species list from the Minnesota County Biological Survey (Dorff and Nordquist 1993), updated with several new species records from the 1994 field season (Table 1). It also provides broad overviews of several projects initiated this year and some of the preliminary findings.

New Species Accounts

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

On 6 July, a pair of Eared Grebes with two young was observed at Mallard Lake during a waterbird survey from a canoe. All four birds were seen diving during a three minute observation period at 3:30 P.M. After this period the adults flushed, leaving the young behind. The young were observed for an additional ten minutes before they dove and could not be found again. All four birds were observed again by additional observers for ten minutes on 13 July at 6:30 P.M.

The location of this observation is plotted on Fig. 1. This is a new record for Morrison County as well as for Camp Ripley. The range of the species is suspected to be expanding east and north (Janssen 1987). This breeding record is several counties east and north of the known distributional boundary in the state, and supports the evidence that Eared Grebes are expanding their range in Minnesota.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)

A male was heard singing and visual confirmation was obtained on 27 May at 6:50 A.M. The bird was first heard directly above the observer at a height of about 7 m in an oak tree, and was observed for about ten minutes. The habitat was a mixed hardwood stand less than 100 m from a regenerating aspen clearcut. It was probably a late migrant.

The location of this observation is plotted on Fig. 1. This is a new record for Morrison County as well as for Camp Ripley.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

A singing male was observed twice in the same morning (at 9:00 and 11:00) on 9 June. Visual confirmation was attained at both times. The bird was in a bivoac area (a high-use military area) characterized by oak overstory and hazel understory.

The location of this observation is plotted on Fig. 1. This is a new summer record for Morrison County as well as for Camp Ripley.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melano-*

corys)

This species was first observed on 1 June at 10:30 A.M. A single male was seen on a mowed portion of the cantonment area (the area where most of the buildings of Camp Ripley are concentrated). It flew from the top of a small building to the ground where a positive identification was made. The bird (or another male) was observed again in the same area on the following day, by additional observers.

The location of this observation is plotted on Fig. 1. This is a new record for Morrison County as well as for Camp Ripley.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)

This species was first observed on a rainy 16 June morning (8:00 A.M.). It was heard singing in a tamarack bog from a road about 1/10 mile from the bog. Visual confirmation of the singing male was obtained the same day by additional observers, and photographs of the bird singing from a dead tamarack were taken on the following day. The bird was observed travelling back and forth along the length of the tamarack stand (~1.2 hectares), and singing from several points.

The location of this observation is plotted on Fig. 1. This is a new summer record for Morrison County as well as for Camp Ripley.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

The first owl survey was conducted on 24 March and three Northern Saw-whets were detected along a 26-stop route (driving between stops). The survey lasted from 8:00 P.M. until midnight, and the temperature was between -4 and -7°C under thinly overcast skies. The same survey route was driven three weeks later (April 14); it lasted from 10:20 P.M. until 2:30 A.M., and the temperature was between 2 and 7°C under clear skies. On this survey, 12 Northern Saw-whets were detected.

This species is not known to breed in Morrison County (Janssen 1987), but the large number of individuals recorded in a single night late in the season suggests that

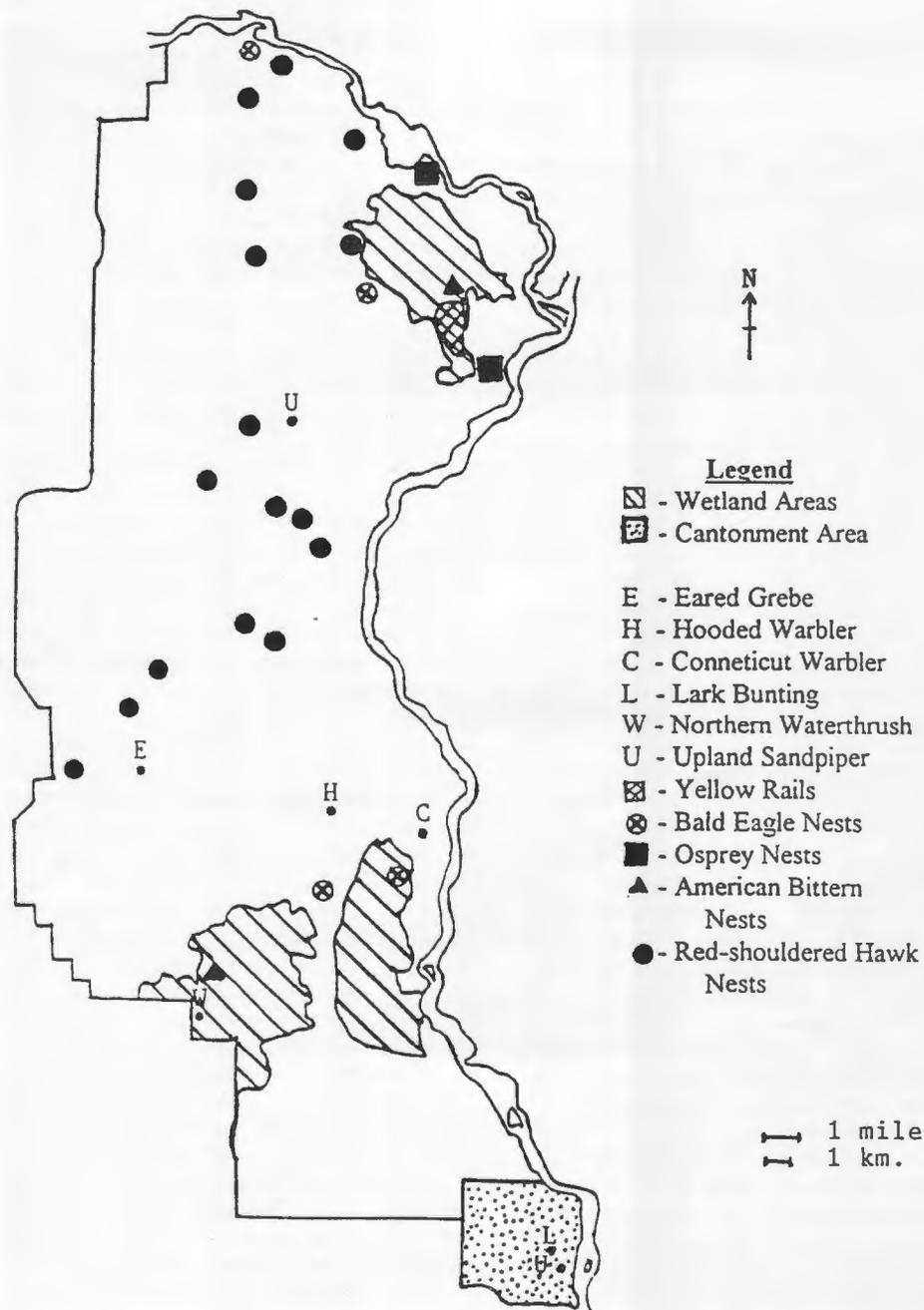


Figure 1. Significant wetland areas and bird observations, summer 1994 at Camp Ripley in Morrison County.

there might be a breeding population at Camp Ripley. Nest searches will likely be conducted in future seasons.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

At 5:00 P.M. on 1 June a singing male was observed in the cantonment area at the southernmost edge of Camp Ripley (Fig. 1).

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

A singing male was observed in the cantonment area (Fig. 1) on 1 June at 5:00 P.M. This species has shown a large expansion across the state in the last decade, and it was probably just a matter of time before one was observed at Camp Ripley.

1994 Bird Surveys

Yellow Rails (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Yellow Rails were documented at Camp Ripley by the Minnesota County Biological Survey prior to 1994 but no efforts had been made to estimate their numbers. The survey method was modified from Bart (1984) and involved walking transects with a pedometer while clicking stones together in the pattern of Yellow Rail clicks for 30 seconds every 0.1 km along the transect. Individual birds were usually recorded for three or four consecutive stops. The transects ranged from 2.3 to 4.0 km through three wetland complexes on the base. All transects were walked twice. Six individual birds were detected in the northern wetland complex (Fig. 1). No birds were detected in the other two wetland areas, although in previous years Yellow Rails had been recorded in the westernmost of these two areas (Fig. 1). Due to poor weather and logistical difficulties, it was not possible to conduct all of the surveys during the peak of the Yellow Rail breeding season. These data are therefore preliminary and do not constitute a reliable estimate of Yellow Rail distribution or abundance. Several smaller wetlands on the base may have habitat suitable for Yellow Rails and will likely be surveyed in the future in addition to the transects already walked.

Wetland Birds

Concentric circle transects were established in the three wetland complexes (Fig. 1) after Delphui and Dinsmore (1993). The objective was to locate and monitor nests of uncommon wetland bird species. Observers walked the transects in pairs with about 5 m between the people in the pair, stopping to search for nests of birds that were flushed.

Two American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) nests were found, one in the northern and one in the southwestern wetland complexes (Fig. 1). The northern nest was located on 16 May; the incubating female was flushed by an observer walking in the wetland. At this time the nest had four eggs. On 24 May the female was again flushed and the nest had six eggs. On 6 June the nest had five eggs and one chick, and on 13 June the nest was empty and eggshell fragments were found within 1 m from the nest.

American Bittern young are not known to leave the nest in less than two weeks (Ehrlich *et al.* 1988), so this nest was probably predated upon. The southern nest was located on 26 May; the female would not flush off the nest so an egg/chick count could not be obtained. On 27 May the nest was found to have seven eggs, and on 13 June the nest was empty and eggshell fragments and two dead chicks were found within 1 m from the nest. Although the time elapsed between nest checks was longer than necessary for chicks to fledge, the scattered distribution and damaged condition of the eggshells suggests that this nest was probably also predated upon.

Waterfowl/Waterbirds

Nineteen lakes and several sections of the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers were surveyed for waterfowl and waterbirds. The surveys entailed canoeing lake and river shorelines and recording observations and behaviors. The objectives were to determine which lakes on the base showed evidence of breeding by Common Loons (*Gavia immer*), and to record presence and distribution of common and uncommon waterfowl and waterbird species.

Common Loon presence was documented at nine lakes, and evidence of loon

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	
Gaviidae	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon	
Podicipedidae	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	
	<i>Podiceps auritus</i> ^a	Horned Grebe	
	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i> ^b	Red-necked Grebe	
	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> ^{c d}	Eared Grebe	
Pelicanidae	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> ^a	American White Pelican	
Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant	
Ardeidae	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	
	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	
	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	
	<i>Casmerodius albus</i> ^a	Great Egret	
	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Green Heron	
	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> ^a	Black-crowned Night-Heron	
	Anatidae	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose
		<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck
		<i>Anas crecca</i> ^a	Green-winged Teal
		<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
		<i>Anas acuta</i> ^a	Northern Pintail
		<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal
		<i>Anas clypeata</i> ^a	Northern Shoveler
<i>Anas strepera</i> ^a		Gadwall	
<i>Aythya valisineria</i> ^a		Redhead	
<i>Aythya collaris</i>		Ring-necked Duck	
<i>Aythya affinis</i> ^a		Lesser Scaup	
<i>Bucephala clangula</i> ^a		Common Goldeneye	
<i>Bucephala albeola</i> ^a		Bufflehead	
Cathartidae	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser	
	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	
Accipitridae	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	
	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	
	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	
	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	
	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk	
	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> ^b	Northern Goshawk	
	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered Hawk	
	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Broad-winged Hawk	
	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	
	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ^a	Golden Eagle	

Table 1. Taxonomic list of bird species observed and documented in Camp Ripley and surrounding area during the field seasons of 1991–1994 (a = documented in Morrison County during migration; b = found outside Camp Ripley, within Morrison County; c = new species observed for Camp Ripley during the 1994 season; d = new species observed for Morrison County during the 1994 season), updated from Dorff and Nordquist (1993).

breeding (active nests and/or young chicks) was documented at three of these lakes (Goose, Miller, and the northernmost of the two Mud Lakes).

Songbirds

As part of an ongoing monitoring effort, songbirds were surveyed at 99 sites according to methodology developed for use on military installations (Tazik 1991). An additional study was conducted to determine the impact of military activities on overall bird diversity and on individual species.

Sites in two categories were chosen to examine these impacts. The two categories were high military use (19 sites) and low military use (15 sites), and the sites were all in the same habitat type (mature oak forest). Data from these surveys will be analyzed and presented in an annual report in December.

Owls

Owls had not been surveyed at Camp Ripley prior to 1994. Transect surveys were conducted in March and April to determine presence and abundance of owls at Camp Ripley. One new species was detected during the second of three surveys, the Northern Saw-whet Owl (see "New Species Accounts").

Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*)

A high density of Red-shouldered Hawks was documented on Camp Ripley grounds prior to 1994 by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. In 1994, as part of a study being conducted at Camp Ripley by a University of Minnesota graduate student (Ann Belleman) and funded entirely by the military.

Sixteen Red-shouldered Hawk nests were located on Camp Ripley grounds. Nests were located using tree-line helicopter surveys prior to leaf-out and intensive ground searches following leaf-out. Of the 16 nests found, 13 nests fledged, producing between 20 and 25 young. Nine of these young were banded for further observation. Quantifying habitat associations and reproductive success of Red-shouldered Hawks were major objectives of this study which

will continue through 1995.

Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Camp Ripley has three Bald Eagle territories, all of which were active in 1994. Two of them fledged two young and the third fledged one young.

Camp Ripley also has one active Osprey nest on a human-made nest platform. This nest fledged one young in 1994. In 1993, through a cooperative agreement between Camp Ripley and Minnesota Power, a second Osprey platform was erected along the Mississippi River. The platform did not attract nesting Osprey in 1994.

Locations of the Bald Eagle territories and the Osprey nest platforms are plotted on Fig. 1. Besides these nests, Morrison County had five other Bald Eagle territories and one other active Osprey nest in 1994.

Other Notes of Interest

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

At 4:30 P.M. on 16 May, a female Horned Grebe was observed swimming alone on a small pond in the southern third of Camp Ripley. The date of this observation ties one of the record late migration dates for Horned Grebes in southern Minnesota (Janssen 1987).

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

This species of state special concern was recorded at two locations (Fig. 1). The first was an observation at 9:00 A.M. on 24 May of a pair of birds in a mowed portion of the cantonment area. Photographs of the birds were taken for verification. This pair (or other pairs, although this is unlikely) was observed many times (>ten) over the next month in the same area. Searches were made of the area and no nest was found.

The second observation of this species was at 8:00 A.M. on 8 June in the northern third of Camp Ripley. The bird was observed flying over an impact area (a high use military area) and was heard singing while it flew.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila*)

Falconidae	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	
Phasianidae	<i>Perdix perdix</i> ^b	Gray Partridge	
	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ring-necked Pheasant	
	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse	
Rallidae	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Yellow Rail	
	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Virginia Rail	
	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora	
	<i>Fulica americana</i>	American Coot	
Gruidae	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane	
Scolopacidae	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Spotted Sandpiper	
	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper	
	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i> ^a	Short-billed Dowitcher	
	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	
	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American Woodcock	
	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> ^b	Wilson's Phalarope	
	Laridae	<i>Larus delawarensis</i> ^b	Ring-billed Gull
		<i>Sterna caspia</i> ^a	Caspian Tern
		<i>Sterna forsteri</i> ^b	Forster's Tern
		<i>Chlidonias nigar</i>	Black Tern
Columbidae	<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	
	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	
Cuculidae	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo	
	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	
Strigidae	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Great Horned Owl	
	<i>Strix varia</i>	Barred Owl	
	<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl	
	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i> ^c	Northern Saw-whet Owl	
Caprimulgidae	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	
	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Whip-poor-will	
Apodidae	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift	
Trochilidae	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	
Alcedinidae	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher	
Picidae	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker	
	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker	
	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	
	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	
	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker	
	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker	
	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	
	Tyrannidae	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher
		<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-Pewee
		<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i> ^a	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
		<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher
	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher	

Table 1, continued.

	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Eastern Phoebe
	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great Crested Flycatcher
	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> ^b	Western Kingbird
	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird
Alaudidae	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark
Hirundinidae	<i>Progne subis</i> ^{b c}	Purple Martin
	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow
	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow
	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonata</i>	Cliff Swallow
	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
Corvidae	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay
	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow
Paridae	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee
Sittidae	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch
	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch
Certhiidae	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper
Troglodytidae	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren
	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren
	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge Wren
	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh Wren
Muscicapidae	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Eastern Bluebird
	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Veery
	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush
	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush
	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin
Mimidae	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird
	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brown Thrasher
Bombycillidae	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing
Laniidae	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> ^a	Loggerhead Shrike
Sturnidae	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling
Vireonidae	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Yellow-throated Vireo
	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Warbling Vireo
	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo
Emberizidae	<i>Vermivora pinus</i> ^a	Blue-winged Warbler
	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler
	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler
	<i>Parula americana</i> ^a	Northern Parula
	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler
	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Chestnut-sided Warbler
	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> ^a	Black-throated Blue Warbler
	<i>Dendroica coronata</i> ^a	Yellow-rumped Warbler
	<i>Dendroica fusca</i> ^a	Blackburnian Warbler

Table 1, continued.

	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Pine Warbler
	<i>Dendroica castanea</i> ^a	Bay-breasted Warbler
	<i>Dendroica striata</i> ^a	Blackpoll Warbler
	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i> ^b	Cerulean Warbler
	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler
	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart
	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Ovenbird
	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> ^{a c d}	Northern Waterthrush
	<i>Oporornis philadelphicus</i>	Mourning Warbler
	<i>Oporornis agilis</i> ^{c d}	Connecticut Warbler
	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat
	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i> ^a	Canada Warbler
	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i> ^{a c d}	Hooded Warbler
	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Scarlet Tanager
	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> ^{b c}	Northern Cardinal
	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Indigo Bunting
	<i>Spiza americana</i> ^b	Dickcissel
	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Rufous-sided Towhee
	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow
	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Clay-colored Sparrow
	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow
	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow
	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow
	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow
	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	LeConte's Sparrow
	<i>Ammodramus caudacatus</i> ^b	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Swamp Sparrow
	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> ^a	White-throated Sparrow
	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i> ^{c d}	Lark Bunting
	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Bobolink
	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird
	<i>Sturnella magna</i> ^b	Eastern Meadowlark
	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark
	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed Blackbird
	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's Blackbird
	<i>Quisqualus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle
	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird
	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Northern Oriole
Fringillidae	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Purple Finch
	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i> ^{b c}	House Finch
	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch
Passeridae	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow

Table 1, continued.

caerulea)

There were five observations of this species; three of these were along the Mississippi River shoreline. This is not a new species record for the county or for Camp Ripley, but Camp Ripley is far north of the northern distributional border shown for the species in Janssen (1987).

Concluding Remarks

The high diversity of breeding birds observed at Camp Ripley, including several state special concern species, suggests that military activities conducted at Camp Ripley may be largely compatible with maintenance of a diversity of habitat types in relatively undisturbed condition. Future studies will further characterize relationships between military activities and the avifauna at Camp Ripley. These studies will continue to provide valuable distributional records for the State of Minnesota.

Citizens interested in visiting Camp Ripley to view birds are encouraged to phone in advance of their visit; group trips scheduled well in advance are preferred. Inquiries can be directed to the Animal Survey Coordinator, Training Site Environmental Office (612-632-7203), P.O. Box 150, Little Falls, MN 56345.

Acknowledgments

These observations were made as part of an ongoing monitoring and research effort at Camp Ripley and would not have been possible without tremendous financial and logistic support from the military.

Special thanks are due to Camp Ripley Commander Lt. Col. Kropuenske, head of the Environmental Office Marty Skoglund, John Ebert, Cpt. Ecklund and the Range Control staff, and many other Camp Ripley personnel for providing an excellent opportunity to study relationships between military activities and the environment.

Thanks also to Pam Perry, Nongame Wildlife Coordinator for the DNR in Brainerd, MN, and Gary Johnson, Area Wildlife Manager in Little Falls, MN, for providing logistic and technical support to

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Training Site Environmental Office, P.O. Box 150, Little Falls, MN 56345.

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert, M.O.R.C. Secretary

There was a meeting of the Committee on 20 July 1994 and among the items on the agenda, votes were taken on two potential first state records and on two recirculated records with inconclusive first-round votes (both types of records require discussion and a vote at a meeting rather than by mail) and on one photographic record:

A Curlew Sandpiper record on 21–22 May 1994 near Etter, Goodhue County, was unanimously found Acceptable as a first state record (see *The Loon* 66:113–114).

A Yellow Wagtail report on 1 June 1994 at Paradise Beach, Cook County, was discussed and found Unacceptable as a first state record. The description mentions a thin bill, “creamy yellow” throat and breast, “yellow” belly and under tail coverts, white outer tail feathers, dark legs, walking behavior, and tail-pumping. While such a description might be consistent with a Yellow Wagtail, it does not preclude other species of wagtail such as a female or basic plumaged Gray Wagtail, or a Citrine Wagtail (which was documented from Mississippi). In addition, the bird was described as being clear-breasted and lacking wing bars, which are both inconsistent with Yellow Wagtail. More importantly, the observers apparently did not consider the possibility of American Pipit, which is highly variable in plumage (alternate-plumaged birds are more highly colored ventrally), inadequately illustrated in the field guides, and has a history of being a confusing species to many birders.

A Eurasian Wigeon report on 30 October 1993 at Lake Bemidji, Beltrami County, was discussed and found Unacceptable on a second-round vote. Because hybrid wigeon frequently occur in the wild, and since the plumage of this male wigeon was not entirely typical of a Eurasian Wigeon, it was decided not to accept this record. The reddish head coloration suggests a Eurasian,

but the darker coloration through the eye and brownish overall body coloration both suggest an American Wigeon.

A Golden-crowned Sparrow on 20 April 1994 at Tofté, Cook Co., was found Unacceptable on a second-round vote. It was agreed that this sparrow may have been correctly identified; however, the entire original description mentions nothing more than “the yellow area on the top of ... the head,” and it was felt that a third state record should be more completely described. In addition, no binoculars were used, and the bird was reported at a distance of 25 feet.

A photograph record of a Western Tanager on 4–7 May 1994 at Willmar, Kandiyohi County, was voted on and found Acceptable (*The Loon* 66:151).

The following records were voted on by mail January–June 1994 and found to be Acceptable:

- House Wren, 14 November 1993, Fridley, Anoka County.
- Great Black-backed Gull, 18–20 December 1993, Duluth, St. Louis County (*The Loon* 66:50).
- Iceland Gull, 10–14 December 1993, Hennepin and Anoka Counties (*The Loon* 66:102–103).
- Iceland Gull, 18 December 1993, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County.
- Bell’s Vireo, 19 September 1993, St. Croix Savannah S.N.A., Washington Co. (*The Loon* 66:49–50).
- Gyrfalcon, 15 January 1994, near Wannaska, Roseau County.
- Pacific Loon, 15 October 1993, Good Harbor Bay, Cook County (*The Loon* 66:46).
- Barrow’s Goldeneye, 24–25 February 1994, Elk River, Sherburne County.
- Gyrfalcon, 11 December 1993–27 February 1994, Duluth, St. Louis County (*The Loon* 66:104).
- Gyrfalcon, 8 January–late January

1994, near Grand Marais, Cook County (*The Loon* 66:70-71).

- Clark's Grebe, 16 April 1994, Lac Qui Parle Lake, Lac Qui Parle County (*The Loon* 66:106).

- Townsend's Warbler, 30 April 1994, near Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County (*The Loon* 66:61-62).

- Townsend's Warbler, 30 April-1 May 1994, Yellow Bank Township, Lac Qui Parle County (*The Loon* 66:59-60).

- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 9-14 April 1994, Oak Grove Township, Anoka County (*The Loon* 66:147-148).

- Eurasian Wigeon, 22 April 1994, near Grand Marais, Cook County (*The Loon* 66:107).

- Pacific Loon, 15-16 November 1993, Albert Lea Lake, Freeborn County (*The Loon* 66:46).

- Iceland Gull, 9 April 1994, Anoka County (*The Loon* 66:147-148).

- Brambling, 22 October 1993, Sawbill Trail, Cook County (*The Loon* 66:148-149).

- White-eyed Vireo, 21 May 1994, Seven Mile Creek County, Park, Nicollet County (*The Loon* 66:154).

- Great Black-backed Gull, 24 May 1994, Hok-Si-La Park, Goodhue County (*The Loon* 66:146-147).

- Black-headed Grosbeak, 13 May 1994, Boyd, Lac Qui Parle County (*The Loon* 66:155).

- Painted Bunting, 23-25 May 1994, near Grand Marais, Cook County (*The Loon* 66:152).

- Prairie Warbler, 31 May 1994, Cedar Creek N.H.A., Anoka County (*The Loon* 66:148).

- Mississippi Kite, 12 May 1994, Felton Prairie, Clay County (*The Loon* 66:152).

The following records were voted on by mail January-June 1994 and found to be Unacceptable:

- Osprey, 27 November 1993, Aitkin County. The description is consistent with this species since it includes mention of "black at the bend of the wing" and "wide dark cheek patch;" however, the documentation is weakened by the fact that it was written by someone other than the actual observer, and since there is no indication

that Rough-legged Hawk or subadult Bald Eagle, which are frequently mistaken for Ospreys, were considered as possibilities.

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7 November 1993, North Mankato, Nicollet Co. While there is no doubt that a hummingbird was seen, the brief description does not preclude, for example, an Anna's Hummingbird, which is much more likely in November than a Ruby-throated.

- Gyrfalcon, 27 January 1994, Northfield, Rice Co. Other than the mention of "breast streaking," the documentation includes no other actual description of anything else in the plumage of this raptor.

- Iceland Gull, 30 October 1993, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. The entire description of this adult gull, including the brown iris and gray coloration of the folded wing tips, is consistent with both Iceland and Thayer's gulls. While the gull may well have been an Iceland, there is nothing in the documentation to preclude a Thayer's.

- Swainson's Hawk, 10 December 1993, Highway 13, Waseca Co. While the brief documentation is consistent with Swainson's Hawk, it included only a casual description of the underwing. No optics were used, and it sounds as if the hawk was only seen as the observer was driving. Since this species has a long history of being involved in misidentifications, especially during winter, a more careful look and complete description would be needed to accept such an unprecedented winter record.

- Yellow-billed Loon, 30 May 1994, Grand Marais, Cook Co. The description was felt to be inconsistent and inconclusive for acceptance of such an unusual sighting. While at one point, the bill is described as "more yellow," elsewhere in the description it is said to be "bone colored," which is consistent with Common Loon. The bird's age is also in doubt, since the description of the ear coverts and culmen indicates an immature or basic-plumaged bird, while the description of the neck and back indicates an adult in alternate plumage. Also, there is no mention of bill shape, which is an important feature in separating Common from Yellow-billed Loons. 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.



Red-shouldered Hawk, December 1993, Shorewood, Hennepin Co. Photo by Dennis Martin.

The Winter Season (1 December 1993 to 28 February 1994)

Karl Bardon

Although the first part of December was relatively mild, record cold set in after Christmas, and weather remained the dominant theme in birding thereafter. The first three weeks of December were above normal statewide, with temperatures in the third week as much as 15–20 degrees above normal. Temperatures fell during the fourth week of December however, pushing most of the last swans, ducks and gulls out of the state. Subzero lows were the norm from late December to mid February. Virtually the entire state remained in subzero deep freeze from 15–20 January. Prolonged cold completely froze Lake Superior in early February for the first time since 1978, but the affect this had on local bird life is unknown. In other areas, such as Houston County, ice jams caused heavy flooding. Official lows of -40 degrees were reached as far south as St. Cloud, and many unoffi-

cial temperatures below -40 degrees were reached all across northern MN. Although there was a warming trend in late January, subzero highs were once again recorded across the state on 8–9 February, and temperatures for the second week in February were as much as 20 degrees below normal in southern MN. From 6–24 inches of snow remained on the ground throughout the state until mid-February, with the southwest receiving more snow than it has for many years. Snow depth as much as 39 inches was recorded in Duluth in early January, and large snow falls of two to four feet were recorded along the North Shore. Highs mostly in the teens gave early migrants no incentive to move into the state.

A number of species lingered longer than usual during the mild December weather. The Great Egret which lingered at Black Dog Lake until 12 December was not only

the latest date on record by over two weeks, but also the first winter record. The Eastern Phoebe found at the Bass Ponds, Hennepin County as late as 8 December was also a record late date, and the Ovenbird at a feeder in Rochester was only the second winter record. Hundreds of Tundra Swans were still present along the Mississippi River in Winona and Houston Counties until late December, and 50 were observed flying over Homer on 1 January! An interesting series of waterfowl records came from Bemidji, where both a Wood Duck and a Northern Pintail managed to overwinter despite lows of -46 degrees. A Harlequin Duck at Lake Calhoun, Hennepin Co., was only the second record for this heavily birded county, and a Barrow's Goldeneye on the Mississippi River at Elk River, Sherburne Co., was found where thousands of Common Goldeneyes had spent the winter.

Seven species of gulls were recorded this season, including a Great Black-backed Gull in Duluth. The Twin Cities continued to display remarkable numbers and variety of gulls during the late fall season, including nine Thayer's Gulls and four Glaucous Gulls with a peak of 4,000 Herring Gulls recorded roosting at Lake Calhoun and Harriet. A first winter Iceland Gull was observed daily at the Coon Rapids Dam in mid-December as it flew from its roost at Lake Calhoun to its feeding area in northern Anoka County. For the second year in a row, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull lingered into December at the city lakes.

The record Snowy Owl invasion which began in October continued through the winter season with 20 individuals recorded

in Aitkin County alone. Over 130 individuals were recorded, thus surpassing the previous record of 121 birds set in 1991-1992 (*The Loon* 64:189-195). Only one Northern Hawk Owl was recorded, and only a modest number of Great Gray Owls was seen. Four Gyrfalcons were recorded this season, including an individual that spent three weeks feeding on meat scraps near Grand Marais, (*The Loon* 66:70-71), and another that was seen sporadically on the Duluth side of the harbor throughout the winter. Once again, Northern Goshawks were very widespread.

The number and variety of *Fringillid* finches was once again disappointing, although not quite as dismal as last year. Redpolls were widespread, reaching southwestern MN in good numbers for the first time in years, and a smattering of White-winged Crossbill reports came in from both north and south. The number of Bohemian Waxwings was high in the north, with 2,225 counted in Duluth in early February, the second highest count ever in the state.

Although only 143 species were recorded this season (a record 149 recorded last year), the number of observers sending in seasonal reports continues to grow, an encouraging sign. Unfortunately, the Christmas Bird Count results were not available in time for this report, so comparison of many county and individual totals between this year and previous years may be misleading. Thanks to all observers who sent in reports, especially Peder Svingen, Parker Backstrom, Bob Janssen, and Tony Hertzell, who all helped with the preparation of this report. 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Species listed in upper case (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicate a Casual or Accidental occurrence in the state.
2. Dates listed in boldface (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later or within the earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in boldface (**Aitkin**) indicate either a first county record or an unusual occurrence for that county. City of **Duluth** also boldface when applicable.
4. Counties listed in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. Brackets [] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.

Common Loon

Only report until 12/8 Hennepin mob.

Pied-billed Grebe

Only report 12/4 Beltrami DJo.

Red-necked Grebe

Only report 12/18 St. Louis KE.

American White Pelican

Only report 12/2 Freeborn PKL.

Double-crested Cormorant

Reported 12/4 Beltrami County DJo, 12/18 Nicollet MF, and 12/19 Dakota TT, mob.

Great Blue Heron

Reported from only four counties (11 l.y.). Single individuals reported overwintering in Ramsey and Washington counties, and December reports from Dakota and Rice counties.

Great Egret

Seen at Black Dog Lake until 12/12 Dakota mob. First winter record.

Tundra Swan

Large numbers lingered unusually long in the southeast, where 1200 counted on 12/2 Houston PKL, and 100s still present there on 12/18 EMF. Still 800 at Prairie Island, 12/13 Winona *vide* CS, and a flock of 50 were seen over Homer, 1/1 Winona CS. One adult overwintered with the Trumpeter Swans at Monticello, Sherburne and Wright Counties KB *et al.*

[TRUMPETER SWAN]

Overwintered at Monticello, Sherburne/Wright Counties where up to 80–85 seen, and at Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. where up to 20 seen. Also reported in Becker Co. (2) BBe. These were presumably all from MN and WI DNR releases.

Mute Swan

Reported 2/15 and 22 Rice (2) FKS, OR. Wild?

Greater White-fronted Goose

Reported 12/18 Olmsted JBo.

Snow Goose

One blue morph overwintered for third year in a row at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. mob (wild?). Additional reports in Dec. in metro area are probably domestic stock (several Canada/Snow Goose hybrids are regularly seen at Lakes Calhoun/Harriet, Hennepin Co. in late fall, and at least one domestic type goose was known to be the origin of several Anoka Co. reports). The unverified flock of 18 migrants reported over White Bear Township, 2/19 Ramsey *vide* PBA would be the earliest date on record.

Canada Goose

Reported from 30 counties (39 l.y.) as far north as Carlton, Itasca, and Becker.

Wood Duck

Reported from ten counties south, the majority of which were apparently overwintering. Also reported in the north 12/18 Otter Tail SDM and overwintered in Beltrami DJo.

Green-winged Teal

Reported 12/1 Hennepin BBo, 12/4 Dakota KB (one male), 12/18 Olmsted JBo, 1/1 Ramsey *vide* KB (one male), 1/4 Dakota KB (two males), 1/8 Scott RG (one male), and 2/28 Cottonwood ED. Some Twin Cities reports may be same individual.

American Black Duck

Reported from only 11 counties (21 l.y.) including Cook, Otter Tail, Rice, Winona, and the greater metro area.

Mallard

Reported from 39 counties statewide (44 l.y.).

Northern Pintail

Overwintered in Beltrami DJo, and also seen 12/12 Otter Tail SDM, 12/19 Anoka mob, 12/30 Dakota RG, and 2/21 Dakota DN (probably overwintered).

Northern Shoveler

Reported 12/11 Douglas PKL, 12/17 Anoka WM, 12/21 Hennepin SC, 1/8 Washington

DN, 2/18–27 Scott RG, and 2/19 Rice TBo.

Gadwall

Late migrant 12/14 Hennepin SC. Overwintered at the Mill Pond in Shakopee, Scott Co. (but number unknown) and a few probably also overwintered as usual at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. Large numbers noted at Whitewater WMA, Winona Co. (44 birds on 1/29 increased to 86 on 2/27 FL). Possible early migrants 2/19 Rice TBo and 2/20 Wright KB.

Canvasback

Lingered until 12/22 Hennepin SC.

Redhead

December reports 12/5 Otter Tail SDM, 12/11 Dakota DN, and 12/9–17 Rice TBo. Feb. reports 2/14 Wabasha WDM and 2/26 Dakota AB (overwintered?).

Ring-necked Duck

Overwintered in Beltrami DJo, and late migrants reported 12/5 Otter Tail SDM, 12/14 Washington TEB, 12/18 Olmsted JBo, 12/19 Wright KB, until 12/21 Hennepin SC, and 12/27 Anoka KB. Early migrants reported 2/27 Dakota AH (4).

Greater Scaup

Reported 12/4 Beltrami DJo, 12/7–8 Hennepin AB, BBo, and 1/7 Benton KB, JF.

Lesser Scaup

Late migrants noted 12/1 Winona CS, 12/2 Anoka KB, 12/4 Beltrami DJo, 12/11 Hennepin SC, 12/18 Olmsted JBo, 12/19 Wright KB. No overwintering noted. Possible returning migrant noted 2/19 Sherburne KB.

Harlequin Duck

Imm. male seen at Lake Calhoun, 12/7 Hennepin KB *et al* (*The Loon* 66:101–102). Also reported 12/18 Cook KMH.

Oldsquaw

Reported from North Shore in Cook (dates and number unknown) and 12/4 Lake AB. One individual was seen within a Common Goldeneye roost on the Mississippi River at

Monticello, 12/29–30 Wright KB, then again near Elk River, 2/25 Sherburne mob.

White-winged Scoter

Reported 12/4 Lake AB, BL and 12/8 Wabasha KB.

Common Goldeneye

Very large numbers overwintered along the Mississippi River from Elk River to Monticello, where 3,000 counted on a single roost on 1/10 Wright KB. Like last year, very few overwintered along the Mississippi River in St. Paul and Minneapolis, where most of the river remained ice covered. Reported from 13 counties along the Mississippi River from Winona to Stearns. Also reported overwintering from Kandiyohi (2), Otter Tail (250 in Fergus Falls), inland in Lake Co. at Birch Lake Dam, and along the North Shore (four northeast region counties). Late migrants in north were 12/1 Becker BBe and 12/10 Beltrami DJo. Reported from Koochiching (no date) PKL.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Imm. male observed on the Mississippi River at Elk River, 2/24–25 Sherburne KB *et al*.

Bufflehead

Reported along the North Shore in Cook, Lake and St. Louis until 1/2. Other reports include 12/1 Wabasha WDM, 12/11 Hennepin SC, 12/12 Dakota DS, 12/18 Otter Tail SDM, 1/1 Stearns/Benton RG, RJ and Kandiyohi RF (no date). Only Feb. reports were 2/18 Scott RG and 2/20 Otter Tail KB.

Hooded Merganser

An imm. male overwintered at Virginia power plant, St. Louis KB. Late migrant noted at Lake Calhoun until 12/14 Hennepin SC. Individuals noted along Mississippi River in Wright and Sherburne Counties on 12/19, 2/3 and 2/19, but no January sightings there (KB). Also reported from Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. on 12/11 DN and 2/18 KB and from Pigs Eye Lake, 1/1 Ramsey *fide* KB (overwintering?).

Common Merganser

Overwintered on Mississippi River and adjacent areas from Wabasha as far north as Stearns/Benton. Also reported from Cook, St. Louis, Aitkin, Otter Tail, Rice, Cottonwood, and Winona, but not overwintering in most of these areas. Peak of 30,000 at Lake Pepin, 12/8 Goodhue/Wabasha KB, then reduced to only 4500 on 12/16 (95% of which were adult males) KB.

Red-breasted Merganser

Reported from St. Louis and Cook along North Shore (overwintering?). One adult male reported 2/25-26 Sherburne mob.

Ruddy Duck

Reported 12/8 Hennepin SC, RG.

Turkey Vulture

Reported 2/26 Pope *fide* PBa (second earliest arrival date for MN).

Bald Eagle

Reported from 38 counties (42 l.y.) throughout the state. Although most reports were in Dec. and Feb., overwintering was noted as far north as Otter Tail and Cook. Large numbers (500+) created a spectacle along lower Lake Pepin in Dec. (*The Loon* 66:105-6).

Northern Harrier

Reported 12/12 Houston EMF, 12/27 Chisago DBe, 2/19 Goodhue BL, and 2/28 Hennepin SWe.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Reported from 16 counties (17 l.y.). Only report in north was 1/6-14 Beltrami DJo. Reports were distributed slightly in favor of February (migrants?).

Cooper's Hawk

Reported from seven counties south (nine l.y.) plus north reports 12/8 Becker BK and 12/27 Todd BBe (not goshawks?).

Northern Goshawk

Widely distributed. Reported from 25 counties statewide (37 l.y.) as far south as Dodge and Brown. Reports fairly evenly

distributed among the three months.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Only reports 1/1 Hennepin *fide* SC, 1/28-2/28 Washington BS (visiting suet feeder), and 2/13 Washington DN.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from 34 counties (38 l.y.). The adult seen 1/14 Lake of the Woods KB, PS was unusually far north for midwinter. No reports in the western regions.

Rough-legged Hawk

Reported from 26 counties (16 l.y.) throughout the state although mostly absent from the northeast (only reported from Carlton). No concentrations noted. The majority of reports were in December.

Golden Eagle

Only five reports (nine l.y.). 12/11 Isanti RG, RJ, 1/15 Wilkin SDM (imm.), 2/5 St. Louis PBa (imm.), 2/13 Winona CS, and 2/27 Renville SDM (ad.).

American Kestrel

Reported from only 28 counties (38 l.y.) as far north as St. Louis and Clay. Seventh year of decline.

Merlin

Thirteen reports from seven counties (fourteen reports from twelve counties l.y.). Overwintered in **Pennington**. Also reported from Clay, Becker, Otter Tail, Todd, St. Louis, Hennepin and Dakota.

Peregrine Falcon

Reported from the Twin Cities area in Hennepin and Ramsey, plus an unusual report 2/19 Becker *fide* BBe, the first report in northern MN in winter.

Gyrfalcon

Three immature gray morphs were reported along the North Shore. One overwintered in Duluth, seen sporadically from 12/11 to end of period; another first seen in Grand Marais, Cook Co. in late Nov. was seen there until 12/5; and yet another spent three weeks at the mouth of the Devil Track

River, Cook Co. feeding on meat scraps (*The Loon* 66:70-71). One gray morph adult seen 1/15 Roseau KB, PS.

Prairie Falcon

Only reports 12/12 and 2/9 Wilkin SDM.

Gray Partridge

Very scarce. Reported from 18 counties (23 l.y.) in the south and west as far north as Polk.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from 39 counties (43 l.y.) as far north as Kanabec, Becker and Norman.

Spruce Grouse

Reported in January and February at four locations along Lake County Road 2, with a

from Aitkin and St. Louis. No reports from the northwest region.

Wild Turkey

Large numbers reported from southeast in Houston, Winona, Olmsted, Dodge, Wabasha, Goodhue, Rice, and Dakota. Maximum of 70 seen 2/27 Winona FL. Also reported from Lyon, Carver and Anoka (probably not wild birds).

American Coot

Overwintered in Otter Tail, Scott and Winona. Late migrants noted 12/1 Goodhue BL, 12/15 Anoka KB, 12/17 Dakota WM, and 12/23 Hennepin SC. Returning migrants noted 2/24 Winona CS.

Common Snipe

Reported 12/26 Hennepin TT, 1/2 Hennepin RG, 1/23 Houston FL, and 2/7 Goodhue (5) *vide* Pba.

Ring-billed Gull

Up to 1,000 still present 12/4 Anoka and Hennepin KB. Last seen in metro area at Black Dog Lake, 1/1 Dakota AB. Other late dates include 12/5 Cook and St. Louis AB, 12/19 Wabasha WDM, 12/15 Martin BBo, and 12/16 Rice TBo. Midwinter record 1/26 Rice FKS is unusual. Early migrants noted 2/19 Winona TBr, CS, 2/20 Dakota DN, and 2/24 Kandiyohi RF.

Herring Gull

Overwintered along the North Shore in St. Louis and Cook but scarce in late Jan. in Cook. In the Twin Cities area, peak of 4,000 at Lakes Calhoun/Harriet, 12/4-9 Hennepin KB, and last seen there 12/23 SC. The 1,000 at Black Dog Lake, 12/22-24 Dakota KB reduced to only 1 by 1/4. Late migrants also noted 12/13 Winona CS, 12/17 Rice TBo, 12/19 Wabasha WDM. Early migrants noted 2/19 Winona TBr and 2/19 Dakota TT.

Thayer's Gull

Up to eight first-winter individuals and one adult seen in the Twin Cities in Hennepin, Anoka and Dakota until 12/24 Dakota KB. Single individuals reported on the North Shore 12/4 Cook AB, 12/15 St. Louis KE,



Spruce Grouse, 9 January 1994, Co. Rd. 2, Lake Co. Photo by David Cahlander.

maximum of six seen. Also reported along the Echo Trail, 1/30 St. Louis SS, and near Big Falls, 2/15 Koochiching KB (4).

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from only 14 counties in range.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Up to 150 reported 1/15 Wilkin SDM. Also reported 12/2 Otter Tail SDM, and 12/11 Red Lake RG.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Numbers greatly reduced. Reported only



Thayer's Gull, 17 December 1993, Grand Marais, Cook Co. Photo by Bruce Fall.

and 12/17 St. Louis County MH.

ICELAND GULL

One first-winter individual reported 12/10 Hennepin and 12/10–17 Anoka KB, mob (*The Loon* 66:102–103).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Adult present from fall remained at Lakes Calhoun/Harriet until 12/9 Hennepin and at Black Dog Lake until 12/11 Dakota KB *et al.*

Glaucous Gull

Reported on the North Shore until 12/20 St. Louis KE (four on 12/7 MH), in Dec. in Cook (eight on 12/4 AB), and 1/1 Lake AH. At least one adult and three immatures reported from Twin Cities in Anoka, Hennepin and Dakota with the last on 1/4 Dakota KB. Also one imm. reported at Lake City, 12/8–9 Wabasha KB, RG.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Reported in Duluth, 12/18–20 St. Louis



Thayer's Gull, 11 December 1993, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis. Photo by Paul Budde.

DEd, PS *et al.*

Rock Dove

Reported from 82 counties (83 l.y.) throughout the state.

Mourning Dove

Reported from 31 counties (29 l.y.) statewide with nine north reports including overwintering in Koochiching GM (third consecutive winter).

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from seven counties (21 l.y.) as far north as Todd.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 35 counties throughout the state (38 l.y.).

Snowy Owl

Record invasion. Over 60+ new individuals reported this season (70+ individuals already reported during the fall), surpassing previous record of 121 birds in 1991-1992.

Northern Hawk Owl

Only one report (12 reports l.y) from southern St. Louis County. First seen on 12/



Northern Hawk Owl, 8 January 1994, Saginaw, St. Louis Co. Photo by David Cahlander.

25 (County Road 98) *fide* KE, and then seen from 12/31 through end of period (Hwy 2 and 33 near Saginaw) KB, mob (probably same individual).

Barred Owl

Reported from 19 counties (25 l.y.) in range. Numbers up in St. Louis and Anoka.

Great Gray Owl

Approximately 12 individuals (18 l.y.) reported from Lake (one individual along County Road 2), St. Louis (four individuals seen at Sax-Zim bog, one seen near Floodwood, and one seen near Melrude), Itasca (one individual near Grand Rapids), and Aitkin (up to four along County Road 18).

Long-eared Owl

Only reports 1/23-2/27 Dakota TT, mob, and 2/6-13 Carver DM *et al.*

Short-eared Owl

Only reports 12/3 Rock ND and 1/1 Pennington KSS.

Boreal Owl

Singing male reported in late Feb. along Lake County Road 2 *fide* KE.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Increase in number of reports (9 total). 12/18 and 2/14 Olmsted JBo, RG, 12/26 Anoka CF, 1/6 (dead) and 2/3 Kandiyohi RF, 1/16 Beltrami DJo (found dead after low of -46 degrees), 1/24 Hennepin *fide* PBa, 2/6 Hennepin SC, 2/14 Beltrami DJo, 2/20-27 Dakota SC *et al.*, and Rice mob.

Belted Kingfisher

Reported from 12 counties (15 l.y.), with only north reports in Otter Tail and Becker. Only overwintering was in Otter Tail. Other reports were in December and January with no additional reports in February.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from nine counties (12 l.y.) as far north and west as Aitkin and Otter Tail. Large numbers noted locally with as many as 20 on 12/18 Crow Wing WN.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from 30 counties (40 l.y.) as far north as St. Louis and as far west as Clay and Lyon.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 50 counties (60 l.y.).

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 48 counties (55 l.y.) throughout the state.

Three-toed Woodpecker

Only three individuals reported including 1/29 St. Louis SS (Cummings Lake), 1/23-30 St. Louis mob (Hwy 1) and 2/11 Lake *vide* PBA (County Road 2).

Black-backed Woodpecker

14 individuals reported from six counties (12 individuals from six counties l.y.), including 2/19 Roseau SDM, 2/27 Beltrami DJo, 2/19-20 Aitkin WN (2), St. Louis mob (3), Lake mob (four locations) and 2/11 Cook *vide* PBA.

Northern Flicker

Reported from only 15 counties (31 l.y.). Only north reports were 12/21 and 2/26 Becker and overwintering in Pennington KSS.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 38 counties (48 l.y.) throughout the state.

Horned Lark

Reported from 44 counties (55 l.y.) throughout the state.

Eastern Phoebe

Reported until 12/11 Hennepin BL. Latest date on record.

Gray Jay

Reported from ten counties (nine l.y.) in range as far south as 1/21 Pine/Carlton (Nickerson) RG. The report on 12/4 Anoka PKL (Carlos Avery WMA) was unusual.

Blue Jay

Reported from 76 counties (81 l.y.)

statewide.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from ten counties (12 l.y.) in range plus 12/9 Wilkin (4) SDM.

American Crow

Reported from 78 counties throughout the state, including midwinter records north to the Canada border.

Common Raven

Reported from 23 counties (23 l.y.) as far south as 12/5 Isanti KL, Anoka JH (overwintering), and 1/29 Chisago (2) RG.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 81 counties (81 l.y.) statewide.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from six counties (8 l.y.) within range, including Cook, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin and Beltrami. Numbers up in Duluth where many reported at feeders.

Tufted Titmouse

Increased number of reports. Reported 12/8



Tufted Titmouse, 6 December 1993, Winona, Winona Co. Photo by Joan Kline.

Goodhue KB, 12/18 Olmsted JBo, Houston EMF, Fillmore mob, and Winona *vide* CS (as many as five different locations).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Numbers up. Reported from 44 counties (36 l.y.) throughout the state.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 49 counties (64 l.y.).

Brown Creeper

Reported from 25 counties in all regions except the northwest. Only north reports were 1/1 Otter Tail, 1/14 Beltrami, 1/1 and 2/12 Aitkin and 2/20 St. Louis.

Winter Wren

Reported 12/7 Martin BBo.

Carolina Wren

Reported 12/3 Hennepin *fide* SC and 12/5 and 22 Winona JK.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Very scarce. Reported from only eight counties (17 l.y.), with nearly all records in December only, and the only two north reports from 12/4 Aitkin SC and 1/16 St. Louis (2) MH. No February reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Reported 12/4 Hennepin *fide* SC.

Townsend's Solitaire

Seven individuals reported (15 l.y.) including four locations in Duluth, St. Louis Co. mob, and 2/13 Scott AH (2).

Hermit Thrush

Only report was 12/4-3/7 Richardson's Nature Center, Hennepin County, mob (*The Loon* 66:153).

American Robin

Reported from 24 counties (26 l.y.) as far north as Cook and Roseau.

Varied Thrush

Nine individuals reported (11 l.y.) from seven counties (12 l.y.). 12/4 Lake AB, BL, 12/17-18 Anoka *fide* PBa, 12/17-1/13 Crow Wing *fide* WN, 12/18-26 Becker BBe, 12/26-30 Scott RG, RJ, 12/28-1/5 Anoka mob, Kandiyohi *fide* RF, and St. Louis *fide* (2) KE.

Brown Thrasher

Reported overwintering in St. Louis KE and Otter Tail SDM, plus 1/1 Stearns *fide* PBa and 1/15 Jackson *fide* GH.

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from only 13 counties (13 l.y.) but



Bohemian Waxwing, 6 February 1994, Duluth. Photo by Sr. Pam Kern O.S.B.

numbers high in north with a peak of 2225 in Duluth on 2/6 St. Louis PBa (second highest count ever in state). Reportedly none in Duluth after early Feb. *fide* KE. Only south report 12/16 Goodhue KB, RG (1).

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 19 counties (35 l.y.) statewide. Only three north reports (seven l.y.), Becker, Pennington and Marshall.

Northern Shrike

Reported from 41 counties (52 l.y.) throughout the state.

European Starling

Reported from 82 counties (80 l.y.) statewide.

Ovenbird

One reported at a Rochester feeder until 1/8

Olmsted *vide* JBo (*The Loon* 66:107).

Northern Cardinal

Reported from 33 counties (42 l.y.) as far north as Cook (overwintering at Magney State Park, SOL), St. Louis (three feeder locations in Duluth *vide* KE) and 12/18 and 2/1 Becker BBe.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Only reports 12/24 and 1/3 Rice OR, 1/10 Hennepin *vide* PBa, Cottonwood ED and Washington *vide* PBa.

American Tree Sparrow

Reported from 28 counties (44 l.y.) mostly in the south, with the only north reports of birds overwintering in Cook and Clay.

Fox Sparrow

Only reports 12/18 Olmsted JBo and until 12/20 St. Louis *vide* KE.

Song Sparrow

Reported from only 11 counties (16 l.y.), including the following north reports from St. Louis (overwintering *vide* KE), 1/6–2/11 Aitkin WN, 2/7–10 Todd JSK, and until 2/18 Otter Tail SDM.

Swamp Sparrow

Reported 12/16 Goodhue KB.

White-throated Sparrow

Reported from 12 counties mostly in the southeast but also 12/18–2/15 Otter Tail (2) SDM, 1/1–2/26 Aitkin WN and St. Louis in the north.

Harris' Sparrow

Only report 12/22–1/2 St. Louis *vide* KE.

Dark-eyed Junco

Reported from 40 counties statewide (54 l.y.) with overwintering as far north as Polk, Koochiching and St. Louis.

Lapland Longspur

Reported from 14 counties (nine l.y.), with most in the south regions, but also reported from Marshall, Polk, Norman and Clay in the northwest region including a high of

200 on 1/25 Polk KSS. Also reported 12/4 St. Louis AB.

Snow Bunting

Very widespread. Reported from 54 counties (64 l.y.) with flocks of hundreds of birds in south and west, and a peak of 1800 counted in one field 1/16 Roseau KB.

Red-winged Blackbird

Scarce. Reported from 11 counties (22 l.y.) in south, with no large flocks reported.

Meadowlark, sp.

Only one report (ten reports l.y.), 12/3 Pennington KSS.

Rusty Blackbird

Reported from only three counties (15 l.y.) including 12/21 Brown JS (1), 1/9 Clay LCF (4), and 1/23 and 2/13 Otter Tail SDM.

Brewer's Blackbird

Reported 1/1 Cottonwood ED and from Rice where peak of 20 on 1/27 OR (no details).

Common Grackle

Reported from 20 counties (31 l.y.) statewide including overwintering as far north as St. Louis and Pennington.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Only report 12/18 Dakota TT.

Northern Oriole

Reported 12/6 Dakota *vide* PBa.

Pine Grosbeak

Reported from 13 north region counties (12 l.y.). No south reports for third straight year.

Purple Finch

Scarce. Reported from 23 counties (38 l.y.), with only four north reports. 12/16 Pennington, 12/12 St. Louis, Becker, and Douglas.

House Finch

Reported from only 24 counties (36 l.y.) statewide as far north as Pennington and St. Louis.

Red Crossbill

Only reports from Lake and St. Louis mob.

White-winged Crossbill

Scattered reports from north and south. 12/3 Hennepin *fide* SC, 12/11-16 Freeborn *fide* PBa, 12/18 Beltrami DJo, 12/18 Otter Tail SDM, 12/25 Hennepin *fide* PBa, 12/30-1/20 Brown BBo (20+), 1/1 Aitkin WN, 1/2 Carver DM, 1/17 St. Louis MH, 2/9 Dakota *fide* PBa, and 2/11 Ramsey KB.

Common Redpoll

Reported from 40 counties (21 l.y.) statewide as far southwest as Cottonwood, Pipestone, and Jackson.

Hoary Redpoll

Only reports in Cook SOL, KMH, Marshall

AJMH, 12/18 St. Louis MH, 1/14 Beltrami KB, PS, 1/15 Roseau KB, PS, 2/18 Roseau SDM. Several south reports questionable.

Pine Siskin

Reported from only 25 counties (40 l.y.). Numbers much reduced compared to l.y., but reported very numerous in Lake.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 36 counties (51 l.y.) as far north as St. Louis and Pennington.

Evening Grosbeak

Reported from 14 counties (17 l.y.). Only south report 1/23 Isanti KB.

House Sparrow

Reported from 85 counties statewide.

Contributors

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 HJF Herbert and Jeanette Fisher
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 EMF Eugene and Marilynn Ford
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 RF Randy Frederickson
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 RG Ray Glassel
 MH Mike Hendrickson
 AH Anthony Hertzell
 GH Gudrun Hodnefield
 KMH Ken and Molly Hoffman
 HH Harlan Hostager
 JH James L. Howitz
 RJ Robert B. Janssen
 DJe Douglas Jenness
 AJMH Arlyne Johnson & Mike Hedemark

DJo Douglas P. Johnson
 OJ Oscar L. Johnson
 BK Byron Kinkade
 RRR Ron & Rose Kneeskern
 JSK John & Susan Kroll
 SK Scott Krych
 HK Henry C. Kyllingstad
 PKL Pat & Ken La Fond
 FL Fred Leshner
 BL Bill Litkey
 WL William H. Longley
 SOL Sandy & Orvis Lunke
 DWM Don and Wynn Mahle
 WM William Marengo
 GM Grace Marquardt
 DM Dennis & Barbara Martin
 CM Craig Menze
 SDM Steve & Diane Millard
 DN Dave Neitzel
 WN Warren Nelson
 JP Johanna Pals
 AMP Anne Marie Plunkett
 OR Orwin A. Rustad
 BS Bruce Schmidt
 SS Steven Schon
 CS Carol Schumacher
 DS Drew Smith
 JS Jack Sprenger
 KSS Keith & Shelly Steva
 FKS Forest & Kirsten Strnad
 PS Peder Svingen
 HT Howard Towle
 TT Tom Tustison
 DPV Dan & Pam Versaw
 SW Steve Weston
 KKW Kristi & Kyle Wicklund
 TW Terry Wiens
 DZ Dave Zumeta
 mob many observers

Avifaunal Club: A Personal Memoir

Burton S. Guttman

Now, after all these years, it's hard to put all the details together. I suppose each of us who was there at the time would have his own version of the story. This is mine. Of course, my version is true. I can't vouch for anything the other guys would write.

In the early 1950s, in Minneapolis, there was a Minneapolis Bird Club. There were other bird clubs, too, but the Minneapolis Bird Club met at the museum of the public library, in a big old brownstone building on Hennepin Ave., up around 10th or 11th St., and that's where I used to hang out a lot. Somehow the museum became a meeting place for a bunch of teenage naturalists in the Twin Cities area. There were wonderful back rooms, full of uncataloged natural history specimens, odds and ends of sea shells, and so on, and by hanging out there, I met other kids with similar interests. Also, they let me take some of the sea shells for my collection. At some point, the museum hired a resident naturalist, Maxine Begin, and she, I think, was the one who formed us into a club. We socialized together and went on field trips together, taking advantage of places like Minnehaha Falls that could be reached by bus. (Most kids didn't have such easy access to cars in those days, and public transportation was perfectly respectable.)

So it was natural to go to the Library, and its museum, when my interests started to focus on birds. The Minneapolis Bird Club was mostly middle-aged folks, but a few kids, like me, also came to its meetings and field trips, and it must have been there that I met Bill Pieper. Bill was in his mid 20s; he had been a student at the U. of M., although he wasn't when I met him, and we shared an interest in classical music as well as birds. It must have been there, too, that I met a couple of other guys about my age —

Norrie Jones and George Fisher. We went on the organized field trips, and we attended some of the wonderful lectures sponsored by the Club. Roger Tory Peterson came through once, on an Audubon Tour, and he signed my copy of his field guide, commenting that putting index tabs at the top allowed the book to slip more easily into the pocket.

Middle-aged people, of course, don't move as fast as young people, and they aren't so adventurous. It was this feeling of not quite belonging, I think, that motivated Bill Pieper to suggest that some of us should form our own club. And so we did. There were not many of us. A few of the guys lived on the south side of town. A small contingent of us lived on the north side. My mineral-collecting buddy, Gary Filerman, got interested in birds about the same time I did, and one day, on a walk out to Glenwood Park (the old name that residents of that area always used for Theodore Wirth Park), he brought along John Futcher, a student a few years older than us. Jeremy Berman, who was a couple of years younger, also became an enthusiast. (A couple of winters, Gary, Jeremy, and I took on the job of stocking the big bird feeder at Theodore Wirth Park, just below the Wildflower Garden. I often trudged through the snow to tend the feeder, but one of the rewards was actually having a key to the padlock on the gate, making me feel like a part of some in-group, not just another park visitor.) And Ron Huber lived just a block away, although Ron wasn't so focused on birds in those days.

So we had a club. But what were we going to call ourselves? All the obvious names were taken. Then one day Bill called me and said he had an idea: The Avifaunal Club. I must admit that I wasn't wild about

the name, but at least it did describe our interests. And that's what we became. On one of our field trips — to the Izaak Walton Bass Ponds, I think — we sat and organized, and elected officers, and I found myself, to my surprise, being the first president of our group.

The path leading past the bird feeder and the lower gate of the Wildflower Garden leads on to a little spring, where many people came to fill their jugs with clear mineral water. (Is it all dried up now?) One winter day, I was hiking down that path, and when I reached the spring I met a young guy, probably in his 20s, who was also watching birds. Of course, we got to talking, and then we walked to his car, a tiny coupe, where his wife was waiting. The car seemed to be packed with just about all their belongings, because (I think) he had just gotten out of the army and they weren't settled yet. I climbed into the back seat, and we drove around to some other places, looking for birds, since I knew the area better than he did. And that's how I met Ray Glassel. I like to think I "discovered" Ray, as far as the Avifaunal Club was concerned, because I was then able to introduce him to the other guys, and from that time on Ray was our constant companion on field trips.

I see that the field trip schedule for 1953–54 was quite full: 23 August, Frontenac for warblers and shore birds; 20 September, Duluth for the hawk migration; 1 November, North Shore for ducks and owls; 27 December, winter bird count; 10 January, Minnesota River; 14 February, Lake Vadnais and Camp Ajawah; 7 March and 21 March, both to the Minnesota River; 10–11 April, Sand Lake, SD; 17 April, Pig's Eye Island; 24–25 April, Southwest Minnesota; 1 May, T. S. Roberts and Bass Ponds; 8 May, Frontenac; 15–16 May, Frontenac again; 22–23 May, Duluth and Camp Ajawah; 29–31 May, Northwest Minnesota; 5 June, Carlos Avery for LeConte's Sparrows; 12 June, Winona and Cannon River. But the first field trip of that year, starting on New Year's Day, was to Fort William, Ontario, taken by five people: Jeremy Berman, George Fisher, Norrie Jones, Bill Nelson, and Bill Pieper.

By the way, if there are any old Avifaunalists with records intact from 1952, I'd like to know where we went that year. I have lots of life list dates from 1952, but I've lost all my notes about places.

The club also established a Christmas Count area, centering on the Minnesota Golf Club and taking in most of the western suburbs: Golden Valley, Robinsdale, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, and so on. Notes that I think are for 26 December 1954 list these observers: George Fisher, John Fatcher (compiler), Ray Glassel, Harding Huber, Ronald Huber, Robert Janssen, Norris Jones, John Menge, Bill Pieper, Brother Theodore, Charles Wright, and Frank Wood. (Where was I that year?) Notes from another year, possibly 1953, list: Ray Glassel, Bill Nelson, Dick Duxbury, George Fisher, John Fatcher, Elizabeth Jerabek, Burton Guttman, Jeremy Berman, and Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Jerabek.

I have a lot of these old records, by the way, because I was supposed to be putting out a little newsletter for the group. But I couldn't get the old mimeograph to cooperate, and the newsletter never appeared. Sorry, guys.

It's still something of a mystery, looking back, as to how I lost contact with everyone else, and I don't know how, why or when the club fell apart. Somehow, though it's hard to imagine, I had less time for birding as I got more involved in my college studies and then went off to grad school, to become a molecular biologist. For a long time, I only watched birds quite casually, until a few years ago when my daughter started her college work in environmental studies and asked to go out and learn birds seriously. When I joined the ABA a few years ago, I found Bill Pieper's name among the members, now living in Arizona, and, sure enough, it is the same old Bill, although he wrote that some disability now keeps him from going up the mountain trails.

This is about all I can reconstruct from memory and my records. It would be interesting to read a second chapter written by someone else who was there.

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98505.



A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MINNESOTA, Third Edition, by Kim R. Eckert, 1994, Williams Publications, Inc., Plymouth, MN, \$17.95.

I wish neighboring states of Minnesota had state guides as comprehensive, up-to-date, and meticulous as this one. Kim provides maps and words to guide birders to the 413 species on the state list, plus a Description of the State (weather, topography, land forms), Overview of the Birds, Suggestions to the Birder (how to dress for winter, winter automobile maintenance, crowded places, urban hazards), References and Resources, A Birder's Guide to Birders (names, addresses, phone numbers of local experts), Annotated List of Minnesota's Birds, A Birder's Guide to Non-Minnesota Birds (unlikely but possible new birds not recorded in Minnesota - e.g. Smew, Cave Swallow), and a list of Mammals, Amphibians, and Reptiles. Scattered throughout the text are 38 black-and-white photographs of casual and accidental species.

The 413 species on the state list are up a surprising 18 species from 1983, the year of the revised second edition of *A Birder's Guide*, and the 800 locations (I did not count them!) are up 300 locations from the 1983 edition. The Annotated List is 33 pages, compared to 26 pages in 1983. This miniature field guide of verbal descriptions could prove useful to a birder without exper-

ience, a National Geographic Society Field Guide, or any of the recent special guides that walk the birder through the mine field of separating immature Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, or Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers. (Even "experienced" birders may need help!) Some birders will find details distinguishing Purple Finch from Cassin's useless (there was an accidental Cassin's at a Duluth feeder in 1987), but there the information is, at your fingertips. Kim is not only interested in being a guide; he is helping to establish a record and history of Minnesota birds.

Non-Minnesota birders and most active resident birders will need this guide with the handsome glossy cover photograph of a Great Gray Owl in falling snow. How else to find your way about in unfamiliar places from Houston County to Kittson, from Rock to Cook? There are a total of 209 maps; a county map and one, two, or three more detailed inset maps per county. You could drive using the guide as an atlas, but Kim recommends the free Minnesota highway map plus a set of county maps, and he tells where to write for them. Each county is indexed by page number from the state outline maps on the inside of the front and back covers. The state is divided into three regions of approximately the same area: West, Northeast, and Southeast. For the West, there are 93 maps; for the Northeast,

42; and for the Southeast, 74. Kim's narrative text addressed to the traveling birder on site is keyed by a system of letters and numbers to the various maps (B4, B5, etc.). Occasionally, I found it difficult to know which map on which page to consult from the text to find a location, but better concentration and practice should reduce this difficulty.

The text is written in Kim's laconic style, for those who know him. He often admonishes the reader to get out and bird — that is, walk and scout on your own in areas not discussed — and in his acknowledgments, he even laments that too few birders are interested in finding their own birds and birding locations. His amusing and iconoclastic views come through in various ways, lifting the text above dull narrative.

I checked out Kim's directions to Houston County birding locations because I am familiar with that county. All of the best birding spots are included: Beaver Creek Valley State Park, Shore Acres, Reno, and Millstone Landing. Even less obvious locations are included, such as the LaCrescent sewage plant access to Blue Lake and the former LaCrescent dump, presently a municipal recycling center and lumberyard. No mention is made of Houston County's only inland lake created by South Fork Dam on Crooked Creek, or of two minimum maintenance roads, very birdy, in northwestern Houston County.

The LaCrescent dump and access to areas Kim discusses under "B4" (page 129) are undergoing big changes in ownership and city use. You can still get into the area. After a walk north, a peek over the railroad tracks (an active side track) at prime U.S. Fish & Wildlife wetlands (rails, Least Bittern) is possible. The hike east toward Shore Acres, however, is discouraged by a "Violators Will Be Prosecuted" sign at the privately operated recycling center. I rate this warning a few degrees more intimidating than "No Trespassing." I recommend a visit during hours the center is open. You will probably discover that the sign does not quite mean what it says. Kim advises respect for property, but how you handle "No Trespassing" and the like depends on your conscience and what rare bird possibly

waits beyond the negative announcement at the gate.

At Felton Prairie in Clay County, Kim warns against trespassing, especially on property owned by gravel companies (very large, heavy, fast trucks kicking up flumes of dust and gravel shrapnel), but he also declares you can safely ignore a "No Trespassing" sign at the end of County Road 108. I did so in early August 1994 and proceeded south on the "longspur road," where I indeed found Chestnut-collared Longspurs. As I exited south, I drove around a locked gate, over a cattle guard barrier, then over a three-foot gravel pile. A sign here announces that this is the "B-B Ranch," "No Trespassing," and "No Hunting." Perhaps I should have backtracked north. Also, Kim doesn't tell you about the picnic table and Weber kettle at the north end of the lake, where I saw six White Pelicans!

Wadena and Hubbard Counties get little coverage. Counties to the north, according to the text, "have more boreal species, those south have better woods for southern species, and those of the West Region have their prairie specialties." Kim urges the birder "to find some good birds and areas on your own. Tell me where to go for a change." Okay! During some summers, Evening Grosbeaks show up at Long Lake in Hubbard County, at feeders off Chippewa and Pine Haven Beach drives; Red-necked Grebes have become dependable nesters, and in the summer of 1993, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen along County Road 23 on the Wadena-Hubbard County line.

I came west into Cook County from Canada early in August 1994. A new Grand Portage State Park was not open and will not be open for camping when it is ready for public use. It may provide access to Pigeon Falls, referred to on page 237. Our attempt to find lodging in Grand Marais after 4:00 PM on a Friday was futile. The so-called campground was a zoo. So we satisfied ourselves with a hike up Oberg Mountain, too late for Black-throated Blue Warblers, but easy to find with *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*. And Kim is right, "the view from the loop trail is terrific."

This book is not only a guide, but a

record of the quality of birding and birds in Minnesota. It provides information about where to look and when for those Minnesota specialties: Boreal Owl (in fact, it directs you to where the first nesting Boreal Owl in the lower 48 states was found in 1978 in a balsam fir snag, no longer standing), Great Gray Owl, Connecticut Warbler, Northern Hawk Owl, Yellow Rail, Snowy Owl, and Gyrfalcon. **Fred Leshner, 509 Winona St., LaCrosse, WI 54603.**

WARBLERS OF THE AMERICAS by Curson, Quinn, and Beadle, Houghton Mifflin 1994, 252 pages, 36 color plates, hard cover, \$40.00.

This is the sixth in a series of monographs on the families of birds of the world (others included seabirds and shorebirds) being published by Houghton Mifflin. It is a book covering all of the 116 species of New World or Wood Warblers found in North, Middle, and South America. It is the first guide to include all species of the family, many of which have never been illustrated before.

The excellent color plates are painted by David Quinn and David Beadle. All of the various forms, sexes, and ages are illustrated, if they differ from the adult male. The Swainson's Warbler is the only North American warbler with only one illustration, as apparently even juveniles have the same plumage as adults. Plate Five has 14 figures of the Yellow Warbler complex. Numerous line drawings accompany the text, showing mainly the various tail patterns. Ranges are included for all species and are placed across from the illustrations.

The introductory section includes sections of taxonomy, evolution, hybrids, and conservation. The authors have taken the liberty of changing the common names of the 12 members of the genus *Myiaborus* to Whitestart rather than Redstart (thus, the Painted Redstart becomes the Painted Whitestart), their reasoning being, the genus is not closely related to the Redstart and has little or no red in the plumage. Their explanation is, "There have been so many changes in recent years that one more (a particularly appropriate one) seems justi-

fied."

I would say this book is an excellent addition to one's ornithological library and should be very helpful both for identification and life histories of this interesting and colorful group of birds. **Raymond A. Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Ave. S, Bloomington, MN 55420.**

SHADOWBIRDS by William Burt, 1994, 172 pages, color and black and white photographs, hard cover, \$25.

I didn't like this book. I'll state that up front. Shadowbirds. The name, to me, seems more fitting for a dramatic seven part mini-series than a book on rails.

But, it is a book on rails, or at least, on the author's search for them. William Burt goes to the ends of the continent to search out and photograph all the rails of North America. Not content to just see and photograph the bird, he wants to photograph the nest as well. Though he eventually succeeds, and the resulting pictures are usually quite good, oddly, there are very few of them. There is a total of eleven rail photographs (eight in color) covering the six North American species. There is also a black and white photograph of a Sedge Wren, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (misspelled in the caption), and pictures of a few of the people and places he visited along the way.

Perhaps not unexpectedly, this book is more often about his failures rather than his successes. His flash wasn't plugged in; the camera batteries were dead; the flash-shutter contacts went bad; the bird either refused to make himself visible or simply wasn't anywhere to be found. If something could go wrong, it did, and he wrote about it. Triumphs are few and far between. When they occur, they are anticlimactic.

When they do not, it is frustrating reading. In his search for Yellow Rails, he visits the McGregor Marsh in Aitkin County, Minnesota. Though he can hear Yellow Rails around him, he can't actually see them, so he quickly gives up and heads out. He writes, "This is not the marsh I want. No question: water is too deep, plants too rank, and birds too few ... McGregor is not the place to be." I found it increasingly difficult

to trust that this man actually knew how to find a rail.

Wide-eyed and stumbling around a North Dakota marsh at midnight, he is more enamored of where he is than of what he is doing. He would rather write about the marsh than the marsh birds. He does write about rails, though in sort of a roundabout way, as if he is going to get to that in a minute. He just has to explain — once more — what a marsh is, and what it means to him.

I kept expecting that, eventually, somewhere in the middle of the book, I would get to “the good part,” the part where he finds them, explains them, tells me about them and their secrets. The good part never arrives. There is only an endless description of swamps, marshes and fens. The guy just plain loves wetlands. Stick William Burt in a wet field at night and he is happy as can be, and he’ll have a thousand ways to tell you. The book is a virtual thesaurus of different ways to describe a marsh.

Sometimes, the sentences are difficult to get through, as though the author is lost in the words and not sure of what he wants to say, and unaware of when he has said it.

For example, “...the *Spartina alterniflora* marshes, wet, muddy, and loosely populated with tall, coarse blades, relatively unconcealing acres; and the dense *Spartina patens* marshes, airy, aromatic meadows of soft,

fine grasses matted and knotted by the wind, sometimes pure and yellow-green and sometimes mixed with bluish “spikegrass” (*Distichlis*), where a little wet, or with *terniflora*, where wetter still.”

56 words there. And sixty pages later, he is still at it, “... most pampering of all are those aromatic tracts of fine, soft *Spartina patens*, yellow-green grass of the salt meadow...”

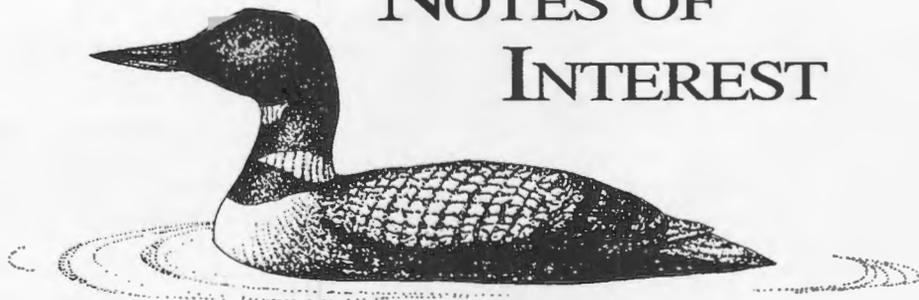
More often, he spends his time writing in the manner of a dime store romance novelist, with dronings like “The dark marsh is so suppressed, so still, like a land frozen in a spell, that the grasses themselves, dew-tinkling and tightly sprung, seem knowing and alive...”

The book is really about his search for a marsh. He is looking because the rails are there, but he loses his purpose, and the birds become increasingly less important, becoming kind of footnotes to the search.

When he remembers to include them, he discusses the birds well. He devotes many pages to the Yellow Rail, and it is interesting in places.

Go ahead and borrow the book. When he gets it right, William Burt has a real talent for photography. It is too bad he chose not to include more pictures in this book. It certainly couldn’t have hurt. Anthony Hertz, 2509 Talmage Ave. SE, Minneapolis MN 55414.

NOTES OF INTEREST



GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL ON LAKE PEPIN — On 24 May 1994, I was

birding along the lower Mississippi River. Shortly after noon, I stopped at Hok-Si-Lah Park in southern Goodhue County. Except for a Prothonotary Warbler near the entrance, the birds were very quiet. I wandered out to the shore of Lake Pepin. Standing on the beach at a point about 120 meters away was a single adult Great Black-backed Gull. Next to it were several Ring-billed Gulls. The black-backed bird was much larger than the Ring-billed Gulls. Its back, wing coverts, tertials, and primaries were all just as black as the primary tips. The bill was heavy-looking; its color was pale yellow, with a noticeable darker spot at the gonys. The head was white. Legs appeared to



be flesh-colored (not the evident yellow color of the bill). At this time of day (with the sun essentially overhead) and at the distance involved, I wanted to get a better look at the gull. As I approached the birds from along the beach, I could not see the legs as the bird stood at the water's edge and there was a small sand dune between us. When I was within about 35m of the group of gulls, they took flight. I had a good look at the black-backed gull in flight. This view confirmed my previous field marks, including that the wings, from one primary tip to the other, were uniformly black in color, except for a few white spots on the tips of the primaries. Almost all Minnesota reports of this species have been from Lake Superior. The first report away from there was at Wabasha in November 1987 (*The Loon* 60:79). Since then, several individuals have been found around the Twin Cities. This is the second documented report of a Great Black-backed Gull on Lake Pepin. Outside of Minnesota, this species has been expanding its range westward along the Great Lakes. It is generally found on large bodies of water, and most individuals leave by early spring. Still, it has been found in the summer in western Lake Erie (pers. obs.), Lake Michigan (*American Birds* 44:1141, 45:1122), and even Kentucky (*American Birds* 44:1141). There have also been sightings along the Mississippi south of Minnesota. No doubt there will be more Great Black-backed Gull sightings along Lake Pepin in the years ahead. Paul Budde, 4612 Colfax Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

ICELAND AND LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS IN ANOKA COUNTY —

On 9 April 1994, both an adult Kumlien's Iceland Gull and a second Summer Lesser Black-backed Gull were identified within a large gathering of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls in Oak Grove Township, Anoka County. Up to 20,000 gulls were estimated to be in the area, 99% of which were Ring-billed Gulls and the balance were Herring Gulls. Both the Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were easily observed and photographed at close range as they fed on food waste in a local field. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was conspicuous among the other gulls present because of its



very dark gray mantle. The mantle was mixed with a little brown color, and the coverts contrasted with the mantle because of their overall worn, brownish appearance. There were distinct light feather edgings in the coverts, and the tertials were broadly tipped with white. The wingtips were very dark brown, appearing slightly darker than the mantle, and with no white primary tips. The body plumage was mostly white, although some light streaking occurred on the head, especially on the hind crown, and along the sides of the breast. The bill was blackish with a diffuse, yellow base; the yellow color constituted only about 10% of the bill, and was not sharply demarcated. The bill appeared long and thin on this bird, similar to a California Gull, and without the distinct swelling at the gonys as on most Herring Gulls. The legs were a fairly obvious yellow, but the color of the eye could not be determined. The overall size was similar to a small Herring Gull, but when perched, the primary projection appeared long, and in flight, this long-winged appearance was especially obvious. When the bird was in flight, the underwing coverts and the underside of the primaries were extensively dark, contrasting with the mostly white body plumage. The tail was white except for a very pale gray/brown tone on the distal half of the center two

retrices. This bird matches the description of a second-summer plumage given by Grant with the exception of the white tail. Grant (*Gulls, A Guide to Identification*, 2nd edition) describes this plumage as having a blackish subterminal tail band. This bird was clearly a different individual than the third-year individual seen at this same location last year during both the spring and fall migrations (*The Loon* 65:207–208). The Iceland Gull was a classic adult of the Kumlien race in Definitive Alternate plumage. The head and body plumage were entirely white with no dusky streaking. The eye was distinctly pale, but not clear yellow as on the adjacent Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, and not completely dark as on the adult Thayer's Gull seen several minutes previously. The legs were pale pink. The bill was a greenish-yellow with a reddish gonydeal spot, and an adjacent slight grayish smudge on the upper mandible. The overall size and bill size were that of a small Herring Gull. The mantle was the same shade as the Herring Gulls, possibly slightly paler (not slightly darker as the Thayer's Gull seen). The color of the wingtips was a classic frosty gray, appearing the same shade or slightly darker than the mantle. The leading primary appeared entirely white, and the second primary had a very pale gray subterminal pattern visible. The four white mirrors visible in the folded wingtip were larger and more extensive than on the adjacent Herring Gulls. The underside of the opposite wing was seen when the gull was perched, and appeared to lack the dark trailing edge shown by Thayer's Gulls. The bird was not seen in flight. Interestingly, this record represents the first spring record of an Iceland Gull away from Lake Superior, and one of the few adult Iceland Gulls documented by photograph in MN. Although the Iceland Gull was not seen after 9 April, the Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen until 14 April, including by a number of other observers. Karl Bardon, 1430 100th Ave NW #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

PRAIRIE WARBLER IN ANOKA COUNTY — At 3:20 P.M. on 31 May 1994, I heard



an unexpected sound, rising in pitch, as I drove along a dirt road at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area in Anoka County. I heard the sound again as I stopped the car, but not again when I attempted to find the source. Then from a distance I heard it clearly and thought it must be a Prairie Warbler. The song was very different from the rising pitch songs of the Field Sparrows so common there. The singing continued, and unlike the usual situation, the bird did not disappear before I could spot it. I saw a small bird on an oak branch and even without my binoculars, I could see

it had a splash of yellow. Through my binoculars, I instantly confirmed the identification as an adult male Prairie Warbler. The bird had a bright yellow breast, conspicuous black stripes through and below the eye, heavy black streaking on the sides, olive greenish head and back, and white under the tail. The bird sang consistently for 15 minutes while foraging and occasionally pumped his tail. The habitat was a field with scattered small trees, and bushes and trees along the edge of a marsh, not too dissimilar from typical Prairie Warbler habitat I've seen in Indiana. This is the seventh Prairie Warbler record for Minnesota (*The Loon* 65:191). James L. Howitz, Huron University, 333 - 9th St. SW, Huron, SD 57350.

BRAMBLING — A THIRD RECORD FOR MINNESOTA — Late last fall, my husband and I were showing two English guests the wonders of Lake Superior's North Shore. One of our guests, Howard Marsh of Collumpton, Devon, is a birdwatcher. As we traveled up the Sawbill Trail from Tofte, Howard, camera in hand, had all of us non-birdwatchers on the lookout for any birds. He was especially interested in photographing a Bald Eagle. At the end of the trail is a campground and canoe outfitter. The owners of this business live in a beautiful log home with several bird feeders in the yard and attached to the windows of the house. At this particular time, about 11:00 A.M. on 22 October 1994, many birds were attracted by the feeder. Howard





Brambling, Sawbill Trail, Cook County, 22 October 1993. Photo by Howard Marsh.

spotted the Brambling in the trees near the feeder and got several photos before it flew off. He felt right away that it was a Brambling, as he was familiar with the species at home. It was not until we got back to our car and he looked in his copy of "Birds in Minnesota" that he realized that this was a rare sighting indeed for Minnesota. **Judith Anderson.**

I have never visited the USA before, but am familiar with the Brambling, which are frequent winter visitors to the southwest of England, where I live. While exploring the beautiful Sawbill Trail with the Andersons, I was observing White-breasted Nuthatches, Blue and Gray Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees, when I noticed the orange and buff plumage and twitching tail of what I first thought was a Black-headed Grosbeak. However, the head and bill shape were wrong and I suddenly recognized the Brambling. The photograph is fully supportive in terms of shape, bill size, and coloration — a common winter visitor for me in England, but not for you in Minnesota! **Howard Marsh, 8 Prospect Crescent, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon, Ex 153AE England.**

HYBRID BLUEBIRD IN TODD COUNTY — On 22 April 1994, my wife Diane and I were traveling east on MN Highway 210. Just south of Staples in Todd County, a brilliant blue bird flew up from the shoulder of the road and I exclaimed, "Mountain Bluebird!" This male bluebird, an apparent Mountain/Eastern hybrid, was well seen in strong late afternoon sunlight for several minutes. It was with a female Eastern Bluebird. On 19 May, we saw the bird again, but could not determine which, if any, bluebird box it was occupying. The area is a rural development of homes with large, open yards. Several of the landowners have bluebird houses. Steve and Jo Blanich, Warren Nelson, and Bill Stauffer met me in Staples on 5 June to get photographs and a detailed description of the bird. From 3:30 to 5:30 P.M., under partly cloudy skies, we observed and



photographed the male and its Eastern mate. The nestbox contained five eggs, and several times both birds would posture and flutter their wings while perched on top of the box. Dorsally, the male was a light, bright blue. The color was most intense in the tail feathers and primaries, and also quite strong on the crown and lesser wing coverts. The iridescent quality of the plumage varied with sunlight intensity and the bird's body relative to the sun. In shadow or under cloudy conditions, it was less striking, but still very beautiful. The blue was much lighter than that of a male Eastern Bluebird, certainly favoring the lighter hue of the Mountain. The chin, throat, and sides of the head were a duller blue, with a hint of rufous intruding into the lower cheeks and throat. These areas on a male Eastern have more reddish-brown. The breast, sides, and flanks were a medium reddish-brown, as in Eastern males, but probably a shade lighter than a "dark" male. The belly and undertail were off-white. The folded wings showed black tips against a blue background, a nice contrast. The bill, eyes, and legs were black. At times, the bird appeared turquoise, as though it were about 80 percent blue and 20 percent green. This effect changed with varying light, and was most noticeable when the bird was flying. I believe this apparent color change was caused by the spread flight feathers allowing more light to filter through, thus lightening and enhancing the effect of perceived change in color. Whatever the reason, the color was breathtaking. Steve Blanich and I both agreed that after watching this bird, the male Easterns looked dull by comparison. Steve Millard, 630 W. Laurel, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

UNUSUAL SUMMER OBSERVATIONS IN HENNEPIN COUNTY —



On 25 June 1994 while conducting a Breeding Bird Census for the USFWS, I observed an adult Loggerhead Shrike near the junction of Hennepin County Roads 116 and 30. The bird was perched on a house-top TV antenna. Time constraints did not allow me to check for any evidence of nesting. Two days later on 27 June 1994, I returned to visit with Mr. Vashro, the homeowner, and showing him an illustration of the Loggerhead Shrike in the *National Geographic Society Field Guide*, asked him if he had seen this bird near his home. He replied that two birds had been around for

about a month. Mr. Vashro further related that one had perched on the deck railing and, when flying to a nearby tree, had difficulty landing. My immediate thought was "juvenile!" After ending my visit and as I was about to leave, I made several loud "pishes;" a juvenile Loggerhead Shrike flew toward me from a tree estimated to be about 30 yards away and landed in a small tree nearby and began to call. The call was a rather loud, sharp squawk. My closest approach was about ten yards. The fine barring of juvenile plumage was evident. Another juvenile was calling from a nearby tree. Rain began and a search for the nest was abandoned.

Another observation of breeding evidence in Hennepin County was obtained on 29 June 1994. The first county record of the nest of an Acadian Flycatcher was recorded at Elm Creek Park Reserve. Acadian Flycatchers have been heard and seen along the Ox Bow Trail beginning with the summer of 1990. I found the nest in a green ash tree growing out of the creek bank; the nest was located in a branch overhanging the water, and was estimated to be about 10 feet above the surface of the water. An adult, presumed to be the female, was on the nest.

The unusual breeding evidence that I observed occurred at my backyard feeding station on 6 July 1994. A male Northern Oriole was feeding at the grape jelly feeder. Much to my surprise, the bird dropped to the ground and fed some of the jelly to a juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird! John K. Terres, writing in *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, states that the Northern Oriole is an infrequent host to

Brown-headed Cowbird, with only 13 records. I would be interested in hearing from other observers if they have seen Northern Orioles feeding juvenile Brown-headed Cowbirds. Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.

Editor's Note: In the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union nest record files, there are only four instances recorded of Northern Orioles being parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds, as follows: July 1965 – Ramsey County; summer 1967 – Clements, Redwood County; summer 1971 – Wabasha County; 9–12 July 1982 – Hastings, Dakota County.

WESTERN Tanager in Kandiyohi County — On 7 May 1994 at about 9:00



A.M., my daughter Katy commented that the orioles were back. I glanced up at the feeding station, which is 22 feet from the deck door, expecting to see an oriole. To my amazement, perched on the pole of our feeding station was a bird I had only seen in books. I quickly paged through my field guide and was able to confirm the beautiful bird was a Western Tanager. It fed on a mixture of black-oil sunflower seeds and sunflower chips. It appeared very comfortable feeding with all the other birds. I immediately called the resource center at Sibley State Park to report the

sighting and was told that there had never been a sighting reported in Kandiyohi County. My husband Joe was able to get a photograph from 22 feet away. The Western Tanager came to the feeding area many times during the next six hours. The last sighting was around 2:00 P.M. A short mention of the sighting was published in the local newspaper,



Western Tanager, 7 May 1994, Willmar, Kandiyohi County. Photo by Joe Kavanagh.

which prompted a neighbor, Mr. A. Jager, to contact me. He had also observed the Western Tanager on 4 and 5 May in his backyard several blocks from my home. The bird was evidently in the neighborhood for a period of approximately four days. **Barbara Kavanagh, 125 High Ave. NE, Willmar, MN 56201.**

PAINTED BUNTING IN COOK COUNTY — At our home on Lake Superior, coffee/tea



conversations with other birders are usually held on our all-season lakeside porch, which affords good viewing conditions. There are almost always four sets of binoculars around the table and at any given time, one or more may be in use. To the uninitiated, these conversations might at times seem rude, since eye contact is seldom made — we are all watching birds. During one of our frequent get-togethers (23 May 1994) with Ken and Molly Hoffman, we were particularly interested in a large group of ground feeders, which included White-crowned and White-throated sparrows, Song Sparrows, Pine Siskins, Chipping Sparrows, and a Lark Sparrow. A patch of bright yellow-green suddenly stood out in the otherwise dull-colored group of feeders. With binocular examination which can best be described as a group sighting, the green patch was immediately recognized by all as a Painted Bunting. The initial reaction to seeing this bird was the same in all cases — complete amazement at the striking color combination. The Painted Bunting was a male in full plumage with a deep blue head and neck, a green-yellow back, a scarlet rump and scarlet underparts, with the throat the most vivid red. An orange-red eye ring was also apparent. It would be difficult to confuse the Painted Bunting with any other North American bird. The bunting was startled by a car entering our driveway, but later appeared below a feeder at the other end of our house. The Painted Bunting was seen repeatedly during the following three days. **Ronald and Arlene Randkley, 230 Croftville, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

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MISSISSIPPI KITE AT THE FELTON PRAIRIE — On 12 May 1994, I observed a



Mississippi Kite in what appeared to be subadult plumage, as judged by Clark & Wheeler's *Hawks*. The observation was made on Felton Prairie several hundred yards north of Clay County Road 26 on a dirt road about one mile west of Hotsie Lake. The time was about noon daylight savings time, about 10:30 A.M. sun time, on a sunny day, following a day with strong southerly winds. The bird was circling at rather high altitude (hunting?) to the northeast of my position. I was using Bausch & Lomb elite 8X42 binoculars. It was a medium-sized raptor with long, quite pointed

wings, and a long tail. My initial impression from a view of the ventral side was of a gray bird with a very dark terminal band on the tail, and wing tips much darker than the rest of the wing. The face appeared to be white with a black mark, although the distance was such that I could not make out the detail of the black mark. When the bird turned in such a way that I could see the dorsal surface, the back and tail coverts appeared a neutral medium gray, with black tail. The upper side of the wings was mostly gray, but the leading approximately one-third of the wing had a distinctly rusty cast. Again the face appeared white, or nearly so, with some black marking, but with the distance even greater than before, I could not make out the detail. On two occasions as it circled, when the wing was pointed directly toward me, there seemed to be some rusty reddish color on the ventral side of the body, but I did not see that color when the bird was turned so that I had a more direct view of the ventral surface. The ventral surface was always in shadow, however. The only substantial difference between my observations and the description and drawing (plate 5) in Clark & Wheeler is that I was not able to observe any banding on the under surface of the tail. After less than two minutes, the bird's movements carried it out of range of any useful observation. **B. Spencer Meeks, 1413-5th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560.**

A WINTER VISITOR AT RICHARDSON NATURE CENTER — In early December 1993, a lone thrush was first sighted at the Richardson Nature Center feeding area. This bird was finally identified as a Hermit Thrush on 6 January 1994. As I viewed this Hermit Thrush at the feeder area in early January, it would stay by the open water pond to gain some warmth and would fly occasionally to a platform feeder filled with black oil sunflower seeds and appeared to investigate and try to feed; however, at no time was I able to see feeding or cracking of the seeds. Because the bird was determined to stay near the open pond, we saw it daily, usually in the morning. On 9 January 1994, we started to feed it mealworms by placing them on the rocks



Hermit Thrush, February 1994, Richardson Nature Center, Hennepin County. Photo by Scott Longpre.

near the pond, and also on the snow-covered ground near the observation window of the large classroom. Staff persons continued to place mealworms for food as often as three times per day, ten mealworms per feeding. The bird continued as a regular visitor during the extreme cold period in late January and February with nighttime lows of -25 degrees. It survived this cold period and continued to be seen until about 7 March. During this time, it would perch on a shrub within two or three feet of the window and watch any movement as a possible feeding time. At this time, American Robins were seen in the area and it might possibly have joined them because it has not been seen since. During a bird banding session on 27 January 1994, a live trap was set, using one mealworm as bait. After two unsuccessful attempts, the bird was captured and banded with USFWS band No. 1321-82-207. It was an AHY AGED, UNIDENTIFIED SEX. Arden Aanestad, Naturalist, Richardson Nature Center, Hennepin Parks.

WHITE-EYED VIREO IN NICOLLET COUNTY — At 7:30 A.M., with clear skies and a light breeze, we visited Seven Mile Creek County Park, Nicollet County. Along the creek, west of the main parking area at the end of the road, we heard a vireo singing for approximately five minutes. It sang a very distinctive multi-syllable song. The song was fairly loud and repeated frequently while we were there. Emphasis was on the first syllable (loud chick note), followed by a very brief pause, and then a relatively rapid burst of syllables. The bird sounded much like White-eyed Vireos I've heard in Houston County, (Reno site), Florida, and the Peterson Field



Guides Eastern Bird Songs Record. The song stopped us in our tracks, as we both recognized it as a White-eyed Vireo. We then approached the thicket and located the bird. We observed the bird for one to two minutes within a thicket before it stopped singing and we lost sight of it. We waited 15 minutes for it to sing again, but were unable to relocate the vireo. We saw the bird at about five yards (unaided eyes and Bausch & Lomb Elite 8X42 binoculars); however, it was difficult to see more than a few parts of the bird at once, due to the denseness of the thicket. The bird hopped slowly from branch to branch during viewing. I saw a vireo-shaped bird, relatively big head and heavier beak than warblers, a greenish-gray back, white undertail coverts, and a white wing bar. In addition, Paul saw a light yellow wash on the sides of the belly, and yellow on the lores and forehead. He also saw a white throat. Although the brush made a leisurely view impossible, the field marks noted, and the easily recognizable song made the positive identification of this White-eyed Vireo no problem. David Neitzel and Paul Jantscher, 7716 Upper 24th St. N, Oakdale, MN 55128..

CERULEAN WARBLER IN ROCK COUNTY — On 25 June 1994, at about 2:30 P.M., I was birding the area east of the swimming area at Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County. I heard young birds in a nest in this one tree and was looking for the nest; I saw an Orchard Oriole come to the nest area and then I saw a blue and white-colored warbler in the branches of the same tree! I was excited and quickly made mental notes (looking with my binoculars) — very white throat and breast with a black band across breast, black streaks on side, blue above with two white wing bars, and it was vocal. I saw it for about a total of one minute as it moved around; I was happy it was to “my side” of the tree. We had gone to Mankato on a birding trip 14 May and saw and heard the Cerulean Warbler there, also. This was number 214 for me for Rock County. Nelvina DeKam, Route 2, Box 90, Edgerton, MN 56128.



CLARK'S GREBE AT LAKE TRAVERSE — On 30 April 1994, I was at Mud Lake in Traverse County near the federal dam on the South Dakota state line. I knew that this was an area where Clark's Grebes had been seen in the past two years, so I was especially on the lookout for one. After checking the dam area where there were about five pairs of Western Grebes, I went about one-quarter mile back into Minnesota along State Highway 117 to where a reedy area starts along the shore. I was fortunate to be able to watch a pair of courting Western Grebes dance on the water directly in front of me at close distance. While watching the dancing grebes with my binoculars and a 30X Kowa scope, another grebe swam into my field of view, which was distinctly lighter and with a bright bill. I immediately identified it as a Clark's Grebe and for about ten minutes, it swam in front of me within 100 feet of the shore. My notes written with the bird in view and without consulting a field guide are as follows: “Distinctive white on face extending above eye on both sides of head; orangish bill, more so than adjacent Western Grebes; white extended to lores on face, unlike Westerns; bill more dainty and



slightly turned up." The bird cooperatively swam in front of me and even at one point tried to initiate some mating behavior with a Western Grebe, but he(?) was snubbed. Also, the bird at times appeared more whitish on the sides than the other Westerns, but this seemed at other times to be more an effect of light and position and posture in the water. I had seen one other Clark's Grebe in Minnesota with Kim Eckert, but the earlier view was not nearly so good, what with the perfect light and calm conditions that prevailed on the 30th of April 1994. **Doug Johnson, 7203 Tall Pines Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601.**

LARGE ORCHARD ORIOLE GROUP — During June 1994, I had been monitoring an



Orchard Oriole nest in Woodbury, Washington County. When first found, the adults were feeding small young. The female was always very concerned by my presence, so I mostly just checked to see if the pair was still present on territory. On 6 July, I presumed the young had left the nest and found they had done so. I flushed one from knee-high grass and herbage, and found another perched in a sapling. The adults (especially the female) were very agitated. She flew around over my head and acted more like a

Red-winged Blackbird in similar circumstances than the usual mild-mannered Orchard Oriole. I moved off some 40 yards to see if the adults would reveal the presence of additional young. In response to the alarm calls of the pair, the area was suddenly swamped with Orchard Orioles. In addition to the territorial pair, there were four adult males, three subadult males and at least five adult females or independent juveniles present. These birds must have been moving through in a loose migratory group; I definitely never saw more than one breeding pair in the whole area. The immediate area contained Willow Flycatchers, Dickcissel, and Clay-colored and Vesper sparrows, as well as Eastern Kingbirds. The oriole group did not stay long with the local pair, but began to move off in groups of two or three, but the numbers I saw in about 20 minutes that day easily exceeded the total number of Orchard Orioles I have seen in over 50 years of birding. **Russell B. Hofstead, 1118 – 6th Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075.**

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On 13 May 1994,



a different bird flew into a tree in my yard. With binoculars, I could see a dark head and thought Orchard Oriole. I then saw it was a grosbeak. The bird soon landed in my garden and started eating corn I had thrown out for the birds. We could see the dark head and orange breast. My sister, Louise Carpentier, said Evening Grosbeak. With *Birds of North America* and Peterson's *Western Birds*, we identified it as an immature Black-headed Grosbeak. The breast was not all orange, but had light brown and was more flecked than streaked. It looked more like the female pictured except

for the all-dark head. It had two small wing bars, one with four or five white feathers and one with three or four. The dark head had about three small white feathers just above the orange. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak soon joined it and also ate corn. Later, a female Rose-breasted was seen with them. The Black-headed did not sit as upright as the Rose-breasted. The bird was seen for four days, and we did not hear it sing. The male Rose-breasted was seen with it several times, and the female Rose-breasted just once. The male Rose-breasted once made an advance toward the Black-headed as if to chase it, but the Black-headed held its ground and the Rose-breasted backed off. The Black-headed's back was hard to see, as it was facing us most of the time. It may have had some orange on the back of the head like the female. The head was not a *black* black. One book (Peterson's) shows Black-headed smaller than Rose-breasted; we noticed no difference in size, and color can be deceiving. The female in *Birds of North America* looks more like what I saw than Peterson's. I had seen a Black-headed Grosbeak in California 20 years ago. **Fred Eckhardt, Boyd, MN 56218.**

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds; we aim to create and increase public interest in birds; and to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims: through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field



trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.

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SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* welcome submissions of articles, "Notes of Interest" and color or black & white photographs. Preferably, submissions should be typed, double-spaced and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two pages. Photographs should be 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a copy of your submission on any 3 1/2 inch computer disk.

Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editors. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Peder Svengen. See inside front cover.



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EDITOR OF The Loon: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305 (612-546-4220). The Editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details.

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EDITORS OF THE MOUpiece: Jim and Jude Williams, 3326 Martha Lane, Minnetonka MN 55345. The **MOUpiece**, our bi-monthly newsletter, publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep all MOU editors informed.)

MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Jerry Bonkoski, 9022 Southridge St. SW, Byron, MN 55920. To join the MOU and receive both our publications, donate \$20.00 for a regular yearly membership. Other classes of membership that you may choose are: Youth (through age 17) \$15.00 yearly; Family \$30.00 yearly; Supporting \$50.00 yearly; Life \$400.00. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$25.00 yearly. All memberships are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of **The Loon** (\$3.00 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 postage paid). Gifts, bequests and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should be sent to the Treasurer.

"The Season" section of **The Loon** publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season" request the report form from the Editor of "The Season," Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th St, Duluth, MN 55812-1533.

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Obituary — Douglas Donald Campbell, Sr. 1921 – 1994

Carrol Henderson

The Minnesota birding community lost a special friend and longtime birding companion in 1994 with the passing of Doug Campbell. Doug passed away in March from complications due to a stroke in 1993. He was well known in the Minnesota birding community as an avid birder and faithful member of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. In recent years he served as chairperson for the MOU Awards Committee and took special pride in helping recognize other birders for their accomplishments in Minnesota.

Doug was preceded in death by his wife Betty and son Phil. He is survived by a sister, Marge Hennesy of Oakdale, son Douglas Jr. of St. Louis Park, son Fred of Minneapolis, and grandchildren Vanessa, Brian,

Kristen, and Michael. He worked as a chemical engineer for the 3M Company for 43 years and was retired from that profession. He was born in Minneapolis and attended Washburn High School. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and was also a World War II veteran. Doug and Betty were longtime members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis.

Among his favorite hobbies were hunting, fishing, eating (chocolate), and birding — not necessarily in that order. Members of the Awards Committee always used to look forward to the November tradition of meeting at Doug's house to select the recipients of the MOU awards — partly because of the delicious chocolate brownies that he baked

for the occasion.

Doug distinguished himself a birder at the age of 12 when he discovered the first breeding site for Cerulean Warblers in Minnesota at Camp Ajawah in Linwood Township, Anoka County. He was attending Boy Scout camp at the time. His accomplishment was reported in the October 1934 issue of *The Flicker* after other birders, C. C. Prosser, Milton Thompson, and Dr. Walter Breckenridge, visited Camp Ajawah in 1934 and verified continued nesting there.

Doug's love for Minnesota bird life continued for the next 60 years. He shared many pleasant days afield with other birders. His keen observation skills, enthusiasm, and friendly personality made him a great friend and delightful birding companion as he shared his skills and time with other birders. In later years his appetite for birding increased as he participated in birding tours to Texas, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

One incident vividly portrays his enthusiasm for birding. In 1992 Doug was participating in a birding tour in Costa Rica.

He twisted his knee during the trip and had great difficulty walking. He was even considering dropping out of the tour. While riding in the tour bus through the Talamanca Mountains in southern Costa Rica, birding guide Carlos Gomez yelled "jays!!" as he directed the driver Manuel to stop the bus. It was a flock of Silvery-throated Jays — extremely rare birds that were even a "lifer" for Carlos. Carlos was so excited that he couldn't wait to exit by the bus door — he leaped out of the open bus window into the ditch. When Doug saw Carlos flying out of the bus window yelling "jays", he knew it was a "good bird". Forgetting his knee, he leaped to his feet and vaulted out the bus door. When his foot hit the ground his knee snapped back into alignment and he didn't even miss a step as he quickly caught up with Carlos to see the flock of jays that had landed nearby. He may have been 71 at the time, but it took the rest of us several seconds to catch up with him and Carlos. His knee was fine for the rest of the trip. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.**

Minnesota Snowy Owl Invasion 1993 – 94

John L. Schladweiler

This paper reports on a massive invasion of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) into Minnesota during the winter of 1993–94.

A rash of phone calls on 19 October, 1993, reporting four Snowy Owls either captured or seen in southwest Minnesota, sent me on a time warp trip back to 1966. I was a senior at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus, and I vividly remember virtually walking under a Snowy Owl sitting on a telephone pole on the edge of campus. I reported my sighting to Tom Nicholls who

had requested Snowy Owl sightings because of an apparent invasion. This incident and the following discussions with Tom started me on a lifelong interest in Snowy Owls and their propensity for irruptions into the lower 48 states.

Coming back to the present, I quickly looked at *Birds in Minnesota* (Janssen, 1987) which showed that these birds were among the earliest on record for southern Minnesota. These early records, coupled with the fact that three of these four birds were either dead or had been captured alive

quickly indicated to me that we had the makings of another invasion. Little did I know that this would turn out to be the mother of all Snowy Owl invasions, at least in recent history. As I thought it would be nice to document what looked like a pending invasion and compare it to the 1966–67 invasion, I immediately sent out a notice to DNR field stations to send me reports of any and all Snowy Owls that they either saw or heard about from the public. A press release was also sent out by the Nongame Program both statewide and in the southwest region of the state requesting public sightings.

Discussion with a number of individuals at the 1993 MOU annual meeting confirmed the magnitude of the invasion and allowed a coordination of reporting efforts. Kim Eckert and Parker Backstrom provided records reported on the Duluth and Twin Cities Rare Bird Alert hotlines. Peder Svingen sent in all Snowy Owl reports from the seasonal reports provided by MOU members. Other nongame specialists coordinated reports received from field offices in their regions. The Raptor Center provided information on the birds which were turned in for rehabilitation. I monitored the internet network of Minnesota birders where bird sightings are reported and discussed.

As best as I can determine there were 351 individual Snowy Owls seen in Minnesota during this invasion. This shatters the previous record of 121 reported by Eckert in 1991–92 (*The Loon* 64:189–195) and the 92 reported by Nicholls during the 1966–67 invasion (*The Loon* 40:90–92). The counties where the birds were seen in all three invasion years are indicated in Figure 1.

The earliest reported bird was 6 October 1993 from Becker County. While this is later than any of the early dates listed in *Birds in Minnesota* for the northern half of the state, there were no fewer than 21 records from the southern half of the state that are on or before the latest early date (23 October) for the southern half of the state listed in *Birds in Minnesota*. One of these early reports was from Fillmore County near the Iowa border, an indication of how quickly these birds travelled through the

state.

There were 91 reports received from October (see Figure 2). In contrast, Eckert (*The Loon* 64:189–195) reported only one bird, and Nicholls (*The Loon* 40:90–92) had no reports from October and reported only one more bird (92) for the entire winter! A pattern that was similar from 1966–67 is that new sightings tapered off after peaking in November. The peak in 1991–92, however, did not occur until December (Figure 2).

The last report was 19 April 1994, in Carver County. There are only two other dates listed in *Birds in Minnesota* for the southern half of the state which are later; however, subsequent to that publication, a bird lingered into June in Yellow Medicine County during the 1991–92 invasion (*The Loon* 64:172).

Of the 91 October records, 20 birds (22%) were either found dead or died after capture. Twenty-four birds were cared for at The Raptor Center. Nineteen of these 24 birds were young of the year, one bird was recorded as a second-year bird and the other four were unknown ages.

Indications are that a great majority of the birds that came through early were young of the year birds which were in very poor condition but the birds that came later had more adults in the population and were in better condition. The Raptor Center records show that 15 birds were admitted in October, four in November, three in December and two in January (Mark Martell, pers. comm.). Dave Evans (pers. comm.) indicated that birds he was trapping in the Duluth Harbor were all of normal weight, but he did not begin trapping until after the early wave of birds was through.

The typical condition of the birds that were either found dead or captured and turned in to rehabilitation centers could best be described as "terrible" (Pat Redig, pers. comm.). In fact, ten of the birds had "starvation" listed as the cause for admission! Seven of these were in October. Even those birds admitted because of various injuries were in poor condition. The Raptor Center reported that they could not rehabilitate some birds because their body systems had

deteriorated to the point that their systems could not assimilate the nutrition provided them and they died or had to be euthanized.

I personally handled three birds that were turned in to me. In all three cases, the birds were very weak, thin and light with pronounced sternums and were heavily infested with a type of bird louse. It is not likely, however, that the heavy louse populations contributed much to their poor condition. Reports of nearly all the dead birds found indicated they were very emaciated. Three birds turned in to The Raptor Center had vehicle collision injuries and there were two birds reported killed by cars. Considering the numbers of birds in the state and their poor condition, it is surprising that these numbers are as low as they are.

Two of the reports are particularly revealing in regard to the condition the birds were in when they arrived in the state. On 7 November 1993, a group of birders watched a Snowy Owl catch and kill a Common Merganser in the open water of Grand Marais harbor. It then tried to swim to shore with the merganser but was unable to make it with its prey. The owl then left the merganser behind, swam ashore with great difficulty, and was later found dead, presumably weakened from starvation. A report from Big Stone County indicated a Snowy Owl feeding on a duck carcass frozen into the ice on Thielke Lake. These two reports of unusual feeding behavior indicate that some of the birds were very desperate for food. Roberts (1936, p 613) commented that "While the Snowy Owl is credited with living largely on rats, mice, and rabbits, it may when such quarry is scarce, turn its attention to large game and become a severe menace to poultry, grouse, ducks, or any large birds that come its way, *especially when it first arrives from the north and is in urgent need of food*" (emphasis added). In all, I think it would be fair to say that somewhere on the tundra in 1993, things were mighty bleak.

The distribution of the reports was much more even throughout the state than during the 1991-92 invasion, similar to what was observed during the 1966-67 invasion (Figure 1). In 1991-92, the reports were con-

centrated along the north shore of Lake Superior and in Aitkin County and the Sax-Zim Bog area of St. Louis County. In fact, the numbers are surprisingly comparable for these counties for all of the invasion years. The 1966-67 invasion, while not comparable by total numbers or counties where they appeared, was more evenly distributed throughout the state than in 1991-92.

In all, 71 counties had reports of Snowy Owls during 1993-94. Three counties were added to the list of those that have recorded Snowy Owls since 1970, i.e., Benton, Lincoln and Fillmore, (Bob Janssen, pers. comm.). The only county in Minnesota which has not recorded a Snowy Owl since 1970 is Mahanomen.

There were a great many more birds which were reported from the Seven County Metropolitan Area than in 1991-92. Forty-nine reports of individual birds came from these seven counties whereas only five were reported in 1991-92 and 12 from the 1966-67 invasion.

As reported by Nicholls (*The Loon* 40:90-92), "habitat selection seemed to be based upon their resemblance to habitats in their native Arctic tundra. Owls often settled in urban areas undoubtedly because of the abundance of prey such as rats and pigeons".

Here are two good examples of urban habitat use that were reported. On 22 November 1993, there was a Snowy Owl observed sitting on the state capitol building (obviously a good place to look for rats). On 27 November, what was undoubtedly the same bird was seen on 10th Street and Wacouta Avenue in downtown St. Paul. On 30 November it had moved down the street to 10th Street and Robert.

One bird, reported by one observer to be an immature, took up residence at one of the highest traffic count areas in the Twin Cities at the intersection of I-494 and Hwy. 100 in Bloomington. The bird hunted from a lamp post and was most often seen late in the day from 12 December 1993 to 15 March 1994. What I presume to be the same bird was also hunting from a lamp post at I-494 and France Avenue on 30 January 1994. It must be the avian equivalent of going to a



Figure 1.

different franchise restaurant — the location is different but they all serve the same menu and all look alike!

Although only the invasions of 1966–67, 1991–92 and 1993–94 have been well documented in Minnesota, other invasions have likely occurred that are even greater than this one. Roberts (1936, p 612) cites an account by Dr. Alfred O. Gross (Auk, 44:479–493, 1927) of a “phenomenal invasion” in

1926–27 when 5000 were estimated to have been killed in southeastern Canada and northeastern United States. The only Minnesota records of that invasion cited by Roberts was “During the winter of 1926–27, Mr. Fryklund of Roseau, had no less than sixty-eight brought to him; most of them taken...” by meat-baited traps set for small mammals. Another likely large invasion year was 1949–50 when 643 individuals

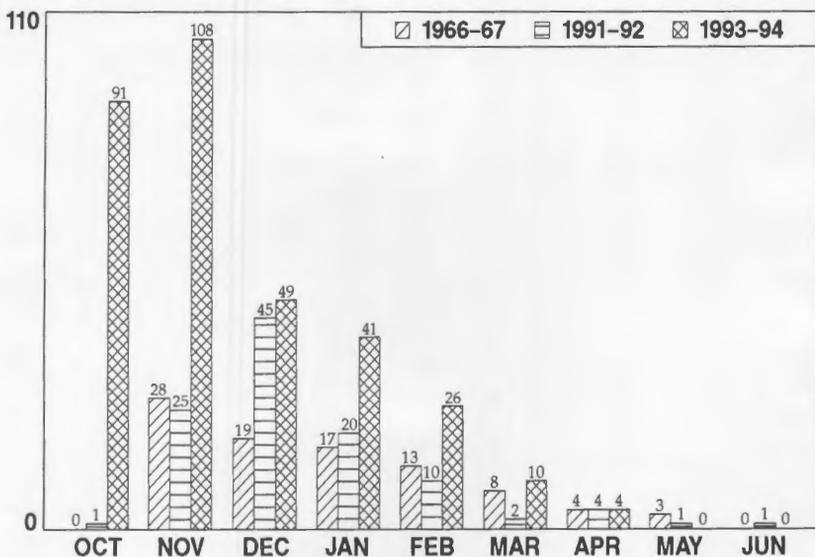


Figure 2. Minnesota Snowy Owl reports by month for winters of 1966-67, 1991-92 and 1993-94.

were recorded in South Dakota (South Dakota Ornithologists Union, 1991: p. 172) and 17 in Iowa (Dinsmore, *et al.*, 1984).

Although I have not seen many direct reports from other areas of the country, I have been in contact with Al Jaramillo from Vancouver, British Columbia, who made a request for Snowy Owl reports through the internet. He had seen reports of a spectacular crash in the lemming populations in parts of the Canadian arctic. As he put it, "I guess that there are a lot of cliffs up there!"

A summary of some of the reports follows:

WASHINGTON: Southern Washington which had a number of birds during a 1984-85 invasion, showed no such signs this year. The Skagit area of northwestern Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia, however, had a big year with many birds that appeared to be adults. He indicates at least 22 birds could be seen within a couple of hours of looking at Boundary Bay, in the Vancouver area.

OREGON: A few records more than normal but those were farther south than normal.

ALASKA AND SIBERIA: "July in

Norilsk and Taimyr Peninsula, northwestern Siberia, was average. Lemming levels seemed fine and the usual abundance of Snowy Owls."

COLORADO: Two Snowy Owls reported. Since 1985 there have only been three or four records in the state, therefore two in one winter is an invasion by Colorado standards.

NEBRASKA: "At least five reported to me, the earliest on 20 November. No idea if this is unusual or not. I expect that these numbers are higher than usual for that state."

INDIANA: Up to five were reported before the end of December in northwestern Indiana. The 12-year average is 2.4 so numbers were up.

NEW YORK: Three were reported between 7 November and 26 November, which seems like an average to slightly above average number for that state."

PENNSYLVANIA: One was near Shippenburg in February, where the species is rare.

MASSACHUSETTS: One record.

His general conclusions were that the Snowy Owl invasion appears to have been

largely confined to the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest with Minnesota being the epicenter of the invasion.

Bruce Ehresman (pers. comm.) of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Nongame Program indicated that 23 Snowy Owls reports in Iowa were given to him from October to December of 1993.

The total number of owls in this summary represents what I consider to be separate individuals. Reports which I considered to be duplicate sightings are not included. I do not have a count of how many different reports I received, but I would estimate the number of reports to be in the neighborhood of 400, however. Because of the variety of sources of reports, the amount of information contained in some was very sketchy. Because many of the reports were received second- or third-hand, some had only a date and/or county with no other details given.

Some of the reports were obviously out of Snowy Owls, e.g., "two birds heard calling in my grove for about a week." Another reported "six Snowy Owls flushed from grassy area while pheasant hunting. He said there were a lot of mice in the field and he was pretty sure, but not positive, that they were Snowy Owls." It is more likely that these birds were Short-eared and not Snowy Owls, which in and by itself is a rather remarkable sighting! This report was from Le Sueur County on 10 November 1993.

Some birds were seen by a great many people in the same location. At least a dozen different people reported the bird seen at I-494 and Hwy 100 over more than a three-month period! While this was easy to sort out, the reports received from at least two locations were very hard to decipher. Aitkin County provided 28 different reports, many of them of multiple birds without locations (e.g. "1/2/94; eight Snowy Owls located in Aitkin Co."). In that case, I took the best estimate of 22 individuals that was provided by Warren Nelson because of his knowledge of the county and his active birding.

The same situation occurred in the Duluth Harbor. I relied on information provided by Kim Eckert (pers. comm.) of as many as ten different birds in the Harbor. I

defined the harbor area from 40th Avenue West to downtown, including the Port Authority, Park Point and the Bong Bridge. Fourteen birds were seen in other parts of Duluth and rural St. Louis County.

Many birds were reported in more than one place. The same bird could show up on the Rare Bird Alert, a DNR report, the MOU Seasonal Report and a report from the Raptor Center. I used my best judgement to eliminate records which were likely duplicates. Birds reported from the same general vicinity (within a couple miles) and within about a week of each other, I generally considered as the same bird. While it is possible (and even likely) that some owls were counted twice, this number is negligible considering that some owls went undetected or unreported.

I would like to thank Tom Nicholls for instilling in an impressionable college student an appreciation of this bird. Thanks are also due to Parker Backstrom, Peder Svingen, Kim Eckert, Dave Evans, Steve Millard, The Raptor Center, MOU members, DNR field offices, Al Jaramillo, Bruce Ehresman and the scores of people, including non-birders from the general public who sent in reports. Without their help, cooperation and interest, the real magnitude of this invasion would not have been documented.

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A History of Minnesota's State Bird

John R. Tester and Ben Thoma

States like to be recognized by symbols representing significant aspects of natural history, location or other characteristic. State legislatures have designated flowers, trees, fish, mammals, birds, mushrooms and even muffins as official symbols. Some symbols have endured for long periods of time, whereas others are changed repeatedly, reflecting changes in interests of legislators or constituents. Such is the case with the designation of a state bird for Minnesota, a project lasting 46 years with a slate of many bird candidates and a cast of thousands of voters.

This history really begins in 1915 when the Minneapolis Audubon Society began as a study group of the Minneapolis Women's Club. William Kilgore, curator of the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History, now known as the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, was elected president of the Society in 1926. Shortly thereafter, he published an article in the *Minnesota Federation News* titled, "A State Flower — Why not a State Bird?" Kilgore suggested that the American Goldfinch be designated the state bird and presented a list of arguments in its favor.

No official action was taken on Kilgore's suggestion and it was not until fourteen years later, in 1940, when Kilgore again raised the issue of a state bird. In an article in the first issue of a magazine titled, *The Conservation Volunteer*. Kilgore stated, "Some years ago the writer was asked to suggest the name of a bird that in his opinion was best suited to bear the title of "The Minnesota State Bird." Kilgore again suggested the goldfinch. Once again, no official action was taken, but *The Conservation Volunteer* selected a drawing of the goldfinch by Walter J. Breckenridge as its masthead

for the first edition. Breckenridge does not recall being asked to draw the masthead, but he does remember that many of his drawings were used as illustrations in the early issues of *The Conservation Volunteer*. The goldfinch masthead remained until 1946.

First official action toward designation of a state bird occurred in 1941 when the legislature passed an act creating a State Bird Commission whose purpose was to review the qualifications of eight Minnesota birds. Members of the commission were Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Dr. D.M. Schweickhard, Commissioner of Education, M.D. Thompson, Director of the Minneapolis Public Library, H.L. Gunderson, President of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, M. H. Anderson, Senator from the 32nd District, L. D. Mosier, Representative from the 35th District, and K.D. Morrison, Editor of *Audubon* magazine.

Criteria for the selection process were established by the Commission as follows:

1. Since this is to be a distinctive trade mark or insignia for the state, it should be a bird which is not already the state bird of another state.
2. It should be at least fairly well known, although not necessarily abundant. Precious gems are admired and valued in part because they are rare.
3. It should occur throughout the state at least during the nesting season and preferably throughout the year.
4. It should be a strikingly marked bird whose pattern, even in black and white, would lend itself well to use in insignia.
5. It should have some special significance for Minnesota.

The Commission prepared a tentative list of 20 bird species and then invited comments and suggestions from interested organizations and individuals. Based on this input, the Commission prepared the list of nominees to be submitted to the school children for voting. The eight finalists were Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mourning Dove and Common Loon. An article, with no author listed, describing these selections was published in *The Conservation Volunteer* in 1949 with the title, "State Bird Candidates."

Some lawmakers, however, were apparently not satisfied with the final list because it did not include the goldfinch. A publication in the Minnesota Heritage Series titled "Loon Means Unspoiled Wilderness" reports on the controversy. "A classy little bird," said one legislator. "They stand out in a crowd and that's what we want for Minnesota." In response to strong public interest, a Minnesota newspaper took a stateside poll and found that the American Robin was favored by adults and that school children wanted the Scarlet Tanager.

In 1950, children, members of sportsman's clubs and members of other organizations voted on the list prepared by the State Bird Commission. Minnesota's school children, who were under the impression that they were balloting for the state bird, selected the Scarlet Tanager. It won by a landslide, receiving 60,214 votes to 19,615 for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the second choice. Some adult groups polled favored the Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Duck or loon. Judging from the votes cast, it may be that the color, red, influenced many voters.

Although the vote was very much one-sided, it did not have much significance as the legislature tabled the entire matter of selection of a state bird. It is not clear how this happened, but Breckenridge believes that it may have been done by a legislative committee. A newspaper story on January 21, 1951 reported only that the legislators "overlooked the choice of school children."

It appears that Minnesota now had two logical candidates for the state bird, the goldfinch and the Scarlet Tanager. Support

for each species was contributed by articles in the *Conservation Volunteer* in 1954 by Bennie Bengtson, a farmer from northwestern Minnesota, who contributed many natural history articles to *The Conservation Volunteer*. The two articles were titled "State Birds — Scarlet Tanager" and "State Birds — The Goldfinch."

A significant event in this history occurred in 1952 when Sigurd T. Olson, Jr., son of the famous Ely writer, and William H. Marshall prepared a report titled, "The Common Loon in Minnesota" This report was based on Olson's Master of Science thesis prepared under the direction of Dr. Marshall, and was published as Occasional Paper No. 5 by the University's Minnesota Museum of Natural History. No mention of the state bird appeared in this publication, but knowledge about the Common Loon in Minnesota was now readily available.

A suggestion that the loon be designated as Minnesota's state bird was made in 1955 when The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, an organization of about 700 amateur and professional ornithologists, voted in favor of the loon for the official bird. Further support came from Dr. Arnold Erickson, Game Research Supervisor in the Division of Game and Fish, in 1958 in an article in *The Conservation Volunteer* titled, "The Loon is a Candidate." Dr. Erickson, speaking for the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, made the following appeal: "Beginning in this Centennial year, then, the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union believes that the loon can help represent and characterize our state on its one hundredth birthday along with the Red Pine and the Lady Slipper. Over 150 years ago the loon's wild cry was heard by the French voyageurs in the border country, and even today the loon nests within 25 miles of the State Capitol. Let's enlist the cooperation of our legislators now and in 1959 ask them to select the loon as Minnesota's official state bird."

Official action finally came in 1961. In the House of Representatives, the chief author of the bill "designating the loon as the official state bird" was Loren Rutter representing St. Louis County. Francis LaBrosse, Emil Schaffer, William House and Fred

Schwanke were coauthors. In the Senate, Norman Walz from Becker and Hubbard Counties was the chief author and Clifford Lofvgrén was coauthor. Voting records show that in the House, 88 voted for and 25 voted against the loon and in the Senate 56 voted for and 7 voted against. Elmer L. Anderson signed the bill as Governor; E. J. Children signed as Speaker of the House; and Karl Rolvaag signed as President of the Senate.

To commemorate designation of the loon as the state bird, Minnesota's famous wildlife artist, Les C. Kouba, created an oil painting of a pair of loons swimming on a lake, with reflections of northern forest trees visible in the water. The original painting was donated to the state and presented to Governor Anderson in 1961. For several years thereafter, a reproduction of the painting appeared in the State of Minnesota Legislative Manual. Although we made numerous inquiries, we were not able to determine the present location of the original painting.

With the designation of the loon as the official state bird, one might think that numerous publications and reports on the status of the loon in Minnesota might appear in the published literature. However, it was not until 1988 that a major publication appeared with the title, "The Common Loon, Spirit of Northern Lakes." This book, published by the University of Minnesota Press, represented many years of research by Judith W. McIntyre, now a professor at Utica College of Syracuse University in New York.

Just one year later, the Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program, in cooperation with LoonWatch, a citizen's loon protection organization at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, reported on the status of the loon population in Minnesota. Counts were made on 723 lakes in 49 counties on July 15, 1989. A population for the entire state was derived by projecting data from the 723 lakes. The report estimates that Minnesota's loon population was between 10,359 and 12,893 in the summer of 1989 (Strong, P. and R. Baker. 1991. An estimate of Minnesota's summer population of adult Common Loons. Minnesota Department of Natural

Resources Biological Report No. 37).

Official Illustrations

The legislation passed in 1961 specified that a photo of the loon be preserved in the office of the Secretary of State, but no photograph or painting was designated as being the official one. No photo was displayed in the office of the Secretary of State until the summer of 1989 according to Jeanne McGree, Administrative Assistant to Secretary of State Joan Growe. The photo now displayed came from an enlargement of a 35mm slide taken in Crow Wing county by Tim Smalley of the Department of Natural Resources.

A swimming mount was displayed in the Governor's reception room in the early 1960s. Although we do not know where this mount came from, it is possible that John Jarosz, taxidermist at the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota, prepared it. The location of this mount is presently unknown. Because of limited space in the Governor's office, the swimming loon was replaced by a mount of a standing loon. We do not know who prepared this mount nor its present location.

Epilogue

This history covers a period of 64 years from 1926 through 1990. Since the official designation of the loon as the state bird in 1961, it has become widely adopted as a symbol of Minnesota. We feel that this symbol is most appropriate, in part because the Loon can be found throughout the state during migration and over about two thirds of Minnesota during the breeding season. Further, the loon is indicative of wilderness and wild lands, for which Minnesota is widely known. Let us hope that Minnesota's environment is always suitable for loons and that their presence signifies a quality of environment of which we can all be proud.

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Yellow-throated Warbler, 28 May 1994, Sibley State Park, Kandiyohi County. Photo by Randy Fredrickson.

The Spring Season (1 March to 31 May 1994)

Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson, Scott Krych, and Dick Ruhme
Foreword by Peder Svingen

Minnesota's first Curlew Sandpiper was discovered by Bill Litkey in a flooded field near Etter. Predictions of potential additions to the state checklist sometimes do come true! Even more amazing was the discovery of two Townsend's Warblers on opposite ends of the same county on the same day!

Spring 1994 in Minnesota was characterized by good migration of shorebirds, slightly delayed arrival of neotropical migrants, and an excellent array of rarities. After the bitter cold of the past winter, mild conditions in March were most welcome and there were only two significant snowfalls during the month. A few migrants arrived on time or early in late March as temperatures gradually crept into the 50s and 60s by mid-April and into the 80s by late April across most of the state. Four to five inches of snow on 28 April in northern Minnesota briefly interrupted this pattern but the entire first half of May was

relatively dry and mild, with temperatures mostly in the 50s and 60s north, 60s and 70s south.

Sparse numbers of neotropical migrants arrived during the first ten days of May, but good numbers of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers moved through southeastern Minnesota between the 11th and 17th of the month. Rain fell across most of the state on 13 and 14 May, contributing to these good conditions but dampening the enthusiasm (and results) for some observers during the North American Spring Migration Count on the 14th. Migration through the Twin Cities peaked at about this time, as

Steve Carlson reported six species of vireos and 22 species of warblers in Hennepin County on 14 May with others reporting an additional 6 species of warblers and 15 species of shorebirds in the county that same day (*vide* SC). Mr. Carlson cited "the compressed nature of the year's warbler migration" as he reported ten or more species of warblers each day from the 5th to the 25th of May, 15 or more species from the 10th to the 17th, and 20 or more only on the 13th, 14th and 15th. The second half of May was again mild with few frontal systems. On 21 May, while most of the state was warm with southerly winds, a weak front stalled over northwestern Minnesota produced 160 species on a Roseau County Big Day in less than 14 hours of birding, a new record for county Big Days in Minnesota.

The 5 May flock of **Red-throated Loons** on Lake Superior was one of the largest ever reported in Minnesota waters (*The Loon* 66:104-105). High numbers are routinely recorded on eastern Lake Superior, especially at Whitefish Point. Roberts cites one Red-throated Loon purportedly shot from a flock of close to a hundred individuals in Lake County on 21 September 1924 (*The Birds of Minnesota*, 1932, pp 144-145).

The **Clark's Grebe** in Traverse County was likely one of the individuals seen in three of the past four years (not reported here in 1992) on or near the outlet from Lake Traverse, where two adults and two young were found in 1991 (*The Loon* 63:220-225). They were also found in two nearby counties this spring; there are now approximately fourteen acceptable records for the state with only four of these prior to 1991!

Another species with dramatic change in status over the past ten years is **Ross' Goose**. The eight birds with Snow Geese in Roseau County comprised 4.7% of the total flock, consistent with other recent reports; larger groups of Ross' have been reported only from Traverse County (11) in 1991 (*The Loon* 63:157-158) and Nobles County (13) in 1992 (*The Loon* 64:121-122). Single Ross' Geese in Duluth and in LeSueur County were the only other reports this spring but both were unusual locations.

The migration of waterfowl was also remarkable for the four **Cinnamon Teal** records, the drake **Eurasian Wigeon** reported by two observers near the mouth of the Devil Track River in Cook County, and two species of scoters from the same sewage pond (Lewiston) in one season!

Observers reported good spring migration of shorebirds, both numbers and variety, for the first time since 1990. Most exciting was the long-anticipated first record of **Curlew Sandpiper**, conveniently present all day on a Saturday and Sunday, which allowed many observers an opportunity to see it in Goodhue County. Approximately seven migrating **Piping Plovers** were found, mostly in Duluth where the species no longer breeds, but singles were also in Olmsted and Yellow Medicine counties; this was the highest number of spring migrants reported since 1984 (nesting reports from Lake of the Woods not included). The 19+ **American Avocets** in Rice County was an exceptional number for this location and the 32 **Willetts** was one of the largest flocks ever reported in the state. **Hudsonian Godwits** were widely reported (17 counties) but only two **Red Knots** were found. The only other unusual shorebird was a **Ruff** in Lac Qui Parle County.

The **Little Gull** in Hennepin County was unexpected but so was the lack of reports in Duluth. Casual *larids* were the **Great Black-backed Gull** recorded briefly in Goodhue County, and **Iceland** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (again!) in Anoka counties. Reports of **Short-eared Owls** were up from the previous spring but the owl story of the season was Steve Wilson's survey in the Superior National Forest on 4 and 5 May. He found 46 different individuals (six species) including eight **Long-eareds**, 12 **Great Grays**, and 14 **Boreals**!

The **Lewis' Woodpecker** in Cass County was found by an experienced observer while fishing from a boat! This was only the third state record. Seven **Mountain Bluebirds** was an excellent showing, plus a hybrid was reported in Todd County; how many observers routinely consider the possibility of hybrids among these and certain other species pairs? An excellent review of this subject,

"A Guide to Finding and Identifying Hybrid Birds" by David Sibley was recently published (*Birding* 26:162-177). **Loggerhead Shrike** reports apparently remained steady this spring although a lack of specific locations for many reports prevents accurate comparisons. Observers are reminded that specific location data are requested for species marked with an asterisk on the seasonal report form.

This season produced unusual records of passerines, especially among the warblers. Two **White-eyed Vireos** were seen in the Minnesota River Valley; all but 4 of the approximately 24 records have been within the past 15 years! **Blue-winged Warbler** is increasingly found in northern Minnesota, recapitulating its range expansion (at the expense of Golden-wingeds) in the northeastern United States. Incredibly, two different **Townsend's Warblers** were found on the same day, on opposite ends of Lac Qui Parle County during the annual M.O.U. Salt Lake Weekend. The first bird found (a male) was in the same clump of spruce and white cedar that produced a Hermit Warbler on 14 May 1983! Could a Red-faced Warbler be next? The singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Sibley State Park was a second Kandiyohi County record and remained on territory well into the summer. Unfortunately, the **Prairie Warbler** in Anoka County departed soon after its discovery; this was a seventh state record. Undoubtedly the same individual returning for its

third consecutive year, a **Kentucky Warbler** re-established territory in Seven Mile Creek County Park. **Yellow-breasted Chat** continues its precarious hold on Regular status in the state.

Only one **Summer Tanager** was reported but the male **Western Tanager** photographed in Willmar was featured in a local newspaper. The male **Painted Bunting** frequenting a feeder near the mouth of the Devil Track River in Cook County was only the fourth record in Minnesota. Although **Henslow's Sparrow** was reported from O. L. Kipp State Park for the first time since 1991, there was little to cheer about, as only a few individuals of this severely declining species were found.

Thanks to Parker Backstrom and Kim Eckert who continue to summarize reports called in to the statewide and Duluth hotlines, respectively. Their efforts preserve otherwise ephemeral data for the permanent record of Minnesota birdlife. As always, kudos to the many dedicated observers and compilers who make *The Season* possible. The value of consistent effort, season-to-season by the same observer(s) within a defined area, cannot be overestimated. Without the knowledge and contributions of these "local experts," the editors are forced to summarize a composite list of rarities. It becomes a bouillabaisse of spices alone, including neither meat nor vegetables. We encourage you to read on and "taste the soup."

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Species listed in upper case (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicate a Casual or Accidental occurrence in the state.
2. Dates listed in boldface (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later or within the earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in boldface (**Aitkin**) indicate either a first county record or an unusual occurrence for that county. City of **Duluth** also boldface when applicable.
4. Counties listed in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. Brackets [] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.

Red-throated Loon

Only report 5/5 Duluth (minimum of ten individuals) TD, KE, MH (*The Loon* 66:104-105).

Common Loon

Early south 3/29 Hennepin TBr, SC, 3/31 Anoka CF, PKL and Ramsey KB; early north 4/1 Aitkin WN, 4/4 Kanabec CM, 4/10 Becker BBe, Grant SDM, KKW, Mille Lacs KB and St. Louis MH.

Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3/12 Dakota DN, 3/18 Winona CS, 3/19 Goodhue BL, Lincoln RG, RJ and Rice TB, TF.

Horned Grebe

Early south 4/2 Goodhue BL, 4/3 Rice TF, 4/5 Hennepin SC; early north 4/10 Mille Lacs KB and Wilkin SDM, 4/15 Kanabec CM.

Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4/9 Hennepin DN, 4/12 Rice DF, 4/16 Anoka CF and Meeker AB; early north 3/25 Lake DPV, 4/11 St. Louis MH, 4/12 Beltrami DJ.

Eared Grebe

Early south 4/3 Watonwan ED, 4/6 Ramsey KB, 4/17 Stevens AB; early north 4/10 Mille Lacs KB, 5/7 Roseau PS, 5/14 Wilkin SDM.

Western Grebe

Early south 4/10 Carver mob, 4/16 Lac Qui Parle CM and Redwood DN; early north 4/17 Grant SDM and Todd AB, 4/27 Becker BBe.

CLARK'S GREBE

Reported 4/16 Lac Qui Parle (2) CM (*The Loon* 66:106), 4/30 Traverse (third consecutive year) DJ (*The Loon* 66:154-155), 5/12 Big Stone WM.

American White Pelican

Early south 3/12 Freeborn AB, 3/31 Pope SDM, 4/3 Jackson KB; early north 4/10 Grant SDM, 4/11 Becker BBe, 4/17 Douglas KKW. Also reported 5/30 Duluth (21) TD.

Double-crested Cormorant

Early south 3/5 Rice OR, 3/21 Ramsey KB, 3/31 Hennepin DN; early north 3/16 St.



Ross' Geese with Snow Geese, May 1994, Roseau WMA, Roseau County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

Louis ME/SK, 3/27 Otter Tail SDM, 4/9 Kanabec CM.

American Bittern

Early south 4/10 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/16 Fillmore JBo, CS, JS, Freeborn RJ and Lincoln DN; early north 4/18 Roseau KB, 4/19 Aitkin WN, 4/22 Becker BBe.

Least Bittern

Reported 5/14 Chisago RH, 5/22 Winona CS, 5/26 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/29 Marshall MH.

Great Blue Heron

Early south 3/8 Rice OR, 3/12 Anoka PKL and Winona JPo; early north 3/12 Otter Tail SDM, 3/19 Becker BBe, 3/22 Aitkin WN and Hubbard HJF.

Great Egret

Early south 3/20 Dakota DS_m and Olmsted JSt, 3/21 Ramsey KB, Rice FKS and Scott TBr; early north 4/1 Kanabec CM, 4/3 Douglas KKW, 4/10 Otter Tail SDM.

Snowy Egret

Reported 5/1 Lac Qui Parle mob, 5/12 Carver DBM.

Little Blue Heron

Reported 4/30-5/8 Houston (2) DN, mob, 5/1 Cottonwood ED, 5/23 Ramsey DS.

Cattle Egret

Reported 4/23 Lac Qui Parle (7) BL, 4/24-5/12 Swift (4) DS_m, mob, 4/30 Houston (?) FL, 5/1 Dakota (?) DS_m, 5/15 Nicollet (1) TEB, 5/21 St. Louis (1) BMu, 5/23 Mower (1) RRR, 5/26 Sibley (1) RG.

Green Heron

Early south 4/16 Olmsted JBo, 4/19 Hennepin AB, 4/26 Rice TB; early north 5/10 Aitkin WN, 5/13 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Beltrami DJ.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood ED, 3/30 Hennepin SC, 4/14 Nicollet LF; early north 4/18 Roseau KB, 4/19 Douglas SWa and Otter Tail SDM.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Reported 4/30 Hennepin TBr.

Tundra Swan

Early south 3/11 Wright KB, 3/13 Steele AB; early north 3/31 Grant KKW, 4/3 Becker BBe and Otter Tail SDM; late south 4/10 Carver RJ, 5/16 Hennepin OJ; late north 5/14 Marshall KSS, 5/29 Clearwater AB.

[TRUMPETER SWAN]

Reported 3/4 Becker BBe, 4/23 St. Louis AE, 5/29 St. Louis KE.

Mute Swan

Reported 3/5 Rice (wild?) RJ, 5/10 Mower RRR, 5/11 Sherburne RJ.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Early south 3/14 Martin BB, 3/18 Cottonwood JBo; early north 3/26 Traverse SDM, 3/27 Lake of the Woods DS; late south 4/1 Big Stone DN, Lincoln DN, Hennepin SC and Stevens AB, 4/3 Rice TF; late north 4/17 Wilkin SDM, 5/15 Roseau PS.

Snow Goose

Early south 3/5 Freeborn RJ, 3/12 Dakota DN and Goodhue CS; early north 3/21 Becker BBe, 3/11 Grant KKW; late south 4/24 Lyon AB, 5/15 Carver DBM, WM; late north 5/14 Beltrami DJ, 5/21 St. Louis DBE *et al.*

Ross' Goose

Reported 3/27-28 Duluth (1) PS *et al.*, 5/7-15 Roseau (8) PS, 5/27 LeSueur (1) RJ.

Canada Goose

Reported from 30 south and 22 north counties.

Wood Duck

Early south 3/2 Rice (overwintered?) OR, 3/10 Wright KB, 3/12 Olmsted AP; early north 3/17 Becker BBe, 3/19 Kanabec CM, 3/20 Grant KKW and Otter Tail SDM.

Green-winged Teal

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood ED, 3/15

Olmsted JBo, 3/16 Ramsey RH and Rice TB; early north 3/26 Traverse SDM, 4/1 Grant AB, 4/9 Kanabec CM and St. Louis MH.

American Black Duck

Reported 3/1 Dakota RH, 3/2 Cook KMH, 3/4 Anoka CF, 3/5 Hennepin OJ and Rice TB, RJ.

Mallard

Reported from 27 south and 22 north counties.

Northern Pintail

Early south 3/11 Rice TB, 3/12 Dakota DN, CS, 3/17 Martin BB and Olmsted JSt; early north 3/20 Otter Tail SDM, 3/22 Grant KKW, 3/30 Douglas KKW.

Blue-winged Teal

Early south 3/17 Goodhue HH and Martin BB, 3/19 Cottonwood ED and Yellow Medicine RG, RJ; early north 3/22 Grant KKW, 3/26 Traverse SDM, 3/30 Douglas KKW.

Cinnamon Teal

Reported 4/6 Cottonwood ED, 5/4-6 Freeborn RG *et al.*, 5/8 Wilkin MO, SDM, 5/11 Hennepin JiP, mob.



Cinnamon Teal, 11 May 1994, Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, Hennepin County. Photo by Terry Brashear.

Northern Shoveler

Early south 3/1 Scott (present since 2/18?) SC, 3/6 Dakota DZ, 3/13 Rice TB; early north 3/22 Kanabec CM, 3/26 Traverse SDM, 4/1 Grant AB.

Gadwall

Early south 3/5 Hennepin SC, TT, Rice TB and Winona DN (most of these overwintered); early north 3/20 Otter Tail SDM, 3/22 Becker BBe, Grant KKW and Kanabec CM.

EURASIAN WIGEON

Reported 4/22 near Grand Marais, Cook Co. RAR (*The Loon* 66:107).

American Wigeon

Early south 3/5 Rice TB, RJ, 3/8 Winona CS, 3/17 Martin BB and Olmsted JBo; early north 3/22 Kanabec CM, 3/26 Traverse SDM, 4/1 Wilkin AB.

Canvasback

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood ED, 3/12 Dakota DN, Freeborn AB and Rice TB; early north 3/26 Traverse SDM, 4/1 Douglas KKW and Grant AB.

Redhead

Early south 3/3 Rice OR, 3/5 Anoka KB and Hennepin OJ, WM; early north 3/20 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Grant AB, 4/11 Kanabec CM.

Ring-necked Duck

Early south 3/5 Rice TB, 3/12 Dakota DN, Hennepin OJ, Martin AB and Wright RJ; early north 3/20 Otter Tail SDM and Grant KKW, 3/22 Kanabec CM.

Greater Scaup

Early south 3/12 Martin AB and Wabasha DWM, 3/13 Winona AM; early north 4/1 Grant AB, 4/4 St. Louis AE, 4/11 Beltrami DJ.

Lesser Scaup

Early south 3/5 Dakota TT, Rice TB, RJ and Winona DN; early north 3/19 Becker BK, 3/22 Clay LCF, Grant KKW and Kanabec CM.

Harlequin Duck

Reported 4/16 into late summer (wild?)
Hennepin mob.

Common Goldeneye

Late south 4/17 Hennepin SC, Lincoln DN,
and Pope AB.



Harlequin Duck, 17 April 1994, St. Anthony Falls, Hennepin County. Photo by Don Bolduc.

Oldsquaw

Reported through 3/11 (overwintered)
Sherburne KB, mob, 4/16 Goodhue BL, 5/
20 St. Louis TW, 5/20-22 Cook KMH,
SDM.

Black Scoter

Reported 4/22 St. Louis DPV, 5/7-9 Winona
CS *et al.*, 5/29 St. Louis WM, TW.

Surf Scoter

Reported 4/9-11 Carver TBr *et al.*, 5/21 St.
Louis DBe, KE, 5/29 Cook CS.

White-winged Scoter

Reported 5/5-12 St. Louis KE, MH, 5/21
St. Louis DBe *et al.*, 5/22-23 Winona (2)
RG, CS, 5/29-30 Cook mob.

Bufflehead

Early south 3/12 Dakota DN, 3/14 Winona
CS, 3/15 Rice OR; early north 3/4 Otter Tail
SDM, 3/23 Kanabec CM, 4/1 Grant AB.

Hooded Merganser

Early south 3/3 Sherburne KB, 3/6
Hennepin TT and Houston FL; early north
3/15 Becker BBe, 3/16 St. Louis ME/SK, 3/
20 Aitkin WN, Grant KKW, Kanabec CM,
and Otter Tail SDM.

Common Merganser

Late south 4/17 Hennepin DB, OJ, Pope AB
and Rice TF, 4/21 Washington WL.

Red-breasted Merganser

Early south 3/2 Sherburne (present from

late February) KB, 3/13 Wabasha DWM, 3/17 Brown JS and LeSueur RG; early north 3/31 Kanabec CM, 4/3 St. Louis MH, 4/8 Beltrami DJ and Douglas KKW.

Ruddy Duck

Early south 3/12 Rice TB, 3/16 Wright KB, 3/19 Olmsted JBo; early north 4/10 Otter Tail SDM, 4/19 Douglas SWa, 4/23 Clay LCF.

Turkey Vulture

Early south 3/20 Olmsted JSt, 3/21 Winona JPo, 3/23 Goodhue DSm; early north 3/30 St. Louis PS, TW, 4/3 Kanabec CM, 4/5 Aitkin WN.

Osprey

Early south 4/8 Washington TEB, 4/9 Anoka DN, Wabasha TBr and Winona CS; early north 4/9 St. Louis MH, 4/11 Beltrami DJ and Otter Tail SDM.

MISSISSIPPI KITE

Reported 5/12 Felton Prairie, Clay Co. BMe (*The Loon* 66:152).

Bald Eagle

Reported from 25 south and 16 north counties; peak 4/16 Aitkin (66) WN.

Northern Harrier

Early south 3/4 Hennepin TBr, 3/5 Rice RJ, 3/12 Nicollet AB and Stearns RG; early north 3/11 Aitkin WN, Otter Tail CS/KC and St. Louis JB/TS.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Early south 3/4 Martin BB, 3/7 Anoka KB, 3/14 Hennepin SC; early north 3/9 Lake DPV, 3/12 Wilkin SDM, 3/21 Becker BBe and Kanabec CM.

Cooper's Hawk

Early south 3/12 Dakota TT, 3/13 Cottonwood ED and Hennepin RJ; early north 3/31 Kanabec CM, 4/1 Becker BBe and Otter Tail AB.

Northern Goshawk

Late south 3/26 Morrison DO, 4/2 Anoka PKL, 4/6 Winona CS.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Early south 3/5 Winona CS, 3/12 Ramsey KB and Rice TB; early north 3/5 Aitkin WN, 3/13 Otter Tail SDM, 3/18 Becker BBe.

Broad-winged Hawk

Early south 4/7 Isanti CM, 4/18 Mower RRK and Washington TT; early north 4/11 Becker BBe, 4/12 Hubbard HJF.

Swainson's Hawk

Early south 3/30 Washington WL, 4/9 Hennepin OJ and Lincoln RG; early north 5/6 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Marshall KSS, 5/21 Mahnomen TBr.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from 36 south and 18 north counties.

Ferruginous Hawk

Reported 4/16 Big Stone DN *et al.*, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle HK, 5/7 Roseau PS.

Rough-legged Hawk

Late south 4/24 Lyon AB, 4/30 Winona JPo, 5/9 Cottonwood ED; late north 4/23 Polk DJ, 5/14 Marshall KSS, 5/21 St. Louis DBE *et al.*

Golden Eagle

All reports: 3/6 Houston EMF, 3/18 Rice FKS, 3/19 Cottonwood ED, 3/26 Traverse SDM, 4/1 Wilkin AB, 4/3 Hennepin SC, late April St. Louis *fide* KE.

American Kestrel

Early north 3/12 Becker DJ, Otter Tail SDM and Pine BBe.

Merlin

Early south 4/3 Jackson KB, 4/6 Hennepin RH, 4/23 Carver TBr; early north 3/16 St. Louis (overwintered?) ME/SK, 4/4 Becker BBe, 4/9 Aitkin WN.

Prairie Falcon

Reported 4/20 Red Lake KSS.

Peregrine Falcon

Early south 3/3 Ramsey KB, 3/10 Hennepin

RB, 3/14 Wright DO; early north 3/3 Becker BBe, 3/15 Duluth KE, 3/27 Lake MH; reported from 16 south and ten north counties.

GYRFALCON

Overwintered in Duluth until 4/2 KE.

Gray Partridge

Reported from 13 counties in the south and four counties in the north; numbers down from previous years; mob.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from one north and 31 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

All reports: 3/1 Lake TEB, 3/3 Lake MH, 3/12 Lake DSm and St. Louis KE, 4/24 Lake SDM, WN.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 14 north and eight south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

All reports: 3/31 Pennington KSS, 4/7 Wilkin KKW, 4/9 Polk (3) KSS, 4/23 Clay LCF, 5/1 Clay DJ, 5/4 Wilkin SDM, 5/27 Clay PBu.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Kanabec, Lake of the Woods, Pennington, Roseau and St. Louis counties.

Wild Turkey

Reported from 14 south counties.

Northern Bobwhite

No reports (one report l.y.)

Yellow Rail

All reports: 5/21-28 St. Louis mob, 5/24 Aitkin WN.

Virginia Rail

Early south 4/21 Hennepin WM, 4/22 Carver DBM, 5/6 Blue Earth MF; early north 4/23 Kanabec CM, 5/3 Otter Tail SDM, 5/6 Polk KSS.

Sora

Early south 4/1 Ramsey County RH, 4/20 Rice TB, 4/22 Traverse RJ; early north 4/23 Clay LCF and Kanabec CM, 5/2 Clearwater DJ.

Common Moorhen

All reports: 5/2 Winona CS, 5/10 Cottonwood ED, 5/20 Anoka DBM, 5/22 Winona CS, 5/24 Sibley RG.

American Coot

One overwintered in Winona County CS; early south 3/1 Scott SC, 3/5 Watonwan BB, 3/8 Wright KB; early north 3/20 Otter Tail SDM, 3/22 Grant KKW, 4/1 Wilkin AB.

Sandhill Crane

Early south 3/14 Washington WL, 3/21 Dakota DB; early north 3/22 Otter Tail CS, 3/26 Marshall, 3/29 Kanabec CM. Nested in Rice RG.

Black-bellied Plover

Early south 4/27 Lyon HK, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle DB and Yellow Medicine DBM; early north 5/7 Roseau PS, 5/14 Wilkin SDM, 5/21 Mahnommen TBr.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early south 4/30 Swift AB, Yellow Medicine DBM and Chippewa OJ; early north 4/23 Grant RJ and Polk RJ, 5/27 Marshall KSS.

Semipalmated Plover

Early south 4/18 Olmsted JBo, 4/24 Rice TB and Anoka PKL; early north 5/12 Cook KMH, 5/15 Otter Tail SDM, 5/15 Roseau PS.

Piping Plover

All reports: 4/30 Yellow Medicine mob, 5/5 St. Louis (3) mob, 5/13 St. Louis (2) TD, 5/15 Olmsted JBo, JSt.

Killdeer

Early south 3/11 Houston FL and Winona CS, 3/12 Washington DN; early north 3/17 Becker BBe, 3/20 Otter Tail SDM, 4/1 Aitkin JB/TS.

American Avocet

All reports: 4/14 Olmsted JBo and Rice (19+) OR, FKS, 4/21 Yellow Medicine (4) HK, 5/21 Roseau (2) PS, 5/29 Polk AB.

Greater Yellowlegs

Early south 3/21 Rice OR, 4/3 Anoka SC, 4/4 Olmsted JBo; early north 4/8 St. Louis AE, 4/10 Mille Lacs DB, 4/11 Wilkin SDM; late south 5/22 Winona CS; late north 5/31 Marshall KSS.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Early south 3/22 Blue Earth LF, 4/1 Hennepin SC, 4/3 Anoka PKL; early north 4/8 St. Louis AE, 4/16 Lake of the Woods PS, 4/18 Kanabec CM; late south 5/27 Winona CS; late north 5/28 St. Louis DN.

Solitary Sandpiper

Early south 4/11 Olmsted JSt, 4/23 Hennepin OJ, 4/24 Rice TB; early north 4/23 Kanabec CM, 5/3 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/21 Roseau PS; late south 5/17 Anoka JH,

Willet

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle RB, 4/24 Rice TB, 4/25 Winona (32) CS; early north 5/1 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/5 Aitkin WN, 5/13 Norman WM.

Spotted Sandpiper

Early south 4/9 Carver DBM, 4/16 Winona JPO, 4/22 Steele HH; early north 5/2 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/9 Marshall KSS, 5/13 Norman WM.

Upland Sandpiper

Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle WM, 5/2 Olmsted JBo, 5/8 Chippewa AB; early north 5/4 Otter Tail SDM, 5/13 Norman WM, 5/21 St. Louis TW.

Whimbrel

All reports: 5/22 Cook SDM, 5/24 Anoka mob, 5/28 St. Louis BL, 5/28 Roseau mob, 5/29 St. Louis CF.

Hudsonian Godwit

Early south 4/18 Olmsted JBo, 4/24 Lyon AB, 5/10 Martin RJ; early north 5/13 Norman (17) WM, 5/14 Wilkin SDM, 5/15 Roseau

PS; late south 5/22 Chippewa AB, 5/23 Anoka PKL; late north 5/28 St. Louis WM.

Marbled Godwit

Early south 4/9 Lac Qui Parle DO, 4/16 McLeod AB, 4/30 Lyon HK; early north 4/11 Wilkin SDM, 4/17 Marshall AJ/MH, 4/23 Pennington KSS.

Ruddy Turnstone

Early south 5/18 Kandiyohi RF and Anoka PKL, 5/21 Olmsted JSt; early north 5/14 St. Louis MH, 5/27 Beltrami DJ and Marshall KSS; late south 5/28 Anoka SC; late north 5/29 St. Louis DSm.

Red Knot

All reports: 5/14 Lac Qui Parle DN, 5/31 Marshall KSS.

Sanderling

All reports: 4/8 Mower RRR (precedes earliest date by six days), 5/8 Roseau PS, 5/10 Olmsted JBo, 5/14 Waseca OJ, 5/22 Goodhue DN, 5/23 Anoka PKL, 5/24 Le Sueur OJ, 5/26 Anoka PKL, 5/29 Clearwater AB.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early south 4/21 Yellow Medicine HK, 4/24 Anoka PKL, 4/30 Martin RG,RJ; early north 5/4 Crow Wing WN, 5/8 Roseau PS, 5/14 Marshall KSS; late south 5/26 Anoka PBU, 5/26 Hennepin SC; late north 5/28 Marshall MH, 5/29 Clearwater AB.

Least Sandpiper

Early south 4/9 Anoka DN, 4/24 Hennepin SC and Lyon AB; early north 5/8 Roseau PS, 5/12 Kanabec CM, 5/14 Aitkin WN; late south 5/26 Hennepin SC, 5/24 Brown JS; late north 5/29 Clearwater AB.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Early south 5/2 Lyon HK, 5/9 Rice TB, 5/10 Nobles RG,RJ; early north 5/14 Aitkin WN, 5/15 Kanabec CM and Roseau PS; late south 5/23 Goodhue TEB, 5/28 Anoka CF; late north 5/29 Marshall MH, 5/30 St. Louis TD.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early south 4/16 Carver SWe, 4/22 McLeod

RJ, 4/24 Lyon AB; all north reports 5/15 Aitkin WN, 5/28–31 Marshall MH, KSS, 5/29 St. Louis WM, 5/30 Clearwater DJ; late south 5/23 Goodhue TEB.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Early south 4/1 Hennepin SC, 4/3 Mower RRR, 4/9 Anoka PKL; early north 4/18 Kanabec CM, 5/8 Roseau PS, 5/21 St. Louis TW/MH; late south 5/24 Brown JS, 5/26 Hennepin SC; late north 5/30 Clearwater DJ.

Dunlin

Early south 4/30 Martin RG, RJ, 5/7 Hennepin TB, 5/9 Rice TB; early north 5/15 Roseau PS, 5/21 Clearwater DJ, 5/21 St. Louis TW; late south 5/24 Goodhue PBU, 5/27 Winona CS, 5/30 Anoka DN.

CURLEW SANDPIPER

First state record 5/21–22 Goodhue BL, mob (*The Loon* 66:113–114).

Stilt Sandpiper

All reports: 511 Lac Qui Parle DN, 512 Kandiyohi RF, 5/13 Benton RG, RJ, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle DN, 5/15 Rice TB, 5/16 Waseca OJ, 5/29 Marshall MH.

RUFF

Reported 5/11 Lac Qui Parle WM.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle HK, 5/4 Olmsted JBo, JSt, 5/9 Rice TB; early north 5/8 Roseau PS, 5/12 Kanabec CM, 5/13 Clay WM; late south 5/21 Goodhue BL, 5/22 Chippewa AB.

Long-billed Dowitcher

All reports: 4/24 Kandiyohi RF and Lyon AB, 5/2 Pipestone JP, 5/10 Nobles RG, RJ and Rice TB, 5/11 Olmsted JSt, JBo; 5/14 Swift TJ, Anoka PKL and Lac Qui Parle DN; 5/21 Goodhue AB.

Common Snipe

Early south 3/18 Hennepin RH, 3/19 Lincoln RG, 3/23 Rice TB; early north 3/30 Aitkin WN, 4/3 St. Louis SW/MS, 4/9 Clearwater DJ.

American Woodcock

Early south 3/17 Rice TB, 3/20 Kandiyohi RF and Olmsted JSt; early north 3/19 Becker BBe, 3/30 Cook SOL and Aitkin WN.

Wilson's Phalarope

Early south 4/24 Lac Qui Parle DSm, 4/30 McLeod TT and Lyon HK; early north 5/7 Roseau PS, 5/9 Wilkin CS/KC, 5/15 Aitkin WN.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 5/21 Roseau PS, 5/28 Marshall MH and Kandiyohi RF.

Franklin's Gull

Early south 3/27 Anoka DB, 4/8 Pipestone JP, 4/9 Swift DO; early north 4/1 Otter Tail CS/KC, 4/14 Marshall KSS, 4/17 Wilkin SDM.

Little Gull

Only report 5/15 Hennepin ES, PB *et al.*

Bonaparte's Gull

Early south 4/4 Olmsted JBo, 4/8 Winona CS, 4/9 Pipestone RG; early north 4/17 Otter Tail SDM, 4/21 Douglas SWa, 4/22 Beltrami DJ.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 11 north and 28 south counties.

Herring Gull

Reported from 13 north and 21 south counties.

Thayer's Gull

Reported 3/27 Anoka PKL, 4/10 Renville RJ.

ICELAND GULL

One report: 4/9 Oak Grove Township, Anoka Co. KB (*The Loon* 66:147–148).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

One report: 4/9–4/14 Oak Grove Township, Anoka Co. KB (*The Loon* 66:147–148).

Glaucous Gull

All reports: 3/12–4/10 St. Louis mob, 4/8

Kandiyohi RF.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

One report: 5/24 Lake Pepin, Goodhue Co. PBU (*The Loon* 66:146-147).

Caspian Tern

Early south 4/28 Anoka PKL, 4/30 Anoka CF, 5/7 Wabasha TBr; early north 5/5 St. Louis MH, 5/9 Cass DJ, 5/10 Aitkin WN.

Common Tern

Early south 4/22 Cottonwood ED, 4/22 Ramsey RH, 4/24 Lyon AB; early north 4/22 Becker BBe, 5/4 Aitkin WN, 5/6 St. Louis ME/SK.

Forster's Tern

Early south 4/10 Hennepin DZ, 4/14 Olmsted JSt, 4/15 Ramsey RH; early north 4/19 Grant SDM, 4/19 Douglas SWa, 5/1 Clearwater DJ.

Black Tern

Early south 4/12 Isanti CM, 4/30 Martin RJ, 5/3 Hennepin OJ; early north 4/23 Clay LCF, 5/13 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/15 Douglas KKW.

Rock Dove

Reported from 11 north and 19 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Reported from 17 north and 27 south counties.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5/15 Winona AM, 5/17 Washington TEB, 5/19 Rice TB; early north 4/30 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/21 Todd RJ, 5/24 Kanabec CM.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All reports: 5/15 Hennepin DZ, 5/19 Rice TB, 5/22 Chippewa AB, 5/24 Ramsey TBr, 5/26 Washington DS, 5/26 Mower RRR, 5/29 Clearwater AB, 5/30 Olmsted JSt.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Anoka, Cottonwood, Dakota, Freeborn, Hennepin, Houston, Lac Qui

Parle Martin, McLeod, Nobles, Rice and Winona counties.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 30 south and 12 north counties.

Snowy Owl

All reports: 3/1-5 Hennepin SC, RG, 3/2-6 St. Louis ME/SK, 3/5 Aitkin WN, 3/5 Polk KSS, 3/6 Wilkin SDM, 3/18 Nobles ND, 3/26 St. Louis MH, 4/10 Norman BK, 4/13 Stevens SDM, 4/17 Aitkin SC, 4/19 Carver MB, 5/15 Aitkin WN.

Northern Hawk Owl

All reports: 3/14 St. Louis mob, 3/26 Lake SW *et al.*

Barred Owl

Reported from 20 south and six north counties.

Great Gray Owl

Twelve individuals reported from Aitkin, Lake, Roseau, and St. Louis counties with nesting (three young) in Aitkin WN.

Long-eared Owl

All reports: 3/1 Dakota RG, 3/4-4/2 Lake



Eastern Screech-Owl, 20 March 1994, Brownsville, Houston County. Photo by Fred Leshner.



Great Gray Owl, 20 May 1994, Aitkin County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

SW/MS, mob, 3/18 Kanabec CM, 3/26 Lincoln RG, 4/27 Hennepin AB, 5/6 Anoka CF.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 3/10 Crow Wing, 3/14 Hennepin SK, 3/21 Marshall and Pennington KSS, 3/31 Stevens (2) SDM, 4/9 Aitkin (5) WN, 5/29 Marshall (2) KE *et al.*, 5/31 Pennington KSS.

Boreal Owl

All reports: 3/4–5 Lake (14+) SW, 3/12 Lake (4) DSm, mob, 3/24 Lake DPV, 3/4–31 Cook SOL, 4/2 Lake (4) with one female at nest SW *et al.*

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Reported from Aitkin, Anoka, Beltrami, Carlton, Cook, Dakota, Hennepin, Kanabec, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Olmsted, Sherburne, St. Louis, Otter Tail and Yellow Medicine counties.

Common Nighthawk

Early south 4/9 Winona PO (second earliest date), 4/18 Hennepin OJ, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle FE; early north 5/14 Aitkin WN, 5/17 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/20 Itasca PS.

Whip-poor-will

Early south 4/24 Houston EMF and Anoka PKL, 4/26 Ramsey TBr; early north 5/14 Cook SOL and Aitkin WN, 5/20 Kanabec CM.

Chimney Swift

Early south 4/15 Winona CS, 4/19 Goodhue DSm, 4/24 Dakota TT; early north 4/21 Becker BBe, 4/24 Mille Lacs WL, 5/1 Beltrami DJ.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Early south 5/1 Lyon HK, 5/9 Winona JPo, 5/10 Houston EMF; early north 5/9 Hubbard HJF, 5/11 Becker BK and Otter Tail CS/KC.



Female Boreal Owl in nest cavity with four eggs, 17 April 1994, Lake County. Photo by Steve Wilson.

Belted Kingfisher

Early north 3/30 Kanabec, 4/11 Becker BK.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER

Third state record 5/31 McKeowen Lake, Cass Co. BH (*The Loon* 66:209).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from ten north and 17 south counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from Aitkin, Becker, Douglas, Morrison, Otter Tail, Kanabec and Todd counties in the north plus 31 south counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Early south 3/28 Washington TEB, 4/3 Houston EMF, 4/6 Winona AM; early north 4/10 Kanabec CM, 4/11 Pennington KSS, 4/13 Lake DPV.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 26 south and 17 north counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 25 south and 19 north counties.

Three-toed Woodpecker

Reported 3/12-4/23 along Spruce Road, Lake Co. mob.

Black-backed Woodpecker

All reports: 3/5 Itasca AB, DB, 3/5-12 Aitkin (1) WN, CM, 3/16-4/2 Lake mob, 5/10 Amundsen Lake, St. Louis Co. SW/WS, Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis Co. (no date) KE.

Northern Flicker

Early north 3/27 Aitkin CM, 4/3 Wilkin SDM, 4/9 Becker BBe and St. Louis MH; peak 4/18 Duluth (hundreds) TW.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 19 north and 27 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 5/11 Brown JS and Olmsted JBo, 5/14 Anoka PKL, Hennepin DB,

Nicollet TBr and Scott DZ; early north 5/13 Todd RJ, 5/15 Otter Tail SDM, CS/KC; late south 5/29 Brown JSS and Hennepin SC, 5/31 Scott CF.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Early south 5/1 Olmsted AP, 5/6 Rice TF; early north 5/10 Becker BBe, 5/13 Polk KSS, 5/15 Otter Tail CS/KC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 5/12 Carver DBM, 5/14 Goodhue BL, Hennepin SC and Nicollet DSM; early north 5/17 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/20 St. Louis AE, 5/21 Roseau PS; late south 5/24 Nicollet OJ, 5/31 Hennepin SC.

Acadian Flycatcher

All reports: 5/7 (record early date) Fillmore MH, MOc, 5/12 Winona JPo, 5/14 Goodhue BL, 5/21-29 Nicollet mob, 5/22 Hennepin SC, 5/24 Houston PBU, FL, 5/28 Scott TT.

Alder Flycatcher

Early south 5/12 Washington TEB, 5/14 Goodhue HH; early north 5/15 Aitkin WN, 5/21 Clearwater DJ and St. Louis AE, MH, TW; late south 5/30 Anoka DN, 5/31 Hennepin SC, DN and Washington DS.

Willow Flycatcher

Early south 5/9 Hennepin OJ, 5/11 Olmsted JBo, 5/14 Brown TBr; only north report 5/28-30 Duluth (same location as 1993) DN, mob.

Least Flycatcher

Early south 4/17 Rice TF, 4/29 Brown JS, 5/3 Sherburne DO and Winona CS; early north 5/4 Kanabec CM, 5/12 Aitkin WN, 5/14 Beltrami DJ, Cook KMH, Otter Tail SDM and Polk KSS.

Eastern Phoebe

Early south 3/20 Hennepin County SC, DN, DZ, Sibley RG and Winona CS, 3/21 Houston EMF and Scott TBr; early north 3/26 Grant SDM, 4/3 Douglas SWa, 4/6 Kanabec CM.

Great-Crested Flycatcher

Early south 4/29 Waseca RG, 5/2 Olmsted

AP, 5/6 Sherburne DO; early north 5/10 Kanabec CM, 5/12 Aitkin WN, 5/14 Wilkin SDM.

Western Kingbird

Early south 5/4 Cottonwood ED and Sherburne DO, 5/10 Faribault RG, RJ, 5/11 Olmsted JBo; early north 5/5 Becker BBe, 5/14 Marshall KSS and Wilkin SDM, 5/21 Roseau PS.

Eastern Kingbird

Early south 4/13 Rice OR, 5/4 Winona JPo, 5/5 Lyon HK and Sherburne DO; early north 4/11 Hubbard HJF, 5/8 Becker BBe, 5/14 Aitkin WN and St. Louis mob.

Horned Lark

Reported from 13 north and 31 south counties.

Purple Martin

Early south 4/10 Lyon HK, 4/14 Cottonwood ED, Rice TB and Washington DN, 4/15 Kandiyohi CJ; early north 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/16 Otter Tail SDM, 4/17 Todd AB.

Tree Swallow

Early south 3/21 Wabasha DWM and Winona CS, 3/22 Hennepin SC, 3/25 Sherburne WM; early north 3/28 Itasca DS, 4/10 Grant SDM and Kanabec CM, 4/11 Aitkin WN and Becker BBe.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Early south 4/10 Houston EMF, 4/13 Dakota RH and Winona CS, 4/15 Olmsted JBo; early north 4/20 Red Lake KSS, 4/23 Clay LCF and Polk DJ, 4/27 Grant SDM.

Bank Swallow

Early south 4/12 Ramsey TT, 4/18 Hennepin PBU, 4/19 Rice OR; early north 4/13 Todd RJ, 4/23 Kanabec CM, 4/27 Otter Tail SDM.

Cliff Swallow

Early south 4/26 Winona CS, 4/28 Hennepin SC, 5.2 Lyon HK; early north 4.27 Otter Tail SDM, 5/4 Pennington KSS and St. Louis TW, 5/7 Aitkin WN and Lake

of the Woods PS.

Barn Swallow

Early south 4/14 Ramsey RH, 4/15 Olmsted JBo, 4/16 Hennepin DB and Mower RJ; early north 4/18 Becker BBe, 4/20 Otter Tail SDM, 4/22 Lake DPV.

Gray Jay

Reported from eight (14 l.y.) north counties.

Blue Jay

Reported from 21 north and 33 south counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Aitkin (including three nests on 4/16 WN), Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and St. Louis counties. Also reported 3/6 Wilkin SDM and 3/12 Duluth (1) MH.

American Crow

Reported from 18 north and 31 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from 16 north counties; one south report from Anoka (resident) KB, JH, PKL.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 21 north and 31 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Aitkin, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports: through 5/5 Winona *fide* CS, 5/7-8 Fillmore (2) mob, 5/7-14 Goodhue (3) mob, 5/11 Olmsted JBo and Houston (resident) EMF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 17 north and 20 south counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 22 north and 28 south counties.

Brown Creeper

Reported from ten north and 21 south counties.

House Wren

Early south 4/13 Olmsted AP, 4/18 Winona CS, 4/22 Lyon HK and Rice TB; early north 4/24 Kanabec CM, 5/5 Aitkin WN, 5/9 Otter Tail SDM.

Winter Wren

Early south 3/20 Hennepin CF, 3/24 Houston EMF; early north 4/11 Cook KMH and St. Louis MH, 4/13 Itasca JB/TS; late south 5/6 Goodhue DZ, 5/13 Hennepin RH.

Sedge Wren

Early south 4/26 Brown JS, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle TT, 5/2 Olmsted JBo and Rice TB; early north 5/5 Kanabec CM, 5/6 Grant KKW, 5/7 Aitkin WN.

Marsh Wren

Early south 4/30 Maritn RJ, 5/1 Olmsted JSt, 5/4 Anoka PKL, Ramsey RH and Rock ND; early north 5/4 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Marshall KSS and St. Louis MH, 5/15 Roseau PS.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early north 4/3 Kanabec CM, 4/8 St. Louis AE, 4/10 Grant SDM; late south 5/2 Rice TB, 5/6 Hennepin SC, 5/7 Ramsey TT.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 3/19 Lincoln County RG, RJ, 3/22 Hennepin County SC; early north 4/11 Itasca JB/TS, 4/16 Aitkin WN; late south 5/15 Anoka CF and Dakota SWe, 5/26 Hennepin SC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Early south 4/22 Winona JPo, 4/23 Anoka CF, JH, Hennepin CF and Olmsted JSt; all north reports 5/15 Otter Tail SDM, 5/21 Norman MO, 5/30 Pine TT.

Eastern Bluebird

Early south 3/1 Blue Earth MF, 3/11 Rice OR, 3/12 Brown JS; early north 3/11 Otter Tail SDM, 3/18 Kanabec CM, 3/19 Aitkin WN.

Mountain Bluebird

All reports: 3/12 Traverse (male) MO, 3/20 Marshall (4) KSS, 4/10 Anoka (female) PKL, 4/16-17 St. Louis (male) SS, BT *et al.*; 5/19 Todd (male Mountain X Eastern hybrid) SDM (*The Loon* 66:149-150); 5/21 Norman MO.

Townsend's Solitaire

Only report: one present from winter through 3/12 French River, St. Louis Co. MOC, DSM.

Veery

Early south 4/30 Winona AM, 5/3 Washington WL, 5/5 Cottonwood ED; early north 4/30 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/8 Kanabec CM, 5/13 Todd RJ.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle County FE, 4/30 Jackson RG, RJ and Rice TB; early north 5/4 Grant SDM, 5/12 Kanabec CM; late south 5/17 Hennepin DZ and Ramsey AB, TBr, 5/18 Anoka CF.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 4/26 Hennepin SC, 4/30 Goodhue BL, Nobles RG, RJ and Rice TB; early north 4/30 Aitkin WN and St. Louis ME/SK, 5/4 Grant SDM; late south 5/23 Cottonwood ED, 5/25 Brown JS and Hennepin SC.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 3/23 Houston County EMF, 3/30 Ramsey County *fide* KB; early north 4/11 Douglas County JB/TS, 4/13 Wilkin SDM, 4/14 Kanabec CM; late south 5/8 Chippewa AB and Scott DN, 5/12 Hennepin SC.

Wood Thrush

Early south 4/16 Winona JPo, 4/29 Nicollet MF, 5/6 Rice TB; early north 5/7 Kanabec CM, 5/14 Cook KMH, 5/15 Aitkin WN and Douglas KKW.

American Robin

Reported from 18 north and 29 south counties; peak 4/10 Pennington (thousands) KSS.

Varied Thrush

One report: 4/2-7 Dakota CJo.

Gray Catbird

Early south 4/22 Winona JPo, 4/27 Houston EMF and Rice TB; early north 4/26 St. Louis AEd, 5/12 Kanabec CM and Koochiching GM, 5/13 Becker BK and Otter Tail CS/KC.

Northern Mockingbird

All reports: 4/23 Clay LCF, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle mob, 5/14 Blue Earth ED and Kandiyohi RF, CJ, 5/14 and 5/16 Duluth (different locations) ME/SK, TW, 5/15 Lake DE, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Brown Thrasher

Early south 4/19 Houston EMF, Ramsey AB and Winona CS, 4/21 Cottonwood ED and Rice TB; early north 4/19 Douglas SWa, 4/23 Clay LCF. Also overwintered through 3/23 Duluth KE.

American Pipit

Early south 4/17 Olmsted JSt, 5/5 Rice TB; early north 4/23 Polk KSS, 5/2 Becker BBe; late south 5/12 Hennepin SC, 5/21 Anoka PKL and Goodhue mob; late north 5/8 Roseau PS, 5/29 Cook SOL.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT

One report: 5/18 Big Stone AH, PH.

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from ten north counties; late north 4/10 Pennington KSS, 4/13 Red Lake KSS, 4/14 St. Louis SS. One south report 5/13 Winona JPo.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from ten north and 20 south counties.



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American Robin, drawing by John Jarosz.

Northern Shrike

Late south 3/31 Big Stone SDM, 4/1 Pope AB, 4/6 Anoka WL; late north 3/30 Cook KMH, 4/2 Aitkin WN, 4/3 Lake KE, WM.

Loggerhead Shrike

Reported from three north and 15 south counties, with 25+ individuals; early south 3/19 Washington TEB, 3/20 Carver DBM and Sibley RG; all north reports 4/11 Clay BBe, 5/14 St. Louis BT, 5/22 Cook SDM.

European Starling

Reported from 20 counties in the north and

27 counties in the south.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

Reported 5/21 Seven Mile Creek County Park, Nicollet Co. PJ, DN (*The Loon* 66:154), 5/22 Palmer Creek, Chippewa Co. AB.

Bell's Vireo

All reports: 5/14 Hennepin TT, mob, 5/24 Winona FL, 5/25 Wabasha CS, 5/29 Dakota (2) TBr.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 4/26 Anoka CF, 4/29 Hennepin TT and Waseca RG; early north 5/5 Kanabec CM, 5/11 St. Louis SW/MS, 5/12 Becker BBe; late south 5/17 Hennepin SC and Ramsey AB, 5/18 Anoka CF.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Early south 5/3 Washington WL, 5/8 Scott DN, 5/10 Jackson RJ and Washington DZ; early north 5/13 Becker BK and Kanabec CM, 5/14 Wilkin SDM, 5/15 Aitkin WN.

Warbling Vireo

Early south 5/4 Winona CS, 5/7 Goodhue TBr, 5/8 Anoka PKL, Hennepin TT and Houston MH, DSm; early north 5/8 Becker BBe, 5/12 Kanabec CM, 5/14 Wilkin SDM.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 5/10 Blue Earth MF, 5/11 Olmsted JBo, JSt and Winona CS; early north 5/16 St. Louis AE, 5/21 Roseau PS; late south 5/17 Anoka CF, Hennepin SC and Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/21 Nicollet DN.

Red-eyed Vireo

Early south 5/4 Nobles ND, 5/7 Nicollet DN, 5/9 Winona CS; early north 5/12 Kanabec CM, 5/13 Morrison RJ, 5/14 Marshall KSS.

Blue-winged Warbler

Early south 4/30 Chisago RH, 5/6 Rice TB, TF, 5/7 Scott TBr and Winona CS; two north reports 5/21 Roseau, **Roseau County** (farthest north report ever in Minnesota) SB, 5/21 Indian Point, **St. Louis County** ME/SK.

Golden-winged Warbler

Early south 4/30 Goodhue BL, 5/7 Houston MH and Olmsted JBo, JSt, 5/9 Hennepin SC, TT and Winona CS; early north 5/13 Otter Tail CS/KC and St. Louis AE, 5/15 Aitkin WN and Becker BBe.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 4/24 (second earliest record for Minnesota) Chippewa AB, 4/29 Winona RJ; early north 5/8 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/12 Kanabec CM, 5/13 Otter Tail CS/KC; late south 5/26 Washington DS, 5/31 Hennepin SC, DZ.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early south 4/18 Hennepin TT, 4/19 Brown JS; early north 4/20 Beltrami DJ, 4/23 Otter Tail CS/KC; late south 5/16 Anoka CF and Hennepin SC; late north 5/7 Cook KMH and Roseau PS, 5/10 St. Louis AE, ME/SK.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 4/25 Ramsey TT, 4/26 Anoka CF, Brown JS and Hennepin SC; early north 5/4 Carlton DZ, 5/6 Beltrami DJ and St. Louis AE, 5/7 Aitkin WN; late south 5/17 Houston EMF, 5/23 Hennepin SC.

Northern Parula

Early south 4/30 Goodhue BL, 5/2 Olmsted JBo; early north 5/7 Aitkin WN, 5/8 St. Louis ME/SK; late south 5/18 Brown JS and Hennepin SC, 5/20 Winona CS.

Yellow Warbler

Early south 4/23 Hennepin DB, TT, 4/25 Swift DSm, 4/27 Winona CS; early north 4/20 (earliest north date on record) Aitkin WN, 5/5 Lake DPV, 5/8 St. Louis ME/SK.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Early south 5/8 Ramsey RH and Winona CS, 5/10 Hennepin SC, Mower RRR and Rice OR; early north 5/8 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/12 Aitkin WN, Becker BBe and Kanabec CM; late south 5/30 Anoka DN and Chisago TT.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 5/8 Winona AM, 5/9 Hennepin TT; early north 5/8 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/12

Kanabec CM; late south 5/22 Chippewa AB, 5/25 Hennepin SC.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 5/4 Winona CS, 5/7 McLeod RG, RJ; early north 5/9 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/13 Polk KSS; late south 5/19 Rice TB, 5/21 Washington TEB.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

All reports: 5/11 Hennepin DB, mob, 4/22-29 Lake (two locations, five individuals) DSM, WM, DN.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

early south 4/3 Winona CS, 4/8 Ramsey TT; early north 3/27 Koochiching GM, 4/10 Mille Lacs KB; late south 5/18 Anoka JH, Rice TB and Winona JPo; "Audubon's" 5/3 Otter Tail SDM, 5/14 Anoka CF.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

Reported 4/30-5/1 Yellow Bank Township, Lac Qui Parle Co. (male) PB, KR *et al.* (*The Loon* 66:59-60) and 4/30 Lac Qui Parle Township, Lac Qui Parle Co. (female) AH/AV (*The Loon* 66:61-62). Third and fourth state records, respectively.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle WM, 5/2 Winona CS; early north 5/8 Aitkin WN, 5/10 Becker BBe, Lake DPV and St. Louis SW/MS; late south 5/25 Hennepin SC, 5/26 Washington DS.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 5/10 Hennepin TT, 5/11 Olmsted JBo, JSt and Rice TB; early north 5/11 St. Louis SW/MS, 5/12 Kanabec CM; late south 5/22 Anoka CF, 5/26 Hennepin SC.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Reported 5/30 into early July (singing male) Sibley State Park, Kandiyohi Co. RF, mob (*The Loon* 66:209-210).

Pine Warbler

Early south 4/23 Anoka SC, 4/26 Ramsey TBr, 4/27 Dakota TT; early north 4/20 Aitkin WN, 4/23 Cass WL, 4/28 Becker

BBe.

PRAIRIE WARBLER

Reported 5/31 (singing male) Cedar Creek Natural History Area, Anoka Co. JH (*The Loon* 66:148). Seventh state record.

Palm Warbler

Early south 4/22 Hennepin OJ, TT, Lac Qui Parle RB and McLeod RG, RJ; early north 4/28 Becker BBe, 4/30 Aitkin WN and Kanabec CM; late south 5/17 Washington DS and Winona CS, 5/18 Anoka CF and Rice TB.



Cerulean Warbler, 28 May 1994, Sibley State Park, Kandiyohi County. Photo by Randy Fredrickson.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 5/10 Washington County DZ, 5/13 Hennepin SC, Ramsey TT and Winona CS; early north 5/11 Pennington KSS, 5/14 Becker BBe, BK and Itasca JB/TS; late south 5/19 Anoka CF, 5/20 Hennepin SC; late north 5/23 Lake County SDM, and 5/28

St. Louis County SS.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early south 5/3 Ramsey County TT, 5/4 Hennepin SC, Murray ND and Rice TB; early north 5/4 Grant SDM, 5/5 Kanabec CM; late south 5/25 Hennepin SC, 5/29 Scott TB; late north 5/29 St. Louis CF, 5/30 Cook KMH.

Cerulean Warbler

Early south 5/7 Houston MH, 5/11 Olmsted JBo, JSt and Winona CS, 5/12 Brown JS; one north report 5/15 Otter Tail SDM.

Black-and-white Warbler

Early south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle RB, 4/23 Brown JS; early north 5/4 Grant SDM and Kanabec CM, 5/7 Aitkin WN and Becker BBe.

American Redstart

Early south 5/4 Winona CS, 5/5 Houston EMF and Winona JPo; early north 5/7 Koochiching GM, 5/11 Cook SOL.

Prothonotary Warbler

Early south 4/30 Hennepin DZ, 5/3 Winona CS.

Worm-eating Warbler

Only report, one bird on 5/14, Hennepin, County, TT.

Ovenbird

Early south 4/26 Ramsey TBr and Rice TB, 4/27 Ramsey AB; early north 5/5 Kanabec CM and St. Louis AE.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 4/24 Winona CS, 4/26 Brown JS and Rice TB; early north 5/5 Grant SDM, 5/8 Aitkin WN and Kanabec CM; late south 5/24 Dakota TT, 5/27 Rice TB.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Early south 4/30 Houston DN, 5/4 Winona CS.

Kentucky Warbler

Early south 5/8 Olmsted *fide* JBo, 5/12 Nicollet MF.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 5/14 Chisago RH and Hennepin DB, SC; early north 5/20 St. Louis AE, 5/21 Roseau PS; late south 5/25 Hennepin SC and Rice TB, 5/26 Brown JS.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 5/11 Anoka PKL and Olmsted JBo, JSt, 5/12 Steele RG; early north 5/2 (earliest north date on record) St. Louis AE, 5/13 Beltrami DJ; late south 5/30 Anoka DN and Brown JS.

Common Yellowthroat

Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle RB, 5/6 Olmsted JBo; early north 5/8 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/12 St. Louis AE.

Hooded Warbler

Early south 5/15 Lebanon Hills County Park, Dakota Co. SWe, 5/22 Scott DN.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 5/8 Chippewa AB and Hennepin SC, 5/9 Houston EMF; early north 5/13 Becker BK, Beltrami DJ, Otter Tail CS/KC, Polk KSS and St. Louis AE, 5/14 Wilkin SDM; late south 5/22 Dakota TT and Winona CS, 5/23 Hennepin SC.

Canada Warbler

Early south 5/13 Nicollet MF, 5/14 Goodhue BL, Hennepin TT and Scott DZ; early north 5/13 Polk KSS, 5/14 Marshall KSS; late south 5/26 Rice TB and Murray ND.

Yellow-breasted Chat

Only report 5/18 Otter Tail CS/KC.

Summer Tanager

Only report 4/28–29 Winona mob.

Scarlet Tanager

Early south 5/5 Houston EMF, 5/6 Goodhue DZ; early north 5/12 Kanabec CM, 5/13 Becker BBe.

WESTERN TANAGER

One report 5/4–7 Willmar, Kandiyohi Co. (photographed at feeder) BKA (*The Loon* 66:151–152).

Northern Cardinal

Reported from 30 south and seven north counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Early south 4/24 Winona County AM, 4/28 Wabasha County DWM; early north 5/1 Kanabec CM, 5/4 Becker BBe and Otter Tail SDM.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Reported 5/13 Boyd, Lac Qui Parle Co. FE (*The Loon* 66:155).

Blue Grosbeak

Reported 5/18 Murray ND, 5/21 Nobles ND.

Indigo Bunting

Early south 5/9 Nicollet RJ, 5/11 Winona AM, JPo, CS; early north 5/11 Cook KMH, 5/14 Aitkin WN.

PAINTED BUNTING

Fourth state record 5/23-25 near Grand Marais, Cook Co. RAR, KMH, RJ (*The Loon* 66:152).

Dickcissel

Early south 4/21 (earliest date on record) Cottonwood ED, 4/30 Lyon HK.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Early south 4/18 Houston EMF, 4/25 Hennepin DBM and Washington TEB; early north 5/4 Aitkin WN and St. Louis MH, 5/5 Kanabec CM.

American Tree Sparrow

Late south 4/28 Kandiyohi CJ, 5/14 Goodhue HH; late north 5/17 St. Louis AE, 5/21 St. Louis DBe.

Chipping Sparrow

Early south 3/24 Olmsted AP, 3/31 Washington DS; early north 4/15 St. Louis DBe, 4/17 Kanabec CM.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Early south 4/21 Yellow Medicine HK, 4/24 Chippewa AB and Hennepin SC; early north 4/23 Kanabec CM, 4/25 Becker BBe.

Field Sparrow

Early south 3/27 Olmsted JSt, 4/1 Washington TEB; early north 4/23 Clay LCF, 4/28 Becker BBe.

Vesper Sparrow

Early south 3/20 Winona JPo, 3/28 Cottonwood ED; early north 4/4 Becker BBe, 4/19 Douglas SWa and Pennington KSS.

Lark Sparrow

Early south 4/23 Anoka JH, 4/24 Anoka SC, CF and Chippewa AB; early north 4/27 Becker BBe, 5/2 Red Lake KSS.

Savannah Sparrow

Early south 4/13 Winona JPo, 4/14 Hennepin SC; early north 4/18 Kanabec CM, 4/20 Red Lake KSS.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Early south 5/1 Lac Qui Parle WM, 5/7 Wabasha TBr.

Henslow's Sparrow

Only two reports 5/12 and 5/23 Winona *vide* CS.

LeConte's Sparrow

Early south 4/18 Hennepin SC, 4/24 Anoka SC; early north 5/14 Aitkin WN, 5/15 Otter Tail SDM and Roseau PS.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Two reports 5/21 Roseau PS, 5/30 Aitkin WN.

Fox Sparrow

Early south 3/19 Hennepin TBr and Rice TB, 3/20 Brown JS, Carver DBM, Olmsted JSt, Sibley RG and Washington TEB; early north 3/23 Kanabec CM, 4/1 Aitkin WN; late south 4/24 Hennepin SC, 5/15 Anoka PKL; late north 5/3 Cook KMH, 5/9 Koochiching GM.

Song Sparrow

Early north 3/20 Otter Tail SDM, 3/22 Grant KKW.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 4/6 Winona JPo, 4/23 Rice TF; early north 4/20 Becker BBe, 4/25 Otter

Tail SDM; late south 5/19 Anoka CF, 5/26 Brown JS.

Swamp Sparrow

Early south 3/26 Hennepin SC; early north 4/14 St. Louis MH, 4/16 Roseau PS.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 3/5 Hennepin (overwintered?) TT, 3/26 Hennepin SC; early north 4/14 St. Louis MH, 4/16 Roseau PS.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early south 4/22 Washington DS, 4/25 Cottonwood ED, Lac Qui Parle DSm, Lyon HK and Winona JPo; early north 4/15 Cook TBe, 4/27 Kanabec CM; late south 5/15 Brown JS, 5/16 Hennepin PBU and Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 5/20 Cook KMH, 5/22 Aitkin WN.

Harris' Sparrow

Early south 3/12 Martin AB, 3/28 Rock ND; early north 4/10 Duluth DBe, 5/4 Grant SDM and St. Louis AE, 5/5 Aitkin WN; late south 5/16 Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/22 Anoka CF; late north 5/16 Koochiching GM, Pennington KSS, 5/22 Aitkin WN.



Albinistic Dark-eyed Junco, 4 April 1994, Mora, Kanabec County. Photo by Craig Menze.

Dark-eyed Junco

Late south 5/11 Winona JPo, CS, 5/22 Faribault RG.

Lapland Longspur

Late south 4/28 Hennepin TT, 5/7 Dakota

BL; late north 5/2 Pennington KSS, 5/12 Wilkin WM.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Early north 5/1 Clay DJ, CS/KC.

Snow Bunting

Late south 3/18 Watonwan JBo, 3/27 Hennepin TT; late north 5/5 Lake SW/MS, 5/7 Roseau PS.

Bobolink

Early south 5/5 Rice TB, 5/7 Chisago RH, Fillmore DSm, Olmsted JSt and Washington DS; early north 5/5 Kanabec CM, 5/9 Otter Tail CS/KC.

Red-winged Blackbird

Early north 3/15 Kanabec CM, 3/18 Clay CS/KC.

Eastern Meadowlark

Early north 3/20 Douglas KKW, 3/21 Aitkin WN.

Western Meadowlark

Early north 3/17 Becker BBe, 3/20 Clay LCF and Otter Tail SDM.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Early south 3/17 Cottonwood ED, 4/9 Swift DO; early north 4/1 Grant AB, 4/14 Otter Tail KKW.

Rusty Blackbird

Early south 3/17 Lyon HK, 3/18 Rice TB; early north 3/18 Aitkin WN, 3/26 Grant SDM; late south 5/1 Hennepin SC, 5/7 Hennepin OJ, TT; late north 4/30 St. Louis ME/SK, 5/2 St. Louis SS.

Brewer's Blackbird

Early south 3/13 Washington DS, 3/20 Nobles AB; early north 3/20 Marshall KSS, 4/9 Kanabec CM.

Common Grackle

Early north 3/5 Aitkin WN, 3/18 Otter Tail SDM.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Early south 3/17 Nicolle LF, 3/20 Nobles

AB; early north 4/11 Aitkin WN, 4/14 Douglas SWa.

Orchard Oriole

Early south 5/13 Houston EMF, 5/17 Rock ND and Watonwan ED; early north 5/13 Otter Tail CS/KC, 5/21 Roseau SB, PS.

Northern Oriole

Early south 4/25 Houston EMF, 4/26 Winona JPo; early north 5/11 Aitkin WN, 5/12 Kanabec CM.

Pine Grosbeak

Late north 3/24 Aitkin WN, 3/28 Cook SOL, 4/7 Cook KMH.

Purple Finch

Late south 5/11 Hennepin SC, Nicollet MF.

House Finch

Reported from 18 north and 41 south counties.

Red Crossbill

Late south 3/5 Dakota TT.

White-winged Crossbill

One report 3/5 Becker BBe.

Common Redpoll

Late south 4/3 Hennepin SC, 4/16 Anoka KB; late north 5/6 Cook KMH, 5/31 (latest spring date for Minnesota) Otter Tail SDM.

Hoary Redpoll

Late north 4/4 Aitkin WN, 4/7 Koochiching GM.

Pine Siskin

Reported from 17 north and 21 south counties.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 15 north and 30 south counties.

Evening Grosbeak

Reported from nine counties north.

House Sparrow

Reported from 14 north and 28 south counties.

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WN	Warren Nelson		
MOc	Mark Ochs		
DO	Dan Orr	mob	many observers

Corrections to The Season:

Add the third state record **BRAMBLING** on 22 October 1993 to the Fall Seasonal Report (*The Loon* 66:72-95); the **Eastern Phoebe** in Hennepin County through 11 December 1993 (*The Loon* 66:137) was the second latest date (not the latest) on record (see *The Loon* 63:62); **Black-and-white Warbler** 11/5 Hennepin SC should be 10/5 Hennepin SC; **American Redstart** 11/14 *fide* SC should be 10/14 *fide* SC. Place **Prairie Falcon** before **Peregrine Falcon**, change **Gyrfalcon** to **GYRFALCON**, and place **Carolina Wren** before **Winter Wren** in the Winter Seasonal Report (*The Loon* 66:129-140) to comply with the current checklist.

BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

A Further Look at . . .

Kim R. Eckert



How hard can it be? What could be easier than identifying birds? That pair of Common Loons nesting by your cabin on the lake, an adult Bald Eagle soaring overhead, that hummingbird hovering at your feeder, a tail-wagging and singing Eastern Phoebe, the male Scarlet Tanager in spring... Even if you didn't know what they were, just get out the *Golden Guide* or your copy of Peterson and look it up. Right?

Perhaps. But was that dull-looking loon on Mille Lacs last fall a Common, or could it have been a Pacific Loon? And is that large, dark raptor really a Golden Eagle or just an immature Bald Eagle? Also, since there's only one kind of hummingbird in Minnesota, wasn't that just a late Ruby-throated in my yard last November? And that flycatcher sort of looks like a phoebe, but it's sitting still and not singing — and why does it appear to have wingbars like a pewee? Is that female tanager a Scarlet, or could it be a Summer Tanager? Now what do your books have to say?

Unfortunately, while some of the time bird identification is pretty straightforward, much of the time it is not. We have actually chosen a most difficult hobby to master, since there are so many species and plumages that vary with season, age, geography, molt, sex, and other variables. So complex is the identification of many species that it

is simply impossible to fit all the answers into a portable field guide; in fact, many solutions to identification problems have not yet been figured out by the experts — and some may never be. (In a way, it is nothing short of human arrogance to assume that ornithologists should be able to resolve all the complexities of bird identification; after all, the last time I checked, entomologists and botanists are nowhere near identifying all the species they work with.)

This column will hopefully become a regular feature in this journal, as it attempts to assist birders with some specific identification problems, especially those not covered adequately or accurately in the popular field guides. Because of space limitations, these pieces are not intended to be scholarly treatises on complex identification problems; those I leave to the real experts who write comprehensive articles about Iceland vs. Thayer's gulls, *Empidonax* flycatchers and the like. Instead, it makes better sense here to discuss more manageable subjects that would be helpful to the average birder — and more easily understood by them, e.g. female ducks, Red-tailed Hawk plumages, gallinaceous birds, immature and female swallows, crow vs. raven identification, thrushes, shrikes, blackbirds, winter finch calls, etc. Questions from readers and suggestions for topics would also be more than welcome.

Until the next column, which will address a specific topic, and by way of introduction to the identification process, some suggested dos and don'ts to consider in the meantime:

- Don't depend entirely on your field guide, especially the Golden and Peterson guides, which too many birders have become used to and depend on. These guides are fine as far as they go, covering the basics, but they simply do not deal adequately with most difficult identification problems. (Even the more comprehensive and recommended Geographic field guide is far from perfect.)

- Do consult other resources for help, especially other birders. As with every other skill in life, there is no substitute for experience, and birding with more knowledgeable birders is the best way for you to gain experience. There are also several books and articles to recommend on specific groups or species, sources which are able to cover a subject in depth more than the field guides. These are obviously too numerous to list here; perhaps they could be the subject of a future column.

- Don't merely look at colors and plumage patterns, matching what you see to a picture in the book. Experienced birders also consider other factors, which in many cases are more useful than a bird's visual field marks: range, season, and relative abundance (i.e. which species are likely at the place and time involved); family characteristics (before identifying a bird to the species level, be sure to simply consider, at least subconsciously, whether it's a duck, hawk, gull, flycatcher, swallow, etc.); habitat; songs and call notes (see below); size, shape, and posture; and behavior (again, as suggested earlier, phoebes are easier to tell when tail-wagging).

- Do try to learn songs and call notes. Although mastering this skill is difficult, time-consuming, and often frustrating, there is simply nothing else more helpful when identifying, or just finding, birds than

knowing their vocalizations.

- Don't look at only one or two marks when identifying a bird. Most species, especially the difficult or unusual ones, are safely identified only by considering a combination of several field marks. Misidentifications often result from paying too much attention to one feature on a bird and not adequately considering others.

- Do say, "I don't know" from time to time. Not every bird can be (or needs to be) identified, and identifying something only because it's "the closest thing in the book" usually results in a mistake.

- Don't bird in a vacuum. It's essential to bird and communicate with other birders. If you go out accompanied only by your field guide, it's easy to be misled into mistakes and misconceptions that never get corrected.

- Do be prepared to make mistakes. Without exception, every birder does. (Remember, there aren't really any bad birders, just bad bird books.) And the last thing to do when corrected is to be defensive or even upset. If you can learn from your mistakes, having your misidentification corrected is something to appreciate, not dread.

- Don't pay too much attention to a bird's name; seldom is it synonymous with a useful field mark. More than one beginner has been at a loss when looking for two crests on a cormorant or an immature Red-tailed Hawk's red tail, when seeing a Winter Wren in summer, or a Field Sparrow in an oak tree.

- Finally, and above all, do have fun! Birding is meant to be an enjoyable pastime, not a headache. If you don't enjoy the challenge of identifying immature gulls, a silent *Empidonax*, "confusing" fall warblers, and the rest, there's nothing wrong with just looking at birds and appreciating their presence. There is still no law against bird watching.

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Notes on a Hybrid Gull at Grand Marais

Peder H. Svingen and Kim R. Eckert

On 17 October 1994, the authors and Sue Barton studied an apparent Glaucous X Herring Gull (*Larus hyperboreus* X *L. argentatus*) in first-winter plumage near the fishing shacks in the Grand Marais harbor, Cook County. Our immediate impression was of an oversized first-winter Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) except for its bill size and pattern, which looked typical for a first-winter Glaucous. For 30 minutes under excellent viewing conditions from 50–100 feet away, we observed it during brief flights, while standing on a dock and in the water; hundreds of Herring Gulls of all ages, and one adult and one first-winter Thayer's were available for direct comparison.

It was obviously larger than all the Herring Gulls, but unfortunately no Glaucous Gulls were present for comparison. Its bill was longer and thicker than a Herring Gull's, especially at the gonys; the distal third was black and the base was pinkish, with a pale pink gape. The iris appeared dark brown. Its legs were thicker and the tarsi longer than a Herring Gull's, with leg color similar to a Herring Gull's legs and closely approximating the pinkish shade of its own proximal bill. Its head shape was flat on the crown, recalling a Glaucous Gull. A pale, diffuse auricular spot was visible, but the entire plumage, except for the folded primaries and the retrices, was uniform creamy brown. The tertials were solidly colored except for paler subterminal mottling near the tips, once again reminiscent of a typical first-winter Thayer's.

At rest, the folded primaries and the visible portion of the retrices were grayish-brown and definitely shaded darker than the tertials. The primaries extended less than one bill length beyond the tail. In flight, the inner primaries were shaded paler than both the outer primaries and the secondaries,



Possible Glaucous X Herring Gull hybrid, 17 October 1994, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

while the shade of its retrices matched that of the outer primaries, recalling the "dark-light-dark" wing pattern and "tail band" of a first-winter Thayer's.

The size of this gull and its distinctive bill pattern strongly indicate Glaucous Gull parentage. The tail and wing patterns in flight, along with contrast between the tertials and folded primaries, rule out "pure" Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*) which also has an all-dark bill in first-winter plumage. Glaucous-winged X Western Gull (*L. glaucescens* X *L. occidentalis*) is prevalent in the Pacific Northwest, and in first-winter plumage it closely resembles Thayer's Gull (Hoffman *et al.*, 1978, Zimmer 1990); it can be ruled out in this case primarily by bill coloration.

Hybrids among the larger gulls must always be considered when evaluating unusual plumages or occurrences (Dwight 1925, Grant 1986). Sibley (1994) states that Glaucous and Herring gulls "hybridize frequently" and that "observers in an area of range overlap should expect to see hybrids and backcrosses of these combinations." Apparent Glaucous X Herring Gulls have been well-documented (e.g., Jehl and Frohling 1965, Ingolfsson 1970, Jehl 1971,

Andrie 1980) from multiple locations, but never in Minnesota to the best of our knowledge. A recent published photograph identified as an apparent hybrid Glaucous X Herring Gull (Mactavish 1993) closely resembles the individual reported here. It is possible, although extremely unlikely, that one parent of the Grand Marais bird was itself a hybrid, including a Glaucous-winged X Western or a Glaucous-winged X Herring Gull. Hybridization between Glaucous-winged and Herring gulls in Alaska is not unexpected (Williamson and Peyton 1963, Patten and Weisbrod 1974). Furthermore, nests of Glaucous and Thayer's gulls may be interspersed in some colonies on cliffs (Johnson and Herter 1989) and hybrids between Glaucous and Iceland gull (*L. glaucoides*) have been reported (Terres 1980). The permutations seem endless when second and third generation backcrosses are added to the genetic lottery as potential parents!

The A.O.U. (1983) states, "The species listed from *L. californicus* through *L. marinus* are closely interrelated; this complex poses one of the most complicated problems in ornithological systematics today."

No one has summarized identification problems among immature hybrids of the "pink-legged gulls" more succinctly than Rich Stallcup (1982): "Attempts to distinguish sub-adult hybrid gulls is asking for madness." Wishing to avoid this, we safely conclude that this apparently represents the first documented occurrence of a probable hybrid gull in Minnesota.

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Editor's Note: As far as I know, this is the first Glaucous X Herring Gull hybrid recorded in the state of Minnesota and is apparently one of the few well-documented hybrids of any gull species in the state.

Loons

Rich Stallcup
Drawings by Keith Hansen

This article is reprinted in its entirety from Observer, the quarterly journal of Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Rich Stallcup regularly contributes a column entitled "Focus" — devoted to bird identification and appreciation, to PRBO's Observer, mailed to PRBO members. For more information, write to PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Copyright 1994 PRBO.

Focus" number five, in the Summer 1983 *Observer*, was about loons. Since then there has been an official taxonomic "split," so now there are five species rather than four. In revisiting the subject, Rich updates the text on loons, add notes on the "new" species, and presents excellent new illustrations by Keith Hansen.

The migration of birds has always boggled the human mind: it holds observable magic and proof that Earth has a pulse. Most migration takes place at night and is only detectable by the appearance of many birds one morning where there were none the day before, or perhaps by small voices heard in a dark sky. To be able to see and feel this great and mystical phenomenon is a very special experience. Because many large birds move during the day (perhaps the most famous being wild geese), Earth's poetry is strongly laced with visions of them. Loons are diurnal migrants, abundant along our shore, and their pageant-of-motion goes on, one direction or the other, throughout most of the year.

Loons are in a small, tight genus with only five species worldwide that all occur in California. They are rather similar to each other and different from most other sorts of birds. While it may be possible to mistake a flying Pacific Loon for a murre or even a Black-vented Shearwater, a second glance should correct the error. The non-loon most often mistaken for one is the young Double-crested Cormorant, with its whitish underparts and dark upperparts. Cormorants, though, are unmarked black above, and they swim with their necks erected and bills

tipped up (like Red-throated and Yellow-billed but unlike other loons). Their dive is preceded by a noticeable kick and thrust; loons, especially the big ones, just slide underwater.

Getting to Know Them

The "New" Loon. Recently the "Arctic Loon" was split into two species. Our regular one (formerly known here as the Arctic Loon) is now Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), and what is now known as Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica viridigularis*) is a subspecies that normally resides in the Western Pacific. It has been identified on the California coast on only two or three occasions. Another race (*G. A. arctica*) occurs in the North Atlantic.

In size, the Arctic Loon is clearly smaller than the Common and larger than the Pacific. Its plumage is most similar to Pacific's. Like Common's, the bill of the Arctic is large (but overlaps in size with that of a large Pacific) and straight, and the head is large and rectangular — nearly flat on top. Pacifics are more petite and have rounded crowns.

Basic (winter) plumage of Arctic is like that of the Pacific, in that there is a crisp division between the dark upperparts and white lowerparts, but a black line dividing the hindneck and foreneck on Pacific is usually or always missing on Arctic. Both have frosty-gray hindnecks that contrast the black backs and, in Arctic, blackish forecrown. Arctics show more dark flecking in the rear cheeks than do Pacifics, and the sides of their white necks may be ever so slightly shadowed with gray.



Keith Hanson 94

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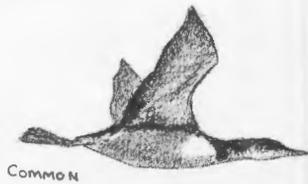
Loons as they appear well into their first winter.

The most obvious difference between Arctic and Pacific loons is the amount of white visible at waterline. Even when riding low in the water (while feeding), the Arctic shows a white flank patch not present on the Pacific. When riding high (while resting), the Arctic shows wholly white sides (domed on the flanks). A buoyant Pacific may reveal a narrow white strip above waterline but usually does not. (To use this mark, you have to be sure the bird is sitting straight: all loons roll over to preen, showing off their nice white tummies.)

All Five. Of the five loon species, four are very distinctive in alternate (breeding)

plumage. The fifth, Arctic Loon, is very similar to Pacific but has a green, not purple, throat. Identifications are most troublesome for winter-plumaged Common versus Yellow-billed and Arctic versus Pacific. The wispy, usually pale gray Red-throated Loon is practically unique, although juveniles are darker, especially in their necks.

Occurrence. Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons are common along the west coast during migration and in winter, with Pacific Loon most numerous. Pacifics prefer to be pelagic (not often entering estuaries) and may be seen almost any time (except



COMMON



PACIFIC



RED-THROATED
KH



ARCTIC

ACTIVE

PACIFIC



ARCTIC

RESTING

PACIFIC
KH

Flying Loons: Common,
Pacific
Red-throated

Mid-sized Loons: *Active* (Arctic / Pacific)
Resting (Arctic / Pacific)

mid-June through mid-August) flying up or down the coast. Red-throateds also migrate slightly seaward but do their foraging nearshore, either in calm bays and river mouths or just beyond the breakers off ocean beaches. Commons usually migrate along (or over) the coastline, and their foraging niche is like that of Red-throated. Of all loons, only the Common is to be expected on rivers or lakes in the interior.

Flying Shape. The two big loons, Common and Yellow-billed, may be separated from the smaller ones by three main points: 1) they are very heavy and have relatively slow, rowing wingbeats; 2) their large black feet are very obvious beyond the tail; and 3) they are very large in the front end, with thick necks, huge blocky heads, and immense, straight bills (though against a pale sky the Yellow-billed looks bill-less). Along the California coast a bird showing the above characteristics would be called a Common by default.

In contrast, the regular small loons, Pacific and Red-throated, have: 1) quicker, more twinkly wingbeats; 2) smaller, often

unnoticeable feet (the virtual invisibility of feet on Red-throated makes that species appear shorter in the rear end, thus the wings appear farther aft than on all others); and 3) relatively thin necks with small heads and narrow bills. The two small species may be told apart by their relative darkness (see below) and shape — especially the head. For Pacifics, the forecrown is quite rounded, beginning with a steep angle upward from the base of the bill. The bill itself is dark and straight with a slight decurvature to the culmen (the top ridge of the bill). All of these features team up to give the flying Pacific Loon a straight attitude. Red-throated Loon has a back-sloped forecrown, and the hindcrown is strongly domed. The bill itself is usually light in color and “smiley” (upcurved). Thus in flight the whole front end (neck and head) of Red-throated appears up-swooped, and the bird looks hump-backed.

Flying Marks. Breeding-plumaged Pacifics (and Arctic) have easy-to-see, frosty gray hindcrowns, and they show a bold white racing stripe on each side of the

back (these are scapular feathers) at the base of the wing. These pale markings are striking against the blackish ground color when seen from above. Same-plumaged Red-throateds are comparatively plain above, appearing all gray-brown, with darker flight feathers causing a blackish trailing edge to the wing. In spring migration they are easy to pick out from groups of highly patterned Pacifics.

Parked Shape. The two big ones are similar in shape, having big rectangular heads (usually with a distinct rounded bump on the forecrown and a more arched hindcrown) and very large bills. They are thick-necked and appear even more so since the neck is usually scrunched down. The bill is usually held parallel to the water for Commons and up-tipped for Yellow-billed. These species often shake their heads from side to side.

Pacifics and Red-throateds usually swim with their heads more erect than do the larger two. Arctics and Pacifics hold their bills parallel to the water. Red-throated holds its bill up-tipped. Head and bill shape are the same as under "Flying Shape" but even more exaggerated when the birds are parked. Pacifics have rounded crowns and sloped hindcrowns, while Red-throateds have sloped forecrowns and domed hindcrowns. These heads, along with unique bill shapes, should help identify the birds even in silhouette.

Parked Marks. Breeding plumage is easy; winter is more tricky. There are several features that differ between the average Yellow-billed and Common loon, but only the coloration of the culmen is singularly diagnostic. In Yellow-billed, the distal half is pale horn or light yellowish. For Common, the entire culmen is dark gray or black. Other features to consider, in descending order of usefulness, are: 1) the small-eyed look of Yellow-billed, caused by its smaller eye and the tan eyebrow that isolates it in the light face; 2) a brown post-ocular spot (a small circle of darkness at the posterior ear coverts) on Yellow-billed, lacking on Common; 3) a glazed brown color to the head and neck of Yellow-billeds that is usually dark chocolate or blackish in

Commons; and 4) an upturned ("smiley") look to Yellow-billed's bill, seldom obvious for Common. While most Yellow-billeds and Commons are easy to identify, some are not.

In telling winter-plumaged Commons from Pacifics, shape is the best clue. Other useful features are subtle and lie in the area of the face and neck. Where Pacifics have a sharp definition between dark upperparts and white underparts (often with a black line separating the two), Commons have less, and often have a fuzzy grayish zone between the dark and white. Where most Pacifics have their eyes concealed in the dark part of the face, the eye of most Commons is narrowly surrounded by white from the face, most prominently in front. Most adult Pacifics have a "chinstrap" of dark that comes from the hindcrown towards the base of the foreneck, giving them a white-throated look; Commons lack this feature. Most Commons have a small peninsula of white that invades the dark area midneck, in the position of the white necklace on their breeding plumage.

Red-throated is the easiest to identify because of its head and bill shape, its slimness, and its grayness. It is the only loon whose eye is usually entirely in the white part of the face. Nearly the whole neck is white on adults, with only a stripe of gray down the dorsal edge.

Aging. Hatching-year loons (those born last summer that arrive here in October-December) have "scaly-looking" backs: each dark feather is narrowly margined with white and is shingled over the next. Basic plumaged adults lack this fine pattern and show whitish splotches on the dark back. The one exception is the adult Red-throated Loon, which has small white "stars" evenly scattered around its gray back. These "stars" are what earned Red-throated its scientific name, *Gavia stellata*.

The study of field marks is just academic in getting to know the loons. Getting really familiar with them involves visiting foraging habitats and watching migration corridors to get a feeling for their pulse of motion.

P.O. Box 36, Inverness, CA 94937

Some Additional Thoughts on Loon Identification

Kim R. Eckert

Rich Stallcup's article on loons is certainly well worth reading for anyone interested in the finer points of loon identification. In hopes of making his article even more useful to Minnesota birders, I offer the following comments. For reference, note that each of these points is prefaced with a quotation from Stallcup's article.

"Pacifics are more petite and have rounded crowns." Pacific Loons may appear to have either a rounded or a flat crown profile. Some of those I have seen on Lake Superior, including one in November 1994, had what I would describe as a flat crown; also note the photo of a flat-headed Pacific Loon on the cover of the Winter 1976 issue of *The Loon*.

"A buoyant Pacific may reveal a narrow white strip above waterline but usually does not." More than once, I have seen Pacific Loons in Minnesota with a narrow white line of uniform width along their sides at the water line, suggesting that this feature is not unusual. It is also worth noting that I have noticed both Common and Red-throated loons in basic (winter) or juvenal plumage exhibiting this same feature.

"The fifth, Arctic Loon, is very similar to Pacific but has a green, not purple, throat." As with head color on male scap, the iridescent throat color of a Pacific or Arctic loon in alternate (breeding) plumage is an unreliable field mark. This iridescence depends on light conditions and the angle with the sun; more than once in Churchill, Manitoba, I have seen Pacific Loons on their breeding grounds with green throats.

"Same-plumaged Red-throateds are comparatively plain above, appearing all gray-brown." Alternate-plumaged Red-throated Loons also have noticeably contrasting

"frosty gray" heads like Pacifics, and in flight, except for the lack of white on the scapulars, they look a lot like Pacific Loons.

"Arctics and Pacifics hold their bills parallel to the water, Red-throated holds its bill up-tipped." Pacific Loons also often hold their bills up-tilted, rather than parallel to the water. When separating Pacific from Red-throated Loon in basic/juvenal plumage, actual bill shape is more diagnostic than how the bill is held; the Pacific Loon's culmen is decurved while the Red-throated's is essentially straight, and combined with its flatter crown/lower forehead shape, this gives the Red-throated a much different head and bill profile.

"Where Pacifics have a sharp definition between dark upperparts and white underparts (often with a black line separating the two), Commons have less, and often have a fuzzy grayish zone between the dark and white." In addition, the Pacific Loon's line along the side of the neck is relatively straight or smoothly curved, while the side of a Common Loon's neck has an irregular and crooked shape where dark hindneck meets white foreneck.

"Most adult Pacifics have a 'chinstrap' of dark that comes from the hindcrown towards the base of the foreneck ... Commons lack this feature." Juvenal-plumaged Pacific Loons also usually lack a chinstrap. Also note that it is often difficult to tell if a chinstrap is present; a shadow is often present where the chin meets the top of the neck and may look like a chinstrap.

"Nearly the whole neck on a Red-throated Loon is white on adults." Note that juvenal-plumaged Red-throateds are dusky gray, not white, on the neck.

8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN
55804.

The 1994 M.O.U. 300 Club

Compiled by Anthony Hertzelt and Ann Vogel

Seventy-one people responded to a request for their Minnesota State Life List totals. This is the same number that reported last year. Ten new members sent in lists for 1994, while ten that contributed lists in 1993 did not contribute lists this year. Perennial leader Ray Glassel added three birds to his 1993 total of 385, and his 388 count is nearly 94% of the official Minnesota state list. A state total of exactly 300 would be just over 72%.

Following are the 1994 M.O.U. 300 Club, and the 1994 M.O.U. 200 County Club lists:

388	Raymond Glassel	356	Jerry Gresser	325	Jay Hamernick
387		355	Oscar Johnson		Ilene Haner
386	Robert B. Janssen		Peder Svingen	324	Ken LaFond
385		354	Harding Huber		Jerry Pruett
384		353	Gloria Wachtler	323	Helen Tucker
383		352	Dick Wachtler		Tom Tustison
382		351	Mike Mulligan	322	
381	Kim Eckert	350		321	Karl Bardon
380	Dick Ruhme	349			Henry Kyllingstad
379		348			Jeris Pike
378		347			Don Wanschura
377		346	Anne Marie Plunkett	320	
376	Don Bolduc	345	Dick Sandve	319	Bill Penning
375			Dave Sovereign	318	J.S. Fitcher
374	Jo Blanich	344	Dennis Martin		Dick Rengstorf
373	Bill Litkey	343			Carol Schumacher
372		342	Elaine McKenzie		Mark Stensaas
371		341	Jerry Bonkoski	317	Roger Field
370		340	Barbara Martin	316	
369		339	Jim Williams	315	Kathy Heidel
368		338		314	
367		337	Mike Hendrickson	313	
366		336		312	Nestor Hiemenz
365	Warren Nelson	335		311	Bill Bronn
364	Liz Campbell	334	Ruth Andberg		Joan Fowler
363			Bruce Baer	310	
362	Karol Gresser	333		309	
361	Al Bolduc	332		308	Gary Simonson
360	Steve Millard	331	Tammy Field	307	David Thurston
	Bill Pieper		Doug Johnson	306	Louis Claeson
359	Parker Backstrom	330	Bill Stjern	305	Lynn Homzik
	Ann McKenzie	329		304	Burnett Hojnacki
	Jon Peterson	328			Jude Hughes-Williams
	Kim Risen	327	Bill George	303	Forest Strnad
358	Gary Swanson		William Marengo	302	Kirk Jeffrey
357	Anthony Hertzelt	326		301	Lois Claeson

The 1994 M.O.U. 200 County Club

Aitkin County

270 Warren Nelson
264 Jo Blaunch
242 Raymond Glassel
232 Robert B. Janssen
229 Ken LaFond

Anoka County

288 Ken LaFond
257 Raymond Glassel
248 Steve Carlson
239 Robert B. Janssen
235 Ruth Andberg
228 Karl Bardon
223 Dick Rengstorf

Becker County

243 Betsy Beneke
227 Raymond Glassel
221 Robert B. Janssen
209 Ken LaFond

Beltrami County

235 Jeffrey Palmer
227 Doug Johnson
226 Raymond Glassel
225 Ken LaFond
213 Robert B. Janssen
212 Al Bolduc

Benton County

225 Ken LaFond
220 Raymond Glassel
215 Robert B. Janssen

Big Stone County

228 Raymond Glassel
214 Robert B. Janssen
203 Ken LaFond

Blue Earth County

231 Raymond Glassel
213 Robert B. Janssen
202 Ken LaFond

Brown County

236 Raymond Glassel
219 Robert B. Janssen
201 Ken LaFond

Carlton County

233 Ken LaFond
212 Raymond Glassel
208 Robert B. Janssen

Carver County

251 Kathy Heidel
246 Raymond Glassel
239 Dennis Martin
228 Robert B. Janssen
225 Mike Mulligan
207 Jim Williams
204 Ken LaFond
203 William Marengo

Cass County

220 Raymond Glassel
210 Ken LaFond
203 Robert B. Janssen

Chippewa County

221 Raymond Glassel
215 Robert B. Janssen
211 Al Bolduc
205 Ken LaFond

Chisago County

236 Raymond Glassel
226 Ken LaFond
216 Robert B. Janssen

Clay County

232 Raymond Glassel
220 Robert B. Janssen
212 Ken LaFond
207 Robert O'Connor
201 Betsy Beneke

Clearwater County

250 Al Bolduc
223 Raymond Glassel
217 Ken LaFond
212 Robert B. Janssen

Cook County

241 Kim Eckert
229 Raymond Glassel
228 Robert B. Janssen
224 Walter Popp
218 Peder Svingen
210 Helen Tucker
207 Ken LaFond
206 Mike Hendrickson
205 Jim Williams

Cottonwood County

226 Raymond Glassel
217 Robert B. Janssen
214 Jerry Bonkoski
203 Ken LaFond

Crow Wing County

246 Jo Blaunch
228 Warren Nelson
227 Raymond Glassel
227 Ken LaFond
217 Robert B. Janssen

Dakota County

279 Raymond Glassel
268 Tom Tustison
258 Karol Gresser
256 Robert B. Janssen
243 Al Bolduc
233 Bruce Baer
233 Bill Litkey
230 Anne Marie Plunkett
225 Ken LaFond
224 Dick Rengstorf
203 Karl Bardon
203 Elaine McKenzie

Dodge County

228 Anne Marie Plunkett
227 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
210 Jerry Bonkoski
200 Ken LaFond

Douglas County

221 Raymond Glassel
216 Robert B. Janssen
210 Ken LaFond

Faribault County

222 Raymond Glassel
216 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond

Fillmore County

241 Anne Marie Plunkett
222 Raymond Glassel

208 Robert B. Janssen
205 Ken LaFond

Freeborn County

244 Scott Mehus
235 Raymond Glassel
219 Robert B. Janssen
202 Ken LaFond
202 Anne Marie Plunkett

Goodhue County

259 Raymond Glassel
259 Bill Litkey
243 Robert B. Janssen
231 Anne Marie Plunkett
217 Al Bolduc
204 Bill Stjern
200 Ken LaFond

Grant County

226 Raymond Glassel
220 Robert B. Janssen
219 Kim Eckert
202 Ken LaFond

Hennepin County

308 Oscar Johnson
303 Steve Carlson
302 Raymond Glassel
302 Robert B. Janssen
286 Al Bolduc
270 Gary Swanson
258 Tom Tustison
257 Karol Gresser
237 Kathy Heidel
235 Bill Litkey
234 Dick Rengstorf
232 Karl Bardon
231 Dennis Martin
230 Ken LaFond
230 Tom Soulen
230 Warren Woessner
228 Parker Backstrom
226 Peder Svingen
219 William Marengo
217 Gary Simonson
215 Ruth Andberg
210 Jim Williams
202 Elaine McKenzie

Houston County

232 Raymond Glassel
224 Anne Marie Plunkett
218 Robert B. Janssen
210 Ken LaFond

Hubbard County

225 Raymond Glassel
212 Ken LaFond
210 Robert B. Janssen

Isanti County

232 Ken LaFond
224 Raymond Glassel
206 Robert B. Janssen

Itasca County

210 Raymond Glassel
208 Al Bolduc
208 Ken LaFond
204 Robert B. Janssen

Jackson County

225 Raymond Glassel

221 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond

Kanabec County

227 Ken LaFond
225 Raymond Glassel
208 Robert B. Janssen
206 Craig Menze

Kandiyohi County

233 Raymond Glassel
230 Randy Frederickson
219 Robert B. Janssen
215 Ronald Erpelding
212 Ken LaFond
201 Jan Chapin

Kittson County

219 Raymond Glassel
213 Ken LaFond
210 Robert B. Janssen
202 Karl Bardon

Koochiching County

228 Ken LaFond
208 Raymond Glassel
202 Robert B. Janssen

Lac Qui Parle County

238 Raymond Glassel
238 Robert B. Janssen
231 Bill Litkey
229 Al Bolduc
215 Gary Swanson
212 Ken LaFond
205 Henry Kyllingstad

Lake County

233 Dan Versaw
231 Steve Wilson
221 Mary Shedd
220 Raymond Glassel
213 Ken LaFond
206 Robert B. Janssen

Lake of the Woods County

218 Raymond Glassel
217 Shelley Steva
214 Robert B. Janssen
210 Kim Eckert
205 Ken LaFond
203 Keith Steva
201 Peder Svingen

Le Sueur County

246 Raymond Glassel
223 Robert B. Janssen
205 Ken LaFond
202 Peder Svingen

Lincoln County

218 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
201 Ken LaFond

Lyon County

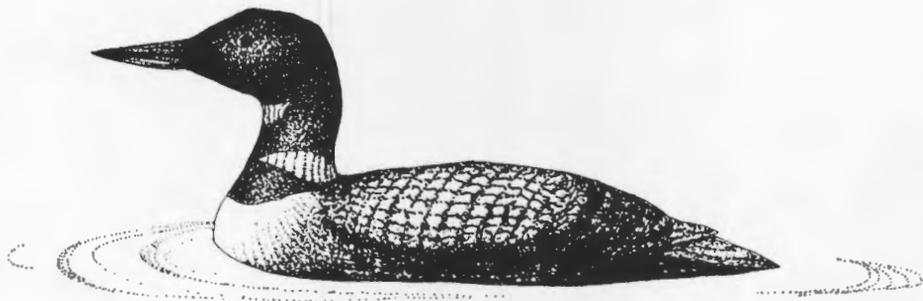
263 Henry Kyllingstad
229 Raymond Glassel
223 Robert B. Janssen
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217 Robert B. Janssen
216 Raymond Glassel
203 Ken LaFond

Marshall County

- 239 Shelley Steva
232 Raymond Glassel
224 Robert B. Janssen
220 Kim Eckert
216 Karl Bardon
209 Ken LaFond
209 Keith Steva
- Martin County**
220 Raymond Glassel
210 Robert B. Janssen
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203 Ken LaFond
- Meeker County**
226 Raymond Glassel
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216 Robert B. Janssen
- Millie Lacs County**
233 Ken LaFond
226 Raymond Glassel
218 Robert B. Janssen
- Morrison County**
227 Raymond Glassel
226 Ken LaFond
212 Robert B. Janssen
- Mower County**
251 Ronald Kneeskern
250 Rose Kneeskern
230 Dick Smaby
223 Raymond Glassel
217 Anne Marie Plunkett
209 Robert B. Janssen
201 Ken LaFond
- Murray County**
229 Nelvina De Kam
221 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Nicollet County**
246 Raymond Glassel
232 Robert B. Janssen
204 Ken LaFond
- Nobles County**
216 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
204 Nelvina De Kam
200 Ken LaFond
- Norman County**
217 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
203 Ken LaFond
- Olmsted County**
279 Anne Marie Plunkett
277 Jerry Bonkoski
259 Joan Fowler
256 Jerry Pruett
238 Raymond Glassel
230 Charles Krulas
225 Jeff Stephenson
223 Helen Tucker
217 Robert B. Janssen
209 Jesse Wallace
205 Ken LaFond
- Otter Tail County**
272 Steve Millard
226 Raymond Glassel
- 219 Robert B. Janssen
218 Ken LaFond
- Pennington County**
238 Shelley Steva
219 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Pine County**
236 Ken LaFond
232 Raymond Glassel
217 Robert B. Janssen
202 Betsy Beneke
- Pipestone County**
216 Raymond Glassel
204 Robert B. Janssen
203 Kim Eckert
203 Ken LaFond
202 Nelvina De Kam
- Polk County**
233 Shelley Steva
232 Peder Svingen
229 Al Bolduc
229 Raymond Glassel
227 Robert B. Janssen
209 Ken LaFond
- Pope County**
223 Raymond Glassel
220 Robert B. Janssen
202 Ken LaFond
- Ramsey County**
270 Raymond Glassel
264 Bill Litkey
257 Liz Campbell
249 Karl Bardon
249 Robert B. Janssen
244 Tom Soulen
231 Dick Rengstorf
230 Ken LaFond
230 Elaine McKenzie
223 Robert Holtz
209 Al Bolduc
205 Frank Berdan
- Red Lake County**
211 Raymond Glassel
211 Robert B. Janssen
202 Ken LaFond
- Redwood County**
226 Raymond Glassel
220 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Renville County**
235 Raymond Glassel
222 Robert B. Janssen
208 Ken LaFond
- Rice County**
259 Orwin Rustad
253 Tom Boevers
252 Raymond Glassel
243 Forest Strnad
221 Robert B. Janssen
219 Kirk Jeffrey
212 Anne Marie Plunkett
205 Ken LaFond
- Rock County**
243 Kim Eckert
223 Raymond Glassel
214 Nelvina De Kam
208 Robert B. Janssen
- 202 Ken LaFond
- Roseau County**
256 Peder Svingen
233 Karl Bardon
231 Raymond Glassel
224 Robert B. Janssen
211 Ken LaFond
202 Shelley Steva
- Saint Louis County**
317 Kim Eckert
298 Mike Hendrickson
285 Burnett Hojnacki
280 Parker Backstrom
280 Robert B. Janssen
278 Raymond Glassel
277 Doug Johnson
275 Dave Benson
268 Bill Penning
268 Peder Svingen
262 Bill Litkey
260 Mark Stensaas
255 Ken LaFond
245 Dennis Martin
245 Terry Wiens
241 Al Bolduc
236 Steven Schon
231 Gary Swanson
226 William Marengo
222 Dick Sandve
221 Jim Williams
218 Anne Marie Plunkett
213 Scott Mehus
212 Steve Wilson
211 Henry Kyllingstad
210 Karl Bardon
209 Oscar Johnson
202 Craig Menze
201 Jerry Bonkoski
- Scott County**
259 Raymond Glassel
234 Robert B. Janssen
216 Kathy Heidel
215 Karol Gresser
208 Ken LaFond
207 Al Bolduc
- Sherburne County**
244 Raymond Glassel
235 Robert B. Janssen
235 Ken LaFond
225 Jay Hamernick
203 Gary Swanson
- Sibley County**
243 Raymond Glassel
230 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Stearns County**
274 Nestor M. Hiemenz
240 Kim Eckert
237 Raymond Glassel
228 Ken LaFond
224 Robert B. Janssen
- Steele County**
241 Raymond Glassel
216 Robert B. Janssen
210 Anne Marie Plunkett
200 Ken LaFond
- Stevens County**
223 Raymond Glassel
- 213 Robert B. Janssen
202 Ken LaFond
- Swift County**
229 Raymond Glassel
220 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Todd County**
236 Ken LaFond
226 Raymond Glassel
212 Robert B. Janssen
- Traverse County**
227 Raymond Glassel
216 Robert B. Janssen
201 Ken LaFond
- Wabasha County**
248 Raymond Glassel
241 Don Mahle
239 Helen Tucker
228 Anne Marie Plunkett
225 Robert B. Janssen
218 Bill Litkey
210 Ken LaFond
200 Al Bolduc
- Wadena County**
215 Raymond Glassel
207 Robert B. Janssen
206 Ken LaFond
- Waseca County**
234 Raymond Glassel
215 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Washington County**
275 Raymond Glassel
267 Bill Litkey
248 Dick Rengstorf
246 Dave Sovereign
242 Robert B. Janssen
230 Ken LaFond
228 Liz Campbell
227 Tom Bell
202 Bill Penning
- Watsonwan County**
222 Raymond Glassel
220 Robert B. Janssen
200 Ken LaFond
- Wilkin County**
226 Raymond Glassel
219 Robert B. Janssen
203 Ken LaFond
- Winona County**
248 Raymond Glassel
247 Anne Marie Plunkett
247 Carol Schumacher
222 Robert B. Janssen
202 Ken LaFond
- Wright County**
255 Gary Swanson
247 Raymond Glassel
226 Ken LaFond
225 Robert B. Janssen
203 Al Bolduc
- Yellow Medicine County**
233 Raymond Glassel
218 Robert B. Janssen
203 Ken LaFond
- 2509 Talmage Ave SE,
Minneapolis MN 55414



NOTES OF INTEREST

A MINNESOTA FALL SAGE THRASHER — For the past couple of years, I've been checking the Twin Cities International Airport for migrants. The airport is a unique setting, as it resembles a short-grass prairie in the middle of a large metropolitan area. There are even a few jack rabbits which inhabit the area. In any event, on 23 October 1994, around 11:00 A.M., I was checking the garden area at the east end of 66th Street for possible vagrants. This spot seems to have potential for a stray longspur, Lark Bunting, or vagrant flycatcher. I spotted a bird (larger than the numerous sparrows) sitting in a Chinese Elm. The head of the bird was obscured by leaves. Its coloration suggested a Vesper Sparrow. When the bird repositioned itself, I recognized it immediately as a Sage Thrasher. I was able to approach within 30 feet of a metal fencepost where the bird perched quietly for over ten minutes. This allowed detailed observation right down to the yellow-gold iris. After getting great looks at the bird, I headed for a pay phone. I was able to contact only one birder via phone. Returning to the scene for a second time, I heard the soft twittering warble of the Sage Thrasher. Within 30 minutes, there were probably over 20 birders at the garden. The thrasher was relocated after about a 20-minute search. Interestingly, the bird would not leave the garden even in the presence of many people. Once it flew off to the north, but came back to the garden minutes later. The bird stayed in the same area for over a week. This observation was the sixth Minnesota record, but only the second fall record. The first Minnesota record was also a fall record of a road-killed bird in Yellow Medicine County on 19 October 1974 (*The Loon* 47:129). Note that these October dates are only four days apart if the years are ignored. I would estimate that over 100 birders were able to see this accidental migrant. All of this based on a single phone call! This bird is proof that birding networks really can be effective. **Tom Tustison, 335 S Cleveland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.**



FEMALE "LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER IN MINNEAPOLIS — On 14 August 1994, I found a female "Lawrence's" Warbler with a small, mixed group of warblers at T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary in Minneapolis. The birds were part of the season's first real influx of migrant warblers into the Twin Cities area. While observing the "Lawrence's" for several minutes, over a half-hour period, from distances of 30 to 75 feet, I noted the following: crown orangish-yellow, brighter, more orange, and more extensive than a Golden-winged's; face patch blackish-gray, darker than a Golden-winged's, especially through the eye, as if the usual gray patch were overlaid with a Blue-winged's black eye line; gray throat patch, bordered on each side with



a narrow, whitish area; underparts strongly washed with yellow from directly beneath the throat patch to a point beyond the legs, brightest on the breast and palest at the legs; undertail coverts white; wings bluish-gray with two wide, well-separated, white wing bars; tail bluish-gray with prominent, white tail spots. I never had a good look at the back color. Although I have seen "Brewster's" Warblers a number of times during spring and fall migration, this was my first "Lawrence's." Looking through back issues of *The Flicker* and *The Loon* from 1945 to the present, I found fewer than ten records of this hybrid. Minnesota's first "Lawrence's" Warbler record is from 22 May 1945, when a male was seen at Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. The next record I found (an intervening record is implied by Ron Huber in "The Spring Season" for 1965; *The Loon* 37:141), is of a male seen by many observers at Vasa, Goodhue County, during May and June of 1965. The following year, a male was again present at Vasa during June. The remaining records are as follows: 17-19 May 1984, Itasca County (a female; see *The Loon* 59:213-13 for a description of this bird's plumage); 15 May 1988, Hubbard County (sex?); 14 May 1988 and 13 May 1989, Fillmore County (same location, both males); and 24 June 1993, Becker County (sex?). With the exception of this August 1994 observation, all records of the "Lawrence's" Warbler in Minnesota are from May and June. Steve Carlson, 3904 Xenwood Ave. S., St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

LATE FALL BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER IN CHISAGO COUNTY — I



first saw the warbler and originally thought it was strange because it was in its spring plumage. After identifying it in the field guide, I went out to get a picture, if possible. It seemed to be hanging around with some Golden-crowned Kinglets, and feeding on the seeds of a lilac bush (seen in the photo provided). It didn't seem to be terribly disturbed by my presence and I was able to get fairly close. Unfortunately, it was always in the shadows later in the day, not the best light for good photos of a very active bird. The bird was mainly staying in the lilac bush and would fly to

a nearby spruce stand or onto the roof of the house. The bird was not seen again after October 29. Larry O. Waddell, 11440 Loftman Trail, North Branch, MN 55056.



Black-throated Gray Warbler, 29 October 1994, Amador Township, Chisago County. Photo by Larry O. Waddell.

POSSIBLE BREEDING FOR CLARK'S GREBES IN MINNESOTA — Ray Glassel



and I were looking over the Western Grebes on the west side of Minnesota Lake at mid-morning on 9 July 1994. We estimated 100+ Western Grebe adults, plus many young birds in all stages of development. We had our scopes set up on the shore, looking east and north. Light conditions were perfect — sunny and bright. I first noticed two young grebes, probably a week or so old (a guess on my part) out in the lake to the northeast, swimming to the west. Both birds were very white; the head and neck were pure white, the body was also a dirty white, with dark only on back.

The main thing was the fact that these two birds contrasted sharply with Western Grebe young of a similar age. I believe these two birds were young Clark's Grebes. No adult bird could be found near these two birds. I then turned my attention to a group of Western Grebes about 100 yards to the north, swimming along the edge of some emergent vegetation, and noticed almost immediately two juvenile grebes about 3/4 the size of an adult (by direct comparison). These two birds were the same as the two younger birds described above — total white heads and necks, light body to waterline, only dark on back (light gray), little or no dark on crown or down nape. While watching these two juveniles, an adult grebe surfaced and fed one of the birds (I couldn't tell what). The adult was a Clark's Grebe — crown dark black, with orange-yellow thin line down back of nape, half the width of nearby Western Grebe; eye totally surrounded by white; cheek, neck, breast a brilliant white; back dark gray, lighter on sides. We did not hear any vocalization because we were too far away. We watched this adult Clark's appear and disappear for over half an hour, intermittently feeding the young. I never did see the smaller juvenile again. This is not surprising because Western Grebes were disappearing in and out of the emergent vegetation at all times. We had very good comparison with young and adult Western Grebes — many young Western Grebes were at the same stages of development as the Clark's. We never saw more than one adult Clark's at any one time. I do believe that there were two broods (two young in each) of Clark's Grebes on Minnesota Lake at the time we were observing these birds. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305.**

Editor's Note: On 16 July 1994, Anthony Hertzell noted in the same area as mentioned above, a single adult Clark's Grebe with a downy young bird on its back, giving further evidence that possibly one or more pairs of Clark's Grebe nested on Minnesota Lake.

LATE EASTERN WOOD-PEWEES: WINONA COUNTY — At 10:30 A.M. on 3 October 1994, while birding Prairie Island, Winona, I didn't want to believe my ears: an Eastern Wood-Pewee? Shortly thereafter, the bird was found.



This flycatcher was smaller than nearby tail-pumping Eastern Phoebes. It had no eye ring, but had faint wing bars. Then another, and another Eastern Wood-Pewee were found. A brood this late? Three immatures were lined up on a branch, as Eastern Wood-Pewees do after fledging, and a fourth bird was perched nearby. One made continuous begging "chee" sounds. Another made a sound more similar to typical plaintive "peeee

wee," but it had the sing-song quality of an American Goldfinch in flight, causing me to do another double-take and look unsuccessfully for American Goldfinch. The observation of this Eastern Wood-Pewee group lasted 15 minutes. On 4 October, a strong "peeee wee" call was heard again at 7:40 A.M. After checking the nearer sparrows, I followed the sound, did not relocate the Eastern Wood-Pewee and assumed it had flown. Even though this area was birded daily, these birds were not heard or seen again. On 11 October, again birding Prairie Island in a different location than where the early October birds had been, I observed a small flycatcher land on a tree top. The bird did not pump its tail. This flycatcher's head and back were one color — gray. The breast was off-white, with a slight vested look.

There was no eye ring and only faint wing bars. Based on behavior, size, and field marks, I suspected an Eastern Wood-Pewee. I then whistled a plaintive "peeee wee" and the bird responded in kind. My observation lasted five minutes. On 12 October, the bird was seen again in the same tree and was with what appeared to be the same mixed flock. While the call is diagnostic, the Eastern Phoebe was ruled out since it is larger, usually has a darker head, pumps tail often, and is usually found in more open habitat and fields at Prairie Island. Its call is "fee bee," accent on the first syllable. According to Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota* (1988), these sightings are a late state record. **Carol Schumacher, 1411 Skyline Drive, Winona, MN 55987.**

Editor's Note: The previous late date for Eastern Wood-Pewee was 10 October 1993 in Hennepin County.

ALBINO HUMMINGBIRD IN CROW WING COUNTY — On Thursday, 26 August



1994, Ken and Mina Nystrom of Rabbitt Lake in the Village of Cuyuna called and reported an albino hummingbird at their feeder that morning. We told them to call us if they saw it again, which they did about 5:00 P.M. We went immediately to their home and watched from a dining area at their feeder hanging on the deck. About 7:00 P.M., we saw a cream-colored tail on the back side of the feeder. Jo went to look through a kitchen window where the back side of the feeder was visible, and saw that the hummingbird was white with some yellow on the top of the head. The

bird fed briefly and flew off, and we then sat out on the deck in the event it would come back. After approximately a half-hour, Steve got up to close the patio screen and as he did so, the bird zipped in and away from the feeder and we only saw a white bird flying away. The Nystroms did not see the bird the next day, but a neighbor reported it 28 August. Warren Nelson and we spent several hours watching for the bird on the 29th, but did not see it and it was not seen again. **Jo and Steve Blanich, HC61 Box 46D-3, Deerwood, MN 56444.**

POMARINE JAEGER AT PARK POINT — On 20 September 1994, at 10:15 A.M. with



winds easterly at 10 mph, while looking for jaegers near the beach house at Park Point in Duluth, I was startled to see a loose flock of five jaegers gradually approach to within 75 yards of the beach! At least four of the birds circled one another leisurely before landing on the water together. Two were obviously adult light morph Parasitics, one was a dark (probably immature) jaeger, and the other two were not identified before they splashed down. On the water, the adults' gull-shaped bills with a terminal hook, dark brown (blackish) cap, buff-yellow hindnape and collar, brown

back, and brown wings with pale markings on the bases of the primaries were noted. I ran back to my car for a camera, in case they continued toward the beach. It took several minutes to relocate them in the choppy surface of Lake Superior and they were farther away (about 100 yards). Two jaegers then suddenly took flight, both chasing the same Ring-billed Gull. One was larger than the other, flew more ponderously with slower wing beats, and looked bulkier in the body (especially the chest). Its central tail feathers were thick and blunt, even when seen from the side, but never looked "twisted" to me. The smaller jaeger (an adult light-morph Parasitic, about the same size as the gull) had comparatively longer, narrower, and obviously pointed central retrices. After concentrating on the tail differences, I looked for but could not detect the "double flash" on the underwing primary coverts that I remembered seeing on juvenile Pomarines during California pelagic trips; subsequent reading informed me that this field mark is not only invalid on subadults and adults, but also of limited use in juveniles (Kaufman 1990, *Advanced Birding*, pp. 88-101). This Pomarine appeared to be a light morph adult with a brown chest band, although

the length and lack of "twisted" appearance to the central retrices might indicate a subadult, as four years are required to reach definitive adult plumage. The following morning on the 21st with calm winds, I enjoyed even better views of two adult Parasitics as they chased gulls or rested on the perfectly smooth surface of Lake Superior in the same area. Although up to three jaegers at a time were intermittently reported by myself and other observers through 25 September, the Pomarine was apparently never re-found. This is the first report of a Pomarine Jaeger in Minnesota since 1982. **Peder Svingen, 2602 E. 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812-1533.**

Editor's Note: On 2 and 3 October, there were also three possible sightings of Pomarine Jaegers at Park Point, a juvenile dark morph and an adult light morph. However, none of the observers were able to see the birds well enough for a positive identification.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER NEAR MCKEOWEN LAKE, CASS COUNTY —



Others with me: family members with little birding experience. Others before/after me: None known. Description: A rather large, dark bird perched horizontally on a leaning snag. On closer inspection, the bird showed a woodpecker posture, being perched parallel to the trunk of the snag, which was nearly horizontal. The bill was long, dark, and straight, the head and face dark. A gray band, continuous with a gray breast, passed around the neck, including the nape. The back and wings were black with hints of green iridescence when the bird moved. The tail was dark and

showed stiff, pointed tail feathers when it shifted its perch. The belly and flanks were a purplish color. As it moved, the dark face showed a bright red color on the cheek. After remaining on the perch for ten minutes, the bird flew across the lake, showing a heavy-bodied bird in level flight. At this time, its large size was again evident, appearing heavier and larger than a male Common Grackle. Similar species and differentiation: the posture, size of the bill, and stiff, pointed, short tail feathers identified the bird as a woodpecker. The coloration, including the purplish belly, gray breast and nape stripe, red face and green/black back, wings, head and tail were diagnostic. Also, the Lewis' is the only woodpecker devoid of white or pale tan coloration. Conditions — light, distance and optics: Minolta 10X50 binoculars, 60 feet, direct, side lighting. Previous experience with species: seen three or four times in the Nebraska panhandle, as well as a vagrant bird in western Iowa. References: *National Geographic Field Guide*. Notes taken a few hours after sighting. Documented 6/7/94. **Bill Huser, 401 E. 14th St., South Sioux City, NE 68776.**

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER AT SIBLEY STATE PARK —



I was anticipating a restful day with my wife, Diane, our two young children, and my in-law family at Sibley State Park on Saturday, 28 May 1994. The weather was uneventfully placid, the date was past peak spring migration time, and I expected only the usual woodland birds at Sibley. Thus, I relaxed into a laid-back birder mode. (As it happened, I had been somewhat surprised earlier in the day to find an Acadian Flycatcher persistently calling for pizza from our campground at Monson Lake State Park — surely that was the bird of the trip!) But after we parked at a quiet, lightly wooded

lakeside picnic area and began unpacking the cooler and other lunch provisions, I became aware of a persistent and fairly loud warbler-like song. It was coming from less than 100 feet away, across the mowed turf. The notes were descending steadily in pitch; this did not seem to fit any of the usual Minnesota warblers. The only warbler song that came to mind was the Yellow-throated, but that option seemed preposterous. I had just heard and seen this species at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia less than three weeks earlier. Those individuals had been high up in pine trees. One that I heard at Caddo Lake State Park in Texas last summer could not even be seen because it perched very high in a dense pine

forest. Thus, finding one perched on a dead oak branch, not the least bit obscured and less than 15 feet above the ground, was astonishing. It was easy to observe the yellow throat with black streaks along the side, the striking black and white markings on the side of the head. The bird was so cooperative that several other people from my party were able to watch it for as long as they wanted, and I recorded the song. The bird sang from this same area for nearly an hour, but stopped by the time we left. I had little confidence that the bird would remain long in such unlikely habitat. It was only out of duty that I reported the sighting to the Minnesota Rare Bird Alert. Bob Janssen later informed me that a number of people were able to see this bird over a period of days, and that he got some great photographs. **Dennis Wiesenborn, Fargo, North Dakota 58102.**

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER OBSERVATION — On Saturday, 8 October 1994,



there was a Yellow-throated Warbler in the garden at my house at the address below. It was with a flock of juncos. It fluttered among the flowers and woodpile, then spent most of its time under the eaves of the house, either looking for bugs or perhaps just for a way out. It was around for about a half-hour, then left and could not be found again. Description, made at the time of sighting: "Yellow throat, white eyebrow, white cheek, two white wing bars, black flank streaks, gray back." All field marks were bright and obvious. The day was bright; the bird was observed from 10–20

feet away. I do not know if it was male or female. I enclose four photos taken from inside the house through a slightly grimy window with a Nikon FE2 with a 35–135mm zoom lens and very old 200 ASA print film. **John F. Lane, 10315 Dellwood Road N., Stillwater, MN 55082.**

OCTOBER BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: WINONA COUNTY — On 20 October



1994, while birding Prairie Island after work, my pishing had deteriorated, as usual, to the rhythm and pitch of the Black-capped Chickadee's "fee-bee," so when I heard a two-part nasal call note overhead and thought it to be a chickadee, I was surprised to see a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The contact notes of these two species can be incredibly similar. But wait ... a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in October? My latest record date had been 22 September and this year the last Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen 16 September. Concerned that I might not have a long view, I ticked through the

features I saw: a small, trim bird, blue-gray above, pure white below, white eye ring, cocked tail with white outer-tail feathers. The bird was in adult plumage, which is more blue than in immatures, which have more gray-brown tones. As it turned out, the bird was seen several times through 28 October in about the same location. This is the second October record in Minnesota for this species. But not the last I'd see in 1994! I also saw the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher found by Mike Hendrickson while on a field trip in Grand Marais, Cook County, on 5 November 1994! **Carol Schumacher, 1411 Skyline Drive, Winona, MN 55987.**

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD OBSERVATIONS: WINONA — Plantings of



Weigelia, the potting of dozens of red petunias nearby, and moving the hummingbird feeders to the deck this May for better visibility, all paid off with many Ruby-throated Hummingbird sightings during the summer. On the Minnesota Birding Weekend trip to Arizona in August 1994, with visits to the Ramsey Canyon and the Patton and Spofford residences, I was truly hooked on hummingbirds, and thus another feeder (the third) was added to my deck. On 18 August, the last adult Ruby-throated Hummingbird male sighting of the season was noted. About 2:00 P.M. on 19

August, I noticed increased activity at the feeders and flowers, and I sat down for a great hummingbird show. But would the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds tolerate my sitting on the deck as they tolerated the birders at the Spoffords in Arizona? They didn't seem to even notice my presence. Darting, chasing, threatening, hovering — action-packed for sure. I was even able to separate them by breast and throat marks made by various degrees of molt. On little pieces of paper, I drew the markings to see how many hummingbirds were present. In observations between 2:30 P.M. and 6:00 P.M., nine Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present. There was one dominant male (immature) and one dominant female. It became easy to distinguish males and females even without side-by-side comparison, using shape as a guide. Males have a pudgy look. Females' tails are longer and have white edgings. Hardly ever did more than one hummingbird use one feeder at one time. Signs of territorial behavior in migration were certainly there. Some repeatedly returned to the same feeder, others had a "route" or sequence of feeders they used. They would perch on trees/shrubs bordering the deck, and while they perched, binoculars could be used to differentiate them; the feeders were too close. On 21 August, the dominant immature male was gone and the dominant female took charge of his feeder. At least five of the same birds remained. My favorite at the dinner table during this period at the bay window feeder was the blotchy immature male. He had irregular marks on every body part — head, breast, belly, and back, and he had a very small white eye spot. His crown feathers stood on end, giving him a "punk doo." He was a very aggressive bird, chasing other hummingbirds from the other two feeders before he would begin to feed again at the window. Through the rest of August and September, business was steady. New arrivals were easy to identify; they would bypass the feeders for flowers, and try for nectar from the 1/4 inch red outline of the outdoor thermometer. On 17 and 18 September, none were seen, indicating all the local holdovers may have left. A new migrant with other markings was seen 19 September, and on 22 September, one bumped into the living room window and flew off. From 26 to 30 September, yet another hummingbird used the smallest feeder most regularly. Its prompt arrival at 7:05 A.M. seemed odd until I realized it most probably coincided with the sunrise. On 1 October, yet another female immature bird arrived. On 2 October, it perched near a feeder for lengthy views and a whitish mark could be distinguished on the right wing. Its last recorded visit was 3 October at 7:01 A.M. When I didn't see it after work, I assumed it was gone. It was not seen again. The feeders are left up until a hard freeze in hopes a stray Rufous or Anna's Hummingbird would make an appearance. In several locations this summer around the Winona area, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present and they seemed more numerous than in recent years. But the best show was of migrants at my own deck. **Carol Schumacher, 1411 Skyline Drive, Winona, MN 55987.**

FERRUGINOUS HAWK SEEN IN RED LAKE COUNTY — On Sunday, 28 August



1994, we saw a Ferruginous Hawk in Red Lake County. The bird was seen in Section 14, Gervais Township, south of Red Lake County Road 23, sitting on a bale of hay. Even before we came upon the bird, we could see him atop the hay bale since he was very large. The breast and belly were white, the back was white, and the head was white. In fact, except for a blackish-looking eyebrow mark and red-brown wings, there was no sign of color anywhere. The bird had his neck stretched out and with that eyebrow mark, he reminded us more of a harpy eagle than any North

American bird! We both agreed the bird merited a closer look, for he would have been the strangest-looking Red-tailed we had ever seen. We started to review the field marks of Ferruginous Hawks. When we returned, the bird still hadn't moved and his neck was still stretched out. The bird then took off (he was 15 yards away then) and flew over the car, to about 100 yards away. It was Keith who noticed that there were white feathers on the legs all the way down to the feet. That distinguishes Ferruginous Hawks from Red-taileds. I

noticed the white tail tipped with red on the end. Now I have noticed many Red-taileds with white on their tails, but the white on a typical Red-tailed is generally one quarter of the tail or less; on this bird's tail, the white was over two-thirds of the length of the tail before it was tipped with red. The wing linings were whiter than I remembered typical Red-taileds being, with only blackish wing tips and markings down the middle of the wings being the only other colors showing. When we got home, we consulted the *National Geographic* and the Audubon *Master Guide*. In the second picture of the *Master Guide*, under light-phase immature Ferruginous Hawks, was "our bird." Our bird had its neck stretched out more and an even paler head. We believe this sighting is unusual because of its location (Red Lake County is too small and agricultural to have many rare birds), and unless it was a summering bird, it is an early date (28 August) for fall migration. **Shelley and Keith Steva, Route 4, Box 18, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.**

A NOVEMBER HUMMINGBIRD IN RED WING — On or about 13 November 1994,



the LeRoy Haverlandts of 529 - 12th St., Red Wing, Goodhue County, noticed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in their yard. By 20 November, they had enticed the bird into a heated back entryway by moving the feeder into the area. Mrs. Haverlandt keeps plants in the area during the winter. I heard about the bird on 3 December 1994 and contacted the Haverlandts on 6 December. The bird was alive and well as of that date. I visited the Haverlandt residence on 7 December 1994, but unfortunately the bird had died shortly before I arrived. I identified the specimen as that

of a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The specimen was turned over to the collection at the University of Minnesota. This represents the second record for a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Minnesota during November (see *The Loon* 64:183-188) and the second species of hummingbird to occur in the state (see Anna's Hummingbird records, *The Loon* 63:225-231 and 66:4-6). **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55305.**

MINNESOTA'S SECOND WHITE-WINGED DOVE — On 15 September 1994, while



counting hawks at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, St Louis County, I observed a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) flying past the Main Overlook. I found it while I was scanning the sky for raptors. It appeared close, heading toward me and flying directly over the ridge. The dove appeared at 2:25 P.M. from the northeast and headed in a southwesterly direction, and it was in view for about 45 seconds and at its closest was 30-40 yards away. As the bird flew toward me, I could see that it was a large dove, with a heavy body. Its flight was fast and direct like that of a dove and

unlike that of a Rock Dove. The wingbeat was steady and without pause. At this time, I started to suspect it might be a White-winged Dove. When the bird was almost parallel to me and the ridge I was then able to see the white wing patches, and called it to other's attention. The overall color of the bird appeared to be brownish-gray. The rectangular-shaped white wing patches were parallel to the wing axis. The large white patches covered the medium and greater coverts of the upperwing. There was no white present on the flight feathers which were dark. The tail was shorter and rounded with white tail tips at the corners. I have seen this species and have much experience with this and the other dove species that occur in the southern U.S. Kim Eckert was present at the time, but he was unable to see it in time to observe any diagnostic field marks. The only other observer was Larry Love of the Twin Cities, who wrote the following description just after the observation and before he consulted any field guides: "Large dove shape. 10-11". Flying fast, continuous wing beat, showing large white patch on wings. Brownish gray to darker gray. Had a Mourning Dove look, but heavier in body. Tail seemed longer than regular dove.

Wing patch close to body, did not extend the total distance of the wing. Light overcast, good light." This occurrence of a White-winged Dove represents the second Minnesota state record. The first record was on 13 October 1985 at the Lakewood Pumping Station in Duluth (*The Loon*, 58:92-93. I would like to thank Kim Eckert for reviewing an earlier draft of this paper. Frank J. Nicoletti, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, 432 Manitou Beach Road, Hilton, NY 14468

MISSISSIPPI KITE IN ANOKA COUNTY — On 16 September 1994, an immature



Mississippi Kite was observed in residential Coon Rapids, Anoka County, as it caught insects and ate them on the wing. I had just arrived home from a summer spent in Alaska and was unpacking my car as I searched the skies for possible raptors or

other migrants. A cold front had moved through the day before, and strong northwest winds were blowing in the promise of fall migrants. I instantly recognized this bird as a kite by the slim, falcon-like profile, the buoyant flight, and the darkish wings and tail with a paler head, but the bird was flying away from me, over the trees, and it was necessary to pursue it with my car to get a better look. I was able to relocate the bird near the entrance to the Coon Rapids Dam, and watch it for about five to ten minutes as it soared directly overhead. The tail was fanned continually, often displaying a conspicuous pattern of broad dark bands and three or four narrower whitish bands, similar to the banding on a Merlin or adult Red-shouldered Hawk. This pattern was obvious even against an overcast sky, with the paler bands showing as window-like stripes across the tail. The underparts were heavily marked with large streaks, becoming paler toward the head. Although I am not certain just how white the head was, the head did contrast with the very dark underwings and the heavily marked underparts. Observation of the plumage feathers of this bird was difficult due to the overcast skies, but the heavily banded tail was seen clearly many times with binoculars, and the streaked underparts were observed through a spotting scope quickly set up and used at 20X. The underwings were mostly dark, but there appeared to be a slightly paler area oriented longitudinally along the center of the wing. The most striking feature of this bird involved its flight style and shape. Although quite falcon-like in appearance, this bird flew with more grace and buoyancy than any falcon, sailing about in tight circles and executing swift dives to catch insects. It rarely flapped, but when it did, the wingbeats were slower and more relaxed than a falcon, without the swift and fluid rowing beats of a typical falcon in level flight. I could see the kite bring its legs to its bill after executing its graceful turns and swift dives, presumably to eat the insects it had just caught. This behavior was seen at least five or six times in just a few minutes. The shape of this bird was different from a Merlin or Peregrine as well, with proportionately longer wings, smaller body, smaller head, and a longer tail that was held slightly fanned throughout my observation. This bird was clearly larger than a Merlin; I would estimate it



to have been more similar to a Peregrine in size. The dorsal side of this bird was never seen. I have previously seen hundreds of Mississippi Kites during migration in Texas. **Karl Bardon, 1430 - 100th Ave. NW, #212, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.**

UNUSUAL PURPLE MARTIN NESTING — On 21 June 1994, while passing through



Lake City, Wabasha County, I was surprised to see an adult Purple Martin male fly into one of the cones on an emergency siren complex located near the riverfront. The next day, I returned to the site and observed two pairs of martins feeding small young in nests built in the siren cones. One of the males of the two nesting pairs was in adult plumage and the other in sub-adult. I presume the females were of the same age make-up. A sub-adult bachelor male was also present, flying in and out of the complex.

The cones were about 15" to 20" in diameter, tapering to about 12", and were about 15" to 20" long. The nests were placed at the far end of the cones and very much resembled Barn Swallow nests. The nest fronts were built up so high that the adults had a tight squeeze entering; there appeared to be a lot of wing stretching and tail fanning by the birds when entering the nests. In my experience, this is an unusual nesting site for Purple Martins. Perhaps an MOU member from Lake City knows if the birds have nested there before. The only non-birdhouse nesting I had seen was in Grand Rapids, Itasca County, about 15 years ago, where a sub-adult pair was feeding young in a nest built under the marquee over the gas pumps of an auto service station. **Russell B. Hofstead, 1118 - 6th Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075-3230.**



Editor's Note: It would be interesting to know if the sirens were still in use while the martins were nesting. Possibly someone in Lake City could let us know. Also, it would be interesting to know if any young fledged.

LAUGHING GULL IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY — Several days of strong winds from



the west suggested to me that birding in the western counties might produce something interesting, so early on 19 October 1994, I drove to Wilkin County. The

weather was poor, and with on-again off-again drizzle all day, birding was not good either. With not much to see in Wilkin County, I decided to drive the back roads of Otter Tail County, and at about noon I came upon a large flock of mostly Ring-billed Gulls. The birds were feeding in a recently harvested corn field about five miles west of the town of Elizabeth, along Otter Tail County Road 10. In among the hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls were perhaps 25 or 30 Franklin's Gulls. As I moved toward them, the birds seemed nervous, getting up and flying about. This made a close approach very difficult. Scanning the flock from a distance with binoculars, I noticed a gull in the air that was superficially similar to the Franklin's Gulls, but with enough differences to warrant closer examination through my scope. The



general appearance was that of a Franklin's Gull in adult winter plumage. The poor lighting conditions made viewing the subtle field marks difficult, but there were enough substantial differences for me to conclude that this was a winter-plumaged Laughing Gull. It was slightly larger than the Franklin's Gulls and tended to feed by itself. The wings were dark gray dorsally with black wingtips and white tail. The color of the back was about the same dark gray as that of the wings. This bird differed most obviously from Franklin's Gull in that there was no white anywhere on the upper surface of the wing (except along the trailing edge). There were no white spots within the black of the outer primaries, nor was there any white line separating the black outer primaries from the dark gray of the rest of the wing. The black of the wingtips extended much farther into the wing than on the nearby Franklin's Gulls, and reached along the leading edge of the wing nearly to the wrist. I have never seen this much black on any Franklin's Gull. The underwing was white, but the outer third or so became a medium gray, similar in appearance to Common Black-headed Gull, but more clearly defined and without the white flash. The wings were longer than Franklin's Gull and appeared to have a greater primary extension, but again, viewing conditions — especially with the wind — limited how much of this I could really see. The head was nearly white with just a dark smudge about the ear. The legs and bill appeared dark, if not black. All of the gulls were moving — flying about, landing, feeding, then taking off again. Eventually my presence caused all the gulls to take flight, circle a few times and depart. I did not see the bird after this. **Anthony Hertzelt, 2509 Talmage Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

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The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds; we aim to create and increase public interest in birds; and to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

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Suggestions to Authors

The editors of *The Loon* welcome submissions of articles, "Notes of Interest" and color or black & white photographs. Preferably, submissions should be typed, double-spaced and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two pages. Photographs should be 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a copy of your submission on any 3½ inch computer disk.

Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editors. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Peder Svingen. See inside front cover.



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