

The cover of the journal 'The Loon' features a photograph of a Common Loon in the foreground, standing on a rock in a body of water. The loon has a long, dark bill and brown and white mottled feathers. In the background, several Ring-billed Gulls are visible, along with green foliage and a blue sky.

# *The* **Loon**

SPRING 2006

VOLUME 78 — NUMBER 1

Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

**THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History  
University of Minnesota  
10 Church Street Southeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104

*The Loon*, Minnesota's journal of birds, is published four times each year by the MOU, the statewide bird organization. All members receive this publication and also our newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:**

Anthony X. Hertzell, 8461 Pleasant View Drive,  
Mounds View, MN 55112; editor@moumn.org.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE LOON:**

Karl Bardon, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Nancy  
Hertzell, Robert Janssen, Warren Nelson, Peder  
Svingen, Harrison Tordoff.

**MOU MEMBERSHIPS:**

Yearly donations to join the MOU: Single \$25;  
Youth (through age 17) \$15; Family \$35; Sup-  
porting \$75; Life \$500. Canadian and foreign  
subscriptions \$35. Also available are back is-  
sues of *The Loon* (\$5 each) and checklists of  
Minnesota birds (minimum of 20 for \$2).

**EDITOR OF MINNESOTA BIRDING:**

C. Hallie Skinner, 1658 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul,  
MN 55104; newsletter@moumn.org.

**MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:**

Statewide 763-780-8890  
Duluth 218-834-2858

**MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

mou@moumn.org

**MOU WEB SITE:**

<http://moumn.org>

**MOU E-MAIL LISTSERVICE, MOU-NET:**

For information on how to join, visit our web site  
at <http://moumn.org/listserv.html>.

**MOU OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Mark Alt, 3900 - 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Bill George, 2312 Old Beach Road, Wayzata MN 55391

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Elizabeth Bell, 5868 Pioneer Road S., Saint Paul Park MN 55071

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Shirley Alt, 3900 - 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**TREASURER:** Erika Sitz, 6521 - 154th Lane NW, Ramsey MN 55303

**MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**AWARDS:** Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**CONSERVATION:** Jan Green, 1754 Old North Shore Road, Duluth MN 55804

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:** Dave Cahlander, 2901 Foxpoint Road, Burnsville MN 55337

**MOU RECORDS:** Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth MN 55812

**NOMINATIONS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**PAPER SESSION:** Carroll Henderson, 640 - 119th Lane NE, Blaine MN 55434

**RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:** Robert Janssen, 162 Lakeview Road, Chanhassen MN 55317

**SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND:** Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S., St. Louis Park MN 55424

**YOUTH MENTORSHIP:** Robert Holtz, 668 Overlook Drive, Roseville MN 55113

**AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

**DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* Wendy Grethen, 4005 McCulloch Street, Duluth MN 55804

**HIAWATHA VALLEY BIRD CLUB OF WINONA** - *President:* Frank Schnurstein, R.R. 3 Box 287, Winona MN 55987

**MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* Margaret Mason, 4370 Brookside Court #217, Edina MN 55436

**MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER** - *President:* Anne Hanley, 15330 Lynn Terrace, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**MNBIRD** - *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, [carol@birdminnesota.com](mailto:carol@birdminnesota.com)

**NORTHWEST MINNESOTA BIRD SOCIETY** - *President:* Shelly Steva, R.R. 4 Box 18, Thief River Falls MN 56701

**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* Holly Peirson, 6548 - 141st Avenue NE, Forest Lake MN 55025

**ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* August Krueger, 1725 SE 8th Avenue, Rochester MN 55904

# The 2004–2005 Influx of Northern Owls

## Part IV: Unusual Coloration in Great Gray Owls

Anthony X. Hertzell

During the winter of 2004–2005, Minnesota experienced an unprecedented irruption of Great Gray Owls (*Strix nebulosa*) with well over 10,000 reports representing approximately 5,225 birds (Svingen and Lind 2005). With such a large sample, the opportunity to observe and document individual variation among the owls could not have been better. During this irruption, several Great Grays with some form of aberrant plumage were recorded in the state.

Definitions of “albinism” and “leucism” vary, but for the purposes of this paper these terms, as well as “melanism,” will be defined as follows:

*Albinism* is the absence of pigmentation resulting in white feathers and, in its complete form, pink eyes and bare parts.

*Partial albinism* is the absence of pigmentation in some part of a bird’s plumage resulting in white feathers or parts of a feather being white. Most records discussed in this paper refer to partial albinism.

*Leucism* (or dilute-plumage) is the reduced presence of pigments in the plumage, or a partial expression of color. This condition produces a paleness to the feathers and, usually, the entire bird.

*Melanism* is an abnormal excess of dark pigmentation which causes normally lighter feathers to be much darker, becoming brown or even black.

Care must be taken when evaluating specific birds for signs of albinism, leucism, or melanism. Pale birds are not necessarily albinistic or leucistic, while dark individuals are not necessarily melanistic. Within a given population of any species, individuals can occur in a variety of shades, often beyond an observer’s personal experience. Individual color variation can be extensive, and some species

occur in multiple color morphs. Many species show clear clinal variation and a majority have recognizable races. Other influences such as age, feather wear, lighting conditions, habitat, and in the case of photographed birds, exposure, film type, make of camera, gamma settings, sun angle, and a host of other factors also will affect a bird’s appearance. It is best to be well acquainted with a species before making statements about abnormal plumages. Herein are described Great Gray Owls that were documented as having clearly aberrant plumages. For examples of normal variation in Great Grays, see Figures 10 and 11.

### Historical Records of Albinism

Numerous compilations over the years by various researchers have enumerated known albinos or partial albinos. Apparent in the lists is an indication that albinism and leucism in owls is either rare or poorly documented, though the Great Gray seems to be the one owl species with the greatest number of documented cases (Alaja and Mikkola 1997). A few compilations are detailed below.

Ruthven Deane (1876, 1879, 1880) listed more than 120 species of North American birds known to have exhibited albinism. Among them is a single species of owl, *Symium nebulosum* (antiquated name for Barred Owl, *Strix varia*) the specimen of which is located in the Natural History Museum at Niagara Falls in Toronto, Canada, though the degree of albinism was not described. According to personnel at the museum, this bird is not a complete albino as has been asserted by later authors (e.g., Alaja and Mikkola 1997), but has flecks of light brown sprinkled throughout an otherwise white plumage. Charles A. Worthen (1896) listed 27 bird species with some



Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C. Leucistic Great Gray Owl, 8 June 2004, Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis County. Photos by Gary Nielsen.

degree of albinism, but none were owls. Richard McGregor (1896, 1900) offered 26 species that show some sign of albinism, but again, none were owls. Bryan Sage (1963) listed six known records of albinism in three species of British owls. Ross (1963, 1973) made an extensive study of albinism in both the literature and museum specimens, and found only five instances of albinism in four species of owl. Alfred Gross (1965a) gave nine instances of albinism in five unnamed species of North American owls. Mikkola (*in* Duncan 2003) reported that since 1980, more than 80 Great Grays have been documented with at least some abnormal white feathers.

Specific to owls in Minnesota, a partially albinistic Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) was banded on 16 December 1996, in Lake County about two miles north of Two Harbors (right primary coverts 3–6 white, 7 & 8 partial white; left primary coverts 3 partially white (about half), 5 white, 6–8 partial white; Dave Evans pers. comm.), a partially albinistic Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) was photographed in northern Aitkin County in early March 1980 (white breast with much white in face and on back; Barringer 1980), a partially albinistic Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) was banded and photographed on 17 October 1977 at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, St. Louis County (right primaries 10–7 and left primaries 10–6 all white; Evans 1978), and a second partially albinistic saw-whet was banded at Hawk Ridge on 8 October 1983 (right rectrix 6 pure white; Dave Evans pers. comm.).

An apparently leucistic Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) is in the collection at the Bell Museum of Natural History (Breckenridge 1942). This bird, collected 24 September 1928, is almost entirely white, though there are very faint traces of light brown on the face and belly. Unfortunately, there is no information on the specimen tag indicating where the bird was collected. A leucistic Barred Owl was banded 27 February 2005, in the Hunter's Park neighborhood of Duluth (Grosshuesch 2006). There is an unpublished record of a leucistic Northern Saw-

whet Owl which was banded at the Hawk Ridge banding station in Duluth in October of 2001 (overall pale plumage, Dave Evans pers. comm.).

### **Albinistic and Leucistic Great Gray Owls in Minnesota**

During the Minnesota Great Gray Owl irruption of 2004–2005, a minimum of ten birds were recorded with some form of partial albinism or leucism. Those reports are summarized here.

Ben Yokel and Karen Sussman observed a leucistic Great Gray on 14 November 2004 about four miles south of Zim Road in the Sax-Zim Bog area of St. Louis County. This was likely the same individual seen earlier in the year near St. Louis County Roads 28 and 207. That individual, first observed in May of 2004 and photographed in early June (Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C), were not counted as part of the subsequent winter irruption which was defined as birds moving into Minnesota beginning in August of that year (Svingen and Lind 2005). The bird was very pale overall, with a sprinkling of tan feathers distributed throughout, especially in the facial disk area. The eyes and bill were both yellow. Note that prior to 1997, no more than ten Great Gray Owls fitting this description (being mostly or completely white) had been recorded (Alaja and Mikkola 1997, Mikkola *in* Duncan 2003).

On 17 November 2004, David Cahlander recovered a dead Great Gray along Lake County Road 14, 1.2 miles west of county road 2. This bird had one all-white greater covert on its right wing.

On 23 November 2004, Chris Neri reported a partial albino Great Gray Owl on Melrude Road near Melrude, St. Louis County, with several white greater coverts. What was likely the same bird was relocated 26 November by Heidi Yokel in a spruce bog just east of Young Lake, and again on 2 December near the town of Melrude. This bird had four or five white greater coverts on each wing. Steve Metz photographed this bird on 5 December (Figures 2 and 3).

Dave Grosshuesch banded a Great Gray



Figure 2. Photo by Steve Metz.



Figure 3. Photo by Steve Metz.



Figure 4. Photo by Jim Lind.



Figure 5. Photo by Dave Grosshuesch.



Figure 6. Photo by Steve Wilson.



Figure 7. Photo by Julie O'Connor.

on 25 November 2004 along the Howard Gnesen Road, north of Duluth in St. Louis County. This bird had one all white tertial feather on the right wing (Figure 6). Dave banded another Great Gray Owl on 27 November 2004 off the Lester River Road in Duluth, about a mile north of the Moose Mountain Scientific and Natural Area. This bird had five completely white feathers scattered around the center-back portion of the crown.

On 2 December 2004, Steve Foss reported a Great Gray Owl hunting in the ditch along U.S. Highway 169, 3.5 miles southwest of Ely, St. Louis County. He noted four or five white feathers on the bird's right wing.

A partially albinistic Great Gray Owl was reported by Anthony Hertzell along state highway 6, four miles north of Koochiching County Road 5 during an 11 December 2004 owl survey. This bird had white at the base of its primaries and very pale, buffy scapulars and secondaries suggesting it may have also been partially leucistic.

Tom Jones reported an "entirely albinistic" Great Gray on 25 January 2005 along Aitkin County Road 1, north of the town of Aitkin. This owl was observed on the edge of a mixed hardwood forest at a range of perhaps 400 yards, and close enough for the observer to make out the distinct facial disc. Note that this location is a minimum of 55 miles southwest of the leucistic Great Gray photographed the previous June in the Sax-Zim Bog of St. Louis County and seen in the same area at least through 14 November.

Jim Lind photographed a partially albinistic Great Gray Owl on 27 January 2005 in Two Harbors, Lake County (Figure 4). The inner-most secondaries on both wings were pure white, but only on the outer vane. The inner vane of both secondaries was normal gray. Three or four of the coverts were also whitish, but not the pure white that the outer half of the two secondaries showed.

L. Johnson found a dead Great Gray on 4 February 2005 in Beltrami County (Figure 5). It had pure white outer primaries

and alulas.

A Great Gray found dead by John Charon on 1 March 2005 along U.S. Highway 2 in Itasca County was described by Dave Grosshuesch as having a white left secondary #11, one white scapular on the right wing, one white median covert and one lesser covert on the left wing, one white feather in the crown, one white feather in the lower back region, two white flank feathers on the right side, and a minimum of 13 white feathers in the breast/belly region.

Dave Grosshuesch banded a Great Gray on 13 March 2005 on state highway 23, about two miles north of Duquette, Pine County. This bird had a white patch on primary #5 of both wings that extended from the base to about two inches up the feather, with the remainder being normal in coloration (Figure 7).

### Historical Records of Melanism

Melanism, an abnormal condition not to be confused with dark color morphs, is much rarer in birds than is albinism or leucism, and it is almost unknown in owls.

In his three papers, Deane (1876, 1879, 1880) described abnormal melanism as "exceedingly rare" in birds and named eight species with the condition, and by lack of an example suggests no melanistic owls were known to him.

Worthen (1896) listed five species of birds — all raptors — that showed what he considered to be melanistic and among them was the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). His further description of five different Great Horned Owl specimens was that they were "very dark; as dark as the Northwestern form, known as 'Dusky Horned Owl,' *Bubo v. saturatus*." The other four species claimed by Worthen to be melanistic were Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Broad-winged Hawk (*B. platypterus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*), and Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*) — all polychromatic species that include normally occurring dark morphs. Though Worthen's paper is cited by numerous other authors writing on melanism, it is questionable whether any



**Figure 8. Two images of a Melanistic Great Gray Owl in flight. Photos extracted from digital video footage taken by Mark Alt, 27 November 2004, near Shaw, St. Louis County.**

of his birds were truly melanistic rather than typical examples of dark morphs, or, in the case of the owls, simply darker birds within the normal range of individual variation. With no other melanistic Great Horned Owls mentioned in the literature, the likelihood of five having been collected in Illinois by a single individual is perhaps dubious.

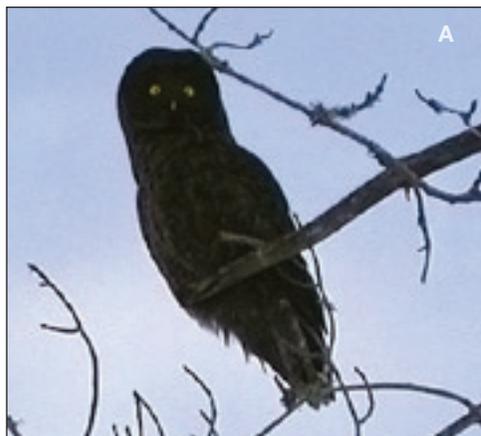
Gross (1965b) listed 29 species of birds in which he was able to document at least one case of abnormal melanism. Among the owls, he included only Worthen's alleged Great Horned. Schorger (1954) described an Eastern Screech-Owl that he picked up 28 October 1938 in northwestern Illinois with a plumage that "appeared to be deep black but on closer inspection the color was sooty." Leck and Murray (1973) described a melanistic Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) found 16 July 1972 in New Jersey as "dark gray to sooty black in its entirety, except for scatterings of light brown in the wings." Though there are other vague references to abnormally dark Barn Owls, these seem to be mostly anecdotal.

Mikkola (*in* Duncan 2003) wrote that owls can be melanistic, but cites no specific cases. Pittaway and Iron (2005) illustrate a partially melanistic Great Gray Owl photographed 19 February 1996 near Newmarket, Ontario. This bird has clearly darker markings in the facial disks, and the rest of its plumage is somewhat darker overall, especially ventrally. Also referenced by Pittaway and Iron is a second dark Great Gray found near Whitby, Ontario, in early 2005. This individual was described as being intermediate between the Newmarket bird and typically-colored Great Grays and may actually represent a darker bird rather than a melanistic one.

#### **Melanistic Great Gray in Minnesota**

During the winter of 2004–05, three dark Great Gray Owls were reported in Minnesota, and at least one was clearly a melanistic individual that was well documented with photographs.

On 27 November 2004, Mark Alt observed and video-taped from as close as 12 feet a melanistic Great Gray Owl in



Figures 9A and 9B. Melanistic Great Gray Owl, 15 December 2004, near Shaw, St. Louis County. Photos by Jim Lind.



Figure 10. Typical darker Great Gray Owl in fresh plumage, 30 January 2005, near Duluth, St. Louis County. Note reduced "bow tie" and less extensive marmoration. Photo by Terry Brashear.



Figure 11. Pale Great Gray Owl in heavily worn plumage, 11 December 2004, Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis County. Note contrasting worn juvenile wing feathers with grayer adult body feathers. Photo by Elijah Parker.

St. Louis County along the Munger-Shaw Road, one mile north of the town of Shaw (Figure 8). It was subsequently relocated on both 28 November and 6 December by Ben Yokel, and then photographed by Jim Lind on 15 December 2004, four miles south of county road 52 (Figures 9A and 9B). According to Alt (2005), this bird initially appeared completely black. He described it as the color of a charred pine log, showing brown through black and very sooty with no lighter highlights, no whiteness, and no white moustachial markings. Digital enhancement of the owl in Lind's photographs reveal very subtle, indistinct streaking ventrally and a characteristic "bow tie" that becomes only marginally evident in the otherwise very dark plumage. Alt noted that the bird's pattern and overall black plumage in flight was reminiscent of a dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk. This bird remains the only documented melanistic Great Gray Owl in Minnesota.

What was probably a melanistic Great Gray was reported by Karen Sussman about 40 miles north of Cotton in St. Louis County on 5 December 2004. Karen wrote, "It was just after 4:00 P.M. in December and it was getting towards twilight. The owl was on a branch of a pine tree low over U.S. Highway 53 just before a small creek. At first I thought it was in shadow because it was so dark, like milk chocolate and the markings were hard to decipher. Then I thought it was another type of owl. I turned around and watched it from the shoulder of the road. The give away that it was a Great Gray was the moustache."

On 9 February 2005, Rich Peet reported a very dark Great Gray Owl near Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge south of McGregor in Aitkin County. The bird was along the north side of the Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge Road west of state highway 65, about halfway between the main building and the bridge to the west. He described it as almost black and essentially unpatterned, but it, too, as with Sussman's bird (and unlike Alt's), had a white bow tie.

## Summary

Without knowing the underlying causes — whether injury, genetics, disease, or some other agent — it would be difficult to draw meaningful conclusions about the biological significance of these unusually-plumaged birds. The ten records of albinism detailed here represent perhaps 0.2% of the 5,225 Great Gray Owls recorded during the 2004–05 winter irruption into Minnesota. This seems high when compared to estimates of the overall incidence of albinism among all birds, put as low as 0.05% by Michener and Michener (1936). It should be noted, however, that some species seem more prone to the condition while it has yet to be recorded in others. As noted earlier, albinism has always been considered rare in owls. These Minnesota data suggest that partial albinism may not be quite as unusual in Great Gray Owls as previously thought.

## Acknowledgments

Thanks to Dave Grosshuesch for contributing much of the data presented here. Mark Alt and Peter Neubeck produced the original digital video used to generate Figure 8. Andy Jones and Ann Kessen aided in retrieving information from the collection at the Bell Museum of Natural History, while Jeff Thrasher and Bill Jamieson provided data on the Barred Owl specimen at the Natural History Museum at Niagara Falls in Toronto. Jeff Davis, James Duncan, Bruce Fall, Robert Nero, and Thomas Nicholls provided many helpful comments. Finally, many thanks to all those who kindly contributed their photographs.

## Literature Cited

Alaja, P. and H. Mikkola. 1997. Albinism in the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) and other owls. Pages 33–37. *In* Biology and Conservation of Owls of the Northern Hemisphere Second International Symposium. Edited by J. R. Duncan, D.H. Johnson, and T. H. Nichols. USDA Forest Service. General Technical Report NC-190. U.S. Department of Agriculture. St. Paul, Minnesota.

- Alt, M. 2005. Melanistic Great Gray Owl in St. Louis County. *The Loon* 77:118.
- Barringer, J. N. 1980. Unusual plumaged Short-eared Owl. *The Loon* 52:92.
- Breckenridge, W. J. 1942. Unusual additions to the University museum collection. *The Flicker* 14:16.
- Deane, R. 1876. Albinism and melanism among North American birds. *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 1:20–24.
- Deane, R. 1879. Additional cases of albinism and melanism in North American birds. *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 4:27–30.
- Deane, R. 1880. Additional cases of albinism and melanism in North American birds. *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 5:25–30.
- Mikkola, H. 2003. Color variation in owls: albinism and melanism. Pages 137–141. In Duncan, J. R. Owls of the World. Their lives, behavior and survival. Firefly Books Inc. Buffalo, NY. 319 pp.
- Evans, D. L. 1978. Partial albinism: Saw-whet Owl and Goshawk. *The Loon* 50:52–53.
- Grosshuesch, D. A. 2006. Leucistic Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) found during the winter of 2005. *The Loon* 78:36–39.
- Gross, A. O. 1965a. The incidence of albinism in North American birds. *Bird Banding* 36:67–71.
- Gross, A. O. 1965b. Melanism in North American birds. *Bird Banding* 36:240–242.
- Leck, C. and E. Murray. 1973. Erythrism and melanism in the Barn Owl. *Cassinia* 54:32.
- McGregor, R. C. 1896. Albinos. *The Nidologist* 3:94.
- McGregor, R. C. 1900. A list of unrecorded albinos. *The Condor* 2:86–88.
- Michener, H. and J. R. Michener. 1936. Abnormalities in birds. *The Condor* 38:102–109.
- Pittaway, R. and J. Iron. 2005. Ageing and gariation of Great Gray Owls. *Ontario Birds* 23:138–146.
- Ross, C. C. 1963. Albinism among North American birds. *Cassinia* 47:2–21.
- Ross, C. C.. 1973. Some additional records of albinism in North American birds. *Cassinia* 54:18–19.
- Sage, B. L. 1963. The incidence of albinism and melanism in British Birds. *British Birds* 56:409–416.
- Schorger, A. W. 1954. Color phases of the Screech Owl between Madison, Wisconsin, and Freeport, Illinois. *The Auk* 71:205.
- Svingen, P. H. and J. W. Lind. 2005. The 2004–2005 influx of northern owls, part II: Great Gray Owls. *The Loon* 77:194–208.
- Worthen, C. A. 1896. Albinism, melanism, and hybridism. *The Osprey* 1:23–25.

**8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.**

## Minnesota's First Brown Pelican

Peder H. Svingen<sup>1</sup> and Anthony X. Hertzell<sup>2</sup>

On 16 July 2005, the authors and Ed Thelen found Minnesota's first Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) standing by an American White Pelican (*P. erythrorhynchos*) on a sandbar on the east side of Little Spirit Lake, Jack-

son County. Both birds were slightly more than ½ mile away from the boat launch that is situated on the northeast shore of the lake and from where Svingen first observed them at 7:40 A.M. (Figure 1). Shortly thereafter, Hertzell arrived and also saw



**Figure 1. Aerial view of Little Spirit Lake area, Jackson County, looking east. BL = boat launch, P1 = Minnesota Brown Pelican location, P2 = Iowa Brown Pelican location.**

the birds. Thelen was also searching area lakes that morning and from a completely different vantage point, spotted the Brown Pelican at about 8:00 A.M. — undoubtedly the only time that a Minnesota first state record was independently found by three different observers in less than ½ hour!

Thelen discovered this same first-year Brown Pelican on the Iowa side of the state line at “Big” Spirit Lake on 14 July, along the north shore near a fishing pier well known to birders as a favorite haunt of the Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Though no one had seen the Brown Pelican enter Minnesota up to that point, Hertzell and Svingen decided to meet near the fishing pier at dawn on the 16<sup>th</sup> and try their luck. One or both of us kept vigil there until 7:30 A.M., but there was no sign of the Brown Pelican — we did, however, discover an adult Black-headed Gull. We decided to split up and check other lakes in the area and as luck would have it, Svingen’s first stop was at the boat launch on Little Spirit Lake.

The pelican was seen reliably at either Little Spirit Lake, Minnesota, or near the

fishing pier on Spirit Lake, Iowa, through 27 July, though it was not seen at the Iowa location after 18 July (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 2006). Of interest was Steve Dinsmore’s discovery of a first-year Brown Pelican at Jester Park on Saylorville Reservoir near Des Moines, Iowa on 30 July — just three days after the last sighting at Little Spirit Lake. It lingered there well into the fall season (Dinsmore 2005, IOU 2006). This was followed by a third Iowa sighting at Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County from 22 October – 23 November (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 2006). Because of similarities in age, plumage, and physical characteristics of the birds, all of these records almost certainly involved a single individual.

Supplementing our notes and photographs were written descriptions by Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, Phil Chu, and Dan and Sandy Thimgan. Photographs of the bird in Minnesota were also obtained by Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, and Jim Mattsson. The Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union Records Committee reviewed the documentation and after discussion at its



**Brown Pelican, 17 July 2005, Little Spirit Lake, Jackson County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.**

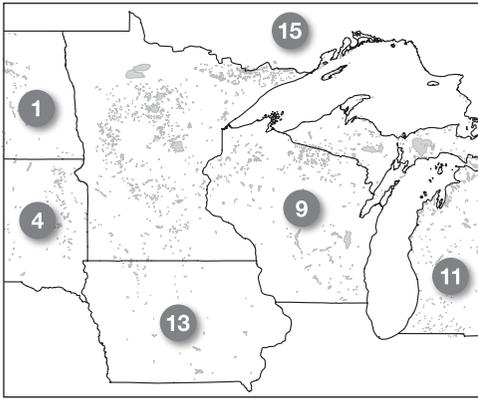
4 December 2005 meeting, unanimously accepted the record.

Some observers postulated that the bird was propelled to Minnesota by Hurricane Dennis, which made landfall near the Alabama-Florida line as a Category 3 hurricane on the 10<sup>th</sup>. However, this species also wanders widely outside of the hurricane season. Nebraska has a total of six records through 2004, all of which fall between 12 May and 10 July (Grzybowski and Silcock 2004). In the four states bordering Minnesota, the total number of spring records through 2005 (March–May, n=11) is about the same as the total number of fall records (July–November, n=12).

Speculation that this pelican originated from populations in the Gulf of Mexico is probably correct. Six subspecies (Wetmore 1945) have been distilled into two groups: the *occidentalis* group, which includes the three subspecies recorded in the United States — *occidentalis*, *carolinensis*, and *californicus* — and the thagus group, which may be a separate species [Peruvian Pelican] (AOU 1998). The smallest subspecies, *P. o. occidentalis*, ranges

throughout the West Indies and wanders to the Gulf Coast of Florida. The subspecies breeding in the United States along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Maryland to south Texas is *P. o. carolinensis*. Its western counterpart, *P. o. californicus*, breeds from California's Channel Islands south along the Pacific Coast of Baja California and mainland Mexico to Islas Tres Marias, throughout the Gulf of California, and recently at the Salton Sea. Young *carolinensis* apparently cannot be distinguished reliably from *californicus* in the field (Shields 2002).

Though unlikely, it's possible that this individual originated from the Southwest. Significant movement from the Gulf of California in June brought hundreds of Brown Pelicans to the Salton Sea (McCaskie and Garrett 2005) and 65+ more to Arizona, including one as far north as Roosevelt Lake (Stevenson and Rosenberg 2005). Single juvenile Brown Pelicans in Clark County, Nevada 17 June (Fridell 2005) and in Weld and Larimer counties, Colorado 10–18 June (Wood *et al.* 2005) were possibly also *californicus*.



**Figure 2. Brown Pelican records for states and provinces adjacent to Minnesota.**

Vagrancy to the Great Lakes has increased in recent years, including an unprecedented seven or eight individuals in 2002 (Wormington 2002, Bain 2003). Excepting Manitoba, Brown Pelican has occurred in all of the states and provinces adjacent to Minnesota. Searching various sources published through 2005, we found a total of 53 accepted records in this region (Figure 2).

Though this represents Minnesota's first accepted record, toward the end of the 19th century Philo Hatch (1892) included Brown Pelican on the state list based on "credible rumors from three different localities on the western borders of the state." With no further evidence to support its inclusion, however, subsequent authorities quickly — and appropriately — dropped it from the state list.

**Acknowledgments**

Thanks to Ed Thelen for reviewing an earlier draft of this paper.

**Literature Cited**

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. 7th edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Bain, M. J. C. 2003. The fall migration: August through November 2002. Ontario region. *North American Birds* 57:49–52.

Dinsmore, J. J. 2005. The nesting season: June through July 2005. Iowa & Mis-

sour region. *North American Birds* 59:603–605.

Dinsmore, S. J., and J. J. Dinsmore. 2006. Brown Pelican in central Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 76:60.

Fridell, R. 2005. The nesting season: June through July 2005. Great Basin region. *North American Birds* 59:632–633.

Grzybowski, J. A., and W. R. Silcock. 2004. The nesting season: June through July 2004. Southern Great Plains region. *North American Birds* 58:557–559.

Hatch, P. L. 1892. Notes on the Birds of Minnesota. The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota. Harrison and Smith, Minneapolis. 487 pages.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union. 2006. Records Committee home page at <[http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/RCReports/dynamic\\_report.asp](http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/RCReports/dynamic_report.asp)>. Accessed 25 March 2006.

McCaskie, G., and K. L. Garrett. 2005. The nesting season: June through July 2005. Southern California region. *North American Birds* 59:653–656.

Shields, M. (2002). Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). No. 609 in *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, ed.). Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca. Retrieved 2 April 2006 from *The Birds of North America Online* database <<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/>>.

Stevenson, M. M., and G. H. Rosenberg. 2005. The nesting season: June through July 2005. Arizona region. *North American Birds* 59:637–639.

Wetmore, A. 1945. A review of the forms of the Brown Pelican. *Auk* 62:577–586.

Wood, C. L., T. Leukering, and B. Schmoeker. 2005. The nesting season: June through July 2005. Colorado & Wyoming region. *North American Birds* 59:629–631.

Wormington, A. 2002. Brown Pelicans on the Great Lakes: the invasion of 2002. *Birders Journal* 11:228–240.

**<sup>1</sup>2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.**  
**<sup>2</sup>8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.**

# The Summer Season

## 1 June through 31 July 2005

Ann E. Kessen

**D**uring the summer of 2005, 280 species of birds were observed in Minnesota. Not only was this a greater than average number of species for the season, but at least 49 species were reported from more counties than ever before. At the same time, the number of contributors to this report dropped to 146 (from 199 in 2004). An increased number of reports from a decreased number of observers suggests that the new system of online seasonal reports has great potential for improving coverage across the state. However, it is unclear whether contributors were spending more time birding, or were traveling more widely throughout the state, or were paying more attention to certain areas. Consequently, any conclusions about possible biological significance of this increased number of reports must await further analysis.

On the other hand, breeding data were collected for 104 species — about one-third fewer species than the previous year. There were several reports of nesting taking place later than normal. It is not known whether this reflected later initiation of breeding activity or more attempts at multiple clutches.

*Highlights:* Continuing a trend of recent summers, **Ross's Goose** was seen during the season, this one at Interstate Island in Duluth. **Trumpeter Swans** nested successfully in Lake of the Woods County. **Green-winged Teal** and **Lesser Scaup** reports were down, as were **Common Goldeneye**. **Hooded Mergansers** had a good year, with the number of reports equaling the all-time high reached in 2000. **Ruffed Grouse** populations remained at the lower end of their ten-year cycle. **Greater Prairie-Chickens** released in southwestern Minnesota seemed to be prospering, based on the number of re-

ports received. The state's **Wild Turkey** population continued to expand, with this species being observed in more counties than ever.

An adult **Pacific Loon** in alternate plumage was seen on Lake Superior in early June. The recent drop in **Common Loon** reports continued, with 2005 tying 2004 for the fewest reports since 1990. At Lake Osakis in Douglas County, a **Clark's Grebe** paired with a possible hybrid **Western x Clark's Grebe** and produced two young. Most exciting was the first state record **Brown Pelican** seen by many observers from mid to late July at Little Spirit Lake in Jackson County. **Least Bitterns** were reported in record-high numbers during the season, and two **Little Blue Herons** were spotted, one in Wilkin County and one in Sherburne County. Unexpectedly, two **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were found in each of two locations: two adults in Dakota County in late June, and two juveniles in Lac Qui Parle County in late July.

Several species of raptors were seen in greater than usual numbers, including **Osprey**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon**. A hatching-year male **Prairie Falcon** was found injured in St. Louis County in late July, and transported to The Raptor Center in St. Paul. **Yellow Rail** numbers were up in the Northwest region; this normally secretive species was reported from a record-high number of counties. A pair of **Common Moorhens** produced up to six young at St. John's University in Stearns County. **Piping Plovers** nested on Pine-Curry Island in Lake of the Woods County, a hopeful sign for this species in Minnesota.

Not totally unexpected was the first summer record for **Black-headed Gull**,

from the usual area in Jackson County. A ninth state record **Least Tern** spent less than 24 hours at Sherburne N.W.R. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** expanded their presence into ten counties, and for the third consecutive summer, a **White-winged Dove** was seen in the state, this time in Cook County during July. A **Great Gray Owl** lingered in Hennepin County into early June.

Reports of **Eastern Wood-Pewee** were up dramatically. Two **Say's Phoebes** were seen at the gravel pit at Felton Prairie this summer, as was a single **Rock Wren**. This is the same location at which a pair of Rock Wrens nested in 2004. **Yellow-throated, Warbling,** and **Red-eyed vireos** were found in record numbers, and **Sedge Wren** numbers were up for the second year in a row. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in Meeker County, for only the sixth summer record. A female **Blue-winged Warbler** paired with a male **Lawrence's Warbler** in Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. produced four or five young. A singing male **Prairie Warbler** spent much of June at Ritter Farm Park in Dakota County. In the same county, at Lebanon Hills P.R., a male **Summer Tanager** and a female **Scarlet Tanager** produced at least one hybrid young.

Reports for many sparrow species were up, but none so dramatically as those for

**Henslow's Sparrow.** This opportunistic species was found in 32 counties, in most regions of the state. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited a feeder south of Newfolden from late May though mid June. **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported in record numbers, including a first-year male in Dakota County. **Great-tailed Grackles** expanded their presence in Minnesota to include at least six counties.

*Weather Summary:* June temperatures were well above normal in most of the state, particularly in the central and south-western regions, and Duluth experienced the ninth warmest June on record. Precipitation was near normal in many areas, with the exception of northern Minnesota. The northwestern part of the state received approximately 4.5 inches more than normal, and northeastern Minnesota was an inch above normal, with most of that falling during the first week of the month.

July continued the warm weather trend, with temperatures at least two degrees above normal throughout the state. Precipitation amounts varied widely, with the southern portions of the state generally above average, and the central and northern portions of the state below average. Duluth had its fourth driest July on record.

*Undocumented reports:* **Rufous Hummingbird** 7/24 Washington; **Great-tailed**

## KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
4. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
5. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
6. Brackets [ ] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
7. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
8. Dagger "†" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
9. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
10. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with "v.t."

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from 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, contact the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., Duluth, MN 55812-1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

**Grackle** 6/12 Pipestone (Split Rock Creek S.P.), 7/4 Brown (Somsen W.M.A.).

*Acknowledgments:* Thanks go to all those who submitted summer season reports and nesting records. Their data make this report possible. Thanks also go to Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for providing transcripts of

weekly birding reports, to Paul Budde for compiling electronic records and early and late dates, to Anthony Hertzell for preparing the breeding maps, and to Peder Svingen for assistance in the preparation of this report.

**31145 Genesis Ave., Stacy, MN 55079.**

**Greater White-fronted Goose** — A northbound flock of 43 reported 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Snow Goose** — Only reports: 6/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/13 Pennington BWF.

**Ross's Goose** — Adult white morph 6/4 St. Louis (Interstate Island, Duluth) ph. †PHS.

**Canada Goose** — Most reports ever received: observed in 70 counties, in all regions of state.



**Trumpeter Swan** — Reported from 20 counties in all regions except Southeast and Southwest. First nesting record for *Lake of the Woods* GMM.



**Tundra Swan** — Only documented report: 7/17 Roseau †JMJ.

**Wood Duck** — Most reports since 1998: observed in 53 counties throughout state.



**Gadwall** — Observed in ten counties in western regions of the state, plus Meeker, Renville, Brown, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Rice. New nesting record for *Swift* BJU.



**American Wigeon** — Fewest reports ever: north reports from Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.), Roseau, and 6/1, 6/19, 7/29 St. Louis SLF, ALE. Unusual summer locations 7/4 Meeker DMF, 7/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**American Black Duck** — Seen throughout June at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall BWF, 6/8 St. Louis ALE, 7/14 Pine JMP.



**Mallard** — Seen in 66 counties throughout state.



**Blue-winged Teal** — Observed in 44 counties in all regions of state.



**Northern Shoveler** — Reported from 18 counties in all regions except North-central and Southeast. New nesting records for *Lac Qui Parle* and *Yellow Medicine* BJU.



**Northern Pintail** — Seen in Lac Qui Parle, Marshall, Kittson, and Roseau, plus 6/4 Brown BRB.

**Green-winged Teal** — Fewest reports since 1994: observed in five north and



seven south counties.

**Canvasback** — Reported from seven western counties, plus Nicollet and Olmsted.

**Redhead** — Observed in 22 counties in all regions except North-central and Southeast.



**Ring-necked Duck** — Seen in 15 counties in northern half of the state, plus Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Sherburne, Anoka, Waseca. First nesting record from *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Lesser Scaup** — Fewest reports since 1994: observed in Marshall, St. Louis, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Sherburne, Hennepin, Anoka, Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Olmsted.

**Bufflehead** — Reported 6/9 Marshall BWF, 6/18 Aitkin KWR, Lac Qui Parle (no date) FAE.

**Common Goldeneye** — Matches 2003 for lowest number of counties: seen in Marshall, Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.



**Hooded Merganser** — Matches 2000 for most reports: observed in 37 counties in all regions except Southeast. New nesting record from *Brown* (female with three young across county road 27 from Flaudreau S.P.) JSS.

**Common Merganser** — Reported from Beltrami, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, and Mille



Lacs.

**Red-breasted Merganser** — Only report: 7/12 Lake JWL.

**Ruddy Duck** — Observed in 25 counties in all regions except North-central and Northeast.



**Gray Partridge** — Reported from eight counties in western regions of state, plus Kandiyohi, Renville, Brown, Watonwan, Rice, Freeborn. Highest reported count 7/17 Rock (total of 40 in 3 coveys) JWL *et al.*



**Ring-necked Pheasant** — Seen in 45 counties as far north as Clay, Mille Lacs, Pine.



**Ruffed Grouse** — Fewer reports than usual, reflecting a low-point in this species' ten-year cycle: observed in 15 counties north and east of a line through Otter Tail, Fillmore.



**Spruce Grouse** — Reported from Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, St. Louis, Cook, Carlton.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** — Seen in Marshall, Aitkin, **Lac Qui Parle**, Kanabec, Pine.



**Greater Prairie-Chicken** — Reported from Red Lake, Polk, Clay, Wilkin. Recent releases seen 6/2 (9, Plover Prairie), 6/15

(Mehurin Twp.), 7/6 (Manfred Twp., and hen with four young, Freeland Twp.), 7/8 (Perry W.M.A. and Walter Twp.), 7/25 (Augusta Twp.) Lac Qui Parle and 6/26 Chippewa BJU.

**Wild Turkey** — Tied with 2002 for most reports ever: Observed in 31 counties as far north as Otter Tail, Mille Lacs, Pine. New nesting record for *Otter Tail* DTT, SMT.



**Common Loon** — A repeat of 2004's low number of reports: seen in 30 counties in the northern and central regions, plus Le Sueur, Waseca.



**Pacific Loon** — Adult in alternate plumage 6/4 St. Louis (Park Point) JLR, JiS. Probably the same individual photographed in Superior, Wisconsin a week later, TLa.

**Pied-billed Grebe** — Reported from 39 counties statewide.



**Horned Grebe** — Seen 6/15, 6/22 St. Louis *fide* JWL, KRE.

**Red-necked Grebe** — Observed in 18 counties in all regions of state except East-central and Southwest. New nesting record for *Renville* BJU.



**Eared Grebe** — Reported from Polk (156 nests *fide* JMJ), Clay, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Renville, Nicollet, Waseca.



**Western Grebe** — Seen in 13 counties south and west of a line through Roseau,

Wright, Freeborn.



**Clark's Grebe** — Reported 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (Salt Lake) BJU, 7/5 Douglas (Lake Osakis) LS, †JME. At the latter location, a Clark's paired with a possible Western x Clark's Grebe hybrid produced two young.



The possible hybrid had an "orangy-yellow" bill similar to the adult Clark's, but its black cap reached the eye on at least one side of the face; other identification criteria including width of nape stripe, flank color, and call were not noted.

**American White Pelican** — Most reports since 1996: observed in 42 counties statewide.

**BROWN PELICAN** — First state record: 7/16–27 **Jackson** (Little Spirit Lake) ph. †PHS, ph. †AXH, ET (*The Loon* 78:11–14); this first-year bird was also documented by ph. †PEB, ph. †DAC, †PCC, ph. †JPM, †DTT, †SMT, m.ob.

**Double-crested Cormorant** — Most reports since 1989: seen in 44 counties statewide.



**American Bittern** — Reported from 20 counties in all regions of state except South-central, Southeast. Highest reported count 6/15 Itasca (20) DRM.

**Least Bittern** — Record high number of reports: observed in 18 counties in all regions except North-central, Northeast, Southeast. First nesting record for *Yellow Medicine* BJU.



**Great Blue Heron** — Seen in 66 counties



statewide.

**Great Egret** — Reported from 35 counties as far north as Clay. Highest reported count 7/3 Big Stone (168 at Centennial W.P.A.) PCC.



**Snowy Egret** — Seen 6/5 Grant (2) BJM, DDM, 6/8 Lyon RJS, 6/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Cattle Egret** — Observed 6/2, 6/15, 6/18, 6/20, 7/20 (peak of 14 at Big Stone N.W.R.) Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/5 Grant BJM, DDM, 6/9 **Kittson** (5 in Caribou Twp.) RRz *fide* JMJ, 6/24 Big Stone BJU, 6/30 Anoka AXH, 7/17 Le Sueur BJU.

**Little Blue Heron** — Two records: 6/10 **Wilkin** (adult near Lawndale) JPS, 7/28 **Sherburne** (adult at Sherburne N.W.R.) ASC.

**Green Heron** — Reported from 42 counties throughout state



**Black-crowned Night-Heron** — Seen in three north and eleven south counties.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** — Seen 6/30 Dakota (2 adults, West St. Paul) RPR, 7/31+ Lac Qui Parle (2 juveniles near Madison) †PCC, ph. DWK, ph. PHS.

**GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS** — One *Plegadis* 7/27 Big Stone (Swenson L.) †BJU.

**Turkey Vulture** — Record high number of reports: seen in 64 counties statewide.



**Osprey** — Most reports ever (in contrast to 2004's record-low number of reports): observed in 27 counties in all regions of state.



**Bald Eagle** — Reported from 46 counties statewide, the most reports ever received.



**Northern Harrier** — Observed in 43 counties in all regions of state.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** — Seen in Itasca, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Pine.

**Cooper's Hawk** — Reported from record-high number of 37 counties throughout state.



**Northern Goshawk** — Only report: 7/16 Carlton DFN.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** — Observed in seven north and four south counties, as far north as Becker, Hubbard, Cass, Aitkin.

**Broad-winged Hawk** — Reported from 26 counties in all central and eastern regions except Southeast.

**Swainson's Hawk** — Most reports ever: seen in 17 counties in all southern and central regions, plus Polk, Clay, Wilkin, Traverse.

**Red-tailed Hawk** — Most reports since 1996: observed in 66 counties statewide.

**American Kestrel** — Seen in 65 counties throughout state.

**Merlin** — Many more reports than usual: seen in 13 north counties, plus 6/15 Da-



kota JPM, 7/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Peregrine Falcon**

— Record-high number of reports: observed in 18 counties in all regions except Northwest, Southwest. First nesting record for *Houston* (Midwest Peregrine Report).



**Prairie Falcon** — Unusual report: **7/24 St. Louis** (hatching-year male found injured near Duluth and transported to The Raptor Center) *vide* DAG.

**Yellow Rail** — Most reports ever: 6/4 Morrison BWF, 6/6–7/3 Polk BWF, SAS, NGE, JMJ, JEB, MAW, 6/9 Marshall MA, 6/18 Aitkin KWR, 6/19 Aitkin ASc, 6/25 Pennington PHS, 6/25 Beltrami JMJ, 6/26 Kittson and Roseau JMJ, PHS.

**Virginia Rail** — Reported in 17 counties in all regions of the state except the North-central and Northeast. First nesting record for *Rice* FVS. Highest reported count 7/8 Brown (8 heard at Rosenau-Lambrecht W.M.A.) DWK.



**Sora** — Reported from 21 counties in all regions of state.

**Common Moorhen** — Record high number of reports: seen 6/19 Meeker (2 adults at East Lake Ripley) DMF, 7/16 Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir) JWH, PWP, LS, 7/17–18 Le Sueur (Huoy L. and L. Jefferson) BJU, 7/20 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 7/27 Wright (Willma L.) DMF, 7/27+ Stearns (pair with up to six young at St. John's University) BR, HHD, m.ob.



**American Coot** — Observed in 24 counties in all regions except Northeast, East-



central.

**Sandhill Crane** — Seen in 25 counties in all regions except Southwest.



**Black-bellied Plover** — All reports: northbound migrant 6/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Mid-summer report **7/9** Lac Qui Parle PCC. First southbound migrant 7/27 Clay BJU.

**American Golden-Plover** — Three reports: northbound migrants 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/26 Traverse PCC. Presumed early south migrant **7/18** Nicollet BJU.

**Semipalmated Plover** — Northbound migrants 6/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/11 Polk SAS. One mid-summer report 6/28 Marshall BWF. Southbound migrants reported from Traverse, Wilkin, Polk, Lake, Todd, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Nicollet, and Dakota counties. Earliest south migrants reported 7/16 Lac Qui Parle (8 individuals) PCC, 7/16 Big Stone (5 individuals) PCC, PHS.

**Piping Plover** — Observed nesting on Pine Island, Lake of the Woods Bill Berg *vide* JMJ.



**Killdeer** — Reported from 65 counties statewide. Highest reported count 7/24 Lac Qui Parle (**782**) PHS.



**American Avocet** — Seen through 7/3 Big Stone (max. 4, including adult with chick in Toqua Twp., PCC) m.ob., 7/9 Lac



Qui Parle BJU.

**Greater Yellowlegs** — Most reports since 1988: observed in 23 counties in all regions except East-central. Late north 6/3 Cass MRN, **6/11** Polk SAS. Fall migrants: early north 6/28 Marshall BWF, early south 7/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** — Observed in 32 counties in all regions except North-central. Northbound migrant 6/11 Polk SAS. Fall migrants: early north 6/28 Marshall BWF, early south 6/21 Wright and Sherburne PLJ. Highest reported count 7/16 Lac Qui Parle (622) PCC, PHS. First juveniles 7/27 Traverse KJB, 7/31 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle PCC.

**Solitary Sandpiper** — Northbound migrants 6/1 Sherburne PLJ, 6/1, **6/13** Freeborn AEB. Fall migrants also reported from Sherburne and Freeborn, as well as 15 additional south and 8 north counties.

**Willet** — All reports: 7/3 Lac Qui Parle (4 at Borchardt Rosin W.M.A.) PCC, 7/3 Big Stone PCC, 7/3 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 7/12 Rock (2) CRM, 7/15 Becker MO, 7/18 Lac Qui Parle (Dawson) BJU, 7/24 Meeker DMF, 7/27 Traverse (3, first juveniles) KJB, 7/31 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) PCC.

**Spotted Sandpiper** — Seen in 38 counties in all regions of state. Highest reported count 7/31 Lac Qui Parle (18) PCC.

**Upland Sandpiper** — Reported from 23 counties in all regions except Northeast, Southeast. Highest reported count 7/13 Redwood (16 in one field) LBF.



**Whimbrel** — Only the second report of a spring migrant this year: 6/9 Cook (Grand Marais harbor) *fide* JWJ.

**Hudsonian Godwit** — Only report: 6/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Marbled Godwit** — Reports tie 2003 for most ever: observed in 13 Northwest and West-central counties, plus 6/8 Stearns RPR, 6/9, 6/15 Lake of the Woods *fide* JMJ, 6/11, 7/28 Stearns, 6/25 Beltrami JMJ. First juvenile 7/16 Big Stone PCC, PHS.

**Ruddy Turnstone** — Northbound migrants 6/1 Lake JMP, 6/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/4, 6/5, 6/19 St. Louis JLR, JiS, JCG. Fall migrants: early north 7/27 Clay BJU, early south 7/24 Lac Qui Parle PHS.

**Sanderling** — All reports: 6/5 St. Louis JCG, 7/24 Lac Qui Parle (2) PHS, 7/27 Clay BJU.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** — Late south 6/9 Meeker and Wright DMF, 6/9–10 Sherburne PCC, HHD, PLJ. Late north 6/5 St. Louis JCG, 6/11 Polk SAS. Southbound migrants: early north dates not representative; early south 7/3 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 7/7 Dakota SWe. Fall migrants observed in seven additional south and four additional north counties. First juveniles and high count for season 7/31 Lac Qui Parle (1072) PCC, but see fall report.

**Least Sandpiper** — Matches record number of reports from 2003: reported from 29 counties in all regions except Southeast. Late spring migrant 6/11 Polk SAS. An individual found **6/18** Stearns PCC was in poor condition, and may not have completed spring migration. Early fall migrants north 6/26 Traverse PCC, 6/28 Marshall BWF, early fall migrants south 7/1 Benton LBF, 7/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Highest reported count 7/24 Lac Qui Parle (1197) PHS, but also see fall report. First juveniles 7/27 Traverse KJB, 7/31 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle PCC.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** — Northbound migrants: late south 6/9 Sherburne PCC, ASc, 6/11 Meeker DWF; late north 6/6 St. Louis Richard Gibson *fide* JWJ, 6/26 Marshall BWF.

**Baird's Sandpiper** — Late spring migrant 6/3 Olmsted PWP. Southbound migrants: early north 7/23 Traverse (4) PHS; early south 7/3 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, 7/16 Rock (3) PHS. Fall migrants reported from six additional counties second half of July.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** — Northbound migrants 6/1 Sherburne PLJ, 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/11 Polk SAS, 6/24 (non-breeding or early fall migrant?) Dakota DWK. Southbound migrants: early north 7/5 Grant LS; early south 7/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Highest reported count 7/24 Lac Qui Parle (396) PHS.

**Dunlin** — Northbound migrants 6/4 St. Louis JLR, JiS, 6/4 Rice DAB, 6/4 Lac Qui Parle DWK, 6/7 Meeker DWF, 6/16 Swift BJU, 6/28 Marshall BWF.

**Stilt Sandpiper** — Late spring migrant 6/11 Polk SAS. Fall migrants seen in four north and ten south counties. Early north 7/24 Marshall JMJ. Early south 7/3 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle PCC.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** — All reports: 7/18 Nicollet (2) BJU, 7/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 7/30 Polk SAS, 7/30, 7/31 Traverse (3) KRE, PCC.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** — Late spring migrants 6/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/11 Polk SAS. Fall migrants observed in three north and eight south counties. Early north 7/5 Grant LS, early south 7/3 Lac Qui Parle PCC.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** — Single individual reported 7/31 Lac Qui Parle PCC.

**Wilson's Snipe** — Reported from 29 counties in all regions of state except Southeast. New nesting record for *Itasca* DRM.



**American Woodcock** — Observed in nine north and seven south counties. Highest reported count 6/15 Itasca (13)



DRM. First breeding record for *McLeod* RWS.

**Wilson's Phalarope** — Observed in five north counties and five south counties. Highest reported count 7/24 Lac Qui Parle (313 including 272 at Salt L.) PHS.



**Red-necked Phalarope** — One report: 7/30 Big Stone (2) KRE.

**Franklin's Gull** — Seen in 19 counties in all regions of state except East-central, Southeast.



**BLACK-HEADED GULL** — Reported 7/17+ Jackson (adult at Little Spirit L.) ph. †JPM, †KRE, m.ob. Initially found 7/16 on Iowa side of state line along the north shore of Spirit Lake †PHS, AXH (*The Loon* 78:57–58).

**Bonaparte's Gull** — Observed 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 7/16, 7/22–27 Beltrami PJR, PBD. Also observed with no date given Lac Qui Parle FAE.

**Ring-billed Gull** — Record high number of reports: seen in 50 counties statewide and in all regions.

**Herring Gull** — Fewest reports ever: 6/1 St. Louis ALE, TPW, 6/3, 7/8 Hennepin ADS, SWe, 6/3 Dakota ADS, 6/18, 7/2 Lake LS, MCA, 7/11, 7/16–17, 7/25 Cook PHS, HHD, DCZ, LBF.

**Caspian Tern** — Reported from Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, Todd, Mille Lacs, Hennepin, Wright, Nicollet, Freeborn, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle.

**Common Tern** — Reported only from St. Louis: 6/1 TPW, 6/25–26 MRN, 6/29 ALE.

**Forster's Tern** — Observed in 23 counties in all regions except Northeast.

**LEAST TERN** — Ninth state record: 6/8–9 **Sherburne** (Sherburne N.W.R.) †PLJ, †PCC, †CMB, ph. AXH, ph. DWK, m.ob. (*The Loon* 78:55).

**Black Tern** — Seen in 46 counties in all regions except Northeast. High count 7/1 Marshall (2200 at Agassiz N.W.R.) *vide* JMJ.

**Rock Pigeon** — Reported from 60 counties statewide.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** — Presence in state continues to expand. Observed in new locations 7/5 **Wabasha** (1 at Plainview) †CCB, 7/22+ **Otter Tail** (3 at Ottertail) †JSz, m.ob. Continuing reports from Grant (Herman) and Traverse (Wheaton) north, and Jackson (Heron Lake), Chippewa (Milan), Lac Qui Parle (4 locations), Swift (Appleton and Benson), Dakota (Farmington), Houston (Caledonia) south.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** — Seventh state record and third consecutive summer occurrence: 7/10–16 Cook ph. †JGW, ph. †PHS, †PCC, m.ob. (*The Loon* 78:54).

**Mourning Dove** — Seen in 68 counties throughout state.



**Black-billed Cuckoo** — Observed in 41 counties in all regions of state.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** — Record high number of reports: seen in 27 counties in all central and southern regions.

**Eastern Screech-Owl** — Found in Rock, Nobles, Murray, Lac Qui Parle, Renville.



**Great Horned Owl** — Fewest reports since 1994: reported from 20 counties in all regions except Southeast.



**Northern Hawk Owl** — One report: 6/9 Koochiching *vide* JMJ.

**Barred Owl** — Continuing downward trend: detected in six north and nine south counties.

**Great Gray Owl** — Found in Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, and 6/1–6 **Hennepin** (Medicine Lake) *vide* AXH. Also see Table 4 in *The Loon* 77:194–208.

**Long-eared Owl** — Two reports: 6/16 Swift BJU, 6/21 St. Louis KRE.

**Short-eared Owl** — Observed 6/19, 6/22, 7/5 Marshall BWF, GT, 6/28 Polk NGE, 7/2, 7/3, 7/8 Lac Qui Parle (3 locations) BJU, 7/16 Le Sueur BJU, 7/17 Roseau JMJ.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** — Only report: 7/14 St. Louis MRN.

**Common Nighthawk** — Reported from 27 counties in all regions of state.

**Whip-poor-will** — Reported from five north counties and eight south counties.



**Chimney Swift** — Record high number of reports: seen in 61 counties statewide.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** — Observed in 41 counties in all regions except Southwest.



**Belted Kingfisher** — Most reports ever:



**Olive-sided Flycatcher, 7 June 2005, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.**

observed in 57 counties statewide.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** — Seen in 23 south counties, plus Pennington, Marshall, Beltrami, Cook, Pine, Mille Lacs, Todd.



**Red-bellied Woodpecker** — Record high number of reports: reported from 42 counties in all regions except Northeast.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** — Most reports ever: observed in 48 counties in all regions of state.



**Downy Woodpecker** — Record high number of reports: seen in 59 counties statewide.



**Hairy Woodpecker** — Reported from 44 counties throughout state.

**Three-toed Woodpecker** — Only report: 6/7 Koochiching (2) BJM, DDM.

**Black-backed Woodpecker** — Seen in Roseau, Cass, Itasca, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton.



**Northern Flicker** — Most reports since 1988: observed in 64 counties statewide.

**Pileated Woodpecker** — Reported from 40 counties in all regions of state.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** — Seen in eleven north counties and six south counties. Late south migrants 6/6 in three counties, 6/7 Dakota JPM.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** — Most reports ever: reported from 70 counties statewide. (Previous high was 57.) New nesting



record for *Renville* BJU.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** — Observed in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Pine, plus late migrant 6/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Acadian Flycatcher** — Eight territories at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. (2 in Dakota, 6 in Scott) BAF. First county records 6/9+ **Sherburne** (vocalizing along Mahnomen Trail at Sherburne N.W.R.) ASc, m.ob., 6/10–

11 **Aitkin** (vocalizing in Spencer Twp.) WEN, WMS *et al.* Also reported in Houston, Rice, Blue Earth, Hennepin.

**Alder Flycatcher** — Reported in 26 counties in northern and central regions; late migrants 6/3 Brown JSS, 6/3–12 Rice TFB.

**Willow Flycatcher** — Observed in 28 counties in all regions except Northeast.

**Least Flycatcher** — Most reports ever: seen in 57 counties statewide.

**Eastern Phoebe** — Record high number of reports: observed in 62 counties in all regions of state.



**SAY'S PHOEBE** — Two individuals from spring lingered through 7/2 Clay (gravel pit at Felton Prairie) CMB *et al.* (*The Loon* 78:56–57). One seen at east end of county road 108 on 7/27 Clay †BJU may have been a third individual.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** — Reported from more counties than any previous year: seen in 67 counties throughout state.



**Western Kingbird** — Observed in 22 counties in all regions except Southeast.



**Eastern Kingbird** — Seen in 67 counties statewide.

**Loggerhead Shrike** — Adults with young in Clay and Rice. Also reported from Morrison, Pope, Lac Qui Parle (3 locations), Renville, Yellow Medicine, Dakota (max. 6), Le Sueur, Steele, Olmsted, Rock, Fillmore.



**Bell's Vireo** — Observed 6/1 Hennepin BBB, 6/1+ **Brown** (Rosenau-Lambrecht W.M.A.) BTS, BJU, 6/1, 6/30, 7/5 Waseca JPS, 6/7 Blue Earth ChH, 7/1 Dakota ADS, 7/16 Le Sueur BJU.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** — Most reports ever: seen in 43 counties in all regions except Northeast.

**Blue-headed Vireo** — Observed in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Warbling Vireo** — More reports than ever before: reported from 60 counties throughout state. (Previous record was 50 counties.)



**Philadelphia Vireo** — No reports from usual summer range.

**Red-eyed Vireo** — Record high number of reports: observed in 72 counties in all regions of state. (Previous record high was 59.)

**Gray Jay** — Reported from Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Blue Jay** — Most reports ever: seen in 67 counties throughout state.

**Black-billed Magpie** — Most reports since 1992: observed in ten counties in northern regions, plus 7/16 **Anoka** (origin?) JEH, 7/26 Pine JMP. New nesting record from *Itasca* DRM.



**American Crow** — Record high number of reports: seen in 73 counties statewide.



**Common Raven** — Reported from 17 north counties, plus 6/8 Sherburne ASC, 6/9 Anoka JLH.



**Horned Lark** — Most reports since 1989: observed in 44 counties in all regions except Northeast. First nesting record in *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Purple Martin** — Observed in 39 counties in all regions except Northeast.



**Tree Swallow** — Record high number of reports: seen in 67 counties throughout state.



**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** — Reported from 38 counties throughout state. New nesting record from *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Bank Swallow** — Most reports since 1990: observed in 41 counties in all regions of state. First nesting record for *Itasca* DRM.

**Cliff Swallow** — Seen in 54 counties statewide.



**Barn Swallow** — Reported from 66 counties throughout state.



**Black-capped Chickadee** — Most reports ever: observed in 68 counties in all regions of state.



**Boreal Chickadee** — Reported within normal range in Beltrami, Koochiching, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis.

**Tufted Titmouse** — Seen throughout summer in Fillmore NBO, plus 6/13 Houston FZL.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** — Record high number of reports: observed in 22 counties north and east of a line through Polk, Meeker, Goodhue.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** — Reported from 59 counties statewide.



**Brown Creeper** — Seen in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine, Anoka.

**ROCK WREN** — One adult (see spring report) in same Clay County location where a pair nested in 2004; observed throughout season and into August m.ob.





**Sedge Wren, 15 June 2005, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.**

**Carolina Wren** — Reported 6/11 **Clearwater** (Minerva L., no details) JFi, 6/16 (1), 7/17 (2) **Scott** (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) RBW, BAF, 7/8 Fillmore NBO.

**House Wren** — Most reports since 1986: seen in 67 counties throughout state.



**Winter Wren** — Observed in Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Sedge Wren** — Record high number of reports: seen in 58 counties in all regions of state. New nesting record from *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Marsh Wren** — Most reports ever: observed in 45 counties statewide. First nesting record for *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Golden-crowned Kinglet** — North re-

ports from Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Only south report: 7/29 Sherburne †ASc.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** — All reports: 6/1, 6/15, 7/6 St. Louis ALE, NRRI, SLF, SES, 6/13, 6/18 Lake NRRI, LS, 6/28 Itasca NRRI.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** — Most reports ever: observed in 34 counties as far north as Cass.



**Eastern Bluebird** — Seen in 61 counties statewide.



**Veery** — Record high number of reports: observed in 41 counties throughout the state.

**Gray-checked Thrush** — Late spring migrant 6/1 Meeker DMF.

**Swainson's Thrush** — Fewest number of summer reports since 1989: 6/11, 7/11, 7/15-16 Cook NRRI, PHS, DCZ, 6/13 Lake NRRI, 6/15, 7/12 St. Louis NRRI, SLF, SES.

**Hermit Thrush** — Most reports since 1993: observed in 15 northern counties.

**Wood Thrush** — Reported from 28 counties in all regions except West-central. Number of territories (13) up somewhat at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., Dakota BAF.

**American Robin** — Observed in 72 counties throughout state.



**Gray Catbird** — Record high number of reports: observed in 68 counties in all re-

gions of state.



**Northern Mockingbird** — Most reports ever: 6/1, 6/21, 7/27 Clay MM *fide* JMJ, BJU, 6/2, 6/9-13, 7/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/12 Lake JWL, 6/15 St. Louis BET, 7/1 Meeker DMF, 7/6 Ramsey JFR, 7/15 Renville BJU, 7/16 Le Sueur BJU, 7/26 Hennepin KS.

**Brown Thrasher** — Reported from 50 counties throughout state.



**European Starling** — Observed in 64 counties statewide.

**Cedar Waxwing** — Seen in 63 counties in all regions of state.

**Blue-winged Warbler** — Reported from 17 southern counties. At Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., a female Blue-winged Warbler paired with a male Lawrence's Warbler fledged four or five young in Scott BAF.

**Golden-winged Warbler** — Observed in 13 counties north and east of a line from Marshall to Anoka.

**Tennessee Warbler** — Reported from eight north and four south counties, including fall migrants 7/17 Le Sueur BJU, 7/29-30 Sherburne ASc.

**Nashville Warbler** — Reported from 12 north counties, plus 7/30 Sherburne ASc.



**Northern Parula** — Observed in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, plus 6/1 Ram-

sey REH.

**Yellow Warbler** — Most reports ever: seen in 66 counties in all regions of state.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** — Reported from 26 counties north and east of a line from Marshall through Carver, Scott, Dakota, plus 7/16 Le Sueur BJU. Same number of territories (5) as in recent years at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., Scott/Dakota BAF.

**Magnolia Warbler** — Observed in Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Cook, Lake St. Louis, plus 6/11 Carver WCM.

**Cape May Warbler** — Seen 6/4 Koochiching AXH, 6/16, 7/6, 7/16 St. Louis NRRI, ALE, SLF, 6/19 Lake NRRI, 6/24 Aitkin KRE.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** — Reported 6/11, 7/15, 7/25 Cook NRRI, DCZ, LBF, 6/13, 7/2 Lake NRRI, MCA, 6/15 St. Louis NRRI.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** — Observed in 14 counties in northern regions of state.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** — Reported from ten north counties, plus 6/2 Sherburne ASC, 6/5 Dakota ADS.

**Blackburnian Warbler** — Seen in nine counties in North-central and Northeast regions, plus 6/16 Sherburne PLJ.

**Pine Warbler** — Observed in 12 north counties, as well as 6/2 Sherburne PLJ, 6/3 Ramsey REH.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** — Reported 6/6–7/2 Dakota (singing male at Ritter Farm Park) ph. †JPM; also documented by †CMB, †PCC, ph. †DAC, ph. †PHS, †DTT, SMT.

**Palm Warbler** — Seen 6/4 Koochiching AXH, 6/19, 6/24, 7/15 St. Louis NRRI, ALE, SLF, 6/29 Cass NRRI, 7/4 Itasca JWJ, NRRI, 7/5 Beltrami NRRI.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** — Single report:

7/16 Koochiching PBD.

**Blackpoll Warbler** — Late spring migrant 6/1 Waseca JPS.

**Cerulean Warbler** — Same number of territories (9) as last year at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., Scott/Dakota BAF. Also seen in Anoka, Goodhue, Rice, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Renville, Otter Tail.

**Black-and-white Warbler** — Fewest reports since 1989: observed in ten counties in North-central and Northeast, plus Pine, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Sherburne.

**American Redstart** — Record number of reports: seen in 59 counties statewide. (Previous record was 48 counties.)

**Prothonotary Warbler** — Observed 6/1 Ramsey REH, 6/5 Hennepin WCM, 6/11 Carver ChH, 6/20, 7/15 Nicollet RMD, BJU, 7/17 Le Sueur BJU.

**Ovenbird** — Most reports ever: seen in 48 counties in all regions of state.

**Northern Waterthrush** — Reported from Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, plus 6/19 Anoka PKL, 7/17 Le Sueur BJU.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** — Observed 6/3 Rice TFB, 6/7 Blue Earth ChH, 7/5 Houston NBO.

**Kentucky Warbler** — Three reports: 6/1, 6/2 Rice (River Bend Nature Center) TFB, 6/5 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 6/7 Blue Earth (same as May) ChH.

**Connecticut Warbler** — Seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis.

**Mourning Warbler** — Observed in ten north and seven south counties.



**Common Yellowthroat** — Most reports ever: found in 72 counties throughout the state.

**Hooded Warbler** — Nineteen territories and five nests (three in Scott County, two in Dakota County) in Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., BAF; one nest failed due to predation, two nests were parasitized by cowbirds, total of ten Hooded Warbler young and one Brown-headed Cowbird young fledged. Also seen 6/2–7/30 Sherburne (Blue Hills Trail, Sherburne N.W.R.) ASC, PLJ, REH, 6/5 Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.) PGe.

**Wilson's Warbler** — Two reports: 6/4 Koochiching AXH, 7/2 Lake MCA.

**Canada Warbler** — Seen in Itasca, Cass, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis, plus late spring migrant 6/1 Rice TFB.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** — Reported 7/15 Nicollet (Seven Mile Creek County Park) †BJU.

**Summer Tanager** — Male Summer Tanager paired with female Scarlet Tanager produced at least one hybrid young at Lebanon Hills R.P., Dakota ph. JPM.

**Scarlet Tanager** — Record high number of reports: seen in 44 counties in all regions of state.



**Eastern Towhee** — Tied with 2002 for highest number of reports: observed in 3 north and 20 south counties.

**Chipping Sparrow** — Most reports ever: observed in 72 counties statewide.



**Clay-colored Sparrow** — Topped 2004's record number of reports by one: seen in



54 counties throughout state.

**Field Sparrow** — Record high number of reports: observed in 42 counties south and west of a line through Polk, Mille Lacs, Washington, Houston.

**Vesper Sparrow** — Reported from 43 counties in all regions of state. First nesting record for *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Lark Sparrow** — Seen in four north and fifteen south counties.



**Savannah Sparrow** — Most reports since 1986: observed in 55 counties statewide.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** — Highest number of reports since 1989: seen in 38 counties in all regions except Northeast.

**Henslow's Sparrow** — Reported from an unprecedented 32 counties in all regions except North-central and Northeast. Previous record number of reports was from ten counties, in 2000. First county records 6/18–7/8 **Nicollet** (Fort Ridgley S.P.) WCM, m.ob., 6/26 **Chippewa** (Chippewa Prairie) BJU, 6/26–27 **McLeod** (Schaefer's Prairie) PRH *et al.*, 7/2–4 **Mille Lacs** (Kunkel W.M.A.) HHD, ASC, 7/18 **Yellow Medicine** (Sioux Agency Twp.) BJU. Digital audio in Ramsey and Waseca †JPS; also documented in Dakota †ADS and Stearns †PCC. Record-high count 7/4 Scott (**18** at Pet Trails, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) RBW.

**Le Conte's Sparrow** — Continuation of the previous two years' trend of high numbers of reports: observed in 22



Henslow's Sparrow, 16 June 2005, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.

counties in all regions except Southwest, South-central.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** — Observed in Kittson, Roseau, Polk, Clay, Traverse, Morrison, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Lake.

**Song Sparrow** — Record high number of reports: seen in 72 counties statewide.



**Lincoln's Sparrow** — Reported from Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Pine.

**Swamp Sparrow** — Most reports ever: observed in 55 counties in all regions of state.

**White-throated Sparrow** — Seen in 12 north counties and 6/1 Dakota JPM, 6/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/16 Scott RBW.

**White-crowned Sparrow** — Late spring migrant 6/5 Cook (Judge C.R. Magney S.P.) *fide* JWL.

**Dark-eyed Junco** — Observed 6/4 Koochiching AXH, 6/17, 6/24, 6/28 St. Louis NRRI, ALE, SLF.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** — Reported 6/9, 6/26, 7/2, 7/27 Clay RHO, JMJ, BJU.

**Northern Cardinal** — Reported from 42 counties in all regions except Northeast.



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** — Most reports ever: observed in 63 counties throughout state.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** — Adult male at feeder south of Newfolden, from

5/29 until 6/16 Marshall †MBr, †PCC, †JMJ, †SAS (*The Loon* 78:54–55)

**Blue Grosbeak** — Record-high number of reports: seen in Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Rock, Murray, Brown, and 6/13 Dakota (first-year male near Vermillion) †BCM, ph. BHo.

**Indigo Bunting** — Observed in 53 counties statewide.

**Dickcissel** — Reported from 41 counties south and west of a line from Polk to Houston.

**Bobolink** — Seen in 57 counties in all regions of state.

**Red-winged Blackbird** — Reported from 73 counties statewide.



**Eastern Meadowlark** — Most reports ever: observed in 33 counties in all regions of state.

**Western Meadowlark** — Reported from 38 counties throughout state.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** — Seen in 42 counties in all regions.

**Brewer's Blackbird** — Matched 2004 for fewest records since 1994: observed in 24 counties in all regions except Southwest. First nesting records for *Itasca* DRM, *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Common Grackle** — Reported from 68 counties statewide.



**Great-tailed Grackle** — Documented at new locations 7/10 **Chisago** (pair) ph.



NWa, 7/13 Lac Qui Parle (vocalizing male, Walter Twp.) †BJU, 7/15 **Yellow Medicine** (vocalizing male, Hazel Run Twp.) †BJU, 7/18 Nicollet (vocalizing, Swan L.) †BJU. Continuing observations (see spring report) through mid-July Rock (female carrying food at Hills) CRM *et al.* and throughout season in Jackson (max. 13, Minneota Twp.) PEB, m.ob. Also see undocumented reports.

**Purple Finch** — Seen in 12 north counties and 7/4, 7/8 Sherburne ASC, 7/17 Rock DOK.

**House Finch** — Observed in 45 counties in all regions. First nesting record for *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



**Red Crossbill** — Reported 6/11–12 Roseau JPS, 6/16, 7/28 St. Louis NRRI, *vide* JWJ, Itasca 6/26 NRRI.

**Quiscalus, sp.** — A very large grackle with a long, keel-shaped tail and a “flat-topped” head 7/4 Rice †EH was probably a Great-tailed, but eye color was not seen and the bird did not vocalize.

**White-winged Crossbill** — Only report: 6/22 St. Louis NRRI.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** — Observed in 66 counties statewide.



**Pine Siskin** — Most reports since 1996: seen in nine north counties plus 6/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/2, 6/6 Blue Earth ChH, 6/2, 6/9 Rice TFB, 6/11 Stearns HHD, 6/12 Hennepin SMC, 6/20 Brown BTS, 6/26 Swift BJU, 7/16–17 Le Sueur BJU.

**Orchard Oriole** — Record high number of reports: seen in 33 counties in all regions except North-central, Northeast.



**American Goldfinch** — Most reports ever: seen in 71 counties throughout the state.

**Baltimore Oriole** — Reported from 64 counties throughout state.



**Evening Grosbeak** — Observed in Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Cook, St. Louis.

**House Sparrow** — Most reports since 1989: seen in 61 counties throughout state.



**Contributors**

ABi Andrew Bicek  
 ADS Andrew D. Smith  
 AEB Al E. Batt  
 ALE Audrey L. Evers  
 ASc Al Schirmacher  
 AXH Anthony W. Hertzell  
 BAF Bruce A. Fall  
 BBB Bruce B. Baer  
 BBr Beth Brueggen  
 BCM Chris Mansfield

BDS Beau D. Shroyer  
 BET Bill E. Tefft  
 BHo Ben Hopper  
 BJM Barbara J. Martin  
 BJU Bill J. Unzen  
 BLA Betty L. Ammerman  
 BR Bob Rogers  
 BRB Brad R. Bolduan  
 BTS Brian T. Smith  
 BU Butch Ukara

BWF	Ben W. Fritchman	JPS	Julian P. Sellers
CAM	Craig A. Menze	JSK	John & Susan Kroll
CAS	Carol A. Schumacher	JSS	Jack Sprenger
CCB	Chris C. Benson	JSz	Jeff Schultz
CDE	Corey D. Ellingson	JWH	John W. Hockema
ChH	Chad Heins	JWL	James W. Lind
ChM	Chet A. Meyers	KAK	Karla A. Kinstler
CLW	Chris L. Wood	KJB	Karl J. Bardon
CMB	Conny M. Brunell	KRE	Kim R. Eckert
CMN	Connie M. Norheim	KRS	Karen R. Sussman
CRM	Craig M. Mandel	KS	Kiki Sonnen
DAB	David A. Bartkey	KTP	Keith T. Pulles
DAC	Dave Cahlander	KWR	Kim W. Risen
DAG	David A. Grosshuesch	LAV	Lance A. Vrieze
DCZ	Dave C. Zumeta	LBF	Linda B. Felker
DDM	Dennis D. Martin	LJV	Linda J. Vetter
DFN	David F. Neitzel	LS	Linda Sparling
DLB	Diane L. Brudelie	MAW	Marlene A. Weber
DMF	Dan M. Floren	MBr	Mary Broten
DOB	Derek O. Bakken	MCA	Mark C. Alt
DOK	Don O. Kienholz	MLB	Maya L. Bolduan
DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	MM	Matt Mecklenburg
DRM	Dennis R. Meyer	MO	Mark Otnes
DSC	David S. Carmen	MRN	Michael R. North
DSo	Dave Sorgen	MWS	Mike W. Steffes
DST	Dave & Sandy Thimgan	NAJ	Nancy A. Jackson
DTT	Dan T. Thimgan	NBO	Nancy B. Overcott
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	NFT	Nels F. Thompson
EEO	Earl E. Orf	NGE	Nathanial G. Emery
EH	Emily Hutchins	NRRRI	Natural Resources Research Institute
ES	Erika Sitz	NWa	Nora Walkosz
ET	Ed Thelen	OLJ	Oscar L. Johnson
FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	PBD	Pat & Bob DeWenter
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	PCC	Philip C. Chu
FZL	Fred Z. Leshner	PEB	Paul E. Budde
GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel	PGe	Paul Gemfler
GT	Gary Tischer	PH	Paul Hertzell
HHD	Herb H. Dingmann	PHS	Peder H. Svingen
JCG	Janet C. Green	PJR	Pat J. Rice
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	PKL	Pat & Ken LaFond
JEH	Jay E. Hamernick	PLJ	Paul L. Johnson
JFi	Jim Fitzpatrick	PRH	Pete Hoeger
JFR	James F. Ryan	PSP	Pamela S. Perry
JGW	Josh G. Watson	PWP	Paul W. Pedersen
JiS	Jim Schnur	RBW	Bob Williams
JLH	James L. Howitz	RCS	Rolf C. Smeby
JLR	Janet L. Riegler	REH	Robert E. Holtz
JLU	Janice & Larry Uden	RHO	Robert H. O'Connor
JME	Jesse M. Ellis	RJS	Roger J. Schroeder
JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru	RLa	Robin LaFortune
JMP	Jackie M. Potts	RMD	Robert M. Dunlap
JPM	James P. Mattsson	RNS	Richard N. Smaby

RPR	Robert P. Russell, Jr.
RRz	Russell Riesz
RSp	Rick J. Specht
RVJ	Robert & Valerie Jessen
RWS	Robert W. Schroeder
SAS	Shelley A. Steva
SES	Steven E. Schon
SHF	Susan H. Fall
SID	Susan I. Durrant
SLF	Steve L. Falkowski
SMC	Scott M. Clark
SPM	Steve P. Millard
STW	Sylvia T. Winkelman
SWe	Steve Weston
SWo	Scott Wolff
TFB	Tom F. Boevers
TJa	Teresa Jaskiewicz

TLa	Tim Lamey
TPW	Terry P. Wiens
UK	Uwe Kausch
WCM	William C. Marengo
WEN	Warren E. Nelson
WMS	William M. Stauffer

#### Abbreviations

L.	Lake
m.ob.	many observers
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.R.	Park Reserve
S.N.A.	Scientific & Natural Area
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.P.A.	Waterfowl Production Area
W.T.P.	Wastewater Treatment Ponds

## Leucistic Barred Owl Found During the Winter of 2005

David A. Grosshuesch

The unprecedented 2004–2005 winter irruption of Great Gray Owls (*Strix nebulosa*) in Minnesota led to a relatively high number of observed aberrantly plumaged birds. Hertzell (2006) reported that during this irruption, some degree of albinism or leucism was documented in at least ten individual Great Gray Owls, with nearly all of these birds exhibiting partial albinism. Mueller and Hutt (1941) describe partial albinism as localized white feathers found in a certain region of the body. The most unusual Great Gray Owl observed was a dilute-plumaged or leucistic individual found by Ben Yokel and Karen Sussman (Hertzell 2006). In birds, leucism can be described as abnormally pale feather coloration or muted coloration, usually throughout the entire body (Alaja and Mikkola 1997). A small number of leucistic owls have been documented in the literature, and



**Leucistic Barred Owl, 26 February 2005, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Michael Furtman (©www.michaelfurtman.com).**



**Leucistic Barred Owl, 26 February 2005, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Michael Furtman (©www.michaelfurtman.com).**

it is thought that leucistic owls are either extremely rare or, perhaps, overlooked in the field, unlike birds that exhibit some typical form of albinism (Duncan 2003).

At a minimum, there are currently nine species of North American owls documented as exhibiting some type of albinism, with the highest number of recorded cases in Great Gray Owls (Gross 1965, Duncan 2003). Other than the Great Gray Owl listed by Hertzell (2006), I was unable to find any indisputable published records of leucistic owls from North America in the literature. However, in October of 2001, a leucistic Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) exhibiting overall pale feather coloration and light brown talons was captured at the Hawk Ridge Banding Station in Duluth (Evans pers. comm.). Outside of North America, there are few cases of leucism observed in owls, with one Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*), three Indian Scops Owls (*O. bakkamoena*) (one leucistic young produced each year in 1994, 1995, and 1996

from a single pair), and a pair of captive leucistic Spectacled Owls (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) in Belgium, originally captured in Central America, that has produced 14 leucistic young (Duncan 2003).

Documented albinism in Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) is limited to an incomplete albino of unknown origin held at the Natural History Museum in Niagara Falls, Toronto, Canada (Deane 1876), as well as an unlisted number of reports of albinism from the Maritime Provinces, Canada (Erskine 1992, Mazur and James 2000). Additionally, a leucistic Barred Owl was observed in the summer of 1992 in western Minneapolis, and described by Anthony Hertzell and Robert Janssen as appearing white with patchy tan undertones, some faint streaking in the head and undersides, dark eyes, and normally colored bare parts (Hertzell pers. comm.).

On 26 February, 2005, an unusual ostensibly white owl was observed by Michael Furtman in Duluth. The bird was eventually captured, and after examina-



Leucistic Barred Owl, 26 February 2005, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Michael Furtman (©www.michaelfurtman.com).

tion, it was determined to be a second year leucistic Barred Owl. The description is as follows: the overall appearance of the bird was white, but it had dark eyes and a yellow bill, similar to normal plumaged Barred Owls. The head appeared white, but a limited number of feathers on the left side of the face showed some extremely faint tan barring. A noticeable feature was the tricolored head feathers, with the distal ~0.5 inch white, the middle ~0.5 inch tan, and the basal ~0.5 to 0.75 inch grayish. The perimeter facial disk feathers were brownish to tan; however, the feathers within the facial disk were white. The breast was mostly white with a few feathers having extremely faint tan barring in the upper breast, and virtually no barring present in the lower breast. The flank feathers were entirely white. The majority of back feathers were white, with a few showing pale tan barring in the upper back region. Of interest, the distal half to two-thirds of the body feathers was white, while the basal half to one-third was grayish. Both wings showed visible pale tan barring on the primaries and secondaries; however, the barring became less prominent in the secondaries towards the outer feathers, with completely white tertials. The lesser coverts were uniformly faded and tan, while the median and secondary coverts showed reduced tan barring (less prominent in the secondary coverts). The barring on the upper and underside of the tail was faded and tan. The undertail coverts and rump had relatively faded, tan barring. The leg and foot feathers were white, although, they were "dirty" in appearance. Nearly all of the talons were black; however, the hallux on the right foot was pinkish.

The lack of leucistic owls documented in North America over the last century or more suggests that this abnormal plumage may be extremely rare, although, it seems somewhat anomalous to have two leucistic Barred Owls found in Minnesota in recent history. Perhaps with the increased interest in birding, especially birders seeking owls, there will be additional reported sightings of leucistic owls.

## Acknowledgments

I sincerely thank Michael Furtman and Debbie Waters for letting me know about this bird and for the opportunity to capture and inspect this unique individual. Also, I would like to thank Michael Furtman for providing photographs. Thanks to Anthony Hertzell and Jim Lind for providing valuable comments which greatly improved this article. Finally, I need to recognize and thank my wife, Sarah Grosshuesch, for her continued support and encouragement.

## Literature Cited

- Alaja, P. and H. Mikkola. 1997. Albinism in the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) and Other Owls. Pp. 33–37 in *Biology and Conservation of Owls in the Northern Hemisphere: 2nd International Symposium, 1997 February 5–7, Winnipeg, MB* (Eds., J.R. Duncan, D.H. Johnson and T.H. Nicholls). Gen. Tech. Rep. NC-190. U.S. Dept. of Agric., For. Serv., North Central For. Exp. Stn., St. Paul, MN.
- Deane, R. 1876. Albinism and melanism among North American birds. *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 1:20–24.
- Duncan, J. R. 2003. *Owls of the World: Their Lives, Behavior and Survival*. Firefly Books Inc. Buffalo, N.Y. 319 pp.
- Erskine, A. J. 1992. *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*. Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax.
- Gross, A. 1965. The incidence of albinism in North American birds. *Bird Banding* 36:67–71.
- Hertzell, A. X. 2006. The 2004–2005 influx of northern owls part IV: unusual coloration in Great Gray Owls. *The Loon* 78:3–11.
- Mazur, K. M. and P. C. James. 2000. Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 508 (Eds., A. Poole and F. Gill). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Mueller, C. D. and F. B. Hutt. 1941. Genetics of the fowl, sex-linked imperfect melanism. *Journal of Heredity* 32:71–80.

5426 Juniata, Duluth, MN 55804.

# Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) was conducted at the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis on 4 December 2005. In attendance and voting were MOURC members Paul Budde, Phil Chu, Ann Kessen, Jim Lind (alternate), Bill Marengo (alternate), Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker (alternate), and Peder Svingen (Chairman).

In accordance with its policy on term limits, the Committee reviewed nominations for membership and elected Steve Stucker as a regular member, replacing Tom Tustison. Karl Bardon was elected as an alternate member.

Among the items on the agenda was additional discussion of the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) in Minnesota. Steve Stucker and Phil Chu compiled data obtained from the Bird Banding Lab on 65 band recoveries in Minnesota of "small Canada Geese" that had been banded as chicks on their breeding grounds; 45 of these were from known *hutchinsii* populations, mostly on Baffin Island. These 45 band recoveries were voted on as one record. Excluded were 18 recoveries of chicks banded on the west coast of Hudson Bay, where there has been uncertainty regarding subspecies, and 2 recoveries from Southampton Island with incorrect recovery dates.

Further discussion of Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) (record #2005-045, also see Breckenridge 1995, Hertz 2004) focused on the possibility of unpublished evidence from archaeological sites. Anthony Hertz volunteered to research this possibility and the record was tabled by a 7-2 vote.

Also discussed were five recirculated

records, i.e., those with inconclusive first-round votes; a potential first state record of the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*); and an apparently mislabeled specimen of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The results of these discussions and votes on these records are included below. All of the other records were reviewed and voted on by mail.

The following records were voted on August – December 2005 and were Accepted (also see Not Accepted record #2005-064, which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 17 October 2005, Rendsville Township, Stevens County (record #2005-073, vote 7-0). This adult was shot from a flock of Mallards coming in to a corn field; photographs of the specimen were submitted.

- Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), 45 band recoveries at various fall dates and locations in Minnesota (record #2005-080, vote 7-0). This provided additional evidence of this species' occurrence in 11 north and 16 south counties; each of Minnesota's nine regions had at least one recovery. The earliest were 29 September 2003, Morrison County, and 30 September 2001, Stearns County. The latest were 6 November 1996, Chippewa County, 6 November 2003, Waseca County, and 13 November 1998, Nobles County.

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 28-31 March 2005, Verchota Landing, Winona County (record #2005-050, vote 7-0). A written description of this adult male was supplemented by photographs.

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 1 January 2005, Afton Christmas

Bird Count, Washington County (record #2005-052, vote 6–1). Two adult males on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River.

- Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), 16–27 July 2005, Little Spirit Lake, Jackson County (record #2005-048, vote 10–0). This immature was first found on the Iowa side of the border at Spirit Lake and fortuitously wandered into Minnesota (*The Loon* 78:11–14).

- Frigatebird, sp. (*Fregata* sp.), 19–21 September 2005, Big Lake off Echo Trail, St. Louis County (record #2005-064, vote 7–0). Please see Not Accepted records.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis* sp.), 23–28 September 2005, 180<sup>th</sup> Street marsh, Dakota County (record #2005-062, vote 7–0). Submitted as an unidentified *Plegadis* ibis and accepted as such; in spite of good photographs, the true color of its irides could not be demonstrated.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 9–15 October 2005, Munnwyler Lake near Ortonville, Big Stone County (record #2005-069, vote 7–0). Though photographed about two weeks later than the juvenile in the preceding record, it was still not possible to distinguish reddish tones in the irides from an artifact of reflected light.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 16 May 2001, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2005-047, vote 7–0). Though submitted more than four years after the fact, documentation for this adult at the West Skyline Hawk Count was prepared the day of the sighting; its unanimous acceptance underscores the importance of contemporaneous field notes.

- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 1 October 2005, Lake Superior, St. Louis County (record #2005-067, vote 7–0). This juvenile was initially misidentified as a Red-necked Phalarope (*P. lobatus*); photographs revealed its true identity.

- Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), 7 September 2005, Chisago Lakes, Chisago County (record #2005-078, vote 6–1). This juvenile was hit by a car in a parking lot; photographs of the specimen were reviewed.

- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), 17 July – 17 October 2005, north



**Record #2005-067, Red Phalarope, 1 October 2005, Lake Superior, St. Louis County. Photo by Scott B Meyer.**

end of Spirit Lake and Little Spirit Lake, Jackson County (record #2005-049, vote 7–0). This adult was first found on the Iowa side of the border by Minnesota birders looking for Iowa's Brown Pelican! It was photographed on both sides of the border and was reported regularly on the Iowa side of the border through at least 11 November, but the last verified sighting in Minnesota was 17 October.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 5–12 November 2005, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2005-077, vote 7–0). This second-cycle gull had a blue-green, pencil-shaped bill with a sharply demarcated black tip, and blue-green legs; its size and plumage were compared to adjacent Ring-billed and Herring gulls. Photographs and written details were submitted by each of three observers. One of the two previous St. Louis County records was also in late fall (Eckert 1985).

- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), 4 September 2005, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2005-055, vote 7–0). This juvenile was a harbinger of the amazing flock that followed.

- Sabine's Gull, 16–18 September 2005, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2005-056, vote 7–0 for 60 indi-



**Record #2005-065, Sabine's Gull, 26–28 September 2005, Lake Rebecca, Hastings, Dakota County. Photo by Terence Brashear.**

viduals, vote 5–2 for 70 individuals). A total of 70 individuals was accepted, though two committee members considered 10 birds potential duplicates. Record-high count for Minnesota and the Great Lakes Basin.

- Sabine's Gull, 17 September 2005, Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2005-068, vote 7–0).

- Sabine's Gull, 26–28 September 2005, Lake Rebecca, Hastings, Dakota County (record #2005-065, vote 7–0). This injured juvenile was photographed at close range.

- Sabine's Gull, 1 October 2005, Lake Superior, St. Louis County (record #2005-066, vote 7–0 for first individual, vote 5–2 for second individual). Two juveniles were observed from a boat on Lake Superior. At least one was photographed but the two were not seen simultaneously, leading two members to accept one bird only.

- Sabine's Gull, 22 October 2005, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2005-076, vote 7–0). One more juvenile capped off an incredible season for this species in Minnesota.

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), 18 September 2005, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2005-059, vote 6–1).

- Arctic Tern, 24–25 September 2005, Superior Entry and Lafayette Square on Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2005-063, vote 7–0). Though nearly a week apart, these two sight records may refer to the same adult. This species has now been found at the Superior Entry in four of the last six fall migrations — all within a narrow window between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

- Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), 8–9 June 2005, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (record #2005-036, vote 7–0). This adult was photographed by several observers.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 10–16 July 2005, near Devil Track Lake, Cook County (record #2005-046, vote 7–0). Photographed at a private residence northwest of Grand Marais.

- Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*), 16 October 2005, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2005-070,



**Record #2005-036, Least Tern, 9 June 2005, Sherburne NWR, Sherburne County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.**



**Record #2005-046, White-winged Dove, 11 July 2005, near Devil Track Lake, Cook County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.**

vote 7–0). Sight record of an adult; second consecutive October in Lake County and third state record.

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 25 October 2005, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Aitkin County (record #2005-074, vote 7–0). First county record and about a month later than any previous occurrence in the state.

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 17–21 October 2005, Taconite Harbor, Cook County (record #2005-071, vote 7–0). Seen and heard amongst the rocks sheltering this harbor of refuge along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

- Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), 30 May 2005, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2005-041, vote 7–0). A female was photographed (*The Loon* 77:239) on the rocks near the Coast Guard Station; third state record.

- Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), Virginia, St. Louis County (record #2005-072, vote 7–0). Well-described but unfortunately not refound; sixth state record.

- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), 6 June – 2 July 2005, Ritter Farm Park, Dakota County (record #2005-038, vote 7–0). This territorial male attracted scores

of observers, but sadly no female Prairie Warblers.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 27–29 May 2005, Castle Danger, Lake County (record #2005-051, vote 7–0). Adult male photographed at a feeder along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

- Lark Bunting, 30 August 2005, Schroeder, Cook County (record #2005-075, vote 5–2). Also along the North Shore of Lake Superior was this fall migrant in female-type plumage. Those voting against this record were concerned about the lack of field notes.

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 29 May – 16 June 2005, New Solum Township, Marshall County (record #2005-037, vote 7–0). An adult male sporadically visited a feeder during its 19-day stay.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 18 May 2005, Greenleaf Township, Meeker County (record #2005-039, vote 5–2). This adult male was briefly described.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), 16 April 2005, Schroeder, Cook County (record #2005-044, vote 7–0). Photographed at a feeder during its brief stay. Fifth state record, three of which pertain to what was probably the same individual



Record #2005-038, Prairie Warbler, 16 June 2005, Ritter Farm Park, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.



**Record #2005-051, Lark Bunting, 27 May 2005, Castle Danger, Lake County. Photo by LeRoger Lind.**



**Record #2005-044. Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 16 April 2005, Schroeder, Cook County. Photo by Carol and Jim Tveekrem.**

for three consecutive years.

The following records were voted on August – December 2005 and were Not Accepted. (Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to include the sighting in *The Loon*, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU's archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.)

- Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), 19–21 September 2005, Big Lake off Echo Trail, St. Louis County (record #2005-064, vote 2–5; subsequently Accepted as *Fregata* sp., vote 7–0). The documentation clearly depicted a female frigatebird, but there were discrepancies between the sketch (black throat) and written description (white throat). The exact shape and extent of white on the breast was unclear. These seemingly minor points are critical for the elimination of certain age/sex classes of the Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*) and Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*), both of which have been

reported in the interior of North America.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis* sp.), 17–24 November 2005, Spring Lake, Dakota County (record #2005-079, vote 1–6). The description of this exceptionally late ibis was submitted by an individual who did not actually see the bird.

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 9 April 2005, Three Rivers Park at Coon Rapids Dam, Hennepin County (record #2005-043, vote 0–7). A brief description of a very dark, soaring bird with a “relatively long tail” and a “relatively long head projection” drew no support.

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 30 May 2005, Spindler's Pond near Rice Lake State Park, Steele County (recirculated record #2005-042, first vote 5–2, second vote 3–4). Field notes were not taken and the bird was seen without binoculars from an estimated distance of 150 yards by the observer submitting documentation. This record was discussed at the December 2005 meeting and it was noted that some of the described details were likely visible only to the observer using binoculars; second-hand reports of plumage details — especially color, but also feather shape and anatomical placement — are potentially less reliable than first-hand accounts.

- Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), 9 September 2005, Park Point,

Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2005-058, vote 3–4). This jaeger was observed in flight for one to two minutes from an estimated distance of 200 yards; its central rectrices either did not project past the tail tip or could not be seen at this distance. Much of the description suggested Long-tailed Jaeger, e.g., the apparent absence of an underwing flash and “its mantle a light [sic] shade of brown than the dark chocolate brown primaries and secondaries”. It chased after or was next to a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) the entire time and was described as smaller than the gull — a comparison that equally fits Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*). Of most concern was the statement “undertail coverts were white, contrasting heavily with dark brown tail, no noticeable [sic] barring, moving into a more dusky gray on belly”. According to Olsen and Larsson (1997), uniformly pale undertail coverts are never seen on Long-taileds; the only jaeger that can show a near-unmarked pale crissum is a pale juvenile Parasitic.

- Long-tailed Jaeger, 18 September 2005, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (recirculated record #2005-060, first vote 5–2, second vote 3–4). Based on plumage details, this pale-headed juvenile was considered a different individual than one reported the following day (see record #2005-061 below). Though possibly correctly identified, parts of the description also fit first-year Parasitic Jaeger and the statement “wing length was much longer vs [sic] a Ring-billed Gull” essentially eliminated Long-tailed Jaeger.

- Long-tailed Jaeger, 19 September 2005, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (recirculated record #2005-061, first vote 4–3, second vote 0–7). The primary observer participated in the discussion of this record at the December meeting and recommended that it not be accepted.

- Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*), 22 August 2005, Maplewood State Park, Otter Tail County (record #2005-054, vote 1–6). This juvenile female sapsucker was seen by two experienced observers, only one of whom submitted documentation. Its identification may

have been correct, but committee members were concerned about reliance on the absence of a field mark to eliminate the much more likely possibility of a juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. varius*); the latter's white upper secondary-covert patch may be reduced, obscured, or very difficult to see. One of several examples of juvenile Yellow-bellieds with obscured white patches can be found at <<http://www.birdsofoklahoma.net/images/yb-sap004.jpg>>. Parts of the description such as “alternating lighter and slightly darker areas in the moustachial area” and “light pale brown” throat better fit Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

- American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*), 19 May 2005, Cross Bay Lake, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Cook County (recirculated record #2005-027, first vote 5–2, second vote 4–3). This intriguing report of a small, gray, stubby-tailed bird submerging itself near a waterfall failed to gain the necessary support for acceptance after discussion at the December meeting. The observer acknowledged that he was not an experienced birder and had no knowledge of this species' status in Minnesota. The characteristic bobbing behavior of this species was not noted and its vocalizations, bill shape and color, and leg length and color were not described. This species has been reported multiple times by canoeists, hikers, and fly-fisherman in the BWCA; two early June sight records have been accepted, but the only record supported by photographs was along the North Shore of Lake Superior beginning 29 January 1970 (Green 1970, Muelhausen 1970).

- Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*), 5 September 1888, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2004-115, vote 0–10). All 10 members vote on potential first state records. This record was first discussed and tabled at the December 2004 meeting after David Sibley re-identified American Museum of Natural History specimen #762276 as this species. The specimen had two different labels attached to it; Sibley determined that the bird was most

likely collected at New Haven, Connecticut instead of in Minnesota (Sibley 2005).

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 18 December 2004, Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County (record #2005-053, vote 0–7). The description of a bird seen with six robins during a Christmas Bird Count noted “black and white markings on the head”, “bright orange-red breast” and “white markings on wings”. These details were considered too vague and incomplete to determine species.

- Black-headed Grosbeak, 10 June 2005, Reine Township, Roseau County (record #2005-040, vote 0–7). Bill shape was not described and the color of its bill “yellow/light colored” eliminated Black-headed Grosbeak. The bird’s behavior — hiding under a low-growing juniper or the edge of a brush pile, then coming out to peck on the ground — was atypical for a grosbeak; the observers considered this when they wrote, “the white breast extended well up on the chest area, which made us think of a Rufous-sided towhee.”

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. A significant number of submissions include digital documentation; observers are strongly encouraged to also submit contemporaneous field notes for all records. Documentation can be submitted online by highlighting the “Reporting Birds” menu at the MOU website <<http://moumn.org/>> and clicking on “Enter RQD documentation”. Documentation forms can also be mailed upon request or downloaded from the MOU website.

In addition to those observers who provided photographs, sound recordings, or other forms of documentation, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Tom Auer, Tom and Elizabeth Bell, Mary Broten, Conny Brunell, Paul Budde, Deb Buria-Falkowski, Chris Benson, Dave Cahlander, Philip Chu, Kim Eckert, Steve Falkowski, Dan Floren, June Foss, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertz, Bob Janssen, Oscar Johnson, Paul Johnson, Jeanie Joppru,

Doug Kieser, Linda Krueger, Janet Lerch, Jim Lind, Jim Mattsson, Michelle McDowell, Frank Nicoletti, Peter Rodewald, Drew Smith, Carol Sorsoleil, Shelley Steva, Forest Strnad, Peder Svingen, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Carol and Jim Tveekrem, Bill Unzen, Sara Vacek, Jan Vieth, and Josh Watson. There were many observers who documented records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; although these records are not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc/index.html>>. Summary: 45 records voted on / 33 Accepted, 12 Not Accepted.

*Corrigendum:* The Sage Thrasher at Dodge Nature Center 26 June 2004 was in Dakota (not Ramsey) County (***The Loon*** 76:156, 77:31–32).

#### Literature Cited

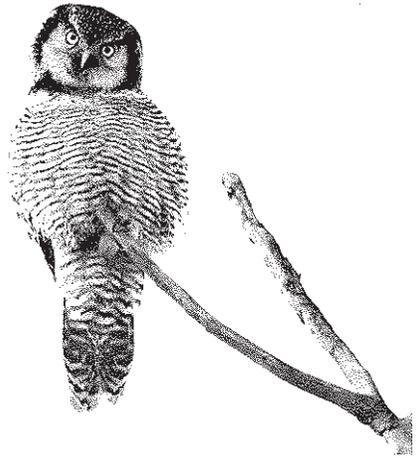
- Breckenridge, W. J. 1995. Was the Carolina Parakeet a Minnesota bird? ***The Loon*** 67:222–223.
- Eckert, K. 1985. First Duluth record for the California Gull. ***The Loon*** 57:60–61.
- Green, J. C. 1970. Additional Dipper sightings in 1970. ***The Loon*** 42:137.
- Hertz, A. X. 2004. A Minnesota record of the Carolina Parakeet. ***The Loon*** 76:175–181.
- Muelhausen, M. H. 1970. First Dipper record for Minnesota. ***The Loon*** 42:136.
- Olsen, K. M., and H. Larsson. 1997. Skuas and jaegers: a guide to the skuas and jaegers of the world. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Sibley, D. A. 2005. A possible specimen record of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) from Michigan, with comments on the reliability of specimen data. *North American Birds* 59:524–525.

2602 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., Duluth, MN 55812.

# BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

## *A Second Look at Dowitchers*

Kim R. Eckert



So, you say you've been studying dowitchers for years and still can't tell a Long-billed from a Short-billed? Is that what's bothering you, Bunkie? Well, join the club! If it's any consolation, you're not alone, and this writer has long been just as clueless as the rest of you. Even now, after doing some research into this ID problem, I seem to be more lost than ever, discovering references which present more questions than answers.

It's not hard to see why dowitcher ID has been a problem for so long. Decades ago, Short-billed and Long-billed dowitchers used to be considered one species. Then, after they were split, we were left to consider four ID problems, not just two, since there are three Short-billed subspecies which can look more distinct from each other than they do from Long-billeds. (Actually, there are really 12 sets of plumages to consider, with basic, alternate, and juvenile plumages for each of those four forms!)

And don't count on the field guides to be of much help. Consider that your Geographic field guide has presented no fewer than three different versions of dowitcher ID in its four editions (only the third and fourth editions are the same). Consider as well that the original 2000 Sibley field guide presents somewhat different dowitcher information than do its later Eastern and Western regional offspring. Clearly, this is one of those many complex identifications which no field

guide can adequately handle.

Well, when the field guides fail you, as "Hindsight" readers are well aware, answers can be found in those in-depth ID articles which regularly appear in journals like *North American Birds* and *Birding*. Yeah, right! The former journal (and its predecessor, *American Birds*) has never had a single article on dowitchers. The only time *Birding* presented an article addressing overall dowitcher ID was back in 1983 (*Birding* 15:151–166), long before some important field marks were uncovered. And a recent article by Caleb Putnam, "Fall Molts of Adult Dowitchers" (*Birding* 37:380–390), only addresses the single subject of ID-by-molt during fall migration, and some shorebird experts disagree with its conclusions.

Kenn Kaufman's book *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding* came out in 1990 with a chapter contributed by Claudia Wilds, one of the authors of that 1983 *Birding* article. Basically the equivalent of a journal article, it presents mostly accurate information, although it oversimplifies some field marks, and ID points discovered since 1990 are not included.

Similarly, bird books devoted to shorebird identification have been outdated and few in number. Until last year, the only comprehensive guide was *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World* by Hayman, Marchant, and Prater. This otherwise excellent book, however, came out 20 years ago and fails to ade-



**Short-billed Dowitcher, 12 August 2005, Dakota County. Photo by David Calander.**

quately clarify the dowitcher ID problem. Indeed, Alvaro Jaramillo and Brian Henshaw, authors of a later article on dowitchers (*Birding World* 8:221–228), consider that book's illustrations of Short-billeds in alternate plumage to be inaccurate.

In 2005, Dennis Paulson came out with *Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*. However, as excellent as this book is, its dowitcher treatment is incomplete and somewhat inconsistent with other references. And due for publication later this year is *Shorebirds of North America, Europe, and Asia* by Stephen Message and Don Taylor. Perhaps this book will have all the answers, but, given the history of other dowitcher references, I'll be surprised if it does.

In recent years, of course, websites have become all the rage, and there are several devoted to bird identification. Surprisingly, though, with one exception, all of these — even those presenting excel-

lent information on other complex ID issues — either mention dowitchers only in passing or avoid the subject entirely.

“Surfbirds.com” is the only website I've found which includes an attempt at a comprehensive analysis of dowitchers —<http://www.surfbirds.com/ID%20Articles/dowitchers1005/dowitchers.html>. The authors, Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch, apparently have plans for this information to be expanded into an article in *Birding*. It remains to be seen, though, whether that article will successfully advance our ID skills. More on this later.

Well, against my better judgment, here goes. I preface this list of dowitcher field marks with three comments. First, any information on Short-billed Dowitchers refers only to the *bendersoni* subspecies, the only form which apparently breeds in central Canada and migrates through Minnesota (but see below). The western subspecies *caurinus* and the eastern subspecies

*griseus*, which in alternate plumage can look quite different from each other and from *bendersoni*, have apparently never been recorded in or near Minnesota.

Second, there is no need here to discuss coastal habitat preferences of wintering and migrant dowitchers: i.e., Long-billeds usually in fresh water; Short-billeds only in salt water. This difference does not apply to inland states, so don't assume Salt Lake in Lac Qui Parle County excludes Long-billeds and is the only Minnesota site for Short-billeds. (By the way, in Texas I see and hear wintering Long-billed Dowitchers all the time in salt water; some references try to claim they are only in freshwater habitats.)

And, third, you'll quickly see that my expertise and most of these field marks leave a lot to be desired:

### **Dowitchers in**

#### **Alternate/Breeding Plumage**

- The sides of the neck and upper breast on fresh-plumaged Long-billeds tend to be more heavily marked and barred than on Short-billeds, as shown in Sibley and the 3rd or 4th editions of Geographic. (But beware the inadequate treatment of this in the first two Geographic editions and in *Advanced Birding*.)

This feature, however, depends on how fresh or worn the plumage is and whether it has completely molted in. It also may apply to other parts of the underparts: some references say it does; others say just the sides of neck and upper breast show a difference. Whatever. In any event, beware plumage wear, incomplete molt, and individual variation.

- The upperparts of fresh-plumaged Long-billeds tend to look darker overall (back, scapular, covert, and/or tertial feathers mostly black mixed with chestnut) than those of Short-billeds (black mixed with broader and paler buff areas). Again, see Sibley and Geographic edition #3 or 4. Like the underparts, however, all this varies with wear, molt, and the individual bird.

- Some references, including Putnam's article on dowitcher molt (see above),

claim that only Long-billeds molt during fall migration, while Short-billeds molt after reaching their coastal wintering grounds. If true, this would help a lot: any molting or basic-plumaged dowitcher here in summer or fall would thus have to be a Long-billed, since all adult Short-billeds then would still be in alternate plumage. The catch, however, is that other authorities, including Lee and Birch on Surfbirds.com, consider these conclusions on molt to be tentative at best.

- Our perceptions in Minnesota and vicinity of Short-billed Dowitcher ID have long relied on the assumption that only the *bendersoni* subspecies nests along the west and south sides of Hudson Bay and would be the only form migrating through the Midwest. However, as stated in Jaramillo and Henshaw's *Birding World* article, Short-billeds breeding in Churchill also apparently include the *griseus* subspecies and birds intermediate between *griseus* and *bendersoni*. If true, are we also seeing migrant *griseus* individuals here, which would look different from *bendersoni* birds?

#### **Dowitchers in Juvenal Plumage**

- As any birder with some dowitcher knowledge is aware, it's the juvenal plumages which are easiest to distinguish: i.e., plain tertials and duller grayish-brown underparts = Long-billed Dowitcher; patterned tertials and brighter buffy-orange underparts = Short-billed.

Simple, right? Sorry, but there are three caveats. First, it's not so easy to distinguish a juvenile Short-billed from an adult of either species: so, if you see a dowitcher with patterned tertials and brightly-colored underparts, it could still be an adult Long-billed. Second, the references disagree on whether or not that pattern difference on the tertials also applies to the scapulars: i.e., some say that patterned scapulars = Short-billed; others say such scapulars = either species. Third, if you have a copy of Paulson's book, look at photo 82.15 on page 315: even the author concedes that this juvenile he labels as Short-billed Dowitcher may well be a

Long-billed! (If an expert like Paulson can be confused by this “easiest” of the dowitcher plumages, is there any hope for the rest of us?)

### **Dowitchers in Basic/Winter Plumage**

- An unstreaked whitish chin or throat is more indicative of Short-billed Dowitcher, while a streaked grayer chin suggests a Long-billed. At least some references agree on this, anyway, while others (e.g., Sibley) don't mention or illustrate any difference. Of course, exceptions and intermediate patterns exist, and I can show you at least one Long-billed photo showing an unambiguously clear white throat.

- A Short-billed's breast tends to look mostly pale with grayish spotting or mottling, and its lower edge is not clearly delineated. Conversely, a darker and more solid gray breast with a sharper lower edge tends to indicate a Long-billed. Here, as well, however, there are exceptions, intermediates, and hard-to-see chest patterns.

- Even less reliable are dowitcher flanks: often darker and more solid on Long-billeds; paler and more barred on Short-billeds. While this latter pattern seems to hold true on most Short-billeds, I have seen too many photos of Long-billeds with this same appearance.

- Turning to the upperparts, a Long-billed's feathers typically have darker centers with often broad grayish-brown borders; these same feathers on a Short-billed tend to be paler, more uniform, with crisp narrow white edges. Predictably, though, none of the field guides illustrates this, not even Sibley, and I have seen several photos showing ambiguous upperparts patterns. One confusing aspect of this field mark is that Paulson's guide states the difference is limited to the back feathers, while other references suggest the distinction is in the scapulars and coverts.

### **Dowitchers in Any Plumage**

- Finally, a field mark we can all agree on: dowitcher calls! In fact, this is about the only single diagnostic feature in dowitcher identification: the thinner and high-

er-pitched “keek” (or a repeated “keek keek keek”) of the Long-billed, compared to the lower-pitched and yellowlegs-like “tu tu tu” of the Short-billed. If not heard well, the multi-syllabled version of the Long-billed's call might suggest a Short-billed, and a Lesser Yellowlegs' call in the vicinity could be mistakenly attributed to that silent dowitcher nearby, but otherwise ID-by-vocalization is pretty straightforward.

- Time of year considerations can be nearly as diagnostic as vocalizations, since Long-billeds migrate earlier in spring and later in the fall than Short-billeds. At Minnesota's latitudes, any dowitcher you see before late April or after mid-September would almost certainly be a Long-billed, while a dowitcher from late May to mid-July should be a Short-billed by default. Of course, there are times when both species are passing through (late April to mid-May, and late July to mid-September) and then the calendar won't help.

- Despite their names, only extreme examples of long or short bill lengths might suggest which species you're looking at, and even then direct size comparison is advised. There is considerable overlap, so be prepared to ignore bill length as a field mark most of the time. By the way, a Long-billed's legs are also longer on the average, but, again, there's lots of overlap, and only extremely long or short legs might be of ID assistance. (Note that the female dowitcher's bill and legs are longer than the male's.)

- Speaking of bills, Lee and Birch in their *Surfbirds.com* analysis claim that a Short-billed's bill typically looks slightly but noticeably decurved, while the Long-billed's is straighter. With all due respect to these authors, who certainly know a lot more about dowitchers than I, they have some explaining to do. If what they suggest is true, why have I seen so many photos of Long-billeds with decurved bills and so many Short-billeds with straight ones? Consequently, I certainly fail to see how bill shape amounts to even a minor supporting field mark.

- There is another aspect of shape,

however, that involves dowitchers and seems much more consistent: the body profile of feeding birds. As a Long-billed probes vertically, note its “humpback” body profile, with a nearly 90° angle where the back meets the neck and a strongly concave shape where the back meets the tail. Probing Short-billeds have a flatter profile and less of a humpback appearance. I would assume, however, that this profile difference won’t hold up for every single individual, and note this field mark should only be considered on dowitchers when in probing mode.

- Primary extension is also mentioned in some references as a helpful field mark, with the Short-billed’s wings longer than the Long-billed’s. Any difference, however, is slight and hard to detect. More importantly, there is disagreement over how to measure this extension, and, of course, there are photos which reveal inconsistencies.

The *Birding World* article says to consider the wing tips relative to the tail: i.e., wing tips beyond tail = Short-billed; wing tips short of tail = Long-billed; wing and tail tips equal = either species. But Surfbirds.com and Paulson say the extension is relative to the tertial tips: wing tip extension beyond tertials = Short-billed; no extension = Long-billed. But perhaps Sibley shows it best with three Long-billed illustrations: one with the primary tips beyond the tail tip, one with primary and tail tips equal, and the third with primaries short of the tail tip! Sometimes inconsistency is the reality.

- Dowitcher watchers have long considered tail barring to be worth noting. If you can clearly see the actual rectrices (which usually isn’t easy, and make sure you’re not just looking at the tail coverts), you probably have a Short-billed if the white bars are obviously wider than the black ones. Otherwise, you’re out of luck: both dowitchers can have equal-width bars or black bars wider than the white. (Some references erroneously claim that wider black bars only apply to Long-billed Dowitchers.)

- The Surfbirds.com treatise on dow-

itchers makes a big deal about something they call loral angle. Don’t ask. The illustrated difference in this between the two dowitchers is so slight that I fail to see how this alleged field mark could ever be useful, and I am unable to find any clear or consistent differences in any of the photos.

- Nor do I see any validity in Surfbirds.com’s claim that there is anything worth considering in a dowitcher’s supercilium or eyebrow. Lee and Birch claim that a Short-billed’s eyebrow is “arched” as it curves up over the eye and widens in front of it, while a Long-billed’s is relatively straight. If so, how do they explain the numerous photos I’ve found showing Long-billed Dowitchers with clearly arched eyebrows and Short-billeds with straight ones?

Again, with all due respect to Lee and Birch, their assertions about decurved bills, loral angles, and eyebrows seem tentative at best, quite inconsistent with the photographic evidence, and in need of serious clarification. At worst, they are counterproductive — making dowitcher ID not easier, but more confusing than ever.

---

To make a Long-billed story Short, a basic tenet of accurate bird identification, especially when dealing with difficult birds, is to consider a combination of field marks. And if ever there was a time when this applies, it would be when looking at dowitchers — especially since the reliability of so many field marks is open to question.

Or, you may just want to stick with the calendar, and hope the next dowitcher you see is in early April or October (a default Long-billed) or in June (a Short-billed). Either that, or wait for it to say keek or tutu. Otherwise, we’ll just have to hope the new Message & Taylor book or that *Birding* article promised for later this year adequately address all our uncertainties. And that’s the Long and the Short-billed of it.

**1921 W. Kent Rd., Duluth, MN 55812.**

# NOTES OF INTEREST



## GLOSSY IBIS IN AITKIN COUNTY —



On 19 April 2005, Steve and I were investigating the flooded fields located approximately two miles west of Aitkin on county road 15. Large numbers of waterfowl had been occurring in these fields

for several days — American White Pelican and a Cattle Egret had been seen here the previous weekend.

At approximately 5:30 P.M., we spotted an ibis about 70 yards out on the north side of the road. Any ibis is rare in Minnesota, and I immediately called Warren Nelson in Aitkin and Kim Risen in Tamarack. When Warren arrived, we discussed the fact that the possibility of it being a Glossy Ibis was pretty remote. The light was not the best and we looked for field marks of White-faced Ibis. The white border of the facial skin was not distinct and the legs were dark rather than red. Back feathers were glossy purplish green, tops of head dark green to nape, and neck and body rusty red. Eventually, the field marks we were able to see proved this bird to be a second state record Glossy Ibis. The ibis was seen by many observers until 22 April. **Jo Blanch, 23005 Agate Shore Road, Deerwood, MN 56444.**



**Glossy Ibis, 21 April 2005, Aitkin County. Photo by Kim and Cindy Risen.**

## WESTERN Tanager in BELTRAMI COUNTY —



On 14 May 2005, Jeanie Joppru and I observed a male Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) in Bemidji, Beltrami County. The bird was first noted by Elizabeth Smith early in the morning on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, shortly after she placed freshly cut orange halves in front of her apartment building. Mrs. Smith recognized it as a Western Tanager and called Kelly Larson who, along with Pat Rice, confirmed the identification on the 13<sup>th</sup>. This represents the third county record of this now-Regular species. The first was an adult male photographed at Lake Bemidji 10 May 1979 (*The Loon* 51:147); the second was another adult male photographed at Bemidji 14–18 May 1983 (*The Loon* 55:122).

We waited for about 1½ hours before the bird came in to the orange halves, consistent with its previous pattern of more frequent appearances in the morning and early afternoon. It first flew in to and perched 30–40 feet up in an oak tree, then flew down to the sapling where one of the orange halves was affixed. The bird then dropped down to the ground and fed from a small dish containing a mixture of grape jelly and

fresh raspberries. Afterwards, it flew in to a blooming chokecherry tree and effectively concealed itself — we caught occasional glimpses of it in the chokecherry as the brisk northwest winds (gusts up to 30 mph) rearranged the foliage.

*Description of the bird:* Size similar to, but slightly larger than the nearby orioles. No vocalizations. Pinkish tanager bill, thicker than and not pointed like oriole's bill. Eyes dark with thin, greenish eye ring visible only at very close range. Legs gray. Olive nape and hindcrown, becoming greenish-yellow on auriculars and blending into reddish lores and face. Back dark green mottled with black. Color of wings similar to back. Two wingbars; upper wingbar thicker, yellowish in color; lower wingbar thinner, whitish. Rump yellowish. Tail squared in shape with slight notch, dark olive. Underparts including flanks and under tail-coverts greenish-yellow, with yellowish tones strongest on breast. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 E. 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.**

**ANOTHER WHITE-WINGED DOVE IN COOK COUNTY** — On 10 July 2005, I found a White-winged Dove in my yard along Cook County Road 57 near Devil Track Lake. Two years ago, I saw one along Cook County Road 7 outside of Grand Marais (*The Loon* 76:47), but the bird in my yard was much more cooperative; it was seen and photographed by many observers through the 16<sup>th</sup>.



It was about the same size as a Mourning Dove, though it appeared a little larger and bulkier. Its silhouette showed a small head, plump body, a slender bill that was longer than a Mourning Dove's, and a square-shaped tail. Overall it looked grayish, but it also had creamy grayish-brown in some areas. The rump and belly appeared to be grayer while the back, breast, and head had a more grayish-brown appearance. The bird had a very prominent blue eye-ring and a distinctive red eye, and a very distinct black tick mark, or comma, on each cheek.

A very conspicuous white wing patch extended in a narrow strip along the lower edge of each folded wing. When perched, the primaries were darker than the overall body though not as dark as I expected. The greater coverts appeared a couple shades darker than primaries. The upper side of the tail was a little darker than overall body and contained a somewhat light cinnamon wash. The dove had gray under tail-coverts and black under tail-feathers except for a prominent white tip on the tail. The bird had bright orange-red feet. In flight, the white wing patches were large and distinct, and contrasted with its lighter grayish-brown body and dark primaries. In flight, the primaries appeared much darker than when the bird was perched. In flight, the dove showed both a conspicuous black sub-terminal band and a white terminal band on the tail; its gray rump was also conspicuous.

The bird usually foraged on the ground for several minutes at a time in our horse pen and in the short weedy grass along the horse pen. It preened for a few minutes at a time when not foraging on the ground and spent most of its time roosting in one of three nearby aspen trees. I did not hear any vocalizations, but when the bird took off its wings made an unmistakable whistle. **Josh Watson, 1517 Devil Track Road, Grand Marais, MN 55604.**

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN MARSHALL COUNTY** — On 29 May 2005, I spotted a male Black-headed Grosbeak in our yard in New Solum Township, Marshall County. I first noticed the bird at our feeders on the south side of the house at about 11:00 A.M. Its orange and black coloring reminded me of an oriole, but its beak was the size and shape of a grosbeak. I observed it several more times during the day and again on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup>. My husband, Steve, saw it briefly on the 29<sup>th</sup>.



The bird was slightly smaller than some of the male Rose-breasted

Grosbeaks visiting the same feeders. Its beak was darker on the top, but the same size and shape as the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks'. It had a black head, orange on the top of the wings and an orange breast, but after that first day, I could not remember if the bird's back was orange and black too. On 14 June, I saw the bird again at our feeders at 10:50 A.M. and confirmed that he had a black head and orange back. **Mary Broten, 11103 – 280th St. NW, Newfolden, MN 56738.**

**LEAST TERN IN SHERBURNE COUNTY** — On 8 June 2005, I found a Least Tern at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County. The bird was standing on a mud flat in the Big Bluestem Pool near the refuge wildlife drive. This pool was a good area for shorebirds in May. While observing the bird through a Swarovski spotting scope at 20–60x, I wrote the following description: “a tern-size, yellow bill with a black tip, white forehead, a black cap with a black narrow strip through the eye to the bill, legs yellowish, back and wings grayish, white underneath.” The tern flew away once but in about five minutes it returned to the same mud flat. In flight, it was a very small tern with a fluttering flight.

With this description, I looked in the Sibley guide and found that it was a Least Tern. A refuge worker drove up while I was looking at the bird; I reported this sighting as a Least Tern and she looked at the bird with her binoculars but like me, she had never seen a Least Tern before. I viewed the Least Tern from 1:30 to 2:05 P.M. I then went to nearby Elk River and called this Least Tern sighting to Anthony Hertzell. He and others saw the bird later that afternoon and took photos. The Least Tern was seen again for a short time the next morning. The most recent sighting of a Least Tern in Minnesota was 24–25 June 1999 at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (*The Loon* 72:24). **Paul L. Johnson, 11981 – 191½ Avenue #205, Elk River, MN 55330.**



**BLACK-NECKED STILT IN BIG STONE COUNTY** — On 21 April 2005, my dad, Michael Mann, and I found a Black-necked Stilt 4½ miles east of Clinton in Big Stone County. We had been driving by potholes the entire morning, stopping at each swampy pond in hopes of finding an American Avocet. We came upon a small swampy pond along county road 6 and stopped after my dad thought he saw a shorebird in the pond that looked like an avocet. I jumped out and peered at the bird — it wasn't an avocet! It had unmistakably long, slender, pink legs and a semi-long, black bill — it was plucking at the water, not sweeping like an avocet. It had a black cap, a white marking above the eye, and graceful black coloration on the back of its neck, reaching to its back. I recognized the bird immediately because its picture was next to the avocet in our Sibley guide, but I couldn't remember its name, so while my dad set up the scope I flipped through the field guide and found the page with the Black-necked Stilt and the avocet. It was walking slowly through very shallow water, probably a hundred feet away. We had a totally unobscured view as it plucked at the swamp bottom accompanied by Greater and Lesser yellowlegs. Although I was only 12 years old at the time and this was a life bird for both me and my dad, I had already been birding for about 3 years and this was my second trip to western Minnesota. Both my dad and I recognized the bird and knew it was a rarity for Minnesota. It made no vocalizations, but simply waded through the swamp and plucked out certain things from the water. It was a little taller than the Greater Yellowlegs which was in the small group of shorebirds feeding with it. A large truck passed after about 20 minutes and it took flight but landed a short distance away. After about ½ hour of watching it with our scope, another truck passed and it leapt into the air and glided slowly along the swamp and then up and out of sight; its long



pink legs trailed behind it and the white of its stomach extended a small amount onto the underside of the wing. Other birders refound the bird three days later. **Leo Wexler-Mann, 1405 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105.**

**TWO SAY'S PHOEBES IN CLAY COUNTY** — On 15 May 2005, Leslie Marcus, Susan Schumacher and I went up to Felton Prairie in Clay County to enjoy the variety of nesting birds, and to look for the Rock Wren that had been reported on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We went to the gravel mining pit where the Rock Wren nested in 2004, which was where it was found again this year. We were walking around looking and listening for the Rock Wren when I noticed movement from behind rock pile #6002 along the dirt ridge at 12:15 P.M. I could see that it was a flycatcher and my first thought was Eastern Phoebe as it flew out to the weedy grass.

When it came back up and perched on one of the leafy twigs facing us, I realized to my surprise it was not an Eastern Phoebe, but a Say's Phoebe! It was immediately recognizable with that bright apricot belly and under tail-coverts. The head and back were grayish-brown with a black tail. The bill was black, and the throat and breast were pale until meeting that bright apricot belly. The bird did not sit still — bobbing that black tail before it flew out to the dirt ridge or weedy hillside to catch insects. It kept moving to the east slowly and methodically toward some heavy equipment. I was using Swarovski EL 8.5x42 binoculars, and luckily it was a calm, overcast, dry day so we were able to stay with it. As the bird worked its way back towards rock pile #6002, I viewed it in my Kowa TSN-823M scope and was able to follow it.



**Say's Phoebes, Felton Prairie, Clay County, 24 May 2005. Photos by James P. Mattsson.**

We then heard it vocalize softly “piti-weer” in a low whistle. Then we were astonished to see a second Say’s Phoebe come out over the ridge and join the singer! They flew out and over the rock pile towards us and over our heads, and continued east past the heavy equipment and out of sight at 12:45 P.M. I have seen Say’s Phoebes out of state previously, but was thrilled beyond belief to be so lucky to have seen these two birds with my good friends. Many birders subsequently were able to see these birds through at least 2 July. **Conny M. Brunell, 6801 Sheridan Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423.**

**BLACK-HEADED GULL IN JACKSON COUNTY** — Between 6:00 and 6:15 A.M. on 16



July 2005, while looking for a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) that had been reported on a line of rocks that formerly supported a footbridge south of the famous fishing pier at the north end of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County, Iowa, we found an adult Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). The gull alternately perched on the rocks and foraged in flight along them as southerly winds pushed water across the lake and up against the rocks. Unfortunately, it could not tolerate the simultaneous presence of three kids fishing from these rocks and a

boat with two fishermen that worked its way back and forth from one end of the rocks to the other. When the gull was flushed by the fishermen in their boat, it circled above the trees with Franklin’s (*L. pipixcan*) and Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) gulls and slowly drifted west towards Little Spirit Lake. It came very close to and possibly crossed the Minnesota/Iowa state line before it disappeared from sight; the next morning, it was refound in Minnesota at Little Spirit Lake.

One or more Black-headed Gulls have been reported here almost annually since about 1994 — mostly in the fall after mid-September (Svingen 2002). There have been spring records on both sides of the border and at least two summer records in Iowa: an adult feeding a recently-fledged juvenile at Kettleson W.P.A., Dickinson County, Summer 1994 (Dinsmore 1996) and an adult at Jemerson Slough, Dickinson County, 23 June – 9 July 1996 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). One of the 1994 adults was seen on the Minnesota side of the border by Steve Dinsmore, Anthony Hertzell and others 2–14 August 1994 (Hertzell 1995). The only previous “summer” record for Minnesota — also the first state record — was at North Heron Lake 28 May – 16 July 1986 (Janssen 1986).

*Description of the Bird:* In flight, the Black-headed Gull’s wingspan was slightly greater than the Franklin’s Gull’s, but no other gulls were nearby for size comparison when it perched on the rocks. Though it perched on the rocks for brief periods of time, it was mostly seen foraging by dipping to the surface of the frothing water where the waves encountered the rocks. Its bill was dark red and drooped slightly. Eye color could not be detected. The legs and feet were also dark red. Its dark brown (blackish) hood was abruptly “cut off” near the top of its hind nape; the head and neck were otherwise white. Its mantle shade was estimated to be about the same as that of the Ring-billed Gull. At rest and in flight, it looked long-winged. At rest, its crossed wing-tips extended well beyond the tail tip. The folded wing-tips were black with white apical spots. In flight, its wingspan was slightly greater than the Franklin’s Gull’s. It showed a white wedge along the leading edge of its outer wing on both surfaces. Its underwing showed dark gray/blackish inner primaries contrasting with light gray wing linings and the aforementioned whitish wedge on the leading edge. Its rump, tail, tail-coverts, and underparts were entirely white. The gull was refound by Ed Thelen later that same weekend, and was documented by Kim Eckert and Jim Mattsson at Little Spirit Lake in July. Though rarely seen in Minnesota after July, it was reported regularly on the Iowa side of the border through 11 November. It was last documented and photographed in Minnesota by Doug Kieser on 17 October 2005.

### Literature Cited

- Dinsmore, S. J. 1996. Probable breeding of Black-headed Gulls in northwestern Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:27–29.
- Hertzel, A. X. 1995. Common Black-headed Gull along the Minnesota-Iowa border. *The Loon* 67:54–56
- Janssen, R. B. 1986. Minnesota's first Common Black-headed Gull. *The Loon* 58:104–107.
- Kent, T. H., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. Birds in Iowa. Published by the authors, Iowa City and Ames.
- Svingen, P. H. 2002. Records of the Black-headed Gull along the Minnesota-Iowa border. *The Loon* 74:176–179.

**Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812;**  
**Anthony X. Hertzel, 8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.**

### YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER IN MORRISON COUNTY —



We (Herb Dingmann, Mary Kroll, Carol Schumacher, Jeff Stephenson and I) were conducting a Morrison County Big Day on 15 May 2005. We barely had any warblers — mostly Yellow-rumpeds — by the time we arrived at Belle Plaine County Park. We stopped at an area next to the river and an enormous stand of very tall white pines. I immediately heard Pine Siskins, so Carol and I went over to see if we could find them. We walked over to an area near a picnic shelter, and while Carol was looking up into the pines for the siskins, I noticed a bird on the roof

of the picnic shelter. It was hanging upside down on the edge of the roof and I noticed that the top of its head didn't have a yellow mark, so I was excited that I might have a new warbler species for the day. The bird finally turned so that I could see it from the side. I stared at it for a moment and told Carol to get on the bird because I thought it was a Yellow-throated. I yelled for the others to come quickly and the entire party ended up getting looks at the bird. The bird was actively gleaning food off the roof the entire time that we watched it. We ended up seeing the bird for about two minutes before we lost it. The bird was very active, and would fan its tail open and flick it — almost like a redstart. Jeff later told me that the previous two Yellow-throated Warblers he had seen in Minnesota also associated with buildings.

This bird was a typical male, showing all of the field marks. What first struck me of course, was its yellow throat that extended down onto its breast and was cleanly cut off. It didn't have yellow anywhere else on its body. The bird had two white wing-bars. It had a white supercilium extending past its eye. The bird was white below other than the yellow throat. Down the side of the nape and onto its flanks were black streaks emanating from its black facial pattern. It had an overall grayish-blue tint to its back, tail, and top of the head. Its bill was all black and long in proportion to the bird. The bird had a black facial pattern that was very bold. It extended from the bill through the eye and split after the eye — one part going down the side of the body and the other part just ending a little behind the eye. It had one white eye arc underneath the eye. When the bird flicked its tail, it showed white mirrors on the inner tail feathers. And lastly, the bird had a whitish spot on the side of its nape/shoulder behind the black pattern.

As a group, we actually did consider the possibility of a Grace's Warbler when we were watching it. I said out loud, "Make sure this isn't a Grace's." Grace's Warbler would be unprecedented in Minnesota, but then again, if a Painted Redstart could make its way here, why not a Grace's? **Ben W. Fritchman, 27737 – 285<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Long Prairie, MN 56347.**



**Summer Tanager, 20 June 2005, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.**

# In This Issue

<b>Brown Pelican, 16 July 2005, Little Spirit Lake, Jackson County</b> <i>Photo by David Cablander</i> .....	Front Cover
<b>The 2004–2005 Influx of Northern Owls</b> <b>Part IV: Unusual Coloration in Great Gray Owls</b> <i>Anthony X. Hertzel</i> .....	3
<b>Minnesota's First Brown Pelican</b> <i>Peder H. Svingen and Anthony X. Hertzel</i> .....	11
<b>The Summer Season</b> <b>1 June through 31 July 2005</b> <i>Ann E. Kessen</i> .....	15
<b>Leucistic Barred Owl Found During the Winter of 2005</b> <i>David A. Grossbuesch</i> .....	36
<b>Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee</b> <i>Peder H. Svingen</i> .....	40
<b>Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Dowitchers</b> <i>Kim R. Eckert</i> .....	48
<b>Notes of Interest</b> Glossy Ibis, Western Tanager, White-winged Dove, Black-headed Grosbeak, Least Tern, Black-necked Stilt, Say's Phoebe, Black-headed Gull, Yellow-throated Warbler.....	53

## Purpose of the M.O.U.

The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

## Suggestions to Authors

*The Loon* is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



# *The Loon*

SUMMER 2006

VOLUME 78 — NUMBER 2



**Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**

**THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History  
University of Minnesota  
10 Church Street Southeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104

*The Loon*, Minnesota's journal of birds, is published four times each year by the MOU, the statewide bird organization. All members receive this publication and also our newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:**

Anthony X. Hertzell, 8461 Pleasant View Drive,  
Mounds View, MN 55112; editor@moumn.org.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE LOON:**

Karl Bardon, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Nancy  
Hertzell, Robert Janssen, Warren Nelson, Peder  
Svingen, Harrison Tordoff.

**MOU MEMBERSHIPS:**

Yearly donations to join the MOU: Single \$25;  
Youth (through age 17) \$15; Family \$35; Sup-  
porting \$75; Life \$500. Canadian and foreign  
subscriptions \$35. Also available are back is-  
sues of *The Loon* (\$5 each) and checklists of  
Minnesota birds (minimum of 20 for \$2).

**EDITOR OF MINNESOTA BIRDING:**

C. Hallie Skinner, 1658 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul,  
MN 55104; newsletter@moumn.org.

**MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:**

Statewide 763-780-8890  
Duluth 218-834-2858

**MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

mou@moumn.org

**MOU WEB SITE:**

<http://moumn.org>

**MOU E-MAIL LISTSERVICE, MOU-NET:**

For information on how to join, visit our web site  
at <http://moumn.org/listserv.html>.

**MOU OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Mark Alt, 3900 – 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Bill George, 2312 Old Beach Road, Wayzata MN 55391

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Elizabeth Bell, 5868 Pioneer Road S., Saint Paul Park MN 55071

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Shirley Alt, 3900 – 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**TREASURER:** Erika Sitz, 6521 – 154th Lane NW, Ramsey MN 55303

**MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**AWARDS:** Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**CONSERVATION:** Donald E. Mitchell, 28217 Gadiant Lane, Red Wing MN 55066

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:** Dave Cahlander, 2901 Foxpoint Road, Burnsville MN 55337

**MOU RECORDS:** Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth MN 55812

**NOMINATIONS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**PAPER SESSION:** Carroll Henderson, 640 – 119th Lane NE, Blaine MN 55434

**RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:** Robert Janssen, 162 Lakeview Road, Chanhassen MN 55317

**SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND:** Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S., St. Louis Park MN 55424

**YOUTH MENTORSHIP:** Robert Holtz, 668 Overlook Drive, Roseville MN 55113

**AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

**DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* Wendy Grethen, 4005 McCulloch Street, Duluth MN 55804

**HIAWATHA VALLEY BIRD CLUB OF WINONA** – *President:* Frank Schnurstein, R.R. 3 Box 287, Winona MN 55987

**MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* Margaret Mason, 4370 Brookside Court #217, Edina MN 55436

**MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER** – *President:* Anne Hanley, 15330 Lynn Terrace, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**MNBIRD** – *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, [carol@birdminnesota.com](mailto:carol@birdminnesota.com)

**NORTHWEST MINNESOTA BIRD SOCIETY** – *President:* Shelly Steva, R.R. 4 Box 18, Thief River Falls MN 56701

**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* Holly Peirson, 6548 – 141st Avenue NE, Forest Lake MN 55025

**ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* August Krueger, 1725 SE 8th Avenue, Rochester MN 55904

# The Double-crested Cormorant and American White Pelican in Minnesota

## First Statewide Breeding Census

Linda R. Wires<sup>1</sup>, Katherine V. Haws<sup>2</sup>, Francesca J. Cuthbert<sup>3</sup>,  
Nancy Drilling<sup>4</sup>, and Alexander C. Smith<sup>5</sup>

### Introduction

In many portions of their North American ranges, numbers of the federally protected fish-eating bird species, Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), increased dramatically over the past 20–25 years (Wires and Cuthbert 2006; Evans and Knopf 1993). Minnesota was no exception; data from census efforts in the 1960s to the present indicate both species increased in the state during this period (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [MN DNR], Natural Heritage Program database). As these species became more abundant in the state, both were perceived to affect recreation opportunities and local business economies. Recently, citizens in some regions of Minnesota have expressed concern over potential impacts on aquaculture and sport fishing (Wires and Cuthbert, 2003; K. V. Haws, unpubl. data, S. Mortensen, pers. com.).

Increases in cormorant abundance in eastern North America led to establishment of two policies to reduce numbers of this native nongame species. The first policy, the Aquaculture Depredation Order, was established in 1998 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). When non-lethal methods are ineffective at preventing depredation, this Order allows killing of unlimited numbers of Double-crested Cormorants at commercial freshwater aquaculture facilities and state-owned hatcheries in 12 southeastern states and Minnesota (USDI/USFWS 1998). The second policy, the Public Resource Depredation Order (PRDO), was established in 2003 to allow federal, state,

and tribal agencies to “take” (kill) Double-crested Cormorants believed to be impacting public resources on public and private (with owner permission) lands without acquiring a permit (USDI/USFWS 2003). As of early 2006, control under the PRDO in Minnesota has been undertaken on Knife Island, Lake Superior, and Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake. The PRDO is unprecedented in the history of fish-eating bird management in that it allows killing large numbers of a federally protected native species in natural waters primarily to protect native and/or non-native fisheries.

Although there is currently no policy allowing reduction of large numbers of the American White Pelican, public concerns about impacts related to its consumption of fish have been expressed (Wires and Cuthbert 2003; King 2005). In Minnesota, this species is listed as Special Concern and identified as a “species in greatest conservation need” (MN DNR 2006).

Prior to our study, information on colonial waterbird nesting sites was maintained as occurrence records in the MN DNR Natural Heritage Program database. However, records of current breeding distribution and abundance in Minnesota were incomplete as no total statewide census for either species had been undertaken in a single year. Baseline information on distribution and numbers for both species is needed for diverse reasons. Not only are both species sensitive to environmental contaminants and human disturbance (Evans and Knopf 1993, Hatch and Weseloh 1999), but there is also increasing concern about their po-

tential impacts on sport fishing, aquaculture and other natural resources (USDI/USFWS 2003; Wires and Cuthbert 2003, King 2005). Accurate and current data on number of breeding cormorant pairs and colony locations are needed to monitor effects of control on Minnesota's population. Additionally, the PRDO requires different levels of documentation based on the proportion of a colony targeted (USDI/FWS 2003). Because pelicans commonly co-occur at cormorant breeding sites in Minnesota, they could be significantly impacted by disturbance created during cormorant control efforts. Data are also needed on other species of colonial waterbirds (e.g., herons, gulls, terns) that nest with cormorants at their breeding colonies because these species also may be impacted by cormorant population reduction efforts. Finally, both cormorants and pelicans have often been targets of illegal control. These diverse issues provide strong justification for tracking population trends of both species in Minnesota.

This paper summarizes results from the first statewide breeding census for the American White Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant in Minnesota; data were obtained from ground surveys of all known pelican and cormorant colonies in 2004 and aerial surveys of the primary pelican colonies (e.g. Marsh Lake) in 2004 and 2005. We also document presence and, when possible, provide nest abundance estimates for co-occurring colonial waterbird species (e.g. gulls, terns, waders) at all active cormorant colonies.

### Methods

Historical nesting locations for cormorants and pelicans were determined by acquiring all colony locations from the MN DNR Natural Heritage Program colonial waterbird database. Additional potential colony locations were obtained from MN DNR Fisheries and Wildlife field staff through an e-mail solicitation requesting information. All historical and potential sites were checked during field visits to determine activity status.

Field visits were timed (15 May – 30

July 2004) to capture peak numbers of nesting birds. Based on previous survey dates and the assumption that southern colonies reach peak numbers earlier than more northern ones, technicians generally worked from south to north throughout the state. However, field conditions, logistics, and support from area personnel frequently influenced when sites could be censused. Field survey crews accessed colonies both from land and by watercraft depending on accessibility of the site. A 16-foot Lund boat with 40 hp motor was used to visit some sites, as well as a 17-foot Grumman canoe. At a few locations, it was not logistically feasible to census birds by direct ground counts. Therefore, some estimates were obtained through careful counts made from the shore. Using hand-held counters, field technicians walked through each colony and tallied the number of active pelican and cormorant nests. To keep track of nests counted at sites with large numbers of breeding pairs (> 100), ground nests were marked with spray paint or colored sticks and tree nests were tagged with flagging tape. Each nest was assumed to represent one breeding pair. When possible, the number of nests of other co-occurring colonial waterbirds at all active cormorant colonies was also estimated. At some tree colony sites, it was not possible to obtain these estimates, but nesting activity was noted for species present.

Aerial photography was utilized in 2004 at Marsh Lake, Little Pine, and Little Massacre islands to estimate numbers of nesting birds. At these sites, a small fixed-wing aircraft was used to fly over colonies and photograph nesting cormorants and pelicans with a hand-held 35 mm camera from an altitude of 500 feet. Photos were projected in ArcView 3.3. Individual birds were counted manually, and each bird was assumed to represent one nesting pair. In 2005, aerial photos were taken at Marsh Lake and sent to the Northern Prairie Research Center, Jamestown, ND, where they were imported into Map and Imaging Processing System (MIPS), Micro-Images Inc. Through an automated pro-

Site Name	County	DCCO nests	AWPE nests	COTE nests	GBHE nests	GREG nests	BCNH nests	HERG nests	RBGU nests	Comments
Barry Lake WPA	Big Stone	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S, other species present but no nesting observed
Lincolnt WMA	Big Stone	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S, No other species present
Marsh Lake (Rock Island)	Big Stone	414	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	
Swenson Lake	Big Stone	271	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	S
Coney Island, Waconia Lake	Carver	250-300	0	0	350	0	0	0	0	A, range of weekly counts
Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake	Cass	2,524	11	186	0	0	0	0	1277	
MIN DNR 36 Guano Rock	Cook	24	0	0	0	0	0	Adults	0	
Clifford Lake (Swim Lake)	Douglas	48	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	B
Minnesota Lake	Faribault	725	974	0	25	20-25	0	0	0	
Egret Island	Grant	1,385	0	0	170	271	47	0	0	CAEG, 18 nests
Long Lake	Kandiyohi	1,363	0	0	140	427	207	0	0	
Little Pine Island, Voyageurs N.P.	Koochiching	173	0	0	0	0	0	NC	A	
Bolland Slough	Lac Qui Parle	50	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	B
Marsh Lake (Big Island)	Lac Qui Parle	264	6,568	0	10	30	NC [1]	0	NC [2]	
BLM 80-Knife Island	Lake	26	0	0	0	0	0	200-250	0	
Crowduck Island	Lake of the Woods	447	242	0	0	0	0	27	2	
Gull Rock	Lake of the Woods	66	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	
Little Massacre Island	Lake of the Woods	1,363	277	0	0	0	0	8 chicks	0	
O'Dell Island.	Lake of the Woods	1,889	25	250	0	0	0	18	7	
Techout Island	Lake of the Woods	605	25	0	0	0	0	0	177	
Pigeon Lake-North Island	Meeker	1,450	357	0	91	84	0	0	0	
Pigeon Lake-South Island	Meeker	53	0	0	32	29	22	0	0	DCCO abandoned
Hennepin Island	Millie Lacs	5	0	138	0	0	0	nesting	0	
Spirit Island	Millie Lacs	95	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	
Little Elk WMA	Morrison	49	0	0	NC	NC	NC	0	0	S; DCCO abandoned
Chautauqua Lake	Otter Tail	401	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Halvorsen Lake	Otter Tail	20	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	S, no others observed
Lake Alice	Otter Tail	49	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	S
Lake Johanna	Pope	580	97	0	20	500	15	0	0	
Pigs Eye Lake	Ramsey	150-200	0	0	400-500	500-600	?	0	0	A, range of weekly counts
Preston Lake	Renville	186	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	B
Wells Lake	Rice	472	0	0	87	144	0	0	0	
Titlow Lake	Sibley	4	0	0	35	8	0	0	0	B; DCCO abandoned
Dark River Tailings Pond	St. Louis	70	0	0	15-20	0	NC	0	0	S
Vermillion Rocks #1 (Vermillion Lake)	St. Louis	32	0	0	0	0	0	chicks	NC	
West Two Rivers Reservoir	St. Louis	47	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	B
Lake Hassel	Swift	54	19	0	36	4	0	0	0	
Elysian Lake	Waseca	205	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	B
Swartout Lake, Swart Watts Lake	Wright	86	49	0	~65	~45	~14	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>16,006-16,106</b>	<b>8,644</b>							

[1] About 12 BCNH pairs were estimated at Big Island in 2005 (J. DiMatteo, pers. com.).

[2] About 4,000 pairs were estimated on Big and Hermit Islands in 2005; the majority was on Big Island (J. DiMatteo, pers. com.).

**Table 1. Numbers of Double-crested Cormorant nests and colony composition in Minnesota, 2004 (all estimates of DCCO based on ground counts unless otherwise noted). NC = Not censused, S = Counted from shore, A = Estimate based on aerial count, B = Counted from boat.**

cess, numbers of pelicans were estimated by identifying individual white pixels (between 80–200 white pixels were needed to fully identify a pelican, depending upon the altitude from which the photo was taken). In areas where birds were densely clustered, the number of birds in a group was manually counted. The error associated with the MIPS program is assumed to be 4–6%, based on comparisons over the last six years between estimates of nesting pelicans at Chase Lake, ND, obtained using the MIPS program vs. manual counts (R. Woodward, pers. com.).

Aerial photography and surveys were also used at Coney Island and Pigs Eye colonies to estimate numbers of cormorants and other colonial waterbirds. At these sites, tree height, colony size, and dense canopy cover made it impossible to count nests from the ground. Flights over these colonies were conducted throughout the nesting season to obtain regular estimates of visible nests and provide the narrowest range of estimates possible (S. Kittelson, pers. com.).

## Results

*Double-crested Cormorant Distribution, Numbers, and Colony Composition.* Between 15 May – 30 July 2004, we visited 142 sites (Wires *et al.* 2005). Of these, 39 were occupied by nesting cormorants. Breeding sites were distributed across much of the state (Figure 1). Most colonies were located in a region running diagonally through the central portion of Minnesota, between Otter Tail County in the north, and Faribault County in the south, generally corresponding to the historical distribution of eastern deciduous forest. The Natural Heritage database contained locations for 89% of active colony sites; only four colonies were found at new sites reported by DNR field staff during the study period (Table 1).

The total number of cormorant nests estimated in 2004 was 16,006–16,106 (Table 1). Colonies ranged in size from 4–2,524 nests; median colony size was 173 nests. The largest cormorant colony (2,524

pairs) in the state was at Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake, Cass County. Lake of the Woods had the largest number of nests for a single lake in the state; 4,370 nests were estimated at five sites on the lake. The actual number of breeding cormorants on Lake of the Woods is higher than this estimate because cormorants also nest on islands owned by Canada (Scott Lockhart, pers. com.). At most colonies (> 87%), cormorants occurred with other colonially nesting waterbirds; cormorants were verified as the only species present at only one site, Lindquist Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was the most frequent nest associate with cormorants, present at more than 19 (> 49%) sites used by nesting cormorants, followed by the Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), present at more than 13 (> 33%) cormorant sites. The American White Pelican occurred at 11 cormorant sites (28%), Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) at more than 9 cormorant sites (23%), and Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) at more than 6 cormorant sites (15%). Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) were found at three sites (8%) and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were documented at one cormorant site, Egret Island, Pelican Lake (Table 1).

Eleven of the 39 active cormorant sites were locations of high colonial waterbird diversity, defined as sites with > four nesting colonial waterbird species (Wires and Cuthbert 2001) (Table 1). Locations of these sites are shown in Figure 1. Most (64%) were occupied by large numbers of cormorants (> 500 pairs) and significant concentrations of other colonial nesters (Table 1).

Fifty-three percent of cormorant colonies consisted of birds nesting exclusively in trees. An additional 13% of colonies contained a mix of tree and ground nesting pairs. However, nearly twice as many birds nested on the ground (approximately 10,300 pairs or 64% of nesting birds) on rocky or sandy islands versus in trees. Many of the large ground colonies were located in Lake of the Woods, while the

	Site	County	AWPE nests	Count Method	Previously Used	DCCO nests
	Red Lake	Beltrami	340	G	Y	0
Marsh Lake island #2 (Eight Acre / Banding Island)		Big Stone	4,361	G	Y	0
	Marsh Lake Peninsula	Big Stone	2,031	G	Y	0
	Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake	Cass	11	G	Y	2,524
	Minnesota Lake	Faribault	974	G	Y	725
	Marsh Lake (Big Island)	Lac Qui Parle	6,568	G, A, E	Y	264
Marsh Lake (One Acre / Small Island)		Lac Qui Parle	432	A	Y	0
	Crowduck Island	Lake of the Woods	242	G	Y	447
	Little Massacre Island	Lake of the Woods	277	?	Y	1,363
	O'Dell Island	Lake of the Woods	25	G	Y	1,889
	Techout Island	Lake of the Woods	25	G	Y	605
	Big Twin Lake	Martin	16	G	N	0
	Pigeon Lake	Meeker	357	G	Y	1,450
	Lake Johanna	Pope	97	G	Y	580
	Lake Hassel	Swift	19	G	N	54
	Swartout Lake, Swart Watts Lake	Wright	49	G	N	86
<b>Totals</b>			<b>15,824</b>			<b>9,987</b>

**Table 2. Numbers of American White Pelican nests and co-occurrence with Double-crested Cormorants in Minnesota, 2004. G = Ground count, A = Aerial survey, E = extrapolation.**

Island	Ground count (nests) (2004)	Aerial count of adults on nests (2004)	Extrapolation (2004) (missed 25% of total)	Total Estimate (2004)	Aerial count of adults on nests (2005)
Big Island	4,044	882	1,642	6,568	5,292
One Acre Island (Small Island)		432		432	1,020
Peninsula	2,031	NA		2,031	2,706
Eight Acre Island (Banding Island)	4,361	NA		4,361	4,160
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,436</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>13,392</b>	<b>13,178</b>

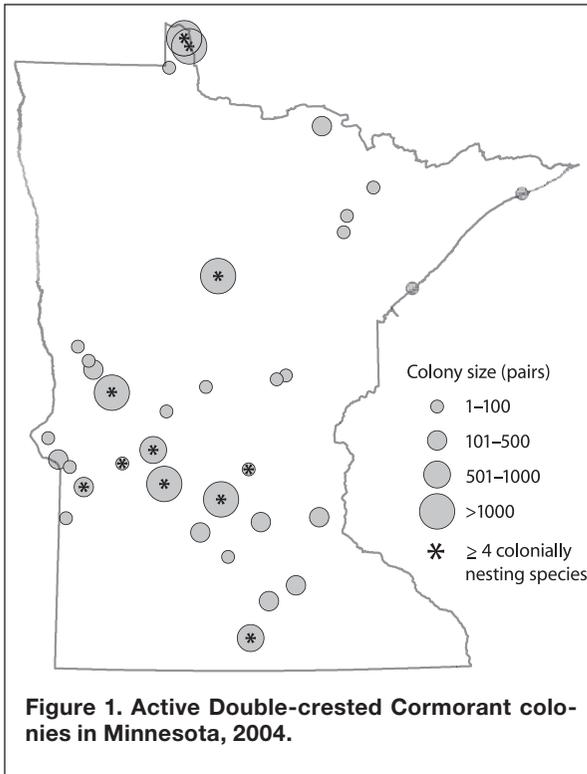
**Table 3. Estimates of nesting American White Pelicans at Marsh Lake, 2004 and 2005.**

large tree nesting colonies were documented in the western and central portion of the state.

Colonies were not monitored by project technicians to determine productivity (fledging success) but three sites active early in 2004 were found abandoned during the course of the survey. These were Little Elk WMA, Morrison County; Hennepin Island, Mille Lacs County; and Titlow Lake, Sibley County. Although these sites were already abandoned when technicians surveyed them, numbers of nests at each site were included in the statewide estimate (Table 1). At Little Elk WMA, an active Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) nest with at least two large chicks was located about 40 m from the cormorant colony, which may have led to the

cormorant abandonment. At Hennepin Island, cormorants abandoned the site after a gull-deterrent string grid was installed by Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) personnel to protect Common Tern nesting space (M. McDowell, pers. com.). No information was available on potential causes of abandonment at Titlow Lake.

*American White Pelican Distribution and Numbers.* In 2004, we estimated a statewide total of 16,652 breeding pelican pairs (Table 2). Pelicans nested at 16 sites located in the northern, western-central and southern portions of the state (Figure 3). The vast majority of the state's nesting pelicans (> 80%) are known to nest at Marsh Lake, a reservoir of the Minnesota River, in Big Stone and Lac Qui



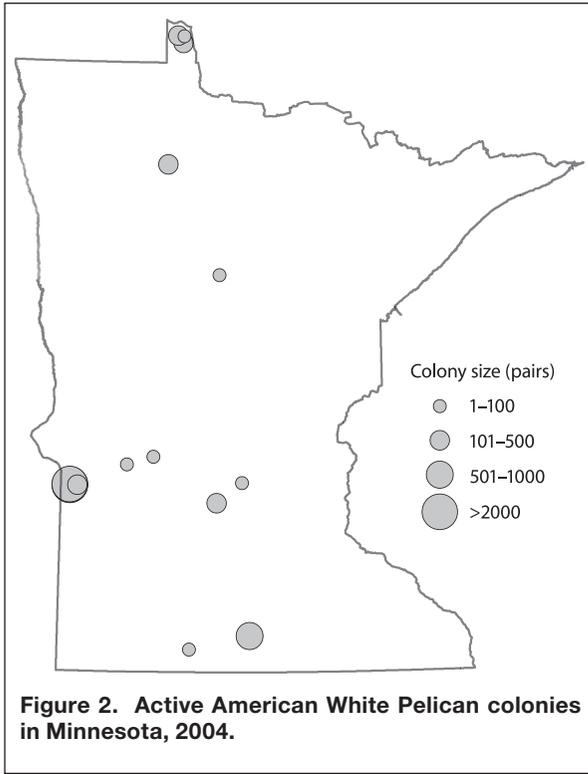
Parle counties in western Minnesota. The Marsh Lake pelicans use 1–6 different areas that vary from year to year. During this study, birds occupied four sites, three islands and a peninsula. Although each of these sites is distinct and uniquely identified with an occurrence number in the Natural Heritage Program colonial waterbird database, the islands and peninsula are close together and birds breeding on them are monitored as subunits of one colony. In 2004, aerial and ground counts at the Marsh Lake complex recorded 13,392 pairs (Table 3); however, these counts were conducted too late in the nesting season (14 June – 25 June, at least 3–4 weeks later than peak nesting date (J. DiMatteo, pers. com.)) to allow a highly confident estimate. Because confidence in this estimate was low, aerial photography was repeated at Marsh Lake in 2005 on 16 May. At this time, chicks had not yet hatched, the vast majority of adult birds were on nests and ground counts were

not necessary. Based on analysis of these photos with the MIPS program, we estimated a total of 13,178 pairs of pelicans nested at the Marsh Lake complex in 2005 (Table 3).

Other significant pelican nesting locations included islands in Lake of the Woods, Red Lake, and Minnesota Lake in the south. Additionally, several other smaller sites were documented throughout the state (Figure 2).

Three colonies were found at locations where pelicans were not previously recorded (Table 2). Only one Natural Heritage Program database site, Pelican Lake, Wright County, was inactive. This was due to inundation by high water. Additionally, loafing pelicans were observed in virtually every western county in Minnesota. These birds may have originated from North Dakota's Chase Lake colony which was suddenly abandoned in 2004, (formerly the largest pelican colony in North America

[King and Anderson 2005]). Some may also have been subadult nonbreeding birds or foraging breeders from Marsh and Bitter lakes and other small colonies in Minnesota (J. DiMatteo, pers. com.). We also discovered a small new colony at Big Twin Lake, Martin County, occupied by very late nesting pairs. Birds at this colony also may have been re-nesters from the Chase Lake colony. The Big Twin Lake site was abandoned prior to its discovery, but adults were seen loafing nearby at the time of the survey. Additionally, some eggs remained in the nests and others were scattered (L. Gelvin-Innvaer, pers. com.). A large colony with 340 pelican nests was abandoned at Red Lake early in the nesting cycle; there were no signs of chicks or hatching when technicians surveyed the area but many broken and scattered eggs were present. Black bear (*Ursus americanus*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) tracks and



**Figure 2. Active American White Pelican colonies in Minnesota, 2004.**

signs were present. Although factors leading to desertion of these colonies were not determined, human disturbance, possibly vandalism, may have been a factor. Both sites were included in the statewide estimate (Table 3).

### Discussion

*Interpreting census results.* This census effort represents the first complete inventory of distribution, colony size, and location of Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans in Minnesota. As an inventory, it constitutes an important database of great value to natural resource agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions; it also forms a foundation for tracking future population trends.

Prior to the survey, the MN DNR collected data on both Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans during the 1970s to early 1990s (MN DNR Natural Heritage Program database). Con-

sistent monitoring at selected colonies and discovery of new sites suggest these species were increasing in the state. For example, during the 1980s and 1990s the MN DNR consistently monitored a subset of 15 cormorant colonies and collected at least ten data points for each. During this time period, all colonies experienced some period of increase. However, the Natural Heritage Program data should be interpreted cautiously because not all colonies were surveyed in all years. In the 2004 survey, 12 of the original 15 sites were still active and contained 2/3 of the state's nesting population, while three of the sites were no longer used by cormorants. At all but one of the active sites, numbers of cormorants had increased between the first nest count (late 1970s – early 1990s) and 2004. Similarly, available data indicate the American White Pelican also underwent significant increases in the state, mostly at Marsh

Lake. At this site, pelicans were discovered nesting in 1968 (< 100 pairs) and numbers increased through the 1990s. Additionally, new colonies were discovered in Lake of the Woods and on Minnesota Lake in the 1980s (Hirsch 1982) and increases in number of locations and numbers of birds were subsequently observed at these sites (K. V. Haws, unpubl. data). Data collected during our survey indicate increases have continued at several of these sites, with the most significant changes occurring at Marsh and Minnesota lakes.

To track population trends and determine if these species are continuing to increase, additional years of consistent statewide monitoring will be required. Steinkamp *et al.* (2002) suggest as many as ten data points are necessary to detect trends. At Marsh Lake, we collected two years of population data for the American White Pelican; additionally, an aerial survey for pelicans was conducted in

mid-May in 2003. Incubating birds were manually counted from high quality aerial photographs; approximately 17,000 nesting pairs were estimated using this method (J. DiMatteo, pers. com.). Earlier population data were collected through ground counts and estimates in the 1970s, early-to-mid 1980s, early-to-mid 1990s, and 2000. These data indicate that the colony grew slowly through the 1970s and early 1980s, and then increased dramatically in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In the late 1990s and 2000, the colony was estimated at 15,000 pairs. The high was reached in 2003 when 17,000 pairs nested at the site. Additional monitoring is required to assess current trends at this site.

Some portions of the public perceive current cormorant and pelican populations as overabundant (Wires and Cuthbert 2003, 2006; USDA/APHIS-WS 2005). Therefore, it is important to interpret current numbers and distribution within the context of species history and range-wide distribution. For both species, there is historic precedent for abundant and widely distributed populations in Minnesota (pre-European settlement). Both species have a long history as breeding birds in the state since at least the late 1800s (Hatch 1892). Additionally, both species experienced substantial population declines during the late 19th and much of the 20th centuries, largely due to human persecution (due to fish consumption) and depressed reproduction from wide scale use of pesticides and other persistent chemicals (e.g., DDT, PCBs) (Weseloh and Collier 1995; Hatch and Weseloh 1999; Keith 2005).

No nests of the American White Pelican were found in Minnesota after 1878 (Roberts 1932); nesting was not again documented until 1968, when 25 nests were found at Marsh Lake. Numbers there consistently increased and new sites became active in the 1970s–2000. Prior to extirpation as a breeding species in Minnesota, the American White Pelican was abundant; early records of the species document nesting at many different sites, including southern and western Minnesota (Hatch 1892; Roberts 1932). Thus, cur-

rent numbers and distribution should be considered a re-colonization rather than a range expansion.

The same is true for the Double-crested Cormorant. This species has a long and well-documented history of human persecution across its range, and by 1925 most colonies in Minnesota had been abandoned; only three active colonies were known in the state at this time (Lewis 1929; Roberts 1932). Prior to its decline, the Double-crested Cormorant was very abundant; Hatch (1892) reported it was “occasional to innumerable” across Minnesota depending on how near its breeding places observations were made. Roberts (1932) also described the former existence of very large colonies. Although it remained extant in the state as a breeding species in the 20th century, its numbers were small and distribution was limited. After the Double-crested Cormorant was added to the list of protected bird species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) in 1972, and other legislation banning DDT soon followed, the birds returned to occupy many of their former breeding sites and their numbers began to increase (Wires et al. 2001; Wires and Cuthbert 2006).

Colony sites in the central western portion of the state have been occupied since at least the 1960s and 1970s (MN DNR Natural Heritage Program database). At many of these sites, occupancy by cormorants in the 1960s and 1970s represents a recolonization; review of historical information about these sites indicates they have a long history of use by cormorants and other colonial waterbirds. In the Minnesota portion of Lake of the Woods, cormorants have been documented as a nesting species since 1915 (Roberts 1932), and in the Canadian portion since the late-1700s (Tanner 1994).

*Important American White Pelican sites in Minnesota.* Marsh Lake has been nominated for designation as an Important Bird Area as part of a Big Stone / Marsh Lake / Lac Qui Parle complex (M. Martell, pers. com.). Eighty-five percent of the state’s breeding American White Pelican popula-

tion occurs at the Marsh Lake complex. Following abandonment of the Chase Lake, ND, colony, this colony is currently the largest known in North America (King and Anderson 2005). The aggregation of most of the state's population at the Marsh Lake complex makes the state's population highly vulnerable to stochastic events (e.g. storms, disease, and human-caused disturbance). Because of the importance of this site to the state and continental American White Pelican population (Beyersbergen *et al.* 2004), the Marsh Lake complex should be monitored annually. However, entering the colony and counting nests from the ground is likely to negatively impact reproductive efforts (Evans and Knopf 1993). Aerial censusing can be undertaken to estimate numbers and discern trends with high confidence and no impact to nesting birds. Other significant American White Pelican colonies (> 100 pairs) in the state include those in Lake of the Woods, Minnesota Lake, Red Lake, and Pigeon Lake.

*Important Double-crested Cormorant sites in Minnesota.* Sixty-two percent of the state's breeding population occupied six sites: Little Pelican Island (Leech Lake), Egret Island (Pelican Lake), Pigeon Lake North Island, Long Lake, O'Dell Island (Lake of the Woods), and Little Massacre Island (Lake of the Woods). Each supported more than 1000 pairs of nesting cormorants (Table 1). Aggregation of the majority of the state's population at just six sites increases the population's vulnerability to stochastic events, including storms, disease, and human caused disturbances. Additionally, these large aggregations are highly visible and more likely to come into conflicts with humans. Large numbers of cormorants also increase focus for potential control efforts. Five of these six sites are notable for their high colonial waterbird diversity (more than four species), and control efforts for Double-crested Cormorant at these locations will likely impact multiple co-occurring colonial species. Because of the importance of these large colonies (>1000 pairs) regular coordinated monitoring (less than every three

years) at these sites will provide population trend and other information (e.g., vigilante activity, potential for conflicts with humans, impacts of control activities on cormorants and other co-nesting waterbirds if control is undertaken) for a significant portion of the state's population. However, because the number of cormorant colonies is large and distribution is widespread, a complete census or sampling strategy at regular and frequent intervals is required to assess population trends for the state (appropriate census time frame or sampling intervals need to be determined). Generally most sites can be counted from the ground with minimal disturbance if attention is paid to appropriate weather conditions, sites do not have gulls, visits are short (< 1 hour), and chicks are not ambulatory. Aerial photography may also offer a less invasive and efficient way to monitor cormorant numbers.

*Double-crested Cormorant sites with high colonial waterbird diversity and or waterbirds with special status.* Sites with diverse aggregations of nesting colonial waterbirds are relatively uncommon in the Great Lakes (Wires and Cuthbert 2001), and are uncommon in Minnesota as well. This census effort identified multiple sites with high colonial waterbird diversity (sites with more than four nesting colonial waterbird species). Identification of colonies with high diversity is important because cormorant control at these sites has the potential to impact multiple species. For example, nesting herons and egrets often occupy the same trees with cormorants and are highly sensitive to human disturbance. In ground colonies, pelicans and terns may nest close to cormorants and are very sensitive to disturbance. Additionally, many of the co-occurring colonial waterbird species also have special status in the state; besides the American White Pelican, the Black-crowned Night-Heron and Common Tern have recently been identified as "species in greatest conservation need" (MN DNR 2006). The Common Tern is also listed as Threatened in Minnesota and three of its

five known breeding sites (Leech Lake, Mille Lacs Lake, and Lake of the Woods) are shared with cormorants. Identification of cormorant colonies shared with listed species is especially important because these already vulnerable species are at increased risk in colonies where cormorant control is conducted due to human disturbance. Some high diversity cormorant sites with listed colonial species have been nominated for Important Bird Area (IBA) status, such as Leech Lake, or have been officially designated as an IBA, such as Lake of the Woods (M. Martell, pers. com.). However, these sites do not receive any special protection. In 2005, substantial numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were culled at the Leech Lake IBA to reduce cormorant predation on walleye (*Sander vitreus*) and yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) populations (Mortensen and Ringle 2005). Benefits of control activities at cormorant colonies should be carefully weighed against the disturbance imposed on other colonial species.

### Acknowledgments

Financial support for this study was provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources "State Wildlife Grants Program" (federal funds) and the Non-game Wildlife Fund (state funds). Without the field assistance, boating skills and willing spirits of technicians Don Carlson and Nick Myatt, the project would have been impossible; they worked in challenging conditions and always got the job done. Bruce Lenning, Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, and Steve Kittelson (MN DNR), Michelle McDowell (Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge), Steve Mortensen (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Steve Windels (Voyageurs National Park), and John Wollenberg (Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Management Area) also provided significant assistance in the field and helped collect data. MN DNR pilots Tom Pfingsten and Tom Buker flew over Marsh Lake and helped with photography. Aerial photographs of cormorants nesting at Little Massacre Island and Little Pine Island were donated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

and Voyageur's National Park Service, respectively. Marsha Sovada (Northern Prairie Research Station) and Mark Ericson (Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge) provided guidance for aerial photography. Robert Woodward (Northern Prairie Research Station) analyzed our 2005 photos of pelicans at Marsh Lake and provided the computer based nesting estimate. Finally, we thank Jeff DiMatteo who provided information on nesting phenology, aerial photography, and population trends at Marsh Lake as well as suggestions on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

### Literature Cited

- Beyersbergen, G. W., N. D. Niemuth, and M. R. Norton, coordinators. 2004. Northern Prairie & Parkland Waterbird Conservation Plan. A plan associated with the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative. Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, Denver, Co. 183 pp.
- Evans R. M. and F. L. Knopf. 1993. American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 57 (A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences. Washington, DC. The American Ornithologists Union.
- Hatch, P. L. 1892. Notes on the birds of Minnesota, with specific characters. Harrison and Smith, Minneapolis.
- Hatch, J. J. and D. V. Weseloh. 1999. Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 441 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Hirsch, K. 1982. New colonies in Lake of the Woods. *The Loon* 54:37-39.
- Keith, J. O. 2005. An overview of the American White Pelican. *Waterbirds* 28, Special Publication 1:9-17.
- King, D. T. 2005. Interactions between the American White Pelican and aquaculture in the southeastern United States: an overview. *Waterbirds* 28, Special Publication 1:83-86.
- King, D. T. and D. W. Anderson. 2005. Recent population status of the American

- White Pelican: a continental perspective. *Waterbirds* 28 (Special Publication 1):48–54.
- Lewis, H. F. 1929. The natural history of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson)). Ph.D Thesis, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- MN DNR. 2006. Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy-Tomorrow's habitat for the wild and rare, MN DNR 2006, 297 pp.
- Mortensen, S. and J. Ringle. 2005. Double-crested Cormorant Conflict Management on Leech Lake 2005. Depredation report to USFWS from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass Lake, Minnesota.
- Roberts, T. S. 1932. The Birds of Minnesota, Vol 1. University of Minnesota Press. Minneapolis.
- Steinkamp, M., B. Peterjohn, V. Byrd, H. Carter, and R. Lowe. 2002. Breeding season census techniques for seabirds and colonial waterbirds throughout North America. Draft, January 2002.
- Tanner, John. 1994. The falcon: a narrative of the captivity and adventures of John Tanner during thirty years residence among the Indians in the interior of North America. Penguin Books, New York. p.62.
- USDA/APHIS-WS. 2005. Environmental Assessment. Reducing Double-crested Cormorant damage in Minnesota. April 2005. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MNCormorantNEPA/documents/EAFinal.pdf>. Last accessed 02/08/06.
- USDI/FWS 1998. Migratory Bird Permits; Establishment of a Depredation Order for the Double-crested Cormorant. Federal Register 63, no. 42, 10550–10561, March 4, 1998.
- USDI/FWS 2003. Migratory bird permits; regulations for Double-crested Cormorant management, Final rule. Federal Register, October 8, 2003. 68(195):58022–58037.
- Weseloh, D. V. and B. Collier. 1995. The rise of the Double-crested Cormorant on the Great Lakes: winning the war against contaminants. Great Lakes Fact Sheet. Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada and Long Point Observatory.
- Wires, L. R., F. J. Cuthbert, D. R. Trexel, and A. R. Joshi. 2001. Status of the Double-crested Cormorant in North America. Final Report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. May, 2001. Fort Snelling, MN. <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/cormorant/status.pdf>.
- Wires, L. R. and F. J. Cuthbert. 2001. Prioritization of waterbird colony sites for conservation in the U.S. Great Lakes: Final report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nov 2001.
- Wires, L. R. and F. J. Cuthbert 2003. Fish-eating bird predation at aquaculture facilities in Minnesota: a first step towards bridging the information gap. Final Report to Minnesota Sea Grant.
- Wires, L. R., K. V. Haws, and F. J. Cuthbert. 2005. The Double-crested Cormorant and American White Pelican in Minnesota: a statewide status assessment. Final Report to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' State-wide Wildlife Grants Program. November 2005. Bemidji, MN.
- Wires, L. R. and F. J. Cuthbert. 2006. Historic populations of Double-crested Cormorants: implications for conservation and management in the 21st century. *Waterbirds* 29:9–37.

<sup>1</sup>**Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, 200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108;**

<sup>2</sup>**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2115 Birchmont Beach Road N.E., Bemidji, MN 56601;**

<sup>3</sup>**Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, 200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108;**

<sup>4</sup>**Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 230 Cherry Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521;**

<sup>5</sup>**Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, 200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.**

# Using Thermal Imaging to Study Forest Songbirds

## Applications of thermal imaging for studying ground-nesting forest songbirds

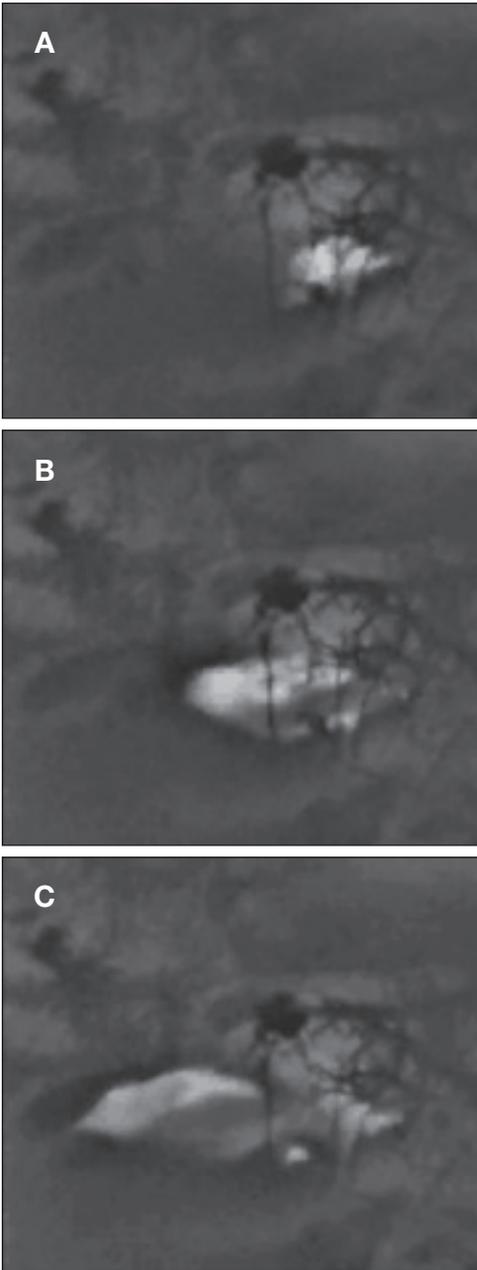
Brady J. Mattsson and Gerald J. Niemi

Locating and determining the fates of songbird nests is essential to understanding their life history characteristics and population trends (Donovan *et al.* 1995). Traditional methods of nest detection involve searching for nests by using a search image and following females to their nests (Martin and Geupel 1993). These tactics may be similar to those used by nest predators (see Flaspohler 1998), and thus nests located by observers may also be those that are vulnerable to visually oriented predators. Far infrared (FIR) thermal imaging devices may hold potential for both reducing bias and increasing sample sizes in nesting studies. These devices are portable and possess sensors that convert thermal radiation into visible images (Raytheon Systems Company 1999). Boonstra *et al.* (1995) tested a thermal imaging device for locating Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) nests in arctic tundra. They reported that the camera was useful for locating nests when their approximate location was known, but that it was generally less effective than traditional methods. They suggested that background radiation, low nest density, insulation of subjects, and poor depth-of-field in the image limited the usefulness of the device for finding nests. To our knowledge, there have been no studies that have investigated the usefulness of FIR thermal imaging technology for studying forest songbird breeding biology. We assessed the effectiveness of a FIR thermal imaging camera for detecting thermal radiation emitted by ground-nesting songbirds and their nests in northern hardwood forests of Minnesota.

We used a NIGHTSIGHT™ PalmIR 250 (manufactured by Raytheon Systems

Company, Dallas, Texas), a thermal imaging camera that was designed for field uses (Raytheon Systems Company 1999), and resembles the camera used by Boonstra *et al.* (1995). The unit is hand-held, small (24.1 cm length × 10.2 cm width × 10.2 cm height), light-weight (1.2 kg without battery), and has a rechargeable 6-v battery pack that enabled approximately four hours of continuous use. We viewed several passerine species with the device, and they radiated heat that enabled us to locate both mobile and stationary birds in forested areas. BJM searched for nests on study plots that were part of a concurrent research project being conducted in northern hardwood stands of east-central Minnesota (Mattsson and Niemi 2006). The FIR device was used daily between 1 June and 7 July 2000, and most often on cloudy days or between 5:30 A.M. and 8:00 A.M. on clear days. At other times on clear days, nest detection was prevented by the lack of thermal differences between nests and surroundings despite the shade provided by the forest canopy. Sunlight penetrating the canopy caused heat to radiate from objects on the forest floor (e.g., leaves, logs, rocks, and moss) and obscured heat emanated by both nest contents and adults. Thermal differences become established sometime after midnight (B. J. Mattsson, personal observation), but using the device before sunrise was incompatible with the concurrent study and posed dangers in navigating through the forest without sunlight.

We evaluated the device as a tool to help find nests and fledglings of the most common ground-nesting species in northern hardwoods, the Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and Hermit Thrush (*Ca-*



**Fig. 1.** Ovenbird adult before (A), during (B), and after (C) departing from nest (moving right to left) as viewed through a NIGHTSIGHT PalmIR 250 thermal imaging camera at 2 m. The nest and the adult radiated sufficient heat to be distinguished from the surrounding environment.

*tharus guttatus*). While searching for nests and carrying the thermal imager, we located 19 Ovenbird nests, of which two were found using the thermal imager. The first nest was detected from 10 m away and its opening was oriented toward the observer, allowing it to be easily spotted with the device. The dome of this nest and some other Ovenbird nests that we monitored radiated heat from the incubating adult even while the adult was off the nest. This phenomenon probably facilitated locating this nest. The second Ovenbird nest was positioned on a steep slope (approximately 30°) and the opening was oriented downhill. In addition, both adults scolded persistently while the observer was near the nest. The nest was readily visible from most downhill locations, and was visible up to 30 m away. We located an additional 15 ground nests and five above-ground subcanopy nests using traditional methods.

There are at least three possible reasons for the low success of using the thermal imager to locate nests. First was the lack of behavioral cues by the ground nesting adults around active nests. Ovenbirds were the most abundant ground nester, but they seldom used scolding calls when observers were near active nests, except one or two days before fledging. We had hoped that this behavior would reveal the general location of their nest, so that the thermal imager could be used to pinpoint the location of their nest. If secretive behavior by adults does limit the usefulness of the device, then thermal imaging may be more useful with other species. For example, a study on grassland birds reported success in locating nests after flushing adults from their nests during the first summer of use (Galligan *et al.* 2003). This indicates that our failure to find nests with the device was probably related to some factor other than experience with thermal imaging.

The next most abundant ground nester, the Hermit Thrush, used scolding calls more frequently. However, we did not locate any Hermit Thrush nests with the device. A possible explanation for our inability

ity to find Hermit Thrush nests was the structure of their nests. Although domes of some Ovenbird nests radiated heat, others were more insulated and only the vertical opening allowed detection of heat (Fig. 1). Hermit Thrush nests lack domes, and only the adult itself or the nest cup radiated detectable heat. Even though Hermit Thrush nests were usually visible from all sides, surrounding vegetation often obscured the heat radiating from their nests. As a result, their overall heat signature was less obvious than that of Ovenbird nests.

A final and likely the strongest explanation for the low success of the device in locating nests was the awkwardness of the thermal imaging device. The camera had one eyepiece, and so a three-dimensional perspective could only be obtained by viewing through the camera while simultaneously moving through an area. We propose that using a different thermal imaging interface could improve success in locating forest songbird nests. For example, a compact binocular design either mounted to standard binoculars or worn separately would enable a stationary observer to easily scan their surroundings and may increase the probability of detecting and identifying heat signatures of nests. Alternatively, a monocular device mounted on the head of an observer that permitted both hands-free use of the camera and use of binoculars may also improve performance. Improving the design of these devices would be a fruitful avenue for further research.

Even though thermal imaging was not very useful for finding ground nests, we did find two unexpected applications related to songbird breeding biology. Nests radiated sufficient heat to be detected by the thermal imager even while the adult was off the nest during a foraging trip. While subtle heat signatures emitted by unknown nests often are unnoticed, those for known nests could be used as an indication of their status. By minimizing disturbance during a nest check, bias in interpreting nest fates can be reduced (Martin and Geupel 1993). Thus, the thermal imager can be used to minimize bias

resulting from observers monitoring nests.

Another unexpected application for the device was locating stationary fledglings. During the first week following fledging, young birds are unable to fly, but lower their risk of predation by remaining still and silent (e.g., Anders *et al.* 1997). However, adults defend these young by using persistent scolding calls. After scanning the defended area with the thermal imager, we were able to use these behavioral cues to locate young Nashville Warblers, Veerys, and Ovenbirds. On several occasions, a stationary fledgling was located in this manner from up to 30 m away. This finding demonstrates potential for the device to enhance studies on fledging success and postfledgling survival of forest songbirds. Monitoring fledgling success of songbird territories is important to accurately determine the breeding productivity of species that have multiple nesting attempts per season. In addition, improving estimates of postfledgling survival rates is critical for reducing bias in population models (Donovan and Thompson 2001).

We chose a device that was economically feasible for our study and for others, was suited for use in the field, and had considerable potential for locating nests of forest songbirds. While we cannot conclude that thermal imaging is unsuitable for finding nests of forest songbirds, we can conclude that until a device is developed that 1) is more compatible with traditional nest searching methods, and 2) is economically feasible, thermal imaging technology will remain relatively ineffective for locating forest songbird nests. Despite our limited success at locating nests with the thermal imager, we assert that thermal imaging is useful for monitoring nests and locating stationary fledglings.

### Acknowledgments

We thank the University of Minnesota-Duluth College of Science and Engineering and the Natural Resource Research Institute for financial assistance to purchase the thermal imager. J. Lind provided assistance in field testing the device, and J. Bredeck assisted us in purchasing the

imager and with recording and editing thermal imaging footage. This research was funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3 Nongame Migratory Bird Office, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Grants for Research in Conservation Biology.

### Literature Cited

- Anders, A. D., D. C. Dearborn, J. Faaborg, and F. R. Thompson III. 1997. Juvenile survival in a population of Neotropical migrant birds. *Conservation Biology* 11:698–707.
- Boonstra, R., J. M. Eadie, C. J. Krebs, and S. Boutin. 1995. Limitations of far infrared thermal imaging in locating birds. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 66:192–198.
- Donovan, T. M., and F. R. Thompson III. 2001. Modeling the ecological trap hypothesis: a habitat and demographic analysis for migrant songbirds. *Ecological Applications* 11:871–882.
- Donovan, T. M., F. R. Thompson, III, J. Faaborg, and J. R. Probst. 1995. Reproductive success of migratory birds in habitat sources and sinks. *Conservation Biology* 9:1380–1395.
- Flaspohler, D. J. 1998. Reproductive ecology and population dynamics of northern forest songbirds. Dissertation, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.
- Galligan, E. W., G. S. Bakken, and S.L. Lima. 2003. Using a thermographic imager to find nests of grassland birds. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 31:865–869.
- Manolis, J. C. 1999. Clearcut edge effects on avian nesting success in extensively forested, northern hardwood-conifer landscapes. Ph. D. Thesis, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- Manolis, J. C., D. E. Andersen, and F. J. Cuthbert. 2000. Uncertain nest fates and variation in Mayfield estimation. *Auk* 117:615–626.
- Martin, T. E., and G. R. Geupel. 1993. Nest-monitoring plots: methods for locating nests and monitoring success. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 64:507–519.
- Mattsson, B. J., and G. J. Niemi. 2006. Factors associated with predation on Ovenbird nests in northern hardwoods: interactions across spatial scales. *Auk* In Press.
- Raytheon Systems Company. 1999. Instruction Manual: NIGHTSIGHT PalmIR 250 Camera. Dallas, TX.

**Department of Biology, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN 55812.**

## The Fall Season 1 August through 30 November 2005

**Paul E. Budde<sup>1</sup>, James W. Lind<sup>2</sup>, William C. Marengo<sup>3</sup>, and Peder H. Svingen<sup>4</sup>**

**F**or the third time since Fall 2000, **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** wandered north into west-central Minnesota. Betting on the appearance of a male **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Reno paid off for the fourth time in five years. **Red-throated Loon** returned to Lake Superior after being absent last fall. At least

six **Pacific Loons** along the North Shore and two away from Lake Superior almost equalled last fall's total; those in Beltrami and Meeker were well-documented.

Duluth's Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (H.R.B.O.) conducted the 34<sup>th</sup> consecutive fall census of raptors at Hawk Ridge and continued its emphasis on education and

research. Highlights included a record-high count of 38 **Golden Eagles** on 17 November and a **Prairie Falcon** observed from the banding station. Please become a member and support these worthwhile activities by contacting H.R.B.O. at P.O. Box 3006, Duluth, MN 55803 or online at <www.hawkridge.org>.

Family groups of **Common Moorhens** in Stearns and Stevens counties raised hopes for this declining species. Shorebird surveys in western Minnesota turned up significantly fewer birds compared to last fall; poor habitat for shorebirds was apparently responsible.

Above-average numbers of **jaegers**, plus **Little Gull**, **California Gull**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and record-high numbers of **Sabine's Gulls**, plus one or two adult **Arctic Terns** were among the highlights at Duluth. **Common Ground-Dove** showed up in Lake County for the second consecutive October. Good numbers of **Snowy Owls** and **Northern Hawk Owls** were reported this fall, but the expected "echo invasion" of **Great Gray Owls** did not materialize.

Providing the first county and refuge record at Rice Lake N.W.R. was a record-late **Say's Phoebe** on 25 October. A late **Western Kingbird** in Cook County was carefully studied to eliminate Tropical, Couch's, and Cassin's kingbirds — all are potential fall vagrants along the North Shore of Lake Superior. A **Rock Wren** was discovered along the North Shore in late October. **Carolina Wrens** continued their recent expansion with new county records as far northwest as Beltrami and Clay. Ten **Townsend's Solitaires** was above average, while eight **Varied Thrushes** paved the way for dozens more to follow in winter.

Except for near record-late individuals of various species, and a sixth state record of the **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Virginia, warbler migration was lackluster. Resuming the pattern of late October vagrants along the North Shore was a female **Summer Tanager** in Cook County on 30 October. As usual, a few **Smith's Longspurs** were found along the North

Shore; the **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at Stoney Point was more unexpected.

*Weather Summary:* August was slightly cooler than normal statewide, with above-average precipitation in the Northwest and relatively dry conditions in the Northeast. September was 3.3 to 5.8 °F warmer than normal in all regions, with rainfall near normal in northern regions and above-average elsewhere, especially in the South-central and Southwest regions, where precipitation was more than five inches above the norm.

October was mild. Temperatures were 2.0 to 3.6 °F warmer than normal in all regions (statewide average of 2.9° warmer). Precipitation was near average except for above-average rainfall in the Central and East-central regions. This trend continued through November, which was 4.5 °F warmer than normal statewide, with near average to above-average precipitation in all regions.

*Undocumented reports:* **Red-throated Loon** 9/21 Duluth (4); **Little Blue Heron** 9/17 Cass (Mississippi River); **Mississippi Kite** 8/8 Duluth (2) and Hennepin (Lake of the Isles); **Sabine's Gull** 9/8 Duluth (3); **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 8/13 (record-early south) Lac Qui Parle; **Bohemian Waxwing** 9/4 (record-early by 11 days) Clearwater; **Summer Tanager** 9/26 Rice.

*Acknowledgments:* We thank H.R.B.O. for data from Hawk Ridge in Duluth. Also Anthony Hertz, Jim Lind, and Jeanie Joppru for providing transcripts of Minnesota's weekly birding reports. Medians of recent arrival and departure dates were calculated by Paul Budde from published and unpublished seasonal report data from 1985 through 2004. Many thanks to all of our contributors; we are especially grateful to those who respond to our requests for details and those who submit data online.

<sup>1</sup> 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419;

<sup>2</sup> 320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616;

<sup>3</sup> 7550 Weber Drive, Chaska, MN 55318;

<sup>4</sup> 2602 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

## KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
4. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
5. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
6. Brackets [ ] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
7. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
8. Dagger “†” preceding observer’s initials denotes documentation was submitted.
9. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with “ph”.
10. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with “v.t.”

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from 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, contact the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** — Eighth state record **10/17 Stevens** (adult harvested by hunter in Rendsville Twp.) ph. †SV.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** — All reports: **8/20** (second-earliest south date) Yellow Medicine (apparently healthy bird at Lanners W.M.A.) PHS, 10/4 Dakota *fide* AXH, 10/13 Wilkin (250) BJU, 11/23 Lac Qui Parle (35) BJU.

**Snow Goose** — Reported from nine north and nine south counties. Early north 9/2 Beltrami BJU, 9/17 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB. Early south 8/19 (summering?) Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/23 Olmsted JWH. Late north 11/16 Beltrami BJU, 11/19 Todd BWF. Late south 11/15 Freeborn AEB, 11/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Ross’s Goose** — Only north report: 10/21 **Beltrami** (L. Bemidji) BJU. Total of 25 birds in eight south counties. Early south (median 10/20) 10/10 Dakota (single near Rosemount) JPM, 10/16 Stevens (**7** in Synnes Twp.) BJU. Late south 11/4–20 Steele (max. **7**) FVS, ph. NFT, 11/22 Lac Qui Parle (2 in Perry Twp.) BJU, 11/12–27 Hennepin (L. Hiawatha) BAF, m.ob.

**Cackling Goose** — Documented in 5 of 15 north counties and 7 of 24 south coun-

ties. Early north 9/17 St. Louis †PHS, 9/18 Lake †JWL. Early south 9/17 Sibley †RBJ, 9/20 Hennepin †ChM. Highest reported counts 10/1 Clay (329 at Moorhead W.T.P.) BWF, 11/6 Lac Qui Parle (**654** in Toqua Twp.) †PCC. Late north 11/23 Kanabec †AXH, 11/25 Lake †JWL. Late south 11/23 Yellow Medicine and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/25 Le Sueur AXH, but also see winter report. Observers are asked to document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

**Canada Goose** — Reported throughout the state and the season.

**Mute Swan** — Bird of uncertain origin 11/1–4 Otter Tail (Brown L.) ph. †DTT, SMT.

**Trumpeter Swan** — Statewide total of >245 Trumpeters in 17 north and 12 south counties. Peak counts 10/3 Sherburne (37 at Sherburne N.W.R.) PLJ, 10/8 Mahnomen (28 at Beaulieu L.) BJU.

**Tundra Swan** — Reported from 11 north and 13 south counties. Early north 9/3 Roseau (possibly injured) KRE, CRM, 10/1 Koochiching BJU. Early south 10/14 Anoka JLH, 10/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Peak counts 11/4 Beltrami (est. 2,000–3,000 near Wask-



**Cackling Geese, 15 October 2005, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.**

ish) JEB, RBJ, 11/22 Houston (9,480 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/23 Mille Lacs AXH, 11/30 Marshall GT. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

**Wood Duck** — Seen in 28 north and 35 south counties. High count 9/15 Aitkin (969) Rice Lake N.W.R. Late north 10/30 Itasca BJU, 11/3 Beltrami PJR, but also see winter report.

**Gadwall** — Observed in 19 north and 25 south counties. High count 10/18 Marshall (7,000) Agassiz N.W.R., 11/8 Houston (2,820 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/10 Polk EEF, 11/12 St. Louis SLF. Please see winter report for additional migrants and overwintering birds.

**American Wigeon** — Reported from 12 north and 24 south counties. High count 10/18 Marshall (12,500) Agassiz N.W.R. Late north 11/2 Marshall Agassiz N.W.R., 11/19 Todd BWF, but please see winter report.

**American Black Duck** — North reports from Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Marshall, St. Louis. Early south (median 8/21) 9/5 Sherburne PLJ, 10/4 Rice TFB. Reported from seven additional south counties, none in the Southwest.

**Mallard** — Reported throughout the state. High count 10/4 Marshall (25,000) Agassiz N.W.R.

**Blue-winged Teal** — Observed in 26 north and 30 south counties. High count 9/27 Aitkin (10,166) Rice Lake N.W.R. Late north 10/16 Grant BJU, 10/25 Aitkin (Rice Lake N.W.R.). Late south (median 11/2) 11/7 Steele NFT, 11/13 Hennepin BAF.

**Northern Shoveler** — Seen in 14 north and 30 south counties. High count 11/2 Marshall (700) Agassiz N.W.R. Late north 11/10 Polk EEF (median 10/31). Please see winter report for late south migrants.

**Northern Pintail** — Found in 10 north and 17 south counties. High count 11/2 Marshall (700) Agassiz N.W.R. Late north 11/5 Lake CRM, 11/26 St. Louis PHS (median 11/10), but also see winter report.

**Green-winged Teal** — Reported from 13 north and 21 south counties. High count 10/18 Marshall (2,200) Agassiz N.W.R. Late north 11/5 Lake CRM, 11/6 St. Louis JT. Late south 11/11 Rice DAB, 11/13 Wabasha DFN, but also see winter report.

**Canvasback** — Observed in 11 north and 18 south counties in all regions. High count 11/8 Houston (56,155 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/10 Polk

EEF, 11/19 Todd BWF. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

**Redhead** — Seen in 19 north and 18 south counties. High count 10/18 Marshall (700) Agassiz N.W.R. Late north 11/17 St. Louis LAW, 11/19 Todd BWF, but also see winter report.

**Ring-necked Duck** — Reported from 24 north and 20 south counties. High counts 10/14 Aitkin (58,960) Rice Lake N.W.R., 11/14 Houston (19,720 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/14 Mille Lacs CRM, 11/23 St. Louis SLF, but also see winter report.

**Greater Scaup** — Observed in ten north and six south counties. Record-early north (but note female at Duluth 23–24 July 1991) **8/23** St. Louis †JPM, 9/23 Clay BWF. Late north 11/19 Todd (55) BWF, 11/26 St. Louis (10) PHS, but also see winter report. All south reports: 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/18 Sherburne PLJ, 10/23–11/3 Dakota (max. 8) JPM, 11/5 Meeker DMF, 11/12 Stearns HHD, 11/19 Brown BTS

**Lesser Scaup** — Reported from 18 north and 15 south counties. Please see winter report for late migrants.

**Harlequin Duck** — Two reports from Lake Superior: 10/15 Cook (adult male photographed at mouth of Cross River) *vide* AXH, 11/23 Cook (adult male in Grand Marais) KJB.

**Surf Scoter** — Many north reports from L. Superior: **9/18**–11/11 St. Louis (max. **10** on 10/23, KRE) PHS, m.ob., 10/15–30 Cook (max. 8 near 5-Mile Rock on 10/30, JPM) m.ob., 10/29–11/5 Lake (2 at Two Harbors) SLL, ASc. Two reports away from L. Superior: 10/22–11/12 Meeker (L. Ripley) DMF, 10/30 Cass (L. Winnibigoshish) BJU. Also see winter report.

**White-winged Scoter** — Many reports from L. Superior: 9/25–11/26 St. Louis (max. 6 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, m.ob.,

10/15–11/6 Cook (reported from several locations, max. 9 on 10/29) m.ob., 11/5 Lake ASc. Two north reports away from L. Superior: 10/8 **Mahnomen** (3 at Bealieu L.) BJU, 10/25 Cass (L. Winnibigoshish) PHS. All south reports: 11/16 Dakota (L. Byllesby) †JPM, 11/18 Goodhue (3 at Hok-Si-La Park) †RPR, 11/20 Meeker (L. Washington) DMF.

**Black Scoter** — All reports: **9/12** (second-earliest date) Beltrami (adult male at L. Bemidji) BJU, 10/8–11/23 St. Louis (Duluth harbor) MTA, m.ob., 10/15–11/5 Cook (1–5 individuals in several locations) m.ob., 11/19 **Stearns/Benton** (2 on Mississippi R. at Sauk Rapids) HHD, 11/23 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle/Swift (flock of 6 flying around Marsh L.) BJU.

**Long-tailed Duck** — Early north 10/13 Lake JWJ, 10/15 Cook AXH, PHS. High count 11/23 Cook (101 from 5-Mile Rock to Paradise Beach) KJB. All other reports: 10/15 Aitkin (female along County Road 18) WEN, WMS, 10/22 Pope (harvested on L. Johanna), 10/30 Cass (female on L. Winnibigoshish) BJU, 11/16 Beltrami (15 on L. Bemidji) BJU.

**Bufflehead** — Reported from 15 north and 19 south counties. Early south 9/26 Sherburne PLJ, 10/9 McLeod PRH. High count 11/2 Marshall (175) Agassiz N.W.R.

**Common Goldeneye** — Seen in 19 north and 14 south counties, none in the Southwest. Early south 10/9 McLeod PRH, 10/16 Meeker DMF. High count 11/24 Meeker (2,000 on L. Ripley) DMF.

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** — Adult male 11/20 Houston (Pool #8) †DBz, CHO, JWH. Fourth November record from this location since 2001.

**Hooded Merganser** — Seen in 24 north and 27 south counties. High counts 11/2 Marshall (800) Agassiz N.W.R., 11/24 Meeker (260 at L. Ripley) DMF.

**Common Merganser** — Reported from

15 north and 11 south counties, none in Southwest. Early south (median 10/24) 11/5 Meeker DMF, 11/13 Dakota CRM and Houston DFN. High count 11/26 Wabasha (14,000 at L. Pepin) KJB.

**Red-breasted Merganser** — All north reports: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Lake, Mille Lacs, St. Louis. All south reports 11/11–17 Dakota JPM, 11/14 Olmsted JWH, 11/20 Meeker DMF, 11/26 Goodhue KJB. High count 9/26 Beltrami (34) BJU.

**Ruddy Duck** — Found in 10 north and 25 south counties, none in Northeast. High count 9/28 Marshall (2,000) Agassiz N.W.R. Late north (median 11/11) 10/19 Wilkin JEB, RBJ, 10/30 Pennington MJJ. Late south 11/27 Hennepin PEB, 11/30 Rice TFB. Also see winter report.

**Gray Partridge** — All north reports: 10/13 Norman (Winchester Twp.) BJU, 11/3 Kittson *fide* MJJ, 11/12 Polk EEF. Seen in 11 south counties, including 8/13 Fillmore (7) JWH. High counts 8/27 Lincoln (27 in Ash Lake Twp.) BJU, 10/18 Watonwan (13) BRB. Also reported from Brown (12), Chippewa, Freeborn, Kandiyohi (4), Lac Qui Parle (5), Meeker, Rock (10), Stearns (5), Traverse (8), Watonwan (12), Yellow Medicine (13).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** — Observed in 47 counties as far north as Clay in the Northwest region, Wadena, Hubbard and Beltrami (origin?) in the North-central, and Kanabec and Pine in the East-central.

**Ruffed Grouse** — Reported from 18 north and 3 south counties, including 10/1–28 Fillmore (2) NBO.

**Spruce Grouse** — Exceptional report 11/12 Aitkin (one along CR 18) ASc. Also seen in Itasca, Koochiching (max. 8 along CR 13) m.ob., Lake of the Woods (max. 10 in three locations) MHK, GMM

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** — Observed in Aitkin (7) KWR, Clearwater (Greenwood

Twp.) BJU, Kanabec (3) JMP, Pennington SAS, Pine (3) JMP, Polk, Red Lake (3) SAS, Roseau CRM, St. Louis (6) ALE, NAJ, Wilkin (2 near Tenney) BJU.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** — North reports from Clay (35) and Polk JEB, RBJ. South reports 8/7–11/22 Lac Qui Parle m.ob., 8/23 Lincoln BJU, 10/16 Stevens BJU, presumably related to D.N.R. releases in Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle.

**Wild Turkey** — Found in 34 counties as far north as Kittson (adult with young, LW), Polk, Hubbard, and Pine (max. 44, JMP). Some north reports probably refer to recently released birds.

**Red-throated Loon** — Only documented report: 10/16 St. Louis (Brighton Beach, Duluth) †SLF.

**Pacific Loon** — Singles reported on L. Superior 9/21 St. Louis ChM, 10/2 Cook SMc, 10/12 St. Louis (Stoney Point) JCG, 10/21 Cook (Paradise Beach) MLH, 10/29–11/5 Lake (Burlington Bay) AXH, †PHS, †KRE, m.ob., 10/30–11/6 St. Louis (Park Point) MLH, DWK. Inland reports 10/5 Beltrami (L. Bemidji, adult) ph. †BJU, 10/22 **Meeker** (L. Ripley, age?) †DMF.

**Common Loon** — Reported from 22 north and 11 south counties, none in Southwest. High count on Mille Lacs L. 10/26 (1,133) PHS. Late north 11/23 Cook KJB, 11/25+ Lake JWL. Late south 11/18 Carver RBJ, Stearns RPR, 11/19 Rice DAB, FVS, but also see winter report.

**Pied-billed Grebe** — Reported from 30 north and 32 south counties. Late north 11/19 Todd BWF, 11/23 Kanabec AXH. Late south 11/19 Rice DAB, 11/27 Dakota BAF, but also see winter report.

**Horned Grebe** — Seen in 15 north and 13 south counties, including 10/1 Rock KRE. Early north 8/24 Polk JEB, RBJ, 9/4 Clearwater BJU (median 8/16). Early south 9/30 Freeborn AEB. Highest fall count on Mille Lacs L. 10/26 (198) PHS; notable

count 10/13 Lake (50 on L. Superior) JWJ. Late north 11/12 Mille Lacs WCM and Polk EEF, 11/25+ Lake JWJ. Late south 11/18 Houston FZL, 11/19 Brown BTS, but see winter report.

**Red-necked Grebe** — Observed in 16 north and 8 south counties. Late north 11/19 St. Louis DWK, 11/25+ Lake JWJ. Late south 10/30 Meeker DWK, 10/31 Dakota JPM (median 11/10), but also see winter report.

**Eared Grebe** — Reported from six north and six south counties. No reports from eastern regions. Late north 10/23 Lake of the Woods *vide* JMJ, **11/12** Polk EEF (median 10/10). Late south 10/13 Brown BTS (median 11/1).

**Western Grebe** — Found in five north and nine south counties. Unusual location 9/4 Clearwater (Pine L.) BJU. Late north 10/23 Polk *vide* JMJ, 11/18 Todd BWF (median 10/31). Late south 10/21 Big Stone PHS, 11/23 Brown BTS (median 11/18).

**Clark's Grebe** — Adult observed feeding “two well-grown young” 9/27 Douglas (L. Osakis) RBJ.

**American White Pelican** — Observed in 15 north and 29 south counties statewide. Northeast reports: 8/17–9/11 St. Louis (seasonal total of 78 at H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB, 9/10–19 St. Louis (4 at Duluth) MTA. High count 9/17 Carver (225) RBJ. Late north 10/1 Koochiching BJU, 11/12 Mille Lacs WCM (median 10/24). Late south 11/23 Swift BJU, 11/27 Dakota BAF, but also see winter report.

**Double-crested Cormorant** — Seen in 24 north and 35 south counties in all regions. High count 9/13 Blue Earth (102) ChH. Late north 11/12 Mille Lacs WCM, 11/26 St. Louis PHS (ties median). Late south 11/12 Ramsey REH, 11/13 Dakota CRM, but also see winter report.

**FREGATA, sp.** — Minnesota's third frigatebird was seen 9/19–21 **St. Louis** (Big

Lake, off Echo Trail) †JIL, CL, FK (**The Loon** 78:115–116). Though probably a Magnificent Frigatebird, the documentation did not conclusively eliminate other species. The state's first two frigatebird records occurred in September/October 1988 after the remnants of Hurricane Gilbert tracked into the Great Lakes region (**The Loon** 61:55–56).

**American Bittern** — Reported from eight north and three south counties. Late north 9/23 St. Louis MTA, 10/18 Clay JEB (median 10/9). Late south 9/14 Ramsey EEO (median 10/17).

**Least Bittern** — All reports: 8/7–13 Lac Qui Parle (4 birds in three locations) BJU, 8/22 Wilkin JEB, RBJ, 9/1 Hubbard (L. Hattie Twp.) BJU.

**Great Blue Heron** — Found in 30 north and 38 south counties. Late north (but see winter report) 11/13 Clay BWF, 11/19 Hubbard MAW.

**Great Egret** — Several reports north of normal range in the North-central and Northwest regions between August and early October. Found in 20 north counties as far north as Kittson and Roseau in the Northwest, and Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing in North-central. Three Northeast reports: 8/29–9/27 Lake (max. 2 at Two Harbors) JWJ, KRE, 9/8 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB, 9/19–24 St. Louis (Duluth) MTA, DAB. Reported from 35 south counties. High count 9/17 Le Sueur (147) WCM. Late south 11/5 Houston FZL, 11/5 Hennepin DWK.

**Snowy Egret** — All reports: 8/28 **Wilkin** (flyby at Breckenridge W.T.P.) BJU, **10/10** Houston (Wildcat Creek) ph. FZL.

**Little Blue Heron** — All reports: 8/7 Lac Qui Parle (adult at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 8/11 Sherburne N.W.R. (presumably same adult as 7/28, see summer report) *vide* ASc. Also see undocumented reports.

**Cattle Egret** — All reports: 8/7 Big Stone



**Plegadis ibis, 24 September 2005, Dakota County. Photo by Michael R. Huber.**

(6 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 8/8 Dakota (L. Byllesby) JPM, 8/21 Winona CAS, 8/23 Freeborn AEB, 8/23 Lincoln (41 near Hendricks) BJU, 8/28 Clay (10 at Rushfield L.) BJU, 10/16 Traverse (near Tintah) BJU, 10/29–30 Cook (Grand Marais) BWS, m.ob., 10/30 Stearns (Albany W.T.P.) JPE, 11/4 Stearns (2 south of Sauk Center) RSF, **11/4–8** St. Louis (Korkki Rd.) *fide* JCG, **11/5–8** Lake (Knife River) *fide* LME, m.ob., **11/7–8** Lake (2 at Beaver Bay W.T.P.) DBF, SLF, DWK, **11/10–12** (ties record-late north date) St. Louis (Homestead Rd.) *fide* JCG, m.ob.

**Green Heron** — Found in 15 north and 22 south counties. Late north 9/21 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 10/2 Mille Lacs HHD. Late south 10/6 Hennepin DWK, 10/15 Ramsey REH.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** — Seen in seven north counties, including 9/17 Cass BJU, 9/18–19 St. Louis DOB, 10/13 (late north) Mahnomen BJU. Found in nine south counties, none after September except 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** — Only the second fall record since 1993! Two

juveniles found 7/31 (see summer report) last reported 8/22 Lac Qui Parle (Madison Twp.) †PCC, ph. SBM, ph. PHS, †BAW, m.ob.

**GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS** — Unidentified *Plegadis ibis* (all singles) 8/23 Lincoln (Royal Twp.) †BJU; 9/23–28 Dakota (juvenile at 180<sup>th</sup> Street marsh) †CMB, ph. TPB, ph. MRH, ph. LAK, ph. JPM, ph. SBM; 10/9–15 Big Stone (juvenile at Munnwyler L.) ph. †PHS, †PCC.

**Turkey Vulture** — Seen in 28 north and 29 south counties. Late north 10/29 Lake AXH, 11/10 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB. High count 10/6 St. Louis (264 at H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB. Late south 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Steele NFT, 10/15 Fillmore NBO and Ramsey REH.

**Osprey** — Reported from 19 north and 17 south counties, none in Southwest. High count 9/18 St. Louis (**72** at H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB. Late north 10/2 Becker DFN, 10/22 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB (median 10/31). Late south 10/24 Dakota DWK, 10/27 Scott RBW (median 10/23).

**Bald Eagle** — Seen in 29 north and 33 south counties in all regions. See Table 1 for high count.

**Northern Harrier** — Reported from 33 north and 29 south counties. Late north 11/14 Mille Lacs CRM, 11/19 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB, but also see winter report.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** — Observed in 24 north and 24 south counties. Early south **8/4** (record-early south) Sherburne ASC, 8/22 Fillmore NBO. High count 9/18 St. Louis (1,285 at H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB. Please see winter report for late north migrants and overwintering birds.

**Cooper's Hawk** — Seen in 22 north and 30 south counties. Late north 11/4 Kanabec JMP, 11/10 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB, 11/24 Wadena PJB, but

Species	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total	Peak	Date	Range
Turkey Vulture	3	628	473	2	1106	264	10/6	8/21–11/10
Osprey	81	466	5	0	552	72	9/18	8/16–10/22
Bald Eagle	204	618	1260	2272	4354	448	11/17	8/15–11/30
Northern Harrier	70	187	50	11	318	17	9/14	8/15–11/19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	147	12143	4720	38	17048	1285	9/18	8/15–11/23
Cooper's Hawk	15	125	31	1	172	18	9/18	8/22–11/10
Northern Goshawk	2	28	114	253	397	38	11/16,21	8/23–11/30
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	1	0	1	1	10/15	—
Broad-winged Hawk	173	31075	63	0	31311	12561	9/14	8/15–10/20
Swainson's Hawk	0	4	0	0	4	2	9/06	9/06–9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	52	577	5040	905	6574	1054	10/15	8/15–11/30
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1	281	175	457	41	10/27	9/30–11/30
Golden Eagle	0	1	55	129	185	38	11/17	9/26–11/30
American Kestrel	70	1674	227	0	1971	168	9/18	8/15–10/28
Merlin	12	109	153	9	283	55	10/14	8/17–11/17
Peregrine Falcon	0	66	12	2	80	14	9/20	9/04–11/07
Prairie Falcon*	0	1	0	0	1	1	9/20	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>47703</b>	<b>12485</b>	<b>3797</b>	<b>64814</b>			
Days	17	30	30	28	105			
Hours	218	372	300	218.5	1108.5			

**Table 1. Monthly and seasonal totals, peak flight and date, and range of occurrence at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth, St. Louis County, Fall 2005. \*Undocumented.**

also see winter report.

**Northern Goshawk** — All north reports: Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis, Wadena. Only south reports: 9/9, 10/14, 11/22 Lac Qui Parle PME, BJU, 9/21 Houston ph. FZL, 10/22 Cottonwood WCM, 11/13 Blue Earth ChH, 11/22 Dakota JPM.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** — All north reports: 8/2–9/26 Mille Lacs ASc, 8/6, 9/1 Hubbard ABi, BJU, 8/22 Otter Tail DTT, JEB, RBJ, 8/28 Clay BJU, 9/4 Clearwater BJU, 10/1 Becker DFN, 10/8 Mahnomen BJU, 10/15 St. Louis H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB, 10/15 Cook AXH, †PHS. Observed in nine south counties as far west as Lac Qui Parle.

**Broad-winged Hawk** — Found in 23 north and 16 south counties. Peak counts 9/14 St. Louis (12,561 at H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB (see Table 1), 9/20 Houston (1,258) FZL. Late north 10/6 Lake JWJ, 10/20 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB. Late south 10/14 Big Stone BJU.

**Swainson's Hawk** — Reported from nine north and eight south counties. Four at H.R.B.O. in Duluth between 9/6 and 9/18 (FJN, RSB). Late north 10/8 Mahnomen and Norman BJU, 10/16 Clay PBB. Late south 10/1 Rock (dark morph near Luverne) KRE, 10/7 Sherburne ASc, 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Red-tailed Hawk** — Seen in 76 counties statewide. High count 10/15 St. Louis (1,054 at H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB.

**Ferruginous Hawk** — Two documented reports: 9/17 Yellow Medicine (imm. near Canby) †KRE, 10/8 Mahnomen (adult in Lake Grove Twp.) †BJU.

**Rough-legged Hawk** — Reported from 22 north and 11 south counties. Early north 9/15 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 9/30 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) FJN, RSB (median 9/20). Early south 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/27).

**Golden Eagle** — Record-high season (185) at H.R.B.O., including record-high count of **38** on 11/17 FJN, RSB, DSC. Ear-

ly north (away from Hawk Ridge, where first seen 9/26) 10/13 Hubbard BJU; also observed in Cass and Lake. No south reports.

**American Kestrel** — Reported from 30 north and 38 south counties. Numbers stable at H.R.B.O. (see Table 1; 2011 last fall).

**Merlin** — Reported from 21 north and 12 south counties in all regions except the Southwest and Southeast. Numbers up at H.R.B.O. (219 last fall), but overall trend downward. Early south (away from known breeding locations in Twin Cities) **8/11** Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/20 Sherburne PLJ. One was observed foraging on mudflats along the edge of a pothole and wading in water 10/9 Lac Qui Parle PHS.

**Peregrine Falcon** — Reported from 11 north and 15 south counties in all regions. Probable early south migrant 8/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Prairie Falcon** — Documented 9/17 Cass (near Cass Lake) †BJU, 10/8 Becker (Spring Creek Twp.) †BJU. Also observed (no details) from banding station at H.R.B.O.

**Yellow Rail** — First county record 9/12 **Brown** (near Bashaw W.M.A.) †BRB.

**Virginia Rail** — Reported from three north and six south counties. Late north 9/4 Roseau CRM, 9/8 Itasca RBJ. Late south 10/3 Freeborn AEB, 10/25 Waseca *fide* OIJ.

**Sora** — Found in 7 north and 12 south counties. Late north 9/21 St. Louis SLF, 9/25 Kittson LW. Late south 9/25 Hennepin BAF, 10/10 Sherburne ASC.

**Common Moorhen** — All reports: adult through 8/3 and six young through 8/25 Stearns (St. John's Arboretum) PCC, m.ob., adult with four young 9/3–17 Stevens (Morris) RBW.

**American Coot** — Reported from 62

counties. Highest reported counts 10/8 Clearwater (6,000 at Upper Rice L.) BJU, 10/14 Mille Lacs (8,500 at L. Onamia) ASC.

**Sandhill Crane** — Reported from 25 north and 18 south counties. No reports from Southwest. Late north 11/4 Kanabec JMP, 11/8 Marshall (20) GT. Late south 11/11 Sherburne (672) ASC. High count 9/3 Roseau (680) KRE *et al.*

**Black-bellied Plover** — Observed in eight north and nine south counties, and in all regions except the Central. Early north 8/26 St. Louis PHS, 8/27 Becker SN. Early south 8/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/26 Hennepin CMB, ADS. First juvenile 9/3 St. Louis PHS. High count 10/21 Lac Qui Parle (24 at Salt L.) PHS. Late north 10/18 Cook SLF, 10/27–31 Lake m.ob. Late south 11/9, 11/13 Dakota JPM, ADS.

**American Golden-Plover** — Found in 8 north and 11 south counties. Early north 8/20 St. Louis SLF, 8/31 St. Louis ALE. Early south 8/6 Le Sueur AXH, 8/8 Sibley WCM. First juveniles 9/22 St. Louis PHS. High count 10/15 Lac Qui Parle (146 at Salt L.) PCC. Late north 10/15, 10/17 St. Louis NAJ, DOB. Late south 11/13 Dakota (2 at L. Byllesby, only November report) DWK.

**Semipalmated Plover** — Observed in 6 north and 11 south counties in all regions. Please see summer report for high count and first fall migrants. First juveniles 8/13 Big Stone PHS and Lac Qui Parle PCC. Late north (median 10/2) 10/8 Mahanomen (6) BJU. Late south (median 10/3) 10/16 Swift BJU.

**Piping Plover** — No reports.

**Killdeer** — Observed in 24 north and 36 south counties. Please see summer report for high counts. Late north 10/8 Polk EEF, 10/16 Grant BJU. Late south 11/20 Nicollet RMD, 11/28 Houston FZL.

**American Avocet** — All reports: singles 8/13 Chippewa (Wegdahl) BJU, 8/23 Lincoln (Lake Benton) BJU, 10/9 Lac Qui



**Red Knot, 11 September 2005, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Scott B. Meyer.**

Parle (Salt L.) PCC, PHS, plus (late south) 10/16 Swift (2 at Lubenow W.M.A.) BJU.

**Greater Yellowlegs** — Reported from 12 north and 20 south counties. First juvenile 8/13 Lac Qui Parle PCC. Late north 10/18 Clay RBJ, 10/30 Pennington JMJ. Late south 11/1 Olmsted JWH, 11/6 Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine PCC.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** — Observed in 14 north and 25 south counties. Please see summer report for high counts and first juveniles. Late north (median 10/24) 10/15 Lake AXH, PHS. Late south (median 11/1) 10/30 Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine PCC, 11/6 Big Stone PCC.

**Solitary Sandpiper** — Reported from 10 north and 16 south counties in all regions. Record-high fall count 8/1 Stearns (46 at St. John's Arboretum) PCC. First juvenile 8/6 Big Stone PHS. Late north 9/7 Pine REH, 9/26 Mille Lacs Asc. Late south 9/17 Waseca JPS, 9/22 Dakota ADS and Olm-

sted JWH.

**Willet** — All reports: 8/11–13 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU *et al.*, 8/20 Lac Qui Parle (Manfred Twp.) PHS, 8/26 St. Louis (3) RSB, 9/9 Yellow Medicine WCM, PHS.

**Spotted Sandpiper** — Reported from 17 north and 26 south counties. High count 8/13 Lac Qui Parle (20) PCC, BR. Late north 10/1 St. Louis SLF, 10/14–15 Lake JWL, AXH, PHS. Late south 9/23 Olmsted JWH, 10/1 Benton HHD.

**Upland Sandpiper** — Only report: 8/13 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU.

**Whimbrel** — All reports: singles 9/13 **Crow Wing** (Ironton W.T.P.) JSB, 9/18 St. Louis (Minnesota Point) †PHS *et al.*

**Hudsonian Godwit** — One north report: 8/28 Becker (2) GHo *vide* JMJ. All south reports: 8/4 Lincoln BJU, 8/26 Hennepin (27 at Purgatory Creek Wetland, Eden

Prairie) †CMB, 9/17 Lac Qui Parle KRE *et al.*, 10/4 Hennepin (2) ADS, 10/15 Big Stone PCC.

**Marbled Godwit** — All north reports: 8/13 Traverse (2) PHS, 9/3 Roseau (4) KRE *et al.* Except for 8/4 Lincoln BJU and 8/13 Big Stone PHS, all south reports from Lac Qui Parle, including max. of 10 at Salt L. on 8/13 PCC, BR; late south 9/9 (Salt L.) PHS.

**Ruddy Turnstone** — Scarce statewide for the fourth consecutive fall; weekly shorebird surveys in West-central region found none (PCC, PHS). All north reports: 8/26–27 St. Louis RSB *et al.*, 9/16 Beltrami BJU, 9/26 St. Louis PHS. All south reports: 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/23 Lincoln BJU, 8/24 Olmsted JWH.

**Red Knot** — Four reports of singles: 8/4 Lac Qui Parle (juvenile at Perry W.M.A.) †BJU, 8/19 Carver (near New Germany) †ChM, 8/26 St. Louis (Duluth) ph. RSB, 9/3–11 St. Louis (Duluth) PHS, DWK, ph. SBM.

**Sanderling** — Reported from eight north and seven south counties; none in East-central or South-central regions. Early north 8/27 St. Louis m.ob. Please see summer report for early south migrant; next reported 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU. First juveniles 8/21 Big Stone PHS, 8/28 Lac Qui Parle PCC. Relatively scarce for the fifth consecutive fall along the North Shore of L. Superior. Late north (median 10/10) 10/4 St. Louis LAW. Late south (median 10/21) 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** — Reported from 8 north and 17 south counties in all regions. Please see summer report for high counts and first juvenile; juveniles also seen 8/6 Big Stone and Traverse PHS. Late north dates not representative: last seen 9/5 St. Louis PHS. Late south 10/9 Lac Qui Parle PHS, 10/12 Dakota (8) JPM.

**Least Sandpiper** — Reported from 11 north and 23 south counties. Please see

summer report for high counts and first juveniles. Late north (median 10/11) 9/13 Wilkin RBJ, 9/17 Clay BWF. Late south (median 10/24) 10/30 (14), 11/6 (2) Lac Qui Parle PCC.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** — Only north report: 9/17 Hubbard BJU. Early south 8/22 Lac Qui Parle †BJU, 10/8 Le Sueur †RBW. First juvenile 10/9 Big Stone PCC, PHS. High count 10/9 Big Stone (5) PCC, PHS. Late south 11/4–6 Renville WCM, †PRH, 11/11 Brown BTS (no details, record-late). **Note:** Undocumented reports of fall migrant White-rumped prior to September are not published.

**Baird's Sandpiper** — Reported from 6 north and 15 south counties in all regions. First juveniles 8/13 Big Stone PHS and Lac Qui Parle PCC. High count 9/4 Lac Qui Parle (182 at Salt L.) PCC, following 134 there 8/28 PCC, PHS. Late north dates not representative (median 10/12): last reported 9/10–12 St. Louis PHS. Late south (median 10/29) 11/4 Renville (2) †WCM, 11/6 Big Stone (3) PCC, 11/14 (second-latest) Olmsted JWH.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** — Observed in 9 north and 23 south counties statewide. First juveniles 9/4 Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine PCC. High counts <10% of last fall's totals; peak 8/13 Lac Qui Parle (364) PCC, BR. Late north 10/13 Lake of the Woods JEB, RBJ, 10/15 Lake AXH, PHS. Late south 11/9 Dakota JPM, 11/14 Olmsted (2) JWH.

**Dunlin** — Relatively scarce for the fifth consecutive fall, especially along the North Shore of L. Superior, where only a handful seen in early October. Reported from 15 counties (15 last fall, 14 in Fall 2003, 16 in Fall 2002, 8 in Fall 2001). Early north 9/13 Wilkin RBJ. Early south 10/2 Big Stone (1) PHS. High count 10/21 Big Stone (147) PHS. Late north 11/4 Beltrami (6) JEB, RBJ. Late south 11/7 Dakota (4) JPM, 11/5–9 Brown (1) BTS.

**Stilt Sandpiper** — Reported from 10

north and 12 south counties. See summer report for high count and first juveniles; secondary peak 9/4 Yellow Medicine (276) PCC. Late north (median 9/20) 9/17 Cass BJU. Late south (median 10/1) **10/26** Olmsted JWH, **10/27** Big Stone (16) and Yellow Medicine (1) PHS, **10/30** Big Stone (20) and Yellow Medicine (2) PCC, **11/6** Yellow Medicine (2, record-late) PCC.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** — Relatively low numbers for the third consecutive fall, especially at Dakota County sod farms. Statewide total of about 110 individuals in 19 counties (80 last fall, 194 in Fall 2003, 547 in Fall 2002, 550+ in Fall 2001). No reports from the Northwest, and only Lincoln in Southwest, Olmsted in Southeast. Please see summer report for first fall migrants. First juvenile 8/13 Lac Qui Parle PCC. High count 8/26 Aitkin (23) KWR. First county occurrences 8/29 **Steele** (Spindler's Pond) JWH, 9/4 **Hubbard** (4 near Lake George) BJU, 9/17 **Cass** (Cass Lake W.T.P.) BJU. Late north 9/22 St. Louis KRE, 10/1 Koochiching (2) BJU. Late south 9/13 Scott JEB, 9/16–18 Dakota (2) m.ob.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** — Very scarce; weekly shorebird surveys in the West-central region found a total of seven birds. North reports from Roseau and St. Louis counties; also observed in six south counties. First juvenile 8/13 Big Stone PHS. All counts single digits. Late north 9/3 Roseau CRM. Late south **10/9** Big Stone (juvenile identified by tertial pattern) PCC, PHS.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** — Reported from 4 north and 11 south counties, none in Northeast. Early north 8/28 Wilkin (4) BJU. Early south (but see summer report) 8/6 Big Stone (one identified by call) PHS. Vocalized 10/2 Hennepin (10) DWK, 10/8 Dakota (1) DWK. First juveniles 10/2 Big Stone and Yellow Medicine PHS. Highest reported counts 10/2 (91), 10/21 (84) Big Stone PHS. Late north 10/13 Clay BJU. Late south 11/6 (4) Yellow Medicine PCC, **11/14** (6 at South Landfill Reser-

voir, record-late date, no details) Olmsted JWH.

**dowitcher, sp.** — A total of 114 dowitchers in October were prudently left unidentified during shorebird surveys in western Minnesota; most were probably Long-billed, but see above.

**Wilson's Snipe** — Seen in 17 north and 25 south counties. High count 8/28 Wilkin (86) BJU. Overwintered north (Duluth) and south.

**American Woodcock** — Observed in 11 north and 7 south counties, none in the Southwest. Departed within three days of recent medians north (10/27) and south (11/2). Late north 10/30 Pine JMP. Late south 11/5 Anoka JLH.

**Wilson's Phalarope** — Statewide total of 292, fewer than Fall 2002 (620+) and Fall 2003 (600+), but similar to Fall 2004 (275+). All reports from western regions except Carver, Meeker, Olmsted. Please see summer report for high count in Lac Qui Parle; additional concentration 8/23 Polk (98 at East Grand Forks W.T.P.) EEF. Late north 9/2 Polk EEF, 9/3 Roseau CRM. Late south 9/17 Lac Qui Parle KRE, 9/21 Olmsted JWH.

**Red-necked Phalarope** — Number of individuals down for third consecutive fall, though number of counties (7 north, 8 south) similar to recent years. Statewide total of 75+ individuals (five reports lacked count and/or location data) compared to 263+ in Fall 2003 and 163+ in Fall 2004. Early north 8/10 Morrison BWF; unusual location 8/18 St. Louis (3 on L. Superior at Duluth) JRN, †PHS. Please see summer report for early south migrant in Big Stone; also arrived 8/4 Lac Qui Parle (2) BAW. Highest reported counts 9/4 Lac Qui Parle (28 at Salt L.) PCC, 9/16 Polk (26 at East Grand Forks W.T.P.) EEF. Late north 9/17 Cass (7) BJU, 9/22 Lake of the Woods JEB. Late south (median 9/23) 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (3 at Goodman Larson's slough) KRE *et al.*

**RED PHALAROPE** — Fourteenth state record 10/1 St. Louis (juvenile identified from digital images taken by JG, SBM during boat trip on L. Superior) MTA, MLH, †ADS, †DTT, †SMT, m.ob.

**Parasitic Jaeger** — Juvenile hit by car 9/7 **Chisago** (Lindstrom) ph. TV (*The Loon* 78:116–117). All other reports from St. Louis: 9/9 (two juveniles) MTA, 9/19 (adult light morph) JPM, CMB, 9/25 (adult light morph with tail streamers being chased by smaller jaeger) m.ob.

**jaeger, sp.** — Reported at Duluth 9/9 (adult) †MTA, MLH, 9/10 (juvenile) PHS, 9/18 (age?) PHS, 9/19 (juvenile light morph) JPM, CMB, 9/24–25 (juvenile dark morph) m.ob., 9/28–29 (adult or subadult) PHS, 10/4 (1) DDM, BJM. Possible juvenile at Lock and Dam #2 in Hastings 9/27 Dakota TEB.

**Franklin's Gull** — Observed in 14 north and 29 south counties, none in Northeast and only Houston in Southeast. High count 10/8 Carver (1,100 on L. Waconia) WCM. Late north (median 10/23) 10/17 Otter Tail JEB, RBJ. Late south 11/27+ Dakota KJB and Hennepin BAF (also see winter report).

**Little Gull** — Single adults documented 9/2–4 St. Louis (Duluth) †PHS, 9/13 Beltrami (L. Bemidji) †BJU.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** — Though last documented in Minnesota 10/17 Jackson ph. †DWK, the adult first found at Spirit Lake in July (please see summer report) was reported regularly on the Iowa side of the border throughout the fall season until 11/13.

**Bonaparte's Gull** — Reported from 26 north and 14 south counties in all regions, but only Olmsted in Southeast. See summer report for late July observations north; unusual report 8/5 Lake JWJ. Early south 8/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High count 10/26 Mille Lacs L. (1,111) PHS. Late north 11/24 Aitkin KWR and Crow Wing



**Partially leucistic adult Ring-billed Gull, 25 November 2005, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. Photo by Bruce Fall.**

KJB. Late south 11/13 Dakota CRM, 11/17 Stearns HHD.

**Ring-billed Gull** — Reported from 71 counties statewide. High count 11/18 Hennepin (6,000+ carefully estimated on L. Harriet) BAF.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** — Second-cycle bird at Superior Entry 11/5–12 St. Louis †MTA, ph. †MLH, ph. †PHS.

**Herring Gull** — Reported from 17 north and 13 south counties. High count 11/27 Dakota (2,200 at Black Dog L.) KJB.

**Thayer's Gull** — Approximately 12 found along the North Shore of Lake Superior beginning 10/4–9 St. Louis (first-cycle) m.ob., 10/5 St. Louis (2 adults) KRE, 10/12 Lake (adult) MLH, †JWL. Early south 9/28 Hennepin (adult) †PEB, 10/1 Hennepin (3) PEB; only other south reports from Dakota. Several reports of 5 individuals in Dakota/Hennepin, but see winter report for high count.

**Iceland Gull** — Single first-cycle birds reported 11/7–8 Lake (Beaver Bay) DBF, †SLF, DWK, SBM, 11/23 Cook (Grand Marais) ph. †KJB.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** — All north reports: different fourth-cycle birds on



**Juvenile Sabine's Gull, 1 October 2005, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Scott B. Meyer.**

Minnesota side of Superior Entry, St. Louis County **9/18–24** (earliest north date) DBz, CHo, ph. †PHS, 10/28 ph. †PHS. All south reports: second-cycle 9/19 Dakota †ADS, possibly the same as 10/22 Dakota †JPM; two adults 9/28 Hennepin (L. Calhoun) PEB, at least one of which lingered into winter season in Dakota/Hennepin †CMB, †ADS, m.ob.

**Glaucous Gull** — Reported **10/12** Beltrami (adult at L. Bemidji) †BJU; all other north reports from Lake Superior beginning 11/5 St. Louis (first-cycle) MTA. All south reports: 11/26 Goodhue (first-cycle at L. Pepin) KJB, 11/27+ Dakota (adult at Black Dog L.) KJB, m.ob.

**Great Black-backed Gull** — No reports.

**SABINE'S GULL** — Most reports ever in one season. Record-high count for Minnesota and the Great Lakes Basin 9/16 St. Louis (**60–70** at Park Point, Duluth, including at least 5 adults, *The Loon* 78:118–119) †MTA, JWB, †PHS; at least two lingered through 9/18 DOK, MLH. Juveniles also reported off Park Point 9/4 (1) †PHS, BWF, 10/1 (2) †MTA, †MLH, †DTT, †SMT, ph. JG, ph. SBM. First county record **10/22 Cook** (juvenile at Grand Marais, latest north date) †CCB. All south reports: 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (juvenile at Salt L.) †KRE *et al.*, 9/26–28 **Dakota** (Hastings)

BRL, ph. †LAK, †TEB, ph. TPB, †ADS.

**Caspian Tern** — Found in 6 north and 11 south counties in all regions except Southwest. High count 9/4 Dakota (22) ADS. Late north (median 10/4) 9/7 St. Louis RBJ. Late south (median 10/2) 10/1 Dakota RPR.

**Common Tern** — North reports from Lake of the Woods, Mahanomen, Mille Lacs, and St. Louis; last seen 10/16 Duluth (first-winter) PHS. Only south report: 8/4 Lincoln and Yellow Medicine BJU.

**ARCTIC TERN** — Adult in alternate plumage at Superior Entry 9/18 St. Louis †MLH. Another (possibly the same) was at the Superior Entry and Lafayette Square on Park Point 9/24–25 St. Louis †MLH, TRS *et al.*, with additional documentation by †MTA, †KRE, †PHS. Fall migrants have now appeared at the Superior Entry in four of the last six years, all within a ten-day window between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Forster's Tern** — Reported from only 8 north and 12 south counties. Late north (median 10/11) 10/1 St. Louis MTA. Late south dates not representative as none reported after August.

**Black Tern** — Reported from 9 north and 17 south counties in all regions. No significant counts. Late north 9/3 Marshall and Roseau m.ob., 9/16 St. Louis MTA. Late south 9/11 Lac Qui Parle BAW, 9/17 Sibley RBJ.

**Rock Pigeon** — Statewide.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** — Reported from new locations 9/14–10/7 **Clay** (Glyndon) †BWF, RBJ *et al.*, 11/22+ **Nicollet** (3, east of Courtland) †RMD *et al.* Continuing reports from Chippewa (Milan), Dakota (Farmington), Lac Qui Parle (2 at Marietta), Otter Tail (6+ at Ottertail), Renville (Renville). Also reported where previously documented 9/17 Yellow Medicine (2 at Clarkfield) DBI. Details insufficient

to eliminate Ringed Turtle-Dove in Blue Earth and Lyon; the presence of a Ringed Turtle-Dove at the same location as the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Glyndon underscores the need to carefully document birds in new locations and to consider the possibility of hybridization. Also see undocumented reports.

**Mourning Dove** — Observed throughout the state. No significant counts, though reported to be abundant in Sibley RBJ.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE** — Third state record 10/16 Lake (Two Harbors) †JWL. Second consecutive October along the North Shore of L. Superior.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** — Reported from 7 north and 12 south counties in all regions. Late north 9/22 Lake EEO, 9/23 Polk EEF. Late south 9/15 Lyon RJS, 9/16 Fillmore NBO.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** — More reports than usual. All north reports: first county record 8/28 **Wilkin** BJU; unusual reports from the North Shore of L. Superior 9/18 **Cook** (Taconite Harbor) SLL, †JWL, **10/1 Lake** (near Two Harbors) JWL. Reported from 15 south counties, including (late south) 10/9 Sibley RMD, BWF, JWH, 10/15 & **10/19** Hennepin (third latest, Wood Lake) †DWK, †CMB.

**Eastern Screech-Owl** — All north reports: 9/4 Clearwater (Itasca Twp.) and Hubbard (Guthrie Twp.) BJU, 9/17 Cass (L. Winnibigoshish) BJU, 10/17 Hubbard PBB. South reports from Carver, Dodge, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Rock, Watonwan.

**Great Horned Owl** — Reported from 12 north and 21 south counties in all regions.

**Snowy Owl** — Major invasion beginning 10/8 Becker (Spring Creek Twp.) BJU, 10/13 Clay (Flowing Twp.) BJU. Early south 10/30 Wright (injured, probably hit by vehicle) *fide* AXH, ~11/2 Dakota *fide* LRA. An emaciated bird was taken into

care 10/28 St. Louis (Saginaw) *fide* DW, but starvation was not otherwise reported.

**Northern Hawk Owl** — Major invasion echoing last year's record-high numbers (**The Loon** 77:132–140). Early north 10/10 Roseau JD, 10/21 St. Louis FJN. Unlike last winter, none strayed outside of the coniferous forest zone.

**Barred Owl** — Observed in 13 north and 15 south counties including 8/23 **Lincoln** (West Twin L.) BJU.

**Great Gray Owl** — Above-average yet unexpectedly low numbers following last year's record-high irruption (**The Loon** 77:194–208). August reports from Aitkin, Pine, Roseau and St. Louis, then scattered reports into winter. Most unusual was one well-described near Trail (where Great Grays were found last spring, but not during the summer) 9/2 Polk MG *fide* JMJ.

**Long-eared Owl** — North reports from Clay, Hubbard and St. Louis, including 39 banded at H.R.B.O. All south reports were in November: Blue Earth, Dakota, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Rice.

**Short-eared Owl** — Statewide total of 52 birds in 18 counties (43 birds in 12 counties last fall). Reported from all regions except the Central, but the vast majority were in western regions (especially the Northwest). Highest reported counts 8/18 Roseau (**17**) BJS, 10/29 Wilkin (9 at Rothsay W.M.A.) JPE.

**Boreal Owl** — Total of five banded in October along the North Shore of L. Superior in St. Louis FJN. Also reported 11/26 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) *fide* MLH.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** — Observed in five north counties including 11/27 **Wilkin** (Nashua) BJU. An amazing total of 629 was banded near Bigfork 9/8–11/8 Itasca DRM. Below-average total of 403 banded at H.R.B.O. (369 last fall) DLE *et al.* South reports from Blue Earth, Henne-

pin, Ramsey (10/27, AXH), Rice.

**Common Nighthawk** — Reported from 17 north and 13 south counties. High count 8/27 St. Louis (3,310 at H.R.B.O. in Duluth) RSB. Late north 9/14 Pine JMP, 10/3 Beltrami BJU. Late south 9/30 Brown JSS, 10/13 Meeker DMF.

**Whip-poor-will** — Only north report: 9/1 Hubbard BJU. All south reports: 8/13 Sherburne PLJ, 8/28 Big Stone BJU, 9/22 Hennepin TV.

**Chimney Swift** — Observed in 13 north and 27 south counties. Late north (median 9/15) 9/6 Lake, Otter Tail and Pine. Late south (median 10/9) 10/4 Ramsey FKB, only October report.

**GREEN VIOLET-EAR** — Second state record ~7/25–8/21 **Hubbard** (Straight River Twp.) ph. JDH, ph. CO.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** — Seen in 23 north and 33 south counties. High counts 8/17 Pine (**25** near Kerrick) MCA, 8/22 Fillmore (**30** near Canton, ties record high) NBO. Late north 9/26 Lake JWJ, 9/27 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Late south 10/9 Hennepin BAF, 10/14 Scott JEB.

**Belted Kingfisher** — Reported from 56 counties in all regions except Southwest. Please see winter report for overwintering birds north and south.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** — Reported from 8 north and 19 south counties. Three reports from St. Louis: 9/18 (juvenile at Stoney Point) MTA, 9/19 (adult at Park Point) m.ob., 10/3 (Stoney Point) JCG, the latter also late north. Total of 15 at Cedar Creek Natural History Area 10/16 Anoka JLH. Additional south reports of multiple birds in Brown (4), Lac Qui Parle (10 in four locations), Sherburne (3).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** — Observed in 53 counties as far north as Pennington and Red Lake in the Northwest, Clearwater, Beltrami, and Cass in the North-

central, and Cook (10/27, SMC) in the Northeast.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** — Reported from 24 north and 20 south counties. Late north 10/15–16 Cook MTA, 10/30 Cook JWJ. Late south 11/28 Houston FZL, 11/30+ Fillmore NBO, see winter report.

**Downy Woodpecker** — Statewide.

**Hairy Woodpecker** — Statewide.

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** — All reports: 9/21 Koochiching (county road 13) JEB, 10/1 Beltrami (county road 111 off state highway 72) BJU.

**Black-backed Woodpecker** — Unusual location 10/8 Mahanoma (La Garde Twp.) BJU. Also reported from Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods in North-central region, and Cook, Lake, St. Louis in the Northeast.

**Northern Flicker** — Observed in 31 north and 38 south counties. Peak migration 9/12–14 Aitkin and Crow Wing MRN, 9/20–24 Cass MRN. High count 9/16 Polk (76 between East Grand Forks and Maple L.) EEF.

**Pileated Woodpecker** — Reported from 53 counties in all regions except the Southwest.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** — Early south 8/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/13 Hennepin PEB. All September reports north in Pine: 9/7 REH, 9/14 JMP (median 9/6). Late south 9/9 Fillmore and Rice, 9/10 Brown JSS, 9/17 Waseca JPS (median 9/21).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** — High count 9/2 Rice (12) DAB. Late north 9/17 Cass BJU, 9/18 Douglas HHD, **10/6** (latest north date) Lake †JWL. Late south 9/23 Benton and Rice, 9/24 Carver BAF, 10/1 Hennepin DWK (median 10/4).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** — North reports of vocalizing or otherwise docu-

mented birds: 8/10 Kanabec JMP, 8/29 Cass †BJU. Vocalized south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/24–28 Fillmore NBO, 8/29 Steele JWH. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published in this report. Please be sure to denote calling or singing birds.

**Acadian Flycatcher** — Three south reports, but none documented.

**Alder Flycatcher** — Vocalizing birds north in Cass, St. Louis, Lake and (late north) 9/4 Beltrami BJU. Vocalized south 8/7, 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Willow Flycatcher** — Only 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU was vocalizing.

**Least Flycatcher** — Late north 9/8 Lake JWJ, 9/14 St. Louis SLF, 9/19 Polk EEF. Late south 9/2 Rice DAB, 9/7–10 Fillmore NBO, 9/14 Dodge JWH.

***Empidonax*, sp.** — Unidentified flycatchers 9/25 Lake JWJ, 10/1 Hennepin DWK.

**Eastern Phoebe** — Found in nearly every county except those in the Northwest and Southwest regions. Late north 10/8 Morrison HHD and St. Louis EEO, 10/10 Crow Wing RBJ. Late south 10/9–11 in seven different counties, then only 10/14 Waseca JPS (median 11/1).

**SAY'S PHOEBE** — One was briefly seen **10/25 Aitkin** (Rice Lake N.W.R.) †MMC. Latest date ever for this Casual species.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** — After August, absent from the Northeast and Central regions. Late north 9/5 Wadena PJB, 9/7 Hubbard LBF, 9/17 Grant DTT, SMT (median 9/19). Late south 9/14 Houston FZL, 9/16 Rice DAB, 9/17 Waseca JPS.

**Western Kingbird** — Reported from four north and seven south counties. After August, only north reports were 9/4 Roseau KRE, CRM, **10/30** (third-latest date north) Cook (Colvill) JWJ, KRE. Late

south 8/31 Chisago KWR, 9/11 Lac Qui Parle BAW.

**Eastern Kingbird** — Found in the majority of counties in each region. Late north 9/5 Crow Wing and Wadena, 9/11 Pennington JMJ, 9/17 Lake JWJ (same as median). Late south 9/17 Swift DWK and Waseca TEB, 9/21 Dakota DWK (median 9/23).

**Loggerhead Shrike** — North reports of birds in Traverse (2) and Wilkin (3) in late August, then 9/1 Beltrami BJU. South reports from Dakota (2), Fillmore (1), Kandiyohi (1), Lac Qui Parle (singles at 3 locations), and Rice (5), then late south 9/4 Lac Qui Parle (different location in Arena Twp.) PCC.

**Northern Shrike** — Reported from 20 north and 12 south counties in all regions except the South-central. Early north 10/13 Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods JEB, RBJ, 10/13 Pine JMP. Early south 10/17 Sherburne PLJ, 10/20 Dakota DWK, 10/21 Meeker DMF. All other south reports were in November.

**Bell's Vireo** — Only report: 8/21 Winona CAS (same as median).

**Yellow-throated Vireo** — Found in 12 north and 20 south counties. Late north 9/17 Clay BWF, 9/18 Carlton LAW, 9/25 Pennington JMJ (median 9/17). Late south 9/20 Fillmore NBO and Nicollet RMD (median 9/27).

**Blue-headed Vireo** — Reported from all regions. Early south 8/7 Fillmore NBO and Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU (median 8/20). Late north 10/1 Becker DFN and Beltrami BJU, 10/4 Cook CJT (median 10/12). Late south 10/10 Rice TFB, 10/13 Fillmore NBO, 10/14 Houston FZL.

**Warbling Vireo** — Also found in all regions. Late north 9/13 Beltrami BJU, 9/17 Clay BWF (median 9/9). Late south 9/16 Dakota JPM, 9/17 Le Sueur ChH, 9/19 Hennepin DWK.

**Philadelphia Vireo** — Reported from every region, though only from five counties in the western third of the state. Early south 8/21 Anoka DWK, 8/22 Olmsted JWH (median 8/20). Late north 9/27 Kanabec JMP was near the recent median (9/26), followed only by a state record-late individual at Naniboujou Lodge **11/6** Cook ph. †KRE, †CMB. Late south 9/20 Nicollet RMD, 10/2–4 Hennepin DOB.

**Red-eyed Vireo** — Found in 27 north and 33 south counties. High count 8/17 Pine (30) MCA. Late north 9/30 St. Louis LAW, 10/1 Becker DFN (median 9/27). Late south 10/1 Steele DAB, JWH, 10/2 Hennepin BAF (median 10/7).

**Gray Jay** — Reported within usual range.

**Blue Jay** — Reported statewide.

**Black-billed Magpie** — Reported from six of ten Northwest and five of ten North-central counties. Also observed in traditional St. Louis locations. High count 9/4 Clearwater (28) BJU.

**American Crow** — Noted throughout the season in all regions.

**Common Raven** — Found in all but three counties in the northern third of the state, plus Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine. South reports 9/17 Sherburne ASc, 11/2 Anoka (2) JLH.

**Horned Lark** — Late north (but see winter report) 11/2 Itasca JEB, 11/6 St. Louis ALE. Seen throughout the season south. No noteworthy high counts.

**Purple Martin** — All north reports after 8/5: 8/17 Pine MCA, 8/28 Wilkin BJU, 9/21 Polk EEF (median 9/9). Late south 9/9 Hennepin (2) ADS and Lac Qui Parle PHS, 9/10 Olmsted PWP, 9/17 Le Sueur ChH. High count 8/5 Mille Lacs (50) ASc.

**Tree Swallow** — Found in all regions. High counts: 8/20 Kanabec (>500) REH, 9/11 Rice (1000) FVS. Late north 9/27 Clay

BJJ and Mille Lacs ASc, 10/8 Morrison HHD, 10/26 Aitkin KWR. Late south 10/9 Renville JWH, RMD, 10/14 Waseca JPS (median 10/19).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** — Reported from 5 north and 17 south counties. High count 8/13 Rice (20) DAB. Late north 8/24 Clearwater JEB, 9/4 Clearwater BJU (median 9/14). Few south reports after August: 9/17 Le Sueur ChH and Olmsted DAB, 10/7 Houston FZL (median 10/4).

**Bank Swallow** — Found in 9 north and 22 south counties. No significant counts. Late north 8/25 Cass RBJ, 9/4 Clearwater BJU. Late south 9/17 Le Sueur ChH, Nicollet RMD and Olmsted DAB.

**Cliff Swallow** — High count 8/20 St. Louis (816 at H.R.B.O.) FJN, RSB. Late north 9/3 Morrison DFN, 9/4 Clearwater BJU, 9/6 Lake JWL. Late south 9/24 Dakota ADS, 10/1 Olmsted PWP.

**Barn Swallow** — Reported from the majority of counties in all regions. High count 8/17 Pine (100) MCA. Late north 10/8 Mahnomen BJU, 10/14 Pine JMP (median 10/8). Late south 10/9 Renville and Sibley JWH, RMD, 10/30 Dakota CRM (median 10/17).

**Black-capped Chickadee** — Statewide.

**Boreal Chickadee** — Reported from Cook and St. Louis in the Northeast, and Aitkin, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, and Koochiching in North-central.

**Tufted Titmouse** — Seen in Fillmore throughout the season (NBO). Injured bird 10/9 Anoka (Fridley) *fide* AXH. Two other reports: 9/15 Houston FZL, 10/23 Dakota (Nininger Twp.) *fide* AXH.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** — Reported from 26 north and 20 south counties throughout the season.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** — Statewide.



**Carolina Wren, 14 September 2005, Wood Lake Nature Center, Richfield, Hennepin County. Photo by Scott B. Meyer.**

**Brown Creeper** — Found in 23 north and 24 south counties. Early south (away from known summer locations) 8/27 McLeod PRH, 9/17 Washington DCZ.

**ROCK WREN** — One at Felton Prairie since May was last seen 8/23 Clay JEB, RBJ. Another was seen and heard among the rocks at the Taconite Harbor boat launch 10/17–21 Cook †SLF, †DBF; also documented †JWL and heard by KRE.

**Carolina Wren** — No fewer than five first county records: 8/22–10/6 **Beltrami** PJR (8/28, †JMJ) (*The Loon* 78:119), 8/29 **Carver** (Chanhassen) RBJ, 10/11 **Clay** (Moorhead) †RHO, 11/7 **Waseca** (Courthouse Park) †JPS, mid-October through at least 1/1 at undisclosed location in **Pine** (*vide* AXH, RBJ). Unusual location 8/15 **St. Louis** (hatch-year bird banded at H.R.B.O.) DAG. Six additional

south reports: 8/10 Olmsted (Rochester) OWB, 8/13 Hennepin (Cedar Lake) ChM, SLC; 8/20–10/16 Hennepin (south end of Wood Lake) m.ob., including 8/21 †CMB, 9/14 ph. SBM; 9/14–19 Houston (near Reno) FZL, 9/17 Olmsted (different location) DAB, JWH, PWP, 10/11+ Ramsey (St. Paul) LK.

**House Wren** — Late north 10/1 Koochiching BJU and St. Louis SLF, 10/15 Cook AXH (median 10/4). Late south 10/8 Washington RBJ, 10/14 Dakota DWK (median 10/18).

**Winter Wren** — No reports from West-central region and only one in Southwest (Jackson). High count 10/6 Fillmore (6) NBO. Late north 10/18 St. Louis LAW, 10/28 Cook JWH, 10/30 Pine (3) JMP. Late south 10/16 Olmsted JWH, 10/17 Fillmore NBO and Jackson DWK.



**Gray Catbird nestling, 14 August 2005, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.**

**Sedge Wren** — Reported from every region. Peak number 8/17 Pine (25) MCA. Late north 9/25 Kittson LW, 9/27 Clay RBJ and Kanabec JMP. Late south 10/14 Dakota DWK and Olmsted JWH.

**Marsh Wren** — Also found in every region. Late north 9/18 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 9/21 St. Louis JWL, SLF, then only 10/22 St. Louis KRE (median 10/11). Late south 10/7 Olmsted JWH, 10/8 Le Sueur RBW, 10/9 Sibley JWH, RMD (median 10/28).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** — Found in 29 north and 31 south counties, in all regions. Record-high counts 10/4 Lyon (200+ at Camden S.P.) RJS, 10/8 Norman (78) BJU, 10/16 Meeker (100 at Litchfield N.C.) DMF. No north reports after 11/18 Pine JMP, but also see winter report.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** — Found in 26

north and 28 south counties, though none in the Southwest. High count 9/29 Sherburne (20 at Sherburne N.W.R.) ASC. Early south 8/21 Meeker DMF, 9/5 Anoka DWK. Late north 10/18 Clay RBJ, 10/22 St. Louis JWL (median 11/1). Late south 11/6 Blue Earth JWH, 11/7 Scott RBW, almost two weeks prior to recent median (11/22).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** — Late north 8/28 Wilkin and Clay, 8/29 Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard BJU (median 9/19). Also found north in Pine and Otter Tail. Late south 9/16 Rice DAB, 9/17 Dakota JPM, then one straggler 10/19 Ramsey †JPS (median 9/23).

**Eastern Bluebird** — All November reports north: 11/1 Mille Lacs ASC and Pine JMP, 11/4 Kanabec JMP. Frequent south reports through 11/7, then 11/18 Houston FZL, 11/25 Blue Earth (4) ChH, 11/28

Scott (2) DWK; also see winter report.

**Mountain Bluebird** — Four individuals: 10/2 **Wadena** (female in Red Eye Twp.) PHS, 10/25-27 Cook (female near Grand Marais) RBJ, JGW, 10/26 **Ramsey** (male in Shoreview) AXH, 11/6 St. Louis (female at Tower municipal airport) SES, BET.

**Townsend's Solitaire** — North reports: 10/13 Beltrami (2 on Bemidji State University campus) BJU, 10/15 Cook (Brule River) AXH, 10/15 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) BAF, 10/25 St. Louis (Scenic 61 just E of McQuade Road) MTA, 10/27 St. Louis (Duluth) FJN, RSB. South reports: **9/29** Dakota (Marshan Twp.) *fide* AXH, 10/11 Hennepin (Minnetonka) DMa, 11/10 **No-bles** (Leota Twp.) †NED, 11/11+ Sherburne (Ann Lake, second bird found 12/23) ASc, 11/25 Scott AXH.

**Veery** — Reports concentrated in the northeastern quarter of the state. Late north 9/26 Cook CJT, 10/3 St. Louis ALE (median 9/14). Late south 9/2 Houston FZL, 10/2 Wright DCZ (median 9/17).

**Gray-checked Thrush** — Found in ten north and three south counties. Early north 8/28 Clay BJU, 8/29 Beltrami and Cass BJU, 9/1 Hubbard BJU, 9/2 Polk EEF (median 9/3). Late north 9/22 St. Louis PHS, 9/29 Carlton LAW. All south reports: 9/4 Meeker DMF, 9/14 Lincoln RJS, 9/23 Sherburne PLJ. Also see undocumented reports.

**Swainson's Thrush** — Good numbers moved through Schroeder in Cook 9/5-25 (CJT). Early south 8/16 Goodhue DOB, 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/2 Ramsey and Rice. Late north dates beyond median (10/15) include three from Cook, culminating in **10/31** Cook JPM. Late south dates much earlier: 10/7 Dakota RBW, 10/10 Houston FZL.

**Hermit Thrush** — Found in every region but the Southwest. Early south 9/6 Brown BTS, 9/7 Fillmore NBO. One with aberrant plumage (all white primary P10) in

Ramsey AXH. Plenty of late north reports through 10/18, then 10/26 Cook RBJ, 10/29 Lake JWJ. Late south 11/14 Hennepin DWK, 11/17 Steele NFT, but also see winter report.

**Wood Thrush** — North reports from Mille Lacs, Traverse and Cass in August, then only 9/1 Hubbard BJU, 9/12 St. Louis (banded at H.R.B.O.) *fide* JWJ. South reports from five counties during August, then 9/11 Fillmore NBO, 10/4 Winona FZL, 10/9 Steele NFT.

**American Robin** — Reported from all but two north and eight south counties. North reports in November mostly Northeast, but also Crow Wing, Kanabec, Pine.

**Varied Thrush** — All reports: 10/14 **Lac Qui Parle** (Caerulean W.M.A.) BJU, 11/2-8 St. Louis (Crane Lake) *fide* DMK, mid-November through 12/1 Beltrami (2 locations) *fide* KLa, 11/23+ **Wadena** (Menahga) JEC, 11/24+ **Redwood** (female in Redwood Falls) ph. †PBB, and late November+ in Anoka (Cedar) BC and Crow Wing (Jenkins Twp., second bird in late December) *fide* JSB.

**Gray Catbird** — High counts 8/7 Carlton (8) JMP, 9/8 Rice (6) DAB. Late north 10/1 Becker DFN, 10/3 St. Louis ALE, 10/12 St. Louis JEB, 11/25 Carlton LAW (median 10/22). Late south 10/7 Dakota, Fillmore and Houston, 10/15 Steele NFT (median 11/3). Also see winter report.

**Northern Mockingbird** — All reports: 8/1 Hennepin (Golden Valley) *fide* AXH, 9/23 Olmsted CCB, 10/14 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) BJU, 10/15 St. Louis (Scenic 61 near Homestead Road) AXH, PHS, 10/28 Douglas (Osakis W.T.P.) JPE.

**Brown Thrasher** — Late north sightings through 9/20, then only 10/8 Lake JWJ, 10/23 Cook PHS, 11/6 Lake MTA. Late south 10/1 Hennepin DWK, 10/5 Brown JSS, 10/18 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

**European Starling** — Reported from 75

of 87 counties and throughout the season.

**American Pipit** — Found in every region but the Southwest, including 23 north and 14 south counties. Early north 8/27 St. Louis PHS, 9/4 Cook PHS. Early south 9/7 Dakota JPM, 9/17 Le Sueur ChH. Only high count 10/12 Dakota (**400** at Jirik Sod Farms) JPM. Late north 11/7 Cook SLF, 11/12 St. Louis PHS (median 10/31). Late south 11/5 Blue Earth ChH, 11/6 Renville (12) PRH, 11/11 Brown BTS.

**Bohemian Waxwing** — Early north 10/3 St. Louis ALE, 10/8 Norman (8) BJU (median 10/5). All south reports: 11/23 **Lac Qui Parle, Redwood, Renville and Yellow Medicine** BJU.

**Cedar Waxwing** — Found statewide.

**Blue-winged Warbler** — No north reports. Found in 12 counties south, including 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU. All September reports south: 9/2 Houston FZL and Rice (2) DAB, through 9/11 in Fillmore NBO

**Golden-winged Warbler** — Early south 8/6 Sherburne ASc, 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, then none until 8/21 Anoka, Hennepin and Rice. Late north 9/9 Cass BAW, 9/14 Mille Lacs ASc and Pine (**9**) JMP (median 9/8). Late south 9/24 Fillmore NBO, 10/2 Hennepin DOB (median 9/21). Single “Brewster’s” Warblers 8/10 St. Louis JWB, 9/4 Crow Wing JPM.

**Tennessee Warbler** — Widespread except in Southwest, where only found in Lincoln. High counts 8/29 St. Louis (100) ALE, 8/31 St. Louis (47) SLF. Please see summer report for early south migrants. Late north 10/8 Mahnomen and Norman BJU, 10/16 Cook CJT (median 10/17). Late south 10/10 Sherburne ASc, 10/11 Hennepin DWK, 10/15 Ramsey REH.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** — Found in 20 north and 19 south counties in all regions. Early north 9/3 Roseau KRE and St. Louis PHS, 9/4 Clearwater BJU. Early south 9/3 Hennepin BAF, 9/6 Henne-

pin ChM. Late north 10/26 St. Louis NAJ, 10/30 Cook DAB and Pine JMP, 11/7 Cook †DWK (median 10/20). Late south 10/16 Hennepin (2) BAF and Nobles JEB, 10/19 Ramsey JPS (median 10/23).

**Nashville Warbler** — Found in 21 north and 29 south counties. Peak migration 8/15–21 Cook (total of 66) CJT. Late north 10/16 Cook MTA and Lake JWL, 10/30 Pine JMP. Late south 10/14 Waseca JPM, 10/15 Fillmore NBO and Ramsey REH.

**Northern Parula** — Only two reports from the western third of the state. Early south 8/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/23 Lincoln BJU, 8/31 Dakota JPM. Late north (median 9/21) 9/26 Cook CJT, 10/12 St. Louis JWL, **11/8** (latest north date) Cook †SLF, DBF. Late south 9/14 Dodge JWH, 9/18 Anoka (2) DWK (median 9/28).

**Yellow Warbler** — Only four south reports after 9/2, though still reported from eight north counties after this date. Late north 9/19 St. Louis SLF, 9/20 Pennington JMJ (median 9/19). Late south 9/17 Carver REH, 9/19 Hennepin DWK (median 9/29).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** — High counts 8/3 Lake (20) CJT and 9/2 Rice (13) DAB. Early south (away from Sherburne) 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 9/22 St. Louis LAW, 9/26 Mille Lacs ASc (median 9/27). Late south 9/21 Olmsted LAV, 9/24 Fillmore NBO, 10/5 Hennepin DWK (median 10/1).

**Magnolia Warbler** — High count 8/31 Fillmore (23) NBO. Early south 8/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/17 Fillmore NBO (median 8/14). Late north 9/30 St. Louis LAW, 10/3 St. Louis SLF (median 10/1). Only October reports south: 10/3 Dakota RBW, 10/4 Hennepin DOB (median 10/5).

**Cape May Warbler** — Three reports from the western third of the state, including early south 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU and a first county record 9/13 **Wilkin** RBJ. No other south reports until 8/27 Freeborn AEB, 8/29 Sherburne PLJ. Late north 10/29

Cook KRE, SMc, 10/30 Cook (2) JWJ (median 10/20). Late south 9/14 Dodge JWH, 9/27 Isanti ASc (median 9/25).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** — Found in five north and five south counties. North reports away from the Northeast 9/1 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/4 Beltrami (male, Long Lake W.M.A.) BJU, 9/25 Itasca †EEO. Early south 8/23 Lincoln (female at Hole-in-the-Mountain C.P.) BJU. Late north 9/28 St. Louis (Duluth) LBe. South reports from Hennepin, Olmsted and Waseca in the first half of September, then late south 9/17 Nicollet ChH.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** — Reported from 28 north and 29 south counties, but only Nobles in the Southwest. Early south (median 8/21) 8/21 Winona CAS, 8/23 Watonwan DLB, 8/31 Steele NFT. High count 10/6 Fillmore (60) NBO. Late north 10/31 Cook SLF, 11/1 Beltrami BJU. Late south 10/30 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 11/6 Blue Earth JWH, 11/22 Dakota (8) JPM. Also see winter report.

**BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** — Sixth for the state and third fall record 10/14 **St. Louis** (Virginia) †SLF.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** — Early south (away from known summer locations) 8/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/21 Meeker DMF. Late north 9/29 Lake JWJ, 10/9 St. Louis SLF (median 9/29). Late south 9/26 Ramsey SWe, 9/27 Hennepin ChM, then none until record-late **11/5** Hennepin (female at Lake Harriet) †FJH.

**Blackburnian Warbler** — Found in 16 north and 17 south counties. Early south 8/11 Hennepin ChM, 8/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Rice TFB. Late north 9/20 Itasca JEB, 9/25 St. Louis JWJ, **10/22** (ties latest north date) Lake KRE (median 9/19). Late south 9/18 Anoka (4) DWK, 9/24 Dakota BAF (median 9/26).

**Pine Warbler** — All reports from North-central, Northeast, Central and East-central regions. Record-high count tied 8/17

Pine (**20**) MCA. Late north 9/25 Cass MRN, 9/30 St. Louis LAW, then 10/30–31 Cook (Grand Marais) BJM, DDM, JPM, m.ob. South reports from Sherburne (8/4, PLJ), Anoka (up to 5 birds 8/21–9/18), and (late south) 9/21 Ramsey REH.

**Palm Warbler** — High count a paltry dozen in Kanabec (9/27, JMP). Early south 8/30 Sherburne PLJ, 9/1 Olmsted PWP (median 8/25). Late north 10/16 Lake JWJ, 10/17 Lake SLF. Late south 10/9 Dakota and Hennepin, then 10/14 Anoka JLH and Olmsted JWH. All departures 4 or 5 days earlier than recent medians.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** — Reported from 15 north and 15 south counties. High counts 9/4 Dakota (10) ADS, 9/5 Becker (**20** at Dunton Locks C.P.) MO. Early south (median 8/16) 8/21 Anoka DWK and Hennepin ChM, 8/23 Lincoln BJU. Late north 9/20 Itasca JEB, 9/26 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 9/17 Dakota JPM and Olmsted DAB, JWH, 9/19 Sherburne ASc.

**Blackpoll Warbler** — Early north 8/15 Carlton JMP, 8/28 Cook DFN (median 8/25). Early south 8/23 Lincoln BJU, 8/24 Hennepin ChM (median 8/18). Two October reports north: 10/6 Lake (2) JWJ, 10/15 St. Louis MTA. Late south 9/20 Houston FZL and 9/26 Dakota JPM both preceded median late date (10/1).

**Cerulean Warbler** — Only report: 8/13 **Lac Qui Parle** (male in Cerro Gordo Twp.) †BJU.

**Black-and-white Warbler** — Four north reports later than median (9/28): 9/30 Pine JMP, 10/1 Koochiching BJU, 10/20 St. Louis SLF, **10/30** (third-latest north date) Pine JMP. Late south 9/23 Rice DAB, 9/24 Fillmore NBO, 10/3 Dakota RBW (median 10/4).

**American Redstart** — Well-represented in all regions except the Southwest, where only reported 8/23 Lincoln (BJU). Late north 10/3 Beltrami BJU, 10/6 St. Louis JWJ (same as recent median). Late south

10/1 Goodhue BAF, 10/5 Hennepin DWK, 10/15 Ramsey REH.

**Prothonotary Warbler** — All reports: third county record 8/13 **Lac Qui Parle** †BJU, 8/18 Goodhue RPR, 8/21 Winona CAS, 8/27 Washington LBF.

**Ovenbird** — Late north 9/20 Cook, Mille Lacs and St. Louis, 9/25 Carlton LAW (same as median). Late south 9/17 Olmsted, Scott and Sherburne, then only 10/5 Hennepin DWK (median 10/11).

**Northern Waterthrush** — Reported from 15 north and 13 south counties. Early south 8/11 Sherburne ASc, 8/13 Hennepin ChM and Rice (3) DAB, FVS. Late north 9/19 Polk EEF, 9/20 Cook CJT, 10/3 St. Louis SLF, LAW (median 9/27). Late south 9/15 Olmsted JWH, 9/27 Hennepin ChM (median 10/3).

**Louisiana Waterthrush** — No reports.

**Kentucky Warbler** — No documented fall reports since 20 August 1988 (*The Loon* 61:75).

**Connecticut Warbler** — Reported from eight north and six south counties. Departed within two days of recent medians. Early south 8/23 Lac Qui Parle and Lincoln BJU. Late north 9/18 Lake JWJ. Late south 9/18 Anoka DWK.

**Mourning Warbler** — Reported from 12 north and 13 south counties. Record-high fall count matched 8/22 Cook (5) CJT. Early south 8/11 Hennepin ChM. Late north 9/12 Beltrami BJU. Late south 9/20 Nicollet RMD.

**Common Yellowthroat** — Reported in all regions of the state. Second-highest fall count 8/17 Pine (50) MCA. Late north 10/14 Pine JMP, 10/15 Lake MTA. Late south 10/7 Dakota RBW.

**Hooded Warbler** — All reports: from summer through 8/23 at Sherburne N.W.R. PLJ, through 8/27 (singing male) and 9/17

(female) Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 9/12 Hennepin (Wood L.) †CMB.

**Wilson's Warbler** — Reported from 17 north and 25 south counties. Early south 8/20 Benton and Stearns HHD, 8/20 Dakota JPM. Late north 9/14 Mille Lacs ASC, 9/18 Douglas HHD. Late south 10/1 Hennepin DWK.

**Canada Warbler** — Found in 12 north and 18 south counties. Early south 8/13 Hennepin PEB, 8/18 Meeker DMF. Late north 9/18 Pine JMP. Late south 9/17 Le Sueur WCM.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** — No reports.

**Summer Tanager** — Resuming the pattern of late October strays along the North Shore of L. Superior was a female at Croftville 10/30 Cook BJM, DDM, KRE, JWJ, JPM *et al.*

**Scarlet Tanager** — Late north 9/13 Lake JWJ, 9/18 Douglas HHD. Reported from 12 additional north counties including Wilkin. Late south 9/13 Fillmore NBO, 9/17 Nicollet ChH. Observed in four more south counties including Lincoln.

**Spotted Towhee** — Two reports: 9/17 **Cass** (forest road 2135) †BJU, 10/1 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) KRE.

**Eastern Towhee** — Reported from 6 north and 15 south counties. Late north 10/13 Clearwater BJU. Late south 10/16 Olmsted JWH, 10/29 Cottonwood BRB.

**American Tree Sparrow** — Reported from all regions. Third-earliest north date 9/11 St. Louis ALE. Third-earliest south date 9/17 Scott RBJ.

**Chipping Sparrow** — Reported from all regions. Tied record-high fall count 8/23 Olmsted (50 at Oakwood Cemetery) JWH. Late north 10/16 Grant BJU, 10/30 Cook JWJ. Late south 10/16 Olmsted JWH.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** — Reported from



**Savannah Sparrow, 1 October 2005, Rochester, Olmsted County. Photo by Paul Pederson.**

22 north and 17 south counties. Second-highest fall count 8/10 Kanabec (**21**) JMP. Late north 10/14 Pine JMP, 10/16 Cook MTA. Late south 10/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Field Sparrow** — Reported from seven north counties, including unusual location 9/1 Beltrami BJU. Late north 10/9 Carlton JMP. Many reports August through mid-October in southern regions. Second-highest fall count 10/1 Steele (**6** at Rice Lake S.P.) JWH.

**Vesper Sparrow** — Reported in all regions of the state (25 north and 29 south counties) through mid-October. Late north 10/17 Otter Tail JEB, RBJ. Late south 10/20 Dakota ADS, 11/6 Blue Earth RMD, JWH.

**Lark Sparrow** — All north reports: 8/23 Clay JEB, 8/24 Polk JEB, 8/30 **Cook** CJT. First county record 8/4, 8/23 **Lincoln** BJU. Only subsequent report: **10/14** Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**LARK BUNTING** — One in female-type plumage 8/30 Cook (Schroeder) †CJT.

**Savannah Sparrow** — Reported from all regions. High count 9/23 Olmsted (50 at South Landfill Reservoir) JWH. Late north 10/31 Lake JWL and Cook SLF, 11/2 Itasca JEB. Late south 10/29 Blue Earth RMD, 10/30 Renville DWK, 11/1 Olmsted JWH.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** — Reported from five north and seven south counties. All observations from August, except late north 9/5 Wadena PJB and record-late south **10/24** Sherburne N.W.R. ASC.

**Henslow's Sparrow** — Observed in nine counties, capping a tremendous year for this species. All north reports: 8/28 Traverse BJU, **9/14** Beltrami (window kill at Bemidji) BJU. All south reports: 8/4 **Lincoln** (section 5, Hansonville Twp.) BJU, 8/6–13 Brown (Bashaw Twp.) BTS, JEB, 8/7 Lac Qui Parle (3 at Plover Prairie S.N.A.) BJU, 8/8 Fillmore (3 at Hvoslef W.M.A.) JEB, m.ob., 8/10–13 **Cottonwood** (max. 7 at Jeffers Petroglyphs and Red Rock Prairie S.N.A.) RMD, JEB, RBJ, 8/16–9/3 Fillmore (Preston) JWH, 8/20–24 Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir) JWH.

**Le Conte's Sparrow** — Reported from seven north counties. High counts 10/8 Brown (21 in CRP field adjacent to Bashaw W.M.A.) BTS, 10/9 Meeker (15 at family farm NE of Darwin) DMF. Late north 9/29 Lake JWL and Otter Tail RBJ. Reported from 14 south counties during the typical migration period of mid-September through mid-October. Late south 10/22 Cottonwood WCM.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** — Seen in six north counties including 8/29 Hubbard (Mud Lake, Farden Twp.) BJU, 10/1 **Lake** ASC. Early south 9/17+ Olmsted (South Landfill Reservoir) DAB, JWH, PWP. Late north 10/8 Mahanomen (Waubun W.M.A.) BJU. Late south 10/8 **Brown** (near Bashaw W.M.A.) †BTS, 10/9 Meeker (near Darwin) DMF. Additional south reports 10/1 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) LBF,

10/2 Nicollet (Swan L.) DAB, RMD, JWH.

**Fox Sparrow** — Seen in 24 north and 25 south counties in all regions. Early north 9/11 St. Louis ALE. Early south 9/17 Scott RBJ. Second-highest fall count 10/21 Olmsted (25 in southeast Rochester) JWH. Late north 11/1 Pine JMP, 11/15 St. Louis NAJ. Late south (but see winter report) 11/11 Sherburne ASc, 11/20 Fillmore NBO.

**Song Sparrow** — Reported in all regions throughout the season. Peak migration 10/8–14 Olmsted (25 at South Landfill Reservoir) JWH. Please see winter report for late migrants and overwintering birds.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** — Seen in 19 north and 19 south counties. Early south 9/3 Dakota ADS. Late north 10/16 Lake JWJ, 10/17 Otter Tail JEB, RBJ. Late south (but see winter report) 10/21 Olmsted JWH.

**Swamp Sparrow** — Reported from 22 north and 28 south counties in all regions. No reports after the first week of November. Late north 10/30 Cook DAB, JWH. Late south 10/25 Rice DAB, 11/7 Scott RBW.

**White-throated Sparrow** — Observed in all regions. Early south 9/3 Rice TFB, 9/9 Rice DAB and Yellow Medicine WCM. Record-high fall count 9/29 Sherburne (340) ASc; notable total of 150 at Park Point 9/22 St. Louis PHS. Late north (but see winter report) 11/28 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Harris's Sparrow** — Reported from 20 north and 17 south counties. Early north 9/11 St. Louis ALE, 9/22 Lake JWJ. Early south 9/25 Meeker DMF, 9/29 Scott JEB. Please see winter report for late north migrants in Otter Tail and Polk. Bulk of reports followed typical pattern of early September through early November.

**White-crowned Sparrow** — Reported from 20 north and 15 south counties. Extraordinary north report 8/7 Carlton JMP is 13 days earlier than previous record;

compare with median of 9/11. Early south 9/17 Scott RBJ, 9/23 Benton HHD. North reports through end of October, then 11/15 Cook CJT. No south reports after mid-October.

**Dark-eyed Junco** — Reported from all regions. First arrivals south 9/4 Olmsted PWP, 9/17 Scott RBJ.

**Lapland Longspur** — Found in 15 north counties from early September through late November. Early north 9/9 Lake JWJ, 9/18 St. Louis PHS. Reported in 16 south counties including early south 9/23 Brown BTS, 9/23 Olmsted JWH.

**Smith's Longspur** — Singles documented 9/30 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) †PHS, 10/20 St. Louis (Park Point) †MTA, 10/21 Big Stone (Browns Valley W.T.P.) †PHS. High count 10/29 Wilkin (50+ at Rothsay W.M.A.) †JPE. Reported without details from Beltrami (3), Cottonwood, Norman (31).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** — All reports: 9/17 Clay (8 at Felton Prairie) BWF, 10/16 St. Louis (Stoney Point) †JCG.

**Snow Bunting** — Reported from 18 north and 19 south counties. Early north 10/8 Becker BJU and Lake MCA. Early south 10/17 Brown DAB, JWH, 10/23 Dakota JPM.

**Northern Cardinal** — Reported throughout the state as far north as 9/4 Lake of the Woods (Zippel Bay S.P.) KRE *et al.*

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** — Seen in 19 north and 24 south counties from all regions. North reports through mid-September, then later than median (9/29) reports 10/14 Pine JMP, 10/16 Hubbard PBB, 11/6 St. Louis ALE. Reported consistently in south until early October. Late south (median 10/14) 10/1 Fillmore NBO and Sherburne LBF, 10/5 Hennepin DWK.

**Pheucticus, sp.** — Unidentified female-plumaged grosbeak 10/30 Cook KRE.

**Blue Grosbeak** — All reports: 8/12 Brown †BRB, 8/13 Chippewa (Wegdahl) BJU, 8/18 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) ChM.

**Indigo Bunting** — Only seven reports north. Record-late north **11/6** St. Louis ALE. Reported in 28 south counties; many reports August through mid-September. Late south 9/25 Hennepin BAF, 10/1 Olmsted PWP.

**Dickcissel** — Only north report: 8/28 Clay BJU. Reported from six south counties including (late south) 8/23 Lincoln BJU.

**Bobolink** — Reported from 12 north counties through mid-September. High count 8/22 Otter Tail (131) RBJ. Late north 9/17 Cass BJU. Reported in 19 south counties through mid-October. Last reported 10/14 Olmsted JWH, **10/27** (record-late south) Watonwan BRB.

**Red-winged Blackbird** — Reported in all regions. No significant high counts.

**Eastern Meadowlark** — Reported from five north counties (central and eastern regions) through mid-October, then late north 10/30 Pine JMP. High count 9/27 Kanabec (**27**) JMP. Reported from 10 south counties (central and east regions) through mid-October; still singing 10/9 Sherburne DWK. Late south (no details) 11/1 Olmsted JWH, 11/8 Houston FZL.

**Western Meadowlark** — Found in 12 north counties including 10/15–16 Lake (Two Harbors, identified by call) AXH, †PHS, †JWL. Late north 10/18 Norman JEB, RBJ, 10/19 Wilkin JEB. Reported from 18 south counties in western and central regions until mid-October. High count 9/17 Swift (20) DWK. Late south 10/23 Cottonwood WCM.

**Sturnella, sp.** — Unidentified meadowlark 11/11 Sherburne ASC.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** — Only 11 north reports from 8 counties. Late north

10/8 Norman BJU. Reported from 12 south counties through mid-September. Late south 11/18 Steele NFT.

**Rusty Blackbird** — Seen in 18 north and 14 south counties. Early north 9/13 Lake JWL, 9/24 Cass MRN. Early south 9/25 Dakota JPM, 9/27 Dakota TEB and Ramsey EEO. Late north 11/6 Cook KRE, 11/21 Norman BJU; also see winter report.

**Brewer's Blackbird** — Reported in 12 north and 11 south counties. High count 9/28 Clay (250 in one pasture) RBJ. Late north 11/1 Mille Lacs ASC and Pine JMP. Late south 11/15 Freeborn AEB, 11/19 Rice FVS, DAB.

**Common Grackle** — Reported in all regions throughout the season. Seasonal high count of 1,000 on 11/11 Rice DAB. As always, see winter report for late migrants and overwintering birds.

**Great-tailed Grackle** — Only report 10/17 Jackson (3 at cattle lot along state highway 86) DWK.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** — Reported from all regions. Late north 10/15 St. Louis MTA, 10/16 Grant BJU, 10/30 Itasca BJU. Late south (but see winter report) 11/15 Freeborn AEB, 11/19 Rice DAB.

**Orchard Oriole** — No north reports. Reported from seven south counties. Late south (median 8/26) 8/23 Lac Qui Parle and Lincoln BJU.

**Baltimore Oriole** — Seen in 14 north and 18 south counties. North reports through mid-September, then 10/14 Pine JMP. All south reports in August, except 9/2 Rice DAB and Steele NFT, 9/4 Dakota ADS.

**Pine Grosbeak** — Seen in ten north counties as far south as Pine. Early north and seasonal high count 10/1 Beltrami (57) BJU; also arrived 10/1 Koochiching BJU.

**Purple Finch** — Reported from 24 north

and 17 south counties in all regions. Away from Sherburne (see summer report) south reports increased in early September.

**House Finch** — Reported statewide.

**Red Crossbill** — Only eight reports from five northern counties. Early north 9/18 Cook EEO. High count 11/4 St. Louis (25) RBJ. Only south reports: 10/14 Big Stone and 11/23 Chippewa BJU.

**White-winged Crossbill** — Only seven reports from six northern counties. Early north 10/6 Beltrami BJU. Only western reports: 11/26 Clay DPW, 11/27 Wilkin BJU.

**Common Redpoll** — Reported from six north counties. Early north 10/30 Cass and Itasca BJU. Only reports south: 10/31 Sherburne ASc, 11/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Hoary Redpoll** — No reports.

**Pine Siskin** — Reported from 19 north and nine south counties. Early south (but see summer report) **8/13** Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/21 Rice TFB. All other south reports in November.

**American Goldfinch** — Seen statewide. Interesting nesting report 9/4 Crow Wing RPR: “found 27 feet up in a white pine, may be a record height according to BNA account.”

**Evening Grosbeak** — Observed in 11 north counties. Three August reports: 8/1 Aitkin KWR, 8/17 Pine MCA, 8/27 St. Louis SES. High count 11/30 St. Louis (60) ALE.

**House Sparrow** — Statewide.

---

#### Contributors

---

ABi	Andrew Bicek	CLR	Cindy L. Risen
ADS	Andrew D. Smith	CMB	Conny M. Brunell
AEB	Al E. Batt	CMN	Connie M. Norheim
ALE	Audrey L. Evers	CO	Cody Olander
ASc	Al Schirmacher	CRM	Craig R. Mandel
AXH	Anthony X. Hertzell	DAB	David A. Bartkey
BAF	Bruce A. Fall	DAC	David A. Cahlander
BAW	Ben A. Wieland	DAG	David A. Grosshuesch
BC	Barbara Cook	DB	Doug Buri
BJM	Barbara J. Martin	DBF	Deb Buria-Falkowski
BJS	Beth & Jeff Siverhus	DBi	Dick Bierman
BJU	Bill J. Unzen	DBz	Dedrick Benz
BLA	Betty L. Ammerman	DCT	Dianne C. Tuff
BR	Bob Rogers	DCZ	Dave C. Zumeta
BRB	Brad R. Bolduan	DDM	Dennis D. Martin
BRK	Byron R. Kinkade	DFN	David F. Neitzel
BRL	Bill R. Litkey	DJB	Dan J. Beran
BET	Bill E. Tefft	DKM	Diane K. Millard
BSe	Blaine Seeliger	DLB	Diane L. Brudelie
BTS	Brian T. Smith	DLE	David L. Evans
BWF	Ben W. Fritchman	DLT	Donna & Leon Thoreson
BWS	Bruce W. Stahly	DMa	Don Mattsson
CAM	Craig A. Menze	DMF	Dan M. Floren
CAS	Carol A. Schumacher	DMK	Dee M. Kuder
CCB	Chris C. Benson	DMP	Daphne & Meyers Peterson
ChH	Chad Heins	DOB	Derek O. Bakken
ChM	Chet A. Meyers	DOK	Don O. Kienholz
CHo	Chris Hockema	DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson
CJT	Carol & Jim Tveekrem	DPS	David P. Sovereign
CL	Christian Lerch	DPW	Dennis P. Wiesenborn

DRB	David R. Benson	KTP	Keith T. Pulles
DRM	Dennis R. Meyer	KWR	Kim W. Risen
DSC	David S. Carman	LAK	Linda A. Krueger
DTT	Dan T. Thimgan	LAV	Lance Vrieze
DW	Debbie Waters	LAW	Larry A. Weber
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	LBe	Lars Benson
EEF	Eve E. Freeberg	LBF	Linda B. Felker
EEO	Earl E. Orf	LK	Leslie Kottke
EJE	Eddy & Judy Edwards	LMC	Linda M. Cooper
ES	Erika Sitz	LME	Laura M. Erickson
FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	LRA	Lori R. Arent
FJH	Fran J. Howard	LS	Linda Sparling
FJN	Frank J. Nicoletti	LW	Larry Wilebski
FK	Faron Kaestner	MA	Margaret Anderson
FKB	Frank & Kathi Berdan	MAJ	Murdoch A. Johnson
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	MAW	Marlene A. Weber
FZL	Fred Z. Leshner	MCA	Mark C. Alt
GHo	Greg Hoch	MG	Melissa Galland
GLS	Gary L. Simonson	MHK	Martin H. Kehoe
GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel	MLH	Mike Hendrickson
GT	Gary Tischer	MM	Matt Mecklenburg
HHD	Herb H. Dingmann	MMc	Michelle McDowell
JCG	Janet C. Green	MO	Mark Otnes
JD	Jim Duncan	MRH	Michael R. Huber
JDH	Jeanne & David Hilgendorf	MRN	Michael R. North
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	MTA	Tom Auer
JEC	Joe & Evanne Clark	NAJ	Nancy A. Jackson
JEZ	James E. Zimmerman	NBO	Nancy B. Overcott
JFR	James F. Ryan	NED	Nelvina E. De Kam
JG	Jay Gilliam	NFT	Nels F. Thompson
JGW	Josh G. Watson	OLJ	Oscar L. Johnson
JIL	Janet I. Lerch	OWB	Bill Bruins
JLH	James L. Howitz	PBB	Patrick B. Beauzay
JLR	Janet L. Riegle	PBD	Pat & Bob Dewenter
JLU	Janice & Larry Uden	PCC	Philip C. Chu
JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppu	PEB	Paul E. Budde
JMP	Jackie M. Potts	PEJ	Paul E. Jantscher
JPE	John P. Ellis	PHS	Peder H. Svingen
JPM	James P. Mattsson	PJB	Paul J. Binek
JPS	Julian P. Sellers	PJR	Pat J. Rice
JRN	Jeff R. Newman	PLJ	Paul L. Johnson
JSB	Jo & Steve Blanich	PME	Paul M. Egeland
JSK	John & Susan Kroll	PR	Peg Robertsen
JSS	Jack Sprenger	PRH	Pete Hoeger
JT	Justin Trutwin	PWP	Paul W. Pedersen
JWB	Jim W. Barrett	RBJ	Robert B. Janssen
JWH	John W. Hockema	RBW	Bob Williams
JWL	James W. Lind	RCK	Rose C. Kneeskern
KAK	Karla A. Kinstler	RCS	Rolf C. Smeby
KAR	Kathryn A. Rivers	REH	Robert E. Holtz
KJB	Karl J. Bardon	RHO	Robert H. O'Connor
KKW	Kristine & Kyle Wicklund	RJS	Roger J. Schroeder
KLa	Kelly Larson	RMD	Robert M. Dunlap
KRE	Kim R. Eckert	RNS	Richard N. Smaby

RPR Robert P. Russell, Jr.  
 RSB Ryan S. Brady  
 RSF Randy S. Frederickson  
 RWS Robert W. Schroeder  
 SAS Shelley A. Steva  
 SBM Scott B. Meyer  
 SC Shawn Conrad  
 SES Steven E. Schon  
 SID Sue Durrant  
 SLC Steve L. Carlson  
 SLF Steven L. Falkowski  
 SLL Sharon L. Lind  
 SMC Scott M. Clark  
 SMc Sue McDonnell  
 SMT Sandy M. Thimgan  
 SN Sherrie Norland  
 SPM Steven P. Millard  
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman  
 SV Sara Vacek  
 SWe Steve Weston  
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell  
 TFB Tom F. Boevers  
 TPB Terry P. Brashear

TPW Terry P. Wiens  
 TRS Thomas R. Schultz  
 TV Tami Vogel  
 WCM William C. Marengo  
 WEN Warren E. Nelson  
 WLB William L. Brown  
 WMS William M. Stauffer

#### Abbreviations

C.P. County Park  
 C.R. County Road  
 D.N.R. Department of Natural Resources  
 H.R.B.O. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth  
 m.ob. many observers  
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge  
 P.R. Park Reserve  
 S.N.A. Scientific & Natural Area  
 S.P. State Park  
 sp. Species  
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area  
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Production Area  
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

## Unusual Natural Injury in a Northern Hawk Owl

Frank J. Nicoletti and David Alexander

While trapping owls on Highway 72 near the town of Kelliher, Minnesota (Beltrami County) on 14 January 2006, we captured an adult Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) with an unusual natural injury: the bird had an obvious stick protruding from its back. We examined the bird carefully and saw that the stick entered just to the left of mid-line between the legs. It exited posteriorly in the mid-back just to the left of mid-line (Figure 1). The stick protruded on the ventral surface 2.5 cm and on the dorsal surface 6 cm. We estimated the total stick length at 16 cm. We attempted to gently remove the stick, but it had completely healed with scar tissue, suggesting that the

wound was probably more than a month old. We trimmed the stick near skin level on both ventral and dorsal sides, placed a USFWS band, and released the bird.

We did note that the bird approached and landed on the Bal-Chatrri (BC) trap very gently. Most Northern Hawk Owls captured are usually more aggressive on the BC trap. The bird appeared to be in good health. When released the bird appeared to fly away normally. As of 10 March 2006 the hawk owl was still in the same location as originally banded.

David L. Evans (*Auk* 94:585–586) reported similar injuries in three species of hawks. He also reports an adult female Long-eared Owl captured and banded on



**Figure 1. Northern Hawk Owl, 14 January 2006, Photo by David Alexander.**

19 October 1978, with the same type of injury (pers. com.). We believe this is the first report of such an injury in a Northern Hawk Owl. As with Evans, we believe this injury to have occurred with the legs and pelvis extended during an attempt at catching prey.

We would like to thank Dave Evans and Ryan Brady for reviewing this note.

**5826 Morning Star Drive, Duluth, MN 55804;  
211 North 33rd Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55804.**

## **Extra Rectrices on Boreal and Northern Hawk Owls**

**Frank J. Nicoletti and David Alexander**

**R**aptors — including owls — usually have 12 rectrices or tail feathers (Cramp and Simmons, 1982). Clark summarized all published and some unpublished reports of both Eurasian and North American diurnal raptors with supernumerary primaries and rectri-

ces (Clark *et al.* 1988.). Among the nearly 11,000 raptors checked, six species and eight instances were found in diurnal raptors to have an abnormal number of extra tail feathers. Kohl published a study of 800 owls and reported a 3% incidence of extra tail feathers (Kohl, 1990). We could

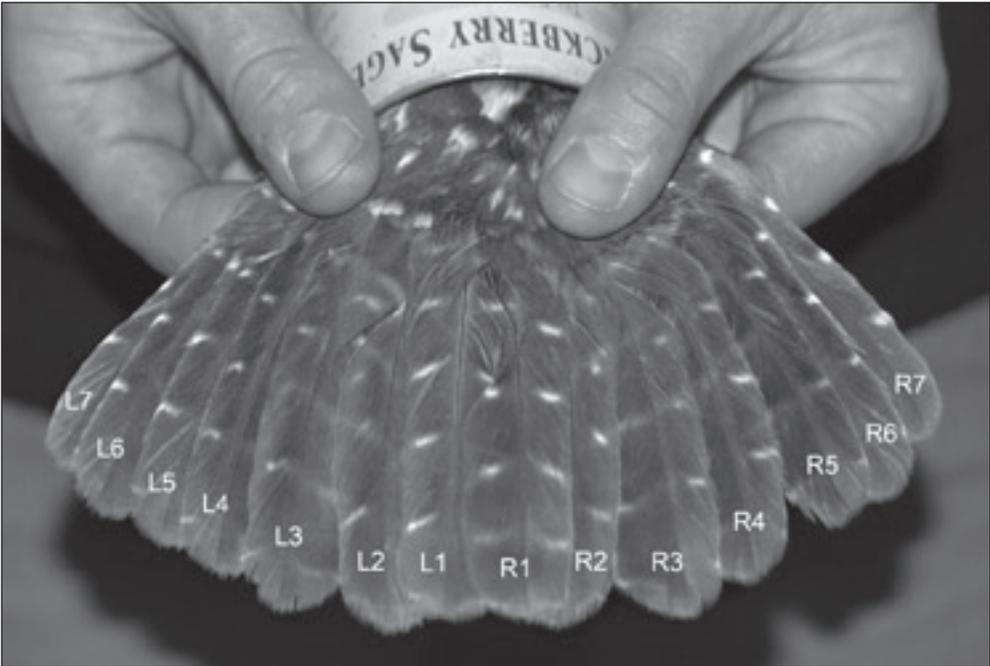
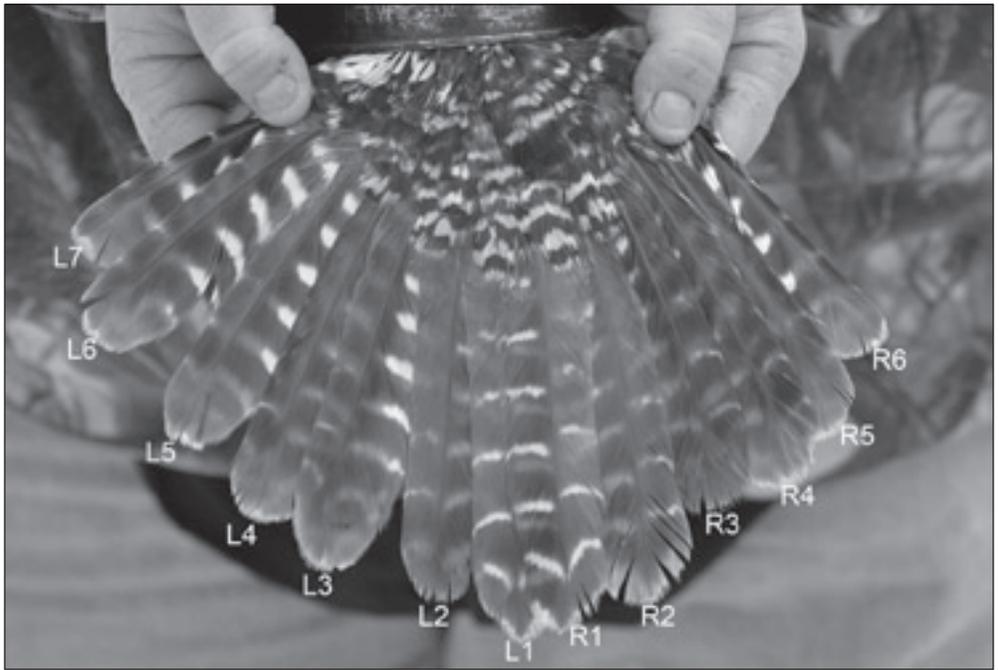


Figure 1.



Figure 2.



**Figure 3.**

find no published reports of extra rectrices occurring in North American owls. Both Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) and Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) are circumpolar and are Regular in Minnesota. While conducting banding studies, we recorded extra rectrices in one Boreal and two Northern Hawk Owls.

In the fall of 2004, while trapping and banding Boreal Owls in Lakewood Township, St Louis Co., Minnesota, we captured an individual on 24 November that had 14 tail feathers, (Figure 1). The tail was perfectly symmetrical and we were unable to determine which were the supernumerary feathers. The bird was in its second year by molt (Pyle, 1997) and appeared in good condition. We trapped a total of 269 Boreal Owls during the fall of 2004; FJN has examined another 80 individuals and found no other abnormal plumages or unusual numbers of rectrices.

While trapping Northern Hawk Owls in Northern Minnesota, we trapped two that had 13 tail feathers each. The first was an adult banded in Linden Grove Town-

ship, St Louis County, 26 December 2005. The second, also an adult banded on 15 January 2006 along Highway 310 in the Roseau Bog, Roseau County. Of the 190+ hawk owls examined during banding from December 2000 to February 2006, these are the only two seen with supernumerary tail feathers.

The bird in Figure 2 has seven right tail feathers; the supernumerary feather is R4, R5, or R6. The bird in Figure 3 has seven left tail feathers; the supernumerary feather is L2, L3, or L4. The extra feathers appeared to be normal and functional (i.e. their removal would have left a gap).

Since raptors with extra tail feathers have the same number of rectrices after each complete molt (Clark 1998), they are likely born with this abnormality. The owls in our report were adults; this would suggest that the impact of extra rectrices did not have an effect on the birds' survival. In addition, Dave Evans (pers. com.) from Hawk Ridge banding station has recorded owls with extra rectrices (the number of instances are in paren-

theses): Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) (5), Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*) (2), and Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) (1).

We would like to thank Dave Evans for sharing his knowledge and for reviewing the article. We would also thank Ryan Brady for his review of this article.

#### Literature cited

Clark, W., K. Duffy, E. Gorney, M. McGrady, and C. Schulz. 1999. Supernumerary Primaries and Rectices in some Eurasian and North American Raptors. *Journal Raptor Research* 22(2):53–58.

Cramp, S., and Simmons, K. E. L. 1982. The birds of the western palearctic. Vol. II. Oxford.

Kohl, S. 1990. Morphological Peculiarities of Owls Aves Strigiformes. *Zoologische Abhandlungen (Dresden)* 45 (9–19):145–150.

Pyle, P. 1997. American Birding Association, Inc. Monographs in Field Ornithology, No. 2, 32 pages.

**5826 Morning Star Drive, Duluth, MN 55804;**

**211 North 33rd Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55804.**

# BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

## *A Second Look at Meadowlarks*

**Kim R. Eckert**

**M**eadowlarks, dowitchers, and the weather: they actually have something in common. As the old saying goes: “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody ever does anything about it.” Similarly, as mentioned in this column’s recent discussion on dowitcher ID, nobody’s done much about that topic either, with so little written about dowitchers over the years. (By the way, here’s an update. Since that last “Hindsight” article, a brand-new and recommended book on shorebird ID — dowitchers included — has been published: *The Shorebird Guide* by Michael O’Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson.)

Even less has been done or written

to help birders identify meadowlarks. Not a single bird identification website I’m aware of says much of anything about how to tell one meadowlark from the other. And it seems the last time any journal has had an article on meadowlark ID was three decades ago, way back in 1976! (“Gleanings from the Technical Literature: Eastern and Western Meadowlarks”, *Birding* 8:349–352.)

As might be expected, the standard field guides don’t completely address this ID problem, and the only book I’ve seen with a section on meadowlarks (*Identification Guide to North American Birds* by Peter Pyle) is not very encouraging, opening its account with this ominous warn-



ing: “This is one of the most difficult in-hand species identification problems.”

The following brief attempt to offer some suggestions on how to unravel the mysteries of meadowlark ID will be limited to a Minnesota context, so much of this discussion may not be relevant in other parts of the country. Note especially I’ve chosen to ignore the *lilianae* race of the Eastern Meadowlark, a form in the southwestern U.S. which is a candidate for splitting into full species status. (Just what we need: three meadowlark ID headaches instead of two!)

### **Range and Season**

As meadowlark names suggest, there are some places in Minnesota during the breeding season where you’re pretty safe assigning an ID to a meadowlark based on range alone. With a few isolated exceptions, the Eastern Meadowlark is essentially absent in summer west of a north-south line drawn from Warroad to Fairmont, so any meadowlark farther west should be a Western.

There’s no place, however, where you can make a similar assumption about the Eastern Meadowlark from the map alone, since Westerns breed throughout Minnesota except in Lake and Cook counties, where (except on rare occasions) neither meadowlark normally summers. As discussed below, however, note that habitat considerations can often be useful where the range maps alone are not.

Since meadowlarks don’t normally overwinter here, no assumptions about meadowlark ranges in mid-winter are possible. Indeed, in recent decades I am aware of only one overwintering meadowlark (an Eastern in Aitkin County) which was documented as anything more than “meadowlark, sp.” There are, by the way, records of both meadowlarks identified by song in December or in late February, but these most likely represent late fall or early spring migrants, not wintering birds.

During spring and fall, meadowlarks and other migrants are on the move, of course, so ID-by-range is less reliable than in summer. But it’s reasonable to assume

any meadowlark west of that Warroad-Fairmont line is still probably a Western, while east of there it’s hard to say. Still, I suspect that any meadowlarks seen in Minnesota away from breeding habitat in spring or fall, especially if in a flock, are probably Westerns. This hunch applies especially to those few fall migrants we see along the North Shore of Lake Superior, where neither species normally breeds.

The Eastern Meadowlark is one of those Minnesota migrants with a curious tendency not to be seen that much in migration. (Other examples: Red-shouldered Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Common Tern, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Brewer’s Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.) They mostly seem to suddenly appear on their breeding grounds in spring and just disappear abruptly as summer ends.

### **Habitat and Behavior**

In those counties where both meadowlarks occur, breeding habitat presents a very good clue as to which species you’re seeing. The fields favored by Easterns typically consist of longer and sometimes wetter grasses, are often in river valleys, tend to be relatively small, and are fragmented more by shrubs and trees. Conversely, Westerns typically prefer those larger, flatter, more upland, and more uniform fields where agricultural croplands and plowing predominate.

Some behavioral differences are also useful. Perhaps because Easterns tend to nest where there are more trees, the males will often sing from the treetops. I won’t say a Western would never do this, but I don’t recall if I’ve ever seen one that did. There are some flight differences which, given enough practice and comparisons, an experienced birder can detect: watch for the Eastern’s more explosive take-offs followed by a stiffer and Spotted Sandpiper-like flight. And, as mentioned earlier, flocking behavior in meadowlarks probably indicates they’re Westerns.

### **Vocalizations**

As most birders are well aware, meadowlark songs and calls provide the best

identification evidence. Their full territorial songs are typically easy to differentiate: the Western Meadowlark's more musical, bubbling, and complicated song being quite different from the Eastern's simple, slurred, descending, four-syllabled whistle. Intermediate songs are sometimes reported, which may suggest hybridization is involved, and keep in mind that young meadowlarks, who learn their songs from adults, might tune in to the "wrong" song from the other species.

Meadowlark call notes can be just as useful as the full songs. Listen for the Eastern's harsh and raspy "dzrt," which is not hard to tell from the Western's mellow and lower-pitched "chuck." Both species can run these single notes together into rattles, which sound more similar to each other, but with practice you can still hear the same difference in quality: raspy = Eastern; mellow = Western.

Both species can also give a soft, rising "whink" call note in flight. To my ear, this call sounds the same for both species, though *The Sibley Guide to Birds* says the Western's flight call is slightly lower-pitched.

### Plumage

This is where things tend to get more complicated, curiously inconsistent, somewhat vague, and often frustrating. While there certainly are some plumage differences between the two meadowlarks which the field guides and other ID references discuss, none of these are easily seen, most involve some serious caveats, and some appear to be quite useless. (In addition, there is no information I can find anywhere on whether any field marks can be used to distinguish meadowlarks in juvenile plumage.)

- Overall, the Eastern Meadowlark's upperparts appear darker and more reddish-brown, while the Western tends to look paler and more buffy-brown above. This plumage difference, however, would be subject to ambient light conditions and perhaps hard to judge without direct comparison between the species. It also seems unclear if the appearance of the

upperparts differs only on alternate-plumage adults: the *Geographic* field guide implies this distinction is also valid in fall and winter, while the illustrations in the Sibley guide show no difference between the species in fall/winter.

- The head stripes on an Eastern Meadowlark look dark brown or blackish, solidly colored, and contrasting with the paler brown of the auriculars and nape; the Western's stripes are paler brown, more streaked, and less contrasting. This difference seems to apply to adults at all time of year, but, like the upperparts color, the distinction can be slight, hard to determine without comparison, and dependent on the light conditions.

- Perhaps the best plumage difference between the meadowlarks involves the tertials, upper tail coverts, and central rectrices. On an Eastern, these feathers appear broadly blackish along the shafts; on a Western, these feathers are only narrowly cross-banded with black. This field mark seems to hold up on adults at all times of year, but it is curious and disconcerting that Pyle's *Identification Guide* does not include this feature as a valid distinction between the meadowlarks and illustrates no difference in the central rectrices of the two species. Consequently, I hesitate to unequivocally claim that the pattern of these feathers represents a diagnostic field mark.

- As a meadowlark flies directly away from you, an Eastern's tail might appear whiter than a Western's. This is because the Eastern's outer three rectrices are basically all-white, compared with only two rectrices on the Western. Though this feature is valid year-round, this is yet another difference which is relatively slight and hard to discern in the field, especially without direct comparison between the species.

- I suspect many birders have long been under the impression that, given a reasonably close view, meadowlarks can be identified by where the yellow meets the bill: i.e., only touching the underside of the Eastern's bill, while reaching halfway up the side to include the malar area

on a Western. Unfortunately, on many Westerns (primarily females) the yellow can stop below the bill, like an Eastern. In other words, while a yellow malar area still indicates a Western Meadowlark, a white malar area could fit either species and is not diagnostic. Be sure to note as well that the malar color on many meadowlarks of both species, especially from late summer through mid-winter, can be obscured, buffy, and then not a useful field mark.

• According to the Sibley guide, the ground color of the streaked flanks differs on the meadowlarks, even during fall and winter: i.e., buffy on the Eastern and white on the Western. While there may be a tendency for this to be true, I have seen several photos of Easterns showing clearly white flanks. So, with all due respect to Sibley's skills, I have to disagree and say that flank color will only be useful if buffy (indicating Eastern Meadowlark), but white flanks can indicate either species. Also, keep in mind that flank colors will often be difficult to accurately determine and can vary with the light conditions and the angle at which you're ob-

serving the bird.

• Is Sibley losing his touch? His guide also says that "typical" Eastern Meadowlarks have longer and continuous streaks on the flanks, while Westerns "often" have more broken streaks (i.e., the flanks more spotted than streaked). Again, this tendency may be interesting but it is far from diagnostic. It didn't take me long to find some Eastern Meadowlark photos showing streaked flanks and others showing spotted flanks. And, of course, it's easy to find photos of Westerns showing similarly inconsistent flank patterns.

There's another cliché about the weather you hear almost everywhere you go, something along the lines of: "If you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes and it will change." I wish the same could be said about meadowlarks. Unfortunately, though, if you don't like identifying them, a solution may not come along anytime soon, and certainly not within the few minutes it took to read this article. It might take another 30 years!

**1921 W. Kent Rd., Duluth, MN 55812.**



# BOOK REVIEWS

**HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, VOL. 10.** Cuckoo-shrikes to Thrushes. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, and D. Christie, editors. 2005. Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International. 896 pp. \$245.

This and previous volumes are available from Lynx Edicions, c/o Mail Management Group, Inc., 81 North Forest Avenue, Rockville Centre, New York 11570, or through the internet ([www.hbw.com](http://www.hbw.com));

inquiries can be sent by email ([lynx@hbw.com](mailto:lynx@hbw.com)).

This is the third passerine volume and the tenth in the series, and it continues the excellent precedent set by former volumes. Sixteen authors, 13 artists, and many photographers contributed to the 15 oscine families treated. These families include the Campephagidae (cuckoo-shrikes), Pycnonotidae (bulbuls),

Chloropseidae (leafbirds), Irenidae (fairy-bluebirds), Aegithinidae (joras), Ptiligonatidae (silky-flycatchers), Bombycillidae (waxwings), Hypocoliidae (hypocolius), Dulidae (palmchat), Cinclidae (dippers), Troglodytidae (wrens), Mimidae (mockingbirds and thrashers), Prunellidae (accentors), and Turdidae (thrushes). There are 65 families yet to go by their reckoning, so we can look forward to many additional excellent volumes. This volume is so large that they had to change to a slightly thinner paper to fit everything in without pushing the physical limits of the binding. Its 896 pages include 81 color plates, 427 photographs, 737 distribution maps, and more than 6,000 references.

The Foreword is a 23-page treatise on "The ecology and impact of non-indigenous birds," by Daniel Sol and others. Each family treated has an authoritative introductory section liberally illustrated by photographs. The text and photographs in these introductory sections are generally excellent. Photographs are usually chosen to illustrate not only the diversity of birds in each group, but also to show many aspects of their behaviors. More than a third of the volume (295 pages) is devoted to the Turdidae (thrushes). The family

account alone, at 105 pages, must be the longest yet.

Species accounts are densely informative, with a smaller font and with very briefly delivered bursts of references given at the end of each (my ongoing criticism of this citation style remains, because it makes it so difficult to access the primary literature). Each species account has a small but detailed distribution map and is given in numeric order after the plate upon which it is figured. Thus the species accounts are an interleaved series of plates and species' treatments, each of the latter with its distribution map. It is a functional and highly engaging arrangement. I find it impossible to go through any part of this (or previous volumes for that matter) without immediately becoming engrossed in some aspect of the rich content, be it photographic depictions of species and their behaviors, the very good to excellent plates, or the family or species accounts. This volume thus warrants high praise, and every serious ornithologist will want a copy on their bookshelf.

**Kevin Winker, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775.**

## NOTES OF INTEREST



**FRIGATEBIRD IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY** — On the afternoon of 19 September 2005, my husband, Christian Lerch, and I were fishing in our boat on southern Big Lake in St. Louis County. This 1,800-acre lake is on the Echo Trail 21 miles northwest of Ely on the edge of the Boundary Waters. I saw a large bird with black angular wings and a long black forked tail. As it came near, I saw the bird's head was black and the throat and upper breast were white. After returning to our cabin at Whispering Pines, a resort on the northeast part of the lake, I checked my bird books for terns, gulls, kites, and any large, mostly black species.



The only bird that matched the description was the frigatebird, which breeds in the

Florida Keys. At non-breeding times it ranges to the coasts of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.

On the afternoon of 20 September we watched this bird again and realized how large it was and how unlike anything we had seen at our home in Sartell on the Mississippi River. The bird flew over our boat and we noticed its beak was white. As the bird glided at an angle, the deep gray wings shown in the sunlight. The bird made no sound. It glided effortlessly over south Big Lake farthest from the lake's two resorts. The tail was open at times and closed at others. The wingspan appeared to be as large or larger than an eagle's. The bird was only seen flying and soared for minutes without a wingbeat. After checking our references again, we found the Frigatebird has 90" wingspan compared to the eagle's 75" wingspan. We noticed rare sightings in Iowa and Wisconsin in the books. Could Hurricane Katrina have led this bird to Ely? We questioned others at the resort but no one else had seen this large black bird.

The morning of 21 September we saw the bird again for a few minutes on the south end of the lake. It flew from one shore to another. That evening, Faron Kaestner, a guest at Whispering Pines, saw the bird on the south part of the lake, flying south. All observations were made from our boat in clear sunny weather with low winds, mild temperatures, and a total viewing time of 45 minutes.

On 22 September our curiosity led us to Bill Tefft, a naturalist and teacher at Vermilion Community College in Ely. We showed Bill the frigatebird reference in our book. He showed us a Minnesota map with two rare sightings of the frigatebird through the years. He suggested submitting the sighting to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee for documentation. This represents only the third accepted record of a frigatebird in Minnesota. The other sightings occurred in 1988 after Hurricane Gilbert. **Janet Lerch, 4218 Pine Point Road, Sartell, MN 56377.**

**PARASITIC JAEGER SPECIMEN FROM CHISAGO COUNTY** — An injured immature



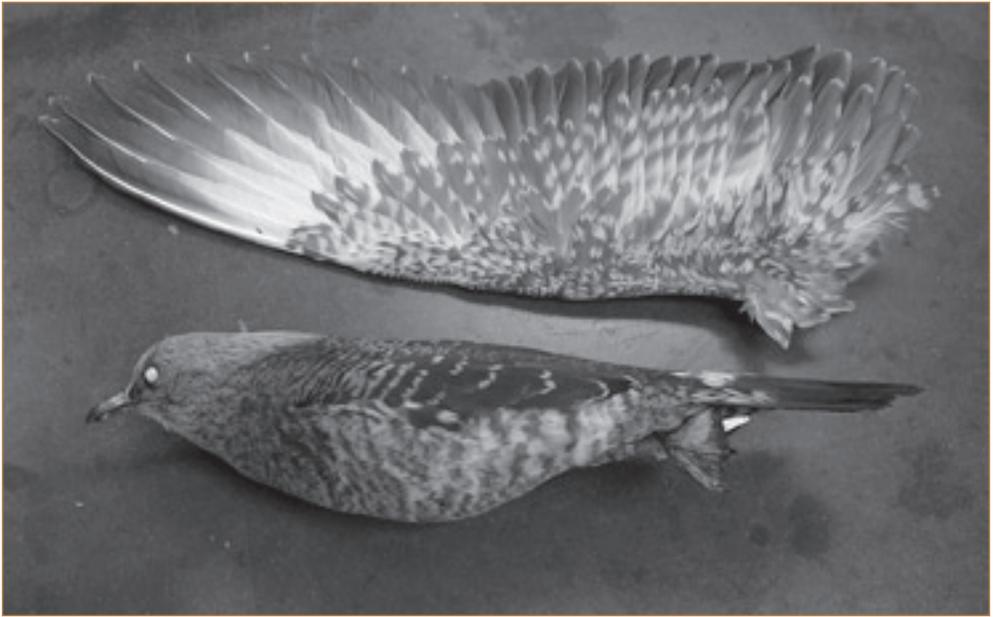
light-morph jaeger was admitted to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (WRC) of Minnesota in Roseville on 7 September 2005. The bird was identified as a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) by Brian Reichert, WRC's avian nursery coordinator, with identification later confirmed by Denny Martin and Anthony Hertzell. It had been hit by a car in the Chisago Lakes Middle School parking lot (13750 Lake Blvd., Lindstrom, Chisago County).

Upon examination, WRC's veterinarian found the right wing had been freshly severed at the carpus, most likely from the impact with the car. The bird also was emaciated, with hypoproteinemia (low levels of blood protein) and signs of ataxia (loss of coordination, possibly due to shock).

While survival odds were not great, the WRC treated the bird, hoping that if it did survive it could be placed in an educational center. After its death on 13 September 2005, the specimen was donated to the Bell Museum of Natural History's ornithology collection.

In late October, AWJ prepared the jaeger as a round skin. The remaining wing was prepared separately from the skin. Heart muscle was saved at -80°C for any future DNA-related research. Dissection revealed a 12 x 5mm ovary which was smooth in texture, indicating a hatch-year bird (in agreement with the plumage). No molt or fat was noted.

This is the fourth Bell Museum specimen of Parasitic Jaeger from Minnesota; all four are fall immatures. Two of the existing specimens are from salvaged, decomposing birds where only a portion (wings, feet, and skull) was salvageable; the third bird is a complete round skin, and is a dark-morph individual. Thus, this is the first round skin of a light-morph Parasitic Jaeger in Minnesota. This new specimen is now catalogued



Prepared Parasitic Jaeger specimen. Photo by Andrew W. Jones.

in the Bell Museum as specimen BMNH 46073. **Andrew W. Jones, Bell Museum of Natural History, 100 Ecology Building, 1987 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108; Tami Vogel, Communications Director, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, 2530 Dale St. N., Roseville, Minnesota 55113.**

**SAY'S PHOEBE IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On 25 October 2005, I spotted a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) at the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center. The bird was one foot out my office window, sitting on a bush. I was at my desk approximately five feet away from the bird. I did not use optics and didn't need to. I watched it (stared and memorized it) for about 30 seconds before it flew off. I am used to glancing at birds perched on that same bush. Earlier in the year a catbird had been using it and then during the past month robins had been perching there.



When I saw movement and looked I thought I would see a robin, but momentarily realized it was not. That peachy belly ending mid-breast convinced me to stare for a while. The breast color of this bird was gray on the upper breast, changed to peach mid-breast and stayed the peach color all the way back to the vent. I did not notice any eye rings, wing bars or other distinctive markings. The body shape had me wracking my brain for a flycatcher. It was a little bigger than Eastern Phoebe, almost Eastern Kingbird size, but it did not have a white or pale belly. The belly was peach, almost rust colored. It was smaller than an American Robin, no eye ring, peach not orange breast, lighter color on the back and head, and the belly color did not come up to the neck. I watched and tried not to move (I didn't want to scare it away) until the bird flew and then I immediately went to my *Sibley's Field Guide* and identified the bird as a Say's Phoebe. The light was good. It was a little after 4:00 P.M. I did not know until I had posted it on the M.O.U. listserv the next morning how rare it was. I had seen several postings about Say's Phoebes earlier in the year and figured they would be here at irregular intervals. **Michelle McDowell, Rice Lake N.W.R., McGregor, MN 55760.**

**RECORD-HIGH NUMBER OF SABINE'S GULLS AT DULUTH** — Only a few rare times in a person's life do they witness an event so mind-boggling and unbelievable, that it creates a mini-paradigm shift within that individual. For me, the most remarkable of such events in my short life occurred on the evening of 16 September 2006 in Duluth with a group of Sabine's Gulls.



On a whim, I elected to make a stop at Lafayette Square on Park Point, before heading off to dinner. The Aerial Lift Bridge was up and I was stuck in an incredibly busy Canal Park; I almost turned around and left. As soon as I set my scope up on the viewing platform behind the community center at Lafayette Square, I was on a Sabine's Gull. Astounding! Great bird... I called around and got the word out. Back to the scope, wait a second, there's three... no four! They're like flies out there, flitting around in front of the freighters. More phone calls — then pure disbelief!

I was watching one particular adult, following it towards the Superior Entry, when it was joined by two juveniles, before beginning an ascent into the sky. As it rose, it met an entire solid flock of Sabine's Gulls. My eyes weren't working — these must be poorly lit Bonaparte's — but every time one banked, I could see the bold upperwing pattern of a Sabine's Gull and dusky markings on the nape. I started to shake and breathe heavily, but maintained stability in an attempt to count the flock. At first, it was too difficult to count each bird and an estimate of 50 was made as the flock swirled and shifted. Then, the flock started to take shape as it moved quickly towards me and headed steadily west, over Park Point. The birds fell into a well-spaced formation and dispatched almost directly overhead. Including a few birds trailing behind the flock, I was able to accurately count 60 birds, mostly juveniles, with at least 3 adults (full adult summer plumage, with a complete black hood). Surreal! This was total euphoria... then heartbreak. I was the only one to see it, nobody else had been there.

Not long after the flock departed Peder Svingen arrived on the scene, only to learn he had just missed the largest flock of Sabine's Gulls ever recorded in Minnesota, and possibly within the interior of North America (as he later suggested). Nonetheless, with me shaking my head in a gull-stupor, Peder plucked another pair of birds off the big pond. And then another... and another; we counted at least an additional 10 individuals on the lake at that moment, including two more adults, bringing the total up to a potential 70 Sabine's Gulls. Jim Barrett joined us on the viewing platform and we spent the next hour savoring these beautiful birds and hoping the large flock would return *en masse*, but it never did.

Their flight was deeper and more stroking than a Bonaparte's Gull that was nearby. The Sabine's Gulls were slightly larger than a Common Tern, but smaller than a Ring-billed Gull. The juveniles exhibited a bold upperwing pattern of jet-black primaries, contrasting white secondaries, and a mantle of gray-brown. The underwing and belly on each juvenile was mostly white, except for dingy brown secondary coverts on the underwing that were quite visible when the birds flew overhead. The nape was washed in brown and the head showed some smudging of brown, possibly extending from the nape. The juveniles also showed a dark black terminal tail band, contrasting with an otherwise white tail. The adult birds showed a strong back pattern like the juveniles, but had cleaner gray on the mantle, as opposed to gray-brown on the juveniles. The adult's head was crisp solid black, which contrasted with a narrow white neck (best seen when they were sitting on the water). The adult's tail was clean white and the underwing also lacked the dingy brown secondary covert markings of the juvenile.

The 70 birds seen on that fateful day were the beginning of an onslaught of juvenile Sabine's Gulls in the Great Lakes Basin. The following day at Marquette Beach, Indi-

ana, an estimated flock of 28 birds (all but three of which were juveniles) was seen along Lake Michigan by Don Gorney. On that same day, to the northeast in Canada, a group of approximately 27 juveniles was reported by Barry Cherriere at Van Wagner's Beach, near Hamilton on Lake Ontario. The last group presumably associated with this movement was four juveniles found by Skye Haas along Lake Superior at Marquette, Michigan on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Clearly, there was an impressive movement of these stunning birds through the Great Lakes Basin over a three day period in mid-September.

This sighting at Duluth established a new Minnesota record-high count of Sabine's Gulls. The previous record was at the Superior Entry on 23 September 2000, with 26 individuals confirmed in Minnesota (*The Loon* 73:187). An additional three birds were seen that morning, but only over Wisconsin waters. A 25-year review of *North American Birds* and its predecessors through 2000 by Peder Svingen revealed that a single flock of 30 birds at St. Paul, Alberta in 1987 (*American Birds* 41:449) was the highest published count for inland North America at that time. I followed up his research, with a review through 2004 and found no other single flocks of comparable size. Thus, this recent sighting in Duluth may also represent inland North America's largest migrant flock of Sabine's. **Tom Auer, 2257 Seven Mile Point Road, Allouez, MI 49805.**

**CAROLINA WREN IN BELTRAMI COUNTY** — On 22 August 2005, I was nursing a



broken foot by sitting in a chair in our living room and looking out our picture window into our lakeside yard and bird bath/pond area. I briefly saw a bird that looked like a wren, but did not see him through binoculars. Later, he did return to the yard near the bird bath/pond area long enough for me to see him through the window with my Zeiss 8 x 40 binoculars from a distance of about 75 feet. I saw an eye stripe, so knew he was not a House Wren, which is common in the area. With the very prominent eye stripe, I felt the bird most likely was

either a Bewick's Wren or a Carolina Wren. He appeared larger than a House Wren, had a longer tail and (through the window) appeared grayish/brownish in color. I felt the bird was a Bewick's rather than a Carolina wren. Knowing that neither of these species was supposed to be in the area, I decided that a picture would be helpful, but his second visit was so brief — less than a minute — that my husband was unable to get a picture.

The bird next appeared on the 26<sup>th</sup> during the mid-afternoon and early evening. He visited the bird/bath pond area briefly and then went to the suet cake feeder. My husband was successful in getting several pictures of the bird. With the way his color looked through the windows, I was still thinking Bewick's Wren.

The bird's visits on the 27<sup>th</sup> were mid-afternoon and early evening. Both times, he was in the domed sunflower feeder scratching and scattering the seeds. He stayed for about a half hour. Next, I saw him on a birch tree trunk about 3 feet up from the base. His behavior was very wren-like — looking for insects in the feeders and mulched area around the bird bath/pond.

On Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>, the wren appeared in the morning for the first time. The wren actually flew within 25 feet of the house, the closest ever. The yard was suddenly very busy with birds. Around 4:00 P.M. that afternoon, Jeanie Joppru, Phil Chu, and Peder Svingen visited the yard looking for the bird. They were able to find him in the yard on the wooden fence in good sunlight. I had been seeing him through the window and in speckled shade lighting. The outside sighting in good light revealed some rust on the wings. Hearing its vocalizations as well identified this bird as a Carolina Wren. It was last seen 6 October 2006. This is a first sighting for Beltrami County. **Pat Rice, 2356 Peninsula Ct. NE, Bemidji, MN 55601.**

# In This Issue

<b>Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, 8 September 2005, Lac Qui Parle County</b> <i>Photo by Dennis D. Martin</i> .....	Front Cover
<b>The Double-crested Cormorant and American White Pelican in Minnesota</b> First Statewide Breeding Census <i>Linda R. Wires, Katherine V. Haws, Francesca J. Cutbbert, Nancy Drilling, and Alexander C. Smith</i> .....	63
<b>Using Thermal Imaging to Study Forest Songbirds</b> <i>Brady J. Mattsson and Gerald Niemi</i> .....	74
<b>The Fall Season</b> 1 August through 30 November 2005 <i>Paul E. Budde, James W. Lind, William C. Marengo, and Peder H. Svingen</i> .....	77
<b>Unusual Natural Injury in a Northern Hawk Owl</b> <i>Frank J. Nicoletti and David Alexander</i> .....	107
<b>Extra Rectrices on Boreal and Northern Hawk Owls</b> <i>Frank J. Nicoletti and David Alexander</i> .....	108
<b>Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Meadowlarks</b> <i>Kim R. Eckert</i> .....	111
<b>Book Review</b> Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 10: Cuckoo-Shrikes to Thrushes <i>Reviewed by Kevin Winker</i> .....	114
<b>Notes of Interest</b> Frigatebird, Parasitic Jaeger, Say's Phoebe, Sabine's Gull, Carolina Wren.....	115

## Purpose of the M.O.U.

The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

## Suggestions to Authors

*The Loon* is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



printed on recycled paper



*The* **Loon**

FALL 2006

VOLUME 78 — NUMBER 3

Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

**THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History  
University of Minnesota  
10 Church Street Southeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104

*The Loon*, Minnesota's journal of birds, is published four times each year by the MOU, the statewide bird organization. All members receive this publication and also our newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:**

Anthony X. Hertzell, 8461 Pleasant View Drive,  
Mounds View, MN 55112; editor@moumn.org.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE LOON:**

Karl Bardon, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall,  
Nancy Hertzell, Robert Janssen, Ann Kessen,  
Peder Svingen, Harrison Tordoff.

**MOU MEMBERSHIPS:**

Yearly donations to join the MOU: Single \$25;  
Youth (through age 17) \$15; Family \$35; Sup-  
porting \$75; Life \$500. Canadian and foreign  
subscriptions \$35. Also available are back is-  
sues of *The Loon* (\$5 each) and checklists of  
Minnesota birds (minimum of 20 for \$2).

**EDITOR OF MINNESOTA BIRDING:**

C. Hallie Skinner, 1658 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul,  
MN 55104; newsletter@moumn.org.

**MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:**

Statewide 763-780-8890  
Duluth 218-834-2858

**MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

mou@moumn.org

**MOU WEB SITE:**

<http://moumn.org>

**MOU E-MAIL LISTSERVICE, MOU-NET:**

For information on how to join, visit our web site  
at <http://moumn.org/listserv.html>.

**MOU OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Mark Alt, 3900 – 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Bill George, 2312 Old Beach Road, Wayzata MN 55391

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Elizabeth Bell, 5868 Pioneer Road S., Saint Paul Park MN 55071

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Shirley Alt, 3900 – 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**TREASURER:** Erika Sitz, 6521 – 154th Lane NW, Ramsey MN 55303

**MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**AWARDS:** Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**CONSERVATION:** Donald E. Mitchell, 28217 Gadiant Lane, Red Wing MN 55066

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:** Dave Cahlander, 2901 Foxpoint Road, Burnsville MN 55337

**MOU RECORDS:** Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth MN 55812

**NOMINATIONS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**PAPER SESSION:** Carroll Henderson, 640 – 119th Lane NE, Blaine MN 55434

**RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:** Robert Janssen, 162 Lakeview Road, Chanhassen MN 55317

**SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND:** Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S., St. Louis Park MN 55424

**YOUTH MENTORSHIP:** Robert Holtz, 668 Overlook Drive, Roseville MN 55113

**AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

**DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* Wendy Grethen, 4005 McCulloch Street, Duluth MN 55804

**HIAWATHA VALLEY BIRD CLUB OF WINONA** – *President:* Frank Schnurstein, R.R. 3 Box 287, Winona MN 55987

**MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* Margaret Mason, 4370 Brookside Court #217, Edina MN 55436

**MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER** – *President:* Anne Hanley, 15330 Lynn Terrace, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**MNBIRD** – *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, [carol@birdminnesota.com](mailto:carol@birdminnesota.com)

**NORTHWEST MINNESOTA BIRD SOCIETY** – *President:* Shelly Steva, R.R. 4 Box 18, Thief River Falls MN 56701

**SAINTE PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* Holly Peirson, 6548 – 141st Avenue NE, Forest Lake MN 55025

**ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** – *President:* August Krueger, 1725 SE 8th Avenue, Rochester MN 55904

# Vertically Mobile Nesting Peregrine Falcons

Harrison B. Tordoff<sup>1</sup> and Todd Haarstick<sup>2</sup>

In 2006, a pair of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) added a new dimension to their famous wandering talents by adding vertical movement to their natural horizontal mobility.

At the Canadian Pacific Railroad lift bridge in Hastings, Dakota County, two Peregrines nested on the south counterweight of the bridge, a massive structure that moves up and down as the bridge is closed for trains and opened for the passage of tall boats on the Mississippi River. Jackie Fallon found the nesting pair at the Hastings bridge on 16 June 2006. On 17 June, Todd Haarstick and Bud Tordoff spotted the single downy chick, then about 27 days old, on top of the counterweight and realized that the original nest must also have been on the counterweight. We never actually saw it, however, because of restrictions on bridge access. The flat top of the counterweight is 18.75 feet by 9.0 feet; total bridge height is 103 feet. All parts of the bridge, except the flat top of the counterweight, were heavily used through June by pigeons and starlings, obviously wary of their falcon neighbors.

We watched the falcon chick ride through many bridge cycles, seemingly oblivious to being moved. Tordoff watched the adult female fly to the south edge of the counterweight when it was motionless. An approaching boat required bridge opening. The counterweight started down and the falcon rode it almost to the lowest point, as though she noticed nothing. The adult male often perched on an adjacent fixed part of the bridge, where he could see but appeared to ignore his chick on the counterweight as it traveled from about 15 feet above him to about 20 feet below.

We estimated the age of the chick at 27 days on 17 June. Dating events from 17 June, eggs would have been laid around 15 April, hatching close to 21 May, and fledging of the young falcon on 1 July, age 41 days. Haarstick has access to the log of bridge openings and can say that openings average 4.16 per day. The vertical travel of the counterweight is 36.8 feet; each full cycle, then, is 73.6 feet. Over the course of the nesting season, the eggs moved through 137 bridge openings or 10,083 feet (1.91 miles) from April 15 (laying) to 21 May (hatching) and the chick moved through 183 openings or 13,468.8 feet (2.55 miles) from hatching on May 21 to fledging at 1:00 P.M. on 1 July. The young falcon, then, from its embryonic state at laying to fledging traveled a total of about four and a half miles up and down, without really going anywhere. The incubating or brooding adult falcons also made many of these involuntary and machine-powered vertical trips, in contrast to their usual muscle-powered movements.

The adult female at Hastings is Penny black/green 27/A, fledged at NSP Sherco, Becker, Minnesota, in 2001. Penny appeared at Hastings in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 and likely nested on the lift bridge, but fledged young were never seen. Her mate here in 2006 is Charlie b/g 64/P, fledged in 2003 at Cargill Elevator, Red Wing, Minnesota.

Even the fledging of the Hastings chick was unusual. On 1 July, 1:00 P.M., age about 41 days, it flew from the counterweight, circled back to the bridge, tried to land on a vertical steel wall, and slithered down to land on the railroad track at the south end of the bridge. Lee Diersen, bridge operator, halted the approach of



**Peregrine Falcon “Charlie black/green 64/P”, 21 June 2006, Hastings, Dakota County. Photo by Harrison B. Tordoff.**

two trains by signaling to them that the bridge was open! He then tried to contact Tordoff but failed and called the local police. A Hastings policeman arrived, lifted the young falcon off the tracks with an elongated forceps-like device, and tossed it down the railroad embankment, just as (by happenstance) Tordoff arrived on the scene. The uninjured fledgling was rescued, banded b/g \*E/\*U, and released on the roof of a nearby shed within an hour of its first flight, by the combined efforts of Director Jim Fitzpatrick, Carpenter Nature Center, Jackie Fallon, Minnesota Zoo, and Tordoff. It moved from the shed to the bridge by fluttering and walking, there to spend the nights of 1 July and 2 July. On 3 July, it was perched at mid-day on the concrete base of the main pier supporting the north end of the lift structure. On July 4, it was flying well and had been named Hilda, in honor of Haarstick’s mother. On 5 July, Hilda b/g \*E/\*U was

back on the counterweight for more rides on her elevator. She was still alive and on the home territory as this was written.

As we relished the discovery of this mobile Peregrine nest, confident of its rarity for the species, we were astonished and delighted on 29 June when Haarstick found a second pair of Peregrines. They were nesting on the west end, north side, of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad lift bridge across the St. Croix River at its confluence with the Mississippi River at Prescott, Wisconsin, only two miles east of the Hastings bridge. The west tower of the Prescott bridge is in Minnesota. The young, first seen 12 and 13 July, were not on the counterweight but in a depression adjacent to it on the river side. We assume that the nest scrape was in the same depression. The depression, at least deep enough to hide a standing falcon from ground view, is not part of the counterweight and does not move with bridge



**Peregrine Falcon chick, 17 June 2006, Hastings, Dakota County. Photo by Harrison B. Tordoff.**

cycling. While the vertical lift of the counterweight is equal to the Hastings bridge, the lift section of the Prescott bridge is shorter, and the frequency of lift cycles is lower because there is no commercial barge traffic on the St. Croix River, a precaution against introduction of zebra mussels. Tordoff saw the Prescott adult female ride the counterweight through several full cycles, appearing oblivious to her rides. She is not banded. Might she be a daughter of Penny 27/A, nesting on a neighboring near-replica of her birthplace? Her mate is Butler b/g 19/N, fledged in 2004 at Cargill Elevator, Red Wing, Minnesota, a younger full brother of male Charlie b/g 64/P at Hastings.

One of their young first came into view on 12 July, jumping from the nest depression up to its west lip. Tordoff photographed it, estimated its age at 37 days. On 13 July, Jackie Fallon saw wings being flapped by at least two young and

on 14 July, three young were perched on the lip of the nest depression. Haarstick first saw them move to the counterweight and begin their vertical travels on 16 July. We followed them to fledging on 20 July, but on the premise that once is enough, we will spare you the statistics of their up/down trips after leaving their stationary nesting hole. Two neighboring pairs, closely related, nesting in similar, unusual, and rare mobile sites. Imprinting? Monkey see, monkey do? Pure chance?

European Starlings nested in holes in the counterweight of the Hastings bridge and shared the vertical travels with the falcons. They attracted no attention from us, however, which demonstrates a prejudice to which we plead guilty.

**<sup>1</sup>Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108;**

**<sup>2</sup>Canadian Pacific Railroad, Hastings, MN.**

# Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) was held on 30 July 2006. In attendance and voting at this meeting were Phil Chu, Ann Kessen, Jim Lind (alternate member), Bill Marengo (alternate), Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chairman).

Among the items on the agenda were discussions of a potential first state record of Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) and two previously accepted records of Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*). The committee unanimously voted to review the two frigatebird records in light of information presented in Howell (1994) and a recent report of Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) in Wayne County, Michigan, 11 September 2005 (Brennan and Schultz 2006). Ten recirculated records were also discussed.

The following records were voted on by mail January – July 2006 and were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records #2006-011 and 2006-044 which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 17 May 2006, near Waskish, Beltrami County (record #2006-046, vote 7–0).

Written details for this adult male were submitted by each of two observers and eliminated hybrid Eurasian X American Wigeon (*A. penelope* X *A. americana*).

- Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), 12–13 April 2006, Brockway Lake, Powers Township, Cass County (record #2006-032, vote 7–0).

Digital images and written details by three independent observers confirmed the identification of this adult male and

addressed the possibility of hybridization with Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*).

- Cinnamon Teal, 26 May 2006, Worthington W.T.P., Nobles County (record #2006-051, vote 6–1).

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 20 November 2005, Mississippi River near Reno, Houston County (record #2005-081, vote 6–1).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 19–26 February 2006, Lake Pepin near Reads Landing, Wabasha County (record #2006-028, vote 6–1).

The identity of the above two adult male goldeneyes was not disputed, but one member questioned their locations with respect to the state line.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 13 April 2006, Mallard Lake, Aitkin County (record #2006-038, vote 7–0).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis*, sp.), 17 August 2004, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-004, vote 6–1).

Though submitted more than 17 months late and unaccompanied by field notes, documentation for this immature ibis included two photographs.

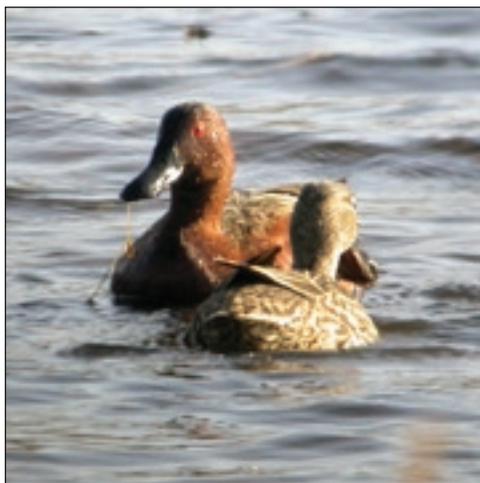
- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 24 April 2005, near Waubun, Mahnommen County (record #2006-007, vote 7–0).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 27 July 2005, Swenson Lake, Big Stone County (record #2006-014, vote 7–0).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 23 August 2005, Royal Township, Lincoln County (record #2006-016, vote 6–1).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 4–6 May 2006, Danvers W.M.A., Swift County (record #2006-044, vote 7–0).

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 24



**Record 2006-032, Male Cinnamon Teal, 13 April 2006, Brockaway Lake, Cass County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.**



**Record 2006-030, immature Gyrfalcon, 6 February 2006, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by Bill J. Unzen.**

May 2005, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-011, vote 6-1 for one adult as White-faced Ibis, vote 7-0 for second adult as *Plegadis ibis*, sp.).

- White-faced Ibis, 21-22 April 2006, near Bellingham, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-037, vote 5-2).

Though seen by many observers, no one provided written documentation; two members found the single photograph inconclusive with respect to hybrid ibis.

- White-faced Ibis, 22 April 2006, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka County (record #2006-035, vote 5-2).

Though supported by written details and a digital image that clearly showed a white facial-skin border, poor lighting precluded definitive views of all field marks; two members concluded that a hybrid ibis could not be eliminated.

- White-faced Ibis, 1-2 May 2006, Copeland W.M.A., Western Township, Otter Tail County (record #2006-039, vote 6-1).

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 25 December 2005 - 25 March 2006, various locations near Hastings, Dakota County (record #2005-084, vote 7-0).

This adult gray morph was seen and

photographed by many observers, and was probably a returning individual from the previous winter.

- Gyrfalcon, 29 December 2005, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2005-085, vote 7-0).

- Gyrfalcon, 21-28 January 2006, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-002, vote 7-0).

This juvenile was simultaneously found by an observer standing at the Park Point Recreation Area in Duluth and a group of observers standing on Barkers Island in Superior; the bird was on the ice between these two locations and eventually flew over the observer on Park Point.

- Gyrfalcon, 23 January - 2 March 2006, Port Terminal, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-003, vote 7-0).

Though not documented during the 25 days between 29 December 2005 and 23 January 2006, this adult was probably the same individual as record #2005-085.

- Gyrfalcon, 6 February 2006, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-030, vote 7-0).

This juvenile gray morph was well-described and photographed.

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus*



Record 2005-082, Black-legged Kittiwake, 10 December 2005, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Record 2006-045, White-winged Dove, 14 May 2006, Mora, Kanabec County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.



Record 2006-001, Barn Owl, 20 January 2006, North Oaks, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Record 2006-041, Burrowing Owls, 6 May 2006, Tilden Township, Polk County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

*mexicanus*), 27 May 2006, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka County (record #2006-055, vote 7-0 for each of two adults).

- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), 7 May 2006, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County (record #2006-054, vote 7-0).

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, 30 March 2005 (record #2006-027, vote 5-2).

Though submitted one year late, the description was based on photographs.

- California Gull, Clay County landfill, Clay County, 1 May 2006 (record #2006-040, vote 5-2).

Digital images were submitted of this first-cycle gull. It reportedly lacked pale inner primary “windows”, but it was unclear how well or for how long this bird was seen in flight. Two members concluded that Herring Gull was not eliminated.

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), 4 December 2005, Cenakio Lake, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Anoka County (record #2005-088, vote 7-0).

- Black-legged Kittiwake, 7-24 December 2005, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2005-082, vote 7-0).

Both of these records referred to first-



**Record 2006-025, Green Violet-ear, 28 July 2005, Hubbard County. Photo by Jeanne and David Hilgendorf.**



**Record 2006-057, Lazuli Bunting, 10 June 2006, Blue Earth County. Photo by Doug Kieser.**

winter kittiwakes and may have involved the same individual; the latter was photographed by many observers.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 10–16 May 2006, Mora, Kanabec County (record #2006-045, vote 7–0).

- White-winged Dove, 2–24 June 2006, Nelson's Resort at Crane Lake, St. Louis County (record #2006-056, vote 7–0).

Both of the above were photographed.

- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), 20 January 2006, North Oaks, Ramsey County (record #2006-001, vote 7–0).

Photographs were submitted of the specimen after the owl struck a window and died. Ninth winter record.

- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*), 27 April – 6 May 2006, Tilden Township, Polk County (record #2006-041, vote 7–0 for each of two adults).

- Burrowing Owl, 6–29 May 2006, near Lockhart, Norman County (record #2006-042, vote 7–0 for each of two adults).

- Burrowing Owl, 9 May – 24 June 2006, Rochester airport, Olmsted County (record #2006-048, vote 7–0).

All three Burrowing Owl records were documented by written descriptions and digital images; the Olmsted County bird was also recorded calling.

- Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*), ~25 July – 21 August 2005, Straight River Township, Hubbard County (record #2006-025, vote 7–0).

Stunning images of this adult male were submitted in February 2006. Second state record.

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 27 July 2005, Felton Prairie, Clay County (record #2006-021, vote 5–2).

This adult along county road 108 may have been one of those seen at a nearby gravel pit 15 May – 2 July 2005 (record #2005-019, *The Loon* 77:173, 78:56–57).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 23 April 2006, Garfield Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-036, vote 7–0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 1–2 May 2006, near Downer, Clay County (record #2006-043, vote 7–0).

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 29 May 2006, Blue Mounds S.P., Rock County



**Record 2006-036, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23 April 2006, Garfield Township, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by Bill J. Unzen.**



**Record 2006-052, Prairie Warbler, 5 June 2006, Ellsworth, Nobles County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.**

(record #2006-049, vote 7-0).

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 7-8 May 2006, undisclosed location in east-central Rice County (record #2006-047, vote 7-0).

- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), 4-5 June 2006, near Ellsworth, Nobles County (record #2006-052, vote 7-0).

Digital images and written details were submitted by multiple observers.

- Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), 22 June 2005, Grant County (record #2006-031, vote 7-0).

This singing male was discovered at an undisclosed location near Herman by a researcher familiar with the species. Third state record and first summer occurrence.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 10 June 2006, St. Clair, Blue Earth County (record #2006-057, vote 7-0).

Photographed and well-described.

The following records were voted on January - July 2006 and were Not Accepted.

(Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to include the sighting in *The Loon*, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU's archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included

here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.)

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 17 April 2006, Princeton W.T.P., Sherburne County (record #2006-033, vote 0-7).

The observer was unaware of this species' status in Minnesota and did not take field notes. Only its head was described.

- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), 1 June 2005, Walter and Perry townships, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-022, vote 1-6).

Field notes were not included when a narrative was submitted more than seven months later. Optics were not used until the bird was almost out of sight. Light conditions were unspecified.

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 24 May 2005, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-011, vote 3-4 for second of two adults as White-faced Ibis; Accepted as *Plegadis ibis*, sp., vote 7-0).

Unlike the first of two adult ibises photographed together, this second adult could not be identified as to species from the photograph.

- White-faced Ibis, 4-6 May 2006, Danvers W.M.A., Swift County (recirculated record #2006-044, first vote 4-3, second vote 1-6 as White-faced Ibis; Accepted as *Plegadis*, sp., vote 7-0).

Though clearly a *Plegadis ibis*, a hybrid

Glossy X White-faced Ibis (*P. falcinellus* X *P. chibi*) could not be eliminated since eye color was not described (Arterburn and Grzowski 2003).

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 1 October 2005, Cormant Township, Beltrami County (recirculated record #2006-017, first vote 4–3, second vote 2–5).

Those voting against this record were concerned that the documentation may not have reflected what was visible in the field, since the observer was looking into the morning sun.

- Gyrfalcon, 10 November 2005, Orwell Township, Otter Tail County (recirculated record #2005-087, first and second votes 4–3).

Though seen from close range for an extended period of time by an experienced observer, field notes were not included with the documentation when it was submitted more than six weeks after the sighting. Three members felt that the brief description did not eliminate all other species of falcon.

- Gyrfalcon, 17 December 2005, near Fairmont, Martin County (recirculated record #2006-026, first vote 4–3, second vote 2–5).

Field notes were taken after looking at field guides. A mustachial mark was not seen by the observer writing the documentation, but instead was mentioned as being seen by another; second-hand information is less reliable and generally cannot be considered during evaluation of a record. Photographs were taken but not submitted in response to a request.

- Gyrfalcon, 18 December 2005, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2005-083, vote 3–4).

This bird and a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) “were overhead for just a few seconds” and were backlit by the sun. Though documented by an experienced observer, the majority were concerned about the brevity of the observation under difficult lighting. The bird in question was said to be clearly larger than the Peregrine, but this comparison did not rule out a large immature female Peregrine, since size is affected by sexual dimor-

phism and subspecies; e.g., a female of the largest subspecies (*F. p. pealei*) could have two to three times the body mass of a male *tundrius* (White *et al.* 2002).

- Gyrfalcon, 31 December 2005, Roseau Lake W.M.A., Roseau County (record #2005-086, vote 1–6).

This bird was spotted from a vehicle that was still in motion on slippery roads. It was seen only in flight and for a brief period of time. Foggy conditions may have caused its pale appearance.

- Gyrfalcon, 20 April 2006, Richfield, Hennepin County (record #2006-034, vote 0–7).

This report referred to a bird observed without binoculars as it rapidly flew by an office window.

- Prairie Falcon, 19 May 2005, Mount Wickham, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-024, vote 2–5).

A narrative was submitted without field notes eight months later. The observation was made from inside a vehicle as the bird flew overhead and the report lacked information about light conditions, time of day, optics, and previous experience. Observers are encouraged to use the “Request for Documentation Form,” which can be downloaded from the MOU website or filled out online at <http://moum.org/cgi-bin/rqd.pl?op=new>, or to follow its format when preparing narratives; this form was designed to insure that critical information about a record is not omitted.

- Yellow Rail, 16 June 2005, Lubenow W.P.A., Shible Township, Swift County (record #2006-023, vote 0–7 for both birds).

A narrative was submitted without field notes seven months after the observation. This report of a notoriously secretive, nocturnal species, walking along the edge of a lake for 30 minutes during daylight hours, garnered no support.

- Whooping Crane, 25 August – 7 October 2005, southeastern Morrison County (recirculated record #2005-057, first and second votes 5–2 for each of three birds; since the identification was Not Accepted, there was no separate vote on origin.).

Three adults from the experimental flock at Necedah N.W.R., Wisconsin, apparently wandered to Minnesota according to satellite telemetry data. Unfortunately, there was no description of the birds. Photographs were reportedly taken, but could not be obtained for review. Telemetry data are not infallible and since the data were submitted on behalf of the principal investigator, the documentation was considered to be second-hand.

- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), 19 September 2004, Lake Winnibigoshish, Cass County (record #2006-005, vote 3-4).

- Sabine's Gull, 8 October 2004, Lake Bemidji, Beltrami County (record #2006-006, vote 0-7).

Documentation for the above two records was submitted about 16 months after the observations. The observer had no prior experience with Sabine's Gull and did not eliminate similar-looking species.

- Sabine's Gull, 8 October 2005, Warren Lake, Mahanomen County (recirculated record #2006-018, first vote 4-3, second vote 3-4).

- Sabine's Gull, 14 October 2005, Pegg Lake, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-019, vote 2-5).

Those voting against the above two records were concerned about the description of molt and plumage, as most Sabine's Gulls do not acquire basic plumage until after reaching their winter quarters. Since the observer had no prior experience with Sabine's Gull and since not all other species of gull were considered and eliminated, it was felt that photographs or verification by other observers would be needed to confirm the identification.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 16 October 2005, near Appleton, Swift County (recirculated record #2006-020, first vote 4-3, second vote 3-4).

Though contemporaneous field notes were submitted, the observer had no prior experience with this species. Documentation was submitted three months after the sighting.

- Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax*

*virescens*), 17 May 2005, Madrena W.M.A., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-009, vote 1-6).

The observer's prior experience with this species was unstated and the description of its vocalizations was atypical. It was felt that verification by an experienced observer or audio recordings would be necessary to confirm such a far out of range record.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 6-7 August 2005, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (recirculated record #2006-015, first vote 4-3, second vote 3-4).

This bird was aged as a juvenile by an observer who had no experience with this species. Members were concerned that documentation was submitted five months after the sighting and that no photographs were obtained, even though the bird was refound the following day.

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 18 May 2005, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-010, vote 3-4).

Documentation for this non-vocalizing bird was submitted nine months after the sighting. The observer had no experience with the identification of this species.

- Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), 2 February 2006, Lac Qui Parle L., Lac Qui Parle County (recirculated record #2006-029, first vote 4-3, second vote 1-6).

This bird was not seen in flight which precluded confirmation of tail length and shape. Nearly all of the vocalizations that were reported can be approximated by American Crow (*C. brachyrhynchus*).

- Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), 13 May 2005, Madrena W.M.A., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-008, vote 1-6).

The observer's experience with this species was unclear and the field sketch showed a supercilium tapering to a sharp point behind the eye.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 24 May 2006, Marshall, Lyon County (recirculated record #2006-050, first vote 4-3, second vote 0-7).

Though possibly this species, the brief description omitted key field marks (exact

color of blue on the head and presence of wing bars) that might have ruled out the possibility of hybrid Lazuli X Indigo Bunting (*P. amoena* X *P. cyanea*).

- Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), 23 June 2005, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-012, vote 1–6 as Great-tailed Grackle, also Not Accepted as Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle, vote 3–4).

It was unclear how this female's calls were distinguished from the many grackles, blackbirds, and cowbirds in the same tree. Its call was described as "a dry, somewhat soft 'chuk,' " but female Great-tailed and Boat-tailed grackles "both... give *chut* warning notes" (Selander and Giller 1961).

- Great-tailed Grackle, 16 July 2005, Mud Lake, St. Louis County (record #2006-013, vote 1–6 as Great-tailed Grackle, also Not Accepted as Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle, vote 3–4).

The majority felt that a more complete description and one which unambiguously ruled out the remote possibility of Boat-tailed Grackle would be necessary to confirm the first record of Great-tailed Grackle for northern Minnesota.

The efforts of all those observers who document reports of unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written documentation for one or more of the records listed in this article: Mark Alt, Dan Amerman, Karl Bardon, Gene Bauer, Pat Beauzay, Dedrick Benz, Tom Boevers, Jerry Bonkowski, Paul Budde, Conny Brunell, Dave Cahlander, Philip Chu, Ed Duerksen, Gerlinde Doom, Kim Eckert, Heidi Ferguson, Ben Fritchman, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertz, John Hockema, Larry Igl, Bob Janssen, Paul Jantscher, Jeanie Joppru, Doug Kieser, Robin LaFortune, Andrew Longtin, Michael Mann, Jim Mattsson, Matt Mecklenburg, Craig Menze, Steve Millard, Skip Mott, Bob O'Connor, Jim Otto, Greg Pietila, Al Schirmacher, Brian Smith, Drew Smith, Shelley Steva, Peder

Svingen, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Bill Unzen, Curt Vacek, Paul Voigt, and Ben Wieland. The Committee also thanks the many photographers who submitted images in support of these records.

There were many more observers who provided written documentation and/or photographs for records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee. Although such records are not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. Please contact Peder Svingen by e-mail at <psvingen@d.umn.edu> or at the address below. Summary: 65 records voted on — 41 Accepted (63%), 24 Not Accepted (37%).

*Corrigendum:* In the previous "Proceedings" article, the date was inadvertently omitted for record #2005-072, Black-throated Gray Warbler in St. Louis County. The date was 14 October 2005 (*The Loon* 78:43).

### Literature Cited

- Arterburn, J. W., and J. A. Grzybowski. 2003. Hybridization between Glossy and White-faced ibises. *North American Birds* 57:136–139.
- Brennan, C., and J. Schultz. 2006. A second North American record for Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*). *North American Birds* 60:164–165.
- Howell, S. 1994. Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds in the Eastern Pacific. *Birding* 26:400–415.
- Selander, R. K., and D. R. Giller. 1961. Analysis of sympatry of Great-tailed and Boat-tailed grackles. *Condor* 63:29–86.
- White, C. M., N. J. Clum, T. J. Cade, and W. G. Hunt. [2002]. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Retrieved 2 April 2006 from The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

**2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.**

# The Winter Season

## 1 December 2005 through 28 February 2006

James P. Mattsson and Peder H. Svingen

Although some potent storms swept through the state, this winter period was characterized more by mild temperatures well above the long-term average. The season was rather lackluster in terms of rarities, but a number of lingering and overwintering species kept birders afield and their interest piqued. Several species set records for the statewide Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and one new species was added to the count (can you guess which one?).

The only reports of migrant geese potentially overwintering were two **Snow Geese** in Otter Tail and one in Olmsted. A record-high count of **Trumpeter Swans** at Monticello reflected that species' impressive comeback in the state. Early ice cover in the Southeast due to a late November winter storm probably explained the nearly total lack of **Tundra Swans** there (as well as diving ducks) during the period. Ducks lingering north well into January included **Gadwall** in St. Louis, and **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck** and **Lesser Scaup** in Otter Tail. Up to five **Greater Scaup** overwintered in St. Louis. Otter Tail also hosted a male and female **Harlequin Duck** through late February to the enjoyment of many. In the A-Little-Luck-Never-Hurts category, a male **Barrow's Goldeneye** serendipitously was identified from a photo taken of a large flock of mostly Common Goldeneyes in Wabasha. Sea ducks away from Lake Superior included **Long-tailed Duck** in Washington, Dakota, Benton, Stearns, and Wright, and a **Surf Scoter** in Washington.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** in four west-central border counties were presumably wintering birds from adjacent South Dakota. **Ruffed Grouse** continued to be at or near the ebb of their population

cycle, whereas steadily increasing numbers of **Wild Turkeys** continued their gradual expansion as far west and north as Kittson County.

Late grebes included a very unusual **Horned Grebe** through mid-January at Black Dog Lake in Dakota and a mid-January **Red-necked Grebe** in Lake. Up to three **American White Pelicans** lingered into January at the usual location at Black Dog Lake; another was at Spring Lake Regional Park near Hastings.

Reports of Rough-legged Hawks, including many dark morphs, were up considerably over last winter's meager showing. **Gyrfalcon** reports included presumably the same gray-morph adult photographed on the same power pole for the second consecutive year near Hastings in Dakota. Unusual was a single **Sandhill Crane** in Lac Qui Parle in late December.

Larophiles were treated to many **Thayer's Gulls**, a veritable "irruption" of **Iceland Gulls**, and a very photogenic immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** for a record 18 days; the latter also provided a first Minnesota CBC record. Only one lucky soul got to see and photograph a **Great Black-backed Gull** near Hardman Avenue in Dakota/Ramsey.

After an 11-year hiatus, the bird of the season was a **Barn Owl**, unfortunately found dead 20 January after striking a window at a North Oaks residence in Ramsey. Following last winter's epic northern owl invasion, the predicted "echo" irruption of **Great Gray Owls** was barely audible. However, high numbers of **Northern Hawk Owls** were found for the second consecutive year and **Snowy Owls**, which were conspicuously few in number last winter, were much more numerous throughout the state.

Interesting were a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** that apparently overwintered in Fillmore County, and a **Carolina Wren** through early January in Pine County. Among the thrushes, **Eastern Bluebird** numbers were most impressive as evidenced by their highest-ever cumulative CBC tally (total of 59 for 10 counts). Compared to last year, **Townsend's Solitaire** was scarce, but one was found in the same location as last year in Sherburne. Unusually far south in early December was a **Varied Thrush** in Redwood. A **Gray Catbird** in early January in Cook was probably wishing it was much farther south.

Other species setting record-high CBC totals for Minnesota were **Pine Grosbeak**, **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, and **American Goldfinch**. Although moderate numbers of **Red Crossbills** were reported, **White-wingeds** were almost non-existent. **Common Redpoll** and **Evening Grosbeak** numbers on CBCs continued the trend of being lower than the 20-year average. Finally, the CBC total for the enigmatic **House Finch** was the second highest on record.

*Weather Summary:* A significant winter storm 28–29 November brought freezing rain and snow to much of Minnesota. A coating of ice and snow, accompanied by high winds, led to power outages, school cancellations, and road closures in many western Minnesota counties. This set the stage for above normal precipitation for December in many locations of the state. Precipitation in northeastern, west-central, central, and southwestern counties topped historical averages by more than half an inch. Well over two feet of December snow fell in many northeastern Minnesota locales. Two major winter storms affected Minnesota during the month of December. On 13–14 December, a storm system dropped four to eight inches of snow in many areas, and deposited more than 20 inches of snow in the Lake Superior highlands of northeastern Minnesota. Another winter storm swept through the state on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, dropping a swath of snow across much

of the state. The highest snowfall for this event was 11 inches in Madison, Lac Qui Parle County. The warming trend of recent winters continued this December with temperatures much above average in northern Minnesota; for some northern locations, the mean temperature topped the historical average by six to eight degrees. Cold temperatures early in the month were more than counterbalanced by warm weather later in the month. Temperatures during the last ten days of December were consistently 15 to 25 degrees (!) above average.

January precipitation was one-third to one-half inch below average in most Minnesota locations. Snowfall was light nearly everywhere in the state. Only in the far northern reaches of Minnesota, along the Canadian border and the Lake Superior highlands, did monthly snowfall totals top ten inches. Some southern Minnesota communities set records for the least amount of January snowfall ever. Historical data show that this was Minnesota's warmest January of the modern era. The state-averaged mean monthly temperature for January was approximately 25°F, an astounding 17 degrees above the long-term average — the largest positive monthly temperature departure in the data set for any month!

Precipitation for February similarly was one-third to one-half inch below average in most Minnesota locations. However, along an 80 mile-wide swath centered on a line from Moorhead to Duluth, February precipitation totals reached or somewhat exceeded historical averages. A large snow-maker on 16 February dropped nearly ten inches of snow on far-southeastern Minnesota. Rochester reported a daily snowfall total of 6.6 inches, a record for the date. Another storm system dropped 6–12 inches of snow along a narrow corridor from Bemidji to Duluth 24 February. A warm start to the month was counterbalanced by a mid-month cold snap. The arctic outbreak on 17–18 February led to dangerous windchill temperatures in many areas. The temperature extremes

for the month ranged from 53 degrees at Winona on 2 February, to -36 degrees at Embarrass (St. Louis County) on the 18<sup>th</sup>. As of 28 February, the National Drought Mitigation Center indicated that all Minnesota counties were free of drought designations. Unfortunately, this did not persist as drought conditions became severe during the ensuing months.

*Undocumented reports:* **Cooper's Hawk** 1/26 Kittson, 2/5 Clay; **Gyr Falcon** 2/15 Polk (near Mentor); **Prairie Falcon** 2/23 Rock; **Brewer's Blackbird** 1/16 Steele; **White-winged Crossbill** 2/2 Lac Qui Parle; **Evening Grosbeak** 1/2 Hennepin (8).

*Acknowledgments:* Thanks to all of you who submitted seasonal reports and especially to the growing numbers who

made the transition to the MOU's new on-line seasonal reporting form. And thanks to Dave Cahlander for making it simple for AviSys software users to quickly download data into the MOU's system. Special thanks to Paul Budde for his continued dedication and enthusiasm for compiling the raw data into a user-friendly format. Roger Schroeder continues to do an amazing job of compiling and summarizing the voluminous CBC data. Thanks also to Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for their tireless compilations of weekly RBAs.

**570 South Greenleaf Drive, Eagan, MN 55123;**  
**2602 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Duluth, MN 55812.**

## KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
4. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
5. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
6. Brackets [ ] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
7. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
8. Dagger "+" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
9. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
10. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with "v.t."

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from 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, contact the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., Duluth, MN 55812-1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** — All reports: early migrants 2/25 Martin (32), Jackson (15), Nobles (78), and Cottonwood (30) PEJ, 2/28 Houston (38 near New Albin) FZL.

**Snow Goose** — Late north 1/9 Otter Tail (2) DTT, SMT suggests attempt to overwinter; possibly the same birds were found on Fergus Falls CBC. Reported from five south counties including probable overwintering in Olmsted (one seen

multiple times at Silver Lake, Rochester) JWH, CRM. Early migrants 2/17 Dakota (blue morph with two probable hybrid white geese) ADS, 2/25 Martin (Cedar Lake) BRB and Nobles PEJ, 2/28 Houston (1) FZL.

**Cackling Goose** — Winter status of this species remains poorly known and all reports had few or no details. None known to overwinter. No north reports except 12/17 Fargo-Moorhead CBC (2).

CBC reports south 12/17 Hutchinson (12), Rochester (count week), 1/1 Hastings-Etter (1). Also late south 12/26 Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle (one at Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU. Possible early south migrants 2/11 (2), 2/20 (4) Olmsted (Silver L.) JWH, CRM *et al.*, 2/20 Nobles (1) BTS. Significant influx 2/25 Jackson (275), Nobles (124), Cottonwood (80) PEJ.

**Canada Goose** — Reported from only eight north counties with a high count 12/17 Clay (500) PBB. Mild conditions allowed exceptional numbers to persist into January in St. Louis (Duluth harbor), e.g., 1/7 (295), 1/28 (290) PHS. Reported from 30 south counties including a high count 2/25 Jackson (2,000) BRB. First northbound migrants 2/11 Cottonwood (60) BRB.

**Mute Swan** — One individual (no details) reported 12/17–1/15 Rice DAB, FVS, HHD, JLO. One photographed in flight next to Trumpeter Swan 1/29 Wright (Monticello) NYC.

**Trumpeter Swan** — Reported from 7 north and 12 south counties including a record-high **1,224** counted 2/20 Wright (Monticello) KJB. Overwintered north in Cass (1) MRN and Hubbard (as many as 18 birds seen every weekend all winter in Todd Twp.) MAW, and probably in Otter Tail (remarkable total of 358 on Battle Lake CBC, followed by late January and February reports from Fergus Falls) m.ob. Up to four overwintered Dakota (Black Dog Lake) KJB and may have wandered elsewhere. East-central reports for January included 1/2 Chisago (Wild River S.P.) BrM, 1/15 Dakota (Gun Club Lake) DFN, 1/16 Dakota (Spring Lake R.P.) JPM, 1/22 Washington (Pt. Douglas) DWK.

**Tundra Swan** — Ice conditions early in the period prevented the normal build-up in the Southeast. All reports: 12/20–31 Wright (Monticello, Northern Wright CBC) †SL, DSa *fide* RJS, 1/22 Wright (3) DSa, 1/26 Washington (immature) RBJ, 2/21 Houston (1) FZL.

**Wood Duck** — Overwintered north in Otter Tail (including Fergus Falls CBC) SPM. Reported from seven south counties. Overwintered south in Dakota (Black Dog Lake) and Hennepin (Old Cedar Avenue) PEJ, Olmsted (Rochester) JWH. Mid-winter report 1/27 Meeker (2, Litchfield) DMF.

**Gadwall** — All reports north: 12/17 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) PHS, AXH, 1/17, 2/19 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth, probably same bird as CBC) KRE, ph. MLH, MF. Reported from eight south counties with a mid-winter high count 1/28 Dakota (15 at Gun Club Lake) ADS. Also reported from Meeker, Scott, Wabasha, Winona, and the Afton, Bloomington, Excelsior, St. Paul (North and NE Suburban) CBCs.

**American Wigeon** — All reports north: 12/17 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls CBC) SPM, 12/17 Cook (Grand Marais CBC), 1/4 Cook (same bird?) *fide* JWJ. All reports south: overwintered Scott (Mill Pond) and Dakota (Black Dog Lake) PEJ, and Hennepin OJ; 2/20 Wright (male at Monticello) KJB.

**American Black Duck** — Reported from four north counties with a high count 12/17 St. Louis (48, Duluth CBC) PHS, AXH. Overwintered north in St. Louis PHS and probably in Cook JWJ; also seen 1/25 Otter Tail BJU. Reported from 12 south counties. Again overwintering in Dakota (Black Dog Lake) and Scott (Shakopee Mill Pond) PEJ, DWK, JPM. Also reported 1/1, 2/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Several apparent American Black Duck X Mallard hybrids also reported.

**Mallard** — Reported from 12 north and 34 south counties with some birds present all winter where open water persisted. A total of 1,057 tallied 12/17 on the Duluth CBC *fide* JWJ. Mid-winter reports as far north as 1/15 Cook (25, Grand Marais), 1/29 Beltrami (12) *fide* JMJ.

**Northern Shoveler** — All reports: 12/4 Hennepin (21, Lake Calhoun) BAF, 12/17–22 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) Bloomington

CBC, PEJ, 12/31 Wabasha CBC.

**Northern Pintail** — Only north report: 1/5 Douglas (female) SPM. January reports south 1/11 Dakota (3 males, Black Dog Lake) KJB, PEJ, late January–2/2 Olmsted (Silver Lake, possibly same male 2/26 JWH) m.ob. Early migrants 2/20 Nobles BTS, 2/22 Dakota (11) PEJ.

**Green-winged Teal** — Recorded on Bloomington CBC 12/17 Dakota (one at Black Dog Lake) m.ob. and present through 12/29 (3) PEJ. Singles also recorded on the Excelsior and Winona CBCs. All other reports: 12/17 Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.), 1/5 Houston (4) FZL.

**Canvasback** — Only report north: 12/2 Otter Tail (also seen count week, Fergus Falls CBC) SPM. Reported from eight south counties, including the Excelsior (9) and Hutchinson (1) CBCs. Overwintered Scott (12) PEJ. Also reported 12/15 Goodhue LCo, 12/16 Washington (3, Pt. Douglas) JPM, 1/10 Waseca JPS, 1/22 Wright (Monticello) DSa, 2/26 Wabasha (male, Lake Pepin) BAF.

**Redhead** — Reported from two north and seven south counties. Late north 12/17 Clay (Fargo-Moorhead CBC) *fide* RHO, 1/9 (overwintering?) Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Late south 12/17 Dakota (male, Bloomington CBC), 1/2 Scott (2) PEJ. Early south 2/23 Hennepin (male, possibly overwintered, Bass Ponds) KJB, 2/26 Wabasha (3, Lake Pepin), Washington (male, Pt. Douglas) BAF.

**Ring-necked Duck** — Female reported 12/17 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) last seen 1/29 PHS. Also reported north 12/17 Clay (3, first record for Fargo-Moorhead CBC) PBB, †DPW, 12/17 Otter Tail (2, Fergus Falls CBC), 1/1 Otter Tail (Battle Lake CBC), 1/25 Otter Tail (6) BJU. Reported from nine south counties. West-central reports 12/26 Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle (2, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU. Overwintered Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ, DWK; early February in Rice probably overwintered.

Potential early migrants 2/19, 2/27 Goodhue (male, Colville Park) BAF, BRL, 2/25 Le Sueur (3) DAB.

**Greater Scaup** — Three males and two females (carefully studied) 12/17 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) ph. †PHS, AXH subsequently **overwintered north** through at least 2/28. Reported from eight south counties. Exceptional report of ~50 individuals carefully identified with direct comparison to 10 Lesser Scaup 1/7 Wabasha (Lake Pepin, Camp Lacupolis overlook) †BAF. Overwintered south in Scott (one at Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ. Early migrants 2/26 Wabasha (25) BAF.

**Lesser Scaup** — Four reports from Otter Tail through 1/25 (4, overwintered?) BJU. Additional north reports on the Detroit Lakes (1), Fergus Falls (2), and Grand Marais (2) CBCs. Observed in 11 south counties. Overwintered Scott (5, Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ. Other reports suggested overwintering: 1/7 Wabasha (10) BAF, 1/28 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) ADS, 1/29 Washington (Pt. Douglas) BAF, 2/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early migrants 2/26 Wabasha BAF.

**Harlequin Duck** — Immature male and female first reported 1/8 **Otter Tail** (Fergus Falls) †SPM remained until at least 2/22 †DTT, SMT, m.ob. All other reports from North Shore of Lake Superior: 12/1 Lake (adult male, Knife River) SDA, 12/3 Lake (adult male, Two Harbors, same as Knife River?) JWL, SLL, overwintered through 2/20 Cook (2 males, Grand Marais, one of these present since 11/23) HSo, m.ob.

**Surf Scoter** — Only report: 12/1–2 Washington (immature, Pt. Douglas) JPM, TEB, KRE, RPR.

**White-winged Scoter** — Late south (only report) 12/8 Sherburne (Monticello) PLJ. Unusual mid-winter report on Lake Superior 2/11–13 St. Louis (2, Duluth) CFX, PHS, JWL, with at least one still present 2/21 MLH.

**Long-tailed Duck** — Reported from two north counties. A total of 56 individuals tallied on the Grand Marais CBC, followed by a group of 12 birds 1/4 Cook (Artist's Point, Grand Marais) *fide* JWJ. Presumably the same one or two birds reported 1/7–2/25 St. Louis (Duluth, Canal Park) KRE, PHS, BWF, JWJ. All south reports: 12/5 Washington (adult male, Point Douglas) JPM, 12/16 Dakota (South St. Paul) KJB, 1/6 Benton/Stearns (Mississippi River) HHD, 2/7 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) KJB, and 2/20 Wright (Monticello) KJB.

**Bufflehead** — Away from Lake Superior, a female overwintered in Otter Tail SPM. As many as seven apparently overwintered 12/3–2/13 Lake (Two Harbors, Agate Bay) JWJ. Other reports north: 12/11, 1/15 Lake (Silver Bay marina) JWJ, 12/17 Cook (2, Grand Marais CBC), 1/30 St. Louis (male, Duluth harbor) PHS, 2/20 St. Louis (female, Canal Park, Duluth) PHS. Reported from five south counties. All south reports: overwintered Hennepin (Coon Rapids dam) OJL. 12/1 Meeker DMF, 12/2 Washington TEB, 12/22 Ramsey KJB, 1/15 Wright BAF.

**Common Goldeneye** — Reported from 8 north and 20 south counties statewide. Reports away from Lake Superior in the north: 12/16–17 Beltrami (two) *fide* MJJ; 12/17 Clay (one, Fargo-Moorhead CBC), Koochiching (15, International Falls CBC) and Otter Tail (360, Fergus Falls CBC); 12/18 Carlton (13, Carlton-Cloquet CBC) and Itasca (34, Grand Rapids CBC); 12/24 St. Louis (17, Ely CBC), 12/31 Cass and Crow Wing MRN, 12/31 St. Louis (nine, Aurora CBC), 1/1 Otter Tail (198, Battle Lake CBC), 1/2 St. Louis (Biwabik) NAJ, 1/25 Otter Tail (70 at Fergus Falls) BJU, 1/29 Beltrami (2) *fide* MJJ. A minimum of 300 present 1/21 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) increased to 500 by 2/11 PHS. Overwintered south in Dakota, Hennepin, Washington, Wabasha, Jackson, Nobles, and possibly Meeker (Crow Wing River) DMF. Noteworthy count 2/20 Wright (1,800 at Monticello) KJB.



**Barrow's Goldeneye, 19 February 2006, Lake Pepin, Wabasha County. Photo by Nadav Cassuto.**

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** — Adult male 2/19 Wabasha (Lake Pepin) inadvertently photographed by NyC among large group of Common Goldeneyes and later identified from image posted to MOU-net †JPM, DSM (*The Loon* 78:178). What was presumably the same bird refound 2/26 Wabasha †PEJ.

**Hooded Merganser** — Reported from 4 north and 14 south counties. Overwintered north in Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) SPM and St. Louis (Duluth harbor) PHS; also seen through 12/27 St. Louis (2, Silver Lake) SLF. Overwintered south in Dakota (10, Black Dog Lake), Scott (2) PEJ, and Wright (2, Monticello) BAF, KJB. West-central reports 12/20 Lac Qui Parle CBC (2) *fide* PME, 2/2 Lac Qui Parle (male, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU.

**Common Merganser** — Reported from 7 north and 15 south counties statewide with a remarkable CBC total of 3,201 on 19 counts. Late north (away from Lake Superior) 2/5 Cass *fide* MJJ; overwintered Otter Tail SPM. Many reports south indicated overwintering in the Twin Cities metro area and the Southeast. Highest reported count 12/1 Goodhue (11,500 on

Lake Pepin, but also see fall report) KJB.

**Red-breasted Merganser** — Reported on four CBCs north, including 12/18 Itasca (Grand Rapids CBC) *fide* KZ. Mid-winter reports (probably overwintered) 1/7 Lake (4, Two Harbors), 1/15 Cook (Good Harbor Bay) JWJ. Overwintered south Wabasha PEJ. Also present mid-winter 1/1 Lac Qui Parle (male, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU, 1/7 ADS, 1/12 KJB Dakota (Spring Lake Park, same bird?).

**Ruddy Duck** — All reports: 12/1 Meeker DMF, 12/26 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, plus the Hutchinson (1), Lac Qui Parle (6), and St. Paul North (1) CBCs.

**Gray Partridge** — Reported from 9 north and 16 south counties as far northwest as Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Roseau. CBC total of 228 on 14 counts, including Rothsay (59), New Ulm (40), and Warren (45). All reports in Southeast: 12/18 Goodhue JV, 12/19 Olmsted (4) JWH, 2/17 Fillmore (location?) JLO, 2/27 Fillmore (Chatfield) JWH.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** — Reported from 12 north and 36 south counties statewide. Birds in far-northwest (especially Marshall) likely result from releases at game farms and/or shooting preserves.

**Ruffed Grouse** — Reported north from just 13 counties, reflecting continued lows in population cycle. CBC total of 60 on 26 counts. Only report south: 1/20 Fillmore NBO.

**Spruce Grouse** — Reported from Cook, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis counties. Four birds visited grit feeder at cabin 2/22 Lake of the Woods MHK.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** — Reported from 13 north counties in range. Of interest were several reports from four West-central counties (wintering birds from South Dakota?): 12/22 Traverse (2, flying across river from South Dakota), 12/22

Big Stone (one at Beardsley), 2/14 Lac Qui Parle (one at Plover Prairie East Unit), 2/23 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.), 2/23 Yellow Medicine (Florida Twp.) BJU; possibly related to an early ice storm in northeast South Dakota were the following observations by Minnesota D.N.R. staff in late January: Big Stone N.W.R. (flock of 20), Yellow Medicine (flock of 10, Mounds Spring S.N.A.), and additional sightings at Chippewa Prairie and Lac Qui Parle W.M.A. (10–12) *fide* JSc.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** — Reported from eight north and west counties in usual range, plus the following reports of released birds in Lac Qui Parle: 12/26 Agassiz Twp., 1/1 Hantho Twp., 2/2 Camp Release Twp., 2/14 (4) Plover Prairie BJU.

**Wild Turkey** — CBC total of 2,078 on 43 counts. Reported from 35 counties statewide ranging from Kittson (2/8 *fide* JMJ) in the Northwest to Pine in the East-central to Redwood in the Southwest, thus reflecting this species' continuing expansion north and west.

**Common Loon** — All reports: 12/3 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, 12/17 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) AXH, PHS, 12/18 Lake (Two Harbors CBC) *fide* FJN.

**Pied-billed Grebe** — One north report 1/27 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ. Recorded on the Rochester (1) and Bloomington (2) CBCs. Presumably one of the latter lingered at Black Dog Lake, Dakota: 1/7 JPM, 1/13 ADS, 2/7 KJB.

**Horned Grebe** — Reported throughout period near mouth of Stewart River, Lake (peak of 13 on 12/27) JWJ. Only other north report: 12/17 Cook (2, Grand Marais CBC) *fide* JK. One lingered at Black Dog Lake, Dakota, from 12/7 ph. JPM through 1/9 KJB.

**Red-necked Grebe** — All reports from Lake Superior in Lake: 12/27 Flood Bay JWJ, 1/14 Two Harbors (Lighthouse Point, probably same bird) JWJ.



**Albinistic Red-tailed Hawk, 12 February 2006, Eagan, Hennepin County. Photo by Stan Tekiela.**

**American White Pelican** — Recorded 12/17 St. Paul (North) CBC *fide* JPS. Severely injured individual 12/22 Ramsey (Hardman Ave., South St. Paul) KJB. All other reports from Dakota: Black Dog Lake 12/17 (3) Bloomington CBC, 12/27 (2) DFN, 1/3 (3) ADS, 1/7 ASc, and Spring Lake Park 1/29 BAF.

**Double-crested Cormorant** — Only north report: 12/22 Traverse (Bois de Sioux River) BJU. Late south 1/3 Ramsey (2) BRL, 1/7 Dakota ASc, 1/22 Wright DSa.

**Great Blue Heron** — Reported from four north and nine south counties. **Overwintered Otter Tail** SPM; also recorded on the Battle Lake (1) and Fergus Falls (5) CBCs. All other north reports: 12/22 Rothsay CBC (2), 1/1

Todd BWF, 1/15 Wadena PJB, 2/4 Pennington *fide* JMJ. Overwintered south in Hennepin (Bass Ponds) DWK and probably elsewhere in Twin Cities metro area. Possibly overwintered in Cottonwood, where seen 1/10, 1/20, 2/6 BRB. Additional late reports away from Twin Cities 1/4 Meeker DMF, 1/10 Waseca JPS, 2/6 (overwintered?) Sherburne ASc, 2/8, 2/10 (overwintered?) Rice TFB, DAB. Spring migrants indistinguishable from overwintering birds.

**Bald Eagle** — Reported from a record 62 counties statewide, including a grand total of 909 on 62 CBCs. Highest reported counts: north 2/4 Morrison (50) CMC, south 12/17 Winona CBC (205) *fide* WC.

**Northern Harrier** — All reports north: 12/4 Marshall JMJ, 2/11 St. Louis (3,



**Gyrfalcon, 9 January 2006, Hastings, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.**

Meadowlands) NAJ. Reported from 14 south counties. All December reports from CBCs. All January reports: 1/2 Mountain Lake-Windom CBC, 1/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 1/15 Scott DWK, JLO, 1/22 Nicollet ChH, 1/30 Olmsted PWP.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** — Reported from 6 north and 23 south counties in all regions except Northwest and Southwest. All January reports north: 1/1 Otter Tail (Battle Lake CBC) *fide* SPM and Todd

BWF, 1/8 St. Louis †JCG, 1/9–14 Otter Tail m.ob., 1/29 St. Louis †JWL. Also reported 2/14 Lake †JWL.

**Cooper's Hawk** — The winter status of this species has apparently changed dramatically over the past several decades, but our understanding suffers from unconfirmed and poorly documented reports. Well-documented late north migrant 12/17 Clay (Fargo-Moorhead CBC) †DPW. Reported (none with details)



**Iceland Gull, 22 January 2006, Point Douglas, Washington County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.**

throughout period from 18 south counties.

**Northern Goshawk** — Located in 12 north and 10 south counties statewide except in Southwest. Found on 12 CBCs.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** — All north reports: 12/18 Morrison (Little Falls CBC) HHD, 1/25 Grant BJU. Reported from 10 south counties, including 12 birds on 8 south CBCs. An immature was present 2/2–23 Dakota (Rosemount) SWe, KJB.

**Red-tailed Hawk** — Reported from 50 counties statewide except in Northwest. At least one adult overwintered St. Louis (Duluth, Port Terminal) PHS.

**Rough-legged Hawk** — Reported from 57 counties statewide in all regions (30 counties last winter). Many reports of dark morph individuals. CBC total of 118 on 41 counts.

**Golden Eagle** — Approximately 17



**Black-legged Kittiwake, 8 December 2005, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.**

individuals reported from 8 north and 8 south counties. North reports included 12/17 Duluth CBC *fide* JWL and 1/1 Pillager CBC (2) †SRo. All south reports from West-central except for the Excelsior, Wabasha, and Winona CBCs, plus several reports from Houston throughout the season.

**American Kestrel** — Reported from

30 counties statewide in all regions except northeast. Despite relatively mild conditions, CBC total of only 47 birds on 22 counts.

**Merlin** — At least 23 individuals reported from 5 north and 11 south counties, including the Duluth (5), Two Harbors, and Pillager CBCs. Probably overwintered in Lake (Two Harbors) JWL.

**GYRFALCON** — Accepted records north: 12/29 St. Louis (adult gray morph at Park Point, Duluth) †PHS; 1/21–28 St. Louis (juvenile female gray morph at Park Point, age and sex confirmed 2/4 when banded by DLE in Superior) †KRE *et al.*, †PHS, †BAW; 1/23–3/2 St. Louis (adult male gray morph at Port Terminal, Duluth, probably same bird as 12/29 and reported by DLE as previously banded and wintering for at least the fourth time) ph. †MLH, ph. †PHS, m.ob. Accepted records south: 12/25–3/25 Dakota (adult gray morph, near Hastings) ph. †JPM, ph. DOB, †PEB, ph. LAK, †ADS, m.ob., 2/6 Lac Qui Parle (juvenile gray morph, Walter Twp.) ph. †BJU (*The Loon* 78:176–177).

**Peregrine Falcon** — Overwintered St. Louis (adult, Duluth) PHS. Reported from usual sites in Dakota, Hennepin, Houston, Olmsted, Ramsey, Winona. Also seen perched on rollercoaster at Valley Fair amusement park 12/10 Scott DWK.

**Prairie Falcon** — One north report: 12/31 Roseau CBC †JMJ, †SAS. Only documented south report: 2/8 Lac Qui Parle †BJU.

**American Coot** — Overwintered north Otter Tail (2) SPM and St. Louis (11/27–2/28, Silver Lake, Virginia) SLF, KJB. Reported throughout period from nine south counties in south and east.

**Sandhill Crane** — Only report: single bird foraging in field 12/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Killdeer** — Only report: 1/9 Houston (Brownsville) FZL

**Wilson's Snipe** — Overwintered north: St. Louis (1) JRN. South reports of six birds on five CBCs. All other reports: 12/4–2/18 Scott (2, Wilkie Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) DWK, 1/30 Winona (2, Whitewater W.M.A.) JWH.

**Franklin's Gull** — All reports probably of same adult: 12/1 Dakota (Black Dog

Lake) JPM, 12/3 Hennepin (Lake Calhoun) BAF, 12/4 Ramsey (Hardman Ave.) KJB.

**Ring-billed Gull** — Only north report: 12/9 St. Louis ASc. Non-CBC reports from eight south counties. Late south 1/15 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) BAF, 1/28 Goodhue HHD.

**Herring Gull** — Present through at least mid-winter and probably overwintered in Cook, Lake, and St. Louis. High count north 1/7 St. Louis (500) PHS. Reported from six south counties with a high count 12/2 Dakota (2,590 at Black Dog Lake) KJB. As many as 300 still present at Black Dog Lake 1/15 BAF. Probable early migrants 2/5 Goodhue (290, Lake Pepin) BAF.

**Thayer's Gull** — Single adults reported north 12/10, 12/31, 1/1 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) PHS. Second-cycle bird 1/7+ Duluth KRE *et al.* Peak north 1/20 St. Louis (two adults and two 2nd-cycle birds) KJB. Reported from four south counties with a high count 12/5 Dakota (eight adults and one 2nd-cycle) KJB. As many as four reported throughout January at usual sites in Dakota and Washington KJB, BAF, JPM. Also reported 2/5 Goodhue (3, Lake Pepin) BAF.

**Iceland Gull** — One north report 1/1–28 St. Louis (adult “Kumlien's” at Canal Park, Duluth) ph. MLH, ph. †PHS. A veritable “irruption” year in the metro area with up to four individuals present throughout most of December and January. A 3rd-cycle bird was found 12/16 Ramsey and Dakota (Hardman Ave.) ph. †KJB, JPM, and also wandered to Dakota (Black Dog Lake) and Washington (St. Croix River) through 1/12. Presumably the same 1st-cycle individual present 12/29–1/22 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) and Washington (Pt. Douglas) ph. JPM, †BAF, †KJB, m.ob. Three birds (1st- and 3rd-cycle, adult) reported 1/2 Black Dog Lake †BAF; the latter showed characteristics of nominate *glaucooides*. A possible 2nd-cycle bird reported 1/7 Black Dog Lake JPM.



**Snowy Owl, 20 December 2005, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** — Only report: 12/5 Dakota (adult, Black Dog Lake) KJB, JPM.

**Glaucous Gull** — North reports only from St. Louis (Duluth): three adults 12/19 with a maximum of six on 1/1 (two adults, two 2nd-cycle, two 1st-cycle) PHS. Reported from four south counties. Adult first found 11/27 still present 12/1 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) JPM. At least one 1st-cycle bird at Black Dog Lake and Washington (Pt. Douglas) 12/13–1/2 JPM, BAF, m.ob. with a 2nd-cycle bird there 1/3–1/16 BRL, ph. JPM, m.ob. Also reported 2/5 Goodhue (two 1st-cycle birds, Lake Pepin) BAF.

**Great Black-backed Gull** — Documented 12/4 Dakota/Ramsey (1st-cycle, Hardman Ave.) ph. KJB.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** — Two accepted records, possibly involving the same 1st-winter bird: 12/4 **Anoka** (Cenakio Lake, Coon Rapids Dam R.P.) †GP, 12/7–24 Dakota/Hennepin (west outflow of Black Dog Lake) ph. †JPM, m.ob. The latter was also documented by †CMB, ph. DAC, †PCC, ph. †AXH, †PSV as it lingered for a record 18 days and provided the first record for a Minnesota Christmas Bird Count (Bloomington CBC).

**Rock Pigeon** — Reported from 25 north and 39 south counties statewide.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** — North reports included 1/1 Otter Tail (8, Battle Lake CBC) *fide* SPM, 1/25+ Grant (Herman) BJU. Reported from five south counties with a high count 1/28 Brown (10, Comfrey) †BTS; probably overwintered since eight birds still present 2/15 RBJ. Continuing reports from known sites: 12/8–26 Nicollet (3) RBJ, HHD, 12/26 Chippewa (2, Milan) BJU, 12/29, 2/23 Lac Qui Parle (Marietta, overwintered?) BJU, 1/1–21+ Dakota (5, Farmington) m.ob.

**Mourning Dove** — Reported from 12

north and 30 south counties statewide.

**BARN OWL** — A freshly killed individual was found 1/20 Ramsey after it collided with a window at a North Oaks residence on Long Lake KN, KK, ph †AXH (**The Loon** 78:176). The specimen was donated to the Bell Museum. This represents the first Minnesota record since 1995 (specimen picked up in April 1995).

**Eastern Screech-Owl** — All north reports: 12/18 Morrison (Little Falls CBC) BWF, HHD, 12/22 **Norman** (near Twin Valley) BJU. Including CBC data, about 24 individuals reported from 13 south counties, including 6 birds 12/18 Mower (Austin CBC) *fide* TDo.

**Great Horned Owl** — Reported from 34 counties statewide.

**Snowy Owl** — PHS compiled records of 176 individuals in 52 counties between 8 October 2005 and 2 June 2006, 114 of which were first found during the winter season. Reported from all regions and as far south as Pipestone in Southwest, Freeborn in South-central, and Mower, Fillmore, and Houston in Southeast. High count north 12/31 Roseau (7, Roseau CBC) *fide* BJo. At least four individuals at Minneapolis airport most of January MCA, m.ob.

**Northern Hawk Owl** — Excluding eight potential breeding birds discovered in April and May 2006, PHS compiled a total of 139 individuals in 15 north counties between 10 October 2005 and mid-March 2006, 109 of which were discovered during the winter season. High count of 12 individuals 12/31 Roseau (Roseau CBC) *fide* BJo. At least one bird present all winter at Agassiz N.W.R. *fide* JMj.

**Barred Owl** — CBC total of 45 birds on 19 counts. Non-CBC reports of about nine individuals in 9 north counties and 15 birds in 12 south counties.

**Great Gray Owl** — Excluding potential



**Northern Saw-whet Owl, 12 February 2006, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzfel.**

breeding birds, PHS compiled a total of 96 individuals in 16 counties mid-August 2005 through March 2006, 69 of which were first found during the winter season. Following last year's record smashing irruption (*The Loon* 77:194–208), this "echo" effect, i.e., a smaller irruption immediately following a major one, was much smaller than anticipated. For example, the daily high count by a single party last winter was a dumbfounding 256 Great Grays; however, the highest count this winter was just 6 individuals 12/29 Lake of the Woods *fide* JMJ. This winter's birds essentially stayed within their normal winter range and habitat; the only exception was 2/26–3/12 Norman (near Gary) ph. PBB.

**Long-eared Owl** — All north reports: 12/19 Becker (Tamarac CBC) *fide* LDe, 12/22 Wilkin BJU. Including the Cottonwood (1), Hutchinson (1), and Mankato (2) CBCs, a total of 24 individuals was reported from 10 south counties. High counts 2/11 Dakota (6, Lake Byllesby) JWH, 2/25 Blue Earth (5) RMD.

**Short-eared Owl** — Four north reports: 12/10 Hubbard PBB, 12/11 Lake JWJ and Otter Tail *fide* JMJ, 1/21 Aitkin RZ. Up to six birds wintered at Beaver Creek W.M.A. where first reported 1/15 Fillmore JWH, SH. All other south reports: 12/20 Wabasha LCo, 1/16 Winona CRM, 1/27 Olmsted CCB, 2/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/20

Houston CRM, 2/28 Dakota *fide* JV.

**Boreal Owl** — About seven individuals reported in contrast to last winter's record-setting irruption: 12/17–23 Cook BWS, mid-January Aitkin (found dead) *fide* AXH, 2/7, 2/16–17 St. Louis JCG, 2/9–16 Cook (same bird in December?) BWS, plus three found dead along the North Shore in late February. One of the latter (2/26 T61N, R2E, section 8, Cook DI) had been banded at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Michigan *fide* SGW.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** — Seven individuals reported north from Clearwater, Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis, including the Aurora CBC (count week). One hit by vehicle 2/11 Lake (near Two Harbors) JWJ. All other north reports: 12/22 Clearwater BJU, 1/19 Lake (CR 2) *fide* JWJ, 2/18 Lake (downtown Two Harbors) JWJ, 2/22 Lake of the Woods (near Gustafson Camp S.N.A.) MHK, 2/26 Cook (at feeder) BWS. Approximate total of 13 birds reported from 9 south counties, including count week for the Faribault and Wabasha CBCs.

**Belted Kingfisher** — Reported from 4 north and 12 south counties. Overwintered in Otter Tail SPM and St. Louis (Manganika Creek near Virginia) SLF. Unusual report 12/17 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) *fide* JWJ .

**Red-headed Woodpecker** — Only north report: 12/26 Mille Lacs (Mille Lacs Lake) ASc. Non-CBC reports from four south counties, including two overwintering near Marion in Fillmore and adult overwintering at family farm in Fillmore JWH.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** — Reported from 15 north and 31 south counties in all regions, including Northwest reports 1/1 Pennington, 2/12 Polk JMJ.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** — Apparently overwintered Fillmore NBO. All other

reports: 12/1 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 12/17 Olmsted (feeder, Rochester CBC) †JHD, 12/17 Rice (Faribault CBC) *fide* GDB, 12/31 Wabasha (Wabasha CBC) *fide* JPe. Most of these reports lacked details.

**Downy Woodpecker** — Reported from 58 counties statewide and all regions.

**Hairy Woodpecker** — Reported from 53 counties statewide and all regions.

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** — All reports: 12/29 Lake of the Woods (Beltrami Island CBC) *fide* MHK, 1/6 Lake of the Woods (3) MHK, 2/19 Koochiching (female, CR 13 north of Big Falls) BWF.

**Black-backed Woodpecker** — At least 23 individuals found in 7 north counties, including a maximum of five birds 12/31 Roseau (Roseau CBC) *fide* BJo.

**Northern Flicker** — All north reports: 12/7 Otter Tail, 2/16 Clay *fide* JMJ, and the Battle Lake (count week), Fergus Falls, Grand Marais, Long Prairie, and Roseau CBCs. Non-CBC reports from 11 south counties with a high count 1/16 Dakota (5 in one tree, Spring Lake R.P.) JPM.

**Pileated Woodpecker** — Reported from 24 north and 26 south counties statewide.

**Northern Shrike** — Reported from 39 counties statewide except the Southwest.

**Gray Jay** — Found in nine north counties within range.

**Blue Jay** — Reported from 65 counties statewide. In December, a partial albino visited a feeder in Rice (Northfield) ph. TSc *fide* GDB.

**Black-billed Magpie** — Found in 12 counties within range, plus unusual report 2/5 Lake (near Castle Danger) SVK, JWJ, SLL, PHS.

**American Crow** — Reported from 79 counties statewide.



**Albinistic Blue Jay, 13 December 2005, Northfield, Rice County. Photo by Torrie Schlecht.**

**Common Raven** — Found in 27 north counties, plus Chisago and Sherburne in the south.

**Horned Lark** — Reported from 12 north and 37 south counties. Unusual mid-winter report 1/7 St. Louis (Sax-Zim) KRE *et al.* Early north migrants indistinguishable from wintering birds, as shown by 1/1 Todd (19) BWF, 1/2 Wadena (18) PJB. Many reports North-central and Northwest beginning mid-February. Highest reported count 2/26 Norman (300) PBB.

**Black-capped Chickadee** — Reported from 66 counties statewide.

**Boreal Chickadee** — Reported from ten counties in range.

**Tufted Titmouse** — Reported within usual range from Fillmore, Houston, and Wabasha, plus 1/1 Dakota (Hastings-Etter

CBC, Ravena Twp.) *fide* RF.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** — Reported from 22 north and 9 south counties.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** — Reported from 25 north and 36 counties statewide.

**Brown Creeper** — Reported from 14 north and 17 south counties statewide.

**Carolina Wren** — One north report 1/1 Pine (present since mid-October) RBJ. All reports south: 12/8–2/4 Steele (recorded on Owatonna CBC) ph. DSK, NFT, RBJ, 12/11–17 Hennepin (Richfield, recorded on Bloomington CBC) DWe, m.ob., mid-December **Wright** (Monticello) JBu *fide* AXH, 12/17+ **Freeborn** (Albert Lea CBC) AEB, RBJ, NFT, through 12/18 Ramsey (St. Paul North CBC) LK, 12/18–1/24 Mower (present since at late August, recorded on Austin CBC) †RKu, 1/9–3/28 **Blue Earth**



**Carolina Wren, 10 January 2006, Richfield, Hennepin County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.**

(Mankato) †SAD, RBJ, 1/10 Hennepin (Richfield) DAC.

**Winter Wren** — Only report: 12/5 Rice TFB.

**Marsh Wren** — One report: 12/28–1/2 Scott (Wilkie Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) †DWK.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** — Reported from 10 north and 8 south counties. All north reports after December: 1/1–2 Todd m.ob., 1/29 Clay (2, Moorhead) BWF.

**Eastern Bluebird** — Only north report: 12/10 Cook (Schroeder) CJT. Including CBC data (total of 59 birds on 10 counts), observed in 13 south counties with many reports throughout period.

**Townsend's Solitaire** — Three north reports from Cook: 1/5–20 (2, Tofte Town

Park) ABe, PRo, 1/15–24 (Schroeder) JWL, SLL, DAG, SG, CJT, 2/14 Grand Marais LSc. Reported south 12/19 Kandiyohi (Sibley S.P.) *fide* RSF, through 1/27 Sherburne (Ann Lake, same location as last year) †ASc, m.ob., 2/23 Lac Qui Parle (Marietta) BJU.

**Hermit Thrush** — All reports: 12/17 Hennepin (Bloomington CBC) *fide* MOC, 12/17 Kandiyohi (Willmar CBC) *fide* RSF, 2/11 Hennepin (Old Cedar Avenue) DWK, 2/13 Rice TFB.

**American Robin** — Found in 30 counties statewide except in Southwest. Numerous January reports north and south with a high count 1/21 Dakota (150 in one group, Black Dog L.) JPM.

**Varied Thrush** — Approximately 25 individuals reported from 14 north and 7 south counties. Overwintered north

12/18–2/18 Lake (Two Harbors) MH, JWL. All other north reports: 12/1 Beltrami (2 since mid-November, Movil Lake and Sandy Lake) *fide* KLa, 12/1 Todd BWF, 12/2 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) BCa, 12/5–8 Cass (Gull Lake) VDy, 12/9 Hubbard (Nevis Twp.) MAW, through 12/9 Wadena (see fall report) HHD, 12/13 Itasca (Grand Rapids) PCo, 12/17–1/6 St. Louis (Chisholm) LME, CO, 12/17–1/22 St. Louis (UMD Campus, Duluth CBC) ph. MSS *et al.*, through 12/21 Crow Wing (2nd bird found late December, Jenkins Twp.) *fide* JSB, 12/31–1/2 Cass (Pillager CBC) †MRN, m.ob., mid-January Cook (Tofte) *fide* DJT, 1/22–3/26 Kanabec (Mora) *fide* CAM, 1/23 Becker (Lake Park) *fide* JMJ, 2/14 Otter Tail (male) †SPM. All south reports: 12/7 Isanti (Oxford Twp.) SKi, 12/11–3/1 Stearns (male, Sartell) LiS, PCC, 12/17 Olmsted (Oronoco, Rochester CBC) †CH, JWH, †LAV, through 12/18 Anoka (Cedar Creek Bog CBC) m.ob., through 12/18 **Redwood** (female, also see Fall 2005 report) ph. †PBB, 1/6–10 Rice JGN, m.ob., 1/29 Washington (Grey Cloud Island, WCCO “Nature Notes”) *fide* JGi.

**Gray Catbird** — All reports: 12/17 Cook (Grand Marais CBC) *fide* JK, 1/5 Cook (Tofte Town Park) ABe, PRo, 1/23, 2/12 Olmsted (Rochester, Oakwood Cemetery) CH, JWH.

**Brown Thrasher** — All reports: 12/24 St. Louis (1) JRN; overwintered south in Hennepin (Brooklyn Park at private residence) OJ.

**European Starling** — Reported from 59 counties statewide.

**Bohemian Waxwing** — Reported from 20 north and 6 counties, including south reports on the Hastings-Etter (2), Lac Qui Parle (1), Marshall (1), and Wild River (8) CBCs. Also reported south 12/26 (1), 1/6 (25) Sherburne ASc, 1/1 Dakota (2) †MBI, 1/12 Rice TFB. Significant influx into Grand Marais beginning late January, where highest reported count 2/20 Cook (est. 900) BWS.

**Cedar Waxwing** — Non-CBC reports from 13 north and 22 south counties statewide. High count 883 on 12/26 St Paul (NE Suburban) CBC *fide* RW.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** — Only report north: 1/27–30 St. Louis (Duluth, near Chester Bowl) KRE; still present 2/8 MLH. As many as 15 overwintered at Lake Byllesby R.P. in Dakota County through at least 2/4 (also see Fall report) DWK, ADS, DAB. Only CBC report: 12/20 Murray *fide* JT. Also reported from Blue Earth, Goodhue, Olmsted, Washington, and Winona.

**Spotted Towhee** — Overwintered **St. Louis** (Cook) CER, †MLH, ph. JWL, ph. †PHS, m.ob. Though its identity was first confirmed by RBJ in mid-February, it started visiting the Roivanen’s feeder before Thanksgiving.

**Eastern Towhee** — Unusual report 1/2 Lake (female and male at two separate locations along North Shore in Castle Danger) ph. JWL, SLL. Both birds showed up in late December; the male **overwintered north** through end of period MJA *fide* JWL. Only south report: 12/17 Winona CBC *fide* WC.

**American Tree Sparrow** — Reported from 13 north and 32 south counties statewide except in Northwest. Overwintered St. Louis (3, Duluth) JRN; also reported Northeast on the Carlton-Cloquet (1) and Virginia (1) CBCs.

**Fox Sparrow** — Late north (overwintering?) 1/5 Hubbard (yard) MAW. All south reports: 12/10 Hennepin ADS, plus the Rochester (count week) and St. Paul (North) CBCs.

**Song Sparrow** — All north reports: 12/18 Todd (feeder, Long Prairie), plus the Duluth (2), Two Harbors (1), and (late north) 1/1 Long Prairie CBCs. Few south reports after the CBC period; probably overwintered as shown by 2/11 Hennepin DWK, 2/12 Olmsted CH, JWH.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** — Only documented report: 12/7 Waseca (Loon Lake Park, Waseca) †JPS.

**White-throated Sparrow** — CBC total of 61 on 23 counts, including north reports 1/1 Hibbing and Long Prairie CBCs; late north 1/5 St. Louis (2) JRN. Probable overwintering south indicated by 1/20 Washington TEB, 1/25 Hennepin JLO.

**Harris's Sparrow** — CBC total of eight birds on six counts, including the Battle Lake, Fargo-Moorhead (2), and Fergus Falls CBCs north. Late north 1/13 Polk *fide* JMJ. Late south 1/8 Hennepin (3) KOs.

**White-crowned Sparrow** — All reports: 12/4 Otter Tail SPM, 2/12 Olmsted (adult) CH, JWH.

**Dark-eyed Junco** — Reported from 18 north and 39 south counties statewide.

**Lapland Longspur** — Reported from 8 north and 25 south (only 5 south last year) counties statewide. North reports spanned the season. High count 1/9 Fillmore (1,000) NBO.

**Snow Bunting** — Reported from 56 counties and all regions statewide, compared to only 35 counties last year. CBC total of 10,536 on 46 counts, including an amazing 3,299 on the Fergus Falls CBC 12/17 Otter Tail *fide* SPM.

**Northern Cardinal** — Reported from 46 counties statewide as far north as Marshall (Warren CBC) in the Northwest, Beltrami (Waskish) and Lake of the Woods (Baudette) in the North-central, and Cook (Grand Marais) in the Northeast.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** — Male documented 12/26 Washington (feeder, Marine on St. Croix, St. Paul NE CBC) †JHu *fide* RJS.

**Red-winged Blackbird** — Reported from 6 north and 11 south counties in all regions except North-central. All north

reports after December: 1/1 Otter Tail (Battle Lake CBC) and Todd (Long Prairie CBC), 2/20 Polk *fide* JMJ. High count 12/16 Willmar CBC (203) *fide* RSF.

**meadowlark, sp.** — Non-vocalizing *Sturnella* meadowlarks reported from Red Lake (possibly overwintered near Red Lake Falls) in the north and Big Stone, Brown, Lac Qui Parle in the south.

**Rusty Blackbird** — CBC total of 13 birds on 7 counts. All other reports: 12/26 Le Sueur HHD, 1/10 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU, 1/16 Steele FVS, 2/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/25 Yellow Medicine WCM.

**Brewer's Blackbird** — No details 12/18 Mower (Austin CBC).

**Common Grackle** — Non-CBC reports from four north and nine south counties, including 12/10 Lake of the Woods (Baudette) RAE, HHD. Highest reported count 1/5 Le Sueur (100) RMD.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** — CBC total of 43 birds on 3 counts, including 38 on the Hastings-Etter CBC. All non-CBC reports: 1/1 Rice (6) DAB, 1/7 Dakota MCA, 1/21 Rice (8) FVS, 1/21, 2/4 Dakota (2) ADS, 2/5 Rice (14) DAB.

**Pine Grosbeak** — Reported from 15 north counties. Only south report: 1/9–10 Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU. Numbers up in Northeast m.ob. A record high 2,551 (previous high 2,515) tallied on 22 CBCs.

**Purple Finch** — Reported from 19 north and 20 south counties statewide. A record high 3,765 (previous high 1,744) was recorded on 49 CBCs. Large numbers seen migrating along North Shore of Lake Superior in late December, including **1,309** on the Duluth CBC (previous record 132) and **1,195** on the Two Harbors CBC (12/17 and 12/18, respectively).

**House Finch** — Reported from 13 north and 27 south counties statewide. Non-CBC maximum 1/5 St. Louis (47) JRN.

**Red Crossbill** — Reported from 12 north counties with a non-CBC maximum 1/1 Cass (24) MRN; highest count 1/1 Lake (106, Isabella CBC) *fide* SGW. Also reported south 12/30 (5, Walter Twp.), 1/9 (Madison) Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**White-winged Crossbill** — Very low numbers statewide. Non-CBC reports from only 3 north counties: 12/3 St. Louis DWK, 12/11 Beltrami BJU, 1/15 St. Louis (30) KRE, 2/19 Roseau *fide* JMJ. Only 15 individuals reported on 5 CBCs statewide compared to 1,532 last year and a 20-year average of 361.

**Common Redpoll** — Numbers down; very scarce south. Non-CBC reports from only 20 north and 3 south counties. High counts in St. Louis on the Duluth (658) and Aurora (514) CBCs. All south reports: 12/6 Meeker DMF, 12/6 Sherburne ASc, 12/26 (5), 1/1 (60), 2/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Hoary Redpoll** — Only reports with details: 12/17 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) KRE, 2/26 St. Louis (Cook) JWL.

**Pine Siskin** — Reported from 18 north and 13 south counties in all regions of the state. A record-high 6,999 (previous high of 4,884) recorded on 43 CBCs, including 2,669 on the 12/17 Duluth CBC (previous high of 1,621). Several north reports of 50–75 daily at feeders throughout period. Non-CBC reports south mostly single digits.

**American Goldfinch** — Reported from 19 north and 29 south counties statewide. Highest non-CBC total 2/26 Lac Qui Parle (flock of 101) WCM. A record-high 6,562 (previous high of 5,848) tallied on 65 CBCs.

**Evening Grosbeak** — Reported from 14 north counties. Continued lower than average numbers throughout most of its Minnesota range, but note high counts on the Duluth (260) and Pine County (212) CBCs, and up to 200 visiting a feeder in Aitkin CLR, KWR.

**House Sparrow** — Reported from 60 counties statewide.

---

**Contributors**

---

ABe Ann Belleman  
 ADS Andrew D. Smith  
 AEB Al E. Batt  
 ASc Al Schirmacher  
 AXH Anthony X. Hertzell  
 BAF Bruce A. Fall  
 BAW Ben A. Wieland  
 BCa Becky Carlson  
 BJo Betty Johnson  
 BJU Billy J. Unzen  
 BRB Brad R. Bolduan  
 BRL Bill R. Litkey  
 BrM Brian Marquardt  
 BTS Brian Smith  
 BWF Ben W. Fritchman  
 BWS Bruce W. Stahly  
 CAM Craig A. Menze  
 CER Cedric & Eunice Roivanen  
 CFx Cheri Fox

CH Chris Hockema  
 ChH Chad Heins  
 CJT Carol & Jim Tveekrem  
 CLR Cindy L. Risen  
 CMB Conny M. Brunell  
 CMC Carol M. Crust  
 CO Christine Olson  
 CRM Craig Mandel  
 DAB David A. Bartkey  
 DAC Dave Cahlander  
 DAG David A. Grosshuesch  
 DBe David Benzer  
 DBz Dedrick Benz  
 DFN David F. Neitzel  
 DLE David L. Evans  
 DMB David Bris lance  
 DMF Dan M. Floren  
 DOB Derek O. Bakken  
 DPJ Douglas P. Johnson

DPW	Dennis P. Wiesenborn	LSc	Lloyd Scherer
DSa	Dave Sanders	LSt	Leigh Stepan
DSK	Douglas & Stephanie Kolbe	MAW	Marlene A. Weber
DTT	Dan T. Thimgan	MBa	Matt Baumann
DWe	Deb Wells	MBI	Michael Blissenbach
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	MCA	Mark C. Alt
EEF	Eve E. Freeberg	MF	Michael Furtman
EOr	Earl Orf	MHK	Martin H. Kehoe
FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	MJA	Mary Jane & Jerry Arneson
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	MLe	Mike Lentz
FZL	Fred Z. Leshar	MLH	Mike Hendrickson
GDB	Gene D. Bauer	MOc	Mark Ochs
GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel	MPi	Matt Pierce
GP	Greg Pietila	MRN	Michael R. North
HHD	Herb H. Dingmann	MSS	Mark "Sparky" Stensaas
HSo	Harvey Sobieck	NAJ	Nancy A. Jackson
JBu	Jeff Burns	NBO	Nancy B. Overcott
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	NFT	Nels F. Thompson
JGi	Jim Gilbert	NyC	Nadav Cassuto
JGN	Jean & Gary Novotony	OLJ	Oscar L. Johnson
JHD	Joel H. Dunnette	OWB	Bill Bruins
JHu	Joseph Hudick	PBB	Patrick Beauzay
JK	Jeff Kern	PCC	Philip C. Chu
JLO	James L. Otto	PCo	Pam Coy
JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru	PEB	Paul E. Budde
JMP	Jackie M. Potts	PEJ	Paul E. Jantscher
JPe	Jon Peterson	PHS	Peder H. Svingen
JPM	James P. Mattsson	PJB	Paul J. Binek
JPS	Julian P. Sellers	PLJ	Paul L. Johnson
JRN	Jeff R. Newman	PRH	Pete Hoeger
JSB	Jo & Steve Blanich	PRo	Peg Robertson
JSK	John & Susan Kroll	PSP	Pamela S. Perry
JSS	Jack Sprenger	PSV	Paul S. Voigt
JT	Janet Timmerman	PWP	Paul W. Pedersen
JV	Jen Vieth	RA	Renner Anderson
JWL	James W. Lind	RBJ	Robert B. Janssen
KJB	Karl J. Bardon	RBW	Bob Williams
KK	Kraig Kelsey	REH	Robert E. Holtz
KLa	Kelly Larson	RF	Roger Field
KN	Kris Nielsen	RJS	Roger J. Schroeder
KOs	Ken Osborn	RKu	Rodney Kuam
KRE	Kim R. Eckert	RMD	Robert M. Dunlap
KWR	Kim W. Risen	RPR	Robert P. Russell, Jr.
KZ	Kenneth Zimmer	RW	Richard Wachtler
LAK	Linda A. Krueger	RZ	Robert Zaremba
LAV	Lance Vrieze	SAS	Shelley A. Steva
LCo	Laura Coble	SDa	Steve Dahl
LDe	Lowell Deede	SES	Steven E. Schon
LiR	Linda Roberts	SG	Sarah Grosshuesch
LK	Leslie Kottke	SID	Sue I. Durant
LME	Laura M. Erickson	SKi	Steve Kingsbury

SL Sheila Lawrence  
 SLF Steve L. Falskowski  
 SLL Sharon L. Lind  
 SMC Sue McDonnell  
 SMC Scott Clark  
 SPM Steven P. Millard  
 SR Sandy Roggenkamp  
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman  
 SVK Steve Van Kekerix  
 SWe Steve Weston  
 TDo Terry Dorsey  
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell

TFB Tom F. Boevers  
 TSc Torrie Schlecht  
 VDy Vicki Dypwick  
 VV Virgil Voight  
 WC Walt Carroll  
 WCM William C. Marengo

**Abbreviations**

C.P. County Park  
 D.N.R. Department of Natural Resources  
 R.P. Regional Park  
 S.N.A. Scientific & Natural Area

# Minnesota's 100th Anniversary Christmas Bird Count Summary 2005–06 Celebrating the 100th Anniversary in Grand Style

**Roger Schroeder**

One-hundred years after the first steps of Minnesota's Christmas Bird Count history were taken, an estimated 960 field participants (and 750 feeder watchers) from a record 68 areas logged nearly 23,000 miles by foot, car, ski, and snowshoe to tally 286,046 individual birds of 132 full species on their Count Days. In addition to Count-Day observations of full species, three individual Northern Saw-whet Owl observations came from the Wabasha, Faribault, and Aurora Count Weeks, while Townsend's Solitaire reports were received from the Sherburne NWR and Willmar Count Weeks.

New Minnesota CBC areas were initiated at Rothsay WMA, Redwood Falls, and Murray County. As expected, the Rothsay WMA count added substantially to the Greater Prairie-Chicken count with 359 of the 564 total birds this season. Unexpectedly, Rothsay added two Great Blue Her-

ons and a count-week Golden Eagle. The Varied Thrush that had been coming to a feeder in Redwood Falls decided to show us the unpredictability of birds by not showing up on Count Day (it was seen only during the count period. Meanwhile at a feeder in the Murray County circle, a Yellow-rumped Warbler also showed us unpredictability by coming to a suet feeder that ironically enough had been playing host to a "Red-shafted" Northern Flicker earlier in the count period. Welcome to our three new counts, and many thanks for adding to Minnesota's CBC season!

**Something Old**

Minnesota's 200th officially recognized Christmas Bird Count species actually occurred 76 CBC seasons ago when two Barn Owls were observed on the Shakopee CBC on 22 December 1929. A transcription error, and neglect on the part of

the current CBC compiler let this record slip for far too long until recent research inquiries brought this to the fore.

### **Something New**

Bloomington did it again! In addition to tallying the highest number of species (69) of all Minnesota CBCs, the Bloomington count once again added a new species to the composite Minnesota CBC list. A very cooperative Black-legged Kittiwake was first observed in Dakota County on 7 December 2005, and many happy birders saw this striking immature bird as it was counted as Minnesota's 201st CBC species. Table 1 shows the last 15 additions to the Minnesota CBC composite list.

### **Something Borrowed**

The Marshall CBC borrowed "the Mad Birder," Kelly McKay from Hampton, Illinois, on his opening day of another attempt to participate on one CBC on each day of the 23-day official count season (which he did accomplish!). Kelly — like other birders participating for the first time on a CBC new to them — added to the coverage. Perhaps more importantly, this richly added to the enjoyable, diverse, and enthusiastic character of the Christmas Bird Count.

### **Something Blue**

Eastern Bluebird was seen in the highest numbers ever in Minnesota this season; 50 individuals were observed from eight CBCs — all of which were in eastern Minnesota. Two Eastern Bluebirds were also reported during the Marshall count period — very unusual for southwest Minnesota. Other species that were tallied higher than ever before included game birds: Ring-necked Pheasant (3,795), Sharp-tailed Grouse (134), and Greater Prairie-Chicken (564). These were possibly brought into good viewing due to the snow cover. Bald Eagle (909) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (71) numbers continue to soar into the blue over previous high marks.

### **Something Else**

For the first time in thirteen years, Gyrfalcon has been reported on a Minnesota CBC on Count Day. Though several reports were initially received, only the bird observed on the Hastings-Etter count was accompanied by written documentation that met MOURC standards. In similar fashion, Boreal Owl was reported on a Count Day for the first time in ten years. The Grand Marais CBC bird was only the fourth Count-Day Boreal Owl for Minnesota — though three have been seen during the count period. If accepted, the "Pink-sided" form of the Dark-eyed Junco observed on the Cottonwood CBC would be the first documented and published record of this subspecies.

### **Substantial Finch Numbers**

One of the biggest CBC stories this season was the abundance of finches, especially small finches. Purple Finch (3,765) numbers were more than two times greater than the previous high count of 1,744. In addition, the Pine Siskin total of 6,999 birds was more than 2,000 individuals higher than the previous high composite count, and American Goldfinch (6,562) was nearly 1,000 birds higher. And that does not include the 1,735 unidentified finch species that were observed in migration on the Duluth CBC. Pine Grosbeak numbers also set a new high mark of 2,551 birds. (See Table 2 for additional CBC census data related to finches). A total of twenty other species were reported in highest numbers ever, including Greater Prairie-Chicken and Ring-necked Pheasant (already mentioned), Dark-eyed Junco (10,253), Horned Lark (3,902), Northern Cardinal (3,115), Red-breasted Nuthatch (2,341), and Hairy Woodpecker (1,274).

### **One Here, One There**

With regard to individual Minnesota count circles that have been conducted for ten years or more, a total of forty-one species were observed for the first time. The more interesting additions include

American Coot (Grand Rapids), Red-tailed Hawk (Bemidji), Carolina Wren (Albert Lea), Golden Eagle (Excelsior), Snowy Owl (Little Falls), Wild Turkey (Crosby), and one Iceland Gull (Hasting-Etter).

**Much to Celebrate!**

The 2005–06 Minnesota CBC Season marked some significant history (according to the MOU CBC database) with Cedar Creek Bog conducting its 60th Christmas Bird Count, Afton held its 50th CBC, Willmar held its 45th consecutive count, and Bloomington, Faribault, and Wabasha each held their 40th annual CBC event. Looking ahead to the 2006–07 season,

Excelsior will be hosting its 55th consecutive CBC, Hibbing will be conducting its 50th, the Fergus Falls CBC will turn 40, and both Crookston and Owatonna will host their 35th annual event.

In closing, 85 species were tallied in numbers higher than their 20-year average, and 30 of 35 CBCs — that have been conducted for the last 15 years — reported species count totals greater than their 15-year average; making the 2005–06 Minnesota CBC season greater than average... to say the least.

**215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall, MN 56258-3058.**

Species	Season	Location
Black-legged Kittiwake	2005–06	Bloomington
Green Heron	2004–05	Excelsior
Cackling Goose	2004–05	nine locations
Band-tailed Pigeon	2002–03	Hastings-Etter
Franklin’s Gull	2002–03	Hastings-Etter
Anna’s Hummingbird	2001–02	Bloomington
Dunlin	2001–02	Duluth
Great Egret	2001–02	Bloomington
Sora	1999–2000	Battle Lake
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1999–2000	Bloomington
Orange-crowned Warbler	1998–99	Duluth
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1998–99	Cottonwood
Marsh Wren	1997–98	Bloomington
Savannah Sparrow	1995–96	Minneapolis (North)
Glaucous-winged Gull	1995–96	Bloomington

**Table 1. Fifteen most recent species added to the Minnesota CBC composite list.**

Species	2005–06 total	10-year average	20-year average	Previous High
Pine Grosbeak	2,551	1,312	1,237	2,515
Purple Finch	3,765	1,119	789	1,744
House Finch	4,719	3,550	2,233	4,797
Red Crossbill	230	145	104	418
White-winged Crossbill	15	414	361	1,532
Common Redpoll	3,247	4,241	4,469	12,803
Hoary Redpoll	3	6	11	69
Pine Siskin	6,999	1,912	2,163	4,884
American Goldfinch	6,562	4,526	3,658	5,848
Evening Grosbeak	966	821	1,134	3,030
finch sp.	1,735	485	485	64

**Table 2. Minnesota CBC finch totals by species.**

Location	Code	Date	Compiler	Species	CW	Total Birds
Afton	AFTON	1 Jan 06	Joe Merchak	41	-	7,557
Albert Lea	ABLEA	17 Dec 05	Al Batt	46	-	2,908
Aurora	AUROR	31 Dec 05	Cathy Leece	33	2	3,042
Austin	AUSTN	18 Dec 05	Terry Dorsey	48	2	6,345
Battle Lake	BATLK	1 Jan 06	Steve Millard	40	2	3,405
Baudette	BAUDT	28 Dec 05	Martin Kehoe	25	1	425
Beltrami Island	BLTRM	29 Dec 05	Martin Kehoe	22	-	424
Bemidji	BEMID	17 Dec 05	Janet Boe	35	-	1,214
Bloomington	BLOOM	17 Dec 05	Mark Ochs	69	-	13,543
Carlton-Cloquet	CRLCL	18 Dec 05	Larry Weber	34	3	1,693
Cedar Creek Bog	CEDRC	18 Dec 05	James Howitz & Steve Weston	35	1	1,433
Cook Area	COOK	14 Dec 05	Charlotte Jacobsen	29	1	1,304
Cottonwood	COTTN	16 Dec 05	Paul Egeland	33	-	2,270
Crookston	CROOK	17 Dec 05	Tom Feiro	20	6	1,647
Crosby	CROSB	17 Dec 05	Jo Blanich	37	-	2,248
Detroit Lakes	DLAKE	17 Dec 05	Bruce Besse	25	-	862
Duluth	DULUT	17 Dec 05	Jim Lind	58	3	13,815
Ely	ELY	24 Dec 05	Bill Tefft	28	-	2,826
Excelsior	EXCEL	17 Dec 05	Howard Towle	56	-	7,598
Fairmont	FRMNT	17 Dec 05	Brad Bolduan	39	3	4,595
Fargo-Moorhead	FRGMH	17 Dec 05	Bob O'Connor	33	-	2,291
Faribault	FARIB	17 Dec 05	Gene Bauer	48	1	6,639
Fergus Falls	FERGS	17 Dec 05	Steve Millard	53	3	9,292
Grand Forks-EGF	GFEGF	18 Dec 05	Dave Lambeth	17	-	457
Grand Marais	GRMAR	17 Dec 05	Jeff Kern	45	4	2,046
Grand Rapids	GRRAP	18 Dec 05	Kenneth Zimmer	40	-	3,037
Hastings-Etter	HASTE	1 Jan 06	Roger Field	57	-	9,069
Henderson	HENDR	17 Dec 05	Art and Barb Straub	40	-	4,280
Hibbing	HIBBG	1 Jan 06	Christine Olson	30	-	1,055
Hutchinson	HUTCH	17 Dec 05	Robert Schroeder	48	2	11,574
International Falls	IFALL	17 Dec 05	Leland Grim	32	1	672
Isabella	ISBEL	1 Jan 06	Steve Wilson	27	-	2,025
Itasca State Park	ITSCA	26 Dec 05	Douglas Johnson	19	-	727
Lac qui Parle	LQPLR	20 Dec 05	Paul Egeland	38	2	21,769
LaCrosse-LaCrescent	LCRLC	17 Dec 05	Rick Kinzie	40	-	1,755
Lamberton	LAMBR	15 Dec 05	Lee French	38	1	3,480
Little Falls	LFALL	18 Dec 05	Murdoch Johnson & Dianne Tuff	37	-	1,166
Long Prairie	LNGPR	1 Jan 06	John and Susan Kroll	41	4	2,519
Mankato	MNKTO	17 Dec 05	Merrill Frydendall	39	-	2,697
Marshall	MARSH	14 Dec 05	Roger Schroeder	40	2	4,133
Minneapolis (North)	MPLSN	17 Dec 05	Terence Brashear	32	2	3,622
Morris	MORIS	15 Dec 05	Donna Oglesby	28	-	2,637
Mountain Lake-Windom	MTLKW	2 Jan 06	Edna Gerber	33	1	2,302
Murray County	MURRY	20 Dec 05	Janet Timmerman	27	3	1,081
New Ulm	NEWUL	17 Dec 05	Elaine Poulson	28	-	1,114
Northern Wright County	NWRCO	31 Dec 05	Claudia Egelhoff	42	-	5,823
Owatonna	OWATN	17 Dec 05	Darryl Hill	39	-	4,076
Philbrook	PHILB	1 Jan 06	Ben Fritchman	31	-	1,697
Pillager	PILGR	1 Jan 06	Michael R. North	33	5	1,405
Pine County	PINEC	28 Dec 05	Mark Alt	36	-	1,867
Redwood Falls	RWFAL	24 Dec 05	Patrick Beauzay	33	2	603
Rice Lake NWR	RLNWR	18 Dec 05	Michelle McDowell	30	-	997
Rochester	RCHST	17 Dec 05	Clifford Hansen	51	4	28,070
Roseau	ROSEU	31 Dec 05	Betty Johnson	35	-	1,354
Rothsay WMA	ROTHS	22 Dec 05	Steve Millard	28	2	1,906
Sax-Zim	SXZIM	19 Dec 05	Sparkey Stensaas	27	-	816
Sherburne NWR	SHNWR	17 Dec 05	James R. Pasch	32	5	1,226
St. Cloud-Collegeville	SCCLG	17 Dec 05	Brian Jungels	36	1	4,105
St. Paul (North)	SPNOR	17 Dec 05	Julian Sellers	60	1	15,284
St. Paul (NE suburban)	SPNES	26 Dec 05	Richard Wachtler	52	4	10,613
Tamarac NWR	TMNWR	19 Dec 05	Lowell Deede	28	1	1,089
Two Harbors	THRBR	18 Dec 05	Frank Nicoletti	44	2	4,787
Virginia	VIRGN	17 Dec 05	Deb Buria-Falkowski	37	-	2,253
Wabasha	WABAS	31 Dec 05	Jon Peterson	52	1	4,359
Warren	WAREN	17 Dec 05	Gladwin Lynne	20	0	1,309
Wild River	WILDR	16 Dec 05	Tom Anderson	42	-	3,467
Willmar	WILMR	17 Dec 05	Randy Frederickson	46	3	3,010
Winona	WINON	17 Dec 05	Walt Carroll	48	-	5,337

**Table 3. Minnesota 2005–2006 CBC summary. CW=Count Week.**

SPECIES	ABLEA	AFTON	AUROR	AUSTN	BATLK	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	CEDRC	COOK	COTTN	CRLCL
Snow Goose													
Cackling Goose													
Canada Goose	615	4,104	5	662	184		9	1,373				270	
Mute Swan													
Trumpeter Swan		31			358			7					
Tundra Swan													
Wood Duck					1			2					
Gadwall		28						2					
American Wigeon								1					
American Black Duck		3						7					
Mallard	169	528	1	929	14		12	3,058		10			
Northern Shoveler								1					
Green-winged Teal								1					
Canvasback													
Redhead								1					
Ring-necked Duck					1								
Greater Scaup													
Lesser Scaup													
Long-tailed Duck													
Bufflehead													
Common Goldeneye		1,158	9		198		2	8					13
Hooded Merganser		2			1			18					
Common Merganser		904			1		6	433					
Red-breasted Merganser		7											
Ruddy Duck													
Gray Partridge	3				4		1	9				343	
Ring-necked Pheasant	89	1		70						10			
Ruffed Grouse			1				4		2	2			2
Spruce Grouse												1	
Sharp-tailed Grouse			1			5						1	
Greater Prairie-Chicken													
Wild Turkey	67	40		85	23			54		61		23	16
Common Loon													
Pied-billed Grebe								2					
Horned Grebe													
American White Pelican								3					
Double-crested Cormorant								5					
Great Blue Heron	1				1			1					
Bald Eagle	6	15	13	10	9	4	1	38		6	11	6	11
Northern Harrier				0				1					
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			1	1			7					1
Cooper's Hawk				0				1					
Northern Goshawk						2			1		1		
Red-shouldered Hawk								1					
Red-tailed Hawk	4	4	1	24			1	44		12		4	
Rough-legged Hawk	1		1	2			1	1				3	1
Golden Eagle													
American Kestrel	2			1									1
Merlin				1				2					
Prairie Falcon													
Gyr Falcon													
Peregrine Falcon								1					
American Coot		4											
Wilson's Snipe													
Ring-billed Gull		5						2					
Herring Gull								850					
Thayer's Gull								3					
Iceland Gull													
Glaucous Gull								2					
Black-legged Kittiwake								1					
Rock Pigeon	180	43	35	271	85	13	82	425		13	61		174
Eurasian Collared-Dove					8							7	
Mourning Dove	53	27	5	40	4		1	45		32		2	17
Eastern Screech-Owl				6									
Great Horned Owl	2			10	1		1	5				5	
Snowy Owl	1							1					
Northern Hawk Owl						5					1		
Barred Owl	1			11				4		2			0
Great Gray Owl			0			1				1			
Long-eared Owl												1	
Boreal Owl													
Northern Saw-whet Owl			0										
Belted Kingfisher	1			3				2		1			
Red-headed Woodpecker				1						5			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	13		26	18		1	34		11		6	0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker													
Downy Woodpecker	30	14	7	72	74	4	11	172	1	29	10	20	19
Hairy Woodpecker	11	8	21	15	28	4	8	59	6	8	14	19	29
American Three-toed Woodpecker									1				
Black-backed Woodpecker						2			3		1		

**Table 4. CBC totals for Albert Lea, Afton, Aurora, Austin, Battle Lake, Baudette, Bemidji, Bloomington, Beltrami Island, Cedar Creek Bog, Cook, Cottonwood, and Carlton-Cloquet.**

SPECIES	ABLEA	AFTON	AUROR	AUSTN	BATLK	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	CEDRC	COOK	COTTN	CRLCL
Northern Flicker		1			0			6		3			
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	1	1	12		9	4	4	6	1	1	3
Northern Shrike			1	1	3	2		2	1	4	1		2
Gray Jay			13						22		29		2
Blue Jay	90	26	94	168	108	3	100	116	2	232	78	20	76
Black-billed Magpie						15			1				
American Crow	315	114	34	986	257	6	66	1,013		241	34	71	66
Common Raven			126			120	23		27	0	60		36
Horned Lark	76			42	2			7				585	
Black-capped Chickadee	85	94	501	167	400	72	251	564	91	165	289	50	458
Boreal Chickadee									13				
Tufted Titmouse													
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	6	198	3	1	30	20	4	114	4	39		48
White-breasted Nuthatch	31	12	16	64	120	5	43	126	1	25	15	31	26
Brown Creeper				2			1	2			1	5	3
Carolina Wren	1			1				1					
Golden-crowned Kinglet													7
Eastern Bluebird			8						3				
Townsend's Solitaire													
Hermit Thrush								1					
American Robin	6	91		3			5	279		4		1	
Varied Thrush										1			
Gray Catbird													
European Starling	245	22	118	555	372	19	62	2,703		10	9	156	131
Bohemian Waxwing			221				175						0
Cedar Waxwing	3	70		1			1	74		100			
Yellow-rumped Warbler													
Eastern Towhee													
American Tree Sparrow	37	2		126	27			93		131		16	1
Fox Sparrow													
Song Sparrow	1	6		2				1					
White-throated Sparrow								8					
Harris's Sparrow					1								
Dark-eyed Junco	246	44	2	499	257		2	358		117	10	89	4
Lapland Longspur	52			76	11							79	
Snow Bunting	24	39		58	262	41			4		12	178	
Northern Cardinal	33	17	1	111	6	1		225		32	0	4	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak													
Red-winged Blackbird	1				1							2	
Rusty Blackbird	1												1
Brewer's Blackbird				1									
Common Grackle	2			2				1					
Brown-headed Cowbird	2			3									
Pine Grosbeak			304			16	2		49		144		61
Purple Finch	4	20	95	6	1		37	1		8	67		97
House Finch	50	2	1	214	55			294		28		25	20
Red Crossbill									26				37
White-winged Crossbill													
Common Redpoll		4	514	7	0	34	31		52	2	20		27
Hoary Redpoll													
Pine Siskin	6	8	668	6			199	7		11	68		171
American Goldfinch	68	29	11	139	281	1	8	279		45	245	25	34
Evening Grosbeak			17			0	20				67		21
House Sparrow	272		6	861	214	19	18	683		62	14	221	76
<b>Sum</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>7,555</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>6,345</b>	<b>3,405</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>13,542</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>1,693</b>
<b>Count Day</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Count Week</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
Red-shafted Flicker													
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco													
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco												1	
Hybrid Mallard													
scaup sp.							1						
grouse sp.									1				
accipiter sp.													
hawk sp.													
falcon sp.													
gull sp.													
woodpecker sp.										2			
jay sp.										1			
waxwing sp.													
sparrow sp.			2										
meadowlark sp.													
blackbird sp.													
crossbill sp.									12				
redpoll sp.													
carduelis sp.													
finch sp.													

Table 4, continued.

SPECIES	CROOK	CROSB	DLAKE	DULUT	ELY	EXCEL	FARIB	FERGS	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GRMAR	GRRAP
Snow Goose								2					
Cackling Goose									2				
Canada Goose			4	4	238		622	721	2,550	870	2,019	5	2
Mute Swan								1					
Trumpeter Swan			35				9	2	43				
Tundra Swan													
Wood Duck									1		0		
Gadwall				1		7							
American Wigeon									1			1	
American Black Duck				48		2	1					1	
Mallard				1,091		2,617	1,194	408	325	1,011		103	252
Northern Shoveler													
Green-winged Teal						1							
Canvasback						9		0					
Redhead						2			1				
Ring-necked Duck				1		10		2	3	0			
Greater Scaup				5									
Lesser Scaup			1			8		2					2
Long-tailed Duck													56
Bufflehead								1					2
Common Goldeneye				166	17	31	2	360	1			19	34
Hooded Merganser				1		6							
Common Merganser				14		1		0					1
Red-breasted Merganser				12								1	1
Ruddy Duck													
Gray Partridge										15			
Ring-necked Pheasant						12	52	47		134			
Ruffed Grouse		1		8	8							1	1
Spruce Grouse					1							0	
Sharp-tailed Grouse		27											
Greater Prairie-Chicken		192											
Wild Turkey			2	7		49	58		27	16			
Common Loon				1									
Pied-billed Grebe													
Horned Grebe												2	
American White Pelican													
Double-crested Cormorant													
Great Blue Heron								5		1			
Bald Eagle			4	4	18	3	12	29	7	5	1	8	22
Northern Harrier													
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0			0		3	2	5		2			
Cooper's Hawk						4				1			
Northern Goshawk		1		4									
Red-shouldered Hawk							1						
Red-tailed Hawk		3		1		32	31	1		13			
Rough-legged Hawk	1			5		3	1			3		1	
Golden Eagle				1		1							
American Kestrel								1					
Merlin				5						1	1		
Prairie Falcon													
Gyrfalcon													
Peregrine Falcon				1									
American Coot						20	1	10					6
Wilson's Snipe						1							
Ring-billed Gull													
Herring Gull				306									16
Thayer's Gull													
Iceland Gull													
Glaucous Gull				0									
Black-legged Kittiwake													
Rock Pigeon	101	127	62	964	38	291	225	457	54	52	65	49	92
Eurasian Collared-Dove													
Mourning Dove		15		33		76	111	2		10			24
Eastern Screech-Owl										1			
Great Horned Owl	1	1		2		2	1	3	2	2			4
Snowy Owl				2				0				0	
Northern Hawk Owl													
Barred Owl		1					1	1					2
Great Gray Owl													
Long-eared Owl													
Boreal Owl													1
Northern Saw-whet Owl							0						
Belted Kingfisher				1		2	4	3					
Red-headed Woodpecker							3						
Red-bellied Woodpecker			13	5	0	36	46	12	2	7			4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							1						
Downy Woodpecker	6	28	21	95	12	95	105	58	13	17	3	36	16
Hairy Woodpecker	5	29	11	51	15	62	48	31	10	6		21	22
American Three-toed Woodpecker													
Black-backed Woodpecker													

**Table 5. CBC totals for Crookston, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Ely, Excelsior, Faribault, Fergus Falls, Fargo-Moorhead, Fairmont, Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, Grand Marais, and Grand Rapids.**

SPECIES	CROOK	CROSB	DLAKE	DULUT	ELY	EXCEL	FARIB	FERGS	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GRMAR	GRRAP
Northern Flicker						5	2	1			1	1	
Pileated Woodpecker	2	18	3	11	8	9	11	13	5		1	1	12
Northern Shrike		1		6		2	1	2				2	6
Gray Jay					44							2	8
Blue Jay	6	192	33	68	42	146	161	59	13	41		58	124
Black-billed Magpie	4											1	
American Crow	29	97	54	673	2	369	749	159	96	116	19	19	150
Common Raven		4		135	144							107	56
Horned Lark			40			5	38	6	1	86	50	1	
Black-capped Chickadee	28	649	107	1,706	440	690	261	269	83	34	19	326	558
Boreal Chickadee					2								
Tufted Titmouse													
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	15		272	269	2	6	3		1	2	98	78
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	124	44	42	8	146	94	95	32	13	1	5	94
Brown Creeper		3		2	1	4	10	1	3	2		0	2
Carolina Wren													
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1			2		1			1				
Eastern Bluebird													
Townsend's Solitaire													
Hermit Thrush													
American Robin	0	1		49		170	32	11	1		9	2	2
Varied Thrush				1									
Gray Catbird												1	
European Starling	102	162	88	1,647	5	551	760	397	57	123	20	91	282
Bohemian Waxwing	9	116		379	31			2	1			218	2
Cedar Waxwing	0		34	14		67	170	14	8			197	
Yellow-rumped Warbler													
Eastern Towhee													
American Tree Sparrow						75	152	10		5			
Fox Sparrow													
Song Sparrow				2		2	3			1			
White-throated Sparrow				3		7	1	3		1		0	
Harris's Sparrow								1	2				
Dark-eyed Junco	17	47	17	48	1	293		168	41	119	25	23	4
Lapland Longspur							286	2	1				
Snow Bunting	646	39	41	4		4	180	3,299	163	9	70		200
Northern Cardinal		14	3	27		212	238	11		54		4	6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak													
Red-winged Blackbird					4			1					
Rusty Blackbird													
Brewer's Blackbird													
Common Grackle						1		1		1			2
Brown-headed Cowbird													
Pine Grosbeak		1		365	282							250	92
Purple Finch	0	20	25	1,309	123	9	2	3		4		87	78
House Finch	0	86	6	69		193	271	185	35	87	2		34
Red Crossbill		12		12									
White-winged Crossbill				1								7	
Common Redpoll		39		658	193							24	244
Hoary Redpoll				1									
Pine Siskin		31	5	2,669	867	13	17	5	6	0		62	230
American Goldfinch	1	177	12	152	114	262	186	62	18	58	9	96	118
Evening Grosbeak		18		260	145							37	72
House Sparrow	459	153	200	153	7	334	367	496	413	523	160	1	100
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>13,815</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>7,598</b>	<b>6,639</b>	<b>9,292</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>3,037</b>
<b>Count Day</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Count Week</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
Red-shafted Flicker													
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco							590				1		
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco													
Hybrid Mallard				9									
scaup sp.													
grouse sp.													
accipiter sp.													
hawk sp.							5						
falcon sp.													
gull sp.					1								
woodpecker sp.													
jay sp.													
waxwing sp.				49									
sparrow sp.													
meadowlark sp.													
blackbird sp.				1									
crossbill sp.								10					
redpoll sp.													
carduelis sp.													
finch sp.				1,641									

Table 5, continued.

SPECIES	HASTE	HENDR	HIBBG	HUTCH	IFALL	ISBEL	ITSCA	LAMBR	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPRL	MARSH
Snow Goose													
Cackling Goose	1			12									
Canada Goose	1,002	912	1	1,865				80		8		20,000	
Mute Swan													
Trumpeter Swan													
Tundra Swan													
Wood Duck													
Gadwall													
American Wigeon													
American Black Duck	4									1			
Mallard	887			689	25		1		3	16	10	68	
Northern Shoveler													
Green-winged Teal													
Canvasback				1									
Redhead													
Ring-necked Duck													
Greater Scaup													4
Lesser Scaup													
Long-tailed Duck													
Bufflehead													
Common Goldeneye	175				15				1				20
Hooded Merganser													2
Common Merganser	1,543			1	5								
Red-breasted Merganser													
Ruddy Duck				1									6
Gray Partridge	4							5				1	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	20	42		183	2			150	3	37	45	372	716
Ruffed Grouse			2		1	1	2				1		
Spruce Grouse						2							
Sharp-tailed Grouse					27								
Greater Prairie-Chicken													
Wild Turkey	53	162		25				9	55	14	15		15
Common Loon													
Pied-billed Grebe													
Horned Grebe													
American White Pelican													
Double-crested Cormorant													
Great Blue Heron													
Bald Eagle	32	15		9	2	4	4	1	57	7	4	8	1
Northern Harrier				2					2				
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	5		2					1		0		2
Cooper's Hawk				1					1				0
Northern Goshawk	1			1									
Red-shouldered Hawk	1									1			
Red-tailed Hawk	21	7		17				5	16	6	6	0	10
Rough-legged Hawk	1	4		4				3		1	3	1	4
Golden Eagle									1				
American Kestrel	2	6		0							0	1	5
Merlin	1												1
Prairie Falcon													
Gyr Falcon	1												
Peregrine Falcon													
American Coot									1				
Wilson's Snipe													
Ring-billed Gull	1												
Herring Gull	192												
Thayer's Gull													
Iceland Gull	1												
Glaucous Gull													
Black-legged Kittiwake													
Rock Pigeon	249	112	94	450	2			10	249	116	219		210
Eurasian Collared-Dove												3	
Mourning Dove	87	103		58	27			1	40	5	6	0	
Eastern Screech-Owl				1				0	1	1			
Great Horned Owl	2	3		10				3	4		2	1	5
Snowy Owl					0					1			
Northern Hawk Owl			1		2	1							
Barred Owl		2									0		
Great Gray Owl					1	1	1						
Long-eared Owl				1									
Boreal Owl													
Northern Saw-whet Owl													
Belted Kingfisher	2	1						1			1		1
Red-headed Woodpecker													
Red-bellied Woodpecker	34	42		22				7	18	3	19	2	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker													
Downy Woodpecker	59	96	9	127	6	78	3	19	12	11	30	14	36
Hairy Woodpecker	23	45	13	51	8	22	10	18	9	5	20	19	22
American Three-toed Woodpecker													
Black-backed Woodpecker						2							

**Table 6. CBC totals for Hastings-Etter, Henderson, Hibbing, Hutchinson, International Falls, Isabella, Itasca SP, Lamberton, LaCrosse-LaCrescent, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Lac Qui Parle, and Marshall.**

SPECIES	HASTE	HENDR	HIBBG	HUTCH	IFALL	ISBEL	ITSCA	LAMBR	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPRL	MARSH
Northern Flicker	4	1		12				3				4	2
Pileated Woodpecker	5	7	4	4	3	9	4		3			4	2
Northern Shrike	3	1	4	2	1		2		1	3	16	2	2
Gray Jay			15			43						2	1
Blue Jay	144	207	35	235	40	60	80	44	70	72	135	45	42
Black-billed Magpie					1								
American Crow	448	92	10	209	3	1	58	56	58	248	209	104	253
Common Raven			67		59	143	27						
Horned Lark	9			90				1,522	32	3	6	223	343
Black-capped Chickadee	200	212	261	215	63	334	201	37	129	61	129	57	115
Boreal Chickadee						23							
Tufted Titmouse	1								5				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	15	38	12	13	462	31			4	7		
White-breasted Nuthatch	53	129	15	128	8	6	35	21	22	13	56	27	54
Brown Creeper	4	1		16		2		7	1			4	14
Carolina Wren													
Golden-crowned Kinglet								1			2		
Eastern Bluebird	4								13				0
Townsend's Solitaire													
Hermit Thrush													
American Robin	356	8		6				3	2	1	2	130	8
Varied Thrush			1										
Gray Catbird													
European Starling	1,642	162	76	3,753	6			75	14	200	209	138	1,242
Bohemian Waxwing	2		52		51					24		1	1
Cedar Waxwing	21	59		21				50		12	6	129	64
Yellow-rumped Warbler													
Eastern Towhee													
American Tree Sparrow	82	117		284				26	312	1	36	5	11
Fox Sparrow													
Song Sparrow	2										1		
White-throated Sparrow			2	0	1						1		
Harris's Sparrow								2					1
Dark-eyed Junco	493	574	3	893		1		123	115	98	346	95	79
Lapland Longspur	1			238				498	8		0	14	35
Snow Bunting	198	134		408				476		35	454	86	25
Northern Cardinal	106	207	6	96				20	47	2	46	12	11
Rose-breasted Grosbeak													
Red-winged Blackbird		2		2	1			7	16		1		113
Rusty Blackbird		1		1				7					
Brewer's Blackbird													
Common Grackle	5	4	1	4				3	2		6		2
Brown-headed Cowbird	38												
Pine Grosbeak			45		158	195	18						
Purple Finch	13	84	35	28		73	26		4	4	1	1	13
House Finch	270	88	3	160				21	19	31	12	1	14
Red Crossbill						106							
White-winged Crossbill													
Common Redpoll		5	75		5	280	2	1		23	16		
Hoary Redpoll						1							
Pine Siskin	1		79		55	110	35			68	28		
American Goldfinch	164	89	26	243	12	38	144	54	55	10	246	92	47
Evening Grosbeak			51		65	27	44						
House Sparrow	395	524	31	981	4			111	353	20	160	75	599
<b>Sum</b>	<b>9,069</b>	<b>4,280</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>11,574</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>2,519</b>	<b>21,769</b>	<b>4,133</b>
<b>Count Day</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Count Week</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Red-shafted Flicker												1	1
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco								2					
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco													
Hybrid Mallard													
scaup sp.													
grouse sp.						1							
accipiter sp.								1				1	
hawk sp.													
falcon sp.													
gull sp.													
woodpecker sp.													
jay sp.													
waxwing sp.													
sparrow sp.													
meadowlark sp.								1					
blackbird sp.													
crossbill sp.						16							
redpoll sp.													
carduelis sp.													
finch sp.							20						

Table 6, continued.

SPECIES	MNKTO	MORIS	MPLSN	MTLKW	MURRY	NEWUL	NWRCO	OWATN	PHILB	PILGR	PINEC	RCHST	RLNWR
Snow Goose													0
Cackling Goose													20,000
Canada Goose	4	636	173	1			765	123		2			
Mute Swan													
Trumpeter Swan							819			27			
Tundra Swan							1						
Wood Duck													1
Gadwall													
American Wigeon													
American Black Duck				2				3					
Mallard	154	375	1,539				460	313		20		366	
Northern Shoveler													
Green-winged Teal													
Canvasback													
Redhead													
Ring-necked Duck													
Greater Scaup													
Lesser Scaup													
Long-tailed Duck													
Bufflehead													
Common Goldeneye				5			50	1		0		6	
Hooded Merganser								1					
Common Merganser							19			4			
Red-breasted Merganser													
Ruddy Duck													
Gray Partridge				16	25	40							0
Ring-necked Pheasant	52	121	2	369	212	58	34	77	3				53
Ruffed Grouse											2		3
Spruce Grouse													
Sharp-tailed Grouse													
Greater Prairie-Chicken													
Wild Turkey	41	6	0		7	32	85	88	3	0	6	223	
Common Loon													
Pied-billed Grebe													1
Horned Grebe													
American White Pelican													
Double-crested Cormorant							1						
Great Blue Heron		1		1					1				
Bald Eagle	7	2			0	4	7	4	1	12	2	20	5
Northern Harrier				1									
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3			1	0	3	1	3	1				3
Cooper's Hawk	2							5					5
Northern Goshawk		1							1				
Red-shouldered Hawk			1				1						
Red-tailed Hawk	19	1	2	7	3	3	17	12	2			50	2
Rough-legged Hawk				2			2		2		7	7	5
Golden Eagle										2			
American Kestrel	1				1	1	1	2					1
Merlin	1									1			
Prairie Falcon													
Gyrfalcon													
Peregrine Falcon													0
American Coot							4						
Wilson's Snipe													
Ring-billed Gull													
Herring Gull													
Thayer's Gull													
Iceland Gull													
Glaucous Gull													
Black-legged Kittiwake													
Rock Pigeon	267	57	130	193	11	164	93	189	197	56	42	562	24
Eurasian Collared-Dove													
Mourning Dove	20		22	5		6	13	73		1	23	152	
Eastern Screech-Owl				1								2	
Great Horned Owl	14		2	6	6			1	1			5	1
Snowy Owl													
Northern Hawk Owl											4		
Barred Owl								1		0	1	2	
Great Gray Owl												3	
Long-eared Owl	2												
Boreal Owl													
Northern Saw-whet Owl													
Belted Kingfisher				1						0		1	
Red-headed Woodpecker													
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	5	9	6	5	6	10	22		6	2	47	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker												1	
Downy Woodpecker	30	22	35	26	24	20	62	82	9	26	13	152	14
Hairy Woodpecker	19	8	10	6	16	6	14	23	4	9	16	32	20
American Three-toed Woodpecker													
Black-backed Woodpecker												2	

**Table 7. CBC totals for Mankato, Morris, Minneapolis (North), Mountain Lake-Windom, Murray County, New Ulm, North Wright County, Owatonna, Philbrook, Pillager, Pine County, Rochester, and Rice Lake NWR.**

SPECIES	MNKTO	MORIS	MPLSN	MTLKW	MURRY	NEWUL	NWRCO	OWATN	PHILB	PILGR	PINEC	RCHST	RLNWR
Northern Flicker	1	2	2	2	2							9	
Pileated Woodpecker	2		4			1	9	2		16	7	11	4
Northern Shrike			3				2		8	2	8	5	6
Gray Jay													
Blue Jay	69	20	113	46	48	37	177	142	44	93	142	252	121
Black-billed Magpie													
American Crow	635	46	431	86	33	87	172	485	189	160	57	981	111
Common Raven									1	2	71		14
Horned Lark	35	106		41	177	87	1	45	24	1		44	
Black-capped Chickadee	88	42	173	21	34	41	234	203	86	247	226	501	317
Boreal Chickadee													
Tufted Titmouse													
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1					1	2	1	10	28	9	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	30	60	12	18	26	84	76	17	46	17	136	20
Brown Creeper			2	2	1		2	3		1	2	2	
Carolina Wren								1					
Golden-crowned Kinglet													1
Eastern Bluebird												4	
Townsend's Solitaire													
Hermit Thrush												362	
American Robin	3		12				1	5					1
Varied Thrush										1			
Gray Catbird													
European Starling	523	38	342	530	13	152	1,064	175	80	24	232	1,023	54
Bohemian Waxwing									1		106		16
Cedar Waxwing	92			32			58		29		9	244	
Yellow-rumped Warbler					1								
Eastern Towhee													
American Tree Sparrow	14	10	82	3	1	32	39	142	31	0	15	134	
Fox Sparrow													0
Song Sparrow			1										2
White-throated Sparrow	3			2									6
Harris's Sparrow													
Dark-eyed Junco	160	57	100	34	61	96	206	566	46	66		521	
Lapland Longspur	42	3				14		3	6				59
Snow Bunting	17	286		288	9	14	78	159	349	344	113		30
Northern Cardinal	60	8	32	1	2	21	82	127	3	3		268	4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak													
Red-winged Blackbird	2		0	1									1
Rusty Blackbird								1					
Brewer's Blackbird													
Common Grackle				1		1		1					2
Brown-headed Cowbird													
Pine Grosbeak											47		15
Purple Finch	1							35		20	16	13	6
House Finch	90	7	126	79	22	9	163	240				452	3
Red Crossbill										24	13		
White-winged Crossbill											4		
Common Redpoll									1	36	500	1	90
Hoary Redpoll											1		
Pine Siskin	1				5					37	38	2	
American Goldfinch	26	68	53	0	130	44	88	142	513	67	49	165	57
Evening Grosbeak													7
House Sparrow	158	678	152	480	214	109	899	502	43	39	43	1,141	66
<b>Sum</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>3,622</b>	<b>2,302</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>5,823</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,867</b>	<b>28,070</b>	<b>997</b>
<b>Count Day</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Count Week</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
Red-shafted Flicker					0								
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco													
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco													
Hybrid Mallard													
scaup sp.													
grouse sp.													
accipiter sp.										1			
hawk sp.					1								
falcon sp.													
gull sp.													
woodpecker sp.													
jay sp.													
waxwing sp.													
sparrow sp.													
meadowlark sp.													
blackbird sp.													
crossbill sp.													
redpoll sp.					2								
carduelis sp.										25			
finch sp.													

Table 7, continued.

SPECIES	ROSEU	ROTHS	RWFAL	SCCLG	SHNWR	SPNES	SPNOR	SXZIM	THRBR	TMNWR	VIRGN	WABAS	WARRN
Snow Goose													
Cackling Goose													
Canada Goose			12	546	55	657	1,326				3		687
Mute Swan													
Trumpeter Swan				1	13	43	3				1		4
Tundra Swan													
Wood Duck							3						1
Gadwall						21	2						
American Wigeon													
American Black Duck						4	9						1
Mallard			4	1,680	2	1,081	4,822			5	5	85	177
Northern Shoveler													1
Green-winged Teal													
Canvasback													
Redhead													
Ring-necked Duck							1	1					
Greater Scaup													
Lesser Scaup													
Long-tailed Duck													
Bufflehead									7				
Common Goldeneye				314			203		13				338
Hooded Merganser				0			10				2		3
Common Merganser				10		39	47		3				168
Red-breasted Merganser							3		2				
Ruddy Duck							1						
Gray Partridge	4	59											45
Ring-necked Pheasant		77	10	3	21	59	1			1			10
Ruffed Grouse	1					2		1	4	2	2		1
Spruce Grouse											1		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	13												60
Greater Prairie-Chicken		359											13
Wild Turkey		5	6	16	65	279	15						29
Common Loon									1				
Pied-billed Grebe									7				
Horned Grebe													
American White Pelican							1						
Double-crested Cormorant													
Great Blue Heron		2			1	0	17						1
Bald Eagle	3	3	1	6	3	37	50	5	15	8	4		96
Northern Harrier													2
Sharp-shinned Hawk				2		1	7						3
Cooper's Hawk			1			1	3						
Northern Goshawk			1			1			2				
Red-shouldered Hawk						5	1						
Red-tailed Hawk			12	3	3	38	61		3				29
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3	6	3	2	0	1	10	2				5
Golden Eagle		0											1
American Kestrel		2	1		0		3						7
Merlin		0							1				
Prairie Falcon	1												
Gyrfalcon													
Peregrine Falcon						0	4						
American Coot							3				1		
Wilson's Snipe						1							1
Ring-billed Gull							59						
Herring Gull						0	44		74				
Thayer's Gull													
Iceland Gull													
Glaucous Gull													
Black-legged Kittiwake													
Rock Pigeon	206	114	50	283	33	309	2,154	7	109		246	114	227
Eurasian Collared-Dove													
Mourning Dove			2	2	12	279	22		2	3			58
Eastern Screech-Owl					0		1						
Great Horned Owl		3		1	0	6	6			1			2
Snowy Owl	7						0		0				
Northern Hawk Owl	12												
Barred Owl						8	3						3
Great Gray Owl	3											1	
Long-eared Owl										1			
Boreal Owl													
Northern Saw-whet Owl													0
Belted Kingfisher					1		2						6
Red-headed Woodpecker							2						
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1	2	8	8	55	17			7			22
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker													1
Downy Woodpecker	7	10	16	14	21	210	131	2	42	24	7	39	5
Hairy Woodpecker	9	5	1	4	6	69	43	8	19	13	8	9	6
American Three-toed Woodpecker													
Black-backed Woodpecker	5							3			1		

**Table 8. CBC totals for Roseau, Rothsay NWR, Redwood Falls, St. Cloud-Collegeville, Sherburne NWR, St. Paul (NE Suburban), St. Paul (North), Sax-Zim, Two Harbors, Tamarac NWR, Virginia, Wabasha, and Warren.**

SPECIES	ROSEU	ROTHS	RWFAL	SCCLG	SHNWR	SPNES	SPNOR	SXZIM	THRBR	TMNWR	VIRGN	WABAS	WARRN
Northern Flicker	1		0			3	7					3	
Pileated Woodpecker	1		2	3	3	28	8		4	6	2	7	1
Northern Shrike	1	3			1	8	3	4	3	1	2	3	
Gray Jay	9							8	1		5		
Blue Jay	17	49	7	59	173	388	87	20	49	94	66	100	13
Black-billed Magpie	8							14					6
American Crow	46	23	152	222	182	1,032	1,298	18	74	13	50	282	10
Common Raven	49					1		128	201	22	112		
Horned Lark		11	30										7
Black-capped Chickadee	63	48	22	131	94	1,196	648	170	783	211	415	140	29
Boreal Chickadee	1							2			1		
Tufted Titmouse													2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11			2		23	2	21	342	11	62	2	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	7	10	30	15	207	131	8	21	44	16	30	6
Brown Creeper			3	3	1	5	11		1			1	
Carolina Wren							1						
Golden-crowned Kinglet													
Eastern Bluebird						13							3
Townsend's Solitaire					0								
Hermit Thrush													
American Robin				1	2	380	299				2	80	
Varied Thrush			0	1					1				
Gray Catbird													
European Starling	204	189	70	373	18	810	1,251	57	196		366	827	18
Bohemian Waxwing	25								65		191		
Cedar Waxwing	5	24			34	883	47		14			45	
Yellow-rumped Warbler													
Eastern Towhee													
American Tree Sparrow		24	12	31	211	288	166				1	180	
Fox Sparrow							1						
Song Sparrow							1		1				
White-throated Sparrow			1		3	3	6		2		2		
Harris's Sparrow			1										
Dark-eyed Junco		71	95	79	173	685	255	1	19	8	1	327	65
Lapland Longspur		18										80	
Snow Bunting	250	333				16		43		384		40	492
Northern Cardinal			7	11	30	355	200		6		2	88	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak						1							
Red-winged Blackbird		36		3		1							
Rusty Blackbird										1			
Brewer's Blackbird													
Common Grackle													
Brown-headed Cowbird													
Pine Grosbeak	4							94	140	0	269		
Purple Finch	1		2			40		23	1,195	10	23	26	
House Finch	5		3	44	2	342	359		27		12	62	
Red Crossbill													
White-winged Crossbill								2				1	
Common Redpoll	3			36	0	23	6	8	212		75		
Hoary Redpoll													
Pine Siskin			4	8	6	100	1	69	1,081	46	153		
American Goldfinch		1	2	26	32	385	327	1	8	80	14	48	
Evening Grosbeak	3							89	4	23	26		
House Sparrow	369	426	55	146		189	1,090		26	66	26	161	305
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>10,613</b>	<b>15,284</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>4,359</b>	<b>1,309</b>
<b>Count Day</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Count Week</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

Red-shafted Flicker  
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco  
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco  
Hybrid Mallard  
scaup sp.  
grouse sp.  
accipiter sp.  
hawk sp.  
falcon sp.  
gull sp.  
woodpecker sp.  
jay sp.  
waxwing sp.  
sparrow sp.  
meadowlark sp.  
blackbird sp.  
crossbill sp.  
redpoll sp.  
carduelis sp.  
finch sp.

Table 8, continued.

SPECIES	WILDR	WILMR	WINON
Snow Goose			
Cackling Goose			
Canada Goose	7	2	21
Mute Swan			
Trumpeter Swan			
Tundra Swan			
Wood Duck			
Gadwall			
American Wigeon			
American Black Duck			2
Mallard	7	74	354
Northern Shoveler			
Green-winged Teal			1
Canvasback			
Redhead			
Ring-necked Duck		2	
Greater Scaup			
Lesser Scaup			
Long-tailed Duck			
Bufflehead			
Common Goldeneye		1	
Hooded Merganser			1
Common Merganser		2	
Red-breasted Merganser			
Ruddy Duck			
Gray Partridge			
Ring-necked Pheasant	45	249	
Ruffed Grouse	4		1
Spruce Grouse			
Sharp-tailed Grouse			
Greater Prairie-Chicken			
Wild Turkey	179	65	52
Common Loon			
Pied-billed Grebe			
Horned Grebe			
American White Pelican			
Double-crested Cormorant			
Great Blue Heron		1	
Bald Eagle	19	1	205
Northern Harrier		1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2
Northern Goshawk			
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		
Red-tailed Hawk	21	1	45
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	11
Golden Eagle			1
American Kestrel			8
Merlin			
Prairie Falcon			
Gyrfalcon			
Peregrine Falcon			
American Coot		1	
Wilson's Snipe		2	
Ring-billed Gull			
Herring Gull	1		
Thayer's Gull			
Iceland Gull			
Glaucous Gull			
Black-legged Kittiwake			
Rock Pigeon	179	137	680
Eurasian Collared-Dove			
Mourning Dove	78	0	106
Eastern Screech-Owl			
Great Horned Owl	1	1	1
Snowy Owl			1
Northern Hawk Owl			
Barred Owl			2
Great Gray Owl			
Long-eared Owl			
Boreal Owl			
Northern Saw-whet Owl			
Belted Kingfisher		2	
Red-headed Woodpecker			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	33	13	50
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Downy Woodpecker	95	59	84
Hairy Woodpecker	35	16	28
American Three-toed Woodpecker			
Black-backed Woodpecker			

SPECIES	WILDR	WILMR	WINON
Northern Flicker	1	4	
Pileated Woodpecker	15	15	7
Northern Shrike	2	1	1
Gray Jay			
Blue Jay	207	84	153
Black-billed Magpie			
American Crow	329	208	358
Common Raven	1		
Horned Lark		64	62
Black-capped Chickadee	433	140	282
Boreal Chickadee			
Tufted Titmouse			11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		2
White-breasted Nuthatch	118	68	109
Brown Creeper	1	5	1
Carolina Wren			
Golden-crowned Kinglet			
Eastern Bluebird	5		6
Townsend's Solitaire		0	
Hermit Thrush		1	
American Robin	1	9	27
Varied Thrush			
Gray Catbird			
European Starling	296	358	357
Bohemian Waxwing	8		
Cedar Waxwing	253	50	27
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Eastern Towhee			1
American Tree Sparrow	196	98	339
Fox Sparrow			
Song Sparrow		0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	2	3
Harris's Sparrow			
Dark-eyed Junco	320	241	749
Lapland Longspur		130	10
Snow Bunting		202	
Northern Cardinal	96	45	108
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Red-winged Blackbird		203	
Rusty Blackbird			
Brewer's Blackbird			
Common Grackle			
Brown-headed Cowbird			
Pine Grosbeak			
Purple Finch	32	39	5
House Finch	45	110	241
Red Crossbill			
White-winged Crossbill			
Common Redpoll			
Hoary Redpoll			
Pine Siskin	19		4
American Goldfinch	249	78	259
Evening Grosbeak			
House Sparrow	127	222	557
<b>Sum</b>	<b>3,467</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>5,337</b>
<b>Count Day</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Count Week</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
Red-shafted Flicker			
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco			
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco			
Hybrid Mallard			
scaup sp.			
grouse sp.			
accipiter sp.			
hawk sp.			
falcon sp.			
gull sp.			
woodpecker sp.			
jay sp.			
waxwing sp.			
sparrow sp.			
meadowlark sp.			
blackbird sp.			
crossbill sp.			
redpoll sp.			
carduelis sp.			
finch sp.			

**Table 9. CBC totals for Wild River, Willmar, and Winona.**

SPECIES	TOTAL COUNTS	TOTAL BIRDS	SPECIES	TOTAL COUNTS	TOTAL BIRDS
Snow Goose	1	2	Northern Flicker	29	84
Cackling Goose	4	15	Pileated Woodpecker	59	359
Canada Goose	43	63,145	Northern Shrike	46	127
Mute Swan	1	1	Gray Jay	13	201
Trumpeter Swan	15	1,396	Blue Jay	67	6,135
Tundra Swan	1	1	Black-billed Magpie	8	50
Wood Duck	7	9	American Crow	67	15,254
Gadwall	6	61	Common Raven	27	1,736
American Wigeon	3	3	Horned Lark	36	3,902
American Black Duck	14	88	Black-capped Chickadee	68	17,389
Mallard	43	24,944	Boreal Chickadee	6	42
Northern Shoveler	2	2	Tufted Titmouse	4	19
Green-winged Teal	3	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	52	2,341
Canvasback	3	10	White-breasted Nuthatch	68	3,184
Redhead	3	4	Brown Creeper	42	138
Ring-necked Duck	9	21	Carolina Wren	5	5
Greater Scaup	1	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	16
Lesser Scaup	5	17	Eastern Bluebird	10	59
Long-tailed Duck	1	56	Townsend's Solitaire	2	0
Bufflehead	3	10	Hermit Thrush	2	2
Common Goldeneye	28	3,160	American Robin	40	2,366
Hooded Merganser	12	47	Varied Thrush	8	7
Common Merganser	19	3,201	Gray Catbird	1	1
Red-breasted Merganser	6	26	European Starling	64	25,844
Ruddy Duck	3	8	Bohemian Waxwing	24	1,697
Gray Partridge	14	228	Cedar Waxwing	38	2,961
Ring-necked Pheasant	41	3,795	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	1
Ruffed Grouse	26	60	Eastern Towhee	1	1
Spruce Grouse	6	7	American Tree Sparrow	44	3,598
Sharp-tailed Grouse	7	134	Fox Sparrow	2	1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	3	564	Song Sparrow	16	27
Wild Turkey	43	2,078	White-throated Sparrow	23	61
Common Loon	2	2	Harris's Sparrow	6	8
Pied-billed Grebe	2	3	Dark-eyed Junco	60	10,253
Horned Grebe	2	9	Lapland Longspur	24	1,666
American White Pelican	2	4	Snow Bunting	46	10,536
Double-crested Cormorant	2	6	Northern Cardinal	54	3,115
Great Blue Heron	14	34	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1
Bald Eagle	62	909	Red-winged Blackbird	20	398
Northern Harrier	6	7	Rusty Blackbird	7	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	33	71	Brewer's Blackbird	1	1
Cooper's Hawk	17	30	Common Grackle	19	42
Northern Goshawk	12	17	Brown-headed Cowbird	3	43
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	13	Pine Grosbeak	22	2,551
Red-tailed Hawk	44	597	Purple Finch	49	3,765
Rough-legged Hawk	41	118	House Finch	52	4,719
Golden Eagle	7	7	Red Crossbill	7	230
American Kestrel	22	47	White-winged Crossbill	5	15
Merlin	11	15	Common Redpoll	36	3,247
Prairie Falcon	1	1	Hoary Redpoll	3	3
Gyrfalcon	1	1	Pine Siskin	43	6,999
Peregrine Falcon	5	6	American Goldfinch	65	6,562
American Coot	9	50	Evening Grosbeak	20	996
Wilson's Snipe	5	6	House Sparrow	62	17,354
Ring-billed Gull	4	67			
Herring Gull	8	1,483	<b>Sum</b>		<b>286,043</b>
Thayer's Gull	1	3	<b>Count Day</b>		<b>132</b>
Iceland Gull	1	1	<b>Count Week</b>		<b>2</b>
Glaucous Gull	2	2			
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	1	Red-shafted Flicker	3	2
Rock Pigeon	62	12,503	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	3	593
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	18	Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco	1	1
Mourning Dove	46	1,703	Hybrid Mallard	2	11
Eastern Screech-Owl	10	14	scaup sp.	1	1
Great Horned Owl	41	130	grouse sp.	2	2
Snowy Owl	11	13	accipiter sp.	3	3
Northern Hawk Owl	7	26	hawk sp.	3	7
Barred Owl	19	45	falcon sp.	1	3
Great Gray Owl	8	11	gull sp.	1	1
Long-eared Owl	4	5	woodpecker sp.	1	2
Boreal Owl	1	1	jay sp.	1	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	0	waxwing sp.	1	49
Belted Kingfisher	20	36	sparrow sp.	1	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	11	meadowlark sp.	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	50	751	blackbird sp.	1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	3	crossbill sp.	3	38
Downy Woodpecker	68	2,749	redpoll sp.	1	2
Hairy Woodpecker	67	1,268	carduelis sp.	1	25
American Three-toed Woodpecker	1	1	finch sp.	3	1,735
Black-backed Woodpecker	8	19			
			<b>Sum</b>		<b>2,480</b>
					<b>288,523</b>

Table 10. Cumulative totals.

# BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

## *A Second Look at Photographs*

**Kim R. Eckert**



So, wouldn't these "Hindsight" articles about bird identification be improved by including photographs? Why not show the field marks under consideration, not just talk about them? Sure, why not! But wait, on second thought, maybe the use of photos here wouldn't necessarily be all that great.

For me, the problem started in earnest back in 1980, with the very first installment in a long series of regular photo quizzes in *Birding*, journal of the American Birding Association. The subject was a so-called mystery photo of a bird which was later identified in the following issue as a "Heerman's" Gull (*Birding* 12:87). No, the problem I had wasn't so much that "Heermann's" was misspelled, but that the analysis advised the reader to note the unstreaked body of the bird in the photo, along with the size and position of its eyes. However, you couldn't tell from the photo whether or not the body was streaked, and you couldn't really see the eyes.

As a result, the reader was probably left wondering if this quiz had much value, since the photo failed to illustrate two field marks the text said were there. So what went wrong? Was the original photo a poor choice to have readers identify? Did the printing process fail to adequately reproduce the photo? Did the author even see how the photo would look before

writing about it? (Perhaps he never even saw it at all, with the editor pulling it from his archives.) Or, worse, could the photo have been misidentified in the first place, with the field marks unreliable, non-existent, and more imagined than real?

Unfortunately, this example from over 25 years ago is not nearly as isolated as you might believe, and it's not just a quarter-century-old occurrence that ceased to be a problem long ago. This still happens all the time. Over the years I have repeatedly found books and journal articles on bird ID with too many photo captions or text references which are inconsistent with the printed image. Many of these cases have simply been the result of human error which escaped the notice of proofreaders. For example, a photo or caption is lost in the shuffle and ends up being printed in the wrong place. Or perhaps an author inadvertently writes something he never meant to say, or an editor mistakenly deletes a sentence or paragraph.

But human error is simply unavoidable and entirely understandable, and that's not my complaint. The problem is when the text, captions, editing, layout, and photos are all printed as intended, but the photos still fail to show — or they even contradict — the field marks discussed, and neither the editor, author, or reader seems to notice or care.

It would be impossible and serve little purpose to include here a long list of photos inconsistent with their captions, but note they appear in books on identification as well as in journals. Consider these examples in three otherwise excellent references which took only a few minutes to find:

- *A Field Guide to Hawks of North America* by Clark and Wheeler, p. 127 — The caption for an adult White-tailed Kite photo says the white tail is “distinctive,” but the tail is in shadow and appears dark gray.

- *The Shorebird Guide* by O’Brien, Crossley, and Karlson, p. 166 — The photo caption for a Baird’s Sandpiper with a group of three Leasts refers to its “dark legs,” but the legs look light gray and paler than those of the Leasts.

- *Sparrows of the United States and Canada: The Photographic Guide* by Rising, p. 81 — The Chipping Sparrow caption mentions a “narrow white supercilium,” but in the photo it is broad and medium gray.

Turning again to birding journals, American Birding Association’s *North American Birds* (hereafter *N.A.B.*; formerly *American Birds*) is widely read and, like *Birding*, has a long history of articles with identification information. Unfortunately, inadequate photos frequently illustrate them, as evidenced by these examples in the three most recent issues:

- The text in the account of California’s first Stonechat record (*N.A.B.* 60:308–309) states the photographs show a bird with “very long tarsi”: there are four photos, and in all the legs are quite difficult if not impossible to discern.

- The documentation for the first U.S. record of Parkinson’s Petrel (*N.A.B.* 60:166–169) refers to a photo allegedly showing feet projecting beyond the tail (they don’t), and to two other photos supposedly showing tail shape (it’s not visible in either photo).

- The caption for a Nazca Booby photo in Hawaii (*N.A.B.* 59:667) states the “bright orange bill.....is clearly visible in the image,” but the photo is black-and-white!

But since *Birding* has long printed so many ID articles and photo quizzes, most of the dozens of less-than-adequate photos I could cite are in this journal. Here are just a few examples from photo quizzes in recent years:

- The ID of a Red-tailed Hawk (*Birding* 36:521) is said to be determined by its pale flight feathers, dark brown upper wings, and pale sides of chest; none of these features is visible in the photo to any useful extent.

- The ID of a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the next page is supposedly based on the type of streaking and paleness on the underparts, the under tail coverts streaking, and the colors of the tail bands and on the upper tail coverts; again, none of these can be confidently determined in the photo.

- To my eye, the Mottled Duck photo in another quiz (*Birding* 37:194) clearly shows what I would describe as an obvious and blackish eye-line along with an equally blackish crown. So why does the text claim its eye-line is “not as pronounced as in Mallard, and the crown is paler”?

- Even more puzzling and frustrating is the next photo on the following page, which is allegedly and dubiously identified as a leucistic Cackling Goose of the subspecies *butchinsii*, because of its stubby bill (hard to see), short neck (angled away and hard to judge), relatively paler breast (mostly in shadow), and pale underwings (they look back-lit and thus unnaturally pale).

It’s the most recent issue of *Birding*, however, which perhaps contains the most glaring — and controversial — example of an ID article with photos and captions at odds with each other. The article is “Advances in the Field Identification of North American Dowitchers” (*Birding* 38:34–42), and you might recall my recent criticisms of an earlier on-line version of this article (see ***The Loon*** 78:48–52). One interesting aspect of all this is that several readers have been highly critical of the article on the “Frontiers of Field Identification” listserv, and in response the

authors and the Editor of *Birding* have defended it. But, unlike most other ID articles over the years with photos of dubious merit, at least birders are paying attention to the deficiencies in this one.

The problems with the photos and alleged field marks are many, but especially unfortunate is the reversal of captions of the article's featured photos at the beginning, a result of an editing error. The dowitcher labeled as Long-billed on p. 34 is actually a Short-billed Dowitcher photographed in Churchill, and the one labeled as Short-billed on p. 35 is a Long-billed Dowitcher from Alaska.

But even more convoluted and confusing is a litany of field marks which may or may not be useful distinctions between the two dowitchers. There are at least nine of them which are either inconclusive in the article's photos, or actually contradicted by them! So, how is the reader supposed to know if the features are solidly diagnostic, just possibly useful at times, or entirely unreliable?

- **Loral angle.** There is math involving the relative eye positions of the two dowitchers, but it's not worth explaining. It's enough to say that the photos in figure 1, which are supposed to illustrate the difference, fall into the broad area of overlap between the species and thus fail to prove anything. Even worse, the featured Short-billed Dowitcher on p. 34 actually measures out to have a Long-billed's loral angle. And the caption for the photo of four Long-billed Dowitchers (figure 2) says to note their "low angle angle" — well, I'd like to, but three of the birds are asleep and impossible to measure, and the fourth is too small to confidently measure anything.

- **Supercilium shape.** Supposedly, a Short-billed's supercilium arches or curves up over the eyes more than the Long-billed's straighter supercilium. Supposedly. That same unhelpful Long-billed photo used to show loral angles (figure 2) is just as useless when it comes to showing any sign of a "straight supercilium" mentioned in the caption. Even more undermining are four other Long-billed Dow-

itcher photos (p. 35, figures 3, 6, and 9a), each showing a supercilium every bit as "arched" as on a Short-billed.

- **Bill shape.** The article claims Short-billeds have slight but noticeably down-curved bills, while the bills are straighter on Long-billeds. If so, why do the two species in the figure 1 photos show essentially identical bill shapes? How can the captions for two photos (figures 4 and 6) claim they illustrate bill shapes when they're partly underwater? And the Long-billed's bill in another photo (figure 9b) sure looks slightly downcurved to me.

- **Forehead shape.** If a Short-billed has a steeper forehead than a Long-billed, why is there no visible difference in two side-by-side photos of the two species (p. 34–35 and figure 6)?

- **Lower back profile.** We're told a Long-billed's lower back profile is relatively concave and a Short-billed's is straighter. Yeah, right! By now I'm sure you can guess there are photos which show the opposite: p. 35, figure 2, and especially figure 4. (And by now I'd understand if you don't want to look at more defective photos, but at least look at figure 4, which clearly shows a Short-billed with a classic Long-billed profile.)

- **Primary projection.** The captions for four photos (figures 2, 5, 9a, and 9b) advise us to check out the primary projections, said to be noticeably shorter on Long-billed and longer on Short-billed. I sure would like to, but none of them are clearly visible. (Indeed, of the article's 12 photos, only one of them shows an unambiguous primary extension.)

- **Tail barring.** The photo caption for figure 9a says this Long-billed's "black stripes on the tail feathers are distinctly thicker than the white stripes." I'd believe this if I could, since there is an average difference in the two species' tail barring. But (you guessed it) the tail is nowhere to be seen, and I'm not inclined at this point to take the authors' word for it.

- **Basic plumage.** (Hang in there, we're almost done!) An average difference between basic-plumaged dowitchers involves the darkness of chest and chin: i.e.,

Long-billed with darker gray chest and chin; Short-billed with paler chest and whiter chin. There are three photos showing basic-plumaged dowitchers (figures, 2, 3, and 4). Guess how many successfully illustrate this distinction.

• Alternate plumage. Finally, and mercifully, there are four photos provided to illustrate alternate-plumage differences between the two dowitchers. Naturally, figure 6 is out-of-focus, and the birds in figures 8, 9a, and 9b are too small to clearly discern the subtle plumage distinctions.

There are so many more examples of ID references with inadequate ID photos. And I haven't even begun to complain about those illustrated with unsatisfactory paintings and other artwork. I could go on, but I won't. Suffice it to say that a picture may normally be worth a thousand words, but when it comes to bird identification references, too many of their photographs have been worth a lot less.

**1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.**

# NOTES OF INTEREST



**CALIFORNIA GULL IN DAKOTA COUNTY** — On 30 March 2005, I was scanning a field near the Pine Bend landfill in Inver Grove Heights (Dakota County). The weather was overcast. The field was full of Ring-billed Gulls and a few Herring Gulls, but I also noticed an adult-type gull with dark eyes bathing in a puddle near the road. At first, I thought it might be a Thayer's Gull, but when I put my scope on the bird, I quickly realized it was a California Gull. The eyes were entirely dark at close range through the scope, but I did not note or couldn't see the orbital ring color. The bill was yellowish with a conspicuous and classic double red and black mark at the gonys. The gape was red. The legs were yellowish-straw, not as deep yellow as adjacent adult Ring-billed Gulls, but with no tinge of pink. The mantle was slightly darker than the adjacent Ring-billed Gulls and appeared uniformly gray throughout. In structure, this bird was larger than the Ring-billed Gulls. The bill was straight and narrow (upper and lower mandibles were parallel-sided without any noticeable swelling at the gonys); the head was dome-shaped and the crown very high and rounded. The bird flew off from the puddle where it was bathing shortly after I found it, and landed within the mass of other gulls. By this time, it was raining, but I took two photographs of the bird anyway. **Karl Bardon, 8509 Elliot Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55425.**



**CAROLINA WREN IN CLAY COUNTY** — On 11 October 2005 at about noon, I returned from birding Moorhead's Gooseberry Park and decided to watch the feeder area behind my house from a porch swing in our yard. Almost immediately, I saw a bird about the size of a White-breasted Nuthatch fly out from beneath our deck. I immediately recognized it as a Carolina Wren and was about to follow it for a better look when it flew back to the deck and landed on the railing about 40 feet from me.



I had a clear side view of a rather large wren with a broad, bold, white eye line, a disproportionately long decurved bill (compared to the bill length vs. body size of a House Wren), and reddish-brown head and upper body plumage. Its throat to the upper breast was white, while from its breast downward it was washed with a warm, unstreaked cinnamon. The wings showed whitish speckles within the general mosaic of brown to reddish-brown, but my look was a little too quick for me to sort the pattern out more precisely. Its tail was approximately wedge-shaped and certainly more substantial than a House Wren's tail. After two or three hops on the railing, the wren flew to the floor of the deck, again made two or three hops, and flew off. The bird had made no sounds. Despite a half hour search and daily backyard observations, I never saw the bird again. **Bob O'Connor, 1625 – 3rd Street S., Moorhead, MN 56560.**

**BARN OWL SPECIMEN FROM NORTH OAKS, RAMSEY COUNTY** — On 20 January 2006, a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) was picked up dead by Kris Neilsen near his home at the north end of Long Lake in North Oaks, Ramsey County. The bird had apparently flown into a window sometime during the previous night and died.

When measured, the bird, a female, weighed 409g and had a wing chord of 326mm. The ovary was 15 x 4mm, with a granular character, suggesting that this bird was in its second calendar year. She had no subcutaneous body fat, and an empty stomach. Molt was noted only in the back, belly, and nape feather patches. Several signs of trauma were evident, including blood on the left middle toe and the bill as well as a small cut on the skin at the bottom edge of the sternum with adjacent bruising. These markings are fairly consistent with a collision. After examination, the specimen was donated to the collection at the Bell Museum of Natural History. It has been catalogued as BMNH # 46219, prepared as a standard (round) study skin with a detached spread wing, and a tissue sample (heart and breast muscle) was frozen. This is the eighth specimen of Barn Owl in the Bell Museum collection. The collection dates on the other specimens are 1916, 1917, 1922, 1955, 1980, 1990, and 1995.

In Minnesota, the Barn Owl is a very rare and occasionally breeding species primarily in the south-central and southwestern regions, and there is nothing in the literature to indicate that its status in the state has ever been otherwise. Though Barn Owls have occurred in all seasons, most records are from the fall. There are about 55 documented records dating from September 1891 when one was discovered near Waterville, Le Sueur County. Several additional older references are difficult to evaluate and contain no dates or locations. There are fewer than ten records before 1910, then a surge in reports from 1910–1929 with 26 records. Another spike occurred in the 1960s with ten records between 1960–1964.

Thanks to Mike Westberg for providing information on extant Bell Museum specimens. **Andrew W. Jones, Department of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle, Cleveland, OH 44106;**

**Anthony X. Hertz, 8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.**

**GYRFALCON IN WALTER TOWNSHIP, LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY** — On 6 February 2006, I left home a little after noon, heading into western Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties to look for Sharp-tailed Grouse. On County Road 28 about half a mile east of its junction with County Road 7, there is a single red building and some large cottonwoods on the south side of the road. As I passed these trees, I looked back over my shoulder and could clearly see a large raptor perched on top of its prey in the snow. I knew immediately it was not a Red-tailed or



Rough-legged hawk and thought it looked like a possible Gyrfalcon or Northern Gos-hawk. I stopped the car over 150 yards west of the bird, and when I got out to look, it flew; I knew then it was certainly a Gyrfalcon. It flew across the road and perched in a large cottonwood tree.

I slowly backed the car up until I was directly across from the perched bird. It did not flush and grew increasingly relaxed during the observation until it paid little attention to me as it preened and stretched and eyed the White-breasted Nuthatch just a few feet away. I was now about 20 yards from the tree it was perched in. I watched it from 12:30 to 1:15 P.M. with a 20–60 x 78mm Raven scope. I was able to take several photographs and make a sketch of the bird during this time. Across the road, I could see that its kill had been a Ring-necked Pheasant.

The Gyrfalcon was an erect, stocky bird with a crop obviously distended from its meal. The cere and eye-ring were blue-gray. The base of the beak was also blue-gray, with a black tip. The feet were dull gray above, and the pads of the feet, when visible, were bright yellow. A brown, thin, mustache mark was clearly visible; the face of the bird around the eyes was brown and its cheek was light grayish-brown. The throat was white. Its crown appeared lighter than the rest of the head except the throat. What could be seen of the wings was brown with very thin, pale scalloping along the edges of the coverts. The underside of the bird was white and covered with small brown streaks, diamond-shaped; lower on the belly this streaking got denser and longer and also ran together into darker patches on the flanks of the bird. The underside of the tail that could be seen was grayish brown with some thin white barring. The size of the tail was most evident when the bird was stretching. In flight, the bird appeared long-tailed and heavy-bodied. It flew with shallow, steady wing beats and fanned its tail wide while coming into land. The wings were pointed. The bird made some vocalizations while perched, a soft “chur-chur-chur” repeated every few minutes, and also single soft “chur” notes when the bird stretched or preened. **Bill Unzen, 2997 – 151st Ave., Bellingham, MN 56212.**

**CINNAMON TEAL AT BROCKWAY LAKE** — On 12 April 2006, Larry Olson, a retired biologist for Cass County, found an adult male Cinnamon Teal on Brockway Lake. He told Dale Yerger from Deep Portage about it and Dale called me. I went up early the next morning, and Dale and I went out to find the bird. The weather was overcast and calm. We found the drake Cinnamon Teal, associating with five Blue-winged Teal (three males and two females) about 40 feet from the road. They stayed in close proximity the whole time we observed them, using a Kowa TSN 823M scope.



This breeding-plumaged teal was richly colored, showing a dark cinnamon head, neck, body and underparts. The eyes were red and the mantle and back showed patterned feather markings of black, gold, and rust. This bird was actively courting the two female Blue-winged Teals by extending its neck high and low repeatedly (head bobbing) and vocalizing in soft sputtery clicking sounds. The Blue-winged Teal males did not exhibit any aggressive behavior towards the Cinnamon Teal or try to chase him off. Both teal drakes were right next to each other and in comparison, the Cinnamon's bill was larger and spatula shaped; the birds appeared to be about the same size.

I did look for signs of hybridization in the Cinnamon Teal, but the side of the face was solid brick color with no crescent shape of any kind between the eye and the bill, and the bird did not show any white hip patch. At one point, all six teal got spooked by a noise, rose and circled twice before settling back down in the same place; the Cinnamon Teal was easily picked out of the flock due to the drastic differences in coloration. **Conny M. Brunell, 6801 Sheridan Ave., Richfield, MN 55423.**

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE NEAR READS LANDING** — On 21 February 2006, a message was posted to the MOU listserv entitled “Need Help with 2 Ids.” The sender, Nadav Cassuto, was requesting help identifying a few ducks in a photo he had taken of a large flock of mostly Common Goldeneyes. The birds in question were circled in red in the posted photograph.



They turned out to be Common Mergansers. Mr. Cassuto had taken the photos on 19 February 2006 at Lake Pepin, near Reads Landing, Wabasha County. I did not see these photos until 2 March when my brother, Donn Mattsson, asked me to look at another duck in the photo that he thought resembled a Barrow's Goldeneye; however, the bird in question was very small and the photo could not be enlarged without pixelating badly. The next day, I contacted Mr. Cassuto and asked if he could send the original image. He graciously did so. The image was enlarged and I identified the bird as an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye. I saw no evidence of hybridization in this individual, such as characteristics intermediate between Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes.

I have seen numerous adult male Barrow's previously in western North America, as well as four or five in Minnesota, most recently in January 2005, and I have seen tens of thousands of Common Goldeneyes throughout North America and in Minnesota. **Jim Mattsson, 570 S. Greenleaf Dr., Egan, MN 55123.**

**BURROWING OWLS IN NORMAN COUNTY** — Early in the morning on 6 May 2006,



I found a pair of Burrowing Owls. I watched them from about 75 yards for about 45 minutes. I had flushed them while driving slowly down the road early in the morning. As I drove by, I saw one bird fly up from the side of the road and head back toward the way I had come. I quickly stopped and got out of my truck to take a look; once I saw it was an owl, I got back in the truck, drove east about 75 yards, and turned my truck sideways in the road so I could use the window mount for my spotting scope.

After about ten minutes, the birds flew back to their original spot and the male started doing his courting call to the female. He was also holding his wings out from his side and drooping them a little, and doing a little dance as he made the light cooing noise; the female finally went over to him, and the male mounted her. After about 20 minutes, they disappeared from sight. There was a small clump of weeds and dirt there which might have the entrance to their burrow. **Andrew Longtin, 6505 Valley View Road, Corcoran, MN 55340.**



**Burrowing Owl, 7 May 2006, Norman County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.**



**Albinistic Red-tailed Hawk and American Crow, 12 February 2006, Eagan, Hennepin County. Photo by Stan Tekiela.**

# In This Issue

## Bohemian Waxwing, 7 November 2005, Duluth, St. Louis County

*Photo by David A. Cablander* ..... Front Cover

## Vertically Mobile Nesting Peregrine Falcons

*Harrison B. Tordoff and Todd Haarstick* ..... 123

## Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

*Peder H. Svingen* ..... 126

## The Winter Season

1 December 2005 through 28 February 2006

*James P. Mattsson and Peder H. Svingen* ..... 134

## Minnesota's 100th Anniversary Christmas Bird Count Summary

2005–06

*Roger Schroeder* ..... 156

## Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Photographs

*Kim R. Eckert* ..... 172

## Notes of Interest

California Gull

Carolina Wren

Barn Owl

Gyr Falcon

Cinnamon Teal

Barrow's Goldeneye

Burrowing Owl ..... 175

## Purpose of the M.O.U.

The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

## Suggestions to Authors

*The Loon* is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



printed on recycled paper

*The* **Loon**

WINTER 2006

VOLUME 78 — NUMBER 4



Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

**THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History  
University of Minnesota  
10 Church Street Southeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0145

*The Loon*, Minnesota's journal of birds, is published four times each year by the MOU, the statewide bird organization. All members receive this publication and also our newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:**

Anthony X. Hertzelt, 8461 Pleasant View Drive,  
Mounds View, MN 55112; editor@moumn.org.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE LOON:**

Karl Bardon, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall,  
Nancy Hertzelt, Robert Janssen, Ann Kessen,  
Peder Svingen, Harrison Tordoff.

**MOU MEMBERSHIPS:**

Yearly donations to join the MOU: Single \$25;  
Youth (through age 17) \$15; Family \$35; Sup-  
porting \$75; Life \$500. Canadian and foreign  
subscriptions \$35. Also available are back is-  
sues of *The Loon* (\$5 each) and checklists of  
Minnesota birds (minimum of 20 for \$2).

**EDITOR OF MINNESOTA BIRDING:**

Barb Martin, 1658 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN  
55104; newsletter@moumn.org.

**MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:**

Statewide 763-780-8890  
Duluth 218-834-2858

**MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

mou@moumn.org

**MOU WEB SITE:**

<http://moumn.org>

**MOU E-MAIL LISTSERVICE, MOU-NET:**

For information on how to join, visit our web site  
at <http://moumn.org/listserv.html>.

**MOU OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Bill George, 2312 Old Beach Road, Wayzata MN 55391

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Donald E. Mitchell, 28217 Gadiant Lane, Red Wing MN 55066

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Elizabeth Bell, 5868 Pioneer Road S., Saint Paul Park MN 55071

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Tom Bell, 5868 Pioneer Road S., Saint Paul Park MN 55071

**TREASURER:** Mark Lystig, 1741 Sartell Avenue, Eagan MN 55122

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Mark Alt, 3900 - 56th Avenue N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429

**MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**AWARDS:** Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**CONSERVATION:** Donald E. Mitchell, 28217 Gadiant Lane, Red Wing MN 55066

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:** Dave Cahlander, 2901 Foxpoint Road, Burnsville MN 55337

**MOU RECORDS:** Peder Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth MN 55812

**NOMINATIONS:** Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

**PAPER SESSION:** Carrol Henderson, 640 - 119th Lane NE, Blaine MN 55434

**RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:** Robert Janssen, 162 Lakeview Road, Chanhassen MN 55317

**SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND:** Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S., St. Louis Park MN 55424

**YOUTH MENTORSHIP:** Robert Holtz, 668 Overlook Drive, Roseville MN 55113

**AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

**DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* Wendy Grethen, 4005 McCulloch Street, Duluth MN 55804

**HIAWATHA VALLEY BIRD CLUB OF WINONA** - *President:* Frank Schnurstein, R.R. 3 Box 287, Winona MN 55987

**MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* Margaret Mason, 4370 Brookside Court #217, Edina MN 55436

**MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER** - *President:* Anne Hanley, 15330 Lynn Terrace, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**MNBIRD** - *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, carol@birdminnesota.com

**NORTHWEST MINNESOTA BIRD SOCIETY** - *President:* Shelly Steva, R.R. 4 Box 18, Thief River Falls MN 56701

**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* Karen Eckman, 966 Cobb Road, Shoreview, MN 55126

**ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** - *President:* August Krueger, 1725 SE 8th Avenue, Rochester MN 55904

# Obituary

## Jane Clarke Olyphant

### 16 March 1925 – 12 November 2005

James Fitzpatrick

Jane Olyphant had a passion, and when you were around her, you just couldn't help catching it from her. She was the consummate back yard bird-bander but also a life-long educator and self-trained scientist. Her enthusiasm for the bird in her hand was as effusive as it was infectious. She giggled and laughed out loud with great admiration and respect at almost every bird she handled as she taught literally thousands of students, young and old alike.

She was born Jane Billington Clarke on St. Urho's day in 1925 to Dr. and Mrs. Edward Clark in Englewood, NJ. She chose to attend Havergal Boarding School for Girls outside Toronto, Ontario, and graduated from there in 1943. Then she attended Centenary Junior College in Hackensack, NJ, and received an AA degree in 1945. She began a job working in a hospital there and met and married Murray Olyphant in 1947. Janie was not really a bird person until after she moved to Minnesota with Murray and their children Carol and Bob, who were born in New Jersey. Murray had taken an engineering job with Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (later to be known as 3M). They moved to Lake Elmo in 1957, and she developed her interest in birds after the older kids began school (Cathy was only 3 at the time and not in school yet).

Murray wondered how he could fan her newfound interest in birds and yet keep her home. He reports she was off bird watching at all hours of the day and he wanted her to cook, so he explored the process of bird banding. Like anyone with a passion, Janie launched headlong

into the bird world. She joined the Minnesota Bird Club in 1958 and met a number of bird people. With the help of Walter Breckenridge and Francis Lee Jacques she met Forest Strnad of Owatona and began learning the science of bird-banding. Janie's first banded bird was a White-breasted Nuthatch on 1 October 1959, the year she received her bird banding permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During the course of her 45-year career banding birds she handled over 85,000 birds.

Janie belonged to almost all of the bird banding associations and even was elected an officer for several of them, attending many of the meetings for the Inland Bird Banding Association. She was elected Secretary of the MOU for several years. In the early 1960s, she opened one of the very first wildlife animal hospitals in the basement of the Olyphant house in Lake Elmo. Folks from the Como Zoo, the Science Museum, and the DNR referred people with injured animals to her. Some of the stories of their many and varied wildlife patients are as amusing as they are touching. Hawks, owls, herons, jays — Janie cared for them as best she could.

If there was one thing that singled Janie out more than her love of birds, it was her passion and desire to teach others about them. In 1957, along with Lee and Florence Jaques, Janie encouraged a number of her friends to conduct an Audubon Christmas Bird Count north of White Bear Lake. This count (Northeast Suburban St. Paul) became one of the longest-running and most active CBCs in Minnesota, and helped launch hundreds of kids and grownups alike into hobby birding, and



**Jane Clarke Olyphant.**

even professional ornithology. She was responsible for setting up and mentoring banding programs at such places as Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center, Belwin Outdoor Education Lab, Wilder Forest, Century College, Dodge Nature Center, C. T. Schuneman Marsh, and Carpenter Nature Center. She hosted countless banding activities in her home and sponsored several sub-permit holders. She was a stickler for details and it took me more than two years of banding with her in her yard to convince her I knew enough to be granted a sub-permit under her master permit.

Life deals all of us countless twists and turns almost on a daily basis. Occasionally we get a chance to meet one person or another whom we not only really like but whom we want to be around as much as possible. I was privileged to meet her because she was my mother's best friend and she brought her banding gear to band birds at our house twice a year. Janie became my teacher, my mentor, and my friend. She was one of the most outgoing,

cheerful, responsive, upbeat, and intelligent people I have ever known, and most people I know wanted their sessions with Janie never to end.

In appreciation for the work she did teaching students about birds, their habitats, behavior, and natural history, the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union awarded Janie the Thomas Sadler Roberts Award for outstanding contributions to Minnesota ornithology. She continued doing her banding as long as her health would let her; the last few years only being able to attend to her squirrel proof potters traps on her balcony. After a long brave struggle with bad hips and cancer, she died on 12 November 2005 at the age of 80. The world of ornithology lost an amazing champion, and the birds lost one of their greatest ambassadors.

**Carpenter Nature Center, Hastings, MN 55033.**

# Are There Undiscovered Peregrine Falcon Nests in the Midwest?

Harrison B. Tordoff

Each year, we make a big effort to band the new crop of young Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in the Midwest with field-readable color bands as well as USFWS bands. A main goal is to make it possible to track individuals in the population and thereby further understand Peregrine population dynamics. In a perfect world, we would band all of the young each year, but circumstances make that impossible. Our success or failure in banding chicks (and subsequently reading bands of breeding adults) determines the potential precision of any Peregrine population study.

The present Midwestern population of Peregrine Falcons started in 1981 with hacked birds, reared in captivity and all banded before release. The first known nesting was in 1986. Over the years, unbanded birds came from two sources: undiscovered nests and known nests where banding was impossible for any of several reasons, including denial of access to the site, timing, and physical or logistical inaccessibility.

Using our computer database and the annual Midwest Peregrine reports, I recently analyzed changes in percentage of unbanded adults in the breeding population to learn something of the size and rate of growth of the unbanded population. For general information about Midwest Peregrines, see our website <midwestPeregrine.org>.

*Some considerations:* Ontario was excluded because the coverage of breeding pairs and hence the opportunity to learn banding status of breeding adults has been less intense there because of the

wild country in which these birds nest.

Many breeding adults are reported only as “unidentified” or “unknown.” These are excluded, although this probably introduces some bias. My opinion is that adult breeders known to be unbanded (and hence with a bit of romantic mystery about their origin) are more likely to be reported as “unbanded” than as “unknown” or “unidentified,” while the numerous banded adults that defy efforts to read their bands are often reported as “unidentified” or “unknown.” Even so, the birds in the following table of “banding status unknown” are ignored; only birds known to have been either banded or unbanded, based on the database itself or the appropriate annual reports are considered.

An increase in percentage of unbanded adults is inevitable in a population established with banded hacked birds. If the present day unbanded adults have come only from known but inaccessible nests, their proportion in future populations should remain roughly constant, or perhaps even diminish as problems of access for banding are solved. On the other hand, if some or many unbanded birds come from undiscovered nests, the percentage of unbanded birds in the breeding population should vary unpredictably as the undiscovered part of the population persists, thrives, or declines.

Let us assume that banded and unbanded young have equal survival and dispersal. If all nests are known, the percentage of unbanded breeding adults should roughly equal the percentage of young fledged unbanded. On the oth-

**Table 1. Banding status of Peregrine Falcons breeding in the Midwest.**

Year	Breeders	Band Status		Banded	Unbanded	Percent Unbanded
		Unknown	Known			
1986	4	4	0	0	0	0
1987	8	6	2	2	0	0
1988	16	2	14	14	0	0
1989	24	5	19	19	0	0
1990	33	4	29	29	0	0
1991	46	4	42	41	1	2.4%
1992	62	11	51	50	1	2.0%
1993	84	12	72	71	1	1.4%
1994	102	21	81	79	2	2.5%
1995	114	22	92	86	6	6.5%
1996	114	13	101	95	6	5.9%
1997	138	17	121	106	15	12.4%
1998	170	22	148	129	19	12.8%
1999	178	33	145	127	18	12.4%
2000	202	53	149	132	17	11.4%
2001	233	50	183	160	23	12.6%
2002	256	74	182	157	25	13.7%
2003	290	89	201	166	35	17.4%
2004	304	99	205	167	38	18.5%
2005	298	83	215	178	37	17.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2676</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>2052</b>	<b>1808</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>11.9%</b>

**Total wild young fledged from known nests through 2005: 3152**

**Total banded wild young fledged from known nests through 2005: 2662**

**Total unbanded wild young fledged from known nests through 2005: 490**

**Percent of young from known nests that fledged unbanded through 2005: 15.5%**

er hand, if a substantial number of unbanded young come from undiscovered nests, the percentage of unbanded adults should exceed the percentage of unbanded young fledging from known nests. In 2005, about 17% of the breeding adults were unbanded (see Table 1). In the ten years from which the 2005 breeding population was largely derived, 1994 through 2003, about 15% of the 2220 young from known nests fledged unbanded, suggesting that the extra 2% of the 37 unbanded adults in 2005 (0.74 adults) may have come from undiscovered nests. My conclusion is that the number of undiscovered Peregrine nests in the Midwest, excluding Ontario, is very small but not zero.

Three points seem obvious. First, the huge effort spent each year in finding

nests, identifying adults, and banding young of the Midwestern Peregrine population is well-justified. Second, Peregrine workers should report birds known to be unbanded as “unbanded,” not unknown, and unidentified banded birds should be reported as “banded but unidentified,” not as unknown. This will make future population studies easier and more precise. Third, Midwestern birders can help greatly by reporting to The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota, or to the web site at <midwestPeregrine.org> any Peregrine territorial activity at any site not listed in Table 2.

**Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota, 100 Ecology Building, 1987 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108.**

**Table 2. Known Midwest Peregrine Falcon Territorial Sites in 2005 (west of Lake Michigan).**

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**Successful Pairs**

Community First Bank, Fargo

**MINNESOTA**

**Successful Pairs**

Colonnade Building, Mpls.  
Multifoods Tower (City Center), Mpls.  
City Hall, Mpls.  
Riverside Plaza/I-94 Bridge, Mpls.  
Lock and Dam1/Ford Parkway Bridge, Mpls.  
Norwest Financial Center (Wells Fargo), Bloomington

Mayo Clinic, Rochester  
NSP Black Dog, Eagan  
NSP King, Bayport  
NSP Sherco, Becker  
NSP Monticello, Monticello  
MPL Boswell Energy Center, Cohasset  
Cargill Elevator, Red Wing  
State Prison/Univ. Bridge, St. Cloud  
Champion International Paper Mill, Sartell  
Queens Bluff, Great River Bluffs State Park  
Great Spirit Bluff, La Crescent  
Blatnik Bridge, Duluth  
Greysolon Plaza, Duluth  
Crow Creek, Lake County  
Castle Cliff, Castle Danger  
NorthShore Mining, Silver Bay  
Finn Church cliff, NE of Tofte  
Kennedy Creek cliff, Lake County  
Palisade Head cliff, Tettegouche State Park  
Manitou cliff, NE of Little Marais  
Corundum Point cliff, Split Rock State Park  
Taconite Harbor  
Hat Point cliff, NE Grand Portage

**Laid Eggs, No Young Fledged**

Midwest Plaza, Mpls.  
Interchange Building, Mpls.  
North Central Life, St. Paul  
NSP High Bridge, St. Paul  
Cargill Elevator, Lake City

**Non-breeding**

Mendota Bridge, Fort Snelling State Park  
Faith Bluff, John Latsch State Park  
Milwaukee RR Bridge/Hwy. 61 Bridge, Hastings  
NSP Riverside, Mpls.  
3M Water Tower, St. Paul  
I-494 Bridge, South St. Paul  
Homer Cliff, Homer  
Bovey, Itasca County

**Status Uncertain**

Superior Shores, N of Two Harbors  
Space Tower, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul  
Hull Rust Mine, Hibbing

**WISCONSIN**

**Successful Pairs**

Miller Brewery, Milwaukee  
Froedtert Malt, Milwaukee  
WEPCO Oak Creek Power Plant, Milwaukee  
WEPCO Valley Power Plant, Milwaukee  
WEPCO Port Washington Power Plant  
WPL Edgewater Generating Station, Sheboygan  
Busch Agric. Resources Complex, Manitowoc  
WPS Pulliam Power Plant, Green Bay  
WEPCO Pleasant Prairie Power Plant  
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant, Kewaunee  
Racine County Courthouse, Racine  
Cargill Malt Complex, Jefferson  
WE-Energies Minergy Glass Aggregate Plant, Neenah

Stora-Enso Kimberly Mill, Outagamie County  
Dairyland Genoa Power Plant, Genoa  
Maiden Rock, Pepin County  
Maassen Bluff, 2 mi. S. Nelson  
Castle Rock, Buffalo County  
Lynxville cliff, Lynxville  
Nelson Dewey Power Plant, Cassville  
West Bluff, Pepin County

**Laid Eggs, No Young Fledged**

Bong Bridge, Superior  
Kenosha Memorial Hospital, Kenosha  
Dairyland Power Cooperative, alma

**Non-breeding**

Weston Power Plant, Rothschild  
Alma Marina cliff, Alma  
U.S. Bank, La Crosse

**Status Uncertain**

Fountain City cliffs, Fountain City  
Firstar Center, Milwaukee  
Hoan Bridge, Milwaukee

**NEBRASKA**

**Successful Pairs**

Woodmen Tower, Omaha  
State Capitol Building, Lincoln

**IOWA**

**Successful Pairs**

Firstar Bank (US Bank), Cedar Rapids  
American Republic, Des Moines  
MidAmerican Energy Corporate Hdqtrs, Davenport  
MEC Louisa, Louisa County  
Waukon Junction cliff, Waukon Junction  
Alliant Energy Lansing/Lansing cliff, Lansing  
Alliant Energy Plant, Chillicothe

**Non-breeding**

State Capitol, Des Moines  
I-80 Bridge, Quad Cities  
Mississippi Bridge, Burlington

**ILLINOIS**

**Successful Pairs**

Jackson Street Prison, Chicago  
Uptown Theatre, Chicago  
Midwest Generation, Waukegon  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
5821 Broadway, Chicago  
Pilsen Park, Chicago  
River Birds, various sites, Chicago  
Evanston Library, Evanston  
St. Michael's, Old Town, Cook County

**Laid Eggs, No Young Fledged**

Hyde Park, Chicago

**Non-breeding**

125. S. Wacker, Chicago  
Lakeview, Chicago  
Lawndale, Chicago

**KANSAS**

**Laid Eggs, No Young Fledged**

Kansas Power and Light, Topeka

**MISSOURI**

**Successful Pairs**

Commerce Tower, Kansas City  
Interco Building, Clayton  
AmerenUE, Labadie Power Station, St. Louis

**MANITOBA**

**Successful Pairs**

Radisson Hotel/Delta Winnipeg Hotel, Winnipeg  
McKenzie Seed Building, Brandon

**Non-Breeding**

Water Tower, Brandon Mental Health Centre, Brandon

Owls in Tofte  
A Summary Report of Fall 2005 Banding  
Efforts in Tofte, Minnesota

William H. Lane



Northern Saw-whet Owl. Photo by William H. Lane.

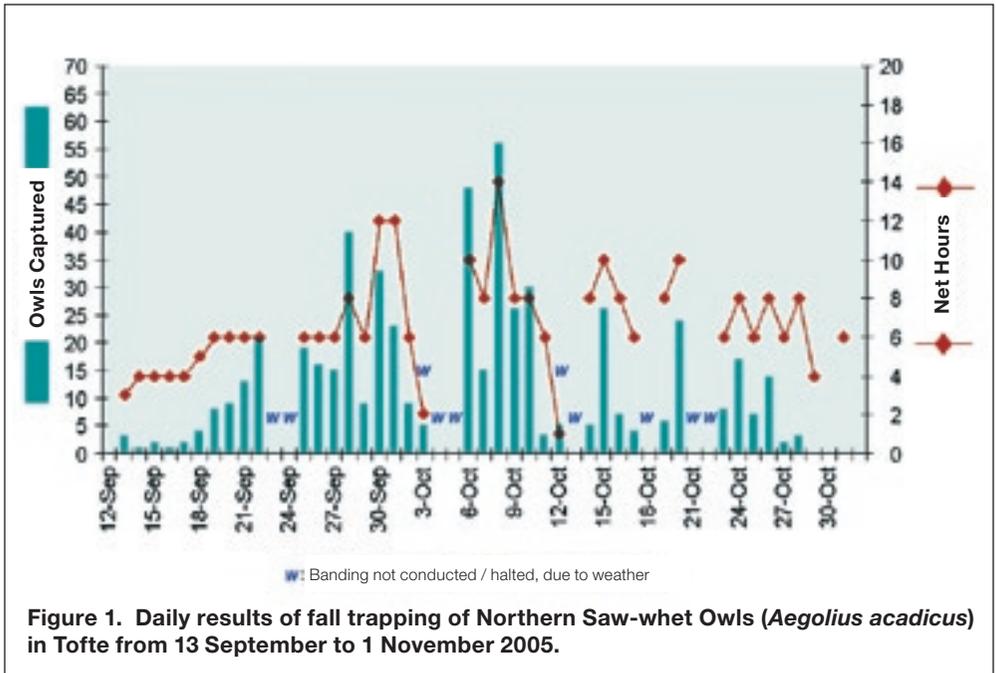
For the third consecutive year, migratory owls were captured, banded, and released from a banding station near Tofte, Cook County. This report summarizes banding efforts from 2005.

Banding was initiated on 13 September 2005 and completed on 1 November 2005. Two CTX mist nets were placed in a "T" configuration, adjacent to a digital playback device and speaker. After sunset, a recording of the territorial song of the male Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) was broadcast in different directions and at varying volumes. Owls were retrieved immediately upon capture. Captured Saw-whet Owls were banded with

size 4 (short) butt-end bands, weighed, aged (Evans and Rosenfield 1987), and measurements were recorded of the wing chord and central rectrix lengths, prior to release. Trapping efforts generally concluded by midnight. No trapping occurred during precipitation events and/or evenings with excessive winds (i.e., >20 kph).

**Results**

During 269 net hours (one net/hour = one net hour; two nets/hour = two net hours), 539 owls were captured in 2005 (Fig. 1). Included in that total were 521 previously unbanded Saw-whets, 2 unbanded Barred Owls (*Strix varia*), and



**Figure 1. Daily results of fall trapping of Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) in Tofte from 13 September to 1 November 2005.**

two unbanded Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*). Thirteen of the 535 Saw-whets had been banded previously at other locations (foreign recoveries), while one Saw-whet was originally banded in Tofte during 2004 banding operations (my first in nearly 1,500 bands).

### Items of Interest

During 2004, 489 Northern Saw-whet Owls were captured during 210 net hours.

Foreign Recoveries: On 14 October 2005, a banded Saw-whet was captured four days after its release from the Hawk Ridge (Duluth, St. Louis County) banding station. On 15 October, a second Hawk Ridge Saw-whet foreign recovery was captured in Tofte, 11 days after its initial 5 October capture in Duluth. Weren't they going the wrong way?

A banded Saw-whet, originally captured on 11 November 2004 in Chillicothe, OH, was recaptured on 26 September 2005 in Tofte.

Two hundred and twelve of the captured Saw-whets were hatch year (HY), 246 were after hatch year (AHY), and 63

were after second year (ASY) owls.

Four northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) were captured.

Limited efforts to capture transient Boreal Owls (*Aegolius funereus*) in late October and early November were unsuccessful.

Forty three visitors observed banding operations during 2005. Included were 25 fifth grade students from the Sawtooth Elementary School in Grand Marais.

### Acknowledgments

Financial support was provided by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's Savaloja Research Fund.

### Literature Cited

Evans, D. L. and R. N. Rosenfield. 1987. Remigial molt in fall migrant Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls. *In*: Symposium Proceedings: Biology and Conservation of Northern Forest Owls. R. W. Nero, R. J. Clark, R. J. Knapton, and R. H. Hamre, Editors.

**85 Rollins Ridge, Tofte, MN 55615.**

# The Spring Season

## 1 March through 31 May 2006

Paul E. Budde<sup>1</sup>, James W. Lind<sup>2</sup>,  
William C. Marengo<sup>3</sup>, and Peder H. Svingen<sup>4</sup>

Record-high counts of **Greater White-fronted**, **Ross's**, and **Cackling geese** were obtained in western Minnesota. A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was found in Beltrami, but like many of this spring's rarities, it could not be refound. Drake **Cinnamon Teal** showed up in two locations and a drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** rounded out the list of unusual waterfowl. Providing a second Dakota County record, and found by the same observer who found the first one 29 April 2004 (*The Loon* 76:191–192), was a **Red-throated Loon** at Lake Byllesby 30 April. A total of 26 **Snowy Egrets** more than doubled last spring's tally but still fell short of the 36 individuals recorded in Spring 2004. Seven **Little Blue Herons** was the most in recent memory with two (possibly the same individual) along the North Shore of Lake Superior. **Cattle Egrets** showed well again this spring and two **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were reported. Becoming regular in western Minnesota, an easterly **White-faced Ibis** was still unexpected at Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (W.M.A.) north of the Twin Cities. Most welcome was the record-high count of **1,213 Bald Eagles** at Lake Pepin 12 March.

Shorebird surveys were conducted again this year in western Minnesota, but shorebird habitat was hard to find, especially after heavy rains in May; scheduled drawdowns at Big Stone and Agassiz National Wildlife Refuges produced good habitat later in the year. **Piping Plover** was apparently absent from the state this spring, though small numbers were later found in summer. Most unusual were two **Black-necked Stilts** at Carlos Avery W.M.A. 27 May, but almost as unexpected was a **Whimbrel** on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Another out-of-range Whimbrel was found in Lac Qui



**Western Tanager**, 13 May 2006, near Grand Rapids, Itasca County. Photo by Earl E. Orf.

Parle County, but this species was scarce along the North Shore. In what may become a depressing mantra, **Red Knot** was almost non-existent, and **Ruddy Turnstone** and **Sanderling** were scarce.

Furnishing the 7<sup>th</sup> state record in three years and 9<sup>th</sup> overall was a **White-winged Dove** in Kanabec County. Encouraging was the presence of **Burrowing Owls** in three locations; two pairs in northwestern Minnesota attended burrows, but apparently failed to produce young. Careful listening to the digital recording of a calling male at the Rochester airport revealed the sultry music of Billie Holiday in the background! The always breathtaking **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** appeared in two western counties. A total of 29 **Loggerhead Shrikes** in 12 counties almost matched last spring's showing, but remained below

average compared to the early 1990s for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive spring. A **White-eyed Vireo** at Blue Mounds State Park was the 7<sup>th</sup> to be found in western Minnesota; previous records were in Chippewa (22 May 1994), Clay (28 May 1989, 24 May 2001, and 5 June 2004), Lyon (28 May 2001), and Otter Tail (20 May 2000) counties. Another excellent find was the singing **Rock Wren** in Rice County.

Participants in the annual Hawk Ridge Birdathon found 24 species of **warblers** in St. Louis County 21 May (26 species last year). No Casual or Accidental species of warbler were found anywhere in the state, but unusual locations included a **Cerulean Warbler** in Two Harbors and a **Prothonotary Warbler** in Polk County. The barely-Regular **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in three southern locations.

Compared to recent springs, **Summer Tanager** was scarce, but seven **Western Tanagers** were found. **Spotted Towhee** was reported from five southern and western locations during its expected spring migration window; more newsworthy was the successful overwintering of one near Cook in northern St. Louis County!

*Weather Summary:* Temperatures for March were above average in the northern two-thirds of Minnesota and near average in southern regions. Extremes ranged from 66°F on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Canby, Yellow Medicine County, to -15°F at Hallock, Kittson County, and Embarrass, St. Louis County, in mid-March. Snowstorms 12–13 and 15–16 March dropped more than a foot of snow from the Twin Cities to Red Wing. For the month of March, precipitation totals were above average in northern and southern regions, but one-half to one inch below normal in central regions.

April mean temperatures exceeded historical averages by four to eight degrees. During a nine-day period in mid-April, temperatures were 10–20°F above normal. Precipitation totals for April were well above normal in southern and central regions and near average to below average in the north. For many communities in far southern Minnesota, it was the wettest April on record. Heavy rains produced

localized flooding in southern Minnesota 6–7 April.

Ice-out occurred during the first week of April for most of southern Minnesota and by the second week of April across central Minnesota; Mille Lacs opened up on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Lakes in northern Minnesota were ice-free by the third week of April, anywhere from one to two weeks earlier than normal; the last to go was Lake of the Woods on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

May precipitation totals were below the historical average by an inch or more in many locations. Mean temperatures for May were slightly above average for most locations. Memorial Day Weekend was especially warm with temperatures reaching the 90s in many southern locations and setting records as far north as Grand Forks, where it reached 95°F on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Undocumented reports:* **Barrow's Goldeneye** 4/14 St. Louis (Embarrass); **Clark's Grebe** 4/21 Kandiyohi (Swan L.); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 5/30 Chippewa (near Milan); **Thayer's Gull** 5/19 Mille Lacs (late date, potential first county record); **Eurasian Collared-Dove** 5/14 Nobles, 5/25 McLeod (potential first county records); **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 5/4 Big Stone (exceptional date); **Tufted Titmouse** 5/17 Aitkin (far out of range and unseasonal at Rice Lake N.W.R.); **Western Tanager** 5/4–5 Becker (Detroit Lakes); **Evening Grosbeak** 3/9 Lac Qui Parle.

*Acknowledgments:* We thank Dave Carman and Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory for data from the West Skyline Hawk Count in Duluth, and Anthony Hertzell, Jim Lind, and Jeanie Joppru for transcripts of weekly birding reports. Medians of recent arrival and departure dates were calculated by Paul Budde from published and unpublished *Seasonal Report* data from 1985 through 2004. We thank all of our contributors and especially those who submit documentation for unusual sightings.

<sup>1</sup>4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419; <sup>2</sup>320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616; <sup>3</sup>7550 Weber Drive, Chaska, MN 55318; <sup>4</sup>2602 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

## KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
3. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
4. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
5. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
6. Brackets [ ] indicate a species for which there is reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
7. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
8. Dagger “†” preceding observer’s initials denotes documentation was submitted.
9. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with “ph”.
10. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with “v.t.”

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from 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, contact the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** — Seen in 28 south and 7 north counties in all regions except the Northeast. Please see winter report for early south migrants; unusually far east was a concentration of >1,500 at Lake Byllesby 3/11 Dakota/Goodhue DWK, ADS, LS. Early north 3/18 Grant HHD, 3/24 Traverse MO (median 3/29). Late south 5/10 Dakota JPM, 5/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Yellow Medicine WCM. Late north 4/15 **Todd** (2 at Browerville lagoons) BWF, 4/26 Beltrami RBJ. Record high count 4/4 Traverse (**18,200** flying over Mud L.) KJB; this compared well with a two-day count of 18,645 in flooded fields 4/2–3 Traverse. Other notable counts 3/25 Lac Qui Parle (**9,600**) BJU and Cottonwood (6,000) BRB. Leucistic individual 3/30–4/3 Dakota ph. JPM.

**Snow Goose** — Found in 28 south and 5 north counties in all regions except the Northeast. See winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/19 Grant SPM, 3/30 Marshall *fide* MJM. Late south 5/16 Yellow Medicine WCM, 5/27 Nobles BTS. Late north 4/18 Crow Wing MRN (median 5/27). Peak concentrations 3/10 Cottonwood (30,000) BRB, 4/2–3 Traverse (15,700) KJB.

**Snow X Ross’s Goose** — An apparent

hybrid 5/6–7 Olmsted WJK, ph. PWP.

**Ross’s Goose** — Seen in 18 south and 4 north counties. Seasonal total of 867+ included 3/12 Jackson (85) DFN and record high count 4/2 Traverse (**529** carefully identified; 109 more found elsewhere in the county 4/3) KJB. Early south 3/3 Brown †BTS, HHD and Rice DAB, FVS, 3/4 Dakota ADS (median 3/21). Early north 3/28 Traverse BAW, 4/7 St. Louis (Virginia) †SLF. Late south 5/10 Dakota JPM, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, also see summer report. Late north 5/24 Otter Tail SPM, 5/27 St. Louis (Interstate Island, Duluth) †DWK. First state record of **blue-morph** documented 4/2 Traverse †KJB.

**Cackling Goose** — Reported from 22 south and 10 north counties, but documented in only 8 counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/18 Grant HHD, 3/30 St. Louis MLH. Record-high count 3/25 Cottonwood (**3,000** estimated in flock of 10,000 geese) BRB. Other notable counts 4/2–3 Traverse (**2,317** carefully identified and counted individually) †KJB, 3/12 Jackson (184) †DFN. All other documented reports: 3/1 Brown (3) †BTS, 3/4 Dakota (5 near Hastings) †ADS, 3/8 Scott (7) †CMB, 3/9–11 Dakota (max. 150, L. Byllesby)

†JPM, †DFN, †CMB, 3/10 Meeker †DMF, 3/11 Hennepin (50) †DFN, 3/16 Washington (1) †DFN, 5/16 Lac Qui Parle (1) †BJU. Observers are asked to document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

**Canada Goose** — Reported statewide.

**Mute Swan** — All reports: 4/7 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) †ASC, 4/9 **Ramsey** (White Bear L.) HHD, 5/28 **Big Stone** (near Clinton, origin?) †PHS.

**Trumpeter Swan** — Statewide total at least 455 swans in 31 south and 23 north counties in all regions. Please continue to report numbers, exact locations and dates of observations.

**Tundra Swan** — Seen in 26 south and 21 north counties, none in Southwest. Early south 3/3 Rice FVS, 3/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 3/27 St. Louis JWL, JRN, LAW, 3/28 Red Lake SAS. Late south 5/18 Sherburne ASC (only May report south; recent median 5/5). Late north 5/17 Beltrami and Lake of the Woods JEB, RBJ, 5/28 Marshall †PHS (median 5/28). Record-high spring counts 4/12 Clay/Norman (**12,500** between Halstad and Kragnes) BWF, 4/12 Clearwater (**10,000** at rice paddies near Gonvick) KLa; notable counts 3/26 Dakota (3,072 at H.P.B.C) KJB, 4/2 Traverse (5,400) KJB.

**Wood Duck** — Found in 49 south and 30 north counties. Early north (but see winter report) 3/19 Otter Tail SPM, 3/27 St. Louis JRN.

**Gadwall** — Reported from 48 south and 22 north counties. Please see winter report for numerous south reports and possible overwintering birds in the north. Early north 3/18 Grant HHD, 3/19 Otter Tail SPM.

**EURASIAN WIGEON** — Second county record 5/17 Beltrami (adult male, rice paddies near Waskish) †RBJ, †JEB.

**American Wigeon** — Found in 39 south and 18 north counties. Early south (but see winter report) 3/1 Rice TFB, 3/7 Brown BTS. Early north 4/3 Clay PBB, 4/4 Traverse and Wilkin BWF, St. Louis JRN.

**American Black Duck** — Observed in 12 south and 7 north counties. Late south (but also see summer report) 5/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/19 Dakota DAC. Only other west reports 3/12 Jackson (4) DFN, 5/7 Polk PHS.

**Mallard** — Reported statewide.

**Blue-winged Teal** — Seen in 49 south and 30 north counties. Early south 3/10 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/11 Dakota JPM (median 3/12). Early north 4/3 Clay PBB, 4/4 Kanabec CAM, St. Louis JRN and Traverse BWF (median 3/30).

**CINNAMON TEAL** — Single adult males reported **4/12–13 Cass** (Brockway L.) LO, †CMB, ph. DAY, ph. †PHS, 5/26 Nobles (Worthington lagoons, second county record) †BTS.

**Northern Shoveler** — Found in 49 south and 30 north counties. Early south 3/6 Brown BTS, Olmsted LAV, PWP and Rice DAB, TFB. Early north 3/27 Kanabec CAM, 3/29 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Peak 4/11 Dakota (700 at L. Byllesby) JPM.

**Northern Pintail** — Observed in 34 south and 18 north counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/26 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 3/31 Kanabec CAM (median 3/19). Peak count 4/22 Roseau (750) JMJ, PHS.

**Green-winged Teal** — Seen in 42 south and 24 north counties. Early south 3/7 Dakota JLO, 3/8 Brown BTS. Early north 3/26 Kanabec CAM, 3/29 Pine JMP.

**Canvasback** — Reported from 39 south and 17 north counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 4/2 Clay PBB and St. Louis SLF, 4/4 Traverse and Wilkin BWF (median 3/27).

High counts 3/23 Winona (5,400 at Pool 5a on Mississippi R.) KJB, 4/1 Jackson (1,450 at Round L.) KJB.

**Redhead** — Found in 40 south and 24 north counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/27 Kanabec CAM, 4/2 St. Louis JCG and Clay RHO (median 3/24).

**Ring-necked Duck** — Found in 49 south and 32 north counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/15 Douglas *fide* MJM, 3/18 Grant HHD. High counts 3/23 Houston (5,600 in Mississippi R. backwaters) KJB, 4/2 Traverse (2,400 at Mud L.) KJB.

**Greater Scaup** — Reported from 27 south and 14 north counties. Early north (away from Duluth where five overwintered) 3/31 Kanabec CAM, 4/3 Clay PBB. Late south 5/13 Steele DAB, KRV, NFT, 5/27 Nobles BTS (median 5/14). Late north 5/13 Marshall MJM, 5/20 Becker LEC.

**Lesser Scaup** — Found in 48 south and 31 north counties. Please see winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/4 Wilkin BWF, 3/18 Grant HHD (median 3/16). High count 3/29 Houston (2,000) PBB.

**Harlequin Duck** — No reports.

**Surf Scoter** — All reports: 5/8 St. Louis (adult male and female on L. Superior) PHS, 5/25 Lake (adult male in Two Harbors) JWL.

**White-winged Scoter** — All reports: 3/4 St. Louis (2 at Duluth since mid-Feb) CMB, 4/19 Otter Tail (pair at L. Christina) GO, 5/8–12 St. Louis (max. 5 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, JCG, 5/26 Cook (Paradise Beach) DFN.

**Black Scoter** — No reports.

**Long-tailed Duck** — All south reports: 3/26 Dakota (3 on Minnesota R.) NAJ, 3/28 Lac Qui Parle (adult male at Big

Stone N.W.R.) BJU. All north reports from L. Superior: 3/9–4/21 St. Louis (max. 10) JWL, 5/12–20 Lake (6 at Two Harbors) JWL, 5/12 St. Louis (3 at Park Point, Duluth) JCG, 5/19–26 Cook (max. 17) DFN, JWL, SMC.

**Bufflehead** — Reported from 48 south and 28 north counties. Overwintered in Hennepin; early south 3/5 Steele NFT, 3/8 Brown BTS (median 3/4). Overwintered in Otter Tail; early north (away from L. Superior) 3/31 Kanabec CAM, 4/1 Itasca EEO (median 3/22). Late south 5/16 Yellow Medicine WCM, 5/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Common Goldeneye** — Reported from 39 south and 26 north counties. Highest reported count 3/12 Goodhue/Wabasha (500 on L. Pepin) KJB. Late south 5/12 (same as median date) Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Hooded Merganser** — Seen in 47 south and 28 north counties. Early south (away from overwintering locations) 3/1 Olmsted JWH, LAV and Rice TFB, 3/4 Chippewa BJU. Early north (away from overwintering locations in Duluth and Fergus Falls) 3/5 Wadena PJB, 3/14 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF. High count 3/15 Dakota (344 at Black Dog L.) KJB.

**Common Merganser** — Observed in 44 south and 21 north counties. Early north (away from overwintering locations) 3/9 Crow Wing MRN, 3/18 Grant HHD. Late south 5/9 Goodhue CRM, 5/17 Sherburne ADB. Record-high spring count 3/17 Goodhue (3,450 at L. Pepin) KJB.

**Red-breasted Merganser** — Reported from 38 south and 15 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/10 Lac Qui Parle and Swift BJU, 3/11 Brown BTS, Dakota m.ob., Meeker DMF. Early north (away from L. Superior) 3/31 Kanabec CAM, 4/6 Otter Tail *fide* MJM. Late south 5/13 Steele DAB, KRV, NFT.

**Ruddy Duck** — Seen in 41 south and 10 north counties, none in Northeast. Early

south 3/10 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Steele NFT, 3/11 (median date) Freeborn AEB. Early north (median 4/5) 4/9 Traverse DFN; peak migration 4/22–30 in six north counties. Unusual location 5/23 Cass (Remer lagoons) BAW.

**Gray Partridge** — Observed in 17 south counties as far southeast as Olmsted and Fillmore, and 7 north counties as far northwest as Kittson, Marshall. All counts single digits except 3/12 Wilkin (11) BDS.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** — Found in 62 counties as far north as Clay, Mahnomen, Hubbard, Wadena, Todd, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine.

**Ruffed Grouse** — Seen in 30 counties within range, including Dakota (Miesville Ravine) JPM, Fillmore NBO, Goodhue and Houston DFN.

**Spruce Grouse** — All reports: small numbers during May in four Lake of the Woods locations (BRB, MHK), plus 4/27 Itasca JEB.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** — All north reports: Aitkin (max. 6 near Tamarack), Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Kanabec, Lake of the Woods (3), Pennington (max. 75 on 3 leks), Pine (max. 7), Red Lake (max. 4), St. Louis. Continuing the trend noted during the winter season were observations outside of typical range in Big Stone (Big Stone N.W.R.) and Lac Qui Parle (max. 28 in 6 locations) BJU.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** — Released birds seen in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle (max. 19 at Plover Prairie), Swift BJU. All north reports: Becker, Clay (max. 35 at Bluestem Prairie), Norman (max. 65 near Gary), Otter Tail (2), Pennington (max. 6 near Carpenter's Corner), Polk (max. 4), Red Lake (max. 10 near Oklee), Wadena (11 at Burgen Lake Prairie W.M.A.), Wilkin (high count of 150 on 3/4) BWF.

**Wild Turkey** — Reported from 56 counties as far north as Pennington, Becker,

Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Pine. Peak count of 50 in Dakota JPM.

**Red-throated Loon** — One south report: second county record 4/30 **Dakota** (adult in basic plumage at L. Byllesby) †JPM. Also seen 5/8–26 St. Louis (max. 8 at Park Point, Duluth) MLH, JLR, m.ob.

**Common Loon** — Found in 30 south and 23 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/20 McLeod PRH, 3/25 Scott HHD and Dakota KJB (median 3/27). Early north 4/2 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/4 Cass MRN, Kanabec CAM, Wadena PJB. High count 4/30 St. Louis (150 at Park Point, Duluth) MLH.

**Pied-billed Grebe** — Seen in 47 south and 25 north counties. Early south 3/3 Rice DAB, FVS, TFB, 3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 3/9). Early north 3/29 St. Louis SLF, 3/30 Cass MRN (median 3/27).

**Horned Grebe** — Observed in 17 south and 17 north counties. Early south 3/14 Dakota DOB, 3/19 Freeborn AEB (median 3/26). Early north 4/9 Carlton JWJ and St. Louis PHS, 4/11 (median date) Cass JWJ. Late south 5/13 Steele DAB, KRV, 5/26 Ramsey REH. Late north 5/21 St. Louis SLF, 5/26 Cook DFN, but see summer report. Peak count 4/21 Lake and St. Louis (498 on L. Superior) JWJ.

**Red-necked Grebe** — Reported from 28 south and 19 north counties in all regions. Early south **3/26** Dakota KJB, 3/29 Dakota (same bird?) ADS, 4/1 Kandiyohi, Martin, Meeker (median 4/3). Early north 4/3 Clay PBB, 4/9 in four counties (median 4/7). Peak counts 4/9 St. Louis (196 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 4/21 Lake and St. Louis (166 on L. Superior) JWJ.

**Eared Grebe** — Found in 18 south and 5 north counties, none in Northeast. Early south 4/10 Hennepin MCA, 4/13 Meeker DMF. Early north 4/22 Kittson JMJ, 4/23 Pennington and Red Lake PHS. Highest reported count 5/22 Polk (75 at East Grand Forks lagoons) PHS.



**Snowy Egret, 2 May 2006, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.**

**Western Grebe** — Observed in 24 south and 4 north counties, none in Southeast. Reported from Wright in East-central. Early south 4/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/9 Big Stone DFN. Early north **4/13** (2<sup>nd</sup> earliest north date) Douglas SPM, 4/16 Marshall *vide* JMJ (median 4/22).

**Clark's Grebe** — All documented reports: **4/17+** Big Stone (Thielke L.) †BJU, 5/21 Douglas (L. Osakis) †DBz *et al.*, 5/28 Lac Qui Parle (S. Rockwell L.) †PHS.

**American White Pelican** — Found in 45 south and 25 north counties. Early south 3/25 Houston FZL, LS, 3/26 in five counties. Early north 4/4 Otter Tail SPM, 4/7 Marshall (50 at Agassiz N.W.R.) MA, GLH. Highest reported count unusually far east 3/11 Dakota (731 at H.P.B.C.) KJB. Seasonal total of 195 at W.S.H.C., Duluth (DSC). Unusual locations 4/20 Lake (2) SMC, 5/17 Cook (3) DAG, JWJL.

**Double-crested Cormorant** — Observed in 44 south and 25 north counties. Early south 3/11 Meeker DMF and Ramsey KJB, 3/16 Rice FVS. Early north 3/29 St. Louis SLF, 4/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**American Bittern** — Reported from 23 south and 19 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/6 Meeker DMF, 4/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/20). Early north 4/11 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) MA, 4/14 Pine MTH (median 4/18).

**Least Bittern** — All south reports: **5/5+** Dakota (max. 2) m.ob., 5/10 Houston (Mound Prairie Marsh) DBz, 5/19 Waseca DAB, JPS, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle (Hamline Twp.) BJU, 5/27 Wright (2 at Clearwater L.) KTP, 5/29 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) BJU. All north reports: 5/17 **Beltrami** RBJ, 5/28 Wadena PJB, 5/29 Becker (near Audubon) RBW, 5/31 Kittson LW.

**Great Blue Heron** — Found in 50 south and 28 north counties. Please see winter report for potential early south migrants and overwintering locations. Early north (overwintered Otter Tail) 3/18 Douglas

HHD, 3/19 Grant SPM.

**Great Egret** — Seen in 40 south and 10 north counties; none in Northeast. Early south 3/28 Kandiyohi RSF, 3/29 Dakota ADS (median 3/23). Early north 3/19 Otter Tail SPM, 4/1 (median date) Cass MRN.

**Snowy Egret** — Statewide total of 26 individuals (10 last spring). Early south **4/9** (record early) Big Stone (Otrej Twp.) PCC, **4/13** Olmsted (Rochester) CCB. Also seen in Big Stone (4 at Kleges W.M.A., 5/7 DWK), Carver (2 in Laketown Twp.), Dakota (singles at 180<sup>th</sup> St., L. Byllesby, and Cliff Rd.), Kandiyohi (3 at Swan L.), Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R. and one at Madison W.M.A.), Lincoln/Yellow Medicine (CR 15), McLeod (Clear L.) Meeker (Schoolhouse L.), Nicollet (Swan L.), Rice (near Cedar L.), Rock (Hills lagoons), Scott (Shakopee), Steele (near Rice L.), and Swift (L. Hassel). No north reports.

**Little Blue Heron** — Impressive total of seven individuals. All south reports: **4/11–14** Dakota (adult near L. Byllesby) ph. JPM, †CMB, m.ob., 4/14 Lac Qui Parle (subadult in Hamlin Twp.) †BJU, 5/4 Goodhue (adult at Frontenac S.P.) CBr *vide* HPe, 5/23 Ramsey (Demontreville L.) DPS, 5/26 **Meeker** (adult at Washington L., 2<sup>nd</sup> county record) DMF. Two north reports: 5/20 **Lake** (adult at Two Harbors airport) ph. JWJL, SLL, 5/26 **Cook** (adult at Schroeder, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record) ph. †DJS.

**Cattle Egret** — Statewide total of 76 birds (115 last spring). Early south **4/11** Lac Qui Parle BJU; 5 additional birds in Lac Qui Parle. First county record 5/3 **Redwood** (location?) DAC, RBJ. Also reported in Anoka (1), Big Stone (20 distributed among 4 locations), Carver (8), Dakota (1), Hennepin (2), Jackson (17), Kandiyohi (1), McLeod (1), Meeker (5), Murray (1), Nicollet (1), Rice (1), Scott (1), Stearns (1), Steele (1), Swift (1), and Wright (3). All north reports: **4/14** Traverse (3) PBB, 5/5 Marshall (1) JNy.

**Green Heron** — Found in 34 south and

**Table 1. Monthly and seasonal totals, peak flight and date, and range of occurrence for species at the West Skyline Hawk Count in Duluth, St. Louis County, Spring 2006.**

Species	March	April	May	Totals	Peak/Date	Range
Turkey Vulture	5	1008	143	1156	272, 4/15	3/26–5/22
Osprey	0	44	44	88	14, 5/2	4/14–5/22
Bald Eagle	1497	721	120	2338	301, 3/26	3/1–5/23
Northern Harrier	10	15	7	32	5, 3/27	3/26–5/11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17	718	768	1503	295, 5/7	3/2–5/23
Cooper's Hawk	2	11	7	20	4, 4/8	3/26–5/22
Northern Goshawk	6	2	0	8	3, 3/26	3/3–4/1
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	2	0	2	singles	4/1,4/15
Broad-winged Hawk	0	2380	6950	9330	2638, 5/7	4/16–5/23
Swainson's Hawk	0	1	0	1	single	4/27
Red-tailed Hawk	425	2095	36	2556	484, 4/5	3/10–5/23
Rough-legged Hawk	20	81	4	105	19, 4/1	3/10–5/22
Golden Eagle	42	6	2	50	9, 3/25	3/9–5/22
American Kestrel	1	22	16	39	7, 5/2	3/27–5/22
Merlin	5	3	2	10	2, 3/26	3/9–5/7
Peregrine Falcon	0	2	6	8	3, 5/6	4/22–5/15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>7,112</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>17,247</b>		
Days	23	20	14	57		
Hours	106	103.5	74.25	283.75		

15 north counties. Early south 4/20 (median date) Rice TFB, 4/21 Hennepin BRL. Early north 4/25 Mille Lacs Asc, 5/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT (median 5/3).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** — Seen in 17 south and 2 north counties. Early south 3/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/4 Meeker DMF. Only north reports: 4/19+ Marshall GT, m.ob., 5/2 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** — Two reports of single adults: 5/5 Anoka (Fridley) TM, 5/31+ Murray (Hiram Southwick W.M.A., 2<sup>nd</sup> county record) ph. MSS.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** — Accepted records of single adults 4/21–22 Lac Qui Parle ph. BJU, 4/22 **Anoka** (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) JMc, ph. †AXH, 5/1–2 Otter Tail (Cope-land W.M.A.) ph. †DTT, SMT, m.ob.

**IBIS, sp.** — One *Plegadis ibis* 5/4–6 Swift (Danvers W.M.A.) †CV, DDM, BJM.

**Turkey Vulture** — Reported from 45 south and 29 north counties. Early south

3/17 Rice DAB, TFB, 3/18 Dakota KRV (median 3/9). Early north 3/25 Pine DFN, 3/26 Mille Lacs Asc and St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC (median 4/1). Peak count 4/15 St. Louis (272 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC. Also see Table 1.

**Osprey** — Observed in 29 south and 20 north counties. Early south 3/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/31 Freeborn AEB. Early north 4/1 Itasca EEO, 4/8 in five counties. Also see Table 1.

**Bald Eagle** — Seen in 47 south and 32 north counties. Record-high count 3/12 Goodhue/Wabasha (**1,213** at L. Pepin) KJB. Seasonal total of 2,338 at W.S.H.C., Duluth (peak of 301 on 3/26) DSC.

**Northern Harrier** — Reported from 42 south and 29 north counties. Possible early north migrants (see winter report) 3/4 Clay PBB, 3/10 Otter Tail SPM, Polk RRz, Pine JMP. Also see Table 1.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** — Found in 32 south and 21 north counties. Early north

3/2 St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC, but see winter report. Late south 5/18 Yellow Medicine BJU, 5/20 Le Sueur ChH, Nicolet DAB, Sherburne DOB. Peak count 5/7 St. Louis (295 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC. Also see Table 1.

**Cooper's Hawk** — Observed from 39 south and 17 north counties in all regions. Early north 3/26 St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC, 3/27 Kanabec CAM. Also see Table 1.

**Northern Goshawk** — Seen in seven south and nine north counties; no reports from Northwest. Late south 3/30 Meeker DMF, 4/4 Lyon RJS. Also see Table 1.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** — Reported from 21 south and 11 north counties, none in the Southwest. Early north 3/1 Mille Lacs ASc, 3/19 Grant SPM. Unusual location 5/31 **Cook** (immature at Grand Portage S.P.) RBJ. All other north reports: Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Morrison, Otter Tail, St. Louis (2 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC and one 5/20 in Brimson DAG), Todd.

**Broad-winged Hawk** — Observed in 24 south and 21 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/6 Lac Qui Parle and Lincoln BJU, 4/10 Hennepin RBJ and Meeker DMF. Early north 4/9 Crow Wing CMC, 4/16 Otter Tail SPM and St. Louis (W.S.H.C. in Duluth) DSC. Peak migration 5/7 St. Louis (2,638 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC. Also see Table 1.

**Swainson's Hawk** — Reported from 16 south and 5 north counties, mainly in southern and western regions. Early south 4/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/6 Lyon BJU. All north reports: 4/8 Otter Tail GO, 4/13 Douglas SPM, 4/16 Clay (2) PBB, 4/23 Wilkin (2) MCA, 4/27 St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC.

**Red-tailed Hawk** — Seen in 81 counties statewide. Peak migration 4/5 St. Louis (484 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC. Adult "Kridler's" Hawk 3/26 Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB, dark-morph "Harlan's" Hawk 3/29

Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB.

**Ferruginous Hawk** — All reports: 4/14 Swift (immature light morph at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) †BJU, 4/17 Big Stone (adult light morph near Twin Lakes) †BJU, 4/21 Lac Qui Parle (adult light morph near Dawson) †BJU, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (adult light morph in Baxter Twp., same individual as 4/21?) †BJU.

**Rough-legged Hawk** — Seen in 22 south and 19 north counties. Late south 4/14 Swift BJU, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/20 Lake JWL *et al.*, 5/22 St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC. Peak count 3/18 Wilkin (**75** at Rothsay W.M.A.) JPE; 57 still present next day PBB.

**Golden Eagle** — Late February reports in Norman (2/26) and Clay (2/27) best represent beginning of spring migration; additional early north migrants 3/9 St. Louis (3 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC, FJN, 3/11 Kanabec DDM. Late south 4/6 Lyon BJU, 4/8 Meeker DMF. Additional south reports from Big Stone, Isanti, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Rice, Winona; additional north reports from Cass, Clay, Polk, Wilkin. Late north **5/20** St. Louis (Duluth) JRN, **5/22** St. Louis (adult wearing telemetry equipment at W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC.

**American Kestrel** — Observed in 83 counties statewide. Early north (but note mid-February reports from Morrison and Wilkin) 3/1 Mille Lacs ASc, 3/3 Otter Tail SPM. Highest reported count 4/8 Renville (14) WCM.

**Merlin** — Seen in 17 south and 16 north counties in all regions. Early north (away from the North Shore) 3/12 Mille Lacs HHD, 3/15 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF, 3/18 Clay PBB and Polk MC; also see Table 1. Late south (away from the Twin Cities) 5/17 Meeker DMF, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU. March reports of "Richardson's" Merlin in Dakota and Lac Qui Parle. Highest reported count 3/21 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU.

**GYRFALCON** — Adult gray morph over-



**Black-necked Stilts, 27 May 2006, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka County. Photo by Robert P. Fashingbauer.**

wintering in Dakota last reported 3/25 (Nininger Twp.) †ADS. Adult gray morph overwintering in Twin Ports last reported on Minnesota side 3/2 (Duluth) DLE.

**Peregrine Falcon** — Reported from 25 south counties beginning 3/1 Benton HHD, 3/2 Dakota (probably overwintered) ADS, 3/4 Nicollet RMD and Winona DBz. All north reports away from Duluth and the North Shore: 3/24 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF, 4/27 Polk (Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) TWi, 5/5, 5/17–22 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) m.ob. Late south (away from known nesting locations) 5/18 Renville BJU, 5/23 Faribault BWF. Also see Table 1.

**Prairie Falcon** — Documented 3/19 Wilkin (Rothsay W.M.A.) †PBB, **5/15** Lac Qui Parle (near Rosen) †BJU.

**Yellow Rail** — All south reports: heard

**4/23–27** Anoka (2 or 3 at Carlos Avery W.M.A.) WCM, SBM and 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (Louisburg Road) BJU; one seen 5/16 Lac Qui Parle (Augusta Twp.) †BJU. Early north 5/2 Aitkin KCR, 5/9 Polk RPR; also reported from Clay, Lake of the Woods.

**Virginia Rail** — Reported from 30 south and 15 north counties. Early south **4/5** Blue Earth (Gilfillin L.) RMD and Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave.) DDo, GBS, 4/6 Hennepin (same location) DOB. Record-early north **4/14** Morrison HHD; then 4/24 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) MA. High count 5/7 Otter Tail (5) JMP.

**Sora** — Reported from 37 south and 19 north counties. Early south 4/8 Hennepin DDo, 4/14 Rice TFB. Early north 4/22 Marshall JMj, 4/23 Wadena PJB. Record-high spring count 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (**33** along Florida Creek) BJU.

**Common Moorhen** — No reports.

**American Coot** — Observed statewide. Early north (away from overwintering sites in Otter Tail and St. Louis) 3/18 Grant HHD. Highest reported count 4/13 Rice (2,000) FVS.

**Sandhill Crane** — Reported from 30 south and 27 north counties. Early south 3/2 Goodhue JJS, 3/5 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU. Record-early north 3/9 Roseau (Roseau River W.M.A.) RPr; then 3/21 Pine JMP, 3/22 Mille Lacs ASc. Peak migration in Cass 3/26 (5 flocks) MRN.

**[WHOOPIING CRANE]** — One adult wearing satellite telemetry equipment wandered away from the experimental flock at Necedah N.W.R., Wisconsin 4/7–12 Todd (Molly Creek) ph. JMo, BWF, RPU *vide* RPR.

**Black-bellied Plover** — Single digit counts reported from ten south and three north counties. Early south 4/26–27 Dakota JPM, JLO, 5/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/27 Polk PHS and St. Louis DWK, 5/28 Marshall (7 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

**American Golden-Plover** — Scarce except for high counts 4/23 Lac Qui Parle (94) SWe and Lincoln (80) PEJ, 5/2 Lac Qui Parle (117) BJU. Early south 4/3, 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 4/12 Clay (3) RHO. Only other north reports: 5/5 Kittson ABL, 5/28 Cook ABL.

**Semipalmated Plover** — Observed in 21 south and 8 north counties. Early south 4/17 Dakota (1) JJS and Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU, 4/20 Dakota JLO; high count 5/21 Dakota (40) SWe. Early north 5/13 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 5/17 Cook JW; high count 5/22 Marshall (31 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

**Piping Plover** — No reports.

**Killdeer** — Reported from 48 south and 33 north counties. Early south 3/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/9 Olmsted JWH. Early north 3/11 Douglas *vide* JMJ, 3/18 Cook CJT.

Highest reported count 3/30 Lac Qui Parle (340) BJU; all other counts <50 birds.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** — Twelfth state record 5/27 **Anoka** (2 at Carlos Avery W.M.A.) ph. †RPF, †SHM, DFR.

**American Avocet** — Statewide total of 89 individuals in 13 counties. Early south 4/9–12 Big Stone (4, west of Graceville) DFN, KJB, 4/13 Big Stone (5, near Ortonville) KJB; additional south reports from Brown, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Olmsted, Rock, Stearns, Steele, Winona. All north reports: 5/5 Kittson ABL, 5/22 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Record-high spring count 4/14 Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle (41, Minnesota River Valley) BJU.

**Greater Yellowlegs** — Reported from 33 south and 21 north counties. Early south 3/25 Houston LS, 3/26 Freeborn AEB. Early north 4/2 Otter Tail SPM, 4/2–4 Traverse KJB, BWF. All counts ≤20 birds.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** — Seen in 34 south and 28 north counties. Early south 3/30 Carver (3) WCM, 3/31 Dakota (3) JPM. Early north 4/2 Traverse KJB, 4/6 Douglas BDS. Only significant count 5/8 Marshall (~1,500 at Pool 8, Agassiz N.W.R.) SB.

**Solitary Sandpiper** — Reported from 34 south and 14 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/21 Olmsted JJS. Early north (median 4/30) 4/22 Mille Lacs HHD, 5/2 Clay PBB. High count 5/2 Dakota (15) SWe. Late south 5/31 Rice JEB, also see summer report.

**Willet** — Total of 157 individuals (106+ last spring) in 17 south and 6 north counties. Early south 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/26 Steele (2) NFT, KRV. Early north 5/2 Marshall (2 at Agassiz N.W.R.) BCa and Otter Tail BWF, 5/6 Grant JEB. Late south 5/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/27 St. Louis DWK. Please see summer report for additional late spring migrants. Highest reported counts 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (29, Lac Qui Parle Lake, near MN 40 bridge) BJU, 4/30 Rice (18, Dennison W.T.P.) DAB, 5/1

Olmsted (15, East Landfill Reservoir) JWH, PWP, JJS.

**Spotted Sandpiper** — Reported from 38 south and 25 north counties. Early south 4/19 Hennepin DDo, 4/22 Dodge JJS, plus eight additional counties by end of April. Early north 4/24 Crow Wing RBJ, 5/3 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/4–8 in 11 counties. Highest reported count 5/11 Stearns (28, Albany W.T.P.) PCC.

**Upland Sandpiper** — Reported from 12 south and 5 north counties, including St. Louis in Northeast. No reports from North-central or Southeast regions. Early south 4/14 Swift BJU, 4/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/7 Clay and Polk MJM, 5/8 Red Lake SAS. Remarkable total of 49 observed by teams conducting 85 miles of walking surveys at Glacial Ridge N.W.R. 5/9 Polk *vide* RPR.

**Whimbrel** — Early north 5/20 Lake (one at Knife River) JCG, 5/27 Cook (50+ at Paradise Beach) DFN; also observed at Duluth (3) PHS. All south reports: 5/25 **Lac Qui Parle** (one feeding briskly with a Willet in section 5, Garfield Twp.) BJU, 5/31 **Anoka** (one at Carlos Avery W.M.A.) BRL *et al.*, †CMB.

**Hudsonian Godwit** — Statewide total of 59+ individuals, down for the second consecutive spring compared to 347 in Spring 2004. Reported from 12 south counties including record-early 4/6 Lincoln (1) BJU, then 4/15 Meeker (3) DMF. Highest reported count 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (8 in Arena Twp.) BJU. All north reports: 5/21 St. Louis (3 at 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. West, Duluth) SLF, 5/28 St. Louis (2 at Agassiz N.W.R., Pool 8) SB, MJM, PHS.

**Marbled Godwit** — Reported from 14 south and 15 north counties in all regions except the Southeast. Early south 4/10, 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/15 Meeker (2) DMF. Early north 4/12 Mahnommen (2) BWF and Wilkin KJB, 4/13 Douglas BDS. Only report from Northeast: 5/20 St. Louis (6) TPW. Highest reported counts at Gla-

cial Ridge N.W.R. 5/6 (flock of 66, James Bay migrants?) PHS, 5/8 (79, including 59 territorial birds found by 20 observers during walking surveys) Polk m.ob.

**Ruddy Turnstone** — Scarce (again) along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Found in 11 south counties beginning 5/1 Dakota (L. Byllesby) †DWK, 5/7–8 Dakota m.ob. All north reports: 5/20 St. Louis m.ob., 5/22 Marshall (1) PHS, 5/27 Polk (4) PHS and St. Louis (4) DWK. Late south (but see summer report) 5/26 Hennepin HCT, 5/28 Sibley DWK. Highest reported count 5/12 Lac Qui Parle (11 in Cerro Gordo Twp.) BJU.

**Red Knot** — Only report: 5/25 St. Louis (1) JLR, PHS.

**Sanderling** — Reported from seven south counties beginning 5/3–5 Dakota JPM *et al.*, 5/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU. All north reports: 5/25 (65), 5/27 (42) St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS, DWK, 5/27 (3) St. Louis SLF, 5/28 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) MJM, PHS. Please see summer report for late spring migrants.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** — Reported from 21 south and 6 north counties in all regions except North-central. Early south 4/9 Dakota LEC, 4/15 Meeker DMF. Early north 5/13 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 5/20 Lake (2) JWL. High count (but see summer report) 5/28 Big Stone (431) PHS.

**Least Sandpiper** — Seen in 31 south and 10 north counties. Early south 4/15 Meeker DMF, 4/16 Carver JLO. Early north 5/8 Crow Wing RBJ, 5/10 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 5/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north (but see summer report) 5/28 Marshall (8) MJM, PHS. Highest reported count 5/22 Marshall (64 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** — Observed in 17 south and 5 north counties, primarily in western and central regions. Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/7–8 in five counties. Early north 5/14 Traverse PBB, 5/17 Beltrami JEB, RBJ. Highest re-

ported counts 5/28 Big Stone (225) and Marshall (130) PHS.

**Baird's Sandpiper** — Numbers way down in western regions compared to last two springs. Reported from 15 south and 6 north counties. Early south (median 4/8) 3/30 Freeborn AEB, 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/23) 4/2 Traverse KJB, 5/7 Norman (40, also highest reported count) JMJ. Late south (but see summer report) 5/29 Carver DWK and Dakota ADS.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** — Observed in 34 south and 7 north counties. Early south 3/30 Freeborn AEB, 4/1 Meeker (4) DMF. Early north 4/1 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/2 Traverse KJB. Please see summer report for late spring migrants. Highest reported count 5/7 Lac Qui Parle (250) PCC; all other counts  $\leq 100$ .

**Dunlin** — Poor showing in western regions compared to last two springs; reported from 25 south and 5 north counties. Early south 4/12, 4/19–20 Dakota JPM, m.ob., 4/22 Brown BTS and Lac Qui Parle m.ob. Early north 5/17 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 5/19 Todd BWF. Highest reported count 5/21 Dakota (230) SWe, but all other counts  $< 100$ .

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** — Third state record 5/7 **Dakota** (Lake Byllesby) †MMA, LWM, SHM, TWi (*The Loon* 78:234–235).

**Stilt Sandpiper** — Observed in nine south counties beginning 4/27 Sherburne PLJ, 4/29 Dakota (2) JPM, ADS, 4/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU. No north reports. Late south (but see summer report) 5/30 Chipewewa and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Highest reported count 5/23 Lac Qui Parle (19) PHS.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** — No documented sightings. This species is a Casual spring migrant in Minnesota.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** — Reported from 21 south and 6 north counties. Scarce in western regions. Early south

4/29 Dakota JPM, ADS, 5/3 Kandiyohi RSF and Sibley DAC, RBJ. Early north 5/17 Aitkin ASC and Cook (8) JWJ, 5/20 St. Louis m.ob. Late south 5/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, also see summer report. Highest reported count 5/20 Lac Qui Parle (30) BJU.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** — Also relatively scarce. Found in 10 south counties beginning 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/18 Dakota JLO. No north reports. Late south (vocalized) 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (21) BJU. High count (vocalized) 5/5 Big Stone (31) BJU.

**Wilson's Snipe** — Overwintered through 4/4 St. Louis (1) JRN. Reported from 30 south and 29 north counties. Probable early south migrants 3/19 Freeborn AEB, 3/25 Houston LS and Scott HHD. Early north 3/30 Otter Tail SPM, 4/2 Traverse KJB, 4/4 Kittson RRz and Pine JMP. All counts  $\leq 12$ .

**American Woodcock** — Observed in 30 south and 22 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/11 Freeborn AEB, 3/27 Rice TFB. Early north 3/28 Carlton LAW and Roseau RPr, 3/31 Pine JMP. Highest reported counts 4/8 Mille Lacs (8) ASC, 4/27 Swift (17) BJU.

**Wilson's Phalarope** — Reported from 26 south and 16 north counties, including unusual locations 5/17 Cook (2, CR 60) JWJ, 5/20–21 St. Louis (40<sup>th</sup> Ave. West, Duluth) m.ob. Statewide total down  $> 1,000$  birds from last spring, but about a third of all reports lacked location/count data. Early south 4/17 Lac Qui Parle (2, Perry Twp.) BJU and Nicollet RMD, 4/24 Lac Qui Parle (one at Salt Lake) PCC. Early north 5/1 Otter Tail BWF, 5/2 Clay (4) PBB. Highest reported count 5/22 Polk (108 at East Grand Forks W.T.P.) PHS.

**Red-necked Phalarope** — Total of 28+ individuals (4 reports lacked count data) in 6 south and 4 north counties. Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/13 Jackson HHD, JJS. Early north 5/19 Todd BWF, RBJ, 5/20 **St. Louis** (Meadowlands W.T.P.) m.ob. Late south 5/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Late north 5/29 Pine JJS.

**Franklin's Gull** — Reported from 18 south and 9 north counties, primarily in western regions; none in North-central or Northeast, and only Dakota in East-central, Olmsted in Southeast. Early south 3/28 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 4/1 Freeborn AEB and Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU. Early north 4/6 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 4/22 Marshall and Roseau MJJ, PHS. Highest reported counts 5/3 Lincoln (760) SLF, DBF, 5/9 Polk (800 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) RPR *et al.*

**Little Gull** — No reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull** — Found in 25 south and 15 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/31 Dakota (6) JPM, 4/1 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 4/5–9 in seven counties. Early north 4/6 Douglas BDS, 4/11–13 Otter Tail m.ob. Highest reported count 5/6 St. Louis (1,300 at Hearing Is.) MLH; largest flock away from Duluth 4/12 Big Stone (750 roosted on Big Stone L.) KJB.

**Ring-billed Gull** — Reported from 74 counties statewide. Early south 3/4–5 Rice DAB, TFB, 3/8 Dakota KJB. Early north 3/9 St. Louis (30 at Interstate Is., Duluth) PHS, 3/17 Lake (3) JWL.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** — First-cycle bird 5/1 Clay (landfill near Hawley) ph. †PBB.

**Herring Gull** — Reported from 26 south and 16 north counties statewide. Early south (but see winter report) 3/5 Rice TFB, 3/10–12 in six counties; peak migration 3/25 Dakota (425) and 3/28 Goodhue (455) KJB. Early north (away from Lake Superior) 3/26 Otter Tail (3) DTT, SMT, 3/27 Beltrami (3) DPJ, PJR. Highest reported count 4/7 St. Louis (2,361 on Bailey's and Silver lakes, Virginia) SLF, DBF.

**Thayer's Gull** — Possible northbound migrant 3/11 Dakota (adult at H.P.B.C.) KJB. Several reports of 3 adults at Colvill Park, Goodhue County through 3/23 (KJB,

also see winter report); third-cycle bird seen there 3/21–24 JPM, MCA. Late south 4/6 Dakota (2) KJB, 4/11 Goodhue (adult) KJB. Apparently scarce along North Shore of Lake Superior; second-cycle bird last seen 3/19 St. Louis PHS. Late north 4/7 St. Louis (second-cycle bird on Bailey's Lake, Virginia) SLF, DBF.

**Iceland Gull** — Only report: 3/12 Goodhue (first-cycle bird at Hansen's Harbor, Lake Pepin) †KJB.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** — Up to eight different individuals documented by KJB in Dakota and Goodhue counties. All reports: 3/11 Dakota (adult at H.P.B.C.) †KJB, 3/12 Goodhue (third-cycle at Lake Pepin) †KJB, 3/12–18 Goodhue (adult at Colvill Park) †KJB, 3/17–18 Goodhue (first-cycle bird at Colvill Park) †KJB, JPM, 3/23–28 Goodhue (two different third-cycle birds at Lake Pepin) †KJB, †PEB, 4/6 Dakota (first-cycle at Burnsville landfill) †KJB, 4/6–7 Dakota (adult at Burnsville landfill) †KJB.

**Glaucous Gull** — Only report: 3/12 Goodhue (second-cycle bird at Colvill Park) KJB.

**Great Black-backed Gull** — No reports.

**Caspian Tern** — Reported from 23 south and 12 north counties. Early south 4/18–19 Dakota CMB, JLO, 4/24 Dakota JPM. Early north 4/29 St. Louis (3) PHS, 5/6 Hubbard PBB and Wadena PJB. Late south 5/30 Hennepin (3) DWK, also see summer report. Fewer congregated at Purgatory Creek in Eden Prairie; peak counts 5/8 (116, plus 45 at Arbor Lake, Maple Grove) SWe, 5/10 (158, all at Purgatory Creek) WCM.

**Common Tern** — Seen in 17 south and 8 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/20–21 Brown JSS, 4/24 Hennepin SWe. Early north 5/8 Lake of the Woods MHK and St. Louis PHS. Late south 5/28 Sibley DWK, 5/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Highest reported count 5/19 St. Louis (150) PHS.

**Forster's Tern** — Reported from 37 south and 13 north counties. Early south 4/11 Rice TFB, 4/12 Hennepin m.ob.; peak migration 4/22–27 (10 south counties). Early north 4/13 Grant SPM, 4/26 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/27 Clay PBB; peak migration 5/13–20 (8 north counties).

**Black Tern** — Reported from 31 south and 14 north counties, none in the Northeast. Early south 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/5 Olmsted JWH, PWP and Pipestone SLF, DBF. Early north 5/17–18 Aitkin ASc, KCR, 5/19 Todd BWF. No significant counts.

**Rock Pigeon** — Statewide.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** — Documented at new locations 3/4 **Wright** (St. Michael) ph. KTP, 3/9+ Brown (4 at Hanska) RMD, †BTS, 3/16–18 **Olmsted** (vocalizing near Rochester) ph. RuJ *fade* RLE, CAK, PWP, 3/25+ **Sibley** (Gaylord, identification confirmed by vocalizations in June) JEB, RBJ, †RJS, 4/17–20 Carver (2 at Hamburg, second county record) †DWK, RBJ, 5/4 Rock (Hills) ph. †SLF, DBF, 5/7+ **Fillmore** (4 at Fountain) †CCB. Also reported south from known locations in Brown/Cottonwood (Comfrey), Chippewa (Milan), Dakota (max. 7 at Farmington), 3/25+ Houston (adult on nest at Caledonia), Lac Qui Parle (2 at Marietta), Swift (Appleton). Only north reports: 3/19+ Grant (Herman, also see winter report) SPM, 3/28+ Traverse (Wheaton) BAW *et al.*, 4/1+ Otter Tail (Ottertail, possibly overwintered but no reports after 1/1) †DTT, SMT. Also see undocumented reports. African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*), domesticated descendants of which were formerly referred to as Ringed Turtle-Dove, continues to be mis-identified as Eurasian Collared-Dove in urban areas of Minnesota; hybrids have been reported in other states. Though details are unnecessary for birds at known locations, documentation is still requested for potential first county records and all north records.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** — Ninth state



**Burrowing Owl, 20 May 2006, Rochester, Olmsted County. Photo by Chris Benson.**

record 5/10–16 **Kanabec** (Mora) †CAM, ph. DAC.

**Mourning Dove** — Reported statewide.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** — Reported from 9 south and 11 north counties. Early south 5/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/20 Anoka ADB, REH. Early north 5/21 Wadena PJB, 522 Kanabec CAM.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** — Reported from 13 south counties beginning 5/18 Renville RMD, BJU and Stearns HHD, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU. All north reports: 5/28 Pine JMP, 5/31 Morrison DFN and Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Eastern Screech-Owl** — All reports south: Big Stone, Houston (gray morph), Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln (red morph), Murray, Olmsted, Pipestone, Rice (gray morph), Rock, Stearns, plus unusually early fledglings 4/7 Winona (one red and one gray) ph. CPo *fade* KAK. All reports north: 3/11 Otter Tail (gray morph near Ottertail) ph. JSz, EJE, 3/23 Otter Tail (red morph at Battle Lake) ELL, ph. DTT, SMT, 5/19 Todd (near Hewitt) BWF.

**Great Horned Owl** — Seen in 50 counties statewide. Highest reported count 5/19 Jackson (7) AXH, PHS.

**Snowy Owl** — Late south 4/10 McLeod



**Northern Saw-whet Owl, 20 May 2006, Lake County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzfel.**

PRH, 4/17 Olmsted *vide* OWB. Late north 5/1 Crow Wing (Garrison) MBJ, 5/12–26 Clay (Felton Prairie) m.ob., 5/30–6/2 Itasca (near Dora Lake) †SC.

**Northern Hawk Owl** — Many early March reports from North-central and Northeast; wintering birds mostly gone by end of March. Few reports in April; numbers up in May with record-high number of breeding birds (see summer report). Probable non-breeding bird 5/8 Clearwater MHK. Injured bird 5/17 Beltrami RBJ.

**BURROWING OWL** — Two adults claimed a burrow 4/27–5/6 Polk (Tilden Twp.) JEk *et al.*, †JMJ, ph. †PHS (*The Loon* 78:233). A pair of copulating adults 5/6 **Norman** (near Lockhart) †ABL were still present 5/29. A calling male at the Rochester airport 5/9+ Olmsted †JWH, ph. CCB, †ADS was recorded by JJS and furnished a second county record, but failed to attract a mate.

**Barred Owl** — Observed in 21 south and 18 north counties as far southwest as Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Redwood. High count 5/19 Todd (**12**) BWF *et al.*

**Great Gray Owl** — Norman County's first Great Gray Owl lingered through 3/12 (see winter report); additional March reports from Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis. Still present late May in Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis.

**Long-eared Owl** — March reports in nine south counties, followed by early April reports from Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Swift. Total of 20 individuals found by BJU in 12 Lac Qui Parle locations, including 3/21 Haydenville W.M.A. (4) and Sioux Indian W.M.A. (5). Only May report south: 5/18 Lac Qui Parle (Cerro Gordo Twp.) BJU. All north reports: 3/18 Pine WCM, 5/20 Lake (4) AXH, JWL, PHS.

**Short-eared Owl** — Statewide total of 80 owls in 8 south and 11 north counties more than doubled last spring's showing; BJU found 19 birds in 8 Lac Qui Parle locations. Eastern reports limited to Anoka and Fillmore. Early south migrants indistinguishable from wintering birds, but peak migration suggested by clustering mid-March through mid-April. Early north 3/18 Otter Tail BDS and Wilkin SPM, 3/18 Wilkin (6) JPE. Highest reported count 4/22 Pennington (22 near Carpenter's Corner) JMJ, PHS; several of these were calling and performing courtship flight.

**Boreal Owl** — Reported from Cook, Lake, and 3/6 St. Louis (Duluth Twp.) UK.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** — March reports south in Anoka, Ramsey, Sibley, and Yellow Medicine, then 4/8, 5/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/22 Waseca DDM, BJM, 5/5 Hennepin †AXH. Several late February records in Northeast (see winter report); northward surge suggested by total of 71 banded 3/8–31 Itasca DRM. North reports away from Northeast in Hubbard, Itasca, Otter Tail, Pine. Highest reported counts 4/21–22 Cook (**30**) WHL, 5/20 Lake (16) AXH, JWL, PHS.

**Common Nighthawk** — Reported from 21 south counties beginning 5/8 Hennepin CRM and Rice TFB, 5/10 Olmsted HHD.

Noted as scarce by several observers; e.g., possibly only one individual in New Ulm, Brown County JSS. Early north 5/19 Otter Tail DTT, SMT and Wadena PJB; only other north reports from Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Morrison.

**Whip-poor-will** — Reported from eight south counties beginning 4/22 Houston FZL, 5/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/5 Cook BWS, 5/9 Wadena PJB; also reported from Cass, Hubbard, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis.

**Chimney Swift** — Observed in 38 south and 21 north counties. Early south 4/23 Dakota JPM, 4/24 Scott CRM, 4/25–28 in six counties. Early north 5/2 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 5/4 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6–8 in five counties.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** — Seen in 28 south and 20 north counties. Early south 5/3 Olmsted JWH, JJS, 5/4 Fillmore NBO. Early north 5/2 Hubbard MAW, 5/7 Becker SLe, Pine JMP and Polk EEF.

**Belted Kingfisher** — Reported from 73 counties. Early north (away from overwintering sites) 3/19 Grant SPM, 3/27 St. Louis (St. Louis River at Fond du Lac) JWL.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** — Observed in 33 south and 10 north counties in all regions except Northeast. Overwintered south; early north (same as median) 4/25 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** — Observed in 68 counties as far north as Pennington and Red Lake in the Northwest, Beltrami and Cass in the North-central, and St. Louis and Cook (near Grand Marais) in the Northeast.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** — Seen in 40 south and 27 north counties. Early south (away from Fillmore where one overwintered) 3/16 Lac Qui Parle (Boyd) FAE, 3/25 Houston LS and Lac Qui Parle BJU; peak migration 4/4–9 (18 counties). Early north 3/30 Otter Tail SPM, 4/6 St. Louis

(2) JRN, 4/7 Otter Tail ARo and Pine JWL; peak migration 4/22–29 (12 counties). Peak count 4/24 St. Louis (12) TPW.

**Downy Woodpecker** — Statewide.

**Hairy Woodpecker** — Statewide.

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** — All reports from Koochiching (CR 13) in March.

**Black-backed Woodpecker** — Reported from Aitkin, Hubbard (Itasca S.P.), Koochiching, St. Louis.

**Northern Flicker** — Observed in 48 south and 33 north counties. Early north 3/25, 4/2 Wadena PJB, 4/3 Pine JMP; peak migration 4/7–11 in 16 counties. Highest reported count 4/16 Cook (50+ along 20 miles of road) CJT.

**Pileated Woodpecker** — Reported from 60 counties as far southwest as Yellow Medicine, Redwood, Brown, plus 5/17 Jackson PHS.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** — Found in 7 north and 23 south counties, but only 5 counties in western regions. Arrived later than usual. Early south 5/12 Meeker DMF, 5/14 Sherburne PLJ (median 5/8). Early north 5/19 Todd BWF, RBJ, 5/20 St. Louis WCM (median 5/14). Please see summer report for late south migrants.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** — Early south 5/8 Stevens LBF, 5/9 Ramsey DOB, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle and Meeker. Early north 5/8 Beltrami KLa, 5/14 Red Lake JMj.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** — Early south 5/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/18 Renville BJU, 5/21 Meeker DMF. Also reported with details from Olmsted and Waseca. Late south 5/22 Dakota JPM. Only north report with details: 5/22 Red Lake (Huot) PHS. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published. Please be sure to include a description or indicate that

birds were vocalizing in the “Details” section of the online seasonal report.

**Acadian Flycatcher** — The only reports with details were from Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve: 5/25 Dakota JPM, 5/27 Scott DAC, PEB.

**Alder Flycatcher** — Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/18 Renville BJU, 5/21 Hennepin HCT. Additional south reports with details from Carver, Dakota, Olmsted, Scott. Early north 5/25 Clay PHS, 5/26 Lake DFN. Additional north reports with details from Becker, Cook, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Wilkin.

**Willow Flycatcher** — Early south 5/15 Big Stone BJU, 5/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/21 Meeker DMF. Reported from five north counties, but none with details on how the birds were identified.

**Least Flycatcher** — Reported from 69 counties; identification details provided for 17 south and 7 north counties. Early south 5/2 Meeker DMF, 5/3 Dakota LBF, 5/4 Fillmore (10) NBO. Early north 5/17 Lake of the Woods MHK, 5/18 Kanabec LBF, 5/24 Clearwater and Hubbard DFN.

**Eastern Phoebe** — Reported from 77 of 87 counties. Early south 3/25 Sibley JEB, 3/27 Dakota JPM, then nine additional counties by the end of March. Early north 3/30 Otter Tail SPM, 3/31 Kanabec CAM and Mille Lacs ASc.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** — Early south 4/28 Big Stone BJU, 5/2 Meeker DMF, 5/3 Dakota and Rice (median 5/2). Early north 5/7 Douglas CAM, 5/14 Cass BAW, 5/16 Aitkin and Otter Tail. No reports from the Northwest until 5/25.

**Western Kingbird** — Only reports away from West-central were from Dakota and Dodge in the south, and Clay and Norman in the north. Early south 5/6 Stevens JEB, 5/7 Swift BJU, 5/9 **Dodge** (Claremont Twp.) †CRM *et al.* and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/7 Traverse (2) LBF, 5/13 Ot-

ter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Eastern Kingbird** — Found in 24 north and 40 south counties. Arrived three or four days later than recent medians south and north. Early south 4/30 Steele LS, 5/4 Scott RBW, 5/5 Meeker DMF. Early north 5/8 Beltrami KLa and Crow Wing JEB, RBJ, 5/14 Cass BAW and Traverse PBB.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** — Two second county records: 4/23 Lac Qui Parle (Garfield Twp.) †HJF *et al.*, ph. BJU, 5/1–2 Clay (near Downer) †MM, †RHO, BWF.

**Loggerhead Shrike** — South reports from Big Stone, Dakota (3 locations), Freeborn, Lac Qui Parle (8 locations), Le Sueur, Lincoln, Meeker (3 locations), Rice Steele, Wabasha, Waseca. Early south 3/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Wabasha JWH. All north reports: 3/27 Douglas BDS, 4/17+ Clay (Felton Prairie, near E. end of CR 108) PBB, m.ob., and 5/14 Clay (Felton Prairie, 0.5 miles N. of the gravel pit) DPJ. An undocumented early March report from Dakota was not included due to possible confusion with Northern Shrike.

**Northern Shrike** — Found in all regions, including 18 south and 12 north counties (compare with 7 south and 16 north counties in spring 2005). Late south 4/1 Carver WCM, 4/3 Hennepin HCT, 4/4 Steele KRV. Late north 4/8 Wadena PJB, 4/9 Carlton JWL and St. Louis SLF.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** — Second record for the Southwest region 5/29 **Rock** (Blue Mounds S.P.) †RLI, DML.

**Bell's Vireo** — All observations: 5/22 Goodhue JLO, 5/29 Dakota (3 at Cliff Fen Park) DWK, 5/31 Hennepin (Elm Creek P.R.) JPS.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** — Early south 5/3 Anoka REH and Goodhue LBF, 5/4 Dakota and Ramsey. Early north 5/8 Crow Wing JEB, RBJ, 5/13 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/14 Carlton and Cass.

**Blue-headed Vireo** — Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/1 Redwood LBF and Rice TFB. Early north 5/5 Pine DFN, 5/8 Carlton JWL and Crow Wing JEB, RBJ, St. Louis DFN. Late south 5/31 Rice JEB. First arrival dates south and north were identical with recent medians.

**Warbling Vireo** — Reported from every region, though only St. Louis in the Northeast. Early south 4/30 Hennepin DWK and Olmsted LAV, then 5/3 in three additional counties. Early north 5/7 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 5/8 Cass and Crow Wing.

**Philadelphia Vireo** — Observed in 10 south and 5 north counties, with multiple day reports only from Goodhue, Lac Qui Parle, St. Louis. Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Meeker DMF (median 5/7). Early north 5/22 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/23 Kanabec JMP (median 5/14). Late south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Martin BWF (one week earlier than recent median).

**Red-eyed Vireo** — Found in 28 north and 33 south counties, with the Southwest region least represented. Early south 5/2 Rice TFB, 5/6 Meeker DMF, 5/8 Nicollet (3) PMo. Early north 5/10 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/13 Pine JMP, 5/15 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Gray Jay** — Reported within usual range throughout most of the North-Central, and Lake and St. Louis in the Northeast; also seen 3/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Blue Jay** — Found in 79 of 87 counties. High counts 4/6 Sherburne (33) RBJ, 5/2 Pine (28) JMP.

**Black-billed Magpie** — Three south reports! Observed 3/30 **Lac Qui Parle** (Ten Mile Lake Twp.) †BJU, 4/1 or 4/2 **Hennepin** (seen by DNR employee near SR 55 and CR 116) *fide* AXH, 5/5 **Big Stone** (Odessa Twp.) BJU. The report from Hennepin was the first since 1974. Also found in 15 north counties as far east as St. Louis m.ob., 3/21 Pine JMP.

**American Crow** — Reported statewide.

**Common Raven** — Found in almost all counties in the northern third of the state, plus Kanabec and Pine. All south reports: 3/25 **Meeker** DMF, 4/13–5/20 Sherburne ASc, DOB, PLJ (all in same location?).

**Horned Lark** — Found in all regions by early March, except for Northeast where first found in mid-May. High count on 3/4 Clay (200) PBB.

**Purple Martin** — Only two Southwest and one Northeast reports. Early south 4/10 Rice TFB, 4/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/12 Meeker DMF (median 4/5). Early north 4/10 Aitkin KCR, 4/15 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/19 Otter Tail DTT, SMT (median 4/12). No significant counts.

**Tree Swallow** — Reported from 82 counties. Early south 3/11 Dakota JPM (nine days prior to median arrival), then 3/26 Winona LS, 3/29 Hennepin OLJ. Early north 3/29 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/1 Beltrami DPJ, 4/4 Cass and Pine (median 4/3).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** — Present for one week south and three weeks north before first reports from western regions. Early south 4/7 Winona JMJ, 4/10 Rice TFB, 4/11 Dakota JPM. Early north 4/24 Crow Wing JEB, RBJ, 4/25 St. Louis SLF. First western reports 4/15 Lac Qui Parle, 5/13 Otter Tail.

**Bank Swallow** — Early south 4/17 Meeker DMF, 4/19 Rice TFB. Early north 4/25 St. Louis SLF, 4/26 Mille Lacs ASc. First western reports south and north were 4/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU and 5/2 Polk (high count of 100) SAS.

**Cliff Swallow** — Record-early south 3/31 Dakota †BRL, then 4/17 Wabasha JJS (median 4/18). Early north 4/29 Polk JMJ, 5/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT (median 4/25). High count 5/19 Fillmore (200) NBO.

**Barn Swallow** — Early south 4/8 Hennepin DWK, 4/11 Meeker DMF (median 4/12). Early north 4/14 Wadena PJB,



**Sedge Wren, 25 May 2006, Chippewa County. Photo by David Cahlander.**

4/20 St. Louis SLF (median 4/20).

**Black-capped Chickadee** — Reported from 81 counties throughout the state.

**Boreal Chickadee** — Nine reports from a total of six counties: Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Aitkin.

**Tufted Titmouse** — Southeast sightings in Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Winona.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** — Found in all regions, though only one report each from Southwest and South-Central. Last reported south 5/19 Fillmore NBO, 5/20 Stearns HDD, RPR, 5/22 Ramsey LMS.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** — Observed in a majority of counties in each region.

**Brown Creeper** — Potential early north migrants not separable from wintering birds; e.g., 3/1 Hubbard MAW, 3/3 Otter

Tail DTT, SMT, 3/4 Douglas *fide* MJM probably overwintered. South reports in early May from Olmsted, Nicollet and Ramsey, then 5/13 Goodhue JWH.

**ROCK WREN** — One was found on private property 5/7–8 in east-central **Rice** †GDB, LMy, †TFB.

**Carolina Wren** — In contrast to only 2 reports last spring, a total of 11 birds was found in 8 south counties. Continuing from the winter season were single birds through 3/14 Freeborn (Albert Lea) and through 3/28 Blue Earth (Mankato). Five others were first found in March: two more in Freeborn (different individuals at separate locations in Albert Lea), Houston (Reno), and two in Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave bridge and Wood Lake N.C.). In early April, an individual was found in Dakota (Hastings); birders refound it through 5/6 (but see summer report). Also reported 4/2–12 Winona DBz, m.ob., 4/17 Olmsted (southwest of Rochester) PWP, 4/22+ Brown (Flandrau S.P.) †JSS.

**House Wren** — Observed in 70 counties. Arrived south on schedule: 4/17 Winona JJS, 4/19 Rice TFB (median 4/18) and in 18 south counties by end of the month. Early north 5/2 Kanabec CAM, 5/7 Mille Lacs ASC and Polk BDF (median 4/29).

**Winter Wren** — None were reported from the western regions last spring; found in nine western counties this year. Early south 3/24 Rice TFB, 3/29 Olmsted JWH, 4/1 Lac Qui Parle, Steele, and Watonwan. Early north 4/3 St. Louis SLF, 4/6 St. Louis JRN, 4/7 Marshall and Pine. All south reports in May: 5/1 Hennepin MCA, 5/6 Rice DAB, 5/13 Redwood PBB. High count 4/24 in St. Louis (10) TPW.

**Sedge Wren** — Found in 20 north and 40 south counties. Early south 4/23 Anoka DWK, 4/27 Olmsted JJS, then Meeker, Rice and Scott by the end of April. Early north 5/6 Carlton LAW and Wadena PJB, 5/7 Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Otter Tail and St. Louis. Record-high count 5/17 Jackson

(40) AXH, PHS.

**Marsh Wren** — Reported from every region except the Northeast. Early south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Rice TFB (median 4/26). Early north 5/6 Wadena PJB, 5/7 Mille Lacs ASC, Otter Tail JMP and Red Lake MJM. (median 5/4). Record-high count 5/17 Jackson (75) AXH, PHS.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** — Probably overwintering 3/4 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU; presumed early south migrants 3/25 Sibley JEB, 3/27 Rice TFB, then five more counties by the end of the month (median 3/28). Early north 4/3 Pine JMP, 4/4 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/5 Otter Tail and St. Louis (median 3/25). Late south 5/20 Sherburne ASC, 5/22 Ramsey LMS (median 5/6).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** — Observed in 26 north and 42 south counties. Early south 3/31 Dakota ADS and Meeker DMF, 4/1 Winona DFN (median 3/26). Early north 4/6 Douglas BDS and Polk DLT, 4/7 Pine JMP, JWJ (median 4/7). Late south 5/31 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** — Found in 64% of south counties but only 4 north counties. Early south 4/19 Fillmore NBO, 4/20 Rice TFB, 4/21 Dakota and Hennepin (median 4/22). An individual found 4/13 Douglas SPM was record-early for the entire state. All other north reports: 5/15 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 5/18 Cass MRN, 5/19 Mille Lacs ASC (median 5/7).

**Eastern Bluebird** — Reported from 91% of north and 89% of south counties. South reports throughout the season, including 11 counties within first 10 days of March (also see winter report). Early north 3/11 Mille Lacs ASC, 3/12 Pine JMP, 3/18 Grant HDD. The last regions in which this species appeared were Northeast (3/29 Lake) and Northwest (4/1 Polk and Kittson).

**Mountain Bluebird** — Only found in Lac Qui Parle by BJU: a male on 4/3 in Mehurin Twp.; a female on 4/11 about one mile north of Madison; another female on 4/27



**Partially albinistic American Robin, 10 April 2006, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Ken Klemmick.**

along CR 66 in Hantho Twp.

**Townsend's Solitaire** — Two reports: approximately 3/9 Cook (northeast of Tofte) CSB *fide* JWL and 3/21 Lac Qui Parle (Sioux Indian W.M.A.) BJU.

**Veery** — Multiple reports from all regions. Early south 4/28 Olmsted LAV, 5/6 Rice DAB (median 5/1). Early north 5/10 St. Louis JWL, 5/11 Carlton and Cook (median 5/8). Undocumented reports 4/7 Hennepin and 4/26 Mille Lacs were more likely Hermit Thrushes (see *The Loon* 67:44–45).

**Gray-checked Thrush** — While reported from half of all south counties, only found in five north counties (none in Northeast). Early south 5/4 Olmsted JWH and Rice TFB, 5/5 Sherburne PLJ (median 5/2). Early north 5/7 Cass MRN, 5/8 Pennington MJM (median 5/8). Late south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Olmsted JWH (median 5/27). Late north 5/25 Clay PBB, PHS (median 5/28).

**Swainson's Thrush** — Found across all regions in 47% of north and 72% of south counties. Early south 4/27 Olmsted PWP, 4/29 Hennepin JLO, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Redwood. Early north 4/24 Carlton LAW, 5/5 Beltrami DPJ, 5/7 Douglas CAM (median 5/2). High counts 5/10 Hennepin (37) DWK, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle (**61**) BJU, 5/13 Redwood (30) PBB, 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (41) WCM. Late south 5/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Ramsey JJS.

**Hermit Thrush** — Observed in all regions. See winter report for mid-February records in Hennepin and Rice; 3/18 Hennepin DWK and 3/20 Rice TFB may have overwintered. Next reported 3/27 Carver WCM (median 3/29). Early north 4/6 Pine JMP, 4/8 Hubbard (15) PBB, Mille Lacs ASc and Otter Tail MO. Notable high count 4/8 Meeker (**50** found in a single woodland park in Dassel Twp.) DMF. Late south 5/20 Le Sueur and Nicollet ChH, 5/22 Scott DOB (median 5/14).

**Wood Thrush** — As in Spring 2005, absent from Northwest region. Arrivals south and north were within one day of recent medians. Early south 5/1 Rice DAB, 5/6 Meeker DMF and Nicollet DFN. Early north 5/9 Itasca RBJ, Mille Lacs ASc and Pine JMP. High count 5/17 Jackson (6 at Kilen Woods S.P.) AXH, PHS.

**American Robin** — Reported from all but four counties. Overwintered in many locations, but influx suggested by reports from 8 north counties by 3/15, and 20 north counties by the end of March. Highest reported count only 200 (3/17 Rice DAB). Partial albinos in St. Louis (Duluth, ph. KK) and Otter Tail. Young birds already present 5/17 Hennepin DDo and 5/27 Pennington JMJ.

**Varied Thrush** — Four reports: overwintered through 3/1 Stearns (Sartell) HHD and through 3/26 Kanabec (Mora) CAM; also found 3/4 Lac Qui Parle (Bellingham) BJU, 3/11–17 Itasca EEO, JLO.

**Gray Catbird** — Found in 24 north and

42 south counties. Early south 4/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/30 Scott RBW, 5/1 Goodhue LEC. Early north **4/8** (ties the state record early date and precedes the median north arrival by a full month; possibly overwintered but not detected as such) Otter Tail Rjo, 5/6 Hubbard PBB, 5/8 in three additional counties.

**Northern Mockingbird** — Statewide total of 21 reports from March (1), April (4), and May (16). South reports from Lac Qui Parle (5 locations between 3/4 and 5/23, BJU), Swift, Kandiyohi, Wabasha, and Ramsey. Twelve north reports beginning 4/18 Douglas BDS; also found in Clay, Aitkin (2 locations), Carlton, St. Louis (3 locations), Lake, and Cook (2 locations).

**Brown Thrasher** — Reported from 21 north and 43 south counties. Early south 4/9 Carver CRM, 4/11 Rice TFB, 4/13 Houston FZL (median 4/14). Early north 4/11 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/20 Otter Tail SPM, 4/21 St. Louis LAW (median 4/25).

**European Starling** — Statewide.

**American Pipit** — Observed in every region, but only five north counties. Seen in 15 south counties beginning **3/10** Le Sueur ChH (record early), 3/19 Chippeewa BJU, 3/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/16). Early north 5/2 Pine JMP, 5/9 Itasca RBJ. High counts 4/23 Lac Qui Parle (50) BJU, 4/30 Dakota (40+) JPM. Late south 5/14 Lac Qui Parle KTP, 5/15 Olmsted JWH, PWP, then none until 5/27 Scott PEB. Late north 5/17 Cook JWJ, 5/20 Lake JWJ, 5/21 Clay LEC (median 5/23).

**Bohemian Waxwing** — All south reports: 3/8 Big Stone (2 at Big Stone Lake S.P.) BJU, 3/9–17 Lac Qui Parle (Nassau) BJU, 3/26 Isanti FKB. North reports from Kittson, Polk, Norman, Otter Tail, Kanabec, St. Louis, and Lake. High count 3/27 St. Louis (1,300 at Duluth) *vide* JWJ. Late north 4/6 St. Louis (500) JRN, 4/18 Lake *vide* JWJ.

**Cedar Waxwing** — Reported south and

north throughout the period, though none in Northeast until 3/22. Highest reported counts 3/4 Norman (110) BWF, 4/26 Mille Lacs (90) ASc.

**Blue-winged Warbler** — First south reports matched recent median. Early south 5/2 Fillmore NBO, 5/3 Dakota, Goodhue, Olmsted, and Rice. Three north reports: 5/20 Pine MCA, 5/21 Clay LEC, 5/31 Morrison DFN. High count 5/15 Sherburne (9 along Blue Hill Trail, Sherburne N.W.R.) ASc.

**Golden-winged Warbler** — Found in every region, though only single reports from the Southwest and Northwest. Early south (also see undocumented reports) 5/5 Sherburne ASc, 5/6 Meeker DMF, 5/7 Dakota and Swift. Early north 5/3 Carlton LAW, 5/7 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/8 Beltrami KLa. Late south 5/21 Brown BTS and Dakota ADS, 5/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/28). A “Lawrence’s Warbler” 5/26 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF was on the same territory as last year.

**Tennessee Warbler** — Reported from 20 north and 39 south counties in all regions. Early south 5/1 Meeker DMF and Scott RBW, 5/2 Olmsted JWH, LAV, PWP. Early north 5/8 Clay PBB, Crow Wing JEB and Hubbard MAW. See summer report for late south migrants.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** — South arrivals timely: 4/20 Rice (3) DAB, 4/21 Meeker DMF (median 4/21). Early north 4/29 St. Louis SLF, 5/3 Mille Lacs ASc (median 4/25). Late south 5/20 Nicollet, Stearns and Swift, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/21 Beltrami PJR, Clay LEC and Red Lake JMJ (median 5/27).

**Nashville Warbler** — Found in every region, including 31 south and 22 north counties. Early south 4/26 Rice TFB, 4/28 Nicollet CRM. Early north 4/26 Koochiching JEB and 4/27 Itasca JEB; both preceded recent median (5/3). Late south 5/23 Fillmore, Lac Qui Parle and Martin, 5/26 Anoka BWF (median 5/31).

**Northern Parula** — Early south 5/1 Olmsted JJS, JWH (same as recent median), then multiple reports from Olmsted (same location?) all preceding 5/5 Rice TFB, 5/6 Goodhue SWe. Early north 5/3 St. Louis LAW, 5/6 Itasca EEO, 5/8 Crow Wing and Lake. Late south 5/30 Houston DFN (median 5/24). Reported from Lac Qui Parle, Swift and Clay in western regions.

**Yellow Warbler** — Reported as the most widespread warbler in 29 north and 43 south counties. Early south 4/29 Hennepin JLO, 4/30 Steele LS, (median 4/27). Early north 4/24 Hubbard MAW, 5/6 Grant JEB (median 5/5). High count 5/4 Fillmore (20) NBO.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** — Found in 22 north and 32 south counties, representing all regions. Early south 5/6 Olmsted JWH, Rice DAB and Sherburne ASc, then 5/7 in three more counties. Early north 5/7 Otter Tail JMP, 5/8 Aitkin KCR, 5/10 Cook and St. Louis. High count 5/29 St. Louis (25) TPW. Late south 5/29 Dakota SWe, 5/30 Chisago AKe.

**Magnolia Warbler** — Reported from every region. Early south 5/8 Fillmore JWH and Rice TFB, 5/9 Olmsted, Ramsey, Steele. Early north 5/4 Lake JWJL, 5/6 Cook (5) SMc, 5/10 St. Louis JEB (median 5/9). Late south 5/26 Fillmore NBO, 5/27 Dakota SWe (median 5/31).

**Cape May Warbler** — While no reports from the Southwest might be expected, only one record from the East-Central was surprising. In all, only found in 21 counties. Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/13 Goodhue JLO, 5/14 Dakota JPM and Meeker DMF. Early north 5/10 Beltrami *fide* KLa, 5/13 St. Louis SLF, 5/14 Cass BAW. Late south 5/23 Martin BWF, 5/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/22).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** — The only south reports were from Lac Qui Parle, where BJU found a female on 4/30 (second earliest) in Walter Twp. and two males on 5/12 at Lac Qui Parle S.P. Re-

ported north from Lake and Cook, beginning 5/26 Lake (2) DFN and 5/28 Cook (12 on Moose Mountain) MWS.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** — Reported from 26 north and 45 south counties. At least six overwintered at L. Byllesby in Dakota (ADS). Probable early south migrants 4/3 Ramsey MPi, 4/4 Hennepin JLO and Lac Qui Parle (2) BWF. Early north 4/7 Otter Tail DTT, SMT and Pine JWJL, 4/8 Mille Lacs ASc. High count 4/29 Rice (350) DAB. Late south (away from known breeding locations) 5/22 Goodhue LBF, 5/23 Olmsted LAV.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** — Arrived south and north within two days of recent medians. Early south 5/1 Olmsted JJS, JWH, 5/4 Rice TFB and Sherburne ASc. Early north 5/4 Lake JWJL, 5/8 Carlton, Cass and Crow Wing. Late south (away from known breeding locations) 5/27 Nobles BTS and Olmsted OWB (median 5/30).

**Blackburnian Warbler** — Found in every region, though only Murray in Southwest and Lac Qui Parle in West-central. Early south 5/1 Olmsted JWH, 5/4 Fillmore NBO, 5/10 Meeker DMF (median 5/4). Early north 5/4 Lake JWJL, 5/8 Carlton JWJL, 5/9 Itasca JEB. Late south 5/25 Murray NED, 5/27 Olmsted OWB.

**Pine Warbler** — Exceptionally early 3/15 Hennepin (at feeder in Maple Plain) *fide* WCM was more likely overwintering. Still very early but more likely to be migrants were 4/12 (ties record early south) Anoka RBJ and 4/14 Swift BJU. Additional south reports from Washington, Anoka, and Ramsey also preceded recent median of 4/25. Early north 4/14 (second earliest) Aitkin KJB, 4/16 Hubbard MAW, 4/18 Pine JMP. Additional north reports from Carlton, Cass, Cook, Itasca, and St. Louis all preceded the median of 4/26. Also notable were westerly reports from Lac Qui Parle.

**Palm Warbler** — Found in every region.

Early south 4/18 Dakota JPM, 4/19 Fillmore (8) NBO (median 4/22). Early north 4/9 Pine JMP, 4/19 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/24 Crow Wing RBJ (median 4/25). Late south 5/22 Goodhue and Hennepin, 5/24 Murray NED (median 5/23).

**Bay-breasted Warbler** — Reported from 5 north and 14 south counties. Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/13 Dakota JPM, 5/14 Goodhue and Meeker. Early north 5/20 Marshall *fide* MJJ, 5/21 Beltrami PJR and Clay LEC. Late south 5/22 Scott and Stearns, 5/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/24 Murray NED.

**Blackpoll Warbler** — Found in 11 north and 28 south counties. Early south 5/5 Olmsted JWH and Rice TFB, 5/7 Fillmore NBO (median 5/3). Early north 5/8 Hubbard MAW, 5/10 Kanabec CAM, 5/13 Otter Tail DTT, SMT (median 5/9). Late south 5/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/27 Olmsted OWB.

**Cerulean Warbler** — Early south 5/4 Fillmore NBO, with subsequent reports from Houston, Rice, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Sibley, Scott, and Wright; in addition, a male discovered 5/15 **Yellow Medicine** (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) WCM was refound 5/25+ (ph. DAC, RBJ). Only north report: one female at Lighthouse Point in Two Harbors, 5/4 **Lake** ph. tJWL, SLL (also a first record for the Northeast region).

**Black-and-white Warbler** — Reported from 25 north and 41 south counties. Early south 4/25 Rice DAB, 4/28 Meeker DMF, 4/30 Blue Earth, Goodhue and Waseca. Early north 5/3 Carlton LAW, 5/5 Pine DFN, JMP, 5/6 Wadena PJB. High count 5/29 St. Louis (10) TPW.

**American Redstart** — Found in every region. Early south 5/2 Fillmore NBO, 5/3 Olmsted LAV, 5/4 Ramsey and Rice. Early north 5/8 Otter Tail AJD, 5/9 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/10 Cook (6) BWS. Both early arrivals were within a day of recent medians.

**Prothonotary Warbler** — Early south



**Prothonotary Warbler, 16 May 2006 near Maple Lake, Polk County. Photo by Bruce D. Flaig.**

5/5 Fillmore ADB (median 5/4), followed by reports beginning 5/13 from Goodhue, Dakota, Ramsey, Hennepin, Le Sueur. Only north report: second county record 5/16 **Polk** (Maple Lake area) ph. BDF.

**Ovenbird** — Early south 4/30 Fillmore NBO, Rice DAB, TFB and Steele LS, matched the recent median arrival. Early north 5/3 Carlton LAW, 5/6 Itasca EEO, 5/7 Aitkin and Pine (median 5/4). High count 5/20 St. Louis (25) TPW.

**Northern Waterthrush** — Found in all regions. Early south 4/22 Rice JEB, 4/27 Swift BJU, 4/28 Scott RBW (median 4/26). Early north 5/1 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/3 St. Louis LAW, 5/6 Douglas CAM (median 5/4). Late south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle and Scott, 5/26 Anoka BWF (median 5/28).

**Louisiana Waterthrush** — Early south 4/9 Winona JJS, JWH, 4/15 Rice TFB, 4/21 Houston FZL, and 4/23 Rice DAB (same location?) all preceded the recent median arrival (4/24). Additional south reports from Fillmore, Olmsted, Waseca, Blue Earth, Hennepin.

**Kentucky Warbler** — Seventh consecutive year at Williams N.C. near Mankato 5/24+ Blue Earth †CMB, m.ob.

**Connecticut Warbler** — Reported from seven south and six north counties. Early south 5/9–10 Hennepin CMB, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/9 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/17 Beltrami JEB. Late south 5/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Mourning Warbler** — Reported from 14 south and 11 north counties. Early south 5/5 Houston FZL, 5/7 Swift BJU, 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/20 Pine MCA and St. Louis DWa, 5/21 Beltrami KAR and Cass BAW. Record-high count 5/29 St. Louis (15) TPW.

**Common Yellowthroat** — Reported from 43 south and 25 north counties in all regions. Early south 5/1 Olmsted JWH, 5/2 Olmsted JJS, 5/3 Rice TFB. Early north 5/7 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/10 Pine JMP, 5/12 Lake JWL.

**Hooded Warbler** — Many reports from Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., Dakota/Scott beginning 5/8 SMO. All reports away from the Twin Cities: 5/19 **Sherburne** (Woodland Trails Park, Elk River) PLJ, 5/20 **Nicollet** (Seven Mile Creek C.P.) ChH.

**Wilson's Warbler** — Found in 23 south and 10 north counties. Early south 5/3 Olmsted JWH, PWP, 5/7 Meeker DWF and Nicollet RMD. Early north 5/12 Lake JWL, 5/20 Marshall, Pine, St. Louis. Late south 5/26 Fillmore NBO and Olmsted LAV.

**Canada Warbler** — Reported from 23 south and 9 north counties. Early south 5/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/18 Chippewa and Renville BJU. Early north 5/20 Pine MCA, 5/21 Itasca JWL, 5/26 Cook JFN. Late south (away from known breeding locations) 5/23 Olmsted JWH, PWP; also see summer report.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** — All reports: 5/22 **Freeborn** (Carex W.M.A.) †ARW, 5/23 Olmsted (Indian Heights Park, Roch-

ester) LAV, 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) †BJU.

**Summer Tanager** — Adult male 5/17+ Dakota (Lebanon Hills Park) †CMB, †ADS *et al.* No details 5/6 Goodhue m.ob.

**Scarlet Tanager** — Observed in 30 south and 20 north counties in all regions. Early south 5/3 Anoka REH, 5/8 Carver HHD, 5/9 Fillmore, Rice, Scott. Early north 5/9 St. Louis JWL, 5/15 Aitkin KCR. Highest reported count 5/15 Sherburne (10 along Mahnomen Trail, Sherburne N.W.R.) ASc.

**Western Tanager** — Adult males 4/30 **Blue Earth** (William's N.C.) †CRM *et al.*, †CMB, 5/6 **Douglas** (near Carlos) LuW, ph. AEB, 5/10–11 **Cook** (Grand Marais) ph. RTF, 5/10–16 **St. Louis** (Embarrass) JuS, ph. BET, 5/11–15 **Itasca** (SE of Grand Rapids) BDe, ph. †EEO, †PHS, m.ob., 5/15 (Yellow Bank Twp.) and 5/22 (Walter Twp.) **Lac Qui Parle** †BJU. Also see undocumented reports.

**Spotted Towhee** — South reports: 4/21 **Chippewa** (male) †BJU, 5/10–12 **Martin** (male at Fairmont) †JNB, 5/14 Cottonwood (Mountain Lake C.P.) HHD, JJS. North reports: overwintered through 3/8 St. Louis (female or immature male at Cook) ph. †DAC, m.ob., 5/9–11 Otter Tail (male at Fergus Falls) †SPM, 5/9–11 **Polk** (male near Climax) ph. DLT.

**Eastern Towhee** — Reported from 31 south and 9 north counties. Early south 4/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/12 Sherburne ASc, 4/17 Winona JJS (median 4/16). Early north 4/28 Becker JMJ, 5/7 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/8 Crow Wing RBJ and St. Louis DFN (median 5/4).

**American Tree Sparrow** — Reported from 43 south and 21 north counties north in all regions. Late south 4/22 Hennepin MCA, 5/2 Washington LMS. Late north 4/24 Cass and Crow Wing RBJ, JEB.

**Chipping Sparrow** — Reported from all but seven south and three north counties.

Excluding several undocumented reports well before the recent median arrival date (3/26), early south 3/29 Rice FVS, 4/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/13) 4/9–10 Otter Tail DTT *et al.*, 4/11 Itasca JEB. High count 5/10 Cook (50) CJT.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** — Reported from 38 south and 27 north counties. Early south 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, then many reports starting 4/22 (recent median 4/21). Early north **4/22** Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/27 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/30 Clay PBB (median 4/27). Seasonal high count 5/3 Yellow Medicine (18) SLF.

**Field Sparrow** — Reported from 42 south counties beginning 4/4 Hennepin JLO, 4/6–8 in 10 counties (recent median 3/30). Early north 4/15 Mille Lacs HHD, 4/16 Otter Tail DTT, SMT; also reported from Pine, St. Louis (5/10, MTh), Todd.

**Vesper Sparrow** — Reported in all regions (43 south and 24 north counties). Early south 3/24, 3/25, 3/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, then many reports beginning 4/1 (median 3/30). Early north 4/9 Wilkin SPM and Traverse DFN, 4/14 Crow Wing DAC, RBJ and Wadena PJB (median 4/12).

**Lark Sparrow** — Observed in 18 south counties beginning 4/14 Swift BJU, 4/20 Nicollet RMD, 4/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Three reports north: 5/5 Clay (Bicentennial Prairie) PBB, 5/9 Polk DLT, 5/19 **Cook** (Grand Marais campground) JWL. Recent median arrivals: south 4/23, north 5/4.

**Savannah Sparrow** — Reported from 46 south and 30 north counties. Record-early **3/18** Nicollet RMD; then no reports until 4/1 Freeborn AEB and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/4 Meeker DMF. Early north **4/9** Pine JMP, 4/11 Kanabec JMP and Mille Lacs ASc, 4/15 Otter Tail MCA. Recent median arrivals: south 4/1, north 4/18.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** — Reported from 24 south and 12 north counties. Early south 4/23 Wabasha JJS, JWH, 4/26 Meeker DMF. Early north 4/27 Clay PBB, 5/6



**Lark Sparrow, 3 May 2006, Renville County.**  
Photo by David Cahlander.

Polk PHS. Amazing record-high count at Felton Prairie 5/29 Clay (**50**) PBB. Recent median arrivals: south 4/28, north 5/8.

**Henslow's Sparrow** — Reported from 14 south counties beginning **4/19** Washington (Lost Valley Prairie S.N.A.) RBJ; **4/22** Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) DDM, BJM, Hennepin (Elm Creek P.R.) KTP and Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie) BJU; **4/23** Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) RBW and Wabasha (Weaver Dunes/McCarthy Lake W.M.A.) JJS, JWH (recent median 5/18). Second county record (see *The Loon* 46:27) 5/3 **Sibley** RBJ, DAC. Also reported from Brown (Bashaw W.M.A.), Freeborn (Myrer-Big Island S.P.), Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.), Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.), Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir), Rice (location?), Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R. Auto Tour), Swift (2 locations). All north reports: **5/14–16** Clay (Felton Prairie) CMN, PBB, **5/17** Aitkin (location?) ASc,

5/28+ Otter Tail (Glendalough S.P.) *vide* JMJ. Highest reported count 5/20 Lac Qui Parle (7, Plover Prairie and vicinity) BJU.

**Le Conte's Sparrow** — Reported from 13 south and 16 north counties. Early south 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/21 Dakota JPM, 4/22 Hennepin DWK, JLO. Record-early north **4/12** Traverse KJB, then 4/22 Marshall JMJ, 4/27 Clay PBB.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** — Seen and heard **4/22** Lac Qui Parle (earliest date on record; east side of CR 59, Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU; only other south report 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (Freeland Twp.) BJU. All north reports: 5/29–31 Clay (**6**) PBB *et al.*, 5/30 Cass (5 along CR 8 at Boy River, plus one along CR 4) BAW.

**Fox Sparrow** — Observed in all regions (32 counties south, 18 counties north). Early south 3/10 Swift BJU, then reports poured in starting 3/11. Early north **3/20** Mille Lacs ASc, 3/28 Otter Tail AJD, then many reports starting 3/30. Late south 5/1 Nicollet PMo, 5/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Last reported 5/14 Cass BAW, 5/20 Pine MCA.

**Song Sparrow** — Found in all but five counties south and three north. Probably overwintered south (see winter report); potential migrants 3/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/11–12 in 12 south counties. Early north 3/27 Otter Tail ARO and Wadena PJB, 3/28 Mille Lacs ASc and St. Louis SES. Highest reported count 3/31 Rice (40) DAB.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** — Reported from 33 south and 13 north counties. Early south 3/31–4/1 Hennepin JLO, DDo, 4/6 Lyon BJU; peak migration 5/1–7 in 19 south counties, including 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (18) BJU. Early north 4/30 Clay PBB, 5/2 Pine JMP; peak migration 5/14–20 in seven north counties. Late south 5/20 Nicollet DAB and Washington LMS, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

**Swamp Sparrow** — Reported in 44 south and 26 north counties. Early south 3/26 Wabasha JWH, 3/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU

(median 3/24). Early north 4/14 Kanabec MTh and Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/15 Aitkin MTh and Mille Lacs ASc, HHD (median 4/16). Peak migration 4/22–24 south (14 counties), 5/6–8 north (11 counties).

**White-throated Sparrow** — Reported in 43 south and 26 north counties in all regions. Overwintered in Olmsted LAV; also see winter report. South reports poured in starting mid-April and ceased after 5/21. Early north 4/6 St. Louis JRN, 4/9 Crow Wing CMC (median 4/11). Bulk of north reports began 4/21. Season high count 5/8 Clay (100) PBB.

**Harris's Sparrow** — Reported from 33 south and 15 north counties. Normally overwinters south in small numbers, but none known to do so (see winter report). Early south 4/22 Meeker DMF, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Nicollet CRM (median 4/3). Overwintered Otter Tail DTT, SMT; probable early north migrants 4/25 Douglas BDS, 5/2 Clay PBB, 5/4 Aitkin KCR. Late south 5/20 Swift and 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/21 Marshall BRB and Wadena PJB. High counts 5/14 Martin (25) LBF, 5/17 Jackson (25) AXH, PHS.

**White-crowned Sparrow** — Reported from 33 south and 16 north counties. Early south 4/21, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/22 Dakota PEB. Early north 4/30 Clay PBB, 5/1 Kanabec CAM. Bulk of south reports began 4/28 and stopped after 5/22 Ramsey LMS (same as median). North reports steady throughout May and ceased as of 5/23 Kanabec JMP (median 5/25).

**Dark-eyed Junco** — Reported from 46 south and 27 north counties in all regions. Season high count 4/1 Stearns (200) SWE. Late south 5/8 & 5/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Male “Oregon Junco” reported 3/28 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

**Lapland Longspur** — Found in 24 south and 8 north counties. Late south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Sibley RBJ, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/7 Polk JMJ, 5/17 Cook JWJ. Highest reported count 4/27

Polk (500+ at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) TWi.

**Smith's Longspur** — South reports (none with details) 4/17 Big Stone (4) BJU; 4/17 (7), 4/22 (90), 4/28 (106), 5/4 (1) Lac Qui Parle BJU, m.ob. Only north report: 5/9 Polk (well-described flock of 60 birds at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) †RPR *et al.*

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** — Reported from Felton Prairie starting 4/27+ Clay PBB, m.ob. Also seen 4/17 **Lac Qui Parle** (near Big Stone N.W.R.) †BJU.

**Snow Bunting** — Reported from 10 south and 16 north counties. Late south 4/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/6 Lincoln (40) BJU. Late north 4/25 Kittson (1) RRz, 5/7 Clearwater SAS. Season high count 3/16 Lac Qui Parle (470) BJU.

**Northern Cardinal** — Reported throughout the state in all regions. High count 3/12 Steele (12 at feeder) NFT. Northern extent as follows: Polk, Clearwater, Itasca, St. Louis (Ely), Lake (Beaver Bay).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** — Seen in 45 south and 25 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/28 Fillmore NBO and Scott RBW matched median arrival date; many south reports starting 4/29. Early north 4/26 Clay MEB *vide* MJM, 5/4 Aitkin KCR (median 5/3). Season high count 5/12 Lac Qui Parle (15) BJU.

**Blue Grosbeak** — Only reports: 5/24 Murray (Moulton Twp.) NED, 5/25 **Yellow Medicine** (Florida Twp.) BJU.

**Indigo Bunting** — Observed in 33 south and 16 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/29 & 5/2 Fillmore NBO, 5/2 Olmsted PWP; few other reports until peak migration beginning 5/10. Early north 5/13 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/17 Kanabec CAM.

**Dickcissel** — Reported from 15 south and 4 north counties. Excluding several undocumented reports up to three weeks earlier than recent median arrival (5/10), early south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/24



**Bobolink, 25 May 2006, Chippewa County.**  
**Photo by David Cahlander.**

Brown RPR. Bulk of reports started 5/25. All north reports: 5/29 Clay RBW, 5/29 Pine JJS, 5/31 Clay CMN, PBB and Otter Tail SPM. Also, an amazing location of a flyover heard by four knowledgeable observers near Isabella (5/29 **Lake JWL**)!

**Bobolink** — Reported from 38 south and 22 north counties. Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/30 Meeker DMF, 5/1 Steele NFT, KRV. Early north 5/5 Pennington SAS, 5/7 Clay MJM, PHS. Highest reported count 5/24 Brown (20) RPR.

**Red-winged Blackbird** — Observed in 83 counties. Please see winter report for numerous south records and possible overwintering north (e.g., 2/20 Polk *vide* MJM). Presumed early north migrants 3/8 St. Louis (mixed flock of Common Grackles and Red-wingeds) DOK, 3/10 Mille Lacs, Otter Tail, and Wadena. Season high count 3/5 Brown (7200) MLB.

**Eastern Meadowlark** — Reported from 38 south and 16 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/10 Dodge KRV, 3/11 in four more counties. Early north 3/9

Mille Lacs ASc, 3/17, 3/20 Pine JMP. High count 4/24 Sherburne (27) ASc.

**Western Meadowlark** — Found in 34 south and 21 north counties in all regions except Northeast and East-central. Early south 3/8 Big Stone BJU, 3/9 Cottonwood BRB, then many observations starting 3/10. Early north 3/10 Pennington SAS, 3/12 Red Lake MJJ, Wadena PJB and Wilkin BDS. All counts single digits.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** — Reported from 37 south and 18 north counties in all regions except East-central. Early south 3/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/5–9 in five counties (recent median 3/30). Early north 4/9 Traverse DFN and Wilkin SPM, 4/14 Wadena PJB (median 4/11).

**Rusty Blackbird** — Observed in 28 south and 11 north counties in all regions except Northeast and East-central. Presumed early south migrants (but see winter report) 3/4 & 3/10 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/10 Swift BJU, 3/11 Meeker DMF (recent median 3/6). Early north 3/23 Wilkin PBB, ChM, 3/28 Red Lake SAS (median 3/18). Late south 4/22 Hennepin MCA, 4/28 Scott RBW, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/30). Late north 4/22 Aitkin ASc, 4/22 Clearwater DPJ, PJR, 5/8 Marshall SBr (median 5/2). Season high count 3/30 Lac Qui Parle (800) BJU.

**Brewer's Blackbird** — Reported from 28 south and 24 north counties. Early south 3/12 Dakota PEB, 3/18 Rice DAB; peak migration 4/6–15 in ten counties. Early north 4/8 Polk EEF, 4/14 Morrison HHD; peak migration 4/22–27 in eight counties.

**Common Grackle** — Found in 82 counties in all regions throughout the season. Early south migrants indistinguishable from overwintering birds. Early north 3/17 St. Louis JWL, 3/18 Grant HHD, 3/26 Otter Tail (25) DTT, SMT. Season high count 4/1 Nicollet (4,000 leaving roost near St. Peter) KJB.

**Great-tailed Grackle** — First county re-

cord 4/15–18 **Wright** (adult male uttering “a variety of rattles and whistles... reminiscent of water slapping on a shoreline and the static of an old ham radio” at Pelican Lake) ph. KTP, †CMB, m.ob. Also documented 4/17 Lac Qui Parle (2 adult males vocalizing “clacks, croaks, and mainly of harsh rising whistles” near Rosen) †BJU; 5/1–2 Lac Qui Parle (2 adult males with very pale irides, one giving “harsh croaks interspersed with rising whistles” in Walter Twp.) †BJU; 5/3 Brown (adult male vocalizing “clucks and whistles” at Sleepy Eye) †BTS; 5/6+ Brown (female nest-building while 2 males displayed at Rosenau-Lambrech W.M.A.) †BTS; 5/15–23 **Olmsted** (male at Eastside W.M.A.) RLE, JWH, ph. PWP. Reported without details from traditional location in Jackson (state highway 86 and CR 4) m.ob.

**Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle** — Three reports of large *Quiscalus* sp. compared with much smaller Common Grackles: 4/23 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) †PCC, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (Hantho Twp.) †BJU, 5/14–15 **Martin** (adult male near Pierce Lake) †LBF. All were likely Great-tailed, but due to lack of vocalizations their identities could not be confirmed.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** — Found in 48 south and 29 north counties. Early south (but see February reports in Dakota, Rice) 3/8 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/9–10 Le Sueur ChH, CMB, peak migration 4/4–9 in 21 counties. Early north 4/4 St. Louis SLF, 4/5 Mille Lacs ASc, peak migration 4/21–25 in 10 counties.

**Orchard Oriole** — Reported from 22 south but only 2 north counties. Early south 5/6 Fillmore (pair at feeder in Lanesboro) WSw, 5/7 Nicollet RMD, 5/10 Goodhue and Olmsted JWH. All north reports: 5/13+ Clay m.ob., 5/22 Polk (East Grand Forks) PHS.

**Baltimore Oriole** — Reported from 43 south and 22 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/29 Hennepin JLO,

5/2 Hennepin ABL, 5/2 Olmsted JJS, then many reports 5/3. Early north 5/6 Wadena PJB, 5/7 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, then many reports 5/8.

**Pine Grosbeak** — No south reports. Late north 3/20 Beltrami KLa, 17 days prior to median departure (4/6). Also reported from Aitkin, Hubbard, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Pine.

**Purple Finch** — Reported from 24 south and 22 north counties. Total of 1095 banded between 4/3 and 5/15 Itasca DRM. Late south 5/15 Fillmore NBO, 5/18 Stearns HHD, 5/21 Hennepin TKP.

**House Finch** — Reported statewide.

**Red Crossbill** — Nine reports from five north counties. All south reports: 3/19 Redwood (Redwood Falls) BJU, 3/25 Lac Qui Parle (Prospect W.M.A.) BJU. Season high count 3/30 Cass (40) PJR.

**White-winged Crossbill** — Only two reports: 3/23 Koochiching CMB, JLO, 4/24 Crow Wing JEB, RBJ.

**Common Redpoll** — Only south report:

3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Reported from 12 north counties. Late north 4/1 Beltrami DPJ, Itasca EEO and Kittson LW, 4/11 Itasca JEB (median 5/4). Season high count 4/8 St. Louis (70) SLF. Of interest was a band recovery in western Massachusetts this March of a Common Redpoll banded by DRM near Bigfork, Itasca County, March 2004!

**Hoary Redpoll** — All reports: late February through 3/6 Lake (Isabella) RAE, and through 3/8 St. Louis (near Cook) ph. DAC, RBJ, m.ob.

**Pine Siskin** — Reported from 16 north and 11 south counties in all regions except West-central. Late south 5/3 Dakota ADS, JPM, 5/7 Rice DAB.

**American Goldfinch** — Reported statewide.

**Evening Grosbeak** — Reported from nine north counties in North-central and Northeast regions. Highest reported count 3/1 Koochiching (50–60 at feeder along Canadian border) TCR.

**House Sparrow** — Seen statewide.

---

**Contributors**

---

ABL Andrew B. Longtin  
ADB Andrew D. Bicek  
ADS Andrew D. Smith  
AEB Al E. Batt  
AEK Ann E. Kessen  
AJD Amy & Jeff Drake  
ALE Audrey L. Evers  
ARo Alma Ronningen  
ARW Alexander R. Watson  
ASc Al Schirmacher  
AXH Anthony X. Hertzell  
BAF Bruce A. Fall  
BAW Ben A. Wieland  
BBB Bruce B. Baer  
BCa Becky Carlson  
BCM Chris Mansfield  
BDe Bonnie DeLare  
BDF Bruce D. Flaig  
BDS Beau D. Shroyer  
BET Bill E. Tefft  
BG Bill George  
BJM Barbara J. Martin

BJS Beth & Jeff Siverhus  
BJU Bill J. Unzen  
BKY Ben K. Yokel  
BLA Betty L. Ammerman  
BRB Brad R. Bolduan  
BRL Bill R. Litkey  
BSe Blaine Seeliger  
BTS Brian T. Smith  
BWF Ben W. Fritchman  
BWL Brad W. Larson  
BWS Bruce W. Stahley  
CAK Chuck A. Krulas  
CAM Craig A. Menze  
CCB Chris C. Benson  
ChH Chad Heins  
ChM Chet A. Meyers  
CJT Carol & Jim Tveekrem  
CMa Craig Marble  
CMB Conny M. Brunell  
CMC Carol M. Crust  
CMN Connie M. Norheim  
CPo Cynthia Porter

CRM	Craig R. Mandel	JEM	John E. Morrison
CSB	Cynthia & Steve Broste	JJS	Jeff J. Stephenson
CV	Curt Vacek	JLH	James L. Howitz
DAB	David A. Bartkey	JLR	Janet L. Riegler
DAC	David A. Cahlander	JLU	Janice & Larry Uden
DAG	David A. Grosshuesch	JMc	Joan McKearnan
DAT	Dan A. Tallman	JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru
DAY	Dale A. Yerger	JMo	Jim Molkenthin
DBz	Dedrick Benz	JMP	Jackie M. Potts
DCT	Dianne C. Tuff	JNB	Judy N. Beckman
DCZ	Dave C. Zumeta	JNy	Jeff Nygaard
DDM	Dennis D. Martin	JLO	James L. Otto
DDo	Diana Doyle	JOB	Josh Obrecht
DFN	David F. Neitzel	JPE	John P. Ellis
DFR	Daniel F. Rohde	JPM	James P. Mattsson
DJS	Dory J. Spence	JPS	Julian P. Sellers
DKM	Diane K. Millard	JRN	Jeff R. Newman
DLB	Diane L. Brudelie	JSB	Jo & Steve Blanich
DLE	David L. Evans	JSc	John Schladweiler
DLT	Donna & Leon Thoreson	JSK	John & Susan Kroll
DMA	Diane M. Anderson	JSS	Jack Sprenger
DMF	Dan M. Floren	JSz	Jeff Schultz
DML	Dodie M. Logue	JT	Janet Timmerman
DMP	Daphne & Meyers Peterson	JuS	Judy Stecker
DMy	Dave Myher	JWH	John W. Hockema
DOB	Derek O. Bakken	JWL	James W. Lind
DOK	Don Kienholz	KAK	Karla A. Kinstler
DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	KAR	Kathryn A. Rivers
DPS	David P. Sovereign	KBo	Kim Bosquet
DRB	David R. Benson	KCR	Kim & Cindy Risen
DRM	Dennis R. Meyer	KJB	Karl J. Bardon
DSC	David S. Carman	KK	Ken Klemmick
DTT	Dan T. Thimgan	KKW	Kristine & Kyle Wicklund
DWa	Debbie Waters	KLa	Kelly Larson
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	KRE	Kim R. Eckert
EEF	Eve E. Freeberg	KRS	Karen R. Sussman
EEO	Earl E. Orf	KRV	Ken & Rebecca Vail
EJE	Eddy & Judy Edwards	KTP	Keith T. Pulles
ELL	Emily & Lavel Larson	LAV	Lance A. Vrieze
FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	LAW	Larry A. Weber
FJN	Frank J. Nicoletti	LBF	Linda B. Felker
KFB	Frank & Kathi Berdan	LEC	Laura E. Coble
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	LMC	Linda M. Cooper
FZL	Fred Z. Leshner	LME	Laura M. Erickson
GDB	Gene D. Bauer	LMS	Larry M. Sirvio
GLH	Gary L. Huschle	LMY	Lyle Myers
GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel	LO	Larry Olson
GO	Gary Otnes	LS	Linda Sparling
GT	Gary Tischer	LuH	LuWanna Hintermeister
HCT	Howard C. Towle	LW	Larry Wilebski
HHH	Herb H. Dingmann	LWM	Leo Wexler-Mann
HJF	Heidi J. Ferguson	MA	Margaret Anderson
HPe	Holly Peirson	MAJ	Murdoch A. Johnson
JCG	Janet C. Green	MAW	Marlene A. Weber
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	MBa	Matt Baumann
JEK	Jason Ekstein	MBr	Mary Broten
JeM	Jerome McKenna	MC	Mike Christopherson

MCA Mark C. Alt  
 MEB Mel & Elaine Bennefeld  
 MHK Martin H. Kehoe  
 MLB Maya L. Bolduan  
 MLH Michael L. Hendrickson  
 MM Matt Mecklenburg  
 MMa Michael Mann  
 MMc Michelle McDowell  
 MME Molly M. Evans  
 MO Mark Otnes  
 MAO Mark A. Ochs  
 MPi Matt Pierce  
 MRN Michael R. North  
 MSM Mark S. Martell  
 MSS Mark Sparky Stensaas  
 MTh Molly Thompson  
 MWS Mike W. Steffes  
 NAJ Nancy A. Jackson  
 NBO Nancy B. Overcott  
 NED Nelvina E. De Kam  
 NFT Nels F. Thompson  
 OLJ Oscar L. Johnson  
 OWB Bill Bruins  
 PBB Patrick Beauzay  
 PBD Pat & Bob Dewenter  
 PCC Philip C. Chu  
 PEB Paul E. Budde  
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher  
 PHS Peder H. Svingen  
 PJB Paul J. Binek  
 PJR Pat J. Rice  
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson  
 PME Paul M. Egeland  
 PMo Philip Moldenhauer  
 PRH Pete Hoeger  
 PWP Paul W. Pedersen  
 RAE Ron A. Erpelding  
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen  
 RBW Robert B. Williams  
 REH Robert E. Holtz  
 RHe Robert Heise  
 RHO Robert H. O'Connor  
 RJo Roland Jordahl  
 RJS Roger J. Schroeder  
 RLE Robert L. Ekblad  
 RLL Robin L. LaFortune  
 RMD Robert M. Dunlap  
 RNe Randal Newton  
 RNS Richard N. Smaby  
 RPF Robert P. Fashingbauer  
 RPR Robert P. Russell, Jr.  
 RPU Richard P. Urbanek  
 RRz Russell Riesz  
 RSF Randy S. Frederickson  
 RTF Richard T. Franta  
 RuJ Ruth Johnson  
 RWS Robert W. Schroeder

SAD Susan A. Duppstadt  
 SAS Shelley A. Steva  
 SBM Scott B. Meyer  
 SB Sue Braastad  
 SBr Steve Broten  
 SC Shawn Conrad  
 SES Steven E. Schon  
 SHM Skip Mott  
 SID Sue Durrant  
 SLF Shar Legenhausen  
 SLF Steven L. Falkowski  
 SLL Sharon L. Lind  
 SMC Scott M. Clark  
 SMc Sue McDonnell  
 SMo Steve Morrison  
 SMT Sandy M. Thimgan  
 SNo Sherri Norland  
 SPM Steven P. Millard  
 SPS Steven P. Stucker  
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman  
 SWe Steve Weston  
 SWi Susan Wiste  
 TAN Tom A. Nelson  
 TAT Tom A. Tustison  
 TCr Tom Crumpton  
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell  
 TFA Todd F. Anderson  
 TFB Tom F. Boevers  
 TKP T.K. Peacock  
 TM Thomas Maiello  
 TPB Terry P. Brashear  
 TPW Terry P. Wiens  
 TWi Tom Will  
 UK Uwe Kausch  
 WAB William A. Blum  
 WCM William C. Marengo  
 WEN Warren E. Nelson  
 WHL Bill Lane  
 WJK William J. Kass  
 WMS William M. Stauffer  
 WOS William O. Stjern  
 WSw William Swanson

### Abbreviations

C.P. County Park  
 C.R. County Road  
 H.P.B.C. Hastings-Prescott Bird Count  
 m.obs. many observers  
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge  
 P.R. Park Reserve  
 S.N.A. Scientific & Natural Area  
 S.P. State Park  
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area  
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Production Area  
 W.S.H.C. West Skyline Hawk Count  
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

# An Old Ibis Specimen from Redwood County

Anthony X. Hertzell

At the end of a long hall on the second floor of the Redwood County Historical Society building in Redwood Falls is a small room simply marked “Bird Collections.” Here are perhaps thirty mounted birds that, a hundred years ago, belonged to Dr. Christopher Porter Gibson, a taxidermist of the same city. Among the curiously labeled specimens of “Blooming Teal” (Blue-winged Teal), “Sand-billed Crane” (Sandhill Crane), and “Blue Necked Duck” (Ring-necked Duck) is a dark, unkempt ibis. According to the card accompanying the specimen, this bird was collected by a farmer sometime around the year 1900 in Three Lakes Township, about ten miles south of Redwood Falls, and soon after delivered to Gibson.

The ibis is an adult apparently molting into basic plumage, suggesting it was collected in the late summer or early fall. Its head and neck are a flat, medium brown streaked heavily with paler feathers. The breast, belly, flanks, mantle, scapulars, and the feathers covering the upper tarsi are a rich maroon. Though faded, the wing coverts, secondaries, and back are still a deep, glossy blue-green with a purplish sheen, while some of the primaries have a brassy-green color to them. Normally the most telling field mark, the facial skin has been painted, probably several times over the years, and is now a dull mustard yellow. The bill has also been painted and is nearly black. The legs have dried to a pale, greenish-yellow with the tarsi joints slightly more yellowish. The eyes, of course, have been replaced with orange glass beads. The bird stands in an unnatural posture, head cocked slightly sideways with the body leaning forward awkwardly.



Christopher Gibson's ibis.

Gibson identified this bird as a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), though based on previous occurrences of *Plegadis* in Minnesota, it would seem much more likely that this specimen is a White-faced Ibis (*P. chibi*). Because of its age and condition, determining its true species is rather difficult. The chemicals used in preparing the specimen — in those days usually arsenic — combined with its age and the circumstances under which it has been kept will probably prevent a definitive identification. As noted before, the facial skin is neither reddish (White-faced) nor bluish (Glossy), the eyes have been replaced with glass, and the legs have

**Table 1. Measurements for Glossy and White-faced ibis from various published sources. All measurements in millimeters (Palmer originally given in inches).**

	Male	female
Blake (1977)		
tarsus		
White-faced	91.0–98.0	63.0–73.0
Glossy	99.2–112.0	78.0–88.0
BNA (1994, 2000)		
tarsus		
White-faced <sup>1</sup>	101.6–115.1	82.0–88.9
Glossy <sup>2</sup>	99.2–112.0	78.0–88.0
bill		
White-faced <sup>1</sup>	127.0–141.1	99.6–115.6
Glossy <sup>2</sup>	126.0–137.0	95.0–114.0
Oberholser (1974)		
tarsus		
White-faced	101.6 - 115.1	82.0 - 88.9
Glossy	102.1 - 114.0	82.0 - 88.9
bill		
White-faced	127.0-141.5	99.6-115.6
Glossy	129.0-140.0	100.6-111.5
Cramp (1977)		
tarsus		
Glossy	101.0-113.0	82.0-90.0
bill		
Glossy	126.0-141.0	106.0-114.0
Palmer (1962)		
tarsus		
White-faced	76.2-110.8	(male and female)
Glossy	73.6-109.2	(male and female)
bill		
White-faced	95.2-152.4	(male and female)
Glossy	109.2-139.7	(male and female)
(1) citing Oberholser		
(2) citing Blake		

discolored over time. Aside from detailed measurements, these are about the only characteristics which could be used to identify the bird.

Regardless of whether it is a Glossy or White-faced ibis, there is no mention of the Redwood County specimen anywhere in the Minnesota literature. If Gibson's identification is correct, this would represent only the third Minnesota record and would predate the first by about 90 years. Currently, the only two accepted Minnesota records of Glossy Ibis are of a bird discovered 8 May 1991 in the company of two White-faced Ibis at South Heron Lake, Jackson County (Janssen 1992) and one

found in Aitkin County on 19 April 2005 (Blanich 2006). An earlier record that had placed Glossy Ibis on the Minnesota list was one seen 16 June 1939, also at South Heron Lake (Pettingill and Warner 1939). However, in 1987 the MOU Records Committee examined the documentation and, because of a lack of details, voted to delete it from the Minnesota list (Eckert 1987), leaving no acceptable record for the state until the 1991 bird appeared.

Roberts (1932) lists records of White-faced Ibis from 1891 (Meeker County), 1893, 1894, and 1895 (all Jackson County), and 1907 (Kandiyohi County), but none from Redwood County and none from the approximate same time period.

Distinguishing between the two *Plegadis* species is often difficult. Glossy Ibis is larger than White-faced overall, and measurements of specimens can aid in their identification. Making rough measurements, I found the tarsi to be 79.5 and 80 mm each and the exposed culmen about 112 mm. However, the literature seems to offer conflicting interpretations of these measurements. According to Blake (1977), this bird is too *big* to be a female White-faced, but according to the *Birds of North America* (Ryder and Manry 1994), it is too *small* to be a female White-faced. The tarsi measurements are outside all ranges given by Oberholser (1974). Furthermore, the *Birds of North America* (BNA) account for Glossy Ibis (Davis and Kricher 2000) use measurements from Blake. The authors of the BNA account for White-faced Ibis apparently used Oberholser's data without attribution. Other sources at my immediate disposal were not helpful (see Table 1). Hancock, Kushlan, and Kahl (1992) cite Blake for both species. Palmer (1962) states the White-faced is smaller than Glossy and cites measurements from Ridgway (1896).

I contacted Peter Pyle, biologist at the Institute for Bird Populations at the Point Reyes Station in California and author of *The Identification Guide to North American Birds* to ask for his interpretation of this situation. He agreed to look at the issue and consider where Gibson's ibis

seemed to fit best. His analysis, sent to me in December 2006, is as follows:

“My data from 128 White-faced Ibis (first-year birds from September or later) from CAS [California Academy of Sciences] and MVZ [Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, Berkeley] show ranges (based on mean + or - 2 \*S.D) of:

	<b>exposed culmen</b>	<b>wing chord</b>	<b>standard tarsus</b>
Female	96–116	233–256	74–89
Male	130–152	262–282	96–113

So it looks like my measures for tarsus are larger than Blake’s but accord fairly well with Oberholser’s. The Minnesota bird thus fits within the range of female White-faced for both culmen and tarsus. The measures which I had earlier summarized from the literature seemed to show that Glossy had a larger average wing length, a smaller average bill length, and a tarsus length about equal with White-faced (the last as also indicated by Oberholser’s data). So I would think that something like wing chord/exposed culmen might lead to the best separation.”

Because of the poor condition of the bird, making an accurate measurement of the wing chord would be difficult. Based on previous occurrences of *Plegadis* in Minnesota and Pyle’s new data, it would seem most likely that this particular specimen is a White-faced Ibis, but again, due to its age and condition, determining its true species may not be possible. Perhaps some day we will be given permission to bring the specimen to the University of Minnesota for a more complete analysis.

**Acknowledgments**

In addition to Peter Pyle for his comments, I thank Pershing “Jack” Hofslund for first informing me of the existence of this ibis specimen. Louis Bevier and Van Rensen provided valuable insights.

**Literature Cited**

Blake, E. R. 1977. *Manual of Neotropical Birds*. Volume 1. University of Chicago Press. Chicago, IL. 714 pp.

Blanich, J. 2006. Glossy Ibis in Aitkin County. *The Loon* 78:53.

Cramp, S. (chief ed.). 1977. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa*, Volume I. Ostrich to Ducks. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 722 pp.

Davis, W. E., Jr., and J. Kricher. 2000. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 545 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.

Eckert, K. 1987. Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee. *The Loon* 59:57–58.

Hancock, J. A., J. A. Kushlan, and M. P. Kahl. 1992. *Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills of the World*. Academic Press, London. 385 pp.

Janssen, R. 1992. A Glossy Ibis in Minnesota. *The Loon* 64:5–10.

Oberholser, H. 1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*, Volume 1. University of Texas Press. Austin. 530 pp.

Palmer, R. S. 1962. *Handbook of North American Birds*. Volume 1: Loons through Flamingos. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT. 576 pp.

Pettingill, O. S. and D. W. Warner. 1939. Glossy Ibis in Minnesota. *Wilson Bulletin* 51:183.

Ridgway, R. 1896. *A Manual of North American Birds*. Second edition. Lippincott, Philadelphia, PA. 653 pages plus 124 plates.

Roberts, T. S. 1932. *The Birds of Minnesota*, Volume 1. University of Minnesota Press. Minneapolis. 691 pp.

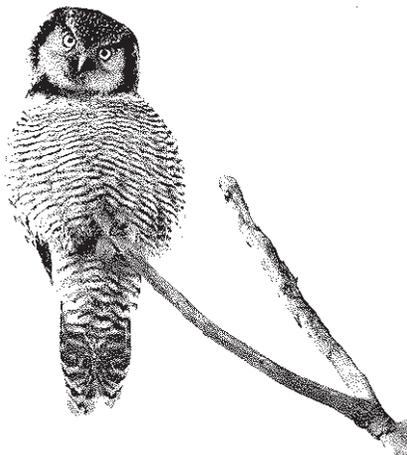
Ryder, R. A., and D. E. Manry. 1994. White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 130 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.) Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C. The American Ornithologists’ Union.

**8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.**

# BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

## *A Third Look at Swans*

Kim R. Eckert



In case you missed it, there had already been a second look at swans three years ago in this journal (*The Loon* 75:230–234), but I think it's about time for a third look, especially in light of some interesting photographs that Jim Mattsson took in Washington County last December (see Figures 1–4).

Wait, hold on! What's this? Photos in an ID article after all those critical comments of them in the previous issue of *The Loon* ("Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Photographs")? Yeah, well, you got me. But I'm just optimistic enough — or is it arrogant? — to think that photos can be handled correctly here. Accordingly, I promise to proofread the article in its final form before it goes to press to make sure the captions are correct, and that the text refers to field marks in a photo which really are visible and not contradicted by other photos.

Before commenting on Jim's four photos (plus two others of a swan in New York which appeared about the same time on the "Frontiers of Field Identification" listserve), a brief review of swan field marks is in order. First, here are the nine most useful swan field marks discussed in that earlier "Hindsight" article:

- Vocalizations – more useful on adults than on immatures, and obviously not applicable when considering photos.
- Size – Trumpeter larger overall than

Tundra, but beware variation according to the swan's sex and age.

- Lores (adults only) – yellow = Tundra; black = either species (but beware some Trumpeters with pale "wear spot" on lores).
- Gape feathering (adults only) – relatively straight or shallowly curved along bill base = Trumpeter; more sharply curved or angled = Tundra.
- Forehead feathering (adults only) – V-shaped feathering at top of bill = Trumpeter; U-shaped feathering = Tundra.
- Black between eye and bill (adults only) – broader area of black, with top edge tangent with top of eye = Trumpeter; narrower area of black with eye appearing more separated = Tundra.
- Bill length (adults only) – distance from gape to tip twice the distance from eye to back of head = Trumpeter; gape-to-tip distance 1.5 times = Tundra.
- Overall plumage of immatures – duskier gray in winter = Trumpeter; whiter overall in winter = Tundra.
- Bill color of immatures – all black at base of bill in fall/early winter = Trumpeter; some pink at base of bill in fall/early winter = Tundra.

Second, the same article includes 11 other less-reliable field marks (some completely unreliable?) sometimes mentioned in various ID references. Eight of these I



**Figure 1. Unusual swan, 11 December 2006, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Note especially overall size and rear-end profile. Photo by Jim Mattsson.**



**Figure 2. Unusual swan, 11 December 2006, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Note especially culmen shape and gape feathering. Photo by Jim Mattsson.**



**Figure 3. Unusual swan, 11 December 2006, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Note especially shape of forehead feathering. Photo by Jim Mattsson.**



**Figure 4. Unusual swan, 11 December 2006, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Note especially gape feathering, black between eye and bill, and nostril position. Photo by Jim Mattsson.**

consider generally useless, but three others might have some value as secondary, supporting features:

- Nostril position – half-way between eye and bill tip suggests Trumpeter; nostril closer to bill tip than eye suggests Tundra.
- Culmen shape – straighter culmen suggests Trumpeter; more concave suggests Tundra.
- Crown shape – lower and flatter profile suggests Trumpeter; higher and rounder suggests Tundra.

And third, while reading comments about the swan photos from New York posted on the “Frontiers” listserv mentioned above, I noticed three other field marks of which I was unaware. At this time I cannot comment on how useful and reliable these features may be, but for now they are worth including in the discussion:

- Swimming posture – lower and more pointed rear-end profile suggests Trumpeter; higher and broader rear

profile suggests Tundra.

- Overall plumage of immatures – grayish color blotchy or patchy in appearance = Trumpeter; grayish more even overall = Tundra.
- Leg color of immatures – olive = Trumpeter; black = Tundra.

So, with all this in mind, just what is the identity of that adult swan photographed by Jim Mattsson on 11 December 2006 at Point Douglas Park, Washington County (Figures 1–4)? Of course, not all of the 15 field marks listed above are applicable or visible in the photos. But here is what I can actually see in one or more of the photos:

Trumpeter Swan ID suggested by:

- V-shaped forehead feathering (see Figure 3)
- straight culmen shape (see especially Figure 2)
- low crown profile

Tundra Swan ID suggested by:

- overall size (not all that larger than geese in Figure 1)



Figure 5. Juvenile swan, New York City, 16 December 2006, © Lloyd Spitalnik. Note the amount of black between eye and bill, nostril position, culmen shape, and crown profile.



Figure 6. Juvenile swan, New York City, 16 December 2006, © Lloyd Spitalnik. Note the V-shaped forehead feathering.

- yellow lores (but could this be a Trumpeter's "wear patch"?)
- strongly curved edge of gape feathering (see especially Figures 2 and 4)
- narrow area of black between eye and bill (see especially Figure 4)
- short bill length
- nostril closer to bill tip (see especially Figure 4)
- high rear-end profile (see Figure 1)

So, again, with all this in mind, just what is the identity of that adult swan? While not all ten of these listed features are considered diagnostic, the majority of them are, and most would suggest it's a Tundra Swan. Most, but not all. Especially troubling to me is the V-shaped forehead feathering, and I wonder if that loreal spot might just be from wear and not necessarily diagnostic for Tundra in this case. I have to wonder as well if swans hybridize.

Well, as you contemplate the swan from Point Douglas, here's another swan to consider, courtesy of photographer Lloyd Spitalnik (see Figures 5 and 6). About the same time I received Jim Mattsson's photos, Lloyd's photos of an immature swan in New York were being discussed on the "Frontiers of Field Identification" listservice.

This forum, by the way, is a curious one, with some participants apparently considering themselves expert enough to post comments on almost every ID subject which arises. But too often the threads of discussion unravel and disappear with no firm conclusions about the ID in question. (Too often as well the talk involves the tiresome issue of gull identification!) There is lots of good ID information here, though, among the ego trips and ramblings, and it's worth surfing through its archives to view some of the discussions (<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdwg01.html>).

But back to the swan in question. At first, the identity of this bird may not seem particularly challenging, since everything in the photos suggests Trumpet-

er Swan: the V-shaped forehead feathering, the wide area of black between the eye and bill (with the top edge of the black tangent with the top of the eye), the nostril positioned half way between the eye and bill tip, the relatively straight culmen, and flat crown shape. However, take a second look at this list of field marks: the first two are only diagnostic on adults, and the last three are more suggestive than conclusive. I also find it odd for the bill to be completely black in December, rather than partly pink.

But I think it's safe enough to call this a Trumpeter, once you consider all these features in combination. Most on "Frontiers" also concluded it was a Trumpeter, although their reasoning was usually flawed, as they cited less-than-diagnostic field marks or those only applicable to adults. At least one of the "experts" confidently concluded it was a Tundra Swan, even though the only feature which suggests Tundra is the curved shape of the feathering at the gape — a field mark only safely used on adults.

I would hope that those who thought they knew about swan ID will eventually come to realize they actually had some of it wrong. If they do, as I wrote in the previous swan article, "we're finally getting somewhere if birders come to realize that swan identification is an under-appreciated problem."

I thank Jim Mattsson and Lloyd Spitalnik for their generosity in allowing use of their photos to illustrate this article. My thanks as well to readers for tolerating what might be described as this exercise in hypocrisy: i.e., using photographs to illustrate an ID article after recently ranting about their use. You have to admit, though, I deserve at least some credit for not writing anything this time about dowitcher identification — after complaining about that in each of the last three "Hindsight" articles!

**1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.**

# NOTES OF INTEREST



**A SWAINSON'S HAWK NEST IN DAKOTA COUNTY** — On 21 April 2006, I saw a large stick nest in the mid-canopy of a woodlot in Rosemount. As I drove by, I spotted an adult Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) perched on the far side of the woodlot. I decided to stop and watch the hawk for a while to see if possibly it was associated with the nest. After ten minutes, it flew directly toward the nest. By the time I re-positioned myself, the adult was sitting low on the nest in incubating posture. The nest was in a dead tree of unknown species and rather well concealed in the center of the woodlot. To avoid disturbing the nest, I was able to observe and photograph the nest from my vehicle at a distance of about 200 m. I monitored the nest frequently thereafter and on 17 June observed at least two downy young in the nest. The female was tending to the young and soon the male (more brightly marked with rufous on breast) arrived with a food item, presented it to the young, and assumed brooding duties upon the female's departure. On 4 July, the female was attending a single downy-headed nestling, evidently the sole surviving young. I last saw the nearly full grown, cinnamon-colored nestling on the nest 13 July, during which time the female was present only briefly. I have no reason to believe the young bird did not fledge successfully.

In recent decades, documented nesting records for Swainson's Hawk in eastern and southeastern Minnesota have become very infrequent. During the past three decades,



Swainson's Hawk female with two chicks, 2-3 days old, 17 June 2006. Photo by Jim Mattsson.



Swainson's Hawk female (right) with nearly fledged nestling, 29-30 days old, 13 July 2006. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

Martell *et al.* (1998), list nesting records for Dakota County only in 1992 and 1984. Interesting and quite unusual, the adult female lacked the typical solid dark breast band; rather, the bands were broken by a mostly white area with some brown barring.

**Reference Cited:** Martell, M., S. Willey, and J. Schladweiler. 1998. Nesting and Migration of Swainson's Hawks in Minnesota. *The Loon* 70:72–81.

**Jim Mattsson, 570 S. Greenleaf Dr., Eagan, MN 55123.**

**BURROWING OWLS IN POLK COUNTY** — On 6 May 2006, Jeanie Joppru and I refound two Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia*) in Tilden Township, Polk County, Minnesota. The owls were attending a burrow at N47°43.642 W096°20.567 on a recently burned tract owned by The Nature Conservancy adjacent to Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. A third individual may have been present, but only two owls were ever in view at the same time. One or more Burrowing Owls were discovered here by Jason Ekstein on about 27 April and were seen again by Dave Bennett and Tom Will the following day.

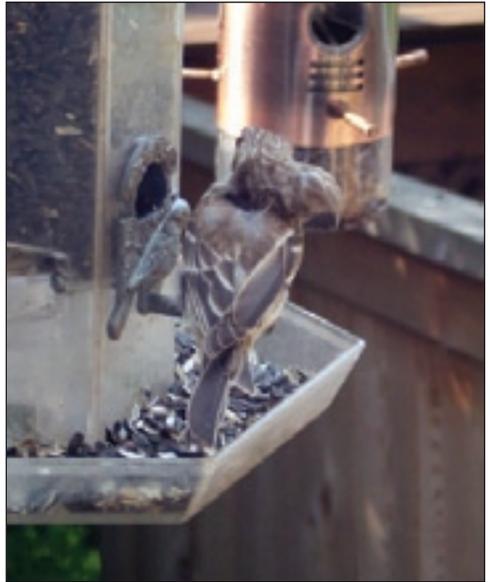


Jeanie and I obtained permission to look for the birds and started what would turn out to be a five-mile hike at 5:15 P.M. One bird was in the entrance to the burrow, crouched down or standing within the entrance, with only the top of its head and its eyes visible when we started watching them at about 6:45 P.M. The second bird stood like a sentinel on top of the mound of excavated earth around the entrance. The field in question was being lightly disked and seeded at the time; the birds were attentive to the noise and disturbance of the tractor and flushed from the burrow as the tractor approached. The sentinel flushed first and gave the alarm call, and the bird in the entrance to the burrow followed within a few seconds. The birds flew northeast and out of sight beyond a small ridge, but less than a minute later, I spotted a Burrowing Owl standing 400–500 yards southeast of our position. This was possibly a third individual, but subsequent behavior suggested that it was most likely one of the first two birds that had flown south along the far side of the ridge. After the tractor circled and headed towards the south end of the field, the owls returned to the burrow and stood side by side. We were anxious to spend as little time as possible documenting the birds since they had already been disturbed, so we verbally agreed on the size and plumage differences between the two owls and I quickly obtained a few digital images through my spotting scope. We never approached the burrow and cannot attest to the identity of its original owner, but we encountered numerous ground squirrels and badger holes during our hike. **Peder Svingen, 2602 E. 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812.**

**APPARENT TWO-HEADED HOUSE FINCH IN WASHINGTON COUNTY** — I first saw the bird when I quietly wheeled back to my bedroom (I'm paraplegic) and stopped about four feet from a window. As I sat and waited for my husband to hoist me back to bed, I was looking at the six bird feeders he had set up right outside those windows.

One bird was very intently feeding at the closest feeder, and as I looked closely, something seemed odd about its over-large head/neck. That's when I realized the poor thing had two perfectly formed heads. I called my husband, Gordon, to hurry come see. I was afraid it would fly away and he'd think I was daft. But the bird stayed. It seemed ravenous. It stayed long enough for him to run and get his digital camera. He was able to get close to the window closest to the bird as it continued to feed. When it finally pulled back, we could see that the head and beak with which it fed was perfectly normal (except for red eyes which appeared to be caused by avian conjunctivitis) as did the other, except for half-closed eyes. The second head appeared to be non-functional. The bird then





**Apparent two-headed House Finch, 1 August 2005, Woodbury, Washington County. Photo by Gordon and Marianthy Johnston.**

flew off. It was normal in size and flight.

We did not see it the next day, but I did see it the third day. Everything was a copy of the first day. It could have, of course, come unnoticed by me, but I never saw it again. I did not see any harassment by other birds at either time.

Gordon sent the photos to our birder friend Julian Sellers who had to send it on to disbelieving birder friends. I felt sad for the poor thing. **Marianthy Johnston, Woodbury, MN.**

#### **CURLEW SANDPIPER AT LAKE BYLLESBY, DAKOTA COUNTY — 7 May 2006, a**



lovely day, the mud flats were full of shorebirds. My son Leo and I had been birding along the northwestern shore since 8:30 A.M., using a Swarovski 20x60 scope and binoculars. At about 11:00 A.M., we moved our scope to the northwestern-most accessible shoreline (a short walk into the woods). The russet color of a very active shorebird on the opposite shore caught my attention.

My initial identification was that this was a Red Knot, based upon the size and the extensive red-brown coloring on the head, neck, breast, sides, flanks, and on the belly, extending down to the legs. My son and I continued to observe the bird for the next hour, consulting our *Sibley* guide and the *Stokes' Beginner's Guide to Shorebirds* for its color photographs.

The bird in question was very active, probing to the left and right, though only on the mud flats, not in the water. It was not quite as skittish as the Least Sandpipers nearby; occasionally it would remain when the Least took flight, but at other times it joined them in their startled flight, always returning to the same general area of the mud flats. But we remained uncertain of our initial identification of this bird, for the color seemed at times too dark for a Red Knot. For all of us, the deciding moment came when our bird again startled and took short flight. Three scopes were on the bird, while I was watching at this time through my binoculars. But one exclamation

came from all! The three looking through their scopes saw a sharp contrasting wing pattern, very dark along the wing's forward edge, the area corresponding to the alula and greater coverts, and again along the outer edge of the primaries and secondaries, creating a sharp black and white wing pattern; this pattern gave Tom, Will, and Leo the final assurance that what we were watching was indeed a Curlew Sandpiper. Our bird returned shortly from this flight, and now all four of us were enjoying a look at a rare visit by a Curlew Sandpiper to Lake Byllesby. **Michael Mann, 1405 Fairmount, St. Paul MN 55105.**

Skip Mott and I went to Lake Byllesby (Dakota County) at around 11:40 A.M. on 7 May 2006 and began scoping the lake from the shoreline at the western edge of the field. While we were there, Leo Wexler-Mann and his father Michael Mann approached and remarked that they had spotted what they thought was a rare bird, a Red Knot. I expressed excitement, as I had never seen this species in the state, and asked where they had seen it. They led us to the spot through the woods where one can view the western end of the lake. We all scanned the far shoreline looking for the Knot, which they had originally sighted against a backdrop of cattails on a part of the shoreline with very little exposed mudflat. It took us awhile to find the bird in question, but eventually Skip sighted it, this time in a more exposed location, in a small pool between a mudflat/sandbar and a shoreline with a wide border. Leo and his dad had a 60mm Swarovski, Skip had an 80mm Swarovski, and I had an ancient 60mm 20X Bushnell Spacemaster (which had been underwater twice in its long life).

The bird was perhaps 150 m distant, and in my spotting scope I wasn't getting much more than a shorebird with an obviously very dark rufous head and breast. When I had a chance to look at the bird in Leo's Swarovski, however, it was a different viewing experience altogether. I am familiar with Red Knots from having grown up as a birder on the East Coast and also seeing them every year in small numbers in Michigan, and this bird did not look very Knot-like. There was a small group of Pectoral Sandpipers feeding nearby in shallow water and up onto the mudflat, and also a few Least and Semipalmated sandpipers were present at the water's edge. By comparison, this bird was smaller than the Pectorals and not very plump-looking. In my experience, Red Knots should be substantially larger than the Pectorals. The bird was standing in the water, moving around and rapidly probing beneath the surface somewhat in the manner of a yellowlegs or Dunlin. When the bird did hold still, I could see clearly that the bill was quite distinctive — rather slender, Dunlin-sized, and distinctly decurved. I suggested to all that I did not believe the bird was a Knot, but might be an even "better" bird, a Curlew Sandpiper. We all discussed the points I mentioned above, and all agreed about the size, general shape, and the bill size and shape. There was some reddish feathering on the bird's back, and we discussed the contrast between the reddish back and grayish wing coverts as pictured in *Sibley*, in contrast to what was painted for Knot. Michael Mann mentioned that he thought he noticed a whitish supercilium.

The Curlew Sandpiper remained feeding in the water most of the time we were watching it. At one point, it lifted off and flew about 20 m. Those who were watching it commented on how strikingly contrasting the plumage appeared in flight. Skip mentioned the pale gray color of the fore-wing as distinct from the darker reddish back, white wing stripe, and darker flight feathers. During all this discussion, the thought did cross my mind that I should be thinking about possibly an alternate-plumaged Sanderling, but the sandpiper's behavior (standing in the water, moving about quickly and methodically, and vertically probing) was so unlike the running and picking associated with Sanderling, as well as the distinctly decurved bill, created an impression so unSanderling-like that the issue just didn't rise to the surface. Leo and his father left shortly before 1:00 P.M., and I urged them to post the sighting as soon as they could. **Tom Will, 2221 Hillside Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.**

# Corrections to *The Loon*

Compiled by Peder H. Svingen and Anthony X. Hartzel

## Volume 73

Page 208: Add **MISSISSIPPI KITE** 16 May 2001, St. Louis (adult at W.S.H.C., Duluth) †FJN, DSC (*The Loon* 78:41).

## Volume 76

Page 195: Delete **Golden Eagle** 17 April 2004 Itasca.

## Volume 77

Pages 31–32: Change location of **SAGE THRASHER** 26 June 2004 to Dakota.

Page 83: Add one **GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS** 17 August 2004 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) †BJU (*The Loon* 78:127).

Page 88: Add **Little Gull** 19 September 2004 Cass (L. Winnibigoshish, adult) †BJU.

Page 146: Add **BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE** 1 January 2005 Washington (2 adult males, Afton CBC) †Peter Rodewald *et al.*

Page 227: Add **WHITE-FACED IBIS** 24 May 2005 Lac Qui Parle (one adult at Big Stone N.W.R., second adult accepted as *Pl-egadis* sp.) †BJU (*The Loon* 78:127).

Page 227: Add one **GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS** 24 April 2005 Mahnomen (Waubun) †BJU (*The Loon* 78:127).

Page 233: Add **CALIFORNIA GULL** 30 March 2005 Dakota (adult near Pine Bend Landfill, Inver Grove Heights) ph. †KJB (*The Loon* 78:128).

Page 234: Delete **Eurasian Collared-**

**Dove** 1 May 2005 Lac Qui Parle.

Page 237: Change date of **Eastern Phoebe** in Nicollet to 5 April 2005.

Page 237: Delete records of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in Nicollet.

Page 244: Delete **Chipping Sparrow** in Nicollet.

Page 246: Add **Blue Grosbeak** 27 May 2005 **Chippewa** BJU.

## Volume 78

Page 22: Add **Semipalmated Sandpiper** high count 27 July 2005 Traverse (1,351) KJB.

Page 23: Add **Stilt Sandpiper** high count 16 July 2005 Lac Qui Parle (449) PCC, PHS.

Page 24: Change 9<sup>th</sup> state record to 19<sup>th</sup> state record of **LEAST TERN** at Sherburne N.W.R.

Page 31: Add third state record of **BREWER'S SPARROW** 22 June 2005 **Grant** †LDI (*The Loon* 78:130).

Page 78: Change first county record to second county record of **Mountain Bluebird** 2 October 2005 Wadena; the first was collected by Dick Oehlschlager in the late 1960s (Green and Janssen 1975).

Pages 141 and 179: Change location in both photo captions from Eagan to Eden Prairie.

## Index to *The Loon*, Volume 78

Compiled by Nancy Hartzel and Anthony X. Hartzel

### Index to Species

This index lists the names of species found in the 2006 issues of *The Loon*.

Accipiter 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171

Avocet, American 21-22, 86-87, 201

Bittern, American 19, 83, 197

Least 15, 19, 83, 197

Blackbird 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171

Brewer's 34, 104, 136, 153, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 220

Red-winged 34, 104, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 219

Rusty 104, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 220

Yellow-headed 34, 104, 220

Bluebird, Eastern 29, 97-98, 135, 151, 157, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 211

Mountain 98, 211-212, 236

Bobolink 34, 104, 219

Bufflehead 18, 81, 139, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194

Bunting, Indigo 34, 104, 219  
   Lark 31, 43, 45, 102  
   Lazuli 43, 129, 130, 132-133  
   Snow 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 219  
 Canvasback 18, 80-81, 138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193-194  
 Cardinal, Northern 33, 103, 152, 157, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 219  
 Catbird, Gray 29, 97, 98, 135, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 212-213  
 Chat, Yellow-breasted 31, 101, 191, 216  
 Chickadee, Black-capped 27, 95, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 210  
   Boreal 27, 95, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 210  
 Collared-Dove, Eurasian 16, 24, 91-92, 147, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 191, 205, 236  
 Coot, American 21, 86, 145, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 201  
 Cormorant, Double-crested 19, 63-73, 83, 141, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 197  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed 34, 104, 153, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 220  
 Crane, Sandhill 21, 86, 134, 145, 201, 224  
   Whooping 131-132, 201  
 Creeper, Brown 27, 96, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 210-211  
 Crossbill 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   Red 34, 105, 135, 154, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
   White-winged 34, 105, 135, 136, 154, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
 Crow, American 27, 95, 149, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 209  
 Cuckoo, Black-billed 24, 92, 205  
   Yellow-billed 24, 92, 191, 205  
 Dickcissel 34, 104, 219  
 Dipper, American 46  
 Dove, Mourning 24, 92, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 205  
   White-winged 16, 24, 42, 43, 54, 128, 129, 132, 190, 205  
 Dowitcher 89  
   Long-billed 23, 48-52, 89, 203  
   Short-billed 23, 48-52, 89, 203  
 Duck, American Black 17, 80, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
   Harlequin 81, 134, 138, 194  
   Long-tailed 81, 134, 139, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
   Ring-necked 18, 81, 134, 138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194, 224  
   Ruddy 18, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194-195  
   Wood 17, 80, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
 Dunlin 23, 88, 158, 203  
 Eagle, Bald 20, 84, 85, 141, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 190, 198  
   Golden 78, 85-86, 143-144, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199, 236  
 Egret, Cattle 20, 83-84, 190, 197  
   Great 20, 83, 158, 197  
   Snowy 20, 83, 190, 196, 197  
 Falcon 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 200  
   Peregrine 15, 21, 85, 86, 123-125, 145, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 185-187, 198  
   Prairie 21, 78, 85, 86, 131, 136, 145, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 200  
 Finch 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   House 34, 105, 135, 153-154, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221, 233-234  
   Purple 34, 104-105, 135, 153, 157, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
 Flicker, Northern 25, 93, 149, 156, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 207  
 Flycatcher 94  
   Acadian 26, 94, 132, 208  
   Alder 26, 94, 208  
   Great Crested 26, 94, 208  
   Least 26, 94, 208  
   Olive-sided 25, 93, 207  
   Scissor-tailed 129, 130, 132, 190, 208  
   Willow 26, 94, 208  
   Yellow-bellied 26, 93-94, 207-208  
 Frigatebird 83  
   Magnificent 41, 45, 115-116  
 Gadwall 17, 80, 134, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray 29, 97, 211  
 Godwit, Hudsonian 22, 87-88, 202  
   Marbled 22, 88, 202  
 Goldeneye, Barrow's 40-41, 77, 81, 126, 134, 139, 178, 190, 191, 236  
   Common 15, 18, 81, 139, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
 Golden-Plover, American 21, 86, 201  
 Goldfinch, American 34, 105, 135, 154, 157, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
 Goose, Cackling 40, 79, 136-137, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 190, 192-193  
   Canada 17, 40, 79, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
   Greater White-fronted 17, 79, 136, 190, 192  
   Ross's 15, 17, 79, 190, 192  
   Snow 17, 79, 134, 136, 160, 162, 164, 192  
 Goshawk, Northern 20, 85, 143, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199  
 Grackle 34  
   Boat-tailed 220  
   Common 34, 104, 153, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 220  
   Great-tailed 16, 16-17, 33-34, 104, 133, 220  
 Grebe, Clark's 15, 19, 83, 191, 197  
   Eared 19, 83, 195  
   Horned 19, 82-83, 134, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
   Pied-billed 19, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
   Red-necked 19, 83, 134, 140, 195  
   Western 15, 19, 83, 197  
 Grosbeak 103  
   Black-headed 16, 33, 43, 47, 54-55  
   Blue 16, 33, 104, 219, 236  
   Evening 34, 105, 135, 136, 154, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 191, 221  
   Pine 104, 135, 153, 157, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
   Rose-breasted 33, 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 219  
 Ground-Dove, Common 42-43, 78, 92  
 Grouse 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   Ruffed 15, 18, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
   Sharp-tailed 18, 82, 134, 140, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
   Spruce 18, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
 Gull 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   Black-headed 15, 23, 41, 57-58, 90  
   Bonaparte's 23, 90, 204  
   California 41, 78, 90, 128, 175, 204, 236  
   Franklin's 23, 90, 145, 158, 204  
   Glaucous 91, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 204  
   Glaucous-winged 158  
   Great Black-backed 91, 134, 147, 204  
   Herring 23, 90, 145, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 204  
   Iceland 90, 134, 143, 145, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 204  
   Lesser Black-backed 78, 90-91, 147, 158, 204  
   Little 78, 90, 204, 236  
   Ring-billed 23, 90, 145, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170  
   Sabine's 41-42, 78, 91, 118-119, 132  
   Thayer's 90, 134, 145, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 191, 204  
 Gyrfalcon 45, 127, 131, 134, 136, 142, 145, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 176-177, 199-200  
 Harrier, Northern 20, 84, 85, 141-142, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198  
 Hawk 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   Broad-winged 7, 20, 85, 198, 199  
   Cooper's 15, 20, 84-85, 136, 142-143, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199  
   Ferruginous 85, 199  
   Red-shouldered 20, 85, 143, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199  
   Red-tailed 7, 15, 20, 85, 141, 143, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 179, 198, 199

Rough-legged 7, 85, 143, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199  
 Sharp-shinned 20, 84, 85, 142, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 198-199  
 Swainson's 7, 15, 20, 85, 198, 199, 232-233  
 Heron, Great Blue 19-20, 83, 141, 156, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 197  
     Green 20, 84, 158, 197-198  
     Little Blue 15, 20, 78, 83, 181, 190, 197  
 Hummingbird, Anna's 158  
     Ruby-throated 24, 93, 207  
     Rufous 16  
 Ibis 20, 41, 45, 84, 126, 131, 198, 224-226  
     Glossy 53, 236  
     White-faced 126-127, 127, 130-131, 190, 198, 236  
 Jaeger 90  
     Long-tailed 45-46, 46  
     Parasitic 41, 90, 116-117  
 Jay 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
     Blue 26, 95, 149, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 209  
     Gray 26, 95, 149, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 209  
 Junco, Dark-eyed 33, 103, 152, 157, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 218  
 Kestrel, American 20, 85, 86, 144, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199  
 Killdeer 21, 86, 145, 201  
 Kingbird, Eastern 26, 94, 208  
     Western 26, 78, 94, 208  
 Kingfisher, Belted 24-25, 93, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned 28-29, 97, 151, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 211, 236  
     Ruby-crowned 29, 97, 211, 236  
 Kite, Mississippi 41, 78, 236  
 Kittiwake, Black-legged 128-129, 134, 144, 147, 157, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170  
 Knot, Red 87, 88, 190, 202  
 Lark, Horned 27, 95, 150, 157, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 209  
 Longspur, Chestnut-collared 33, 78, 103, 219  
     Lapland 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 218-219  
     Smith's 78, 103, 219  
 Loon, Common 15, 19, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
     Pacific 15, 19, 77, 82  
     Red-throated 77, 78, 82, 190, 195  
 Magpie, Black-billed 27, 95, 149, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 209  
 Mallard 17, 80, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
 Martin, Purple 27, 95, 209  
 Meadowlark 153, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
     Eastern 34, 104, 111-114, 219-220  
     Western 34, 104, 111-114, 220  
 Merganser, Common 18, 81-82, 139-140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
     Hooded 15, 18, 81, 139, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
     Red-breasted 18, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
 Merlin 15, 20-21, 85, 86, 144, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 198, 199  
 Mockingbird, Northern 29, 98, 213  
 Moorhen, Common 15, 21, 78, 86, 201  
 Nighthawk, Common 24, 93, 206-207  
 Night-Heron, Black-crowned 20, 84, 198  
     Yellow-crowned 15, 20, 84, 130, 190, 198  
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted 27, 95, 150, 157, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 210  
     White-breasted 27, 95, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 210  
 Oriole, Baltimore 34, 104, 220-221  
     Orchard 34, 104, 220  
 Osprey 15, 20, 84, 85, 198  
 Ovenbird 30, 74-77, 101, 215  
 Owl, Barn 8, 128, 129, 134, 147, 176  
     Barred 3, 5, 24, 36-39, 92, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 188, 206  
     Boreal 92, 108-111, 149, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 206  
     Burrowing 128, 129, 178, 190, 206, 233  
     Great Gray 3-11, 16, 24, 36, 37, 78, 92, 134, 147-148, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 206  
     Great Horned 7, 8, 24, 92, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 205  
     Long-eared 24, 92, 148, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 189, 206  
     Northern Hawk 5, 24, 78, 92, 107-108, 108-111, 134, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 206  
     Northern Saw-whet 5, 24, 37, 92-93, 148, 149, 156, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 188-189, 206  
     Short-eared 5, 24, 92, 148-149, 206  
     Snowy 78, 92, 134, 146, 147, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 205-206  
 Parakeet, Carolina 40  
 Partridge, Gray 18, 82, 140, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
 Parula, Northern 29-30, 99, 214  
 Pelican, American White 19, 63-73, 83, 134, 141, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 197  
     Brown 11-14, 15, 19, 40, 41  
 Phalarope, Red 41, 90  
     Red-necked 23, 89, 203-204  
     Wilson's 23, 89, 203  
 Pheasant, Ring-necked 18, 82, 140, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
 Phoebe, Eastern 26, 94, 208, 236  
     Say's 16, 26, 43, 56-57, 78, 94, 117, 129  
 Pigeon, Band-tailed 158  
     Rock 24, 91, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 205  
 Pintail, Northern 17, 80, 138, 193  
 Pipit, American 99, 213  
 Plover, Black-bellied 21, 86, 201  
     Piping 15, 21, 86, 190, 201  
     Semipalmated 21, 86, 201  
 Prairie-Chicken, Greater 15, 18-19, 82, 140, 156, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
 Rail, Virginia 21, 86, 200  
     Yellow 15, 21, 86, 131, 200  
 Raven, Common 27, 95, 132, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 209  
 Redhead 18, 81, 134, 138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
 Redpoll 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
     Common 105, 135, 154, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
     Hoary 105, 154, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
     Redstart, American 30, 100-101, 215  
 Robin, American 29, 98, 151, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 212  
 Sanderling 22, 88, 190, 202  
 Sandpiper, Baird's 23, 88, 203  
     Buff-breasted 23, 89, 191, 203  
     Curlew 128, 203, 234-235  
     Least 22, 88, 202  
     Pectoral 23, 88, 203  
     Semipalmated 22, 88, 202, 236  
     Solitary 22, 87, 201  
     Spotted 22, 87, 202  
     Stilt 23, 88-89, 203, 236  
     Upland 22, 87, 202  
     White-rumped 22, 88, 202-203  
 Sapsucker, Williamson's 46  
     Yellow-bellied 25, 93, 135, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
 Scaup 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
     Greater 81, 134, 138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
     Lesser 15, 18, 81, 134, 138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 194  
 Scoter, Black 81, 194  
     Surf 81, 134, 138, 194  
     White-winged 81, 138, 194  
 Screech-Owl, Eastern 5, 8, 24, 92, 147, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 205  
 Shoveler, Northern 17, 80, 137-138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
 Shrike, Loggerhead 26, 94, 190, 208  
     Northern 94, 149, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 208  
 Siskin, Pine 34, 105, 135, 154, 157, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169,

171, 221  
 Snipe, Wilson's 23, 89, 145, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 203  
 Solitaire, Townsend's 78, 98, 135, 151, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 212  
 Sora 21, 86, 158, 200  
 Sparrow 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   American Tree 101, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 216  
   Brewer's 130, 236  
   Chipping 31, 101, 216-217, 236  
   Clay-colored 31, 101-102, 217  
   Eurasian Tree 43, 45  
   Field 31, 102, 217  
   Fox 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 218  
   Grasshopper 31, 102, 217  
   Harris's 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   Henslow's 16, 31, 32, 102, 217-218  
   House 34, 105, 154, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 221  
   Lark 102, 217  
   Le Conte's 31-32, 102, 218  
   Lincoln's 33, 103, 152, 218  
   Nelson's Sharp-tailed 33, 102-103, 218  
   Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed 40, 46-47  
   Savannah 31, 102, 158, 217  
   Song 33, 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 218  
   Swamp 33, 103, 218  
   Vesper 31, 102, 217  
   White-crowned 33, 103, 152, 218  
   White-throated 33, 103, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 218  
 Starling, European 29, 98-99, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 213  
 Stilt, Black-necked 45, 55-56, 127-128, 190, 200, 201  
 Swallow, Bank 27, 95, 209  
   Barn 27, 95, 209-210  
   Cliff 27, 95, 209  
   Northern Rough-winged 27, 95, 209  
   Tree 27, 95, 209  
 Swan 227-231  
   Mute 79, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
   Trumpeter 15, 17, 79, 134, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193, 227-231  
   Tundra 79-80, 134, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193, 227-231  
 Swift, Chimney 24, 93, 207  
 Tanager, Scarlet 16, 31, 101, 216  
   Summer 16, 31, 59, 78, 101, 191, 216  
   Western 53-54, 190, 191, 216  
 Teal, Blue-winged 17, 80, 193, 224  
   Cinnamon 126, 127, 177, 190, 193  
   Green-winged 15, 17-18, 80, 138, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
 Tern, Arctic 42, 78, 91  
   Black 24, 91, 205  
   Caspian 23, 91, 204  
   Common 23, 91, 204  
   Forster's 24, 91, 205  
   Least 16, 24, 42, 43, 55, 236  
 Thrasher, Brown 29, 98, 152, 213  
   Sage 236  
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked 16, 29, 78, 98, 212  
   Hermit 29, 74-77, 98, 151, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 212  
   Swainson's 29, 98, 212  
   Varied 78, 98, 135, 151-152, 156, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 212  
   Wood 29, 98, 212  
 Titmouse, Tufted 27, 95, 150, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 191, 210  
 Towhee, Eastern 31, 101, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 216  
   Spotted 101, 152, 191, 216  
 Turkey, Wild 15, 19, 82, 134, 140, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 195  
 Turnstone, Ruddy 22, 88, 190, 202  
 Veery 29, 98, 212  
 Violet-ear, Green 93, 129  
 Vireo, Bell's 26, 94, 208  
   Blue-headed 26, 94, 209  
   Philadelphia 26, 95, 209  
   Red-eyed 16, 26, 95, 209  
   Warbling 16, 26, 94, 209  
   White-eyed 129-130, 132, 191, 208  
   Yellow-throated 16, 26, 94, 208  
 Vulture, Turkey 20, 84, 85, 198  
 Warbler, Bay-breasted 30, 100, 191, 215  
   Black-and-white 30, 100, 215  
   Blackburnian 30, 100, 214  
   Blackpoll 30, 100, 215  
   Black-throated Blue 30, 100, 214  
   Black-throated Gray 43, 78, 100  
   Black-throated Green 30, 100, 214  
   Blue-winged 16, 29, 99, 213  
   Canada 31, 101, 216  
   Cape May 30, 99-100, 214  
   Cerulean 30, 100, 191, 215  
   Chestnut-sided 30, 99, 214  
   Connecticut 30, 101, 216  
   Golden-winged 29, 99, 213  
   Hooded 31, 101, 216  
   Kentucky 30, 101, 216  
   Lawrence's 16  
   Magnolia 30, 99, 214  
   Mourning 30, 101, 216  
   Nashville 29, 99, 213  
   Orange-crowned 99, 158, 213  
   Palm 30, 100, 214-215  
   Pine 30, 100, 214  
   Prairie 16, 30, 43, 44, 130  
   Prothonotary 30, 101, 191, 215  
   Tennessee 29, 99, 213  
   Wilson's 31, 101, 216  
   Yellow 30, 99, 214  
   Yellow-rumped 30, 100, 152, 156, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 214  
   Yellow-throated 58  
 Waterthrush, Louisiana 30, 101, 132, 215  
   Northern 30, 101, 215  
 Waxwing 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   Bohemian 78, 99, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 213  
   Cedar 29, 99, 152, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 213  
 Wheatear, Northern 43  
 Whimbrel 22, 87, 190, 202  
 Whip-poor-will 24, 93, 207  
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied 40, 77, 79  
 Wigeon, American 17, 80, 137, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 193  
   Eurasian 40, 126, 130, 190, 193  
 Willet 22, 87, 201-202  
 Woodcock, American 23, 89, 203  
 Woodpecker 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171  
   American Three-toed 25, 93, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
   Black-backed 25, 93, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
   Downy 25, 93, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
   Hairy 25, 93, 149, 157, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
   Pileated 25, 93, 149, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 207  
   Red-bellied 25, 93, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
   Red-headed 25, 93, 149, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 207  
   Wood-Pewee, Eastern 16, 25-26, 93, 207  
 Wren, Carolina 28, 78, 96, 119, 135, 150-151, 158, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 175-176, 211  
   House 28, 96, 211  
   Marsh 28, 97, 151, 158, 211  
   Rock 16, 27, 43, 78, 96, 130, 191, 211  
   Sedge 16, 28, 97, 210, 211  
   Winter 28, 96, 151, 211  
 Yellowlegs, Greater 22, 87, 201  
   Lesser 22, 87, 201  
 Yellowthroat, Common 31, 101, 216,

# In This Issue

<b>Little Blue Heron, 12 April 2006, near Lake Byllesby, Dakota County</b> <i>Photo by David A. Cablander</i> .....	Front Cover
<b>Obituary: Jane Clarke Olyphant</b> <i>James Fitzpatrick</i> .....	183
<b>Are There Undiscovered Peregrine Falcon Nests in the Midwest?</b> <i>Harrison B. Tordoff</i> .....	185
<b>A Summary Report of Fall 2005 Banding Efforts in Tofte, Minnesota</b> <i>William H. Lane</i> .....	188
<b>The Spring Season</b> 1 March through 31 May 2006 <i>Paul E. Budde, James W. Lind, William C. Marengo, and Peder H. Svingen</i> .....	190
<b>An Old Ibis Specimen from Redwood County</b> <i>Anthony X. Hertzell</i> .....	224
<b>Birding by Hindsight: A Third Look at Swans</b> <i>Kim R. Eckert</i> .....	227
<b>Notes of Interest</b> Swainson's Hawk, Burrowing Owl, House Finch, Curlew Sandpiper .....	232
<b>Corrections to <i>The Loon</i></b> <i>Peder H. Svingen and Anthony X. Hertzell</i> .....	236
<b>Index to <i>The Loon</i>, Volume 78</b> <i>Nancy Hertzell and Anthony X. Hertzell</i> .....	236

## Purpose of the M.O.U.

The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

## Suggestions to Authors

*The Loon* is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



printed on recycled paper