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A photograph of a bird, possibly a sparrow or similar small bird, sitting on a nest made of dry sticks and twigs. The nest is built in a dark, textured environment, possibly a hole in a tree or a similar natural shelter. The bird is facing left, and its feathers are a mix of brown and grey. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some texture and light reflections.

Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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Obituary
Charles Braddock Reif
31 July 1912 – 19 April 2006

Anthony X. Hertzell

I spoke with Charles Reif only a few times, and then only during his later years, but he struck me as having been a remarkable man. Born in Washington D.C. in 1912, he moved to Minnesota with his parents and sister, Charlotte, at age 8. He attended Lafayette School, then later Clara Barton and Whittier schools in south Minneapolis. At the time, his father cautioned him about going out alone in this new city as it was rumored back east that “bears frequently roamed the streets.” In early 1922, at the age of nine, Charles unwittingly became the first person to record the nesting of Rock Pigeons in Minnesota when he documented four young at a Minneapolis roost in the spring of that year.

In the fall of 1930, Charles enrolled in the University of Minnesota and was initially interested in becoming a geologist, despite the fact that the aptitude test he took during his freshman year “suggested I would do well as a farmer.” Undaunted, by 1941 he had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in zoology and a minor in anthropology, a Master’s Degree in zoology with a minor in entomology, and a Doctorate in zoology with a minor in botany. His dissertation research was concerned with the microscopic organisms found in the streams along the North Shore of Lake Superior. That same year he also worked as a nature counselor, and then took a temporary position at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, studying and working with Thomas S. Roberts and William Kilgore, while making lifelong friends with Walter Breckenridge and Gustav Swanson.



Charles B. Reif, about 1982.

Charles joined the original Minnesota Bird Club in 1937 and became a charter member of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union when it formed the following year. He and Arnold B. Erickson were co-editors of *The Flicker* from 1942 through 1943, and Charles’ name can be found on numerous articles within the journal’s pages from the late 1930s into the early 1940s. His first paper was “The Birds of Frenchman’s Bay,” which reported on those species he encountered while studying invertebrates at the University of Maine Biological Station during the summer of 1937 (*The Flicker* 10:7–9). He was also the compiler of Minnesota’s 1941 Christmas Bird Count.



Charles B. Reif at the University of Minnesota, about 1940.

In 1943, Charles accepted a position at Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. After a brief two-year interruption for a stint in the navy during World War II, he resumed teaching in 1945. He taught a variety of courses over the following thirty-five years, including histology, floristic biology, human anatomy and physiology, geology, and English. He published numerous research papers in various academic outlets, including the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* and the *Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science*. He was the Founder of the Wilkes College Department of Biology and served as its first Chair. As a professor, he was thought of as rather strict, requiring, for example, male students to remove their caps whenever indoors. He insisted that students walk through the right-hand door as they passed from corridor to corridor. He was a stickler for details, permitting only the

proper use of English. Yet he was greatly respected and appreciated by faculty and students alike, and after his retirement his former students established the Charles B. Reif Scholarship Fund.

In 1948, Charles wed Carolyn Lee Hoff and their marriage lasted for nearly forty-seven years. Charles retired from Wilkes College in 1979, and after Carolyn died in 1994, he returned to Minnesota and married his childhood sweetheart, Dorothy Towne Schlichting.

Charles Braddock Reif was a man who lived by his principles. Believing the world was reaching a serious over-population of human beings, he and Carolyn chose not to have children. He loved nature, and devoted his life to preserving it for future generations.

8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.

Eastern Bluebirds Feeding on Western Chorus Frogs

Stan Tekiela

After nearly 25 years of being a naturalist and wildlife photographer, I still find excitement and wonderment in the natural world. I am continually amazed at what I see during the many hours I spend watching and photographing nature. Here is just one example.

While photographing Eastern Bluebirds for an up and coming book, I set up my camera for an unusual perspective of nesting bluebirds — inside the nest box. I mounted my camera and flashes inside a Peterson-styled bluebird box and hooked up my camera to a wireless remote control. I chose one of my favorite bluebird couples to photograph because they are great parents and are very aggressive at feeding their young. I have 60 bluebird boxes on my trail that fledge over 100 young each year.

I got into my blind about 50 feet away and waited for the resident parents to return to feed their four young birds. Within minutes, the male returned with a food item. As soon as he entered the nest box I triggered my wireless remote. My camera takes eight pictures per second so I let loose with a burst of six or eight images. Shortly afterwards, the male left the box and I returned to waiting for the return trip. The female came and went, and I repeated the process. Approximately 25 minutes later, the male returned again carrying a prey item. I could see he was carrying something but I wasn't close enough to see what it was. As soon as he entered the box I pushed the button and the camera captured another burst of images.

To make sure everything was going well, I retrieved the memory card from the camera and popped it into my laptop. To my surprise and delight, I saw that my favorite male Eastern Bluebird had

brought in not one but two western chorus frogs to feed his young.

Right away I started thinking about the logistics involved in a bluebird — which normally eats insects — eating frogs. The following is a list of things that went through my head. First, the bird must find the frogs. I have spent a lot of time searching for western chorus frogs to capture and photograph. I have been two feet away from these frogs and still couldn't see them. I was already impressed. Second, he had to catch the frog. Next, he would have to kill the frog. I have seen bluebirds kill caterpillars, crickets, and grasshoppers. They simply beat the prey against a branch. I assume he did the same with these frogs.

Now for the most amazing part. He was feeding the frog whole to his young. The first frog was swallowed feet first (wrong way). The second frog went down head first. This got me thinking about how the digestive system of the young birds would handle the various bones and other hard parts of the frog. I monitored the babies over the next week and they did just fine and fledged as per normal. This is why I love my job.

8145 Trillium Lane, Victoria, MN 55386.

Editor's Note — The only reference in the pertinent literature that I could find which mentions frogs as a part of the bluebird diet was from Beal (1915). Beal analysed the stomach contents of 855 Eastern Bluebirds taken in every month of the year and found that the foods consisted of 68% animal matter and 32% vegetable matter. Of the 68% that was animal matter, about 61% was composed of grasshoppers, crickets, katydid, beetles, ants,



Eastern Bluebird feeding western chorus frogs to chicks, 25 July 2006, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County. Photos by Stan Tekiela.

wasps, bees, caterpillars, and moths. The remaining 7% was found to be “other insects, spiders, myriapods, sowbugs, snails, and angle-worms, with a few bones of lizards and tree frogs.” No mention of frogs could be found in the diet descriptions of either Western or Mountain bluebirds.

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— AXH.

A Nesting Summer Tanager X Scarlet Tanager in Minnesota

James P. Mattsson

In 2005, and for the third consecutive year, a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) occupied and defended essentially the same territory at Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan, Dakota County. In 2003, I documented two unsuccessful nesting attempts by a male Summer Tanager with a female Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) (*The Loon* 75:226–230). In 2004, a male Summer Tanager again was present on the same territory, but I found no evidence of pairing during 28 total hours of observation.

In 2003, the first documented successful nesting of a mixed pair of Summer Tanager (male) and Scarlet Tanager (female) in Minnesota (and possibly anywhere?) was studied at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, approximately 18 km from the Lebanon Hills territory (Fall 2003). The nest produced a single Brown-headed Cowbird and no evidence of additional young.

On 21 May 2005, I located a male Summer Tanager about 50 m from where I first found the male in 2003. During the ensuing 47 days, I relocated the male tanager on 14 days, monitored his movements and behavior, and documented evidence of successful nesting and the production of at least one hybrid tanager — again with a female Scarlet Tanager. Interestingly, a

female Summer Tanager was also present in June about one-eighth mile from the male Summer Tanager’s territory.

I am aware of no other nesting records outside of Minnesota involving Summer X Scarlet Tanager pairings. According to James Dean, the Smithsonian Institution has only two specimens labeled as *Piranga olivacea* X *rubra* hybrids: USNM 128032, an adult male collected 20 May 1892, Douglas County, Nebraska, by L. Skow (McCormick 1893); and USNM 310282, a male labeled (possibly incorrectly per J. Dean) as being collected from Bogota, Columbia, by W. Robinson in the 1800s. — *E-mail, James Dean, Collection Manager, Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 24 May 2006.*

2005 Chronology of Events

Pre-nest Events

27 May. At 8:20 A.M. a male Summer Tanager was calling (pik-a-tuck) at the same location where I originally found a male in 2003. A male Scarlet Tanager began calling (chip-bree) loudly overhead and I then saw him pursue a female who then perched and solicited by rapidly vibrating her wings. I lost track of the male and she eventually flew off. It was unclear



Male Summer Tanager at nest, 21 June 2005, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

which of the two males was the intended object of her solicitation.

8 June. At 11:15 A.M. I was surprised to locate a female Summer Tanager (red morph) about 200 m from the suspected edge of the male Summer Tanager's territory. She was perched quietly about 10 m high in a tree along a trail and had a large food item in her bill which I could not identify. After about five seconds she flew out of sight. I imitated a Summer Tanager call with my voice and she soon responded and I was able to locate her and watch her call for several minutes. She then flew off and I never saw her again. Interestingly, on 25 June, a male Scarlet Tanager was singing very near the spot where the female Summer Tanager was observed, raising speculation that a second mixed species pair may have been present.

14 June. At 10:45 A.M. I observed a female Scarlet Tanager fly into a tree immediately followed by the male Summer Tanager who perched beside her. Mo-

ments later, they both flew to an oak tree a few meters from the edge of the trail. I lost sight of the female, but the male remained in the tree for a few minutes.

15 June. I heard the Summer Tanager calling emphatically from the exact spot as on 14 June. I approached and was surprised to see an adult male Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) perched in a dead oak on the opposite side of the trail. The Merlin was obviously the reason that the tanager was calling so excitedly. The tanager and Merlin both left the area as I approached. About 20 minutes later the male tanager reappeared chasing a female Scarlet Tanager and they flew into the same oak tree as yesterday. I now suspected that a nest was a distinct possibility in that or a nearby tree.

Discovery of Nest

17 June. Between 6:00 and 9:00 A.M. I twice observed the male Summer Tanager with the female Scarlet Tanager near the



Female Scarlet Tanager at nest, 28 June 2005, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

suspected nest tree. Both times the female solicited the male, but copulation was not observed due to the density of the foliage. At 9:00 A.M., I saw the male and female fly into the suspected nest tree. The female soon dropped down and settled on a nest about 25 m above the ground.

21 June. 7:45–9:00 A.M. I checked to see if the nest survived yesterday's violent wind and rain storm and was amazed to find both adults feeding young in the nest. While photographing both adults at the nest I could see at least one shadowy young visible through the side of the thin nest. During his time, the female and male made three and two feeding visits, respectively.

27 June. After the female left the nest I could see one very large cowbird young. It was grayish brown with prominent ear tufts and a fuzzy crown. The bill was large and triangular in shape and it nearly filled the nest. Flight feather shafts had visible feathers protruding, indicating

fledging was only a day or two away.

28 June. Between 7:15 – 8:15 A.M. The female and male made five and one feeding visits to the nest, respectively. I moved to a different vantage point which provided a better look at the young and was surprised to see not one but two young in the nest as the female arrived with food. The second young appeared different from the cowbird chick and had an overall dull greenish-yellow hue on the head and upper back. The bill looked distinctly tanager-shaped, i.e., the culmen was gently curved from about midpoint to tip and not triangular like the Brown-headed Cowbird chick. It also lacked the shaggy ear tufts that were evident on the cowbird chick. It was noticeably smaller than the cowbird chick. At one point it faced away, stood up, and revealed pale, dull yellow-green undertail coverts and erupting rectrices that were perhaps 0.5 cm long. For nestling Summer Tanagers, Robinson (1996) states that tail feathers are

conspicuously growing by day 11. He also notes that by day ten, young are capable of short fluttery flights. Unfortunately, the chick retreated into the nest and I was unable to obtain photos.

Fledging

29 June. 7:15 A.M. No young were present in or near the nest. At about 8:00 A.M. I found the cowbird chick near the trunk of the nest tree about one-half way up. It was being fed by both adults. I was not successful in locating the tanager chick.

6 July. 7:30 A.M. I located both adults about 100 m west of the nest tree. The female had food, chipped loudly, and was noticeably disturbed by my presence. She approached to within 5 m and was followed by the male. She eventually dropped low into some vegetation about 40 m away and I lost sight of her. A few minutes later, a juvenile cowbird flew in and landed 10 m away. Both adults soon arrived and perched about 3–4 m from the young cowbird. The juvenile began begging but suddenly flew across the trail, landed and immediately was fed by an adult Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*). A moment later it flew off to the north with the Chipping Sparrow. I remained in the area for about another hour during which time both tanager adults remained in the general area, chipping loudly and constantly, suggesting that another young was likely in the immediate vicinity. However, they did not give away its location while I was present.

7 July. 8:00 A.M. Again I located the female Scarlet Tanager at the exact spot as yesterday. She chipped very loudly and approached to about 5 m. She flew back and forth across the trail chipping constantly and perching 2–3 m high. A bright red male flew in and chased her away. My impression, although not certain, was that this was a Scarlet Tanager male. I relocated her along the trail about 100 m away when she again flew to within 5 m chipping anxiously and gathering food items in her bill. Unfortunately, I had to leave the area at this time and was unable to return for several days.

Discussion

Based on the lack of published information, Summer and Scarlet tanagers apparently rarely hybridize where their breeding ranges are sympatric in the east-central portion of the United States. I am aware of only one record of a hybrid Summer X Scarlet Tanager, a male specimen originally in a private collection in Omaha, NE, reported to reside at the U.S. National Museum (currently the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History) (McCormick 1893).

Evidence indicating the northward expansion of breeding by Summer Tanager to at least the latitude of the Twin Cities in Minnesota is supported by: 1) the presence of a male Summer Tanager on the same territory in Lebanon Hills Regional Park for three consecutive years, 2) pairing and breeding with female Scarlet Tanagers by that same male in at least two of those three years, including successful production of at least one hybrid young to fledging age in 2005, and 3) a successful mixed species breeding at Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park in 2004. Further, the presence of a female Summer Tanager near the male's territory in 2005 indicates that production of pure Summer Tanager offspring is a realistic possibility in Minnesota.

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First Slaty-backed Gull for Minnesota

Philip C. Chu

On a Lake Superior beach in Grand Marais, Cook County, during the early evening of 21 July 2006, Ken and Molly Hoffman found a large adult gull that was dark above. Because its large size (similar to that of a Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*) and dark upperparts were combined with deep pink legs and a broad white trailing edge to the upperwing, the Hoffmans identified it as a Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*), Minnesota's first.

On the strength of the Hoffmans' report, additional observers arrived on 22 July, and more characteristics supporting the identification were recorded.

(1) Six outer primaries — P10 (the outermost primary) through P5 — were either mostly black or had black marks near their tips (Figure 1).

(2) P10 had a large white subterminal mirror (*sensu* Grant 1978) that occupied both the inner and outer webs of the feather, and that was separated from the feather-tip by a narrow but complete black strap (Figure 1).

(3) P9 had no white subterminal mirror (Figure 1).

(4) For P8 through P5, the tongue (Dwight 1925) — the gray (in this case, dark slate gray) area occupying the proximal portion of each feather — was tipped with white, so that, for each, a white area separated the gray of the feather base from the black near the feather-tip (Figure 1). The white tongue-tip on P8 was narrow, whereas those on P7, P6, and P5 were broad. (The series of white tongue-tips was dubbed a "string of pearls" by Goetz *et al.* [1986], and is arguably the



Slaty-backed Gull, 22 July 2006, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Figure 1. Slaty-backed Gull wingtip pattern, Grand Marais, Cook County, 22 July 2006. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

best-known field mark for an adult Slaty-backed.)

(5) The irises were yellowish — whitish yellow for the right iris and a darker yellowish-olive for the left iris. (The darker left iris was associated with disheveled feathers in the ocular region on the left side of the head, and both were commonly attributed to an injury inflicted by a Herring Gull on 22 July.)

(6) The narrow ring of bare skin surrounding each eye was pink with a purple tinge.

All of the above features and more were documented in the photographs and written reports submitted to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee, and after reviewing that documentation and discussing it at the committee's 30 July 2006 meeting (Svingen 2006), the committee voted unanimously to accept the record (Svingen 2007a).

Characteristics like the ones noted above were easy to see because of the Slaty-backed's unexpectedly passive behavior. It permitted observers to approach to within about ten yards; closer approaches prompted a more active response, but even that often consisted of little more

than walking or running away for a short distance. Moreover, when interacting with other birds, the Slaty-backed was usually nonaggressive. For example, when observers tried to attract it using bread, popcorn, and the like — incidentally attracting Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) as well — the bird typically ate only those pieces of food for which it did not have to compete. If another bird pursued a piece of food, then the Slaty-backed made no obvious attempt to obtain the item in question.

The Slaty-backed was seen continuously through 14 August, and during that time its passive behavior, together with the dark external (ecto-) parasites that were often plainly visible on its face, led to speculation that it was in poor condition. Given that speculation, few were surprised when Richard Franta found the bird dead on the beach on the morning of 15 August. The salvaged carcass was donated to the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, where it is presently in preparation.

Preparation has thus far yielded the following information (A. Kessen, pers. comm.). The bird was a female. Its stom-

ach was empty, except for some of the small stones that birds often swallow to provide hard surfaces for grinding ingested food; additionally, it was emaciated, with no fat evident and the flight muscles wasted — the latter an indicator that those muscles were being broken down to provide energy. Finally, though ectoparasites were visible in the field, none were noted during specimen preparation, perhaps because the members of some ectoparasite groups quickly abandon a dead host in order to search for a new one (e.g., Clayton and Walther 1997).

Svingen (2007b:531) wrote that the Slaty-backed Gull was “long anticipated in Minnesota,” and, indeed, speculation to that effect was published 20 years ago (Eckert 1987). Anticipation of a Minnesota Slaty-backed was based largely on records in nearby states and provinces: preceding the Minnesota record were three records from Ontario (Bain 1992, Yukich and Varella 2000, Wormington 2007), three from Illinois (Snetsinger *et al.* 1984, Robinson 1989, Petersen 1992), and one record each from Iowa (Fuller 1989), Wisconsin (Frank 2006), Indiana (Brock 1994), Michigan (Reinoehl 2000), and Manitoba (Koes and Taylor 2002). The Iowa record and the second Illinois record pertain to the same bird, recorded in both states as it moved about their mutual border, the Mississippi River.

While noting that the Slaty-backed Gull was an expected addition to the Minnesota bird list, Svingen (2007b:531) also stated that it was “predicted by no one to appear in late July[.]” Indeed, a review of published accounts for 21 July 1996 through 20 July 2006 — i.e., for the ten years preceding the Minnesota record — revealed that, of the 75 *schistisagus* records from Canada and the mainland United States (Alaska excluded), 60 (80%) refer to birds that were discovered between the beginning of November and the end of March (Figure 2). July records that predate Minnesota’s do exist, but there are just four, and all of them, as well as the single records from June and August, are from the northern Canadian territories — Nunavut,

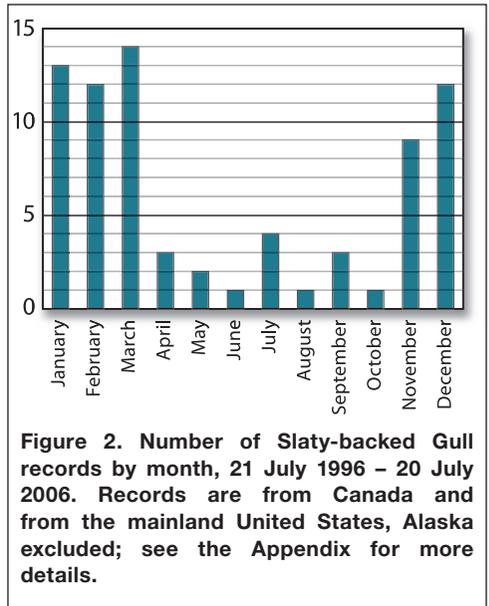


Figure 2. Number of Slaty-backed Gull records by month, 21 July 1996 – 20 July 2006. Records are from Canada and from the mainland United States, Alaska excluded; see the Appendix for more details.

Northwest Territories, and Yukon.

Given the above, one could argue that a Slaty-backed Gull found in Minnesota in July has no geographic precedent; however, the bird in question was found during 2006, a year with an unprecedented number of records for the species. For the period between January and mid-July 2006, i.e., for the half-year before the Minnesota bird was found, there are 17 published *schistisagus* records east and/or south of Alaska, nearly double the maximum of nine reported in any previous full year.

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Ann Kessen kindly provided the information that she recorded during her ongoing preparation of the Slaty-backed Gull specimen, and pointed out that, once a host dies, its ectoparasites often leave the carcass; Anthony Hertzell prepared Figure 2; Steve Dinsmore, Jim Frank, Don Gorney, and Alan Wormington provided information about the Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ontario records, respectively; Dinsmore, Frank, Gorney, and Wormington, together with Janet Hinshaw and Peder Svingen, helped to identify literature that I could cite; and David Cahlander and Anthony Hertzell provided the

photographs used in this article.

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Appendix

Published records of Slaty-backed Gulls for the period 21 July 1996 – 20 July 2006 were compiled primarily from seasonal surveys in *North American Birds*. Records compiled from *North American Birds* were then supplemented by information from several additional sources: seasonal surveys in *Birders Journal*; Frank (2006); the Ontario Bird Records Committee (A. Wormington, pers. comm.); and the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (Brogie 2003). The latter two were used to identify published reports that had not been not accepted; once identified, such reports were removed from the compilation.

Note that the search for published records from Canada and the mainland United States excluded Alaska. Alaska was excluded because the number of Alaskan records cannot be determined from *North American Birds* seasonal surveys: in Alaska, Slaty-backed Gulls occur often enough that the surveys list only high counts, reports from unusual locations, and so forth.

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The Summer Season

1 June through 31 July 2006

Ann E. Kessen and Peder H. Svingen

During the summer of 2006, a total of 276 species was reported, about average for the summer season. However, the number of reports was well above average. Many species were reported from a record-high number of counties. In fact, seven species were reported from every county in the state! These included **Killdeer**, **Barn Swallow**, **American Robin**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **Song Sparrow**, and **Red-winged Blackbird**.

A **Ross's Goose** at Talcott Lake W.M.A., Cottonwood County, provided a seventh summer record. A pair of **Mute Swans** raised a family in Lino Lakes at Amelia Lake. **Trumpeter Swans** were reported from most regions. Most unexpectedly, in June, the Minnesota County Biological Survey found an immature male **White-winged Scoter** in Lincoln County. **Wild Turkey** reports continued to increase.

A single **Horned Grebe** was seen at Park Point on 1 June. Once again, a possible hybrid **Clark's** x **Western Grebe** apparently paired with a **Western Grebe**, this time at Thielke Lake in Big Stone County. It was a surprise when a **Snowy Egret** spent a few days in early June at 40th Avenue West in Duluth. A single **Little Blue Heron** observed at Lubenow W.P.A. was a first for Swift County.

A highlight of the season was the pair of **Snowy Plovers** that raised two chicks at Big Stone N.W.R., providing the first nesting record for the state. Shorebird surveys in western Minnesota found good numbers and diversity attributable to scheduled draw downs at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County, and Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County. The peak was 5,037 shorebirds of 16 species in Lac Qui Parle County 24 July. A **California Gull** was

photographed at Lac Qui Parle Lake in Swift and Lac Qui Parle counties in June. A first state record **Slaty-backed Gull** spent several weeks at Grand Marais and allowed good looks for many observers. **Least Terns** showed up in both Nobles and Olmsted counties.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to expand, adding Goodhue and Stearns counties to the list of locations at which they've been found. A **White-winged Dove** at Nelson's Resort on Crane Lake in St. Louis County provided a tenth state record. **Northern Hawk Owls** were reported in record numbers. A **Burrowing Owl** lingered from spring until late June at the Rochester Airport, and two adults were observed in Stevens County throughout July. **Black-billed Cuckoo** numbers were up significantly in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Carlton and Yellow Medicine counties. Blue Mounds State Park hosted a **Rock Wren** in early June. The Minnesota County Biological Survey found a **Blackburnian Warbler** in Lyon County in mid-June. In early June, a male **Prairie Warbler** sang near Ellsworth in Nobles County. A first county record **Summer Tanager** was found in Lincoln County.

A Breeding Bird Survey in Beltrami County produced an adult male **Lark Bunting** in mid-June. **Henslow's Sparrows** recapitulated last year's high numbers. An adult male **Lazuli Bunting** visited a feeder in Blue Earth County 10 June. Vocalizing male **Great-tailed Grackles** were reported from four southwestern counties. The Natural Resources Research Institute reported that **Red Crossbill** numbers were up in northern and north-eastern counties.

Eighty-three observers documented nesting for 169 species. Apologies go to 15 observers from the 2005 season whose records were inadvertently left out of the 2005 seasonal report. The records that were left out included nesting data for 40 additional species. Included among these were 13 first county nesting records: **Canada Goose** Mille Lacs MRN and Pine JMP, **Wild Turkey** Kanabec JMP, **Green Heron** Hubbard MAW, **Virginia Rail** Rice DAB, **Northern Flicker** Kanabec JMP, **Common Raven** Kanabec JMP, **Gray Catbird** Watonwan DLB, **Palm Warbler** Itasca JWL, **Ovenbird** Pine JMP, **Common Yellowthroat** Kanabec JMP, **Dickcissel** Dakota ADS.

Weather Summary: Mean June temperatures were somewhat above average in most regions of the state. However, the Twin Cities area experienced a 17-day stretch of 80-degree days for the first time since 1936. Elsewhere in the state there were stretches of both warm and cool temperatures. Most of Minnesota was 1–3" below average in rainfall, with the exception of some isolated areas in southern Minnesota.

In July, much of the state experienced extremely warm temperatures, with Duluth having the hottest July on record.

Nearly all of Minnesota was in moderate or worse drought. The lack of precipitation was particularly serious in northwestern and north-central Minnesota, where the drought was rated as extreme. As a result of the dry conditions, the northern two-thirds of the state experienced sporadic problems with wildfires.

Undocumented reports: **Spruce Grouse** 6/2 Kittson; **Swallow-tailed Kite** 7/8 Chippewa, 7/17 Ramsey; **Summer Tanager** 7/4–19 Sherburne; **Pine Grosbeak** 6/24 Beltrami.

Acknowledgments: Thanks go to all those who submitted summer season reports and nesting records. Their data make this report possible. Special thanks to Steve Stucker and Minnesota DNR for sending M.C.B.S. data, and to Jerry Niemi and Jim Lind for sharing N.R.R.I. data. 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, and to Anthony Hertzell for preparing the breeding maps.

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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 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

Snow Goose — Seen in **seven** counties: 6/3 Brown JSS, 6/6 Yellow Medicine BJU, 6/7 Rock MCBS, 6/8 Lyon MCBS, 6/11, 6/17, 6/18, 7/27 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, BJU, 6/15 Renville BJU, 6/22 Murray MCBS.



regions except Northeast.

Ross's Goose — Seventh summer record 6/1 Cottonwood (Talcot Lake W.M.A.) †SPS.

Canada Goose — Found in **76** counties throughout state. New nesting records for *Nobles* PHS and *Koochiching* AXH.



American Wigeon — Most reports since 1989. Found in 12 counties in northern and western regions of state, plus Anoka (pair at Carlos Avery W.M.A. in June) PKL.



Mute Swan — All reports: 6/16 Le Sueur (2 at Scotch L.) BJU, 6/24–26 **Douglas** (Swim L.) JPE, 7/12 **Todd** (off Yates Point at L. Osakis, same as Swim L.?) BJU, and all summer at Amelia L. in Lino Lakes PKL, where pair with 1/4 grown young in early July furnished new nesting record for *Anoka*.



American Black Duck — Reported 6/1, 6/21, 7/2 St. Louis SES, JEB, CAM, 6/2, 6/3, 7/25 Cook RBJ, JEB, KWR, 6/7 Dakota RPR, 6/11 Pine MCA, 6/17 Lac Qui Parle (2 individuals) PCC, 6/24, 6/30 Marshall PHS, 7/25 Stearns STW.

Mallard — Found in **73** counties throughout state.



Trumpeter Swan — Observed in **31** counties in all regions of state except West-central and Southeast. First nesting records for *Anoka* PKL, *Cottonwood* MCBS, *Koochiching* AXH, *Otter Tail* SPM.



Blue-winged Teal — Observed in **65** counties in all regions of state.



Tundra Swan — Two reports: 6/1 Marshall (same bird seen in May at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, 7/16 Big Stone (individual with injured left wing) †BJU.

Wood Duck — Found in **67** counties statewide.



Northern Shoveler — Seen in **25** counties throughout, except St. Louis and south and east of a line from Lake of the Woods to Olmsted.



Gadwall — Seen in **32** counties in all re-

Northern Pintail — Record-high number of reports. Reported from 12 western counties plus Cook, St. Louis, Meeker, Anoka.



Green-winged Teal — Found in 19 counties in all regions of state except South-central and Southeast.



Canvasback — Most reports ever. Observed in 11 western counties plus Meeker. First nesting record for *Anoka* JLO.



Redhead — Seen in 33 counties in all regions except East-central.



Ring-necked Duck — Reported from 34 counties in all regions except Southeast.



Lesser Scaup — Observed in 20 counties statewide.

White-winged Scoter — Unusual report 6/21, 6/28 Lincoln (Herschberger W.M.A.) MCBS, ph. †KJB. This species has been found along the North Shore of Lake Superior dozens of times during the summer, and there are summer records for Clearwater, Marshall, Polk, and Roseau counties in the Northwest, but this apparently represents the first summer record for southern Minnesota.

Bufflehead — North reports from Marshall, Pennington, Koochiching. Two south reports of single females: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (Wild Wings W.M.A.) BJU, 7/12 Swift (L. Johnson)



Common Goldeneyes, 2 June 2006, Koochiching County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

BJU.

Common Goldeneye — Reported from 12 counties, mostly in North-central and Northeast, plus 7/26 Hennepin (Coon Rapids Dam) ph. OIJ.



Hooded Merganser — Reported from 53 counties throughout state. First nesting record for *Blue Earth* ChH.



Common Merganser — Most reports ever. Observed in nine northern counties plus 6/13, 6/26, 7/4 Hennepin DDo, DAC, DCZ. New nesting record for *Crow Wing* MRN.



Red-breasted Merganser — Most reports since 1993. Found in Lake, Cook, Pine, Mille Lacs.



Greater Prairie-Chicken — Found within usual range in Red Lake, Polk, Clay. Probable DNR released birds in three south counties: Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa.



Ruddy Duck — Seen in 34 counties south and west of a line extending from Marshall to Hennepin.



Wild Turkey — Reported from 43 counties south of a line from Norman to Pine. New nesting records for Hubbard JKA, Kanabec JMP, Washington AXH, RBJ, TEB, Wabasha OWB.



Gray Partridge — Most reports since 1992. Found in 15 counties in the southwestern portion of state, plus Fillmore.



Common Loon — Found in 41 counties in all regions except Southeast.



Ring-necked Pheasant — Observed in 60 counties in all regions except Northeast. New nesting record for Pine JMP.



Pied-billed Grebe — Seen in 64 counties statewide. First nesting records for Waseca JPS, Olmsted PWP.



Ruffed Grouse — Found in 12 counties in North-central and Northeast plus Pine, Todd, Sherburne, Kandiyohi.



Horned Grebe — One report of a late lingering individual 6/1 St. Louis (Park Point) *vide* JWJL.

Red-necked Grebe — Seen in 27 counties in all regions of state except Southeast.



Spruce Grouse — Observed 6/6, 6/29 Lake of the Woods LBF, GMM, 6/16 Lake NRRI.



Sharp-tailed Grouse — Most reports since 1983. Observed in Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Lac Qui Parle, Kanabec, Pine, St. Louis, Beltrami, Aitkin.

Eared Grebe — Observed in Marshall, Stevens, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Brown, Nicollet, Meeker.



Western Grebe — Observed in **24** counties south and west of a line from Marshall to Olmsted.



Great Egret — Reported from **45** counties in all regions except Northeast.



Clark's Grebe — All reports: 6/6 **Redwood**/Yellow Medicine (Timm Lake) †BJU and throughout the season in Big Stone (Thielke Lake) ph. †PBB. At the latter location, one or two adult Clark's (one showed signs of possible hybridization GLN *vide* PBB) each associated with an adult Western Grebe instead of with one another, and their chicks looked identical to Western Grebe chicks.

American White Pelican — Observed in **52** counties in all regions except Southeast.



Double-crested Cormorant — Reported from **62** counties statewide.



American Bittern — Seen in **34** counties in all regions except South-central, Southeast. First nesting record for *Kanabec* LBF.



Least Bittern — Found in **28** counties throughout state except Northeast.

Great Blue Heron — Observed in **77** counties statewide.



Snowy Egret — Unusual location 6/1–3 **St. Louis** (40th Ave. West, Duluth) LWM, SLF. Also reported 6/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/12 Carver WRa, 6/16 Le Sueur BJU, 7/15 Douglas JPE.

Little Blue Heron — One adult 7/27 **Swift** (Lubenow W.P.A.) BJU.

Cattle Egret — Observed 6/1, 7/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/4 Scott DWK, 6/17, 7/10, 7/14 Douglas CMB, PLJ, JPE, 6/23, 6/24 Lincoln RBW, MCBS, 6/24 Meeker DMF. Highest reported count 6/17 Douglas (10 along I-94) CMB.

Green Heron — Reported from **56** counties statewide. New nesting record for *Hubbard* MAW.



Black-crowned Night-Heron — Most reports since 1994. Found in 19 counties south and west of a line from Marshall to Washington.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron — Presumably the same adult from spring was refound 6/11 Murray KJB. Another adult seen 6/17 Nicollet (Middle L.) †BJU.

Turkey Vulture — Seen in **71** counties throughout state. New nesting record for *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.





Osprey pair, 26 July 2006, Circle Pines, Anoka County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Osprey — Observed in **28** counties in all regions of state.



Earth and Fillmore were probably misidentified.

Cooper's Hawk — Reported from **48** counties statewide. New nesting record for *Lac Qui Parle* BJU.



Bald Eagle — Reported from **57** counties statewide.



Northern Goshawk — Most records since 1983. Observed 6/3 Koochiching AXH, 6/23, 7/14 Itasca NRRI, BJU, 7/4 Cass NRRI, 7/20 Aitkin KWR, 7/22 Beltrami DWK.

Northern Harrier — Found in **63** counties throughout state.

Red-shouldered Hawk — Found in **16** counties in all regions except Northwest, Northeast.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Reported from five north counties within usual summer range, plus 7/3 Stearns (no details) CRM. This species rarely, if ever, occurs in southern Minnesota during summer; additional reports from the Twin Cities south to Blue

Broad-winged Hawk — Reported from **36** counties throughout state.



Swainson's Hawk — Observed in **17** counties in southern half of state.



Red-tailed Hawk — Seen in **80** counties statewide.



American Kestrel — Found in **78** counties throughout state.



Merlin — Reported from nine counties in northern regions of state, plus early south migrant 7/27 Swift BJU.



Peregrine Falcon — Seen in **23** counties, mostly in eastern and central regions, plus Grant.



Yellow Rail — All reports: 6/2 Kittson RRz, 6/8 Hubbard (Badoura Twp.) DAY *vide* BAW, 6/27, 7/1, 7/2 Cass (Swamp L.) BAW, HHD, CRM, and throughout the season in Aitkin (McGregor) m.ob.

Virginia Rail — Observed in **40** counties in all regions except Northeast. New nesting record for Clay PBB.



Sora — Found in **43** counties throughout state.



Common Moorhen — Seen in **12** counties. First nesting records for *Otter Tail* SPM, **Yellow Medicine** (Miller L.) BJU. Additional first county occurrences 6/11–29 **Lac Qui Parle** (Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, ph. PHS, 7/4 **Swift** (Lubenow W.M.A.) ph. BJU, 7/16 **Big Stone** (West Toqua L.) BJU. Also reported from Chippewa, Nobles, Meeker, Le Sueur, Scott, Anoka, Olmsted.



American Coot — Reported from **47** counties in all regions except Northeast.



Sandhill Crane — Reported from **43** counties throughout state. New nesting records for *Red Lake* SAS, *Pope* BJU, *Morrison* MRN.



Black-bellied Plover — High count 6/1 Polk (11, Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) PHS. Northbound migrants in **six** counties including late south 6/11 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, late north 6/24 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

American Golden-Plover — Record-high number of reports. Late south 6/5 (1), 6/24 (2) Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/22–28 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, SAS, PHS; early south 7/24 (Walter Twp.) BJU, 7/25 Carver RMD and Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC.

SNOWY PLOVER — Discovery of an



Piping Plover nest, 15 June 2006, Garden Island, Lake of the Woods County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Jerry Bonkoski.



adult male Snowy Plover at Big Stone N.W.R., 7/1 *Lac Qui Parle* †PCC, ph. †PHS, led to an adult female with the male 7/3 (ph. DWK, JLO) and two recently hatched chicks on the 8th (DBZ, CCB, ph. RLE). The female was last observed 7/9. The chicks were faithfully attended by the male through at least 7/29, when both apparently fledged; at least one bird lingered through 8/27. Ninth state record, second refuge record, and first state nesting record.

Semipalmated Plover — Reported from **18** counties in all regions except North-central, Southeast. Northbound migrants: late south 6/17,24 *Lac Qui Parle* (1) PCC, PHS; late north 6/10 Becker (2) PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/8 Becker (2) and Marshall (2) JMJ, PHS; early south 7/4 Stevens BJU, 7/9 *Lac Qui Parle* (1) PCC, RSF, JMJ, PHS. High count (but see fall report) 7/29 *Lac Qui Parle* (127) PCC, RSF, PHS.

Piping Plover — Only north report: nesting pair 6/15 Lake of the Woods (female incubating 4 eggs at Garden Island) JEB, RBJ. All south reports from *Lac Qui Parle*: 6/11–26 Big Stone N.W.R. BJU, †PCC,



m.ob., 7/16–21 Salt Lake (both sides of state line) PCC, BJU, NSc, 7/19–22 Big Stone N.W.R. BWF *et al.*

Killdeer — Reported from all **87** counties. Record-high count 7/9 *Lac Qui Parle* (**1,251** including 910 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, RSF, JMJ, PHS.



American Avocet — All south reports: 6/11 *Lac Qui Parle* (4, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 6/28 Big Stone (2) LS, 7/27 Big Stone (juvenile near Ortonville) ph. BJU. All north reports from Agassiz N.W.R. 6/24 (1), 7/15 (2) Marshall PHS, JMJ.



Spotted Sandpiper — Reported from **60** counties, 36 south and 24 north. First juveniles 7/25 *Lac Qui Parle* (Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC. High count (but see fall report) 7/16 *Lac Qui Parle* (55) PCC, JMJ, PHS.

Solitary Sandpiper — Observed in **40** counties statewide. Probable northbound migrants: 6/9 Aitkin KCR, 6/10 Lake of the Woods JMJ. Probable southbound migrants: early north 6/24 Polk JMJ, 6/30 Becker and Marshall PHS; early south 6/24 Rice TFB and *Lac Qui Parle* PCC, PHS, 6/28 Lincoln and Lyon MCBS. Record-high count 7/31 Stearns (**57** at St. John's Arboretum) PCC.

Greater Yellowlegs — Seen in **26** counties south and west of a line from Kittson to Anoka. Only northbound migrant: 6/11 *Lac Qui Parle* BJU. Southbound migrants: early north 6/24 Becker, Marshall and Polk PHS; early south 6/23 Chippewa RBW, 6/24 *Lac Qui Parle* PCC, PHS. First juveniles 7/22 Marshall PHS, 7/25 *Lac Qui Parle* PCC. High counts 7/15 (130), 7/28 (127) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Willet — Total of 12 birds found in **8** counties, mostly in western regions. Spring migrants: late south 6/5 *Lac Qui*

Parle PCC; late north 6/1 Polk PHS. Mid-summer reports 6/24–27 Lac Qui Parle (low flow area, Big Stone N.W.R.) m.ob., 6/30 Becker (Hamden Slough N.W.R.) PHS, 7/1 Big Stone PHS, 7/5–8 Lac Qui Parle (Kaercher Peninsula, Big Stone N.W.R.) LS, CCB. Southbound migrant and farthest east 7/13 Carver (Chaska Lake) RMD.

Lesser Yellowlegs — Found in **41** counties in all regions. Northbound migrants: late south 6/11 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, PHS; late north 6/10 Becker (1) PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 6/24 in four counties; early south 6/17 Lac Qui Parle (12 at Big Stone N.W.R. increasing to 324 by 6/24) PCC, PHS. First juveniles 7/22 Marshall PHS, 7/25 Lac Qui Parle PCC. High counts (but see fall report) 7/9 Lac Qui Parle (687) PCC, RSF, JMJ, PHS, 7/22 Marshall (684, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Upland Sandpiper — Observed in **29** counties, 9 north and 20 south, including Cook (6/3, Grand Marais m.ob.) and St. Louis (6/18, LS) in the Northeast. None in North-central or Southeast, and only Dakota in East-central.



Whimbrel — All reports: 6/2–5 Cook (max. 8, Grand Marais) RBJ, SC, 6/22 St. Louis (Interstate Is., Duluth) KRE.

Hudsonian Godwit — All reports of single birds: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Marshall PHS, 6/1–2 Anoka (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) m.ob.

Marbled Godwit — Reported from only six south and eight north counties. None found in eastern regions. First juveniles 7/8 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS, 7/9 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC *et al.* High count 6/24 Lac Qui Parle (59, Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS.

Ruddy Turnstone — Northbound migrants: late south 6/5, 11 Lac Qui Parle

PCC, PHS; late north 6/3 St. Louis PHS. Early south (no fall migrants north) 7/25–27 Lac Qui Parle (max. 3) PCC, BJU.

Sanderling — Northbound migrants: late south 6/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU; late north 6/10 Polk PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/22 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, SAS, PHS; early south 7/23–25 Lac Qui Parle MBu, BJU, PCC.

Semipalmated Sandpiper — Reported from **26** counties, 9 north and 17 south. Northbound migrants: late south 6/19 Sherburne ASc, 6/24 Lac Qui Parle (3) PCC, PHS; late north 6/24 Marshall (3) PHS and Polk JMJ. Single birds 6/30 Marshall PHS and 7/1 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS probably represented the beginning of fall migration. Additional fall migrants: early north 7/8 Becker (1) and Marshall (4) JMJ, PHS; early south 7/3 Sherburne ASc, 7/4 Anoka PKL, Benton ASc and Meekeer (20+) DMF. First juveniles 7/28 Marshall (1) PHS, 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (3) PCC *et al.* High count (but see fall report) 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (1,919 including 1,319 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS.

Least Sandpiper — Observed in **36** counties statewide. Northbound migrants: late south 6/3 Anoka CRM *et al.*; late north 6/12 Crow Wing JEB, RBJ. Southbound migrants: early north 6/24 Marshall PHS, 6/30 in five counties; early south 6/24, 29 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, BJU. First juveniles 7/25 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, 7/28 Marshall (dozens) PHS, JMJ. High count (but see fall report) 7/9 Lac Qui Parle (**1,929** at Big Stone N.W.R., plus 387 elsewhere in county) PCC, RSF, JMJ, PHS.

White-rumped Sandpiper — Seen in **14** counties: 10 south and 4 in Northwest. Counts consistently >200 through 6/11 in Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. Late south 7/1 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC, PHS; one in full alternate plumage 7/10 Lac Qui Parle (Salt Lake, white rump seen while preening) BJU probably never reached its breeding grounds. Late north 6/30 Marshall (2) PHS. See fall report for southbound migrants.

Baird's Sandpiper — Reported from **17** counties, primarily in Central, West-central, Northwest. Northbound migrants: late south 6/17 Lac Qui Parle PCC; late north 6/3 Cook JEB, RBJ. Southbound migrants: early north 7/8 Becker (3) PHS; early south 7/4–5 Swift BJU, LS. See fall report for high counts.

Pectoral Sandpiper — Observed in **32** counties in all regions. Northbound migrants: late south 6/11 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS; late north 6/10 Becker and Polk PHS, 6/12 Crow Wing JEB, RBJ. Unclassified reports 6/17 Dakota JPM, 6/19 Sherburne ASc. Possibly summered at Big Stone N.W.R., where surveys consistently found a few birds; e.g., 6/17 (2), 6/24 (2), 6/26 (4), 7/1 (5). Southbound migrants: early north 6/24 Marshall PHS, 6/30 Becker PHS; early south 7/3 Sherburne ASc, 7/4 Meeker (3) DMF. High count (but see fall report) 7/25 Lac Qui Parle (935) PCC.

Dunlin — Seen in **12** counties. Northbound migrants: late south 6/11 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC, PHS; late north 6/10 Becker (3, Hamden Slough N.W.R.) PHS. Potential record-early fall migrant **7/15** Becker †PHS, JMJ; next reported 7/25 Cook KCR. All counts ≤ 12 birds.

Stilt Sandpiper — Reported from **20** counties, primarily in central and western regions. Northbound migrants: late south 6/5 Lac Qui Parle (5) PCC; late north 6/1 Marshall PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 6/30 Marshall (1) PHS; early south **6/24** Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, PHS, 6/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU. First juveniles 7/28 Marshall (several) PHS, 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (3) PCC *et al.* High count (but see fall report) 7/16 Lac Qui Parle (492) PCC, JMJ, PHS.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — All reports from Lac Qui Parle: 7/24–25 Salt Lake (1) BJU, PCC, 7/25 (3), 7/29 (8) Big Stone N.W.R. m.ob., 7/28 Dawson W.T.P. BJU.

Short-billed Dowitcher — Found in **15** counties south and west of a line from Marshall to Anoka. Late south 6/1–2

Anoka LS, PKL, **6/11** Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. Southbound migrants: early north **6/24** (1), 7/8 (3) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS; early south 6/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 7/1 Lac Qui Parle (4) PCC, PHS. First fall reports outside of West-central region: 7/10 Dakota (1) JPM, 7/16 Hennepin (2) DWK. High count 7/16 Lac Qui Parle (61 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, JMJ, PHS.

Long-billed Dowitcher — No reports.

Wilson's Snipe — Reported from **38** counties, 16 south and 22 north. No reports from Southeast. High count 7/22 Marshall (137 at Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, SAS, PHS.

American Woodcock — Found in **18** counties (9 north and 9 south), including Lincoln and Yellow Medicine in Southwest.



Wilson's Phalarope — Statewide total of 430 individuals reported from 16 south and 4 north counties. First juveniles 7/1 Lac Qui Parle (3 at Salt Lake) PCC, 7/8 Marshall (several at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. High count 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (244 at Salt Lake) PCC, RSF, PHS.

Red-necked Phalarope — All spring migrants: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (by Louisburg) BJU, 6/2 Stearns (Albany) PCC, 6/5 Lac Qui Parle (Salt Lake) BJU. Southbound migrants: early north **7/8** Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS; early south 7/18 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Salt Lake) BJU, 7/28 Yellow Medicine (Lanners Lake) BJU.

Franklin's Gull — Reported from **27** counties including all western and central regions, plus 6/1 Duluth †PHS.

Bonaparte's Gull — All south reports: 6/7 Murray MCBS, 6/20, 7/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU. All north reports: 6/3 St. Louis JMJ, SLF, 6/30 Marshall PHS, 7/4 Beltrami DPJ, 7/15 Mille Lacs ASc.

Ring-billed Gull — Observed in **61** counties statewide. New nesting records for *Pennington* SAS and *Crow Wing* RBJ.



CALIFORNIA GULL — Thirty-third state record 6/20 **Swift** and **Lac Qui Parle** (Lac Qui Parle L.) ph. BJU.

Herring Gull — Seen in six counties in North-central, Northeast, plus Mille Lacs, Stevens, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa.



SLATY-BACKED GULL — First state record 7/21+ **Cook** (adult at Grand Marais) KMH; photographed by m.ob. with written documentation by †DAB, †PBB, †PCC, †KRE, †MLH, †SES, †FVS, †PHS.

LEAST TERN — Twentieth state record and second county record 6/4 Nobles (Lake Ocheda) †DBz, COB; †PHS, m.ob. This bird could not be found the next day, but may have returned on the 6th when DAC stated he was “not able to make a definitive ID of this bird, since it was 500 m away.” Twenty-first state record and third county record 6/24 Olmsted (South Landfill Reservoir by Rochester) †JWH; ph. CCB, ph. RLE, m.ob.

Caspian Tern — Most reports since 1997. Observed in Cook, St. Louis, Hubbard, Wadena, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Meeker, Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota, Stevens, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln.

Black Tern — Observed in **63** counties in all regions except Northeast.



Long-eared Owl fledgling, 13 June 2006, near Big Fork, Itasca County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Jerry Bonkoski.

Common Tern — All reports: 6/3 St. Louis JMJ, 6/6, 6/15 Lake of the Woods RBJ, LBF, 6/10, 7/1, 7/3 Cass CAM, HHD, CRM, 6/14, 7/15 Mille Lacs ASC.

Forster's Tern — Seen in **29** counties in all regions except Northeast, Southeast.

Rock Pigeon — Found in **80** counties statewide.



Eurasian Collared-Dove — Documented at new locations 6/4 **Goodhue** (one calling east of Kenyon) †CCB, 6/21–23 **Stearns** (two at Brooten) †RPR, PCC. Also reported 7/20 Kandiyohi (Prinsburg) RBJ. Continuing reports from known locations in Big Stone (Ortonville), Brown (Hanska), Brown/Cottonwood (Comfrey), Chippewa (Milan), Dakota (Farmington), Fillmore (Fountain), Grant (Herman), Lac Qui Parle (Madison and Marietta), Rock (Jasper), Sibley (Gaylord), Swift (Apple-



Northern Hawk Owl at nest site, 3 June 2006, near Big Falls, Koochiching County. *Confirmed nesting.* Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Northern Saw-whet Owl, 1 May 2006, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County. Inset: added egg. *Confirmed nesting.* Photos by Stan Tekiela.

ton), Traverse (Wheaton).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE — Tenth state record, fifth county record, and fourth consecutive summer record: 6/2–24 St. Louis (Nelson's Resort, Crane Lake) ph. JBP, ph. DMK.

Mourning Dove — Record-high number of reports. Observed in all counties except Kittson, Martin.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo — Found in 42 counties in all regions except Northeast.



Black-billed Cuckoo — Observed in 48 counties throughout state. NRRI reported highest totals in 16 years in Chippewa and Superior National Forests.

Eastern Screech-Owl — Seen 6/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/7 Rock MCBS, 7/1 Houston (gray-morph fledgling hit by car) KAK, 7/21 Nobles NED, 7/22 Brown BTS, Murray (no date) NED.



Great Horned Owl — Reported from 28 counties in all regions of state.



Snowy Owl — One reported near Dora Lake in late May was last seen 6/2 Itasca †SC.

Northern Hawk Owl — Most summer reports ever: observed in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca. New nesting record for *Beltrami* DPJ.





Perfect albino Common Nighthawk fledgling, 13 July 2006, Hokah, Houston County. *Confirmed nesting.* Photo by Karla Kinstler.

BURROWING OWL — Last seen and heard at Rochester Airport 6/24 Olmsted *fide* JWH (please see spring report). Two adults seen by local residents since at least 7/1 Stevens (Rendsville Twp.) were documented mid-August ph. DO.



Todd, Lac Qui Parle. First nesting record for *Itasca* RBJ.

Barred Owl — Observed in **26** counties in all regions except Northwest, Southwest.



Short-eared Owl — Seen in **seven** counties, six in Northwest plus Lake of the Woods. First county nesting records for *Kittson* ph. LWi, *Pennington* (2 locations) *fide* MJJ. High count 7/20 *Kittson* (19 near Lancaster) LWi.



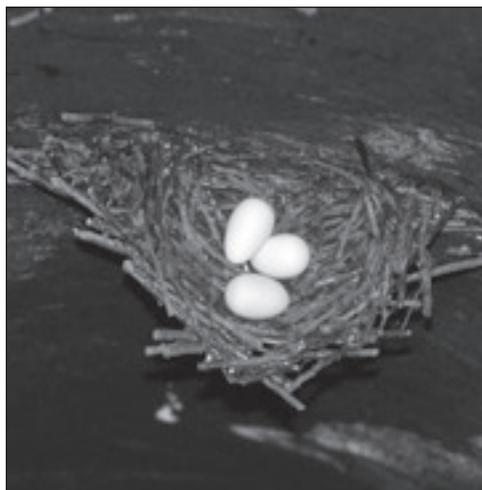
Great Gray Owl — All reports: 6/11 Roseau (carrying food) BTh; 6/14 (hit by car, Roosevelt F.R.), 6/29 (Winter Road Peatland S.N.A.) Lake of the Woods GMM; 6/19 Lake CRM; 6/19 (Sax-Zim Bog) KRE, 6/25 (near Chisholm) St. Louis CO; 6/24, 7/14 *Itasca* (south of Marcell) *fide* JWL, BJU, 7/15 *Beltrami* FAE.

Long-eared Owl — Found in **five** counties: Lake of the Woods, Cass, *Itasca*,

Boreal Owl — Only report: 6/3 *Koochiching* (heard calling near Big Falls) AXH.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — Reported 6/3 *Cook* (adult with 3 fledglings) BWS. New nesting record for *Hennepin* *fide* AXH.





Chimney Swift nest, 13 July 2006, Circle Pines, Anoka County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Common Nighthawk — Observed in **39** counties in all regions of state.



Whip-poor-will — Reported from Kittson, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Wadena, Cass, Swift, Renville, Sherburne, Anoka, Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha.



Chimney Swift — Seen in **74** counties statewide. New nesting record for *Anoka* AXH.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Found in **51** counties in all regions except Northwest. First nesting record for *Carlton* NRRI.



Belted Kingfisher — Observed in **68** counties throughout state.

Red-headed Woodpecker — Seen in 38 counties in all regions except Northeast.



Red-bellied Woodpecker — Reported from **50** counties in all regions except Northeast. New nesting record for *Pennington* SAS.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Found in **59** counties statewide.



Downy Woodpecker — Seen in **74** counties in all regions of state.



Hairy Woodpecker — Reported from **69** counties throughout state.



American Three-toed Woodpecker — No reports.

Black-backed Woodpecker — Found in **10** counties: Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Clearwater, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Northern Flicker — Observed in **77**



Willow Flycatcher, 13 June 2006, Castle Rock, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — Found in seven counties in North-central and Northeast, plus migrants in Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Murray, Nobles. Late south 6/6 Lincoln MCBS and Nobles BWF.

Acadian Flycatcher — Reported from **13** counties mostly in southeastern portion of state, plus first county records 6/4 **Lyon** (Camden S.P.) and 6/27 **Lincoln** (Archer-ville W.M.A., vocalizing) MCBS, ph. KJB.

Alder Flycatcher — Reported from **40** counties in all regions except Southeast. Late south (vocalizing, away from known breeding locations) 6/10 Scott ADS, **6/26** Meeker DMF. Early south migrant (vocalizing) 7/29 Chippewa BJU.

Willow Flycatcher — Found in **41** counties throughout state except Northeast.

Least Flycatcher — Observed in **69** counties statewide.



counties statewide. First county nesting record for *Fillmore* NBO.



Pileated Woodpecker — Reported from **51** counties in all regions of state, including Lyon, Murray, Redwood, and Yellow Medicine in Southwest.



Eastern Phoebe — Seen in **74** counties in all regions of state. First nesting record for *Blue Earth* ChH.



Olive-sided Flycatcher — Found in **19** counties in all regions except Northwest, South-central, Southeast. Northbound migrants 6/7 Rock MCBS and Stearns RBJ. Southbound migrant 7/29 Chippewa BJU.

Great Crested Flycatcher — Reported from **74** counties statewide.



Eastern Wood-Pewee — Reported from **74** counties throughout state.

Western Kingbird — Found in **24** counties in all regions except Northeast, Southeast.





Blue Jay chicks, 14 June 2006, St. Louis Park, Hennepin County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Heidi Hermes.

Eastern Kingbird — Record-high number of reports. Reported from all counties except Dodge, Wabasha, Winona. New nesting records for *Chisago* AEK, *Waseca* JPS.



Bell's Vireo — Most reports ever. Found in Washington, Dakota, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Blue Earth, Waseca, **Lyon** (6/23, MCBS).



SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER — Single adults seen 6/7 **Carlton** (Twin Lakes Twp.) †LAW, 7/1 Yellow Medicine (Echo Twp.) †AF.



Yellow-throated Vireo — Reported from **57** counties in all regions of state.

Blue-headed Vireo — Observed in **12** counties in northeastern portion of state.

Loggerhead Shrike — Seen in Clay, Cass, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Meeker, Brown, Waseca, Rice, Dakota. Nesting confirmed 5/31 Lincoln MCBS.

Warbling Vireo — Found in **76** counties statewide.





Black-billed Magpie at nest site, 2 June 2006, International Falls, Koochiching County. *Probable nesting.* Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Philadelphia Vireo — All reports: 6/1, 6/3 Pine JMP, 6/8 Lake AXH, 6/14 Beltrami RBJ, 7/28 Cook DAB.

Red-eyed Vireo — Reported from **76** counties throughout state.



Gray Jay — Seen in **nine** counties in North-central, Northeast.

Blue Jay — Observed in **81** counties in all regions of state. New nesting record for *Chisago* AEK.



Black-billed Magpie — Found in **13** counties in northern regions of state.



American Crow — Most reports ever. Reported from all counties except Martin, Mower.



Common Raven — Seen in **25** counties, all in northern half of state except 6/6 Sherburne PLJ, 6/14 Chisago JMP.

Horned Lark — Reported from **60** counties in all regions of state except Northeast.



Purple Martin — Most reports since 1988. Found in **57** counties in all regions of state.



Tree Swallow — Found in **80** counties statewide.





House Wrens, 30 June 2006, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Anthony X. Hertz.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Reported from **64** counties throughout state except northwestern corner.

Bank Swallow — Observed in **61** counties statewide.



Cliff Swallow — Seen in **81** counties throughout state.



Barn Swallow — Reported from all **87** counties. New nesting record for *Houston* KAK.



Black-capped Chickadee — Found in **78** counties in all regions of state.



Boreal Chickadee — Most reports ever. Seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Lou-



Marsh Wren nest, 18 June 2006, North Oaks, Ramsey County. Probable nesting. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

is, and Lake.

Tufted Titmouse — All reports: 6/1–7/31 Fillmore NBO, 6/11 Fillmore PLJ, 6/7, 6/16 Houston KAK, DWK.



Red-breasted Nuthatch — Found in 20 counties, mostly in North-central, Northeast, but also in Pine, Kanabec, Isanti, and Stearns.



White-breasted Nuthatch — Seen in 73 counties in all regions of state.



Brown Creeper — Observed in 10 counties: Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton, and Pine.



ROCK WREN — Twenty-fourth state record and second county occurrence 6/7 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) ph. †MSS.

Carolina Wren — Reported 6/1,10 Washington (Grey Cloud Island Trail) JEL, JPE, LS, 7/10–29+ Brown (Flandrau S.P.) †JSS.

House Wren — Record-high number of reports. Seen in all counties except Lake.



Winter Wren — Seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Carlton.

Sedge Wren — Found in 82 counties statewide. New nesting records for Becker PHS, Fillmore NBO.



Marsh Wren — Reported from 64 counties throughout state.



Golden-crowned Kinglet — Most reports ever. Found in nine counties in North-central, Northeast, plus 6/5–13, 7/18 Sherburne ASc, 6/11, 7/25 Pine JMP.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet — Reported from **nine** counties in North-central, Northeast.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — Most reports ever. Observed in 33 south counties plus Cass, Wadena, Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison, and Pine.

Eastern Bluebird — Found in **78** counties throughout state.



Veery — Reported from **46** counties in all regions except Southeast.



Swainson's Thrush — Found in **10** counties, all north except late migrants 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (4 individuals) BJU.



Hermit Thrush — Reported from **13** counties in northeastern third of state.

Wood Thrush — Found in **40** counties in all regions except Northwest.

American Robin — Observed in all **87** Minnesota counties.



Gray Catbird — Observed in **81** counties



statewide.

Northern Mockingbird — Three reports: 6/1 Cook SMC, 6/16 Le Sueur BJU, 7/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Brown Thrasher — Found in **72** counties in all regions of state.



European Starling — Record-high number of reports. Seen in every county except Kittson, Norman, Benton, Martin. First breeding record for *Red Lake SAS*.



Cedar Waxwing — Observed in **75** counties throughout state.



Blue-winged Warbler — Observed in **17** south counties as far west as 6/6 Yellow Medicine (2 at Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) BJU, 6/9 Lincoln (Shaokatan Twp.) MCBS.



Golden-winged Warbler — Reported from **21** counties north and east of a line from Otter Tail to Dakota. "Lawrence's" Warbler 6/10 Scott (singing male at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) ADS.



Tennessee Warbler — Seen in **16** coun-



Yellow Warbler nestlings, 28 June 2006, Golden Valley, Hennepin County. Confirmed nesting. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

ties, 6 north and 10 south. Probable early south migrant 7/23 Hennepin BAF.

Nashville Warbler — Observed in 15 counties in northern half of state.

Northern Parula — Most reports ever. Found in **12** northern counties, plus 6/2 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Yellow Warbler — Observed in **79** counties statewide.



Chestnut-sided Warbler — Reported from **29** counties in central and northern regions.



Magnolia Warbler — Found in **12** counties, mostly in North-central and North-east. Late south migrants 6/1 Meeker (2 individuals) DMF, 6/2 Sherburne ASC.

Cape May Warbler — Observed in **eight** counties: Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — Reported from four north counties: Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Late south migrant 6/3 Anoka LS. Unusual report away from known breeding locations 6/17 Duluth (singing male at Hartley Field) KRE.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Record-high number of reports. Seen in 17 northern counties plus 6/13 Dakota LMS.





Prothonotary Warbler at nest site, 6 June 2006, Hastings, Dakota County. Confirmed nesting.
 Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Found in **15** counties, all north except 6/24,25, 7/2 Dakota (singing male at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Blackburnian Warbler — Seen in **15** counties, 14 in northeastern third of state. Record-late migrant **6/11** Lyon MCBS.



Pine Warbler — Reported from **22** counties as far south as Sherburne, Anoka, Ramsey.



PRAIRIE WARBLER — Twentieth state record 6/4–5 **Nobles** (singing male near Ellsworth) †DBz, COB; ph. DAC, †PHS.

Palm Warbler — Observed in **five** counties: Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis.

Bay-breasted Warbler — Seen in a total of **six** north counties: Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Cook, and Pine.

Cerulean Warbler — Found in **14** counties, 12 south plus Otter Tail, Todd. Unusual location 6/6 **Yellow Medicine** (singing male from spring still present at Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) BJU.

Black-and-white Warbler — Reported from **23** counties north and east of a line from Polk to Meeker to Olmsted. New nesting record for *Chisago* BWF.



American Redstart — Seen in **71** coun-



ties throughout state. First nesting record for *Pennington SAS*.

Prothonotary Warbler — Found in Hennepin, Ramsey, Carver, Scott, Le Sueur, Houston.



Ovenbird — Reported from **56** counties in all regions of state.



Northern Waterthrush — Observed in **12** counties within usual summer range including Anoka (Boot Lake S.N.A.) PKL. Late migrant (non-breeding bird?) **6/13** Lincoln MCBS.



Louisiana Waterthrush — Reported from **five** counties: Scott, Rice, Blue Earth, Fillmore, Houston.

Kentucky Warbler — All reports: singing male 6/4 Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. CCB, and through 6/17 Blue Earth (Williams C.P.) m.ob.

Connecticut Warbler — Found in nine North-central and Northeast counties. No reports of migrants.

Mourning Warbler — Found in **24** counties in all regions except West-central. Late south migrants (away from known nesting locations) 6/6 Lincoln MCBS, 6/10 Hennepin (backyard) BAF.



Common Yellowthroat — Reported from all **87** counties. New nesting records for *Wilkin* PBB, *Kanabec* LBF.



Hooded Warbler — All reports: 6/1 Hennepin (Edina) WMS, 6/10–7/7 Ramsey (2 at Battle Creek Park) †JPS, m.ob., total of 18 territories at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. (9 in Scott, 9 in Dakota) with cowbirds fledged from 2 of 3 parasitized nests BAF *et al.*



Wilson's Warbler — Found in **four** counties: 6/3 Koochiching AXH, 6/10 Lake of the Woods MJJ, 6/16, 6/20 Lake JCG, KRE, 7/29 Cook JPa.

Canada Warbler — Observed in **11** counties, 9 north plus 6/1 Meeker DMF, 6/2 Sherburne ASc.



Yellow-breasted Chat — No reports.

Summer Tanager — Documented 6/5 **Lincoln** (Hole-in-the-Mountain C.P.) †SPS, and through 6/9 Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.) †ADS, †JPM. Also see undocumented reports.

Scarlet Tanager — Found in **55** counties in all regions of state.



Eastern Towhee — Reported from **30** counties in all regions of state.





Swamp Sparrow nest, 18 June 2006, Shoreview, Ramsey County. *Probable nesting.* Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Chipping Sparrow — Found in all **87** counties.



Vesper Sparrow — Seen in **66** counties throughout state.



Clay-colored Sparrow — Observed in **77** counties statewide.



Lark Sparrow — Observed in **21** counties in all regions except North-central, Northeast.

LARK BUNTING — Adult male discovered during Breeding Bird Survey 6/14 **Beltrami** (Benville Twp.) †BAB.

Field Sparrow — Reported from **51** counties in all regions except North-central.



Savannah Sparrow — Record-high number of reports. Found in all counties except Ramsey, Watonwan, Martin.



Grasshopper Sparrow — Found in **63** counties in all regions of state. New nesting record for *Dakota* DWK.



Henslow's Sparrow — More reports than usual for the second year in a row. Reported from **27** counties in all regions except North-central, Northeast. North reports from Clay, Becker, Otter Tail, Traverse, Mille Lacs, 6/3–22 **Pine** †JMP, 6/8–22 **Kanabec** JMP. Additional first county records 6/4,11,23 **Lyon** (3 locations) MCBS, 7/4 **Stevens** (Framnas Twp.) BJU, 7/5–7 **Wright** (Succonix W.M.A.) HHD, RBJ.



Le Conte's Sparrow — Observed in **31** counties in northern and central regions.



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — Seen in **eight** counties: Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Hubbard. Cass, Aitkin, Morrison, **Big Stone** (7/22, singing male, PHS).

Song Sparrow — Reported from all **87** counties.



Lincoln's Sparrow — Most reports ever: Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Swamp Sparrow — Found in **78** counties statewide.



White-throated Sparrow — Reported from **16** northern counties.



Dark-eyed Junco — Seen in Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Cook.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — Many reports from usual Felton Prairie location in Clay, plus south reports 6/4,24 Pipestone MCBS, 6/25 Lincoln BJU.

Northern Cardinal — Found in **60** counties in all regions of state. First nesting record for *Kanabec* CAM.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Reported from **76** counties throughout state.



Blue Grosbeak — Record-high number of reports. Found in Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Murray, Rock, Nobles, Brown.



LAZULI BUNTING — Thirty-fourth state record 6/10 **Blue Earth** (adult male at St. Clair) SBP, ph. DWK, †JLO.

Indigo Bunting — Found in **74** counties throughout state.



Dickcissel — Reported from **78** counties in all regions of state. High counts north 6/17 Clay (12) PBB, 6/29 Wadena (13) PJB. High count south 6/24 Lac Qui Parle (46) WCM.



Bobolink — Observed in **79** counties statewide. New nesting record for *Fillmore* NBO.



Red-winged Blackbird — Found in all **87** counties.



Eastern Meadowlark — Reported from **46** counties in all regions of state, including the Southwest: 6/23 Lyon (Sioux Prairie W.M.A.) MCBS, 6/5-6, 6/26 Nobles (Westside Twp.) JWH, BWF, MCBS. New nesting records for *Sherburne* PLJ and *Blue Earth* ChH.



Western Meadowlark — Found in **62** counties throughout state. First nesting record for *Blue Earth* ChH.



Yellow-headed Blackbird — Seen in **60** counties in all regions except Northeast.



Rusty Blackbird — Reported 6/23 Cook (2 individuals) DWK.



Bobolink, 8 June 2006, Rose-mount, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Brewer's Blackbird — Observed in **40** counties in all regions of state.



Common Grackle — Most reports ever. Reported from every county except Kittson, Pennington, Benton, Houston.



Great-tailed Grackle — MCBS reported vocalizing males 6/1 Murray (Chandler W.M.A.) SPS, 6/2 Murray (Hiram Southwick W.M.A.) MSS, and pair near Hills W.T.P. 6/7-21 Rock MSS. Vocalizing males also documented 6/20 (Hantho Twp.) and 6/26 (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) Lac Qui Parle †BJU.

Brown-headed Cowbird — Found in **80** counties statewide.



Orchard Oriole — Seen in **41** counties in all regions except Northeast.

Baltimore Oriole — Reported from **77** counties throughout state.



Purple Finch — Observed in 17 counties north and east of a line from Kittson to Mille Lacs and Pine.



House Finch — Found in **69** counties throughout state.



Red Crossbill — NRRI reported a total of

56 individuals found on June surveys in St. Louis, Lake, Itasca, and Cass, the most in 16 years. All reports: 6/4 Cook JMJ, JWH, 6/7, 6/20, 6/24 Lake KRE, NRRI, JOT, 6/17 St. Louis NRRI, 6/24 Itasca NRRI, 6/28 Cass NRRI.

White-winged Crossbill — Only report: 6/28 Lake of the Woods (Faunce F.R.) GMM.

Pine Siskin — Observed in Pennington, Polk, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton.

American Goldfinch — Most reports ever. Reported from every county except Martin.



Evening Grosbeak — Seen in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.



House Sparrow — Reported from **82** counties statewide.



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DDo	Diana Doyle	KWR	Kim W. Risen
DEn	Deanne Endrizzi	LAV	Lance A. Vrieze
DFN	David F. Neitzel	LBF	Linda B. Felker
DMA	Diane M. Anderson	LEC	Laura E. Coble
DMF	Dan M. Floren	LMS	Larry M. Sirvio
DMK	Dee M. Kuder	LMu	Linda Munns
DO	Donna Oglesby	LS	Linda Sparling
DOB	Derek O. Bakken	LWM	Leo Wexler-Mann
DOK	Don O. Kienholz	MAW	Marlene A. Weber
DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	MBu	Mike Butterfield
DTT	Dan T. Thimgan	MCA	Mark C. Alt
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	MCBS	Minnesota County Biological Survey
EEO	Earl E. Orf	MLH	Mike Hendrickson
ERo	Earl Rosenwinkel	MM	Matt Mecklenburg
ES	Erika Sitz	MO	Mark Otnes
FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	MPa	Mark Palas
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	MRN	Michael R. North
FZL	Fred Z. Leshar	MSS	Mark "Sparky" Stensaas
GLN	Gary L. Neuchterlein	MWS	Mike W. Steffes
GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel	NAJ	Nancy A. Jackson
GT	Gary Tischer	NBO	Nancy B. Overcott
HHD	Herb H. Dingmann	NED	Nelvina E. De Kam
JBB	Jason Bolish	NFT	Nels F. Thompson
JBP	Jerry & Brenda Pohlman	NRRRI	Natural Resources Research Institute
JBr	Julie Brophy	OLJ	Oscar L. Johnson
JCG	Janet C. Green	OWB	Bill Bruins
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	PBB	Patrick B. Beauzay
JEI	Jesse Ellis	PBD	Pat & Bob DeWenter
JeM	Jerome McKenna	PCC	Philip C. Chu
JFR	James F. Ryan	PEB	Paul E. Budde
JKa	Jack Karwowski	PEJ	Paul E. Jantscher
JLH	James L. Howitz	PHS	Peder H. Svingen
JLO	James L. Otto	PJB	Paul J. Binek
JLR	Janet L. Riegler	PJK	Pat Korkowski
JLU	Janice & Larry Uden	PJR	Pat J. Rice

PKL Pat & Ken LaFond
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson
 PRH Pete Hoeger
 PWP Paul W. Pedersen
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams
 RCS Rolf C. Smeby
 REH Robert E. Holtz
 RHO Robert H. O'Connor
 RJS Roger J. Schroeder
 RLE Robert L. Ekblad
 RMD Robert M. Dunlap
 RPR Robert P. Russell, Jr.
 RRz Russell Riesz
 RSF Randy S. Frederickson
 SAS Shelley A. Steva
 SBP Sherry & Brian Pierson
 SES Steven E. Schon
 SID Sue Durrant
 SLF Steven L. Falkowski
 SMC Sue McDonnell
 SMC Scott M. Clark
 SPM Steve P. Millard
 SPS Steve Stucker

SSk Stacey Skinner
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman
 SWe Steve Weston
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell
 TFB Tom F. Boevers
 TJa Teresa Jaskiewicz
 TKP T. K. Peacock
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 UK Uwe Kausch
 WCM William C. Marengo
 WEN Warren E. Nelson
 WJF William J. Flowers
 WMS William M. Stauffer
 WRa Wendy Rappaport

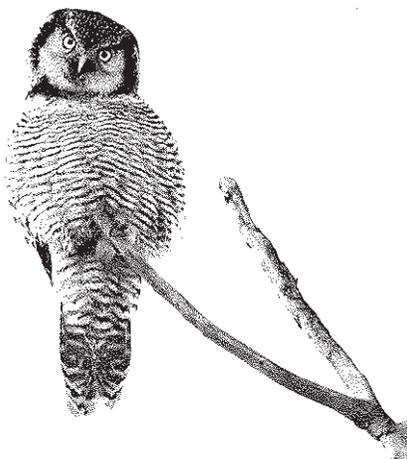
Abbreviations

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

BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

A Second Look at Identity Theft

Kim R. Eckert



For some reason, I seem to have this compelling urge to write about duck identification. I wonder if it has anything to do with all those postings about Duck Stamps in recent months on the MOU's listserve. There must have been about 47 of them. Now, don't get

me wrong, I have nothing against Duck Stamps, and I know the money goes to the worthwhile cause of wetlands preservation and acquisition. But from the number of internet postings you'd think this was the only way to contribute to conservation of birds and their habitats. (As for

me, I'm waiting for someone to come out with Muck Stamps — a source of funding for the preservation of sewage ponds.)

Anyway, I just realized there already was a *Hindsight* article on duck ID in the Fall 1996 issue of ***The Loon***. So that's out. But I'm running out of ideas, the deadline is fast approaching, and the guy has just arrived to look at this chronic water leak in the chimney in our house..... Hey, that's it! An article about Chimney Swifts: how to distinguish them from flying cigars, or from Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, or.....

Well, maybe not. But it seems that Jim, the chimney guy, is the inspiration for a better idea. He was actually in my old bird identification class 25 years ago, and he has a question about the dark eagles he had seen feeding on dead fish on a half-frozen lake. Since Jim's a casual birder, I already know what he's going to ask. It's a common ID error I've seen before among the casual birding public and beginning birders who assume all Bald Eagles have white heads and mistake the all-brown immatures for Golden Eagles. In other words, our National Symbol is a frequent victim of identity theft!

With this in mind, I wonder what are some of the other most commonly misidentified birds in Minnesota. Something along this line was addressed formally in the April 2002 issue of *Birding*: "The Most Misidentified Birds in North America" (34:136–145). In this article, acknowledged bird identification experts Kenn Kaufman and David Sibley named what they considered the most common ID mistakes among birders. Their choices, generally arranged from the smallest to the biggest problem, involved:

- Orange-crowned and other drab fall warblers
- Winter loons
- Song Sparrow (due to subspecies variation)
- Chihuahuan & Common ravens
- Cassin's & Purple finches
- Clay-colored, Chipping, and Brewer's sparrows
- Dark Buteos

- Thayer's Gull
- Jaegers
- Juvenile Tree Swallow
- Scaup
- Accipiters
- Western, Semipalmated, Least sandpipers
- Female hummingbirds
- Short-tailed & Sooty shearwaters
- Medium-sized terns
- Empidonax flycatchers

I know I don't concur with some of their choices. For example, while I know that it's very tough to separate Short-tailed from Sooty shearwaters, relatively few birders spend much time on Pacific Ocean pelagic trips. And I agree that raven identification is too often a matter of guesswork, but the majority of birders don't bird where those two species overlap. The issue here is not so much to name the most difficult bird ID problems — we're already well aware about the challenges presented by Accipiters and other hawks, dowitchers and other shorebirds, immature gulls, Empidonax flycatchers, the so-called "confusing fall warblers," sparrows, and others. But to fit the definition at hand, to become frequently misidentified, a bird generally has to be relatively widespread: i.e., before a species can be a common ID problem, it has to be commonly encountered.

Also, in a curious way, such birds generally wouldn't be considered *too* difficult to identify. That's because really challenging identifications probably aren't even attempted in the first place, especially by casual and beginning birders. I submit that the toughest problem birds encountered are often left as unidentified — I would submit as well that to call a bird "unidentified" is never a mistake. It's always preferable to labeling it incorrectly.

I suppose when trying to come up with such a list of candidates, you might first have to define the skill level of the birders who are out there making errors. After all, I think hardly any experienced birders would see a dark-headed immature Bald Eagle and routinely assume it

to be a Golden. But this “common rookie mistake” makes the final cut, since the number of casual and less experienced birders is vastly greater than the number of experts. Unfortunately, though, even alleged experts and other birders with lots of experience are not guilt-free here — they also are the ones making some of the most common mistakes.

It’s worth noting that an aspect of this subject as it relates to the MOU’s Records Committee (MOURC) was addressed six years ago in a two-part *Hindsight* article (*The Loon* 72:235–239 and 73:48–53). It compiled by bird groups and species the number of records that MOURC had most often judged as Not Accepted, an indication as to which birds presented the most identification or documentation difficulties. From 1974 through 2000, the bird groups with the most Not-Accepted records were probably about as one would expect:

- Raptors (84 records)
- Gulls (59)
- Warblers (45)
- Shorebirds (21)
- Flycatchers (19)
- Sparrows (16)

As for the individual species, these were the birds with the most Not-Accepted records during the same time frame, and some of these entries are probably more surprising:

- Swainson’s Hawk (12 records)
- Mississippi Kite (11)
- House Finch (11)
- Black-headed Grosbeak (10)
- Ferruginous Hawk (9)
- Western Tanager (9)
- Ross’s Goose (8)
- Osprey (8)
- Broad-winged Hawk (8)
- Gyrfalcon (8)
- Whooping Crane (8)
- California Gull (8)
- Iceland Gull (8)
- Clark’s Grebe (7)
- Prairie Falcon (7)

- Laughing Gull (7)
- Yellow-throated Warbler (7)

But keep in mind that MOURC mostly considers Casual and Accidental species, so that Regular species (by definition, those seen — and thus misidentified — most often) are underrepresented in this breakdown. Note as well that some of the species on the list may now be Regular, but they were either Casual/Accidental when voted on (e.g., the now-ubiquitous House Finch did not become Regular until about 20 years ago) or birds reported out of season (e.g., Osprey, Swainson’s and Broad-winged hawks). So, you’ll find some of the species above included on my list below, but not all of them.

Well, here’s a list of 50 birds I’d say are the most common victims of identity theft in Minnesota. (By the way, Jim couldn’t find the source of that chimney leak and left, nor were there any swifts in there to identify, but at least he found something out about immature Bald Eagles.) You’ll see my selections are pretty subjective, and they’re presented in checklist order, with no attempt to rank them by frequency of occurrence. Many have previously been mentioned in earlier *Hindsight* articles. Note that many of these errors don’t work both ways: e.g., while immature Bald Eagles are frequently miscalled Golden Eagles, I think it’s safe to say that Golden’s are not nearly as often mistaken for Balds.

- Domestic waterfowl. A variety of “barnyard” ducks and geese are often encountered in the field and puzzled over. I would guess the brown ones are often miscalled Greater White-fronted Geese, and the white ones get labeled as Snow or Ross’s geese.

- Canada Goose. No one has come up with a way to tell the smallest Canadas from Cackling Geese, and the problem of smaller Canadas mistaken for Cacklings is bound to get worse if more splits are declared.

- Swans. The difficulty of separating Tundras from Trumpeters, even by the experts, has been discussed in previous

Hindsights (including the most recent one).

- Female/juvenile ducks. I've seen many experienced birders struggle with the females of just about any species. Three specific problems are: juvenile (and eclipse male) Mallards in summer (which resemble American Black Ducks); Mallard x black duck hybrids (miscalled as pure American Black Ducks); and swimming female Blue-winged Teal which often expose the green patch on their secondaries (and become mistaken for Green-winged Teal).

- Scaup. I confess I'm among the many birders who wonders more than I want to admit whether it's a Lesser or Greater.

- Bufflehead. There is a curious tendency among many birders to initially misidentify males as Hooded Mergansers (while, just as curiously, the converse is seldom true).

- Common Goldeneye (heard-only). Courting males give a loud buzzing note, and I suspect this is the source of some erroneous reports of heard Common Nighthawks, especially in April. (The "peenting" of American Woodcocks can result in similar confusion.)

- Common Merganser. Distant swimming males look like Common Loons to many casual birders.

- Juvenile Ring-necked Pheasant. I suspect short-tailed young in summer are sometimes misidentified as Sharp-tailed Grouse or Greater Prairie-Chickens.

- Ruffed Grouse. Especially when young are hidden nearby, adults frequently hold their ground, seem "tame," and are then assumed to be Spruce Grouse (a.k.a. Fool Hen).

- American White Pelican. Along with Snow Goose (another large white bird with black wing tips), I suspect that pelicans are sometimes reported as Whooping Cranes by casual observers.

- Double-crested Cormorant. Like Common Mergansers, swimming cormorants often get confused with loons.

- Great Blue Heron. I sometimes hear the casual birding public call these cranes.

- Immature Bald Eagle. Besides the Golden Eagle problem cited above, sub-adult Bald Eagles can be mistaken for Ospreys, since both have brown stripes on their whitish heads. (And it may be just as common for Ospreys, which may be unfamiliar to many novices, to be miscalled eagles.)

- Accipiters. Not only are Sharp-shinned easily mistaken for Cooper's (and vice-versa), but I think both (because of their banded tails) get mistaken for Broad-winged Hawks, especially in late fall through early spring.

- Red-tailed Hawk. Hawk ID has long been difficult for birders of all abilities, and the ubiquitous Red-tailed probably gets misidentified more than any other: immatures have whitish wing panels or windows to suggest Red-shouldered and Ferruginous hawks, many have dark throats/sides of neck and are miscalled Swainson's, and most are whitish at their tail base like Rough-leggeds and Northern Harriers.

- Peregrine look-alikes. I suspect that every regular Minnesota species of diurnal raptor — even those which don't resemble Peregrines — has been called a Peregrine Falcon by someone at some point. Like Whooping Cranes, Peregrines get so much publicity that the non-birding public has them in mind when any unfamiliar raptor is seen. (Similarly, I suspect that Ivory-billed reports are up the last couple years with all that woodpecker news from Arkansas!)

- Yellowlegs. Like the scaup, I confess I'm among the many birders who wonders more than I want to admit whether it's a Lesser or Greater.

- Solitary Sandpiper. Because they frequently "teeter" and are spotted above, I often see birders mistake Solitary Sandpipers for Spotted.

- Peeps. Probably the best example of the difficulties birders have with Semis, Least, Baird's, White-rumped, and Westerns is to consider the last species: in reality, there are only five accepted Minnesota records of this Accidental species, even though it was routinely — and er-

roneously — reported through the 1980s. (It is still listed in a 1996 MOU-published booklet as having occurred in 73 Minnesota counties, and Wisconsin birders still consider it a Regular species there!)

- Stilt Sandpiper. Because they feed somewhat similarly to dowitchers and often associate with them, Stilts often fail to be detected among dowitcher groups and other shorebirds.

- Dowitchers. I think I've already said enough about this problem in recent *Hindsight* articles: i.e., those who try to write about dowitchers make even more errors than the birders who try to identify them.

- Immature Herring Gull. This common species is the source of frequent confusion among birders of all levels of experience. Many gull-watchers, unaware that third-year Herrings typically have bill rings, frequently assume them to be Ring-billed Gulls. And even birders who think they know gulls are unprepared when confronted with worn, abnormally pale Herrings Gulls and think they're seeing Thayer's or even Glaucous gulls.

- Forster's Tern. At most places in Minnesota, the Forster's is more commonly seen than other terns. If a birder is unaware of this and relies too much on a species' name, an erroneous Common Tern report is often the natural result.

- Juvenile owls (heard-only). The harsh food-begging cries of some young owls are unnerving enough to be attributed to Barn Owl, which many birders incorrectly assume can be the only source of such nocturnal sounds.

- Barred Owl. Especially during those winters with lots of Great Gray Owls, I suspect that some of the reports actually refer to Barred Owls. It's the same as the Whooping Crane/Peregrine Falcon situation mentioned above: Great Grays get so much publicity that non-birders assume that any big owl (like a Barred) must be a Great Gray by default.

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (heard-only). I've often been with birders unfamiliar with the sapsucker's "mew" call who think they're hearing a Gray Catbird.

- Downy and Hairy woodpeckers. These widespread birds are frequently seen — and frequently misidentified when their bill length and body size is hard to distinguish. (And I suspect that Downys are mistaken for Hairys more than the other way around.)

- Northern Flicker. Since they're brown and spotted and often feed robin-like on the ground, flickers appear unlike "normal" Minnesota woodpeckers and are quite confusing to many beginners.

- Eastern Phoebe. I never understood why field guides insist on portraying this species without wing bars. In reality, many phoebes have obvious wing bars and thus have a tendency to be mistaken for Eastern Wood-Pewees.

- Shrikes. Birders who are aware of the differences in the ranges and seasons of the two species probably make few ID errors, but otherwise they are so similar in appearance that confusion results (usually with Northerns mistaken for Loggerheads, rather than vice-versa).

- Philadelphia Vireo (heard-only). The songs of this local species and the abundant Red-eyed Vireo are so similar (I still say they're indistinguishable), that it's natural to assume that any such song would be coming from a Red-eyed. But a portion of these songs have to be from actual Philadelphias, and we have no idea what that number really is.

- American Crow. Size is tough to tell without comparison, molting crows can show somewhat wedge-shaped tails, and some crows utter uncharacteristically guttural and raven-like calls. Consequently, I suspect that most Common Ravens reported from central Minnesota are really crows.

- Swallows. Kaufman's and Sibley's choice of juvenile Tree Swallow (it can look a lot like a Bank Swallow) was a good one, but I often see birders struggle with other swallows as well, since they're usually seen in flight and hard to clearly see.

- Black-capped Chickadee (heard-only). The chickadee's "fee bee" song is commonly heard at all times of the year

(no, not just in spring, as some claim), and lots of beginners think they're hearing a phoebe or White-throated Sparrow.

- Thrushes. They usually seem to be lurking in the shadows and in heavy cover, making their subtle field marks and identities hard to determine.

- European Starling (heard-only). Just this one starling in my yard does a perfect Killdeer, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Meadowlark, and probably others. Think of all the other starlings elsewhere imitating other species, and they certainly must result in erroneous reports of many heard-only birds.

- Tennessee Warbler. Compared to what they look like in spring, those bright green-and-yellow Tennessees in fall look so different and are so commonly seen that I often see birders struggle with their ID.

- Connecticut Warbler look-alikes. Because the Connecticut Warbler is so highly sought, there is a natural tendency for wishful thinking among birders wanting to see one. I know the similarly plumaged Nashville Warbler, even though its behavior is quite different, is often mistaken for the secretive Connecticut, and Mournings, which are genuine skulkers, can have complete and Connecticut-like eye rings in fall.

- Female/immature Cape May Warbler. Cape Mays in fall are often drab, quite variable in plumage, and more common than many birders think. Among the truly "confusing fall warblers," this is one I especially notice that birders have problems with.

- Pine Warbler look-alikes. Whenever I see Pine Warblers routinely listed as part of a warbler wave, I always wonder. They just don't hang out much with other migrants, and I suspect that a Bay-breasted or Blackpoll is what was really seen, though some Tennessees and Cape Mays might also have passed for Pine Warblers. (I've also heard of goldfinches at feeders in winter being confused with Pine Warblers.)

- Female/juvenile Common Yellowthroat. I often notice that these quite

drab warblers frequently give birders pause. Admittedly, I can't say they tend to be confused with anything in particular, but the species is widespread, and thus commonly encountered, so that many ID errors seem inevitable.

- American Tree Sparrow. Because this sparrow's breast spot is often just an indistinct gray smudge rather than the clean-cut black spot shown in the field guides, birders in winter easily confuse it with Chipping Sparrow.

- Vesper Sparrow. When its white outer tail feathers catch an eagerly optimistic birder's eye, there can be a tendency to think the bird is something more interesting than a Vesper Sparrow, like a Sprague's Pipit or one of the longspurs.

- Song Sparrow look-alikes. I am continually amazed that so many birders (and field guide authors!) think that only Song Sparrows have streaked underparts merging into a central breast spot. In reality, Vespers, Savannahs, Fox, and Lincoln's (among others) share this same pattern and thus become commonly mistaken for Song Sparrows.

- Female/juvenile Red-winged Blackbird. Arguably, this may be the most confusing ID problem of them all for beginners. If you tell them that the brown-streaked bird with a pale eye-stripe they're wondering about is a female Red-winged Blackbird, they may refuse to believe it.

- Meadowlarks. There's probably no problem if it's singing, or if you're safely beyond the Eastern Meadowlark's Minnesota range (Westerns are statewide). But otherwise, be prepared to make mistakes.

- Female/juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird. Those nondescript, faintly streaked grayish birds not only confuse beginners, but they can even prove confusing to more advanced birders who know about female Red-wingeds.

- Blackbirds. Red-wingeds and cowbirds aside, other blackbirds cause frequent difficulties. The main problem is that Rusty Blackbirds (mostly in spring) and Common Grackles (mostly females and in winter) are mistaken for Brewer's Blackbirds. Though frequently reported,

Brewer's are not as widespread in Minnesota as many birders think.

- Redpolls. Routine reports of Hoary Redpolls are always suspicious, since it's very easy — and tempting — to mistake a marginally pale Common Redpoll for the more highly sought Hoary.

The end. I assume, though, that many readers would disagree with some of

these choices and have other nominees in mind. If so, let's hear them. Also, let's keep in mind that this essay is not intended to be critical of those who make these common mistakes. The intent here is to help birders of all abilities to be aware of and thus avoid — or at least understand — those difficulties others often have.

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

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 3 December 2006. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Paul Budde, Philip Chu, Ann Kessen, Jim Lind (alternate), Bill Marengo (alternate), Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chairman). In accordance with its policy on term limits, the Committee reviewed nominations for membership and elected Bill Marengo as a regular member, replacing Paul Budde. Kim Eckert was elected as an alternate member.

Among the items on the agenda was additional discussion of Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) (record #2005-045). In December 2005, the committee voted to table this record for one year to allow research into the possibility of unpublished evidence from archaeological sites. No new information was submitted, so it was decided to vote on whether or



Record 2006-065. Burrowing Owl, 14 August 2006, Rendsville Township, Stevens County. Photo by Donna Oglesby.



Record 2006-078. *Plegadis* Ibis, 9 September 2006, Big Stone County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.



Record 2006-61. Snowy Plover, 12 July 2006, Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

not to add this species to the state list based on the information presented by Breckenridge (1995) and Hertzler (2004).

The recent status of *Plegadis* ibis was discussed and by a vote of 8–1, it was decided to Accept records submitted as unidentified *Plegadis* and to continue voting on records submitted as either Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) or White-faced Ibis (*P. chibi*), species which are currently Accidental and Casual, respectively. Similar to the treatment of rare Regular species, documentation will still be requested for all records submitted as *Plegadis* ibis and these records can still be circulated for voting at the discretion of the chairperson.

Also discussed were a recirculated record of the Townsend's Warbler (record #2006-058), a previously Not Accepted record of Williamson's Sapsucker (record #2005-054), and a 4 January 1968 record of a dark-mantled gull (*The Loon* 41:55–56), thought to be a Slaty-backed (*Larus schistisagus*), that had never been voted on in the past. For the Williamson's Sapsucker record, the Committee reviewed the additional information submitted by the observer and voted 8–0 to not reconsider the record. In accordance with

its procedures for the evaluation of “old” records, a vote was taken on whether or not to bring the Slaty-backed Gull record forward for review; the Committee voted 9–0 to evaluate the documentation.

The following records were voted on August – December 2006 and were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records #2006-074, 2006-098, and 2006-099 which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Frigatebird sp. (*Fregata* sp.), 22 September 1988, Itasca State Park, Clearwater County (record #2006-098, vote 10–0).
- Frigatebird sp., 1 October 1988, Aca-cia Cemetery, Dakota County (record #2006-099, vote 10–0).
- Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis* sp.), 5 August 2006, 22 first-fall birds along county road 54, 1.6 miles west of county road 61, Toqua Township, Big Stone County (record #2006-066, vote 7–0 for each of 22 individuals).

A dramatic beginning to an unprecedented influx of mostly immature ibises into Minnesota.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 6 August 2006, Mud Lake, Traverse County (record #2006-067, vote 7–0).
- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 15 August



Purple Sandpiper, 28 September 2006, Lake Winnibigoshish, Cass County. Photo by David Cahlander.



Record 2006-081. Sabine's Gull, 9 September 2006, Sleepy Eye, Brown County. Photo by Brian Smith.

– 7 October 2006, 1–3 adults and 16–20 first-fall birds along state highway 28, just west of county road 61, Toqua Township, Big Stone County (record #2006-068, vote 7–0 for each of 23 individuals).

Thirteen of these were identifiably photographed. Some may have been among the flock of 22 seen several miles away on 5 August (record #2006-066), though that flock was seen departing to the southeast.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 19 August 2006, section 1, Prior Township, Big Stone County (record #2006-069, vote 7–0).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 19 August – 2 September 2006, Munnwyler Lake, Big Stone County (record #2006-070, vote 7–0).

Photographed at the same pothole where one was found 9–15 October 2005 (*The Loon* 78:41, 78:84).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 20 August – 7 October 2006, 5–20 first-fall birds along

Auto Tour Route at Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-071, vote 7–0 for first five individuals, vote 6–1 for fifteen more).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 20 August 2006, near Low Flow area at Big Stone N.W.R., Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle counties (record #2006-072, vote 7–0).

This unaged bird was found shortly after sunrise on the Big Stone County side of the river and obligingly flew into Lac Qui Parle County before it disappeared to the southeast.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 4–19 September 2006, near Godahl, Albin Township, Brown County (record #2006-082, vote 7–0 for each of three individuals).

Two adults and one first-fall bird were photographed.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 9 September 2006, Swan Lake, Nicollet County (record #2006-077, vote 7–0).



Record 2006-064. Slaty-backed Gull, 22 July 2006, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.



Record 2006-083. Rock Wren, 7 June 2006, Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County. Photo by Sparky Stensaas.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 9 September 2006, 1.0 mile west of Clinton, Big Stone County (record #2006-078, vote 7–0).

Another first-fall bird photographed at close range.

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 28 September – 8 October 2006, Straight River Marsh near Owatonna, Steele County (record #2006-087, vote 7–0 for each of two first-fall birds).

Both birds were photographed.

- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), 1 July – 27 August 2006, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2006-061, vote 7–0 for each of four individuals and for confirmed breeding).

An adult male found 1 July led to the discovery of an adult female with the male on the 3rd, and ultimately, two chicks on the 8th. The chicks were faithfully attended by the male until they fledged sometime after 29 July; at least one individual was still present 27 August. Ninth state record and first breeding record.

- Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), 26–29 September 2006, Lake Win-

nibigoshish at Bena, Cass County (record #2006-086, vote 7–0).

Digital video and numerous digital photographs of this juvenile were submitted in addition to written details. Fifth state record and earliest ever by more than a month.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 20 June 2006, Lac Qui Parle Lake, Swift and Lac Qui Parle counties (record #2006-059, vote 7–0).

No field notes or written details were submitted, but the single image was diagnosable as this species.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*), 21 July – 14 August 2006, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2006-064, vote 10–0).

Exhaustive field notes and numerous photographs documented the state's first record (see **The Loon** 79:11–15). This adult was found dead on the 15th and the specimen was donated to the Bell Museum of Natural History.

- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), 9 September 2006, Sleepy Eye, Brown County (record #2006-081, vote 7–0).

- Sabine's Gull, 10 September 2006, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2006-079, vote 7-0).

- Sabine's Gull, 20-23 September 2006, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-084, vote 7-0 for each of four juveniles).

- Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*), 4 June 2006, Lake Ocheda, Nobles County (record #2006-053, vote 7-0).

- Least Tern, 24 June 2006, South Landfill Reservoir near Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2006-053, vote 7-0).

Both records were of adults; distant photographs were obtained of the latter.

- Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 6 September - 4 October 2006, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-076, vote 7-0 for first individual, vote 5-2 for second individual).

One was seen regularly off Park Point for nearly a month, then two juveniles were seen together 4 October; presumably, one or both birds were responsible for reports of this species at the Superior Entry in late September.

- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*), 1 July - 14 August 2006, Rendsville Township, Stevens County (record #2006-065, vote 7-0 for each of two adults).

Two adults were photographed at a burrow, but there was no evidence of successful breeding; fourth occurrence of this casual species for 2006.

- Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus* sp.), 10 August 2006, near Warroad, Roseau County (record #2006-074, vote 7-0).

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 4 September 2006, Auto Tour Route at Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle and Big Stone counties (record #2006-080, vote 7-0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 1 July 2006, section 33, Echo Township, Yellow Medicine County (record #2006-063, vote 7-0).

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 7 June 2006, Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County (record #2006-083, vote 7-0).

- Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), 17 September 2006, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-085, vote 6-1).

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 14 June 2006, Benville Township, Beltrami County (record #2006-062, vote 7-0).

This adult male was found during a Breeding Bird Survey.

The following records were voted on August - December 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.)

- Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), 22 September 1988, Itasca State Park, Clearwater County (record #2006-098, Not Accepted as Magnificent Frigatebird 2-8, Accepted as *Fregata* sp., vote 10-0).

- Magnificent Frigatebird, 1 October 1988, Acacia Cemetery, Dakota County (record #2006-099, Not Accepted as Magnificent Frigatebird 3-7, Accepted as *Fregata* sp., vote 10-0).

For both of these records, the written descriptions did not eliminate the possibility of Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*) (Howell 1994); though unlikely, *minor* has been documented in Oklahoma (Tomer *et al.* 1996). The Committee had previously accepted these two records as *magnificens* based on probability, an argument that was weakened by the subsequent occurrences of Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) in Big Horn County, Wyoming, 11 July 2003 (Faulkner 2006) and Wayne County, Michigan, 11 September 2005 (Brennan and Schultz 2006).

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 5 September 2006, Wild River State Park, Chisago County (record #2006-075,

vote 2–5).

Though probably identified correctly, the description of this bird was limited to “distinctive forked tail,” “white undermarkings on its wings and body,” and comments about its size and graceful flight. It was felt that a more complete description would be needed for acceptance. The observers were unfamiliar with this species and did not sketch the bird or write down a description until after numerous references were consulted.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 6 June 2006, Willmar, Kandiyohi County (record #2006-073, vote 0–7).

This bird was seen with the naked eye for five or six seconds as it flew overhead. Perhaps as a result, important field marks (black mask, whitish secondaries, and short outermost primary) were overlooked or could not be detected. Moreover, one observer described the underbody as “more brown than gray” and the other observer described it as “light, almost white,” but neither description matches a Mississippi Kite in any plumage.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), 4 January 1968, Knife River, Lake County (record #2006-100, vote 0–10).

This published record (*The Loon* 41:55–56) of a dark-mantled gull had never been reviewed by the Committee. In light of this species’ recent occurrence in Minnesota, the observer submitted contemporaneous field notes and requested that it be evaluated as a Slaty-backed Gull. As a potential first state record predating the recent record in Cook County (record #2006-064), all ten members voted. While referring to this record as “tantalizing” and “intriguing,” all agreed that several key criteria for the identification of this species were not noted. For example, the folded primaries were described as “alternately black and white,” but it was unclear how many primaries had black markings, and the extent of the white subterminal mirrors on the two outermost primaries (p9 and p10) was not described. Most importantly, there was no mention of the so-called “string of pearls”

formed by white tongue tips on p5 or p6 through p8.

- Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) (record #2005-045, vote 1–9).

Extensive discussion and deliberation over a period of two years culminated in a nearly unanimous decision to not add this species to the state list. Each member considered this question from his or her own interpretation of historical perspective. Three main arguments were offered:

1. As is often the case for historical records lacking physical evidence, there was no description to evaluate.

2. This species’ occurrence in adjacent states has been questioned by some authors (e.g., McKinley 1965).

3. It was unclear whether Carver himself saw “a few parrots” during his trip up the Minnesota River that started 17 November 1766 (Carver 1976:95) or whether he was making a general statement based on something someone told him. Second-hand reports are inherently less reliable.

- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), 10 August 2006, near Warroad, Roseau County (record #2006-074, Not Accepted as Rufous Hummingbird, vote 1–6; Accepted as *Selasphorus*, sp., vote 7–0).

The submitted photograph of this subadult male hummingbird confirmed its genus, but did not show the extent of green on its back or the shape and width of individual rectrices. The latter are critical for separation of *rufus* from the very similar Allen’s Hummingbird (*S. sasin*) (Stiles 1972, Mitchell 2000, Howell 2001).

- Townsend’s Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), 22 May 2006, Owatonna, Steele County (recirculated record #2006-058, first vote 4–3, second vote 4–3).

The written description of this adult male neither considered nor conclusively eliminated the possibility of hybrid Hermit Warbler X Townsend’s Warbler (Rohwer and Wood 1998). Hybrids between these two species are well known in the Pacific Northwest (Pearson 1997), and have been photographed as far east as Newfoundland (Mactavish 1996). Documentation was submitted without field notes several weeks after the sighting and after review

of field guides.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Though photographs are always welcome, observers are strongly encouraged to submit written documentation based on contemporaneous field notes for all records.

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: Colleen and Kevin Almquist, David Bartkey, Patrick Beauzay, Betsy Beneke, Conny Brunell, Dedrick Benz, David Cahlander, Philip Chu, Robert Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Angie Farrell, Randy Frederickson, Ben Fritchman, Janet Green, Mike Hendrickson, John Hockema, Gary Johnson, Jeanie Joppru, Doug Kieser, Mary Koetter, Jim Lind, Steve Schon, Brian Smith, Sparky Stensaas, Forest Strnad, Peder Svingen, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Nels Thompson, Tom Tustison, and Ben Wieland. There were many observers who documented records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are also 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/>. Summary: 38 records voted on / 30 Accepted, 8 Not Accepted.

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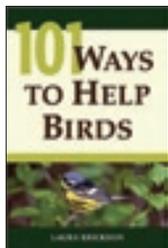
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2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.



BOOK REVIEWS

101 WAYS TO HELP BIRDS, by Laura Erickson, Stackpole Books, 2006, \$19.95. Reviewed by Val Cunningham.



This is the book you've been waiting for. Naturalist Laura Erickson sets out 100+ things we can do to ensure the survival of birds, from making our windows collision-proof to

choosing fuel-efficient cars to buying a duck stamp. Lively and well-researched, the book is a gold mine of information about the many hazards to birds and the things we can do about them.

Instead of just feeling guilty about the impact we're having on the natural world, *101 Ways to Help Birds* shines like a beacon of hope. We learn why garden store chemicals are bad for birds, why water looms as a major issue and how to conserve it, how to help an injured or sick

bird and why shade-grown coffee is a boon for birds.

Erickson cares so deeply about birds and their continued survival on this planet that she devoted three years of her life to researching and writing a book to help turn the tide. Readers may not wish to go quite as far as she does; Erickson's been known to stop her car to toss a dead skunk off the road to save a hungry turkey vulture from feeding too close to traffic. But you'll find all sorts of suggestions, both big and small, for making the world a safer and better place for birds, written in Erickson's engaging style.

This book occupies a unique niche — I know of no other like it — and *101 Ways to Help Birds* belongs on the shelves of anyone who feeds birds, watches birds and generally cares about birds.

1416 Frankson Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Notes of Interest



ROCK WREN IN RICE COUNTY — Lyle Myers and I were birding central Rice County on Sunday, 7 May, 2006, when we decided to stop in and visit some friends who lived along Prairie Creek. They were not at home at the time, and as Lyle got back into the pickup, a bird flew up from a small rock pile near an out-building and onto the roof of a small shed attached to the century-old barn. From my years of living and birding in Arizona, I recognized the bird almost at once as a Rock Wren, and I wondered how special this sighting might be for Rice County.



The Rock Wren was in view for the next six to seven minutes, going from the shed roof to the base of the barn's massive limestone foundation, to another rock pile at the base of an old stone and concrete bridge, up a small draw, from rock to rock, doing its "push-ups" on each. Often it dropped down to peck at something and was constantly in motion. At its closest, it was 35 yards, and at its most distant, 60 yards. It was about 10:30 A.M.; the sun was mostly behind us, with the wren to the west. The bird did not sing or call. There was a House Wren nesting in a box in the immediate area, so we had a clear comparison. We were using 8X and 10X Elites, but when it got into the small draw at about 50 yards, I got it in the scope — a Kowa 20X. After a minute in the draw, it moved to our right and disappeared. We spent the next hour attempting to relocate the bird and hoping our friends, the owners, would show up; but by noon, they still had not, so we left.

I called the next morning and got permission to bring another birding friend, Tom Boevers, by to see the wren. We were at the farm by 6:00 P.M. and spent over an hour attempting to relocate it — with no luck. Then, just as he was leaving, Tom found the wren some 30 yards down the driveway near an old stone and concrete foundation which was stacked with firewood that had been cut and split. We had it in view for some 20 minutes as it worked its way along the small rocky creek, back to the bridge and rock piles. The owner came out at this point and got good looks through the scope. **Gene Bauer, 2018 S. Lincoln Street, Northfield, MN 55057-3528.**

WHITE WINGED DOVE IN KANABEC COUNTY — On 13 May 2006, I found a White-winged Dove in Kanabec County. I am familiar with this species from birding in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, and have seen one other in Minnesota. The closest that I was to this bird was about 15 ft. It had a bold white stripe on both wings, gray body, blue-ish eyering with a reddish eye. The body was plump. The tail was shorter than that of a Mourning Dove and not as pointed. This bird was very skittish. Several photographs were taken. **Craig Menze, 2054 Norcon Lane, Mora, MN 55051.**



BREWER'S SPARROW — On 22 June 2005, I observed a Brewer's Sparrow a few miles northeast of Herman in Grant County. I watched the bird for about 25 minutes in a grassy field through 10 x 40 binoculars. The light conditions were excellent. I have previously observed this species in Texas, Montana, North and South Dakota during the breeding season, and have found over a dozen nests of this species.



This bird was a drab, small sparrow, of size and shape similar to Clay-colored Sparrow. It had a long, notched, thin tail, brownish rump, conical bill, and thin but distinct whitish eye-ring. Its eyes were dark. There was light, buffy-gray coloring on the breast and unstreaked flanks; faint buffy wingbars on brown wings; pink legs and feet. The bird had two songs. One was a short song, beginning with a Clay-colored Sparrow-like trill and ending with descending trills of a lower pitch; and a long song which consisted of a series of ascending and descending trills, buzzes, and musical notes of various pitches. The bird sang from exposed perches. Its activities were generally concentrated in a small area, suggesting that it may have been maintaining a territory. The sparrow did not interact with other species, although its activities did not appear to overlap with those of nearby Clay-colored Sparrows. Its behaviors (i.e. persistent singing) suggested that it was not nesting or paired with a female. **Lawrence D. Igl, 8711 – 37th St. SE, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, US Geological Survey, Jamestown ND 58401.**

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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

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Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
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Obituary

Dr. George Neilsen Rysgaard

1917–2006

Anthony X. Hertzell

George Neilsen Rysgaard was a physician, photographer, ornithologist, and naturalist. He was born in St. Paul on 28 October 1917, the son of Jens Madsen Rysgaard and Susan Elizabeth Murchie. He attended the local schools of his St. Paul neighborhood, then earned an undergraduate degree in science from Hamline University. While there, he worked for Thomas S. Roberts as an assistant at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History. In 1941 he enlisted in the U.S. army, serving five years and earning the rank of captain.

He married Frances Elizabeth Hupfer in February 1946 and in the fall of that same year, enrolled in the University of Minnesota Medical School. During his internship there, he and Frances had two children, Mary Ellen and Robert Alan. After graduating in 1950, his family moved to Northfield, Minnesota, where he remained for the rest of his life, working 33 years as a family physician. He retired in 1984, but continued to write and lecture for educational programs offered at the various nature centers found throughout Minnesota, usually illustrating these talks with his own photographs. He died in Northfield on 25 December 2006 at the age of 89.

Along with Alden Risser, Gustav Swanson, and Charles Evans, George Rysgaard was part of a group of four individuals who had the greatest influence on the early days of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. Though not a 1929 charter member of the Upper Mississippi River Bird Club — the early predecessor to the MOU — Rysgaard had become active in the organization by 1932. On 10 October 1937 and while serving as editor of *The Flicker* (now *The Loon*), he and other members

of the now renamed Minnesota Bird Club met with representatives of the state's two other preeminent bird clubs, the T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club of St. Cloud and the Duluth Bird Club, with the intention of forming a statewide ornithological society. The plan was agreed upon by all three organizations, and on 13 April 1938 the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union was formed with George as its first president, Mary Elwell as vice president, Richard Voth secretary-treasurer, and Charles Evans taking over from George as editor of *The Flicker*.

Dr. Rysgaard served the MOU in several capacities over the years. He was editor of *The Flicker* from 1936–37, moved on to become MOU president from 1938–40, then returned to serve as co-editor from 1941–42. Outside the MOU, he was treasurer of the Minnesota Bird Club from 1945–46, cataloged the flora of the McKnight Prairie restoration project at Carleton College, volunteered at the River Bend and Deep Portage Nature Centers, conducted ornithological research at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary at Battle Creek, Michigan, and along with Orwin Rustad, initiated the first Faribault, Rice County, Christmas Bird Count in 1951.

Numerous articles authored by Dr. Rysgaard have been published in *The Flicker* and *The Loon* between fall 1934 and spring of 1999. He was a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and also contributed periodically to its journal, *The Auk*. His photographs of birds and flowers have illustrated publications and research papers throughout the country, including the recently initiated BioDiversity Institute's "Internet Field Guide to Birds."

8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.



George N. Rysgaard, about 1940.

Western Great Lakes Region Owl Monitoring Survey Summary of Minnesota Results, 2006

David A. Grosshuesch

There is increasing concern about the distribution, population status, and habitat loss for both diurnal and nocturnal raptors (Newton 1979, Gutierrez *et al.* 1984, Wellicome 1997, Takats *et al.* 2001). Birds of prey occupy the top of the food chain and may be susceptible to environmental toxins and contaminants, making it important to monitor them as indicators of environmental health (Johnson 1987, James *et al.* 1995, Duncan and Kearns 1997, Francis and Bradstreet 1997). Further understanding of the distribution, relative abundance, and density of wildlife populations would be valuable to make sound management decisions (Mosher and Fuller 1996).

Currently, there is a paucity of abundance and population status information available for most owl species in the western Great Lakes region. Due to their nocturnal behavior and time of breeding, owls often go undetected using traditional avian population monitoring methods (e.g. Breeding Bird Survey routes, Breeding Bird Atlases, Christmas Bird Counts, and migration monitoring). Breeding Bird Surveys and Breeding Bird Atlases are conducted in the morning, when few owls are vocal, and occur after the breeding season for most owl species in North America. Christmas Bird Counts are also done outside of the breeding season and may not detect resident owl species. Migration monitoring is presumably the best alternative method to monitor owl populations, but it may not be suitable to detect all owl species or to determine reliable trends. Therefore, the need to conduct a large scale, long-term owl survey in the Western Great Lakes region would be beneficial to monitor owl populations.

In 2006, the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (HRBO), in collaboration with the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRRI), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR), and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR) coordinated the second year of a volunteer-based roadside owl survey to monitor owl populations in the western Great Lakes region. Standardized methods developed by existing owl surveys done in the United States and Canada were implemented to increase the North American owl monitoring effort in the future (Takats *et al.* 2001, Hodgman and Gallo 2004, Monfils and Pearman 2004, Paulios 2005). The objectives of this survey are to: 1) understand the distribution and abundance of owl species in the region, 2) determine trends in the relative abundance of owls in the region, 3) determine if trends are comparable in surrounding areas and analyze whether these trends could be scaled up or down on the landscape, and 4) determine if there are habitat associations of owl species in the region.

Methods

A standardized protocol, developed in 2005 from currently existing owl surveys, was used in 2006 to conduct a volunteer-based survey in the Laurentian Forest Province of Minnesota. The use of standardized methods to monitor owl populations will provide comparable data throughout North America (Morrell *et al.* 1991, Takats *et al.* 2001).

Protocol

Each survey route consisted of ten survey stations spaced ~1.6 km (1 mile) apart. A two minute "passive" listening period,



Figure 1. Northern Saw-whet Owl locations in 2005 and 2006.

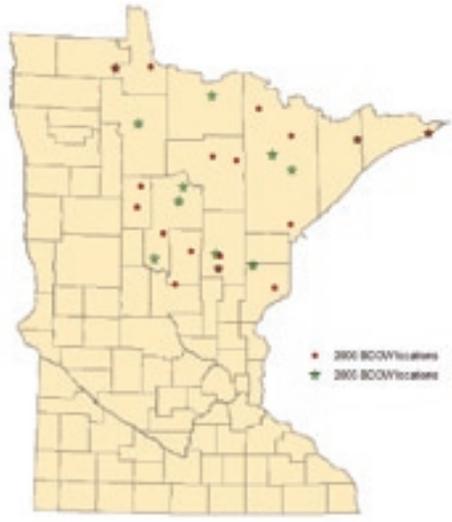


Figure 2. Barred Owl locations in 2005 and 2006.

documenting all owl species heard, was done at each designated survey station along the route. Playbacks were not used given the logistical and standardization concerns with broadcast equipment.

Weather conditions were recorded at the start and finish of an owl survey route; however, at each survey station, the time, wind speed, and noise level was recorded. Volunteers were asked to record each owl detected, including direction and estimated distance. Additionally, volunteers were asked to record the time interval when each owl detected was heard (e.g. in first minute, in second minute, after 2 minutes). Volunteers were asked to conduct surveys on days with minimal wind (≤ 25 km/hr) and little or no precipitation.

Survey Timing

To test the seasonal variation in calling activity, volunteers were asked to survey their route once during three different survey periods (Period 1 = 11 March to 19 March, Period 2 = 20 March to 9 April, Period 3 = 10 April to 23 April). If a volunteer was unable to conduct a survey in each of the three periods, the volunteer

was requested to conduct a survey in Period 2.

Surveys started at least one half-hour after sunset and finished when the volunteer completed the route(s). For volunteers conducting a survey in more than one time period, it was recommended that the start time remain similar for each period, adjusting for the change in sunset and daylight savings time.

Route Selection

Owl surveys were conducted along currently existing randomized routes. The MN-DNR Frog/Toad survey routes were used as the base to conduct owl surveys. There are 52 Frog/Toad survey routes randomly located in the Laurentian Forest Province of northern Minnesota. The start point for the owl survey route corresponded with the start point of the Frog/Toad route.

Additionally, 32 new routes were identified in the Laurentian Forest Province of Minnesota. These routes were randomly selected implementing the same protocol used to identify the initial Frog/Toad survey routes. There are currently 82 routes in northern Minnesota.

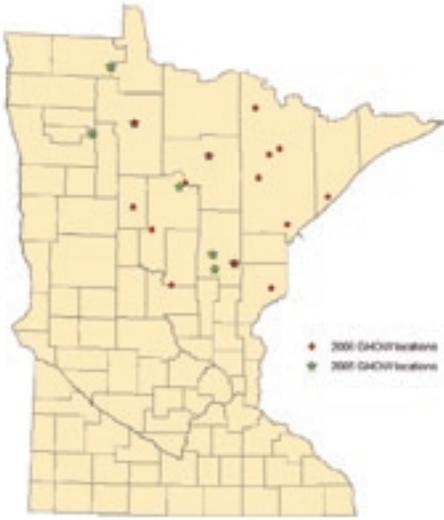


Figure 3. Great Horned Owl locations in 2005 and 2006.

Results

Volunteer Participation

In 2006, 66 volunteers signed up to conduct owl surveys in northern Minnesota, with 57 participants (86%) surveying at least one route. In total, 79 survey routes were assigned to volunteers in northern Minnesota. Of these routes, 57 volunteer teams returned data sheets for 69 routes. Forty-six teams surveyed one route, ten teams surveyed two routes, and one team surveyed three routes. Thirteen routes were surveyed in one time period, 16 routes were surveyed once during each of two time periods, and 40 routes were surveyed once during each of the three time periods.

Owl Abundance and Distribution

A total of 253 individual owls comprising 8 species were recorded during all survey periods. The top three species detected in northern Minnesota were Northern Saw-whet Owl, Barred Owl, and Great Horned Owl, respectively. The number of individual owls detected ranged from 1 to 13 for routes with owls recorded, comprising between one and three species. In 2006, the mean number of owls/route

went up 62% between Period 1 (0.70) and Period 2 (1.82), with a slight increase of 13% between Period 2 (1.82) and Period 3 (2.08). In comparison, in 2005 the mean number of owls/route went up 68% between Period 1 (0.60) and Period 2 (1.85), but remained relatively stable between Period 2 (1.85) and Period 3 (1.83) (Grosshuesch 2005).

Northern Saw-whet Owls were detected in 12 counties within the Laurentian Forest Province of northern Minnesota including: Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Beltrami, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, Aitkin, and Pine (Figure 1). Barred Owls were detected in 11 counties within the Laurentian Forest Province of northern Minnesota including: Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Pine (Figure 2). Great Horned Owls were detected in 9 counties within the Laurentian Forest Province of northern Minnesota including: Lake, St. Louis, Beltrami, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Carlton, and Pine (Figure 3).

Long-eared Owls were detected in six counties of the Laurentian Forest Province in northern Minnesota including: Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Itasca, Hubbard, Carlton, and Pine. Of the 21 Long-eared Owls recorded, over 70% were detected in Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties. Great Gray Owls were detected in seven counties of the Laurentian Forest Province in northern Minnesota including: Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, and Cass. Seven of the eight Great Gray Owls were detected in Periods 1 and 2.

Additional owls of interest recorded in 2006 were two Boreal Owls, a Northern Hawk Owl, and a Short-eared Owl. One of the Boreal Owls was found in northern St. Louis County and the other in southeastern Itasca County. The Northern Hawk Owl was found in northeastern Cook County. The Short-eared Owl was found in west central Carlton County. Also, a Snowy Owl was observed between two stations during Period 1 in Lake of the Woods County.

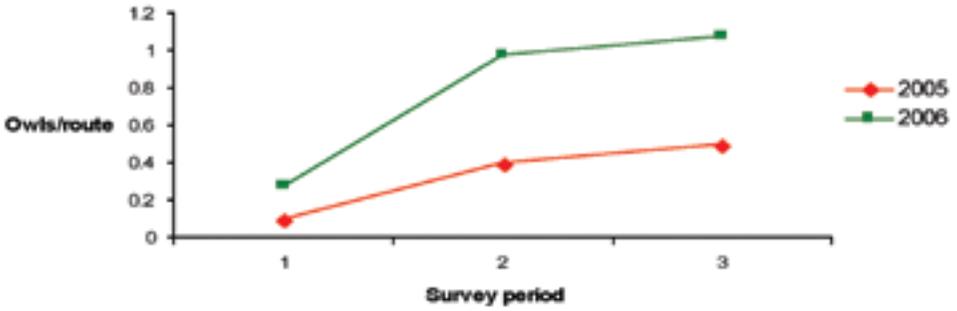


Figure 4. Northern Saw-whet Owl detections for each survey period in 2005 and 2006, Minnesota.

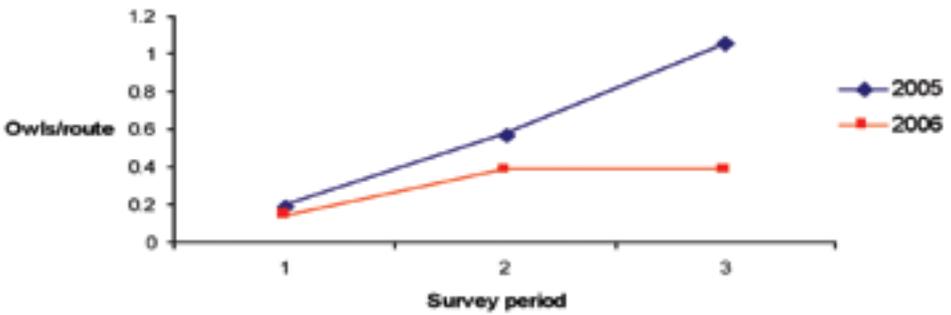


Figure 5. Barred Owl detections for each survey period in 2005 and 2006, Minnesota.

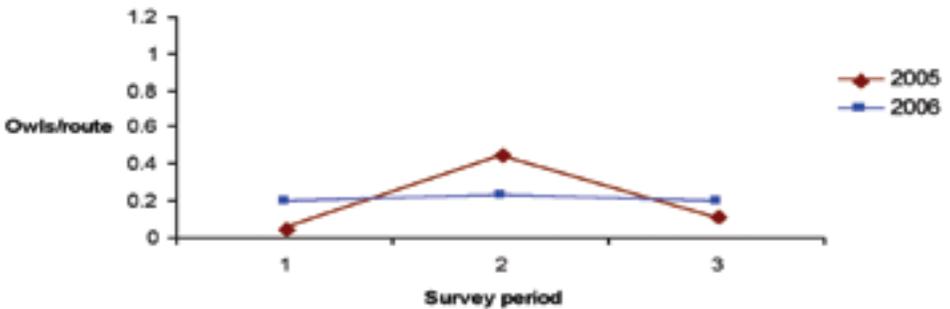


Figure 6. Great Horned Owl detections for each survey period in 2005 and 2006, Minnesota.



Long-eared Owl, 18 March 2006, Pine County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Seasonal Variation in Calling Activity

Seasonal variation in the number of owl detections for each survey period was compared between 2005 and 2006 for Northern Saw-whet, Barred, and Great Horned owls. In both years, the number of Northern Saw-whet Owl detections increased between Period 1 and 2, but little difference was found between Period 2 and 3 (Figure 4). Barred Owl detections increased in both years between Period 1 and 2. However, in 2005, Barred Owl detections increased between Period 2 and 3, but in 2006, the number of detections remained stable (Figure 5). Great Horned Owl detections during each survey period were dissimilar between 2005 and 2006 (Figure 6). In 2005, a large increase in detections occurred between Period 1 and 2, with a substantial decrease between Period 2 and 3. In contrast, owl detections in 2006 remained stable during each survey period.

Discussion

Owl Surveys

The number of owls detected in 2006 ($n=253$) more than doubled the total from 2005 ($n=119$). However, this increase may be attributed to the increase in routes surveyed, or to the increase in routes being surveyed more than one time compared to 2005. It is expected that by 2008 no additional routes will be added, which should reduce complications with data analysis.

Northern Saw-whet Owls were the most commonly detected species in 2006 compared to 2005 when the Barred Owl ranked number one. Despite this difference, the top three species were the same in both years. New species detected in 2006 were the Northern Hawk Owl and Short-eared Owl, bringing the total number of species detected in northern Minnesota between years to nine. Although Eastern Screech-Owl was detected in

2005, it was not detected in 2006. This was not surprising given that the survey area is located on the northern and eastern edge of their Minnesota range.

The large increase in Northern Saw-whet Owls detected in 2006, with an increase of over 100 birds compared to 2005, was widespread throughout northern Minnesota. The number of Saw-whets per route for all periods combined increased from 0.34 in 2005 to 0.78 in 2006. This may be partially caused by the increase in routes being surveyed, but presumably, this increase cannot be explained by the addition of new routes alone. Both Barred and Great Horned owls exhibited a decrease compared to 2005. The number of Barred Owls per route for all periods combined went down from 0.58 in 2005 to 0.31 in 2006. The number of Great Horneds per route for all periods combined decreased from 0.27 in 2005 to 0.21 in 2006. Possible explanations for Barred and Great Horned owl declines have yet to be determined.

The relatively large increase in Long-eared Owl detections compared to 2005, 0.13 to 0.05 owls/route, was an interesting result. However, the majority of Long-eared Owls detected (>70%) were found in Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties. This may suggest that a localized prey increase influenced where birds were located. Great Gray Owl numbers went down slightly compared to 2005, but unlike 2005, several Great Gray Owl nests were located throughout northern Minnesota in 2006. It may be possible some birds from the 2004–2005 winter irruption remained to breed in 2006.

The distribution of Northern Saw-whet, Barred, and Great Horned owls in northern Minnesota generally reflects those depicted by Janssen (1987). Northern Saw-whet Owls were most commonly detected in areas with extensive forest, such as St. Louis, Lake, and Itasca counties (Figure 1). Barred Owls were relatively evenly spaced throughout the survey region (Figure 2). Great Horned Owls were encountered more frequently in the western portion of the survey region compared to

the eastern region (Figure 3). They were notably limited or absent from Lake and Cook counties, with only one detected in Lake County (near Two Harbors). This is likely due to the region being extensively forested and lacking in agricultural fields.

Seasonal Change in Calling Activity

One of the goals of the survey was to determine how much variation occurred in calling activity between each survey period. The data will be used to determine if all owl species of interest can be adequately detected in one survey period. High variability between years may mean calling activity was influenced by other covariates not included in the analysis or peak calling activity naturally shifts from year to year.

The preliminary calling activity results suggest that variation exists for some owl species between each survey period in 2005 and 2006. However, there was nearly an identical trend in Northern Saw-whet Owl detections for each survey period between years (Figure 4). This might suggest that identifying one survey period for this species may be an effective way to monitor trends. In contrast, both Barred Owl (Figure 5) and Great Horned Owl (Figure 6) detections for each survey period were not comparable between years. Although contradictory results occurred in the calling activity data, it will be valuable to include the 2007 results in developing better conclusions. Also, it may be more revealing to analyze these data based on evenly spaced time intervals rather than using the survey period intervals, which are not identical in length.

Acknowledgments

This project was funded by the MN-DNR, WI-DNR, and the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. Thanks to Jerry Niemi, of NRRI, for providing logistical support. Thanks to Andy Paulios of the WI-DNR for helping with volunteer recruitment and logistics. Thanks to Yvette Monstad and Rich Baker of the MN-DNR for providing information about route selection methods. Thanks to Debbie Waters of HRBO

for helping with website logistics. A special thanks to Julie O'Connor of HRBO for helping with logistics and volunteer recruitment and coordination. Most importantly, I would like to thank the volunteers for generously donating their time and money driving many miles to conduct owl surveys. Thanks for your dedication in providing valuable information about owls in the western Great Lakes region.

To see the complete 2006 Annual Report, visit the web site at <http://HawkRidge.org>.

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The Fall Season

1 August through 30 November 2006

Paul E. Budde¹, James W. Lind²,
William C. Marengo³, and Peder H. Svingen⁴

Scoters were well-represented away from Lake Superior; especially noteworthy were **Black Scoters** in seven “inland” locations. **Sharp-tailed Grouse** continued to infiltrate western prairies on both sides of the Minnesota River; it will be interesting to see their impact on and interactions with **Greater Prairie-Chickens** in Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle counties. Only two **Pacific Loons** were found along the North Shore, but at least four recorded away from Lake Superior brought the season total to a near-average six. Most likely displaced by drought in eastern South Dakota, unprecedented numbers of **Plegadis ibis** were found in western Minnesota with a few individuals straying farther east to Brown, Nicollet, and Steele counties.

Duluth’s Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (H.R.B.O.) conducted its 35th consecutive standardized fall census of raptors at Hawk Ridge. Please become a member and support its educational and research activities by contacting H.R.B.O. at P.O. Box 3006, Duluth, MN 55803 or online at <www.hawkridge.org>. Although the grand total of 65,355 was slightly more than last year and the number of observation hours was within 5% of last year’s effort, Fall 2006 totals for **Osprey**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Cooper’s Hawk**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, and **American Kestrel** were the lowest in more than 15 years.

The most unusual shorebird was the state’s fifth **Purple Sandpiper** at Lake Winnibigoshish; this cooperative juvenile was admired by dozens of observers. Highlights of an exciting fall season at Duluth included multiple **Little Gulls**, an adult **Iceland Gull**, a record-early **Lesser**

Black-backed Gull, and several **Sabine’s Gulls**. Exceptional numbers of jaegers hunted the western end of Lake Superior, including up to two **Pomarine Jaegers** off Park Point. This bonanza spilled over into central Minnesota with **Little Gulls** in Cass and Crow Wing counties, a **Sabine’s Gull** at the increasingly famous Sleepy Eye wastewater treatment ponds, and a well-documented **Pomarine Jaeger** near Mankato — only the third record of this species away from Lake Superior.

Two rare hummingbirds were documented on private property; the state’s fourth **Anna’s Hummingbird** expired in southern Minnesota and an **Allen’s/Rufous Hummingbird** briefly visited a feeder in northern Minnesota. Irruptions of **American Three-toed Woodpecker** and **Gray Jay** were detected along the North Shore and subsequently in other northern Minnesota locations, but neither of these two species reached the southern half of the state. For Gray Jay, it was the most significant irruption since 1986–1987 (*The Loon* 59:41–44). Nicely photographed but not rebound was a **Say’s Phoebe** at Big Stone N.W.R. Three of the state’s 27 records are from this refuge. **Carolina Wren** continued its recent expansion with records as far north and west as Itasca, Otter Tail, and Yellow Medicine counties.

Surpassing the previous record for one season was a total of **39 Townsend’s Solitaires**; no fewer than 25 of these were along the North Shore. Nine **Varied Thrushes** barely surpassed last fall’s total of eight. The fall arrival of two Accidental species was unknown to birders until winter: a **Curve-billed Thrasher** in

Itasca County and a **Green-tailed Towhee** in Cottonwood County. The latter was admired and photographed by dozens (hundreds?) of observers as it successfully overwintered. An adult male **Painted Bunting** made a brief appearance at a feeder in Ramsey County on 18 November, by far the latest date on record for Minnesota. Also admired and photographed by scores of observers were three **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** that arrived in late November and subsequently overwintered in Carlton County.

Weather Summary: Minnesota entered the fall season coming off a hot, dry summer. August continued to bring below average rainfall for the northern half of the state, while the East-central and Southeast regions experienced a wet month. Three major storms caused heavy rains totaling over five inches locally: 1–2 August in Martin and Faribault, 16–17 August in central Marshall, and 24 August in Dodge and Olmsted. This third storm also produced two tornadoes and large, destructive hail over a large swath of southern Minnesota. Temperatures in August were moderate — near or just slightly above historical averages.

September precipitation totals were near to above average throughout most of the state — only the North-central and Northeast regions missed out on the relief. Average temperatures were 1–3° F cooler than normal in the southern two-thirds of the state, but near or slightly above normal in the upper third. And yet, the north did experience several frosts in September. Warm, humid air from the south combined with cool air from the northwest to produce severe thunderstorms across central and southern portions of the state and a tornado in Hennepin on the 16th.

The dryness returned in October and precipitation totals were below average statewide. Parts of southern Minnesota received less than one-half inch for the month. A strong low pressure system brought the first snow of the season on the 12th and 13th. Despite very warm early October temperatures — including 90°

in several communities 2–3 October — monthly means were cooler than average throughout the state, and the thermometer dropped to 8° in Embarrass on the 25th.

Two significant precipitation events struck the state in November. The first was a storm in the Southeast that dropped up to 13 inches of snow on the 10th. Then, on the 28th, heavy rain accompanied a thunderstorm that affected much of the state, but especially the eastern half. Away from areas affected by these storms, however, precipitation totals were again below average, and much of the West-central region reported less than one quarter inch for the month. While the month started colder than normal, very warm late-month temperatures resulted in averages that ranged from three to five degrees above normal.

Undocumented reports: **Clark's Grebe** 9/16–21 Stevens (3 reported at Gorder Lake by one observer, 2 hybrids reported there by another observer, second-latest if documented); **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 8/7 Dakota (2 of unspecified age at Lebanon Hills, only 2 fall records in past 15 years); **Glossy/White-faced Ibis** 8/30 Traverse (2 adults and 11 juveniles in Folsom Twp.); **Glossy/White-faced Ibis** 9/3 Big Stone (second individual 1.0 mile west of Clinton); **Glossy/White-faced Ibis** 9/12 Brown (fourth individual seen one day only near Godahl, Albin Twp.); **White-faced Ibis** 9/18 Lyon (Sodus W.M.A.); **Northern Goshawk** 9/9 Hennepin; **Gyr Falcon** 11/3 Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie); **Prairie Falcon** 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.); **Whooping Crane** 11/4 Mahanomen; **Sabine's Gull** 9/26 Lac Qui Parle (juvenile at Lac Qui Parle S.P. and adult at Big Stone N.W.R.); **Varied Thrush** 9/10 St. Louis (Duluth, would be earliest date on record).

Acknowledgments: We thank H.R.B.O. for data from Hawk Ridge in Duluth, and Anthony Hertz, 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 2005. Many thanks to all of our contributors; we are especially grateful to those who submit details and all who submit data online.

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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 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

Greater White-fronted Goose — Found in four north and eight south counties (only four reports last fall). All north reports: 10/6 St. Louis (10) JCG, 10/27–29 Polk (**66** at Crookston W.T.P.) PHS, JMJ, 10/30 Traverse BJU, 11/2 Grant (2) RBW. Early south **9/19** Lac Qui Parle (36) BJU, 9/30 Dakota DWK. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Snow Goose — Reported from 22 north and 23 south counties (18 total counties last fall). Early north **8/15** (third earliest date, but note unusual number of summer records this year) Otter Tail (Battle Lake W.T.P.) DTT, SMT, 9/8 St. Louis SLF. Early south **8/4** (probably summered) Niccollet ChH, 8/23 Brown BTS. High count 11/27 Lac Qui Parle (2,740) BJU. Please see winter report for late migrants and overwintering birds.

Ross’s Goose — Statewide total of 59 individuals in 16 counties. Notable northeast report: **9/19** (third earliest north

date) through **11/5** (second latest north date) Lake (2 at Two Harbors) †JWL, †KRE, ph. AXH, m.ob. All other north reports: 9/24 Marshall (record-high fall count of **21** at Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS, 10/24–29 Polk (Crookston W.T.P.) †PHS, JMJ, 10/30 Traverse (Tara Twp.) BJU. Early south **9/11+** (record early south) McLeod (Hutchinson) RJS, ph. P. Kern, **9/19** Hennepin PEJ. Late south 11/16 Lac Qui Parle (**14** at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/27 Chippewa (2 on Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU; also see winter report.

Cackling Goose — Documented in five north and six south counties; written details for records not listed were furnished by ALD, BTS, DWK, JWL, PCC, PEB, PHS. Reported without details from 38 additional counties (11 north, 27 south). Some potential first county records not only lacked any descriptive details, but also lacked specific locations and/or count data. Early north **9/5** (record early date, no details) St. Louis BET, **9/16** (sec-



Cackling Geese, 28 September 2006, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by Kim Eckert.

ond earliest north, no details) Lake of the Woods RJS. Early south **9/19** (second earliest south, no details) Sherburne PLJ, 9/23 Nicollet RMD. Peak counts 10/30 Big Stone (385) and Traverse (270) BJU. Late north 11/17 Mille Lacs ASC, 11/20 Otter Tail *fide* MJM. See winter report for late south migrants.

Canada Goose — Reported throughout the state and the season.

Mute Swan — Bird of uncertain origin 10/29–31 Rice DAB, FVS.

Trumpeter Swan — Statewide total of at least 410 in 17 north and 23 south counties. Peak counts 11/8 Cass (110 on Brockaway L.) BAW, 11/8 Otter Tail (30 on Pelican R.) *fide* MJM.

Tundra Swan — Found in 14 north and 17 south counties. Early north 8/30 Traverse (possibly injured) BJU, 9/24 Marshall PHS. Early south 9/30 Big Stone PHS, 10/15 Houston NBO. Largest concentration away from Southeast: 11/2 Cass (2,500 on L. Winnibigoshish) BAW. Record-high count 11/20 Houston (**32,380** on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/18 St. Louis JLO, 11/24 Mille Lacs ASC. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Wood Duck — Seen in 27 north and 48 south counties. High count 9/21 Big Stone (470) BJU. Late north 11/1 Hubbard MAW, 11/6 St. Louis JRN, but see winter report.

Gadwall — Reported from 15 north and 35 south counties. High counts 11/14 Houston (9,045 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/16 St. Louis JRN, 11/18 Mille Lacs HHD, but also see winter report.

American Wigeon — Observed in 14 north and 32 south counties. High count 10/19 Houston (1,535 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/24 Mille Lacs ASC, 11/26 St. Louis SLF. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

American Black Duck — All north reports: Aitkin, Cass, Cook, Lake, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Pennington, Polk, St. Louis. Early south 9/16 Carver ADB, 9/21 Big Stone BJU (median 8/21). Reported from 12 additional south counties, but only Yellow Medicine in Southwest.

Mallard — Reported throughout the state. High count 11/20 Houston (15,180 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R.

Blue-winged Teal — Found in 26 north and 42 south counties. Late north 10/28 Mille Lacs HHD, 10/30 Pine KEc and Traverse BJU. Late south 10/28 Benton HHD, 11/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Northern Shoveler — Observed in 16 north and 37 south counties. High count 10/25 Big Stone (1,500 at Browns Valley W.T.P.) PHS. Late north 11/5 St. Louis SLF, 11/7 Douglas RBW and Otter Tail DTT, SMT (median 11/1). Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Northern Pintail — Reported from 7 north and 27 south counties. Late north 10/30 Traverse BJU, 11/5 St. Louis SLF (median 11/19), but see winter report.

Green-winged Teal — Found in 18 north and 34 south counties. Late north 10/30 Traverse BJU, 11/18 St. Louis DWK, JLO (median 11/9), but also see winter report.

Canvasback — Seen in 13 north and 30 south counties in all regions. Peak counts 10/19 Houston (49,765 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 10/29 Meeker (1,650 on L. Ripley) DMF. Late north 11/24 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/26 St. Louis NAJ. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Redhead — Found in 20 north and 33 south counties. Peak count 11/7 Houston (1,000 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/24 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/29 St. Louis SLF. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Ring-necked Duck — Observed in 25 north and 35 south counties. High counts 10/14 Aitkin (150,000 at Rice Lake N.W.R.) WEN, JSB, 10/29 Meeker (35,000 on L. Ripley) DMF, 11/14 Houston (12,850 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/24 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/29 St. Louis SLF, but also see winter report.

Greater Scaup — Reported from six north and nine south counties. Early north 10/7 St. Louis JLO, 10/15 Pennington JMJ. Early south 10/13 Sherburne PLJ, 10/15 Meeker JLO. Late north 11/5 St. Louis (55 at Park Point) DWK, 11/6 Cook DWK, but also see winter report.

Lesser Scaup — Seen in 18 north and 26 south counties. Late north 11/22 Beltrami DPJ, 11/24 Mille Lacs ASc and St. Louis SLF. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Harlequin Duck — Two reports from L. Superior: 10/15 St. Louis (ad. male near Stoney Point) DBF, SLF, 11/4+ St. Louis (female-plumaged bird at Canal Park, second individual found on 11/11) DMA,

RLE, †NSc, m.ob.; one of the latter two individuals eventually displayed male plumage in December.

Surf Scoter — Only L. Superior report: St. Louis 10/3–11/18 (max. 9 at Duluth) MLH, m.ob. Numerous inland reports: 9/27 St. Louis (4 on Crane Lake) *vide* JWJ, 9/28 Cass (4 on L. Winnibigoshish) BAW, 10/8 Stearns (Albany W.T.P.) PCC, 10/9 Goodhue (L. Byllesby) JPM, m.ob., 10/10–22 Meeker (L. Ripley) DMF, m.ob., 10/12 **Swift** (4 on Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU, 10/14 Crow Wing (Gull L.) DAY, 10/15–21 Pennington (4 at Thief River Falls W.T.P.) JMJ, 10/15–22 Stearns (Paynesville W.T.P.) PCC, HHD, 10/16 Big Stone (Otrej L.) BJU, 10/19 Lac Qui Parle (7 on Marsh L.) BJU; 10/21 Anoka (Centerville L.) BRL, Polk (Oak L.) BWF, RMD, m.ob. and Wright (Spring Lake) DMF; 10/23 Ramsey (2 on Bald Eagle L.) CSt, JWi, BWo, 10/24–27 Polk (Crookston W.T.P.) PHS, 10/30 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/3–24 Washington (White Bear L.) BRL, 11/18 Beltrami (L. Bemidji) PJR.

White-winged Scoter — All L. Superior reports: 9/25–11/26+ St. Louis (max. 9 at Park Point, Duluth) CMB, m.ob., 10/20–28 Lake (max. 8 at Two Harbors) PHS, m.ob., 10/14–11/6 Cook (one at Grand Marais) m.ob. Five north reports away from L. Superior: 10/15 Crow Wing (Garrison) BJM, DDM, 10/21–28 Pennington (3 at Thief River Falls W.T.P.) JMJ, 10/26 Polk (3 at E. Grand Forks W.T.P.) DOL, 10/31 Cass (L. Winnibigoshish) DAY, 11/22 Beltrami (L. Bemidji) PJR, m.ob. All south reports: 10/10 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 10/22 Meeker (L. Ripley) DMF, 10/30 Big Stone (2 on Big Stone L.) BJU, 11/28 Lac Qui Parle (2 on Marsh L.) BJU, 11/17 Dakota (2 on Spring L.) JPM.

Black Scoter — All L. Superior reports: 10/5–11/17 St. Louis (max. 3 at Park Point) MLH, m.ob., 11/4–6 Cook (Grand Marais) KRE, m.ob. Three north reports away from L. Superior: 10/24–27 **Polk** (3 at Crookston W.T.P.) PHS, DOL, 10/24 Pennington (Thief River Falls W.T.P.) JMJ,

PHS, 10/30 Beltrami (L. Bemidji) BAW. All south reports: **10/10** (second earliest south date) Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, **10/12**–22 Meeker (2 on L. Ripley) DMF, 11/9–14 Dakota (L. Byllesby) †JWH, 11/27 Chippewa (Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU.

Long-tailed Duck — All north reports: 10/19–11/4 St. Louis (three L. Superior locations) JWL, m.ob., 10/27–11/6 Cook (max. 95) JWH, DWK, m.ob., 11/22 Beltrami (3 on L. Bemidji) PJR. All south reports: 10/30–11/16 Big Stone (2 on Big Stone L.) BJU, 11/8 Big Stone (male harvested on Marsh L.) *vide* C. Vacek, 11/13–18 Pope (imm. on L. Minnewaska) RBW, SPM.

Bufflehead — Found in 19 north and 30 south counties. Early south 9/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/30 Big Stone PHS and Carver WCM. High count 10/12 Cass (150 at Walker W.T.P.) DAY.

Common Goldeneye — Reported from 20 north and 29 south counties in all regions. Early south 10/2 Sibley CRM, JEB, 10/9 Sherburne PLJ. Peak counts 11/20 Houston (6,005 on Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 10/29 Meeker (3,000 on L. Ripley) DMF.

Hooded Merganser — Found in 25 north and 30 south counties. High count 11/24 Hubbard (400 at Long L.) PBB.

Common Merganser — Reported from 11 north and 16 south counties, none in Southwest. Early south 11/13 Stearns RBW, 11/17 Sherburne RBJ (median 10/24).

Red-breasted Merganser — All north reports: Cook, Lake, Mahanomen, St. Louis, Traverse, Wadena. All south reports: 10/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/4 Le Sueur RBW and Ramsey REH, 11/15 Meeker DMF.

Ruddy Duck — Found in 15 north and

38 south counties. Only Northeast report: 10/22 St. Louis (2 at 40th Ave West, Duluth) SLF. High count 10/22 Meeker (1,790 on L. Ripley) DMF. Late north 10/27 Polk (250) PHS, 10/30 Cass BAW and Traverse BJU (median 11/11). Late south 11/26 Washington JWH, 11/27 Chippewa BJU. Also see winter report.

Gray Partridge — All north reports: 9/10 Norman (14 near Ada) BWF, 10/22 Marshall (15 near Newfolden) SBr, 10/29 Pennington (20) JMJ. Seen in 14 south counties, including high counts from Yellow Medicine 8/25 (20 near Spellman L.) WCM and 11/6 (21 near Lanner's L.) BJU. Also reported from Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood (10), Jackson, Lac Qui Parle (5), Meeker (6), Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood (2), Renville.

Ring-necked Pheasant — Observed in 56 counties as far north as Mahanomen in the Northwest, Wadena and Cass in the North-central, and Kanabec and Pine in the East-central.

Ruffed Grouse — Reported from 21 north and 4 south counties, including 8/27 Dakota (Miesville Ravine) DDO, 10/10 Wabasha LBF, 11/12 Fillmore NBO.

Spruce Grouse — Seen in Cook (4 in three locations) ES, DWK, Itasca (8 in George Washington S.F.) BRB, Koochiching (4 in three locations) SC, Lake (5 in three locations) SES, EEO, Lake of the Woods (24 in five locations) MHK, GMM, BAW, St. Louis (9 in three locations) SC, KRS.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — North reports from Aitkin (2) CKR, WEN, Kittson, Lake of the Woods (7 near Baudette) RBW, Marshall (12 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, Pennington SAS, Pine (max. 5) JMP, Red Lake (12 near Clearwater R.) SAS, Roseau (3) HHD, St. Louis (Zim W.M.A.) SLF, **Wilkin** CMN. Continuing a recent trend were out of range south reports 8/9 **Swift** (near Shible L.) BJU, 9/14–10/5 **Yellow Med-**

icine (10 in two locations) BJU, 9/30–10/30 **Lac Qui Parle** (five locations) BJU, 10/21 **Chippewa** (near Milan) BJU.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — North reports from Polk (Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) DDo, Traverse (Walls Twp.) BJU, and Wilkin (max. 41) JPE, HHD, m.ob. South reports 8/12 Big Stone JMJ, 9/14 Chippewa PBB, 9/14–11/29 Lac Qui Parle m.ob., 8/13 Yellow Medicine BJU, presumably related to reintroduction of this species in West-central Minnesota (total of 570 birds released 1999–2006 according to SV).

Wild Turkey — Reported from 45 counties as far north as Kittson, Hubbard, Cass, and Pine (max. 52, JMP). Some north reports probably refer to recently released birds.

Red-throated Loon — All reports: 9/24–10/8 St. Louis (max. 3 at Park Point, including ad. and juv. 10/8) MLH, PHS, †SLF, m.ob., 10/18–28 Aitkin (Mille Lacs L.) AXH, PHS, ASc.

Pacific Loon — Only L. Superior report: 9/29–10/7 St. Louis (imm. and ad. at Park Point) MLH, m.ob. Inland reports: 10/6–8 Mille Lacs (Mille Lacs L.) JLO, †DWK, m.ob., 10/15 Itasca (L. Winnibigoshish) †PHS, 10/15–21 Crow Wing (ad. on Mille Lacs L. at Garrison and St. Albans Bay) BJM, DDM, †PHS, ph. AXH, JQ, **11/25–26** Washington (L. St. Croix, no details) BRL, JWH. Details requested for all reports of this species away from the North Shore.

Common Loon — Found in 23 north and 17 south counties, none in Southwest. Record-high count on Mille Lacs L. 10/18 (**2,729**) AXH, PHS. Late north 11/11 Beltrami DPJ, 11/18 Cook SMc, but also see winter report. Late south 11/18 Dakota JLS, 11/26 Washington JWH.

Pied-billed Grebe — Reported from 26 north and 44 south counties. High count 8/25 Yellow Medicine (92 at Miller L.) WCM. Late north 10/30 Traverse BJU, 11/22 Beltrami DPJ (median 11/22). Late

south 11/22 Winona DWK, 11/23 Rice DAB, but also see winter report.

Horned Grebe — Found in 16 north and 19 south counties, including 10/21 Jackson JWH. Early north 8/19 Lake JWJ, 9/2 Roseau HHD. Early south 9/15 Yellow Medicine BJU, 9/16 Stevens HHD. Late north 11/4 Cook HHD, 11/11 St. Louis PEB, but also see winter report. Late south 11/19 Hennepin CMB, 11/21 Waseca JPS.

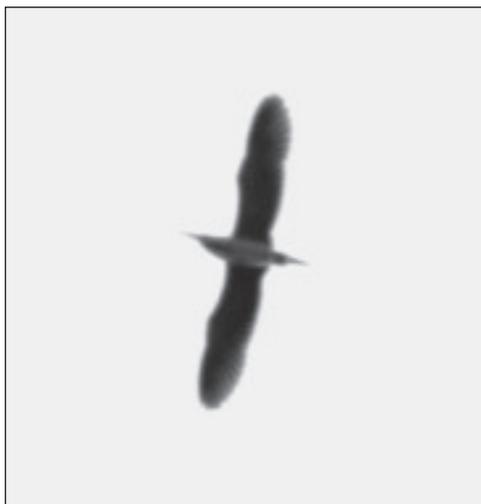
Red-necked Grebe — Seen in 13 north and 12 south counties. Late north 11/4 Cook HHD, 11/17 St. Louis CMB. Late south 11/18 Brown BTS, 11/22 Hennepin CMB (median 11/10).

Eared Grebe — Reported from seven north and eight south counties. Only eastern report: 9/4 Pine JWH. Late north 10/5 Beltrami PBD, 10/29 Polk (3) JMJ. Late south 10/30 Big Stone BJU, 11/5 Meeker DMF.

Western Grebe — Seen in 7 north and 11 south counties. Unusual location 10/20–21 Lake (Two Harbors) DNS, EAS, EGS, †PHS, DWK, ph. JWJ. High count 8/30 Big Stone (249) BJU. Late north 10/27 Polk PHS, 11/3 Marshall (3 at Agassiz N.W.R.) MA. Late south 11/11 Houston (Pool #8 in MN) PEJ, 11/16 Hennepin (L. Calhoun) CMB.

Clark's Grebe — Reported 8/30–9/4 Big Stone (ad. with 2 probable hybrid young still present at Thielke L.) ph. BJU. Also see undocumented reports.

American White Pelican — Reported from 14 north and 41 south counties statewide. Northeast reports: 8/4 St. Louis (25) SLF, 8/4–**11/22** (ties second latest north date) St. Louis (max. 18 in Duluth) H.R.B.O., JRN, m.ob, 10/21 Cook (Grand Marais) SMc. High count 9/20 Goodhue (2,500 on L. Pepin, includes birds in Wisconsin) RPR. Late north (away from Duluth) 10/18 Clay BWF, 10/21 Marshall RBW. Late south 11/21 Waseca JPS, 11/28



Least Bittern, 10 August 2006, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Dakota CMB, but also see winter report.

Double-crested Cormorant — Found in 23 north and 46 south counties. Peak count 9/23 St. Louis (340) RPR. Late north 11/18 Mille Lacs HHD, 11/22 Becker PBB. Late south 11/24 Goodhue ADS, 11/28 Dakota CMB, but also see winter report.

American Bittern — Observed in nine north and eight south counties. Late north 10/29 Cook JWL, 11/2 Polk DAY (median 10/9). Late south 9/15 Lac Qui Parle PBB, 9/17 Brown BTS (median 10/17).

Least Bittern — All reports: 8/3–9/2 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) TAN, m.ob., 8/4 Sherburne PLJ, 8/5–9 Lac Qui Parle (2 from two locations) BJU, 8/10 Ramsey ph. AXH, 8/12 Wadena PJB, 9/4 Big Stone (W. Toqua L.) BJU.

Great Blue Heron — Found in 29 north and 52 south counties. Late north 11/24 Morrison CAM, 11/25 Marshall GLH.

Great Egret — Several reports north of normal range in the North-central and Northwest regions between August and early October. Found in 17 north coun-

ties as far north as Kittson in the Northwest, and Aitkin, Cass, and Wadena in the North-central. Only Northeast report: 8/1–9/20 St. Louis (max. 2 at Duluth) m.ob. Reported from 46 south counties. Peak count 8/19 Lac Qui Parle (128 at Big Stone N.W.R.) JMJ. Late south 10/22 Jackson DAB, 11/2 Yellow Medicine RBW.

Snowy Egret — All reports: 8/9 Swift (Marsh L.) ph. BJU, 8/30 Big Stone (Toqua Twp.) BJU, 9/3 Big Stone (imm. at Big Stone N.W.R.) DWK, 9/4–17 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, MM, 9/21–10/1 Big Stone (3 near Ortonville) ph. BJU, PHS, PCC, 10/4 Anoka DPG.

Little Blue Heron — Reported 9/17–21 Big Stone (ad. at Big Stone N.W.R., second latest south) †MM, BJU.

Cattle Egret — All reports: 8/5 Big Stone (Otrej Twp.) BJU, 8/24 Lac Qui Parle (3 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 9/3 Otter Tail (24) JH, TAN, 9/15 Big Stone (2 near Marsh L.) BJU, 10/5 Chippewa (Wegdahl) BJU, 10/10 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) BJU, 11/24 Winona (record late at Winona L.) ph. KRE.

Green Heron — Reported from 14 north and 28 south counties. Late north 9/26 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/30 Becker DFN and Wadena PJB. Late south 10/14 Hennepin CMB, 11/20–28 (third latest south date) Ramsey (Roseville Central Park) ph. GW.

Black-crowned Night-Heron — Seen in 3 north and 16 south counties. Late north 9/24 Marshall JMJ, 10/15 Traverse (5) WCM. Late south 10/19 Blue Earth BWF, 11/7 Hennepin †CMB (median 10/31).

GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS — Unprecedented number of mostly first-fall *Plegadis* ibises wandered into western Minnesota. All documented reports: 8/5 Big Stone (22 along CR 54, Toqua Twp.) †PCC; 8/6 Traverse (Mud L.) †RMD, †BWF, JWH; 8/15–10/7 Big Stone (max. 23 along MN 28, Toqua Twp.) DAY, ph. †PHS, m.ob.; 8/19 Big Stone (CR 61, near



***Plegadis ibis*, 19 August 2006, Munnwyler Lake, Big Stone County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.**

Clinton) †JMJ, †PHS; 8/19–9/3 Big Stone (Munnwyler L.) JMJ, ph. †PHS, DWK; 8/20 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R., Low Flow Area) †PHS, JMJ; 8/20–**10/7** Lac Qui Parle (max. 20 at Big Stone N.W.R., Auto Tour Route) ph. †PHS, JMJ, †CMB, †PCC, m.ob.; 9/3–9 Big Stone (CR 6, 1.0 mile west of Clinton) DWK, ph. †PHS; 9/4–19 Brown (3 in Albin Twp.) †BTS, ph. †DWK; 9/9 Nicollet (Swan L.) MOe, †RMD; 9/28–**10/8** Steele (2 near Owatonna) ph. †NFT, †DAB, KRV; **10/22** Pope (Lake Johanna W.P.A.) †RBW.

Turkey Vulture — Seen in 22 north and 42 south counties. Peak count 9/30 St. Louis (261 at Duluth) H.R.B.O. Late north 10/14 Cook PHS, 10/23 Lake JWL and St. Louis (Duluth) H.R.B.O. Late south 10/14 Mower RBJ, 10/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Osprey — Found in 15 north and 24 south counties, including 10/1 Jackson BRB. Peak count 9/4 St. Louis (20 at Duluth) H.R.B.O. Late north 10/2 St. Louis

(Duluth) H.R.B.O., 10/14 Cook AXH, PHS (median 10/24). Late south 10/8 Le Sueur RMD, 10/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 11/13).

Bald Eagle — Seen in 30 north and 39 south counties in all regions. Peak count 11/1 St. Louis (213 at Duluth) H.R.B.O.

Northern Harrier — Observed in 29 north and 35 south counties. Late north 11/29 Cass MRN, 11/30 Carlton RBW, but also see winter report.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Found in 24 north and 35 south counties. Early south 8/17 Fillmore NBO, 8/30 Washington LMS (median 8/13). Peak count 10/8 St. Louis (1,119 at Duluth) H.R.B.O. Late north 11/20 St. Louis (Duluth) H.R.B.O., 11/24 Lake MRN, but also see winter report.

Cooper's Hawk — Reported from 17 north and 35 south counties. Late north 10/28 Aitkin CKR, 10/30 Traverse BJU,

Table 1. Monthly and seasonal composite count totals, peak flight and date, and range of occurrence at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth, St. Louis County, Fall 2006.

Species	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total	Peak	Date	Range
Turkey Vulture	0	1112	294	0	1406	261	9/30	9/08–10/23
Osprey	28	154	2	0	184	20	9/04	8/17–10/02
Bald Eagle	83	445	1556	1183	3267	213	11/01	8/16–11/30
Northern Harrier	27	247	234	45	553	35	10/13	8/15–11/09
Sharp-shinned Hawk	54	5481	4099	9	9643	1119	10/08	8/16–11/20
Cooper's Hawk	1	52	19	0	72	5	9/19	8/19–10/13
Northern Goshawk	4	12	96	35	147	15	10/28	8/21–11/30
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	3	0	3	1	–	10/9–10/26
Broad-winged Hawk	43	36440	42	0	36525	16232	9/20	8/15–10/27
Swainson's Hawk	0	2	1	0	3	1	–	9/19–10/07
Red-tailed Hawk	25	257	9298	2219	11799	1536	10/21	8/15–11/30
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	65	165	230	37	10/29	9/30–11/30
Golden Eagle	0	0	62	62	124	10	10/21	9/26–11/30
American Kestrel	159	793	186	1	1139	99	9/05	8/15–10/24
Merlin	17	102	92	3	214	24	10/08	8/28–11/14
Peregrine Falcon	1	32	12	0	45	7	10/07	9/04–10/09
unidentified	0	1	0	0	1	1	9/12	
Totals	442	45130	16061	3722	65355			
Days	17	28	30	29	104			
Hours	104.5	225	226.5	169.25	725.25			

but also see winter report.

Northern Goshawk — All north reports: Aitkin, Beltrami, Pine, St. Louis. All south reports: 10/16, 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/18, 10/27 Hennepin PEB, 10/21 Steele NFT, 10/27 Washington DAB, 11/6 Yellow Medicine BJU, 11/11 Scott BAF. Also see undocumented reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk — All north reports: 8/2–9/14 Mille Lacs ASc, 8/5 Crow Wing ADB, 9/25 Douglas RBW, 9/30–10/1 Becker DFN, 10/1–8 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 10/9–26 St. Louis (total of 3 at Duluth) H.R.B.O. Observed in 19 south counties as far west as Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine.

Broad-winged Hawk — Reported from 17 north and 17 south counties. Peak count 9/20 St. Louis (16,232 at Duluth) H.R.B.O. (also see Table 1). Late north 10/27 St. Louis (Duluth) H.R.B.O., **10/30** Cass MRN (median 10/17). Late south 10/10 Steele NFT, 10/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Swainson's Hawk — Only north reports: 8/30 Traverse BJU, 9/19, 9/20, 10/7 St. Louis (singles at Duluth) H.R.B.O. Found in 11 south counties. Late south 10/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/24 Anoka DPG (median 10/2).

Red-tailed Hawk — Seen in 84 counties statewide. Peak count 10/21 St. Louis (1,536 at Duluth) H.R.B.O.

Ferruginous Hawk — No reports.

Rough-legged Hawk — Reported from 20 north and 16 south counties. Early north 9/18 Aitkin MRN, 10/10 Pennington SAS (median 9/15). Early south 9/30 (ties median) Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/14 Mower RBJ.

Golden Eagle — Reported from eight north and five south counties. Early north 9/26 St. Louis (Duluth) H.R.B.O.; first seen away from Hawk Ridge 9/30 Cass DAB, RMD. Early south **9/30** Lac Qui Parle (juvenile in Walter Twp.) BJU, 10/5 Renville BJU.



Sandhill Cranes, 6 September 2006, Carlos Avery, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

American Kestrel — Reported from 25 north and 50 south counties. All counts away from Hawk Ridge ≤ 5 individuals.

Merlin — Reported from 21 north and 23 south counties in all regions. Early north (away from known breeding areas) 8/21 Clearwater (Bagley W.T.P.) PJR. Early south (away from the Twin Cities, where breeding documented in the past) 8/21 Sherburne PLJ, 9/4 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU. “Richardson’s” Merlin reported 9/21, 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/7 Hennepin BAF. High count 10/14 Cook (8) AXH, PHS. Late north 11/30 Carlton HHD; also see winter report.

Peregrine Falcon — Reported from 7 north and 26 south counties. Early north (away from known breeding locations) 8/19 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, 8/22 Crow Wing (Ironton W.T.P.) JSB. Early south (away from known breeding locations) 8/20 Carver DWK, 8/24 Brown BTS.

Prairie Falcon — Only documented report: 8/17 Becker (Hamden Slough N.W.R.) †PBB.

Yellow Rail — Only report: 9/20 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) MA.

Virginia Rail — All north reports: 8/10 Douglas RBW, 9/1 Kittson HHD, 9/6 Aitkin WEN. August reports from seven counties through 8/25 Sherburne ASC (median south departure 10/11).

Sora — Reported from 14 north and 25 south counties in all regions. High count 8/24 Chippewa (18) BJU. Late north 9/24 St. Louis JWH (median 10/2). Late south 10/10 Steele NFT, 10/16 Big Stone BJU (median 10/11).

Common Moorhen — Only north report: through 8/15 Otter Tail (pair with 4 young near New York Mills) TMc, †JMJ, SPM, m.ob. South reports from Big Stone (West Toqua L.), Lac Qui Parle (Hantho W.M.A.), Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.), Waseca (max. 3 adults and 8 juveniles at Moonan Marsh, †JPS, m.ob.), Yellow Medicine (Miller Lake and Upper Sioux Agency S.P.). Last reported 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU.

American Coot — Reported from 26

north and 43 south counties. Overwintered north and south. Highest reported count of 2,960 (10/15 Duluth SLF) much lower than normal.

Sandhill Crane — Observed in 18 north and 18 south counties, including Murray in the Southwest. Late north 11/3, 11/22 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 11/17 Sherburne ASc, 11/19 Anoka (900) ES. No significant concentrations reported.

[**WHOOPING CRANE**] — Two birds known to have wandered from the experimental flock at Necedah N.W.R., Wisconsin, were tracked by satellite to Minnesota 9/12–13 Benton/Morrison RPU *vide* RPR. Three more were tracked by satellite to Winnebago County, Iowa and then were visually confirmed at Reno Bottoms 9/13 Houston *vide* RPR. Also see undocumented reports.

Black-bellied Plover — Observed in 5 north and 11 south counties, none in Southwest or Southeast. Early north 8/11 Marshall PHS, 8/12 St. Louis SLF. Early south 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (6) PCC, PHS, 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Nicollet RBW. First juveniles 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (5) PCC. High counts 10/1 Lac Qui Parle (13) BJU, 10/24 Marshall (13 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS; only subsequent north report 10/28 Mille Lacs JLO. Reported on six different mid-November dates in Dakota (same bird?) until 11/17 JLO.

American Golden-Plover — Found in 11 north and 15 south counties. Early north 8/26, 9/1 Marshall BWF, PHS, 9/5 St. Louis JW. Early south 8/4–5 Lac Qui Parle RBJ, JEB, 8/9 Swift BJU. First juveniles 9/6 St. Louis (1) PHS, 9/9 Lac Qui Parle (7) PCC, PHS. High count 10/15 Traverse (159 at Wheaton W.T.P.) WCM. Late north 10/28 Cook and Lake KRE, JW *et al.*, 10/28 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 11/10 Stearns RPR, 11/11–14 Dakota (L. Byllesby) m.ob.

SNOWY PLOVER — Last seen at Big Stone N.W.R. 8/27 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC,

PHS (please see summer report).

Semipalmated Plover — Observed in 10 north and 20 south counties in all regions. Please see summer report for first fall migrants. Record high count 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (**329** at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS. First juvenile 8/12 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, JMJ. Late north 9/24 Marshall (8) PHS, JMJ (median 10/2). Late south 10/16 Freeborn JWH and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/22 Stearns HHD (median 10/3).

Piping Plover — Only report: 8/29 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Perry W.M.A.) †BJU.

Killdeer — Observed in 21 north and 45 south counties. High count (but see summer report) 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (694, including 519 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS. Late north 10/30 Pine KEc and Traverse BJU. Late south 11/22–24 Brown BTS. Please see winter report for additional observations north and south.

American Avocet — All reports: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU, 8/6 Nicollet (2 at Nicollet W.T.P.) JLO, 9/3 Nobles (Worthington W.T.P.) BTS.

Spotted Sandpiper — Reported from 19 north and 27 south counties. Record-high count 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (**72** at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS. Late north 10/7–8 St. Louis m.ob. (median 10/12). Late south 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, **11/4** Dakota DWK (median 10/5).

Solitary Sandpiper — Reported from 15 north and 30 south counties in all regions. High count 8/4 Marshall (17 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. First juveniles 8/4 Marshall PHS, 8/8 Stearns PCC. Late north 9/30 Cass DAB, 10/1 Carlton LAW (median 9/30). Late south 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/6 Jackson RBW (median 10/3).

Greater Yellowlegs — Reported from 21 north and 38 south counties, almost twice as many as last fall. Please see summer report for high count and first juveniles. Late north 11/6 St. Louis JRN,

11/8 Traverse RBW (median 11/2). Late south 11/8–9 Brown (3) BTS, **11/21** Ramsey RBJ (median 11/9).

Willet — No north reports. Observed in six south counties, including unusual fall concentration 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (8 at Salt L.) BJU. First juvenile 8/12 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS, JMJ. Late south 8/14 Yellow Medicine US, 8/19 Steele NFT, 9/16 Lyon *fide* RBW.

Lesser Yellowlegs — Observed in 20 north and 35 south counties. High count 8/11 Marshall (872 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/24 Marshall (55) PHS, 10/30 Traverse BJU (median 10/24). Late south 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/6 Lyon and Yellow Medicine BJU (median 11/1).

Upland Sandpiper — One north report: 8/6 Clay PBB. Late south 8/23 Big Stone BJU, 8/24 Chippewa BJU; also observed in Blue Earth, Lac Qui Parle, Meeke, and Stevens.

Whimbrel — Only report: 9/11 St. Louis (Duluth) KRE.

Hudsonian Godwit — Only north report: 10/18 Aitkin (Mille Lacs L.) AXH, PHS. August reports from four south counties, then 9/3 Lac Qui Parle (**24** at Big Stone N.W.R. and 6 at Salt L.) PCC, PHS, DWK, 10/16 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU.

Marbled Godwit — No north reports. All south reports from Lac Qui Parle, including second highest fall count of **79** at Big Stone N.W.R. (8/1, BJU). Only report after August: **10/1** (second latest) BJU.

Ruddy Turnstone — Scarce statewide for the fifth consecutive fall. Only north report: 9/14 Cook (1) EEO. All south reports from West-central region except 8/1 Brown BTS. Please see summer report for first fall migrants; additional early south 8/1 Big Stone, Brown, Lac Qui Parle. High count 8/9 Swift (4) BJU. First ju-

veniles 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC. Last seen **9/30–10/1** Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) PHS, BJU.

Red Knot — Only report: 8/9 Big Stone (Artichoke L.) †BJU.

Sanderling — Reported from 5 north and 10 south counties, none in Northwest or Southeast. Please see summer report for first fall migrants; additional arrivals 8/23 Lake JWL (north), 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU (south). First juveniles 8/27 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC, PHS. High count 9/17 St. Louis (50 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS. Late north 9/27 Cass (3) DAY, 10/7 St. Louis m.ob. (median 10/10). Late south 11/2, 11/5–6, **11/8–9** (ties latest south date) Brown BTS (median 10/21).

Semipalmated Sandpiper — Reported from 11 north and 25 south counties in all regions. High counts (also see summer report) 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (**1,913** including 1,754 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS, 8/11 Marshall (626 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late north 9/24 Marshall PHS (median 9/30). Late south 10/14 Brown RBW (median 10/11).

Least Sandpiper — Reported from 16 north and 36 south counties. Please see summer report for first fall migrants and juveniles. High count (but see summer report) 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (1,738 including 1,673 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS. Late north (only October report) 10/24 Marshall (4) PHS. Late south 10/22–23 Brown BTS *et al.*, 10/25–26 Lac Qui Parle PHS, BJU.

White-rumped Sandpiper — All north reports: 10/4 Clay (3) BWF, 10/21 Norman BWF, 10/24 Polk PHS. Observed in four south counties beginning 9/4 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late south 10/2 Nicollet RMD, 10/21 Wright DMF. **Note:** Undocumented reports of fall migrant White-rumpeds prior to September are not published.

Baird's Sandpiper — Reported from 12



Purple Sandpiper, 29 September 2006, Lake Winnibigoshish, Cass County. Photo by Patrick B. Beauzay.

north and 19 south counties in all regions. First juveniles 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, PHS, 8/11 Marshall (3) PHS, JMJ. High count 8/20 Lac Qui Parle (157 at Big Stone N.W.R. and 110 at Salt L.) PHS, JMJ. Late north 9/24 Marshall PHS (median 10/3). Late south 11/5, 11/9–10 Brown BTS (median 10/29).

Pectoral Sandpiper — Observed in 16 north and 34 south counties. First juveniles 8/11 Marshall (1) PHS, JMJ, 9/3 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC, PHS. High count 8/12 Lac Qui Parle (1,496 including 1,224 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/28 Mille Lacs JLO, 10/29 St. Louis (2) SLF. Late south 11/11 Dakota DWK, JLO, 11/14 Dakota CMB.

PURPLE SANDPIPER — Fifth state record and earliest ever by more than a month **9/26–29 Cass** (L. Winnibigoshish at Bena) v.t. †BAW; this cooperative juvenile was refound and photographed by m.ob., with written documentation also provided by PBB, PCC, PHS, DTT, and SMT.

Dunlin — Scarce for the sixth consecutive fall, especially along the North Shore of L. Superior. All counts ≤ 15 birds. All north reports: 8/15 Crow Wing (2) JSB, 9/23 St. Louis MLH, JLS, 9/24 Marshall (1) PHS, JMJ. Observed in 11 south counties beginning 9/4 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU, 9/14 Yellow Medicine BJU. Late south 11/10 Brown BTS and Hennepin DWK,

11/11–15 Dakota (max. 5) m.ob., **11/12–15** Brown (5) BTS.

Stilt Sandpiper — Reported from 8 north and 19 south counties. High count 8/6 Lac Qui Parle (889 including 845 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS. Late north 9/8 (29), 9/24 (30) Marshall PHS (median 9/20). Late south 10/27 Blue Earth (2) RBW and Brown BTS, **10/30** Brown †BTS (median 10/8).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — Low numbers for the fourth consecutive fall, especially at Dakota County sod farms where the high count was only 16 (8/2, DWK). Statewide total of 116 individuals in 16 counties (110 birds last fall, 80 in Fall 2004, 194 in Fall 2003, 547 in Fall 2002, 550+ in Fall 2001). No reports from the Northwest or Southeast. Early north 8/5 Aitkin (3) PEJ, DFN, 8/14 Cass (2) DAY. Please see summer report for early south migrants. High count 8/12 Lac Qui Parle (19 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS, MJM. First juvenile 9/3 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. Late north 9/9 St. Louis SLF, DWK (median 9/22). Late south 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU, **10/19–25**, **10/27** Brown (juvenile at Sleepy Eye W.T.P., record-late south) ph. BTS (median 9/17).

Short-billed Dowitcher — Reported from 4 north and 15 south counties. First juveniles 8/4 Marshall (2) PHS, 8/5 Big Stone (1) PCC. All counts ≤14 birds. Late north 9/1 (2), 9/8 (1) Marshall PHS. Late south 9/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Murray DWK.

Long-billed Dowitcher — Reported from 6 north and 15 south counties, none in East-central. Early north 9/20 St. Louis (juvenile) †SLF, 9/24 Marshall (14) PHS. Early south 8/11 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 8/25 Renville BJU; identified by voice 8/26 Big Stone (6) PHS, 9/15 Swift (2) DWK. First juvenile 9/17 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC. High count 10/1 Lac Qui Parle (40) BJU. Late north 10/14 Cook AXH, PHS, **10/27** Polk PHS. Late south 10/28 Scott (2) BAF, 10/29 Meeker (8) DMF.

dowitcher sp. — A total of 196 unidentified during shorebird surveys in western Minnesota (PCC, PHS), including 65 probable Long-billeds in October.

Wilson's Snipe — Seen in 25 north and 47 south counties. High counts 9/4 Lyon (54) DWK, 10/26 Rice (60) RBW. Late north 11/10 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/16 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 11/17 St. Louis (6) JRN, but also see winter report.

American Woodcock — Observed in six north and nine south counties. Late north 10/24 Marshall MA, 10/31 Carlton LAW. Late south 10/26 Sherburne PLJ, 11/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Wilson's Phalarope — Statewide total of 698 individuals in 11 counties more than twice that of the past two years, but similar to Fall 2002 (620+) and Fall 2003 (600+). High counts 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (**318** at Salt L.) BJU, 8/5 Big Stone (257) PCC. Only north report after 9/1 Marshall: **10/4** Clay (4 at Moorhead) BWF. Late south 9/14 (2), 9/15 (4) Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/13).

Red-necked Phalarope — One of the best fall migrations ever for this species: statewide total of 601 birds in 8 north and 17 south counties. Please see summer report for first fall migrants. Unusual in Northeast: 8/19 **St. Louis** (Embarass) †SLF, 8/24 **Cook** (2 at Grand Marais) TAN. Second highest fall count 8/22 Jackson (**200** at Heron Lake W.T.P.) JSc. First county occurrence 8/24 **Chippewa** (2 at Shakopee L.) BJU. Late north 9/3 Lake of the Woods KRE *et al.* (median 9/22). Late south 9/20 Brown (3) BTS, **10/30** Lac Qui Parle (11, Agassiz Twp.) BJU (median 9/23).

Franklin's Gull — Observed in 13 north and 36 south counties, none in Northeast and only Goodhue in Southeast. High counts from single locations 9/24 Meeker (8,000 at Lake Ripley) DMF, 9/26 Lac Qui Parle (8,100 at Marsh Lake) BJU; a total of 25,310 was reported to be in Lac Qui



California Gull, 22 October 2006, near Hawley, Clay County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

Parle on the 26th, mostly on large lakes BJU. Late north 10/29 Clay (3) PBB, 10/30 Traverse BJU (median 10/23). Late south 11/4 in three counties, 11/6 Steele NFT (median 11/11).

Little Gull — High count of three juveniles and one adult at Duluth 9/18–20 St. Louis †JWL, †KRE, †SLF, †PHS; presumably the same adult was on the Minnesota side of the Superior Entry 9/24 †JWH *et al.* The adult was last seen 9/29 and at least one juvenile lingered through 10/7 m.ob. Documented away from Duluth 10/15 Cass (adult at Richard's Townsite, Lake Winnibigoshish) †BAW, 10/17–27 Crow Wing (first-year at Ironton W.T.P., third latest north) JSB, †BAW, †DTT, †SMT. Two additional reports lacked details.

BLACK-HEADED GULL — One adult in basic plumage documented at usual location along north shore of Spirit L. 10/21–

22 Jackson †CMB, †JWH, †DWK, m.ob.

Bonaparte's Gull — Reported from 19 north and 24 south counties in all regions except Southeast. Unusual reports from Lake County 8/25, 9/8, 10/7 (2) JWL. Early south (but see summer report) 8/27 Isanti JWH and McLeod RJS, 8/30 Big Stone BJU. High count 10/18 Mille Lacs L. (1,923) AXH, PHS. Late north 11/24 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/26 Aitkin DWK. Late south 11/18 Dakota JLO; also see winter report.

Ring-billed Gull — Reported from 80 counties statewide. High count 11/5 Isanti (3,000 at German L.) DPG.

CALIFORNIA GULL — A third or fourth-cycle bird at the county landfill near Hawley 10/22 Clay ph. †BWF, †RMD, was refound later that day ph. †KRE *et al.*

Herring Gull — Reported from 16 north



Great Black-backed Gull, 16 November 2006, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.



Pomarine Jaeger, 17 October 2006, Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

and 25 south counties in all regions. No significant counts.

Thayer's Gull — Scarce along the North Shore of Lake Superior; all north reports from Duluth beginning 10/7 (juvenile) m.ob. followed by the first adult 11/16+ KRE, m.ob. Early south 9/24–25 Hennepin (adult) PEB, 10/12 Meeker (2) DMF; also reported in November from Rice, Sherburne.

Iceland Gull — Only report: adult at Superior Entry 11/18 St. Louis ph. †PHS.

Lesser Black-backed Gull — All north reports from St. Louis: record-early adult at Superior Entry 9/9–10, 9/20 MLH *et al.*, †DWK, †PHS, third-cycle at Canal Park 10/27 PME, EG, BMu, WCM, adult at Bailey's Lake in Virginia 11/17–18 ph. †SLF, DBF, SES. All south reports from Hennepin and/or Dakota: adult at L. Calhoun and L. Harriet 9/25+ †CMB, †PEB, m.ob., second adult or fourth-cycle bird at Black Dog L. and L. Calhoun 9/30–10/7 ph. DWN, ChM, m.ob. Presumably one of these two was also at Purgatory Creek in

Eden Prairie 11/2 †CMB.

SLATY-BACKED GULL — First Minnesota record at Grand Marais 7/21–8/14 **Cook** (*The Loon* 79:11–14).

Glaucous Gull — All north reports from St. Louis beginning 11/11 Duluth PEB, MLH (compare with median north arrival 10/30). Unusual location 11/14–21 Virginia (2 birds on the 17th and 18th) SLF, DBF, SES. Only south report: 11/30 Hennepin (first-cycle at L. Calhoun) DWK.

Great Black-backed Gull — First-cycle bird on the Minnesota side of the Superior Entry 11/5 ph. SLF, DBF, 11/8 DAY, 11/13 JWH, 11/18 DWK, JLO; presumably this same individual was at Canal Park 11/16–17 St. Louis ph. †KRE, CMB (also see winter report).

SABINE'S GULL — North reports from St. Louis 9/10 (Superior Entry) †PHS, 9/20–23 (4 birds at Park Point) DWK, JWJ, JPM, †KRE, †PHS, m.ob. Only south report: 9/9 **Brown** (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) ph. †BTS, RJA. All were juveniles.

Caspian Tern — Found in 10 north and 19 south counties in all regions except South-central. High counts 9/7 Beltrami (34 at L. Bemidji) DPJ, 9/19 Hennepin (36 at Purgatory Creek) DWK. Late north 9/24 St. Louis SLF, JWH, **11/4** St. Louis ASc (median 9/29). Late south 9/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/3 Hennepin CMB, DWK (median 10/1).

Black Tern — Reported from 12 north and 20 south counties in all regions, including St. Louis in Northeast and Olmsted in Southeast. All counts ≤ 40 . Late north 9/11 St. Louis JWJ, PHS, 9/17 Wadena PJB. Late south 9/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Nobles BTS, 9/14 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Common Tern — North reports from Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Cass, Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Lake (9/13, 3 at Knife River, KRE); late north 10/18 Mille Lacs (first-winter) PHS, 10/21 Cass PBB. South reports from Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Washington; late south 9/4 Big Stone BJU.

Forster's Tern — Reported from 10 north and 13 south counties. Late north 10/8 Mille Lacs DWK, 10/14 Mille Lacs ASc (median 10/10). Late south 9/23 Wabasha HHD, 9/30 Carver WCM (median 9/26).

POMARINE JAEGER — One juvenile 9/6–10/4 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) ph. †PHS, †KRE, m.ob. was joined by a second bird 10/3 only †JWL. Most unusual was a juvenile 10/15–19 **Blue Earth** (Eagle Lake) †RMD; it was refound by †CCB, ph. †JPM, m.ob., and furnished only the third record of this species away from Lake Superior.

Parasitic Jaeger — One of the best jaeger migrations ever witnessed on western Lake Superior. Ten or more individuals were carefully identified between 9/9 (when two adult and one unaged light-morph Parasitic Jaegers were videotaped several miles off shore during a boat trip) MLH, DWK, ADS *et al.* and 10/3 (when

this species was last seen); the other seven identified as Parasitics included three adult light morphs, two light subadults, one juvenile dark morph, and one juvenile intermediate morph. Also note that at least five additional jaegers not identified to species were present during this time. Flocks of **5** Parasitics were observed 9/23 JWH and 10/1 PHS. Good numbers were also seen off Wisconsin Point during this time; MLH and RJ compared notes and estimated that at least 10–12 jaegers hunted western Lake Superior in late September.

jaeger sp. — At least five different individuals observed at Duluth between 9/19 (2) and 10/7 (1), including 9/21–9/23 (5) when at least five Parasitics were also present.

Rock Pigeon — Statewide.

Eurasian Collared-Dove — First county records documented 8/28 **Redwood** (MN 68 by CR 13) †BTS, 10/7 **Freeborn** (Glenville) †JWH, CAK. Continuing reports from Big Stone (Ortonville), Blue Earth (Mapleton), Brown (Hanska), Brown/Cottonwood (max. 10 at Comfrey), Chippewa (Milan), Dakota (Farmington), Fillmore (max. 11 at Fountain, 10/8 †JWH), Houston (Caledonia), Lac Qui Parle (Madison and Marietta), Lyon (near Marshall), Renville (Renville), Stearns (Paynesville), Swift (Appleton), Traverse (Lake Traverse and Wheaton), Wright (St. Michael), Yellow Medicine (Clarkfield). No details provided for potential first county records in Pope, Watonwan. Probable hybrid Eurasian Collared-Dove X African Collared-Doves have been reported in Minnesota and other states (domesticated descendants of the African Collared-Dove were formerly referred to as Ringed Turtle-Dove). Furthermore, African Collared-Dove continues to be mis-identified as Eurasian Collared-Dove in urban areas. Potential first county records submitted without details are not published.

Mourning Dove — Reported from 78 counties statewide. High count 8/6 Da-



Burrowing Owl, 14 August 2006, Rendville Twp., Stevens County. Photo by Donna Oglesby.

kota (100) FVS.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — No north reports. Observed in 14 south counties; only report later than recent median (9/17): 9/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Black-billed Cuckoo — Late north 9/1 Mille Lacs NSc, 9/17 Clearwater KLa. Late south 9/16 Stevens HHD, 9/24 Hennepin CMB.

Eastern Screech-Owl — South reports from Anoka (gray morph), Brown, Carver, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Lac Qui Parle (2), Meeker, Mower, Rice (gray morph).

Great Horned Owl — Observed in 15 north and 22 south counties in all regions.

Snowy Owl — Early north 11/7 Lake of the Woods TCr; singles also observed in Aitkin, Hubbard, Itasca, Marshall, Roseau. Only south report: 11/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Northern Hawk Owl — One seen 8/10 Itasca BJS was probably related to high number of breeding birds this summer. Potential migrants 10/23, 11/8 Lake of the Woods GMM, 11/12 Aitin *fide* WEN.

BURROWING OWL — Two adults seen by local residents since at least 7/1 in Stevens (Rendville Twp.) were photographed 8/14 DO.

Barred Owl — Found in 10 north and 15 south counties as far southwest as Chipewewa, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine.

Great Gray Owl — Injured bird 9/14 Roseau (state highway 310) BJS. Also reported from Lake of the Woods (2), St. Louis.

Long-eared Owl — Only north report away from Hawk Ridge: 10/29 Lake (3 at Lighthouse Point, Two Harbors) JCa. South reports from Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Ramsey, Yellow Medicine.

Short-eared Owl — Statewide total of 22 individuals in 11 north and 5 south counties (52 birds in 18 counties last fall). Injured bird 9/27 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) *fide* JWL. One circled high over Lake Superior off Park Point 10/4 St. Louis PHS, JWL; another was chased and harassed by a Common Raven 10/14 Cook (Naniboujou Lodge) ph. AXH, PHS. Presumed migrants 10/1 Lac Qui Parle (Agassiz Twp.) BJU, 10/10 Sherburne (Harry Cater Homestead S.N.A.) RBJ; additional south reports from Big Stone, Blue Earth, Yellow Medicine.

Boreal Owl — None banded at H.R.B.O.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — North reports from Aitkin, Cook (844 banded at Tofté, WHL), Itasca (523 banded at Bigfork, DRM), Lake, Lake of the Woods, Pine, St. Louis (617 banded at Duluth with juvenile to adult ratio of 1.75 up from the previous two years, H.R.B.O.). All south reports: 10/11, 10/20 Ramsey AXH, 10/12 Steele ph. NFT, 10/25 Anoka AXH, 11/4 Rice TFB.



Apparent partially albinistic Chimney Swift, 20 August 2006, Shoreview, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Common Nighthawk — Reported from 14 north and 32 south counties in all regions except Northwest. High counts 8/18 Lake (1,869 at Castle Danger) JWJ, 8/20 St. Louis (2,500 at Duluth) *fide* JWJ. Late north 9/17 Wadena PJB, 10/2 Douglas TAN and Kanabec CAM. Late south 10/3 Brown JSS, 10/7 Pope PCC.

Whip-poor-will — All reports: 8/4, 9/12 Sherburne PIJ, 8/24 Chippewa BJU.

Chimney Swift — Observed in 8 north and 31 south counties in all regions. No significant counts. Partial albino 8/20 Ramsey ph. AXH. Apparently departed the state early. Late north 9/6 Mille Lacs RBJ (median 9/14). Late south 10/3 Rice (11) DAB (median 10/8).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Seen in 20 north and 31 south counties. Record-high count 8/27 Goodhue (52 banded, plus many unbanded birds in backyard at Red Wing) DEM. Late north 9/30 Beltrami KLa, 10/1 Douglas *fide* JMJ. Late south 10/5 Scott JEB, 10/20 Goodhue DEM.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD — Fourth state record; female/immature 10/29–31 **Dakota** (Eagan) ph. †SY.

SELASPHORUS sp. — Immature Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 8/10 **Roseau** (near Warroad) ph. TAd.

Belted Kingfisher — Observed in 28 north and 38 south counties. High count 9/1 Mille Lacs (5) NSc.

Red-headed Woodpecker — Seen in 12 north and 23 south counties in all regions, but only St. Louis in Northeast. Late north (but see winter report) 10/26 Cass *fide* MRN, 11/4 St. Louis ChM.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — Reported from 19 north and 41 south counties as far north as Pennington in Northwest, Beltrami in North-central, and St. Louis, Lake and Cook in Northeast.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Found in 21 north and 24 south counties in all regions. Late north 10/20 Lake SMC, 10/29 Cook JWJ, **11/18** St. Louis DOK. See winter report for late south migrants.

Downy Woodpecker — Statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker — Statewide.

American Three-toed Woodpecker — Largest irruption since the mid-1970s with approximately 24 individuals reported this season, primarily along the North Shore of Lake Superior beginning third week of October, plus Koochiching and Lake of the Woods in the North-central region. St. Louis locations away from the North Shore included four birds near Virginia †SLF, one near Ely MPi, and one west of Tower JCC. At least three birds were at Lighthouse Point, Two Harbors and five were in Cook 10/27–29 m.ob.

Black-backed Woodpecker — Reported from Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Koochiching, and Lake of the Woods in North-central, and throughout the Northeast. High count 10/21–26 Lake (6 at Lighthouse Point, Two Harbors) m.ob. Unusual location 10/29 **Washington** (female at

Afton S.P.) RBW.

Northern Flicker — Observed in 78 counties statewide. High count 9/10 Pine (26) JMP. Many winter reports north and south.

Pileated Woodpecker — Reported from 28 north and 35 south counties as far southwest as Lac Qui Parle, Redwood, Yellow Medicine.

Olive-sided Flycatcher — Reported from 7 north and 22 south counties. Early south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 8/3 Sherburne PLJ (median 8/4). High count 8/19 Chippewa (6) RBJ. Late north 9/2 Roseau HHD, 9/3 Beltrami DPJ and Lake of the Woods HHD. Late south 9/13 Ramsey REH, 9/14 Fillmore NBO, 9/20 Hennepin DWK.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — High count 8/19 Chippewa (8) RBJ. Late north 9/21 Beltrami PBD, 9/23 Becker RJS (median 9/19). Late south 9/23 Rice DAB, 9/24 Dakota DWK and Goodhue HHD (median 10/4).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — All documented reports of singing or visually identified birds: 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/24 Chippewa BJU, 8/27–29 and 9/7 Fillmore NBO, 9/7 Olmsted 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 — No reports.

Alder Flycatcher — All vocalizing birds: 8/3 St. Louis SLF and 8/18 Brown JSS.

Willow Flycatcher — Vocalizing 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU, 8/7 Scott DWK, 8/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/11 Dakota ADS.

Least Flycatcher — Reported from 12 north and 24 south counties, but only documented in 3 and 7, respectively.

Documented north 8/27 Mille Lacs JWH, 8/28 Lake AXH, 9/16 St. Louis (well-described plumage) SLF. Vocalized south in Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle (BJU), Carver and Yellow Medicine (WCM), and Lyon (DWK) through 9/4, then late south 9/17 Brown JSS, 9/14 (4) and 9/24 Fillmore NBO.

Eastern Phoebe — Reported from 22 north and 41 south counties. High counts of 4 in Clearwater, McLeod and Hennepin in late September. Late north 10/4 Carlton LAW, 10/8 Wadena PJB, 10/14 Cook AXH, PHS. Late south 10/25 Rice FVS, 10/26 Hennepin CMB, 11/9 Meeker DMF.

SAY'S PHOEBE — One bird seen in two counties: 9/4 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R., Auto Tour Route) ph. †BJU.

Great Crested Flycatcher — Frequent late north reports through 9/6 Aitkin MRN, then a lone report closer to the 9/19 median: 9/20 St. Louis DWK. Late south 9/16 Rice DAB, Stevens HHD, 9/21 Olmsted JWH (median 9/22).

Western Kingbird — Reported from only two north and nine south counties. All notable counts from BJU in the West-central region: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (16), 8/9 Swift (8). Late north 8/12 Wilkin HHD, 8/30 Traverse BJU (median 9/13). Late south 9/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/9).

Eastern Kingbird — Reported from 19 north and 34 south counties. High count 8/20 Lake (25) JWJ. Late north 9/9 St. Louis DWK, HHD, 9/10 Wadena PJB, 9/18 Cass DAY (median 9/18). Late south 9/15 Lac Qui Parle, Nicollet and Swift (3), then only 9/26 Chippewa BJU (median 9/23).

Loggerhead Shrike — Only north report: 9/18 St. Louis (near Britt) KRS. Found in every region south (7 counties). Largest concentration in Dakota, where 4–6 birds reported in early August; also seen during the first half of the month



Gray Jay, 15 September 2006, Isabella, Lake County. Photo by Earl E. Orf.

in Lac Qui Parle (Freeland Twp.), Meeker (Darwin Twp.), Yellow Medicine (2 near Canby). Late south 8/18 Goodhue and Rice HHD, 8/25 Chippewa (Tunsberg Twp.) BJU, 9/28 Dakota *fide* AXH (median 9/3).

Northern Shrike — Reported from 16 north and 24 south counties in all regions. Early north 10/14 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/15 Marshall JMJ, Otter Tail SPM (median 10/8). Early south 10/15 Sherburne SMC, 10/17 Olmsted LAV, 10/19 Swift BJU (median 10/17).

Bell's Vireo — Only report: 9/2 Dakota JLS.

Yellow-throated Vireo — As with all the following vireos, reported from every region. High counts 8/27 Anoka (5 at Linwood L.) DWK, 8/23 Sherburne (4)

ASc. Late north 9/16 Carlton LAW, 9/20 St. Louis SLF (median 9/19). Late south 9/23 Wabasha HHD, 9/27 Hennepin CMB (median 9/27).

Blue-headed Vireo — Early south 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU and McLeod PRH, 8/24 Chippewa and Dakota (median 8/20). Late north 9/26 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/29 Cass RBW (median 10/11). Late south 10/15 Hennepin ChM, 10/19 Waseca JPS (median 10/16).

Warbling Vireo — Late north 9/10 Pine JMP (same as median), then only 9/25 Douglas RBW. Late south 9/15 Sherburne and Swift, 9/16 Yellow Medicine RBJ, 9/25 Brown JSS (same as median).

Philadelphia Vireo — Early north migrants 8/22 Pine JMP, 8/23 Mille Lacs ASc. Early south 8/9 Hennepin DDo, 8/11

Anoka AAL, then none until 8/18 Goodhue and Rice (median 8/21). High count 9/24 Hennepin (4 at Wood Lake N.C.) CMB. Late north 9/16 Carlton LAW and Lake of the Woods RJS, 9/24 Pine JMP (median 9/26). Late south 9/30 Hennepin DWK, 10/6 Nicollet RBW (median 9/30).

Red-eyed Vireo — Reported from 23 north and 33 south counties. High counts 9/1 Houston (20) and 9/2 Fillmore (10) NBO. Frequent north reports through 9/20 Carlton LAW, then only 9/27 Beltrami KLa. Numerous late south reports through 9/25 Dakota and Olmsted, then only 10/1 Anoka RNe. Both last reports were well before recent median departure dates 10/1 north and 10/6 south.

Gray Jay — In addition to usual reports from the coniferous forest zone, the first significant irruption of this species since 1986–1987 (*The Loon* 59:41–44) was noted along the North Shore of Lake Superior and most of the Northwest region. There were also many more reports than usual in the North-central region, e.g., 15 along the Lake Winnibigoshish shoreline 10/15 Cass/Itasca PHS; however, none could be found in the south. Migrants were detected along the North Shore and in Duluth beginning 10/2; in Lake County, peak numbers included 10/5 (19) and 10/7 (27) migrating past Castle Danger JWL, and 10/12 (12) near Lighthouse Point in Two Harbors SLL. By late October the push along the North Shore had diminished. The incursion into the Northwest began at about the same time with scattered reports from Kittson in late September, then 10–15 birds near Lancaster 10/3 Kittson LWi, and 8 birds near Warren 10/7–8 Marshall IJo *vide* JMJ. By the end of the season, reports came in from 8 of 10 Northwest counties, including 10/19–21 **Red Lake** PJA, JMJ, 10/17 **Clay** (near Buffalo River S.P.) ph. reviewed by RHO, 11/18–19 **Clay** (4 miles E of Felton) *vide* JMJ. Farthest south were two in **Otter Tail** (10/23, SPM). In contrast, this species was found only in Kittson and Roseau in the Northwest in Fall 2004 and

Roseau in Fall 2005. This irruption was also enjoyed by birders in the Red River Valley, as there were multiple reports in and around Fargo and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Blue Jay — Reported from 82 of 87 counties throughout the season. High counts of 46 and 44 in Rice 9/23 and 9/24, respectively (DAB).

Black-billed Magpie — Reported from seven Northwest counties plus Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Cass, St. Louis. High counts 9/2 Marshall (37) and 9/3 Polk (19) JH, TAN.

American Crow — Reported from 82 of 87 counties throughout the season.

Common Raven — Reported from 22 north and 3 south counties. One 2 miles east of Sherack in Polk County was farther west than usual (SAS). All south reports: 8/19 Ramsey REH, 8/23 Sherburne PLJ, 10/19 Sherburne SMC, 11/14 Anoka (2 at Helen Allison Savanna S.N.A.) RBJ, 11/17 Sherburne AS.

Horned Lark — Late north (but see winter report) 11/5 St. Louis (18) SLF, 11/25 Wadena PJB (median 11/20). No noteworthy high counts.

Purple Martin — Found in 8 north and 21 south counties. Highest total 8/20 Cass (16) DAY. Late north 8/26 Mille Lacs NSc, 8/27 Crow Wing JWH, both well before median departure (9/8). Late south 9/14 Lincoln BJU, 9/15 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 9/23 Wabasha HHD (median 9/15).

Tree Swallow — Reported from 18 north and 43 south counties. High counts 9/2 Stearns (800 at Paynesville W.T.P.) RPR, 9/15 Sherburne (270) AS. Late north 9/25 Grant RBW, 9/30 Wadena PJB (median 10/3). Late south 10/8 Scott CRM, Wabasha JEB, Winona JWH (median 10/18).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Reported from 5 north and 21 south

counties. Only three north reports after 8/5: 8/12 Otter Tail HHD, 8/20 Cass (25) DAY, 8/30 Traverse BJU (median 9/8). Late south 9/28 Steele NFT, 10/2 McLeod CRM, JEB (median 10/3).

Bank Swallow — Reported from 6 north and 28 south counties. High count 8/7 Lac Qui Parle (800) RPR. Late north 9/6 Mille Lacs RBJ, 9/16 Otter Tail DTT, SMT (median 9/9). All late south reports after median departure (9/16): 9/20 Faribault JEB, 9/21 Big Stone BJU, 9/23 Wabasha HHD.

Cliff Swallow — Reported from 14 north and 35 south counties. High count 8/6 Lake (130 counted in ten minutes in evening, Two Harbors) JWJL. Late north 9/3 Marshall MJJ, Todd HHD and Wadena PJB (median 9/15). Late south 9/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/30 Big Stone PHS (median 9/28).

Barn Swallow — Reported from 24 north and 47 south counties. High count 9/9 Kittson (200 over one field) SAS. Late north 9/21 Morrison and Todd MRN, 9/30 Wadena PJB (median 10/9). Late south 10/17 Blue Earth DWK, 10/22–23 Brown BTS, m.obs. (median 10/16).

Black-capped Chickadee — Reported from 32 north and 48 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee — All reports: St. Louis in August, Koochiching in early September, Lake of the Woods in September and October, Cook from late October until early November, and Aitkin in late November. In contrast to Fall 1986, when a major movement of this species along the North Shore of Lake Superior correlated with an irruption of Gray Jays (KRE), there was no evidence of increased numbers of Boreal Chickadees along the North Shore in Fall 2006.

Tufted Titmouse — Observed throughout the season in Fillmore, including a high count of 6 (9/9, NBO). Also reported from Houston and Olmsted.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — Reported from 24 north and 22 south counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch — Found statewide throughout the period.

Brown Creeper — Reported from 18 north and 28 south counties. Early south 9/7 Hennepin CMB, 9/10 Anoka (2) DWK, Dakota ADS and Olmsted JWH (median 8/30). Highest totals 9/30 Scott (9) BAF, 10/25 Lake (8 at Lighthouse Point, Two Harbors) MCA.

Carolina Wren — Two north reports: 10/19 **Itasca** (Grand Rapids, third county record) JLa *vide* AXH, 11/19–20 **Otter Tail** (Fergus Falls, second county record) †SPM. All south reports: through 8/3 Brown (see summer report) JSS, 8/12–15 Anoka (Fridley) CF, BRL, 8/15+ Olmsted (Rochester, 2 birds 11/16 subsequently overwintered) OWB, 8/20 Waseca (Courthouse Park) DDM, 8/25, 10/5 **Yellow Medicine** (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) RAE, †BJU, 9/9 Goodhue (Frontenac S.P., Sand Point trailhead) BRL, 11/12–16 Carver (along Lotus L. in Chanhassen) *vide* AXH.

House Wren — High count 8/19 Chippewa (6) RBJ. Only two north reports after August: 9/7 Beltrami DPJ, 9/24 St. Louis JLS (median 10/5). Late south 10/5 Scott JEB and Yellow Medicine BJU, 10/8 Cottonwood BRB (median 10/18).

Winter Wren — Reported from 4 north and 25 south counties. Early south 8/15 Rice TFB, 9/9 Chippewa BJU and Hennepin RBJ (median 9/7). High counts 10/9 Fillmore (8) NBO, 10/3 Hennepin (8) RBJ. Late north 10/7 Beltrami DPJ, 10/9 Lake JWJL, 10/22 St. Louis SLF (median 10/24). Late south 10/20 Sherburne ADB, 11/4 Carver BAF and Hennepin DWK (median 12/13).

Sedge Wren — Reported from 7 north and 22 south counties. High count 8/4 Nicollet (10) ChH. Late north 9/12 Koochiching MSM, 9/21 Pine JMP, 9/23 St. Lou-

is JWH (median 10/13). Late south 10/8 Scott BAF, 10/9 Blue Earth RMD (median 10/12).

Marsh Wren — Reported from 7 north and 24 south counties. High count 8/4 Nicollet (10) ChH. Late north 9/1 Kittson HHD, then none until 9/25 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 10/2 St. Louis (5 miles north of Virginia) SLF (median 10/13). Late south 10/27 Brown RBW, 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/4 Dakota RPR (same as median).

Golden-crowned Kinglet — Reported from 21 north and 38 south counties. Multiple reports from Sherburne, where found last three consecutive summers; presumed early south migrants 9/9 McLeod PRH, 9/17 Olmsted JWH (median 9/17). High counts 10/1 Cass (40) MRN, 9/30 Scott (19) BAF. All November reports north: 11/4 Cook HHD, 11/5 Cook CMB, 11/5 St. Louis JWJ, 11/8 Traverse RBW. Please see winter report for additional observations north and south.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — Reported from 23 north and 44 south counties. Early south 8/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/27 Anoka (2) DWK (median 8/28). High counts 10/8 (36), 9/30 (33) Scott BAF. All north reports after October: 11/6 Beltrami DPJ, 11/17 St. Louis CMB (median 10/30). Late south (but see winter report) 10/29 Hennepin DWK, 11/9 Fillmore NBO (median 11/20).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — Reported from Cass, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs in the north and 23 south counties. High count 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (6 at Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU. Late north 8/25 Cass MRN, 8/27 Mille Lacs JWH, well before recent median departure (9/17). Late south 9/23 Rice DAB and Wabasha HHD, 9/25 Dakota JLO (median 9/23).

Eastern Bluebird — Reported from 31 north and 42 south counties. High counts all in October: 10/5 Clearwater (60) MRN and Yellow Medicine (50) BJU, 10/4 Mille Lacs (41) ASc, 10/28 Scott (41) BAF, 10/15



Townsend's Solitaire, 11 October 2006, Wahkon, Mille Lacs County. Photo by Scott M. Clark.

Sherburne (40) SMC. Late north 10/30 Traverse BJU, 10/31 Hubbard MAW, then only 11/30 Carlton (2) RBW. Numerous winter reports south.

Mountain Bluebird — Three females were discovered along the North Shore over two days! The first was very cooperative: discovered 10/17 St. Louis (Bayfront Park, Duluth) DOK, it was seen by many through 10/30 (KRE). The second and third both appeared 10/18, but neither was refound: one in Lake west of Two Harbors ph. JWJ, and one in St. Louis (Duluth, near 44th Ave East and Regent St) JRN. All south reports: **8/19** Chippewa (2 females at Gneiss Outcrops S.N.A.) RBJ, 10/30 **Big Stone** (male at Odessa) BJU.

Townsend's Solitaire — Record high seasonal total of 39 individuals, including a conservative total of 25 along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Record-high counts 11/3 St. Louis (5 at Stoney Point and 2 at Park Point) †CMB, 10/29 Cook (5 along the North Shore within 20 miles of

Grand Marais) WCM, 11/11 Roseau (4 at Hayes Lake S.P.) SAS. Early north 10/6–7 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF, 10/11 Mille Lacs (Wahkon, second county record) †SMC; also found away from the North Shore 10/29 Clay (near Bluestem Prairie) PBB. All south reports: 10/19 (1) and 11/22+ Lac Qui Parle (2, one photographed, at Hantho Beach on Lac Qui Parle L.) †BJU, 10/30 Big Stone (Toqua Jwp.) BJU, 10/30 Dakota (Apple Valley) JSw, 11/17 Sherburne (Ann Lake, third consecutive year) ASc, 11/19–25 Anoka (Carlos Avery WMA) ph. †JBB.

Veery — Reported from 6 north and 11 south counties. Late north 9/10 Pine JMP, 9/11 Aitkin CKR (median 9/14). Excluding three undocumented reports 13–18 days later than the 20-year median (9/17), late south 9/4 Hennepin BAF, MPi, Olmsted LAV and Steele DAB, 9/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Details requested for all reports of Veery after September; this species' fall migration is relatively early and may be confused by other *Catbarus* spp.

Gray-checked Thrush — Reported from 7 north and 10 south counties. Early north 8/28 Lake AXH, 9/4 Traverse BJU (median 9/3). Early south 9/1 Hennepin ALD, 9/3 Ramsey DPG (median 9/2). High count 9/10 Anoka (4) DWK. Late north 10/5 Pine JMP, 10/14 Cook (2) AXH, PHS (median 10/4). Late south 10/9 Hennepin (2) DDo, 10/17 Steele NFT (median 10/4).

Swainson's Thrush — Reported from 19 north and 22 south counties. One early south migrant 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, then none until 8/19 Hennepin DWK and Sherburne ASc, 8/20 Ramsey HHD (median 8/10). Peak migration 9/14 Cook (14) ES. Late north 10/13 Lake of the Woods MHK, 10/14 Cook (4) AXH, PHS, 10/28 Cook JWJ (median 10/17). Late south 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU, 10/12 Steele (4) NFT, 10/23 Steele NFT (median 10/19).

Hermit Thrush — Reported from 16 north and 33 south counties. Early south

8/26 (second earliest) Anoka RBJ, 9/9 Fillmore (5) NBO. High counts 10/8 Scott (15) BAF, 10/14 Mower (21 at Lake Louise S.P., record-high fall count) RBJ. Late north identical with recent median: 10/23 Norman PHS, 10/28 Cook JEB, JWH, RBJ. Late south (but see winter report) 11/4 Hennepin DWK, 11/5 Hennepin PEJ.

Wood Thrush — Only found in two north and six south counties. Late north 8/29 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/19 Beltrami MLM (median 9/1). Late south 9/14 Fillmore NBO, 9/16 Stearns MJB, 9/21 Scott JEB (median 10/1).

American Robin — Highest reported count 741 along the North Shore of Lake Superior 10/14 Cook AXH, PHS; fall peaks along the North Shore normally in the thousands. High count away from North Shore 10/14 Scott (flock of 350 at Louisville Swamp) BAF. Many winter reports north and south.

Varied Thrush — Six north reports: 10/15 Cook (Grand Marais) *fide* JWJ, 10/31 Hubbard (near Lake Belle Taine) MAW, early Nov+ Roseau (Warroad, subsequently overwintered) JLW, BJS, 11/15 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) †SPM, 11/17–22 Beltrami (L. Movill) MLM, PJR, 11/18+ St. Louis (Duluth, along McFarlane Rd.) m.ob. Three south reports: 11/12 Anoka (Andover) *fide* AXH, 11/13–15 Olmsted (near Chatfield) JJ, †JWH, 11/15–23 Olmsted (near Byron) RLE, ph. PWP. Also see undocumented reports.

Gray Catbird — Reported from 23 north and 41 south counties. Record-high fall count 9/23 Carver (15 at Minnesota Landscape Arboretum) BAF. Late north (but see winter report) 10/14 Lake AXH, PHS, 10/28 Cook JWJ (median 10/26). Late south 10/9 Fillmore (2) NBO and Houston DFN, then no reports for 6 weeks until 11/21 Ramsey RBJ (median 11/20).

Northern Mockingbird — Single reports north and south, respectively: 8/19 St. Louis (Hermantown) UK and 10/1 Big

Stone (Odessa) BJU.

Brown Thrasher — High count 9/26 Lac Qui Parle (6) BJU. Late north dates through 9/19 not representative of this species' normal fall migration, but see winter report. Late south 11/16 Meeker DMF, 11/24 Blue Earth *vide* KLa; see winter report for additional late south.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER — Though its identity was not confirmed until after its disappearance in early December, one was first seen in August near Nashwauk, **Itasca** ph. RLa, LLa. Fourth state record.

European Starling — Reported from 30 north and 51 south counties.

American Pipit — Found in 14 north and 33 south counties in all regions. Early north 9/9 St. Louis DWK, JLO, 9/10 Cass (6) DAY (median 9/10). Early south 9/13 Brown BTS, 9/14 Yellow Medicine BJU (median 9/15). High counts 10/1 Lac Qui Parle (250) BJU, 9/26 St. Louis (124) ALE. Late north 10/30 Traverse BJU, 11/4 Lake CMB, HHD (median 11/3). Late south 11/5 Winona JWH, 11/6 Lyon and Redwood BJU (median 11/4).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT — Fourth fall report in 14 years: 9/17 **St. Louis** (Duluth Twp., near Homestead Rd and Old North Shore Rd) †JCG, JGr. It could not be refound later that day.

Bohemian Waxwing — Reported from 12 north counties beginning 9/20 Lake (2) EEO, then none until 10/13 Lake (5) JWL, 10/14 Cook (65) AXH, PHS (median 10/5). All south reports: 10/29 Watonwan (Madelia) ph. RMD, 11/4 Carver (MN Landscape Arboretum) BAF, 11/17 Stearns (2 in Sartell) HHD.

Cedar Waxwing — Found statewide. Highest reported counts 11/3 Lac Qui Parle (290) BJU, 11/12 Carver (195) BAF.

Blue-winged Warbler — No north re-

ports. South reports from 10 counties, as far north as Chisago and Sherburne, and unusually far west in Lac Qui Parle (8/24, BJU). Late south 9/5 Goodhue LEC, 9/6 Fillmore (3) NBO, 9/19 Hennepin ChM (median 9/11).

Golden-winged Warbler — Reported from 7 north and 16 south counties. Early south (away from known breeding locations) 8/12 Rice TFB, 8/18 Hennepin DWK (median 8/15). High counts 8/18 Mille Lacs (5) ASc, 8/27 Anoka (5) DWK. Late north 9/1 Beltrami PBD and Mille Lacs NSc, 9/10 Pine JMP (median 9/8). Late south 9/16 Carver REH and Scott ADB, 9/25 Dakota JLO (median 9/21).

Tennessee Warbler — Early south (but also see summer report) 8/7 Hennepin ChM, 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High counts 8/15 St. Louis (100) ALE, 8/23 Hennepin (50) RBJ. Late north 9/26 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/8 St. Louis SLF, 10/21 Pine SMC (median 10/17). Late south 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/4 Waseca JPS, 10/14 Hennepin (3) CMB (median 10/16).

Orange-crowned Warbler — Reported from 17 north and 37 south counties. Early north 9/1 Koochiching JLO and Mille Lacs NSc. Early south 8/24 Lac Qui Parle †BJU, 9/2 Dakota SWe and Ramsey REH. High counts 10/8 Scott (18) BAF, 9/20 Hennepin (8) DWK. Numerous north reports throughout September, then only 10/8 Mille Lacs DWK, 10/25 Cook RBJ (median 10/22). Late south 10/27 Hennepin CMB, 10/28 Scott BAF (median 10/23). **Note:** Undocumented August reports were excluded.

Nashville Warbler — Early south 8/8 Sherburne PLJ, 8/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/14 Anoka and Hennepin. High counts 8/23 Hennepin (30) DWK, 8/27 Anoka (30) DWK, 9/18 Hennepin (35) DWK. Late north 10/19 Beltrami DPJ, 10/22 St. Louis SLF, 10/28 Cook RBJ (median 10/20). Late south 10/14 Rice DAB, 10/19 Olmsted LAV, then many reports from

Hennepin, culminating in 10/27 CMB (median 10/22).

Northern Parula — Reported from 6 north and 15 south counties. Early south 8/20 Sherburne PLJ, 8/22 Hennepin ChM and Olmsted JWH (median 8/17). High counts 9/2,10 Anoka (5) DWK. Late north 9/23 Mille Lacs RBW and St. Louis JWH, 10/9 St. Louis ALE (median 9/26). Late south 9/24 Hennepin BAF, (2) DWK, ChM (median 9/28).

Yellow Warbler — Peak number 9/3 Hennepin (7) ChM. Late north 9/20 St. Louis LMS, 9/24 Hubbard KLa, 9/25 Pennington JMJ (median 9/20). Late south 9/18 Hennepin (2) DWK, 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/29).

Chestnut-sided Warbler — Early south (away from known breeding areas) 8/13 Dakota ADS (median 8/12). High counts 8/18 Mille Lacs (15) ASc, 8/21 Anoka (30) DWK. Late north 9/24 Pine JMP, **10/15** (second latest north) St. Louis JRN (median 9/27). Late south 10/4 Hennepin CMB, 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU (median 10/1).

Magnolia Warbler — Early south 8/11 Sherburne PLJ, 8/14 Hennepin ChM, 8/18 Fillmore (3) NBO. High counts 9/2 (12), 9/10 (18) Anoka DWK. Late north 9/25 Douglas RBW and St. Louis (2) SLF, 9/27 Carlton LAW (median 10/1). Late south 10/1 Rice DAB, 10/3 Isanti LBF, 10/5 Scott JEB (median 10/6).

Cape May Warbler — Reported from 11 north and 13 south counties. Early south 8/20 Hennepin JBB, 8/21 Anoka DWK (median 8/22). Peak number 9/1 St. Louis (9) SLF. Late north 9/30 St. Louis ChM, 10/1 Aitkin RBW (median 10/27). Four south reports later than recent median (9/28): 9/30 Dakota DWK, 10/5 Yellow Medicine (2) BJU, 10/24 Ramsey REH, **11/24** Washington TEB (except for winter records, latest date).

Black-throated Blue Warbler — Two

north reports: 8/19 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) ALE, 9/29 Lake LAW. More south reports than usual (four counties in 2004 and five in 2005), beginning 8/22 Hennepin (male at Old Cedar Ave) JEP, 8/29 Fillmore (male) NBO, 9/2 Anoka (female at Linwood L.) DWK, Carver RJS, and Dakota (Minnesota Zoo) DMF. All other south reports: 9/4 Big Stone (male at Big Stone Lake S.P.) BJU, 9/5 Hennepin (Cedar L.) ChM, 9/16 Scott (female at Murphy-Hanrehan Park) BAF, 9/26 Hennepin MPi, 10/14 Lac Qui Parle (female in Boyd) †FAE, 10/15 Hennepin (Cedar Lake) ChM.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Early south (no summer reports from these locations) 8/19 Sherburne ASc, 8/20 Ramsey HHD, 8/21 Anoka DWK. High counts 9/28 Hennepin (70) MPi, 9/30 Chippewa (89) RBJ. Late north away from Northeast: 10/24 Marshall PHS. In the Northeast, reports continued through 10/29 Cook JWL, then only in St. Louis ending with 11/18 KRE; please see winter report for additional late north migrants and numerous birds south.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Reported from 7 north and 20 south counties. Early south (away from Dakota, see summer report) 8/19 Meeker DMF, 8/21 Anoka and Sherburne (median 8/20). High counts 8/27 Anoka (6) DWK, 8/28, 9/10 Anoka (5) DWK. Late north 9/23 St. Louis JWH, **10/28** (record late north by 10 days) Lake KRE. Late south 10/2 Hennepin RBW, 10/4 Waseca JPS, 10/6 Nicollet RBW (median 10/3).

Blackburnian Warbler — Reported from 10 north and 20 south counties. Early south 8/1 Hennepin JBB, 8/16 Fillmore NBO and Hennepin ChM, 8/17 Sherburne PLJ (median 8/9). Late north 9/10 Pine JMP, 9/20 St. Louis DDo (median 9/20). Late south 9/16 Scott WCM, 9/17, 9/25 Dakota JLO (median 9/25).

Pine Warbler — Reported from 12 north and 8 south counties. Early south mi-

grants indistinguishable from summer residents (see summer report). Late north 10/11 St. Louis JRN, **11/4–5** Cook HHD, KRE (median 10/2). Late south 9/23 Hennepin (3) DDo, 9/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/23).

Palm Warbler — Reported from 18 north and 26 south counties. Early south 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/31 Washington DFN, 9/3 Anoka CMA (median 8/25). High counts 9/9 St. Louis (30) DWK, 9/29 Crow Wing (50) MRN. Late north 10/18 Pine JMP, then only reported in St. Louis, ending with 10/26 JWH (median 10/22). Late south 10/14 Dakota SWE, 10/16 Hennepin CMB (median 10/18).

Bay-breasted Warbler — Reported from 6 north and 19 south counties. Early north 8/26 Mille Lacs NSc, 8/27 Crow Wing JWH, 9/1 Mille Lacs NSc. First south reports identical with recent median: 8/19 Carver WCM and Yellow Medicine RBJ, 8/20 Ramsey and Washington HHD. High count 8/21 Anoka (14) DWK. Late north 9/23 Mille Lacs RBW, then only 10/8 Carlton LAW. Late south 9/25 Olmsted JWH and Ramsey CRM, 9/27 Ramsey JBB (median 10/3).

Blackpoll Warbler — Reported from 11 north and 14 south counties. Early north 8/25 Mille Lacs HHD, 8/29 Lake JWL, 9/1 Kittson, Koochiching and Mille Lacs (median 8/25). Early south 8/20 Brown JSS, 8/22 McLeod PRH, 8/25 Fillmore and Yellow Medicine (median 8/21). All October reports north: 10/1 St. Louis SLF, 10/8 St. Louis JRN (median 10/6). Late south 9/17 Dakota JLO, 9/24 Goodhue BAF, 9/24 Hennepin DWK (median 10/1).

Cerulean Warbler — No reports.

Black-and-white Warbler — Reported from 15 north and 27 south counties. High counts 8/18 Hennepin (15) DWK, 8/28 Anoka (12) DWK. Late north 9/20 Pine and St. Louis, 9/23 Mille Lacs RBW and St. Louis JWH (median 10/2).

Lingered south later than recent median (10/3): 10/4 Dakota LBF, 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU, 10/17 Big Stone RBJ.

American Redstart — High counts 8/28 Anoka (15) DWK, 9/3 Hubbard (12) PBB. Late north 10/3 St. Louis SLF, 10/9 Lake JWL (median 10/6). Late south 9/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/27 Washington RBJ, 9/28 Fillmore NBO (median 10/10).

Prothonotary Warbler — All reports: 8/13, 8/23 Dakota LEC, 9/4 Anoka CMA.

Ovenbird — Reported from 14 north and 30 south counties. High count 9/11 Hennepin (**15** at Wood Lake N.C.) CMB. Late north 9/13 Cass DAY, 9/19 Beltrami MLM, 9/27 St. Louis LAW (median 9/26). Late south 9/29 Hennepin DWK, 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU, 10/8 Winona JEB (median 10/11).

Northern Waterthrush — Reported from 17 north and 22 south counties. Early south (away from known breeding locations) 8/18 Fillmore NBO and Hennepin (3) DWK, 8/19 Rice TFB (median 8/7). High counts 9/4 Hennepin (**10**) BAF, 9/4 St. Louis (**9**) SLF. Late north 9/26 St. Louis (2) SLF, 9/28 St. Louis LAW (median 9/28). Late south 9/26 Dakota JLO, 9/27 Hennepin (2) CMB (median 10/3).

Louisiana Waterthrush — No reports.

Kentucky Warbler — No documented fall reports since 6 October 1987 (*The Loon* 59:218) and 20 August 1988 (*The Loon* 61:75).

Connecticut Warbler — Reported from five north and nine south counties. Late north 9/1 Mille Lacs NSc and St. Louis SLF, 9/19 Beltrami MLM (median 9/18). Early south 8/19 Chippewa RBJ and Hennepin DWK. Late south 9/12 Sherburne PLJ, 9/26 Hennepin ChM (median 9/16).

Mourning Warbler — Reported from 10

north and 16 south counties. Late north 9/3 Hubbard PBB, 9/5 Pine JMP (median 9/14). Late south 9/18 Hennepin DWK, 9/30 Hennepin BAF (median 9/29).

Common Yellowthroat — Reported from all regions. High count 9/23 Hennepin (16 at Wood Lake N.C.) CMB. Late north 9/25 Pennington JMJ, 9/27 Beltrami KLa, 10/4 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 10/9 Washington RBJ, 10/10 Anoka JBB, 10/14 Hennepin CMB.

Hooded Warbler — Reported from Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. 8/6, 9/2 Scott/Dakota BAF, including hatch-year female. All other reports: 9/12 Washington (Warner N.C.) †PWS, 9/13 Dakota (Spring Lake P.R.) †LEC.

Wilson's Warbler — Reported from all regions. Early south 8/15 Brown BTS, 8/16 Anoka JBB, 8/18 Goodhue HHD. High count 9/2 Anoka (8 at Linwood L.) DWK. Late north 9/15 St. Louis SLF, 9/19 St. Louis CRM. Late south 9/24 Anoka DPG and Hennepin CMB, DWK.

Canada Warbler — Reported from 9 north and 23 south counties. Early south 8/10 Rice TFB, 8/14 Hennepin ChM, 8/15 Sherburne ASc. Late north 9/1 Mille Lacs NSc, 9/6 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 9/23–24 Hennepin CMB. For both north and south regions the bulk of reports were in August, and virtually ceased after the first week in September.

Yellow-breasted Chat — No reports.

Summer Tanager — Reported along the North Shore of Lake Superior 11/8–25 Lake (northeast of Silver Bay) KEH, †JWL, ph. LME, m.ob. Two south reports: 10/14 Steele ph. †NFT, 11/9–24 Olmsted (no details) JWH, PWP.

Scarlet Tanager — Reported from 7 north and 15 south counties. Departed well before recent medians north (9/22) and south (10/2). Late north 9/3 in three

counties, 9/9 Crow Wing ASc. Late south 9/24 Dakota DWK, 9/25 Olmsted JWH.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE — Though its presence was unknown to the birding community before the 1/1 Mountain Lake-Windom CBC, this banded adult in **Cottonwood** was first noted by the home-owners (RDG) in late October; fifth state record. Please see winter report for details on band information and citations for those providing documentation.

Spotted Towhee — Two north reports: 10/12 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) SPM, 10/14 **St. Louis** (Hoyt Lakes) ALE, NAJ. Two south reports: 9/25 Lac Qui Parle (Arena Twp.) †BJU, 10/8 **Wright** (Lake Maria S.P.) †DPG.

Eastern Towhee — Only north reports: 9/4 Pine JWH, 9/26 Otter Tail SPM. Observed in 13 south counties with the latest dates 10/15 Hennepin CMB, 10/16 Big Stone BJU, 11/6 Yellow Medicine BJU.

American Tree Sparrow — Reported from 28 north and 33 south counties in all regions. Early north **9/13** Cass DAY and Roseau SAS, 9/17 Lake of the Woods RJS. Record-early south **9/10** Ramsey REH; no subsequent south reports until 10/3 Hennepin SWe, 10/9 Sherburne PLJ and Washington RBJ.

Chipping Sparrow — Reported from all regions. Late north 11/24, 11/26 Lake JWL. Late south 10/25 Blue Earth ChH, 10/27 Brown JSS, 11/8 Lac Qui Parle FAE. Most reports ceased after mid-October.

Clay-colored Sparrow — Reported from 16 north and 17 south counties. Late north 10/3 Pennington JMJ, 10/9 Lake JWL (median 10/16). Late south 10/17 Hennepin JLO, 10/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/13). Most reports ceased after end of September.

Field Sparrow — All north reports: 8/8 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/1 Mille Lacs HHD,

10/28 **Lake** †JWL, KRE. Record-high fall counts 10/9 Washington (**16**) RBJ, 10/14 Scott (**13** at Louisville Swamp) BAF. Late south 10/16 Freeborn JWH, 10/17 Big Stone RBJ, 10/20 Blue Earth BRB.

Vesper Sparrow — Reported from 10 north and 31 south counties in all regions. Late north 10/14 Wadena PJB, 10/30 Traverse BJU (median 10/19). Late south 10/30, 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/27).

Lark Sparrow — Only north report: 9/4 Traverse BJU. Unusual location 9/3 Nobles (Worthington W.T.P.) †BTS. Late south 9/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU.

LARK BUNTING — Female/immature found 8/18 Lake (Split Rock Lighthouse S.P.) ph. DAG.

Savannah Sparrow — Reported from 22 north and 35 south counties. High count 10/8 Cottonwood (75 along two miles of gravel road near Red Rock Prairie) BRB. Late north 10/30 Traverse BJU, 11/4 St. Louis SLF. Late south 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/5 Winona JWH. These dates are in line with average median departure date of 11/1 for both north and south.

Grasshopper Sparrow — Two north reports: 9/9 Kittson SAS and second latest date **10/29** Cook †DRB, JWH, m.ob. Most south reports ceased after mid-August. Late south 9/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU.

Henslow's Sparrow — All reports: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie S.N.A.) BJU, 8/7 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) DWK, RBW, 8/9 Swift (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU, 10/5 Yellow Medicine (Swede's Forest S.N.A.) BJU.

Le Conte's Sparrow — Reported from 6 north and 16 south counties. Late north 10/7 Lake JWJ, 10/20 Lake SMC. Early south 9/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/15 Yel-

low Medicine BJU. Record-high count 10/1 Lac Qui Parle (**63**) BJU. Late south 10/15 Brown BTS, 10/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/20 Blue Earth BRB.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — Only north report: 8/30 Traverse BJU. Seen in eight south counties. Record-early south (but see summer report) **8/23** Lac Qui Parle (juvenile in section 3, Walter Twp.) BJU; next reported **9/14–15** **Yellow Medicine** (St. Leo W.M.A. and section 27, Omro Twp.) BJU, 9/20 Olmsted (South Landfill Res.) JWH. Late south 10/8 Hennepin †DWN and **Le Sueur** RMD, 10/17 Hennepin JLO. All other south reports: Big Stone, Meeker, Washington.

Fox Sparrow — Reported from 25 north and 35 south counties in all regions of the state. Early north 9/16 Lake of the Woods RJS, 9/24 St. Louis JWH. Early south 9/12 Sherburne PLJ, 9/23 Carver BAF. High counts 10/10 Hennepin (**23** at Wood Lake N.C.) CMB, 11/4 Carver (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum) BAF. Typical for this species, the bulk of reports were from October. Please see winter report for late migrants and/or wintering birds north and south.

Song Sparrow — Seen in all regions. Highest reported count 8/4 Nicollet (20) ChH. Interesting report 8/10 St. Louis (near Virginia) SLF of one showing "completely all dull white greater coverts on the folded wing, basal half of the tail dull white, outer half of the tail very light whitish brown, tail full length, all other marks definite normal adult."

Lincoln's Sparrow — Reported from 11 north and 37 south counties in all regions. Early south 8/11 Nicollet RBW, 8/23 Ramsey REH, 8/30 Sherburne RBJ. High counts 9/30 Chippewa (**29**) RBJ, 9/21 Washington (25) RBJ. Late north 10/14 Cook PHS, 10/18 Mille Lacs PHS, 10/22 St. Louis SLF. Late south 10/29 Hennepin BAF, 11/8 Hennepin ALD, 11/21 Waseca JPS.

Swamp Sparrow — Reported from 18 north and 41 south counties in all regions. High count 9/21 St. Louis (**57** at Embarrass rice paddies) SLF. Late north 10/22 St. Louis SLF, 10/28 Cook JEB and Lake JWJ. Late south (but see winter report) 11/12 Hennepin and 11/18 Goodhue BAF. Most reports ceased after third week of October.

White-throated Sparrow — Reported from all regions. Early south 8/27 Redwood RBJ, 8/28 Anoka DWK and Sherburne ASc. Notable high counts 9/26 Sherburne (**250**) ASc, 10/8 Scott (**240**) BAF. Many winter observations north and south (see winter report).

Harris's Sparrow — Reported from 17 north and 25 south counties in all regions except Southeast. Surprisingly fewer reports this year than in past fall migrations. Early north 9/20 Beltrami PJR and Pine LMS, 9/21 St. Louis SLF. Early south 9/21 Big Stone BJU, 9/24 Hennepin CMB and Hennepin DWK. Please see winter report for late north migrants and mid-winter reports.

White-crowned Sparrow — Reported from 14 north and 24 south counties. As in the preceding species, fewer reports than normal. Early north 9/9 St. Louis SLF, 9/13 Lake JWJ, 9/16 Lake of the Woods RJS (median 9/11). Early south 9/16 Scott RBW, 9/21 Washington RBJ (median 9/16). High count 10/14 Cook (**50** imm. in Grand Marais, including 10 at one feeder) AXH, PHS. Late north 10/23 Lake JWJ, 10/26 Cook RBJ, 10/28 Cook JWJ. Please see winter report for late south migrants and probable over-wintering.

Dark-eyed Junco — Early south reports 9/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/11 Sherburne PLJ are on track with the median arrival (9/11). Otherwise reported from all regions throughout the rest of the season. High count 10/8 Scott (260 at Louisville Swamp and Lawrence Unit, Minnesota

Valley N.W.R.) BAF.

Lapland Longspur — Found in 12 north counties beginning 9/10 Cass DAY, 9/19 Lake JWJ, 9/20 Lake EEO. Observed in 18 south counties starting 9/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/26 Chippewa BJU and Olmsted JWH. Reports continued through November both north and south.

Smith's Longspur — Only north report: 10/5–7 Lake (Castle Danger landfill) †JWL, DDM, BJM. South reports (all but one of which lacked details): 10/3–10 Lac Qui Parle BJU (max. 60, section 25, Walter Twp.) BJU, 10/5 Yellow Medicine (15, section 6, Omro Twp.) BJU, 10/16 Big Stone (2, section 27, Otrej Twp.) BJU, 10/21 Cottonwood (Red Rock Prairie) CMB, 10/25 Big Stone (2, Browns Valley W.T.P.) †PHS.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — Only report: 8/23 Lac Qui Parle (“molting male” at Big Stone N.W.R., Auto Tour Route) BJU.

Snow Bunting — Reported from 22 north and 24 south counties in all regions. Early north 10/2 St. Louis SES, 10/14 Cook AXH, PHS. Early south 10/23 Brown BTS, 10/25 Big Stone PHS and Sherburne ASc. Second highest fall count 10/25 Lake (**3,000** at Two Harbors Golf Course) v.t. MCA.

Northern Cardinal — Reported throughout the state except in Northwest.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Seen in 17 north and 30 south counties in all regions. High count 9/6 Scott (**26**) RBJ. Late north (median 9/29) 9/21 Pine JMP, 9/24 St. Louis JLS. Late south (median 10/14) 9/27 Hennepin CMB, 10/19 Chippewa BJU.

Blue Grosbeak — All reports: 8/11 Lac Qui Parle (section 11, Augusta Twp.) BJU, 8/12, 8/21 Brown (three males at gravel pit in North Star Twp.) †BTS.



Painted Bunting, 18 November 2006, Maplewood, Ramsey County. Photo by Robert Amos.

Indigo Bunting — Reported from only seven north counties. Late north 9/15 St. Louis SLF, 9/23 St. Louis JWH (ties median). Reported throughout south in August and September. Record-high count 8/19 Chippewa (17) RBJ. Late south 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/5 Hennepin MPi, 10/8 Fillmore JWH.

PAINTED BUNTING — Eighteenth state record 11/18 **Ramsey** (adult male at Maplewood) ph. RAm.

Dickcissel — All north reports: 8/1 Wadena PJB, 8/4 Mille Lacs RBW, 8/4 Morrison RBW. Reported from 17 south counties. Second highest fall count 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (40) BJU. Late south 8/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/25 Yellow Medicine WCM, 8/27 Olmsted LAV.

Bobolink — Only a handful of north reports in August. Relatively low high counts 8/4 Nicollet (30) ChH, 9/2 Chisago (25) DWK. Late north 9/17 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Reported from 16 south counties until 9/26 Olmsted JWH, 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Red-winged Blackbird — Observed in all regions. Highest reported count 10/16 Morrison (5,000–7,500) MRN.

Eastern Meadowlark — North reports from Todd, Morrison, Mille Lacs, and Pine; high count 9/26 Pine (27) JMP. Late north 10/14 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/21 Todd JEB, RBJ. Reported from eight south counties (central and eastern regions). Late south 10/13 Sherburne ASc, 10/15 Sherburne (8) SMC.

Western Meadowlark — Found in 12 north and 23 south counties. Late north 10/21 Mahnomen RMD, 10/24 Polk PHS, 10/30 Traverse BJU. Reported south throughout Aug–Oct. Late south 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — Reported from 7 north and 18 south counties. Only a handful of north reports in August, followed by 10/14 Cook (Sprague Creek ponds) AXH, PHS. South reports mostly from western and central regions. Late south 10/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/25 Big Stone PHS.

Rusty Blackbird — Seen in 21 north and 30 south counties. Early north 9/7 Cass DAY, 9/16 Lake of the Woods RJS, 9/17 Lake EEO. Early south 9/21 Big Stone BJU, 9/30 Big Stone PHS, 10/2 Meeker DMF. Amazing in light of this species' decline in North America were **thousands** of Rustys among an estimated 23,000 blackbirds initially counted by tens, then quickly by hundreds during a 45 minute flyby 10/28 Anoka AXH. Please see winter report for late north migrants and probable overwintering south.

Brewer's Blackbird — Seen in 13 north and 14 south counties. Late north 11/7 Todd RBW, 11/9 Pine JMP, 11/11 Aitkin NSc. Late south 10/22 Pope RBW, 10/30 Hennepin DDo, 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Common Grackle — Reported statewide in all regions. As always, see winter



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 3 December 2006, Cloquet, Carlton County. Photo by Terence P. Brashear.

report for late north migrants and overwintering birds.

Great-tailed Grackle — Six males and one female observed at traditional location 9/4 Jackson DWK. “At least one of the males gave the rising whistle call several times” 10/6–9 **Watonwan** (Mud L.) †RBW, m.ob. Reported without details from Cottonwood, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln.

Brown-headed Cowbird — Very few north reports. Late north 9/10 Wadena PJB. Reported in all south regions through Oct. Late south (but also see winter report) 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Orchard Oriole — No north reports. Reported from nine south counties mainly in Southwest and Southeast. High count 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (11) BJU. Late south 8/27 Goodhue SWe, 9/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 8/25).

Baltimore Oriole — Reported from 11 north and 25 south counties. With two exceptions, departed earlier than recent medians north (9/16) and south (9/24). Late north 9/3 Wadena PJB, 9/4 Kanabec CAM, 9/10 Wadena PJB. Numerous south reports through 9/8 Hennepin JLO, then

10/5 Yellow Medicine BJU, 11/10 Olmsted (Rochester) ph. WJK.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH — Second earliest arrival in the state and 13th record overall; three individuals of the “interior” form overwintered **11/27+ Carlton** (near Cloquet) ph. MSc. All three were seen and photographed by m.ob. through 3/26; written documentation furnished by †MLH, †JLO, †PHS.

Pine Grosbeak — Reported from 14 north counties. Early north 10/24 St. Louis MPi, 10/27 Cook JWH, RBJ. Reports continued throughout November, but only as far south as Mille Lacs and Pine.

Purple Finch — Reported from 21 north and 25 south counties in all regions. Early south 8/29 Steele NFT, 9/6 Rice JEB, 9/10 Meeker DMF.

House Finch — Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill — Following the highest number of June reports in 16 years (see summer report), it was not surprising that this species was found in 10 north counties. Reportedly representing two different call types were flocks of 14 and 10 at Collegeville 11/10–12 Stearns †RPR, HHD. One call type was described as a “high-pitched, rather soft & short kif kif kif” given by dull, brownish-red, small-billed birds feeding in small-coned spruce; the second call type was a louder “cleep, cleep” given by brick red, heavier-bodied birds also feeding in small-coned spruce trees. All other south reports: 10/29 Hennepin BAF, 10/30 Nicollet RMD.

White-winged Crossbill — Very few reports. North reports from Cook beginning 10/28 JEB, 10/29 JWH; only other reports from Marshall and St. Louis. One interesting south report **9/10 Anoka** †DWK.

Common Redpoll — Reported from 12 north and 6 south counties. Early north 10/14 St. Louis ABL and Cook AXH, PHS,

10/20 St. Louis ASC. Early south 10/25 Sherburne ASC, 10/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/30 Ramsey EEO.

Hoary Redpoll — No reports.

Pine Siskin — Observed in 18 north and 9 south counties. Three north reports in August; otherwise seen throughout September–November. Early south 8/14 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 9/23 Wabasha HHD, 9/25

Blue Earth ChH. Majority of south reports in November.

American Goldfinch — Seen statewide.

Evening Grosbeak — Total of 22 reports mainly in North-central and Northeast. High count 11/15 Marshall (30) Agassiz N.W.R. No south reports.

House Sparrow — Statewide.

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 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell

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 TMc Thaddeus McCamant
 TFB Tom F. Boevers
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 UK Uwe Kausch
 US Ulf Skyllberg
 WCM William C. Marengo
 WEN Warren E. Nelson
 WHL Bill Lane
 WJK William J. Kass

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
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Production Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

First Record of a Brewer's Sparrow in Minnesota During the Breeding Season

Lawrence D. Igl

Since 1990, staff from Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey, have conducted annual surveys of breeding birds in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grassland fields in Grant County, Minnesota, and eight additional counties in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In this

study, we have observed over 130 species of birds using CRP fields during the breeding season in these four states, including some regionally rare species. During this 16-year period, populations of certain rare species have increased, especially populations of some sparrow species. For example, in the mid- to late-

1990s, Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) populations exploded in the northern Great Plains and became one of the most common species in CRP fields in this study (*Prairie Naturalist* 27:89–94, *Studies in Avian Biology* 19:178–186). The Henslow's Sparrow (*A. henslowii*), which is a rare species in North Dakota and South Dakota, has been recorded annually in CRP fields in one or both states since 2000, and we documented the first nest records for both states in CRP fields in 2001 (*Prairie Naturalist* 35:81–94, *South Dakota Bird Notes* 54:5–13). And, the Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), a sagebrush-obligate species, has been recorded in every year since 1995, even in some CRP fields that had little or no sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) (*South Dakota Bird Notes* 48:69–70).

Although the Brewer's Sparrow has not been a common species in this study, even in our western study areas, we have occasionally recorded this species on the edge or outside of its range. For example, the species' typical breeding range barely includes the extreme southwestern edge of North Dakota (R.E. Stewart. 1975. *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*, Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo), but we have recorded the species twice in CRP fields in Hettinger County, North Dakota, which is about 80 km outside of the species' breeding range. Despite the regular occurrence of this species in some of our western study areas (including both in CRP fields and in adjoining sagebrush grasslands), the Brewer's Sparrow was not a species that I would have expected in a CRP field in west-central Minnesota. This all changed on 22 June 2005 in a small (3 ha) CRP field located in Grant County, a few kilometers northeast of Herman. At 12:10 P.M., as I entered that field and began my bird survey, I heard the very distinctive short song of a male Brewer's Sparrow. Admittedly, I was a little taken aback to hear a male Brewer's Sparrow singing in Minnesota. Earlier in June of 2005, Travis Runia and I had recorded 12 Brew-

er's Sparrow breeding pairs and found two nests in CRP fields in Butte County in west-central South Dakota and Fallon County in southeastern Montana, so the Brewer's Sparrow's song was still etched in my mind.

About ten seconds after hearing the Brewer's Sparrow's short song, I heard the species' more-elaborate long song, which allowed me to locate the bird. The bird was singing from the top of a short Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), about 75 m from my survey start point. The Brewer's Sparrow sang repeatedly throughout the bird survey from various perches on short (about 0.75 m) elms, and I was able to approach the bird as close as 6 m before it flushed to another perch. The bird also occasionally sang from tall (about 6 m) Siberian elms in an adjoining shelterbelt. Most of my visual observations were from distances of less than 10 m. The bird was not overly shy, although it occasionally disappeared into the vegetation, and I estimate that I observed the bird for about 25 minutes, including during the survey and after the survey was completed.

It is probably an overstatement to describe the Brewer's Sparrow as nondescript, as it is so often described in the literature. Compared to other sparrows in this region, however, the plumage of this species is relatively unremarkable and plain. The written notes that I took during the observation are summarized as follows: small, slim-bodied, drab-looking sparrow; overall size and shape similar to Clay-colored Sparrow (*S. pallida*); long, thin, notched, brown tail; brown rump with faint darker streaks (color of streaks was not noted); small, conical-shaped bill (pink with grayish-blue culmen); distinct but thin whitish eye-ring; dark eye; drab grayish-white supercillium and submoustachial stripe; drab brown ear coverts bordered by darker brown; thin, brown malar stripe; brown crown with fine, dark (brown or black) streaking; no discernible median crown stripe; grayish-white, unstreaked underparts with a very faint buffy-gray wash on breast and flanks;

grayish-brown nape with dark streaking; brown wings with two faint buff-colored wing bars; brownish-gray upperparts with dark-brown streaking; and pinkish-colored legs and feet. The color of the lores was not noted.

Identification of a lone Brewer's Sparrow can be somewhat of a challenge, especially if the bird does not sing or if the observer is not familiar with the species or its two song types. Despite the species' unembellished appearance, the two songs of the Brewer's Sparrow are quite remarkable, especially compared to the less elaborate songs of its regionally common congeners, the Chipping Sparrow (*S. passerina*) and the Clay-colored Sparrow. Throughout the survey on 22 June, the male Brewer's Sparrow sang its short song many times, which began with a buzz similar to that of a Clay-colored Sparrow and was followed by a descending series of trills at a lower pitch. The duration of each short song was between three and five seconds. I heard the species' long song only twice during the entire observation. In my experience, lone male Brewer's Sparrows rarely sing their more-elaborate long song in the absence of conspecifics. The long song is much more difficult to describe and consisted of a series of alternating trills, buzzes, and musical notes at various pitches. The long songs lasted about 10–12 seconds each.

The male Brewer's Sparrow's activities were concentrated in a small area (about 0.3 ha in size) within the CRP field, which suggested that the bird may have been maintaining a territory. The Brewer's Sparrow did not interact with other species, and its territory did not appear to overlap with the territories of nearby male Clay-colored Sparrows. Its behaviors suggested that it was not paired or nesting. I am not sure what features attracted this bird to this particular CRP field in Minnesota, but I remember thinking at the time that the vegetation structure in this field must bear a close resemblance to the sagebrush prairies and shrub-grasslands of western North America. The Brewer's Sparrow typically breeds in grasslands mixed

with shrubs, but most commonly in native grasslands mixed with sagebrush. This small CRP grassland field was heavily invaded by small Siberian elms, a habitat feature that typically attracts Clay-colored Sparrows. Four years earlier, the vegetation in this field had been hayed, and in 2005, the elms were fairly uniform in height (about 0.75–1.00 m tall), were scattered throughout the field (covering about 10% of the field), and were over twice the height of the herbaceous vegetation.

This 2005 sighting represents the third record of a Brewer's Sparrow in Minnesota and the first record in Minnesota during the breeding season. The two previous records were observed by Kim Eckert in the fall about 30 years earlier. On 28 September 1974, Eckert observed a male Brewer's Sparrow singing an abbreviated song at Blue Mounds State Park in Rock County (*The Loon* 47:40–41). On 10 October 1975, he heard and saw a Brewer's Sparrow at Pipestone National Monument in Pipestone County (Janssen, R. B. 1987. *Birds in Minnesota*. Univ. Minnesota Press, Minneapolis).

Brewer's Sparrow regularly breeds in extreme western South Dakota, western Nebraska, and extreme southwestern North Dakota, and it is not known for itinerant movements. There are no records of this species in Wisconsin or Iowa, though Illinois has two spring records and one fall record (*Meadowlark* 6:107–108). Ontario has one spring record (<http://www.tbfn.net/rarities.htm>) and Manitoba has two summer records (Manitoba Avian Research Committee, 2003, *The Birds of Manitoba*, Manitoba Naturalists Society, Winnipeg).

This Grant County record (#2006-031) was accepted by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (*The Loon* 78:126–133).

I thank J. E. Austin, J. Brink, D. H. Johnson, and S. Stucker for commenting on earlier drafts of this note.

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Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Jaegers

Kim R. Eckert



“A challenge that has innumerable angles and complications” is how Kenn Kaufman describes it. He goes on to say it’s “difficult to find any one field mark that cannot be matched by ... another species.” And when considering post-juvenile immatures, he warns there are “almost no plumage characters for separating the species.”

I believe him. Early in July at Cape Race, Newfoundland — the place where the first distress signals from the Titanic were received, by the way — our group was watching this bulky, broad-winged, pot-bellied jaeger lumbering after Black-legged Kittiwakes in awkward pursuit. The kittiwakes were clearly smaller by a wide margin: obviously, this had to be a Pomarine. Even Dave Shepherd, our local escort and expert who watches jaegers all the time, said so. But then the scopes came out to reveal two short but clearly pointed central tail feathers, and there was no trace of the Pomarine’s trademark double white patch on the under wing. This Parasitic Jaeger was sinking our confidence in jaeger ID faster than any iceberg!

I’ll bet Debi Shearwater, pelagic birding guide, believes him. She related an anecdote in which this jaeger flew by her boatload of skilled experts off the Pacific coast, and all three species were confidently called out.

And readers of the “Frontiers of Field Identification” listserve better believe him. In September 2005, photos of a jaeger in Utah were posted by the observer seeking

ID help from experienced jaeger-watching subscribers. Scholarly analyses were posted in reply, and the observer reported their opinions a few days later: twelve said Long-tailed; nine claimed it was Parasitic. The photos then were posted on a site in Belgium, and — you guessed it! — the initial consensus among experts there was Pomarine.

Clearly, when it comes to jaegers, even those with lots of experience are often befuddled. So what chance do we have in Minnesota, where jaegers typically appear only as occasional September specks on the Lake Superior horizon? None of us can claim to be experts, especially when it comes to non-adult jaegers, and all of us need to exercise extreme caution when reporting anything above the “jaeger, sp.” level.

But, surely, there must be some guide books which adequately address this ID problem? Well, don’t count on your trusty *Geographic* field guide to be much help: here there are only 13 pictures (of dubious artistic merit) on two pages, not nearly enough to get you very far. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* is much better, with 47 better illustrations spread over four pages, but the problem with jaegers is much larger than Sibley’s guide has room for.

Perhaps the best place to start is with Kenn Kaufman’s *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. This often overlooked book from 1990, the source of the quotations cited earlier, includes several good chapters on difficult ID problems, and its

treatment of jaegers is still very useful even after 17 years. As suggested by those three quoted caveats, though, this chapter wisely does not attempt to provide all the answers.

Providing all those answers, allegedly, is *Skuas and Jaegers* by Klaus Olsen and Hans Larsson, a comprehensive book devoted entirely to the world's four species of skuas and three jaegers, with eight useful color plates of jaeger illustrations, many pages of exhaustive (and exhausting) text, and lots of photos. But there's almost too much here: I find the text too wordy and convoluted with truly useful information hard to extract, and, while many photos illustrate the useful field marks, almost as many seem to contradict what the text and other photos claim.

So, no matter where you turn for help with jaeger ID, some questions will remain unanswered, and this article certainly has no delusions about being able to resolve them all. It does hope, however, to discuss which are the right questions to ask, and one way to approach the subject is to consider it in four parts: 1) jizz or gestalt (i.e., non-plumage field marks); 2) field marks useful on adults only; 3) field marks for jaegers of any age; and 4) field marks of juveniles and older immatures.

Jizz

In places like Minnesota, where jaegers tend to be seen mostly in flight at a distance, examination of subtle plumage features is seldom possible. Accordingly, a jaeger's jizz or gestalt — or whatever term you use to describe non-plumage features — becomes an important consideration. By definition, though, such features tend to involve only subjective impressions rather than objectively solid and measurable distinctions.

But here are some factors of jizz which seasoned jaeger-watchers often include in their field notes and sketches and consider in combination with other factors:

- Overall size. If possible, compare the wing span and body length to another known species — like that gull or tern it's chasing. However, like we were at Cape

Race, be prepared to be completely fooled by size considerations. And, if there is nothing available for direct comparison, your impressions of size would be shaky at best.

- Overall shape and bulk. Similarly, judging shape (including the body's apparent center of gravity) and overall bulk would matter only when there's direct comparison with something. But here's the scary part: according to Olsen & Larsson, female jaegers are 11–17% larger in weight than males of the same species! It's also scary and amazing this crucial statistic remains unknown to so many birders. Obviously, then, unless you know how to determine a jaeger's sex, take a long and hard second look before basing your identification on size and shape.

- Wing shape and position. This would include your impressions of the width of the wing where it meets the body, how much of the body projects in front of and behind the wing, and the size of so-called “arm” (or basal half of the spread wing) compared to the “hand” (from the bend of the wing outwards).

- Flight speed. But please don't assume that any slow-flying jaeger is a Pomarine. Parasitics fly just as slowly when in relaxed mode: i.e., when not in pursuit of something.

- Aggression. It's more helpful to consider flight style tendencies when a jaeger is chasing something — or being chased in retaliation. Long-taileds generally show less aggression towards nearby gulls and terns; Parasitics are usually the most aggressive. Parasitics are the most acrobatic and maneuverable during pursuits, and Pomarines are the least so. Similarly, Parasitic chases tend to be the longest, while Pomarines tend to give up more quickly.

- Season and location. I have little evidence to support these impressions, but here goes: In Minnesota, a jaeger in late fall (after, say, about mid-October) will likely turn out to be a Pomarine. Or, a jaeger in summer may well have a tendency to be a Long-tailed. And, if you find a jaeger away from Lake Superior or other large lake, you might want to start think-

ing in terms of it being a Long-tailed.

Again, take note of these features, and then start poring through your copy of Olsen & Larsson to see if anything adds up. Remember, though, that no single aspect of jizz amounts to much unless combined with other field marks.

Adult Jaegers

To simplify things here, let's consider a jaeger with both a black cap and fully grown central tail feathers (rectrices) projecting beyond the rest of the tail to be an adult. A decent look at the length and shape of those rectrices should be enough to make an ID, but be sure to note: that these feathers on a Pomarine can be just as long as on any Long-tailed; that a Long-tailed's central rectrices can be broken or still growing and appear short enough to suggest a Parasitic; and that the length of these rectrices on some Parasitics can approach Long-tailed proportions.

Other features to be aware of on adult-plumaged jaegers (beware, however, of older immatures which can appear adult-like and may not be safely identified by these field marks):

- Dark-morphs. If you're sure it's a dark-morph adult, it's either a Pomarine or Parasitic. Dark juvenile (and older immatures; see Fig. 144 in Olsen & Larsson) Long-taileds do occur, but full adult Long-taileds reportedly "never" exist as dark-morphs.

- Breast band. Light-morph individuals of any of the three species can have a complete, or partial, or missing breast band. Note, however: no breast band is suggestive of a Long-tailed; a partial band or smooth wash suggests it may be a Parasitic; and a heavily mottled/barred band possibly indicates a Pomarine.

- Upper wing surface. Grayish wing coverts contrastingly paler than the darker secondaries = Long-tailed (but see the Parasitic in Fig. 73 in Olsen & Larsson); no contrast between coverts and secondaries = Parasitic or Pomarine.

- Under wing surface. A uniformly dark under wing with no white patch in the primaries = Long-tailed (although the

outermost primary shaft may be white); white primary patches = Parasitic or Pomarine.

- Underparts. Grayish on under tail coverts and belly extending forward of the legs (when standing) or up to the center of the wing (in flight) = Long-tailed; darker/grayish area limited to under tail coverts on light-morph bird = Parasitic or Pomarine.

- Sides and flanks. Extensively barred or mottled = probably a Pomarine, but possibly Parasitic; no barring or mottling = all three species possible.

- Cap and malar areas. If you're lucky enough to see a light-morph adult at close range, take photos or careful notes on the extent, contrast, and color of the blackish cap, especially in the malar area. Then consult the illustrations in Kaufman (p. 94) or in Sibley (p. 197–199) to see if you were able to detect any diagnostic differences.

Jaegers of Any Age

There are only a couple of field marks which are generally applicable to jaegers of all ages and morphs, and to base your ID on them is usually tricky:

- White primary shafts. There is an average difference among the three species in the amount of white showing on the upper wing: Long-tailed with the least amount of white; Pomarine with the most; Parasitic in between. But what many observers fail to understand is that the differences are on the primary shafts, not on the actual feather webs or vanes. Birders should also be aware that Kaufman considers this feature useful only if you're sure the wing is fully spread to see all the shafts, and thus it's "rarely much help in field identification."

Note as well that Kaufman, Sibley, and Olsen & Larsson fail to agree on the meaning of how many white (or whitish) shafts you see:

Sibley:

1 or 2 = Long-tailed

3 = Long-tailed or Parasitic

4 or 5 = Parasitic or Pomarine

6 = Pomarine

Kaufman:

- 1 or 2 = Long-tailed
- 3 = Long-tailed or Parasitic
- 4 or 5 = Parasitic
- 6 = Parasitic or Pomarine

Olsen & Larsson:

- 1 or 2 = Long-tailed (but see the Parasitic in Fig. 73)
- 3 = Long-tailed or Parasitic or Pomarine (!)
- 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 = Parasitic or Pomarine

So, there you have it. If you consider all three sources, you've clinched an ID (i.e., Long-tailed) only when you're sure it has no more than one or two white shafts. Otherwise, the best you can do is narrow it down to two species (i.e., Parasitic or Pomarine) when there are four or more white shafts — and you've gotten nowhere if there are three. (Again, though, be sure to look at the Parasitic in Fig. 73 in Olsen & Larsson: it shows only one or two white primary shafts plus contrastingly dark secondaries and sure looks just like a Long-tailed.)

- Bill color, size, and shape. If you ever manage to get close enough to a jaeger, look carefully at the bill, document its color, size, and shape (including its nail and gonydeal angle), and then consult p. 196 in your *Sibley* or p. 94 and 98 in the *Kaufman* guide to find out if you saw something useful. Bill color, often visible at a distance, might be the most useful feature, especially if clearly bi-colored (i.e., dark at the tip and pale at the base). It is often claimed that such a bill is most indicative of a Pomarine, but I'm skeptical: several photos in Olsen & Larsson show obviously bi-colored bills on all three species, just as other photos show apparently all-dark bills for all three.

Non-adult Jaegers

Just as it can be hard to tell an older immature or sub-adult jaeger from an actual full adult at a distance, it can be equally difficult to determine if a jaeger is a juvenile or a one-year-old immature. Accordingly, since some of the features listed

below are more consistent for juveniles, it's always worth trying to age that non-adult jaeger first. The following field marks, by the way, are nicely listed as easily understood bullet points in Olsen & Larsson's text — although, as mentioned earlier, be prepared to find photos which fail to support some of the claims in their text:

- Juvenile plumage. Clean-cut plumage overall with well-defined pale feather edges on the upperparts, wings, and tail coverts = a juvenile (i.e., when the features below are safer to use); less uniform feather edging overall suggests it's at least a year old, with its set of field marks more equivocal.

- Overall color. Clear cinnamon or rusty plumage tones overall = juvenile Parasitic; no trace of cinnamon color = all three species possible (including an older immature Parasitic).

- Primary tips. Folded primaries which are cleanly and obviously white-tipped = probably a juvenile Parasitic; dark-tipped primaries with no trace of white = probably Long-tailed or Pomarine. The problem is that primaries weakly tipped with white can occur on all three species.

- Under wing pattern. Even many novice jaeger-watchers are aware of the Pomarine's "double wing-flash" on the under wing: i.e., in addition to the white at the base of the primaries, there is a second and smaller whitish area on the primary coverts. Kaufman, though, warns this field mark is "not especially helpful," and its presence or absence is "hard to judge." I agree. While two prominent white patches suggests a possible Pomarine, see Fig. 83, 86, 99, and 109 in Olsen & Larsson — all photos of non-Pomarine with obvious double white patches. Conversely, if this feature is clearly absent, it may suggest a Parasitic or Long-tailed, although it is lacking on a few Pomarines as well.

- Central rectrices. While many juveniles and older immatures lack projecting central tail feathers, many do have short ones which are visible and can be diagnostic: pointed tips = Parasitic (of any age) or an older immature Long-tailed; short rounded tips = Pomarine (of any

age) or a juvenile Long-tailed.

- **Head.** A mostly whitish head and neck often suggests it's a Long-tailed, although some heavily worn or "bleached" Parasitics or Pomarines might look just as white. Or, if the head looks streaked, it may well be a Parasitic, since the other two usually, but not always, have unstreaked heads. By the way, a non-white or unstreaked head = all three species possible.

- **Lores.** Darker lores contrasting with the rest of the head may be suggestive of a Pomarine, but they can also occur on Parasitics and Long-taileds (see photos in Olsen & Larsson). Conversely, non-dark lores = all three species possible.

- **Nape.** A paler nape might usually suggest a Parasitic, but a paler nape can also appear on some Long-taileds and Pomarines — again, see photos in Olsen & Larsson which contradict the text. And once again, you guessed it, a non-pale nape = all three species possible.

- **Upper wing surface.** Olsen & Larsson's text claims a paler leading edge on the upper wing does not occur on Pomarines; however, some photos show otherwise. Thus, a paler leading edge = all

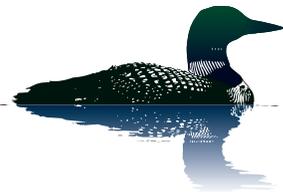
three species possible; and, for that matter, a non-pale leading edge = all three species possible.

- **Barring on tail and under wing coverts.** Finally, if you have nothing better to do, try to determine how heavily the upper tail coverts, under tail coverts, and under wing coverts are barred, and if they are paler or darker than the adjacent parts of the plumage. Kaufman's and Sibley's guides superficially mention or illustrate some of these matters, and, of course, Olsen & Larsson go into great depths on all this, which I admit I fail to fathom. I guess I do have better things to do.

This article is long enough already, so let's not even think about talking about skuas — even though, amazingly, they have occurred at least twice in nearby states! Anyway, if you get nothing else from this article, keep at least two things in mind: first, don't forget to think about sex when identifying jaegers; and second, whether or not you pursue jaegers by boat to get a better look, don't get sunk by the icebergs.

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

Notes of Interest



ROCK WREN IN RICE COUNTY — On 8 May 2007, Gene Bauer told me about a Rock Wren that he had found. That evening at 6:10 P.M., we began to search for the bird, and by 7:10 P.M., we had found it. The Rock Wren was definitely larger than a House Wren. Its coloration was very drab. The underparts were a dull white, and the top of the bird was a light gray. The breast had some fine streaks, but you had to be close to see them. The face of the bird was a dull gray; there was no apparent white eyebrow. There was a thin black eyeline. The Rock Wren displayed some interesting behavior; in general, it stayed low to the ground, but seemed to prefer standing on anything that was slightly elevated, such as rocks or stumps. This made for some excellent viewing. The bird would occasionally bob. I



also saw it hawk insects from the ground, at least twice going straight up about three or four feet. I watched the bird for about 20 minutes with 7 x 50 binoculars. Gene used a scope for awhile. The sky was overcast, but the light was good. **Tom Boevers, 820 Ravine St., Faribault, MN 55021.**

JUVENILE POMARINE JAEGER AT PARK POINT — Almost exactly two years to the day after one was seen at Park Point, Duluth (7 September 2004, *The Loon* 77:117), I watched a juvenile Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) on Lake Superior between 5:27 and 5:31 P.M. on 6 September 2006. The winds had been easterly 10–15 mph all day at Park Point — conditions often associated with sightings of jaegers at Duluth. This may have been the same individual that I watched for an hour on 4 September from the same vantage point near the Sky Harbor Airport. Although I saw it preen and flap its wings (revealing a “double underwing flash” on the greater primary wing-coverts and bases of the primaries on the underwing), I was only able to compare its size in flight to one Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) and could not claim an identification beyond jaeger sp. at that time.

On the 6th, I was able to compare its size to about ten different Ring-billed Gulls and estimated that its wingspan was greater than that of an average-sized Ring-billed. It showed a relatively broad inner wing and narrow outer wing, with a wing span greater than that of an average-sized Ring-billed Gull. A pale primary flash was visible on the upper surface of the wing. The “double underwing flash” was again seen and barring was noted on its wing linings, flanks, and under tail-coverts. More importantly for identification purposes, a pale, barred “patch” on its rump/upper tail-coverts contrasted with the rest of its upper parts, while its head and nape looked essentially the same shade of brown as its mantle. These features are consistent with *pomarinus* (Olson and Larsson 1997, *Skuas and Jaegers: A Guide to the Skuas and Jaegers of the World*). I was unable to detect the shape of its central pair of rectrices (R1) at that time, as these feathers did not appear to extend beyond the tail tip.

Although I looked for this bird almost every day, I did not see it again until the 10th, when the winds were still out of the east at 10–15 mph. At 11:50 A.M., Randy Frederickson and I watched the jaeger approach from the northeast and turn parallel to the beach, allowing great looks as it passed left to right within about 250 yards of our position. As it approached, I could see its pale-based, dark-tipped bill gleaming against its brown face. Its head and neck were the same chocolate brown color as its mantle; i.e., the nape was not paler than the rest of its head and neck. We were able to compare the width of its wing at the root to the distance from the trailing edge of the wing to the tail tip; the former was greater than the latter and further supported its identification as *pomarinus*. For the first time, I could see that the tips of the central pair of rectrices were rounded nubs and not pointed. The “double underwing flash” was well seen by both of us multiple times. Its wing linings and ventral secondary wing-coverts were barred. Its breast was brown and did not show a band, while its belly and under tail-coverts were barred. It was in view for a total of four minutes as it attacked an adult Ring-billed Gull south of the airport and literally drove the gull into a stand of pines — both birds were momentarily out of view but the jaeger emerged and continued in the direction of Wisconsin Point.

Presumably this bird or a second individual was reported off Park Point and/or at Wisconsin Point during the next several weeks. Extraordinary numbers of Parasitic Jaegers (*S. parasiticus*) were also observed at western Lake Superior during Fall 2006, and on 3 October, Jim Lind documented *two* juvenile Pomarine Jaegers at Park Point. The last report of this species at Park Point was on the 4th. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812.**

POMARINE JAEGER IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY — On 15 October 2006, I discovered



a Pomarine Jaeger on Eagle Lake, east of Mankato in Blue Earth County. On initially finding the bird, the following field marks were seen during three hours of observation: Resting on the water, the bird's head and neck appeared uniformly light brown, which contrasted with the uniformly darker brown wings and mantle. In flight and when resting on the water, the bird appeared to be identical to nearby Ring-billed Gulls in size and wingspan. When flying, the rump (upper tail-coverts) was obviously whitish, contrasting with the darker tail and

mantle. The underwing was pale and barred with white, contrasting with the darker upperwing. A white crescent flash was visible in both the upperwing and underwing, but the upperwing's flash was fainter. The pale underparts did not strongly contrast with the white primary flash on the underwing. In flight, the bird had relatively strong wingbeats and a direct flight path in comparison to the Ring-billed Gulls. The bird's body appeared heavy and somewhat chunky-looking. The wings were broad. The bird's bill appeared light gray with a black tip. The bill was visible when the bird was resting on the water at a distance of about 300 yards from me.

On the second day of observation, the following field marks were noted during 1¼ hours of observation: There was a "double wing flash" on the underwing. The first "flash" was a diffuse but noticeable white base to the primary coverts. The second "flash" was the bolder and larger crescent-shaped flash closer to the wingtip, as noticed on the first day of observation. Between these two "flashes" was a dark line, thus allowing each "flash" to be distinct from the other. When the bird was flying with the sky in the background, the two central tail feathers were visible barely projecting beyond the other tail feathers. These two feathers appeared rounded and blunt. The width of the wing base appeared greater than the distance from the trailing edge of the wing to the tail tip. The overall size in comparison to Ring-billed Gulls was again noted, and it appeared that the bird was slightly smaller than some Ring-billed Gulls but slightly larger than others. Based on the above characteristics, the bird appeared to be a light-morph or light-intermediate juvenile. It was seen by many observers through the 19th, and furnished only the third state record of this Casual species away from Lake Superior. **Robert M. Dunlap, 800 West College Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082.**

SABINE'S GULL AT THE SUPERIOR ENTRY — On 10 September 2006 at 3:45 P.M., I



found a juvenile Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) on the Minnesota side of the Superior Entry in St. Louis County. I was looking through hundreds of Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring (*L. argentatus*) gulls on the Minnesota breakwater, when I spotted a small gull with a tern-like flight flying low over the water near the breakwater. It landed on the water and except for two short flights, stayed there for the next five minutes until a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) strafed the Entry and a blizzard of gulls got up and flew east along the shoreline.

From an estimated distance of 400 yards with easterly winds at 15–20 mph buffeting my spotting scope, I was unable to describe its unfeathered parts. My sketch and field notes show the following characteristics: Forehead and throat whitish; hindcrown and nape grayish-brown. Back, scapulars, and upper wing-coverts grayish-brown. Folded primaries black with white apical tips. A grayish-brown wash draped from its nape onto the sides of the breast. Underside of body otherwise white. Underwings whitish except for a dusky wash along the margin of its under wing-coverts.

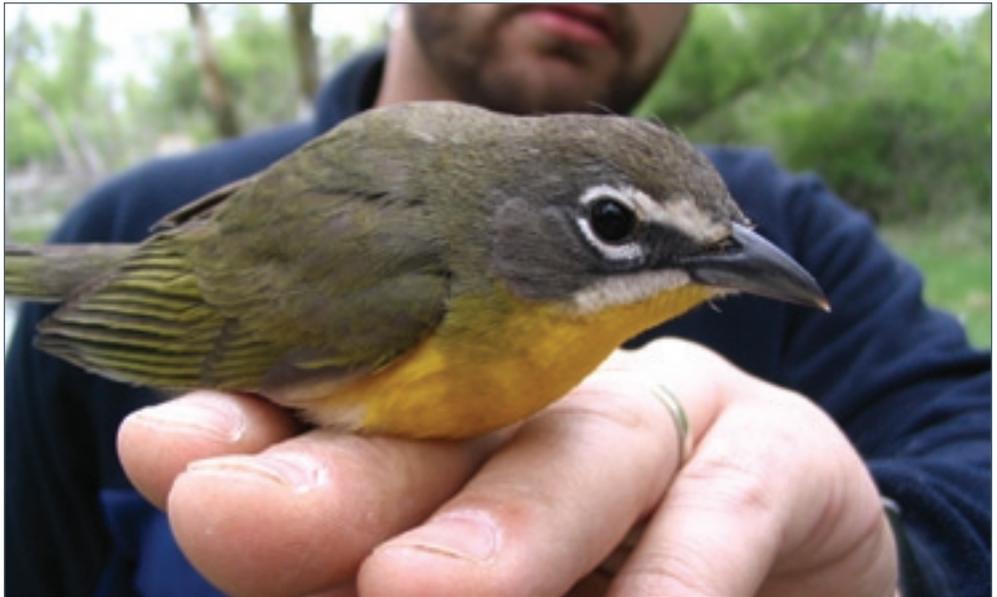
In flight, a slightly forked tail with a narrow, black terminal band was noted; its tail, rump, and under tail-coverts were otherwise white. This species' striking upper wing pattern was seen well in flight: black wedge on its outer wing along the leading edge,

grayish-brown upper secondary wing-coverts producing a triangular pattern on the inner wing, and white isocetes triangle along the trailing edge of its wing, including the inner primaries and secondaries. Sabine's Gull appears to be increasing as a fall migrant and it may eventually be designated rare but Regular; I have personally seen and documented this species in ten different Minnesota counties. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812.**

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT IN POLK COUNTY — The Red River Valley Natural History area sits quietly nestled amongst land owned by the Northwest Research and Outreach Center and is used as an outdoor classroom and lab by the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). This educational and interpretive site lies west of campus and hosts abandoned gravel pits, tracts of restored prairie, and aspen stands. Laura Bell, UMC Natural Resources Technician and Naturalist monitors various biological aspects of the 85-acre tract. On Sunday 20 May 2007, Laura and her husband Jeff, an ornithologist at the University of North Dakota, were mist-netting birds as part of a yearly inventory of the migratory birds that use the area as important stopover habitat. That morning they caught a variety of neotropical migrants typical of the area during spring migration. At approximately 8:50 A.M. when checking the second of the four mist nets, Jeff encountered an uncommon bird for this area, a Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). The male chat, (determined by cloacal protuberance), was in excellent condition and after a quick extraction and a few photos it was released. The presence of this Yellow-breasted Chat marks the first record for Crookston and only the second record for Polk County, the first record occurring in Fosston in May 1921 (Janssen, R. B., 1987. *Birds in Minnesota*). Mist netting inventory studies such as this can serve as a good indicator of the vagrancy of certain migratory species during both spring and fall migrations. **Laura E. Bell, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN 56716, and Jeffrey A. Bell, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202.**



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Yellow-breasted Chat, 20 May 2007, near Crookston, Polk County. Photo by Laura E. Bell.



Black-billed Cuckoo, 28 August 2006, east-central Lake County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

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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, DVD, 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

FALL 2007

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Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) voted on records by mail January – September 2007. MOURC members reviewing documentation and voting during this period were Karl Bardon (alternate member), Phil Chu, Kim Eckert (alternate), Ann Kessen, Jim Lind (alternate), Bill Marengo, Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chairman).

The following records were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records #2006-108 and 2007-019 which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 19 January – 1 February 2007, Mississippi River near Prescott Island, Dakota County (record #2007-004, vote 7-0).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 26 March – 11 April 2007, Kabekona Narrows, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2007-013, vote 7-0).

Both goldeneye records were of adult males and both birds were photographed.

- Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 9-18 May 2007, Diamond Lake, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2007-025, vote 7-0).

Fourth state record, but the first to be found in spring. Photographed.

- Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*), 5-8 June 2007, Black Rush Lake Waterfowl Production Area, Lyon County (record #2007-038, vote 7-0).

- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 29 April – 1 May 2007, southwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-020, vote 7-0).

Adult in alternate plumage, photographed. Third state record.

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 29



Record 2007-020, Glossy Ibis, 1 May 2007, near Madison, Lac Qui Parle County. Digital photo by James P. Mattsson.



Record 2007-025, Neotropic Cormorant (right), 10 May 2007, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Digital photo by Terence P. Brashear.



Record 2007-012, Black Vulture (lower left) 25 March 2007, Afton, Washington County. Digital photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Record 2007-035, Snowy Plover, 30 May 2007, Duluth, St. Louis County. Digital photo by Shawn C. Zierman.

April – 1 May 2007, southwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-019, vote 7–0 for 13 adults, vote 6–1 for 7 more; total of 20 adults Accepted; 2 sub-adults Accepted 6–1 as *Plegadis* sp.).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis* sp.), 30 August 2006, Folsom Township, Traverse County (record #2006-108, vote 7–0).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 22 October 2006, Lake Johanna Waterfowl Production Area, Pope County (record #2006-093, vote 7–0).

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 24–25 March 2007, Afton Marina, Washington County (record #2007-012, vote 7–0; **The Loon** 79:182–183).

Identifiably photographed in flight next to a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Fourth state record.

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 4 May 2007, Fridley, Anoka County (record #2007-022, vote 7–0).

- Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platyp-*

terus), 16 December 2006, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2007-011, vote 5–2).

Minnesota's first winter record of this species was documented during the St. Paul Christmas Bird Count.

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 3 January – 16 February 2007, Port Terminal, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-002, vote 7–0).

- Gyrfalcon, 19 January – 23 March 2007, Vermillion Township, Dakota County (record #2007-005, vote 7–0).

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), 9 April 2007, Pembina Trail Preserve, Polk County (record #2007-014, vote 7–0 for one adult, vote 6–1 for four more; total of five adults Accepted; documentation for two juveniles will be recirculated).

- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), 30–31 May 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-035, vote 7–0).

This adult male was initially found with a Piping Plover (*C. melodus*). As with



Record 2007-033, Red Phalarope, 28 May 2007, Graceville, Big Stone County. Digital photo by Peder H. Svingen.



Record 2007-034, Prairie Warbler, 29 May 2007, Ritter Farm Park, Dakota County. Digital photo by Terence P. Brashear.

the following two shorebird species, identifiable photographs were submitted with written details.

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 26 May 2007, Hills, Rock County (record #2007-032, vote 7-0).

Thirteenth state record and the tenth so far this decade.

- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 28 May 2007, Graceville, Big Stone County (record #2007-033, vote 7-0).

Fifteenth state record, but only the third spring occurrence.

- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), 21-22 October 2006, north end of Spirit Lake along county road 2, Jackson County (record #2006-090, vote 7-0).

- California Gull (*L. californicus*), 22 October 2006, county landfill near Hawley, Clay County (record #2006-091, vote 7-0).

Photographed, with written details provided by multiple observers.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*),

3-5 and 9-13 December 2006, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2006-105, vote 7-0).

Second state record. Photographed and documented with written details on multiple dates by experienced observers. Of related interest was an adult Slaty-backed Gull at Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County, Iowa 16-24 December 2006 (IOU 2006) that appeared strikingly similar to the individual at Black Dog Lake.

- Slaty-backed Gull, 14-25 January 2007, St. Croix River near Point Douglas, Washington County, and Mississippi River and Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2007-003, vote 7-0).

Third state record. Also photographed and documented with written details on multiple dates by experienced observers.

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), 11-12 January 2007, Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2007-010, vote 7-0).

Record late by more than two weeks



Record 2007-001, Green-tailed Towhee, 2 January 2007, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County. Digital photo by David A. Cahlander.

(26 December 1994, *The Loon* 67:110).

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), 22–29 May 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-029, vote 7–0).

Photographed and well-described by experienced observers.

- Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 15–19 October 2006, Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County (record #2006-088, vote 6–1).

Only the third Minnesota record of this species away from Duluth and one of very few ever photographed in the state.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 4–22 May 2007, Lancaster, Kittson County (record #2007-021, vote 7–0).

Eleventh state record and ninth occurrence since 2003. Photographed.

- Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), 29–31 October 2006, Eagan, Dakota County (record #2006-094, vote 6–1).

Digital images were taken after its unfortunate demise and the specimen was donated to the Bell Museum of Natural History. Fourth state record.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus*

forficatus), 7 June 2006, Twin Lakes Township, Carlton County (record #2006-101, vote 5–2).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23–26 April 2007, New Haven Township, Olmsted County (record #2007-018, vote 7–0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23–25 May 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-030, vote 7–0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 7 June 2007, Bena, Cass County (record #2007-037, vote 7–0).

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 7–8 May 2007, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hennepin County (record #2007-024, vote 7–0).

- Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), mid-August – 3 December 2006, Nashwauk, Itasca County (record #2006-097, vote 7–0).

Fourth state record. Photographed.

- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), 28–31 May 2007, Ritter Farm Park, Dakota County (record #2007-034, vote 7–0).

Of special interest was this bird's presence at the same location where a territo-



Record 2006-096, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 3 December 2006, Cloquet, Carlton County. Digital photo by Vija Kelly.

rial male sang 6 June – 2 July 2005 (*The Loon* 78:30, 78:44).

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorum*), 6 May 2007, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2007-023, vote 7-0).

- Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*), late October 2006 – 23 April 2007, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County (record #2007-001, vote 7-0).

Fifth state record. Digital images by Dave Cahlander and Steve Roman showed the bird wearing band #8051-98299 from Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Ontario, where it had been captured as an After Second Year (ASY) male 10 June 2006.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melano-corys*), 19 August 2006, Split Rock Light-house State Park, Lake County (record #2006-102, vote 7-0).

- Lark Bunting, 11 December 2006, Airport Road, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-104, vote 7-0).

- Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), 18 November 2006, Maplewood, Ramsey County (record #2006-095, vote 7-0).

Eighteenth state record, two-thirds of

which occurred within the last 10 years.

- Painted Bunting, 19–23 May 2007, near Little Marais, Lake County (record #2007-028, vote 7-0).

Fifth record for the Northeast Region, but the first for Lake County. Both of the above were adult males and both were photographed.

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 27 November 2006 – 26 March 2007, near Cloquet, Carlton County (record #2006-096, vote 7-0 for each of three photographed individuals).

Thirteenth state record. All three birds were “interior form” (*L. t. tephrocotis*).

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), 15 December 2006 – 31 January 2007, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (record #2007-006, vote 7-0).

Identifiably photographed during one of its sporadic visits to a backyard feeder. Sixth state record.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 15 April 2007, Virginia, St. Louis County (record #2007-016, vote 7-0).

Seventh state record. Photographed.

The following records 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.

- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 30 August 2006, Folsom Township, Traverse County (record #2006-108, vote 1–6).

The single submitted photograph did not show purple iridescence in the wing coverts and the bird's crissum could not be seen. Committee members were not convinced that the bird was an adult. Written documentation, which could have addressed questions about the bird's age and the possibility of hybridization, was not submitted in support of this record.

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 29 April – 1 May 2007, two subadults among flock southwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-019, vote 3–4).

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 10 April 2007, county road 12 near US highway 169, Mille Lacs County (record #2007-015, vote 3–4).

The majority was concerned that dark morph buteos and other raptor species were not considered and eliminated. Field notes were not submitted.

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 14 May 2007, state highway 210 at county road 1, Cass County (record #2007-031, vote 0–7).

The description was limited to “distinctive black and white wings on the underside.” It was unanimously felt that a more complete description that included size, tail shape, and other aspects of its plumage would be needed.

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 15 De-

ember 2006, near Virginia, St. Louis County (record #2007-009, vote 3–4).

- Prairie Falcon (*F. mexicanus*), 20 January 2007, near Luverne, Rock County (record #2007-007, vote 2–5).

- Prairie Falcon, 20 February 2007, West Union Township, Todd County (record #2007-008, vote 1–6).

Though possibly identified correctly, all three of the above falcons were observed without optics from moving vehicles on major highways.

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), 14–15 April 2007, near Detroit Lakes, Becker County (record #2007-017, vote 2–5 for each of six adults).

Though observed on two different days, the description was brief and optics were not used. The birds vocalized, but the observer was unable to describe the calls. No field notes were taken and the documentation form was apparently filled out by an individual who did not see the birds.

- Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*), 26 August 2006, Vineland Bay, Mille Lacs Lake, Mille Lacs County (record #2006-107, vote 2–5).

The documentation for this bird was submitted as a “possible Wilson's Plover” suggesting that the observers were initially unsure of the identification despite referring to field guides during the observation. The large, thick bill of a Wilson's Plover should have caught the observers' attention, but this bird's bill was described as a “long dark bill, mono-colored.” Immature Killdeer with a single breastband was not considered.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), 16 December 2006, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2006-106, vote 0–7).

Documentation for this individual, which was reported on the Bloomington Christmas Bird Count, did not eliminate other species of dark-mantled gulls. An adult Slaty-backed had been seen in this area earlier in the month, but it could not be refound after the 13th (see Accepted record #2006-105).

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus*

melanocephalus), 28 August 2006, southeast of Granite Falls, Chippewa County (record #2006-092, vote 0–7).

Despite being observed for 30 minutes with two female grosbeaks (presumably Rose-breasted), there was no comparison among the three birds and no field notes were taken. The description omitted most of its plumage, including wing linings, and its bare parts were not described.

- Black-headed Grosbeak, 18–20 September 2006, Britt, St. Louis County (record #2006-089, vote 1–6).

One distant image and brief written details were insufficient to eliminate either Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*P. ludovicianus*) or hybrids thereof. Wing linings were not seen, so the bird could not be aged or sexed; some first-fall Rose-breasted show a whitish belly and nearly unstreaked pale buff breast, very similar to the appearance of this bird in the submitted image.

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: Robert Amos, Dave Bartkey, Pat Beauzay, Chris Benson, Dedrick Benz, Andrew Bicek, Thomas Bloom, Brad Bolduan, Jason Bolish, Conny Brunell, Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, Phil Chu, Shawn Conrad, Nelvina De Kam, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, John Ellis, Bruce Fall, Ben Fritchman, Dave Grosshuesch, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertz, Ross Hier, John Hockema, Bob Janssen, Jeanie Joppru, Doug Kieser, Roger and Laurie Larson, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Jim Mattson, Shawne McKenna, Steve Millard, Molly Jo Miller, Mark Ochs, Jim Otto, Jim Pomplun, Al Schirmacher, Nathan Schirmacher, Drew Smith, Shelley Steva, Karen Sussman, Peder Svingen, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Bill Unzen, Larry Weber, Judith Welu, Ben Wieland, Dennis Wiesenborn, Bob Williams, Steve Yahn, Ben Yobel, and Shawn Zierman. 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. All 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.n.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.

Please note the following corrections to the August–December 2006 *Proceedings* (**The Loon** 79:50–57):

- Change record number to 2006-060 for the Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) at South Landfill Reservoir, Olmsted County, 24 June 2006.

- Change date to 19 August – 3 September 2006 for Glossy/White-faced Ibis at Munnwyler Lake, Big Stone County (record #2006-070).

- Change date to 3–9 September 2006 for Glossy/White-faced Ibis 1.0 mile west of Clinton, Big Stone County (record #2006-078).

The Committee welcomes questions or comments regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. Please contact Peder Svingen by e-mail at mourc@moum.n.org or at the address below. Summary: 53 records voted on — 42 Accepted (79%), 11 Not Accepted (21%).

Literature Cited

Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU). 2006. Annual Records Committee Report for 2006. Accessed 22 October 2007 at http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/RCreports/dynamic_report.asp.

2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

Changes in Colonial Waterbird Populations on Leech Lake

Steve Mortensen and John Ringle

Colonial waterbirds have been documented on Leech Lake, Cass County, for many years. Most nesting activity occurs on Gull Island and Little Pelican Island, located near the south-central part of the main basin of the lake. The species that have nested on these islands include Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), and Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Over the years, the population numbers for the various species have changed. In this paper, we review these changes, discuss some of the contributing factors, and document more recent trends. Data for this report came from a number of sources, including research and monitoring efforts undertaken by a number of individuals over the years. Jacob Miller's research from 1976–1986 was particularly valuable (Miller 1987). Much of the data from 1933 until the early 1990s has been compiled in the Minnesota DNR Colonial Waterbird Database. Data from 1992 through 2007 is from the research and monitoring conducted by the Division of Resources Management (DRM) of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Colonial waterbird populations on Leech Lake, as well as many other locations, are subject to a number of factors that limit their use of waterbodies, reproductive success, and long-term viability. These include loss of habitat from erosion or human development, competition from other colonial waterbirds, predation, and human disturbance. The colonies on Leech Lake have been subjected to each of these factors in addition to the con-

struction of the Federal Dam at the outlet of the lake in 1884. The subsequent increase in water level on Leech Lake likely resulted in the flooding of many ground nesting colonial waterbird nest sites on the lake. Increases in the numbers of some species of waterbirds in recent years may reflect the birds' attempts to recolonize the lake.

Common Terns

The nesting of Common Terns on Leech Lake was documented as early as 1933 when the birds were noted by the late Walter Breckenridge (personal communication and Colonial Waterbird Database, MN DNR), but in all likelihood they have been utilizing the lake much longer. Henry Schoolcraft, who was a member of the Cass expedition of 1820, noted the presence of a "small white gull" in an area just downstream from Leech Lake. The birds he described were said to be "common upon the lakes." Based on the description, behavior, and call of these birds, it is believed Schoolcraft was describing Common Terns (Schoolcraft 1821).

While most of the other species of colonial waterbirds that nest on Leech Lake have increased in numbers, Common Terns have declined at this and several other sites across the region (McKearan and Cuthbert 1989; Cuthbert et al. 2003). Table 1, Figure 1, and Figure 2 show the number of Common Tern nests on Leech Lake and other measures of success in recent years. Prior to 1988, the majority of Common Tern nesting activity occurred on Gull Island, but in 1989 the terns abandoned this location and attempted to nest on sand bars off Little Pelican Island (Reed et al. 1991).



Nesting waterbirds at Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.

The primary reason for the abandonment of Gull Island is believed to be competition from Ring-billed Gulls for nesting space, but predation by mink and disturbance by humans may have also played a role. Ring-billed Gulls began nesting on Leech Lake in 1960 (Dickerman and Lefebvre 1961). Because Ring-billed Gulls return and start nesting about a month before the terns, it is easy for them to displace terns, especially as gull numbers increase.

Small numbers of Common Terns have also nested on Little Pipe Island, near the south shore of Leech Lake. This is a very tiny rock island (about 100 square feet). Historically, it had limited substrate suitable for terns, and high water levels during the past decade resulted in the loss of vegetation and sand upon which they nested. Increased recreational boat traffic may have also contributed to the deterioration of this nesting site. No Common Tern nesting activity has been found at this location since 1997.

For many years, predators have been

a problem on Gull and Little Pelican Island. Mink (*Mustela vison*), Short-tailed Weasel (*Mustela erminea*), River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*), Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and Coyote (*Canis latrans*) have all been caught on the island complex. In addition, Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) have sometimes taken large numbers of Common Tern eggs (Mortensen 1994). Although all of these animals pose a threat, the Mink poses the greatest predatory threat to Common Tern reproduction on Leech Lake. It was originally believed Mink reached the islands during the winter by traveling over ice. However, the appearance of Mink well after ice-out indicates some may be swimming out to the island, possibly attracted by the smell of a colonial bird colony. Early researchers only reported predator problems occasionally, but in more recent years, predators have had to be removed from the islands by annual trapping. These efforts have greatly benefited the nesting success of the Common Tern.

Human visits, even well-intentioned



Common Tern at nest, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.

ones, to sites used by colonial waterbirds usually have negative implications for the species nesting there. For example, we have observed Common Tern chicks that have been displaced from their nest site by only a few yards injured or killed by other birds as they attempted to cross nest territories in an effort to return to their own. Eggs and small chicks are also very vulnerable to chilling or can overheat in a very short period of time. In addition, gulls often take advantage of any disturbance at the colony to sneak in and eat both eggs and chicks.

Another example of human impacts on colonial waterbird populations is described in the Editorial Section of *The Pilot-Independent Newspaper* of the town of Walker (Vogt 1991). In this report, three groups of boaters camped near a tern colony and allowed children to break eggs while a family dog killed chicks. Don Beimborn (personal communications) also reported that while they were taking breaks from banding Common Terns,

it was not uncommon to observe boaters landing on the nesting island and wandering about.

It is also reported that in the 1960s and early 1970s, some local residents would go to the islands and “target practice” on the birds with their shotguns (Conservation Officer Frank Bowstring, personal communication). The extent of this activity is unknown, but this may have been a significant disturbance and mortality factor to the colonial waterbird populations. The Leech Lake Band has closed the islands to trespassing during the nesting season since 1993 and human disturbance has decreased. In addition, a quarter-mile closed buffer zone around the island was established and marked with buoys in 2005.

Natural events on occasion play a role in mortality at colonial bird nest sites. Don Beimborn documented returning to Gull Island several weeks after a banding operation had been completed to find several hundred dead terns, both chicks and adults. He did not feel that this loss

Table 1. Colonial waterbird activity on Leech Lake.

Year	1805	1820	1832	1933	1960	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Common Terns																
<i>Gull Island</i>																
observed *		k		3000 u j	p											
nests				1500 u j		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000			676	566	410	
fledged					w											
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>																
observed *																
nests																
fledged																
<i>Little Pipe Island</i>																
observed *																
nests											n	n	n	n	n	n
fledged																
Ring-billed Gulls																
<i>Gull Island</i>																
observed *					p			p								
nests					1				6				82	92	58	
fledged																
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>																
observed *																
nests																
fledged																
Herring Gulls																
<i>Gull Island</i>																
observed *																
nests																
fledged																
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>																
observed *																
nests																
fledged																
Double-crested Cormorants																
<i>Gull Island</i>																
observed *		i	p f													
nests																
fledged																
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>																
observed *																
nests																
fledged																
American White Pelicans																
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>																
observed *	m	l o	p f													
nests																
fledged																
Caspian Terns																
<i>Gull Island</i>																
observed *							19		5				p	p	p	
nests							2									
fledged																

* - This is typically a count of breeding adults, but for some species it could include non-breeding individuals. Generally would not include any young-of-the-year birds.

- Includes sandbars adjacent to the island.

a - Human disturbance, culling of adults, and predation limited reproduction.

b - Human disturbance and culling of adults activity limited reproduction.

c - Actual count of birds.

d - Count based on aerial photographs plus cull numbers.

e - Estimate of birds present.

f - Schoolcraft and Mason, 1993.

g - Ruddy Turnstones predated 50-70% of nests.

h - Heavy mink predation resulted in 0 young.

i - Reed et al., 1991.

j - Range of 2000–3000 adults and 1000–1500 nests.

k - Schoolcraft 1821, noted “the small white gull, such as is common upon the lakes has been so abundant as to annoy our progress” from a location just downstream of the Leech River.”

l - Likely present as they were noted by Schoolcraft on Lake Winnibigoshish during the Cass Expedition.

m - Zebulon Pikes expedition of 1805 mentioned Pelican Island and noted it on the expedition map.

n - Nesting, but no count made.

o - Warren, William Whipple, in his History of the Ojibways said that Pelican Island got its name from the pelicans that nested on it.

p - Present.

q - Ring-billed Gull eggs removed from Common Tern nest area to provide nesting space. (866 in 2004, 993 in 2005, 2382 in 2006, 1202 in 2007).

u - Unknown count method.

v - Caspian Tern nesting on Little Pelican Island.

w - 650 chicks banded.

x - First Common Terns with band recoveries from Leech Lake banded in 1929 by Austin.

y - These counts include cormorants that use Gull Island.

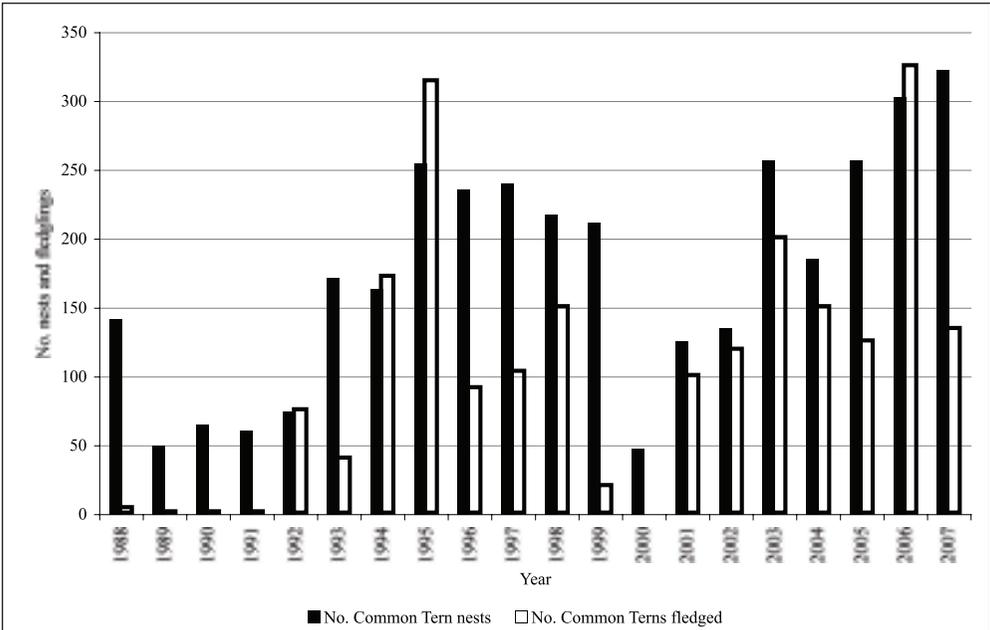


Figure 1. Number of Common Tern nests and fledged young on Leech Lake, 1988–2007.

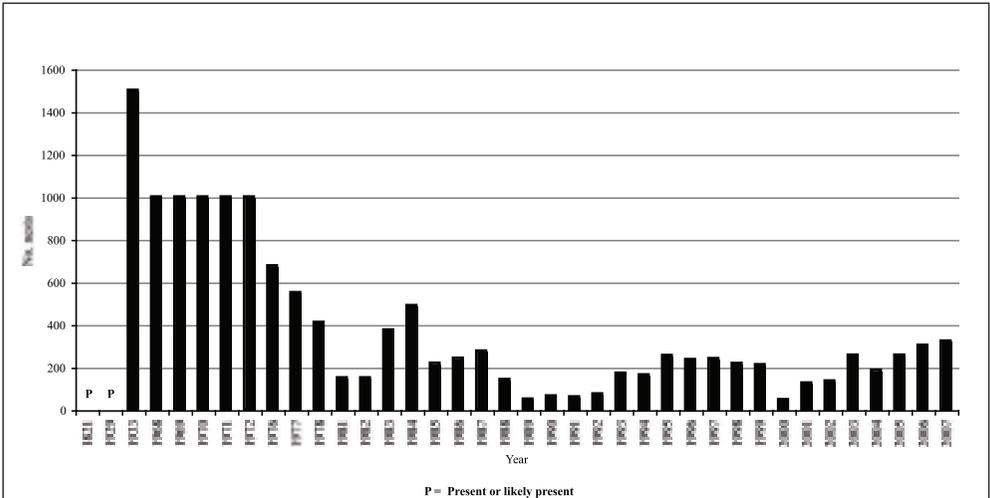


Figure 2. Historical records of Common Tern nests on Leech Lake.

was due to the banding activities, which typically involve only young birds. The lack of spent shotgun shells seemed to rule out shootings, while the presence of dead adults seemed to rule out Mink pre-

ation. He considered the possibility that the high tern mortality was caused by a lightning strike. The National Weather Service confirmed that Leech Lake had experienced a severe thunderstorm on

Table 1, continued, colonial waterbird activity on Leech Lake.

Year	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Common Terns															
<i>Gull Island</i>															
observed *															
nests		150	150	375	459	219	242	276	142						
fledged									4 c						
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>															
observed *															328
nests										50	65	61	75 c	172 c	164 cg
fledged													75 e	40 c	172 c
<i>Little Pipe Island</i>															
observed *															20
nests	12				n	n	n	n	8		20			8	11
fledged											10			6	14
Ring-billed Gulls															
<i>Gull Island</i>															
observed *		p													
nests			200	291	279	110	501		269 u			1069 u	700 u	500 c	480 c
fledged														60	
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>															
observed *															
nests															100 c
fledged															0
Herring Gulls															
<i>Gull Island</i>															
observed *															12
nests				2	1				6	10					6
fledged															
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>															
observed *															
nests									1 c						
fledged															
Double-crested Cormorants															
<i>Gull Island</i>															
observed *														500 c	
nests													4 c	1 c	0
fledged													5 c	0	0
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>															
observed *															
nests															
fledged															
American White Pelicans															
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>															
observed *														30 c	50 c
nests															
fledged															
Caspian Terns															
<i>Gull Island</i>															
observed *		p	p	p											
nests											1200 ui	50 c	p	121 c	83 c
fledged															

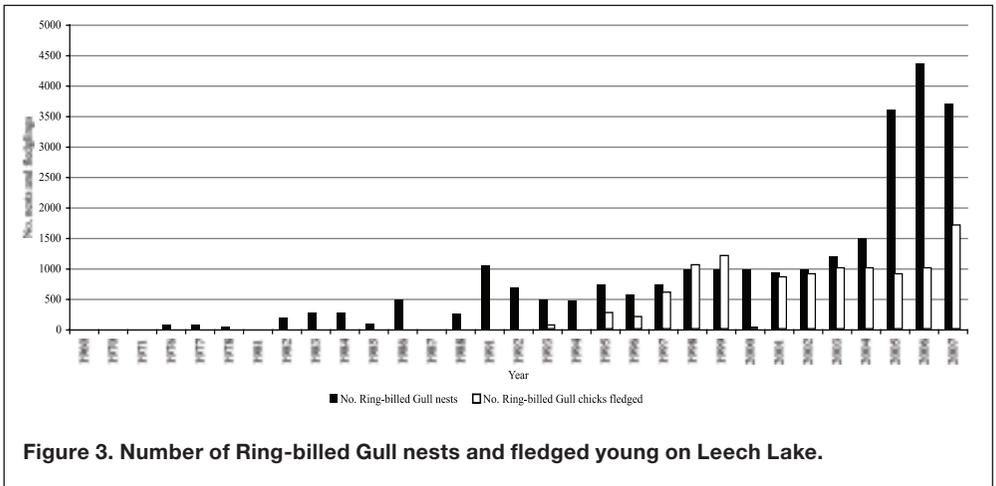


Figure 3. Number of Ring-billed Gull nests and fledged young on Leech Lake.

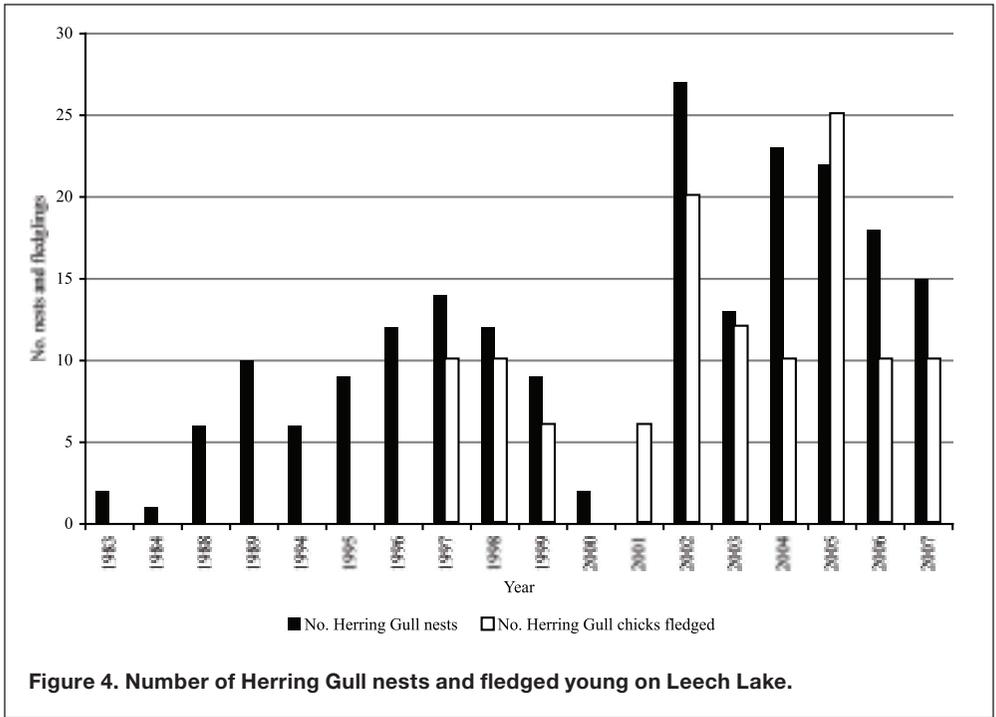


Figure 4. Number of Herring Gull nests and fledged young on Leech Lake.

July 12, 1975 (Beimborn 1976).

Over the past 15 years, the DRM has expended considerable time and funding in an attempt to enhance Common Tern nesting success on the island complex. A new nest site was constructed in 1993 on the north side of Little Pelican Island. The terns did well at this site in most years until increasing numbers of Ring-billed Gulls (displaced by Double-crested Cormorants) started competing for nest space. The Band constructed a new tern nest area in the fall of 2005 in the center of Little Pelican Island in an effort to provide safer nesting for the terns.

Erosion has also been a problem on Leech Lake, with about half of Little Pelican Island eroding away since the late 1930s. Dam operations have created high and stable water levels that are believed to be the principal causes of the erosion. The DRM initiated an island stabilization project in 2000 to mitigate this impact. This project has reduced overall erosion on the western side of the island while it actually rebuilt open sand beach hab-

itat on the south side. In 2006, a few Common Terns successfully nested on the southern beach.

Caspian Terns

Low numbers of Caspian Terns have been recorded at Leech Lake for many years with the exception of 1991 when 1200 were counted (Reed et al. 1991; Table 1; Table 2). It had previously been assumed that these birds were immatures, adults that were unsuccessful at nesting elsewhere, or migrants. However, on 9 July 1969, two Caspian Tern nests were found on Gull Island. These were within a Common Tern colony and are the first recorded nesting attempt of the species in Minnesota (Warner and Beimborn 1969). This nesting record for Leech Lake was the only known nesting attempt in the state until 2004, when a nest containing three Caspian Tern eggs was found on Hennepin Island in Mille Lacs Lake (McDowell 2004). Although none of these nesting efforts was successful, 13 pairs of Caspian Terns nested on Little Pelican

Table 1, concluded, colonial waterbird activity on Leech Lake.

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Common Terns													
<i>Gull Island</i>													
observed *													
nests													
fledged													
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>													
observed *													
nests	255 c	236 c	240 c	218 c	212 c	48 c	126 c	135 c	257 c	186 c	257 c	303 c	323 c
fledged	314 c	91c	103 c	150 c	20 c	0 ch	100 c	119 c	200 c	150 c	125 c	325 c	134 c
<i>Little Pipe Island</i>													
observed *	4	10	6										
nests	2	5	3										
fledged	2	6	3										
Ring-billed Gulls													
<i>Gull Island</i>													
observed *													
nests	749 c	247 c	25 c					100 c	205 c	223 c	497 c	47 c	128 c
fledged	265	50	0								332 e	25 e	85 c
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>													
observed *													
nests		334 c	725 c	1000 e	1000 e	1000 e	938 c	900 e	1000 e	1277 eq	3116 cq	4329 cq	3584 c
fledged		150 c	600 e	1050 e	1200	25	850	900 e	1000 e	1000 e	568 c	975 c	1615 e
Herring Gulls													
<i>Gull Island</i>													
observed *	18	24	28		18	56		54	26		44	36	27c
nests	9	12	14	12	9	2		27	13	23	22	18	13c
fledged			10	10	6	0	6	20	12	10	25	10	7c
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>													
observed *													
nests									1 c			1 c	2c
fledged									0			0	3c
Double-crested Cormorants													
<i>Gull Island</i>													
observed *			300 c										
nests	0	0	0									106 c	257 c
fledged	0	0	0									200 c	565 c
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>													
observed *											7145 cdy	4309 cdy	3789 cdy
nests				73 c	249 c	608 c	737 c	1130 c	1144 c	2524 c	700 c	426 c	306 c
fledged				100 e	580 c	1648 c	1843 c	2254 c	2860 c	5048 e	212 ca	647 c	631 c
American White Pelicans													
<i>Little Pelican Island</i>													
observed *	50 c	10 c	169 c	80 c	p	p	200 c	50 c	p	175 c	302 c	400 c	240c
nests				1	8	0	1	0	0	21	0	18 c	6 c
fledged				0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caspian Terns													
<i>Gull Island</i>													
observed *	69 c	120 c	47 c	89 c	15 c	100 c	60 c	p	p	p	20 c	19 c	28 v
nests													13 c
fledged													11 c

Table 2. Caspian Tern numbers at Leech Lake. P = present.

Year	1969	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Adults	19	1200	50	-	121	83	69	120	47	89	15	100	60	P	P	P	20	19	28
Nests	2																		13
Chicks fledged																			11

Island in 2007. There was a total of 24 eggs in these nests and 16 young hatched. On 10 August, 12 chicks remained with about half of them able to fly. A total of 11 chicks fledged from this nesting effort (Mortensen, in press).

It is uncertain why the Caspian Terns chose to nest on Leech Lake in 2007, but

several factors may have contributed. The first was the clearing of the woody vegetation over the past few years from Little Pelican Island to reduce nesting material for Double-crested Cormorants. This has provided about 2.5 acres of habitat that ground-nesting colonial waterbirds should find very attractive. The other factor has

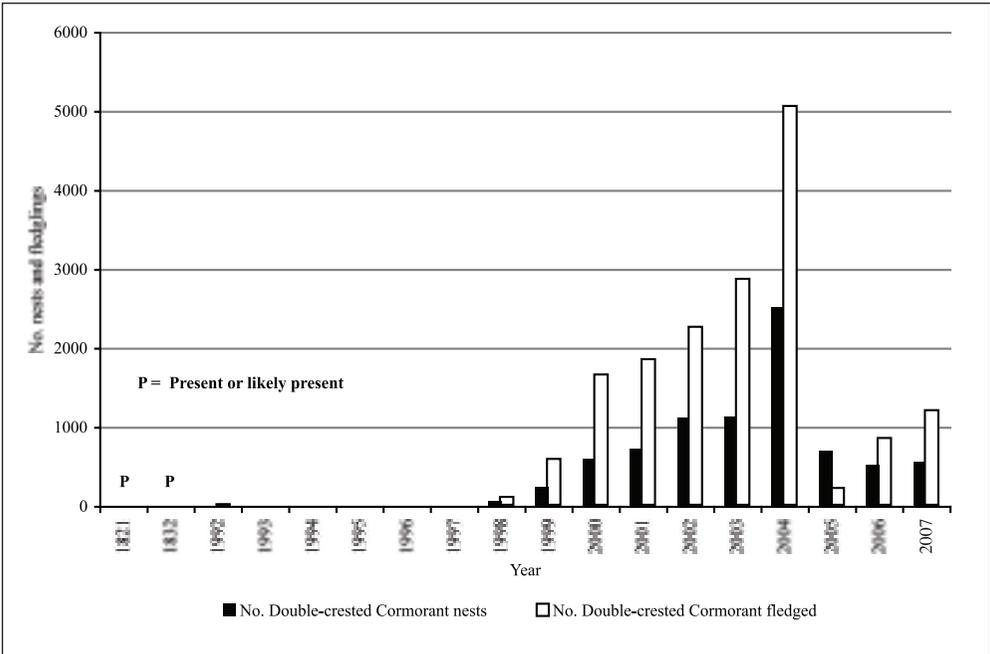


Figure 5. Number of Double-crested Cormorant nests and fledged young on Leech Lake.

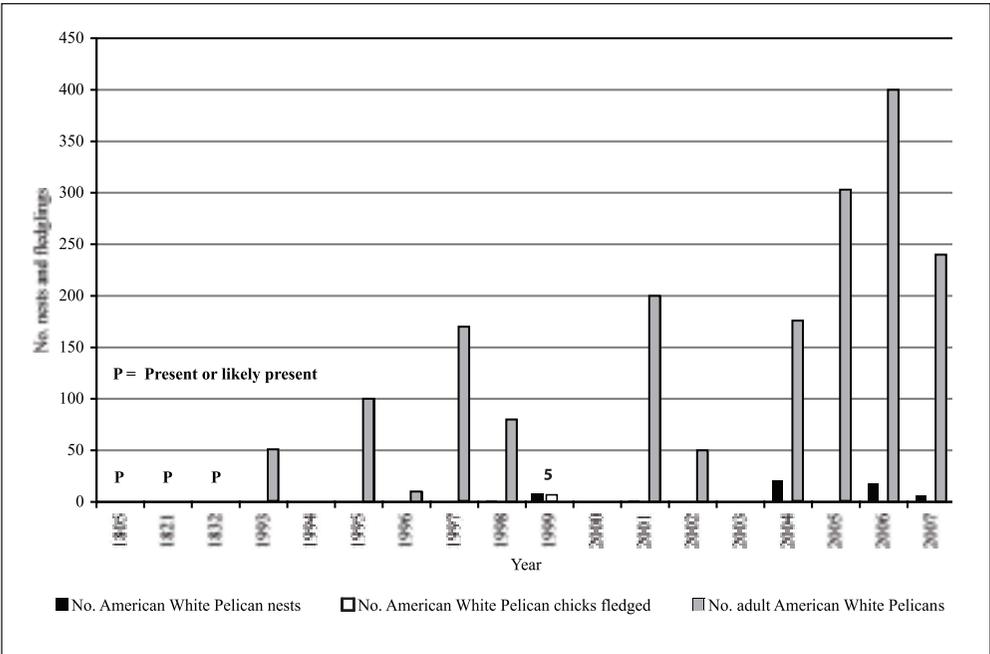


Figure 6. Number of American White Pelicans, nests, and fledged young on Leech Lake.



Caspian Terns, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.

been the establishment of a one-quarter-mile buffer zone around the island that is closed to the public during the open water season. This is for the safety of the public and to prevent interference with the cormorant diet study research that is being conducted by the Leech Lake Band on the islands. Caspian Terns are noted as being one of the colonial waterbird species that is most intolerant of human disturbance during the nesting season (F. J. Cuthbert, personal communication)

Ring-billed Gulls

Ring-billed Gulls were first documented as nesting on Leech Lake in 1960 with the presence of a single egg (Dickerman and Lefebvre 1961). Population numbers initially remained very low with only six nests counted in 1971 (Parmelee 1971). By 1977, nest numbers had increased to 92, and in the early 1980s there were almost 300 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls nesting on Gull Island (Table 1; Figure 3). Population numbers peaked in 1991 with 1069 nesting pairs on Gull Island. Ring-billed Gull numbers have since declined on this island. In some years, the birds are absent from Gull Island, as they have moved to Little Pelican Island and have started nest-

ing there. We believe that this relocation is primarily due to insufficient nesting space or poor-quality nesting habitat on Gull Island. Recent water level management is likely responsible for the flooding and general deterioration of the island.

Ring-billed Gulls began moving to the south side of Little Pelican Island in 1994, and by 1998 there were about 1,000 nesting on the island. This population was spread out over much of Little Pelican Island and provided direct competition with Common Terns which were nesting on the island's north side. This conflict was accelerated as the numbers of Double-crested Cormorants rapidly increased on Little Pelican Island. Eventually nearly all the gulls were attempting to nest in and around the tern colony. By 2006, there were 4,376 Ring-billed Gull nests on Little Pelican Island.

In an effort to prevent the gulls from taking over the tern nest site on Little Pelican Island, wire and string grids have been used since the early 1990s (Maxson et al. 1996). This technique is generally effective, in particular at locations where gulls are trying to establish new nesting areas, but over time its effectiveness is diminished, and so on Little Pelican Island

we also began removing the gull nests and eggs that were found within the tern nest area. By 2005, competition for nesting space on the north side of Little Pelican Island had become so intense that it was difficult for terns to nest here. We built a new nest site near the center of the island. This location has a barrier fence around the perimeter in addition to the wire grid over the top.

The numbers of Ring-billed Gulls have significantly increased on Leech Lake, and we believe the population will continue to increase. This will likely threaten some of the other nesting species, especially Common Terns.

Herring Gulls

Herring Gulls have nested on Leech Lake since at least 1983, although their numbers have remained low. We recorded the highest count in 2002, with 27 nests found (Table 1; Figure 4). It has been speculated that Herring Gulls have nested on the lake for a much longer period of time, but we were unable to find any records to document this. With the exception of five nests found on Little Pelican Island, all Herring Gull nesting activity has occurred on Gull Island. On this island, they tend to select the high, more protected locations among the rocks to nest. It is unknown why their numbers have not increased and in the next few years, the number of high-quality nesting sites available to Herring Gulls may be reduced due to competition from Double-crested Cormorants nesting on Gull Island.

Double-crested Cormorants

The Double-crested Cormorant population has increased across much of its range in recent decades. However, this increase is actually a recolonization of its former range (Wires and Cuthbert 2006; Wires et al. 2001). A widely held notion is that cormorants are new to our region, yet historical information indicates otherwise. For example, cormorants were documented by Henry Schoolcraft on Lake Winnibigoshish in 1821 (Schoolcraft 1821). On his

return expedition in 1832, he also documented cormorants on Leech Lake. Other regional and continental references to early cormorant locations and numbers can be found in Wires and Cuthbert (2006).

There are also references to cormorants in Ojibwe culture. In some tribes, the cormorant is one of the clan totems (Warren 1984). Cormorants were referred to by a number of names such as crow duck, black duck, shag, black loon, raven duck, and water crow. References to these names can be found in records from throughout the Great Lakes Region (Terres 1991; Roberts 1932; Warren 1984). The name "black duck" poses an interesting dilemma as the American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), although becoming less common, is found here currently as well as historically. There is a Blackduck Point on Leech Lake, and inland from this point is Blackduck Lake. A tribal elder, David Morgan Sr. (personal communication), told us that in Ojibwe he calls this location Kâgâgishb Point. Translated to English, this means raven-duck or cormorant (Baraga 1992). Although we can not be certain, Blackduck Lake may have historically hosted a cormorant nest site for Leech Lake.

Cormorants were absent or only present as a migrating species for many years on Leech Lake. Then in 1992 they returned as a nesting species with four nests fledging five young (Table 1; Figure 5). Only one nest was found in 1993, but it did not produce any young. Both nesting efforts occurred on Gull Island. From 1994 to 1997, no cormorant nesting occurred on Leech Lake. In 1998, the cormorants moved over to Little Pelican Island and began nesting alongside the Ring-billed Gulls, on the south side of the island. A total of 73 cormorant nests was counted that year, and about 100 young were fledged (Mortensen 1999). Nesting numbers increased markedly over the next few years, peaking in 2004 at 2,524. As the population increased, the cormorants began competing with Ring-billed Gulls for nesting space. Within a few years, the gulls spread northward across Little Pel-

ican Island where they surrounded the Common Tern nest site and eventually began taking over this area.

Our concerns over the potential loss of the Common Tern nest site coincided with concerns by some members of the public, and circumstantial evidence, that cormorants may be negatively affecting Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*) and Walleye (*Sander vitreus*) populations in Leech Lake. As a result, the Leech Lake Band made the decision to reduce the number of nesting cormorants on tribal lands using the Public Resource Depredation Order (50 CFR 21.48). Concurrent with this reduction, we initiated a diet study funded by a Tribal Wildlife Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that was designed to determine what cormorants were eating on Leech Lake and whether this predation had a significant effect on Yellow Perch or Walleye populations. This work is ongoing, but preliminary analyses indicate that cormorants on Leech Lake are primarily feeding on small Yellow Perch. The question as to whether or not cormorants have a significant negative effect on game fish cannot be answered until the study is complete.

American White Pelicans

American White Pelicans, like Double-crested Cormorants, have increased in number throughout much of their range (Wires et al. 2006). In the 1980s, pelicans were uncommon on Leech Lake, but in the early 1990s the population began to increase. Historically, pelicans were reported on Leech Lake or nearby lakes. William Warren in his writings from the 1800s noted that Pelican Island was named for the pelicans that nested there (Warren 1984). The Zebulon Pike Expedition of 1805 (Pike 1966) also included Pelican Island, by name, on its map of Leech Lake. The Schoolcraft Expedition of 1832 (Schoolcraft 1993) noted pelicans as one of the largest bird species found on Leech Lake. Schoolcraft described pelicans as one of the species seen on a guano-covered island in Lake Winnibigoshish

(Schoolcraft 1821). They also noted that Native Americans sometimes used pelican pouches as headwear.

In 1993, a single pelican egg was found on the sand spit off Little Pelican Island in Leech Lake. A nest containing two eggs was found on the same island in 1998. These nesting attempts were unsuccessful. The only recent successful nesting of pelicans occurred in 1999 when five young fledged from eight nests near the southwest corner of Little Pelican Island (Mortensen 2000; Table 1; Figure 6). American White Pelicans, many with breeding horns or plates on their bills, have been observed in increasing numbers on Leech Lake over the past six years. They attempted, without success, to nest in 2001, 2004, 2006, and 2007. Although the reasons for this poor nesting success are not clear, competition with other colonial waterbirds and disturbance from human activities are likely factors.

While some species of colonial waterbirds are doing quite well on Leech Lake (Ring-billed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant), others are not (Common Tern, Herring Gull, and American White Pelican). Competition with co-nesting species, loss of habitat, human disturbance, and alterations to the environment may significantly threaten the long-term viability of these colonies. Although some of these threats are being managed, the long-term viability of the colonial waterbird populations on Leech Lake will remain a challenge.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Rebecca Knowles, Don Beimborn, and Bruce Fall for their review and editing of this paper. Special thanks also is due to all the researchers who over the years have worked so hard to understand, protect, and enhance the colonial waterbirds of Leech Lake. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution and many years of support of the Judge Miles Lord family towards the study and management of colonial waterbirds on Gull and Pelican Islands.

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The Winter Season

1 December 2006 through 28 February 2007

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Notable late migrant geese possibly overwintering were two **Greater White-fronted Geese** in Dakota, one in Lac Qui Parle, and one **Ross's Goose** that lingered from September to mid-February in McLeod. Reports of spring migrant geese during the period were almost nonexistent. **Trumpeter Swan** reports were again numerous in the central and east-central regions, whereas no large concentrations of **Tundra Swans** were reported.

Dabbling ducks lingering north included **Wood Duck** in Cass and Otter Tail, **Gadwall** in Cass and Morrison, **American Black Duck** and **Northern Pintail** in St. Louis, and **Green-winged Teal** in Cass. Both **Redhead** and **Greater Scaup** apparently overwintered at the Bass Ponds in Hennepin. A male and female **Harlequin Duck** overwintered in St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) until the female was apparently killed and eaten by a **Peregrine Falcon** in early February. **Long-tailed Ducks** away from Lake Superior were found in Cass and Dakota. In Dakota near Prescott, WI, a male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was enjoyed by many in late January.

Ruffed and **Sharp-tailed Grouse** showed moderate increases. Reports of **Wild Turkey** were received from a record number of counties, reflecting their continuing expansion statewide. Lingering well into January were a **Pied-billed Grebe** in Cass and **American White Pelicans** in Lac Qui Parle and Wabasha. A **Great Blue Heron** overwintered in Sherburne.

Unsurprisingly, **Bald Eagles** were tallied in a record 65 counties, reflecting their burgeoning population statewide. What is almost certainly the same individual **Gyr Falcon** (based on a unique habit of extending its wings for several seconds

before flight), an adult gray morph, overwintered for the 3rd consecutive year in Dakota between Hastings and Vermillion. A first county record **Prairie Falcon** was well-documented in Steele.

Oddly, **Thayer's Gulls** were relatively plentiful in the metro area, yet no first cycle birds were reported. Totally unexpected so soon after the state's first **Slaty-backed Gull** in July 2006, were the state's second and third (!) records from Dakota and Washington. Fortunately, both of these individuals remained long enough to be seen by many birders. Wabasha's first **Black-legged Kittiwake** exceeded the previous record-late date by 16 days.

Eurasian Collared-Dove continued to increase as reflected by high counts of 43 in Renville and 22 in Brown. Rochester (Olmsted) recorded the second highest CBC total of **Mourning Doves** for the state (Rochester also holds the record). **Short-eared Owls** had their best showing in many years with a remarkable 65 individuals in 17 counties. Impressive high counts came from Wilkin (24) in the north and Anoka (16) in the south.

Encouraging for this declining species was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** on the Fargo-Moorhead CBC as well as reports from Fillmore, Olmsted, Ramsey, and Rice throughout the period. Providing rare mid-winter records were well-documented **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in Dakota and Houston counties. **American Three-toed Woodpecker** and **Black-backed Woodpecker** continued the irruption first noted in the fall season, with many reports coming especially from the Hedbom Forest Road in Aitkin County.

This was also an irruption year for **Gray Jay** in northern Minnesota, including the western border from Kittson south to Clay. A **Common Raven** was found

somewhat south of normal in Washington.

A female **Mountain Bluebird** provided a first winter record for Dakota and a **Gray Catbird** potentially overwintered at Silver Bay in Lake. January **Northern Mockingbirds** were found in Lac Qui Parle and Hennepin. The fourth state record of **Curve-billed Thrasher** was established at an Itasca feeder mid-August to December. A third winter record **Pine Warbler** was found on the Duluth CBC in St. Louis.

A **Green-tailed Towhee** at a feeder in Cottonwood was the state's fifth and probably the most celebrated. Incredibly, it had been banded at Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Ontario, Canada, in June 2006! Single **Spotted Towhees** showed up in Scott and Mower. Only the state's second winter record, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was photographed at a feeder in Olmsted.

An otherwise lackluster winter finch year was given a boost by no fewer than three "interior form" **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** that overwintered together November thru mid-February in Carlton. Thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Fond du Lac Band and staff at the Resource Management Division office west of Cloquet, the birds were seen and photographed by many. Finally, the state's sixth **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** was a sporadic visitor to a feeder in Otter Tail.

Weather Summary: The year 2006 finished as the 3rd warmest year since 1891 in the Twin Cities. This came on the heels of 2005, the 4th warmest year on record. December was one of the warmest in the modern record for the Twin Cities. The average monthly temperature for the Twin Cities International Airport was 29.1 degrees, making it the 6th warmest December on record, and the warmest in 47 years.

December also went into the record books as one of the least snowy on record in many locations in southeast Minnesota. Rochester received just eight tenths of an inch of snow — fifth place for the least amount of snow in a December. The dry weather perpetuated the drought conditions that had been in place

in the northern half of Minnesota for the previous seven months.

On 21 December, a new record was set for the latest daily first one-half inch of snow in the Twin Cities. The old record was 20 December 1998. A large, lumbering storm system moved through the Upper Midwest on New Year's Eve, bringing with it large amounts of precipitation in the form of rain, freezing rain, and snow. Many single-day all-time precipitation records were set that day. In some areas, the rain changed to snow early enough in the day to lead to significant snowfall accumulation. A swath of at least six inches of snow extended from the Fairmont area, north through the western Twin Cities suburbs, through Cambridge and Mora, and into the Iron Range and Minnesota's Arrowhead region.

Overall, the snow drought continued across much of Minnesota, especially in the Mississippi Headwaters area, as evidenced by a 100-acre cattail fire on 17 January 2007, near Steamboat Bay of Leech Lake. On 18 February, Leech Lake Dam reported 5 inches of snow on the ground; the median for that date is about 16 inches. At St. Cloud, the low January snowfall tied with 1903 and 1959 for the 8th lowest in the 104 years of St. Cloud records. It took until the last week of February for snow to cover the ground in St. Cloud, but the month ended with 13.6 inches, 7.1 inches above normal.

On 6 February, an Alberta Clipper sailed southeast and dropped significant snow (for this snow season) across central and southern Minnesota. Some areas had nearly bare ground before the snow, especially in the Willmar and Alexandria area. The most snow, 4–6 inches, fell in a line from Breckenridge, Wilkin County to Faribault, Rice County.

At midnight on 3 February, the temperature dropped to zero at the Twin Cities International Airport and stayed at or below zero for a stretch of 63 hours through the 5th. This was the longest stretch below zero since January 2004, when the mercury stayed at or below zero for 82 consecutive hours.

Please note that all CBC data is presented elsewhere in this journal and is incorporated only sparingly in this paper.

Undocumented reports: **Black-legged Kittiwake** 1/8 Lac Qui Parle / Swift; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 12/27 Lac Qui Parle; **Yellow-headed Blackbird** 12/31 (2), 1/17 Lac Qui Parle.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to all of you who submitted seasonal reports and documentation, especially to those using the on-line seasonal report at <<http://moumn.org/moureports/season.html>>.

Special thanks to Dave Cahlander and Paul Budde for their continuing efforts to streamline and improve this process. 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.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species are listed in brackets [**Whooping Crane**] when there is a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name indicates the total number of north and south counties.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger "†" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
11. 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 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812-1533, or via e-mail at psvingen@d.umn.edu.

Greater White-fronted Goose — [5 South] Very late and possibly overwintered **1/12** Lac Qui Parle BJU, **1/27** Dakota (2, Vermillion) BAF. Also reported 12/1 Chippewa BJU, 12/3 Washington (Pt. Douglas Park) KRE, 1/1 Olmsted (Silver Lake) JWH.

Snow Goose — [2 North, 6 South] Late north 1/8 St. Louis (imm., Bayfront Park, Duluth) DOK. Documented 12/17 Mower (3, Austin CBC) †LLD, CM. Late south 1/13 Stearns/Benton (Sauk Rapids) PCC, 1/17 Big Stone BJU, 2/2 Scott (Mill Pond) JWH.

Ross's Goose — [3 South] One **overwin-**

tered 9/1-2/18 McLeod and was recorded on the Hutchinson CBC ph. †SM, BH, DMF. An interesting individual photographed 12/10 in Rice, and recorded on the Faribault CBC 12/16, lingered through 12/21 †GDB, ph. DAT, m.ob. Subtle characteristics of the head and bill suggested a possible backcross (3rd or 4th generation?) with Snow Goose. Although the size apparently is right for Ross's Goose, characteristics associated with hybrids include: 1) head slightly flattened, 2) bill slightly larger (thicker), 3) hint of a grin patch, and 4) slightly curved (not straight) border of facial feathering along the base of the bill. Only other report: 1/1 Cot-

tonwood (Fish Lake, no details) BTS.

Canada Goose — [12 North, 37 South] High count north 12/16 Clay (2,500 at Crystal Sugar ponds) PBB. Indicative of the mild winter, an estimated 10,000–12,000 concentrated on a knocked down corn field near Vermillion, Dakota County, between late January and mid-February BAF, NFT, JPM.

Cackling Goose — [13 South] An increase in reports during the period compared to previous years probably reflects increased awareness, though few were well documented. Reports were distributed throughout the southern counties from east to west. A group of 50–80 spent a few days at Pt. Douglas Park beginning 12/8 Washington DWK, JPM. Attempted overwintering through at least 1/28 Dakota, where as many as 30 were counted 1/23 in a corn field near Vermillion with 10,000–12,000 Canada Geese JPM, †BAF. Also documented 12/10 Waseca (2) †JPS, 12/16 Bloomington CBC ph. PEB, 12/16 Fairmont CBC (total of 18) †BRB, EBK. One seen six times between 1/1 and 2/27 Olmsted (Silver L., Rochester) ph. LAV probably overwintered.

Mute Swan — [2 South] Reported 12/9 Rice DAB, 1/1 Wright ASc, NSc, 2/20 Rice FVS. Also reported on Northern Wright County CBC (same as 1/1?) SL.

Trumpeter Swan — [6 North, 12 South] High counts: north 1/14 (90) Hubbard PBB; south 12/30 (464) Wright (440 at Minnesota Drive Park, 24 at Lake Maria SP) ASc. Mid-winter observations north suggested overwintering in Beltrami and Otter Tail; unusual report 1/26 Clay *vide* JM]. Numerous reports south between mid-January and mid-February in Benton, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Sherburne, and Washington.

Tundra Swan — [5 South] Few reports and no large concentrations. All reports: 12/1 Meeker (Lake Ripley) DMF, 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 12/11

Olmsted PWP, 12/14 Dakota SWe, 12/16 Northwest McLeod CBC (2, Pipenberg Park near Hutchinson) DMF, 1/13 Washington (Pt. Douglas) SWe, 1/19 Washington RBJ.

Wood Duck — [2 North, 7 South] Two north reports: 1/15 Cass RHe, 2/9 Otter Tail *vide* JM]. Late south 1/13 Sherburne ADB, but also overwintered Hennepin (Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) DWK, HCT.

Gadwall — [3 North, 10 South] Very late (overwintered?) north 1/15 Cass RHe, 1/20 Morrison HHD. Mid-winter high count 1/3 Dakota (22 at Gun Club Lake, Eagan) ADS. Probably overwintered in Scott (Blue Lake) JCC. Other January reports: 1/8 Dakota (4 at Black Dog Lake) CMB, 1/10 Wabasha (Lake City Marina) RBW.

American Wigeon — [5 South] Late south 1/10 Benton (female) HHD, 1/21, 1/28 Dakota (male near Vermillion, same field as per Canada Goose above) BAF.

American Black Duck — [3 North, 21 South] A few overwintered in St. Louis (Duluth) and four were present 2/17 Cook (Grand Marais) JW. Numerous reports south including probable overwintering in Dakota, Hennepin, Scott; unusual mid-winter report 1/17 Big Stone (Thielke Lake) BJU. High count 1/28 Dakota (10 feeding in field at Donnelly and 180th) BAF.

Mallard — [12 North, 31 South] High count north 12/16 Clay (1,000 in Moorhead area) CMN. About 100 overwintered on Silver Lake and Manganika Creek in St. Louis (Virginia) SLF. A flock of 5,000–6,000 was feeding in corn fields in Dakota (Vermillion Twp.) late January and early February BAF, JPM, NFT.

Northern Shoveler — [3 South] All January reports: 1/1 Meeker DMF, 1/2, 1/17, 1/30 Hennepin (Minnehaha Creek) DDo, 1/5 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU. Only February report: 2/17–18 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) DWK, HCT.

Northern Pintail — [2 North, 5 South] All north reports: 12/16 Clay (Moorhead sewage lagoons) CMN, 1/17 St. Louis (male, Canal Park, Duluth) KRE. January reports south included 1/3 and 1/18 Olmsted (Rochester) JWH, 1/10 Dakota (male, Black Dog Lake) DWK.

Green-winged Teal — [1 North, 6 South] Unusual north report 1/15 Cass RHe. Only other January reports: 1/4 Scott (Wilkie Unit) CMB, 1/10 Stearns (female) HHD, 1/10 Wabasha (Lake City Marina) RBW.

Canvasback — [5 South] Male and female present until 1/14 Washington (Pt. Douglas) JPM. Also reported 1/4 Scott (2, Blue Lake) CMB, 1/10 Wabasha (Lake City Marina) RBW.

Redhead — [6 South] High count 12/16 Scott (5) DWK. Apparently overwintered Hennepin (Bass Ponds, MVNWR) DWK. Also reported 12/27 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) CMB, 1/14 Washington (1st-year male) JPM.

Ring-necked Duck — [2 North, 8 South] Overwintered north in St. Louis (female at Silver Lake, Virginia) SLF. Only other north reports: 12/8 Hubbard RBW and St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) KRE. Mid-winter reports south suggesting overwintering: 1/14–21 Washington (male and female) JPM, BAF, 1/17 Benton (Sartell) HHD, 1/20 Scott (10, Blue Lake) JCC, 2/4 and 2/17 Hennepin (Bass Ponds, MVNWR) DWK.

Greater Scaup — [2 North, 7 South] All north reports: 12/9 St. Louis (two males and one female, Duluth) JWJ, **1/1** St. Louis (probably two of the three seen 12/9) PHS. All January–February reports: 1/1 Wabasha (2, Lake Pepin) JWH, 1/3 Washington (Pt. Douglas Park) LS, **1/16** Benton (female, Sartell) HHD, **1/25–2/17** Hennepin (female, Bass Ponds, MVNWR) DWK.

Lesser Scaup — [12 South] All counts were ≤ 3 birds and most reports were

from the Twin Cities area or Southeast. Observed as late as 1/5 Lac Qui Parle (BSNWR) BJU. All February reports: 2/5 Benton HHD, 2/19 Olmsted (Silver Lake, Rochester) RWM, 2/22 Dakota (2, Hastings) DWK.

Harlequin Duck — [3 North] Immature male and female in St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth, see fall report) still present 1/28 ph. DWK, m.ob. On 2/2 JLR saw a Peregrine Falcon on the ice at Canal Park eating what was probably the female Harlequin Duck; the male was “bathing furiously” nearby. Male last reported 2/18 *fide* JWJ. Only other reports: 2/10 Cook (adult male, Grand Marais) *fide* JWJ, 2/16 Lake (female near lighthouse, Two Harbors) DMF.

White-winged Scoter — [2 North, 2 South] One found 12/12 Lake (Burlington Bay, Two Harbors) lingered through 1/28 JWJ. Two reported on Duluth CBC (Park Point) 12/16 AXH, PHS. Presumably one of these two was refound **1/17–2/18** St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) KRE, m.ob. All south reports: 12/3 Washington (Pt. Douglas Park) LS, KRE, 12/11 Washington JPM, 12/19 Lac Qui Parle (BSNWR) BJU.

Black Scoter — [1 North] Only report: **12/11** Cass (Ten Mile Lake) BAW.

Long-tailed Duck — [5 North, 1 South] Unusual location 1/1 Cass (Pillager CBC) DJS, ph. BAW. High count 2/17 Lake (10, Silver Bay) JWJ. Additional north reports 12/14 St. Louis (Gitchi Gammi Park) KRE, 1/17–2/18 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) KRE, CMB, DMF, JCC, m.ob., 2/10 Cook (Grand Marais) *fide* JWJ, 2/16 Lake (Two Harbors) DMF. Only south report: immature/female 1/14–15 Washington (Pt. Douglas Park) m.ob.

Bufflehead — [3 North, 7 South] Mid-January reports north: 1/10 St. Louis (female, French River) JWJ, 1/11 Lake (2, Agate Bay, Two Harbors) FKB. January reports south: 1/1 Wabasha (2, Lake City) JWJ, 1/13–19 Dakota (2, Black Dog Lake)

CRM, DDo, DWK, 1/20 Dakota (pair seen from Freedom Park) JPM.

Common Goldeneye — [9 North, 19 South] High count north 1/1 St. Louis (540) PHS. Overwintered away from Lake Superior in St. Louis (max. 10 on Silver Lake, Virginia) SLF. High count south 12/3 Washington (440) RPR. Present thru 1/20 Washington (Pt. Douglas) JCC, DDo, JPM. Mid-winter reports south as far west as Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, and Swift further reflected the mild winter.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE — [1 South] Adult male found 1/19 Dakota (seen from Prescott, WI) KJB was re-found 1/21 †JPM and documented through 2/1 †CMB, †PEB, ph. DAC, †PCC.

Hooded Merganser — [3 North, 9 South] Male overwintered through 2/20 St. Louis (Silver Lake, Virginia) SLF. Mid-winter report 1/17–23 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) KRE. Numerous south reports spanned the season with probable overwintering in Dakota, Hennepin, Scott.

Common Merganser — [5 North, 15 South] North reports away from Lake Superior: 12/14 Cass (3, Ten Mile Lake) BAW, 12/17 Morrison HHD, 1/20 Cass HHD, 1/26 Cass (Pillager Dam) BAW, 2/24 Beltrami DPJ. High count south 1/7 Wabasha (12,000 on Lake Pepin) Swe. Present mid-winter at usual locations in the Twin Cities metro area and Lake Pepin. A total of 1,350 was counted 1/17 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) PEB.

Red-breasted Merganser — [2 North] All reports after the CBC period from Lake Superior: 1/6 Lake (7, Two Harbors) JWJ, 1/18 Lake (17, Burlington Bay, Two Harbors) JWJ, 1/25 Lake (17, Burlington Bay) CMB.

Ruddy Duck — [1 South] Only report: 12/16 Benton (Mississippi River, Sartell) HHD.

Gray Partridge — [4 North, 6 South]

All north reports: 12/3 Marshall (15) SBR *fide* JMJ, 12/16 Clay (13, Fargo-Moorhead CBC), 12/20 Kittson LW *fide* JMJ, 1/11 Clay (12, county road 52) CMB. High count south 1/21 Brown (14) BTS. No reports from Southeast.

Ring-necked Pheasant — [7 North, 41 South] This species is enjoying a strong resurgence throughout its range in the state, especially in the West-central region. The Minnesota DNR pheasant index remained high in 2006 and was about 48% above the 10-year average, though still 63% below the benchmark years of 1955–64 (soil-bank years with marginal cropland in long-term set-aside).

Ruffed Grouse — [16 North, 5 South] According to the Minnesota DNR, mean counts of Ruffed Grouse drums throughout the forested regions of Minnesota were 1.0 drums/stop. That was significantly greater than the 0.8 drums/stop observed during 2005 and similar to data from 2001. Unusual report of a single bird 1/8 Dakota (Jens A. Casperson Landing, Fort Snelling S.P.) CMB.

Spruce Grouse — [3 North] Unusual location 1/13 Aitkin (female, Hedbom Forest Road) DPG. High count 2/18 Lake (14) JCC. Also reported from Lake of the Woods.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — [12 North, 1 South] High counts 2/3 Pennington (38) JMJ, 12/27 Kittson (30) LW. Noteworthy south count of 20 birds 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (Section 25, Walter Twp.) *fide* BJU. Also reported from Lac Qui Parle 1/22 (Section 19, Perry Twp.) and 2/5 (near Lac Qui Parle County Park) BJU.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — [3 North, 2 South] High count 12/13 Wilkin (60) DTT. Presumed releases 12/26 Lac Qui Parle (17, section 16, Hantho Twp.), 1/17 Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie East Unit), 2/5 Chippewa (4, two miles southeast of Milan) BJU. A total of 570 prairie-chickens was released in west-central Minnesota

between 1999 and 2006, the last year of the reintroduction program (*fide* SV). Observers are asked to report all sightings in these areas to the Minnesota DNR.

Wild Turkey — [11 North, 32 South] Highest numbers of counties to date reflects this species continuing expansion west and north. High counts north 1/2 Kanabec (44) RBW, 1/26 Pine (47) JMP. Flocks of 50–75 reported from several south counties.

Common Loon — [3 North] All reports north: 12/16 St. Louis (Duluth CBC) KRE, 12/17–1/6 Itasca (Cohasset, first found Grand Rapids CBC) EEO, SC, m.ob., 2/2, 2/9 Otter Tail (overwintered?) *fide* JMJ.

Pied-billed Grebe — [1 North, 1 South] All reports: 12/14, 1/8 Cass (Brockway L.) BAW, 12/22 Lac Qui Parle (BSNWR) BJU.

Horned Grebe — [2 North] All reports from North Shore of Lake Superior, including multiple observations in Lake: 12/12, 1/4, 1/21 (mouth of Stewart River), 12/17 (Two Harbors), 12/23, 2/11 (Flood Bay) *fide* JWL. Also reported 12/14 St. Louis (near Stoney Point) *fide* JWL.

American White Pelican — [3 South] Reported 12/4–8 Dakota (3, Black Dog Lake) DAB, DWK, JPM, PEB, 12/21 and 1/8 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU, 1/13 Wabasha JLO, LS, RBJ.

Double-crested Cormorant — [6 South] Late south 1/13 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) DDo, 1/20 Hennepin DAT.

Great Blue Heron — [1 North, 14 South] Only north report: 1/7 St. Louis (near Floodwood, observed by D. Johnson of Illinois) *fide* KRE. Several January reports south away from usual overwintering locations, including 1/1 Olmsted (Rochester) JWH, 1/2 Dakota (Bull Frog Pond, Hastings) ADS, 1/6 Meeker Litchfield) DMF, 1/9, 1/13 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) CMB, CRM, DDo, 1/11 Steele NFT. Overwintered 1/26–2/16 Sherburne (county road 1

at county road 87) ASc.

Black-crowned Night Heron — Reported 12/16 Ramsey (Pigs Eye W.T.P.) †KS *et al.*

Bald Eagle — [27 North, 38 South] Reported from a record 65 counties (old record of 62 set just last year). Huge number of reports statewide reflects the spectacular recovery of this species.

Northern Harrier — [8 North, 13 South] The mild winter produced numerous south reports and several late January reports in northern regions, including 1/20 Cass HHD, 1/20 Morrison DPG, 1/22, 1/25 Wilkin TSS, CMN.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — [9 North, 18 South] All January reports north: 1/4 Lake (adult) †JWL, 1/10 Carlton/Pine JMP, 1/19 Otter Tail DTT, 1/20 St. Louis (adult male) TPW.

Cooper's Hawk — [2 North, 20 South] Documentation provided for only one bird, making it difficult to assess the status of this species in winter. All north reports (none with details): 12/16 Clay (3, Fargo-Moorhead CBC), 2/9 Beltrami DPJ.

Northern Goshawk — [5 North, 6 South] Reported from half as many counties as last year. No details provided for any of the south individuals, including several immatures posing particular ID challenges.

Red-shouldered Hawk — [6 South] Documented 12/16 McLeod (NW McLeod CBC) †KE. Unusual location 12/24 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) BJU. Late January and mid-February reports suggested overwintering in Hennepin (Bass Ponds, MVNWR) DWK.

Red-tailed Hawk — [12 North, 44 South] Numerous reports from all regions. Kridler's subspecies 2/17 Isanti AXH.

Rough-legged Hawk — [23 North, 22



Gyrfalcon, 25 January 2007, Vermillion Township, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

South] Down from 57 counties last year, but still reported in good numbers from all regions. All counts ≤ 12 birds.

Golden Eagle — [2 North, 5 South] One seen 1/1 Cass (Pillager CBC) †WLB *et al.* Only other north report: 1/14 Clay RAE, BWF, HHD, MM. Observed throughout the season in Houston (3 birds 1/21, FZL), Winona. All other south reports: 12/21 Swift BJU, 12/31, 1/4, 2/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/22 Meeker DMF.

American Kestrel — [7 North, 42 South] Number of counties up considerably from last year (30). Reported from all regions except Northeast.

Merlin — [2 North, 11 South] Two non-CBC reports north: 12/9 Aitkin JSB, WEN, 12/9 Beltrami MJJ. Approximately 20 individuals including 3 Richardson's subspecies reported south.

GYRFALCON — [1 North, 1 South] Adult gray morph 1/3–2/16 St. Louis (Port Ter-

minal, Duluth) DLE, †PHS, m.ob. For the third consecutive year, presumably the same adult gray morph (based on behavior) overwintered in the Hastings area 1/19–3/23 Dakota BSe, ph. †JPM, †LEC, †NFT, ph. DAC, m.ob.

Peregrine Falcon — [1 North, 6 South] Overwintered St. Louis (Duluth, 2 birds 2/12 DSC). Reported 12/16 Winona (Hiawatha Valley CBC) *vide* WEC. Additional south report away from usual metro area and river sites 12/9 Lac Qui Parle (Marietta) BJU.

Prairie Falcon — [1 South] Seen through binoculars at close range 12/31 **Steele** (dark "wingpits" noted, east side of Owatonna) †CCB.

American Coot — [5 North, 13 South] Overwintered north in St. Louis (2, Silver Lake, Virginia) SLF, and Otter Tail (5, Fergus Falls) DTT. Other north reports: 12/16 Clay (4, Moorhead W.T.P., new to Fargo-Moorhead CBC) CMN, PBB, 12/17



Slaty-backed Gull, 15 January 2007, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Morrison HHD, 12/17 Itasca (3, Grand Rapids CBC) *fide* KZ. Present 12/16 McLeod (Hutchinson CBC) ph. RWS. Only report south from western regions: 12/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Sandhill Crane — [1 North] Report of an injured crane (no details) 12/3 Aitkin (north of Floodwood) *fide* SWe.

Killdeer — [1 North, 1 South] All reports north: **12/24** Lake *fide* JWL, **1/4** Lake (same bird, Two Harbors) JWL. All reports south from Lac Qui Parle: 12/31 (Walter Twp.), 1/6 (Perry Twp.), 1/16 (Walter Twp.) BJU.

Wilson's Snipe — [5 South] All reports: 12/7–30 Rice DAB, 12/30 Washington (3) SMC, 1/6 Nicollet RMD, 1/15, 2/17 Olmsted (2, Mill Creek, overwintered?) JWH, 2/11 Nicollet (Seven Mile Creek) RMD, 2/18 Hennepin (Mound Spring Park) DWK.

Bonaparte's Gull — [1 South] Only re-

port: 12/3 Chippewa (adult, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU.

Ring-billed Gull — [1 North, 12 South] Only north report: 12/2 St. Louis PEB. In the south, typical pattern of high numbers early, e.g. 1,000 on 12/2 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) MCA, gradually diminishing to much lower numbers in early January. A few lingered until late January: 1/20 Washington DDo, 1/21 Dakota (2 near Prescott, WI, and Black Dog Lake) PEB, 1/27 Dakota (MVNWR) CRM.

Herring Gull — [3 North, 7 South] Overwintered north in Lake and St. Louis m.ob. In the south, present most of January in Dakota, Hennepin, and Washington at usual open water sites. Larger than normal numbers lingered into late January, e.g. 1/23 Dakota (42, Black Dog Lake) DWK.

Thayer's Gull — [3 North, 6 South] Late north 1/6 St. Louis (adult, Canal Park, Duluth) JCC, KRE, LS, 1/17 Cook (1st-cycle at

Grand Marais) *fide* JWJ; 2/19 Lake (adult, Knife River) †JWJ probably overwintered. South reports from Twin Cities except 12/4 Sherburne and Wright CRM, 1/7 Wabasha (3) SWe. High count 12/24 Dakota (5, Black Dog Lake) PEB. Late south 1/13–14 Washington PEB, 1/19–23 (daily reports) ph. DAT, m.ob.

Iceland Gull — [1 South] First-cycle bird 12/2 thru mid-December Dakota (Black Dog Lake) ph. †JPM, MCA, PHS, CLW, DWK, EEO. A large 2nd-cycle (male?) was present 12/20–1/8 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) ph. JPM, †PEB, DWK.

Lesser Black-backed Gull — [2 South] Probably the same adult reported 9/25+ Dakota (Lakes Calhoun and Harriet, see fall report) was still present 12/1 DWK. Based on plumage differences, another adult was seen 12/5, 12/13, and 12/16 (Bloomington CBC) Dakota (Black Dog Lake) †PEB, JPM.

SLATY-BACKED GULL — [2 South] An adult was well documented 12/3–5 and again 12/9–13 **Dakota** (Black Dog Lake) providing Minnesota's second record †JPM, †BAF, †ADS, †PEB, m.ob. Amazingly, the state's third record was soon discovered 1/14–25 **Washington** and Dakota (Pt. Douglas Park and Mississippi River off Prescott, WI) ph. †JPM, †MAO; documentation also provided by †PEB, ph. †BAF, ph. DWK, ph. †PHS. After its initial discovery, this bird spent most of its time on the Mississippi River just south of Pt. Douglas, on both sides of the state line (Dakota County, MN and Pierce County, WI); towards the end of its stay, it was found roosting at Black Dog Lake (DWK, ChM). This was likely a fourth-cycle bird based on markings in a few rectrices as well as on the bill. It bore a strong resemblance to an individual previously seen and photographed in LaCrosse, WI (D. Jackson *fide* DWK).

Glaucous Gull — [1 North, 4 South] All reports from St. Louis (Duluth): 12/6 ASC, 12/9 JWJ, 1/11 *fide* JWJ. Numerous re-

ports south from usual winter gull sites in Dakota, Washington, Hennepin, Wabasha. Interesting were four birds 12/2 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) representing first, second, third, and fourth or definitive plumage cycles JPM. At least two adults and one or two immatures were present Dakota and Washington throughout January m.ob.

Glaucous Gull X Herring Gull — Adult "Nelson's Gull" 12/4–17 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) BAW, ph. †PHS, ph. JWJ.

Great Black-backed Gull — [1 North] Presumably the same first-cycle bird first found 11/5 at the Superior Entry (see fall report) visited Canal Park, Duluth 1/6 St. Louis †KRE, JCC, CRM, LS.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE — [1 South] Record late by more than two weeks (26 December 1994, *The Loon* 67:110) was a first-winter bird **1/11–12 Wabasha** (Lake Pepin) †DBz, †JWH.

Rock Pigeon — [23 North, 44 South] The "ROPI Award" for highest CBC count this year goes to St. Paul (North) with an impressive **6,695** pigeons. But alas, this remains woefully below the record of 8,071 tallied on the Duluth CBC in 1983.

Eurasian Collared-Dove — [1 North, 10 South] One north report: 12/16 Clay 6, Fargo-Moorhead CBC) *fide* RHO. Record number of counties reporting this species, reflecting continued expansion, primarily in southern half of the state. Record high counts 12/13 Renville (**43**, Olivia) PME, 1/28 Brown (**22**, Comfrey grain elevator) BTS. Noteworthy counts 12/17–20 Mower (max. 8 at Lyle and 12 at Rose Creek, including 8 at Lyle and 4 at Rose Creek during the Austin CBC *fide* TDo) ph. JEM, ph. NFT, 1/11–13 Wabasha (10, Plainview) JWH, LS. Reported on five CBCs with the highest number seen on the Austin CBC. Documented for the first time 2/11+ **Pope** (Lowry) HHD, BWF, †BJU. Continuing reports from Chippewa (7, Milan), Dakota (Farmington), Fillmore (Fountain), Lac Qui



Long-eared Owl, 25 February 2007, Elm Creek Park Reserve, Hennepin County. Photo by Paul Schlick.

Parle (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A. and Madison), Swift (Appleton).

Mourning Dove — [5 North, 25 South] The 12/16 Rochester CBC recorded the second highest CBC total of **288** for the state (the highest was 294 in 2004 — also on the Rochester CBC).

Eastern Screech-Owl — [2 North, 9 South] All north reports: 12/6 Mille Lacs (Kathio S.P., calling) ASc, 1/13 Aitkin ASc. South reports from Fillmore, Hennepin (red morph, MCA), Houston, Kandiyohi (gray morph, RAE), Lac Qui Parle (3 locations, including gray morph near Louisburg, BJU). Olmsted, Rice, Scott, and Sherburne.

Great Horned Owl — [12 North, 27 South] Reported from 39 counties statewide.

Snowy Owl — [9 North, 10 South] PHS

compiled a total of 47 individuals between 11/7/06 and 5/1/07, 31 of which were first found during the winter season. Overwintered beginning 1/5 St Louis (Duluth) DLE, m.ob. Most reports were from the Northwest region, especially in Kittson, where a high count of 4 was noted near Orleans 12/11 HHD, RAE. Scattered widely across the southern regions from Wilkin, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, and Nobles, east to Winona and Wabasha. One found dead 1/9 Steele *fide* AEB. At least one bird was seen again at Minneapolis / St. Paul Airport in January and February (m.ob.).

Northern Hawk Owl — [5 North] Overwintered along Rice Lake Road, Duluth beginning 12/10 m.ob. Scattered reports elsewhere in North-central and Northeast, with a high count of 2 on 2/17 Beltrami DAB, JWH.

Barred Owl — [13 North, 16 South] Reported statewide, with most reports com-

ing from the south throughout the season.

Great Gray Owl — [5 North] Scattered reports within range across the north, with a high count of 4 on 1/21 Aitkin (Hedbom Forest Road) KRE. Majority of the 22 reports received were from this location. Single birds reported on the Sax-Zim and Virginia CBCs.

Long-eared Owl — [1 North, 7 South] Only north report: 2/27 Otter Tail *fide* JM]. All south reports: high counts 1/14 and 2/18 Ramsey (3, same location both dates), and one at a different location 2/10 Ramsey AXH. Also reported 1/3 Meeker DMF, 1/8, 2/22, 2/28 Dakota (Lake Byllesby Regional Park) m.ob, and 1/16, 1/25 (2) Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Short-eared Owl — [9 North, 8 South] A remarkable 65 individuals reported from 17 counties. High counts 12/30 Marshall (16, Warren CBC) *fide* JM], 1/22 Wilkin (24) TSS in the north, and 12/22 Anoka (16) AXH, m.ob, in the south. Also seen in Clay, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Norman, Pennington, and Pine in the north; and Brown, Chipewa, Freeborn, Lac Qui Parle, Rice, Sherburne, and Stearns in the south. The best winter season for this species in many years.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — [2 North, 6 South] Three individuals north: 1/9 Lake of the Woods MHK, 2/8 Cook (singing, near Oberg Mountain) *fide* JWL. 2/18 Lake of the Woods DAB, JEB. Seven individuals reported south, including several observations 12/1–2/22 Rice TFB, and single birds 1/1 Olmsted JWH, 1/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High count 1/14 Ramsey (2) AXH. Probable migrant 2/17 Anoka AXH.

hummingbird sp. — [1 South] One seen 12/16 Ramsey on the St. Paul CBC. Views were not close enough to allow for identification.

Belted Kingfisher — [6 North, 15 South] Overwintered in St Louis for the second year in a row (Manganika Creek near Vir-

ginia) SLF. Other north reports in Douglas, Morrison, Todd and Wadena with the latest 1/26 Cass BAW. Reported south throughout the season with all counts <2 birds.

Red-headed Woodpecker — [1 North, 4 South] Only north report: 12/16 Clay (Fargo-Moorhead CBC) *fide* RHO. Several observations in Rice and Olmsted throughout the season. Also, an immature visited a feeder 12/4–1/2 Ramsey HF, REH, and one was seen 2/10 Fillmore DDM.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — [17 North, 39 South] Increasing north, including St. Louis on the Virginia CBC and again 12/29 SLF. Seen throughout the south with a high count 12/23 Renville (9) PBB.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — [1 South] Two well-documented observations: **1/14** Dakota (visiting a feeder in Castle Rock Township, photos reviewed by S. Mlodinow) ph. †MRo, and several weeks through **2/6** Houston (La Crescent, probably overwintered) ph. ASt. Also see undocumented reports.

Downy Woodpecker — [26 North, 45 South] Statewide throughout the season.

Hairy Woodpecker — [26 North, 39 South] Statewide throughout the season.

American Three-toed Woodpecker — [10 North] An irruption year for this species with 19 individuals observed in 10 counties, including males as far south as the Pine/Carlton line 12/20–27 MCA, CKR, and 2/1–11 Pine JMP. None strayed outside of the coniferous forest zone. Up to four individuals found along Hedbom Forest Road in 12/2–1/28 Aitkin m.ob.

Black-backed Woodpecker — [10 North] A maximum total of 20 individuals reported from 10 north counties, including one as far west as 12/28 Becker (female, Tamarac N.W.R.) MO. Exceptional was a tally 12/16 Aitkin (10) CKR, one half of



Black-backed Woodpecker, 30 December 2006, northeastern Aitkin County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

the entire season's total.

Northern Flicker — [5 North, 23 South] Overwintered north in Pennington 12/7–2/28 JMJ. Also reported 12/16 Clay (Fargo-Moorhead CBC) CMN and 2/2 Clay *fide* JMJ (same bird?), 1/23 Marshall (near Warren) *fide* JMJ, 2/3 Todd JSK, SID, and 2/25 St. Louis (Duluth Twp.) *fide* JCG. Well represented in the south throughout the season. A report 1/2 Cottonwood †RMD *et al.*, was of the “red-shafted” race.

Pileated Woodpecker — [23 North, 32 South] Reported within range statewide. High count 12/23 Redwood (13) PBB.

Northern Shrike — [22 North, 29 South] Reported nearly statewide from 51 counties; typically scarce in the Southwest.

Gray Jay — [21 North] An irruption year for this species, but limited to the northern half of the state. Reported from 20 counties, including all along the western

border from Kittson south to Clay. High count 12/28 Koochiching (20) TCr.

Blue Jay — [28 North, 40 South] Reported from 68 counties statewide, a slight increase over the past 5 years.

Black-billed Magpie — [12 North] Reported from 12 north counties within normal range, the same as last year.

American Crow — [27 North, 44 South] Reported statewide.

Common Raven — [22 North, 3 South] Reported within range in the north. Also reported south 12/8 and 1/19 Sherburne, 1/30 Isanti ASc. Unusually far south was one 12/30 Washington SMC.

Horned Lark — [7 North, 38 South] Lingering southbound migrants noted north 12/1 Todd JSK, SID. Likely returning migrants first noted 1/3 Mille Lacs NSc and 1/11 Otter Tail CMB. Seen throughout the season south, with high counts beginning the end of January. Early south migrants indistinguishable from wintering birds. Highest reported count 2/25 Brown (825) BTS. Also, “1000s” 2/28 Meeker DMF.

Black-capped Chickadee — [29 North, 42 South] Reported from 71 counties statewide.

Boreal Chickadee — [10 North] Reported from 10 counties within range, the same as last year.

Tufted Titmouse — [5 South] Seen within range in Fillmore, Houston, and Olmsted throughout the season. Also, coming to a feeder 12/2 Dakota (Burnsville) ND, and 12/5 Washington TEB, JLO (no details).

Red-breasted Nuthatch — [20 North, 23 South] Reported from 43 counties statewide, but absent from the most southern tier of counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch — [29 North,

42 South] Reported from 71 counties statewide. Record high count 12/23 Renville (19) PBB.

Brown Creeper — [12 North, 23 South] Reports down slightly to 35 counties statewide.

Carolina Wren — [1 North, 3 South] First county record 12/27 through at least mid-January **Cass** (Sylvan Lake) †MCM. Two overwintered (see fall report) in Olmsted OWB, †CMB *et al.* and one was present “throughout the winter” in Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave.) BBB. Also reported 1/2 Fillmore (Root River Trail) NBO, 1/24 Fillmore (Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center) JWH (different bird?). One was heard for an undetermined period before being identified 2/18, with a second bird 2/19+ Hennepin (Golden Valley) ALD, m.ob.

Winter Wren — [2 South] All reports: 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU, 12/24 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) DWK, 1/23 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) CMB.

Golden-crowned Kinglet — [3 North, 6 South] North reports scattered throughout the season with a high count 12/20 (6) Pine and again 12/27 (6) CKR. Probably overwintered 1/2–2/14 St. Louis m.ob. Scattered across the south from Lac Qui Parle to Fillmore, with three reports after mid-January: 1/17 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU, 1/28 Scott DWK, and 2/05 Brown BTS.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — [1 South] Only report: 12/3 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave.) DWK.

Eastern Bluebird — [9 South] Reported from scattered locations across the south, with some birds seen into mid-February. Probable early migrants detected 2/20 Steele (5) NFT, and 2/22 Sibley (3) RBJ.

Mountain Bluebird — [1 South] Observed 1/18–25 Dakota (Ravenna Twp.) ph. †JPM, †CMB, ph. DAC, m.ob. This female associating with Cedar Waxwings

furnished the first winter record for the county.

Townsend's Solitaire — [3 North, 5 South] Below average total of 11 birds reported from Lake, Otter Tail and St. Louis (3 locations in Duluth) in the north, and Kandiyohi (2), Lac Qui Parle, Rice, Sherburne and Washington in the south.

Hermit Thrush — [1 South] Only non-CBC report: 12/5 Ramsey AXH.

American Robin — [13 North, 26 South] Reported from 39 counties statewide, up slightly from the past 5 years, especially north. High count 12/16 Clay (15) PBB. Well represented across the southern regions, with a high count 12/23 Redwood (213) PBB.

Varied Thrush — [11 North, 5 South] A total of 24 birds in 17 counties was similar to the past two winters (24 last year, 25 in Winter 2004–05). First county record 2/18 **Lake of the Woods** (near Baudette) JWH *et al.* South reports from Chippewa, Isanti, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Ramsey, Washington.

Gray Catbird — [2 North] Observed in two north counties with a probable late migrant 12/1 Cook *fide* JWJ, and a potentially overwintering bird first noted 1/8 Lake through 2/18 at feeder in Silver Bay BSN *fide* JWJ.

Northern Mockingbird — [2 South] All reports: 1/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 1/24 Hennepin TLA.

Brown Thrasher — [2 North, 1 South] All reports: 12/7 Itasca EEO, 12/16 Clay (Fargo-Moorhead CBC) *fide* RHO, 1/8–11 Dakota (Farmington) RCP.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER — [1 North] Fourth state record through 12/4 **Itasca** (Nashwauk) ph. RLL. Present since mid-August.

European Starling — [21 North,



Mountain Bluebird, 19 January 2007, Etter, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

41 South] Reported from 62 counties statewide. Highest reported count 1/7 Hennepin (400) ABL.

Bohemian Waxwing — [17 North, 3 South] No significant high counts; largest concentration 12/1 St. Louis (160) SLF. In the south, reports were all from the western and central regions: 12/4 Swift (14) BJU, 12/8 Swift (15) BJU, 1/8 Lac Qui Parle (5) BJU, 1/21 Meeker (3) DMF, and 1/26 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU.

Cedar Waxwing — [11 North, 30 South] North reports tapered off after mid-January, with February reports limited to Kanabec, Todd, and Wadena. Well reported throughout the south; high count 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (375) BJU.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — [1 North, 4 South] Reported for four of the past five winter seasons. Exceptionally far north was one at suet feeder in Crane Lake 11/29–12/18 St. Louis DMK. Mid-winter sightings in Duluth included 12/29 (East Hillside) *vide* JWJ, 1/8, 1/29 (Bayfront Park) DOK. Numerous south reports included: 12/1, 1/13, 1/25 Lac Qui Parle

BJU, 12/16 McLeod †DMF, 1/2 Fillmore (20) NBO, 1/5 Fillmore (3) NBO, 1/15 Rice TFB.

Pine Warbler — [1 North] Only the third winter record of this species, an adult male found on the Duluth CBC **12/16** †KRE.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE — [1 South] Adult present 1/1 through the end of the period, **Cottonwood** RDG, EPD, ph. DAC, m.ob. Written documentation provided by †DAB, †JBB, †CMB, †PCC, †PHS. Fifth state record and third winter record. First confirmed during the Cottonwood County CBC 1/1, the homeowners had noticed this bird sometime in late October 2006. The bird had been previously banded, and photographs documented its band number. It was eventually determined that this individual was banded as an ASY male at Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Ontario, 10 June 2006!

Spotted Towhee — [2 South] All reports: 1/29–2/2 Scott JEB *et al.*, 2/6–26 Mower (Austin) ph. †RNS, m.ob.

American Tree Sparrow — [13 North, 40 South] Well represented across the north in 13 counties, the same as last year. Seen throughout the south. High count 1/21 Lac Qui Parle (250) BJU.

Chipping Sparrow — [1 South] Documented **1/21–27** Ramsey (St. Paul) ph. SKE.

Clay-colored Sparrow — [1 South] Only the second winter record in the state; present for about three weeks through **2/12** Olmsted (Rochester) ph. RuJ, JWH. The previous record was a bird overwintering in Duluth 1984–85.

LARK BUNTING — [1 North] Late migrant 12/11 St. Louis (Airport Road, Duluth) †DAG, †JWL, ph. KRE.

Fox Sparrow — [3 North, 2 South] All north reports: late November through 2/7 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) †NAJ, 1/3 Mah-

nomen *fide* MJJ, 2/18 Lake of the Woods (coming to a feeder near Baudette) DAB, DPJ, JEB, JWH, PWP. South reports after end of CBC period: 1/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/27–28 Fillmore NBO.

Song Sparrow — [2 North, 8 South] In spite of the mild winter, overwintering was not documented. Probable late north migrants 12/8 Todd RBW, 12/10 Wadena PJB. Only three February reports south: 2/1 Olmsted (3) JWH, 2/15 Redwood RBW, 2/17 Hennepin (2) DWK.

Swamp Sparrow — [3 South] After no reports last winter, at least four individuals were found this season: 12/9 (2), 12/17, 1/14 Hennepin (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge) DWK. Also seen 12/31 Anoka AXH, and 1/15, 1/24, 2/1 Olmsted (Mill Creek) JWH.

White-throated Sparrow — [6 North, 5 South] Number of reports was about average compared to the last five years, but down from last year. One or two 1/8–2/18 Lake probably overwintered in Silver Bay *fide* JWL, m.ob. The only report from the Northwest was possibly a late migrant 12/6 Marshall *fide* MJJ. In the south, a bird came to a feeder 12/3–1/20 Hennepin LS and another overwintered 12/15–2/18 Olmsted OWB. Additional non-CBC reports from Fillmore and Ramsey.

Harris's Sparrow — [3 North, 1 South] Overwintering not reported; one on the Fargo-Moorhead CBC was last seen 1/12 Clay RHO. All other January reports north: 1/7 Beltrami *fide* MJJ, 1/13 Norman HHD, RAE. Only south reports: 12/8 and 1/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU (same bird?).

White-crowned Sparrow — [2 South] All reports: 12/1–1/1 Rice TFB, and a possibly overwintering bird 2/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Dark-eyed Junco — [19 North, 44 South] Individuals of the “Oregon” race *thurberi* noted 12/4 Hennepin ErR, 12/16 (Duluth CBC) through 1/21 St. Louis †TPW, and 12/30 Dakota (2, Hastings CBC).

Lapland Longspur — [5 North, 35 South] Reports north were down from last year and concentrated in the central region. No significant numbers reported until 2/26 Mille Lacs (70–80) ASc, NSc. Much more numerous in the southern half of the state with reports spanning the season. High count for December 12/23 Yellow Medicine (400) BJU. The first reports suggesting northward migration were 1/19 Dakota (400) CMB, peaking 2/7 Lac Qui Parle (1,300) BJU.

Snow Bunting — [26 North, 27 South] Reported from all areas of the state with about equal numbers of counties north and south. High counts north 1/17 Clay (2,000) HHD, RAE, 2/4 Cass (1,400) BAW. High count 2/28 Meeker (1,000's) DMF.

Northern Cardinal — [18 North, 36 South] Reported from a record 54 counties statewide. This species continues its colonization in the north and has become a fairly common bird in Duluth.

Red-winged Blackbird — [6 North, 20 South] Reported sparingly in a broad arc across the north from Wilkin to Kanabec and northeast to Cook. Noteworthy high counts north in Wilkin: 12/26 (100) PBB, 1/12 (20) MO. Absent from the far Northwest and North-central. Far more numerous south along a line from Big Stone to Winona counties with only one report from the most southern tier of counties: 12/13 Jackson RBW. High counts west from Lac Qui Parle 12/31 (700) and 2/11 (520) BJU. High count east 1/20 Winona (500) SWe.

meadowlark sp. — [3 South] All reports: 12/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/9 Fillmore JWH, 2/9 Olmsted JWH.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — [1 South] An apparent very late migrant 12/12 Nicollet RMD. Also see undocumented mid-winter reports of this species.

Rusty Blackbird — [4 North, 6 South] Reported sparingly across the north with



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 30 November 2006, Cloquet, Carlton County. Photo by Earl Orf.

only one observation after December: 1/25 Cass (Remer) BAW. In the south, reports were concentrated in a line from Lac Qui Parle to Freeborn counties. High count 1/6 Blue Earth (60) RMD.

Common Grackle — [6 North, 11 South] Non-CBC reports north included 12/9 Roseau HHD, 12/29 Itasca EEO, 1/30 (7) and 2/06 (20) St. Louis MLH, and 2/10 Aitkin ASc. More numerous south as is typical, with highest reported count 1/3 Lac Qui Parle (45) BJU.

Brown-headed Cowbird — [4 South] All reports from Brown, Nicollet and Le Sueur counties, plus Lac Qui Parle in the west. High count 12/12 Nicollet (12) RMD.

Baltimore Oriole — [1 South] Reported coming to a feeder **12/23** Olmsted (adult male, Rochester) ph. WJK.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH — [1 North] Three of the “interior form” overwintered 11/27–3/26 **Carlton** (near Cloquet) ph. MSc, ph. LME, †MLH, †JLO, ph. MSS, †PHS, m.ob.

Pine Grosbeak — [18 North, 1 South]

Numerous reports from the far Northwest, and throughout the North-central and Northeast regions. High count 1/1 Aitkin (34) CKR. Only south report: 1/26 Chipewewa (female) BJU.

Purple Finch — [13 North, 15 South] Reports down substantially from the record numbers seen last year, particularly along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Only non-CBC report from the Northeast: 2/14 St. Louis FKB. High count 12/6 Beltrami (30) *fide* JMJ (last year 1,309!). Widely scattered across the south with no significant counts reported.

House Finch — [12 North, 36 South] Highest number of reports in the last five years. Number of counties north similar to last year (13), whereas the increase in the number of counties south (last year 27) likely reflects better coverage. High count 12/23 Renville (46) PBB.

Red Crossbill — [7 North, 3 South] Relatively scarce statewide; most of the season's observations were from Aitkin where coverage was better than usual due to observer interest in northern owls and woodpeckers. High counts in Aitkin 1/2 (57) CKR and 1/5 (40) MCA, both along Hedbom Forest Road. All reports south: 12/16 Stearns (5) RPR, 12/27 Meeker (6) DMF, and 1/8, 1/25, 2/4, 2/5 (2 locations) Lac Qui Parle BJU.

White-winged Crossbill — [15 North, 0 South] Like last year, numbers generally low. High counts 1/2 Aitkin (45) CKR and 2/4 Cass (40) DAY; no other counts above 15 individuals. Farthest south report 2/19 Mille Lacs ASc.

Common Redpoll — [23 North, 5 South] Relatively scarce throughout the state. Observed throughout northern regions with high counts 12/16 Aitkin (557) CKR, and 2/18 Lake (100) JCC. Very scarce across the south. Westerly reports from Big Stone and Swift, with a high count south 1/21 Lac Qui Parle (122) BJU. All other reports: 12/25 Meeker DMF, 1/25 Carver DMF.

Hoary Redpoll — [8 North] Reported from eight far north counties, none documented. Observers are encouraged to supply documentation on all reports of this species.

Pine Siskin — [15 North, 11 South] Moderate numbers reported in the Northeast and North-central regions with a high count 12/16 Aitkin (50) CKR. Apparently absent from the Northwest. Much smaller numbers reported across the central regions with no reports from the southern tier of counties.

American Goldfinch — [20 North, 36 South] Reported from 56 counties nearly statewide, up from the past 2 years. No triple digit high counts reported and overall more numerous in the south. High counts north: 12/16 Aitkin (40) CKR, 1/20

Itasca (50) *fide* JMJ, 2/6 Polk (50) *fide* JMJ. High counts south: 1/7 Hennepin (65) ABL, 2/10 Hennepin (54) ABL.

Evening Grosbeak — [10 North] Number of counties with reports was down slightly within the species' typical range. High counts were also down when compared to the triple digit numbers reported in four of the past five years. High counts 12/3 Aitkin (40) CKR, 12/28 Koochiching (50) TCr, plus three reports of 14–20 individuals.

House Sparrow — [22 North, 37 South] Reported from 59 counties statewide.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW — [1 North] Sixth state record was a sporadic visitor to a feeder 12/15–1/31 **Otter Tail** †SPM, ph. †DTT, SMT.

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ND	Nancy Dowling	TFB	Tom F. Boevers

TLa Terry Lacroix
TPW Terry P. Wiens
TSS Tom & Sheryl Smith
WCM William C. Marengo
WEC Walter E. Carroll
WEN Warren E. Nelson

WJK Bill Kass

Abbreviations

BSNWR Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge
MVNWR Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Minnesota Christmas Bird Count Summary 2006–07

Roger Schroeder

Mild weather before and during the 2006–07 Christmas Bird Count season in Minnesota was much appreciated by participants, in part because it translated into record results, including several species new to specific count areas, and a new species for Minnesota's composite CBC list — a Broad-winged Hawk from the St. Paul (NE Suburban) CBC. Minnesota counters tallied 420,057 individual birds of 137 full species on Count Day. This marks the 2nd highest total bird census, and ties the highest ever Count Day species total in Minnesota CBC history. In addition to Count Day observations, five additional species were tallied during the Count Period, including Tundra Swan, Spruce Grouse, Gyrfalcon, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. In the sub-species category, a “pink-sided” Dark-eyed Junco was observed on the Cottonwood CBC.

Sixty-six (66) locations submitted count results, which is down slightly from the previous season. Duluth's 69 species on Count Day edged out Bloomington's 67 for top honors, with St. Paul (North) a distant third at 60 species. Regarding total birds counted, Lac Qui Parle flew away with 76,938 birds (75,000 Canada Geese). Fairmont was a distant second with 25,847 (21,724 Canada Geese) while Rochester (15,000 Canada Geese) was not far behind with 24,491 total birds.

Documented participation/effort on Minnesota CBCs also reached new high levels. A total of 3,300 Total Party Hours were tallied by an estimated 1,130 participants. It is encouraging to see increased participation in this event and that more count circles are being added — especially in geographic regions that have traditionally received little coverage.

As a fanatic of CBCs, I firmly believe that participation in events such as this provide an excellent way to introduce new birders to an appreciation of birds, and entice veteran birders to continue to ensure that efforts are made to protect habitats essential to birds in all seasons for their continued presence and survival.

A cool start to November quickly gave way to more mild conditions, which held through most of the CBC season. Above normal temperatures were recorded with lows either near or above average local highs. In fact, Duluth reported the warmest December in at least 65 years. Around the state, similar patterns existed. These mild weather conditions led to an unusually high number of lingering species. Great Blue Heron (47), Northern Harrier (26), Red-tailed Hawk (745), American Kestrel (156), Barred Owl (69), Northern Saw-whet Owl (9), and Belted Kingfisher (69) numbers were remarkably high.

Aside from the one addition to the state

CBC composite list, two more remarkable sightings occurred at opposite ends of the state. A cooperative Green-tailed Towhee was observed on New Year's Day on the Mountain Lake-Windom count; marking the first time in 40 years this species has been on a Minnesota CBC. In northern Minnesota, three Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were observed on the Carlton-Cloquet count. This sighting marks the first time this species has been observed on a Minnesota CBC in 26 years. Other surprises include the second Minnesota CBC Swainson's Thrush (Minneapolis-North). The last sighting of this species was 33 years ago on the St. Paul-North count. Other re-visitations include the first Minnesota CBC Pine Warbler in 21 years (Duluth) and the 14th anniversary of the only other Turkey Vulture sighting on a Minnesota count (Winona). Ross's Goose was seen for the first time in ten years from the Faribault, Hutchinson, and Mountain Lake-Windom CBCs. Finally, Minnesota's second CBC Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen in Bloomington, and a Black-crowned Night-Heron was found for only the third time in Minnesota CBC history on the St. Paul (North) count.

Only a few lows were recorded this season, many of which most likely resulted from the combination of mild temperatures and the prevalence of suitable foraging (away from human disturbance) throughout the region. Lapland Longspur (378), Snow Bunting (3,760), and Horned Lark (345) all were tallied in numbers less than half their 20-year average. Irruptive finches were also substantially fewer than average including Evening Grosbeak, which continues its CBC decline — after a brief respite last season — to 334 birds for the 107th season.

In addition to the low numbers for these species, another that was conspicuously low in numbers was Red-headed Woodpecker. Anecdotally, it is suspected that the abnormally low acorn production in East Central Minnesota river bottomlands contributed to the low total of seven (7) Red-headed Woodpeckers (all ob-

served at Faribault). This compares to the 20-year average of twenty-four birds from six locations for this species. This marks the lowest Minnesota CBC total in twenty-six years — back at a time in which only 30 counts were conducted in Minnesota!

Conversely, all other woodpecker species experienced higher than average totals including a new high of 11 American Three-toed Woodpeckers. New high totals were also realized for Red-bellied (801), Downy (3,199), Hairy (1,415), and Pileated (426). The mild conditions may also have led to the third highest total of Northern Flicker (112), and the presence of one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Lac Qui Parle).

Minnesota's CBC snapshot this season shows the difficulty associated with trending CBC numbers in light of many affecting variables. For example, the 106th season marked a remarkable high number of Purple Finch, while this season's totals are the lowest in 45 years! Nonetheless, when using CBC data in conjunction with other datasets, we may be able to draw reasonable conclusions, and/or better understand the species utilizing Minnesota's resources and habitats during this time period.

As this will be my last season compiling Minnesota CBC data, please allow me to extend my thanks to the many CBC participants and compilers who have cooperated these last many years. Also, thanks go out to the reviewers of CBC data who have offered their assistance, and guidance; specifically Karl Bardon, Kim Eckert, Anthony Hertzell, James Mattson, and Peder Svingen. Your tireless effort is much appreciated. Finally, my most sincere gratitude goes out to Paul Egeland, and Lee & Joann French, first, for inviting me to join them on "something called a Christmas Bird Count," but especially for their continued welcoming hospitality, willingness to share their knowledge, and gentle manner of teaching. You are truly mentors.

**215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall, MN
56258.**

	AFT	ALB	AUR	AUS	BAT	BAU	BEL	BEM	BLO	C-C	CED
Snow Goose				3							
Ross's Goose											
Cackling Goose									19		
Canada Goose	5,963	1,416		1,396	1,077			12	5,961		402
Mute Swan											
Trumpeter Swan	15	2			419				6		
Tundra Swan											
Wood Duck				1					3		1
Gadwall				1					11		
American Wigeon											
American Black Duck	9			1					6		
Mallard	261	2,422	2	385	4			6	3,689	2	12
Northern Pintail											
Green-winged Teal											
Canvasback											
Redhead									1		
Ring-necked Duck									1		
Greater Scaup											
Lesser Scaup											
Harlequin Duck											
White-winged Scoter											
Long-tailed Duck											
Bufflehead									1		
Common Goldeneye	352		2		90				10	2	
Hooded Merganser									18		
Common Merganser	158	22							345		
Red-breasted Merganser											
Ruddy Duck											
Gray Partridge		15									
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	31		17	1				2		5
Ruffed Grouse	1		4		0	1	8	7		18	1
Spruce Grouse							0				
Sharp-tailed Grouse			0			38					
Greater Prairie-chicken											
Wild Turkey	101	63		87	98				70	5	142
Common Loon											
Pied-billed Grebe											
Horned Grebe											
American White Pelican		0							1		
Double-crested Cormorant	1								1		
Great Blue Heron		1		1					2		
Black-crowned Night-Heron											
Turkey Vulture											
Bald Eagle	22	3	10	6	2	5	2	16	11	9	13
Northern Harrier										1	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1	0				1		
Cooper's Hawk		0							1		1
Northern Goshawk						1	2			1	
Broad-winged Hawk											
Red-shouldered Hawk									1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	9	10		15	3				47	1	31
Rough-legged Hawk		1	8			17	6	2		9	20
Golden Eagle											
American Kestrel		2		3					3		
Merlin									2		
Gyr Falcon											
Peregrine Falcon											
American Coot	1								3		
Wilson's Snipe											
Ring-billed Gull	108	4							24		
Herring Gull	104								1,111		
Thayer's Gull									2		
Iceland Gull									1		
Lesser Black-backed Gull									1		
Glaucous Gull									1		
Rock Pigeon	83	241	5	549	160	86		174	541	187	164
Eurasian Collared-Dove				12	4						
Mourning Dove	7	31	17	15	1			1	47		54
Eastern Screech-Owl				8							
Great Horned Owl	1	2		8					9		2
Snowy Owl											
Barred Owl		1		14			5	1	6		
Great Gray Owl											
Long-eared Owl											
Short-eared Owl											1
Northern Saw-whet Owl				1			5				1
Belted Kingfisher		1		5					8		1

Table 1. 2007 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count totals. Afton, Albert Lea, Aurora, Austin, Battle Lake, Baudette, Beltrami Island, Bemidji, Bloomington, Carlton-Cloquet, Cedar Creek Bog.

	AFT	ALB	AUR	AUS	BAT	BAU	BEL	BEM	BLO	C-C	CED
Red-headed Woodpecker											
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	14		32	15			1	58	2	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											
Downy Woodpecker	18	41	13	76	65	8	6	17	248	10	31
Hairy Woodpecker	5	21	16	24	27	4	8	18	79	17	8
American Three-toed Woodpecker							0				
Black-backed Woodpecker							7			0	
Northern Flicker	2	1		1					8		3
Pileated Woodpecker	8	1	2	1	6		7	16	14	3	13
Northern Shrike	1		2	2	3		1	1	9	3	6
Gray Jay			21			3	15	6		6	
Blue Jay	17	110	48	179	44	10	1	116	106	43	46
Black-billed Magpie						6	1	1			
American Crow	266	687	50	707	252	6		107	608	113	232
Common Raven			97			181	51	15		34	2
Horned Lark		7			2						
Black-capped Chickadee	160	158	478	210	328	123	102	427	870	328	322
Boreal Chickadee			3			1	9				
Tufted Titmouse											
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	1	22	12	2	9	20	47	11	72	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	62	10	108	143	10	2	75	219	21	49
Brown Creeper		1		5	0	2		1	13	4	1
Carolina Wren											
Golden-crowned Kinglet											
Eastern Bluebird		2							1		
Townsend's Solitaire	1										
Swainson's Thrush											
Hermit Thrush											
American Robin	400	4		7	0			1	278		31
Varied Thrush											
European Starling	142	500	153	1,123	47	27		60	1,004	151	536
Bohemian Waxwing			63			79		246		52	
Cedar Waxwing	14	3		1	49			1	119		
Yellow-rumped Warbler											
Pine Warbler											
Green-tailed Towhee											
American Tree Sparrow	19	28		47	3				186		84
Fox Sparrow			1								
Song Sparrow		1							10		
Swamp Sparrow									1		
White-throated Sparrow			1	1					18		
Harris's Sparrow											
White-crowned Sparrow											
Dark-eyed Junco	128			198	93				391		151
Lapland Longspur					20	1			25		
Snow Bunting					527	554			45	25	
Northern Cardinal	48	24	0	49	6			2	202	2	50
Red-winged Blackbird		1		10	90				10		200
Rusty Blackbird					24			1			
Common Grackle		3		1				1	1		
Brown-headed Cowbird											
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch										3	
Pine Grosbeak			181			120	27	48		16	
Purple Finch					1			5			12
House Finch	23	22		33	26	2		5	144		1
Red Crossbill										20	
White-winged Crossbill			7				10			1	
Common Redpoll			28			156	242	32		97	
Hoary Redpoll											
Pine Siskin			329	1				2	2	237	7
American Goldfinch	49	69	53	93	125	1	1	20	315	42	66
Evening Grosbeak			34			21		7			
House Sparrow	37	1,054	146	1,118	209	111		88	947	154	12
Eurasian Tree Sparrow											
	AFT	ALB	AUR	AUS	BAT	BAU	BEL	BEM	BLO	C-C	CED
Count Week		2	2		4		2			1	
Count	39	42	30	46	35	28	23	37	67	35	42
Sum	8,587	7,083	1,806	6,568	3,966	1,583	538	1,586	17,909	1,691	2,732
	8,603		1,807			1,584					
	Afton		Aurora			Baudette					
swan sp.	13										
accipiter sp.	1		1								
buteo sp.	1										
hawk sp.						1					
woodpecker sp.	1										

Table 1, continued. Afton, Albert Lea, Aurora, Austin, Battle Lake, Baudette, Beltrami Island, Bemidji, Bloomington, Carlton-Cloquet, Cedar Creek Bog.

	COO	COT	CRC	CRO	DET	DUL	EXC	FAI	F-M	FAR	FER
Snow Goose										1	
Ross's Goose								18		65	2
Cackling Goose											
Canada Goose					56	288	2,683	21,724	3,733	4,216	16,500
Mute Swan										1	
Trumpeter Swan					2		10	1		1	
Tundra Swan											
Wood Duck					1						0
Gadwall						1	61				
American Wigeon											
American Black Duck						41	10		1	2	
Mallard		3			60	858	3,118	2,144	1,000	1,611	588
Northern Pintail									1		
Green-winged Teal						1	2				
Canvasback							4				
Redhead							3				
Ring-necked Duck							16				
Greater Scaup											
Lesser Scaup						1	1	2			
Harlequin Duck						2					
White-winged Scoter						2					
Long-tailed Duck						0					
Bufflehead						1	1				
Common Goldeneye						270	130	4	2		315
Hooded Merganser						1	1			2	0
Common Merganser					2	75	284	1			3
Red-breasted Merganser						22					
Ruddy Duck											
Gray Partridge											
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	74		1			4	16		17	13
Ruffed Grouse	6			1		12					
Spruce Grouse											
Sharp-tailed Grouse			23								
Greater Prairie-chicken			9								
Wild Turkey	1				30		51	0	36	0	
Common Loon						1					1
Pied-billed Grebe											2
Horned Grebe											
American White Pelican											
Double-crested Cormorant											
Great Blue Heron								0		4	3
Black-crowned Night-Heron											
Turkey Vulture											
Bald Eagle	14	5	4	11	5	10	13	1	4	9	12
Northern Harrier											
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1	3	0		2	1
Cooper's Hawk							4		3	1	
Northern Goshawk						1					
Broad-winged Hawk											
Red-shouldered Hawk											
Red-tailed Hawk		9				1	27	11	1	35	3
Rough-legged Hawk	3		4	1		1	1	2			1
Golden Eagle											
American Kestrel		5					4	2	2	10	2
Merlin						1			0	0	
Gyrfalcon											
Peregrine Falcon						1					
American Coot							35		4		14
Wilson's Snipe										1	
Ring-billed Gull							4				
Herring Gull						542	15				
Thayer's Gull						4					
Iceland Gull											
Lesser Black-backed Gull											
Glaucous Gull						3					
Rock Pigeon	31	143	222	76	109	1,253	348	92	191	212	426
Eurasian Collared-Dove		2							6		
Mourning Dove				4		11	76			35	
Eastern Screech-Owl								1			
Great Horned Owl	1	1	2	1		3	9	2	1	1	0
Snowy Owl											
Barred Owl	2			2	1	2	1			1	
Great Gray Owl											
Long-eared Owl											
Short-eared Owl											
Northern Saw-whet Owl										1	
Belted Kingfisher							5			3	2

Table 1, continued. Cook Area, Cottonwood, Crookston, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Excelsior, Fairmont, Fargo-Moorhead, Faribault, Fergus Falls.

	COO	COT	CRC	CRO	DET	DUL	EXC	FAI	F-M	FAR	FER
Red-headed Woodpecker									1	6	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		23		15	10	1	39	7	3	54	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											
Downy Woodpecker	14	51	11	16	27	173	153	24	28	99	50
Hairy Woodpecker	24	30	10	21	12	63	61	9	14	40	22
American Three-toed Woodpecker											
Black-backed Woodpecker						1					
Northern Flicker		9					1	3	1	12	1
Pileated Woodpecker	3	5	1	12	10	19	14		3	10	15
Northern Shrike	1	1		1		6	5		3	3	4
Gray Jay	36		9			29			1		
Blue Jay	53	72	14	102	71	91	153	29	21	119	65
Black-billed Magpie			26								
American Crow	19	55	23	77	32	736	397	79	97	554	64
Common Raven	136		8			35					
Horned Lark		82								2	
Black-capped Chickadee	339	56	37	338	241	3,266	844	50	95	307	234
Boreal Chickadee											
Tufted Titmouse											
Red-breasted Nuthatch	58		2	18	2	588	3	1	1	16	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	21	40	12	73	103	187	234	24	49	111	106
Brown Creeper	0	11		2	5	3	11	3	5	10	1
Carolina Wren											
Golden-crowned Kinglet		3				2	1	2			
Eastern Bluebird						2					
Townsend's Solitaire						2					
Swainson's Thrush						1					
Hermit Thrush						7	101		14	79	34
American Robin		11	6	1		1					
Varied Thrush						1					
European Starling	68	471	132	90	60	1,009	541	1,196	132	1,058	201
Bohemian Waxwing				40		92			0		91
Cedar Waxwing	14	9	13	74	21	3	30	12	13	70	180
Yellow-rumped Warbler											
Pine Warbler						1					
Green-tailed Towhee											
American Tree Sparrow		92					66	19	1	50	51
Fox Sparrow						1					
Song Sparrow		1				1				1	
Swamp Sparrow											
White-throated Sparrow		1				13	5	2		8	
Harris's Sparrow								2	1		1
White-crowned Sparrow										1	
Dark-eyed Junco	38	186	16		26	46	234	55	65	198	119
Lapland Longspur		26									30
Snow Bunting		4	1	32	200	48			246		20
Northern Cardinal	2	14		8	3	60	187	13	1	172	8
Red-winged Blackbird		57			1	1	3			0	100
Rusty Blackbird		27									
Common Grackle		31					3	1	3	3	
Brown-headed Cowbird											
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch											
Pine Grosbeak	109		2			65					
Purple Finch			3			3	2	9		4	1
House Finch		101	9	3	28	75	174	35	42	85	175
Red Crossbill						12					
White-winged Crossbill						77					
Common Redpoll	65	16			83	6	8		50	1	
Hoary Redpoll											
Pine Siskin	6	3	2	49		424	4			25	10
American Goldfinch	140	34	32	92	81	149	218	40	15	136	49
Evening Grosbeak	2					7					
House Sparrow	138	458	252	187	484	238	386	211	276	277	395
Eurasian Tree Sparrow											0
	COO	COT	CRC	CRO	DET	DUL	EXC	FAI	F-M	FAR	FER
Count Week	1					1		3	2	3	4
Count	29	39	27	30	29	69	58	38	41	52	45
Sum	1,347	2,222	877	1,356	1,766	10,952	10,802	25,847	6,166	9,742	19,926
		2,225				10,967					
	Cottonwood					Duluth					
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco		2				1					
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco		1									
accipiter sp.						1					
Glaucous Gull X Herring Gull						1					
finch sp.						12					

Table 1, continued. Cook Area, Cottonwood, Crookston, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Excelsior, Fairmont, Fargo-Moorhead, Faribault, Fergus Falls.

	FRE	G-E	GMA	GRA	HAC	H-E	HEN	HIB	HUT	INT	ISA
Snow Goose											
Ross's Goose									1		
Cackling Goose									20		
Canada Goose				15		7,308	2,750		10,586		
Mute Swan											
Trumpeter Swan				2	8	3			2		
Tundra Swan											
Wood Duck						1			1		
Gadwall						1					
American Wigeon											
American Black Duck			1			7			1		
Mallard	2		36	100		7,377	8		1,005		
Northern Pintail											
Green-winged Teal											
Canvasback						4					
Redhead											
Ring-necked Duck				1		5					
Greater Scaup					1						
Lesser Scaup											
Harlequin Duck			0								
White-winged Scoter			1								
Long-tailed Duck			7								
Bufflehead			3								
Common Goldeneye	107		40	14	8	174				18	
Hooded Merganser				1							
Common Merganser	4				9	793				4	
Red-breasted Merganser			1								
Ruddy Duck											
Gray Partridge							2				
Ring-necked Pheasant						21	5		103	3	
Ruffed Grouse	12		1	10	8	2		1		1	2
Spruce Grouse											
Sharp-tailed Grouse										16	
Greater Prairie-chicken											
Wild Turkey						61	247		12		
Common Loon				1							
Pied-billed Grebe			1		1						
Horned Grebe											
American White Pelican											
Double-crested Cormorant											
Great Blue Heron						0	3		1		
Black-crowned Night-Heron											
Turkey Vulture											
Bald Eagle	6	2	9	20	8	34	23	2	4	4	
Northern Harrier						1			1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1	3		3		
Cooper's Hawk									1		
Northern Goshawk			0								
Broad-winged Hawk											
Red-shouldered Hawk									1		
Red-tailed Hawk					0	27	11		29		
Rough-legged Hawk	1			1	1	1	3	2	1		
Golden Eagle											
American Kestrel						9	5		28		
Merlin											
Gyrfalcon											
Peregrine Falcon											
American Coot				3		12			1		
Wilson's Snipe											
Ring-billed Gull						99					
Herring Gull			100			82					
Thayer's Gull											
Iceland Gull											
Lesser Black-backed Gull											
Glaucous Gull			1								
Rock Pigeon	30	298	63	176	4	396	134	141	539		
Eurasian Collared-Dove											
Mourning Dove	1			10		2	38		28	18	
Eastern Screech-Owl							2		1		
Great Horned Owl							4		10		
Snowy Owl			0								
Barred Owl			0		1		1				
Great Gray Owl											
Long-eared Owl									1		
Short-eared Owl											
Northern Saw-whet Owl			0								
Belted Kingfisher	1					0	1		5		

Table 1, continued. Fredenberg, Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Hackensack, Hastings-Etter, Henderson, Hibbing, Hutchinson, International Falls, Isabella.

	FRE	G-E	GMA	GRA	HAC	H-E	HEN	HIB	HUT	INT	ISA
Red-headed Woodpecker											
Red-bellied Woodpecker				1	8	23	35		39		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											
Downy Woodpecker			56	11	21	54	110	6	197	11	114
Hairy Woodpecker	14		27	14	24	23	56	6	71	15	25
American Three-toed Woodpecker	5		1	1							3
Black-backed Woodpecker			2								4
Northern Flicker						1	2		18		
Pileated Woodpecker	4		8	5	12	9	4	2	8	3	5
Northern Shrike	2		1	2	0	4	1	2	4	1	3
Gray Jay	1		24	6	1			15		10	41
Blue Jay	15		56	34	69	66	129	7	288	32	81
Black-billed Magpie										23	
American Crow	62	73	21	87	58	362	101	35	305	21	1
Common Raven	85		194	33	9			22		56	72
Horned Lark			1						11		
Black-capped Chickadee	380	2	400	326	249	276	274	202	398	140	655
Boreal Chickadee	0										18
Tufted Titmouse											
Red-breasted Nuthatch	32		151	28	24	7	24	6	22	24	350
White-breasted Nuthatch	7		2	47	68	66	113	10	201	16	2
Brown Creeper	0			1	2	6	7		40		
Carolina Wren											
Golden-crowned Kinglet											
Eastern Bluebird						1					
Townsend's Solitaire											
Swainson's Thrush											
Hermit Thrush											
American Robin					1	116			7		
Varied Thrush											
European Starling	15	44	29	179	9	740	108	137	3,934	9	
Bohemian Waxwing					8						
Cedar Waxwing		9				52	81		26		
Yellow-rumped Warbler									1		
Pine Warbler											
Green-tailed Towhee											
American Tree Sparrow						63	91		88		
Fox Sparrow						1					
Song Sparrow									4		
Swamp Sparrow											
White-throated Sparrow						1	2	3	1		1
Harris's Sparrow							1		1		
White-crowned Sparrow											
Dark-eyed Junco		18	1	3		222	287	1	652		2
Lapland Longspur									87		
Snow Bunting			1	18	28	0	46				
Northern Cardinal				4		72	82		106		
Red-winged Blackbird							5		24		
Rusty Blackbird											
Common Grackle				1			13		3	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird											
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch											
Pine Grosbeak	63		77	53	0			54		156	117
Purple Finch			30	2		0	21		24		
House Finch		47			3	39	86	30	236		
Red Crossbill					15						
White-winged Crossbill	12										2
Common Redpoll			110	50	7		2	55	1		215
Hairy Redpoll											
Pine Siskin	61		52	82	87			5	6		58
American Goldfinch	8		12	83	71	188	173	4	228		82
Evening Grosbeak	2		70	43	12			32			12
House Sparrow		147		10	89	329	310	52	1,139		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow											
	FRE	G-E	GMA	GRA	HAC	H-E	HEN	HIB	HUT	INT	ISA
Count Week	2		5		3	4					
Count	26	9	36	39	33	48	44	25	57	22	23
Sum	932	640	1,590	1,478	924	19,142	5,404	832	20,555	582	1,865
						19,145				583	
							Hastings-Etter			International Falls	
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco							3				
woodpecker sp.										1	

Table 1, continued. Fredenberg, Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Hackensack, Hastings-Etter, Henderson, Hibbing, Hutchinson, International Falls, Isabella.

	ISP	LAC	LAM	LIT	LON	MAN	MAR	MIN	MOR	M-W	MUR
Snow Goose											
Ross's Goose										1	
Cackling Goose		24									3
Canada Goose		75,000	10	1,172		1,370	2	1,842	1,593	777	1,661
Mute Swan											
Trumpeter Swan											
Tundra Swan											
Wood Duck		1									
Gadwall						9					
American Wigeon				1		2					
American Black Duck											
Mallard		600		153		100		3,479	37	251	420
Northern Pintail						1					
Green-winged Teal											
Canvasback											
Redhead											
Ring-necked Duck											
Greater Scaup											
Lesser Scaup						1					
Harlequin Duck											
White-winged Scoter											
Long-tailed Duck											
Bufflehead								1			
Common Goldeneye		26		10		2		141			
Hooded Merganser				1		1					
Common Merganser				3				2			
Red-breasted Merganser											
Ruddy Duck											
Gray Partridge											
Ring-necked Pheasant		59	48	8	47	5	107	2	14	90	258
Ruffed Grouse	2			2	3						
Spruce Grouse											
Sharp-tailed Grouse											
Greater Prairie-chicken											
Wild Turkey			17	47	2	0	1	1	1		9
Common Loon											
Pied-billed Grebe											
Horned Grebe											
American White Pelican		3									
Double-crested Cormorant		1									
Great Blue Heron		1	3				4	1		0	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron											
Turkey Vulture											
Bald Eagle	5	10		12	6	20		7	7		1
Northern Harrier			2	1	3		1	1			
Sharp-shinned Hawk						0	1	1		1	1
Cooper's Hawk						1					1
Northern Goshawk		1									
Broad-winged Hawk											
Red-shouldered Hawk											
Red-tailed Hawk		12	9	15	28	25	10	24		12	6
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1		1	1					2	
Golden Eagle											
American Kestrel		5	4	3	5	1	2	1		4	2
Merlin						0		1			
Gyr Falcon											
Peregrine Falcon											
American Coot											
Wilson's Snipe											
Ring-billed Gull								6			
Herring Gull											
Thayer's Gull											
Iceland Gull											
Lesser Black-backed Gull											
Glaucous Gull											
Rock Pigeon		80	66	199	495	249	174	451	87	171	32
Eurasian Collared-Dove		5									
Mourning Dove			2		4	52		11		3	
Eastern Screech-Owl							4				1
Great Horned Owl		2	8		1	3	6	2	2	3	2
Snowy Owl											
Barred Owl				1	3			3			
Great Gray Owl											
Long-eared Owl											
Short-eared Owl										1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl											
Belted Kingfisher			3		1	4	3	3			

Table 1, continued. Itasca State Park, Lac Qui Parle, Lamberton, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Mankato, Marshall, Minneapolis (North), Morris, Mountain Lake-Windom, Murray County.

	ISP	LAC	LAM	LIT	LON	MAN	MAR	MIN	MOR	M-W	MUR
Red-headed Woodpecker											
Red-bellied Woodpecker		10	12	4	15	11	11	13	2	1	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1									
Downy Woodpecker	4	13	23	11	54	23	62	60	24	12	43
Hairy Woodpecker	2	15	16	4	27	10	33	24	14	3	31
American Three-toed Woodpecker											
Black-backed Woodpecker	1										
Northern Flicker		5	1		1	6	2			1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	4	5		10	15	5	2	2			
Northern Shrike		1		3	7	0	3	2	4		
Gray Jay	8										
Blue Jay	33	56	41	18	92	57	26	32	33	41	52
Black-billed Magpie	2										
American Crow	16	54	73	240	290	304	89	284	12	71	37
Common Raven	39										
Horned Lark		32	19	28	6		2			91	32
Black-capped Chickadee	177	53	50	72	169	66	108	260	49	18	96
Boreal Chickadee											
Tufted Titmouse											
Red-breasted Nuthatch	21	1	2	6	8	2	3	1		6	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	20	26	33	32	64	38	70	85	19	11	43
Brown Creeper		4	9			2	11	1			1
Carolina Wren											
Golden-crowned Kinglet					2						1
Eastern Bluebird						4					
Townsend's Solitaire											
Swainson's Thrush								1			
Hermit Thrush											
American Robin		2			16	133	5	11			1
Varied Thrush											
European Starling		374	106	247	151	405	930	481	109	871	217
Bohemian Waxwing											
Cedar Waxwing		165	5	12	43	38		58			
Yellow-rumped Warbler											
Pine Warbler											
Green-tailed Towhee										1	
American Tree Sparrow		7	265	63	36	23	171	18		38	24
Fox Sparrow											1
Song Sparrow						2					
Swamp Sparrow											
White-throated Sparrow								1			
Harris's Sparrow											4
White-crowned Sparrow											
Dark-eyed Junco		91	92	16	165	122	172	89	39	32	116
Lapland Longspur			82		90	1	2			4	
Snow Bunting	36	1	5		340		3			29	
Northern Cardinal		2	7		40	21	6	66	4	2	2
Red-winged Blackbird		1	2			2,004	188				
Rusty Blackbird		1	2		2	0	2				
Common Grackle			5			1	8		8	2	4
Brown-headed Cowbird											
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch											
Pine Grosbeak	18										
Purple Finch	4	3		12	19		4				
House Finch		3	16		2	74	33	169	13	4	61
Red Crossbill											
White-winged Crossbill	6										
Common Redpoll		14									
Hoary Redpoll											
Pine Siskin				2							
American Goldfinch	124	26	13	35	102	34	19	81	68	3	111
Evening Grosbeak	62										
House Sparrow		141	327	146	182	142	344	234	101	383	244
Eurasian Tree Sparrow											
	ISP	LAC	LAM	LIT	LON	MAN	MAR	MIN	MOR	M-W	MUR
Count Week						5				1	
Count	21	45	35	35	39	42	39	42	22	33	37
Sum	586	76,938	1,378	2,590	2,537	5,374	2,624	7,953	2,240	2,940	3,537
	601						2,699				
Itasca State Park											
blackbird sp.											75
finch sp.	15										

Table 1, continued. Itasca State Park, Lac Qui Parle, Lamberton, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Mankato, Marshall, Minneapolis (North), Morris, Mountain Lake-Windom, Murray County.

	NEW	NWC	OWA	PHI	PIL	PIN	RED	RIC	ROC	ROS	S-Z
Snow Goose									1		
Ross's Goose									11		
Cackling Goose											
Canada Goose	0	484	1,145		124		68		15,000		
Mute Swan		1									
Trumpeter Swan		753			106						
Tundra Swan									0		
Wood Duck									4		
Gadwall									4		
American Wigeon											
American Black Duck		2	1						11		
Mallard		635	438		22		1		1,759		
Northern Pintail		1							2		
Green-winged Teal											
Canvasback											
Redhead											
Ring-necked Duck											
Greater Scaup											
Lesser Scaup											
Harlequin Duck											
White-winged Scoter											
Long-tailed Duck					1						
Bufflehead											
Common Goldeneye		2							17		
Hooded Merganser											
Common Merganser		11							20		
Red-breasted Merganser											
Ruddy Duck											
Gray Partridge									0		
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	9	2	6			3		16		
Ruffed Grouse					2	13		7		7	3
Spruce Grouse											
Sharp-tailed Grouse						1				33	1
Greater Prairie-chicken											
Wild Turkey	0	10	12	19	13	12	56		55		
Common Loon											
Pied-billed Grebe											
Horned Grebe											
American White Pelican											
Double-crested Cormorant											
Great Blue Heron							0		2		
Black-crowned Night-Heron											
Turkey Vulture											
Bald Eagle	3	4	1	5	15	8	3	3	16	6	14
Northern Harrier	1			1	1	1		2			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	1	1					4		
Cooper's Hawk			1						5		
Northern Goshawk									1		
Broad-winged Hawk											
Red-shouldered Hawk											
Red-tailed Hawk	6	2	16	4	1	4	15		49		
Rough-legged Hawk				3	5	21		19	3		12
Golden Eagle					1						
American Kestrel	1	2	17	1			0		0		
Merlin							1				
Gyr Falcon											
Peregrine Falcon											
American Coot		2	1								
Wilson's Snipe											
Ring-billed Gull									4		
Herring Gull											
Thayer's Gull											
Iceland Gull											
Lesser Black-backed Gull											
Glaucous Gull											
Rock Pigeon	288	49	140	113	136	210	17	18	753	1	32
Eurasian Collared-Dove											
Mourning Dove	1	16	35	3		18			288		
Eastern Screech-Owl	1								2		
Great Horned Owl	2					1	1		4	2	1
Snowy Owl											
Barred Owl				2	1	2		0	2		
Great Gray Owl											1
Long-eared Owl									1		
Short-eared Owl											
Northern Saw-whet Owl									1		
Belted Kingfisher			1		1		1		2		

Table 1, continued. New Ulm, Northern Wright County, Owatonna, Philbrook, Pillager, Pine County, Redwood Falls, Rice Lake NWR, Rochester, Roseau, Sax-Zim.

	NEW	NWC	OWA	PHI	PIL	PIN	RED	RIC	ROC	ROS	S-Z
Red-headed Woodpecker											
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	9	16	1	5	1	13	1	52		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											
Downy Woodpecker	35	29	56	6	27	15	16	15	135	2	6
Hairy Woodpecker	9	8	21	5	14	25	5	17	36	5	4
American Three-toed Woodpecker						1					2
Black-backed Woodpecker											1
Northern Flicker	3		3				8		2		
Pileated Woodpecker	0	3	2	5	14	13	1	5	8	4	
Northern Shrike			1	5	5	5		5	3	4	7
Gray Jay						10				17	24
Blue Jay	25	15	100	23	49	57	18	65	179	26	25
Black-billed Magpie										13	8
American Crow	100	88	413	77	155	145	340	107	1,376	29	75
Common Raven						4	25	7		70	73
Horned Lark		12			5				12		
Black-capped Chickadee	61	133	202	141	338	444	41	552	449	90	384
Boreal Chickadee											1
Tufted Titmouse									1		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	1	7	2	10	59		27	15	3	44
White-breasted Nuthatch	44	35	88	27	64	37	29	54	128	22	3
Brown Creeper	4	3	2		1	1	1		10		1
Carolina Wren					0				2		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1					6					
Eastern Bluebird							0		12		
Townsend's Solitaire											
Swainson's Thrush											
Hermit Thrush											
American Robin	136						213		95		
Varied Thrush											
European Starling	535	266	287	42	20	195	420	112	2,236	166	95
Bohemian Waxwing										206	12
Cedar Waxwing		3			13		201		107		
Yellow-rumped Warbler											
Pine Warbler											
Green-tailed Towhee											
American Tree Sparrow	4	55	64	3	2		7	2	30		
Fox Sparrow											
Song Sparrow							1		1		
Swamp Sparrow											
White-throated Sparrow									6		
Harris's Sparrow											
White-crowned Sparrow											
Dark-eyed Junco	122	138	146	9		1	44	1	414	2	
Lapland Longspur								1		1	
Snow Bunting	0			194	630	107		87		362	
Northern Cardinal	20	45	43	2	1	2	3	5	126		
Red-winged Blackbird			2				2				
Rusty Blackbird							4	1			
Common Grackle			2								
Brown-headed Cowbird			10								
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch											
Pine Grosbeak					2	45		71		110	94
Purple Finch			4	3	18	2	0		6		
House Finch	30	50	66				64		208		
Red Crossbill											
White-winged Crossbill						16				4	5
Common Redpoll				12		223		211		172	36
Hoary Redpoll								2			
Pine Siskin					8	77		52	1		141
American Goldfinch	13	70	75	38	98	43	12	114	185		1
Evening Grosbeak										4	10
House Sparrow	148	162	478	41	74	154	154	355	619	506	17
Eurasian Tree Sparrow											
	NEW	NWC	OWA	PHI	PIL	PIN	RED	RIC	ROC	ROS	S-Z
Count Week	5				1		4	1	3		
Count	28	36	37	30	38	36	32	29	57	27	31
Sum	1,617	3,110	3,899	794	1,987	1,999	1,763	1,918	24,491	1,867	1,133
	1,692				2,002						
	New Ulm			Pillager							
hawk sp.											1
blackbird sp.	75										
finch sp.					14						

Table 1, continued. New Ulm, Northern Wright County, Owatonna, Philbrook, Pillager, Pine County, Redwood Falls, Rice Lake NWR, Rochester, Roseau, Sax-Zim.

	SHE	S-C	SPN	SPNE	TAM	TWO	VIR	WAB	WILD	WILL	WIN
Snow Goose											
Ross's Goose											
Cackling Goose										2	
Canada Goose	1,110	3,725	2,107	1,808	2		1	5	1,664	5,786	28
Mute Swan											
Trumpeter Swan	90	9		17	0				24		
Tundra Swan											
Wood Duck			4	2							
Gadwall			18								
American Wigeon			1								
American Black Duck		1	6								10
Mallard	3	2,821	5,049	888	1		119	25	46	546	501
Northern Pintail											
Green-winged Teal		1									
Canvasback			1								
Redhead											
Ring-necked Duck		1	3				1				1
Greater Scaup		1									
Lesser Scaup			1								
Harlequin Duck											
White-winged Scoter						1					
Long-tailed Duck											
Bufflehead			1			5					
Common Goldeneye		427	17			10	3			5	1
Hooded Merganser			1				1				
Common Merganser		19	31	16							40
Red-breasted Merganser			2			6					
Ruddy Duck		1									
Gray Partridge											
Ring-necked Pheasant	8	3		123				6	44	28	6
Ruffed Grouse	2				13	8	7	1			2
Spruce Grouse											
Sharp-tailed Grouse											
Greater Prairie-chicken											
Wild Turkey	66	1	34	344				82	61	0	49
Common Loon										1	
Pied-billed Grebe			2								
Horned Grebe						5					
American White Pelican			1								
Double-crested Cormorant											
Great Blue Heron			18		1						1
Black-crowned Night-Heron			1								
Turkey Vulture											1
Bald Eagle	13	4	31	26	16	12	5	14	12	3	47
Northern Harrier	2										
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2	3	0				1	1	1
Cooper's Hawk			7	2				1	1	1	1
Northern Goshawk			1		1						
Broad-winged Hawk			1								
Red-shouldered Hawk	2			6				1			
Red-tailed Hawk	33	5	43	69		2		26	23	7	29
Rough-legged Hawk	10		1		2	16	7		3		3
Golden Eagle						1					
American Kestrel	4		3	1			1	1	4	4	15
Merlin		1	2			1					
Gyr Falcon							0				
Peregrine Falcon			4	1							1
American Coot		1	19	1			2				6
Wilson's Snipe				3							
Ring-billed Gull			44	5							50
Herring Gull			27			224				1	1
Thayer's Gull											
Iceland Gull											
Lesser Black-backed Gull											
Glaucous Gull											
Rock Pigeon	261	443	6,695	221	23	211	206	197	166	301	345
Eurasian Collared-Dove											
Mourning Dove		10	59	154		5		3	35	0	163
Eastern Screech-Owl			1								
Great Horned Owl	2		4	16	1			2	4	7	
Snowy Owl								1			
Barred Owl	1	1		5	5	1		2	1	1	
Great Gray Owl							1				
Long-eared Owl								1			
Short-eared Owl											
Northern Saw-whet Owl											
Belted Kingfisher		1	4	2			1	5	1	2	2

Table 1, continued. Sherburne NWR, St. Cloud-Collegeville, St. Paul (North), St. Paul (Northeast Suburban), Tamarac NWR, Two Harbors, Virginia, Wabasha, Wild River, Willmar, Winona.

	SHE	S-C	SPN	SPNE	TAM	TWO	VIR	WAB	WILD	WILL	WIN
Red-headed Woodpecker											
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13	10	27	60	8		1	17	17	16	27
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											
Downy Woodpecker	31	24	153	228	19	53	11	36	71	55	74
Hairy Woodpecker	21	8	57	57	22	27	9	15	20	27	25
American Three-toed Woodpecker						2	1				
Black-backed Woodpecker					0	3					
Northern Flicker		1	5	2				2		3	3
Pileated Woodpecker	10	4	5	33	10	5	7	5	13	10	3
Northern Shrike	2		6	4			2	3	4		1
Gray Jay						31	12				
Blue Jay	136	34	69	197	44	37	23	36	77	59	60
Black-billed Magpie											
American Crow	250	125	1,094	853	43	148	59	159	389	134	352
Common Raven				4	19	119	47				
Horned Lark								1			
Black-capped Chickadee	267	125	733	1,358	228	860	330	182	321	256	184
Boreal Chickadee						3	7				
Tufted Titmouse									1		14
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	5	7	38	25	265	31	5	1	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch		53	185	302	71	29	10	47	131	177	64
Brown Creeper		3	22	5		1		3	1	0	4
Carolina Wren											2
Golden-crowned Kinglet			4			1					
Eastern Bluebird								1			11
Townsend's Solitaire						1					
Swainson's Thrush											
Hermit Thrush											
American Robin	61		34	136		3	2	57	3	9	155
Varied Thrush				1				1			
European Starling	24	175	2,947	639	2	195	254	151	394	728	269
Bohemian Waxwing						4	155				
Cedar Waxwing	127	73	3	141				100	53	181	30
Yellow-rumped Warbler											
Pine Warbler											
Green-tailed Towhee											
American Tree Sparrow	230	6	21	166				37	48	11	278
Fox Sparrow											
Song Sparrow						1					
Swamp Sparrow											
White-throated Sparrow			12	2		1	2				
Harris's Sparrow											
White-crowned Sparrow			0								
Dark-eyed Junco	140	42	228	401	3	30	4	172	67	81	172
Lapland Longspur											8
Snow Bunting	20				5	91			55		
Northern Cardinal	42	17	218	279	1	11	4	54	40	33	59
Red-winged Blackbird			1					5	24	627	2
Rusty Blackbird											
Common Grackle	201			2						1	
Brown-headed Cowbird											
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch											
Pine Grosbeak					12	68	209				
Purple Finch		3		13	11	2		6	4	10	7
House Finch	28	70	200	224		26	44	63	17	71	125
Red Crossbill		5				9					
White-winged Crossbill						59					
Common Redpoll					10	26	67				
Hoary Redpoll											
Pine Siskin	40	3		7	1	109	34		24		
American Goldfinch	182	43	337	350	125	59	24	15	174	88	128
Evening Grosbeak					8		8				
House Sparrow	8	80	1,030	329	22	77	10	193	288	191	533
Eurasian Tree Sparrow											
	SHE	S-C	SPN	SPNE	TAM	TWO	VIR	WAB	WILD	WILL	WIN
Count Week			1		3		1			3	
Count	36	42	60	50	31	48	40	43	42	37	51
Sum	3,446	8,385	21,643	9,545	754	2,864	1,722	1,739	4,330	9,462	3,895
			21,644			2,878					
			St. Paul (North)		Two Harbors						
hummingbird sp			1								
finch sp.						14					

Table 1, concluded. Sherburne NWR, St. Cloud-Collegeville, St. Paul (North), St. Paul (Northeast Suburban), Tamarac NWR, Two Harbors, Virginia, Wabasha, Wild River, Willmar, Winona.

Table 2. Minnesota 2006–07 CBC summary. CW = Count Week.

Location	Code	Date	Compiler	Species	CW	Total Birds
Afton	AFTON	1-Jan-07	Joe Merchak	39	0	8,587
Albert Lea	ABLEA	30-Dec-06	Al Batt	42	2	7,083
Aurora	AUROR	30-Dec-06	Cathy Leece	30	2	1,806
Austin	AUSTN	17-Dec-06	Terry Dorsey	46	0	6,568
Battle Lake	BATLK	31-Dec-06	Steve Millard	35	4	3,966
Baudette	BAUDT	31-Dec-06	Martin Kehoe	28	0	1,583
Beltrami Island	BLTRM	1-Jan-07	Martin Kehoe	23	2	538
Bemidji	BEMID	16-Dec-06	Katie Haws	37	0	1,586
Bloomington	BLOOM	16-Dec-06	Mark Ochs	67	0	17,909
Carlton-Cloquet	CRLCL	17-Dec-06	Larry Weber	35	1	1,691
Cedar Creek Bog	CEDRC	17-Dec-06	James Howitz	42	0	2,732
Cook Area	COOK	14-Dec-06	Char and Jerry Jacobsen	29	1	1,347
Cottonwood	COTTN	15-Dec-06	Paul Egeland	39	0	2,222
Crookston	CROOK	16-Dec-06	Tom Ferio	27	0	877
Crosby	CROSB	15-Dec-06	Jo Blanich	30	0	1,356
Detroit Lakes	DLAKE	16-Dec-06	Bruce Besse	29	0	1,766
Duluth	DULUT	15-Dec-06	Jim Lind	69	1	10,952
Excelsior	EXCEL	16-Dec-06	Howard Towle	58	0	10,802
Fairmont	FRMNT	16-Dec-06	Brad Bolduan	38	3	25,847
Fargo-Moorhead	FRGMH	16-Dec-06	Bob O'Conner	41	2	6,166
Faribault	FARIB	15-Dec-06	Gene Bauer	52	3	9,742
Fergus Falls	FERGS	16-Dec-06	Steve Millard	45	4	19,926
Fredenberg	FREDN	30-Dec-06	Celeste Kuwock	26	2	932
Grand Forks-E. Grand Forks	GFEGF	17-Dec-06	Dave Lambeth	9	0	640
Grand Marais	GRMAR	16-Dec-06	Jeff Kern	36	6	1,590
Grand Rapids	GRRAP	17-Dec-06	Ken Zimmer	39	0	1,478
Hackensack	HACKN	15-Dec-06	Ben Wieland	33	3	924
Hastings-Etter	HASTE	30-Dec-06	Roger Field	48	4	19,142
Henderson	HENDR	16-Dec-06	Arthus Straub	44	0	5,406
Hibbing	HIBBG	1-Jan-07	Christine Olson	25	0	832
Hutchinson	HUTCH	16-Dec-06	Robert Schroeder	57	0	20,555
International Falls	IFALL	16-Dec-06	Lee Grim	22	0	582
Isabella	ISBEL	30-Dec-06	Steve Wilson	23	0	1,865
Itasca State Park	ITSCA	17-Dec-06	Doug Johnson	21	0	586
Lac qui Parle	LQPRL	23-Dec-06	Paul Egeland	45	0	76,938
Lamberton	LAMBR	14-Dec-06	Lee French	35	0	1,378
Little Falls	LFALL	16-Dec-06	Murdoch Johnson/Dianne Tuff	35	0	2,590
Long Prairie	LNGPR	1-Jan-07	S Durrant-JS Kroll	39	0	2,537
Mankato	MNKTO	16-Dec-06	Merryl Frydendahl	42	5	5,374
Marshall	MARSH	16-Dec-06	Roger Schroeder	39	0	2,624
Minneapolis (North)	MPLSN	16-Dec-06	Siah St. Clair	42	0	7,953
Morris	MORIS	15-Dec-06	Donna Oglesby	22	0	2,240
Mountain Lake-Windom	MTLKW	1-Jan-07	Edna Gerber	33	1	2,940
Murray County	MURRY	22-Dec-06	Janet Timmerman	37	0	3,537
New Ulm	NEWUL	16-Dec-06	Elaine Poulson	28	5	1,617
Northern Wright County	NWRCO	31-Dec-06	Claudia Egelhoff	36	0	3,110
Owatonna	OWATN	16-Dec-06	Darryl Hill	37	0	3,899
Philbrook	PHILB	1-Jan-07	Ben Fritchman	30	0	794
Pillager	PILGR	1-Jan-07	Michael North	38	1	1,987
Pine County	PINEC	27-Dec-06	Mark Alt	36	0	1,999
Redwood Falls	RWFAL	23-Dec-06	Patrick Beauzay	32	4	1,763
Rice Lake NWR	RLNWR	30-Dec-06	Michelle McDowell	29	1	1,918
Rochester	RCHST	16-Dec-06	Chifford Hansen	57	3	24,491
Roseau	ROSEU	30-Dec-06	Betty Johnson	27	0	1,867
Sax-Zim	SXZIM	18-Dec-06	Sparky Stensaas	31	0	1,133
Sherburne NWR	SHNWR	16-Dec-06	Jim Pasch	36	0	3,446
St. Cloud-Collegeville	SCCLG	16-Dec-06	Brian Jungles	42	0	8,385
St. Paul (North)	SPNOR	16-Dec-06	Julian Sellers	60	1	21,643
St. Paul (NE Suburban)	SPNES	30-Dec-06	Dick Watchler	50	0	9,545
Tamarac NWR	TMNWR	18-Dec-06	Lowell Deede	31	3	754
Two Harbors	THRBR	17-Dec-06	Frank Nicoletti	48	0	2,864
Virginia	VIRGN	16-Dec-06	Deb Falkowski	40	1	1,722
Wabasha	WABAS	31-Dec-06	Jon Peterson	43	0	1,739
Wild River	WILDR	16-Dec-06	Tom Anderson	42	0	4,330
Willmar	WILMR	16-Dec-06	Randy Frederickson	37	3	9,462
Winona	WINON	16-Dec-06	Walt Carroll	51	0	3,895

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Escapes and Hybrids

Kim R. Eckert



Well, I was going to write about identifying birds with abnormal plumages — you know: partial albinos, melanistic birds, etc. After decades of birding, I even figured out what the heck leucistic birds are. But someone beat me to it with an article in the September/October 2007 issue of *Birding* magazine (“Color Abnormalities in Birds”), and the author presents his “simple scheme” which proposes that terms like albino and even leucistic are no longer politically correct. Instead, we’re “simply” supposed to use words like amelanism, hypomelanism, hypermelanism, aemelanism, hypoeumelanism, hypereumelanism, aphaeomelanism, hyperphaeomelanism, aporphyrinism, and hyperpterinism!

No, really, for once I’m not kidding. This guy is serious about using these words, and, believe it or not, there are no typos in the previous paragraph. But rather than have you wrestle with the mental gymnastics of unraveling the spelling and pronunciation of his terms, let’s move on to other kinds of atypical birds and situations that birders occasionally and potentially face.

Bird identification can be complicated by external environmental factors: e.g., oil stains resulting in anomalous black areas on a bird’s plumage; mud making a Least Sandpiper’s legs look dark rather than pale; a bleached-out gull appearing whiter than normal and mistaken for a Thayer’s or Glaucous; and abnormal color on hummingbirds, warblers, or orioles caused by pollen, nectar, or fruit stains.

Excessive plumage wear and atypical molt also might alter a bird’s appearance enough to cause ID problems, as would a bird with oddly shaped or proportioned legs, bill, or body.

Escapes

But even normal-looking birds can cause special difficulties for all those who particularly enjoy the listing aspect of birding. Remember, to just say that birders are interested in seeing birds is not entirely true. If it were, we’d be spending time looking at budgies in a pet store or visiting the aviary in a zoo. The point is that birders (not to mention ornithologists and records committees) are interested in wild birds, and it is often difficult — even impossible — to tell when a bird is wild or not.

At the time of this writing, for example, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is being seen in the Twin Cities. But is it a naturally occurring stray that wandered north here on its own, or is it an escaped or released bird from some waterfowl collection or zoo’s aviary? While this question may seem irrelevant to some, the answer is of real importance to a lister and to this state’s official list of bird records. Or consider that falcon seen earlier this fall in Duluth (its ID is still only tentative, by the way). If it is really a Gyr migrating south from the tundra, then it counts; if it’s a falconer’s bird of some kind that got away, then it doesn’t.

Similar difficulties arise when dealing with birds introduced into the wild.

Eventually, some establish a self-sustaining population and become “countable,” but, if so, when does that happen? I have no problem listing Wild Turkeys as truly wild in, say, Houston County, but I doubt I’d do the same if I saw some in St. Louis County, and I’m not at all sure what I’d think of a flock in Pine County — especially if I knew they had been released there just two or three years ago. Would I feel any differently if the release had been four or five years ago? Or in Carlton County? And would it matter if some local sportsmen’s club set them free, rather than the Minnesota D.N.R.?

Sometimes, there are clues which make it easier to determine if a bird is of captive origin. For example: excessively frayed feathers, faded plumage, non-standard leg or neck bands not issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, clipped wings, a waterfowl’s clipped hind toe (but not always done by collectors and hard to see), tame behavior (a flock of turkeys staying put or approaching my car when I stop is suspect; a flock walking or running away is more likely to be wild), and atypical or park-like habitat (I’d be more comfortable counting a Mute Swan at Agassiz N.W.R. than at Como Park in St. Paul).

Also consider how far out of range the bird is and whether the species has a tendency to stray off-course. Consequently, the origins of a Common Black-Hawk found near Bemidji in 1976 (*The Loon* 50:31–34) were deemed more suspicious than those of a Crested Caracara seen in Scott County in 1994 (*The Loon* 67:59–61). As a result, the MOU Records Committee eventually judged the black-hawk to more likely have been an escape and deleted it from Minnesota’s checklist, while the caracara was thought to have had a better chance of being a genuine vagrant and was included on the list.

Finally, it helps to be aware of how frequently a species and others like it are kept in captivity. Relatively few North American passerines, for example, are kept, so they would not be strong candidates for being escapes in Minnesota. (Places like Florida, Texas, and Arizona

have far more potential for caged songbirds escaping into the wild.) Some corvids, though, are apparently raised as pets, and some Black-billed Magpie records in states east of here were considered suspicious. All European Goldfinches seen here and elsewhere in the U.S. have been dismissed as escapes, but that’s about it for the passerines. (Some might speculate that some of Minnesota’s Painted Bunting and Eurasian Tree Sparrow records could involve captive origin, but I see no reason to think so.)

Non-passerines have a higher potential for being escapes, although there’s little need for concern if you encounter an out-of-range loon, heron/egret, or shorebird. But you need to consider the possibility of prior captivity when that rarity is a duck, goose, or swan, since almost every species of waterfowl can be suspect: besides Mute Swan and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, note that past Whooper Swan, Tufted Duck, and Smew records in Minnesota are known to have involved escapes. Note as well that introduced Trumpeter Swans by now may have established themselves in Minnesota, but I wouldn’t necessarily consider every Trumpeter I see as truly wild.

Also beware especially of the possibility of escapes when finding any of these out of range: gallinaceous birds (besides turkeys, game-farm Northern Bobwhites and Chukars are literally possible in any Minnesota county), raptors (escaped from falconers), Whooping Cranes (the ones from Wisconsin have yet to establish a viable population), gulls and pelagic birds (mostly a problem in coastal states where ship-assistance is possible), pigeons/doves (especially the Ringed Turtle-Dove), and parrots/parakeets (Monk Parakeets are apparently established in Chicago, and there have been at least three published Minnesota sightings).

Hybrids

An equally difficult issue is the occurrence of birds suspected to be hybrids. As with escapes and non-established exotics, birders and records committees generally

won't include a hybrid in their records of a particular species. (Curiously, though, if two species are known to interbreed and successfully nest, I understand most ornithologists would consider that a confirmed nesting record for both parent species.) And too often it is difficult to tell in the first place if a bird is a hybrid, and, if so, what the parent species were. Thus, it is preferable to qualify the word hybrid with an adjective such as presumed, possible, apparent, or suspected — although, for simplicity's sake, this article will often just say hybrid.

While some birds you find are odd-looking enough to signal they are indeed hybrids, keep in mind that a hybrid individual in the field can appear entirely identical to a normally plumaged species and not be detected as suspect. More disturbing, however, is that not all hybrids will show a combination of plumage characteristics which are intermediate between its parents. Some can show colors or patterns not found on either parent species: a duck found in California in 1984, for example, was eventually determined to be a hybrid American Wigeon x Northern Pintail, but its anomalous features not part of either a wigeon's or pintail's plumage made it look very much like a vagrant Baikal Teal (see David Sibley's sketch in *Birding* 26:170).

Consider as well that a hybrid with normal-looking plumage could still exhibit other intermediate or atypical features inherited from another species. Perhaps its behavior, habitat, vocalizations, size, or shape will seem at odds with the species it looks like and raise suspicions. More intriguing is the possibility discussed in that *Birding* article (26:162–177, “A Guide to Finding and Identifying Hybrid Birds”), which I highly recommend reading. Sibley's sobering thought is that a hybrid could often end up with a faulty migration “compass” and be just as inclined to wander out of range as a non-hybrid species. In fact, the argument could then be made that all lost vagrants might be suspect if hybrids indeed inherit atypical or defective migration tendencies!

Of course, it would be ridiculous to consider everything out there a possible hybrid, especially if nothing about the bird appears out of the ordinary. Note as well that hybridism in the wild for some bird families is relatively unlikely — at least for birds in this area — or rarely documented: e.g., hawks (except for falconers' birds, and see *Birding* 37:256–263), shorebirds, owls, vireos, corvids, wrens, and thrushes (except bluebirds).

Also consider that several hybrid combinations may be relatively unknown only because the species are so similar and their hybrids would be especially difficult to separate in the field. Some examples might include: Trumpeter x Tundra swan, Greater x Lesser scaup, Arctic x Pacific loon, Clapper x King rail, American x Pacific golden-plover, Short-billed x Long-billed dowitcher, Thayer's x Iceland gull, Rufous x Allen's hummingbird (see *Birding* 29:18–29), Alder x Willow flycatcher, Carolina x Black-capped chickadee, Gray-cheeked x Bicknell's thrush, Nelson's Sharp-tailed x Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed sparrow, Snow x McKay's bunting (see *Birding* 37:618–626), Boat-tailed x Great-tailed grackle, and Common x Hoary redpoll.

Another consideration worth keeping in mind are those species with intergrades among their races or subspecies, which have in the past been — or could be in the future — involved in lumping or splitting and affect personal and state checklists accordingly. These would include: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Brant (see *Birding* 38:48–55), Green-winged Teal, Red-tailed Hawk (see *Birding* 33:436–446 and 36:500–506), Iceland Gull, Northern Flicker, “Solitary” Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted and Eastern towhees, Dark-eyed Junco (see *Birding* 34:432–443), and Red Crossbill (see *Birding* 27:494–501).

By their very nature, hybrid birds are not the norm and are only infrequently recorded. But the combinations listed below are known to occur with enough frequency that birders should keep them in mind when finding one of the species

involved, especially if it's an out-of-range rarity. This list only includes those which have a reasonable potential to turn up in Minnesota, with some of these already having occurred here (some documented hybrids published in **The Loon** are cited):

- Waterfowl hybrids. Odd-looking ducks and geese are probably found by birders more frequently than any other kinds of birds, so that the possibility of hybrid waterfowl of various types is always something to keep in mind. Many are easy to dismiss as tame or escaped birds, but others present far more serious ID challenges, and following are apparently the most widespread hybrids you might encounter:

- Greater White-fronted x Canada goose (see **The Loon** 42:34–35; white-fronted hybrids with domestic geese are also possible)

- Snow x Ross's goose (see *Birding* 25:50–53; a common hybrid combination which has apparently been seen several times here)

- Canada Goose x almost any goose species, wild or domestic

- Wood Duck x Hooded Merganser (see **The Loon** 50:208–209)

- Eurasian x American wigeon (see **The Loon** 67:109–110; two apparent wigeon hybrids were reported here in 2007, making this a potential ID problem to be especially aware of)

- Mallard x American Black Duck, Mottled Duck, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, or Muscovy Duck (and probably others, wild or domestic; Mallards hybridizing with black ducks are especially common, resulting in frequent erroneous reports of “pure” American Black Ducks)

- Blue-winged x Cinnamon teal (several cited in **The Loon**; an obvious ID problem, since hybrid teal in Minnesota may be nearly as common as actual Cinnamon Teal)

- Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler (see **The Loon** 77:260–262)

- Blue-winged x Green-winged teal (see **The Loon** 39:59)

- Canvasback x Redhead

- Ring-necked Duck x scaup, sp.

- Tufted Duck x scaup, sp. (see *Birding* 30:371–383; proving that a “pure” Tufted Duck is seen in the state might be as difficult as determining that it isn't an escape)

- Common x Barrow's goldeneye (see *Birding* 26:104–105)

- Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (see **The Loon** 52:37 and 66:103–104)

- Sharp-tailed Grouse x Greater Prairie-Chicken (where these two prairie grouse share display leks, hybrids can occur — e.g., in Polk County)

- Western x Clark's grebe (see **The Loon** 61:99–106; there are several records of presumed hybrids: more than once I have seen grebes with one side of the bird having all Western-type features on its bill, face, and flanks, and the other side with entirely typical Clark's field marks!)

- Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron

- Glossy x White-faced ibis (see *North American Birds* 57:136–139; as both ibis species continue their range expansions, apparent hybrids are becoming more frequent and complicating the already difficult problem of ibis ID)

- Falcon hybrids. Falconers are known to interbreed all three of our largest falcon species (Gyr Falcon, Peregrine, and Prairie), with Eurasian species (especially Saker and Lanner falcons) also involved; accordingly, the possibility of a large falcon of unknown identity and dubious ancestry appearing in the wild has to be a consideration.

- Sandhill x Common crane

- Black-necked Stilt x American Avocet

- Gull hybrids. The largest species seem especially prone to hybridization, and gulls with anomalous features are frequently found and their identities discussed — too often without resolution; many would agree that such apparent hybrids present the most “impossible” ID challenges of any kind, and the following combinations are the most frequently encountered:

- Laughing x Black-headed or Ring-billed gulls

- Black-headed x Ring-billed gull
- Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed, Slaty-backed, Glaucous-winged, Glaucous (often called “Nelson’s Gull”), Great Black-backed, or Kelp gulls (see *Birding* 37:266–276, *The Loon* 66:196–197, and *The Loon* 71:54–55; because any combination of these large gulls can hybridize so freely, a hybrid could be as likely in Minnesota as a “pure” Slaty-backed or Glaucous-winged)

- Western x Glaucous-winged gull (a common hybrid and serious ID problem along parts of the Pacific coast; could some apparent Glaucous-wingeds reported on the Great Lakes have actually been this hybrid?)

- Roseate x Common tern
- White-winged x Black tern
- Eurasian Collared-Dove x Ringed Turtle-Dove (see *North American Birds* 53:348–353; an apparently common hybrid in some areas, with domestic turtle-doves possible anywhere, so don’t assume that all “collard-doves” you see are the real thing)

- Hummingbird hybrids. Oddly plumaged hummingbirds of various kinds have been occasionally reported in many places and are assumed to be hybrids; Anna’s Hummingbird seems to be involved most often, apparently hybridizing with Black-chinned, Costa’s, or Allen’s.

- Golden-fronted x Red-bellied woodpecker (I vaguely recall a record of a Golden-fronted photographed in the Midwest: might it have been a hybrid?)

- Yellow-bellied x Red-naped sapsucker (see *Birding* 37:288–298 and 38:42–51; sapsucker hybrids are common enough that an actual Red-naped vagrant in Minnesota might be hard to prove)

- Western x Eastern wood-pewee (see *The Loon* 49:169–170 for the account of a possible hybrid pair nesting in Roseau County in 1977; a hybrid pair may have also nested in 2007 in Jackson County)

- Western Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (see *The Loon* 69:183–185)

- Cliff x Cave swallow (the Cave Swallow is long overdue as an addition to the state list, but could a hybrid appear here

before the real thing?)

- Barn x Cliff or Cave swallows
- Eastern x Mountain bluebird (see *The Loon* 58:194–196 and 66:149–150; a relatively common hybrid on the Great Plains and always something to consider here)

- Blue-winged x Golden-winged warbler (see *Birding* 37:278–286, and several records cited in *The Loon*; this is certainly the most famous passerine hybrid combination, with more plumage variations than most birders are aware of: it’s often reported — but seldom actually documented — in Minnesota)

- Northern Parula x Yellow-throated Warbler (also known as “Sutton’s Warbler”)

- Townsend’s x Hermit warbler (see *Birding* 33:342–350; a widespread hybrid in parts of the western U.S.)

- Mourning x MacGillivray’s warbler (see *Birding* 22:222–229 and 25:350–351; apparently a relatively common hybrid, of which there is a Minnesota specimen, so an actual MacGillivray’s record here might be impossible to prove unless a specimen, a carefully measured banded bird, or a closely photographed adult male singing a perfect song)

- Summer x Scarlet tanager (see *The Loon* 75:221–225, 75:226–230, and 79:7–10)

- Scarlet x Western tanager

- Spotted x Eastern towhee

- Clay-colored x Chipping or Brewer’s sparrows (I once heard a Chipping Sparrow singing a typical Clay-colored song and, on another occasion, a Clay-colored singing just like a Chipping: could these have been hybrids?)

- White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco (see *The Loon* 38:110–11)

- Harris’s x White-crowned sparrow

- White-crowned x Golden-crowned sparrow

- Rose-breasted x Black-headed grosbeak (see *The Loon* 45:64–65; with Minnesota relatively close to where these two overlap in the Great Plains, grosbeak hybrids could be as likely here as actual Black-headed)

• Lazuli x Indigo bunting (see *The Loon* 37:47; a situation similar to the potential grosbeak problem exists with buntings)

• Eastern x Western meadowlark (a meadowlark with an odd song just might be a hybrid; I still wonder about the one I heard singing a perfect Eastern song in Rock County, where only Westerns should occur)

• Bullock's x Baltimore oriole (see *The Loon* 38:73–74 and 52:36–37; a situation similar to the grosbeaks and buntings)

• Gray-crowned x Black or Brown-capped rosy-finches (such hybrids are relatively frequent, so don't assume any rosy-finch here would have to be a Gray-

crowned)

• House x Eurasian Tree sparrow

You know, I just realized that article about color abnormalities failed to discuss hypophaeomelanism! Now I have a subject for the next "Hindsight" article. After I've been so critical recently in this column about some dubious dowitcher ID advice (see *The Loon* 78:48–52 and 78:172–175), it's time to present my simple scheme for identifying them. So, stay tuned for "Loral Angles in Hypophaeomelanistic Dowitchers" in the next issue of *The Loon*.

1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

Notes of Interest



FIRST BLACK VULTURE AWAY FROM LAKE SUPERIOR — On 24 March 2007, I stopped at the Afton marina in Washington County, which is my usual final spot when birding the Mississippi and St. Croix river valleys. It was around 5:00 P.M., and with a heavy cloud cover, lighting was diminishing. A group of 10–15 Turkey Vultures was gathering around the marina prior to going to roost in a nearby pine grove. When I arrived, some vultures had flown out of the large trees at the marina down to perch on the metal pipe frames of the boat stalls. As I was looking at these, out of the corner of my eye I noticed a vulture with a shallow, rapid rather than lumbering, wingbeat descending to also perch on a pipe frame just 30–40 feet from me! Over the next half-hour the bird was observed intermittently while I tried unsuccessfully to phone a number of birders to come and see it too. With that observation time, as well as that of the next morning, the bird was observed with 8x binoculars and a 25x spotting scope. The bird was observed both perched and on the ground in the same field of view with Turkey Vultures, in short flights, and the next morning soaring with the Turkey Vultures down the valley to forage.

The bird's body was a little smaller, and the tail shorter than that of a Turkey Vulture. The body, neck, tail, and head were blackish, with there being a gray border at the rear of the face. The rear top of the head came to a slight point. The bill was dark and thinner than a Turkey Vulture's. Both dorsal and ventral sides of the wings were



Black Vulture, 25 March 2007, Afton, Washington County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

blackish with whitish primaries. In flight, the wings appeared to be proportionately shorter, broader, and rounder than a Turkey Vulture's, and the widely-fanned tail was squared on the end with sharp corners. Notes were written later that first evening, and since previously finding Black Vultures to be so distinctive while observing them in Texas, consulting any resources for identification was unnecessary. The following morning (25 March), many birders were able to also observe the bird as it came out of the roosting grove and loitered about for some time with the Turkey Vultures before taking off to forage, and several birders were able to obtain good photos.

This constitutes the 4th record of Black Vulture for the state, but the first sighting away from the North Shore. The first two records were from Hawk Ridge in Duluth on 28 August 2001 (*The Loon* 74:63–65) and 29 April 2003 (*The Loon* 76:41). The 3rd record was from northeast of Two Harbors on 26 May 2004 (*The Loon* 77:184–185). **Bill Litkey, 589 Granite Avenue N., Oakdale, MN 55128.**

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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, DVD, 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.



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Determining the Sources of Northern Goshawks Passing Through Duluth, Minnesota

Shawn E. Hawks¹, David L. Evans², and James W. Grier³

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) migration and dispersal movements throughout North America are poorly understood, even though there are numerous ongoing migration monitoring stations scattered throughout the continent. Goshawk densities in the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska fluctuate in response to the 8- to 10-year snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) cycle. When hare populations crash, goshawks cease breeding and are forced to migrate to regions farther south and out of the boreal forest. Their winter survival is also reduced due to the loss of snowshoe hare as the primary winter food source (Doyle and Smith 1994).

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, St. Louis County, is well known for observing, trapping, and banding large numbers of Northern Goshawks annually. The total numbers, as well as the immature to adult age-ratios, can vary tremendously depending on the year. During two irruptive years of fall migration, 2001 and 2002, goshawk feathers were collected from birds trapped at the Hawk Ridge banding station to assess whether ratios of stable hydrogen isotopes could be used to determine the latitudinal breeding and natal origins of adult and immature goshawks. Persons throughout northwestern North America were asked to obtain and donate feather samples in order to evaluate hydrogen isotopic variability from birds of known locations, as well as to determine the relationship between those isotopic values and measurements from local precipitation. (See Hawks 2004 for further review.)



Northern Goshawk, Hawk Ridge, Duluth, David A. Cahlander.

Stable Hydrogen Isotopes as Biogeographical Markers

Population ecologists have recently utilized ratios of stable hydrogen isotopes as a biological marker that relates deuterium in an animal's tissue, such as a feather, to climatic values in local precipitation. Hydrogen isotopes in an animal's body are primarily influenced by global precipitation patterns and the vegetation base of the local food chain (Chamberlain *et al.* 1997, Hobson and Wassenaar 1997). Thus, isotopic values in animal tissues reflect those found in the food the animal eats (Estep and Dabrowski 1980, Michener and Schell 1994, Peterson and Fry 1987, Tieszen and Boutton 1988). There are also a number of chemical, physiological, and biological processes that cause hydrogen isotopic values of delta deuterium to change. Geologists and biologists working together have begun to unravel geographi-

cal movements of animals based on the ratios of stable isotopes in animal tissues.

Elemental isotopes vary in the number of neutrons. The different isotopes have different atomic masses, which can be precisely measured using mass spectrometry. Some isotopes are unstable and change over time, whereas others are stable. The ratios of stable isotopes in a sample, such as a bird feather, can be measured and compared against an international standard.

Isotopes of hydrogen consist of two stable forms: protium and deuterium; and an unstable radioisotope, tritium. The international standard used for hydrogen isotopes is mean ocean water (V-SMOW) listed by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria (Ehleringer and Rundel 1988). Stable isotopes of hydrogen are measured as the ratio of deuterium to protium relative to the same ratio of an international standard, then multiplied by a thousand to arrive at a numerical value (positive or negative) representing a relative difference rather than an absolute ratio (see, for example, p. 3 in Ehleringer and Rundel 1988, and chapter 2 in Fry 2006). Conceptually, if the international standard of mean ocean water is equal or nearly equal to 0, smaller (more negative) values in a sample contain less deuterium, and those lower values are referred to as being “depleted” when compared to the international standard. Positive values in a sample are “enriched” in deuterium in comparison to the international standard.

Delta deuterium values in precipitation (δD_p) change predictably throughout North America, which allow geographic regions to be discernable. As air masses continue to move inland, water molecules with heavier deuterium isotopes fall out of the air at a higher rate causing δD_p values to decrease (become more negative) compared to the mean ocean water standard (Ingraham 1998). Lower temperatures cause δD_p values to also decrease, varying at an average of 5.6% (denoted “permil” in parts per thousand, not as a percentage) per degree Celsius (Dansgaard 1964). Readers are encouraged to visit the

International Atomic Energy Agency's Global Network of International Precipitation maps and animation website (IAEA 2001, <http://isohis.iaea.org>) to further illustrate geographic and seasonal shifts of hydrogen isotopic values, as those values occur in estimated monthly or seasonal weighted average precipitation across North America and around the globe. For reviews and further details on the use of stable isotopes to trace animal movements see: Hobson (1999, 2003, 2005a, 2005b), Kelly (2000), and Rubenstein and Hobson (2004).

Methods

Contour breast feathers were collected from all goshawks trapped at Hawk Ridge. A small outer portion of the #2 right primary was also sampled from adult migrants. Goshawk feathers were also solicited from persons working with local goshawks throughout northwestern North America (areas north of 42° N latitude and areas west of 84° W longitude) to assess local variability and the relationships between δD values from local feathers and precipitation (see Hobson and Wassenaar 1997 for similar methodology). Because of logistical constraints and the paucity of people working with local goshawks, we accepted all donations of goshawk feathers. The locations from which we obtained feathers are shown in Figure 1. (See Hawks 2004, Appendix I for age- and sex-specific feather types sampled across each location.)

Isotopic analyses were performed at the National Water Research Institute, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, using online continuous-flow isotope-ratio mass spectrometry (CF-IRMS, Wassenaar and Hobson 2003). However, feather samples were initially prepared at North Dakota State University based on methodology described in Wassenaar and Hobson (2003) prior to shipping to the Canadian lab.

Estimates of means and variances, as well as plots were used to assess variation in feather deuterium across locations (Hawks 2004). We created a North American contour map using ArcView/ArcInfo

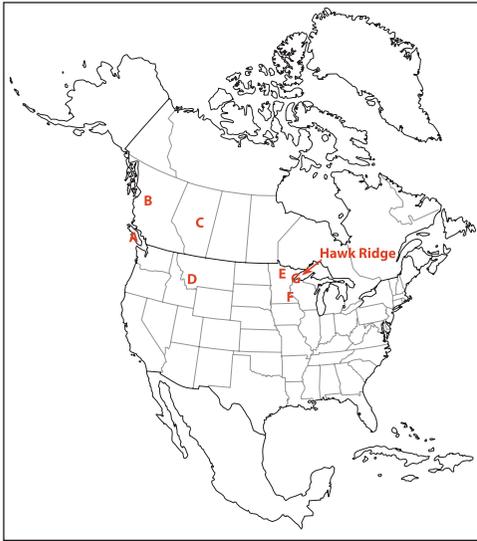


Figure 1. Sites from which Northern Goshawk feathers were obtained.

GIS version 8.0 and weighted average δD values for North American growing season precipitation (δD_p values) with contour intervals 10‰ (see Hobson and Wassenaar 1997 and Hobson *et al.* 1999 for similar mapping designs). Statistical regression techniques were used to model relationships between the mean delta deuterium values in local goshawk feathers (δD_f values) and the estimated local precipitation (δD_p) values. The results were then used to estimate latitudinal origins of goshawks moving through Hawk Ridge (Hawks 2004).

Results and Discussion

Feathers from immature hatch-year goshawks captured at Hawk Ridge during two years of fall migration, 2001 and 2002, showed a bimodal distribution, which suggests two separate sources of birds, as seen in Figure 2. The major peak, corresponding to delta D values between -63‰ and -23‰, suggests that most of the birds originated south and near Duluth. The second peak, corresponding to delta D values between -103‰ to -77‰, suggests birds originating from a region farther north and west (Figure 2). This finding was consistent for both years 2001 and 2002.

Contrary to what is known of current goshawk distribution in regions of the western Great Lakes and the upper Midwest, the main peak represents birds that are coming from way “too far south” of Duluth based on our understanding of their nesting range (Squires and Reynolds 1997). It seems reasonable, however, to assume that the “southernmost” birds are coming from the region closest to Duluth, and represent local dispersal. If this assumption is true, we then need to explain their overly enriched values. Analytical error is an unlikely explanation because of low error with repeatable analyses of concurring standards.

A possible explanation of extreme δD_f values for the hatch-year birds coming from “way south” of Duluth may have to do with diet. Synthesis of feather tissue represents short-term dietary integration of specific nutrients (Bearhop *et al.* 2002). Goshawks throughout Minnesota have been shown to consume a wide variety of prey species, including American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and many other migratory birds (Smithers 2003, Table 4.2). Crows obtain food material from a variety of different sources (including fast food restaurant refuse) that may be deuterium enriched. Migratory prey may also contain deuterium enriched tissues that represent “southern” locations as well.

The more northern origin of passage goshawks probably represents a large region from northern Ontario across central to northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan into Nunavut, Canada (Figure 2). Band recovery results indicate that the majority of goshawks recovered on the breeding range in Canada and during the breeding season are originating from western Manitoba ranging to British Columbia (D. L. Evans, unpubl. data; Evans 1981). Thus, the combined isotope results and band recovery data suggest Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta as another major possible source population for goshawks moving down from Canada and passing through Duluth.

Most goshawks migrating from farther north (i.e., δD_f values \leq -77‰, Figure 2)

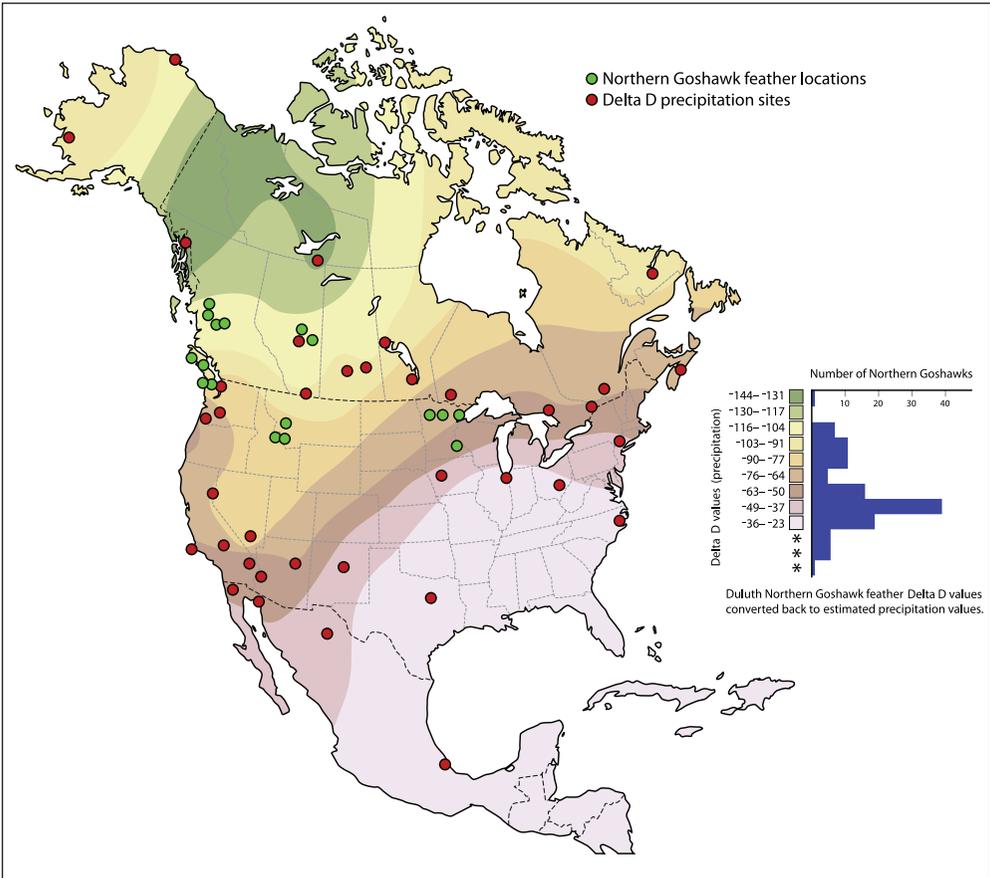


Figure 2. Numbers of dispersing hatch-year Northern Goshawks caught and banded at Duluth with delta deuterium (δD) values in feathers converted to their estimated, respective source precipitation equivalents, as compared to North American precipitation δD contours. Asterisk (*) = Feather Values with estimated precipitation equivalents that are more enriched (less depleted) than the continental precipitation values.

were not observed until early October, while birds inferred to be local occurred throughout the fall migration (Figure 3). One male however, was captured on 12 September 2002, and results suggest that it may have migrated from northern Ontario or southern Manitoba. In 2001, the migrant birds were males, and the movements by females suggest local dispersal, whereas the 2002 migration suggests movements of nearly an equal distribution of local female dispersal and females migrating from farther north (Figure 3). Again, however, in 2002 most of the migrants were males.

It is unknown whether the pattern at Duluth from the northern location will persist, or perhaps change. However, feathers have been and will continue to be collected and birds will continue to be banded to help identify source populations with high abundance of goshawks migrating down from Canada.

Two recent band recoveries from goshawks trapped at Duluth and from which feathers were collected provide additional information regarding natal dispersal. Both birds were immature males. One bird with a δD value of -111 was banded 12 October 2001 and was recovered dead three years

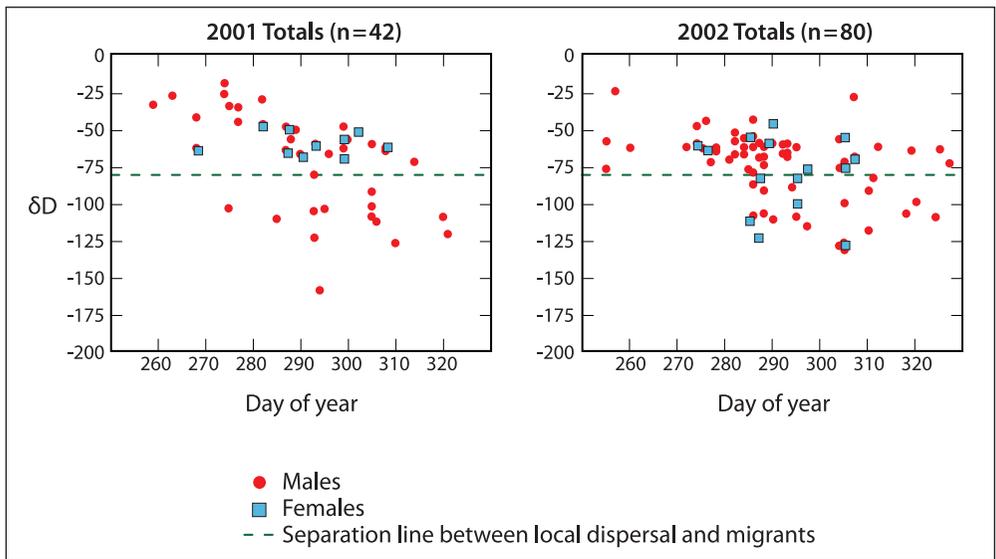


Figure 3. Scatter plots of delta deuterium (δD) values (actual, not precipitation equivalents) from feathers of individual hatch-year goshawks captured at Duluth by Julian date (September 1 = day 244, October 1 = 273, November 1 = 305). Dotted line separates local goshawks (above the line) from those coming from farther north (below the line).

later on 9 November 2004 near Goodsoil, Saskatchewan. The other bird, with a δD value of -63 , was banded 15 October 2002, and was recovered dead two years later on 24 August 2004 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Based on δD values from the feathers relative to the precipitation contours, both birds appear to have migrated back close to the locations that they were predicted to have come from (i.e., their natal origins). A closer examination of the recovery dates however, only partially confirms that these birds were returning to their natal origins. The first bird was recovered in November, and could have been on migration; albeit, the bird was still within its predicted range of delta D values (Figure 2). The second bird was recovered in August, demonstrating that it may have still been close to its breeding territory.

Hydrogen isotopic values were also sampled from adult feathers, but values were too variable to trace their origins. A relationship exists between the isotopic values of adult feathers and local precipitation from the same area. However, due to tremendous isotopic variation, more work

needs to be done to understand why adult feathers are enriched compared to the feathers from young hatch-year birds from the same nest. If the cause of enrichment can be determined, a mathematical modeling approach might help narrow variability to better locate the origins of adult birds.

Feathers from a limited sample of second-year adult migrants were also sampled to compare new feathers against old feathers, as well as to compare different feather types (e.g., a distal portion of the #2 primary vs. the breast feathers). The delta deuterium values between these feathers were also found to be highly variable. Again, more research needs to be conducted to choose the best feather (or tissue) to use for tracing the origins of adult goshawks.

We also sampled and compared molted feathers from two captive goshawks used for falconry purposes and fed a constant diet of locally-raised Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*). (It is assumed but not known that the sources of grain fed to the quail were also constant.) One bird allowed an eight year comparison and

the other bird, three years. Each bird was housed in the same facilities throughout these periods. The distal portion of each feather type was depleted compared to the proximal portion. Sampling from the distal portion of a large feather would lead to an inference that the bird came from farther north than samples from more proximate parts of the feather. The #9 primary feathers from the captive hawks were also depleted compared to the #2 primaries. These results from captive feeding indicate that as feathers grow, the most recently grown (proximal) part of the feather is increasingly enriched compared to the outer (distal) portion, but deuterium values decrease in subsequent feathers so that the most recently grown feathers near the outer portion of the wing will become more depleted. (Accipiters molt sequentially from the proximal #1 feather out to the #10 primary.) Some of these differences may represent seasonal changes in weather patterns of precipitation as occurring throughout the food chain. Again, more work needs to be done to determine which feather, if any, to sample to best represent the latitudinal origin of adult migrant goshawks.

The use of stable isotopes to trace movements of large numbers of animals represents a potential advance over traditional mark-recapture methods which have low recapture rates. However, stable isotope techniques pose other problems as discussed above. They should not entirely displace the traditional banding and mark-recapture techniques, but only complement them, along with other techniques such as radio telemetry to study goshawk movements.

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First Breeding of the Snowy Plover in Minnesota

Philip C. Chu

On 1 July 2006, during one of our weekly shorebird surveys at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge in Lac Qui Parle County, Peder Svingen and I found a Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) at the north end of the refuge's East Pool.

We immediately recognized the plover as either a Snowy or a Piping (*C. melodus*) on the basis of its small size and pale upperparts. Size, as estimated from bulk of body, was roughly 50–60% as large as a nearby Killdeer (*C. vociferus*). As for the upperparts, they were a light buff-gray, reminiscent of the color of dry sand.

The bird was identifiable as a Snowy Plover, rather than a Piping, because of its slim black bill, grayish legs, black breast-side patches, and black-brown ear-coverts. The blackness of the breast-side patches and ear-coverts, as well as the comparatively broad black bar across the fore-crown, suggested that the bird was a male.

On 2 July, Randy Frederickson relocated the Snowy Plover roughly 0.7 mile south of where it had been on the previous day, in the vicinity of the East Pool's Kaercher Peninsula, and on 3 July, Doug Kieser and Jim Otto found two Snowys there. Kieser photographed the two, and his photographs showed the second plover to be browner than the first, with less black in the fore-crown, light buff-gray rather than blackish ear-coverts, and black-brown rather than black breast-side patches; that the second was browner suggested that it might be a female, and if the two birds were male and female then that raised the possibility of a breeding attempt.

On 5 July, the two adults were reported again, and then on 8 July, Chris Benson, Dedrick Benz, and Bob Ekblad found

both adults accompanying two downy chicks — confirming that the two adults were male and female, and establishing Minnesota's first breeding record for the species.

Snowy Plover chicks make their first trip from the nest one to three hours after hatching (Boyd 1972), meaning that the first day on which the chicks were seen, 8 July, may have been the date on which the chicks hatched.

Reports of both parents continued through 13 July; thereafter, however, only the male was seen, always with the chicks nearby. This phenomenon, in which the female disappears long before the young fledge, is not unusual, at least for some Snowy Plover populations: along the California coast, chicks are typically deserted by their mothers within two weeks of hatching, after which they are attended solely by their fathers (Warriner *et al.* 1986). In coastal California, desertion allows mothers to try to produce a second brood with a different male (Warriner *et al.* 1986), but even in Great Plains populations, where only monogamy has been observed (Boyd 1972, Hill 1985), if one parent deserts then it tends to be the female (Boyd 1972).

At East Pool, the plover family frequented an area near the tip of the Kaercher Peninsula that had been exposed by an ongoing drawdown. The area extended about 420 yards west-northwest beyond the peninsula-tip and varied in width from roughly 60 yards at its narrowest point to 190 yards at its widest. It consisted of flats with scattered stony patches. The plovers were observed most frequently among the stones of the latter. As for vegetation, initially there was none, but by the time the plover chicks hatched



Snowy Plovers, 12 July 2006, Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

there were green shoots emerging from the drying mud, and over the following weeks as the ground dried and the chicks grew, the plants grew as well. At the time, no attempt was made to identify those plants; however, plants that grew elsewhere on the drying East Pool flats — and that therefore may also have grown on the flats at the tip of the Kaercher Peninsula — included nut-grass (*Cyperus* spp.), barley (*Hordeum* spp.), and smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.).

Snowy Plover parents brood their chicks as needed, lead the chicks to feeding areas, react to possible predators, and drive off potential competitors (Page *et al.* 1995). At East Pool, potential competitors chased by the father included Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*) and Killdeers (J. Mattsson, pers. comm.). As for reacting to possible predators, if the father and chicks were approached too closely, the father would repeatedly perform a distraction display. With its head low, body horizontal, and tail held almost straight

down and spread, the male parent would run rapidly away, the net effect being to expose to the observer the white sides of its tail. If this did not produce the desired effect, the male would fly back, land, give a peeping call — “wheet! ... wheet!” — and then run away again, in the manner described previously. The distraction displays were repeated at a frequency of perhaps one per minute until the observer moved away.

The father and chicks were last seen together on the Kaercher Peninsula on 29 July. On 6 August, there were no Snowy Plovers on the peninsula, but one juvenile was found about 0.7 mile to the west, on the flats along the west margin of East Pool. A single juvenile remained in this latter area through 27 August.

The present Snowy Plover record, accepted by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (Svingen 2007), is the ninth of ten for Minnesota. It and five others (Kyllingstad 1976, Berber 1981, Eckert 1986, Mattsson 1987, Hertzell 1998)

are from the state's western regions, as defined by Green and Janssen (1975); three (Wiens 1982, Hiemenz 1983, Bardon 2005) are from the state's central regions; and one (Zierman 2007) is from the eastern region.

This first Minnesota breeding record is one of just eight Snowy Plover breeding records for the northern prairies. The first four are from Saskatchewan between 1986 and 1989 (Gollop 1986, 1987; Smith 1996). In contrast, the last four are much more recent — in 2006, the Minnesota record, and in 2007, the first breeding record for South Dakota (J. S. Palmer, pers. comm.) and the first two for North Dakota (North Dakota Birding Society and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007).

Acknowledgments

The staff at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge granted unrestricted access to Peder Svingen and me, and refuge biologist Kim Bousquet provided aerial photos of East Pool and told me about some of the plants that grew on the flats there. Additional help with plants was provided by Steve Saupe; Janet Hinshaw and Peder Svingen checked publications that I did not have; Jeffrey Palmer provided confirmation of the South Dakota Snowy Plover breeding record; and Jim Mattsson provided the photograph used in this article.

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The Spring Season

1 March through 31 May 2007

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Though not approaching last spring's spectacular migration, good numbers of **Greater White-fronted** and **Ross's Geese** were found again in western Minnesota. Of interest was an apparent hybrid **Eurasian Wigeon** x **American Wigeon** in Hennepin; this drake was initially reported as a "pure" Eurasian Wigeon until its true identity was unmasked. Wieland's surveys of poorly understood Cass County continue to turn up unusual species; the first this season was a drake **Barrow's Golden-eye** on Leech Lake.

Birding close to home awarded Budde the fourth state record of **Neotropical Cormorant** in Hennepin. A total of 12 **Snowy Egrets** was less than half of last spring's tally, but included a record early individual in Dakota. Only one **Little Blue Heron** was found, in contrast to seven individuals last spring. **Cattle Egrets** were scarce and **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was absent from the state. The highlight among colonial waterbirds was the state's third **Glossy Ibis** among a large flock of **White-faced Ibis** in Lac Qui Parle. Minnesota's fourth **Black Vulture** in Washington was the first of its kind to be re-found and seen by many observers. A flock of five adult and two subadult **Whooping Cranes** was observed by an experienced observer at Pembina Trail Preserve on 9 April; although the two subadults were not documented sufficiently for acceptance by the records committee, there was speculation that this may have been the same group of Whooping Cranes reported near Mandator in southeastern North Dakota on the 5th.

In the same field of view as a **Piping Plover** was northeastern Minnesota's first **Snowy Plover** at Park Point, Duluth. Unfortunately not re-found in western Minnesota was a **Black-necked Stilt** in Rock. Shorebird surveys were conducted again this year in western Minnesota, but habitat was affected by wet conditions; between 1 February and 5 June, portions of Big Stone, Grant, Traverse, and Wilkin counties received more than eight inches of above normal precipitation. Scheduled drawdowns at Big Stone and Agassiz national wildlife refuges improved conditions for shorebirds later in the year. Single **Red Knots** were found in two western Minnesota locations and one transited Duluth in late May. A **Red Phalarope** in Big Stone added to the list of unusual species found during shorebird surveys.

Furnishing only the fourth record away from the North Shore and the Twin Cities was a **Great Black-backed Gull** at Leech Lake, Cass 15 April. Contributing to a recent trend was another **Arctic Tern** at Duluth. Providing the ninth state record within four years and eleventh overall was a **White-winged Dove** in Kittson. Encouraging were high counts of **Short-eared Owls** in northwestern Minnesota. Lissome **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** visited Olmsted and Park Point, Duluth. **Loggerhead Shrike** numbers were below average compared to the early 1990s for the eleventh consecutive spring. A **White-eyed Vireo** thrilled observers in Hennepin when it hung around for a second day.

Singing at the same location as one in Summer 2005 was a **Prairie Warbler** at

Ritter Farm Park, Dakota. Single **Worm-eating Warblers** in Lyon and Clay furnished two of only three records since 2001 of this formerly Regular species. If the same bird has returned annually for the last eight years, the male **Kentucky Warbler** at Williams Nature Center, Blue Earth is most deserving of a mate! The barely-Regular **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in four locations.

Summer Tanagers showed well, including one almost to the Canadian border in Kittson County, but only two **Western Tanagers** were documented. The overwintering **Green-tailed Towhee** was last reported 23 April in Cottonwood; perhaps it continued southwest instead of returning to Thunder Cape, Ontario, where it had been banded in June 2006. A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** in Wilkin and a male **Painted Bunting** in Lake were both photographed. Three **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** posed for hundreds of enthralled observers in Carlton through 26 March. The state's seventh **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** made a cameo appearance at a feeder in Virginia, St. Louis.

Weather Summary: March temperatures were significantly above average in all regions, ranging from 3.6 °F above average in the Northeast to 6.2 °F above average in the East-central. Precipitation was slightly above average in all regions. In April, temperatures were below normal in all regions. Precipitation was near average to above average, except in the South-central and Southeast, where it was 1.39 and 1.16 inches below normal, respectively. In spite of this, parts of the North-central and Northeast remained in serious drought according to the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Ice-out occurred during the last week of March in southern regions, associated with record warmth 26–27 March. Most lakes in central regions were open by early April; Mille Lacs opened up on the 28th. Lakes in northern Minnesota were ice-free by the fourth week of April; exceptions included Lake of the Woods 3 May, Rainy Lake 4 May, and Saganaga 4 May.

Temperatures in May were significant-

ly above average in all regions, ranging from 1.2 °F above normal in the Northeast to 4.2 °F above normal in the East-central. Precipitation in May was slightly below normal in most regions, including the Northeast, where severe to extreme drought conditions contributed to the devastation wrought by the Ham Lake fire in early May. Many smaller fires were also reported; as of 15 May, the Minnesota DNR Wildfire Information Center logged 718 fires affecting 67,522 acres in 2007.

Undocumented reports: **Clark's Grebe** 5/15 Todd (L. Osakis); **Plegadis ibis sp.** 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.), 5/23 Anoka (Carlos Avery W.M.A.); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 5/14 Sherburne; **Tree Swallow** 3/2 Crow Wing; **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 3/27 Hennepin; **Blackburnian Warbler** 4/23 Sherburne; **Summer Tanager** 5/21–22 St. Louis (imm. male near Duluth), 5/22 Hennepin (imm. male, Minneapolis); **La-zuli Bunting** 5/25 Wright.

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Greater White-fronted Goose — [34 South, 10 North] Early south 3/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/9 Brown BTS (median 3/6). Early north 3/17 Otter Tail SPM, 3/23 Mille Lacs NSc (median 3/28). High counts 3/15 Lincoln (2,800) BJU, 3/16 Lac Qui Parle (8,120 in Providence Twp. and 3,775 at Borchardt Rosin W.M.A.) BJU, 3/31 Traverse (1,500) JCC. Late south 5/15 (median) Dakota LEC, 5/20 Mower JWH. Only north reports in May were from Northeast: 5/19 Lake ph. JWJ and St. Louis TPW.

Snow Goose — [37 South, 13 North] Early south 3/4 Scott (overwintered?) PEJ, 3/8 Blue Earth BTS. Early north 3/23 Kanabec CAM and Todd JSK, 3/24 Aitkin *fide* JWJ. Peak counts 3/15 Lac Qui Parle (42,450 mostly in Manfred Twp.) and Lincoln (10,660) BJU. Late south 5/24 (median) Rice TFB, 5/26 Hennepin JLS and Steele DAB. Only north reports in May: 5/8 Marshall *fide* JMJ and St. Louis JWJ (median 5/27).

Ross's Goose — [20 South, 5 North] Seasonal total of 716+ including high counts 3/15 Lac Qui Parle (208 in Manfred Twp.) and Lincoln (119) BJU, 4/1 Lac Qui Parle (100 near Salt L.) DFN. Early south 3/3

McLeod DMF, 3/12 Steele NFT (median 3/20). Early north 3/25 **Mille Lacs** (2, no details) HHD, 3/26 Grant BJU (median 3/28). Documented 3/28–31 **Kanabec** (3) †CAM. Late south 4/21 Martin LS, 5/13 (median) Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 4/27 Clay BWF (median 5/26).

Cackling Goose — [23 South, 8 North] Documented in only seven counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/10 Traverse HHD, 3/23 Mille Lacs NSc (median 3/19). High counts 3/16 Jackson (650) PEJ, 3/23 Goodhue (450) PEJ. Late south 5/11 Olmsted JJS, 5/13 Mower HHD, JJS. All documented reports: 3/11–17 Brown †BTS, 3/16 Dakota †BAF, 3/17–22 Meeker †DMF, 4/1 Lac Qui Parle †DFN and McLeod †DMF, 4/13 Big Stone (250, Thielke L.) †WCM, 5/5 **Ramsey** †DPG. Observers are asked to document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

Canada Goose — [52 South, 34 North] No significant counts.

Mute Swan — [4 South] All reports: overwintered through 3/4 Rice JPE, JLO; also

KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species are listed in brackets [**Whooping Crane**] when there is a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name indicates the total number of north and south counties.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger “†” preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with “ph”.
11. 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, Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, or via e-mail at paul.budde@benfieldgroup.com.

seen 4/7 Carver (Goose L.) DPG, 4/15–22 Meeker (Pigeon L.) PRH, DMF, 5/26 **Fillmore** (gravel pit south of Spring Valley) HHD.

Trumpeter Swan — [27 South, 26 North] High count 3/25 Mille Lacs (200) EEO. Please continue to report numbers, exact locations, and dates of observations.

Tundra Swan — [26 South, 22 North] Early south 3/17 Wabasha JWH, 3/18 Rice DAB (median 3/11). Early north 3/18 Hubbard DLB, 3/23–24 in six counties (median 3/27). High counts 3/23 Goodhue (1,500) PEJ, 3/31 Traverse (1,200) JCC, 4/1 Aitkin (2,000, CR 1 rice paddies) WEN. Late south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/5). Late north 4/28 Red Lake MJJ, 5/12 St. Louis SES (median 5/28).

Wood Duck — [53 South, 32 North] Overwintered south. Early north 3/14 Mille Lacs ASc, 3/16 Otter Tail DTT (median 3/18).

Gadwall — [51 South, 26 North] Early south (but see winter report) 3/5 Winona JWH, 3/9 Brown BTS (median 3/1). Early north 3/10 St. Louis *fide* JWL, 3/15 Otter Tail DTT (median 3/24). High count 4/10 Big Stone (625) BJU.

American Wigeon — [48 South, 22 North] Early south 3/1 (median) Carver RTH, 3/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Olmsted JWH, LAV, TFB. Early north 3/21 Clay RHO and St. Louis SLF, 3/22 Todd JSK (median 3/26).

American Black Duck — [19 South, 8 North] Only south report in May: 5/14+ Lac Qui Parle (injured) BJU. Only other west reports: 3/16 Jackson (2) PEJ, 4/1 Lincoln (2) DFN, PEJ.

Mallard — [52 South, 35 North] Reported from all 87 counties.

Blue-winged Teal — [51 South, 30 North] Early south 3/13 Dakota PEJ, 3/14 Meeker DMF (median 3/11). Early north

3/26 Cass, Grant, Otter Tail, Traverse (median 3/30).

Northern Shoveler — [51 South, 28 North] Early south 3/9 Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Scott, Steele (median 3/5). Early north 3/21 St. Louis SLF, 3/22 Otter Tail EEO (median 3/27).

Northern Pintail — [37 South, 21 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/8 St. Louis SLF, 3/21 Clay RHO and Otter Tail SPM (median 3/20).

Green-winged Teal — [47 South, 26 North] Early south 3/5 Winona JWH, 3/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Scott PEJ (median 3/6). Early north 3/16 Otter Tail SPM, 3/23 Mille Lacs NSc (median 3/27).

Canvasback — [49 South, 23 North] Early south 3/9 Dakota PEJ, 3/11 Olmsted JLO, JWH (median 2/27). Early north 3/23 Otter Tail SPM and St. Louis SLF, 3/24 Mille Lacs ASc, NSc (median 3/28). High count 4/8 Meeker (1,000 on L. Ripley) DMF.

Redhead — [49 South, 25 North] Overwintered in Hennepin; probable early south migrants 3/6 Sherburne and Wright CRM (median 2/26). Early north 3/23 Otter Tail SPM, 3/24 Clay RHO (median 3/26).

Ring-necked Duck — [53 South, 32 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north **3/11** Otter Tail SPM, 3/23 Mille Lacs NSc (median 3/20).

Greater Scaup — [29 South, 18 North] Early south 3/9 Dakota PEJ, Olmsted JWH and Rice DAB, 3/10 Dakota DFN and Goodhue BRL (median 3/8). Early north 3/26 Traverse BJU, 3/28 Beltrami *fide* MJJ (median 3/31). Late south 5/17 Pope JJS, 5/19 Steele NFT (median 5/14). Late north 5/17 Cook PEJ, 5/27 St. Louis FKB (median 5/29).

Lesser Scaup — [52 South, 28 North]

Please see winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/10 St. Louis CHO, 3/21 Clay RHO (median 3/16).

Harlequin Duck — No reports.

Surf Scoter — [1 North] Only report: 5/23–31 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) MSS, m.ob.

White-winged Scoter — [1 North] Only report: 5/23 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) DAG.

Black Scoter — [1 South, 1 North] All reports: 4/9–15 **Renville** (Allie L.) ph. †RBW, m.ob., 5/19–29 St. Louis (max. 4, Park Point, Duluth) m.ob., 5/19 St. Louis (2, Stoney Point) m.ob.

Long-tailed Duck — [6 South, 3 North] All south reports: 3/13–14 Winona/Wabasha (Mississippi R.) JJS, CHO, 4/8 Meeker (L. Ripley) DMF, 4/13 Rice TFB, 4/14–17 Goodhue (Red Wing) m.ob., 4/22 Fari-bault (2 on Pilot Grove L.) WAF, CRM. All north reports from L. Superior: 3/17–4/22 Lake/St. Louis (max. 25 between Two Harbors and Stoney Pt.) JPE, m.ob., 5/17–26 Cook (max. 31) PEJ, DFN, 5/19 Lake (2, Silver Bay) JWJ, SLL, 5/27 Lake (8, Castle Danger) JWJ.

Bufflehead — [51 South, 31 North] Early south 3/5 Winona JOB, 3/9 Dakota PEJ (median 3/4). Early north 3/23 Lake JWJ, 3/24 Kanabec CAM. High count 3/24 Lac Qui Parle (386) BJU. Late south 5/8 Lincoln m.ob., 5/12 Hennepin DWK, PEB. Late north (but see summer report) 5/23 Lake of the Woods DAC, RBJ, 5/31 Cook RBJ.

Common Goldeneye — [42 South, 26 North] Late south 4/19 Sherburne RBJ, 4/25 Swift RBW (median 5/12).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE — [1 North] Adult male 3/26–4/11 Cass (Kabekona Narrows, Leech L.) ph. †BAW, MMA, DAY, PJR.

Hooded Merganser — [49 South, 32 North] Early north (away from known overwintering locations, ties earliest north) 3/4 Wadena PJB, 3/13 St. Louis SLF (median 3/19). High count 4/12 Cass (100 on Sylvan Reservoir) MRN.

Common Merganser — [48 South, 22 North] Early north (away from overwintering locations) 3/4 (median) Beltrami PJR, 3/12 Cass BAW. Late south 5/8 Hennepin PEJ, 5/25 Ramsey BAF (median 5/24). High count 3/16 Lac Qui Parle (249) BJU.

Red-breasted Merganser — [41 South, 18 North] Early south 3/12 Dakota PEJ, 3/16 Wabasha BAF and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (away from L. Superior) 3/21 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF, 3/26 Kanabec CAM and Cass BAW. Late south 5/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/19 Steele NFT.

Ruddy Duck — [48 South, 14 North] Early south 3/9 in four counties, 3/10 Dakota DFN (median 3/11). Early north 3/11 (second earliest north) Otter Tail SPM, 3/24 Clay BWF (median 4/5). High count 4/26 Big Stone (427, East Toqua L.) BJU. More Northeast reports than usual: 4/28–5/28 St. Louis (max. 6, Duluth) KRE, JCG, m.ob., 5/19 St. Louis (1, Biwabik W.T.P.) ALE, 5/19–21 Lake (1, Beaver Bay W.T.P.) JWJ, MWS.

Gray Partridge — [20 South, 3 North] High counts south 3/3 Brown (11 near Essig) BTS, 3/3 Houston (15 near Spring Grove) JPE, 3/7 Mower (15) and Fillmore (12) RBW. All north reports: 3/12 Wilkin (2) RBW, 3/16–4/11 Kittson LW, 4/15–5/25 Clay (max. 4) m.ob.

Ring-necked Pheasant — [53 South, 19 North] Reported as far north as Marshall (escapee?), Becker, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin, and Pine. High count 3/4 Lac Qui Parle (238, Lac Qui Parle Twp.) BJU.

Ruffed Grouse — [8 South, 23 North] Found throughout normal range, including Dakota (Miesville Ravine) JPM, Fillmore NBO, Winona m.ob., and Houston

FZL. High count 4/17 St. Louis (11 north of Virginia) SLF.

Spruce Grouse — [3 North] All reports: 3/11 Lake (3) CHO, 3/17 Lake (20 in 3 locations along CR 2) JPE, 5/12 Koochiching AXH and Lake JWJ, 5/25 Lake of the Woods (3) MHK.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — [3 South, 12 North] — Leks of 10–20 reported from Aitkin, Kittson, and St. Louis. Additional north reports from Clay, Clearwater, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Pine, Polk, Red Lake. Unusual south reports outside of typical range in Big Stone ABL, Lac Qui Parle (max. 17 in 6 locations) BJU, WCM, and 4/28 Yellow Medicine †RBW.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — [3 South, 10 North] Released birds seen in three south counties, including Lac Qui Parle (max. 11, Plover Prairie) m.ob. All north reports: Becker, Clay (high count of 167, Felton Prairie on 4/6) RHO, Douglas (3), Mah-nomen (8, Rush W.M.A.), Marshall, Norman (6), Otter Tail, Polk (max. 65, Glacial Ridge N.W.R.), Red Lake (max. 8, Marcoux Corner), Wilkin (max. 69, Rothsay W.M.A.).

Wild Turkey — [45 South, 20 North] Reported as far north as Kittson, Red Lake, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Pine. Probable escapees or released birds also seen in southern St. Louis (3 locations) and Lake (2 locations). Peak count 3/26 Traverse (63) BJU.

Red-throated Loon — [1 North] All reports: 5/15–26 St. Louis (max. 17, Park Point, Duluth) JCC, MH, KRE, m.ob.

Common Loon — [34 South, 26 North] Early south 3/22 Rice DAB, 3/25 Dakota PEJ (median 3/27). Early north 3/28 Kanabec CAM, 3/31 Douglas RBW (median 4/2). High count 4/23 Beltrami (75) MLM *vide* JMJ.

Pied-billed Grebe — [50 South, 28

North] Early south 3/5 Hennepin SCA, 3/9 (median) Dakota PEJ and Rice TFB. Early north 3/16 Otter Tail SPM, 3/25 St. Louis SLF (median 3/28).

Horned Grebe — [25 South, 19 North] Early south 3/21 Stearns HHD, 3/27 Dakota ADS, LEC and Rice TFB (median 3/26). Early north **3/29** St. Louis SLF, 4/15 Mille Lacs DFN, PEJ. Peak counts 4/24 Lake (118) JWJ, 4/20 Hennepin (80) CMB. Late south 5/6 Lac Qui Parle LS and Stearns DFN, 5/8 Lincoln HHD, JEB, JJS (median 5/14). Late north 5/23 Lake of the Woods DAC, RBJ, 5/25 St. Louis DWK, JLO (median 6/3).

Red-necked Grebe — [32 South, 15 North] Early south 3/30 Meeker DMF and Olmsted JWH (median 4/3). Early north 4/9 Lake and St. Louis JWJ, 4/11 Otter Tail SPM (median 4/7).

Eared Grebe — [15 South, 7 North] Early south 4/15 Meeker DMF, 4/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/9). Early north 4/22 (median) Pennington JMJ, 4/25 Clearwater PJR. Notable northeast reports: 5/19–20 Lake (Castle Danger W.T.P.) JWJ, 5/19 St. Louis (Biwabik W.T.P.) ALE, 5/19–22 St. Louis (max. 2, Park Point, Duluth) ASC, KRE, JWJ.

Western Grebe — [20 South, 10 North] Early south 4/15 Big Stone LS and Meeker DMF, 4/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/11). Early north 5/3 Otter Tail DTT, 5/6 Douglas DFN (median 4/21). Unusual northeast report 5/19–24 St. Louis (max. 2, Park Point, Duluth) DRB, m.ob. High count 4/26 Big Stone (188) BJU.

Clark's Grebe — [1 South] Only documented report: 4/29–5/16 Big Stone (Thielke L.) CMN, †CMB, ph. †SLF, †BJU.

American White Pelican — [46 South, 21 North] Early south 3/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/21 Dakota CMB, JPM (median 3/27). Early north **3/27** Cass (22, second earliest north) BAW, 3/31 Otter Tail RBW and Traverse JCC (median 4/8). High



Glossy Ibis and White-faced Ibis, 1 May 2007, near Madison, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

count 3/28 Lac Qui Parle (940, Marsh Lake) BJU. Unusual location: 5/27 Lake (Castle Danger) JWL.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT — [1 South] Fourth state record 5/9–18 **Hennepin** (Diamond L., Richfield) †PEB, ph. TPB, †CMB, ph. †JPM, ph. †PHS, m.ob. (*The Loon* 79:237–238)

Double-crested Cormorant — [46 South, 26 North] Early south 3/14 Dakota ADS and Ramsey BRL, 3/16 Rice TFB (median 3/18). Early north 3/23 Otter Tail SPM, 3/26 Grant and Traverse BJU (median 3/30).

American Bittern — [19 South, 12 North] Early south 4/10 Big Stone BJU, 4/13 Rice TFB (median 4/19). Early north 4/18 Marshall *vide* JM], 4/25 St. Louis *vide* JWL (median 4/18).

Least Bittern — [7 South, 1 North] All south reports: 5/23 Yellow Medicine (St.

Leo W.M.A.) BJU, 5/24 Scott HHD, RBW, 5/27 Carver (Chaska L.) JCy, Faribault HHD, Meeker (Minnesota L.) DMF, and Pipestone JWH, RMD, 5/29 Lac Qui Parle (Caerulean W.M.A.) BJU, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle (2, Arena Twp.) BJU. Only north report: 5/21 **Kanabec** DPG.

Great Blue Heron — [52 South, 29 North] Early south (away from overwintering areas) 3/9 Rice FVS, TFB, 3/10 Scott DFN, PEJ (median 3/8). Early north 3/22 Hubbard MAW and Mille Lacs ASC (median 3/20).

Great Egret — [42 South, 10 North] Early south 3/18 Ramsey DGo, 3/23 (median) Dakota JLO and Hennepin OLJ, SWe. Early north 3/26 Douglas BWF, 3/31 Otter Tail SPM (median 4/1). Unusual northeast report 5/25 St. Louis (Duluth) JLO.

Snowy Egret — [5 South, 2 North] All south reports: **3/25–26** (record early) Da-

kota (L. Byllesby) †CMB, m.ob., 4/20, 5/20 Lac Qui Parle (near Louisburg) BJU, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R. at Hwy 75 dam) WCM, 4/29 Big Stone (2, Horse-shoe L.) PCC, HJF, 4/29–30 Dakota (L. Byllesby) JLO, m.ob., 5/5 Meeker (Stella L.) DMF, 5/25–29 Carver (Chaska L.) ph. RMD, m.ob., 5/31 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU. All north reports: 5/6 Traverse (Arthur Twp.) DFN, PEJ, 5/27 **St. Louis** (40th Ave. W.) MSS, JLR.

Little Blue Heron — [1 South] Only report (seven last spring): 5/23 Rice (no details) TFB.

Cattle Egret — [10 South, 3 North] State-wide total of 28 birds (76 last spring). Early south 4/26 Meeker (3) DMF (median 4/20). First county record 5/30 **Sherburne** (3, Sherburne N.W.R.) PEJ. Additional south reports from Big Stone (1), Hennepin (1), Lac Qui Parle (8 in four locations), Rock (1), Scott, Stearns, Steele (2), Swift (1). All north reports: 5/10 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 5/14 **Mille Lacs** (CR 12 near US 169, no details) ASC, 5/18 Grant (4 near Pelican L.) PLJ.

Green Heron — [39 South, 16 North] Early south 4/21 (median) Meeker DMF, 4/22 Anoka RNe. Early north 5/5 Kanabec CAM, 5/6 in five counties (median 5/3).

Black-crowned Night-Heron — [12 South, 4 North] Early south 3/27 Hennepin ALD, 4/1 Meeker DMF (median 3/29). All north reports: 4/23+ Marshall (max. 6, Agassiz N.W.R.) m.ob., 4/26 Otter Tail (8) DTT, 5/19 Becker LEC and St. Louis (Stoney Point) *vide* JWJL.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron — No reports.

GLOSSY IBIS — [1 South] Third state record 4/29–5/1 **Lac Qui Parle** (two miles southwest of Madison) †WCM, v.t. PN, PME; also documented ph. DAC, ph. †KRE, ph. †JPM, †BJU.

WHITE-FACED IBIS — [1 South] Flock

of **20** adults with Glossy Ibis and two *Plegadis ibis* sp. 4/29–5/1 Lac Qui Parle (two miles southwest of Madison) †JPE, ph. DAC, ph. †KRE, v.t. PN, †BJU, m.ob.

IBIS sp. — [2 South] Two subadults with flock in Lac Qui Parle (see above). One *Plegadis ibis* 5/27 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) ph. †PLJ.

BLACK VULTURE — [1 South] Fourth state record (and first away from North Shore of L. Superior) 3/24–25 **Washington** (Afton) BRL, ph. †AXH, ph. †DWK, †WCM, v.t. PN, m.ob.

Turkey Vulture — [52 South, 29 North] Early south 3/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Rice TFB, 3/14 Blue Earth ChH (median 3/9). Early north 3/23 St. Louis DSC, 3/24 Cass BAW (median 3/30).

Osprey — [26 South, 16 North] Early south 3/14 Hennepin JCC, 3/25 Chippewa BJU (median 3/27). Early north 3/31 Todd JSK, 4/1 Pine JMP (median 4/3).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE — [1 South] One seen briefly 5/4 Anoka (Fridley, northeast of Moore L.) †AXH, AMH.

Bald Eagle — [51 South, 30 North] High counts 3/24 St. Louis (353, W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC, 3/18 Dakota (300 near Prescott) JPM.

Northern Harrier — [48 South, 32 North] Possible early north migrants 3/10 Grant HHD, 3/12 Traverse RBW (median 3/8), but see winter report. High count 3/25 Polk (10) JMJ.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — [36 South, 22 North] Early north 3/3 St. Louis SLF, 3/18 Aitkin JCC, but see winter report. Peak count 4/14 St. Louis (95, W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC. Apparent migrants last reported south 5/19 Meeker JJS and Steele NFT, **5/31** Anoka DPG and Hennepin SWe (no details for either sighting; our understanding of this species' status in southern Minnesota is compromised by potential con-

fusion with other species).

Cooper's Hawk — [37 South, 19 North] Early north 3/12 St. Louis JRN, 3/23 Clay RHO (median 3/19).

Northern Goshawk — [5 South, 4 North] North reports from Aitkin, Cass, Pine, St. Louis. Late south 4/21 Lac Qui Parle and Swift BJU (median 4/19).

Red-shouldered Hawk — [26 South, 11 North] High count 3/12 Dakota (12, migrating near Prescott) JPM. Early north 3/16 Todd JSK, 3/17 Otter Tail SPM (median 3/14). All other north reports: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Douglas, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, St. Louis (1, W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC.

Broad-winged Hawk — [37 South, 22 North] Early south 4/6 Benton, 4/8 Sherburne PLJ (median 4/7). Early north 4/4 Crow Wing MRN, 4/14 St. Louis DSC (median 4/10). High count 4/23 St. Louis (203, W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC.

Swainson's Hawk — [20 South, 6 North] Early south 3/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/14 Meeker DMF (median 4/4). Several east reports from Dakota, Dodge, Goodhue, Mower, Olmsted, Steele. All north reports: 5/6 Traverse DFN, PEJ, 5/9 Polk RPR, 5/23 **Lake of the Woods** and Roseau DAC, RBJ, 5/25 Clay WCM, 5/26 Kanabec DPG.

Red-tailed Hawk — [52 South, 30 North] Peak count 3/24 St. Louis (703, W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC.

Ferruginous Hawk — No confirmed reports.

Rough-legged Hawk — [19 South, 20 North] Late south 4/12 Sherburne RBW, 4/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/10). Late north 4/15 Polk JMJ, 4/26 St. Louis JCG (median 5/24). Peak counts 3/22 Marshall (50) GT, 3/24 St. Louis (55, W.S.H.C., Duluth) DSC.

Golden Eagle — [6 South, 5 North] Early

north 3/15 Lake (adult) JWJ, 3/23 St. Louis LAV, 3/24 Cass HHD. Late south 3/23 Meeker DMF, 3/25 Hennepin PEJ (median 4/17). Late north 4/27 Itasca BLU, 5/1 Clay MEB (median 4/16). Additional south reports from Lac Qui Parle (2), Lincoln, Dakota (2), Winona.

American Kestrel — [52 South, 33 North] Early north (but note late February reports from Becker and Todd) 3/7 Todd JSK, 3/10 Traverse HHD and Wilkin PBB. High counts 4/8 Rice (6) DAB, 4/17 Blue Earth (6) CH.

Merlin — [15 South, 22 North] Record early north (away from the North Shore) 3/4 Kittson LW, 3/9 Mille Lacs NSc, 3/14 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF. Late south (away from the Twin Cities) 5/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/15 Chippewa BJU.

GYRFALCON — [1 South] Adult gray morph overwintering in Dakota last reported 3/23 (Nininger Twp.) m.ob.

Peregrine Falcon — [19 South, 7 North] All north reports away from North Shore: 4/2 Crow Wing (Brainerd) MRN, 4/23 Cass (10 miles south of Longville) BAW, 4/25, 5/19 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 5/9 Otter Tail SPM, 5/15 Cass (Walker W.T.P.) BAW. Late south (away from known nesting locations) 5/16 Big Stone BJU and Lac Qui Parle SLF, BJU, 5/19 Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine BJU.

Prairie Falcon — [1 South] Documented 3/25 Meeker (Harvey Twp., black "arm-pits" visible) DMF. Two additional reports lacked details.

Yellow Rail — [2 South, 3 North] All south reports: 4/30 Anoka (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) JHu, TAN, 5/12–13 Hennepin (Baker P.R.) PEB, DWK, HCT, m.ob. All north reports: 5/9 Polk (Pembina Trail Preserve) NGE, 5/12 Mille Lacs (Milaca W.T.P.) NSc, 5/27 Aitkin (12) CAM.

Virginia Rail — [37 South, 8 North] Early south 4/15 Brown BTS, 4/18 Rice TFB,

4/20 Watonwan CRM *et al.* (median 4/15). Early north 4/23 Mille Lacs HHD, 4/26 Otter Tail DTT, 4/29 Itasca EEO, 4/30 Cass DAY (median 5/5). High count 5/3 Itasca (4) EEO.

Sora — [41 South, 18 North] Early south 4/14 Scott (3) DDo, 4/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/22–25 in nine counties (median 4/13). Early north 4/23 Mille Lacs HHD, 5/4 Cass BAW (median 4/23). High counts 5/12 Clay (8) RHO, 5/13 Lac Qui Parle (6) JCC.

Common Moorhen — [1 North] Unusual location 5/29–31 **St. Louis** (Indian Point, Duluth) ph. LME, m.ob.

American Coot — [51 South, 20 North] Early north (but see winter report) 3/10 St. Louis (first migrant joining the two that overwintered in Virginia) SLF, 3/14 Clay (Moorhead W.T.P.) RHO, 3/21 Clay (Buffalo River overflow) RHO. High count 3/30–31 Mower (1,000) NFT.

Sandhill Crane — [31 South, 30 North] Early south 3/11 Dakota ADS, LS, 3/11–12 Steele m.ob., 3/13 Dakota JPM. Early north 3/20 Crow Wing MRN, 3/22 Cass MRN, 3/24 Hubbard MAW. High count 4/22 Polk (2,400 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) EEF.

WHOOPING CRANE — [2 North] Furnishing the first accepted record in Minnesota since October 1990 (*The Loon* 62:177–181) were five adults 4/9 Polk (Pembina Trail Preserve) †RH, RAF (*The Loon* 79:240–241). One adult east of this species' usual migration corridor and later than its usual migration period may have wandered away from the experimental flock at Necedah N.W.R., Wisconsin; there was no satellite evidence confirming this possibility, so it was accepted with an "o" subscript, indicating about an equal chance of captive/wild origin **5/6 Crow Wing** (Ironton W.T.P.) †JSB, †WEN.

Black-bellied Plover — [14 South, 5 North] Early south 4/23 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) m.ob., 5/3 Pope RBW (median 5/2). Early north 5/13 Wilkin (3, Manston

Marsh W.M.A.) JCC, 5/18 Marshall m.ob. (median 5/17). Additional north reports from Becker, Cass, St. Louis. High counts 5/23 Sherburne (10) PLJ, 5/25 St. Louis (8, Hearingg Is., Duluth) DWK, 5/28 Big Stone (9) PHS.

American Golden-Plover — [16 South, 1 North] Early south 3/25 Dakota SWe, 4/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Martin RBW, 4/20 Chippewa BJU (median 4/18). Only north report: 5/18 Marshall LEC. High counts 4/21 Cottonwood (70 at Red Rock Prairie) JWH, 5/13 Big Stone (68) PCC, PHS.

SNOWY PLOVER — [1 North] Tenth state record 5/30–31 **St. Louis** (Park Point, Duluth) ph. SCZ, ph. †KRE, ph. †PHS, ph. CLW, m.ob. (*The Loon* 79:240).

Semipalmated Plover — [25 South, 8 North] Early south 4/21 Martin CRM *et al.*, 4/23 Dakota m.ob. (median 4/21). Early north 5/15 Marshall, Lake, and Todd (median 5/7). Record high spring count 5/15 Dakota (**300** at Lake Byllesby with 250+ present the previous day) JPM; next highest count 5/21 Marshall (66 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, TCL, CLW.

Piping Plover — [2 South, 1 North] All south reports: **4/22–23** Dakota (Lake Byllesby) †JLO *et al.*, 5/25 Lac Qui Parle (section 29, Perry Twp.) †BJU. All north reports: 5/21 St. Louis (Hearingg Island, Duluth) KRE, 5/30–31 St. Louis (banded bird seen with Snowy Plover at Park Point) SCZ, m.ob.

Killdeer — [51 South, 31 North] Early south (but see winter report) 3/1 Goodhue LEC and Houston FZL, 3/9 Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Rice. Early north 3/12 Wadena RBW, 3/15 Mille Lacs ASc. High count 5/13 Big Stone (57) PCC, PHS.

BLACK-NECKED STILT — [1 South] Thirteenth state record 5/26 **Rock** (Hills W.T.P.) †LS, ph. †KRE *et al.* (*The Loon* 79:239).

American Avocet — [9 South, 5 North]



Dilute-plumaged Marbled Godwit, 30 April 2007, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Statewide total of 90 individuals (89 in 13 counties last spring). Early south 4/14 Steele (14, Spindler's Pond) KRV, m.ob., 4/21 Kandiyohi (2) RSF and Lac Qui Parle (11, three locations) PCC, BJU, 4/26+ Big Stone (max. 10, Toqua Twp.) m.ob. Additional south reports from Brown (8), Chippewa (2), Meeker, Nobles, Olmsted (4), Scott (5). Early north 5/6 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 5/7 St. Louis (Interstate Is., Duluth) DAG, PHS, 5/8 Crow Wing (5, St. Mathias Twp.) JSB and Todd JSK; singles also reported from Polk and Roseau.

Spotted Sandpiper — [42 South, 21 North] Early south 4/17 Hennepin Sca, 4/20 Olmsted LAV, 4/22 in five counties (median 4/20). Early north 4/23 Crow Wing (2) JSB, 4/24 Mille Lacs ASc and Lake JWJ (median 4/29). High count 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (27) BJU.

Solitary Sandpiper — [28 South, 8 North] Early south 4/22 Faribault CRM *et al.* and Winona JWH, 4/23 Sherburne PIJ (median 4/19). Early north 5/3 Itasca EEO, 5/5 Isanti LBF (median 4/30). All counts

≤3 birds. Late south 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 6/1). Late north 5/24 Lake of the Woods MHK, also see summer report.

Greater Yellowlegs — [31 South, 21 North] Early south 3/23 Meeker (4) DMF, 3/25 McLeod DMF and Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU (median 3/27). Early north **3/25** St. Louis JRN, 3/31 Clay (Felton Prairie) RHO (median 4/8). High count 4/21 Lac Qui Parle (42) PCC.

Willet — [14 South, 8 North] Statewide total of 170 individuals (157 last spring). Early south 4/24, 4/27, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle (different locations) BJU. Early north 4/26 Polk EEF and Wilkin RBJ, DAC, 5/4 **Itasca** (2, Trout Lake, Bovey) †EEO. High counts 4/29 Dakota (28, Lake Byllesby) CMB, JPM, JLO, ADS, 5/8 Hennepin (max. 20, Purgatory Creek) m.ob. Late south 5/23 Lincoln (4) BJU (median 5/26). Late north 5/23 St. Louis (4) CMB, 5/27 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Lesser Yellowlegs — [36 South, 19 North] Early south 3/22 Dakota (1) JPM, 3/23 Meeker (3) DMF, 3/24 Dakota (2) JPM (median 3/29). Early north 4/21 Aitkin, Clay, and Mille Lacs, 4/22–25 in six counties (median 4/9). High counts 4/29 Lac Qui Parle (310) BJU and Big Stone (185) PCC, 5/15 Marshall (186, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Upland Sandpiper — [16 South, 6 North] Early south 4/21 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, 4/26 Big Stone BJU and Dakota JPM, 4/27 Cottonwood RBW. Early north 4/28 Clay (2) PBB, 5/9 Polk (**63** in 80 miles of walking by multiple observers) *fide* RPR. Reported from St. Louis in Northeast region, but none in North-central or Southeast.

Whimbrel — [3 North] Early north 5/18 Lake of the Woods (1) MHK, JMO, 5/21–22 St. Louis (13) KRE, m.ob., 5/22 Lake (8 at Lighthouse Point, Two Harbors) JWJ. High count 5/23 St. Louis (25 at Park Point, Duluth) CMB, DBz.

Hudsonian Godwit — [10 South, 3

North] Statewide total of 205 individuals, up from last year's 59+, but still low compared to 347 in Spring 2004. Early south 4/22 Meeker (2) DMF, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU (median 4/21). Early north 5/14 St. Louis (14 at Hearing Is., Duluth) JCC, 5/15 Marshall (68, Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS (median 5/8). All other counts ≤16 birds. No reports from Southeast. Late south 5/26 Rock KRE *et al.*, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/27 Marshall PHS.

Marbled Godwit — [10 South, 13 North] Early south 4/14 Big Stone WCM and Lac Qui Parle WCM, BJU, 4/17 Meeker DMF (median 4/13). Early north 4/15 Clay (6) PBB, Polk JMJ, and Wilkin (2) SPM, LS, 4/19 Polk NGE (median 4/13). First county record 4/22 **Kanabec** NSc. High counts 5/9 Polk (65 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R., probable migrant flock of 14, remainder on territory) *fide* RPR, 5/21 Marshall (29 at Agassiz N.W.R.) TCL, PHS, CLW.

Ruddy Turnstone — [10 South, 5 North] Early south 5/7 Hennepin (2) JCC, 5/8 Lincoln m.ob, 5/12 Meeker (3) DMF. Early north 5/9 St. Louis (2) RBW, 5/18 Marshall MHe, 5/19 Crow Wing ASc. Scarce along the North Shore of Lake Superior; high count 5/25 Cass (11, Pelican Is., Leech Lake) BAW. First county record 5/27 **No-bles** (2, Worthington W.T.P.) RMD, JWH. Late south 5/28 Blue Earth HHD; also see summer report. Late north 5/27 Crow Wing (6) JSB, 5/31 St. Louis (6) DWK.

Red Knot — [2 South, 1 North] All south reports: 5/17–20 **Pope** (Lowry W.T.P.) HHD, RBW, †CMB, †BJU, 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (Augusta Twp.) PHS. Only north report: 5/24 St. Louis (Duluth) JLR.

Sanderling — [13 South, 5 North] Early south 4/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/7 Freeborn (2) JWH, 5/8 Brown (3) BTS and Lincoln JEB, HHD, JJS. Early north 5/7 St. Louis MSS, 5/19 Crow Wing ASc and St. Louis WCM, 5/20 Traverse PHS. New county record: 5/15 **Steele** DAB. High count 5/25 St. Louis (150) DWK. Late south 5/28 Blue Earth HHD; also see

summer report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper — [31 South, 5 North] Early south 4/17 Meeker DMF, 4/22 Winona JWH, 4/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Dakota JPM (median 4/17). Early north 5/2 Crow Wing JSB, 5/13 Todd JSK, 5/15 Marshall (8) PHS (median 5/4). High count 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (166) PHS.

Least Sandpiper — [35 South, 14 North] Early south **3/24** Dakota (2, second earliest) JPM, 4/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Meeker DMF, 4/22 Faribault WAF. Early north 5/3 Traverse (2) RBW, 5/5 Marshall PHS and Crow Wing JSB. High count 5/21 Marshall (**483**, Agassiz N.W.R.) TCL, PHS, CLW. Late south (but see summer report) 5/28 Big Stone (2) PHS, 5/29 (1), 5/30 Lac Qui Parle PHS, BJU. Late north 5/27 Marshall (22) PHS and Hubbard (4) PBB, 5/30 St. Louis (3) PHS.

White-rumped Sandpiper — [25 South, 6 North] Early south 4/26 Big Stone BJU, 4/29 Big Stone PCC, 5/4 Dakota m.ob. (median 4/29). Early north 5/15 Marshall PHS, 5/19 St. Louis WCM, 5/20 Lake JWL (median 5/13). High count 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (242) PHS.

Baird's Sandpiper — [22 South, 5 North] Early south **3/22** Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, **3/23** Dakota (Lake Byllesby) CMB, 3/25 Faribault (3) WAF, 4/8 Martin RBW (median 4/7). Early north 4/27 Mille Lacs NSc, 5/13 Todd JSK (median 4/22). No significant high counts; relatively low numbers in western regions for second consecutive spring. Late south 5/23 Sherburne PLJ, 5/27 Pipestone (3) KRE, CRM *et al.* Late north 5/20 Traverse PHS, 5/30 St. Louis EEO.

Pectoral Sandpiper — [29 South, 6 North] Early south **3/20** Dakota LEC, 3/22 Dakota JLO, 3/23 Meeker (3) DMF, 3/25–26 Dakota m.ob. (median 4/1). Early north **3/29** Beltrami DPJ, 4/1 Beltrami PJR, 4/26 Polk DAC, RBJ (median 4/20). High counts 4/22 Dakota (250) JPM, 4/26 Big Stone (417) BJU. Please see summer report for

late spring migrants.

Dunlin — [25 South, 9 North] Early south 4/19 Rice DAB, 4/20–21 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) CMB, 4/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/21). Early north 5/15 Marshall (48) PHS and Todd JJS, 5/18 Lake JWL and Marshall m.ob. (median 5/10). High counts 5/20 Traverse (61, Mud Lake) PHS, 5/21 Marshall (80, Agassiz N.W.R.) TCL, PHS, CLW. Relatively poor showing in western regions for second consecutive spring.

Stilt Sandpiper — [16 South, 2 North] Early south 4/26 Big Stone (2) BJU, 4/27–28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/28 Meeker (3) DMF, 4/30 Sherburne PLJ (median 5/4). Early north 5/7 Crow Wing JSB, 5/10 Cass BAW (median 5/15). All counts single digits. Late south (but see summer report) 5/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/18 Crow Wing JSB not representative of normal migration.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — [1 North] One seen 5/15 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R., ties second earliest north) †PHS. Also see undocumented reports. This species is a Casual spring migrant in Minnesota.

Short-billed Dowitcher — [20 South, 7 North] Early south 4/29–30 Lac Qui Parle WCM, LS, BJU, 5/2 Steele KRV (median 4/30). Early north 5/12 Todd JSK, 5/15 Marshall PHS (median 5/8). High counts 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (49, calling birds) BJU, 5/16 Rice (49) TFB, 5/21 Marshall (66 at Agassiz N.W.R.) TCL, PHS, CLW. Late south (but see summer report) 5/20 Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Carver (median 5/24). Late north 5/25 St. Louis DWK, JLO, 5/27 Marshall (12) PHS.

Long-billed Dowitcher — [7 South, 3 North] Early south 4/21 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) CMB, 4/22 Faribault CRM *et al.*, 4/23 Meeker DMF. Early north 4/30 Marshall (calling) JHu, TAN. Very scarce north; all other reports: 5/18 Marshall MHe, 5/18, 5/20 Lake of the Woods MHK, JMo, 5/19 St. Louis (calling) MLH. High count of birds identified by voice 5/8

Brown (28 at Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS. Late south 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (calling) BJU.

Wilson's Snipe — [35 South, 25 North] Early south (away from Twin Cities, where probably overwintered) 3/18 Yellow Medicine BJU, 3/22 Meeker DMF (median 3/22). Early north 3/24 Aitkin WEN, 3/26 Pine JMP, 3/29 St. Louis SES (median 3/31). High counts 4/13 Steele (25) DAB, 4/18 Lac Qui Parle (49, Mount Wickham area) BJU.

American Woodcock — [24 South, 14 North] Early south 3/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/18 Winona KAK, 3/19 Houston KAK (median 3/13). Early north 3/24 Aitkin KCR and Lake AXH, PHS, 3/25 Cass BAW, Clearwater KLa and Todd JSK (median 3/26). Record high spring count 4/24 St. Louis (30 birds in 29 stops along 17 mile route between Cook and Virginia) DBF, SLF.

Wilson's Phalarope — [26 South, 16 North] Statewide total of 621+ individuals (28 reports lacked location/count data). Early south 4/21 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 4/22 Dakota ADS, 4/23 Le Sueur RMD (median 4/24). Early north 4/27 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 4/28 Polk PJR and Red Lake JMJ, 4/29 Clay RHO (median 5/2). Three reports from St. Louis: 5/7 (Morgan Park) MLH, 5/8 (Embarrass) ALE, NAJ, 5/18 (2 at Hearing Is., Duluth) TPW. Also unusual 5/18–20 Lake (Beaver Bay W.T.P.) JWL, MWS. High counts 5/6 Traverse (75) DFN, 5/7 Brown (83, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 5/19 Lac Qui Parle (99, Salt Lake) BJU

Red-necked Phalarope — [7 South, 5 North] Statewide total of 35+ individuals (three reports lacked count data). Early south 5/12 Lac Qui Parle (2, Salt Lake) JCC, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle (7 in two locations) BJU, 5/14 Stearns (3, Albany W.T.P.) SLF. Early north 5/18 Marshall LEC, MHe, 5/19 Becker LEC, 5/20 Wilkin PHS. Late south (but see summer report) 5/28 Big Stone PHS, 5/31 Stearns RPR. Late north (also see summer report) 5/27 Cass BAW and **St. Louis** (40th Ave West, Duluth) JLR.

RED PHALAROPE — [1 South] One in alternate plumage 5/28 **Big Stone** (Graceville) ph. †PHS (*The Loon* 79:238–239). Third spring record and 15th record overall.

Franklin's Gull — [27 South, 7 North] Early south 3/13 Olmsted LAV, JWH and Washington BRL. Early north 4/14 Clay RHO. No reports from North-central or Northeast. No significant high counts.

Little Gull — [1 North] All reports: 5/23 St. Louis (adult at Park Point, Duluth) KRE, 5/27 St. Louis (first-cycle) TCL, ph. CLW, FKB.

Bonaparte's Gull — [26 South, 17 North] Record early south **3/25** Hennepin (6) PEJ, then **3/26** Dakota, Jackson, Nobles. Early north 4/17 Otter Tail (2) DTT, 4/19 Cass DAY and Crow Wing (15) JSB. Late south 5/20 Mower JWH. Late north (but see summer report) 5/30 St. Louis (100 in Duluth) EEO. High counts 4/30 and 5/2 Crow Wing (400) JSB, 5/2 Dakota (165, Lake Byllesby) CMB.

Ring-billed Gull — [50 South, 32 North] Early south 3/1 Sherburne NSc, 3/8 Dakota ADS, PEJ. Early north 3/13 Lake JWJ, 3/20 Lake CRM and St. Louis m.ob. High counts 4/1 Douglas (800) RPR, 4/2 St. Louis (600) SLF.

Herring Gull — [16 South, 20 North] Early south 3/8 Dakota ADS, PEJ, 3/10 Goodhue DAB. Early north (away from Northeast) 3/24 Clay RHO, 3/25 Pine JMP. High count 4/2 St. Louis (**2,840** on Bailey's Lake in Virginia) SLF.

Thayer's Gull — [1 South, 1 North] Only south report: 3/16 Dakota (3rd-cycle bird at Spring Lake P.R.) JPM. One north report: **5/20** Lake (2nd- or 3rd-cycle bird found by JCG at Agate Bay, Two Harbors) †JWL.

Iceland Gull — No reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull — [1 South] Only report: 3/16 Dakota (adult in alter-

nate plumage at Spring Lake P.R.) JPM.

Glaucous Gull — [1 North] All reports: 4/1 St. Louis (adult) DDM, BJM *vide* JWJ, 4/12–15 St. Louis (one adult on Bailey's Lake in Virginia, joined by at least two different first-cycle birds) DBF, SLF.

Great Black-backed Gull — [2 South, 1 North] South reports: 3/25 Washington (Pt. Douglas) DWK, 3/27 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) CMB. New county record: 4/15 **Cass** (first-cycle at Kabakona Bay, Leech Lake) †DAY.

Caspian Tern — [11 South, 6 North] Early south 4/22 Meeker (2) DMF, 4/30 Dakota JPM, JWH, BRL. Early north 5/1 Crow Wing (3) JSB, 5/2 Cass (2) DAY. High counts all at Purgatory Creek in Hennepin: 5/10 (172) WCM, 5/16 (155) PEB. Late south (but see summer report) 5/28 Hennepin RTH, 5/31 Hennepin JCC.

Black Tern — [38 South, 16 North] Early south 4/20 Olmsted LAV, 5/6 Chippewa LS (median 4/30). Early north 5/12 Douglas PJK and Otter Tail DTT, 5/15 Todd JJS (median 5/8). High count 5/20 Nicollet (40 at Nicollet W.T.P.) CMB.

Common Tern — [8 South, 8 North] Early south 5/2 Hennepin LMS, 5/8 Meeker DMF. Early north 5/5 Mille Lacs NSc, 5/7 St. Louis PHS. Unusual location 5/27 Lake (4 at Castle Danger on Lake Superior) JWJ. High counts 5/9 St. Louis (390 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/25 Cass (800 at Pelican Island, Leech Lake) BAW. Late south 5/17 Dakota JWH, 5/21 Rice DAB, JWH.

ARCTIC TERN — [1 North] One adult 5/22–23 St. Louis (Park Point in Duluth) ph. †KRE; another or the same individual observed 5/29 †MLH.

Forster's Tern — [38 South, 13 North] Early south 4/14 Brown BTS, 4/17 Dakota CMB and Blue Earth ChH. Early north 4/28 Polk DPJ, PJR, 5/3 Otter Tail DTT. High count 5/20 Clay (18 at Felton Prairie) RHO.



Young Eastern Screech-Owls, 22 May 2007, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Rock Pigeon — [52 South, 31 North] Statewide.

Eurasian Collared-Dove — [17 South, 3 North] Observed at new locations 4/21–5/26 **Steele** (Ellendale, no details) JWH, RBJ, 5/20 **Winona** (Lewiston, no details) JWH. Reported from known south locations in Blue Earth (Mapleton), Brown (Comfrey), Chippewa (Milan), Cottonwood (Comfrey), Dakota (Farmington), Fillmore (Spring Valley), Houston (Caledonia), Jackson (Heron Lake), Lac Qui Parle (Madison and Marietta), Mower, Pipestone (Jasper), Redwood (Walnut Grove), Renville (Sacred Heart), Swift (Appleton), Wabasha (Plainview), Yellow Medicine (Clarkfield). Reported from known north locations beginning 3/10 Traverse (6 in Wheaton) and Grant (Herman) HHD. African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*), domesti-

cated descendants of which were formerly referred to as Ringed Turtle-Dove, may be mis-identified as Eurasian Collared-Dove, especially in urban areas; note that one was photographed 4/30 Wabasha (Plainview) DAC. Possible hybrid African Collared-Dove X Eurasian Collared-Dove 3/9–12 Otter Tail (Battle Lake) ph. †DTT, SMT. Though details are unnecessary for Eurasian Collared-Doves at known locations, documentation is still requested for potential first county records and all north records.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE — [1 North] Eleventh state record 5/4–22 **Kittson** (Lancaster) ph. LW, †JMJ, †PHS.

Mourning Dove — [52 South, 32 North] High counts 5/12 Steele (**85**) NFT and Clay (44) RHO.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — [20 South, 4 North] Early south **5/8** Olmsted JWH, 5/9 Scott BAF and Yellow Medicine JEB, JJS, 5/10 Nicollet and Le Sueur RMD. All north reports: **5/12** (ties earliest north) Todd JSK, 5/17 Cass DAY, 5/30 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/31 St. Louis LS. No significant high counts.

Black-billed Cuckoo — [18 South, 9 North] Early south 5/5 Benton NSc, 5/8 Nicollet RMD, 5/9 Hennepin JPM. Early north 5/8 Hubbard MAW, 5/18 Clay (2) RHO. High count 5/31 St. Louis (5 at Park Point, Duluth) DWK.

Eastern Screech-Owl — [11 South, 1 North] South reports from Brown, Carver, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Nobles, Rice, Scott, Waseca. One bird found dead 3/27 Lac Qui Parle FAE. Only north report: 5/12 Hubbard (East Gulch F.R.) PBB. High counts 5/22 Hennepin (5 young near Lake Harriet) AXH, 5/30 Rice (4) TFB.

Great Horned Owl — [28 South, 21 North] Statewide.

Snowy Owl — [2 South, 2 North] All south reports: 3/5–9 Hennepin (MSP Airport) DWK, JLO, 3/12 Meeker DMF. All north reports: 3/8 Hubbard MAW, 4/4 and 5/1 Kittson LW *fide* JMJ.

Northern Hawk Owl — [3 North] Overwintered through 4/1 St. Louis (Rice Lake Road, Duluth) *fide* JWJ. All other reports: 3/6 Lake of the Woods KVH *fide* JMJ, 5/3 Lake SVK *fide* JWJ.

Barred Owl — [29 South, 18 North] Observed in all regions, but no farther southwest than Brown and Yellow Medicine. High counts 4/17 St. Louis (6) SLF, 5/12 Koochiching (4) AXH and Steele (4) NFT.

Great Gray Owl — [4 North] Reported from Aitkin, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis.

Long-eared Owl — [2 South, 5 North]

All south reports: 3/22 Stearns DMF, 3/25 Hennepin AXH. North reports: 3/24 Lake AXH, PHS and Mahnomen BWF, 3/26 St. Louis MLH, 3/30 Roseau BJS *fide* JMJ, 4/9 Cook *fide* JWJ.

Short-eared Owl — [9 South, 7 North] Approximate total of 109 individuals statewide, following an excellent winter showing. South reports from Carver, Chippewa, Dakota, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Rice, Swift, Winona, Yellow Medicine. Only Northeast report: 4/8 St. Louis (Duluth) TPW. High counts 3/9 Wilkin (**35**, Rothsay W.M.A.) JPE, 3/10 Polk (27, near Melo Church) JMJ.

Boreal Owl — [1 North] One singing 3/24 Lake AXH, PHS.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — [2 South, 12 North] All south reports: 3/12–21 Rice TFB, 3/11–24 Houston KAK. North reports from Aitkin, Clearwater, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Otter Tail, Pine, Roseau, St. Louis. First north report 3/17 Lake (2 calling northeast of Finland) JWJ, followed by 3/23 St. Louis TPW, 3/24 in four counties. Highest reported count 3/24 Lake (6) AXH, PHS.

Common Nighthawk — [26 South, 13 North] Early south 4/28 Dakota and 4/29 Hennepin JLS, 5/5 Lac Qui Parle HHD, LS, 5/8 Hennepin CMB. Early north 5/10 Cass BAW, 5/12 Mille Lacs NSc and Todd JSK.

Whip-poor-will — [5 South, 8 North] North reports preceded south arrivals by well over a week. Early south 5/8 Wabasha JPM, 5/9–10 Sherburne RBJ, PIJ (median 4/27); additional south reports from Anoka, Dakota, Goodhue. Early north 4/27–5/6 Wadena PJB, 5/7 Cook BWS, SMC and Cass BAW (median 5/9).

Chimney Swift — [47 South, 21 North] Early south 4/21 Waseca JWH and Martin CRM, LS, 4/22 Hennepin MPi and Anoka DPG. Early north 4/24 Otter Tail (2) DTT, 4/26 Mille Lacs NSc. High count 5/21



Common Nighthawk, 27 May 2007, Blaine, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Hennepin (50) DKo.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — [34 South, 22 North] Early south 4/28–5/2 Fillmore NBO, 5/2 Sherburne ASc. Early north 5/3 Polk and Itasca *fide* JMJ, 5/4 Kanabec CAM and Otter Tail DTT. High counts 5/8 Rice (15) FVS, 5/31 Fillmore (10) NBO.

Belted Kingfisher — [49 South, 26 North] Overwintered north through 3/8 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF *fide* JWL. Spring migrants north 3/23 Isanti RBJ, DAC, 3/25 Wadena PJB and Pine EMH. No significant high counts.

Red-headed Woodpecker — [22 South, 12 North] Observed in all regions. Overwintered south; early north 3/25 Wadena PJB, then not reported again until 5/9 Cass BAW. Unusual location 5/22–31 St. Louis (max. 3 at Park Point, Duluth) KRE, m.ob. All counts ≤ 4 birds.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — [51 South, 20 North] Observed in all regions as far north as Pennington and Polk in the Northwest, Beltrami and Cass in the North-central, and St. Louis and Lake in the Northeast.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — [47 South, 27 North] Early south 3/22 Rice DAT, 3/24 Meeker DMF. Early north 4/14 Mille Lacs NSc, ASc and Otter Tail DTT, 4/16 Aitkin KCR and St. Louis (3) SLF. High count 5/12 Koochiching (12) AXH.

Downy Woodpecker — [51 South, 31 North] Statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker — [49 South, 25 North] Statewide.

American Three-toed Woodpecker — [3 North] All reports: 3/8 Pine JMP, 3/17 Aitkin WEN and Cook CJT *fide* JWL, 4/15 Cook EEO.

Black-backed Woodpecker — [7 North] Reported from Aitkin, Cass, Cook, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Pine, St. Louis.

Northern Flicker — [52 South, 32 North] Observed statewide. Overwintered in Pennington JMJ; probable early north migrant 3/24 St. Louis MLH (median 3/26). High counts 3/30 Mower (15) NFT, 4/12 Hennepin (17) Sca.

Pileated Woodpecker — [43 South, 29 North] Observed in all regions as far southwest as Lyon and Murray.

Olive-sided Flycatcher — [31 South, 10 North] Early south 5/7 Anoka RBJ and Rice TFB, 5/8 Carver JCy, Meeker DMF and Washington DFN (median 5/8). Early north 5/11 Mille Lacs DAC, RBJ, 5/12 Morrison REH, St. Louis TPW, and Todd JSK (median 5/15). See summer report for late south dates.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — [42 South, 17 North] Early south 5/8 Meeker DMF, 5/9 Blue Earth ChH, Dakota CMB, Rice TFB, and Scott BAF (median 5/5). Early north 5/8 Clay PBB, 5/12 Mille Lacs NSc, Morrison REH, Pine CAB, and Todd JSK (median 5/12).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — [9 South, 9 North in all, but only 6 South, 2 North with details] Early south 5/11 Scott BAF, 5/15 Scott (3) BAF. Only north reports: 5/26 Cook DFN, 5/28 Lake JWL, 5/31 St. Louis (6 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS. Vocalizing birds also reported from Meeker (DMF), Ramsey (AXH), and Olmsted (JWH); see summer report for late south migrants. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published. Please be sure to include details or indicate that birds were vocalizing in the "Details" section of the online seasonal report.

Acadian Flycatcher — [3 South in all, but only 2 South with details] Early south 5/13 Rice DAB, 5/25 Scott CMB. High

count 5/26 Rice (4) DAB. Also see summer report.

Alder Flycatcher — [18 South, 11 North in all, but only 9 South, 2 North with details] Early south 5/20 Meeker DMF. Only north reports: 5/23 Clay RHO, 5/26 Cass MRN, 5/31 St. Louis (5 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS. High count 5/27 Scott (8 at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Details also provided by DAB, JWH, JSS, HCT, JCC, PEB. Many of the north reports not published here were probably accurate reports of birds on territory, but no details were submitted. Please see summer report for late south dates.

Willow Flycatcher — [20 South, 3 North in all, but only 7 South with details] Early south 5/20 Meeker DMF, 5/21 Rice DAB. High count 5/28 Hennepin (12 in four different locations in northern part of county) PEB. Details also provided by HCT, DWK, JCC, BAF.

Least Flycatcher — [50 South, 26 North in all, but only 20 South, 6 North with details] Early south 5/1 Meeker DMF, 5/5 Waseca DAB. Early north 5/9 Polk EEF, 5/12 Morrison JeM, 5/15 Lake of the Woods MHK. Details also provided by DFN, SLF, JSS, LBF, NBO, PEB, JCC, PHS.

Eastern Phoebe — [50 South, 32 North] Early south 3/13 Winona JJS, 3/19 Houston FZL, 3/22 Brown JEB, 3/23 in 3 additional counties (median 3/22). Early north **3/23** Kanabec DAC, RBJ, 3/24 Grant SPM, 3/25 Pine EMH and Todd JSK all preceded recent median (3/29).

Great Crested Flycatcher — [50 South, 19 North] Early south 5/2 Goodhue FKB and Mower JEB, 5/3 Anoka REH and Meeker DMF, 5/4 Olmsted and Scott (median 5/1). Early north 5/5 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/7 Clay RHO, 5/8 Pine JMP, 5/9 Cass and St. Louis (median 5/8). High counts 5/9 Scott (8) BAF, 5/12 Steele (8) NFT.

Western Kingbird — [12 South, 6 North] Early south 5/8 Lincoln HHD, JEB, JJS, 5/9



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 24 April 2007, Olmsted County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Yellow Medicine JEB, JJS (median 5/7). Early north 5/9 Polk EEF, 5/12 Clay (5) RHO (median 5/11). Of interest were several reports from the eastern third of the state: 5/20 Goodhue LS, 5/25 Hennepin LMS and St. Louis DWK, JLO, SCZ, 5/26 Kanabec DPG.

Eastern Kingbird — [49 South, 24 North] Early south 4/26 Houston FZL, 5/2 Dakota JPM and Goodhue FKB (median 4/27). Early north 5/3 Cass BAW, 5/6 Wadena PJB, 5/7 St. Louis JWL (median 5/6). High count 5/12 Clay (8) RHO.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER — [1 South, 1 North] One found **4/23** Olmsted (near Oronoco) LAV stayed through 4/26 (†CMB, †LEC, ph. †JPM, m.ob.). Another was discovered at Minnesota Point in St. Louis, 5/23–25 ph. SCZ.

Loggerhead Shrike — [11 South, 2

North] South reports from Dakota (4 locations), Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore (2 locations), Lac Qui Parle (2 locations), Le Sueur, Meeker (3 locations), Rice, Sherburne, Stearns, and Watonwan, representing at least 22 individuals. Early south 3/25 Dakota (2) †PEB, 3/26 Faribault WAF (median 3/19). All north reports 4/1–6 **Aitkin** (2) WEN, ASc, NSc, 5/13+ Clay JCC, MHe, RHO (median 4/13). An early report from Hennepin lacked convincing details.

Northern Shrike — [18 South, 18 North] Late south 3/29 Hennepin JCC, 3/31 Rice TFB, **4/21** Hennepin †PEB (median 4/4). Late north 4/14 Polk SAS and Todd JSK, 4/15 Itasca TPW, 4/20 Polk NGE *fide* JMJ (median 4/19).

WHITE-EYED VIREO — [1 South] One seen and heard at the Bass Ponds 5/7–8 Hennepin JEP, †CMB, ph. DAC.

Bell's Vireo — [4 South] All reports: 5/12 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) DDo, LEC, 5/13 Wabasha (McCarthy Lake W.M.A.) JWH, 5/17 Dakota (location?) PRH, 5/20 Le Sueur (Kasota Prairie) CMB, CRM, RBJ, 5/28 Dakota (2 at Cliff Fen S.N.A.) CMB, JCC, LS, PEB, RBW (median 5/15).

Yellow-throated Vireo — [46 South, 19 North] Early south 5/1 Goodhue OWB, 5/4 Rice DAB, 5/5 Hennepin, Le Sueur, and Waseca (median 5/2). Early north 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/8 Carlton LAW and Cass BAW (median 5/9). Record high count 5/9 Scott/Dakota (**14** at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., mostly in Scott) BAF. First county record 5/17 **Nobles** †BTS.

Blue-headed Vireo — [33 South, 14 North] Early south 4/25 Olmsted JWH, 4/28 Meeker DMF, 4/29 Rice TFB (median 4/28). Early north 5/1 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/5 Clay RHO, 5/7 Cass (2) BAW (median 5/5). High count 5/9 Scott (5) BAF. Late south 5/20 Pope, Rice, and Stevens, then only 5/28 Hennepin RTH (median 5/30).

Warbling Vireo — [49 South, 22 North] Early south **4/24** (ties earliest date, no details) Chisago REH, 4/30 Rice TFB (median 5/1). Early north 5/2 Hubbard MAW, 5/3 Traverse RBW, 5/4 Otter Tail DTT also preceded recent median (5/8).

Philadelphia Vireo — [19 South, 8 North] Early south 5/9 Meeker DMF, 5/11 Olmsted JJS, JWH (median 5/7). Early north 5/12 Clay RHO, Hubbard (2) PBB, and Morrison FKB, REH all preceded recent median (5/14). Late south 5/27 Dakota JLO and Pipestone CRM (median 5/30).

Red-eyed Vireo — [49 South, 24 North] Early south 5/5 Sherburne NSc, 5/6 Lac Qui Parle FAE and Meeker DMF, 5/7 Brown and Carver (median 5/6). Early north 5/8 Todd JSK, 5/9 Polk RPR, 5/10 Aitkin KCR (median 5/10). High count 5/31 St. Louis (**74** at Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

Gray Jay — [11 North] Reported from tra-

ditional range in the Northeast and North-central, plus Kittson (high count of 11 birds 3/17, LW *vide* MJM), Pennington, and Red Lake in the Northwest.

Blue Jay — [53 South, 30 North] Found throughout the season.

Black-billed Magpie — [12 North] Found throughout the Northwest and traditional locations in Aitkin and St. Louis. North-central reports from Cass (5/19, BAW) and Koochiching (5/12, AXH).

American Crow — [53 South, 33 North] Reported statewide.

Common Raven — [4 South, 23 North] Wider distribution than usual, including south reports 3/31–5/22 Sherburne m.ob., 4/22 Isanti RBW, 5/7 Anoka (Boot Lake S.N.A.) RBJ, 5/28 Anoka (2 at Bunker Hills) AXH. Also found along the western border in Kittson, Marshall, Norman, and Clay.

Horned Lark — [52 South, 24 North] High counts 3/4 Sibley (350) JCC, 3/5 Fillmore (200) NBO, 3/6 and 3/10 Steele (200) NFT.

Purple Martin — [38 South, 17 North] Arrivals one to two weeks later than usual. Early south 4/17 Meeker DMF and Olmsted LAV, 4/18 Rice TFB (median 4/5). Early north 4/18 Otter Tail DTT, 4/21 Aitkin and Mille Lacs PEJ (median 4/11). High counts 5/12 Steele (**45**) NFT, 5/14 Becker (20) JCC.

Tree Swallow — [52 South, 32 North] Early south **3/7** (ties earliest south date) Wright DPG, 3/14 Wabasha (50) JWH, 3/22 Hennepin (15) PEJ, OLJ and Washington (2) BRL (median 3/20). Early north **3/24** Cass (7) BAW, Grant SPM, and Mille Lacs RBJ, 3/25 Otter Tail AJD (median 4/3). High count 4/30 Polk (400) EEF.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — [51 South, 15 North] Early south 4/14 Anoka (8) CMA (median 4/11); peak migration

4/20–23 in ten counties. Early north 4/22 St. Louis DBF, SLF, 4/24 Douglas DAC, RBJ and Mille Lacs ASC (median 4/20); peak migration 5/4–9 in six counties.

Bank Swallow — [46 South, 14 North] Early south 4/19 Meeker DMF, Olmsted JWH, and Watonwan CRM (median 4/17). Early north 4/27 Clay (5) RHO and Marshall *fide* MJM, 4/29 Lake JCG (median 4/30). High count 5/12 Clay (104) RHO.

Cliff Swallow — [49 South, 23 North] Early south 4/22 Le Sueur RMD, Meeker DMF, and Nicollet RMD (median 4/17). Early north 4/28 Grant DPG, 5/2 Cass (13) BAW (median 4/25).

Barn Swallow — [53 South, 28 North] Early south 4/15 Anoka REH, 4/17 Meeker DMF, 4/18 in four counties (median 4/11). Early north 4/18 Mille Lacs NSc and Wadena PJB, 4/21 Aitkin, Clay, St. Louis (median 4/19). High count 5/15 Dakota (100) DKO.

Black-capped Chickadee — [52 South, 33 North] Reported throughout the season from all regions. High count 3/11 St. Louis (30) NFT.

Boreal Chickadee — [7 North] Reported from Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis prior to mid-April, and then only 5/25 Lake of the Woods MHK.

Tufted Titmouse — [6 South] Most frequently reported from Fillmore, but also found in Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted, Washington, Winona.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — [28 South, 22 North] High count 5/12 Koochiching (50) AXH. Late south (but see summer report for June observations in Central and East-central regions) 5/28 Dakota RLW (median 5/23). Attempted nesting in Cedar Creek Natural History Area, 5/23–6/3 Anoka JLH.

White-breasted Nuthatch — [52 South, 25 North] Statewide. High count 3/21

Hennepin (12) SCA.

Brown Creeper — [32 South, 14 North] Late south 5/2 Mower, Sherburne, and Washington, 5/9 Yellow Medicine JEB, JJS (median 5/23).

Carolina Wren — [4 South, 1 North] South reports included a pair found throughout the season in Hennepin (Golden Valley) ALD, m.ob. Overwintering bird seen again 3/18 and 4/24 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave.) DWK, PEB; possibly the same bird was found across the Minnesota River 4/28 Dakota TAN. Another overwintering pair lingered 3/4–5/1 Olmsted (Rochester), where a nest with 6 eggs was found by OWB. One was seen sporadically between 3/8 and 5/30 in Ramsey (Mounds View) ph. AXH, and one was heard singing 5/7 Ramsey (St. Paul) JPS. Only north report: 4/14 **Mille Lacs** (Kunkel W.M.A., no details) ASC, NSc.

House Wren — [53 South, 23 North] Early south 4/19 Fillmore NBO, 4/20 Hennepin JLS, 4/21 Dakota (2) MPI, Lac Qui Parle FAE, Ramsey JLS (median 4/17). Early north 4/23 Mille Lacs HHD, 4/28 St. Louis DAG, 5/1 Mille Lacs ASC (median 5/1). High count 5/12 Clay (37) RHO.

Winter Wren — [20 South, 9 North] Early south 3/28 Olmsted (3) JWH, 4/1 Hennepin DWK, HCT, MPI and Rice TFB (median 3/27). Early north 4/14 Mille Lacs ASC, NSc, 4/16 St. Louis SLF, 4/20 Lake DAG (median 4/6). Late south (but see summer report) 5/9 Sherburne PLJ, RBJ, 5/13 Dakota RPR (median 5/12).

Sedge Wren — [43 South, 17 North] Early south 4/24 Rice TFB, 4/25 Meeker DMF (median 4/27). Early north 4/28 Todd BWF, 5/2 Cass DAY, 5/4 Morrison DTM (median 5/4). High counts 5/12 Steele (13) NFT, 5/27 Scott (11) BAF, 5/29 St. Louis (10) TPW.

Marsh Wren — [45 South, 11 North] Early south 4/23 Meeker DMF, Rice TFB, and Wright REH, 4/27–30 in five counties

(median 4/25). Early north **4/28** Hubbard MAW, 5/7 Todd JSK, 5/8 Marshall GT *fide* MJM (median 5/5).

Golden-crowned Kinglet — [32 South, 13 North] Early south 3/24 Meeker DMF, 3/26 Big Stone and Dakota (median 3/26). Early north 3/17 Aitkin DWK, 3/24 Hubbard HHD, 3/28 Carlton LAW (median 3/25). High count 4/6 Rice (**32**) DAB. Late south 5/8 Le Sueur RMD (median 5/6). Also found 5/19+ Sherburne REH (see summer report).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — [45 South, 26 North] Early south 3/25 Meeker DMF, 3/27 Carver JCy and Dakota JPM (median 3/27). Early north 3/26 Hubbard MAW, 4/2 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/14 Pine JMP (median 4/6). High counts 4/22 St. Louis (40) SCZ *fide* JWJ, 4/22 and 4/28 Scott (39) BAF. Late south 5/19 Scott BAF, 5/20 Hennepin DWK, PEB (median 5/24).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — [43 South, 4 North] Early south 4/21 Hennepin CMB, 4/22 Rice FVS, Scott (3) JBB, BAF, and Winona (2) JWH (median 4/21). All north reports: 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6 Cass MRN, 5/10 Cass (3) BAW, 5/11 Mille Lacs DAC, RBJ (median 5/7). High counts 4/29 Scott (13 at Louisville Swamp) BAF, 5/9 Scott/Dakota (**24** at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., mostly in Scott) BAF.

Eastern Bluebird — [51 South, 26 North] South reports throughout the season. Early north 3/14 Mille Lacs NSc and Todd JSK, 3/17 Otter Tail SPM (median 3/16). Highest spring count 3/24 Cass (**22**) BAW.

Mountain Bluebird — [2 North] Two reports, both from Northwest: 3/23 **Pennington** (River Falls Twp.) SAS, 4/28 Clay (adult male) PBB.

Townsend's Solitaire — [2 South, 1 North] All south reports: 3/30 Washington (Carpenter N.C.) *fide* AXH, 4/7 Sherburne (Ann Lake campground, present since at least 1/22) PLJ. In the north, only reported from St. Louis (two Duluth locations): 3/7

(West 16th Street) *fide* JWJ, 4/11–14 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) m.ob.

Veery — [27 South, 20 North] Early south 4/28 Benton ADB, REH, 4/30 Meeker DMF, 5/5 Big Stone HHD, LS (median 5/1). New county record: 5/17 **Nobles** (Lake Bella C.P.) DAB, †BTS. Early north 5/7 Carlton LAW and St. Louis JRN, 5/8 Cass BAW. High count 5/29 St. Louis (**20**) TPW.

Gray-cheeked Thrush — [37 South, 5 North] Arrived in five south counties 5/5: Big Stone HHD, LS, Faribault WAF, Lac Qui Parle HHD, Swift LS, Waseca DAB (median 5/3). Early north 5/6 Clay PBB, RHO, 5/7 Todd JSK (median 5/8). High count 5/8 Hennepin (**5**) Sca. Late south 5/19 Scott DFN, 5/26 Hennepin DDo (median 5/27). Late north 5/15 Todd JJS, 5/19 Pine JCy (median 5/28).

Swainson's Thrush — [43 South, 20 North] Early south 4/21 Nicollet RMD, 4/22 Steele KRV, 4/26 Dakota JPM (median 4/27). Early north 5/5 Clay RHO, Mille Lacs ASc, and Otter Tail SPM (median 5/2). High count 5/6 Clay (23, Moorhead) RHO. Late south 5/31 Dakota ADS, also see summer report.

Hermit Thrush — [23 North, 37 South] Early south 3/6 (probably overwintered) Hennepin OLJ, 3/26 Waseca (4) JPS, 3/27 Meeker DMF (median 3/29). Early north 4/6 Todd JSK, 4/14 Aitkin WEN and Mille Lacs ASc, NSc (median 4/10). High count 4/11 Meeker (30) DMF. Late south 5/11 Scott BAF, 5/12 Hennepin DWK, 5/25 Anoka EEO (median 5/15).

Wood Thrush — [29 South, 11 North] Early south 5/5 Faribault WAF, Rice TFB, and Yellow Medicine LS, 5/6 Brown BTS (median 5/1). Early north 5/5 Otter Tail SPM, 5/7 Todd JSK, 5/10 Carlton LAW and Morrison DTM (median 5/9). High count 5/9 Scott (6) BAF.

American Robin — [53 South, 33 North] Reported from all north regions by 3/13 (see winter report). High counts 4/6 Rice

(750) DAB, 4/7 Nicollet (400) ChH.

Varied Thrush — [2 South, 6 North] Two south reports: 3/29 Scott (Cleary Lake) *fide* AXH, 4/7 Isanti (Cambridge) ph. JiG. Birds from winter season last seen 3/3 Aitkin *fide* WEN, 3/9 Lake *fide* JWJ, 4/9 Clearwater *fide* JMJ. Additional north reports 3/3 Cass (near Hackensack) *fide* AXH, 3/13 Hubbard *fide* AXH, 4/4–5 St. Louis BCM, 4/5 Aitkin (two locations) *fide* WEN.

Gray Catbird — [48 South, 20 North] Early south 4/14 Anoka CMA, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle SWE, 5/2 Meeker DMF (median 4/27). Early north 5/2 Todd JSK, 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6 Clay RHO (median 5/7). High count 5/12 Steele (11) NFT.

Northern Mockingbird — [5 South, 7 North] Early south 4/23 Scott/Dakota (Murphy Hanrehan P.R.) JJE; May reports from Dakota (2), Hennepin (2), Ramsey, Scott, Wright. All north reports: 5/5 **Todd** JSK, 5/6 Polk PHS, 5/11 St. Louis (Ely) BET, 5/13–14 Kanabec †CAM, NSc, 5/18 Lake (Encampment Forest) JWJ, 5/20 Lake (Isaacson Rd) JWJ, 5/22 Aitkin (Rice Lake N.W.R.) MMc, 5/23 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, 5/25 St. Louis (40th Ave. West, Duluth) JLK, 5/27 Lake (Castle Danger) ph. JWJ.

Brown Thrasher — [48 South, 25 North] Well-represented in all regions. Early south 3/25 Washington †AXH, 3/31 Hennepin BAF well ahead of median (4/13). Early north 4/20 Pine JMP, 4/21 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/22 Kanabec CAM (median 4/24).

European Starling — [53 South, 32 North] Reported statewide. High count 3/16 Dakota (400) FKB.

American Pipit — [20 South, 10 North] Early south 4/14 Le Sueur JEB, 4/20 Watonwan CRM, 4/21 Meeker DMF (median 4/11). Early north 4/14 Polk and Red Lake SAS, 4/15 Polk JMJ (median 4/28). High count 5/14 Dakota (50) JPM. Late south 5/20 Dakota BAF, LS and Stearns SLF (me-

dian 5/16). Late north 5/20 Lake JWJ, 5/22 Cass BAW (median 5/22).

Bohemian Waxwing — [5 North] Departed Northwest and North-central regions by late March; last reported 4/14–17 St. Louis (median 4/16). High count 4/10 St. Louis (255) JRN.

Cedar Waxwing — [46 South, 23 North] Reported from all regions other than Northeast throughout the period. First Northeast reports 5/13 Carlton LAW, 5/20 Lake JWJ. High count 3/1 Houston (200) FZL.

Blue-winged Warbler — [24 South, 3 North] Early south 5/1 Carver CRM, 5/2 Dakota JPM, 5/4 Goodhue, Rice, Scott, Washington (median 5/2). Continued range expansion indicated by new county records 5/3 **Mille Lacs** (Kunkel W.M.A., record early north) †ASc, 5/14 **Redwood** (along Minnesota River, Delhi Twp.) WCM. All other north reports: 5/12 Morrison REH, 5/15 Todd JJS (median 5/23). High count 5/9 Scott (8 at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Golden-winged Warbler — [19 South, 18 North] Reported from all regions except Southwest. Early south 5/5 Goodhue SWE, Le Sueur DAB, Olmsted JWH, and Rice TFB matched the recent median. Early north 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/7 Cass BAW and Clay RHO (median 5/8). A male “Lawrence’s Warbler” 5/5+ Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF defended the same territory it occupied in 2005 and 2006.

Tennessee Warbler — [45 South, 23 North] Early south 4/23 (record early, no details) Ramsey BRL, 4/25 Dakota BRL and Hennepin ALD well ahead of the 4/29 median. First north report 4/29 Hubbard MAW eight days early, followed by 5/5 Clay RHO and Mille Lacs ASc. High count 5/15 Scott (76) BAF. Late south 5/27 Isanti ABL, 5/27 Pipestone CRM, JCC, LS, RTH, 5/30 Hennepin PEJ.

Orange-crowned Warbler — [37 South,

12 North] First arrivals well ahead of recent medians south and north; departed south five days ahead of median. Early south 4/17 Dakota JPM, 4/20 Dakota JLO, 4/21 Dakota, La Qui Parle, Martin, Meeker (median 4/21). Early north **4/20** Pine JMP, 4/21 Otter Tail SPM, 4/22 Clay PBB, RHO (median 4/25). High count 5/2 Rice (**26**) DAB. Late south 5/17 Nobles BTS, DAB, JEB and Pope HHD, JJS, RBW (median 5/22). Late north 5/19 St. Louis TPW, 5/30, **5/31** St. Louis LS (median 5/26).

Nashville Warbler — [34 South, 23 North] Reported from every region. Early south 4/23 Ramsey BRL, 4/24 Dakota FKB, 4/27 Rice TFB, (median 4/26). Early north 5/1 Hubbard MAW, 5/3 Cass BAW and Lake JWJ (median 5/3). High counts 5/9 Scott (34 at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 5/12 Koochiching (50) AXH. Late south 5/25 Ramsey HHD, 5/27 Hennepin EEO and Pipestone JCC (median 5/30).

Northern Parula — [20 South, 13 North] No reports from Southwest region. Early south 4/30 Rice TFB, 5/1 Olmsted JWH, 5/2 Meeker DMF and Ramsey TSM (median 5/1). Early north 5/5 Carlton LAW, Mille Lacs ASc, and St. Louis MPi (median 5/6). High count 5/12 Koochiching (**10**) AXH. Late south 5/16 Swift JJS, Wabasha and Winona JEB, 5/25 Mower JEB (median 5/26).

Yellow Warbler — [50 South, 27 North] Reported from 89% of the state's counties. Early south 4/23 Ramsey FKB, 5/1 Carver JCy and Goodhue LEC (median 4/27). Early north **4/22** Crow Wing JSB, 5/4 Otter Tail DTT, 5/5 Hubbard MAW and Mille Lacs ASc (median 5/4). High counts 5/12 Clay (34) RHO, 5/31 St. Louis (42) PHS.

Chestnut-sided Warbler — [32 South, 20 North] Early south 5/3 Big Stone RBW, 5/5 Faribault WAF and Rice TFB (median 5/6). Early north 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6 Carlton LAW, 5/8 Kanabec CAM (median 5/8). High count 5/31 St. Louis (**45**) PHS. Late south (away from known breeding locations, also see summer report) 5/27

Pipestone CRM, JCC, LS, RTH (median 6/4).

Magnolia Warbler — [32 South, 14 North] Early south 5/5 Blue Earth ChH, Faribault WAF, Hennepin CMB, Olmsted JWH, and Waseca DAB equaled the 5/5 median. Second earliest north arrival **4/24** Carlton LAW; no additional reports until 5/8 Clay PBB, 5/9 Carlton RBW and St. Louis NAJ (median 5/9). Record high spring count in a momentous Park Point fallout 5/31 St. Louis (**60**) CLW. Late south 5/27 Pipestone and Rock m.ob., also see summer report.

Cape May Warbler — [19 South, 7 North] Reported sparingly from all regions. New county record 5/17 **Nobles** †BTS, DAB, JEB. Early south 5/7 Olmsted JWH, 5/8 Blue Earth ChH, Le Sueur RMD, and Lincoln HHD, JEB, JJS (median 5/7). Early north 5/8 St. Louis ALE, 5/9 St. Louis NAJ, 5/12 Mille Lacs NSc (median 5/9). Late south 5/20 Hennepin DWK, PEB (median 5/22).

Black-throated Blue Warbler — [1 South, 3 North] Only south report: adult male 5/8 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) CMB through 5/23 ph. DAC, ph. JPM, m.ob. Early north 5/19 St. Louis ASc, 5/25 Lake DFN, 5/27 Carlton LAW (median 5/18).

Yellow-rumped Warbler — [49 South, 27 North] Probable overwintering bird 3/5 Winona (near Elba) JWH. Early south migrants **3/22** Rice DAT, 3/27 Meeker DMF well ahead of 4/2 median. Overwintered north through 3/13 St. Louis (Crane Lake) vt. DMK. First migrants **3/29** Mille Lacs NSc, 4/5 Otter Tail SPM (median 4/8). High count 4/21 Scott (112) BAF. Late south (but see summer report) 5/21 Ramsey DKo (median 5/27).

Black-throated Green Warbler — [22 South, 16 North] Reported from all regions. South and north arrivals were both within one day of recent medians. Early south 4/30 Rice TFB, 5/1 Olmsted JWH, 5/4 Nicollet RMD (median 4/30). Early

north 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc and St. Louis MPI, 5/6 Cass DAY (median 5/4). Late south 5/26 Anoka REH and Scott BAF, 5/27 Dakota CMB (median 5/30).

Blackburnian Warbler — [25 South, 17 North] Early south **4/28** (ties earliest date, no details) Benton REH, 5/2 Olmsted JWH, PWP, 5/5 Goodhue SWe (median 5/4). Early north 5/8 Cass (2) BAW and St. Louis ALE, 5/12 Koochiching (12) AXH, Lake ADB, Mille Lacs NSc, and Morrison DTM (median 5/7). High count 5/31 St. Louis (**25** at Park Point, Duluth) CLW. Late south 5/26 Scott (3) BAF and Sherburne JBB, 5/27 Pipestone CRM, JCC, LS, RTH (median 5/31).

Pine Warbler — [12 South, 13 North] Early south 4/20 Sherburne ADB, 4/21 Ramsey REH, 4/22 Isanti were all ahead of the recent median (4/24). Early north 4/22 Cass DAY, 4/24 Cass BAW, 4/27 Carlton LAW and St. Louis JCG (median 4/26).

PRAIRIE WARBLER — [1 South] Singing adult male 5/28–31 Dakota (Ritter Farm Park) JSw, †CMB, †JLO, †PEB, ph. TPB, ph. CLW, m.ob.

Palm Warbler — [36 South, 17 North] Early south 4/21 Dakota DWK, JLO and Meeker DMF, 4/22–23 in five counties (median 4/22). Early north 4/22 Kanabec CAM, 4/30 Otter Tail DTT and Polk EEF (median 4/25). Late south 5/17 Nobles JEB and Pipestone LBF, 5/19 Waseca DAB (median 5/23).

Bay-breasted Warbler — [14 South, 6 North] Early south 5/6 Hennepin DDo and Rice TFB, 5/8 Blue Earth ChH and Hennepin JLS (median 5/8). Early north 5/12 Otter Tail SPM, 5/21 Cass BAW, and 5/21 St. Louis NAJ (median 5/13). High count 5/12 Meeker (16) DMF. Late south 5/17 Murray NED and Rice TFB, 5/24 Scott HHD, RBW (median 5/25).

Blackpoll Warbler — [33 South, 9 North] Early south 5/5 Chippewa HHD, KRE and Olmsted JWH (median 5/4); peak migra-

tion 5/10–12 in 18 south counties. Early north 5/6 Todd JSK, 5/12 Otter Tail DTT, SPM, 5/13 Pennington JMJ (median 5/9). High count 5/21 Cass (12) BAW. Late south 5/24 Rice DAB, 5/25 Hennepin DDo and Mower JEB (median 5/30). Reported through 5/31 north; see summer report for late dates (median 5/29).

Cerulean Warbler — [14 South, 1 North] Early south **5/1** Olmsted JWH, 5/6 Goodhue JWH, 5/9 Rice TFB (median 5/8). Only north report: 5/15 Todd (Oak Ridge W.M.A.) BWF, RLE, RAE, CAS, JJS (median 5/19). High count 5/13 Rice (6) DAB.

Black-and-white Warbler — [37 South, 25 North] Early south 4/22 Scott BAF, 4/23 Goodhue JWH and Ramsey BRL (median 4/26). Early north **4/22** Carlton BDA, 4/29 Pennington JMJ, 5/3 Cass BAW (median 5/3). High count 5/29 St. Louis (20) TPW.

American Redstart — [46 South, 24 North] Early south 5/3 Rice TFB, 5/5 Carver JCy, Faribault WAF, Fillmore NBO, and Stearns RBJ (median 5/3). Early north 5/6 Clay RHO, 5/7 Cass BAW, St. Louis LAW, and Todd JSK (median 5/8). High count during fallout at Park Point 5/31 St. Louis (**200**) CLW.

Prothonotary Warbler — [8 South] Early south 5/7 Hennepin (Fort Snelling S.P.) CMB, 5/9 Washington JMP, 5/12 Goodhue JJS. Scarce; other than multiple reports from Hennepin and Goodhue, only single reports from Meeker, Washington, Dakota, Ramsey, Washington, Winona.

WORM-EATING WARBLER — [1 South, 1 North] First reports since 2005. First county records **4/23 Lyon** (Camden S.P.) †RAE (*The Loon* 79:238), 5/6 **Clay** (Moorhead, near the Red River) †DPW, †PBB (*The Loon* 79:239–240).

Ovenbird — [40 South, 26 North] Early south **4/22** Rice DAB, 4/28 Rice TFB, 5/2 Dakota JPM and Olmsted JWH, PWP (median 4/30). Early north 5/3 Cass BAW, 5/5 Clay RHO, Mille Lacs ASc, Pine JMP, and

St. Louis MPi (median 5/4). Record high count 5/12 Koochiching (**100** estimated) AXH.

Northern Waterthrush — [40 South, 16 North] Early south 4/22 Meeker DMF, 4/23 Ramsey BRL, 4/28 Steele KRV (median 4/25). Early north 5/5 Clay (3) RHO and Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6 Clay PBB, RHO (median 5/4). High count 5/7 Cass (10) BAW. Late south (but see summer report) 5/20 Hennepin DWK, PEB, 5/26 Fillmore HHD (median 5/28).

Louisiana Waterthrush — [8 South, 1 North] Early south 4/14 Winona PWP, 4/22 Blue Earth LS and Winona JWH were ahead of the 4/23 median. First county record 5/12 **Renville** (Beaver Falls C.P.) †JCC. Also reported from Hennepin, Nicollet, Rice, Olmsted, Houston. Only north report: 5/19 Pine (Banning S.P.) JCy.

Kentucky Warbler — [2 South] Eighth consecutive year at Williams N.C. near Mankato 5/14–28 Blue Earth CRM *et al.*, †SLF, m.ob. Also reported 5/21–27 Rice (no details, location?) TFB, SWE.

Connecticut Warbler — [6 South, 5 North] Early south 5/6 Hennepin DDO, 5/8 Carver JCy (median 5/11). All north reports were later than recent median (5/17). Early north 5/21 Todd JSK, 5/23 Lake of the Woods DAC, RBJ. Late south (also see summer report) 5/23 Rice TFB, 5/25 Mower JEB.

Mourning Warbler — [19 South, 11 North] Early south **5/5** Chippewa HHD, KRE, Lac Qui Parle LS, and Rice TFB, 5/7 Carver CRM (median 5/9). Early north **5/7** Todd JSK, 5/15 Clay RHO, 5/16 Cass BAW (median 5/14). Record high count 5/29 St. Louis (**25**) TPW.

Common Yellowthroat — [50 South, 26 North] Early south **4/17** (earliest date on record, no details) Hennepin Sca, 4/28 Dakota LEC, and 4/28 Steele KRV, 5/1 Ramsey EEO (median 5/3). Early north 4/29 Beltrami DPJ, 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/7

Cass BAW and Lake JWL (median 5/7). High count 5/12 Steele (**28**) NFT.

Hooded Warbler — [7 South] Early south **4/25** Winona (Great River Bluffs S.P., second earliest) DBz, JSo, 5/1–30 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) CMB, AXH (median 5/9). Many reports from Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., Scott/Dakota beginning 5/5, including high count of 13 on the 15th (12 males and one female) BAF. Also recorded at Battle Creek Park, Cannon River Wilderness Park, Lebanon Hills R.P., and Sherburne N.W.R.

Wilson's Warbler — [26 South, 14 North] Early south 5/1 Steele KRV, 5/5–6 Lac Qui Parle HHD, LS (median 5/4). Early north 5/10 Cass BAW, 5/11 Mille Lacs DAC, RBJ (median 5/10). High count 5/10 Rice (16) DAB. Late south 5/26 Carver JCy, 5/27 Pipestone JCC, LS, RTH (median 5/29).

Canada Warbler — [25 South, 8 North] Early south 5/7 Pipestone JEB, 5/8 Le Sueur RMD, 5/9 Steele KRV (median 5/9). Early north 5/12 Koochiching AXH and Mille Lacs NSc, 5/14 Cass BAW (median 5/14). Second highest spring count 5/31 St. Louis (**25** at Park Point, Duluth) CLW. Late south (but see summer report) 5/26 Rock RTH (median 5/31).

Yellow-breasted Chat — [3 South, 1 North] All south reports: 5/22 Rice (no details, location?) TFB, 5/30–31 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R., auto tour route) KLa, †BJU, 5/27+ Dakota (Black Dog S.N.A.) MP, †CMB, ph. DAC, ph. †JPM, m.ob. Only north report: **5/20 Polk** (ties second earliest north, banded at Red River Natural History Area, near Crookston, **The Loon** 79:118) ph. LEB, JAB.

Summer Tanager — [3 South, 2 North] All documented reports: 5/3 Dakota (Spring Lake P.R.) †JPM, 5/8 **Faribault** (Blue Earth River) †WAF, 5/9 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) †ChM, JEP, 5/12 Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.) †ADS, 5/19 Lake (Silver Bay) †JWL, **5/27 Kittson** (Lancaster) ph. GBr *fide* DTT.

Scarlet Tanager — [40 South, 14 North] Early south 5/5 Goodhue SWe and Hennepin HCT, 5/6–8 in eight counties (median 5/5). Early north **5/8** Mille Lacs NSc, 5/9 Mille Lacs RBJ, 5/10 Cass BAW (median 5/12). High count 5/30 Mille Lacs (7) ASc.

Western Tanager — [2 South] Accepted reports: 4/24–27 **Freeborn** (Clarks Grove) *fide* AEB, †CMB, ph. JEM, m.ob., 4/25–29 Anoka (Spring Lake Park) ph. TM, m.ob.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE — [1 south] Overwintered late October 2006 through 4/23 **Cottonwood** (Mountain Lake) m.ob.

Spotted Towhee — [1 south] Adult male 4/24–29 Hennepin (Richardson N.C.) TMo, †CMB, ph. †JPM, m.ob. Two out of range and unseasonal reports from Scott and Dakota in late May were insufficiently documented.

Eastern Towhee — [28 South, 7 North] Early south 4/21 Scott BAF, 4/22 Hennepin DDo (median 4/14). Early north 5/6 Cass DAY, 5/7 Cass BAW (median 5/4).

American Tree Sparrow — [43 South, 27 North] Late south 4/25 Kandiyohi RBW, 5/5 Goodhue SWe (median 5/1). Late north 4/24 St. Louis TPW, 4/25 Kittson RBJ, DAC (median 5/7).

Chipping Sparrow — [51 South, 33 North] Early south 3/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/25 Chippewa BJU and Dakota FKB (median 3/26). Excluding three undocumented reports well before the recent median arrival date (4/12), early north 4/11 Douglas *fide* JMJ, 4/14 Mille Lacs ASc (median 4/12). High count 5/12 Clay (98) RHO.

Clay-colored Sparrow — [41 South, 26 North] Early south 4/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/21 Meeker DMF and Hennepin HCT (median 4/21). Early north 4/27 Clay RHO and Otter Tail DTT, 4/28 Clay PBB, 4/29 Lake JWJ (median 4/27).

Field Sparrow — [46 South, 7 North]

Early south 3/24 Goodhue BRL, 4/2 Dakota CMB (median 4/1). Early north 4/22 Otter Tail DTT, 4/23 Mille Lacs HHD (median 4/21). High count 4/22 Scott (**19** at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Vesper Sparrow — [48 South, 21 North] Early south 3/22 Meeker DMF, 3/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/25 Brown BTS and Hennepin BAF (median 3/29). Early north 4/6 Todd JSK, 4/17 Otter Tail DTT (median 4/12).

Lark Sparrow — [20 South, 10 North] Early south 4/25 Sherburne ASc, 4/26 Big Stone BJU (median 4/22). Early north 4/27 Marshall *fide* JMJ, 4/28 Clay PBB, RHO (median 5/5). Unusual in Northeast 4/29 Lake JWJ, 4/30 Cook CJT. New county record 5/27 **Hubbard** PBB. Record high spring counts 4/28 Sherburne (**7**) JBB, 5/28 Anoka (**10**) AXH.

Savannah Sparrow — [48 South, 25 North] Early south 3/26 Hennepin DDo and Rice TFB (median 4/1). Early north **4/5** Mille Lacs ASc, 4/20 Pine JMP and Polk NGE *fide* JMJ (median 4/17).

Grasshopper Sparrow — [31 South, 9 North] Early south 4/22 Wabasha JWH, 4/23 Sherburne ASc, 4/24 Steele FVS (median 4/27). Early north **4/23** Polk NGE *fide* JMJ, 4/24 Mille Lacs NSc, 4/27 Wadena PJB (median 5/8). Second highest count 5/29 Sherburne (**18** at Sherburne N.W.R.) ASc.

Henslow's Sparrow — [14 South, 2 North] Early south 4/24 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) CMB, 4/28+ Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie S.N.A.) BJU, m.ob. Also reported from Brown (Cottonwood River Prairie S.N.A.), Carver (Carver P.R.), Dakota, Fillmore (**10** at Beaver Creek W.M.A., HHD, RAE), Freeborn (Myre-Big Island S.P.), Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.), Hennepin (Elm Creek and Hyland P.R.), Olmsted, Ramsey, Redwood (Johnsonville Twp.), Rice (Sakatah Lake S.P.), Swift (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.). All north reports (both record early dates): **5/9** Polk (Glacial

Ridge N.W.R.) KRE, **5/13** Clay (Bluestem Prairie S.N.A.) PBB.

Le Conte's Sparrow — [9 South, 8 North] Early south 4/23 Brown JEB, 4/26 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/23). Early north 4/28 Clay PBB, 5/4 Cass BAW, 5/7 Kanabec CAM (median 5/2). High count 5/9 Polk (9 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) RPR.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — [1 North] Second highest count 5/31 Cass (**8** at Boy River Marsh) BAW.

Fox Sparrow — [40 South, 17 North] One from late February (see winter report) through 3/2, 3/6 Fillmore NBO; potential early south migrants 3/5 Scott DHa, 3/7 Olmsted RBW (median 3/13). Early north 3/29 Otter Tail DTT, 3/30 Clay RHO and Morrison DTM (median 3/29). Late south 4/20 in three counties, 4/21 Carver DDo (median 4/29). Late north 4/25 Kittson DAC, RBJ, 4/26 St. Louis TPW, 5/12 Otter Tail DTT (median 5/6). Seasonal high count 4/7 Scott (61) BAF.

Song Sparrow — [52 South, 35 North] Reported throughout the state. See winter report for late migrants and overwintering individuals. Early north 3/23 Carlton LAW, 3/24 Mille Lacs ASc, NSc, RBJ and Wadena PJB. High counts 3/31 Hennepin (43) BAF, 4/22 Scott (41) BAF, 5/12 Clay (45) RHO.

Lincoln's Sparrow — [32 South, 12 North] Early south 4/20, 4/22 Rice DAB (median 4/12). Early north 4/21 Beltrami DPJ, 4/22 St. Louis *fide* JWJ, 4/23 Kanabec CAM (median 4/25). Late south 5/19 Steele NFT, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/23 Pipestone BJU (median 5/25).

Swamp Sparrow — [44 South, 24 North] Early south 3/13 Faribault WAF, 3/23 Scott DWK and Washington TEB (median 3/24). Early north **4/2** Mille Lacs ASc, 4/19 Marshall *fide* JMJ (median 4/15). Seasonal high count 5/29 St. Louis (**25**) TPW.

White-throated Sparrow — [44 South,

30 North] Overwintered south (see winter report) and north in Cook CJT and probably Lake *fide* JWJ; **3/5** Roseau *fide* JMJ probably overwintered also. Bulk of south reports began mid-April and virtually ceased after 5/20. Bulk of north reports began 4/21 (median 4/11). Season high count 4/22 Scott (100 estimated) JCC.

Harris's Sparrow — [30 South, 22 North] Early south 3/28 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 4/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 4/3). Probably overwintered (but see winter report) 3/2, 3/21, 4/6, 4/16 Clay RHO and 4/18 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ; presumed early north migrants 5/4 Pennington MJM, 5/5 Morrison DTM (median 4/28). Late south 5/19 Carver RBJ, 5/23 Pipestone BJU (median 5/22). Late north 5/24 Kittson RBJ, DAC, 5/25 Lake of the Woods MHK (median 5/21).

White-crowned Sparrow — [29 South, 16 North] Early south 4/20 Rock RBW, 4/21 Hennepin CMB (median 4/3). Early north **4/14** Marshall JMJ, 4/19 Marshall (same bird?) GT, 4/23 Cass DAY (median 4/23). Late south 5/19 Steele NFT, 5/20 Washington HHD, 5/20 Hubbard MAW (median 5/22). Reported north through 5/24.

Dark-eyed Junco — [50 South, 32 North] Late south 5/13 Meeker DMF, 5/21 Rice TFB. Season high count 3/25 Crow Wing (500) JSB. "Oregon" race reported 3/29 Dakota ADS.

Lapland Longspur — [20 South, 15 North] Late south 5/6 Dakota DWK, ADS (median 5/3). Late north 5/19 Lake JWJ, 5/22 Cass BAW (median 5/18). Season high count 4/6 Rice (475) DAB.

Smith's Longspur — [1 South, 3 North] Early south 4/21 Meeker (8) DMF. All north reports: 5/9 Polk (Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) KRE, RPR, 5/19 Lake (female at Beaver Bay sewage ponds) ph. †JWL, **5/23 Becker** (Hamden Slough N.W.R.) *fide* JMJ.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — [1 North] Six reports from Felton Prairie



Albinistic Dark-eyed Junco, 3 April 2007, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by Nancy E. Erickson.

starting 4/15 Clay PBB (median 4/24).

Snow Bunting — [20 South, 20 North] Season high count 3/4 Cass (1,500) BAW. Departed prior to recent median departures south (3/28) and north (5/8). Late south 3/20 Chisago KCR. Late north 4/19 St. Louis NAJ.

Northern Cardinal — [50 South, 22 North] Reported throughout the state as far northwest as Kittson (5/23, LW) and as far northeast as St. Louis (Ely) and Cook (Schroeder).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — [50 South, 28 North] Early south 4/24, 4/28 Fillmore NBO, 4/29 Dakota JPM, ADS (median 4/28). Early north 5/3 Crow Wing SMA, 5/4 Kanabec CAM (median 5/3). Season high count 5/4 Lac Qui Parle (25) FAE.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK — [1 North] Adult male third week in May at feeder in Wilkin (Breckenridge) ph. LPT *vide* SPM.

Blue Grosbeak — [5 South, 1 North]

Early south 5/17 Murray (Moulton Twp.) NED, 5/23 Lincoln (Drammen Twp.) and Pipestone (Split Rock Creek S.P.) BJU, 5/26+ Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) m.ob. Also reported from Nobles. Unusual north report **5/6 Clay** (Moorhead, earliest date for entire state) ph. PBB, RHO.

Indigo Bunting — [45 South, 13 North] Early south 5/4 Fillmore NBO, 5/5 Goodhue SWE and Steele KRV (median 5/4). Early north **5/1** Crow Wing SMA, 5/11 Hubbard PBB (median 5/9).

PAINTED BUNTING — [1 North] Nineteenth state record 5/19–23 **Lake** (Little Marais) ph. SRC, ph. †JWL.

Dickcissel — [18 South, 1 North] Early south 5/19 Steele KRV, NFT, 5/21 Olmsted JWH, 5/23 Scott RBW. Only north report: 5/31 Mille Lacs NSc. Bulk of reports started 5/23.

Bobolink — [44 South, 22 North] Early south 5/1 Olmsted JWH, 5/5 Meeker DMF and Carver JCy (median 5/2). Early north 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/7 Kanabec CAM, 5/8 Pine JMP (median 5/5). Season high count 5/12 Steele (35) NFT.

Red-winged Blackbird — [52 South, 33 North] Please see winter report for numerous overwintering records. Presumed early north migrants 3/8 Todd JSK, 3/11 Wadena PJB, 3/12 Polk *vide* JMJ. High count 3/15 Lac Qui Parle (5,500) BJU.

Eastern Meadowlark — [31 South, 10 North] Early south **3/10** Scott CMB, 3/12 Steele NFT, 3/15 Dakota FKB. Early north 3/19 Mille Lacs ASc, 3/22 Wilkin EEO, 3/23 Kanabec RBJ, DAC.

Western Meadowlark — [35 South, 20 North] Early south 3/9 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 3/11 Brown BTS and Stevens HHD. Early north 3/15 Todd JSK, 3/21 Clay RHO, 3/24 Otter Tail DTT. Season high count 5/12 Clay (45) RHO.

Sturnella sp. — Six south reports of un-



Yellow-headed Blackbird nest, 30 May 2007, near Jackson, Jackson County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Albinistic Common Grackle, 14 April 2007, Freeport, Stearns County. Photo by Paul A. Hetland.

identified meadowlarks 3/6–4/7.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — [43 South, 19 North] Record early south **3/10** Big Stone HHD. Also, 4/8 Hennepin JCC, 4/9 McLeod RBW (median 3/29). Early north 3/31 Norman RBW (median 4/10). Season high count 4/14 Hennepin (160) DCZ.

Rusty Blackbird — [33 South, 12 North] Presumed early south migrants (see winter report) 3/9 Rice TFB, 3/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/14 Dodge KRV (median 3/6). Early north 3/10 Cass BAW, 3/11 Todd JSK, 3/25 Crow Wing EEO (median 3/20). Late south 4/27 Steele DAB (median 5/1). Late north 4/22 Beltrami DPJ, 4/25 Kittson RBJ, DAC (median 5/3).

Brewer's Blackbird — [26 South, 25 North] Early south 3/17 Brown BTS, Rice ChH, and Wright DPG (median 3/13). Early north 3/24 Mille Lacs NSc, ASc, 3/25 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ (median 4/2). Season high count 3/27 Blue Earth (100) ChH.

Common Grackle — [52 South, 33 North] Presumed early north migrants 3/9 St. Louis RPR, 3/18 Lake JWL and Otter Tail DTT (median 3/10), but see winter report for overwintering records. Season high counts 3/20 Blue Earth (300) ChH, 5/12 Steele (486) NFT.

Great-tailed Grackle — [5 South] All south reports: 4/20–5/25 Watonwan (Mud Lake and Rosendale W.M.A.) m.ob., 5/7–27 **Pipestone** (Engbarth Slough W.M.A.) HHD, †BJU, m.ob., 5/18 Jackson DAB, BTS, 5/28 Murray (Big Slough W.M.A.) RMD. None were well documented.

Brown-headed Cowbird — [52 South, 30 North] Early south 3/7 Lac Qui Parle (probably overwintered) BJU, 3/12 Meeker DMF, 3/15 Dodge KRV (median 3/13). Early north 4/2 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/3 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ, 4/5 Todd JSK (median 4/6).

Orchard Oriole — [32 South, 3 North] Early south 5/7 Carver TSM, 5/8 Washing-

ton DFN (median 5/7). Early north 5/12 Polk *fide* JMJ, 5/18 Clay RHO (median 5/15).

Baltimore Oriole — [50 South, 29 North] Early south 5/1 Hennepin DWK and Carver RBJ (median 4/29). Early north 5/1 Crow Wing SMA, 5/2 Beltrami PJR, 5/4 Marshall *fide* JMJ (median 5/4).

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH — [1 North] Three “interior form” were last reported 3/26 Carlton *fide* JWL

Pine Grosbeak — [4 North] Late north 4/12 Itasca (Dunning Lake) EEO. Also reported from Aitkin, Cass, St. Louis.

Purple Finch — [19 South, 24 North] Late south 5/2 Fillmore NBO and Goodhue FKB, 5/5 Hennepin JLS (median 5/17).

House Finch — Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill — [1 South, 3 North] Only south report: 5/12 Stearns RPR. North reports from Aitkin, Douglas, St. Louis.

White-winged Crossbill — [4 North] All reports: 3/3 Pine JMP, 3/11 St. Louis JPM,

PEB, 3/17 Aitkin DWK, 4/11 Douglas *fide* JMJ.

Common Redpoll — [3 South, 17 North] Four south reports between 3/3 and 4/4 in Chippewa, Cottonwood, and Lac Qui Parle. All north reports earlier than recent median departure date (5/4); last seen 4/8 Itasca (7) EEO.

Hoary Redpoll — [2 North] All reports: 3/4, 3/16 Kittson LW *fide* JMJ, 3/23 Beltrami DPJ.

Pine Siskin — [13 South, 23 North] Late south 5/4 Rice TFB, 5/8 Blue Earth ChH (median 5/21).

American Goldfinch — Seen statewide.

Evening Grosbeak — [8 North] Single digits reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Lake, and St. Louis.

House Sparrow — Seen statewide.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW — [1 North] Seventh state record 4/15 St. Louis (Virginia) ph. AAB.

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Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 C.R. County Road
 F.R. Forest Road
 m.ob. many observers
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 R.P. Regional Park
 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

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Journals

Kim R. Eckert



Or, if you prefer, we could just as well call this “A Sixth Look at ID References,” given that there have been five previous *Hindsight* installments about field guides, books, journals, and other media providing bird identification information. To refresh your memory, they were:

- **The Loon** 70:160–165 (books)
- **The Loon** 71:107–111 (*National Geographic Field Guide*)
- **The Loon** 71:229–231 (journal articles)
- **The Loon** 73:171–174 (*The Sibley Guide to Birds*)
- **The Loon** 74:233–237 (recordings, CD-ROMs, videos, websites, and updates on field guides, books, and articles)

Since the most recent of these articles is now five years old, this would be as good a time as any for yet another update, with an emphasis this time on birding journals, especially considering that the state of this medium has deteriorated in recent years. (Besides, since updates are relatively easy to write, what better time for one than now as this installment is about a month and a half overdue.)

But before discussing some of these publications, let's first take a brief look at what's new in the last five years with the other media:

WEBSITES

Two previously listed websites apparently no longer exist — or, if they still do, their old addresses have changed: Paul Conover's hummingbird site (<http://home.earthlink.net/~zoiseaux>) and the redpoll

ID site (<http://w1.157.telia.com/~u15702215/rpindex.htm>).

On the other hand, here are six additional websites with worthwhile ID content (and there are certainly others of which I'm unaware):

- <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora> (hosts a very useful search engine to articles in several journals, including *Auk*, *Western Birds*, etc.)
- <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/brdphoto.htm#ID> (contains several helpful ID articles)
- <http://www.sibleyguides.com> (discusses a few ID topics, currently including Tundra/Trumpeter swans and Canada/Cackling geese)
- <http://www.granstrand.net/gallery> (numerous photos for ID reference)
- <http://www.birdinfo.com/birdindex.html> (another extensive photo gallery for ID reference)
- <http://www.greglasley.net> (a third photo gallery, smaller than the other two, but with helpful ID captions and notes)
- <http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/id/index.html> (limited but growing number of detailed plumage photos of banded birds)

COMPUTER SOFTWARE

While there are a variety of CD-ROMs and other software with bird ID information, they cover nothing more than the basics and are therefore not recommended for experienced birders. I have recently become aware of another widely advertised gimmick which you could easily do without: *National Geographic Handheld*

Birds (\$100) is PDA or Palm Pilot software which does conveniently include illustrations, range maps, songs, and other tools, but your *Geographic* field guide is a more complete (and less-expensive) reference.

FIELD GUIDES

The three-volume *Master Guide to Birding* field guide is out-of-print.

National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America is now in its fifth edition. However, except for some revised range maps and a new section illustrating North American accidentals, relatively little has changed from the fourth edition — or the third, for that matter. Actually, there was another Geographic guide a year before the fifth edition came out: the hardcover, 640-page *Complete Birds of North America* is a home reference which greatly expands on the behavior, distribution, and other material in the field guide, although new ID information is limited. Oh, by the way, stay tuned for still two more Geographic guides! Following Sibley's lead, there are plans to publish separate Eastern and Western field guides, probably later in 2008.

Also new is *National Wildlife Federation's Field Guide to Birds of North America* by Brinkley, a guide with 2,000 photos which would be superior to other photo guides (e.g., those by Stokes), but it's still less comprehensive than *Geographic* or *Sibley*, and just on the same level with other basic guides like Kaufman's, Peterson's, and the like.

I occasionally meet birders looking for field guides limited to the species of a single state. They do exist, but unless you're a beginner, none of them are recommended. All are too limited in the number of species covered, with either inadequate or just basic ID material, and such oversimplification is likely to result in too many misidentifications. I am aware of three series with guides to several states:

- National Geographic has published guides to 15 states so far, with each said to include 200 species (an odd feature, since some states have far more birds than others).

- Lone Pine Publishing has guides to some 30 states and provinces, with at least some of them more comprehensive than any of those in the following set.

- Adventure Publications' widely distributed series of "Birds of _____ Field Guide" booklets now includes about 40 states; of the three collections, this is the one most targeted to beginners and non-birders, the books barely qualify as field guides, many photos and lots of text are repeated from state to state, and each is written by the same author (a resident birder from each state would have given them more credibility).

OTHER BOOKS

Here are some recommended identification books published in recent years:

- *Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges* by Thompson *et al.* (similar in concept to Kaufman's *Advanced Birding* guide, with better color illustrations and more species accounts, though its level is perhaps not as "advanced" as Kaufman's book)

- *Birding in the American West* by Zimmer (replaces *The Western Bird Watcher* by the same author; still includes much bird-finding and other non-ID material)

- *Birds of Europe* by Mullarney, Zetterstrom, Svensson, and Grant (now considered better than my earlier recommendation of Lars Jonsson's European field guide)

- *Raptors of Eastern North America* and *Raptors of Western North America* by Wheeler (these home reference volumes greatly expand on the two Clark & Wheeler field guides)

- *Hawks from Every Angle; How to Identify Raptors in Flight* by Liguori (includes 19 widespread North American species with 370 photos; peripheral and vagrant species not covered)

- *The Shorebird Guide* by O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson (comprehensive guide to all North American species, with 870+ photos, very helpful captions, and extensive text)

- *Shorebirds of North America, Europe,*

and Asia by Message and Taylor (another comprehensive guide to this group, illustrated with paintings, not photos; includes non-North American species)

- *Gulls of the Americas* by Howell and Dunn (excellent guide with 1,160 photos; at least as good as Olsen and Larsson's monumental gull reference, and possibly more useful)

- *Tanagers, Cardinals, and Finches of the United States and Canada* by Beadle and Rising (similar in concept to these authors' sparrows guide, with 200 photos of 46 species and user-friendly captions and text)

Also note that *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* is now in its fourth edition. It still includes ID information in the annotated checklist section, and there are useful updates with corrections and additions included on the MOU's website (http://moum.org/birders_guide.html).

JOURNALS

And now for the bad news. While ID articles in birding journals have long been an important resource for birders looking for something beyond the field-guide level, in recent years I have seen a tendency for them to be more difficult to find, harder to read, or just plain unhelpful.

For example, you could now disregard two publications included among my earlier *Hindsight* recommendations: *Birders Journal*, an important Canadian ID resource, has apparently discontinued publication; and *Western Tanager*, Los Angeles Audubon's newsletter with frequently useful ID articles in years past, has not included any in recent years. (To offset these losses, though, I could almost be persuaded to add two magazines to my list of recommendations: the popular, general-interest *Bird Watcher's Digest* does at least include a regular "Identify Yourself" column, upon which the book of the same name was based; and the more scholarly *Western Birds*, journal of Western Field Ornithologists, publishes occasional ID notes and articles.)

My biggest disillusionment with bird-

ing journals is two-fold, involving the two most widely read publications among serious North American birders. Without exception, I have annually subscribed to both since the 1960s, and I had always recommended them to others without qualification. But "had" is the operative word here — now I'm not so sure what to think of them:

North American Birds

Formerly known as *Audubon Field Notes*, *American Birds*, and just *Field Notes*, this unique and important journal has a six-decades-long history of region-by-region seasonal bird reports. Nowhere else will you find such a comprehensive overview of the status of birds throughout the U.S. and Canada (with Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America added recently), and knowledge of bird distribution is always an integral part of the bird identification process. You'll also find an ever-improving color photo gallery in the back of each issue, with useful ID comments often included in the captions.

But I have two problems with this journal, one relatively recent and the other chronically decades-old. My more recent gripe involves the current and relative lack of identification articles. Especially in the 1980s and 1990s, this publication often included excellent ID articles, but this has changed since its reincarnation as *North American Birds* in 1999. In these last nine years (i.e., 36 issues), there have been only nine articles devoted to ID, and only four of them have involved species found in Minnesota. (And, curiously, none of the nine was on passerines.)

There are still other articles here, but they tend to be long, detailed — and often tedious — accounts limited to particular species and their distribution, and consequently limiting the number of interested readers. Consider the most recent issue with 29 pages just on the eastern range and status of Painted Buntings, with no fewer than 19 pages of chart after chart listing nothing more than protected tracts where the species potentially occurs. Talk about tedious!

So, if there's not much about ID any more in these pages, isn't this journal's history of regional accounts on North American bird distribution through the decades important enough to recommend it? Well, maybe, except that the data has always been so difficult to glean, no matter what the name of the magazine has been. Keeping in mind that I never express opinions (everything I say is Proven Scientific Fact!), in no particular order the problems are:

- For better or worse, the reality is that we look at bird records and distribution according to state and provincial lines, yet most *North American Birds* regions include multiple states with sometimes obscure names. For instance, no one is likely to write *The Birds of the Hudson-Delaware Region*, or do a bird atlas of that region, or care much about a first "Hudson-Delaware" record. (This region, by the way, has nothing to do with Delaware: it's the states of New York and New Jersey.)

Or consider Montana and California birders, their states each separated into two regions. Any first state record for Montana, for example, is a big deal, but hardly anyone will note or care if it was in the "Idaho & Western Montana" or "Northern Great Plains" region. (At least the regions aren't as bad as they used to be: for decades, as recently as 2002, there was the Appalachian Region comprising parts of 11 states!)

- There's no species index, so good luck if you're trying to find out anything on any particular bird. You'll have to read through every regional report looking for the bird's name, an especially difficult ordeal considering that...

- The reports' sentences are anything but reader-friendly, loaded with parenthetical observer initials, unfamiliar abbreviations, italicized county names, and dates. And the paragraphs are too long with inconsistent headings. Uniformly divided sections by family, for example, would help a lot, but it's always been up to each regional editor to come up with their own and usually unhelpful system. (In the most recent issue, there were such useless

headings as "Gulls through Finches," "Flycatchers through Blackbirds," and "Corvids through Crossbills.") And the type is simply too small, yet another obstacle to any reader trying to wade through the text.

- At least each issue opens with this journal's long-standing tradition of a "Changing Seasons" article, an overview of the weather, trends, and highlights of the season. But, again, why are these user-unfriendly paragraphs so long (many are 30 or 40 lines long!) and the type so small?

In sum, I guess I can still recommend that serious birders subscribe to *North American Birds* for its unique tradition of continent-wide seasonal summaries. But I wouldn't be disappointed or surprised if you don't — nor would I be surprised if my next update on references reports this magazine has ceased publication.

Birding

This won't take long. While my ambivalence about the preceding journal took awhile to explain, my thoughts about *Birding*, bi-monthly journal of the American Birding Association, are easier to address.

You'd think that ABA, an organization always intended for the more active and serious birder, would dedicate much of its journal to identification topics. And that's what they did for a long time, with more useful bird ID articles in *Birding* than anywhere else. But more and more in recent years, I've found myself thumbing through the magazine upon its arrival, with the intent of going back later to read the more relevant articles — and then just shelving it without ever a second look at any of them.

Instead of ID articles, the reader will tend to find personal opinions and experiences, travelogues, photo and art galleries, interviews, species profiles sans ID content, non-ABA-area birds, reviews of books and optics, and articles just plain uninteresting or nonsensical (e.g., "Color Abnormalities in Birds" in September–October 2007). I submit that even birders not primarily interested in ID will be disappointed. Meanwhile, the ID material in

Birding is too infrequent and too often downright disappointing.

As for disappointment, witness the largely discredited articles on dowitcher molt (July–August 2005) and on dowitcher and goldeneye ID (both September–October 2006). Even *Birding's* regular photo quizzes leave a lot to be desired. Since none of them provides the location of the photo, it's not a realistic exercise: in the field, your location is always part of the ID process. Further, too many quizzes have had gimmicky premises (e.g., exotic escapes, atypical postures, partially hidden birds), and even more include analyses in the text which are not visible in — or even contradicted by! — the photos.

But the infrequent appearance of ID articles in *Birding* is more disturbing. Looking back over the 30 issues from the past five years, I could find only three worthwhile articles on species found in Minnesota (sapsuckers, wigeons, and longspurs). In all, excluding the inadequate articles on goldeneyes and dowitchers mentioned earlier, there have been just 25 ID articles — an anemic average of five per year.

The history is even more dismal if you disregard 18 articles with little or no relevance to most birders: pelagics (6), subspecies (4), hybrids (4), species exclusive to Alaska or Florida (3), and a species never seen in the U.S. (1). That leaves most readers with a pitiful total of seven useful ID articles — less than one every four issues!

So, while my review of *North American Birds* may be mixed, my formerly positive assessment of *Birding's* overall content has now become decidedly negative.

By the way, while we're at it and I'm in this foul mood, let's take a second look at *The Loon*. It's a great state birding journal, maybe the best of them all, except that its problems include lazy authors chronically late with their articles....

....Um, sorry. I'd like to elaborate, but no time now. The editor just called, wondering where my month-and-a-half-overdue article is.

1921 W. Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

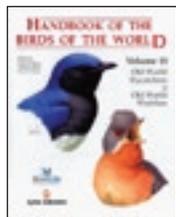


BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, VOLUME 11.

Old World Flycatchers to Old World Warblers.

J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, and D. Christie, editors. 2006. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 798 pp. \$245. Reviewed by Kevin Winker.



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 (<http://www.hbw.com>); inquiries can be sent by email (lynx@hbw.com).

This volume continues with the Passeriformes and includes eight families:

Muscicapidae (Old World flycatchers), Platysteiridae (batises and wattle-eyes), Rhipiduridae (fantails), Monarchidae (monarch-flycatchers), Regulidae (kinglets and firecrests), Polioptilidae (gnatcatchers), Cisticolidae (cisticolas and allies), and Sylviidae (Old World warblers). Twenty-six authors and eleven artists contributed to the volume, as did many photographers. The book begins with a Preface by Paul Ehrlich on birds as indicator species in an era of global change and how paying attention to birds and their conservation can benefit us as well. Following this is a 37-page Foreword on the "Ecological significance of bird populations" by Cagan Sekercioglu, which is an excellent, in-depth review of the roles or services of birds in ecosystems.

I should remind readers of the sheer size and mass of these volumes. They are heavy folios; this one is 31 x 24 x 5 cm and about 4 kg (almost nine pounds). As a friend said, you don't read them in bed. This volume has 55 color plates, 343 photographs, 733 distribution maps, and about 6,000 cited references.

Muscicapidae is an Old World family of rather large diversity (116 species). Platysteiridae, comprising just 30 species, is an African family. Rhipiduridae is a southern Asia and Australasian family of 44 species. Monarchidae, 97 species, occurs in Africa, southern Asia, Australasia, and Oceania. Regulidae is a family of just six species occurring across the world's northern temperate zones. Polioptilidae, 17 species, is a New World family, occurring from temperate North America to temperate South America. Cisticolidae is another large Old World family (145 species) and occurs from Africa and southern Europe through southern Asia and Australasia. Finally, the Sylviidae, the largest family treated in this volume at 270 species, occurs broadly through the Old World, with just one species, the Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*) making it into northwesternmost North America.

The family accounts are authoritative introductions richly illustrated with generally excellent photographs. The photo-

graphs often illustrate not just a bird but also an aspect of bird behavior. I really enjoyed the image (page 82) of a Fiscal Flycatcher (*Sigelus silens*) coughing out a pellet of chitinous insect material, and an excellent shot (page 94) of a Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) at its nest after stuffing a chick's mouth very full of butterfly. A Black-throated Wattle-eye (*Platysteira peltata*) returning to its nest (page 176) with a green lepidoptera larva is frozen just before landing, wings fully spread and braking and with its landing gear (legs and feet) about to make contact with the nest. And, on page 401, a Rufous-winged Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*) perched among what seems to be sedges as it carries a green larva shows how what seems rather awkward to us is no doubt a natural posture for many grassland birds. The aerial, underbranch foraging of an Arctic Warbler (page 533) also captures an important feeding behavior. In the Sylviidae family account there is a remarkable series of shots depicting various species feeding young, mostly at the nest (pp. 551–561).

A photograph of the Large-billed Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orinus*; page 574), rediscovered in Thailand in March 2006 and representing the first record since the species' discovery from northern India in 1867, gives the reader some of the sense of ornithology as a vibrant field in which much yet remains to be learned. Indeed, the volume contains three taxa described as recently as 2006.

For those like me who have difficulty now remembering which volume treats which families, often having to pull more than one tome from the shelf to figure that out, the publishers have put a "global index" online (<http://www.hbw.com>) that includes all of the scientific names and synonyms; searches can be made by English or other common names as well.

As with other volumes, family and species accounts do not have in-text citations of the primary literature. Instead, sources are clustered in brief at the end of each account. This can make it very difficult to pursue the primary literature on topics one

becomes fascinated with, especially in 83-page family accounts like that of the Sylviidae. The Preface and Introduction have the usual citation style (sources placed in the text where they were used), making the contrast and utility of the more traditional method immediately apparent.

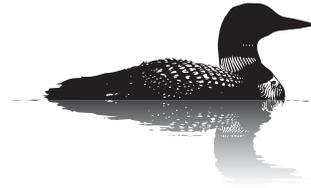
The species accounts are densely informative, with a smaller font and with very briefly delivered bursts of references given at the end of each. Each account has a small, detailed distribution map and is given in numeric order following the plate upon which it is illustrated. The species account sections are an interleaved series of plates and text, with each of the text entries having its own distribution map.

It is a very functional arrangement. I have little familiarity with the species in this volume, but I generally found the plates to be excellent.

In all, this volume continues on the excellent level one has come to expect of this massive publishing endeavor. Despite the single unfortunate choice in citation style for the series and the decision not to rectify it, this book is a delight, and those who are serious students of birds will be proud to have a copy to return to again and again.

Kevin Winker, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775.

NOTES OF INTEREST



RED PHALAROPE IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On 11 September 2004, I found a Red Phalarope at the eastern, or Minnesota, end of Salt Lake in Lac Qui Parle County. The phalarope was in its first fall, as indicated by the mix of juvenal and first-basic feathers that it was wearing.



Over the next four hours, I observed the phalarope for a total of about 40 minutes. Observations were made through a telescope at 60x from distances that ranged from 60 to 80 yards, and with satisfactory lighting — by walking parallel to the shore — I could change my location relative to the phalarope, and so adjust to the position of the sun.

With respect to size and shape, I noted the following. In bulk of body, the phalarope was about 70% as large as a Lesser Yellowlegs, several of which were nearby for direct comparison. Its bill was straight, and was as long as or only a little shorter than the front-to-back length of the head; the bill seemed stout for a phalarope, being similar in thickness to the bill of one of the nearby yellowlegs.

The bill was black, becoming yellowish on the proximal-most bit of the mandible. That bit of yellowish was hard to see, being most easily noted when the bird's head was turned so that the underside of the bill was visible.

I recorded the following plumage features: the head and neck were white except for (1) a black line that ran the length of the hindneck, (2) blackish crown-sides that extended rearward to fuse with the upper end of the black hindneck-line, (3) a blackish "phalarope mark" through either eye, and (4) a tawny buff wash on the chin, throat,

and foreneck. Like the midline of the hindneck, the uppermost back was blackish, but the rest of the back was a clear, medium-pale gray, as were the scapulars; between the folded wings, the center of the rump appeared obviously darker, a blackish gray color. The entire underbody was white, except for a gray smudge on the side of the chest and a few narrow gray streaks on the flanks. The part of the uppersurface of the tail that was visible appeared blackish, framed by the white of the under tail-covert feathers (which stuck up around the sides and rear of the tail like grass around the edges of a stepping-stone). Finally, the visible feathers of the upperwing were largely blackish, but with white margins to the tertials and, where the tips of the greater upper secondary-coverts met the bases of the secondaries, a white wingbar; when the phalarope flew, its wingbar looked broad — broader than that of a Least, Semipalmated, or Baird's sandpiper, and similar in breadth to that of a Sanderling.

While I observed it, the phalarope was never more than 10 or 15 yards from shore, and often it was within two or three feet, where the water was shallow enough for wading yellowlegs to walk past it. Yet it floated or swam throughout, dipping its bill into the water or, sometimes, briefly “tipping up” like a tiny dabbling duck.

This Red Phalarope was last reported on 13 September. To my knowledge, no one looked for it on the 14th, and observers who visited Salt Lake on the 15th could not find it.

There are 12 previous Red Phalarope records for Minnesota (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee 2004), but this is the first one for Lac Qui Parle County, and indeed, for the entire West-central region of Green and Janssen (1975). It is also the state's earliest fall record, preceding by ten days the second-earliest (Bardon 1993).

Philip Chu, Department of Biology, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321.

Literature Cited

- Bardon, K. 1993. Red Phalarope in Hennepin County. *The Loon* 65:208–209.
Green, J. C., and R. B. Janssen. 1975. Minnesota birds: where, when, and how many. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 217 pp.
Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. 2004. Checklist of the birds of Minnesota. Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Minneapolis. 24 pp.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT IN MINNEAPOLIS — On Wednesday, 9 May 2007, I spent my lunch break scouting some spots in Richfield and south Minneapolis in preparation for an attempt at a Hennepin County Big Day that weekend. My last stop was intended to be a quick visit to Diamond Lake in south Minneapolis where I hoped to find a variety of ducks and grebes, and maybe some terns.

I arrived at the Lutheran church on the southeast corner of the lake just before 1:00 P.M. and soon noticed a good variety of birds on a small sandy beach almost due west of me, about 100 yards away. Both Forster's and Caspian terns were present, along with five cormorants. As I quickly picked through the cormorants, one caught my attention by how short it was in comparison to the other perched cormorants.. I also noticed that the throat patch was dull and drab. The bottom of the throat pouch cut sharply back from the gape towards the tip of the bill — perhaps a 35 degree angle with the cutting edge of the bill — rather than the full pouch of the Double-crested Cormorant that forms about a 90 degree angle. As I studied the throat pouch, I also noticed that there was a very evident white edge to it on both sides of the face. By now I had forgotten about getting back to work as I was certain I was looking at a Neotropic Cormorant.

But then, all the cormorants suddenly took flight and headed towards the middle of



the lake. I couldn't track the birds due to the trees along the shore, so I quickly moved my scope to a better vantage point and scanned the middle of the lake. I was surprised to see not five but about two dozen cormorants actively feeding. Still, I thought it would be easy to refind the Neotropic, due to its smaller size and very dark plumage that showed no trace of pale feathering, which all four of the Double-crested Cormorants had shared.

I quickly picked through the cormorants, doubling back from time to time to be sure I didn't miss one that had gone underwater. No Neotropic. After about 15 minutes of this, I was beginning to think I had imagined the entire original sighting. Finally, I spotted a small, dark cormorant swimming towards me from the northeast corner of the lake. As I got better views, it proved to be the Neotropic, at which point I remembered that I had work to do (both a meeting for which I was going to be late and a responsibility to get word out to others).

Though it stayed for over a week, the bird was not consistently found. I saw it again only on 11 May, and missed it on our Big Day attempt the following day. Fortunately, many persistent birders did find it on this lake and several took identifiable photos. While the bird clearly spent much time elsewhere in the area, I don't believe anyone found it at any other location.

This is the fourth record and first spring observation of this species in Minnesota. The first sighting was an adult found by Karl Bardon at Lake Vadnais in Ramsey County. It stayed from 16 July through 4 August 1992 (*The Loon* 64:176–178). On 12 August 2003, Karl found a pair of adults, this time in Lac Qui Parle County. These birds stayed through 6 October (*The Loon* 76:46). The following year, Phil Chu and Peder Svingen discovered another adult in Big Stone County on 15 August (*The Loon* 77:185–186). The Minneapolis bird was last reported on 18 May 2007. **Paul Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419.**

WORM-EATING WARBLER IN LYON COUNTY — On 23 April 2007 at 3:41 P.M., I discovered a Worm-eating Warbler at Camden State Park, southwest of Marshall, Lyon County, Minnesota. The bird showed bold black stripes through each eye and two black stripes on the crown. It had an orangish-buff face and breast, brownish-olive upperparts including wings and tail, and buff underparts. It was observed for approximately eight minutes foraging on the ground, and perching in a boxelder tree at a height of eight feet, in a fairly open wooded area in the park. It then flew back into the woods and was not pursued. I am familiar with this species from observations in Florida, and also observed and submitted documentation for Kandiyohi County's first Worm-eating Warbler in May 1999. This observation is the first record of the species in Lyon County. **Ronald A. Erpelding, 701 SW 4th Street, Willmar, MN 56201.**



RED PHALAROPE IN BIG STONE COUNTY — Late in the afternoon on 28 May 2007, while conducting a shorebird survey in western Minnesota, I discovered a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) near Graceville, Big Stone County, Minnesota. I called several birders, but the only person who arrived in time to see the bird before dark was Ron Erpelding from Willmar. The phalarope was swimming near the shoreline and picking at the surface while “spinning” in tight circles. It made a couple of short flights and spent some time preening, but was otherwise feeding continuously. In flight, it showed an obvious white wing stripe and gave a “pip” call that was vaguely reminiscent of an Alder Flycatcher's call note. The bird had a thick, yellow bill with a dark tip. Its irides were black. It had a dark



gray (blackish) cap and lores, and a dark gray median hindnape stripe; the remainder of its nape, neck-sides, and foreneck were reddish, and contrasted with its whitish face. Its scapulars and back feathers were dark gray edged in gold. The upper wing-coverts and folded primaries were dark gray (blackish). Its breast and flanks were reddish, while the under tail-coverts were white with cinnamon blotches. I was unable to see its belly and legs, and did not get good looks at its rump and tail in flight. A photograph of this bird was published in *The Loon* 79:125. Other phalarope species were easily eliminated, since neither Wilson's (*P. tricolor*) nor Red-necked (*P. lobatus*) show reddish underparts. Minnesota has two previous spring records of this species: one in Clay County, 27–29 May 1977 (*The Loon* 49:172–173) and one at Duluth, 29 May 1999 (*The Loon* 71:166). **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.**

BLACK-NECKED STILT IN ROCK COUNTY — On 26 May 2007, during a Minnesota Birding Weekends field trip led by Kim Eckert, I spotted a Black-necked Stilt at the Hills sewage ponds, Rock County. The bird was immediately distinguishable because of the overall shape and coloration of a long-legged, slender-necked, delicate-looking shorebird, foraging near the back edge of the lagoons. Its striking black and white pattern included the black mask appearance with white “eyebrows” above each eye, a white throat with white on the face just surrounding the bill, and white breast and belly. The legs were bright pink. The bill was dark, long, and slender. The bird was obviously bigger and taller than the sandpipers, including Stilt Sandpipers, that were standing nearby. The bird was observed in flight as it took off for the wetland behind the lagoons and again when it flew back to the lagoons. Kim Eckert took several photos and submitted them along with his report. Steve Tanamachi also took photos, which I have not seen. I saw good numbers of this species during a trip to Arizona, and also saw three individuals at Spindler’s Pond, Steele County, in 2004. **Linda Sparling, 1909 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55454.**



WORM-EATING WARBLER IN CLAY COUNTY — On 6 May 2007 at 11:00 A.M., I discovered a Worm-eating Warbler 70–100 yards south of the toll bridge over the Red River in North Moorhead, Clay County, Minnesota. The identification was not difficult; I had, in fact, been hoping to find this species despite the very long odds. After watching the warbler for at least two minutes, I quickly went across the river to nearby Trefoil Park in Fargo to alert other birders. About 15 minutes later, I was joined by Dean Riemer and Patrick Beauzay. Dean saw the warbler shortly after his arrival, but there followed a rather lengthy period in which the warbler could not be found. Finally, Dean and Pat had very good views of the bird at about 1:00 P.M., which was the last known observation. When first observed, the warbler was perched about 20 feet above the ground in the mid-canopy and remained essentially still for about two minutes. It was refound later on the ground at times and mid-canopy at other times. The location in which it was found was very well sheltered from the wind.

Voice: The warbler was observed to make repeated, high, sharp chip notes reminiscent of the call notes of an Ovenbird. Singing was not positively confirmed. We were aware of descriptions of the song and its close similarity to the song of Chipping Sparrow. It was such a song that put me on alert just before I found the warbler, but this was probably happenstance. At least one Chipping Sparrow was observed singing in the area, which responded to a recorded song of Worm-eating Warbler!

Appearance: My initial impression viewing this bird from below was of a slightly large warbler with a distinctly buff throat and upper breast, and no streaking or mark-

ings on the underparts. Upon closer inspection, the warbler was observed to have a narrow black eyeline, which extended well behind the black eye; a broad, buff eyebrow; a long, pointed bill which tapered slightly from the base; a dusky white belly; dark brown-gray, unbarred wings; and a dark brown-gray tail that was folded and notched at the end. Only once and briefly, did the warbler nod its head down sufficiently to see the four black, parallel head stripes separated by buff that are especially diagnostic of this species. The habitat was riparian woodland corridor sheltered by a 20-foot high bank. A short distance from this corridor was open grassland and residential lawn. I once found this species in Fargo, North Dakota, 9 May 1993, and I am aware of two other sightings along the Red River on the Fargo side of the river during the 18 years that I have lived here. **Dennis P. Wiesenborn, 1607 Elm Street North, Fargo, ND 58102.**

SNOWY PLOVER AT PARK POINT, DULUTH — At approximately 8:00 A.M. on 30 May 2007, I began birding the lake side of Park Point, Duluth, Minnesota, near the Sky Harbor Airport. The fog was incredibly dense that morning. Upon reaching the shoreline, I noticed a small plover approximately 20 yards away. Initially, I thought the bird was a Semipalmated Plover, judging by its size. I obtained three exposures of the bird with a Minolta 5D camera, using a 400 mm lens. After I took the pictures, I reviewed the images and could see that it was not a Semipalmated Plover. The bill was too fine and all black. The breast-band was broken. The eye looked too dark, with no hint of an eye ring. The back of the bird was lighter brown than a Semipalmated Plover's would be. I approached the bird and noticed that there was another plover close by that looked similar. I then tried to photograph both birds without luck. They both took flight and quickly disappeared into the fog. One of the birds uttered a two syllable call note three times while flying away. I continued to bird the shoreline and did not see either plover again until about 10:00 A.M., when I came across a group of shorebirds, primarily Sanderlings with a few Dunlin, and refound one of the unfamiliar plovers. It foraged with the other birds but moved with great rapidity, feeding not only along the shoreline, but also moving well inland. I was closer to the bird now and the light was better. I took two more pictures of the bird before the entire group took flight and moved down the shore and out of sight into the fog. I reviewed the pictures and felt that the bird that I photographed was neither a Semipalmated nor a Piping Plover. Upon returning home, I posted a message on the MOU listserv and requested help identifying the bird. In short order, it was determined that the bird was a Snowy Plover! Initially, I felt that I may have seen two Snowy Plovers in my first encounter with the birds. Due to subsequent searches by others, however, it is highly probable that there was only one Snowy and one Piping Plover. **Shawn Zierman, 34 England Avenue, Duluth, MN 55808.**



WHOOPIING CRANES IN POLK COUNTY — On 9 April 2007, Ruth Anne Franke, Wildlife Technician for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) in Crookston, and I were in the southwest quarter of section 36 of the Pembina Trail Preserve, Polk County, dropping off our prairie-chicken viewing blind. It was a nearly windless day with a powder blue sky. The temperature was around 34 °F and the time was around 9:15 A.M. After a recent snow, the prairie was still partially snow-covered and the ground frozen. We were busy caching the blind at its traditional site when Ruth Anne said, "Look at that!" I turned toward the southwest and immediately saw a small flock of cranes. They were about 80 yards away and coming towards us. It was immediately evident that they were Whoop-



ing Cranes, not Sandhills. They were in the classical “off-set V” formation often used by cranes when flying from roost sites to feeding areas, or vice versa. I said to Ruth Anne, “Hey... those are Whoopers!” and she exclaimed, “...they sure are white!”. As the group came by us, 50 yards off the ground and about 60 yards away, they literally glowed white as the morning sunlight hit them. My eyes fixated on the lead bird for moments; its red “skull cap” was so vivid, as were the black primaries moving against the white bodies. Though I did not hear it, Ruth Anne noted that one of the birds gave a soft, short “*puurrring*” call. I have often heard similar calls from Sandhill Cranes. No other vocalizations were given. The formation had three adult birds (including the lead bird) on the east side of the “V” and four birds on the west side. The last two birds on the west side held some brown feathering. I could see them best after they were past us at 40 to 50 yards, and assumed that the last two birds were subadults. None of the birds were marked that either of us could see.

We simply watched in awe as they went by. Their wing beats had been consistent until they were 75+ yards north of us. At that time, they went into the flap and sail mode that cranes often use when eyeing a place to settle. They eventually flew out of sight towards U.S. Highway 2, about four miles north of our location. I imagined that they could hear the Tundra Swans and Giant Canada Geese field-feeding on chiseled corn on the south side of the highway; we went by these birds on our way to our next destination, but did not re-find the Whooping Cranes. At the time, there were very few migrant Sandhill Cranes in the area, which serves as a rest stop for 8,000 or more cranes during the month of April. This was the third time that I have seen Whooping Cranes in the wild (once at Aransas N.W.R., Texas, and another time, a lone bird with a large group of Sandhills near Fertile, Minnesota). I had never seen them on the wing before, and it was a great sighting. Ruth Anne had never seen this species before and was very excited. I have spent a great deal of time around Sandhill Cranes (mostly Greater Sandhills) and am very familiar with crane behavior. **Ross H. Hier, Minnesota D.N.R. Wildlife Office, 204 South Main, Crookston, MN 56716.**

Corrections to *The Loon*

Compiled by Peder H. Svingen and Anthony X. Hartzel

Volume 77

Page 245. Add **Lark Sparrow** 5/23–24 **Itasca** (near Bigfork) DRM.

Volume 78

Page 19. Change date to 6/20 **Clark's Grebe** Lac Qui Parle (Salt Lake) †BJU.

Page 209. Delete **Gray Jay** 3/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

Volume 79

Page 79. Add **Snowy Egret** 9/1 Stearns (2 near Paynesville) RAE.

Page 79–80. Add **GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS** 8/30 Traverse (Folsom Twp.) ph. BJU (*The Loon* 79:124).

Page 102. Change the date to 8/19 for **LARK BUNTING** in Lake.

Page 105. Delete undocumented report of **Great-tailed Grackle** in Lincoln.

Page 115. Change 2007 to 2006 in note of interest for **Rock Wren** in Rice.

Page 146. Add **Trumpeter Swan** reports throughout the season in Hubbard MAW.

Page 154–155. Add **Black-backed Woodpecker** Hubbard (Lake Alice Twp.) MAW.

Page 156. For **Varied Thrush** change number of South counties to 6.

Page 156. Change last date to 12/3 for **CURVE-BILLED THRASHER** in Itasca.

Page 158. Add **White-throated Sparrow** 1/13 Hubbard MAW.

Page 159. Add **GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH** 12/8 Wadena †RBW.

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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, DVD, 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.



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