

A small brown bird, possibly a wren, is perched on a thick, weathered branch. The bird has brown plumage with some lighter streaking on its wings and tail. It is facing left, with its beak slightly open. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. The overall scene is brightly lit, likely in a natural outdoor setting.

The Loon

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 81 – NUMBER 1

Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
10 Church Street Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0145

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

EDITOR OF THE LOON:

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE LOON:

Karl Bardon, Paul Budde, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Nancy Hertzelt, Robert Janssen, Ann Kessen, and Peder Svvingen

MOU MEMBERSHIPS:

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

EDITOR OF MINNESOTA BIRDING:

Barb Martin, 1658 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104; newsletter@moumn.org

MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:

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

MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mou@moumn.org

MOU WEB SITE:

<http://moumn.org>

MOU E-MAIL LISTSERVICE, MOU-NET:

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

MOU OFFICERS

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

VICE PRESIDENT: Donald E. Mitchell, 28217 Gadiant Lane, Red Wing MN 55066

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Rich Peet, 3245 Noble Avenue N, Golden Valley, MN 55422

TREASURER: Mark Lystig, 1741 Sartell Avenue, Eagan MN 55122

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

MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS: Kim Eckert, 1921 West Kent Road, Duluth MN 55812

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: Carl Greiner, 1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield MN 55923

CONSERVATION: Pam Perry, 11206 Natures Way, Brainerd, MN 56401

EDUCATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chris Benson, 1495 Sunset Avenue SE, Rochester, MN 55904

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

FIELD TRIPS: Bob Williams, 5254 W 95th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437

FINANCE: Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S, St. Louis Park MN 55424

MOU RECORDS AND RESEARCH: Peder Svvingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth MN 55812

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

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

RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATIONS: Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

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

SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND: Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

SEASONAL REPORTS: Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

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

AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Jane Cleave, Box 3091, Duluth, MN 55803-3091

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

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

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

MNBIRD - *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, carol@birdminnesota.com

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

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Bonnie Sample, 1195 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105

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

In Memoriam
Harrison Bruce Tordoff
8 February 1923 – 23 July 2008

Frank B. Gill

Reprinted from the April 2009 issue of The Auk, journal of The American Ornithologists' Union, 126:463–465

Harrison (Bud) Bruce Tordoff, Past President and Fellow of the AOU, died 23 July 2008 at age 85 in St. Paul, Minnesota. One of his many admirers, Donal O'Brien, observed that "This is a real case of a giant tree falling in the woods. Of course, when Bud fell, many wonderful things heard the crash, including the Ruffed Grouse and the woodcock."

All who knew Bud Tordoff will remember him as a special friend and extraordinary person. A natural and charismatic leader, he excelled in each of his many roles, as a fighter pilot in World War II, an ornithologist, a conservationist, and a sportsman. His good humor and enthusiasm were infectious. He was larger than life, and served many of us as a mentor or, more accurately, as a big brother. He was firm, independent, and humble. He treated everyone with respect and never with an unkind word, just good-natured appreciation of each individual's foibles. He lived by two simple rules: "Never be late," and "Have a setter by your side." And he had a weakness for McDonald's French fries, which he always shared with the hunting dogs — labs, Brittanies, and the English setters that were a central part of his life.

Bud was born on 8 February 1923 in Mechanicville, New York, the youngest of six children and the only son. As a teenager he chose to be called "Bud" rather than Harrison or "Harry." He grew up hunting and fishing in the Adirondacks with his father, a skilled mason. They raised pheasants for release and studied wildlife management, which Bud thought would be his chosen career until a freshly shot Black-throated Blue Warbler changed

his world view. Encouragement from Arthur A. Allen and his best friend Robert M. Mengel in his initial years at Cornell University (1940–1942) widened Bud's interest in birds and directed his career toward ornithology.

World War II interrupted Bud's training at Cornell but opened a major chapter of his life. He joined the U.S. Army Air Force, and earned his wings in 1943. He served two tours of duty in the European theater (1944–1945), where he flew 85 missions in support of daylight bombing raids against Germany and in support of missions for the Allied ground forces during the liberation of mainland Europe. He piloted with distinction and became a fighter ace in his P51D Mustang, which he named *Upupa epops*, the Hoopoe. Now fully restored, his plane is on display in Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Collection in Everett, Washington. Allen invited Captain Tordoff to see the completely restored *Upupa epops* in 2003. It was a thrilling and nostalgic event for Bud, who wrote on a plaque of his restored plane, "I flew this plane in combat, March & April 1945. It always brought me home." This chapter of Bud's life is documented online (www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjMn7QwMjQk and www.flyingheritage.com/TemplateHome-NoFlash.aspx?planeld=11#).

Bud returned from Europe to finish his undergraduate studies at Cornell University (1945–1946), married Jean Van Nostrand in 1947, and then completed his Ph.D. under Josselyn Van Tyne at the University of Michigan (1947–1950). His dissertation, "A Systematic Study of the Avian Family Fringillidae, Based on the Structure of the Skull," launched a life-long research interest in *carduelline* finches and

museum-based ornithology.

Bud held faculty positions at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KUNHM; 1950–1957), the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ; 1957–1970), and the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History (1970–1983). He retired from the department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at the University of Minnesota in 1991. In addition to his research and teaching contributions, his legacies at each of these institutions included remarkable specimens, great personal friendships, inspired students, and strong academic programs. He shunned formality — especially neckties.

Bud's years at Kansas fostered life-long friendships with R. M. Mengel, Glen E. Wolfenden, and Norman A. Ford, among others. Together, they set new standards for museum field work, as well as finding time for creative projects like hiding symbols of 1950s Kansas culture as time capsules in selected bird specimens. One of Bud's proud accomplishments in Kansas was convincing Arly Allen, a local printer, to publish *The Wilson Bulletin*, which Bud edited (1952–1954). From that beginning, Allen Press grew into a leading publisher of ornithological and other scientific journals. Bud's gifted hands produced study skins of over 320 bird specimens for the museum collections at Kansas. He considered his specimen of the Lark Sparrow (KUNHM #31995) to be his very best; Mark Robbins agrees that it "is truly mind-blowing in that every feather is in place."

Bud moved to the UMMZ in 1957 to replace his former professor Josselyn Van Tyne, who had died the previous fall. He then played a signature role in UMMZ's extraordinary graduate programs of the 1960s. Fueled by the flush of new federal support of science education and guided by a young faculty that integrated cell biology, physiology, and systematics into a powerful curriculum, Bud and his colleagues fledged a cohort of avian biologists. Together with Robert W. Storer, Bud opened doors and opportunities, taught us how to write (he was a terrific edi-

tor), nurtured us as teaching or research assistants, and engaged us as peers in the twice-daily Bird Department coffee-break discussions. He tutored our skinning skills, included us in his research on crossbills with William R. Dawson, and taught us how to divert undergraduates from patches of morel mushrooms spotted on class field trips.

It was at the University of Minnesota, however, that Bud reached his professional zenith. In the summer of 1970, Bud moved to the Twin Cities to become Director of the Bell Museum. While grieving over the untimely death of his beloved daughter Judy that fall, Bud distinguished himself in the museum directorship and, later, as a Professor. His commitments to academic excellence and to student development combined with his leadership skills to ignite the growth of a strong new Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. He raised a substantial endowment for the Dayton-Wilkie Fund that now supports graduate student research. Bud always led with clear thinking and common sense. He was also visionary and progressive. As AOU President, he sponsored the first poster presentation session at the annual meeting (1980) in Fort Collins, Colorado. He championed the *Birds of North America* project from beginning to end and raised funds to sustain it.

Bud reveled in outdoor activities, including hunting, hiking, fishing, canoeing, tennis, and ice hockey. With his long, easy stride he could cover vast distances on foot all day and often walked the legs off his less able companions. In time, his own knees gave out, so he had them replaced and kept walking. His tolerance of cold weather was enviable, but once when we were on a hunt he confided to me that he had just discovered flannel-lined chinos, which became a standard part of his hunting outfit. Above all, Bud loved to hunt upland gamebirds — grouse, woodcock, sharp-tailed, partridge, pheasant, and quail — he loved them all. Being afield in the fall with a shotgun and a setter was perhaps



his greatest joy. A terrific wing shot, he ranked high among Michigan and Minnesota grouse hunters. In the springtime he turned his skilled bird dogs to finding broods of woodcock to band the chicks. He yearned to hunt Montezuma Quail and, after several years of looking for them, he dropped two from his first covey rise. Admiring a magnificent cock bird in his hand, he paused deeply, and he said quietly, "This is the best moment of my [hunting] life since I killed my first Ring-necked Pheasant as a young boy." North Dakota sharp-taileds also mesmerized Bud each fall. His favorite pilgrimage in his later years was to walk with his son Jeff and other friends the scenic hills of Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, to move in on Penny's (his last dog's) distant point, and then to hear the gobbling of rising sharp-taileds. His dogs, especially his setters, evoked awe from the most expert gun-dog colleagues. Among other feats, Molly learned to point Yellow Rails in the marshes of northern Minneso-

ta, providing the captured birds to graduate student Scott Stalheim for his dissertation research. After Penny died, Bud confessed that he was lonely without a dog beside him on long drives, which was his favorite way to travel.

Beyond his accomplishments as a professor and sportsman, above all Bud was a dedicated and effective conservationist. Blending ornithology and wildlife conservation, he engaged the birding and sportsman communities with his academic world, or perhaps it was the other way around. He worked closely with Harold F. Mayfield and the Michigan Audubon Society on behalf of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. He served as the first Chairman of the Board of the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (1975-1977) and collaborated with Carrol Henderson of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to build the state's pioneering nongame program. At the top of the list of his many contributions was the restoration of Peregrine



Falcons in the Upper Mississippi region. Bud had a passion for Peregrine Falcons, which he thought stemmed from his own experiences as a fighter pilot. He devoted most of his retirement years to them, and his colleagues enjoyed watching him enjoy “his” Peregrines. Bud raised substantial funds to support the Midwest Peregrine Restoration Project, banded hundreds of nestlings with his gentle hands while telling them to “be good,” built a huge network of collaborators, and monitored the status of individual birds on city buildings and river cliffs until the day he died. Season after season, he tracked the fledging success, returns, and productivity of his falcons and then tended a large database that tracked the growth statistics of this restored population. From 1981 to present, Bud and his collaborators hacked 1,286 Peregrine chicks at \$2,500 each for a total cost of \$3,215,000, one-fifth the cost of a modern F-16 fighter plane. They established a fully sustainable population of 128 breeding pairs in the Upper Mississippi region. The future of the program as a research initiative is now the mission of

the Midwest Peregrine Society (www.midwestperegrine.org), which is supported in part by donations to Bud’s memory, at his family’s request.

Bud’s rich life was shortened by Alzheimer’s disease. When he left us, we all looked skyward with appreciation and good memories, and the peregrines certainly said “thanks” in their own way. Paul Allen saluted him with a special event over Everett, Washington, with a “missing plane” formation of P51 Mustangs. In September 2008, at the University of Minnesota, his family and friends organized a touching celebration of his life that ended with his favorite song, “Wagon Wheels.” Bud is survived by Jean, his wife of 62 years, and by sons Jeffrey Paul and James Scott of Minneapolis–St. Paul.

I thank F. Cuthbert, J. Fallon, N. Ford, J. R. Jehl, Jr., S. A. Lanyon, D. O’Brien, R. and L. Peifer, P. Redig, M. A. Robbins, and Jean, Jim, and Jeff Tordoff, all of whom made substantial contributions to drafts of this memorial.

P.O. Box 428, Rushland, PA 18956.

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 7 December 2008. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Kim Eckert (alternate), Bruce Fall (alternate), Anthony Hertzell (alternate), Ann Kessen, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chair). In accordance with its policy on term limits, the Committee reviewed nominations for membership and elected Anthony Hertzell as a regular member, replacing Drew Smith. Bob Dunlap was elected as an alternate member.

Among the items on the agenda was discussion of policies and procedures related to the 2009 revision of the Minnesota checklist. The Committee voted to adopt a threshold of 9–1 for acceptance of first state records, replacing the previous requirement of 10–0, and to treat records of Accidental species lacking physical evidence of occurrence in the state (A_s) the same way, i.e., A_s records will be held for discussion at a meeting and a vote of either 9–1 or 10–0 will be needed for acceptance.

The status of all species on the checklist was reviewed by the Committee this past year and 16 species were identified for further discussion at the December meeting. All ten members discussed and voted on the status of these species, and the following changes were endorsed:

From Regular to Casual (1 species)

- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

From Casual to Regular (3 species)

- Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)
- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*)

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

From Casual to Accidental (1 species)

- Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

From Accidental to Casual (11 species)

- Brant (*Branta bernicla*)
- Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)
- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)
- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)
- Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
- Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Also discussed were a potential first state record of Long-billed Murrelet and the origin of two previously accepted records of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Results of votes on these three records, and other records voted on by mail, are listed below.

The following records were voted on October – December 2008 and were Accepted (also see record #2008-039, which was Accepted at the genus level).

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 1 August 2004, Otre Township, Big Stone County (recirculated record #2004-108, identification previously Accepted 5–2, origin Accepted with 0 subscript, vote 10–0).

This record was recirculated for discus-



Record 2008-037, Black-necked Stilt, 2 June 2004, Lake Osakis, Todd County. Photo by Gary Nuechterlein.



Record 2008-054, Red Phalarope, 22 October 2008, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

sion and vote on origin. The o subscript indicates that the chances of natural origin are about the same as the chances of being an escape or release from captivity.

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 17 October 2005, Rendsville Township, Stevens County (recirculated record #2005-073, identification previously Accepted 7-0, origin Accepted 10-0).

This record was recirculated for discussion and vote on origin. Acceptance without a subscript indicates assumption of natural origin.

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 2-8 November 2008, North Anderson Lake, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County (record #2008-058, vote 7-0).

Adult male, photographed.

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 1 November 2008 - 8 March 2009, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2008-057, vote 7-0).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 17-19 November 2008, Lake Ripley, Meeker County (record #2008-062, vote 7-0).

Both goldeneye records were of adult males, and both were photographed.

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 22-28 August 2008, near Madelia, Watonwan County (record #2008-041, vote 7-0).

Subadult, photographed.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 9 September 2008, immature at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2008-044, vote 7-0).

Another record of this species at Hawk Ridge observed the previous day is being recirculated.

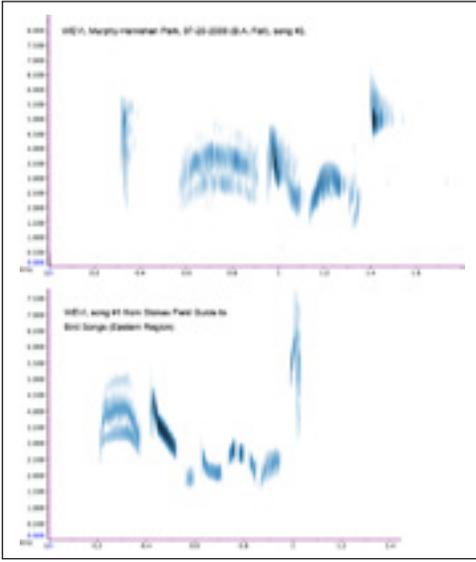
- Mississippi Kite, 17 September 2008, immature at Mounds View, Ramsey County (record #2008-047, vote 7-0).

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 2 June 2004, Lake Osakis, Todd County (record #2008-037, vote 7-0).

Diagnostic images confirming this four-year-old record surfaced when this site was nominated as an Important Bird Area.

- Black-necked Stilt, 11 May 2008, near Willmar, Kandiyohi County (record #2008-056, vote 6-1).

- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 22 October 2008, immature at Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2008-054,



Record #2008-036, sonogram of White-eyed Vireo (top), 20 July 2008, Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott County. Produced by Bruce Fall.



Record 2008-049, Rock Wren, 19 September 2008, Inspiration Peak, Otter Tail County. Photo by Dan and Sandy Thimgan.

vote 7–0).

Serendipitously photographed along the breakwater at the entrance to Agate Bay.

- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), 7 September 2008, two juveniles at Walker wastewater treatment ponds, Cass County (record #2008-048, vote 7–0 for photographed bird, vote 6–1 for the second individual).

- Sabine's Gull, 12 September 2008, juvenile photographed at Sleepy Eye wastewater treatment ponds, Brown County (record #2008-046, vote 7–0).

- Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*), 4 November 2008, Lake Superior, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2008-059, vote 10–0 for identification; physical evidence also accepted, vote 9–1).

First state record. All ten members vote on potential first state records and physical evidence; the latter vote requires a simple majority for acceptance and refers to whether or not the species can be identified from the physical evidence alone — in this case, photographs taken by Anthony Hertzell and Sparky Stensaas.

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 19 July – 7 September 2008, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Scott County (record #2008-036, vote 7–0).

In addition to diagnostic photographs and written descriptions from multiple observers, Bruce Fall submitted sonograms of the bird's vocalizations — perhaps the most thoroughly documented record of this species in the state.

- White-eyed Vireo, 14–17 November 2008, Linnaeus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Nicollet County (record #2008-061, vote 7–0).

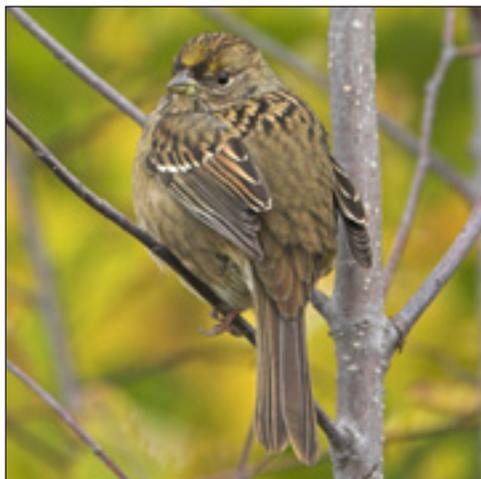
Remarkably late and one of the few Minnesota records of a juvenile. Photographed.

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 19 September 2008, Inspiration Peak, Otter Tail County (record #2008-049, vote 7–0).

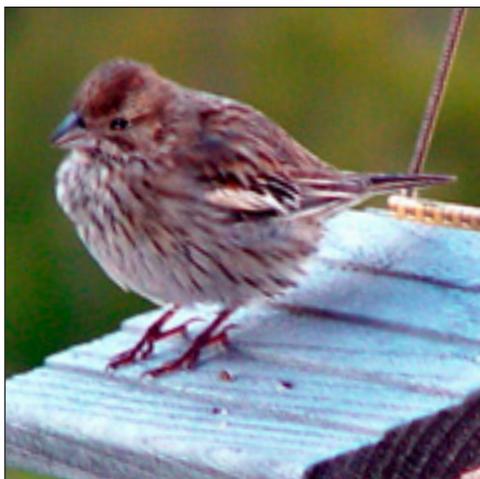
Photographed.

- Rock Wren, 25 September – 2 October 2008, Grand Marais Tourist Campground, Cook County (record #2008-050, vote 7–0).

- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), 9 September 2008, Duluth,



Record 2008-053, Golden-crowned Sparrow, 17 October 2008, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.



Record 2008-051, Lark Bunting, 14 September 2007, Gunflint Trail, Cook County. Photo by Jay Hamernick.

St. Louis County (record #2008-045, vote 7-0).

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 14 September 2007, Gunflint Trail about 15 miles north of Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2008-051, vote 7-0).

A diagnostic image was submitted one year later.

- Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), 16-18 October 2008, immature at Pelican Island, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2008-053, vote 7-0).

A remarkable record of this species in that the bird was refound even though it was not coming to a feeder; observers were granted permission to travel by boat to this privately owned island location. Photographed.

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 5 December 2008, near Maple Lake, Corrina Township, Wright County (record #2008-063, vote 7-0).

Interior form, photographed.

The following records were voted on October - December 2008 and were Not Accepted. (Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convinc-

ing 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.)

- Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), 25 October 2008, Minnesota Point, St. Louis County (record #2008-055, vote 1-6).

- Yellow-billed Loon, 29 October 2008, Father Hennepin State Park, Mille Lacs County (record #2008-060, vote 0-7).

Neither of these records was supported by field notes or sketches, and the diagnostic field marks of Yellow-billed Loon were not described in either case. Distant photographs of the bird in St. Louis County, obtained through a spotting scope suggested Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*).

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 17 May 2008, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2008-039, vote 2-5 for first individual, vote 1-6



Record 2008-063, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 5 December 2008, Corrina Township, Wright County. Photo by Stan Tekiela.

for second individual).

The description did not eliminate the possibility of a hybrid between this species and Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). In accordance with procedure adopted in December 2006 (*The Loon* 79:51), this documented record was automatically Accepted as *Plegadis* ibis sp.

- White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), 29 August 2008, Ortonville, Big Stone County (record #2008-052, vote 2–5).

Documentation was submitted more than a month after the sighting and was not supported by field notes or sketches. This species' diagnostic black wrist spots were not noted, even though the bird was observed in flight for three to four minutes from distances as close as 100 yards.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melano-corys*), 3 August 2008, Florida Township, Yellow Medicine County (record #2008-038, vote 2–5).

Though possibly correctly identified, the bird was only briefly seen (two to five seconds) from an estimated distance of 100 yards and optics were not used. The description did not eliminate Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) or blackbirds with white wing patches.

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 25–27 May 2008, Sand Lake, Lake County (record #2008-040, vote 2–5).

Field notes or sketches were not taken at the time of observation, and documentation was submitted three months after the observation. The possibility of a hybrid between this species and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*P. ludovicianus*) was not considered.

- Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*), 5 September 2008, near Kettle River Scientific and Natural Area, Pine County (record #2008-042, vote 3–4).

This may well have been correctly identified by an experienced observer, but the majority felt that female or immature Purple Finch (*C. purpureus*) was not conclusively eliminated. The identification of adult male Cassin's Finch is relatively straightforward, but unlike the first state record of this species, a female or imma-

ture which was photographed and studied at close range for extended amounts of time over a period of three days at a feeder (*The Loon* 60:3–9), this apparent female was observed through binoculars for only four minutes from up to 50 meters away. Subtle characteristics used to separate these species, including bill length and shape, would be difficult to ascertain at this distance, and no other species were nearby for comparison. The bird did not vocalize and a white eye-ring was not noted.

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. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Dave Bartkey, Joshua Christian, Philip Chu, Shawn Conrad, Dan Donnelly, Diana Doyle, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Dan Floren, Ben Fritchman, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertzell, Robert Janssen, Paul Jantscher, Don Kienholz, Jan and Larry Kramer, Andrew Longtin, Jim Mattsson, Jim Otto, Nathan Schirmacher, Brian Smith, Drew Smith, Linda Sparling, Peder Svingen, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Molly Tranel, Steve Weston, Linda Whyte, Ben Wieland, Dale Yerger, and Shawn Zierman. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc/index.html>>. Summary: 29 records voted on — 22 Accepted including 2 votes on origin, 7 Not Accepted.

2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

The Summer Season

1 June through 31 July 2008

Ann E. Kessen¹, Peder H. Svingen², and Paul E. Budde³

The summer season of 2008 was not distinguished by any spectacular sightings, as has been the case in some recent summers, but it nonetheless had its share of good birds, starting with a late **Greater White-fronted Goose** that was still present in St. Louis County on 1 June. A **Cackling Goose** found in Itasca County in early June provided Minnesota's first summer record for this species. An adult male **Cinnamon Teal** was reported from Lac Qui Parle County in late June. Unusual away from Lake Superior was the appearance of a female **Long-tailed Duck** at Agassiz N.W.R. on 1 June.

Red-throated Loons were observed off Park Point throughout much of the season, with 14 July being the latest spring/summer date on record. Another unusual sighting off Park Point was **Western Grebe**, observed on two dates in June. Also in June, a **Golden Eagle** made an unexpected appearance in Cass County. Also exceptional were the **Franklin's Gulls** found in Duluth in early June. **Ring-billed Gulls** again bred on Interstate Island W.M.A., with 10,000 breeding pairs estimated. A **White-winged Dove** showed up at Grand Portage, providing the 15th record of this species for the state. The **Burrowing Owl** found in Clay County in the spring was still present in early June.

In July, a **White-eyed Vireo** in Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park provided a new county record. Also in July, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** showed up along the St. Croix River near Otisville. The season saw **Hooded Warblers** found for the first time in Isanti and Pennington counties. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at three locations in June; the individual in Baker Park Reserve lingered, provid-

ing good looks for many observers. Two mid-summer reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** — both photographed — were rather unusual. Finally, a **Blue Grosbeak** was found at Louisville Swamp, providing a first Scott County record.

Weather Summary: The summer started with temperatures that were close to or slightly above average in most regions of the state. The exceptions were found in many areas of western Minnesota, where mean temperatures were as much as 2° F below average, and southeastern Minnesota, where mean temperatures in many places were about 2° F above average. Rainfall during June was abundant in most parts of the state. The Southeast was noteworthy for recording as much as three inches more rainfall than normal. The central and east-central parts of Minnesota, however, fell short of average rainfall amounts.

Weather conditions were more consistent statewide during July. With the exception of the Northeast, average temperatures were close to or higher than normal in most places. The Twin Cities area saw an average July temperature 2.4° F above the mean. Drought conditions prevailed during July for most of the state. The only exception was the Northeast, which enjoyed approximately normal rainfall.

Undocumented reports: **Greater White-fronted Goose** 7/2 Hennepin; **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 6/14 Pine; **Western Tanager** 6/4 Faribault.

Maps: Maps are included in each account for those species with at least one breeding record. A county filled in with black indicates confirmed breeding while medium gray indicates probable breeding. Light gray shows occurrence in a county.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to all those

who submitted summer season reports and breeding records. Their data make this report possible. Special thanks to Steve Stucker and the Minnesota DNR for providing MCBS data and to Jerry Niemi and Jim Lind for sharing NRRI data. Thanks also go to Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for providing transcripts of weekly birding reports, to Paul Budde for compiling early and late

dates, and to Dave Cahlander for his work on the online seasonal report. Anthony Hertzell and Dave Cahlander produced the maps used in this report.

¹ **31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy, MN 55079;**

² **2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812;**

³ **4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419.**

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 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@aonbenfield.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [1 North] One lingering spring migrant reported 6/1 St. Louis DBM.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [2 South] Observed 6/1, 7/18, 7/19, 7/26 Lac Qui Parle ph. BJU, RPR, PCC, 6/14, 7/19 Lac Qui Parle (individual with injured left wing, Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, 7/16 Olmsted RBW.

Cackling Goose (*Branta butchinsii*) — [1 North] First summer record **6/5** Itasca MCBS, ph. MSS.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [26 North, 41 South] Found in all regions of state. High count of 523 found 7/26 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. First county breed-



ing records for *Mille Lacs* DPG, *Pine* RBJ, *Isanti* DPG.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [3 South] Seen 6/7, 6/21 Sherburne (2 at Sherburne N.W.R.) JPE, RBJ, 6/10 Carver (MN Valley N.W.R.) CRM, 7/15–20+ Dakota (Schaar's Bluff) ph. †JPM, JLO, ADS, ALD, LS.



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [15 North, 10 South] Observed in all northern and central regions. High count of 85 seen 6/6 Stearns STW. First county breeding record for *Meeker* LS.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [24 North, 36 South] Reported from all regions of the state. High count of 160 observed in Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) RBJ.



Northern Shoveler (*Anas chlypeata*) — [8 North, 18 South] Seen in all regions except Northwest and Southeast. First county breeding records from Grant LS, Brown LBF, DBM.



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [3 North, 10 South] Seen primarily in Central and West-central counties, plus Cass in North-central and Brown and Blue Earth in South-central. First county breeding record for Sibley DAB.



Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [3 North, 5 South] Found in St. Louis, Polk, Traverse, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Nicollet. First county nesting record for Polk RPR.



American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [4 North, 2 South] Observed 6/1 Aitkin LS, JMJ, 6/1, 6/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/5 St. Louis SES, 6/14, 6/16 Itasca MCBS, 6/15 St. Louis FKB, 6/17 Stearns PCC, 6/18 St. Louis (2) SLF, 6/21 Cass BAW, 6/22 St. Louis (4) SLF, 6/22 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 6/25 Lac Qui Parle RPR.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [3 North, 2 South] Found 6/5, 6/7 Cook RBJ, JEB, JWH, 6/5 Lake SES, 6/22 St. Louis (3) SLF, 6/22 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 6/29 Scott DFN, PEJ.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [27 North, 39 South] Reported from all regions of state. First county breeding record for Chisago LS.



Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [8 North, 10 South] Observed in all regions except Northwest, Southwest, East-central.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [2 North, 7 South] Reported from Traverse, Douglas, Stevens, Pope, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Wright, Olmsted.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [7 North, 19 South] Observed in all regions except East-central, Southeast. First county breeding record for Sibley LBF.



Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [18 North, 13 South] Seen in all regions except Southwest, Southeast. First county breeding record for Mille Lacs DPG.



Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) — [16 North, 31 South] Observed in all regions except Northwest and Southeast. First county breeding record from Sibley DAB.



Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [2 North] Reported 6/1 St. Louis SLF, 7/1 Itasca MCBS, ph. KJB, EMG.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [6 North, 8 South] Seen in all regions except Northwest, East-central.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) — [1 South] Only report 6/22 Lac Qui Parle County (adult male, Walter Township.) †PCC.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [1 North] Reported 7/13 Cook (2 on Lake Superior, 7 miles east of Grand Marais)

†HFH.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [2 North] Found 6/1 Marshall (female-plumaged individual at Farnes Pool, Agassiz N.W.R.) ph. BSt, BrS, 6/1 Cook (2, Good Harbor Bay) WCM.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [3 North, 1 South] Seen 6/5 Cook RBJ, 6/10 Itasca MCBS, 6/14 Pope ph. DPG, 7/28 Cass BAW.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [12 North] Observed in northern regions plus Mille Lacs.



Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [15 North, 25 South] Reported from all regions except Northwest. First county breeding record for Grant LS.



Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [8 North, 3 South] Seen in North-central, Northeast, plus Hennepin, Dakota (injured bird), Chisago.



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [5 North] Most reports since 1993. Seen 6/1 Cass (7, Pelican Island) BAW, 6/1 St. Louis SLF, 6/5, 6/7 Cook RBJ, JEB, JWH, 6/7 St. Louis (2) PHS, 6/15 St. Louis (7) PHS, 7/4 Beltrami PBD, and 7/4 Lake JWL.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [6 North, 26 South] Seen in all southern and central regions plus Itasca, St. Louis, Carlton. First county breeding record for Sibley MSw.



Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [11 South] Found in all southern and central regions except East-central, Southeast.



Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [11 North, 40 South] Reported from all central and southern regions plus Wadena, Beltrami, Itasca.



Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [15 North, 6 South] Detected in central and eastern regions except South-central, plus Becker.



Spruce Grouse (*Falci pennis canadensis*) — [1 North] Reported 6/26 St. Louis (seen by Dee Kruder along Norway Trail) *vide* JWL. Spring breeding record from Lake of the Woods (5/15 MHK).



Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [4 North, 1 South] Found 6/1 Aitkin LS, JMJ, 6/2 St. Louis KRE, 6/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/14 Pine HHD, LS, CRM, 6/23 Polk *vide* JMJ.

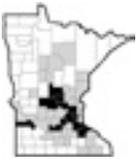
Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [3 North, 1 South] Seen 6/1 Becker *vide* JMJ, Clay *vide* JMJ, 6/3 Lac Qui Parle (presumably released birds) BJU, 6/6 Clay (9) CMB, (15) KRE, 6/23 Polk *vide* JMJ.



Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [10 North, 32 South] Observed in all regions except Northwest. New county breeding records for Morrison MRN, Benton DBM,



Common Loon, 26 June 2008, Lake Mille Lacs, Mille Lacs County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.



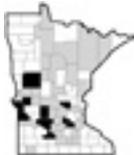
Sibley JCC.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) — [2 North] Most reports ever. Observed 6/5, 6/9 Cook (seen by Jan Green at Taconite Harbor) *vide* JWL, 6/8 Cook (location?) RBJ, St. Louis (9) ph. MSS, PHS, 6/15 St. Louis (4) PHS, 6/22, 6/26 St. Louis (2) †PHS, 7/6 St. Louis FKB, 7/12 St. Louis (2) †PHS, 7/14 St. Louis (6, latest spring/summer date on record) †PHS, ph. BCM. St. Louis County records all off Park Point.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [24 North, 18 South] Record high number of reports. Found in all northern and central regions plus Waseca. First county breeding record for *Dakota* ADS, JPM.

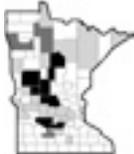


Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [15 North, 25 South] Found in all regions except Northwest, Southeast. First county breeding record for *Renville* DWK.



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — [1 North] Seen 6/8 St. Louis (2, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 7/15 St. Louis (4) LS, 7/27 St. Louis (2, Floodwood W.T.P.) SWe.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [13 North, 17 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest, Southeast.



Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [3 North, 9 South] Observed in West-central, Central, South-central plus 6/8 **St. Louis** (Park Point, Duluth) †PHS, Roseau. First



county breeding records from *Rice* FVS, *Waseca* JPS.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [3 North, 10 South] Found in all regions of the state except the Southwest. All north reports: 6/27 Norman RBW, 7/13 Wadena PJB, 7/27 St. Louis (2, Floodwood W.T.P.) SWe.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [6 North, 16 South]



Seen in all regions except East-central and Southeast. DNR survey found 550 nests at Lake Osakis in Douglas Co. Unusual location 6/8, 6/22 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) MSS, †PHS.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [26 North, 40 South] Seen throughout state.



Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkia*) — [1 North] Reported 6/9 Douglas (Lake Osakis) MRN.



Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) — [6 North, 33 South] Observed in all southern and central regions plus Cass, Wadena.



Western Grebe X Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus* sp.) — [1 North] Mixed species pair with one chick 6/10 Douglas (Lake Osakis) MRN. Probable hybrid mid-July to 7/23 Cass (Leech Lake, Kabekona Narrows) †JPr, GPr, ph. †BAW, DAY.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [1 North] Only report: 6/8 Douglas BWF.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [2 North, 8 South] Most reports since 1993. Found in Grant, Douglas, Stevens, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Jackson, Brown, Fillmore. High count 7/6 Lac Qui Parle (10, Garfield Twp.) PCC.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [17 North, 35 South]



Seen statewide. Unusual report 6/1 Carlton (124, flying north in formation about 300 feet high) RPR. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (929) PCC, PHS.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [20 North, 29 South] Observed in all regions of state.



Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [14 North, 36 South] Observed in all regions except Northwest.



Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [3 North, 15 South] Found in all central regions plus St. Louis, Nicollet, Fillmore.



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [12 North, 11 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest, Southeast.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — [1 South] Observed 7/1 Kandiyohi (Atwater) DMF.



Prairie Falcon, 29 July 2008, Longville, Cass County. Photo by Ben A. Wieland.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [24 North, 41 South] Seen statewide.



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [16 North, 14 South] Record high number of reports. Found in all regions except Southwest, South-central. First county breeding record for *Stearns* MDN.

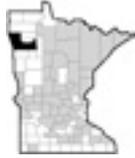


Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [24 North, 32 South] Observed in all regions except Southwest. First county



breeding record for *Carlton* DCr, *Stevens* RPR, *Freeborn* AEB.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [20 North, 28 South] Seen throughout state.



Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [8 North, 1 South] Observed in North-central and Northeast plus Pine, Ramsey (individual remaining since winter) AXH.



Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [10 North, 29 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast, Southwest.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [2 North] Reported 6/5, 6/11 Itasca MCBS, 6/8 Pine MCA.



Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [5 North, 11 South] Found in all central regions plus Itasca, St. Louis.



Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — [17 North, 20 South] Most reports ever. Seen in all regions except Southwest.



Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [1 North, 8 South] Seen in Traverse, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Washington, Dakota, Nobles, Waseca, Steele, Mower.



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [22 North, 41 South] Reported throughout state.



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [1 North] One immature bird observed 6/5 St. Louis †KRE.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [1 North] One adult reported without details 6/21 Cass MRN.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [22 North, 38 South] Observed throughout state.



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [9 North, 3 South] Seen in North-central and Northeast, plus Pope, Hennepin, Ramsey.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [4 North, 15 South] Reported from all regions except West-central, Southwest.



Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) — [1 North] Juvenile found 7/29 Cass (Longville W.T.P.) ph. †BAW.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [3 North] Reported 6/8, 6/27, 6/29 Cass BAW, MaH, RBW, 6/9 Aitkin (3) ph. KRE, 6/16, 6/23, 6/26, 6/30, 7/1 Itasca MCBS.



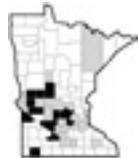
Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) — [15 North, 21 South] Record high number of reports. Found in all regions except Southwest. First county breeding record for Dakota ADS, JPM.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) — [17 North, 31 South] Most reports ever. Observed in all regions except Northwest. First county breeding record for Todd MRN.



Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) — [1 South] Only record: 6/23 Meeker (East Lake Ripley) DMF.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [6 North, 24 South] Seen in all regions except Northwest. First county breeding records for Douglas MRN, Renville DWK, Nobles BTS.



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) — [22 North, 17 South] Found in all regions except Southwest. First county breeding records for St. Louis SES, Carlton DCr, Douglas JPE, Scott RPR, Le Seuer DAB.



[WHOOPING CRANE] (*Grus americana*) — [2 South] Observed 6/1 Freeborn (2 released birds south of Albert Lea) ph. RPR, 7/5 Cottonwood (4 released birds seen by Gary Anderson southeast of Windom) *vide* RPR.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — [3 North, 1 South] Northbound

migrants 6/1 Cass BAW, 6/1 St. Louis (2) PHS, (2) SLF, 6/1 Traverse (4) RBW, 6/1, 6/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/6 St. Louis (1) MLH, PHS.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [2 South] Late south migrants 6/2 Big Stone (3) BJU, 6/8, 6/17 Lac Qui Parle (the latter in alternate plumage) BJU. One in mostly basic plumage 6/22, 7/19, 7/26 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS probably summered south of its breeding range.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [6 North, 11 South] Record high number of reports. Reported from all regions except Southwest. Northbound migrants 6/5 Itasca (2) EEO, **6/21** St. Louis (Duluth) PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/24 Marshall (1) JMJ; early south 7/13 Lac Qui Parle (8) PCC, 7/14 Nicollet (1) CRM.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) — No reports.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [23 North, 44 South] Observed throughout state. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (471) PCC, PHS. First county breeding records from *Norman* AXH, *Sibley* DAB.



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [1 North, 2 South] Found 6/1 Becker (seen by Scott Kahan, Hamden Slough N.W.R.) *fide* JMJ, 6/6 Stearns STW, 7/18, 7/25, 7/31 Big Stone (6) PHS, RBJ.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [16 North, 28 South] Reported from all regions. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (36) PCC, PHS. First county breeding record for *Pine* RBJ.



Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [5 North, 20 South] Seen in all regions except Northwest, Southwest. Early south migrants (see **The Loon** 74:65–82) 6/26

Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 7/1 Brown (2) BTS and Meeker (1) DMF. High count 7/19 Lac Qui Parle (23) PCC, PHS.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [4 North, 15 South] Found in all regions except Southwest. Southbound migrants: early north 7/6 Carlton JWH; early south 6/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High count (but see fall report) 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (32) PCC, PHS.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [2 North, 3 South] Found 6/1 St. Louis PHS, SLF, 7/15 Cass BAW, 7/17–18 Brown (1) ph. BTS, 7/22 McLeod DMF, 7/25–26 (max. 17 at Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, DBM, 7/31 Carver SWE.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [7 North, 21 South] Found in all regions except Northwest, Southwest. Late south 6/8 Lac Qui Parle PCC. Southbound migrants 6/21 Kandiyohi (2) DMF, 6/22 Lac Qui Parle (7) PCC. Single juveniles arrived 7/25 Big Stone PHS, 7/26 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (492) PCC, PHS.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [5 North, 10 South] Seen in all regions except North-central, Southeast.



Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) — [3 North, 4 South] Reported from Polk, Clay, Becker, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Stearns, Meeker, and 6/17 **Aitkin** WEN. High count 6/6 Clay (31 at Felton Prairie) CMB. First juvenile 7/6 Lac Qui Parle PCC. First county breeding record for *Stearns* RPR.



Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) — [3 North] Northbound migrants 6/1 Cass (15) BAW, 6/1, 6/4–10 St. Louis (max. 4) m.ob. Presumed southbound migrant 7/11 Douglas JPE.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis (Duluth): 6/1 Park Point (3) DCr, 6/1 40th Ave. West (1) SLF, 6/4–6 Park Point (2) PEJ, EEO, PHS.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — [2 North, 2 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU; late north 6/6 St. Louis (85 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS. High count away from Duluth 6/1 Cass (15 at Pelican Is., Leech Lake) BAW. Southbound migrants: 7/13, 7/19 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, 7/15, 7/16 Brown (2) BTS.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [6 North, 18 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest. Northbound migrants: late south 6/14 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC; late north 6/10 Cass RBW. Southbound migrants: early south 7/6 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, 7/10 McLeod DMF. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (331) PCC, PHS.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [7 North, 23 South] Found in all regions except Northwest, Southwest. Northbound migrants: late south 6/9 Dakota SWe; late north 6/8 Beltrami DPJ. Southbound migrants: early north 6/28 Beltrami HHD, CRM, JJS; early south 7/1 Brown (5) BTS. High count 7/13 Lac Qui Parle (396) PCC. First juvenile 7/25 Big Stone PHS.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [5 North, 6 South] Seen in Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Douglas, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Stearns, Wright, Blue Earth. Late south 6/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/24 Kandiyohi MJB. Late north 6/10 Cass RBW. Only southbound migrant (possibly a non-breeding adult): 7/18 Big Stone †PHS.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [2 North, 11 South] Observed in all regions except Northwest, Southwest, Southeast. Northbound migrants: late south 6/8 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC; late north 6/4 St. Louis (1) EEO. Southbound migrants: early north 7/13 Cass (4) BAW; early south 7/8 Sherburne ASC, 7/9 Nicollet RBW.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [4 North, 17 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest. Northbound migrants: late south 6/14 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC; late north 6/6 St. Louis PHS. Southbound migrants: early south 7/6 Hennepin ALD and Lac Qui Parle PCC. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (245) PCC, PHS.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) — [2 North, 8 South] Most reports ever. Found in St. Louis, Douglas, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Renville, Wright, Hennepin, Brown, Blue Earth, Steele. High count 6/1 Wright (30) †DWK. Northbound migrants: late south 6/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU; late north 6/12 St. Louis (4) PHS.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) — [2 North, 11 South] Observed in all central regions plus Traverse, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Olmsted. Only spring migrants: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (8) BJU. Southbound migrants: early north 7/13 Cass (1) BAW; early south 7/6 Lac Qui Parle PCC. First juveniles 7/25 Big Stone (3) PHS. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (329) PCC.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) — [2 North, 1 South] All reports: 7/25 Big Stone (2) PHS, 7/26 Aitkin (1) ASC, NSc, 7/29 Cass (1) BAW.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [1 North, 10 South] Found in all central and southern regions except Southwest. Southbound migrants: early north 7/11 Douglas (only north report) JPE; early south 7/6 Lac Qui Parle (7) PCC. High count 7/25 Big Stone (34) PHS.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [1 South] Only report: 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, PHS.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [18 North, 13 South] Found in all regions except South-central, Southeast. First county breeding record for Rock ph. JSc.



American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [8 North, 5 South] Reported from all northern and central regions. First county breeding record for *Clay* ph. KRE.



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [4 North, 17 South] Observed in all central regions plus Marshall, Becker, Lake (6/1 Crest Lake JWL), Nicollet, Brown, Blue Earth, and Steele. First juveniles 7/6 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC. High count 7/26 Lac Qui Parle (189) PCC, PHS. First county breeding record for *Stevens* RPR.



Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [1 North, 6 South] Seen in Cass, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Carver, Brown, Meeker, Nicollet. Late spring migrants 6/2–3 Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU, 6/3 Meeker (1) DMF. Southbound migrants: early north 7/13 Cass (1) †BAW, DAY; early south 7/13 Lac Qui Parle (12) PCC and Nicollet (1) DWK.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [5 North] Observed 6/4 Itasca MCBS, 6/9 Cass BAW, 6/10, 6/13, 6/14 (12), 7/25 St. Louis PHS, SLF, 6/14, 6/20, 6/26 Crow Wing Asc, RBJ, DAC, 7/7 Crow Wing (51) KJB, 7/12 Crow Wing (66) Asc, 7/27 Beltrami (3) DPJ.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [5 North, 16 South] Reported from all regions except East-central. Two unusual reports from Duluth: 6/6 (2 adults in alternate plumage at Park Point) †PHS, 6/8 (adult with incomplete hood at Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS. High count 7/31 Rock (500) AXH.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [23 North, 28 South] Seen throughout state except Southwest. High count 6/22 St. Louis (22,000, estimated 10,000 breeding pairs and at



least 2,000 chicks on Interstate Island W.M.A., Duluth) PHS.

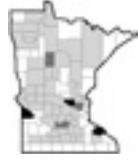
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [10 North, 2 South] Observed in northern regions plus Mille Lacs, Anoka, Dakota. High count 7/24 St. Louis (1,020) PHS.



Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [9 North, 11 South] Record high number of reports. Found in all regions except Northwest, Southwest, Southeast.



Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) — [21 North, 31 South] Seen throughout state.



Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [7 North, 1 South] Reported from Roseau, Clearwater, Cass, Itasca, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Mille Lacs plus 6/1 Blue Earth (2) ChH.



Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) — [8 North, 22 South] Observed in all regions except Northwest, Southeast.



Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [25 North, 40 South] Reported statewide. High count 6/7 St. Louis (181) PHS.



Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia*



White-winged Dove, 15 June 2008, Grand Portage, Cook County. Photo by Steve Veit.



decaocto) — [2 North, 10 South] Reported from Central and West-central regions plus Itasca, Meeker, Brown, Nobles, and 6/12-17 **Rice** (no details, location?) TFB, 6/18-27 **Todd** (Long Prairie) BWF, RBJ.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) — [1 North] Fifteenth state record 6/15 Cook (Grand Portage) SSm, DCo, ph. SVe.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — [27 North, 44 South] Seen in all regions of state.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [5 North, 20 South] Found in all central and southern regions plus Cass.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus eryth-*

roptthalmus) — [14 North, 27 South] Reported from all regions of state.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [4 South] Observed 6/17 Hennepin DWK, 6/19 *Chippewa* (first county breeding record) AXH, 7/20, 7/22 Nicollet LBF, LBF, CRM, 7/31 Stevens RBJ.



Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [6 North, 22 South] Reported from all regions of state. First county breeding record for *Meeker* LS.



BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) — [1 North] One from spring still present 6/7 Clay (southeast Moorhead) CMB.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [10 North, 13 South] Found in all regions except North-



west, Northeast.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [3 North] Seen 6/4 Beltrami MCBS, Itasca MCBS, 6/5 St. Louis ph. KRE, 6/20 St. Louis BU.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [2 North] Reported 7/13 Kittson LW plus a spring breeding record from Anoka AXH.



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [1 North, 1 South] Observed 6/23 Polk NGE, 6/24 Rock BRB. First county breeding record from Polk NGE, ph. AXH.



Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [1 North] Reported 6/1 Koochi-ching AXH.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) — [11 North, 23 South] Reported from all regions of state.



Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — [6 North, 7 South] Found in all regions except West-central, Southwest, South-central.



Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [23 North, 38 South] Observed statewide.



Chimney Swift, 3 July 2008, Burnsville, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — [22 North, 30 South] Seen in all regions except Southwest.



Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [22 North, 34 South] Found in all regions of state.



Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [10 North, 23 South] Reported from all regions of state. High count 6/29 Anoka (13, Cedar Creek S.N.A.) ALD. First county breeding record for Swift fide AXH.



Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [12 North, 33 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast, Southwest.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [22 North, 26 South] Seen in all regions of state.



Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) — [21 North, 34 South] Observed in all regions except Southwest.



Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [20 North, 30 South] Reported from all regions of state. First county breeding record for Scott BAF.

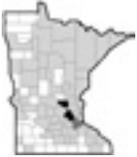


American Three-toed Woodpecker — [1 North] Found 6/22 Itasca MCBS.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [6 North] Seen 6/1 St. Louis SLF, 6/4 Lake KRE, 6/5 St. Louis (4) KRE, 6/9, 6/11, 6/17-19, 6/22-23, 6/26, 7/2 Itasca MCBS, 6/10 Aitkin KRE, 6/20 Carlton *vide* JWL, 6/22 St. Louis (parents feeding young, Sax-Zim) JCa, 7/17 Becker MDN.



Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [23 North, 35 South] Found statewide.



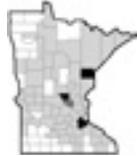
Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [20 North, 30 South] Seen in all regions of state.



Acadian Flycatcher, 28 June 2008, Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) — [12 North, 11 South] Record high number of reports. Reported from all regions of state except Southwest. Late south migrant 6/10 Hennepin DDO, KRo.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — [23 North, 38 South] Found in all regions of state.



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [9 North, 1 South] Found in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton, Pine, plus late south migrant 6/1 McLeod PRH.



Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) — [8 South] Reported from Scott, Hennepin, Dakota, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Rice, Fillmore, Houston.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [20 North, 14 South] Found in all regions except West-central, Southwest. Potential late south migrant vocalizing 6/21 Washington DWK.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) — [5 North, 32 South] Reported from all regions except North-central, Northeast.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [24 North, 31 South] Found in all regions of state.



Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [24 North, 33 South] Observed in all regions of state. First county breeding record for Rock AXH.



Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [24 North, 39 South] Found statewide.



Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [3 North, 16 South] Seen in all regions except North-east, Southeast.



Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [27 North, 44 South] Found statewide.



Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [6 South] Fewest reports ever. Seen in Dakota, Goodhue, Kandiyohi, Mower, Rice, Scott.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) — [1 South] New county record 7/19–28+ **Scott** (Murphy-Hanrehan Park) †BAF,

†DAB, ph. DAC, †JPM, m.ob. Audio recordings submitted by BAF.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) — [4 South]



All reports: 6/8–22 Hennepin DDO, PEB, m.ob., 6/6–7/29 Wabasha (2) SLF, JWH, ARW, 6/9, 6/10, 6/25, 7/6 Dakota JLO, (4) ADS, ph. JPM, (2) BAF, 6/13–7/3 Waseca JPS,

RBJ, RBW, DAB.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [19 North, 33 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) — [12 North, 2 South] Record high number of reports. Observed in North-central and Northeast plus Becker, Pine, and late south migrants 6/1 McLeod PRH, 6/2 Rice TFB.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) — [22 North, 38 South] Found statewide.



Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [3 North, 2 South] Late south migrants 6/1 Dakota JLO, McLeod PRH. Also seen 6/5 Cook RBJ and St. Louis KRE, 6/17 Lake FKB, 7/13 St. Louis KJB.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [24 North, 36 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest. First county breeding record from Dakota ph. JPM.



Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [7 North] Observed in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Pine.





Black-capped Chickadee nestlings, 29 June 2008, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [22 North, 39 South] Reported from all regions of state.



Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [7 North] Seen in Roseau, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin.



American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [24 North, 43 South] Found statewide.



Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [16

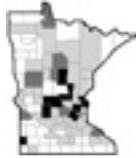


North, 2 South] Reported from all northern regions plus Morrison, Mille Lacs, Pine, Chisago, Washington.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [11 North, 34 South] Seen in all regions except Northeast.



Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [19 North, 33 South] Observed in all regions of state. First county breeding records for Benton MRN, Chisago MHe.



Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [27 North, 42 South] Reported throughout state. High count 7/25 Big Stone (3,452) PHS. First county breeding record from Scott DWK.



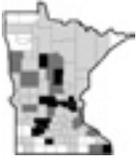
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [16 North, 31 South] Reported statewide.



Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [17 North, 33 South] Observed in all regions of state.

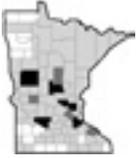


Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [27 North, 42 South] Reports up. found in all regions of the state except the extreme Northwest. First county breeding records from Redwood DPG,

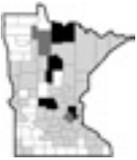


Renville DPG, *Watonwan* RPR.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [27 North, 43 South] Observed throughout state.



Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [22 North, 36 South] Seen in all regions of state. First county breeding record from *Koochiching* AXH.



Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*) — [2 North] Reported 6/7 Cook JEB, JWH, 6/15, 6/17, 6/18, 6/22, 6/26 Itasca MCBS, 7/12 St. Louis KJB.



Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [16 North, 6 South] Observed in North-central, Northeast, Central, East-central, plus Becker.



White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [18 North, 33 South] Found statewide.



Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [8 North] Reported from Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Carolina Wren (*Tbryothorus ludovicianus*) — [4 South] All reports: 6/18–7/31 Ramsey JPS, DDo, 6/22 Hennepin JBB, 7/30 Washington TEB, 7/31 Dakota KSc.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [28 North, 42 South] Found throughout state.



Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [10 North] Observed in Becker, Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) — [25 North, 39 South] Reported statewide.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [20 North, 38 South] Found in all regions of state. First county breeding record *Ramsey* AXH.



Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [9 North, 1 South] Seen in Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Cook, Pine, Sherburne.

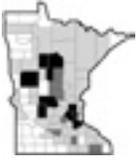
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) — [8 North] Observed in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*) — [6 North, 29 South] Found in all central and southern regions plus Clay, Wadena, Cass.



Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [22



North, 35 South] Seen in all regions except Southwest.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [18 North, 36 South] Reported from all regions of state.



Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) — [23 North, 16 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest, Southeast.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [26 North, 38 South] Observed statewide. First county breeding record for *Big Stone* RPR.



Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) — [5 North, 5 South] Seen in Clay, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Scott, Ramsey, Brown, Stearns, McLeod. Late south migrant 6/6 Stearns STW.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [23 North, 34 South] Seen in all regions of state.



Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) — [15 North] Reported from all northern regions plus Pine, Kanabec.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) — [20 South] Reported from Central, East-central, South-central, Southeast.



Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [8 North, 24 South] Found in all regions except Northwest, Northeast, Southwest.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [27 North, 44 South] Observed statewide.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — [14 North, 5 South] Found in all northern regions plus Central and East-central.



Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [25 North, 41 South] Seen throughout state. First county breeding record from *Benton* MRN.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — [11 North, 10 South] Most reports ever. Reported from all regions except Southwest, Southeast. Late south spring migrant 6/20 Ramsey JPS. Early south fall migrants 7/20 Ramsey (3) KJB and Rice (adult female banded) DAT.



Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [2 North, 2 South] Observed 6/4 Renville DMF, 6/8 Cass BAW, 6/9–26 Hennepin SWe, DWK, CMB, m.ob., 6/22 Hubbard MAW.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) — [15 North, 3 South] Found in all northern regions plus Central, East-central.



Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) — [11 North, 3 South] Record number of reports. Reported from North-central, Northeast plus Pine, Scott, Dakota, Washington.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — [26 North, 40 South] Found statewide.



Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) — [19 North, 11 South] Most reports ever. Observed in all regions except West-central, Southwest, Southeast.



Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magna-lia*) — [10 North, 4 South] Record number of reports. Seen in North-central, Northeast, Central, East-central. Late south 6/11 Dakota (Fish Lake Park, Eagan) ADS.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — [5 North] Seen 6/3 St. Louis KRE, 6/5 Cook RBJ, Lake SES, 6/8 Pine MCA, 6/17 Lake FKB, 6/20 Aitkin ASc, 6/22, 6/25 St. Louis SLF.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — [2 North] Found 6/1, 6/7, 6/8 Cook (3) WCM, JEB, JWH, 6/12, 6/30 Itasca MCBS, 6/15, 6/17, 7/15 Lake JWL, FKB, Lake LS.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [13 North, 3 South] Observed in North-central and Northeast regions, plus Morrison, Mille Lacs, Pine, Stearns, Sherburne, Chisago.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — [12 North, 2 South] Most reports since 1993. Reported from all northern regions plus Pine, Hennepin (6/19, Minnehaha Falls, DDo).



Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — [15 North, 3 South] Record high number of reports. Found in all northern regions plus Central, East-central. Potential late south migrant 6/14 Chisago HDD.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*) — [1 South] Adult seen along St. Croix River 7/12 Washington (near Otisville) ph. JWF.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — [10 North, 5 South] Observed in all the northern regions plus Central and East-central. First county breeding records for Cass BAW, Stearns RPR.



Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — [6 North] Seen in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Carlton.



Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — [5 North, 3 South] Observed in Pennington, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Hennepin, McLeod, Blue Earth. Late south 6/1 Blue Earth, McLeod, Hennepin. Late north 6/6 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 6/8 Cass (Woman Lake) BAW.

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) — [14 South] Reported from Stearns, Wright, Carver, Sibley, Scott, Hennepin, Dakota, Brown, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Rice, Blue Earth, Winona, Houston.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — [18 North, 10 South] Most reports ever. Reported from all northern regions and Central, East-central plus Rice.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [23 North, 33 South] Seen in all regions except Southwest.



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [10 South] Most reports since 1994. Found in Sibley, Carver, Scott, Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Brown, Blue Earth, Goodhue, Winona.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [22 North, 24 South] Found in all regions of state.



Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — [9 North, 1 South] Reported from Wadena, Cass, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine, Anoka.

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — [4 South] Observed 6/1 Rice DAB, JWH, Washington (2) DFN, 6/6 Winona JCC, 6/7 Sibley DBM.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — [2 South] Found 6/4, 6/5 Scott (Louisville Swamp) JLO, JEB, JWH, 6/15, 6/18 Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.) †ADS, JLO, RBW, JPM.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — [9 North, 2 South] Reported from Roseau, Clay (6/1, Moorhead, RHO), Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Carlton, plus late south migrants 6/1 McLeod PRH, Scott BAF.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — [17 North, 7 South] Found in all regions except West-central, Southwest, and Southeast. Probable late south migrant 6/3 Rice TFB. All other south reports within known breeding range.



Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [24 North, 43 South] Reported throughout state. First county breeding record from Carver JCy.



Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) — [1 North, 5 South] Record number of reports: Sherburne (Sand Dunes S.F.), Scott, Dakota, Washington (William O'Brien S.P.), plus first county records 6/1 **Isanti** (location?) LDa, 6/8 **Pennington** (2 males along Red Lake River, Smiley Twp.) †JHB.



Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — [4 North, 1 South] Seen 6/1, 6/4 St. Louis PHS, SES, 6/5 Itasca MCBS, 6/8 Anoka (banded at Springbrook Nature Center) RLR, 6/9 Roseau BSi, 6/17 Lake FKB.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — [6 North, 3 South] Reported from Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Meeker, Scott, and late south migrant 6/6 Hennepin BAF.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) — [3 South] Observed 6/1, 6/21–23 Washington (William O'Brien S.P.) †DFN, †LS, DBM, BRL, 6/3–28 **Hennepin** (Baker Park Reserve, first found by Madeleine Linck) †ALD, †CMB, m.ob., 6/25 Dakota (Cliff Fen) JPM.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [1 South] Reported without details 6/3 Le Sueur (Chamberlain Woods S.N.A.) RBJ, 6/10 Le Sueur (Kasota Prairie) RBJ.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [17 North, 28 South] Reported from all regions of state.



Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [5 North, 20 South] Found in all regions except Northwest, Northeast, West-central.



Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)



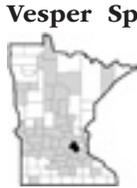
Lark Sparrow nest, 13 July 2008, Bunker Hills Regional Park, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Le Conte's Sparrow. 5 June 2008, Becker Township, Cass County. Photo by Ben A. Wieland.



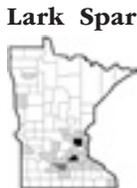
— [25 North, 43 South] Reported statewide. First county breeding record from *Blue Earth* ChH.



Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) — [14 North, 32 South] Reported from all regions of state.



Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [21 North, 35 South] Found in all regions of state.



Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [2 North, 22 South] Observed in all regions except North-central, Northeast, Southwest. North reports from Clay, Red Lake.



Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [10 North, 33 South] Observed in all regions except Northeast. First county breeding record from *Carver* JCy.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [22 North, 33 South] Found statewide.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus*)



savannarum) — [7 North, 28 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast, Southwest.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) — [1 North, 13 South] Found in all central counties plus South-central, Southeast. Only north report: 6/9 Wilkin (Rothsay W.M.A.) ph. KRE.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) — [16 North, 7 South] Observed in all northern and central regions.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) — [4 North] Seen 6/8, 6/27 Cass (3) BAW, MaH, 6/9 Aitkin (2) KRE, 6/16 Itasca MCBS, 6/27 Polk NGE.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [25 North, 42 South] Found throughout state. First county breeding record for Hubbard MAW.



Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [9 North] Observed in Roseau, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Pine.



Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [26 North, 34 South] Found statewide.



White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [14 North, 1 South] Reported from all northern regions plus Pine, Stearns.



White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [3 North] Three late north observations: 6/14 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) *fide* MJM, 7/8 Cass ph. HMS, SMP, and 7/15 St. Louis (at feeder, still present through 8/2) ph. WLi.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [1 North] Observed 6/15 Hubbard (Marietta Twp.) MAW.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [3 North] Observed 6/1 Lake JWL, 6/4, 6/5, 6/9, 6/17, 6/18, 6/22, 6/25, 6/26 Itasca MCBS, and 6/8, 6/14 Pine MCA, LS, CRM.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) — [1 North] Found 6/6-7/4 Clay (max. 6) KRE, CMB, RBW, LS.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [16 North, 39 South] Reported from all regions of state.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [23 North, 41 South] Found throughout state.



Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [2 South] Seen 6/4 **Scott** (Louisville Swamp) †JLO, 6/7, 6/13, 7/20 Brown BTS, DAB.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [22 North, 40 South] Reported throughout state.



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [7 North, 27 South] Found in all regions of state including Carlton (7/9, DCr) in

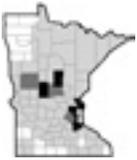


Northeast.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [23 North, 36 South] Observed statewide.



Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [26 North, 45 South] Reported throughout state. First county breeding record for *Chisago* AXH.



Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [13 North, 26 South] Found in all regions except Northwest, Southwest.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [13 North, 24 South] Statewide.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [18 North, 30 South] Seen in all regions except Northeast. First county breeding records for *Douglas* ph. MRN, *Swift* RPR, *Sibley* MSw.



Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [15 North, 16 South] Observed in all regions except Southeast. First county breeding record from *Rock* AXH, *Ramsey* AXH.



Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [28 North, 43 South] Seen statewide. First county breeding records for *Crow Wing* CKB, *Blue Earth* ChH, *Fillmore* NBO.



Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — [2 South] Observed 6/2 **Scott** (male, vocalizing near Jordan) JEB, 6/7 Jackson BRB.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [28 North, 43 South] Reported statewide. Parasitized species include Red-eyed Vireo, Hooded Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow.



Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [6 North, 32 South] Record high number of reports. Observed in all regions except North-central, Northeast.



Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [28 North, 37 South] Found in all regions of state.



Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — [17 North, 2 South] Most reports since 1997. Reported from all regions except West-central, Southwest, South-central.



House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [21 North, 31 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest.

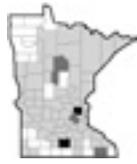


Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [3 North, 1 South] Seen 6/6, 6/9, 6/10, 6/15, 6/30 Itasca MCBS, 6/15 Lake (5) JWL, 6/22 Dakota ph. LKr, 7/27 Aitkin (2) ASc.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucop-*



North] Most reports ever. Observed in all northern regions plus Pine.



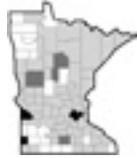
ing record for *Blue Earth* ChH.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) — [13 North, 5 South] Most reports since 1996. Found in all regions except Southwest and Southeast.



Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [4 North] Fewest reports ever. Seen 6/1, 6/19 St. Louis SES, (2) SLF, 6/7 Cook JEB, JWH, 6/15 Lake JWL, 7/22 Cass (2) BAW.

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) — [23 North, 43 South] Reported throughout the state and from all regions except the far Northwest. First county breed-



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [24 North, 43 South] Reported statewide.

Contributors

ABL Andrew Longtin
 ADS Andrew D. Smith
 AEB Allen Batt
 AEK Ann Kessen
 ALD Alyssa L. DeRubeis
 ANy Andrew Nyhus
 AOI Alan Olander
 API Amanda Plain
 ARW Alexander Watson
 ASc Al Schirmacher
 AXH Anthony X. Hertzell
 BAF Bruce A. Fall
 BAW Ben Wieland
 BCM Chris Mansfield
 BG Bill George
 BJU Bill Unzen
 BLe Bruce Lenning
 BRB Brad Bolduan
 BRL Bill Litkey
 BrS Brad Steger
 BSi Beth Siverhus
 BSt Brian Steger
 BTS Brian T. Smith
 BU Bruce Ukura
 CAB Cheryl Boyes
 CAM Craig Menze
 ChH Chad Heins

CKB Christopher Brown
 CMB Conny Brunell
 CRM Craig Mandel
 CWG Carl Greiner
 DAB Dave Bartkey
 DAC David Cahlander
 DAT Dan Tallman
 DAY Dale Yerger
 DBM Dennis and Barbara Martin
 DCr Donna Crider
 DDo Diana Doyle
 DFN David Neitzel
 DHu Dallas Hudson
 DJC David J. Cooper
 DKo David Koehn
 DMF Dan Floren
 DPG Dan and Pam Guynn
 DPJ Douglas P. Johnson
 DST Dan and Sandy Thimgan
 DTT Dan T. Thimgan
 DWK Doug Kieser
 DWR Dean W. Riemer
 EEO Earl Orf
 EHa Elizabeth Harper
 EMH Beth Hamel
 FAE Fred A. Eckhardt
 FKB Frank Berdan

FVS Forest V. Strnad
 GiB Ginger Brooks
 GPr Greg Proper
 HMS Henry M. Streby
 HFH Hap Huber
 HHD Herb Dingmann
 JSS Jack Sprenger
 JBB Jason Bolish
 JCa Jason Caddy
 JCC Joel Claus
 JCy John Cyrus
 JEB Jerry Bonkoski
 JFR James F. Ryan
 JHB John H. Braastad
 JJS Jeff Stephenson
 JLO James Otto
 JMJ Jeanie Joppru
 JoS Joel Schmidt
 JPE John P. Ellis
 JPM Jim Mattsson
 JPr Juliane Proper
 JPS Julian Sellers
 JSB Jo Blanich
 JWe John Weber
 JWF John W. Fitzpatrick
 JWH John W. Hockema
 JWL Jim Lind
 KJB Karl Bardon
 KMK Kelli M. Klein
 KRE Kim R. Eckert
 KRo Karl Roe
 KSc Karen Schik
 LBF Linda B. Felker
 LDa Larry Dale
 LEC Laura Coble
 LKr Linda Krueger
 LS Linda Sparling
 LW Larry Wilebski
 MaH Marshall Howe
 MAW Marlene A. Weber
 MCA Mark Alt
 MCBS Minnesota County Biological Survey
 MDN Mark Nieters
 MHe Melissa Hein
 MJB Milt Blomberg
 MPS Midwest Peregrine Society
 MRN Michael R. North
 MRo Mark Roberts
 MSS Sparky Stensaas
 MSw Mike Sweet
 NBO Nancy Overcott

NFT Nels F. Thompson
 NGE Nathaniel G. Emery
 OWB O. William Bruins
 PBD Pat DeWenter
 PCC Philip Chu
 PEB Paul Budde
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher
 PHi Penny Hillemann
 PHS Peder H. Svingen
 PJB Paul Binek
 PJK Pat Korkowski
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson
 PRH Pete Hoeger
 REH Robert Holtz
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams
 RHO Bob O'Connor
 RJS Roger Schroeder
 RLR Ronald Refsnider
 RLW Richard Wood
 RMD Bob Dunlap
 RNe Randal Newton
 RPR Bob Russell
 RTP Ray Potthoff
 SC Shawn Conrad
 SES Steven Schon
 SGo Sue Goldberg
 SLF Steve L. Falkowski
 SLP Susan Plankis
 SMC Scott M. Clark
 SMP Sean M. Peterson
 SRo Stephen Rossiter
 SSm Susan Smith
 STW Sylvia Winkelman
 SVe Stephen Veit
 SWe Steve Weston
 TEB Tom Bell
 TFB Tom Boevers
 TJM Todd Merefield
 TKo Tim Koppelman
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 VTh Vicky Thomas
 WCM William Marengo

Abbreviations

N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 R.P. Regional Park
 S.F. State Forest
 S.P. State Park
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area

Black-throated Blue Warblers on Moose Mountain in Cook County

Michael Steffes

The Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) has an irregular distribution in the northeast corner of Minnesota (Eckert 2002) with a modest number of sightings in other locations in the state during spring and fall migration, and in some cases possibly at nesting sites. With active and consistent surveys in their preferred habitat, they can be located in relatively high numbers (Lind 1999, Steffes 1999).

My previous informal surveys along the Superior Hiking Trail in both Lake and Cook counties revealed that the section of the trail from Oberg Mountain to the Lutsen Ski Area seemed to have relatively high densities of accessible, singing Black-throated Blue Warblers, especially on Moose Mountain. Thus, one can reliably estimate their numbers and the dates at which the birds may be heard singing in what may likely be an example of their preferred habitat in Minnesota.

Study Area and Methods

The survey was an irregular transect (Bibby et al. 1992), based on following the path of the trail, as previously described (Steffes 1999). Birds were counted separately while walking in and then on the return. The area described in this report comprises a segment of the Superior Hiking Trail from the western base of Moose Mountain, up and across most of Moose Mountain, approximately 2.4 km in length (Figure 1). I started counting at approximate Global Positioning System (GPS) 47 38.090, -90 45.600 — an area of mostly conifers and birch with some maples, as elevation increases towards the western top of Moose Mountain. From the western top of Moose Mountain (GPS 47 38.190, -90 45.250), the transect continues north-east to the area where the trail leaves the

top (GPS 47 38.910, -90 44.380). Here the area surveyed is mixed maple and conifer forest with little change in altitude.

In addition to Black-throated Blue Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers (*D. virens*), Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), and Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*) were counted. Although there are Philadelphia Vireos (*V. philadelphicus*) in the forest, I could not distinguish their songs from those of the much more common Red-eyed Vireos. Thus, a small number of labeled Red-eyed Vireos were possibly Philadelphia Vireos. In addition, it is likely that I detected Ovenbirds more readily than the other species since their song is louder and travels longer distances.

Locations of Black-throated Blue Warblers were recorded with GPS as the location on the trail closest to the singing bird; thus individual birds could be discerned with the survey from either direction. The GPS coordinates of individuals documented by surveys throughout a season have been plotted with GPS utility (United Kingdom <http://www.gpsu.co.uk>) to determine distances between the locations and confirm unique singing birds. Locations over a season were identified as unique sites if GPS coordinates from individual (or in a few cases two birds at one time) locations were greater than 80m from each other. This distance was chosen because it represents the approximate distance a Black-throated Blue Warbler can be heard on a quiet day (pers. obs., and essentially identical to 75 m used by Lind, 1999). In most instances these unique sites were confirmed by other surveys the same season demonstrating Black-throated Blue Warblers to be within 80 m of a previous location.

For the three other species, singing birds were counted both ways with the

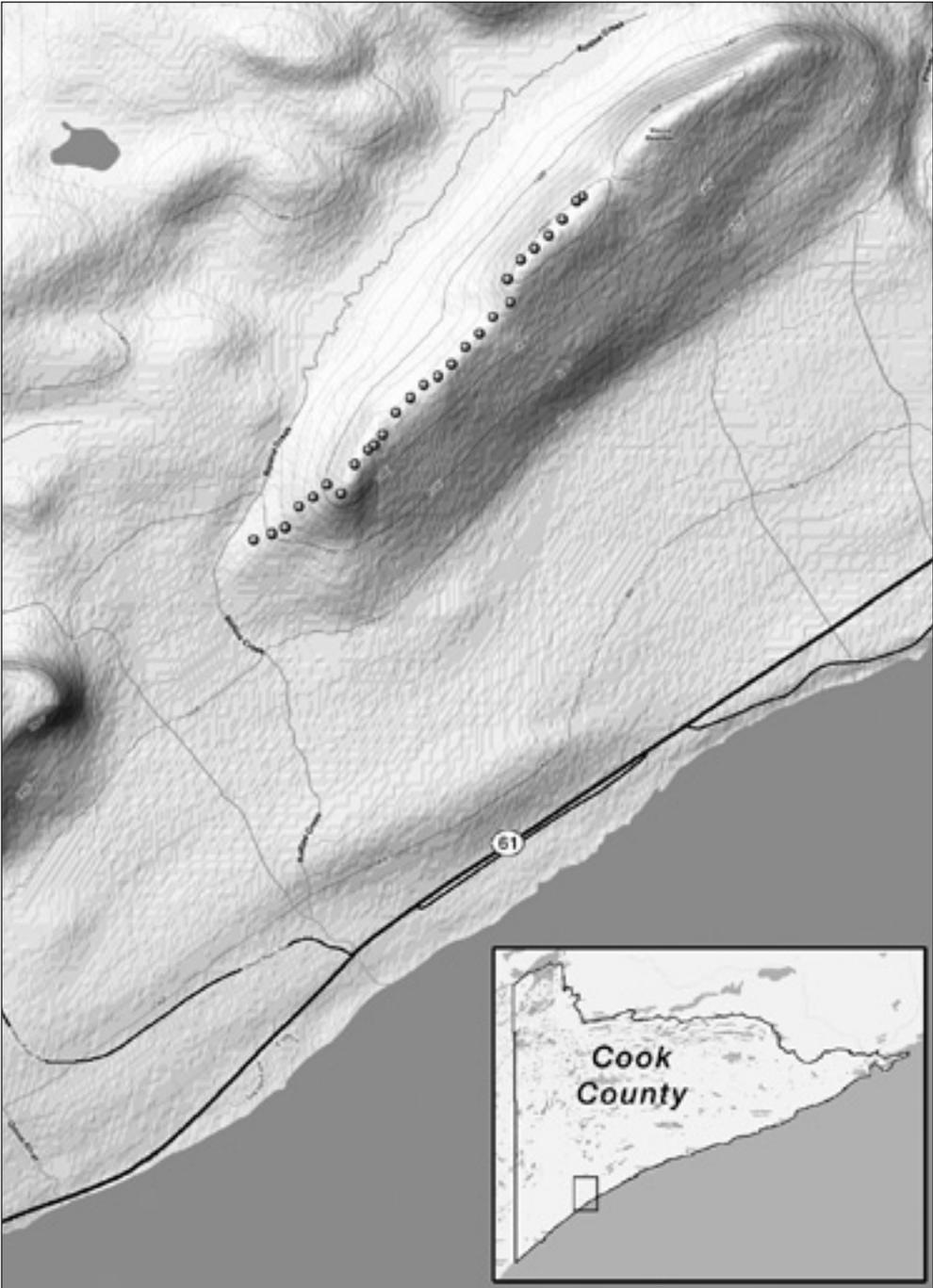


Figure 1. The location on Superior Hiking Trail (on the western slope and top of Moose Mountain) from which the numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers were estimated. Total length surveyed is approximately 2.4km.

Table 1. Numbers of three warbler and one vireo species surveyed from the Superior Hiking Trail on the upslope and the top of Moose Mountain from 18 different surveys during the period 10 June to 14 July 2002–2008. Values are given as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). Although nominally Black-throated Blue Warblers had the lowest mean numbers, only numbers of Ovenbirds were greater (t-test using mean or geometric mean: $p < 0.001$).

	Black-throated Blue Warblers	Black-throated Green Warblers	Ovenbirds	Red-eyed Vireos
Mean \pm SD	7.4 \pm 2.8	8.1 \pm 4.3	14.8 \pm 6.5	10.4 \pm 6.5
Median	7.0	6.5	13.5	9.0
Maximum Counted	13	18	26	26
Minimum Counted	3	2	4	0

highest value for each segment recorded for each day surveyed. Comparisons of their numbers with the Black-throated Blue Warbler numbers were completed by taking the numbers of each species heard over the whole distance surveyed each day of observation. Thus, estimates of numbers of all four species heard could be directly compared. I present data only from 10 June to 15 July when all would be expected to be present and singing.

From 1998 to 2001 and in 2006 and 2008, I surveyed this area no more than twice each year. In 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007, I surveyed 5–11 times each year, and the numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers in those years are reported for unique sites each year.

Results

Seasonal Changes in Numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers and Other Birds

Black-throated Blue Warblers usually arrived during the middle of May, with numbers increasing over the last half of May (Figure 2). Black-throated Green Warblers and Ovenbirds followed similar patterns in May (data not shown). Black-throated Blue Warblers continued to sing through July and can be heard into August (Figure 3). Red-eyed Vireos typically arrived towards the end of May, later than the other three species. Thus, numbers of all four species detected can be compared from early June through mid-July.

Ovenbirds were consistently detected in the greatest numbers (Table 1, $p < 0.001$ compared to Black-throated Blue War-

blers). Although Black-throated Blue Warblers were nominally detected in the lowest numbers (Table 1), there were no statistically significant differences between numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers and numbers of Black-throated Green Warblers or Red-eyed Vireos. As stated above, the differences in detected birds between Black-throated Blue Warblers and Ovenbirds may be substantially overestimated due to the greater strength of the Ovenbirds' songs.

Numbers of Singing Black-throated Blue Warblers by Unique Site

The numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers detected by confirmed sites on or around Moose Mountain over the course of minimally five surveys per season ranged from 15 in 2004 and in 2005, 17 in 2007, to a high of 20 in 2002 and in 2003 for the 2.4 km surveyed, translating into a range of 6.3 to 8.3 Black-throated Blue Warblers per km of trail. Thus, a census on a single day would usually detect about half the total counted over the course of a season.

Discussion

In favorable habitat, substantial numbers of singing Black-throated Blue Warblers can be found in northeast Minnesota. However, to document unique sites, I needed to survey the segments of the trail approximately five times over the course of the season. Furthermore, the numbers over a season were about twice the average of a single survey, but not too

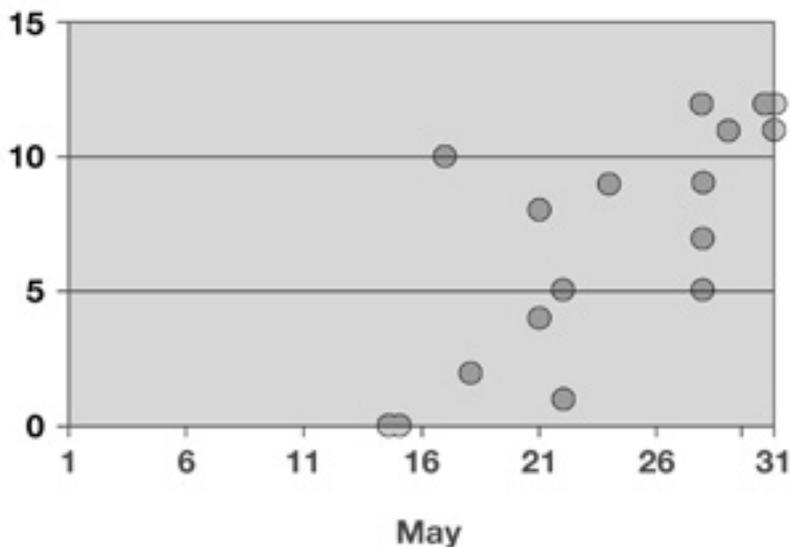


Figure 2. Number of singing Black-throated Blue Warblers for each date counted in May of each year from 1998 through 2007 on the Superior Hiking Trail from the west slope through the top of Moose Mountain (a 2.4 km transect).

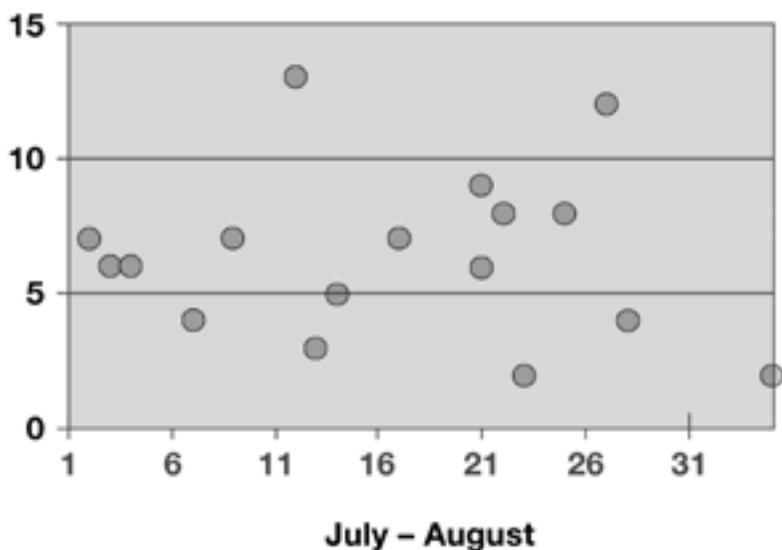


Figure 3. Number of singing Black-throated Blue Warblers for each date counted in July of each year from 2002 through 2008 (including one observation, August 6, 2005) on the Superior Hiking Trail from the west slope through the top of Moose Mountain (a 2.4 km transect).

much higher than the highest number of Black-throated Blue Warblers heard on a single day, 13 on 12 July 2003 (Figure 3). Overall, these data demonstrate relatively large numbers of singing Black-throated Blue Warblers in apparently optimal habitat in northeast Minnesota, numbers that approach those of Black-throated Green Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos, and approximately half the number of Ovenbirds. In some surveys, I counted more Black-throated Blue Warblers than Red-eyed Vireos (e.g., the early dates during the second half of May) and more than Black-throated Green Warblers (e.g., last part of July). For the early species, they all seemed to begin singing after 15 May, although I conducted few surveys prior to that date.

The numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers I counted per km surveyed may be compared to the data of Graves (1997) who counted singing Black-throated Blues at locations as far west as Michigan and in the eastern United States along the Appalachian Mountains. My range of 6.3 – 8.3 singing Black-throated Blue Warblers per km was higher than his 1.04 in Michigan and at about the high-point of his observations in the Appalachians (2.08 – 5.80 Black-throated Blues per km, Georgia to Pennsylvania, Graves 1997). Likely numbers detected by my repeated surveys were higher than his comprehensive surveys that included netting and characterizing each bird, but fewer repeated surveys. Correspondingly, Lind (1999) in his thorough surveys of Black-throated Blue Warblers in Tettegouche State Park, Lake County, observed numbers of birds per hectare similar to observations of Holmes and colleagues in New Hampshire forests (Holmes et al., 2005). To compare my numbers with those of Lind, I used estimates of total Black-throated Blue Warblers at unique sites over the whole season (6.3 to 8.3/km). In most cases, these values were similar to the number of territories per km identified by Lind along several irregular transects in Tettegouche Park in 1998 (mean: 5.3/km; range: 3.1 – 8.0/km, Lind, 1999). Thus, although

not estimated per area in this study, the densities of Black-throated Blue Warblers on or close to Moose Mountain are likely similar to those reported by Lind (1999): 0.4 – 0.7 per hectare.

For the observer who wishes to hear and see Black-throated Blue Warblers in northeast Minnesota, they seem to be accessible in the appropriate habitat from mid-May into August. However, as noted previously (Lind 1999, Steffes 1999), the Black-throated Blue Warblers in northeast Minnesota may not be readily detected in habitat that appears to be similar to areas where they are present in high numbers. In other surveys in different locations I have consistently found birds at relatively moderate densities in mixed forest of deciduous trees and conifers compared to relatively few in mid-succession maple forest with trees of similar ages. Lind's (1999) observations suggest the Black-throated Blue Warblers need mature forests with canopy gaps and a rich understory for nesting, matching the conclusions of Holmes et al., (2005). Thus, the mid-succession forest with a dense canopy may be relatively lacking in numbers of small bushes and trees, while a mixed forest may offer more understory for nesting locations and foraging in shrubs low to the ground.

Of importance to this species, relatively large areas of contiguous forest need to be sustained, especially along the Lake Superior highlands. The natural succession of the forests to have some areas with the rich understory apparently needed for nesting may change the locations in which this bird may be found singing over years of observations.

Acknowledgments

I thank Jim Lind for sharing his experience and data in studying Black-throated Blue Warblers in northeast Minnesota and for many suggestions to improve the manuscript. Bruce Fall was invaluable in reviewing the paper and suggesting improvements in content. I thank Linda Eells for help in locating references, and Anthony Hertzell for guidance in complet-

ing the manuscript and producing the figures.

Literature Cited

- Bibby, C. J., N. D. Burgess, and D. A. Hill. 1992. *Bird Census Techniques*. Academic Press, San Diego CA.
- Eckert, K. R. 2002. *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*, Duluth MN, Gavian Guides.
- Graves, G. R. 1997. Geographic clines of age ratios of Black-throated Blue Warblers (*Dendroica caerulescens*). *Ecology* 78:2524-31.
- Holmes, R. T., N. L. Rodenhouse, and T.

- S. Sillett. 2005. Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca NY, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.
- Lind, J. W. 1999. Preliminary research on Black-throated Blue Warblers in northeastern Minnesota. *The Loon* 71:5-11.
- Steffes, M. W. 1999. The Black-throated Blue Warbler along the Superior Hiking Trail in northeastern Minnesota. *The Loon* 71:11-13.

**3098 East Castle Danger Road,
Two Harbors MN 55616.**

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Blackbirds

Kim R. Eckert

While I won't be talking here about birds in general that are black, I could have used some help with that back in '62. Starting from scratch as a rookie in the Chicago suburbs, I had no idea there was any difference between crows, starlings, and grackles. They were just black birds that all looked alike, though I soon figured out a crow was bigger than a grackle, and the first time I really looked at a starling... well, its combination of yellow bill, white spots, and iridescent colors made it about the prettiest bird I'd ever seen!

But for the time being, let's just stick with blackbirds, i.e., birds in the family Icteridae. Now, perhaps some of you may

be thinking: "*Blackbirds? You mean like grackles and cowbirds? Yuck!*" A pretty common perception, perhaps, but a misguided one, nonetheless. You see, when you talk about blackbirds, you're referring to the family which includes Bobolink, the meadowlarks, and orioles. In checklist order, here's the list of the 14 Icterids which have occurred in Minnesota:

- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Western Meadowlark
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird



- Common Grackle
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Orchard Oriole
- Bullock's Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole
- Scott's Oriole

So, fella, you got a problem with black-birds? I guess you can't stand Bobolinks, meadowlarks, and orioles either! I suppose you recoil at the sight of the first singing Red-winged Blackbirds in spring displaying their gold-tipped red wing patches? And hold a grudge against the yellow splashes of color from Yellow-headed's brightening a background of brown cattails? (Never mind their dubious singing abilities.) My friends, you need to step out of the darkness and into the light, take a second look, and appreciate the bronze-and-blue iridescence of a Common Grackle and the glossy blues and deep greens on a male Brewer's Blackbird. Hallelujah!

True, I admit I'm hard pressed to come up with anything good to say about the appearance of female blackbirds/grackles/cowbirds, and that brown-and-black combination on a male cowbird is far from artistic. Still, this is an interesting family presenting some interesting identification challenges.

Eastern and Western meadowlarks.

Been there, done that. As much as I appreciate and like to talk about meadowlarks, their ID issues were already discussed in a fairly recent "Hindsight" installment and don't really need another look this soon: see the Summer 2006 issue of *The Loon* (76:111–114).

Bobolink. I still remember that Minnesota Birding Weekend in August years ago when a Bobolink appeared in front of us, and not one birder in the group knew what it was. Their mass confusion was surprising at the time, but since then it's become easier to see why some Bobolinks present ID problems. Unless it's a male in spring through mid-summer, Bobolinks are relatively nondescript, with adult males losing their striking plumage

by August before they head south. More than anything else, I think they look like large Le Conte's Sparrows. Indeed, someone on a tour once excitedly reported he'd found a Le Conte's nest, which would be quite an accomplishment, only to discover later the attending female was a Bobolink.

I don't think males in full plumage could be mistaken for much, though I wonder if some reports of Lark Buntings in Minnesota have actually been briefly-glimpsed Bobolinks. After all, I have been known to slam on the brakes and turn around only to find that black bird with white wing patches seen out of the corner of my eye turn into a Bobolink, rather than the hoped-for Lark Bunting.

My final note about the Bobolink is, well, the call note. With practice, many birders become familiar with its distinctive "*ink*" call and can detect birds flying overhead. Be aware, though, that Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, and especially American Goldfinches can all give a similar note, and it's best to actually see the caller if the date or place involved would be unusual for a Bobolink.

Red-winged Blackbird. I have long been convinced that female Red-wingeds are the most misidentified — or, at least, unidentified — birds of them all. Brown, heavily streaked, with a pale line above the eye, they look nothing like the males. More than once I've had casual or beginning birders ask what they are and refuse to believe that my ID as female Red-wingeds could be correct. Some beginners are also confounded when adult males conceal their red wings, perhaps only showing that buff edge. A more intriguing situation is when apparent adult males even fail to show any red in flight. I've only seen this a few times in spring, and apparently some second-year males can look wholly black like adults but show little or no red on their wings.

At least we don't have to deal here with separating Red-wingeds from Tricolored Blackbirds, which can be a tricky proposition. However, I've sometimes been with

birders hundreds of miles from California who think they might have seen a Tricolored, but more likely it was just a Red-winged with a whitish-looking edge to the red — and the birders just forgot to consult their field guide's range maps. Speaking of white, note that Red-wingeds and other blackbirds (especially grackles) seem to show partial albinism more than most passerines, so don't be too surprised or disappointed if that curious bird you find with white patches turns out to be nothing more than a blackbird.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. I have to wonder what juvenile Yellow-headed really look like, and how often they might be misidentified as something else. Take a second look at these in your *Geographic* and *Sibley* guides, which I admit I've not really done before today, and you'll see what I mean. Their illustrations of this plumage differ quite a bit, and there must have been some confused birders if juveniles really resemble Sibley's illustration. But I don't recall ever seeing a bird like he shows, which would be odd, since almost invariably I've found *Sibley's* illustrations superior to *Geographic's*. In this case, though, I'm pretty sure the few juveniles I've ever paid attention to looked more like the picture in *Geographic*.

My only other comment about this distinctive species is how often the male's yellow head curiously fails to shine out like a beacon among a flock of blackbirds. There must be something subtle I can't explain about its shade of yellow, since I often fail to detect a Yellow-headed in a mixed flock until it flies and its white wing patches are the first thing to catch my eye.

Rusty and Brewer's blackbirds. There's something about these two birds I've always liked. For one thing, the Rusty has *two* reasons for its name (while many species seem to have none!): it's "rusty-hinge" song and the rusty tones of its plumage in fall/winter. The other thing you have to appreciate is how Rusty and Brewer's *females* are typically easier to separate (i.e., by eye color) than the males, a quite atypical situation among birds.

(Incidentally, I recommend seeing eye-to-eye with blackbirds, grackles, and cowbirds when working on their IDs. Iris color is something surprisingly easy to see, and they rather neatly divide into two groups as you sort through a flock: pale iris = Rusty Blackbird, male Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, or Great-tailed Grackle; dark iris = Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, female Brewer's Blackbird, or Brown-headed Cowbird. One important caveat, however, is to beware of the juveniles of the "pale-eyed" species, which can be disconcertingly dark-eyed into their first spring.)

But distinguishing Rustys from Brewer's can be the most difficult ID challenge among Minnesota blackbirds, and one helpful consideration can simply be the season. If it's mid-May through August, you can be pretty certain it's not a Rusty, which no longer regularly breeds in northern Minnesota's boglands. On the other hand, you are usually safe to assume it's not a Brewer's from December through February, since there are very few documented winter records of this species.

It turns out that spring is the hardest time to tell these two apart here, since this is the only time that some male Rustys are solid black, somewhat iridescent, and Brewer's-like. At other times of year (unless you're on their breeding grounds), all Rustys will show at least some brownish or rusty plumage; none should look all-back. Conversely, Brewer's (juveniles excepted) look pretty much the same all year: even in mid-winter, the male Brewer's I see in Texas still look uniformly black with some iridescence.

So, when confronted in spring migration with one of these males, consider the habitat: although there is overlap (with Rustys more often in Brewer's habitat than the reverse), Rustys tend to favor more wooded or brushy areas which are typically wet; Brewer's prefer pastures, upland fields, and other open and drier habitats. Listen for their songs: both end with a similar loud high-pitched note, with the Rusty preceding this with a soft jumble of notes, and the Brewer's starting only with

a single, raspy “ksh” note. Look at the iridescence: even in good light a Rusty’s sheen is subtle (or lacking) and a more uniform dull blue-green color, while the brighter shine on a Brewer’s looks to me more two-toned with a purplish-blue head contrasting with bluish-green body. With direct comparison, you might detect the shorter, thicker bill of a Brewer’s, or its slightly longer legs and tail (often accentuated by its grackle-like strutting gait), but I find these features tough to judge.

Finally, as if the Rusty vs. Brewer’s problem isn’t hard enough, consider there are still other ID issues involving other species: see below for how a wintering grackle could be misidentified as a Brewer’s, why a female Great-tailed Grackle might be mistaken for a Rusty Blackbird, and how Rustys could account for erroneous winter cowbird sightings.

Common Grackle. Once you’ve mastered the intricately subtle differences between crows and grackles (and I’m sure you managed this in less time than I did back in the ’60s), there’s not much to say about grackle ID. Perhaps the main thing to keep in mind is that females, juveniles (remember, they can have dark eyes), and winter males tend to show reduced head-body color contrast and iridescence, and perhaps their tails might look shorter. Accordingly, I suspect that grackles could actually be what some birders are seeing when Brewer’s Blackbirds are reported here in winter.

Great-tailed Grackle. I was certainly puzzled a few springs ago down in Rock County when these otherwise obvious Great-tailed Grackles foraging in front of us clearly appeared to have dark eyes. Were we possibly seeing “impossible” Boat-tailed Grackles instead?! (Unlike Great-taileds, Boat-taileds have never shown any tendency to stray inland very far from the coast.) The mystery was finally solved when I got around to reading *Sibley*. Just a few pages after puzzling over that strange juvenile Yellow-headed Blackbird picture, I read that juvenile Great-tailed Grackles can retain their dark iris color through their first year. I have to

assume that’s what we saw.

Juveniles aside, eye color remains a tricky field mark on big-tailed grackles, since Boat-tailed eyes can be either dark or light or in-between. But some of their calls are different, and there are average but subtle differences in their tail lengths and head shapes. Again, though, there’s no reason in Minnesota not to call all of them Great-taileds. About the only potential for confusion would be among birders unfamiliar with the rusty-brown tones on female Great-tailed Grackles: I have seen these mistaken for Rusty Blackbirds more than once.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Along a similar vein, I wonder if birders unfamiliar with Rusty Blackbirds might focus in on the brown on their heads and mistake them for cowbirds? Maybe not, although I do know that streaked juvenile cowbirds have sometimes been mistaken for female Red-wingeds. I still recall and admit my confusion years ago when I took my first real look at a juvenile cowbird and hesitated to identify it with any confidence.

It’s worth mentioning here the potential for other cowbird species to appear in Minnesota. Although the odds are slight for a Bronzed or Shiny cowbird to appear this far out of range, both species have turned up well north of their normal ranges (including a Shiny in Maine!). Given a decent look at a Bronzed, you would notice its red eyes (juveniles and females included), and its larger bill and overall size would be evident with direct comparison. A female or juvenile Shiny Cowbird would be a much tougher call this far out of range, but in Florida I found its longer, thinner bill to be its best mark (again, direct comparison needed).

(Oh, and let’s not forget how easy it is to confuse Brown-headed Cowbird with McKay’s Bunting! I still recall the partial albino cowbird that happened by once in Jackson County — both at rest and in flight its overall plumage pretty well matched that of an adult male McKay’s Bunting.)

Orioles. When most Minnesota birders think of orioles, they naturally have

Baltimores in mind. So, it's not surprising when I'm with birders who encounter that relatively unfamiliar female (or black-faced immature male) Orchard Oriole, a much smaller bird than a male Baltimore, and wonder what kind of warbler they're seeing. About the only other oriole here that gives birders pause would be one of those younger male Baltimores in spring that sometimes looks more dark yellow than orange, thus suggesting the possibility of a stray Scott's Oriole.

Otherwise, orioles seldom present much of an ID challenge in Minnesota. Keep in mind, though, that Scott's (three state records) is not the only vagrant oriole which has turned up here. There's one documented Bullock's record, and I consider the second to be long overdue. But when one does eventually appear, let's hope it's not a female or immature, since orioles in such plumage are harder to distinguish than suggested in the field guides. And even if it is an adult male... sorry, but you then have to consider that Baltimore X Bullock's hybrids do occur.

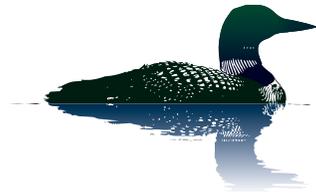
But don't stop there after you've found

that second-state-record Bullock's. Be aware that vagrant Hooded Orioles have occurred more than once not far from Minnesota: again, though, if it's a female/immature, you'll have your hands full separating it from an Orchard Oriole. There are even more remarkable vagrant possibilities as well, since in recent years (and I'm not kidding!) a Streak-backed appeared in Wisconsin and an Audubon's showed up in Indiana. As far as I know, the documentations for these are entirely convincing — although I don't know if the dreaded issue of possible escapes has been addressed.

Come on now, admit it: blackbirds are not as bad as you thought and were worth a second look. Besides, we didn't even have to talk about crows and starlings and other black birds — that is, unless you wanted to.... But since you brought it up, did you know that crows are bigger than grackles? And don't even get me started on starlings!

1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

Notes of Interest



BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS AT DEEP PORTAGE CONSERVATION RESERVE,

2004–2007 — Breeding Bird monitoring surveys were conducted from 2004–2007 at the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, Cass County. A four-year total of 338 point count surveys were conducted at up to 99 total points in June of each year. All 99 points were surveyed in 2005 and 2006. Ninety-five points were surveyed in 2004, and 45 in 2007. The purpose of this project was to establish baseline data regarding the breeding bird community at the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve. No point-specific habitat data was collected.



The survey stations were located along the network of trails that cross the forest reserve at Deep Portage. Point count survey methods followed standardized recom-

mendations (Ralph et al. 1995). Each survey lasted five minutes, and each bird detected was recorded on a data sheet. Only birds judged to be within 100 meters of the survey point were included in data analysis. All stations were a minimum of 250 meters from other survey points. Bird detections were recorded on a data sheet that allowed individuals to be put into three different distance categories: 0–25 m, 25–50 m, 50–100 m. Detection type was noted as song, call, visual, or drumming. Birds seen within the 100 m radius, but judged to be “flying over” were noted as flyover, and not included in data analysis. Counts were conducted from 15 minutes before sunrise to 3.5 hours past.

Study Site

The Deep Portage Conservation Reserve is located in central Cass County, just south of the Chippewa National Forest, and covers approximately 6,300 acres of forest and wetlands. The forest is a mix of paper birch, quaking aspen, big-tooth aspen, red oak, and red maple, with white pine, red pine, and jack pine as well. There is very little “northern bog” habitat, although small stands of tamarack, white spruce, and balsam fir are scattered throughout the reserve. The shrub-level understory of the mature forest areas is predominately beaked hazel and mountain maple. The reserve is situated on a glacial end moraine, with numerous small lakes, marshes, bogs, and seasonal wetlands nestled among the low hills. The reserve is managed by Cass County for non-motorized recreation, wildlife habitat, and timber production. Active timber management by Cass County has created a landscape with a mix of early, mid, and late-successional forest stands.

Results

A total of 2,982 birds of 63 species was detected on surveys during the study period. Table 1 is a summary of each year’s effort data, as well as total birds, total species, point abundance, and point species richness. The 29 species that were detected on a minimum of five percent of surveys appear in Table 2, along with the percentage of surveys (out of 338) on which they were detected, and the total number of individuals detected. Species listed in bold type are those that have recently shown significant population declines in the Chippewa National Forest (Lind et al. 2004). Species noted as (PIF) are considered priority bird populations by Partners in Flight (Partners in Flight, 2008), and those noted as (USFWS) are U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Conservation Priority Species for Region 3 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002).

Table 1. Survey data by year.

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Surveys	95	99	99	45
Total Species	50	48	47	45
Total Individuals	843	911	811	417
Birds per point	8.9	9.2	8.2	9.3
Species per point	6.8	7.3	6.6	7.8

Table 2. Species detected on >5% of stations.

Species	% stations	Total
Red-eyed Vireo	79.6%	377
Ovenbird	78.1%	407
Chestnut-sided Warbler	58.3%	281
Veery (PIF)	53.3%	234
American Redstart	47.3%	209
Eastern Wood-Pewee	30.5%	111
Black-capped Chickadee	25.7%	111
Scarlet Tanager	23.4%	92
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (PIF)	22.8%	85
Golden-winged Warbler (USFWS, PIF)	21.3%	83
Least Flycatcher	18.6%	83
Mourning Warbler	17.5%	65
Pine Warbler	17.2%	62
Blue Jay	16.9%	67
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	15.7%	56
Yellow Warbler	15.1%	59
Gray Catbird	13.3%	53
White-breasted Nuthatch	13.0%	45
Yellow-throated Vireo	11.5%	42
American Goldfinch	11.2%	46
Brown-headed Cowbird	10.7%	43
Indigo Bunting	10.1%	36
Song Sparrow	8.3%	32
Nashville Warbler	7.7%	27
Hermit Thrush	7.7%	26
Common Yellowthroat	6.8%	25
Wood Thrush (USFWS, PIF)	6.2%	21
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5.6%	21
Great Crested Flycatcher	5.3%	19

Discussion

Please note that no statistical analyses were performed on the data collected during this study. As such, Table 2 is not necessarily a list of the most common species at Deep Portage, but rather a list of those species most commonly detected. These data do, however, give an indication of the species assemblage of forest birds that occur on the reserve during June.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the Deep Portage Learning Center and the Cass County Land Department for their assistance and expertise during the study period, and Jim Lind for help with editing. Special thanks to Bruce Steiner, Bob Berry, the 3M Foundation, Gary Lyell, and the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation for their support of the Deep Portage Bird Observatory.

Literature Cited

- Lind, J., N. Danz, M. T. Jones, J. M. Hanowski, and G. J. Niemi. 2004. Forest bird population trends in Minnesota 1991–2002. *The Loon* 75:182–188.
- Partners in Flight. 2008. Complete physiographic area priority scores. http://www.partnersinflight.org/bcps/pl_20sum.htm.
- Ralph, C. J., J. R. Sauer, and S. Droege. 1995. Monitoring Bird Populations by Point Counts. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-149. Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, USDA, Albany, CA.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002. Fish and Wildlife Resource Conservation Priorities, Region 3, Version 2.0. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, MN.

Ben Wieland, Deep Portage Learning Center, 2197 Nature Center Drive NW, Hackensack, MN 56452.

SUMMER RECORDS OF THE RED-THROATED LOON IN MINNESOTA —



At approximately 9:45 A.M. on 14 July 2008, I spotted two adult Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*) on Lake Superior between 22nd Street and 31st Street (Lafayette Square) at Park Point, Duluth. Though not rebound by myself or others on the 13th, these were probably the same two birds found and documented by me at this location 12 July 2008. After several minutes of observing the two loons, I noticed a kayaker paddling towards them. The kayaker flushed the birds and I watched them fly east for several hundred yards before they turned southeast and continued towards Wisconsin. While following the two flying birds through my spotting scope, I suddenly noticed four more Red-throated Loons on the surface of the lake.

I watched the four loons until 10:15 A.M. and carefully scrutinized each bird to make sure that each was an adult in alternate plumage. Unlike my observation of the two loons on the 12th, the birds were close enough that I could clearly see a brick red rectangular throat patch on each individual. Otherwise, my field notes refer to the same features noted on the 12th: bill thin, dark, and pointed, held above horizontal and up-swept at the gonys; head and nape gray with a slim, snake-like profile; whitish breast; dark brown back with very fine white spotting; and dark flanks. I called Chris Mansfield and she was able to obtain identifiable images of the four loons.

These observations represent the latest spring/summer dates that this species has ever been found in Minnesota. It is well known that this species' northbound migration extends well into June and, rarely, into early July. Except for a remarkable record

Table 1. Summer records of Red-throated Loon in Minnesota after the 15th of June.

Date	Location	Number	Reference
17 June 1939	Duluth	one collected from flock of 15–20	<i>The Flicker</i> 11:21
17 June 1941	Duluth	several	<i>The Flicker</i> 13:37
17 June 1984	Duluth	two	The Loon 57:3
18 June 1984	Grand Marais		The Loon 57:39
20 June 2007	Duluth		The Loon 80:20
22 June 1963	Rainy Lake		The Loon 35:85
23 June 1998	Duluth	one in basic plumage	The Loon 71:16
25 June 1975	Duluth	two picked up dead	The Loon 48:15
25–26, 30 June 1998	Duluth	one in alternate plumage	The Loon 71:16
28 June 1993	Stoney Point	two	The Loon 66:17
1 July 1991	Stoney Point		The Loon 63:210
3 July 1952	St. Louis or Cook Co.		MOU files
3 July 1981	Duluth	12	The Loon 53:168
8 July 1945	Duluth	three	<i>The Flicker</i> 18:11–12
8 July 2001	Duluth	four	The Loon 74:16

from Murray County, 7 June 2003, and an undocumented record from Rainy Lake, Koochiching County, 22 June 1963, all previous summer season reports are from Lake Superior, primarily at Duluth. The table shows previous Minnesota summer records later than the 15th of June. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812.**

CINNAMON TEAL IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On 22 June 2008 in Section



4 of Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County, I observed a male Cinnamon Teal. The male Cinnamon was associating with a female teal, either a Cinnamon or a Blue-winged, and briefly with a male Blue-winged as well.

The Cinnamon Teal was about the same size and shape as the male Blue-winged, except that its bill was proportionally longer and broader; that bill was black, and was complemented by red irises and orange-yellow legs.

Though similar in size and shape to a male Blue-winged Teal, the Cinnamon's plumage was quite different from that of a Blue-winged. Its head, neck, and underbody were an unmarked rich chestnut, uniform with just four exceptions: the crown, which was black; the under tail-coverts, which were also black; and two small areas bearing female-like feathers, one at the breast-side/flank junction on the left side of the body and the other in the left hip region. The back and anterior scapular feathers were strongly patterned, with each having a black base and a black subterminal bar, an intervening bar of gray-buff, and a gray-buff tip, whereas the posterior scapulars — strikingly long and pointed — were black, with each feather bearing a longitudinal buff-white stripe. The rectrices were dusky. As for the wings, the upper secondary-coverts were pale gray-blue with a white trailing line; posterior to these, the secondaries were metallic green; and, on the outer half of the wing, the primaries were blackish.

The presence of two small areas of female-like feathers on the left side of the body indicated that the male Cinnamon was beginning the molt into eclipse plumage. In the seminal work of Humphrey and Parkes (1959), eclipse plumage is treated as the duck equivalent of basic plumage — what we often call “nonbreeding” or “winter” plumage. However, Pyle (2005) argues persuasively that eclipse plumage is actually an alternate (“breeding” or “summer”) plumage.

According to an unpublished compilation by K. J. Bardon and P. H. Svingen, the present Cinnamon Teal record is the forty-third in Minnesota in the last two decades. As might be expected, 30 of these 43 are from the state's western regions, as defined

by Green and Janssen (1975); less predictably, of the 30 from the western regions, 16 are from the Green/Janssen west-central region, and nine are from Lac Qui Parle County alone (no other county has more than three during this same period). In temporal terms, 2 of the 43 records are from March, 19 are from April, 16 are from May, and 6 are (like the present one) from June.

Literature Cited

- Green, J. C., and R. B. Janssen. 1975. Minnesota birds: where, when, and how many. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Humphrey, P. S., and K. C. Parkes. 1959. An approach to the study of molts and plumages. *The Auk* 76:1-31.
- Pyle, P. 2005. Molts and plumages of ducks (Anatinae). *Waterbirds* 28:208-219.

Philip C. Chu, Department of Biology, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321.



Black-billed Cuckoo, 19 June 2008, Ripley Esker SNA, Morrison County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

In This Issue

Winter Wren, 30 June 2008, Cook County

David Brislan Front Cover

Obituary: Harrison Bruce Tordoff

8 February 1923 – 23 July 2008

Frank B. Gill 3

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen 7

The Summer Season

1 June through 31 July 2008

Ann E. Kessen, Peder H. Svingen, and Paul E. Budde 13

Black-throated Blue Warblers on Moose Mountain, Cook County

Michael Steffes 38

Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Blackbirds

Kim R. Eckert 43

Notes of Interest

Breeding Bird Surveys at Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, 2004–2007

Summer Records of the Red-throated Loon in Minnesota

Cinnamon Teal in Lac Qui Parle County 47

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.



printed on recycled paper

The **Loon**

SUMMER 2009
VOLUME 81 — NUMBER 2



Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
10 Church Street Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0145

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

EDITOR OF THE LOON:

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE LOON:

Karl Bardon, Paul Budde, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Nancy Hertzelt, Robert Janssen, Ann Kessen, and Peder Svungen

MOU MEMBERSHIPS:

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

EDITOR OF MINNESOTA BIRDING:

Barb Martin, 1658 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104; newsletter@moumn.org

MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:

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

MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mou@moumn.org

MOU WEB SITE:

<http://moumn.org>

MOU E-MAIL LISTSERVICE, MOU-NET:

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

MOU OFFICERS

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

VICE PRESIDENT: Donald E. Mitchell, 28217 Gadiant Lane, Red Wing MN 55066

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Rich Peet, 3245 Noble Avenue N, Golden Valley, MN 55422

TREASURER: Mark Lystig, 1741 Sartell Avenue, Eagan MN 55122

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

MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS: Kim Eckert, 1921 West Kent Road, Duluth MN 55812

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: Carl Greiner, 1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield MN 55923

CONSERVATION: Pam Perry, 11206 Natures Way, Brainerd, MN 56401

EDUCATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chris Benson, 1495 Sunset Avenue SE, Rochester, MN 55904

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

FIELD TRIPS: Bob Williams, 5254 W 95th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437

FINANCE: Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S, St. Louis Park MN 55424

MOU RECORDS AND RESEARCH: Peder Svungen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth MN 55812

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

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

RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATIONS: Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

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

SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND: Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

SEASONAL REPORTS: Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

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

AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Jane Cleave, Box 3091, Duluth, MN 55803-3091

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

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

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

MNBIRD - *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, carol@birdminnesota.com

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

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Bonnie Sample, 1195 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105

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

First Minnesota Record of the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*)

Peder H. Svingen

At 11:05 A.M. on 4 November 2008, I found a murrelet on Lake Superior, approximately 350 yards ESE of the viewing platform at the Park Point Recreation Area, Duluth, St. Louis County. The lake surface was perfectly calm and the bird was swimming slowly to the south-east. At 11:25 A.M., it started diving and moving farther away, and by 11:35 A.M., I could no longer find it.

The bird had the typical shape of a murrelet with a thick, short neck, fat body, and achromatic plumage. It showed a black cap and black nape, including the sides of the nape, and dark gray (blackish) upperparts with two elongated white patches on its scapulars/wing coverts. The inferior margin of the black cap was mostly horizontal across the face and ran below the eye. Its lower face, throat, and breast were gleaming white. Its bill was held above horizontal at all times and appeared to be dark, but I was not sure of its bill color and could not see fine details of its facial pattern, e.g., whether or not it showed white eye crescents.

Don Kienholz arrived at about 11:45 A.M., followed by Mike Hendrickson, and Janet and John Green. Kienholz was the first to refind the bird, but by that time it had moved a considerable distance from its original position. None of us had field guides, but after returning to work and comparing my field notes and sketch to online references, I realized that it was a Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*).

Lars Benson, Anthony Hertzelt, and Sparky Stensaas hiked past the airport on Park Point and refound the bird closer to shore and in good light during the mid-



Long-billed Murrelet, 4 November 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzelt.

afternoon. Hertzelt sketched and photographed the bird from distances as close as 200 yards. Stensaas obtained a series of digital images and posted them at <<http://www.stoneridgepress.com/Murrelet.htm>>. Hendrickson reported that the bird was still visible from the viewing platform at 4:00 P.M., but after that time it became increasingly overcast with rain showers, wind, and poor visibility. Despite extensive searching on subsequent days, the bird was never seen again. Field notes, sketches, and photographs were submitted to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee, and the record was unanimously accepted (Svingen 2009).

Identification

Confirmation of this first state record rested on the elimination of Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*). Marbled Murrelet shows a nearly complete white nuchal collar, more extensive black below the eye,



Long-billed Murrelet, 4 November 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photos by Sparky Stensaas.

and more extensive black on the sides of the breast, somewhat reminiscent of the “shoulder spur” on male Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). In contrast, Long-billed Murrelet shows an entirely dark hindneck, a narrow band of black below the eye, and limited black on the sides of the breast.

Sibley (1993) also mentioned Long-billed Murrelet’s bolder white eye-arcs, pale nape patches, and entirely dark feathering above the gape. Erickson *et al.*

(1995) examined a series of specimens and found these latter three criteria unreliable; there was complete overlap in the eye-arc and gape feathering criteria, and the pale nape patches were not present on most specimens of *perdix*. They also noted that pale nape patches could be present on *marmoratus* in juvenal or transitional plumage. *Perdix* averages larger in bulk (296 gm compared to 225 gm for *marmoratus*, Piatt *et al.* 1994) and has a longer bill, but these differences are difficult to ascertain on lone birds.

Other alcids were more easily eliminated. Kittlitz’s Murrelet (*B. brevirostris*) has not shown a tendency to wander far inland; the sides of its nape and most of its face including the periorbital area are white. *Synthliboramphus* murrelets including Xantus’s (*S. hypoleucus*), Craveri’s (*S. craveri*), and Ancient (*S. antiquus*) show entirely dark backs. Of these three, only *antiquus* has an established pattern of inland wandering; in addition to plumage differences, its short bill is pale yellow. Dovekie (*Alle alle*) is smaller than a murrelet, looks large-headed and thick-necked, and has a stubby bill. Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) is larger than a murrelet, and much paler overall in juvenal and basic plumage, especially on the head, neck, and back.

The age of the Duluth bird has not been determined. Referring to the closely related Marbled Murrelet, Carter and Stein (1995) stated, “by early fall, older juveniles are not distinguishable in the field from after hatching-year birds in basic plumage.” Nelson (1997) noted that within two weeks to two months after leaving the nest, the underparts become whiter, dark brown flecking on the upperparts is replaced by thick gray margins, and the dark neck-band disappears, so that juvenile Marbled Murrelets are virtually indistinguishable from adults in definitive basic plumage.

Status in North America

Ridgway (1919) treated *marmoratus* and *perdix* as separate species, but subsequent authorities considered them con-



Figure 1. North American records of the Long-billed Murrelet through 2007, plus the Duluth record.

specific and referred to *perdix* as the “Asiatic race” of the Marbled Murrelet. Molecular research by Zink *et al.* (1995) showed “species-level distinctness” between these two taxa. Detailed molecular studies and analysis by Friesen *et al.* (1996a, 1996b) confirmed these differences and the authors stated that Long-billed Murrelet “clearly merits full species status according to phylogenetic, evolutionary, or biological criteria.” *Perdix* was “officially” elevated to full species status in 1997 (AOU 1997).

Unlike the Marbled Murrelet, Long-billed Murrelet has an established pattern of vagrancy to the interior of North America, primarily in late fall and early winter (Sealy *et al.* 1982, Sealy *et al.* 1991, Mlodinow 1997). Mlodinow (1997) reviewed 36 North American records of the Long-billed Murrelet, plus three reports of “Marbled” Murrelet that were suspected to be *perdix*, from a total of 19 states and provinces through January 1997. Including a 15 July 1989 sight record from Newfoundland (Mactavish 1989), there

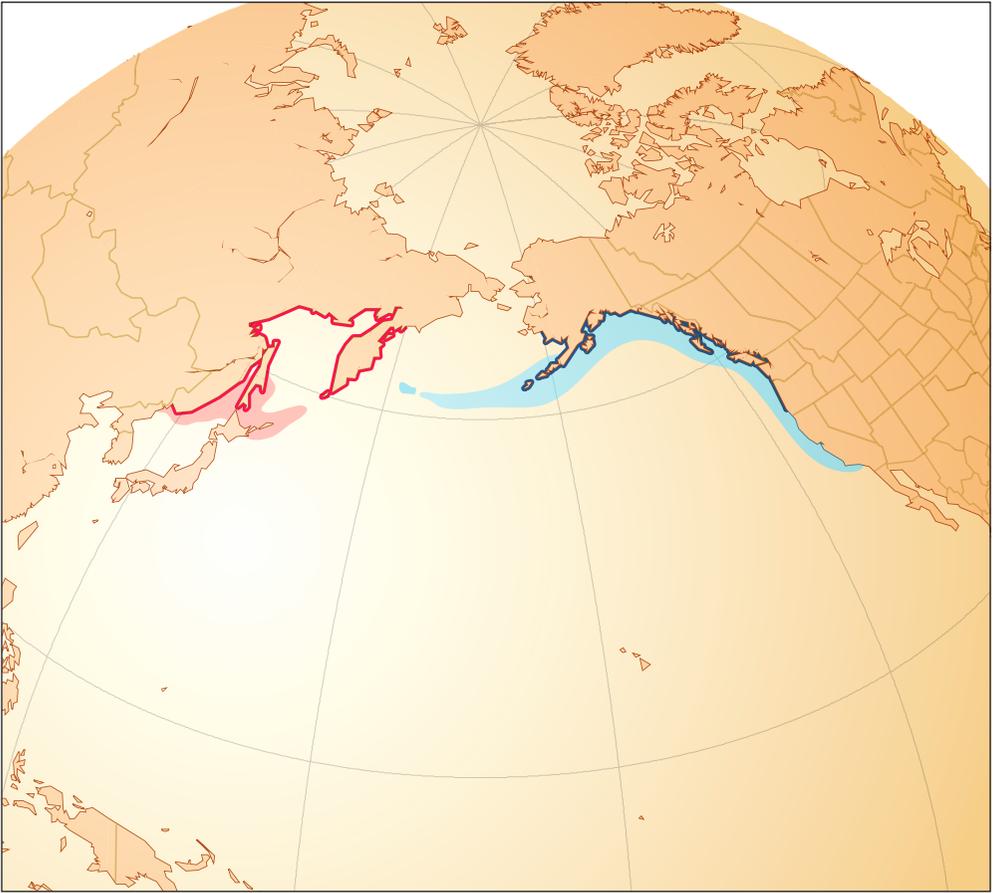


Figure 2. Range of the Long-billed Murrelet (red) and the Marbled Murrelet (blue) .

are about 78 North American records through 2007 (Figure 1), plus probable reports from Alaska (Pribilofs), Colorado (Gunnison County), Illinois (Carlyle Lake), Saskatchewan (Cypress Lake), South Carolina (Chester County), and Washington (Okanogan County). Subsequent to Mlodinow’s 1997 article, this species was found for the first time in Indiana, Kansas (hypothetical list), Kentucky, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin (two records, on hypothetical list).

Mlodinow (1997) noted that birders probably scrutinize out-of-range murrelets more carefully than those found along the Pacific Coast. He suggested that Long-billed Murrelet may occur more frequent-

ly along the Pacific Coast than indicated by the number of records through 1997. In contrast, Marbled Murrelet has yet to be confirmed as a vagrant far eastward of its known breeding range in North America; according to Nelson (1997), all records of “Marbled Murrelet” more than 130 km inland from the Pacific Coast refer to *per-dix*. Marbled Murrelet migration has been well-documented in British Columbia, where birds from the northern coast and the western shores of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands move south into more protected waters of Hecate Strait, and the lower Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca (Campbell *et al.* 1990, Rodway *et al.* 1992, Burger 1995, Speich and Wahl 1995).

Marbled Murrelet is regular in winter along the Pacific Coast as far south as Santa Barbara County, California (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Carter and Erickson 1992). Individuals occasionally wander farther south, and exceptional numbers reached central and southern California during winter 1979–1980 (Garrett and Dunn 1981). One of the southernmost records referred to a bird found dead on the beach in Coronado, San Diego County, California, 21 March 2005 (McCaskie and Garrett 2005). Remarkably, two Marbled Murrelets were photographed 756 km south of this species' California breeding range, at Ensenada, Baja California, 9 January 1994; this was also the first record for Mexico (Erickson *et al.* 1995).

Long-billed Murrelet breeds from the Kamchatka Peninsula, coastal Russia, and the Kommandorski Islands southward through the Kuril Islands to the coastline of the Sea of Okhotsk and Hokkaido Island, Japan, and south and east along the coast of Primorski Krai, Russia, and the Sea of Japan to Vladivostok (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951, Konyukhov and Kitaysky 1995, Nelson 1997). Unlike Marbled Murrelet, *perdix* mostly retreats from its entire breeding range during the winter (Figure 2). In winter, Long-billed Murrelets are found primarily off the islands of Japan, off the coast of Primorski Krai in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, and off the coasts of Korea and northern China (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951, Brazil 1991, Nelson 1997). Longer migrations may leave this species more vulnerable to vagrancy induced by weather systems moving out of the Arctic, in contrast to the shorter migrations of the Marbled Murrelet into more protected waters along the North American coast.

Acknowledgments

Anthony Hertzell created the maps illustrating this article and researched specimen records of *perdix* in North America. James Dean, Collection Manager at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Vladimir Loskot, Curator of Birds at the Zoological Institute in St. Peters-

burg, Russia, and Jack Withrow, Ornithology Collections Manager at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks, Alaska, provided helpful information about specimen records. I thank Anthony Hertzell and Sparky Stensaas/Sparky Photos for permission to publish their photographs. A complete list of Long-billed Murrelet records in North America and additional references are available from the author.

References

- American Ornithologists' Union [AOU]. 1997. Forty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. 6th edition. *Auk* 114:542–552.
- Brazil, M. A. 1991. The Birds of Japan. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Burger, A. E. 1995. Marine distribution, abundance and habitats of Marbled Murrelets in British Columbia. Pp. 295–312 in Ecology and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet (C. J. Ralph, G. L. Hunt, Jr., M. G. Raphael, and J. F. Piatt, eds.). Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, California.
- Campbell, R. W., N. K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J. M. Cooper, G. W. Kaiser, and M. C. E. McNall. 1990. The Birds of British Columbia. Vol. 2. Royal British Columbia Museum and Canadian Wildlife Service, Victoria, British Columbia.
- Carter, H. R., and R. A. Erickson. 1992. Status and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in California, 1892–1987. Pp. 92–108 in H. R. Carter and M. L. Morrison (eds.). Status and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in North America. Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology 5.
- Carter, H. R., and J. L. Stein. 1995. Molts and plumages in the annual cycle of the Marbled Murrelet. Pp. 99–112 in Ecology and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet (C. J. Ralph, G. L. Hunt, Jr., M. G. Raphael, and J. F. Piatt, eds.). Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, California.
- Dement'ev, G. P. and N. A. Gladkov (eds). 1951. Birds of the Soviet Union. Vol.

2. Israel Program for Scientific Translations, Jerusalem (English translation by A. Birron and E. D. Gordon, 1968).
- Erickson, R. A., R. A. Hamilton, S. N. G. Howell, P. Pyle, and M. A. Patten. 1995. First record of the Marbled Murrelet and third record of the Ancient Murrelet for Mexico. *Western Birds* 26:39–45.
- Friesen, V. L., J. F. Piatt, and A. J. Baker. 1996a. Evidence from cytochrome β sequences and allozymes for a new species of alcid: The Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). *Condor* 98:681–690.
- Friesen, V. L., J. F. Piatt, and A. J. Baker. 1996b. Phylogenetic relationships within the Alcidae (Charadriiformes: Aves). *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 13:359–367.
- Garrett, K., and J. Dunn. 1981. Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution. Los Angeles Audubon Society, Los Angeles, California.
- Gibson, D., and V. Byrd. 2007. Birds of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Series in Ornithology, No. 1. Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Gibson, D., S. Heinl, and T. Tobish. 2003. Report of the Alaska Checklist Committee, 1997–2002. *Western Birds* 34:122–132.
- Konyukhov, N. B., and A. S. Kitaysky. 1995. The Asian race of the Marbled Murrelet. Pp. 23–29 in Ralph, C. J., G. L. Hunt, Jr., M. G. Raphael, and J. R. Piatt (eds.). Ecology and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet. Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, California.
- McCaskie, G., and K. L. Garrett. 2005. Spring migration: March through May 2005. Southern California region. *North American Birds* 59:493–496.
- Mlodinow, S. G. 1997. The Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) in North America. *Birding* 29:460–475.
- Nelson, S. K. 1997. Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved 4 November 2008 from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/276>.
- Piatt, J. F., V. Friesen, and G. van Vliet. 1994. Status of a “new” rare alcid, the Long-billed Murrelet. *Pacific Seabirds* 21:47–48.
- Ridgeway, R. 1919. The Birds of North and Middle America. Part 8. United States National Museum Bulletin 50. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- Rodway, M. S., H. R. Carter, S. G. Sealy, and R. W. Campbell. 1992. Status of the Marbled Murrelet in British Columbia. Pp. 17–41 in H. R. Carter and M. L. Morrison (eds.). Status and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in North America. Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology 5.
- Sealy, S. G., H. R. Carter, and D. Alison. 1982. Occurrences of the Asiatic Marbled Murrelet [*Brachyramphus marmoratus perdix* (Pallas)] in North America. *Auk* 99:778–781.
- Sealy, S. G., H. R. Carter, W. D. Shuford, K. D. Powers, and C. A. Chase III. 1991. Long-distance vagrancy of the Asiatic Marbled Murrelet in North America, 1979–1989. *Western Birds* 22:145–156.
- Sibley, D. A. 1993. An Asiatic Marbled Murrelet in Ontario. *Birders Journal* 2:276–277.
- Speich, S. M., and T. R. Wahl. 1995. Marbled Murrelet populations of Washington — marine habitat preferences and variability of occurrence. Pp. 313–326 in Ralph, C. J., G. L. Hunt, Jr., M. G. Raphael, and J. R. Piatt (eds.). Ecology and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet. Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, California.
- Svingen, P. H. 2009. Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union Records Committee. *The Loon* 81:7–12.
- Zink, R. M., S. Rohwer, A. V. Andreev, and D. L. Dittmann. 1995. Trans-Beringia comparisons of mitochondrial DNA differentiation in birds. *Condor* 97:639–649.

2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

The Fall Season

1 August through 30 November 2008

Paul E. Budde¹, Robert M. Dunlap², Douglas W. Kieser³,
James W. Lind⁴, and William C. Marengo⁵

Surprising were reports of **Snow Goose** from six counties in August. Over a thousand **Cackling Geese** were counted at Hawk Ridge one day in late September. A cooperative drake **Eurasian Wigeon** lingered for a week in Hennepin.

Five **Harlequin Ducks** was an impressive number. Four ranged from Duluth to Grand Portage on Lake Superior in October, and the fifth appeared on Mille Lacs in mid-November. All three scoters were also located away from Lake Superior, as were 12 **Long-tailed Ducks** spread among six counties. Three male **Barrow's Goldeneyes** rounded out an active season for sea and western ducks in the state.

Eight **Red-throated Loons** in Duluth, one in Two Harbors, and a pair on Mille Lacs Lake formed an excellent number for a fall season (compared with four in 2006). Three **Pacific Loons** were also found along the North Shore.

Plegadis ibis were located in Marshall, Wilkin, and Dakota, though none was identifiable as to species.

A well-documented **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Watonwan was the fifth state record of the decade. Two **Mississippi Kites** passed by Hawk Ridge in early September, and another flew over the Twin Cities in the middle of the month.

Golden Eagles were widely reported from 13 different counties, but seeing a record high count of 53 over Hawk Ridge in a single day was most impressive. Three **Prairie Falcons** in western counties were each a month and a half apart, suggesting that any time in the fall is a good time to watch for this species.

A **Piping Plover** in Brown and a **Whimbrel** in Lake were the only representatives of their species. Park Point produced a record high fall count of **Sanderlings** in early September, while numbers of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were again rather low. A **Red Phalarope** photographed from the breakwater at Two Harbors was the best shorebird find of the season.

In mid-September, **Sabine's Gulls** were found in Cass and Brown and a **Little Gull** was in Beltrami. **Franklin's Gulls** shattered the record high count at Pelican Lake in early October. Duluth and the Twin Cities shared two to three **Iceland Gulls** this season, beginning in late-November. Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** appeared in Nicollet, Stearns, and St. Louis, while the Twin Cities enjoyed at least six! St. Louis County and the Twin Cities each produced two **Great Black-backed Gulls** in the last two weeks of the season. Jaegers were only found in St. Louis, where up to six **Parasitic** and between four and six unidentified jaegers were found.

The highlight of the fall was the state's first record of **Long-billed Murrelet**. Discovered in early November off Park Point in Duluth, it could not be refound the next day (please see pages 55–60 of this issue for details).

Eurasian Collared-Doves were found as far north as Polk.

Snowy Owls moved into 12 counties, including five in the southern half of the state, but **Northern Hawk Owls** didn't get any farther south than Itasca.

American Three-toed Woodpeckers were limited to the Northeast. On the oth-

er hand, 43 **Black-backed Woodpeckers** were counted at Hawk Ridge this season. Some of these migrants made it as far south as Sherburne, Anoka, and even Dakota counties!

A male **White-eyed Vireo** in Scott lingered from the summer season, while a record late first-year bird was found in Nicollet in mid-November. **Rock Wrens** were found on opposite sides of the state in the latter half of September, and **Carolina Wrens** appeared as far north and west as Itasca and Otter Tail.

The only **Mountain Bluebird** report was a fly-by at Hawk Ridge. Numbers of **Townsend's Solitaire** (four to five) and **Varied Thrush** (eight) were low. The best warblers of the season were southern **Yellow-throated** and **Hooded warblers** found north in St. Louis, and a first county **Black-throated Blue** in Pope.

A female **Summer Tanager** was found in Lake, marking the fourth consecutive fall this species has appeared along Lake Superior. The fifth state record **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was discovered on an island of Leech Lake in Cass, where it lingered for a few days. **Smith's Longspurs** showed up in the Northeast and in Lac Qui Parle — typical fall locations for this species.

A strong movement of **White-winged Crossbills** — highlighted by a record high day count from Hawk Ridge — portended an interesting winter season. By season's end they were widespread in the south.

Hoary Redpolls began to appear in the state in early November, but aside from one in Dakota, they were confined to the northern regions through the end of the season.

Weather summary: Monthly mean temperatures were near normal statewide through most of the season. November started with a very warm spell with some record highs, then settled into average and below average temperatures for the last three weeks of the month. The state's dry spell that began in late June extended through September. Rains returned to

western and northern Minnesota in mid-October, but the southeast remained abnormally dry through the end of the season. The first notable snowfall occurred 26 October on the heels of a strong arctic cold front. Another strong low pressure system crossed the state 6 November and brought 60 MPH winds to the Twin Cities and significant rainfall to parts of the state.

Undocumented reports: **Ruffed Grouse** 9/5 Carver (4 near Chaska); **Pacific Loon** 10/11–11/15 Crow Wing/Mille Lacs (up to 3 on Mille Lacs Lake); **Little Gull** 9/20 St. Louis; **Sabine's Gull** 9/13–14 Beltrami; **Common Raven** 9/25 Olmsted.

Acknowledgments

We thank Karl Bardon and H.R.B.O. for migration data from the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth. Also, special thanks to Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for providing transcripts of Minnesota's weekly birding reports. Peder Svingen provided a very helpful and careful review of this report — though any errors remain the responsibility of its authors. Special thanks to Dave Cahlander for building and maintaining the seasonal reports submission website (<http://moumn.org>). Medians of recent arrivals and departures were calculated by Paul Budde from published and unpublished seasonal report data from 1985 through 2006. Most importantly, many thanks to all of our contributors. We are especially grateful to those who respond to our requests for details and who submit their observations online.

¹ 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419-5336;

² 800 W. College Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082;

³ 6045 Lyndale Avenue S., Apt. 316, Minneapolis, MN 55419-2239;

⁴ 320 - 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616-1620;

⁵ 7550 Weber Drive, Chaska, MN 55318-9371.

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. "ph" denotes a species documented with a photograph.
11. "v.t" denotes a species documented by video tape.

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@aonbenfield.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [1 North, 3 South] Only north report: 9/30 St. Louis (7 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. All south reports: 10/11 Meeker DMF, 10/15 Stearns MJB, 10/23–30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/17 Meeker (17 on Lake Ripley) DMF.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [12 North, 17 South] Early north (median 9/11) 9/18 Cook EEO, 9/27 Cass DAY, BAW, Pennington JMJ, St. Louis LS. Early south (median 9/15) 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (Mehurin Twp., present since 19 July) PCC, PHS, **8/4** Lyon CRM, Olmsted JWH, **8/10** Stearns HHD. Late north 10/30 Aitkin PEJ, 11/17+ Cass (juv. lingered through January in Walker) BAW. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) — [3 North, 8 South] All north reports: 9/24 Lake (7 at Two Harbors) †KRE, 9/27–28 St. Louis (9 total at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 10/1–10 St. Louis (ad. at Park Point) MLH, ph. PHS, ph. SCZ, 10/2–5 St. Louis (juv. at 40th Ave. West) ph. KRE, MLH, 10/4–21 Lake (Two Harbors) SC, JCG, 10/24 Wilkin (2) RBJ, DAC, 10/26 St. Louis (55th Ave.

West, Duluth) SCZ. All south reports: 9/27 Stearns (Paynesville) PHS, 10/2 Big Stone (Otrej Twp.) PHS, 10/3 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, PHS, 10/18–19 Hennepin (juv. at Eden Prairie) JCC, †PEB, m.ob., 10/20 Mower (East Side Lake) ARW, 10/23 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 10/26 Kandiyohi JoS, 10/27 Hennepin (Lake Hiawatha) DDo, 11/9 Blue Earth (juv. at Lake Crystal) †ChH, 11/18 Brown (juv. at Sleepy Eye Lake) †BTS, 11/22 Nicollet (North Mankato) RMD, ChH.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [14 North, 32 South] Documented in four north counties and 13 south counties. Early north (median 9/17) 9/21 Lake †JWL, 9/26 Cass BAW, Traverse PHS. Early south (median 9/19) 9/20 Sherburne PIJ, Sibley RMD, Stevens DBM, 9/23 Ramsey RPR. Peak counts 9/27 St. Louis (**1,071** at H.R.B.O.; record-high fall count) KJB, 11/26 Lac Qui Parle (620 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 10/2 Traverse (375 at White Rock Dam) †PHS. Late north 11/1 Grant †DPG, 11/2 Lake KRE (median 12/17). See winter report for late south migrants. New county records: 10/23 **Fillmore** JWH, 10/25 **Pope** MJB. Observers are asked to



Seven Ross's Geese, 24 September 2008, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [34 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the state and the season.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [1 North, 1 South] Two birds of uncertain origin: mid-July – 8/8 Dakota (Schaar's Bluff) CMB, 11/9 Kanabec CAM.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [18 North, 22 South] Peak counts 11/29 Wright (79 at 5 locations) DPG, 11/22 Sherburne (75) MJB.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [14 North, 23 South] Early north (median 10/2) 9/27 Pennington JMJ, 10/4 Roseau JMJ. Early south (median 10/12) 9/27 Carver JCy, 10/14 Nicollet RMD. High counts 11/26 Houston (**15,335** at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 11/2 Beltrami (949 at Upper Red Lake) BJU, 11/16 McLeod

(800 at Whitney Lake) DPG. Late north 11/23 Wadena PJB, 11/28 Hubbard PBB (median 11/27). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [32 North, 46 South] High count 10/6 Houston (145 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/8 Mille Lacs MJB, 11/15 Pennington JMJ, but also see winter report.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [13 North, 24 South] High counts 11/3 Houston (9,475 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 8/31 Marshall (400) PHS. Late north 11/13 Mille Lacs RBJ, 11/16 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS, 11/23 Otter Tail SPM (median 11/15).

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) — [1 South] Adult male 11/2–8 at Hennepin (N. Anderson Lake) showed no evidence of hybridization †PEJ, †BAF, †DAB, †DDo, †JPM, †JLO, †PCC, ph. DAC, ph. ALD.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [14 North, 23 South] High counts 10/20 Houston (2,620 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 8/31 Marshall (275) PHS, 11/8 Hennepin (261 at N. Anderson Lake) PCC. Late north 11/1 Mille Lacs ASC, 11/2 Beltrami BJU (median 12/4). Please see winter report for late south migrants.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [6 North, 14 South] All north reports: Aitkin, Cass, Cook, Lake, Pennington, St. Louis. Early south (median 8/23) 9/2 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 9/13 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) CRM.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [33 North, 48 South] Reported throughout the state. High counts 10/28 Houston (10,095 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 8/24 Marshall (1,590) PHS, 10/18 Lac Qui Parle (1,276) PHS.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) — [26 North, 42 South] High counts 9/10 Anoka (680 at Carlos Avery W.M.A.) CKB, 8/24 Marshall (504) PHS, 8/23 Anoka (350 at Round Lake) DWK. Late north 11/1 Grant DPG, Mille Lacs ASC, 11/8 Aitkin PEJ (median 10/25).

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — [14 North, 32 South] High counts 11/9 Stearns (281 at Albany W.T.P.) PCC, 9/6 Lac Qui Parle (275) PHS, 8/31 Pennington (250) PHS. Late north 11/8 Mille Lacs MJB, 11/13 Mille Lacs RBJ (median 11/1). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [14 North, 16 South] Late north 11/1 Grant DPG, Mille Lacs ASC, 11/3 Cass BJU (median 11/20). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [19 North, 29 South] High counts 10/18 Hennepin (300 at Long Meadow Lake)

BAF, 10/18 Lac Qui Parle (255) PHS. Late north 10/25 Lake WCM, LS, 11/3 Cass BJU (median 11/11). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [14 North, 23 South] High count 11/3 Houston (29,650 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/3 Crow Wing JSB, 11/6 St. Louis SLF (median 11/25), but also see winter report.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [19 North, 27 South] High counts 11/1 Grant (400 at Island Lake) DPG, 10/2 Traverse (172 at Wheaton W.T.P.) PHS. Late north 11/3 Cass BJU, Crow Wing JSB, 11/10 Aitkin KCR (median 12/12). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [25 North, 25 South] High counts 10/9 Aitkin (9,500) PEJ, 10/28 Houston (7,730 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/15 Aitkin MDN, 11/16 Pennington MJJ (median 12/8). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [5 North, 8 South] Early north (median 10/5) 8/20 St. Louis (40th Ave West †PHS, 9/28 Lake (Beaver Bay W.T.P.) JWJ. Early south (median 10/21) 10/17 Meeker RMD, 10/23 Sherburne PLJ. High count 11/12 St. Louis (52) PHS. Late north 11/2 Cook HHD, 11/30 St. Louis PHS (median 12/4). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [13 North, 20 South] Late north 11/25 Hubbard MAW, but also see winter report. Approximately 1,200 found dead on Lake Winnibigoshish in early November (6,000-7,000 found dead in 2007), possibly due to exotic faucet snails infested with the trematode *Sphaeriodotrema globulus* (MN

D.N.R.).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) — [4 North] All reports: 10/1 Cook (2 females at Grand Portage S.P.) BRL, 10/4 Cook (imm./female at Paradise Beach) AXH, PHS, 10/24 Lake (male at Two Harbors) *fide* JWJ, 10/25–26 Cook (female at Grand Portage sewage ponds, possibly one of the birds from 10/1) BAF, 10/26 St. Louis (imm./female at Park Point) PHS, 11/15 Mille Lacs JSB, WEN, ASc.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [4 North, 3 South] All north reports: 9/14 St. Louis (flyby at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/28–11/19 St. Louis (max. 6 at Park Point) KRE, m.ob., 10/9 Cook (2 at Taconite Harbor) KRE, 10/13–15 Crow Wing (Ironton W.T.P.) DAY, JSB, 10/19 St. Louis (flyby at McQuade Road) MLH, 10/25 Cook (Paradise Beach) DBM, 11/6–13 Cass (Lake Winnibigoshish) BAW. All south reports: 10/17, 11/9 Meeker (female on Lake Ripley) DMF, 10/19 Dakota (imm./female at Black Dog Lake) ADS, †BAF, 11/1 Rice (Lake Mazaska) †DAB, JWH.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) — [4 North, 4 South] All north reports: 10/7–11/16 St. Louis (max. 2 at Park Point) KJB, m.ob., 10/22–11/1 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, m.ob., 10/25 Cook (3 females at Grand Marais) BAF, 11/2 Beltrami (2 males on Upper Red Lake) BJU. All south reports: 11/17–19 Sherburne (2 on Big Lake) CRM, m.ob., 11/18 Meeker/Stearns (2 on Lake Koronis) DMF, 11/22 Houston (Pool 8 of Mississippi R.) PEJ, DFN.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) — [4 North, 4 South] All north reports: 10/4 Cook AXH, SC, 10/18 Lake (Palisade Head) MDu, 10/19–11/9 St. Louis (max. 2 imm./females at Park Point) ALD, m.ob., 10/24–11/8 Cook (max. 3 imm./females at Grand Marais) BAF, m.ob., 10/24–26 Lake (female at Two Harbors) BAF, m.ob., 10/25 Cook (2 females at Paradise Beach) BAF, 10/31–11/13 Cass (max. 4 imm./females on Lake Winnibigoshish) BAW,

m.ob. All south reports: 11/1–2 Meeker (female on Lake Ripley) DMF, 11/1 Stearns (imm./female on Grand Lake) PCC, 11/9 **Blue Earth** (female on Loon Lake) †ChH, 11/16 Carver (imm./female on Lake Waconia) DWK.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [5 North, 4 South] All north reports: 9/28–11/14 St. Louis (Park Point) KRE, 10/25–10/26 Cook (Taconite Harbor) LS, BAF, 10/31–11/2 Cass (2 on Lake Winnibigoshish) BAW, BJU, 11/2–8 Cook (max. 50 between Hovland and Grand Marais) KRE, m.ob., 11/6–23 Lake (6 at Two Harbors) DWK, JWJ, 11/8 **Pennington** (5 at Thief River Falls W.T.P.) JMJ. All south reports: 11/9 Meeker (female on Lake Ripley) DMF, Stearns (adult male at Albany W.T.P.) PCC, 11/18 Ramsey (2 on Lake Vadnais) GW, 11/26–28 Hennepin (female on Lake Calhoun) PEB, m.ob.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [19 North, 22 South] Early south **8/1**–29 (record early) Big Stone (2 imm./females) †PHS, **8/8** Pope KRE, HHD, 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High counts 11/11 Meeker (650 on Lake Ripley) DMF, 11/3 Crow Wing (500 at Ironton W.T.P.) JSB.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [14 North, 25 South] Early south 10/15 Big Stone BJU, 10/17 Meeker DMF. Peak counts 11/17 Houston (5,590 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 11/19 St. Louis (582 at Park Point) PHS.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) — [1 North, 2 South] All documented reports: 11/1+ St. Louis (ad. male at Park Point) ph. †PHS, †MLH, †DAC, †KRE, m.ob., 11/17–19 **Meeker** (ad. male on Lake Ripley) †DMF, ph. RWS, m.ob., 11/22 Houston (ad. male on Pool 8 of Mississippi R.) †PEJ, DFN.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [22 North, 32 South] High count 10/31 St. Louis (650 on Bear Island Lake) SLF. Late north 11/19–20 Cass MRN, 11/23



Ruffed Grouse, 24 September 2008, Gunflint Trail, Cook County. Photo by Earl Orf.

St. Louis PHS, Wadena PJB, but also see winter report.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [12 North, 16 South] Early south (median 10/24) 11/1 Dakota ADS, Meeker DMF, 11/9 Ramsey DAB, Stearns PCC. High counts 11/16 Wabasha (500 at Lake City) WCM, 11/16 Goodhue (300) LEC.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [9 North, 9 South] All north reports: Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Wadena. High count 11/12 Beltrami (**250**, L. Bemidji) MRN. All south reports: 10/23 Kandiyohi DPG, 11/8–18 Meeker DMF, PRH, 11/9 Blue Earth ChH, 11/15–29 Chisago LS, DMF, 11/15–18 Stearns PCC, DMF, 11/22 Houston PEJ, DFN, 11/23 Anoka DWK, Carver PEJ, 11/28 Hennepin DAB, JWH.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [11 North, 28 South] High counts 10/18

Lac Qui Parle (600) PHS, 8/10 Big Stone (380 near Graceville) KRE. Late north 10/31 Beltrami DPJ, 11/1 Grant DPG (median 11/10). Late south 11/23 Wright DPG, 11/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 12/14). Also see winter report.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [2 North, 10 South] All north reports: 8/28 Red Lake SAS, 10/27 Pennington (5) JMJ. High count south 8/16 Nicollet (16 in Granby Twp.) JCC. Also reported from Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker (2), Renville, Rice, Swift (3), Waseca, and Watonwan.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [12 North, 37 South] Reported as far north as Clay in the Northwest, Wadena and Cass in the North-central, and Kanabec in the East-central region.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [18 North, 6 South] All southeast reports: 10/8–12 Fillmore NBO, 8/11 Houston MJB.

Spruce Grouse (*Falci pennis canadensis*) — [2 North] All reports: 9/25 St. Louis (2 near Lake Vermilion) DMF, 9/30–10/20 Lake of the Woods GMM, MHK.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [7 North, 1 South] All north reports: Aitkin (2) WEN, Beltrami *vide* JMJ, Carlton KCR, Kittson JMJ, Marshall JMJ, LMS, Red Lake (2) SAS, Roseau (max. 5) HHD, JCC, LS. Only south report 8/26 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [2 North, 2 South] All north reports: 11/1 Norman (4 in Flom Twp.) BJU, 9/25 Wilkin *vide* JMJ. All south reports: 9/6 Swift (near Benson) PHS, 11/26 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Plover Prairie) BJU, presumably related to D.N.R. releases at Plover Prairie.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [14 North, 34 South] Reported as far north as Clay in the Northwest, Wadena and Cass in the North-central, and Mille Lacs and Pine in the East-central. Some north reports probably refer to recently released birds.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) — [4 North] All reports: 9/27 (2 flyovers at H.R.B.O.) KJB, m.ob., 10/11–11/22 Crow Wing/Mille Lacs (2 at Mille Lacs Lake) ASc, m.ob., 10/12–18 St. Louis (ad., Park Point) MLH, ph. †KRE, m.ob., 10/16 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB, 10/24 St. Louis (2 juv., Park Point) †BAF, †PHS, 10/26–11/6 St. Louis (2 ad., Park Point) †PHS, †MLH, 11/1–2 Lake (Two Harbors) †KRE, m.ob.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) — [2 North] All documented reports: 10/19 St. Louis (juv. at Park Point) †ALD, †MLH, 10/24–11/6 St. Louis (2 adults at Park Point) †PHS, †MLH, m.ob., 11/2–7 Lake (Two Harbors) †KRE, m.ob.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [26 North, 20 South] High counts: 11/8 Aitkin (526 on Mille Lacs Lake) WCM,

10/18 Mille Lacs/Crow Wing/Aitkin (182 on Mille Lacs Lake) AXH. Late north 11/13 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 11/22 Mille Lacs FGo (median 11/25), but also see winter report. Late south 11/22 Carver WCM, Hennepin DWK, 11/23 Anoka DWK (median 12/1).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [30 North, 43 South] High count 8/1 Big Stone (41) PHS. Late north 11/13 Mille Lacs RBJ, 11/19 Cass MRN (median 11/27). Late south 11/17 Sherburne CRM, 11/18 Meeker PRH (median 12/20).

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — [12 North, 10 South] Early north (median 8/19) 8/17 Lake MSw, 8/24 Marshall PHS. Early south 9/26 Big Stone PHS, 9/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 11/3 Cass, Lake of the Woods BJU, 11/12 St. Louis PHS (median 11/19). Late south 11/22 Carver WCM, Winona PEJ, DFN, 11/29 Hennepin JCC (median 11/27).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [15 North, 16 South] Late north 10/26 St. Louis PHS, 11/13 Marshall *vide* JMJ (median 12/3). Late south 10/14 Pope, Swift DMF, 10/27 Hennepin DDo, SLP (median 11/10).

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [5 North, 7 South] Late north 9/1 Marshall, Pennington CRM, m.ob., 9/28 Wilkin DBM. Late south 9/14 Stearns DMF, 10/7 Brown BTS (median 11/2).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [7 North, 15 South] Unusual location 9/11, 11/1 St. Louis (Park Point) BCM, PHS. Late south 10/14 Swift DMF, 11/1 Meeker DMF (median 11/17).

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — No reports.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [17 North, 41 South] High counts 8/31 Dakota (1,900 at Black Dog Lake) BAF, 9/4 Goodhue (400) LEC, 9/13 Waseca (350 at Lake Elysian) JPS,

9/5 Big Stone (295) PHS. Late north 10/26 Lake JWH, 11/3 Lake of the Woods BJU (median 10/25). Late south 11/29 Dakota DAB, JWH, Ramsey m.ob., 11/30 Dakota ALD, CRM, but also see winter report.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [26 North, 43 South] High counts 8/22 Mille Lacs (1,075 on Mille Lacs Lake) ASc, 9/17 Lake of the Woods (1,000) MRN. Late north 11/3 Cass, Itasca BJU, 11/15 Mille Lacs HHD (median 11/27). Late south 11/22 Carver WCM, Dakota BAF, 11/28 Dakota DAB, JWH, but also see winter report.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [6 North, 3 South] Late north 8/31 Marshall PHS, 9/5 Itasca EEO. Late south 10/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/15).

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [3 North, 11 South] All reports: 8/3 Big Stone (Thielke Lake) DWK, JCC, JLO, 8/3 Sherburne PLJ, 8/3–10 Blue Earth ChH, DBM, 8/3–9/2 Morrison (Rice Lake W.M.A.) FGO, 8/4 Steele ARW, 8/9 Wadena PJB, 8/10 Redwood (2 at Willow W.M.A.) RMD, et al., 8/12 Swift (found dead in Appleton) BJU, 8/15 Nicollet RMD, 8/17 Otter Tail SPM, 8/25 Wright (2 at Pelican Lake) *fide* RPR, 8/26 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 9/12 Sibley (Sand Lake) RBW, 9/27 Scott (found dead) PEJ.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [26 North, 48 South] Late north 10/27 Beltrami PJR, 11/1 Grant DPG (median 12/9).

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) — [13 North, 39 South] High counts 9/6 Lac Qui Parle (135 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PHS, 8/7 Scott (80 at Belle Plaine W.T.P.) RBW. Three northeast reports: 8/16 St. Louis (flyby at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/15 Lake (Two Harbors) *fide* JWJ, 9/20–10/5 St. Louis (40th Ave. West) m.ob. Late north 10/5 Grant HHD, 10/10 Becker *fide* MJM (median 10/14). Late south 10/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/26 Washington DFN (median 11/7).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [2 South]



Cattle Egret, 8 October 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

Only report: 8/26–10/3 Lac Qui Parle/Big Stone (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, †PHS, m.ob.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) — No reports.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [1 North, 4 South] All reports: 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (6 at Marsh Lake) BJU, 8/21 Freeborn (12 in Freeman Twp.) FKB, 9/22 Stearns (near Freeport) DMF, 10/3 Lac Qui Parle (3) MHe, 10/8 St. Louis (Duluth) †KRE, m.ob., 11/6 McLeod (15) †JCr.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [14 North, 30 South] High count 8/25 Wright (20 at Pelican Lake during U.S.F.W.S. survey) *fide* RPR. Late north 9/27 Todd RBW, 9/28 Mille Lacs ASc (median 10/1). Late south 10/11 Carver JCy, 10/12 Washington DFN (median 10/21).

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [3 North, 11 South] High count 9/4 Hennepin (14 at Lake Hiawatha/Minnehaha Cr.) BAF. All north: 8/5 Traverse (4) DPG, 8/10 Otter Tail EEO, 8/24 Marshall (4) PHS, MJM, 8/31 Marshall PHS. Late south 10/18 Lac Qui Parle PHS, 11/15 Hennepin BAF (median 11/8).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) No documented reports.

PLEGADIS sp. — [2 North, 1 South] All documented reports: 9/7–9 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) ph. JMJ ph. GKN, 10/19 Wilkin (2 in Manston Twp.) †RMD, 11/11 Dakota (Hastings) †JPM.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [28 North, 42 South] Peak counts 10/1 St. Louis (181 at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/18 Fillmore (100 at Preston) NBO. Late north 10/11 Mille Lacs ASC, 10/28 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB (median 11/1). Late south 10/12 Sibley WCM, 10/14 Fillmore NBO, Meeker DPG, Swift DMF (median 10/21).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [16 North, 25 South] Peak count 9/6 St. Louis (37 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. Late north 10/17 Clay RHO, 10/19 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB (median 10/24). Late south 10/13 Dakota ADS, 11/11 Lyon RJS (median 11/11).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) — [1 South] Fifth Minnesota record in past ten years 8/22–28 **Watowan** (near Madelia) †MTr, ph. LCa, ph. †JPM, †ADS.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) — [1 North, 1 South] Two singles reported from H.R.B.O. in St Louis on consecutive days: 9/8 †KJB, †ABL and 9/9 KJB, ph. †ABL. One south report 9/17 Ramsey (juv. in Mounds View) †AXH.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [32 North, 44 South] High counts 10/31 St. Louis (273 at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 11/1 Houston (203 near Brownsville) RPR.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [32 North, 32 South] High count 9/15 St. Louis (39 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. Late north 11/16 Marshall JMJ, 11/18 St. Louis NAJ, but also see winter report.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [21 North, 31 South] Early south (median 8/15) **8/4** Benton MDN, **8/10**



Swallow-tailed Kite, 28 August 2008, Watowan County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

Lyon LS. High count 9/27 St. Louis (1,037 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. Late north 11/9 Kanabec CAM, 11/17 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB, but also see winter report.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [14 North, 33 South] Late north 11/3 Itasca BJU, 11/9 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB, Pennington SAS, but also see winter report.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [6 North, 3 South] All north reports: Carlton, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Mille Lacs, St. Louis. Seasonal total of 248 from H.R.B.O. well below average of 705. All south reports: 10/17 Sherburne ASC, 11/15 Rice DAB, 11/18 Meeker DMF.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [2 North, 10 South] All north reports: 8/4–10, 9/12 Otter Tail DST, 9/20, 10/18 Otter Tail SPM, 10/1, 10/20 St. Louis (singles at H.R.B.O.) KJB.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — [16 North, 21 South] High count 9/15 St. Louis (21,661 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. Late north 9/24 Carlton, Kanabec, Pine DMF, 10/3 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB (median 10/18). Late south 9/28 Carver JCC, 10/14 Pope, Swift DMF (median 10/10).



Rough-legged Hawk, 20 October 2008, Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

Table 1. Fall raptor totals from Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth.

Species	2008 Total	1991– 2007 Ave.	2008 Deviation from Ave.	First Date	Last Date	Peak Day	Peak Number
Turkey Vulture	1,001	1,421	-30%	23 Aug	28 Oct	1 Oct	181
Osprey	249	400	-38%	15 Aug	19 Oct	6 Sep	37
Bald Eagle	3,300	2,866	15%	15 Aug	30 Nov	31 Oct	273
Northern Harrier	425	680	-38%	16 Aug	10 Nov	15 Sep	39
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12,925	17,533	-26%	15 Aug	17 Nov	27 Sep	1,037
Cooper's Hawk	96	197	-51%	19 Aug	9 Nov	27 Sep	8
Northern Goshawk	248	732	-66%	6 Sep	26 Nov	1 Oct	22
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	4	-51%	1 Oct	20 Oct	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	35,807	52,985	-32%	15 Aug	3 Oct	15 Sep	21,661
Swainson's Hawk	6	7	-15%	8 Sep	17 Sep	17 Sep	3
Red-tailed Hawk	6,092	8,870	-31%	15 Aug	25 Nov	20 Oct	1,157
Rough-legged Hawk	550	520	6%	2 Oct	30 Nov	31 Oct	82
Golden Eagle	174	119	46%	17 Sep	25 Nov	31 Oct	53
American Kestrel	1,191	2,141	-44%	15 Aug	26 Oct	16 Sep	158
Merlin	189	289	-34%	17 Aug	18 Nov	9 Oct	13
Peregrine Falcon	69	66	5%	18 Aug	16 Oct	24 Sep	10
TOTALS	62,324	92,157	-32%	15 Aug	30 Nov	15 Sep	22,437

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [3 North, 11 South] Only north reports: 8/29 Norman DPG, 8/30 Marshall DPG, 9/8–17 St. Louis (total of 6 at H.R.B.O., including 3 dark morphs on 9/17) KJB. Late south 10/7 Stearns MJB, 10/14 Dakota JLO, 10/20 Hennepin DDo (median 10/3).

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [33 North, 47 South] Peak count 10/20 St. Louis (1,157 at H.R.B.O.) KJB.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [18 North, 18 South] Early north (median 9/17) 8/23 Hubbard MAW, 9/27 St. Louis PBB. Early south (median 9/30) 10/3 Murray TJM, 10/9 Benton MDN.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [6 North, 7 South] Record high count of **53** in St. Louis at H.R.B.O. on 10/31 KJB. Early north (median 10/2) 9/17 St. Louis ABL, 9/27 Wadena PJB. Early south (median 10/18) 10/20 Rice TFB, 11/4 Stearns MJB. Last reported north 11/8 Aitkin MDN, 11/9 Cook JLO, DWK.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [32 North, 46 South] Reported throughout

the season in all regions of the state. High count 9/16 St. Louis (158 at H.R.B.O.) KJB.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [20 North, 20 South] Reports 8/3, 8/10 Hennepin (Lake Hiawatha) BAF were likely over-summering (breeding?) birds. Early south (median 8/21) 8/17 Freeborn (3) RTP. Last reported north 11/30 St. Louis, but also see winter report.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [8 North, 14 South] High count 9/10 St. Louis (10 at H.R.B.O.) KJB; high count away from Hawk Ridge 9/24 Blue Earth (5) ChH. Last reported north 11/14 St. Louis PHS, but also see winter report.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) — [3 South] Three reports: 8/10 Yellow Medicine RBJ, 9/27 Pipestone (Pipestone N.M.) RJS, 11/7 Lyon †RJS.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [1 South] Only report: 9/13 **Pope** FGo, MJB.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) — [5 North, 20 South] Late north 8/28 Becker



Lesser Yellowlegs, 14 August 2008, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by Earl Orf.

JCC, 8/30 Lake of the Woods LS and Roseau LMS (median 9/10). Late south 9/12 Murray RBW, 9/14 Stearns DMF (median 10/7).

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) — [13 North, 29 South] High count 8/9 Marshall (10) PHS. Late north 9/12 Morrison DMF, 10/10 Aitkin PEJ. Late south 10/4 Hennepin (3, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) BAF and (Crow-Hassan P.R.) DWK, 10/17 Sherburne ASC (median 10/11).

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) — No reports.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [28 North, 44 South] High count 9/27 Lac Qui Parle (8,563, including 8,500 at Salt Lake) PCC, PHS. Last reported north 11/13 Mille Lacs RBJ.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) — [26 North, 24 South] High count 8/31 Mar-

shall (545) PHS. Late north 11/15 Mille Lacs HHD, 11/20 Mille Lacs MHe (median 11/4). Late south 11/20 Hennepin (3) DDo and Sherburne (3) ASC, 11/24 Sherburne (185, Sherburne N.W.R.) ASC (median 11/4).

[WHOOPIING CRANE] (*Grus americana*) — [4 South] Five reports, all of captive birds from the Wisconsin flock: 8/5 Jackson (4, east of Bergen, present since 8/1) RPR, 8/11 Pope (4, near Lake Emily) RPR, 9/2 Isanti (3) CAM, 10/5 and 10/7 Lincoln (4, Limestone Twp.) RJS, BJU.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — [8 North, 15 South] Early north (median 8/10) 8/9 Marshall (5) PHS, 8/24 Marshall PHS. Early south (median 8/7) 8/9 Yellow Medicine (10) PCC, 8/16 Lac Qui Parle PCC. First juvenile 9/4 St. Louis (Duluth) PHS. High count 9/20 Lac Qui Parle (22) PCC. Late north 10/17 Cass m.ob., 11/1 Cass (Little Pelican Island,

Leech Lake) BAW (median 10/25). Late south 11/5 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 11/4).

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [8 North, 16 South] Early north (median 8/18) 8/7 Wilkin EEO, 8/30 Lake of the Woods m.ob. Early south (median 8/2) 8/2 and 8/8 Lac Qui Parle m.ob. First juveniles 9/4 (1), 9/7 (5) St. Louis PHS. High count 10/19 Wilkin (404) BWF, RMD. Late north 10/4 Cook PHS, 10/19 Wilkin BWF, RMD (median 10/27). Late south 11/4 Dakota ADS, JPM (median 10/27).

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [12 North, 24 South] First juveniles 8/16 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Salt L.) PCC. High count 8/31 Marshall (99) PHS, JMJ. Late north 9/17 St. Louis (2) PHS, 9/24 Kittson LW (median 10/2). Late south 10/11 Lac Qui Parle (6) PCC (median 10/8).

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) — [1 South] Only documented report: 9/7 Brown †BTS.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [31 North, 48 South] High count 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (471) PCC, PHS. Late north 10/2 Traverse PHS, 10/9 Morrison RBJ (median 10/27). Last reported south 11/16 Houston NBO.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [2 South] All reports: 8/1 Big Stone (2, Toqua Twp.) PHS, 9/2–10/3 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) m.ob. (late south median 10/5).

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [25 North, 38 South] High count 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (32) PCC, PHS. First juveniles 8/9 Big Stone (5) PCC. Late north 10/25 Cook WCM, 11/7 Cook BRL (median 10/12). Late south 10/12 Rice JCC (median 10/6).

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [21 North, 35 South] High count 8/9 Mar-



Willet, 28 October 2008, Carlos Avery WMA, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

shall (21) PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/1 St. Louis SLF, 10/5 Todd HHD (median 10/1). Late south 9/27 Sibley JCC, 10/4 Carver (3) JCy (median 10/5).

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [19 North, 34 South] First juvenile 8/2 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. High count 8/9 Marshall (114) PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/26 Carlton LAW, 11/1 Grant DPG (median 11/3). Late south 11/8 Ramsey BRL, 11/9 Sherburne ASc (median 11/10).

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [2 North, 5 South] Two north reports: 8/29 Crow Wing (3, Ironton W.T.P.) JSB, 8/31–9/1 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) m.ob. First juvenile 8/10 Lac Qui Parle PCC. Late south 9/13 Big Stone PBB, **10/28** Anoka (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) ph. AXH, the latter the latest date on record, more than two months later than the median (8/19).

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [20 North, 40 South] High count 8/9 Marshall (1,131) PHS, JMJ. Late north 9/28 Traverse DBM, 10/19 Wilkin BWF, RMD (median 10/25). Late south 10/24 Brown (8) BTS (median 11/2).

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longi-*



Least Sandpiper, 12 August 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

cauda) — [2 North, 7 South] Two north reports: 8/2 Marshall FGo, 8/9 Traverse (3) HHD, LS, KRE. Observed south in Big Stone, Brown, Faribault, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Redwood, and Wright as late as 8/24 Faribault HHD (median 8/20).

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) — Only report 8/25 Lake JWL.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) — [2 North, 3 South] Early north (median 8/25) 8/24 Marshall (2) PHS. Early south (median 8/14) 8/4 Olmsted (2) JWH, 8/24 Brown BTS. Late north 9/1 Marshall HHD, **10/19** Wilkin BWF, RMD, the latter record one month later than the median (9/19). Late south 9/2 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU, 9/6 Lac Qui Parle PHS, JMJ (median 10/2).

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) — [2 North, 3 South] High count 8/1 St. Louis

(21, Park Point) KJB. Observed in Marshall and St. Louis in the north as late as 8/31 Marshall (2) PHS (median 8/18). Observed south in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, and Yellow Medicine as late as 9/13 Big Stone PBB (median 8/20).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) — [5 North, 1 South] Early north (median 8/12) 8/28 St. Louis (2) PHS, 8/31 Pennington PHS. Late north 9/28 St. Louis (juvenile at Park Point) KRE, PHS (median 9/25). Only south report: 9/12 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) — No documented reports.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — [5 North, 10 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. First juvenile 8/16 Lac Qui Parle PCC. High count 9/4 St.

Louis (356, Park Point, Duluth, highest fall count on record) PHS. Late north 10/17 Cass (3) m.ob., 11/1 Cass (Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake) BAW (median 10/9). Late south 11/4 Rice TFB (median 10/22).

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [15 North, 29 South] First juvenile 8/2 Lac Qui Parle PHS. High count 8/24 Marshall (884) PHS, JMJ. Late north 9/7 St. Louis PHS, 9/9 Cass (2) BAW (median 9/27). Late south 10/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/11).

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [21 North, 41 South] High count 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (851) PCC, PHS. Late north 9/27 St. Louis HHD, LS, 9/28 Lake JWJ (median 10/13). Late south 10/30 Brown BTS, 11/1 Rice DAB, JWH (median 10/25).

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [2 North, 8 South] All north reports: 8/24 Marshall †PHS, JMJ, 8/31 Marshall (3) m.ob. and Roseau LS. Early south (median 8/2) 8/9 Big Stone †PCC, 8/16–23 Lac Qui Parle †PCC. Late south 10/29–11/2 Brown (juv., Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 9/30).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [15 North, 28 South] First juveniles 8/10 Lac Qui Parle (9 at Salt L.) PCC. High count 8/20 Stearns (86) PCC. Late north 9/27–29 St. Louis (Park Point) m.ob. (median 10/3). Late south 11/3–15 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 10/31).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [14 North, 37 South] First juveniles 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, 8/31 Marshall (2) PHS. High count 8/29 Big Stone (442) PHS. Late north 10/2 Traverse (4) PHS, 10/17 Cass (2) m.ob. (median 10/30). Late south 11/9 Dakota DAB, ADS, JWH, 11/14–15 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 11/12).

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) — [3 North, 9 South] All north reports: 8/31 Marshall m.ob., 9/1 Marshall HHD, 9/21 St. Louis

PHS, 10/16 Cass DAY. Early south (median 8/28) 8/22 Big Stone PHS, 9/13 Pope (3) MJB. First juveniles 10/11 Lac Qui Parle (11) PCC. High count 10/18 Lac Qui Parle (61) PHS. Late south 11/9 Dakota DAB, ADS, JWH (median 11/5).

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) — [14 North, 24 South] High count 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (996) PCC, PHS. Late north 9/13 Grant HHD, 9/17 St. Louis PHS (median 9/21). Late south 10/18 Big Stone (3) PHS and Lac Qui Parle (8) PHS, 10/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/9).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) — [5 North, 16 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Numbers down, with only about 115 individuals reported (300 in fall 2007). First juveniles 8/27 Stearns (1) PCC, 8/29 Big Stone (1) PHS. High count 8/30 Lake of the Woods (37) KRE. Late north 9/9 Lake (Beaver Bay W.T.P.) LBF, 9/28 St. Louis *fide* JWJ (median 9/21). Late south 9/20 Lac Qui Parle PCC and Sibley RMD, 9/21 Blue Earth ChH (median 9/18). First county record: 8/31 **Benton** DWK.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [3 North, 11 South] First juveniles 8/9 Marshall (4) PHS, 8/16 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC. Late north 8/31 Marshall PHS, LMS, JMJ, 9/1 Marshall m.ob. (median 9/8). Late south 9/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/21 Blue Earth ChH (median 9/9).

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [4 North, 11 South] Early north (median 8/28) 8/9 Marshall PHS, 8/31 Marshall m.ob. Early south (median 8/1) 8/2 Yellow Medicine PCC, 8/4 Brown BTS. First juvenile 8/23 Yellow Medicine PCC, RSF. High count 10/18 Lac Qui Parle (162) PHS. Late north 9/17 St. Louis PHS, 10/19 Wilkin BWF, RMD (median 10/15). Late south 10/18 Lac Qui Parle PHS, 10/23 Lac Qui Parle (31) BJU (median 10/26).

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [17 North, 30 South] High count 8/9 Marshall (112, third highest count for Agassiz

N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late north 11/4 Mille Lacs ASC, 11/8 St. Louis *fide* JWJ (median 11/11). Last reported south 11/23 Houston (30, Wildcat Landing) NBO.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [7 North, 13 South] Late north 11/9 Kanabec CAM, **11/15** Marshall GT (median 10/29). Late south 10/11 Washington BAF, 10/19 Pope (2) ARW (median 11/3).

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [7 North, 14 South] High count 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (253) PCC, PHS. Late north 9/1 Marshall m.ob. and Pennington JCC, 9/9 Mille Lacs (2) ASC (median 9/6). Late south 10/11 Nicollet (3) RMD, 10/9–**20** Brown BTS (median 9/14).

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [10 North, 20 South] Total of 276 individuals reported. High count 8/10 Lac Qui Parle (47) PCC. First juveniles 8/10 Lac Qui Parle (20) PCC. Late north 9/13 Grant HHD, 9/26 Traverse PHS (median 9/22). Late south 9/27 Brown BTS and Lac Qui Parle (4) PCC, PHS, 10/14 Kandiyohi (Lake Lillian W.T.P.) DPG (median 9/24).

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) — [1 North] Single bird found 10/22 Lake (Agate Bay, Two Harbors) ph. †SCZ. Sixteenth state record; sixth in last ten years.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) — [1 North, 1 South] Two documented reports: 9/7 Cass (2, Walker W.T.P.) †DAY, ph. MM; 9/12–13 Brown (first-cycle, Sleepy Eye W.T.P., found dead on 9/14) ph. †LS, †BTS, ph. KRE, ph. †JCh.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [14 North, 19 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants north. Early south (median 8/2) 8/9 Nicollet (juv.) RMD, 9/10 Dakota DAC. High count 11/8 Aitkin (956, Mille Lacs Lake) WCM. Late north 11/17 Mille Lacs MHe, 11/26 Crow Wing MRN (median 11/22). Late south 11/19 Stearns DPG, 11/22 Carver WCM (median 11/25).



Sabine's Gull, 13 September 2008, Sleepy Eye, Brown County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) — [1 North] All documented reports: 9/14–15 Beltrami (Lake Bemidji) DPJ.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [19 North, 37 South] Record high count of **75,000** at Pelican Lake, Grant 10/1 BWF. Out of range was an imm. at Interstate Island W.M.A., St. Louis 9/17 †PHS. Late north 10/25 Clay (40) RHO, 11/1 Grant (5) DPG (median 10/24). Late south 11/11 Freeborn ARW, 11/16 Sibley DPG (median 11/11).

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [31 North, 45 South] High count 11/15 Hennepin (3,500, Lake Harriet) BAF. Last reported north 11/26 Crow Wing MRN, St. Louis (3) PHS, but see winter report for late migrants north.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [18 North, 20 South] High count 11/7 St. Louis (4,587, Duluth and Minnesota side of the Superior Entry) PHS.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — [2 North, 5 South] Record early north (median 10/16) **9/28** St. Louis (juv., Park Point) KRE, LS, 10/4 Lake (ad., Knife River) SC. Early south (median 10/7) 10/1 Hennepin (2, Lake Calhoun) PEB. First south report



Lesser Black-backed Gull, 27 November 2008, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.

away from the Twin Cities 11/9 Blue Earth †ChH. High count 11/24 Dakota (7, 2 ad. and 5 first-cycle at Black Dog Lake) PEB.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) — [1 North, 2 South] All reports: 11/22 St. Louis (ad. “Kumlien’s” at Port Terminal, Duluth) †PHS, 11/24 St. Louis (ad. at Canal Park) ph. KJB, 11/25+ St. Louis (first-cycle at Canal Park) ph. KJB, 11/27–29 Ramsey (ad. “Kumlien’s”) †DAB, †PEB, m.ob., 11/29+ Dakota (first-cycle, Black Dog Lake) DAB, JWH, 11/30+ Dakota (ad. “Kumlien’s” at Black Dog Lake, different from Ramsey bird) †BAF, †DWK, †PEB.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [1 North, 5 South] Two north reports from St. Louis: 9/21 (imm., Park Point) JCG, 9/27 PBB. First reported south (median 9/29) 9/30–10/31 Hennepin (ad., Lake Calhoun) DDo, †PEB, †CMB. A second ad. was noted at this location 11/8–30 †BAF, †PEB. A second-cycle was found in Hennepin (Lake Harriet) 11/9 BAF. Report-

ed from Dakota (Black Dog Lake) beginning 11/18 JPM, followed by a first- and second-cycle at Kaposia Landing in Dakota/Ramsey on 11/27+ KJB, †BAF, †PEB. As many as **three** present at Black Dog on 11/28 (2 ad. and 1 second-cycle) PEB. Also reported 10/14 **Nicollet** (ad.) ph. ChH, ph. RMD, 11/1–8 Stearns (ad., Pearl Lake) †PCC, HHD, 11/28 Ramsey (first-cycle) BAF, 11/28–29 Ramsey (second-cycle) m.ob.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [2 North, 3 South] Early north (median 10/31) 10/30 St. Louis (first-cycle, Duluth.) PHS. First county record 11/9 **Wadena** (2 ad., Menahga W.T.P) PJB. Reported from Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey in the south beginning 11/20 Dakota (ad., Black Dog Lake) JPM (median 11/25).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North, 2 South] Two north reports from St. Louis: 11/13 (first-cycle, Virginia) †ERC, 11/25+ St. Louis (fourth-

cycle, Duluth) ph. KJB. All south reports: 11/20+ Dakota/Ramsey (first-cycle at Black Dog Lake and Pig's Eye S.N.A.) †JPM, †BAF, †DAB, †PEB; 11/30 Dakota (second-cycle at Black Dog Lake) †BAF, †DWK, †PEB.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [9 North, 15 South] High count 9/9 Cass (48, Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake) BAW. Late north 9/9 Cass BAW and St. Louis PHS, 9/14 Beltrami DPJ and St. Louis (2) CMB (median 10/2). Late south 10/3 Scott (2) BAF, 10/4 Goodhue RPR (median 10/2).

Black Tern (*Cblidonias niger*) — [15 North, 28 South] High count 8/23 Lac Qui Parle (162) PCC, PHS. Late north 8/31 Marshall m.ob., 9/1 Marshall m.ob. and Pennington JCC (median 9/7). Late south 9/13 Lac Qui Parle WCM and Martin DAB, JEB (median 9/15).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [6 North, 3 South] Late north 9/28 St. Louis (7, Park Point) PHS, 10/8 St. Louis (4, Minnesota side of Superior Entry) PHS (median 9/26). All south reports: 9/2 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 9/6 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) PHS, 9/13 Pope (5) MJB, 9/16 Hennepin (2, Purgatory Creek wetlands, Eden Prairie) JCY.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) — [11 North, 10 South] Late north 10/11 Otter Tail SPM, 10/17 Cass m.ob. (median 10/11). Late south 9/13 Yellow Medicine (2) WCM, 9/14 Olmsted (22, Silver Creek Reservoir) JWH (median 9/27).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — [1 North] Only reported from St. Louis: 9/19 H.R.B.O. KJB; 9/20 imm., Minnesota side of Superior Entry PHS; 9/21 1 ad. light morph and 1 dark juv., Superior Entry JWH; 9/28 ad. light morph, Park Point DDo, PHS; 10/6 ad., Park Point MLH.

Jaeger sp. — [1 North] Reports of unidentified jaegers: 9/21 St. Louis (2 imm. dark morph, Minnesota side of Superior

Entry) PHS, m.ob., 9/27 St. Louis LS, 9/28 St. Louis (Park Point) BAF and (ad. light morph, Park Point, probably a Parasitic) KRE, 10/11 St. Louis PHS.

LONG-BILLED MURRELET (*Brachyramphus perdix*) — [1 North] First state record found 11/4 St. Louis (Park Point) †PHS; relocated later that same day ph. †AXH, ph. MSS, †DOK, †MLH (**The Loon** 81:55–60).

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [33 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state. High count 11/19 St. Louis (269) PHS.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [5 North, 15 South] First county record 11/23 **Waseca** (Janesville) †DAB. Also reported north in Traverse (Wheaton), Otter Tail (Perham), Itasca (Grand Rapids), Polk (Climax) and south in Big Stone (Clinton, Ortonville), Blue Earth (Mapleton), Brown (Hanska), Chippewa (Clara City, Milan), Faribault (Winnebago), Lac Qui Parle (Madison, Marietta), Renville (Olivia, Renville), Sibley (Gaylord), Stearns (Paynesville), Steele (Ellendale), Stevens (Chokio, Morris), Swift (Appleton, Murdock), Watonwan (Madelia). Reported without details from Rice.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — [33 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state. High count 8/31 Rice (110, River Bend N.C.) FVS.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [1 South] Only report: 8/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [3 North, 10 South] Late north 8/13 Beltrami DPJ, 8/24 Wadena PJB (median 9/7). Late south 9/1 Carver DWK, 9/12 Stearns RBJ (median 9/25).

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [1 North, 7 South] Two north reports from Mille Lacs: 9/4 RBJ, DAC, 10/16 RBJ.

South reports from Anoka, Faribault, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Nicollet, Sibley, Stevens.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [20 North, 24 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [7 North, 4 South] Early north (median 11/7) 10/23 Roseau SWd and Wilkin GAM, 10/24 Pennington JoB. All south reports: 11/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Meeker/Wright DBM, 11/26 Nicollet CKB.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [6 North] Observed in Beltrami, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis beginning 10/29 Cook (2, Gunflint Trail) EEO (median 10/17).

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [13 North, 18 South] Observed throughout the season in all regions of the state as far southwest as Brown.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [4 North] Observed in Aitkin, Koochiching, Pennington, St. Louis. High count 11/30 St. Louis (4) BKY.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [1 North, 5 South] Only north report: 11/15 Morrison FGo. South reports began with 10/30 Blue Earth ChH, then from Anoka, Dakota, Meeker, and Rice.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [9 North, 3 South] Reported from Aitkin, Becker, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Otter Tail, Polk, Roseau, St. Louis in the north and Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Rice in the south.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [1 North] Only report: 11/15 St. Louis ABL.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [1 North, 4 South] Two north reports: 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/27 St. Louis ABL. First found south beginning 11/3 Sherburne (bird found recently dead on

road, Sherburne N.W.R.) RBJ, then reported in Hennepin, Ramsey, Rice, Sherburne.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) — [23 North, 32 South] High count 8/18 St. Louis (1,361 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. Late north 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 10/9 Otter Tail DST (median 9/27). Late south 10/5 Fillmore CWG, 10/12 Rice TFB (median 10/9).

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — [1 North, 4 South] Only north report: 8/3 Cass BAW. All south reports: 8/22 Sherburne PLJ, 8/29 Ramsey (migrating in the early afternoon) AXH, 9/6 Stearns MDN, 9/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [15 North, 38 South] High count 8/28 Rice (150) DAB. Late north 8/31 Roseau CRM, 9/1 Mahnomen HHD, Red Lake LS, JCC, and Wadena PJB (median 9/14). Late south 9/24 Blue Earth ChH, 9/25 Hennepin (10) ALD (median 10/8).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — [23 North, 34 South] Late north 9/24 Hubbard MAW, 9/25 St. Louis DMF and Wadena PJB (median 9/25). Late south 10/13 Goodhue LEC, 10/22 Washington TEB (median 10/11).

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [31 North, 44 South] Last reported north 11/7 St. Louis SES, 11/9 Wadena PJB. Reported south throughout the season.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [13 North, 29 South] Late north 10/16 Mille Lacs RBJ, 11/2 Mille Lacs MDN (median 11/7). Likely migrants south last reported 9/20 Pope DBM, 9/27 Le Sueur JCC. Probable over-wintering birds reported 11/15 Anoka SWe, 11/30 Anoka (2) CKB.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [17 North, 41 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state as far northeast as Lake.



Black-backed Woodpecker, 15 October 2008, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Brislane.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [23 North, 34 South] High count 9/25 St. Louis (22, H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/28 St. Louis (13, Park Point) BAF. Late north 9/29 Otter Tail ARO and St. Louis (5, Park Point) PHS, 10/2 Clay RHO (median 10/18). Reported south throughout the season; late migrants difficult to distinguish from overwintering birds.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) — [31 North, 46 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [26 North, 42 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [2 North] All reports: 10/26 Cook KRE, LS, 11/7 Lake JLO, DWK, 11/16 Lake *vide* JWL.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [10 North, 3 South] Reported from Aitkin, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mille Lacs, Pine, St. Louis in the north. A total of 43 migrants counted in St. Louis at H.R.B.O. 9/5–11/4 KJB. South reports: 10/18–11/26 **Sherburne** (2, male and female, Sherburne N.W.R.) SLo, m.ob., 10/29 **Dakota** (female, Acacia Park Cemetery, Mendota Heights) †ADS, 10/29 **Dakota** (female, Cowling Arboretum, Carleton College) ph. †OSM, 11/19 **Anoka** (male) BRL, 11/24 **Anoka** (female, Martin Lake) CKB.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [31 North, 43 South] High count 9/25 St. Louis (35, H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/19 Hennepin (17, Wood Lake N.C.) CMB. Last reported north 11/5 Cass BAW, 11/29 Otter Tail BDE. Reported south throughout the season.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [23 North, 33 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state as far southwest as Brown.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) — [11 North, 24 South] Early south (median 8/3) 8/7 Martin RMD, RBW, Sherburne PLJ, 8/8 Pope HHD, KRE, 8/9 Scott DBM. Last north reports 9/8 Aitkin KCR, 9/10 Clay RHO, 9/12 Morrison DMF (median 9/7). Late south 9/15 Hennepin CRM, 9/20 Blue Earth DPG, Pope DBM, 9/21 Benton DBM (median 9/21).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — [21 North, 40 South] Record high counts both from BAF at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. in Scott: 8/30 (**34**, north trails) and 8/29 (**23**, south horse trails). Late north 9/12 Morrison DMF, Otter Tail DST, 9/13 Grant HHD, 9/14 Crow Wing CKB (median 9/19). Late south 9/23 Washington DFN, 9/25 Hennepin ALD, 10/4 Hennepin PEB (median 10/3).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [2 North, 6 South] All north reports 8/18 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/12 St. Louis PHS (median departure 8/30). All south 8/17 Hennepin †CMB, Le Sueur RMD, 8/24 Fillmore NBO, 8/29 Nicollet RMD, 9/7 Anoka RLR, 9/19 Scott BAF, 9/21 Scott BAF (median early 8/12, late 9/15). Also reported from Carver, Rice, and Stearns, but lacking identification notes. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not included in this report. Observers are encouraged to include identification details in their reports.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) — Reported from Rice and Winona, but without identification details.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [2 North, 3 South] All north 8/3 Cass (2) BAW, 8/9 Marshall (3) PHS (median late 8/29). All south 8/1 Scott (3, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 8/17 Le Sueur RMD,

8/20 Pope (2) DPG. Reported without details from an additional 5 north and 5 south counties.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii*) — [6 South] High counts 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (**5**, Big Stone NWR) PCC, PHS. Late south 8/10 Nicollet RMD, Sherburne PLJ, 8/17 Carver (3) JCC (median 9/10). Reported from additional 8 south counties without details.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [2 North, 5 South] High counts 9/8 Hennepin (**8**) ALD, 9/9 St. Louis (4) PHS. Late north 9/9, 9/12 St. Louis PHS, 9/12 Morrison DMF (median 9/21). Late south 9/16 Nicollet RMD, 9/21 Scott (3) BAF (median 9/27). Reported without ID notes from an additional 13 north and 16 south counties.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [26 North, 40 South] Record-high count 8/28 Crow Wing (**24**) found at the Ironton W.T.P. by JSB, who also found 12 at the same location 8/30. Late north 9/28 Otter Tail DST, 10/5 Todd HHD, 10/10 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS (median 10/14). Late south 10/23 Hennepin (Elm Creek P.R.) RLR, 10/25 Hennepin ALD, 11/1 Anoka (Locke C.P.) DWK (median 10/31).

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [19 North, 31 South] Late north 9/1 Marshall LS, 9/5 St. Louis SLF, 9/6 St. Louis JPM, 9/12 Morrison DMF, **11/9–10** (record late) St. Louis †JLK, †MLH (median 9/19) (**The Loon** 81:109–110). Late south reports from 6 counties during the 9/13 Minnesota River Valley birding day, followed by 9/15 Mower JWH, 9/20 Swift DBM (median 9/22).

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [10 North, 9 South] Young still in nest 8/9 Traverse KRE, HHD, LS. Late north 9/1 Roseau CRM, 9/3 Lake (Two Harbors golf course) JCG, 9/7 Cook RBJ (median 9/10). Late south 9/1 Cottonwood BRB, then no more reports until 9/26 Dakota RLW, well past the 9/9 median.



Yellow-throated Vireo, 8 September 2008, Rice Creek, Ramsey County. Photo by Vija Kelly.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [29 North, 44 South] High counts 8/28 Norman (24) JCC, 9/3 Lake (20, Two Harbors golf course) JWJ, 8/21 Pine (16) RBJ, DAC. Late north 9/9 Kanabec DPG, 9/12 Morrison DMF, Otter Tail DST, 9/20 Wadena PJB (median 9/18). Late south 9/24 Blue Earth RBW, 9/28 Waseca DAB, RMD, JWH (median 9/23).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [3 South] All reports 8/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/3 Sibley RMD, 8/7 Sibley RBW, 8/9 Lac Qui Parle (two adults and begging juvenile) BJU, then only 8/22 Stearns DMF, two weeks before the 9/4 median departure.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) — [20 North, 28 South] Both north and south arrivals 6 days ahead of median. Early north (median 10/8) 10/2 Itasca JEB, 10/3 Kittson *vide* JMJ, 10/12 St. Louis PHS.

Early south (median 10/16) 10/10 Anoka JCC, 10/11 Blue Earth (2) ChH, 10/14 Sherburne PLJ. High count 10/20 Clay (10, South Moorhead) RHO.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) — [2 South] Singing male first reported 7/19 continued through **9/7** Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) †BAF, DBM. A record-late juvenile at Gustavus Adolphus College's Linnaeus Arboretum was first seen **11/14** Nicollet ph. †RMD, and reappeared at the same location **11/17** RMD.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) — [1 South] Only report 8/31 Dakota, two males still singing at Cliff Fen S.N.A., BAF.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [16 North, 28 South] High counts 8/16 Carver (**7**, Rapids Lake Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) JCy, 8/30 Scott (**7**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., north trails.) BAF. Late

north 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis PHS, 9/13 Grant HHD, St. Louis KCR (median 9/19). Late south 9/19 Fillmore NBO, 9/20 Pope DBM, 10/10 Dakota ADS, JPM (median 9/27).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) — [12 North, 31 South] Early south (median 8/20) 8/31 Goodhue LEC, 9/5 Hennepin CMB, Meeker DMF, 9/6 Brown BTS. Late north 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/27 Cass BAW (median 10/11). Late south 10/10 Scott BAF, 10/11 Carver JCy, Le Sueur JCC, 10/12 Rice DAB, TFB (median 10/16).

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) — [10 North, 29 South] High count 8/24 Le Sueur (16) RBJ. Late north 9/4 Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC, 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis (2) PHS, 9/18 Wilkin RBJ, DAC (median 9/10). Late south 9/20 Swift DBM, 9/21 Scott BAF (median 9/25).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [7 North, 20 South] Early south (median 8/20) 8/9 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy, 8/25 Sherburne PLJ, 8/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU. No counts of more than 3 individuals. Late north 9/15 St. Louis SLF, 9/18 Carlton LAW, 9/28 Mille Lacs ASc (median 9/26). Late south 9/20 Carver (2) JCy, Hennepin JCC, Pope DBM, Swift DBM, 9/21 Blue Earth ChH, Stearns HHD, 9/26 Anoka REH (median 10/1).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [25 North, 37 South] High counts 9/12 St. Louis (21) PHS, 8/30 Scott (19, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., north trails.) BAF. Late north 9/20 Carlton LAW, St. Louis CKB, 9/24 Carlton, Kanabec and Pine DMF, 9/25 St. Louis DMF (median 9/30). Late south 9/26 Fillmore NBO, 9/27 Carver JCy, Washington DFN, 9/29 Stearns MDN (median 10/5).

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [13 North] Reported across the northern tier of counties, and as far south as Pine in the east. Unlike the previous two fall seasons, no seasonal movement was noted. High counts 10/31 St. Louis (7 along CR

16) EEO, 9/20 Cook (6, Arrowhead Trail) EEO, 10/29 Cook (6, Gunflint Trail) EEO.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [32 North, 45 South] Reported statewide. Numbers up in Cass, Crow Wing MRN. High counts 9/16 St. Louis (2,456 at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/24 Blue Earth (100) ChH, 9/27 Blue Earth (100) ChH.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [11 North] Reported throughout normal Northwest and North-central range, as far east as St. Louis. No significant high counts.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 48 South] Reported statewide. High counts 10/17 St. Louis (2,557 at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 11/3 Lake of the Woods (391) BJU, 10/11 Pine (300) DPG.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [20 North, 3 South] South reports from Sherburne, Anoka, and Chisago, but also see undocumented reports.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [21 North, 37 South] Late north reports 11/3 Lake of the Woods BJU, 11/8 Cook DWK, 11/9 Cook JLO, DWK, but see winter report (median 11/24).

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [12 North, 34 South] High counts 8/1 Big Stone (65, Long Tom Lake) PHS, 9/16 Anoka (64) CKB. Late north 8/29 Clearwater DBM, 8/30 Roseau HHD, JCC, 9/13 Grant HHD (median 9/8). Late south 9/12 Murray RBW, Stearns RBJ, Swift DWK, 9/13 Chisago MHe, Watonwan DAB, JEB, 9/16 Anoka CKB (median 9/15).

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [27 North, 47 South] High counts 8/29 Big Stone (2,870) PHS, 8/1 Big Stone (1,631) PHS, 8/26 Grant (800) DPG. Late north 9/25 Wadena PJB, 9/28 Traverse DBM, 9/30 Hubbard MAW (median 10/2). Late south 10/16 Wright (50) DPG, 10/22 Brown BTS, 10/25 Hennepin (25) JCC, Rice (2) DAB (median 10/18).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [3 North, 20 South] All north reports 8/22 Otter Tail MJB, 8/23 Douglas, Otter Tail DMF, 8/29 Hubbard DBM (median late 9/6). Last south reports well before the 10/3 median: 8/27 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy, 8/31 Sibley WCM, 9/12 Fillmore NBO, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Murray RBW.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [12 North, 35 South] High count 8/29 Big Stone (360) PHS. Late north 9/9 Mille Lacs ASC, 9/12 Morrison DMF, 9/13 Grant HHD (median 9/9). Late south 9/8 Wright CRM, 9/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Murray RBW, 9/13 Brown SWe, Lyon RBW, Stevens HHD, Yellow Medicine WCM (median 9/17).

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [18 North, 41 South] Late north 9/9 Mille Lacs ASC, 9/12 Morrison DMF, 9/28 Traverse DBM (median 9/15). Late south 9/14 Goodhue (albino in large flock) ph. DuD, 9/17 Nicollet RMD, 9/20 Brown DPG (median 9/28).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [32 North, 47 South] High counts 9/26 Traverse (267, Wheaton W.T.P.) PHS, 10/2 Traverse (266, Mud Lake) PHS. Late north 9/25 Wadena PJB, 9/26 Traverse PHS, 9/28 Traverse DBM, 10/2 Traverse PHS (median 10/8). Late south 10/14 Pope DMF, followed by a record-late first-year individual in Scott at the Blue Lake W.T.P. 11/8 – 11/23 CRM, †DWK, PEJ (median 10/17).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [34 North, 46 South] Reported statewide. High counts 11/16 St. Louis (49) PHS, 8/2 St. Louis (25) TPW.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*) — [4 North] Very few reports. Single reports from Beltrami (11/2 BJU), Koochi-ching (11/3 BJU) and Lake of the Woods (9/30 *vide* JMJ), reported twice from St. Louis (9/25 DMF, 11/25 DPG).

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [5 South] Found in Fillmore, Freeborn,



Rock Wren, 19 September 2008, Otter Tail County. Photo by Dan and Sandy Thimgan.

Hennepin, Houston, Rice.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [22 North, 19 South] Present north and south at the beginning of the period, first reports south of Twin Cities metro 9/27 Le Sueur JCC, 9/30 Nicollet ChH, RMD. High counts 9/29 St. Louis (22, H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/28 St. Louis (21) BAF.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [30 North, 44 South] Reported statewide throughout the period.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [14 North, 27 South] Early south (median 9/3) 8/26 Ramsey EEO, 9/16 Anoka DPG, 9/26 Rice DAT, Washington LMS. High counts 10/10 St. Louis (7) SMC, 11/13 Mille Lacs (5) RBJ.

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) — [2 North] One found 9/19 in Otter Tail at Inspiration Peak was a third county record (ph. †DST). Another third county record was one 9/25–10/2 in Cook at the Grand Marais Campground (†SC, *vide* JWL).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [2 North, 5 South] All north

10/21–23 Otter Tail (Battle Lake) ph. †DST, 11/2–18 Itasca (feeder north of Grand Rapids) ph. †KBZ. All south 8/11 Houston (2, Reno) MJB, mid-August+ Ramsey (St. Paul) ph. AXH, 11/12 Mower (Hormel Nature Center) ARW, 11/21 Hennepin †DDo, and one present throughout the period in Washington (Gray Cloud Island) TEB.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [16 North, 43 South] High counts 8/11 Anoka (5) DWK, 9/13 Hennepin (5) ALD. Late north 9/24 Kanabec, Pine DMF, 9/25 Mille Lacs RBJ, 9/27 Clay RHO, Todd RBW (median 10/4). Late south 10/9 Dakota JLO, 10/11 Ramsey BRL, 10/12 Anoka (banded at Springbrook N.C., Fridley) RLR, Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF (median 10/16).

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [9 North, 23 South] Early south (median 9/7) 9/14 Anoka DWK, 9/15 Goodhue LEC, 9/21 Scott (2) BAF. High count 10/1 Hennepin (6) CMB. Late north 10/2 Beltrami and Itasca JEB, 10/14 St. Louis SLF, 10/18 Mille Lacs NSc (median 10/24). Late south 10/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/2 Hennepin DDo, 11/30 Hennepin DWK, but see winter report (median 12/13).

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) — [12 North, 29 South] High count 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (19) PCC, PHS. Late north reports were well after the 10/12 median: **10/31** Aitkin PEJ, and a record-late sighting **11/10** St. Louis (cattail marsh near Indian Point Campground, Duluth) DOK. In contrast, south departures were well ahead of the 10/12 median; last reported south 9/27 Sibley JCC, 9/28 Steele DAB, RMD, JWH.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [14 North, 31 South] High count 9/6 Lac Qui Parle (12) PHS. Departed well before median dates both north and south. Late north 9/13 Grant HHD, 9/27 Cass BAW, Clay RHO, St. Louis HHD, KRE, LS (median 10/13). Late south 10/22 Hennepin DWK, 10/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/25 Brown BTS (median 11/4).

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [18 North, 30 South] Early south outside of known summering areas (median 9/16) 9/22 Stearns DMF, 9/25 Ramsey MDu, 9/27 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy. High counts 10/10 St. Louis (52, Brighton Beach, Duluth) SMC, 9/28 St. Louis (32S) PHS.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) — [23 North, 36 South] Early south (median 8/28) 9/3 Waseca LBF, 9/6 Meeker and Stearns DMF. High counts 10/10 Scott (39, Louisville Swamp, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) BAF, 10/12 Scott (26, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF. Late north 10/19 Cook MDu, 10/25 Cook BAF, Lake LS (median 11/1). Late south (but see winter report) 10/29 Anoka DPG, 10/30 Fillmore NBO, Nicollet RMD, 11/7 Hennepin CMB (median 11/21).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) — [5 North, 28 South] High count 8/10 Scott (14, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails.) BAF. Late north 9/4 Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC, Morrison RBJ, DAC, 9/5 Pine RBJ, 9/27 Cook (Grand Marais campground) *fide* JWL. Late south 9/13 Hennepin (3) ALD, Watonwan DAB, JEB, 9/19 Scott (Louisville Swamp) BAF (median 9/24).

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [29 North, 43 South] High counts 10/7 Isanti (42, along CR 7 north of Crown) CKB, 10/16 Hennepin (42) CMB. Late north 11/2 Beltrami BJU, 11/3 Itasca BJU, 11/9 Kanabec CAM (median 11/14). Present through end of season south.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) — [1 North] Migrant observed at H.R.B.O., St. Louis 10/27 KJB.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [2 North, 1 South] Very few reports. All north 10/26 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) WRu, 10/27 Cook (Good Harbor Bay) BAn, 11/12+ St. Louis FKB, 11/29+ St. Louis DBF. Only south report: species returned for a fifth consecutive



American Pipit, 25 September 2008, Tettegouche State Park, Lake County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

year to Sherburne (Ann Lake area of Sand Dunes S.F.). First reported 10/18 ASC, subsequent reports at this location through end of season from ASC, PLJ, MJB, CKB.

Veery (*Catbarus fuscescens*) — [8 North, 8 South] Late north 9/8 St. Louis LBF, 9/10 St. Louis SLF, 9/13 Grant HHD (median 9/14). Late south 9/11 Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU, 9/13 Stevens HHD, 9/27 Stearns MJB.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catbarus minimus*) — [3 North, 6 South] All north reports: 9/10 Lake JWL, 9/20 Cass (Woodrow Twp.) BAW, 10/4 Roseau JMJ (median early 9/3, median late 10/3). All south reports: 9/4 Sherburne PLJ, 9/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/13 Waseca JPS, 10/4 Chisago LS, 10/9 Dakota JPM, 10/11 Rice SLP,

10/20 Sherburne (2) CKB (median early 9/2, median late 10/6).

Swainson's Thrush (*Catbarus ustulatus*) — [7 North, 17 South] Early south (median 8/10) 8/13 Rice (adult male banded) DAT, 8/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/30 Sherburne ASC. High counts 9/13 Scott (16, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF, 9/12 Hennepin (15, Wood Lake N.C.) CMB. Late north 9/25 Cook EEO, 9/30 Cass DAY, 10/4 Itasca (Dunning Lake) EEO, Roseau JMJ, more than a week before the 10/17 median. Late south 10/4 Anoka and Washington HHD, Blue Earth and Faribault DBM, 10/20 Rice TFB (median 10/17).

Hermit Thrush (*Catbarus guttatus*) — [13 North, 18 South] Early south (median 9/12) 9/27 Stearns MJB, 9/28 Steele JWH,

9/29 Anoka DWK. High count 10/3 Scott (23, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF. Late north 10/24 Clay (4) RBJ, DAC, 10/25 St. Louis (Duluth) DDo (median 10/28). Late south 11/9 Anoka (banded at Springbrook N.C. in Fridley) RLR, 11/16 Hennepin (Lake Rebecca) DWK, 11/30 Hennepin (3, Pond Dakota Park, Bloomington) DWK, but see winter report.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [2 North, 9 South] All north reports: 8/9 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/14 Carlton LAW. Late south 9/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/13 Scott BAF, 10/5 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) CKB (median 10/1).

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [32 North, 48 South] Reported statewide. High counts 10/15 St. Louis (17,667 at H.R.B.O.) KJB, 10/23 Le Sueur (400) RBJ.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [4 North] All reports 10/11 Clay *vide* JMJ, 10/27–28 Crow Wing ph. DAS, 11/27+ Becker ph. SEI, 11/29 Otter Tail (2, near Ottertail and Blanche Lakes) *vide* KRE, 11/29+ St. Louis (Ely) *vide* JWJ, 11/30+ Clearwater (feeder north of Itasca S.P.) *vide* DPJ, St. Louis (Lake Vermilion) *vide* JWJ.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [21 North, 42 South] High counts 9/21 Scott (44, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF, 8/29 Scott (33, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails.) BAF. Late north 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/27 St. Louis HHD, PBB, 11/7 Otter Tail SPM (median 10/29). Late south 10/12 Dakota JCC, Scott BAF, 10/23 Le Sueur RBJ, well before 11/21 median.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [1 North, 4 South] All north 11/17 Cass (Walker) ph. BAW. All south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/1 Dodge (Blooming Prairie) KRV, 11/16 Pope DRa, 11/30 Blue Earth (Minneapolis S.P.) †ChH.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [11 North, 19 South] Late north departures well before median: 9/13 Lake JWJ, St.

Louis CMB, 9/20 Wadena PJB, 9/24 Carlton DMF. Late south 9/19 Rice TFB, 9/28 Waseca DAB, JWH, 9/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/1 Hennepin CMB, 10/6 Hennepin CMB, 11/29 Wright (Montrose) DMF.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [33 North, 49 South] Reported statewide throughout the period.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) — [10 North, 22 South] Early north (median 9/10) 9/8 St. Louis PHS, 9/9 Cass BAW, Crow Wing (2) JSB, 9/12 Lake (2) LBF. Early south (median 9/15) 9/13 Lac Qui Parle (2) PHS, Pope (8) MJB, 9/18 Hennepin (6) DDo. High counts 10/25 Clay (120) PBB, 9/20 Chisago (50) MHe. Late north 10/25 Clay (120) PBB, 10/29 Cook EEO, 11/3 Cass BJU (median 11/4). Late south 11/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/2 Rice (12) DAT (median 11/4).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [5 North, 1 South] Very few reports this season. All north 11/1 Lake (8, Two Harbors) HHD, CMB, KRE, 11/3 Koochi-ching (9) BJU, 11/14 St. Louis SES, 11/17 Cass (2) BAW, 11/21 Hubbard (125) MAW (median 10/4). Only south report 11/14 Dakota, (1 adult with about 300 Cedar Waxwings) †JPM, JLO.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [33 North, 47 South] Present north and south through the end of the season. High count 9/12 Carver (603, tamarack bog area in Carver P.R.) WCM.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) — [15 South] High count 8/30 Scott (4) BAF. No north reports. September south reports 9/3 Waseca LBF, 9/4 Goodhue LEC, 9/7 Sibley WCM, 9/8 Fillmore NBO, 9/9 Carver JCy (median 9/12).

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — [10 North, 17 South] High counts 8/31 Anoka (5) DWK, 9/12 Hennepin (5) CMB. Late north 9/13 Crow Wing JSB, 9/16 Carlton LAW, 9/20 Lake MJB (median 9/9). Late south 9/14 Anoka



Chestnut-sided Warbler, 29 August 2008, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

DWK, Hennepin CRM, 9/15 Dakota JPM, 9/27 Stearns (2) MJB (median 9/22).

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — [22 North, 33 South] Please see summer report for early migrants. High counts 9/14 Anoka (44) DWK, 9/12 St. Louis (33) PHS. Late north 10/4 Mille Lacs ASc, St. Louis SLF, 10/8, 10/11 Mille Lacs ASc (median 10/17). Late south 10/8 Blue Earth ChH, Fillmore NBO, 10/14 Pope DMF (median 10/16).

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) — [16 North, 28 South] Early north 9/4 St. Louis (2) PHS, 9/6 St. Louis JPM, 9/8 St. Louis LBF. Early south 8/31 Anoka †DWK, 9/12 Hennepin CMB, ALD, 9/13 Stevens HHD. High count 10/10 Scott (20, Louisville Swamp) BAF. Late north 10/14 St. Louis SLF, 10/16 Mille Lacs RBJ, 10/19 Cook (2) WCM (median 10/23). Late south 10/24 Brown BTS, Hennepin DDo, 10/25 Hennepin DFN, just after the 10/24 median. **Note:** Undocumented August reports were excluded.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) — [20 North, 35 South] Early south (median 7/25) 8/2 Sherburne DMF, 8/9 Carver JCy, Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 8/15 Hennepin CMB. High counts 9/4 St. Louis (40) PHS, 9/9 Carver (35, Carver P.R.) JCy. Late north 10/8 St. Louis SLF, 10/18 St. Louis DWK, 10/20 Aitkin KCR (median 10/20). Late south 10/13 Blue Earth ChH, 10/14 Pope, Swift DMF, 10/16 Hennepin ALD (median 10/22).

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) — [8 North, 17 South] Early south (median 8/18) 8/27 Carver JCy, Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/30 Rice JLO, 8/31 Rice DAB. High count 9/9 St. Louis (6) PHS. Late north 9/24 Carlton DMF, 9/25 St. Louis DMF (median 9/27). Late south 9/21 Blue Earth ChH, 9/27 Stearns MJB, 10/3 Stearns MDN (median 9/28).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — [21 North, 26 South] High counts 8/7 Scott (17, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF. Late north 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis PHS, 9/13 Crow Wing JSB, 9/28 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS (median 9/23). Late south 9/21 Scott LEC, 9/27 Stearns MJB, 9/29 Stearns MDN (median 9/30).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) — [19 North, 28 South] High counts 9/12 Hennepin (18) CMB, 9/12 St. Louis (12) PHS. Late north 9/21 St. Louis ABL, 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/28 Otter Tail SPM (median 9/28). Late south 9/27 Stearns MJB, 9/28 Waseca DAB, RMD, JWH, 10/4 Chisago LS (median 10/1).

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) — [13 North, 23 South] Early south (median 8/15) 8/19 Carver JCy, 8/22 Meeker DMF, 8/24 Hennepin DWK. High count 9/12 St. Louis (20) PHS. Late north 9/21 Cass DAY, 9/23 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/28 St. Louis KRE, LS (median 10/1). Late south 9/28 Fillmore NBO, Steele DAB, 9/29 Hennepin CMB, ALD, 10/1 Hennepin CMB (median 10/6).

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*)



Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1 October 2008, Marshall, Lyon County. Photo by Mike Osmond.

— [10 North, 7 South] All south reports 9/2 Washington CRM, 9/4 Sherburne ASc, 9/6 Stearns DMF, 9/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/14 Meeker DMF, 9/15 Sherburne PLJ, 9/16 Carver JCy, 9/20 Swift DBM (median early 8/22, late 9/28). Late north 9/27 Cass (Battle Point, Leech Lake) DAY, 9/28 St. Louis KRE, LS, 10/3 Pennington JMJ three weeks before the 10/24 median.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — [1 North, 7 South] New county record: 9/20 **Pope** (juvenile or female caught in a Glacial Lakes S.P. skylight) DBM. All north 9/6 St. Louis JPM, 9/7 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB, 9/13 St. Louis CMB, KCR, 10/4 St. Louis FGO. All south reports 9/7 Anoka (2 banded at Springbrook N.C. in Fridley: 1 hatch-year male, 1 hatch-year female) RLR, Rice (hatch-year male banded) DAT, 9/10 Dakota DAC, 9/20 Pope DBM, 9/25 Hennepin HHD, 9/27 Lyon (2) RJS, 9/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/1 Lyon (adult male) ph. MKO, 10/9 Dakota JPM.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [25 North, 38 South] Early south (median 8/21) 8/31 Anoka DWK, 9/9 Carver JCy, 9/12 Swift DWK. Several significant high counts, highlighted by **8,571** warblers, nearly all Yellow-rumpeds, 9/25 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB; 530 were counted there the previous day (9/24). Also in St. Louis County on 9/25 SLF counted 267 along Manganika Creek south of Virginia. Late north 10/25 Lake LS, 11/1 Lake HHD, 11/16 St. Louis TPW (median 11/21). Late south 11/29 Wright DPG, 11/30 Blue Earth (2) ChH, Carver RBW, but see winter report.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — [11 North, 20 South] Early south (median 8/20) 8/24 Dakota MDu, 8/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/30 Wabasha DAB. Late north 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis (3) PHS, 9/13 Aitkin KCR, 9/15 Mille Lacs ASc (median 9/29). Late south 9/25 Hennepin HHD, 9/27 Washington DFN, followed by the only October sight-

ing, a hatch-year male banded and photographed 10/19 Rice DAT, two weeks after the 10/4 median.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — [7 North, 22 South] Early south (median 8/9) 8/19 Sherburne ASC, 8/22 Rice (hatch-year female banded and photographed) DAT, 8/23 Dakota DDo, Le Sueur RMD, Sherburne PLJ. High count 8/30 Scott (5, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., north trails.) BAF. Late north 9/4 Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC, 9/8 St. Louis LBF, 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis PHS (median 9/20). Late south 9/16 Dakota JPM, Houston NBO, 9/20 Swift DBM, 9/21 Blue Earth ChH (median 9/25).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*) — [1 North] New county record: 9/9 **St. Louis** †JLK found along Maple Grove Road in Duluth (**The Loon** 81:110). First fall report since 2003.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — [9 North, 6 South] Late north 9/15 Lake EEO, Mille Lacs ASC, 9/17 St. Louis LAW, 9/18 Cook EEO (median 10/3). All south reports: 8/7 Sherburne PLJ, 8/11 Anoka DWK, 8/24 Waseca HHD, 8/31 Anoka DWK, 9/6 Chisago LS, 9/7 Hennepin DDo, 9/16 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy (median late 9/24).

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — [18 North, 23 South] Early south (median 8/25) 9/6 Hennepin DWK, 9/7 Sherburne PLJ, 9/10 Anoka REH. High counts 9/12 St. Louis (44) PHS, 9/24 Crow Wing (24) JSB. Late north 10/1 Becker JEB, 10/4 Aitkin PEJ, Cook PHS, Mille Lacs ASC, 10/12 St. Louis (2) PHS (median 10/23). Late south 10/14 Pope DMF, Swift DMF, 10/16 Hennepin CMB (median 10/18).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) — [7 North, 15 South] Early south (median 8/19) 8/28 Rice DAB, 8/30 Fillmore NBO, Sherburne ASC, 8/31 Anoka DWK. High counts 9/14 Anoka (7) DWK, 9/12 St. Louis (6) PHS. Late north 9/13 St. Louis KCR, 9/14 Pennington JMJ, 9/16

Carlton LAW (median 9/29). Late south 9/27 Lyon RJS, 9/28 Dodge DAB, RMD, JWH, 9/30 Stearns MDN (median 10/2).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — [7 North, 14 South] Early north (median 8/25) 8/29 Marshall JCC, 8/30 Roseau HHD, LMS. Early south (median 8/21) 8/23 Sherburne PLJ, 8/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/30 Sherburne ASC. High counts 9/12 St. Louis (11) PHS, 9/9 St. Louis (10) PHS. Late north reports all from St. Louis: 9/13 KCR, 9/20 St. Louis CKB, 9/27 KRE, well before the 10/7 median. Late south 9/19 Fillmore NBO, 9/20 Swift DBM, 9/24 Ramsey REH (median 9/30).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) — No reports.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — [23 North, 29 South] High count 8/30 Scott (22, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., north trails; all were females and/or hatch-year) BAF. Late north 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/28 St. Louis BAF, 10/1 Clearwater JEB (median 10/2). Late south 9/27 Stearns MJB, 10/3 Dakota JLO, 10/4 Chisago LS (median 10/4).

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [22 North, 35 South] High count 9/12 St. Louis (45) PHS. Late north 9/28 Mille Lacs ASC, 9/30 St. Louis SLF, 10/15 St. Louis *vide* JWJ (median 10/6). Late south 9/29 Anoka DWK, DPG, Hennepin CMB, 9/30 Hennepin CMB, DWK, 10/4 Wright DWK (median 10/10).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [2 South] Only two reports, both of small groups: 8/9 Scott (4, Louisville Swamp unit Minnesota Valley N.W.R.; 2 adults and 2 probable hatch-year birds in loose group) BAF, 8/16 Carver (6, Rapids Lake Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) JCy.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [17 North, 28 South] High count 9/12 Hennepin (16) CMB. Late north 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/27 Clay (Gooseberry Park) RHO, 9/29 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ (median



Canada Warbler, 21 August 2008, Kanabec County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

9/27). Late south 9/30 Hennepin CMB, DWK, Nicollet ChH, 10/4 Hennepin PEB, then one report well after the 10/11 median, 11/2 Hennepin RBJ.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — [9 North, 22 South] Early south (median 8/7) 8/11 Fillmore MJB, 8/14 Brown BTS, 8/16 Ramsey HHD. High count 9/13 Scott (6, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late north 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis PHS, 9/27 Cass BAW (median 9/28). Late south 9/24 Steele RBW, 9/29 Hennepin CMB, 9/30 Wright DMF (median 10/3).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — No reports.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — No reports.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

— [3 North, 5 South] All north 8/30 Aitkin ASC, 9/6 Mille Lacs ASC, 9/12 Lake LBF, 9/23 Mille Lacs ASC. All south 8/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/29 Ramsey BRL, 9/12 Stearns RBJ, 9/17 Rice DAT, 9/30 Hennepin DWK. Median early south 8/23, late north 9/19, south 9/17.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — [8 North, 11 South] Late north 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis PHS, 9/14 Pennington MJJ, 9/20 St. Louis MJB (median 9/14). Presumed first migrants south (but see summer report) 8/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/30 Carver JCy, Sherburne ASC, 9/3 Nicollet RMD (median 8/16). Late south 9/13 Meeker DMF, 9/15 Rice DAT, 9/19 Scott BAF (median 9/30).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [28 North, 39 South] Late north 9/24 Pine DMF, 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/27 St. Louis HHD, PBB, 10/4 Aitkin PEJ (me-

dian 10/14). Late south 10/6 Hennepin DWK, 10/13 Hennepin DWK (median 10/26). Season high counts 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (31) PCC, PHS, 8/29 Scott (27) BAF, 8/1 Big Stone (20) PHS.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) — [1 North, 2 South] Unusual north report 9/13 **St. Louis** KCR. Only south reports were from Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. in Scott/Dakota, where 7 still present on 8/30 BAF.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — [11 North, 29 South] Late north 9/9 Lake LBF, St. Louis PHS, 9/10 St. Louis SLF, 9/12 Morrison DMF, St. Louis PHS (median 9/22). Early south (median 8/15) **8/3** Hennepin DDo, 8/18 Hennepin ALD, 8/22 Meeker DMF, 8/23 Anoka DWK. Bulk of records south are from the third week of August to mid-September. Late south 9/24 Steele RBW, 9/27 Stearns MJB, 10/3 Stearns MDN (median 9/25).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — [6 North, 23 South] Late north 9/3 Lake RBW, 9/6 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/9 St. Louis PHS, 9/12 St. Louis PHS (median 9/15). Early south (median 8/13) **8/8** Rice DAT, 8/10 Sherburne PLJ, 8/16 Meeker DMF, 8/19 Rice DAT. Bulk of south records are from the last week of August to mid-September. Late south 9/14 Hennepin DWK, Olmsted JWH, 9/15 Wabasha JWH, 9/20 Swift DBM, 9/21 Carver WCM (median 9/23).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [1 North, 1 South] All reports 8/16–23 Le Sueur (Chamberlain Woods S.N.A.) †JCC, RMD, m.ob., 10/29–11/2 Lake *fide* JWJ, HHD, m.ob.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [6 North, 17 South] Late north 9/9 Isanti DPG, 9/12 Mille Lacs MRN, 9/19 Otter Tail SPM (median 9/21). Late south 9/14 Olmsted JWH, 9/19 Fillmore NBO, 9/22 Lac Qui Parle FAE (median 10/2).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) — [1 North] Only report 9/24–27 **Clay** †RHO,

m.ob.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [1 North, 14 South] Only north reports 9/28, 10/8 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 11/12–13 Blue Earth ChH. Season high count of **7** found 8/7, 9/21, and 10/3 in Scott BAF.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — [22 North, 28 South] Early north (median 9/22) 10/1 Becker, Clearwater, Morrison JEB, St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) PHS, 10/2 Beltrami, Itasca JEB. Early south (median 9/30), 10/3 Anoka DPG, 10/12 Fillmore NBO, Stearns DMF.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [31 North, 44 South] Late north 11/1 Cass MRN, 11/8 Aitkin MDN, 11/11 Clay RHO (median 11/4). Late south 10/23 Le Sueur RBJ, Rice DAB, 10/29 Blue Earth ChH, Nicollet RMD (median 11/11). Most reports of this species ceased after the third week in October.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [20 North, 20 South] Late north 9/27 St. Louis HHD, LS, 9/28 Lake LS, 9/29 St. Louis PHS (median 10/16). Late south 10/3 Brown BTS, Hennepin JCy, 10/4 Hennepin DWK, 10/14 Swift DMF (median 10/14). The bulk of reports for this species ceased after the end of September.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [4 North, 29 South] All north 8/3 Otter Tail DST, 8/7 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/16 St. Louis *fide* JWJ, 10/21 Douglas *fide* JMJ (median 10/20). Late south 10/11 Carver JCy, Chisago LS, Le Sueur JCC, Washington BAF, 10/12 Ramsey HHD, 10/19 Hennepin WCM, Scott BAF (median 10/27). Season high counts 8/7 Scott **26**, BAF, 9/13 Pope **20**, MJB. This season was typical in that this species left the state by late October.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) — [17 North, 35 South] Late north 9/28 Lake JWJ, 10/7 Isanti CKB, 10/9 Morrison RBJ, 10/18 Itasca DAC, m.ob. (median

10/20). Late south 10/21 Carver JCy, 10/23, 10/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/27).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [3 North, 6 South] All north 8/9 **Beltrami** PBD, 8/24 **St. Louis** ph. BCM, 9/9 **Cook** SC. Late south 8/16 Lyon JLO, DWK, 8/17 Carver JCC, 8/25 Meeker DMF, 9/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [29 North, 34 South] Late north 10/4 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/9 Morrison RBJ, 10/19 Crow Wing HHD, LS (median 11/2). Late south 10/27 Dakota ADS, 11/2 Carver JCy, 11/12 Cottonwood BRB (median 11/3). Season high count 8/24 Pennington (40) PHS.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) — [3 North, 10 South] Similar to last year there were very few reports this season. All north reports 8/5, 8/7 Mille Lacs ASc, Traverse DPG, 8/29 Wadena DBM (median 9/5). Late south 9/13 Pope MJB, 9/30 Sherburne ASc (median 8/28).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) — [4 South] All reports 8/1 (12 individuals present) Steele *vide* PHS, 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie S.N.A.) BJU, 8/9 Scott DBM, 8/11 Winona (Great River Bluffs S.P.) MJB.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) — [7 North, 12 South] Reported north throughout August then only two subsequent reports 9/1 Roseau KRE, 10/18 St. Louis FGo (median 10/3). Late south 10/6 Stearns, Wright DMF, 10/9 McLeod DMF, 10/12 Rice TFB, 10/14 Kandiyohi, Pope, Swift DMF (median 10/18).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) — [3 South] All reports 9/21, 9/28 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave Bridge) †JBB, 9/30 Lac Qui Parle (Sweetwater W.M.A.) BJU, 10/1 Rice TFB, 10/4 Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.) DWK.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [18

North, 29 South] Early north (median 9/21) 9/16 Lake JWL, 9/20 St. Louis CKB, 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 9/27 Cass BAW, St. Louis KRE. Early south (median 9/19) 9/27 Hennepin BAF, Stearns RBW, 9/28 Carver JCC, Lac Qui Parle FAE, 9/29 Anoka DWK, Sherburne PIJ. Late north 11/2 Beltrami BJU, Kanabec CAM, 11/3 Cass BJU, 11/9, 11/11 Crow Wing JSB (median 12/15). Late south 11/23 Le Sueur JCC, 11/30 Hennepin DWK (median 12/20). Please see winter reports for late migrants or over-wintering birds north and south. Season high counts 10/10 Scott (26, Louisville Swamp) BAF, 10/21 Carver (20, Rapids Lake MVNWR) JCy. The majority of reports for this species occur in late September through mid-November.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [30 North, 45 South] Reported throughout the season. Reports mostly ceased after the third week in November.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*) — [17 North, 26 South] Late north 10/11 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/24 Clay RBJ, DAC, **11/13** Polk DLT (median 10/21). High count 8/9 Marshall (24 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Early south (median 8/31) 8/31 Dakota SWe, 9/6 Hennepin ALD, 9/7 Sherburne (Blue Hill Trail) DWK, PIJ. Late south 10/19 Hennepin WCM, 10/21 Carver JCy (median 11/9).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [21 North, 32 South] Late north 10/18 St. Louis DWK, 10/26 Cook WCM, 11/3 Cass BJU (median 10/29). Frequent south reports through 10/21 Carver JCy, 10/22 Hennepin DWK, then only 11/23 Waseca DAB (median 11/22).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [28 North, 36 South] Early south (median 8/29) 9/6 Carver JCy, 9/9 Dakota DWK, 9/12 Carver WCM, Stearns RBJ, 9/13 Big Stone PBB. Season high counts 9/28 St. Louis (**255**) BAF, 9/29 St. Louis (230) PHS, 10/3 Scott (181) BAF. See winter report for additional south observations.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

— [16 North, 20 South] Early north (median 9/17) 9/14 Beltrami DPJ, 9/20 St. Louis MJB, 9/23 Clay RHO, 9/25 Cass BAW. Early south (median 9/22) 9/15 Hennepin CRM, 9/19 Sherburne ASC, 9/21 Scott BAF, 9/22 Stearns DMF. Late north 10/24 Clay RBJ, DAC, 11/6 Cass MRN, 11/13 Otter Tail and Polk *fide* MJM (median 11/30). Late south 10/25 Pope MJB, 11/1 Brown BTS, 11/5 Blue Earth ChH (median 12/18). There were only two reports of this species in the subsequent winter season. Number of reports for this species continues to be low compared to previous years.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [19 North, 18 South]

An individual found in mid-July lingered until 8/2 St. Louis WLi. Early migrant north (median 9/10) 9/12 Lake JWJ, 9/14 Kittson *fide* MJM, St. Louis TPW, 9/15 St. Louis ABL. Early south (median 9/16) 9/16 Nicollet RMD, 9/21 Anoka DPG, 9/27 Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle and Pope. Late north 10/18 Cass RMD, JEB, St. Louis TPW, DWK, 10/19 Mille Lacs HHD, LS (median 11/14). Late south 11/16–19 Anoka CKB, 11/29–30 Rice TFB (median 11/30). Reports for this species continued into December for south regions (see winter report). Number of reports and individuals continue to be low.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) — [1 North]

Fifth state record was an immature present 10/16–18 in **Cass** on Pelican Island, Leech Lake ph. †KRE, ph. †DAC, ph. †BAW, †PCC, m.ob.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) —

[30 North, 38 South] Early south (median 9/10) 9/8 Sherburne ASC, 9/20 Carver JCy, Pope DBM, Sherburne PLJ, 9/21 Chisago MHe, Scott BAF. Otherwise reported throughout the state and the rest of the season.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [19 North, 13 South]

Early north (median 9/13) 9/15 Cass DAY, Lake



Lapland Longspur, 20 October 2008, near Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

JWJ, St. Louis ABL, 9/16 Cook and Lake EEO, St. Louis PHS. Early south (median 9/24) 9/28 Waseca JWH, 9/30 Sherburne PLJ, 10/3 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. Season high counts 10/25 Clay (**3,000**) RHO, 10/4 Cook (433) PHS. Late north 11/3 Cass, Hubbard, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods BJU, 11/9 Cook JLO, DWK, Polk SAS. There were some observations of this species north for the winter and many south, as usual (see winter report).

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

— [2 North] All reports: 10/3 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB, 10/4 St. Louis (Brighton Beach, Duluth) NAJ, 10/26 Cook (Lutsen W.T.P.) BAn, 10/31 Cook (Taconite Harbor) EEO.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) — No reports.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

— [22 North, 25 South] Early north (median 10/5) 9/20 St. Louis ASC, 10/5 Roseau SWd, 10/6 Marshall *fide* MJM. Early south (median 10/18) 10/17 Carver WCM, 10/21 Hennepin CMB, 10/24 Sherburne ASC,

10/25 Brown, Watonwan, Kandiyohi, and Pope. Season high counts 11/1 Grant (650) DPG, 10/27 St. Louis (722, H.R.B.O.) KJB.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [10 North, 41 South] Reported throughout the state.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [20 North, 31 South] Late north 9/16 Crow Wing JSB, 9/20 Wadena PJB, 10/19 Kittson LW, **11/13** Otter Tail TSS (median 9/29). High count 9/12 Hennepin (18 at Wood Lake) CMB. Late south 9/25 Hennepin HHD, 9/27 Le Sueur JCC, 9/28 Waseca RMD, JWH, 9/30 Hennepin CMB, 11/30+ Hennepin (male at feeder in Orono) JJW (median 10/15).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [2 South] All reports 8/4–16 Lyon (Lynd W.T.P.) CRM, RBJ, JLO, DWK, 8/6 Brown BTS.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [12 North, 36 South] Trend continues of few north reports. Late north 9/9 Kanabec DPG, 9/13 Lake JWJ, 9/19 Hubbard MAW (median 9/23). Late south 9/18 Sherburne DPG, 9/27, 10/5 Hennepin BAF (median 10/10).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [2 North, 5 South] All north 8/7 Wilkin EEO, 8/9 Traverse KRE. All south 8/1 Big Stone PHS, 8/2 Brown BTS, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Meeker DMF, 8/9 Lac Qui Parle MHe, Stevens HHD, LS (median 8/21).

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [15 North, 13 South] Late north 9/8 St. Louis ABL, 9/13 Grant HHD, 9/24 Lake KRE, 10/2 Beltrami JEB (median 9/18). Late south 9/12 Stearns RBJ, 9/16 Nicollet (3) RMD, 9/28 Steele and Waseca DAB, RMD, JWH (median 9/30). Season high counts 9/4 Lac Qui Parle (52) BJU, 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (50) PCC, PHS, 8/31 Nicollet (46) RMD.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [34 North, 44 South] Report-

ed throughout state and into the winter (mainly south, see winter report). Late north 11/13 Polk *fide* JMJ.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [3 North, 10 South] All north reports 8/7, 8/9 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/16 Isanti CKB, 10/9 Pine RBJ, 10/11 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 10/11 Hennepin CMB, 10/24 Sherburne ASc, 11/4 Carver JCy.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [15 North, 15 South] Late north 10/19 Cook WCM, LS, 11/3 Lake of the Woods BJU, 11/15 Marshall GT (median 11/5). Late south 10/18 Lac Qui Parle PHS, 10/25 Renville DWK, 11/4, 11/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Meadowlark sp. — Late unidentified *Sturnella* were 10/25 Clay (2) PBB and 11/9 Nicollet (2) RMD.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [8 North, 22 South] All north reports from the western half of the state. All south reports from the Southwest and South-central regions. Late north 9/1 Marshall HHD CRM, high count 9/5 Big Stone (482) PHS, 9/18 Wilkin RBJ, DAC, 9/26 Traverse PHS (median 10/9). Late south 9/13 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, SWe, Yellow Medicine WCM, 9/27 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS (median 10/22).

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [20 North, 19 South] Early north (median 9/18) 9/14 Aitkin KCR, 9/20 Cook EEO, St. Louis JWJ, 9/23 St. Louis SLF. Early south (median 9/21) 9/20 Chisago MHe, 9/26 Big Stone PHS, 9/27 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS, 9/28 Waseca DAB. Late north 11/13 Polk DLT, 11/14 Otter Tail DST, 11/23 St. Louis PHS (median 12/6). Late south 11/11 Dakota JPM, 11/12 Chisago MHe, 11/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 12/16). New record fall count 9/27 St. Louis (**5,574** H.R.B.O.) KJB. Also see winter report.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cy-*

nocephalus) — [19 North, 14 South] Late north 10/11–11/1 Mille Lacs ASc (median 11/7). Late south 10/25 Kandiyohi DPG, Pope MJB, 10/30 Sibley (albinistic individual) ph. DPG, 11/23 Waseca DAB, JWH (median 11/8). Season high count 9/25 Todd (**500**) PHS.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [32 North, 45 South] Reported throughout the state in all regions. See winter report for over-wintering records.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — [1 South] Only report and new high count 10/12 Jackson (**103**) JWH.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [19 North, 26 South] Late north 9/24 Carlton, Kanabec, Pine DMF, 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 10/24 Clay and Otter Tail RBJ, DAC (median 9/22). Late south 11/1 Anoka CKB, 11/2 Carver JCy, 11/10 Goodhue JWH, 11/15 Dakota ADS. Season high counts 9/19 Dakota (**100**) ADS, 8/1 Big Stone (77) PHS.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [3 North, 9 South] All north 8/7 Wilkin EEO, 8/9 Traverse HHD, LS, KRE, 8/19 Polk DLT. All south 8/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Scott DBM, 8/11 Fillmore MJB, 8/17 Dakota ADS, Sherburne ASc and record late 9/9 Carver JCy.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [15 North, 29 South] Late north 8/31 Roseau LS, JCC, CRM, 9/1 Wadena PJB, 9/8 Crow Wing JSB, 9/12 Hubbard MAW, Morrison DMF (median 9/14). Late south 9/9 Carver JCy, 9/12 Fillmore NBO, Hennepin CMB (median 9/24).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [10 North, 1 South] Early north (median 10/19) 9/22 Lake EEO, 10/17 Koochiching FGo, 10/27 St. Louis ABL, 10/28, 10/29 Cook EEO. High count 11/10 St. Louis (187 at H.R.B.O.) KJB. Only south report 11/28 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) MDN.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)

— [23 North, 26 South] Reported north throughout the season. Early south (median 8/28) **8/1** Sherburne ASc, **8/4** Stearns MDN, 8/29 Hennepin SMC, 9/4 Sherburne ASc. Record fall count 10/16 St. Louis (**799**, H.R.B.O.) KJB.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [27 North, 35 South] Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [6 North, 1 South] All north reports 8/2 Carlton DBM, 9/9 Cass BAW, 9/25 St. Louis DMF, 10/21 Douglas *fide* JMJ, 10/31 St. Louis ABL, SLF, 11/1 Aitkin KCR, 11/3 Lake of the Woods BJU, 11/26 St. Louis DPG. Only south report 11/26 Sherburne NSc.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucop-tera*) — [18 North, 14 South] Reflecting the continued invasion, this species was reported throughout the season north. South records were only in Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) for August – September, but the Southeast and South-central saw regular reports starting 11/3 Dakota DAB, JWH, 11/9 Chisago DBM. New high count 10/21 St. Louis (**744** H.R.B.O.) KJB were part of an impressive season total of 3,691.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) — [16 North, 13 South] Early north (median 10/16) 10/2 Beltrami, Itasca JEB, 10/25 Lake DDo, Mille Lacs ASc, 10/31 Cass BAW. Early south (median 10/25) 11/1 Kandiyohi DMF, 11/9 Ramsey DAB, 11/15 Carver WCM, Dakota DWK, Rice DAB, JWH. New fall high count of **7,723** on 11/8 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) KJB.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) — [4 North, 1 South] All north 11/1 Lake HHD, 11/18 Cass DAY, 11/22 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/23 Kittson LW, JMJ. Only south 11/24 Dakota †JLO.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) — [28 North, 27 South] Reported throughout the season north. August reports from Sher-

burne and Anoka; otherwise throughout the season south. Season high count 10/17 St. Louis (847, H.R.B.O.).

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) — [35 North, 46 South] Reported statewide and throughout the season.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes ves-*

pertinus) — [7 North] Few reports. Early North 8/2 St. Louis SLF, with additional August records from St. Louis and Aitkin. Also seen in Beltrami, Clearwater, Itasca, Cass, and Cook.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [31 North, 45 South] Reported statewide and throughout the season.

Contributors

ABL	Andrew B. Longtin	DOB	Derek O. Bakken
ADS	Andrew D. Smith	DOK	Don O. Kienholz
AEB	Al E. Batt	DPG	Dan & Pam Guynn
ALD	Alyssa L. DeRubeis	DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson
ANy	Andrew Nyhus	DRa	Don Rakstad
ARo	Alma Ronningen	DST	Dan & Sandy Thimgan
ARW	Alexander R. Watson	DuD	Duane Domeier
ASc	Al Schirmacher	DWK	Douglas W. Kieser
AXH	Anthony X. Hertzell	DWR	Dean W. Riemer
BAF	Bruce A. Fall	EEO	Earl E. Orf
BAn	Bart Anderson	EMH	Beth Hamel
BAW	Ben A. Wieland	ERC	Elizabeth & Robert Cooper
BCM	Chris Mansfield	FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt
BDE	Brad & Dee Ehlers	FGo	Frank Gosiak
BJU	Bill J. Unzen	FKB	Frank & Kathi Berdan
BKY	Ben K. Yokel	FVS	Forest V. Strnad
BNW	Ben Wilson	GAM	Gordon & Artis Martinson
BRB	Brad R. Bolduan	GKN	Gregg Knutsen
BRL	Bill R. Litkey	GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel
BTS	Brian T. Smith	GT	Gary Tischer
BWF	Ben W. Fritchman	GW	Gail Wieberdink
CAM	Craig A. Menze	HFH	Hap Huber
ChH	Chad Heins	HHD	Herb H. Dingmann
CKB	Christopher Brown	JBB	Jason Bolish
CMB	Conny M. Brunell	JCC	Joel C. Claus
CRM	Craig R. Mandel	JCy	John Cyrus
CWG	Carl W. Greiner	JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski
DAB	David A. Bartkey	JCG	Janet C. Green
DAC	David A. Cahlander	JCh	Jenjo Chach
DAS	Dorothy & Allyn Schlicht	JCr	Joshua Christian
DAT	Dan A. Tallman	JJS	Jeff J. Stephenson
DAY	Dale A. Yerger	JJW	Jim & Jude Williams
DBF	Deborah Buria-Falkowski	JLK	Jan & Larry Kraemer
DBM	Dennis & Barbara Martin	JLO	James L. Otto
DCr	Donna Crider	JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru
DDo	Diana Doyle	JoB	John Braastad
DFN	David F. Neitzel	JoS	Joel Schmidt
DGo	Douglas Goeltl	JPE	John P. Ellis
DKo	David Koehn	JPM	James P. Mattsson
DLT	Donna & Leon Thoreson	JPS	Julian P. Sellers
DMF	Dan M. Floren	JSB	Jo & Steve Blanich

JSS Jack S. Sprenger
 JWH John W. Hockema
 JWL James W. Lind
 JWR Jim W. Rataczak
 KBZ Ken & Barbara Zimmer
 KCR Kim & Cindy Risen
 KJB Karl J. Bardon
 KRE Kim R. Eckert
 KRo Karl Roe
 KRV Ken & Rebecca Vail
 LAW Larry A. Weber
 LBF Linda B. Felker
 LCa Leah Carlson
 LEC Laura E. Coble
 LMg Linda McGouirk
 LMS Larry Sirvio
 LS Linda Sparling
 LW Larry Wilebski
 MaH Marshall Howe
 MAW Marlene A. Weber
 MDN Mark D. Nieters
 MDu Matt Dufort
 MHe Melissa Hein
 MHK Martin H. Kehoe
 MJB Milton J. Blomberg
 MKO Mike Osmond
 MLH Mike L. Hendrickson
 MM Molly Malechek
 MO Mark Otnes
 MRN Michael R. North
 MRo Mark Roberts
 MSS Mark Sparky Stensaas
 MSw Mike Sweet
 MTr Molly Tranel
 NAJ Nancy A. Jackson
 NBO Nancy B. Overcott
 NFT Nels F. Thompson
 NSc Nathan Schirmacher
 OSM Owen S. McMurtrey
 OWB Bill Bruins
 PBB Patrick B. Beauzay
 PBD Pat & Bob Dewenter
 PCC Philip C. Chu
 PEB Paul E. Budde
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher
 PHS Peder H. Svingen
 PJB Paul J. Binek
 PJK Pat Korkowski
 PJR Pat J. Rice
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson
 PRH Pete Hoeger
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams

REH Robert E. Holtz
 RHO Robert H. O'Connor
 RJS Roger J. Schroeder
 RLR Ronald L. Refsnider
 RLW Richard Wood
 RMD Robert M. Dunlap
 RNe Randal Newton
 RPR Robert P. Russell, Jr.
 RTP Ray Potthoff
 RWS Robert W. Schroeder
 SAS Shelley A. Steva
 SC Shawn Conrad
 SCZ Shawn Zierman
 SEi Sallie Eikren
 SES Steven E. Schon
 Slv Samuel Ives
 SLF Steve L. Falkowski
 SLo Scott Loss
 SLP Susan Plankis
 SMC Scott M. Clark
 SPM Steve P. Millard
 SSo Steve Sopoci
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman
 SWd Stan Wood
 SWe Steve Weston
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell
 TFB Tom F. Boevers
 TJM Todd J. Merefield
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 TSS Tom & Sheryl Smith
 VTh Vicky Thomas
 WAF Wayne Feder
 WCM William C. Marengo
 WEN Warren E. Nelson
 WLi Warren Lind
 WRu Will Russell

Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 D.N.R. Department of Natural Resources
 H.R.B.O. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
 N.C. Nature Center
 N.M. National Monument
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.F. State Forest
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 U.S.F.W.S. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

Birding by Hindsight

A Fourth Look at The Internet

Kim R. Eckert



A fourth look? Aren't these *Hindsight* articles supposed to be subtitled "A Second Look"? True, but the so-called second look at the internet — i.e., the first time it was addressed in this column — was five years ago (see *The Loon* 76:48–50). Then another installment about postings on the MOU's listserv followed (*The Loon* 80:40–44), and this second article was naturally subtitled "A Third Look." So, if you're still counting and not too hopelessly confused, that brings us up to what we'll call the fourth look (even though it's the third article), and this time around there's another listserv worth bringing into the discussion.

Frontiers of Field Identification

There are only two listservs I subscribe to. Besides MOU-net, I've long read the postings on Frontiers of Field Identification, which discuss difficult bird ID challenges and other related issues. Or, more accurately, I *try* to read the postings. Most of the topics have little relevance to birding in Minnesota, and they can easily advance well beyond my levels of ability and attention span. Too often these discussions never reach any conclusion, especially when they drone on about gulls with anomalous plumage features. There are also a few individuals (and you've probably never heard of them) who feel a need to participate in almost every discussion, even as some of them admit they have no expertise in the subject.

Still, there's lots to learn in Frontiers, and it's worth scanning through their

archives of previous postings (<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdwg01.html>) where you'll eventually run across some ID topics of interest.

Recent Hindsight's

A couple recent threads of discussion on Frontiers caught my eye, since they addressed identification issues raised in the two most recent *Birding by Hindsight* installments on flycatchers and blackbirds. Wood-pewees in Illinois and Louisiana were found and suspected to be West-erns, and the observers were looking for comments on their identities. Predictably, given the difficulties involved and discussed two *Hindsight* articles ago, no one had much to say about them, and I'd have to assume they're still unidentified. (See Frontiers archives, October 2009 / week 1.)

And remember the last *Hindsight's* prediction that birders might be confounded by juvenile Yellow-headed Blackbirds, given the discrepancies between the *Sibley* and *Geographic* field guide illustrations? Sure enough, a "mystery bird" appeared in Washington recently, and the experienced observer posted its photo looking for help. It proved to be a relatively obvious juvenile Yellow-headed. (August 2009 / week 4 archives)

Swallow Your Pride

What in the world is an Ashy Wood-swallow? Apparently, it's something that lives in Asia, bears only a superficial resemblance to the swallows we're used

to here, and has never occurred in North America. But some blurry photos from Alaska surfaced which caught the eye of a few acknowledged ID authorities who felt they were looking at a first continental record. After an exchange of a few Frontiers postings about the finer points of woodswallow ID, it was learned that better documentation was available to reveal the bird was likely just an odd-plumaged Violet-green Swallow. (August 2009 / week 5 and September 2009 / week 1 archives.)

The real lesson here has nothing to do with woodswallows unless, of course, you're planning a trip to Myanmar or Bangladesh. What struck me is how easy it is (even for the experts!) to get carried away, get misled by the power of suggestion, and think more about the potential for sexy, exotic vagrants rather than the more reasonable and boring local possibilities. In addition, it's important to keep in mind that the identification of birds in photos — especially marginal ones — can be a risky proposition.

Peeps vs. Stints

Actually, a more sobering cautionary tale closer to home than the woodswallow situation involved a recent shorebird sighting in the Midwest. I've always wondered about the possibility of so-called "stealth vagrants" appearing in Minnesota: i.e., birds not detected because of their close resemblance to other things. For all we know, for example, some of the Eurasian stints (especially Little or Red-necked) may well have already appeared here among a flock of peeps (like Semipalmateds) and were never picked out of the flock. So, when some experienced Ohio observers posted photos of a peep on Frontiers they felt sure had to be one of the stints, I was intrigued enough to pay attention. (August 2009 / weeks 3–4 archives; also http://www.rarebird.org/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=4267.)

My first reaction to the photos was to be impressed by the abilities of the observers who thought it to be a stint. After all, to my untrained eye, I would have

just called it a brightly plumaged juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper and moved on. But an impressive list of well-known ID experts waded into the discussion, which focused in intricate detail on why it was a Red-necked rather than a Little Stint, or vice versa. At one point, one of them commented: "This bird has been studied carefully by observers who know Semipalmated Sandpiper and other North American peeps inside out, and they've already ruled out the Semi and our other regular species."

So, what was the eventual conclusion? After a week or two, conclusive evidence emerged showing that this was, after all, a brightly plumaged juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper! Surprisingly, none of these shorebird ID authorities had apparently ever noticed Semis with such bright, rusty feather edges before, even though such individuals appear here all the time. An early *Hindsight* article from 1996 (*The Loon* 68:121–124) had even mentioned this: "Equally as troublesome is that many Semis... have rusty feathers on the head, back, scapulars and/or tertials." Don't get me wrong, though: I don't claim any prowess with peep ID. Far from it, since I and others routinely used to misidentify such rusty birds as Westerns in past decades, and I'd wager that some birders still make this same mistake now. (Unless, of course, they call them stints instead.)

Other Shorebirds

About the same time as the Great Ohio Stint Affair, other postings on Frontiers about shorebirds have been appearing. In Virginia, a sand-plover was seen and photographed, and the discussion centered on whether it was a Lesser or Greater Sand-Plover. (And, yes, this time it really was a sand-plover, and not a Killdeer or something!) Authorities on both sides weighed in, but the last I looked no consensus was reached — which may be just as well considering their credibility with that Ohio bird. (September 2009 / weeks 1–2–3 archives)

Another possible stint was reported from Illinois, but it generated hardly any

comments (August 2009, weeks 3 and 4 archives). And who can blame them from shying away from this one? And two other stealth vagrants were discussed: a bird which was either Common Ringed-Plover or Semipalmated Plover in Nova Scotia (September 2009 / week 5 and October 2009 week 1 archives); and a golden-plover in Quebec: was it an American, Pacific, or Eurasian? (September 2009 / weeks 3–4 and October 2009 / week 1 archives.)

None of these discussions has concluded yet with anything solid, as far as I know, which is sometimes as it should be. If nothing else, keep in mind that many birds cannot be conclusively identified — again, even by the experts. And it's always preferable to make no decision rather than the wrong one.

Vireo Vertigo

Given a decent look, I always thought that telling a Philadelphia from a Warbling vireo was pretty straightforward. If it had dark lores and yellow across the breast, then it was a Philadelphia. You just had to be aware that the yellow on some Philadelphias can be relatively faint, and that some Warblings have a yellowish wash on their sides, flanks, or under tail coverts, but not on the breast. I recently realized it isn't always that simple.

For the first time ever, it seemed, I found myself confronted last August with vireos I couldn't identify with any confidence. These birds clearly had dark gray lores plus some definite yellow on the sides and across the breast, though somewhat paler in the center. Dark lores + yellow breast = Philadelphia Vireo, but why was the yellow paler on the center of the breast than on the sides? My somewhat uneasy conclusion was that I was seeing bright, fresh-plumaged, juvenile Warbling Vireos with grayish lores, birds I apparently had never noticed before.

Not long after these embarrassing field encounters, in comes *Frontiers of Field ID* to the rescue with all the answers! Um, well, maybe I should say some of the answers... actually, it raised more questions

than it answered. Observers posted photos of two vireos whose identities seemed in doubt: one was a wet, disheveled bird from California, and the other was a banded bird-in-the-hand here in Minnesota (September 2009 / week 4 archives).

The California vireo was actually the only one that involved any serious ID challenges, considering that two celebrity field guide authors offered different opinions on what it was! Kenn Kaufman thought it was a “bright extreme” Warbling Vireo. David Sibley, however, felt its identity was “ambiguous,” though he leaned more towards a “drab Philadelphia Vireo” since it “seems to show a yellowish throat.”

As for the Minnesota bird, it's clearly a Philadelphia Vireo, with its dark lores and yellow throat/upper breast visible in the photo (see the September 22, 2009 postings at <http://minnesotabirdnerd.blogspot.com>). As Kenn Kaufman put it: “The Minnesota bird is a straightforward Philadelphia Vireo. In terms of underparts color, the key area to check would be the center of the lower throat and upper breast. This area can vary from bright yellow to very pale yellow, but in all Philadelphias it will be as bright as, or brighter than, the remainder of the underparts. Some Warblings in fall can be very bright yellow along the sides and flanks, but if yellow extends to the center of the lower throat, it will be much paler there. So this relative distribution of color is important.”

The bander's primary ID uncertainty seemed to result from an obsolete banding manual with inaccurate information, and, accordingly, you can't help but wonder if other vireos here and at other banding stations might have been misidentified. Contrary to what you might think, it's important to keep in mind that banding station IDs are generally not nearly as solid as those coming from a museum's specimen trays. Banders undoubtedly make fewer mistakes than birders in the field, but they're still human. Actually, bird-in-the-hand IDs can even be more difficult than in the field, since behavior, vocalizations, and other

important clues aren't available.

The director of the Migration Research Foundation also commented that the Minnesota vireo was "a definite Philadelphia," and his posting included references to some eye-opening Warbling Vireo photos on the Migration Research website (<http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/id/wavi.html>). For example, look at the first Warbling photo under the "hatch-year unknown" section (unknown here means the bird's sex, not its species ID): it's got lots of dark on the lores and yellow on the underparts, just like the ones I had seen in August which I eventually figured were Warblings. Even more disturbing is the second photo under "second-year unknown"; this Warbling Vireo shows even blacker, Philadelphia-like lores.

After all this, it seems these two vireos can show definite overlap in how dark the lores can be, with only the darkest or palest lores useful as field marks. You need to rely more on the color on the throat and center of the upper breast: yellow deeper or just as deep as elsewhere on the underparts = Philadelphia; yellow absent or paler than on rest of underparts = Warbling.

Finally (and it's about time!), there are a few other features to consider on vireos you're not quite sure of, although these are only average, overlapping differences and/or require direct comparison with other vireos. Compared to Warbling Vireos, Philadelphias tend to have: a darker, grayer cap which contrasts more with the back color; a bolder, more cleanly delineated white supercilium; darker primary coverts and folded wing tips; and a smaller bill/rounder head/shorter tail profile.

MOU-Net

Turning to our own MOU listserv for ID inspiration, let's see what issues have been raised on MOU-net in recent months. Hmm, it seems it's been a slow year for postings: a Mallard ate a frog... Canada Goose photo is added to someone's website... 67 chickens are delivered to a farm... baby House Finch seen in bird bath... a poem about Palm Warblers....

Wait, here's a thread that generated lots of postings. Though not about bird ID, maybe there's something worthwhile to consider: A birder reports he possibly saw a first state record, assumes (for reasons unknown) that birders will judge him and his record negatively, and so he doesn't report it. Perceptions are reported (without specifics) that Minnesota birders are "often not friendly," that there's elitism, an "old boys club," that only "name" birders get records accepted. Someone adds (no evidence given) that "posting unusual birds was a very risky proposition"; others mention "they've only posted once and never would again." And there's even this: "I was very tempted to post my sightings from Iraq but didn't have the courage. I will gladly go back to a combat zone if needed but have sworn that I will never post on the MOU website again." (And yet they still say "war is hell"?)

Another claims he was "publicly humiliated" by the Records Committee — oh, by the way, this was in another state, so what does it have to do with us? Someone seems upset when his mid-April Common Nighthawk report is questioned by eBird — as well they should have, but why complain to MOU-net and not eBird? A self-described "lurker" reports he never contributes or participates in MOU, and only casually knows a few members — so how is he qualified to claim that "squabbling is an MOU tradition"?

These perceptions, the posts conclude, need to change. And the implication is that MOU-net subscribers are the ones who need to clean up their act. Maybe, if there were anything to clean up. After all, I see no evidence of discontent that's anything more than limited in extent, perhaps merely negligible. I read perceptions unsupported by any evidence, examples, or explanations; some perceptions with plain factual errors; some limited in credibility since they're posted anonymously. Here's a novel suggestion: has anyone ever considered that maybe, just maybe, it's those with these perceptions — not the MOU — who could use a change?

Another thread just frayed, unraveled,

and wore thin. Shakespeare's not the only one who can create much ado about nothing.

A Blackpoll Poll

There actually was a worthwhile identification issue raised on MOU-net recently, and it involved that classic problem of separating Pine, Blackpoll, and Bay-breasted warblers in fall. A Twin Cities observer was unable to determine the identity of this warbler, managed to take five photos of it (see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gailw/sets/72157622228136858/>), and solicited help from the listserv. Later, postings soon followed from the observer with a running total of responses and how many "voted" for each species, which sort of amounted to the results of a bird identification poll. It was reported that "convincing opinions for each different bird" were received, though none of the reasonings behind anyone's vote was posted, and initial sentiment seemed to be leaning in favor of Pine Warbler.

So, who won? Probably Blackpoll, maybe Bay-breasted, definitely not Pine, best considered Unidentified. If you look at the photos, you'll see they're too marginal in quality to clearly show much, and, as pointed out earlier in that wood-swallow section, bird identifications based on photos alone can be pretty risky. It should also be pointed out that bird ID is not a popularity contest: taking a poll or adding up votes does not necessarily lead to a valid conclusion. Consider, for example, that Pine Warbler may have received its share of votes and "convincing opinions," but it's clear from two of the photos that the back is streaked, precluding Pine Warbler.

Given a decent look (or good photos), it's usually not too difficult to safely identify one of these nondescript fall migrants. One place to start is to first assume it's probably a Blackpoll or Bay-breasted and, contrary to the sentiment cited above, less likely to be a Pine, a species simply not seen all that often here

in spring or fall warbler waves. Consider a recent mid-September day at Duluth's Park Point Recreation Area where a nice wave of 24 warbler species was concentrated. There are 26 warblers which regularly migrate through Duluth, rarities included, and the two missing species that day were entirely predictable: Black-throated Blue (always rare) and — you guessed it — Pine.

An early *Hindsight* article about warbler ID had also mentioned this about Pine Warblers (*The Loon* 69:95–99): "Too many birders assume this warbler is just another species one would routinely encounter when out looking for migrants. In reality, the Pine is quite uncommon in Minnesota as a migrant, since it has a tendency to arrive on and depart from its breeding grounds without making many stops in Minnesota in transit. Many birders are also unaware how early the species migrates in spring and how late it moves in fall, and it is not likely to be seen in mid-May or in September during peak warbler-watching time."

I mentioned above the mystery warbler was *probably* a Blackpoll, based on what I think is visible on my computer screen: lemon yellow on the throat, streaks on the underparts, and white under tail coverts. But the more I stare at those five photos, the less confident I am the bird can be identified with certainty. After all, one experienced bander posted that he thought it was a Bay-breasted. (Interestingly, about the same time another bander posted photos elsewhere of a straightforward Bay-breasted and admitted "we weren't sure what it was.")

The next time you're confronted with one of these Blackpoll/Bay-breasteds, these are some features to consider:

- Trace of buff or chestnut on the flanks = Bay-breasted; no trace of color = either species or Pine
- Back streaks (may be faint) = either species (and *not* Pine); unstreaked = Bay-breasted or Pine
- Underparts streaking (may be faint)

- = Blackpoll or Pine; unstreaked = Bay-breasted or Pine
- Buff under tail coverts (may be faint) = Bay-breasted; white = Blackpoll or Pine
- Pale legs and feet = Blackpoll; dark = either species or Pine
- Pale soles of feet = Blackpoll or Pine; dark = Bay-breasted or Pine
- Lemon yellow wash on throat = Blackpoll or Pine; no yellow = either species or Pine
- Other more subtle, average differences between Blackpolls and Bay-

breasteds include: greener upperparts and sides of neck on Bay-breasted (grayer on Blackpoll); thicker wing bars on Bay-breasted; and more distinct eye line on Blackpoll.

And, finally, for even more information about all this, I recommend *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding* by Kaufman and *A Field Guide to Warblers* by Dunn and Garrett.

1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

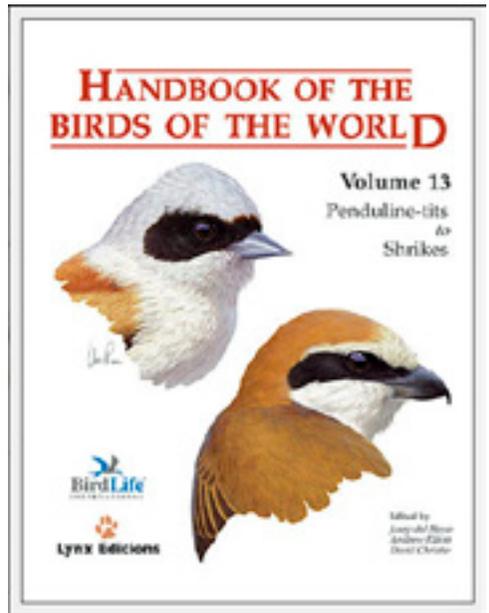


BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, VOLUME 13, Penduline-tits to Shrikes. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, and D. Christie, editors. 2008. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 879 pp. \$310.

This and previous volumes are available from Lynx Edicions, c/o Postal Express & Fulfillment Center, Inc., 265 Sunrise Highway suite 1 #252, 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 16 families: Remizidae (penduline-tits; 13 spp.), Aegithalidae (long-tailed tits; 13 spp.), Sittidae (nut-hatches; 27 spp.), Tichodromidae (wall-creeper; 1 sp.), Certhiidae (treecreepers; 10 spp.), Rhabdornithidae (rhabdornis; 3 spp.), Nectariniidae (sunbirds; 132 spp.), Melanocharitidae (berrypeckers and long-bills; 10 spp.), Paramythiidae (painted ber-



rypeckers; 2 spp.), Dicaeidae (flowerpeckers; 44 spp.), Pardalotidae (pardalotes; 4 spp.), Zosteropidae (white-eyes; 98 spp.), Promeropidae (sugarbirds; 2 spp.), Meliphagidae (honeyeaters; 175 spp.), Oriolidae (Old World orioles; 30 spp.), and Laniidae (shrikes; 31 spp.). As with volume 12, this one has a number of small, unfamiliar families, several of which only have come into regular use in recent years. Each family has a full family-level account. Species-wise, only a minority of the taxa treated here occur in the New World (the Americas); most are Old World (Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Oceania).

As with previous volumes, this is a large, heavy folio, well printed and well illustrated. It has been written by 20 authors and the 16 members of the International Shrike Working Group. The 60 color plates have been done by nine artists. In addition, there are 536 photographs. Other attributes are its 611 distribution maps and 54 pages of references (>6,000 citations).

The volume begins with a foreword that is a good overview of bird migration by Ian Newton (33 pp.). It then treats each of the 16 families and their composite species in a now familiar style that has not been altered since the series' initial volume. In general it is excellent. Relatively long family accounts (e.g., Zosteropidae 42 pp., Meliphagidae 84 pp., Laniidae 43 pp.), richly illustrated with photographs, are followed by species accounts and plates illustrating all of the species in the family (and often some of the rather marked variation occurring among subspecies). Each species account, given in a smaller font than the family accounts, is very informative, is accompanied by a small but detailed distribution map, and is given in a numeric order that follows the plate on which it is illustrated. Plates are interspersed, generally as full pages, on even-numbered pages (left side) throughout the species accounts. The plates, as usual, are very good to excellent.

Lest I neglect my perennial and only complaint with this series, I hope that no other major ornithological work ever

adopts the style used here of not providing citations to the primary literature in the text where it has been used, but instead provides a terse "bibliography" at the end of family and species accounts that give author surnames and years of publication; these can then be looked up in the excellent References section. Access to the primary literature is critical to the advance of science, and here it is made needlessly difficult to press beyond the textual summaries to determine where one can pursue any interesting point made in the text. I don't think that this stylistic choice well serves knowledgeable authors in communicating with their readers. As good as these accounts are, readers wishing to pursue topics further are poorly served here. Sifting through dozens or even hundreds of sources to nail down the source(s) of points that a researcher wishes to pursue slows the progress of generating new information about these fascinating animals. Given the expertise of the authors, there is also the inability to determine where accounts contain new information not previously published, and there is some of this "primary literature" quality to the work. This is not to denigrate the overall excellent quality of the family and species accounts; it is just pointing out how the presentation might have been more effective. But perhaps this only affects the most serious readers and not a general audience.

The photographs accompanying the family accounts are also of high quality, and they have generally been selected to illustrate behavioral characteristics of species in each family. These photographs and their detailed legends enable casual reading of family accounts and provide in effect a coffee-table aspect (or alluring browsing) to volumes that are otherwise dense, informative tomes. This has become one of my favorite first-pass ways to read these volumes. For example, nest-hole plastering by nuthatches (by which some species in the family Sittidae narrow the entrance to limit access) is well illustrated in numerous photographs; it

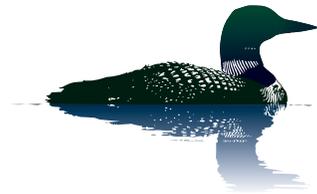
appears to be much more extensive in species occurring outside North America. Communal roosting in the Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*) is amusingly illustrated (p. 169). A male Mariqua Sunbird (*Cinnyris mariquensis*) drinking (p. 223) shows how the nectar-adapted tongue and bill of sunbirds enables them to drink as though through a straw, rather than by the more typical avian method of dip-and-tilt in which gravity is required to swallow water. Further, we are very used to the stereotypic postures of begging chicks in the nest as they solicit food from the adults. How often do we see the tail-raised posture of a chick in the nest defecating a fecal sac for the attending adult to eat or take and remove from the nest to diminish detection by predators? This delivery, also very

important, is rarely so well illustrated as in a photograph (p. 568) of a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) adult with three chicks at their nest, or another (p. 709) of a male Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) with a single chick at their nest. The photograph (p. 749) of a Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) capturing a small rodent in the snow is arresting, and the impaling behavior of shrikes (Laniidae) is illustrated in photographs on pp. 756–57.

As before, this is an excellent volume in the series. I continue to recommend this and previous volumes to all serious students of birds.

Kevin Winker, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775.

Notes of Interest



JULY CAPTURE OF A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — On 8 July 2008, during a bird-banding project in the Chippewa National Forest, Cass County, we captured and banded an adult White-crowned Sparrow. We were sampling early-successional regenerating clearcuts with mist-nets in an investigation of habitat use by forest-nesting songbirds. We opened 12 mist-nets at 5:30 A.M., but due to inclement weather, we were forced to close the nets after only 30 minutes. At 6:00 A.M., we checked the nets and removed many of the usual suspects including a Golden-winged Warbler, a Common Yellowthroat, a Mourning Warbler, plus Chestnut-sided Warblers and Song Sparrows. After the initial excitement of banding the first Pine Warbler of our project, we realized that we had something much more unique in the next net, a White-crowned Sparrow.

The bird was in adult plumage, but we were unable to determine its sex because White-crowned Sparrows are monomorphic and this individual was not in breeding condition (i.e. no brood patch or cloacal protuberance). The bird was not undergoing any molt, had a typical body fat index, and had no apparent deformities or injuries



that would suggest why it was in northern Minnesota in July. This individual was approximately 500 miles south of the known southern edge of the breeding range, 300 miles north of the northern edge of the wintering range, and 700 miles east of the eastern edge of the western breeding range for White-crowned Sparrows (Chilton *et al.* 1995).

We do not know if this bird was a very late spring migrant, a very early fall migrant, failed to complete its spring migration, or if there is another explanation for its presence. We subsequently banded at this location on 15 occasions from 9 July through 25 August and did not recapture, see, or hear any sign of this bird.

There have been two previous summer reports of White-crowned Sparrows in Minnesota. The first was observed by Bob Janssen and Kim Eckert on 30 July 1981 in Pipestone County (Eckert 1981), and the second was observed by Lawrence Filter in Blue Earth County on 3 July 1990 (Filter 1990). Both previous reports were also of adult birds. To our knowledge, ours is the first in-hand observation and photo-documentation of a summer White-crowned Sparrow in Minnesota.

If we recapture this bird or the band is reported, we will certainly update this report.

Literature Cited

Chilton, G., M. C. Baker, C. D. Barrentine, and M. A. Cunningham. 1995. White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), in *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>.



Two images of a White-crowned Sparrow netted 8 July 2008 in the Chippewa National Forest, Cass County. Photos by Sean M. Peterson.

floyd.lib.umn.edu/bna/ species/183.

Eckert, K. 1981. July record of White-crowned Sparrow. *The Loon* 53:226–227.

Filter, L. 1990. Summer record for a White-crowned Sparrow. *The Loon* 62:230.

Henry M. Streby, Sean M. Peterson, and Eric S. Michel. Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

BLACK-NECKED STILT IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY —



On 11 May 2008, I stopped at a flooded field near Willmar, Kandiyohi County, where two White-faced Ibis had been reported. There were no ibises, but shorebirds were present. I was looking at all the shorebirds through my scope, when I noticed a white blob. It stuck out very prominently, and I stopped on this bird. When the bird turned, I could see the black and white markings of this elegant shorebird. It was slender but large, taller than the Pectoral Sandpipers by a large margin, and slightly smaller than a nearby American Avocet. It had very long red legs. It was

black above on its mantle and wingtips. It had a white belly and under tail-coverts/rump. The nape was black, while its throat was white. Its cap was black with black extending under its eye. There was a white spot just above its eye. The bill was all black and long and slender. The bird was never seen in flight. Ron Erpelding joined me after about 15 minutes, and we were able to enjoy this magnificent shorebird together. This represents the second Kandiyohi County record of this species, following one near Lake Lillian, 18 May 2004 (*The Loon* 76:197). **Ben Fritchman, 27737 285th Avenue, Long Prairie, MN 56347.**

FIRST NOVEMBER RECORD OF GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER IN MINNESOTA —



During the early afternoon on 9 November 2008, my husband, Larry, and I were birding along one of our favorite paths in Duluth, the Western Waterfront Trail. Near Indian Point Campground, we stopped to watch the ducks, geese, and other water birds in one of the little bays of the St. Louis River. We were admiring the black and white beauty of the male Buffleheads and Hooded Mergansers when a movement in the brushy edges of the leafless trees along the bay caught my eye. I saw a flash of bright yellow belly and immediately thought, Wow!

Great Crested Flycatcher or Western Kingbird! When we focused our binoculars on the bird, it quickly became apparent that we had found a Great Crested Flycatcher. As we saw identifying features, we spoke them out loud. The bird had a dark grey face and breast, its belly and under tail-coverts were bright yellow, its head and back were dark olive, and there was a rufous area on the wings. Its tail was rufous all the way to the end with no band. The rufous wing and tail color was especially noticeable in flight. The eye was dark with no eye ring and the bill was dark. We noted two pale wing bars, but they were not helpful in identification because many flycatchers have them. The bird was silent.

The flycatcher appeared to be searching for food as it flew from perch to perch, flying from the ground to ten feet high, never staying long in one spot and never returning to the same limb it flew from. We followed along the path as the flycatcher moved slowly west and then back east again. It did not seem to be concerned about our presence; its intent was focused on hunting for food. We saw it eat several high bush cranberries, which were plentiful that year. It sat several times in a forward stance with its wings hanging down loosely, as if trying to break the cold wind and fluff itself up for warmth.

We watched it for at least ten minutes before continuing on our walk. What a beautiful surprise and pure joy to see this lovely bird on a cold mid-November day!

After our initial thrill of seeing this colorful flycatcher, we wondered about its survival chances so late in the year. The high temperature that day was only in the upper 20s with a northwest wind, so it was heartening to have Mike Hendrickson relocate the bird the next day in the same location. He confirmed our identification and reported basically the same identifying marks that we did. In addition, he was able to see the fleshy pale area at the base of the lower bill which we did not observe. He also said the bird was puffed out as if cold.

We knew that we had seen a very late migrant, but did not know until we were informed by Peder Svingen that to the best of his knowledge, this sighting is the latest ever reported in Minnesota. Quoting, "As far as I know, this represents the first November record for Minnesota!" There are several late October records from the North Shore including 25–28 October 1997 in Cook County (*The Loon* 70:95), 25–27 October 2002 in Cook County (*The Loon* 75:94), and 27 October 2007 in Two Harbors (*The Loon* 80:77). Janssen (*Birds in Minnesota*, 1987, pp 206–207) lists additional records from the North Shore for 24, 26, and 27 October, but he doesn't give the year or specific location. **Jan Kraemer, 1025 Maple Grove Road, Duluth, MN 55811.**

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY — On 9 September



2008, as we (Jan and Larry Kraemer) arrived home from birding on Park Point, we noticed a lot of bird activity so we decided to spend some time in the backyard. We saw many robins, flickers, a couple of catbirds, a Philadelphia Vireo and several Red-eyed Vireos eating fruit in the chokecherry trees. We also saw several species of warblers moving through the area, feeding in the trees. I remember seeing Yellow-rumped, Tennessee, Wilson's, Magnolia, and Black-and-white plus American Redstarts. There was also one Northern Waterthrush that

popped up for a few seconds before disappearing into the goldenrod.

At about 1:00 P.M., I spotted a Yellow-throated Warbler in a poplar tree just behind the garden. The white eyebrow, black cheek patch, bright yellow throat, and white belly almost glowed in the sunlight. The streaks on the side were on a pure white background and the eyebrow was completely white all the way to the bill. I got very excited and exclaimed "Yellow-throated! Texas bird!" Since it was very visible on the front side of a branch, Larry found it right away too. We watched it move along the limb slowly foraging for bugs, and then it flew up a couple inches to the next branch and "worked" along that one. It then flew to the west into thick trees and we couldn't find it again. We continued to watch birds for about another hour until the activity ceased.

After our excitement quieted, we discussed whether to report the warbler, because we were concerned that it would be considered an unreliable sighting. After deliberation, I felt that I must report it to Jim Lind and he strongly encouraged me to report it to M.O.U. Two identifying marks which we saw, but I neglected to mention in my original report, were white wing bars and a white spot behind the black cheek patch. I also reported that we saw the bird for a minute. Since time doesn't mean much under these conditions, it could have been two minutes, but no more. On a side note, even though we live on a busy street in town, our backyard is very secluded and the woods offer good habitat. Beyond the backyard, there is a spring that creates a wet area, which eventually drains into Miller Creek. We have many interesting animals and birds that use this area. We have captured pictures with a trail cam of fisher, coyote, gray and red fox, and other more mundane animals such as raccoons and deer. One winter a bobcat hunted the area for about a month. **Jan Kraemer, 1025 Maple Grove Road, Duluth, MN 55811.**



Evening Grosbeak, 18 October 2008, Cass County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

In This Issue

Golden-crowned Sparrow, 17 October 2008, Cass County

David A. Cablander..... Front Cover

First Minnesota Record of the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*)

Peder H. Svingen..... 55

The Fall Season

1 August through 30 November 2008

Paul E. Budde, Robert M. Dunlap, Douglas W. Kieser,

James W. Lind, and William C. Marengo..... 61

Birding by Hindsight: A Fourth Look at The Internet

Kim R. Eckert..... 100

Book Review

Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 13, Penduline-tits to Shrikes

Kevin Winker..... 105

Notes of Interest

July Capture of a White-crowned Sparrow

Black-necked Stilt in Kandiyohi County

First November Record of Great Crested Flycatcher in Minnesota

Yellow-throated Warbler in St. Louis County..... 107

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.

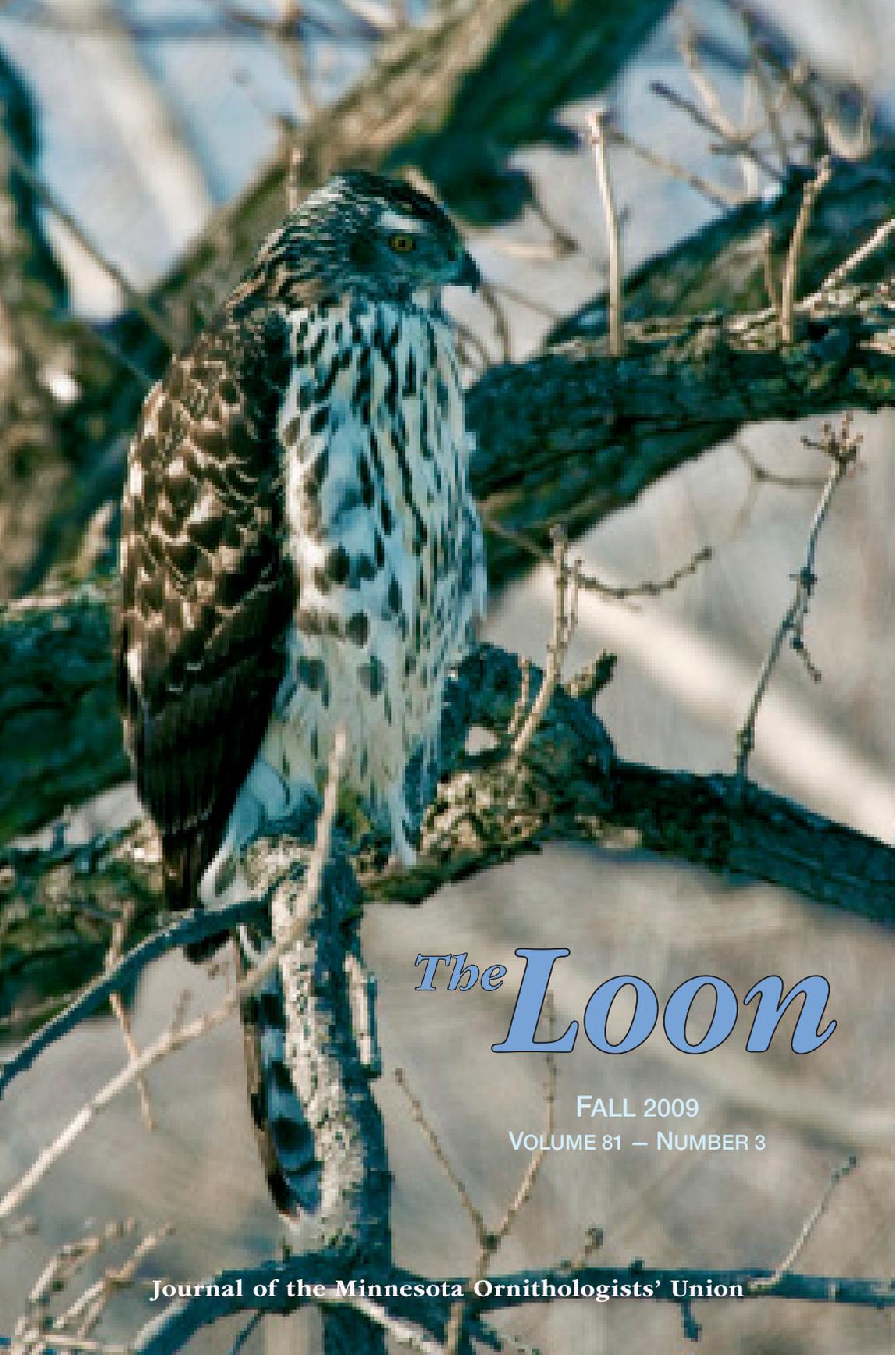
We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

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"×7". 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.



printed on recycled paper



The **Loon**

FALL 2009
VOLUME 81 – NUMBER 3

Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
10 Church Street Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0145

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

EDITOR OF *THE LOON*:

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF *THE LOON*:

Karl Bardon, Paul Budde, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Nancy Hertzell, Robert Janssen, Ann Kessen, and Peder Svingen

MOU MEMBERSHIPS:

Yearly donations to join the MOU:
Single \$25
Youth (through age 17) \$15
Family \$35
Supporting \$75
Life \$500
Foreign subscriptions \$35

EDITOR OF *MINNESOTA BIRDING*:

Ben Wieland, Deep Portage Learning Center,
2197 Nature Center Drive, NW, Hackensack, MN
56452; newsletter@moumn.org

MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:

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

MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mou@moumn.org

MOU WEB SITE:

<http://moumn.org>

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

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

MOU OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

VICE PRESIDENT: Carl Greiner, 1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield MN 55923

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Rich Peet, 3245 Noble Avenue N, Golden Valley, MN 55422

TREASURER: Mark Lystig, 1741 Sartell Avenue, Eagan MN 55122

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

MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS: Kim Eckert, 1921 West Kent Road, Duluth MN 55812

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: Carl Greiner, 1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield MN 55923

CONSERVATION: Pam Perry, 11206 Natures Way, Brainerd, MN 56401

EDUCATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jen Vieth, 1962 Oak Street, Hastings, MN 55033

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

FIELD TRIPS: Bob Williams, 5254 W 95th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437

FINANCE: Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S, St. Louis Park MN 55424

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

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

RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATIONS: Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

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

SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND: Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

SEASONAL REPORTS: Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

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

AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Jane Cleave, Box 3091, Duluth, MN 55803-3091

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

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

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

MNBIRD - *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, carol@birdminnesota.com

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

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Bonnie Sample, 1195 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105

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

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) conducted all of its business electronically during the period covered by this report. The vast majority of documentation is now being submitted online. Members voting on records during this period were Bob Dunlap (alternate), Kim Eckert (alternate), Bruce Fall (alternate), Anthony Hertzell, Ann Kessen, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Jim Mattsson, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chair). Results for January – July 2009 are shown below.

The following records were Accepted.

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 28–30 March 2009, Peterson Lake, Wabasha County (record #2009-006, vote 7–0).

- Eurasian Wigeon, 10 April 2009, Montevideo, Chippewa County (record #2009-014, vote 7–0).

Both were first county records of single adult males showing no signs of hybridization with American Wigeon (*A. americana*). Both birds were photographed.

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 22 November 2008, Pool 8, Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Houston County (record #2008-064, vote 6–1).

This species was also documented here in November 2001, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 7–9 April 2009, Grand Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant, Itasca County (record #2009-008, vote 7–0).

First county record. Adult male, photographed.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 8 September 2008, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth, St. Louis County (recirculated record #2008-043, vote 4–3 / 7–0).

This record was recirculated with documentation submitted by a second observer, and was unanimously Accepted. The bird was unaged, but was thought to be a different individual than an immature photographed at Hawk Ridge one day later (*The Loon* 81:8; 81:157–158).

- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), 30 May 2009, Lansing Parker Pool, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2009-027, vote 7–0).

Second refuge record. Adult in alternate plumage, photographed.

- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), 14 May 2009, Lake Byllesby, Dakota and Goodhue counties (record #2009-023, vote 7–0).

The fifth for Dakota and the second for Goodhue.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 23 May 2009, Headquarters Pool, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2009-024, vote 7–0).

Second refuge record. Adult in alternate plumage, photographed.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), 28 March 2009, Black Rush Lake, Lyon County (record #2009-007, vote 6–1).

Fifth state record since 2006 and the first for western Minnesota. Adult, photographed.

- Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), 1 May 2009, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2009-010, vote 7–0).

Fourth state record. First-cycle bird, photographed.



Record #2009-008. Barrow's Goldeneye, 9 April 2009, Grand Rapids, Itasca County. Photo by Earl Orf.



Record #2009-024. California Gull, 23 May 2009, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County. Photo by Kim Eckert.

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), 13–14 May 2009, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County (record #2009-019, vote 7–0).

First county record and only the fourth away from Duluth. Independently found and documented by two experienced observers.

- Arctic Tern, 21–23 May 2009, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2009-020, vote 7–0).

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 2 May 2009, near Cotton-Jack Wildlife Management Area, along Cottonwood County Road 6 and Jackson County Road 7 (record #2009-011, vote 7–0).

First occurrence for each county as the bird was observed on both sides of the county line. Photographed.

- Say's Phoebe, 12–13 May 2009, Ramsey, Anoka County (record #2009-015, vote 7–0).

Another first county record. Photographed.

- Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), 13–14 April 2009, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2009-009, vote 7–0).

Four of the state's twelve records are from Hennepin County. Photographed by many observers.

- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), 9 May 2009, along St. Croix

River near Otisville, Washington County (record #2009-026, vote 7–0).

Singing male at same location where one was documented 12 July 2008.

- Yellow-throated Warbler, 18 May 2009, Gnesen Township, St. Louis County (record #2009-018, vote 7–0).

Second county record, photographed.

- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), 13 May 2009, Dundas, Rice County (record #2009-016, vote 6–1).

Second county record. Adult male, photographed at a banding station.

- Prairie Warbler, 23 May 2009, Mankato, Blue Earth County (record #2009-028, vote 7–0).

First county record. Singing adult male.

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorum*), 15 May 2009, Veteran's Memorial Park, Richfield, Hennepin County (record #2009-029, vote 7–0).

- Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), 20 December 2008 – 2 April 2009, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2008-066, vote 7–0).

Second county and sixth state record. This immature bird was first identified and photographed by the homeowner during the Duluth CBC. It sporadically visited a feeder on 11 different dates over a period of 3½ months.

- Golden-crowned Sparrow, 25 & 30



Record #2009-027. Snowy Plover, 30 May 2009, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County. Photo by Barbara Williams.



Record #2009-015. Say's Phoebe, 13 May 2009, Ramsey, Anoka County. Photo by Dan and Pam Guynn.

March 2009, Egan, Dakota County (record #2009-005, vote 7-0).

First county and seventh state record. Second-year bird, photographed (*The Loon* 81:157-158).

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), adult male 23-24 May 2009 and adult female 23-27 May 2009, Star Lake, Otter Tail County (record #2009-025, vote 6-1 for male, vote 7-0 for female).

Third county record and the second time this species has occurred in this yard! The female was photographed. Males account for 43 of the state's 46 records.

- Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), 19-21 May 2009, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2009-021, vote 7-0).

- Painted Bunting, 20 May 2009, Hardwick, Rock County (record #2009-022, vote 7-0).

Both records were of adult males photographed at feeders. Nineteen of the state's 23 records have occurred within the last 16 years.

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

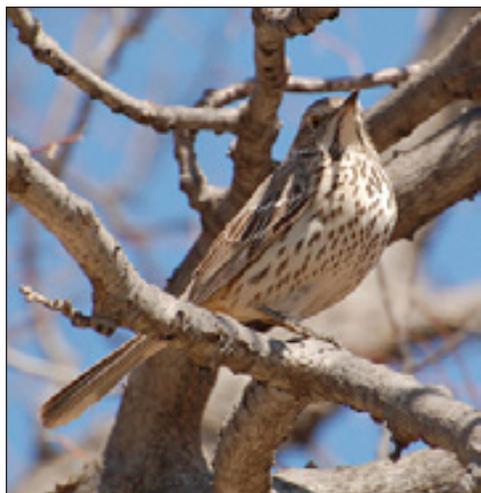
in the MOU's archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.)

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 15-18 May 2008, Black Rush Lake, Lyon County (record #2008-065, vote 1-6 for each of three adults).

Though clearly belonging to this genus, the photographs and written details were insufficient to rule out hybrids with Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). In accordance with previous policy, all three were automatically Accepted as *Plegadis* sp., as were two additional birds that the observer submitted as such.

- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), 4 May 2009, Forest City Township, Meeker County (record #2009-012, vote 3-4).

This hawk may have been correctly identified, but the diagnostic features of Ferruginous Hawk were not clearly described. For example, the observer noted "white feathering in the primaries" but did not describe the location, shape, or



Record #2009-009. Sage Thrasher, 14 April 2009, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Photo by Derek Bakken.



Record #2009-025. Lazuli Bunting, 26 May 2009, Star Lake, Otter Tail County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

extent of this feathering. The tail was described as “white with a rufous wash to it”, which fits either Ferruginous Hawk or western Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*). Field notes or a sketch showing the exact wing and tail pattern might have assuaged these concerns.

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 6 January 2009, two unaged birds near Voyageurs National Park, Koochiching County (record #2009-001, vote 0–7 for each individual).

The brief description from an observer who had no experience with this species in flight included statements that ruled out Gyrfalcon. For example, the wings were said to be not as broad as a Peregrine Falcon’s. The observer relied mostly on wing shape and flight style to eliminate Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), but these are subjective characteristics affected by wind direction and speed.

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), 8 November 2008, White Bear Lake, Ramsey County (record #2009-003, vote 2–5).

- Sabine’s Gull (*Xema sabini*), 9 September 2008, White Bear Lake, Ramsey County (record #2009-002, vote 2–5).

Both of these distinctive larids were

seen by an experienced observer and were probably correctly identified. Unfortunately, no field notes or sketches were taken and the documentation was submitted in late February 2009. Descriptions based solely on months-old memories are problematic. Similar-looking species were neither considered nor eliminated.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 4 May 2009, near mouth of Talmadge River, Duluth Township, St. Louis County (record #2009-013, vote 2–5).

Though possibly correctly identified by an experienced observer who promptly submitted documentation, there was no direct comparison of size, structure, or mantle shade to nearby gull species. Bill size, bill shape, and orbital ring color were not noted.

- Bullock’s Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), 13 May 2009, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac qui Parle County (record #2009-017, vote 0–7).

The brief description omitted key features distinguishing this species from Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*), and hybrids between these two species were not eliminated. The bird’s “‘chek-chek’, rather hoarse, musical” call was described as distinctive, but the observers had no



Record #2008-066. Golden-crowned Sparrow, 20 December 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Brad Snelling.



Record #2009-005. Golden-crowned Sparrow, 30 March 2009, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

experience with Bullock's Oriole. Since there were no field notes, sketches, or photographs, it was felt that a complete and unambiguous description would be needed to substantiate a potential second state record.

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 17 March 2009, near Twig, St. Louis County (record #2009-004, vote 3-4).

Though possibly correctly identified, field notes were not taken. The bird was briefly observed without optics and identified after reviewing images online.

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 or photographic documentation for one or more of the records listed in this article: Derek Bakken, Dave Bartkey, Pat Beauzay, Terry Brashear, Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, Shawn Conrad, Matt Dufort, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, John Fitzpatrick, Dan Floren, Janet Green, Dan and Pam Guynn, Chad Heins, Mike Hendrickson, Don Kienholz, Doug Kieser, Jim Lind, Bill Litkey, Jim

Mattsson, Phyllis Mohr, Earl Orf, Matthew Radzak, Jean Ranweiler, Alma Ronningen, Al Schirmacher, Nathan Schirmacher, Roger Schroeder, Drew Smith, Peder Svingen, Dan Tallman, Kyle TePoel, Tom Tustison, Barbara Williams, and Dan Williams.

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://moumn.org/cgi-bin/rqd.pl?op=new>.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments regarding any record or our procedures in general. Please contact Peder Svingen by e-mail at mourc@moumn.org.

Summary: 33 records voted on — 25 Accepted (76%), 8 Not Accepted (24%).

2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

The Winter Season

1 December 2008 through 28 February 2009

Paul E. Budde¹, Bruce A. Fall²,
James P. Mattsson³, and Andrew D. Smith⁴

Two and possibly a third **Greater White-fronted Goose** over-wintered in Scott. An immature **Snow Goose** over-wintered north in Cass. The presence of several **Cackling Geese** in Dakota and Ramsey in January was noteworthy. Continuing the trends of recent years, **Trumpeter Swans** were less concentrated and more widely distributed, and **Tundra Swans** were few owing to another very cold December. Surprising was an apparently wild **Mute Swan** in mid-February in Lake. **Wood Ducks** over-wintered at the Bass Ponds in Hennepin and possibly in four additional East-central counties based on January reports. January reports of other dabblers include **Gadwall** in Washington and **American Wigeon** in Olmsted. In January **Canvasbacks** were found north in Beltrami and Clay, as well as with four other *Aythya* divers south. In the “Ho hum, just another...” category, a male **Harlequin Duck** in full breeding regalia over-wintered for the second consecutive year in the Prescott, WI, area including Washington and Dakota counties. Sea ducks included a **White-winged Scoter** in mid-January in Dakota/Washington, a hefty 57 **Long-tailed Ducks** in St. Louis in late February, and an over-wintering male **Barrow's Goldeneye** in Duluth.

An ultra-dependable covey of up to nine **Gray Partridge** near Hastings wowed many from late December through February. The state's four grouse species appear to be stable or increasing. **Wild Turkeys** have become so abundant that some of us are longing for the good ol' days when squirrels were the biggest problem at our bird feeders!

A very early **Turkey Vulture** in Hennepin was most unexpected. Both **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Golden Eagle**



Pine Siskin, 10 December 2008, Dunning Lake, Itasca County. Photo by Earl Orf.

seemed especially plentiful this season.

Very unusual was presumably the same **Virginia Rail** flushed mid-December and again early January in Hennepin. Also in that county, a window-killed **American Woodcock** was found mid-February.

Six individual **Iceland Gulls** were present between Duluth and Black Dog Lake. **Great Black-backed Gulls** made a big showing with a minimum seven present in Duluth as well as a high count record of three seen together in both Duluth and at Black Dog in Dakota.

A rare visitor south and found by a non-birder, a very unexpected (and well photographed) **Northern Hawk Owl** in Nicollet brought joy to only a few lucky birders.

Seven **Carolina Wrens**, four **Winter Wrens**, and 12 **Hermit Thrushes** were unusually high numbers for this season. Thirteen **Townsend's Solitaires** and 22 **Varied Thrushes** were more typical.

At a Duluth feeder, a sixth state record **Golden-crowned Sparrow** played cat and mouse with birders mid-December through end of the period. The immature bird was very unpredictable and often absent for several days at a time. A most unusual and record-late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited a Wayzata feeder in Hennepin through 1 January.

While **Pine Grosbeak**, **Red Crossbill**, and **Evening Grosbeak** were relatively scarce, a few “winter finches” were remarkable. **White-winged Crossbills** staged their largest invasion in perhaps 20 years plunging deep below our border. Likewise, **Common Redpoll**, **Hoary Redpoll**, and **Pine Siskins** were present in irruptive numbers throughout the state.

Weather summary: December brought multiple snow storms to the state, and set records for the month in some areas. Monthly mean temperatures were four to eight degrees below historical averages, making this the coldest December since 2000. The cold temperatures continued throughout January, though precipitation levels fell to below average levels across most of the state. Finally, in February both snowfall and temperatures returned to near normal levels.

Undocumented reports: **Mute Swan** 12/10 Dakota; **Common Loon** 2/22 Lake; **Chipping Sparrow** 12/8 – 1/13 Hennepin.

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 for his continuing efforts to streamline and improve this process. Carl Greiner, serving as Minnesota Christmas Bird Count coordinator, compiled and summarized vast amounts of data from 68 CBCs. Reports of winter owls were mapped by Michael Hendrickson; these compilations were invaluable for sorting the data into reasonable counts. Finally, thanks to Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for their tireless compilations of weekly birding summaries available via the RBAs and on-line.

¹4612 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419; ²4300 29th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406; ³570 South Greenleaf Drive, Eagan, MN 55123; ⁴3606 Widgeon Way, Eagan, MN 55123.

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. “ph” denotes a species documented with a photograph.
11. “v.t.” denotes a species documented by video tape.

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@aonbenfield.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [5 South] Over-wintered Scott. A single bird present 1/1 to early February at Old Mill Pond in Shakopee was joined by a second and possibly a third individual and remained through the month DWK, CMB, PEJ. First migrants reported 2/28 Jackson, Nobles, Murray, Pipestone.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [1 North, 2 South] Immature blue morph over-wintered 12/1 – 1/31 Cass BAW, HHD. Only south reports 12/5 Meeker DMF, 2/28 Jackson (probable early migrant) PEJ.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) — [1 South] One present 2/10–20 Olmsted (Silver Lake, Rochester) LAV, JWH.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [11 South] Only documented mid-winter (January) reports: 1/2 Dakota (6) and 1/3 Ramsey (26) AXH. Several late February reports probably represent early migrants.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [8 North, 36 South] “High” counts were surprisingly low compared to past winter seasons. Totals of 500 for Clay 12/20 PBB and Olmsted 1/1 OWB suggest that no one took time to count geese at Black Dog!

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [1 North, 1 South] An apparently wild bird photographed in **Lake** (Burlington and Agate Bays) 2/16–17 was most unexpected given the declining populations to the east in Michigan and Wisconsin ph †JWL, LS, ph PHS.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [9 North, 17 South] Numerous reports of widely distributed birds, but a relatively low “high” concentration of only 207 reported from Wright 12/4 DPG. Other notable concentrations were found 1/14 Otter Tail (100) *fide* JMJ and 1/7 Washington (50, Pine Tree Lake) *fide* U.S.F.W.S. Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [4 South] The recent trend of low numbers for the winter period continued. All reports: 12/2 Sherburne (2) DPG, 12/6 Hennepin (40) DWK, 12/12 Hennepin (5) DDo, 12/13 Sherburne (8) DDo, 1/1 Winona (3) RNe, 1/6 Scott PEJ, 2/28 Scott PEJ.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [1 North, 9 South] One north report 12/1 Cass (Pow-ers Twp) BAW. Over-wintered Hennepin (3, Bass Ponds) DWK. Other January reports of individuals from McLeod, Ramsey, Scott, and Wright.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [7 South] Male over-wintered through at least January in Washington (Prescott) JPM, ADS, BAF. Other reports included 2/7 Ramsey (4, Kaposia Landing), 2/14 Scott (3, Mill Pond), 2/27 Winona (42, possible over-wintering?) PEJ.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [1 South] Only report 1/1 Olmsted (male, Mill Creek, Chatfield) JWH.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [2 North, 14 South] High counts: 12/27 St. Louis (17, Duluth) PHS, 2/25 Scott (13, Mill Pond) PEJ. Also reported north 1/27 Cass (2, Pine River dam) BAW.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [10 North, 28 South] High counts 2/15 Dakota (4,000, Black Dog Lake) BAF, 12/20 St. Louis (1,195, Duluth CBC) PHS, 12/20 Clay (500, Moorhead W.T.P.) PBB.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — [3 South] All reports: 12/12 Scott (Blue Lake) DWK, 12/13 Scott (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) CRM, 2/7 Sibley (2, Le Sueur) DPG, 2/16–24 Dakota (female, Black Dog Lake) PEJ.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [1 North, 3 South] No January reports. Only north report 12/20 Clay (Moorhead W.T.P.) PBB. South reports throughout February from Scott (4, Mill Pond) PEJ, DWK and 2/16 Dakota (9, Black Dog Lake) PEJ.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [2 South] All reports: 2/14 Scott (female at Mill Pond) PEJ, 2/19 Olmsted (female near Silver Lake.) JWH.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [2 North, 3 South] All north 12/20, 1/6 and 1/12 in Clay (Moorhead W.T.P.) PBB, RHO; 1/1 Beltrami DPJ. An adult male was present from mid-December to mid-January Dakota/Washington near Prescott m.ob. Only other south report 12/26 Goodhue (Colville Park) DBM.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [10 South] Male present entire month of January Washington/Dakota near Prescott JPM, BAF, DFN, MJB. Also reported 1/25 Ramsey (male, Kaposia Landing) BAF. February reports from Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Nobles, Olmsted, Scott.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [9 South] As many as 10 present through January in Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ, DWK, DFN. Other January reports 1/19 Wabasha (Read's Landing) PEJ, 1/31 Stearns (Mississippi River, Sartell) MJB.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [3 South] Female present 12/13 through 1/11 Dakota/Washington (Prescott area) m.ob. Only other report 2/11 Lac qui Parle (female) BJU.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [4 North, 4 South] All north 12/1 Cass BAW, Todd MSK, 12/27 St. Louis SLF, 1/1 Beltrami DPJ. Male present 12/16 – 1/11 Dakota/Washington (Prescott area) m.ob.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus bistrionicus*) — [1 North, 2 South] Possibly the same female-plumaged bird present 12/11 and 12/20–21 at the mouth of the French River, St. Louis HWi, ph. †KRE, PHS. Most unexpected was a stunning alternate male, almost certainly the same individual that over-wintered at this same spot last year, present 12/13 through the end of the season in Dakota/Washington (Prescott, WI area) DWK, m.ob. This plumage is

rarely seen in the state away from Lake Superior.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) — [1 North, 2 South] Only north report 2/1 St. Louis (bird in flight, Lake Superior) FKB. An immature/female-type present 12/13–19 Dakota/Washington PEJ, JPM, ADS, DWK, BAF and again 1/18 Dakota (Prescott area) †BAF.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [2 North] An impressive high count of 57 reported 2/23 St. Louis (Duluth Twp) PHS. All other reports: 12/13 Morrison FGo, MJB, 12/18 St. Louis KRE, 12/20 St. Louis (11) KRE.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [2 North, 2 South] All reports: 12/1 Cass BAW, 12/5–7 St. Louis DBF, 12/7 Dakota MDu, 1/10 Ramsey BAF, 2/7 St. Louis DWK.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [9 North, 18 South] High counts: 1/4 St. Louis (595, Duluth) PHS; 1/3 Dakota (~800, Mississippi River, Prescott, WI area, most in Dakota and Washington) BAF; 2/24 Dakota (650, Black Dog Lake) PEJ.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) — [1 North] Probably the same adult male found 11/1 (Park Point) over-wintered in the Canal Park area of Duluth and was last seen in early March ph. †PHS, †MLH, †KRE, m.ob.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [3 North, 8 South] All north: 12/1 St. Louis (male over-wintered on Silver Lake in Virginia through 2/8) SLF; 12/2 Cass (female, Gull Lake) BAW; 1/19 Polk *fide* JMJ, 2/16 St. Louis (male, near WLSSD W.T.P., Duluth.) PHS. Found during January in five metro area counties at usual open water sites.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [4 North, 19 South] Two north reports away from Lake Superior: 1/2 Mor-

rierson (Little Falls dam) DPG, 2/3 Cass (Pillager dam) BAW. High counts south 12/28 Goodhue (15,810) SWe, 2/8 Dakota (1,450, Black Dog Lake) PEJ.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [2 North, 4 South] High count 2/15 St. Louis (30, Canal Park, Duluth.) JWH. Also notable 1/31 Cook (2) AXH. Only January report south 1/3 Ramsey (2) BAF. Also reported south in Goodhue (12/2), Dakota (beginning 2/8), and Washington (2/28) during the season.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [2 South] All reports: 12/15–16 Washington (female, Point Douglas) DWK, JPM, 2/28 Jackson (probable early migrant) PEJ.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [5 North, 5 South] All north reports: 12/3 Kittson *vide* MJM, 1/10 Polk (20) *vide* MJM, 2/14 Roseau (2) JCC, 2/18 Wilkin (6) *vide* MJM, 2/20 Kittson *vide* MJM, 2/28 Red Lake *vide* MJM. A very cooperative covey of up to nine present 12/26–2/28 near Hastings at 180th and Joan Ave. m.ob.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [11 North, 47 South] High count 1/18 Brown (149, 85 in one group) BTS. Interestingly, no reports from Northwest where most if not all birds are presumed to be of game farm origin.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [14 North, 3 South] Third consecutive year of cyclic increases statewide. No reports received from Southeast.

Spruce Grouse (*Falciptennis canadensis*) — [3 North] Several reports from Lake throughout period with a high count of 12 on 2/11 (Sand River area) MLH. Also reported 1/2 Lake of the Woods CWG, 1/27 St. Louis *vide* JWL.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [10 North, 1 South] High count 1/18 Kittson (126) LW. All south reports: 1/29 Lac qui Parle (Louisburg), 2/3 Lac qui Parle (28, Plover Prairie.) BJU.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [1 North, 1 South] Minnesota's prairie-chicken population has increased substantially in recent years, now standing at more than 1,600 adult males. The D.N.R. expects more than four times that number of birds in the fall population. High count 2/18 Wilkin (75) RGJ. All south 2/3 Lac qui Parle (4, Plover Prairie) BJU.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [11 North, 32 South] Introductions now established in well over one-half of the state's counties with exceptions of Northeast, North-central, and Southwest. Expanding in Northwest as evidenced 1/8 Pennington (17) *vide* MJM.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [1 North] A very late bird was found 12/1 in Cass (Shingobee Twp) BAW. (See also undocumented reports).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [1 South] Only report 1/7 Rice TFB.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [2 South] Multiple reports from two metro locales: 12/5 – 1/1 Dakota (up to 6 birds, at least two injured, Black Dog Lake) BAF, DWK, JPM, ADS; and Ramsey/Dakota (3 with injured wings, Kaposia Landing) BAF, JPM, AXH.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [2 South] Single birds reported from Dakota (Black Dog Lake) and Ramsey (Kaposia Landing, Mississippi River) throughout the period ADS, BAF, MJB.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [2 South] All reports: 12/13 Ramsey (2) BAF, 12/20 Rice DAB, 1/3 Ramsey (2) BAF, 1/25 Ramsey (2) BAF, 2/1 Ramsey (3) BAF, 2/21 Ramsey BAF, 2/22 Ramsey BAF.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [1 South] Early south migrant 2/25 Hennepin (soaring over Ft. Snelling) PEB.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [23 North, 38 South] High count 2/22 Ramsey (55, Mississippi River, Kaposia Landing to Hardman Ave.) BAF. Numerous reports statewide.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [2 North, 10 South] All north: 12/4 Marshall *fide* JMJ, 12/9 Morrison MJB. All January reports south: 1/1 Meeker DMF, 1/20 Scott CMB.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [5 North, 25 South] Only January reports with details 1/4 St. Louis PHS, 1/20 Hennepin DDo.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [6 North, 16 South] Again, most reports without details. Only documented reports: 12/5 Otter Tail (adult) DST, 12/20 St. Louis (Duluth CBC, Miller Creek off 27th Ave West) ph. PHS. Other notable, though undocumented, records: 12/6 Kanabec HDD, 1/25 Lac qui Parle (Mount Wickham.) BJU.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [5 North, 5 South] All north reports from St. Louis: 12/20 (immature, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve) TPW, 12/22 (adult, Sax-Zim CBC), 12/25 (adult, Lakewood Twp) TPW. Additional north reports 12/23 Cass DAY, 1/1 Lake of the Woods (2, Baudette CBC) *fide* JMJ. All south: 12/16 **Lyon** RJS, 1/2 Benton (immature) DPG, 1/27, 2/5 Meeker (immature, same bird?) DMF, 2/4 Sherburne DDo, 2/7 Stevens ABL, 2/20 Sherburne Asc.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [10 South] January reports: 1/1 Hennepin RBW, 1/2 Hennepin DWK, 1/3 Ramsey AXH, 1/14 Dakota JPM, 1/21 Hennepin CMB, 1/22 Nicollet RMD, 1/31 Blue Earth ChH, Hennepin DWK, MDu, Rice and Steele JWH.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [8 North, 46 South] Over-wintering adult in St. Louis (WLSSD W.T.P., Duluth). Numerous reports south of a line from Clear-

water County to Duluth.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [18 North, 38 South] Reported more widely than usual, most reports of light-morph birds. High count 12/7 Aitkin (5) DWK.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [4 North, 10 South] Total of 20 individuals reported. All north: 12/22 Morrison (adult, Earaux W.M.A., Little Falls CBC) FGo, 12/31 Wilkin (2, Rothsay W.M.A.) BWF, JWH, 1/1 Lake of the Woods (adult, Beltrami Island CBC) †MHK, 1/31 Wilkin HDD. All south: 12/17 Blue Earth (adult) ChH, 12/28 Goodhue DAB, 1/10 Wabasha PRH, 1/18 Winona (3; wintering pair near Rushford, immature in Wiscoy Twp.) JWH, 1/25 Goodhue (subadult near Red Wing) JWH, Le Sueur/Scott (immature, Ney N.C.) RMD, 2/3 Lac qui Parle (immature, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 2/4 Fillmore DBz, 2/6 Rice DAB, 2/7 Wabasha (adult, Theilman area) DBM, 2/16 Houston CRM, 2/24 Blue Earth DHR.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [5 North, 25 South] Unusual north report 12/2 Beltrami JEB; otherwise, seen in normal number of counties.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [1 North, 12 South] A total of 25 individuals reported. Only north report 12/31 Wilkin (Rothsay W.M.A.) JWH.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [1 North, 5 South] All north were from Duluth, St. Louis: 12/18 (2, Port Terminal) PHS, 12/20 (2, Duluth CBC) PHS, 1/1 (Port Terminal) PHS. South reports away from traditional sites 1/29 Hennepin (I-494 and Xerxes Avenue S.), 1/26 Dakota (adult female, 220th St., Farmington) JPM.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) — [1 South] Most unusual was a well-described individual 12/19 and 1/1 Scott (Wilkie Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) †DWK.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [2 North, 7 South] All north 1/12 Clay (2,

Moorhead W.T.P.) RHO, 1/14 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ. All January reports south 1/1 Scott DWK, JLO, 1/2 Dakota AXH, DFN, 1/3 Scott MDu, 1/6 Scott PEJ.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [2 South] All south 1/20 Scott (Wilkie Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) CMB, 2/19 Nicollet (Seven Mile Creek C.P.) RMD.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [1 South] Exceptional early migrant **2/16** Hennepin (struck a building and died) *fide* AXH.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [1 North, 1 South] One north report 12/1 Cass (3, Gull Lake) BAW. A rehabilitated first-cycle bird was released 12/9 at Black Dog Lake, Dakota, and documented later that day by BAF, JPM.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [4 North, 8 South] Notable for winter were 3 on 12/1 in **Cass** (Gull Lake) BAW. North reports in February lacked documentation. High count 12/7 Dakota (50, Black Dog Lake) MDu.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [2 North, 8 South] High counts: 12/12 Dakota (1,500, Black Dog Lake) BAF, 12/5 St. Louis (560, 378 at 27th Ave West and 182 at Canal Park, Duluth.) PHS. Only January report north 1/18 Lake (41) RPR. Indicative of cold conditions, last reported south 1/6 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) MDu.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — [2 North, 5 South] High count 12/1 St. Louis (11, Duluth) KJB. Two adult and one third-cycle present 12/5 in Duluth (Canal Park) with at least one adult (same?) possibly persisting through mid-February †PHS. Also north, one adult 1/29–30 Lake (Knife River) KRE, PHS. Numerous reports south from early winter staging areas in Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties, where last reported 1/4 Washington JCC.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) — [2

North, 3 South] Three individuals north. First-cycle in St. Louis (Duluth) lingered from fall until 12/2 KJB. Another first-cycle found in St. Louis (Superior Entry) 12/1–7 KJB. Probably same first-cycle individual present 1/30 – 2/16 St. Louis was found in Lake 2/20 PHS. Three reports south, also. An adult Kumlien's persisted from 11/30 – 1/4 (see Fall report) in Dakota (Black Dog Lake) / Washington (Pt. Douglas) †PEB, †BAF, ph. †JPM, ADS, m.ob. Also, at least one first-cycle reported 12/4–25 ph. †JPM, †BAF, m.ob. and a second-cycle reported 12/16 – 1/2 at Black Dog Lake and Prescott area †BAF, †JPM, m.ob.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [3 South] Infrequently seen, a first-cycle bird continued from late November (see Fall report) through at least mid-December in Ramsey, Dakota, and Washington †BAF, †PEB, ph. JPM. Also, a second-cycle bird was well described 12/13 Ramsey (Hardman Ave.) KJB, †BAF, †PEB.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [2 North, 3 South] High count north 12/15 St. Louis (15, Superior Entry) KJB, 2/11 and 2/16 St. Louis (10, including 2 adults, WLSSD W.T.P. and Canal Park, Duluth) PHS. High count south 12/11 Dakota (9, including 1 adult, Black Dog Lake) JPM. Numerous December reports from usual Dakota/Washington metro sites.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North, 5 South] A minimum of seven individuals based on age class present in Duluth during period and seen by many: 12/1 St. Louis (3 first-cycle at Superior Entry) KJB, 12/5 St. Louis (fourth-cycle and 2 first-cycle, Superior Entry) KJB, 11/24. – 12/15 (4th-cycle) †PHS, 12/12 (2nd-cycle) †PHS, 12/16 (1st-cycle) †PHS, 2/1 (4th-cycle, probably same bird as one seen first half of Dec.) †PHS, 2/1–11 (adult) CLW, ph. †PHS. At least three 1st-cycle individuals present throughout December in Dakota/Washington and seen together 12/5 at Black Dog Lake JPM,



Eastern Screech-Owl, 31 December 2008, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Early nesting Great Horned Owl, 8 February 2009, North St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

BAF, PEB. The 3 in St. Louis and Dakota set a record high count for the state.

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [23 North, 49 South] Reported everywhere.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [4 North, 15 South] High counts 12/31 Blue Earth (15, Mapleton) ChH, 1/2 McLeod (13, Stewart) JCC, 1/30 Dodge (13, Claremont) DAB, 2/4 Brown (10, Hanska) BTS, 2/8 Brown (10, Comfrey) DAB. All north reports 12/5 Clay (2) MO, 1/4 Otter Tail SPM, 1/19 Wilkin (5, Rothsay) SPM, 2/19 Itasca (Grand Rapids) *vide* JWL.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) — [9 North, 36 South] High counts 12/27 Meeker (41, Litchfield CBC) MJB, 2/10 Goodhue (39) LEC, 12/8 Otter Tail (23) *vide* JMJ.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [1 North, 9 South] Reports of about 15 individuals, mostly gray morphs. As usual, most reports from Southeast but also reported 1/5 Todd (CAM) in the north, 2/28 Lac qui Parle (BJU) in the west, 2/22 Nobles (BTS) and 12/17 Lyon (Marshall CBC) in the Southwest.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [11 North, 27 South] Reported throughout state except extreme northeast (Lake, Cook). Total CBC count below 20-year average and only 55% of last year's count. Earliest report of adult on nest 2/8 Ramsey AXH.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [6 North, 7 South] Approximately 18 individuals reported statewide, the lowest total since the recent peak of 114 tallied during the winter season 2005–06. All north



Northern Hawk Owl, 20 January 2009, North Mankato, Nicollet County. Photo by Chad Heins.

reports split between St. Louis (Duluth) and far northwest counties. South reports all in Southeast or East-central counties plus Lac qui Parle in the far west. Many observers were able to see at least one at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. A total of six individuals recorded on CBCs, including three in Duluth.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia uhula*) — [10 North, 1 South] A respectable 35–40 individuals reported north in a rectangle formed by Carlton and Lake in the Northeast and Roseau and Clearwater in the Northwest. Eleven individuals tallied statewide on CBCs. Totals were up somewhat from previous two years, but paltry compared to the mega-invasion of 2004–2005 when 154 were estimated in December alone including a North American CBC record of 42 on the Sax-Zim count (see *The Loon* 77:132–140). Unexpected was a brief visit by a single bird that pushed south into **Nicollet** where it was



Northern Saw-whet Owl, 2 January 2009, Shoreview, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

initially found by a non-birder and was well-documented ph. †ChH, ph. RMD.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [8 North, 19 South] An impressive 21 tallied 12/8 Stearns (Cold Spring) MDN. Statewide, 38 recorded on CBCs which is equal to 20-year average. None reported north of a line from Carlton to Clay counties.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [8 North] Approximately 30 individuals reported during the period, all north of a line from southern St. Louis to Hubbard counties. A total of 5 on CBCs was double last year's total but well below 20-year average of 18.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [1 North, 9 South] A total of 11 individual statewide with 3 tallied on CBCs.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [2 North, 2 South] All north 12/17 Marshall

(Agassiz N.W.R.), 1/3 Roseau (Roseau CBC) *fide* JMJ. All south 12/18 Olmsted (rural Salem Corners) JWH, 2/19 Lac qui Parle (Plover Prairie) BJU.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [5 North] A conservative estimate of 17 individuals, mostly from St. Louis and Lake counties in the Northeast, including one found dead 1/10 Lake (Two Harbors) JWL. In the Northwest, birds reported 1/7 Beltrami and 1/16 Polk ph. *fide* JMJ.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [3 North, 8 South] About average numbers reported statewide — 3 north and 10 south. All north: 1/2 Lake of the Woods (Beltrami Island CBC) *fide* JMJ, 2/4 Carlton (heard at Cloquet Forestry Center) *fide* JWL, and 2/21 St. Louis (Duluth) *fide* JWL. Most south reports from East-central region. Also reported 2/4 Nicollet RMD, 2/7 Goodhue (Hok-si-la Park) DBM, and 2/11–24 Rice TFB. Recorded on Excelsior, Bloomington and Beltrami CBCs.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [1 North, 10 South] One north report 12/1 Cass (Gull Lake) BAW. All south reports (7 individuals) from East-central region plus 1/26 Olmsted JWH.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [5 North, 4 South] Above normal numbers north with 9 individuals. Only 5 reported on Cedar Creek Bog CBC, down from a whopping 29(!) last year. Interesting was a report of an immature coming to a feeder 2/4 Carver (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) *fide* ALD. The high count came from the Hutchinson CBC with an impressive 25.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [16 North, 38 South] Reported statewide except in extreme Northwest and Northeast. A total of 946 on CBCs was 70% above 20-year mean. The second highest ever statewide CBC total of 80 came from the St. Paul Northeast Suburbs CBC (the record 82 was set on the Winona CBC in 1999).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [1 North, 8 South] One north report 1/15 Crow Wing (feeder) JSB. All south reports: 12/7–27 Carver (immature, feeding on suet) JCy, 12/20 Sibley ph. *fide* RMD, 12/20–23 Rice LEC, 12/23–27 Nicollet RMD, DBM, 12/28 Goodhue SWe, 1/1 Ramsey (2) AXH, 1/4 Mower ARW, 1/14 Wright RLL, 1/17 Rice HHD, 2/5–6 Winona (Winona City) JWH, DBz. Twelve individuals reported on 8 CBCs statewide. Once again, efforts from observers to document this species in winter with photographs and/or detailed notes are much appreciated. Sapsuckers pose an identification challenge at the species level, and also include the possibility of hybrid individuals.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) — [23 North, 43 South] High count of 200 tallied 12/27 on St. Paul NE Suburban CBC. Total count statewide (2,973) was up 33% over 20-year average. Seen on every CBC count with the exception of the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks CBC.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [24 North, 40 South] Recorded statewide. High count 103 tallied 12/27 on St. Paul NE Suburban CBC. Only absent from the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks CBC.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [5 North, 1 South] Following last year's invasion (total of 35!), this season's numbers were much lower but a still respectable 12 individuals, including one report south 2/4 **Sherburne** (Blue Hill trail) DDo. Remainder of birds found in a triangle formed by Aitkin, Lake of the Woods, and Lake counties, including a high of 3 found 2/7 Itasca *fide* JWL. A total six individuals recorded on these CBCs: Beltrami, Ely, Grand Marais, and Rice Lake N.W.R. (3).

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [9 North, 3 South] A minimum 29 individuals found within normal range north including an impressive **8** individuals reported on the Rice Lake



Black-backed Woodpecker, 5 December 2008, St. Louis County. Photo by Shawn C. Zierman.

N.W.R. CBC. At least 6 individuals reported south: 12/2–13 Sherburne (2, Blue Hills Trail) DPG, m.ob., 12/6 Anoka DWK, BRL, CKB, 1/7–24 Stearns (2, St Wendel Tamarack Bog S.N.A.) MJB, m.ob., 2/18 Stearns (female, Avon Hills S.N.A.) MJB. Statewide CBCs tallied 21 individuals on 10 counts, up 71% from 20–year average.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [4 North, 21 South] All north 12/6 Clay *fide* JMJ, 12/23 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ, 12/25 St. Louis (feeder in Duluth) ph. *fide* JWJ, 2/15 Beltrami (feeder) *fide* RPR. All south reports within an area from Kandiyohi south to Brown, then east to Fillmore and north to Washington. Statewide CBC total of 159 up 166% over 20–year average.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [22 North, 29 South] Reported throughout the season in all regions. A CBC total of 398 represents a 59% in-

crease over 20–year average. High CBC tallies of 32 shared by both Crosby and St. Paul NE Suburban counts.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) — [20 North, 29 South] Reported statewide except extreme northeast (Lake and Cook). Total CBC count (139) similar to 20–year average. High CBC count (13) 12/27 St. Paul NE Suburban.

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [8 North] Found in normal numbers within range. High count (26) 1/2 Beltrami Island CBC.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [30 North, 49 South] Reported from an impressive 79 counties including the four “corner counties”.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [8 North] Numbers and counties down from recent years. CBC total only 37% of the 20-year average.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [25 North, 51 South] Reported statewide and absent only on the Beltrami Island CBC.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [21 North, 6 South] Reported within range north. Becoming annual south, with reports from several observers in Sherburne (in or near Sherburne N.W.R.), Anoka (12/13 PEB, 12/30 DPG), **Wright** (12/8 CRM).

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [14 North, 48 South] All January reports north: 1/1 Todd (Todd CBC) FGo, 1/17–19 Morrison MJB (Little Elk W.M.A.). Wide-spread reports south with non-CBC high count 12/16 Lyon (203) RJS. CBC high count Cottonwood (685).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [28 North, 48 South] Found statewide throughout the season.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*)



Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10 December 2008, Itasca County. Photo by Earl Orf.

— [6 North] Reported from Aitkin, Carlton, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis — comparable to the 2007–2008 winter season but well below the ten counties where reported in the two prior winters. High count apart from CBCs was 5 on 2/7 in St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) TJM.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [6 South] Most northerly report 12/12–13 Dakota (Inver Grove Heights) MJM. Others reported from Fillmore, Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Winona.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [22 North, 19 South] All reports northwest of a line from Mower to Polk counties except for February reports from Cottonwood and Lac qui Parle.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [27 North, 46 South] Reported from 84% of counties. High counts apart from CBCs: 12/17 Lyon (25) RJS, 12/30 Lac

qui Parle (16) RJS.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [10 North, 25 South] Reported from all regions except the Northwest, though not quite as widespread as the prior winter. Over-wintered in Hennepin (Golden Valley) where found through 2/26 ALD. High count 12/27 Washington (9) SLP.

Carolina Wren (*Tbryothorus ludovicianus*) — [3 North, 3 South] More winter reports than usual. One found in Otter Tail in October lingered until 12/10 †DST. Another reported in November from Wabana Lake, Itasca was refound 12/12 *vide* JWL. Multiple reports from Washington until 2/7 were all presumably of an individual frequenting a residence since July 2008. As many as 2 were in Olmsted 12/20 – 1/4 †JHD, ph. TGr, JWH, JLO. Another individual present since mid-August was photographed in western St. Paul, Ramsey 1/1 ph. AXH.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [2 South] A total of four birds for the season: one reported from the Minnesota River Valley below Pond Dakota Mission Park, Bloomington, Hennepin 12/13–20 DWK, †MAO, DAC; another was in Winona 12/14 DBz; two were found along Rice Creek in Fridley 12/20 SSC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [3 North, 9 South] All north reports: 12/6 Clay (8 at Buffalo River S.P.) †PBB, Kanabec HHD, 12/20 Cook (Grand Marais CBC). South reports from Anoka, Blue Earth, Brown, Kandiyohi, Nicollet, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright in December, then only 1/17 Wright (2) DMF, 2/4–8 Brown (2) BTS, DAB, 2/12 Sherburne ASC.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) — [1 South] Only report 12/14 Olmsted (near Oronoco) JWH.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [1 North, 17 South] Only north report 12/15–18 **Itasca** (McKinney Lake) ph.

KZi. Widely reported south throughout the season. High counts 12/14 Dakota (14, Spring Lake P.R., Schaar's Bluff) ADS, 12/28 Goodhue (12, Hay Creek area) DDo, 1/2 Washington (12) LS.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [2 North, 4 South] A total of 13 individuals. Seven north reports from St. Louis: 11/12 – 1/6 St. Louis (9400 block of Congdon, Duluth; bird with apparent broken leg) FKB; 11/29 – 1/25 Virginia (seen sporadically until it died from an apparent window collision) ph. DBF, †SLF; 12/25 Hartley N.C. *fide* JWJ; 12/27 Fredenburg CBC JRN; 1/3 near intersection of London Rd. and Superior St., Duluth (near location where found last January) PHS; 1/9 near the Ely Golf Course *fide* JWJ; 1/17–2/15 E. Flynn Rd., just east of CR 33 JWJ, SLL, ph. PHS. Away from St. Louis was a first county record for **Cass** on 1/1 †DAY. South reports include one found in mid-November at Ann Lake in Sherburne that was joined by a second bird 12/13 ASc, DDo, where both remained through the season's end. Additional south reports: 12/23 Meeker (section 4, Darwin Twp.) DMF, 12/28 – 1/11 Hennepin (Lake Rebecca P.R.) ph. †RLL, †DWK, JLO, RBW, WCM; 2/8–21 Brown (Bashaw W.M.A.) ph. †BTS, mob.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) — [1 South] Only the second winter report ever in the state was one found on **12/13** in Steele †NFT.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) — [6 South] A total of 12 birds, at least one of which over-wintered. Two in Blue Earth: 12/22 Minneopa S.P. ChH., 1/10 near Indian Lake C. P. ph. RMD, ChH. One in Dakota 12/13 Ritter Farm Park SLP. Seven in Hennepin: 12/13 – 1/3 Big Willow Park, Minnetonka ALD; 12/6 – 2/21 in the Minnesota River Valley west of Pond Dakota Mission Park, Bloomington DWK (2 on 12/13 DWK, 3 on 12/19 DWK, 2 on 12/20 †MAO, DWK, DAC); 1/17 Old Cedar Avenue Bluff Trail DWK, 1/17 Bass Ponds DWK, 1/17 Richard T. Anderson Park,

Eden Prairie DWK. One in Rice 12/6–1/7 TFB. One in Washington 12/27 Warner N.C. *fide* JLH. One in Wright 1/3 near Lake Maria S.P. †JCC.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [18 North, 38 South] Reported statewide throughout the season, though north reports grew less frequent as the season progressed. High counts 1/10 Blue Earth (1000+) ChH, 12/27 Dakota (733) SWE. Several other flocks of 400+ birds were reported, though none exceeded 100 after 1/10.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [8 North, 3 South] a total of 22 individuals. Ten north reports away from St. Louis: 11/27 – 12/19 Becker ph. SEi; 11/30 – 12/2 Clearwater (north of Itasca S.P.; photograph in *Park Rapids Enterprise* newspaper) *fide* DPJ; 12/13 Cass (Hackensack) BAW; 12/16–22 Morrison (Little Falls) ph. FGo; 12/17–19 Pine PWi; 12/21 until April Crow Wing (Deerwood Twp.) JSB; 1/2 Lake (approx. four miles west of Finland along SR 61) *fide* JWJ; 1/10 Becker (Pickereel Lake) *fide* JMJ; 1/25, 2/1 Pine (male along eastern boundary of Andrews S.F.) †RLa; 2/14 Cass (male at Pleasant Lake.) ph. BAW. Six additional north records from St. Louis: 11/29 – 12/8 Ely (East Main Street) BET, mob. 11/30 – 1/3 Lake Vermilion, near Cook ph. *fide* JWJ; 12/20 Duluth (Charlotte St./Eileen Ave.) *fide* JWJ; 12/28 between Ely and Tower JWH; 12/30 – 1/4 Duluth (2200 block of West 4th Street) ph. SCZ, ph. PHS; 1/4 near Embarrass ph. †CWG. Six south individuals: 12/20 Winona ph. *fide* CWG; 12/28 **Wabasha** (CR 5 west of Lake City) †DAB, †GDB; 1/3 Wabasha (Greenfield Twp.) ph. SWE; 2/5–6 Winona (Homer) DBz, JWH; 2/6–14 Ramsey (adult male in Roseville, reportedly first appeared in December 2008) ph. EHa, †BAF, †DWK, mob; 2/27 Washington (Dellwood) *fide* AXH.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [1 North, 1 South] One discovered in mid-November in Cass (Walker) lingered until 12/3 BAW. Another first re-

ported from Minneopa S.P. in Blue Earth on 11/30 was still present 12/1 DBM.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [1 South] One making daily visits to a feeding station in Faribault, Rice County beginning in early December was documented 1/18 †DAB.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [21 North, 47 South] Found in all regions. High count 12/28 Wabasha (426) DAB.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [6 North, 2 South] North reports from Aitkin, Beltrami, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis. All south reports: 12/8 Sherburne CRM, 1/9 Chisago (25, Taylors Falls) RMa. High counts excluding CBCs: 12/23 St. Louis (289) SLF, 2/16 St. Louis (100, Ely) LS.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [17 North, 31 South] Reported from all regions throughout the season. High counts 12/12 Carlton (350, Cloquet) MSS, 12/20 Dakota (190) SWe, 12/23 St. Louis (145, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 12/20 St. Louis (142 in a single flock, Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [3 South] Reported from 5 of the last 6 winter seasons. All reports: 12/1 Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) DBM, 12/22 Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) ChH, 1/3 Wright (3: 2 at Montissippi C.P. MJB, and a third report without details as part of the Wright CBC), 1/11 Hennepin (Lake Rebecca P.R.) LS, JWH.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — [2 South] All south: 12/20 – 1/5 Olmsted (Rochester) †JHD, ph. TGr, JWH, JLO; 12/24–27 Ramsey ph. REP.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — [14 North, 41 South] Somewhat more reports than in recent years. North reports widespread except extreme Northwest. Northeast reports include 1/15 St. Louis (2) JWL and 1/17 Cook (2) SMC,

suggesting over-wintering. High counts 12/19 Redwood (172) RJS, 12/20 Stearns (160) MJB. CBC high count 365 (Bloomington).

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [2 South] One at feeder 12/20 **Stearns** †MJB (St. Cloud CBC). Also see undocumented records.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [1 North, 5 South] All reports: 12 reported from 8 CBCs, including one at Duluth D.N.R. office through 1/15 St. Louis *vide* JWL, and one that over-wintered from 12/29 through end of period at Minnesota Valley N.W.R. headquarters feeders in Hennepin m.ob. Also reported 2/27 Blue Earth, Brown, Nicollet, and Renville RJS. CBC high count 4 (Bloomington).

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [8 South] One overwintered through 2/27 in Brown BTS. Several other January reports. CBC high count 8 (Bloomington).

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [1 South] Only record **12/17, 12/24** Hennepin (New Hope feeder) ph. LSc, DBM (second latest date south).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [1 North, 1 South] All reports: **12/3–4** **St. Louis** †DBF, SLF, 12/19 Scott DWK, and 2 on Excelsior CBC in Hennepin 12/20.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [1 North, 3 South] Fewer reports than in recent previous years. All north 12/4, 1/8 Douglas *vide* MJM. Also reported from Bemidji, Cook, Duluth, and Ely CBCs. High count 2/14 Hennepin (small flock of 5 near downtown Minneapolis) BAF suggests over-wintering.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [1 North, 1 South] Fewer reports than in recent previous years. All reports: 12/13 Cass BAW, 12/13 Brown BTS. Also reported from Fairmont and Grand Rapids CBCs, without details.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [3 South] All reports: 12/20 McLeod PRH, 12/1–15 Rice TFB, 12/20 Sibley (Henderson CBC) ph. ABS.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) — [1 North] Immature present at Duluth feeder from 12/14 through end of period in St. Louis (see also Spring report) ph. BSn, †JWL, †KRE, †PHS. This was the sixth state record, three of which were in 2008.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [17 North, 48 South] High count (165) 12/28 Wabasha DAB. CBC high counts Henderson (673), Rochester (653). “Oregon” subspecies reported 12/30 Brown †BTS, 1/13 Hennepin †DDo, and 1/15 – 2/8 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R. headquarters) †ALD, †PEB, DWK; also from 5 CBCs(2 only partially within Minnesota), with a high count of 3 (Fargo-Moorhead).

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [7 North, 24 South] Number of reports similar to last year. No significant numbers were reported north. High counts 2/16 Brown (750 total in 4 distinct flocks) WCM, 12/2 and 12/7 Steele (100) NFT. CBC high count 108 (Rochester).

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [23 North, 41 South] Number of reports was similar to the previous year. Reports widespread throughout the state including several high counts of 400 or greater: 1/23 Red Lake (500) SAS, 1/1 Lake of the Woods (475) JMJ, 12/28 Kanabec (450) DPG, 12/16 Lyon (427) RJS, and 1/10 Blue Earth (400) ChH. CBC high counts 1,325 (Cottonwood), 1,178 (Baudette).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [12 North, 42 South] Widespread reports but none north of a line from Pine to Clay counties, except for CBC reports as far north as Grand Marais, Cotton, Grand Rapids, and Bemidji. No significant numbers were reported. CBC high count 273 (Henderson).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [1 South] Only report, adult male coming to a Wayzata feeder in Hennepin through 1/1 (record late date) ph. JJW, RBJ.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [2 North, 14 South] Fewer reports than the last two years. All north 1/1 Todd MSK, 2/8 Morrison (5) MJB. High count 12/13 Brown (25) BTS. CBC high count 600 (New Ulm).

meadowlark sp. (*Sturnella* sp.) — [3 South] All reports: 12/3 Brown BTS, 12/19 Lambertton CBC, Blue Earth ChH, 1/26 Lac qui Parle BJU. The latter two were reported as Western Meadowlark (*S. neglecta*) but without indicating how they were identified to species.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [1 South] Only report 1/3 Kandiyohi (adult male in flock of Red-winged Blackbirds) RSF.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [1 North, 1 South] Fewer reports than in the previous several years. All reports: 1/2 Douglas JPE, 2/7 Nobles (2) DAB, RMD. Also reported on 7 CBCs, with high counts of 2 (Cottonwood, Fairmont).

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [1 North, 11 South] All north reports: 12/23 Beltrami (2) CKB. No reports from Southwest or Southeast counties. No numbers greater than 2 were reported. CBC high count 55 (Mankato).

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [4 South] All reports: 12/14 (4), 2/24 (2) Dakota (Hampton feedlot, probably over-wintered) ADS, JPM, 12/20 Hennepin (21 including 19 at a Richfield feeder) JCC, 12/29 – 1/29 Hennepin (up to ten — 8 males, 2 females — at Minnesota Valley N.W.R. headquarters feeders) JPM, ALD.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [12 North] Reported almost throughout the

season and within usual range until mid-February when reports abruptly stopped. Lowest number of reporting counties in the last five years, following a year that had the most reports from the previous five-year period. High count was from the Baudette CBC (33).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — [16 North, 26 South] Highest number of reports since the 2003–2004 Winter Season, beating last year, another high year. Reports were scattered throughout all regions of the state, and spanned the entire reporting period. However, high counts were again far below the four digit numbers reported three years ago, with the best showing 2/28 Fillmore (30) NBO.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [10 North, 43 South] Highest number of reports over the last five years. Seen throughout the season and in all regions south of a line from Kittson in the far Northwest, to Cass in the North-central, and to Chisago in the East-central Region; absent from the Northeast. This pioneering species continues to consolidate its status in the state as a year-round resident. High count 1/19 Olmsted (35) LMg.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [10 North, 1 South] Reports were nearly the same as last year, and once again this species remained relatively scarce overall. High count (an estimated total) 1/30 Lake (40) KRE. The only south report was 12/13 Sherburne ASc. There hasn't been a significant invasion of this species in the state for nearly 25 years. Perhaps we're due for another?

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [19 North, 44 South] Probably the highlight of the season for many observers was the remarkable invasion of this colorful species, perhaps the largest since Winter 1989–90. Seen in all regions and throughout the season statewide, but only in scattered locations throughout the western third of the state. All high counts were apparently estimated, and all were

from the south, including: 1/25 Dodge (100) JLO, DWK, and Wabasha (100) JWH, and 1/26 Steele (100) FVS. The extent of the invasion was widespread well beyond Minnesota's borders and is considered perhaps the largest in recent memory.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) — [29 North, 49 South] Continuing the major invasion first noted in the Fall Seasonal Report, and reported from all regions and throughout the season statewide except for nine counties in the western third of the state. Redpolls literally seemed to be just about everywhere. Again, high counts appeared to be mostly estimated numbers, and include: 1/24 Hennepin (250) ABL, and 2/16 Itasca (250) JCC. Possibly more accurate were 2/15 Anoka (213) CKB, and the Pine County CBC (211, SE Quadrant). Also see the Spring Seasonal Report.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemannii*) — [8 North, 8 South] A major invasion by this species, the largest since Winter 1999–2000. Reported from the far Northwest and Northeast regions and spearheading through the state deep into the South-central region, 1/26–31 Blue Earth †RMD, ChH, JCC. Absent from the West-central, Southwest, and Southeast regions. Numerous reports throughout the season in the northern regions and from Sax-Zim Bog, as expected. The high count there of six documented individuals spanned the reporting period, and were observed by numerous birders. Accidental in the South, there was a new county record 1/31 **Brown** †BTS; and another notable record 1/7 **Meeker** †DMF. Most observations south occurred from late January through February and beyond. All other south observations with good details include: 2/2 Anoka ph. †CKB and 2/4 Anoka (2) ph. †DPG at different locations, 2/16 Hennepin ph. †ABL, 2/19–23 and 2/26–28 (same bird) Dakota †ADS, ph. †JPM, m.ob., 2/21 Dakota (different location) ph. †MAO, 2/24 Kandiyohi †JoS, and 2/27 Stearns †MJB, where last documented in 1969! Also see the Spring Sea-

sonal Report. The Seasonal Report editor and compilers would like to thank the many observers who took time to document their reports of this species. Reported from an additional nine north and four south counties with either no or insufficient details.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) — [28 North, 45 South] A major invasion by this species, with reports throughout the season and from all regions in the state. High count was 1/31 Pennington (150) JMJ. Also see the Spring and Summer Seasonal Reports.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) — [20 North, 47 South] Highest number of reports from the previous five-year period, coinciding with the major invasion of the previous four species above. Most numerous in the south, with all high counts coming from this region, leading with 12/13 Fillmore (200) NBO.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes ves-*

pertinus) — [7 North, 2 South] Number of reports was the lowest of the previous five-year period. Similar to the pattern shown by Pine Grosbeaks, this species was observed primarily within range north until mid-February when reports abruptly stopped. High count was 2/16 Lake (70) MJB, with all additional counts less than half that number. Rarely reported south in recent decades, but for the second year in a row, were 12/24 Ramsey †FTM, a calling bird of undetermined gender, and 2/2 Carver †WCM, a female bird briefly visiting the observer's feeder — a welcome trend if it persists!

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [20 North, 48 South] Reported from all regions statewide throughout the period. The number of reports has been slowly but consistently increasing over the last five-year period, perhaps due to less reporting bias from observers. High count was 12/8 Anoka (151) CKB, a modest number for this ubiquitous species.

Contributors

ABL Andrew B. Longtin
 ABS Art & Barbara Straub
 ADS Andrew D. Smith
 AEB Al E. Batt
 ALD Alyssa L. DeRubeis
 ANy Andrew Nyhus
 ARW Alexander R. Watson
 ASc Al Schirmacher
 AXH Anthony X. Hertzell
 BAF Bruce A. Fall
 BAW Ben A. Wieland
 BET Bill Tefft
 BJU Bill J. Unzen
 BRB Brad R. Bolduan
 BRL Bill R. Litkey
 BSn Brad Snelling
 BTS Brian T. Smith
 BWF Ben W. Fritchman
 CAB Cheryl Boyes
 CAM Craig A. Menze
 ChH Chad Heins
 CKB Christopher Brown
 CMB Conny M. Brunell
 CRM Craig R. Mandel
 CWG Carl W. Greiner

DAB David A. Bartkey
 DAC David A. Cahlander
 DAY Dale A. Yerger
 DBF Deborah Buria-Falkowski
 DBM Dennis & Barbara Martin
 DBz Dedrick Benz
 DDo Diana Doyle
 DFN David F. Neitzel
 DGo Douglas Goeltl
 DHr Daryl Hrdlicka
 DKo David Koehn
 DMF Dan M. Floren
 DOB Derek O. Bakken
 DOB Derek O. Bakken
 DOK Don O. Kienholz
 DPG Dan & Pam Guynn
 DPJ Douglas P. Johnson
 DST Dan & Sandy Thimngan
 DWK Douglas W. Kieser
 DWR Dean W. Riemer
 EEO Earl E. Orf
 EHa Elizabeth Harper
 EMH Beth Hamel
 FGo Frank Gosiak
 FKB Frank Berdan

FTM Fr. Tom Margevicius
 FVS Forest V. Strnad
 GDB Gene Bauer
 GDO Greg Overall
 HHD Herb H. Dingmann
 HWi Howard Wienberg
 JCC Joel C. Claus
 JCy John Cyrus
 JEB Jerry E. Bonkoski
 JeM Jerome McKenna
 JHD Joel Dunette
 JJW Jim & Jude Williams
 JLH James L. Howitz
 JLO James L. Otto
 JMJ Jeanie M. Joppru
 JoS Joel Schmidt
 JPE John P. Ellis
 JPM James P. Mattsson
 JRN Jeff R. Newman
 JRo Jim Rorah
 JSB Jo & Steve Blanich
 JWH John W. Hockema
 JWL James W. Lind
 JWo Jill Wood
 KAK Karla A. Kinstler
 KCR Kim & Cindy Risen
 KRE Kim R. Eckert
 KRo Karl Roe
 KZi Ken Zimmer
 LAV Lance A. Vrieze
 LEC Laura E. Coble
 LMg Linda McGouirk
 LMS Larry Sirvio
 LS Linda Sparling
 LSc Lynne Schoenborn
 LW Larry Wilebski
 MAO Mark A. Ochs
 MDN Mark D. Nieters
 MDu Matt Dufort
 MJM Molly Jo Miller
 MHe Melissa Hein
 MJB Milton J. Blomberg
 MO Mark Otnes
 MRo Mark Roberts
 MSK Susan Kroll
 MSS M. "Sparky" Stensaas
 MTh Molly Thompson
 NBO Nancy B. Overcott
 NFT Nels F. Thompson
 OWB Bill Bruins
 PBB Patrick B. Beauzay
 PCC Phillip C. Chu
 PEB Paul E. Budde
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher
 PHS Peder H. Svingen

PJB Paul J. Binek
 PJK Pat Korkowski
 PJR Pat J. Rice
 PRH Pete Hoeger
 PWi Patrice Winfield
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams
 REP Richard E. Phillips
 RGj Rick Gjervold
 RHO Robert H. O'Connor
 RJS Roger J. Schroeder
 RLa Ron Lachelt
 RLL Robin LaFortune
 RLR Ronald L. Refsnider
 RLW Richard Wood
 RMa Robin Maercklein
 RMD Robert M. Dunlap
 RNe Randal Newton
 RNS Richard N. Smaby
 RPR Robert P. Russell, Jr.
 RSF Randy S. Frederickson
 RTP Ray Potthoff
 RVJ Robert & Valerie Jessen
 SAS Shelly A. Steva
 SCZ Shawn C. Zierman
 SEi Sallie Eikren
 SES Steven E. Schon
 SLF Steve L. Falkowski
 SLL Sharon Lind
 SLP Susan Plankis
 SMC Scott M. Clark
 SMc Sue McDonnell
 SPM Steve P. Millard
 SSC Siah St. Clair
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman
 SWe Steve Weston
 TFB Tom F. Beovers
 TGr Terry Grier
 TJM Todd J. Merefield
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 WCM William C. Marengo

Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 D.N.R. Department of Natural Resources
 N.C. Nature Center
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.F. State Forest
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 U.S.F.W.S. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds
 m.ob Many Observers

The Minnesota Christmas Bird Count 2008–2009

Carl Greiner

The 2008–2009 Christmas Bird Count in Minnesota tallied 256,148 birds of 134 distinct species. The total was down from last year's 299,847 individuals but up from its 129 species. Sixty-three additional species were also noted during the count week. Of the birds recorded during count week, only the Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe, and Field Sparrow would have affected the overall species total had they been seen on count day. All of the other count-week birds were observed somewhere in the state on count day.

A new count was performed in Eagle's Nest Lakes. While the Morris count was not performed this year to the best of my knowledge. Sherburne NWR and Detroit Lakes were performed but had to be rescheduled outside of the count period due to weather. The high species count was Bloomington's 60. New high counts at one location were set for Common Merganser (7,483 in Red Wing — previous record 4,765 Excelsior 1998), Northern Flicker (24 in Faribault — previous record 18 Northwest McLeod/Hutchinson 2006), Eastern Bluebird (37 in Red Wing — previous record 26 Wabasha 2007), Varied Thrush (3 in Eagle's Nest Lakes — previous record 2 in Excelsior in 1978), and Chipping Sparrow (3 in Meeker County — previous record 2 in Winona 2002).

Weather and Effort

It wasn't the coldest or the snowiest Minnesota winter on record but the weather nonetheless played a significant role. The timing and severity of the storms had a strong influence on this year's results. Beginning with an opening weekend blizzard, the weather forced the cancellation of several counts, reduced participation, and diminished visibility. Several circles called it quits early or valiantly pushed on through blowing

snow and subzero temperatures. Every count circle submitting snow data recorded snow varying in depth from 2 to 30 inches. Temperatures ranged from -27° F to 38° F and open water was difficult to find. Effort continues to be extraordinary. I would like to thank the 1,114 participants and compilers, who covered 20,809 miles in 2,784 party-hours. The Owatonna count circle had the most participants (71).

Water-associated Species

Perhaps due to the relative absence of open water, most water-associated species were below the 20-year averages with the exception of Trumpeter Swan, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Harlequin Duck, and White-winged Scoter. Over 2,200 Trumpeter Swans were reported, which is over four times the 20-year average of 539. Conversely, only two Tundra Swans were observed (average is 613). Other birds, such as gulls, snipe, coots, herons, loons, and kingfishers, were also down in number. Our most common waterbirds, Ring-billed and Herring gulls, were conspicuously absent with only three Ring-billeds (20-year average 920) and 367 Herrings (20-year average 1,415). The four Thayer's, one Iceland, four Glaucous, and two Great Black-backed gulls were all above their 20-year averages.

Woodpeckers

In recent years, woodpeckers have been increasing on most counts. Each and every one of the nine regular species was higher on this count than the 20-year average, although the numbers of all except for the Northern Flicker and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were down slightly from last year's record totals. The 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers observed this year was twice last year's total and almost six times the 20-year average. Similarly, the



Varied Thrush, Eagles Nest Lakes CBC, St. Louis County, 4 January 2009. Photo by Bill Teft.

159 flickers was almost three times the 20-year numbers.

Widespread and Numerous Species

Only the Black-capped Chickadee and Blue Jay were observed on all 68 counts. Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Crow were recorded on all but one. Other birds with an extensive distribution included European Starling (65 counts), Rock Pigeon (65 counts), American Goldfinch (64 counts), House Sparrow (62 counts), Pileated Woodpecker (62 counts), Bald Eagle (62 counts), Pine Siskin (62 counts), House Sparrow (62 counts), and Dark-eyed Junco (59 counts). The Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed on all 70 counts last year and only 42 of the 68 this year.

The most numerous species included Canada Goose (42,474), Mallard (25,773), Black-capped Chickadee (16,232), European Starling (15,782), House Sparrow (14,173), American Crow (12,693), Snow Bunting (12,539), Dark-eyed Junco (11,149), Rock Pigeon (9,205), Common Merganser

(8,632), Common Redpoll (8,015), American Goldfinch (7,472), American Robin (6,809), Pine Siskin (5,794), and Blue Jay (5,304).

Uncommon Species

Birds that have average counts of fewer than five per CBC over the last 20 counts included: Field Sparrow (count week only), Virginia Rail (count week only), Greater Scaup (1), Harlequin Duck (2), White-winged Scoter (1), Ruddy Duck (1), Spruce Grouse (6), Red-necked Grebe (2), American White Pelican (8), Golden Eagle (3), Peregrine Falcon (6), Thayer's Gull (4), Iceland Gull (1), Glaucous Gull (4), Great Black-backed Gull (2), Long-eared Owl (3), Short-eared Owl (2), Northern Saw-whet Owl (3), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (12), American Three-toed Woodpecker (6), Carolina Wren (2), Winter Wren (3), Townsend's Solitaire (2), Hermit Thrush (6), Varied Thrush (10), Brown Thrasher (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (3), Pine Warbler (1), Chipping Sparrow (5), Fox Sparrow (12), Swamp Sparrow (2),

White-crowned Sparrow (8), and Golden-crowned Sparrow (1).

Absence/Presence Compared to Last Year

Ten species that were found last year did not make an appearance this year (Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, Brewer's Blackbird, Barrow's Goldeneye, Green-winged Teal, Western Meadowlark, Mute Swan, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Eastern Towhee). This year, 13 species were observed that were not on last year's count (White-winged Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, American White Pelican, Virginia Rail, Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Field Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak).

Increasing

Birds that were counted in numbers at least 1.5 times their 20-year average and that are increased from last year included: Trumpeter Swan, Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Ring-necked Pheasant, American White Pelican, Iceland Gull, Greater Black-backed Gull, Eurasian-collared Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Brown-headed Cowbird, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

Decreasing

Birds that are at least 10% below their 20-year averages and also decreased by at least 10% from last year included: Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Northern Show-

eler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Red-head, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Gray Partridge, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Bohemian Waxwing, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow.

Conclusion

The 2008–2009 Christmas Bird Count was affected more than most by the weather. The timing of storms often coincided with the scheduled count date, and thus several counts were rescheduled, terminated prematurely, or conducted under sub-optimal conditions. Undoubtedly, this resulted in reductions in both avian activity and human participation. From the avian perspective, the overall count was down over 43,000 individuals from last year. From the human perspective, if participation was hampered by the weather I couldn't tell. Over 1,114 hardy souls participated which is very close to the record set last year with 1,132.

Despite the decrease in overall numbers there was still fun to be had. It was a good year for thrushes, sparrows, woodpeckers, finches, and unusual species. Participants were treated to Golden-crowned Sparrow (Duluth), Pine Warbler (Rochester), Great Black-backed Gull (Hastings & Red Wing), Winter Wren (Minneapolis North & Bloomington), Iceland Gull (Hastings), Harlequin Duck (Duluth & Hastings), White-winged Scoter (Grand Marais), Virginia Rail (Excelsior), Field Sparrow (Baudette), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (St. Paul NE Suburban). All these species have been recorded fewer than 20 times in the last 20 years.

1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield, MN 55923.

Table 1. Minnesota CBC summary. CW=County Week.

Location	Date	Compiler	Species	CW	Total Birds	Participants
Afton	1/1/09	Joseph Merchak	42	0	5,175	32
Albert Lea	1/3/09	Allen Batt	45	0	4,201	6
Aurora	12/23/08	Steve Falkowski	27	0	1,660	8
Austin	1/4/09	Terry Dorsey	39	4	3,586	16
Battle Lake	1/4/09	Dan Thimgan	38	1	2,834	10
Baudette	1/1/09	Martin Kehoe	30	1	2,207	9
Beltrami Island	1/2/09	Martin Kehoe	26	1	548	10
Bemidji	12/20/08	Kelly Larson	35	0	1,165	12
Bloomington	12/20/08	Mark Ochs	60	1	8,809	56
Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP	1/4/09	Matthew Mecklenburg	28	1	1,489	3
Carlton-Cloquet	12/21/08	Larry Weber	29	4	896	-
Cedar Creek Bog	12/14/08	James Howitz	36	7	1,959	18
Cook Area	1/3/09	Charlotte Jacobsen / Gerald Jacobsen	29	2	2,357	48
Cottonwood	12/16/08	Paul Egeland	37	0	3,375	5
Crookston	12/20/08	Tom Feiro	18	2	1,187	8
Crosby	1/3/09	Josephine Blanich	31	0	2,087	17
Duluth	12/20/08	Jim Lind	57	3	8,172	26
Eagle's Nest Lakes	1/4/09	Elizabeth Urban	31	0	1,299	34
Ely	12/27/08	Bill Tefft	34	1	2,834	-
Excelsior	12/20/08	Howard Towle	54	2	5,937	51
Fairmont	12/20/08	Brad Bolduan	33	1	3,628	5
Fargo-Moorhead	12/20/08	Robert O'Conner	33	3	2,754	20
Faribault	12/20/08	Gene Bauer	48	1	6,951	26
Fergus Falls	12/20/08	Dan Thimgan	36	2	4,332	8
Fredenberg	12/27/08	Celeste Kawulok	19	4	612	2
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks	12/21/08	Dave Lambeth	18	8	459	2
Grand Marais	12/20/08	Jeremy Ridlbauer	41	1	1,492	12
Grand Rapids	12/21/08	Kenneth Zimmer	38	1	1,964	16
Hastings-Etter	12/27/08	Roger Field	59	0	9,121	28
Henderson	12/20/08	Arthur/Barbara Straub	42	0	4,909	-
Hibbing	1/1/09	Christine Olson	26	0	798	2
Isabella	1/3/09	Steve Wilson	18	1	2,097	31
Itasca State Park	12/21/08	Douglas P. Johnson	27	0	654	6
Jackson County	12/20/08	Don Vrchota	27	2	850	10
Lac qui Parle	12/20/08	Paul Egeland	36	1	13,263	2
LaCrosse-LaCrescent	12/20/08	Daniel E. Jackson	33	2	1,673	12
Lamberton	12/19/08	Lee French	37	3	2,260	4
Little Falls	12/22/08	Frank Gosiak	34	3	3,009	8
Long Prairie	1/1/09	John & Sue Kroll	38	1	2,093	17
Mankato	1/3/09	Merrill Frydendall	38	6	2,501	15
Marshall	12/17/08	Roger Schroeder	37	1	4,025	14
Minneapolis (North)	12/20/08	Siah St. Clair	43	0	4,451	32
Morris	12/29/08	Donna Oglesby	27	2	1,074	3
Mountain Lake-Windom	1/1/09	Edna Gerber	28	0	1,726	9
New Ulm	12/27/08	Brian Smith	39	2	4,572	13
Northern Meeke County	12/27/08	Milton Blomberg	37	0	2,933	8
Northern Wright County	1/3/09	Claudia Egelhoff	49	0	6,785	17
Northwest McLeod (Hutchinson)	12/20/08	Robert Schroeder	43	4	5,913	14
Owatonna	12/20/08	Darryl Hill	37	0	3,421	71
Philbrook	1/1/09	Ben Fritchman	32	0	2,328	8
Pillager	1/1/09	Michael R. North	29	2	2,142	17
Pine County	12/29/08	Mark Alt	34	1	2,061	15
Red Wing	12/28/08	Laura Coble	50	1	12,737	20
Redwood Falls	12/27/08	Patrick Beauzay	28	0	725	4
Rice Lake NWR	12/27/08	Michelle McDowell	33	0	1,973	14
Rochester	12/20/08	Clifford Hansen	59	1	26,692	21
Roseau	1/3/09	Betty M. Johnson	19	3	1,119	7
St. Cloud-Collegeville	12/20/08	Brian Jungles	38	1	3,222	10
St. Paul (North)	12/20/08	Julian Sellers	54	3	14,894	65
St. Paul (Northeast Suburban)	12/27/08	James Howitz	52	1	9,766	59
Sax-Zim	12/22/08	Sparky Stensaas	35	0	1042	9
Tamarac NWR	12/18/08	Lowell Deede	24	0	1,028	12
Two Harbors	12/14/08	Jim Lind	39	1	1,864	7
Virginia	12/20/08	Deborah Buria-Falkowski	35	1	1,706	7
Wabasha	1/3/09	Jonathan Peterson	45	0	2,770	10
Walker	12/28/08	Laurie Bauerly	27	2	724	10
Wild River	12/20/08	Tom Anderson/Joe Sausen	39	1	3,225	23
Willmar	12/20/08	Randy Frederickson	38	4	2,737	29
Winona	12/20/08	Walt Carroll	43	0	2,338	-
TOTALS					256,148	1114

	ABLEA	AFTON	AUROR	AUSTN	BATLK	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	BRSP	CEDRC	COOK	COTTN	CRLCL
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	7	886	-	147	26	-	1	469	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	339	-	-	280	-	-	7	-	-	cw	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	522	288	-	809	-	-	2	1794	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	235	2	-	2	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	-	303	-	-	-	-	-	535	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Partridge	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	12	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	43	9	-	6	5	-	1	5	-	151	27	-	55	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	2	-	1	6	-	-	7	-	cw	13	-	15
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	cw	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Prairie-Chicken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	103	74	-	51	83	-	-	121	-	-	234	-	26	6
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	3	16	4	5	2	2	4	13	1	1	4	5	1	5
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	cw	cw	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cooper's Hawk	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	10	22	-	23	2	-	-	30	-	-	8	-	2	cw
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	2
buteo sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	1	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
hawk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	136	127	5	222	95	61	31	366	-	87	21	87	86	53
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Mourning Dove	21	36	2	18	4	1	-	48	-	-	39	1	-	18
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	1	2	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	3	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	3	1	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	cw	-	-	cw
Great Gray Owl	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
owl sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2. CBC totals for Albert Lea, Afton, Aurora, Austin, Battle Lake, Baudette, Bemidji, Bloomington, Beltrami Island, Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP, Cedar Creek Bog, Cook, Cottonwood, and Carlton-Cloquet Area.

	ABLEA	AFTON	AUROR	AUSTN	BATLK	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	BRSP	CEDRC	COOK	COTTN	CRCLC
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	18	26	-	27	21	-	1	41	-	1	10	-	3	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	40	58	13	69	51	8	15	156	8	6	24	35	20	13
Hairy Woodpecker	25	30	14	24	32	11	18	52	11	8	21	46	13	18
American Three-toed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Northern Flicker	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	2	3	-	2	-
Red-shafted Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	5	10	1	1	20	-	6	5	7	6	9	6	2	3
Northern Shrike	1	4	2	2	3	2	1	5	-	2	cw	2	1	-
Gray Jay	-	-	16	-	-	1	-	-	26	-	-	15	-	-
Blue Jay	72	80	76	93	78	20	102	56	19	5	164	157	25	57
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Crow	799	529	37	472	405	288	17	633	-	54	139	3	56	68
Common Raven	-	-	98	-	-	161	6	-	56	-	1	167	-	33
Horned Lark	28	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	685	-
Black-capped Chickadee	72	315	293	152	304	120	294	574	118	15	273	671	27	148
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	4	27	-	-	3	15	3	25	-	7	136	-	11
White-breasted Nuthatch	31	51	3	56	77	6	36	101	2	3	55	42	15	22
Brown Creeper	2	-	-	2	8	-	-	4	1	-	4	2	8	cw
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	68	152	-	2	7	-	32	1154	-	4	33	-	1	cw
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	290	220	18	224	94	5	32	278	-	43	199	13	267	136
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	314	-	-	100	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Cedar Waxwing	60	83	-	cw	10	-	2	240	-	10	102	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	33	77	2	40	22	-	-	365	-	1	81	2	45	-
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	cw	-	-
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	204	310	5	185	90	-	8	289	-	31	171	-	210	7
Dark-eyed (Oregon Race) Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapland Longspur	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	95	-
Snow Bunting	475	125	-	162	106	1178	31	3	1	667	-	28	1325	-
Northern Cardinal	73	114	-	98	9	-	1	222	-	-	52	-	2	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	3	-
meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	2	-
Common Grackle	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	151	-	-	33	3	-	29	-	-	319	-	1
Purple Finch	44	44	-	29	36	-	1	-	-	-	2	7	7	-
House Finch	69	91	-	117	14	-	-	127	-	-	6	-	3	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	5
White-winged Crossbill	-	64	40	-	-	17	31	-	66	-	cw	-	-	7
crossbill sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	7	72	380	cw	197	121	167	-	132	215	35	196	-	96
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	181	76	31	58	287	12	231	154	-	-	131	282	-	42
American Goldfinch	218	113	9	141	60	-	10	455	-	30	72	33	2	66
carduelis sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	114	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	67	-	-
finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	479	169	-	336	393	3	5	355	-	36	22	19	364	6
Count	4201	5177	1660	3586	2834	2207	1167	8809	549	1489	1959	2357	3375	896
Species	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Full Species	-	42	27	39	38	30	148	148	26	148	142	147	37	145
Full Count	4201	5175	1660	3586	2834	2207	1165	8809	548	1489	1959	2357	3375	896

	CROOK	CROSB	DULUT	ELY	ENLA	EXCEL	FARIB	FERGS	FREDN	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEFG	GRMAR	GRRAP
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	-	2	-	-	92	555	1200	-	500	1351	-	-	13
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	56	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	8
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	-	-	7	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	1285	-	-	2045	1385	1000	-	500	695	cw	7	51
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Bufflehead	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	cw	1	1
Common Goldeneye	-	-	557	28	-	6	-	450	153	5	-	-	13	15
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	cw	-	-	4	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Partridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	6	83	3	-	-	54	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	5	11	6	4	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	2	4
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Prairie-Chicken	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	-	1	-	-	-	108	62	-	-	20	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	-	1	31	2	2	3	cw	3	2	2	cw	1	3	8
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	cw	1	1	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
accipiter sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	3	-	-	19	8	cw	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merlin	cw	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
hawk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	83	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	65	145	550	15	1	106	79	53	-	122	64	13	81	98
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	-	14	32	-	1	68	74	3	2	-	10	-	-	17
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	cw	-	3	-	-	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Snowy Owl	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	cw	-	-
Northern Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-
Barred Owl	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Gray Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3. CBC totals for Crookston, Crosby, Duluth, Ely, Eagle's Nest Lakes, Excelsior, Faribault, Fergus Falls, Fredenberg, Fargo-Moorhead, Fairmont, Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, Grand Marais, and Grand Rapids.

	CROOK	CROSB	DULUT	ELY	ENLA	EXCEL	FARIB	FERGS	FREDN	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GRMAR	GRRAP
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	23	1	-	-	35	58	12	-	3	9	cw	-	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	2	43	79	26	29	94	125	32	7	25	25	-	38	19
Hairy Woodpecker	4	35	53	30	25	55	38	11	8	19	9	-	25	17
American Three-toed Woodpecker	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Flicker	-	-	cw	-	-	8	24	1	-	-	2	cw	-	-
Red-shafted Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	-	32	11	13	3	6	6	6	2	3	-	1	1	15
Northern Shrike	-	1	9	2	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Gray Jay	-	-	-	37	29	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	2	13
Blue Jay	4	157	35	63	81	88	117	20	28	10	46	2	78	137
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Crow	13	40	427	33	5	134	412	40	49	32	86	14	28	75
Common Raven	-	6	61	191	58	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	90	39
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	3	17	2	-	1	333	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	31	599	1356	531	371	495	252	132	80	79	25	7	199	363
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	1	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	15	115	261	57	-	7	-	30	-	-	-	53	15
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	86	93	13	33	122	92	28	2	38	15	-	1	53
Brown Creeper	-	1	5	1	-	5	24	2	-	2	4	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	4	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	-	-	218	9	1	159	355	4	-	2	-	-	3	2
Varied Thrush	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	25	178	752	43	19	480	126	30	-	11	229	3	50	100
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	63	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	13
Cedar Waxwing	-	55	321	-	-	259	78	35	-	-	-	-	215	91
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	-	22	3	-	-	117	243	5	-	-	81	-	1	-
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	2	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	4	19	84	1	1	156	457	104	-	66	68	13	-	7
Dark-eyed (Oregon Race) Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-
Lapland Longspur	36	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	27	1	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	721	-	-	-	-	-	447	453	-	1000	57	70	-	85
Northern Cardinal	-	8	22	-	1	223	243	2	-	2	42	-	2	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	cw	1	-	24	-	-
meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	291	149	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	31	69
Purple Finch	9	5	5	5	-	21	-	16	5	7	1	-	35	11
House Finch	16	-	75	-	-	157	261	19	-	18	42	20	-	-
Red Crossbill	-	15	-	cw	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	28	402	56	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	25
crossbill sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Common Redpoll	6	299	818	411	328	-	-	42	1	33	-	4	193	459
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	cw	2	-	-	1	-
Pine Siskin	105	55	226	458	61	232	391	20	177	15	39	99	116	121
American Goldfinch	36	148	170	21	11	296	461	36	6	34	86	2	8	6
carduelis sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	4	146	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	-
finch sp.	-	-	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	76	49	128	60	-	187	424	476	-	172	244	183	12	3
Count	1187	2087	8254	2834	1299	5937	6951	4332	612	2757	3628	460	1496	1964
Species	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Full Species	147	31	144	148	31	147	148	147	145	145	147	140	147	148
Full Count	1187	2087	8172	2834	1299	5937	6951	4332	612	2754	3628	459	1492	1964

	HASTE	HENDR	HIBBG	HUTCH	ISBEL	ITSCA	JACK	LAMBR	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPRL	MARSH	MEEK
Snow Goose	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	665	144	-	1212	-	-	-	195	1	3	-	12000	1	-
Trumpeter Swan	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mallard	1335	-	-	607	-	-	-	-	46	263	23	15	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Partridge	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	67	87	-	287	-	-	44	337	12	22	151	155	632	66
Ruffed Grouse	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Prairie-Chicken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	110	344	-	80	-	10	-	30	40	233	46	1	14	25
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	59	12	1	3	-	2	cw	cw	1	11	7	1	5	6
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	1	-
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	29	9	-	10	-	-	2	10	15	10	9	4	11	9
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	5	5	7	1	5	1
buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	cw	-	-
American Kestrel	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	2	1
Merlin	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
hawk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thayer's Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	320	166	64	137	-	2	57	19	200	129	195	104	113	259
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	124	97	5	29	-	-	18	cw	15	4	2	-	4	48
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	2	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Great Horned Owl	-	1	-	6	-	-	1	6	-	-	2	2	8	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	cw	-	-	-
Great Gray Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4. CBC totals for Hastings-Etter, Henderson, Hibbing, Hutchinson, Isabella, Itasca State Park, Jackson County, Lambertton, LaCrosse-LaCrescent, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Lac qui Parle, Marshall, and Northern Meeker County.

	HASTE	HENDR	HIBBG	HUTCH	ISBEL	ITSCA	JACK	LAMBR	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGRP	LQPR	MARSH	MEEK
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	2	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	52	73	-	-	-	-	2	12	15	7	16	4	17	15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	83	178	8	111	15	11	18	26	9	32	56	9	43	28
Hairy Woodpecker	27	79	6	53	2	7	5	26	9	14	26	7	27	17
American Three-toed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	15	5	-	6	-	-	1	5	-	-	1	-	4	1
Red-shafted Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	5	9	2	cw	1	6	-	cw	-	9	13	1	4	2
Northern Shrike	9	3	3	3	-	1	-	1	-	2	3	2	-	2
Gray Jay	-	-	4	-	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-
Blue Jay	153	179	43	99	15	108	28	35	51	99	101	19	44	72
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Crow	552	138	14	106	8	30	7	48	65	285	201	11	91	231
Common Raven	-	-	13	-	52	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Lark	-	3	-	12	-	-	314	419	11	18	15	110	1122	25
Black-capped Chickadee	349	301	178	215	167	90	11	65	77	193	104	35	129	98
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	7	18	-	126	8	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	56	151	19	96	2	15	6	26	20	42	36	21	52	37
Brown Creeper	21	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	4	5	5
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	1106	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	1	16	3	4	2	100
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1871	172	34	68	-	3	22	150	25	58	36	66	360	190
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	43	26	-	6	-	-	20	66	-	-	19	-	-	112
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	281	186	-	45	-	-	1	205	219	178	57	32	76	159
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	506	653	-	481	-	1	35	24	368	479	301	88	181	301
Dark-eyed (Oregon Race) Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Lapland Longspur	1	-	-	cw	-	-	-	10	-	6	-	6	13	51
Snow Bunting	-	357	-	423	-	60	-	179	-	536	107	342	473	462
Northern Cardinal	52	273	-	123	-	-	11	17	67	12	35	3	14	18
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	1	-	53	-	-	1	2	-	-	43	105	21	-
meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	15	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	2	-	86	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	9	103	1	26	-	3	7	-	1	-	28	1	3	32
House Finch	69	148	2	198	-	-	7	-	6	16	17	3	86	38
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	72	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	30	cw	342	24	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-
crossbill sp.	-	-	-	-	32	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	314	-	1118	28	-	-	-	87	108	2	-	6
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	21	44	6	46	61	102	2	30	-	40	96	-	36	6
American Goldfinch	186	506	27	247	-	46	47	32	38	75	111	20	62	92
carduelis sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	577	426	1	1066	-	8	180	262	336	117	112	64	360	413
Count	9121	4909	798	5913	2129	656	850	2261	1673	3009	2093	13265	4026	2933
Species	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Full Species	59	42	26	145	147	148	146	145	147	146	148	147	147	37
Full Count	9121	4909	798	5913	2097	654	850	2260	1673	3009	2093	13263	4025	2933

	MNKTO	MORIS	MPLSN	MTLKW	NEWUL	NWRCO	OWATN	PHILB	PILGR	PINEC	RCHST	RLNWR	ROSEU	RWFAL
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	cw	344	-	cw	410	7	-	2	-	20000	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	1	-	-	1263	-	-	29	-	2	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mallard	133	10	2301	2	-	624	151	34	-	-	312	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	50	-	-	316	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	28	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Partridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	32	26	7	62	9	36	189	31	-	-	87	-	-	1
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	19	1	3	-	-
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Greater Prairie-Chicken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	41	4	12	-	130	55	71	52	105	52	180	6	-	2
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	6	cw	4	-	9	6	-	1	4	10	6	1	-	2
Northern Harrier	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	10	3	10	9	7	14	2	3	-	-	19	-	-	12
Rough-legged Hawk	cw	1	13	2	1	1	1	3	-	2	6	-	-	3
buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	1	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
hawk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	124	118	167	101	202	191	62	289	81	63	169	65	25	99
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	14	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	34	-	14	2	37	33	90	1	-	28	177	1	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	cw	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Barred Owl	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
Great Gray Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	1	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5. CBC totals for Mankato, Morris, Minneapolis (North), Mountain Lake-Windom, New Ulm, Northern Wright County, Owatonna, Philbrook, Pillager, Pine County, Rochester, Rice Lake NWR, Roseau, and Redwood Falls.

	MNKTO	MORIS	MPLSN	MTLKW	NEWUL	NWRCO	OWATN	PHILB	PILGR	PINEC	RCHST	RLNWR	ROSEU	RWFAL
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	16	5	14	2	24	39	31	4	8	4	48	3	-	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	51	20	38	11	56	76	85	19	24	13	141	16	1	18
Hairy Woodpecker	18	14	20	5	24	32	30	8	23	9	44	32	1	5
American Three-toed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Northern Flicker	7	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	4
Red-shafted Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	2	4	3	-	2	9	4	5	4	2	9	5	cw	6
Northern Shrike	1	-	1	-	-	8	-	2	-	8	2	3	2	-
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	34	26	46	16	31	135	97	73	118	216	186	226	1	4
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-
American Crow	187	25	194	58	101	143	343	247	197	154	1533	142	146	105
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	81	-	15	19	-
Horned Lark	4	6	-	261	24	9	69	8	-	-	38	-	-	10
Black-capped Chickadee	36	53	202	19	100	331	186	155	372	310	365	614	23	20
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	7	8	19	2	22	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	20	21	30	8	30	103	66	34	76	28	87	43	3	23
Brown Creeper	1	-	8	-	3	3	2	-	-	1	3	1	-	8
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	cw	-	4	-	2	13	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	637	-	24	-	131	203	-	1	1	1	21	5	-	43
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	374	21	117	468	2201	915	63	41	96	112	568	103	2	84
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	cw	-
Cedar Waxwing	30	-	219	-	15	163	-	-	16	-	52	49	-	34
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	53	-	167	97	43	429	63	29	6	8	189	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	cw	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	147	39	112	55	161	366	398	88	36	4	673	1	-	10
Dark-eyed (Oregon Race) Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	20	-	-	1	1	-	-	108	-	18	-
Snow Bunting	cw	187	-	76	cw	65	43	713	376	199	19	32	673	12
Northern Cardinal	50	8	68	2	46	77	135	3	3	-	209	-	-	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	25	-	-	-	600	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	55	-	1	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-
Purple Finch	25	6	2	-	19	31	15	-	-	4	43	1	-	-
House Finch	23	8	24	1	51	52	219	-	-	-	154	-	-	29
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	2	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	6	14	-	-
crossbill sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	28	1	-	-	1	3	419	95	545	-	376	125	-
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	57	5	4	20	84	8	99	45	260	3	144	1	25	44
American Goldfinch	98	100	110	16	23	55	318	28	70	55	557	38	-	14
carduelis sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	163	321	108	397	392	538	561	15	92	32	430	140	32	123
Count	2501	1074	4451	1726	4572	6785	3421	2328	2242	2061	26692	1973	1120	725
Species	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Full Species	143	147	43	28	147	49	37	32	146	34	148	33	145	28
Full Count	2501	1074	4451	1726	4572	6785	3421	2328	2142	2061	26692	1973	1119	725

	RWING	SCCLG	SPNES	SPNOR	SAXZIM	THRBR	TMNWR	VIRGN	WABAS	WALKR	WILDR	WILMR	WINON	TOTAL
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	19
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Canada Goose	-	563	258	1285	-	-	-	-	69	-	cw	-	66	42474
Trumpeter Swan	8	11	63	29	-	-	-	-	6	-	19	-	-	2211
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wood Duck	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Gadwall	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	49
American Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Black Duck	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	33
Mallard	456	1114	1757	5359	-	7	-	110	419	6	-	62	244	25773
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Canvasback	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Common Goldeneye	1070	135	3	36	-	17	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	3429
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	26
Common Merganser	7483	19	6	224	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	8632
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gray Partridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1	93	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	97	153	11	3149
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	2	-	9	4	-	6	2	11	1	-	-	153
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
Greater Prairie-Chicken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Wild Turkey	48	-	482	51	-	-	16	-	39	-	295	15	45	3523
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American White Pelican	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Bald Eagle	130	-	11	18	5	8	2	4	58	1	5	cw	26	549
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	cw	1	2	2	48
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	cw	-	31
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	17
accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	9
Red-tailed Hawk	28	3	25	20	-	-	-	-	22	-	7	2	13	455
Rough-legged Hawk	3	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	1	99
buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
American Kestrel	2	cw	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	3	40
Merlin	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
hawk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw
American Coot	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	39
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	cw	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Herring Gull	23	-	-	5	-	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	367
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Great Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rock Pigeon	241	30	195	1696	31	162	4	162	160	26	71	83	85	9236
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Mourning Dove	38	6	146	34	-	1	-	3	43	-	88	31	58	1620
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Great Horned Owl	-	-	11	2	-	-	-	-	1	cw	2	3	-	75
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Northern Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Barred Owl	1	-	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	38
Great Gray Owl	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Table 6. CBC totals for Red Wing, St. Cloud-Collegeville, St. Paul (Northeast Suburban), St. Paul (North), Two Harbors, Tamarac NWR, Virginia, Wabasha, Walker, Wild River, Willmar, and Winona, plus sum totals.

	RWING	SCCLG	SPNES	SPNOR	SAXZIM	THRBR	TMNWR	VIRGN	WABAS	WALKR	WILDR	WILMR	WINON	TOTAL
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	25
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31
Red-bellied Woodpecker	28	12	80	28	-	-	9	-	18	6	-	19	29	946
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
Downy Woodpecker	53	46	200	109	4	18	14	24	23	8	106	65	51	2977
Hairy Woodpecker	15	14	103	48	7	18	16	19	12	6	41	29	18	1568
American Three-toed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	1	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	22
Northern Flicker	3	2	5	14	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	10	-	159
Red-shafted Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw
Pileated Woodpecker	15	2	32	7	4	2	11	5	4	9	12	7	5	402
Northern Shrike	2	-	13	cw	1	4	1	3	5	1	2	1	1	140
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	12	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	176
Blue Jay	111	83	332	24	35	48	95	66	60	87	146	54	73	5339
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
American Crow	339	30	726	694	33	70	13	65	137	7	198	40	124	12726
Common Raven	-	-	4	-	74	48	10	89	-	22	1	-	-	1471
Horned Lark	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	39	20	17	3679
Black-capped Chickadee	109	88	1044	423	200	421	261	275	107	205	331	161	113	16432
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	41
Tufted Titmouse	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	3	25	1	25	23	7	39	3	14	-	cw	1	1171
White-breasted Nuthatch	68	40	227	74	2	5	33	25	15	44	87	56	38	2948
Brown Creeper	2	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	161
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Eastern Bluebird	37	2	1	9	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	5	156
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hermit Thrush	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
American Robin	106	50	916	1069	-	1	-	-	81	1	12	25	37	6809
Varied Thrush	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	9
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
European Starling	850	40	628	622	19	209	1	346	483	29	251	121	117	15801
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	5	11	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	703
Cedar Waxwing	10	20	225	202	-	161	1	cw	-	72	128	486	12	3748
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Tree Sparrow	297	86	183	103	-	-	-	-	99	-	118	47	158	4754
Chipping Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	19
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dark-eyed Junco	443	317	421	346	-	9	28	2	529	-	396	227	433	11149
Dark-eyed (Oregon Race) Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	9
Lapland Longspur	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	-	507
Snow Bunting	4	130	-	-	50	-	56	2	1	11	-	67	-	12589
Northern Cardinal	70	53	266	179	-	3	-	-	62	1	149	71	123	3323
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	903
meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Common Grackle	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	106
Brown-headed Cowbird	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	45
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	61	20	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	1342
Purple Finch	3	27	18	-	-	-	94	1	18	-	16	166	33	1026
House Finch	47	45	78	231	-	3	-	-	-	-	43	259	29	2921
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	155
White-winged Crossbill	30	2	35	-	70	299	16	33	-	86	-	-	-	1817
crossbill sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Common Redpoll	-	-	24	-	212	151	67	258	-	15	32	-	-	8227
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Pine Siskin	51	64	244	42	31	22	106	42	-	28	169	131	6	5825
American Goldfinch	125	85	653	384	-	2	166	1	59	11	309	87	89	7472
carduelis sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	1	-	53	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	486
finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
House Sparrow	346	91	200	1452	37	3	-	9	160	15	38	162	230	14210
Count	12737	3222	9766	14894	1042	1866	1028	1706	2772	724	3225	2737	2338	257428
Species	149	149	149	149	35	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	-
Full Species	148	148	148	146	35	147	24	148	148	147	148	145	43	-
Full Count	12737	3222	9766	14894	1042	1864	1028	1706	2770	724	3225	2737	2338	257190

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Herons

Kim R. Eckert



In case you felt the previous “Birding by Hindsight” installment seemed to end abruptly (*The Loon* 81:100–105), that’s because it did. It seems the original article included an additional three paragraphs at the end, but someone apparently felt this section was inappropriate, or off-topic, or that some things are above criticism... or something — actually, I’m not sure why it was deleted. (If you’re curious what all the fuss was about, see http://www.mbwbirds.com/Internet_III.html.)

Anyway, at the risk of offending those readers who have pet herons at home, this “Hindsight” will present some identification issues involving that group of heron-like birds I’ll simply call waders. (“*How dare he refer to Lulu Belle, my precious pet Least Bittern, as a simple wader!*”) There are 15 of these species which have occurred in Minnesota, representing three families: Ardeidae (bitterns, herons, egrets), Threskiornithidae (ibises, spoon-bills), and Ciconiidae (storks).

It may seem curious that it took so long for this 15-year-old column to get around to discussing this familiar group of birds perched conspicuously towards the beginning of your field guides and checklists. It’s mostly because there are relatively few ID difficulties here, with only the ibises presenting some serious challenges. But finally, after 15 years, appropriately enough, here are the 15 waders as they appear in standard checklist order:

American Bittern

About the only source of confusion with this bittern would involve an im-

mature night-heron, since both are brown overall and similar in size. But given a decent view of a standing bittern, it’s not hard to see its black malar/neck stripe, the longer and thinner neck, and the more upright posture with bill typically pointed skywards. By contrast, a standing night-heron lacks a black neck stripe, has a hunched posture, and usually holds its bill level.

Even in flight, the ID usually isn’t too difficult. The bittern’s longer neck/head profile and neck stripe are still often noticeable, but note especially its contrastingly black flight feathers (brown with no contrast on a night-heron). The calls are also quite different: a flying bittern seldom calls (I can’t recall ever hearing one in flight), while that’s about the only time you hear the night-heron’s low-pitched *quork*. Of course, the bittern’s familiar and strange *oon-ka-choonk* is hard to confuse with anything else.

Least Bittern

Size alone will serve to separate Lulu Belle and other members of this hard-to-see species from everything else, except perhaps the somewhat larger and more widespread Green Heron. With any decent view, of course, this bittern’s buff-and-black plumage and conspicuous buff wing patches are quite different from the Green Heron’s uniformly dark plumage — which hardly shows any trace of green, by the way.

Given the Least Bittern’s secretive nature, it’s more often heard than seen, so it’s useful to learn its muffled, rapid,

low-pitched (and easily overlooked) call, which sounds very much like the *coo coo coo* of the Black-billed Cuckoo. (I still recall the time years ago when I played a Least Bittern recording by this marsh. No bitterns, but instead a responsive Black-billed Cuckoo flew in from the aspens across the road.) They also give a similar but higher-pitched *kab kab kab* vocalization, plus a brief, low-pitched *tr-r-r-r-r-r* trill.

Great Blue Heron

This most widespread heron in Minnesota seldom presents any ID confusion. About the only difficulty I've noticed is when a poorly seen or partly obscured Great Blue is hunched over and conceals its long neck: it then can resemble either of the night-herons.

And, abruptly, that's about it for this section. But rest assured nothing was edited out this time: there's just nothing much to say about this heron's ID. (It would be tempting, though, to be critical of its name, since it's really gray rather than blue – but, while there's little to fear from Lulu Belle, an angry Great Blue Heron is nothing you'd want to trifle with.)

Great Egret

Here's another account which may appear truncated, but this is another species providing little reason to say much about its identification. The combination of large size, yellow bill, and dark legs serve to separate it from the smaller white waders, and the only real issue to keep in mind is the same thing mentioned in the previous section: i.e., it often hunkers down and can then appear smaller, shorter-necked, and possibly be mistaken for another species.

Snowy Egret

The ID of this relatively rare and local Minnesota wader sure seems straightforward enough. After all, no other species has the combination of an all-black bill, yellow lores, all-black legs, and yellow feet. But the problem is that many birders fail to realize that these distinctive

features consistently apply only to adults: when confronted with a juvenile, their confidence in making a correct ID often wanes.

Juvenile Snowys can have a bicolored or mostly yellow bill, their lores may appear more greenish than yellow, their legs can be yellowish or both black and yellow. In other words, except for consistent yellow foot color at all ages, those diagnostic features on adults you always relied on may be missing on these disconcerting youngsters.

One feature that can prove helpful in detecting a Snowy Egret of any age is its behavior. Most foraging waders are typically slow, deliberate, and often stationary as they patiently wait for some morsel to crawl, swim, or slither by. While Snowys often act the same way, they just as often act more Reddish Egret-like: i.e., actively and erratically running around in pursuit of food.

Last summer, for example, a distant egret came into view, too far away to see bill or leg colors or to determine its size. But it was noticeably more active than the other egrets around it, and I called out possible Snowy Egret to the group. Several minutes later it flew much closer: sure enough, much to my relief, it turned into a definite Snowy.

Little Blue Heron

Like the Snowy Egret, the identity of an adult Little Blue Heron is seldom difficult to figure out. Even those mostly white sub-adults with a blue-gray patchwork are quite distinctive. But beware of juveniles whose plumage can appear entirely white and whose lores can be quite yellow: no wonder these are sometimes confused with Snowy Egrets. With real problematic birds, my recommendation is to study the bill shape. It's thicker at the base, gradually thinner towards the tip, and slightly downcurved on a Little Blue; it's straighter and more uniformly thin on a Snowy Egret.

And once you do figure out which one it is, odds are it will be a Snowy Egret. Of the three Rare-Regular "southern" wad-

ers which spread north into Minnesota in the 1970s (Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, and Little Blue Heron), the Little Blue is now the rarest of the three and teeters on the edge of Casual status. Records of the two egrets are about equal in frequency, but confirmed nesting records for all three have become virtually nonexistent in the last few decades and we only have a vague notion of the distribution of these three waders during the breeding season.

Tricolored Heron

This Casual Minnesota species, with only about 15 (sound familiar?) state records, is not something which needs to be thought about that often in these parts, and even then the only similar species to consider would be Little Blue Heron. Indeed, in Texas and elsewhere I have seen birders casually view a Tricolored, not notice its contrasting white belly and underwing linings, and mistake it for a Little Blue. There are other minor differences, too, but that diagnostic white belly is the best and most visible field mark to keep in mind.

Cattle Egret

Here is yet another species which is typically easy-to-identify as an adult but with clear potential for misidentification as a juvenile. Many birders are quite unaware that young birds have dark bills and dark legs, and consequently they are candidates for confusion with Snowy Egrets. When in doubt about which one you're looking at, it helps to consider the Cattle Egret's shorter bill and shorter-necked profile. Consider the habitat as well: Cattle Egrets seldom spend time foraging in wetlands and along shorelines like a normal wader, preferring instead to look for insects in pastures, roadside ditches, and even landfills.

Green Heron

As discussed above, the Least Bittern is about the only thing that vaguely resembles a Green Heron. Accordingly, since I've already criticized this heron's name (and got away with it!), the only other

comment here would be to mention its call note. Though quite different from a Least Bittern, it is somewhat similar to a night-heron's call, although the Green Heron's *skew!* is louder, sharper, and higher-pitched.

Black-crowned Night-Heron Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

At the risk of offending the powerful night-heron lobby, I'll lump these two species into the same section. As adults, their IDs are simple enough, but immatures resemble American Bitterns (see above), and telling one young night-heron from the other requires a careful look. I usually study the bill color first: all-dark on a Yellow-crowned vs. bicolored on a Black-crowned. Also note the Yellow-crowned's upperparts are darker above with small white spots, while the Black-crowned looks paler overall, and its spots are larger and somewhat tear-shaped.

It's often helpful as well to note the shape and calls of a night-heron of any age. The Yellow-crowned's profile usually shows a rounder crown, shorter bill, and longer neck, and its *quark* call note may sound higher-pitched than the Black-crowned's *quork*. But I find one oft-mentioned field mark difficult to use with much confidence. While a Yellow-crowned's legs are longer, with its feet extending farther beyond the tail in flight, this difference is pretty subtle and would require direct comparison with a Black-crowned for it to be a useful mark.

As most Minnesota birders are aware, it's typically safe to assume any unidentified night-heron here should be a Black-crowned, since the Yellow-crowned is barely Regular in the state and may eventually be demoted to Casual status. But that's not to say the Black-crowned is common and widespread: it's certainly down in numbers from previous decades, its breeding sites are now fewer and far between, and its summer status is poorly known.

White Ibis

That first and only state record in Wi-

nona in 1995 was long overdue, considering that a handful of records exist from nearby states. Since it was an adult, I assume its ID was immediately obvious, but keep in mind that an immature bird may well provide Minnesota's second record. So, if you ever chance to hear about a brown-and-white ibis that someone thinks is a partial albino White-faced or Glossy, you'd better go check it out. Odds are it will have an orange or red bill and legs and turn out to be an immature White Ibis.

Glossy Ibis White-faced Ibis

Until recently, it used to be a safe assumption that any *Plegadis* ibis seen here was a White-faced, even those juveniles which have no consistently useful field marks. After all, there had been only one Glossy Ibis record in Minnesota prior to 2005, but since then both ibis species have expanded their ranges, there are now two recent Glossy records (three total), and suspected ID-defying hybrids are turning up in several states. So now what?

One place to start is with a few oversimplified basics:

- Juveniles. Since there are no reliably consistent features visible in the field, don't fret over this too long: just leave it as an unidentified *Plegadis*.
- Facial border. If this border consists of actual white feathers and clearly extends completely behind the eyes and under the chin, it's an adult White-faced. If the white (or pale blue) border is a narrower facial skin edge (rather than feathers) and does not extend behind the eyes or under the chin, it's a Glossy. And if the white feathering looks narrow or limited in extent, it may well be a hybrid.

Note that adult White-faceds may retain these white feathers for only a relatively short time in spring and early summer, while the adult Glossy's whitish facial skin border is actually present all year (though harder to see in fall-winter).

- Facial skin color. If clearly deep pink or red, it's an adult White-faced, and note adults can retain this color year-round. If

bluish, it's an adult Glossy. If the color is in-between or something else or unknown, it could be either species or a hybrid.

- Iris color. If clearly red, it's an adult White-faced — and, like the facial skin, eye color can be retained all year. If eye color is anything else, it again could be either species or a hybrid.
- Overall size, bill color, leg color? I tend to disregard these. Some references claim that the two ibises differ in these features (Glossy larger; White-faced with redder bill and legs), but there seems to be no consensus that any of these are consistently reliable.

Especially since hybrid ibises are a real possibility in Minnesota, a complete analysis of *Plegadis* ID is beyond the scope of this article. To fully appreciate the complexities involved, I would recommend the article "Hybridization between Glossy and White-faced Ibises" (*North American Birds* 57:136–139); see <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/NAB/v057n01/p00136-p00139>.

Wood Stork

Now here's a bird so obvious that even a three-and-a-half-year-old can identify it! Indeed, that's the age of the person who first spotted this first and only state record in 2004 near Grand Marais. In his words, the discovery was announced by: "Papa, there's a really big bird out there." Dad grabbed his video camera, and the ID was soon confirmed.

Like the White Ibis, this distinctive species was overdue here, with other records in adjacent states. Since other occurrences seem inevitable, take a second look the next time you see a presumed pelican (or Whooping Crane) soaring overhead that doesn't look quite right. That big black-and-white bird just might turn into Minnesota's second Wood Stork record. (And if you're not sure what it is, find a three-and-a-half-year-old to help you out.)

Now that you've mastered the identification of Minnesota's 15 wader species, keep in mind that other species could

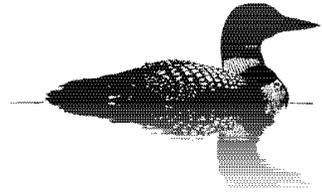
eventually appear here. Although the White Ibis and Wood Stork finally turned up, there is still opportunity for you to find a Reddish Egret or Roseate Spoonbill: both long-overdue first state records. There would then be 16 wader species on the list, and you'd then ruin our recurring theme involving the number 15 — however, just think of the proverbial Fifteen

Minutes Of Fame you'd earn by your discovery.

(And, finally, our standard disclaimer: "No proofreaders, editors, or animals were harmed during the making of this article." Not even Lulu Belle.)

1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

Notes of Interest



SUCCESSFUL NESTING OF CASPIAN TERNS IN MINNESOTA — While conducting colonial waterbird monitoring on Gull and Pelican Islands in Leech Lake, I have observed successful nesting of Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) in 2007, 2008, and 2009. In 2007, 28 adults were observed establishing 13 nests and successfully fledgling 11 young. In 2008, 38 adults initiated 16 nests and fledged 15 young. A total of 25 nests were counted in 2009 and 21 young fledged. The successful reproduction that was observed in each of these three years occurred adjacent to one of the groups of Common Terns that also nest on Little Pelican Island. The Caspian Terns established nests in late May with the first young hatching around the middle of June. By mid July, the oldest chicks were starting to fly about the colony.

It is uncertain why the birds decided to nest on Leech Lake the past three summers, but several factors may have contributed. The first was the clearing of the woody vegetation, over the past half dozen years, from Little Pelican Island to reduce nesting habitat for double-crested cormorants. This has created about 2.5 acres of habitat which ground-nesting colonial waterbirds should find quite attractive. The other factor has been the establishment of a one-quarter-mile buffer zone around the island that is closed to the public during the open water season for the safety of the public and to prevent disturbance of the colony, as well as to prevent interference with the cormorant diet study research that is being conducted by the Leech Lake Band on the island. Caspian Terns are noted as being one of the species most intolerant of human disturbance during the nesting season.

Caspian Terns have not been previously documented to successfully hatch young in Minnesota prior to 2007, though they have been documented attempting to nest on two other occasions. The first occurred in 1969 when two pair unsuccessfully nested on Gull Island in Leech Lake (*The Loon* 41:83–84). The second occurred in 2004 when one pair attempted to nest on Hennepin Island in Mille Lacs Lake (McDowell, 2004, Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge 2004 Report).

Although Caspian Terns have been observed throughout the summer on Leech Lake for many years, it has always been thought that these were juvenile or non-breeding individuals. Historical count numbers for Caspian Terns, as well as other species, can be found in *The Loon* (79:130–142). — **Steve Mortensen, Division of Resources**



Caspian Tern families, 22 June 2007, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.

Management, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, 115, 6th St. NW Suite E, Cass Lake, MN 56633.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW IN EAGAN — On 25 March 2009, I observed a large sparrow-like bird land on a flower planter just outside my window at eye level about five meters away. Facing away from me, my first impression was that of an immature White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) based on large size, rufous in wings, and especially the two white wing bars formed by rows of dots. It briefly turned its head toward me revealing a rather distinctly yellow forecrown and gray face, then immediately flew upward and into a tray feeder. Now realizing it was a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Z. atricapilla*), I hurried upstairs to get my camera and was able to obtain several photos during a 1–2 minute period before the bird flew off toward a neighbor's yard. I did not get a chance to view it using binoculars during this initial observation. The bird made three more visits to the yard during the next 3.5 hours and was last seen at 4:30 P.M., when I and a few others were able to observe it with binoculars at the same feeder. Surprisingly, the bird reappeared twice five days later on 30 March during which time I was able to get additional photos.

Appearance of this bird was superficially similar to immature White-crowned Sparrow, generally darker overall, and differed in being more uniform dull gray on the sides of the face, neck and breast, becoming dull brownish gray on the underparts which appeared unstreaked. The breast lacked any obvious streaking and was rather irregularly mottled possibly due to molt. The crown posterior to the yellow forecrown was brown containing several parallel narrow dark streaks. The loreal area was a dull brown, contrasting slightly with the yellow forecrown patch and cheek, and appeared to have a few scattered flecks of yellow/gold that seemed to spill over from the forecrown. No obvious dark line was evident behind the eye. The bill was dull gray on the upper mandible, darker near the tip of the culmen, and paler on the lower mandible, giving a two-toned appearance. The folded wing had two white wing bars, consisting of white tips on the greater and median secondary coverts, appearing as rows of white dots rather than as a solid band of white. The dark eye was surrounded by a partial whitish eye ring that extended over the upper eye and the rear one-half of the lower eye. I

was struck by the variability of the intensity of yellow in the forecrown, at times being much more obvious (brighter) than at other times.

Regarding age determination of this individual, all authors I reviewed state that in winter there may be overlap between some brighter hatch year/second year (HY/SY) birds and duller adults that are older than two years (ASY birds), making identification indeterminate. Pyle (1987) and Norment *et al.* (1998) state that a limited-partial pre-alternate molt occurs in March–May, which could account for the mottled appearance of this individual, especially on the breast and neck and to some extent on the head. However, the subject bird shows a head pattern similar to that described by Byers *et al.* (1995) for first winter birds, “typical first winters have brown crown, streaked darker (showing no obvious lateral crown-stripe but dark brown on supraloral) and dull yellowish-brown crown patch, which may also be streaked darker.” Furthermore, Colwell (1999) classifies crown pattern into five types of increasing age in which Crown 1 seems most like the subject bird, “diffuse streaky brown crown and no well-defined brown or black lateral stripes.” Thus, I feel that the subject bird was most likely in its second year (SY). This represents the 7th accepted record for Minnesota. — **James P. Mattsson, 570 S. Greenleaf Dr., Eagan, MN 55123.**

MISSISSIPPI KITES AT HAWK RIDGE — While employed as the official hawk counter for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, I spotted single Mississippi Kites on both 8 and 9 September 2008. The adult birds both flew over the main overlook where they were seen by multiple observers.



The bird on 8 September was first seen high out over the lake and into the sun, but its distinctive silhouette was recognizable as a Mississippi Kite, an identification that was confirmed when the bird moved somewhat closer and began hawking insects, presumably dragonflies, a behavior that led to brief displays of the diagnostic white upper secondaries as it banked. Since this bird remained fairly distant out over the lake before drifting southward, it was apparently only seen by a few observers. Although falcon-like in overall shape, it showed a distinctly different silhouette. For example, although the wings were very long and sharply pointed with a very long hand, the width of the wing at the junction of the primaries and secondaries was wider than any falcon, and although the tail was proportionately as long as a kestrel, it appeared more noticeably flared at the tip throughout the observation. Its overall body and head size appeared much smaller in proportion to its relatively larger wing surface area. I have seen all the regular falcons at Hawk Ridge, but the flight of all these falcons is different than that of the observed Mississippi Kite, which flew slower, more gracefully, and noticeably more buoyant. In overall pattern this bird was dark-winged and dark-tailed, with a pale head. The head appeared to lack any noticeable dark moustache marks, and the tail appeared to lack any banding, but due to the distance and lighting, it was difficult to note plumage details any more precisely.

The Mississippi Kite seen at Hawk Ridge on 9 September came by quite close, flying directly over the ridge in good light. I watched it through my scope throughout the observation and saw it catch several insects. This bird showed many traits of a typical adult Mississippi Kite, including a white head with a dark eye-patch, white upper secondaries that contrasted with gray secondary coverts and blackish primaries, and pale underparts without streaking.

Hawk Ridge remains the best location in the state to see Mississippi Kites. The current two records fit nicely within the pattern of previous records; of 27 previous state records, eight are from Hawk Ridge (30%), spanning the narrow window of 30 August – 15 September, although only two of these eight records are of adults. — **Karl Barndon, 5826 Morning Star Drive, Duluth, MN 55804.**



In This Issue

Northern Goshawk, 16 January 2009, Burnsville, Dakota County <i>David A. Cablander</i>	Front Cover
Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee <i>Peder H. Svingen</i>	115
The Winter Season 1 December 2008 through 28 February 2009 <i>Paul E. Budde, Bruce A. Fall, James P. Mattsson, and Andrew D. Smith</i>	120
The Minnesota Christmas Bird Count, 2008–2009 <i>Carl Greiner</i>	138
Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Herons <i>Kim R. Eckert</i>	152
Notes of Interest Nesting Caspian Terns Golden-crowned Sparrow in Eagan Mississippi Kites at Hawk Ridge.....	156
Boreal Owl, 6 February 2009, Lakewood Twp., St. Louis County <i>Peder H. Svingen</i>	159

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.

A photograph of a yellow throated vireo perched on a branch with green leaves. The bird has a bright yellow throat and breast, a black cap, and black and white streaked wings and back. It is looking upwards and to the left. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

The Loon

WINTER 2009
VOLUME 81 — NUMBER 4

Journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
10 Church Street Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0145

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

EDITOR OF *THE LOON*:

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF *THE LOON*:

Karl Bardon, Paul Budde, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall, Nancy Hertzelt, Robert Janssen, Ann Kessen, and Peder Svingen

MOU MEMBERSHIPS:

Yearly donations to join the MOU:
Single \$25
Youth (through age 17) \$15
Family \$35
Supporting \$75
Life \$500
Foreign subscriptions \$35

EDITOR OF *MINNESOTA BIRDING*:

Ben Wieland, Deep Portage Learning Center,
2197 Nature Center Drive, NW, Hackensack, MN
56452; newsletter@moumn.org

MINNESOTA BIRD REPORTS:

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

MOU E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mou@moumn.org

MOU WEB SITE:

<http://moumn.org>

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

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

MOU OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

VICE PRESIDENT: Carl Greiner, 1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield MN 55923

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Rich Peet, 3245 Noble Avenue N, Golden Valley, MN 55422

TREASURER: Mark Lystig, 1741 Sartell Avenue, Eagan MN 55122

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

MOU COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS: Kim Eckert, 1921 West Kent Road, Duluth MN 55812

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: Carl Greiner, 1616 Hill Street SW, Chatfield MN 55923

CONSERVATION: Pam Perry, 11206 Natures Way, Brainerd, MN 56401

EDUCATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jen Vieth, 1962 Oak Street, Hastings, MN 55033

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

FIELD TRIPS: Bob Williams, 5254 W 95th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437

FINANCE: Anthony Smith, 4301 Brook Avenue S, St. Louis Park MN 55424

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

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

RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATIONS: Roger Schroeder, 215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall MN 56258

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

SAVALOJA MEMORIAL FUND: Ann Kessen, 31145 Genesis Avenue, Stacy MN 55079

SEASONAL REPORTS: Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

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

AFFILIATED CLUBS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

DULUTH AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Jane Cleave, Box 3091, Duluth, MN 55803-3091

HIAWATHA VALLEY BIRD CLUB OF WINONA - *President:* Steve Sherwood, 745 - 53rd Avenue, Goodview MN 55987

JACKSON COUNTY BIRD CLUB - *President:* Donald Vrchota, 48154 - 790th Street, Lakefield MN 56150

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

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

MNBIRD - *Coordinator:* Carol Schumacher, carol@birdminnesota.com

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

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY - *President:* Bonnie Sample, 1195 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105

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

Summary of the West Skyline Spring Raptor Count, 2000–2005

Frank J. Nicoletti

Since the 1950s, fall migration data has been collected at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minnesota. After studying the geography and magnitude of the Hawk Ridge flight, it seemed reasonable to me that at least some of these birds must migrate back this way in the spring; however, no organized spring count had ever been conducted in the Duluth area, or for that matter, in the state of Minnesota. Since raptors migrate along leading lines such as shorelines or ridges, I looked for a suitable location to begin counting returning spring migrants, and settled on Enger Tower.

In 1997, I began a spring count at Enger Tower. From 1997 to 1999, I recorded a sizeable movement, with a seasonal average of nearly 10,000 raptors. There were many days when the flight drifted away from the shoreline, as a northeast lake breeze had picked up and most of the raptors disappeared to the southwest. Suspecting they were moving inland, I looked for a second site from which I could see and count them, and found it at Thompson Hill. Adding Thompson Hill to the count resulted in a much higher seasonal average. From 2000 to 2005, I averaged 26,360 raptors per season, thus ranking the West Skyline Hawk Count (WSHC) as one of the top five spring sites in North America (see Table 1).

Study Area

Both Enger Tower and Thompson Hill are located along the West Skyline Parkway at designated pull-offs with easy access.

Enger Tower, a city park within the city limits of Duluth, Minnesota, is located on a ridge that overlooks the St. Louis River, the Duluth Harbor, and the western tip of Lake Superior to the north and east. The pull-off is known as “Rice Point Overlook” (N 46° 46.443' W 092° 7.56', 1067 feet). An unobstructed view to the southwest overlooks a prominent north-south ridge called the Sawtooth Ridge.

The other site (N 46° 43.736' W 092° 12.30', 1100 feet), located just below the Thompson Hill rest area off I-35, is near the south end of the ridge and is “the hand of the arm,” collecting raptors that would normally disperse if the ridge were not there. Both sites are approximately 500 feet above Lake Superior. The topographical features of both count sites concentrate northbound migrants, which collect along the ridge before continuing north.

Research Objectives and Methods

Here I outline the four major objectives of the count:

1. Conduct a survey of spring raptor migration and collect baseline data.
2. Further our knowledge of raptors by determining various flight path preferences and migration sequence of some species of raptor by age and/or sex.
3. Seek an understanding of the mechanics of migration by studying the effects of various topographical and meteorological factors.
4. Educate the local public on the migration of all species of birds.

The spring surveys usually started around 1 March and ended 25 May. Inclement weather such as heavy snow, rain, or dense fog occasionally prohibited coverage. Hours covered varied due to weather and flight conditions although attempts were made to cover from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Weather data was recorded hourly and came from the three recording weather stations around the count sites: Duluth Airport (DA), Duluth Harbor (DH) and the Superior Airport (SA). Weather data included temperature, wind direction and speed, barometric pressure and humidity. Data taken visually included cloud coverage (%), visibility, and precipitation type. Notes were also recorded on flight characteristics as well as data on age, sex, and plumage if possible. All this data was taken in

Table 1. Annual summaries of observation effort and raptor counts by species, 1997–2005. Numbers in parentheses represent total number of days possible between start and end date.

YEAR	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL ¹	MEAN ²
Start Date	10-Mar	24-Feb	1-Mar	26-Feb	1-Mar	17-Feb	1-Mar	23-Feb	1-Mar	---	25-Feb
End Date	21-May	29-May	22-May	28-May	17-May	24-May	19-May	8-Jun	21-May	---	24-May
Observation Days	68 (72)	87 (94)	70 (83)	85 (93)	68 (78)	88 (88)	78 (89)	90 (100)	76 (82)	---	81 (88)
Observation Hours	374.5	435.5	342.0	454.5	354.75	482.75	336.0	546.5	404.25	2578.75	429.79
Raptors Per Hour	36.4	17.9	19.5	58.4	63.6	52.8	76.3	60.8	61.1	61.3	62.2
RAPTOR COUNTS											
Black Vulture	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
Turkey Vulture	464	730	631	1081	2209	1678	1037	1741	740	8486	1414
Mississippi Kite	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Osprey	160	56	67	208	271	255	184	227	204	1349	225
Bald Eagle	1037	1654	1564	2829	2631	2971	2866	3415	2859	17571	2929
Northern Harrier	40	33	24	56	38	61	47	89	35	326	54
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1227	1267	1229	2761	2051	2430	2373	2659	2798	15072	2512
Cooper's Hawk	35	32	15	47	54	63	41	37	38	280	47
Northern Goshawk	2	5	1	13	23	24	11	19	10	100	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	0	4	3	4	3	4	4	22	4
Broad-winged Hawk	8175	2059	1230	12571	9466	10178	12979	16944	15073	77211	12869
Swainson's Hawk	1	3	1	2	4	5	4	3	4	22	4
Red-tailed Hawk	2361	1858	1741	6315	5413	7332	5733	7398	2651	34842	5807
Ferruginous Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Rough-legged Hawk	64	27	81	390	195	250	161	407	145	1548	258
Golden Eagle	17	12	40	63	66	77	71	127	48	452	75
American Kestrel	39	34	30	132	82	115	114	131	46	620	103
Merlin	15	9	8	24	17	17	16	26	22	122	20
Peregrine Falcon	5	4	5	12	7	7	6	10	7	49	8
Gyr Falcon	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Unidentified Accipiter	0	0	0	4	8	7	1	0	0	20	3
Unidentified Buteo	0	0	0	11	9	12	0	1	0	33	6
Unidentified Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Unidentified Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Unidentified Raptor	0	0	0	24	5	3	0	0	0	32	5
TOTAL	13645	7784	6667	26547	22554	25491	25648	33238	24684	158162	26360

1 Total calculated only for the years 2000-2005 due to changes in methodology (see text)
 2 Mean calculated only for the years 2000-2005 due to changes in methodology (see text)

Table 3. Summary of seasonal timing of migration for all regularly-occurring raptors at West Skyline Hawk Count, 2000-2005¹.

SPECIES ²	FIRST OBSERVED ³			AVERAGE PEAK	LAST OBSERVED ³			BULK PASSAGE ⁴	MEDIAN PASSAGE ⁵
	Earliest	Average	Latest		Earliest	Average	Latest		
Turkey Vulture	10-Mar	24-Mar	3-Apr	15-Apr	15-May	18-May	22-May	8-Apr – 30-Apr	17-Apr
Osprey	2-Apr	8-Apr	14-Apr	28-Apr	16-May	20-May	2-Jun	16-Apr – 5-May	27-Apr
Bald Eagle	17-Feb	26-Feb	3-Mar	27-Mar	17-May	23-May	2-Jun	14-Mar – 10-Apr	27-Mar
Northern Harrier	5-Mar	21-Mar	1-Apr	15-Apr	6-May	16-May	24-May	1-Apr – 1-May	16-Apr
Sharp-shinned Hawk	23-Feb	12-Mar	23-Mar	22-Apr	16-May	23-May	6-Jun	12-Apr – 6-May	26-Apr
Cooper's Hawk	18-Feb	10-Mar	25-Mar	21-Apr	13-May	15-May	17-May	1-Apr – 5-May	16-Apr
Northern Goshawk	2-Mar	8-Mar	14-Mar	19-Mar	20-Apr	26-Apr	1-May	14-Mar – 16-Apr	24-Mar
Red-shouldered Hawk	23-Mar	30-Mar	10-Apr	3-Apr	26-Mar	8-Apr	16-Apr	30-Mar – 8-Apr	4-Apr
Broad-winged Hawk	13-Apr	17-Apr	22-Apr	1-May	17-May	24-May	8-Jun	24-Apr – 7-May	1-May
Swainson's Hawk	12-Apr	19-Apr	2-May	25-Apr	29-Apr	11-May	24-May	19-Apr – 11-May	30-Apr
Red-tailed Hawk	2-Mar	12-Mar	22-Mar	5-Apr	17-May	24-May	6-Jun	1-Apr – 20-Apr	8-Apr
Rough-legged Hawk	17-Feb	4-Mar	15-Mar	10-Apr	16-May	18-May	20-May	27-Mar – 28-Apr	14-Apr
Golden Eagle	18-Feb	2-Mar	9-Mar	16-Mar	3-May	13-May	20-May	12-Mar – 17-Apr	21-Mar
American Kestrel	21-Mar	28-Mar	8-Apr	18-Apr	29-Apr	15-May	20-May	12-Apr – 2-May	22-Apr
Merlin	9-Mar	24-Mar	8-Apr	27-Apr	2-May	11-May	18-May	2-Apr – 5-May	25-Apr
Peregrine Falcon	9-Mar	31-Mar	28-Apr	3-May	28-Apr	14-May	24-May	5-Apr – 12-May	28-Apr

1 Data based only on years 2000-2005 due to changes in count methodology (see text for details)
 2 Excluding sightings of Black Vulture (30 April 2003), Mississippi Kite (16 May 2001), Ferruginous Hawk (19 April 2002), and Gyrfalcon (14 March 2001)
 3 Note that arrivals and departures for many species may be dependent on start and end dates of each year's count (see Table 1)
 4 Dates between which the central 80% of the flight has been counted
 5 Date by which 50% of the flight has been counted

conformity with the standards set forth by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). I used 10x50 Leica binoculars and a 30x Kowa scope.

Studies by HawkWatch International suggest that it is optimal to have two observers counting raptors; efforts were made to have two observers on hand, although this was not always possible.

Choosing which count site to utilize each day was generally easy. Enger Tower was used except on days with strong northeast winds, which almost always coincided with lake-effect breeze conditions. Lake-effect breeze (or cooler-by-the-lake condition) is a phenomenon that occurs when warm air over the land rises faster than cool air over the lake. This creates a vacuum effect as the cold air is sucked on to the land, to replace the void left by the rising warm air.

Results and Discussion

From 2000–2005, I counted a total of 158,354 raptors. This is an annual average of 26,360 with a range of 22,554 to 33,238. The earliest date that the count started was on 17 February 2002. The latest date the count was in operation was 8 June 2004. More typical starting and ending dates are 1 March and 25 May. Beginning and ending dates were dependent on weather and movement of raptors. The average number of days spent counting each spring was 81. The average number of hours spent counting was 448.7 each year. The number of days ranges from 68 to 90 and the hours range from 355 to 574. Table 1 gives an annual summary of observation efforts and raptor counts by species from 1997–2005. Totals and means were calculated using only the data from 2000–2005. Data from 1997–1999 was put in the chart to present the data collected during those years.

An impressive number of 20 species of diurnal raptors was recorded. Among the more notable species was the second state record of Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) observed on 30 April 2003, and an adult light-morph Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) observed and photographed on 19 April 2002, which represented the first proof by specimen or photo of occurrence of this species in north-eastern Minnesota. These, along with two records of Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississip-*

Table 2. Percent (%) composition by species for spring flights at West Skyline Hawk Count, 2000–2005. Composition of flights during years 1997–1999 were excluded due to changes in methodology (see text).

SPECIES ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mean
Broad-winged Hawk	47.4	42.0	39.9	50.6	51.0	61.1	48.6
Red-tailed Hawk	23.8	24.0	28.8	22.4	22.3	10.7	22.0
Bald Eagle	10.7	11.7	11.7	11.2	10.3	11.6	11.2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10.4	9.1	9.5	9.3	8.0	11.3	9.6
Turkey Vulture	4.1	9.8	6.6	4.0	5.2	3.0	5.5
Rough-legged Hawk	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	1.2	0.6	1.0
Osprey	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
American Kestrel	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
Golden Eagle	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Northern Harrier	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
Cooper's Hawk	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Merlin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Northern Goshawk	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.1	0.04	0.1
Peregrine Falcon	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03
Swainson's Hawk	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Unidentified ²	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.004	0.003	0	0.1

1 Accidental species (Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, and Gyrfalcon) not included

2 All raptors not identified completely to species level

piensis) in 1997 and 2001, were reviewed and accepted by MOURC (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee).

Species observed are summarized in Table 2, from most common to least. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) and Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) are more susceptible to wind drift than other species. All other species show relatively close percentages from year to year. (This same observation has been made at Braddock Bay (Nicoletti 1986) and in the fall at Hawk Ridge.)

Seasonal Timing of Migration

The timing of migration was studied and analyzed. Table 3 summarizes seasonal timing of migration for all the regularly occurring species at WSHC. The table includes first, peak, and last observed with the range for each year, along with average mean date. The table also shows "bulk" passage (80%) with a range of dates, along with medium passage dates.

Table 4 displays the three highest counts for the regular occurring species at WSHC during 2000–2005. Some of these high counts represent some of the highest counts in the entire western Great Lakes region in North America during spring migration.

Table 4. Top three highest daily counts for all regularly-occurring raptor species at West Skyline Hawk Count, 2000–2005.

SPECIES	Highest daily count		Second highest		Third highest	
	Total	Date(s)	Total	Date(s)	Total	Date(s)
Turkey Vulture	637	4/14/01	414	4/10/01	335	4/13/02
Osprey	113	4/24/01	65	5/1/02	48	4/28/04
Bald Eagle	822	3/23/04	684	3/28/05	588	3/24/03
Northern Harrier	16	4/12/02	11	4/22/00	9	4/13/00
Sharp-shinned Hawk	719	5/6/05	450	4/13/02	385	4/28/04
Cooper's Hawk	12	5/6/05	10	4/14/01	8	3 dates
Northern Goshawk	5	3/15/04	3	5 dates	2	17 dates
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	3/25/00, 4/13/01, and 4/2/05			1	16 dates
Broad-winged Hawk	9206	5/6/05	5620	5/1/04	3837	4/29/03
Swainson's Hawk	2	4/27/01, 4/29/03, and 4/19/04			1	16 dates
Red-tailed Hawk	2222	4/12/02	2012	4/13/02	1404	3/26/00
Rough-legged Hawk	77	4/14/02	46	4/13/02	41	4/12/04
Golden Eagle	20	3/23/04	14	3/12/04, 3/15/04	13	3/4/00
American Kestrel	40	4/28/04	25	4/13/00, 4/27/01, and 4/13/02		
Merlin	8	4/22/00	7	4/28/04	5	4/18/05
Peregrine Falcon	3	4/14/01 and 5/8/04			2	3 dates

Table 5. Generalized timing and sequence of migration by age in select species at West Skyline Hawk Count, Duluth. Turkey Vulture, Osprey, and American Kestrel are not included because immatures are indiscernible by plumage during spring. Accidental species also are excluded.

SPECIES	ADULTS	IMMATURES ¹
Bald Eagle	Late Feb - late Mar	Mid Mar - late May
Northern Harrier	Late Mar - late Apr	Late Apr - late May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mid Mar - mid Apr	Late Apr - late May
Cooper's Hawk	Mid Mar - mid Apr	Late Apr - late May
Northern Goshawk	Mar - early Apr	mid Apr - Mid May
Red-shouldered Hawk	Late Mar - early Apr	Mid Apr - May
Broad-winged Hawk	Late Apr - mid May	Mid May - Jun
Swainson's Hawk	Mid Apr - early May	Mid May - late May
Red-tailed Hawk	Late Mar - late Apr	May - Jun
Rough-legged Hawk	Late Feb - late Apr	Late Apr - late May
Golden Eagle	Late Feb - late Mar	Apr - May
Merlin	Mid Mar - mid Apr	May
Peregrine Falcon	Mid Mar - mid May	Apr - May

1 For all species except eagles, "immatures" are birds less than one year old. For eagles, immatures include all birds in non-adult plumage.

Table 7. Comparison of fall flights at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory to spring flights at West Skyline Hawk Count, 2000–2005.

SPECIES ¹	Mean Fall ²	Mean Spring ²	Mean Return Rate ³
Turkey Vulture	2.1	3.4	157%
Osprey	0.51	0.54	106%
Bald Eagle	4.1	6.9	169%
Northern Harrier	0.7	0.1	18%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	22.1	6.0	27%
Cooper's Hawk	0.2	0.1	48%
Northern Goshawk	1.08	0.04	4%
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.005	0.009	171%
Broad-winged Hawk	93.8	30.4	32%
Swainson's Hawk	0.012	0.009	75%
Red-tailed Hawk	11.8	13.6	115%
Rough-legged Hawk	0.8	0.6	77%
Golden Eagle	0.19	0.17	90%
American Kestrel	3.1	0.2	8%
Merlin	0.23	0.05	21%
Peregrine Falcon	0.09	0.02	21%

1 Accidental species (Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, and Gyrfalcon) not included
 2 Numbers represent birds per observation hour. Each was calculated by finding the birds-per-hour statistic for each year and then averaging these statistics over the six-year period.
 3 Calculated as the mean spring birds-per-hour statistic divided by the mean fall birds-per-hour statistic

Table 6. General flight behavior of migrating raptors at West Skyline Hawk Count in response to wind speed and direction.

Wind Direction	Lookout ¹	Wind Speed < 15 mph		Wind Speed > 15 mph	
		Height of flight ²	Flight Path/Direction	Height of flight ²	Flight Path/Direction
Southeast	Enger Tower	Low	Bong Bridge - Thompson Hill	Low	Over harbor
South	Enger Tower	Low-Medium	Lakeside	Low	Allouez Bay - Enger Tower
Southwest	Enger Tower	Low-Medium	Lakeside	Low	Allouez Bay - Enger Tower
West	Enger Tower	Low-Medium	Lakeside	Low	Allouez Bay - Enger Tower
Northwest	Enger Tower	High	Blatnick Bridge - Enger Tower	High	Allouez Bay - Enger Tower
North	Enger Tower	High	Blatnick Bridge - Enger Tower	High	Allouez Bay - Enger Tower
Northeast	Thompson Hill	Low	Bong Bridge - Thompson Hill	Low	Along ridge to Barton Peak
East	Thompson Hill	Low	Bong Bridge - Thompson Hill	Low	Along ridge to Barton Peak

1 Wind direction alters flight behavior and thus determines which of the two lookouts is used (see text for details)
 2 "Low" generally means birds are less than 100 feet above the lookout, or often below it. During "high" flights, the birds were often several hundred feet up

The bulk movement occurs between 12 April and 9 May. Although each species has its own migration window, the table reflects the predominate species — Broad-winged Hawk — which has a yearly percentage that ranges from 39.9% to 61.1% with an overall mean of 48.6%.

Migration Sequence

Table 5 displays the general timing of migration for adults and immatures for 13 species recorded at WSHC during the 2000–2005 seasons. Of the 16 regularly occurring species recorded, adults migrated first, followed later by immatures. (Accidental species were excluded from table 5.) The remaining 3 species include Turkey Vulture, Osprey (*Pandion haliaeetus*), and American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), which are difficult to summarize because there is no way to accurately separate the age classes based on field observations (Wheeler 2003). Turkey Vultures acquire their red head by early spring of their first year of age, and American Kestrels have no discernable immature plumage. Ospreys migrating in the spring are apparently all adult as immatures remain on their wintering grounds in Central and South America until their next spring (Wheeler 2003).

Mechanics of Migration

One of the purposes of this study was to seek an understanding of the mechanics of migration by studying the effects of various topographical and meteorological factors as raptors move through the Duluth area.

The weather at the Duluth Harbor and Superior Airport were most similar to the lookout sites due to their proximity to the count sites. The Duluth Airport data indicated that inland temperatures were often 10°–20° warmer than temperatures close to the lake, and sometimes showed a different wind direction and speed. Many days, when temperatures were 60–70°F at the Duluth Airport, it would be 30–50°F along the lake with winds from the northeast.

Notes were taken, especially in early years, on the flight patterns in various weather conditions. Notes in later years concentrated on unusual weather or flight conditions that were not consistent with earlier observations. In Table 6 is a simplified chart that

displays these conditions and the birds' corresponding behavior.

There are distinct flight patterns correlating with certain weather conditions. Some seemed consistent, such as winds with a southerly to westerly component (10–20 mph or higher) pushing raptors along Allouez/Superior Bay, thus putting the flight right over Enger Tower. On these days, flight is often low, or even below eye level, as the raptors use the ridge to shelter themselves from the wind. These conditions offer optimal, close viewing of migrating raptors.

On days with a northeasterly component, the flight seemed to be concentrated on the southwest section of the Saw-tooth Ridge. Raptors were observed using the various high-elevated ridge peaks to get the lift needed to sustain their flight altitude. The cool lake breeze cuts or eliminates thermal activity, and the raptors are forced to use deflective updrafts off the western ridge. Again these conditions offered good viewing, as the birds were low and easy to count, although at times, depending on speed of the wind, the raptors would drift further away from the count site.

The only time that raptors were difficult to observe due to height was when there was a north wind; however, the flight was often directly over Enger Tower. Wind from this direction would often shut the flight down, especially when the wind speed would pick up.

Overall, the quality of views and ability to accurately count are better in the spring along West Skyline Parkway than perhaps other sites, including Hawk Ridge in the fall.

Comparison with Hawk Ridge

When comparing the numbers (see Table 7), my research showed that certain species might not use the same migration route in the spring as they do in the fall. Data were compared for fall and spring (fall 1999–2004 and spring 2000–2005). WSHC is unique in this regard as there are no studies comparing a spring and fall population of birds of the same geographic count area. The map shows the locations between Hawk Ridge and WSHC sites.

The data show that at least seven species migrate in the spring in numbers comparable to fall. They are Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald

Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Red-shouldered (*Buteo lineatus*), Red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). The calculated mean return rate of these seven species is near 100% or higher. It has been proposed by studies from radio telemetry that some species, such as Osprey, use the same general route back in the spring as they use in the fall (M. Martell, pers. comm.).

Seven species showed a return rate of 30% or less. These are Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) and Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Broad-winged Hawk, all three falcons and Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). It is hard to explain why these species do not have a higher return rate; perhaps they have higher mortality rate in their first year or perhaps they take a different route back. A somewhat surprising example is the Northern Goshawk, which is a short-to-medium distance migrant. Its large size and tendency to move along ridges (as it does in the fall), would lead to speculation that migration back in the spring would yield a higher return rate; however, it actually shows the lowest, with only 4% (Table 7).

There are some species that show strong correlation between the spring and fall count, including both eagles, most buteo species, Turkey Vultures, and Ospreys. In fact, in WSHC's short count history, two species have daily high counts that exceed the long, rich history of Hawk Ridge: 1) Bald Eagles — 822 counted on 23 March 2004, eclipsing the previous record of 744 set at Hawk Ridge 22 November 1994; and 2) 133 Ospreys on 24 April 2001.

Public Education/Awareness

Attempts were made to increase public awareness of spring migration. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory has advertised both the spring and fall count information on their web site (www.hawkridge.org), including directions to the sites, under what conditions to view the migration, and monthly totals. Data have also been put into the "HAWKCOUNT" database and is available online at (www.hawkcoun.org) and is updated through 21 May 2005. The *Duluth News-Tribune* and local television stations have carried stories about the spring count. Public interest has

been surprisingly high since my first spring counts although they have not reached the number or support of the fall count at Hawk Ridge. It could grow, however, as did Hawk Ridge, with more birding events centered around spring migration. Although numbers of visitors have not always been recorded at the lookouts, we have seen many birders and other folks get started counting because of the spring count and come back year after year. Most years there have been between 100–250 folks who have come specifically to view the migration; many others stop for other reasons. Although most visitors were from the Duluth area, birders from other parts of Minnesota as well as from six other states have also visited the count sites.

Summary and Conclusion

One of the main purposes of the count was to determine whether there was a significant migration of raptors through the Duluth-Superior Harbor area during the spring. Many individuals, birders, and ornithologists had either no idea or thought the movement was too insignificant to support a worthwhile count. Heintzelman (1979) listed raptor flights in Duluth as "poor" during the spring months, although he had no data to support this claim. In fact, in his newest edition of the same book (2004), he calls the spring season in Duluth "excellent" as a result of the new information discovered during this study.

This study has also proven that WSHC hosts the largest concentration of spring raptors on the western Great Lakes, with a yearly average of over 26,000 raptors. Daily high counts of Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Red-tailed Hawk are often near or higher than the counts at Hawk Ridge in the fall.

Future Studies

When I started the count in 1997, I was not intending to look at long-term trends in raptor populations. There are currently 34 years of data from fall counts taken at Hawk Ridge. With each year of the WSHC study, I have learned more and have built up a sizable data bank of information regarding movements of migrating raptors in the spring. However, six years of data is insufficient in determining population trends; more years of data need to be logged.



Map of various count sites in Duluth/Superior.

Unanswered questions about the spring migration here in the Duluth area include determining why we don't observe certain raptors, such as Northern Harriers, the three accipiters and the three falcons, in numbers comparable to fall flights. Perhaps future studies will show that many of the raptors mentioned above have different migration routes, such as passing WPBO. Seasonal totals at WPBO show high counts of the above species that are somewhat comparable to the fall counts taken at Hawk Ridge.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory for their financial support for the 2005 spring count. Others who have helped

with financial support over the years have been Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth Audubon Society, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. I would like to give special thanks to my wife Kate who supported my passion during those years. Dave Carman spent many hours in the field with me and helped with some of the counting duties. Ryan Brady assisted in compilation of the tables. Although many other folks came out and helped in various ways over the years, the following helped in the counting process: Dave Benson, Ryan Brady, Russ Edmonds, Jim Lind, and Peder Svingen.

Literature Cited

Heintzelman D. S. 1979. A Guide to Hawk-watching in North America. Pennsylvania

- State University Press, State College, Pennsylvania.
- Heintzelman D. S. 2004. A Guide to Hawk-watching in North America. Pennsylvania State University Press, State College, Pennsylvania USA.
- Janssen, R. B. 1987. Birds of Minnesota. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Moon N. S. and L. W. Moon. 1985. Raptor Counts at Braddock Bay, New York: Effects of Observer Coverage at Auxiliary Sites. Hawk Migration Association of North America.
- Nicoletti F. J. 1986 Summary Report of the 1986 Spring Count at Braddock Bay, New York. BBRR Report.
- Nicoletti, F. J. 1998. Summary of the 1997 Spring Hawk Count at Enger Tower, Duluth. *The Loon* 70:47-52.
- Wheeler, B. K. 2003. Raptors of Western North America, Princeton University Press.
- 5826 Morning Star Drive, Duluth MN 55804.**

The Spring Season 1 March through 31 May 2009

Paul E. Budde¹, Robert M. Dunlap², Douglas W. Kieser³, James W. Lind⁴, and William C. Marengo⁵

Mid-March brought large flocks of Greater White-fronted and Snow geese to the Southwest. Eurasian Wigeons were found in Wabasha and Chippewa. In late April a remarkable total of over 8,500 Greater and Lesser scaup were found off of Park Point in St. Louis. An over-wintering male Harlequin Duck stayed in Washington until mid-March; more surprising were the one or two females in St. Louis in May. All three scoters were located in the southern half of the state, though Long-tailed Ducks were only found on Lake Superior. In addition to the over-wintering Barrow's Goldeneye in Duluth, another was found in Grand Rapids, Itasca County.

DNR surveys estimated a 9% increase in Sharp-tailed Grouse statewide over the prior year, and Wild Turkeys were reported as far northwest as Kittson.

Lone Red-throated Loons were discovered in Stearns and Benton in late April, but the loon story of the season was the unprecedented numbers of Red-throateds counted at the West Skyline Hawk Count — peaking at

117 on 3 May. On the other hand, no Pacific Loons were found this spring. Migrant Clark's Grebes appeared in Meeker and Anoka, but neither stayed long.

Four western counties plus Olmsted hosted Snowy Egrets, while Cattle Egrets were found in 14 counties — predominantly in the south and west.

Several Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks were counted at the West Skyline Hawk Count, while others were documented in McLeod and Stearns. A Prairie Falcon was at Hamden Slough N.W.R. in mid-April.

Yellow Rails were reported in six counties, including two first county records. A Common Moorhen was located at Sherburne N.W.R. and stayed through the end of the season. Agassiz N.W.R. briefly hosted the eleventh state record Snowy Plover in late May, while Piping Plovers were located in five counties.

Away from Lake Superior's North Shore, Whimbrels were found in Kandiyohi, Marshall and Polk — though all reports were of single-digit flocks. Reported from 26

counties, including a first county record for Koochiching, Hudsonian Godwits were more widespread than usual. Two Red Knots were in Marshall and St. Louis each.

A number of Calidrids, including Least, Baird's, and Pectoral sandpipers, along with Dunlin arrived quite early in late March. Lake Byllesby's third Ruff was a female in alternate plumage.

In late May an adult California Gull was discovered in Marshall. Duluth hosted a number of late migrant gulls in May, including Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous, and a fourth state record Glaucous-winged Gull. The southern half of the state produced two or three Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a fifth state record Slaty-backed Gull. The latter species was not found in Minnesota until 2006, but has been reported annually since! Also increasing in frequency is Arctic Tern. Two were found this season, making it present in four of the last six springs. Though Regular in the fall, Parasitic Jaeger is only Casual in the spring, so one at Park Point was a nice find.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported in over half of the south counties, while lingering "winter" owls, such as Snowy, Northern Hawk, Great Gray, and Boreal were present in muted numbers.

Two Say's Phoebes produced three new county records, though neither of the birds lingered. Loggerhead Shrikes were found in 16 counties — including Lake — which is a slight improvement over the 14 and 13 counties of the prior two spring seasons. The lone White-eyed Vireo of the season was at Beaver Creek Valley State Park. Another southern specialty, Tufted Titmouse, wandered as far north as Isanti for a first county record, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher made it all the way to Kittson.

Townsend's Solitaires only carried over from the winter in the counties of Sherburne and Ramsey. Similarly, Varied Thrush could only be found in 3 counties, after 22 in the prior winter. Northern Mockingbirds were almost plentiful, with at least 13 individuals spread across nine counties. A Sage Thrasher in Hennepin was the twelfth state record, and the fourth for the county.

Two Yellow-throated Warblers were documented — one in Washington and a second

county record for St. Louis. Two Prairie Warblers were found in the south. Two Worm-eating Warblers were in Hennepin, as were two Yellow-breasted Chats. A third chat was discovered in Winona.

Henslow's Sparrows were widespread in the south, and one ventured to Pennington for a first county record. The winter's Golden-crowned Sparrow in Duluth was rediscovered in late March/early April, but not until after the state's seventh record of this species showed up at a feeder in Dakota. Also in Dakota was an unusually far east Chestnut-collared Longspur among a flock of Laplands.

Summer Tanager numbers almost doubled those of the prior spring, and included first county records for Carver and Waseca, and unusual reports for Clearwater and Clay. Five Western Tanagers were found in the three far northwest counties, but only three could be found in the other 84 counties of the state. A carefully identified first spring male Blue Grosbeak in St. Louis was a pleasant surprise, as were two Lazuli Buntings at a feeder in Otter Tail. As the male disappeared from the feeder three days before the female, it's unlikely this twosome ever became a pair.

Brilliantly colored adult male Painted Buntings were photographed in — you guessed it — two counties. While Dickcissels generally don't arrive in the state until the last third of May, this year's first report was of an April bird in Nicollet. Another in Carlton was also notable.

The pattern of winter finches in the state mirrored what was seen in the prior winter. Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak numbers remained low. On the other hand, White-winged Crossbills were frequently found into mid-April. Common Redpolls were reported from 77 of 87 counties. Hoary Redpolls were also present in unusually high numbers until sightings of them ended abruptly around 10 April. Pine Siskins were found well into May, with numerous reports of nesting activities.

Weather summary: March was a very wet month in Minnesota. Central and northern parts of the state received triple the monthly norm, though the southeastern corner was well below average. Three major storms struck during the month: 10–11 March, 22–25 March, and 30 March – 1 April. Temperatures

were near normal on average, though a low of -36°F at Embarrass on 12 March, followed by a high of +69°F in the city of Marshall four days later, illustrated the variability typical of the state.

April was rather dry across most of the state; this was especially welcome news for the Red River Basin which experienced major flooding in late March and into April. Temperatures were again near normal on average, with some record breaking high temperatures on 23–24 April in the southern half of the state.

May precipitation was again below normal — 1.5 to 2.5 inches across much of the state. Temperatures were mostly near or below average, though it did reach 100°F in the west-central region on 19 May (to be followed by a low of 20°F two days later in the northeast). The Red River finally fell below flood stage in mid-month, after being above that mark for 61 days.

Undocumented reports: Cinnamon Teal 4/17 Polk; White-faced Ibis 4/25 Big Stone (8); Yellow Rail 4/6 Fillmore; White-eyed Vireo 5/12 Hennepin; Marsh Wren 4/5 Ramsey; Gray-cheeked Thrush 4/15 Fillmore, Hubbard; Swainson's Thrush 4/14 Mower, 4/17 Hennepin; Gray Catbird 4/18 Morrison; Bobolink 4/22 Becker; Pine Grosbeak 5/22 St.

Louis.

Acknowledgements: We thank Anthony Hertz, Jeanie Jopru and Jim Lind for providing transcripts of Minnesota's weekly birding reports. Special thanks to Dave Cahlander for building and maintaining the seasonal reports submission web page (<http://moum.org/moureports/season.php>). Medians of recent arrivals and departures were compiled and calculated by Paul Budde from published and unpublished seasonal report data from 1985 through 2008. A preliminary draft of this report was improved by comments from Peder H. Svingen and Karl J. Bardon. Finally and most importantly, our appreciation goes out to all our contributors. We are especially grateful to those who respond to our requests for details and who submit observations online.

¹ **4612 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419-5336;**

² **800 West College Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082;**

³ **6045 Lyndale Avenue South, Apt. 316, Minneapolis, MN 55419-2239;**

⁴ **320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616-1620;**

⁵ **7550 Weber Drive, Chaska, MN 55318-9371.**

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. "ph" denotes a species documented with a photograph.
11. "v.t." denotes a species documented by video tape.

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@aonbenfield.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [40 South, 5 North] Early south (median 3/7) 3/1 Pipestone DBM, 3/3 Scott SWe, CRM. All north reports: 3/20 Otter Tail SPM, 4/2 Grant (12 EEO, 4/10 Otter Tail (2,500 in a single field in Aastad Twp.) KRE, 4/11–12 Wilkin LS, 4/18 Clearwater HHD, Polk JMJ. High counts 3/15 Jackson (estimated **10,000** near Sioux Valley and Skunk Lake W.M.A.s), Nobles (3,000) JCC. Late south 5/16 Dakota SWe, 5/17 Stearns RMD, JWH (median 5/15).

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [39 South, 11 North] Early south (median 3/2) 3/7 Jackson and Watonwan PEJ, DFN, 3/9 Meeker DMF. Early north 3/16 Kanabec CAM, 4/8 Clay *vide* JMJ. High count 3/15 Jackson (estimated 5,000 near Sioux Valley and Skunk Lake W.M.A.s) JCC. Late south 5/28 Nobles BTS, 5/30+ Lac qui Parle (3 at Salt Lake) PLJ (median 5/24). Late north 5/22 Polk RBJ, DAC, 5/24 Marshall, Pennington m.ob.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) — [24 South, 5 North] Early south (median 3/18) 3/7 Jackson and Nobles PEJ, DFN, 3/15 Brown †BTS, Dakota JPM, Goodhue and Winona PEJ. All north reports: 3/22 Douglas †JPE, 4/5 Grant, Otter Tail SPM, 4/11 Wilkin LS, KRE, 5/9 Douglas PEJ, DFN, 5/27 Lake of the Woods DBW. High counts 3/29 Freeborn (30) PEJ, 3/16 Lac qui Parle (24, Walter Twp.) BJU, 3/17 Goodhue (22) PEJ, 3/20 Dakota (18, Spring Lake) †BAF. Late south 5/16 Watonwan CRM, 5/20 Kandiyohi †JCC (median 5/13). New county record: 3/24 **Houston** (near Reno) DBz.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [38 South, 5 North] Documented in only 7 counties. Early south (median 2/26) 3/1 Lincoln, Murray, Pipestone DBM, 3/5 Le Sueur †DPG, 3/6 Brown †BTS, Olmsted HHD, Steele DBM. All north reports: 3/22 **Douglas** JPE, 3/25 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/10 Douglas JPE, 4/11 Wilkin LS, 4/12 Otter Tail LS, 4/19 Otter Tail †DST, 4/25 Douglas JPE, 5/28 Lake of the Woods DBW, MHK. High counts 3/7 Jackson (474) PEJ, DFN, 3/7 Nobles (140) PEJ, DFN. Late south 5/2 Stearns PCC, 5/10 Watonwan LS (median 5/13). Observers are asked to document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [4 South] All reports: 3/13 McLeod (2 in Hutchinson with intact rear toes/nails) DPG, 3/15 Rice (Wells Lake) DAB, 3/28 – 4/1 Meeker (1, Collinwood Twp.) DMF, 5/2 Scott (adult at Louisville Swamp) †BAF.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [37 South, 25 North] High counts 3/2 Carver (66, Oak Lake), Wright (52, Crawford Lake C.P.) DPG. Please continue to report numbers, exact locations and dates of observations.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [35 South, 15 North] Early south (median 3/11) 3/14 Rice DAB, 3/15 Goodhue and Wabasha PEJ, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 3/26) 3/17 St. Louis TPW, 3/20 Otter Tail SPM. High counts 4/12 Wilkin (3,000, Bradford Twp.) KRE, 3/29 Sibley (2,050, Silver Lake, Swan Lake, Sand Lake) WCM, 3/30 Carver (1,435, Carver P. R.) WCM. Late south 4/19 Renville RMD, DAB, 4/22 Stearns PCC (median 5/4). Late north 5/24 Red Lake RBJ, DAC, 5/28 (median) Lake of the Woods DBW.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [52 South, 31 North] See winter report for over-wintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/18) 3/21 Otter Tail SPM, Todd DPG, 3/22 Douglas JPE. High count 5/16 St. Louis (220, Duluth) PHS.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [52 South, 26 North] Early north (median 3/24) 3/12 St. Louis DBF, 3/15 Otter Tail SPM. High count 3/25 Dakota (400) JPM.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) — [2 South] Single adult males 3/28–30 **Wabasha** (Peterson Lake) ph. †RMD, †DAB, DBz, m.ob., 4/10 **Chippewa** (Montevideo) ph. †JRa, JPi.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [44 South, 24 North] Early south (median 3/1) 3/7 Blue Earth, Dakota, and Jackson PEJ, DFN, Winona HHD, 3/11 Winona DBz. Early north 3/26 (median) Marshall MA, 4/4 Mille Lacs ASC. High count 3/25 Dakota (250) JPM.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [13 South, 13 North] High count 3/5 St. Louis (42, Canal Park) PHS. Late south 4/25 Lac qui Parle FGO, then two late-May reports: 5/29 Freeborn RTP, 5/31 Scott PEJ (median 5/17).

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [53 South, 33 North] Reported statewide.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) — [51 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/11) 3/16 Lac qui Parle BJU, Nobles DHR, 3/17 Dakota EEO. Early north (median 3/29) 4/2 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/3 Marshall JMJ, Otter Tail DST. High count 4/24 St. Louis (537, Park Point) PHS.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) — No documented reports.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — [51 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/3) 3/5 Rice DAB, 3/7 Dakota KR0, Le Sueur DPG, Watonwan PEJ, DFN. Early north (median 3/27) 3/15 Otter Tail SPM, 3/22 Douglas JPE. High count 4/24 St. Louis (960, Park Point) PHS.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [42 South, 26 North] See winter report for over-wintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/20) 3/16 Kanabec CAM, 3/20 Otter Tail SPM. High count 3/15 Jackson (250) JCC.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [50 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/6) 3/5 Dakota CMB, PEJ, 3/7 Jackson PEJ, DFN. Early north (median 3/27) **3/12** St. Louis DBF, 3/18 Mille Lacs ASc. High counts 3/25 Dakota (200) JPM, 4/24 St. Louis (182, Park Point) PHS.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [47 South, 23 North] Early south (median 2/29) 3/5 Rice DAB, 3/7 Jackson PEJ, DFN, Le Sueur DPG. Early north (median 3/28) 3/22 Douglas JPE, 4/3 Marshall JMJ. High counts 3/22 Winona (3,500), Wabasha (2,500) PEJ.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [48 South, 25 North] See winter report for over-wintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/24) 3/8 Otter Tail SPM, 3/25 St. Louis JWJ. High counts 3/7 Jackson (271) PEJ, DFN, 4/13 St. Louis (94, Park Point) PHS.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [53 South, 34 North] See winter report for over-wintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/20) **3/8** Otter Tail SPM, 3/21 Cass BAW, Traverse MO. High counts 4/18 Mille Lacs (**28,000**) PEJ, 4/24 St. Louis (600, Park Point) PHS, 4/5 Scott (300) JCC.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [41 South, 25 North] Early south (median 3/8) 3/1 Dakota PEB, 3/4 Hennepin PEJ. Early north (median 3/31) 4/1 St. Louis PHS, 4/3 Marshall JMJ. The highest scaup counts were from Duluth Harbor in St. Louis during the last half of April. On 4/18 PHS counted 1,123 Greaters, 744 Lessers, and an additional 431 scaup sp. On 4/24 he counted **3,245** Greaters, 1,854 Lessers, and an additional 3,420 scaup sp. — 8,519 in all. Another observer (KJB) spent several hours with this same flock and counted 9,200 in total, of which 40% were estimated to be Greater (**3,680**) and 60% Lesser (5,520).

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [53 South, 33 North] See winter report for over-wintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/15)

3/11 St. Louis SLF, 3/22 Douglas JPE. See the previous species for details on high counts.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) — [1 South, 1 North] Over-wintering male at Washington (Prescott/Point Douglas/Mississippi R.) lingered until 3/11 †LS, DOB. Females in St. Louis at Park Point 5/5–6 ph. KJB, ph. PHS and 5/24 SMC may have been a single individual.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [2 South, 1 North] Two south reports: 5/5 Olmsted (4, East Landfill Reservoir) DMA, JWH, 5/7 Hennepin (female, Lake Calhoun) TAT, †CMB, †PEB, ph. †ALD, m.ob. All north reports: 5/6 St. Louis (female, Park Point) PHS, 5/17 St. Louis (2 males and 2 females, Park Point) PHS, 5/27 St. Louis (2) KJB.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) — [1 South, 2 North] Only south report: 5/2 Kandiyohi (Lake Lillian) DBM. All north: 5/17 St. Louis (2, Park Point) PHS, 5/24 Cook (2, Grand Marais) DFN.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) — [1 South, 1 North] All reports: 4/19 Isanti (Lory Lake) DBM, 4/28 St. Louis KJB.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [3 North] All reports from Lake Superior: 3/6 St. Louis (total of 232 at Stoney Point, most in St. Louis County since 1960) PHS, 3/18–5/20 Lake (max. 15, Two Harbors) JWJ, 4/4 Lake (20 near Gooseberry S.P.) MWS, 4/24 Cook CJT, 5/23–24 Cook (max. 49 between Paradise Beach and Grand Marais) DFN, 5/24 St. Louis (10 near McQuade Road) FKB, 5/25 Cook (5, Lutsen) SST.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [52 South, 32 North] High counts 4/24 St. Louis (67, Park Point) PHS, 5/6 Crow Wing (50, Ironton W.T.P.) JSB. Late south 5/17 Stearns RMD, JWH, 5/19 Rice TFB (median 5/30). Late north 5/29 Koochiching EEO, 5/30 Douglas JPE, Marshall JMJ, but also see summer report.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [48 South, 30 North] High counts 3/3 Dakota (557, Black Dog Lake) PEJ, 4/13 St. Louis (457, Park Point) PHS. Late south 5/10 Blue Earth LS, 5/13 Lac qui Parle BJU, Stearns FGo (median 5/12).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) — [2 North] All reports: 3/1–8 St. Louis (over-wintering adult male, Duluth) †PHS, m.ob., 4/7–9 **Itasca** (Grand Rapids W.T.P.) KTP, †SC, ph. †EEO, m.ob.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) —

[48 South, 32 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/17) 3/15 Cass BAW, Otter Tail SPM, 3/16 Aitkin KCR. High count 3/27 Carver (101, Rapids Lake) WCM.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [47 South, 25 North] High counts 3/28 Dakota (700, Lake Byllesby) BAF, 3/17 Washington (150, Point Douglas) EEO. Late south 4/25 Anoka HHD, Carver WCM, Washington HHD, 5/23 Chisago MJB (median 5/24).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [40 South, 17 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (away from Lake Superior) 4/9 Cass BAW, 4/10 Crow Wing RBJ, DAC, Douglas JPE. High count 4/11 Hennepin (138, Lake Calhoun) CMB. Late south 5/7 Hennepin PEB, 5/9 Goodhue SWe (median 5/19).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [49 South, 17 North] See winter report for early south migrants. Early north (median 4/3) 3/15 Otter Tail SPM, 3/21 Traverse MO. Unusual northeast reports: 3/25 St. Louis (female in Duluth harbor at Park Point) JWJ, 5/5 St. Louis (St. Louis R.) JJK, 5/16 St. Louis (Biwabik W.T.P.) JWJ, m.ob.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [16 South, 1 North] High count 3/5 Meeker (5, Acton Twp.) DMF; all other reports were of 1–2 birds. Only north report: 5/26 Clay RHO.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [52 South, 21 North] High count 3/15 Wadena (23) PJB. Reported as far north as Marshall, Roseau, Wadena, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Carlton.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [11 South, 28 North] Found throughout normal range, including Anoka PEB, Dakota (Miesville Ravine) m.ob., Fillmore NBO, Houston DFN, PEJ. High count 4/27 Lake (20 detected along 25 miles of CR 2, CR 15, and Stony River Forest Road) JWJ. Drumming counts up 43% from 2008 in the forested regions (MN DNR).

Spruce Grouse (*Falcapennis canadensis*) — [4 North] High count 3/7 Lake of the Woods (9) MHK. Also reported from Itasca (Bear Lake) EEO, SC Koochiching (Toumey Williams Rd and CR 13) FKB, FGo, MJB, and Lake (SR 1) NLM.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [1 South, 10 North] High counts 4/21 Lake of the Woods (42) *fide* MJM, 3/15 Polk (30) MJM, 5/28 Lake of the Woods (29) MHK, 5/30 Beltrami

(25) MJM, 4/13 Aitkin (24) *fide* JWJ. Also reported from Carlton, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Roseau, and St. Louis. Unusual south reports outside of typical range in Lac qui Parle (Plover Prairie) BJU, ASc. Total of 2,699 individuals observed on 199 leks; up 9% from 2008 (MN DNR).

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [1 South, 8 North] Presumed releases seen in Lac qui Parle (Flinks W.M.A. and Plover Prairie). All north reports: Becker (max. 16, Hamden Slough N.W.R.) *fide* MJM, Clay (max. 16, Felton Prairie S.N.A) PLJ, Grant, Otter Tail, Polk (max. 32) MJM, Red Lake, Traverse, Wilkin.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [44 South, 20 North] Reported as far north as Kittson, Marshall, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, and Carlton.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) — [2 South, 1 North] Two inland records: 4/22 Stearns (Sauk Lake) †PCC, 4/24 Benton (Little Rock Lake) RLE. All other reports from St. Louis (Duluth) beginning 4/25 (26 at W.S.H.C. and 3 at Park Point) KJB, PHS. Unprecedented numbers documented migrating past W.S.H.C., mostly in a westerly direction in the early mornings, with a peak count of 117 on 5/3 (KJB). Also see summer report.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) — No reports.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [38 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/21 Dakota LEC, SWe, Rock RMD, Washington LS, 3/24 Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/2) 3/24 Otter Tail *fide* MJM, 3/25 Crow Wing JSB. Peak count 4/24 St. Louis (181, W.S.H.C.) KJB. Season total at W.S.H.C. of 1179 KJB.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [49 South, 27 North] Early south (median 3/9) 3/7 Dakota PEJ, 3/14 Meeker DMF. Early north 3/27 (median) Cass BAW, 4/3 Marshall MJM. High counts 4/8 Olmsted (100) CWG, 4/20 Hennepin (63, Lake Harriet/Calhoun) CMB.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — [26 South, 21 North] Early south (median 3/26) 3/24 Dakota JPM, Lac qui Parle BJU, 3/29 Houston DAB, RMD, JWH. Early north (median 4/10) 4/3 Marshall MJM, 4/12 Cass BAW, Otter Tail LS, St. Louis PHS. High counts 4/29 St. Louis (325) KJB, 4/13 Hennepin (71, Minneapolis) CMB. Late south 5/2 Kandiyohi JoS, Steele DAB, NFT, Stevens DBM, 5/4 Carver JCy, Lac qui Parle CRM, Rice TFB (median 5/14). Late north 5/3 Cook EEO, Red Lake MJM, 5/21 St. Louis PHS (median 6/3).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [30

South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/3) 4/4 Meeker DMF, 4/5 Mower ARW, JWH. Early north (median 4/7) 4/3 Marshall JMJ, 4/14 Cass BAW, St. Louis PHS. High count 4/25 St. Louis (103) PHS.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [12 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/9) 4/25 Big Stone MJB, SWe, Lac qui Parle FGo, MJB, Pope MJB, 4/26 Dakota JPM. Early north 4/19 Morrison FGo, 4/24 Marshall GT.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [18 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/10 Faribault RMD, 4/13 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/21) 4/25 Douglas JPE, 4/30 Marshall GT.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — [2 South] All documented reports: 4/22 Meeker (Lake Ripley) †DMF, 5/11–12 **Anoka** (Lake George, second county record) †DWK, KLF.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [47 South, 24 North] Early south (median 3/26) 3/15 Houston (70, Wildcat Landing) JWH, 3/21 Dakota PEB, Winona DFN, ANY. Early north (median 4/7) 4/3 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 4/10 Douglas JPE, Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC. High counts 3/24 Lac qui Parle (280, Marsh Lake) BJU, 4/4 Carver (182, Rapids Lake) WCM, 4/25 St. Louis (166, W.S.H.C.) KJB, 4/24 Dakota (155, Lake Byllesby) FKB, 5/8 St. Louis (149, St. Louis R.) PHS. Season total at W.S.H.C. of 1,066 KJB. Unusual location: 5/3 Lake (21, Knife R.) SDA.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [46 South, 26 North] Early south (median 3/17) 3/14 Ramsey (5) BAF, 3/15 Rice DAB, DWK, TFB. Early north (median 3/30) 4/3 St. Louis DBF, 4/10 Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC. High counts 4/19 Stearns (600, Vail Lake) MJB, 4/23 Yellow Medicine (600) DPG.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [14 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/18) 4/16 Nicollet RMD, 4/19 Anoka DFN. Early north (median 4/18) 4/3 Marshall JMJ, 4/16 Aitkin PEJ. High counts 5/6 Anoka (7, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) PEB, 5/18 Swift (7) WCM.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [10 South, 1 North] All south reports: 5/3–16 Winona ANY, 5/4–6 Anoka AXH, DWK, PEB, 5/4–8 Nicollet RMD, WCM, 5/15 Meeker (Tower's Lake) DMF, 5/17 Stearns RMD, JWH, 5/19 Murray JEB, 5/22 Carver (2, Assumption Lake) JCy, Lyon RJS, 5/23 Chisago MJB, 5/30 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) ALD, CRM. Only north report: 5/23 Marshall (3) CRM.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [49 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/8) 3/2 Sherburne ASC, 3/7 Ramsey BAF, Rice TFB. Early north (median 3/20) 3/21 Grant SPM, 3/22 Todd MSK. High counts 4/8 Wright (90) DPG, 3/28 McLeod (50) MJB.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) — [40 South, 16 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/23 Dakota CRM, DOB, 3/24 Ramsey SWe. Early north (median 4/1) 4/4 Otter Tail DST, 4/9 Morrison RJS. High count 5/17 Rice (37) DAB. Unusual northeast report 5/28 St. Louis (Duluth Twp.) UK.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [4 South, 1 North] All reports: 4/21 Pope (2, Gilchrist Twp.) DPG, 4/25 Lyon (Coon Creek W.M.A.) ph. RJS, 4/26 Lac qui Parle (Caerulean W.M.A.) *vide* BJU, 5/10 Grant (3, Pelican Lake) BWF, 5/13 Lac qui Parle (Marsh Lake) BJU, ASC, 5/21 Olmsted (South Landfill Reservoir) JWH.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) — No reports.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [10 South, 4 North] All south reports: 4/23 Cottonwood DHr, 4/24 Brown (2, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 4/25 Waseca/Rice (near Waterville) WPS, 5/3–7 Kandiyohi (Swan Lake W.P.A.) JoS, DPG, 5/4 Freeborn AEB, 5/13 Lac qui Parle (3 at Big Stone N.W.R., 1 at Marsh Lake) BJU, 5/21 Blue Earth (6) *vide* ALD, 5/23 Lac qui Parle (5 near Boyd) FAE, Meeker (Kingston South Twp.) DMF, 5/24 Nicollet (2) RMD, 5/27 Stearns (2 near Farming) DMF. All north reports: 5/6 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 5/10–20 Grant (max. 13 near Pelican Lake) BWF, PLJ, JCC, 5/10 Douglas (16 near Pelican Lake) BWF, Mille Lacs (near Princeton airport) NSC.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [34 South, 16 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/24 Cottonwood DHr, Hennepin BAF, MDu, Nicollet RMD, 4/25 Dakota CMB, Olmsted OWB, Rice TFB. Early north (median 5/3) 4/26 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/1 Douglas JPE. High count 5/16 Hennepin (9, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) BAF.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [14 South, 3 North] Early south 3/29 (median) Hennepin CMB, 4/4 Meeker DMF. All north reports: 4/18–19 Otter Tail SPM, DST, 4/24 Marshall GT, 5/2–11 Traverse DPG, JCC, 5/17+ Marshall m.ob. High count 4/25 Hennepin (8, Lake Hiawatha) BAF.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — [1 South] Only report: 4/20–28 Hennepin (2, St. Louis Park) *vide* AXH.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 20 April 2009, St. Louis Park, Hennepin County. Photo by Dan Hasty.

ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.) — [1 South] Only report: 5/17 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) †BTS.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [51 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/11) 3/15 Washington LS, 3/16 Carver JCy, Nobles DHr, Rice DAB. Early north (median 3/30) 3/17 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB, 3/18 Cass DAY, then no reports until 3/29 Todd MSK. High count 4/17 St. Louis (162, W.S.H.C.) KJB. Also see Table 1.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [29 South, 22 North] Early south (median 3/27) 4/3 Dakota JPM, 4/4 Carver JCy, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/1) 4/10 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) NAJ, 4/11 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB, 4/12 Aitkin CRM. High count 4/25 St. Louis (29, W.S.H.C.) KJB. Also see Table 1.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [53 South, 32 North] Seasonal total of 4,142 at W.S.H.C. (peak of 419 on 3/17) KJB. Also see Table 1.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [51 South, 32 North] Early north (median 3/10) 3/15 Hubbard SPM, Polk and Red Lake JMJ, 3/16 Marshall *vide* JMJ, Otter Tail DST, St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB. High counts 4/25 Lac qui Parle (30) SWE, 3/22 Douglas

(21) JPE, 4/5 Kandiyohi (16) MJB. Also see Table 1.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [34 South, 23 North] Early north (median 3/7) 3/1 Crow Wing JSB, Todd MSK, 3/7 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB. Seasonal total of 2,070 at W.S.H.C. (peak of 292 on 4/24) KJB. Late south 5/28 Nobles BTS, 5/31 Brown m.ob. Also see Table 1.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [44 South, 20 North] Early north (median 3/18) 3/6 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB, 3/22 Douglas JPE. Also see Table 1.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [2 South, 6 North] All south reports: 3/16 Lac qui Parle (Baxter W.M.A.) BJU, 4/10 Hennepin ABL. North reports from Crow Wing, Douglas, Itasca, Koochiching, Marshall, St. Louis. Also see Table 1.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [21 South, 9 North] Early north (median 3/14) 3/21 Otter Tail SPM, 4/9 Cass BAW. All other north reports: Beltrami, Crow Wing, Douglas, Isanti, Morrison, St. Louis (total of 4 at W.S.H.C.) KJB, Todd.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platyterus*) — [29 South, 24 North] Early south (median 4/7) 4/9 Murray DHr, 4/17 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/10) 4/2 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 4/17 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB. Seasonal total of 7,560 at W.S.H.C. (peak of 2,770 on 5/4) KJB. Also see Table 1.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [13 South, 4 North] Early south (median 4/3) 4/7 Meeker DMF, 4/10 Cottonwood DHr. All north reports: 4/10 Douglas JPE, 4/18 Polk JMJ, 5/3 Polk JMJ, 5/9 Traverse PEJ, DFN, 5/20 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB, 5/21 St. Louis (juv. light morph, 40th Ave. W./Erie Pier) MSS.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [53 South, 33 North] Reported statewide. Seasonal total of 3,516 at W.S.H.C. (peak of 664 on 4/11) KJB, included single Harlan's on 4/5, 4/12 and 4/16. Harlan's also reported 4/6 McLeod †KRE, 5/9 Stearns †PCC.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [22 South, 27 North] High counts 4/11 (24, W.S.H.C.) KJB, 3/28 Marshall (20) SAS. Late south 4/27 Mower ARW, 5/6 Anoka DWK, PEB (median 5/10). Late north 5/25 Polk HHD, CRM, St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) KJB, 5/28 Pennington MA (median 5/24). Also see Table 1.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [6 South, 5 North] Early reports were difficult to distinguish from wintering birds. Reported south beginning

3/5 Meeker DMF, 3/21 Brown RBW and Meeker DMF. Reported north beginning 3/13 St. Louis (2 at W.S.H.C./Enger Tower, Duluth) KJB, PHS, 4/8 Clay MEB. High count 3/13 St. Louis (14 at W.S.H.C.) KJB. Last reported south 4/3 Ramsey AXH; last reported north 5/24 Hubbard SPM.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [53 South, 32 North] Early north (median 3/7) 3/15 Becker SPM, Cass BAW, Red Lake JMJ. High count 4/5 Kandiyohi (26) MJB.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [13 South, 23 North] Early north (median 3/14) 3/7 Lake JWJ, 3/15 Red Lake JMJ. Late south 5/13 Stearns FGo, 5/31 Hennepin TAT (median 5/18).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [26 South, 13 North] Early north (median 4/8) 3/6 St. Louis ABL, 3/15 St. Louis SLF, 3/28 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ. High counts 5/18 Olmsted (5, new spring record) CWG, 5/6 St. Louis (3 at W.S.H.C.) KJB.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) — [1 North] The only report was one at Hamden Slough N.W.R. in Becker on 4/15 *vide* JMJ.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [3 South, 3 North] All south reports: 5/2 **Meeker** (vocalizing birds) DBM, 5/17 **Stearns** (vocalizing bird) BWF, DRB, RMD, 5/17–18 Swift (vocalizing bird) WCM. All north reports: 5/6 Polk (Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) NGE, 5/27 Aitkin (6, McGregor Marsh) CMB, 5/28 Cass (2, Swamp Lake Marsh) BAW.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) — [27 South, 11 North] Early south (median 4/15) 4/16 Faribault RBW, 4/17 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/5) 5/6 Otter Tail TJa, 5/9 Otter Tail DST. High count 5/30 Hennepin (9, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) ALD.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) — [38 South, 25 North] Early south (median 4/14) 4/1 (ties earliest date) Hennepin DDO, 4/15 Washington DFN and Winona ASM. Early north (median 4/23) 4/15 Crow Wing JDB, 4/19 Kanabec DBM. No significant counts.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) — [1 North] Only report: 5/25+ Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) PJJ.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [52 South, 25 North] Early north (median 3/28) 3/16 Cass BAW and Otter Tail (2, likely over-wintering birds) DST, 3/22 Douglas (2) JPE. High count 4/4

Wabasha (4000, Maloney Lake, Mississippi River) BAF.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) — [34 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/14) 3/14 Meeker DMF, Rice (2) DAB, TFB, Winona ASM. Early north (median 3/21) 3/8 Wadena DBM, 3/15 Mille Lacs Asc. No significant counts.

[WHOOPIING CRANE] 5/4-5 Steele (2 south of Owatonna were presumably from the Necedah N.W.R. flock) KRV.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — [13 South, 5 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/20–22 Dakota JPM, 5/2 Stevens DBM. Early north (median 5/16) 5/17 Cass BAW, 5/22 Marshall JMJ. High count 5/23 Marshall (20) REM, m.ob. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [11 South, 8 North] Early south (median 4/17) 3/24 Brown (2, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) ph. BTS, 3/25 Kandiyohi RSF. Early north (median 4/29) 5/9 Morrison FGo, 5/21 Wilkin RBJ, DAC. High count 5/18 Swift (80) WCM. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) — [1 North] One bird observed 5/30 Marshall (Parker Pool, Agassiz N.W.R., second refuge and 11th state record) ph. †DBW, JMJ.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [26 South, 12 North] Early south (median 4/22) 4/18 Dakota (3, Lake Byllesby) MDu, 4/20 Dakota (3) JPM. Early north (median 5/8) 4/25 Itasca EEO, 5/9 Morrison FGo. High count 5/16 Dakota (125, Lake Byllesby) MDu. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) — [3 South, 2 North] All south reports: 4/25 Lac qui Parle MJB, 5/3–4 Kandiyohi (near Pennock) LS, m.ob., 5/3–19 Kandiyohi (at least 3, Olson Lake W.P.A.) HHD, m.ob., 5/17 **Cottonwood** (Talcot Lake W.M.A.) DPG. All north reports: 5/1 Becker (Detroit Lakes City Beach) BDS, 5/14–16 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) m.ob.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [53 South, 31 North] Early south (median 3/2) 3/7 Carver WCM and Scott DWK, 3/14 Dakota SLP, Meeker DMF, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 3/18) 3/15 Mille Lacs Asc, 3/16 Cass BAW, Otter Tail SPM, Polk BDF. High count 3/27 Houston (120) DPG.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) —

Table 1. Monthly and seasonal totals, peak flight and date, and range of occurrence for species at the West Skyline Hawk Count in Duluth, St. Louis County, Spring 2009.

	March	April	May	Totals	Peak Number	Peak Date	Range
Turkey Vulture	2	880	465	1347	162	4/17	3/17–5/30
Osprey	0	103	66	169	29	4/25	4/11–5/24
Bald Eagle	2145	1584	413	4142	419	3/17	3/3–5/30
Northern Harrier	6	48	21	75	9	4/12	3/16–5/26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	1454	612	2070	292	4/24	3/7–5/26
Cooper's Hawk	5	10	6	21	2	4/12, 5/4	3/6–5/21
Northern Goshawk	2	1	1	4	1	various	3/15–5/1
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	4	0	4	2	4/11	4/9–4/14
Broad-winged Hawk	0	1965	5595	7560	2770	5/4	4/17–5/30
Swainson's Hawk	0	0	1	1	1	5/20	5/20
Red-tailed Hawk	144	3259	113	3516	664	4/11	3/6–5/24
Rough-legged Hawk	9	123	19	151	24	4/11	3/7–5/25
Golden Eagle	39	19	3	61	14	3/13	3/13–5/10
American Kestrel	0	32	20	52	11	5/4	4/2–5/13
Merlin	4	19	2	25	5	4/23	3/18–5/15
Peregrine Falcon	1	5	13	19	3	5/6	3/28–5/25
Totals	2,361	9,506	7,350	19,217			
Days	28	28	31	87			
Hours	152.5	221.8	195.7	570			

[14 South, 5 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/13 Stearns (2, Albany W.T.P.) PIJ, 4/23 Dakota (7, Lake Byllesby) CMB, LS, JPM and Hennepin (2, Purgatory Creek) WCM. Early north (median 4/30) 5/17 St. Louis DAG, SG, 5/20 Norman CRM. High counts 5/3 Steele (33) Dave Williams, 5/23 Marshall (20) PHS.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [40 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/20) 3/25 Cottonwood DHR, 4/24 Goodhue RPR, LEC, Hennepin MDu, Wabasha DBz. Early north (median 4/29) 4/19–20 Otter Tail DST, 5/2 Mille Lacs Asc. High count 5/8 Crow Wing (24, Ironton W.T.P.) JSB.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [32 South, 17 North] Early south (median 4/19) 4/24 Carver JCy and Olmsted JWH, 4/25 Lac qui Parle FGo, SWe. Early north (median 4/30) 5/1 Douglas JPE, 5/2 Traverse DPG. Record high count of 63 on 5/14 (W.S.H.C.) KJB. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [40 South, 25 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/22 Rock RBJ, 3/24 Brown BTS, JSS, Carver DPG, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/8) 4/3 Marshall JMJ, 4/12 Douglas LS. High count 5/3 Dakota (40) JCC. See summer report for late migrants.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [27 South, 14 North] Early south (median 4/24) 4/18 Stearns

DPG, 4/24 Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/1) 4/30 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/1 Douglas JPE. Late south 5/20 Meeker JCC, 5/24 Nicollet RMD (median 5/26). Late north 5/24 Marshall PHS (median 6/1). High counts 4/30 Kandiyohi (49) RSF, 5/6 Hennepin (47, Lake Calhoun) TAT. The W.S.H.C. produced 29 on 5/5 and a season total of 53 KJB.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [42 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/29) 3/24 Brown (6, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 3/25 Kandiyohi (6) RSF. Early north (median 4/9) 4/3 Marshall (2) JMJ, 4/16 Aitkin KCR. Late south 5/30 Blue Earth and Nicollet m.ob., 5/31 Brown m.ob. (median 6/6). Late north 5/29 Koochiching EEO, 5/30 Douglas JPE (median 6/1). High count 5/6 Hennepin (150, Long Meadow Lake) ALD.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [11 South, 6 North] Arrivals north and south identical with recent medians. Early south 4/26 Lac qui Parle SWe, 5/3 Cottonwood HHD. Early north 5/3 Polk JMJ, 5/6 Otter Tail TJa. High count 5/31 Clay (8, Blue Stem Prairie S.N.A.) DBW.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) — [1 South, 3 North] One south report: 5/23 Kandiyohi (6, Olson Lake W.P.A.) DAB, JWH. All north reports: 5/14–30 St. Louis m.ob., 5/21 Polk (2, Erskine W.T.P.) HHD, JCC, 5/22 Aitkin JSB, 5/23 Marshall (3) REM, m.ob. See summer report for late migrants north.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa baemastica*) — [18 South, 8 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/21 Stearns DPG, 4/25 Lac qui Parle FGo, MJB. Early north (median 5/8) 5/16 St. Louis JWL, 5/17 Marshall DBM, JMJ. Late north 5/30 Douglas JPE, 5/31 St. Louis (3) KJB (median 5/30). Late south 5/30 Blue Earth m.ob. (median 5/31), but also see summer report. High count 5/23 Marshall (170, Minnesota side of Red River) REM, m.ob. First county record: 5/29 **Koochiching** EEO.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) — [13 South, 13 North] Early south (median 4/13) 4/10 Stearns PCC, 4/16 Stearns (2) DPG. Early north (median 4/13) 4/11 Wilkin LS, KRE, 4/12 Polk NGE. High count 5/31 Clay (34, all mobbing a coyote) DBW.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) — [14 South, 10 North] Early south (median 5/14) 5/9 Murray (Lake Wilson) KRE, 5/10 Murray LS and Renville (Fairfax W.T.P.) JCC. Early north (median 5/14) 5/9 Douglas JPE, 5/16 Otter Tail SPM. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/30 St. Louis (23) KJB.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) — [2 North] All north reports: 5/21 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS, 5/23 Marshall (2, Minnesota side of Red River) REM, m.ob. and St. Louis (40th Ave. West impoundment) DWK. See summer report for late migrants north.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — [14 South, 10 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/3 **Redwood** HHD, 5/10 **Watonwan** (Butterfield W.T.P.) KRE, LS. Early north (median 5/11) 5/2 Becker BDS, 5/6 Crow Wing (Ironton W.T.P.) JSB, 5/7 Becker BDS. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High counts 5/27 St. Louis (58) KJB, 5/13 Kandiyohi (34 at Olson Lake W.P.A.) RSF.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [30 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/23 Blue Earth ChH, Dakota (Lake Byllesby) CMB, LS, JPM, Kandiyohi JoS. Early north (median 5/4) 5/9 Douglas JPE and Morrison FGo, 5/10 Polk JMJ. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/18 Hennepin (200, Long Meadow Lake) MDu.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [38 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/15) **3/24** Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, **3/25** Cottonwood (4) DHR. Early north (median 5/6) 5/1 Douglas JPE, 5/5 Itasca (4) EEO. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/18 Hennepin (300, Long Meadow Lake) MDu.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [24 South, 12 North] Early south (median 4/29) 4/25 Lac qui Parle FGo, 5/9 Meeker DMF and Murray (Lake Wilson W.T.P.) KRE. Early north (median 5/14) 5/16 Morrison FGo, 5/20 Norman CRM. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/24 Marshall (135) m.ob.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [21 South, 6 North] Early south (median 4/6) 3/24–27 Brown (3, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 4/25 Lac qui Parle FGo, MJB. Early north (median 4/23) 5/6 Polk RWa, 5/8 Morrison MJB. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [32 South, 14 North] Early south all before the recent median (4/1): **3/21** Houston DFN, 3/24 Brown (14, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 3/25 Kandiyohi RSF, 3/28 Carver HHD and Meeker DMF, 3/29 Houston DAB, JWH, RMD. Early north (median 4/19) 4/18 Polk JMJ, 4/25 Douglas JPE. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 4/23 Dakota (200+) JPM.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) — [32 South, 13 North] Early south (median 4/19) **3/27** Brown (2, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) ph. BTS, 4/17 Dakota (2, Lake Byllesby) CMB. Early north (median 5/10) 5/9 Douglas PEJ, DFN, 5/13 Cass BAW. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/24 Marshall (480) m.ob.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris bimantopus*) — [16 South, 4 North] Early south (median 5/3) **4/23** Lac qui Parle DPG, 5/2 Kandiyohi DBM. Early north (median 5/13) 5/13 Cass BAW, 5/19 St. Louis PHS. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High counts 5/13 Lac qui Parle (35) BJU, 5/14 Brown (30) BTS.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) — [1 South] One bird observed 5/18 Swift PME, WCM.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*) — [1 South] Alternate-plumaged female present 5/14 Dakota/Goodhue (Lake Byllesby) †JPM, †DWK, JLO, CMB, m.ob.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [26 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/1 Kandiyohi JoS, 5/2 Kandiyohi DBM and Murray HHD. Early north (median 5/8) 5/6 Otter Tail TJa, 5/13 Cass BAW. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/11 Kandiyohi (55) RSF.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [17 South, 2 North] Early south (me-

dian 4/24) 4/17 Dakota (4) LEC, 4/23 Dakota LS, CMB and Nicollet RMD. Only north reports: 5/6 Polk (8) RWa, 5/9 Douglas JPE. Late south 5/17 Stearns BWF, DRB, JWH, RMD, 5/18 Sherburne ASc (median 5/19).

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [33 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/16 Lac qui Parle BJU, 3/22 Redwood RJS. Early north (median 3/31) 4/10 Douglas JPE, 4/11 Wilkin LS. High count 4/3 Carver (8) CMB.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [28 South, 24 North] Early south (median 3/13) 3/14 Olmsted JWH, 3/17 Goodhue EEO. Early north (median 3/26) 3/18 Carlton MSS, 3/24 Carlton LAW. No significant counts.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [34 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/19 Stearns MJB, DWK, 4/23 Lac qui Parle DPG. Early north (median 5/1) 5/3 Red Lake JMJ, 5/6 Kittson LW. High count 5/9 Lac qui Parle (500) DFN, PEJ.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [11 South, 9 North] Early south (median 5/12) 5/10 Watonwan (6, Butterfield W.T.P.) KRE, LS, 5/11 Kandiyohi (15) RSF. Early north (median 5/15) 5/18 Todd JWH, 5/20 Norman JCC, CRM. Late north 5/29 Koochiching EEO, 5/30 Douglas JPE (median 5/30); see summer report for late migrants south. High count 5/28 Lac qui Parle (22, Salt Lake) PLJ.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [31 South, 23 North] Early south same as median: 4/3 Brown RJS. Early north (median 4/13) 4/12 Otter Tail LS, 4/14 Cass BAW. Late south 5/17 Anoka DWK, 5/24 Benton DAB, JWH and Hennepin DWK (median 6/6). See summer report for late migrants north. High count 5/14 St. Louis (2,020) KJB. Away from Duluth, highest total 5/9 Crow Wing (500 at Ironton W.T.P.) JSB.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis (Duluth): 5/14 (2 adults in large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Canal Park) KJB, 5/17 (40th Ave. West Erie Pier) DAG, SG, 5/18 (ad. at 27th Ave. West/Miller Creek mouth) PHS.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [28 South, 9 North] Early south (median 3/25) 3/17 Lac qui Parle BJU, 3/20 Dakota ADS. Early north (median 4/6) 4/3 Marshall JMJ, 4/16 Marshall MA. High count 5/15 Nobles (200, Lake Okabena) DPG.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [51

South, 32 North] Early north (median 3/12) 3/5 St. Louis ABL, EBr, 3/7 St. Louis ASc. High count 5/16 St. Louis (16,000, Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) — [1 North] Adult bird observed 5/23 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) ph. †KRE, m.ob.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [39 South, 16 North] Late south 5/10 Goodhue SWe, 5/13 Lac qui Parle ASc and Stearns FGo, but see summer report. High count 4/6 St. Louis (2,740) SLF.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — [3 South, 1 North] All south reports: 3/12 Dakota (first-cycle) ADS, 3/24 Rice TFB, 4/19 Isanti (first-cycle) DBM. All north reports from St. Louis (Duluth): 5/1–7, 5/13 (first-cycle on Minnesota side of Superior Entry) †PHS, 5/21, **5/30** (first-cycle) ph. KJB, **5/29–30** (first-cycle on Minnesota side of Superior Entry and at Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS. St. Louis reports probably refer to two or three individuals.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis: first-cycle gull found in late January reported through 4/19 ph. †PHS, m.ob.; **5/18–21** (first-cycle, record late) ph. KJB.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [2 South] All reports 3/28 Hennepin (adult, Diamond Lake, Minneapolis) DWK, †PEB, 4/5 Hennepin (adult, Grass Lake, Minneapolis; same as Diamond Lake bird?) ph. WW, DWK, 4/10 **Martin** (Martin Lake) †BWF.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*) — [1 South] Adult found 3/28 in **Lyon** at Black Rush Lake was the fifth state record and the first for western Minnesota, ph. †RJS.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (*Larus glaucescens*) — [1 North] The fourth state record of this species was a first-cycle bird found 5/1 in St. Louis (Superior Entry) ph. †PHS.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [1 South, 2 North] Only south report: 3/22 Winona (first- or second-cycle, Prairie Island) DBM. Reported north in St. Louis (up to 5 individuals present) through 5/4 (2 first-cycle birds on Minnesota side of Superior Entry) PHS (median 4/21). Also reported 4/18 **Kanabec** CAM.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North] Fourth-cycle bird present in St. Louis (Duluth) since winter last observed 4/1 PHS.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [23

South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/24 Meeker DMF, 4/25 Carver WCM and Hennepin SLP. Early north (median 5/3) 4/28 Hubbard (2) DCH, 5/5 Cass (8) DAY. See summer report for late migrants south and north. High count 5/14 Hennepin (571, Purgatory Creek) WCM.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) — [32 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/6 Lac qui Parle BJU, 5/8 Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/8) 5/12 Todd MSK, 5/13 Otter Tail DST. High count 5/15 Nicollet (133, Nicollet W.T.P.) RMD.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [17 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/20 Cottonwood (3) DHr, 4/25 Lac qui Parle SWe. Early north (median 5/1) 5/1 Douglas JPE, 5/2 Crow Wing PEJ. See summer report for late migrants south. High count 5/21 St. Louis (998) PHS.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) — [1 South, 1 North] Two reports: first county record 5/13–14 **Dakota** (adult at Lake Byllesby) †ADS, †JPM. Another adult observed 5/21 St. Louis (Park Point) †PHS and subsequently relocated 5/23 (Hearing Island) †MLH.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) — [40 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/10) 4/3 Dakota (5) JPM, 4/16 Nicollet (3) RMD and Scott ALD. Early north (median 4/19) 4/25 Douglas JPE, 4/29 Otter Tail ARO. High count 4/19 Hennepin (22, Purgatory Creek) CMB.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — [1 North] Adult observed 5/25 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) MLH.

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [53 South, 33 North] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [27 South, 7 North] South reports continue to increase. First county record 3/8–13 **Washington** (3) ph. †LS, m.ob. North reports from known locations in Grant, Itasca, Otter Tail, Polk, Roseau, Todd, Wilkin.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) — [52 South, 31 North] Reported in all regions of the state. Two over-wintered in Lake (Two Harbors) JWL. Found as far north as Kittson 4/7 *vide* JMJ.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [11 South, 2 North] Early south (median 5/15) 5/14 Hennepin CMB, 5/16 Blue Earth ChH and Hennepin TAT. Only north reports: 5/27 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/29 Todd DPG (median 5/25).

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [17 South, 3 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/14 Hennepin (2) CMB, 5/17 Blue Earth LBF and Rice HHD. Only north reports: 5/26 Otter Tail FGo, MJB, 5/27 Hubbard MaH, 5/30 Douglas JPE.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [6 South] Reported in Hennepin, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Nobles, Ramsey, Rice.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [32 South, 19 North] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state. High count 5/16 Anoka (5, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DWK.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [2 South, 2 North] All south reports: 3/6–25 Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 3/21 Stevens DPG, 3/22 Lac qui Parle (location?) LCo, 4/12 Jackson *vide* ErH. All north reports: 3/13 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) SIV, 3/17 (2) and 3/24 Kittson LW.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [7 North] Reported in Beltrami, Cass, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis as late as 4/25 Lake of the Woods TDi. High count 4/21 Lake of the Woods (6) TDi.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [27 South, 18 North] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state except the far southwest.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [6 North] Reported in Aitkin, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis as late as 5/30 St. Louis KRE, LS.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [7 South, 2 North] Reported south in Anoka, Brown, Carver, Houston, Lac qui Parle, McLeod, Ramsey as late as 4/4. Only north reports: 4/3 St. Louis (2, Sax-Zim Bog) JMa, 5/29 Koochiching EEO.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [9 South, 8 North] Reported south in Anoka, Blue Earth, Carver, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Nicollet, Olmsted, Pope, Winona as late as 5/4 Lac qui Parle CRM. Early north (median 3/22) 3/17 Clay (Buffalo River S.P.) MEB; also reported in Aitkin, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Wilkin.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [1 North] Two reports, both in Cook: 3/6 (near Grand Marais) SC, DBr and 3/21 (Grand Marais) LAN.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [5 South, 8 North] Reported south in Carver, Houston, Olmsted, Ramsey, Rice as late as 3/28

Carver (Carver Rapids Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) WCM and Houston KAK. Reported north in Carlton, Cass, Hubbard, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, St. Louis.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) — [30 South, 18 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/9 Goodhue SWe, 5/10 Goodhue LEC. Early north (median 5/10) 5/18 Carlton LAW then 5/20 in four locations. High count 5/22 Cass (150, Woman Lake) DAY.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — [6 South, 3 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/29 Dakota ADS, 5/5 Sherburne PLJ. Early north (median 5/8) 5/4 Cass BAW, 5/16 St. Louis SLF. Only other north report: 5/23 Marshall HHD, JCC, CRM. High count 5/6 Anoka (7, Cedar Creek) PEB.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [43 South, 23 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/16 Hennepin ALD, 4/24 Dakota PEJ. Early north (median 5/1) 5/9 Douglas DFN, JPE, Grant DFN, Otter Tail DST, 5/10 Kanabec DBM, Lake JWL, Otter Tail SPM. High count 5/12 Dakota (250) SLP.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — [35 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/4) 4/29 Hennepin DBM, 5/2 Mower RWa. Early north (median 5/7) 5/3 Becker MDa, 5/4 Otter Tail SPM.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [46 South, 28 North] Observed south throughout the season. Early north (median 3/26) 3/21 Traverse MO, 3/23 Red Lake SAS.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [21 South, 16 North] Observed south throughout the season. Early north (median 4/25) 4/13 Douglas MJB, 5/7 Crow Wing JSB.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [51 South, 17 North] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state but absent in the far northeast and far northwest.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [43 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/28) 3/25 Dakota DAC, 3/26 Fillmore NBO. Early north (median 4/5) 4/3 Marshall MJJ, 4/10 Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC, 4/11 Hubbard MAW.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) — [53 South, 29 North] Observed statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [46

South, 24 North] Observed statewide.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [3 North] Reported in Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods as late as 5/27 Koochiching (2, pair on territory) DBW.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [6 North] Reported in Carlton, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake, St. Louis including 5/25 Carlton (2, pair at nesting cavity) DAB, JWH.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [53 South, 32 North] Observed south throughout the season. Early north (median 3/26) 3/6 Douglas JPE, 3/7 Clay MO may refer to over-wintering birds.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [39 South, 26 North] Reported throughout the season in all regions of the state except the far southwest.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) — [21 South, 18 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/8 Rice TFB, 5/10 Wabasha RBW, 5/14 Chisago MHE, Meeker DMF. Early north 5/7 Hubbard DCH, 5/16 Cass BAW, Morrison FGO. High count 5/24 Scott (7, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. See summer report for late south dates.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — [29 South, 15 North] Early south (median 5/6) 5/6 Scott CRM, 5/7 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/12) 5/9 Morrison FGO, 5/10 Wadena PJB.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [10 South, 11 North in all, but only 4 South, 3 North with details] All south with details 5/18 Meeker DMF, 5/20 Meeker JCC, 5/21 Nicollet RMD, Olmsted JWH, Scott (4, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., high count) BAF. See summer report for late south migrants. All north with details 5/21 St. Louis PHS, 5/24 Lake DFN, 5/28 Marshall PHS. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published. Please include details or indicate the birds were vocalizing in the "Details" section of the online seasonal report.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) — [3 South, 2 with details] All south with details: 5/17 Washington (singing at Falls Creek S.N.A.) DFN, 5/29 Houston (Reno S.F.) DFN, (6, high count) NBO.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [17 South, 13 North in all, 3 South, 3 North with details] South reports 5/21 Nicollet (2) RMD, 5/23

Meeker DMF, 5/29 Sibley (3) WCM. Also see summer report. All north 5/21 St. Louis PHS, 5/24 Cass MRN, 5/29 Lake of the Woods MHK.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) — [16 South, 1 North in all, but only 5 South with details] Early south 5/17 Washington DFN, 5/20 Brown LBF, 5/22 Dakota BAF. Also reported with details from Meeker, Hennepin. High counts 5/31 Dakota (12, Black Dog Nature Preserve S.N.A.) ADS, 5/22 Dakota (7, Orchard Lake) BAF.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [47 South, 30 North in all, but only 14 South, 7 North with details] Early south 4/24 Fillmore NBO, Nicollet RMD, Olmsted JWH, 5/7 Rice DAB. Early north 5/17 Clay RHO, 5/22 Cass MRN. Record high count 5/28 Marshall (64, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, MJM, also 5/17 Scott (13, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [52 South, 32 North] Early south matched 3/21 median: 3/21 Blue Earth HHD, Dakota LEC, KRo, Fillmore NBO, 3/22 Fillmore NBO, Hennepin ALD, Washington LS. Early north (median 3/29) 4/3 Marshall MJM, 4/10 Todd CAM, 4/11 Mille Lacs Asc, Wilkin LS. High count 4/18 Clay (7) MO.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*) — [3 South] Two individuals provided three new county records: 5/2 **Cottonwood, Jackson** (on either side of Cottonwood CR 6, Jackson CR 7) ph. †KRE, HHD, 5/12–13 **Anoka** (Ramsey) ph. †DPG.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [40 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/30 Hennepin KRo, 5/1 Winona ANY, 5/2 Scott BAF. Early north (median 5/7) 4/26 Itasca (Dunning Lake) EEO, 5/8 Cass MRN, 5/11 Morrison RBJ. High count 5/23 Houston (6) AXH.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [15 South, 8 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/6 Cottonwood DHR, Lac qui Parle BJU, 5/13 Lac qui Parle (2) BJU, Asc, 5/16 Anoka DWK, PEB, Chippewa HHD, RMD, Meeker DMF, Stearns DMF, Wright DMF, Yellow Medicine RMD. Early north (median 5/10) 5/17 Crow Wing (Ironton W.T.P.) JSB, 5/20 Norman CRM, 5/21 Clay RBJ, DAC, Marshall *vide* MJM, Polk JCC.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [47 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/27) 5/4 Mower ARW, 5/5 Chippewa CRM, Chisago MHe, Rice TFB, Washington DFN, 5/6 three additional counties. Early north (median 5/5) 5/8 Cass BAW, Crow Wing JSB, 5/11 Cass MRN, Traverse (2) JCC, 5/12 Kanabec CAM, Wadena PJB. High count 5/19

Crow Wing (24, Ironton W.T.P.) JSB.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [13 South, 3 North] Early south (median 3/19) 3/23 Fillmore RTP, 3/27 Dakota JLO, Houston DPG, 3/28 Dakota BAF, Winona ABe.. All north reports (median early 4/13) 4/11 Wilkin LS, KRE, 4/20 **Lake** †JWL, 5/9 Clay RHO, 5/16 Clay (3, Felton Prairie) PIJ, 5/31 Clay MO.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) — [24 South, 14 North] Late south 4/5 Scott JCC, Stearns MJB, 4/7 Anoka CKB, Le Sueur CRM, 4/12 Le Sueur RBW (median 4/4). Late north 4/12 Otter Tail DST, Roseau *vide* MJM, 4/14 Todd MSK, 4/18 Lake JWL (median 4/19).

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) — [1 South] All south 5/18 Houston (Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) †HHD.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) — [3 South, 1 North] New county record and only north report: 5/18, 5/23 **Morrison** (Belle Prairie Park) FGo. All south (median early 5/15) 5/17–24 Hennepin (a singing male returned to Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis) m.ob., 5/23–31 Dakota (Black Dog Nature Preserve S.N.A.) m.ob. 5/23–24 Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.) WOS, 5/28 Wabasha RPR. High counts both from Black Dog Nature Preserve S.N.A., Dakota; 5/23 (7) MDu, 5/31 (6, 3 singing males and their mates) ADS.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [43 South, 18 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/28 Mower ARW, 4/30 Rice TFB, 5/4 Houston NBO. Early north (median 5/9) 5/6 Cass DAY, 5/11 Mille Lacs RBJ, 5/14 Becker DBM, Morrison MJB. High count 5/17 Carver (5) JCy.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) — [26 South, 17 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/24 Carver WCM, 4/27 Hennepin ALD, 4/29 Dakota ADS. Early north (median 5/5) 5/7 St. Louis TPW, 5/9 Cass BAW, Otter Tail DST, 5/10 Kanabec DBM, St. Louis SES, Wadena PJB. High count 5/16 Scott (6, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late south 5/23 Scott MDu, 5/30 Dakota RLW, Sherburne RBW (median 5/30).

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) — [45 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/1 Carver RBJ, 5/2 Winona ASM, 5/4 Hennepin DWK, TAT, Rice TFB. Early north (median 5/8) 5/9 Douglas JPE, 5/15 Otter Tail DST, 5/16 Morrison FGo, St. Louis PRH, Wadena PJB. High counts 5/8 Hennepin (8) CMB, 5/28 Marshall (8) PHS, MJM.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [19

South, 16 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/10 Renville JCC, 5/12 Hennepin ALD, Meeker DMF, 5/14 Sherburne ASc. Early north (median 5/14) 5/16 Morrison FGo, 5/18 Morrison RBJ, DAC, St. Louis PHS. Late south 5/22 Lyon RJS, Olmsted JWH, 5/24 Fillmore ARW, Stearns MJB (median 5/30).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [36 South, 23 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/8 Blue Earth LBF, Dakota DOB, 5/9 Meeker DMF, 5/11 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/10) 5/16 Morrison FGo, 5/18 St. Louis PHS, 5/19 St. Louis SES.

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [8 North] All reports from traditional Northeast — North-central range. High count 3/7 Koochiching (7) MJB.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [51 South, 32 North] Reported statewide. In St. Louis, the W.S.H.C. produced 1,473 on 5/6 and a season total of 3,048 KJB.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [14 North] Reported within normal Northwest and North-central range, as far east as St. Louis.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all counties of the state.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [6 South, 27 North] Found widely across the north, including as far south along the western border as Clay. South reports from Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Ramsey, Sherburne and Washington.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [53 South, 23 North] Reported from all non-forested regions of the state. High count 3/1 Blue Earth (100) ChH.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [43 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/5) 4/10 Waseca *fide* DAB, 4/12 Kandiyohi RSF, 4/15 Brown BTS, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 4/11) 4/19 Wadena PJB, 4/23 Otter Tail DST. High count 5/23 Winona (18) AXH.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [53 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/20) 3/21 Winona ANy, 3/22 Dakota BAF, Olmsted JWH, Wabasha PEJ. Early north (median 4/2) 4/7 Cass BAW, 4/10 Douglas JPE, Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC. High counts 5/2 Pope (500) TJM, 5/16 St. Louis (142) PHS.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [47 South, 20 North] Early

south (median 4/11) 4/3 Dakota JPM, 4/17 Stearns PCC, 4/18 Olmsted JWH, Rice DAB. Early north (median 4/20) 4/24 St. Louis DBF, 5/1 Douglas JPE, St. Louis EEO, NAJ, 5/2 Mille Lacs ASc, Traverse DPG.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [43 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/19 Winona DBz, 4/24 Meeker DMF, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/30) 5/1 Douglas JPE, 5/2 Mille Lacs ASc. High counts 5/14 Scott (50) ALD, 5/21 St. Louis (40) PHS.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [48 South, 31 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/19 Anoka DFN, Dakota PEJ, Winona DBz, 4/21 Hennepin ABL, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/25) 4/20 St. Louis SLF, 4/30 Roseau *fide* MJM, 5/2 Wadena PJB. High counts 5/14 Polk (800) RPR, 5/23 Houston (550) AXH, 5/28 Marshall (360) PHS.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [49 South, 31 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/3 Dakota JPM, 4/12 Hennepin BAF, ABL, 4/14 Big Stone DPG. Early north (median 4/19) 4/13 Todd MSK, 4/20 St. Louis SLF, 4/25 Douglas JPE, JPE, Kanabec CAM, Otter Tail DST. High count 5/9 Clay (160) RHO.

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [52 South, 33 North] Reported statewide. High count 4/24 St. Louis (22) PHS.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*) — [6 North] Reports from Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis. High count 3/28 Itasca (8, Old Hwy 6) EEO.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [5 South] Reported from Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Winona, plus one out-of-range report; new county record 5/14 **Isanti** JZE.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [17 South, 26 North] Late south 5/20 McLeod PRH, 5/21 Olmsted JWH, and confirmed nesting observed 5/21, 5/24 Ramsey AXH. See summer report for additional south observations.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [51 South, 30 North] Reported statewide. High count 3/14 Chisago (12) TJM.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [35 South, 22 North] North over-wintering individuals reported 3/7 Lake JWJ, 3/12 Cass BAW. Early north migrants (median 3/28) 3/22 Otter Tail DST, 4/1 Pennington JMJ, 4/10 Mille Lacs ASc,

St. Louis FKB. High count 3/18 Olmsted (9) RTP. Late south 5/2 Murray HHD, 5/3 Winona ANy, 5/5 Olmsted DMA (median 5/22). South nesting observed 5/9 Goodhue SWe, WOS, 5/22 Scott (2, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [1 South] Only reported from Houston (Wildcat Landing) 3/15 JWH, 3/29 DAB, RMD.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [47 South, 28 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/21 Meeker DMF, 4/24 Rice DAB, TFB, 4/25 Hennepin MDu. Early north (median 4/30) 5/6 Kanabec CAM, Otter Tail *vide* MJM, 5/9 Douglas JPE, Hubbard MAW, Morrison FGo.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [23 South, 12 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/23 Rice TFB, 3/24 Dakota ADS, Rice DAT. Early north (median 4/6) 4/13 Cass BAW, 4/18 Lake JWJ, Morrison DBM. High count 4/13 Hennepin (8, T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) CMB. Late south 5/4 Martin EBK, 5/7 Hennepin ABL (median 5/13).

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) — [33 South, 21 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/18 McLeod PRH, 4/30 Meeker DMF, Rice TFB, 5/1 Dakota TAT, ADS. Early north (median 5/3) 5/1 Douglas JPE, 5/7 St. Louis TPW, Todd MSK, 5/9 Aitkin KCR, Morrison FGo. High counts 5/3 Anoka (8, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DWK, 5/7 Carver (6) JCy.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [35 South, 21 North] Early south (median 4/25) 4/25 Meeker DMF, Rice TFB, 4/30 Dakota DAB, Hennepin KRo. Early north (median 5/4) 5/2 Wadena PJB, 5/9 Douglas JPE, Morrison FGo, 5/10 Kanabec DBM. Second and third highest all-time spring counts 5/27 Lac qui Parle (54, Counted along 2 mile stretch of Lac qui Parle CR 15) PHS, 5/28 Marshall (41, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, MJM.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [33 South, 12 North] Early south (median 3/25) 3/14 Brown BTS, 3/17 Rice TFB, 3/21 Fillmore (2) NBO. Early north (median 3/25) 4/9 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/11 Cass BAW, Wilkin LS. High counts 3/30 Fillmore (20) NBO, 3/27 Fillmore (16) NBO. Late south 5/1 Jackson JEB, 5/10 Isanti DBM, Sherburne SMC, Washington DFN (median 5/6).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) — [48 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/26) 3/28 Dakota REH, 4/2 Dakota SLP, 4/3 Fillmore NBO. Early north (median 4/6) 4/11 Wilkin LS, 4/12 Aitkin KCR, Otter Tail LS, DST. High counts 4/23 Fillmore (200) CWG, 4/27 Fillmore (50)

NBO, 4/28 Fillmore (50) NBO, 5/2 Scott (41) BAF. Late south 5/18 Hennepin MDu, 5/22 Lyon RJS, 5/31 Brown HHD (median 5/24).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) — [45 South, 7 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/22 Winona ASM, 4/24 Cottonwood DHr, Hennepin CMB, Nicollet RMD. Early north (median 5/7) 5/7–8 Cass MRN, 5/9 Douglas JPE, Morrison FGo. North reports well outside normal range include 5/16 St. Louis JWJ, and 5/22 Kittson (Lake Bronson S.P.) DBM, KRE, HHD, JCC, CRM. High count 5/9 Scott (27, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., most were pairs on breeding territories) BAF.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [52 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/2) 3/6 Washington SLP, 3/7 Dakota JLO, Fillmore CWG, Rice HHD. Early north (median 3/15) 3/16 Mille Lacs ASc, Todd (10) MSK, 3/17 Mille Lacs ASc, Otter Tail *vide* MJM, DST. High count 3/21 Isanti (23 over span of 2 hours.) CKB.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)— No reports.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [2 South] All south reports: two birds overwintering in Sand Dunes S.F. last reported 3/28 Sherburne ASc; 4/29 Ramsey (Mounds View) AXH.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) — [25 South, 26 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/3 Anoka DWK, 5/4 Hennepin TAT, 5/6 Meeker DMF, JRo, Olmsted OWB, Winona ASM, ANy. Early north (median 5/8) 5/5 Cass (2) DAY, 5/9 Morrison FGo, 5/10 Otter Tail *vide* MJM, Wadena PJB.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) — [31 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/3), 5/3 Carver JCy, 5/5 Rice TFB, 5/6 Lac qui Parle BJU, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/8), 5/3 Todd MSK, 5/6 Cass MRN, 5/7 Crow Wing MRN. High count 5/18 Rice (17) DAB. Late south 5/22 Lyon RJS, Sherburne ASc, 5/23 Scott MDu, 5/24 Lac qui Parle FAE (median 5/27). Late north 5/24 Polk CRM, Wadena PJB, 5/27 Marshall MJM, 5/28 Marshall MJM (median 5/28).

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) — [48 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/18, 4/19, 4/24 Hennepin (Golden Valley) ph. †ALD, 4/24 Rice TFB, 4/29 Fillmore NBO. Early north (median 5/2) 5/1 Cass MRN, Douglas JPE, 5/2 Wadena PJB, 5/7 Cass DAY, Clay (2) RHO. High counts 5/13 Hennepin (22) CMB, 5/10 Hennepin (17) CMB. Late south 5/30 Carver JCy, 5/31 Hennepin BAF, TAT, but see summer report (median 5/31).

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) — [34 South, 22 North] See winter report for numerous over-wintering individuals. Early south migrants (median 3/29) 3/23 Rice TFB, 3/29 Fillmore DAB, RMD, JWH, 3/31 Cottonwood DHR. Early north (median 4/10) 3/31 St. Louis *vide* JWJ, 4/13 Cass BAW, 4/14 Beltrami DPJ, Mille Lacs ASC. High count 4/17 Hennepin (20) RLW. Late south 5/8 Stearns (2) MJB, 5/15 Ramsey MDU, 5/18 Ramsey EMH (median 5/16).

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [25 South, 13 North] New county record: 5/27 **Red Lake** (Red Lake Falls.) PHS. Early south (median 5/1) 5/4 Hennepin TAT, Rice TFB, 5/5 Nicollet RMD, Stearns MJB. Early north (median 5/8) 5/8 Todd MSK, 5/9 Morrison FGO, 5/12 Cass DAY.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. High counts 4/8 St. Louis (4,666 at W.S.H.C.) KJB, 3/27 Brown (620) RJS, 3/27 Nicollet (341) RJS, 3/27 Blue Earth (155) RJS. Season total for the W.S.H.C. was 9,803 KJB.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [3 North] All north 3/2 Cass (Pleasant Lake) BAW, 3/20 Cass (southwest of Nisswa) *vide* AXH. An adult male over-wintering near Deerwood, Crow Wing continued through April JSB. Another over-wintering male continued through 4/9 St. Louis NAJ.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [45 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/29 Fillmore NBO, 4/30 Dakota SWE, Hennepin KRO, 5/2 Winona ASM. Early north (median 5/6) 5/7 Todd MSK, 5/8 Morrison MJB, 5/9 Hubbard MAW, Morrison FGO, Otter Tail DST.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [5 South, 4 North] All south 5/17 Anoka Siv, 5/19 Hennepin (2, Minneapolis) *vide* AXH, 5/19–30 Hennepin (MSP Airport) DDo, m.ob., 5/20 Dakota RLW, 5/22 Nicollet (St. Peter) RMD, 5/28 Washington (Stillwater) *vide* AXH. All north 5/16 Kittson ph. LW, 5/16–17 St. Louis (Crane Lake) DMK, 5/17 Lake (Iona's Beach) JWJ, 5/20 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, 5/21 Marshall *vide* MJM, 5/21–24 St. Louis (Park Point Recreation Area, Duluth.) PHS, SCZ, MLH, FKB, 5/23 Marshall HHD.

SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) — [1 South] One at Lake Harriet, Hennepin 4/13–14 †TAT, ph. †DWK, ph. †MDu, †PEB, ph. TPB, ph. JMj, ph. DOB, m.ob. provided the first spring record since 2004.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [49 South, 24 North] Early south (median 4/12) 4/18

Ramsey LS, Wabasha DBz, 4/19 Sibley DAB, JWH, 4/20 Hennepin ABL. Early north (median 4/23) 4/18 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/25 Douglas JPE, 4/28 Cass DAY.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [53 South, 31 North] Reported statewide.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) — [23 South, 12 North] Early south arrivals well ahead of 4/14 median: 3/24 Brown (3, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 4/2 Blue Earth ChH, 4/5 Mower JWH. Early north (median 4/28) 5/7 Todd MSK, 5/9 Douglas JPE, Morrison FGO. High count 5/10 Scott (30, Murphy Hanrehan P.R.) SLP. Late south 5/17 Stearns RMD, JWH, 5/19 Rice TFB, 5/24 Kandiyohi DAB (median 5/16). Late north 5/24 Marshall JCC, MJM, Pennington HHD, JCC, CRM, St. Louis SMC, 5/30 Douglas JPE, St. Louis KJB.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [3 North] Scarce, only reports 3/5 St. Louis (16, Ely) *vide* JWJ, 3/7 Itasca (2) MJB, Koochiching FGO, 3/12 St. Louis (40, Duluth Township.) *vide* JWJ, 4/8 St. Louis (18) TPW, 4/17 St. Louis (Ely) *vide* JWJ.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [46 South, 28 North] Present north and south as the season commenced. High count 4/1 Fillmore (200) NBO.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) — [26 South] First spring since 2002 with no north reports. Early south (median 5/2) 5/4 Rice TFB, 5/5 Blue Earth ChH, Mower ARW, Rice DAB, 5/6 Anoka REH. High count 5/17 Scott (11, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., all were territorial males) BAF.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysop-tera*) — [22 South, 17 North] New county record: 5/16 **Chippewa** HHD. Early south (median 5/5) 5/4 Dakota JPM, 5/7 Meeker DMF, 5/8 Olmsted JWH, Rice DAB, TFB, Sherburne ASC. Early north (median 5/8) 5/11 Cass MRN, Mille Lacs ASC, Morrison RBJ, 5/13 Aitkin KCR, Cass BAW. Late south away from breeding areas 5/23 Hennepin RLR, Houston (9) AXH, 5/28 Hennepin RLR.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — [49 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/29 Meeker DMF, 4/30 Dakota ADS. Early north (median 5/6) 5/6 Wadena PJB, 5/10 Wadena PJB, 5/13 Cass BAW. High count 5/17 Scott (36, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Present through end of period both south and north; see summer report for late migrants.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) —

[41 South, 23 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/21 Hennepin TAT, Winona DBz, 4/22 Hennepin CMB, 4/23 Cottonwood DHr, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/25) 4/25 Clay RHO, 4/28 Wadena PJB, 5/1 Douglas JPE. Late south 5/22 Scott (2) BAF, 5/23 Brown BTS, **5/31** Hennepin PEJ (median 5/21). Late north 5/24 Mahanomen RBJ, DAC, Polk JCC, Red Lake RBJ, DAC, 5/28 Marshall PHS, 5/29 Koochiching EEO (median 5/27).

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) — [37 South, 28 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/25 Olmsted OWB, 4/26 Meeker DMF, 4/28 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/3) 5/6 Hubbard DCH, 5/7 Becker *vide* MJJ, Cass BAW, St. Louis TPW. High count 5/18 St. Louis (7, Park Point, Duluth) PHS. Late south 5/25 Ramsey DAB, 5/29 Sherburne ASc, but see summer report (median 5/29).

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) — [15 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/25 Dakota TAT, 4/29 Meeker DMF, 5/2 Olmsted OWB. Early north (median 5/6) 5/9 Cass BAW, St. Louis FKB, 5/10 Itasca EEO. Late south 5/19 Hennepin CMB, 5/23 Hennepin MDu (median 5/26).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — [49 South, 34 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/23 Fillmore NBO, 5/1 Dakota JPM, Fillmore CWG. Early north (median 5/4) 5/3 Hubbard MAW, 5/4 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6 Cass (2) BAW, Otter Tail *vide* MJJ, Polk *vide* MJJ. High counts 5/17 Scott (36, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 5/23 Hubbard (25) MaH, 5/28 Marshall (25, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) — [29 South, 26 North] Early south (median 5/6) 5/6 Meeker DMF, 5/7 Benton RBJ, DAC, Sherburne ASc, Winona ANy. Early north (median 5/8) 5/9 Aitkin KCR, 5/11 Morrison RBJ, 5/13 Todd MSK. High counts 5/16 Benton (20) MJB, 5/18 Cass (12) BAW.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) — [29 South, 25 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/5 Olmsted DMA, 5/6 Winona ASM, ANy, 5/8 Hennepin TAT. Early north (median 5/8) 5/2 Lake AXH, 5/9 Hubbard MAW, 5/13 St. Louis (12) PHS. High count 5/16 Benton (30) MJB. Late south 5/23 Brown BTS, Hennepin ALD, Nicollet DAB, JWH, Scott MDu, 5/24 Anoka DWK (median 5/31).

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — [14 South, 21 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/5 Fillmore NBO, Winona ANy, 5/6 Dakota JLO, Winona ASM, ANy. Early north (median 5/9) 5/13 Lake of the Woods MHK, St. Louis PHS, 5/15

Becker DBM, Hubbard DCH, Itasca EEO, Lake PEJ, St. Louis PHS. High count 5/14 St. Louis (17, W.S.H.C.) KJB, 5/28 Marshall (8) PHS. Late south 5/17 Dakota (2) JPM, Hennepin LS, Stearns RMD, JWH, 5/19 Olmsted HHD, 5/23 Hennepin ALD (median 5/22).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — [2 South, 2 North] All south 5/5 Martin EBK, 5/15–17 Hennepin (Veteran's Park, Richfield) CMB, DWK, JLO, JPM, TAT, 5/22 Hennepin (Minnehaha Falls Ravine) DDo. Early north (median 5/18) 5/22 Lake (2, Tettegouche S.P.) MWS, 5/23 Cook (3, Oberg Mountain) MWS, 5/24 Lake (Goldeneye Lake) DFN. High count 5/29 Cook (8, Oberg Mountain) MWS.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [51 South, 32 North] Early south (median 4/2) 4/10 Brown BTS, DAB, Carver WCM, Faribault and Martin RMD, McLeod PRH, 4/11 Mower JWH, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/7) 4/3 Marshall MJM, 4/12 Cass DAY, Otter Tail LS, 4/14 Beltrami DPJ, Itasca FKB. One "Audubon's" found 4/25 Hennepin (Nine Mile Creek, Bloomington) GAn. High counts 5/11 Crow Wing (100, Ironton W.T.P.) JSB, 5/14 Morrison (100) MJB. Late south 5/22 Carver JCy, Freeborn RTP, 5/24 Benton DAB, JWH (median 5/27).

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virescens*) — [28 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/30) **4/25** Anoka LS, 5/1 Nicollet DAB, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/4) 5/2 Lake of the Woods *vide* MJM, 5/4 Cass (4) BAW, Hubbard MAW, 5/7 St. Louis TPW. Late south 5/22 Rice TFB, 5/25 Kandiyohi CAM, 5/30 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., singing male) BAF (median 5/30).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — [24 South, 22 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/7 Rice DAB, 5/9 Goodhue SWe, Murray NED, Stearns HHD. Early north (median 5/7) 5/13 St. Louis PHS, 5/14 Kanabec CAM, Morrison MJB, 5/15 Itasca EEO. High count 5/16 Benton (12, Bend in the River C.P.) MJB. Late south 5/29 Sherburne ASc, 5/30 Scott BAF (median 5/30).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*) — [1 South, 1 North] Singing male found 5/9 Washington (along the St. Croix River, near Otisville) †JWF. Second county record 5/18 **St. Louis** in Gnesen Twp., ph. CE, †DOK, ph. †PHS, vt. JWL.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — [12 South, 14 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/24 Sherburne ASc, 4/25 Anoka HHD, Hennepin CMB, 4/26 Fillmore JWH, Stearns MJB. Early north (me-

dian 4/25) 4/28 Cass (2) BAW, 4/30 Cass MRN, 5/1 Hubbard MAW.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*) — [2 South] Two reports: 5/13 Rice (male, banded) ph. DAT, and a new county record 5/23 **Blue Earth** †ChH in his Mankato yard.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — [40 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/22) 4/10 Ramsey REH, 4/24 Benton RBJ, DAC, Hennepin MDu, Rice TFB, Stearns (2) PCC, Winona ASM. Early north (median 4/25) 4/29 Cass (4) TBe, 4/30 Cass DAY, 5/1 Todd MSK. High counts 5/13 St. Louis (23, Park Point) PHS, 5/3 Fillmore (20) NBO. Late south 5/18 Fillmore CWG, HHD, Houston HHD, Winona ANy, 5/19 Rice TFB (median 5/23).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) — [14 South, 14 North] Few reports. Early south (median 5/8) 5/8 Sherburne PLJ, 5/13 Rice DAB. Early north (median 5/13) 5/17 St. Louis (Indian Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/19 Cass BAW, Lake of the Woods MHK, Todd MSK. High count 5/28 Marshall (5, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Late south (median 5/25) 5/18 Hennepin MDu, Jackson JEB, Rice TFB, 5/19 Olmsted HHD.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — [37 South, 29 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/5 Winona ANy, 5/6 Washington DFN, Winona ASM, ANy, 5/7 Carver JCy. Early north (median 5/9) 5/4 Hubbard MAW, 5/6 Beltrami DPJ, 5/7 Becker *vide* JMJ. High counts 5/16 Benton (50) MJB, 5/24 Morrison (30) RPR. Late south 5/28 Nobles BTS, Rice TFB, 5/30 Nicollet ChH, MJB, JWH (median 5/29). Late north 5/30 Marshall JMJ, 5/31 Carlton LBF, but see summer report for June migrants (median 5/29).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) — [17 South, 1 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/5–7 Rice TFB, 5/8 Sibley (Rush River C.P.) WCM, 5/9 Le Sueur DAB. Only north report 5/27 Grant (singing male at Tipsinah Mounds Park) PHS. No counts of more than three individuals.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — [39 South, 28 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/23 Rice LEC, 4/24 Carver WCM, Fillmore NBO, Hennepin TAT, Rice TFB, Sherburne PLJ, Washington DFN. Early north (median 5/3) 5/5 Todd MSK, 5/6 Beltrami DPJ, Cass BAW, MRN, Hubbard DCH, Wadena PJB. High counts 5/14 Lac qui Parle (16) BJU, 5/13 Rice (10) DAB.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [43 South, 31 North] Early south (median 5/3) 5/5

Hennepin MDu, CMB, Olmsted JWH, Rice TFB, 5/6 Dakota JPM, Meeker DMF, Scott CRM. Early north (median 5/7) 5/6 Kanabec CAM, 5/9 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 5/11 Mille Lacs and Morrison RBJ. High counts 5/28 Marshall (33, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, 5/19 Clay (24) RHO.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [10 South, 1 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/6 Hennepin CMB, 5/9 Goodhue SWe, 5/11 Winona ANy. All north (median 5/18) 5/17 Morrison RAE. High count 5/28 Houston (5) RPR.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) — [1 South] Two reports, both from Hennepin: **4/26** at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Minneapolis †KRo, and 5/15 in Veterans Memorial Park, Richfield LE, †TAT, ADS.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [42 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/30) 4/25 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) CMB, 4/27 Hennepin TAT, 4/30 Rice (2) DAB. Early north (median 5/4) 4/30 Cass DAY, 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/6 Cass TBe, Hubbard MAW, Itasca EEO. High count 5/10 Hennepin (7) CMB.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — [34 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/25) 4/24 Hennepin TAT, Wabasha DBz, 4/25 Anoka JWJ, PEB, Hennepin MDu, Lac qui Parle BJU, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/4) 5/4 Cass BAW, 5/5 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/8 Morrison MJB, Pennington JMJ. High count 5/10 Hennepin (6) CMB. Late south 5/24 Hennepin Siv, 5/25 Kandiyohi CAM, but see summer report (median 5/29).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — [7 South] Early south (median 4/22) 4/24 Rice (3, Cannon River W.P.) DAB, 4/26 Winona DBz. No north reports. Also 5/9 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) WW.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — [2 South] All reports 5/17 Scott SWe, 5/24+ Blue Earth (10th consecutive year at Williams N.C.) JPE, CMB, WCM.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — [6 South, 9 North] Early south (median 5/10) 5/15 Anoka DWK, 5/18 Meeker DMF, 5/21 Nicollet RMD, ChH, 5/22 Hennepin DWK, PEB. Early north (median 5/17) 5/18 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/21 Cass BAW, 5/23 Hubbard MaH, Lake of the Woods MHK, St. Louis DWK. Reported as far west as Clay (5/31, Buffalo River S.P., MO). Late south (median 5/30) 5/23 Rice TFB, Wright DMF, 5/24 Hennepin CMB, DDo, 5/30 Nicollet PRH, CMB, m.ob.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — [15 South, 16 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/13 Blue Earth ChH, Rice TFB, 5/15 Olmsted JWH, Rice DAB, 5/16 Scott DFN, 5/18 four additional counties. Early north (median 5/14) 5/19 Clay RHO, 5/21 Cass BAW, Mille Lacs Asc, St. Louis PHS. Reports continue into June and July in several south counties indicating probable breeding; please see summer report.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [44 South, 29 North] Early south (median 5/2) 5/3 Hennepin KR0, Nicollet DBM, 5/4 Brown BTS, Rice TFB, Sherburne Asc. Early north (median 5/7) 5/9 Douglas JPE, 5/11 Mille Lacs Asc, Morrison RBJ, 5/13 St. Louis PHS, 5/14 Becker DBM. Season high count 5/13 Rice (15) DAB, 5/28 Marshall (15) PHS, JMJ.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) — [6 South, 1 North] Early south (median 5/9) 4/25–30 Rice (west side of Cannon River W.P.) GDB, DAB, m.ob., 5/4 Rice (east side of Cannon River W. P.) TFB, 5/7+ Hennepin (Elm Creek P.R.) ph. MRe, RLR, 5/10–14 Hennepin (T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) SRG, m.ob., 5/13+ Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P. R.) SLP. Unusual locations 5/17 Sherburne (near Elk River) PLJ, 5/23 **Wright** (Stanley-Eddy P.R.) DMF, Mille Lacs Asc. Additional reports from Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C., Richfield Veteran's Memorial Park), Scott (Louisville Swamp), Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.), Ramsey (Crosby Farm Park), and Rice (a third one in the Cannon River W.P. and another at the River Bend N.C.). A total of 18 spring breeding territories found in Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. (BAF). See summer report for updated totals.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — [30 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/4 Rice TFB, 5/5 Hennepin MDu, 5/6 Dakota JPM, 5/7 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/10) 5/7 Becker BJS, JMJ, 5/11 Mille Lacs Asc, 5/13 Hubbard DCH, St. Louis PHS. Late south 5/28 Nobles BTS, 5/30 Sherburne Asc, 5/31 Dakota BAF (median 5/29).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — [21 South, 19 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/13 Lac qui Parle BJU, Rice TFB, Scott SLP, 5/14 Fillmore NBO, Meeker DMF, Olmsted JWH, Winona LBF. Early north (median 5/13) 5/16 Cass BAW, Morrison FGO, 5/17 Crow Wing JSB, Marshall JMJ, 5/18 Hubbard MaH. Late south 5/29 Blue Earth WCM, 5/30 Carver JCy, Nicollet CMB, m.ob., Scott BAF, 5/31 Brown RMD, m.ob.(median 5/31).

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) — [2 South] All reports: 5/24+ Hennepin (2, Hyland

P.R.) RBy, ph. †CMB, m.ob. Also 5/31 Winona (Great River Bluffs S. P.) ANy.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [12 South, 2 North] All south (median early 5/3) **4/20, 21** Fillmore (female, Spring Valley) ph. RTP, JWH, CWG, 4/29 – 5/2 Blue Earth (first-spring male, Good Thunder) ph. JCN, m.ob. 5/6 Freeborn (Albert Lea) AEB, Olmsted (first-spring male, Rochester) DMA, JWH, 5/11-12 **Nicollet** (first spring male, rural Courtland) NV, 5/12 **Pope** (first-spring male near Starbuck) †SSt, 5/13 **Waseca** (first-spring male near Waseca) AEB, 5/13 Blue Earth (a second first-spring male in Good Thunder) JCN, 5/14 Meeker (first-spring male, Darwin) DMF, 5/16 Hennepin (female, T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) TAT, 5/17 **Carver** (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) RBW, 5/21 Rice (first-spring male, Carleton College Arboretum) NBr, 5/23 Lyon (2, Camden S.P.) *vide* RJS. All north 5/12–18 Clearwater (adult male, Itasca S.P.) †DPJ, PLJ, 5/14–16 Clay (first-spring male in Moorhead; second county record) ph. †SSe.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [32 South, 23 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/6 Meeker JRO, Scott CRM, 5/8 Nicollet WCM, 5/9 Anoka DWK, PEB, JPM, Le Sueur JWH, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/12) 5/8 Aitkin KCR, 5/13 Crow Wing JSB, 5/16 Morrison, FGO, 5/17 Polk BDF.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) — [2 South, 5 North] Eight reports, with five from the far northwest: 5/3 **Brown/Cottonwood** (Red Rock Falls C. P.) HHD, ph. †KRE, 5/8 Roseau (~4 miles S of Warroad) ph. DOI, 5/9 Cass BrS, 5/19–20 Roseau (Warroad) ph. BJS, 5/14 Douglas TAN, 5/19 Polk (Wetlands, Pines and Prairies Audubon Sanctuary) *vide* JMJ, 5/20–21 **Kittson** (Lancaster) ph. LW, 5/21 Marshall (~1 mile E of Middle River) GKn.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) — [2 South] All reports 5/13 Lac qui Parle NSc, BJU, 5/22 Lyon RJS.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [30 South, 11 North] Early south (median 4/15) 4/18 Anoka DWK, PEB, Wabasha DBz, 4/20 Mower ARW, 4/21 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/4) 5/6 Otter Tail ARO, 5/12 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 5/14 Hubbard DCH, Lake PEJ, St. Louis PHS. Season high count 5/17 Scott (9, Murphy-Hanrehan P. R.) BAF, 5/11 Anoka (6, Bunker Hills P.R.) DWK.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — [47 South, 23 North] Late south 4/19 Anoka DPG,

Ramsey DFN, Renville RMD, DAB, 4/24 Rice DAB, 5/3 Nicollet DBM (median 5/1). Late north 4/23 St. Louis TPW, 4/24 St. Louis PHS, 5/9 Douglas JPE (median 5/4).

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [50 South, 33 North] Early south (median 3/26) 3/22 Winona ANy, 4/10 Anoka PEB, 4/12 Fillmore NBO, Rice TFB, Sibley WCM, Washington AH. Early north (median 4/11) 4/14 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/17 Otter Tail DST, 4/20 Wadena PJB, 4/24 Clay RHO.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [42 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/18 Dakota SWe, 4/23 Fillmore CWG, 4/24 Rice DAB, TFB, 4/25 Blue Earth ChH, Stearns PCC. Early north (median 4/27) 4/29 Clay RHO, 4/30 Otter Tail DST, 5/1 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/5 Todd MSK. Season high counts 5/9 Carver (19) JCy, 5/9 Clay (17) RHO.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [44 South, 9 North] Early south (median 3/31) 4/11 Fillmore NBO, 4/12 Hennepin BAF, Washington DBM, 4/13 Hennepin CMB, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/22) 4/14 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/25 Douglas JPE, 4/28 St. Louis FKB, 5/1 Otter Tail DST. Season high counts 5/2 Scott (18) BAF, 5/9 Carver (10) JCy.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) — [46 South, 22 North] Early south (median 3/28) 3/22 Carver WCM, 3/24 Lac qui Parle BJU, 3/25 Mower ARW, 3/27 Olmsted LAV. Early north (median 4/12) 4/12 Pine JWL, 4/15 Todd MSK, 4/18 Clay MO, Polk JMJ, Red Lake JMJ.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [28 South, 12 North] Arrived exactly on the median date 4/22 Carver JCy, 4/24 Cottonwood DHr, Rice DAB, 4/25 Stearns PCC, 4/26 Fillmore JWH. Early north (median 5/4) 5/2 Grant DPG, 5/6 Polk RWA, 5/10 Kanabec DBM. Unusual location 5/17 **St. Louis** (Leif Erikson Park) KJB, 5/19 **St. Louis** (Park Point Recreation Area) ph. PHS. Season high counts 5/8 Sibley (8) WCM, 5/15 Carver (7) WCM, 5/7 Meeker (6) DMF, 5/11 Anoka (6) DWK.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [40 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/31) 3/30 Fillmore RTP, 4/11 Carver JCy, Meeker DMF, 4/12 Dakota JLO. Early north (median 4/17) 4/12 Pine JWL, 4/14 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/18 Clay MO, Itasca EEO, Polk NGE, Red Lake JMJ. Season high count 4/25 Dakota (15) BAF.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savanna-rum*) — [27 South, 8 North] Early south (median

4/26) 4/25 Dakota CMB, TAT, 4/27 Nicollet RMD, 4/30 Dakota DAB, ADS, 5/2 MDu, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/8) 5/4 Cass (2) TBe, Mille Lacs ASC, 5/9 Morrison FGo, Wadena DCH, 5/16 Morrison FGo. Season high counts 5/13 Dakota (10) ADS, 5/30 Carver (9) JCy.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) — [11 South, 1 North] Early south (median 5/12) 4/25 Rice TFB, 5/2 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy, 5/2–21 Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.) †WOS, m.ob., 5/3 Blue Earth DBM, 5/4 Rice (Union Lake Trail) TFB. Reports from other south locations: Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.), Brown (Mulligan Twp.), Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.). Only north report 5/24–27 **Pennington** (Old Pembina Trail) ph. †KRE, PHS, m.ob. Season high count 5/17 Scott (7) CMB.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) — [11 South, 13 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/23 Carver JCy, Rice TFB, 4/24 Hennepin (Lake Hiawatha) BAF, 4/25 Hennepin (Westwood Hills N.C.) ALD, 4/28 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/1) 5/3 Roseau JWH, 5/14 Polk RPR, 5/16 Otter Tail RPR, 5/17 Marshall DBM, JMJ. Season high counts 5/21 Polk (8) JCC.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) — [1 South, 3 North] All reports: 5/21+ Nicollet RMD, ChH, m.ob. 5/27 Aitkin (McGregor Marsh) CMB, Cass (5, Boy River marsh) BAW, 5/28 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [38 South, 22 North] One over-wintering bird seen through 3/12 ALD, presumed early south migrants (median 3/13) 3/17 Rice TFB, 3/18 Dakota SLP, 3/19 Carver ALD, Fillmore NBO, 3/20 Wabasha DFN. Early north (median 3/29) 3/24 Clay RHO, Otter Tail BDE, 3/25 Kanabec CAM, Otter Tail DST, 3/26 Mille Lacs ASC, RBJ, Todd MSK. Late south 4/22 Hennepin CMB, 4/25 Rice TFB, 5/6 Meeker JRo (median 4/28). Late north 4/21–23 St. Louis TPW, 5/16 Morrison FGo (median 5/8). Season high counts 4/11 Cass (26) BAW, 4/14 St. Louis (25) TPW, 4/14 Itasca (23) FKB, 3/26 Hennepin (22) CMB, 4/13 St. Louis (20) TPW. Bulk of reports were from mid-March to mid-April.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [53 South, 33 North] A few reports of over-wintering birds south (see winter report). Presumed early migrants south (median 3/21) 3/15 Cottonwood DHr, Fillmore NBO, Houston JWH, Rice TFB, 3/16 Carver JCy, Fillmore CWG. Early north (median 3/26) 3/21 Traverse MO, Wadena PJB, 3/23 Mille Lacs ASC, 3/25 Otter Tail DST, 4/3 Marshall JMJ. Season high count 4/24 St. Louis (60) PHS.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [38 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/12) 4/14 Meeker DMF, 4/19 Stearns MJB, 4/24 Hennepin ABL, TAT, MDu, Nicollet RMD, Rice DAB, TFB, 4/25 seven additional counties. Early north (median 4/24) 4/26 Clay RHO, 4/29 Otter Tail DST, 5/1 Douglas JPE, Otter Tail ARo, 5/4 Todd MSK. Season high count 4/25 Hennepin (7) MDu. Late south 5/19 Dakota HHD, 5/20 Rice TFB, 5/22 Lyon RJS, 5/26 Carver JCy (median 5/25).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [48 South, 23 North] Early south (median 3/23) 3/25 Lac qui Parle BJU, 3/28 Olmsted JWH, Sibley MJB, 4/2 Stearns MJB. Early north (median 4/15) 4/14 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/16 Hubbard DCH, 4/18 Morrison FGo.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [47 South, 30 North] See winter report for records south. Presumed early south migrants (median 3/18) 3/10 Hennepin PEJ, 4/3 Anoka DWK, 4/12 Washington ALD. Early north (median 4/11) 4/16 Hubbard DCH, 4/17 Crow Wing JSB, 4/19 Lake JWL, 4/21 Clearwater KLa.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [35 South, 18 North] One early south report (median 4/3) 3/23 Olmsted JWH. Otherwise, reports south started unusually late 4/25 Rice TFB, 4/26 Carver JCy, Fillmore JWH, 5/1 Watonwan HHD, 5/2 Murray HHD. Early north (median 4/28) 4/16 Cass TBe, 5/6 Otter Tail, Pennington JMJ, 5/7 Becker RAn, Todd MSK. Late south 5/18 Chisago MHe, Rock CRM, Swift WCM, 5/21 Nicollet RMD, CHH, 5/22 Lyon RJS, Rice DAT (median 5/22). Late north 5/23 Kittson RBJ, DAC, Marshall HHD, CRM, 5/31 Pennington JMJ (median 5/21). Only notable season high count 5/12 Lac qui Parle (30) FAE.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [35 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/28 Meeker DMF, 4/30 Blue Earth RBJ, DAC, Fillmore RTP, Mower ARW. Early north (median 4/22) 4/26 Wadena PJB, 5/6 Cass BAW, 5/7 Todd MSK, 5/8 Marshall GT, St. Louis PHS, SLF. Late south 5/17 Anoka Slv, Carver JCy, Meeker LS, Nobles CRM, Steele NFT, Swift WCM, 5/18 Fillmore HHD, Hennepin MDu, ABL, Rock CRM (median 5/21). Late north 5/23 Marshall HHD, JCC, CRM, 5/24 Pennington HHD, St. Louis SMC, 5/25 Carlton DAB, JWH (median 5/25)

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) — [1 South, 1 North] Two records: one sporadically seen at a feeder since December was reported 3/29 – 4/2 St. Louis *vide* JWL; the seventh state record (and fourth in 12 months) ap-

peared 3/25, 3/30 **Dakota** ph. †JPM, ADS, m.ob.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [51 South, 30 North] Seen statewide. Late south 5/9 Cottonwood LS, Stearns HHD, 5/11 Rice DAT, Yellow Medicine DBz (median 5/18). Season high count 3/27 Brown (433) RJS.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [32 South, 17 North] Many winter reports prevent accurate understanding of when spring migrants arrived. Presumed early north (median 3/14) 3/28 Itasca EEO, Pennington JMJ, 3/29 Pennington JMJ, 4/11 Otter Tail LS. Late south 5/6 Pope (20) MJB, 5/13 Dakota ADS, **5/17** Stearns RMD, JWH (median 5/3). Late north 5/18 Cass BAW, 5/22 St. Louis KJB, **5/29** Lake of the Woods DBW, MHK (median 5/18). Season high counts 4/18 Norman (2,500) JMJ, 3/28 Watonwan (2,000) MJB.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) — [1 South] Only report 4/24 Kandiyohi (7) RSF.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) — [1 South, 1 North] Unusually far east was a male picked out of a large flock of Lapland Longspurs 4/18 **Dakota** †MDu. All other reports were from Clay: 5/9 RHO, 5/16 DBM, PLJ, 5/21 (nest with 4 eggs) DAC, RBJ, 5/30 (2 adults with 4 chicks) AXH.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [19 South, 18 North] Late south 4/1 Dakota JLO, 4/7 Murray, Pipestone and Yellow Medicine JEB, 4/21 Meeker DMF (median 3/28). Late north 4/14 Beltrami, Cass CRM, 4/25 Itasca EEO, 5/9 Morrison FGo, 5/14 St. Louis KJB (median 5/7).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [49 South, 18 North] Reported statewide, as far north as Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Becker, and Clay counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [49 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/27 Nicollet RMD, 4/29 Dakota JPM, Washington SLP, 4/30 Carver WCM, Rice TFB. Early north (median 5/3) 5/3 Pine EMH, 5/4 Kanabec CAM, 5/5 Aitkin KCR, Otter Tail BDE, Polk BDF. Season high counts 5/10 Chisago (23) RBJ, 5/13 Fillmore (11) RTP.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [4 South, 1 North] Several out-of-range reports this season. Topping the list was a first spring male found 5/20 **St. Louis** (Stoney Point) †KRE, †DOK, ph. †MLH, ph. †PHS. Also reported from along the Minnesota River Valley a record early, single female **4/30** Blue Earth RBJ, ph. DAC, plus sing-

ing males 5/21+ **Nicollet** (near Courtland, reported at this location through June, see summer report) RMD, ph. †CMB, m.ob., 5/23 Brown (North Star Twp.) BTS. Only report from its traditional range was 5/18 Rock CRM.

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*) — [1 North] Male present 5/23–24 and female present 5/23–27 at feeder in Otter Tail (Star Lake) †ARo, ph. †PHS, CRM, DST, m.ob.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [41 South, 20 North] Early south (median 5/4) 4/25 Rice TFB, 5/5 Ramsey MDu, 5/6 Meeker DMF, Olmsted JWH, Scott CRM. Record early north (median 5/9) **4/24** Cook CJT, followed by 5/9 Morrison FGo, 5/10 Kanabec CAM, Todd MSK.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) — [1 South, 1 North] Both records were of adult males visiting feeders: 5/20 Rock ph. PMo, and 5/19–21 Clay CMN, KBr, †PBB, ph. DAC, m.ob.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [5 South, 1 North] South reports start with a very early migrant **4/24** Nicollet ph. †RMD, followed by 5/21 Dakota JLO, Nicollet RMD, ChH, 5/22 Olmsted JWH, 5/23 Meeker DMF, 5/28 Waseca DAB. Only north report 5/31 **Carlton** DCr.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [36 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/3 Meeker DMF, 5/4 Fillmore JWH, 5/5 Olmsted JWH, Swift JoS. Early north (median 5/5) 5/6 Otter Tail TJa, 5/9 Clay RHO, Otter Tail DST, 5/10 Kanabec DBM.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from every county. See winter report for over-wintering records. Presumed early north migrants (median 3/9) 3/14 Becker ClS, 3/15 Mille Lacs ASC, 3/16 Kanabec CAM, Otter Tail DST, Todd MSK.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [34 South, 13 North] Early south 3/15 Rice JLO, DAB, DWK, 3/16 Fillmore RTP, Rice TFB, Sherburne ASC, 3/17 Goodhue and Le Sueur PEJ. Early north (median 3/25) 3/16 Kanabec CAM, 3/17 Mille Lacs ASC, 3/29 Cass BAW, Todd MSK. At the extreme limit of its range was one 4/13 Lake JWL.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [40 South, 21 North] Early south 3/15 Brown BTS, Rock JCC, 3/16 Fillmore CWG, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 3/16) 3/10 Becker SKa, 3/15 Pennington JMJ, 3/16 Marshall GT, 3/21 Traverse MO. Season high counts 5/9 Clay (46) RHO and 3/21 Lac qui Parle (19) BJU.

meadowlark sp. (*Sturnella* sp.) — [1 North] One report properly left unidentified 5/23 Cook DFN.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [42 South, 24 North] Early south (median 3/29) 3/15 Redwood ANy, 4/3 Nicollet RMD, 4/10 Yellow Medicine DPG, 4/11 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/10) 4/11 Wilkin LS, 4/12 Otter Tail LS, 4/18 Polk KLa, 4/21 Marshall GT.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [37 South, 13 North] Early south (median 3/6) 3/5 Freeborn AEB, Rice TFB, 3/14 Freeborn JCC, 3/15 Dakota SWE, Rice DAB, 3/16 Lac qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 3/19) 3/21 Traverse MO, 3/22 Otter Tail ARo, 3/26 Lake JWL, 3/30 Mille Lacs ASC. High count 3/22 Carver (90) DWK. Late south 4/18 Anoka DWK, PEB, Stearns DPG, Wabasha DBz, 4/19 Renville DAB, 4/22 Cottonwood DHr, 5/5 Hennepin FKB (median 4/30). Late north 5/1 St. Louis EEO, 5/2 Cook EEO, 5/9 Aitkin CAM, Morrison FGo (median 5/3).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [30 South, 25 North] Early south (median 3/13) 3/19 Blue Earth ChH, Dakota ADS, JPM, 3/21 Houston DFN, McLeod, Meeker MJB. Early north (median 4/1) 3/22 Todd MSK, 4/5 Kanabec HHD, 4/8 Clay and Polk MEB. Season high count 4/19 Wright (150, Pelican Lake W.P.A.) DWK.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [53 South, 32 North] See winter report for over-wintering individuals. Presumed early north migrants (median 3/10) 3/16 Aitkin KCR, Kanabec CAM, Marshall GT, Otter Tail DST, 3/17 Mille Lacs ASC.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — [2 South] All reports **3/21** Jackson (**10** along SR 86 near CR 4) RMD, 4/16 Jackson (CR 24 east of HeronLake) RJS, 5/1 Jackson JEB, 5/9 Jackson (Sandy Point C.P., Heron Lake) DBM, 5/13 Lac qui Parle ASC.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [52 South, 32 North] Presumed early south migrants (median 3/12) 3/2 Hennepin CMB, 3/14 Jackson JCC, 3/15 Dakota SWE. Early north (median 4/6), 4/4 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 4/10 Douglas JPE, Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC. Season high counts 4/27 Benton (300) MJB, 4/19 Wright (120, Pelican Lake W.P.A.) DWK.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [25 South, 9 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/8 Scott KRE, 5/10 Nicollet JCC, 5/12 Lac qui Parle FAE, Meeker DMF, 5/13 Olmsted JWH, Sherburne PLJ. Early north (median 5/15) 5/21 Clay RBJ, DAC, Polk

HHD, St. Louis (Canyon) SR, 5/22 Kittson HHD, JCC, CRM.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [48 South, 31 North] Early south (median 4/29) 4/30 Hennepin ABL, 5/2 Meeker DMF, 5/3 Hennepin RBW, Winona ANy, 5/4 Carver JCy. Early north (median 5/4) 5/4 Hubbard MAW, 5/6 Becker DBH, Kanabec CAM, Mille Lacs Asc, Otter Tail ARO, Wadena PJB, 5/7 Crow Wing JSB.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [5 North] All reports 3/1 Cass BAW, St. Louis SES, PHS, 3/7 Koochiching MJB, FGo, 3/14 St. Louis PHS, 3/16 Lake JWJ, 4/14 St. Louis FKB, 4/28 Roseau BJS.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — [28 South, 24 North] Late south 5/1 Dakota JPM, Watonwan HHD, 5/9 Lac qui Parle FAE, 5/13 Ramsey EMH, 5/14 Fillmore RTP (median 5/16).

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [51 South, 26 North] Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [1 South, 4 North] All reports 3/4 Cass MRN, 3/7 Aitkin, Koochiching MJB, FGo, 3/8 Beltrami DBM, 5/11 Stearns (3, St. John's Preparatory School) MJB.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [19 South, 7 North] More reports than normal as a result of this species' winter irruption. North and south reports continued throughout March and into early April. Late south 3/28 Carver HHD, 4/4 Sherburne Asc, Stearns HHD, 4/10–15 Washington (Carpenter N.C.) SLP (median 4/14). Late north 3/8 Beltrami DBM, 3/10 St. Louis SLF, 3/17 Lake JWJ, 4/3 Itasca EEO, 4/6 Hubbard DCH. Season high counts 3/7 Steele (20) JWH, 3/6 Itasca (19) RBJ, DAC, 3/1 Kandiyohi (15) HHD, 3/14 Brown (11) BTS.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) — [46 South, 31 North] Late south 4/18 Ramsey ABL, 4/19 Anoka CKB, 5/1 Hennepin DBM, 5/9 Wash-

ington ABL (median 4/5). Late north 5/1 Crow Wing JSB, 5/2 St. Louis TPW, 5/9 Morrison FGo (median 5/3). Season high counts 4/9 St. Louis (2,415 at W.S.H.C.) KJB, 3/12 Hennepin (530) DBM, 3/24 Crow Wing (500) JSB, 3/7 Koochiching (460) MJB, 3/28 Anoka (400) CKB. Season total at W.S.H.C. was 5,379 KJB.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemannii*) — [Reported from 10 South, 13 North] All documented reports south: 3/1 Hennepin ph. ABL, 3/13 Rice (banded) ph. DAT, 3/15–29 Dakota †ADS, ph. JPM, 3/22 Chisago ph. †MHe, 3/25 **Nicollet** ph. †RMD, 3/26 Chisago ph. †MHe, 3/22 – 4/8 Anoka (peak of 4 on 3/28) ph. †CKB, 3/20–22, 4/9 Anoka †DPG. Documented north reports: 3/28 Lake †JWL, 3/29 St. Louis ph. †FKB, 4/1 St. Louis †PHS, 4/2 Morrison †MJB, 4/7 St. Louis KRE, 4/8 Kanabec ph. †CAM, 4/9 St. Louis JCG, 4/10 Cass BAW (median 4/6). Sightings ended abruptly; last seen 9 Apr south and 10 Apr north.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) — [47 South, 31 North] Noticeable increase in reports from previous spring seasons. Reported throughout the season in all regions. Evidence of nest building in Blue Earth, Cass, Hennepin, Isanti, Morrison, Nicollet, Ramsey, St. Louis. Late south 5/24 Lac qui Parle FAE, 5/28 SMC Hennepin, 5/29 BAF Hennepin, 5/31 DPG Anoka, but also see summer report for many other records that continued south into July. Season high counts 3/17 Mille Lacs (100) Asc, 5/13 Pennington (100) JMJ, 5/14 Itasca (52) EEO.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) — [51 South, 32 North] Reported statewide.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [9 North] Scattered reports, all from counties north of a line between Polk and Carlton. Season high counts 5/2 Lake (20) *fide* JWJ, 3/7 Koochiching (15) MJB.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [53 South, 33 North] Reported statewide.

Contributors

ABe	Andrew Beerman	AXH	Anthony X. Hertzell	BWF	Ben W. Fritchman
ABL	Andrew B. Longtin	BAF	Bruce A. Fall	CAB	Cheryl Boyes
ADS	Andrew D. Smith	BAW	Ben A. Wieland	CAM	Craig A. Menze
AEB	Al E. Batt	BDE	Brad & Dee Ehlers	CE	Chris Elmgren
AHi	Amy Hillburger	BDF	Bruce D. Flaig	ChA	Clifford Hansen
ALD	Alyssa L. DeRubeis	BDS	Beau Shroyer	ChH	Chad Heins
AnR	Angela Roufs	BJS	Beth & Jeff Siverhus	CJT	Carol & Jim Tveekrem
ANy	Andrew Nyhus	BJU	Bill J. Unzen	CKB	Christopher Brown
ARo	Alma Ronningen	BMn	Bruce Munson	CIS	Cleone Stewart
ARW	Alexander R. Watson	BRB	Brad R. Bolduan	CMB	Conny M. Brunell
Asc	Al Schirmacher	BrS	Brett Short	CMN	Connie M. Norheim
ASM	Steven Midthune	BTS	Brian T. Smith	COg	Christian Ogilvie

CRM	Craig R. Mandel	JPE	John P. Ellis	PCC	Philip C. Chu
CWG	Carl W. Greiner	JPI	Jim Pifher	PEB	Paul E. Budde
DAB	David A. Bartkey	JPM	James P. Mattsson	PEJ	Paul E. Jantscher
DAC	David A. Cahlander	JRa	Jean Ranweiler	PHS	Peder H. Svingen
DAG	David A. Grosshuesch	JRo	Jim Rorah	PJB	Paul J. Binek
DAT	Dan A. Tallman	JSB	Jo & Steve Blanich	PJK	Pat Korkowski
DAY	Dale A. Yerger	JSc	John Schladweiler	PLJ	Paul L. Johnson
DBF	Deborah Buria-Falkowski	JSS	Jack Sprenger	PMa	Peter Mattson
DBH	Dave and Betty Hochhalter	JV	Jennifer Vieth	PME	Paul M. Egeland
DBM	Dennis & Barbara Martin	JWF	John W. Fitzpatrick	PMo	Phyllis Mohr
DBr	Don Brown	JWH	John W. Hockema	PRH	Pete Hoeger
DBW	Dan & Barbara Williams	JWL	James W. Lind	RAE	Ronald A. Erpelding
DBz	Dedrick Benz	JWR	Jim W. Rataczak	RAN	Rod Anton
DCH	Dallas C. Hudson	JZe	Jean Zettervall	RBJ	Robert B. Janssen
DCr	Donna Crider	KAK	Karla A. Kinstler	RBW	Bob Williams
DDo	Diana Doyle	KBR	Kathy Bresee	RBy	Bob Bystrom
DEn	Deanne Endrizzi	KCR	Kim & Cindy Risen	REH	Robert E. Holtz
DFN	David F. Neitzel	KJB	Karl J. Bardon	REM	Ron E. Martin
DHr	Daryl Hrdlicka	KLa	Kelly Larson	RHO	Robert H. O'Connor
DJB	Dan J. Beran	KLF	Ken LaFond	RJS	Roger J. Schroeder
DLW	Debbie Waters	KRE	Kim R. Eckert	RLE	Robert L. Ekblad
DMA	Diane M. Anderson	KRo	Karl Roe	RLL	Robin LaFortune
DMF	Dan M. Floren	KRV	Ken & Rebecca Vail	RLR	Ronald L. Refsnider
DMK	Dee Kuder	KSc	Karen Schik	RLW	Richard Wood
DOB	Derek O. Bakken	KTP	Kyle TePoel	RMD	Robert M. Dunlap
DOK	Don O. Kienholz	LAn	Lorraine Anderson	RNe	Randal Newton
DOI	Donovan Olson	LAV	Lance A. Vrieze	RoW	Robert Watson
DPe	David Persing	LAW	Larry A. Weber	RPR	Robert P. Russell, Jr.
DPG	Dan & Pam Guynn	LBF	Linda B. Felker	RSF	Randy S. Frederickson
DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	LCo	Lorna Cooper	RTp	Ray Potthoff
DRa	Don Rakstad	LE	Lane Ellwanger	RWa	Rick Waldrop
DRB	David R. Benson	LEC	Laura E. Coble	RWS	Robert Schroeder
DST	Dan & Sandy Thimgan	LMS	Larry Sirvio	RZI	Roy Zimmerman
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	LS	Linda Sparling	SAS	Shelly A. Steva
DWR	Dean W. Riemer	LW	Larry Wilebski	SC	Shawn Conrad
EBK	Ed Brekke-Kramer	LWa	Linda Wadsworth	SDa	Steve Dahl
EBr	Erik Bruhnke	LWh	Linda A. Whyte	SES	Steven E. Schon
EEO	Earl E. Orf	MA	Margaret Anderson	SG	Sarah Grosshuesch
EHe	Ed Heit	MaH	Marshall Howe	Slv	Samuel Ives
ELC	Erik Collins	MAW	Mariene A. Weber	SKa	Scott Kahan
EMH	Beth Hamel	MCA	Mark C. Alt	SKr	Scott Krych
ErH	Eric Harrold	MDa	Mary Davis	SLF	Steve L. Falkowski
FAE	Fred Eckhardt	MDN	Mark D. Nieters	SLP	Susan Plankis
FGo	Frank Gosiak	MDu	Matt Dufort	SMC	Scott M. Clark
FKB	Frank Berdan	MEB	Mel & Elaine Bennefeld	SPM	Steve P. Millard
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	MHe	Melissa Hein	SPS	Steve Stucker
GAn	Gordon Andersson	MHK	Martin H. Kehoe	SR	Sandy Roggenkamp
GDB	Gene D. Bauer	MJB	Milton J. Blomberg	SRG	Stephen R. Greenfield
GGi	Glennie Gilleen	MLF	Mindy L. Finlay	SSE	Sheila Sears
GKn	Gregg Knutsen	MLH	Mike Hendrickson	SSt	Sid Stivland
GT	Gary Tischer	MO	Mark Otnes	StE	Susan Tertell
HHD	Herb H. Dingmann	MRe	Maureen Refsnider	STW	Sylvia T. Winkelman
HWa	Helen Wang	MRN	Michael R. North	SuW	Suzanne Weber
JBB	Jason Bolish	MSK	Susan Kroll	SWe	Steve Weston
JCC	Joel C. Claus	MSS	Mark "Sparky" Stensaas	TAN	Twyla Anderson
JCG	Janet C. Green	MSw	Mike Sweet	TAT	Tom A. Tustison
JCN	John C. Nelson	MTH	Molly Thompson	TBe	Thom Bergstrom
JCy	John Cyrus	MWS	Mike W. Steffes	TD	Tim Dawson
JDB	Judd Brink	NAJ	Nancy A. Jackson	TDi	Ted Dick
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	NBO	Nancy B. Overcott	TFB	Tom F. Boevers
JFi	Jim Fitzpatrick	NBr	Nancy Braker	TFo	Troy A. Foster
JHD	Joel Dunnette	NED	Nelvina E. DeKam	TJa	Teresa Jaskiewicz
JKI	James Kiehne	NFT	Nels F. Thompson	TJM	Todd J. Merefield
JLK	Jan & Larry Kraemer	NGE	Nathaniel G. Emery	TLy	Toni Lyrenmann
JLO	James L. Otto	NLM	Norma Malinowski	TPB	Terry P. Brashear
JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru	NV	Nancy Voges	TPW	Terry P. Wiens
JMu	Jacob Musser	OWB	Bill Bruins	TRP	Wildlife Staff
JoS	Joel Schmidt	PBB	Patrick B. Beauzay	UK	Uwe Kausch

VTh Vicky Thomas
 WCM William C. Marengo
 WMa William Matthews, Jr.
 WOS Bill Stjern
 WPS Wally P. Swanson
 WW Warren Woessner

Abbreviations
 C.P. County Park
 N.C. Nature Center
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area

S.P. State Park
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.P. Wilderness Park
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Protection Area
 W.S.H.C. West Skyline Hawk Count
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Foresight

Kim R. Eckert



It's been awhile since I've tried this, 1996 to be exact, and perhaps I could have done better the first time around. But I figure after 14 years, everyone's forgotten how those predictions came out, so the time is ripe to try it again.

The predictions in question appeared in a two-part "Hindsight" installment in the Winter 1995–96 and Winter 1996–97 issues of *The Loon*, and they involved naming which species would be the most likely additions to the Minnesota list. In all, 55 birds were chosen to be eventually possible — if not inevitable — as first state records, and it remains to be seen how most of these selections will turn out.

In hindsight, I suppose you could say my foresight was a bit shortsighted, lacked some insight, and involved several oversights.

Not counting the reclassified Cackling Goose, 17 new species showed up here in the next 14 years, and I did manage to correctly predict 11 of them: Smew, Brown Pelican, Wood Stork, Black Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Slaty-backed Gull, Black Guillemot, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Inca Dove, White-throated Swift, and Pygmy Nuthatch. So, 11 predictions out of 17 does equal a 65% accuracy rate, but would that amount to a passing or failing grade on a test?

At the same time, I failed to predict these six first state records: Rock Ptarmigan, Elegant Tern, Long-billed Murrelet, Green Violetear, Costa's Hummingbird, and Acorn Woodpecker. And, of those 55 species predicted in 1996, the jury is still out on the other 44 — how long (if ever) will it take for them to be added to the state list? Or maybe it's time to abandon some of those predictions, add some new ones, and start over again.

This exercise, by the way, is consistent with the identification theme which runs through this "Hindsight" series. The point is you're less likely to correctly identify a bird if you are unaware of its status, since relative abundance is an important consideration in the ID process.

So, for instance, if you see something that resembles a Cliff Swallow but doesn't look quite right, odds are you'll just pass it off as, well, just a swallow that doesn't look quite right — unless you're aware that Cave Swallow has strong potential for showing up here. Similarly, knowing that Cassin's Sparrow has some likelihood as a Minnesota vagrant, while the similar Botteri's doesn't, gives you an easier path to the correct ID of that nondescript sparrow you just discovered.

As in 1996, the best way to start compiling a list of new Minnesota possibilities

is to consider what's been seen in nearby states and provinces, i.e., Manitoba, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario. (And I thank the websites of the various state/provincial bird clubs and records committees as sources for this information.) Non-migratory residents in western ND, SD, and NE were disregarded, as were those Atlantic Coast and pelagic vagrants in eastern Ontario which I think have virtually no chance of reaching western Lake Superior.

Before listing my predictions, which fall into four categories (and will probably prove to be wildly inaccurate), note that I'm mostly talking about species that have a fair chance of being detected, correctly identified, and adequately documented. As you'll see below, so-called "stealth vagrants," which can be easily overlooked, involve daunting ID challenges, and thus would be harder to add to the state list, are relegated to a separate category.

An asterisk (*) indicates those species previously included among my 1996 predictions. Also note the parenthetical annotations with the states/provinces in which the species have occurred, though I readily grant that some of these may be incomplete. Incomplete as well are the intentionally brief comments on identification; more thorough analyses of the species listed below would be beyond the scope and space limitations of this article.

I. We Ought to be Ashamed of Ourselves

In other words, these are the birds I consider to have the strongest potential to appear on the Minnesota list, and it's somewhat surprising, almost embarrassing, that none of us has found any of these yet in the state. When (and not if) they will show up is just a matter of time, so don't just sit there after you're done reading this – get out there and bird!

Tufted Duck* An obvious male at the Blue Lake sewage treatment plant several years back was unfortunately traced back to a nearby waterfowl collector. A genuine natural vagrant will certainly show up soon, however. (MB, NE, IL, MI, ON)

Northern Gannet* If a gannet can wander as far inland as North Dakota, shouldn't it be a cinch to find one here? Study up on the immature plumages, since younger gannets are most likely to wander. (MB, ND, IL,

MI, ON)

Anhinga* It was actually on the state list for awhile, until we learned that cormorants can soar and fan their tails in anhinga-like fashion, and it was deleted. A correct identification, however, should occur here sooner than later, given all the nearby records (NE, IA, IL, WI, MI, ON).

Reddish Egret With a handful of Midwest records (NE, IA, IL, MD), I'm at a loss to explain why this coastal wader failed to get nominated in 1996. It's even relatively easy to identify.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* Long considered one of the most overdue Minnesota species, this shorebird still is. Come on now: it's not all that difficult to separate from the Pectoral. (ND, NE, IA, IL, ON)

Black-tailed Gull Like other gulls, this has shown an increased tendency to wander in recent years — all since my faulty 1996 predictions, of course. But, like other gulls, non-adults could be a challenge to ID and document. (MB, IA, IL, WI)

Royal Tern* This maritime species has managed to wander several times far from the coast to the Great Lakes region (IA, IL, WI, ON), and telling one from the similar Caspian Tern is pretty straightforward.

Thick-billed Murre* Now that we've got Long-billed Murrelet (2008 in St. Louis Co.) and Black Guillemot (2009 in Cook Co.) under our belts, we're now due for this alcid in 2010 — in Lake Co., naturally. Just be sure to rule out Razorbill and Common Murre after you spot it. (IA, WI, MI, ON)

Broad-billed Hummingbird With vagrant hummingbirds at feeders all the rage in recent years, and even immatures/females of this species not too difficult to identify, this should be the next hummer on the state list. Note all the Midwest records (SD, IL, WI, MI, ON), even though I didn't predict it in 1996.

Tropical Kingbird* Since some turned up east of here (MI, ON), it's tempting to suggest they flew through Minnesota on the way, and this inclined-to-wander species has also occurred in several other extra-limital states/provinces. The only catch is it needs to vocalize to prove it's not a long-shot Couch's (see below).

Plumbeous Vireo Missing from my 1996 list (before it was split?), it regularly breeds

in South Dakota's Black Hills, only some 350 miles from the Minnesota border, and a couple of credible sightings or two here have already been reported. Given a decent view, it's readily separable from the similar and formerly conspecific Blue-headed Vireo. (ND, SD, ON)

Pinyon Jay* Also regular in western South Dakota, there's at least one record this far east of this distinctive and widely wandering species. (MB, ND, SD, IA)

Cave Swallow* Of the 18 species in this section, this has to be our most embarrassing vacancy on the state list! Consider all the nearby records (NE, IA, IL, WI, MI, ON), and that it's now virtually regular in late fall in the eastern Great Lakes. Just beware of juvenile Cliff Swallows, which show darker foreheads and paler throats like Cave Swallows.

Virginia's Warbler* This is another local but regular breeder in western South Dakota that may well have already passed through Minnesota en route farther east. A careful look should easily separate it from the Nashville Warbler. (SD, NE, MI, ON)

Swainson's Warbler This relatively plain and secretive warbler has surprisingly managed to turn up in several neighboring states/provinces (MB, NE, IL, WI, MI, ON). Yet, for reasons unknown, it didn't manage to turn up on my 1996 list.

Cassin's Sparrow* We're still waiting for someone here to decipher the nondescript plumage of one of these sparrows, which strongly resembles a dull Grasshopper Sparrow, and claim this overdue first state record. (Its song, by the way, is anything but nondescript.) (SD, IL, MI, ON)

Hooded Oriole Here's another of my embarrassing oversights from 1996. Note, however, that anything other than an adult male would be difficult to separate from Orchard Oriole. (IA, WI, MI, ON)

Lesser Goldfinch* And note yet another long-overdue vagrant that's regular in western South Dakota but missing from our list. A male should immediately catch your eye; some study would be needed to identify a female/immature. (ND, SD, NE, IA, ON)

II. No way....Way!

Since this catch-phrase exchange from the Saturday Night Live show probably dates back

to 1996 or even earlier, I'd say it's an appropriate heading for those birds which at first thought may seem unlikely to appear in Minnesota, but a second look will reveal they are definite possibilities. So, don't be too surprised when you turn up one of the following:

Roseate Spoonbill* Like the Reddish Egret (see above), this easily identified vagrant has strayed a few times inland (NE, IA, IL) far from the coast.

Common Crane How can a species included on this list also be rare enough to be excluded from Sibley's field guide? But there's a sighting or two almost annually among the hordes of Sandhills passing through Nebraska, so it's reasonable to think one could occur here among migrating cranes. (ND, NE)

Mountain Plover* Though a grasslands bird declining in numbers, it breeds close to the Dakotas and it occurred east of here at least once (ND, SD, IL). Use care in your ID, however: this species had previously been added to the state list but later dropped when the sightings proved to involve worn, nondescript American Golden-Plovers.

Heermann's Gull* A distinctive gull in all plumages which – simply because it's a gull – has already wandered even farther east of Minnesota (MI, ON), far from the Pacific coast.

Sooty Tern* It's normally just a rarity even along the Atlantic Coast, but storms occasionally drive one inland to the Great Lakes (IL, WI, ON). Only the far-fetched Bridled Tern should be an ID contender.

Gull-billed Tern This coastal species would be no farther off-course here than the Sandwich Tern, which is already on our list, and two nearby states (IL, MI) already have records. With a decent view, the ID is relatively straightforward.

White-winged Tern* Though only casual on the Atlantic Coast, it has occurred in the Great Lakes region (WI, ON). Unless a breeding-plumaged adult, though, this Black Tern look-alike could be considered a stealth vagrant.

White-collared Swift Like the Common Crane, North American records of this very large swift are so few that Sibley left it out of his field guide (as it was obviously left out of my 1996 selections). Still, it has occurred more than once not far from Minnesota (MI, ON).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird* Like gulls, vagrant hummingbirds now seem to turn up anywhere, so this species has definite potential here. It might be a better fit in the following section, since adult males resemble Rubythroateds, and a female/immature might be mistaken for a Rufous. (MB, ND, SD)

Red-naped Sapsucker* Along with the four other species mentioned earlier which regularly breed in and around the Black Hills (SD, NE), this bird could occur in Minnesota. Its field marks are pretty straightforward, but beware of hybrids and of aberrant Yellowbellieds showing some red on their napes.

Cassin's Kingbird* Also regularly breeds in western South Dakota, so it should eventually turn up in this state, though records in the eastern U.S. are scarce. (SD, ON)

Gray Kingbird* Though regular in the U.S. only in Florida, this bird has a strong wanderlust and often strays a long way from home, even to the Midwest (IL, MI, ON).

Black-capped Vireo This now-endangered species, mostly limited in its U.S. range to Texas, has surprisingly wandered a few times into this region (NE, MI, ON).

Western Scrub-Jay There are a few records of this wide-ranging species near Minnesota (MB, IL).

Fish Crow This corvid may be extending its range north, so vagrants now seem less surprising in this region than they used to be. Direct comparison with American Crow involving size and vocalizations would be needed to confirm the ID, but be aware that crows here sometimes give higher, nasal calls much like a Fish Crow. (IA, MI, ON)

Brown-headed Nuthatch We already have a Pygmy Nuthatch record, but its southeastern counterpart has appeared nearby (IL, WI). The calls and exact shade of brown on the cap would need to be carefully noted to distinguish the two.

Western Bluebird This stray to the western Dakotas could possibly occur this far east, although records in the eastern U.S. are virtually non-existent. (ND, SD)

White Wagtail There are several extralimital records of this wide-ranging Eurasian species, including at least one Midwestern record (MI).

Phainopepla* It's a mostly non-migratory resident of the southwestern U.S., but surpris-

ingly a few of them have strayed hundreds of miles to the northeast (NE, WI, ON).

III. A Wealth of Stealth

They're sometimes called stealth vagrants; metaphorically, that is, they could easily sneak in undetected under the radar. In other words, I consider all these to have real potential as eventual additions to the state list, but they are so similar to other more likely species that detecting and identifying them accurately presents a challenge. Indeed, any of them may well have already appeared in the state but were never noticed or passed off as something else.

Accordingly, these species certainly invite some identification insights and analysis, but I'll have to decline that invitation for now. There simply isn't room here, since to thoroughly cover any of them could stand alone as a separate "Hindsight" article.

Mottled Duck I'll admit I've never examined any American Black Ducks here to see if they might be Mottleds, but I probably should, given the recent and unexpected records (NE, IA, ON) far from their normal Gulf Coast range.

Arctic Loon* There may be no records this far east yet, but it's worth taking a second look at every presumed Pacific Loon. Identify with care, however: this species' white flank patch may be distinctive, but alone it's hardly diagnostic, since any species of loon can show a flank patch.

Clapper Rail Amazingly, this salt marsh species has been recorded in fresh water (NE) far from the coast, and Gulf Coast birds can be quite rusty, so who knows how many "King Rail" records might actually have been Clappers?

Pacific Golden-Plover* Although a highly migratory shorebird, this species has yet to be recorded anywhere near Minnesota, as far as I know. A juvenile would be most likely to stray out of range, and distinguishing it from American Golden-Plover is typically a daunting task.

Red-necked Stint* This and the following species are considered the two stints (out of four) with real potential as vagrants to the Midwest/Great Lakes, though only the Little Stint has apparently occurred in this region so far.

Little Stint* See above. (ON)

Rock Sandpiper* It's only an assumption that all the Purple Sandpipers seen in Minnesota and vicinity have been correctly identified. How do we know that none of them was actually a Rock?

Western Gull* Not all pink-legged, dark-backed gulls in Minnesota have to be Great Black-backed or Slaty-backed by default; keep in mind the possibility of Western Gull. (IL)

Yellow-legged Gull This casual (perhaps rare-regular) visitant along the Atlantic Coast has yet to be documented in the Midwest, but who knows? After all, it's a gull! Thus, one could turn up anywhere — and then have its identity endlessly debated.

Lesser Nighthawk* I've long wondered how many of those nighthawks which funnel by the thousands down the North Shore in late August might be Lessers. (ON)

Black-chinned Hummingbird* Unless a bird in the hand, a female/immature Black-chinned could probably be distinguished from a Ruby-throated only if finely detailed photos are available. (ON)

Allen's Hummingbird* Since a few adult male Rufous Hummingbirds can have all-green backs, even an adult male Allen's would be tough to confirm this far out of range. (IL)

Hammond's Flycatcher* It's challenging enough trying to separate Minnesota's five eastern Empidonax, but this and the following four western Empids all could occur here — if they haven't done so already. (ND, NE, MI)

Gray Flycatcher* This Empid might present a less difficult ID challenge since it really is grayer than the others and its deliberate, phoebe-like tail-dipping is diagnostic. (NE, ON)

Dusky Flycatcher* It regularly breeds in the Black Hills, with a few documented vagrants farther east (SD, NE, WI, ON).

Pacific-slope Flycatcher* This may be the only Empid with no records in nearby states, but it has been documented farther east in the U.S.

Cordilleran Flycatcher* It also regularly breeds in the Black Hills (SD), though I'm unaware of any records farther east in the Midwest.

Couch's Kingbird Though not as likely

as Tropical Kingbird, there's at least one Midwest record (MI). To separate it from a Tropical, you'd need a specimen, banded bird, or recorded vocalizations.

Carolina Chickadee* It's regular as far north as central Illinois, there's apparently one Michigan record (from 1899!), and it's been documented in Ontario. So, I suppose a Minnesota record might be possible — but only if a specimen or banded bird, and if you could rule out a hybrid.

IV. Yeah, right

In Minnesota? "Yeah, right," with a strong measure of sarcasm in your tone of voice, would seem the appropriate response to the following suggestions. Still, while any of these appearing in the state would be a genuine surprise, these dark-horse candidates have at least some potential for wandering in this direction. Because they are less likely than those species listed above, my comments below are limited.

Not all the vagrants I'm aware of from neighboring states are included here, by the way, with the longest long-shots excluded for various reasons. I've also excluded two species from my 1996 list — Black Skimmer and Shiny Cowbird. Upon further review, I am no longer inclined to name them even among the long-shots. (Which means, of course, they'll both turn up in Minnesota soon!)

Tundra Bean-Goose (NE,IA)

Barnacle Goose (ON)

Whooper Swan Several Midwest sightings (Minnesota included) have occurred, but all have apparently referred to escapes from waterfowl collections. Apparently. Records of the previous species typically involve questions of origin as well.

Manx Shearwater (MI, ON)

Wandering Tattler* (MB, ON)

Spotted Redshank* (MI, ON)

Roseate Tern* (MI)

Black Swift (ON)

Green-breasted Mango (WI)

Golden-fronted Woodpecker (MI)

Red-breasted Sapsucker (IA)

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (ON)

Cassin's Vireo There may be no records in any nearby states/provinces, but extralimital records are often reported elsewhere in other regions.

Steller's Jay (SD, NE)
Mountain Chickadee (SD, NE)
Siberian Rubythroat (ON)
Bachman's Sparrow (IL, MI, ON)
Rufous-crowned Sparrow (WI)
Sage Sparrow (SD, NE)
Hepatic Tanager (NE, IL)
Varied Bunting

Well, there you have it: Minnesota's next 77 first state records. Guaranteed. And in the highly unlikely event I'm wrong about any

of them, you can blame Michigan birders for warping my perceptions and clouding my foresight. I still can't get over what they added to that state's list during the fall of 2005: Lesser Frigatebird, Short-tailed Hawk, and White-eared Hummingbird! Certainly, no one could have predicted three such far-fetched vagrants appearing in just three months — that would have been as daft as saying a Black Skimmer or Shiny Cowbird would appear in Minnesota.

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

The MOU 300 Club

Compiled by Anthony X. Hertzelt and David A. Cahlander

Beginning in 1975, the MOU began publication of its "300 Club" — a list of members who had seen a minimum of 300 species of birds in Minnesota during their lifetime. Fairly quickly, the number of lists grew to include the County Club, the Personally Found List, Yard Lists, Nest lists, and many others. In 1998, all the lists were moved to a separate supplement to *The Loon*, and the *MOU Listing Supplement* was

issued with each winter issue through 2008.

Because of budget concerns, we have decided to cease publication of the *MOU Listing Supplement* and return the 300 Club to these pages, while the various other lists are posted on the MOU web site (<http://moumn.org/cgi-bin/countylist.pl?op=total>).

One hundred and nine people have submitted Life List totals for 2009 (up from the ten reporting their totals in 1975).

- | | |
|---|---|
| 405 Kim R. Eckert | 382 Steve Millard |
| 404 | 381 Richard Wachtler, Warren E. Nelson |
| 403 | 380 Gloria Wachtler |
| 402 Robert B. Janssen | 379 Don O. Kienholz |
| 401 | 378 John W. Hockema |
| 400 Anthony X. Hertzelt | 377 Charles Krulas, David A. Cahlander |
| 399 Peder H. Svingen | 376 Bill George, Jeff J. Stephenson |
| 398 Bill R. Litkey, <i>Ray Glassel</i> | 375 Jerry E. Bonkoski |
| 397 | 374 Ronald L. Huber |
| 396 | 373 Rick Hoyme, Tom A. Tustison |
| 395 | 372 Andrew D. Smith |
| 394 | 371 <i>Terry Savaloja</i> |
| 393 | 370 Dick Rengstorf |
| 392 | 369 Dedrick Benz, Douglas P. Johnson |
| 391 | 368 Howard C. Towle, Ronald A. Erpelding |
| 390 Jo Blanich, Steve Blanich, <i>Richard Ruhme</i> | 367 Forest V. Strnad |
| 389 Dennis D. Martin, Kim W. Risen | 366 Mark S. Citsay, Connie L. Osbeck |
| 388 Barbara Martin | 365 David W. Thurston |
| 387 | 364 |
| 386 Don A. Bolduc, Robert L. Ekblad | 363 Conny M. Brunell, Jim R. Eikenberry |
| 385 | 362 Bruce B. Baer, William C. Marengo, <i>Jerry Gresser</i> |
| 384 | 361 |
| 383 David P. Sovereign | 360 William Pieper |

- 359 Mike Mulligan, Randy S. Frederickson
 358 Bill Stjern, Craig Mandel, Dick Sandve, Robert Dunlap
 357 Diane M. Anderson, John P. Ellis
 356 David R. Benson, Herb H. Dingmann, Sparky Stensaas, Philip C. Chu
 355
 354 Leslie Marcus
 353 Linda Sparling
 352
 351
 350 Jerry Pruett
 349 Ben Fritchman, Terry P. Brashear, Blaine Seeliger Nancy A. Jackson
 348
 347 Bill J. Unzen
 346 James L. Otto
 345 Mark Junghans
 344
 343 Craig A. Menze
 342
 341 James W. Lind, Joel C. Claus, Warren Wegener
 340 Kenneth Oulman
 339
 338 Warren Woessner
 337 Judith Sparrow, Ken Lafond
 336
 335 Bob Williams, Colin R. Gjervold, David A. Bartkey
 334
 333 Cindy Risen
 332
 331 Marjorie Cahlander, Chet A. Meyers
 330 Nathan Schirmacher
 329
 328
 327
 326
 325 Gary Simonson, Robert E. Holtz, Tom Bell
 324 Al Schirmacher, Robert H. O'Connor
 323
 322
 321 Dale A. Yerger
 320
 319 Earl E. Orf
 318 Linda B. Felker, Paul L. Johnson
 317 Jeanie M. Joppru
 316 Joel Dunnette
 315 Brian T. Smith, David Johnson, Frank Berdan
 314 Mike W. Steffes
 313 Clay Christensen, Dan T. Thimgan, Pete Hoeger
 312 Milton J. Blomberg, Nelvina E. DeKam
 311 Chris Fagyal
 310
 309 Ben A. Wieland, Sandy M. Thimgan, Clara M. Dahle
 308 Frank Gosiak, Mark Otnes
 307 Anthony M. Smith, Steven E. Schon, Steven Midthune
 306
 305 Burnett Hojnacki
 304 Kathi Berdan
 303 Robert T. Heise
 302 Diana Doyle
 301
 300

Index to *The Loon* Volume 81

Compiled by Anthony X. Hertzelt and Nancy Hertzelt

Authors

- Bardon, Karl** "Mississippi Kites at Hawk Ridge" 158
Budde, Paul E., Ann E. Kessen, and Peder H. Svingen "The Summer Season" 13–37
 Budde, Paul E., Bruce A. Fall, James P. Mattsson, and Andrew D. Smith "The Winter Season" 120–137
 Budde; Paul E., Robert M. Dunlap, Douglas W. Kieser, James W. Lind, and William C. Marengo "The Fall Season" 61–99; "The Spring Season" 170–196
Cahlander, David A. and Anthony X. Hertzelt "The MOU 300 Club" 201–202
Chu, Philip "Cinnamon Teal in Lac qui Parle County" 50–51
Dunlap, Robert M., Paul E. Budde, Douglas W. Kieser, James W. Lind, and William C. Marengo "The Fall Season" 61–99; "The Spring Season" 170–196
Eckert, Kim R. "Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Blackbirds" 43–47; "Birding by Hindsight: A Fourth Look at The Internet" 100–105; "Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Herons" 152–156; "Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Foresight" 196–201
Fall, Bruce A., Paul E. Budde, James P. Mattsson, and Andrew D. Smith "The Winter Season" 120–137
Fritchman, Ben "Black-necked Stilt in Kandiyohi County" 109
Gill, Frank B. "In Memoriam, Harrison Bruce Tordoff" 3–6
Greiner, Carl "The Minnesota Christmas Bird Count, 2008–2009" 138–151
Hertzelt, Anthony X. and David A. Cahlander "The MOU 300 Club" 201–202
 Hertzelt, Anthony X. and Nancy Hertzelt "Index to *The Loon*, Volume 81" 202–206

- Hertzelt, Nancy** and Anthony X. Hertzelt "Index to *The Loon*, Volume 81" 202–206
- Kessen, Ann E.**, Paul E. Budde, and Peder H. Svingen "The Summer Season" 13–37
- Kieser, Douglas W.**, Paul E. Budde, Robert M. Dunlap, James W. Lind, and William C. Marengo "The Fall Season" 61–99; "The Spring Season" 170–196
- Kraemer, Jan** "First November Record of Great Crested Flycatcher in Minnesota" 109–110; "Yellow-throated Warbler in St. Louis County" 110
- Lind, James W.**, Paul E. Budde, Robert M. Dunlap, Douglas W. Kieser, and William C. Marengo "The Fall Season" 61–99; "The Spring Season" 170–196
- Marengo, William C.**, Paul E. Budde, Robert M. Dunlap, Douglas W. Kieser, James W. Lind "The Fall Season" 61–99; "The Spring Season" 170–196
- Mattsson, James P.** "Golden-crowned Sparrow in Eagan" 157–158
- Mattsson, James P., Paul E. Budde, Bruce A. Fall, and Andrew D. Smith "The Winter Season" 120–137
- Michel, Eric S.**, Sean Peterson, and Henry M. Streby "July Capture of a White-crowned Sparrow" 107–109
- Mortensen, Steve** "Successful Nesting of Caspian Terns in Minnesota" 156–157
- Nicoletti, Frank J.** "Summary of the West Skyline Spring Raptor Count, 2000–2005" 163–170
- Peterson, Sean**, Eric S. Michel, and Henry M. Streby "July Capture of a White-crowned Sparrow" 107–109
- Smith, Andrew D.**, Paul E. Budde, Bruce A. Fall, James P. Mattsson "The Winter Season" 120–137
- Steffes, Michael** "Black-throated Blue Warblers on Moose Mountain in Cook County" 38–43
- Streby, Henry M.**, Sean Peterson, and Eric S. Michel "July Capture of a White-crowned Sparrow" 107–109
- Svingen, Peder H.** "Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee" 7–12; "Summer Records of the Red-throated Loon in Minnesota" 49–50; "First Minnesota Record of the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*)" 55–60; "Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee" 115–119
- Svingen, Peder H., Paul E. Budde, and Kessen, Ann E. "The Summer Season" 13–37
- Wieland, Ben** "Breeding Bird Surveys at Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, 2004–2007" 47–49
- Winker, Kevin** "Book Review: Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 13, Penduline-tits to Shrikes" 105–107

Photographers

- Bakken, Derek:** Sage Thrasher 118
- Brislance, David:** Winter Wren 1; Black-backed Woodpecker 81; Chestnut-sided Warbler 89; Blackburnian Warbler 161; Black-and-white Warbler 207
- Cahlander, David A.:** Golden-crowned Sparrow 10; Common Loon 17; Chimney Swift 25; Acadian Flycatcher 26; Black-billed Cuckoo 51; Golden-crowned Sparrow 53; Canada Warbler 92; Evening Grosbeak 111; Northern Goshawk 113;
- Eckert, Kim R.:** Ross's Goose 64; Cattle Egret 69; Sabine's Gull 77; California Gull 116
- Gwynn, Dan and Pam:** Say's Phebe 117
- Hamernick, Jay:** Lark Bunting 10
- Hasty, Dan:** Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 177
- Heins, Chad:** Northern Hawk Owl 128
- Hertzelt, Anthony X.:** Black-capped Chickadee 28; Lark Sparrow 33; Long-billed Murrelet 55; Willet 74; Eastern Screech-Owl 127; Great Horned Owl 127; Northern Saw-whet Owl 128
- Kelly, Vija:** Yellow-throated Vireo 83
- Mattsson, James P.:** Swallow-tailed Kite 70; Lesser Black-backed Gull 78; Golden-crowned Sparrow 119
- Mortensen, Steve:** Caspian Tern 157
- Nuechterlein, Gary:** Black-necked Stilt 8
- Orf, Earl:** Ruffed Grouse 67; Lesser Yellowlegs 73; Barrow's Goldeneye 116; Pine Siskin 120; Red-breasted Nuthatch 131
- Osmond, Mike:** Black-throated Blue Warbler 90
- Peterson, Sean:** White-crowned Sparrow 108
- Snelling, Brad:** Golden-crowned Sparrow 119
- Stensaas, Sparky:** Long-billed Murrelet 56
- Svingen, Peder H.:** Boreal Owl 159
- Teft, Bill:** Varied Thrush 139
- Tekiela, Stan:** Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch 11
- Thimgan, Dan and Sandy:** Rock Wren 9; Rock Wren 85
- Veit, Steve:** White-winged Dove 24
- Wieland, Ben:** Prairie Falcon 19; Le Conte's Sparrow 33
- Williams, Barbara:** Snowy Plover 117
- Zierman, Shawn:** Red Phalarope 8; Rough-legged Hawk 71; Least Sandpiper 75; American Pipit 87; Lapland Longspur 95; Black-backed Woodpecker 130

Bird Species

- Avocet,** American 21, 74, 178-179
- Bittern,** American 18, 69, 176
Least 18, 69, 176
- Blackbird,** Brewer's 35, 43, 45, 96-97, 193
Red-winged 35, 43, 44, 96, 134, 142-151, 193
Rusty 43, 45, 96, 134, 140, 142-151, 193
Yellow-headed 35, 43, 45, 96, 134, 193
- Bluebird,** Eastern 29-30, 86, 131, 140, 142-151, 186
Mountain 62, 86, 140, 186
- Bobolink** 35, 43, 44, 96, 172, 193
- Brant** 7
- Bufflehead** 16, 66, 123, 142-151, 174
- Bunting,** Indigo 34, 48, 96, 117, 193
Lark 10, 12
Lazuli 117, 171, 193
Painted 171, 193
Snow 95-96, 134, 139, 140, 142-151, 192
- Canvasback** 15, 65, 120, 123, 140, 142-151, 174

- Cardinal**, Northern 96, 134, 142-151, 192
- Catbird**, Gray 30, 48, 88, 172, 187
- Chat**, Yellow-breasted 13, 32, 171, 190
- Chickadee**, Black-capped 28, 29, 48, 85, 130, 139, 142-151, 185
Boreal 29, 85, 130, 142-151, 185
- Collared-Dove**, Eurasian 23-24, 61, 79, 127, 140, 142-151, 171, 182
- Coot**, American 20, 73, 125, 140, 142-151, 178
- Cormorant**, Double-crested 18, 69, 124, 140, 142-151, 176
Neotropic 7
- Cowbird**, Brown-headed 35, 44, 46, 48, 97, 134, 140, 142-151, 193
- Crane**, Sandhill 20, 73, 178, 178
Whooping 20, 73, 178
- Creepers**, Brown 29, 85, 131, 142-151, 185-186
- Crossbill**, Red 35, 97, 121, 135, 142-151, 171, 194
White-winged 35-36, 62, 97, 121, 135, 140, 142-151, 171, 194
- Crow**, American 28, 84, 130, 139, 142-151, 185
- Cuckoo**, Black-billed 24, 51, 79, 182
Yellow-billed 24, 79, 182
- Curlew**, Long-billed 7
- Dickcissel** 34-35, 96, 171, 193
- Dove**, Mourning 24, 79, 127, 142-151, 182
White-winged 7, 13, 24
- Dowitcher**, Long-billed 22, 76, 180-181
Short-billed 22, 76, 180
- Duck**, American Black 15, 65, 122, 140, 142-151, 173
Harlequin 61, 66, 120, 123, 138, 139, 140, 142-151, 170, 174
Long-tailed 13, 16, 61, 66, 120, 123, 142-151, 170, 174
Ring-necked 15, 65, 123, 140, 142-151, 174
Ruddy 16, 67, 124, 139, 142-151, 175
Wood 15, 64, 120, 122, 140, 142-151, 173
- Dunlin** 22, 76, 171, 180
- Eagle**, Bald 19, 70, 72, 125, 139, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
Golden 13, 20, 61, 72, 120, 125, 139, 142-151, 163-170, 177-178, 179
- Egret**, Cattle 18, 69, 170, 176
Great 18, 69, 176
Snowy 18, 69, 170, 176
- Falcon**, Peregrine 20, 72, 125, 139, 142-151, 163-170, 178, 179
Prairie 19, 20, 61, 72, 170, 178
- Finch**, Cassin's 12
House 35, 97, 135, 142-151, 194
Purple 35, 97, 135, 142-151, 194
- Flicker**, Northern 26, 81, 130, 138, 140, 142-151, 183
- Flycatcher**, Acadian 26, 82, 183
Alder 26, 82, 183-184
Great Crested 27, 48, 82, 109-110, 184
Least 27, 48, 82, 184
Olive-sided 26, 82, 183
Willow 27, 82, 184
Yellow-bellied 26, 82, 183
- Gadwall** 15, 64, 120, 122, 140, 142-151, 173
- Gnatcatcher**, Blue-gray 29, 86, 171, 186
- Godwit**, Hudsonian 75, 171, 180
Marbled 21, 75, 180
- Golden-Plover**, American 21, 74, 178
- Goldeneye**, Barrow's 8, 61, 66, 115, 120, 123, 170, 174
Common 16, 66, 123, 138, 142-151, 174
- Goldfinch**, American 36, 48, 98, 136, 139, 140, 142-151, 194
- Goose**, Cackling 13, 14, 61, 63-64, 120, 122, 140, 142-151, 173
Canada 14, 64, 122, 139, 140, 142-151, 173
Greater White-fronted 13, 14, 63, 120, 122, 170, 173
Ross's 63, 64, 122, 173
Snow 14, 61, 63, 120, 122, 140, 142-151, 170, 173
- Goshawk**, Northern 19, 70, 72, 125, 140, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
- Grackle**, Common 35, 44, 46, 97, 134, 140, 142-151, 193
Great-tailed 35, 44, 46, 9, 193
- Grebe**, Clark's 18, 63, 170, 176
Eared 17-18, 68, 176
Horned 17, 68, 175
Pied-billed 17, 68, 124, 175
Red-necked 17, 68, 139, 142-151, 175-176
Western 13, 18, 68, 176
- Grosbeak**, Black-headed 12
Blue 13, 34, 96, 171, 192-193
Evening 36, 98, 111, 121, 136, 142-151, 171, 194
Pine 97, 121, 134, 142-151, 171, 172, 194
Rose-breasted 34, 48, 96, 121, 134, 140, 142-151, 192
- Grouse**, Ruffed 16, 62, 67-68, 124, 142-151, 175
Sharp-tailed 16, 68, 124, 140, 142-151, 170, 175
Spruce 16, 68, 124, 139, 142-151, 175
- Gull**, Bonaparte's 23, 77, 126, 181
California 115, 118, 171, 181
Franklin's 13, 23, 61, 77, 181
Glaucous 78, 138, 139, 142-151, 171, 181
Glaucous-winged 115, 171, 181
Great Black-backed 61, 78-79, 120, 138, 139, 140, 142-151, 181
Herring 23, 77, 126, 138, 140, 142-151, 181
Iceland 61, 78, 120, 126, 138, 139, 140, 142-151, 171, 181
Lesser Black-backed 61, 78, 127, 171, 181
Little 61, 62, 77, 181
Ring-billed 13, 23, 77, 126, 138, 140, 142-151, 181
Sabine's 9, 61, 62, 77, 118
Slaty-backed 115, 171, 181
Thayer's 77-78, 126, 138, 139, 142-151, 171, 181
- Gyrfalcon** 118, 163-170
- Harrier**, Northern 19, 70, 72, 125, 140, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
- Hawk**, Broad-winged 19, 70, 72, 163-170, 177, 179
Cooper's 19, 70, 72, 125, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
Ferruginous 7, 117-118, 163-170
Red-shouldered 19, 70, 72, 120, 125, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
Red-tailed 20, 72, 125, 142-151, 163-170, 170, 177, 179
Rough-legged 20, 71, 72, 125, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
Sharp-shinned 19, 70, 72, 125, 142-151, 163-170, 177, 179
Swainson's 20, 72, 163-170, 177, 179
- Heron**, Great Blue 18, 69, 124, 140, 142-151, 176
Green 18, 69, 176
Little Blue 69, 176
- Hummingbird**, Ruby-throated 25, 80, 183
- Ibis** 70, 177

- Glossy 12
White-faced 7, 10, 117, 172
- Jaeger** 79
Parasitic 61, 79, 171, 182
- Jay**, Blue 28, 48, 84, 130, 139, 142-151, 185
Gray 27, 84, 130, 142-151, 185
- Junco**, Dark-eyed 34, 95, 134, 139, 142-151, 192
- Kestrel**, American 20, 72, 125, 140, 142-151, 163-170, 178, 179
- Killdeer** 21, 74, 178
- Kingbird**, Eastern 27, 83, 184
Western 27, 82, 184
- Kingfisher**, Belted 25, 80, 129, 140, 142-151, 183
- Kinglet**, Golden-crowned 29, 86, 131, 142-151, 186
Ruby-crowned 29, 86, 131, 186
- Kite**, Mississippi 8, 61, 70, 115, 158, 163-170
Swallow-tailed 7, 8, 61, 70
White-tailed 12
- Kittiwake**, Black-legged 118
- Knot**, Red 22, 75, 171, 180
- Lark**, Horned 28, 84, 130, 140, 142-151, 185
- Longspur**, Chestnut-collared 34, 95, 171, 192
Lapland 95, 134, 142-151, 171, 192
Smith's 62, 95, 192
- Loon**, Common 17, 68, 121, 124, 175
Pacific 61, 62, 68, 175
Red-throated 13, 17, 49-50, 61, 68, 170, 175
Yellow-billed 10
- Magpie**, Black-billed 28, 84, 130, 142-151, 185
- Mallard** 15, 65, 122, 139, 142-151, 173
- Martin**, Purple 28, 84, 185
- Meadowlark** 96, 134, 142-151, 193
Eastern 35, 43, 44, 96, 193
Western 35, 43, 44, 96, 193
- Merganser**, Common 16, 67, 123, 139, 140, 142-151, 175
Hooded 16, 66-67, 123, 142-151, 174-175
Red-breasted 16, 67, 124, 142-151, 175
- Merlin** 20, 72, 125, 142-151, 163-170, 178, 179
- Mockingbird**, Northern 30, 88, 132, 171, 187
- Moorhen**, Common 20, 73, 170, 178
- Murrelet**, Long-billed 9, 55-60, 61, 79
- Night-Heron**, Black-crowned 18, 69, 176
Yellow-crowned 18, 70, 176, 177
- Nighthawk**, Common 25, 80, 183
- Nuthatch**, Red-breasted 29, 48, 85, 131, 139, 142-151, 185
White-breasted 29, 48, 85, 131, 139, 142-151, 185
- Oriole**, Baltimore 35, 44, 46-47, 97, 194
Bullock's 44, 46-47, 118-119
Orchard 35, 44, 46-47, 97, 193-194
Scott's 44, 46-47
- Osprey** 19, 70, 72, 163-170, 177, 179
- Ovenbird** 32, 38, 40, 42, 48, 91-92, 189
- Owl**, Barred 24-25, 80, 128, 142-151, 182
Boreal 80, 129, 159, 171, 182
Burrowing 13, 24,
Great Gray 25, 80, 128, 142-151, 171, 182
Great Horned 24, 80, 127, 140, 142-151, 182
Long-eared 25, 80, 128, 139, 142-151, 182
- Northern Hawk 61, 80, 120, 128, 140, 142-151, 171, 182
Northern Saw-whet 25, 80, 128, 129, 139, 142-151, 182-183
Short-eared 25, 80, 128, 139, 142-151, 182
Snowy 61, 80, 127, 142-151, 171, 182
- Partridge**, Gray 16, 67, 120, 124, 140, 142-151, 175
- Parula**, Northern 31, 89, 188
- Pelican**, American White 18, 68-69, 124, 139, 140, 142-151, 176
- Phalarope**, Red 8, 61, 77
Red-necked 23, 61, 77, 181
Wilson's 23, 77, 181
- Pheasant**, Ring-necked 16, 67, 124, 140, 142-151, 175
- Phoebe**, Eastern 27, 82, 184
Say's 116, 171, 184
- Pigeon**, Band-tailed 7
Rock 23, 79, 127, 139, 140, 142-151, 182
- Pintail**, Northern 15, 65, 122, 140, 142-151, 174
- Pipit**, American 87, 88, 187
- Plover**, Black-bellied 20-21, 73-74, 178
Piping 21, 61, 74, 170, 178
Semipalmated 21, 74, 178
Snowy 7, 115, 170, 178
- Prairie-Chicken**, Greater 16, 68, 124, 140, 142-151, 175
- Rail**, Virginia 20, 72-73, 120, 125, 138, 139, 142-151, 178
Yellow 20, 72, 170, 172, 178
- Raven**, Common 28, 62, 84, 130, 142-151, 185
- Redhead** 15, 65, 123, 140, 142-151, 174
- Redpoll**, Common 97, 121, 135, 139, 140, 142-151, 194
Hoary 62, 97, 121, 135, 140, 142-151, 171, 194
- Redstart**, American 31, 48, 91, 189
- Robin**, American 30, 88, 132, 139, 142-151, 187
- Rosy-Finch**, Gray-crowned 7, 10, 11, 119
- Ruff** 115, 171, 180
- Sanderling** 22, 61, 75-76, 180
- Sandpiper**, Baird's 22, 76, 171, 180
Buff-breasted 22, 61, 76, 180
Least 22, 75, 76, 171, 180
Pectoral 22, 76, 171, 180
Semipalmated 22, 76, 180
Solitary 21, 74, 179
Spotted 21, 74, 179
Stilt 22, 76, 180
Upland 21, 74-75, 179
Western 7
White-rumped 22, 76, 180
- Sapsucker**, Yellow-bellied 26, 48, 81, 129, 138, 139, 140, 142-151, 183
- Scaup**, Greater 15, 65, 123, 139, 142-151, 170, 174
Lesser 15, 65-66, 123, 140, 142-151, 170, 174
- Scoter**, Black 66, 174
Surf 15-16, 66, 174
White-winged 66, 120, 123, 138, 139, 142-151, 174
- Screech-Owl**, Eastern 24, 79-80, 127, 140, 142-151, 182
- Shoveler**, Northern 15, 65, 122, 140, 142-151, 174
- Shrike**, Loggerhead 27, 83, 171, 184
Northern 83, 130, 142-151, 184
- Siskin**, Pine 36, 97-98, 121, 136, 139, 140, 142-151, 171, 194
- Snipe**, Wilson's 22, 76-77, 126, 138, 142-151, 181
- Solitaire**, Townsend's 62, 86-87, 120, 132, 139, 142-151, 171, 186
- Sora** 20, 73, 178

- Sparrow**, American Tree 93, 133, 140, 142-151, 190-191
 Chipping 32-33, 93, 121, 133, 139, 140, 142-151, 191
 Clay-colored 33, 93, 191
 Eurasian Tree 7
 Field 33, 93, 138, 139, 142-151, 191
 Fox 94, 133, 139, 140, 142-151, 191
 Golden-crowned 10, 62, 95, 116, 116-117, 121, 134, 140, 142-151, 157-158, 171, 192
 Grasshopper 33-34, 94, 191
 Harris's 34, 95, 133, 142-151, 192
 Henslow's 34, 94, 171, 191
 House 36, 98, 136, 139, 140, 142-151, 194
 Lark 33, 94, 191
 Le Conte's 33, 34, 94, 191
 Lincoln's 34, 94, 133, 192
 Nelson's 34, 94, 191
 Savannah 33, 94, 191
 Song 34, 48, 94, 133, 140, 142-151, 191
 Swamp 34, 94, 133, 139, 142-151, 192
 Vesper 33, 93-94, 191
 White-crowned 13, 34, 95, 107-108, 134, 140, 142-151, 192
 White-throated 34, 94, 133, 140, 142-151, 192
- Starling**, European 30, 88, 133, 139, 140, 142-151, 187
- Stilt**, Black-necked 7, 8, 109
- Swallow**, Bank 28, 85, 185
 Barn 29, 85, 185
 Cliff 28-29, 85, 185
 Northern Rough-winged 28, 85, 185
 Tree 28, 84, 185
- Swan**, Mute 14, 64, 120, 121, 122, 173
 Trumpeter 14, 64, 120, 122, 138, 140, 142-151, 173
 Tundra 64, 120, 122, 140, 142-151, 173
- Swift**, Chimney 25, 80, 183
- Tanager**, Scarlet 32, 48, 93, 190
 Summer 32, 62, 93, 171, 190
 Western 13, 171, 190
- Teal**, Blue-winged 15, 65, 173
 Cinnamon 7, 13, 15, 50-51, 172, 173
 Green-winged 15, 65, 123, 174
- Tern**, Arctic 116, 171, 182
 Black 182
 Caspian 23, 79, 156-157, 181-182
 Common 23, 79, 182
 Forster's 23, 79, 182
- Thrasher**, Brown 30, 88, 133, 139, 142-151, 187
 Sage 116, 171, 187
- Thrush**, Gray-cheeked 13, 87, 172, 186
 Hermit 30, 48, 87-88, 120, 132, 139, 142-151, 187
 Swainson's 30, 87, 132, 186
 Varied 62, 88, 120, 132, 139, 140, 142-151, 171, 187
 Wood 30, 48, 88, 187
- Titmouse**, Tufted 85, 131, 142-151, 171, 185
- Towhee**, Eastern 32, 93, 190
 Spotted 93, 190
- Turkey**, Wild 16-17, 68, 120, 124, 142-151, 170, 175
- Turnstone**, Ruddy 21, 75, 180
- Veery** 30, 48, 87, 186
- Vireo**, Bell's 27, 83, 184
 Blue-headed 27, 84, 184
 Philadelphia 27, 84, 184-185
 Red-eyed 27, 38, 40, 42, 48, 84, 185
 Warbling 27, 84, 184
- White-eyed 7, 9, 13, 27, 62, 83, 171, 172, 184
 Yellow-throated 27, 48, 83-84, 184
- Vulture**, Black 7, 163-170
 Turkey 19, 70, 72, 120, 124, 163-170, 177, 179
- Warbler**, Bay-breasted 91, 189
 Black-and-white 31, 91, 189, 207
 Black-throated Blue 31, 38-43, 62, 90, 188
 Black-throated Green 31, 38, 40, 42, 90-91, 188
 Blackburnian 31, 91, 161, 188
 Blackpoll 31, 91, 189
 Blue-winged 30, 88, 187
 Canada 32, 92, 93, 190
 Cape May 31, 89-90, 188
 Cerulean 31, 91, 189
 Chestnut-sided 31, 48, 89, 188
 Connecticut 32, 92, 189
 Golden-winged 30, 48, 88-89, 187
 Hooded 13, 32, 62, 93, 190
 Kentucky 32, 92, 189
 Magnolia 31, 89, 188
 Mourning 32, 48, 92, 190
 Nashville 30, 48, 89, 188
 Orange-crowned 89, 187-188
 Palm 31, 91, 189
 Pine 31, 48, 91, 133, 139, 142-151, 188-189
 Prairie 116, 171, 189
 Prothonotary 32, 91, 189
 Tennessee 30, 89, 187
 Wilson's 32, 93, 190
 Worm-eating 116, 171, 189
 Yellow 31, 48, 89, 188
 Yellow-rumped 31, 90, 133, 139, 142-151, 188
 Yellow-throated 9, 13, 31, 62, 91, 110, 116, 171, 188
- Waterthrush**, Louisiana 32, 92, 189
 Northern 32, 92, 189
- Waxwing**, Bohemian 88, 133, 140, 142-151, 187
 Cedar 30, 88, 133, 140, 142-151, 187
- Whimbrel** 61, 75, 170, 179
- Whip-poor-will** 25, 80, 183
- Whistling-Duck**, Black-bellied 7, 8
- Wigeon**, American 15, 65, 115, 120, 122, 142-151, 173
 Eurasian 8, 61, 64, 170, 173
- Willet** 21, 74, 179
- Wood-Pewee**, Eastern 26, 48, 82, 183
- Woodcock**, American 23, 77, 120, 126, 181
- Woodpecker**, American Three-toed 26, 61, 81, 129, 139, 142-151, 183
 Black-backed 26, 62, 81, 129, 130, 142-151, 183
 Downy 26, 81, 129, 139, 142-151, 183
 Hairy 26, 81, 129, 139, 142-151, 183
 Pileated 26, 82, 130, 139, 142-151, 183
 Red-bellied 25, 80, 129, 142-151, 183
 Red-headed 25, 80, 129, 142-151, 183
- Wren**, Carolina 29, 62, 85-86, 120, 131, 139, 140, 142-151, 186
 House 29, 86, 186
 Marsh 29, 86, 172, 186
 Rock 9, 62, 85
 Sedge 29, 86, 186
 Winter 29, 86, 120, 131, 139, 140, 142-151, 186
- Yellowlegs**, Greater 21, 74, 179
 Lesser 21, 73, 74, 179
- Yellowthroat**, Common 32, 48, 92-93, 190



In This Issue

Blackburnian Warbler, 29 May 2009, Cook County

David Bris lance Front Cover

Summary of the West Skyline Spring Raptor Count, 2000–2005

Frank J. Nicoletti 163

The Spring Season

1 March through 30 May 2009

Paul E. Budde, Robert M. Dunlap, Douglas W. Kieser,

James W. Lind, and William C. Marengo 170

Birding by Hindsight: A Second Look at Foresight

Kim R. Eckert 196

The MOU 300 Club

Anthony X. Hertzel and David A. Cablander 201

Index to *The Loon*

Anthony X. Hertzel and Nancy Hertzel 202

Black-and-white Warbler, 13 May 2009, Cook County

David Bris lance 207

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.