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Notes on the Breeding Distribution of Red-shouldered Hawks in Minnesota

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The Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) is distributed throughout much of eastern North America, with an isolated population in California and Baja California (Crocoll 1994). This species appears to have expanded its range into Minnesota in the early 1900s, although there are several unconfirmed reports before that time (Roberts 1932). Throughout most of their range, Red-shouldered Hawks inhabit a variety of deciduous forest types, ranging from lowland deciduous to mixed deciduous-coniferous forests (Crocoll 1994). In Minnesota, the Red-shouldered Hawk traditionally has been considered a species of bottomland hardwood and deciduous floodplain forests, most often found in riparian zones (Coffin and Pfannmuller 1988).

The Red-shouldered Hawk is listed as a species of Special Concern in Minnesota, but in nearby states it is listed as Endangered (Iowa and Illinois) and Threatened (Wisconsin and Michigan). This hawk was identified in the *Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Timber Harvesting and Management in Minnesota* (Jaakko Poyry Consulting, Inc. 1992) as one of the few species likely to decline under all timber harvesting scenarios. Requiring extensive, mature stands of hardwood forest, Red-shouldered Hawks may be displaced by the larger Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) in fragmented forests (Bednarz and Dinsmore 1982, Bryant 1986).

This paper compiles survey work conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (MNDNR) Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) and Nongame Wildlife Program (NWP) to gain information on the breeding season distri-

bution and abundance of Red-shouldered Hawks in Minnesota.

Methods

Red-shouldered Hawk surveys were conducted as part of MCBS, a systematic, county-by-county survey of rare animals, introduced plants, and native plant communities. The NWP conducted surveys as a special project focusing on central Minnesota. In both cases, surveys were done using a tape playback method to elicit responses from territorial hawks. Slight differences in techniques are described below. Areas of potential Red-shouldered Hawk habitat were identified using satellite imagery, aerial photography, topographic maps, recommendations from natural resource personnel, and the authors' personal knowledge of areas.

MCBS began Red-shouldered Hawk surveys in 1988 in Washington County (Minnesota County Biological Survey 1991). From 1990 to 2003, MCBS conducted Red-shouldered Hawk playback at 1183 stops in 46 counties. Point counts and other bird surveys were conducted in an additional 14 counties. Playbacks of taped conspecific calls were conducted along survey routes established on roads, rivers, or trails in areas with suitable habitat. Taped calls were played on a Sony Professional Walkman, broadcast with a Lectrosonics Voice Projector speaker-amplifier unit. Stops were spaced approximately 0.5–0.8 km apart in extensive tracts of appropriate habitat. In areas of fragmented forest, stops were made as suitable habitat was encountered. At each stop, playback consisted of a sequence of several calls followed by a 1–2 minute listening pe-

riod, and then a second sequence of calls. Observers then listened for 2–3 more minutes before moving to the next stop. Playback surveys were usually conducted from early April through mid-May during daylight hours. Red-shouldered Hawks were also found during point count surveys from late May through early July.

From 1996 through 1999 the NWP conducted surveys along transects, beginning within areas that appeared to be suitable Red-shouldered Hawk habitat (i.e., contiguous stands of mature deciduous forest), and then extending into areas that appeared to be less suitable (i.e., fragmented and younger forest). Surveys were conducted from 10 April through 27 May. The survey technique was modified from McLeod (1996), incorporating recommendations from Ann Belleman (pers. comm.) based upon her work in the Camp Ripley Military Reservation. A conspecific call was broadcast in a sequence of six 15-second calls with a 45-second listening period between calling bouts, totaling six minutes. The speaker was rotated 120 degrees in a clockwise direction between calling bouts. If a response occurred at any time before the 6-minute period was over, the sequence stopped immediately and information was collected on direction and estimated distance of the response. A Sony Walkman tape player and a Fanon megaphone were used to play and amplify the calls. Surveys were conducted during daylight hours only, when there was no constant precipitation and winds did not interfere with responses or detection of Red-shouldered Hawks.

Records of Red-shouldered Hawks were added to the MNDNR Natural Heritage Information System's Rare Features database, which stores locations of rare species and other natural features documented in Minnesota. Not all sightings meet established guidelines for inclusion in this database. The minimum requirement for Red-shouldered Hawk records is a bird heard or observed in suitable habitat during the breeding season (typically early April through June). Stronger evidence of breeding, such as birds calling

and aggressively approaching the observer in response to playback, or an adult at the nest, is preferred.

Results and Discussion

Breeding season records. MCBS detected Red-shouldered Hawks at 231 locations in 36 counties. Surveys conducted by NWP personnel recorded 102 territorial responses from Red-shouldered Hawks in six central Minnesota counties. When combined with records from all other sources, the MNDNR Rare Features database contains nearly 460 Red-shouldered Hawk locations statewide (Figure 1) as of December 2003. In addition to MCBS and NWP data, other important sources of records in the database are three research projects (Mosher 1987, McLeod 1996, Belleman 1998), with additional locations from birders, biologists, and natural resource managers. Red-shouldered Hawk records from all sources are distributed among 39 counties, primarily in southeastern, east-central and north-central Minnesota, with three records from the northeastern region. Red-shouldered Hawks have been reported from several other counties (Johnson 1982, Janssen 1987) and undoubtedly nest in some of these areas. However, lacking specific locational information, these records are not included in the MNDNR Rare Features database. The authors would appreciate receiving reports of Red-shouldered Hawks observed during the breeding season from elsewhere in Minnesota.

Habitat and distribution. MCBS and NWP surveys have found that in Minnesota, less than one-quarter of Red-shouldered Hawk records are from lowland forests. Red-shouldered Hawks are more commonly found in upland deciduous forests, particularly in the more heavily-forested central and north-central regions of the state. The presence of wetland openings within or adjacent to forest habitats is of critical importance to this species. Wetlands important to Red-shouldered Hawks include wet meadows, marshes, vernal pools, small lakes, and river oxbows.

The most important lowland forest type

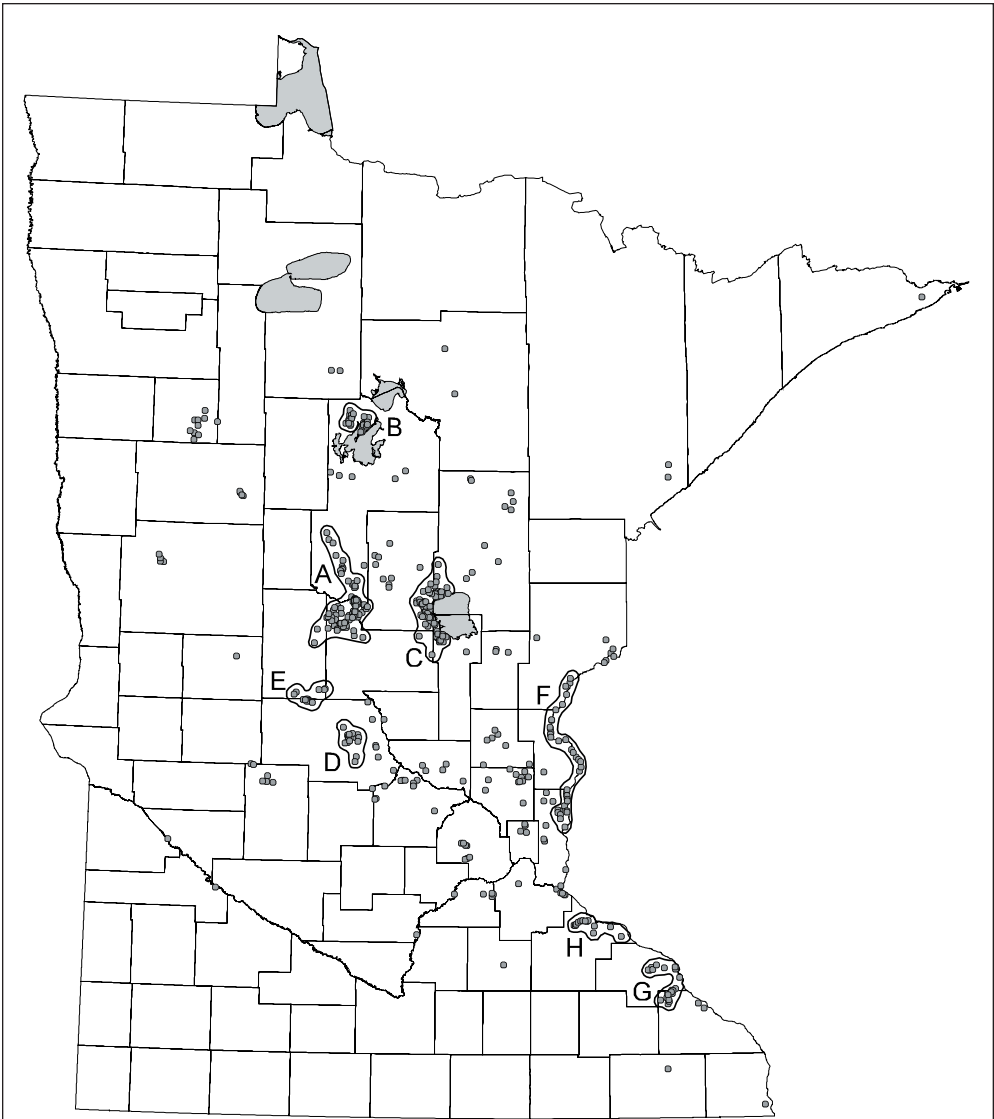


Figure 1. Locations of Red-shouldered Hawk records in Minnesota, 1980–2003. Locations A–H identify important concentrations; see text.

is silver maple floodplain forest. Used to a lesser extent are forests dominated by green and black ash, as well as mixed species stands. Lowlands dominated by species such as box elder, cottonwood,

and black willow are largely avoided by Red-shouldered Hawks.

Upland forests frequented by Red-shouldered Hawks are typically dominated by red, white, and pin oaks, sugar ma-

ple, and basswood. These birds are rarely found in the homogeneous aspen forests which are prevalent in much of the forested part of Minnesota. However, forests which contain old aspen are sometimes used, particularly when such stands are succeeding to forest types preferred by Red-shouldered Hawks. Upland habitats dominated by paper birch and bur oak are rarely inhabited.

Regional differences in habitat use and Red-shouldered Hawk abundance in Minnesota are largely due to habitat availability. Forests in most of central Minnesota are quite fragmented, although forest cover is still much greater than in the southern part of the state. However, the forests remaining are often relatively young or dominated by aspen, and largely unsuitable for Red-shouldered Hawks. In upland forests, topography is a very good indicator of suitable Red-shouldered Hawk habitat. Optimal forest habitat most consistently occurs in areas of small hills or slopes interspersed with wetlands, best represented by knob-and-kettle topography of glacial end moraines. The two largest Red-shouldered Hawk concentrations in Minnesota are closely associated with this type of terrain on the St. Croix and Mille Lacs moraines. Extensive floodplain forests are infrequent in the northern two-thirds of Minnesota, with the exception of the St. Croix River Valley, which is also important to Red-shouldered Hawks.

In contrast, the vast majority of the original forest cover has been lost in southern Minnesota. In this region, end moraines are largely lacking, except in areas which historically were not forested. Remaining forests typically occur in relatively small, isolated patches, or narrow riparian corridors. In the Blufflands region of southeastern Minnesota, where more extensive forest does remain, the forests largely occur on steep slopes, which typically lack the wetland openings required by Red-shouldered Hawks. The largest tracts of suitable forest habitat in this region occur on floodplains of major rivers, such as the Mississippi, Cannon, and Zumbro. These floodplain forests,

dominated by silver maple, support the last few significant concentrations of Red-shouldered Hawks in southern Minnesota.

In 2003, MCBS found Red-shouldered Hawks during the breeding season at three locations in northeastern Minnesota in the coniferous forest region. These records, two in southeastern St. Louis County and one in eastern Cook County, are well beyond the previously known breeding range of Red-shouldered Hawks in the state. The habitat at these locations was mesic northern hardwood forest, dominated by sugar maple and yellow birch, with varying numbers of white pine, spruce, balsam fir, paper birch, and aspen. All sites had relatively mature forest on steep hills, interspersed with numerous small wetland openings. Without additional surveys, the significance of these records is unclear, but Red-shouldered Hawks may nest at these locations, and perhaps at low densities elsewhere in northeastern Minnesota.

Important concentrations. Prior to MCBS and NWP surveys, Red-shouldered Hawks only had been reported from scattered locations in Minnesota. The St. Croix River Valley was known to be important to Red-shouldered Hawks (Faanes 1981, Minnesota County Biological Survey 1991, Mossman 1991, Wovcha *et al.* 1995), but not all of the area had been surveyed.

MCBS surveys in Morrison County in 1991 and 1992 found a large population of Red-shouldered Hawks in the Camp Ripley Military Reservation and adjacent forests near Lake Alexander (Dorff and Nordquist 1993) in central Minnesota (Figure 1, A). Later research by Belleman (1998) documented 38 Red-shouldered Hawk nests in this area, further substantiating its importance. Researchers found a smaller, yet significant concentration of Red-shouldered Hawks near Leech Lake, Cass County (Figure 1, B), in the Chippewa National Forest (McLeod 1996). The results of these studies encouraged further survey work by NWP in other suitable habitat in central Minnesota. NWP surveys resulted in the discovery of an-

other large concentration of Red-shouldered Hawks, located along the west side of Mille Lacs Lake, in Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs counties (Figure 1, C). The Camp Ripley – Lake Alexander area, with 103 records, and Mille Lacs lakeshore, with 72 records, constitute the two largest concentrations of Red-shouldered Hawks documented in the state. Both of these populations largely occur on glacial end moraines with knob-and-kettle topography. Two other important Red-shouldered Hawk concentrations, also on end moraines, are located in eastern Stearns County (Figure 1, D), and in the Birch Lakes area of Stearns and Todd counties (Figure 1, E).

The importance of the St. Croix River Valley to Red-shouldered Hawks has been substantiated by additional fieldwork. Surveys by MCBS and Mossman (1991) in 1990, have confirmed 37 records of Red-shouldered Hawks from the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River between Stillwater, Washington County, and the Kettle River, Pine County (Figure 1, F). At least 15 additional records exist for the Wisconsin side of this stretch of the river. This represents the largest lowland concentration of Red-shouldered Hawks in Minnesota.

There are only two relatively large populations of Red-shouldered Hawks in southeastern Minnesota, both of which are in lowland areas. The larger of the two concentrations, with 23 records, occurs along the Zumbro, Mississippi, and Whitewater rivers in Wabasha and Winona counties (Figure 1, G). Another important area is located on the lower Cannon River and Hay Creek, Goodhue County (Figure 1, H).

Conclusions

Minnesota still supports a significant Red-shouldered Hawk population, with records widely distributed across the forested regions of the state. However, the vast majority of birds are found in only a few large concentrations. Two-thirds of the nearly 460 Red-shouldered Hawk records in Minnesota occur in only eight

areas (Figure 1, A–H), with the four largest sub-populations containing more than half of all records.

Of the two most important concentrations of Red-shouldered Hawks in Minnesota, the Camp Ripley-Lake Alexander population is relatively secure, largely due to conservation activities by Camp Ripley, which has protected important Red-shouldered Hawk habitat on the military reservation. Several other critical portions of this area are protected through The Nature Conservancy and MNDNR Scientific and Natural Areas program (Lake Alexander Preserve and Lake Alexander SNA, respectively). In contrast, significant portions of the Mille Lacs Moraine population are threatened by development pressures, with continuing loss or degradation of habitat. The presence of several relatively large concentrations of Red-shouldered Hawks in central Minnesota underscores the need to manage larger tracts of forested landscape that provide suitable habitat for Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as numerous other forest wildlife species requiring mature forest and associated wetlands. A step toward protection of Red-shouldered Hawks would be to formally designate priority areas for the most important concentrations of birds. Because some forest management practices can significantly impact Red-shouldered Hawks, it is crucial that management guidelines are developed and implemented for this species, especially in high priority areas. Maintaining large tracts of suitable habitat in several areas throughout Minnesota will ensure the continued presence of Red-shouldered Hawks in the state.

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Early Spring Migration Dates and Average Temperatures

Robert Holtz

How much, if at all, does temperature affect early spring migration dates for Minnesota birds? What is the average difference between early southern Minnesota and early northern Minnesota migration dates? Is it in only a few counties where early spring migrants are observed, or is there a wide distribution of counties in which first spring migration dates are recorded?

During the last couple of decades there has been much discussion centered on whether or not planet Earth is experiencing global warming. It has not been a one-sided discussion, and both sides are searching for evidence. Reports of earlier migration dates for many bird species has been published in the literature. Crick and Sparks (1999) analyzed over 90,000 records from 1939–1995 for the United Kingdom. Of 36 species, 19 (53%) showed egg dates later in the cooler 1960s and 1970s and earlier in the warmer 1980s and early 1990s. Reviewing the same data, Mlot (1999) found only one species had shifted to later egg laying in the warmer weather. He noted that compared to 1971, the egg laying was on average nine days earlier in the 1990s.

Thomas and Lennon (1999) analyzed the distribution of British birds from 1970–1990 and found their breeding ranges averaged a northward movement of 19 kilometers (11.8 miles).

Kerlinger (2002) says that Pied Flycatchers are returning earlier each year. He thinks eventually we will see earlier arrivals for hundreds of species. He also expects Lark Buntings, Upland Sandpipers and Swainson's Hawks to nest farther north. He indicates that more warblers are now wintering in southern Texas rather than continuing to Central and South America.

Methods

In order to collect some data which might be pertinent, I first selected twenty species that I felt could easily be affected by temperature changes, species which typically are not present in Minnesota during our winter months. The twenty chosen were scattered through a variety of families found on the checklist from *Cathartidae* (Turkey Vulture) through *Icteridae* (Brown-headed Cowbird).

To allow for a fair amount of time during which arrival dates may have fluctuated if influenced by temperature, I reviewed all spring "Seasonal Reports" in *The Loon* from 1970–2000, a total of 31 years. The temperature data was retrieved via computer from the State Climatology Office in St. Paul.

North and South refer to the areas delineated by Janssen (1987). These are the areas also referred to in *The Loon's* "Seasonal Reports."

Results

There were some exceptions where a species was reported earlier in the northern area of the state on a given year, however, the average northern first arrival dates were always later than those for the southern portion of the state.

Table 1 summarizes these southern and northern arrival dates, stating the average number of days between the two areas of the state. Note the greatest variation occurred with the Brown-headed Cowbird and the least variation with the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Once the latter arrives it apparently moves across the state quickly. For the 20 species studied, the average number of days between the first early south observation and the first earlier north observation was 9.3 days.

The mean Fahrenheit temperatures

Species	Number of Days	Year	March	April	May
Turkey Vulture	15.1	1970	35.3	57.6	70.3
Lesser Yellowlegs	9.9	1971	36.3	60.0	67.2
Black Tern	11.2	1972	36.6	53.1	73.5
Common Nighthawk	11.2	1973	47.8	55.1	66.2
Chimney Swift	7.6	1974	39.2	58.8	65.5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2.4	1975	32.5	47.2	72.8
Least Flycatcher	6.2	1976	42.2	63.4	69.8
Eastern Kingbird	6.8	1977	47.4	66.2	78.9
Warbling Vireo	8.2	1978	40.6	55.3	72.9
Barn Swallow	8.6	1979	35.7	52.7	66.4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9.2	1970-79	39.4	56.9	70.4
Hermit Thrush	11.2				
Yellow Warbler	6.0	1980	37.1	62.5	74.5
Black-and-white Warbler	9.0	1981	50.8	62.1	70.4
Common Yellowthroat	5.9	1982	37.9	55.6	73.9
Chipping Sparrow	14.2	1983	42.5	53.4	67.1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5.8	1984	36.3	59.4	69.1
Indigo Bunting	8.9	1985	46.8	65.7	75.1
Brown-headed Cowbird	23.5	1986	44.9	62.0	72.3

Table 1: Average number of days between early south and early north arrivals, 1970-2000.

(State Climatology Office) for March, April, and May for years 1970-2000 are recorded in Table 2. As you review the following tables, you will want to make reference particularly to the mean temperatures for each decade. For example, mean temperature for all three months was higher in the 1980s than in both the 1970s and 1990s with the exception of the March means for the 1980s and 1990s where they were identical.

Note, when comparing the means of the 1970s and 1990s, the means for April and May are nearly identical and March was on average 3.8 degrees warmer. One might expect the 1970s and 1990s arrival dates to be quite similar for 70% of the 20 species because they first arrive in April and May. However, in the 1990s, 15 of the 20 species arrived earlier on average in the south than they had in the 1970s. There were 10 of the 20 species which did arrive within three days of their 1970s arrival dates.

When comparing 1970s and 1990s first north arrival dates, 15 species arrived earlier on average in the 1990s. However, 13 species had a mean northern arrival date within three days of their 1970s arrival dates.

1987	50.0	69.4	77.1
1988	44.5	61.6	80.0
1989	36.6	58.5	71.7
1980-89	43.2	61.0	73.5
1990	46.5	60.0	68.6
1991	44.5	60.2	71.5
1992	42.5	51.7	74.0
1993	40.4	53.1	67.1
1994	45.0	58.3	74.2
1995	44.1	50.8	68.4
1996	34.8	52.3	65.7
1997	40.4	55.3	65.5
1998	40.6	62.8	77.7
1999	45.6	60.5	71.7
1990-99	43.2	56.7	70.5
2000	51.2	58.4	71.3

Table 2. Mean Fahrenheit temperatures for March, April, and May, 1970-2000.

These somewhat earlier 1990s arrival dates could have been influenced by the number of MOU members reporting sightings. In the 1970s the mean number of contributors to the spring "Seasonal Report" was 68.1. In the 1980s it was 80.9 and in the 1990s it was 143.1. That was an increase of 110% from the 1970s to the 1990s.

Table 3 compares the mean number of days difference in early arrival in the southern portion of Minnesota for each of the 20 species for the warmer 1980s with the early arrival dates for the 1970s. Fourteen species arrived earlier in the 1980s. Five arrived later and three of those were

Species	Days Earlier	Days Later	Same	Species	Days Earlier	Days Later	Same
Turkey Vulture	5.5	-	-	Turkey Vulture	-	-	Same
Lesser Yellowlegs	8.5	-	-	Lesser Yellowlegs	3.5	-	-
Black Tern	-	1.5	-	Black Tern	0.5	-	-
Common Nighthawk	-	5.0	-	Common Nighthawk	4.5	-	-
Chimney Swift	2.5	-	-	Chimney Swift	8.0	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2.5	-	-	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1.5	-	-
Least Flycatcher	1.0	-	-	Least Flycatcher	-	8.0	-
Eastern Kingbird	4.5	-	-	Eastern Kingbird	-	9.0	-
Warbling Vireo	-	-	Same	Warbling Vireo	2.0	-	-
Barn Swallow	2.5	-	-	Barn Swallow	5.0	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5.0	-	-	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5.5	-	-
Hermit Thrush	1.5	-	-	Hermit Thrush	1.0	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	2.0	-	Yellow Warbler	4.5	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	3.5	-	-	Black-and-white Warbler	0.5	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	3.0	-	-	Common Yellowthroat	-	-	Same
Chipping Sparrow	4.5	-	-	Chipping Sparrow	-	-	Same
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2.0	-	-	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1.0	-	-
Indigo Bunting	-	0.5	-	Indigo Bunting	5.0	-	-
Bobolink	-	5.0	-	Bobolink	4.5	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	12.5	-	-	Brown-headed Cowbird	3.0	-	-

Table 3. Number of days difference for early south arrival for the 1980s compared to the 1970s.

Table 4. Number of days difference for early north arrival for the 1980s compared to the 1970s.

Species	Days Earlier	Days Later	Same	Species	Days Earlier	Days Later	Same
Turkey Vulture	-	9	-	Turkey Vulture	-	3.0	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	Same	Lesser Yellowlegs	-	2.5	-
Black Tern	-	3.5	-	Black Tern	-	2.5	-
Common Nighthawk	-	0.5	-	Common Nighthawk	-	5.5	-
Chimney Swift	0.5	-	-	Chimney Swift	-	-	Same
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	Same	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	Same
Least Flycatcher	3.5	-	-	Least flycatcher	-	1.0	-
Eastern Kingbird	-	1.0	-	Eastern Kingbird	-	-	Same
Warbling Vireo	2.0	-	-	Warbling Vireo	1.0	-	-
Barn Swallow	3.0	-	-	Barn Swallow	2.5	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	1.0	-	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1.0	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	3.5	-	Hermit thrush	3.5	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	2.5	-	Yellow Warbler	2.5	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	1.0	-	Black-and-white Warbler	1.5	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	0.5	-	-	Common Yellowthroat	-	3.0	-
Chipping Sparrow	-	1.5	-	Chipping Sparrow	0.5	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4.0	-	-	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	2.0	-
Indigo Bunting	1.0	-	-	Indigo Bunting	-	1.0	-
Bobolink	1.5	-	-	Bobolink	-	0.5	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	8.5	-	-	Brown-headed Cowbird	1.0	-	-

Table 5. Number of days difference for median early south arrival for the 1980s compared to the 1990s.

Table 6. Number of days difference for median early north arrival for the 1980s compared to the 1990s.

Years	Species
1	Turkey Vulture, Lesser Yellowlegs, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird
2	Black Tern, Chimney Swift, Warbling Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink
3	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
4	Barn Swallow
5	Common Nighthawk
6	Least Flycatcher
7	Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird

Table 7. Northern arrivals earlier than those in the south.

within two days of the 1970s arrival date.

Table 4 compares the mean number of days difference in early arrival in the northern area of the state for each of the 20 species for the warmer 1980s with the early arrival dates for the 1970s. Fifteen had earlier arrival dates in the 1980s and three were the same. Only two had later early arrival dates.

When comparing median early south arrival dates between the 1980s and 1990s, (Table 5), the results show a nine-nine split with two species having the same median early arrival date. For the same comparison for early arrival dates in the north, (Table 6), the results are nearly identical, a nine-eight split; the three species arriving earlier in the south in the 1980s are different from those arriving earlier in the north.

Every one of the 20 species included in this study had at least one year when its observed early north arrival was earlier than its observed early south arrival. As Table 7 shows, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Eastern Kingbird had seven years in which the observed north arrival date was earlier than their first observation in the south. The Table 7 data show 55 times that a north arrival was earlier than its south date, or 9% of the total number of possible arrival dates. Those 55 dates were evenly distributed in the 1970s (16), 1980s (19), 1990s (19), and one in 2000.

Comparing the spring 2000 “Seasonal Report” contributors with names in the 2000 MOU *Membership Directory*, I found that of the 174 contributors, I could identify the home county of 128 of them. Seven were from outside Minnesota: Iowa

(3), North Dakota (2), and Wisconsin (2). Thirty-nine were not listed in the *Membership Directory*. Of the 128, 89 (69.5%) were from counties in the south portion of the state and 39 (30.5%) were from the north portion of the state. Hennepin County had 27 of the 89 south reporters, 30.3% of the south contributors. The only other south counties with five or more contributors were Ramsey (9), Dakota (8), and Washington (6). The other 22 counties with contributors had a total of 39 contributors. This also means 26 south counties had contributors and 27 did not.

The 39 northern contributors were from 16 of the North’s 34 counties. St Louis County had 14 contributors, followed by Aitkin and Otter Tail counties with 3 each.

For the entire state, 52% of the counties had no one as a county resident contributing to the spring 2000 “Seasonal Report.”

Discussion

It was noted in Table 1 that the average number of days between early south and early north observations of the Brown-headed Cowbird was 23.5 days. That was 14 days longer than the average difference for all 20 species. If one removes the Brown-headed Cowbird data, the average number of days between the early south and early north arrival dates was 8.6. That leaves the Brown-headed Cowbird differences from the other 19 species at 14.9 days. An inference which can be drawn from these data is that cowbirds do not build nests and therefore have no need to rush north once they arrive in southern Minnesota. Note, according to Janssen (1987), Brown-headed Cowbirds breed

throughout the state.

Tables 3 and 4 indicate that most of the 20 species had earlier or same south (75%) and earlier or same north (90%) arrival dates in the warmer 1980s compared to the 1970s.

Even though the 1980s were also somewhat warmer than the 1990s, the percentage of species with average earlier or same south arrival dates dropped from 75% to 55% and the north percentages dropped from 90% to 55%. It is possible, even likely, that the difference found when comparing the cooler 1970s and 1990s with the 1980s can be accounted for by the increase in the number of "Seasonal Reports" contributors from one decade to the next. The mean of 80.9 contributors for the 1980s was an increase of 18.7% over the mean of 68.1 contributors in the 1970s. From a mean of 80.9 in the 1980s to 143.1 in the 1990s was an increase of 76.8%; this was a rather substantial jump.

Comparing the temperature data with the number of "Seasonal Report" contributors, I get the impression that temperature has some effect on earlier migration dates, but the difference may have been somewhat lessened by the change in the number of contributors. Table 7 seems to indicate that early migration dates are not absolutely fixed by temperatures and/or the number of "Seasonal Report" contributors. We have no way of verifying the accuracy of the dates reported for early migrants, but the general consistency of dates reported probably indicates the dates are reasonably accurate.

What ought to concern all MOU members, particularly those interested in accurate records, is the uneven distribution of "Seasonal Report" contributors over the 87 counties. Hennepin County is obviously tops in early south migration reports because it has far more "Seasonal Report" contributors simply by virtue of the high population density. Certainly more early migration dates should occur in rural counties closer to Iowa than in Hennepin County. How many birds prefer an urban area over a rural one?

Nor is it surprising that St. Louis Coun-

ty leads with early north arrivals. A number of good birders reside there. If anything, it is surprising that there isn't a larger difference between St. Louis and Otter Tail counties.

Summary and Opinions

Warmer temperatures appear to have some effect on early migration dates. However, I must ask one final question. Is the above conclusion correct or do we find warm temperatures affecting migration because birders are more apt to be out looking for migrants when the weather is warmer? I think the average March, April, and May temperatures may vary by so few degrees that it is doubtful that there is any major effect on when birders go looking for early spring migrants.

Even though 52% of Minnesota counties had no resident contributing to the spring 2000 "Seasonal Report," many birders report sightings from more than one county; therefore, more than 48% of the counties have early migration dates recorded. Nevertheless, it seems logical that with at least one resident contributor from every county, our records would be more accurate.

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668 Overlook Dr., Roseville, MN 55113.



Short-eared Owl, 22 June 2003, Pennington County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

The Summer Season 1 June to 31 July 2003

Terry P. Wiens

A total of 273 species was observed during the season, just above the previous ten-year average of 269. Seasonal reports and/or breeding data were submitted by 154 individuals, a significant drop from the 177 observers last summer. Contributors sent in 689 nest or brood cards, the fewest since 1991. (Although there has been a steady decline in the number of nest/brood cards since peaking in the mid-1990s, this has been partially offset by an increase in alternate, electronic forms of reporting nesting data.) Breeding data were collected for 170 species (above average). The top contributors of breeding information included Jean Segerstrom & Mark Newstrom (170 nest/brood cards), Michael R. North (75), and Paul L. Johnson (50). Thanks to every contributor for your outstanding efforts!

An exceptional number of **Snow Goose** reports was received this summer, primarily near the western edge of the state. The presence of **Mute Swans** at three different southern Minnesota locations begs the question — what is the status of these individuals? How often do wild birds disperse from the nearest established population (Great Lakes?), and how often do escapees pop up? The situation is much clearer for **Trumpeter Swans**, which have been well established as a breeding population for roughly ten years, and now can be found in any region of the state, with new county nesting records produced each summer. Not to be outdone, two **Tundra Swans** lingered into the summer (one of which was apparently injured). Late Tundra Swans are found, on average, every other summer.

Unusual was an **American Black Duck** in Lac Qui Parle County on 1 July. **American Wigeon** and **Northern Pintail** were scarce, **Lesser Scaup** were unusually abundant, but other regular waterfowl were found in typical numbers. For the first time ever, more than one **Cinnamon Teal** was found during the season; this species has now been recorded in three of the past four summers. **Greater Scaup** lingered into early June on Lake Superior for only the second time in nine years; also found along the North Shore was a late **Harlequin Duck**. Most unexpected was the well-documented **Surf Scoter** found in Southwestern Minnesota on 1 June. This species is accidental away from Lake Superior during spring migration, and never before has one been found “inland” during the summer season!

The decline of **Gray Partridge** continues to be troubling (unless, of course, you are not a fan of introduced species). The number of reports this season was only one-sixth the number reported as recently as 2000. In contrast, other gallinaceous birds seemed to fare better. **Ruffed Grouse** drumming counts suggested the population is already starting to recover from the traditional ten-year low point in their cycle. Encouraging was an increase in reports of **Sharp-tailed Grouse** (the most since 1983); the fact that D.N.R. surveys also indicated an upswing was good news after so many years of steady decline! Reports for **Greater Prairie-Chickens** were numerous, and **Wild Turkeys** continued their march northward. Perhaps the most controversial game bird observed this summer was the **Northern Bobwhite**, reported at its “traditional” locations in extreme southeastern Minnesota. The identity of the birds is not in question, but a healthy debate exists... are they wild? See *The Loon* 75:3–7 for a recent review of this subject.

Reports of lingering **Red-throated Loons** on Lake Superior were certainly to be expected, but the single bird observed on 7 June in Murray County was one of the very few records so far away from northeastern Minnesota. In keeping with

recent trends, there were only a couple of **Horned Grebe** reports. Two reports of **Snowy Egrets** were typical of one to three observations each summer, as were the half-dozen sightings of **Cattle Egrets**, but **Little Blue Herons** at three locations represented the most reports since 1999. Like last year, there were no reports of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** — the first time in recent memory that this species has been absent for two consecutive summers. Multiple observations of **White-faced Ibis** occurred for the second year in a row. *Plegadis ibis* (White-faced or unidentified) have been found in each of the past four summers.

The majority of raptors were reported in typical numbers, but for unknown reasons, **Swainson's Hawk** observations were close to double the previous ten-year average. **Bald Eagles**, which have gradually increased for over two decades, were observed statewide during the summer (although less common in the west and south), and nesting has now been documented in every region. Reports of **Merlins** continue to increase — in addition to the small group nesting in the Twin Cities area, the past few years have yielded regular reports from the northern boreal forest counties, plus scattered reports from the central portion of the state. The success of **Peregrine Falcon** reintroduction extends beyond Minnesota; in the midwestern U.S., an amazing 163 territorial pairs fledged a record-high 352 young (Midwest Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project). The family of **Common Moorhens** in Becker County this summer was certainly farther north than typical for this uncommon breeder. Cranes were well represented this year, with **Sandhill Cranes** being reported in every region except the Southwest. Not “wild” but exciting nevertheless was a **Whooping Crane** from the Wisconsin reintroduction program that showed up with three Sandhills near Rice Lake State Park, Steele County on 29 June, and wandered around Steele and Dodge counties into August. No written or photographic documentation was ever received for this globally

endangered species, but it apparently was identified by band numbers as one released at Necedah, Wisconsin in 2002.

Shorebird observations were fairly good this summer, following the typical pattern of reaching large peak numbers near the very end of July. Much of the shorebird data resulted from extensive surveys conducted at several western locations, while coverage in the rest of the state was spotty at best — as a result, most of the noteworthy records came from western regions. Peak shorebird concentrations included 3,117 (17 species) on 27 July at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, 3,056 (18 species) on 30 July at the same location, and 3,069 (19 species) at several locations combined in Swift, Lac Qui Parle, and Big Stone counties. An impressive mid-summer total of 1,946 (17 species) was recorded on 6 July at Agassiz. Shorebird highlights included nesting **American Avocets** in two counties, the most **Hudsonian Godwit** sightings since 1992, and a late **Red Knot** at Duluth. The latter species should be monitored carefully — predictions of massive declines have circulated recently. And speaking of declines, apparently there were no nesting pairs of **Piping Plovers** along Pine/Curry Island and Morris Point in Lake of the Woods County (their traditional, primary nesting site). One pair was found at nearby Stony Point.

The status of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** is rapidly changing, but as of Summer 2003 it was still considered Accidental, so only documented reports could be cited in the species accounts. Owl reports included the usual scattered observations of **Long-eared Owls** and **Short-eared Owls**, the first **Boreal Owl** in eight years (surely present in Minnesota during June and July, but rarely found!), and an unusual record of a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** singing in a Minnetonka (Hennepin County) back yard on 29 July. For the first summer since 1992, there were no reports of **American Three-toed Woodpecker**.

Several flycatchers, including **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and **Western Kingbird** were unusually

abundant this year. **Acadian Flycatchers** were well represented at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, a well-known breeding site. **Loggerhead Shrikes** were found in ten counties this summer, identical to the previous ten-year average. Observers are reminded once again to report number of birds and specific locations for all shrike observations, as this species is one of Special Concern in Minnesota. A **Carolina Wren** found in Washington County extends the streak to seven consecutive summers with one or more record. The summer range of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** continues to expand, with a new record in Kittson County and no fewer than six reports in western Minnesota. Three reports of the **Northern Mockingbird** were average for the summer season.

Overall, there were no exceptional late or early warbler migrations this year. Somewhat intriguing was the early June **Orange-crowned Warbler** found singing in Cook County — probably a migrant, but who knows? Territorial male **Chestnut-sided Warblers** (and a new nesting record) were found in Scott and Dakota counties. These observations, along with a previous nesting record in Rice County, delineate the known southern edge of the breeding range. A singing male **Prairie Warbler** found in Scott County represented the first summer report since 1997. Three late **Blackpoll Warblers** were found at the beginning of June in southern Minnesota — more often than not, this species is gone from the state by then. **Cerulean**, **Kentucky**, and **Hooded** warblers were all well represented at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. This same location also featured one of the most exceptional and exciting ornithological events of the summer, when an adult male **Summer Tanager** paired with a female **Scarlet Tanager**, built a nest, and fledged a **Brown-headed Cowbird** (one nesting attempt involving three different species — surely that doesn't happen very often!). Even more amazing, only 18 kilometers away at Lebanon Hills Regional Park, a second male Summer Tanager paired with a female Scarlet Tanager and

also attempted nesting! Both of these hybrid pairings were very well documented over the course of the summer (see *The Loon* 75:221–230). Also unusual was the late **Western Tanager** in Otter Tail County, representing one of the very few summer records for this species.

Henslow's Sparrows were well represented with reports from eight different locations extending as far northwest as Red Lake County. Like Loggerhead Shrike, this is a species of Special Concern and observers are asked to submit exact locations, number of birds, and documentation whenever possible. An exceptional number of **Le Conte's Sparrows** was reported from the northern half of the state. **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** were reported at Felton Prairie as usual, but most unusual was a well-documented observation of a pair in southwestern Minnesota. It can be assumed that **White-winged Crossbills** nest with at least some regularity in northern Minnesota, but evidence has been scant. Field research in northeastern Minnesota resulted in the documentation of nesting in both Lake and Cook counties (the only other documented nesting record occurred in, of all places, southeastern Minnesota!).

Unconfirmed and/or Undocumented Reports: **Clark's Grebe** 6/15 Yellow Medicine (Timm L.), **Eurasian Collared-Dove** nesting in Houston (Caledonia); **Harris's Sparrow**, early June, Renville; **Great-tailed Grackle** 6/1 Cottonwood (Bat L.).

Weather Summary: June temperatures were slightly cooler than normal for most of Minnesota, ranging from one to two degrees below the thirty year average. Frosts occurred at the beginning of the month in the northeast. Rainfall was highly variable in June. Parts of northwestern and central Minnesota received abundant rainfall, over ten inches in some cases. Conversely, the northeast, southwest and southern counties were generally drier than normal. An onslaught of thunderstorm complexes brought severe weather to central and southern Minnesota in late June, with numerous reports of damaging flooding and a tornado that devastated

the city of Buffalo Lake.

For the most part, temperatures in July averaged near normal. Extreme temperatures were not really that extreme at all, ranging from 34° F in the northeast to 96° F in the west-central. Total rainfall during the month for most counties was below normal. A few areas did receive above normal rainfall. Another set of storms brought hail and tornadoes into the state, especially on the 14th and 19th. Many observers noted shorebird habitat drying up as July came to an end.

Format, Maps, and Acknowledgments: The format for the species accounts is similar to that of recent years. The key to the *Seasonal Reports* is located on page 18. Breeding records are classified based on the criteria adopted in April 2001 by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. Each species having at least one nesting record in 2003 has an accompanying map indicating counties in which these records occurred; confirmed nesting records are indicated by dark shading, possible nesting records are indicated by lighter shading. Counties for which confirmed breeding is documented for the first time since 1970 are in italics and identified as such according to updated versions of *County Nesting Records of Minnesota Birds* (Hertzel and Janssen, M.O.U. Occasional Papers: Number 2, 1998). Divisions of the state into regions (e.g. West-central, Southeast) are based on those delineated in *Birds in Minnesota*, p. 25 (Janssen 1987); see also *The Loon* 73:14.

A final thanks to all of the summer season reporters who make it possible to document avian distribution and migration. Dave Benson, Anthony Hertzel, and Jeanie Joppru summarized hotline reports in Duluth, the Twin Cities, and Northwest Minnesota, respectively. Robert Janssen and Paul Budde compiled record early and late dates. Thanks also to Anthony Hertzel for preparing the 168 breeding maps, Paul Budde for compiling the electronic reports, and Peder Svingen, Kim Eckert, and Karl Bardon for their assistance in preparing this report.

3230 Strand Rd., Duluth, MN 55803.

KEY TO THE *SEASONAL REPORT*

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

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, request a report form from the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 E. 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533.

Snow Goose — Record-high number of reports. Observed 6/1 Scott (no location) DFN, PEJ; 6/1 Lyon (3, no location) RMD; 6/1–9 Lac Qui Parle (18 at Salt L.) BJU; 6/3, 6/17 Rock (white morph, injured, no location) RBJ, †SLF; 6/9 Brown (Sleepy Eye sewage ponds) BSm; 6/15 Grant (Pullman L., blue-morph adult) PCC; 6/21 Marshall (2 blue-morph adults at Agassiz N.W.R.) PCC, PHS; 7/20–August Marshall (white-morph adult at Warren wastewater treatment ponds) JMJ, †PHS; 7/21 Otter Tail (blue morph at Battle Lake sewage ponds) DTT, SMT.

Canada Goose — Reported in 61 counties statewide.



Mute Swan — Reported 6/1 Dakota (Gun Club L.) DFN, 6/2 Washington (2 at Lost Valley S.N.A.) LBF, 7/27 Freeborn (Hollandale sewage ponds) AEB.

Trumpeter Swan — Reported in 20 counties in all regions except West-central and Southeast; new nesting records in

Beltrami DPJ, *Stearns* STW.



Tundra Swan — Observed 7/19–20 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) †PCC, ph. PHS; plus Dakota (injured bird oversummered at Gun Club L.) PEJ.

Wood Duck — Seen in 46 counties statewide.



Gadwall — Reported in seven western counties plus Brown, Rice, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Wright, Hennepin, St. Louis; also 6/1 Cook (2) *vide* DRB.



American Wigeon — Fewest reports ever; seen in Marshall, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, Aitkin, Meeker, plus 6/1 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle and 6/8, 6/26 Lac Qui

Parle (Walter/Perry Twp.) †BJU.

American Black Duck — Seen in Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, St. Louis, Cook; plus 6/1 Clay RHO, 7/1 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) †BJU.

Mallard — Observed in 63 counties throughout state.



Blue-winged Teal — Reported in 41 counties statewide.



Cinnamon Teal — Adult male observed 6/7–16 Dakota (140th St. marsh) CHO *et al.*, †PEB, †JPM, †ADS; also first county record 6/14–28 **Kandiyohi** (well-documented male and probable female west of L. Lillian) †RSF, †DMF, RAE, PCC.

Northern Shoveler — Seen in 13 counties as far east as St. Louis, Carver, Scott.



Northern Pintail — Record low number of reports; observed in Polk, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle.

Green-winged Teal — Reported in 19 counties in all regions except Southeast.



Canvasback — Observed in seven western counties plus Todd, Hennepin.



Redhead — Seen in 18 counties as far east as a line through Roseau, Todd, Rice, Freeborn.

Ring-necked Duck — Reported in 23 counties as far south as a line through Lac Qui Parle, Brown, Nicollet, Dakota.



Greater Scaup — Unusual late migrants reported 6/3 St. Louis (~10) KJB, 6/8 St. Louis (3) *fide* DRB.

Lesser Scaup — Most reports since 1992. Observed in 17 counties in all regions except Southeast; majority of dates (when reported) were in early June.

Harlequin Duck — First summer record since 1997; reported 6/1 Lake (female at Agate Bay, Two Harbors) †SLF.

Surf Scoter — First summer record since 1995; observed 6/1 **Pipestone** (probable first-summer male at Pipestone sewage ponds) †KRE *et al.*

Bufflehead — Three broods found 6/29 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS; also reported 6/3 Beltrami DPJ, 6/5 St. Louis (Duluth) *fide* DRB.



Common Goldeneye — Fewest reports on record; observed in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.



Hooded Merganser — More reports than usual; observed in 36 counties in all regions except Southeast (only Yellow Medicine in Southwest). New nesting record in *Pine* JMP.



Common Merganser — Observed in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Crow



Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Red-breasted Merganser — Seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Ruddy Duck — Reported in 30 counties as far east as a line through Roseau, Wadena, Sherburne, Dakota, Waseca.



Gray Partridge — Fewest reports ever; only observations from Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Rock, Meeker. Minnesota D.N.R. surveys indicate a significant increase in the Southwest, but elsewhere in the state, counts were the same or less than last year.



Ring-necked Pheasant — August roadside surveys by Minnesota D.N.R. indicate a 65% increase from last year. Seen in 36 counties as far north as a line through Otter Tail, Wadena, Carlton; new nesting record in *Kanabec* CAM.



Ruffed Grouse — Minnesota D.N.R. drumming counts up 13% statewide. Observed in 22 counties as far west and south as a line through Kittson, Polk, Otter Tail, Anoka; plus Fillmore, Houston.



Spruce Grouse — Reported in Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.



Sharp-tailed Grouse — Minnesota D.N.R. reports a 10% increase in East-cen-



tral range, and 21% increase in Northwest. Observed in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Aitkin, Pine.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — Many more reports than usual; seen in Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Clay, Wilkin, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone (2 males at Altona W.M.A., †SSP). Birds observed in the latter three counties are probably from the recent Minnesota D.N.R. release in the West-central region.

Wild Turkey — Many reports, similar to last year. Found in 30 counties as far north as a line through Clay, Cass, Pine; new nesting records in *Yellow Medicine* FAE, *Pine* JMP, *Sherburne* PLJ.



Northern Bobwhite — Reported throughout summer in Houston (Wilmington Twp.) KAK and Fillmore (near Canton) m.ob. Please note that the status of this species in Minnesota is being re-evaluated by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee — also see **The Loon** 75:3-7.

Red-throated Loon — Most unusual was the bird in basic plumage observed 6/7 **Murray** (Moulton Twp., new county record) †JPM, NED. Also reported 6/1 St. Louis (Duluth) MSS, 6/3 St. Louis (6 at Duluth) PHS.

Common Loon — Seen in 32 counties in all regions except Southwest and Southeast.



Pied-billed Grebe — Observed in 39 counties in all regions except Southeast.



Horned Grebe — Only reports: 6/3 Polk (2) EEF, 6/3 St. Louis (L. Superior) PHS.

Red-necked Grebe — Seen in 26 counties in all regions except Southwest and Southeast; observed as far east as 6/17 Cook RBJ. New nesting record in *Big Stone* KJB, BJU.



Eared Grebe — Many reports, similar to last year. Observed in seven western counties plus Kandiyohi, Meeker, Carver, Sibley, Nicollet, Brown; also 6/14 St. Louis (Biwabik sewage ponds) ALE.



Western Grebe — Found in 16 counties as far north and east as a line through Marshall, Todd, Hennepin, Freeborn; new nesting record in *Carver* RMD.



Clark's Grebe — No documented records.

American White Pelican — Observed in 38 counties statewide; recently established nesting colony still active in Meeker (150 adults at Pigeon L.) PLJ.



Double-crested Cormorant — Seen in 36 counties in all regions except Southeast.



American Bittern — Most reports since 1991. Observed in 23 counties as far south as a line through Lac Qui Parle, McLeod, Carver, and Anoka; plus 6/8 Freeborn AEB.

Least Bittern — Many reports, similar to previous two years. Seen in 14 counties in all regions except Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast.

Great Blue Heron — Observed in 59 counties statewide.



Great Egret — Reported in 28 counties as far north as Otter Tail, Wadena; new nesting record in *Carver* RMD.



Snowy Egret — Two reports in adjacent counties: 6/11–12 Pope (2) RPR, BWF and 7/21–26 Douglas (adult) DDM, BJM *et al.*

Little Blue Heron — Several reports: 6/16 and 6/24 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) †JMJ *et al.*, JJS (*The Loon* 76:54), 7/12 Hennepin (adult at French L.) OIJ, 7/20–August Douglas (max. two adults and one immature at Bah L.) †JPE, m.ob.

Cattle Egret — Reported 6/1 Lyon (near Black Rush L.) RMD, 6/7 Stearns STW, 6/12 Pope CAS, 7/5 Traverse (Mud L. in Lake Valley Twp.) PCC, 7/21–25 Grant (peak of 35) CBr, JPE *et al.*, 7/21–24 Douglas (peak of 54) CRM *et al.* At the latter site, up to 100 had been seen by the landowner.

Green Heron — Observed in 42 counties statewide.



Black-crowned Night-Heron — Reported in Marshall, Otter Tail, Todd, Pope, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Nicollet, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Freeborn.



WHITE-FACED IBIS — Documented 6/1 **Rock** (5 adults at Luverne) RMD, †KRE *et al.* and 6/15 Big Stone (2 in Toqua Twp.)

†PCC.

PLEGADIS, sp. — One seen in flight 6/26 Rock (near Magnolia) †DFN.

Turkey Vulture — Reported in 49 counties statewide.



Osprey — Observed in 21 counties as far west and south as a line through Beltrami, Becker, Stearns, Carver, Rice.



Bald Eagle — Reported in 40 counties in all regions of the state.



Northern Harrier — More reports than usual; seen in 46 counties in all regions except Southeast.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Observed in seven North-central and Northeast counties plus Kittson, Marshall, Becker; new nesting record in *St. Louis* DAG.



Cooper's Hawk — Most reports since 1996. Seen in 34 counties in all regions except Southwest; new nesting record in *Lake fide* JWL.



Northern Goshawk — Reported in Marshall, St. Louis, Lake.

Red-shouldered Hawk — Seen in Hubbard, Aitkin, Todd, Stearns, Meeker, Anoka, Hennepin, Scott, Dakota, Fillmore, Houston; plus 6/13 St. Louis M.C.B.S., Cook (no date, Grand Portage State For-



est) M.C.B.S. Please see the lead article in this issue for a review of this species' breeding distribution in the state (*The Loon* 76:3–8).

Broad-winged Hawk — Reported in 18 North-central, Northeast, and East-central counties; plus Clay, Becker, Otter Tail, Todd, Sherburne, Meeker, Scott.



Swainson's Hawk — Record-high number of reports. Observed in 11 western counties plus Carver, Washington, Dakota, Rice, Waseca, Steele, Mower; also 6/11 Kandiyohi PFS, 7/20 Meeker DMF.

Red-tailed Hawk — Seen in 56 counties statewide; new nesting record in *Murray* NED.



American Kestrel — Reported in 57 counties throughout state; new nesting record in *Fillmore* KAK.



Merlin — Record-high number of reports. Observed in Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus nesting in Hennepin and Ramsey, 6/4 Wadena JJS, 6/4 Stearns BWF, 6/23 Cass N.R.R.I., 7/29 Lac Qui Parle ("Richardson's" at Salt L.) KJB. New nesting record in *Koochiching* AXH.



Peregrine Falcon — Midwest Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project reports 36 territorial pairs and 67 young fledged; nested in 13 counties (see map) plus observations in Stearns, Olmsted.



Yellow Rail — Reported in Norman, Mahanomen, Aitkin.

Virginia Rail — Observed in 10 southern counties plus Clay, Otter Tail, Wadena, Hubbard.

Sora — Reported in 29 counties statewide.



Common Moorhen — Pair observed throughout the summer in Becker (Hamden Slough N.W.R., originally found 5/31 †RHO) †PHS, m.ob., followed by early August reports of adults with six young at same location. Also reported 7/27+ Hennepin (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge) BBB, m.ob.



American Coot — Seen in 30 counties in all regions except Northeast; new nesting record in *Isanti* DMP.



Sandhill Crane — Record-high number of reports. Seen in 26 counties roughly along a line from the northwest corner of the state to the southeast corner; plus 6/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, St. Louis (2 locations, no date) M.C.B.S., Lake (4 locations, no date) M.C.B.S., 6/11 **Cook** M.C.B.S. New nesting records in *Hennepin* PRS, *Waseca* JPS.



Black-bellied Plover — All reports: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle, 6/12 Big Stone BJU, 6/15 Traverse PCC, 7/6 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ, 7/30 Marshall (4) KJB.

American Golden-Plover — Only reports: 6/15 Traverse (2) PCC, 7/20 Big Stone PCC, 7/23 Yellow Medicine KJB.

Semipalmated Plover — Many reports, similar to previous year; both June and July migrants observed in 13 counties. Late migrant 6/14 McLeod DMF, early migrant 7/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU; peak count 7/30 Marshall (47 at Agassiz N.W.R.) KJB.

Piping Plover — Only report from Lake of the Woods.

Killdeer — Observed in 65 counties statewide. Highest reported count 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (374) KJB; new nesting record in *Steele* NFT.



American Avocet — Reported 7/19 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU, 7/27 Winona (5 at Lewiston sewage ponds) CAS; also multiple nests in Big Stone County (peak of 16 adults and young in Toqua Twp.) PCC and one nesting pair in Marshall County (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, PCC, JMJ.



Greater Yellowlegs — Fall migrants seen in 14 counties; early migrants 6/15 Polk CAS, OWB and 6/17 Marshall SAS. Peak count 7/30 Marshall (121 at Agassiz N.W.R., including first juveniles) KJB.

Lesser Yellowlegs — Only spring migrant reported 6/1 Rock KRE. Fall migrants observed in 26 counties. Possible record-early fall migrant (but see *The Loon* 74:65–82) 6/15 Grant PCC. Southbound migrants 6/21 Marshall PCC, PHS, 6/22 Big Stone BJU. First juveniles 7/19 Marshall PCC, PHS. Peak count 7/27 Marshall (1,677 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, SAS.

Solitary Sandpiper — Fall migrants found in 20 counties; early migrant 6/29 Becker BWF. Peak count 7/24 Marshall (24 at Agassiz N.W.R., including first juvenile) KJB.

Willet — All reports: 6/8 St. Louis DRB, 6/13 Polk JMJ, 6/21 Marshall PCC, PHS, 6/22 Kandiyohi (2) RSF, 7/11 Lac Qui

Parle (2) BJU, 7/20–29 Big Stone PCC, KJB, 7/28 McLeod RMD.

Spotted Sandpiper — Reported in 35 counties in all regions except Southeast; peak count 7/29 Big Stone (28) KJB.



Upland Sandpiper — Observed in 15 western counties plus Stearns, Meeker; record-high count 7/3 Big Stone (25) BJU.

Hudsonian Godwit — All reports: 6/1 Rock KRE, 6/15 Big Stone PCC, 7/27 and 7/30 Marshall (3) PHS, KJB.

Marbled Godwit — Record-high number of reports. Seen in 13 Northwest and West-central counties plus Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, and 7/1 Hennepin OLJ; peak count 6/21 Marshall (67 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, PCC.



Ruddy Turnstone — Reported on 6/1 in Renville, Rock, Lake of the Woods, and Big Stone; late migrant 6/3 St. Louis (Duluth) PHS. All fall reports: 7/20 and 7/24 Marshall PHS, KJB, 7/23 Becker BWF.

Red Knot — Only report: 6/1 St. Louis (2 at Duluth) *fide* DRB.

Sanderling — Observed in seven counties; late migrant 6/14 Brown BSm, FVS, early migrants (all singles) 7/17 Wilkin KJB, 7/27 Marshall SAS, PHS, 7/29 Big Stone KJB. Peak count 6/10 Traverse (28) PCC.

Semipalmated Sandpiper — Seen in 22 counties; late migrants 6/15 Polk SAS and Traverse PCC, early migrant 7/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Peak count 7/24 Grant (332) KJB. First juveniles 7/30 Marshall KJB.

Least Sandpiper — Reported in 24 counties; late migrants 6/3 Rock and Beltrami RBJ, DPJ, early migrant 6/28 Big Stone (3)

KJB, PCC. Peak count 7/6 Marshall (570 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. First juveniles 7/23 multiple locations KJB.

White-rumped Sandpiper — Spring migrants seen in ten counties; late migrants 6/15 Rock BJM, DDM, and Polk SAS plus mid-summer record 7/3 Big Stone †BJU. Peak count 6/3 Rock (624 at Luverne) RBJ.

Baird's Sandpiper — Observed in 13 counties; late migrant 6/4 Wadena JJS, early migrants 7/6, 7/12 Marshall (max. 2) PHS, JMJ, 7/16 Lac Qui Parle (2) KJB.

Pectoral Sandpiper — Reported in 22 counties; late migrant 6/10 Traverse PCC, early migrant 7/5 Meeker. Peak count 7/29 Big Stone (520) KJB.

Dunlin — Spring migrants observed in nine counties; late migrant 6/11 Todd BWF. Exceptional mid-summer record 7/1 Hennepin OLJ.

Stilt Sandpiper — Seen in 12 counties; late migrants 6/10 Traverse PCC, 6/15 Polk CAS, 6/17 Marshall SAS, OWB, early migrant 7/3 Big Stone BJU. First juveniles 7/24 Marshall KJB. Peak count 7/30 Marshall (652 at Agassiz N.W.R.) KJB.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — Reported 7/19 Meeker (5) DMF, 7/24 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) KJB, 7/27 McLeod (2) DMF.

Short-billed Dowitcher — Fall migrants observed in nine counties; early migrant 6/29 Marshall PHS, JMJ. Peak count 7/19 Marshall (113 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, PCC. First juvenile 7/29 Wilkin KJB.

Wilson's Snipe — Seen in 26 counties as far south as a line through Pipestone, Meeker, Anoka; peak count 7/30 Marshall (31) KJB.

American Woodcock — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service singing-ground surveys show no significant change from last year,



although long-term trend is a steady decline. Observed in 15 counties as far south as Lac Qui Parle, Anoka.

Wilson's Phalarope — Reported in 14 western counties plus Hubbard, Todd, Meeker, Renville, McLeod, Hennepin, Brown; peak count 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (198) KJB.



Red-necked Phalarope — Most reports since 1992. Observed 6/1 Brown (7) BSm, 6/3 Winona (2 at Lewiston sewage ponds) †CG, 6/3 Pipestone (2) RBJ, 6/10 Traverse (2) PCC, 7/23 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU, 7/24 Marshall (adult) KJB, 7/29 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Salt L.) KJB, 7/30 Marshall (3 juveniles) KJB.

Franklin's Gull — Reported in nine western counties plus Stearns, Meeker, Blue Earth.

Bonaparte's Gull — Observed 6/3 St. Louis (31 at Duluth) PHS, 6/15 St. Louis ALE, 6/28 Freeborn AEB, 7/17 Otter Tail KJB, 7/24 and 7/31 Beltrami DPJ.

Ring-billed Gull — Seen in 42 counties statewide.



Herring Gull — Reported in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Stearns, Big Stone.

Caspian Tern — Observed 6/3 Washington (3) TEB, 6/7 St. Louis PHS, 6/14 Beltrami DPJ, 6/14 Big Stone (6) BJU, 7/1 Polk (2) EEF, 7/3 Big Stone (2) BJU, 7/6 Washington (3) TEB, 7/10 Hennepin SWe.

Common Tern — Seen at traditional breeding sites in Lake of the Woods, St. Louis; plus late migrant 6/1 Pipestone †KRE and early migrant 7/26 Dakota REH.

Forster's Tern — Reported in 19 counties as far east as a line through Lake of the Woods, Wadena, Ramsey, Dakota, Freeborn; plus 6/3 St. Louis (2) PHS.

Black Tern — Observed in 48 counties in all regions except Northeast (and only Wabasha in Southeast).



Rock Pigeon — Seen in 54 counties statewide.



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE — All reports: mid-late June Renville (Olivia), second county record (first at Renville) 3/17-4/12 †TDS, 6/30+ **Pennington** (possibly present at Thief River Falls since early June and joined by a second bird in August) GM, †PHS *et al.*, 7/31+ **Dakota** (2 or 3 at Farmington) BSe, †PEB, m.ob. Nesting reported in Houston (Caledonia) for third consecutive year, but identification of the adults was not established.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE — Third state record 7/5 **Cook** (near Grand Marais) †JWH, CHo, †JWa (*The Loon* 76:47).

Mourning Dove — August roadside survey by Minnesota D.N.R. indicates numbers similar to last year, but remaining 12% below long-term average. Observed in 67 counties in all regions; new nesting record in Lake SLL. Peak count 7/20 Marshall (204 at Warren) JMJ, PHS.



Black-billed Cuckoo — Reported in 36 counties statewide.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo — Observed in 12 southern counties plus Kittson, Cass, and 7/2 St. Louis (Embarrass) CN.

Eastern Screech-Owl — Reported in Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Nobles, Freeborn, Houston.



Great Horned Owl — Observed in 21 counties in all regions except Northwest and Southeast.



Barred Owl — Reported in 21 counties as far west as a line through Polk, Meeker, Nicollet, Fillmore.



Great Gray Owl — Only report from Lake.



Long-eared Owl — All reports: new nesting record 4/13+ *Otter Tail* (DeLagoon Park in Fergus Falls; photographed) DKM, SPM, CAS, m.ob.; also 7/13 Fillmore (hit by car near Preston) KAK, 7/26 Todd (4 near Long Prairie) SID, BWF, JSK, plus Lake of the Woods (no details) MHK.



Short-eared Owl — Observed 6/22 and 6/25 Pennington (max. 6 in Numedal Twp.) PCC, PHS, RBJ; plus 6/22 and 7/18 (family group of 6 near Wetlands, Pines, and Prairies Audubon Sanctuary) JMJ *et al.*



Boreal Owl — Only report 6/13 Lake

(Trappers L.) M.C.B.S.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — Reported in St. Louis; also 7/29 Hennepin BMu, CAG, plus new nesting record in *Kanabec* CAM.



Common Nighthawk — Seen in 33 counties in all regions except Northwest.



Whip-poor-will — Reported in Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Sherburne, Anoka, Carver, Scott, Redwood, Brown, Le Sueur, Goodhue.



Chimney Swift — Observed in 50 counties statewide; new nesting record in *Houston* KAK.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Seen in 46 counties throughout the state.



Belted Kingfisher — Reported in 49 counties statewide.



Red-headed Woodpecker — Observed in 38 counties as far north and east as a line through Roseau, Wadena, Aitkin, and Pine.



Red-bellied Woodpecker — Many reports for second consecutive year. Seen in 39 counties as far north as a line through



Pennington, Beltrami, Aitkin, Pine.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Observed in 35 counties in all regions except Southwest.



Downy Woodpecker — Seen in 55 counties statewide.



Hairy Woodpecker — Reported in 44 counties throughout state.



Black-backed Woodpecker — Observed in Lake of the Woods, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton.



Northern Flicker — Seen in 56 counties statewide.



Pileated Woodpecker — Many reports, similar to last year; reported in 44 counties in all regions except Southwest.



Olive-sided Flycatcher — Reported in eight North-central and Northeast counties. Migrants observed in 11 southern

counties; late migrants 6/11 Pope and Sherburne BWF, PLJ, early migrant 7/26 Dakota REH.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — Seen in 51 counties statewide.



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — Record-high number of reports. Found in ten North-central and Northeast counties plus Pennington, Becker; also 6/29 Pine N.R.R.I., 7/1 Mille Lacs N.R.R.I. Late migrants 6/1 Pipestone KRE, 6/2 Dakota ADS, 6/7 Hennepin DCZ.



Acadian Flycatcher — Thirteen territories established at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. in Scott and Dakota counties (more than in recent summers) BAF; also reported in Rice, Fillmore, Houston.

Alder Flycatcher — More reports than usual. Observed in 23 counties as far west and south as a line through Kittson, Clay, Stearns, Anoka. Spring migrants reported in nine additional southern counties; latest migrant (of reports indicating vocalizations heard) 6/13 Rice TFB.

Willow Flycatcher — Fewest reports since 1985, and nearly half that of last year; observed in 15 southern counties, plus singing male 6/27 Roseau (Roseau River W.M.A.) KLP



Least Flycatcher — Reported in 45 counties statewide; new nesting record in *Sherburne* PLJ.



Eastern Phoebe — Seen in 51 counties statewide; new nesting record in *Renville*



Immature Loggerhead Shrike, 20 June 2003, Lansing, Mower County. Photo by Jeff Morrison.



Great Crested Flycatcher — Observed in 52 counties throughout state.



Western Kingbird — Most reports since 1995; seen in 19 western counties plus Stearns, Meeker, Sherburne, Dakota.



Eastern Kingbird — Observed in 61 counties statewide.



Loggerhead Shrike — Observed 6/4 Olmsted (Bear Cave Park) PWP, 6/8 Yellow Medicine (near county roads 4 & 15, Florida Twp.) KLP, 6/11 – 7/4 Mower (max. 3 at Lansing) RDK, RCK, 6/21 Goodhue (3 along Goodhue Ave.) DAB, 6/27, 7/26 Polk (max. 2 at Glacial Ridge Project) KLP, SSP, SAS, 7/12 Benton (no location) DMF, 7/21 Clay (2 at Felton Prairie) CRM; plus nesting in Dakota (families of 3 and 4 along Emery Ave. at 160th and 180th St.) CFA *et al.*, nesting in Sherburne (nest with one young at Sherburne N.W.R.) PLJ, possible nesting in Lac Qui Parle (2 adults with one young in Freeland Twp.) BJU.



Bell's Vireo — Nested in Dakota (Black Dog Fen Park) JPM *et al.*, possible nesting in Waseca (Senn-Rich W.M.A.) JPS, 6/27 Winona (2 at Great River Bluffs S.P.) FZL.

Black-billed Magpie — Found in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Aitkin, St. Louis.



Yellow-throated Vireo — Found in 39 counties in all regions except Southwest; observed as far northeast as Lake. New nesting record in Pine JMP.



American Crow — Seen in 64 counties throughout state.



Blue-headed Vireo — Observed in nine North-central and Northeast counties plus Roseau, Marshall, Becker.



Common Raven — Observed in 16 counties as far west and south as a line through Kittson, Marshall, Hubbard, Anoka.



Warbling Vireo — Reported in 45 counties statewide.



Horned Lark — Reported in 32 counties in all regions except Northeast.



Philadelphia Vireo — Observed in Lake, Cook; late migrants 6/1 Pine JMP, 6/3 Ramsey REH, 6/6 Steele NFT.



Purple Martin — Seen in 36 counties statewide.



Red-eyed Vireo — Seen in 51 counties throughout state.



Tree Swallow — Observed in 60 counties throughout state.



Gray Jay — Reported in Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Cook.



Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Found in 34 counties statewide.



Blue Jay — Observed in 61 counties statewide.



Bank Swallow — Reported in 35 counties in all regions of the state except Northeast; peak count 7/23 Big Stone



(300) KJB.

Cliff Swallow — Many reports, similar to last year; seen in 59 counties statewide.



Barn Swallow — Observed in 64 counties throughout state.



Black-capped Chickadee — Reported in 59 counties statewide.



Boreal Chickadee — Observed in Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.



Tufted Titmouse — Only report from Fillmore.



Red-breasted Nuthatch — Seen in 11 North-central and Northeast counties plus Becker, Otter Tail, Pine, Anoka, Washington.



White-breasted Nuthatch — Reported in 55 counties statewide.



Brown Creeper — Observed in Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton, Hennepin.



ROCK WREN — One documented 6/8 St. Louis (Fredenberg Twp.) †SG *et al.* Second county record and the first summer occurrence in the state since 1984 (*The Loon* 56:192–193).

Carolina Wren — Reported 6/9 Washington RBJ.

House Wren — Found in 58 counties statewide.



Winter Wren — Observed in nine North-central and Northeast counties plus Pine.

Sedge Wren — Seen in 50 counties throughout state.

Marsh Wren — Reported in 38 counties statewide.



Golden-crowned Kinglet — Observed in Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — Seen in Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus 6/1 Steele NFT.





Male Black-backed Woodpecker at nest, 11 June 2003, Cook County. Photo by Jim Lind.



Northern Waterthrush nest with two eggs and one chick, Hog Creek, Lake County. Photo by Jim Lind.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — Reported in 25 counties in all regions except Northeast; extreme records include 6/2 **Kittson** (one at L. Bronson S.P.) †PHS, 7/21–23 Pennington (2 adults feeding fully-fledged juvenile at Thief River Falls) †PHS, JMJ, SAS, 6/28 Becker (2 at Tamarac N.W.R.) RMD, 6/27 Big Stone (3) BJU, 6/4 Murray (L. Shetek S.P.) NED.



Eastern Bluebird — Seen in 50 counties statewide.



Veery — Observed in 39 counties as far west and south as a line through Clay, Otter Tail, Meeker, Rice, Fillmore.



Swainson's Thrush — Reported in Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; plus 6/1 and 6/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, FAE, 6/6 Hennepin PEB, 6/12 Ramsey NSp, 6/13 Pine JMP, 7/1 Carlton N.R.R.I.



Hermit Thrush — Seen in 11 North-central and Northeast counties plus Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine.

Wood Thrush — Observed in 27 counties as far west as a line through Beltrami, Otter Tail, Lac Qui Parle, Brown.

American Robin — Reported in 67 counties statewide.



Gray Catbird — Seen in 58 counties throughout state; new nesting record in



Steele NFT.

Northern Mockingbird — Reported 6/5 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) ALE, 6/7 Aitkin (no location) WEN, 6/27 Meeker (Kingston South Twp.) DMF.

Brown Thrasher — Observed in 47 counties in all regions except Southeast.



European Starling — Seen in 65 counties statewide.



Cedar Waxwing — Found in 55 counties throughout state.



Blue-winged Warbler — Reported in Todd (6/20, SID), Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Wright, Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Rice, Fillmore, Houston; plus new nesting record in *Renville* MDL.



Golden-winged Warbler — Observed in 11 North-central and Northeast counties plus Becker, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka; new nesting record in *Pine* JMP.



Tennessee Warbler — Reported in Marshall, Becker, St. Louis; numerous migrants in 10 additional counties. Late migrants 6/6 Nicollet ChH, 6/10 Otter Tail SPM, early migrant 7/13 Hennepin SLC.

Orange-crowned Warbler — First summer report since 1996; observed 6/4 Cook (singing along Pigeon R. near Fort Charlotte) DRB.

Nashville Warbler — Found in 16 counties as far west and south as a line through Kittson, Becker, Anoka.

Northern Parula — Seen in nine North-central and Northeast counties plus Becker; also 7/28 Anoka (singing male) KJB.

Yellow Warbler — Observed in 55 counties statewide.



Chestnut-sided Warbler — Reported in 24 counties as far west and south as a line through Polk, Becker, Sherburne, Anoka, Washington; plus Scott and Dakota (4 territorial males at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., new nesting record in *Dakota* BAF). Late migrants 6/1 Pipestone KRE, 6/6 Freeborn AEB.



Magnolia Warbler — Observed in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Carlton, Lake, Cook; plus new nesting record in *St. Louis* M.C.B.S.



Cape May Warbler — Seen in Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, *St. Louis*, Lake, Cook.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — Reported in *St. Louis*, Lake, Cook; plus 6/20 Itasca (no location) N.R.R.I. Peak count 7/12 Cook (11 or 12 near Lutsen) MWS.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Observed in 10 North-central and Northeast counties plus Becker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Anoka; late migrant 6/7 Steele NFT. Significant migration observed



7/24 *St. Louis* (~50 moving along L. Superior shoreline) DSC.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Seen in nine North-central and Northeast counties plus Becker, Mille Lacs, Pine.



Blackburnian Warbler — Found in 11 North-central and Northeast counties plus Marshall, Becker, Pine; also 6/1 Anoka KJB, 6/1 Pipestone KRE, 6/7 Washington KJB.



Pine Warbler — Reported in 18 counties as far west and south as a line through Beltrami, Becker, Sherburne, Anoka, Washington.



PRAIRIE WARBLER — Observed 6/2–3 Scott (2 males reported but only one was documented and accepted at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) †WMS, ph. TPB, m.ob.

Palm Warbler — Reported in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Carlton, Lake; new nesting record in *St. Louis* M.C.B.S.



Bay-breasted Warbler — Observed 6/13 Lake (4 singing males near Isabella) N.R.R.I., Cook (no date) M.C.B.S.

Blackpoll Warbler — Late migrants 6/1 Pipestone KRE, 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/1 Dakota SWe.

Cerulean Warbler — Reported in Anoka, Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Nicollet; plus 6/13 Stearns (St. Joseph Twp.) PCC, 6/23–30 **Lyon** (male singing at Camden S.P.) RJS. Peak count Scott and Dakota (12 territories at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Black-and-white Warbler — Seen in



22 counties as far west and south as a line through Kittson, Otter Tail, Anoka; plus 7/21 Hennepin SLC and territorial male throughout June in Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan

P.R.) BAF.

American Redstart — Observed in 48 counties in all regions (but only 6/1 Pipestone KRE in Southwest).



Prothonotary Warbler — Reported in Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Goodhue.



Ovenbird — Found in 41 counties statewide (but only 6/26 Jackson DFN in Southwest); record-high count 6/3 St. Louis (53) SLF.



Northern Waterthrush — Reported in eight North-central and Northeast counties plus Mille Lacs, Pine; also Anoka (11 territories) KJB. Late migrant 6/5 Clay GEN.



Louisiana Waterthrush — Observed 6/7 Washington (Falls Creek) KJB; plus Houston (no date, 6 at Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) OWB.

Kentucky Warbler — Reported 6/2 Blue Earth (Williams County Park) BWF; plus 2 territorial males at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. in Scott County BAF.

Connecticut Warbler — Found in nine North-central and Northeast counties plus Roseau; late migrant 6/11 Sherburne PLJ.

Mourning Warbler — Record-high number of reports. Observed in 24 counties as



far west as Marshall in the north; territorial birds found as far south as Scott and Dakota. Spring migrants reported in six additional counties; late migrant 6/18 Houston

FZL.

Common Yellowthroat — Observed in 62 counties statewide.



Hooded Warbler — An amazing 33 territories (5 nests) documented at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. in Scott and Dakota counties BAF. Also found 6/11 Hennepin (singing male at Wolsfeld Woods) SLC, 7/5 Anoka (Springbrook Nature Center) CF; plus new nesting record in Anoka (Linwood L.) KJB.



Wilson's Warbler — Reported in St. Louis and Lake (no dates, M.C.B.S.); plus 6/15 Lake of the Woods GMM, JMF.

Canada Warbler — Observed in Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Lake, Cook, Carlton, Pine, Mille Lacs; plus new nesting record in St. Louis M.C.B.S. Also found on same territories as previous years in Anoka and Washington KJB.



Summer Tanager — Territorial males in Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) and Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.), both of which had been first reported in May (see Spring report), each paired up with a female Scarlet Tanager and attempted nesting (*The Loon* 75:221–230). The mixed pair at Murphy-Hanrehan fledged a single cowbird (but no hybrid tanagers) BAF.



Scarlet Tanager — Reported in 40 coun-



ties in all regions except Southwest.

Western Tanager — First summer record since 1983; late migrant 6/1 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) †SPM.

Eastern Towhee — Individuals were observed in a total of 18 counties roughly along a line from Kittson to Houston, including as far northeast as Carlton and as far southwest as Brown; plus 6/6 Yellow Medicine BJU, 7/13 Big Stone (Big Stone S.P.) *fide* AXH.

Chipping Sparrow — Reported in 64 counties statewide; new nesting record in *Renville* MDL.



Clay-colored Sparrow — Found in 44 counties as far south as a line through Rock, Murray, Brown, Waseca, Dakota.



Field Sparrow — Seen in 27 southern counties plus Clay, Otter Tail, Wadena, Todd, Cass, Crow Wing; also 7/26–27 Polk (Agassiz Dunes S.N.A.) SAS, PHS.



Vesper Sparrow — Observed in 40 counties in all regions (but only St. Louis in Northeast).

Lark Sparrow — Reported in Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Sherburne, Anoka, Washington, Scott, Renville, Nicollet, Blue Earth.



Savannah Sparrow — Seen in 48 counties throughout state; new nesting record



in *Pine* JMP.

Grasshopper Sparrow — Many reports, similar to previous year. Observed in 35 counties in all regions except North-central, Northeast, and Southeast.

Henslow's Sparrow — Reported 6/1 **Morrison** (SE 1/4 section 3, T42N, R31W, Ripley Twp.) WEN, through 7/19 Scott (max. 2 at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) RBW, FVS, m.ob., 6/6 Le Sueur (Kasota Prairie) ChH, 6/27 and 7/6 Winona (Great River Bluffs S.P.) FZL, RHy, 6/29 Hennepin (4 singing at Crow-Hassan Park) SLC, 7/6 Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.) RHy, 7/13–20 **Todd** (max. 2 near Long Prairie) †BWF *et al.*, 7/25 **Red Lake** (2 or 3 near Marcoux) †PHS.

LeConte's Sparrow — Record-high number of reports; twice the previous ten-year average. Observed in 22 counties as far south as a line through Wilkin, Todd, Pine.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — Found in Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Norman, Mahnommen, Becker, Wilkin, Aitkin.

Song Sparrow — Seen in 61 counties statewide.



Lincoln's Sparrow — New nesting record in *St. Louis* M.C.B.S.; also observed in Kittson, Carlton, Lake, Cook. Late migrant (?) 6/14 Otter Tail SPM.



Swamp Sparrow — Reported in 44 counties in all regions except Southeast.



White-throated Sparrow — Observed in ten North-central and North-east counties plus Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Mille Lacs, Pine; also 6/10 Hennepin PEJ. New nesting record in *Carlton* N.R.R.I.



Dark-eyed Junco — Reported in Beltrami, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — Unusual summer record 6/4 Pipestone (female flushed off ground at Prairie Coteau S.N.A., singing male nearby) †KLP; also observed at traditional Felton Prairie location in Clay County.

Northern Cardinal — Reported in 41 counties as far north as Marshall, St. Louis, Lake; new nesting record in *Renville* MDL.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Seen in 54 counties statewide.



Blue Grosbeak — Reported in Pipestone, Murray, Rock; plus 7/15 Yellow Medicine (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) *fide* AXH.



Indigo Bunting — Observed in 54 counties throughout state.



Dickcissel — Found in 30 counties as far north as a line through Polk, Cass, and Pine.

Bobolink — Seen in 54 counties statewide; new nesting records in *Pine* JMP,



McLeod RWS.

Red-winged Blackbird — Reported in 70 counties throughout state.



Eastern Meadowlark — Observed in 24 counties as far north as Wadena, Aitkin, St. Louis and as far west as Wadena, Todd, Meeker, Nicollet, Blue Earth.

Western Meadowlark — Found in 37 counties as far east as a line through Roseau, Aitkin, Dakota, Freeborn; plus Wabasha.



Yellow-headed Blackbird — Reported in 45 counties in all regions (including St. Louis and Lake in Northeast).



Brewer's Blackbird — Most reports since 1992. Observed in 29 counties as far south as a line through Lac Qui Parle, Scott, Dakota; plus 6/3 Murray SSP, 6/4, 6/10 Pipestone KLP, DCZ.



Common Grackle — Seen in 66 counties statewide.



GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE — Reported from Rock (Hills) through 6/17 m.ob. (please see spring report).

QUISCALUS, sp. — Male Boat-tailed/

Great-tailed Grackle 6/26 Jackson (Sioux Valley Twp.) †DFN.

Brown-headed Cowbird — Observed in 59 counties throughout state; parasitized species included Eastern Phoebe, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal.



Orchard Oriole — Reported in 21 counties as far north as Polk, Pennington in the west and Meeker, Hennepin, Washington in the east.



Baltimore Oriole — Seen in 58 counties throughout state.



Purple Finch — Reported in 11 North-central and Northeast counties plus Marshall, Becker, Todd, Kanabec, Pine, Anoka.

House Finch — Observed in 41 counties statewide.



Red Crossbill — Reported in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties; plus 7/7 Otter Tail SPM.

White-winged Crossbill — New nesting records in Lake (3 separate nests) JWL, Cook DAG; also observed in St. Louis.



Pine Siskin — Fewest reports ever — less than one-third the previous ten-year average! Observed in Becker, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook.

American Goldfinch — Seen in 64 counties throughout state.



Evening Grosbeak — This apparently declining species was reported in the northern counties of Beltrami, Wadena, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Carlton.

House Sparrow — Observed in 58 counties statewide.



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WEN	Warren E. Nelson
WMS	William M. Stauffer
WW	Warren Woessner
m.ob.	many observers

Abbreviations

C.P.	County Park
D.N.R.	Department of Natural Resources
M.C.B.S.	Minnesota County Biological Survey
N.R.R.I.	Natural Resources Research Institute
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.R.	Park Reserve
R.P.	Regional Park
S.N.A.	Scientific and Natural Area
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

As has been the practice of this Committee every five years, a new *Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota* was compiled and published in January 2004. There are now 427 Accepted species, with a net increase of four species since the previous Checklist in 1999: the additions are Smew, Black Vulture, White-tailed Kite, White-throated Swift, and Costa's Hummingbird (see record #2003-80 below); deleted is Black Phoebe (see record #2003-42 below). In addition, the status of several species has changed in the past five years:

Additions to the Regular list

- Eurasian Collared-Dove (formerly Accidental)
- Great-tailed Grackle (formerly Accidental)

Deletions from the Regular list

- Cinnamon Teal (now Casual)

Northern Bobwhite (now considered Extirpated: i.e., all current records are presumed to be of escaped or released individuals, unless there is documentation with a record to suggest wild origin)

- Gyr Falcon (now Casual)
- Worm-eating Warbler (now Casual)

Additions to the Casual list

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (formerly Accidental)
- Cinnamon Teal (formerly Regular)
- Gyr Falcon (formerly Regular)
- Pomarine Jaeger (formerly Accidental)
- Black-headed Gull (formerly Accidental)
- Arctic Tern (formerly Accidental)
- Band-tailed Pigeon (formerly Accidental)
- Sage Thrasher (formerly Accidental)
- Worm-eating Warbler (formerly Regular)

Black-throated Sparrow (formerly Accidental)

Painted Bunting (formerly Accidental)

Deletions from the Casual list

King Rail (now Accidental)

Baird's Sparrow (now Accidental)

Additions to the Accidental list

Smew (added in 1999)

Black Vulture (added in 2001)

White-tailed Kite (added in 2000)

King Rail (formerly Casual)

White-throated Swift (added in 2000)

Costa's Hummingbird (added in 2003)

Baird's Sparrow (formerly Casual)

Deletions from the Accidental list

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (now Casual)

Pomarine Jaeger (now Casual)

Black-headed Gull (now Casual)

Arctic Tern (now Casual)

Eurasian Collared-Dove (now Regular)

Band-tailed Pigeon (now Casual)

Black Phoebe (removed from state list)

Sage Thrasher (now Casual)

Black-throated Sparrow (now Casual)

Painted Bunting (now Casual)

Great-tailed Grackle (now Regular)

Additions to the Extirpated list

Northern Bobwhite (formerly Regular)

At the beginning of 2004, as there is every year, there was a change in the membership of this Committee. Currently, the seven full-time members are Peder Svingen (new chairperson approved by the MOU Board, replacing retiring chair Kim Eckert), Paul Budde, Philip Chu, Anthony Hertz, Jim Mattsson (replacing Karl Bardon, whose term expired), Drew Smith, and Tom Tustison; the three alternate members are Renner Anderson, Ann Kessen, and Steve Stucker (replacing Jim Mattsson).

Accepted Records

The following records were voted on August – December 2003 and were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records

2003-39, 2003-63, and 2003-81, all of which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 19 May 1980, Wall Lake, Otter Tail County (record #2003-38, identification Accepted 10–0 / A(o) origin Accepted 9–1).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records and on questions of origin. This potentially first state record was originally voted on and Not Accepted. However, at the time there were not separate votes on identification and origin, as there are today, and those not accepting the record apparently did so because of its possible captive origin. Additionally, at the time there was no Accidental (o) designation: i.e., a record accepted on a qualified basis because of uncertain origin. Accordingly, to clear up any uncertainties, new votes were taken, and the record was Accepted with the (o) qualifier (as are most previous records of this species).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 30 January – 11 March 2003, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (record #2003-49, vote 7–0).

As a female-plumaged bird, this was a potentially difficult ID; however, it was seen by many observers over several weeks.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 2 April 2003, Bloomington, Hennepin County (record #2003-75, vote 5–2).

Those not accepting the record were concerned that the description makes no mention of a black bar extending to the water line behind the chest, an important distinction between male goldeneyes.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 11–15 November 2003, near Reno, Houston County (record #2003-83, vote 7–0).

The documentation includes a careful description of the bird's location on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River; the state line is often misunderstood and misconstrued along this part of the river.

- Red-throated Loon (2 individuals), 22 April 2003, Little Rock Lake, Benton County (record #2003-46, vote 7–0).

Although this species is Regular in Minnesota on Lake Superior, there are very few documented records elsewhere

in the state, where it is very rare.

- Neotropic Cormorant (2 individuals), 12 August – 6 October 2003, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2003-64, vote 7-0).

These birds were seen and documented by several observers and photographed, representing only the second state record.

- White-faced Ibis (6 individuals), 17-19 May 2003, Cottonwood, Lyon County (record #2003-25, vote 5-2).

Those not accepting this record were concerned that the possibility of hybrid White-faced X Glossy Ibis is not precluded in the documentation (see *North American Birds* 57:136-139).

- White-faced Ibis (2 individuals), 15 June 2003, Toqua Township, Big Stone County (record #2003-47, vote 7-0).

The thorough description here was complete enough to preclude the possibility of hybrids.

- *Plegadis* ibis, sp., 26 June 2003, near Magnolia, Rock County (record #2003-48, vote 7-0).

The observer only saw this bird in flight and was unable to determine its eye and facial skin colors or if any white feathering was present on the face.

- Black Vulture, 29 April 2003, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2003-82, vote 6-1).

Although this bird, which represents a second state record, was not photographed or documented as thoroughly as the first record from Duluth, also seen by the same observer, it was sufficiently described by the observer who has thorough experience with this and similar species.

- Ruff, 7 August 2003, southeastern Kandiyohi County (record #2003-85, vote 5-2).

Those with reservations about this record were concerned that the documentation is unclear about whether this was an adult or juvenile.

- Great Black-backed Gull, 15 December 2002, Bloomington and Excelsior Christmas Bird Counts, Dakota/Hennepin Counties (record #2003-14, vote 6-1).

This record was originally not pub-

lished in the CBC or seasonal reports in *The Loon* because initially the documentation was incomplete. However, additional documentation, including photographs, was later submitted.

- Sabine's Gull, 30 August 2003, Red Lake Falls, Red Lake County (record #2003-52, vote 7-0).

- Sabine's Gull, 20 September 2003, Lake Winnibigoshish, Itasca/Cass Counties (record #2003-68, vote 7-0).

Despite the increase in sightings the last few years, this species is still Casual, with records only in six of the past ten years.

- Sabine's Gull, 1 October 2003, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2003-76, vote 7-0).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 12 March 2003, near New Germany, Carver County (record #2003-54, vote 6-1).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 21-29 March 2003, Herman, Grant County (record #2003-35, vote 7-0).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 1 June 2002, Milan, Chippewa County (record #2003-33, vote 6-1).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, mid-late June 2003, Olivia, Renville County (record #2003-57, vote 6-1).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove (2 individuals), 30 June – August 2003, Thief River Falls, Pennington County (record #2003-58, vote 7-0).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 31 July – August 2003, Farmington, Dakota County (record #2003-69, vote 6-1).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 11-17 August 2003, Milan, Chippewa County (record #2003-70, vote 6-1).

This species is now considered Regular in the state. The lone dissenting voter on some of these records expressed concern about the possibility of hybridization with Ringed Turtle-Dove.

- White-winged Dove, 5 July 2003, near Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2003-53, vote 7-0).

All ten MOURC members vote on questions of whether or not photographs are identifiable. The identification of this third state record was unanimously Accepted,

but by a vote of 3–7 the photos included with the documentation were judged not clear enough on their own to identify the bird. Accordingly, this species remains on the state list with the (s) qualifier (i.e., all the records are sight-only records, with none accompanied by an identifiable specimen, photo, or other physical evidence).

- Costa's Hummingbird, mid-September (?) – 6 November 2003, Delano, Wright County (record #2003-80, vote 10–0).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records. The presence of this individual at a feeder was first made known by a television news broadcast. In order to rescue it, the homeowners eventually attracted the bird indoors on 6 November, after it apparently had been present since September. However, the bird later died in a rehabilitation facility in early December, and the specimen has been preserved. Additional details on this unprecedented record will be published in *The Loon*.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 18–19 October 2003, Spring Lake Regional Park, Dakota County (record #2003-71, vote 7–0).

This bird was seen by several observers and photographed.

- Rock Wren, 8 June 2003, Fredenberg Township, St. Louis County (record #2003-37, vote 5–2).

Those not accepting this record were concerned that the detailed documentation does not describe the tail pattern, and that the description was apparently only written from memory after more than a month.

- Sage Thrasher, 17 October – 11 November 2003, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2003-72, vote 7–0).

This bird was seen by numerous observers and photographed.

- Sprague's Pipit, 1 May 2003, Morris, Stevens County (record #2003-59, vote 5–2).

Those not accepting this record were concerned that it was primarily documented by an excellent color sketch "taken from journal...done two hours after seeing

bird." However, the original field sketch, which would have been more useful in documenting the bird, was not submitted.

- Yellow-throated Warbler, 25–30 October 2003, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (record #2003-78, vote 7–0).

This bird was seen by many observers and photographed.

- Prairie Warbler, 15 October 1994, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2003-45, vote 7–0).

The documentation for this ten-year-old record, which had never been voted on, had only recently been found. Since it includes original field notes and a sketch made at the time of the observation, the record was able to be Accepted.

- Prairie Warbler, 2–3 June 2003, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Scott County (record #2003-60, vote 7–0).

This bird was seen by many observers and photographed.

- Black-headed Grosbeak, mid-May 2002, Vesta, Redwood County (record #2003-74, vote 6–1).

This male was photographed by the homeowners at their feeders.

- Lazuli Bunting, 26 October 2003, near Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2003-79, vote 7–0).

This female-plumaged bird was only present for a few minutes, but it was observed by several observers, and the documentation includes photographs.

- Painted Bunting, 29 May 2003, Bruno, Pine County (record #2003-61, vote 6–1).

This male was photographed by the homeowners at their feeders.

- Great-tailed Grackle, 18–23 April 2003, Sleepy Eye, Brown County (record #2003-36, vote 7–0).

This species is now considered Regular in the state.

Not Accepted Records

The following records were voted on August – December 2003 and were Not Accepted.

(It is important to be aware that a record which is Not Accepted only means the provided documentation was not com-

plete 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 that it cannot be included on one's personal list. In this sense, therefore, MOURC is only acting as an editor of the records submitted to the MOU.

Also note a summary of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included. These are, of course, in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is instructional: that is, to show the difficulties an observer had in identifying or documenting a bird, so that these can be avoided by other observers when documenting future reports of this and similar species.)

- Common Eider, 27 December 1978, Stoney Point, St. Louis County (record #2003-39, Not Accepted 0-7 as Common Eider / Accepted 5-2 as eider, sp.).

This record previously had been voted on and narrowly Accepted as a Common Eider, but the current Committee voted to reconsider the record and revise that decision. Although the majority was of the opinion that this was an eider, it was unanimously felt the description is not thorough enough to preclude King Eider. In fact, the description states "the back was dark," and this is more indicative of King Eider rather than a Common.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 15 November 2003, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2003-65, vote 1-6).

The observers' identification of this male was essentially based only on "a white crescent-shaped area" on the face, since no other diagnostic field marks are included in the brief description. However, male Common Goldeneyes typically have white facial spots that are vaguely triangular in shape, not circular or oval, and could be described as a crescent. On this particular day, there were several other experienced observers at this location at the same time, but no one else saw this species.

- White-faced Ibis, 15 September 2003, Pilot Grove Waterfowl Production Area,

Faribault County (record #2003-81, Not Accepted 3-4 as White-faced Ibis / Accepted 7-0 as *Plegadis ibis*, sp.).

Although this was unanimously Accepted as a *Plegadis ibis*, the majority felt the description is not detailed enough to preclude the small possibility of a hybrid White-faced X Glossy Ibis (see *North American Birds* 57:136-139).

- Ferruginous Hawk, 5 September 1976, Tracy, Lyon County (record #2003-41, vote 3-4).

This record previously had been voted on and Not Accepted, and the current Committee voted to reconsider the record and reaffirm that decision. The description could fit Red-tailed Hawk in all respects, since the only feature in the description suggesting Ferruginous was "windows present at the bases of the primaries." However, immature Red-tailed also have wing windows or panels in this same area, and there is no mention of whether the windows extended on to the coverts, an important distinction between these two hawks. The record is also weakened by the fact that the bird was said to be 100 yards away and only seen with the naked eye.

- Western Sandpiper (2 individuals), 15 May 2002, Perry Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2003-50, vote 1-6).

The formal, typed description seems to be written mostly from memory after a lapse of 16 months, which is when the documentation was received. There were original field notes, which appear to be written the same day as the observation, and therefore these are the more important part of the documentation. Unfortunately, the description included in these notes is too brief to eliminate the possibility of these sandpipers being White-rumpeds or Semipalmateds.

- California Gull, 12-19 November 1977, Malmo, Aitkin County (record #2003-43, vote 0-7).

- California Gull, 20 October 1993, Forest Lake, Washington County (record #2003-44, vote 2-5).

These two records had previously been voted on and Accepted, but the current

Committee voted to reconsider the records and reverse these decisions. The identifications of these immature gulls in both cases rested primarily on their “all dark” tails, with no other marks clearly described to indicate these were Californias. However, as illustrated in the *Geographic* field guide, first-winter Ring-billed Gulls can also have tails which appear almost entirely black like a California Gull.

- California Gull, 10 June 2002, Manfred Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2003-51, vote 2–5).

Like the Western Sandpiper record above (#2003-50), the formal documentation, primarily written from memory, was not received until over a year after the observation. Again, therefore, the original field notes written at the time of the sighting carry more importance, and these notes are too brief and incomplete to be convincing.

- California Gull, 26 April 2003, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2003-66, vote 2–5).

Although this may well have been an adult California Gull, neither eye color nor leg color was seen, and the described larger-than-Ring-billed size could fit other species of gulls. The identification essentially relies on only one field mark in ruling out Ring-billed Gull, its “noticeably much darker” mantle color, but this could also be consistent with Lesser Black-backed Gull.

- California Gull, 16 October 2003, Big Detroit Lake, Becker County (record #2003-67, vote 0–7).

This apparent third-winter gull was identified by a visiting birder from California who is very familiar with this species. Unfortunately, however, the only useful feature included in the very brief documentation is the “blue-gray” leg color, and this alone is not enough to be convincing.

- Great Black-backed Gull, 5 June 2000, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2003-40, vote 2–5).

This out-of-season record had previously been voted on and Accepted, but

the current Committee voted to reconsider the record and reverse that decision. This immature gull was seen and documented by a very experienced observer, and may well have been correctly identified. However, the tail pattern was unclear, being described as “solid dark brown” at one point, which does not fit Great Black-backed Gull of any age.

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 27 March 2003, Amboy, Blue Earth County (record #2003-55, vote 1–6).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 25 April 2003, Appleton, Swift County (record #2003-56, vote 0–7).

The identifications in both these records was most likely correct, but the documentations in both cases is not detailed enough to preclude the small possibility of Ringed Turtle-Doves.

- Black Phoebe, 13 September 1952, Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2003-42, vote 3–7).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records. This record had been published in *The Flicker* (25:47–48), and the species had been included on earlier checklists of Minnesota birds. However, it had never been voted on or Accepted by any previous Records Committee, unlike all other species on the Minnesota list, and the record is virtually unprecedented outside of the species’ southwestern U.S. breeding range. Although the description would seem to fit no other species, it also includes mention of “black dots scattered rather regularly over the white surface” of the sides, and this is inconsistent with Black Phoebe. Although this troublesome detail is a relatively minor point, the documentation for such an extremely unusual and unlikely species should not include any anomalies.

- Bewick’s Wren, 20 July 2003, Millville, Wabasha County (record #2003-77, vote 3–4).

This identification may well have been correct, since the observer is experienced with this species from living in Arizona. However, the documentation is incomplete and apparently written only from memory after a five-month delay. It is curious that

barring was seen and noted on the under tail, but at the same time white on the outer tail (a distinctive feature of Bewick's Wren) is not mentioned in the description.

- MacGillivray's Warbler, 27 August 2003, Big Stone Lake State Park, Big Stone County (record #2003-73, vote 0-7).

The identification of this warbler rested almost entirely on the "large, broken eye-ringing arcing over eyes," as described in the original field notes. While this is certainly suggestive of MacGillivray's Warbler, some Mourning Warblers can also exhibit this same feature in fall (see *The Auk* 107:161-171). In addition, the field notes state the throat was yellow, which is much more indicative of a Mourning Warbler. Given how extremely unusual this species is in Minnesota — with only one previous record — and how difficult it is to separate these two species in fall, only the most thorough and unambiguous documentation could be accepted for any fall MacGillivray's sight record.

- Smith's Longspur, 26 February 2003, near Hinckley, Pine County (record #2003-34, vote 0-7).

Although the documentation is lengthy, it includes relatively little in actual description to support the identification. The bird was said to be singing, but it seems very unlikely this species would be singing in February so far south of its breeding range. At one point the bird is described as the size of a robin, which certainly does not fit any longspur, and its bill is described as "thin," another feature inconsistent with a longspur.

- Great-tailed Grackle, 29 April 2000, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2003-62, vote 1-6).

The documentation for this record apparently was written only from memory more than three years after the observation. After such a long delay, the majority had too much doubt about the accuracy of the observer's memory and description for the record to be accepted.

- Great-tailed Grackle, 26 June 2003, Sioux Valley Township, Jackson County

(record #2003-63, Not Accepted 5-2 as Great-tailed Grackle / Accepted 6-1 as large grackle, sp.).

As an Accidental species in 2003, a 6-1 vote was required to accept this record. The two dissenting voters felt that the remote possibility of Boat-tailed Grackle was not precluded.

The efforts of all those observers who document reports of unusual species are appreciated, whether or not those records are Accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided documentation for the records listed in this article: Jerry Bonkoski, Conny Brunell, Paul Budde (four records), Philip Chu (four records), Patrick Clements, Herb Dingmann, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert (two records), Chris Fagyal, Carolyn Fischer, Randy Frederickson, Bill George (two records), John Hockema, Bernelda Holmberg, Bob Janssen (three records), Paul Jantscher, Steve Kittleson, Jim Lind, Andrew Longtin, Dennis Martin, Steve Millard, Donald Mitchell, Steve Monson-Geerts, David Neitzel (two records), Frank Nicoletti, Pete Olson, Douglas Pierzina, Jackie Potts (two records), Julian Sellers, Brian Smith, Drew Smith, Rich Sonnenberg, Bill Stauffer, Doris and Tom Straw, Peder Svingen (seven records), Dan and Sandy Thimgan (two records), Helen Tucker, Tom Tustison, Bill Unzen (five records), Josh Watson.

There were also other observers who documented records of Regular species which were not submitted for a vote to the Committee; although these records are not cited here, their documentations are also appreciated.

The Committee Chairman, Peder Svingen, welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. He can be contacted by e-mail at <psvingen@d.umn.edu>.

Summary: 54 records voted on / 35 Accepted, 19 Not Accepted.

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

Neotropic Cormorants in Lac Qui Parle County

Karl Bardon

While doing shorebird surveys in western Minnesota on 12 August 2003, I found a pair of adult Neotropic Cormorants at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County. Although few shorebirds were present, these two cormorants were with a group of about 100 Double-crested Cormorants feeding in the low flow area along the U.S. Highway 75 dam. I observed them resting on a rocky peninsula from 7:38 A.M. to 8:32 A.M., at which point the entire flock began flying out into the pool to begin feeding.

Both birds were in alternate plumage with white face plumes on the side of the head, except that one bird lacked a white plume on the right side. Both birds had a backwards shaped white "V" along the rear edge of the gular which extended continuously under the chin but did not extend as far forward as the eye on the upper edge of the facial skin. Both birds had limited orangish color on the facial skin, and I am quite confident no orange color was present on the lores of either bird (as it is on Double-crested Cormorant). Other than the facial features just described, the only relief to the overall blackish plumage was pale scalloping on the wing coverts.

In typical hunched posture, the overall height of these two birds only reached the shoulder of the Double-crested when perched in the same posture. Although these two birds had shorter legs, a narrower stance, and much smaller bills compared to the Double-crested, they had proportionately longer tails. I also noted gray bills and legs, and blue eyes. They caroused with neighboring Double-crested, during which times I heard a low



Neotropic Cormorants, 16 August 2003, Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by David Cahlander.

grunting, but I couldn't tell which species of cormorant was making the sounds.

These two birds were seen and photographed by many observers until 6 October 2003, and Paul Budde observed them copulating. The only previous sighting of Neotropic Cormorant in Minnesota was also an adult at a similar time of year: 16 July – 4 August 1992 at Lake Vadnais, Ramsey County (*The Loon* 64:176–178).

13073 Hastings St. NE, Blaine, MN 55449.

White-winged Dove in Cook County

Josh Watson

It was a hot, sunny day on 5 July 2003. John Hockema and his brother Chris had come up and planned to bird all day today with me in Cook County. It was on this day that we discovered a White-winged Dove.

We had been cruising around the county trying to find seventy species for the day. We had just come down Cook County Road 44 and turned down county road 7 to check a large field. As we began scanning the surroundings, John and I, at pretty much the same time, sighted a dove perched on the power line up ahead. The bird sat so motionless on the wire that it looked artificial. By that time Chris had sighted it too, and slowly we began to move the car closer to the bird which sat about thirty feet up on the power line broadside.

It was definitely a dove about the size and color of a Mourning Dove with a few slight differences. It showed a blue eye-ring and an obvious black mark on the cheek. A striking white wing patch ran in a narrow strip along the lower edge of the folded wing. The tail had a black sub-terminal band, and a white terminal band.

Even though I knew it was unusual, I didn't know exactly how rare the bird was. I was the first to break the silence, "John, it has white on the wings.... Is it supposed to?" I paused, "John isn't that a White-winged Dove?" John's reply was "Oh my God," his second reply was "Oh my God," and his third reply was "Oh my God". However, his fourth reply was "yes," and then everything suddenly became confusing as we scrambled to get things to write on and with, and we began scratching notes on everything there was to see about the bird.

John at that moment had said that White-winged Dove has occurred fewer than five times in the state and we later



White-winged Dove, 5 July 2003, Cook County. Photo by Josh Watson.

found out that this was the third state record. We carefully took notes and continued to watch the bird for about eight minutes until it dropped down to alight upon an alder limb. While the bird was in flight we were able to see its large, white wing patches and obvious black and white tail markings. A minute more and the bird took to the air again, rising over the grove of alders that lined the road and dropping beyond them out of sight.

All three of us were disappointed to see this third state record and life bird leave after just nine minutes. This was one of the greatest experiences of my life; well, in fact it was the greatest highlight of all time being only my third year of birding. None of us knew what the bird, which ranges in the arid southwest, was doing way the heck up here in northern Minnesota. All we knew was that we watched it for nine whole minutes and the three of us were able to share the experience of a lifetime.

1517 Devil Track Rd., Grand Marais MN, 55604.

BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

A Second Look at The Internet

Kim R. Eckert



Free speech! It's a wonderful thing, to be sure. As long as you don't yell "Fire!" in that proverbial crowded theater. Or joke about bombs and hijackings at the airport. You know, common sense stuff like that. Or when you're on the internet, posting something on a list-serve like MOU-net, you shouldn't, uh — hold on, let me think for a second... There must be something inappropriate for Minnesota birders to post.

Or maybe not. Thinking back over what I've seen in recent weeks and months, nothing seems out-of-bounds. It's all there on MOU-net: Lots of non-bird news. Personal information and anecdotes sent to hundreds of strangers with no conceivable interest in them. Personal criticisms and feuds made public which obviously should have stayed private. Pronouncements from those with hidden agendas, axes to grind, chips on their shoulders, or with no particular expertise in the subject. And the inevitable "You the man!" or "You go girl!" follow-up comments from others who don't really know about the person whose views they're endorsing.

But, hey, that's what the internet is all about. Being able to say anything you want, whether or not it's accurate, whether or not anyone cares, with no pesky editors or webmasters to get in the way. Free speech! But note the operative word here is free, and, as they say, you get what you pay for.

Also consider those timely posts of rarities on MOU-net which we all look for-

ward to. I would think that most if not all subscribers assume these reports represent correct IDs and legitimate sightings. But are they? What if there is a posting, or series of postings, of a rarity that was the result of human error, an honest mistake, a misidentification? Whatever you wish to call it, we all make them, they're nothing to be ashamed of, and they do appear on MOU-net. One unfortunate consequence is subscribers might then get an inaccurate impression of what a species' status really is or of what a season's birding highlights truly were. Another consequence is when a birder goes out to subsequently relocate a rarity that never really was, and makes the same ID error when assumptions and hopeful expectations cloud his or her perceptions.

There are lots of examples of such reports. Just a few more recent ones: the Brant which turned into an immature blue-morph Snow Goose; a goldeneye posted as a male Barrow's by one birder but identified as a Common by everyone else; a Yellow-billed Loon seen over a three-day period (in reality, it was probably gone after the first day); that flurry of Mississippi Kites in the Twin Cities a few springs back (only one was ever confirmed); the frequent sightings of Ferruginous Hawk (and other raptors that many birders find difficult to identify) which are seldom documented; an adult Black-legged Kittiwake which was apparently just a sub-adult Ring-billed Gull.

Consider as well the thread of discus-

sion on MOU-net last March about the new *Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota* booklet, which is published every five years by the MOU Records Committee. There were comments from those wondering what the status definitions are. (Helpful Household Hint: just read page one of the booklet.) Comments suggesting the Committee must have just thrown the list together without any research, thought, or discussion. Comments from those implying they single-handedly know more about Minnesota birds than all ten Committee members combined. A comment or two from agenda-hiders, ax-grinders, chip-shoulders. There were even specific comments on the list from a non-MOU member who hadn't even seen the *Checklist*.

And, so, after this thread on MOU-net had unraveled and worn thin, what did subscribers learn about the *Checklist*? Not much. For example, King Rail, the bird which inexplicably received the most attention, is still placed on the Accidental list, and with good reason, but no one just reading MOU-net is going to know why. Everyone, it seems, was having too much fun listening to themselves talk, and no one apparently had the common sense to simply and specifically ask anyone on the Committee to comment. (As Committee chair at the time the list was produced, I never received a single e-mail, letter, or phone call about it; neither did Peder Svngen, the current chair.)

In case anyone wonders what all the fuss was about and is still interested in what the list really means, read on. There are now 427 Accepted species on the Minnesota Checklist (plus one still pending — a recent Brown Pelican sighting). This is a net increase of four species since the previous *Checklist* in 1999: five additions (Smew, Black Vulture, White-tailed Kite, White-throated Swift, Costa's Hummingbird) and one deletion (Black Phoebe).

Including these six, the status of several species has changed in the past five years. Some of the reasons, consequences, and other information related to these changes appear below (or I suppose you

could try the novel approach of simply reading the *Checklist* booklet):

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Perhaps a somewhat surprising promotion to Casual status (records in three of the past ten years), but the species does seem to be increasing its numbers and extending its range. I personally would have favored continued Accidental status, given that five of Minnesota's six records are qualified with the "o" subscript — i.e., origin uncertain. (The one unqualified record was during a year when several extralimital records of the species occurred.)

Cinnamon Teal — now Casual; formerly Regular. With records in only eight of the past ten years, this species lost its Regular status, although it may well regain that status on the next *Checklist*. No matter what its status, all records of this species should require careful scrutiny, since it is a common captive in waterfowl collections, and it does hybridize with Blue-winged Teal.

Smew — now Accidental; added to state list since 1999. The one Accepted record from Jackson Co. in 1999 involves a bird of uncertain origin, qualified with the "o" subscript. Smews also recently turned up in St. Louis and Olmsted counties, but both had a clipped hallux (hind toe), strong evidence of captive origin. (For all we know, the Jackson County bird may well have had a clipped hallux as well.)

Northern Bobwhite — now Extirpated; formerly Regular. Extensive research by Anthony Hertzell suggests that any bobwhite seen in Minnesota in recent years has been in all likelihood a local release or escape from captivity. Unless there is documentation with a specific record to support wild origin of that individual, or until there is evidence a wild population in and around Minnesota is reestablished, as of 2004 all sightings of this species are considered "non-countable." (For those keeping lists, it is up to them to personally decide which, if any, of the bobwhites they have seen in recent years prior to 2004 have been wild and "countable.")

Black Vulture — now Accidental; add-

ed to state list since 1999. An overdue addition to the state list, now with two Duluth records, in 2001 and 2003 (the latter record was accepted after the *Checklist* was published).

White-tailed Kite — now Accidental; added to state list since 1999. The 2000 record from Washington County was another overdue addition to the list.

Gyr Falcon — now Casual; formerly Regular. Like the Cinnamon Teal, with records in eight of the past ten years, this species may well regain its former status. I personally feel it is still Regular and that the number of records would increase with more observer coverage in late fall and winter in northwestern Minnesota.

King Rail — now Accidental; formerly Casual. With no records in the state since 1992, this species perfectly fits within the definition of Accidental. (Those suggesting otherwise on MOU-net primarily offered the following evidence to support their position: “You the man!”)

Pomarine Jaeger — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in five of the past ten years.

Black-headed Gull — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in six of the past ten years; in all, there are now ten records, all of these from Jackson County.

Arctic Tern — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in five of the past ten years.

Band-tailed Pigeon — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in four of the past ten years.

Eurasian Collared-Dove — now Regular; formerly Accidental. Although there have been records in only six of the past ten years, it is obvious this species is now solidly annual in its occurrence and thus Regular (see the Exceptions section on page one of the *Checklist* booklet).

White-throated Swift — now Accidental; added to state list since 1999. A somewhat surprising record from Minneapolis in 2000, but there had been at least one previous record from Michigan.

Costa's Hummingbird — now Accidental; added to state list since 1999. An

account of this unexpected record from Wright County in 2003, including the unusual circumstances surrounding it, will appear in a future issue of *The Loon*.

Black Phoebe — deleted from state list; formerly Accidental. This sight record from 1952 had long held a somewhat tenuous place on the state list, and the decision to remove it was difficult. See the “Proceedings” article elsewhere in this issue of *The Loon*.

Sage Thrasher — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in four of the past ten years.

Worm-eating Warbler — now Casual; formerly Regular. With records in only seven of the past ten years, this species loses its marginally Regular status. Every five years, with the appearance of a new *Checklist*, this species seems to bounce back and forth between Regular and Casual.

Black-throated Sparrow — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in three of the past ten years.

Baird's Sparrow — now Accidental; formerly Casual. With records in only two of the past ten years, this grassland species' decline in status here is unfortunately consistent with its steady decline within the eastern edge of its breeding range in central North Dakota and southwestern Manitoba.

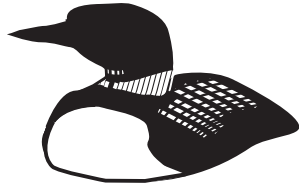
Painted Bunting — now Casual; formerly Accidental. Records accepted in six of the past ten years.

Great-tailed Grackle — now Regular; formerly Accidental. Like the Eurasian Collared-Dove, there have been records in only six of the past ten years, but it is obvious this species is now solidly annual in its occurrence.

Yelling “Fire!” in the theater. Jokes of bombs and hijackings at the airport. These may not be appropriate exercises in Free Speech. Unless, of course, when you're on the internet, where you'll still find plenty of flames being spread, verbal bombs dropped, and a listserve's mission and its threads of discussion hijacked off course.

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

NOTES OF INTEREST



WESTERN Tanager IN DAKOTA COUNTY — On 14 May 2003, I had gone to Lake Byllesby in the morning hoping an overnight rainstorm had brought in some shorebirds. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case, but I quickly noticed there seemed to be an abundance of passerines and decided to investigate what other birds were around. I was at the west end of the lake, near the cemetery, and started exploring the area. I eventually worked my way west of the cemetery, following the dirt frontage lane (this area is now barricaded and marked with "No Trespassing" signs). Just as the lane turns sharply left towards the lake, I noticed a pair of Baltimore Orioles and some other birds in the Siberian elm just in front of me. A greenish bird caught my attention, and, focusing on it with my binoculars, I immediately recognized it as a female Western Tanager. This bird is very familiar to me, as I have lived and birded in Colorado for a few years.



Its size was slightly smaller than the orioles but stockier in shape. The tanager's bill was dull fleshy orange in color, and thicker and not as sharply pointed as on the orioles. The head was yellowish-green in color, with a rounded head shape, and showed an indistinct and slightly paler thin eye-ring. The throat was brighter yellow, and seemed to have a barely discernable slight orange tone in the center. However, there were no other indications of orange or reddish color around the face. The back was greenish-gray, and contrasted with the yellowish-green head. The wings were greenish-brown, with two distinct wingbars. The upper bar was noticeably yellow in color and the lower bar white. The breast and belly were yellowish-green. Its tail was medium length, shorter than on the orioles, and greenish-brown in color. I studied the bird for a short time, as it sluggishly moved around the tree, feeding. After what seemed a few minutes it flew to the left, towards some ash trees that border the lake. In flight, I could see the contrasting yellowish-green rump. Its leg color was not noticed.

I made a quick search of the area, hoping that the bird had flown back to join a male companion, but didn't find one. Nearly all female Western Tanagers found in Minnesota during spring have accompanied a male bird, and only a handful of the current spring records are of lone adult females.

This observation represents the first accepted record of Western Tanager for Dakota County. **Drew Smith, 3606 Widgeon Way, Eagan MN 55123.**

ANOTHER HOODED WARBLER IN STEARNS COUNTY — I would like to report a Hooded Warbler seen in my backyard in St. Joseph, Stearns County, 24 May 2003. I was able to observe the bird a half a dozen times during the day, often within 10–15 feet. It was yellow below and olive above. The field mark that convinced me it was a Hooded was that it would often fan its tail, displaying white outer tail feathers. The bird remained low, often on the ground, and every five or ten seconds it rapidly opened and closed its tail. I was able to come in and read through Dunn and Garrett's *A Field Guide to Warblers of North*



America and then go back out and relocate the bird, and verify the field marks. It was presumably a first-spring female since its crown was olive, but there was an outline of

the hood as shown in the field guide.

I called two other birders in the area (Brian Jingles and Herb Dingmann). They came over and again we were able to see the bird at relatively close range. We all agreed it was a Hooded Warbler. Brian mentioned that someone had found the Hooded nesting at Camp Ripley, which is north of St. Joseph and St. Cloud. Perhaps the bird was headed there. The next day the bird was gone. It's my understanding that this was the second Hooded Warbler for Stearns County. The first was a male seen on the St. Cloud State University campus, 21 November 2001 (*The Loon* 74:104). **Bob Rodgers, 1410 Cedar Court, St. Joseph, MN 56374-9445.**

ROCK WREN IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY — In the early afternoon on 8 June 2003, while passing an east-facing window inside of our home, I noticed a large wren-like bird moving on the ground outside near one of our flowerbeds. After I took a second look, the bird reminded me of a House Wren which sparked my attention, since Winter Wren was at that time the only wren species on our yard list. Our home is located in the middle of 40 acres of mature red and white pine in southern St. Louis County, approximately 18 miles north of Duluth, and the presence of a House Wren seemed a bit out of place.



Grabbing my binoculars and notifying my wife, Patricia, and my parents, Clare and Maurita Geerts (also birders, who by chance were visiting), we all hurried to observe the bird. We immediately ruled out House Wren due to its size (about six inches), relative length of bill, and tail length and position (held in a downward position). The overall appearance of the wren was pale grayish-brown in color with buffy white underparts from the throat to the tail, and a very slight vertical streaking on the breast. There was also fine white speckling on the back and a faint whitish eyebrow. From these field markings, we determined the wren to be a Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*).

The wren also seemed unusually tame. It moved about almost exclusively on the ground, eating grubs and insects that it found in the fieldstone surrounding the flowerbeds and also amongst the firewood stacked on pallets on the north side of the house. We also noticed that the wren bobbed nervously when we approached too close. The wren's voice was a distinct series of buzzes and high-pitched ticks, which I heard several times.

At approximately 5:00 P.M. that afternoon, a thunderstorm moved through the area and the wren took refuge in the woodpile. After the storms had passed, and a couple of hours since the wren was last observed, it was seen foraging under a wood pallet just before sunset. The bird was not observed the following day. **Stephen D. Monson Geerts, 6766 East Cook Lake Road, Duluth, MN 55803.**

WILSON'S PHALAROPE NEST IN LAKE COUNTY — On 14 June 1998, I noted a female Wilson's Phalarope on Crest Lake in west-central Lake County. Hartzel *et al.* (2000) characterize the Wilson's Phalarope as a very local breeder in central and western Minnesota. There had been no nesting records northeast of a line from Aitkin to Lake of the Woods counties (Hartzel and Janssen 1998) and mid-summer observations from this area are rare (Janssen 1987). In each of the following three breeding seasons I observed from two to four adults at this location between 12 and 19 June. None were found on two visits in June of 2001, perhaps because unusually high water levels had flooded the potential nesting habitat.



On 21 June 2002, Kris MacPherson and I observed at least three adults swimming in the shallows or flying about over Crest Lake. As we circled the main area of open



Figure 1. Crest Lake area, Lake County.

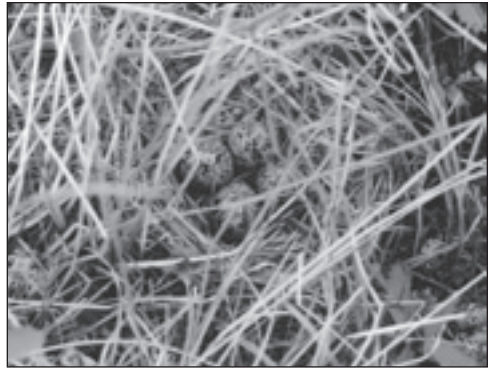


Figure 2. Wilson's Phalarope nest, 21 June 2002.

water, we flushed a male Wilson's Phalarope from the surrounding sedge mat/floating bog that occupies most of the 60 ha lake basin (Figure 1). The male landed nearby in open water and engaged in an animated distraction display. A short search revealed a nest holding four eggs (Figure 2) in the area where he had flushed.

The nest was about 5 m from the open water. It was a shallow cup of grass or sedges, suspended on sedge stalks about 4 cm above the moss and litter substrate. The sedges growing around the nest appeared to have been carefully woven together to form a sparse canopy over the nest. The vegetation in the immediate area was not as rank as much of the rest of the basin, being less dense and perhaps only 0.3 m tall.

On 6 July, Jim Lind and I visited the site. We did not see any phalaropes, but found the nest intact without eggshells, suggesting a possible successful outcome, and consistent with the adult male's habit of removing eggshells from the nest at hatching.

Forest or brush-dominated habitats are the rule across northeast Minnesota; expansive lowland habitat like that found at Crest Lake, dominated by sedges, grasses, and forbs, with only sparse woody vegetation, is uncommon. Consequently, most bird species found at Crest Lake are characterized as uncommon to very rare breeders on the Superior National Forest (Green 2002). The Common Snipe, Sedge Wren, Tree Swallow, and Le Conte's Sparrow are fairly abundant at Crest Lake. Other regulars there during the breeding season are American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Sora, Sandhill Crane (2002 and 2003), Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird.

According to Green (2002), this is the 163rd bird species known to breed on the Superior National Forest, which has the highest number of breeding birds of any national forest (ABA and USDA Forest Service 1994). **Steve Wilson, 506 South Second St., Tower, MN 55790.**

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LITTLE BLUE HERON AT AGASSIZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — On 16 June



2003, I watched an adult Little Blue Heron at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County. The bird was feeding by stabbing at prey in shallow water at Farnes Pool, which was in drawdown at the time. Its bill had a slight down curve and was bluish 2/3 of the way down; the tip of the bill was dark. Its legs were greenish or bluish (not yellow). It looked lighter (whitish) around the eye and base of bill. The colors of its plumage varied according to light conditions. It looked blue on its back and darker greenish below, purplish on its neck, and sometimes showed iridescent blue/purple/green on its body. The feathers on top of its head were occasionally blown up by the breeze to form a reddish blue crest. The bird appeared larger than a Green Heron, but smaller than a Great Blue Heron. I watched the bird through binoculars and a Bausch & Lomb scope (20–60X) for about ten minutes. It only flew once for a short distance and returned to almost the same spot to feed.

The bird was observed by at least one other birder either just before or just after I saw it and reported it to the refuge staff. Presumably the same bird was re-found by Jeff Stephenson on the 24 June, but there were no sightings between these two dates. This species has been recorded at Agassiz N.W.R. on four previous occasions: 13 May 1980 (wrong date in *The Loon* 52:154), 30 May 1985 (*The Loon* 57:154), 12 June 1987 (*The Loon* 60:18), and 22+ May 1999 (*The Loon* 71:191). **Jeanie M. Joppru, 16269 – 160th St. NE, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.**

EARLY FALL MIGRATION OF TENNESSEE AND OTHER WARBLERS IN JULY — Dur-

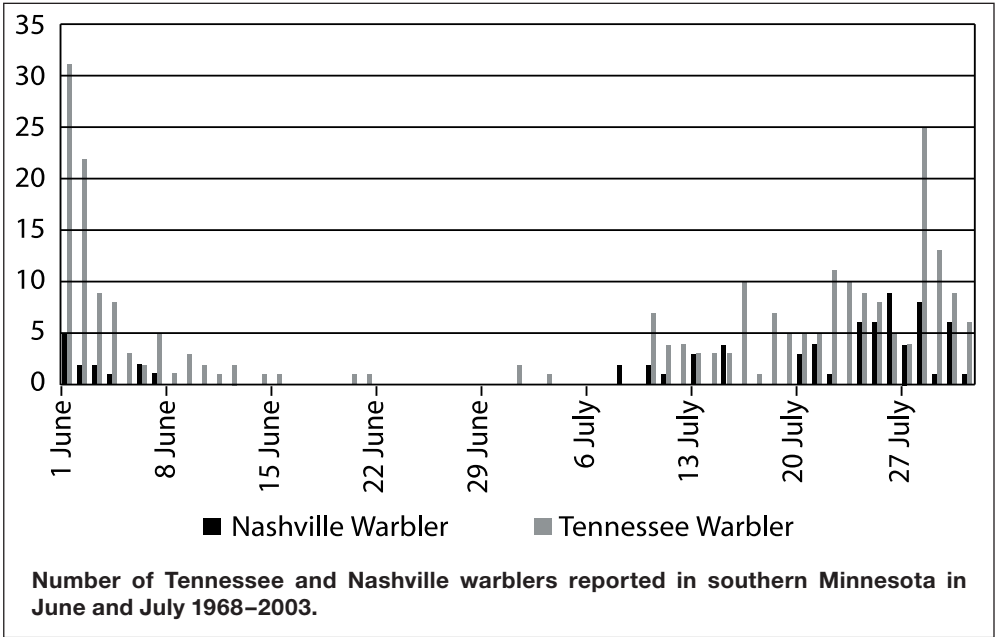


ing the latter half of July 2003, there were an exceptional number of southbound Tennessee Warblers in southern Minnesota: we found a maximum of 41 individuals in Anoka and Hennepin counties from 13–31 July. Although this was clearly an exceptional number, we have found this species to be a regular fall migrant in the Twin Cities in July. For example, Carlson has found this species in July in Hennepin County in 13 of the last 15 years, with an average of 4.2 birds seen per year, and together we have seen a total of 115 individuals in July in

Anoka and Hennepin counties in the last 18 years. Clearly, some years these migrants are more prevalent than others; our previous best year was 1999 when we found 28 individuals from 10–28 July. Although Tennessee Warblers are one of the most abundant and conspicuous warblers in spring, with migrants frequently heard singing well into June, the beginning of fall migration in July is much less conspicuous and requires more field effort at a time of year when most observers are not out looking for migrant warblers. We have found that these July birds are best found by pishing (although occasionally we have heard them singing), they often occur in small groups of two to four individuals, they are frequently seen with Yellow Warblers (which are also probably migrants at this time of year), they are usually adults (not immatures or juveniles as reported by others), and they are often in heavy molt (a number of birds were seen in 2003 that were virtually tail-less).

Southern Minnesota	Late South Spring Dates 1968–2003	Early South Fall Dates 1968–2003
Nashville Warbler (beyond breeding areas)	Range 20 May – 7 June (av. 29 May, n=28) Latest dates: 4, 6, 6, 7 June 13 individuals reported in June 1968–2003	Range 8 July – 25 August (av. 30 July, n=33) Earliest dates: 8, 8, 10, 11, 13 July 61 individuals reported in July 1968–2003
Tennessee Warbler	Range 24 May – 21 June (av. 4 June, n=35) Latest dates: 11, 12, 14, 20, 21 June 87 individuals reported in June 1968–2003	Range 1 July – 25 August (av. 25 July, n=38) Earliest dates: 1, 1, 3, 10, 10 July 160 individuals reported in July 1968–2003

Table 1.



The migration pattern of Tennessee Warblers in southern Minnesota in summer is similar to that for many shorebirds, with potential overlap of late northbound and early southbound birds in late June or early July. The arrival of variable numbers of southbound adults in July suggests these birds may be failed breeders or non-breeders, initiating molt sooner and returning south earlier than successful breeders. Successful breeders probably remain on territory through July, as evidenced by data from 19 nests in northeastern Minnesota (MOU files), at the southern edge of the species' breeding range: the young hatch in late June and fledge in early July, with records of adults seen feeding young out of the nest from 8 July – 1 August.

Although Nashville Warblers are not encountered as often in June and July in southern Minnesota as Tennessee Warblers, the pattern of fall migration appears to be similar, with presumed migrant individuals found outside breeding habitat frequently seen to be adults in molt, even in the same groups with the Tennessees. The data given in Table 1 for Nashville Warbler include all individuals reported away from known breeding locations in northern Anoka and Washington counties. Dates published in summer "Seasonal Report" in *The Loon* from 1965–2003 were supplemented with the original data submitted by contributors (on file for 1985–2003) to compile the data in Table 1 for both Tennessee and Nashville Warblers.

Although July is not often thought of as a time of year when migrant warblers can be found, it can be a fun time to bird with many surprises. For example, we have found Northern Parulas on 10 July 1999 (SLC, Elm Creek Park Reserve), 28 July 2003 (KJB, Pioneer Park), and 29 July 1999 (KJB, Pioneer Park), Blackburnian Warblers on 10 July 1999 (SLC, Elm Creek), 15 July 1973 (SLC, Coon Rapids Dam), and 24 July 1999 (KJB, Pioneer Park), Yellow-rumped Warblers on 25 July 1987 (SLC, Bunker Hills) and 30 July 1988 (SLC, Eden Prairie), Bay-breasted Warblers on 24 July 1987 (KJB, North Oaks) and 30 July 1988 (SLC, Eden Prairie), and a Magnolia Warbler on 18 July 1992 (SLC, Coon Rapids Dam). These are some of the earliest fall dates on record for these species.

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Purpose of the M.O.U.

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

To carry out these aims, 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; 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.

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Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editors. See inside front cover. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Peder Svingen. See key to the "Seasonal Report."



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First Record of Costa's Hummingbird in Minnesota

Donald E. Mitchell

On Monday, 24 November 2003, the evening television broadcast of the Twin Cities KARE 11 news aired a story about a hummingbird that had been visiting a feeder at a home outside of Delano, Wright County, since early fall. With cold weather approaching, the homeowners had lured the bird into their basement on 6 November and provided feeders filled with sugar water.

The apparent assumption of the homeowners and the news reporter was that the bird was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) that had failed to migrate south. However, it seemed to me from details of the video footage (specifically, the hummingbird's incomplete iridescent purple gorget with an extremely elongated lateral extension on one side) that the bird was more likely a vagrant immature male Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*). The news reporter indicated that the homeowners planned to have the bird brought to a local wildlife rehabilitation clinic and eventually put on a plane and flown south for release.

I visited the home the next evening, Tuesday 25 November, to view the bird and obtain more details from the homeowners. I was able to verify to my satisfaction that the bird was, indeed, a Costa's Hummingbird, based on the gorget characteristics noted above, in addition to the presence of iridescent purple feathers in the crown and behind the eye, the relatively small size of the hummingbird, the relatively short tail, the characteristic tail-wagging of the bird while hovering, the distinctive Bushtit-like call notes, and the green "vest" on the flanks of the bird. The dark, smudgy "sideburn" on the left, unmolted side of the face in the gorget area was consistent with an immature

male Costa's Hummingbird.

The very late stage of molt the bird was in was consistent with *Calypte* hummingbirds, which have an early breeding season and an early annual molt cycle compared to other North American hummingbirds (Pyle 1997, Williamson 2001, Howell 2002). This bird had fresh flight and body feathers and had completed a molt of about half of its gorget (the last feathers to be replaced) by early November. Other, non-*Calypte*, more migratory North American hummingbird species don't typically complete their annual molt until just prior to northbound migration in late winter or early spring.

I took notes on my observations immediately after viewing the hummingbird. I was also able to secure photos of the bird taken by the homeowners which detailed some of the bird's noted physical characteristics. The homeowners told me that they thought the bird had been visiting their feeders since about mid-September. By then, the homeowners informed me, it seemed that the other hummingbirds that had been visiting their feeders had left, leaving the one bird remaining with them into the fall.

I returned to Delano on 5 December to remove the bird from the basement and bring it to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota in Roseville. While I had the bird in-hand, I obtained measurements and collected the fifth rectrix (R5), the characteristics of which are diagnostic for Costa's Hummingbird (Williamson 2001). On 7 December, the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) met and, based on the evidence presented, unanimously accepted this as the first state record of the Costa's Hummingbird.



Costa's Hummingbird, 28 November 2003, Delano, Wright County. Photo by Chris Fagyal.



Figure 1. States and Canadian provinces with records of Costa's Hummingbird.

Four days after being brought to the rehabilitation clinic, on 9 December, the hummingbird died. The cause of death is not known, but the length of time spent in captivity in the basement without an adequate source of protein in the form of small insect prey may have been a factor. The bird was deposited in the collection of the Bell Museum at the University of

Minnesota.

The significance of this record goes beyond its status as first state record for Minnesota. This record is the eastern-most documented occurrence of Costa's Hummingbird (see Figure 1). This species has yet to be documented in any of the southeastern states, an area that has become a hotbed for wintering western

hummingbirds (Baltosser and Scott 1996). In fact, Costa's is the only North American hummingbird species with a significant portion of its breeding range north of the U.S. – Mexican border for which there are yet no records in the southeastern United States (Williamson 2001, Howell 2002).

The range of Costa's Hummingbird is centered in the arid southwestern U.S. and adjacent Mexico, primarily in southern California, southwestern Arizona, northwestern Sonora, and Baja California (Baltosser and Scott 1996). Its migratory movements are complex and not well understood, but there is a great deal of overlap of breeding and non-breeding ranges (Baltosser 1989).

Vagrant Costa's Hummingbirds are much more common north of California; there are many records from the Pacific Northwest as far north as southeastern Alaska, and the species now occurs annually in Oregon (Baltosser and Scott 1996). An increase in vagrancy to the Pacific Northwest has been noted since 1970 (Baltosser 1989).

To the east of the Pacific Coast states and provinces, however, vagrant Costa's are much less common. North and east of the three states of Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico, which have at least small Costa's breeding populations (Baltosser 1989, American Ornithologists' Union 1998), vagrant Costa's have been documented only in Texas (mostly West Texas, El Paso and Big Bend areas, but also two records from the Gulf Coast [Baltosser and Scott 1996, Lockwood *et al.* 2002]), twice in Kansas (Kansas Bird Record Committee 2002), twice in Alberta (McLellan 1988, Slater 1997, 2001), twice in Colorado (Fontaine and Dinsmore 2002; second record pending of bird banded by B. Wiard August 2003), and once each in Montana (Trochlell 2002) and Nebraska (Grzybowski 2002). The overwhelming majority of these records are of male birds. This may reflect a true difference between the sexes in the propensity to wander, or it may be because females present more of an identification problem and are more likely to go unnoticed.

While vagrant Costa's Hummingbirds are less common east of the Pacific Coast states and provinces, their numbers are increasing. All but a few of the vagrant Costa's in this area have been recorded since 1990, and about half of the aforementioned records outside of west Texas have been documented in the last three years alone. If this is any indication, we can expect to see more records of this species in Minnesota and nearby states in the future.

Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank Andy Jones for assisting with the capture of the Costa's Hummingbird, Ann Kessen, and Bruce Fall for helping to guide me through the process of documentation for MOURC, Chris Fagyal for helping to document the bird with his photographs, Anthony Hertzell for producing the map, the federal Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) for my permit to capture, mark, band, and collect feather samples from hummingbirds, and finally, my sister-in-law Donna Pittman for promptly telephoning me after viewing a teaser for the KARE 11 news story.

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Peregrine Falcons Living in Cities

Mark Alt¹
and Harrison Tordoff²

“**I**ride the bus to work now. I wait at Marquette and 6th until the express 576 takes me south to begin my day. Marquette and 6th is a prime vantage point to see Peregrines on the Multifoods tower. I have watched them every week since May. Last Tuesday, July 8th, an adult put on a flying clinic, soaring up into a stall about 100 feet above the top of the tower on the north side, using the strong winds to climb straight up, then it would veer sharply to the right, tuck into a half stoop, wings forming a narrow “W”, and bomb past an immature bird sitting near the nest box on the east side. It would then open his wings in a full soar, veer left and up and float back to its original position above the north side. If the bird was a sky writer, there would have been an elongated ellipse scribed in the air. I saw this move repeated twice, and then in the mid-

dle of what appeared to be a third such move, the bird leaned right and continued out of sight behind the tower. It emerged a few seconds later and soared up to its holding point hovering on the heavy gusts above the north side. It was a breathtakingly awesome display of flight.” E-mail, Alt, 15 July 2003.

“Still taking the bus. This morning I witnessed my first Peregrine kill. I watched 3 birds fly in the high winds from 7:05 to 7:25 a.m. this morning, launching sorties and returning to the four swaying antennae above the brown building spanning Marquette between 3rd and 4th Avenues and 6th Street, several blocks east of my vantage point. The falcons were rolling and pitching and stooping at one another. An adult coursed in from behind the Piper-Jaffrey Hopwood tower to hover

kite-like 40 feet from the flat north face. It held position for two or three seconds, then dropped in altitude abruptly by extending its wings upward like an osprey about to hit the water. It fell about 10 feet the first time and about five feet the second time. At first I didn't know what was going on, then I glimpsed a small passerine bird trying to get away, striking the glass that wraps this structure, then flying in an ellipse and right back into the glass. The falcon dropped a third time and grabbed the bird in its right talon. The maneuver was a controlled stall, like a barrier taking a mouse in a meadow, wings set in a dihedral. It was not the dramatic kill I had always (and still) anticipated. A moment later the bird was atop one of the antennae, eating its meal. Do falcons use glass buildings to gain strategic advantage over disoriented birds? The falcon appeared to be in no great hurry to dispatch the bird, almost appearing to wait for it to bounce off of the glass. It was as if this was a routine." E-mail, Alt, 3 September 2003.

Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in cities live in a habitat very different from their traditional cliff environment. Their potential prey differ in kind and behavior. Predators that might take young falcons or kill incubating adults are absent. Windows, mirror-walled buildings, vehicles, and power lines are potentially lethal. Falcons moving into this new habitat have adapted by changing their behavior.

Tall buildings and smokestacks are man-made cliffs, providing secure nest sites and elevated perches. In the Old World, Peregrines have nested for centuries on man-made structures such as castles and cathedrals. In North America, the original population nested mostly on cliffs; a few pairs used tall trees, and still fewer nested on tall buildings. New York, Philadelphia, and Washington had occasional pairs of nesting Peregrines in the first half of the 20th century, while one famous female in Montreal nested on the Sun Life building from 1937 to 1952.

The present population of Peregrines across most of the United States and Can-



One-year-old male Peregrine “Younger 04/N,” 24 July 2004, at 3M water tower, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Harrison Tordoff.

ada was restored by release of falcons produced in captivity, following the extirpation of the original population over much of its range. Peregrines now nest in cities from coast to coast. In the Midwest, at least 162 pairs held territories during the 2003 breeding season, four times the number of pairs estimated for the original cliff-nesting population. Two-thirds of the current population live on man-made structures, such as buildings, smokestacks, and bridges. The buildings and smokestacks inhabited by falcons in the Midwest today were almost all built after the demise of the original Peregrines by pesticide poisoning in the 1950s.

A conspicuous outcome of city nesting by Peregrines is virtual elimination of predation on adults and young. All but a few of the city pairs nest in boxes or trays provided by humans. In 729 nestings in Midwestern cities, 481 on buildings, 154 on smokestacks, and 94 on bridges, we know of no losses to predators and only a small number, probably fewer than two

dozen, to bad weather. By comparison, of 31 cliff nests along the Mississippi River, where monitoring is close enough to detect the likely cause of most failures, 13 failed to fledge any young. At least nine of these failed because of predation by raccoons or owls. The causes of failure of the other four are not known.

In the Midwest since 1987, 1033 nesting pairs have fledged 2.3 young per pair, a success rate as high as any ever reported for a Peregrine population (White, C.M. *et al.* 2002 Peregrine Falcon. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 660. A. Poole and F. Gill, eds. Philadelphia, PA). Smokestack sites fledge an average of 2.8 young per nest, building sites 2.4 young, cliff sites 2.0 young, and bridges 1.8 young per nest. The bridge sample is small, 94 nests, and skewed downward by pairs nesting on two bridges in Duluth harbor, fledging only seven young from 14 nests.

High productivity by pairs on buildings is countered by heavy mortality of young after leaving the nest, particularly in the first months. Collisions with windows, buildings, power lines, and vehicles are the main causes of mortality. Smokestacks, by contrast, not only fledge the most young, but also confer high survival because young fledge into fenced, guarded, and monitored areas.

Peregrines that survive the dangerous first year and settle on city territories cope well with city hazards, presumably learning from non-lethal encounters with windows and other obstacles.

The oldest known Peregrine in the current Midwestern population is 17 years old, a female named Meg in St. Paul. She was released in 1986 in Minneapolis. Meg has produced 60 eggs and fledged 43 young in 16 seasons, paired over the years with five males. She still reigns year-around over downtown St. Paul even though her three eggs in 2002 and her single egg in 2003 have been infertile. It is interesting that she has continued to hold a prime territory even though post-reproductive. [Note: Meg did not show up at her regular nest site in St. Paul in 2004 and is presumed to be dead — HBT 3 Au-

gust 2004.] The oldest wild Peregrine yet reported was an Alaskan female, 19 years old when trapped and released in California. Montreal's Sun Life female, mentioned above, was at least 18 when she disappeared. In captivity, protected from the rigors of making their own living, few Peregrines live beyond 20, with the maximum about 25 years (White *et al.*, loc. cit.).

Peregrine breeding populations seem usually to be limited by available suitable territories, rather than by food. Hence territorial acquisition and defense are vigorous and sometimes lethal, perhaps the main cause of mortality of adults in cities (where downed birds are often found and their injuries diagnosed). We do not know if territorial fights are equally hazardous at cliff sites, where they are more likely to go unnoticed.

To sum up, city Peregrines, compared with traditional cliff nesters, are essentially free from predation, show increased production of fledged young, greater mortality of young in the first weeks on the wing, and low adult mortality from accidents. On balance, Peregrines are thriving in this new habitat, where they delight us with a glimpse of their wildness and spectacular mastery of the air. The natural charisma of Peregrines is enhanced by their history of endangerment and recovery. Lured to cities by tall buildings and smokestacks, Peregrines today are welcomed and admired, a dramatic change in attitude from January 1931, when one of two Peregrines taking up residence in downtown Detroit, Michigan, was shot by a police officer sent to the scene because they "had been preying on pigeons"! (Wood, Norman A. 1951. *The Birds of Michigan*. Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. Misc. Publ. No. 75, p. 129).

We thank Don Alstad and Chris Benson for helpful suggestions.

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The Fall Season

1 August through 30 November 2003

Paul E. Budde¹
James W. Lind²
and Peder H. Svingen³

The spring status of **Ross's Goose** has changed dramatically over the past two decades and its occurrence in fall is by now routine. For the second consecutive fall, a flock of six **Harlequin Ducks** appeared along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Another highlight in an otherwise lackluster waterfowl migration was an influx of **scoters** to multiple "inland" locations away from Lake Superior.

Two or three **Red-throated Loons** along the North Shore of Lake Superior was near-average for autumn, but **Pacific Loons** were scarce and fall staging of the **Common Loon** at Lakes Winnibigoshish and Mille Lacs was unimpressive. What are the odds that the same observer would find both the first and second state records of **Neotropic Cormorant** with more than a decade separating these two records? The extended stay of a juvenile **Little Blue Heron** with two adults in Douglas County suggested the possibility of local breeding, which has not been documented in Minnesota since 1981.

Reminiscent of last fall but unfortunately not refound by others was the **Swallow-tailed Kite** near Morristown in mid-August. Observers at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth were awed by rivers of raptors streaming high overhead on 15 September. However, there were unusually low seasonal totals for species such as **American Kestrel**, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon**.

Shorebird surveys at Agassiz N.W.R. and in Big Stone County consistently recorded 18+ species and 3000+ individuals during August. A total of 4076 shorebirds (22 species) in Big Stone and Lac Qui

Parle counties on the 16th was one of the highest total there since systematic surveys began in 1998. A flock of 36 **American Avocets** made a late cameo appearance at Agassiz and record-high counts were established for **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Long-billed Dowitchers**. Compared to recent fall migrations, a statewide total of 194 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** was disappointing.

Minnesota's first **Costa's Hummingbird** was identified when it was featured on a television newscast! In spite of mild conditions, only one **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** strayed to Minnesota. A **Carolina Wren** at Bigfork was recaptured, measured, banded, and photographed — how about that for documentation? The state's ninth **Sage Thrasher** lingered at Grand Marais for no fewer than 26 days.

Peak **warbler** variety included 19 species at Duluth 8 September (PHS), 19 species at Agassiz N.W.R. Labor Day weekend (KRE *et al.*), and 22 species at Duluth 15 Sep (PHS *et al.*). On the latter date, Svingen reported a "tidal surge" of >1300 warblers at Park Point between 11:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., including 20 Chestnut-sideds in view simultaneously. The only rare warbler this fall was the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Fergus Falls for six days in late October.

The fall migration of sparrows was noteworthy in several respects. **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** and **Smith's Longspurs** were detected in many locations. Sixteen species of sparrows were at Rothsay W.M.A. on 4 October (KRE *et al.*) with one additional species (Nelson's Sharp-tailed) found the next day in

nearby Otter Tail County. Fifteen species of sparrows including a Nelson's Sharp-tailed were found along the North Shore of Lake Superior on 12 October (JWL). Most unexpected was the female **Lazuli Bunting** about 11 miles east of Grand Marais; it was not only late (26 October) and unseasonal (most Minnesota records are in spring), but also far out-of-range.

Weather Summary: Precipitation during August was far below normal — in most regions at least 50% below normal, while in the Southeast and East-central it was 75% below normal. Statewide, it was the fourth driest August on record. Temperatures (°F) were moderate, though a warm spell during the third week of the month produced mid-90s as far north as International Falls. This warm period ended as a cold front passed through the state on 20 August, producing 70 mph winds in Duluth.

September precipitation was closer to average, but the cumulative effect of the summer drought caused an estimated \$1.1 billion in crop losses in Minnesota. Between 9 and 15 September a slow moving cold front passed through the state and produced significant rain in a band from the Southwest region to the Northeast. By the end of the month another cold front caused temperatures to plunge far below normal.

A series of cold fronts ushered in colder air as October began. Overnight lows dropped to the teens during the first few days of the month. Within a week, however, temperatures had climbed back into the 70s, even in the northern regions. Another cold front passing through on 11 October brought temperatures back towards normal levels. For the month, northern Minnesota experienced about 60% of normal precipitation totals, but the remainder of the state only 25% to 50%.

Minnesota was again dry and warm in November. On average, precipitation was 60% of normal. November began with a significant stationary front to the south-east of the state. International Falls received 9.0 inches of snow on 4 November, and temperatures dropped as cold air

flowed into the region behind a passing clipper system. By the 7th temperatures fell to as low as -9 degrees. The second week brought more windy weather and cold conditions as a high pressure system from Canada pushed more cold air into the state. On the 12th a passing low pressure system brought strong straight line winds to the entire Midwest that hit 65 mph in South-central Minnesota. A warming period at the end of the month did little to affect the northern part of the state as significant snow cover kept temperatures cold.

Presumed escapes and exotics: **Whooper Swan** 10/25–11/1 McLeod (adult at Campbell L. near Hutchinson) †PRH *et al.*, **Gray Partridge** 10/25 Cook (2 near Grand Marais) DAB, FVS.

Undocumented reports: **Plegadis ibis** 10/18 Lyon (Cottonwood), **Pacific Loon** 10/29 Crow Wing (Garrison), **Clark's Grebe** 8/2 Redwood/Yellow Medicine (Timm's L.), **Gyr Falcon** 11/1 Cook (Grand Marais), **Black-headed Gull** 10/18 Jackson (Big Spirit L.), **Yellow-breasted Chat** 9/20 Nicollet.

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¹4612 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55409;

²320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616;

³2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

Greater White-fronted Goose — Scarce throughout the state. Two north reports: **8/18–22** Otter Tail (record-early fall date, near Underwood) EJE, DTT, SMT, 10/17–24 Aitkin (6) PEJ, DFN. Two south reports: **9/20–10/4** Brown (2) BTS, 10/17 Big Stone (5) BJU.

Snow Goose — Reported from 18 north and 12 south counties. Oversummering birds in Otter Tail 8/1–28 m.obs., 8/2 Marshall (Warren W.T.P.) BJM, DDM. Early north migrants 9/6 Kittson (4) and Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, 9/16 St. Louis SLF and Cook EO. No south reports until 10/2 (median 9/16) Waseca NFT. High count 10/4 Red Lake (350) PHS, JMJ. Late north 11/18 St. Louis MTA, 11/20 Cook BRL. Late south 11/18 Lac Qui Parle and Big Stone BJU, 11/21 Dakota SWE, but also see winter report.

Ross's Goose — All north reports: 9/28 Pennington (Thief River Falls W.T.P.) †PHS *et al.*, 10/4 **Red Lake** (near Red Lake Falls) †PHS, JMJ, 10/9 Polk (East Grand Forks W.T.P.) CRM, 10/11 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) †PHS *et al.*, 10/12 Otter Tail CRM *et al.*, 10/17–24 Aitkin (6 at Mallard Lake W.M.A.) PEJ, DFN, 10/18 Polk (Foss-

ton) †PHS. Only south report: 11/2 Chipewewa (2) RBJ.

Canada Goose — Reported throughout the state and the season. Peak numbers at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A. estimated at **250,000** (record high count — no date) FAE and 11/11 (150,000) RBJ.

Mute Swan — Birds of uncertain origin reported 9/5–11/6 Rice (Cannon L.) m.obs., 11/2–22 Dakota (Gun Club L.) and Hennepin (Long Meadow L.) m.obs., 11/6 Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir) PWP.

Trumpeter Swan — Statewide total of >216 Trumpeters in 19 north and 10 south counties. Peak counts 11/20 Otter Tail (36 on L. Lida and Star L.) *fide* JMJ, 11/30 Wright (27 on L. Wilhelm) KTP.

Tundra Swan — Reported from 19 north and 21 south counties. One documented in July probably oversummered and was still present early August in Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) *fide* JMJ. Early north 9/14 Otter Tail JMP, 9/17 Pine JMP. Early south 10/11 Anoka JLH, 10/12 Sherburne OJ. High count 11/7 Houston (8000+ at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) FZL. Late

KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

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

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, request a report form from the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533.

north 11/18 Cass MRN, 11/22 Polk EEF. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Wood Duck — Seen in 22 north and 30 south counties. High count 9/23 Aitkin (3820) Rice Lake N.W.R. Late north 11/1 Hubbard MAW, but also see winter report.

Gadwall — Reported from 14 north and 24 south counties. Late north 11/13 Todd JSK. Please see winter report for additional migrants and overwintering birds.

American Wigeon — Observed in 14 north and 19 south counties. Late north 11/2 Marshall MJM. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

American Black Duck — All north reports: Aitkin, Cook, Lake, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Polk, St. Louis. Reported from nine south counties, including 8/21 Lac Qui Parle (possibly oversummering) BJU. No other south reports until late October.

Mallard — Reported throughout the state. High count 10/15 Aitkin (30,820) Rice Lake N.W.R.

Blue-winged Teal — Observed in 24 north and 25 south counties. Peak count 9/17 Aitkin (11,722) Rice Lake N.W.R. Late north 10/20 Mille Lacs CRM. Late south 10/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Northern Shoveler — Seen in 19 north and 22 south counties. High count 10/14 Polk (300) EEF. Late north 10/20 Mille Lacs CRM. Late south 11/28 Hennepin SLC, but also see winter report.

Northern Pintail — Reported from 13 north and 15 south counties. No significant high counts. Late north 11/2 Marshall MJM, but also see winter report.

Green-winged Teal — Seen in 16 north and 20 south counties. High count 9/23 Aitkin (7154) Rice Lake N.W.R. Late north 11/7 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Canvasback — Observed in 9 north and 11 south counties, none in Northeast or Southwest. Peak count 11/7 Houston (59,025 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/22 Beltrami DPJ. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Redhead — Reported from 11 north and 12 south counties. No significant high counts. Late north 11/22 Beltrami DPJ, but also see winter report.

Ring-necked Duck — Reported from 18 north and 20 south counties. High count 10/23 Aitkin (188,774) Rice Lake N.W.R. Late north 11/16 St. Louis SWe. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Greater Scaup — Seen in seven north and four south counties. Early north 9/27 Marshall PHS. Late north 11/16 Lake m.obs., but also see winter report. All south reports: 11/11 Houston DFN, 11/12 Big Stone BJU, 11/24 Ramsey KJB, Hennepin (no date) PEJ.

Lesser Scaup — Observed in 16 north and 20 south counties. No significant high counts. Please see winter report for late migrants.

Harlequin Duck — All reports were from the North Shore of L. Superior: **9/28** St. Louis (Superior Entry) MH, 10/26–31 Cook (**6** at Paradise Beach, ties record-high count set last fall in Grand Marais) MSS, m.obs., 11/8 Cook (one at Hovland) TZa, 11/13–18 St. Louis (immature at French River) CAK, m.obs.

Surf Scoter — Eleven reports from L. Superior including early north 9/29 St. Louis PHS, late north 11/15 Lake JWJ, and high count 10/23 Cook (9 at Hovland) JMP. Record number of inland reports for second consecutive fall. All inland reports were of one to three birds, between **9/30** Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R., earliest date south) BJU and 11/26 Hennepin (single at L. Calhoun) KJB. All other inland reports: Beltrami (†DPJ), Big Stone,



Surf Scoters, 11 November 2003, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

Brown, Cass, Chippewa, Crow Wing, Dakota/Goodhue, Marshall, McLeod, Meeker, Pennington, Rice.

White-winged Scoter — Many L. Superior reports after three consecutive falls with low numbers. High counts 10/23 Cook (12) RBJ, 10/29 St. Louis (6 at Park Point) NAJ, 11/8 Lake (4) JPM. Unusual number of inland reports, including 9/20

Red Lake (Red Lake Falls W.T.P.) †PHS. All other inland reports: Dakota/Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Lac Qui Parle, Ramsey (late south 11/21 BRL), Rice, Wright. Late north 11/21 Cook KJB, but see winter report.

Black Scoter — Many reports of small numbers of birds on L. Superior between 9/30 St. Louis (Park Point) MH and 11/21 Cook (Grand Marais) KJB, including high count 10/30 St. Louis (6 at Park Point) MH. Unusual number of inland reports: 11/4 **Big Stone** (immature male near Ortonville) BJU, 11/4 Lac Qui Parle (adult male at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/11 Hennepin (2 at L. Calhoun) †PEB, 11/16–21 Rice (French L.) FVS, DAB, 11/18 Da-

kota (L. Byllesby) DDM, BJM, 11/29 Winona (2 at Prairie Is.) RMD *et al.*

Long-tailed Duck — No reports away from L. Superior. Early north 10/14 St Louis (Park Point) MH, 10/17 Cook (Cascade R.) JWL. High count 11/16 Cook (120 at Five Mile Rock) PHS.

Bufflehead — Reported from 19 north and 17 south counties. Early south 8/9 (possibly overwintering) Cottonwood RMD, 9/17 Big Stone BJU. No significant high counts.

Common Goldeneye — Seen in 19 north and 14 south counties. Early south 9/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High count (but also see winter report) 11/11 Houston (5000+) DFN.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE — Adult male seen 11/11–15 Houston (second earliest south, Pool #8) †PEJ, DFN.

Hooded Merganser — Reported from 22 north and 19 south counties. High counts 11/7 Rice (204) FVS, 11/8 Dakota (288)

PEJ.

Common Merganser — Seen in 16 north and 13 south counties. Early south 10/29 Sherburne PLJ. High counts 11/25 Mille Lacs L. (2155) KJB, 11/28 L. Pepin (26,000) KJB.

Red-breasted Merganser — Scarce for second consecutive fall (only reported from 11 counties). Early north (away from L. Superior) 9/14 Mille Lacs JMP. Early south 11/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/11 Hennepin TAT.

Ruddy Duck — Observed in 11 north and 21 south counties in all regions. Unusual location 11/15–16 Lake (female at Silver Bay) m.obs. High count 10/14 Stevens (975) RBJ. Late north 11/27 Otter Tail CRM. Late south 11/26 Hennepin KJB, but also see winter report.

Gray Partridge — Most unusual was a covey of 15 reported by a hunter familiar with this species on 11/15 **Lake of the Woods** (about one mile north of Faunce Tower) *fide* MHK. Additional north reports from Becker (1), Pennington (max. 9), Polk (6–9 birds in each of three locations), Todd (3), Wilkin (4–6 in each of two locations). All south reports: Big Stone (12), Cottonwood, Lac Qui Parle (10–15), Martin, Rice (6).

Ring-necked Pheasant — Observed in 39 counties as far north as Marshall (9/27, male at Agassiz N.W.R., PHS), Red Lake (10/23, female near Plummer, PHS), Wadena, and Carlton (10/6, Moose Lake S.P., RBJ).

Ruffed Grouse — Observed in 18 north and 4 south counties within usual range.

Spruce Grouse — Reported from Lake of the Woods (max. 5 in three locations, GMM, plus up to 7 near Gustafson Camp S.N.A., MHK).

Sharp-tailed Grouse — Reported from Kittson, Marshall, Pennington (8), Red

Lake (max. 19, JMJ, PHS), and Roseau in the Northwest, plus Lake of the Woods (6), Kanabec (6), Pine (3).

Greater Prairie-Chicken — Numbers up in Pennington, Polk (max. 50, HH), and Red Lake (multiple flocks of 20+) JMJ, PHS. Additional north reports from Clay, Marshall, Otter Tail (100+ at Otter Tail Prairie S.N.A., KRE *et al.*), and Wilkin (max. 70, ChM). South reports from Lac Qui Parle (2 near Plover Prairie and female in Augusta Twp., BJU) were presumably related to D.N.R. releases at Plover Prairie; this species has also been released at Chippewa Prairie in western Chippewa County (*fide* SPS).

Wild Turkey — Reported from 30 counties as far north as Becker, Clay, and Polk (10/20, one near Crookston, JMJ, PHS) in the Northwest, Wadena and Cass (max. 12, MRN) in the North-central, and Kanabec (max. 23, JMP) and Pine (max. 26, JMP) in the East-central region. Some north reports probably refer to recently released birds. Only report from the Southwest: 8/5 Yellow Medicine (hen with 6 young) FAE. Excepting 10/23 Lac Qui Parle (40 in section 25, Yellow Bank Twp.) BJU, peak counts 20–30 birds in southern regions.

Red-throated Loon — Singles reported 9/28 Cook (juvenile at Grand Marais) †JWL, 10/7 Cook (adult at Good Harbor Bay) †KRE, 10/17 Lake (juvenile at Flood Bay) †KRE *et al.*, 10/18 St. Louis (juvenile at Stoney Point) †KRE, m.obs. (same individual as 10/17?).

Pacific Loon — Singles reported on L. Superior 10/25 Cook (Paradise Beach) †DRB *et al.*, 11/1 Lake (Iona's Beach S.N.A.) †KRE *et al.*, **11/29+** Lake (Burlington Bay — vent strap seen) JSt, PJ, †PHS, ph. JWL.

Common Loon — Seen in 16 north and 11 south counties, and in all regions except the Southwest. Pre-migratory staging at L. Winnibigoshish (peak count of 718

on 10/19) best since Fall 2000, but still below 1996–2000 average (PHS). Late north 11/25 Becker BRK, 11/28 Lake JWL, but also see winter report. Late south 11/28 Hennepin SLC.

Pied-billed Grebe — Reported from 22 north and 31 south counties. Late north 11/2 Marshall JMJ, 11/27 Otter Tail CRM. Late south 11/28 Dakota PEJ, 11/29 Waseca JPS. Also see winter report.

Horned Grebe — Observed in 13 north and 9 south counties, none in Southwest. Early north **8/3** (oversummered?) Roseau DDM, BJM, 8/19 St. Louis JWL. Early south 9/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 11/14 Becker BRK, 11/30 Lake JWL, but also see winter report. Late south 11/22 Brown BTS, 11/30 Hennepin TAT.

Red-necked Grebe — Seen in 14 north and 8 south counties, including 11/2 Dakota JPM and 11/4 Hennepin ChM. Late north 11/16 Cook KRE, 11/21 Lake JWL, but also see winter report. Late south 11/8 Rice DAB.

Eared Grebe — Reported from only eight north and five south counties. No reports from eastern regions. Late north 10/8 Marshall CRM, 10/9 Pennington CRM, 11/2 Red Lake *fide* JMJ. Late south 10/13 Brown CRM, 11/1 Meeker RWS.

Western Grebe — Seen in six north and nine south counties. Late north 10/13 Polk PHS, then unusual report 11/21+ St. Louis (Duluth) JJS *et al.* Late south 11/1 Chippewa BJU, 11/26 Meeker CRM. Also see winter report.

Clark's Grebe — Adult present since spring at Thielke L., Big Stone County documented 8/3 (†JAB, JRW), 8/12 (†KJB), 8/18 (†PEB), 8/19 (†CRM), and through **10/2** (second latest date, †BJU). Record-high count 8/19–21 Todd/Douglas (**4** at L. Osakis) †BWF. Also seen 9/24 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) †BJU.

American White Pelican — Seen in 13



Neotropic Cormorants, 16 August 2003, Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by David Cahlander.

north and 22 south counties statewide. Highest reported count 9/20 (400) Rice FVS, DAB. Unusual locations 8/27 St. Louis (43 at H.R.N.R., Duluth), 9/25–30 Lake JWL, PHS, 10/21 (late north) Cook m.obs. Late south 11/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/2 Dakota ADS, but also see winter report.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT — Second state record 8/12+ **Lac Qui Parle** (2 adults at Big Stone N.W.R.) †KJB, m.obs. (*The Loon* 76:46). The same observer found the state's first in July 1992! Photographed by DAC, JPM, and others, with written documentation 8/13, 8/23 (†PCC), 8/16 (†PHS), and on six dates through **10/6** (†BJU).

Double-crested Cormorant — Found in 21 north and 24 south counties. Peak count 9/29 Lac Qui Parle (2500 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU. Late north 10/31 St. Louis CRM, 11/16 Lake KRE. Late south 11/13 Le Sueur ChH, 11/29 Dakota DAB, but also see winter report.

American Bittern — Reported from six north and six south counties. Late north 10/2 St. Louis SLF, 10/18 Wilkin *vide* MJJ. Late south 10/5 Sherburne PLJ.

Least Bittern — All reports: 8/5 Hennepin (2 at Old Cedar Ave.) m.obs., 8/17 Wadena PJB, 8/19 Lac Qui Parle JJS, Otter Tail (no date) EJE.

Great Blue Heron — Reported from 24 north and 36 south counties.

Great Egret — Seen in 11 north and 32 south counties in all regions except the Northeast. Peak counts 8/15 Carver (200) RMD, 8/29 Big Stone (219) BJU. Late north 10/12 Douglas CRM, **11/27** (latest north date) Otter Tail CRM. Late south 10/26 Carver CRM, 11/6 Hennepin and Dakota SWE.

Snowy Egret — All reports: 8/30 Douglas (adult) PLJ, 8/30 Big Stone (immature in Odessa Twp.) PCC, 9/27 Big Stone (immature in Otrey Twp., possibly same bird) PCC, **10/5–11** Otter Tail (latest north date, Rush L.) KRE, CRM *et al.*

Little Blue Heron — Two adults and one immature found in July lingered through **8/31** Douglas (second latest date north, Bah Lakes W.P.A.) JPE, m.obs. Only other report: 8/31 Ramsey (adult at Snelling L.) *vide* AXH.

Cattle Egret — All reports: 8/1–10/5 Grant (max. 78 near Pelican L.) m.obs., 8/1–4 Douglas (max. 20) DPJ, DTT, SMT, 9/17–22 Big Stone (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 10/10 Clay (immature at Barnesville W.T.P.) CRM.

Green Heron — Seen in 13 north and 26 south counties. Late north 9/16 Todd JSK, 9/21 Wadena PJB. Late south 10/9 Hennepin DWK, 10/20 Rice TFB.

Black-crowned Night-Heron — Seen in three north counties, including 9/29–10/2 **Lake** (juvenile at Two Harbors and Flood Bay) ph. JWJ *et al.*, 10/11 (late north) Mar-

shall PHS. Observed in 10 south counties — none after September except 11/28+ Dakota m.obs. (please see winter report).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron — No fall reports since 1993.

PLEGADIS, sp? — One discovered 9/15 Faribault (Pilot Grove W.P.A.) †CJF.

Turkey Vulture — Seen in 18 north and 27 south counties. Record-high season at H.R.N.R., Duluth (2243) DSC, FJN, TSm. Late north (median 10/27) 11/1 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) FJN, then none until **11/27** Otter Tail CRM, **11/29** (second latest north date) Cook JGW. Late south 10/18 Winona PWP and Wabasha BRL, 10/21 Olmsted PWP.

Osprey — Reported from 16 north and 20 south counties in all regions. Numbers down at H.R.N.R., Duluth (*Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve 2003 Annual Report*). Late north 10/16 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) TSm, DSC. Late south (but also see winter report) 11/29 Ramsey †TAN.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE — One adult seen 8/18 Rice (near Morristown) †TFB (*The Loon* 76:108).

Bald Eagle — Found in 25 north and 34 south counties. Peak count 11/6 St. Louis (495 at H.R.N.R., Duluth) DSC, FJN. Total of 3356 at H.R.N.R. DSC, FJN, TSm.

Northern Harrier — Reported from 22 north and 30 south counties. Late north 11/11 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) FJN, DSC.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Observed in 22 north and 24 south counties. Early south 8/13 Rice TFB, 9/9 Carver RMD. Record-high count 10/8 St. Louis (**2040** at H.R.N.R., Duluth) TSm, DSC. Late north 11/1 Lake CRM, 11/29 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) FJN, DSC, but also see winter report.

Cooper's Hawk — Seen in 15 north and



Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 November 2003, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.

25 south counties; none in the Southwest. Numbers down for the third consecutive fall at H.R.N.R., Duluth. Late north 10/18 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) TSm, DSC, but also see winter report.

Northern Goshawk — All north reports: Beltrami, Carlton, Cook, Crow Wing, Kittson, Lake, Marshall, Pine, Polk, St. Louis, Todd. Total of 866 at H.R.N.R., Duluth. Several reports south, including

early south 9/26 Rice DAB, 9/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/10 Olmsted PWP, and November reports from **Chippewa**, Dakota, Hennepin (2), and Waseca.

Red-shouldered Hawk — All north reports: 8/28–11/2 Otter Tail m.obs., 9/20 Todd SID, 9/27 Becker DFN, and total of five at H.R.N.R., Duluth between **8/25** (banded) and 10/16 (FJN, DSC, TSm). Observed in seven south counties as far west as Stearns.

Broad-winged Hawk — Reported from 18 north and 21 south counties, but only Pipestone (9/20, DCZ) in the Southwest. Record-high season at H.R.N.R., Duluth (*Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve 2003 Annual Report*). Local concentrations 9/20 Rice (400) DAB, FVS, 9/23 Houston (248) FZL. Dark morphs seen 9/12 Hennepin OIJ, 9/20 Swift (adult) KRE, 9/23 Otter Tail EJE. Late north 10/14 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) TSm, DSC. Late south 10/18 Blue Earth DAB.

Swainson's Hawk — All north reports: 8/27 Pine/Kanabec †JMP, 9/1 Kittson KRE *et al.*, 9/15 Red Lake DDM, BJM, 9/19 Polk MJM, 9/20 Red Lake (Equality Twp.) PHS, 9/28 Clearwater (Popple Twp.) PHS, and total of seven at H.R.N.R. in Duluth between 8/16 and 10/4 (FJN, DSC, TSm). Found in eight south counties including (late south) 9/22 Big Stone BJU.

Red-tailed Hawk — Reported from 64 counties statewide. Seasonal total of 12,897 at H.R.N.R. was highest since 1994 and included one “Harlan’s”, a few “Kriders”, and several intergrades (FJN). Peak count 10/29 St. Louis (**3934** at H.R.N.R., Duluth) FJN *et al.* Two reports of “Harlan’s” from Wilkin: 10/4 (immature at Rothsay W.M.A.) KRE, 10/12 (no location) SPM.

Ferruginous Hawk — Three reports from West-central: 10/9 Big Stone (adult light morph) †BJU, 10/12 Lac Qui Parle (juvenile near Salt L.) †RMD, JWH (**The Loon** 76:110), 10/14 Stevens (2, Synnes Twp.) †RBJ, JEB.

Rough-legged Hawk — Seen in 18 north and 15 south counties, but only Cottonwood in the Southwest. Early north 10/1 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) TSm, DSC, 10/14 Roseau JGW. Early south 10/25 Chisago REH (median 9/25, compare with undocumented report 8/29 Steele). Seasonal total of 580 at H.R.N.R., Duluth.

Golden Eagle — Reported from 13 north counties, including 10/23 **Red Lake** (adult at Red Lake Falls) †PHS, and late-October/November reports from Becker, Clay, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pine, Polk, St. Louis. Seasonal total of 161 at H.R.N.R., Duluth with a peak of 25 on 11/6 (FJN, DSC). Reported from five south counties, including 11/4 **Jackson** (juvenile at Heron L.) BRB and mid-October/November reports from Big Stone, Chippewa, Dakota, and Houston.

American Kestrel — Reported from 57 counties. Numbers down at H.R.N.R., Duluth (*Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve 2003 Annual Report*). Late north 11/9 Wadena PJB, 11/16 Lake PHS, but also see winter report.

Merlin — Reported from 15 north and 15 south counties in all regions except Southwest. Numbers down at H.R.N.R., Duluth (*Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve 2003 Annual Report*). Early south 8/30 Swift BJU, 9/1 Anoka DWK. “Richardson’s” Merlin (*F. c. richardsonii*) reported 8/24 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, MJM, 10/4 Wilkin (female at Rothsay W.M.A.) KRE, 10/12 Wilkin SPM.

Gyrfalcon — Immature gray morph 11/8 St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth) †DSC. Also see undocumented reports.

Peregrine Falcon — Reported from 9 north and 16 south counties. Numbers down at H.R.N.R., Duluth (*Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve 2003 Annual Report*). Early north 9/11 Clay (presumably not from nesting location at Fargo, North Dakota) RHO, 9/14 Crow Wing MRN. Early south

(away from Twin Cities area) 8/2 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 8/5 Sherburne PIJ. Late north 11/2 St. Louis (Duluth) FJN, DSC, but also see winter report.

Prairie Falcon — Three reports from the Northwest: 8/31 Kittson (juvenile 10 mi. east of Lake Bronson) †KRE *et al.*, ph. JJS, 10/25 Red Lake (by Plummer) SAS, 11/2 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PHS.

Yellow Rail — Only report: 10/3 Jackson (Timber Lake W.M.A.) †BRB.

Virginia Rail — No north reports. Reported from ten south counties. Record-high count early August Lac Qui Parle (21 in section 26, Walter Twp.) BJU. Only reports after mid-September: 10/14 Hennepin SLC, 11/16 Hennepin (Bass Ponds, heard only) DWK.

Sora — Reported from 11 north and 19 south counties, but only Goodhue in the Southeast. Late north 10/11 Wilkin CRM, 10/12 Wadena PJB. Late south 10/5 Hennepin SLC, 10/8 Hennepin TAT.

Common Moorhen — All reports: family group lingered through 9/15 Becker (Hamden Slough N.W.R., please see summer report), one adult found 7/27 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave., BBB) observed through 9/17 m.obs.

American Coot — Observed in 21 north and 29 south counties. Late north (but see winter report) 11/30 St. Louis (Silver L., Virginia) †SLF. Highest reported counts 9/21 Polk (4000) EEF, 10/15 Pope (3000+ at L. Minnewaska) RBJ, 10/18 Hennepin (1000s) DCZ.

Sandhill Crane — Reported from 19 north and 11 south counties. No reports from the Southwest. Peak 10/15 at H.R.N.R., Duluth (58, TSm, DSC). Unusual reports 10/7 Cook KRE, 10/13 Lake (24 at Two Harbors) JWJ. Highest reported count 10/19 Wilkin (450) SPM. Late north 11/1–2 Lake (1) m.obs. Late south 11/11 Mower RDK, RCK, only November report.

Black-bellied Plover — Observed in five north and seven south counties in all regions except the Southeast. Early north (but see summer report) 8/2 (4), 8/9 (3) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, SAS; arrived elsewhere 8/31 Lake of the Woods KRE *et al.* Early south 8/7 Lac Qui Parle (1) and Lyon (2) KJB, 8/16 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle PCC. First juvenile 9/6 Marshall PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/9 Polk CRM, 10/18 Polk (5) PHS. Last reported 10/25 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle (max. 6) PCC, BJU. All counts single digits except 9/16 St. Louis (31 at Duluth) MH.

American Golden-Plover — Total of 74 reports from 15 north and 17 south counties, including systematic counts in Cottonwood (Red Rock Prairie, BTS) 9/28 (52), 10/1 (68), 10/5 (140), 10/8 (105), 10/11 (205), 11/3 (4). Early north 8/18 Grant PEB, 8/30 Pennington KRE *et al.* Early south (but see summer report) 8/2 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle PCC, 8/7 Lac Qui Parle KJB. First juvenile 8/30 Big Stone PCC. Highest reported count 10/18 Polk (299 at Crookston W.T.P.) PHS; peak migration late September through mid-October when counts ≥ 100 in Cottonwood (see above), Kittson (Hallock), Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.), Red Lake (Red Lake Falls), and Wilkin (Rothsay W.M.A.). Late north 10/24 Marshall (4) PHS, 11/16 St. Louis (20 at Duluth) SWE. Late south 11/10–13 Brown (1) BTS, 11/13, 11/17–18 Dakota (2) BRL, ADS, JPM.

Semipalmated Plover — Reported from 8 north and 13 south counties in all regions except North-central. Please see summer report for first fall migrants. First juveniles 8/9 Big Stone PCC and Marshall PHS. Highest reported counts 8/17 (46), 8/31 (53) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS *et al.* Late north 10/4 Marshall PHS, 10/9 Polk CRM. Late south 9/27 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 10/11 Waseca JPS.

Piping Plover — No reports.

Killdeer — Reported from 24 north and 33 south counties statewide. Highest re-

ported counts 8/12 (463, KJB), 8/16 (496, PCC) Big Stone, plus 229 on the latter date in Lac Qui Parle PCC; also note 285 at sod farms 8/21 Dakota SWe. Late north 10/20 Marshall PHS, JMJ, 10/26 Wadena PJB. See winter report for late south migrants.

American Avocet — All sightings: 8/9, 8/16 Big Stone (one, Toqua Twp.) PCC, 8/30 Pennington (one, Thief River Falls) KRE *et al.*, 10/6 Lac Qui Parle (6 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 10/11 Marshall (36 at Lansing Parker Pool, Agassiz N.W.R., second highest count) PHS, JMJ, SAS.

Greater Yellowlegs — Reported from 17 north and 21 south counties. See summer report for first fall migrants and juveniles. Highest reported count 8/17 Marshall (170 at Agassiz N.W.R.) JWJ, PHS, JMJ; noteworthy counts at same location 8/9 (108), 8/24 (90), 8/31 (102), 9/6 (138) PHS *et al.* Late north 11/1 Lake JWJ *et al.*, 11/1–2 Cook KRE *et al.*, 11/2 Marshall and Red Lake JMJ, PHS. Late south 11/4–5 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/7 Olmsted PWP, 11/13 Goodhue BRL.

Lesser Yellowlegs — Observed in 14 north and 25 south counties. Please see summer report for first fall migrants, first juveniles, and high count. Noteworthy tallies at Agassiz N.W.R. 8/2 (1307), 8/9 (967), 8/17 (747) PHS *et al.* Highest reported count elsewhere 8/12 Big Stone (744, about 70% juveniles) KJB. Late north 10/24 Marshall PHS, 11/7 Otter Tail (second latest north date, identification confirmed by call) DTT, SMT. Late south 10/25 Big Stone PCC and Chisago REH, 11/10 Lyon (injured) SSM.

Solitary Sandpiper — Reported from 11 north and 16 south counties in all regions. Please see summer report for first fall migrants, first juveniles, and high count, but also note 8/2 Marshall (14 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, SAS, 8/12 Big Stone (11) KJB. Late north 9/27 Becker DFN, 9/28 Cook JWJ and Pennington PHS. Late south 9/26 Rice m.obs., 10/4 Lac Qui Parle and 10/7

Big Stone BJU.

Willet — Singles reported 8/9–19 Big Stone m.obs., 9/21 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Spotted Sandpiper — Reported from 14 north and 26 south counties. Highest reported counts 8/2 (34), 8/9 (28) Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle PCC. Late north 10/7 Kittson CRM, 10/12 Lake JWJ. Late south 9/18 Olmsted PWP, 9/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Scott SWe.

Upland Sandpiper — Only reports: 8/2 Big Stone (2) PCC, 8/2–3 Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU, 8/16 Traverse (3) PHS.

Whimbrel — Singles in St. Louis 9/9 (near Brighton Beach) MH, 9/21 (Park Point, Duluth) MTA.

Hudsonian Godwit — Only north report: 8/2 Marshall (one at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, SAS. Only south report: 8/24 Lac Qui Parle (24 at Salt L., white rumps and tail pattern seen in flight) BJU.

Marbled Godwit — Only north reports: 8/2 (17), 8/9 (1) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, SAS. All south reports were of single birds in Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle; last reported 8/23–24, 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) PCC, BJU.

Ruddy Turnstone — Scarce statewide for the second consecutive fall. Only north reports were singles at Duluth on five dates 9/10–10/5 St. Louis m.obs. All south reports were of single birds 8/1–2 Lac Qui Parle KTP, PCC, 8/21 Yellow Medicine BRL, 10/9 Brown JEB.

Red Knot — Two reports of single birds: 8/30 Marshall (juvenile at Agassiz N.W.R.) KRE *et al.*, 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC.

Sanderling — Reported from Lake, Lake of the Woods, Pennington, and St. Louis in the north, plus nine south counties. Please see summer report for first fall mi-



Stilt Sandpipers, 13 September 2003, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

grants. Additional arrivals north and south respectively, 8/23 St. Louis (one at Tower) JWL, 8/16 Lac Qui Parle (6) BJU. First juvenile 9/27 Lac Qui Parle PCC. Relatively scarce for the third consecutive fall along

the North Shore of L. Superior, where high count 9/11 St. Louis (50 at Park Point, Duluth) MTA, but note 200 unidentified “Sanderling-size” shorebirds at same location 11/4 MTA, MH. Late north 9/26 St.

Louis (7) JWL. Late south 10/21 Winona (2) CBe, JWH.

Semipalmated Sandpiper — Reported from 11 north and 12 south counties in all regions. Please see summer report for early fall migrants and first juveniles. Highest reported count 9/6 Marshall (691 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/5 Otter Tail CRM, 10/8–11 Marshall m.obs. Late south 10/9 Brown JEB, 10/11 Waseca JPS.

Least Sandpiper — Reported from 11 north and 21 south counties in all regions. Please see summer report for first fall migrants and first juveniles. Migration of juveniles well-developed by 8/12 Big Stone (~80% of 336) KJB — compare with only 10% juveniles amongst Semipalmateds that same day. Highest reported count 8/16 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle (534) PCC. Late north 10/20, 10/24 Marshall PHS *et al.* Late south 10/25 Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle and Winona, **11/13** Brown (latest south date) BTS.

White-rumped Sandpiper — Only north reports at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County 8/17 (1) †PHS, 8/24 (2) †PHS, JMJ, 9/21 (1) PHS *et al.* All south reports: 9/11 Olmsted PWP, 9/13 Rice DAB, FVS, 9/20 Carver RMD, 10/1, 10/8 Big Stone (probably same bird) BJU. **Note:** Undocumented reports of fall migrant White-rumped prior to September are not published.

Baird's Sandpiper — Reported from 12 north and 13 south counties in all regions. See summer report for first fall migrants. First juvenile 8/16 Big Stone PCC. Highest reported count 9/6 Marshall (103 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/11 Marshall (1) PHS, SAS, JMJ, 10/12 Douglas and Wilkin CRM *et al.* Late south 10/25 Big Stone (2) PCC, **11/11–12** Dakota (2, second latest south) JPM, RBJ.

Pectoral Sandpiper — Observed in 14 north and 19 south counties statewide. Please see summer report for first fall migrants. First juveniles 8/9 Marshall PHS,

8/12 Big Stone KJB. Totals >1100 on three consecutive mid-August surveys in Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle; highest reported count 8/12 Big Stone (**1354**) KJB. Late north 10/24 Marshall PHS, 10/25, 11/1 Lake JWL, KRE. Late south 11/11 Dakota JPM, **11/19** Olmsted PWP.

Dunlin — Except at L. Byllesby in Dakota County, scarce for the third consecutive fall, especially in the Northwest and along the North Shore of L. Superior, where single birds on one or two dates were typical. Reported from only 14 counties (16 last fall). Early north 9/14 Marshall (1) PHS, JMJ, 10/2 Lake (only one this season) JWL. Early south 8/30 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, 9/10 Olmsted PWP. Highest reported count 11/4 Dakota (275 at L. Byllesby) *fide* AXH. Late north 11/2 St. Louis (1) TWa *fide* DRB, only Duluth report. Late south 11/14 Goodue (1) and Sherburne (1) BRL, **11/18** Dakota (39, latest south date and second latest for state) ADS.

Stilt Sandpiper — Reported from 12 north and 12 south counties. Please see summer report for first fall migrants and juveniles. Numbers at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County declined markedly after a peak in late July (see summer report), then began building in late August with a second crescendo 9/6 (697) PHS, JMJ. Late north 10/9 Polk CRM, 10/11 Clay, Marshall and Otter Tail. Late south 10/11 Brown KTP, 10/14 Big Stone BJU, 10/17 Anoka BRL.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — Fewest reports since 1999. Numbers down dramatically at Dakota County sod farms compared to recent fall migrations. Statewide total about 194 individuals in ten counties (547 last fall, 550+ in Fall 2001). All north reports: 8/2 St. Louis *fide* DRB, 8/24–9/6 Marshall (max. 4 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ, 9/6 Wilkin (22 at Breckenridge W.T.P.) EJE, 9/20 St. Louis JJS. None were in Lake for the first time in five years. Early south 8/12 Big Stone KJB and Brown BTS. Highest reported count 8/16 Big

Stone/Lac Qui Parle (55) PCC. Near daily surveys at Sleepy Eye airport, Brown County, documented peak migration there during the first half of September including 9/2 (14), 9/4 (15), 9/7 (24), 9/10–12 (16–18) BTS. No south reports after 9/15 Brown (1) BTS.

RUFF — Reported 8/7 **Kandiyohi** (near Lake Lillian) †RSF (*The Loon* 76:106–107).

Short-billed Dowitcher — North reports from Douglas, Lake of the Woods, Red Lake, Marshall; also seen in eight south counties. Please see summer report for first fall migrants and highest reported count at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County, where good numbers still present 8/2 (61), 8/9 (57), 8/17 (28) PHS *et al.* Late north 9/14 (2 juveniles, one injured), 9/21 (juvenile identified by plumage and call) at Agassiz PHS *et al.* Late south 9/2 Carver CRM, 9/10 Sherburne PLJ.

Long-billed Dowitcher — Observed in nine north and nine south counties. Early north 8/9 (14), 8/24 (3) Marshall PHS *et al.* Early south 8/16 Big Stone (39) PCC, 8/26 Carver EO. First juvenile 9/14 Marshall PHS. Record-high counts 10/4 (304), 10/11 (312) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R., ~90% of these at Tamarack Pool) PHS, SAS, JMJ. Numbers up in Brown (max. 72, 10/8) BTS *et al.* and Dakota (26–32 birds on three dates 9/27–10/12) ADS, JPM, TAT. Late north 10/18 Polk PHS, 10/20 Marshall (82 at Agassiz) PHS, JMJ. Last reported 10/22 Big Stone BJU, 10/27 Olmsted PWP.

dowitcher, sp. — Dowitchers found during peak migration period for Long-billeds, but reported without details as Short-billeds, included 9/15 Becker (28), 9/24–29 Olmsted (max. 10), 10/10 Aitkin. Fifty dowitchers were prudently left unidentified during shorebird surveys in western Minnesota, including 9/27 Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle (21) PCC.

Wilson's Snipe — Seen in 23 north and 26 south counties. Highest reported count

8/9 Marshall (118 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, SAS. Late north 11/1–3 in four counties. Late south 11/30 Hennepin (2) SLC, also see winter report.

American Woodcock — Observed in seven north and seven south counties. Late north 10/25, 10/28 Lake of the Woods GMM. Late south 10/26 Waseca JPS, 10/31 Rice TFB.

Wilson's Phalarope — Statewide total 600+ individuals in 6 north and 11 south counties (620+ last fall), mostly in western and central regions, but also as far east as Anoka, Olmsted, Wright. Highest reported counts 8/2 Big Stone (169 at Graceville W.T.P.) PCC, 8/13 Polk (250 at East Grand Forks W.T.P.) EEF. Late north 9/6 Marshall PHS, JMJ and Todd JSK, SID. Late south 9/10 Olmsted PWP, 9/15 Brown CRM.

Red-necked Phalarope — Total number of individuals (263+) down from last fall, possibly because peak concentrations were not detected at sewage lagoons in western Minnesota, but number of counties (7 north, 11 south) similar to last fall. Please see summer report for first fall migrants north and south. Additional arrivals north 8/2 Marshall (5) PHS, SAS, 8/3 Kittson DDM, BJM. Additional arrivals south 8/2 Lac Qui Parle (one at Salt L., same as July?) PCC, 8/2 McLeod/Meeker (county line) PRH. Highest reported counts 8/16 Lac Qui Parle (40 at Salt L.) PCC, 8/22 Polk (80 at East Grand Forks W.T.P.) EEF. Late north 9/20 (6), 9/28, 10/11 (1) Pennington PHS, JMJ. Late south 9/21 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU and Stearns (2) PCC.

Parasitic Jaeger — Adult light morph (plus one unidentified) 9/28 St. Louis m.obs., dark morph (age?) 10/4–9 St. Louis RMD, MH.

jaeger, sp. — Reported at Duluth, St. Louis County 9/18 DDT, 9/24 MTA, MH, 9/28 m.obs., 10/1 PHS, 10/30 (2) MTA. Unusual date and location 10/23 Lake (Two Harbors, no details) *vide* DRB.

Franklin's Gull — Observed in 17 north and 22 south counties, but none in the Northeast or Southeast. Highest reported count 9/30 Stearns (800) BWF. Late north (median 10/23) 10/12 Douglas, Otter Tail, Todd, Wilkin. Late south (median 11/7) 10/29 Rice FVS, 11/22–**11/29+** Dakota (Black Dog L.,) m.obs., also see winter report.

Little Gull — No fall reports for the first time since 1997.

Bonaparte's Gull — Reported from 17 north and 7 south counties, none in the Southwest. Early south 9/9 Sherburne PJ, 9/30 Dakota JPM. Fall staging peaked 10/5 L. Winnibigoshish (1063) PHS, 10/25 Mille Lacs L. (1354, including 163 immatures) AXH, PHS. Late north 11/24 Crow Wing (2) DWK, 11/25 Mille Lacs L. (1) KJB. Late south 11/16 Hennepin TAT, 11/28 Wabasha (1) KJB.

Ring-billed Gull — Reported statewide. Peak counts 11/22 Dakota (3400+ at Burnsville) BCM, 11/28 L. Pepin (3000) KJB.

Herring Gull — Reported from 17 north and 11 south counties in all regions except Southwest. Highest reported counts 11/21 Cook (3000 at Grand Marais) and 11/26 Dakota (1532) KJB. Late north (away from L. Superior) 11/17 Todd JSK, SID.

Thayer's Gull — Scarce again along the North Shore of L. Superior, where only reports from Cook beginning 10/17 KRE, JWJ *et al.* Early south **9/28** Hennepin (adult at L. Calhoun) †PEB, 10/26 Hennepin (first immature) PEB. Many late November reports from Dakota, including high count 11/26 (6) KJB. Unusual concentration outside of the Twin Cities 11/28 Wabasha (4 at L. Pepin) KJB.

Iceland Gull — No reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull — All reports: 9/28–10/1 Hennepin (adult at L. Calhoun) †PEB *et al.*, 10/27+ Hennepin



Sabine's Gull, 30 August 2003, Red Lake Falls, Red Lake County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

(same adult?) CRM, m.obs., followed by many reports of presumably the same bird 11/25+ Dakota (Black Dog L. and Burnsville landfill) TAT, †KJB, m.obs.

Glaucous Gull — Unusual location 11/8 **Aitkin** (first-winter, Mille Lacs L.) MH, KWR *et al.* Only other north reports from Cook beginning 11/16 (adult and first-winter at Grand Marais) KJB. All south reports: 11/26 Dakota (adult at Inver Grove Heights) KJB, 11/27+ Dakota (max. 4 at Black Dog L.) JPM, ADS, TAT *et al.*, 11/29+ Hennepin m.obs., plus unusual number outside of the Twin Cities at L. Pepin 11/28 Goodhue (1) and Wabasha (2) KJB.

Great Black-backed Gull — Only report: 11/15 Lake (first-winter at Two Harbors) ph. †JWL.

SABINE'S GULL — Single juveniles **8/30 Red Lake** (Red Lake Falls W.T.P., ties re-



Common Tern, 6 October 2003, Garrison, Crow Wing County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

cord-early date for state) ph. †PHS, JMJ (*The Loon* 76:107–108 9/20 **Cass/Itasca** (L. Winnibigoshish) †PHS (*The Loon* 76:110–111), 10/1 St. Louis (Duluth) †PHS.

Caspian Tern — Found in 9 north and 11 south counties, but none in West-central or Southeast. Highest reported counts 9/12 Beltrami (53 at Lower Red L.) DPJ,

9/19 Dakota (52+) ADS. Late north 9/22 St. Louis CRM, almost two weeks earlier than recent median departure date. Late south 9/28 Hennepin DWK, 10/4 Dakota ADS.

Common Tern — North reports from Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca (10/6, RBJ), Roseau, St. Louis, plus late north reports

from Lake where any *Sterna* unexpected: 10/15 JWJ, 10/19–21 (different bird) PCC, JWJ, 10/24 JCG. All south reports: 9/13 Rice DAB, FVS, 9/16 Dakota JPM, 9/19 Sherburne MRN.

Forster's Tern — Reported from only eight north and four south counties. Late north 10/12 Wilkin SPM, 10/15 Lake JWJ. All south reports: Dakota, Lac Qui Parle, McLeod, and (late south) 9/13 Sherburne PLJ.

Black Tern — Reported from 13 north and 10 south counties, but none in Southeast and only St. Louis (8/22, JWJ) in Northeast. Highest reported count 8/20 Grant (100 at Ashby) RPR. Late north 9/6 Red Lake PHS, 9/7 Pennington JMJ and Wadena PJB. Late south 9/8 Pope RBJ, only September report.

Rock Pigeon — Statewide.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE — Found at “new” locations 7/31–8/23+ **Dakota** (2 or 3 birds first documented at Farmington 8/1, but up to 7 birds possibly present for a year or more according to residents) BSe, †PEB, m.obs., 8/11–17+ Chippewa (2 at Milan first documented 8/17, but also note recently accepted record from 1 June 2002) RBJ *et al.*, †PEB. One at Thief River Falls, Pennington County, since June was joined by a second bird 8/17 (**The Loon** 76:105–106) JMJ, ph. JWJ, †PHS; one lingered through at least 8/30 KRE *et al.*

Mourning Dove — Reported throughout the state. Highest reported count 8/13 Polk (62) EEF.

Black-billed Cuckoo — All north reports: Red Lake, St. Louis (last seen 9/24, KRE), Todd. Late south 9/1 Sherburne KTP, 9/2 McLeod CRM, also observed in Carver, Goodhue, Meeker.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — None in the north. Late south 9/12 Rice DAB, also observed in Houston, Lac Qui Parle, Olmsted, Waseca.

Eastern Screech-Owl — All reports: Anoka, Goodhue, Lac Qui Parle, Ramsey, Steele, Waseca.

Great Horned Owl — Reported from 13 north and 14 south counties in all regions except Northeast.

Snowy Owl — All reports: 11/4 Polk (5 along C.R. 41 east of Climax) HH, 11/14 Polk (3 at Burnham Creek W.M.A.) JEC.

Northern Hawk Owl — No reports.

Barred Owl — Observed in 11 north and 11 south counties as far southwest as Pope, Swift, Brown. No reports from usual range in the Northeast.

Great Gray Owl — All reports: 10/19 Lake (T61N, R9W) *vide* SES, 11/9+ Aitkin (3 along C.R. 18) m.obs., 11/14 St. Louis (C.R. 52, Sax-Zim bog) MSS, plus Lake of the Woods (2 locations) MHK.

Long-eared Owl — North reports from Cook, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis, plus 11/19 Carlton (Moose Lake S.P.) RBJ. Total of 60 banded at H.R.N.R., Duluth (DLE *et al.*). Only south reports: 11/21 Rice TFB and 11/22 Ramsey (1) AXH.

Short-eared Owl — Highest reported count 9/12 Lake of the Woods (7 in section 3, T160N, R35W) GMM. All other north reports: Becker, Clay, St. Louis (2), Wilkin. Only south reports: 10/7 Carver (Chaska) RMD, 10/14 Benton (2 north of Gilman) HHD.

Boreal Owl — No reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — Total of 653 banded at H.R.N.R., Duluth with juvenile/adult ratio of 1.40 up from 1.01 last fall and 0.85 in 2001 (DLE *et al.*). Total of 136 banded on seven September dates in Cook WHL and 22 banded 10/1–21 Itasca (Bigfork) DRM; only other north reports from Lake of the Woods. All south reports: 11/10, 11/15+ Rice (different locations) TFB.

Common Nighthawk — Reported from 20 north and 22 south counties. No significant counts. Late north 9/14 Otter Tail JMP and Wadena PJB, 9/26 St. Louis SLF. Observed in nine south counties 10/4–10; late south 10/11 Scott CH.

Whip-poor-will — Only north report: (no date) Lake of the Woods MHK. All south reports: 8/13 Washington RMD, 8/8 (2), 9/12 (3) Sherburne PLJ, 9/27 Nicollet DDM, BJM.

Chimney Swift — Observed in 14 north and 23 south counties. Late north (median 9/15) 9/14 Wadena PJB. Late south (median 10/8) 10/10–11 Hennepin (23) BCM, 10/16 Hennepin (3) SLC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Seen in 23 north and 23 south counties. Record-high count 8/25 Houston (± 30 at Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) FZL. Peak migration 9/9–19 (12 north and 10 south counties). Late north 9/20 Wadena PJB, 9/21 Kanabec BLA. Late south 9/27 Dakota JPM, 10/10 Nicollet LWF.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD — Immature male possibly present since mid-September **Wright** (Delano) was lured indoors 11/6 and unfortunately died in early December after being taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center. It was first identified from a television news broadcast during Thanksgiving week (DEM, ph. CFa). First state record (*The Loon* 76:59–63).

Belted Kingfisher — Reported from 55 counties statewide.

Red-headed Woodpecker — Reported from 12 north and 14 south counties as far north as Kittson County (2 locations) in the Northwest, and Lake (Two Harbors) and Cook (Grand Portage) in the Northeast. No fewer than 26 individuals inhabited one square mile at Cedar Creek Natural History Area, Anoka County JLH. Additional reports of multiple birds in Beltrami (3 at Lower Red L., DPJ), Houston (3+, FZL), Lac Qui Parle (3 locations,

including an immature and several adults near Boyd, FAE), Olmsted (3, OWB), Sherburne (4 on county road 9, PLJ), and Stearns (family group in August, MAJ, DCT). Late north 10/11 Hubbard MAW and Otter Tail ARO, 10/20 Cook DRB, but see winter report.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — Observed in 49 counties as far north as Pennington, Polk and Red Lake in the Northwest, Beltrami (Bemidji, PR and Blackduck, KVH) in the North-central, and St. Louis (Duluth), Lake (Two Harbors, JWJ) and Cook (Schroeder, CJT) in the Northeast. Numbers up in Duluth (6+ birds in five locations).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Reported from 14 north and 16 south counties. Late north 10/7 Lake JWJ, 10/10 Cass MRN. Seven October reports south, including (late south) 10/21 Stearns MAJ, DCT. Also see winter report.

Downy Woodpecker — Statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker — Statewide.

American Three-toed Woodpecker — Only report: 11/24 Lake of the Woods (Gustafson Camp S.N.A.) MHK.

Black-backed Woodpecker — Numbers up in stands of dying balsam in Lake of the Woods (MHK), but down along the North Shore of L. Superior, especially at H.R.N.R., Duluth. All reports: Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis.

Northern Flicker — Observed in 26 north and 25 south counties. No significant counts.

Pileated Woodpecker — Reported from 51 counties in all regions except Southwest.

Olive-sided Flycatcher — Reported from 22 counties in all regions except the Southwest. Early south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/4 Sherburne PLJ, peak migration



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 19 October 2003, Schaar's Bluff, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.

8/23–9/2 (12 reports). Late north 9/12 Carlton RBJ, 9/17 Kanabec JMP. Late south 9/16 Sherburne KTP, 9/20 Nicollet ChH.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — Total of 62 reports from 15 north and 24 south counties statewide. Late north 9/9 Morrison CRM, 9/20 Carlton LAW. Late south (only October reports) 10/4 Hennepin SLC, 10/5 Goodhue DFN.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — Vocalizing 8/18 Red Lake PHS; August sight records from six north counties. Late south 8/29 Big Stone †BJU, 9/15 Fillmore (2 calling) NBO. Reported without details from five additional south counties.

Acadian Flycatcher — Only report: 8/25 Houston (Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) FZL.

Alder Flycatcher — Still vocalizing 9/4

St. Louis JWL. Late south 8/5 Scott (12 at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) RMD, 8/9 Anoka KJB. Reported without details from three north and two south counties. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published in this report. Please be sure to indicate singing or calling birds on the Seasonal Report form.

Willow Flycatcher — Vocalizing 8/16 Hennepin DWK. Reported without details from Big Stone, Brown, Ramsey.

Least Flycatcher — Total of 41 reports from 13 north and 12 south counties in all regions. Late north 9/30 St. Louis JWL, 10/4 Beltrami †DPJ. Late south 9/25 Hennepin TAT, 9/28 Brown JSS.

Eastern Phoebe — Total of 64 reports from 16 north and 27 south counties state-

wide. Departed earlier than recent medians north (10/15) and south (11/1). Late north 10/4 Beltrami DPJ and Carlton LAW, 10/12 Wadena PJB. Late south 10/18 Blue Earth, Hennepin, Wabasha.

Great Crested Flycatcher — Total of 36 reports from 9 north and 14 south counties, but none in Southwest or Southeast regions. Late north 9/22, 9/26–27 St. Louis m.obs. South reports through 9/21 Dakota ADS, then only **10/10** (second latest south) Rice DAB.

Western Kingbird — All north reports: 8/2 Wilkin CAS *fide* MJM, 8/16–18 Traverse (max. 8) PHS, PEB, 9/1 Kittson KRE *et al.* Reported from seven south counties, mostly in West-central region. Late south 9/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, **10/3** Dakota (Black Dog L.) †CBr, LM.

Eastern Kingbird — Total of 73 reports from 16 north and 29 counties in all regions. Peak migration 8/16–28 (19 south reports). Late north 9/17 Lake JWJ, 9/22 St. Louis CRM. Late south 9/20 Watonwan TAT, 10/6 Olmsted OWB.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER — One discovered on St. Paul Audubon Society field trip **10/18 Dakota** (Schaar's Bluff) †JPS *et al.* was refound **10/19** †PEB, †ADS, †TAT, ph. TPB, ph. DAC (latest south date).

Loggerhead Shrike — All reports: 8/3 Steele (east of Owatonna) DAB, FVS, 8/4 Dakota (2 along 140th St.) ChM, 8/6–9 Dakota (max. 3, Vermilion Twp.) m.obs., 8/22 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) DCa, LRe. Also reported during the expected arrival time for Northern Shrike in St. Louis and Isanti — details requested.

Northern Shrike — Total of 60 reports from 21 north and 15 south counties in all regions, but only Jackson in Southwest and Houston in Southeast. Early north (median 10/8) 10/4 Lake of the Woods JMF, GMM, 10/6 Cass JEB and Pine JMP, 10/7–8 in four other counties. Early south

(median 10/16) **10/5** Rice TFB, 10/14 Hennepin SLC and Lac Qui Parle BJU, then daily arrivals 10/19–27.

Bell's Vireo — Last reported 8/31 Dakota (Cliff Fen) DWK.

Yellow-throated Vireo — Late north (median 9/17) 9/20–21 St. Louis JJS, MTA; also reported from Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Kittson, Red Lake, Wadena. Total of 29 reports from 19 south counties, including 10/4 Hennepin TAT, **10/19** (ties second latest date) Hennepin DCZ.

Blue-headed Vireo — Total of 55 reports from 14 north and 14 south counties in all regions except the Southwest. Early south 8/20 Hennepin ChM, 8/26 Hennepin SLC. Late north 10/14 Lake JWJ, 10/19 Cook (Hovland) MH. Late south (median 10/16) 10/15 Anoka BRL and Hennepin DWK.

Warbling Vireo — Observed in 10 north and 17 south counties in all regions, but only Goodhue in Southeast. Late north 9/18 St. Louis SLF, 9/19 Clay DKn, GEN. Late south 9/16 Brown JSS, 9/20 Hennepin SLC.

Philadelphia Vireo — Total of 42 reports from 12 north and 14 south counties in all regions except the Southwest. Early south 8/6 Anoka KJB, 8/9 McLeod RWS. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (**8** at Park Point, Duluth) PHS *et al.* Late north 10/4 Lake JWJ, 10/6 Lake KRE, JWJ, **10/20** Cook †DRB. Late south 9/21 Fillmore NBO, 9/27 Hennepin SLC.

Red-eyed Vireo — Total of 81 reports from 17 north and 23 south counties in all regions of the state. Like last fall, all dated north reports after 9/15 were from Northeast, including (late north) 10/12 Lake JWJ, 10/23 Cook RBJ *et al.* Late south 10/10 Hennepin DWK and Ramsey NSp, 10/11 Hennepin TAT, 10/13 Hennepin SLC.

Gray Jay — Reported within usual range from Aitkin, Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake

of the Woods, Roseau, and throughout the Northeast region; plus 11/28 Otter Tail (at feeder) RJo.

Blue Jay — Reported statewide. Peak migration 9/19 Washington (200+ transited the St. Croix River Valley) TEB, 9/20 Brown (55) BTS.

Black-billed Magpie — Reported within usual range from St. Louis (Sax-Zim bog) in the Northeast, plus five North-central and seven Northwest counties. No significant counts.

American Crow — Reported throughout the state.

Common Raven — Total of 70 reports from 19 north counties within usual range, including an early nomad 8/17 Clay (Felton Prairie) JWL, †PHS. Heavy migration 11/2 along North Shore of L. Superior (JWL). No south reports.

Horned Lark — Seen in all regions. No significant counts. Late north 11/23 Wadena PJB, 11/24 Lake JWL, but also see winter report.

Purple Martin — Observed in 8 north and 15 south counties in all regions except the Northeast. Departed about one week earlier than recent medians north (9/9) and south (9/15). Late north (only September report) 9/1 Marshall JJS. Late south (only September report) 9/9 Benton CRM.

Tree Swallow — Seen in 13 north and 26 south counties. Highest reported count 9/2 Mille Lacs (2600 at Milaca W.T.P.) RBJ. Late north (median 10/4) 9/28 Wadena PJB. Late south (median 10/19) 10/8, 10/18 Olmsted PWP.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Reported from five north counties, including 9/1 Marshall KRE *et al.* and Red Lake JMJ, almost two weeks prior to median departure (9/14). Total of 13 reports from 11 south counties. Only reports after mid-September: 9/20 Le Sueur ChH, 10/1

Houston FZL.

Bank Swallow — Reported from 11 north and 15 south counties in all regions except the Northeast. Late north 9/2 Mille Lacs RBJ, 9/9 Morrison CRM. Late south 9/17 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/20 Le Sueur ChH.

Cliff Swallow — Statewide total of 52 reports from 37 counties in all regions. Late north 10/3 Otter Tail CRM, **10/11** Wilkin CRM (carefully scrutinized at Rothsay W.M.A. to eliminate Cave Swallow, which has yet to be recorded in the state). Late south (median 9/28) 9/20 Le Sueur ChH, 9/25 Olmsted PWP.

Barn Swallow — Reported from 18 north and 28 counties, but apparently departed prior to median dates north (10/8) and south (10/17). Late north 9/25 Kanabec JMP, 9/28 Becker DFN. Late south 10/11 Waseca JPS, 10/12 Kandiyohi SLC.

Black-capped Chickadee — Reported throughout the state.

Boreal Chickadee — Observed in Cook and St. Louis.

Tufted Titmouse — All reports: late October+ Brown (New Ulm) ph. RFW, BTS, mid-November+ Dakota (Mt. Olivet Retreat Center) m.obs., †TAT, 11/21 Dakota (Etter Twp.) CHT, plus Fillmore, Houston, Mower, and Wabasha in the Southeast.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — North reports from Otter Tail in West-central, Marshall, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake in Northwest, and throughout the North-central and Northeast regions. Total of 31 reports from 12 south counties beginning 8/9 Dakota (2 locations) RDE *et al.*, TDH, and including Cottonwood and Yellow Medicine in the Southwest.

White-breasted Nuthatch — Seen in 51 counties statewide.

Brown Creeper — Total of 47 reports



Carolina Wren, 21 October 2003, Bigfork, Itasca County. Photo by Dennis R. Meyer.

from 29 counties in all regions. South reports beginning 8/23 Dakota JPM, ADS, 8/31 Dakota (same?) TAT.

Carolina Wren — Second county occurrence 8/31, 10/21 **Itasca** (Bigfork, banded and photographed, also see winter report) †DRM. All south reports: 8/15, 11/19 Mower (Austin) RVJ, 10/27 Hennepin (Minnetonka) CAG, BMu, 11/30 Hennepin (same as 10/27?) CAP.

House Wren — Total of 62 reports from 8 north and 26 south counties in all regions except the North-central. Late north 9/18 Todd JSK, SID, then no reports until 10/14 St. Louis SLF. Late south 10/10 Sherburne REH, 10/11 Hennepin TAT.

Winter Wren — Reported from six north counties including Marshall and Pennington in Northwest. Late north (median

10/24) 10/17 Cook JWL. Only 14 reports from 6 south counties. Early south 9/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/17 Hennepin PEB. Please see winter report for late south data.

Sedge Wren — Observed in seven north counties including (late north) 10/12 Wilkin CRM, 10/13 St. Louis SLF. Total of 16 reports from 11 south counties; last reported 10/5 Scott DWK, 10/8 Rice TFB.

Marsh Wren — Reported from 12 north and 10 south counties in all regions except Southwest. Late north 10/11 Wilkin CRM, 10/13 Lake KRE, JWL and Roseau JGW. Late south 10/14 Olmsted PWP, 11/2 Hennepin SLC, but also see winter report.

Golden-crowned Kinglet — Statewide total of 52 reports from 14 north and 18 south counties. Early south (median 9/17)

8/28 Yellow Medicine BRL, 9/28 Chisago, Hennepin and McLeod. Peak migration 9/28–10/12 north, 10/11–25 south.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — Statewide total of 117 reports from 21 north and 29 south counties. Early south (median 8/28) 9/4 Hennepin m.obs. and Sherburne PLJ. Peak migration 9/13–26 in 15 south counties. Late north 10/23 Cook RBJ, **11/30** Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, PHS. Late south 11/19 Houston NBO, 11/21 Rice TFB.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — All north reports: 8/2 **Marshall** (Old Mill S.P.) DDM, BJM, 8/20 Cass MRN, 8/28 Polk †EEF. None were found along the North Shore of L. Superior for the second consecutive fall. Reported from eight south counties, including Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle in West-central. Late south (median 9/23) 9/15 Brown CRM.

Eastern Bluebird — Statewide total of 85 reports from 21 north and 28 south counties. No significant high counts. Late north (but also see winter report) 11/1–2 Cook JWJ, CRM, 11/8 St. Louis BCM.

Mountain Bluebird — All observations: 10/31–11/3 Cook (female east of Grand Marais) DRB *et al.*, JWJ, 11/10 Lac Qui Parle (male along U.S. highway 75, Agassiz Twp.) BJU, 11/14–15 Swift (female at Appleton) RAE, RHO.

Townsend's Solitaire — Nine birds were reported along the North Shore of L. Superior, including total of five at H.R.N.R. 10/10–31 St. Louis m.obs., three in Cook (10/12 Lutsen Sea Villas JWJ, 10/20 Grand Portage DRB, 10/26 Grand Marais m.obs.), and one in Lake (mid to late November east of Two Harbors *vide* DRB). Observed away from the North Shore 11/15–17 Aitkin (2 at Wealthwood) CMG, ph. WEN, †PHS. Only south report: 11/20 **Swift** RBJ.

Veery — Observed in 12 north counties. Late north 9/23 St. Louis JWJ, 9/28 Carlton LAW, **10/23–25** Lake (record-late for state, Two Harbors) †JWJ, KRE *et al.* All

south reports: 8/25, 9/12 Hennepin TAT, 9/19–20 Rock DCZ.

Gray-checked Thrush — Only about a dozen reports for the entire season statewide. Early south **8/17** (record-early, no details) Scott DWK, 8/26 Hennepin TAT. Late north 9/29 Lake JWJ, PHS, 9/30 St. Louis JWJ. Late south 9/21 Rice TFB, 10/3 Ramsey NSp.

Swainson's Thrush — Early south 8/5 Anoka KJB, 8/22 Hennepin TAT. Highest reported count 9/12 Hennepin (10 at Wood L.) CBr, LM. Late north 10/15 St. Louis LAW, 10/19 Cook PCC. Seven October reports from the Twin Cities, including (late south) 10/19 Hennepin DCZ.

Hermit Thrush — Statewide total of 50 reports from 26 counties in all regions. Early south 9/24 Big Stone BJU, 9/28 Hennepin TAT. Late north 10/23 St. Louis SLF, 10/26, 10/31 Cook RBJ *et al.* Late south 11/16 Rice TFB, but also see winter report.

Wood Thrush — Only north report: early September Becker MWy. All south reports: 9/15 Houston FZL, 9/19 Rice TFB, 9/20, 9/27, 10/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/21–25 Ramsey (injured leg, found dead 10/25) NSp, **11/12** Dakota ADS.

American Robin — Total of 143 reports statewide. No significant counts.

Varied Thrush — All reports: 10/26 Lake (male at Silver Bay) JWJ, 11/1 Hennepin (female by Mooney L.) JSm, 11/3 Dakota (male at Resurrection Cemetery) JPM, 11/6 Cook (Grand Marais) SMc, 11/25 Otter Tail (male at Fergus Falls) †SPM.

Gray Catbird — Statewide total of 98 reports from 18 north and 31 south counties. Late north 10/24 Red Lake PHS, 11/1 St. Louis JWJ. Late south 11/11 Jackson BRB and Scott RBW, 11/21 Hennepin ADS. Also see winter report.

Northern Mockingbird — Only reports:

8/26 St. Louis (Duluth) *fide* AXH, 9/28 Cook (Cutface Creek) JWJ *et al.*

SAGE THRASHER — Ninth state record 10/17–11/11 Cook (Grand Marais) †JWJ, †KRE *et al.* Photographed by m.obs. with additional written documentation 10/18 †PCC, †TAT, 10/21 †PHS (**The Loon** 76:111).

Brown Thrasher — All north reports: August/September sightings in Beltrami, Clay, Pine, St. Louis and Wadena, plus (late north) 10/25 Lake JWJ, but also see winter report. Observed in 16 south counties until 10/26 Waseca JPS, then no reports until winter season.

European Starling — Found statewide.

American Pipit — Statewide total of 75 reports from 16 north and 17 south counties in all regions. Early north 9/14 Lake EO, 9/16 St. Louis JWJ; none away from the Northeast until 10/4 Otter Tail, Red Lake, Wilkin. Early south 9/15 Brown CRM, 9/20 Carver RMD and Renville RWS. Late north 11/14 Cook JWJ, 11/16 St. Louis SWe. Late south 11/7 Dakota JPM, 11/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Bohemian Waxwing — Observed in nine north counties, including unusually early reports 9/28 St. Louis (8 at 40th Ave. West, Duluth) KRE *et al.*, 9/29 Lake (12 at Two Harbors) JWJ, PHS, 9/30 St. Louis (Duluth) MH. All north reports away from the Northeast: Crow Wing, Kanabec, Kittson, Otter Tail, Pine, Red Lake. Highest reported count 10/27 Lake (150) PHS. Two south reports of single birds 11/8 Benton HHD, 11/17 Dakota TAT, JPM.

Cedar Waxwing — Total of 95 reports from 50 counties statewide.

Blue-winged Warbler — Reported in August from Anoka, Brown, Dakota, Goodhue and Houston, plus 9/1 McLeod PRH, 9/3 Houston RBJ, 9/5 Rice DAB, 9/8 Fillmore NBO. “Lawrence’s” Warbler reported 8/21 Scott RBW.

Golden-winged Warbler — Early south (away from known breeding range) 8/22 Hennepin TAT and Washington REH. All south reports from eastern regions except Lac Qui Parle, Rice. Observed in seven north counties, but none later than 9/2 Mille Lacs RBJ, 9/3 St. Louis SLF (median 9/8). Late south 9/14 Hennepin DWK, 9/15 Fillmore NBO (median 9/21).

Tennessee Warbler — Statewide total of 82 reports from 18 north and 21 south counties. Please see summer report for early south migrants — this species’ southbound movement typically begins late July, but note exceptional migration of up to 41 individuals in Anoka and Hennepin counties 13–31 July 2004 (**The Loon** 76:54–55). Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (150 at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late north 10/4 Carlton LAW, 10/17 Lake KRE, JWJ *et al.* Late south 10/11 Dakota ADS, 10/14 Fillmore NBO.

Orange-crowned Warbler — Reported from 15 north and 20 south counties in all regions. Early north 9/8 St. Louis PHS, 9/10 Wadena PJB. Early south 9/4 Hennepin ChM, TAT, 9/14 Anoka JLH and Hennepin SLC. Late north 10/29 St. Louis MH, 11/2 Cook KRE. Late south 10/19 Hennepin SLC, 10/21 Hennepin TAT. **Note:** Undocumented August reports were excluded.

Nashville Warbler — Total of 92 reports from 16 north and 21 south counties in all regions except the Southwest. Highest reported counts 9/15 St. Louis (75 at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS, 9/23 Fillmore (50) NBO. Late north 10/25 Lake KRE *et al.*, **11/2–5** St. Louis (latest north date, Duluth) JJS, MH, JWJ. Late south 10/15 Anoka BRL, 10/21 Rice DAB.

Northern Parula — Reported from a total of 7 north and 11 south counties, but none in North-central, West-central, or Southwest regions. Only reports from Northwest: 8/30 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) KRE *et al.*, 9/6 **Red Lake** (Huot) JMJ, PHS. Early south (away from An-

ka, where singing late July) 8/23 Carver ChM, 8/25 Hennepin SLC, TAT. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (8 at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late north 10/8 Lake JWJ, 10/25 Lake KRE *et al.* Late south 9/30 Hennepin SLC, 10/6 Blue Earth LWF.

Yellow Warbler — Reported from 12 north and 16 south counties statewide. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (**50** at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late north (median 9/19) 10/12 Lake JWJ, 10/14 St. Louis MJI. Late south 9/20 Brown JSS, 9/27 Hennepin SLC.

Chestnut-sided Warbler — Total of 48 reports from 11 north and 17 south counties in all regions except Southwest. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (**100** at Park Point, Duluth — ties record-high count, 20 seen simultaneously) SCB, PHS. Late north 9/25 Cass EO, 10/1 Lake JWJ. Late south 9/22 Rice DAB, 9/29 Hennepin SLC.

Magnolia Warbler — Total of 44 reports from 11 north and 12 south counties in all regions except Southwest. Early south 8/20 Hennepin ChM, 8/22 Hennepin TAT, 8/23 Dakota ADS. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (25 at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late north 9/30 Beltrami DPJ, 10/7 St. Louis SLF. Late south 10/4 Hennepin SLC and Olmsted OWB, 10/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Cape May Warbler — Reported from nine north and five south counties. Early south 8/30 Hennepin SLC, 9/6 Dakota JPM. Late north 10/26 Cook JWJ, 10/31 St. Louis SLF. Late south 9/22 Houston FZL, 9/27, 9/30 Ramsey NSp.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — All north reports: 9/6 **Red Lake** (female at Huot) PHS, 9/9 Clay (male near Sabin) DKn, 9/15 St. Louis (female at Duluth) PHS, **10/14 Roseau** (T162N, R44W) JGW. South reports from Goodhue (2), Houston, Lac Qui Parle and Waseca, plus eight birds in six Twin Cities metro locations.

Early south 8/28 Hennepin SLC, 9/1 Anoka BRL. Late south 10/11 Hennepin TAT and Waseca JPS, 10/13 Ramsey BRL.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Observed in 23 north and 31 south counties. August reports south: 8/24 Dakota SWe, 8/30 Dakota ADS, REH and Hennepin TAT. Late north 11/1 Lake JWJ, 11/5 St. Louis JWJ, 11/11 Cook CRM. Late south (but see winter report) 11/1 Ramsey NSp, 11/8 Hennepin DCZ, SLC, 11/11 Dakota TAT.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Early south 8/22 Rice TFB and Rock DCa, LRe (median 8/20). Late north 9/21 Cook RBJ, 9/24 Lake PHS. Only other north reports from Itasca, Red Lake, St. Louis. Late south 9/30 Hennepin SLC and Ramsey NSp (median 10/3).

Blackburnian Warbler — Found in nine north and eight south counties. Early south 8/9 Anoka KJB, 8/16 Washington JPM (median 8/7). September reports north from Carlton, Kanabec, Lake, Pine, St. Louis. Late north 9/29 St. Louis PHS. Late south 9/10 Fillmore NBO, 9/23 Ramsey REH (median 9/26).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER — One reported **10/25–30 Otter Tail** (Fergus Falls) ph. GSW, †SPM, m.obs.

Pine Warbler — Observed in seven north and seven south counties. Late north 10/5 Lake (Two Harbors) JCG, **11/19–20** St. Louis ph. LME. South reports limited to a mid-August bird in Sherburne (breeding?), then 9/3 Winona RBJ, through 10/11 Dakota ADS, 11/9–14 **Steele** ph. NFT, m.obs., plus out-of-range reports 9/5 **Lac Qui Parle** BJU, 9/20 **Chippewa** BJU.

Palm Warbler — Early south 8/22 Steele NFT, 9/3 Hennepin ChM. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (**200+** at Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late north 10/23 St. Louis LAW, 10/24 Lake DAB, 10/30–11/2 Cook DWK, CRM (median 10/22). Late south 10/10 Anoka BRL, McLeod RWS and Rice DAB (median 10/18).

Bay-breasted Warbler — Found in seven north and ten south counties, but none in the Southwest or West-central. Early south 8/23 Dakota ADS, JPM, 8/24 Hennepin SLC. Late north 9/15 Cass and St. Louis, then only 9/28 Lake DPJ, 10/12 Lake JWJ (median 9/28). Late south 9/16 Sherburne CRM, 9/29 Hennepin SLC (median 10/5).

Blackpoll Warbler — Only found in seven north (four in the Northeast) and five south counties. Early north 8/24 Otter Tail SPM, 8/25 Lake DCZ. Late north 10/4 Red Lake JMJ, PHS, **10/25** (latest north) Lake KRE. All south reports in September, except 8/25 Dakota JPM and 10/5 Hennepin KTP. Only Hennepin, Lake, Red Lake, and St. Louis had multiple reports.

Cerulean Warbler — No reports.

Black-and-white Warbler — Reported north through mid-September, then only found 9/27 Carlton LAW and St. Louis DWK, 10/2 Lake JWJ (median 9/28). Record-high count 9/15 St. Louis (**50** at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late south 9/26 Houston FZL, 9/28 Brown BTS, 9/29 Hennepin SLC (median 10/4).

American Redstart — Observed in 20 north and 20 south counties statewide. Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (**500** at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Four north reports exceeded the recent median departure (10/6): 10/7 Mille Lacs RBJ, 10/12 Lake and St. Louis JWJ, 10/25 Lake KRE. Late south (median 10/10) 10/11 Goodhue BRL, 10/13 Hennepin DWK.

Prothonotary Warbler — August reports from Carver, Dakota and Hennepin, then record-late **9/26** Hennepin †CBR.

Ovenbird — Reported from 10 north and 16 south counties. Late north 9/25 St. Louis SLF, 9/30 Carlton LAW. Late south 10/5 Hennepin KTP, 10/11 Hennepin TAT.

Northern Waterthrush — Found in 10 north and 6 south counties. Early south 8/16 Hennepin DWK, 8/18 Brown JJS.

Late north 9/26 Lake ChM, 9/28 Pennington JMJ. After 9/9, only four south reports from Hennepin, where last recorded 10/7 TAT (median 10/3).

Louisiana Waterthrush — Only report: 8/25 Houston FZL, one day later than the recent median departure date.

Kentucky Warbler — No fall reports since 1987.

Connecticut Warbler — Late north 9/7 Red Lake PHS and Wadena PJB (median 9/17). Only other north report from Pine. Early south 8/23 Hennepin †CBR, 8/27 Chippewa RBJ. Late south 9/20 Carver RMD, 9/30 Lac Qui Parle FAE (median 9/14).

Mourning Warbler — Reported from 7 north and 11 south counties in all regions. Summering bird in Anoka (KJB). Early south 8/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU, then frequent reports beginning 8/22. Late north 9/14 Lake JWJ and Otter Tail ARO. Late south 9/28 Brown BTS, 9/30 Hennepin TAT. Both north and south departures matched recent medians.

Common Yellowthroat — Highest reported count 9/15 St. Louis (**50** at Park Point, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Frequent north reports through 9/22, then only 10/5 Beltrami DPJ, 10/12 Lake JWJ, **11/8** Lake JPM (median 10/13). All south reports after 9/25 were from the Twin Cities, where last reported 10/4 Dakota SWe, 10/3-7 Hennepin DWK, SLC, TAT.

Hooded Warbler — Breeding birds still on territory 8/6 Anoka KJB, 9/4 Scott RBW.

Wilson's Warbler — Found in 8 north and 14 south counties in every region except the North-central. Early north (away from known breeding locations) 8/21 Otter Tail SPM, 8/22 St. Louis SLF (median 8/12). Early south 8/19 Lac Qui Parle CRM, 8/20 Hennepin ChM (median 8/15). Three September reports north: 9/8

St. Louis PHS, 9/16 Pine JMP, 9/19 Lake JWL. Frequent south reports through mid-month, then only 9/20 Dakota ADS, 9/22 Rice DAB, 9/28 Hennepin SLC.

Canada Warbler — Reported from all regions. Early south 8/18 Rice TFB, 8/19 Lac Qui Parle CRM, 8/20 Hennepin ChM. Late north 9/13 Red Lake (Huot) PHS, 9/14 Otter Tail JMP, 9/15 St. Louis PHS (same as median). Late south 9/15 Hennepin DWK and Houston FZL, 9/30 Ramsey NSp (median 9/22).

Yellow-breasted Chat — Please see undocumented reports.

Summer Tanager — The adult male summering at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. (*The Loon* 75:221–225) lingered through 8/9 Scott BWF.

Scarlet Tanager — Late north 9/17 Becker MWy, 9/19 Beltrami DPJ, 10/18 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) KRE, JWL; also seen in Red Lake, Wadena. Reported from 14 south counties including (late south) 9/30 Carver KTP and Hennepin SLC, 10/16 and **10/23** (same bird?) Ramsey NSp.

Spotted Towhee — Only documented report: 10/9 Lac Qui Parle (Boyd) †FAE. Also reported 9/27 Nicollet LWF, 10/5 Lac Qui Parle (Arena Twp.) BJU, 11/1–2 **St. Louis** EDu, JJS, CRM.

Eastern Towhee — All north reports: 9/21 Kittson JMJ, 9/26 Carlton RBJ, 10/9 Clay RHO. Late south included early October reports from Lac Qui Parle and Houston, then 10/6 Rice TFB, 10/7 Steele NFT, 10/12 Anoka JLH.

Pipilo hybrid? — The fall migration pattern for Spotted Towhee in Minnesota appears to be mid-September through late October, and primarily within the Southwest and West-central regions. An out-of-range and unseasonal bird 8/3–12 Washington (Grey Cloud Is.) was undocumented except for the barest of details passed over MOU-net. These indicated a reper-

toire of vocalizations that included both the Eastern Towhee's "drink-your-tea" and several buzzer songs. The bird apparently did not show significant amounts of white at the base of the primaries, but the extent of spotting on the scapulars and wing coverts was greatly reduced. Questions about the parentage of this individual were only raised because details were circulated; most of the other Spotted Towhees reported this season had no details. Another probable Spotted x Eastern Towhee in Murray †RMD was described as "giving vocalizations that seemed primarily Spotted, but the bird had obvious white primary patches in combination with limited white streaking on the back and some white on the tertials and scapulars."

American Tree Sparrow — Reported from every region except the Southwest. Early north 9/16 Pine JMP, 9/20 Kanabec JMP, 9/27 Itasca EO. Early south 10/6 Hennepin OIJ, 10/9 Dakota TAT. Highest reported count 10/26 Wadena (135) PJB.

Chipping Sparrow — Found in every region. Highest reported count 10/7 Mower (50) RRK. Late north 10/31 Cass MRN, 11/1–2 Cook JJS, KRE, 11/11 Cook †CRM. Late south 10/19 Watonwan DLB, 10/31 Hennepin TAT, 11/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Clay-colored Sparrow — Reported from 14 north and 11 south counties in all regions. Late north 10/4 Lake JWL and Wilkin CRM, 10/25 Cook JWL. Late south 10/11 Cottonwood BRB, 10/20 Dakota SWe. Late dates north and south were ten days later than recent medians.

Field Sparrow — More reports than usual along the North Shore of L. Superior, including 10/3 St. Louis (Duluth Twp.) JCG, 10/17 Cook (Lutsen) JWL, KRE, and (late north) 11/14 Lake (Beaver Bay) JWL, **11/29** Lake (Silver Bay) ph. JWL. Late south 10/5 Anoka JLH and Fillmore NBO, 10/10 Rice DAB, 10/12 McLeod PRH.

Vesper Sparrow — Reported from 13

north and 11 south counties. At least nine October reports north, seven of these in Northeast. Late north 10/17 Lake JWJ, KRE, 10/21 Cook (Cascade Beach Rd.) RBJ. Late south 10/12 McLeod PRH, 10/13 Jackson CRM and Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Lark Sparrow — All reports: 8/5 Sherburne PLJ, 8/22 Wabasha JLU, 8/30 Red Lake PHS, 9/1 Sherburne KTP, 9/15 Cook EO.

Savannah Sparrow — Observed in all regions. Late north 11/6 Todd JSK, SID, 11/7 Lake JWJ, 11/11 Cook CRM (median 10/27). Many south reports through October, then only 11/4 McLeod PRH, 11/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 11/4).

Grasshopper Sparrow — August reports from Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Marshall, Pennington, Pine, Sherburne and Todd, then only 10/4 Hennepin OJL (found dead), **10/12** (latest south date) Hennepin DWK, 10/13 Lake JWJ, KRE, and St. Louis KRE.

Henslow's Sparrow — All reports: through 8/10 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) RBW, 8/14 Goodhue †DFN, 8/6–16 Chisago (identified by vocalizations at Wild River S.P.) DCr.

LeConte's Sparrow — Found in every region but the North-central and Southeast. Early south 9/16 Sherburne CRM, KTP, 9/21 Chippewa KRE, 9/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Most north reports between 9/25 and 10/5. Late north 10/8 Pennington CRM, **10/14-17** Lake (ties latest north date, Flood Bay) JWJ, KRE. Late south 10/13 Hennepin DWK, 10/18 Cottonwood JJS; also reported from Big Stone, Brown, Carver, Dakota.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — All north reports: 9/17–23 St. Louis (40th Ave. W., max. 3) KRE, MH, PHS, m.obs., 9/23 Lake (Two Harbors, two locations) JWJ, 9/28 Lake (Beaver Bay W.T.P.) JWJ, 10/5 Otter Tail (Otter Tail Prairie S.N.A.) CRM, KRE, **10/12** Lake (ties latest north date, Flood Bay) JWJ. All south reports: 9/20

Carver (Chaska L.) RMD, 9/25 **Watonwan** (Fedji L.) JEB, 10/4 Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU, 10/5 Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.) SLC.

Fox Sparrow — Arrived up to six days later than the recent medians. Early north 9/26 Lake JWJ, 9/27 Becker DFN, 10/2 St. Louis SLF. Early south 9/22 Hennepin SLC, 9/26 Hennepin TAT, 9/28 Brown BTS and Ramsey NSp. Late north 11/13 Polk DLT, 11/14 Becker BRK, 11/15–30+ Lake JWJ, PHS. Late south (but also see winter report) 11/18 Hennepin DWK and Ramsey NSp, 11/23 Dakota ADS.

Song Sparrow — Found in all regions. Please see winter report for late migrants and overwintering birds.

Lincoln's Sparrow — Reported from all regions. Early south 9/1 Hennepin TAT, 9/7 Scott SWe (median 8/31). Late north 10/20 Lake JWJ, 10/23 Cook BRL, **11/2** (same as 10/23 bird?) Cook KRE. Late south 11/11 Hennepin TAT and Scott RBW (median 11/7).

Swamp Sparrow — Also found in all regions. Late north 10/19 Wadena PJB, 10/22 Lake RBJ, 11/7 Lake JWJ, 11/14 Cook JWJ. Most south reports prior to mid-October; November records in Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, and through the end of the season in Hennepin.

White-throated Sparrow — Found in all regions. Early south 9/4 Sherburne PLJ, 9/5 Chisago RBJ. Late north (but see winter report) 11/8 Todd JSK, SID, 11/15 Lake JWJ. November reports south from 10 counties, including 11/18 Steele NFT, 11/19 Lac Qui Parle FAE.

Harris's Sparrow — Reported from 17 north and 20 south counties. Early north 9/13 St. Louis JWJ, 9/14 Lake JWJ, 9/22 Kanabec JMP. Early south 9/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/26 McLeod RWS and Sherburne PLJ. Late north (but also see winter report) 10/25 Lake JWJ, 11/7 Todd JSK, SID.

White-crowned Sparrow — Found in all regions. Early north 9/8 St. Louis SLF, 9/10 Lake JWL. First north report away from the North Shore of L. Superior 9/21 Clay RHO and Kittson JMJ. Early south 9/21 Rice TFB, 9/25 Olmsted PWP. Late north 11/2 Cook KRE, 11/7 Lake JWL (overwintered at different location in Lake, please see winter report). Late south (but see CBC data) 11/13 Rice DAB, 11/18 Dakota ADS, 11/21 Nicollet LWF.

Dark-eyed Junco — Early south 9/15 Hennepin SLC, 9/23 Rice FVS, 9/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/11). Frequent south reports beginning 9/27. Highest reported count 10/18 Mower (100) RRK.

Lapland Longspur — Reported from all regions except the Southwest. Early north 9/13 Beltrami DPJ, 9/16 Lake JWL. Early south 9/28 Hennepin TAT, 10/5 Hennepin SLC, 10/10 Sherburne REH. High count 10/26 Clay (1000) RHO. Late north 11/11 Cook CRM, 11/23 Wadena PJB, but also see winter report. November reports south from Brown, Lac Qui Parle, Olmsted.

Smith's Longspur — Reported along L. Superior's North Shore 9/13–17 St. Louis (40th Ave. West, Duluth) DWT, MH, †PHS, 9/29–30 Lake (Two Harbors) ph. †JWL, †PHS, 10/2 St. Louis (Rose Garden, Duluth) *fide* DRB, 10/13 St. Louis (40th Ave. West) MH. All other north reports were in western Minnesota: 9/28 **Pennington** (Thief River Falls W.T.P.) †PHS, 10/12 Wilkin (Rothsay W.M.A.) CRM, JJS, 10/18 Traverse MO, 10/19 Norman (Ada W.T.P.) CAS, 10/19–23 **Red Lake** (Red Lake Falls W.T.P.) CAS, †PHS. Only south report: 10/18 Cottonwood (up to 75 at Red Rock Prairie) BWF, JJS, RMD.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — All reports from Felton Prairie in Clay, where last reported 8/23 RHO.

Snow Bunting — Found in 22 north and 12 south counties. Spread quickly through the north in mid-October. Early north 10/13 Lake KRE, 10/14 Roseau *fide* JMJ,

10/15 Aitkin and Mille Lacs PHS. Early south 10/17 Sherburne PLJ, 10/19 Chisago DWK, 10/24 Brown (18) BTS. High counts 10/22–26 Cook (1000s) RBJ, 11/8 Todd (220) JSK, SID.

Northern Cardinal — Reported from Becker, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, and Rock in western regions. No reports from Carlton, Dodge, Houston in the east.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Highest reported count 8/30 Hennepin (10) PEB. September reports north from Cass, Hubbard and Wadena, then late north 9/18–19 Pine BAP, KIM, JMP, 9/22 Kanabec BLA. Late south 9/20 in four counties, then 9/23 Hennepin SLC, 9/25 Dakota ADS and Fillmore NBO.

Blue Grosbeak — All reports: 8/3 Rock (3 groups at Blue Mounds S.P. totaling 8 birds) JMP, 8/20 Nobles JJS, 8/22 Pipestone DCa, LRe.

LAZULI BUNTING — A female carefully identified 10/26 Cook (east of Grand Marais) †KRE *et al.*, ph. DDM furnished the state's first fall record (*The Loon* 76:109–110).

Indigo Bunting — North reports through August, then 9/18 Becker *fide* JMJ, 9/22–23 St. Louis CRM, MH, 10/6 Aitkin †PHS (each of these later than the median north departure 9/16). In the south, after 9/12 only reported in Hennepin: 9/28 PEB, 10/5 DWK, 10/20 TAT (probably different individuals; median south departure 10/9).

Dickcissel — All reports: 8/1 Washington REH, 8/4 Mower RRK, 8/9 Brown JSS, 9/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Bobolink — Peak migration late August in the Northwest, e.g., 150+ in one flock 8/30 Red Lake PHS. Late north 9/17 Kanabec JMP, 9/24 St. Louis KRE. August reports south in Waseca, Yellow Medicine and Lac Qui Parle, including 162 at Plover Prairie 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late south

9/8 and 10/5 in Hennepin TAT.

Red-winged Blackbird — Only two November reports north: 11/2 Red Lake JMJ, 11/9 Wadena PJB. Found throughout the season and in every region south.

Eastern Meadowlark — Only north reports from East-central region: 10/12 Kanabec (33) JMP, 10/14 Pine (15) JMP. October reports south from Hennepin, Mower and Sherburne, then 11/2 McLeod PRH.

Western Meadowlark — Found in 23 counties. North reports through 10/12 in the Northwest and through 10/26 along L. Superior's North Shore, but then only 11/8 Polk (2) *fide* JMJ. Only south reports after September: 10/6 Olmsted OWB, 10/29 Lac Qui Parle RBJ, 11/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

***Sturnella*, sp.** — Unidentified meadowlarks 10/27 St. Louis SLF, 11/18 Steele NFT.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — All north reports: 8/23 Red Lake PHS, 8/31 Wadena PJB, 10/14 St. Louis PHS. Late south 9/15 Brown CRM, 9/20 Le Sueur ChH, then none until 11/10 Cottonwood (5) SSM.

Rusty Blackbird — Found in 18 north and 14 south counties. Early north 9/24 St. Louis KRE, 9/28 Pennington PHS. Early south 9/21 Carver RMD, 9/29 Rice TFB. Highest reported count 11/10 Cottonwood (100+) SSM. See winter report for late migrants north and south.

Brewer's Blackbird — Reported from 10 north and 9 south counties. Late north 10/18 Red Lake JMJ, 10/31 Pine (219) JMP, 11/22 Aitkin DWK. Late south 10/28 Swift RBJ, 11/1 Meeker (400) PRH, RWS.

Common Grackle — High counts of 1000+ reported 9/19-21 Jackson and Rock DCZ, 10/24 Red Lake PHS. Only north report after 10/27 was 11/22 Polk DLT, but see winter report.

Brown-headed Cowbird — All north reports: 8/4 Todd JSK, SID, 8/9 Pine JMP,

8/23 Red Lake PHS, 9/14 Wadena PJB. High count 10/26 Hennepin (79) TAT. Late south (but also see winter report) 11/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/29 Dakota (21) ADS and Goodhue (8) ADS.

Orchard Oriole — As in 2003, most fall reports were from western regions. North reports from Clay, Polk, Traverse, and (late north) 9/1 Kittson JJS. South reports from Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone and Rock, plus 8/23 Dakota SWE.

Baltimore Oriole — Reported from all regions. Late north 9/1 Pine JMP, 9/14 St. Louis JWJL, 9/17 Lake EO (median 9/14). Found in 10 south counties in September, including late south 9/12 Hennepin TAT and Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/4).

Pine Grosbeak — Many more reports than last fall. Reported from 13 north counties, including first arrivals 10/24 St. Louis SES, 10/25 Cook JEB and Lake JWJL. High count 11/12 St. Louis (250 at H.R.N.R., Duluth) FJN, DSC. Two reports away from the northern third of the state: 11/19 Pine RBJ, 11/20 **Dakota** (Etter Twp.) *fide* AXH.

Purple Finch — Reported from 18 north and 17 south counties, and in all regions except the Southwest. North reports spanned the season. Early south 8/31 Hennepin SLC, 9/10 Houston FZL.

House Finch — Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill — All north reports: Beltrami, Pennington, St. Louis. One south report: 8/27 Lyon (Camden S.P.) *fide* AXH.

White-winged Crossbill — One early report 8/21 Cook RBJ, then none until mid-October when numerous reports forwarded from St. Louis, Lake and Cook. High count 11/5 St. Louis (305 at H.R.N.R., Duluth) FJN, DSC. Also notable was 11/13 Pine (18) JMP.

Common Redpoll — Found in 15 north

and 8 south counties, foreshadowing a strong winter showing. Early north **10/4** (ties earliest record) Lake of the Woods AJP, then none until 10/24 Cook JEB, 10/25 Lake JEB, JWL (median north 10/15). Early south 10/28 Stevens RBJ, 11/8 Dakota ADS. Only report from southern regions: 11/13 Rice TFB. High counts at H.R.N.R., St. Louis County 11/17 (2850), 11/5 (2025) FJN, DSC. Other noteworthy counts: 11/29 Cook (1350 flew by Grand Portage N.M.) DRB, 11/21 Cook (1009 along L. Superior's North Shore) KJB.

Hoary Redpoll — Two reports from Lake: **11/15** (record-early) KRE, 11/28–29 Stewart River ph. JWL.

Pine Siskin — Found in 12 north and 5 south counties. Two August reports: 8/21 Cook RBJ, 8/22 Lake of the Woods MHK. Early south 10/18 Hennepin SLC, 10/29 Lac Qui Parle FAE. Did not arrive in the southern third of the state until late November.

American Goldfinch — Found throughout the state.

Evening Grosbeak — Scattered reports from Beltrami, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Lake, St. Louis. Highest count only five birds.

House Sparrow — Statewide.

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 TPB Terry P. Brashear
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 TSm Tim Smart

TWa Tom Warwa
 TZa Tim Zajic
 WCM William C. Marengo
 WEN Warren E. Nelson
 WHL William H. Lane
 WLB William L. Brown
 WMS William M. Stauffer
 WOS William O. Stjern

 C.P. County Park
 C.R. County Road
 H.R.N.R. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
 m.obs. many observers
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.N.A. Scientific & Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Production Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

A Second Look at Honkers

Kim R. Eckert



On a recent tour in Manitoba, one of the participants was trying unsuccessfully to give directions to a bird: "It's right over there, next to the Canada Goose." When one of the others said she couldn't see it, my linguistics lesson from earlier in the tour must have been recollected, and the directions were quickly amended: "It's next to that Honker." Now they were speaking the same language, and the reply was predictable:

"Oh, now I see it!"

I suppose it would be OK to try and impress your listeners by calling it a Canadian Honker, but don't call it a Canada Goose unless you want to sound like some eastern big-city tourist. For any respectable Minnesotan or other Great Plains resident, after all, a bird name like Honker is as proper and appropriate as Chicken Hawk, Hoot Owl, and Sea Gull.

Or at least it used to be. I recently re-

turned from my annual July trip to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland with mixed feelings. On one hand, I was ready to enthral readers of this column with ID insights into what we found: ptarmigans (boy, are those females hard to tell apart, and there are Minnesota records for both Rock and Willow), Bar-tailed Godwit (at first we naturally passed it off as a Hudsonian — I wonder if we've done that here), skuas (there actually are skua records in the north-central U. S., but were they Great or South Polar?), and Bicknell's Thrush (no, they aren't supposed to be here, but how do we know for sure since all their field marks overlap the Gray-cheeked's?).

On the other hand, just like during other tours, I had worries I might have missed something while I was gone that I needed for my Minnesota list. My concern was unfounded, of course. Not only didn't I miss anything, but I apparently gained a bird without lifting a finger to the focus wheel on my binoculars. By executive decree of the American Ornithologists' Union (i.e., the 45th Supplement to the AOU's Check-list as published in *The Auk* 121:985–995), there is now a second species of “Honker” on my list.

Or should I say “Cackler”? It seems those Mallard-sized, short-necked, stubby-billed geese with the high-pitched cackling calls which migrate through Minnesota to and from their Arctic breeding grounds have now been split from that big ol' honkin' Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) and declared a distinct species: Cackling Goose (*Branta butchinsii*).

Goody. So, now what are we supposed to do? It's not that simple once you stop and think about it, and the questions start to accumulate:

Q: Why the silly name Cackling Goose?

Probably because the AOU scientists (and perhaps the geese themselves) are cackling with glee as we lowly listers in the field try to figure out which species of goose we're really looking at. A much better and more logical name would have

been Tundra Goose, since these geese are mostly tundra nesters. And, besides, it's one of the English names of the *butchinsii* subspecies — if Tundra was a name good enough for a subspecies, why not keep it as the species name?

Q: By recognizing just these two species of geese now, isn't the AOU saying that's all there is to it: i.e., there are simply big Canada Geese and little Cackling Geese and nothing in between?

Even though that's the implication, it's hardly that simple. As anyone who ever looks at these geese knows, there are really big ones, sort of big ones, medium-sized geese, those a little smaller, etc., etc. All this seems to be a work in progress, as many expect there will be additional splits in the not-too-distant future.

Q: How many splits?

Who knows? When you consider that authorities who have studied these geese have variously recognized from eight to 12 subspecies, it's anyone's guess. Consider as well that these subspecies are often placed in groups or populations, anywhere between two and six of them. David Sibley describes six groups in his field guide; the AOU is essentially saying there are only two (for now); and many others say there are four.

Q: Hub?

One classification of widespread acceptance, at least before this recent AOU split, has been to place 11 viable subspecies into four groups. (For more information, see Angus Wilson's website, <<http://www.oceanwanderers.com/CAGO.subspecies.html>>.) Going generally from the largest to the smallest sizes, the groups of subspecies are listed below; note the four subspecies in boldface type which occur (at least presumably) in Minnesota. (Again, keep in mind that this arrangement is only one of many interpretations, and it pre-dates the recent Cackling

Goose split. Note as well that the MOU Records Committee has yet to research and determine the Minnesota status of Cackling Goose and all the various subspecies of both Cackling and Canada geese.)

COMMON GROUP

- *canadensis* — Atlantic subspecies (eastern North America)
- ***interior* — Interior subspecies (eastern & central North America; includes Minnesota in summer, migration, and possibly winter)**
- *moffitti* — Western or Moffit's subspecies (western North America)

DUSKY GROUP

- ***maxima* — Giant subspecies (wide-spread; includes Minnesota year around)**
- *occidentalis* — Dusky subspecies (western North America)
- *fulva* — Vancouver subspecies (western North America)

LESSER GROUP

- ***parvipes* — Lesser subspecies (east to Hudson Bay; includes Minnesota in migration and possibly winter)**
- *taverneri* — Taverner's or Lesser subspecies (western North America)
- ***butchinsii* — Tundra or Richardson's subspecies (arctic Canada; includes Minnesota in migration and possibly winter)**

CACKLING GROUP

- *leucopareia* — Aleutian subspecies (western North America)
- *minima* — Cackling subspecies (western North America)
- Two other western forms have also been placed in this group: *asiatica* (the presumed extinct Bering subspecies) and the Semidi Islands form (very limited population yet to be named as a subspecies).

Q: So, what do I care about this? I just want to know which of these are now Cackling Geese and which are still Can-

ada Geese. And what's the deal with two subspecies both being named Lesser?

According to the AOU, the new Cackling Goose species includes these subspecies: *taverneri*, *butchinsii*, *leucopareia*, and *minima*. And the Canada Goose species still includes these: *canadensis*, *interior*, *moffitti*, *maxima*, *occidentalis*, *fulva*, and *parvipes*.

This may make sense to the AOU, but they've got a lot of explaining to do. Like why some in the Lesser Group (*taverneri* and *butchinsii*) become Cackling Geese while the other in this group (*parvipes*) is still a Canada Goose. And consider the two subspecies which are both called Lesser: one of these is now a Cackling Goose and the other is still a Canada!

Q: Hub?

Don't ask. It's not worth it, considering all this is subject to change. For Minnesota Honker-watchers, the important things to note are that no Cackling Geese are normally here in summer, that this species can be expected statewide in migration (and probably in winter at times), and only the *butchinsii* (a.k.a. Tundra or Richardson's) subspecies should occur here.

As for the Canada Goose, the subspecies *interior* and *maxima* are here in summer, and in migration and winter they can be joined by the smaller *parvipes* subspecies. So, that's the catch, and it's potentially a serious one: if you find a smaller goose among some larger ones, you can't simply assume it's a Cackling Goose. Consider the possibility of it just being a smaller *parvipes* Canada Goose. Or, for that matter, consider the simple possibility of that smaller bird just being the result of normal size variation within the (sub)species.

Q: So, as was previously asked, now what are we supposed to do? How do we determine what the status of Cackling Goose really is in Minnesota, and how do we avoid misidentifying smaller Canada Geese as Cacklings?

Who knows? The AOU didn't say, and there has been next to nothing in any ID references about what the field marks really are. After you consider the season and range, how different do the body size, neck length, bill shape, and voice have to be before it's a legitimate Cackling Goose? What else is there to look for?

Until more information is forthcoming, it may help to take notes on some of these features which can differ from goose to goose. While none of these field marks is yet known to be definitive for either species (or any subspecies), a combination of these might eventually prove to be so:

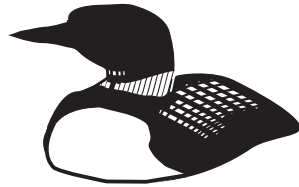
- Head shape (roundest on *minima* Cackling);
- Chin strap shape and width;

- Presence/absence of black under bill separating white on chin strap;
- Presence/absence of white ring below black at base of neck;
- Darkness/paleness on chest and underparts;
- Presence/absence of white forehead patch.

I suppose my original plan to write about ptarmigans, godwits, skuas, and thrushes will have to wait. In the meantime, let's just sit back and wait for the lifers to accumulate without leaving home. With as many as 12 Canada Goose subspecies recognized by some, I expect to add a dozen or so new species to my list, faster than you can say "Semidi Islands."

1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55804.

NOTES OF INTEREST



PRAIRIE WARBLER IN SCOTT COUNTY — At about 9:00 A.M. on 2 June 2003, while driving south on Murphy Lake Boulevard just south of the Credit River in Scott County, I heard a Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) singing its typical song — a series of musical buzzes, ascending in pitch — on the east side of the road. After entering the woods, I quickly found the bird. It was a typical adult male with all the usual field marks, i.e., greenish-yellow back with short rufous streaks on its upper back, bright yellow underparts with black streaks on the sides of its chest and abdomen, and a short horizontal black streak capping the streaks on its sides. On the head, there was a bright yellow superciliary streak, a dark line through the eye, and a yellow spot under the eye, separated from the yellow throat by another dark line.



After getting a good look at the bird, I returned to where I had just left Karol Gresser and Father Tom Margevicius, left a note on their car, then returned to observe the bird again. Karol and Father Tom joined me shortly thereafter. The bird was singing more or less continuously, and patrolled a small area, roughly two hundred feet in diameter. After observing it for about an hour, I had to return home, so while there, I put news about the bird on the hot line. The next morning, I returned with Don Bolduc, and the bird was exhibiting the same behavior in the same area. I received several e-

mails from other birders who were able to see it. On the 4th, I returned to find a group of about ten birders, but the Prairie Warbler was neither seen nor heard. **Bill Stauffer, 4600 Meadow Road, Edina, MN 55424.**

CINNAMON TEAL IN DAKOTA COUNTY — On 7 June 2003, Chris Fagyal, Chris Hockema, John Hockema, Mark Ochs, and myself were birding together in Dakota County, arriving at the 140th Street marsh at about 11:00 A.M. As Mark and I were getting out of my car, John Hockema was immediately behind us, already out of his vehicle, and saying, “He did it again! There’s a Cinnamon Teal!” John was referring to his brother Chris, who had once again demonstrated his uncanny ability to spot the rare bird.



Mark, Chris Fagyal, and I quickly looked at the bird with our binoculars, and I went back to the car for my scope. We only had two scopes among us and took turns looking at the bird with better optics. The bird was obviously a male, but oddly not in peak alternate plumage as one might expect at this time of year. The plumage appeared dull and faded, and this started immediate discussion. Our initial reaction was to consider that it was possibly a hybrid. Each of us carefully studied the bird, looking for obvious signs of mixed parentage with Blue-winged Teal, perhaps the most frequent interbreeding species with Cinnamon Teal. Having seen a Blue-winged Teal X Cinnamon Teal hybrid previously, I was looking for the field marks I remembered seeing on that bird — any indication of at least a partial white facial crescent, dark spotting on the flanks, and darker eye color — but none of those characteristics was found on this bird. We also weren’t able to detect any other obvious markings that suggested mixed parentage with any other species. Since we were unsure about what we were seeing, we used a field guide for comparison. All of those areas and field marks were consistent with a “pure” Cinnamon Teal, but were an odd mix intermediate between alternate and basic plumage characteristics. One of us brought up the possibility that perhaps it was a first year male and therefore not yet as bright as a mature adult bird. An interesting thought, but attempts to confirm that in *Sibley*, the only field guide we had on hand, led nowhere.

Despite the confusion, we concluded there weren’t any field marks that clearly indicated the bird was anything other than a “pure” Cinnamon Teal. Realizing that documentation was necessary, I wrote field notes while still observing the bird, getting input and consensus from the group. Chris Fagyal tried to get some digital photos, but didn’t have the necessary equipment for a really good picture. Mark called several people on his cell phone to alert them about the bird and the information spread quickly.

The unusual plumage of this bird continued to concern a few subsequent observers. Comments circulated later that day stated the duck was obviously a hybrid, but no one offered any supporting evidence as the basis for that opinion. Solving this interesting problem required another level of expertise. Fortunately, Jim Mattsson was able to see the bird the following day, and with his professional experience with waterfowl, provided the explanation for its unusual plumage. This information was educational to all observers and confirmed our identification of the bird as a “pure” Cinnamon Teal, and not a hybrid (see below). Numerous other birders were able to see the bird on both the 7th and 8th, while it was still fairly active. Thereafter, the teal became very secretive, and was only seen sporadically until 16 June 2003.

Researching the historical record of this species in Dakota County in preparation for this article, I found the existing written information to be unfortunately vague. Through material obtained from Karl Bardon, I found there had been only two previous reports, neither documented. The first report was an observation by a young hunter on 8 October 1978 (*The Loon* 51:84). At that time of year it’s worth noting that

Cinnamon Teal and Blue-winged Teal are in basic plumage and can be very difficult to distinguish from one another without careful study. A hybrid bird in basic plumage would be even more difficult to detect. The second report was another single observer sighting on 10 May 1997 (*The Loon* 69:191). I visited the area where this bird had been seen with the original observer in late April 2004, to clarify and confirm the accuracy of the location. Questions remained as it was seen very close to the county border. After studying recent maps, we determined this bird was actually seen in Goodhue County, and not Dakota. This 2003 observation should therefore be considered the first certain record for Dakota County.

I would like to acknowledge the insightful commentary and additional material provided by Peder Svingen in preparing this article. **Drew Smith, 3606 Widgeon Way, Eagan MN 55123.**

I saw the Cinnamon Teal on 8 June and was able to study it at close distance (~40–50m) using a spotting scope. My field notes state: “fresh contour feathers, warm brown with bright buffy edges, primaries not yet replaced.” I saw no evidence of hybrid characteristics and concluded that the bird was an adult male in prebasic molt. The head feathers appear superficially as in alternate plumage, but considerably more dull, indicating they were worn and not yet replaced. The second week of June is at the early end of the prebasic molt continuum for this species, whose breeding range extends well into Mexico. Many waterfowl species including Cinnamon Teal make extended movements during the post breeding period to undergo prebasic molt, also known as eclipse molt in waterfowl. It is possible that the Dakota County Cinnamon Teal originated from a southerly latitude where breeding occurs earlier than birds to the north. **Jim Mattsson, 570 Greenleaf Drive, Eagan MN 55123.**

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE ARRIVES IN PENNINGTON COUNTY — Sometime



in June 2003, our friend Grace Mayta, called Shelley Steva to say she thought she had an unusual dove coming to her feeder. It looked to her as if it was a Ringed Turtle-Dove which was the only dove in her book that looked close. She did say it looked darker than the picture in the book. Shelley asked her to call when the bird showed up, but both Shelley and I are not home very much, and after a few tries to reach us, Grace gave up calling. We both felt that the dove must be the Eurasian Collared-Dove which is expanding its range in Minnesota.

We watched carefully as we went about our business, but never did we see the strange dove.

On 30 June, Peder Svingen happened to be in town, and we passed the news on to him. As it happened, he decided to look for the strange dove in the morning before he headed back to Duluth. After an extensive search of the area around Grace’s home, he finally spotted the dove. It immediately flew away and necessitated another half hour search. This happened at least twice more. Finally he did manage to get some pictures and took extensive notes. He was of the same opinion — this was the Eurasian Collared-Dove, but we still needed something else to clinch the identification.

Meanwhile, Shelley and I had not seen the bird, and we were given instructions to check on the vocalizations if any, and look carefully at the tail. One day Shelley did find it, and it flew immediately, but did utter a strange shriek. I went with her another day to search again, but only managed to hear Shelley say “there it is!”. I looked for a perched bird, while the bird was in the air flying away! How frustrating! This bird is proving to be more of a challenge than we anticipated.

On 5 July, we decided to look once more. Up and down the streets we cruised. As we neared the new arena off 6th Street, Shelley spotted a bird on top of a utility pole

near the corner of Kinney Avenue. This is an area where there are no buildings, and no houses; there is a line of utility poles and a set of railroad tracks running down the block.

We trained our binoculars on the bird. It was close to Mourning Dove color, but a much stockier bird and certainly larger. The head was small, typical for a dove; the body large and plump. Then I noticed the black crescent on the back of the neck and knew we had the right bird. The bird was a soft beige-brown color; its under wings were white or light gray, and its primaries were dark gray or black. The upper wing feathers were mottled with cream giving the wings a textured look. The breast was a clear buff color; under the tail was dark gray with the end of the tail very light. The end of the long tail was square. From underneath, the dark gray seemed to extend further down the sides than the middle of the tail. In flight the tail appeared as a long square tail with a light (whitish) terminal band and a black band inside that.

This bird preened on the light pole more than 15 minutes, checking every feather. This was great for us as we got a good look at wings and tail as the bird worked on them. Then we had a special treat — the bird stopped preening and gave a monotonous series of “coo cooo-coo”, slight pause, then repeated the cooing song. The whole series included about ten repeats each time. It was all on one pitch seemingly and repeated over and over. After some time we decided that we had to see the bird in flight, so we cautiously approached the pole. As we got to about ten feet, the bird flew across the street and landed in a tree. We followed it with the car and it then flew away from the area.

I should say that the light was really beautiful — it was clear and sunny, and the wind was calm. The light was to the side so we had ideal conditions. Maybe it was the calm condition that made the bird more comfortable — it certainly behaved differently than it had in the past.

This is the first record of this species in Pennington County. I expect that soon the species will be commonplace here, but it is exciting to see it now. **Jeanie Joppru, 16269 – 160th Street NE, Thief River Falls, MN.**

REEVE IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY — One of the many joys of birding is manifested



in the uncertainty of the rare encounter. So it was on 7 August 2003, as I was nonchalantly scoping an area for shorebirds in southeastern Kandiyohi County, that I had the wonderful fortune of exclaiming to myself, “What the heck is that?” The only thing I knew for certain about the ID of this bird is that it was either something I had never seen, or it had color anomalies not found in any books. The longer I looked, the more certain I was that I had, indeed, never seen this species of bird before. With my vast birding experience, I quickly

ruled out Passenger Pigeon and Whooping Crane, then began to narrow it down. It was a shorebird, standing about ankle deep in a shallow mud flat with Pectoral, Semipalmated, and Least sandpipers. There were also a few Lesser Yellowlegs for size and color comparison. The mystery bird was about the size of the Lesser Yellowlegs, but its shape was different. The mystery bird was more squat or plump looking, reminiscent of Red Knot. The bill was relatively short and slightly downcurved. The head seemed rather small and had an over-all “gentle” appearance, suggesting a Buff-breasted or Upland sandpiper. But it was much too tall for a knot or buffy, and the clincher — bright orange legs. The lower chest and belly were predominantly white, with light tan flanks becoming a darker tan on the mid and upper neck and head. The crown was a darker tan, almost brown. The back of the bird was simple yet beautiful. It was a crisp and clean (suggesting to me a juvenile) scalloped pattern, with dark feathers fringed in white and buffy tan.

Since I was alone, the whole encounter was a challenging process of elimination — consider the characteristics I knew about each potential species, then confirm or eliminate that species. Over the years I have learned to take as many mental notes as possible before writing them down, in case the bird departs quickly. Although shorebirds are usually content to sit, this bird allowed only about five minutes of observation before it took off, by itself, and departed into the western horizon. It was only then that I started quickly scratching down the mental notes on paper, before they became lost in my personal cyberspace. Before returning to my vehicle to look at books, I had already come to the conclusion that this bird was probably either a juvenile Ruff or Reeve.

After consulting books, I am still not certain of the gender of the species. From my research, juvenile birds are not supposed to have bright orange legs and Reeves are not supposed to have the white belly/chest region with the lighter buff flanks. My bird was either unlearned or a rebel, but it concerns me little; it was still my personal “diamond in the ruff.” **Randy Frederickson, 416 – 19th Street NW, Willmar MN 56201.**

FRANKLIN'S GULLS IN WINTER —



Prior to 1998, Franklin's Gull had never been recorded in winter in Minnesota, and the latest date on record was 27 November 1971 (J. Gilbert in “The Fall Season,” *The Loon* 44:13). On 1 December 1998, Jeff Dains and I took advantage of unseasonably warm weather to look for new birds for December, and we succeeded in finding a basic adult Franklin's Gull in a field with Ring-billed Gulls in Waseca County. Four days later, 5 December 1998, Steve Carlson and I spotted another basic adult Franklin's Gull flying over the Burnsville Landfill in Dakota County (*The Loon* 71:183). These remained

the latest dates on record until 23 December 2002 when I found an adult in alternate plumage at Point Douglas, Washington County; this bird was seen and photographed by many observers through 28 December 2002, including on the Hastings CBC (*The Loon* 75:140). Lastly, beginning in late November 2003, another adult, but this time in basic plumage, frequented the Twin Cities area until it was last seen by myself on 30 December. On this date, I saw it along the Mississippi River in South St. Paul, Ramsey County from the Hardman Avenue dike, and then only an hour later I saw presumably the same bird resting on the ice with a few Herring Gulls at Black Dog Lake, Dakota County.

These records extend the late migration of Franklin's Gulls over a month from that recorded previous to 1998. Prior to 1998, the average late departure date for southern Minnesota was 8 November (1964–1997). A January Franklin's Gull seems likely in the near future. Seldom does our knowledge of a species' migration timing change so significantly in such a short amount of time. **Karl Bardon, 13073 Hastings Street NE, Blaine, MN 55449.**

SABINE'S GULL IN RED LAKE COUNTY —



At approximately 4:30 P.M. on 30 August 2003, I discovered a juvenile Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) at the Red Lake Falls sewage lagoons in Red Lake County. Several Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) but no other gulls were at the lagoons, and although the Sabine's Gull loosely associated with the terns in flight, it apparently preferred the company of Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) while feeding.

The gull was swimming to-and-fro amongst the spinning phalaropes while picking at the surface of the lagoon. Its identity was obvious before it started flying around above the lagoon, which revealed its dramatic upperwing pattern — a broad triangle of brownish-gray on the inner wing, a narrow black triangle along the leading edge of its outer wing, and an isosceles white triangle

along the trailing edge. Its rump and tail were white with a black terminal tail band. Its hindcrown, nape, black, and scapulars were the same brownish-gray color as the aforementioned triangle on its inner wing. In flight, its underwings looked whitish except for a dusky wash along the greater covers and grayish outer primaries, the outermost of which was blackish, thus forming a dark line along the leading edge of the ventral surface of its outer wing.

Through my Leica Televid spotting scope, I could see that its eyes were black. Its dainty bill was black and slightly downcurved. The portion of its forehead just above the bill, and its lores, chin, throat, and malar area were whitish. Its brownish-gray upperparts showed scalloping on the back and scapular feathers. Its folded primaries extended beyond the tail tip and looked blackish. The gull's foreneck, breast, and flanks were white, except where brownish-gray from the hindnape draped down onto the sides of its neck. I made a half dozen phone calls and left messages for other birders, but the only person who arrived in time to see the gull was Jeanie Joppru. We watched it together (at much closer range) until about 6:00 P.M., and checked the lagoons again early the next morning, but the Sabine's Gull, terns, and phalaropes had all departed.

This represents the 28th accepted Minnesota record of this Casual species and ties the earliest fall date (one was at Duluth, 30 August 1975). It also represents the first occurrence of a non-Regular species in Red Lake County! I thank the mayor and city of Red Lake Falls for permission to look for birds at the lagoons. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812-1533.**

ANOTHER SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN RICE COUNTY — On 18 August 2003, I



spotted a Swallow-tailed Kite in flight near the intersection of State Highway 60 and Rice County Road 16, just west of Morristown. The bird was flying just above the tops of some alder trees and was last seen headed towards Morristown. I checked several areas around Morristown without success and eventually returned to the original location, where I was surprised to see it soaring overhead. Field notes were written down on my seasonal report form as follows: "Approx. Ring-billed Gull size. White head and body, white under-wing coverts, black primaries and secondaries, black deeply forked tail. Dark above, first seen for about a minute as close as 30 yards, then I lost it. I came back 1/2 hour later. It was back. I watched it then until I left to phone others (5-10 minutes)."

This was the second time I have seen one. The first was a few miles away from where I saw this one — at Lower Sakatah Lake, 15 May 1999 (*The Loon* 71:176-178). **Tom Boevers, 820 Ravine Street, Faribault, MN 55021.**

NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS DISPLAY MATING BEHAVIOR — On the morning of



18 August 2003, I was watching the two Neotropic Cormorants that Karl Bardon had discovered several days earlier. The birds were at the impoundment west of highway 95 at Big Stone N.W.R. in Lac Qui Parle County, just a short distance from where Karl first found them. They were with a flock of about 200 Double-crested Cormorants. Most of these birds were perched on a "forest" of snags, but a few of the cormorants swam at the base of these tree stumps.

When I first found Neotropic Cormorant #1 at 9:50 A.M., it was atop a snag 2-3m high. The other Neotropic Cormorant (#2) was on a lower snag about 10m away. Shortly after I began watching, a Double-crested Cormorant chased bird #2 off its snag. Bird #2 proceeded to swim around the base of these snags. Suddenly, at 10:12 A.M. #2 flew up and appeared to copulate with bird #1. This act lasted less than ten seconds. Bird #2 then shared bird #1's snag and the two perched together. They be-

gan mutual preening of each other's head and neck. Then they moved their heads and necks in unison, and finally bird #2 wrapped his neck around the neck of bird #1 and eventually placed his neck atop bird #1's neck. Eventually, both of these cormorants appeared to fall asleep as both stopped moving. Throughout this period they shared bird #1's original snag. During the entire time of my observation, none of the 200+ Double-crested Cormorants shared a snag with another, nor did any engage in any sort of mating behavior. **Paul Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55409.**

FALL RECORD OF LAZULI BUNTING ON THE NORTH SHORE — At about noon on 26 October 2003, ten other birders and I observed a female-plumaged Lazuli Bunting at milepost 121 along Minnesota State Highway 61, about ten miles east of Grand Marais in Cook County. It was feeding on the ground out in the open, among a small flock of Snow Buntings and American Tree Sparrows. After being observed for about two minutes, it flew off to the west and could not be relocated by ourselves or other birders in the area that day or the next. Dennis Martin was able to take two quick photos of the bird before it disappeared.



The bird was a little smaller and thinner than a Snow Bunting, closer to American Tree Sparrow in size, but not as thin as the sparrow and more compact in shape. The bill shape was sparrow or bunting-like, and mostly dark. It had a dark eye with an indistinct whitish eye ring and whitish lores. Its unmarked breast was uniformly buff or peach-colored; this color did not extend onto the throat, yet there was no clear contrast with the throat, and this color did not extend down its flanks or onto the belly. We carefully studied its underparts to confirm that they were unstreaked. The throat was grayish-brown, about as dark as the breast but paler than the upperparts. The belly and flanks were whitish/grayish. There were two thin but obvious whitish wing-bars; the lower bar was a bit thicker and longer than the upper one. The overall color of its upperparts (head, nape, back, and wings) was grayish-brown with no sign of any buff tones. Its tail and rump colors were not seen, and its leg color was not noted.

There was nothing anomalous about its appearance to suggest it was a hybrid. This individual was distinguished from Indigo Bunting by a combination of several features: its thin but obvious whitish wing-bars, the lack of any trace of streaks or smudges on its underparts, the lack of contrast between its throat and breast colors, the peach tones confined to its breast and not extending onto its throat or flanks and belly, its overall grayish-brown upperparts contrasting with the breast color, and by the lack of warm brown or buff-brown tones on its upperparts.

Although there are about 30 Minnesota records of this Casual species on file, this apparently represents the first fall record accepted by the MOU Records Committee, with virtually all previous records in May. This Lazuli Bunting also represents one of only a few northeastern Minnesota records, with the last accepted sighting in this part of the state in Duluth in May 1984 (*The Loon* 56:262). **Kim Eckert, 1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.**

FERRUGINOUS HAWK IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — For about 20 minutes near mid-day on 12 October 2003, John Hockema and I watched a Ferruginous Hawk soaring near Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle County. Its underparts were a very clean white as were its underwings, except for very minimal speckling on the underwing coverts and prominent blackish commas at the tips of these coverts. The throat, breast, and belly were clean white. The tail on the underside was mostly white, but blended into faint gray bands towards the tail tip. On the upper side, the tail also appeared mostly white, but with faint dark speckling and again



blending into gray bands near the tail tip. The upperwing primaries were strikingly white, with the white continuing through the secondaries and becoming fainter towards the body. This created windows that were arranged perpendicular to the hawk's body, as the white did not extend onto the upperwing coverts. The upperwing coverts appeared dark grayish, contrasting with the light primaries. The bird's head appeared mostly white.

In comparison to Red-tailed Hawks (which we had been observing for several hours before sighting this bird), the Ferruginous Hawk appeared longer-winged and bigger-bodied. The tail also looked somewhat larger and less rounded compared to a Red-tailed's. We concluded that this was a juvenile light-morph Ferruginous Hawk, which I have seen before in Texas and Arizona.

It was mentioned to me that this would tie the seventh latest date on record (an adult was documented at Felton Prairie last year on the same date). It did not seem particularly odd to me for the bird to be seen on this date, since strong westerly winds had prevailed over most of the preceding few weeks and these very conditions made John and I hopeful of finding a Ferruginous Hawk in western Minnesota. **Bob Dunlap, 1194 Wildwood Court, Chaska, MN 56318.**

FIRST OCCURRENCE OF SABINE'S GULL ON LAKE WINNIBIGOSHISH — During a



20 September 2003 survey of loons and other waterbirds at Lake Winnibigoshish, I spotted a juvenile Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) in flight approximately 400–500 yards northeast of Tamarack Point. When first seen, the bird was clearly within the Cass County portion of the lake (the county line roughly follows the old Mississippi River channel from the Lake Winnie dam to a point about two miles due north of Tamarack Point, then turns to the southwest and bisects the Mississippi River on the west side of the lake). I watched the gull from 11:35 to 11:50

A.M. as it worked its way slowly towards the east. By the time it disappeared, I judged it to be well within the Itasca County portion of the lake — I have surveyed this lake more than 50 times since 1996, mostly from shore but several times by boat, and made this judgment based on prior experience.

It was smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and about the same size as Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*), though not by direct comparison since none of the latter were in the same field of view. Though clearly a gull, it exhibited graceful, liting, tern-like flight. Its crown, nape, sides of the neck, back, and a triangular-shaped portion of its inner wing, including most of the secondary coverts, were grayish-brown; this contrasted strongly with a black wedge along the leading edge of its outer upperwing and a broad, white triangle along the trailing edge of its upperwing. Its rump and tail were white except for a black terminal tail band. The tail shape was slightly forked. There was limited opportunity to see its underparts since I was looking down at the bird from a high bluff along the lakeshore, but its underwings were occasionally visible as it banked or dipped down to the surface of the lake while feeding; its underwings appeared whitish, except for a dusky line along the margin of its underwing coverts. I was unable to detect color of its bare parts.

Juvenile Bonaparte's Gull lacks the well-defined upperwing triangles shown by this individual and instead, shows a dark carpal bar, grayish secondaries, mostly whitish primaries, and a black trailing edge on its upperwing surface. Other gull species were easily eliminated by wing pattern. This represents the first record of the Sabine's Gull for Lake Winnibigoshish, which has (so far!) attracted eight gull species, including two Little Gulls (*The Loon* 72:10–13, 75:91), one or two Black-legged Kittiwakes (*The Loon* 68:247, 69:44), and the state's second Mew Gull (*The Loon* 69:7–10). **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812–1533.**

FALL SAGE THRASHER IN COOK COUNTY



— On 17 October 2003, while birding with Kim Eckert's Minnesota Birding Weekend group, I found a Sage Thrasher at the Grand Marais campground in Cook County. I was walking with Scott and Marilyn Clark among the mountain ash and red pine trees just west of the pavilion when a pale grayish-brown, robin-sized bird flew off the ground and perched in a shrub. My initial impression was that this was a Sage Thrasher, but I hadn't seen one in almost ten years and I thought a young Northern Mockingbird could look similar. But after a few moments at close view it was clear that it

was indeed a Sage Thrasher.

The underparts were pale whitish with heavy streaks of brown, and two thin wing bars were evident on the otherwise smooth grayish-brown wings. The back and crown were the same pale grayish-brown as the wings. There was a thin white half-crescent behind the auriculars, and it had a faint, pale eyestripe. The iris was pale yellow, but it wasn't obvious in the late-afternoon overcast conditions. The bill was decurved and very short compared to a Northern Mockingbird. It appeared slate gray at the base, becoming darker near the tip. In flight, the tail was rounded and the corners each had an obvious thick white stripe at the end. The white tips were also visible from underneath on the folded tail. It had a plump appearance and it held its tail cocked in the air when it ran. The bird foraged mainly on the ground and ran along the ground several times, rather than flying. After about 20 minutes, the bird flew off towards the beach and we did not pursue it. The bird was seen by dozens of observers in subsequent weeks in the same general area, at least as late as 11 November.

This is the ninth Minnesota record for this Accidental species and the third fall record, but it is actually the second record for Cook County. A Sage Thrasher was found on the east side of Grand Marais by Ken and Molly Hoffman in May 1987 (*The Loon* 59:150–151). The other two fall records are from Hennepin County on 23–29 October 1994 (*The Loon* 66:206) and the first state record (a road-killed bird) on 19 October 1974 in Yellow Medicine County (*The Loon* 47:129). **Jim Lind, 320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616.**

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN DAKOTA COUNTY



— While birding on 18 October 2003, I stopped to check some sparrows perched on utility wires at Spring Lake Regional Park, Dakota County, and noticed a larger, robin-sized bird on the wire. When I looked at it through my binoculars from a distance of 150–200 feet, I could see that the predominant color was gray, and that it had a flycatcher shape and a very long tail. I knew immediately that it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). It began hawking insects, and every time it turned back towards the wire, it spread its long, forked tail.

The bird's head and breast were pale gray, with a darker area on the side of the face. The wings were darker than the body. The upper surface of its tail was dark, with white outer edges. Its flanks and belly, seen in the sunlight, were bright golden-yellow. In my judgment, the tail length was that of an immature, rather than an adult, as illustrated in the *Sibley* field guide. None of us saw the salmon-pink color shown in the field guides.

The bird remained in the area while I and others participating in a St. Paul Audubon Society field trip watched it through binoculars and a spotting scope. It was also documented by Paul Budde and Drew Smith, and photographed by Dave Cahlander the following day (see *The Loon* 76:85). **Julian Sellers, 1875 Juliet Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105.**



Sage Thrasher, 8 November 2003, Grand Marais, Cook County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

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

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



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Population Declines in a Boreal Forest Denizen, the White-throated Sparrow

Jim Lind and JoAnn Hanowski

The White-throated Sparrow is one of the most abundant forest birds of northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada. It is a short-distance migrant that breeds across Canada and northern portions of the U.S., and winters primarily in the southeastern and east-central U.S (Falls and Kopachena 1994). It nests on the ground in coniferous and mixed forest types, particularly lowland coniferous and early-successional habitats with a dense shrub layer. Partners in Flight estimates that 85% of the global population of White-throated Sparrows breeds in the boreal forest of Canada, with about 10% breeding in the forests of the Great Lakes (including 1.2% in Minnesota and 0.4% in Wisconsin) and the remainder breeding in New England (Carter *et al.* 2000). On its southeastern U.S. wintering grounds, it is found in areas with dense shrubs, and is a frequent visitor to bird feeders.

The White-throated Sparrow is often the second or third most abundant species detected during the summer on survey sites in northern Minnesota (Hanowski *et al.* 2003). To many observers, its familiar "Old Sam Peabody" song seems like a permanent fixture on the northern forest landscape. However, the White-throated Sparrow is experiencing population declines across much of its breeding and wintering range.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) trends from Canada, the United States, and the combined Eastern BBS region indicate that White-throated Sparrow populations are declining at rates of -0.7% to -0.9% annually from 1966–2002, although state-wide analyses from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan show stable population trends (Sauer *et al.* 2003). Average

counts from BBS routes in Minnesota and the U.S. as a whole during 2002 were at their lowest since the beginning of surveys in 1966. Survey-wide and Canada-wide BBS counts hit their lowest point in 1999. Widespread declines have been documented from forest bird monitoring programs in northern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin (Lind *et al.* 2003) and in northeastern Wisconsin (Howe and Roberts, *in press*). In a recent analysis of the range of natural variation of forest songbirds in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests, based on habitat associations and historic land cover data, it was estimated that White-throated Sparrow populations on both forests are currently below the range of historic population levels (Hanowski and Danz 2003). White-throated Sparrow numbers have also declined on Christmas Bird Counts in several states across their southeastern U.S. wintering range (National Audubon Society 2003).

Long-term declines in a species as common and widespread as the White-throated Sparrow are cause for concern, and changes in breeding habitat on the regional and continental landscape should be examined. We will focus on results from a long-term forest bird monitoring program (1991–2003) in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin to explore recent regional and continental population trends for the White-throated Sparrow, describe its forest cover affinities during the breeding season, and discuss potential causes for observed trends.

Methods

Since the early 1990s, breeding season bird surveys have been conducted an-



White-throated Sparrow, 23 April 2004, Dunning Lake, Itasca County. Photo by Earl Orf.

nually at more than 1400 off-road, habitat-specific points in four study areas in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin (Hanowski and Niemi 1995). Surveys were initiated in 1991 on the Superior and Chippewa National Forests (National Forest) in northern Minnesota, and in 1992 on the Chequamegon National Forest (in northwestern Wisconsin) and state-owned lands in east-central Minnesota. Three survey points were established in each forest stand sampled on the national forests, and one point was established per stand in east-central Minnesota. Ten-minute, 100 meter radius point counts were conducted once a year during June and early July. Point counts were conducted by experienced and trained surveyors following regional and national protocols (Ralph *et al.* 1993, Hanowski and Niemi 1995, Howe *et al.* 1997). Population trends were calculated annually for about 70 species across the four study areas (Lind *et al.* 2003). We also combined data from

the three national forests and calculated a “regional” White-throated Sparrow trend. To examine population changes within different forest cover types, we used the combined data from the three national forests and calculated trends within broad habitat type categories.

Forest cover affinities for the White-throated Sparrow in the three national forests were calculated with the indicator value method, using the following formula: (proportional frequency) x (proportional abundance) x 100 (Dufrene and Legendre 1997). This straightforward method provides an objective ranking of cover type affinities for a given species based on both frequency and abundance. Because indicator values are scaled from 0–100, direct comparisons of habitat affinities across classification schemes is possible. To examine affinities within different habitat groupings, we conducted five separate analyses, one at each of five levels of forest type classification (coarse

Study area	# of stands	% annual change	P
Superior NF	126	-5.8%	0.00
Chippewa NF	50	-8.0%	0.00
Chequamegon NF	40	-4.8%	0.01
East-central Minn.	25	-5.0%	0.02
Regional (3 NFs combined)	216	-6.6%	0.00

Table 1. White-throated Sparrow population trends by study area (1991–2003).

Forest cover type	Regional			Superior NF		
	# of stands	% annual change	P	# of stands	% annual change	P
Regenerating upland coniferous	4	-0.138	0.01	4	-0.138	0.01
Regenerating upland deciduous	26	-0.112	0.00	23	-0.106	0.00
Upland coniferous	29	-0.065	0.02	16	-0.084	0.00
Upland mixed	22	-0.082	0.00	14	-0.071	0.01
Upland deciduous	49	-0.063	0.00	36	-0.044	0.03
Lowland coniferous	48	-0.074	0.00	12	-0.027	0.07
Lowland deciduous	11	-0.042	0.04			

Table 2. White-throated Sparrow population trends by cover type for the three National Forests combined (regional), and the Superior National Forest individually (1991–2003).

Coarse Cover Types		Broad Cover Types		Fine Cover Types	
Lowland	37	Lowland conifer	14	Black spruce	18
Upland	9	Regenerating upland decid.	11	Fir/Aspen/Birch	7
		Upland mixed	9	Mixed swamp conifer	7
Regenerating	32	Lowland deciduous	5	Aspen/Birch	4
Mature	12	Regenerating upland conif.	4	Ash/Elm/Red maple	3
		Upland deciduous	2	White pine	3
Coniferous	22	Upland coniferous	1	Jack pine	1
Non-coniferous	14			Red pine	1
				Upland maple	0

Table 3. Indicator values describing cover affinities of White-throated Sparrows on the Superior, Chippewa, and Chequamegon National Forests.

to fine): lowland/upland, regenerating/mature, coniferous/non-coniferous, seven broad cover types (combinations of the three previous classifications), and ten fine cover types (determined by the dominant canopy species).

We calculated population trends within the seven broad cover type categories, using the combined data from the three national forests. Sample sizes of stands with White-throated Sparrows are small (≤ 5 stands) for most of the broad cover types

within individual study areas, except in the Superior National Forest where White-throated Sparrows are especially well-represented. Therefore, we also calculated population trends by broad cover type in the Superior National Forest.

To examine the effect of shrub density on White-throated Sparrow occurrence at the site level, we used analysis of variance to test for differences in relative abundance across five categories (1 = low shrub density, 5 = high shrub

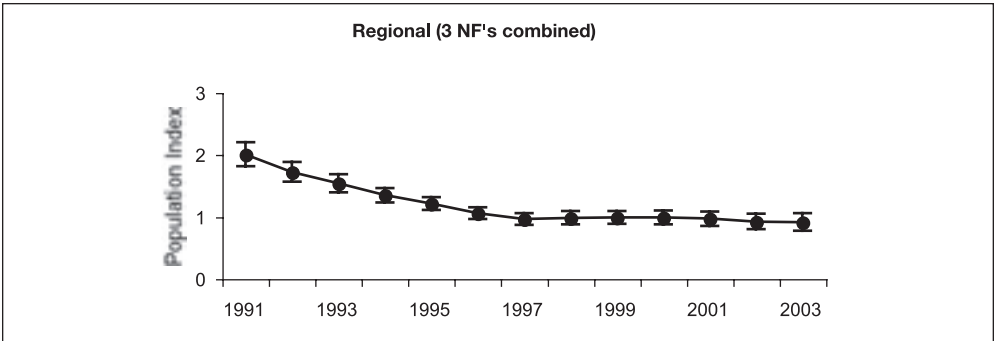


Figure 1. Regional population trend of the White-throated Sparrows on the Superior, Chippewa, and Chequamegon national forests (1991–2003). Population index represents average bird abundance per stand per year. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

density), with all cover types combined. Shrub density was measured by tallying woody stems < 2.5 cm within ten meters of each point. We also categorized our survey points by age of the dominant canopy trees, based on information from the U.S. Forest Service, and our own observations of logging activities since the beginning of monitoring. We then calculated the average White-throated Sparrow relative abundance by age categories.

Results

The White-throated Sparrow has declined significantly ($P < 0.05$) on each of the four study areas and regionally since monitoring began (Table 1, Figure 1). Annual rates of decline ranged from -4.8% on the Chequamegon National Forest to -8.0% on the Chippewa National Forest. The regional rate of decline for the three national forests combined was -6.6% annually. Each study area has shown a pattern of relatively steep declines from the early to mid-1990s followed by stable to slightly declining trends from about 1997 to 2003. White-throated Sparrow abundance reached its lowest point in 2003 in all study areas except the Chequamegon National Forest.

The declining trend of White-throated Sparrow was consistent across the seven broad cover types within the combined three national forests (Table 2). The annual rate of decline was highest in re-

generating upland stands, and lowest in lowland deciduous stands. Results were similar on the Superior National Forest, except that the lowest rate of decline was on lowland coniferous stands, and the decline was marginally significant ($P = 0.07$).

White-throated Sparrows were detected in nearly all cover types, but appeared to prefer certain types. When considering the coarse forest classifications, maximum indicator values were found in the lowland cover type, followed by regenerating forest, then coniferous forest types (Table 3). The lowland conifer broad cover type had the highest indicator value, followed by regenerating upland deciduous. Upland coniferous and upland deciduous had the lowest indicator values. At the finest classification, affinities were found for several coniferous and mixed cover types, but the highest indicator value was found in the black spruce cover type. Upland maple, red pine, and jack pine cover types had the lowest indicator values. In a previous multi-species analysis of fine cover types, only Connecticut Warbler and Nashville Warbler had higher indicator values (27 and 21, respectively) for black spruce (*unpubl. data*).

White-throated Sparrow relative abundance was lowest at sites with low (1–2) shrub density and highest at points with high (4–5) shrub density ($F_4=2.38$, $P=0.04$; Figure 2). Average relative abun-

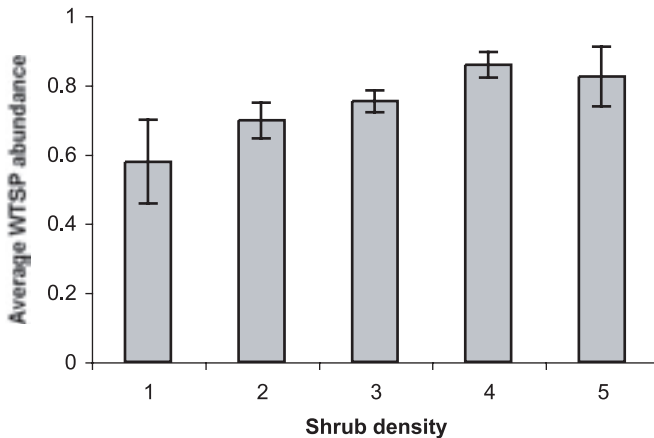


Figure 2. Average White-throated Sparrow abundance per point (\pm SE) by shrub density categories (1 = low shrub density, 5 = high shrub density).

dance on points in the 0–10 age category was higher than in older age categories, with no apparent differences among the later categories (Figure 3).

Discussion

The continental decline of the White-throated Sparrow on BBS routes is reflected in results from our monitoring program. Populations have declined on our study areas from the early 1990s and have remained relatively stable since the mid to late-1990s, without rebounding to early 1990s levels. Continental declines of White-throated Sparrows in BBS data dating back to the mid 1960s suggest our trends are part of a large-scale decline. Possible causes of these declines could include changes in the amount of suitable White-throated Sparrow habitat on the landscape, the condition of the landscapes around suitable habitat, or altered microhabitats (e.g. shrubs) at the site level.

Timber harvest is the most prevalent disturbance on our study areas, and results from our forest age analysis would indicate that conversion of mature forest to 0–10 year old forest should result in a substantial increase in White-throated Sparrows (Figure 3). However, the highest indicator values were found in mature lowland conifer types (Table 3), suggest-

ing that this is the preferred habitat type. In a study in the mixed boreal forest of Alberta, Rangen *et al.* (2000) found reproductive success of White-throated Sparrows to be more than three times greater in older forest stands (75–100 years) than in younger stands (25 years). In another Alberta study, Hannah (2001) found that although densities of singing White-throated Sparrows were highest in recent clearcuts, reproductive success was significantly higher in mature interior forests (≥ 200 m from forest/clearcut edge) than in clearcuts.

In our study, White-throated Sparrow population declines were consistent across broad cover types, with the possible exception of lowland conifer stands in the Superior National Forest. Although relative abundance was highest on 0–10 year old sites, cover type affinity was strongest for lowland conifer cover types such as black spruce. This suggests that conservation efforts should focus on maintaining lowland conifer habitats on the landscape.

The White-throated Sparrow is one of several ground-nesting species we monitor that have declining trends, including Winter Wren, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Nashville Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler,

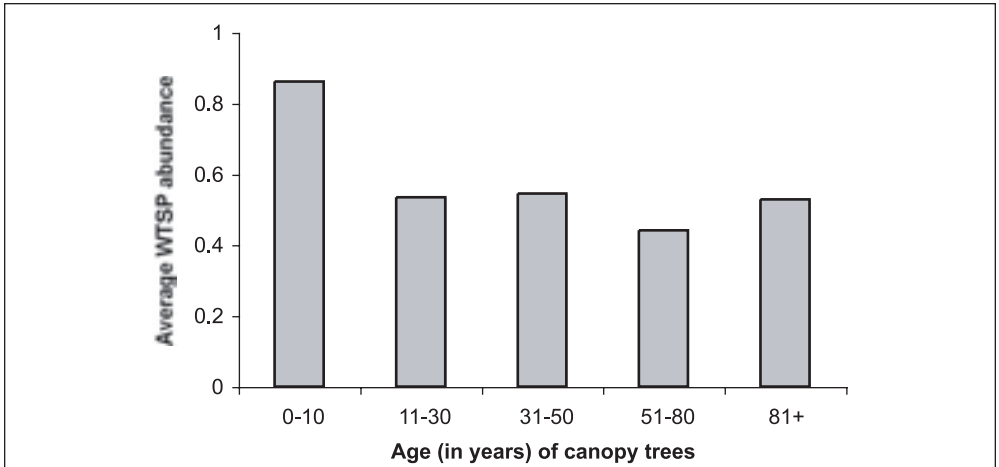


Figure 3. Average White-throated Sparrow abundance per point by age of dominant canopy trees.

Common Yellowthroat, and Song Sparrow. The majority of decreasing species in each of our study areas are ground-nesters (Lind *et al.* 2003).

Recent research on ground-nesting forest birds in the region has documented negative impacts of habitat fragmentation on reproductive success, mainly due to nest predation. Decreased nest success at forest edges along recent clearcuts has been found for Ovenbird and Hermit Thrush in the Chippewa National Forest (Manolis *et al.* 2002) and in north-east Wisconsin (Flaspholer *et al.* 2001). In north-central Minnesota, Mattsson (2001) found lower nest survival rates for Ovenbirds as the amount of edge habitat increased on the landscape and forest patch size decreased. These studies contradict the dogma that habitat fragmentation has little or no impact on songbird reproductive success in forest-dominated landscapes. The conversion of mature forest to early successional habitat, along with the reductions in average forest patch size and increases in edge habitat, may be reducing productivity of White-throated Sparrow populations.

There are indications that White-throated Sparrow nesting habitat is being fragmented at increasing rates in recent years.

Canada is the world's leading exporter of timber and clearcutting represents 80% of the annual harvest (Global Forest Watch 2000). The forests of southern Ontario and Quebec at the core of the White-throated Sparrow's breeding range have experienced extensive fragmentation by timber harvest and development. In addition to timber harvest, developments in Canada's boreal forest such as mining, petroleum extraction, and agriculture are increasing at rates that may be unsustainable.

Concerns about forest change are not unique to Canada. Wolter and White (2002) used satellite imagery from north-east Minnesota to document substantial increases in edge habitat on the landscape from 1990–1995, as well as reductions in average forest patch size and amounts of forest interior. Residential, commercial and recreational developments are also increasing in northeast Minnesota (Anderson *et al.* 2003). Research has demonstrated that these types of changes in forested landscapes have significant effects on the nesting success of ground-nesting birds such as the White-throated Sparrow (Flaspholer *et al.* 2001, Mattson 2001, Manolis *et al.* 2002). Reducing the amount of habitat fragmentation on the landscape

(e.g. reducing amounts of edge habitat, increasing forest patch sizes) in an effort to mitigate potential impacts of increasing nest predation may be prudent. This could also benefit several other forest bird species showing population declines in the region.

At the site level, abundance of White-throated Sparrows was highest on survey points with high shrub density. Studies on this and other forest songbirds such as Black-throated Blue Warblers and Hooded Warblers have found that shrub density is positively correlated with relative abundance and nesting success (Clark *et al.* 1983, Holmes *et al.* 1996, Bisson and Stutchbury 2000). Remote sensing data on long-term changes in understory condition at a landscape scale are not readily available, however, silvicultural prescriptions for aspen stands traditionally have included the removal of the conifer understory component. Current forest management guidelines include the retention of understory conifer on harvested sites (Minnesota Forest Resources Council 1999), but the prior removal of the conifer understory on the landscape could be negatively affecting White-throated Sparrows and other conifer-associated species.

At least half of the White-throated Sparrow's annual cycle is spent away from the breeding grounds, and limitations during winter and migration also may be causing declines. Although habitat use becomes more plastic during the non-breeding season (Falls and Kopachena 1994), forest loss and conversion in the southeastern U.S. may reduce overwinter survival of White-throated Sparrows. Factors such as weather, predation, pesticides, disease, collisions, and climate change also could be affecting population trends.

Even with all of these threats, the White-throated Sparrow is currently one of the most abundant breeding land birds in Canada and the northern U.S. While recent population trends are alarming, they can serve as an impetus for bird conservation across the northern forests. Recent bird conservation efforts such as Partners in Flight and the North Ameri-

can Bird Conservation Initiative are focusing on keeping common birds common. Efforts to conserve populations of White-throated Sparrows will certainly benefit many other forest bird species. Additional research is needed on the causes of population declines, including productivity and survival rates in different habitats, and threats on migration and wintering ground constraints.

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Minnesota Christmas Bird Count Review

14 December 2003 – 5 January 2004

Roger Schroeder

Minnesota experienced a below average Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season after a few remarkable years. Minnesota efforts compiled from 61 CBC areas recorded only 124 species on Count Day tallying 245,964 individual birds, which is the second lowest number of species, and third lowest number of individuals counted in the last ten years. A total of seven species observed during the count period were not recorded on Count Day, tying that statistic for the second time. Black-crowned Night-Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Pintail, Gyrfalcon, Franklin's Gull, Snowy Owl, and Short-eared Owl were not seen on Count Day. Bloomington led the way with 64 Count Day species while six other census areas tallied 50 or more: Winona (58), Duluth (57), St. Paul North (56) Excelsior (54), Northwest McLeod (50), and Rochester (50). Table 1 highlights a 5-year comparison of the top ten count areas with regards to the total number of Count Day species observed.

A Ride on the Weather Train

Weather before and during the CBC season might be best described as a roller coaster ride. In early November unseasonably cold temperatures followed a storm system that left snow cover over most of Minnesota. The deepest snow was in northern Minnesota where numerous record minimum temperatures were also set. For example, International Falls received nine inches of snow in the first week of November, followed by a record low of -9° on 7 November. That cold was followed by unseasonably warm weather in the middle of November over much of Minnesota, which produced some near record highs in the 50s in the southern

part of the state. Late November returned to snowfall in Central Minnesota with areas between Little Falls and Wadena recording ten inches of snow. Early December ushered in warmer weather interspersed with high accumulations of snow. In southeast Minnesota, moderate to heavy snow fell on 9–10 December that extended north to the Twin Cities suburb of New Hope, which received 11 inches. Immediately following the opening days of the CBC, a burst of snow covered nearly all of Minnesota on the 15th and 16th. Accumulations were heaviest across the central and northern regions with six inches falling in Cambridge, Moorhead, and Hinckley. Snow also fell in the Arrowhead region with four to six inch snows common. After the storm, however, mild temperatures held in the high 20s to high 30s throughout most of Minnesota for the remainder of December. After a happy and mild New Year's Day, the cold returned with a vengeance. Bitter cold temperatures and strong winds made the final weekend of the 104th CBC season unpleasant to say the least, though perseverance paid off with better than expected results. For example, Grand Rapids tallied two species more than its 10-year average with 31 Count Day species despite a high temperature of only 5° F.

Unfocused

Audubon's CBC focus this season was on boreal species; however, that focus did not entice exuberant representation in Minnesota. The majority of boreal species appearing on Minnesota CBCs tend to have nomadic tendencies that are primarily based on weather conditions and available food supply. For this reason extensive fluctuations in numbers oc-

2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000
Bloomington . 64	Bloomington . 69	Duluth 73	Winona 66	Winona 73
Duluth 57	Excelsior 62	Bloomington . . 68	Bloomington . . 63	Bloomington . . 71
St. Paul (N) . . 56	St. Paul (N) . . 57	Winona 67	Rochester . . . 58	Excelsior 61
Excelsior 54	Winona 53	Excelsior 62	Excelsior 57	St. Paul (N) . . 58
Winona 53	Rochester 53	Rochester 60	Duluth 54	Duluth 56
Rochester 50	Duluth 52	Willmar 58	St. Paul (NE) . 52	Rochester 53
NW McLeod . . 50	Hastings-Etter . 52	St Paul (NE) . . 55	St. Paul (N) . . 51	St. Paul (NE) . . 53
Fergus Falls . . 49	St. Paul (NE) . . 51	St. Paul (N) . . . 54	Faribault 51	Fergus Falls . . . 53
St. Paul (NE) . 49	Albert Lea 50	Mankato 53	Wabasha 46	Afton 50
Two Harbors . . 49	Faribault 49	Fergus Falls . . . 52	Fergus Falls . . 44	Willmar 50

Table 1: Count circles with the highest number of Count Day species since 1999-2000.

cur from year to year for most boreal birds in Minnesota. Though nearly all of Minnesota's boreal species were observed this season, they were tallied in few total numbers. The one notable exception was Black-backed Woodpecker, with a Minnesota record of 34 individuals reported from seven census areas including a first ever for the International Falls CBC, and a remarkable 15 individuals on the Roseau count alone!

Evening Grosbeak Concern

In light of the factors affecting CBC numbers of "boreal" species in Minnesota, a quick look at CBC data for one species, Evening Grosbeak, raises concern. CBC totals for Evening Grosbeak have been in steady decline for the last seven years; the 432 birds seen last season was the second lowest total for this species in the last 44 years. This decline has occurred despite the fact that participation and effort data for Minnesota CBCs where Evening Grosbeak can be expected to occur has increased. To highlight the potential concern, Table 2 compares Evening Grosbeak (EVEGRO) CBC Data from six different time periods. Each time period compares various average annual statistics. (NOTE: Less than half of all Minnesota CBCs have ever reported Evening Grosbeak. Therefore, Table 2 only uses data from CBC locations that are within regions of Minnesota where Evening Grosbeak has been previously observed on CBCs.) To understand the comparisons represented in Table 2, consider the data related to

the 35-year time period. During the last 35 years in Minnesota CBC history, an average of 18 CBCs were conducted per year in areas suitable for Evening Grosbeak. On average, 15 of those 18 counts reported Evening Grosbeak, with the average number counted per year during that 35-year time period being 1,257 individuals. This equates to an average of 85.6 Evening Grosbeaks per count circle per year during that time frame.

A variety of factors such as extent of coverage, number of participants, and number of census areas in suitable habitat may, of course, influence such figures. In this case however, census areas with suitable Evening Grosbeak habitat have been added in recent years. Furthermore, levels of participation and the extent of participation effort (e.g. miles and hours of foot travel) either have remained stable or have increased for most census areas. It is hoped that these numbers are not indicative of an emerging problem for this delightful species, as there was a time (15-20 years ago) when it was not unheard of to have Evening Grosbeak occasionally showing up on counts as far removed from their typical locations as Willmar (Central) or Winona (Southeast).

A Most Welcome Invasion

Winter invasions in Minnesota usually refer to boreal species such as Great Gray Owl, Pine Grosbeak, or Common Redpoll. These species crept into Minnesota in below average numbers, clearing the way for perhaps the biggest "invasion" surprise of

Time period	Average # CBCs within recent winter range per year	Average # CBCs reporting Evening Grosbeak	Average annual total census	Average annual number of Evening Grosbeaks per count circle
35-year average (1969–2004)	18	15	1,257	85.6
30-year average (1974–2004)	19	15	1,233	84.2
25-year average (1979–2004)	20	14	1,218	88.8
20-year average (1984–2004)	21	13	1,056	82.5
15-year average (1989–2004)	22	12	905	74.6
10-year average (1994–2004)	23	12	848	71.9
5-year average (1999–2004)	23	11	534	48.5

Table 2: Trend of Evening Grosbeak CBC totals for Minnesota.

the season: **Tufted Titmouse**. An astonishing 26 birds were counted from seven different areas including a remarkable 18 on the Winona CBC alone! This represents the highest Tufted Titmouse number reported in 32 years! Tufted Titmouse was reported for the first time on the 31-year old Owatonna CBC (three birds), while Hastings–Etter, and Rochester each reported two birds, and Wabasha had one individual. New Ulm also reported a Tufted Titmouse during count week.

New to the Neighborhood

Only one species this season made a first appearance into one of Minnesota's nine geographic regions (down from 11 new geographical region additions the previous season). Wild Turkey was observed for the first time on the Northeast Minnesota CBC of Carlton–Cloquet, begging the question of just how far this species will expand its range, and how viable that expansion will be. A new high total of 1,781 was observed this season.

Some of the well-established (10+ years of continuity) CBCs in Minnesota added new species to their composite lists that are worth mentioning. Leading the list of new additions was not just one, but ten Harris's Sparrows for the first time on the Warren CBC. Also from the Northwest, Detroit Lakes recorded its first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Evening Grosbeak of its 14-year history. Little Falls added four new birds to its composite list; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wild Turkey, Buffle-

head, and Red-shouldered Hawk, while both Sherburne and Long Prairie CBCs added one species; American Coot. Minnesota's second ever Franklin's Gull was observed on the Bloomington count, while the farthest south report of Red Crossbill came from Lamberton. In the long-overdue category, Isabella reported its first Rough-legged Hawk, while Itasca State Park tallied two House Finches, and Mankato had its first Long-eared Owl. Mankato also found its first Yellow-rumped Warbler, and reported a Turkey Vulture. Unfortunately, no details of the vulture were supplied. Until details are received it cannot be included in the final totals. From the Northland, a lone Brown Creeper was still hanging around near the Canadian border on the Roseau CBC, while the Mourning Dove made its first appearance at a Grand Rapids CBC feeder. Waterbirds added significant numbers to the list of first occurrences on some of Minnesota's established CBCs with Gadwall being reported both at Owatonna and Faribault. Albert Lea reported its first Ring-necked Duck, while Mankato had its first Common Merganser. Fergus Falls added Ring-billed Gull and Double-crested Cormorant to its Count Day composite list, and the Willmar CBC turned up a Wilson's Snipe.

Future Mourning?

One species that may be of interest to watch over the next few years is Mourning Dove. Last season, Mourning Dove

numbers reached a new high mark of 1,772, including the first-time ever reported on the Grand Rapids CBC. This is an increase of nearly 12% over the previous high mark, and the 11th year in a row that the season census of Mourning Dove was greater than the cumulative 20-year average. Beginning in September 2004, however, Minnesota hunters were again allowed to harvest Mourning Doves during the fall migration. Of course, the major factors affecting most species census data are weather conditions, and CBC participation. It will, nonetheless, be interesting to see if the highly anticipated turnout for the first Mourning Dove hunting season since 1946 results in observable changes in future CBC results. It will also be interesting to discover how many hunters know the difference between Mourning, and Eurasian Collared-Dove; a species that is rapidly exciting birders in Minnesota with successful nesting and over-wintering efforts.

Highs and Lows

Despite the average year, a few new high tallies occurred last season. Trumpeter Swan CBC totals continue to rise, reaching a new high mark of 1,338 birds. This a 17% increase over the previous high count. Both Sharp-shinned (16% increase) and Cooper's Hawk (12% increase) tallied new high totals, and the 11 Peregrine Falcons observed last year was four more than the previous high. Sharp-shinned and Coopers hawks were also reported from more census areas than ever before, with Sharp-shinned Hawk being observed on 29 counts, and Cooper's reported on 20 counts including a first ever for the Duluth CBC. Bald Eagle was another species that was reported from more census areas than ever before; 46 counts. Red-bellied Woodpecker was observed on 52 CBCs including the first ever from Crookston, Hibbing, and Two Harbors. Pileated Woodpecker was reported from 57 counts including a long overdue first for the Mountain Lake-Windom CBC. Rounding out the list are Mourning Dove from 45 CBCs, Belted Kingfisher

(26), Northern Shrike (49), and American Goldfinch (55). Wild Turkey, which was first reported only 16 years ago on *one* Minnesota CBC, was seen on more than half (33) of the counts this season.

Considering census areas, five new high totals for number of Count Day species were established. Northwest McLeod shattered its previous record of 42 Count Day species — increasing the new total to 50 Count Day species! Two Harbors (49) improved its high count by four species on Count Day, and both Wabasha (49) and Marshall (44) improved their high marks by two species. Incidentally, Two Harbors also increased their total census to 2,960 total birds; the only established count area last season other than Little Falls (2,211 total birds) to improve upon its total census. Minnesota added a new count to its repertoire; the Philbrook CBC — started by John and Susan Kroll — covers northern Todd County and debuted with 27 species. Not all census areas had such desirable results. Bemidji, Excelsior, Rochester, and Winona all had Count Day totals that were five species fewer than their respective 10-year averages. Without the usually high numbers of Canada Geese, the total bird census on the Lac Qui Parle CBC was 30,551 birds fewer than their 10-year average. Rochester total census numbers also reflected a lack of waterfowl; closing at 12,195 fewer birds than their 10-year average, while both the Winona, and Excelsior CBC final census numbers were about 4,000 fewer. However, many reports indicated that the CBC participants still had fun!

Not Wanting to Go

Two unusual highlights from the past season included a record-setting eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers from seven locations — two of these on the Detroit Lakes CBC. Another bird usually gone from Minnesota by the start of CBC season is Brown Thrasher. After a two year absence from Minnesota CBCs, a total of six birds was reported. This tied the Minnesota record for the most number of Brown Thrashers seen in one CBC sea-



Tufted Titmouse, 21 December 2003, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.

son, and included the first ever for both Isabella and Two Harbors. Two birds were reported from the Metro Area counts of Bloomington, and Minneapolis (North), while two individuals were tallied on the Duluth count. Carolina Wrens kept Twin Cities birders hopping; St. Paul (north) recorded its first ever Carolina Wren, while Excelsior tallied at least one bird (possibly two). The St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) CBC also reported one individual during the count period. Somehow, compiler Steve Millard coaxed a Varied Thrush to show up on both of northwestern Minnesota CBCs he coordinates — Fergus Falls and Battle Lake. Other treats for CBC participants include Golden Eagle, which was reported from three census locations including a first for Pillager; Hoary Redpoll, which was observed on four CBCs; and the first Western Grebe observed on any Minnesota CBC in 26 years — and the first ever reported in the current Duluth CBC circle.

Thank You

I want to first extend a special thank you to Dennis Martin for 14 years of exceptional coordination of Excelsior's CBC, and for his many years of serving as Minnesota's CBC Coordinator. Also to Karl Bardon and Anthony Hertzell for dedicating so much of their time and effort to review and publish Minnesota CBC data. My personal thanks go out to Martin Kehoe (Beltrami Island, and Baudette CBCs) for his hospitality and care in one of Minnesota's most remote CBC areas, and to Janet Peterson (Hibbing) for patiently sticking with that count despite few volunteers. Most importantly, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the excellent group of volunteers that make Minnesota CBCs exceptionally enjoyable. Participants, compilers, reviewers, family, and friends help to create a warmth that is persistent enough to erase any winter chill. You're the best!

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Species	ABLEA	AFTON	AUROR	AUSTN	BATLK	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	CEDRC	COOK	COTTN	CRLCL	CROOK	CROSB
Greater White-fronted Goose															
Snow Goose															
Canada Goose	77	962		2,825	927		6	1,078				3			
Mute Swan															
Trumpeter Swan		OB			366				1						
Tundra Swan															
Wood Duck								1							
Gadwall		OB						2							
American Black Duck	1	OB						3							
Mallard	980	393	1	428	47		4	3,186		5					
Northern Pintail								CW							
Green-winged Teal								2							
Canvasback															
Redhead															
Ring-necked Duck	1														
Greater Scaup															
Lesser Scaup															
Harlequin Duck															
Long-tailed Duck		1													
Bufflehead			2												
Common Goldeneye		9	2		37		1	5							
Hooded Merganser		3		1			4	27							
Common Merganser		9			2		1	1,610							
Red-breasted Merganser															
Gray Partridge												2		18	
Ring-necked Pheasant	21	15		45				12		8		149			
Ruffed Grouse			2			1			3		6		4		5
Spruce Grouse									CW		2				
Sharp-tailed Grouse			7												
Greater Prairie-Chicken															26
Wild Turkey	39	39		96	41			27		18		12	10		
Pied-billed Grebe															
Horned Grebe															
Red-necked Grebe															
Western Grebe															
American White Pelican															
Double-crested Cormorant								10							
Great Blue Heron								2							
Black-crowned Night-Heron								CW							
Bald Eagle	5	7	2	2	2	2	7	5	2	4	7	1	3	5	9
Northern Harrier		1		1											
Sharp-shinned Hawk				2				4		1		1			1
Cooper's Hawk	2							3							
Northern Goshawk				1					2		1		1		
Red-shouldered Hawk								CW		3					
Red-tailed Hawk	11	13		19	2			53		9		3			1
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1		1	2	8		2		1		1	1	4	3
Golden Eagle		CW													
American Kestrel	3			4				5				2			
Merlin		OB		CW				1							1
Gyr Falcon															
Peregrine Falcon								2							
American Coot		OB		1				CW							
Wilson's Snipe		OB						CW							
Franklin's Gull								CW							
Ring-billed Gull		4						2							
Herring Gull		5						1,147							
Thayer's Gull								2							
Glaucous Gull								4							
Rock Pigeon	243	123	12	438	104	28	50	233		94	52		149	362	103
Eurasian Collared-Dove															
Mourning Dove	59	15	4	28	3			102		12		137	1		17
Eastern Screech-Owl				3											
Great Horned Owl	2	2		6	2			5		1		4	1	1	1

Table 3. Total number of species for each location of the 2003–04 Minnesota CBC, Albert Lea through Crosby. Data include Count Day observations from Minnesota only. OB = out of state boundary. CW = Count Week observation. ABLEA = Albert Lea, AFTON = Afton, AUROR = Aurora, AUSTN = Austin, BATLK = Battle Lake, BAUDT = Baudette, BEMID = Bemidji, BLOOM = Bloomington, BLTRM = Beltrami Island, CEDRC = Cedar Creek Bog, COOK = Cook Area, COTTN = Cottonwood, CRLCL = Carlton-Cloquet, CROOK = Crookston, CROSB = Crosby.

Species	ABLEA	AFTON	AUROR	AUSTN	BATLK	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	CEDRC	COOK	COTTN	CRLCL	CROOK	CROSB
Snowy Owl															
Northern Hawk Owl									1						
Barred Owl	1			7				1					1		1
Great Gray Owl									CW						
Long-eared Owl												1			
Short-eared Owl															
Northern Saw-whet Owl															
Belted Kingfisher		OB		3				5		2					1
Red-headed Woodpecker	1									3					1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	27	14		31	18		1	56		13		8	2	1	11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1							
Downy Woodpecker	61	20	6	54	62	2	6	194	5	34	18	12	12	13	22
Hairy Woodpecker	14	8	7	15	20	3	14	62	7	16	11	32	22	8	19
Black-backed Woodpecker									6		1				
Northern Flicker	4				CW		1	4		2		3		1	
Pileated Woodpecker		OB		1	10	1	9	7	3	7	5	1	4	9	24
Northern Shrike	1		1	1	4	1		9		3	1		2	5	
Gray Jay			9			1			21		17		7		
Blue Jay	209	46	18	107	87	13	59	157	2	146	118	50	71	11	112
Black-billed Magpie						4								13	
American Crow	396	210	5	794	155	1	102	1,019		241	27	42	65	29	200
Common Raven			76				56	9		51	83		18		7
Horned Lark	4			36								18			
Black-capped Chickadee	205	138	353	258	468	53	303	1,213	59	314	466	71	300	110	572
Boreal Chickadee															
Tufted Titmouse															
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	7	7	1	4	1	16	7	26	3	27	3	22	3	11
White-breasted Nuthatch	81	22	8	112	108	4	83	203	1	38	28	37	17	42	125
Brown Creeper	2	2		4	2		1	5		6	CW	21			1
Carolina Wren															
Marsh Wren								1							
Golden-crowned Kinglet										2					2
Eastern Bluebird		13													
Hermit Thrush								1							
American Robin		28			3			128				3	2		1
Varied Thrush					1										
Brown Thrasher								1							
European Starling	501	169	1	853	115	13	56	5,465		11	8	414	80	78	146
Bohemian Waxwing						177	5				CW				
Cedar Waxwing		24			25		12	12				66			3
Yellow-rumped Warbler												1			
American Tree Sparrow	37	52		104	14			241		42	5	32	1		1
Fox Sparrow	1														
Song Sparrow	2			1				3				1			
Swamp Sparrow								1				1			
White-throated Sparrow	2							CW					1		
Harris's Sparrow	1											1			
White-crowned Sparrow		OB													
Dark-eyed Junco	201	59	3		54		2	295		70	1	124	1	52	4
Lapland Longspur	15											24			9
Snow Bunting				54			20				20	430	12	1,746	445
Northern Cardinal	47	45		51	6			307		36	2	3			4
Red-winged Blackbird	9			3				56				1		3	
Rusty Blackbird				3				1							
Brewer's Blackbird															
Common Grackle	20			3				2				9			
Pine Grosbeak			70			60	7		2		119		53		34
Purple Finch	12	22		12	16			6		12	102		5	6	
House Finch	186	26		75	67		2	250		14		12	13		1
Red Crossbill									2				CW		
White-winged Crossbill			4		20				37						
Common Redpoll			218		200	250	31	5	148	121	155	27	104	66	107
Hoary Redpoll															1
Pine Siskin	11	1		CW	1	25		8		9	58				1
American Goldfinch	68	36		42	47	5		392	15	92	62	30	14	12	25
Evening Grosbeak			34			50					17		44		
House Sparrow	1,051	303	53	1,253	381	99	37	1,582		24	22	840	109	869	262
Count Day	44	38	26	43	37	24	28	64	19	36	29	42	33	28	38
Count Week	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	7	2	0	2	0	1	0	0
Out of MN Boundary	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Census Sum	4,617	2,847	907	7,779	3,423	858	849	19,236	393	1,417	1,441	2,633	1,139	3,507	2,293

Table 3, continued.

Species	DLAKE	DULUT	EXCEL	FARIB	FERGS	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GRRAP	HASTE	HIBBG	IFALL	ISBEL	ITSCA	LAMBR
Greater White-fronted Goose															
Snow Goose															
Canada Goose	1	77	166	295	5,800	1,061	5,300	6	21	886		4			CW
Mute Swan				1											
Trumpeter Swan	1				28										
Tundra Swan			1												
Wood Duck				1		CW									
Gadwall			78	1				3	OB						
American Black Duck		43	8	1				3		2	2				
Mallard		910	3,632	690	766	426	434	OB		79	2,802		59		
Northern Pintail															
Green-winged Teal															
Canvasback			3												
Redhead					1										
Ring-necked Duck			8					1							
Greater Scaup			1												
Lesser Scaup			1				2	2							
Harlequin Duck															
Long-tailed Duck															
Bufflehead						CW									
Common Goldeneye		209	276		276	4		OB	5	28		31			
Hooded Merganser			7		5										
Common Merganser		1	3		5					406					
Red-breasted Merganser		25													
Gray Partridge				7		OB		OB							5
Ring-necked Pheasant			14	125	12	CW	30	OB		13		6			338
Ruffed Grouse		13							6	1	1	1	2	8	
Spruce Grouse															
Sharp-tailed Grouse								OB				14			
Greater Prairie-Chicken						OB		CW							
Wild Turkey			38	98	11	1				17					33
Pied-billed Grebe															
Horned Grebe															
Red-necked Grebe		1													
Western Grebe		1													
American White Pelican															
Double-crested Cormorant					1										
Great Blue Heron					4										
Black-crowned Night-Heron															
Bald Eagle	3	9	10	18	5	2	1	1	6	24	1	9	2	3	
Northern Harrier								CW							
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	4	1		1	CW		4					1
Cooper's Hawk		1	1			CW									
Northern Goshawk		4		2		OB		CW		2			1		1
Red-shouldered Hawk			4	CW						1					
Red-tailed Hawk		1	35	33	2	OB	4	1		37					12
Rough-legged Hawk		3	4	5		CW		OB		1			1		3
Golden Eagle															
American Kestrel			1	1	CW	OB		OB		5					1
Merlin		1				OB		OB		1					
Gyrfalcon		CW													
Peregrine Falcon		1													
American Coot			33		35										
Wilson's Snipe															
Franklin's Gull															
Ring-billed Gull		1	CW		1					18					
Herring Gull		281								110					
Thayer's Gull		2													
Glaucous Gull		2													
Rock Pigeon	122	1,766	268	276	316	98	211	108	105	324	73	21			87
Eurasian Collared-Dove															
Mourning Dove		28	74	139	2	OB	1	CW	12	116		17			
Eastern Screech-Owl						OB		OB							CW
Great Horned Owl			4	3	4	3		1		CW					8

Table 4. Total number of species for each location of the 2003–04 Minnesota CBC, Detroit Lakes through Lamberton. Data include Count Day observations from Minnesota only. OB = out of state boundary. CW = Count Week observation. DLAKE = Detroit Lakes, DULUT = Duluth, EXCEL = Excelsior, FARIB = Faribault, FERGS = Fergus Falls, FRGMH = Fargo-Moorhead, FRMNT = Fairmont, GFEGF = Grand Forks–East Grand Forks, GRRAP = Grand Rapids, HASTE = Hastings–Etter, HIBBG = Hibbing, IFALL = International Falls, ISBEL = Isabella, ITSCA = Itasca State Park, LAMBR = Lamberton.

Species	DLAKE	DULUT	EXCEL	FARIB	FERGS	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GRRAP	HASTE	HIBBG	IFALL	ISBEL	ITSCA	LAMBR
Snowy Owl															
Northern Hawk Owl															
Barred Owl		1	1	1	2	1		1							
Great Gray Owl													1		
Long-eared Owl															
Short-eared Owl								CW							
Northern Saw-whet Owl				2											
Belted Kingfisher		CW	1	3	2										
Red-headed Woodpecker				5			1			2					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	1	34	39	16	3	6	CW	2	23	1				9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2														
Downy Woodpecker	11	141	123	114	46	19	17	7	6	77	26	9	71	12	29
Hairy Woodpecker	12	69	57	36	24	10	8	2	12	9	19	13	14	14	30
Black-backed Woodpecker												2	2	1	
Northern Flicker			1	5	1	CW	2	OB		4					1
Pileated Woodpecker	12	14	12	12	9	2		OB	11	2	2	5		8	CW
Northern Shrike	1	10	2	3	2	2	1	OB	4	5	1	1	1	2	1
Gray Jay		5							1		19	3	26	9	
Blue Jay	19	42	104	116	54	11	18	OB	34	110	46	57	15	51	45
Black-billed Magpie								OB				27			
American Crow	36	588	415	438	83	88	137	70	98	299	11	48		11	102
Common Raven		158							17		37	146	75	12	
Horned Lark					3		60	OB							101
Black-capped Chickadee	121	2,720	862	457	416	84	32	26	382	275	259	215	499	209	108
Boreal Chickadee													10		
Tufted Titmouse										2					
Red-breasted Nuthatch		240	4	5	4	1		OB	13	OB	17	5	23	31	
White-breasted Nuthatch	64	122	216	116	135	47	18	25	32	56	20	11	4	47	35
Brown Creeper		5	5	10	2	OB	3	OB	5	2			2	1	4
Carolina Wren			1												
Marsh Wren															
Golden-crowned Kinglet		3	1			1									
Eastern Bluebird										5					
Hermit Thrush															
American Robin		1	21	2	CW	2		10							
Varied Thrush					1										
Brown Thrasher		2												1	
European Starling	10	2,118	805	1,619	158	86	475	12	46	999	42	30			277
Bohemian Waxwing		129									CW	28			
Cedar Waxwing			18		21	OB	60	OB		24					56
Yellow-rumped Warbler															
American Tree Sparrow		1	39	118	14		27			57					30
Fox Sparrow				1											
Song Sparrow				6				OB							
Swamp Sparrow															
White-throated Sparrow		3				OB		1	1						
Harris's Sparrow						1	1	CW							
White-crowned Sparrow															
Dark-eyed Junco	15	43	166	262	115	11	44	32	4	217	13				19
Lapland Longspur					15	1		OB		45					3
Snow Bunting	60			97	1,282	10	184	OB	180	1		1			575
Northern Cardinal	1	20	256	208	9	1	16	CW		108					14
Red-winged Blackbird	1		25		14	1				12					5
Rusty Blackbird		1								OB					3
Brewer's Blackbird															
Common Grackle			2				2	CW			7				
Pine Grosbeak	CW	51							32		120	68	47	21	
Purple Finch		44		2	5	2	1	OB		1			1		17
House Finch	4	71	274	216	160	18	39	37		144	7			2	27
Red Crossbill		8											61	17	2
White-winged Crossbill		205					46	OB	20				2	20	
Common Redpoll	110	741	37	4	159		12	OB	OB	298	14	90	14	20	63
Hoary Redpoll		1						OB	OB					1	
Pine Siskin		87	8	61	2	OB		6			8	47	19		CW
American Goldfinch		8	165	131	42	8	44	21	3	108		26	1	1	26
Evening Grosbeak	2	10							9		44	123		60	
House Sparrow	458	324	698	669	507	270	1,094	248	73	411	4	9		47	366
Count Day	23	57	54	48	49	34	37	20	31	46	24	31	25	24	36
Count Week	1	2	1	1	2	6	0	11	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
Out of MN Boundary	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	27	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Census Sum	1,068	11,367	9,024	6,458	10,578	2,335	8,282	627	1,519	7,798	868	1,050	901	651	2,376

Table 4, continued.

Species	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPRL	MARSH	MNKTO	MORIS	MPLSN	MTLKW	NEWUL	NWMCL	NWRCO	OWATN	PHILB	PILGR
Greater White-fronted Goose															
Snow Goose															
Canada Goose	OB	284		5,000		13	246	342	52		1,690	683	295		253
Mute Swan															
Trumpeter Swan		11										885			21
Tundra Swan	OB											2			
Wood Duck								1			1				
Gadwall														1	
American Black Duck	OB					1		1				2			
Mallard	29	477	5	76	1	135	121	4,402			719	720	351		84
Northern Pintail															
Green-winged Teal															
Canvasback	OB														
Redhead															
Ring-necked Duck															
Greater Scaup															
Lesser Scaup	1							50							
Harlequin Duck															
Long-tailed Duck															
Bufflehead	1	1						1							
Common Goldeneye	2	5		3				210			4	83			2
Hooded Merganser	2	2											1		
Common Merganser		5		3		1		4				8			12
Red-breasted Merganser															
Gray Partridge					CW					8	3				
Ring-necked Pheasant		15	3	53	109	40	18	7	132	26	167	1	86	6	
Ruffed Grouse	OB		3									1	1	1	3
Spruce Grouse															
Sharp-tailed Grouse															
Greater Prairie-Chicken															
Wild Turkey	71	8	33		3	21		4		94	25		33		10
Pied-billed Grebe															
Horned Grebe															
Red-necked Grebe															
Western Grebe															
American White Pelican											1				
Double-crested Cormorant															
Great Blue Heron					2		4					2	CW		1
Black-crowned Night-Heron															
Bald Eagle	8	13	12	6	2	9	1	9		4	3	3	1	1	24
Northern Harrier	1				1			1		1					
Sharp-shinned Hawk	OB			1	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	2		
Cooper's Hawk				1	2	1	1	3		1	1	1	3		
Northern Goshawk		1	3	1										1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1													
Red-tailed Hawk	15	13	4	7	3	28	1	18	9	9	8	7	16	4	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	5	3	6	3	3		1	1	2	1	1		8	10
Golden Eagle															1
American Kestrel	4		2	1	5	2		2	1	1	7	1	5		
Merlin						CW		1			2				
Gyr Falcon															
Peregrine Falcon								1							
American Coot			1									1			
Wilson's Snipe															
Franklin's Gull															
Ring-billed Gull															
Herring Gull															
Thayer's Gull															
Glaucous Gull															
Rock Pigeon	38	344	163	130	71	269	64	180	411	59	543	121	376	109	116
Eurasian Collared-Dove				6											
Mourning Dove	27		9	52	8	67	2	40	2	17	71	1	95		CW
Eastern Screech-Owl	1														
Great Horned Owl	1		1	3	2	9		1	6	2	8		1		

Table 5. Total number of species for each location of the 2003–04 Minnesota CBC, LaCrosse–LaCrescent through Pillager. Data include Count Day observations from Minnesota only. OB = out of state boundary. CW = Count Week observation. LCRLC = LaCrosse–LaCrescent, LFALL = Little Falls, LNGPR = Long Prairie, LQPRL = Lac Qui Parle, MARSH = Marshall, MNKTO = Mankato, MORIS = Morris, MPLSN = Minneapolis (North), MTLKW = Mountain Lake–Windom, NEWUL = New Ulm, NWMCL = Northwest McLeod, NWRCO = Northern Wright County, OWATN = Owatonna, PHILB = Philbrook, PILGR = Pillager.

Species	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPR	MARSH	MNKTO	MORIS	MPLSN	MTLKW	NEWUL	NWMCL	NWRCO	OWATN	PHILB	PILGR	
Snowy Owl	OB															
Northern Hawk Owl																
Barred Owl	OB	1	3			1		1				CW			1	
Great Gray Owl																
Long-eared Owl						1										
Short-eared Owl	OB															
Northern Saw-whet Owl																
Belted Kingfisher			CW		1	2	1	2			1	CW	2		1	
Red-headed Woodpecker		3											3			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13	7	24	4	10	12	3	19	5	9	29	16	32	1	4	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1			1											
Downy Woodpecker	25	18	43	16	27	36	11	86	26	29	119	32	94	11	17	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	5	21	11	16	13	10	28	6	9	43	18	28	3	16	
Black-backed Woodpecker																
Northern Flicker	1			4	6	4			1	1	7	1	1			
Pileated Woodpecker	1	3	10	1	CW	1		4	1	2	4	1	3	3	7	
Northern Shrike		2	2	CW	2		1	2			3	1		1	6	
Gray Jay																
Blue Jay	28	75	73	12	26	46	26	103	20	12	195	43	147	53	136	
Black-billed Magpie																
American Crow	360	203	176	54	55	380	57	596	285	119	336	82	297	162	243	
Common Raven	OB														2	
Horned Lark	OB			11	44	2	6		14	62	65		20		2	
Black-capped Chickadee	125	153	140	81	107	104	79	381	43	42	357	253	244	43	252	
Boreal Chickadee																
Tufted Titmouse	OB									CW				3		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	OB	7	3	1	1				1		10			9	1	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	28	55	21	35	32	22	71	30	11	167	54	96	14	54	
Brown Creeper	2	3	1	7	2			1		2	14	2	2	1	1	
Carolina Wren																
Marsh Wren																
Golden-crowned Kinglet	OB		1	1	2											
Eastern Bluebird	7						1									
Hermit Thrush	OB															
American Robin	OB		1		6	92	5	8	1	1	6					
Varied Thrush																
Brown Thrasher								1								
European Starling	46	39	160	37	379	479	182	381	805	129	2,779	128	370	97	14	
Bohemian Waxwing																
Cedar Waxwing	OB		7	127	16	39		77	30	2	29			42		
Yellow-rumped Warbler						1										
American Tree Sparrow	77	20	30	9	26	33		7	19	26	89	65	203	3	3	
Fox Sparrow																
Song Sparrow	1															
Swamp Sparrow																
White-throated Sparrow							1									
Harris's Sparrow					1											
White-crowned Sparrow	OB								1							
Dark-eyed Junco	87	15	49		34	120	35	64	13	71	142	43	309	13	CW	
Lapland Longspur						3					27		1			
Snow Bunting				25	69	63	320		6	107	297		166	29	CW	
Northern Cardinal	41		30	4	8	67	2	98	CW	37	93	24	135		9	
Red-winged Blackbird	2			55	247						1					
Rusty Blackbird	OB						5				1			4		
Brewer's Blackbird														1		
Common Grackle					3	3			1		5			2		
Pine Grosbeak															2	
Purple Finch	OB		16	19	13	4	2				28			5		
House Finch	3		34		18	76	16	242	45	14	205	55	290			
Red Crossbill																
White-winged Crossbill																
Common Redpoll		402	313	3	4		52	42			1		20	143	323	
Hoary Redpoll																
Pine Siskin	2		2		CW						5		1		3	
American Goldfinch	42	12	48	9	69	45	26	156	34	17	132	47	113	20	71	
Evening Grosbeak																
House Sparrow	420	29	146	184	355	567	593	285	767	226	1,745	302	1,546	130	142	
Count Day	38	35	38	39	44	43	31	46	30	35	50	37	45	27	35	
Count Week	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	3	
Out of MN Boundary	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Census Sum	1,509	2,211	1,630	6,045	1,796	2,827	1,913	7,937	2,768	1,156	10,193	3,690	5,414	902	1,849	

Table 5, continued.

Species	PINEC	RCHST	RLNWR	ROSEU	SCCLG	SHNWR	SPNES	SPNOR	SXZIM	THRBR	TMNWR	WABAS	WAREN	WILDR	WILMR	WINON
Greater White-fronted Goose			CW													
Snow Goose																
Canada Goose		10,000			1,770	5	311	1,667				35		40	2	17
Mute Swan																
Trumpeter Swan						6	17				CW			2		
Tundra Swan																OB
Wood Duck							2	4								
Gadwall								1							1	2
American Black Duck		CW			2		6	7				3				7
Mallard		700			1,050	5	1,228	7,170			2	242		22	36	498
Northern Pintail																
Green-winged Teal																
Canvasback		CW			2											1
Redhead																
Ring-necked Duck								2								
Greater Scaup																
Lesser Scaup					3											
Harlequin Duck										1						
Long-tailed Duck																
Bufflehead					3			1		1					1	
Common Goldeneye		2			27			36		13		34				
Hooded Merganser								1							2	
Common Merganser		5			9		1	11				6				
Red-breasted Merganser 13												2				
Gray Partridge		5														
Ring-necked Pheasant		142			6	4	139	3				2		103	61	3
Ruffed Grouse	3		2			3				4	3	6				2
Spruce Grouse																
Sharp-tailed Grouse			3	16									13			
Greater Prairie-Chicken																
Wild Turkey		196				73	244	21				2	71		269	69
Pied-billed Grebe					1											54
Horned Grebe										1						
Red-necked Grebe																
Western Grebe																
American White Pelican																
Double-crested Cormorant																
Great Blue Heron		CW				1		6							1	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron																
Bald Eagle	7	29	4	1	11	8	52	45	1	17	16	66	2	38	2	26
Northern Harrier												3				2
Sharp-shinned Hawk		7					4	4						2	1	1
Cooper's Hawk		5	1				3	5				3			1	
Northern Goshawk				1		1		1			1					
Red-shouldered Hawk								5								
Red-tailed Hawk		65			7	9	32	21			CW	26		15	3	34
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	9	1	3	6			4	3	3	3			3	4
Golden Eagle																1
American Kestrel		3					4	6				14	1		1	2
Merlin		CW										1				
Gyr Falcon																
Peregrine Falcon		1						6								
American Coot						1		8							1	3
Wilson's Snipe							1								1	1
Franklin's Gull																
Ring-billed Gull								554		1						
Herring Gull							7	52		236						
Thayer's Gull										1						
Glaucous Gull										4						
Rock Pigeon	59	904	44	52	165	48	286	2,550	25	141	1	294	112	234	188	428
Eurasian Collared-Dove																
Mourning Dove	2	227			17	4	85	48		1		20	1	73	12	124
Eastern Screech-Owl		4														
Great Horned Owl	1	18			2		4	1			1	3	2	2	1	

Table 6. Total number of species for each location of the 2003–04 Minnesota CBC, Pine County through Winona. Data include Count Day observations from Minnesota only. OB = out of state boundary. CW = Count Week observation. PINEC = Pine County, RCHST = Rochester, RLNWR = Rice Lake NWR, ROSEU = Roseau, SCCLG = St. Cloud–Collegeville, SHNWR = Sherburne N.W.R., SPNES = St. Paul (Northeast Suburban), SPNOR = St. Paul (North), SXZIM = Sax-Zim, THRBR = Two Harbors, TMNWR = Tamarac N.W.R., WABAS = Wabasha, WAREN = Warren, WILDR = Wild River, WILMR = Willmar, WINON = Winona.

Species	PINEC	RCHST	RLNWR	ROSEU	SCCLG	SHNWR	SPNES	SPNOR	SXZIM	THRRB	TMNWR	WABAS	WAREN	WILDR	WILMR	WINON
Snowy Owl																
Northern Hawk Owl																
Barred Owl			1				3				CW	3			4	1
Great Gray Owl									5	CW						
Long-eared Owl													1			OB
Short-eared Owl		CW														
Northern Saw-whet Owl																
Belted Kingfisher	4				2	1	1	3				2			2	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	3										1					OB
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	43	2		12	16	56	14		2	6	13	CW	17	18	45
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1				1				
Downy Woodpecker	11	96	6	32	21	54	195	106	5	63	24	27	10	78	37	135
Hairy Woodpecker	19	37	17	1	9	15	86	32	8	25	16	10	2	26	20	60
Black-backed Woodpecker				15					4	2	1					
Northern Flicker	4						3	5				2		2	3	1
Pileated Woodpecker	5	9	2	2	9	10	33	2	1	3	11	5	1	14	9	8
Northern Shrike	3	6	8	2	5	3	10	7	6	6	4	8		2		4
Gray Jay	1			11					8	2						
Blue Jay	150	223	76	17	34	173	212	67	15	28	42	81	18	155	32	124
Black-billed Magpie				6									12			
American Crow	93	1,026	91	27	104	138	1,481	1,950	13	63	15	312	27	510	115	366
Common Raven	51		11	39			1	3	54	77	13			1		
Horned Lark	13											2				13
Black-capped Chickadee	290	322	413	70	118	237	1,190	698	231	1,080	245	228	60	416	204	209
Boreal Chickadee			1						2							
Tufted Titmouse	2											1				18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	3		4	7	21	6	10	92	1		1	1	1		1
White-breasted Nuthatch	20	164	29	15	47	41	250	143	1	13	48	38	28	78	71	91
Brown Creeper	1		1	13	1	5	4			1		1		1	4	3
Carolina Wren							CW	1								
Marsh Wren									1							
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6											1			3	
Eastern Bluebird		3										1				OB
Hermit Thrush								1								1
American Robin		11					48	148		3						21
Varied Thrush																
Brown Thrasher										1						
European Starling	150	861	96	26	120	7	379	2,226	19	154		1,108	131		350	236
Bohemian Waxwing				280						155						
Cedar Waxwing		19			10	168	229	32						20	12	20
Yellow-rumped Warbler																
American Tree Sparrow	1	118			24	49	88	39				9	14	191	43	229
Fox Sparrow										2						
Song Sparrow		3										1				1
Swamp Sparrow																
White-throated Sparrow								3		2						1
Harris's Sparrow													10			
White-crowned Sparrow																
Dark-eyed Junco	1	351			55	162	301	178		39	10	185	8	216	73	382
Lapland Longspur		2														
Snow Bunting		46	23	184								130		6	105	203
Northern Cardinal		192			15	17	302	129		5		58	3	83	37	183
Red-winged Blackbird							2					3	3			1
Rusty Blackbird							1			2						OB
Brewer's Blackbird				CW												
Common Grackle	1									1			3			10
Pine Grosbeak	126		67	20					36	32	15					
Purple Finch	3	7	2		10	12	105	3		1	19	6	2	63	22	10
House Finch		361			25		296	315		63		21	6	209	180	132
Red Crossbill																
White-winged Crossbill	1		30	46					6	183						
Common Redpoll	148		70	37	3	38	42	36	33	156	504		330	17		
Hoary Redpoll							1									
Pine Siskin		30			3		51	1	7	47		3				10
American Goldfinch	24	124		4	47	63	610	233	3		63	74	10	131	56	166
Evening Grosbeak	8		20							2	8	1				
House Sparrow	96	1,571	211	184	107	75	392	1,943	28	218	64	559	344	420	185	723
Count Day	30	50	26	26	39	36	49	56	24	49	27	49	28	35	41	53
Count Week	0	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
Out of MN Boundary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Census Sum	1,297	17,977	1,241	1,090	3,875	1,462	8,827	20,558	525	2,960	1,268	3,595	1,160	3,560	2,066	4,422

Table 6, continued.

Species	Totals
Greater White-fronted Goose	CW
Snow Goose	1
Canada Goose	42,200
Mute Swan	1
Trumpeter Swan	1,338
Tundra Swan	3
Wood Duck	10
Gadwall	89
American Black Duck	92
Mallard	32,915
Northern Pintail	CW
Green-winged Teal	2
Canvasback	6
Redhead	1
Ring-necked Duck	12
Greater Scaup	1
Lesser Scaup	59
Harlequin Duck	1
Long-tailed Duck	1
Bufflehead	11
Common Goldeneye	1,304
Hooded Merganser	55
Common Merganser	2,110
Red-breasted Merganser	40
Gray Partridge	48
Ring-necked Pheasant	1,914
Ruffed Grouse	85
Spruce Grouse	2
Sharp-tailed Grouse	53
Greater Prairie-Chicken	26
Wild Turkey	1,781
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Horned Grebe	1
Red-necked Grebe	1
Western Grebe	1
American White Pelican	1
Double-crested Cormorant	11
Great Blue Heron	24
Black-crowned Night-Heron	CW
Bald Eagle	578
Northern Harrier	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	55
Cooper's Hawk	39
Northern Goshawk	25
Red-shouldered Hawk	15
Red-tailed Hawk	591
Rough-legged Hawk	131
Golden Eagle	2
American Kestrel	84
Merlin	9
Gyr Falcon	CW
Peregrine Falcon	11
American Coot	84
Wilson's Snipe	3
Franklin's Gull	CW
Ring-billed Gull	581
Herring Gull	1,838
Thayer's Gull	5
Glaucous Gull	10
Rock Pigeon	14,291
Eurasian Collared-Dove	6
Mourning Dove	1,772
Eastern Screech-Owl	8
Great Horned Owl	117
Snowy Owl	CW
Northern Hawk Owl	1
Barred Owl	37
Great Gray Owl	6

Species	Totals
Long-eared Owl	3
Short-eared Owl	CW
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2
Belted Kingfisher	46
Red-headed Woodpecker	23
Red-bellied Woodpecker	751
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8
Downy Woodpecker	2,719
Hairy Woodpecker	1,202
Black-backed Woodpecker	34
Northern Flicker	75
Pileated Woodpecker	337
Northern Shrike	158
Gray Jay	140
Blue Jay	4,370
Black-billed Magpie	62
American Crow	15,446
Common Raven	997
Horned Lark	476
Black-capped Chickadee	19,963
Boreal Chickadee	13
Tufted Titmouse	26
Red-breasted Nuthatch	676
White-breasted Nuthatch	3,641
Brown Creeper	156
Carolina Wren	2
Marsh Wren	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	24
Eastern Bluebird	30
Hermit Thrush	3
American Robin	552
Varied Thrush	2
Brown Thrasher	6
European Starling	26,475
Bohemian Waxwing	774
Cedar Waxwing	1,200
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
American Tree Sparrow	2,230
Fox Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	19
Swamp Sparrow	2
White-throated Sparrow	15
Harris's Sparrow	15
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	4,763
Lapland Longspur	145
Snow Bunting	6,898
Northern Cardinal	2,706
Red-winged Blackbird	444
Rusty Blackbird	21
Brewer's Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	74
Pine Grosbeak	982
Purple Finch	618
House Finch	4,251
Red Crossbill	90
White-winged Crossbill	620
Common Redpoll	5,713
Hoary Redpoll	4
Pine Siskin	517
American Goldfinch	3,873
Evening Grosbeak	432
House Sparrow	26,620
Count Day	125
Count Week	7
Out of MN Boundary	0
Census Sum	246,164

Table 7. Species totals from all Minnesota CBCs. CW = Count Week observation.

Location	MN CODE	DATE	Compiler	CD	CW	Sum Total
Afton	AFTON	1 Jan 04	Joe Merchack	38	1	2,847
Albert Lea	ABLEA	3 Jan 03	Al Batt	44	0	4,617
Aurora	AUROR	4 Jan 04	Cathy Leece	26	0	907
Austin	AUSTN	21 Dec 03	Terry Dorsey	43	2	7,779
Battle Lake	BATLK	3 Jan 04	Steve Millard	37	1	3,423
Baudette	BAUDT	2 Jan 04	Martin Kehoe	24	0	858
Beltrami Island	BLTRM	1 Jan 04	Martin Kehoe	19	2	393
Bemidji	BEMID	20 Dec 03	Katie Haws	28	0	849
Bloomington	BLOOM	20 Dec 03	Mark Ochs	64	7	19,236
Carlton–Cloquet	CRLCL	21 Dec 03	Larry Weber	33	1	1,139
Cedar Creek Bog	CEDRC	14 Dec 03	James Howitz	36	0	1,417
Cook Area	COOK	1 Jan 04	Gerald/Charlotte Jacobsen	29	2	1,441
Cottonwood	COTTN	14 Dec 03	Paul Egeland	42	0	2,633
Crookston	CROOK	20 Dec 03	Tom Fireo	28	0	3,507
Crosby	CROSB	20 Dec 03	Josephine Blanich	38	0	2,293
Detroit Lakes	DLAKE	20 Dec 03	Bruce Beese	23	1	1,068
Duluth	DULUT	20 Dec 03	Jim Lind	57	2	11,367
Excelsior	EXCEL	20 Dec 03	Denny Martin	54	1	9,024
Fairmont	FRMNT	20 Dec 03	Brad Bolduan	37	0	8,282
Fargo–Moorhead	FRGMH	20 Dec 03	Bob O'Conner	34	3	2,335
Faribault	FARIB	13 Dec 03	Gene Bauer	48	1	6,458
Fergus Falls	FERGS	20 Dec 03	Steve Millard	49	2	10,578
Grand Forks–EGF	GFEGF	15 Dec 03	David Lambeth	20	0	627
Grand Rapids	GRRAP	3 Jan 04	Kenneth Zimmer	31	0	1,519
Hastings–Etter	HASTE	27 Dec 03	Roger Field	46	1	7,798
Hibbing	HIBBG	3 Jan 04	Janet Petersen	24	1	868
International Falls	IFALL	20 Dec 03	Lee Grim	31	1	1,050
Isabella	ISBEL	3 Jan 04	Steve Wilson	25	0	901
Itasca S.P.	ITSCA	14 Dec 03	Douglas P. Johnson	24	0	651
La Crosse–LaCrescent	LCRLC	20 Dec 03	Rick Kinzie	38	0	1,509
Lac Qui Parle	LQPRL	27 Dec 03	Paul Egeland	39	1	6,045
Lamberton	LAMBR	19 Dec 03	Lee French	36	4	2,376
Little Falls	LFALL	21 Dec 03	Murdoch Johnson	35	0	2,211
Long Prairie	LNGPR	1 Jan 04	John Kroll	38	1	1,630
Mankato	MNKTO	20 Dec 03	Merryl Frydendahl	43	1	2,827
Marshall	MARSH	20 Dec 03	Roger Schroeder	44	3	1,796
Minneapolis (North)	MPLSN	20 Dec 03	Terry Brashear	46	0	7,937
Morris	MORIS	20 Dec 03	Donna Oglesby	31	0	1,913
Mountain Lake–Windom	MTLKW	1 Jan 04	Edna Gerber	30	1	2,768
New Ulm	NEWUL	13 Dec 03	Jack Ulrich	35	1	1,156
Northern Wright County	NWRCO	3 Jan 04	Claudia Egelhoff	37	3	3,690
Northwest McLeod	NWMCL	20 Dec 03	Robert Schroeder	50	0	10,193
Owatonna	OWATN	20 Dec 03	Darryl Hill	45	0	5,414
Philbrook	PHILB	1 Jan 04	John Kroll	27	0	902
Pillager	PILGR	1 Jan 04	Michael North	35	3	1,849
Pine County	PINEC	15 Dec 03	Mark Alt	30	0	1,297
Rice Lake N.W.R.	RLNWR	3 Jan 04	Bob Russell	26	0	1,241
Rochester	RCHST	20 Dec 03	Cliff Hansen	50	6	17,977
Roseau	ROSEU	27 Dec 03	Betty Johnson	26	1	1,090
Sax-Zim	SXZIM	15 Dec 03	Sparkey Stensaas	24	0	525
Sherburne N.W.R.	SHERNWR	13 Dec 03	Jim Pasch	36	0	1,462
St. Cloud–Collegeville	SCCLG	20 Dec 03	Brian Jungles	39	0	3,875
St. Paul (North)	SPNOR	20 Dec 03	Julian Sellers	56	0	20,558
St. Paul (NE suburban)	SPNES	27 Dec 03	Dick Watchler	49	1	8,827
Tamarac NWR	TMNWR	15 Dec 03	Lowell Deede	27	2	1,268
Two Harbors	THRBR	14 Dec 03	Frank Nicoletti	49	2	2,960
Wabasha	WABAS	28 Dec 03	Jon Peterson	49	0	3,595
Warren	WAREN	28 Dec 03	Gladwin Lynne	28	1	1,160
Wild River	WILDR	20 Dec 03	Tom Anderson	35	0	3,560
Willmar	WILMR	20 Dec 03	Randy Frederickson	41	0	2,066
Winona	WINON	20 Dec 03	Walt Carroll	53	0	4,422

Table 8. Individual CBC locations, abbreviations, dates, compilers, and totals. CD = Count Day total, CW = Count Week total, Sum Total = total individuals counted during Count Day.

The Winter Season

1 December 2003 through 29 February 2004

Karl J. Bardon

Reports of lingering waterfowl were few. The only noteworthy exception came from the Reno Bottoms, Houston County (pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R.) on 2 December, where a record-high count of 7400 **Common Goldeneye** was obtained among a variety of other waterfowl. There were also relatively few reports of early north-bound waterfowl at the end of the season, although early **Ross's Geese** were seen in Olmsted and Jackson counties 28–29 February. The late February reports of flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** confirmed the recent trend in arrival time for this species; why do the first flocks of White-fronteds consistently arrive earlier than Snow Geese?

Two **Harlequin Ducks** were seen on the North Shore, including one that overwintered in Two Harbors. Casual in winter, a **White-winged Scoter** lingered into December in St. Louis County. **Long-tailed Ducks** seen away from Lake Superior are often found with Common Goldeneyes, as evidenced by the singles found associating with goldeneyes in Winona and Wabasha counties in December, and another in January along the St. Croix River between Afton and Point Douglas — a location where good numbers of Common Goldeneyes often overwinter, and where Long-tailed Ducks have been found in three of the last four winters.

There were numerous reports of **Greater Prairie-Chickens** and **Sharp-tailed Grouse** from the area where their ranges overlap in Polk County, plus one report of a single prairie-chicken with Sharp-tailed Grouse near Agassiz N.W.R. in Marshall County. These two species occasionally can be seen on the same lek, and hybrids

do occur. There were also single reports of Sharp-tailed Grouse from both Lac Qui Parle and Big Stone counties, outside the typical Minnesota range, but within an area where Greater Prairie-Chickens have been re-introduced.

The **Pacific Loon** which lingered into December at Two Harbors provided the state's third winter record, while the only **Common Loon** report was one that overwintered at Cohasset, Itasca County; interestingly, most mid-winter and overwintering reports of Common Loon have been from northern Minnesota, with the last mid-winter report on 22 January 1989 (Stoney Point, St. Louis County), and the last overwintering report from Otter Tail County in 1984–85. A **Western Grebe** lingered late enough to be included on the Duluth CBC, providing only the eighth winter record for Minnesota; half of all winter Western Grebe records have been from Lake Superior, an unusual location for this species at any season.

The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** that lingered into December at Black Dog Lake was about the fourteenth winter report. Steve Millard chose the right place to be on Leap Day, 29 February, when he recorded both an early **Turkey Vulture** — a species seldom reliably reported in winter — and a flock of 12 **Sandhill Cranes**, which tied the earliest date on record.

The **Osprey** that lingered into December in Ramsey County was only the sixth winter report, and the first since 1984. Four north reports of Cooper's Hawks still need details for acceptance. Although **Gyrfalcon** recently became Casual, an adult male gray morph overwintered at the traditional location in the Duluth-Su-

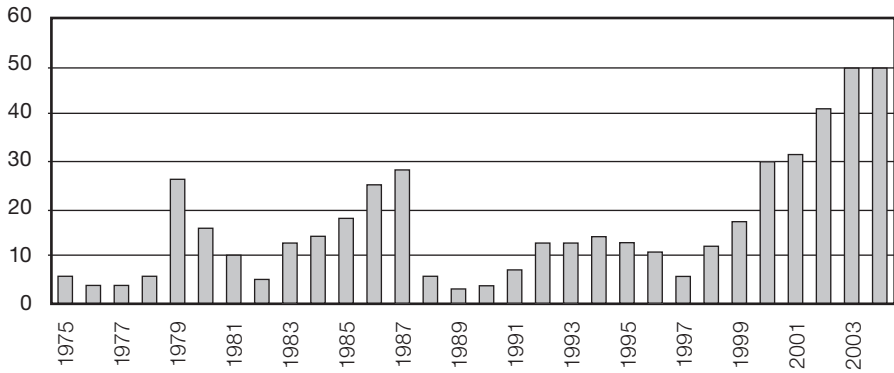


Figure 1. Number of Black-backed Woodpeckers reported during the winter season, 1975–2004.

perior harbor, and was believed to be the same individual found here last winter. Unexpected, however, were reports of Gyrs from Dakota and Big Stone counties, both county firsts.

The highlight among the gulls was an adult **Franklin's Gull** which occurred record-late on 30 December in Dakota and Ramsey counties. Excellent numbers of **Thayer's** and **Glaucous** gulls were reported from the Twin Cities, where expected in small numbers, and from Lake Pepin, where probably annual but not as often reported; disturbing was the relatively low number of first-year birds. Single first-winter **Iceland Gulls** were documented in Lake and Dakota counties.

The number of northern owls was modest, with only 13 **Snowy Owls**, 4 **Northern Hawk Owls**, and 35 **Great Gray Owls** reported. In contrast, the number of Short-eared Owls was nearly a record ($n=28$). Dan Svedarsky found up to seven near the Pankratz Prairie in Polk County in January — the first he's seen in this area in winter in 34 years! Many observers subsequently enjoyed these birds. The only **Boreal Owl** report was of one found dead at the Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary in Polk County, a first county record.

Although there were only two **American Three-toed Woodpecker** reports,

the number of **Black-backed Woodpeckers** tied the record number of individuals set last year ($n=49$). The number of Black-backed has been higher than all previous winters for the last five consecutive winters (Figure 1). These numbers probably do not reflect "invasions" since there were only two south reports in the last five years, both in 2001–02. Do these numbers reflect better observer coverage, or an actual population increase? Black-backed Woodpecker is an uncommon permanent resident throughout the coniferous forest region that can be found any time of year with diligent searching.

Common Ravens moved south out of the boreal forest in higher numbers than usual and established a first Meeker County record. In contrast, two southern species — **Tufted Titmouse** and **Carolina Wren** — were reported more often and farther north than usual, continuing trends for both species. The number of titmice reports was the most since at least the 1960s, when this species was more common throughout the southeastern part of the state north to the Twin Cities. A late **Gray Catbird** occurred at the same location as one of the titmice, at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center near Farmington, Dakota County — many thanks to the personnel at Olivet for allowing birders to visit this location! The three **Townsend's**

Solitaire reports were all from unusual locations in Fillmore, Pipestone, and Lac Qui Parle counties, the latter a first county record.

Steve Carlson continues to find the majority of **Swamp Sparrows** found in winter. Most of these occur along the Minnesota River Valley in Hennepin County where seeps and small streams remain open as they course down steep, wooded ravines and then extend out into cattail marsh habitat in the valley itself. Although the number of individuals generally decreases as the winter progresses, they have been found in small numbers in this habitat every winter. Are there additional areas in the state with similar habitat where Swamp Sparrows can be found regularly in winter? Two more **Marsh Wrens** were found in this same area; all but three of the twelve winter records for this species have been from the Minnesota River Valley in Hennepin County.

Although some were second-hand reports, Jim Lind turned in a good variety of overwintering sparrows from Two Harbors, Lake County: **Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow.** Nonetheless, it seemed to be a poor winter overall for

overwintering passerines.

Good numbers of **Hoary Redpolls** showed up, but did not exceed several previous incursions when flocks of 10–15 were reported. Aside from **White-winged Crossbills**, which appeared in average numbers, most other “winter finches” were seen in below average numbers, especially **Evening Grosbeaks** (see Roger Schroeder’s discussion of the CBC data elsewhere in this issue).

Undocumented reports: Spotted Towhee 1/24–25 St. Louis (Duluth); Chipping Sparrow 12/17 Big Stone and 2/23 Carver; Brewer’s Blackbird 12/14 Owatonna CBC, Roseau CBC (count week), and 2/28 Lac Qui Parle.

This report summarizes 153 species found by over 139 observers. My thanks to Roger Schroeder for coordinating and compiling the CBCs, to Dave Benson, Anthony Hertz, and Jeanie Joppru for compiling sightings from the state’s three rare bird alerts, to Paul Budde for providing a summary of sightings submitted electronically, and to Peder Svingen for reviewing the manuscript.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

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

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, request a report form from the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533.

Greater White-fronted Goose — All reports: Apparent late migrant on the Rochester CBC (count week). Early migrants 2/28 Nobles (24) and Jackson (105) PEJ, 2/28 Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB. Reports of one at Monticello were unconfirmed since some observers reported a domestic goose and others a Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose hybrid (2/7 †ABi).

Snow Goose — Late north (only report) 12/4 St. Louis (Duluth) KJB. Reported from seven south counties. Late south 12/3 Washington (Point Douglas) KJB, 12/6 Sibley JEB. Single bird apparently overwintered in Wright (Monticello) m.ob. Early south 2/28 Olmsted *fide* CBe, 2/28 Jackson (28) and Martin (3) PEJ.

Ross's Goose — All reports: Early south 2/28 Jackson (3) PEJ, 2/29 Olmsted (one at Rochester) JWH *fide* CBe.

Canada Goose — Reported from 50 counties throughout the state. Highest reported count 12/20 Rochester CBC (10,000).

Mute Swan — Only reports from Cannon River, Rice County (wild?).

Trumpeter Swan — Reported from 12 central counties as far north as Hubbard and as far south as Dakota. Cumulative CBC total 1339 birds with a peak of 885 at Monticello and 366 at Battle Lake (flocks overwintered at both locations). All additional reports: 12/3 Douglas (Lake Carlos) SWi, 12/3 Scott (4) RBJ, 12/1–6 Ramsey/Washington (max. 10 at White Bear Lake) KJB, ph. PB, 12/20 & 1/11 Dakota (Gun Club Lake) TAT, ADS (but see Tundra Swan entry below), 2/3 Hubbard (9) MAW, 2/21 Washington (Afton) BRL, 2/24 Hubbard (4 flying north) MRN, 2/27 Becker (6) BRK.

Tundra Swan — Overwintered at Shakopee, Scott County (1) and Monticello, Wright County (2) m.ob. Injured bird present since last winter at Gun Club Lake, Dakota County last seen mid-January PEJ.

Still 6800 present 12/2 Houston (pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB, where last seen 12/28 Houston (4) FZL.

Wood Duck — Only north report 12/22 Clay RHO. Reported from 10 south counties with overwintering in Hennepin and Dakota. Potential early south 2/28 Yellow Medicine (2) BRL and 2/29 Dakota (2) PEJ.

Gadwall — Only north report 1/16+ St. Louis (Duluth) m.ob. Reported from 14 south counties with overwintering in Dakota and Scott. Only additional post 1/1 south reports: 2/15 Wright (Monticello) KJB, DFN, 2/28 Jackson (6) PEJ, Yellow Medicine BRL, Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU. Highest reported count 12/20 Excelsior CBC (78).

American Wigeon — Only report 12/2 Houston (100 on pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB.

American Black Duck — Reported from 20 eastern counties, plus 12/6 Lac Qui Parle and 2/28 Chippewa (Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU in the west. Highest reported count 12/20 Duluth CBC (43).

Mallard — Reported from 49 counties throughout the state. Highest reported count 12/20 St. Paul (North) CBC (7170).

Northern Shoveler — All reports: Late south 12/2 Big Stone BJU, 12/2 Houston (50 still present on pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R.) KJB. Mid-winter report 2/19 Anoka (Sand Creek) GP *fide* SLC. Early south 2/28 Murray JT, 2/29 Dakota (2 at Black Dog Lake) m.ob.

Northern Pintail — All reports: Overwintered in Dakota (one at Black Dog Lake) PEJ. Also reported 1/1 Rice (2) DAB, 1/16+ St. Louis (Duluth) m.ob, and 1/19 Sherburne (2 at Elk River) PIJ. Early south 2/28 Jackson (13) and Nobles (2) PEJ, 2/29 Dakota (6) DFN.

Green-winged Teal — All reports: Overwintered in Dakota (14 at Black Dog Lake) PEJ. Also reported 12/21 Hennepin (Coleman Lake) SLC. Early south 2/28 Dakota (2 at Lake Byllesby) ADS and Jackson (2) PEJ.

Canvasback — All reports: Overwintered in Goodhue (Colvill Park, Red Wing) KLa, DWK, RA. Still 2000 present 12/2 Houston (pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB. Late south 12/11 Wabasha and Houston KJB, 12/20 Winona, Excelsior and St. Cloud-Collegeville CBCs, 1/1 Scott (2) WW. Early south 2/26 Dakota (2) PEJ, 2/27 Dakota (5 heading south, H.P.B.C.) KJB, 2/28 Jackson (1) PEJ, 2/29 Dakota (Spring Lake Park) TAT.

Redhead — All reports: Late north 12/20 Fergus Falls CBC. Late south 12/2 Houston (25 on pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R.) KJB, 1/3 Goodhue DAB. Early south 2/16 Wright (2) RBJ (not overwintering?), 2/26 Freeborn AEB, 2/27+ Dakota (7 at Lake Rebecca) KJB, m.ob., 2/28 Jackson (49) PEJ, 2/29 Scott DFN, PEJ.

Ring-necked Duck — Reported from 12 south counties. Still 300 present 12/2 Houston (pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB. Late south 1/1 Scott WW, 1/3 Goodhue DAB, 1/3 Albert Lea CBC. Early south 2/26 Freeborn AEB, 2/28 Jackson (7) PEJ, Chipewa (5) BJU and Yellow Medicine (3) BRL.

Greater Scaup — All reports: Late north 12/4, 12/7, 12/23 St. Louis (Duluth) KJB, PHS. Late south 12/11 Wabasha (Lake Pepin) KJB, 12/20 Excelsior CBC.

Lesser Scaup — Late north (only reports) 12/6 Beltrami (2) DPJ, 12/20 Fargo-Moorhead CBC. Reported from 11 south counties. Still 500 present 12/2 Houston (pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB. Late south 12/20 from four CBCs. Overwintered in Scott (Shakopee); additional mid-winter reports 1/17 Waseca JPS, 1/30 Big Stone BJU, 2/6

Wright KJB. Apparent early south migrants 2/21 Goodhue (3) BRL, 2/26 Dakota (1) PEJ and Freeborn AEB.

Harlequin Duck — Immature male overwintered 12/14–2/24 Lake (Two Harbors) MH, JWJ, m.ob. Different immature male reported 12/31–1/3 St. Louis (French River) DWK, CRM.

White-winged Scoter — Three reports from St. Louis: 12/4 Canal Park, Duluth KJB, 12/7 Duluth PHS, 12/31 French River *vide* DRB.

Long-tailed Duck — Overwintered on Lake Superior in Cook and Lake counties; maximum reported numbers 12/30 Cook (85 at Cascade River) JWJ and 2/14–15 Lake (11 at Two Harbors) MH *et al.* Also reported 12/2 Wabasha (Lake City) and Winona (Lock and Dam #7) KJB, 1/1–19 Washington (along St. Croix River from Afton to Point Douglas) m.ob.

Bufflehead — Apparently did not overwinter on Lake Superior: last seen there 1/2 Lake and 1/16 Cook JWJ. Additional late north (all reports) 12/21 Little Falls CBC, 12/22 Clay RHO, 1/4 Aurora CBC. Still 500 present 12/2 Houston (pool 8, Upper Mississippi N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB. Late south (all reports) 12/11 Houston KJB, 12/17 Ramsey m.ob., 12/19 Wright KJB, 12/20 from five locations.

Common Goldeneye — Reported from 34 counties throughout the state. Record high count 12/2 Houston (7400 on pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB. Mid-winter peak 2/6 Wright and Sherburne (2160 at Monticello) KJB. Apparent early migrants 2/28 Murray, Jackson, Martin.

Hooded Merganser — Reported from 23 counties in all regions of the state except the Northwest. Overwintered in St. Louis (Virginia) SLF, Wadena PJB, Steele m.ob., and Dakota (including a flock of 14–16 in the vicinity of Black Dog Lake 1/1–25) m.ob. Late north 12/27 Lake (Birch Lake

dam) SES, 1/17 Mille Lacs (Isle) *fide* KRE. Still 100 present 12/2 Houston (pool 8, Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., includes Wisconsin) KJB. Potential early south 2/26 Freeborn AEB, 2/28 Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Martin.

Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye — Male reported 12/30 Ramsey (Mississippi River, St. Paul) †KJB. Sixth report for Minnesota.

Common Merganser — Reported from 27 counties throughout the state. KJB's counts from Lake Pepin, Goodhue and Wabasha counties included 12/2 (43,000), 12/5 (48,200), and 12/11 (20,000+). Still 1700 present 12/17 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) KJB.

Red-breasted Merganser — Reported on Lake Superior through 12/23 St. Louis KJB, 12/30 Cook JWJ, 1/24 Lake JWJ. Also reported south 12/5 Goodhue and Wabasha (5 on Lake Pepin) KJB, 12/6 Hennepin PEB, 12/17 Ramsey (female in South St. Paul) KJB.

Ruddy Duck — All reports: Late south 12/2 Houston KJB, 12/6 Goodhue DWK, 12/12 Dakota KJB.

Gray Partridge — At least 130 individuals reported from 17 counties in the south and west (but 4 reports lacked number of birds). Highest reported counts 12/20 Crookston CBC (18) and 2/1 Brown (20) BTS.

Ring-necked Pheasant — Reported from 42 counties as far north as a line from Wilkin to Pine, plus 12/27 Red Lake (dead) PHS and the International Falls CBC. On 2/1, BJU found a record high **1030+** in the vicinity of the south end of Lac Qui Parle Lake, Lac Qui Parle and Chippewa counties.

Ruffed Grouse — Reported from 29 counties in range.

Spruce Grouse — Numerous reports from

Lake County where a maximum of 12 seen 2/14 DBz. Also reported 1/1 Cook Area CBC, 12/24 & 12/31 Lake of the Woods (Beltrami Island State Forest) MHK.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — Reported from 11 counties in range, plus 1/5 Lac Qui Parle (dead, Walter Twp.) ph. †BJU, 2/26 Big Stone (3, Odessa Twp.) †BJU. Maximum reported number 2/1 Polk (34) EEF.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — Reported from Clay, Norman, Polk, and Wilkin counties with maxima 200 on 1/8 Polk (Glacial Ridge Project) JEc and 2/5 Polk (SE of Crookston) PHS. Also reported 12/14, 1/17 & 2/28 Lac Qui Parle (three locations) BJU and 2/4 Marshall (near Agassiz N.W.R.) *fide* JMJ.

Wild Turkey — Reported from 36 counties as far north as a line from Clay to Carlton, plus Marshall *fide* JMJ. Maximum CBC tally 12/20 Wild River CBC (269). Highest reported non-CBC counts from Linwood Twp., Anoka County (93) and 1/31 Nicollet (69 along Hwy 169 "this side of St. Peter") RHy, RMD.

Pacific Loon — Reported 11/29–12/7 Lake (Two Harbors) PJ, JSt, ph. JWJ, m.ob. Only the third winter record.

Common Loon — Overwintered at Co-hasset, Itasca County HaH *fide* DRB.

Pied-billed Grebe — Reported 12/3 Dakota TAT and 12/20 St. Cloud CBC.

Horned Grebe — Only reports from Lake Superior: 12/1–1/19 Lake (5) JWJ, plus 12/4 St. Louis (2) KJB and 2/24 St. Louis (1) JRN.

Red-necked Grebe — Reported 12/1 Lake JWJ and 12/20 Duluth CBC.

Western Grebe — Reported 11/21–12/20 St. Louis (Duluth) †PHS (*The Loon* 76:168–169).

American White Pelican — Reported

12/18 Hennepin (Richfield) MCA and 12/20 Northwest McLeod CBC.

Double-crested Cormorant — Up to 30 reported at Black Dog Lake, 12/6 Dakota PWP, approximately 7 of which overwintered. Also reported 12/20 Fergus Falls CBC and 1/12 & 1/21 Olmsted PWP.

Great Blue Heron — Reported from 11 south counties but the only report after 1/1 was of overwintering birds near Pigs Eye Island, St. Paul where a maximum of 15 was recorded 1/7 Ramsey KJB. Only north reports: 12/15 Pine County CBC, 12/20 Fergus Falls CBC, 1/1 Pillager CBC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron — One lingered at Black Dog Lake through 12/6 Dakota OWB and the Bloomington CBC (count week; date?).

Turkey Vulture — Early south 2/29 Houston (Caledonia) SPM.

Osprey — Late south 12/1 Ramsey (Pleasant Lake) KJB.

Bald Eagle — Reported from 58 counties throughout the state.

Northern Harrier — Approximately 20 individuals reported from 14 south counties throughout the season. Only north report 2/29 Polk *vide* JMJ.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Reported from 26 south counties throughout the season. Only north reports: 12/20 Fergus Falls and Crosby CBCs, 2/7 Aitkin WEN, and Hubbard (no date) MAW.

Cooper's Hawk — Reported from 23 south counties throughout the season. Also reported without details 12/3 St. Louis (Duluth), 12/6 Pennington, 12/20 Duluth CBC, 1/3 Rice Lake NWR CBC.

Northern Goshawk — Approximately 29 reports from 22 counties throughout the state as far south as the Austin, Faribault and Lamberton CBCs.

Red-shouldered Hawk — As many as 24 individuals reported from 10 south counties throughout the season. Only north reports: 12/21 Little Falls CBC and 2/14 Aitkin WEN. Photos provided of birds from Cottage, Grove Washington County ph. JFr, WNi and Shorewood, Hennepin County ph. MKj.

Red-tailed Hawk — Reported from 43 counties as far north as St. Louis (Duluth) and Polk. Unusually early was the “Harlan’s” Hawk 2/27 Winona SPM.

Rough-legged Hawk — As many as 243 individuals reported from 57 counties throughout the state. Maximum daily counts of 8–10 individuals.

Golden Eagle — As many as 12 individuals reported from the Southeast in Fillmore, Houston and Winona counties. Also reported 12/7 Hennepin BBB, 1/1 Pillager CBC, 12/15 Pine County CBC, 1/19 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 2/1 Polk EEF, 2/13–19 Wilkin CBr, SPM, RGj *et al.*, 2/29 St. Louis BKY.

American Kestrel — Reported from 31 south and 5 north counties as far north as Polk and 1/10 Itasca (East Cohasset) DRM.

Merlin — As many as 26 individuals reported from 20 counties throughout the state. “Richardson’s” reported 1/17 & 2/24 Dakota (South St. Paul) MJS, 1/18 Wilkin SPM, 2/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

GYRFALCON — Adult male gray morph overwintered in Duluth–Superior harbor 12/20–2/29+ DLE, †KRE, †PHS, m.ob. Also reported 12/5 **Big Stone** (Odessa Twp.) †BJU and 1/19 **Dakota** (Rosemount) †JPM.

Peregrine Falcon — Reported from typical overwintering locations in St. Louis, Olmsted, Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota, plus 12/28 Steele *vide* NFT.

Prairie Falcon — Reported 12/11 Lac Qui Parle (Yellowbank Twp.) †BJU.

American Coot — Reported from 2

north and 11 south counties. Overwintered in Otter Tail (7), Wright (3), Sherburne, Goodhue, Scott, plus additional mid-winter reports 1/24 Hennepin (Minnetonka) DMF, 1/24 Washington DFN, PEJ. Late north 12/20 Fergus Falls CBC (35), 1/1 Long Prairie CBC.

Sandhill Crane — Third earliest date: 2/29 Houston (12) SPM.

Killdeer — All reports: Late south 12/30 Houston FZL. Early south 2/28 Jackson PEJ, 2/28 Dakota ADS (2), 2/29 Dakota (7) JPM.

Wilson's Snipe — Overwintered in Hennepin with a maximum of seven on 2/24 SLC. Additional reports: 12/20 Willmar and Winona CBCs, 12/27 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) CBC, 12/27 Dakota JPM, 1/20 Fillmore NBO, 2/29 Freeborn AEB and Olmsted JWH *fide* CBe. The latter do not represent early migrants since this species does not normally arrive until early April.

Franklin's Gull — Adult lingered in the Twin Cities until 12/30 Dakota and Ramsey †KJB. Record late date.

Ring-billed Gull — Late north 12/20 Fergus Falls and Duluth CBCs, 1/10 Lake GW. Reported from 12 south counties through 1/12 Dakota SWe. Peak 12/5 Goodhue and Wabasha (2500 on Lake Pepin) KJB. Early south (all reports) 2/27 Dakota KJB, 2/28 Jackson and Martin PEJ.

Herring Gull — Overwintered in Lake and St. Louis but no reports from Cook. Reported from nine south counties through 1/24 Dakota PEJ. Peak 12/3 Dakota (1300) KJB. Early migrants reported from Dakota beginning 2/26 PEJ.

Thayer's Gull — Two adults in Duluth, last one seen 1/11 St. Louis KJB. First-winter in Two Harbors last seen 12/5 Lake JWJ and adult reported 12/14 Two Harbors CBC. At least 15 present in Twin Cities (8 adults, 3 second-

winters, 1 third-winter, and 3 first-winters) with peaks of 10 on 12/3 Dakota KJB and 5 on 12/30 Ramsey KJB. Last seen 1/3 Dakota and Ramsey PEB. All additional reports: 12/2 **Winona** (first-winter at Lock and Dam #7) KJB, and 12/2–11 Wabasha and Goodhue (total of at least four adults, one second-winter and one third-winter on Lake Pepin) KJB.

Iceland Gull — First-winter individual 1/20–2/29 Lake (Two Harbors) †KRE, ph. JWJ, m.ob. Another first-winter reported 12/31 Dakota †JPM.

Glaucous Gull — At least eight reported from Lake Superior in Lake and St. Louis; last reported in St. Louis 1/11 CRM, and only one overwintered in Lake (Two Harbors). Maximum seven in Dakota with a peak of six (two adults, one third-winter, three first-winters) 12/12 Black Dog Lake JPM. Last seen 1/3 Dakota PEB. All additional reports: 12/2, 12/7 Hennepin (adult at Lake Calhoun) PEB, WW, 12/2–11 Goodhue and Wabasha (maximum two adults, one third-winter on Lake Pepin) KJB, 12/17 Ramsey (first-winter along Mississippi River in St. Paul) KJB, 1/1 **Lac Qui Parle** (immature in Cerro Gordo Twp.) †BJU.

Rock Pigeon — Reported from 65 counties throughout the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove — All reports were from locations where previously documented. Maximum of seven at Farmington, Dakota County where overwintered. Also reported 12/27 Lac Qui Parle CBC (six at Milan), 1/2 Pennington (one at Thief River Falls) *fide* JMJ and 2/28 Houston (three at Caledonia) SPM.

Mourning Dove — Reported from 49 counties throughout the state.

Eastern Screech-Owl — Reported from nine south counties plus Todd in the north.

Great Horned Owl — Reported from 45

counties throughout the state.

Snowy Owl — Total of 13 individuals reported from 13 counties in all regions except the Southwest and South-central. Only one report from Duluth *fide* KRE.

Northern Hawk Owl — All reports: 1/1 Beltrami Island CBC, 1/10, 2/1, 2/27 Roseau (all from Hwy 310?) ZL, SPM, MO, 1/10 Lake (CR 2/Hwy 1) †JMP, 2/4 Cook (Kindle Creek) DAG.

Barred Owl — Reported from 31 counties in range.

Great Gray Owl — Approximately 35 individuals reported from St. Louis (12), Lake (8), Lake of the Woods (7), Aitkin (3), Beltrami (3), and Roseau (2). There were many reports from the Norris Camp area of Beltrami Island S.F., Lake of the Woods County, and along Lake County Road 2 near Greenwood Lake.

Long-eared Owl — All reports: 12/14 Cottonwood CBC, 12/18 Ramsey AXH, 12/20 Mankato CBC, 12/26 Lake of the Woods (calling along CR 80) MHK, 12/28 Wabasha CBC, 12/31 Scott RMD, 2/15 Meeker (Darwin Twp.) DMF, 2/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Short-eared Owl — As many as 28 individuals reported from ten counties. At least seven overwintered 12/12–2/15 Polk (near Pankratz prairie and Pembina Trail S.N.A., along county roads 44, 45, 46) WDS, m.ob. Also reported 12/3 & 1/19 Olmsted (Salem Corners) CBe, CRM, 12/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 1/1 Polk (near Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary) *fide* JMJ, 1/17 Anoka (Cedar Creek N.H.A.) RHy, 1/31 Roseau SPM, 2/1 Aitkin (CR 18) RBW, 2/1–19 Wilkin (maximum 9 on 2/8) SPM *et al.*, 2/14 Red Lake (3, northeast of Marcoux) PHS, 2/15 Polk (2, two miles east and one half mile south of Marcoux) PHS, 2/15 Steele (Blooming Prairie) DWK.

Boreal Owl — Found dead 2/7 **Polk**

(Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary) LBe *fide* †PHS.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — Overwintered in Rice (maximum 3 on 1/26) TFB, m.ob. Also reported 12/8 & 2/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 1/15 Hennepin (Plymouth) RHy, 1/18 & 1/22 Dakota TAT, JPM, 2/5 Lake of the Woods *fide* JMJ, 2/13 Hennepin (Minneapolis) SLC, 2/22 Itasca DRM, 2/28 Hubbard RCS.

Belted Kingfisher — Reported from 27 counties in all regions except the Northwest, and as far north as 1/11 St. Louis (Virginia) SLF. Overwintered in Otter Tail SPM and Anoka JLH, with additional reports after early January from Wright, Washington, Mower, Winona and Houston.

Red-headed Woodpecker — Reported from Crow Wing and Morrison in the north, plus 8 south counties. Overwintered in Anoka (Cedar Creek N.H.A.) JLH and Rice (Nerstrand Big Woods S.P., but a location was not given for the February reports) DAB, DWK, TFB. The only additional post 1/1 reports were 1/17 Houston DAB and 1/19 Olmsted CRM.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — Reported from 55 counties throughout the state, including three through 1/10 Lake JWL.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Nine reports: 12/20 Bloomington (ph. BBI), Detroit Lakes (2) †TAF, LaCrosse-LaCrescent, Marshall, St. Paul (North) †RBW, and Winona CBCs; 12/21 Little Falls CBC. Only non-CBC reports: 1/12 Big Stone BJU, 12/3 & 1/31 Dakota SWe.

Downy Woodpecker — Reported from 52 counties throughout the state.

Hairy Woodpecker — Reported from 53 counties throughout the state.

American Three-toed Woodpecker — Two reports: 1/8 Lake of the Woods (pair, Gustafson Camp S.N.A.) MHK, 2/23

Koochiching (Twomey-Williams F.R.) KJB.

Black-backed Woodpecker — A maximum of 49 individuals reported from eight north counties. Although there may be some duplication of individuals, 15 were counted 12/27 Roseau CBC, and this species was stated to be “numerous” by MHK in Lake of the Woods County. The only report outside the coniferous region was 2/15 **Polk** (Gully Fen W.M.A.) PHS, JMJ, SAS.

Northern Flicker — Reported from 4 north and 32 south counties. Overwintered in at least Hennepin m.ob., Washington TEB, Brown BTS. No north reports later than 1/11 St. Louis (Britt) KRS. “Red-shafted” reported 12/27 Lac Qui Parle CBC and 1/5 Polk (Gentilly) TFe.

Pileated Woodpecker — Reported from 56 counties throughout the state.

Northern Shrike — Numbers up. Reported from 59 counties throughout the state.

Gray Jay — Reported from 11 counties in range.

Blue Jay — Reported from 63 counties throughout the state.

Black-billed Magpie — Reported from nine counties in range.

American Crow — Reported from 67 counties throughout the state.

Common Raven — Reported from 21 north counties plus the following south reports: 12/13 Sherburne N.W.R. CBC, 12/16 Anoka DWT, 12/20 Wild River CBC, 12/27 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) CBC, 1/3 **Meeker** (Kingston Twp.) †DMF.

Horned Lark — Reported from 12 north and 33 south counties in all regions of the state except the Northeast and the North-central. The only north report between 1/1 Pillager CBC and 1/28 Todd BWF was

1/12 Otter Tail SPM. Reported all season in Lac Qui Parle, Big Stone and Chippewa BJU. There were no additional south dates between 1/3 Albert Lea CBC and the following: 1/19 Brown BTS, 1/20 Scott JEB, 1/27 Olmsted (40) PWP, then four reports 1/28–31, plus 2/1 Brown (65+) BTS, all suggesting the beginning of northbound movement. Note that this species may retreat south for only a few weeks in January, so regular observations at this time are particularly worthwhile.

Black-capped Chickadee — Reported from 60 counties throughout the state.

Boreal Chickadee — Reported from Koochiching, St. Louis, Aitkin, Lake.

Tufted Titmouse — Reported within usual range in Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona, with a remarkable 18 counted 12/20 Winona CBC. Outliers reported 12/9 Steele (Steele Center) ph. LSt, 12/14 Owatonna CBC (3), 12/27 Dakota (Ravenna Trail, Hastings CBC) TAT, plus single birds that overwintered in Austin, Mower County m.ob., New Ulm, Brown County *vide* BTS, Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, Dakota County m.ob., and Fort Ripley, Morrison County JM *vide* PSP.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — Reported from 47 counties throughout the state.

White-breasted Nuthatch — Reported from 63 counties throughout the state.

Brown Creeper — Reported from 44 counties throughout the state.

Carolina Wren — All reports: 12/5 **Itasca** (Big Fork) ph. †DRM (see Fall season), 12/12–2/29 Ramsey (New Brighton) ph. TC, m.ob., 12/20 Excelsior and St. Paul (North) CBCs, 12/21 Ramsey (Maplewood) †LRa, and the St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) CBC (count week).

Winter Wren — All reports: 12/1 Houston (Reno) FZL, 12/5 Goodhue (Frontenac) KJB, 12/22–1/25 Hennepin (Mound

Springs; 2 seen 12/27 & 12/29) SLC, 1/10 Houston (Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) FZL, 1/10 Rice DAB, TCF.

Marsh Wren — Two individuals reported: 12/8–1/24 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) †CBr, †MAO, TAT, SLC, and 12/6–21 Hennepin (Coleman Lake) SLC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet — Reported from only 17 counties, but in all regions of the state. The only reports after 1/10 Roseau ZL were 2/2 Todd RBJ and 2/19 Brown BTS.

Eastern Bluebird — Late north (only report) 12/14 St. Louis (3) JRN. Reported from eight south counties through 1/1 Afton CBC (13), 1/3 Houston (16+) CAS, 1/13 Houston (2) FLZ. Apparent early south 2/22 Goodhue (7) KLa, 2/26 Houston DBz, 2/28 Houston SPM, KAK, 2/29 Dakota JPM.

Townsend's Solitaire — Three reports: 1/1 **Lac Qui Parle** (Lac Qui Parle Lake) †BJU, 1/17 **Fillmore** (Lanesboro fish hatchery) JWH, CMJ, DAB, 2/21 **Pipestone** (near Pipestone N.M.) RAE.

Hermit Thrush — All reports: 12/11 Carver (Chaska) *fide* AXH, 12/20 Ramsey †CCh, 12/20 Bloomington (†BrN) and Winona CBCs, late December Hennepin (Lake of the Isles) *fide* AXH (bird present for several weeks), 1/31–2/20 Hennepin (Lake of the Isles) ChM (same as preceding?), 2/16 Hennepin (Cedar Lake) TAT.

American Robin — Reported from 35 counties throughout the state. Highest reported count 12/20 St. Paul (North) CBC (148).

Varied Thrush — Five reports: overwintered late November – March Lake (Two Harbors) *fide* JWL, 12/17–2/5 Otter Tail (Clitheral) *fide* DST, SMT, 12/20 Fergus Falls CBC, 1/22–2/7 Aitkin (Palisade) JPR, m.ob., 1/28–2/10 Steele (Blooming Prairie) CBH, ph. AEB *et al.*

Gray Catbird — Reported 12/2 Dakota (Mt. Olivet Retreat Center) ChM.

Northern Mockingbird — Reported 12/14–1/9 Cook (Grand Marais) m.ob.

Brown Thrasher — All reports: 12/14 Two Harbors CBC, 12/20 Duluth, Minneapolis (North) and Bloomington CBCs, 1/1 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) m.ob., 1/3 Isabella CBC, 2/21 Itasca (Grand Rapids) SC.

European Starling — Reported from 60 counties throughout the state.

Bohemian Waxwing — Reported from 13 north counties plus the following south report: 1/17 Lac Qui Parle †BJU.

Cedar Waxwing — Reported from 9 north and 23 south counties. Maximum reported numbers 12/27 St. Paul (NE Suburban) CBC (227) and 1/9 Dakota (150) PWP.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — All reports: 12/14 Cottonwood CBC, 12/20 Mankato CBC, 12/23 Washington (5 on Grey Cloud Island) TEB, 1/17 Washington BRL, 1/25 Fillmore (Pilot Mound Twp.) JWH, CH, 1/25 Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) ChH (same location as Mankato CBC).

Eastern Towhee — All reports: 1/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU, late December Ramsey (New Brighton) *fide* AXH, overwintered 11/22–3/13 Ramsey (Falcon Heights) *fide* AXH.

American Tree Sparrow — Reported from 43 counties in all regions of the state, but only Polk and Clay in the Northwest, and Wadena and Crow Wing in the North-central.

Fox Sparrow — Two on the Two Harbors CBC subsequently overwintered in Lake *fide* JWL. Also reported 12/11 Steele NFT, 12/20 Faribault CBC, 1/1 Albert Lea CBC, 1/9 & 1/15 Hennepin KTP, MCA.

Song Sparrow — Overwintered in Lake *fide* JWJ; only additional north report 1/2 Cook (Grand Marais) BWF *et al.* Approximately 29 individuals reported from 14 south counties, with a maximum of seven 1/10 Hennepin (Coleman Lake) SLC. Only February south reports: 2/24 Rice TFB, 2/28 Jackson BRB.

Swamp Sparrow — Unusual north report: 12/2 St. Louis (Duluth) LaB. All south reports: 11/25–2/14 Hennepin (Mound Springs, maximum 2 on 12/22) SLC, 12/2 Hennepin (Wirth Park) SLC, 12/5 Hennepin DWK, 12/6–1/24 Hennepin (Coleman Lake, maximum 3 on 1/10) SLC, 12/14 Cottonwood CBC, 12/20 Bloomington CBC, 1/1 Whitewater W.M.A. (county?) BWF *et al.*, 2/12 Dakota TAT.

White-throated Sparrow — Reported from six north and nine south counties. The only report from western regions was 12/14 Grand Forks-East Grand Forks CBC. Overwintered in Hubbard MAW, Carver RMD, and Hennepin m.ob.

Harris's Sparrow — All reports: 12/14 Cottonwood CBC, 12/20 Marshall, Fairmont and Fargo-Moorhead CBCs, 12/28 Warren CBC, 1/1 Albert Lea CBC. The only non-CBC report was from Kandiyohi (no date) RSF.

White-crowned Sparrow — One seen 1/2 Lake (Castle Danger) JWJ apparently overwintered *fide* JWJ. Also reported 12/13 New Ulm CBC.

Dark-eyed Junco — Reported from 55 counties throughout the state.

Lapland Longspur — Reported from 28 counties as far north as Crow Wing and Clay. Seen throughout the season. All reports (n=7) of 50+ were from 1/23–2/2, suggesting migratory movement at this time.

Snow Bunting — Reported from 58 counties throughout the state. Maximum reported numbers 12/20 Crookston CBC

(1746), 2/2 Big Stone (2000) BJU, 2/15 Pennington (1500) PHS.

Northern Cardinal — Reported from 51 counties throughout the state.

Red-winged Blackbird — Reported from 5 north and 16 south counties in all regions except the North-central. Only north reports later than 1/2 Cook BWF *et al.* were 1/21 Wilkin SPM, 2/21 Wilkin BWF, 2/22 Polk *fide* MJM. Although reported throughout the season south, overwintering was not noted at any particular site. Reports of early south migrants began approximately 2/26–2/28.

Western Meadowlark — Two vocalizing birds reported 2/27 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) BJU (same location as meadowlark, sp. noted 12/4–8).

meadowlark, sp. — All reports: 12/4–8 Lac Qui Parle (3, Walter Twp.) BJU, 12/19 Watonwan BRB, 12/22 Jackson (6) BRB, ~2/15 Jackson BRB.

Rusty Blackbird — Reported from 4 north and 12 south counties. Late north 12/14 Two Harbors CBC, 12/15 Itasca DRM, 12/20 Duluth CBC, 1/18 Wilkin SPM. South reports through 12/27 St. Paul Northeast Suburban CBC, then only the following mid-winter reports from Hennepin: 12/20–1/24 Coleman Lake and 1/12–2/28 Mound Springs SLC. Early south 2/28 Houston SPM, 2/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/29 Olmsted JWH *fide* CBe.

Common Grackle — Reported from 6 north and 14 south counties. Only north reports after 1/3 Hibbing CBC were 2/1 Clay SPM, 2/9 St. Louis (Duluth) JRN, 2/13 St. Louis (Duluth) *fide* DRB. Overwintered in Hennepin (Mound Springs) SLC. Only additional February south reports: 2/2 Mower RDK, RCK, 2/10 Rice RBJ, 2/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 2/29 Dakota TAT, the latter dates probably early migrants.

Brown-headed Cowbird — Female seen at feeder near Vermilion, 1/2–2/21 Dakota

ADS, TAT. Report of 200 from 1/1 Mountain Lake-Windom CBC did not have convincing details.

Pine Grosbeak — Reported from 20 north counties. Highest reported count 12/15 Pine County CBC (126).

Purple Finch — Reported from 44 counties throughout the state. Highest reported count 12/27 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) CBC (105).

House Finch — Reported from 45 counties throughout the state. Highest reported count 12/20 St. Paul (North) CBC (315).

Red Crossbill — Eleven reports from six north counties. Maximum 1/3 Isabella CBC (61), 1/11 Lake (25) JWL. All south reports: 12/19 Lamberton CBC, 1/21 Lac Qui Parle (1, Yellowbank Twp.) BJU, 2/4 Big Stone (12, Ortonville) BJU.

White-winged Crossbill — Reported from 16 north counties. Highest reported count 12/20 Duluth CBC (205). One south report: 1/1 Washington (4) BRL.

Common Redpoll — Reported from 53 counties throughout the state. Maximum reported numbers 1/10 Roseau (flock of nearly 1000 along Hwy 89) *vide* JMJ, and 1/9 Big Stone (520) BJU.

Hoary Redpoll — Total of 27 reports

of 31 individuals from 17 counties, only 3 of which were in the south. Only the following had details: 12/14 Clearwater (Itasca State Park CBC) †DPJ, 12/29–1/10 Lake (Two Harbors) †JWL, 1/9 St. Louis (Sax-Zim bog) †GW, 1/19 Pine (Hinckley) †JMP, 1/15 Cook †JGW, 1/25 Lake (Greenwood Lake) †JWL, 1/28 & 2/12 Kanabec (Arthur Twp.) †CAM, 2/14 Beltrami †DPJ, 2/14 Lake (Two Harbors) †JWL, 2/15 Polk (Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary) †PHS, JMJ.

Pine Siskin — Small numbers reported from 38 counties throughout the state. Highest reported count 12/20 Duluth CBC (87).

American Goldfinch — Reported from 55 counties throughout the state.

Evening Grosbeak — Reported from 12 north counties in low numbers. Highest reported count 12/20 International Falls CBC (120). Only 10 on the Duluth CBC, and none in Lake after 12/26 (JWL). Known from only two Northeast region feeders (KRE), and only one feeder in Lake of the Woods (MHK). Noted regularly at the following additional locations: 40 in Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis County ALE, 22 in Pineville, St. Louis County NAJ, and up to 22 in rural Waubun, Becker County BRK.

House Sparrow — Reported from 57 counties throughout the state.

Observers

ABi	Andrew Bicek	CBe	Chris Benson
ADS	Andrew D. Smith	CBH	Chuck & Betty Herdina
AEB	Al E. Batt	CBr	Conny Brunell
AXH	Anthony X. Hertzell	CCh	Clay Christensen
BAP	Bruce A. Pannkuk	ChH	Chad Heins
BBB	Bruce B. Baer	ChM	Chet A. Meyers
BBi	Barb Blumer	CMJ	Charles M. Juhnke
BJU	Billy J. Unzen	CRM	Craig R. Mandel
BKY	Ben K. Yokel	DAB	David A. Bartkey
BLA	Betty L. Ammerman	DAG	David A. Grosshuesch
BRB	Brad R. Bolduan	DBz	Dedrick Benz
BRK	Byron R. Kinkade	DCZ	Dave C. Zumeta
BRL	Bill R. Litkey	DFN	David F. Neitzel
BrN	Bryan Newman	DLB	Diane L. Brudelle
BTS	Brian Smith	DLE	David L. Evans
BWF	Ben W. Fritchman	DMF	Dan M. Floren
CAM	Craig A. Menze	DMP	Daphne & Meyers Peterson

DPJ Douglas P. Johnson
 DRB David R. Benson
 DRM Dennis R. Meyer
 DTT Dan T. Thimgan
 DWK Douglas W. Kieser
 DWT David W. Thurston
 EEF Eve E. Freeberg
 EOr Earl Orff
 FAE Fred A. Eckhardt
 FVS Forest V. Strnad
 FZL Fred Z. Leshar
 GMM Gretchen M. Mehmel
 GP Greg Pietila
 GW Geoffrey Williamson
 HaH Harry Hutchins
 JEB Jerry E. Bonkoski
 JEc Jason Eckstein
 JEZ James E. Zimmerman
 JFr Jason Fredericks
 JGW Josh Watson
 JLH James L. Howitz
 JLU Janice & Larry Uden
 JM Jim May
 JMF June M. Foss
 JMJ Jeanie M. Joppru
 JMP Jackie M. Potts
 JPM James P. Mattsson
 JPR John P. Richardson
 JPS Julian P. Sellers
 JRN Jeff R. Newman
 JSK John & Susan Kroll
 JSS Jack Sprenger
 JSt Joachim Strengbom
 JT Janet Timmerman
 JWe Jason Weckstein
 JWH John W. Hockema
 JWL James W. Lind
 KAK Karla A. Kinstler
 KEO Ken E. Oulman
 KIM Kim I. Metz
 KJB Karl J. Bardon
 KLa Kelly Larson
 KRE Kim R. Eckert
 KTP Keith T. Pulles
 LaB Lars Benson
 LBe Lori Becker
 LRa Linda Randolph
 LS Linda Sparling
 LSt Lloyd Strawmatt
 LWF Lawrence W. Filter
 MAJ Murdoch A. Johnson
 MAO Mark A. Ochs
 MAW Marlene A. Weber
 MCA Mark C. Alt
 MH Mike Hendrickson
 MHK Martin H. Kehoe
 MJC Mary Jo Christopherson
 MJS Matthew J. Solensky
 MME Molly M. Evans
 MO Mark Otnes
 MRN Michael R. North
 NAJ Nancy A. Jackson
 NBO Nancy B. Overcott

NFT Nels F. Thompson
 NSp Nancy Sparrow
 OLJ Oscar L. Johnson
 OWB Bill Bruins
 PB Paul Bolstad
 PEB Paul E. Budde
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher
 PHS Peder H. Svingen
 PJ Per Johansson
 PJB Paul J. Binck
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson
 PSP Pamela S. Perry
 PWP Paul W. Pedersen
 RA Renner Anderson
 RAE Ron A. Erpelding
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams
 RBW Robert B. Waltz
 RCK Rose C. Kneeskern
 RCS Rolf C. Smeby
 RDK Ron D. Kneeskern
 REH Robert E. Holtz
 RGj Rick Gjervold
 RHO Robert H. O'Connor
 RHy Rick Hoyme
 RMD Robert M. Dunlap
 RSF Randy S. Frederickson
 SAS Shelley A. Steva
 SC Shawn Conrad
 SES Steven E. Schon
 SLC Steve L. Carlson
 SLF Steve L. Falkowski
 SMT Sandy M. Thimgan
 SPM Steve P. Millard
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman
 SWe Steve Weston
 SWi Susan Wiste
 TAF Thomas A. Frank
 TAT Tom A. Tustison
 TC Tom Chom
 TCF Troy C. Flicek
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell
 TFB Tom F. Boevers
 TFe Tom Feiro
 WDS W. Daniel Svedarksky
 WEN Warren E. Nelson
 WNi Wendy Niesl
 WW Warren Woessner
 ZL Zeann Linder
 m.ob. many observers

Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 D.N.R. Department of Natural Resources
 H.P.B.C. Hastings-Prescott Bird Count
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 R.P. Regional Park
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The two most recent meetings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) were held on 18 April and 8 August 2004. In attendance and voting at one or both of these meetings were Renner Anderson (alternate member), Paul Budde, Philip Chu, Anthony Hertzell, Ann Kessen (alternate), Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker (alternate), Peder Svingen (Chairperson), and Tom Tustison.

Among the items on the agendas of these meetings were discussions of four potential first state records; two of these were unanimously Accepted (Wood Stork and Green Violet-ear), bringing the state list to 429 species. Preliminary discussion on the addition of Cackling Goose (*Bran-ta hutchinsii*) to the Minnesota list (45th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, *Auk* 121:985–995) included review of the North American distribution and regional occurrence of identifiable forms of the Canada Goose complex; no formal vote was taken since additional research is needed and records are still being compiled. The Committee welcomes information on the status and occurrence of the Cackling Goose in Minnesota, particularly records documented by written details, photographs, or sound recordings. Please send dates, specific locations, number of individuals and how identified, along with photographs and any additional information pertaining to this species in Minnesota, to Peder Svingen (address below).

Also discussed were recirculated records, i.e., those with inconclusive first-round votes; records involving a question of origin; and records documented primarily or entirely by photograph or tape

recording. The results of these discussions and votes on these records are included below. All other records were reviewed and voted on entirely by mail.

The following records were voted on January – July 2004 and were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records #2004-013 and 2004-035, which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Brant, 21–22 March 2004, Paynesville wastewater treatment ponds, Stearns County (record #2004-020, vote 7–0).

Distant photographs and written documentation supported its identification as the Atlantic race (*Bran-ta bernicla brota*).

- Cinnamon Teal, 15 April 2004, Caerulean W.M.A., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-038, vote 6–1).

Hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal are variable in appearance and some may closely resemble “pure” male Cinnamon Teal except for the presence of spots or short bars on the underbody. One committee member voted not to accept this record because these hybrid characteristics were not specifically considered.

- Cinnamon Teal, 9–17 May 2004, Otrey Township, Big Stone County (record #2004-024, vote 7–0).

In this case, characteristics of hybrid teal were discussed and eliminated in the written description, and photographs supported the identification.

- Sharp-tailed Grouse, 5 January 2004, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-001, vote 7–0).

This female was found dead and photographed. The photos showed no evidence of hybridization with Greater Prairie-Chicken (hybrids have been documented in Minnesota and elsewhere). This record

and record #2004-002 complement recent occurrences in Wilkin (16 October 1996) and Big Stone (18 March 2002) counties, and may indicate immigration of Sharp-taileds from the eastern Dakotas.

- Sharp-tailed Grouse (three individuals), 26 February 2004, Odessa Township, Big Stone County (record #2004-002, vote 7-0).

- Red-throated Loon, 29 April 2004, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County (recirculated record #2004-040, first vote 4-3, second vote 6-1).

This small loon was seen only in flight for a relatively brief period of time by an experienced observer, who noted the bird's tendency to repeatedly move its head up and down, and back and forth. There were lingering concerns that a pale-looking, basic-plumaged Common Loon could not be ruled out under these circumstances.

- White-faced Ibis, 16 April 2004, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County (record #2004-009, vote 7-0).

Independently prepared, written details from two observers noted this bird's red eyes, pink or reddish facial skin, and white feathering surrounding its bare facial skin, thus eliminating the possibility of Glossy Ibis or hybrids thereof. Like the next three records, it was an adult ibis in alternate plumage and was photographed.

- White-faced Ibis, 19-21 April 2004, Scott-Cray W.P.A., west of Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (record #2004-010, vote 7-0).

- White-faced Ibis, 25-28 April 2004, west of Lake Osakis, Douglas County (record #2004-012, vote 7-0).

- White-faced Ibis, 2 May 2004, Haven Township, Sherburne County (record #2004-029, vote 7-0).

- White-faced Ibis, 13-14 May 2004, Mayer waste water treatment ponds, Carver County (record #2004-030, vote 7-0).

Though neither was photographed, for this record and the next, Glossy Ibis and hybrid Glossy X White-faced Ibis were ruled out by written details.

- White-faced Ibis, 24-25 May 2004, Corvuso, Meeker County (record #2004-



Record 2004-076. Wood Stork, 17 June 2004, Grand Marais, Cook County. Video image by Boyd A. Blomberg.

045, vote 7-0).

- *Plegadis* ibis, 30 April 2004, Lewiston wastewater treatment ponds, Winona County (see Not Accepted record #2004-013).

- Black Vulture, 26 May 2004, Encampment Forest, Lake County (record #2004-042, vote 7-0).

This third state record was thoroughly documented by contemporaneous field notes and sketches.

- Wood Stork, 17 June 2004, near Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2004-076, identification Accepted 10-0 / origin Accepted 10-0 / physical evidence Accepted 10-0).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records, on questions of origin, and on whether or not the identification can be made based on physical evidence alone (in this case, a videotape). This species has been predicted to occur in Minnesota based on records in nearby states and provinces. It was discovered by a 3 and 1/2 year old boy in his backyard and was videotaped by his father. Full details will be published in *The Loon*.

- Swallow-tailed Kite, 18 August 2003, near Morristown, Rice County (recirculated record #2003-84, first vote 5-2, second vote 7-0).

This record was discussed at the April meeting and was unanimously accepted after the observer was contacted and confirmed that descriptive notes written on a



Record 2004-047. Snowy Plover, 4 June 2004, Albany, Stearns County. Photo by Karl Bardon.

seasonal report form represented contemporaneous field notes.

- Gyrfalcon, 5 December 2003, county roads 64 & 67, Big Stone County (record #2004-004, vote 7-0).
- Gyrfalcon, 19 December 2003 – mid-March 2004, Duluth-Superior harbor, St. Louis County (record #2004-005, vote 7-0).
- Gyrfalcon, 19 January 2004, Rosemount, Dakota County (record #2004-003, vote 7-0).

This species was formerly Regular in Minnesota.

- Snowy Plover, 4-5 June 2004, Albany wastewater treatment ponds, Stearns County (record #2004-047, vote 7-0).

This adult was well-described and photographed by many observers.

- Black-necked Stilt, 14 April 2004, Lakeside Park in Mounds View, Anoka and Ramsey counties (record #2004-014, vote 7-0).
- Black-necked Stilt (three individuals), 16-27 May 2004, Belle Plaine wastewater treatment ponds, Scott County (record #2004-015, vote 7-0).

Each of these three birds was documented separately by written details and each was photographed separately by the same photographer.

- Black-necked Stilt (three individuals), 16-17 May 2004, Spindler's Pond near Rice Lake State Park, Scott County (record #2004-016, vote 7-0 for one individual, vote 6-1 for all three).

This record was documented by a written description of one bird and several photographs, but only one bird was depicted in each image and it was unclear how many different individuals were actually photographed. This highlights one of several problems that may occur when records are documented by physical evidence but not supported by adequate written documentation.

- Black-necked Stilt, 18 May 2004, Lake Lillian Township, Kandiyohi County (record #2004-031, vote 6-1).

A brief written description of this distinctive species satisfied all but one committee member. Collectively, these four records almost doubled the number of Accepted records of this species in the state.

- Curlew Sandpiper, 16-17 May 2004, near Clinton, Big Stone County (record #2004-023, vote 7-0).

Like Minnesota's only previous record on 21-22 May 1994, this adult male was identifiably photographed.

- Ruff, 9 May 2004, Otrey Township, Big Stone County (record #2004-025, vote 7-0).

Photographs and written details from two observers were submitted.

- Ruff, 17 May 2004, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County (record #2004-041, vote 6-1).

In flight, this bird showed "long white sides to the tail" which prompted one vote against acceptance; comprehensive field notes, sketches, and distant photographs convinced everyone else.

- Ruff, 25-29 July 2004, Otrey Township, Big Stone County (record #2004-078, vote 7-0).

Photographed and rebound by many observers.

- California Gull, 9 April 2004, East



Record 2004-044. Arctic Tern, 15 May 2004, Breckenridge, Wilkin County. Photo by Jim Lind.

Grand Forks wastewater treatment ponds, Polk County (record #2004-069, vote 5-2).

Though experienced, the observer was unaware of this species' status in Minnesota and did not take field notes. Curiously, the folded primaries of this adult bird were described as dark brown.

- Arctic Tern, 15 May 2004, Breckenridge wastewater treatment ponds, Wilkin County (record #2004-044, vote 7-0).

Fourteenth state record, but only the third to be photographed and the only Accepted record away from Duluth.

- Arctic Tern, 23 May 2004, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2004-066, vote 6-1).

The uniform light gray upperwing of this "neck-less" adult tern was carefully studied over an extended period of time to ensure that it lacked Common Tern's dark wedge; however, whitish secondaries and translucent primaries were not noted, which precluded unanimous acceptance. Contemporaneous field notes and sketches showed a black cap extending to the base of its dark red bill, contrasting white cheeks, grayish under-parts, and a thin black trailing edge on the underside of its outer wing.

- White-winged Dove, 8-15 May 2004, Ely, St. Louis County (record #2004-021,

vote 7-0 on identification, vote 10-0 on physical evidence).

All ten members vote on whether or not the identification can be made on the basis of physical evidence alone (in this case, photographs). The latter vote removes the "s" subscript from this species on the state checklist.

- White-winged Dove, 14 May 2004, county road 9 marsh near Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2004-022, vote 7-0).

This record was documented only by recognizable photographs.

- White-winged Dove, 16 June 2004, Gnesen Township, St. Louis County (record #2004-053, vote 7-0).

Documented by a recognizable photograph, plus written details from two of the observers.

- Burrowing Owl, 5-13 May 2003, Moyer Township, Swift County (record #2004-008, vote 7-0).

This individual was found dead on the latter date and the specimen was turned in to the Bell Museum of Natural History (BMNH #44835).

- Burrowing Owl, 21 April 2004, Perry Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-032, vote 6-1).

Field notes and sketches were submitted of a bird observed through a spotting scope at an estimated distance of 80 yards for 20 minutes beginning "just after 8:30 P.M." According to the U.S. Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department, sunset was at 8:18 P.M. and civil twilight ended at 8:50 P.M. The dissenting vote was based on light conditions.

- Burrowing Owl (two individuals), 22 May - 2 June 2004, near Lewisville, Watonwan County (record #2004-026, vote 7-0).

This mated pair was photographed near a burrow, but the burrow was subsequently taken over by a fox.

- Green Violet-ear, 12 June 2004, Linwood Township, Anoka County (record #2004-077, identification Accepted 10-0 / physical evidence Accepted 10-0).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records and whether or not the identification can be made based



Record 2004-026. Burrowing Owl, 30 May 2004, Lewisville, Watonwan County. Photo by Anthony Hertzell.

on physical evidence alone (in this case, the identification was based on a series of digital images originally submitted as a Magnificent Hummingbird, which were recognized by several MOURC members as depicting a Green Violet-ear). The images were reviewed and the identification endorsed by Nancy Newfield, Van Remsen, and Shari Williamson. Full details will be published in a future issue of *The Loon*.

- Say's Phoebe, 8 May 2004, near Felton, Clay County (record #2004-051, vote 7-0).
- Say's Phoebe, 19 May 2004, Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County (record #2004-050, vote 7-0).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 12 May 2004, Camden State Park, Lyon County (record #2004-052, vote 7-0).
- White-eyed Vireo, 5 June 2004, Buffalo River State Park, Clay County (record #2004-079, vote 7-0).

This bird was netted and banded at a

MAPS banding station and photographed in the hand.

- Rock Wren, 2-3 May 2004, Split Rock Creek State Park, Pipestone County (record #2004-049, vote 7-0).
- Rock Wren (two adults and four fledglings), 8 May - July 2004, Felton Prairie, Clay County (record #2004-011, vote 7-0).

An adult was found singing on top of a pile of rocks in a quarry 8 May, and it, or another adult, was subsequently observed carrying nesting material. Two adults were reported in early June and both adults were documented with four recently-fledged young on 17 July. Full details of this first Minnesota breeding record will be published in *The Loon*.

- Sage Thrasher, 11-12 May 2004, Schroeder, Cook County (record #2004-027, vote 7-0).
- Sage Thrasher, 26 June 2004, Dodge Nature Center, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2004-075, vote 7-0).

This bird was documented only by an in-flight photograph showing a thin, relatively short, and slightly decurved bill, yellow iris, crisply streaked breast-sides and flanks, and white tips on the outermost three or four rectrices.

- Prairie Warbler, 20 May 2004, St. John's University, St. Cloud, Stearns County (record #2004-028, vote 7-0).

Three observers each submitted convincing written details. Independently prepared documentation from multiple observers, especially if accompanied by contemporaneous field notes, greatly enhances the validity of sight records.

- Painted Bunting, 13 May 2004, Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis County (record #2004-017, vote 7-0).
- Painted Bunting, 13-17 May 2004, near Detroit Lakes, Becker County (record #2004-018, vote 7-0).
- Painted Bunting, 19-20 May 2004, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2004-019, vote 7-0).
- Painted Bunting, 9-11 June 2004, near Marshall, Lyon County (record #2004-070, vote 7-0).

Each of the above four records in-

volved adult males at feeders, and all were documented by written details and photographs. Written descriptions of behavior, plumage, and condition of bare parts are especially important when the possibility of prior captivity is considered; in all four cases, the birds' behavior appeared normal, and there was no evidence of unusual wear, coloration, or damage to their plumage and bare parts. The dates are congruent with this species' recent pattern of vagrancy to the Midwest.

- Painted Bunting, 17 or 18–22 June 2004, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2004-071, vote 7–0).

This record was documented only by photographs, but the origin of this immature male was not questioned. This represents Minnesota's first modern record of a non-adult male.

- Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle, 12 April 2004, Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County (see Not Accepted record #2004-035).

The following records were voted on January – July 2004 and were Not Accepted.

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

- Cinnamon Teal, 25 March 2004, East Landfill Reservoir, near Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2004-048, vote 1–6).

This may have been a sighting of a pure Cinnamon Teal, but less than two weeks later at the exact same location, a bird reported to be a male Cinnamon Teal was photographed and the photographs clearly show hybridization with

Blue-winged Teal. Committee members were reluctant to endorse the identification of the 25 March bird since the 6 April bird was not recognized in the field as a hybrid, yet both were studied by the same observer through the same Celestron spotting scope for 40–45 minutes from less than 50 yards. The observer providing documentation had no previous experience with Cinnamon Teal or hybrids thereof, and acknowledged being less than 100% certain that two different individuals were involved.

- Cinnamon Teal, 29 April 2004, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-039, vote 2–5).

This male teal was seen only in flight, and the majority felt that a hybrid could not be excluded under these circumstances, especially since no information was provided on distance, light conditions, and time of day.

- Cinnamon Teal, 29 May 2004, Rosemoen Island, Chippewa County (record #2004-055, vote 3–4).

The observer stated, “no indications of hybridization” but it was unclear whether the observer had any experience with hybrid teal or knew what to look for when considering this possibility. Light conditions and time of day for this sight record were not specified. Elimination of hybrid Cinnamon × Blue-winged Teal requires careful scrutiny under optimal conditions (see Record #2004-048). Observers are encouraged either to use the “Request for Documentation” form or follow its format exactly (the form can be mailed upon request or downloaded at <<http://cbs.umn.edu/~mou/>>). This form was designed to guide observers through the documentation process and reminds us to include field notes, photos, and pertinent information such as distance, light conditions, time of day, and previous experience with the species in question.

- Smew, 11–17 March 2004, Oronoco and Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2004-072, identification Accepted 7–0, origin Not Accepted 0–10).

All ten members vote on questions of origin. Close-up photographs of this adult

male confirmed its identification, but showed frayed or damaged flight feathers. Though not necessarily indicative of captive origin, the bird allowed close approach and seemed tame. Captive origin was implied by the following observation: "With my scope I could see that the right hallux (or rear toe) was missing. Looking closely, it clearly appeared to have been clipped, not having been torn or otherwise missing due to injury — judging from the clean and nicely healed scar. The left hallux was intact and complete. A clipped right rear-facing toe is usually indicative of an escaped bird since, as a general rule, captive bred waterfowl are marked in this manner (but also by other methods)."

This represents the second known occurrence of an escaped or released Smew in Minnesota; the first was an adult female with a clipped hallux and frayed flight feathers (*The Loon* 75:44–45). This species is included on the state list with an "o" subscript, i.e., the possibilities of captive vs. wild origin are about equal, based on one Accepted record at Anderson County Park, Jackson County, 17 March 1999 (*The Loon* 73:72–77).

- White-faced Ibis, 30 April 2004, Lewiston wastewater treatment ponds, Winona County (record #2004-013, Not Accepted 1–6 as White-faced Ibis / Accepted 7–0 as *Plegadis ibis*, sp.).

Though unanimously Accepted as a *Plegadis ibis*, the written description and distant photographs eliminated neither Glossy Ibis nor hybrid White-faced X Glossy Ibis (see *North American Birds* 57:136–139). Documentation from other observers might have addressed these identification challenges, but only one of the observers submitted details.

- Mississippi Kite, 11 May 2004, Odesa Township, Big Stone County (record #2004-056, vote 2–5).

A standard documentation format was not followed (see comments under Record #2004-055) and there was no information about the observer's previous experience with this species, light conditions, time of day, sun angle, and whether field guides

were consulted before or after field notes and sketches were completed. This bird was described as similar in size to a Peregrine Falcon but with "broader" wings that were held up in a dihedral and "reminded me of a Swainson's Hawk wing shape". The wingspan of a Mississippi Kite averages ten inches less than a Peregrine Falcon with no overlap between these two species according to *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2000) and *A Field Guide to Hawks of North America* (Clark and Wheeler 2001). Lastly, the observer described the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the wings in detail, yet failed to note Mississippi Kite's characteristic short outermost primary.

- Black Rail, 22 May and 12 June 2004, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-058, vote 2–5).

This tantalizing report included drawings of tracks in the mud and a written description of "khee-khe-err" and "khe-khe-urr" calls, but most MOURC members did not consider a brief glimpse of a small dark bird sprinting across an opening in the marsh sufficient documentation for a species that has not been recorded in the state for 25 years. A standard documentation format was not followed, so the report lacked basic information including the observer's previous experience with this species, how other species were eliminated, and whether or not field guides were consulted.

- King Rail, 14 May 2004, Plover Prairie, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-057, vote 0–7).

This brief observation of a bird flying with a flock of Blue-winged Teal garnered no support from the committee. The observer was driving and unable to use binoculars until just before the bird dropped into the marsh.

- Whooping Crane (two individuals), 17–18 April 2004, Manannah Township, Meeker County (record #2004-068, identification Accepted 7–0 / origin Not Accepted 0–10).

These two females (band #3-02 and 15-02) were known to be from the introduction project at Necedah N.W.R., Wis-

consin, and as such were Not Accepted on the basis of origin. Interestingly, three birds (band #4-03, 4-06, and 17-03) lingered near Reno, Houston County, 17–20 April 2004, and the same two females as above (band #3-02 and 15-02) visited Winona County, 24 April 2004; their presence was verified by Richard Urbanek, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Lara Fondrow, International Crane Foundation (*vide* R. Russell, Jr.). None of these other 2004 sightings and none of the previous Minnesota reports of Whooping Cranes attributed to the introduction project has been documented, including one at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka County in May 2003, and one in Dodge and Steele counties in early July 2003. Observers are encouraged to document all sightings of this species, including birds from the introduction program, and to report all sightings promptly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Western Sandpiper, 6 May 2004, Madison Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-059, vote 3–4).

This may have been a Western Sandpiper, but there were concerns about the description of its hindneck and back, and its apparent size. Based on side-by-side comparison, the bird was said to be the “same size as a Semipalmated Sandpiper, but just slightly shorter” which does not fit Western Sandpiper. Streaking across the chest was mentioned in the narrative, but was not depicted in either of the two sketches. The observer did not cite any previous experience with this or similar species, and failed to consider and eliminate White-rumped Sandpiper, one of several potential confusion species.

- Ruff, 13 August 2003, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-060, vote 3–4).

This 2003 record was submitted in June 2004 when the observer reviewed a photograph of a misidentified yellowlegs and noticed what appeared to be a Ruff in the extreme corner of the photo. The bird was not identified as a Ruff at the time and in the absence of a written description, the majority found this unfocused

image unsatisfactory.

- Ruff, 6–7 May 2004, Perry Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-061, vote 3–4).

Although this record was supported by two field sketches completed on separate days, the majority opinion held that a “young male” Ruff would not be in the plumage described for this bird in early May. It was unclear whether the observer had any experience with this species, and similar-looking species were not adequately considered.

- California Gull (two individuals), 20 April 2004, Thielke Lake, Big Stone County (record #2004-033, vote 2–5).

Mantle color was described as both “dark” and “much darker gray than an adult Ring-bill’s” which does not fit California Gull (Howell, S. N. G. 2003. Shades of gray: a point of reference for gull identification. *Birding* 35:32–37). The observer did not compare wing span or wing width with adjacent Ring-billed Gulls when the birds took flight, and missed an opportunity to describe underwing pattern — e.g., adult California Gull’s more extensive and crisply defined black wingtip.

- Thayer’s Gull, 22 April 2004, Walter and Perry townships, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-034, vote 0–7).

The identification was based largely on eye color, but a small percentage of Herring Gulls are dark-eyed even as adults. The diagnostic underwing pattern of Thayer’s Gull was not noted even though the bird was seen in flight four times.

- Magnificent Hummingbird, 12 June 2004, Linwood Township, Anoka County (record #2004-054, vote 0–7).

A brief description and digital images of a large hummingbird at a feeder were submitted; though not sharply focused, the images showed a mostly dark greenish bird with dark blue-purple ear-patches, a blue-purple patch on the lower-breast/upper-belly region, and a slightly downcurved bill. These features eliminated Magnificent Hummingbird and prompted resubmission of the record as a Green Violet-ear (see record #2004-077).

- Say’s Phoebe, 4 May 2004, Walter

Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-062, vote 3–4).

Though quite possibly a Say's Phoebe, similar-looking species were neither considered nor eliminated, and the observer's experience was unstated.

- Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, 6 June 2004, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2004-067, vote 2–8).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records. This non-vocalizing kingbird was found by an out-of-state observer who previously had observed both Tropical and Couch's kingbirds in the southwestern U.S. The bird was seen at close range but only for about 90 seconds, and the observer was less than 100% certain of its identity. The possibility of a molting or heavily worn Western Kingbird was not completely eliminated. The observer is to be commended for submitting complete documentation on this bird even though she considered it a "hypothetical" sighting for Cook County.

- Fish Crow, 2–4 February 2004, near Ortonville, Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle counties (record #2004-006, vote 1–9).

All ten MOURC members vote on potential first state records. Field notes, sketches, and distant photographs were submitted, but vocalizations, the most important criterion for the separation of this species from other crows, were not recorded and it was unclear whether the observer was experienced in distinguishing these species by call. Several MOURC members commented that voice recordings, close-up photographs, and/or a specimen would be needed to accept this species onto the state list. The location and early February date would be extraordinary for a Fish Crow, which might be expected to occur in bottomland forest associated with small streams in southeastern Minnesota, and in spring rather than mid-winter.

- Common Raven, 13 February 2004, county roads 33 & 31, Lac Qui Parle County (recirculated record #2004-007, first vote 4–3, second vote 3–4).

The identification was based primarily on shape and vocalizations, but it was

unclear if the observer had any experience in separating ravens from crows using these criteria.

- Sprague's Pipit, 7 April 2004, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-036, vote 2–5).

This would be extraordinarily early for Sprague's Pipit, not only for Minnesota but also compared to record-early dates in North and South Dakota. A standard documentation form was not used, so important information including the observer's experience and how other species were eliminated was missing. White wing bars are fairly obvious on Sprague's Pipit, but were not noted on this bird despite its being observed on the ground from a distance of only 15 feet. Its "stocky, stiff appearance" in flight and "quick sputtering wingbeats followed by short glides" suggested species other than pipit.

- Sprague's Pipit, 26 April 2004, Yellow Bank Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-037, vote 3–4).

The documentation was strikingly similar to the previous record, e.g., its "stocky appearance in flight" and "rapid, stiff wingbeats followed by short glides." White wing bars were not noted and leg color could not be seen. The observer's experience with this species and how other species were eliminated were unclear.

- Lark Bunting, 16 May 2004, near Nashwauk, Itasca County (recirculated record #2004-046, first vote 4–3, second vote 3–4).

This out of range bird perched in a tree may have been a male Lark Bunting, but the size, shape, and exact location of its wing patches were not described, and blackbirds with albinistic wing patches were not considered. More importantly, Bobolink was neither considered nor eliminated by the description. Field notes were not submitted. The description was apparently written more than two weeks after the sighting and may have been influenced by field guides.

- Lark Bunting, 18 May 2004, near Marshall, Lyon County (record #2004-074, vote 3–4).

This sighting was initially posted to

MOU-net as a “probable” Lark Bunting seen without binoculars. The observer, while driving, flushed a small bird from a roadside ditch; by the time the observer pulled over to the side of the road, the bird was an estimated quarter mile away and could not be refound.

- Black-headed Grosbeak (female), 8 May 2004, Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-064, vote 2–5).

Despite being observed at close range “for about a minute” the description was incomplete, e.g., no mention of back pattern, wing-bars, rump, tail, and leg color. Wing linings were not seen. The observer’s experience with this species was not outlined, and light conditions, time of day, and position of bird with respect to the sun were unknown. The committee has been circumspect regarding reports of non-adult male Black-headed Grosbeaks; only 4 of the 21 accepted records of this species are of adult females.

- Black-headed Grosbeak (male), 29 May 2004, Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-065, vote 2–5).

This bird was seen flying through the trees for a distance of 40 feet before it perched on a log for about five seconds and then disappeared. Understandably, the description was incomplete and although sketches were submitted of the bird in flight, it was unclear how well the underwing and upperwing pattern were seen as it flew through the trees. Brief observations for seconds at a time do not permit careful scrutiny for hybrid characteristics such as back streaking, rose tinges to an orange breast, or orange tinges on a yellow underwing. The observer described the back of this grosbeak as black, but if the back was really black then the grosbeak could not have been a pure Black-headed: in pure Black-headed Grosbeaks the back is streaked (Anderson and Daugherty. 1974. Characteristics and reproductive biology of grosbeaks (*Pheucticus*) in the hybrid zone in South Dakota. *Wilson Bulletin* 86:1–11).

- Great-tailed Grackle, 12 April 2004,

Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2004-035, Not Accepted 3–4 as Great-tailed Grackle / Accepted 5–2 as Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle).

Although the status of Great-tailed Grackle is now Regular in Minnesota, the description of this female *Quiscalus* suggested Boat-tailed Grackle and the record was therefore evaluated, and ultimately Accepted only as a large grackle.

The efforts of all those observers who document reports of unusual species are appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided documentation for the records listed in this article: Melissa Anderson, Karl Bardon, Boyd Blomberg and family, Diane Brudelie, Conny Brunell, Dave Cahlander, Philip Chu, Shawn Conrad, Nelvina De Kam, Herb Dingmann, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Eddy & Judy Edwards, Bob Ekblad, Dan Floren, Steve Foss, Randy Frederickson, Eve Freeberg, Joe Gartner, Rebecca Gracey, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertzell, Tim Houghton, Jeanie Joppru, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Jim Mattson, Craig Menze, Sue Morton, David Nelson, Gary Nielsen, Bob O’Connor, Paul Pedersen, Carol Reed, Bob Rogers, Roger Schroeder, Dory Spence, Jeff Stephenson, Peder Svingen, Dan & Sandy Thimgan, Bill Unzen, and Josh Watson.

There were also many observers who documented records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; although such records are not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are greatly appreciated. The Committee wishes especially to acknowledge Conny Brunell, and Dan and Sandy Thimgan for documenting many such records.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. Please contact the Chairperson by e-mail at <psvingen@d.umn.edu> or at the address below. Summary: 77 records voted on / 53 Accepted, 24 Not Accepted.

2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

A Second Look at Splitting

Kim R. Eckert



You probably don't have the time to read this, considering you're probably still busy sifting through all your old trip lists and other records for any mention of Canada Geese. ("Now, was that flock of geese I remember from 1979 near Clontarf. . . or was it in 1989 in Flom. . . and were they really small enough for me to add Cackling Goose to my Swift — or Norman — County list?")

So, were you caught by surprise when the A.O.U. split Cackling Goose from Canada a few months back? If you were around decades ago when they split the dowitchers, separated Thayer's Gull from Herring, and divided Traill's Flycatcher into Alder and Willow, were you ready to say what the status was of these "new" species in Minnesota and on your personal lists?

Or, what about when certain loons, golden-plovers, vireos, and thrushes were split not that many years ago? Was anyone prepared to declare whether or not Arctic Loon, Pacific Golden-Plover, Cassin's and Plumbeous vireos, and Bicknell's Thrush had ever shown up in Minnesota if we had always just assumed they were all Pacific Loons, American Golden-Plovers, Blue-headed Vireos, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes respectively? And, for that matter, what did we really know about the status of Clark's Grebe and Spotted Towhee when they were split from their re-

spective default species?

Keeping track of birds, whether it's a science or sport, has always been based primarily on the species level of these animals. So, it matters greatly to us when the name Rock Dove is changed to Rock Pigeon, when waterfowl and gallinaceous birds are to be listed first before the loons, and especially when the A.O.U. says there is more than one species of honker to include on the lists we construct.

Change is inevitable, and there is a lot more to come, whether or not we're prepared for it. If anything, it seems the rate of change involved with listing bird species will accelerate. It's not so much that ornithologists are discovering that much more about a bird, it's mostly that they're debating the basic definition of the word "species." It's the old-school Biological Species Concept (involving the tendency to lump birds and describe geographic populations as subspecies) vs. the newer Phylogenetic Species Concept (involving the tendency to split and define those populations as separate species). In recent years, the pendulum has been swinging the splitters' way.

Accordingly, get ready for more splits in the coming years, not to mention more changes in nomenclature and sequence on the checklist. One way to prepare for this is to take a second look at *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, and you'll find many spe-

cies accounts which delineate differences primarily based on geographic populations. These may well signal future splits, and, if we are aware of these and take more careful note as we encounter these birds now, we won't have to guess as much later when retroactively attempting to reconstruct lists and define the Minnesota status of splits after they become reality.

Of course, not all potential and future splits are discussed in *Sibley* and included below, and certainly some of these entries will be false alarms. Other authors have other ideas. Note that most of these birds differ in both appearance and vocalizations, and that many of these geographic differences involve eastern vs. western North America. Not listed below are those birds which, if split, probably would not involve the Minnesota checklist, but I do include those birds involving potential splits breeding well beyond Minnesota's borders if they might occur here as migrants or strays.

The page numbers refer to *Sibley's* book, where you'll find at least some basic information about these:

Greater White-fronted Goose (p. 77) —

Three forms nest in the tundra and taiga, and at least two of these probably pass through Minnesota.

Canada Goose (p. 74–75) — Yep, as mentioned in the previous “Hindsight” article, brace yourself for what many think will be some additional splits!

Brant (p. 76) — Years ago they were all just Brant, then they were split into two (with both *brota* and *nigricans* documented in Minnesota), then lumped again, and now — guess what — many authorities say there are three species! Besides *Sibley*, also see *North American Birds* 58:180–185.

Tundra Swan (p. 73) — Some think the Eurasian form, Bewick's Swan, could be a separate species. No Minnesota records, perhaps, but who's been looking?

Green-winged Teal (p. 88) — Formerly, the European/Eurasian Teal was a sep-

arate species, then it was lumped, and now, naturally, it's thought to be separate again. Like the Bewick's Swan, it's a no-Minnesota-record-but-who's-been-looking bird.

Common Eider (p. 94) — If you're lucky enough to turn up this Accidental some year, take careful note of its appearance so you know which Common Eider “species” it is.

Great Blue Heron (p. 60) — Here we go again: the Great White Heron was separate, then lumped, so isn't it bound to be split again? There are records of this form wandering to northern states.

Red-tailed Hawk (p. 122–123) — With so many plumages and populations, can a split be far behind? (Remember when Harlan's was a separate species?) Besides *Sibley*, also see *Birding* 33:436–446 and 36:500–506, and *Hawks of North America* by Clark and Wheeler.

Willet (p. 172) — The Western Willet seems more likely, but who's to say the Eastern “species” couldn't wander here?

Whimbrel (p. 174) — Besides *Sibley*, also see *North American Birds* 53:232–236.

Short-billed Dowitcher (p. 191) — Three subspecies/populations have long been recognized, with *bendersoni* the default migrant here. But could the other two, *griseus* and *caurinus*, pass through Minnesota as well, and could they be separate species?

Mew Gull (p. 212–213) — All three Minnesota records seem to pertain to the West Coast form *brachyrhynchus*, but the European form *canus* seems a possibility on the Great Lakes.

Herring Gull (p. 216–217) — The Yellow-legged Gull, an East Coast (and perhaps Great Lakes?) rarity from Europe, has already been split, but still more Herring Gull splits seem inevitable. Besides *Sibley*, consult *Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia* by Olsen and Larsson (not recommended for the faint of heart).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (p. 225) — Besides *Sibley*, also see *Birding* 27:282–290 and 27:370–381.

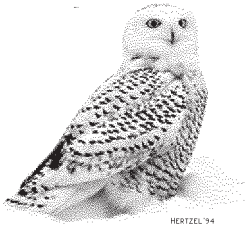
Common Ground-Dove (p. 259) — Is the

- lone Minnesota record a bird from the Eastern or Western population?
- Downy Woodpecker (p. 312) — This and the following two woodpeckers breeding out west look different from those in Minnesota, and it's conceivable they might wander this far east in migration.
- Hairy Woodpecker (p. 313) — See above, under Downy Woodpecker.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker (p. 314) — See above, under Downy Woodpecker.
- Northern Flicker (p. 318) — They already lumped and re-split the Gilded Flicker, so why not do the same with the Red-shafted?
- Willow Flycatcher (p. 326) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Bell's Vireo (p. 345) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Warbling Vireo (p. 344) — Rumors of an East-West split, based mainly on song differences, seem especially credible. Besides *Sibley*, also see *North American Birds* 57:296–298.
- Gray Jay (p. 356) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Western Scrub-Jay (p. 352) — No Minnesota record yet, but there is potential for one — and will it come from the Texas or Arizona population?
- Horned Lark (p. 363) — A half dozen or so populations/forms have long been described, but with so many involved, any splitting here could be messy.
- Purple Martin (p. 365) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Cave Swallow (p. 369) — Like the scrub-jay, there is good potential for a first state record and for a split. If and when one arrives here, it will probably be from Texas, but note the strays on the East Coast seem to be Caribbean in origin.
- Black-capped Chickadee (p. 374) — Only chickadees of the Eastern population should breed here, but in some years lots of chickadees are noted migrating down the North Shore: perhaps some are from the two Western populations/"species." Several other passerines on this list have a similar situation: only one form (typically the Eastern) breeds in Minnesota, but other forms (i.e., potentially split species) breeding elsewhere (typically in the West) might pass through here during migration.
- White-breasted Nuthatch (p. 381) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Brown Creeper (p. 383) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Bewick's Wren (p. 385) — When this Accidental turns up, is it the Eastern "species" or a bird from the Southwest?
- House Wren (p. 386) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Winter Wren (p. 387) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Marsh Wren (p. 389) — An East-West split, based mostly on vocalizations, may be inevitable, with both possibly breeding in Minnesota.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (p. 394) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (p. 397) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Northern Wheatear (p. 399) — Did the two vagrants which strayed here come from Alaska or eastern Canada?
- Veery (p. 406) — Besides *Sibley*, see the series on thrush identification in *Birding* 32:120–135, 32:242–254, 32:318–331, and 34:276–282.
- Swainson's Thrush (p. 407) — See Veery.
- Hermit Thrush (p. 409) — See Veery.
- Curve-billed Thrasher (p. 413) — There are three Minnesota records and strong support for splitting this into two species.
- American Pipit (p. 421) — Besides *Sibley*, also see *North American Birds* 56:388–398.
- Orange-crowned Warbler (p. 427) — Of the four populations, the *taiga* form should predominate here in migration.
- Nashville Warbler (p. 430) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (p. 436) — Here's another one of those split-lumped-split possibilities, and there are several records in migration of the Audubon's form.
- Yellow-throated Warbler (p. 444) — If the white-lored and yellow-lored forms are

- split, Minnesota might have records of both.
- Palm Warbler (p. 441) — Unlike the chickadees *et al.*, those breeding here are Western, with a potential for the Eastern “species” in migration.
- Common Yellowthroat (p. 452) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Wilson’s Warbler (p. 454) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Yellow-breasted Chat (p. 457) — Rarely nests in the state, but there may well be records of both Eastern and Western birds.
- Summer Tanager (p. 462) — Even rarer than the chat as a breeder here, this is yet another East vs. West split.
- Spotted Towhee (p. 474) — Just when we were getting used to separating this from Eastern Towhees, it seems a second Spotted Towhee may achieve full species status.
- Brewer’s Sparrow (p. 484) — Only a couple records in Minnesota, but were they Brewer’s or Timberline sparrows? Besides *Sibley*, also see *Birding* 28:374–387. For this and the other sparrows listed here, consult *The Sparrows of the United States and Canada* or *Sparrows of the United States and Canada: The Photographic Guide* by James Rising.
- Savannah Sparrow (p. 490–491) — See Rising’s sparrow guides.
- Fox Sparrow (p. 496–497) — Also see *Birding* 31:508–517 and 32:412–417.
- Song Sparrow (p. 498) — See Rising’s sparrow guides.
- White-crowned Sparrow (p. 495) — Also see *Birding* 27:182–200.
- Dark-eyed Junco (p. 500–502) — After four species were lumped into one a few decades ago, it seems high time for some splits. Besides *Sibley*, also see *Birding* 34:432–443 and 35:132–136.
- Painted Bunting (p. 469) — Eastern and Western populations exist, and we don’t know from which direction our strays come.
- Brown-headed Cowbird (p. 510) — That’s right, two or perhaps three distinct populations of this beloved bird exist!
- Bronzed Cowbird (p. 511) — No Minnesota record yet, but there is potential for this (these?) species to stray this far north.
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (p. 526) — Both coastal and interior forms have been documented in Minnesota.
- Pine Grosbeak (p. 525) — Three populations which differ in both plumage and vocalizations are involved.
- Purple Finch (p. 528) — See Black-capped Chickadee.
- Red Crossbill (p. 530–531) — For years, there has been serious talk about splitting this into as many as nine (!) species, based on range, vocalizations, bill size, and food preferences. Perhaps three or more of these occur in Minnesota. Besides *Sibley*, also see *Birding* 27:494–501.
- Hoary Redpoll (p. 533) — As if telling a Common Redpoll from a Hoary isn’t hard enough, there is talk of two Hoary Redpoll species, *hornemanni* and *exilipes*, both of which occur in Minnesota.
- Lesser Goldfinch (p. 535) — No Minnesota record yet, but it is overdue, and hopefully the documentation will include whether it’s the black-backed or green-backed form in case there is a split.
- Evening Grosbeak (p. 524) — The calls of Western and Eastern birds clearly differ and may represent a compelling reason for a split.

Sixty-eight potential splits?! I’d say that’s more than enough for now — certainly more than I would have guessed before I looked into this. Let’s hope, though, that many of these never come to pass, otherwise there will be lots of ID headaches as a result: splitting headaches, that is. As *Sibley* points out, separating most of these forms in the field is a very daunting task and involves distinguishing very minute differences: splitting hairs, so to speak. (I have to wonder if any mammalogists face anything similar: you know, like splitting hares?)

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BOOK REVIEWS

Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin, Robert Janssen, Darryl Tesen, and Gregory Kennedy. Lone Pine Press, Copyright 2003. 376 pages. Illustrations by Gary Ross and Ted Nordhagan. Maps by Volker Bodegon, Elliot Engley, and Arlana Anderson-Hale. \$19.95 U.S., \$26.95 Canadian. Reviewed by Roger Schroeder.

The book *Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin*, with its focused look at birds in these two Great Lakes states, asks us once again, “Can you ever have too many field guides?” In my opinion the answer to that question is, “It depends.”

Personally, I’ve been waiting for this book for years — ever since wanting to take my recreational bird watching to a new level by picking up a copy of Robert Janssen’s *Birds of Minnesota* (1987. University of Minnesota Press). I enjoyed the depth of information on each species, yet longed for a Minnesota-specific book that included color photos or illustrations of all of Minnesota’s regularly occurring birds. The first attempt of that book is now here. *Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin* highlights 322 species in a well-designed, easy to use format that efficiently summarizes important species details using full page profiles with color illustrations, descriptive text, and range maps.

The book is housed in a protective, water-resistant cover which caught my attention immediately with its illustration of the Great Northern Diver (a.k.a. Common Loon). Also catching the eye is the useful back cover that displays a well-designed system (using color-coding and small illustrations) to guide readers quickly to the first page of each family of species. To expand on this quick find system; 11 pages in the front go into greater detail

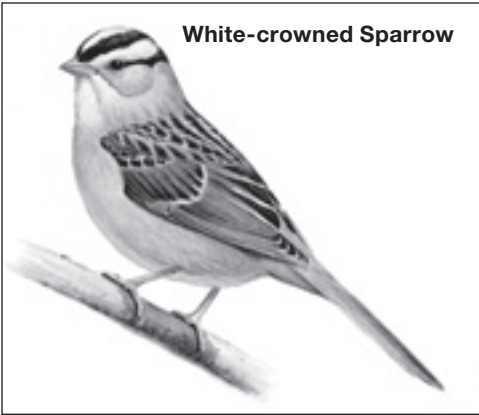
by providing small illustrations of each species profiled.

The introduction is very well written, and seeks to empower and educate bird-watching enthusiasts of all skill levels. Readers are encouraged to enjoy, appreciate, and learn about avian life, and to become more knowledgeable about birds. This not only includes learning how to distinguish one species from another, but also understanding why certain habitats are chosen, what their behaviors are, and what threats to their existence are present in our states.

This book would seem to make a great start for any reader. However, after delving into the meat of the book a different impression will be left with birdwatchers of differing abilities, interests, or levels of experience.

In the main section of the book, 322 of the regularly occurring species in the two states are profiled, each one on a single page. Each account contains a full color illustration and written overview of the species. After reading several of these profiles, I felt as if I had been formally introduced to each bird for the first time. The text used in each description seeks to connect the reader to the bird itself, eliciting a greater appreciation for each species.

The layout of this “one-species-per-page” format is well done. Below each illustration and overview — in an abbreviated format — are several specific categories that assist the reader in better locating and identifying the species. Identification tips are presented with specific attention given to important distinctions of similar species. The current known status of occurrence, abundance, and distribution is given for both states with suggestions for



the more likely places to find the species in each. Also included is useful information about the species' nesting, feeding preferences, and behavior. Each profile page has a range map that uses common-place color shading strategies to indicate generally where and when this species is likely to be observed.

Though the format of the species profiles is well-designed, some of the content on each page is not as refined as could have been. In some cases, the text appears not to have been written for this region. The account for Buff-breasted Sandpiper is one such example, saying in part, "Most adult Buff-breasted Sandpipers migrate through the center of the continent, so the individuals that we see in our region are mainly dispersing juveniles."

One will most certainly take note of the differences in artistic style of the illustrations. With two primary artists, there are noticeable differences in the paintings (see inset examples). Some of the illustrations look as crisp and clean as those in other major field guides. Others have a more artistic flair as if attempting to illustrate how the bird might look in the field. This difference, unfortunately, may put some readers off, or worse, be the source of confusion. Several successive pages contain birds in the same family (e.g. warblers) that are drawn to different scales. And although I admire the work of both artists, it would seem that the assignment of illustrations could have been more thoughtful so that only one artist

worked on one family to avoid potential confusion, and to add consistency to the profiles.

Also with respect to the illustrations, most of the species that are profiled are displayed with only one illustration — usually of the breeding-plumaged male. To those who wish to use this guide as a reference for identification purposes, the lack of female and juvenile plumages will not be sufficient. As well, some illustrations are a little off. The female Northern Harrier, for example, looks a bit dark, and the Savannah Sparrow appears to be completely wingless.

The range maps are shown with the two states adjoining, and usually display congruent distribution data. However, several cases exist where the interpretation of distribution data leaves a significant gap in the appearance of the map. While most of the maps presented show harmonious ranges between the states, others fall short. A glance at the Western Sandpiper map, for example, might give the impression that this species can regularly be seen throughout Wisconsin during migration, but not at all in Minnesota. The reason for the odd representations of species such as Western Sandpiper, King Rail, and Northern Bobwhite could be the result of flawed interpretation of data (unlikely, considering the qualifications of the authors), or a lack of suitable data resources from which the map could be drawn. For many, these discrepancies will be a disappointment. I suspect the issue is more the fault of the

editors than the authors.

Following the species profiles is a shorter section listing 34 additional species that are not seen with any regularity in either state. Only a few illustrations are included for these birds, but a paragraph describing the appearance and potential occurrence in both states is very helpful.

Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin will most likely not fit in your jeans pocket, as its size seems suitable for taking in the field only if you have a coat or vest with wide pockets (i.e. it is about two inches wider than the Peterson guides of old). However, because of the limited number of illustrations per species, the occasional illustration that does not assist the user with proper identification, and the few discrepancies in range map representation, this book may not be the guide of preference to bring into the field.

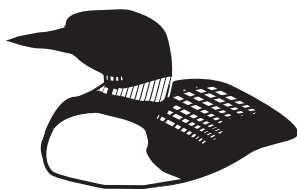
This book will have a strong appeal to several audiences. For example, as a com-

panion guide it will serve many people well with its local perspective, and will be a delight to those local birders or backyard birdwatchers who are confused by the number of species covered in national field guides. For those just starting out, the well-summarized and well-designed species accounts will not be as overbearing as more comprehensive guides, and the size will seem easily manageable.

A final feature — unique to the book I received — is an inscription from Mr. Janssen which reads, *Watch Minnesota Birds*. An appropriate inscription from a man who previously has stated that birding always seems more enjoyable after crossing the state line into Minnesota. Though it is not the guide I will choose to bring into the field, I am thrilled finally to have my long-desired guide focusing on the birds of Minnesota [and Wisconsin].

215 Rainbow Drive, Marshall, MN 56258.

NOTES OF INTEREST



FIRST DULUTH CBC RECORD OF WESTERN GREBE — During the Duluth Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 20 December 2003, I identified a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) on Lake Superior off 21st Avenue East. I had spotted a small “white thing” while scanning the lake from Canal Park in the early afternoon, but had no idea whether it was a bird or simply flotsam, since it was nearly two miles away.



I moved to the Fitzer’s parking ramp and then to Leif Erickson Park, easily refound it both times and determined that it was a bird, but still could not identify it. From the pedestrian overpass east of the park I could see that it was a grebe. It looked too big to be a Horned Grebe, so I started thinking about the possibility of Red-necked Grebe — at that point, not even considering *Aechmophorus*. I drove to the 21st Avenue East exit ramp, found the bird with my

spotting scope again, and finally realized that it was a Western/Clark's type grebe. I drove down the ramp to the shoreline where I could scan the lake, and after several anxious minutes of not seeing it at all, re-found it for the fourth time that afternoon and finally identified it as a Western Grebe.

Its dull yellowish bill helped eliminate Clark's Grebe, which shows a bright orange bill. Furthermore, its black cap bisected its eyes on both sides of the head. Its blackish hindnape did not seem particularly narrow. There was minimal contrast between its dark gray back and gray flanks. The lower half of its face, and its foreneck and breast were gleaming white. It was actively diving at first, but showed well when it stopped diving and began preening. This was probably the same individual found at Canal Park in late November and again on 3 December, but I am unaware of any subsequent reports until the day of the CBC. I looked for it after the 20th without success.

The first Western Grebe during the winter at Duluth was also on Lake Superior, discovered 6 December 1986 (*The Loon* 59:129). There have been two winter records on Lake Superior in Lake County: 9–10 December 1983 (*The Loon* 56:148) and 26 November 2000 through 20 January 2001 (*The Loon* 73:154). The latter bird was recorded on the Two Harbors CBC (count week). The first Minnesota CBC record was at Fergus Falls, 22 December 1973 (*The Loon* 47:114–119). Most remarkable of all was the Western Grebe that overwintered on Big Stone Lake near Ortonville from mid-November 1977 through late March 1978 (*The Loon* 50:157). **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 E. 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533.**

LATE CLARK'S GREBE IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — One of my morning birding routines is checking the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge reservoir in Lac Qui Parle County. On the morning of 24 September 2003, while scanning the water with my spotting scope, I came across two Western-type grebes. As usual, I double-checked their identity for the possibility of Clark's Grebe.



At first glance, they did not look identical as they swam away from me about 1,000 feet out from shore. I increased to 60X and saw that the bird on the right was a typical Western Grebe, but the other individual showed features of Clark's Grebe. When it turned its head to the left, the morning sun illuminated its facial features. White surrounded the eye and the bill was bright yellow in contrast to the dull bill of its counterpart. Also apparent at this angle was a thinner dorsal neck stripe and paler flanks compared to the Western's. It was too far away to see any size difference. The birds stayed together and swam in the same general direction as I took field notes. **Bill J. Unzen, RR 1, Box 169, Bellingham, MN 56212.**

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS AND THISTLE FEEDERS — From 17 November through 2 December 2003, I had six or seven American Tree Sparrows at my feeding station. Typical of tree sparrows, they did most of their feeding on the ground. However, some of them soon began feeding from the thistle feeder. Close observation confirmed that at least three of them fed at the feeder as well as on the ground.



From 3–7 December, I observed no tree sparrows. Then on the 8th, three returned for one day. At least two of them again did part of their feeding at the thistle feeder.

Through the MOU's internet listservice (MOU-Net), I requested information from other birders and asked if they had observed similar behavior in American Tree Sparrows. Of the 22 responses, 21 indicated they had never seen American Tree Sparrows feed from a thistle feeder. One couple said they thought it would be highly unlikely

to happen. One respondent thought he may have observed tree sparrows feeding at a thistle feeder several years ago, but he was unsure.

A few tree sparrows returned on three later dates. On 8 January, two made a visit. One fed on the ground and one at the thistle feeder. On 15 January, three returned. One fed on the ground and two at the thistle feeder. And on 14 February, one made a visit and fed from the thistle feeder.

Did I have an unusual flock or are American Tree Sparrows adapting to changing conditions? I encourage everyone to be observant and notify me if any American Tree Sparrows are seen feeding at a thistle feeder. **Bob Holtz, 668 Overlook Drive, Ros-
eville, MN 55113.**

LATE PHILADELPHIA VIREO IN COOK COUNTY — On 20 November 2003, while



I was conducting a migrant survey for the National Park Service at Grand Portage National Monument in Cook County, a Philadelphia Vireo landed in a bush about ten feet away from me at the stockade area. The bird was vireo/warbler sized and had a dark crown, gray back, yellowish under parts, and yellow throat (the yellow extended completely across the center of the breast and throat). The flight feathers were slightly darker than the back. Its lores were dark. The bill was thick and slightly hooked. The bird appeared smaller and stockier

than my mental image of a Red-eyed Vireo.

The previous record-late date for this species in Minnesota was 5 November 1994. **Dave Benson, 427 N. 16th Ave. E., Duluth, MN 55812.**

ANOTHER BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN HOUSTON COUNTY — On 11 November



2003, I discovered an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye while scanning a large group of diving ducks on Pool #8 at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge in Houston County. Although I estimated the duck to be over 400 yards away, I could clearly identify it through my tripod-mounted 20 x 80 Celestron binoculars. Dave Neitzel, who was birding with me at the time, also viewed the bird with his tripod-mounted Kowa scope with a 20 power eyepiece.

We watched the duck for only a couple of minutes, before some fishermen walking near the spillway flushed the entire flock. The following Saturday (15 November) I returned to the refuge and refound the Barrow's Goldeneye. This time it was much closer — probably about 150 yards distant — and I watched it for about five minutes until a passing train scared up the whole group of ducks.

Though impossible to prove, I believe that this bird was probably the same individual that I had discovered in this same general area on 17 November 2001 (*The Loon* 74:118–119).

The most prominent features separating it from the numerous Common Goldeneyes were as follows:

- 1) The extensive black region of its back extended forward on each side from the shoulders and formed two downward-pointing “hooks”. This seems to be the easiest field mark to use at extreme range and is unique to drake Barrow's Goldeneye. It also showed small white scapular marks along its back, quite unlike the large, white, stripe-like scapulars on the Common Goldeneyes.

- 2) It had the classic Barrow's head shape — a large, domed head, beginning with an abrupt forehead and tapering back towards the nape. Common Goldeneye drakes sport a high-peaked, triangular-shaped head.

- 3) The white cheek spot near the bill was crescent-shaped, not round as on the Common Goldeneyes. **Paul Jantscher, 7533 – 15th Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423.**



Common Redpoll, 2 January 2004, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by David Cahlander.

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

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



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

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A Minnesota Record of the Carolina Parakeet

Anthony X. Hertzel

“**F**or a space (all the way when I was on this river) between the meadows and the plains is thousands of acres of marshy land where grows vast quantities of Indian rice where the Naudouessie [Sioux] get their supplies and cannot gather the hundredth part which is a great means of a vast resort of all sorts of water fowl in spring and fall: (swans, geese and ducks, storks, cormorants, a few parrots and many other species.)”

This is how, on 20 November 1766, Jonathan Carver (1976) described his first visit to the “Great Encampment” along the Minnesota River in the area near what is now Belle Plaine, Scott County. The birds he mentions are noteworthy for Minnesota ornithology.

The “storks” are almost certainly Great Blue Herons, while most of the other birds listed are still familiar today. And then there are those “few parrots.” By all indications, Carver is reporting Carolina Parakeets (*Conurus carolinensis*) in Minnesota — a bird not on the state list nor mentioned elsewhere in the state’s old ornithological literature.

History

Since it was first described in 1758, the Carolina Parakeet has been referred to under a variety of names, including “parrot,” “parquet,” “parroquet,” “parakeet,” and even “Carolina Conure”. Elliott Coues and John James Audubon referred to the species as “parrots” as did many other ornithologists of the time. Baird *et al.* (1874) give the names “Parakeet,” “Carolina Parrot,” and “Illinois Parrot,” stating “this species was once very abundant in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, being known throughout the southern states, and the entire valley of the Mississippi north to the Great Lakes.” In describing its former range, Cooke (1885) wrote, “This beautiful Parrot formerly was resident

throughout the Mississippi Valley and the South Atlantic and Gulf States. It no longer exists in the northern part of its former range and can scarcely be found north of latitude 36°.... Formerly immense flocks were found all over Indian Territory.”

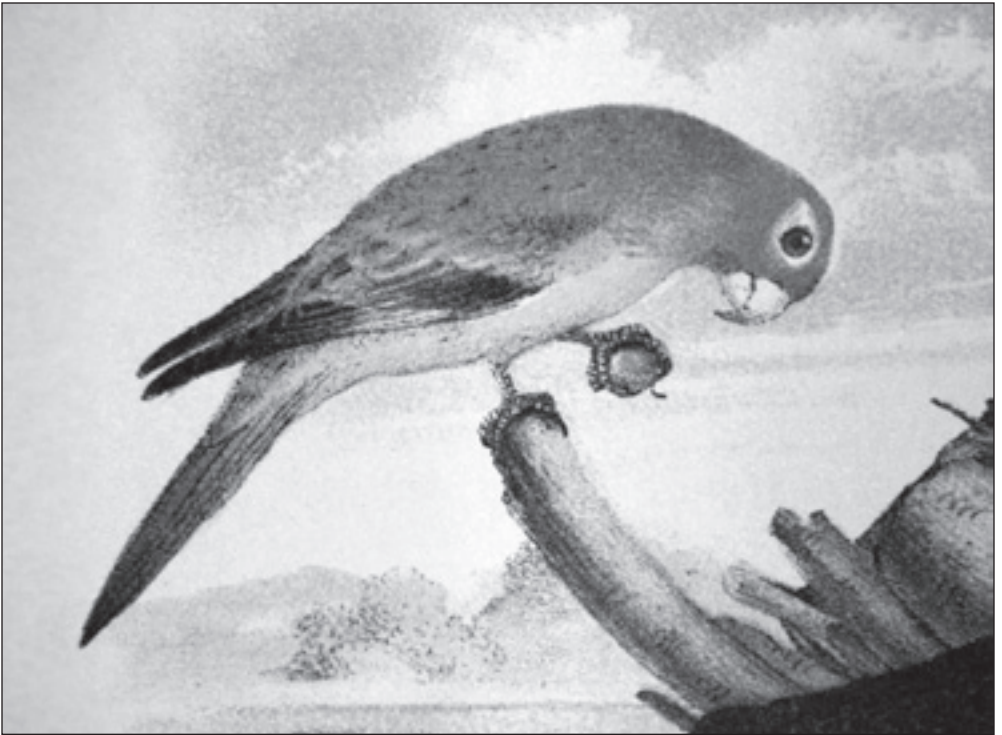
Whether because of over-hunting, disease, loss of habitat, or some other agent, the last Carolina Parakeet probably disappeared into extinction sometime in the 1930s (Snyder and Russell 2002), though it is possible that a few persisted in very small numbers into the 1940s or even the 1950s (Snyder 2004).

Old records exist for Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, but until now, there have been none from Minnesota. Breckenridge (1995) wondered if the Carolina Parakeet was, at the very least, a casual visitor to the state. He reasoned that with the species’ assumed range coming so close to southern Minnesota (see Figures 1 and 2), and since the cocklebur — one of its favorite foods (Snyder and Russell 2002) — is so plentiful across the southern half of the state (Ownbey and Morley 1991), occasional visits here by Carolina Parakeets would seem likely. Roberts (1932) made no formal mention of parakeets in any Minnesota context, though his personal files indicate that he did track records from adjacent states.

Records From Adjacent States

Indications that the species’ natural range approached the Minnesota border can be found throughout the literature. McKinley (1965) summarizes records from South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Coues (1903) wrote that the species occurred “recently in Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska” without details, and there are extant specimens from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Illinois, and Kansas.

Kumlien and Hollister (1903) describe



Carolina Parakeet painting by Theodore Jasper, from Jacob Henry Studer's *Popular Ornithology, The Birds of North America* (1895).

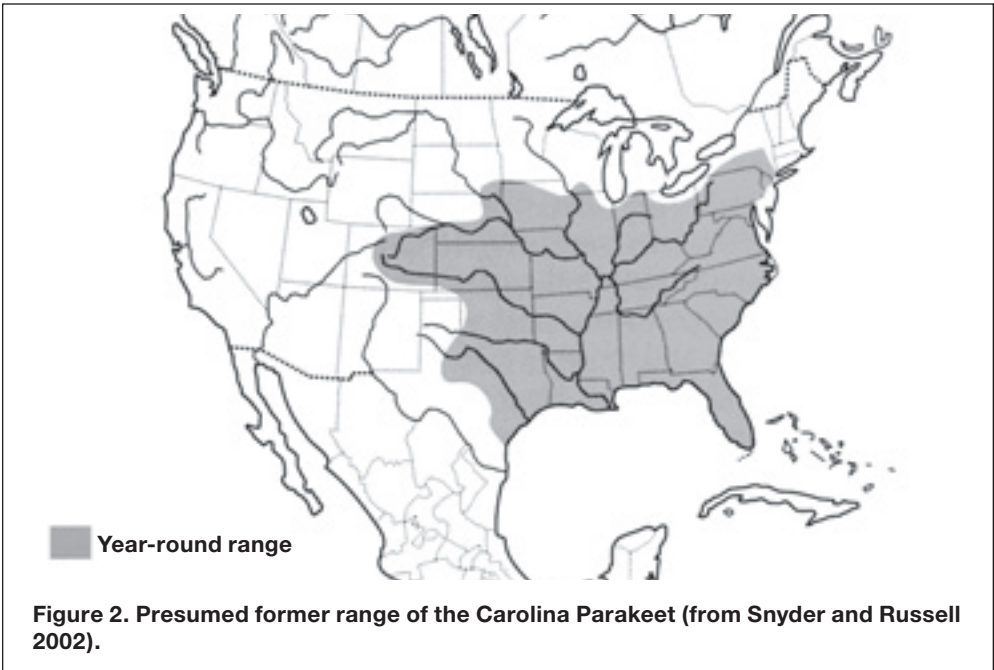
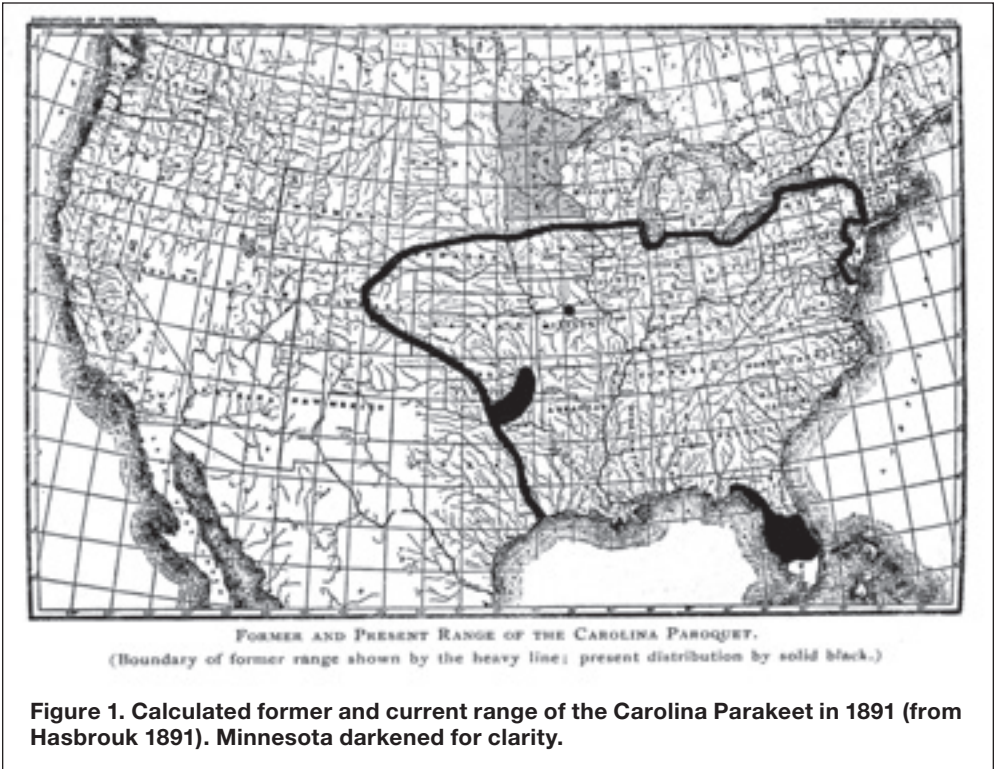
a Carolina Parakeet specimen taken in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, about 1844. They write "Thure Kumlien saw a considerable flock near Lake Koshkonong in 1844 or 1845. One specimen which he secured at this place at an early day was sent to John G. Bell of New York." Though this specimen is now apparently lost, another taken by Kumlien in 1844 in Waukesha County is preserved in the Milwaukee Public Museum (#16134/9110).

Anderson (1907) characterized the parakeet in Iowa as occurring "in flocks as far as the northern part of the state" and cites numerous indefinite records. Bartsch (1895) gives the northern limit in Iowa as Spirit Lake in Dickinson County where parakeets would "frequently remain until the cold snow would drive it southward." Additional Iowa sightings by Trippe (1873), Say (James 1823), and others support the notion that the species was formerly fairly common in the state,

though probably less so near the Minnesota border.

Duke Paul Wilhelm (1973) commented that during his travels in 1823, the species was rarely found north of the mouth of the Sioux River in what is now southeastern South Dakota. Twenty years later, Audubon's party reported Carolina Parakeets considerably farther north. On 16 September 1843, the birds were found along the Missouri River at Fort George (near Pierre) in eastern Stanley County, South Dakota (Audubon 1897, Wood 1923). The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (1991) cites this record and describes the species' presence in the state as having occurred along the Missouri River to central South Dakota, though rarely seen north of the present Iowa-South Dakota line. Audubon's record is very nearly at the same latitude as Carver's Belle Plaine observation.

A fall or winter 1833-34 record from



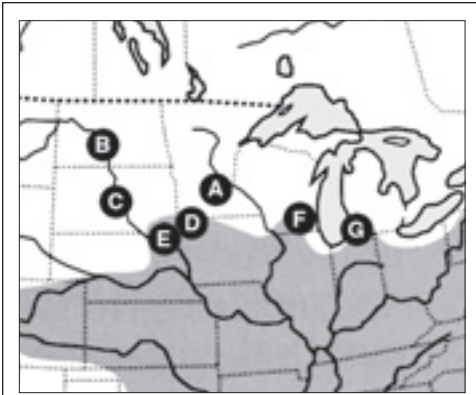


Figure 3. Approximate locations of the seven northern-most published records of the Carolina Parakeet in the Upper Midwest. Note, not all authorities accept all records. A = Belle Plaine MN (Carver 1976); B = Fort Clark ND (Maximilian 1843); C = Fort George SD (Audubon 1897); D = Spirit Lake IA (Bartsh 1895); E = mouth of Sioux River SD (Wilhelm 1973); F = Lake Koshkonong WI (Kumlien and Hollister 1903); G = St. Joseph River MI/IN (Schorger 1963).

North Dakota by the German Prince Maximilian (Maximilian 1843) in Oliver County was questioned by McKinley (1965) but found acceptable by Wood (1923) and Swenk (1934). Arriving in the fall of 1832, Maximilian traveled up the Missouri River in the spring of 1833 and spent the winter at Fort Clark, North Dakota. During his stay at Fort Clark, he apparently recorded what he had seen during the trip. The list included “many interesting species of birds, among which are the turkey-buzzard, the stone falcon, the owl (a very hardy bird, which remains here throughout the whole of the rigorous winter), the Carolina parrot, the humming-bird (*Trochilus colubris*), wild pigeon, woodpecker, magpie, and many others.” The latitude of this record would be approximately the same as that of Duluth, Minnesota.

The AOU (1998) has labeled the records from North and South Dakota “questionable.” This is a change from their earlier position of “formerly ranged from North Dakota, eastern Nebraska, Iowa,

southern Wisconsin, Ohio, and central New York...” (AOU 1957) and may be due in part to Daniel McKinley’s work forty years ago. McKinley (1965) went to great measures to research and validate previously published records of the Carolina Parakeet and called into question those that could not be verified with a specimen or other incontrovertible proof.

The South Dakota Ornithologists’ Union has followed the AOU’s lead. Tallman *et al.* (2002) recently revised the characterization of the species’ occurrence in the state to “this parrot may have occurred along the Missouri River to central South Dakota.”

Discussion

The map drawn by Hasbrouk (1891) and shown in Figure 1 was generated using published records known to him at the time. Hasbrouk explained “that in drawing the boundary line of the former range I have used the extreme records as boundaries, and a line drawn from one to the other as the extent of the former distribution.” At the time, Hasbrouk was aware of neither Carver’s Minnesota observation nor those from the Dakotas.

The map in Snyder and Russell (2002) and shown in Figure 2 appears to be a modern rendition of Hasbrouk’s, and also without Wilhelm’s, Audubon’s, or Maximilian’s observations. Note that on both maps, the parakeet’s range appears influenced by major river valleys. Carolina Parakeets were birds with a preference for areas near water, “either river or swamp” (Fuller 1987). All of the Upper Midwest records at or beyond the fringes of the parakeet’s presumed former range, as depicted in Figure 3, are on major river systems or lakeshores. Carver’s record (A) is from the Minnesota River.

If the species did visit Minnesota — at least casually — why are there no other records? Following are four possible reasons for this.

1) Minnesota would have been at the extreme northern limits of the parakeet’s range, so its occurrence here was probably rather rare, perhaps only as a casual

visitor or an accidental stray.

2) The Carolina Parakeet population was already in decline by the 1820s — before the first real influx of European explorers arrived in Minnesota. Audubon (1831) commented on this decline, writing “Our Parakeets are very rapidly diminishing in number; and in some districts, where twenty-five years ago they were plentiful, scarcely any are now to be seen,” and “I should think that along the Mississippi there is not now half the number that existed fifteen years ago.” The parakeet’s range contraction southward and away from Minnesota is evident with an examination of the last recorded observations in the northern states as shown in Table 1. It would seem that no one found parakeets in Minnesota because by the time serious explorers arrived, its range no longer approached the state close enough for the birds to visit.

3) Most early explorers were not interested in reporting the non-game birds that they encountered. Consequently, the first mention of some of the most common Minnesota birds often do not appear in the historical literature until well into the 19th century. For example, the first published report of Eastern Bluebird did not occur until 1855 (Head 1855) and Tree Swallow until 1861 (Thoreau 1905).

4) Minnesota was probably not within the boundaries of the parakeet’s typical summer range and almost certainly they did not breed here. Likely they only would be visiting Minnesota and other places at or beyond the fringes of their range after the breeding season had passed, arriving in the fall or early winter. McKinley (1977) looked for post-breeding movements but concentrated his efforts on studying the possibility of migration. Yet his work suggests “especially wide distribution in the winter months” (Snyder and Russell 2002). This is supported by the following northwestern fringe-state data:

- The only Minnesota record is from late November.
- The only North Dakota record is from fall/winter.

State	Last Date	Source
Michigan / Indiana	1718	Schorger 1963
Minnesota	1766	Carver 1781
North Dakota	~1833	Maximilian 1843
South Dakota	1843	Wood 1923
Wisconsin	~1844	Kumlien & Hollister 1903
Nebraska	1866	Furnas 1902
Iowa	early 1870s	Tripe 1873

Table 1. State by state listing of last published records for the Carolina Parakeet in the northwestern parts of its range, sorted by date. Note, not all authorities accept all records.

- The only northern record for South Dakota is from mid-September.
- The only northern Iowa record is from early winter.

Additionally, the most northerly record in the eastern part of the parakeet’s range is from Albany, New York, in January. In fact, as near as I have been able to determine, *all* New York records that can be assigned to a season are from the winter. In the west, the only Colorado record that can be assigned to a season is from December.

Furthermore, I can find no record of any early explorer other than Carver visiting potential Carolina Parakeet habitat in southern Minnesota both in the late fall or winter *and* before the species had become rare (at least at the edges of its range). Long, Pike, Owen, Schoolcraft, Beltrami, and most of the other early explorers were in the southern parts of the state in the spring and summer when the parakeets probably were not. Thompson was exploring Minnesota in the winter in the late 1700s but only in the far northern areas.

To summarize, no one who would have made the effort to record the birds they encountered on their travels was in the right place at the right time to find Carolina Parakeets in Minnesota.

Carver’s Record

Why has Carver’s parakeet observation been overlooked for so long? The answer lies in the preproduction history

of his book, *Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America*. The final published work was the fourth rewrite of his original intended manuscript. Prior to its initial London release in 1778, the publisher's editors were given free rein to embellish, alter, and "improve" the original text — which Carver himself had already rewritten and expanded three times — to make the book more appealing to a wider audience.

Carver's first manuscript was, essentially, a straightforward journal with daily accounts of his travels, interactions with Native Americans, reports on the fur trade, and descriptions of local geography and natural resources. By the fourth revision, however, the book had been substantially expanded and edited by Carver and others into the familiar *Travels*. With each revision, the book's focus became more and more one of exploration and discovery rather than the narratives of a fur trader. This shift was, to a degree, at the expense of accuracy and credibility. Descriptions of new places in an unknown country, the introduction of "culture" to the Native Americans, and the search for a western passage became important themes. Carver himself rises from a subordinate to actually leading the expedition. Some added texts may even have been lifted from other authors' works to augment Carver's (Parker in introduction to Carver 1976).

Along with the additions, many parts of Carver's original journal were modified, cut, or abbreviated. Among the changes was the deletion of his description of the Great Encampment, and with that edit went the record of the Carolina Parakeet. In his *Travels*, Carver does mention "parrots" in the appendix, but no specific locations are given.

All four of Carver's versions are still housed in the British Museum. When Dr. John Parker examined the complete set in the early 1970s, he realized that historical accuracy had been compromised in the final *Travels* in favor of hyperbole. Parker spent considerable time reviewing each version and making comparisons between them. Using the original manuscript as a

foundation, and when necessary or appropriate, incorporating texts from the other three revisions, Parker produced *The Journals of Jonathan Carver* in 1976. There, on page 95, Carver's 1766 Carolina Parakeet observation finally surfaced.

Acknowledgments

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Changes to the Minnesota Bird List

1998–2004

Andrew W. Jones

Birds are among the best-studied animals in the world, and our knowledge of taxonomy of birds is rivaled by no other organisms. Within North and Central America, the taxonomy of our birds has been standardized thanks to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list Committee. This group of eight to nine individuals votes on proposed changes to scientific and common names of all birds recorded in this area (a whopping 2038 species at present) due to research being carried out by ornithologists around the world. Their votes are based on reading scientific studies published in peer-reviewed journals, and their changes are reflected in each successive edition of most field guides.

From time to time the check-list committee publishes a thick volume which lists, in a taxonomic arrangement, all of the species and their distributions, with comments on taxonomy. The last time this was done was in 1998 (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). Since then, the committee has continued to vote on changes, and the results are published in the journal *The Auk* on a roughly annual basis. Four updates have been made since 1998 (American Ornithologists' Union 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2004), and the changes relevant to Minnesota birds are summarized here.

The major change which will impact the appearance of field guides is a change in taxonomic order. This taxonomic order is the same one that most field guides follow, typically beginning with ratites (ostrich, emu, etc.) and tinamous, then loons, grebes, and so on, reflecting our understanding of how various species, genera, families, and orders are related to each other. Recent studies using large amounts of DNA evidence have supported results

from previous morphology research; the gallinaceous (grouse, ptarmigan, pheasant, etc.) birds are closely related to the true waterfowl, and these two groups are quite different from all other groups of birds. This new grouping, typically called the "Galloanserae," will follow the ratites and tinamous in taxonomic order. Your next North American field guide may begin with grouse or ducks!

Another major shake-up in the world of bird taxonomy involves that of the so-called "nine-primaried oscines." This includes cardinals, tanagers, finches, warblers, blackbirds, and their close relatives. Many researchers have shown that species in this group have been placed in the wrong family. For example, John Klicka and colleagues have shown that the genus of tanagers that includes Scarlet and Summer tanagers (*Piranga*) are really not tanagers at all, but instead are related to cardinals. Many of the problematic groups are lesser-known tropical birds like Bush-Tanagers and Zeledonias, but there are a few which occur in Minnesota. Most prominent among these is the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). This bird has been classified as a warbler for some time, but many taxonomists have taken issue with this. Recent DNA evidence clearly shows that it is not a warbler, but is instead a blackbird.

Other Minnesota birds which probably are not placed properly in the taxonomic sequence are the longspurs and the New World buntings (e.g. Snow Bunting). Researchers are finding that these birds are in the wrong place but they are unable to say where the birds really belong. To deal with this uncertainty, the AOU Check-list Committee is currently labeling birds in this category with an asterisk until their "proper place" has been clarified. For the

current status of questionable birds, see <http://www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html>.

The Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) long has been recognized as a highly variable species which may actually consist of several valid species. Birds breeding in northwestern and arctic North America are smaller than the remainder of the Canada Geese (such as the "Giant" Canada Goose that breeds in Minnesota) and many aspects of their natural history differ. Corroborating the natural history variation is recent genetic evidence showing that not only are the smaller northern geese a different species, but they are more closely related to the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) than they are to the other Canada Geese. The smaller forms are now called Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). The MOU Records Committee has classified Cackling Goose in Minnesota as a Regular migrant.

The English name of Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) was recently changed to Long-tailed Duck. The new name reflects common usage throughout the world outside of North America (and was not changed simply for political correctness).

Few Minnesota birders noticed, but the Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), which occurred in Minnesota in 1994, underwent a scientific name change. Populations in North and Central America are now considered separate species from the South American form on the basis of plumage, morphology, and hybridization patterns.

Similarly, the Minnesota visitor Purple Gallinule experienced a scientific name change from *Porphyrio martinica* to *Porphyryla martinica*. This follows the recommendations of a 1973 paper which examined mainly skeletal parts and found that *Porphyrio* and *Porphyryla* could not realistically be separated, thus they should be merged into a single genus. *Porphyryla* is the older name, so it receives usage priority.

The Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) becomes Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*). This change was made in order to recognize the Old World and New

World species separately. The Old World species was named first, so it retains scientific and common names and our bird gets a new name. This taxonomic split was made because of differing winning sounds (a part of their aerial displays) which are due to structural differences in the outer tail feathers.

Perhaps the most high-profile (and to some, irksome) change made by the Check-list Committee in the last six years was the change of the familiar Rock Dove to Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*). This change was made simply to conform with the usage around the world (and particularly with the British Ornithologists' Union), in which all birds of the genus *Columba* are known as Pigeons.

The Band-tailed Pigeon, formerly *Columba fasciata*, became *Patagioenas fasciata*. This reflects two recent molecular studies (as well as reconsideration of some 90-year-old morphological data) which found that New World pigeons were not closely related to Old World pigeons (such as Rock Pigeon).

Two genus names changed for owls in Minnesota. The genus *Otus* is now reserved for birds in the Old World, due to differences in vocal characteristics as well as DNA data (though the Flammulated Owl remains in *Otus* because it is most similar to Old World birds). American *Otus* owls are now *Megascops*; as such, the Eastern Screech-Owl is *Megascops asio*. Genetic data demonstrated that the Snowy Owl, the sole species in the genus *Nyctea*, is actually embedded within the genus *Bubo*, so it is now *Bubo scandiacus*.

The Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*) has become the American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) to reflect a split of the Old World and New World birds into separate species. This split was based on DNA evidence as well as vocal differences.

Another scientific name change which did not affect the common name occurred with the Black-billed Magpie. *Pica pica* is now the name for the Old World species which has been split from our *Pica hudson*

sonica thanks to consistent differences in morphology, behavior, and DNA analysis.

A surprising recent finding came from a study of the relationships among the buntings of the genus *Passerina*. This includes the Indigo and Lazuli buntings. A phylogenetic tree from DNA data on this genus revealed that the Blue Grosbeak is actually a part of this genus. As a consequence, its scientific name was changed from *Guiraca caerulea* to *Passerina caerulea*.

The AOU Check-list Committee is now advised by Normand David, an expert on classical languages. In many cases, once a species has been changed from one genus to another, the specific epithet must be altered to conform with the gender of the genus. These minor corrections have been occurring at a fairly fast rate (some are corrections of very old errors; most are recent genus re-assignments). The affected Minnesota birds are: *Butorides striata*, *Lagopus muta*, *Actitis macularius*, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Poecile hudsonicus*, *Poecile atricapillus*, and *Seiurus aurocapilla*.

At the conclusion of each taxonomic update, the committee mentions other changes which it will consider in the future, but has not yet voted on. Three of the higher-profile possibilities are the splitting of Old World versus New World populations of the Whimbrel and Green-winged Teal, and splitting up the four plumage types of Fox Sparrow. These forms are fairly readily identified in the field. Other possible changes include splitting up *Anas* (many of the dabbling ducks) into multiple genera (based on molecular work), merging all species of magpies into a single species, re-merging Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked thrushes, and splitting up the various plumage forms of Yellow Warbler into multiple species (Mangrove Warbler, etc.).

In addition to these AOU taxonomic changes, the Minnesota checklist also has added several new species. The most recent article published in *The Loon* on additions to the state list appeared in 1998 (Janssen 1998). That paper listed species

added to the state's bird list since 1991. Since then, seven additional species have been recorded in Minnesota, bringing the state's composite total to 430. Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) was added in 1999 on the basis of an observation from Jackson County (Bardon 2001). White-tailed Kite (*Elanoides leucurus*) and White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) were both recorded for the first time on the same day in 2000. The kite was seen and photographed 10–19 May in Washington County (Janssen 2000), and the swift was picked up injured on 10 May in Minneapolis (Hertzel 2000). Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) now has been seen in Minnesota on three occasions, but was first observed in the state on 28 August 2001 (Nicoletti 2002). No new species of bird was added to the Minnesota list in 2002, but a first state record Costa's Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) appeared at a feeder in Wright County in 2003 (Mitchell 2004). Two species were added in 2004, Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) and Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*). Articles on these additions will appear in a future issue of *The Loon* (but see Svingen 2004).

Acknowledgments

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The Spring Season 1 March through 31 May 2004

Paul E. Budde¹, James W. Lind², and Peder H. Svingen³

Spring 2004 migration was among the most spectacular in recent memory. Highlights included the largest influx of **Snowy Egrets** ever documented in the state, seven records of the still Casual **White-faced Ibis**, an invasion of **Black-necked Stilts**, thousands and thousands of shorebirds in western Minnesota, the first accepted record of the **Arctic Tern** away from Duluth, excellent warbler watching in most areas, six extralimital **Hooded Warblers** in western Minnesota as far north as Kittson County, another major influx of **Summer Tanagers**, and no fewer than three **Painted Buntings**. Rare species showed up in good numbers and many of them lingered long enough to be appreciated by many observers. The M.O.U. Records Committee accepted 29 records of Casual species and 9 records of Accidental species, including a second state record **Curlew Sandpiper**, a third

state record **Black Vulture**, and Minnesota's fourth and fifth **White-winged Dove**! It was, in short, fantastic!

Karl Bardon's fourth (and final?) season at the Hastings-Prescott Bird Count produced the best results yet (165,660 individuals). This was due in part to increased hours of coverage, especially during the evening, but it also should be noted that the number of birds per hour was higher than any other year except 2001. Coverage began earlier in 2004 (27 February) compared to previous seasons, but also ended earlier than usual (14 April).

Frank Nicoletti and Dave Carman conducted the West Skyline Hawk Count in Duluth for the eighth consecutive spring. Highlights included **822 Bald Eagles** on 23 March, reportedly the largest daily migration count for this species anywhere in North America.

Shorebird surveys in Big Stone and Lac

Qui Parle counties began in April, and were extended to include Mud Lake in Traverse County as vast mudflats emerged following a scheduled draw down. Long term drought, reduced snow pack, and below normal spring precipitation created excellent conditions for shorebirds. More than 6,000 individuals were counted on two consecutive weekends in mid-May. One exception was Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, where shorebird numbers were relatively low all year.

Passerines that primarily migrate in May arrived mostly on time in southern Minnesota, but were behind schedule in northern Minnesota. Among the vireos, vanguards of each species arrived within two days of recent medians south and north; this tendency held up for many other May migrants in southern regions, but at Duluth, unusually cold, wet, and windy conditions in late May persisted through the Memorial Day weekend and precipitated “fallouts” in some locations. Delayed leaf-out and reduced abundance of food forced warblers, tanagers, orioles, and buntings to feeders in many northern locations. Steve and Diane Millard had their “best year ever” for **Magnolia** and **Cape May warblers** in Fergus Falls; also in Otter Tail County, Dan and Sandy Thimgan fed jelly, oranges, and syrup to 10–12 **Baltimore Orioles** at once for about a week beginning 12 May in Battle Lake. Martin Kehoe reported that stores in Baudette ran out of grape jelly in May! In late May, Smiley Mehan’s feeder in Duluth hosted a colorful cornucopia of up to 13 **Cape May Warblers** at a time, along with a **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, several **Scarlet Tanagers**, many **Baltimore Orioles** and a male **Orchard Oriole**.

Tom Boevers found 22+ species of warblers in Rice County on five mid-May dates, including 25 species on the 17th. Most areas of the state enjoyed good warbler numbers and diversity; additional peaks included 19 species at St. John’s University in Stearns County 16 May (DCZ), 25 species in St. Louis County 19 May (AXH, PHS), 22 species in Lac Qui Parle County 22 May (BJU), 24 species in Kittson Coun-

ty 28 May (AXH, PHS), and 24 species in St. Louis County 31 May (DOK).

Weather Summary: March was the 17th wettest and 18th warmest for the Midwest since 1895, but Minnesota experienced more moderate weather. Temperatures in the state averaged only slightly warmer than usual, and statewide precipitation was only 0.1 inch above normal. Very heavy snowfall mid-month in Iowa did not extend far into Minnesota. A fast-moving cold front on 22 March tumbled temperatures in northern Minnesota to well below zero, but two days later a warm front pushed in from the southwest and accelerated the snow melt, causing some flooding.

Temperatures continued to average slightly above normal during April, but precipitation totals fell to two-thirds of normal levels on a statewide basis. In fact, every region experienced below average levels of precipitation, with only the Northeast and East-central approaching customary levels. Fairly stable and dry weather during the first half of the month was followed by a series of low pressure systems and cold fronts that brought more stormy weather. At the end of the month, a low pressure system in the southeastern U.S. pulled warm, humid air into the state, causing 70 mph wind gusts in the Arrowhead and record-high temperatures in central Minnesota.

Temperature and precipitation trends both were reversed during May, when temperatures averaged 4° F below means, and statewide rainfall was double the norm. This was the fourth wettest May on record. Notable weather events included a line of strong thunderstorms with straight-line winds in excess of 70 mph that struck the Twin Cities on the 9th. By the 11th, it was 89° F in Redwood Falls, but on the other side of a front bisecting the state there was snow and sleet in the Northwest. A series of cold fronts kept temperatures below normal and brought more rain through the last half of the month.

Escapes and exotics: **Chukar** 3/20 Anoka (Columbia Twp.) SG, GF.

Undocumented reports: **Fulvous Whis-**

ling-Duck 4/18 (2 at Lewiston W.T.P.), **Red-throated Loon** 4/21 St. Louis (2 at Duluth), **Clark's Grebe** 4/28 Douglas (L. Osakis), **Brown Pelican** 4/16 Worthington (L. Bella), **Ferruginous Hawk** 4/24 Lac Qui Parle (Mehurin Twp.) and 5/29 Watonwan (SE of Butterfield), **Gyr Falcon** 3/9 Mille Lacs (south of Milaca), **Black-necked Stilt** 5/26 Faribault (2 at Rice L.), **Eurasian Collared-Dove** 4/14 Wright (Buffalo), **Sprague's Pipit** 4/30 Cottonwood (Red Rock Prairie), **Summer Tanager** 5/7 Goodhue (Hok-si-la Park), 5/11 Brown (imm. male near New Ulm), 5/15–16 Otter Tail (Big Pine L., near Perham), and 5/25 Hennepin (Medicine Lake); **Western Tanager** 5/7 Wright (Collinwood Park), **Spotted Towhee** 5/3 Lac Qui Parle (Boyd), **Lark Bunting** 5/6 Anoka (near Centerville), and **Great-tailed Grackles**

3/8 Murray, 3/13 & 3/27–30 Jackson.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

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

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, request a report form from the Editor of the *Seasonal Report*, Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55812–1533.

Greater White-fronted Goose — Seen in 30 south and 7 north counties, and in all regions except the Northeast. See winter report for early south migrants. Early north **3/13** Grant SPM, 3/20 Otter Tail EJE. Late south 5/18 Murray JJS, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle (6) BJU. Late north 5/16 Beltrami DPJ. Peak counts 3/15 (3115 in Cottonwood and Jackson) KJB, 3/17 (2450 in Lac

Qui Parle) BJU, 3/21 (5690 in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, and Swift) BJU. Seasonal total of 1005 at H.P.B.C (peak of 519 on 3/26) KJB.

Snow Goose — Seen in 28 south and 8 north counties in all regions. See winter report for overwintering birds and early south migrants. Early north 3/13 Traverse



Ross's Goose, 15 April 2004, Haeg Park, Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by Paul Budde.

SPM, 3/15 Polk *fide* JMJ. Late south 5/27 Hennepin SWe, 5/28 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU. Late north 5/16 Beltrami DPJ, 5/27 St. Louis (2 in Duluth) PHS. Peak counts 3/13 Lac Qui Parle (8500, BJU, 3/21 Big Stone (5000) KJB, 3/27 Lyon (2025) PEJ, DFN, 3/28 Polk (5600) EEF. Seasonal total of 424 at H.P.B.C., Dakota County (peak of 183 on 3/27) KJB.

Ross's Goose — Approximate statewide total of 326 individuals in 25 south and 2 north counties, including 3/13 **Swift** (5 at Marsh Lake) BJU. Please see winter report for early south migrants. All north reports: **3/21** Traverse (2) KJB, 4/17–5/28 St. Louis (Interstate Island, Duluth) †PHS, JRN, m.obs. Late south 5/24 Pope RBJ, 5/25 Benton HHD. Peak count 3/28 Lac Qui Parle (84 near Salt Lake) BJU.

BRANT — Fifteenth Minnesota record **3/21–22 Stearns** (Paynesville W.T.P.)

†PCC, †PHS, ph. RLE, ph. JPM (*The Loon* 76:152). Identified as the Atlantic race (*Branta bernicla brota*).

Canada Goose — Reported throughout the state. Peak count 3/13 (31,200 in Lac Qui Parle and Chippewa) BJU.

Mute Swan — Birds of uncertain origin seen 3/10–20 Rice (2 at Cannon River) m.obs., 4/4 Winona PEJ, DFN, 5/8+ Mower m.obs.

Trumpeter Swan — Statewide total at least 170 birds in 18 south and 23 north counties in all regions. Please continue to report numbers, exact locations and dates of observations.

Tundra Swan — Seen in 28 south and 17 north counties. Early south 3/14 Rice DAB, 3/17 Freeborn AEB and Washington (100) DPS. Early north 3/28 St. Louis

MH, 3/30 Todd JSK, SID. Late south 4/22 Anoka REH. Late north 5/15 Lake of the Woods (50) MHK. Seasonal total of 7593 at H.P.B.C (peak 2847 on 3/29) KJB. Notable concentration 4/3 Polk (1500) DPJ.

Wood Duck — Reported from 44 south and 25 north counties. Early south (but see winter report) 3/2 Freeborn AEB, 3/3 Olmsted PWP. Early north 3/25 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/2 Aitkin WEN.

Gadwall — Seen in 41 south and 19 north counties. Please see winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/13 Grant SPM, 3/17 Lake JWJ. Notable concentrations 3/26 (353 at H.P.B.C.) KJB, 4/11 Meeker (1200 at Horseshoe Lake) DMF.

American Wigeon — Observed in 39 south and 17 north counties. Early south 3/1 Freeborn AEB, 3/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Olmsted JJS. Early north 3/28 St. Louis SLF, 3/31 Grant SPM.

American Black Duck — Reported from 15 south and 5 north counties, none in the Southwest. Late south (median 5/23) 4/21 Olmsted CWG, PWP, 4/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Only Northwest report: 5/3 Becker *vide* JMJ.

Mallard — Statewide. Peak concentrations 3/6 (11,300 in Lac Qui Parle and Chippewa) BJU. Seasonal total of 31,734 at H.P.B.C. (peak 11,906 on 3/21) KJB.

Blue-winged Teal — Observed in 44 south and 27 north counties. Early south 3/11 Mower JEM, 3/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 3/28 Todd JSK, SID, 3/31 Grant SPM. Peak concentration 4/29 Lac Qui Parle (4000 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU.

CINNAMON TEAL — Single adult males 4/15 Lac Qui Parle (Caerulean W.M.A.) †BJU, 5/9–17 Big Stone (section 17, Otrey Twp.) †PCC, ph. †PHS, †BJU, m.obs (*The Loon* 76:236–237).

Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal — Male

presumed hybrid photographed 4/6 Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir by Rochester) DMA, PWP *et al.*

Northern Shoveler — Seen in 39 south and 24 north counties. Please see winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/28) 3/19 Clay RHO, 3/24 Polk EEF and St. Louis SLF. Peak migration 3/27 (195 at H.P.B.C) KJB.

Northern Pintail — Observed in 32 south and 21 north counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/13 Otter Tail SPM, 3/27 Marshall LBe. Peak count 3/22 (306 at H.P.B.C.) KJB.

Green-winged Teal — Seen in 38 south and 25 north counties. See winter report for overwintering birds and early south migrants. Early north 3/27 Wadena PJB, 3/28 Beltrami DPJ. Notable concentration 4/17 St. Louis (111 on L. Superior) JWJ.

Canvasback — Reported from 36 south and 16 north counties, including St. Louis, Lake, and Cook in Northeast. Please see winter report for overwintering birds and early south migrants. Early north 3/29 Lake JWJ, m.obs., 3/31 Beltrami DPJ, 4/3 Cook WCM. Peak counts 4/3 (1382 at H.P.B.C.) KJB, 4/4 Lac Qui Parle (1800 at Salt Lake) BJU.

Redhead — Observed in 37 south and 20 north counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north (median 3/22) 4/3 Polk DPS, 4/6 St. Louis NAJ. Peak concentrations 3/19 Big Stone (200) DPS, 4/3 (152 at H.P.B.C.) KJB.

Ring-necked Duck — Reported from 44 south and 26 north counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants; also reported 3/9–13 in eight counties. Early north 3/28–29 in five counties. Peak counts 3/25 Houston (2220 on L. Lawrence) KJB, 4/9 Mille Lacs (3300 on L. Onamia) PEJ. Numbers up at H.P.B.C. (seasonal total of 1254) KJB.



Long-tailed Duck, 21 April 2004, Dakota County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

Greater Scaup — Seen in 22 south and 12 north counties. Early south 3/9 Olmsted JJS, 3/10 Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 3/29 Lake JWJ, 4/4 Cook SWe. Late south 5/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/9 Big Stone PHS. Late north 5/26 St. Louis KRE, 5/28 Kittson AXH, PHS.

Lesser Scaup — Seen in 44 south and 23 north counties. Please see winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north 3/13 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 3/28 in four counties. High count 4/2 Houston (est. 10,000 at Reno, includes birds in Wisconsin) KJB.

Harlequin Duck — No reports.

Surf Scoter — Only report: 4/8 Big Stone (Peterson L., record-early) BJU.

White-winged Scoter — All reports: 4/20–5/22 St. Louis (max. 15–20 at Park Point, Duluth) NAJ, PHS, m.obs., 5/24 Lake (2 at Castle Danger) JWJ, KRE, PHS.

Black Scoter — All south reports: 3/6 Lac Qui Parle/**Chippewa** (male at Lac Qui Parle L., record-early) †BJU, 3/25 Houston (female at Reno) †KJB, 4/4 Rice (first-year

male at Cannon L.) TFB. Only north report: 5/14 Pennington (Thief River Falls W.T.P.) BJM, DDM.

Long-tailed Duck — All south reports: 3/20 Lac Qui Parle (male at Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU, 3/27 Dakota (male flew south over Mississippi R. at H.P.B.C.) KJB, 4/6 Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir) m.obs., 4/16 Big Stone (male at Thielke L.) BJU, 4/20–5/3 Dakota (180th St. Marsh) CBr, LM, m.obs. All north reports were from L. Superior: 3/1–7 Lake (3 at Two Harbors) JWJ, m.obs., 5/12–24 Lake (max. 14 at Two Harbors) JWJ, m.obs., 5/14–30 Cook (max. 14) DJS, m.obs.

Bufflehead — Reported from 41 south and 21 north counties. Early south 3/4 Hennepin OJL, 3/10 Rice FVS and Dakota CBr. Early north 3/16 Lake (apparently did not overwinter) JWJ, 3/26 Clay JJW. Late south 5/18 Olmsted PWP, 5/22 Big Stone PHS and Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Common Goldeneye — Seen in 34 south and 22 north counties. No south reports after mid-April. Highest reported count 3/12 Wright (1200 at Monticello) KJB.

[SMEW] — Adult male with clipped right hallux (indicating previous captivity) seen 3/11–12 Olmsted (L. Shady in Oronoco) CAK, ph. RLE, m.obs., then 3/14–17 at Silver Lake in Rochester. This is the second documented occurrence of an escaped or released Smew in Minnesota.

Hooded Merganser — Seen in 36 south and 26 north counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/7 Wadena PJB, 3/21 Todd JSK, SID. Peak concentration 4/19 Washington (600) DPS.

Common Merganser — Seen in 35 south and 20 north counties. Early north (away from overwintering locations) 3/27 Beltrami DPJ and Wadena PJB, 3/30 Marshall GT. Late south 5/8 Winona OWB, 5/29 Dakota ADS. Seasonal total of 2669

at H.P.B.C (371 on 3/22) KJB.

Red-breasted Merganser — Reported from 32 south and 16 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/8 Freeborn AEB, 3/9 Faribault CRM. Early north (away from L. Superior) 3/31 Grant SPM, 4/6 Beltrami DPJ. Late south 5/2 Lincoln JJS, **5/31** (second latest date south) Brown MJF.

Ruddy Duck — Seen in 35 south and 14 north counties. No reports from North-central, and only St. Louis in Northeast. Early south 3/10 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/13 Chippewa BJU. Early north (median 4/5) 3/28 Todd JSK, SID, 4/20 Polk EEF. Unusual location 5/8 St. Louis (Biwabik W.T.P.) SLF. Peak concentration 4/21 Lac Qui Parle (est. 2000) MSS.

Gray Partridge — Seen in 20 south counties as far southeast as Mower and Winona. All counts south of one or two birds except (no date) Brown (4) BTS. All north reports: Wilkin, Clay (2), Pennington (13 on 3/15) *fide* JMJ, Polk (10 on 3/21) EEF.

Ring-necked Pheasant — Observed in 53 counties as far north as Clay, Otter Tail, Wadena, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec and Pine.

Ruffed Grouse — Seen in 28 counties within range, including Dakota/Goodue (Miesville Ravine) BBB, JPM.

Spruce Grouse — All reports: small numbers in two Lake (SWe) and seven Lake of the Woods locations (MHK).

Sharp-tailed Grouse — All observations: Aitkin (16 in two leks), Becker (one at Hamden Slough), Carlton (4), Itasca (1), Kanabec (3), Kittson (max. 10), Lake of the Woods (12 in three locations), Marshall (max. 30) GT, Pennington (7), Pine (max. 7), Polk (12), Red Lake (1), Roseau (9), St. Louis (max. 10 near Meadowlands), Wilkin (1). Unusual report outside of typical range 3/25 Lac Qui Parle (male in Yellowbank Twp) BJU.



Red-throated Loon, 25 May 2004, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — Released birds observed in Lac Qui Parle (max. 25), Chippewa (1), and Stevens (1). All north reports: Becker (2), Clay (max. 61 at Felton Prairie), Grant (first modern day record 4/16 SPM), Norman (75 near Gary), Otter Tail (1), Pennington (4), Polk (max. 8), Red Lake (1), Wadena (15), 3/4 Wilkin (high count, 156) SPM.

Wild Turkey — Recorded in 51 counties (43 last spring) as far north as Kittson (two locations), Pennington (13), Hubbard, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Pine. Peak count of 49 in Traverse SPM. Some north reports probably refer to released birds.

[**Northern Bobwhite**] — Reported without details 5/25 Martin DLB. This species is now considered extirpated in Minnesota (*The Loon* 76:39–45) and all sightings refer to escaped or released birds unless proven otherwise.

Red-throated Loon — Documented 5/10–27 St. Louis (max. 9 at Park Point, Duluth) MH, ph. PHS, m.obs. Exceptional observation away from Lake Superior 4/29

Dakota (in flight over Lebanon Hills R.P.) †JPM.

Pacific Loon — Only report: 5/25–28 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) †MH, †MSS.

Common Loon — Observed in 27 south and 24 north counties in all regions, but only Jackson in Southwest. Early south 3/27 Martin PEJ, DFN, 3/28 in five counties. Early north 4/4 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/5 Douglas *vide* MJM. Peak concentration 4/14 St. Louis (150 at Duluth) KJB.

Pied-billed Grebe — Reported from 34 south and 22 north counties statewide. Early south 3/13 Swift BJU, 3/17 Freeborn AEB. Early north 3/26 St. Louis SLF, 3/27 Beltrami DPJ.

Horned Grebe — Observed in 18 south and 9 north counties. Early south (median 3/25) 3/28 Yellow Medicine BJU and Dakota PEJ, 4/5 Freeborn AEB and Olmsted PWP. Early north (median 4/11) 3/22 Lake (may have overwintered on L. Superior) NAJ. Late south 5/3 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/12 Cook DJS, 5/24 Lake JWJ, but see summer report. Peak counts 4/12 Lac Qui Parle/Chippewa (385 on Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU, 4/23 St. Louis (230 on L. Superior) JWJ.

Red-necked Grebe — Reported from 26 south and 17 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/1 Freeborn AEB and Waseca LS, 4/2 Olmsted CWG and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 4/7 St. Louis SLF, 4/11 Wadena PJB. Peak count 4/14 St. Louis (350 in Duluth) KJB.

Eared Grebe — Seen in 18 south and 13 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/9 Freeborn AEB, 4/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, then 4/23 Washington DPS. Early north (median 4/22) 5/1 Marshall JMJ, 5/2 Itasca (8) EO. Unusual locations 5/19 St. Louis (Floodwood W.T.P.) †AXH, †PHS, 5/21 Lake (Flood Bay) ph. JWJ. Peak count 5/28 Lac Qui Parle (134) BJU.

Western Grebe — Observed in 20 south

and 11 north counties, though none in North-central. Reported from Hennepin and Wright in East-central, and Goodhue in Southeast. Early south 4/6 Big Stone BJU, 4/16 Rice TFB. Early north 4/21 Douglas JPM, 4/25 Todd BWF. Peak count 5/1 Big Stone (126) PEJ, DFN. Unusual location 5/26–28 St. Louis (max. 3 at Park Point, Duluth) MSS *et al.*

Clark's Grebe — All reports: 4/20+ Big Stone (Thielke L.) †BJU, †PHS, †CBr, †KRE, m.obs., 4/21 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) †BJU, 4/28–5/3 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) †BJU. Also see undocumented reports.

American White Pelican — Seen in 37 south and 17 north counties. Early south 3/23 Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB, 3/24 Rice TFB. Early north 4/9 St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) FJN, DSC, 4/15 Marshall GT. Seasonal total of 8783 at H.P.B.C., including peak 3436 on 4/9 KJB. Seasonal total of 490 at W.S.H.C. in Duluth (FJN, DSC). Notable concentrations 4/6 Washington (800 at Grey Cloud Is.) TEB, and 4/11 Dakota (est. 800–900 at L. Isabelle) KLa. Interesting was a brown-stained individual photographed 4/18 at Dakota (L. Byllesby) JJS.

Double-crested Cormorant — Seen in 33 south and 24 north counties statewide. Early south 3/16 Mower JEM, 3/19 Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB, ADS and Rice TFB. Early north 3/24 Otter Tail *vide* MJM, 3/31 Grant SPM. Seasonal total of 4401 at H.P.B.C. down from previous years (peak 1001 on 4/3) KJB. Notable concentrations 4/20 Polk (1074) EEF, 4/28 St. Louis (est. 1000 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) FJN, DSC.

American Bittern — Reported from 19 south and 19 north counties, but only Mower in Southeast. Early south 4/19 Steele JJS and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/24 McLeod RWS and Hennepin WCM. Early north 4/9 Otter Tail EJE, 4/19 Clay RBJ, JEB.

Least Bittern — All reports: 5/4 Aitkin (2 at Rice Lake N.W.R.) WEN, 5/13–18 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) JEP,

BWF, 5/18 Scott (Belle Plaine W.T.P.) BWF, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 5/30 Brown PRH.

Great Blue Heron — Observed in 42 south and 27 north counties. Overwintered in Ramsey (see winter report); probable migrants 3/2 Rice TFB, 3/8 Freeborn AEB. Early north 3/12 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 3/21 Wadena PJB. Peak count 3/20 Rice (120) DAB.

Great Egret — Seen in 35 south and 8 north counties, though none in North-central. Early south 3/25 Hennepin HCT, 3/27 Mower JEM. Early north 3/31 Grant SPM, 4/1 Todd. Peak concentrations 4/11 Todd (200) SAS, 4/20 Big Stone (143 at Thielke L.) BJU. Unusual location 5/13–14 St. Louis (Duluth) FJN.

Snowy Egret — Sixteen records of 36 birds in 10 counties, the most ever, and far exceeding the Spring 1999 influx of 24–28 individuals (*The Loon* 73:3–7). Early south 4/19 Steele (Spindler's Pond) ph. RLE, 4/20 Big Stone (3 at Thielke L.) BJU; six additional birds seen at three locations in Big Stone. Also reported in Hennepin, two locations in Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi (2), Meeker, and Rice. All north reports: 14 birds at three locations in Otter Tail, including 8 at Mavis W.P.A. on 5/14 (EJE); also reported in Douglas (max. 4) and two locations in Grant.

Little Blue Heron — All reports: 4/21 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) BBB, †CBr, m.obs., 5/3 Lac Qui Parle (subadult at Big Stone N.W.R.) †BJU, 5/6–7 Rice (River Bend N.C.) FVS, m.obs., 5/15 **Lake of the Woods** (county road 8, 0.5 mile west of state highway 172) †MHK.

Cattle Egret — Statewide total of about 37 birds. Early south 4/15 Freeborn AEB; also reported in Big Stone, Chipewewa, Dakota, Houston, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle (5 in four locations), Meeker (2), Nobles, Rice, and Wright (2). Early north 4/22 Douglas (L. Osakis) BWF; only other north reports from Grant (14), Marshall,



White-faced Ibis, 16 April 2004, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

and Otter Tail ph. SMC.

Green Heron — Observed in 31 south and 16 north counties. Early south 4/12 Washington TEB, 4/19 Dakota JPM. Early north 5/3 Otter Tail DTT, SMT and Kanabec CAM, 5/8 Wadena PJB and Hubbard DLB.

Black-crowned Night-Heron — Seen in 21 south and 7 north counties. Early south 3/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/6 Hennepin CBr, LM. Early north 4/19 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 4/24 Otter Tail BWF; also seen in Douglas, Kanabec, Polk, and Traverse, plus unusual location 5/18 **Lake** (Knife R.) DDM, BJM.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron — Only reports: 5/11 Mower (adult at Turtle Creek, Austin — one had been reported else-

where in Austin, Spring 2003) †JEM, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle (Arena Twp.) †BJU.

WHITE-FACED IBIS — Documented 4/16 Dakota (L. Byllesby, second earliest) †CBR, †RMD, ph. JPM *et al.*, 4/19–21 **Otter Tail** (Scott-Cray W.P.A., earliest north) †EJE, †DTT, ph. †SMT, †RHO, 4/25–28 Douglas (west of L. Osakis, second county record) ph. †PWP, †BWF, 5/2 Sherburne (Haven Twp.) †HHD, ph. CAM, 5/13–14 **Carver** (Mayer W.T.P.) †RMD, m.obs., 5/24–25 Meeker (Corvuso) BK, †DMF.

IBIS, sp. — One *Plegadis* 4/30 Winona (Lewiston W.T.P.) ph. †PWP.

BLACK VULTURE — Third state record 5/26 **Lake** (state highway 61 at Encampment Forest) †JWL.

Turkey Vulture — Seen in 36 south and 22 north counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north (median 4/2) 3/14 Polk *fide* JMJ, then none until 4/1 Carlton LAW and St. Louis JW. Peak count 4/28 St. Louis (171 at W.S.H.C. in Duluth) FJN, DSC. Also see Table 1.

Osprey — Reported from 24 south and 18 north counties, though only Yellow Medicine in the Southwest. Early south 3/30 Dakota (H.P.B.C.) KJB and Mower JEM, 3/31 Winona JJS. Early north 3/28 St. Louis *fide* DRB, 4/5 Becker *fide* JMJ. Also see Table 1.

Bald Eagle — Observed in 39 south and 25 north counties. North American record high daily migration count 3/23 St. Louis (822 at W.S.H.C. in Duluth) FJN, DSC, breaking old record of 734 from fall 1994 at Hawk Ridge. Seasonal total of 2937 at H.P.B.C (510 on 3/29) KJB.

Northern Harrier — Reported from 37 south and 27 north counties. Possible early north migrants 3/1 Otter Tail SPM, 3/2 Wilkin DTT, SMT, but see winter report. Also see Table 1.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Seen in 25 south and 19 north counties. Early north 3/7 Wadena PJB, 3/8 St. Louis (W.S.H.C. in Duluth) FJN, DSC. Late south 5/8 Steele NFT, 5/30 Carver WCM. Peak count 4/7 St. Louis (385 at W.S.H.C.) FJN, DSC.

Cooper's Hawk — Observed in 33 south and 19 north counties in all regions. Early north (median 3/24) 3/9 St. Louis (W.S.H.C. in Duluth) FJN, DSC, 3/31 Grant SPM. Also see Table 1.

Northern Goshawk — Seen in seven south and nine north counties; no reports from Southwest. Late south 4/22 Steele NFT, 4/27 Dakota JPM. Also see Table 1.

Red-shouldered Hawk — Reported from 16 south and 7 north counties, including 3/2 **Faribault** (Bat L.) CRM *et al.* No reports from Southwest. Early north 3/14 Crow Wing JSB, 3/15 Todd JSK, SID. All other north reports: Aitkin, Becker, Douglas, Otter Tail, St. Louis (total of 4 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) FJN, DSC.

Broad-winged Hawk — Observed in 26 south and 20 north counties in all regions. Early south (median 4/7) 4/2 Carver *fide* AXH and Nicollet MJF, 4/7 Washington TEB. Early north (median 4/7) 4/17 St. Louis (W.S.H.C. in Duluth) FJN, DSC, 4/19 Todd JSK, SID. Peak migration 5/1 St. Louis (5620, most ever in one day at W.S.H.C.) FJN, DSC.

Swainson's Hawk — Reported from 11 south and 6 north counties, mainly in southern and western regions. Early south 4/11 Washington KJB and Fillmore JWH. Early north 4/10 Polk EEF, 4/19 St. Louis (2 adult light morphs at W.S.H.C., Duluth) FJN, DSC; one other reported there 4/29 (adult rufous morph). All other north reports: Clay, Grant, Marshall, Otter Tail.

Red-tailed Hawk — Observed in 61 counties statewide. Peak migration 3/20 Dakota (226 at H.P.B.C.) KJB, 4/1 St. Louis (942 at W.S.H.C. in Duluth). Other W.S.H.C. highlights included 65 dark

Species	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals	Peak, Date	Range
Turkey Vulture	0	4	1538	199	0	1741	171, 4/28	3/28–5/15
Osprey	0	0	167	59	1	227	48, 4/28	4/6–6/2
Bald Eagle	36	2718	608	53	1	3416	822, 3/23	2/25–6/2
Northern Harrier	0	4	70	15	0	89	7, 4/7 & 4/29	3/22–5/24
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	21	2006	630	2	2659	385, 4/7	3/8–6/6
Cooper's Hawk	0	7	20	10	0	37	4, 5/8	3/9–5/15
Northern Goshawk	0	13	6	0	0	19	5, 3/26	3/9–4/20
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	1	3	0	0	4	singles	3/26–4/16
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	7521	9083	340	16944	5620, 5/1	4/17–6/8
Swainson's Hawk	0	0	3	0	0	3	2, 4/19	4/19–4/29
Red-tailed Hawk	0	361	6476	539	22	7398	942, 4/1	3/16–6/6
Rough-legged Hawk	5	31	331	40	0	407	41, 4/12	2/26–5/19
Golden Eagle	0	98	27	2	0	127	20, 3/23	3/8–5/15
American Kestrel	0	1	103	27	0	131	40, 4/28	3/26–5/18
Merlin	0	1	22	4	0	27	7, 4/28	3/9–5/18
Peregrine Falcon	0	1	2	7	0	10	3, 5/8	3/9–5/24
Totals	41	3,261	18,903	10,668	366	33,239		
Days	7	27	29	27	4	94		
Hours	27.5	158.5	219	155	14	574		

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 2004.

morphs (10 on 4/9), two adult “Kriders” Hawks, and five adult “Harlan’s” Hawks (three dark morphs and two light morphs) FJN, DSC.

Ferruginous Hawk — Reported 4/22, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle †BJU, 4/27 Big Stone †BJU. Also see undocumented reports.

Rough-legged Hawk — Seen in 20 south and 17 north counties, and in all regions except the Southwest. Daily maxima away from W.S.H.C. up to 15 in Aitkin (3/20, DFN) and Polk (3/13, EEF, 4/11, JM). Late south 4/21 Pope RBJ, 4/22 Anoka REH. Late north 5/15 Lake of the Woods MHK, 5/21 Marshall PHS. Also see Table 1.

Golden Eagle — Reported from 13 south and 6 north counties in all regions except the Southwest. All south reports in March, except 4/17 Carver (immature over Victoria) AWJ *et al.* and 5/14 Big Stone (adult at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU. Late north 4/16, 4/18 Polk MH *et al.*, 4/17 Itasca EO; also see Table 1. Exceptional numbers at W.S.H.C., Duluth, including no fewer than **20** (19 adults) on 3/23, the same day that North America’s previous record-high daily migration count for Bald Eagle was

eclipsed.

American Kestrel — Reported from 37 south and 23 north counties. Early north (but see winter report) 3/9 Todd JSK, SID, 3/10 Clay JJS. Total of 64 counted along U.S. highway 2 from East Grand Forks to Mentor 4/20 Polk EEF. Also see Table 1.

Merlin — Reported from 11 south and 15 north counties, primarily in western and northern regions; none in the South-central or Southeast. Territorial birds noted in Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake in early March. Several reports of “Richardson’s” Merlin (*F. c. richardsonii*) from western regions, including 3/15 Jackson CRM *et al.* Late south (away from breeding areas in Twin Cities) 5/20 Yellow Medicine (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) WCM. Also see Table 1.

GYRFALCON — Overwintering adult male gray morph last reported mid-March Duluth-Superior harbor *fide* PHS. Also see undocumented reports.

Peregrine Falcon — Reported from 22 south and 11 north counties. Numbers up in western regions, including a dozen or more individuals in Big Stone/Lac

Qui Parle counties between 4/24 SWE and 5/24 BJU, plus multiple reports in Otter Tail County and at Agassiz N.W.R., reflecting this species' continuing success as a result of the Midwest Peregrine Restoration Program. Early south (away from known breeding areas) 3/30 Rice TFB; 3/10 Steele NFT probably overwintered. Early north 3/6 St. Louis (Virginia, overwintered?) †SLF, 3/13 Pine JMP. More reports than usual in Lake, including adult eating American Wigeon 3/31 JWL. One caught a Pectoral Sandpiper at L. Byllesby 4/17 Dakota JPM. Please see Table 1 for data from W.S.H.C. Late south 5/20 Rock JJS and Yellow Medicine WCM, 5/22 (2) & 5/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Prairie Falcon — All reports: 3/20 **Chip-pewa**/Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle Lake) †BJU, 4/11 Meeker (Litchfield) †DMF, 5/2 Pennington (Pembina Trail) †JMJ, SAS.

Yellow Rail — Marsh bird surveys at Rice Lake N.W.R. turned up 24 individuals 5/4 Aitkin WEN. Also heard at McGregor Marsh, Aitkin County beginning in early May, 5/19–22+ St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) AXH, PHS *et al.*, 5/28 Kittson (three locations) AXH, PHS.

Virginia Rail — Reported from 21 south and 11 north counties, including 3/26 Hennepin (no details, overwintered?). Early south 4/19 Hennepin SLC and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/21 Mower JEM and Winona JJS. Early north 5/5 Todd BWF, 5/8 Traverse JJS.

Sora — Reported from 29 south and 16 north counties, but only St. Louis in Northeast. Early south 4/12 Hennepin PEJ, 4/19 Hennepin SLC and Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 4/24 Wadena PJB, 5/1 Otter Tail EJE.

Common Moorhen — All reports: 4/17 Olmsted OWB, 5/15 Winona (2 along state highway 76) KAK, 5/30+ Brown (nesting pair at Rosenau-Lambrecht W.M.A.) PRH *et al.*, 5/31 Washington (100th St. S., east of Jamaica Ave.) PH.

American Coot — Observed in 39 south and 20 north counties. Early north (overwintered in Otter Tail) 4/5 Becker MWy, 4/10 Wadena PJB. Highest reported count 5/1 Pope (15,000 at L. Minnewaska) DFN.

Sandhill Crane — Reported from 22 south and 24 north counties. No reports from the Southwest. See winter report (!) for first migrants; additional early south 3/12 Steele *vide* NFT, 3/15 Carver, Goodhue. Early north 3/18 Todd JSK, SID, 3/21 Pine JMP. Highest counts 4/13 Norman (1490 near Agassiz-Olson W.M.A.) DDM, BJM, plus >1000 near the Marshall/Pennington county line 4/11–17 *vide* JMJ and ~1000 near Melo 4/17–18 Polk MH *et al.*

Black-bellied Plover — Observed in 10 south and 6 north counties. Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Wright PRH, 5/14 Olmsted JJS. Early north 5/17 St. Louis DRB, 5/18 Aitkin (3) MMc *et al.* Highest reported counts 5/15 (19, Perry Twp.) and 5/16 (63 in flight, Manfred Twp.) Lac Qui Parle BJU.

American Golden-Plover — Reported from only nine south and five north counties. Scarce except in West-central region, where highest reported counts 4/28 Lac Qui Parle (350 at Plover Prairie) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone (184 on survey route) JWL, PHS *et al.* Early south **3/24** Wright (one near Montrose) DDM, 4/10 Brown (2) BTS. Early north dates not representative of this species' usual migration — first reported 5/17 St. Louis (2) DRB.

Semipalmated Plover — Reported from 22 south and 9 north counties in all regions. Early south (all singles) 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/19 Dakota BRL and Stearns PCC. Early north 4/25 Aitkin WEN, 5/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT and Traverse (42) PHS. Highest reported counts 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (**290** among a total of 3325 shorebirds in section 35, Perry Twp.) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone (155 on survey route) JWL, PHS *et al.* Good numbers also reported at L. Byllesby, Dakota County (max. 100+ on 5/13, ADS).



Black-necked Stilt, 16 May 2004, near Rice Lake State Park, Steele County. Photo by Paul Pedersen.



Black-necked Stilt, 18 May 2004, Belle Plaine, Scott County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Piping Plover — All reports: 4/27–5/2 Lac Qui Parle (max. 3 at Salt L.) †BJU, 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (section 35, Perry Twp.) †BJU, 5/14–16 Hennepin SWe, m.obs., 5/18 Aitkin (rice paddies near Aitkin) MMc *et al.*, 5/22–23 (2), 5/27 (1) St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) m.obs.

Killdeer — Reported from 43 south and 26 north counties statewide. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/19 Clay RHO and Otter Tail SPM, 3/25–28 in seven counties. Highest reported counts 113–129 on three Big Stone surveys including 4/12 (127) PCC, plus 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (90 in section 6, Perry Twp.) BJU.

BLACK-NECKED STILT — Dramatic and unprecedented influx of eight birds in four locations: 4/14 **Anoka/Ramsey** (record-early at Lakeside Park, Mounds View) †AXH, 5/16–17 **Steele** (3 at Spindler's Pond near Rice Lake S.P.) GJ, ph. †PWP, ph. JJS, 5/16–27 **Scott** (3 at Belle Plaine W.T.P.) †WCM, ph. AXH, †CBR, †PHS, m.obs., 5/18 **Kandiyohi** (NW of Lake Lillian) †RSF.

American Avocet — Statewide total of 74

individuals seen in 11 south and 5 north counties, including single birds in unusual locations 5/10 Lake (Flood Bay) ph. JWL, 5/16 Carlton (Moose Lake W.T.P.) †CBR, LM. Early south 4/19–5/5 Steele (Spindler's Pond) CAK, JJS, ph. RLE, 4/26 Winona (2 at Lewiston) CBe. Early north 5/7+ Otter Tail GLS *et al.* Highest reported counts 4/29 Wright (11 near Montrose) DDM, BJM, 5/6 Lyon (9 at Island L.) RPR, 5/9–16 Big Stone (8 or 9 in Toqua Twp.) PCC, PHS *et al.*, 5/19 (9 at L. Byllesby) JPM.

Greater Yellowlegs — Reported from 32 south and 21 north counties. Early south 3/24–25 Big Stone BJU, 3/24 Winona JJS, 3/27 Dakota ADS and Mower JEM. Early north 3/31 Otter Tail SPM, 4/6 Otter Tail EJE, 4/7 Todd BWF. Late south 5/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/26 Olmsted PWP, also see summer report. Last reported 5/28 Kittson (2) AXH, PHS. Highest reported count 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (42 amongst 550+ Lessers in section 35, Perry Twp.) BJU.

Lesser Yellowlegs — Observed in 33 south and 20 north counties. Early south 3/24 Dakota m.obs., 3/27 Jackson DFN. Early north 4/2 Otter Tail SPM, 4/6 Otter Tail EJE, 4/7 Todd BWF. Late south 5/26



Twenty-three Willets, 30 April 2004, Lyle, Mower County. Photo by John Morrison.

Big Stone PHS, also see summer report. Last reported 5/28 Kittson (4) AXH, PHS. Highest reported counts 4/29 Winona (estimated 800 at Lewiston W.T.P.) CA *et al.*, 5/9 Big Stone (exact count of 744 on survey route) PCC, PHS.

Solitary Sandpiper — Reported from 34 south and 17 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/21 Winona JJS, 4/24–25 in four counties. Early north 5/1 Carlton LAW and Traverse PHS, 5/3 Becker MWy. Late south 5/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/29 Chippewa BJU. Highest reported count 5/14 St. Louis (12 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) FJN, DSC.

Willet — Grand total of 244+ individuals (four reports lacked count data) in 25 south and 4 north counties, including 5/12 **Benton** (Benton Beach C.P.) RAE, HHD. Early south 4/24–28 Dakota (max. 11 at L. Bylesby) m.obs., 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU. Early north 4/29–5/1 Otter Tail (Western Twp.) EJE, SPM, 5/1 Traverse (3 in Tara Twp., 14 at Mud L.) DFN, PHS. Last reported 5/25 Goodhue (Sand Pt.) SWE

(no representative late north dates). Highest reported counts 4/28–30 Mower (max. 36 at Lyle W.T.P.) JEM, 5/2 Lac Qui Parle (48 at Bailey Slough, Manfred Twp.) BJU.

Spotted Sandpiper — Reported from 38 south and 20 north counties. Early south 4/10 Freeborn AEB, 4/21 Winona JJS, plus eight additional reports by end of April. Early north 4/19 Otter Tail SPM, 4/20 Hubbard MAW, 4/30 Clay, St. Louis. Highest reported counts 5/14 Lac Qui Parle (54 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone (36 on survey route) JWJ, PHS *et al.*

Upland Sandpiper — Reported from only 14 western counties plus Dakota, Freeborn, Sherburne. Early south 4/26 Freeborn AEB, 4/27 Cottonwood BRB. Early north 5/1 Traverse PHS, 5/8 Clay, Otter Tail, Traverse. Highest reported counts 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (36 at Plover Prairie) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone (14 on survey route) JWJ, PHS *et al.*

Whimbrel — Record-early and also at



Red Knot and Black-bellied Plovers, 27 May 2004, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Sparky Stensaas.

an exceptional location was the flock of 18 Whimbrel at Salt L. **4/18 Lac Qui Parle** †BJU. Second county occurrence **5/20 Kandiyohi** †RSF. All other reports from the Northeast beginning 5/17 Lake (2) JWL and St. Louis (13–16) m.obs., 5/18 Lake (22 at Knife River, also the highest reported count) PHS, 5/19 Cook (18) RBJ.

Hudsonian Godwit — Grand total of 347 individuals in 19 south and 8 north counties. Early south 4/16 Winona (4 at Lewiston W.T.P.) CA *et al.*, 4/18 Sibley (Swan L.) WCM. Early north 4/27–28 Douglas (2) DDM, BJM *et al.*, 4/29–5/8 Otter Tail (max. 5, Western Twp.) DTT, SMT, EJE. Late south 5/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/26 Big Stone PHS. Last reported 5/28 Kittson (3) AXH, PHS. Highest reported counts 5/9 (87) & 5/16 (98) Big Stone (Toqua Twp.) PCC, PHS *et al.*, 5/13 Lac Qui Parle (74 at Perry W.M.A.) BJU.

Marbled Godwit — Reported from 13 south and 16 northy counties in all regions except the Southeast. Early south

4/9 Cottonwood (Sham L.) PME, 4/12 Big Stone PCC. Early north 4/14 Wilkin SPM, 4/16–17 Polk MH *et al.* Highest reported count 5/17 St. Louis (65 at Interstate Is., Duluth harbor) ph. PHS. Additional reports along the North Shore where normally rare included 5/12 Cook (about a dozen) JGW, 5/18 Lake (4) PHS.

Ruddy Turnstone — Scarce (again) along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Seen in 12 south and 8 north counties. Early south 5/13 Brown BTS and Stearns RPR, 5/14 Dakota BRL. Early north 5/14 Otter Tail EJE, 5/18 Aitkin and Lake m.obs. Highest reported counts 5/26 Big Stone (24) PHS, 5/31 St. Louis (25+) KJB.

Red Knot — All reports: 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (Hantho Twp.) †BJU, 5/18 Lake (Knife River) †PHS, 5/20 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) RMD, JMu, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle (Caerulean W.M.A.) †BJU, 5/27–31 St. Louis (2) LME *et al.*

Sanderling — Reported from 15 south



Curlew Sandpiper, 16 May 2004, near Clinton, Big Stone County. Photo by Jim Lind.

counties beginning 4/29 Dakota JPM, 5/1 Jackson JSS and Lac Qui Parle PEJ, DFN. Observed in only six north counties including first arrivals **5/1** St. Louis MSS, 5/10 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, EJE. Highest reported count 5/31 St. Louis (230+ at Park Pt., Duluth) KJB. All other counts <40.

Semipalmated Sandpiper — Reported from 24 south and 15 north counties. Early south 4/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/19 Dakota BRL. Early north 5/3 Becker MWy, 5/7 Wilkin GLS. Highest reported count 5/16 Big Stone (587 on survey route) PHS *et al.* Noteworthy counts 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (235 in section 35, Perry Twp.) BJU, 5/31 St. Louis (150+ at Park Pt., Duluth) KJB.

Least Sandpiper — Reported from 28 south and 20 north counties. Early south 4/9 Dakota JJS, 4/16–17 Winona CA *et al.* Early north **4/8** Traverse (one at Mud L., earliest north) †KJB, 4/29 Otter Tail EJE, 5/1 Otter Tail DTT, SMT and Traverse (14) PHS. Late south 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU, also see summer report. Highest reported count 5/16 Big Stone (**2056** on survey route) PHS *et al.*

White-rumped Sandpiper — Observed in 22 south and 8 north counties in all

regions, but only Aitkin in North-central. Early south 4/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/1 Freeborn AEB and Rock JJS. Early north **5/1** Traverse (8) PHS, 5/8 Otter Tail EJE. Highest reported counts 5/12 Lac Qui Parle (490 in Mehurin Twp.) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone (**703** on survey route) JWJ, PHS.

Baird's Sandpiper — Reported from 20 south and 9 north counties in all regions. Early south 4/5 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU, 4/8 Big Stone (4) KJB. Early north 4/17–18 Polk MH *et al.*, 4/19 Traverse RBJ, BRL. Late south 5/26 Big Stone PHS and Olmsted PWP, 5/27 Nobles DBz. Late north 5/21 Polk (2) PHS. Highest reported count 5/9 Big Stone (**486** on survey route) PCC, PHS; noteworthy concentration 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (185 in section 35, Perry Twp.) BJU.

Pectoral Sandpiper — Observed in 29 south and 14 north counties. Early south 3/24 Rice TFB, 3/27 Renville BTS. Early north 4/8 Aitkin PEJ and Traverse (15) KJB. Highest reported count 5/9 Big Stone (**2847** on survey route) PCC, PHS.

Dunlin — Excellent numbers reported from 30 south and 13 north counties in all regions. Record-early basic-plumaged bird **3/20** Dakota (L. Byllesby) ph. JPM. Additional arrivals 4/8 Big Stone KJB, 4/10 Freeborn AEB. Early north **4/18** Traverse †KJB, 4/29 Otter Tail EJE, 5/2 Douglas SPM. Highest reported counts 5/22 Big Stone (**1183** on survey route) PHS, JMJ, 5/24 Lac Qui Parle (**815** at Perry W.M.A.) BJU. Counts >200 on four consecutive Big Stone Surveys and ≥100 in Dakota, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Polk, Traverse.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — Second state record 5/16–17 **Big Stone** (adult male near Clinton) ph. JWJ, †PHS, †JMJ, SLL, †WCM (*The Loon* 76:233).

Stilt Sandpiper — Observed in 14 south and 5 north counties. More reports than usual for this uncommon spring migrant. Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/1 Carver WCM. Early north Otter Tail SPM and Traverse JJS, 5/9 Todd LBF, JSK, SID.

Late south 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU, PHS, also see summer report. Highest reported count 5/28 Lac Qui Parle (46) BJU.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — One seen 5/5 Lac Qui Parle (Caerulean W.M.A.) BJU. This species is only a casual spring migrant in Minnesota.

RUFF — Observed 5/9 Big Stone (Otrej Twp.) †PCC, ph. †PHS (*The Loon* 76:236), 5/17 Dakota (L. Byllesby) ph. †JPM.

Short-billed Dowitcher — Excellent spring showing for this and the following species, especially in West-central region where hundreds were present daily during the first half of May (BJU). Numbers also up in Kandiyohi (peak **137** on 5/14, RSF) and Carlton (peak 51 on 5/15, CBr, LM). Reported from 19 south and 14 north counties statewide. Early south 4/28 Big Stone BJU, 4/30 Dakota, Houston, Lac Qui Parle, Winona. Early north 5/8 Todd JSK, SID, 5/8–9 Traverse JJS, PHS. Last reported 5/28 south (Lac Qui Parle) and north (Kittson).

Long-billed Dowitcher — Less widespread than the preceding species; reported from 14 south counties, plus (no date) Lake of the Woods and Todd (5/10–13, JSK, SID, BWF) in the north. All reports less than a dozen birds, except for hundreds in Lac Qui Parle (none reported as vocalizing). Record-early arrival **3/27–28** Nobles (one associating with three snipe in a partly flooded athletic field in Worthington) KRE *et al.* Additional early south 4/18 Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU, 4/19 Winona JJS. No late south reports of vocalizing birds.

dowitcher, sp. — Short-billeds reported without details 4/17 Mower fell within the peak migration period for Long-billeds. Unidentified dowitchers 5/9 Otter Tail, 5/22 Carlton, and on four Big Stone surveys including 5/16 (16) PHS *et al.*

Wilson's Snipe — Seen in 33 south and 22 north counties. Overwintered in

Hennepin (see winter report) and probably Freeborn, where reported 2/29 & 3/2 AEB. Probable early south migrants 3/24 Winona JJS, 3/26 Rice DAB and Wright KTP, 3/27–28 in six counties. Overwintered north through 3/15 St. Louis (Duluth) JRN; early north migrants 4/1 Cook *vide* DRB, 4/5 Pine JMP, 4/6–10 in seven counties including early concentration 4/8 Traverse (69 at Mud L.) KJB. Highest reported count 4/15 Lac Qui Parle (108) BJU.

American Woodcock — Observed in 24 south and 18 north counties in all regions, including Cottonwood, Jackson, Rock, and Yellow Medicine in Southwest. Numbers down compared to previous spring in Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early south 3/10 Rice TFB, 3/14 Hennepin PEJ. Early north 3/30 Carlton LAW, 3/31 Grant SPM.

Wilson's Phalarope — Grand total 2538+ individuals reported from 25 south and 20 north counties in all regions. Best spring showing since 2002 (1785+ in 48 counties). Early south 4/21 Winona JJS, 4/24 Sherburne REH. Early north 4/29 Becker DPJ, 5/1 Traverse PEJ, DFN. Unusual location 5/19–22 St. Louis (max. 4 at Floodwood W.T.P.) AXH, PHS *et al.* Highest reported counts 5/16 Big Stone (347 on survey route) JWJ, PHS *et al.*, 5/21 Pennington (358 at Thief River Falls W.T.P.) JMJ, PHS, 5/25 Lake of the Woods (175 at Baudette W.T.P.) MHK. Additional counts ≥ 100 in Brown, Clay, Lac Qui Parle (4 locations), Norman.

Red-necked Phalarope — Total of 78 individuals reported from nine south counties, plus 5/15 Clay (2) RHO (only north report). Early south **5/2** (ties earliest south date), **5/4**, 5/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/12 Kandiyohi RSF. Highest reported count 5/28–31 Lac Qui Parle (max. 28 at Salt L.) BJU, PHS. Please see summer report for late south dates.

jaeger, sp. — Two unidentified jaegers with short central rectrices, one all dark and the other with a light belly, 5/22 St.

Louis (Park Point, Duluth) m.obs.

Franklin's Gull — Reported from 16 south and 12 north counties, primarily in western regions. None at H.P.B.C. (190 there last spring) KJB; only eastern reports from Dakota beginning 4/15 JPM. Early south 3/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Nobles KRE *et al.*, 3/29 Stevens JEB, RBJ. Early north 4/2 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) DMy, 4/11 Clay RHO.

Little Gull — No reports.

Bonaparte's Gull — Reported from 27 south and 15 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/28 Hennepin (1) SLC, 3/29 Dakota (6 at H.P.B.C.) KJB. Early north 3/31 Grant SPM, 4/5–6 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT. Numbers down at Duluth, where highest reported count 5/14 St. Louis (300) MH.

Ring-billed Gull — Reported statewide. Please see winter report for early south migrants; additional arrivals 3/3 Ramsey (10) BRL. Early north 3/9 St. Louis FJN, 3/15 Lake JWL. Numbers up at H.P.B.C. (49,603 for the season, peak 7114 on 3/27) KJB. Noteworthy concentration of migrants 4/8 McLeod (4600 at Silver L.) KJB. At least 5000 pairs at Interstate Is., Duluth 5/17 PHS.

CALIFORNIA GULL — Observed 4/9 **Polk** (East Grand Forks) †EEF.

Herring Gull — Reported from 22 south and 16 north counties statewide. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north (away from Lake Superior) 3/28 Beltrami DPJ, 3/29 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Numbers up at H.P.B.C. (2694 for the season, peak 403 on 3/27) KJB. Unusual local concentration 4/14 St. Louis (2055 at Baily's L. and Silver L., Virginia) SLF.

Thayer's Gull — Three reports at H.P.B.C., Dakota County KJB: 3/22 (first-year), 3/31 (first-year), 4/1 (adult). Another first-year documented 4/10 Dakota (Pine Bend landfill) †PEB. Unaged birds report-

ed 3/28 Dakota and 4/21 Hennepin SWe. Migration apparently undetected along the North Shore of L. Superior.

Iceland Gull — First-year bird at Two Harbors (see winter report) observed through 3/6 Lake JWL; possibly the same individual 3/24, 4/5 St. Louis (W.S.H.C., Duluth) ph. FJN.

Lesser Black-backed Gull — All reports: 3/31 Dakota (adult at H.P.B.C.) †KJB, 4/11 Isanti (third-year in Athens Twp.) †KJB, 4/13 Dakota (first-year and second-year at H.P.B.C., both flew across Pt. Douglas and into Washington County) †KJB.

Glaucous Gull — Observed 3/28 Dakota (adult at H.P.B.C.) KJB, 4/8 **McLeod** (adult at Silver L.) KJB, 4/30 St. Louis FJN.

Great Black-backed Gull — Two documented reports, both at Park Pt., Duluth: 5/20–27 (second-year bird, second latest date) RMD, JMu, ph. †MH, †JWL, ph. MSS, m.obs., 5/22 (first-year) †MH, †JWL.

Caspian Tern — Reported from 21 south and 17 north counties in all regions, but only Yellow Medicine (5/20, WCM) in the Southwest. Early south 4/24 Dakota PEB, 5/1 Dakota (7) JPM and Goodhue SWe, 5/3–8 in 10 counties. Early north 5/2 Douglas SPM, 5/3 St. Louis DRB. Late south 5/27 Anoka DFN, Brown BTS and Hennepin WCM, also see summer report. Highest reported counts 5/13 Hennepin (77) WCM, 5/18 St. Louis (50 at Duluth) PHS.

Common Tern — Seen in 15 south and 12 north counties in all regions. Early south (recent median 4/25) 4/22 Big Stone BJU, 4/24 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/5 Hennepin SWe. Early north (median 4/30) 4/27 Becker BRK, 5/2 Aikkin WEN. Highest reported count 5/13 St. Louis (1500 at Park Pt., Duluth) MH, PHS.

ARCTIC TERN — Single adults 5/15 **Wilkin** (Breckenridge W.T.P.) ph. †PHS, ph. JWL, SLL (**The Loon** 76:234–235),



Burrowing Owls, 30 May 2004, Lewisville, Watonwan County. Photo by Diane Brudelie.

5/23 St. Louis (Duluth) †MH. The former represents the only accepted record of this species away from Duluth.

Forster's Tern — Reported from 33 south and 17 north counties. Early south (median 4/10) 4/8 Big Stone KJB, 4/13 Steele JMP; peak migration 4/17–30 (15 south counties). Early north 4/7 (record-early) Todd BWF, 4/23 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/24–25 Douglas PWP. Highest reported count 4/28 Big Stone (190 near Ortonville) BJU.

Black Tern — Reported from 32 south and 16 north counties, but only St. Louis in the Northeast. Early south 5/1 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/2 Carver RMD. Early north 5/8 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT and Otter Tail m.obs., 5/9 Clay WCM. Numbers up at Duluth, where normally very rare; many reports off Park Pt. in late May (max. 100 on 5/25 MSt, PHS).

Highest reported count 5/17 Big Stone (3500 near Ortonville) BJU.

Rock Pigeon — Statewide.

Eurasian Collared-Dove — Nested again in Houston (Caledonia); first reported there 2/28 (3) SPM, 3/30 (adult on nest) ph. FZL, 4/30+ (3) ph. FZL, ph. †PHS. Documented for the first time in **Traverse** (5/1, Wheaton) ph. †PHS. Reported from known locations 4/10+ Dakota (2 at Farmington, but see winter report) †PEB, ADS, 4/14 Lyon (2) †RJS, 4/17–5/1+ Chippewa (3 at Milan) †BJU, 4/20+ Renville (3 adults at Olivia, nest-building observed) ph. TES, JMS, 5/21 Big Stone (Ortonville, the site of Minnesota's first record in Spring 1998) †BJU.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE — Fourth and fifth state records 5/8–15 St. Louis (Ely) ph. †SF, m.obs., 5/14 **Olmsted** (county

road 9 marsh, near Rochester) JWH *et al.*, ph. JJS.

Mourning Dove — Reported statewide.

Black-billed Cuckoo — Reported from 18 south counties, plus Douglas, Kanabec, Otter Tail (early north 5/17 EJE, 5/19 *fide* JMJ). Early south 5/9 Goodhue NAJ, 5/11 Sibley RBJ.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — Reported from six south counties beginning 5/13 Big Stone BJU, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU; also found in Chippewa, Houston, Murray, Scott. Only north report: 5/21 Douglas SPM.

Eastern Screech-Owl — All south reports: Freeborn, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Rice (gray morph), Rock. Unusual location 5/28 **Kittson** (duetting near Hallock) AXH, PHS. Only other north report: 3/12 Todd (gray morph) JSK, SID.

Great Horned Owl — Seen in 42 counties statewide. “Arctic” race reported 3/29 Polk DLT.

Snowy Owl — All reports: 3/3 Polk (2 at Glacial Ridge) JEC, 3/11 Cass *fide* MRN, 3/27 Renville BTS *et al.*

Northern Hawk Owl — All reports: 3/7 Lake of the Woods (8.5 miles south of Baudette) BJS, 3/11 Roseau RMD, JJS, 3/16 Lake of the Woods (same as 3/7?) *fide* JMJ, 3/26 Lake (Stoney River F.R.) DAG, JWJL.

BURROWING OWL — One seen 4/21 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) †BJU. Potential nesting pair 5/22+ **Watonwan** (near Lewisville) DLB, ph. AXH, unfortunately disappeared early June after burrow was dug out by fox.

Barred Owl — Observed in 21 south and 11 north counties as far southwest as Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine. No reports from usual range in Northwest region. Surveys in Northeast 3/15–31 detected 14

birds (15 during same period last year) WHL.

Great Gray Owl — Imperfect albino 5/2+ St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) KRS, BKY. Unusual location for late May 5/16–21+ Marshall (Wilderness Area and along county road 7 at Agassiz N.W.R.) m.obs., ph. PHS. Also reported 5/6 Koochiching ph. AXH, Aitkin (max. 4 in mid-March, WEN), Lake (three locations), Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis (four locations, including county road 8 east of Floodwood on 5/5, JWJL).

Long-eared Owl — All south reports: 3/2 Rice TFB, 3/21 Lac Qui Parle (Augusta Twp.) BJU, 4/4–24 Lac Qui Parle (max. 3, Arena Twp.) BJU, 4/12 Chippewa BJU, 4/19 Big Stone RBJ. Early north 3/8 Aitin CRM *et al.*, 3/22 Otter Tail SPM; also observed in Kittson, Polk, St. Louis, Todd.

Short-eared Owl — Statewide total 44+ individuals reported from seven south and six north counties, primarily in western regions. Numbers up in Lac Qui Parle (seven locations, BJU *et al.*) and Polk (up to 12 still present at Pankratz Prairie early March HH, also see winter report). Migrants mostly indistinguishable from birds reported in winter; potential early south migrants 3/13 Dakota TZa, 3/21 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Stearns BWF. All other south reports: Big Stone, Chippewa, Dakota, Rock, Swift. Unusual location 4/8–12 Lake (2) JWJL; additional north reports from Aitkin, Kittson, Marshall, Otter Tail, Polk (three locations besides Pankratz Prairie).

Boreal Owl — Surveys 3/15–31 detected only two singing males in the Northeast WHL.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — All south reports: 2/27–3/7 Washington DPS, 3/14, 3/19 Dakota JPM, 4/12 Chippewa BJU, 5/2–7 Meeker ph. KPF, m.obs., 5/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (overwintered?) 3/12 Lake JJS, 3/16 Polk JL; also reported from Aitkin, Becker, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Pine, St. Louis. Surveys 3/15–31 in the



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6 April 2004, Austin, Mower County. Photo by Jeff Morrison.

Northeast region located only 10 birds (52 same period last year) WHL.

Common Nighthawk — Reported from 25 south and 15 north counties. Early south 4/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/9 Mower JEM and Washington DPS, 5/10 in five counties. Early north 5/12 Kanabec CAM,

5/15 Todd JEB, 5/16–17 in five counties.

Whip-poor-will — Reported from eight south counties beginning 5/1–2 **Rock** RMD, JJS *et al.*, 5/2 Rice TFB. Early north 5/8 Clay WCM, 5/18 Kanabec BLA; also reported from Itasca, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis.

Chimney Swift — Observed in 28 south and 20 north counties. Early south 4/19 Hennepin SLC and Rice TFB, 4/24 Hennepin WCM. Early north 4/28 Otter Tail EJE, 5/8 Clay RHO.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Seen in 25 north and 23 south counties. Early south 5/1 Carver RMD, 5/4 Freeborn AEB. Early north 5/1 Cook DJS, 5/4 Crow Wing JSB. Peak migration 5/8–11 statewide (19 counties).

Belted Kingfisher — Reported from 57 counties statewide. Early north (but see winter report) 3/27 Kanabec JMP, 4/2 Aitkin WEN.

Red-headed Woodpecker — Observed in 27 south and 13 north counties as far north as Pennington, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis (Hibbing), and Cook (5/27 Oberg Mountain, DJS). Early north 5/1 Todd (2) BWF, 5/7 Becker BRK. Total of 12 birds in 8 Lac Qui Parle locations BJU. Populations stable at Cedar Creek Natural History Area, Anoka County JLH. About half of all reports were of multiple birds or singles in multiple locations, e.g., four locations in Rice including 4/13 (5 at Nerstrand Big Woods S.P.) JMP.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — Observed in 46 counties as far north as Pennington and Polk in the Northwest, Beltrami and Cass in the North-central, and St. Louis (Duluth and Hoyt Lakes) and Cook (5/21 Grand Portage, DRB) in the Northeast.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Seen in 32 south and 20 north counties. Early south 3/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Winona JJS, 4/4 Brown JJS. Early north 4/2 Carlton LAW, 4/10 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT and St. Louis ALE.

Downy Woodpecker — Statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker — Statewide.

American Three-toed Woodpecker — Only report: 5/21 Lake of the Woods

(Hand Dug Ditch, 1.5 miles southeast of Gustafson Camp S.N.A.) MHK.

Black-backed Woodpecker — Reported from Itasca S.P. plus Beltrami, Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis.

Northern Flicker — Observed in 39 south and 25 north counties. Early north (but see winter report) 3/24 Polk EEF, 4/3 Becker BRK. Overwintered in Otter Tail — first migrants there 4/4 (3) DTT, SMT. Peak migration 4/5–10 (eight north counties). Total of 92 between East Grand Forks and Mentor 4/20 Polk EEF.

Pileated Woodpecker — Reported from 52 counties in all regions except Southwest.

Olive-sided Flycatcher — Reported from every region. Early south 5/8 Goodhue DFN, Hennepin REH, and in Carver, Rice and Sibley on 5/11 (median 5/7). Early north **5/8** (ties second earliest north date) Traverse KRE, JJS, 5/11 Clay RHO. Found at the end of the season (5/31) south in Fillmore, Hennepin, Waseca, and Washington.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — Early south 5/7 Washington REH, 5/10 Goodhue JEB, Rice TFB (median 5/4). First north report on median arrival date 5/12 Todd JSK, SID, then 5/15 St. Louis PHS, 5/19 Kanabec CAM.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — Early south 5/15 Washington DFN, 5/17 Hennepin SLC, 5/19 Murray RJS. Reported north as early as 5/12, but none had details until 5/29 Lake DFN, 5/30 Cook DFN. Late south 5/24 Hennepin PEB, 5/26 Ramsey PEB, 5/31 Hennepin (2) SLC. **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published in this report. Please be sure to indicate singing or calling birds on the Seasonal Report form.

Acadian Flycatcher — Only four reports of singing birds: 5/17 Rice TFB, 5/29

Houston NAJ, 5/30 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) PHS, 5/31 Dakota (Miesville Ravine) RBW.

Alder Flycatcher — Early south 5/20 Rice TFB, 5/22 Anoka DFN, 5/24 Brown JJS, Goodhue BRL. North reports beginning 5/14, but only two with details: 5/28 Crow Wing MRN, 5/31 Kanabec CAM. Late south 5/31 Brown JSS and Hennepin SLC. Also reported with details from Blue Earth and Scott (PHS) and Le Sueur (WCM).

Willow Flycatcher — Early south 5/14 Hennepin OLJ, 5/17 Sherburne PLJ, 5/20 Rice TFB. Additional south reports with details from ADS, DFN, PEB, PHS, and WCM. One north report from Kanabec lacked details.

Least Flycatcher — Early south 5/4 Rice TFB, 5/6 Fillmore NBO, 5/8 Brown JSS, Lac Qui Parle NSp, Goodhue DFN. Early north 5/5 Polk EEF, 5/9 Clay DPJ, GLS, FZL, 5/12 Lake JWL.

Eastern Phoebe — Early south 3/22 Freeborn AEB, 3/24 Rice TFB, 3/25 Hennepin PEB, plus 13 additional counties before the end of March. Early north included multiple reports from Otter Tail beginning 3/24 SPM; also found 3/30 Kanabec and Pine JMP. Median arrivals south 3/21 and north 3/29.

SAY'S PHOEBE — Observed 5/8 Clay (east of Felton) †WCM, 5/19 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) †NED.

Great Crested Flycatcher — Reported from all regions. Early south 4/29 Freeborn AEB, 4/30 Olmsted OWB and Rice DAB (median 5/2). Early north 4/30 Otter Tail ARo, 5/8 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT, 5/12 Todd JSK, SID and Kanabec JMP (median 5/8).

Western Kingbird — Only five reports away from western regions. Early south 5/9 Big Stone PHS (three locations), Sherburne PLJ and Swift BJU. Early north 5/8 Clay JMJ, Otter Tail SPM and Traverse JJS.

Eastern Kingbird — Many reports from every region. April reports south: 4/13 Rice JMP, 4/14 Isanti DMP, 4/28 LQP BJU, 4/30 Mower JEM (median 4/27). Details requested for potential record-early observation 4/9 Pine JMP; no other north reports until 5/8 Clay RHO, DTT, SMT, and Traverse JJS (median 5/5).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER — One seen 5/12 **Lyon** (Camden S.P.) †SMo.

Loggerhead Shrike — Early south 3/27 Olmsted PWP, JJS *et al.*, 3/28 Dakota JPM, 3/29 Cottonwood CRM and Freeborn AEB; also reported from Big Stone (2 locations), Blue Earth, Dakota (2 additional locations), Isanti, Lac Qui Parle (4 locations), Rice, and Yellow Medicine. Early north 4/9 Clay RHO, followed by additional sightings in Clay (multiple locations), Otter Tail (near Perham), Traverse (Mud Lake), and three Northeast locations: 5/3 St. Louis (Park Point) MTA, 5/4 Cook (Schroeder) CJT, and 5/27 Lake (Castle Danger) ph. AXH, PHS. Two early March reports in Lac Qui Parle (3/1) and Blue Earth (3/3) were without sufficient details to distinguish them from still present Northerns.

Northern Shrike — Found in 17 north and 13 south counties. Late south 3/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/25 Winona KJB, 3/26 Le Sueur WCM (median 4/5). Late north 4/3 Cook WCM, 4/24 Aitkin WEN, 4/25 St. Louis †SLF (median 4/19).

Bell's Vireo — Reported from six counties: 5/15 Wabasha CBe, 5/18 Lac Qui Parle (Yellow Bank Twp.) †BJU, 5/18+ Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) MJF, 5/19+ Dakota RMD, 5/31 Waseca JPS and Winona (Great River Bluffs S.P.) KRE (median 5/15)

Yellow-throated Vireo — Found in 14 north and 29 south counties in all regions. Early south 5/4 Rice TFB, 5/6 Fillmore NBO, Freeborn AEB, plus five more counties over the next two days (median 5/1). Early north 5/8 Kanabec CAM, 5/9 Carlton LAW, 5/13 Aitkin WEN (median 5/9).

Blue-headed Vireo — Reported from 18 north and 30 south counties. Early south 4/29 Freeborn AEB and Rice TFB, 4/30 Le Sueur, Sherburne and Wright (median 4/28). Early north 5/5 St. Louis MH, 5/6 Carlton LAW and St. Louis NAJ, 5/8 in Otter Tail (median 5/4). Late south 5/27 Washington TEB, 5/29 Hennepin HCT (median 5/29).

Warbling Vireo — Multiple reports from every region, with first migrants within two days of median arrivals. Early south 4/29 Freeborn AEB, 4/30 Rice TFB and Goodhue BRL. Early north 5/8 Kanabec CAM, 5/9 Clay RHO and Todd JSK, SID.

Philadelphia Vireo — Found in 13 north and 28 south counties. Early south 5/8 Chippewa BJU, Sibley RBJ and Waseca JPS. Early north 5/12 Kanabec JMP and Lake JWJ, 5/16 Becker GLS. High count 5/15 Scott (5) RMD. Late south 5/26 Yellow Medicine BRL, 5/27 Dakota ADS and Washington TEB. Like the preceding species, all extreme dates within two days of recent medians.

Red-eyed Vireo — Early south 5/8 Anoka JLH, Hennepin REH, Mower JEM and Sibley RBJ (median 5/6). Early north 5/10 Clay RHO, 5/11 Todd JSK, SID, 5/12 Crow Wing MRN (median 5/10).

Gray Jay — Reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Beltrami, and Lake of the Woods.

Blue Jay — Found statewide.

Black-billed Magpie — Most reports from the Northwest, where found as far south as Clay. Also reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Clearwater, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, and 3/26 Lake SES.

American Crow — Found statewide

Common Raven — Many reports from the northern third of the state. Also found in middle third of the state in Todd, Pine, Sherburne (5/3) and Chisago (4/19, 5/1).

Horned Lark — Reported throughout the season, both south and north. High counts 3/12 Polk (302) EEF, 3/9 Fillmore (100) NBO. Found in over half the counties of every region, except none in Northeast.

Purple Martin — Found in 18 north and 27 south counties. Early south 3/24 Freeborn AEB, 4/6 Dakota KJB, 4/7 Houston FZL. Early north 4/10 Otter Tail SPM, 4/22 Hubbard MAW.

Tree Swallow — Early south 3/20 Dakota KJB, Rice DAB, and seven more counties yet in March. Early north **3/14** (earliest north) Polk (2) EEF, 3/26 Traverse SPM, 4/1 Cass MRN and Kanabec BLA. Highest reported counts **9000** (previous spring record 1000) at Lac Qui Parle Lake in Lac Qui Parle/Chippewa counties 5/1 (BJU), 2000 in Polk on 5/20 (EEF).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Early south 4/11 Hennepin WCM, 4/15 Dakota BRL, 4/16 Goodhue JJS, Rice TFB. Early north 4/19 Otter Tail SPM, 4/21 St. Louis SLF, 4/25 Kanabec CAM. Both early arrivals one day prior to recent medians.

Bank Swallow — Found in 15 north and 22 south counties. Early south 4/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/17 Dakota ADS, 4/18 Mower JEM (median 4/17). Early north 5/8 Clay RHO, Wadena (63) PJB (median 4/30).

Cliff Swallow — Early south 4/16 Big Stone BJU, 4/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Washington REH (median 4/18). Early north 4/25 Wadena PJB, 5/1 St. Louis SLF, 5/5 Aitkin CLB (median 4/24). High count **1000** in Polk on 5/20 (EEF).

Barn Swallow — Early south 4/15 Dakota PEJ, then from six additional counties on 4/17 (median 4/11). Early north 4/25 Clay RHO, Kanabec CAM (median 4/19). High count 100 5/20 Polk EEF.

Black-capped Chickadee — Reported throughout the state.



Partial albino Horned Lark, 1 April 2004, Dakota County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

Boreal Chickadee — Reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, and Lake of the Woods (Pitt Grade F.R.).

Tufted Titmouse — Reported from Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Winona, Olmsted and Goodhue in the Southeast, plus 3/1 Brown (overwintered) BTS, 4/7 **St. Louis** (Duluth) JRN.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — South reports through mid-May with last birds noted 5/16 Stearns RPR, 5/17 Ramsey NSp (median 5/24). Found in 17 north counties, with reports spanning the season.

White-breasted Nuthatch — Reported statewide.

Brown Creeper — Found in 18 north and 18 south counties. Early north mi-

grants not separable from wintering birds. South reports throughout the season until 5/1 Lac Qui Parle and Chisago, 5/4 Rice DAB, 5/5 Mower JEM.

ROCK WREN — One singing at Felton Prairie 5/8+ Clay †WCM, m.obs. attracted a mate (see summer report). Also reported 5/2–3 Pipestone (Split Rock Creek S.P.) JMu, †RMD *et al.*, †PHS.

Carolina Wren — Only report 5/13 **Lac Qui Parle** (Walter Twp.) †BJU.

House Wren — Reported from 21 north and 37 south counties. Early south, 4/17 Fillmore NBO, 4/21 Rice TFB (median 4/18). Early north 4/25 Otter Tail EJE, 4/28 Kanabec CAM (median 4/30). High count 5/8 Lac Qui Parle (**55** at Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU.

Winter Wren — Reported from all regions, though only one observation from the Southwest. Early south 3/28 Rice DAB, 3/29 Freeborn AEB, Rice TFB, Swift JEB, RBJ (median 3/26). Early north 4/4 Carlton MSS, 4/10 Lake JWJ (median 4/4). Late south 5/2 Mower JEM, 5/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Sedge Wren — Found in 18 north and 24 south counties, across all regions. Early south 5/1 Mower JEM, Rice DAB, Rock JJS (median 4/27). Early north 5/2 Aitkin WEN, 5/8 St. Louis SLF, Traverse JJS (median 5/3).

Marsh Wren — Early south 4/21 Rice TFB, 4/22 Big Stone BJU (median 4/26). Early north 5/8 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT and Traverse JJS were slightly later than the recent median arrival date 5/4.

Golden-crowned Kinglet — Reported from 16 north and 20 south counties. South reports included one early observation 3/9 Rice JJS, TFB (probably overwintered, but see winter report), then more expected arrivals 3/28 Hennepin DCZ and Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 3/27). Early north 3/23 Carlton MSS, 3/31 Grant SPM and Pine JMP (median 3/26).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — Found in 23 north and 37 south counties. Early south 3/20 Mower JEM, 3/27 Olmsted PWP, 3/28 Hennepin and Rock. Early north 3/31 Grant SPM, 4/6 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Late south 5/24 Hennepin SLC, 5/25 Ramsey NSP (median 5/24).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — Early south 4/15 (second earliest on record) Freeborn AEB, 4/17 Hennepin DCZ, 4/18 Brown JSS. Early north 5/4 Cass MRN, 5/8 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT. Also found in Douglas, Todd, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Wadena in the north.

Eastern Bluebird — Reported from 26 north and 39 south counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants. Early north 3/9 Todd JSK, SID, 3/16 Otter

Tail EJE, followed by arrivals in nine more counties by the end of March.

Mountain Bluebird — Only report: male in Walter Twp., 4/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Townsend's Solitaire — No reports.

Veery — Found in every region except the Southwest. Early south 4/30 Rice TFB, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/2 Olmsted PWP (median 5/1). Early north 5/5 Hubbard MAW, 5/8 Wadena PJB, 5/12 Pine JMP (median 5/8).

Gray-checked Thrush — Found in 13 north and 23 south counties. Early south 4/29 Mower JEM, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Rice TFB. Early north 5/8 Clay GLS, WCM, and five more counties 5/13. Late south 5/26 Scott RMD, 5/27 Carver WCM. Late north 5/21 Cook DRB, 5/22 St. Louis JWJ, 5/28 Kittson PHS. Both late dates identical to recent medians. One reported without details 4/18 Todd was more likely a Hermit Thrush — see **The Loon** 67:44–45 for a discussion of spring thrush migration.

Swainson's Thrush — Reported from 22 north and 32 south counties. Early south 4/28 Olmsted PWP, 4/29 Freeborn AEB and Mower JEM (median 4/26). Early north 5/2 Douglas SPM, 5/3 Kanabec CAM (median 5/2). Record-high count 5/14 Lac Qui Parle (97 at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU; prior spring high count only 20. Late south 5/29 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/30 Murray NED (median 5/31). As with the prior species, undocumented reports prior to late April were excluded.

Hermit Thrush — Found in every region. Early south 3/28 Steele HCT, 3/30 Rice TFB, 3/31 Winona JJS (median 3/29). Early north 4/10 Aitkin WEN and Otter Tail EJE (median 4/11). Late south 5/15 Jackson MJC, Lac Qui Parle BJU, and then only 5/26 Scott RMD (median 5/13).

Wood Thrush — Only found in Rock,

Lac Qui Parle and Big Stone in the western third of the state. Early south 5/3 Rice TFB, 5/6 Olmsted PWP. Early north 5/2 Aitkin WEN, 5/3 Todd JSK, SID.

American Robin — Reported statewide.

Varied Thrush — Only report: 4/5 Marshall GLY *fide* MJM.

Gray Catbird — Reported from 23 north and 37 south counties. Early south 4/28 Fillmore CWG, 4/29 Freeborn AEB, 5/2 Wabasha JLU (median 4/27). Early north 5/8 Kanabec CAM and Otter Tail EJE (identical to median). High count 15 in Polk (5/20, EEF).

Northern Mockingbird — Seventeen reports of 18 birds! All south reports: 4/20 Hennepin (Wood Lake) *fide* AXH, 4/21 Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) MJF, 4/21–22 Mower (River Bend Campground) JEM, 4/25 Lac Qui Parle (Mehurin Twp.) BJU, 5/1 Winona (Whitewater W.M.A.) JPS and Mower (Austin) RNS, 5/5 Fillmore JHD, 5/17 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) DBz, 5/18 Big Stone (Ortonville) BJU, and an undated report from Jackson (North Heron W.M.A.) BRB. North reports all from the North Shore: 3/16 St. Louis DRB, 4/22–24 St. Louis CE, 5/10 Lake (Flood Bay) KRE, PHS, JWJ, 5/13 Lake (Iona's Beach) JWJ, 5/18 Lake (2 at Split Rock Lighthouse S.P.) RBJ, JEB, 5/20 Cook (Schroeder) DJS, 5/27–29 Lake (Castle Danger) AXH, PHS.

SAGE THRASHER — Tenth state record 5/11–12 Cook (Schroeder) †DJS.

Brown Thrasher — Early south 4/16 Hennepin PEJ, REH, 4/17 Steele NFT, 4/18 Lac Qui Parle FAE and Watonwan DLB (median 4/13). Early north 4/27 Aitkin WEN and Todd JSK, SID, 4/28 St. Louis ALE. Both arrivals three days later than recent medians.

European Starling — Found statewide.

American Pipit — Found in 9 north and 16 south counties. Early south 3/18 (sec-

Species	Quantity
"Trail's" Flycatcher	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	2
Blue-headed Vireo	3
Warbling Vireo	1
Philadelphian Vireo	3
Red-eyed Vireo	46
Marsh Wren	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4
Swainson's Thrush	31
Gray Catbird	5
Tennessee Warbler	92
Nashville Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	48
Chestnut-sided Warbler	7
Magnolia Warbler	10
Cape May Warbler	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Blackpoll Warbler	17
Black-and-white Warbler	2
American Redstart	25
Ovenbird	14
Mourning Warbler	4
Common Yellowthroat	29
Wilson's Warbler	7
Canada Warbler	11
Scarlet Tanager	2
Savannah Sparrow	7
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Bobolink	1
Baltimore Oriole	1

Birds picked up dead under tower in Anoka County, 25 May 2004 (n=385).

ond earliest south) Carver WCM, 3/28 Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine BJU. Early north 4/24 Norman JJS, 5/5 St. Louis SLF. High count 4/17 Lac Qui Parle (**560+** at Perry W.M.A., prior spring record 135) BJU. Late south 5/17 Olmsted PWP, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/17 St. Louis PHS, 5/21 Lake JWJ.

Bohemian Waxwing — North reports from Grant, Marshall, Beltrami, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Cook, plus (late north) 4/6 Pennington JMJ, 4/11 Lake JWJ. High count 4/2 St. Louis 652 at W.S.H.C., Duluth) FJN, DSC. Only south report: 3/6 Chipewa (3 at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU.

Cedar Waxwing — Reported from 17 north and 29 south counties throughout the season.

Blue-winged Warbler — Early south 5/1 Rice TFB, 5/2 **Lac Qui Parle** (Garfield Twp.) BJU, 5/6 Fillmore NBO. One north report: 5/12 Morrison (Charles Lindbergh S.P.) BWF.

Golden-winged Warbler — Found in every region except the Southwest, though only Becker in the Northwest. Early south 5/6 Rice TFB, 5/7 Washington REH, then eight additional counties 5/8. Early north 5/12 Morrison BWF, Kanabec and Pine JMP. Late south 5/25 Brown JSS, Dakota JPM and Hennepin SLC, 5/27 Rice TFB. “Brewster’s” Warbler observed 5/17 Ramsey NSp, 5/27 Anoka †HPe.

Tennessee Warbler — Reported from 21 north and 35 south counties. Early south 4/28 Mower JEM, 4/30 Houston FZL (median 4/28). Early north 4/29 Otter Tail ARo, 5/6 Otter Tail EJE, 5/8 Polk JMJ (median 5/6). High counts 5/20 Polk (250) EEF, 5/15 Rice (40) DAB. Still present in six south counties on 5/31.

Orange-crowned Warbler — Early south 4/15 Murray NED, 4/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/19 Hennepin SLC and Wright KTP (median 4/21). Early north 4/20 St. Louis LAW, 4/28 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 4/29 Clay RHO (median 4/25). Late south 5/24 Swift RBJ, 5/27 Hennepin SLC. Late north 5/22 Beltrami PBD, 5/27 St. Louis SLF, 5/28 Kittson (6) AXH, PHS.

Nashville Warbler — Early south 4/24 Hennepin OIJ, 4/28 Freeborn AEB and Rice DAB, TFB (median 4/26). Early north 5/1 Aitkin WEN, 5/4 St. Louis NAJ, 5/5 Beltrami DPJ and Kanabec CAM (median 5/3). Late south 5/24 Ramsey NSp, 5/25 Sibley LBF, 5/27 Hennepin SLC.

Northern Parula — Early south 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/4 Hennepin SLC, Olmsted JJS and Rice TFB (median 4/30). Early north 5/5 St. Louis DRB, 5/9 Grant

LBF and St. Louis JWL (median 5/7). Late south 5/24 Anoka JLH, 5/27 Hennepin SLC and Rice TFB.

Yellow Warbler — Early south 4/23 Hennepin OIJ, 4/28 Scott JEB, and four more counties on 4/29. Record early north 4/17 Hubbard MAW, then 5/3 Becker MWy, 5/4 Douglas SWi and St. Louis NAJ (median 5/5). A major influx into the west-central region occurred on 5/9 (BJU); elsewhere, 210 were tallied 5/20 Polk EEF.

Chestnut-sided Warbler — Early south 5/7 Rice DAB, TFB, then nine additional counties on 5/8 (median 5/5). Early north 5/1 Hubbard MAW, 5/9 Wadena PJB, then seven more counties 5/11–12 (median 5/8). Late south 5/26 Murray NED, 5/27 Hennepin SLC and Washington TEB.

Magnolia Warbler — Reported from 23 north and 35 south counties. Early south 5/6 Rice TFB, then eight more counties 5/8 (median 5/5). Early north 5/1 Hubbard MAW, then four new counties on 5/11 (median 5/9). Late south 5/27 Hennepin SLC, 5/29 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle BJU. High count 5/28 Kittson (38) AXH, PHS.

Cape May Warbler — Found in all regions except the Southwest. Numbers up at feeders in northern regions. Early south 5/7 Freeborn AEB and Washington DFN, 5/8 Houston and Mower. Early north 5/11 Aitkin CLB, Becker BRK, Beltrami PBD, Otter Tail EJE, and St. Louis ALE. Peak count 5/20 Polk (25) EEF. Late south 5/25 Sibley LBF, 5/26 Hennepin KTP, 5/27 Big Stone BJU. Late north 5/25 Kanabec BLA, 5/27 Beltrami PBD and Cook DJS.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — Two south reports: 5/6 Carver WCM, 5/9 Dakota FVS. Early north 5/9 Becker SPM. All other reports from the Northeast, including 5/17 Cook (10) MWS, 5/30 Carlton (late migrant?) LAW.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Found in 26

north and 38 south counties. Early south 4/4 Goodhue OWB, 4/5 Nicollet MJF, 4/6 Hennepin SLC. Early north 4/9 Aitkin WEN, Otter Tail EJE, 4/10 Carlton LAW. Many reports of high counts, including 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (1200 at Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU, 5/20 Polk (1000) EEF, 5/3 Wright (400+ at Albertville W.T.P.) SWE, 5/12 Stearns (400 at Albany W.T.P.) RPR. Late south 5/25 Anoka JLH, 5/26 Brown BTS, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU. "Audubon's" race reported 5/18 Hennepin (Brooklyn Park) OIJ.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Early south 4/29 Rice TFB, 5/2 Hennepin SLC, 5/4 Fillmore NBO (median 4/29). Early north 5/8 Aitkin WEN, 5/9 Carlton LAW and Grant LBF (median 5/4). Late south 5/22 Scott PEB, 5/24 Rice TFB, 5/25 Hennepin SLC.

Blackburnian Warbler — Early south 5/7 Mower RDK, RCK and Washington REH, 5/8 Goodhue DFN and Waseca JPS. Early north 5/4 St. Louis NAJ, 5/10 Carlton MSS, 5/11 Aitkin CLB. High count 5/24 Crow Wing (20–30) MRN. Late south 5/28 Rice TFB, 5/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU and McLeod PRH.

Pine Warbler — Early south 4/19 Hennepin SLC and Sherburne PIJ, 4/22 Ramsey BRL (median 4/25). Early north 4/24 Hubbard MAW, 4/30 Beltrami DPJ, 5/1 Aitkin WEN (median 4/26). Late south (away from known breeding locations) 5/22 Watonwan DLB.

PRAIRIE WARBLER — Singing adult male 5/20 **Stearns** (St. John's University) †TDH, †BR, †HHD.

Palm Warbler — Early south 4/15 Mower JEM, 4/21 Washington DPS both preceded recent median (4/22). Early north 4/24 St. Louis SLF, 4/28 Kanabec CAM, Todd JSK, SID and Wadena PJB. High counts 5/7 Anoka (**300**) JLH, 5/14 Itasca (150) MSS, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle (129 at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU. Late south 5/20 Rice TFB, 5/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Bay-breasted Warbler — Early south 5/6 Mower JEM, 5/8 Goodhue DFN and Rice TFB (median 5/8). Early north 5/8 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT, 5/11 Clay RHO (median 5/13). High counts 5/24 Crow Wing (**40–50**) MRN, 5/14 Wright (20) RLR. Late south (all later than recent median 5/23) 5/26 Rice TFB, 5/27 Hennepin SLC, 5/29 Chippewa BJU.

Blackpoll Warbler — Reported from 20 north and 34 south counties, with notable high counts 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (41 at Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU, 5/14 Wright (30) RLR, 5/28 Kittson (22) AXH, PHS. Early south 5/2 Hennepin PEJ, 5/8 Mower JEM, Rice TFB and Wabasha DPS. Early north 5/9 Grant LBF, 5/11 Clay RHO and Otter Tail EJE. Late south 5/29 Anoka JLH and Nicollet WCM, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 5/29 Cook DRB, 5/30 Clay RHO.

Cerulean Warbler — Early south 5/8 Hennepin (Bryant Lake Park) HCT, 5/10 Rice TFB. Also found in Carver (Carver P.R.), Houston (Beaver Valley Creek S.P.), Nicollet (Seven Mile Creek C.P.), Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.), Stearns (Collegeville), Steele (Rice Lake S.P.), and Wright (Lake Maria S.P.).

Black-and-white Warbler — Early south 4/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/28 Rice TFB, 4/29 Freeborn AEB and Mower RDK, RCK (median 4/26). Early north 4/28 Otter Tail SPM, 4/30 St. Louis SLF, 5/3 Becker MWY (median 5/3).

American Redstart — Reported from 36 south and 23 north counties. Early south 5/2 Murray NED, 5/6 Hennepin SLC and Rice TFB. Early north 5/9 Aitkin WEN, Todd JSK, SID and Wadena PJB. High counts 5/24 Anoka (**100**) JLH, 5/28 Kittson (73) AXH, PHS.

Prothonotary Warbler — Found in ten south counties, including early birds 5/8 Mower RDK, RCK and Rice DAB, 5/9 Houston FZL. Also notable were West-central reports: 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (Lac

Qui Parle S.P.) BJU, 5/23 Chippewa (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU.

Ovenbird — Reported from 23 north and 33 south counties. Early south 4/30 Houston FZL, Le Sueur WCM and Rice TFB (median 4/30). Early north 5/6 Carlton LAW, 5/7 Otter Tail EJE and Todd JSK, SID (median 5/4).

Northern Waterthrush — Early south 4/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/28 Freeborn AEB and Rice DAB (median 4/26). Early north 4/29 Otter Tail SPM, 5/2 Douglas SPM, 5/6 Otter Tail EJE and St. Louis JWJ (median 5/4). High count 5/8 Rice (25) DAB. Late south 5/20 Yellow Medicine WCM, 5/24 Rice TFB, 5/27 Hennepin SLC.

Louisiana Waterthrush — Located in seven counties in the southeastern quarter of the state. Early south 4/18 Winona JJS, 4/24 Houston FZL. Most northerly reports from Washington (Falls Creek S.N.A.) and Carver (along Minnesota River near Sibley County line).

Kentucky Warbler — All reports: 5/19 **Lac Qui Parle** (Walter Twp.) †BJU, 5/22 Meeker (Litchfield N.C.) †DMF, 5/25+ Blue Earth (Williams C.P.) CBe, †CBr *et al.*

Connecticut Warbler — Reported from 14 south and 11 north counties in all regions except the Southeast. Early south 5/14 Washington DPS, 5/17 Rice TFB and Watonwan JJS. Numbers up in Twin Cities, including 5/21–26 Dakota (total of 8) JPM, 5/18–27 Hennepin (total of 6) SLC. Early north 5/13, 5/15, 5/16 Aitkin WEN, 5/18 Aitkin JWJ and Todd JSK, SID. Late south 5/28 Dakota JPM and Yellow Medicine RBJ, also see summer report.

Mourning Warbler — Reported from 20 south and 17 north counties. Early south 5/8 Rice TFB, Mower JEM and Wabasha TEB, 5/10 Hennepin SLC. Early north 5/12 Pine JMP, 5/19 Cass, Cook, St. Louis.

Common Yellowthroat — Seen in 30

south and 25 north counties. Early south 5/4 Brown JEB, 5/5 Mower JEM, peak migration 5/8–12 (17 south counties). Early north 5/6 Becker BRK, 5/9 St. Louis JWJ. Highest reported count 5/28 Kittson (**60**) AXH, PHS.

Hooded Warbler — Extralimital reports in western Minnesota 5/12 **Lyon** (female near Minneota) †RJS, 5/12 **Murray** (male in Moulton Twp.) †NED, 5/15 **Otter Tail** (male at Black's Grove Park, second county record) †DTT, †SMT, †EJE, 5/16 **Lac Qui Parle** (female in section 29, Manfred Twp.) †BJU, 5/28 **Kittson** (male at Lancaster) †PHS. Another first county occurrence 5/22 **Meeker** (male at Litchfield N.C.) †DMF. All other reports: 5/13 McLeod (female at Hutchinson) RWS, 5/16 Hennepin OJL, 5/16+ Dakota/Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) m.obs., 5/22 Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.) †CBr, ADS.

Wilson's Warbler — Observed in 28 south and 20 north counties in all regions. Early south 5/4 Hennepin SLC, 5/6 Olmsted OWB and Rice TFB, peak migration 5/8–15 (16 counties). Early north 5/11 Clay (4) RHO, Kanabec CAM and Otter Tail EJE, 5/12 Otter Tail DTT, SMT and Todd JSK, SID. Late south 5/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Highest reported count 5/28 Kittson (**55**) AXH, PHS.

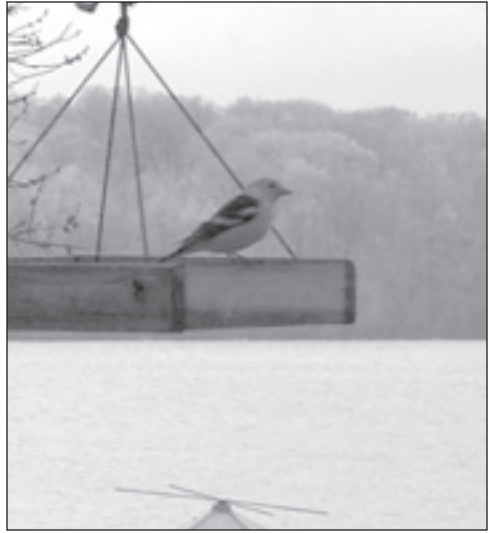
Canada Warbler — Seen in 16 south and 15 north counties. Early south 5/10 Olmsted PWP, 5/13 Hennepin NAJ, JEP and Sherburne PLJ. Early north 5/15 Otter Tail EJE, DTT, SMT, 5/16 Aitkin WEN. Late south (away from known breeding areas) 5/27 Hennepin SLC. Highest reported count 5/28 Kittson (14) AXH, PHS.

Yellow-breasted Chat — Only report: 5/28–31+ **Yellow Medicine** (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) RBJ, †PHS.

Summer Tanager — Major influx of no fewer than 11 individuals; also see undocumented reports. Record-early arrival 4/18–29 Steele (imm. male near Owatonna) ph. WH, NFT *et al.* All other south re-



Western Tanager, 20 May 2004, Crookston, Polk County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.



Western Tanager, 26 April 2004, Waseca, Waseca County. Photo by Linda Born.

ports: 5/4 Olmsted (imm. male at Byron, dates?) JDF, RLE, †CBr *et al.*, 5/8 Chippeewa (adult male at Lac Qui Parle L.) †BJU, 5/14–15 Hennepin (imm. male at Wood L.) †PJ, m.obs., 5/15+ Scott (adult male at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., virtually the same territory as last year, *The Loon* 75:221–225) †RMD, †BAF, m.obs., 5/16+ Dakota (adult male at Lebanon Hills, same territory as last year) ph. JPM, †CBr, 5/18 Scott (female or imm. male at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) †LBF, PB, 5/22 Scott (imm. male at Shakopee) ph. AJM, 5/29 Lac Qui Parle (adult male at Lac Qui Parle S.P.) †BJU. All north reports: 5/15 Cook (adult male at Prairie Portage) SE, †DL, JRo, MP, 5/15–19 Crow Wing (adult male north of Baxter) ph. WAB, m.obs.

Scarlet Tanager — Reported from 31 south and 21 north counties in all regions. Widespread at feeders beginning mid-May, with 5–8 birds in many locations and up to a dozen at others. Superlatives included “best migration in years” (JLH) and “incredible year” (RBJ). Early south 5/4 Anoka JLH, 5/7 Rice DAB, TFB. Early north 5/11 Hubbard MAW and Otter Tail EJE, 5/12 Otter Tail, St. Louis, Todd. Highest reported count 5/24–25 Crow Wing

(two dozen at Ironton W.T.P., plus many local feeder reports) JSB.

Western Tanager — All documented reports: 4/25–26 **Waseca** (male at Waseca, second earliest south) ph. LLB, 5/18 Ramsey (male at North Oaks) †TAN, and “several days” through at least 5/20 Polk (NE of Crookston) JL, JMJ, ph. DCL, ph. †PHS.

Spotted Towhee — Single adult males 4/28 Lac Qui Parle (sec. 25, Walter Twp.) †BJU, 4/30 Murray (Moulton Twp.) †NED, 5/1 Jackson (Roberston C.P.) †RMD *et al.*, 5/1 Big Stone N.W.R. †PEJ, DFN, 5/2 Lac Qui Parle (Freeland Twp.) †BJU. Adult female 5/2 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) †RMD *et al.* Also see undocumented reports.

Eastern Towhee — Reported from 25 south but only 6 north counties. Overwintered in Ramsey (see winter report). Early south 4/17 Houston KAK, 4/18 Carver WCM and Winona JJS; peak migration 4/22–30 in 12 counties. Early north 4/24 St. Louis JRN, 5/9 Clay RHO; also seen in Beltrami, Hubbard, Otter Tail, Wadena.

American Tree Sparrow — Observed

in 31 south and 16 north counties. Highest reported counts 3/16 Lac Qui Parle (groups of 345, 208) BJU. Late south 5/2 Hennepin SLC and Lac Qui Parle BJU, only May reports. Late north 5/8 St. Louis SLF, 5/9 Lake JWL.

Chipping Sparrow — Reported from 39 south and 27 north counties. Early south 3/26 Ramsey REH, 3/30 Washington TEB. Early north 4/11 Otter Tail SPM, DKM, 4/13 Wadena PJB. Highest reported count 4/30 Mower (88) RDK, RCK. Mid-March reports from Lac Qui Parle and 3/26 Otter Tail were excluded pending documentation; AXH researched arrival dates in southern Iowa and noted that record-early dates (3/26, 3/26, 3/27) in that state matched Minnesota's recent median south arrival date (3/26).

Clay-colored Sparrow — Observed in 34 south and 24 counties. Early south 4/17, 4/19 Chippewa BJU, JEB, 4/22 Anoka REH. Early north 4/28 Kanabec CAM, 5/1 Traverse PHS.

Field Sparrow — Arrived in 29 south counties as early as 3/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/28 Rice DAB. Early north 4/25 Douglas and Grant PWP, 4/28 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Unusual location 5/16 Cook (Schroeder) DJS; also observed in Clay, Todd, Traverse.

Vesper Sparrow — Reported from 34 south and 14 north counties in all regions, but only St. Louis in Northeast. Early south 3/27 Jackson WCM and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/28 Rock WCM and Scott RBW. Early north 4/2 (second earliest north), 4/4, 4/9 Otter Tail m.obs. Four reports from St. Louis where locally rare, including 4/20 (Virginia) SLF, 5/1 (Hoyt Lakes) ALE.

Lark Sparrow — Reported from 15 south and 10 north counties, including 5/2 **Big Stone** (2 locations) PCC, PHS, 5/14 **Pine** (Chengwatana S.F.) DFN. No reports from North-central or Northeast. Early south 4/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/21 Wabasha JJS.

Early north 5/2 Polk EEF, 5/5 Clay JEB, RBJ.

Savannah Sparrow — Reported from 34 south and 25 north counties. Early south 3/21 (ties second earliest) Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/27 Sibley LBF. Early north 4/17 Polk JMJ and Todd JSK, SID, 4/25 in five counties. Highest reported count 4/18 Lac Qui Parle (490+ in Augusta Twp.) BJU.

Grasshopper Sparrow — Reported from 20 south counties as early as 4/16 (ties second earliest) Steele NFT, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/29 Murray NED, Unusual location 4/30 St. Louis (Palo) SC, EO, only April report north. Additional north reports from Clay, Kanabec, Otter Tail, Pine.

Henslow's Sparrow — All reports: 4/30 Swift RBJ, 5/11 Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.) WMS, 5/17 Rice TFB, 5/31+ Winona (Great River Bluffs S.P.) m.obs. None had details.

LeConte's Sparrow — Early south 4/23 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/28 Ramsey BRL; only other south reports (none later than 5/8) from Chippewa, Dakota, Pope, Watonwan. Observed in 13 north counties, including record-early arrival 4/17 Polk JMJ, then 5/2 Wadena PJB, 5/4 Aitkin WEN.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — Two south reports: 5/3 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 25 May Anoka (tower kill) *fide* JSc. All north reports: 5/27 Lake of the Woods (Baudette) MHK, 5/28 Kittson (2 locations) AXH, PHS.

Fox Sparrow — Reported from 25 south and 20 north counties. Early south (3/1 Steele NFT probably overwintered) 3/15 Rice TFB, 3/17 Freeborn AEB; peak migration 3/24–31 in 16 counties. Early north (overwintered in Lake) 3/19 Otter Tail SPM, 3/27 Hubbard RCS. Late south (median 4/29) 4/24 Hennepin KTP and McLeod RWS. Late north 5/1 Todd JSK, SID, 5/25 Cook DJS. Highest reported count 3/31 Pine (15) JMP.

Song Sparrow — Observed in 42 south and 27 north counties. See winter report for late February reports south; potential early south migrants 3/10 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/12 Hennepin HCT and Rice DAB, TFB. Early north (excluding overwintering in Lake) 3/26 Pine JMP, 3/27 Kanabec JMP and Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Highest reported counts 4/19 Lac Qui Parle (**560+** at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 5/12 Cook (**200** estimated) DJS.

Lincoln's Sparrow — Reported from 33 south and 21 north counties statewide. Numbers up compared to last spring. Early south 4/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/19 Brown JJS. Early north 4/25 Clay RHO, 4/28 Kanabec CAM. Late south 5/26 Scott RMD, 5/27 Hennepin SLC and Rice TFB. Highest reported count 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (**39** at Lac Qui Parle S.P.) BJU.

Swamp Sparrow — Seen in 30 south and 24 north counties. Early south (but see winter report) 3/17 Martin RBJ, 3/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 4/15 Grant SPM, DKM, 4/18 Polk BBC. Highest reported counts 5/2 Polk (20) EEF, 5/8 Steele (23) NFT *et al.*

White-throated Sparrow — Reported from 36 south and 22 north counties. Overwintered south and north. Peak migration 5/2 Cass MRN. Late south 5/26 Brown JJS, 5/27 Hennepin SLC, 5/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Highest reported count 5/14 Lac Qui Parle (**400** estimate at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU.

Harris's Sparrow — Reported from 32 south and 18 north counties in all regions. Numbers up in Mower JEM, but none in Cass MRN. Reported on CBCs, but not known to overwinter (see winter report). Early south 3/29 Swift JEB, RBJ, 4/6 Brown JJS; peak migration 4/28–5/10 (22 south counties). Early north (3/13 Grant SPM, DKM probably overwintered) 4/29 Otter Tail m.obs. and Pennington JMJ, 4/30 Kanabec CAM. Late south 5/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/23–31 Hennepin RBW. Late north (recent median 5/21) 5/18 Lake PHS.

White-crowned Sparrow — Observed in 33 south and 21 north counties. Early south 4/19 Washington DPS, 4/24 Hennepin OLJ. Early north (but see winter report) 4/27 Aitkin CLB, 4/28 Kanabec CAM and St. Louis NAJ. Late south 5/27 Big Stone BJU, **5/30** (ties latest south) Hennepin SLC. Late north 5/27 Carlton NAJ and Itasca EO, 5/28 Clay RHO and Kittson AXH, PHS. Highest reported count 5/12 Cook (**100** estimated) DJS.

Dark-eyed Junco — Found in 35 south and 24 north counties. “Oregon” Junco early April in Carver ph. RMD. Late south 5/15 Hennepin SLC and Rice TFB. Highest reported counts 4/5 Wadena (345) PJB, 4/10 Polk (400 between East Grand Forks and Mentor) EEF.

Lapland Longspur — Seen in 19 south and 7 north counties. Late south 5/2 Meeker (500) RWS and Mower JEM, 5/3 Goodhue JPM. Late north 5/15 Cook JGW, 5/26 St. Louis (male) KRE. Highest reported counts 3/9 Lac Qui Parle (3750 in Walter Twp.) BJU, 4/17–18 Polk (“thousands”) MH *et al.*

Smith's Longspur — First county occurrence 4/24 **Meeker** (Kingston South Twp.) †DMF. Also reported 4/17 Cottonwood (4 identified by voice at Red Rock Prairie) BWF, plus additional reports from Lac Qui Parle (max. 13, 4/12) through 4/24 BJU.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — Reported 4/15+ Clay (Felton Prairie) DTT, SMT, m.obs., 4/17 **Swift** (male near Shible L.) †BJU, 5/7 **St. Louis** (male in pasture at junction of Old North Shore Drive and Homestead Road, Duluth) JCG.

Snow Bunting — Reported from seven counties, but apparently absent after 3/12 Washington TEB. Observed in 16 north counties including (late north) 5/4 Crow Wing JSB, 5/7–8 St. Louis DRB. Highest reported count 3/6 Polk (“thousands”) HH.

Northern Cardinal — Observed in 35



Painted Bunting, 13 May 2004, Detroit Lakes, Becker County. Photo by Melissa Anderson.

south and 13 north counties as far north as Marshall in Northwest, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Wadena in North-central, and Lake and St. Louis in Northeast.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Seen in 39 south and 24 north counties. Early south 4/28 Nicollet MJF, 4/29 Freeborn AEB and Olmsted JJS; peak migration 5/3–8 in 19 counties. Early north 5/1 Otter Tail ARO, 5/3 Becker BRK, MWy; peak migration 5/7–14 in 16 counties. Highest reported counts 5/13 Pine (10) JMP, 5/18 Beltami (13) PBD.

Blue Grosbeak — All reports: 5/18+ Murray NED, 5/20+ Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) JJS, m.obs.

LAZULI BUNTING — Adult male 5/27 Murray (section 32, Moulton Twp.) †NED.

Indigo Bunting — Seen in 28 south and 15 north counties. Early south 4/27 Washington TEB, 5/4 Freeborn AEB and Hennepin SLC; peak migration 5/10–16 (16 counties). Early north 5/9 Wadena PJB, 5/12 Kanabec CAM and Todd JSK, SID; peak migration 5/15–19. Highest reported count 5/13 Hennepin (13) WCM.

PAINTED BUNTING — Single adult males 5/13 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) JGe *vide* ALE, ph. †MH, ph. †PHS, 5/13–17 Becker (near Detroit Lakes) ph. MAn, †JMJ, †PHS,

†DTT, †SMT, m.obs., 5/19–20 Clay (Moorhead) RP, †RHO, ph. †PHS.

Dickcissel — Early south 5/4, 5/28+ Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/15 Freeborn AEB; also reported from Carver, Murray, Rock.

Bobolink — Found in 32 south and 24 north counties. Early south 4/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/2 Dakota ADS; peak migration 5/7–12 in 14 counties. Early north 5/8 in five counties, 5/9–12 in seven. Highest reported count 5/8 Steele (48) NFT *et al.*

Red-winged Blackbird — Reported from 71 counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants and February reports north in Polk and Wilkin. Probable early north migrants 3/8 Clay RHO, 3/10 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Highest reported counts 3/1 Houston (2000+ at Mound Prairie) ph. FZL, 3/15 Southwest region (6000) KJB.

Eastern Meadowlark — Reported from 25 south and 8 north counties. Early south 3/24 Rice TFB and Waseca JEZ, 3/25–26 in four counties. Early north 3/23 Pine JMP, 3/26 Cass *vide* MRN. Only report from Northwest: 4/11 Polk JMJ.

Western Meadowlark — Reported from 26 south and 19 north counties in all regions, but only St. Louis in Northeast. Early south 3/2 Brown BTS, 3/8 Big Stone BJU. Early north 3/8 Todd JSK, SID, 3/12 Polk EEF. Highest reported count 4/20 Polk (26 at Glacial Ridge) EEF.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — Seen in 34 south and 19 north counties. More reports than usual in Northeast, including Grand Portage (5/21, DRB) and Schroeder (5/16, DJS) in Cook, Two Harbors (5/20, JWL) in Lake, and as far north as Ely (5/17, SPM) and Embarrass (5/15+, ALE, NAJ, KRS) in St. Louis. Early south 3/27 Sibley LBF, 4/5 Martin JEB and Nicollet RBJ. Early north 4/11 Clay RHO, 4/19 Otter Tail DTT, SMT.

Rusty Blackbird — Reported from 22 south and 9 north counties. See winter report for early south migrants. Early north

(recent median 3/17) 3/25 Otter Tail DTT, SMT. Late south 4/24 Hennepin DCZ, 4/30 Chisago CLB. Late north (median 5/3) 4/24 Clay JJS.

Brewer's Blackbird — Seen in 19 south and 17 north counties in all regions. Early south 3/21 Mower JEM, 3/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 4/13 Becker MWy, 4/14 Kanabec CAM. Highest reported count 4/20 Polk (**550** in Maple Lake area) EEF.

Common Grackle — Observed in 58 counties. Please see winter report for early south migrants, and February reports from Clay and St. Louis. Early north 3/10 Otter Tail DTT, SMT, 3/16 Todd JSK, SID. Highest reported count 4/20 Polk (200) EEF.

Great-tailed Grackle — Male and two females reported without details in Rock (Hills) during May, first documented 6/2 (please see summer report). One male with pale yellow irides and long, wedge-shaped tail was singing “a confusing, varied series of clacks, rattles, and whistles” 5/8 **Lac Qui Parle** (near Madison) †BJU. Two additional reports from Lac Qui Parle County lacked sufficient details. Also see undocumented reports.

Quiscalus, sp. — A large non-vocalizing grackle 3/13 Jackson BRB documented by a poor-quality, distant photograph was probably a Great-tailed, but no other details were obtained. Reported as a Great-tailed but accepted as Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle was one at Lac Qui Parle S.P. 4/12 Lac Qui Parle †BJU.

Brown-headed Cowbird — Reported from 54 counties statewide. Early south (but see winter report) 3/1 Freeborn AEB, Lac Qui Parle BJU and Olmsted JJS; many reports beginning 3/26. Early north 4/6 Becker BRK, 4/7 Pine JMP.

Orchard Oriole — Reported from 20 south and 11 north counties as far northwest as Kittson and Marshall, with many reports at feeders. Unusual locations 5/18 Beltrami (8 miles NW of Bemidji)

fide DPJ, 5/24 Beltrami (Bemidji) PJR, †DPJ, 5/29+ **St. Louis** (Duluth) SM, DOK, m.obs. Early south **4/27** (earliest ever) Washington TEB, 4/29 Freeborn AEB, 5/4 Steele NFT. Early north **5/10** Otter Tail ARo, 5/13 Aitkin WEN and Todd JSK, SID, High counts 5/20 Polk (**20** in Maple Lake area) EEF, 5/29 Chippewa (17) BJU.

Baltimore Oriole — Reported from 34 south and 26 north counties. Numbers up at feeders in many locations. Early south 4/28 Carver RBJ, 4/29 Freeborn AEB, then daily reports. Early north **4/23** Itasca EO, 5/3 Becker MWy, 5/4 Kanabec BLA and Polk *fide* MJM. Highest reported count 5/20 Polk (30 in Maple Lake area) EEF.

Pine Grosbeak — Only south report: 3/10 Lac Qui Parle (1) †BJU. Late north 3/18 St. Louis ALE, 3/31 St. Louis (3) DSC, FJN; also reported from Becker, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake.

Purple Finch — Observed in 22 south and 21 north counties. Late south (median 5/16) 5/2 Pipestone PHS. Highest reported count 4/6 Dakota (128 at H.P.B.C.) KJB.

House Finch — Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill — Only reports: 3/16 Polk JEc, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU.

White-winged Crossbill — Only south report: 3/6 Lac Qui Parle (36) BJU. North reports in March from Lake and Pennington, plus 5/31 Beltrami (imm. male at feeder) †DPJ.

Common Redpoll — Reported from 14 south and 21 north counties in all regions except the Southwest. Good numbers still present through mid-March south and early April north. Late south 3/28 Anoka JLH, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle (1) BJU. Late north 4/14 Lake JWJ and Wadena PJB, 4/15, 4/22 St. Louis NAJ, ALE. More than 1200 banded 3/8–4/5 Itasca (Big Fork) DRM, including 337 on 3/29.

Hoary Redpoll — Total of seven band-



Leucistic redpoll, 11 March 2004, Thief River Falls, Pennington County. Photo by Jeanie Jopru.

ed 3/8–4/5 Itasca (Big Fork) DRM; also documented 3/12, 3/24 Beltrami †DPJ. Reported without details from Aitkin, Cook, Lake, Pine, Roseau, St. Louis, Todd, Wilkin. Of related interest was the leucistic redpoll 3/11 Pennington (Thief River Falls) ph. JMJ.

Pine Siskin — Reported from ten south counties (only one report Spring 2003), including 5/15 Hennepin SLC, late May Kandiyohi RSF, 5/27+ Ramsey NSp. Observed in 11 north counties.

American Goldfinch — Reported throughout the state. Partial albino (pure white replaced black on wings) 5/29 Becker BRK.

Evening Grosbeak — Reported from nine north counties (same as last spring) as far south as Aitkin and Carlton, but only Becker (5/18, KHa) in the Northwest.

House Sparrow — Observed in 49 counties statewide.

Observers

ADS	Andrew D. Smith	BSe	Blaine Seeliger
AEB	Al E. Batt	BTS	Brian T. Smith
AJM	A.J. Morales	BWF	Ben W. Fritchman
ALE	Audrey L. Evers	CA	Chad Akre
ARo	Alma Ronningen	CAK	Chuck A. Krulas
AWJ	Andrew W. Jones	CAM	Craig A. Menze
AXH	Anthony X. Hertzell	CAS	Carol Schumacher
BAF	Bruce A. Fall	CBe	Chris Benson
BAP	Bruce A. Pannkuk	CBr	Conny Brunell
BBB	Bruce B. Baer	CE	Chris Elmgren
BBC	Betsy Batstone-Cunningham	ChH	Chad Heins
BCM	Chris Mansfield	ChM	Chet A. Meyers
BJM	Barbara J. Martin	CJT	Carol & Jim Tveekrem
BJS	Beth & Jeff Siverhus	CLB	Cindy L. Butler
BJU	Bill J. Unzen	CMG	Clare & Maurita Geerts
BK	Brad Koenen	CMN	Connie M. Norheim
BKY	Ben K. Yokel	CRM	Craig R. Mandel
BLA	Betty L. Ammerman	CWG	Carl W. Greiner
BR	Bob Rogers	DAB	David A. Bartkey
BRB	Brad R. Bolduan	DAC	Dave A. Cahlander
BRK	Byron R. Kinkade	DAG	David A. Grosshuesch
BRL	Bill R. Litkey	DBz	Dedrick Benz
BRN	Bill R. Nelson	DCr	Dave Crawford
BRT	Bill R. Tefft	DCL	Dave and Cec Lambeth

DCT	Dianne C. Tuff	JL	John Loegering
DCZ	Dave C. Zumeta	JLH	James L. Horwitz
DDM	Dennis D. Martin	JLU	Janice & Larry Uden
DFN	David F. Neitzel	JMF	June M. Foss
DJS	Dory J. Spence	JMJ	Jeanie M. Jopprru
DKM	Diane K. Millard	JMP	Jackie M. Potts
DL	Dave Lothner	JMS	Joseph. M. Stangel
DLB	Diane L. Brudelic	JMu	Jake Musser
DLE	David L. Evans	JPE	John P. Ellis
DLT	Donna & Leon Thoreson	JPM	James P. Mattsson
DMA	Diane M. Anderson	JPS	Julian P. Sellers
DMF	Dan M. Floren	JR	Jim Ryan
DMP	Daphne & Meyers Peterson	JRN	Jeff R. Newman
DMY	Dave Myher	JRo	John Rogner
DOK	Don Kienholz	JRW	Jeff R. Wilson
DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	JSB	Jo & Steve Blanich
DPS	David P. Sovereign	JSc	John Schladweiler
DRB	David R. Benson	JSK	John & Susan Kroll
DRM	Dennis R. Meyer	JSS	Jack Sprenger
DSC	David S. Carman	JSt	Joachim Strengbom
DTT	Dan T. Thimgan	JWB	Jim W. Barrett
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	JWH	John W. Hockema
EEF	Eve E. Freeberg	JWL	James W. Lind
EJE	Eddy & Judy Edwards	KAK	Karla A. Kinstler
EO	Earl Orf	KAR	Kathryn A. Rivers
FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	KHa	Kay Hartness
FJN	Frank J. Nicoletti	KIM	Kim I. Metz
FVS	Forest V. Strnad	KJB	Karl J. Bardon
FZL	Fred Z. Leshner	KLa	Kelly Larson
GEN	Gary E. Nielsen	KKW	Kristine & Kyle Wicklund
GF	Glenn Fuchs	KPF	Koni & Paul Fank
GJ	Gary Johnson	KRE	Kim R. Eckert
GLS	Gary L. Simonson	KRS	Karen R. Sussman
GLY	Gladwyn Lynne	KTP	Keith T. Pulles
GMM	Gretchen M. Mehmel	KVH	Katie V. Haws
GO	Gary Otnes	LAW	Larry A. Weber
GT	Gary Tischer	LBe	Lori Becker
HCT	Howard C. Towle	LBF	Linda B. Felker
HH	Heidi Hughes	LLB	Larry & Linda Born
HHH	Herb H. Dingmann	LM	Leslie Marcus
HPe	Holly Peirson	LMC	Linda M. Cooper
JCG	Janet C. Green	LME	Laura M. Erickson
JDF	John & Diane Framstead	LS	Linda Sparling
JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	LWF	Lawrence W. Filter
JEc	Jason Eckstein	MA	Margaret Anderson
JEM	John E. Morrison	MAJ	Murdoch A. Johnson
JEP	Jim E. Pomplun	MAAn	Melissa Anderson
JEZ	James E. Zimmerman	MAW	Marlene A. Weber
JGe	Judy Gervasio	MH	Mike Hendrickson
JGW	Josh G. Watson	MHK	Martin H. Kehoe
JHD	Joel H. Dunnette	MJC	Mary Jo Christopherson
JJS	Jeff J. Stephenson	MJF	Merrill J. Frydendall

MMc Michelle McDowell
 MME Molly M. Evans
 MO Mark Ottes
 MP Mike Prouty
 MRN Michael R. North
 MSS Mark Sparky Stensaas
 MSt Mark Stock
 MTA Tom Auer
 MWS Mike W. Steffes
 MWy Mary Wyatt
 NAJ Nancy A. Jackson
 NBO Nancy B. Overcott
 NED Nelvina E. De Kam
 NFT Nels F. Thompson
 NSp Nancy Sparrow
 OLJ Oscar L. Johnson
 OWB Bill Bruins
 PB Phyllis Bofferding
 PBD Pat & Bob Dewenter
 PCC Philip C. Chu
 PEB Paul E. Budde
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher
 PH Peter Hudleston
 PHS Peder H. Svingen
 PJ Per Johansson
 PJB Paul J. Binek
 PJR Pat J. Rice
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson
 PME Paul M. Egeland
 PRH Pete Hoeger
 PSP Pamela S. Perry
 PWP Paul W. Pedersen
 RA Renner Anderson
 RAE Ron A. Erpelding
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams
 RCK Rose C. Kneeskern
 RCS Rolf C. Smeby
 RDK Ron D. Kneeskern
 REH Robert E. Holtz
 RHO Robert H. O'Connor
 RHy Rick Hoyme
 RJo Roland Jordahl
 RJS Roger J. Schroeder
 RLE Bob Ekblad
 RLR Ron L. Refsnider
 RMD Robert M. Dunlap
 RNS Richard N. Smaby
 RP Rich Pemble
 RPR Robert P. Russell, Jr.
 RSF Randy S. Frederickson
 RWS Robert W. Schroeder

SAS Shelley A. Steva
 SC Shawn Conrad
 SCB Susan C. Barton
 SE Sue Elston
 SES Steven E. Schon
 SF Steve Foss
 SG Suzanne Gucciardo
 SID Sue Durrant
 SLC Steve L. Carlson
 SLF Steven L. Falkowski
 SLL Sharon L. Lind
 SM Smiley Mehan
 SMc Sue McDonnell
 SMC Scott M. Clark
 SMT Sandy M. Thimgan
 SPM Steven P. Millard
 SPS Steven P. Stucker
 SMO Sue Morton
 STW Sylvia T. Winkelman
 SWe Steve Weston
 SWi Susan Wiste
 TAN Tom A. Nelson
 TAT Tom A. Tustison
 TDH Tim D. Houghton
 TEB Tom & Elizabeth Bell
 TES Thomas E. Straw
 TFB Tom F. Boevers
 TPB Terry P. Brashear
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 TZa Tim Zajic
 WAB William A. Blum
 WCM William C. Marengo
 WEN Warren E. Nelson
 WH Walt Hamer
 WHL William H. Lane
 WMS William M. Stauffer
 WOS William O. Stjern

Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 C.R. County Road
 H.R.N.R. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
 m.obs. many observers
 N.W.F.R. National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.N.A. Scientific & Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Production Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

Common Loon and Western Grebe Interaction

Stan Tekiela

As a wildlife photographer, I am in the field observing and photographing all aspects of nature anywhere from three to five days a week. With this much time spent in the field, I observe some of the most unusual animal behaviors. Witnessing these behaviors is always a thrill for me and I find that I am continually amazed by nature.

For example, I had been documenting and photographing “a year in the life” of a pair of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) throughout the spring and summer of 2004. About once every two weeks, I’d spend several hours in the morning and again in the evening with a pair of loons that were raising two young chicks. I have captured on film many intimate moments of the adults feeding the young or the young riding on a parent’s back. Through my many hours with these loons, I have documented all sorts of interesting behaviors, such as group fishing techniques, defense of territories, and loons running across the surface of the water to take off (and skidding on their bellies on the surface of the water while landing). I was also able to witness one behavior that I really wasn’t prepared for — assault.

I think it’s common knowledge that loons tend to be highly territorial. From my observations I would agree, but they are not territorial in the way most people might think. Adult loons regularly gather in groups of up to ten individuals. They seem to enjoy each other’s company and they often hunt for fish together. However, you don’t want to be another species of water bird on the same lake as the loon.

I first witnessed a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) landing near the shore of my loons’ lake. Immediately, both loon

parents submerged and, moments later, popped up just a few feet from the duck. Both loons lunged for the duck, just as it took flight. I remember at the time (thinking to myself) that this seemed unusual — what threat would a female Wood Duck be to these enormous birds?

Within an hour, an adult Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) landed on the lake near some bullrush. I immediately maneuvered my boat closer to the grebe for a better look and maybe some pictures. But I wasn’t the only one moving in to get closer to the grebe. One of the adult loons also moved in, but not to get a better look. Before I knew it, a full blown fight broke out between one of the loons and the much smaller grebe. Through my lens I could see water splashing everywhere, beaks and feet flailing about in every direction.

Within another moment, the second loon came racing past my boat, running on the surface of the water with its wings propelling it along just like oars on a boat. The second loon joined the brawl. The grebe was not only out-numbered, he was half the size of the loons. I thought to myself, “this is not going to be pretty,” and sure enough, it wasn’t. Within about 30 seconds, the loons had bitten and kicked the grebe so many times that it lay nearly lifeless on the surface of the water. Unable to control myself I shouted out loud, “they have killed that grebe!”

Satisfied that the grebe was no longer a threat, the loons strutted about, stretched their wings and called excitedly back and forth to each other before they swam back to the other side of the lake to join their young. The grebe, which lay wounded, slowly righted itself but was obviously not



Common Loon attacking Western Grebe. Photos by Stan Tekiela.

doing well. I could see a large laceration on the side of its head and it was bleeding. I could tell by the off-balanced floating position, the grebe had a significant head injury.

As a wildlife photographer and naturalist, I feel I have a duty not to interfere with nature. I am there as an observer and biologist. In my opinion, to step in during the assault would have been wrong, but now that the loons were gone and the grebe was clearly in jeopardy. I decided to take action. I waited about ten minutes, watching and photographing the grebe as it swam in circles, (and not doing well). Finally, I moved closer to the injured bird.

As the boat approached the grebe, it was obvious what to do. I scooped up the bird in a large plastic bin and secured the lid. This grebe needed some medical attention quickly. I phoned the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic in St. Paul and let them

know I was coming in with a Western Grebe and that it had a head injury.

Upon arrival at the clinic, the staff admitted they didn't see many Western Grebes, let alone one that had been assaulted by a pair of loons. I was able to show the doctor the images of the assault on the back of my digital camera, and filled in the details with my own observations.

The laceration on the grebe's head wouldn't be a problem to heal, but the doctor suspected something worse, and sure enough the x-ray revealed a skull fracture. The recovery time for this kind of injury would be long but the prognosis looks good. We hope to return the grebe to the wild by the end of summer and you can bet that I will be there to witness and photograph the event.

8145 Trillium Lane, Victoria MN 55386.

Notes on the Distribution and Identification of the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) and Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) in Minnesota

Steven P. Stucker

The 45th supplement to the AOU Check-List (Banks *et al.* 2004) announced the split of the Canada Goose, with 11 recognized extant subspecies (Mowbray *et al.* 2002), into two species. Four small, tundra-nesting subspecies are now grouped into a separate species, the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). The Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) consists of the remaining seven, relatively large-bodied subspecies. Both the Canada Goose and Cackling Goose occur in Minnesota, although documentation of Cackling Geese has been lacking.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

Consists of four relatively small-bodied subspecies. Primarily tundra-nesters, Cackling Geese are largely restricted to arctic coastal plains, mostly within 50–60 miles of the coast. Richardson's and *minima* subspecies have nests of scooped-out, down-filled depressions — very different from the bulky nests of Canada Geese (Delacour 1954). Only one subspecies, Richardson's, is almost certainly of regular occurrence in Minnesota during migration. The remaining three subspecies breed only in Alaska and winter in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Richardson's (*B. h. hutchinsii*) — breeds on the arctic coastal plain of Canada in Nunavut and Northwest Territories, from Baffin Island west possibly as far as the Mackenzie River delta. Eastern and western breeding populations follow separate migratory routes, and winter in different areas. Birds from east of Queen Maud Gulf (centered on 102 de-

grees west longitude, which corresponds with the border between Manitoba and Saskatchewan) follow a route through the eastern Great Plains/western Great Lakes region (including Minnesota), and winter mostly on the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. The western population follows a more westerly route through the central Great Plains, wintering mostly in and around the Texas Panhandle area. There are several specimen records of this subspecies from Minnesota, as well as numerous sightings (not well-documented, but almost certainly Richardson's). Roberts (1932) lists "Hutchins's Goose (*B. hutchinsii*)" as an uncommon spring and fall migrant in Minnesota. Richardson's migrating through Minnesota have been documented [based on band returns?] as birds breeding on Baffin Island (Steve Maxson, pers. comm).

The following subspecies are unlikely to occur regularly in Minnesota:

Taverner's (*B. h. taverneri*) — breeding range is still poorly understood, due to confusion with *minima* and Lesser Canada Goose. Sometimes merged with the Lesser Canada Goose (Palmer 1976), DNA analysis reported in Scribner *et al.* (2003) clearly supports classification of Taverner's as a subspecies of Cackling Goose. Nests on the Yukon–Kuskokwim delta inland from the range of *minima*, extending north and east on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and North Slope. Migrate across the Gulf of Alaska to wintering grounds at several limited areas in Washington, Oregon, and California. Taverner's appear to follow an inland migra-

tory route through British Columbia in the spring. In Minnesota, one possible specimen record (Lincoln County, 8 October 1967).

Cackling (*B. b. minima*) — nests in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta (western Alaska), in tidally-influenced areas within ten miles of coast. Migrates across the Gulf of Alaska, wintering in a limited area along the Washington–Oregon border, with small numbers in California. In Minnesota, one specimen record (Dakota County, 2 November 1996).

Aleutian (*B. b. leucopareia*) — nests on several islands in the Aleutians. Migrates across the Gulf of Alaska to wintering area in central California. In Minnesota, one specimen record (Roseau County, 9 October 1937).

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Consists of seven relatively large-bodied subspecies. Generally a more southerly, inland-nesting species than the Cackling Goose. Nests in a variety of habitats, including tundra (perhaps this is why the name Tundra Goose was not chosen for *B. butchinsii*, as originally proposed). Three of these subspecies, Lesser, Hudson Bay, and Giant, are known, or likely, to occur in Minnesota:

Lesser (*B. c. parvipes*) — breeds in much of the interior of northern Canada and Alaska, probably passes through Minnesota during migration (Tallgrass Prairie Population). Much confusion with Taverner's and Richardson's subspecies of Cackling Geese. Lessers have a very extensive breeding distribution, ranging from central Alaska to Hudson Bay, and winter in the western and central U.S. There is one specimen record of the Lesser Canada Goose, from Ramsey County, 27 November 1949.

Hudson Bay or Todd's (*B. c. interior*) — breeds in southern and eastern Hudson Bay lowlands, and winters in much of eastern U.S. Hudson Bay. Canada Geese are a common migrant through Minnesota (Eastern Prairie Population — see section on Populations, below), passing through the state in large numbers.

Giant (*B. c. maxima*) — nests in a variety of habitats, and has been reintroduced widely in the U.S. The Giant Canada Goose was once thought to be extinct until its “rediscovery” in Minnesota at Silver Lake, Olmstead County (Hanson 1965). This subspecies is now so widespread and abundant in Minnesota that it is considered a nuisance in many areas.

The following four subspecies are unlikely to occur regularly in Minnesota:

Dusky (*B. c. occidentalis*) — breeds along a small area of coastal south-central Alaska. Winters in Oregon and Washington.

Vancouver (*B. c. fulva*) — largely a permanent resident in temperate rain forest of coastal southeastern Alaska and British Columbia. Winters occasionally south to Washington and Oregon.

Atlantic (*B. c. canadensis*) — breeds in eastern Canada, and migrates and winters along the Atlantic Coast. Reintroduced in parts of eastern U.S. outside of its historic breeding range.

Moffit's or **Great Basin** (*B. c. moffitti*) — bird of western grasslands and parklands, primarily west of the Rockies. There has been much confusion with the Giant subspecies, with the situation now unclear due to mixed reintroductions of both subspecies.

Populations of Cackling and Canada Geese in Minnesota

Waterfowl biologists have divided the Canada-Cackling Goose complex into 19 management units (referred to as populations), in recognition of the fact that birds from specific geographic locations largely remain segregated during breeding, migration, and wintering (Bellrose 1980, Mowbray *et al.* 2002, USFWS 2002). However, these “populations” may include several subspecies, including both Canada and Cackling geese (see Appendix 1 in Mowbray *et al.* 2002). Three such populations occur in Minnesota. The most important migratory population in Minnesota is the Eastern Prairie Population, which consists of Hudson Bay Canada Geese nesting in the Manitoba portion of the Hudson

Bay Lowlands. This population migrates through Minnesota and adjoining states in large numbers, wintering from southern Minnesota to Missouri. The Tallgrass Prairie Population is comprised largely of Richardson's Cackling Geese nesting in Nunavut east of Queen Maud Gulf. However, this population probably also includes Lesser Canada Geese from Nunavut (areas adjoining the breeding range of Richardson's). Geese in this population migrate through the central U.S. and winter along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. A third population, the Mississippi Valley Giant Population, includes most of Minnesota's Giant Canada Geese.

Identification of Cackling and Canada Geese

The identification of this complex will not be addressed here in detail (see Sibley 2004, Wilson 2004). In general, field identification of the different subspecies of Cackling and Canada geese should be approached very cautiously. We still have much to learn about the identification of geese to the subspecific level, particularly in light of the lack of understanding of species limits and breeding distribution. Within the Cackling/Canada Goose complex there is much geographical variation in size and coloration, even within subspecies. Most problematic are the largest subspecies of Cackling Goose, Taverner's, (and to a lesser extent Richardson's) and the Lesser Canada Goose, the smallest of its species.

Most diagnostic are bill size/shape and voice. In general, subspecies of Cackling Geese are distinguished from Canada Geese by their smaller body size, stubby bill, short neck, and higher-pitched calls. Field marks such as body color, head shape, extent of white collar, and black chinstrap, are highly variable and should only be used with extreme caution (Sibley 2004).

Only one subspecies of Cackling Goose, Richardson's, is likely to occur in Minnesota. However, the particularly problematic Lesser Canada Goose is also likely in the state. The occurrence of the Alas-

ka-breeding Cackling Goose subspecies in Minnesota would likely be accidental vagrants, requiring careful, detailed documentation. The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee would encourage observers to submit written documentation for all Cackling Geese subspecies observed in the state, so as to better assess the occurrence of this "new" species.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Steve Maxson, Minnesota DNR, for providing information on Richardson's Geese in Minnesota; Ann Kessen for review & identification of specimens at Bell Museum, University of Minnesota; and Anthony Hertzfel for review and other assistance.

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BIRDING BY HINDSIGHT

*A Second Look at
the Last Ten Years*

Kim R. Eckert

Hindsight, they say, is 20/20. So, naturally, when you add 20 to 20 you come up with 40. And, appropriately enough, 40 is exactly the number of “Birding By Hindsight” articles which have appeared in these pages during the last ten years. The first installment in this series appeared back in the Winter 1994–95 issue of *The Loon*; it served as an introduction to what was coming and offered some general hints on bird identification. We’ve been going strong ever since.

Well, we’ve been going, anyway — perhaps not always as strong (or is it



strongly?) as I’d like. Sometimes you have to wonder if anyone reads these things, given how often birders still have certain ID difficulties with hawks, shorebirds, gulls, and others — difficulties which all were addressed in one article or another. It’s also disappointing to find some birders still suspicious (a few even inexplicably hostile) when it comes to the essential work of Minnesota’s and other records committees. Apparently, three “Hindsight” articles on the MOU Records Committee either weren’t enough or some readers somehow chose not to believe what they read.

I have to confess that my track record of “predicting by hindsight” leaves much to be desired. Consider the two articles (Winter 1995–96, Winter 1996–97) on guessing what the next first state records would be. I had a few right, but even more misses. We’ll have to wait and see if my predictions on future species splits (Fall 2004) are more on the mark. (And if they are, credit David Sibley, not me.)

Or, consider the advice on owl ID (Fall 1997). Unless you’ve been holed up in some tree cavity like a . . . um, well — I’ll think of some appropriate metaphor eventually — you certainly know there have been incredible numbers of owls this fall and winter. But will they all be correctly identified? Will some Barred Owls be mistaken for Great Grays, or some Northern Saw-whets miscalled Boreals? Perhaps that seven-year-old article on owls is still useful and not so out-of-date.

Of course, these past and future “Hindsight” articles will never be able to solve all your household needs. There are still many complex ID issues beyond the scope of this series, and some other ID difficulties I would never think could be difficult or subjects for articles. For example, speaking of owls, there was a credible report of an incredible misidentification a few winters back: somehow a Barred Owl was apparently mistaken for a Northern Hawk Owl. And, just this winter, a reported wood-pewee up in Canada was checked out and found to be a mockingbird instead. There are certainly other such odd and isolated examples of ID problems someone had which no author will probably ever think to address.

I hope this series has been useful, and can continue to be so. To facilitate this, an index of these “Hindsight” articles follows. So, the next time some friendly neighborhood ID problem arises, you can scan down this list and see if there is something in one of the 40 installments about the species or bird group in question. Note the bird listings are in check-

list order, not alphabetical, followed by the season and year of the corresponding issue of *The Loon*. Once you locate the issue, you’ll find the “Hindsight” article easily enough, and then you’ll need to scan through that until you find what you’re looking for. In most cases, there will only be a paragraph or perhaps just a sentence mentioning something about the bird and its ID, but there have been a few articles devoted entirely to a single species or genus.

Enjoy your research as you thumb through these back issues, and let’s hope in the end you become as smart as the proverbial Wise Old Otter. (See, I knew I’d be able to remember that metaphor!)

Greater White-fronted Goose – Fall 2004
Ross’s Goose – Summer 1999, Spring 2001
Canada Goose – Summer 2004, Fall 2004
Cackling Goose – Summer 2004
Brant – Fall 2004

swans – Spring 1996, Winter 1998–99, Fall 1999,
Fall 2000, Winter 2003–04, Fall 2004

ducks – Fall 1996, Summer 1999
American Wigeon – Spring 1996
Mallard – Spring 1996
Blue-winged Teal – Fall 1999, Fall 2001
Green-winged Teal – Fall 1999, Fall 2001, Fall
2004
Tufted Duck – Winter 1995–96
scaup – Winter 1998–99, Fall 1999, Fall 2000
Common Eider – Fall 2004
Black Scoter – Summer 2001
Common Goldeneye – Spring 1995, Spring 1996

mergansers – Winter 1998–99

gallinaceous birds – Winter 1998–99

loons – Winter 1998–99, Summer 1999, Fall
2001
Red-throated Loon – Fall 2000, Summer 2003
Arctic Loon – Winter 1995–96
Pacific Loon – Winter 1995–96, Fall 2000, Sum-
mer 2003

Western / Clark’s Grebe – Spring 1996, Summer
1999, Fall 1999, Spring 2001, Summer 2003

cormorants – Winter 1995–96, Summer 2001

Anhinga – Winter 1995–96

Great Blue Heron – Fall 2004

Snowy Egret – Fall 2000

Little Blue Heron – Summer 1999, Fall 2000

vultures – Spring 1995, Winter 1995–96, Summer 1998

hawks – Summer 1998, Summer 1999

Osprey – Spring 1995, Spring 2001

Mississippi Kite – Spring 2001, Summer 2002

Bald Eagle – Spring 1995, Spring 2001

Northern Harrier – Spring 2001

accipiters – Spring 1995, Winter 1998–99, Fall 1999

Northern Goshawk – Spring 2001, Fall 2001

Red-shouldered Hawk – Spring 1995, Fall 1999, Fall 2001

Broad-winged Hawk – Spring 1995, Fall 1999, Spring 2001

Swainson's Hawk – Winter 1998–99, Fall 1999, Spring 2001, Summer 2001

Red-tailed Hawk – Spring 2001, Fall 2004

Ferruginous Hawk – Winter 1998–99, Spring 2001

Rough-legged Hawk – Spring 1995, Spring 2001

Golden Eagle – Spring 1995, Winter 1998–99

Gyr Falcon – Spring 2001

Peregrine Falcon – Winter 1998–99

Prairie Falcon – Spring 2001

rails – Spring 1996

Virginia Rail – Fall 2000

Sora – Fall 2001

cranes – Fall 2000, Spring 2001

shorebirds – Summer 1995, Winter 1995–96, Summer 1999

Black-bellied Plover – Summer 1995, Fall 1999

American Golden-Plover – Summer 1995, Winter 1995–96, Fall 1999

Pacific Golden-Plover – Winter 1995–96

Snowy Plover – Summer 2003

Mountain Plover – Winter 1995–96

yellowlegs – Summer 1995, Fall 1999

Solitary Sandpiper – Summer 1995

Willet – Fall 2004

Spotted Sandpiper – Summer 1995

Whimbrel – Fall 2004

godwits – Summer 1995, Fall 1999, Fall 2001

Sanderling – Summer 1996

stints – Winter 1995–96

Semipalmated Sandpiper – Summer 1996

Western Sandpiper – Summer 1996, Fall 1999

Least Sandpiper – Summer 1996

White-rumped Sandpiper – Summer 1996

Baird's Sandpiper – Summer 1995, Summer 1996, Fall 2001

Pectoral Sandpiper – Summer 1995, Winter 1995–96

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Winter 1995–96

Purple / Rock Sandpiper – Winter 1995–96

Dunlin – Summer 1996

Stilt Sandpiper – Summer 1995

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Summer 1995

Ruff – Summer 1995

dowitchers – Spring 1995, Summer 1995, Fall 1999, Fall 2004

Wilson's Snipe – Fall 1997

American Woodcock – Spring 1995, Spring 1996

gulls – Fall 1995, Summer 1999, Fall 1999

Laughing / Franklin's Gull – Spring 2001

Mew Gull – Fall 2004

Ring-billed Gull – Summer 2001, Fall 2001

California Gull – Spring 2001, Fall 2001

Herring Gull – Fall 2000, Fall 2002, Fall 2004

Thayer's / Iceland Gull – Fall 2000, Spring 2001, Fall 2002

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Summer 2001, Fall 2004

Slaty-backed / Western / Great Black-backed Gull – Winter 1995–96

Glaucous Gull – Spring 2001

Roseate Tern – Winter 1995–96

Common / Forster's Tern – Spring 1995, Winter 1998–99

Rock Pigeon – Summer 2000

Eurasian Collared-Dove – Winter 1996–97, Summer 1999, Summer 2000

Mourning Dove – Summer 2000

Common Ground-Dove – Fall 2004

cuckoos – Spring 1996

owls – Spring 1996, Fall 1997

nighthawks – Spring 1995, Spring 1996, Winter 1996–97, Spring 2003

hummingbirds – Winter 1996–97

woodpeckers – Spring 1996

Yellow-bellied / Red-naped Sapsucker – Winter 1996–97

Downy / Hairy Woodpecker – Fall 1999, Fall 2004

American Three-toed Woodpecker – Winter 1998–99, Fall 2004

Black-backed Woodpecker – Winter 1998–99

Northern Flicker – Fall 2004

flycatchers – Summer 1999

Olive-sided Flycatcher – Fall 1999

wood-pewees – Spring 1995, Spring 1997, Fall 1999, Summer 2001

Empidonax flycatchers – Winter 1996–97, Spring 1997, Winter 1998–99, Fall 1999

Alder Flycatcher – Fall 2000

Willow Flycatcher – Fall 2000, Fall 2004

Eastern Phoebe – Spring 1995, Spring 1997, Summer 2003

Tropical / Cassin's / Western Kingbird – Winter 1996–97

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – Spring 2002

shrikes – Spring 1995, Summer 2001

vireos – Spring 1997

Bell's Vireo – Fall 2004

Warbling Vireo – Fall 2004

Philadelphia Vireo – Summer 1997, Winter 1998–99

Red-eyed Vireo – Spring 1995, Summer 2001

Gray Jay – Fall 2004

Blue Jay – Spring 1996

Western Scrub-Jay – Fall 2004

American Crow / Common Raven – Spring 1997, Fall 1999

Horned Lark – Summer 1999, Fall 2004

Purple Martin – Fall 2004

Cave Swallow – Fall 2004

Carolina Chickadee – Winter 1996–97

Black-capped Chickadee – Winter 1996–97, Spring 1997, Summer 2001, Fall 2004

Boreal Chickadee – Spring 1997, Winter 1998–99

White-breasted Nuthatch – Fall 2004

Pygmy / Brown-headed Nuthatch – Winter 1996–

97

Brown Creeper – Spring 1997, Fall 2004

wrens – Fall 1999

Bewick's Wren – Fall 2004

House Wren – Spring 1995, Fall 2004

Winter Wren – Spring 1995, Fall 2004

Sedge Wren – Spring 1997

Marsh Wren – Spring 1997, Fall 2004

American Dipper – Summer 2001

Golden-crowned Kinglet – Spring 1997, Fall 2004

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Fall 2004

Northern Wheatear – Fall 2004

thrushes – Spring 1995, Spring 1997, Summer 1999

Veery – Spring 1997, Fall 2004

Gray-cheeked Thrush – Summer 2001

Swainson's Thrush – Fall 2004

Hermit Thrush – Fall 2004

Curve-billed Thrasher – Fall 2004

European Starling – Spring 1997

American Pipit – Fall 2000, Summer 2001, Fall 2004

Sprague's Pipit – Spring 1997, Summer 1999, Fall 2000

waxwings – Spring 1997

warblers – Summer 1997, Spring 1998

Tennessee Warbler – Summer 1999, Fall 2001

Orange-crowned Warbler – Fall 2004

Nashville Warbler – Spring 1995, Fall 2004

Chestnut-sided Warbler – Summer 1999, Fall 2001, Summer 2003

Magnolia Warbler – Summer 2001, Summer 2003

Cape May Warbler – Spring 1997, Summer 2003

Black-throated Blue Warbler – Winter 1998–99

Yellow-rumped Warbler – Fall 2004

Blackburnian Warbler – Summer 2001, Summer 2003

Yellow-throated Warbler – Spring 2001, Fall 2004

Pine Warbler – Winter 1998–99

Palm Warbler – Summer 2001, Fall 2004

Bay-breasted Warbler – Summer 2003
 Blackpoll Warbler – Summer 2003
 Cerulean Warbler – Fall 2000, Summer 2001
 Black-and-white Warbler – Summer 2003
 Worm-eating Warbler – Summer 2003
 waterthrushes – Winter 1998–99
 Kentucky Warbler – Summer 2001
 Connecticut Warbler – Spring 1995, Winter 1998–99
 Mourning Warbler – Winter 1998–99
 Common Yellowthroat – Spring 1997, Summer 2001, Fall 2004
 Wilson’s Warbler – Fall 2004
 Yellow-breasted Chat – Fall 2004

tanagers – Summer 1999, Spring 2001
 Summer Tanager – Fall 2004

Spotted Towhee – Fall 2004

sparrows – Spring 1999, Summer 1999, Spring 2000
 Cassin’s Sparrow – Winter 1996–97
 American Tree Sparrow – Spring 1995
 Chipping Sparrow – Spring 1995, Spring 1998, Summer 2003
 Brewer’s Sparrow – Fall 2004
 Savannah Sparrow – Fall 1999, Fall 2001, Fall 2004
 Grasshopper Sparrow – Spring 1997
 Fox Sparrow – Fall 2004
 Song Sparrow – Fall 1999, Fall 2004
 Swamp Sparrow – Spring 1998
 White-throated Sparrow – Spring 1997
 White-crowned Sparrow – Fall 2004
 Dark-eyed Junco – Spring 1998, Spring 1999, Fall 2004

longspurs – Winter 1998–99, Spring 1999, Summer 1999

Snow Bunting – Spring 1999

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – Spring 1999, Summer 1999, Spring 2001
 Black-headed Grosbeak – Spring 2001

Painted Bunting – Spring 2002, Fall 2004

Dickcissel – Spring 1999

Bobolink – Spring 1999
 Red-winged Blackbird – Fall 2000

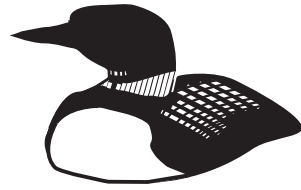
meadowlarks – Winter 1998–99, Spring 1999, Fall 1999
 Rusty / Brewer’s Blackbird – Spring 1995, Winter 1998–99, Spring 1999, Fall 2000, Summer 2003
 Common Grackle – Spring 1995, Summer 2001
 Great-tailed Grackle – Summer 2003
 Shiny Cowbird – Winter 1996–97
 Bronzed Cowbird – Fall 2004
 Brown-headed Cowbird – Spring 1995, Fall 2004

“winter” finches – Spring 1999, Summer 1999
 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch – Fall 2004
 Pine Grosbeak – Spring 1995, Fall 2004
 Purple Finch – Spring 1995, Spring 1997, Fall 2004
 House Finch – Spring 2001
 crossbills – Winter 1998–99, Fall 2000
 Red Crossbill – Fall 2004
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NOTES OF INTEREST



MINNESOTA'S SECOND CURLEW SANDPIPER — While conducting shorebird surveys with Jeanie Joppru and Sharon Lind on the afternoon of 16 May 2004, we found an adult male Curlew Sandpiper in alternate plumage, northwest of Clinton in section 1, Prior Township, Big Stone County. It was refound by other observers on the 17th, but not thereafter. The Curlew Sandpiper was foraging in a temporarily flooded pothole near a manure-covered alfalfa field. There were an additional 420 shorebirds present in the pothole.



The bird was similar in size to nearby Dunlin, but its legs were slightly longer and the brick red underparts, neck and head made it rather conspicuous. The leading edges of the folded wings (the lesser and median coverts) were grayish white, and the scapulars and back feathers were black with rufous edges. The vent and undertail coverts were white and mottled with dark feathers. The base of the tail feathers was white above and below. The wingtips extended slightly beyond the tail. Although the bird spent most of its time actively probing the mud and water, the black decurved bill was obvious. The bill was decurved throughout its length, unlike a Dunlin's which is decurved mainly at the tip. No vocalizations were heard during our 30 minute observation, although we were about 250 yards from the bird and the winds were strong.

Bill Litkey found Minnesota's first Curlew Sandpiper on 21 May 1994, at Prairie Island in Goodhue County (*The Loon* 66:113–114). Like the May 2004 bird, it was an adult in alternate plumage in a temporarily flooded field with a mixed flock of shorebirds dominated by Dunlins, and was only seen for two days.

The Curlew Sandpiper is an Old World species that is considered accidental in the Midwest. Through the spring of 2004 there have been 78 accepted records from 15 mid-continent states and provinces: Illinois (9), Indiana (1), Iowa (3), Kansas (7), Kentucky (2), Manitoba (4), Michigan (11), Minnesota (2), Missouri (1), Nebraska (1), North Dakota (2), Ohio (5), Ontario (21), Tennessee (1), and Wisconsin (8).

Mid-continental occurrences have been split fairly evenly between spring (40 records) and fall (38 records), but over 40% of all records have been from May. Spring migration records span from 4 May to 10 June, with nearly half (17) between 15 and 23 May. Four of Wisconsin's eight records are in this same nine-day time period. Iowa's three records are all between 6 and 13 May.

Fall migration is more protracted, with records spanning from 9 July to 20 September. Over half (20) of the fall records are between 15 July and 15 August, and records are few and far between after late August. Two October records from Wentworth County, Ontario (in 1954 and 1959) are record late, but they have no specific dates. A juvenile Curlew Sandpiper photographed at Grand Forks, North Dakota on 13 October 2004 is pending review.

Acknowledgements: We thank Bill Marengo for submitting documentation for the 17th, and Bob Domagalski for assistance with research on records of this species in the Midwest. **Jim Lind, 320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616; Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55616.**

AN ARCTIC TERN IN WESTERN MINNESOTA — On 15 May 2004, en route to



Big Stone County for a planned shorebird survey the following day, we stopped at the Breckenridge wastewater treatment ponds in Wilkin County and much to our astonishment, found an adult Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) in alternate plumage. It was the only tern at the lagoons. Peder looked at the bird in flight, realized that it showed characteristics of this species, and announced, "We're going to be here awhile." We knew that exceptionally good documentation would be needed, since the only accepted records of the Arctic Tern in Minnesota were from Duluth. Fortunately, we were able to observe the bird for extended periods of time in flight and obtained very close looks when it perched on the berm between two of the three small ponds on the west side of the complex.

During the 30 minutes that we watched the bird, it was never more than 50 yards away and most of the time it was within 15–20 yards. The winds were gusting 10–20 mph from the south, so the tern was foraging back and forth along the north side of the pond where the water was frothing and sloshing against the rocks. It occasionally "plunge-dived" but mostly fed by dipping down to the surface of the water. We parked between two of the small ponds and from inside of our vehicle, watched and photographed the bird as it worked its way back and forth along the edge of the lagoon. Once, when it perched on the berm between two of the small ponds, we slowly crept towards it at idling speed and approached to within about five yards, where Jim and Peder obtained a few more photographs before it flew.

Bare parts: The bill was all dark red (i.e., no blackish tip). The photographs show a relatively small, dainty bill which is typical for *paradisaea*. Its eyes were dark, and its legs and feet were dark red. Unfortunately, leg length could not be determined while it perched on the berm, as its legs were obscured by rocks and vegetation. However, its legs are visible in some of the in-flight photographs and the tarsi look short.

Head and neck: A narrow strip of white separated its grayish neck and cheeks from the black cap. This field mark was most evident in flight and shows well in several photographs. Close-up photographs also show the black cap almost touching the gape at the base of its bill.

Underparts: Its breast, flanks, and belly were grayish, similar in shade to its neck and cheeks. The gray underparts contrasted well with its white underwings in flight.

Upperparts: Unlike Common Tern, this bird's folded wingtips did not contrast with the rest of its upperparts. At close range when the bird was perched on the berm, there appeared to be a shadow "or possibly a very subtle wash of gray" on the upper



Arctic Tern, 15 May 2004, Breckenridge, Wilkin County. Photos by Jim Lind.

secondary coverts. This may have been an artifact since it was very hard to see, even at close range.

Wing pattern: In flight, its upperwings appeared “uniform light gray” and completely lacked Common Tern’s dark wedge (caused by the juxtaposition of oldest and freshest primaries). There was no silvery pale bloom on outer wingtip as in adult Forster’s Tern. The only marking visible on its upperwing surface in flight was a very thin strip of darker gray along the leading edge of the outer wing. The whitish trailing edge on the upper surface of its inner wing was noticeable and gave an impression of being “perhaps more prominent than expected.” Its underwings were entirely white, except for a narrow, very crisply defined, black line along the trailing edge of the outer wing. This thin black line shows well in several of the in-flight photographs.

Rump and Tail: At rest, the bird’s tail streamers extended about one bill length beyond the tips of its wings. Its rump and almost all of the tail were white; the outer webs of the outermost pair of rectrices were darker, thus further eliminating Forster’s Tern, which shows contrast between its white rump and mostly grayish tail.

In flight: Throughout the observation, it was noted that the bird looked “pot-bellied” and “neck-less” in flight, with long, slim/narrow wings. These oft-quoted but somewhat subjective characteristics of Arctic Tern show well in several photographs. It did not exhibit Arctic Tern’s characteristic bouncing/bounding flight, wherein the body of the tern appears to move up and down with each wing stroke, probably because it was flying into stiff winds and foraging instead of flying directly and purposefully from one point to another.

Species similar to this bird and how eliminated: Forster’s Tern was easily eliminated by bill size and shape, bill pattern, wing pattern, and rump/tail pattern. Common Tern usually shows a dark wedge on the upper surface of the outer wing, where its freshest primaries are adjacent to the oldest primaries. On the under surface of the outer wing, Common Tern shows a thicker and poorly defined, blurry trailing edge. Common Tern also lacks the strip of white separating its grayish cheeks and neck from its black cap.

Two well-known field marks of Arctic Tern could not be detected on this individual. It never flew high enough to see translucency in its flight feathers (Arctic Tern shows translucent flight feathers, whereas Common Tern shows translucent inner primaries only). Its legs were hidden by rocks and vegetation when it perched on the berm, so its tarsal length could not be determined (Arctic Tern shows very short tarsi). Some of the in-flight photos suggest short tarsi, but this is difficult to determine with confidence — in most of the shots, the legs are tucked up against its body in flight and cannot be compared accurately to bill length.

Our documentation was reviewed and unanimously accepted by the M.O.U. Records Committee. This currently represents Minnesota’s only record of the Arctic Tern away from Duluth and Lake Superior, and it’s only the third time that an Arctic Tern has been photographed in the state (*The Loon* 76:155). Through Spring 2004, all other records (12 spring and 2 fall) are from Duluth. Documentation was found to be insufficient for three reports away from Lake Superior, including one at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka County, 27 May 1984 that initially had been accepted (*The Loon* 56:194, 57:119).

This also represents the earliest date on file for an Arctic Tern in Minnesota. Spring arrival dates at Duluth have ranged from 18 May to 18 June. The only record listed by Tallman *et al.* (*Birds of South Dakota*, 2002) is from central South Dakota in Hughes County, 22 May 1999. North Dakota has earlier dates (e.g., 11 May 1981, Long Lake N.W.R., Craig Faanes) and North Dakota also has records from wastewater treatment ponds at Minot (20 June 1993, Ron Martin, *American Birds* 47:1121) and Grand Forks (two adults, 14 May 1994, David Lambeth, *Field Notes* 48:312). **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812, and Jim and Sharon Lind, 320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616.**

RUFF IN BIG STONE COUNTY — From about 9:05 to 9:25 A.M. on 9 May 2004, Peder Svingen and I observed a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) at the intersection of county roads 67 and 21 in Otrey Township, Big Stone County. With the Ruff 100 to 150 yards away and the cloud-obscured sun at our backs, we were able to obtain excellent views.



During our 20 minutes of observation, the Ruff was often next to one Lesser Yellowlegs or another, and the yellowlegs always looked conspicuously smaller — in bulk of body, about 80% as big. This side-by-side comparison led me to believe that the Ruff was a female: according to Cramp (1983), the Lesser Yellowlegs averages about 80% of the mean mass for a female Ruff, but only about 50% of the mean mass for a male.

The Ruff differed from a Lesser Yellowlegs not only in size but also in shape. It was heavier-necked, heavier-bodied, and less tapered to the rear — a result of shorter primary projection, perhaps — and this combination of characteristics made it appear more “dumpy” than the yellowlegs. Its dull greenish-yellow legs, though rather lengthy, were proportionally shorter than those of a yellowlegs. And its proportionally shorter black bill was slightly droop-tipped rather than straight.

Plumage features that I noticed included the following. The Ruff’s head and neck were a dull gray-buff, marked only with black streaking on the crown and some black mottling on the midline of the hindneck; the absence of other markings on the head made the Ruff look plain-faced, with the most obvious facial feature being its dark eye. The breast was a dull gray-buff, marked with sparse black mottling on the breast-sides but not the breast-center; as for the remainder of the underbody, it was white, sullied only by smudgy gray-buff streaks that extending rearward from the gray-buff of the sides of the breast. The back, scapular, and tertial feathers each had a blackish center and a conspicuous gray-buff margin, and the upper secondary-coverts were similar but with margins that were paler and grayer. And finally, evident in flight were a moderately conspicuous white wingbar, a blackish medial rump, white on the rump-sides and upper tail-coverts, and blackish rectrices; the white of the upper tail-coverts and rump-sides formed a white “U” on the posterior upperbody just proximal to the tail.

Including the bird described here, the number of Ruff records for Minnesota is approaching 40 (Bardon 2003; Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union Records Committee 2004).

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Philip C. Chu, Dept. of Biology, St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN 56321.

CINNAMON TEAL IN BIG STONE COUNTY — On 9 May 2004 at 11:40 A.M., Peder Svingen and I found a male Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) in Big Stone County’s Otrey Township, along county road 12 one mile south of county road 62. We observed the teal at distances varying from 100 to 180 yards until noon, when it took off and flew to the southeast, disappearing behind a rise in the land; however, it apparently did not leave the area, as a male *cyanoptera* was reported from this site as late as 17 May.



The Cinnamon Teal was associating with a group of Blue-winged Teal, and so was easily compared with the latter. In size and shape it was similar to several nearby male Blue-wings, except that its bill was slightly longer and more spatulate, proportionally speaking.

Among the bare-part and plumage features that I noted were the following. The Cinnamon Teal's irises were red, its bill was black, and its legs were a dull pale orange. Its neck and head were a dark chestnut color, darkening to blackish on the crown; its breast, flanks, and belly were chestnut, and were completely unmarked; and its upper tail-coverts, under tail-coverts, and vent region were black, with no suggestion of a pale "hip patch" between the chestnut of the distal flanks and the black of the undertail region. Its tail was a dull brownish gray. Its back feathers were black, narrowly edged in warm olive-brown, and its long, acuminate posterior scapulars were black on the outer web and whitish buff on the inner. Finally, its primaries were blackish; the upper secondary-coverts were pale blue-gray with a broad white posterior border; the secondaries were metallic dark green with narrow pale tips; and the tertials were black, narrowly edged with whitish buff on the outer web.

For Cinnamon Teal identification, the greatest difficulty is separating a pure Cinnamon from a Cinnamon Teal X Blue-winged Teal intergrade; however, the bird described here showed no signs of intergradation.

- (1) There was no gray-blue color on its head.
- (2) There was no suggestion of the Blue-winged Teal's white foreface-crescent.
- (3) The chestnut of the breast and flanks was plain, without any black spots or short bars.
- (4) There was no suggestion of the Blue-winged Teal's white hip patch. **Philip C. Chu, Dept. of Biology, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321.**

LARK BUNTING IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY — At about noon on 6 September 2004, I took a walk around the 40th Avenue West water impoundment area in Duluth. Nearing the end of my tour, regretting the walk since I hadn't seen much and not paying much attention, a small brown bird hopped out on the road, directly in front of me. It turned out to be an adult female Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*).

The strong white greater coverts on the bird immediately gave away its identity. The bird stood in the middle of the gravel road for 2–3 minutes, allowing me great looks through my Leica Televid scope. I further studied the bird, noting a facial pattern similar to a Lark Sparrow, but lacking white lores and a strong white supercilium. Instead, the bird exhibited a dark lateral throat stripe bordering a white malar stripe. The bird flew off after my lengthy viewing and I was afforded a flight view of the white coverts as the bird headed towards the bank of the impoundment.

At the time, I was not fully aware of the rarity of this bird in St. Louis County, let alone the state. I thought perhaps that it was a good bird for the county, but was likely regular in the state. Nonetheless, I quickly made phone calls to report it. I had recalled that as a grassland species, the Lark Bunting was declining throughout its range and that the sighting may have been better than I thought. After returning home, I was quite pleased to find out that the bird was Casual for the state and extremely rare within St. Louis County.

Around 2:00 P.M. that afternoon, Mike Hendrickson and Peder Svingen went in search of the bunting. Luckily, they found it, and were the last people to see it. Both took nice digiscope pictures, forever documenting this declining species. Unfortunately, others who attempted to relocate it later that evening and the next morning were unsuccessful. **Tom Auer, 1728 East 1st Street, Apt. #6, Duluth, MN 55812.**



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Compiled by Nancy Weber and Anthony X. Hartzel

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Lincoln's Sparrow, 5 May 2004, Byron, Olmsted County. Photo by Dave Cahlander.

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

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



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