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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) was conducted online on 6 December 2020. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz, Rebecca R. Engdahl (alternate), Andrew R. Forbes, Anthony X. Hertz, Ann E. Kessen, Douglas W. Kieser, William C. Marengo, John P. Richardson (alternate), Steven P. Stucker (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (Chair).

At, or subsequent to, the meeting, the following records were voted on (most electronically) and were Accepted:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) [Accidental], 17 July 2019, Prairie Island, Winona County (record #2019-068, vote 7-0). Three adults, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 25 March 2021, Anderson Lake Wildlife Management Area, Lincoln County (record #2021-009, vote 7-0).

Eurasian Wigeon, 10-30 April 2021, Albany Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Stearns County (record #2021-010, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual], 10 April 2021, High Island Lake, Sibley County (record #2021-011, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed. Record early date. There is an impressive total of 14 records of this species in the first five months of 2021.

Black-necked Stilt, 30 April 2021, Armstrong Wetland Restoration, Steele County (record #2021-015, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 1-2 May 2021, Rice Lake, Carver and Hennepin counties (record #2021-016, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. The bird was seen by many observers in both Carver and Hennepin portions of Rice Lake.



Black-necked Stilt, 14 May 2021, Steele County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertz.

Black-necked Stilt, 3 May 2021, Straight River Marsh, Steele County (record #2021-017, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 5-15 May 2021, Armstrong Wetland Restoration, Steele County (record #2021-018, vote 7-0). Pair of adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 6-12 May 2021, Lone Tree Lake, Lyon County (record #2021-027, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Two Black-necked Stilts were reported from the southeast portion of Lone Tree Lake as early as 2 May 2021; however, this observation was not documented.

Black-necked Stilt, 9 May 2021, Armstrong Wetland Restoration, Steele County (record #2021-019, vote 7-0). Three adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 12 May 2021, Lake Maria near New Munich, Stearns County (record #2021-028, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 21 May 2021, Curtis Lake, Yellow Medicine County (record #2021-034, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.



Wilson's Plover, 14 May 2021, Minnesota Point, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

Black-necked Stilt, 22 May 2021, Lone Tree Lake, Lyon County (record #2021-035, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 22 May 2021, Wildlife Drive, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (record #2021-036, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 23-25 May 2021, High Island Lake, Sibley County (record #2021-040, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 24 May 2021, Stevens County (record #2021-041, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 26 May 2021, Paul Hugo Farms Wildlife Management Area, Washington County (record #2021-042, vote 7-0). Pair of adults, photographed.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) [Accidental], 14-16 May 2021, Minnesota Point, beach adjacent to Sky Harbor Airport, St. Louis County (record #2021-030, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Fourth state and third spring record. All four state records are from Minnesota Point, Duluth, St. Louis County.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 10 Au-

gust 2019, Interstate Island Wildlife Management Area, St. Louis County (record #2019-070, vote 5-2). Adult. The observer states that "No notes were taken at the time of the observation, as the species was still considered Regular in the state at the time." This explains the lack of details in the write-up and subsequently the two votes to not accept. It was not until publication of MOURC's 2019 *Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota* in October 2019 that this species was retroactively listed as Casual effective 1 January 2019.

Red Knot, 28 July 2020, 615th Avenue, the bay at the north end of Marsh Lake (locally known as the "West Pool"), near Correll, Big Stone County (record #2020-087, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Red Knot, 22 May 2021, Hickory Township, Pennington County (record #2021-037, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) [Casual], 26 July 2020, 615th Avenue, the bay at the north end of Marsh Lake (locally known as the "West Pool"), near Correll, Big Stone County (record #2020-086, vote 7-0). Reeve, photo-



Red Phalarope (left), 27 May 2021, Browerville, Todd County. Photo by Becca Engdahl.



Ancient Murrelet, 17 January 2021, Stony Point, St. Louis County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

graphed.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) [Casual], 27 May 2021, Browerville Wastewater Treatment Plant, Todd County (record #2021-043, vote 7–0). Age undetermined, transitioning into alternate plumage, photographed. First county record. This represents only the fourth spring record — all of which were discovered during the last week of May.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) [Accidental], 17 January 2021, Stony Point, St. Louis County (record #2021-006, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. Eighth state and second winter record.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) [Casual], 10 January 2021, Duluth Harbor, St. Louis County (record #2021-004, vote 6–1). Apparent second-cycle.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) [Accidental], 22 September 1988, Clearwater County (record #2006-098, reconsidered vote 7–0). Adult male. Initially not accepted as a Magnificent Frigatebird but accepted at the genus level (*The Loon* 62:13). Next, this record was discussed

again and by a 9–1 vote was accepted as a Magnificent Frigatebird (*The Loon* 65:33). This record was voted on a third time and not accepted as a Magnificent Frigatebird by a 2–8 vote, but was accepted as *Fregata* sp. (*The Loon* 79:55). Gauger-Metz and Schreiber (2002) say a male Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*) is “almost entirely black” and also state that its red gular sac “deflates, shrinks, and fades to pale orange soon after pairing.” Since they also state that “displaying begins December, peaks between late December and April, and usually ceases by May,” it seems unlikely that the Clearwater bird could reasonably have been this species since the gular sac was both evident and red in late September. And while Diamond and Schreiber (2002) say essentially the same thing for Magnificent Frigatebird, “gular sac becomes bright red and is inflated like a large balloon during courtship displays and early incubation period, but becomes pale orange and shrinks to become barely visible at other times of the year” note that this species’ breeding season is seasonally different with courtship begin-



Barn Owl, 19 October 2019, Otter Tail County. Photo by Robert M. Dunlap.



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 16 January 2021, Koochiching County. Photo by Lon Baumgardt.

ning in early September and peaking in October (most eggs laid from about late October through mid January, though eggs can be in the nest as early as mid September). Indeed, one might expect an adult male Magnificent Frigatebird to show a red gular sac in late September. Many Committee members now believe the Great Frigatebird should virtually be discounted in evaluating Minnesota frigatebird records because there is only a single inland North American record from Oklahoma which was an anomalous sick, injured, and parasitized bird found on a building rooftop. Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) can be clearly eliminated because all age/sex plumage variations show some white. This bird was described as “entirely black with a red pouch under its all white bill.”

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) [Casual], 7 May 2021, Armstrong Wetland Restoration, Steele County (record #2021-026, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Glossy Ibis, 14 May 2021, Stearns County (record #2021-029, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) [Casual], 4

May 2012, Eagan, along Cliff Road at Greenleaf Drive West, near Holz Lake, Dakota County (record #2012-051, vote 7-0). Adult. Seventh state and first county record. Though this record was the seventh state record chronologically, there are now nine state records in total.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 22 May 2021, Garvin Park, Lyon County (record #2021-038, vote 7-0). Apparent adult, photographed. First county record.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) [Casual], 19 October 2019, Otter Tail County (record #2019-069, vote 7-0). Single owlet at nest site, photographed. A second deceased owlet was also found at the nest site. There are three other records from the county in 1926, 1927, and 1929.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) [Casual], 31 December 2020 – 30 April 2021, private residence, Morrison County, (record 2021-001, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Seventh state and first county record.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) [Casual], 14 February 2021, Clay County (record #2021-007, vote 7-0). Gray morph juvenile.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus* sp.),

16 August 2020, 30404 Sauk Valley Road, Stearns County (record #2020-090, vote 7-0). Photographed. First county record. MOURC has now accepted three Tropical/Couch's Kingbird records since the first was documented in 2011. All are fall records from the following counties: Lac qui Parle, Stearns, and St. Louis. A fourth fall record from Lake County is pending MOURC consideration. The chronological dates by month for all of the above-mentioned observations are 16 August 2020, 25 September 2020, 30 September 2020 (pending), and 28 October 2011.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) [Casual], 7-11 May 2021, Aitkin County (record #2021-025, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) [Casual], 6 May 2021, Scott County (record #2021-023, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 16 December 2018 - 17 January 2019, Isanti County (record #2018-068, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) [Casual], 2-4 January 2021, Hampton, Dakota County (record #2021-002, vote 7-0). Adult.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 20 April 2021, Leonard, Clearwater County (record #2021-012, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 27-28 April 2021, Windom, Cottonwood County (record #2021-014, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 2 May 2021, private residence Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2021-020, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) [Casual], 11-18 January 2021, Loman, Koochiching County (record #2021-005, vote 7-0). Adult male of the interior form *L. t. tephrocotis*. Photographed. First county record.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) [Casual], 3-19 May 2021, Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County (record #2021-021, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 6-8 May 2021, Reservoir Woods Park, Ramsey County (record



Painted Bunting, 22 May 2021, Northfield, Rice County. Photo by Alex Sundvall.

#2021-024, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 16 May 2021, Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (Main Unit), Chisago County (record #2021-031, vote 7-0). Singing adult. Audio recorded.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 18 May 2021, Pike Point, Crow Wing County (record #2021-032, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 22 May 2021, Carleton Upper Arboretum, Northfield, Rice County (record #2021-039, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

The following records were voted on 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.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) [Casual], 23 August 2020, Lone Tree Lake, Lyon County (record #2020-089, vote 1–6). The observer's description is insufficiently detailed to adequately distinguish the bird from other *Calidris* species, particularly Semipalmated Sandpiper. The observer mentions field notes, but none are included.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) [Casual], 19 July 2019, Spring Lake Park Reserve, Schaar's Bluff, Dakota County (record #2019-039, initial vote 4–3, recirculated vote 1–6). Upon recirculation, the consensus of the Committee was that the distance to the bird made it extremely unlikely that the intricate details described in the reports could have unmistakably been correct. In fact, measurements (Google maps) to the nearest sandbar show the distance to be approximately 670 meters, or over 0.4 miles.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) [Accidental], 18 May 2021, Sand Point, Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County (record #2021-033, vote 0–7). Most Committee members felt this was a Great Blue Heron.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) [Casual], 9 January 2021, approximately two miles south of Cyrus, County Road 3, Pope County (record #2021-003, vote 0–7). The ten-second observation was made without optics at dusk while driving. Most MOURC members did not think that under these conditions a Short-eared Owl was satisfactorily eliminated from consideration.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 13 October 2019, Taconite Harbor, Cook County (record #2019-054, initial vote 4–3, recirculated vote 3–4). In a closely-debated evaluation, the majority of the Committee members felt that the ten-second look at the calling flyover was insufficient to accept the observation.

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

listed in this article: Dean Wattermann, Brad Abendroth, Karl J. Bardon, Frederic A. Barker, Dave Bartkey, Cole Bauer, Lon Baumgardt, Dedrick Benz, Judd Brink, Conny M. Brunell, Paul E. Budde, Alex Burchard, Thomas Burns, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, R. Doroff, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Tayt A. Eiden, Kimberly A. Emerson, Becca Engdahl, Frank Fabbro, Bruce A. Fall, James Grant, Liz Harper, Melissa Hein, Nancy Henke, Ann M. Hertzell, Anthony X. Hertzell, Pete Hoeger, Luke Hollander, Ezra Hosch, Isaac Hosch, Paul E. Jantscher, Samuel Jolly, R. Kacures, Tom Jones, Tyson Kahler, Douglas W. Kieser, M. Koetter, Mike Kratz, Tim Lamey, Val R. Landwehr, Demelza Larson, Ann Luloff, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, Nolan Meyer, Chris Moe, David F. Neitzel, Devon Novy, Andrew Nyhus, Dan Orr, Jason Osowski, Gleora Palm, Douglas L. Pierzina, Aaron Pietsch, Kenneth M. Schumacher, Susan Schumacher, Gregg Severson, Sabrina Silvestre, Andrew D. Smith, M. Spoden, Paul Suchanek, Alex Sundvall, Peder H. Svingen, Howard Towle, Thomas A. Tustison, Justin Watts, Garrett Wee, Bob Williams, and Roy Zimmerman. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc>>.

Summary: 52 records voted on — 47 Accepted, 5 Not Accepted.

Literature Cited

Diamond, Antony W. and Elizabeth A. Schreiber. 2002. Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*). In *The Birds of North America*, Alan F. Poole and Frank B. Gill, Editors. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

Gauger-Metz, Vanessa H. and Elizabeth A. Schreiber. 2002. Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*). In *The Birds of North America*, Shawn M. Billerman, Editor. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

Edina, MN.

Observations of Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) from Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

Aaron Coolman

I spent my evenings from 10 April – 3 May 2021 closely following and observing a population of Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), looking for any behavioral or breeding patterns that I could witness or deduce. My study was confined to Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge in Big Stone and Lac qui Parle counties in western Minnesota. The refuge's 11,521 acres lie in the Minnesota River corridor just south of Big Stone Lake and east of the South Dakota border. It is characterized by patches of remnant tallgrass prairie, areas of restored prairie, shallow ponds, and extensive swaths of open water, floodplains, and wetlands dominated by cattails and reed grasses on the margins created by the Minnesota and Yellow Bank rivers.

Habitat Usage and Cover Type

In nearly all of my sightings, I observed Short-eared Owl foraging over short to medium height, warm-season bunch grasses found in dry, upland soils. Within the native prairie zones, their preferred prey such as voles, mice, and other rodents, are easily visible and provide the owl great accessibility when going for the kill. They were also seen flying low over river or pond banks at the water's edge, especially where the transition zone was gradual and not steep. Tall, rhizomatous — colonizing grasses such as cattail and reed grass — produce stands of vegetation that are too dense to penetrate, and the rigid structure of those grasses make it difficult for the owl to capture prey. However, these grasses do provide excellent cover when the owl needs a rest from foraging or to escape the gaze of a looming Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). So it is likely to see Short-eared Owl flush from an area rife with cattail and reed grass that quickly transitions into the native prairie grass types. As such, a good place to look for Short-eared Owl is in fields that contain a mixture of these different vegetation communities.

Foraging Behavior

The Short-eared Owl flies in a lofty, erratic, moth-like pattern just barely eclipsing the plumes of the grasses below during their hunting efforts. The movements are slow and smooth save for abrupt changes in direction of flight. At a distance, it was these characteristics that allowed me to identify and distinguish it from a Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), whose flight is quick and flowing in comparison and often more linear in direction of flight. Upon the owl's detection of prey below, they quickly halt their flight and somersault in an attempt to pounce on their victims, talons outstretched to the ground. If the hunt proved unsuccessful, as was often the case, the bird immediately reappeared from the grass and again continued its hunt. However, if successful, they would spend a minute or two on the ground before re-emerging in the air. Either the prey was consumed on the spot, or it was taken to a trusted roosting location for consumption, or perhaps it was carried away as a potential courtship offering. When an owl had exhaustively searched a given area with no bounty to show, it would rise somewhere between 35'-70' in the air and relocate to an unexplored part of the refuge 500m or more away.

Roosting Sites

When the owls first emerge for the evening, they often fly out of the cover of tall, warm-season grasses but occasionally would be seen departing from cattail and reed grass. During the evening in between hunting efforts, the birds would either roost on the ground or select a small tree sapling, typically between six to eight feet high, with the surrounding land covered by the native prairie grasses. The perimeter of the refuge is delineated with wire fence, as well as neighboring agricultural plots, and on numerous occasions I would see the owl perched on wooden fence posts. It was not uncommon to



Figure 1. Big Stone NWR. Circled numbers indicate popular sites: 1) Headwater/Ortonville Trail, 2) Auto Tour Loop, 3) southern border prairies and agricultural fields, 4) Yellow Bank River prairies.

encounter these birds gut-wrenchingly close to the roads. On one occasion, I saw an owl fly from a fence perch toward the center of a farm field and simply plop down at the bottom of a small hill of tilled earth.

Courtship Behavior

During one lucky encounter on 20 April 2021, I witnessed what I had identified as a male Short-eared Owl (breast streaks faint, less saturated overall color) capture what must have been a meadow vole or other rodent not more than 60' away from me. It pounced quickly on its prey as they do, but it did not rise quickly. After roughly three minutes, the bird reappeared with the prey in its talons and it immediately started to gain altitude until it was roughly 50' in the air. It proceeded to fly to an area about 500' away, where another Short-eared Owl revealed itself. As the male approached, still clutching its food, it began to rise in a slow vortex above the other owl, who then began to make chase towards it in a similar vortex pattern. When I finally lost sight of the birds, I estimated their altitude to be 150'–200'. At this time it was nearing dark and I was not able to keep watch on the birds as they continued their interaction, as they were quite some distance from me. I did not hear any barking or hooting during this

time, and I am uncertain if this behavior was indicative of a food offering, courtship ritual or if it was an unrelated activity. Unfortunately for me, this was the closest interaction I witnessed that could be perceived as any type of breeding behavior.

Abundance

I recorded peak numbers in the late second to third week of April, where two nights in a row I recorded three active birds in one evening. Consistently during that period there would be one or two owls active provided good weather. I imagine that my observations numbers were low, as the viewing period each night was a short window and I could only realistically visit two or three distinct sites during each observation effort. Without any mathematical model as support, I estimate based on the size of the refuge and suitable habitat available that anywhere from four to eight or (even ten) owls were present within the refuge or very near to its borders on neighboring agricultural plots during peak season.

Interspecies Conflict

I did not observe many instances of conflict with Northern Harrier; however there was one evening when two Short-eared Owls were oc-

cupying and foraging in roughly the same space as the harrier and there was a bit of back-and-forth ominous stalking from both species; yet tensions never flared. It was evident though that in the presence of a looming Great Horned Owl, the Short-eared would cease foraging activities and hide amongst the tall grasses. Whether they were frightened for their own safety or did not want to draw the attention of the Great Horned Owl to sensitive areas, I cannot say.

During my surveys, I noticed several unexpected conflicts between humans and Short-eareds. Specifically, between owls and the cars driven by humans. I witnessed far too many close calls where an owl was foraging near the roadside and attempted to cross just as a car zipped by on the highway, producing a narrow miss. On one particular instance, I was watching an owl which was perched on a fence post, and by this time it was quite dark out. I saw a car coming in from afar and as it approached, the owl was startled and elected to attempt crossing the road just as the car was passing, traveling nearly 60mph as many drivers do on the back roads. It was a miss by the slightest margin, and the vacuum generated by the car tossed the owl sailing high into the air, but it was able to regain control of itself and safely glided down to a cluster of small trees on the other side of the road, unharmed. Fortunately, I did not witness any collisions during my study time but the experience has left me scratching my head as to how common these collisions are.

Curiosity

This owl does not seem to be particularly bothered by the presence of humans. They will flush if approached, but numerous times I was watching from a road side or nearby viewing area, and they would come extremely close, within 30' or sometimes 15', only briefly as if to inspect the strange biped staring back at them. On one occasion, I was standing atop my car to gain a better vantage of an owl that was flying away from me and it dipped below a slight hill. What seemed like only a few minutes had passed and as I turned to my side to scan the horizon, the owl I was previously watching was merely 20' away and headed straight towards me and nearly spooked me off my car, displaying what I interpreted as a degree of curiosity. Talk about silent killers. This experience mirrored other occasions where I would be observing

from my parked car on the side of the road, and the bird would hardly care about my presence and forage within 20'–40' of me, and even attempted a kill and landed on the ground roughly 10' from my car. It paused for a moment, looked at me, and then took flight once more, carrying on its quest for a small rodent for dinner. This curiosity allows for excellent photographic opportunities. I am not a great photographer, so I got plenty of unintelligible photos. They are not bothered by the presence of vehicles and will wander close if your car is stationary. However, if you are approaching a perched or roosting bird in a vehicle or on foot, even if moving slowly, it is likely that the bird will flush.

Weather

Short-eareds are medium-sized owls, weighing roughly a pound, compared to a Great Horned Owl which can weigh three pounds or a Snowy Owl (*B. scandiacus*) weighing five pounds or more (Weidensaul 2015). This makes it difficult for the owl to forage when winds are high; thus they seem to prefer evenings that are calm or where winds are under 15mph locally. There were instances where the owl would be active in stronger winds, but this is far less likely to occur and instead of foraging on the wing during this time, they mostly foraged from perch to perch, choosing to conserve energy and remain roosted and alert. Where the Northern Harrier is happy to soar and play in a roaring headwind, the Short-eared Owl is more reluctant and will hunker down during strong gusts. I noticed they were more likely to come out on evenings with clear skies, possibly because it makes prey easier to detect when actively foraging.

Migration

In North America, Short-eared Owls breed across much of Canada, the Great Plains, and in the upper Midwest with occasional documented records throughout the lower Midwest, and the Northeast. They disperse widely during the non-breeding season in search of reliable prey sources which can take them as far south as northern Mexico and along parts of the Gulf Coast (Weidensaul 2015). As they travel back to their breeding grounds in the spring, it is uncommon for them to remain in locations outside of their expected range, seeking localized prey

abundances, and as a result may attempt breeding activities. Western Minnesota Short-eared Owl abundance very clearly benefits from this opportunistic behavior.

Popular Sites

(See Figure 1.) Auto Tour Loop, east of the largest and most obvious granite outcrops. Headwater/Ortonville Trail on the west side of the refuge. Yellow Bank River prairies, south along County Road 15 about two miles south of the visitor's center. Agricultural fields and prairie plots along County Road 40, the southern border of the refuge.

Methods

Most survey efforts were conducted from within my car while driving around the refuge. There are few areas where you can pull off of the main road and park your vehicle for viewing over a field. In certain areas, like the Ortonville Trail on the west side of the refuge, I would walk down the path to gain a better perspective than the parking lot could offer. I arrived at my chosen survey site typically 90 minutes before sundown, and would stay until approximately 30 minutes after sundown, when the light levels no longer allowed for optimal observation capabilities. There were eight main locations that I would frequent during the study, and I would remain at one site for approximately 35 minutes before switching to a new location. This process only allowed me to visit two to three sites on any given night, depending on owl activity. However, when I was able to find an owl, I would not leave the area until I lost sight of the owl, at which point I would determine if I could follow it, and if I could not then I would select a new area. Survey locations were selected based on proximity to nearby locations, and owl activity in the days prior. My goal was to spend as much time observing owls as possible, hoping to witness any unique behaviors and this influenced how I decided to select my surveying locations on a nightly basis.

Discussion

Ultimately, my goal was to observe some rock-solid breeding activity of Short-eared Owls at the refuge and unfortunately I was not able to positively identify such behaviors. It is possible that the "disappearance" (migration) of the owls is due to birds sitting on active nests, and I did

consider this possibility when I began to notice their numbers dwindling. So I stuck with my efforts while not seeing any owls, searching for any signs of delivering food to nests and I did not observe this behavior either.

Additionally, in one of the areas where I most consistently saw owl activity, the refuge conducted a prescribed burn. This does not eliminate the possibility of breeding efforts in that area, but it all but eliminates the possibility of any success if there were nests. Big Stone NWR approaches the northern edge of the typical summer distribution of Short-eared Owl, but to date there have not been extensive studies of the breeding range for these birds. I believe there is great potential for the region to host a small population of breeding Short-eared Owls. The habitat that remains, and even the existing altered habitat, is capable of supporting the lifestyle and needs to successfully raise young. This habitat is very rural and the number of dedicated observers is not nearly what it needs to be to generate the data necessary to expand our knowledge of breeding efforts in western Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas. It is my hope that this brief article inspires others to visit the prairies in search of this enigmatic species.

Acknowledgments

By no means was this a comprehensive study, and the findings of the project are not meant to be applied outside the boundaries of Big Stone NWR. More complete efforts should begin their observations earlier in the season, possibly as early as mid-March and would likely benefit from dawn observation efforts, which I did not attempt.

I am a seasonal employee of the USF&WS stationed at Big Stone NWR during this study period. I received no preferential treatment or access, and did not receive any compensation for my efforts as a result of my employment or otherwise. All of the information I have stated about the refuge and surrounding region is publicly available information. I claim no conflict of interest for this effort.

References

Weidensaul, Scott. 2015. Peterson Reference Guide to the Owls of North America and the Caribbean. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Sylvania, OH.

The 2020 Summer Season

1 June through 31 July 2020

Ann E. Kessen¹ and Peder H. Svingen²

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks provided a first county record for Pipestone as they spent two weeks foraging at a farm from late June to mid-July. Other waterfowl of interest included two Mute Swans that visited Grass Lake in Hennepin County from the middle of June to the end of July, and a Cinnamon Teal that spent one day at Agassiz N.W.R. in Marshall County in June.

After a couple of summers with no reports, a Clark's Grebe was seen in June at Lake Osakis in Todd. The bird was paired with a Western Grebe and the pair had at least one chick. For the first time in Aitkin County, a Eurasian Collared-Dove was observed. The bird was at Palisade in early July. White-winged Doves put in a good showing with first county records in Goodhue and Ramsey in June and July, respectively. There were also records from Hennepin and Rice counties.

A Black-necked Stilt in a flooded field in Sibley County provided a first county record, and three individuals were also seen in Steele County. Both records were from June. In July, a single Piping Plover at Lake Shakopee County Park was a new county record for Chippewa. Up to six Whimbrels at Park Point Recreation Area in St. Louis County provided a treat for birders for two weeks in June. On 28 June in Big Stone County, a spot near Correll proved to be lucky when both an alternate-plumaged Red Knot and a female Ruff were found foraging among other shorebirds.

In June, a California Gull feeding on a dead carp at Mud Lake provided a first county record for Traverse. There were two Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings, St. Louis County in June and Hubbard County in July. The latter was a first county record. An adult Least Tern at Mother Lake in Hennepin County was enjoyed by many even though it was only present for one day in June.

Red-throated Loons were once again recorded from Park Point in St. Louis County,



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 1 July 2020, Pipestone County. Photo by Lon Baumgardt.

with up to ten being seen during the month of June. At least one Neotropic Cormorant spent nearly the whole summer at Richfield Lake in Hennepin County, and another briefly visited Sherburne NWR that month, providing a first county record for Sherburne.

June saw Scissor-tailed Flycatchers visiting both Benton and Pipestone counties. Say's Phoebe had extended stays in Clay (June) and Big Stone (June and July) counties, but paid only single-day visits in Polk and Traverse in June and July, respectively. A male Vermilion Flycatcher was a surprise in Cook County on 6 June.

A Carolina Wren was a first county record for Renville on 7 July. This species was also found in eleven other counties in the southern half of the state, a very good showing. Continuing from spring, a Eurasian Tree Sparrow spent two weeks in Two Harbors in Lake County. In July, Wadena County enjoyed its first Henslow's Sparrow record.

A Kentucky Warbler was seen by many in Anoka County in June. Two Yellow-throated Warblers spent a week in Houston County in

June, and Ramsey County saw its first breeding record for this species. Also in June, a cooperative Prairie Warbler was seen by many during its three-week stay in Houston County.

Weather Summary: The statewide average temperatures for both June and July were above normal (+3°F in June, +2°F in July). The warmest temperature reached this season was 102°F on 7 June at Granite Falls. A week later on 13 June the coldest temperature, 29°F, was reported several miles north of Two Harbors. In July the hottest temperature was again in the West-central region when Browns Valley reached 96°F on 26 July, and the coldest was again in the Northeast when Brimson in St. Louis County fell to 40°F on 23 July.

Statewide average precipitation was slightly above normal in both months, but those averages belied local experiences. Major storm systems at the end of the first week of June brought heavy rains and strong winds to the Northwest and North-central regions. At the end of the month, a series of thunderstorms dropped 5 to 8 inches of rain to many monitoring stations in the Southeast, East-central, and Central regions.

On 8 July, an EF4 tornado touched down from Grant to Otter Tail County. It was the strongest tornado in Minnesota since 2010. Another storm dropped golf ball to tennis ball-sized hail from Pope to Jackson County on 11 July. On the 17th and 18th, two waves of severe thunderstorms crossed the state, with the high-

est winds in the Northwest, North-central and Central regions. On 25 July a final major storm for the season brought little wind but produced over ten inches of rain in parts of Sibley County.

Insufficiently Documented Reports of Regular Species: Sharp-shinned Hawk 6/2 Ramsey (please describe south records in summer to distinguish from the much more likely Cooper's Hawk); Philadelphia Vireo 7/11 Red Lake (range); Orange-crowned Warbler 7/6 Itasca (far from normal summer range).

Maps: A map is included for each species having at least one confirmed breeding record during 2020 (not necessarily just in summer). A county is colored black to show confirmed breeding, medium gray for probable breeding, and light gray for a summer observation. Those species with no confirmed breeding data have no map.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to all who submitted summer reports and breeding records. Your data make this report possible. We are grateful for the data provided by eBird. Thanks also to Paul Budde for compiling early and late dates, to Bob Janssen and Peder Svingen for maintaining a list of county and seasonal occurrence records, and to Dave Cahlander for his work on the online seasonal report. Anthony Hertzell and Dave Cahlander produced the maps used in this report.

¹ Stacy, MN; ² Duluth, MN.

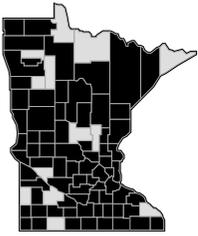
KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species listed in brackets [**Smew**] indicate a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name [2 North, 3 South] indicates the total number of north – and south counties with reports.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties listed in bold and with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Totals in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger “+” preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. “ph.” denotes a species documented with a photograph.
11. “v.t.” denotes a species documented by video.
12. “a.t.” denotes a species documented by audio.
13. High counts that are multiples of 100 are assumed or known to be estimates unless otherwise noted.

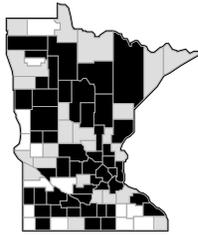
The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, seasons@moumn.org.

- BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) — [1 South] Seen 6/29 – 7/17 **Pipestone** (2, foraging in farm feed lot, N of intersection of 41st St. and 190th Ave., near Edgerton) †LVD, ph. †KEM, ph. †GWe, ph. †NMe, ph. †LBa, ph. †CRM, m.ob (**The Loon** 93:46).
- Snow Goose** (*Anser caerulescens*) — [1 North, 1 South] Reported 6/3 Lake ABm, 6/18 McLeod BHa.
- Ross's Goose** (*Anser rossii*) — [2 South] Observed 6/2 Hennepin ebd, 6/9–10 Stearns (Albany W.T.P.) HHD, DOr, MTS, PCC, PIJ, ebd.
- Greater White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*) — [1 North, 2 South] Found 6/3 Stevens (Clear Lake) DLP, 7/22 Lac qui Parle (injured wing) DFN, 7/24–30+ Carlton (Forbay L., Jay Cooke S.P.) AVa, RAE, MJB, ebd.
- Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in all counties.
- Mute Swan** (*Cygnus olor*) — [1 South] Seen 6/14 – 7/26 Hennepin (2, Grass Lake, Prairie Bluff Conservation Area) DFe, BHe, †JGW, m.ob.
- Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [30 North, 41 South] Reported from all regions. High counts 6/20 Aitkin (**250**, Rice Lake N.W.R.) DFe, 7/10 Clearwater (112, Upper Rice Lake) MJB. First county breeding records 6/6 *Chippewa* KEm, 9/26 *Lincoln* RJS, 7/4 *Murray* DnS, 6/30 *Nobles* KEm, 6/12 *Pennington* NaH, JCI.
- Tundra Swan** (*Cygnus columbianus*) — No reports.
- Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from every county except Red Lake.
- Blue-winged Teal** (*Spatula discors*) — [31 North, 44 South] Found in all regions. First county breeding record 7/3 *Nobles* KEm.
- Cinnamon Teal** (*Spatula cyanoptera*) — [1 North] Seen 6/7 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) AYS.
- Northern Shoveler** (*Spatula chrypeata*) — [18 North, 15 South] Reported from scattered locations in all regions except Southeast. First county breeding records: 6/26 *Yellow Medicine* GWe, 7/18 *Traverse* DLP.
- Gadwall** (*Mareca strepera*) — [16 North, 18 South] Observed in all regions except Southeast. First county breeding records: 7/29 *Faribault* PEJ, 7/15 *Freeborn* PEJ.
- American Wigeon** (*Mareca americana*) — [9 North, 7 South] Found in widely scattered locations in all regions except Southeast.
- Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 52 South] Reported from every county except Fillmore.
- American Black Duck** (*Anas rubripes*) — [8 North, 2 South] South reports 7/26 Big Stone LiH, 6/4 Stearns PCC. Also seen in Cass, Clay, Cook, Grant, Lake, Roseau, St. Louis.
- Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) — [7 North, 8 South] Observed in all western regions plus Koochiching, Steele, Watonwan.
- Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca*) — [21 North, 19 South] Found throughout state.
- Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*) — [13 North, 10 South] Seen in all western regions, plus Faribault, Hennepin, Itasca, Ramsey, St. Louis, Steele. First county breeding record 7/11 *Traverse* GWe.
- Redhead** (*Aythya americana*) — [13 North, 15 South] Seen in every region except Southeast.
- Ring-necked Duck** (*Aythya collaris*) — [28 North, 17 South] Reported from all regions except Southeast.
- Greater Scaup** (*Aythya marila*) — [1 North] Observed 6/1 St. Louis (4, Park Point R.A.) ebd.
- Lesser Scaup** (*Aythya affinis*) — [7 North, 11 South] Found in widely scattered locations in all regions.
- White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta deglandi*) — No reports.
- Long-tailed Duck** (*Clangula hyemalis*) — No reports.
- Bufflehead** (*Bucephala albeola*) — [5 North] Seen in Clay, Hubbard, Kittson, Marshall, St. Louis.
- Common Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*) — [18 North, 2 South] Reported from all northern regions plus Crow Wing, Lac qui Parle, Stearns.
- Hooded Merganser** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [30 North, 45 South] Reported throughout state. First county breeding record 6/6 *Chippewa* KEm.
- Common Merganser** (*Mergus merganser*) — [17 North, 4 South] Observed in all northern and central regions. First county breeding record 6/12 *Otter Tail* JMy.
- Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*) — [5 North] Found in Aitkin, Cook,

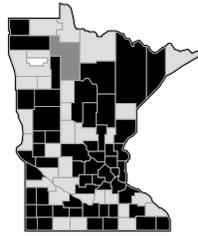
- Hennepin, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis.
- Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [13 North, 25 South] Found in all regions except Northeast, Southeast.
- Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [29 North, 49 South] Seen throughout state. First county breeding records: 6/27 *Chippewa* SDz, 8/23 *Roseau* AAz.
- Ruffed Grouse** (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [18 North, 8 South] Reported north and east of a line from Clay to Mower.
- Spruce Grouse** (*Canachites canadensis*) — [8 North] Found in Beltrami, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [7 North] Observed in Aitkin, Clay, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Roseau, St. Louis.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken** (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [5 North] Seen in Becker, Clay, **Kittson**, Mahnomen, Wilkin.
- Gray Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*) — [2 North, 16 South] Reported from all southern regions plus Clay, Meeker, Roseau, Stearns.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [18 North, 53 South] Observed in all southern and central counties plus Aitkin, Becker, Clay, Crow Wing, Mahnomen, St. Louis, Wadena.
- Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [20 North, 41 South] Seen in all regions of state. High count 7/31 Steele (24, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) GHO.
- Horned Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*) — No summer reports, but breeding evidence reported 8/5 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) ebd.
- Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [16 North, 18 South] Observed in all regions except East-central, Southeast. First county breeding records: 7/6 *Cottonwood* KEm, 7/5 *Lyon* ASu.
- Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [4 North, 6 South] Found in widely scattered locations in all western and southern regions plus Sibley.
- Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [5 North, 7 South] Seen in West-central plus Carver, Clay, Faribault, Todd, Watonwan.
- Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — [1 North] Reported 6/19 Todd (adult paired with Western Grebe, one chick, L. Osakis) ph. TaW.
- Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from every county except Roseau.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [17 North, 46 South] Observed in all regions. New county record 7/3 **Aitkin** (Pallisade) SDz. First county breeding record 7/13 *Freeborn* AEB.
- White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) — [4 South] Found 6/4 Rice (since 6/2 according to homeowner, city of Faribault) †DAB, RBJ, RBW, 6/12–15 Hennepin (27th Ave. S., Minneapolis) JHv, ph. PSt, m.ob. and first county records 6/15 **Goodhue** (Red Wing) †EBy, 7/2 **Ramsey** †LiH.
- Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties. High counts Lac qui Parle (**326**, 140th St, Madison) KeL, 7/14 Lyon (212, Lone Tree Lake) GWe.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [13 North, 52 South] Observed in all regions. High count 6/20 Carver (**6**, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake Unit) JCy. First county breeding record 7/16 *Redwood* GWe.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [30 North, 39 South] Found in all regions, but most frequently in northeastern two-thirds of state.
- Common Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles minor*) — [17 North, 39 South] Reported throughout state. High count 7/25 Big Stone (25, Ortonville) KEm.
- Eastern Whip-poor-will** (*Antrostomus vociferus*) — [12 North, 11 South] Reported from every region except the South-central. Most widespread in counties along eastern border of state.
- Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [31 North, 51 South] Seen in all counties except Jackson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Martin, Roseau. High count 6/5 Washington (351, Mahtomedi High School, counted individually as birds entered roost) EzH. First county breeding record 7/4 *Sherburne* PLJ.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) — [30 North, 48 South] Reported throughout state. First county breeding record 7/31 *Meeker* PKF.
- Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*) — [22 North, 40 South] Reported from all regions. First county breeding records: 8/20 *Grant* KIs, 6/26 *Scott* CRM.



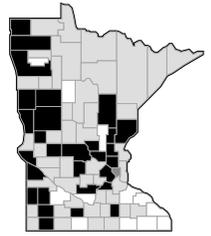
Canada Goose



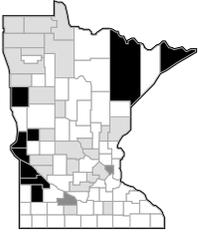
Trumpeter Swan



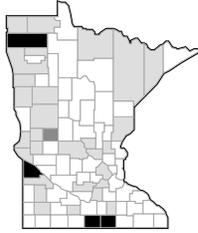
Wood Duck



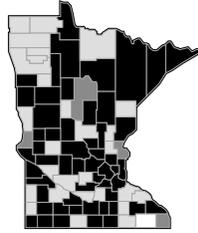
Blue-winged Teal



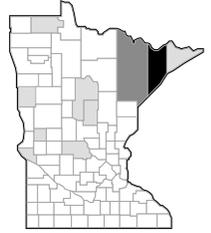
Northern Shoveler



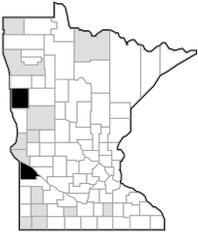
Gadwall



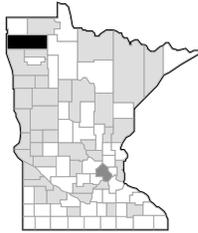
Mallard



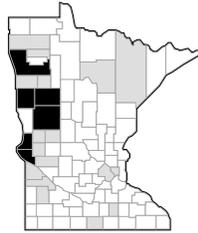
American Black Duck



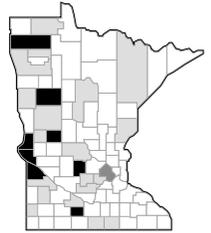
Northern Pintail



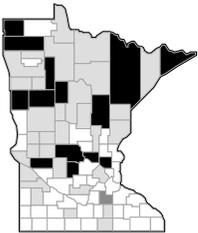
Green-winged Teal



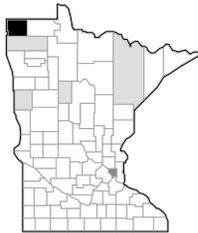
Canvasback



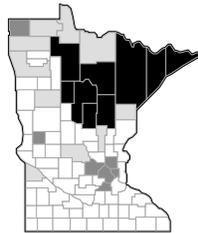
Redhead



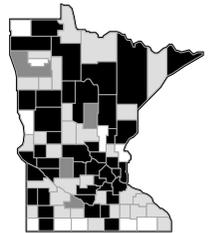
Ring-necked Duck



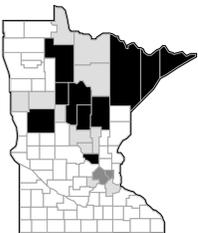
Bufflehead



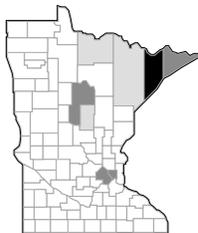
Common Goldeneye



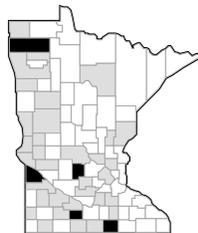
Hooded Merganser



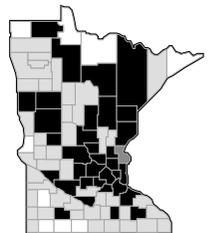
Common Merganser



Red-breasted Merganser

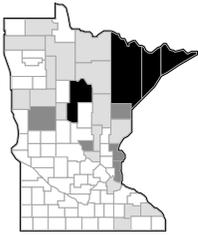


Ruddy Duck

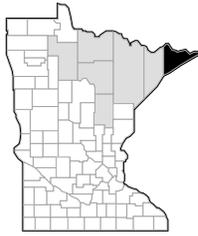


Wild Turkey

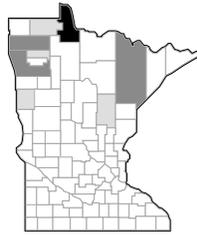
- Sora** (*Porzana carolina*) — [25 North, 27 South] Found in all regions.
- Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula galeata*) — [13 South] Seen in all southern regions and Central. First county breeding record 8/9 *Watowan* KEM.
- American Coot** (*Fulica americana*) — [10 North, 27 South] Observed in all regions except Northeast, Southeast.
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [2 North, 1 South] Reported from Aitkin, **Anoka** (continuing from spring through 6/3, Carlos Avery W.M.A.), Otter Tail.
- Sandhill Crane** (*Antigone canadensis*) — [31 North, 38 South] Found in all regions. High count 6/16 Kanabec (160, near Ogilvie) MWS.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) — [2 South] Documented 6/1 Steele (3, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) DFe, ph. BAB, 6/9 **Sibley** BHe, ph. †DWK, m.ob.
- American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [1 North, 5 South] Reported from Big Stone, Grant, Lac qui Parle, Lyon, Sibley, Yellow Medicine. High count 7/22 Big Stone (13, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.
- Black-bellied Plover** (*Phuvialis squatarola*) — [3 North, 1 South] Late spring migrants 6/5 St. Louis (2) ebd. Fall migrants **7/18** Big Stone (Marsh Lake, adult in prebasic molt) KWR, m.ob., 7/27–31 Big Stone (adult, alternate) KJB, 7/29–31 Grant MZa, m.ob., 7/29 Otter Tail (8) ebd.
- American Golden-Plover** (*Phuvialis dominica*) — [3 North, 2 South] Northbound migrants in Clay, Grant, Kanabec, last reported 6/5 Clay PBB. Fall migrants 7/26–27 Big Stone (1), Olmsted (1).
- Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Found in all counties except Koochiching. High count 7/22 Big Stone (**1,297**, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.
- Semipalmated Plover** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [8 North, 16 South] Observed in all regions except Northeast. Northbound migrants: late south 6/6 Stearns HHD, Swift RAE; late north 6/12 Grant ELC. Southbound migrants: early north 7/12 Polk SAU; early south 7/9 Big Stone DLP. High count 7/21 Big Stone (53, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.
- Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*) — [1 South] New county record 7/21 **Chippewa** (Shakopee Lake) †MJB, RAE.
- Upland Sandpiper** (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [8 North, 19 South] Reported from all western regions plus Dakota, Mille Lacs, Sibley, Stearns, Watonwan.
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) — [1 North] Observed 6/1–15 St. Louis (up to 6, Park Point R.A.) MLH, m.ob.
- Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa baemastica*) — [3 North, 2 South] Late spring migrants 6/12 Grant ELC, DnS, 6/13 Polk (3) HHu. Fall migrants 7/26 Big Stone (2, West Toqua Lake) LiH, 7/26+ Big Stone (3, Correll) KJB.
- Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*) — [10 North, 5 South] Seen in Northwest, West-central, plus Le Sueur, Stearns.
- Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) — [2 North, 3 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/7 Swift KEM, JWH; late north 6/21 St. Louis (Duluth) KJB. Early fall migrants 7/26, 7/27+ Big Stone LiH, KJB.
- RED KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*) — [1 South] Observed 7/28 Big Stone (adult in alternate plumage, 615th Ave, Correll) ph. KJB.
- RUFF** (*Calidris pugnax*) — [1 South] Found 7/26 Big Stone (female, 615th Ave, Correll) ph. KJB.
- Stilt Sandpiper** (*Calidris himantopus*) — [4 North, 20 South] Seen in all Central and Southern regions plus Clay, St. Louis. Late spring migrants 6/2 Grant WPL, 6/4 Stearns PCC. Southbound migrants: early north 7/16 Clay (2) TCL; early south 7/6 Big Stone DLP, Lyon GWe. High count 7/25 Big Stone (312, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.
- Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) — [2 North, 3 South] Reported from Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Otter Tail, St. Louis, Stearns. Spring migrants 6/2 St. Louis (2) ebd. Southbound migrants: early north 7/29 Otter Tail (6) BA; early south 7/18 Lac qui Parle (4) m.ob., 7/19 Stearns (1) PCC.
- Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*) — [2 North, 4 South] Observed in Big Stone, Clay, Kanabec, Stearns, Swift, Yellow Medicine. Late spring migrants 6/6 Kanabec SPS, 6/7 Stearns PCC. Only fall migrant 7/30 Yellow Medicine GWe.
- Baird's Sandpiper** (*Calidris bairdii*) — [6 North, 13 South] Observed in scattered locations in all regions except North-central. Late spring migrants 6/4 Mahnomen NaH, 6/11 Stearns (4) DnS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/6 Clay (3) PBB; early south 7/6 Yel-



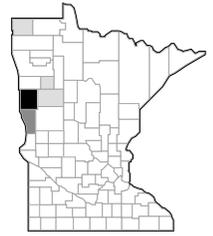
Ruffed Grouse



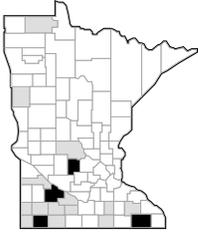
Spruce Grouse



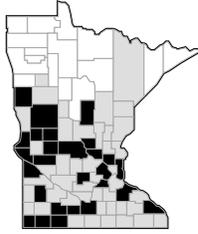
Sharp-tailed Grouse



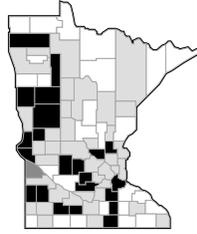
Greater Prairie-Chicken



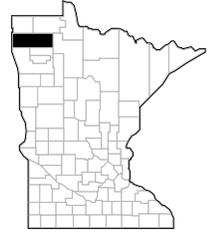
Gray Partridge



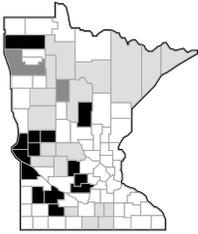
Ring-necked Pheasant



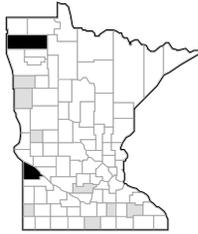
Pied-billed Grebe



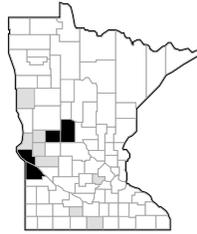
Horned Grebe



Red-necked Grebe



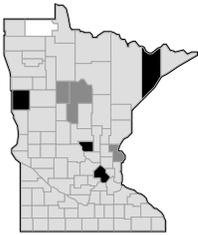
Eared Grebe



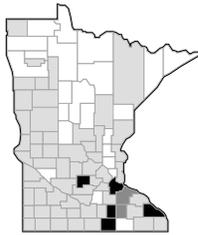
Western Grebe



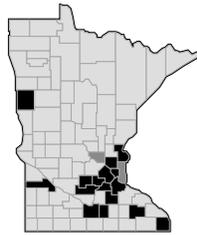
Clark's Grebe



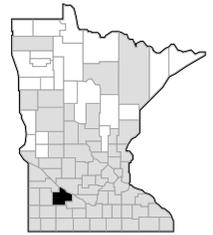
Rock Pigeon



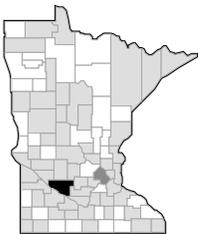
Eurasian Collared-Dove



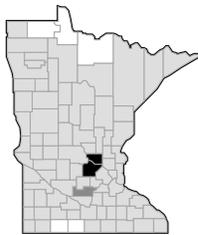
Mourning Dove



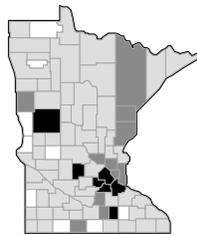
Yellow-billed Cuckoo



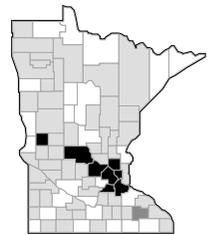
Common Nighthawk



Chimney Swift



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Virginia Rail

low Medicine (1) GWe, 7/6 Carver (5) JCy. High count 7/19 Big Stone (45, Marsh Lake) EzH.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [19 North, 42 South] Found in all regions. Northbound migrants: late north 6/4 Mahnomen NHa; late south 6/4 Sherburne (5) PLJ. Midsummer report **6/17** Steele lacked details and thus could not be classified on the basis of age or molt. Southbound migrants: early north 6/24 Clay (2) PBB; early south 6/26 Yellow Medicine (3) GWe. Record high count from 2 separate locations on drawn-down Marsh Lake 7/19 Big Stone (**2,380**) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [3 North, 9 South] Seen in all central regions plus Clay, Lyon, Steele, Yellow Medicine. Late spring migrants 6/22, 6/26 Yellow Medicine (1) GWe. Exceptionally early fall migrant **7/14** Lyon (one still in breeding plumage at Lone Tree Lake) †GWe; though possibly attempting to over summer there were no other reports from this location.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*) — [2 North, 3 South] All reports were of 1 or 2 southbound migrants: early north 7/27 Clay †PBB, 7/28 Grant LBA; early south 7/27 Stearns ebd, 7/28, 7/29 Lyon GWe, 7/29 Steele PSu.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [8 North, 29 South] Observed in all regions except North-central. Spring migrants through 6/7 Swift, 6/9 Sibley m.ob. Southbound migrants: early north **6/24** Clay (1) PBB, 7/10 Clay (3) MO, BHw; early south **6/26** (3) and 7/1 (1) Yellow Medicine GWe. High count 7/22 Big Stone (1200, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [10 North, 29 South] Found in all regions. Northbound migrants: late south 6/11 Sibley (1) m.ob., 6/20 Stearns (injured) PCC; late north 6/10 St. Louis (9) JPR. Midsummer report **6/26** Yellow Medicine (2) GWe — 15 days after the last non-injured spring migrant and 11 days before the first unequivocal fall migrants. Southbound migrants: early north 7/16 Clay (3) TCL; early south 7/7 Carver (3) JCy, 7/9 Lyon (8) GWe. High count 7/21 Big Stone (615th Ave, Correll) KJB.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [4 North, 22 South] Seen in every

region except North-central. Only spring migrant 6/3 St. Louis (Duluth) MLH. Southbound migrants: early north 7/16 Clay (2) TCL; early south 6/26 Yellow Medicine (1) GWe, 7/5 Yellow Medicine (1) ASu, DnS. High count 7/19 Big Stone (45, Marsh Lake) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [1 South] Vocalizing 7/26–28 Big Stone (up to 8 adults in alternate plumage, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [14 North, 14 South] Reported from all regions, but only Yellow Medicine (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) in Southwest. High count 6/3 Cook (**13**, Magnetic Rock Trail) ASu.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [31 North, 25 South] Found in all regions.

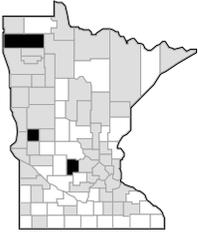
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [32 North, 51 South] Seen in every county except Hubbard, Nicollet, Red Lake, Wabasha. First county breeding record 6/22 Morrison KEM. High count 7/19 Big Stone (60, 2 locations at Marsh Lake) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [14 North, 35 South] Observed in every region. High counts 7/27 Carver (15, New Germany area) MMk, 7/29 Jackson (15, South Heron Lake) KEM.

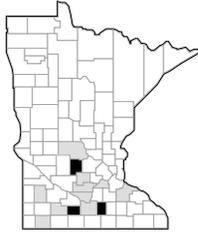
Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [22 North, 41 South] Found in all regions. Northbound migrants: late south 6/12 Dakota (1) RBW, Lac qui Parle (2) EzH, ISH, ASu; late north 6/7 Kanabec MAJ. Southbound migrants: early north 6/26 Marshall (1) HHu, 6/27 Douglas (8) SPS; early south 6/22 Yellow Medicine (4) GWe. High counts 7/19 Big Stone (**3,250**, Marsh Lake) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu, 7/22 Big Stone (**2,780**, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [2 North, 5 South] Reported from Big Stone, Chippewa, Clay, Cook, Hennepin, Lyon, Yellow Medicine. Late spring migrant 6/9 Hennepin ebd. Potential fall migrants 7/1 Big Stone (1) DLP, 7/6 Lyon (10, Lone Tree Lake) GWe. Unusual report from Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness 7/9 Cook (Sea Gull Lake) †DBG.

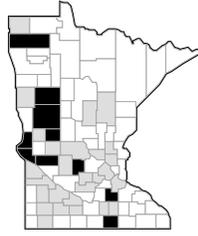
Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [8 North, 29 South] Observed in all regions. Only spring migrant 6/9 Sibley MaJ. Southbound migrants: early north 6/18 Cook NME,



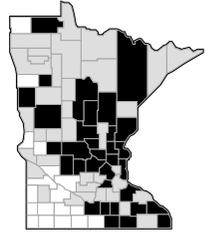
Sora



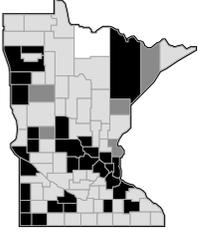
Common Gallinule



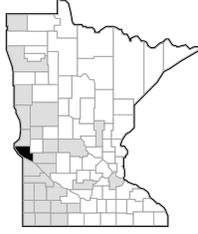
American Coot



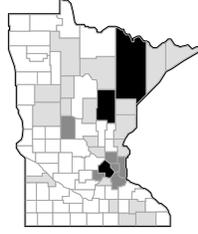
Sandhill Crane



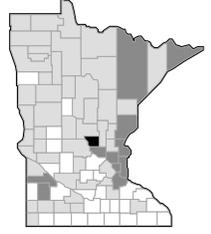
Killdeer



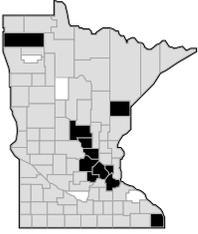
Upland Sandpiper



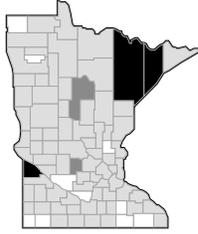
American Woodcock



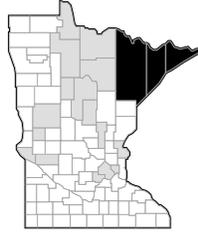
Wilson's Snipe



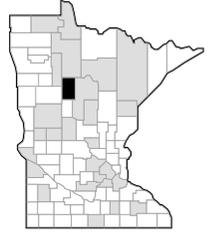
Spotted Sandpiper



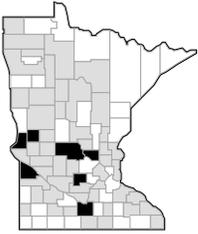
Ring-billed Gull



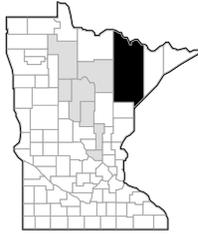
Herring Gull



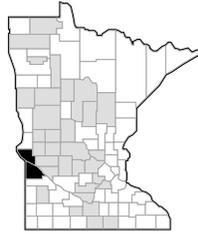
Caspian Tern



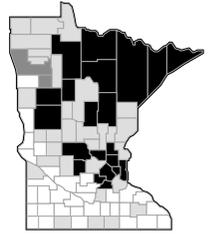
Black Tern



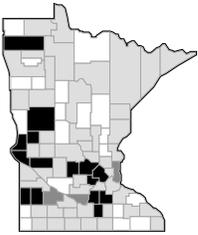
Common Tern



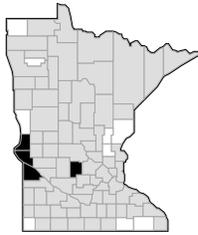
Forster's Tern



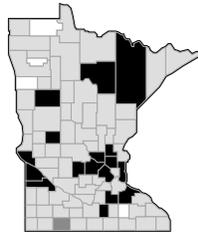
Common Loon



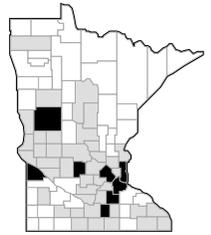
Double-crested Cormorant



American White Pelican



Great Blue Heron



Great Egret



Neotropic Cormorant, 18 June 2020, Richfield, Hennepin County. Photo by Connie Brunell.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, 27 June 2020, Rushford, Fillmore County. Photo by Todd Mitchell.

6/19 Clay m.ob. (median 6/29); early south 6/26 Scott MZa (median 6/27). High count 7/25 Big Stone (42, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [8 North, 13 South] Seen in all western and central regions. High count 7/26 Big Stone (205, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [6 North, 7 South] Reported in all western regions plus Benton, Hubbard, Stearns. Northbound migrants: late south 6/9 Yellow Medicine ph. GWe; late north 6/5 Clay (3) †PBB. Southbound migrants: early north 7/18 Marshall (7) HHu, Pennington (2) AaL, CLu; early south 7/16 Lyon (2) GWe.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [7 North, 6 South] Seen in North-central, Northeast, and in scattered areas in West-central, Central, South-central. Late south spring migrant 6/9 Sibley ebd; early south fall migrant 7/15 Faribault PEJ. Most unusual was 2 immature birds summering in flooded fields along S.R. 25, Carver (reported on 24 dates by m.ob.).

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) — No reports.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [17 North, 31 South] Reported from all regions. Unusual location and date 7/6 St. Louis (first-cycle, Park Point R.A.) †BEA. High count 7/29 Freeborn (1,500) PEJ.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [32 North, 45 South] Observed statewide. First county breeding record 7/30 Lake AKz. High count 7/6 St. Louis (**25,000**, adults plus

young at Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) — [1 North] New county record 6/5 **Traverse** (adult, Mud Lake Public Access) ph. †WCM.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [13 North, 6 South] Found primarily in northern half of state, but also Big Stone, Carver, Chisago, Hennepin, Ramsey, Swift. High count 7/3 Lake (**1,090**, Knife Island) KJB.

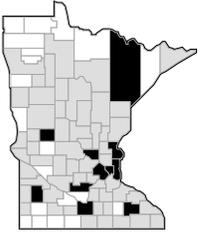
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [2 North] Documented 6/2 St. Louis (immature, Superior Entry) ph. †PSk, 7/6 **Hubbard** (2nd cycle, Kabekona Lake) ph. REn, RLF.

LEAST TERN (*Sternula antillarum*) — [1 South] Photographed by m.ob. 6/29 Hennepin (adult, Mother L.) †TAT, ph. †ADS, †DWK, †EzH.

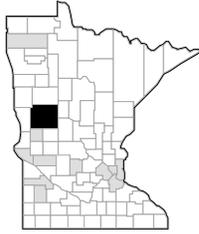
Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [14 North, 13 South] Observed in every region.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) — [19 North, 37 South] Found in all regions except Northeast. First county breeding records: 7/26 **Blue Earth** ChH, 7/11 **Traverse** GWe. High counts 7/11 Lac qui Parle (75, Big Stone N.W.R.) GWe, 7/1 Marshall (65, Agassiz N.W.R.) ebd.

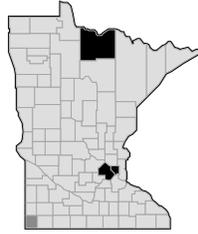
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [7 North, 1 South] Seen in Beltrami, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, St. Louis. At Interstate Island W.M.A., Duluth, 108 pairs fledged 143 young according to Fred Strand. A two-year restoration project was begun in spring 2020 to improve habitat for nesting terns, protect the island against erosion from high water levels, and restore the island to its original size.



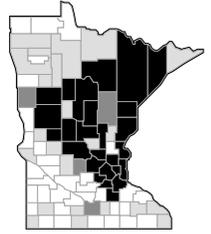
Green Heron



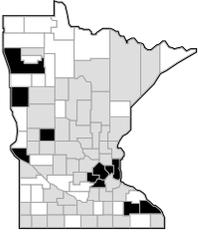
Black-crowned Night-Heron



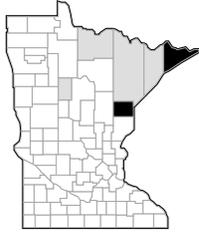
Turkey Vulture



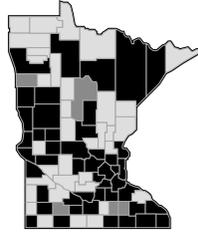
Osprey



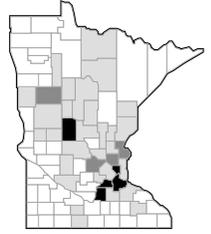
Cooper's Hawk



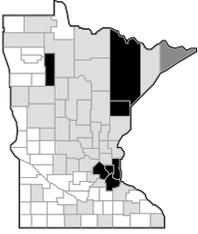
Northern Goshawk



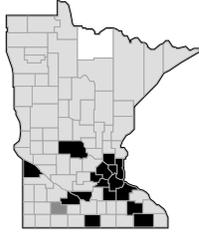
Bald Eagle



Red-shouldered Hawk



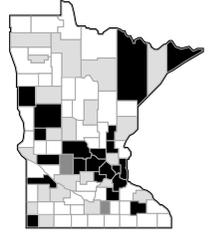
Broad-winged Hawk



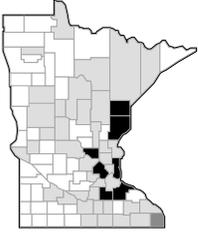
Red-tailed Hawk



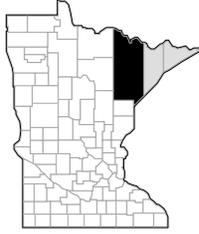
Eastern Screech-Owl



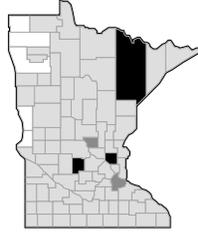
Great Horned Owl



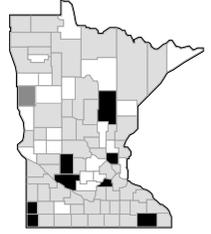
Barred Owl



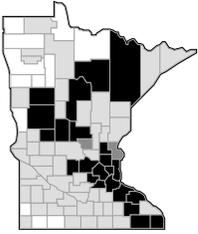
Northern Saw-whet Owl



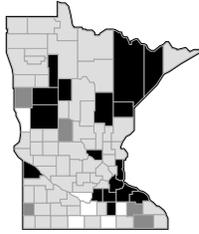
Belted Kingfisher



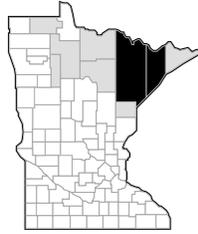
Red-headed Woodpecker



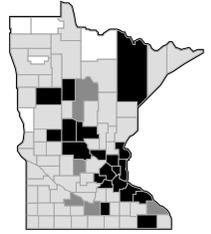
Red-bellied Woodpecker



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

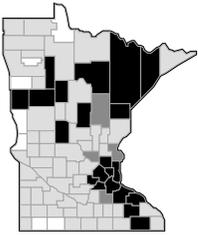


Black-backed Woodpecker

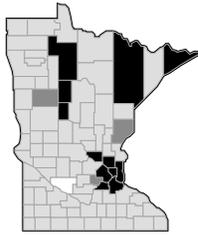


Downy Woodpecker

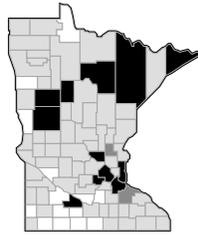
- Forster's Tern** (*Sterna forsteri*) — [14 North, 20 South] Found in all western and central regions. First county breeding record 6/12 *Lac qui Parle* ASu. High count 7/11 *Lac qui Parle* (42, Big Stone N.W.R.) GWe.
- Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*) — [1 North] Spring migrants 6/1–30 St. Louis (max. 10 on 6/11, Park Point) ASu, PHS, BEA, JPR, ToL, ebd.
- Common Loon** (*Gavia immer*) — [31 North, 23 South] Reported from all regions. High count 6/28 Itasca (28, North Star Lake, Marcell) DSh.
- Double-crested Cormorant** (*Nannopterum auritum*) — [22 North, 45 South] Observed statewide. High count 6/23+ Meeker (1,000, Pigeon Lake Rookery) BHe, m.ob.
- NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) — [2 South] One found 6/3 Hennepin (Richfield Lake Park) †BAF, ph. †CMB, ph. BAB, m.ob., was joined by a second bird 7/19 †SLC; both were seen and photographed through at least 8/21 m.ob. New county record 6/4 **Sherburne** (Sherburne N.W.R.) ph. †ToL.
- American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [29 North, 49 South] Observed throughout state. High count 7/25 *Lac qui Parle* (13,200, Marsh Lake colony) KJB. First county breeding record 6/5 *Traverse* WCM.
- American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [18 North, 16 South] Reported from all regions except Southeast.
- Least Bittern** (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [7 North, 22 South] Found in every region except Northwest, North-central. High count 6/29 Hennepin (6, Mother Lake) KWR.
- Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) — [31 North, 52 South] Seen in all counties except Dodge, Norman, Red Lake, Roseau. First county breeding record 7/2 *Yellow Medicine* GWe.
- Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*) — [10 North, 38 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast. High count 7/29 Grant (320, North Ottawa Impoundment) REn, RLF.
- Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*) — [1 North, 4 South] All reports: 6/3 Steele (Armstrong Restoration Wetland) LHI, 6/12 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) ph. ELC, ph. MSS, DnS, 6/20–21 Scott (Shakopee) RBW, m.ob., 7/1 *Lac qui Parle* (Salt L.) ASu, 7/26 Stevens (Spooner Slough) LiH.
- Little Blue Heron** (*Egretta caerulea*) — No reports.
- Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [1 North, 5 South] Found in Big Stone, Grant, Pipestone, Pope, Sherburne, Yellow Medicine. High count 6/2 Pipestone (8, near Edgerton) LVD.
- Green Heron** (*Butorides virescens*) — [24 North, 43 South] Seen in all regions. First county breeding records: 8/3 *Blue Earth* BSa, 7/18 *Chisago* DPi, 7/5 *Sibley* AXH.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [3 North, 9 South] Seen in Big Stone, Dakota, Grant, Hennepin, Lyon, Marshall, Meeker, Otter Tail, Ramsey, Swift, Washington, Yellow Medicine. All counts <10 birds.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — [1 North, 1 South] Reported 7/4 Waseca PAL, 7/22–29 Grant (juvenile, North Ottawa Impoundment) †KTP, REn, RLF.
- White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chibi*) — [2 North, 1 South] Single birds reported 6/12–17 Clay (by Hawley) ph. †PBB, m.ob., 6/13–14 Watonwan (S. of Madelia) ph. STa, 7/29–30 Otter Tail (by Fergus Falls) ph. BAR.
- Plegadis ibis** (*Plegadis* sp.) — [1 North, 1 South] Singles seen 7/23–29 Grant (immature, North Ottawa Impoundment) m.ob., 7/27 Big Stone (Correll) †KJB.
- Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. First county breeding record 5/13 *Hennepin* CBt.
- Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [27 North, 25 South] Observed in all regions, including Rock in Southwest and Martin in South-central, where habitat limited.
- Northern Harrier** (*Circus hudsonius*) — [32 North, 33 South] Seen in all regions, but least often in southern third of state.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** (*Accipiter striatus*) — [13 North] Reported From North-Central, Northeast, plus Kanabec, Morrison, Todd.
- Note:** Undocumented summer reports south are excluded.
- Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [19 North, 40 South] Observed throughout state.
- Northern Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [6 North] Found in Cook, Hubbard, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis, and first county breeding record 7/2 *Carlton* FFA.
- Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [34 North, 52 South] Seen in all counties. First county breeding records: 4/25 *Murray* KEM,



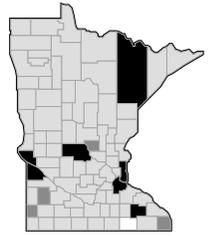
Hairy Woodpecker



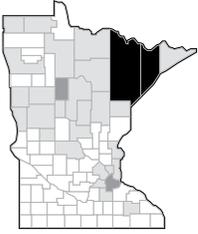
Northern Flicker



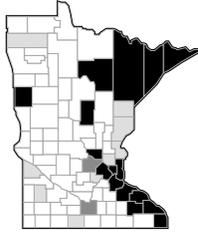
Pileated Woodpecker



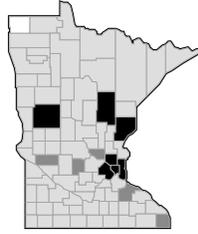
American Kestrel



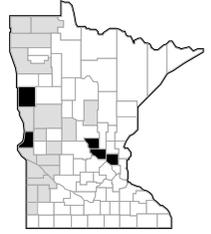
Merlin



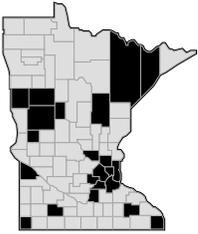
Peregrine Falcon



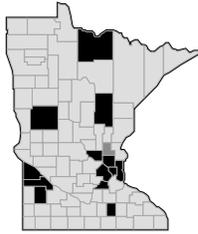
Great Crested Flycatcher



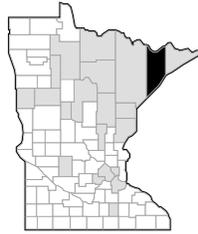
Western Kingbird



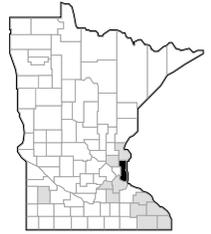
Eastern Kingbird



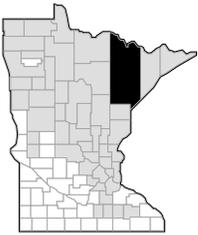
Eastern Wood-Pewee



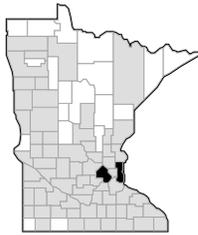
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher



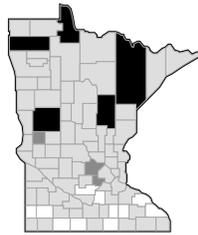
Acadian Flycatcher



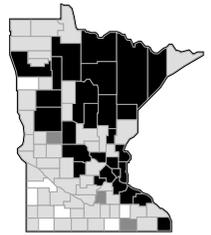
Alder Flycatcher



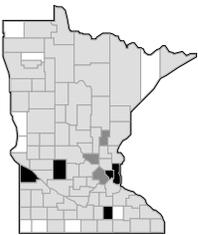
Willow Flycatcher



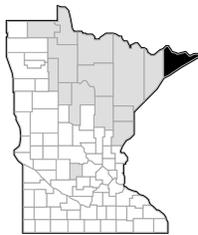
Least Flycatcher



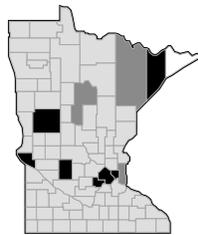
Eastern Phoebe



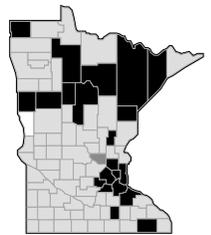
Yellow-throated Vireo



Blue-headed Vireo



Warbling Vireo

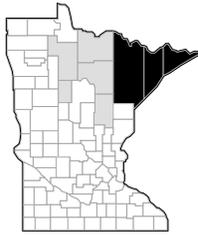


Red-eyed Vireo

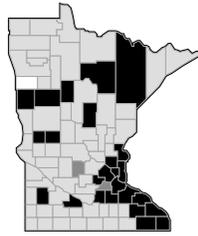
- 5/9 Rock LDW.
- Red-shouldered Hawk** (*Buteo lineatus*) — [16 North, 19 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest. Unusual location 6/23 Koochiching (Fiero Rd) JbS, ebd. First county breeding record 8/4 *Le Sueur* ChH.
- Broad-winged Hawk** (*Buteo platypterus*) — [24 North, 23 South] Found in all regions. Unusual report 6/9 Lyon (Camden S.P.) †ASu.
- Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [3 North, 12 South] Seen in all western and southern regions.
- Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [33 North, 53 South] Seen in every county except Koochiching.
- Eastern Screech-Owl** (*Megascops asio*) — [10 South] Reported from Big Stone, Brown, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Dodge, Houston, Nobles, Renville, Scott, Washington, and a spring nesting record from Hennepin.
- Great Horned Owl** (*Bubo virginianus*) — [12 North, 25 South] Found statewide. First county breeding record 7/17 *Grant* CNn.
- Northern Hawk Owl** (*Surnia ulula*) — No reports.
- Barred Owl** (*Strix varia*) — [16 North, 30 South] Reported from all regions. First county breeding record 6/24 *Sherburne* APi.
- Great Gray Owl** (*Strix nebulosa*) — [1 North] Observed 7/17 St. Louis (2, Sax-Zim Bog Visitor Center) CIN.
- Long-eared Owl** (*Asio otus*) — [2 North] Found 6/16 Cook (Gunflint Lodge) ebd, 6/12, 7/7 St. Louis SLF, ebd.
- Short-eared Owl** (*Asio flammeus*) — No reports.
- Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*) — No reports.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [2 North] Reported from Cook, Lake, and a spring breeding record from St. Louis.
- Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [29 North, 53 South] Found in all counties except Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Traverse, Wilkin. High count 7/3 Wright (10, Crow River) ZSk.
- Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [22 North, 42 South] Seen statewide. First county breeding record 7/8 *Pipestone* VKI.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [25 North, 50 South] Reported from every region. High count 6/20 Dakota (9, Miesville Ravine P.R., point count) MJM.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus vari-*
us) — [33 North, 48 South] Observed throughout state.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [1 North] Found 6/5, 6/7, 6/19, 7/7, 7/23 St. Louis JPR, ebd.
- Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*) — [9 North] Seen in Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Roseau, St. Louis.
- Downy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates pubescens*) — [29 North, 53 South] Reported from every county except Kittson, Koochiching, Red Lake, Roseau, Wilkin. High count 7/21 Olmsted (12, Quarry Hill Nature Center) ebd.
- Hairy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates villosus*) — [29 North, 51 South] Observed throughout state.
- Northern Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*) — [34 North, 52 South] Found in every county except Renville. High count 7/30 Grant (13, North Ottawa Impoundment) CRA.
- Pileated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [31 North, 42 South] Reported statewide. Unusual for summer and away from the Minnesota River Valley in the Southwest: 6/22 **Rock** (Blue Mounds S.P.) ebd, 7/1 **Murray** (Lake Shetek S.P.) BEA, 7/15 **Lincoln** (Northern Tallgrass Prairie N.W.R.) RJS.
- American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) — [34 North, 52 South] Seen in all counties except Mower. First county breeding record 7/26 *Big Stone* KEm.
- Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*) — [21 North, 9 South] Reported from every region except Southwest. Interesting reports from S. Minneapolis of "Prairie" Merlin (*F. c. richardsonii*) 6/17 Hennepin (second-year male) †BAF, 7/4 Hennepin (after second-year male) BAF, suggest continuing breeding by this taxon and/or intergrades between *richardsonii* and nominate *columbarius* in the Twin Cities (**The Loon** 72:72–75, 75:132–134).
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) — [9 North, 17 South] Observed in all regions but primarily in counties along eastern border of state.
- Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) — [2 South] Found 6/27 **Rock** (Touch the Sky Prairie) ebd, 7/26 **Big Stone** LiH.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Kittson.
- Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [11 North, 12 South] Observed in all western re-



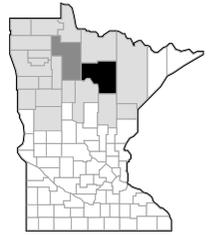
Loggerhead Shrike



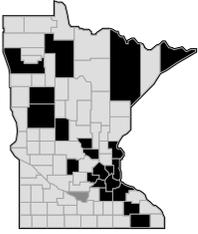
Canada Jay



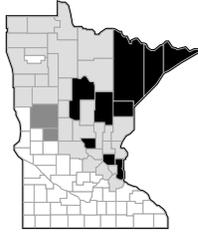
Blue Jay



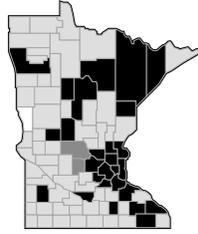
Black-billed Magpie



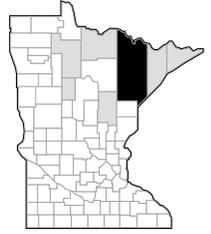
American Crow



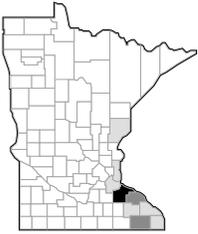
Common Raven



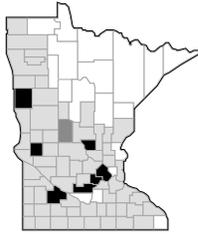
Black-capped Chickadee



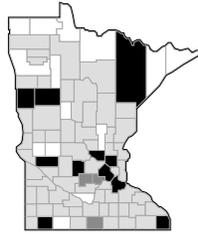
Boreal Chickadee



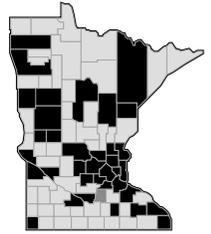
Tufted Titmouse



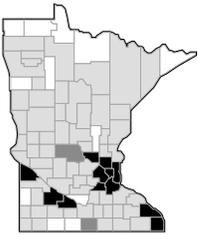
Horned Lark



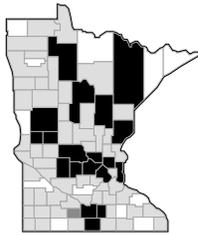
Bank Swallow



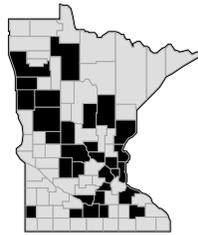
Tree Swallow



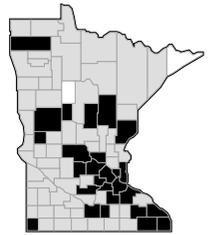
Northern Rough-winged Swallow



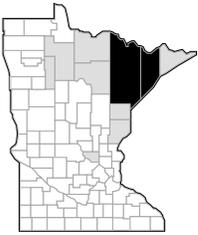
Purple Martin



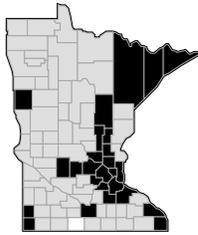
Barn Swallow



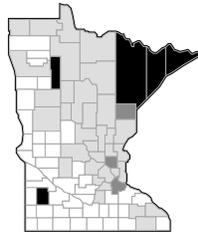
Cliff Swallow



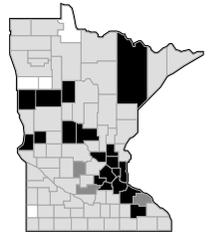
Golden-crowned Kinglet



Cedar Waxwing

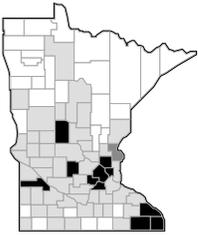


Red-breasted Nuthatch

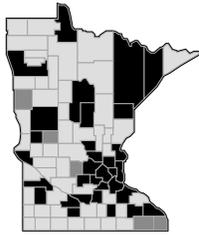


White-breasted Nuthatch

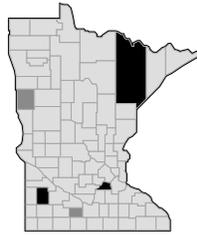
- gions plus Anoka, Benton, Crow Wing, Sherburne, Todd.
- Eastern Kingbird** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in every county. First county breeding record 8/3 Cottonwood GWe. High count 6/26 Sherburne (19, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) ebd.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) — [2 South] Seen 6/8 **Benton** (C.R. 15 just west of C.R. 58) †DOr, ph. †HHD, 6/30 **Pipestone** (Woodstock) ph. RJS, ph. †KEm, †NMe, GWe.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** (*Contopus cooperi*) — [17 North, 14 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest. Late spring migrant (away from known breeding locations) 6/13 Isanti BAb. Potential fall migrant 7/28 Scott ebd. High counts 6/23 Koochiching (8, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd, 7/7 Lake (8, Lake Polly) ebd.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** (*Contopus virens*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in all counties. First county breeding records: 6/1 *Koochiching* ebd, 8/6 *Lac qui Parle* MEm, 7/14 *Yellow Medicine* GWe. High counts 6/24 Itasca (18, Lost 40 S.N.A.) JbS, ebd, 6/6 Scott (17, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BxP.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [15 North, 6 South] Reported from all regions except West-central, Southwest, Southeast. High counts 6/24 Beltrami (13, near Waskish) JbS, ebd, 6/4 Cook (8, Lima Mountain Trail) ASu.
- Acadian Flycatcher** (*Empidonax virescens*) — [12 South] Reported from East-central, Southeast, plus 7/8–17 **Lyon** (Garvin Park) a.t. ph. †RJS, m.ob., Rice, Scott.
- Alder Flycatcher** (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [30 North, 19 South] Found in all regions except Southwest. Late south migrants (vocalizing, away from known breeding range) 6/21 Olmsted (Chester Woods) LAV, 6/27 Carver (Lake Minnewashta R.P.) ebd. Potential fall migrant 7/31 Olmsted (calling “free-beer” at Suess W.M.A.) LAV. High counts 6/23 Koochiching (29, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd, 6/4 Cook (28, Lima Mountain Trail) ASu.
- Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*) — [17 North, 51 South] Found in all regions. Unusual location 6/21 – 7/19 St. Louis (West Duluth) †JLK, a.t. †PHS, m.ob. First county breeding record 7/29 Washington ECL.
- Least Flycatcher** (*Empidonax minimus*) — [34 North, 42 South] Reported statewide. High count 6/23 Koochiching (32, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd.
- Eastern Phoebe** (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [33 North, 47 South] Found in all counties except Cottonwood, Dodge, Freeborn, Lincoln, Nobles, Norman, Yellow Medicine.
- Say’s Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) — [3 North, 1 South] All reports: 6/4–24 Clay (Felton Prairie) TCL, †CmK, †SHo, m.ob., 6/12 – 7/27 Big Stone (2 adults, Big Stone Gravel Pits, fledged young photographed 8/2 BAB) †EzH, IsH, ASu, ph. KEm, m.ob., 6/26 Polk (Mentor Prairie) ph. RMD, 7/11 Traverse (C.R. 3, Browns Valley) GWe.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) — [1 North] Seen 6/6 Cook ph. †GFa.
- Bell’s Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) — [7 South] Reported from Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Rice, Scott, Wabasha, Washington.
- Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [29 North, 49 South] Found throughout state. First county breeding record 7/21 *Kandiyohi* JoS.
- Blue-headed Vireo** (*Vireo solitarius*) — [14 North, 1 South] Reported along and northeast of a line from Roseau and Clearwater to Pine, plus spring migrant 6/1 Meeker PKF. High count 6/23 Koochiching (18, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd.
- Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [3 North, 2 South] Observed in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, plus late south migrants 6/2 Isanti ebd, 6/3 Hennepin JST.
- Warbling Vireo** (*Vireo gilvus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Found in every county except Cook. High count 6/9 Hennepin (18, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) LAi. First county breeding record 7/30 *Kandiyohi* BHO.
- Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Wilkin. High counts 7/20 Carlton (58, Jay Cooke S.P.) AVa, 6/20 Aitkin (45, Hedbom Logging Road) ebd.
- Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [3 North, 9 South] Seen in scattered locations in all regions except Northeast, South-central. Unusual location 6/25 Crow Wing MJB.
- Canada Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [8 North] Seen in Aitkin, Beltrami, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis.
- Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Norman. High count 6/22 Wright (40, SE of



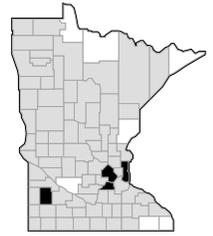
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



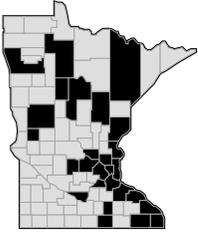
House Wren



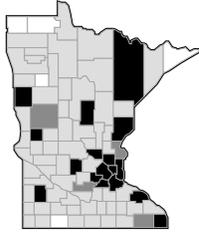
Sedge Wren



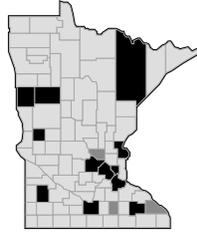
Marsh Wren



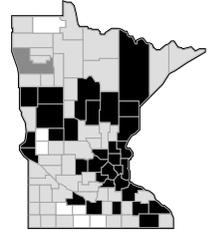
Gray Catbird



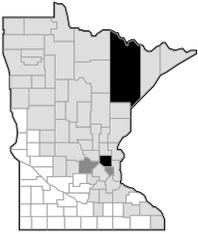
Brown Thrasher



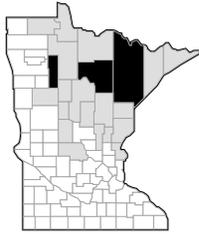
European Starling



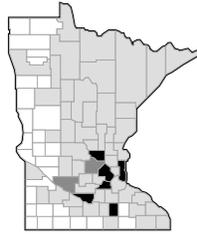
Eastern Bluebird



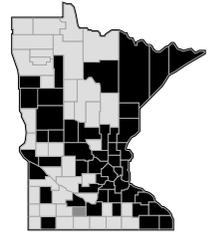
Veery



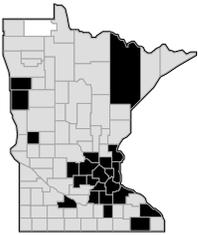
Hermit Thrush



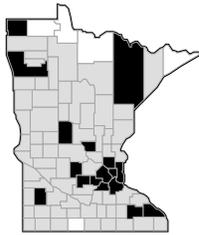
Wood Thrush



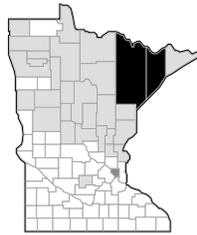
American Robin



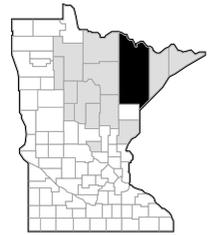
House Sparrow



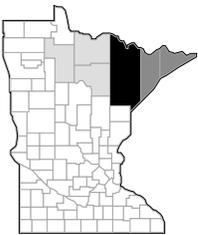
House Finch



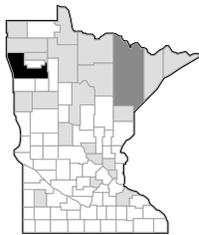
Purple Finch



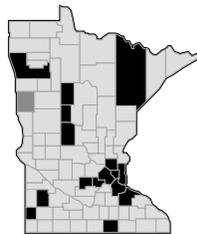
Red Crossbill



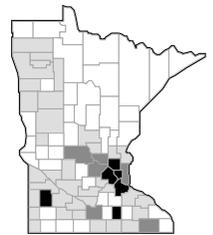
White-winged Crossbill



Pine Siskin



American Goldfinch



Lark Sparrow



American Pipit, 2 July 2020, Gooseberry Falls State Park, Lake County. Photo by Jack Sweno.



Northern Mockingbird, 27 June 2020, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County. Photo by Thomas Burns.

Clearwater) MLk. First county breeding record 7/18 Lyon GWe.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [21 North] Observed in all northern regions plus Otter Tail.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in all counties.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [30 North, 11 South] Reported along and north and east of a line from Clay to Douglas to Dakota. First county breeding record 6/2 Washington JPS.

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Wilkin. High count 7/24 Carver (36, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*) — [7 North] Observed in Aitkin, Beltrami, Cook, Hubbard, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [1 North, 7 South] Found in Dakota, Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Pine, Washington, Winona, and first county breeding record 7/9 Goodhue PEJ.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [21 North, 48 South] Seen in all central and southern regions and Northwest, plus Crow Wing, Wadena. High count 7/11 Stearns (36, Raymond Twp.) PCC. First county breeding records: 7/11 Benton RSk, 7/17 Redwood KEm, 7/4 Sibley KEm.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [24 North, 49 South] Seen in all regions. First county breeding record 7/5 Nobles KEm. High

counts 7/18 Lac qui Parle (500, 251st Ave, Bellingham) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu, 7/19 Big Stone (500, Correll) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High count 7/19 Big Stone (**3,000**, Correll) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu, who wrote, "The mudflats were packed with resting adult and juvenile TRES, with the horizon having 1000s more in the air at times."

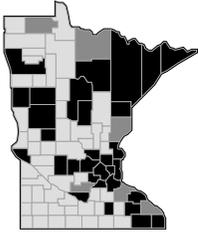
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [26 North, 49 South] Observed statewide. High count 7/12 Washington (40, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) AGU. First county breeding record 7/16 Redwood GWe.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [28 North, 47 South] Found in all regions.

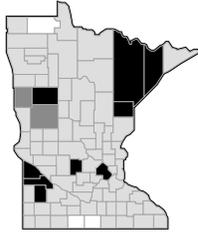
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [34 North, 53 South] Seen in all counties. High count 7/19 Big Stone (**500**, Correll) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [32 North, 53 South] Reported from every county except Cook, Hubbard. High count 7/29 Lyon (800 gathering for migration, Lone Tree Lake) GWe.

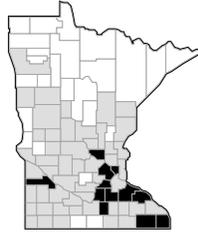
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula*) — [10 North, 1 South] Found in North-central, Northeast, plus Ramsey. Intriguing, almost daily reports of one singing **6/17 - 7/2** Ramsey (Tony Schmidt Park) a.t. LiH. High counts 6/24 Beltrami (**32**, S.R. 72, Waskish) JbS, ebd, 6/4 Cook (14, Lima Mountain Trail) ASu.



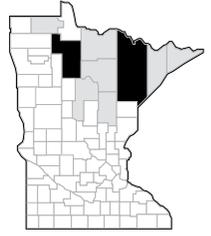
Chipping Sparrow



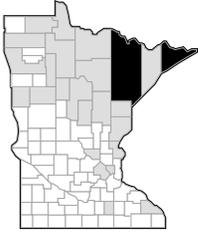
Clay-colored Sparrow



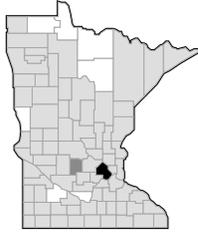
Field Sparrow



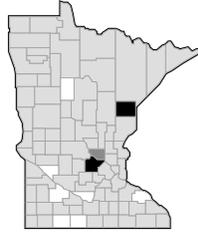
Dark-eyed Junco



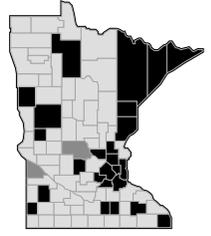
White-throated Sparrow



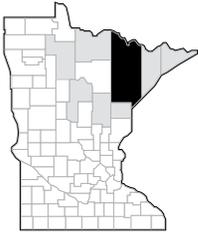
Vesper Sparrow



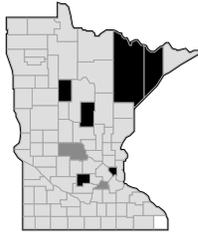
Savannah Sparrow



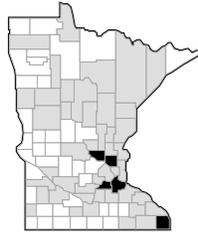
Song Sparrow



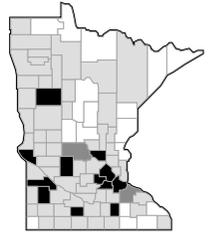
Lincoln's Sparrow



Swamp Sparrow



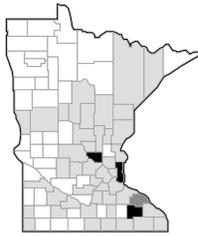
Eastern Towhee



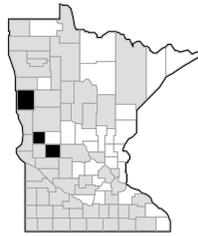
Yellow-headed Blackbird



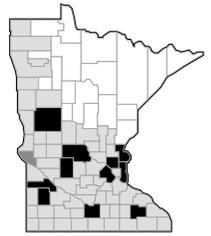
Bobolink



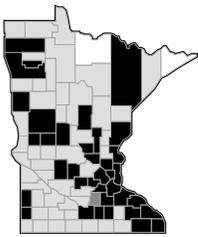
Eastern Meadowlark



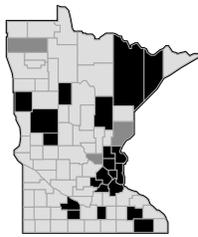
Western Meadowlark



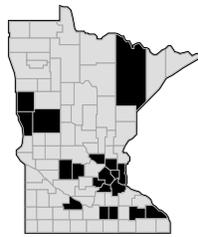
Orchard Oriole



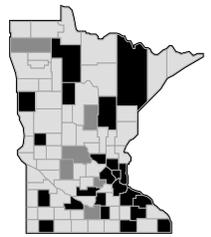
Baltimore Oriole



Red-winged Blackbird



Brown-headed Cowbird



Common Grackle



Prairie Warbler, 19 June 2020, Gordon Anderson R.A., Houston County. Photo by Craig Mandel.



Blue Grosbeak, 13 June 2020, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County. Photo by Linda Schwegman.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [9 North, 1 South] Reported from Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, Sherburne, St. Louis. High counts 7/7 St. Louis (**15**, C.R. 948, Cook) EKr, BSr, 6/23 Koochiching (12, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [34 North, 52 South] Reported from every county except Martin. High count 6/23 Koochiching (106, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd. First county breeding record 7/15 *Pipestone* VKI.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [23 North, 19 South] Reported from every region. First county breeding record 5/23 *Lyon* GWe. Unusual midsummer reports in Southeast: 6/14, 6/21 *Olmsted* (Whitewater W.M.A.) LAV, MiD, 6/26 *Winona* (Great River Bluffs S.P.) KEm, WCM, 6/27 *Fillmore* (Rushford Village) ToM. High count 6/23 Koochiching (**34**, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [31 North, 52 South] Found in every county except Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Norman, Pipestone. High count 6/27 *Cook* (25, Devil Track Canyon trail) HSm. First county breeding record 7/26 *Traverse* KEm.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [12 North, 5 South] Observed in North-central, Northeast, Central, East-central.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*) — [12 North, 47 South] Observed in all regions except Northeast. Unusual report 7/21–30 *Beltrami* (Lake Bemidji S.P.) JDS,

DPJ. First county breeding records: 7/26 *Meeker* PKF, 7/14 *Yellow Medicine* GWe.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties. High counts 7/18 *Meeker* (**35**, N. Fork Crow River by canoe, Kingston to Wright County line) MJB, 7/23 *Rice* (31, Nerstrand Big Woods S.P.) BHe.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) — [12 North] Found in all northern regions plus Pine. High count 6/23 Koochiching (**36**, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High count 6/25 *Aitkin* (40, MN 65, just S. of McGregor Marsh) JbS, ebd.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [30 North, 50 South] Reported statewide. High count 6/28 *Marshall* (40, Agassiz N.W.R.) ebd. First county breeding record 7/4 *Scott* BxP.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [12 South] Found in Central, East-central, South-central, Southeast. New county record 7/7–12 **Renville** (Vicksburg C.P.) a.t. GWe, a.t. KEm, m.ob.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High count 7/17 *Washington* (**32**, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) JbS.

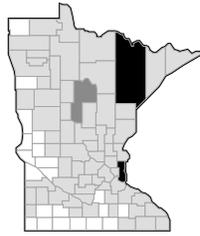
Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [30 North, 52 South] Found in all counties except Cook, Jackson, Kittson, Mahnomen, Roseau. High counts 7/17 *Washington* (**15**, Grey

- Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) JbS, 6/13 Sherburne (13, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) RCL.
- Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [2 North, 3 South] Observed in Anoka, Clay, Hennepin, Polk, Washington.
- European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [34 North, 53 South] Seen in all counties.
- Eastern Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*) — [32 North, 48 South] Reported statewide. First county breeding record 7/18 *Traverse* DLP.
- Veery** (*Catbarus fuscescens*) — [31 North, 23 South] Found everywhere except Southwest.
- Swainson's Thrush** (*Catbarus ustulatus*) — [14 North] Observed in North-central, Northeast, plus Douglas, Ramsey. High count 6/23 Koochiching (**24**, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd.
- Hermit Thrush** (*Catbarus guttatus*) — [20 North, 2 South] Reported from all northern regions plus Chisago, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, Stearns, Todd.
- Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [22 North, 36 South] Found in all regions. First county breeding record 6/11 *Sherburne* APi. High counts 6/24 Itasca (**12**, Lost 40 S.N.A.) JbS, ebd, 7/11 Washington (**12**, William O'Brien S.P.) SLP.
- American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties.
- House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Observed in all counties except Roseau.
- EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) — [1 North] Continuing from spring 6/1–4, 6/17 Lake (Two Harbors) ph. JtE, CLR, KWR, JWJ, SLL, ASu, DFe, ebd.
- American Pipit** (*Antibus rubescens*) — [1 North] Seen 7/2 Lake (Gooseberry Falls S.P.) ph. JkS.
- Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [4 North] Seen in Carlton, Cook, Lake, St. Louis.
- House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) — [30 North, 52 South] Reported in all regions. First county breeding record 5/29 *Kittson* CRM. High count 7/20 Hennepin (40, Father Hennepin Bluffs) ebd.
- Purple Finch** (*Haemorhous purpureus*) — [27 North, 4 South] Found in all northern and central regions. High count 7/22 St. Louis (20, farm in Meadowlands Twp.) IaG.
- Red Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [13 North, 1 South] Observed in North-central, Northeast, and Pine, plus unusual report of 2 juveniles 6/15 Benton (Benton Beach Park) ph. DOR.
- White-winged Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [6 North] Reported from Beltrami, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis. First county breeding record: 5/23 *St. Louis* AXH.
- Pine Siskin** (*Spinus pinus*) — [16 North, 7 South] Found in every region except West-central, South-central. First county breeding record 6/10 *Polk* SAU.
- American Goldfinch** (*Spinus tristis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in all counties. First county breeding record 8/12 *Wadena* ebd.
- Chestnut-collared Longspur** (*Calcarius ornatus*) — No reports.
- Grasshopper Sparrow** (*Ammodramus sava-narum*) — [18 North, 47 South] Reported from all regions. Unusual locations 6/17 – 7/11 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) MSS, †JLK, a.t. PHS, m.ob., 7/6 Itasca (3, Cohasset) BSr, EKr. High count 7/2 Sherburne (**25**, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) ebd.
- Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [11 North, 36 South] Observed along and south of a line from Marshall to Chisago. High count 7/18 Norman (8, Twin Valley W.T.P.) HeH, ShG. First county breeding records: 8/1 *Lyon* GWe, 6/27 *Steele* PSu.
- Chipping Sparrow** (*Spizella passerina*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in every county.
- Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*) — [33 North, 51 South] Reported from all counties except Faribault, Martin, Roseau. High count 6/4 Clay (20, Bluestem Prairie S.N.A.) ebd. First county breeding records: 6/23 *Meeker* MJB, 7/1 *Yellow Medicine* GWe.
- Field Sparrow** (*Spizella pusilla*) — [13 North, 49 South] Found along and south of a line from Polk to Carlton. First county breeding record 7/10 *Waseca* CRM. High counts 7/19 Big Stone (**30**, Big Stone Lake S.P., Bonanza Prairie) EzH, CLR, KWR, ASu, 6/20 Carver (22, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy.
- Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) — [9 North] Observed in Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Roseau, St. Louis. High count 6/24 Beltrami (7, S.R. 72, Washish) JbS, ebd.
- White-throated Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [19 North, 6 South] Reported from normal summer range in all northern regions, East-central, plus Sherburne. Late

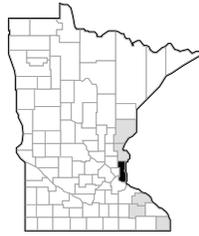
- spring migrants **6/20** Steele NFT, **6/22–23** Winona †ToM. High counts 6/23 Koochiching (**200**, Fiero Road) JbS, ebd, 6/4 Cook (40, Lima Mountain Trail) ASu. Probable fall migrant **7/16** Ramsey ph. JmS.
- Vesper Sparrow** (*Poocetes gramineus*) — [29 North, 51 South] Found in all regions. Unusual location 6/4 Cook (Lima Mountain Trail) ASu.
- LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza leconteii*) — [25 North, 8 South] Observed in all northern and central regions plus 7/15 **Rock** (4, Touch the Sky Prairie) ph. KEm.
- Nelson's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza nelsoni*) — [2 North] All reports: 6/4, 6/27 Clay (Gruhl State W.M.A.) PBB, ASu, 7/18 Kittson (C.R. 7, Halma) SAU.
- Henslow's Sparrow** (*Centronyx henslowii*) — [6 North, 27 South] Reported in scattered locations in every region except Northeast. Unusual location 7/13 **Red Lake** (TNC tract E of S.R. 32) MJB. New county record 7/18 **Wadena** (Leaf River Road) KEM.
- Savannah Sparrow** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [33 North, 47 South] Found statewide.
- Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties. High counts 7/19 St. Louis (56, Waabizheshikana) JLK, 6/14 Anoka (51, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) RCL.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [8 North] Reported from North-central, Northeast. High count 6/24 Beltrami (**20**, Big Bog S.R.A.) JbS, ebd.
- Swamp Sparrow** (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [34 North, 52 South] Found in every county except Houston. High counts 6/20 Anoka (**39**, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS, 6/25 St. Louis (23, Sax-Zim Bog, Admiral Road) JLK. First county breeding record 7/1 *McLeod* MJB.
- Eastern Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [18 North, 31 South] Reported from all regions. High counts 6/16 Sherburne (**36**, Sherburne N.W.R., Blue Hill Trail) ToL, 6/13 Sherburne (**26**, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) RCL.
- Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Icteria virens*) — [5 South] All reports: 6/4 Anoka (Cedar Creek) ph. KrC, 6/15–27 Winona (2, Great River Bluffs S.P.) ph. ToM, m.ob., possibly continuing from spring through 6/24 Wabasha PEJ, 7/2–23 Waseca (Senn-Rich W.M.A.) a.t. PSU,
- ph. PAL, m.ob., 7/5–13 Redwood (Cedar Rock W.M.A.) ASu, DnS, †JGW, ph. GWe.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [23 North, 47 South] Reported from all regions. High counts 7/29 Grant (**500**, North Ottawa Impoundment) REn, RLF.
- Bobolink** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [34 North, 50 South] Observed in every county except Goodhue, Jackson, Wabasha. First county breeding record 7/5 *Sibley* AXH. High count 7/13 Rice (**75**, Prairie Creek W.M.A., Koester Prairie Unit) GHO.
- Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna*) — [13 North, 34 South] Found in all regions except Northwest. High counts 7/1 Hennepin (16, Crow-Hassan P.R.) DCK.
- Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [21 North, 39 South] Reported from every region. High count 6/3 Clay (17, Felton Prairie) ebd.
- Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*) — [16 North, 53 South] Observed in all regions except North-central, Northeast. Exceptional report of 21 juveniles, adult males, first-year males and females flocking for migration 7/14 Yellow Medicine (**32**, Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) GWe; congruent with past “summer” high counts was 6/22 Pipestone (**11**, Pipestone N.M.) GWe.
- Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*) — [32 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Cook, Koochiching.
- Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in all counties.
- Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in every county. Parasitized species included Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, American Robin, House Finch, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting. First county breeding record 7/2 *Waseca* PSU.
- Rusty Blackbird** (*Euphagus carolinus*) — No reports.
- Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [30 North, 26 South] Seen in all regions but least frequently in southern regions. High counts 7/29 Morrison (**70**, Mc-



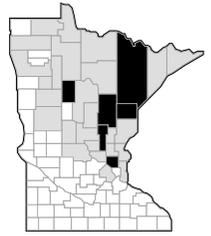
Great-tailed Grackle



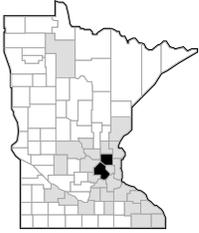
Ovenbird



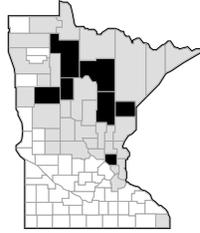
Louisiana Waterthrush



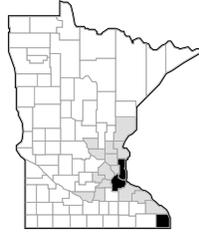
Golden-winged Warbler



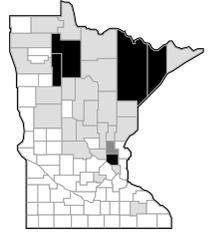
Blue-winged Warbler



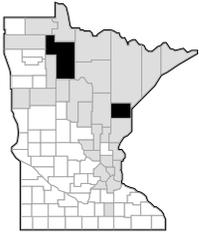
Black-and-white Warbler



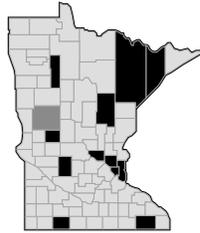
Prothonotary Warbler



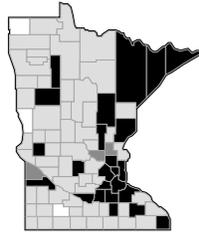
Nashville Warbler



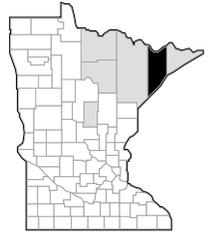
Mourning Warbler



Common Yellowthroat



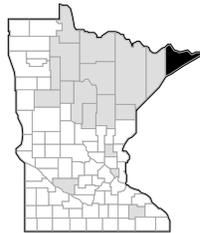
American Redstart



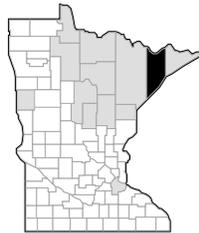
Cape May Warbler



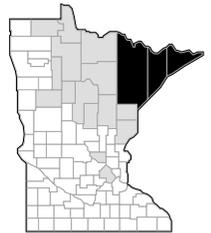
Cerulean Warbler



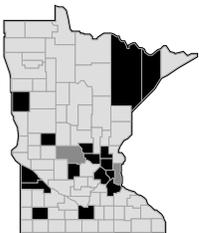
Northern Parula



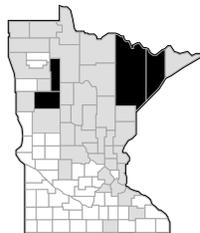
Magnolia Warbler



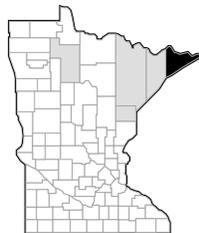
Blackburnian Warbler



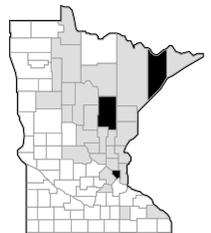
Yellow Warbler



Chestnut-sided Warbler



Black-throated Blue Warbler



Pine Warbler

- Dougall Homestead) MhJ, 7/6 Todd (45, Staples, Airport Rd Pedestrian Path) ebd.
- Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties.
- Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — [3 South] Seen 6/6 Watonwan (Madelia) MWS, ebd, 6/26 Nobles (Worthington Rest Area, Hwy 60) ebd, 7/4 Jackson (Lakefield) DnS, ASu.
- Ovenbird** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [29 North, 37 South] Reported from all regions. High count 6/20 Aitkin (36, Hedbom Logging Trail Rd) ebd.
- Louisiana Waterthrush** (*Parkesia motacilla*) — [1 North, 5 South] Found in Chisago, Houston, Olmsted, Pine (Banning S.P.), Wabasha, Washington
- Northern Waterthrush** (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) — [17 North, 3 South] Reported from all northern regions plus Anoka, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Pine, Wright. High count 6/23 Koochiching (29, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd.
- Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysop-tera*) — [24 North, 8 South] Reported from all northern and central regions. High counts 6/9 Pine (15, Saint Croix S.P.) TJo, ebd, 6/5 St. Louis (11, Sax-Zim Bog) KWR.
- Blue-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) — [2 North, 26 South] Found in all southern regions, Central, East-central, plus 6/2 **Beltrami** (Bemidji) †RMr. High counts 6/5 Carver (12, Carver P.R., Grimm Rd. Area) JCy, 6/6 Scott (11, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BxP.
- Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*) — [27 North, 11 South] Observed in all northern and central regions plus (late migrant?) 6/6 Houston ASu. Astonishing count 6/23 Koochiching (98, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd. First county breeding record 7/12 Hubbard FFa.
- Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [1 North, 17 South] Reported from Central, East-central, South-central, Southeast. Unusual report 6/16 **Benton** (2, Bend in the River C.P.) MJJB.
- Tennessee Warbler** (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) — [9 North, 5 South] Migrants found in widely scattered locations, territorial birds in North-central, Northeast. Spring migrants 6/3 Lyon GWe, Ramsey ebd. Fall migrants: early south 7/21 Hennepin MZa, 7/25 Ramsey ebd. High count 6/4 Lake (18, Whyte Rd / Stony River F.R.) ASu.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Leiothlypis celata*) — [1 North] Seen 7/16 Itasca (Dunning L.) EEO.
- Nashville Warbler** (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*) — [23 North, 6 South] Reported from all northern and central regions plus late spring migrant 6/6, 6/9 Olmsted (Oxbow Park) ebd. High counts 6/23 Koochiching (209, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd, 6/3 Carlton (50, Ditchbank Road) ASu.
- Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*) — [8 North, 1 South] Found in all northern regions, plus late spring migrant 6/4 Hennepin CMB. High count 6/24 Beltrami (5, S.R. 72, near Waskish) JbS, ebd.
- Mourning Warbler** (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) — [20 North, 10 South] Reported north and east of a line from Clay to Scott plus migrant in Steele. Difficult to separate late migrants from territorial birds in Twin Cities Metro Area, but one was monitored closely all season in Ramsey (Vadnais Lake) LiH, EzH, IsH. High count 6/23 Koochiching (43, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER** (*Geothlypis formosa*) — [1 South] Reported 6/20–22 Anoka (Locke Park/Rice Creek West Regional Trail) CF, RMD, DWK, †EzH, m.ob.
- Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High count 7/11 Sherburne (59, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) RCL.
- Hooded Warbler** (*Setophaga citrina*) — [1 North, 5 South] Found in Chisago, Dakota, Morrison, Scott, Sherburne, Washington.
- American Redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [32 North, 52 South] Reported from all counties except Cottonwood, Kittson, Wilkin. First county breeding record 7/14 *Yellow Medicine* GWe. High count 6/5 Clay (45, Buffalo River S.P.) RSw, GMd.
- Cape May Warbler** (*Setophaga tigrina*) — [6 North] Seen in Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis. High count 6/4 Lake (28, Whyte Rd / Stony River F.R., exact count of singing individuals) ASu.
- Cerulean Warbler** (*Setophaga cerulea*) — [14 South] Reported from Central, East-central, South-central, Southeast.
- Northern Parula** (*Setophaga americana*) —

[14 North, 4 South] Found in all northern regions plus late spring migrant 6/19 Ramsey ebd, and probable fall migrants 7/7 Renville (Skalbekken C.P.) GWe, 7/19 Olmsted ebd, 7/27 Isanti MHe. High count 6/23 Koochiching (10, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd.

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) — [12 North, 1 South] Found in North-central, Northeast plus late spring migrants 6/3 Dakota ebd, 6/14 Clay MO. High counts 6/4 Cook (20, Lima Mountain Trail) ASu, 6/4 Cook (18, South Brule and Lima Grade Roads) ASu.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) — [8 North] Observed in Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) — [16 North, 2 South] Reported from all northern regions and Hennepin, Pine, Sherburne. High counts 6/3 Carlton (16, Ditchbank Road) ASu, 6/23 Koochiching (15, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd. Fall migrant 7/29 Hennepin ZSk.

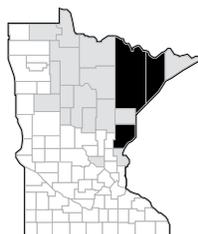
Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in all counties. High counts 6/13 Sherburne (40, Sherburne N.W.R.) RCl, ebd, 6/14 Anoka (38, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) RCl. First county breeding records: 6/14 Murray CMc, 7/14 Yellow Medicine GWe.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) — [27 North, 14 South] Reported from every region except Southwest. Southeast of normal breeding range were up to 3 singing males maintaining territories through 7/1 Olmsted (Chester Woods) LAV, m.ob. Late spring migrants 6/5 Goodhue RZi, Freeborn ebd. High counts 6/23 Koochiching (62, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd, 6/3 Carlton (22, Ditchbank Road) ASu.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) — [2 North, 1 South] Late spring migrants 6/1 Hennepin DCZ, 6/3 Cook KWR, 6/4 Lake ASu.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caeruleascens*) — [5 North] Found in Beltrami (Big Bog S.R.A.), Carlton (6/3, migrant), Cook, Lake, St. Louis.

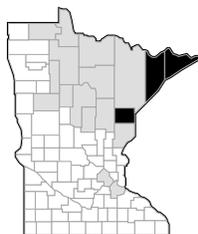
Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) — [8 North] Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Carl-



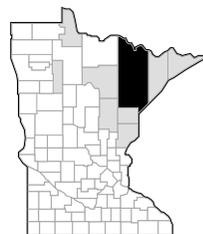
Yellow-rumped Warbler



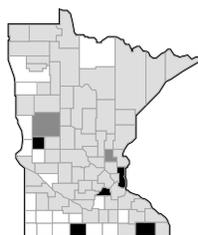
Yellow-throated Warbler



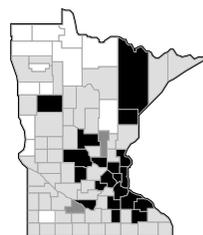
Black-throated Green Warbler



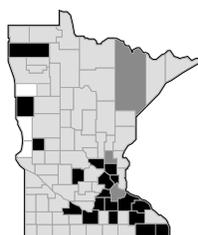
Canada Warbler



Scarlet Tanager



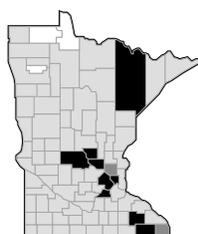
Northern Cardinal



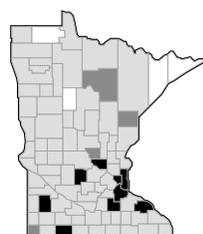
Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Blue Grosbeak



Indigo Bunting



Dickcissel

ton, Cass, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis. High count 6/24 Beltrami (20, Big Bog S.R.A.) JbS, ebd.

Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) — [18 North, 12 South] Found in all northern regions, Central, East-central, plus 6/1–15 Dodge (Mantorville) DWK, m.ob., 6/6 – 7/26 Winona (2, Great River Bluffs S.P.). High counts 6/17 Cass (11, Chippewa N.F., Cass Lake) JHd, SHd, 6/12 Clearwater (10, Itasca S.P., Wilderness Drive) DPW, 6/29 Crow Wing (10, Pine Cone Lane, Pequot Lakes) ebd. First county breeding record 8/4 Lake ebd.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) — [16 North, 2 South] Reported from all northern regions and Chisago, Pine, 6/8 Sherburne ebd. High count 6/24 Beltrami (18, S.R. 72, Waskish) JbS, ebd.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Setophaga dominica*) — [2 South] Continuing from spring (though not formally reported since 5/16 and 5/23, respectively), 6/13–20 Houston (2, Reno) KHg, ToM, †JGW, m.ob., 6/13 – 7/20 Ramsey (Vadnais L.) EzH, LiH, ph. †PRH, m.ob. First county breeding record 7/7 Ramsey †EzH.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*) — [1 South] Found 6/6–28 Houston (Gordon Anderson R.A.) FFa, ph. †LBa, ph. †KvM; a.t. and ph. submitted by many to eBird.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) — [16 North, 2 South] Found in all northern regions plus late spring migrants 6/3 Dakota MAK, 6/11 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bluff Trails) CIB, 6/12 Hennepin (Minneapolis, Longfellow neighborhood) PRH, 6/26 Hennepin (Minneapolis, Howe neighborhood) DCZ (*The Loon* 92:85–86). High counts 6/23 Koochiching (42, Fiero Road, 4.9 miles surveyed by foot in 10.5 hrs) JbS, ebd, 6/27 Cook (18, Devil Track Canyon Trail) HSm.

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) — [9 North] Reported from Aitkin, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Pine, St. Louis. High counts 7/4 Lake (16, Knife River Hiking Trail) GMd, RSw, 6/4 Cook (14, Lima Mountain Trail) ASu, 6/4 Cook (12, South Brule and Lima Grade Roads) ASu.

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) — [7 North] Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, plus apparent migrants 6/3 Carlton ASu, 6/14



Mallard ducklings, 7 July 2020, Richfield, Hennepin County. Photo by Linda Schwegman.

Cass ebd, 6/24 Beltrami (Washkish) JbS, ebd, 7/4 Hubbard (Akeley) ebd.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [1 North, 1 South] Single adult males 6/2–18 Scott (continuing from spring at Murphy-Hanrahan P.R.) CRM, KSz, m.ob., 6/17 Crow Wing (Crow Wing S.P.) †SHo.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [29 North, 39 South] Found throughout state. First county breeding records: 7/18 Grant AXH, 6/20 Martin EzH. High count 6/25 Scott (8, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [22 North, 52 South] Reported from all regions. First county breeding record 6/29 Carlton HTr. High counts 7/12 Scott (17, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BxP, 7/21 Olmsted (17, Quarry Hill N.C.) ebd.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [31 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Norman, Traverse, Wilkin. High count 6/1 Carver (12, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [20 South] Found in all central regions, Southwest, South-central. Unusual report 6/28 – 7/31+ Scott (Shakopee Sioux Mdewakanton Community) WCM, m.ob. Nested again in Hennepin (Flying Cloud Fields).

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [31 North, 53 South] Reported from every county but Lake of the Woods, Red Lake, Roseau.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [30 North, 53 South] Found in every region as far north as Marshall and Kittson in Northwest, Lake of the Woods and Koochiching in North-central. High count 7/1 Pipestone (67, unduplicated 4-hour count in east-central and south-eastern parts of county) RAE.

Contributors

AaL	Aaron Ludwig	EBy	Earl Bye	KTP	Kyle Te Poel	RMr	Richard Moore
AAz	Adrian Azar	ECI	Elizabeth Closmore	KvM	Kevin Manley	RMS	Rose M. Shea
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ADS	Andrew D. Smith	ELC	Erik Collins	LAV	Lance A. Vrieze	RSW	Rose Swift
AEB	Al E. Batt	EMH	Beth Hamel	LBa	Lon Baumgardt	RZI	Roy Zimmerman
AGu	Arjun Guneratne	EPa	Elijah Parker	LDW	Laurie Dewispelaere	SaM	Sarah Mallory
AMe	Allan Meadows	EZH	Ezra Hosch	LGI	Lynn Glesne	SAU	Sandy Aubol
ANy	Andrew Nyhus	FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	LHI	Luke Hollander	SC	Shawn Conrad
APi	Aaron Pietsch	FFa	Frank Fabbro	LiH	Liz Harper	SDz	Steve Dietz
ASu	Alex Sundvall	GFa	Greg Fangel	LMS	Larry Sirvio	SES	Steven E. Schon
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AXH	Anthony X. Hertzog	GMd	Garrett MacDonald	LVD	Lois Van Dyke	SHd	Susan Hengeveld
AyS	Andy Stepniewski	GrS	Gregg Severson	MAJ	Mark Junghans	SHg	Shawn Goodchild
BAb	Brad Abendroth	GWe	Garrett Wee	MAJ	Matthew Jensen	SHo	Steven C. Houdek
BAF	Bruce A. Fall	HCT	Howard Towle	MAK	Michael A. Koutnik	SLC	Steve L. Carlson
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BEA	Ben E. Anderson	HHu	Heidi Hughes	MhJ	Murdoch A. Johnson	SLP	Susan Plankis
BHa	Bernice Hall	HSm	Hamp Smith	MiA	Michael Degerstrom	SPS	Steve Stucker
BHe	Bonnie Heinecke	IaG	Ian Galeski	MIO	Michael Oetken	SSc	Susan Schumacher
BHo	Bill Hohengarten	IsH	Isaac Hosch	MJB	Milton J. Blomberg	STa	Sarah Taylor
BHw	Brian Hawkins	IvA	Ise Varghese	MJM	Michael J. Majeski	STW	Sylvia T. Winkelman
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BRt	Bryan Tucker	JbS	Jacob Socolar	MLH	Michael Hendrickson	TAT	Tom A. Tustison
BSa	Brian Sandstrom	JCJ	Judy Johnson	MLk	Mike Lehrke	TaW	Tammy Wolfe
BSr	Ben Sanders	JCy	John Cyrus	MMK	Matthew Maciosek	TCL	Tim Lamey
BTS	Brian T. Smith	JDS	Jill D. Sadler	MPS	Midwest Peregrine Society	TGI	Tom Gilde
BxP	Beatrix Pond	JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski	MSS	Mark Sparky Stensaas	TJo	Tim Johnson
CBt	Carla Bates	JGW	Joshua G Watson	MtS	Matthew Scott	ToL	Tony Lau
CHd	Chad Heins	JH	Jim Hughes	MTW	Mark Tacke	ToM	Todd Mitchell
CIB	Cole Bauer	JHd	Jim Hengeveld	MWS	Michael W. Sack	TPW	Terry Wiens
CLR	Cindy Risen	JHv	James Hovey	MZa	Mathew Zappa	VKI	Valerie Klumper
CLu	Cooper Ludwig	JKS	Jack Sweno	NaH	Nancy Henke	WCM	William C. Marengo
CMB	Conny M. Brunell	JLk	Jan & Larry Kraemer	NFT	Nels F. Thompson	WPI	Wayne Perala
CMc	Chris McCreedy	JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppur	NHa	Nina Hale	ZSk	Zach Strunk
CMk	Chris Merkord	JMs	Janet Majerus	NMe	Nolan Meyer		
CNn	Charlene Nelson	JMy	James Mccoy	PAI	Pam Albin		
CRa	Curt Rawn	JOs	Jason Osowski	PBB	Patrick B. Beauzay		
CRM	Craig R. Mandel	JoS	Joel Schmidt	PCC	Philip C. Chu	C.P.	County Park
DAB	Dave Bartkey	JPE	John P. Ellis	PEB	Paul E. Budde	C.R.	County Road
DAh	Dan Ahlman	JPR	John P. Richardson	PEJ	Paul E. Jantscher	F.R.	Forest Road
DAY	Dale A. Yerger	JPS	Julian Sellers	PHS	Peder H. Svingen	N.C.	Nature Center
DBF	Deborah Buria-Falkowski	JSc	John Schladweiler	PJB	Paul J. Binek	N.F.	National Forest
DBz	Dedrick Benz	JST	Joel Schwartz	PKF	Paul & Koni Fank	N.M.	National Monument
DCK	David Cieslak	JSu	Joey Sundvall	PLJ	Paul L. Johnson	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
DCK	David C. Keyes	JtE	Janet Ek	PNi	Peter Nichols	P.R.	Park Reserve
DCZ	David Zumeta	JWd	Josh Wallestad	PRH	Pete Hoeger	R.A.	Recreation Area
DFe	Deborah Fellows	JWH	John W. Hockema	PSk	Paul Schilke	R.P.	Regional Park
DFN	David F. Neitzel	JWL	James W. Lind	PSt	Pamela Stevenson	R.AE	State Forest
DLP	Douglas L. Pierzina	KCR	Kim & Cindy Risen	PSu	Paul Suchanek	S.N.A.	Scientific and Natural Area
DMz	Deborah Muzzy	KeL	Ken Larson	RAE	Ronald A. Erpelding	S.P.	State Park
DnS	Dana Sterner	KEM	Kimberly A. Emerson	RBJ	Robert B. Janssen	S.R.	State Road
DOR	Dan Orr	KHg	Kevin Halling	RBW	Bob Williams	Twp.	Township
DPG	Dan & Pam Guynn	KIs	Karl Isely	RCI	Richard Clearman	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
DPI	Darcy Pinotti	KJB	Karl J. Bardon	REH	Robert E. Holtz	W.T.P.	Wastewater Treatment Ponds
DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	KMS	Kenneth M. Schumacher	REn	Becca Engdahl		
DPW	Dennis P. Wiesenborn	KOC	Kevin O'Connor	RJS	Roger Schroeder		
DRL	Demelza Larson	KrC	Kirsti Carr	RJW	Robert Watson		
DSh	Douglas Shaw	KRE	Kim R. Eckert	RLF	Robert L. Freeman		
DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	KSz	Kieran Schwartz	RMD	Robert M. Dunlap		

Abbreviations

C.P.	County Park
C.R.	County Road
F.R.	Forest Road
N.C.	Nature Center
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.R.	Park Reserve
R.A.	Recreation Area
R.P.	Regional Park
R.AE	State Forest
S.N.A.	Scientific and Natural Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.	State Road
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	Wastewater Treatment Ponds



The Owl in the Attic

Hunting in Minnesota in the Seventies

Mary Wheelhouse Berthel

Excerpted from Berthel, Mary Wheelhouse. 1935. Hunting in Minnesota in the seventies. *Minnesota History* 16:259–271. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN. Reprinted with permission from the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN.

Even as long ago as the eighteen seventies, there were those among the older generation of sportsmen who were lamenting the decline in the abundance of game. The buffalo, the elk, and the antelope, that once roamed the Minnesota prairies in herds, were gone; and some of the smaller animals and game birds were decreasing in number. Charles Hallock, a famous sportsman of the day and the editor of *Forest and Stream*, on a visit to Minnesota in 1877, wrote:

“What a place for game was the ‘land of the Dakotahs’... twenty years ago.... On the grand old meadows around Fort Snelling, and within hail of the sentry, that old frontiersman, Gen. H. H. Sibley... shot woodcock by the bag full.... Norman Kittson and H. M. Rice, his contemporaries... and a score of gentle men a few years younger... could tell us of the ponderous strings of snipe and ducks they once brought in from the sloughs on the river bottoms, the Ruffed Grouse from the ridges, and the deer from the adjacent timber and open prairie. They would smoke up a twenty-five pound canister of “Vanity Fair” tobacco before their yarn was fully spun. It is somewhat different now in these days, when the locomotives of half a dozen railway lines rumble out continually, and all the country round about is daily walked over and beaten up by the resident gunners of a city that has become metropolitan.”

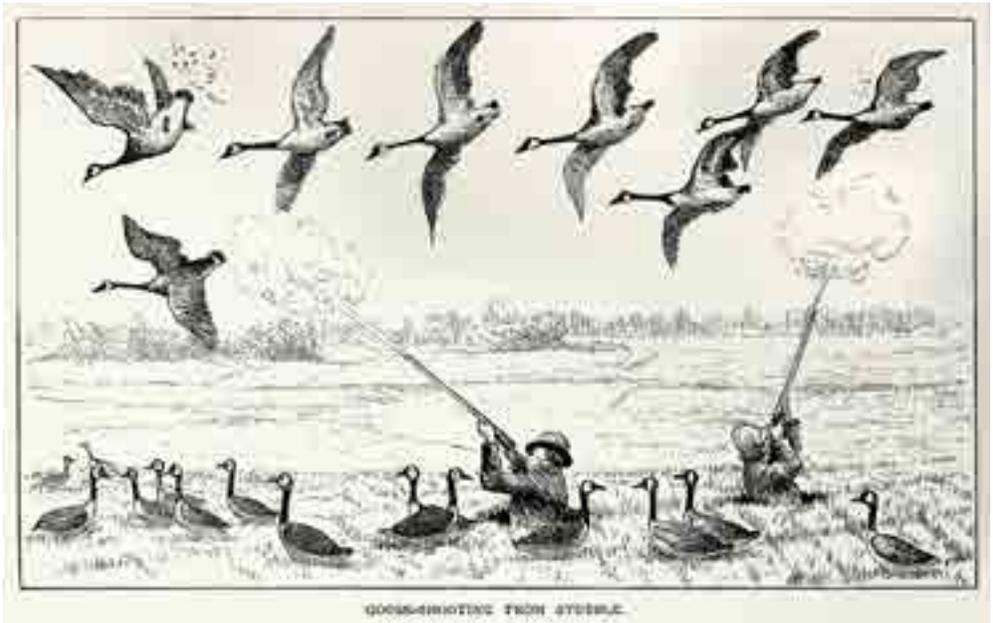
But to the sportsman of today, Minnesota in the seventies was a hunter’s paradise. Most of the game species that we have now were far more abundant then were some that have since become extinct, or very rare. Moose, now greatly diminished in number, were comparatively common in the denser forests of the

north, and now and then one wandered as far south as the vicinity of the Twin Cities. Caribou were fairly numerous in the counties along the northern border in the seventies; now there are in Minnesota only between thirty and forty of these animals, living in the bogs north and east of Upper Red Lake.

Ducks, geese, and snipe were everywhere plentiful, and were slaughtered by the thousands both in the spring and the fall. The tragic story of the utter destruction of the Passenger Pigeon, which still came in the seventies in immense, compact flocks that darkened the skies, is well known. The Sandhill Crane, which bred throughout the state, was hunted as a game bird and placed on sale in the markets of the larger cities. Plover, partridges, and prairie chickens were all abundant in the seventies, though the quail was probably not much more numerous than at present, and the Ring-necked Pheasant had not yet been introduced in the state. There are many references to pheasants and quail in Minnesota in the literature of the seventies, but this was due to the fact that many people called partridges “pheasants” or “quail.”

In accounts written by travelers in the state, in the files of *Forest and Stream* and other periodicals, and in newspapers of the time, one may find ample testimony to the abundance of game in Minnesota sixty years ago. A visitor to the state in 1871 wrote:

“In season whole cars full of game are shipped to other states; and the families that live here find it much cheaper to have pheasant, prairie chicken, wild duck, or venison on the table than to buy meat at the butcher shop.” A member of a party that hunted in Otter Tail County in 1875 wrote that at Deer Creek the



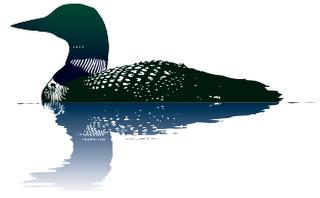
"prairie and stubble fields, seemingly as far as eye could reach, were literally alive with Sharp-tailed Grouse, hundreds and hundreds of them, some on the move, others standing perfectly still, watching us"; and at Parker's Prairie, a few miles farther south, grouse "were in myriads.... We shot grouse on the uplands, ducks and geese on the ponds, Ruffed Grouse in the thickets, more than we could use, more than we could give away." Another reported that in 1874 on the Red River flats ducks could "be found by the million. The shallow ponds, the streams, the larger lakes," he wrote, "are alive with them. It is no uncommon thing to see a thousand at once from the car window.... At times prairie chickens... are almost as abundant."

The Minnesota Valley was widely famed as a hunting country. A party hunting there in 1877 found the river bottom seven miles below Fort Ridgely "filled with partridges," and the neighboring prairies "alive with... chickens... running in immense flocks, some containing as many as two hundred birds." The same year a member of another party reported that in the Big Woods along the line of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, now the Great Northern, deer and Ruffed Grouse were very plentiful, and that prairie chickens were found in large numbers between Darwin and Hermann. Duck and geese shooting, he wrote, was excellent in the

neighborhood of Willmar.

The usual bag taken by a hunter in the seventies in a single day was not overwhelmingly large, considering the abundance of game; but that is not surprising, for, instead of the rapid-firing, repeating shotgun of today, he used a slow, single-shot weapon — usually muzzle-loading. The toll of game taken during a year, however, was tremendous, for there was no limit to the number of birds or animals that might be shot, and the open season was long. Game laws were not stringent nor well enforced. Minnesota's first game law, which was passed in 1858, prohibited the shooting of deer and elk for seven months during the year, and of Sharp-tailed Grouse, prairie chickens, partridges, and quail for five months. In 1871 a general game law was passed which established closed seasons for woodcock, prairie chickens, Sharp-tailed Grouse, quail, partridges, deer, and elk. Aquatic fowl were not protected until 1877, when the season was closed from May to September; it was not until 1901 that the spring shooting of water fowl was prohibited. While the game laws of this period carried penalties for their infringement, they failed to provide adequate machinery for their enforcement. There were no game wardens, and prosecutions could be made only on complaint before a justice of the peace.

Notes of Interest



TWO WHITE-WINGED DOVES IN LAKE COUNTY — During the afternoon of 20 May 2019, Isaac Hosch and I observed two White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) on the 300th block of 2nd Avenue in Two Harbors, Lake County. We were originally investigating an earlier report of a single White-winged Dove at this location. Both birds were seen in the same tree and associated with each other throughout the observation. After approximately ten minutes of resting on their perch, the birds flew east towards the shore of Lake Superior.

These birds were typical doves with small round heads and rotund bodies. The birds were similar in size to several nearby Mourning Doves (*Z. macroura*), but their tails were noticeably shorter. The plumage of these doves was mainly pale brown washed with gray throughout the head, back, and breast. Dark lines were formed on the lower parts of the ear coverts. Both White-winged Doves had black remiges, as well as black bases to the outer rectrices. White on the outer wing coverts and rectrix tips contrasted strongly with the rest of the plumage. The red eyes, blue orbital rings, and pink legs were prominent on both birds. I had no previous experience with this species, but identification was straightforward.

There were three additional records of White-winged Dove in Minnesota during the 2019 Spring Season, with two coming from Hennepin County and one from Faribault County (Budde et. al, 2019). In the fall of 2019, this species' status in Minnesota was changed from Casual to Regular (Tustison, 2019), with 37 records up to that point. Despite the increasing frequency of occurrence for this species in the state, this is the first Minnesota record involving multiple birds.

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- Budde, Paul E., Ezra M. Hosch, Doug W. Kieser, William C. Marengo, and Brian T. Smith. 2020. The 2019 Spring Season. *The Loon* 91:142–176.

— **Ezra Hosch, Mahtomedi, MN.**

YELLOW RAIL IN ANOKA COUNTY — Just after 10:30 P.M. on Friday, 15 May 2020, I found a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) at Pool 22 in the northeast part of Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in northeastern Anoka County. I first detected the bird as it responded to playback within ten seconds of projecting a recording from my iPhone. The bird gave the dry, mechanical “tik tik, tik-tik-tik” series that is typical of this species, with the final three notes given more rapidly than the preceding two. After giving this call three or four times in response to the initial playback, the bird went silent and I listened for roughly eight minutes without hearing it. After this listening period, I played the recording again, and again the bird vocalized in response three or four times before going silent. I listened for another eight minutes and then played the recording one more time, and the bird again responded as it had the previous two times following playback.

My intent in continuing to play the recording was to lure the bird in closer so that I could record it with my smart phone or, even more optimistically, see it, as I estimated the bird to be

at least 300m distant. Unfortunately, the bird remained distant during my observation and I was ultimately unable to record its vocalization. I alerted a few other birders to the rail's presence that night, and two were able to visit the location early on the morning of Saturday, 16 May at different times but only one of the observers was successful. While listening conditions on the night of 15–16 May were excellent with little wind and no precipitation, the following two nights were characterized by rain and strong winds that would have made detection difficult (especially of a distant individual), and not unexpectedly no observers were able to relocate the bird. Surprisingly, Josh Watson recorded vocalizations of what is assumed to be the same bird in the same location on the evening of 28 May, and several observers were subsequently able to hear it from 1 June through 3 June, the last day on which it was reported.

Although there are previous records of Yellow Rail at Carlos Avery WMA during spring migration from about late April through mid-May, this is the first record there since 2008 despite several recent years of listening efforts in early to mid-May that I and others have conducted.

Pool 22 is one of the remaining pools in the refuge that, on appearance, is composed of a good amount of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and is not yet as extensively invaded by cattails or woody vegetation. This may characterize the habitat as more favorable to Yellow Rails as the species closely associates with extensive sedge wetlands during the breeding season (Leston and Bookhout 2020), although little remains known about favored habitat during migration. In addition, prior to the rainfall that began on 16 May, most of the wetlands in the refuge had fairly low water levels, as the region hadn't seen significant precipitation since late March. Yellow Rails are known to be sensitive to changes in water levels (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2020), and thus in any given year suitable stopover habitat for the species may not be guaranteed at this location.

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— Robert M. Dunlap, St. Paul, MN.

STRANGE BEHAVIOR BY A PILEATED WOODPECKER — On 1 February 2021, I was sitting near a window when my attention was caught by a large, fast-moving, apparently black bird flying past. At once it was apparent that it was a Pileated Woodpecker — but what possessed him (or her)? It was flying rather like a snipe, dodging and darting this way and that, all around the yard. It was very fast and the display went on for 15–20 seconds. There were many changes of direction and altitude.

After this display, it settled on a tree trunk for a few seconds then went to the suet feeder. I was so amazed that I didn't check the sex of the bird; I looked around for another woodpecker, and/or a predator, but found none. This bird looked as if it were demented, or trying to escape a predator, but there appeared to be none, and certainly it was well ahead of any predator for I saw none. This is the first time I have seen this behavior from this species. We do have a pair that visit our feeders daily. There is also a Red-bellied Woodpecker that comes regularly, and one day I saw both species feeding together from our large hanging suet feeder. In the absence of a predator following it, I can only assume that the display was territorial. Perhaps it saw the Red-bellied as a competitor for the territory, but I did not see the latter, although it would have been easy to miss it.

— Jeanie Joppru, Thief River Falls, MN.

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Purpose of the M.O.U.

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

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



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

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

Suggestions to Authors

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



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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

It has recently come to the attention of the chair that a significant number of records previously voted on by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee ("MOURC") were never published. Therefore, this supplemental Proceedings article is being published to rectify this oversight.

The following records were voted on and were Accepted:

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) [Casual], 26 September 2020, Highway 26 Overlook, Houston County (record #2020-059, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 6 April 2020, Hamden Slough N.W.R., Becker County (record #2020-081, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) [Casual], 6-7 November 2020, Lake Bemidji, from the Paul Bunyan Bike Trail on the east side, Beltrami County (record #2020-069, vote 7-0). Apparent first winter male, photographed.

King Eider, 19 December 2020 - 23 January 2021, Good Harbor Bay and Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2020-076, vote 7-0). Female, photographed.

Ani sp. (*Crotophaga ani/sulcirostris*) [Accidental], 20 August 2020, Park Point, by Sky Harbor Airport, St. Louis County (record #2020-045, vote 5-2). Eleventh record of the genus with eight Accepted as Groove-billed Ani. Not Accepted at the species level (vote 2-5).

Black-necked Stilt, [Casual], 26 September 2020, Cupp's Slough, Lyon County (record #2020-060, vote 7-0). Four birds were accepted.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 18 August 2020, Stony Point, St. Louis County (record #2020-044, vote 7-0).

Red Knot, 7-10 September 2020, North Ottawa Impoundment, Grant County (record #2020-054, vote 7-0). Also seen in Traverse County 8 September 202. Juvenile, photographed.



Record #2020-067, Arctic Tern, 16 September 2016, near Bigelow, Nobles County. Photo by Neil Wingert.

Red Knot, 11 September 2020, Lone Tree Lake, Lyon County (record #2020-056, vote 7-0). Three birds were accepted.

Red Knot, 11 October 2020, Marsh Lake near Odessa, Big Stone County (record #2020-064, vote 6-1). Photographed.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) [Accidental], 8-13 September 2020, Black Rush Lake W.P.A., Lyon County (record #2020-055, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county and twelfth state record.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) [Casual], 26-29 September 2020, Minnesota side of Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-061, vote 7-0). Basic-plumaged adult, photographed.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) [Casual], 28 August 2020, Port Terminal, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-049, vote 6-1). Apparent late second-cycle or early third-cycle, photographed. The tenth state record and the second earliest southbound record.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [Casual], 16 September 2016, north end of Lake Bella near



Record #2021-049, Neotropic Cormorant, 13 July 2021, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County. Photo by Paul E. Budde.

Bigelow, Nobles County (record #2020-067, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed. First county record.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) [Accidental], 19 July 2020, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2020-082, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Ninth state record. This bird joined another Neotropic adult (see *The Loon* 92:93-94) which had been frequenting this location since 3 June 2020. As mentioned in the immediately preceding citation, both birds were seen simultaneously until 21 August 2020. The two were well photographed on 2 August 2020 clearly showing two different adults.

Neotropic Cormorant, 24 April – 21 September 2021, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2021-013, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Tenth state record. This bird was joined by an immature Neotropic Cormorant (see below) which was first observed on 11 June 2021. Apparently, this immature bird had been seen at least several weeks prior to 11 June 2021 and possibly as early as early May 2021 until the observer realized there were two different birds when both the immature and the adult were observed together. Both individuals were seen together sporadically at least until 21 September. One of these two individuals lingered until 5 October 2021 although the age of that bird was not documented.

Neotropic Cormorant, 11 June – 21 September

2021, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2021-049, vote 7-0). Immature, photographed. Eleventh state record. This bird is the immature bird referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) [Accidental], 16 August 2020, Hammond Road, Finlayson, Pine County (record #2020-043, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

Swallow-tailed Kite, 6 September 2020, Duesler, Carlton County (record #2020-053, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record. This is possibly the same adult that was seen three weeks earlier and roughly 23 miles southwest in Pine County (see the immediately preceding record #2020-043).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 26 August – 15 September 2020, Land of Memories City Park, Mankato, Blue Earth County (record #2020-046, vote 7-0). Numerous photographs were taken. As many as four birds were seen. Some of the same birds were also observed in adjoining Nicollet County. There were at least 128 observers alleging differing numbers of adults and juveniles making it very difficult to discern what actually transpired over this time span (but see *The Loon* 93:105-106). This assortment of adults and juveniles at this location may be an indication of possible nesting nearby. Parenthetically, an adult was seen at this exact same location 21 May 2014 (*The Loon* 86:107).

Mississippi Kite, 9 September 2020, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-077, vote 6-1). Apparent juvenile, photographed.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) [Casual], 22 December 2019, Shakopee, Scott County (record #2019-067, vote 7-0). Juvenile gray morph, photographed and video recorded.

Tropical/Couch's kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*), [Accidental], 25 September 2020, Big Stone N.W.R., Odessa, Lac qui Parle County (record #2020-058, vote 6-1). Photographed. First county record. Not Accepted at either species level (vote 0-7). MOURC has accepted three Tropical/Couch's kingbird records since the first was documented in 2011. All are fall records from the following counties: Lac qui Parle, Stearns, and St. Louis. A fourth fall record from Lake County is pending MOURC consideration. The chronological dates by month for all of the



Record #2020-065, Painted Redstart, 21 October 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

above-mentioned Accepted observations are 16 August 2020, 25 September 2020, 30 September 2020 (pending), and 28 October 2011.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*T. forficatus*) [Casual], 4 September 2020, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-051, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) [Accidental], 4-5 October 2020, Scott County (record #2020-063, vote 7-0). Photographed. First county record.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 24 October 2020, Alseth Road, Stony Point, St. Louis County (record #2020-068, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Mountain Bluebird, 10 November 2020, Walker Wastewater Treatment Plant, Cass County (record #2020-070, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. First county record.

Mountain Bluebird, 27 November 2020 - 6 March 2021, Falcon Heights, Ramsey County (record #2020-072, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. Originally found at Les Bolestad Golf Course, University of Minnesota, then it relocated to nearby Como Regional Park where it overwintered with a group of Eastern Bluebirds.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) [Casual], 5 October 2020 - 28 April 2021, Windom, Cottonwood County (record #2020-062, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 13 November 2020 -

16 March 2021, private residence, Dakota County (record #2020-074, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) [Casual], 26-30 November 2020, Lake Winona, Winona County (record #2020-073, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) [Accidental], 26 October - 19 December 2020, private residence in Coleraine, Itasca County (record #2020-066, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. Possibly present since mid-October according to the homeowners. First county and sixth state record. Interestingly, five of the six records have occurred since 2013. The first was recorded in 1968.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) [Casual], 30 May 2020, Lawrence Creek Scientific and Natural Area, near Shafer, Chisago County (record #2020-042, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*S. nigrescens*) [Accidental], 3-4 September 2020, Sucker Lake, Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County (record #2020-047, vote 7-0). Adult female, photographed. First county and tenth state record.

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) [Accidental], 21-22 October 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2020-065, vote 10-0). Adult, photographed. First county and second state record.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 26 May 2013, Corcoran, Hennepin County (record #2020-050, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. One of ten records from the spring of 2013

Painted Bunting (*P. ciris*) [Casual], 10-11 May 2020, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2020-080, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

The following records were voted on 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.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) [Accidental], 22–23 November 2020, Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc., Empire Dump and 140th St. Marsh, Dakota County (record #2020-071, vote 2–5). Photographed. Opinions of independent gull experts were considered by MOURC. The Committee voted (5–2) to Accept the observation as an unknown hybrid gull. Among the many hybrid possibilities, both Western/Glaucous-winged and Herring/Glaucous-winged were specifically considered but were unanimously Not Accepted (vote 0–7 for each specifically considered hybrid).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) [Casual], 10 September 2020, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-078, vote 0–7). Distance was estimated at 1.5 to 3.0 miles under hazy conditions making sufficient details indiscernible. The bird was seen flying with an American White Pelican and should have been noticeably smaller, yet the observer commented that “it was hard to confirm any real size difference.”

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), 20 November 2020, Private residence on Bartlett Boulevard in Mound, Hennepin County (record #2020-083, vote 1–9). While this bird may very well have been a Phainopepla, most members felt that there were not enough specific details to meet the high bar of documentation needed to establish a first state record.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) [Accidental], 23 September 2020, Golden Valley, Hennepin County (record #2020-079, vote 0–7). Photographed. Found dead on a sidewalk in a residential neighborhood. The photograph appears to depict a Nashville Warbler.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) [Casual], 14 September 2020, Bloomington, Hennepin County (record #2020-075, vote 2–5). Photographed. The photograph appears to be overexposed and the coloration of the bird blurry. The written details don't offer much by way of diagnostic features needed to separate it from a Rose-breasted Grosbeak or a grosbeak hybrid.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 29 August 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2020-052, vote 0–7). Neither of the two birds were accepted. Most of the remarks in the description were conclusory while offering no real details of what was observed, especially of the male. The description of the female was too limited to rule out other possibilities.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Though photographs are always welcome, observers are strongly encouraged to submit written documentation based on contemporaneous field notes for all records. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Brad Abendroth, Lon Baumgardt, Paul E. Budde, Thomas Burns, Steve Carlson, Mark Chichester, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, Cara L. Cox, Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Robert M. Dunlap, Kimberly A. Emerson, Becca Engdahl, Rebecca Engdahl, Frank Fabbro, Bruce A. Fall, Gregory Garmer, Tom Gilde, Linnae Halvorsen, Bethany Hawkwatch, Bonnie Heinecke, Michael Henry, Anthony X. Hertz, Gerald Hoekstra, Ezra Hosch, Isaac Hosch, Douglas P. Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Rochelle Karp, Douglas W. Kieser, Sarah Lane, Andrew B. Longtin, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, David Mather, Joshua McMahan, Nolan Meyer, Todd Mitchell, David Moffat, Andrew Nyhus, Aaron Oppelt, Dan Orr, Douglas L. Pierzina, Aaron Pietsch, John Richardson, Roger J. Schroeder, Vicky Seymour, Neil Skoog, Kevin D. Smith, Alex Sundvall, Peder H. Svingen, Matthew Thompson, Joshua G. Watson, Justin Watts, Garrett Wee, Neil Wingert, Julie Zempel, and Roy Zimmerman. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc>>. Summary: 44 records voted on – 35 Accepted, 9 Not Accepted.

Edina, MN.

Minnesota's Eighth Ancient Murrelet

With Notes on the Species in the Great Lakes Region

Steve Kolbe

On 17 January 2021, I spotted an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) floating and diving frequently in Lake Superior off Stony Point, Duluth, Minnesota (Figure 1). My initial sighting was at 8:40 A.M., and other observers started arriving within the next half hour. The bird was then observed continuously throughout the day until late afternoon by multiple observers, birders and non-birders alike. The murrelet was first spotted approximately 300 meters off the east side of Stony Point between the “surfing rocks” and the tip, but it gradually worked its way (by swimming and diving) around the tip and settled into a small area approximately 200 meters off the west side of the point and almost straight out from the small wooden fishing shacks. It stayed remarkably consistent in this position, diving frequently, for the rest of the day. It was alone for much of the day, but loosely associated with a Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) during the afternoon. It did not fly during the entire observation period. The water was remarkably calm throughout the day, making viewing exceptional and keeping track of the murrelet easy. This was fortunate because throughout the entire day the bird spent more time underwater than on the surface. Given the calm conditions and relatively close distance to the bird, identification was straightforward once the bird was on the water: views through a spotting scope showed a small, gray-backed alcid with a black head, white stripe up the neck, and a pale bill. Despite several observers, including the author, carefully scoping the (much choppier) water the next morning, it was not seen again.

The Ancient Murrelet in Minnesota

There is a strange and fascinating history of Ancient Murrelets in Minnesota. There are now eight state records, and the previous seven records (summarized in Benz 2000) include two birds shot by waterfowl hunters, one



Figure 1. Ancient Murrelet, 17 January 2021, Stony Point, St. Louis County. Photo by Ted Keyel.

found as roadkill, and one caught in a fishing net. Remarkably, only one previous record is from Lake Superior. Despite the relatively large number of previous records in the state, this was the first “chaseable” Ancient Murrelet and the first record since 1999. As a result, and because it was found early in the morning, a large contingent of birders from Duluth and beyond descended upon Stony Point throughout the day. Checklists submitted to eBird list 76 people who saw the bird, but I suspect the true number is well over 100.

Status of Ancient Murrelet in the Great Lakes

Ancient Murrelet is by far the most frequently encountered alcid in inland North America. In the eight states and one province that border the Great Lakes alone, there are an astounding 44 accepted records. The rest of this note will focus on the Great Lakes region and the occurrence of Ancient Murrelets within it.

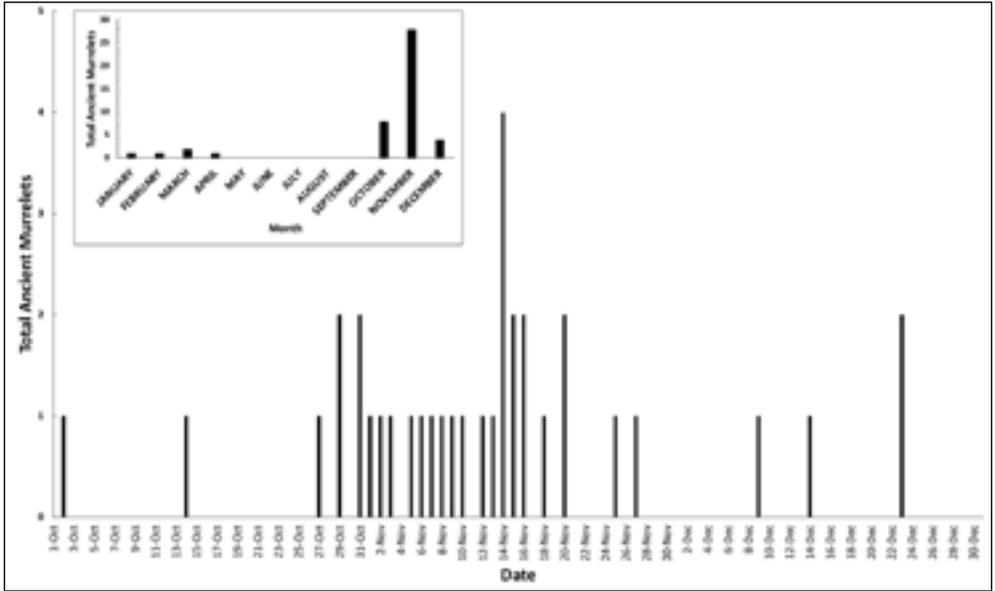


Figure 2. Total individual Ancient Murrelets observed in the Great Lakes during peak occurrence (main figure) and throughout the year (inset).

There is a strong pattern of Ancient Murrelet occurrence in the Great Lakes region: a dramatic increase in sightings starts at the end of October and subsides in late November, with a distinct peak in mid-November (Figure 2). Of the 44 Great Lakes records, 28 (64%) are from November, 8 (18%) are from October, and 4 (9%) are from December. The remaining records are from January through April (Figure 2, inset). Apart from two Ancient Murrelets seen together in March of 1951 in Ohio, every record has been of a single bird. Most are “one day wonders,” but seven (16%) were seen on multiple days.

There is also an interesting geographic pattern of Ancient Murrelet records in the region (Figure 3). Most states with inland records (i.e., records not on a Great Lake) are in the western portion of the Great Lakes. Six of Minnesota’s eight records are inland. All six Wisconsin records are inland. Two of the four Illinois records are inland. Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Ontario, all farther east, have no inland records. The lone record that breaks this pattern is an inland record in southeastern Pennsylvania.

This pattern of records can likely be explained by the presumed geographic origin

of vagrant Ancient Murrelets. This species breeds on islands in the Aleutians, the Gulf of Alaska, southeastern Alaska, and on Haida Gwaii in British Columbia (Gaston and Shoji, 2020). Ancient Murrelets spend the nonbreeding season in the north Pacific Ocean from Alaska to California. As other authors have long suggested (Munyer 1965, Verbeek 1966), birds in the Great Lakes region are thus most likely arriving from the northwest during the typical arrival period of late October through late November. Observations of Ancient Murrelets actively migrating east at Whitefish Point in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan also suggest this is the primary direction of travel into the region. It is unsurprising that states such as Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and New York do not have inland records of the species; these states are all “blocked” by Great Lakes water that would likely attract any vagrant Ancient Murrelet before it encountered land. The three states with the most inland records — Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois — are all on the western edge of the Great Lakes and a wayward Ancient Murrelet would have to fly over inland portions of each (apart from the Lake Superior shore of Wisconsin) to get to Great Lakes water.

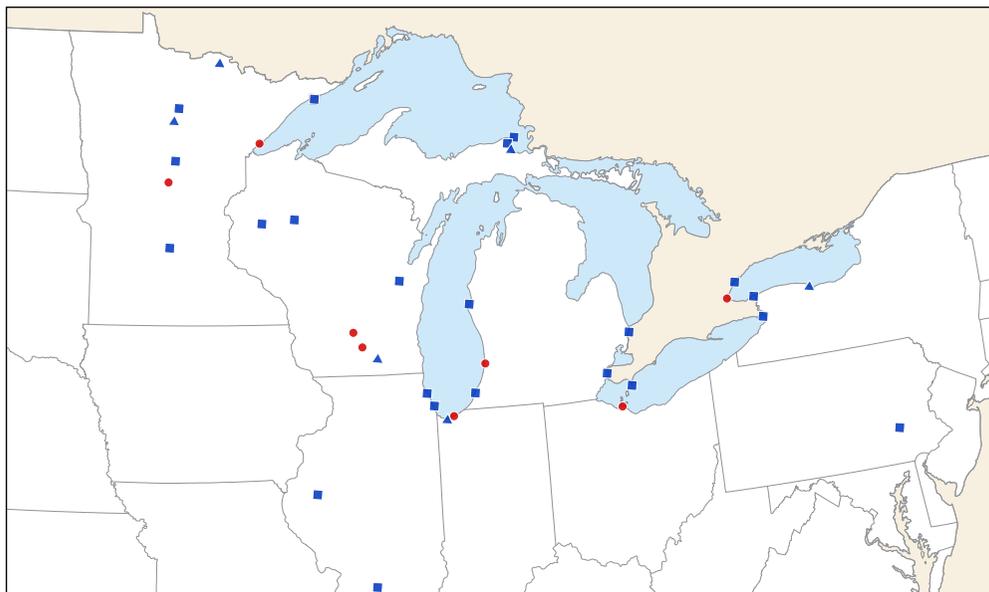


Figure 3. Ancient Murrelet records in the Great Lakes region. October records are marked by blue triangles, November records by blue squares. All other records are marked by red circles.

Discussion

The Ancient Murrelet at Stony Point does not neatly fit into the timing and geographic patterns described above. It is the first January record in the Great Lakes region — was it simply a late arrival to the area? Munyer (1965) and Verbeek (1966) suggest that strong storms on the Pacific coast during times of migration are the ultimate cause for these inland records. Had the murrelet arrived during the typical late fall window and been in the Great Lakes undetected until mid-January? Or was the Stony Point bird a late fall or early spring migrant that was displaced inland by a winter storm on the Pacific? It would be amazing to learn that an Ancient Murrelet could survive migration across half of the North American continent in January. Other records with dates closest to that of the Stony Point bird are individuals in late December in Indiana and Michigan along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. It is entirely possible these birds arrived in Lake Michigan much earlier and worked their way south until their discovery. Interestingly, the next closest date is the late February record from Fort Ripley, Minnesota. Is it possible that the Fort Ripley and Stony Point birds were trying to head west or northwest out of the Great Lakes (and back

towards their presumed origins)?

I do not know. January on the north shore of Lake Superior is a strange time and place for an Ancient Murrelet. What I do know is that it was fortunate that I was birding Stony Point in the middle of January, and that I decided to scope the lake that morning. I hope that other observers in Minnesota and beyond have similar good fortune so that we can collectively add additional pieces to the murrelet puzzle.

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Duluth, MN.

The Ecological Importance of Woodpeckers and Considerations for Effective Management

Introduction to a Series on the Woodpeckers of Minnesota

Michael R. North

Nine species of woodpeckers occur regularly in Minnesota, with most being year-round residents. Woodpeckers, as a guild, merit consideration as ecological keystone species for two reasons. First, they are cavity-nesting birds that excavate their own nesting cavities. These cavities are later used by other bird species for breeding in subsequent years, such as Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Bufflehead (*B. albeola*), Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), chickadees (*Poecile* spp.), nuthatches (*Sitta* spp.), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), and House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Bats, squirrels, pine martens, fishers, and tree frogs also use cavities for a variety of purposes. Some interspecific associations are rather specialized; for example, Buffleheads specialize in used Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) nests (Erskine and McLaren 1972), Common Goldeneyes use old Pileated Woodpecker (*Drycopus pileatus*) nests, Northern Saw-whet Owls tend to use old Northern Flicker and Pileated Woodpecker nests, and Big Brown Bats and flying squirrels use Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) cavities in Saskatchewan (Kalcounis and Brigham 1998) and Ontario (Holloway and Malcolm 2007), respectively. Other associations are more generalized: chickadees and nuthatches use cavities of smaller woodpeckers (e.g., Downy [*Picoides pubescens*] and Hairy [*P. villosus*]); and Great Crested Flycatchers use cavities of larger woodpecker species. Used cavities also provide roosting and wintering sites for several of these same species. Once cavity-bearing trees fall to the ground, woodpecker cavities then become available to an additional suite of species, such as weasels, snakes, and salamanders (e.g., Martin et al. 2004, Thomas 1979).

Second, woodpeckers consume vast quantities of insects that damage or destroy trees, keeping these pest species in check and/or controlling outbreaks (Fayt et al. 2005). Woodpeckers seem to have an uncanny ability to detect burned areas and areas with insect infestations, and to congregate there (e.g., Schroeder 1983a, Sousa 1987). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilobus colubris*) also have a symbiotic relationship, where feeding holes drilled by sapsuckers provide a source of sap important to hummingbirds upon their arrival in spring, prior to widespread flowering by nectar-producing plants. Bees and red squirrels also use sawwells created by sapsuckers (Squires and Bunnell 2018).

Woodpeckers generally prefer to nest in quaking aspen trees (e.g., Martin et al. 2004, Cooke and Hannon 2012; see also Table 1) where aspen are present, although a variety of tree species are used for nesting. In some locations they also tend to prefer dead or dying trees, and density of snags is the main determining factor of woodpecker and other cavity-nesting species' abundance (e.g., Thomas 1979). However, that does not seem to be universal (pers. obs.). Managed forests typically have fewer snags and fewer cavity-nesting species than do unmanaged forests (Raphael and White 1984, Zlonias 2012).

In Minnesota, studies of woodpecker nesting are generally lacking. Adkins Giese (1999) studied woodpecker nesting in the hardwood forests of Houston and Fillmore counties in extreme southern Minnesota, where she found 166 active nests of seven species. Most species chose larger trees with more decay than random trees, and American elm and aspen were the most commonly selected tree species. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in particular had an affinity for aspen, whereas Northern Flickers and Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Mel-*

anerpes erythrocephalus) had an affinity for elm. Red-headed Woodpeckers are currently being studied at Cedar Creek Bog Natural Area.

Woodpecker species have differing requirements for tree diameters where they excavate their cavities (Table 1), so assuring a full suite of forest tree species composition and age diversity is important for maintaining woodpecker populations of all species. Cooke and Hannon (2012) characterize the need for Pileated and Hairy woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers as aspen >35 cm dbh, >25 m tall, and with about 20 or more conks of heartrot fungus. Many tree species do not reach suitable diameters until past the age of normal rotation forestry (North 2021; see also Raphael and White 1984). In Alberta, Westworth and Telfer (1993) found a “pronounced increase in use by cavity excavators and cavity-dependent birds occurred with an increase in stand age from 60 to 80 years” and they concluded “these birds would be negatively affected by forest management on rotations shorter than 60 years.” Savignac and Machtans (2006) recommended rotation ages exceed 90 years in northwestern Canada for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Thus, cavity nesters are vulnerable to loss of old forest through traditional harvest practices (Cooke and Hannon 2012). In Virginia, Connor and Adkisson (1976) found Pileated Woodpecker nest trees averaged 143.5 years of age, Northern Flicker nest trees averaged 92.7 years of age, Hairy Woodpecker nest trees averaged 91.2 years of age, and Downy Woodpecker nest trees averaged 63.6 years of age.

Different woodpecker species prefer different forest conditions. In Virginia, Conner et al. (1975) found Pileated Woodpecker territories had an average basal area of 151 ft²/acre, Hairy Woodpeckers 94.5 ft²/acre, Downy Woodpeckers 57 ft²/acre, and Northern Flickers 6 ft²/acre. In terms of nest site/nest tree characteristics, Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers had similar requirements, and both were intermediate between Pileated Woodpeckers and Downy Woodpeckers. However, Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers had opposite needs in terms of forest cover; Northern Flicker nests were found only in clearcuts ≤12 years old (Conner et al. 1975). Woodpeckers also prefer different forest conditions in different parts of their ranges. For example, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nesting in maple forests have a greater density and higher reproductive success than those nest-

ing in aspen in southern Ontario (Tozer et al. 2011), whereas in western Canada they prefer aspen forests (e.g., Cooke and Hannon 2012).

Although the data shared above could be interpreted to suggest that woodpeckers need trees grown under longer rotations in order for them to attain suitable size to support nests, this could also be accomplished with best management practices that leave suitable amounts of reserve trees to grow larger under commercial rotation harvest ages in Minnesota. Nesting is also only one aspect of woodpecker life-cycle habitat requirements. Downy Woodpeckers, for example, frequent younger forests and cutover areas with slash accumulations for feeding (Conner et al. 1975, Schroeder 1983a). Nonetheless, Conner (1980) recommended a harvest rotation of 60–80 years in Virginia to provide foraging habitat for Downy Woodpeckers. Older mature trees are also needed by other cavity-nesting species. For example, the minimum tree diameter for Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) nest trees is 51 cm dbh, and it has been suggested that stand harvest (tree species not specified) prior to 80 years of age may not allow for suitable nest sites (Allen 1987).

Fortunately, we have the *Manager's Handbook for Aspen in the North Central States* (U.S. Forest Service GTR NC-36; Perala 1977) to assess how long it typically takes aspen to grow to suitable sizes to support nesting woodpeckers. On good growth sites, it takes about 65 years for aspen to reach appropriate average sizes (see Table 1) for most woodpecker species, but on poor growth sites it takes much longer than 70 years. This is important, because in Minnesota we typically manage aspen on a 40–50 year rotation. Just across the border in southeastern Manitoba, the minimum harvest age is 75 years on their best growth sites (Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 2013). Timber harvests in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence forest management unit of central Ontario are planned around meeting the needs of Pileated Woodpeckers, which includes leaving six living cavity trees >25 cm dbh/ha for nesting (Naylor et al. 1996).

Best management practices have been identified by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (2005), and monitoring (Rossman et al. 2016) shows that minimum retention standards for reserve trees and snags are usually exceeded on most harvest sites. This assures habitat to support some sub-optimum population of

Species	Source	Location	Preferred Trees	Average DBH (cm)	DBH Range (cm)	
PIWO	BNA or HSI	North America	—	54	—	
	Conner et al. 1975	Virginia	72% dead trees	—	33–91	
	Harestad and Keisker 1989	British Columbia	100% aspen	40.5	26–57	
	Martin et al. 2004	British Columbia	100% aspen	44.8	—	
	Cooke and Hannon 2012	Alberta	aspen	44.8	33.4–52	
	Towers et al. 1992	Atlantic Canada	29% aspen, 37% birch	44.5	25.4–61	
	Adkins Giese 1999	SE Minnesota	75% American elm or aspen	69	42–127	
DOWO	BNA or HSI	North America	—	—	25–32	
	Conner et al. 1975	Virginia	74% dead trees	32	15–66	
	Runde and Capen 1987	Vermont	various deciduous	30.7	—	
	Harestad and Keisker 1989	British Columbia	dead trees	26.3	19–31	
	Martin et al. 2004	British Columbia	100% aspen	25.1	—	
	Towers et al. 1992	Atlantic Canada	22% aspen, 20% maple	27.6	15–43	
	Warren 2004	Atlantic Canada	—	37.8	19–85	
HAWO	Adkins Giese 1999	SE Minnesota	59% American elm or aspen	35	16–63	
	BNA or HSI	North America	—	25.2	—	
	Conner et al. 1975	Virginia	50% oaks	41	20–64	
	Runde and Capen 1987	Vermont	33% aspen	27.1	—	
	Harestad and Keisker 1989	British Columbia	100% aspen	27.6	17–44.5	
	Martin et al. 2004	British Columbia	100% aspen	30.3	—	
	Cooke and Hannon 2012	Alberta	aspen	30.9	22–48	
BBWO	Loose and Anderson	Wyoming	>90% aspen	32.3	—	
	Towers et al. 1992	Atlantic Canada	27% aspen, 25% birch	32.8	12–91	
	Warren 2004	Atlantic Canada	—	35.6	25–49	
	Adkins Giese 1999	SE Minnesota	64% American elm or aspen	33	20–76	
	BNA	North America	—	—	37–40	
	Towers et al. 1992	Atlantic Canada	64% spruce, 21% fir	23.4	17–30.5	
	ATTW	BNA	North America	—	27.9	—
YBSA	Martin et al. 2004	British Columbia	75% aspen	30.3	—	
	Cooke and Hannon 2012	Alberta	aspen, dead conifers	30.9	19–46	
	BNA	North America	—	33.6	—	
	Cooke and Hannon 2012	Alberta	aspen	34.3	21.5–60	
	Runde and Capen 1987	Vermont	68% aspen	33.6	—	
	Harestad and Keisker 1989	British Columbia	>87% aspen	32.8	20–61	
	Loose and Anderson	Wyoming	>90% aspen	25.5	—	
RHWO	Towers et al. 1992	Atlantic Canada	27% aspen, 18% birch	31	16–76	
	Warren 2004	Atlantic Canada	44% aspen, 36% maple	37	21–65	
	Adkins Giese 1999	SE Minnesota	88% aspen	30	19–42	
	Squire and Bunnell 2018	British Columbia	100% aspen	35.3	—	
	Adkins Giese 1999	SE Minnesota	80% American elm or aspen	54	28–168	
	RBWO	Adkins Giese 1999	SE Minnesota	52% American elm or aspen	47	23–137
	NOFL	BNA or HSI	North America	—	47	—
Conner et al. 1975		Virginia, forested	live trees more than dead trees	36.8	30–46	
Conner et al. 1975		Virginia, open	—	87.9	38–139	
Harestad and Keisker 1989		British Columbia	dead trees	31.9	20–49	
Martin et al. 2004		British Columbia	96% aspen	35.4	—	
Cooke and Hannon 2012		Alberta, forested	dead aspen more than live aspen	38.4	24–63	
Cooke and Hannon 2012		Alberta, harvested	—	36.5	21.5–59	
Towers et al. 1992		Atlantic Canada	23% spruce, 21% aspen	33.0	15–77	
Warren 2004		Atlantic Canada	—	43.3	29–72	

Table 1. Woodpecker nest tree species and sizes documented from across their ranges. PIWO = Pileated Woodpecker, DOWO = Downy Woodpecker, HAWO = Hairy Woodpecker, BBWO = Black-backed Woodpecker, ATTW = American Three-toed Woodpecker, YBSA = Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, RHWO = Red-headed Woodpecker, RBWO = Red-bellied Woodpecker, NOFL = Northern Flicker. BNA = *Birds of North America* (individual species account); HSI = Habitat Suitability Index Model.

woodpeckers, for at least one timber harvest rotation. But what about after the second rotation; will the original retained reserve trees and snags for woodpeckers still remain? And what woodpecker population levels could we achieve if we altered our leave standards and/or rotation ages on some land categories?

Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) models have been developed for Pileated (Schroeder 1983b), Hairy (Sousa 1987), and Downy woodpeckers (Schroeder 1983a). Based on the literature cited above and an assessment of the HSI models, the following data for managing for woodpeckers are lacking from Minnesota:

- Densities of woodpecker species in various habitat cover types
- Ages of nest trees, by tree species
- Usage and avoidance of aspen stands of various ages and sizes
- Diameters of nest trees, by tree species (although not to the degree that other data above are lacking), and how these correlate with tree ages

Also lacking are techniques for studying nesting woodpeckers and monitoring breeding population trends. The best method for finding active nests is to listen for nestlings begging for food. But there are limited data (Russell et al. 2009, Squires and Bunnell 2018) on how detectable nests are. The following data on detectability are lacking:

- Periodicity (duration) that begging occurs
- Distance that begging can be heard (e.g., in open versus heavily vegetated settings; observer differences)
- How distance/detection differ with nestling age

In summary, woodpeckers are ecological keystone species for two reasons. The cavities they excavate for nesting are subsequently used by other birds and mammals for breeding and shelter, and they consume large quantities of deleterious insects. Woodpeckers prefer to nest in quaking aspen, but each species has different minimum tree diameter requirements. Data on nest tree ages are lacking, but aspen growth rates suggest suitable tree diameters are reached after about 65 years. Aspen is commercially important, and is typically managed on a 40–50 year rotation. Therefore, woodpeckers may be affected by aspen management practices, and additional information on woodpecker ecology can better inform aspen management. In

an upcoming series of papers in ***The Loon***, I and other authors will compile existing data from other sources, and supplement that with data I/we collected beginning in 1995 in order to describe each species' general biology and assess habitat needs in Minnesota, and for comparison with woodpeckers elsewhere within their ranges.

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Brainerd, MN.

The 2020 Fall Season

1 August through 30 November 2020

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This was an astounding season for birding in Minnesota. Eight different Accidental species, among them the state's second Painted Redstart, and 13 Casuals, many with multiple reports, made for an impressive variety. But also significant were the numbers of Regular species found far more widely than expected in the fall. This included all three scoters, Northern Goshawk, Prairie Falcon, Carolina Wren, Evening Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Vesper Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

In late September a Brant was found in Houston County, the first in the state since 2016. In early November, a Brant was harvested in McLeod County, though that record was reported late and is still pending evaluation by the MOU Records Committee. Both were first county records of this Casual species. Also in early November, a King Eider was seen on Lake Bemidji in Beltrami County. For a month beginning in late October, one or two female-type Harlequin Ducks were on Lake Superior between the McQuade Small Craft Harbor and Two Harbors. All three species of scoter showed up in terrific numbers, primarily from the beginning of October to the end of November. A female Barrow's Goldeneye in mid-November was a first for Beltrami County.

In late August, an ani was well-described at the Park Point Recreation Area. This is only the eleventh record of this genus, and is the second earliest — only preceded by a mid-July Groove-billed Ani found in 1978; all other anis have been found between mid-September and early November. Mahtomedi High School is currently one of the most important Chimney Swift roosting sites in the state. With this season's high tally there, the highest counts of this species are all from this location, in 2018, 2019, and now 2020.



Smith's Longspur, 17 September 2020, McQuade Harbor, Lake County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

Four Yellow Rails was the highest fall tally since 2004 and gave Olmsted and Pipestone first county records. An annual census by the USF&WS staff at Sherburne N.W.R. counted 11,244 Sandhill Cranes at the refuge at the end of October. All our highest counts of cranes have been from this area between the last week of October and the first week of November.

Black-necked Stilts are almost Regular during the spring, but uncommon in the fall. When found in fall, they are often lingering birds from the summer, so one found in late September in Lyon County was quite unusual. A Black-bellied Plover seen in Two Harbors in mid-October tied for the third latest ever in the state. If a Whimbrel shows up in the fall, it's

usually in Duluth or along the Lake Superior shoreline. One at Park Point in late August was expected, but another was a surprise near Littlefork and was a first for Koochiching County. After falling in status on the most recent MOU Checklist from Regular to Casual due to a dearth of recent records, Red Knot reports are rebounding. This season, individuals were found in St. Louis, Grant, Big Stone, and a group of three in Lyon County, with another two records pending acceptance; two more reports were likely valid but without documentation. About 250 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was an excellent total for the season; 60 of these were seen in a single flock at the North Ottawa Impoundment. Early September saw a record-high tally of Red-necked Phalaropes at the Thief River Falls W.T.P.

Several Parasitic Jaegers were found in Duluth from late August until early October. The only jaeger seen away from Lake Superior was an extremely well-documented Long-tailed in Lyon County (*The Loon* 93:98–100). This bird was only the second jaeger ever recorded in the Southwest region; the first was also a Long-tailed, from Heron Lake in 1942!

Sabine's Gulls provided first records for Faribault and Watonwan counties. An adult Laughing Gull was on the Minnesota side of the Superior Entry in late September. Apart from one record from Otter Tail, all fall reports of this species have been from the Lake Superior shoreline. The state's tenth Slaty-backed Gull was found on a Duluth Port Terminal roof in late August; all records of this species have been since 2006. In late November a second-cycle gull was spotted in Dakota County that appeared to be the state's sixth Glaucous-winged Gull and first since 2011; close examination of the many photographs of this bird showed it to probably be a hybrid.

While Red-throated Loons were only seen on Lake Superior, Pacifics were spotted there and also on Mille Lacs, Waconia, and Loon lakes, the last one establishing a first record for Blue Earth County. Two Neotropic Cormorants lingered into the fall in Richfield, Hennepin County, with one staying until mid-October. Snowy Egrets were present in above-average numbers. A lone Little Blue Heron was in the New Germany area of Carver County in early August. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Hennepin, Grant, and Steele counties were

a nice surprise for a species often absent from the state in fall.

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory had several record counts this season: on 1 October, they set a new state record with 854 Turkey Vultures, and on 23 October they tallied 583 Rough-legged Hawks, a modern day record for all of North America. First records for Swallow-tailed Kite in Pine and Carlton counties three-weeks apart may have been of the same individual. In late August and into early September, up to three Mississippi Kites were seen at the Bethany Hawkwatch in Mankato (*The Loon* 93:105–106); another flew past Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory counters on 9 September.

Several Barn Owls were recorded in Houston County from mid-September to mid-October, but exactly how many is still being debated by the Records Committee. Only two Snowy Owls had been found in the state by the end of the season, one near Ely and the other at the opposite end of the state in Mower County. Northern Hawk Owls were only spotted in the Northeast region. One Great Gray Owl was in Ramsey County in November; all other reports were from the far north ranging from Cook to Roseau counties. Prairie Falcons were found in six counties, the highest total since fall 1993. Two of those records were firsts for Carver and Koochiching.

Prior to this season, Minnesota had recorded a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird in 2011 and a Tropical in 2015. This fall saw that total matched in a single season when silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds appeared in Stearns and Lac qui Parle counties (a third record from Lake is still pending acceptance). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed along Lake Superior in St. Louis County in early September, while a second individual (pending acceptance) was found in the same county in mid-October. Two Say's Phoebes continued near Odessa into August, while a third was found at the Castle Danger W.T.P. in early October.

A White-eyed Vireo at the end of November was record-late in Winona County. Scott County had its first Rock Wren when one was discovered in Belle Plaine. Carolina Wrens were reported from an unprecedented 25 counties, including first records for Benton, Lyon, and Swift. Five Mountain Bluebirds (two still pending acceptance) were the most reported in a season since fall 2006. Reports of Townsend's

Solitaires from 12 counties was double the expected total for fall; two of these were county firsts, for Lake of the Woods and McLeod. Cottonwood also picked up a first county record when a Eurasian Tree Sparrow showed up in early October. This species was also reported from Dakota and McLeod counties.

Evening and Pine grosbeaks, Common and Hoary redpolls, and Red and White-winged crossbills all had impressive showings this fall. Evening Grosbeaks were seen in fall in the most counties since 1985, while White-winged Crossbills were found more widely than in any previous fall. A tally of 1,805 White-winged at Stony Point on 23 October smashed the previous high count of 831! Other species that appeared in well-above-average numbers this season included Smith's Longspur, Nelson's Sparrow, and a record 12 Spotted Towhees, two of which provided first records for Le Sueur and Swift counties. A Yellow-breasted Chat was at Lone Tree Lake in Lyon County. The state's sixth Bullock's Oriole was a first for Itasca County in late October.

Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported in the highest fall numbers ever with reports from 23 counties. A Yellow-throated Warbler lingered at Vadnais Lake in Ramsey County into early August. The state's tenth Black-throated Gray Warbler (*The Loon* 92:145–147) was at Sucker Lake, also in Ramsey County, in early September. In late October the state's second Painted Redstart appeared in St. Paul. This was the first record of this species to be photographed in the state.

Summer Tanagers were seen in Hennepin, Stearns, and Stevens counties. A Western Tanager in Dakota County was only the fifth fall record of this Regular species.

Weather: Average temperatures in August continued the trend from summer of being slightly above normal, though that changed in September as average temperatures fell to 1.2°F below normal and October was almost six degrees below normal. November temperatures rebounded, however, to almost 34°F – six degrees above normal for the month. Extremes in November ranged from 84°F in Granite Falls on the 4th to -2°F at Norris Camp on the 13th.

A severe storm in mid-August brought tornados and high winds to central and northern Minnesota. Rainfall during the month was quite variable — almost nil in parts of the Southeast,

and more than twice as much as usual in the North-central region. September, on the other hand, was dry across most of the state. A major hailstorm hit the West-central and South-central regions on 5 September. Most of the precipitation that fell in October was snow. Two major snowstorms struck the southern and central parts of the state on 20 and 22 October, resulting in the snowiest October on record for the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. Another storm on 10 November brought freezing rain to the Southeast and four to eight inches of snow to the Southwest, Central, and Northeast regions.

Documented Reports Still Under Review: Brant 11/7 McLeod (near Hutchinson); Red Knot 8/20–22 St. Louis (Brighton Beach), 8/26 Big Stone (juvenile, Marsh Lake); Barn Owl 9/19 Houston (Perkins Valley), 9/28 Houston (2, one at Perkins Valley, another 11 kilometers away), 10/13 Houston (2, one at Perkins Valley, another three kilometers away); Tropical/Couch's Kingbird 9/30 Lake (Scenic Hwy 61 at C.R. 9); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 10/10 St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail); Mountain Bluebird 10/22–24 St. Louis (Dart Road., Sax-Zim Bog), 10/25 Two Harbors (Lakeview Cemetery); Lark Bunting 9/19 Kandiyohi (Kandi W.M.A.); Townsend's Warbler 8/29 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.).

Insufficiently Documented Records of Regular Species: Short-billed Dowitcher 9/23–24 Swift (4), 9/26 Lincoln (late dates; see *The Loon* 89:160–161); Great Black-backed Gull 9/25 Cook (no details), Red-tailed Hawk (“Harlan’s”) 8/29 Aitkin (extremely early); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 8/2 Kittson (first county record); Golden Eagle 8/19 Hubbard (record-early by two weeks); Black-backed Woodpecker 8/2 Kittson (first county record); Orange-crowned Warbler 8/17–18 Meeker, 8/26 Scott, 8/27–30 Brown, 8/31 Kittson (early dates; only one report had any details but those were not sufficient to confirm the identity; reports in August are not published without convincing details).

Acknowledgements: With this issue we welcome Alyssa DeRubeis to the team authoring spring and fall *Seasonal Reports*. Dave Cahlander built and maintains the *Seasonal Reports* submission and production web pages (<http://moumn.org/moureports/season.php>) through which most of this data is collected and organized. We are also grateful for the additional data provided for the creation of

this report by eBird (<http://www.ebird.org>, accessed December 2020). Medians of recent arrivals and departures are based on published and unpublished *Seasonal Report* data from the 25-year period 1994 through 2018. Finally and most importantly, our appreciation goes out to all those who contribute their sightings data to the MOU. We are especially grateful to those

who respond to our requests for details and who submit observations online.

- ¹ **Washington, DC;**
- ² **Golden Valley, MN;**
- ³ **Mahtomedi, MN;**
- ⁴ **Minneapolis, MN;**
- ⁵ **Sleepy Eye, MN.**

KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species listed in brackets [**Smew**] indicate a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name [2 North, 3 South] indicates the total number of north – and south counties with reports.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties listed in bold and with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Totals in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger “†” preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. “ph.” denotes a species documented with a photograph.
11. “v.t.” denotes a species documented by video.
12. “a.t.” denotes a species documented by audio.
13. High counts that are multiples of 100 are assumed or known to be estimates unless otherwise noted.

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, seasons@mounm.org.

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) — [17 North, 30 South] Early north (median 9/6) 9/7 Kittson (5) ebd, 9/8–9 St. Louis JWJ, JPR. Early south (median 9/14) 9/6 Lyon GWe, McLeod (2) ebd, 9/8 Hennepin CLB. High counts 11/3 Rock (450, Blue Mounds S.P., two separate flocks) ebd, 10/25 Lyon (250, Cottonwood) GWe. Late north 11/15 Polk ebd, 11/19 Grant (250) CNn, 11/21 Clay (2) TCL ebd (median 11/15). Late south 11/28 Rice DAB, Wabasha (12) KBu, TBu, 11/28–29 Olmsted LHL, MiD, ebd, but also see winter report (median 12/16).

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*) — [1 North, 7 South] One north 9/17–21 St. Louis (max. 3, Duluth) AVa, JPR, ebd. Early south 10/12–17 Dakota MwT, m.ob., 10/24 Olmsted LAV, m.ob., 10/25 Lyon (**40**, season's high count near Cottonwood) GWe. Found in Blue Earth, Jackson, Hennepin, and Yellow Medicine in November. See winter report for late south migrants.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albi-*

frons) — [7 North, 23 South] Early north (median 10/3) 8/1–11 Carlton (adult continuing from July) ebd, PHS, SCB, 10/1 Lake StK, ebd. Early south (median 9/22) 9/25 Steele ebd, 10/6 Olmsted (19, South Landfill Reservoir) MiD, 10/9 Lyon (4) GWe. High counts 11/8 Jackson (**400**, Heron Lake) ebd, 10/17 Steele (**300**, Armstrong Wetland Restoration; flyover, counted by tens) NiR, 10/24 Nobles (250, East Graham Lake) BTS. Late north 10/29 Lake JWJ, 11/21 Clay (3) TCL (median 10/31). See winter report for late south migrants.

BRANT (*Branta bernicla*) — [1 South] An adult “Atlantic” Brant (*B. b. brota*) was the first fall record since 2016, 9/26 **Houston** (Hwy. 26 Overlook south of Brownsville) ph. †DMf. Also see *Documented reports still under review* in the introduction to this report.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [20 North, 43 South] Early north (median 9/10) 9/14–29 St. Louis (max. 17) KDS, PHS, JuG. Early south (median 9/18) 9/27 Ramsey DnS,



Greater White-fronted Goose, 11 August 2020, Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

9/28 Lincoln (8) ebd, Rice ebd. Descriptions or photos provided from 23 counties. High counts 11/23 Murray (60, Lake Shetek S.P.) ebd, 11/25 Lac qui Parle (59, Big Stone N.W.R.) GWe. Late north 11/21 Clay (12) TCL, 11/23 Beltrami ebd, but also see winter report (median 12/17).

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties in the state and throughout the season. High counts 11/24 Washington (3,500, Stagecoach Trail N., Afton) KvM, 10/18 Dakota (2,500, Empire Twp.) MWT, 11/22 Olmsted (2,500, Silver Creek Reservoir) MiD.

Greater White-fronted Goose X Canada Goose (*Anser albifrons* X *Branta canadensis*) — [1 North] One north 10/4–11/3 Cass (Walker W.T.P.) ebd, AxB.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [5 South] Four south reports of probable wild birds: 8/6 – 11/29 Hennepin (max. 2, seen primarily at

Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) ph. KDS, m.ob., 10/4 Scott BAb, 10/24–25 Kandiyohi (Henry Lake) ph. AaL, CLu, m.ob., 11/17 Wabasha (Pool #5) PEJ. Another report of questionable origin: 8/5 Wright (Otsego) ebd.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [33 North, 50 South] Reported in all regions of the state and throughout the season. High counts 11/17, 11/22 Hennepin (250, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge, counted by 10s) SOa, ALD.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [24 North, 41 South] Early north (median 9/30) 10/4 Pennington ANy, 10/9–15 Hubbard (4) ebd, 10/15 Aitkin (2) ebd. Early south (median 10/11) 10/10 Hennepin (3) ebd, 10/15 Wabasha (2) PEJ, 10/16 Goodhue (2) ebd. High count 11/9 Houston (**25,000**, Brownsville; next highest count from this location was 7,000, very few tallies explained how total was calculated) LHL. Late north 11/27–28 Clay (max. 63) PBB, 11/29 St. Louis (2)

- ebd (median 11/30).
- Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported throughout the state and season. High counts 9/25 Hubbard (250, Kettle Lake) ebd. Late north 11/3 Clay (2) ebd, St. Louis (4, Duluth) JLK, 11/4 Otter Tail (4) ebd, 11/5 St. Louis (Cotton) ebd.
- Blue-winged Teal** (*Spatula discors*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported throughout the state through October. High counts 8/25 Jackson (6,300, South Heron Lake, counted by fives) KJB, 8/24 Big Stone (2,400, West Toqua Lake, counted by hundreds) KJB. Late north 10/30 Cook LWd, Otter Tail (10) ebd, Pine CRM, m.ob. (median 10/29). Late south 11/11 Lyon (4) GWe, Scott (2) ANy, 11/12 Yellow Medicine (6) GWe, 11/15 Hennepin (2) RBj (median 11/13).
- Northern Shoveler** (*Spatula chrypeata*) — [27 North, 49 South] High counts 10/17 Steele (450, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) NiR, 10/3 Big Stone (250, West Toqua Lake) WCM, 11/7 Houston (250, Upper Mississippi N.W.R.) MSc. Late north 11/2 Douglas (4) LGL, 11/5 Carlton CBt, RMS, 11/8 Clay (30) ebd (median 11/13). See winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.
- Gadwall** (*Mareca strepera*) — [25 North, 45 South] High counts 11/13 Houston (600, Upper Mississippi N.W.R.) GHo, 11/28 Wabasha (400, Minneiska Backwater) DnS, FFa. Late north 11/6 Beltrami (2) ASu, 11/12 Pine KrM, 11/14 Becker NaH (median 11/22). See winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.
- American Wigeon** (*Mareca americana*) — [14 North, 36 South] High count 9/28 Houston (1,250, Upper Mississippi N.W.R., counted by tens) ASu, EzH. Late north 11/2 Grant ebd, 11/3–14 St. Louis (several locations) JLK (median 11/25); see winter report for late south birds.
- Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 52 South] Reported throughout the state. High counts 10/16 Aitkin (14,345, Rice Lake N.W.R. ground waterfowl survey) CyC, 11/16 Dakota (2,500, Whitetail Woods R.P., conservative estimate) TSK.
- Gadwall X Mallard** (*Mareca strepera* X *Anas platyrhynchos*) — [1 South] One south 10/27 Ramsey (1, Saint Paul) †JBu.
- American Black Duck** (*Anas rubripes*) — [11 North, 20 South] Reported north away from Lake Superior in Aitkin, Beltrami, Grant, Kabinabec, Marshall, Pine, Polk, Roseau. Early south (median 8/16) 9/4–5 Olmsted (2) ebd, 9/8 Hennepin ebd. High count 11/23 Wabasha (51, Pools 4 and 5) PEJ.
- Mallard X American Black Duck** (*Anas platyrhynchos* X *A. rubripes*) — [2 North, 6 South] All north 9/6 St. Louis (Duluth) PHS, 9/7 Lake (Lake One/Kawishiwi) DEa, 10/27 St. Louis (Park Point) AKz, 11/24 St. Louis (3, Forest Hill) JLK. All south 9/5 Dakota (Thompson Lake) AKz, 10/18 Stearns (1, Sartell) ebd, 10/18–24 Hennepin (Rogers W.T.P.) †CLB, m.ob., 11/4–23 Wabasha (max. 2, Pool #5) PEJ, 11/14 Ramsey (Crosby Farm R.P.) AGU, cies.) PEJ, 11/25 Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) GWe.
- Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) — [17 North, 36 South] High count 11/8 Houston (500, Brownsville Overlook) ebd. Late north 11/12–14 St. Louis JLK. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.
- Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca*) — [27 North, 46 South] High counts 10/17 Steele (700, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) NiR, 10/3 Big Stone (410, West Toqua Lake) WCM. Late north 11/9 Clay (2) CMk, 11/11 Cook ebd, 11/12 St. Louis JLK (median 11/18). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.
- Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*) — [20 North, 42 South] High count 11/23 Wabasha (3,840, Pool #5) PEJ. Late north 11/6–7 Beltrami (4) HHD, m.ob., 11/7 Douglas JPE, Mille Lacs CBt, 11/12 Becker NaH (median 12/6). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.
- Redhead** (*Aythya americana*) — [30 North, 43 South] High counts 10/25 Lyon (130, Cottonwood Lake) GWe, 11/11 Cass (125, Lake Winnibigoshish) AxB. Late north 11/19 St. Louis HBr, 11/21–28 Beltrami (Northwoods Public Landing, Lake Bemidji) DPJ (median 12/12). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.
- Ring-necked Duck** (*Aythya collaris*) — [32 North, 47 South] High count 10/16 Aikin (261,644, Rice Lake N.W.R. ground waterfowl survey). Late north 11/16–28 Aitkin SKS, ABL, 11/22 Beltrami (3) ebd, but also see winter report (median 12/6).
- Greater Scaup** (*Aythya marila*) — [13 North,

25 South] Early north (median 9/27) 9/27 St. Louis (7, 40th Ave. West) MLH, 10/5 St. Louis (10, Park Point R.A.) JLK, 10/7 Hubbard (2) RLF, REn. Early south (median 10/17) 10/17 Stearns DOr, 10/18 Goodhue PEJ, Washington (2) MwT. High count 10/27 St. Louis (40, Park Point) ASu, m.ob. (median 12/10). Late north 11/17 Lake EBr, 11/17–28 Beltrami Axb, DPJ, m.ob. (median 12/10). See winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [29 North, 42 South] High counts 11/23 Wabasha (3,720, Pool #5) PEJ, 11/8 Meeker (500, Lake Ripley) MJB. Late north 11/29 Kanabec (2) SPS, 11/30 Beltrami (3) AxB (median 12/18). See winter report for late migrants and overwintering birds.

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*) — [1 North] Twenty-fourth state and second county record of this Casual species: 11/6–7 Beltrami (immature male, Lake Bemidji) ph. †DPJ, ph. AxB, †ASu, m.ob.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus bistrionicus*) — [2 North] All north and quite possibly the same individual: 10/21 – 11/8 St. Louis (immature/female, reported from Stony Point and McQuade Small Craft Harbor) StK, m.ob., 11/5–22 Lake (immature/female, reported from east of Stony Point and Two Harbors) ph. MSS, m.ob.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [6 North, 11 South] Early north (median 9/30) 9/29 Cook JWa, 10/3 St. Louis (Superior Entry) MaJ, 10/5 St. Louis (2, Park Point R.A.) JLK. Three north reports away from Lake Superior 10/28 Itasca SC, 11/6–10 Beltrami (2, Lake Bemidji) RAE, m.ob., and latest north 11/10–15 Cass (Lake Winnibigoshish) REN, RLF, m.ob. All south 10/17 Blue Earth (1, Loon Lake) CHH, KEm, 10/17 Stearns (3, Pearl Lake) HHD, m.ob., 10/24–30 Sherburne (max. 3, Eagle Lake) PLJ, ToL, m.ob., 10/25 – 11/7 Kandiyohi (1, Foot Lake) RAE, m.ob., 10/25 Lyon (1, School Grove Lake) GWe, (3, Cottonwood Lake) GWe, RAE, NMe, 10/26 Murray (1, Lake Shetek) KEm, JWH, 10/29–11/7 Hennepin (max. 3, Medicine Lake) FFA, m.ob., 10/30 Isanti (1, Green Lake) ANy, BWF, m.ob., 11/3–7 Brown (2, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) StA, BTS, m.ob., 11/4–27 Dakota (1, Orchard Lake) BxP, m.ob., 11/21–28 Rice (1, Mazaska Lake) DBz, m.ob. 11/23–27 Lyon



Black Scoter, 9 November 2020, Winona County. Photo by Todd Mitchell.

(Cottonwood Lake) GWe, RAE, NMe. High count 10/6 Cook (9, Taconite Harbor) JWL.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) — [7 North, 17 South] Significantly the highest number of fall reports in the last ten years. Early north (median 10/7) 10/3–9 St. Louis (max. 3) ASu, MaJ, JLK. Four north reports away from Lake Superior 10/23 Todd (3, Lake Osakis) RLF, REn, m.ob., 11/4–14 Beltrami (max. 4, Bemidji) AxB, m.ob., 11/10–15 Cass (max. 8, Lake Winnibigoshish) REN, RLF, 11/22 Itasca SC. One first county record 10/30 **Pope** (3, Westport Lake) AaL, CLu. Early south 10/16–17 Benton (max. 3, Little Rock Lake) HHD, m.ob., 10/17 Blue Earth (3, Loon Lake) CHH, KEm, Washington (4, Big Marine P.R.) BDo, m.ob. High count 10/23 Cook (16) PEJ. Late north 11/22 Itasca SC, 11/25 Cook (8) PEJ (median 12/5). Late south 11/21 Kandiyohi (2, Green Lake) JWd, 11/22–23 Le Sueur (4, German Lake) DAB (median 12/3). Also see winter report for latest migrants north and south.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*) — [7 North, 17 South] The highest number of fall reports in the last ten years. Early north (median 10/4) 10/3–5 St. Louis (10, Park Point) ASu, MaJ, JLK, 10/6 Cook (1, Taconite Harbor) JWL. Four north reports away from Lake Superior, in Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Todd. Two first county reports 10/26 **Brown** (3, Sleepy Eye Lake) BTS, m.ob., 11/14–15 **Le Sueur** (1, Lake Dora) †BAB, m.ob. Early south 10/19–23 Big Stone (2, Big Stone Lake) DLP, RAE.

- Late south 11/26 Lyon (1, Lyrock W.M.A.) NME, 11/27–28 Rice (6, Mazaska Lake) MZA, BHe. Other south reports from Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Isanti, Olmsted, Ramsey, Sherburne, Stearns, Wabasha, Winona, Wright, **Yellow Medicine**.
- Long-tailed Duck** (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [3 North, 8 South] Early north (median 10/17) 9/12 St. Louis (McQuade Small Craft Harbor and Brighton Beach) HTo, JCa, 9/13 St. Louis (Brighton Beach, same individual?) JLK, 10/23 Cook (2, Cascade River Wayside) RJS. Additional north report away from Lake Superior 11/7–29 Beltrami (adult female, Bemidji) FFA, DHo, m.ob. All south 10/17 – 11/28 Washington (1, Big Marine P.R.) BDo, m.ob., 10/21–25 **Brown** (adult male, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) ph. †BTS, m.ob., 11/2–28 Rice (max. 3, Mazaska Lake) RBJ, m.ob., 11/20 Kandiyohi (adult male, Saulsbury Park) JoS, JWd, SGa, AaL, CLu, 11/20–25 Lac qui Parle (female, Salt Lake) DLP, RAE, 11/21 Stearns (1, Pearl Lake) HHD, 11/24 Chisago (immature/female, Rush Lake) KrM, TPa, 11/27–28 Anoka (2, both female, Centerville Lake) RMD, m.ob., 11/30 Rice (3, Cannon Lake) TFB.
- Bufflehead** (*Bucephala albeola*) — [29 North, 45 South] Early south (median 9/22) 8/9 Wright RSk, ToL, 8/27 Faribault DFN, 9/26 Ramsey (4) ASo. High count 11/8 Beltrami (500, Lake Bemidji) ACr.
- Common Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*) — [28 North, 39 South] Early south (median 10/15) 9/26 Stearns (3) MtS, 10/14 Wright (5) ebd, 10/17 Washington RNe. High counts 11/10 Ramsey (500, Pleasant Lake) MRe, WRe, 11/21 Hennepin (500, Orono) LHL, 11/29 Beltrami (500, Lake Bemidji) JWa.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*) — [1 North] One north record 11/19 **Beltrami** (female, Lake Bemidji) †REN, AxCl.
- Hooded Merganser** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [34 North, 49 South] Reported statewide. High count 11/15 Hennepin (460, Lake Harriet) JCa.
- Common Merganser** (*Mergus merganser*) — [22 North, 36 South] Early south (median 10/21) 8/15 Anoka (2) LVD, 8/31 – 9/7 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) JGb, ebd. High count 11/30 Goodhue (8,000, Lake City, counted by 100s) VRL.
- Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*) — [9 North, 22 South] Reports from the Northeast spanned the season. Away from Lake Superior after October: 11/1–17 Beltrami (max. 17) AxB, m.ob., 11/4 Hubbard (1, Kabekona Lake) REn, RLF, 11/4 Kanabec SPS, 11/10–15 Cass (max. 30) REn, RLF, m.ob. Early south (median 10/28) 10/17 Benton (2) JCC, FFa, 10/24 Dakota MwT, Stearns (6) PCC. High count 11/10 Cass (30, Erickson's Public Water Access, Leech Lake) REn, RLF.
- Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [22 North, 45 South] High count 10/14 Lac qui Parle (375, Salt Lake) GWe. Late north (median 11/5) Clay (16) PBB, 11/6 Mille Lacs (2) NsG, 11/11 Cass (2) REn, AxB, RLF. Also see winter report.
- Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [31 North, 47 South] Reported statewide. High counts 10/30 Kandiyohi (84) RAE, 11/13 Todd (60) REn.
- Ruffed Grouse** (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [29 North, 11 South] Reported north from every county but Grant, Traverse, Wilkin, Clay, Red Lake. All south reports were east of a line from Benton to Fillmore, where absent only from Hennepin, Ramsey, Wabasha, Olmsted. High count 8/16 St. Louis (14, Arkola Rd., Meadowlands) CIN.
- Spruce Grouse** (*Canachites canadensis*) — [4 North] Reported north from Cook, Lake, Roseau, St. Louis. High count 11/17 Lake (10, Whyte Rd./Stony River F.R.) ASu, KEI.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [10 North, 2 South] Two south reports 8/15–16 Yellow Medicine (max. 7, Mound Spring Prairie) WCM, JWZ, ebd, 10/24 Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) ebd. North reports from Aitkin, Clay, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Pine, Polk, Roseau, St. Louis. High counts 11/28 Roseau (35, field along 410th Ave.) JWH, JWa, 10/19, 10/22 Polk (26, near Warren) HHu, 11/28 Pennington (25, near Saint Hilaire) HHu.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken** (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [7 North] Found north in Clay, Grant, Norman, Otter Tail, Polk, Red Lake, Wilkin. High count 11/30 Clay (52, Spring Prairie Preserve) PBB.
- Gray Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*) — [6 North, 6 South] All north 8/20 Grant (3, North Ottawa Impoundment) KIs, 8/29 Kittson (2, Hallock W.T.P.) AaL, CLu, 10/3 Lake of the Woods (2, near Baudette) AaL, CLu, 10/4 Pennington

- (14, also the high count) ANy, 11/7 Clay (14, near Moorhead) DnM, 11/9 Clay (Elmwood Twp.) CMk, 11/19 Polk (6, near Warren) HHu. All south 8/11–17 Rock (max. 3, Touch the Sky Prairie) KEm, JmP, 8/18 Brown (7, New Ulm) MiO, 9/4 Mower APi, 9/15 Meeker PKF, 9/21–11/28 Lyon (max. 9) GWe, RJS, 11/7 Kandiyohi (10, Blomkest W.T.P.) JWd.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [19 North, 53 South] Reported as far north as Polk, Beltrami, Cass, and Pine. High count 10/2 Big Stone (28, near Correll) WCM.
- Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [34 North, 52 South] High counts 9/13 Grant (60, Niemack Lake Park) DBg, 9/25 Douglas (47, Osakis) JLK. Late north (median 12/2) 11/27–30 Beltrami (Bemidji) ebd, 11/29 Kanabec SPS, but also see winter report.
- Horned Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*) — [17 North, 24 South] Early south (median 9/5) 8/16 Hennepin (2) DEl, 8/25 Olmsted MiD, 9/4 Mower LHL, Redwood (4) BTS. High counts 9/9 Lake (9, Two Harbors) DWe, 10/3 Hennepin (9, Bde Maka Ska) SOa, CMB, 10/24 Otter Tail (9, Battle Lake) TFu. Late north 11/15 Cass (2) ABi, REEn, 11/17 St. Louis EBr, CRa, 11/17–19 Beltrami AxB, REEn, ebd (median 11/25). Late south 11/24 Washington PNi, 11/25–26 Hennepin CMB, JCa, MZa, 11/27 Rice (2) MZa.
- Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [26 North, 22 South] High count 8/3 Wright (15, Annandale) RMS, HBU, ebd. Late north 11/10–29 St. Louis JLK, LFr, StK (median 12/5). Late south 11/17 Hennepin (2) CLB, m.ob., Lyon GWe, 11/21 Wright BKe (median 11/16).
- Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [8 North, 5 South] High counts 8/6 Wilkin (12, Breckenridge W.T.P.) RLF, REEn, 9/6 Pennington (12, Thief River Falls W.T.P.) LMc, DFe. Late north 9/12 Pennington (2) SDz, 9/25 Douglas JLK, 11/11 Clay CMk (median 10/10). Late south 11/4–6 Ramsey (2, Lake Como) MHe, m.ob. (median 10/24).
- Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [5 North, 9 South] High counts 8/6 Douglas (79, Lake Osakis) GHo, KDS, 9/25 Todd (63, Battle Point, Lake Osakis) JLK. Late north 11/5–7 Hubbard (Kabekona Lake) REEn, RLF, RAE (median 11/7). Late south 10/25 Lyon (2) GWe, 10/31 Hennepin (2) MAK, 11/16 McLeod ABL (median 11/18).
- Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — No reports.
- Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found statewide. High count 10/26 Ramsey (**1,100**, railroad yard near Little Pigs Eye Lake) BBr.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [22 North, 49 South] Continued expansion throughout the state and the most fall reports in the last ten years. Generally reported southwest of a line from Roseau to Winona. One report from the Northeast 10/10 St. Louis (1, Park Point) ph. BEA. High count 10/23 Dakota (29, Miesville) KDS.
- Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High counts 9/13 Stevens (100, Donnelly Twp.) DBg, 8/5 Carver (90, near New Germany) REEn, RLF.
- Crotophaga ani** (*Crotophaga* sp.) — [1 North] Eleventh record of an ani, three of which have now been accepted at the genus level: 8/20 St. Louis (Park Point R.A, near Sky Harbor Airport) †PHS, SCB. This is the second earliest fall record of an ani.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [2 North, 34 South] All north 8/18 St. Louis (Stony Point) StK, ebd, 8/23 St. Louis (Park Point) EFC, RyS, 8/23 Aitkin SKS. No counts higher than 3. Late south 9/14 Hennepin (2) ebd, Mower JPr, 9/17 Blue Earth MiO, 9/23 Rice MZa.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [11 North, 18 South] Late north 9/25–27 St. Louis (Park Point) CMu, m.ob., 9/27 Cook ebd (median 9/17). Late south 9/14 Hennepin BAF, Watonwan FFa, 9/16 Scott MWT, 10/16 Winona LHL (median 9/16).
- Common Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles minor*) — [31 North, 49 South] High count 8/24 St. Louis (27,580, H.R.N.R. fourth highest count for the fall season.) JPR, NPu. Late north 10/4 St. Louis H.R.B.O., m.ob., 10/4 Becker ShG, HeH (median 10/1). Late south 10/9 Blue Earth (2) AKz, Carver ANy, Hennepin JCa, Washington PNi, 10/10 Ramsey (2) LiH, 10/12 Olmsted LAV (median 10/9).
- Eastern Whip-poor-will** (*Antrostomus vociferus*) — [6 North, 4 South] Late north 9/5 Pine ebd, 9/6 Lake (3, near Two Harbors) ebd, 9/12 Lake (Sucker Lake) ebd. Deceased individual found 10/5 Carlton CLN was estimated to have died “a couple of weeks” earlier. All

- south 8/26 Lyon (Garvin Park) GWe, 8/27 – 9/4 Sherburne HHD, 8/29 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) ph. CMB, DWK, CLB, 8/31 Le Sueur (Ney N.C.) a.t. WCM.
- Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [23 North, 48 South] High count 8/28 Washington (3,127, Mahtomedi High School; counted going in to roost) KJB. Late north 9/8 St. Louis (2) NPu, 9/13 Douglas MJB, 9/17 Lake (2) PHS (median 9/14). Late south 10/2 Ramsey ebd, 10/4 Washington (Mahtomedi) EzH, 10/5 Washington (7, Lake Elmo R.P.) BDo (median 10/5).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) — [33 North, 51 South] High counts 9/8 Sibley (30, Henderson Hummingbird Garden, estimated count) ToL, 8/11 Rice (25, Faribault) KCo, 8/16 Goodhue (25) PEJ, 8/30 Washington (25, Cottage Grove Ravine R.P.) KIs, 9/10 Hennepin (25, Longfellow Gardens) BAF. Late north 9/21 Grant (2) CNn, Todd SDi, Otter Tail ebd, 9/27 Pine ABL (median 9/27). Late south 10/11–13 Fillmore (1) ebd, 10/13 Lyon GWe (median 10/14).
- Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*) — [15 North, 20 South] High count 8/15 Dakota (8, pond south of Farmington) TGi. Late north 10/6 St. Louis ebd, 10/6–25 Otter Tail (Campbell) WPI, NaH, DFe (median 9/16). Late south 10/24 Dakota JHa, 10/25 Lyon GWe (median 10/6).
- Sora** (*Porzana carolina*) — [19 North, 40 South] High counts 9/11 Hennepin (24, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) JSt, ebd, 9/18 Hennepin (20, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) LMo. Late north 10/12 Crow Wing DMz, 10/17 Pine KrM, 10/24 Hubbard MAW (median 10/3). Late south 10/21 Cottonwood GWe, 10/22 Fillmore MJM, 10/24 Olmsted JPr, LAV, JmP, MiD (median 10/15).
- Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula galeata*) — [7 South] All south 8/1–21 Meeker (max. 10, near Dassel) PKF, m.ob., 8/4–29 Niccollet (max. 2, Swan Lake) MJB, RBW, 8/9 Waseca (3, Moonan Marsh) PSu, 8/9 – 9/18 Watonwan (max. 7, 320th St.) KEm, STa, m.ob., 8/16 Steele (2, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) LiH, 8/23–29 Goodhue (max. 6, Cannon Valley Trail) GRE, KDS, ebd, 9/10 Lyon (1, Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) MWS, JWa).
- American Coot** (*Fulica americana*) — [31 North, 51 South] Reported statewide throughout the season. High count 9/29 Douglas (21,000, Lake Christina, rough estimate) TFu.
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [4 South] All south reports were of single individuals: 9/23 Scott (Bradshaw Lake W.M.A.) KeM, 9/26 Brown (Mulligan W.M.A.) KEm, JWH, 9/29 **Pipestone** (Holland Well Fields) KEm, 10/4 **Olmsted** (East Landfill Kalmar Reservoir) MwT.
- Sandhill Crane** (*Antigone canadensis*) — [32 North, 40 South] The highest number of reports statewide since 2015. High count 10/29 Sherburne (11,244, Sherburne N.W.R. official census) CyC. Late south 11/28 Hennepin (11) ebd, Scott (2) ebd, Sherburne (18) HHD, MAJ, 11/29 Carver (49) JCy (median 11/24).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) — [1 South] One south report 9/26 Lyon (4, Cupp's Slough near Russell) †GWe.
- American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [2 North, 10 South] All north 8/5 – 9/3 Grant (max. 10, North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, m.ob., 8/17 Marshall (2) JHs. All south 8/2 – 11/7 Big Stone (max. 20, several locations) BAB, ANy, m.ob., 8/2 Dakota (Minnesota Zoo) MMr, 8/12–13 Stearns (3, Albany W.T.P.) KJB, m.ob., 8/16 Steele (3, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) LiH, 8/23 Cottonwood (Talcot Lake W.M.A.) BTS, 9/1 Olmsted (27, season high count, Silver Creek Reservoir) JPr, 9/4 – 10/3 Swift (max. 4, Marsh Lake) DLP, m.ob., 9/10 – 10/14 Lac qui Parle (max. 4, several locations) RAE, GWe, 9/21 Lyon (4, Coon Creek W.M.A.) GWe, 10/23 (max. 12, High Island Lake) RBW, DFe.
- Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — [15 North, 27 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Late north 10/25 Aitkin (15) EHi, 10/25–26 St. Louis McQuade Small Craft Harbor) JLK, ebd, 11/3–6 St. Louis (Park Point, missing right foot) CLB, KBg, **11/19** Lake (Two Harbors, Agate Bay) HBr (median 10/25). Late south 11/8 Sibley (3) BAB, 11/9 Big Stone DLP, Brown BTS, 11/10 Dakota (2) KDS, NiR (median 11/15).
- American Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [16 North, 34 South] Early north (median 8/16) 8/6–20 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) GHo, KDS, m.ob., 8/15 Kanabec BAB. Earliest south reports in July. High count 9/24 Lac qui Parle (688, Marsh Lake) WCM. Late north 10/29 Polk HHu, 10/30 Lake DnS, MWS, ebd, 11/8 Clay (20) JBo (median 10/29). Late south 11/8 Brown (18) BAB,

- BTS, Jackson (23) MWO, 11/8–9 Sibley (max. 80, High Island Lake) BAB, DWK, DFE, 11/8–10 Dakota (max. 5, Lake Bylesby) CRa, JCa, m.ob. (median 11/7).
- Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High count 8/23 Big Stone (**1,500**, Marsh Lake, counted 400 in one bay and used that tally to estimate aggregate total) JWa (median 10/25). See winter report for late south migrants.
- Semipalmated Plover** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [15 North, 33 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High counts 8/8 Grant (50, North Ottawa Impoundment) JWa, 8/16 Big Stone (50, West Marsh Lake) FFa. Late north 9/26 St. Louis (4, Park Point) ebd, 10/2 Grant (5) MO, 10/5 Douglas MJB (median 10/2). Late south 10/10 Stearns (2) PCC, 10/17 Jackson (2) KEm, 10/23 Brown RBW (median 10/11).
- Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*) — No reports.
- Upland Sandpiper** (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [3 North, 8 South] High count 8/1 Pipestone (3, Osborne Twp.) MwT. All north 8/3 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) ebd, 8/5–20 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, m.ob., 8/18 St. Louis (C.R. 290) IDv, 8/31 Traverse (Dollymount Twp.) ebd. Late south 8/25 Yellow Medicine GWe, 8/26 Brown MiO, 9/4 Lac qui Parle GWe (median 8/24).
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) — [2 North] All north 8/19 St. Louis (Stony Point) StK, IDv, 8/20–9/3 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) ebd, m.ob., 9/25–30 **Koochiching** (Littlefork) ph. LDb.
- Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa baemastica*) — [1 North, 4 South] All north 8/8–24 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) JGW, KJB, m.ob., including a peak count of 51 on 8/20 REn, RLF. All south 8/9 Big Stone (5, Marsh Lake) EzH, ISH, 9/21–26 Chippewa (Shakopee Lake) DLP, m.ob., 9/24 Lac qui Parle (2, Marsh Lake) WCM, 10/2–12 Cottonwood (Talcot Lake W.M.A.) KEm, JWH, 10/3 – **11/7** Big Stone (Marsh Lake) RAE, DLP, 10/24 Lac qui Parle DLP.
- Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*) — [3 North, 6 South] All north 8/8 – 9/6 Grant (max. 3, North Ottawa Impoundment) JGW, m.ob., 8/8 Marshall (6) SAU, 8/8 Polk (4) SAU. All south 8/1–2 Le Sueur DOr, m.ob., 8/2–17 Big Stone (max. 9, Marsh Lake) BAB, m.ob., 8/23 Lyon GWe, 8/26 Lac qui Parle KJB, 9/2 Redwood DWK, Yellow Medicine (2) DWK (median 8/29).
- Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) — [4 North, 2 South] See summer report for earliest southbound migrants. All north 8/18 – 9/14 Grant (max. 2, North Ottawa Impoundment) JmP, m.ob., 8/22–25 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) StK, m.ob., 9/3–28 Lake (max. 3, Two Harbors) JWL, m.ob., 9/27–28 Cook ebd. All south 8/3 Big Stone KJB, 8/8 Redwood BTS, MiO.
- RED KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*) — [3 North, 2 South] All north 8/18–19 St. Louis (juvenile, Stony Point) IDv, †PHS, 9/7–10 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) †DWK, ph. †LBA, m.ob., 9/8 Traverse (Tintah Twp., same individual that was reported in Grant) ASu, m.ob. All south 9/11 Lyon (3, Lone Tree Lake) LiH, †GWe, RJS, 10/11 Big Stone (Marsh Lake) ph. †DLP. Also see *Documented reports still under review*.
- Stilt Sandpiper** (*Calidris bimantopus*) — [19 North, 31 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High counts 8/30 Yellow Medicine (800, Timm Lake) JbS, 8/9 Big Stone (720, Marsh Lake) EzH, ISH. Late north 9/13 Cass (2) DoH, 9/13–14 Kanabec (max. 2) SPS, 9/22 Douglas REn, m.ob. (median 9/20). Late south 10/20 Lyon (9, Lone Tree Lake) GWe, 10/25 Lyon (2, Sham Lake) GWe, 11/3 Stevens DLP (median 10/17).
- Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) — [8 North, 18 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High count 9/26 St. Louis (31, Park Point R.A.) ebd. Late north 10/9 Lake (4, two pairs at separate locations) JWL, ABm, St. Louis ebd, 10/28 Cass (4, Lake Winnibigoshish) AxB, 11/1 Cass (Tenmile Lake) ebd (median 10/11). Late south 10/25 Brown BTS, Lyon (2, Cottonwood W.T.P.) GWe, 11/6 Lyon (Lone Tree Lake) GWe (median 10/21).
- Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*) — [6 North, 21 South] Early north (median 8/30) 9/4 – 10/5 Grant (max. 4) MTe, m.ob., 9/4–6 Otter Tail (max. 4) ShG, m.ob., 10/5 Lake JWL. See summer report for earliest south migrant; subsequently reported 8/4 Lyon (2) GWe, 8/22 Sibley (two locations) RJS, NME. High count 10/1 Yellow Medicine (30, Timm Lake) RJS. Late north 10/25 Cook (2) PEJ, 10/26 St. Louis (9, Mud Lake) JLK, 11/7 St. Louis (Stony Point) TRK, StK (median 10/29). Late south 11/7

Dakota (3) PRH, m.ob., 11/8 Hennepin ebd, Sibley (3) DWK, m.ob. (median 11/8).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [22 North, 36 South] See summer report for early north and south migrants. High counts 8/26 Big Stone (107, Marsh Lake) KJB, 9/10 Lac qui Parle (60, Marsh Lake) WCM. Late north 9/17 Douglas (2) CRM, m.ob., Lake JGW, 9/23 Todd JLK, 10/3 Grant (3) ToR (median 10/8). Late south 11/6 Lyon (Lone Tree Lake) GWe, 11/6–7 Dakota (max. 2) KDS, JCa, 11/11 Lyon (Cottonwood W.T.P.) GWe (median 11/1).

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [30 North, 49 South] See summer report for early north and south migrants. High counts 8/30 Yellow Medicine (1,200, Timm Lake) JbS, 9/4 Lac qui Parle (930, Marsh Lake) WCM, 8/11 Big Stone (800, Marsh Lake) KJB. Late north 10/14 Grant (5) MO, 10/25 Douglas ToR, Otter Tail NaH (median 10/13). Late south 11/4 Lyon GWe, 11/5 Sherburne PLJ, 11/6–9 Brown (2) BTS (median 10/26).

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [5 North, 10 South] Early south (median 8/14) 8/16 Steele LiH, 8/21 Scott (3) BHe, 8/24 Swift KJB. All north 8/5 Grant †KJB, 8/25 Clay (5, Spring Prairie Twp., season high count) CMk, 9/17 Lake PHS, m.ob., 10/28 Cass AxB, 11/1–2 Cook ebd, m.ob. Late south 9/20 Pipestone (2) VKI, 9/30 Sherburne PLJ, 10/14–16 (2) Dakota DWK, m.ob. (median 10/2). **Note:** undocumented reports of fall migrants prior to August 15th are not published.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*) — [8 North, 23 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Total for season at least 248 individuals. High counts 8/22 Grant (60, North Ottawa Impoundment) JGW, 8/23 Big Stone (40, Marsh Lake) JGW. New county record: 8/22–23 **Cottonwood** (max. 9, Delton Twp.) JWH, KEm, RAE, BTS. Late north 9/11 Grant (2, North Ottawa Impoundment) MO, 9/16 Lake EzH, m.ob., 10/9 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd (median 9/21). Late south 10/4 Big Stone DLP, Faribault DWK, 10/17 Sherburne PLJ (median 9/22).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [27 North, 48 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High count 8/26 Big Stone (3,800, Marsh Lake) KJB. Late

north 10/28 Cass (2) AxB, 10/30 Beltrami AxB, 10/30 – 11/4 Kanabec SPS (median 10/30). Late south 11/8 Lyon (2) GWe, Sibley (3) BAab, DWK, 11/8–9 Olmsted (2) LAV, m.ob. (median 11/11).

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [22 North, 42 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High count 8/9 Big Stone (1,350, Marsh Lake) EzH, ISH. Late north 9/22 Marshall (2) SDz, m.ob., 9/25 St. Louis (17) ebd, 10/3–5 Grant (max. 2) LGL, ANy (median 9/29). Late south 10/15 Lyon (3) GWe, 10/16 Dakota NiR, 10/17 Jackson (2) KEm, (median 10/15).

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [10 North, 19 South] High counts (all Short-billed?) 8/6 Big Stone (75, Marsh Lake) KEm, SEm, MEm, 8/13 Grant (45, North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd. Late north 9/10 Roseau SDz, St. Louis (2) MLH, 9/13 Kanabec SPS (median 9/5). Late south 8/31 Lincoln SDz, m.ob., Nobles (3) KEm, 9/8 Sherburne (2) PLJ, 9/10–12 Lyon (max. 6) GWe, m.ob. (median 9/12). **Note:** Any reports of Short-billed Dowitcher after 15 September without details are not published. (See **The Loon** 89:160–161.)

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [9 North, 28 South] Early north (median 8/18) 8/20–24 Grant (2) REn, m.ob., 9/3 Hubbard (3) REn, m.ob., 9/4 Otter Tail ShG, m.ob. See summer report for earliest south migrants (median 8/10); subsequently reported 8/3 Big Stone (38) †KJB. High counts 10/3 Swift (114, Marsh Lake) RAE, 10/4 Big Stone (73) DLP. Late north 10/9 Polk (7) HHu, 10/13 Becker (8) ebd, 10/18 Grant (4) MMk (median 10/15). Late south 11/4 Lyon GWe, 11/6 Olmsted ebd, 11/7 Dakota (2) ebd (median 10/27).

Limnodromus dowitcher (*Limnodromus* sp.) — [3 North, 8 South] The second highest tally of dowitchers this season was of individuals identified only at the genus level: 10/3 Big Stone (100, Correll) WCM.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [17 North, 22 South] High count 9/26 Rice (10, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) MZA. Late north 10/31 Douglas LGL, 11/7 St. Louis (Morse Twp.) MPi, 11/8 St. Louis (Duluth) ebd (median 10/31). Late south 11/1 Blue Earth ChH, 11/5 Hennepin JCC, 11/7 Carver JcY (median 11/5).



Long-tailed Jaeger, 10 September 2020, Black Rush Lake W.P.A., Russell, Lyon County. Photo by Ezra Hosch.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [28 North, 50 South] Highest counts were from Lake Byllesby in Dakota County where numbers peaked at 95 on 10/30 PEJ. Late north 11/13 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) JPR, m.ob., 11/14 St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, 11/22 Beltrami (deceased) AxB (median 11/12).

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [32 North, 51 South] High count 8/8 Marshall (22, Warren W.T.P.) HHu. Late north 10/3 Itasca TCL, Lake of the Woods AaL, m.ob., Pine ebd, 10/4 Aitkin (2) ebd, 10/6 Cook JWL (median 10/20). Late south 10/15 Nobles SDz, 10/17 Dakota ADS, 10/18 Murray (2) ebd (median 10/16).

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [25 North, 46 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High counts 8/16, 8/22 Pine (15, Sandstone W.T.P.) TJo., m.ob., 9/10 Rice (13, St. Olaf College Natural Lands) ebd. Late north 10/10 Kanabec SPS, Todd REN, m.ob., 10/11 Polk (2) HHu (median 10/2). Late south 10/10 Hennepin ebd, Washington

PNi, m.ob., 10/15 Lyon GWe, 10/15–17 Sherburne PLJ, m.ob. (median 10/10).

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [33 North, 51 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High counts 8/9 Big Stone (**1,900**, Marsh Lake) EzH, IsH, 8/4 Big Stone (1380, West Toqua Lake) KJB. Late north 10/27 Becker NaH, 10/28 Cass AxB, 10/31 Marshall HHu (median 10/23). Late south 11/4 Dakota (2) BKA, Sherburne MAJ, 11/4–5 Olmsted (2) JmP, m.ob., 11/4–8 Lyon (max. 11) GWe (median 11/4).

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [2 North, 1 South] All north 8/9–10 Grant (max. 9, North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, 8/10 Otter Tail (Glendalough S.P.) ebd, 8/20–25 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) KIs, m.ob., 9/26 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd. Only south report: 8/6 Big Stone (West Toqua Lake) REN, m.ob.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [27 North, 47 South] High count 8/8 Grant (100, North Ottawa Impoundment) JGW. Late north 11/10 Hubbard ebd, 11/11 Cass SC,

- m.ob., 11/17–29 Beltrami (Diamond Point Park) AxB, m.ob. (median 11/5). Late south 11/10 Scott (3) ANy, Sherburne MAJ, 11/10–11 Olmsted (max. 5) LAV, m.ob., 11/10–12 Dakota (max. 4) KDS, m.ob. (median 11/12).
- Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [9 North, 19 South] High count 8/9 Big Stone (140, Marsh Lake) EzH, IsH. Late north 9/6 Otter Tail (4) ebd, St. Louis (2) MLH, 9/11 Red Lake (4) SDz, 9/12 Pennington (34) SDz (median 9/4). Late south 9/22 Big Stone DLP, 9/25 Yellow Medicine (2) BHe, 10/3 Big Stone (Marsh Lake) WCM (median 9/18).
- Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [20 North, 26 South] See summer report for early north and south migrants. High counts 9/6 Pennington (240, Thief River Falls W.T.P.) CRM, m.ob., 9/10 Lac qui Parle (125, Marsh Lake) WCM. Late north 9/16 Grant JMy, 9/17–19 Douglas (6) CRM, m.ob., 10/24 Crow Wing ph. SC (median 9/22). Late south 10/3 Big Stone (9) WCM, 10/4 Sibley (3) JCC, 10/9 Lyon GWe (median 10/2).
- Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — [1 North] All reports were from St. Louis. Early north (median 9/7) 8/21 (unaged, Park Point R.A.) ebd, 8/30 (imm. light morph, Park Point R.A.) PHS, 9/3 (2, intermediate juveniles, Park Point R.A.) LBa. High count 9/18 (3, two dark morph and one light morph, unaged, Superior Entry) KEm, m.ob. Late north 9/26 (unaged, Superior Entry) MwT, 9/27 (unaged, Park Point R.A.) REEn, m.ob., 10/3 (adult, Superior Entry) MaJ (median 10/3).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) — [1 South] The twelfth state record was a well-documented adult found 9/8–13 **Lyon** (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) ph. †RJS, ph. †KEm, ph. †GWe, ph. †NMe, ph. †BAb, ph. †FFa, ph. †EzH, ph. †WCM, ph. †DOr, ph. †LBa, †JGW, ph. †APi, ph. †CRM, ph. †JuW, ph. IsH, ph. RZi, m.ob (**The Loon** 93:98–100)
- Stercorarius jaeger** (*Stercorarius* sp.) — [2 North] Jaegers not identified to species were seen 9/9 Lake (Two Harbors, immature) JWl, 9/12–13 St. Louis (Park Point R.A., dark morph) JWl, AGu.
- Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) — [3 North, 2 South] All north 9/12 St. Louis (max. 5, first-cycles, Stony Point) RMD, HTo, StK, m.ob., 9/24 Beltrami (first-cycle, Lake Bemidji) AxB, m.ob., 9/26–27 Cass (max. 2, first-cycles, Walker W.T.P.) ABi, ph. PAL, ph. DoH, m.ob. All south 9/13–16 **Watowan** (first-cycle, Case Lake) MiO, ph. †KEm, m.ob., 10/4–6 **Faribault** (first-cycle, Walnut Lake W.M.A.) ph. †KEm, JWH, m.ob.
- Bonaparte's Gull** (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [24 North, 38 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High counts 8/13 Cass (350, Walker W.T.P.) REEn, m.ob., 9/26 Cass (350, Walker W.T.P.) ABi. Late north 11/24 Cass (2) ebd, 11/25–26 Otter Tail (max. 8) TFu (median 11/24). Late south 11/22 Meeker (3) PKF, 11/25 Chisago (3) ELC, 11/29 Sibley (2) RBW (median 11/26).
- Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) — No reports.
- LAUGHING GULL** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) — [1 North] Only documented report of this Casual species was a basic-plumaged adult at the Superior Entry in St. Louis 9/29 ph. †PHS.
- Franklin's Gull** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [23 North, 49 South] High counts 9/26 Lincoln (6,000, Lake Hendricks) RJS, 8/15 Grant (5,400, North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd, m.ob. Late north 11/2 Douglas (4) LGl, 11/3 Grant (3, Bailey Slough) CNn, (5, Pine Ridge Park) CNn (median 11/1). Late south 11/19 Dakota PEJ, Lyon (3) GWe, 11/28 Waseca DBz (median 11/18).
- Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*) — [33 North, 51 South] Found statewide through the end of the season. High counts 10/3 Dakota (3,000, 140th St. Marsh) BAF, 11/12 Hennepin (1,900, Lake Harriet) JCa.
- Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*) — [24 North, 30 South] Observed north throughout the season. Scattered reports south in late July, becoming more frequent in early August, but few of these observations were supported by any details. High counts 8/28 St. Louis (1,250, Port Terminal) PHS, 10/10 St. Louis (1,200, Superior Entry) PHS, m.ob.
- Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucooides*) — [2 North, 7 South] Early north (median 10/6) 10/13 St. Louis (adult *thayeri*, Superior Entry) PHS, 10/17 St. Louis (adult *thayeri*, Port Terminal) PHS, (*thayeri*, Superior Entry) MLH. Early south (median 10/5) 11/12 Hennepin (adult *thayeri*, Lake Harriet) FFa, m.ob., 11/14 Dakota (*thayeri*, Fort Snelling S.P.) MwT, 11/15 Dakota (2, SET-Empire mulch site: 1 first-cycle, 1 adult) MwT, Hennepin (*thayeri*, Lake



Sabine's Gull, 27 September 2020, Walker, Cass County. Photo by Don Hoppe.

Harriet) FFa. High counts 10/31 St. Louis (5, Superior Entry) NSg, 11/1 St. Louis (5, Superior Entry: 2 adults, 3 first cycle, all *thayeri*) CLN, m.ob. No individuals were reported as *L.g. kumlieni*, but many observations were not submitted at the subspecies level.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [2 North, 4 South] All north **9/7** St. Louis (second-cycle, Port Terminal) †PHS, 9/30 St. Louis (adult, Superior Entry) †MLH, 10/3–10 St. Louis (first-cycle, Superior Entry) †JLK, †PHS, m.ob., 10/18 St. Louis (second-cycle, Superior Entry) PHS, 10/19–21 Beltrami (Lake Bemidji) AxB, 10/21 St. Louis (Port Terminal) JLK. All south 9/17–19, 10/7–8 Lyon (first-cycle, Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) †RJS, GWe, m.ob., 10/16–11/26 Sherburne (max. 2, adults, Elk River Landfill & Orono Lake) PLJ, m.ob., 10/17 **Blue Earth** (first-cycle, Loon Lake) ChH, †KEm, 11/15–29 Dakota (at least 3 individuals, with a first-cycle, second-cycle, & adult all being reported from various locations in Rosemount) MwT, FFa, m.ob., 11/27–28 Blue Earth (adult, Lily Lake) ChH, m.ob.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*) —

[1 North] The tenth state record was an apparent late second-cycle or early third-cycle found **8/28** St. Louis (Port Terminal) ph. †PHS. This represents the second earliest record for the state.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [2 North, 4 South] All north 11/25 St. Louis (2 first-cycles, Canal Park) PHS, 11/26 Cook (first-cycle, Grand Marais Harbor) PEJ. All south 11/21 Hennepin (Lake Minnetonka) LHL, Sherburne (second-cycle, Elk River Landfill) JGW, m.ob., 11/21–22 **Blue Earth** (first-cycle, Lake Crystal and Loon Lake) KEm, JWH, ChH, 11/22–29 Dakota (first-cycle, SET-Empire mulch site) ASu, m.ob., 11/27–28 Blue Earth (first-cycle, Lily Lake, possibly the same individual reported nearby a week earlier) ChH, m.ob.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North] Only report 9/30 St. Louis (first-cycle, Superior Entry) MLH (also see *Insufficiently Documented Records*).

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [12 North, 25 South] High count 8/15 Cass (35, Longville W.T.P.) ebd. Late north 9/13 Cass DoH, 9/17 Beltrami ebd, 9/19 Cook ebd

- (median 9/28). Late south 9/29 Dakota (3) ebd, 10/3 Lyon RJS, 10/4 Hennepin JRg, m.ob. (median 9/29).
- Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*) — [13 North, 37 South] High counts 8/8 Steele (150, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) NHa, 8/6 Big Stone (80, West Toqua Lake) REn, m.ob. Late north 9/3 Red Lake DWK, 9/4 Kittson (3) CRM, m.ob., 9/14 Aitkin KCR (median 9/7). Late south 9/16 Wright (2) ebd, 9/18 Lincoln (5) GWe, 9/24 Sherburne SLH (median 9/16).
- Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) — [7 North, 3 South] High count 8/6 St. Louis (50, Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS. Late north 9/27 St. Louis (17, Park Point R.A.) REn, m.ob., 10/1 Crow Wing ebd, 10/9 St. Louis (Spirit Mountain) ebd (median 10/9). All south 8/16 Sherburne (3, Sherburne N.W.R.) PLJ, 9/4 Hennepin LKt, 9/5 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) ebd, 9/7 Big Stone ANy.
- Forster's Tern** (*Sterna forsteri*) — [13 North, 32 South] High count 8/9 Big Stone (30, Marsh Lake) EzH, IsH. Late north 10/1 Crow Wing ebd, 10/4 Otter Tail (11) TFu, **10/23** St. Louis ph. EHi, ebd. (median 10/13). Late south 9/24 Dakota KDS, 9/25 Sherburne ebd, 9/29 Chippewa RAE (median 10/4).
- Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*) — [2 North] All north 9/12 St. Louis (Brighton Beach) PHS, m.ob., 9/24 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) JPR, m.ob., 10/1 Lake (6, Palisade Head) TRK, StK, 10/15 St. Louis (2, H.R.N.R.) JPR, m.ob., 10/19 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) JPR, m.ob., 10/24 St. Louis (7, Stony Point) HTo, StK, ebd, 11/8 St. Louis (Stony Point) MwT, m.ob.
- Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) — [3 North, 2 South] All north 10/3 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) ASu, m.ob., 10/24 Mille Lacs (west of Wealthwood, Mille Lacs Lake) SC, m.ob., 10/25 Aitkin (Rocky Reef Resort, Mille Lacs Lake, 15 miles north of the previous day's sighting in Mille Lacs County) EHi, 11/6–10 St. Louis (Stony Point) JLK, m.ob. All south 10/17–23 **Blue Earth** (Loon Lake) †KEm, m.ob., 10/31 Carver (Lake Waconia) ph. BHe, m.ob., 11/1 Blue Earth (Loon Lake, possibly the same bird found at this location a week earlier) †ChH.
- Common Loon** (*Gavia immer*) — [28 North, 32 South] High count not representative since peak staging activity was missed: 10/9 Hubbard (315, Kabekona Lake) REn, m.ob. Late north 11/19 Beltrami REn, Cass ebd, 11/25 St. Louis PEJ, 11/26 Crow Wing (12) JLS (median 12/5). Late south 11/29–30 Washington BDO, m.ob., 11/30 Dakota BxP (median 12/2). Also see winter report for latest north and south migrants.
- Double-crested Cormorant** (*Nannopterum auritum*) — [31 North, 52 South] High counts 9/4 Dakota (650, Spring Lake P.R., Schaar's Bluff) ebd, 9/13 Hennepin (430, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) MSw. Late north 11/7–10 Clay (Swede Grove Lake) PBB, m.ob., 11/10 Mille Lacs CBt, 11/11 Clay (Lake Fifteen) CMk (median 11/20). Late south 11/21 Lac qui Parle DLP, Renville BTS, 11/25 Lac qui Parle (2, Big Stone N.W.R.) GWe (median 12/26), but also see winter report.
- NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) — [1 South] Continuing adults from the summer season were observed 8/1 – 10/20 Hennepin (max. 2, Richfield Lake Park, the last date that both birds were seen was 8/21) ph. †BAF, ph. †PEB, m.ob.
- American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [27 North, 47 South] High counts 8/23 Lac qui Parle (2,300, Marsh Lake) KJB, 8/25 Jackson (1,200, South Heron Lake) KJB. Late north 10/25 Polk REn, m.ob., 10/31 Morrison LMS, 11/9 Otter Tail (5) ebd (median 11/7). See winter report for late south.
- American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [11 North, 10 South] Highest count only two. Late north 9/19 Kittson ebd, 10/10 Douglas JPE, Morrison AaL, m.ob. (median 10/8). Late south 10/7 Olmsted JPr, m.ob., Ramsey MRe, WRe, 10/8 Sherburne ebd, m.ob., 10/29 Hennepin ebd (median 10/16).
- Least Bittern** (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [2 North, 13 South] All north 8/15 Clay (Bluestem Prairie S.N.A.) JMy, Otter Tail (Pelican Lake) JMy. Highest counts only two. Late south 9/14 Nobles KEm, 9/19 Hennepin ebd, 9/23–25 Anoka ebd, m.ob. (median 9/3).
- Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) — [34 North, 53 South] High count 9/19 Scott (31, Johnson Slough) ebd. Late north 11/9 St. Louis JLK, 11/11 Otter Tail (2) KTe, 11/11 Grant NaH (median 12/2).
- Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*) — [19 North, 47 South] High counts 8/9–10, 8/20 Grant (120, North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, REn, m.ob. Late north 10/12 Carlton ebd, 10/14 Aitkin (4) PEJ, 11/7 Mille Lacs DMz (median 10/21). Late south 11/9 Big Stone DLP, 11/9–



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 20 August 2020, Richardson Nature Center, Hennepin County. Photo by Paul E. Budde.

15 Houston LHL, m.ob., 11/23 Hennepin REn, m.ob. (median 11/11).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [7 South] All reports: 8/3 Ramsey (Grass Lake) EzH, 8/11 Lyon (Island Lake) RJS, NMe, 8/12 Lincoln (Hendricks) GWe, 8/28 Lyon (Camden Regional Bike Trail, Marshall) GWe, 9/4–5 Lac qui Parle (Marsh Lake) WCM, m.ob., 9/4–6 Swift (Marsh Lake, same bird reported from Lac qui Parle) WCM, m.ob., 9/29 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) ebd, 10/12 Blue Earth (Armstrong Lake) DBz.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) — [1 South] All south 8/4–5, 8/9 Carver (juvenile, C.R. 30 & Yale Ave.) RBW, ph. VRL, m.ob.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [3 South] All south 8/6–10 Pope (2, Hwy 29, Langhei Twp., continuing from the summer season) REn, m.ob., 8/11 Lyon (2, Island Lake) NMe, RJS, 9/18 Lincoln GWe, **11/23** Lyon (School Grove Lake) GWe.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [27 North, 38 South] High count 8/25 Carver (26, Laketown Twp.) WCM. Late north 10/1 Crow

Wing ebd, 10/9 St. Louis ebd, 10/14 Pine SRO (median 10/1). Late south 10/13 Hennepin CMB, 10/14 Dakota KDS, 10/17 Rice NfR (median 10/15).

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [2 North, 13 South] High counts 9/7 Grant (11, North Ottawa Impoundment) REn, m.ob., 10/4 Lyon (9, Island Lake) GWe. All north reports were from the North Ottawa Impoundment in Grant, where last seen 9/26 (7) ebd, 10/2 (1) MO, except for latest report 10/22 Otter Tail (2, Grotto Lake) WPL (median 10/3). Late south 10/9 Hennepin MyP, HPe, 10/26 Pipestone VKI, 11/22–30 Winona (immature, Shives Rd., also see winter report) DBz, m.ob. (median 11/6).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — [2 North, 2 South] All north 8/22 – 9/26 Grant (juvenile, North Ottawa Impoundment, possibly continuing from the summer season, this individual proved to be very sporadic and difficult to find) †JGW, ph. BLz, m.ob. All south 8/4 **Steele** (juvenile, Morehouse Park) SGz, ph. LBA, m.ob., 8/18–27 Hennepin (juvenile, Richardson N.C.) ph. SOh, ph. PEB, m.ob.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*) — [1 North, 2 South] All north 9/3 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) MTE. All south 9/8 Stevens (Donnelly Twp.) ASu, 10/16 Lyon (Lone Tree Lake) GWe.

Plegadis ibis (*Plegadis* sp.) — [1 North, 3 South] All north 8/4–6 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, m.ob., 9/3–4 Grant (2, North Ottawa Impoundment) MTE. All south 9/12 Lyon (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) KeM, m.ob., 10/17–18 Big Stone DLP, 10/26 Murray (Lake Sarah) KEm.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [34 North, 53 South] High counts 10/1 St. Louis (**854**, a new high count record for the state) H.R.B.O., 9/28 Blue Earth (417) BHW. Latest north reports were of single birds from H.R.B.O. in St. Louis: 10/30, 11/1, followed by 11/17 Hubbard RLF (median 11/5). Late south 11/11 Carver JCC, 11/12 Sherburne JOs, 11/28 Rice TFB (median 10/31).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [25 North, 41 South] High counts 9/4 St. Louis (12) H.R.B.O., 9/5 St. Louis (10) H.R.B.O. Late north 10/16 Hubbard ebd, 10/21 Todd TLu, 10/31 St. Louis NPo (median 10/23). Late south 11/7 Goodhue JMS, 11/20 Blue Earth



Swallow-tailed Kite, 6 September 2020, Carlton County. Photo by Rochelle Karp.

MTW, 11/23 Hennepin ebd (median 11/3).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) — [2 North] The first two records since 2008, both possibly involving the same bird, were found 8/16 **Pine** (Hammond Rd., Finlayson Twp.) †KPJ, 9/6 **Carlton** (Duesler) ph. †RoK.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [13 North, 16 South] Early north (median 9/27) 9/14 St. Louis (adult) H.R.B.O., 9/28 St. Louis (Congdon Park, Duluth) TRK, 9/29 St. Louis (adult, Hwy 53) CLN. Early south (median 10/12) 10/7 Blue Earth (immature) BHW, 10/10 Anoka ebd, 10/13 Blue Earth (immature) BHW. High counts 10/23 St. Louis (30) H.R.B.O., 10/18 St. Louis (23, H.R.N.R.) RSB.

Northern Harrier (*Circus budsonius*) — [34 North, 53 South] High counts all from H.R.B.O. in St. Louis: 9/16 St. Louis (18), 9/27 St. Louis (17). Late north 11/8 Marshall MJJ, 11/15 Pine TJo, 11/22 Polk (2) HHu (median 12/4). See winter report for late south individuals.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [29 North, 43 South] Early south (median 8/13) **8/2** Anoka (Linwood Twp.) †ABL, 8/12 Goodhue ebd, Ramsey MWS. High counts 9/16 St. Louis (1,560) H.R.B.O., 9/28 St. Louis (1,447) H.R.B.O.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [32 North, 49 South] High counts 9/16 Blue Earth (22) BHW, 9/28 Houston (12, Hillside Rd.,

Reno) ASu, EzH. Late north 11/12 Crow Wing ebd, 11/26–28 Polk ebd, SAU, 11/27 Becker ebd (median 12/14), but also see winter report.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [13 North, 10 South] More widely reported statewide than in any previous fall since at least the mid-90s. North reports from Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clay, Crow Wing, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake, Pine, St. Louis. All south 10/4 Kandiyohi SGa, 10/9 Olmsted †LAV, 10/24 Lac qui Parle ebd, 10/30 Sherburne NMe, †JGW, 11/1 Blue Earth BHW, 11/5 Hennepin ebd, 11/13 Blue Earth BHW, 11/25 Chippewa GWe, 11/28 Washington DFN, Yellow Medicine GWe, 11/30 McLeod (adult observed taking a Merlin) ph. BDC. High counts 11/1 St. Louis (40) H.R.B.O., 11/2 St. Louis (26) H.R.B.O.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [34 North, 52 South] Found in every county but Rock. High counts 9/5 St. Louis (461) H.R.B.O., 11/14 Blue Earth (353) BHW.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) — [1 North, 2 South] Only north report of this Casual species was 9/9 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) ph. †JPR. All south 8/26 – 9/15 Blue Earth (four were reported but only three documented, two juveniles and one adult, Land of Memories Park, the longest staying individuals of this species documented in the state, and just the second record to span multiple dates) ph. †BHW, †EzH, ph. †Lba, †PCC, ph. IsH, ph. RMD; 8/28 – 9/8 Nicollet (3 individuals throughout the period); these are the same birds as were in Blue Earth) DBz, ph. †APi, †WCM, ph. ToM, m.ob. (**The Loon** 93:105–106)

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [12 North, 29 South] High count 9/4 Washington (4, Afton S.P.) ebd. Late north 9/26 Becker DFN, 9/26–27 Todd JLK, 9/28 – 10/16 Becker (max. 2, Cormorant Twp.) HeH, ShG (median 10/29).

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — [31 North, 42 South] High counts 9/17 St. Louis (11,399) H.R.B.O., 9/13 St. Louis (9,551) H.R.B.O. Late north 10/23 St. Louis (E. Superior St., Duluth) PHS, SCB, (5, McQuade Small Craft Harbor) PHS, SCB, **11/17** St. Louis H.R.B.O. (median 10/21). Late south 10/9 Hennepin ebd, Waseca JCJ, Washington (2) MBw, 10/11 Meeker PKF (median 10/15).

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [8 North, 19 South] High count 9/16 St. Louis (4) H.R.B.O. Late north 10/2 St. Louis H.R.B.O., 10/8 Norman SDz, 10/16 St. Louis H.R.B.O. (median 9/28). Late south 9/27 Blue Earth (2) BHW, ChH, 9/28 Blue Earth (3) BHW, 10/2 Lyon RJS (median 10/6).

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High counts 10/24 St. Louis (849) H.R.B.O., 10/23 St. Louis (481) H.R.B.O. Ten Krider's reported between 8/17 and 11/22; 16 Harlan's found between 9/27 and 11/16, but note that many of these reports were undocumented.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [33 North, 49 South] Early north (median 9/21) 9/13 Lake (2) KeL, then none until 10/1 Crow Wing ebd, 10/7 Carlton ebd. Early south (median 10/4) 10/4 Stearns MtS, 10/6 Swift SDz, 10/9 Faribault (2) ebd. High counts 10/23 St. Louis (**583**, a modern-day high count record for North America) H.R.B.O., 10/25 St. Louis (**257**) H.R.B.O. H.R.B.O. totaled 1,948 for the season, a new high for the site.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) — [1 South] See *Documented reports still under review*.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [3 North, 26 South] All north 8/23 Douglas (Osagi Park, red morph) ANy, m.ob., 9/7 Douglas KEm, JWH, 9/25 Douglas (Lake Carlos S.P.) VKI, 10/30 – 11/1 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) WPI, NaH, 11/3–13 Clay (Moorhead) DPW, m.ob. Reported from 26 south counties, the most on record for any season. Four individuals noted as gray morphs, three as red morphs.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [25 North, 42 South] Found statewide.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [1 North, 1 South] Only north report 11/19 St. Louis (Armstrong Creek, west of Ely) ebd. Only south report 11/1 Mower (Sargeant Twp.) SWm.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [3 North] All north 9/26 Cook (Superior N.F.) ebd, 11/17 Lake (Superior N.F.) ASu, 11/21–26 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) ClN, m.ob. (This is considered a Sensitive Species in eBird and records are not public. This summary includes eBird records although they are not in the M.O.U. database.)

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [25 North, 35

South] Found in every region, though very few reports west of a line from Marshall to Redwood to Faribault counties. High counts 9/22 Washington (4, Afton S.P.) ebd, 9/26 Washington (4, Scandia) ebd.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [3 North, 1 South] Approximately 23 individuals found in Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis, beginning 9/24 St. Louis ebd. One exceptional south report: 11/21 **Ramsey** (Battle Creek R.P.) JKp, AXH. Although a major irruption never materialized, there were scattered reports away from this species' expected range into the winter and spring seasons, but see those *Seasonal Reports*. (This is considered a Sensitive Species in eBird and records are not public. This summary includes eBird records although they are not in the M.O.U. database.)

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [6 North, 6 South] All north 9/28 Clay (Moorhead) DPW, m.ob., 10/2 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) NPu, 10/8 Lake (Silver Bay) ABm, JJB, 10/13 Marshall (Foldahl Twp.) HHu, JHS, 10/16 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) NPu, 10/24 Cook PEJ, 10/25 St. Louis (Leif Erikson Park) KRE, m.ob., 10/26 St. Louis (Duluth) ebd, 11/2 St. Louis (2, H.R.N.R.) ebd, 11/8 Cass ebd. Early south (median 10/30) **9/2** Yellow Medicine (2) GWe, 10/17 Hennepin (Coldwater Spring) SKS, m.ob., 10/23 Hennepin (Shorewood) KMo; also reported from Dakota, Lac qui Parle, Lyon, Ramsey. High count 11/17 Hennepin (6, no location given) ToL.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [4 North, 7 South] Reported north from Lake, Otter Tail, Pine, St. Louis as late as 11/30 Lake JWL, St. Louis MLH, m.ob. Early south (median 10/10) 10/15 Cottonwood KEm, 10/24 Murray JWH, m.ob., 10/28 Dakota (Great Western Industrial Park) MWt, (Mississippi River Lock and Dam 2) JZj. High count 10/24 Otter Tail (6, Western Twp.) WPI.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [8 North, 10 South] Found north in Carlton, Cass, Clay, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Pine, St. Louis. Early south 10/3 Carver (2, Carver P.R.) FFa, 10/5 Carver (6, Carver P.R.) FFa, 10/10 Carver (17, season high count of banding program, Carver P.R.) ebd, Ramsey CF.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [34 North, 53 South] High count 8/8 Crow Wing

- (8, Barrows area) MJB. Several north reports into December.
- Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [23 North, 45 South] High counts 9/3 Lyon (11, Lucas Twp.) GWe, 8/30 Anoka (8) DFN. Late north 10/24 Kanabec SPS, 10/19 – 11/6 Cook LGr, m.ob., 11/2 Wadena PJB.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [30 North, 53 South] Reported from every region, though scarce in extreme north where not reported from Norman, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching. High counts 9/19 Dakota (14, Lebanon Hills R.P.) MSc, 9/22 Hennepin (10, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) BCM.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [31 North, 47 South] High counts 9/22 St. Louis (16, Brighton Beach) StK, TRK, 9/27 St. Louis (16) H.R.B.O. Late north 10/17 Cass ebd, Otter Tail (2) JSi, 10/18 Cook JaJ, 11/3 Grant CNn (median 11/13). See winter report for late south migrants.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [4 North] All reports: 8/16 Lake of the Woods (Faunce) ANy, RBJ, 11/12 Cook (Gunflint Trail) JGW, 11/27 Lake of the Woods (Faunce) JGW, JWH, 11/28 Roseau (Lost River S.F.) JWH, JGW, St. Louis (Short Rd.) JuG.
- Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*) — [7 North] Reported from Clearwater, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Roseau, St. Louis. No counts of more than two individuals.
- Downy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates pubescens*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High counts 11/21 Hennepin (15, Wood Lake N.C.) ebd, 11/24 Dakota (15, Hastings) ebd.
- Hairy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates villosus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from every county. High count 9/19 Carver (10, Carver P.R.) ebd.
- Northern Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found throughout the state, but frequency of north reports decreased after mid-November. High counts 9/9 Lake (100, Two Harbors) ebd, 9/13 St. Louis (48) H.R.B.O.
- Pileated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [33 North, 47 South] Found statewide, though few reports southwest of a line from Lincoln to Faribault counties. Several high counts of up to five individuals in Carver, Fillmore, and Otter Tail.
- American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) — [34 North, 52 South] Reported statewide. High count 9/16 St. Louis (86) H.R.B.O.
- Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*) — [32 North, 46 South] High counts 10/9 St. Louis (20) H.R.B.O., 9/16 St. Louis (15) H.R.B.O. Possible early south migrants 8/1 Murray MWT, 8/13 Lyon NME, 8/16 Big Stone ebd (median 8/17).
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) — [21 North, 32 South] High count 9/17 St. Louis (10) H.R.B.O. Late north away from Duluth 10/28 Lake KRE, JWJ, 10/31 Lake m.ob.
- Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) — [2 North, 4 South] Reported from six counties, the highest single-season total since Fall 1993. All north 8/2 **Koochiching** (Pine Island S.F.) ebd, 8/20 Morrison (Bellevue Twp.) FGo. All south 8/5 Jackson (Jerry Shotzko W.P.A.) †ASu, 8/15 Big Stone (Correll Landing) †AaL, 9/13 **Carver** (Rapids Lake) †JCy, 10/5 Lyon (Amiret Twp.) †RJS.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [28 North, 49 South] High count 8/25 Yellow Medicine (8, Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) GWe. Late north 9/15 Todd REN, RLF, 9/16 Otter Tail ebd, 9/18 St. Louis ebd (median 9/19). Late south 9/24 Washington ebd, 10/2 Sherburne RMS followed by record-late **11/12** Hennepin JdC (median 9/23).
- Tropical/Couch's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus* sp.) — [1 North, 1 South] Two reports accepted as Tropical/Couch's Kingbird: 8/16 **Stearns** ph. †DOr, 9/25 **Lac qui Parle** (Big Stone N.W.R. - Auto Tour Road) ph. †DLP. Also see *Documented reports still under review*.
- Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [6 North, 7 South] High counts 8/16, 8/17 Anoka (7) ebd. Late north 8/24 Grant ANy, 9/5 Traverse ebd, 10/12 St. Louis ebd (median 9/7). Late south 8/31 Big Stone ANy, 9/4 Yellow Medicine GWe, 9/10 Lyon GWe (median 9/6).
- Eastern Kingbird** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [33 North, 53 South] High counts 8/5 Sherburne (18, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) ebd, 8/5 St. Louis (16, Sax-Zim Bog) GWe. Late north 9/13 Polk ebd, Wilkin (C.R. 52, Rothsay) MO, 9/15 Morrison TGi, 9/22 Clay LSL (median 9/18). Late south 9/25 Lyon GWe, 9/28 Rice ebd, 9/29 Sherburne ebd (median 9/26).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*) — [1 North] One north report 9/4 St. Louis ph. †GrG. Also see *Documented reports still under review.*

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) — [23 North, 40 South] High counts 8/18 Washington (5, Belwin Metcalf Creative Center) JEc, 8/23 Rice (5, Norway Valley Woods) ebd, 8/28 Dakota (5) DFN. Late north 9/9 Cook NVs, 9/12 Polk SAU, 9/13 Clay PBB (median 9/11). Late south 9/22 Scott ebd, 9/23 Ramsey ebd, 9/25 Goodhue ebd, Olmsted JmP (median 9/24).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — [33 North, 52 South] High counts 8/15 Carver (23, Carver P.R.) JCy, 8/27 Lyon (19, Camden S.P.) GWe. Late north 9/19 Clay CMk, Crow Wing DoH, 9/21 Carlton ebd, 9/23 Otter Tail LSI (median 9/21). Late south 10/1 Anoka ebd, Goodhue ebd, Rice ebd, Washington ebd (median 10/3).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [16 North, 24 South] Reported with identification details from 7 north and 11 south counties. High counts 8/23 St. Louis (3, Park Point R.A.) PHS, 8/26 Crow Wing (3, Bay Lake Twp.) ebd, 9/8 Ramsey (3, Sucker Lake) IsH, EzH. Late north 8/27 St. Louis PHS, SCB, 9/6 Koochiching ph. AME (median 8/31). Late south 9/15 Steele PSu, 9/16 Hennepin ebd, Ramsey RMD, 9/25 Chippewa CRM, m.ob. (median 9/15). **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent Empidonax flycatchers are not included in this report. Observers are encouraged to include identification details in their reports.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) — [5 South] All south reports with details: 8/1 Rice TFB, 8/3 Washington ebd, 8/4 Goodhue ebd, 8/26 Lyon GWe (median 8/17).

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [13 North, 11 South] Reported with details from 5 north and 8 south counties. High counts 8/23 St. Louis (6, Park Point R.A.) PHS, 8/16 St. Louis (3) CLN, 9/8 Carver (3, Carver P.R.) JCy. Late north 8/23 St. Louis PHS, 9/7 Cook JBs, 9/14 Aitkin KCR (median 8/24). Late south 9/4 Sherburne PLJ, 9/5 Hennepin ebd, 9/8 Carver JCy (median 8/31).

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) — [3 North, 29 South] Reported with identification notes from 1 north and 13 south counties.



White-eyed Vireo, 27 November 2020, Winona, Winona County. Photo by Dedrick Benz.

High count 8/26 Kandiyohi (4, Burbank W.M.A.) MJB. Only north report 8/25 Todd REn, RLF (median late 8/17). Late south 9/6 Hennepin VRL, 9/7 Hennepin ACr, 9/8 Carver ebd, Hennepin ACr (median 8/26).

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [30 North, 43 South] Reported with details from 11 north and 15 south counties. High counts 8/23 (15, Park Point R.A.) PHS, 8/11 Lake of the Woods (8 Zippel Bay S.P.) ebd. Late north 9/26 St. Louis MWS, 9/27 Cook ebd, 9/28 Lake ABm (median 9/18). Late south 9/23 Hennepin ebd, 10/4 Waseca PSu, 10/13 Washington ebd (median 9/25).

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [33 North, 52 South] High counts 9/4 Sherburne (23, Sherburne N.W.R.) SMC, 9/9 Hennepin (21, East River Flats Park) EHi, 8/17 Dakota (20, Lebanon Hills R.P.) ebd. Late north 11/1 Cook BWF, m.ob., 11/7 St. Louis (Stony Point) StK, TRK, CRM, m.ob., **11/14** St. Louis (Mud Lake) JLK (median 10/17). Late south 11/1 Benton DOr, Carver DWK, 11/3 Washington ELi (median 11/2).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) — [1 North, 1 South] One north report 10/6 **Lake** (Castle Danger W.T.P.) ph. JWL. All south 8/2 **Big Stone** (2 continuing at Odessa gravel pits) RAE, ANy, BAB.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) — [1 South] One exceptionally late report **11/26**–

- 30** Winona (Lake Winona) RSm, ph. †LbA, ph. DBz, ph. MHn, ph. TBu, ph. ToM, m.ob.
- Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) — [4 South] Reported from Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Scott. Late south 8/16 Hennepin CMB, 8/29 Olmsted ebd, 9/4 Hennepin ebd (median 8/29).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [28 North, 47 South] Notable report 8/31 Pipestone (Split Rock Creek S.P.) SDz. High counts 8/3 Scott (**10**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BHe, 8/15 Carver (**9**, Carver P.R.) JCy, 8/15 Carver (**9**, Victoria) JbS. Late north 9/15 Kanabec MWS, 9/17 Morrison DLP, St. Louis JuG, 9/20 Kanabec SPS (median 9/20). Late south 9/28 Hennepin (New Hope) WFe, Scott ebd, 10/2 Hennepin (NE Minneapolis) ebd, 10/3 Hennepin (Seward neighborhood, Minneapolis) CBt (median 10/1).
- Blue-headed Vireo** (*Vireo solitarius*) — [29 North, 48 South] Early south (median 8/20) 8/8 Anoka RSk, 8/17 Anoka RSk, 8/19 Goodhue EBy. High counts 9/8 Lyon (**13**, Southwest Minnesota State University) GWe, 9/13 St. Louis (**11**, Brighton Beach) HTo, TRK, StK. Late north 10/9 Mille Lacs LMc, 10/13 Pine SRo, 10/19 St. Louis JPR (median 10/10). Late south 10/12 Hennepin DCZ, 10/14 Blue Earth MiO, 10/21 Carver ChP (median 10/19).
- Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [25 North, 42 South] Early south (median 8/15) 8/21 Benton (Langola Twp.) DOr, 8/23 Benton (Rice W.T.P.) DOr, Dakota SWe, RDa, Goodhue ebd, Hennepin TAT, Watonwan RZi. High counts 9/13 St. Louis (**18**, Brighton Beach) TRK, HTo, StK, 9/8 St. Louis (6, Brighton Beach) AVa, TRK, StK. Late north 9/28 Lake ebd, St. Louis JPR, HRBO, 10/3 St. Louis BEA, 10/18 St. Louis DEd (median 9/27). Late south 10/4 Olmsted KHg, 10/7 Steele PSu, 10/23 Anoka CF (median 10/4).
- Warbling Vireo** (*Vireo gilvus*) — [24 North, 49 South] High counts 9/5 Hennepin (11, Wood Lake N.C.) ebd, 8/26 Hennepin (8, Fort Snelling S.P.) BAF, 9/8 Lyon (8, Southwest Minnesota State University) GWe. Late north 9/16 St. Louis ASu, EzH, 9/18 Mille Lacs LMc, 9/22 St. Louis JPR (median 9/18). Late south 9/23 Anoka ebd, Goodhue PEJ, 9/24 Scott BHe, 9/27 Ramsey ebd (median 9/27).
- Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [32 North, 53 South] High counts 8/23 St. Louis (**150**, Duluth, Park Point R.A.) PHS, 9/4 St. Louis (**150**, Brighton Beach) StK, HTo, 8/29 Lyon (54, Garvin C.P.) JbS. Late north 10/7 Crow Wing PSP, NSg, 10/7–18 St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, GrS (median 10/7). Late south 10/7 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) ebd, Rice NiR, 10/8 Hennepin (NE Minneapolis) ebd, 10/10 Ramsey ebd (median 10/7).
- Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [1 North, 2 South] All north 8/15 Otter Tail ebd (median 8/22). All south 9/1 Wabasha ebd, 9/14 Ramsey (Tamarack N.C.) ebd (median 8/27).
- Northern Shrike** (*Lanius borealis*) — [25 North, 29 South] Early north (median 10/9) 10/8 Norman SDz, 10/9 Cook SC, St. Louis ebd. Early south (median 10/13) 10/14 Sherburne PLJ, 10/16 Anoka ebd, Scott BHe, Sherburne DBz. High counts 10/16 St. Louis (4, Moose Valley Banding Station) AVa, 10/23 St. Louis (4, H.R.N.R.) JPR, NPu.
- Canada Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [11 North] All reports from traditional range. High counts 10/30 St. Louis (15, Sax-Zim Bog) KDS, GHo, 11/20 St. Louis (15, Sax-Zim Bog) CRa, EBr.
- Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High Counts 9/8 St. Louis (7,611) H.R.B.O., 9/16 (6,203) H.R.B.O.
- Black-billed Magpie** (*Pica hudsonia*) — [23 North] Reported throughout traditional range, east to Lake. Unusual fall records 10/10 Carlton ebd, 10/1 Crow Wing ebd. High counts 8/28 Roseau (78) AaL, CLu, 9/15 Kittson (40) SAu, 9/1 Clay (22) PBB.
- American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High count 10/10 St. Louis (1,306) H.R.B.O.
- Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) — [31 North, 13 South] Reported throughout normal northern range. Notable south records: 8/16 Pope RAE, 8/19 Ramsey (Como R.P.) ebd, 9/3 Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.) ebd, 10/4 Scott (Louisville Swamp) BAB, 11/4 Meeker (Zion Lutheran Church) BNn. High counts 10/8 St. Louis (**192**) H.R.B.O., 10/1 St. Louis (65) H.R.B.O.
- Black-capped Chickadee** (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 11/20 St. Louis (90, Sax-Zim Bog) CRa, EBr.
- Boreal Chickadee** (*Poecile hudsonicus*) — [5



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 24 October 2020, McQuade Harbor, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

North] Reported from Beltrami, Cook, Lake, Roseau, and St. Louis. High count 11/17 Lake (10) ASu.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [12 South] Reported from normal southeast range north to Chisago. Notable record: 10/8 **Scott** TZt. High counts 9/28 Fillmore (5) ToM, 11/11 Goodhue (5) SMu,

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [28 North, 47 South] High counts 10/25 Redwood (120) SDz, 11/6 Kandiyohi (120, Lake Lillian W.T.P.) DPG. Late north 11/11 Clay TCL, 11/14 Cass JSt, 11/16 Cass REN (median 11/17).

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [17 North, 47 South] High counts 8/25 Jackson (**2,010**, South Heron Lake) KJB, 8/11 Big Stone (1,840, 615th Ave, Correll) KJB. Late north 9/6 Clay ABL, 9/7 Traverse ANy, 9/10 Becker ShG, HeH (median 9/7). Late south 9/17 Chippewa RAE, 9/19 Swift PNi, DnS, 9/24 Rice NiR (median 9/20).

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [33 North, 53 South] High counts 8/6 Stearns (1,000, Albany W.T.P.) GHo, KDS, 8/25 Jack-

son (630, South Heron Lake) KJB. Late north 10/2 Grant MO, 10/9 St. Louis ebd, 10/16 Pine ebd (median 10/1). Late south 10/15 Blue Earth ChH, 10/25 Wright ToL, 10/26 Rice GHo (median 10/21).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [10 North, 38 South] High counts 8/1 Goodhue (50, Frontenac S.P.) JkS, 8/13 Stearns (50, Albany W.T.P.) MtS, 8/30 Winona (50, Whitewater W.M.A.) ThN. Late north 9/3 St. Louis JPR, 9/5 Todd TLu, 9/10 Grant SDi (median 9/3). Late south 9/21 Lyon GWe, Olmsted GUn, CUn, Rice NiR (median 10/1).

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [17 North, 43 South] High counts 8/22 Ramsey (5,800, Bald Eagle Lake) IsH, EzH. Late north 9/12 Becker ShG, HeH, 9/13 Otter Tail JMy, Todd REN, RLF, (median 9/7). Late south 9/13 Watonwan ASu, STa, MwT, GWe, 9/22 Big Stone ebd, 9/23 Lyon GWe (median 9/14).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [34 North, 53 South] High count 9/13 Watonwan (500, Case Lake) ASu. Late north 10/2–3 Grant MO, LGl, ToR, 10/3 Douglas MJB, 10/9 St.

- Louis ebd (median 10/7). Late south 10/10 Le Sueur DOr, Stearns DOr, 10/24 Renville DBz (median 10/24).
- Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [28 North, 51 South] High counts 9/4 Lac qui Parle (3,450, Salt Lake) GWe, 9/3 St. Louis (3,113) H.R.B.O. Late north 9/12 Traverse ebd, 9/13 Todd REn, RLF, 9/18 St. Louis JPR, NPu (median 9/16). Late south 9/21 Lyon GWe, Rice NiR, Sibley SLH, 9/23 Blue Earth MiO, 9/26 Brown BTS, MiO (median 9/30).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Corthylio calendula*) — [33 North, 53 South] Early south (median 8/25) 8/23 Stearns MtS, 8/25 Ramsey ebd, 8/26 Rice ebd. High counts 9/22 St. Louis (60, Brighton Beach) StK, TRK, 10/2 Cottonwood (40, Talcot Lake W.M.A.) KEm, 10/23 St. Louis (40, Park Point) EHi. Late north 11/8 Cook CRM, LMc, KBg, 11/16 St. Louis StK, 11/25 Otter Tail ebd (median 11/3). Late south 11/21 Dakota ebd, 11/23 Scott ANy, 11/30 Hennepin ebd (median 11/21).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*) — [29 North, 45 South] Early south migrants 9/16 Ramsey (Sucker Lake) ebd, 9/17 Hennepin (2, Minneapolis) ebd, 9/18 Hennepin (5, Veterans Memorial Park, Richfield) ebd, Ramsey (two locations) RMD, CbH, Washington (3) ebd. High counts 10/25 Carver (42, Carver P.R.) JCy, 10/23 St. Louis (30, Stony Point) StK, HTTo. Late north 11/27 Lake of the Woods JWH, JWa, 11/28 Roseau JWH, JWa, St. Louis EBr, CRa (median 11/30).
- Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [20 North, 3 South] Early north (median 9/29) **9/15** Lake JWL, 9/18 St. Louis JLK, 9/22 St. Louis JPR, NPu. All south (median 11/18) 10/30 Benton ANy, BWF, 10/31 Carver ebd, 11/2 **Rice** NiR. High count 11/28 Roseau (310) JWH.
- Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 8/11 St. Louis (1,480, Stony Point) StK, 8/8 St. Louis (1,065, Stony Point) StK.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 9/22 St. Louis (46) H.R.B.O., 9/5 Beltrami (36, Lake Bemidji S.P.) Bab.
- White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 8/29 Rice (**30**, Faribault) KCo, 11/4 Otter Tail (**25**, Little McDonald Lake) ebd, 11/6 Otter Tail (**25**, Glendalough S.P.) ebd.
- Brown Creeper** (*Certhia americana*) — [27 North, 47 South] Early south (median 8/27) **8/1** Brown MiO, **8/6** Hennepin ebd, **8/12** Ramsey MWS. High count 9/22 St. Louis (**29**, Brighton Beach) TRK, StK.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Poliophtila caerulea*) — [12 North, 47 South] Unusual record 8/28 – 9/4 **Kittson** (Lake Bronson S.P.) AaL, CLu, CRM, m.ob. High counts 8/15 Carver (12) JbS, 8/31 Goodhue (12) JHL. Late north 9/6 Mahnomen ANy, 9/8 Grant CNn, Traverse BBi, 9/15 Todd REn, RLF (median 9/9). Late south 9/21 Goodhue GRe, 9/22 Hennepin SSp, CRa, Stearns SLH, 9/30 Ramsey EHi (median 9/24).
- ROCK WREN** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) — [1 South] First county record 10/4–5 **Scott** (Belle Plaine) ph. †CLH, ph. †BAb, ph. †BHe.
- House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [30 North, 53 South] High counts 8/30 Washington (**25**) BDo, LiH, 8/2 Carver (**22**, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy, 8/4 Freeborn (20, Myre Big Island S.P.) ebd. Late north 10/6 Todd RLF, REn, 10/8 Lake JWL, 10/10 St. Louis ebd (median 10/6). Late south 10/16 Rice DFN, 10/17 Dakota ebd, Goodhue ebd, Hennepin AKz, Ramsey ebd (median 10/18).
- Winter Wren** (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) — [17 North, 35 South] Early south (median 8/31) 9/4 Dakota JHa, 9/8 Carver JCy, 9/11 Hennepin EHi, Meeker PKF. High counts 9/27 Ramsey (8, Grove Park) ebd, 9/29 Ramsey (8, Maplewood N.C.) DnS, 10/7 Ramsey (7, Reservoir Woods) RMD. Late north 11/1 Lake JWL, 11/3 St. Louis (Duluth) ebd, 11/4 St. Louis (Stony Point) StK (median 10/24). Please see winter report for numerous late migrants and overwintering birds (median 12/17).
- Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus stellaris*) — [25 North, 48 South] High counts 8/11 Rock (17, Touch the Sky Prairie) KEm, 8/4 Faribault (12, Prescott W.P.A.) KEm. Late north 10/9 Otter Tail ebd, St. Louis StK, 10/14 Aitkin PEJ, 10/24 Lake JWL (median 10/13). Late south 10/13 Olmsted LHL, 10/17 Hennepin SKS, followed by the third-latest on record **11/14** Hennepin (Lake Hiawatha Park) †BAF (median 10/14).
- Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [20 North, 46 South] High counts 9/5 Aitkin (17, Rice River) SKS, 8/17 Yellow Medicine (16,



Rock Wren, 5 October 2020, Belle Plaine, Scott County. Photo by Brad Abendroth.

Spellman Lake) GWe. Late north 10/31 Lake (Two Harbors) GWe, m.ob., followed by record-late **11/5** Lake (Silver Bay) CRA (median 10/15). Late south 11/3 Dakota ebd, Lyon GWe, 11/11 Yellow Medicine RJS, 11/19 Murray KEm (median 11/2).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [3 North, 22 South] Reported from an unprecedented 25 counties. All north 8/21 – 10/24 **Pine** ph. KrM, TJo, LEv, JuG, 10/23

Crow Wing ebd, 11/6 **St. Louis** JLK. New county records: 10/21 **Benton** (Bend in the River Park) HHD, DOr, 9/11 **Lyon** (Camden S.P.) †CRM, LiH, RJS, 9/6 **Swift** (near Marsh Lake Dam) RAE. Only report of more than 2 individuals 8/16 Houston (3, Wildcat Landing) ToM. Photographed records south in August from Steele PSu, Houston ToM, Brown MiO; in September from Houston DWK, Fillmore ToM, Rice GHo; in October from Yellow Medicine GWe, McLeod HyN, Dakota ebd, Hennepin BLW, Olmsted MSt; in November from Goodhue SMu, Hennepin TrH, Houston KrZ.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [31 North, 52 South] High count 8/22 Carver (25,

Carver P.R.) JCy. Late north 11/7 Mille Lacs CBt, 11/18 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) ebd, 11/22 St. Louis (Duluth) DEd (median 11/1). Late south 11/27 Hennepin GrS, 11/28 Ramsey RMD, 11/30 Anoka CWe (median 11/21).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [23 North, 43 South] High counts 9/9 Lyon (6, Camden S.P.) GWe, 8/23 Sherburne (4, Sherburne N.W.R.) Dck, 8/30 Washington (4) BDo, LiH, GJa. Late north 10/8 Lake ebd, 10/9 St. Louis ebd, 11/11–23 St. Louis KRE (median 11/20). Late south 10/31 Olmsted ebd, 11/5 Hennepin ebd, 11/14 Olmsted ebd (median 12/29).

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [1 North] Three reports, all from Grand Marias in Cook County: 9/26 ph. LBG, 10/3 ebd, 11/3 ebd.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High count 11/22 Dakota (3,000 at SET-Empire) ADS, blue.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [33 North, 51 South] High counts 9/24 Sherburne (82, Sherburne N.W.R.) SMC, 10/17 Washington

- (64, Afton S.P.) ebd. Late north 11/13 Clay (Moorhead) ebd, 11/23 Clay (Cromwell Twp.) PBB, 11/27 Todd RLF, REn (median 11/30).
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*) — [3 North, 1 South] All north 10/24 St. Louis (Stony Point) ph. †JLK, ph. †PHS, JWl, NPo, StK, 11/10 **Cass** (Walker W.T.P.) ph. †REn, RLF. One south 11/27–**29+** Ramsey (Les Bolstad Golf Course) ph. †SBE, ph. †RMD, ph. †ASu, ph. †JWZ, ph. AXH, m.ob. Also see *Documented reports still under review*.
- Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [5 North, 7 South] Early north (median 10/10) 9/24 Todd JLK, 9/28 St. Louis RyS, 9/30 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) NPu, JPR. Also observed north in Clay, Lake, and a first county record 11/22 **Lake of the Woods** ph. TJJ. All south (median 10/19) 9/21 Hennepin (Elm Creek P.R.) SMC, 10/1 Ramsey (Tony Schmidt Park) LiH, 10/5 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) ph. MJo, 10/24 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy, Nicollet ph. ChH, ph. DWK, 10/27 **McLeod** (Hutchinson) BHa, 10/29 Dakota (Spring Lake P.R.) DFN, 11/12 Ramsey ebd.
- Veery** (*Catbarus fuscescens*) — [22 North, 21 South] High count 8/18 St. Louis (8, Hartley Park) JLK. Late north 9/11 St. Louis JLK, 9/12 Itasca TCL, Lake JWl, SLL, 10/7 Aitkin SKS (median 9/14). Late south 10/3 Sibley DWK, 10/5 Yellow Medicine GWe, 10/10 Anoka ebd (median 9/17).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush** (*Catbarus minimus*) — [6 North, 13 South] Early north (median 9/3) 8/22 St. Louis (BWCaw) ebd, 8/27 St. Louis (Duluth) JLK, 9/3 Lake ebd. Early south (median 9/1) 8/23–27 Olmsted (Quarry Hill N.C.) ebd, JPr, 8/30 Carver JCy. High count 9/13 St. Louis (12, Brighton Beach) TRK, StK. Late north 10/3 Cook ebd, 10/4 Kanabec MJB, 10/31 – **11/2** Lake NME, m.ob. (median 10/3). Late south 10/5 Chisago RLR, Olmsted JmP, JPr, 10/6 Hennepin CMB (median 10/8).
- Swainson's Thrush** (*Catbarus ustulatus*) — [27 North, 36 South] Early south (median 8/14) 8/16 Le Sueur HCT, 8/17 Hennepin CMB, Ramsey LiH, IsH. High counts 9/11 St. Louis (**249**, Brighton Beach) StK, TRK, 9/8 St. Louis (**237**, Brighton Beach) AVa, TRK. Late north 10/25 Lake JWl, 10/26 St. Louis BHo, 10/31, 11/1 Cook ASu, CLR, IsH, m.ob. (median 10/18). Late south 10/18 Hennepin ebd, 10/19 Anoka ebd, 10/23 Anoka CF (median 10/18).
- Hermit Thrush** (*Catbarus guttatus*) — [26 North, 42 South] Early south (median 9/15) 9/5 Stearns ebd, 9/12 Hennepin ebd, Ramsey ebd, 9/13 Dakota GUn, Ramsey ebd. High counts 10/6 Hennepin (20, T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) ebd, 10/7 Ramsey (15, Reservoir Woods) RMD. See winter report for late migrants north and south.
- Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [9 North, 21 South] Unusual fall reports 8/6 **Douglas** TBu, 8/31 **Goodhue** ebd, 8/12 **Lyon** GWe. Several high counts of 3 individuals. Late north 9/24 Lake JWl, 9/30 Carlton ebd, 10/27 – **11/2** Lake (Knife River) ASu, CLR, m.ob. (median 9/12). Several very late south reports 10/29 Dakota MwT, 11/2 Ramsey DnS, followed by record-late **11/13** Hennepin (Mississippi Gorge R.P.) DCZ (median 10/1) (**The Loon** 92:193).
- American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 10/28 Hennepin (3,000, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) ebd, 10/6 St. Louis (2,283) H.R.B.O.
- Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [2 North, 1 South] All north (median arrival 11/12) 10/15 St. Louis (H.R.N.R.) ph. TRK, 10/17–18 Polk (East Grand Forks) ph. TLJ, 10/23 Polk SAU, JCJ, 10/26 – 11/3 St. Louis (McQuade Small Craft Harbor) MLH, PHS, m.ob. One south report (median 11/5), 10/23 Le Sueur (near Kasota) ph. *fide* BHW.
- House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 9/15 Dakota (150, Fluegels Grain Elevator) MwT, 10/2 Rice (120, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) MwT
- EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) — [3 South] New county record 10/5 through the end of the season **Cottonwood** (Windom) †KEM, m.ob. Other south reports 11/13–21+ Dakota †KDS, CTS, 11/22 McLeod (Silver Lake, likely the same bird from the previous winter) †ph. JWZ.
- American Pipit** (*Anthus rubescens*) — [24 North, 45 South] Early north (median 9/5) 9/5 Pennington NaH, 9/7 St. Louis ebd, 9/8 Lake JWl. Early south (median 9/8) 9/16 Watonwan LiH, 9/19 Dakota MwT, 9/20 Benton BAb, Isanti JCC, Watonwan STa. High counts 10/16 Stearns (138, Paynesville W.T.P.) PCC,



Mountain Bluebird, 28 November 2020, Falcon Heights, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertz.

10/11 Scott (96, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) WCM. Late north 11/6 Cook WCM, JaJ, 11/8 St. Louis MwT, 11/12 St. Louis PHS (median 11/7). Late south 11/14 Wright DWK, 11/16 McLeod ABL, 11/16–28+ Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) ANy, BAB (median 11/11).

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) — [19 North, 8 South] An exceptional irruptive year for this finch, marking the highest number of reporting counties in the fall since 1985. Most reports came from the northern third of the state. Unusual north sightings 10/30 Kanabec SPS, 11/9 Clay (Moorhead) ShG, 11/11 Clay (Cromwell Twp.) ph. PBB. All south reports (most with photos in eBird, but none submitted to the MOU): 10/23–24 Wright (Maple Lake) BNr, ToL, m.ob., 10/26 Dakota (Hastings) ebd, 10/27 Sherburne (Liviona Twp.) ebd, 11/2 Washington (Carpenter N.C.) EzH, IsH, 11/10 Stearns (Albany) ebd, 11/14–15 Houston (Richard J. Doer Memorial Hardwood Forest) KRz, †SHo, 11/18–19 Stearns (Lake Maria) AaL, CLu, m.ob., 11/28 Benton (Bend in the River Park) HHD. Highest counts all from St. Louis: 11/22–24 (max. 92, near Murphy Lake) ebd, 11/21 Sax-Zim Bog (70) ebd.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [19 North] Another remarkable finch irruption with a 72% increase from the 10-year average number of reporting counties. Most sightings were north of a line from Clay to Kanabec. Early north (median 10/19) 10/16 Becker ebd., 10/22 St. Louis JuG, 10/23 St. Louis (four locations) m.ob. Unusual records 11/29 **Clay** (Cromwell Twp.) ph. PBB, 11/28 **Douglas** (Spruce Hill C.P.) AaL. Highest counts all from St. Louis: 11/1 (164) H.R.B.O., 11/2 (147) H.R.B.O.

House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) — [27 North, 51 South] Detected across the state. High count 9/18 Rice (60) NiR.

Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*) — [29 North, 49 South] Recorded statewide, including a 43% southern county increase from the 10-year average. Early south (median 8/23, but see summer report) 8/2 Goodhue PEJ, 8/3 Renville ebd, 8/5 Kandiyohi JoS. Highest counts from St. Louis: 9/4 (391) H.R.B.O., 8/29 (190, Stony Point) EFC, RyS.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) — [28 North, 25 South] Good showing this fall represented by 79% and 117% county increases from the 10-year average in the north and south, respectively. Paucity of reports from the west-central region and southern tier of the state. Early north (median 10/16) 10/18 Lake ebd, 10/20 St. Louis (three locations) HTo, LME, ebd. Early south (median 11/1) **10/15** Ramsey †EzH, JbS, 10/24 Anoka ebd, 10/25 Lyon GWe. High counts 10/29 St. Louis (530, Stony Point) HTo, 11/15 Lake (290, Two Harbors) HTo, StK, 10/30 St. Louis (287) H.R.B.O.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) — [6 North, 1 South] The most reports since 2012; most sightings scattered in northern half of state. Early north (median 11/6) 10/24–25 Cook MLH, PEJ, 10/27 Lake ASu, KCR. Also reported north in Cass, Polk, and St. Louis. Notable fall record 10/30 **Pine** (Pine City W.T.P.) †CRM, m.ob. Only south report was 11/30 **Scott** (Savage) †BAB.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [19 North, 15 South] Well-represented statewide with increases of 61% in the north and 95% in the south from their respective 10-year county average. Early south (median 11/4) 10/3 Olmsted KHg, 10/4 Carver JCy, 10/17 Carver ChP, ebd. High counts both from St. Louis:

10/18 (278, Stony Point) HTo, 10/16 (136) H.R.B.O. Types detected this season: Type 2 (Ponderosa Pine), Type 3 (Western Hemlock), Type 4 (Douglas-fir), Type 10 (Sitka Spruce).

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [28 North, 30 South] Highest number of reporting counties in any fall season: more than 4 (north) and 11 (south) times their respective 10-year average. Found in every region, with reports decreasing along a northeast to southwest gradient. Early south (median 11/13) 9/2 Lyon (Garvin Park) GWe, 10/16 Stearns MtS, 10/18 Hennepin ebd. Highest count ever for Minnesota 10/18 St. Louis (**1,805**, Stony Point) StK, HTo, followed by two more remarkable high counts from same location 10/23 (**760**) HTo, StK, 11/7 (**615**) StK, TRK.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) — [34 North, 51 South] Detected in every county except Pope and Swift; 48% and 85% county increases from the 10-year average in the north and south, respectively. Early south 8/4–14 Sherburne LMc, 8/18 Hennepin ebd. High counts all from St. Louis: 9/24 (1,655) H.R.B.O., 9/23 (1,507) H.R.B.O., 9/22 (939) H.R.B.O.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported in every county. High counts both from Ramsey (University of Minnesota agricultural fields): 10/27 (300) JbS, 9/14 (200) JbS.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [23 North, 39 South] Reported from all regions. Early north (median 9/14) **9/4** St. Louis (Cook) JuG, 9/7 Lake JGW, 9/8 Cook KvM. Early south (median 9/24) 9/19 Watonwan TAT., 9/23 Meeker PKF, Olmsted MPE. High counts 11/25 Lincoln (**1,000**, Lake Benton) RJS, 10/8 St. Louis (545, Park Point R.A.) JLK, 11/22 McLeod (400, Vale Ave.) BHa.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) — No fall reports since 2010.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) — [3 North, 5 South] Most fall reports since 2017. All north 9/17–18 St. Louis (2, McQuade Small Craft Harbor) ph. KRE, †PHS, m.ob., 9/27 St. Louis (40th Ave. West) MLH, 10/8–11 St. Louis (max. 3, Park Point R.A.) TBl, CBl, †PHS, ph. LBa, m.ob., 10/24 Cook (Lutsen Resort) †MLH, 10/25 Aitkin (north of Lawler) KCR. All south 10/14 Lac qui Parle (5, Salt Lake) GWe, 10/15 Lyon (Island Lake) GWe,

10/17 Cottonwood (Rock Ridge Prairie S.N.A) ph. FFa, 10/21 Lyon (6, Cottonwood W.T.P) GWe, 10/24 Cottonwood (near Red Rock Prairie) DWK, Lincoln (12, season's high count, Lake Benton Twp.) ph. KEM, JWH, 10/25 Meeker †BAb, 10/27–28 Lyon (max. 8, near Runholt) ph. GWe, ph. RJS, MGi.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [25 North, 33 South] Reported in all regions; fewest reports from the southern quarter of the state. Early north (median 10/9) 10/3–6 St. Louis CIN, ebd, 10/7 Cass DoH, 10/9 St. Louis (north of Orr) SAU, St. Louis (Duluth) ebd. Early south (median 10/17) 10/19 Sherburne DFe, 10/23 Benton HHD, Meeker PKF. High counts 11/7 Wilkin (300, Kent) ebd, 10/26 St. Louis (259) H.R.B.O.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum*) — [3 North, 20 South] High count 8/30 Washington (5, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) BDO, LiH. All north 8/2 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R) ebd, Otter Tail ebd, 9/25 Douglas (Clifford Lake Rd.) JLK. Few south reports after early September. Late south 9/16 Lyon (2) GWe, 9/26 Brown (2) BTS, MiO, 10/2 Swift DLP (median 9/29).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [3 North, 13 South] Reported largely from the western third and east-central regions. High counts 8/1 Lyon (**14**, Russell gravel pits) GWe, 8/2 Dakota (8, Lake Byllesby R.P.) KDS, 8/30 Washington (5, Cottage Grove) GJa. Late north 9/3 Wilkin DWK, 9/5 Clay (Cromwell Twp.) PBB, 9/18 Clay (Moorhead) CMK (median 9/7). Late south 8/31 Lincoln SDz, ebd, 9/14 Dakota ebd, 9/26 **Freeborn** (Myre-Big Island S.P.) ebd (median 9/19).

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [33 North, 53 South] Detected in every county except Mahnomem. High counts 9/1 Dakota (55, Resurrection Cemetery) BAF, 9/11 Hennepin (50, U of MN Transitway) JbS, 10/6 Rice (50, Norway Valley Woods) ebd. Late north 11/2 Polk SAU, Todd SDi, 11/7 Otter Tail ebd, 11/22 St. Louis JDX (median 11/11). Late south 11/17 Wright ebd, 11/18 Benton DOr, 11/23–28 Ramsey ebd (median 11/19). See winter report for potentially overwintering individuals north and south.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [29 North, 45 South] Reports spanned the entire state including a 37% increase in southern



Dark-eyed Junco, 3 October 2020, Rushford, Fillmore County. Photo by Todd Mitchell.

counties from the 10-year average. High counts 8/22 Pipestone (24, Pheasant Terrace) VKI, 8/23 St. Louis (17, Park Point R.A.) StK, IDv, 8/1 Dakota (14, Vermillion Highlands W.M.A) ebd. Late north 10/24 Clay PBB, Douglas REn, RLF, Otter Tail TFu, 11/3 Polk SAu (median 10/19). Late south 10/17 Hennepin DEl, Ramsey ebd, 10/18 Dakota ebd, Freeborn JBu (median 10/18).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [11 North, 47 South] Found north up to a line from Otter Tail to Pine, plus Beltrami, Crow Wing and St. Louis, and in all but 6 south counties. Record-high count 10/5 Yellow Medicine (54, Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) GWe; other high counts 8/30 Hennepin (19, Crow-Hasan P.R.) JBs, WFe, 9/9 Lyon (18, Camden S.P.) GWe. Late north 9/29 Douglas TFu, St. Louis MLH, 10/9 Otter Tail ebd (median 10/19). Late south 10/29 Yellow Medicine GWe, 10/30 Lyon GWe, 11/4 Hennepin JbS (median 10/25, but see winter report).

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [30 North, 51 South] Detected in all but six counties. Early north (median 9/19) 9/15 Koochiching AMe, 9/19 St. Louis ebd, 9/20 Kanabec SPS.

Early south (median 9/20) 9/10 Ramsey (2, Battle Creek Park) JZj, 9/17 Ramsey (Breck Woods) JbS, 9/21 Hennepin PSm. High count 10/25 St. Louis (50, Duluth, Lakeside/Lester Park) LME. Late north 11/19 Hubbard REn, 11/21 St. Louis JLK, 11/20–22 Todd REn, RLF (median 12/17). See winter report for overwintering southern birds.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) — [29 North, 49 South] Recorded across the state. Early north (median 9/25) 9/18 St. Louis ebd, 9/24 Cass ebd, Cook CDe, TAr. Early south (median 9/30) 9/29 Ramsey SPS, 9/30 Stearns MtS, 10/7 Anoka ebd. High counts 10/28 Aitkin (75, Tamarack) ASu, 10/21 Cook (66, Tofte Heights) JaJ, 10/24 Lake (65, Two Harbors Fairgrounds) JWl.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Observed in every county. Early south (median 9/9) 8/28 Dakota JHa, 9/10 Scott ebd, 9/11 Lincoln JCC. High counts 9/28 St. Louis (300, Northshore Mining Company, Babbitt) NPo, 10/14 St. Louis (257, Forest Hill) JLK, 10/16 Hubbard (250, Kabekona Lake) REn, RLF. *Oreganus* group of subspecies found in an impressive 21

counties spanning 9/28 – 11/13: in the north, Cass DoH, Clay PPB, Grant CNn, Pennington ANy, St. Louis TRK, Todd REn, RLF; in the south Anoka DPG, Brown ebd, Dakota MwT, Fillmore ToM, Hennepin PRH, Lyon GWe, Meeker PKF, Murray GWe, Olmsted ebd, Ramsey DHo, Rice NiR, Sherburne ebd, Stearns MtS, Washington GJa, Yellow Medicine GWe; no more than two individuals were seen at any location.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [27 North, 49 South] Reports came from all regions with a 40% increase from the 10-year average number of southern counties. Early north (median 9/10) 9/7–9 Lake ebd, JWa, 9/10 St. Louis (Ely) ebd. Early south (median 9/16) 9/11 Hennepin ebd, 9/13 Blue Earth MiO, 9/15 Hennepin ebd. High count 9/25 St. Louis (**75**, Meadowlands) IaG. Late north 11/11 St. Louis JLK, 11/13–15 Polk TJJ (median 12/17). Late south 11/20 Cottonwood KEm, Scott RiC, 11/22 Dakota RBW (median 12/20). See winter report for overwintering birds in the north and south. Subspecies *Z. l. gambelii* reported from 9/17 — 10/30 in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Lyon, Ramsey, Rice. Counts of *gambelii* did not surpass six birds.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [31 North, 47 South] Found in all but nine counties, the highest fall county turnout since at least 1999. Early north (median 9/16) 9/12–20 St. Louis JuG, m.ob., 9/19 Lake KrM. Early south (median 9/22) 9/20 Dakota DFN, 9/22 Brown STa, 9/24 Chippewa GWe. High counts 10/28 Yellow Medicine (33, Blue Devil Valley S.N.A.) GWe, 10/17 Rock (27, Blue Mounds S.P.) NSg, 10/24 Otter Tail (25, Millerville) JsS. Late north 11/27–28 Grant CNn, 11/19–29 Clay PBB (median 12/19). Late south 11/28 Redwood BTS (median 12/26). See winter report for late migrants north and south.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported in all counties. Probable early migrants arrived south in July. High counts all from St. Louis (Brighton Beach): 9/14 (**1,780**) StK, TRK, 9/22 (650) StK, TRK, 9/8 (500) AVa, TRK. See winter report for many overwintering individuals.

Dark-eyed Junco X White-throated Sparrow (*Junco hyemalis* X *Zonotrichia albicollis*) —

[1 South] First record of this hybrid in Minnesota: 10/21 **Chisago** (Franconia) ph. MTe (**The Loon** 92:138).

Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*) — [27 North, 46 South] More widely reported than in any previous fall season, although quite scarce in the north-central region. Unusual record 8/16 **Koochiching** ANy. High counts 10/9 Lyon (10, Marshall) GWe, 8/9 Hennepin (8, Crow-Hassan P.R.) JBs, 8/21, 9/7 Otter Tail (8, Millerville) JsS. Late north 10/22 Todd REn, RLF, 10/24 Clay PBB, Otter Tail JsS (median 10/19). Late south 10/30 Steele NiR, 11/21 Ramsey JZj, 11/25 Yellow Medicine GWe (median 10/27).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramos leconteii*) — [10 North, 35 South] Notable north report 9/26 **Beltrami** (Old Pike Ponds) AxB. Aside from August reports of possible breeders south, early south (median 9/13) **9/4** Hennepin KSo, ph. WBl, Ramsey ph. AnA. High counts 9/26 Brown (20 across several locations) BTS, MiO, 10/4 Rice (15, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) EmR, NiR, 10/3 Pipestone (12, Winter W.M.A.) JWH, KEm. Late north 10/12 Lake (Two Harbors) JWL, 10/15 Polk SAu, 10/25 Lake (Two Harbors) JWL, PHS (median 10/13). Late south 10/17 Rice NiR, 10/20 Lyon GWe, 10/26 Ramsey RMD (median 10/19).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramos nelsoni*) — [5 North, 22 South] More widely reported than in any previous fall season, in more than 2.5 times the 10-year average of reporting counties. All north 9/5 Aitkin SKS, 9/22 Douglas (Tenhoff W.M.A.) ph. REn, RLF, m.ob., 9/26 St. Louis JPR, PHS, 10/3 Becker (Chippewa Picnic Area) MO, 10/4 Kanabec (South Fork Twp.) SPS. Early south (median 9/18) 9/19 Lyon (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) RJS, 9/20–23 Olmsted JWH, m.ob., 9/23–24 Swift (100th St. SW) ASu, CRM. High counts 9/24 Lyon (**8**, Lines W.M.A.) GWe, 9/24–27 Olmsted (4, South Landfill and East Landfill Kalmar Reservoirs) MiD, MwT, m.ob. Late south 10/11 Dakota MZa, NiR, ebd, 10/14 Lac qui Parle GWe, Yellow Medicine (3) GWe (median 10/9).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*) — [10 South] Scattered sightings south, although largely absent from South-central, Southeast, and West-central regions. High counts 8/11 Rock (6, Touch the Sky Prairie) KEm, 8/9

- Hennepin (5, Crow-Hassan P.R.) JBs. Late south (median 8/22) 10/5 Rice (Prairie Creek W.M.A.) †NiR, 9/26 – **10/10** Rice (Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) MZa, m.ob., **10/10** Kandiyohi (Lake Lillian W.T.P.) †DWK.
- Savannah Sparrow** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [33 North, 51 South] Detected in all but three counties. High counts 10/2 Ramsey (80, University of Minnesota agricultural fields) JbS, 9/26 Grant (62, North Ottawa Impoundment) BLz, 10/9 Otter Tail (50, Glendalough S.P.) ebd. Late north 11/5–6 Lake KRE, m.ob., 11/7 St. Louis JLK, 11/29 Kanabec SPS (median 11/4). Late south 11/11 Murray GWe, 11/12 Sherburne (2, Houlton Conservation Area) JOs, 11/19 Sherburne (Island Lake Park) JOs (median 11/6). Also see winter report for late migrants or overwintering birds.
- Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in every county. High counts 8/1 Sherburne (46, Sherburne N.W.R.) RCl, 8/6 Lake (37, Two Harbors) JLK, 8/5 St. Louis (32, Western Waterfront Trail) JLK. Late north 11/24 Becker HeH (median 12/18). See winter report for overwintering individuals in the north and south.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [27 North, 48 South] Found across all regions. Early south (median 8/31) **8/2** Carver (Rapids Lake, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) †JCy, 8/30 Blue Earth MiO, Rice EmR. Notable high counts 10/2 Ramsey (**30**, University of Minnesota agricultural fields) JbS, 10/2 Hennepin (26, Coldwater Spring) PRH, 10/10 Nicollet (24, Linnaeus Arboretum) BAb. Late north 11/12 Clay TCL, 11/12 St. Louis (Hartley Park) SNe, 11/16 St. Louis (Lower Chester Creek) ebd (median 10/27). Late south 11/12–13 Hennepin KOC, VRL, ebd, 11/14 Ramsey DnS, 11/13–18 Anoka DFe (median 11/4).
- Swamp Sparrow** (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [31 North, 53 South] Found in all but three counties. Late north (median 11/1) 11/15 Lake HTo, StK, St. Louis (Stony Point) SNe, StK, TRK, 11/22 St. Louis (Meadowlands) ebd. See winter report for both northern and southern overwintering birds. High counts 10/5 Yellow Medicine (32, Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) GWe, 9/12 Anoka (30, Forest Lake) ebd, 10/2 Big Stone (30, Correll) WCM, 10/12 Hennepin (30, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) DnS.
- Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) — [2 North, 9 South] Best season for this species ever. All north 9/29 Clay (Glyndon) ph. CBm, 10/2 **Lake** (Silver Bay) ABm. All south 9/22 **Swift** (male and female) DLP, 9/23–24 Big Stone/Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) DLP, ph. ASu, m.ob., 9/25 Chippewa (Shakopee Lake) †CRM, ph. RMS, m.ob., 9/28–29 Hennepin (Minnetonka) ph. RuS, m.ob., 9/29 Lyon (Lone Tree Lake) GWe, 10/3–7 Ramsey (by Vadnais Lake) †LiH, EzH, Ish, 10/24 **Le Sueur** (Ney N.C.) †DBz, ph. †DWK, m.ob., 11/3–23 Ramsey (Maplewood) JG1, 11/10–11 Mower (Austin) PMM, ph. JPr, JmP, 10/5 – 11/13 Lyon (Cottonwood) ph. GWe.
- Eastern Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [8 North, 27 South] Found statewide but extremely scarce in the northern third. High counts 8/1 Sherburne (11, Sherburne N.W.R.) RCl, 8/2 Winona (11, Plowline Trail) ToM, 8/16, 10/5 Yellow Medicine (8, Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) WCM, GWe, 8/17 Blue Earth (8, Minneopa S.P.) SDz. Late north 9/26 Clay DPW, Douglas LSI, 9/29 Todd JLK, 10/7 Otter Tail LSI (median 10/7). Late south 11/7 Rice MZa, 11/9 Sherburne LMc, 11/10–14 Ramsey SKS (median 11/10). See winter report for probable overwintering individuals.
- Spotted Towhee X Eastern Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus* X *P. erythrophthalmus*) — [1 South] Eighth state record of this hybrid 9/25 Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) †DLP.
- Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Icteria virens*) — [1 South] Sole report is also a new fall record: 8/13 **Lyon** (Lone Tree Lake) †GWe.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [11 North, 28 South] Recorded west of a line from Roseau to Dakota with notable exception 8/9 **Crow Wing** (Saint Mathias Rd. rice paddies) NSg. High counts 8/4 Grant (**820**, North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, 9/4 Lac qui Parle (**560**, Salt Lake) GWe. Late north 9/10 Grant DFe, ebd, Roseau SDz (median 10/8). Late south 10/15 Lyon (Lone Tree Lake) GWe, 10/20, 11/5 Lyon (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) GWe (median 11/10).
- Bobolink** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [12 North, 28 South] Found in all regions, though most scarce in the North-central. High counts 8/12 Lincoln (200, Hendricks) GWe, 8/19 Lyon (150, Russell) GWe, 8/12 Lincoln (60, Arco) GWe. Late north 9/23 Lake JW1, St. Louis

(H.R.N.R.) NPu, 9/26–20 St. Louis (Stony Point) TRK (median 9/29). Late south 9/26 Swift RAE, 9/26–28 Olmsted m.ob. (median 10/5).

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [9 North, 22 South] All reports east of lines from St. Louis to Todd to Martin. High counts 8/10 Olmsted (11, South Landfill Reservoir) JPr, 10/11 Wabasha (9, Weaver Dunes S.N.A.) DnS, 10/4 Hennepin (8, Crow-Hassan P.R.) MZa. Late north 10/24 Aitkin SC, Mille Lacs HHD, REn, RLF, Morrison REn, RLF, 10/25 Cook PEJ, and record-late north date **11/29** Pine (Crooked River) †TPa (median 10/22). Late south 11/14–16 Hennepin (two locations) ABL, SMC, SOa, 11/28 Anoka ebd (median 10/29), but also see winter report.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [22 North, 31 South] Found in all regions, with the North-central and Southeastern regions containing the fewest reporting counties. Increases over the 10-year county average by 53% north and 37% south. High counts 10/28 Clay (**30**, Oakport Twp. East) DPW, 10/14 Lac qui Parle (20, Salt Lake) GWe, 10/26 Murray (20, Lake Sarah Twp.) KEm. Late north 11/11 Cook LWD, 11/18 St. Louis (Portman Park, Duluth) DED, 11/27 St. Louis (McQuade Small Craft Harbor) ebd (median 11/2). Late south 11/10 Ramsey JbS, ebd, 11/14 Sibley ebd, 11/22 McLeod BHa (median 11/16). See winter report for lingering northern and southern birds.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [6 North, 27 South] Sightings covered all southern and central regions plus Northwest. Southern reporting counties increased by 46% from the 10-year average, although number of counties is comparable to the previous two years. High count 8/8 Anoka (6, Mississippi West R.P.) RSk. Late north 8/15 Clay PBB, 8/14–18 Marshall JHs (median 8/20). Late south 8/31 Le Sueur WCM, Meeker BNn, Pipestone ANy, 9/4 Lac qui Parle WCM, 9/5 Carver KSo, WBl (median 8/25).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*) — [1 North] Minnesota's sixth record and second fall record 10/26–30 (but see winter report) **Itasca** (Coleraine) ph. †SC, ph. †KEM, ph. †JGW, m.ob. Interestingly, four out of the six records have occurred since 2019.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [28 North, 51 South] Reported statewide. High

count 9/2 Lyon (16, Garvin Park) GWe. Late north 9/14 St. Louis IaG, 9/14–26 Grant CNn (median 9/20). All November reports south 11/20–27 Blue Earth *vide* BHW, 11/1–30 Brown MTW (median 10/11); also see winter report.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in every county. High counts 8/11 Grant (18,000, counted by 100s coming in to roost at North Ottawa Impoundment) KJB, 10/20 Lyon (11,400, counted by 100s, Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) GWe.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [17 North, 47 South] Found in every region. High counts 10/6 Watonwan (**300**, conservative estimate, near Madelia) AKz, 9/1 Cottonwood (185, Windom) ebd, 10/21 Olmsted (100, Silver Creek Reservoir) JmP. Late north 10/10 Wilkin ebd, 10/12 Todd (Kandota Twp.) RLF, REn, 10/18 Todd (Little Saulk Twp.) ebd (median 10/21). See winter report for late south records.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [25 North, 48 South] Reported in every region and in all but five south counties, the most ever. Early north (median 9/13) 9/9 St. Louis (Steep Lake) ebd, 9/10 Lake JaE, St. Louis (10, Stony Point) JLK. Early south (median 9/23) 9/22 Hennepin CMB, Olmsted LAV, 9/24 Chippewa GWe, Lac qui Parle ebd, Ramsey ebd. High counts 10/1 Lake (1,175, Palisade Head) HTo, StK, TRK, 10/1 St. Louis (852) H.R.B.O. See winter report for overwintering birds north and south.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [25 North, 33 South] Found in all regions, with reports from more counties north and south than in any fall season since at least 2000. High count 9/10 Grant (350, North Ottawa Impoundment) DFe, ebd. Late north 10/28 Clay DPW, 10/30 Otter Tail ebd, 11/3 Becker TKa (median 11/4). Late south 11/9 Sibley DFe, 11/13–14 Pipestone LVD, 11/19 Lac qui Parle WCM (median 11/13); also see winter report.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [31 North, 53 South] Found in all but three counties. High counts 10/20 Lyon (12,300, Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) GWe, 10/8 Jackson (8,000, Brown Park) AKz, 10/21 Winona (7,500, near Dresbach) MJM.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

— [2 South] No count exceeded three birds. Bulk of reports came from traditional site in Jackson (Hwy 86 and 730th St. in Lakefield Twp.) 8/5–25 ASu, m.ob. Only other reports were the latest south 9/17–28 Lyon (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) RJS, GWe.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [31 North, 46 South] Detected in all regions. High counts 9/6 Carver (14, M.R.V.N.W.R. Rapids Lake) JCy, 9/6 Anoka (10, Linwood Lake) JWa, 9/10 Steele (9, Saco Farm Woods & Fields) PSu. Late north 9/27 Itasca SC, 9/28 Todd JJK, 9/27–30 St. Louis (two locations) BEA, ebd (median 10/1). Late south 10/10 Carver JCy, 10/10–23 Hennepin (two locations) ebd, TJo, 10/24 Anoka RLR (median 10/19).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) — [3 South] All reports of our earliest-departing warbler (median late south 8/23): 8/3 Washington (Crystal Spring S.N.A.) DFe, 8/6 Chisago (Lawrence Creek S.N.A.) AaL, CLu, plus new fall record 9/2 **Nicollet** (Seven Mile Creek C.P.) †NSg.

Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) — [23 North, 35 South] Found in all regions. Possible early south away from breeding birds (median 8/9) 8/4 Benton HHD, 8/7 Ramsey ebd, 8/15 Hennepin TAT. High counts 8/16 St. Louis (13, Stony Point) StK, 8/25 Cook (13, Grand Marais Artist's Point) JLA, 8/23 St. Louis (10, Park Point R.A.) IDv, StK. Noteworthy record 8/28 **Rock** (Touch the Sky Prairie) GHl. Late north 9/27 Cook ebd, 9/26 – 10/9 St. Louis StK, TRK (median 9/28). Late south 10/2 Hennepin (French Creek Preserve) ebd, Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) ebd, Sherburne LMc, 10/6 Redwood GWe, 10/9 Blue Earth ChH (median 10/5).

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — [22 North, 36 South] Reported mostly from the eastern two-thirds, plus unusual southwestern records 9/1 **Jackson** ANy, 8/26 **Lyon** (Garvin Park) GWe. High counts 8/19 Cass (9, Crow Wing S.P.) MJB, 9/10 Hennepin (9) TAT. Late north 9/13 Crow Wing PSP, 9/17 Itasca TCL, 9/22 St. Louis H.R.B.O. (median 9/13). Late south 9/22 Lyon GWe, Ramsey RMD, 9/24–29 Hennepin (two locations) ZSk, SLC, VRL (median 9/25).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) — [21 South] Reported almost entirely from

the southeastern quarter. High counts 8/15 Carver (7, Carver P.R.) JCy, 9/4 Dakota (4, Miesville Ravine P.R.) JCC. Late south 9/16 Hennepin ebd, Scott BHe, 9/18 Dakota BAF (median 9/15).

Golden-winged Warbler X Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* X *V. cyanoptera*) — [3 South] All “Brewster’s” type unless specified otherwise: 8/12 Washington (Afton S.P.) ELi, 8/21 (Oakdale Nature Preserve; unknown type) JDS, 9/1 Olmsted (Quarry Hill N.C.) JPr, 9/9 Ramsey (Lake Como) JKu.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — [32 North, 51 South] Recorded in all but four counties. All-time high count for state 9/4 St. Louis (**60**, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK. Other high counts 9/13 St. Louis (**33**, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK, TRK, 9/10 Hennepin (24, Cedar Lake) ebd. Late north 9/27 – 10/2 St. Louis (two locations) REn, RLF, JLA, 10/4 Itasca ebd (median 10/4). Late south 10/3 Washington ebd, 10/6 Redwood GWe, Washington DFN (median 10/6).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [4 South] Reported from Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin. High count 8/6 Goodhue (4, Mississippi River Lock and Dam 3) EBy. Late south 9/4 Goodhue ebd, 9/6 Carver JCy, 9/11 Dakota DVe (median 9/2).

Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) — [30 North, 49 South] Found statewide. See summer report for early fall migrants south. High count 8/23 St. Louis (**250**, Park Point R.A.) PHS. Late north 10/17 Lake JWL, 10/21 St. Louis MLH, **11/6** Lake (Silver Bay) †ABm (median 10/16). Late south 10/25 Hennepin ACr, 10/26 Dakota ADS, 10/26–28 Winona ToM, DFN, PEJ (median 10/19).

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*) — [31 North, 49 South] Found statewide. Early north (median 9/1) 8/22–23 St. Louis (Park Point) †PHS, †BMu, †ECF, †RyS, 9/3 Red Lake CRM. Early south (median 9/1) 9/1 Anoka ebd, Benton HHD, Brown SLH, Rock HCT. High counts 9/29 Hennepin (26, Crow-Hasan P.R.) SuH, WCM, 9/26 Dakota (23, Dodge N.C.) JHa, 10/3 Carver (22, Carver P.R.) JCy. Late north 10/28 St. Louis MLH, 11/1 Lake (Silver Bay) MaJ, 11/5 Lake (knife River) KRE, m.ob. (median 10/26). Late south 11/8 Freeborn ChA, 11/11–14 Sherburne JOs, HHD, 11/14 Anoka CF (median 11/1). **Note:** August reports without descriptions are

excluded.

Nashville Warbler (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*) — [31 North, 52 South] Found in all but four counties. See summer report for likely early southbound migrants south. Notable high counts 9/4 St. Louis (**300**, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK, 8/23 St. Louis (**200**, Park Point R.A.) PHS. Late north 10/17 Clearwater JWl, St. Louis (four locations) GrS, PHS, BEA, SCB, 10/24 Aitkin SC, St. Louis (North Bay) RyS (median 10/21). Late south 10/26 Dakota KDS, Hennepin JWl, 10/28 Washington JDS, 10/30 Carver JCC (median 10/26).

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — [11 North, 12 South] All reports east a line from Marshall to Olmsted. Early south (median 8/24) 8/22 Scott (Louisville Swamp) BAB, 8/24 Sherburne MJB, 8/27 Anoka CF. Late north 9/7 Cook KLi, 9/27 St. Louis (40th Ave W., Duluth) MLH, 9/29 St. Louis (Indian Point, Duluth) LBa (median 9/16). Late south 9/23 Hennepin ebd, 9/29 Dakota DVe, 10/6 Ramsey SBE (median 9/18). No count greater than two birds.

Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) — [21 North, 29 South] Unusual south reports 8/31 **Pipestone** (Split Rock Creek S.P.) SDz, 9/27 **Rock** (2, Blue Mounds S.P.) ebd. High counts both in St. Louis: 8/15 (5, E. Superior St., Duluth) KJB, 9/22 (5, Brighton Beach) StK, TRK. Late north 9/26 St. Louis StK, TRK, 9/28 Todd JLK (median 9/14). Late south 10/3 Ramsey ebd, 10/7 Hennepin MaS, 10/17 Ramsey AnA (median 9/28).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [34 North, 52 South] Found in every county except Nobles. High counts 9/9 Hennepin (40, Minnesota River N.W.R. Bass Ponds) MZa, 8/1 Dakota (33, Vermillion W.M.A.) ebd, 9/12 Anoka (30) ebd. Late north 10/16 St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, 10/19 Cook LWd, 10/24 St. Louis (Moose Lake Banding Station) AVa, HTo (median 10/13). Late south 10/30 Lyon GWe, 11/21–28 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) JCa, TGi (median 10/25); also see winter report.

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) — [3 South] All reports 8/3 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BHe, 8/24 Washington (Afton S.P.) PAL, 9/7 Hennepin (Lake Nokomis) WPe (median departure 9/8).

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [33 North, 50 South] Found statewide. Notable

high counts from St. Louis: 9/4 (350, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK, 8/23 (300, Park Point) PHS. Late north 10/8 Lake JJB, 10/7–9 St. Louis (two locations) MLH, StK (median 10/11). Late south 10/10 Ramsey (White Bear Lake) ebd, 10/12 Anoka DPG, 10/17 Ramsey (Vadnais Lake) ebd (median 10/9).

Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) — [9 North, 16 South] Noted in every region except West-central, though most reports in the eastern half of the state. Early south (median 8/22) 8/6 Goodhue EBy, 8/22 Rice EmR, 8/24 Washington DFN. Highest counts all from St. Louis: 9/13 (15, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK, TRK, 8/12 (9, Stony Point) StK. Late north 10/1 Lake (Palisade Head) StK, TRK, (Two Harbors, Lighthouse Point) ebd, 10/2 Cook ebd, 10/3 Lake (Two Harbors) JWl (median 10/6). Late south 9/26 Carver JCy, 9/27 Ramsey JDv, 10/13 Blue Earth DAh (median 9/29).

Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) — [5 South] Highest number of reporting fall counties in a decade. All birds: 8/6–14 Hennepin (Lake Rebecca P.R.) SuH, 8/17 Meeker (near Dassel) PKF, 8/20 Washington (Oakdale N.P.) JDS, 8/21 Houston (Hillside Rd. in Reno) AAz, 9/2 Nicollet (Seven Mile Creek C.P.) NSg (median departure 8/26).

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) — [21 North, 34 South] Found in every region. Early south (median 8/18, but see summer report) 8/17–18 Ramsey LiH, SBE, VBC, 8/18 Dakota PRH, 8/19 Sherburne ebd. Noteworthy high counts 9/4 St. Louis (12, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK, 9/13 St. Louis (11, Brighton Beach) StK, TRK, 8/7 Lake (9, Agate Bay) GWe. Late north 10/3 Itasca PLe, 10/4 Lake JWl, 10/5 Cook LWd (median 9/28). Late south 10/4 Carver JCy, 10/6 Ramsey GDr, 10/6–7 Steele PSt (median 10/3).

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) — [27 North, 45 South] Reported statewide. Early south (median 8/16) 8/16 Hennepin CMB, 8/17 Carver DWK, Hennepin TAT, ebd, Ramsey ebd. Highest fall counts from Brighton Beach in St. Louis: 9/22 (40) StK, TRK, 9/13 (35), HTo, StK, TRK, 9/8 (30) TRK. Late north 10/4 Itasca ebd, Lake ebd, **10/18** Kanabec (Kroschel Twp.) SPS (median 10/3). Late south 10/5 Chisago RLR, Houston ToM, Olmsted JmP, JPr, 10/7 Washington JDS (median 10/7).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) — [23 North, 37 South] Statewide distribution with 53% (north) and 42% (south) increases from respective 10-year average number of reporting counties. Early south (median 8/19) 8/18 Hennepin RBW, Ramsey LiH, VBC, Washington PNi. High counts 9/5 Ramsey (10, Sucker Lake) MJB, 8/22 St. Louis (8, Lake Vermilion) ebd. Late north 9/26 Beltrami AxB, St. Louis (East Hillside, Duluth) RyS, (H.R.N.R.) ebd (median 9/30). Late south 9/30 Sherburne ebd, 10/2 Ramsey (Tamarack N.C.) ebd, 10/20 Ramsey (Roseville) SPS (median 10/5).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) — [28 North, 44 South] Found in all regions. See summer report for earliest south migrant (median 8/10); subsequent early south reports 8/11 Rice ebd, 8/13 Dakota DFN. High counts 8/23 St. Louis (10, Park Point R.A.) PHS, 8/16 St. Louis (8, Stony Point) StK, 9/2 Lyon (8, Garvin Park) GWe, 9/4 St. Louis (8, Brighton Beach) HTo. Late north 9/17 Itasca TCL, 9/19 St. Louis MtS, 9/22 Carlton ebd (median 9/22). Late south 9/26 Carver JCy, Stearns AUm, Waseca APi, 9/27 Renville BTS, Steele PSu (median 9/25).

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) — [34 North, 50 South] Detected in all but three Southeast counties. Record high fall count 8/5 Marshall (52, Agassiz N.W.R.) EdB; another notable tally 8/31 Traverse (30, Dumont) BBi. Late north 9/24 Lake JWL, Polk HHu, 9/26 Clay PBB, 10/4 Kanabec SPS (median 9/27). Late south 9/29 Dakota MWT, Wabasha ebd, 10/27 Anoka (Coon Rapids Dam) ph. JFy (median 9/27).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) — [31 North, 42 South] Recorded statewide; fewest reports from the Southwest. Highest fall count and second highest in Minnesota 8/23 St. Louis (100, Park Point R.A.) PHS. Also noteworthy tally 9/4 St. Louis (30, Brighton Beach) HTo. Late north 9/28 Pine ebd, St. Louis PAL, ebd, 10/7 Cook JBs (median 9/30). Late south 10/3 Wabasha ebd, 10/4 Steele DWK, 10/11 Hennepin (Mississippi Gorge R.P.) †DCZ (median 10/3).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) — [16 North, 27 South] Scattered across all regions. Unusual report 9/2 **Traverse** (Dumont) BBi. Early north (median 8/22) 8/15 Koochiching AMe, 8/15–16 Carlton (2) ebd, 8/16 St. Louis

JWL, SLL. Early south (median 8/22) 8/17 Meeker PKF, 8/18 Anoka JkS, Rice GHO. High counts all from St. Louis: 9/7 (30, Pine Forest S.N.A.) ebd, 9/4 (25, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK. Late north 10/1 Lake (Two Harbors, Agate Bay) JWL, St. Louis KEJ, 10/3 Cook LWd 10/6 Lake (Bayside Park) JWL (median 10/1). Late south 9/29 Dakota DVe, Hennepin ebd, Scott ebd, 9/30 Ramsey EHi, 10/3 Wabasha ebd (median 10/1).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulea*) — [4 North, 19 South] A spectacular southern turnout for this species, nearly triple the 10-year average number of reporting counties. The majority of reports were from the southeastern quarter of the state. Early south (median 8/29) 8/28 Washington (Lake Elmo R.P.) BDo, 8/28–29 Anoka (Blaine) JkS, 8/29 Isanti MHe, Steele (Rice Lake S.P.) ebd. Unusual reports 9/1 **Jackson** (Kilen Woods S.P.) ANy, 9/17 **Renville** (Franklin) ph. LHe, 9/21 **Grant** (Norcross) †CNn. Late north 9/20 Cook ebd, 9/21 Grant CNn, 9/27 St. Louis H.R.B.O. (median 9/28). Late south 10/12 Dakota TSk, 10/14 Hennepin AOp, 11/11–14 Sherburne JOs, HHD, DOr (median 10/12), but also see winter report. No more than two birds at any location.

Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) — [33 North, 41 South] Reported statewide; scarcest in the southwest. Early south (median 8/28) 8/23, 8/27 Hennepin (three locations) ebd, CDg, VRL. Notable high counts all from St. Louis: 9/26 (501, stationary count over three hours, Duluth Lakewalk) BNW, 9/16 (400, Brighton Beach) ASu, EzH, 9/26 (150, Stony Point) StK, TRK. Late north 10/25–27 Lake BMu, m.ob., 11/1 St. Louis JLK (median 10/26). Late south 10/27 Brown JSc, Ramsey JbS, 10/26–31 Hennepin WPe, ebd (median 10/24).

Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) — [20 North, 18 South] Found in all regions. Most reports east of a line from Lake of the Woods to Otter Tail to Fillmore; exceptions were 8/28 **Traverse** (Dollymount Twp.) BBi, 8/29 **Swift** (Munson Lake S.P.) RAE, 9/22 **Lyon** (Southwest Minnesota State University) †GWe, 10/7 **Blue Earth** (Mankato) ChH. Late north 9/27 Itasca SC, 9/29 St. Louis MLH, 11/20 Todd TLu (median 9/30). Late south 10/1 Anoka ebd, 10/7 Blue Earth ChH, 10/11

Dodge CRM, m.ob. (median 9/28). High counts did not exceed four birds.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) — [34 North, 53 South] Found in every county. Early south (median 8/21) 8/18 Hennepin SuH, Ramsey LiH, VBC, 8/19 Anoka CF, Lyon GWe, Sherburne CDG. High counts 9/26 St. Louis (1,500, Stony Point) StK, TRK, 9/27 St. Louis (644) H.R.B.O. Late north 11/7 Lake (Rustic Creek) JuW, 11/23 Lake (Secret Cove) ABm (median 11/15), but also see winter report. Numerous southern reports of this species can be found in the winter report. Subspecies *auduboni* was described 9/26 St. Louis (Duluth) RyS.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Setophaga dominica*) — [1 South] A continuing summer bird recorded 8/2 Ramsey (Vadnais Lake) LiH.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Setophaga nigrescens*) — [1 South] Minnesota's 10th state and fourth fall record found 9/3–4 **Ramsey** (Sucker Lake) †EzH, ph. †AXH, ph. †ASu, ph. †LBA, †NMe, †PCC, m. ob. (*The Loon* 92:145–147)

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) — [22 North, 41 South] Reported in all regions, although most frequently recoded in eastern two-thirds. Early south (median 8/20) 8/17 Anoka DFe, Hennepin (Lake Nokomis) CLB, (New Hope) JBn. High counts 8/24 Cook (8, Grand Marais Towers) LWd, 9/4 Ramsey (8, Sucker Lake) EHi, 9/8 St. Louis (7, Brighton Beach) AVa, HTo, StK. Late north 9/29 Lake ABm, 10/1 Carlton ebd (median 9/29). Late south 10/6 Dakota NiR, 10/12 Dodge CLB, 10/20 Hennepin CWB (median 10/9), but also see winter report.

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) — [28 North, 45 South] Reported from more north and more south counties than in any previous season. Early south (median 8/13) 8/13 Dakota DFN, Hennepin RBJ, 8/15 Carver JCy, Hennepin TAT, CLB. Record high fall count 8/29 Lyon (**32**, estimate, Garvin C.P.) JbS; also 8/25 Yellow Medicine (**11**, Upper Sioux Agency S.P.) GWe, 8/27 Hennepin (9, T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) ebd, 9/8 Hennepin (9, East River Flats Park) EHi. Late north 9/16 St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, (Forest Hill) JLK, 9/24 Todd JLK (median 9/16). Late south 9/27 Rice MZa, 9/28 Ramsey MWS, Scott TZt (median 9/23).

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) — [26 North, 46 South] Reported statewide. Early south (median 8/15) 8/16 Steele LiH, 8/17 Ramsey JbS, 8/18 Hennepin TAT. Notable high counts 9/8 Hennepin (**19**, East River Flats Park) EHi, 8/28 Grant (**15**, Niemack Lake Park) BBi, 9/2 Lyon (12, Garvin Park) GWe. Late north 9/16 St. Louis (Brighton Beach) ASu, EzH, (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, 9/18 Lake (4) ebd, 9/28 Todd JLK (median 9/22). Late south 9/29 Anoka RSK, Dakota MwT, 10/6 Redwood GWe (median 9/28).

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*) — [1 South] Second state record discovered 10/21–22 **Ramsey** (St. Paul) SRy, ph. †AXH, ph. †APi, ph. †DwK, ph. †EzH, ph. †LBA, †NoM, †PHS, ph. RZi, ph. TBu, m.ob.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [3 South] Third fall in the past decade without north reports. All south 10/16 – 11/5 Hennepin (Cooper neighborhood, Minneapolis) ph. KmS, ph. BLz, m.ob., 10/22 **Stevens** ph. JyF, 10/31 **Stearns** (St. Cloud) REL.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [24 North, 42 South] Found in all regions; Northwest and Southwest contained the fewest reports. Increases of 43% (north) and 46% (south) from their respective 10-year average number of reporting counties, although both numbers are similar to the past two fall seasons. Unusual fall record 9/4 **Kittson** (Twin Lakes W.M.A.) NaH, DFe, JCJ. Notable high counts 8/29 Lyon (**7**, Garvin C.P.) JbS, 8/16 St. Louis (**6**, Stony Point) StK. Late north all from St. Louis: 9/17 (Hartley Park) JLK, 9/22 (Brighton Beach) StK, TRK, 9/26 (Hartley Park) ebd (median 9/23). Late south 10/3 Ramsey DHo, 10/6–11 Hennepin (Golden Valley) DAs, 10/13 Hennepin (Mississippi Gorge R.P.) DCZ (median 10/2).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) — [1 South] Fifth fall record, 9/17 Dakota (Lebanon Hills R.P.) †KDS.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [24 North, 53 South] Found across the state with scant reports from North-central and Northwest regions. Unusual fall sighting 9/23

Lake of the Woods (Zippel Bay S.P.) SDz. High counts 8/1 Scott (**21**, Prior Lake) TZt, 8/15 Carver (20, Carver P.R.) JCy, 9/26 Hennepin (16, Hyland Lake P.R.) LSy, 11/25 Ramsey (16, Falcon Heights) SKS.



Summer Tanager, 26 October 2020, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Photo by Brandon Lentz.



Dickcissel, 8 October 2020, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by James W. Lind.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [29 North, 50 South] Found statewide. Notable high count 9/4 St. Louis (107, Brighton Beach) HTo, StK, also 9/14 Rice (25, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) NiR, 8/16 St. Louis (23, Stony Point) StK. Late north all from St. Louis: 9/28 (H.R.N.R.) DgM, 9/29 (Stony Point) StK, 10/8 H.R.B.O. (median 10/5). Late south 10/25–28 Hennepin (Eden Prairie) ebd, ChP, 11/6 Scott (Northwood Park) ebd, SKe, 11/17 Scott (Jordan) ebd (median 10/26).

Pheucticus grosbeak (*Pheucticus* sp.) — [1 South] A buffy-colored and nearly streakless individual was briefly seen 9/9 Lyon (Camden S.P.) GWe.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [13 South] Like the previous four years, well-represented this fall. Found in all southern regions except Southeast, though only single reports from Central and East-central. All reports outside of the Southwest region: 8/1–22 Scott BAB, 8/2 Nicollet APi, Big Stone RAE, Swift BAb, 8/3–24 Hennepin (max. 3, Flying Cloud Fields) DWK, ph. GHo, m.ob., 8/16 Steele LiH, 8/19 Blue Earth (near Minneopa S.P.) ChH. High count 8/22 Pipestone (5, Pheasant Terrace) VKI; no other count ex-

ceeded 3 individuals. Late south 8/25 Pipestone VKI, 8/26 Lyon GWe, NME (median 8/26).

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [20 North, 49 South] Detected statewide with scarce reports from the North-central and Northwest regions. High counts 8/15 Carver (13, Carver P.R.) JCy, 8/5 Sherburne (9, Houlton Conservation Area) LMc, 8/13 Hennepin (9, Coldwater Spring) ebd, 9/4 Ramsey (9, Battle Creek Park West) LiH. Late north 10/12 Clay DPW, **11/1–2** Lake (Two Harbors) ph. ANy, m.ob. (median 9/24). Late south 10/11 Goodhue ebd, 10/23–24 Ramsey DHo, ebd, **10/25** Olmsted (Rochester) ph. CDh (median 10/10).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [7 North, 31 South] Reported from most counties south of a line from Wilkin to 8/2 **Pine** (2, Pine City) LEv, plus 8/22 St. Louis (Stony Point) StK, 8/23 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) StK, IDv, and latest north **10/8** Lake (Two Harbors) ph. BMu, ph. JWl. High counts 8/12 Lincoln (8, Northern Tallgrass Prairie N.W.R.) GWe, 8/1 Lyon (7, 160th Ave, Russell) GWe. Late south 9/5 Jackson ebd, 9/6 Lyon GWe, **10/3** Lincoln (Fox W.P.A.) JWH, ph. KEm (median 9/1).

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The 2020 Fall Season

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LIH	Liz Harper	PSP	Pamela S. Perry	ToM	Todd Mitchell
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Abbreviations

C.P.	County Park
C.R.	County Road
F.R.	Forest Road
H.R.B.O.	Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
H.R.N.R.	Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
N.C.	Nature Center
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.R.	Park Reserve
R.A.	Recreation Area
R.P.	Regional Park
S.F.	State Forest
S.N.A.	Scientific and Natural Area
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.P.	Wilderness Park
W.P.A.	Waterfowl Production Area
W.T.P.	Wastewater Treatment Ponds

First Lyon County Record of Long-tailed Jaeger

Roger J. Schroeder

My work responsibilities include management of the Lyon County Landfill which borders the open-water Waterfowl Production Area (W.P.A.) north of Black Rush Lake. On 8 September 2020 at about 3:00 P.M., I observed a Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) at this location.

While scanning the landfill wetland, my attention was drawn immediately to a dark, gull-sized bird near the southeast end, about 50 meters from shore, among hundreds of Ring-billed and Franklin's gulls on the water. This bird "jumped off the page" amid the gulls, having an overall darker appearance on the head and back. The darker top was contrasted with a lighter throat, neck, and nape. Upon first look through binoculars, I knew this to be one of the jaegers (*Stercorarius* sp.), and I contacted Garrett Wee to get information out. He immediately notified the birding community. Local birders Kim Emerson and Beth Collins arrived within the hour.

Lighting conditions were overcast, dulling the colors a bit. The bird's back appeared brown/gray with darker (black) wing tips (folded) and dark tail streamers, mildly arcing behind the bird above water level at a low angle. The bird's upper chest, neck, cheek, throat, and nape had a dull, creamy yellow color which was in contrast to the brown/gray back, and dark cap. From the side view, the dark cap appeared to start at the base of the bill and extend at an upward angle toward the "ear" area, then angle back downward toward the upper nape. Viewed from behind, the cap had a "V" shape bordering the lighter-toned nape.

Initially, I did not consider Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*) as a possibility due to the small size of this individual. It was smaller than Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) available for side-by-side comparison, and was bordering on Franklin's Gull size (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*), although slightly larger. Pomarine Jaeger would



Long-tailed Jaeger, 11 September 2020, Black Rush Lake W.P.A., Russell, Lyon County. Photo by Roger J. Schroeder.

have appeared larger than this individual (Sibley 2014).

According to Sibley (2014), the size, color pattern, and shape of the tail projection are most similar between Long-tailed Jaeger and Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*). I took particular note of the bill while the bird was still on the water. From both front and side views, no pale area at the base of the upper mandible was visible and the bill was entirely black. Viewed through a spotting scope at 20x, the bill appeared short and of uniform thickness except for a downward angle (gonys) about mid-length of the bill. During initial observation, this feature added to the support for identification as Long-tailed Jaeger. Olson (1989) indicates that Pomarine has the heaviest, most hooked

bill, while the bill of Parasitic Jaeger is more slender. Parasitic Jaeger would show a distinct gonydeal angle closer to the tip of the bill, and pale area on the bill near the base, while the gonydeal angle in Long-tailed Jaeger would appear less sharp (rather flat) — as this individual bird showed. Furthermore, a bill appearing entirely dark is consistent with Long-tailed, as a Parasitic Jaeger would show a bi-colored bill with a pale gray base (Olsen 1989).

During my observations, the bird was actively bathing and twice was seen in flight, giving me good views of the wings, tail projections, and a size comparison to nearby gulls. Once taking flight, the bird was almost immediately chased by the comparatively larger Ring-billed Gulls. Its wing shape was narrow and often angular in powered flight. It had a distinctive streamlined appearance (not bulky, as I had remembered from previous observations of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers). The upper wings were brown and bordered by a darker trailing edge, especially on the secondaries. The two outer primaries (P10, P9) showed bright white along the length of the vane and on the outer web. Less white was visible on the next three primaries (P8–P6) and was mostly confined to the base of the inner web. According to Olsen (1989), one would expect more extensive white covering P8–P6 on the vane and webs in Pomarine Jaeger. Sibley (2014) also shows a greater extent of white on primaries P8–P5 than what was showing on this bird.

When in flight, two long, thin streamers projected from the tail and appeared nearly twice the length of the other tail feathers. The length and shape of these streamers again preclude both Pomarine and Parasitic jaeger. The remaining tail feathers showed white at the base, most prominent on the outer feathers. The tail had a gradient appearance, blending from light brown to black down the shafts to the black-edged tips. Feathers immediately adjacent to the streamers were sharply angular/pointed, while the remaining tail feathers appeared rounded. The underwing primaries were medium dull brown overall, but showed white at the base — contrasting with the darker brown underwing primary coverts — and extending toward the primary tips. Reviewing photos, the underside of P10 has the greatest extent of white along the vane, while the next few (P9–P7) showed a fraction ($\frac{1}{4}$ the length of P10) of white from



Long-tailed Jaeger, 11 September 2020, Black Rush Lake W.P.A., Russell, Lyon County. Photo by Roger J. Schroeder.

the underwing primary coverts toward the tip. The breast showed a blotchy brown horizontal banding separating the dull yellow throat from the white belly. A small portion of the belly showed a white/very light gray patch with a brown lower belly extending to the vent. The appearance of the underside was initially a source of caution in concluding that this was a Long-tailed Jaeger. But consideration of age variations in individual birds cycling through plumage / molt indicated this bird's underside appearance was consistent with a third-cycle bird (Olson 1989). The underside of the tail also showed white on a medium-dark brown underside. White was shown mostly at the base of the outer tail feathers, and slightly on the two central streamers. Review of photographs reaffirmed field observations.

Leg color was not noted during my initial observations — likely due to the legs being dark and the less than optimal lighting conditions. Fortunately the bird remained several days, allowing for multiple opportunities to study in a variety of lighting conditions. The next day, under better lighting conditions, leg color was observed to be light gray with darker gray feet.

On day one of my observations, the bird left with the large number of gulls shortly after 6:00 P.M. I suspect the birds left to roost at one of the larger lakes south of Black Rush Lake, though I never did locate it at another location. Most gulls visiting the landfill during the day tend to roost at the Rock Lake / McKay Lake area (four miles), Lake Yankton (six miles), or Wood Lake (six miles). Fortunately for dozens of other birders, this individual returned daily through 13 September 2020.

Long-tailed Jaeger sightings in Minnesota have been well-documented (see Roberts 1932; Minnesota Ornithologists' Union 1936–2020). A rough comparison of *Stercorarius* species sightings in Minnesota through 2020 (attempting to remove duplicate records) shows that about 170 of 190 individual reports involve birds from Lake Superior (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union 1936–2020). Eighteen sightings away from Lake Superior are evenly represented by Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed jaeger. These occurrences are also well balanced in the north, central, and southern Minnesota regions. It appears from records that both Long-tailed and Pomarine jaeger tend to be observed on consecutive days after the first sighting, while Parasitic is seldom seen away from Lake Superior for more than one day. Fall is the best season to observe jaegers in Minnesota with most observations from September and October. About ten percent of the sightings are from May. A review of eBird (2021) records from other Midwestern states during the last 20 years shows a combined total of 15 Long-tailed Jaeger reports from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin (away from Lake Superior).

Black Rush Lake W.P.A. is a 20-acre wetland created by the Lyon County Landfill in conjunction with the Black Rush Lake Restoration Project (a partnership of 14 organizations formed in the 1990s). Several significant sightings have occurred there the last 20 years, including Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*) (Auer et al., 2005), Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*) (Budde et al., 2009), and Thayer's Gull (*L. glaucooides thayeri*) (Budde et al. 2021). Proximity to the landfill, Black Rush Lake, and Camden State Park certainly has impact. South across the road, Black Rush Lake itself also has had significant sightings, including Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (Kessen and

Svingen 2008), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (Budde et al. 2014), and Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) (Carlson et al. 1993; Budde et al. 2020).

Special thanks to Garrett Wee for immediately getting the word out and for connecting me to experienced individuals in the greater birding community. The knowledge base represented in the network of enthusiastic field observers is unmatched and was very helpful in gaining quick understanding of critical field marks to observe. Thanks as well to Anthony Hertzell for assistance with this article and the opportunity to contribute to **The Loon**.

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— Marshall, MN.



The Owl in the Attic

Suggests Method of Saving Trumpeter Swan

Richard Magoon Barnes

Reprinted from Barnes, Richard M. 1915. Suggests method of saving Trumpeter Swan.
The Oologist 32:134–135

Mr. R. M. Barnes of Lacon, Illinois, suggests a method of saving the Trumpeter Swan from extinction in a letter to the "Bulletin," which it takes pleasure in reproducing herewith:

"I should be very glad to see your organization endeavor to perpetuate the Trumpeter Swan which I regard as the most magnificent of all North American birds. This bird is now on the verge of extinction. John M. Thayer, of Lancaster, Mass., has one, the New York Biological [Zoological?] Gardens have two, the Lincoln Park in Chicago has two, and I have three on my home place here. These are the only birds of this species that I know of in existence in the world. They ought to be gathered together in one flock and placed on a lake somewhere in Minnesota, which is their natural breeding ground. The lake should be large enough to afford each pair of birds a place where they could seek privacy and should be guarded

by competent naturalists who are willing to act as game wardens, and should be fenced. I have repeatedly said that I would be one of ten to contribute \$1,000 towards making this experiment, and unless some such thing is done it will not be long until the Trumpeter Swan will follow the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Parakeet off the map.

"I have already presented this matter to Mr. Thayer, who is willing to contribute his bird. The superintendent of the New York Biological [Zoological?] Gardens, with whom I had an interview on this subject three years ago this summer, advised me that if there was any prospect of this being done his institution would contribute the pair of birds they have and \$1,000 in money. If the work proposed is done, it should not be made a matter of general contribution, but ten men who are enough interested to contribute \$1,000 apiece ought to go into it together."

"Mille Lacs Reservation" Created

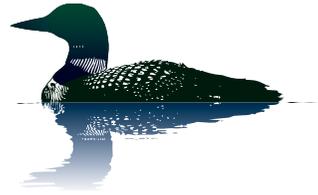
Emmet Augustus Quarles

Reprinted from Quarles, Emmet A., ed. 1915. "Mille Lacs Reservation" created.
Bulletin American Game Protective Association 3:9

The president has signed an executive order establishing Spirit Island in Lake Mille Lacs, in Aitkin and Mille Lacs counties, Minnesota, as a national bird reservation under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, to be officially known as "Mille Lacs Reservation." While it is true that this rocky island is of small size and not adapted as a breeding place for birds, water-fowl in large numbers fly past it and rest near it, and

the island has been used by hunters hiding among the rocks as a blind, enabling them to slaughter the ducks in large numbers. This will no longer be possible. The President's actions in the present instance is largely due to Messrs. J. H. McGilvra, Charles G. Menzel, and W. S. Foster, all of Minneapolis. This Association has cooperated with these gentlemen gladly, as did the Minnesota Fish and Game Protective League.

Notes of Interest



WINTER FISHING BEHAVIOR OF AMERICAN ROBINS IN MINNESOTA — During the winter of 2019, a group of approximately 150–200 American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) was observed around a pond in the city of Mounds View, Ramsey County. The presence of robins at this location and time of year was not unusual, as they had been present in previous years feeding on the fruits of European buckthorn and visiting small areas of open water along the shoreline of the otherwise ice-covered pond. Over a period of several weeks, they were observed and photographed fishing for live minnows along the edges of open water. The pockets of open water varied in size from ~10 cm in diameter to one larger area that extended about 10 meters in length and 1–2 meters in width. In 2019, this behavior continued into mid-March, when the ice receded away from the shoreline. On 10 January 2021, and continuing through February 2021, similar fishing behavior was again observed and photographed at the same location.

Robins stood on the ice at the edge of open water (Figure 1). They were generally erect in posture, often with their head cocked and one eye focused on the water surface. They used a quick strike with their bill to grasp individual minnows. Based on movement, both in the birds' bill and when dropped on the ice, it was clear the minnows were alive when caught. Groups of minnows could be observed swimming in the shallow water, often right at the water's surface (Figure



Figure 1. Fishing posture of robins that were actively foraging for minnows in pools of open water at an ice-covered pond, 2 March 2019, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Steven Katovich.



Figure 2. A robin carries a minnow in its bill after catching it from a small area of open water. A churning group of minnows also can be seen in the lower left. 18 January 2021, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Steven Katovich.



Figure 3. American Robin performing a “double wing feeding” technique, 1 March 2019, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

2). Anthony Hertz (pers. com.), who also had visited this site, noted that on occasion, robins would use a “double wing feeding” technique similar to that employed by some herons (Hancock and Kushlan, 1984) where they would hold both wings outstretched before striking, as if to shade the area being fished (Figure 3).

On 15 January 2021, I used a small aquarium net to scoop out minnows from the open water. The prey fish were identified as fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) which varied in length from 5–6 cm. I also retrieved a single fathead minnow of similar size which had been dropped by a foraging robin on a paved trail along the pond on 10 January 2021. Robins that successfully caught a fish generally ran or flew away from the open water to avoid neighboring birds. They soon swallowed the minnow, but in some cases, the robins would first slap the minnow against the ice to kill it before eating it (Figure 4).

Wheelwright (1986) described the diet of the American Robin as consisting of three food groups: soft-bodied invertebrates, hard-bodied invertebrates, and fruits. The nature of their diet shifts seasonally, with heavy reliance on fruits during the fall and winter. Wheelwright analyzed the stomach contents of approximately 1,900 individual robins collected by the U.S. Biological Survey and made no mention of vertebrate food items, including fish. However, there have been occasional reports and observations of robins feeding on vertebrates, including small fish. Weston (1963) observed a robin feeding on dead whole minnows in March at the site of a fish kill in Iowa. Michael (1934) observed as many as 20 *Turdus migratorius propinquus*, (referred to as the Western Robin) actively fishing and catching small, 2-inch-long live trout. The trout had been stranded in shallow water at Mirror Lake, Yosemite Park, California. Kimball (1944) described watching a single male robin catching fry trout and taking them to young in a nest. In Europe, Raes et al. (2008) reported *Turdus merula*, the European Blackbird, catching minnows 5–7 cm in length in a shallow river in July.

This observation describes a relatively large number of American Robins actively catching and eating live minnows over an extended period in winter. The robins were actively “fishing” areas of open water that were surrounded by snow and ice. This feeding behavior was observed over two years. Other local food items, specifically fruit on trees and shrubs, was apparently not readily available, having been largely eaten by birds earlier in the winter.

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— Steve Katovich, Mounds View, MN.



Figure 4. A robin beats a live minnow against the ice after catching it from a small pool of open water, 9 February 2021, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertz.

MISSISSIPPI KITE FAMILY IN MANKATO — Mississippi Kite is a rare and irregular migrant to

Minnesota. The 2019 Minnesota Checklist indicates 41 records in Minnesota with 14 occurring in the spring, 3 in the summer, and 24 in the fall. It is currently listed as Casual on the state checklist. It has been re-

corded in Minnesota every year since 2008 with the exception of 2016 and 2017. Most records are represented by single birds during migratory periods. Prior to the fall of 2020, there were only three records of Mississippi Kite occurring in the same location on consecutive days: 7–8 September 2004 (Hawk Ridge), 8–9 September 2008 (Hawk Ridge), and 4–5 October 2011 (Morrison County). The birds passing through Hawk Ridge were considered separately by MOURC and were assumed to be different individuals passing south over a stationary counting site. The October record was accepted with some dissent due to how late in the season the bird occurred and the fact that no Mississippi Kites had been recorded at a single site for consecutive days in Minnesota prior. This species has no documented nesting attempts in Minnesota.

In August of 2020, a well-documented family group of Mississippi Kites was discovered in the Mankato area with two adults and two juvenile birds which were regularly seen in the vicinity of Land of Memories Park near the confluence of the Blue Earth and Minnesota Rivers in Blue Earth County. These birds were found wandering farther up and downstream along the Minnesota River Valley by observers during their period of occurrence. The presumed initial observations were made by Jim Amundson and Marty Rost on 26 August 2020 and consisted of two adults at low altitude. The day was hot and humid with 15 mph winds from the south and temperatures approaching 90°F. The birds were seen directly overhead from the Bethany Hawkwatch's counting site located near the entrance to the park. They were actively capturing and feeding on the abundant dragonflies in the sky. The next day, a single juvenile Mississippi Kite was seen hawking dragonflies at the same location and photographs were taken (See MOURC Record 2020-046). Since late August and early September is one of the most active periods for Mississippi Kite migration, it was assumed that each of these three individuals represented a migrant and none was expected to be seen on subsequent days.

On 28 August 2020, about mid-morning, Chad Heins observed two adults and a juvenile Mississippi Kite passing over the campus of Bethany Lutheran College and heading west-southwest toward Land of Memories Park which lies nearly 4 km away. Within 15 minutes, the counters at that site who had been alerted to the kites watched as two adults and a juvenile drifted in from the east-northeast, suggesting they were the same birds. Jim Amundson also noted a juvenile kite about an hour later that flew high over the count site, initially heading north and then heading south and not stopping. At 2:00 P.M., Benji Inniger reported a Mississippi Kite over his hilltop North Mankato residence. That day we began entertaining the possibility of a local nesting pair that had escaped detection during the summer. The second juvenile bird joined the family group on 30 August 2020 and all four birds were present until 15 September 2020 which is the last date they were seen by the counters at the Bethany Hawkwatch.

The first visitors from outside the Mankato area arrived on 29 August 2020 and over the next 17 days well over 100 visitors would visit Land of Memories Park to observe these birds. Many would stay long enough to observe the birds in both Nicollet and Blue Earth County as they moved around. The four birds did not always forage together and observers reported anywhere from 1–4 birds. The following records of occurrence are from Jim Amundson's notes:



Mississippi Kite, 27 August 2020, Mankato, Blue Earth County. Photo by Jim Amundson.



Mississippi Kite, 30 August 2020, Mankato, Blue Earth County. Photo by Lon Baumgardt.



Mississippi Kite, 31 August 2020, Mankato, Blue Earth County. Photo by Bob Dunlap.

- 31 August 2020 — 2 juveniles, 1 adult
- 1 September 2020 — kites still present
- 2 September 2020 — kites still present
- 3 September 2020 — 2 juveniles, 2 adults
- 4 September 2020 — 1 kite reported west of Land of Memories along Judson Bottom Road in Nicollet County
- 5 September 2020 — 2 juveniles, 2 adults
- 6 September 2020 — 1 kite
- 7 September 2020 — 0 kites
- 8 September 2020 — 1 kite, assumed to be the last to depart
- 9 September 2020 — Hawkwatch rained out; no observations
- 10 September 2020 — No kites but lots of Broad-winged Hawks moving
- 11 September 2020 — No kites but counters left at noon due to rain
- 12 September 2020 — No kites
- 13 September 2020 — 1 juvenile kite
- 14 September 2020 — 1 juvenile kite, 1 kite of undetermined age
- 15 September 2020 — 2 juveniles, 2 adults; strong south winds

On 16 September 2020, a cold front passed through resulting in clear skies and notably cooler temperatures for the day. No kites were observed by the Bethany Hawkwatch counters that day and it is believed that the birds utilized the uplift of the south winds the day prior to begin their southward migration. The Bethany Hawkwatch recorded no more kites thereafter.

Sadly, there remains no documented nesting records for Minnesota. Though counters from the Bethany Hawkwatch were present at the Land of Memories since 15 August 2020 (typically from 9:00–12:00 each morning), no kites were detected in the ten days leading up to the first observation. It also should be noted that Mississippi Kite was observed previously at Land of Memories Park on 21 May 2014 by Chad Heins, Trent Robbins, Benji Inniger, and Andrew Krenz.

— **Chad Heins and Jim Amundson, Mankato, MN.**

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS IN PIPESTONE COUNTY — On the morning of 30 June 2020 at 11:00 A.M. two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were located by Kimberly Emerson at a small pond south of the original reported location where Lois Van Dyke had seen them the day before coming to the corn and silage piles on her farm. At approximately 1:30 P.M., Roger Schroeder found the birds standing on top of the fence posts at the pond where they were observed a few hours earlier, and Nolan Meyer and I then located them at 4:54 P.M.

■ At approximately 5:00 P.M., both birds took flight and flew to a nearby cattle feedlot. While watching them, we could clearly see they were not pinioned. After a short drive we saw them land to the southeast of the pond and observed them at 15–20 yards at a nearby feedlot. We were able to view them very closely through our scopes (almost unnecessary) and with binoculars, careful to check for any wear to the plumage, any bands, clipped hind toes, etc. They appeared healthy, showing no signs of captivity and no unusual behavior despite landing at a human dwelling for food. Easily seen were their light gray heads, reddish orange bills, rufous breasts and back, black bellies, and long pink legs. Their goose-like posture was also noteworthy. To our surprise, the birds actually copulated for around 30 seconds indicating they were a male/female pair. They then proceeded to walk into the feedlot and pick at the spilled corn as they had originally been reported doing the previous day.

After some later research, we discovered that Whistling-Ducks prefer to feed on seeds and grains while insects and invertebrates make up only about 10% of their diet. The agricultural fields in the surrounding area were completely vegetated and halfway to maturity, making access to any spilled grain in the fields inaccessible. A Whistling-Duck's affinity for seeking out seeds and grain would certainly lead it to a feedlot where food was plentiful. Drawing from our personal experience with this species, Whistling-Ducks often seem to frequent areas that are affiliated with human activity and use, such as city parks, municipal sewage ponds, etc. Observing these birds in a cattle feedlot may not have been as unusual and far-fetched as we initially thought. We were content with our observation and consulted with others and determined that the origin of these birds didn't need to be evaluated any further and concluded they were most likely wild birds.

— **Garrett Wee, Cottonwood, MN.**



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, 30 June 2020, Pipestone County. Photo by Garrett Wee.

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Purpose of the M.O.U.

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

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



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

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

Suggestions to Authors

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





The **Loon**

FALL 2021

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee ("MOURC") was conducted electronically via Zoom 5 December 2021. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz, Rebecca R. Engdahl (alternate), Anthony X. Hertzell, Ann E. Kessen, Douglas W. Kieser, William C. Marengo, Steven P. Stucker, Andrew D. Smith, Howard Towle (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

At its most recent meeting on 5 December 2021, the Committee embarked on a re-evaluation of the status of the Whooping Crane in Minnesota. The last time the Committee reviewed the matter was at its 19 August 2018 meeting. At that time, Committee discussion centered on whether or not it should consider birds from the Wisconsin captive breeding population (Eastern Migratory Population) to be fully established. MOURC then concluded that the Eastern Migratory Population was not sustainable and consequently not countable in Minnesota.

According to the International Crane Foundation as of September 2021, roughly 24% of the Eastern Migratory Population is now raised in the wild; the issue remains whether this population is self-sustaining. Based on recent comments from the International Crane Foundation, the answer is apparently not. Here is a recent quote from Anne Lacy, Senior Manager at the International Crane Foundation:

"The flock is not considered self-sustaining yet. I would say that "self-sustaining" would be the ability for natural reproduction to outpace natural death in this population. We had another four chicks fledge in the wild this year, as last year. That is not quite enough to make up for birds that die or are termed "long term missing" by the reintroduction partnership. That simply means that we have not had a record of them in two years — no sightings or

remote telemetry data."

After discussion, the Committee determined that:

The Wisconsin birds are still in an experimental introduction phase.

The Committee should be cautious about considering these wild birds.

The Committee is maintaining the status quo.

Unless more evidence accumulates, the Committee still considers these Wisconsin birds to not yet represent wild individuals of a self-sustaining population.

The following records were voted on and were Accepted:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnnalis*) [Accidental], 3 July 2021, near Sherburne, Sherburne County (record #2021-090, vote 7-0). Five adults, photographed. First county record.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 25 September 2021, near town of Nicolle, Nicollet County (record #2021-071, vote 7-0). Adult, shot by hunter and photographed. First county record.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) [Casual], 7 November 2020, near Hutchinson, McLeod County (record #2020-091, vote 7-0). Juvenile shot by a hunter and photographed. First county record.

Brant, 11 November 2021, northwest segment of Lake Winnibigoshish, Itasca County (record #2021-083, vote 7-0). Two adults, both of the pale-bellied subspecies (*B. b. brota*), were shot by a hunter and photographed. First county record.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) [Casual], 8 December 2021 – 3 January 2022, Lake Pepin, near Lake City, Goodhue and Wabasha counties (record #2021-088, vote 7-0). Apparent first-winter female, photographed. First county record for both Goodhue and Wabasha counties.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) [Casual], 27–28 July 2021, private residence,



Rufous Hummingbird, 27 July 2021, Lake City, Wabasha County. Photo by Debra Rupp.



Limpkin, 2 June 2021, Hugo Farms WMA, Washington County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

south of Lake City, Wabasha County (record #2021-058, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Rufous Hummingbird, 6 November – 4 December 2021, Peabody neighborhood, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2021-082, vote 6-1). Apparent adult female, photographed and video recorded. The bird was allegedly seen in the neighborhood as early as late October, but details are lacking specific dates.

Limpkin (*Aramus guaranauna*) [Accidental], 30 May – 19 July 2021, Paul Hugo Farms Wildlife Management Area, Washington County (record #2021-045, vote 10-0). Adult, photographed as well as video and audio recorded. First county and first state record.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual], 2 May 2021, Lyon/Yellow Medicine Conservation Easement, Lyon County (record #2021-092, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 1-3 July 2021, Artichoke Waterfowl Production Area, Big Stone County (record #2021-060, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 17 July 2021, Artichoke Waterfowl Production Area, Big Stone County (record #2021-091, vote 7-0). Two adults photographed. A stilt was seen here on 1 July 2021 (see above) which also may have been one of these two birds.

Black-necked Stilt, 2-5 August 2021, Marsh Lake, near Correll, Swift County (record #2021-059, vote 7-0). Four birds accepted;

however, only two birds were seen after the 2nd.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 20-22 August 2020, Brighton Beach, St. Louis County (record #2020-096, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed.

Red Knot, 26 August 2020, near Correll, Big Stone County (record #2020-098, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed.

Red Knot, 14 August 2021, Interstate Island WMA / Port Terminal, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2021-093, vote 7-0). Six birds accepted.

Red Knot, 23-24 August 2021, Paynesville Sewage Ponds, Paynesville, Stearns County (record #2021-064, vote 7-0). Juvenile.

Red Knot, 30 August – 1 September 2021, Roberg Lake, approximately 3.4 miles south of Lake Park, Becker County (record #2021-066, vote 7-0). Three juveniles, photographed.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) [Casual], 18 August 2021, Shell Rock River outlet of Albert Lea Lake, Freeborn County (record #2021-065, vote 7-0). Reeve, photographed.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) [Casual], 21-24 October 2021, Somsen Wildlife Management Area, New Ulm, Brown County (record #2021-079, vote 7-0). Photographed. First county record.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) [Casual], 12 October – 6 November 2021, Minnesota side of the Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2021-077, vote 7-0). Dark-phase juvenile, photographed.



Ross's Gull, 28 November 2021, Point Douglas, Washington County. Photo by Kimberly A. Emerson.



Tropical Kingbird / Couch's Kingbird, 30 September 2020. Photo by James W. Lind.

Pomarine Jaeger, 1 December 2021, Elk River Landfill, Elk River, Sherburne County (record #2021-087, vote 7-0). Photographed. First county record.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [Casual], 29 October – 14 November 2021, Minnesota Point/Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2021-080, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) [Accidental], 27–29 November 2021, Minnesota side of the St. Croix River, Washington and Dakota counties, (record #2021-085, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed. This bird was seen by over 200 observers in both Minnesota and Wisconsin waters (near Prescott). Unfortunately, it was in poor health and eventually died.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) [Casual], 22 November – 3 December 2021, Lake Pepin, Lake City, Wabasha County (record #2021-084, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) [Accidental], 2 September 2021, private residence, Ham Lake, Anoka County (record #2021-068, vote 7-0). Photographed in a residential lot with a small mitigation pond. First county record. Fifth state and third fall record.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) [Accidental], 10–11 August 2021, Lake Augusta, Dakota County (record #2021-063, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record. It is possible this is the same

adult Neotropic Cormorant which had been present since April at Richfield Lake in nearby (approximately 6.5 miles) Hennepin County.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) [Accidental], 15 August 2021, private residence, Old North Shore Road southwest of Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2021-089, vote 7-0). Juvenile light-phase, photographed. The bird was found and photographed alive. It was reported to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources by the landowner and subsequently found dead the following morning.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) [Casual], 5–14 October 2021, Minnesota State Highway 60 bridge, Wabasha, Wabasha County (record #2021-075, vote 7-0). Five owlets were photographed at the nest site by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT). The owlets were first discovered on 5 October 2021 by the MN/DOT staff while working on a bridge construction project on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus* sp.), 30 September 2020, Scenic Highway 61 at County Road 9, 30 September 2020 (record #2020-097, vote 6-1). Adult, photographed. First county record. MOURC has now accepted four Tropical/Couch's Kingbird records since the first was documented in 2011. All are fall records from the counties of Lac qui Parle, Lake, Stearns, and St. Louis. The dates (by month) for all four accepted observations are 16 August 2020, 25 September 2020, 30 Septem-

ber 2020, and 28 October 2011.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) [Casual], 10 October 2020, Duluth, Waabizheshikana Trail, St. Louis County (record #2020-092, vote 6–1). Adult, photographed.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 18 October 2021, about 0.5 miles southwest of Silver Creek Reservoir, Olmsted County (record #2021-078, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 22–24 October 2020, Dart Road, Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis County (record #2020-093, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed and video recorded.

Mountain Bluebird, 25 October 2020, Lakeview Cemetery, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2020-094, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

Mountain Bluebird, 8 October 2021, Split Hand Road just west of River Road, Itasca County (record #2021-073, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) [Casual], 10 March 2021, private residence, Red Iron Road, Kasota Township, Le Sueur County (record #2021-094, vote 7–0). “Interior” form. Adult, photographed. First county and fourth spring record.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 26 September 2021, ball fields on Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2021-072, vote 7–0). Photographed. Age and sex uncertain.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 27 November 2021, Duluth Lakewalk, between Seventh and Eighth Avenue East, St. Louis County (record #2021-086, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

The following records were voted on 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.)

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) [Accidental], 14 May 1962, Long Meadow Lake, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hennepin County (record #1962-001, vote 0–7). MOURC unanimously agreed that the report lacked sufficient details to accept such an important observation.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 1 May 2021, Clarkfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, Clarkfield, Yellow Medicine County (record #2021-022, vote 2–5). If a Red Knot, this bird would not only be a first county record, but would also represent the earliest date on record for Minnesota by one week (earliest date is 8 May). Using the entire month of April as a proxy for a next-day (1 May) observation, an examination of the eBird database for the past five years yields only a single inland record from Utah (this excludes overwintering birds from the Salton Sea in California only 78 miles from the Pacific Coast). Therefore, a significant degree of detailed documentation is required for this observation. Several members mentioned that the documentation did not adequately eliminate Sanderling, a species that did occur in three different Minnesota counties on the date of the observation.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) [Casual], 9 October 2021, Sham Lake, Lyon County (record #2021-074, vote 0–7). This identification seems to be based almost entirely on flight style and date with very little description of morphology. Coupled with the observer's relative inexperience with jaegers in general, some of the comments about flight style do not seem relevant. One member commented that “having been on numerous pelagic trips on both coasts, I have seen experts who have seen hundreds of jaegers get a [sic] identification wrong based on flight style.”

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) [Accidental], 18 September 2021, Wildlife Drive, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (record #2021-070, vote 1–6). The written description does not provide enough information to confirm the identification even though the single photograph clearly depicts a jaeger. Most members felt that even with a photograph there were not enough observable features to conclusively identify the jaeger at species level.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) [Ac-

cidental], 7 September 2021, Mississippi River, Crow Wing State Park, Crow Wing County (record #2021-069, vote 0–7). MOURC members universally agreed that the photograph was more consistent with a Common Loon than the professed species.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) [Casual], 7 August 2021, Salt Lake, near Marietta, Lac qui Parle County (record #2021-061, vote 2–5). Neither distance nor duration of observation was given. There are very few reliable reports for the south region prior to 15 September for any year in the MOU database. It is very unlikely to be a Sprague's Pipit at this location and time of year. The observer did not specifically hear any vocalization, but made the statement "I may have heard the characteristic "squeet" call, but there were many swallows in the area, and the UPSA were making chatter sounds at the same time, so not confident in that." Since no distance or duration of the observation was given, it may have been nothing more than a Vesper Sparrow which is very common for this time of year and location.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 19 September 2020, Kandi State Wildlife Management Area, Kandiyohi County (record #2020-057, initial vote 4–3, recirculated vote 2–5). Several members were unwilling to accept the observation based on limited details especially since no optics were mentioned.

Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) [Casual], 30 August 2021, Arrowhead Lane Southwest, near Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2021-067, vote 2–5). Most members had difficulty with the challenges presented by this observation. The observer claims great familiarity with the species call notes on the wintering grounds in Guatemala where he has lived for the past 20 years. However, there are gaps in what one would expect in the written description. For example, the observer noted "the extensive black area below the eye", but fails to describe the crown or spectacles.

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) [Accidental], 29 August 2020, Wood Lake Nature Center, Hennepin County (record #2020-048, initial vote 4–3, recirculated vote 1–6). The observer states in the written documentation that "The throat and underparts were whitish" which is inconsistent with Townsend's Warbler. This bird is possibly one of the many known hybrids such as with Townsend's X

Black-throated Green warbler, Townsend's X Hermit warbler, or Townsend's X Black-throated Gray warbler. The photographs are regrettably backlit and somewhat out of focus so they are not necessarily diagnostic.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Though photographs are always welcome, observers are strongly encouraged to submit written documentation based on contemporaneous field notes for all records. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Travis Bonovsky, Brad Abendroth, Cynthia Atchison, Karl J. Bardon, Dave Bartkey, Lon Baumgardt, Steve Broste, Paul E. Budde, Thomas Burns, Rob Cahill, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Ben Douglas, Robert M. Dunlap, Tod Eggenberger, Kimberly A. Emerson, Becca Engdahl, Jakob Etbauer, Paul & Koni Fank, Paul and Koni Fank, Andy Forbes, Liz Harper, Heidi Hermes, Anthony X. Hertzell, Pete Hoeger, Gerald Hoekstra, Sandy Hokanson, Luke Hollander, Ezra Hosch, Isaac Hosch, Paul E. Jantscher, Mark Junghans, Jordan D. Keil, Douglas W. Kieser, Beth Kuehn, Tim Lamey, Demelza Larson, James W. Lind, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, Terry Moffatt, David F. Neitzel, Thorild Nelson, Jason Osowski, William E. Parrish, Douglas L. Pierzina, Aaron Pietsch, Jerry Pruett, Abby Pulvermacher, Debra Rupp, Roger J. Schroeder, Kenneth M. Schumacher, Susan Schumacher, Pat Shortall, Andrew D. Smith, Brian T. Smith, Jimi Soupir, Mark "Sparky" Stensaas, Dana Sterner, Alex Sundvall, Peder H. Svingen, Tori Frye and Mary Thomas, Howard Towle, Abbie Valine, Josh Wallestad, Joshua G. Watson, Justin Watts, Garrett Wee, Mathew Zappa, and Roy Zimmerman. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc>>. Summary: 46 records voted on — 37 Accepted, 9 Not Accepted.

— Edina, MN.

Student-generated Data Reveal Trends in Local Bird Populations at Itasca State Park

Robert M. Zink¹ and Muir D. Eaton²

Introduction

Field biology stations provide opportunities for students to learn about natural systems in ways that transcend the classroom. Direct exposure to species living in their native environments and learning field-oriented methods for studying animals and plants, equips students with the experiences they need to decide if they wish to pursue a career in field biology, or at least to provide a strong appreciation of what constitutes field work and the knowledge about nature it provides (e.g., Anderson et al. 1998). The University of Minnesota has operated a field biology station (Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories) within Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota (Clearwater County) for over a century. In this paper, we review contributions made by students and their faculty advisors in the field ornithology summer class towards documenting and understanding trends in breeding bird populations in two forested settings, Bear Paw Point and the State Park's Wilderness Drive.

Itasca State Park is located at the intersection of three major ecosystems — coniferous forest, eastern deciduous forest, and tallgrass prairie — and is also home to the headwaters of the Mississippi River. As such, the avifauna of Itasca State Park includes diversity from each of these ecosystems. From 1979 to 1981, students in Dr. Frances James' (Florida State University) field ornithology class began two surveys, one a breeding bird census (BBC) on Bear Paw Point (47.220, -95.200), and the other, a breeding bird survey (BBS) along the 10-mile Wilderness Drive loop around Lake Itasca (18 survey stops). The two areas are within 6 km of each other, separated by Lake Itasca and forest. From 1990 to 1992, Dr. David Blockstein (National Council for Science and the Environment) and his students continued these surveys, as did the authors Robert Zink and Muir Eaton from 1997 to 2018, with their students, generating a dataset on bird densities and occurrences

that spans nearly four decades. There are few mature coniferous forest stands of white pine and red pine remaining in Minnesota. One of the other pristine forest areas in Minnesota is located at the "Lost Forty" (MN Department 2021) in nearby Itasca County.

Blockstein (1991) described the Itasca area and its vegetation and provided a map of the study area. This forested area, adjacent to the Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories, underwent major changes in vegetation between 1981 (the end of James' surveys) and 1990 (the start of Blockstein's surveys), owing to Dutch elm disease and windstorms, which altered the forest from a closed-canopy elm-birch-ash forest to a more open environment consisting of basswood, ash and standing snags with large areas of dense fern cover (Fig. 1). Thus, the habitat alterations were mostly naturally occurring (Dutch elm disease is caused by a non-native fungus) and not anthropomorphically caused, although we recognize that events throughout the annual cycle of the migratory species can affect populations. Canterbury and Blockstein (1997) summarized the changes to the birds found on Bear Paw Point over the period 1979 to 1992. In short, Canterbury and Blockstein (1997) noted major changes in the densities on Bear Paw Point of mature forest species, such as Ovenbird and Veery which saw dramatic decreases in numbers, and increases in species preferring more disturbed open habitat, including Mourning Warbler, Song Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow; interestingly, Veery did not increase along with these species, which might be expected based on habitat preference. They attributed these population changes to the change in the vegetation structure of Bear Paw Point.

Our intent in this paper is to follow up on these surveys, considering an additional 22 years of continuous data to address the following questions: 1) How did bird numbers



Figure 1. Example of habitat on Bear Paw Point showing the major change from closed canopy mature forest to more open, fern-dominated habitat (photograph ca. 2000).

fluctuate over a long period (1979 to 2018) at Bear Paw Point, 2) Which species showed the greatest changes, 3) In retrospect was there a relationship between West Nile Disease and Itasca bird populations, 4) Do the trends in population densities on Bear Paw Point follow those on the Wilderness Drive, which represents the larger surrounding forest habitat, and across the state of Minnesota?

Methods

The Bear Paw Point study area and census methods are described in Van Velzen (1972), Blockstein (1991), and Canterbury and Blockstein (1997). The students and course advisors conducted the censuses as part of their summer field ornithology course in June and July. The census attempts to estimate the number of singing males in a specified area. Although this might seem a daunting task for beginners, the species pool at this site is not large, birds sing consistently (especially early in the morning) and from fixed territories. In brief, six early morning surveys, and one evening survey, involved teams walking a specified grid (50 x

50 m) of parallel and perpendicular transects, resulting in the observers coming within 50 m of all points on the plot (11.5 hectares), and recording the location of singing males for every species encountered. The results of the censuses were summarized as the number of territories for each species detected on the plot (territories falling on a plot border were given a score of 0.5). During most visits, one of the authors accompanied the students. Canterbury and Blockstein (1997) summarized vegetation surveys, whereas these surveys were discontinued in 1997.

BBS methods follow those used nationally (Ziolkowski et al. 2010), although there were only 18 stops on the portion of Wilderness Drive that represented continuous forest habitat without significant human alterations (e.g., buildings/large parking lots/intentional open spaces).

Canterbury and Blockstein (1997) grouped surveyed species into three broad ecological categories: early successional (Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, and White-throated

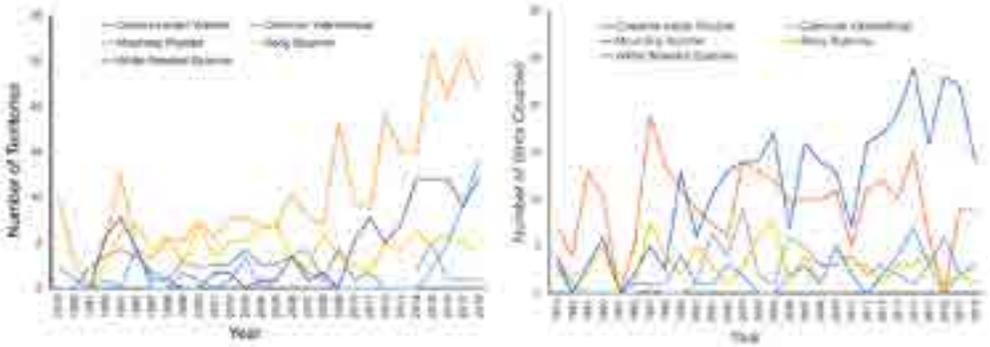


Figure 2. Trends in populations of early successional species on Bear Paw Point (left panel, Number of Territories) and the Wilderness Drive (right panel, Number of Birds Counted).

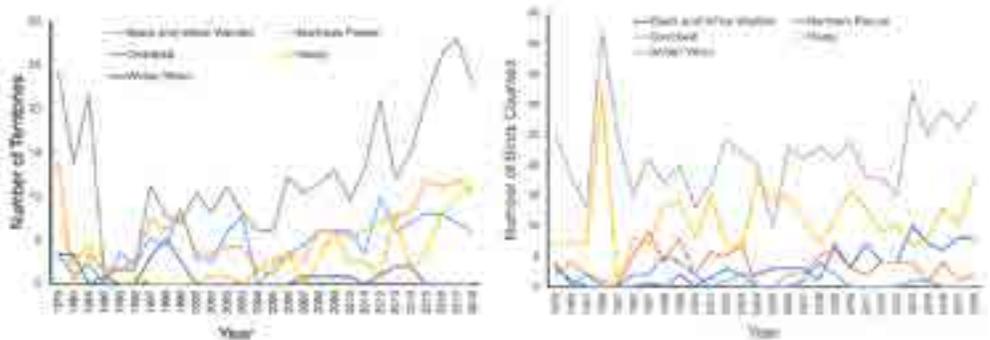


Figure 3. Trends in populations of mature forest species on Bear Paw Point (left panel, Number of Territories) and the Wilderness Drive (right panel, Number of Birds Counted).

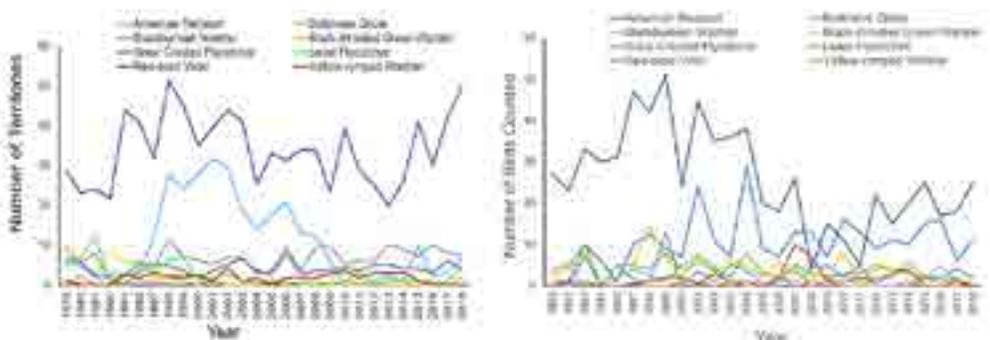


Figure 4. Trends in populations of Intermediate/generalist species on Bear Paw Point (left panel, Number of Territories) and the Wilderness Drive (right panel, Number of Birds Counted).

Sparrow), intermediate/generalist forest species (Great Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, and Baltimore Oriole), and mature forest species (Winter Wren, Veery, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, and Ovenbird). To facilitate comparisons, we use these same three sets of species.

We queried the national Breeding Bird Survey for Minnesota and recorded general population trends for the species in these groups to provide a larger geographic perspective.

Results

Bear Paw Point: To simplify visualization of the data, we did not introduce gaps in our plots of species' abundance for the years without censuses (1982–1989; 1993–1996). The three most common species overall on Bear Paw Point were Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and American Redstart (Table 1). These species, as well as the others in the ecological-species groups, showed considerable year-to-year variation (Figs. 2–4). In the early successional species, the Common Yellowthroat showed the largest increase, followed by the White-throated Sparrow. In the mature forest group, Ovenbird and Veery showed remarkable variation, with a dramatic decline/crash in population between 1981 and 1990 coinciding with the opening of the forest (Canterbury and Blockstein 1997) to a population recovery equal to territory numbers pre-dating the habitat alteration (1979–1981). The other species in that group were variable but relatively stable across time. In the intermediate forest group, the commonest species, the Red-eyed Vireo, showed considerable variation across years. Most notably, the American Redstart showed a rapid increase following the opening up of the forest, and then a decrease as the forest reverted to a more mature, less fern-dominated forest with a more closed canopy.

Wilderness Drive: The three most commonly encountered species over all of the censuses were Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, and American Redstart, followed by Chestnut-sided Warbler, Veery, and Common Yellowthroat. The most frequently encountered member of the early successional species was the Chestnut-sided Warbler, which showed an increasing trend over time. In the mature forest group, Oven-

bird and Veery were most frequently encountered, with these species showing considerable variation across time. In the intermediate forest group Red-eyed Vireo and American Redstart were most frequently encountered, and several species, including these two species, exhibited considerable year-to-year variation. Bird species observed in more than ten years are indicated with an asterisk in Table 1, and birds detected on the BBS but not at Bear Paw Point are listed in the Appendix.

Minnesota BBS: For the focal species in the three ecological-species groups, the following eight species show negative trends in the Minnesota-wide BBS between 1979 and 2018: Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Winter Wren, Blackburnian Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Baltimore Oriole, Least Flycatcher, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Only the American Redstart showed a clear positive trend, and the remainder of the species fluctuated and would appear to be stable (within normal year-to-year variation). Nonetheless, eight species were in decline and only one was increasing.

Discussion

Concern over declining bird populations has existed since the publication of Rachel Carson's (1962) book "Silent Spring". More recently, Rosenberg et al. (2019) analyzed multiple datasets, including breeding bird survey data, and suggested that billions of North American birds have disappeared from the landscape over the last few decades. Our study is considerably more local in its geographic coverage, but some generalizations can be made. One is that populations are never stable; numbers fluctuate annually. Some population changes can be dramatic. In the early years of our surveys, major natural habitat changes resulted in predictable changes in the densities of birds on Bear Paw Point — a striking transition was observed in which species typical of closed canopy mature forest (e.g., Ovenbird and Veery) gave way to more open, intermediate forest species (e.g., American Redstart). Over time, however, several mature forest species "rebounded" from the early declines owing to regeneration of the forest to resemble more the conditions that existed at the beginning of the surveys. Interestingly, some of the changes in bird population densities, such as those for Ovenbird, were not mirrored in the BBS data from just a few kilo-

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Species	1979	1980	1981	1990	1991	1992	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Alder Flycatcher *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.43	0	0
American Crow * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Redstart *	5.7	4.6	1.74	1.74	0	3.4	12.1	27.8	24	27.8	31.8	29.7	18.7	13.9
American Robin * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0
Baltimore Oriole#	0	2.3	0	0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.74	0.9	0	1.29	0	0	0
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler *	3.4	1.1	2.3	0	3.5	2.2	5.2	4.3	8.4	3	2.58	6.02	7.7	0
Blackburnian Warbler *	9.2	5.7	8	0.9	2.2	3.4	4.4	11.3	7	6.1	5.16	6.88	6.9	2.61
Black-capped Chickadee * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-throated Green Warbler *	9.8	5.7	2.3	8.3	5.7	5.7	1.8	2.2	2.6	1.74	0.87	0	0	0
Blue Jay * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broad-winged Hawk #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0.87
Brown Creeper *	3.4	0	1.1	0.9	2.2	0.9	0	2.9	1.74	1.74	3.44	1.74	2.61	2.61
Canada Warbler*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler *	2.3	1.1	0	0.9	0	4.3	0	1.74	0.9	0	0.87	3.4	0	0
Chipping Sparrow * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0
Common Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat * #	9.8	2.9	0	5.2	12.6	4.3	3.2	5.2	5.2	7.4	5.59	7.74	7.7	6.96
Downy Woodpecker #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Kingbird #	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.6	2.6	0.9	0.9	0.43	0	0	0
Eastern Phoebe *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Wood Pewee *	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	1.74	3.5	0	0.87	3.44	2.6	5.22
Golden-winged Warbler *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gray Catbird * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0
Great Crested Flycatcher * #	6.9	5.7	2.3	2.6	2.6	5.2	5.2	4.8	3.5	1.74	3.44	5.16	6.5	3.48
Hairy Woodpecker #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hermit Thrush * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	0	0	0	0.87	0	0.87
House Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indigo Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.74
Least Flycatcher *	4.6	6.9	12.6	0	2.2	6	3	6.1	7	1.2	1.74	2.58	0.87	0.87
Mourning Warbler *	0	0	2.3	3.5	4.3	3.5	1.8	0.9	3	2.2	2.58	2.58	4.3	2.61
Nashville Warbler * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.2	1.8	1.2	1.74	1.74	0.87	1.74	1.74
Northern Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Parula * #	13.8	0	3.4	1.74	1.74	2.6	7.4	6.1	8.5	3.5	3.44	4.3	4.3	1.74
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ovenbird * #	24.1	13.8	21.74	0.9	1.74	1.74	11.3	7.8	7	10.4	8.17	11.2	8.2	6.09
Pileated Woodpecker *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Warbler *	0	0	0	0	2.6	0.9	0.9	1.74	0.9	2.2	0.87	2.58	0.87	0.87
Purple Finch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo * #	28.7	23	24.1	21.74	43.9	40.9	31.8	51.3	45	35	39.6	43.9	41.3	25.2
Red-winged Blackbird *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0
Ruby-throated Hummingbird * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0
Scarlet Tanager *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87
Song Sparrow * #	0	0	0	2.6	6.1	6.9	4.4	5.7	2.6	7	3.44	5.16	5.2	6.52
Swamp Sparrow * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.2	1.3	3.5	0.9	0.43	1.74	1.5	0
Veery * #	6.9	2.3	4.6	0.9	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	1.74
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0.87
White-breasted Nuthatch #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-throated Sparrow *	0	0	0	5.7	7.8	4.3	0.9	0.9	0	0	1.74	1.74	0	0.87
Winter Wren #	3.4	3.4	0	0.9	0	0	3	5.2	2.6	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Thrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Warbler *#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.9	3.9	1.74	3.5	1.74	5.16	3.4	1.74
Yellow-rumped Warbler * #	1.1	0	0	0	2.6	1.74	2.9	2.2	1.74	2.5	0.87	4.3	0.87	1.74
Yellow-throated Vireo *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1 (continued on next page). Breeding Bird Census (BBC) data (i.e., number of territories) from Bear Paw Point, Itasca State Park. For each species detected, territories were mapped and estimated following BBC protocols. Values in the table represent estimated numbers of territories corrected for our plot size of 11.5 hectares, to be comparable to territory densities of the standard

Student-generated Data Reveal Trends in Local Bird Populations at Itasca State Park

Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alder Flycatcher *	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	1.74	1.74	0.87	0.87
American Crow * #	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	1.74	0.87	0.87	2.61	1.74	0	3.48
American Redstart *	17.4	20.9	13	12.2	6.09	0	0	0.87	1.74	0.87	8.7	1.74	2.61	6.09
American Robin * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.74	0	0	0	1.74	1.74	0.87	1.74
Baltimore Oriole#	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler *	1.74	3.48	4.35	6.09	6.09	6.09	3.48	8.7	5.22	6.09	6.96	6.96	6.09	5.22
Blackburnian Warbler *	3.48	9.57	3.48	9.57	9.57	5.22	6.09	5.22	8.7	7.83	6.09	8.7	6.96	6.52
Black-capped Chickadee * #	0	3.48	0	2.61	2.61	2.61	4.35	5.22	6.09	1.74	2.61	0.87	2.61	2.61
Black-throated Green Warbler *	1.3	0.87	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	1.74
Blue Jay * #	0	0	0	0.87	2.61	0.87	0.87	2.61	2.61	2.61	0.87	0.87	1.74	3.48
Broad-winged Hawk #	0.87	0.87	0.87	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87
Brown Creeper *	1.74	0	2.61	2.61	2.61	1.74	0	2.61	2.61	1.74	1.74	2.61	0.87	1.74
Canada Warbler*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0.87	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing *	0.87	0	0	0	1.74	0.87	0.87	0.87	0	0	0	4.35	2.61	1.74
Chestnut-sided Warbler *	0.87	3.48	4.35	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	1.74	4.35	7.83	12.2	
Chipping Sparrow * #	0	0	3.48	3.48	2.61	1.74	1.74	0	2.61	3.48	3.48	2.61	2.61	1.3
Common Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0.87	0.87
Common Yellowthroat * #	6.96	10.4	7.83	6.96	18.3	9.57	8.7	16.5	13	13	22.6	18.3	22.6	19.1
Downy Woodpecker #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0
Eastern Kingbird #	0	0	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Phoebe *	0	1.74	0	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0
Eastern Wood Pewee *	0.87	2.61	1.74	2.61	3.48	2.61	0	0	0.87	0.87	1.74	0.87	0.87	0.87
Golden-winged Warbler *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.61	2.61	3.48
Gray Catbird * #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0
Great Crested Flycatcher * #	2.61	7.83	2.61	3.48	3.48	4.35	3.48	4.35	3.48	3.48	3.48	2.61	5.22	3.48
Hairy Woodpecker #	0	0	0.87	0.87	1.74	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87
Hermit Thrush * #	0.87	0	0.87	0	2.61	0.87	3.48	0.87	4.35	1.74	4.35	2.61	0.87	0.87
House Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0.87	0	0
Indigo Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0	0
Least Flycatcher *	0.87	0.87	0	0	0	0.87	3.48	0	0.87	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	3.48
Mourning Warbler *	2.61	3.48	1.74	0.87	4.35	0.87	1.74	0	0	1.74	4.35	0.87	0.87	0.87
Nashville Warbler * #	1.74	2.61	3.48	7.83	10.4	4.35	3.48	3.48	3.48	7.83	5.22	6.96	5.22	6.96
Northern Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0
Northern Parula * #	2.61	3.48	2.61	6.09	6.09	5.22	6.09	6.09	6.96	6.96	10.4	9.57	10.4	9.13
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	1.74	0	0.87	0	0
Ovenbird * #	6.09	12.2	10.4	11.3	13	9.57	13	18.3	10.4	13	18.3	22.6	24.3	20
Pileated Woodpecker *	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	0	0.87
Pine Warbler *	2.61	3.48	3.48	5.22	1.74	0	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0.87	1.74	1.74	0.87
Purple Finch	0	0	0	0.87	1.74	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	0	1.74	1.74	1.74	2.61	1.74	3.48	3.48	5.22	0.87	2.61	1.74	0.87	2.61
Red-eyed Vireo * #	33	31.3	33.9	33.9	23.5	39.1	28.7	21.74	17.4	22.6	35.7	26.1	36.5	43.5
Red-winged Blackbird *	0	0	0.87	0.87	0	0	0	1.74	0	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0.87
Rose-breasted Grosbeak * #	0	0	0.87	0	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	1.74
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruby-throated Hummingbird * #	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Tanager *	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	1.74	0	0.87	0.87	0	0	2.61	0	0.87	0.87
Song Sparrow * #	6.96	3.48	2.17	6.09	3.48	2.61	1.74	4.35	3.48	5.22	4.35	5.22	4.35	3.48
Swamp Sparrow * #	0	1.74	0	0.87	0	1.74	0	3.48	2.61	2.61	0.87	1.74	0.87	0.87
Veery * #	0.87	3.48	0	2.61	6.09	2.61	2.61	0.87	6.96	1.74	2.61	6.96	8.7	9.57
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-breasted Nuthatch #	0	0.87	0	0.87	1.74	0	0	0	0.87	0	0.87	0	0	0
White-throated Sparrow *	0.87	3.48	0.87	1.74	5.22	5.22	7.83	4.35	6.09	10.4	10.4	10.4	7.83	10.4
Winter Wren #	0	0	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0	0.87	1.74	1.74	0	0	0	0
Wood Thrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87
Yellow Warbler *#	0	0	0	1.74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker * #	0.87	0	1.74	2.61	1.74	2.61	0.87	0.87	1.74	2.61	3.48	1.74	1.74	1.74
Yellow-rumped Warbler * #	0	1.74	1.74	1.74	2.61	3.48	1.74	2.61	2.61	2.61	0.87	0	0	0
Yellow-throated Vireo *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0.87	0.87	0	0.87

10-hectares BBC plot size. Species with * indicate those that were also encountered ten or more years on the Wilderness Drive BBS. Species with # indicate those that are documented to be carriers of West Nile Virus (CDC 1999–2016).

meters away, showing that populations respond to very localized environmental heterogeneity (Huang et al. 2014). Thus, although one would have been tempted to claim that Ovenbird populations were “in trouble” from the early census data on Bear Paw Point (Canterbury and Blockstein 1997), comparison with the Wilderness Drive reveals it was not a generalized decrease. Furthermore, given the ‘recovery’ seen in Ovenbird and Veery numbers in the later years of the Bear Paw Point survey (Fig. 3), it would further suggest that there was not a permanent decline in the Ovenbird nor Veery populations, at least at a localized scale. More likely, individuals are shifting in the landscape to take advantage of new or changing niche opportunities, and/or to avoid marginal niche spaces. Further examples of this pattern can be seen for both Eastern Wood-Pewee and Golden-winged Warbler: each show fluctuations between being absent and relatively abundant on Bear Paw throughout the study years (Table 1), while remaining relatively stable in their respective occurrences on the Wilderness Drive BBS surveys across the same period.

Spring migration through the heavily birded areas within Minnesota may appear sparse in some years, and it is our perception that these observations often generate concern among birders for the overall health of bird populations. However, to the north at Itasca State Park it can be seen that even in relatively pristine habitat of Itasca State Park, populations fluctuate considerably over short periods, showing the value of long-term studies. We conclude that often an apparent reduction in numbers of spring migrants passing northward through the Twin Cities does not portend population decreases in breeding populations just to the north; rather, for whatever reason(s), it is just the case that sometimes fewer migrants are seen passing northward through the cities in some years. Clearly, however, because “our” birds spend just a few short months out of their annual cycles at Itasca, they encounter threats during spring and fall migration and on the wintering grounds, all of which likely play a role in the annual variation we observed. However, we do know that small birds have high reproductive potential. For example, a well-documented 1904 catastrophic die-off of millions of Lapland Longspurs near Worthington, Minnesota (Roberts 1907), was followed

the next year by the observation of “no diminution in the ranks” of this species.

Populations are sometimes characterized as occupying a so-called “source-sink” patchwork, where some populations are marginal and declining (the “sinks”), others healthy and providing colonists to declining populations (the “sources”). We expect local areas with minimal human disturbance such as Itasca State Park to function as population sources, which makes the Park an even more important place. Unlike the continent-wide trends described by Rosenberg et al. (2019), we did not see large overall declines in the breeding populations of Bear Paw Point and Itasca State Park. Intriguingly, in an ongoing study of bird populations in an Iowan riparian forest at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt (Polk County, Iowa: 41.794167, -93.425) by MDE, some of the commonest species also showed annual fluctuations over a much shorter 3-year time period, but, many were remarkably stable, and only one species, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, showed a consistent decrease in numbers of territories over the three-year period. Thus, we remain curious as to what explains these discrepancies in population trends between localized survey data such as ours, and broader-scale survey data, and we suggest that comparisons and interpretations of these two types of data need more attention.

Lastly, as an example of how bird population censuses can contribute to our understanding of diseases, we took a retrospective look at our data in relation to West Nile Virus. Since West Nile Virus was discovered in the United States in 1999, the virus has been detected in over 300 species of birds and in all 50 states (McDonald et al. 2021). The virus was first detected in Clearwater County in 2002 (MN Department of Health 2019). In 2003, the virus arrived in the Itasca area later than expected, due to the dry conditions during the previous months and by early July, five crows had been confirmed with the virus (J. Ross, pers. comm.). Several species from Bear Paw Point have been identified as carriers of WNV and which showed dramatic (>40%) declines between 2003 and 2004: Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Swamp Sparrow, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, whereas other species showing declines between 2003 and 2004 (American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Black-and-white

Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler) have not been reported to harbor WNV, although they well could have. We, of course, cannot determine whether observed declines were a result of normal year-to-year fluctuations or a direct result of WNV. Other species from which WNV has been isolated (see species with an “#” Table 1) showed no apparent declines. On the Wilderness Drive, we saw a decrease in American Crows between 2003 and 2004 (5 to 0) although other species did not show the same trends as at Bear Paw Point. Overall, the data presented in Table 1 show little or no evidence for a long-term effect of West Nile Virus in our census but reinforce the value of long-term studies of bird populations.

It is relatively uncommon for students (essentially citizen scientists) new to a field to contribute scientifically valuable data. In our field ornithology classes, the census teams were accompanied by instructors, and most of the birds are relatively easily identified. For the common species, the students are quick learners, and because the census involves many repeat visits to the plots, students became proficient rather rapidly. Our data reveal what we believe are interesting trends that match our general expectations of how birds track changes in their environments, and hence in this case, new students have contributed scientifically valuable data. We believe that the students gained valuable knowledge in setting up a scientifically valid field study, carrying it out, summarizing the data, and in addition, expanding their knowledge of wood ticks and mosquitoes. They also tended to fall in love with birds, and many were inspired to pursue field biology careers, including several prominent Ph.D.'s in Ornithology, all of which was rewarding to the instructors.

Lastly, as a Minnesota aside, one of the life-changing events often experienced by students and other visitors at Itasca occurs lakeside at dusk when Common Loons are calling. These magical eerie sounds stop one in their tracks and time seems to stand still. Fortunately, during the period of our observations, loons increased in Minnesota. However, lead fishing tackle in our lakes and rivers often gets ingested by loons and is a major source of mortality for them. We call on all Minnesota fishermen and fisherwomen to abandon lead tackle, so that this trend continues.

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Appendix

Species observed on Wilderness Drive BBS at

The 2020 Winter Season 1 December 2020 through 28 February 2021

Bruce A. Fall¹, Howard C. Towle², and Paul E. Budde³

This winter season was notable for a number of rarities, including two Accidental species (Ancient Murrelet and Bullock's Oriole) and seven Casuals (King Eider, California Gull, Lewis's Woodpecker, Gyrfalcon, Mountain Bluebird, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch). Three species were found in winter for the first time, and there were seven first county records.

Generally mild autumn weather persisted into December, and contributed to some waterfowl lingering in significant numbers, especially in the Mississippi River pools in the southeast. As in the previous three winters, there was little evidence of widespread early spring waterfowl

migration into southern Minnesota. Reports of early migrants mostly consisted of small numbers of a few duck species in late February and reports of early migrant geese were lacking. Besides Canadas, the only geese reported after December were Cackling, from 11 counties. A total of about five Mute Swans was reported from four counties, which is typical of recent winters. As with most reports, their provenance is undetermined. In recent years, most sightings have come from near the Minnesota River in the Twin Cities and the Mississippi River from Point Douglas to Minneiska. Trumpeter Swans overwintered widely and in large numbers, with midwinter counts of 200 or more from eight

counties. In contrast, only a few Tundra Swans were reported after December.

As usual, a good variety of ducks overwintered at Blue Lake W.T.P. in Scott County. Fifteen species were reported after December, including state midwinter high counts of Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser. A female King Eider spent over a month in Grand Marais, and over 50 birders were able to see it. This is the fifth winter record in the past decade. Four Harlequin Ducks were reported (one in Two Harbors, three in Grand Marais), as were all three scoter species for the first winter since 2012. Most were White-winged, with a total of about seven individuals in four counties. Away from Lake Superior, Long-tailed Ducks were reported from six south counties, including Hennepin (Bde Maka Ska) where a flock of five stayed for over three weeks.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to thrive in the state. They were reported from a season-record 63 counties, including midwinter reports near the Canadian border in Roseau and Kittson counties, but there were no reports from the North-central or Northeast counties. An Ancient Murrelet was discovered off Stony Point, St. Louis County in January, and word quickly spread so that 100 or more birders were able to see it that day; searches the following day were unsuccessful. This is the eighth record for the state and the first in over two decades. The first six were specimen records of birds that were recovered dead or ill, or shot by hunters. Only the last two were from Lake Superior.

For likely the first time ever, four species of shorebirds were recorded in December. In addition to the expected Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe, two separate American Golden-Plovers provided only the second and third winter season records. A Greater Yellowlegs on the first was only the second ever for the month and only the third for the winter season. Gull records of note included a second-cycle California Gull in Duluth, the sixth winter record of this species. Iceland Gull numbers were modest in comparison with some previous years, with counts of four or fewer. Great Black-backed Gulls continue in low numbers, with probably only two individuals in Duluth and none reported elsewhere. One Lesser Black-backed Gull in Dakota continued the string of reports of this species to thirteen consecutive winters.

Away from Lake Superior, the only gulls found after mid January were a few Ring-billeds in four south counties.

The mild start to December probably contributed to a record number of counties (14) reporting American White Pelicans, although only one bird remained beyond December. Two immature Black-crowned Night-Herons attempted to overwinter in Winona; one succeeded but the other was found dead in late February. The location (Gilmore Creek) is where two other immatures successfully overwintered in 2012. This was only the seventh winter season record in the past 20 years. Single Turkey Vultures in three south counties were unexpected. There have been only two other December reports in the past 20 years. Also unexpected was the state's second winter record of Broad-winged Hawk. An adult was photographed in Savage (Scott County) on December 19, on the Bloomington CBC. The two Minnesota records (the first was in December 2017) are the only ones that have been reported to eBird for any Midwestern state during the winter season. Remarkable was the Great Gray Owl photographed at an undisclosed location in Nobles County in February. Not only was this the first county record, but also the first for the Southwest region.

The fourth Lewis's Woodpecker to be found in Minnesota in the past ten years frequented a feeder in Morrison County from December 21 well into the spring season, providing a first county record and allowing many birders the opportunity to observe this Casual species. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from 12 counties, but curiously none from the Cedar Creek Bog CBC, which counted 98 individuals on the prior year's count. Both Belted Kingfisher and Northern Flicker set season-high marks. After a three-year absence, a Gyrfalcon was reported this season from Clay County.

Common Raven reports from 15 south counties continued the trend from the past several years of the southerly occurrence of this corvid. Trending in the opposite direction, Tufted Titmouse observations came from a season-high 15 counties, including a new county record for Blue Earth. A single Bohemian Waxwing in a flock of Cedar Waxwings spent the winter season in Mankato, far from the normal winter range.

Season-high counts were also observed for many species this past winter and in particular,

wrens had a strong showing. Two Marsh Wrens, including one in Hennepin County that lingered throughout January, were the first since 2016. Winter Wrens were seen in a season-high 13 counties. Most remarkable was the tally of Carolina Wrens in 21 counties, including four north counties, exceeding the previous high of 18 set in 2012 and more than tripling the ten-year average of six. A single Northern Mockingbird observed in Washington County was the first winter record since 2017.

The highlight of the season for many birders was a highly cooperative male Mountain Bluebird that mingled with a flock of Eastern Bluebirds at the Como Regional Park from 12 December to 6 March. This bird was seen by over 500 observers and certainly qualifies as the most photographed bird of the season, if not the year.

Most winter finches were seen in nearly average or slightly above-average numbers this winter, rebounding strongly from last winter's dismal reports. The strongest showing came from White-winged Crossbills, which were reported from 55 counties in all regions of the state. During the prior winter they were reported from only 11 counties. After a winter without a single report, Hoary Redpolls were found in 23 counties. And Evening Grosbeaks, observed in only two counties in the 2019 winter season, were found in 21 counties, the highest total in over 15 years.

Unseasonably mild late fall and early winter conditions led to an unusually high number of late migrants. Most remarkable was a Wood Thrush seen in south Minneapolis from 12 to 24 December. This sighting established a first winter record for this species, besting the previous late date of 13 November set the previous fall by more than a month. Another record late visitor was an American Pipit observed at the Blue Lake area of Scott County until 21 December. Baltimore Orioles were observed for the third consecutive winter, including a record late date of 14 January from Mille Lacs County. A wayward Bullock's Oriole continued in Itasca County until 19 December, establishing a first winter record. In Hennepin County, a deceased Summer Tanager was photographed on 25 December. And one hardy Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Chisago County as late as 15 January.

The mild late fall and early winter weather

also contributed to several late lingering warbler reports. Two Common Yellowthroat observations were the first since the 2009 winter season, including a second latest date of 19 December in Olmsted County. The third winter report of a Black-throated Blue Warbler seen as late as 12 December came from Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park in Ramsey County. And most remarkable was a first winter record of a Black-throated Green Warbler last seen on 13 December in Olmsted County.

Weather summary: Statewide average temperatures in December were almost six degrees (F) above normal. Many regions did not experience sub-zero temperatures until Christmas Eve. In January these average temperatures rose to 7.5 degrees above normal. An Arctic air mass over the state in much of February dropped average temperatures to almost nine degrees below normal. The coldest temperature of the season was -50° east of Ely, St. Louis County, on 13 and 14 February, though two weeks later it was 57° in Rushford, Fillmore County.

December was a dry month and much of the state was brown until a major storm hit on 23 December. It brought a half-foot to a foot of snow to much of the state, and winds of 55 mph and higher buffeted all but the northernmost areas. January was also dry, apart from a rain and wet snow event mid-month. February was the sixth consecutive month with below average precipitation. It also had one major weather event, a storm that moved from the Southwest into the Central region on 28 February and dropped 7-8 inches of snow in its path.

Documented reports still under review: Eurasian Tree Sparrow 1/7 Freeborn (rural Hartland).

Insufficiently documented records of Regular species: Western Grebe 12/2 Wabasha (only the second county record and rare statewide in winter); Common Nighthawk 1/9 Hennepin (extraordinarily late date).

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as Minnesota CBC coordinator, compiled vast amounts of data from 80 counts. Medians of recent arrivals and departures are based on published and unpublished seasonal report data from 1995 through 2019. Our appreciation goes out to all our contributors, especially those

who respond to our requests for details and who submit observations online.

- ¹ **Minneapolis, MN;**
- ² **Golden Valley, MN;**
- ³ **Washington, DC.**

KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species listed in brackets [**Smew**] indicate a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name [2 North, 3 South] indicates the total number of north – and south counties with reports.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties listed in bold and with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Totals in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Totals in bold-italic (**55**) indicate a CBC total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
10. Dagger “+” preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
11. “ph.” denotes a species documented with a photograph.
12. “v.t.” denotes a species documented by video.
13. “a.t.” denotes a species documented by audio.
14. High counts that are multiples of 100 are assumed or known to be estimates unless otherwise noted.

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, seasons@moumn.org.

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) — [9 South] Scattered early to mid December reports from nine south counties; one lingered until 12/22 Rice m.ob. No reports after December. High count 12/4 Jackson (5) PEJ.

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*) — [2 South] All reports: 12/4–20 Martin PEJ, m.ob., 12/5 Lac qui Parle (2) GWe.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [11 South] Early to mid December reports from 11 south counties. Last reported 12/20 Martin BRB. High counts 12/4 Martin (91) PEJ, 12/16 Martin (33) BRB. CBC high counts 12/17 Fairmont (**23**), 12/19 Jackson County (**9**), 12/20 Murray County (**5**).

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [3 North, 30 South] All north reports: 12/1 Grant RAE, 12/19 Clay (4) PBB, 1/7 Clay (3), 1/16 Otter Tail REn, RLF, 2/27 Clay ebd. December reports from 26 south counties, with high counts 12/5 Lac qui Parle (120), Big Stone (two locations, 75 and 65) GWe, 12/4 Martin (52) PEJ. January reports from seven south counties (all 1–3 individuals) including

1/4 **Benton** HHD. Two February reports were presumably overwintering birds: 2/4 McLeod BHa, 2/13 Olmsted (4) MwT. CBC high counts 12/17 Fairmont (50), 12/19 Marshall (25).

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [18 North, 49 South] Season high count north 12/19 Clay (Moorhead W.T.P., 7,500) PBB. Away from Moorhead, north high count 12/17 Polk (700) DaL. Reported from 13 north counties after December, with high count 1/11 Clay (5,000, Moorhead W.T.P.) REn, RLF. Widespread south, with reports from all but four counties. Season high counts south 12/4 Martin (7,600) PEJ, 12/5 Big Stone (6,000) GWe. CBC high counts 12/17 Fairmont (14,026), 12/19 Fargo-Moorhead (13,100), 12/1 Faribault (11,726), 12/19 Rochester (5,405).

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [4 South] Reported from four south counties: 12/2–26 Hennepin (1–3, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge; continuing from November) m.ob., 12/9–10 **Meeker** (Lake Ripley) PKF, BNn,

12/26–30 Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.; possibly one of the Hennepin individuals) HHD, m.ob., 2/22–23 Wabasha (Reads Landing) SAM, PEJ.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [16 North, 45 South] Reported from 61 counties statewide, a season record (previous high 60, winter 2016), including 12/14 **Lincoln** (4, Hendricks CBC), 12/1 **Stevens** (5) RAE. Overwintered widely; after December, reported from 16 north and 31 south counties. North season high counts 1/1 Morrison (300) JaE, 1/15 Otter Tail (250) REn, RLF. South season high counts 1/23 Sherburne (450, Becker) MJB, 12/23 Scott (347) PEJ. CBC high counts 1/1 Pillager (485), 12/19 Bloomington (463), 1/2 Alexandria (349), Northern Wright County (311).

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [13 South] No north reports. Reported from 12 south counties in December, with high count 12/18 Wabasha (800, Pool 5) PEJ. Counts away from Wabasha were fewer than 25. Unusual winter records 12/5 **Big Stone** (8) GWe, 12/7 **Fillmore** (4) ToM, 12/4 **Freeborn** PEJ. Reports after December 1/19 Goodhue, 2/23–27 Wabasha (up to 4) PEJ. CBC high counts 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (110), 12/19 Winona (31).

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [4 North, 12 South] North reports from four counties: 12/19 St. Louis (2) JLK, Clay (2) PBB, 1/14 Crow Wing Lf, 1/15 Otter Tail REn, RLF. December south reports from 11 counties, with high count 12/5 Hennepin (**85**, Long Meadow Lake) PEJ. Unusual winter record 12/6 **Brown** BTS. South reports after December from five counties (1–4 birds). CBC high counts 12/19 Bloomington (10), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (6).

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula chpeata*) — [11 South] No north reports. December reports from ten south counties, with high count 12/21 Waseca (95, Loon Lake) SHo. Reported after December from four counties, with high count 1/15, 1/29 Scott (11, Blue Lake W.T.P.) CRM, PEJ. CBC high counts 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (46), Excelsior (18), 12/17 Fairmont (6).

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) — [1 North, 16 South] One north report: 12/19 Clay PBB. December reports from 14 south counties, with high counts 12/7 Winona (1,500), 12/1 Wabasha (1,315) PEJ. Reported from nine

south counties after December. Highest mid-winter counts include 1/17 Wabasha (187, Pool 5) PEJ, 1/12 Winona (100, Whitewater W.M.A.) ebd. As in prior winters, large numbers overwintered Scott (up to 71, Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (115), 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (69), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (28).

American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*) — [5 South] December reports from five south counties (Hennepin, Houston, Lac qui Parle, Wabasha, Winona), with high counts 12/1 Wabasha (**267**), 12/8 Wabasha (38) PEJ. Overwintered Winona (female, Shives Road) m.ob. CBC high count 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (16).

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [15 North, 44 South] Overwintered widely, with reports after December from 12 north and 32 south counties. Season high counts north 2/27 St. Louis (1,700, Canal Park) EBr, 12/18 St. Louis (700, Duluth) JLK. North high counts away from Duluth 12/19, 1/2 Clay (500) PBB, 1/16 Otter Tail (500) ToR. South high counts 12/18 Wabasha (**5,000**, Pool 5) PEJ, 2/23 Scott (3,500, Shakopee Mill Pond) BBr. CBC high counts 12/19 Minneapolis (North) (5,665), Excelsior (4,495), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (4,081), 12/19 Bloomington (2,132).

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [2 North, 16 South] North high count 12/20 St. Louis (28, Duluth) ClN. Multiple individuals (up to 12) overwintered Duluth m.ob. Also reported 12/20–21 Morrison (2) SEM, KEm, MEm. South high count 12/22 Wabasha (40, Pool 5) PEJ. South reports after December from ten counties, with high count 1/1 Scott (7, Shakopee Mill Pond) MwT. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (37), 12/19 Excelsior (4).

Mallard X American Black Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos* X *A. rubripes*) — [1 North, 6 South] Most reports of this hybrid were from St. Louis (Duluth), of 1–3 individuals, and Scott (Shakopee Mill Pond, Blue Lake W.T.P.), all singles. Singles also reported from Anoka, Hennepin, Wabasha, Winona.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [1 North, 17 South] One north report 2/28 St. Louis (male, Canal Park) LAV. South high count 12/10 Wabasha (**280**, Pool 5) PEJ. Reported from seven south counties after December, all singles.

Mallard X Northern Pintail (*Anas platyrhyn-*



Mallard X Northern Pintail, 22 December 2020, Winona County. Photo by Paul E. Jantscher.

chos X A. acuta) — [2 South] The same hybrid male was reported at two locations: 12/15 Wabasha (Minneiska), 12/22 Winona †PEJ.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [1 North, 14 South] One north report 1/15 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls, Riverside Park) REn, RLF. December reports from 12 south counties, with high count 12/11 Hennepin (13, Colman Lake) JAB, 12/17 Martin (7) BRB. Reported after December from nine south counties, all of 1–2 individuals. CBC high count 12/17 Fairmont (7).

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [8 South] December reports from eight south counties, with high count 12/1 Wabasha (2,100, Pool 5) PEJ. Away from Wabasha, high counts were fewer than 25. Two reports from Lac qui Parle: 12/1 (2, Salt Lake) WCM, 12/5 (Big Stone N.W.R.) GWe. Reported from three counties after December (Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona), all of 11 or fewer individuals until probable early spring arrivals 2/28 Wabasha (48) PEJ.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [1 North, 19 South] One north report: 12/19 Clay (5, Moorhead, American Crystal Sugar lagoons) PBB. December south reports from 14 counties, with high count 12/7 Wabasha (8) PEJ. Mid-winter reports from five counties (Dakota, Goodhue, Scott, Wabasha, Washington), all of 1–4 individuals. Probable early migrants 2/27 Cottonwood (4), Jackson (4), Nobles (8) PEJ. One 2/27 Sherburne HHD may also have been an early migrant. CBC high count 12/19 Fargo-Moorhead (5).

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [3 North, 17 South] All north reports: 12/8 – 1/19 Lake (male, Two Harbors) DvN, EBr, ASu, m.ob., 12/19 Clay (American Crystal Sugar lagoons, Moorhead) PBB, 12/20 Polk (East Grand Forks) DaL. December south reports from 15 counties, including 12/12 **Chisago** (Interstate S.P.) ebd. Season high counts 12/1 Wabasha (3,200, Pool 5) PEJ, 12/13 Winona (350, Prairie Island Spillway) SDz, ebd. Reported after December from eight south counties, including early January counts of up to 38 Washington (Grey Cloud Island gravel pit) BDo, m.ob. Overwintered in large numbers Scott (up to 50, Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (48).

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [1 North, 8 South] One north report 12/25 St. Louis (Duluth) PHS. December reports from seven south counties including 12/6 **Brown** (female, Somsen W.M.A.) BTS, 12/19 **Kandiyohi** (Willmar CBC). Season high count 12/22 Wabasha (30, Lake Pepin) PEJ. Reports after December include 1/4 Wabasha (Minneiska) ASu, REn, RLF, 1/28 Wabasha (11, Camp Lacupolis) PEJ, 2/27 Winona (2) JmP, 2/28 Wabasha (15, Pool 5, probable early migrants) PEJ.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [2 North, 23 South] North reports: 12/4 Beltrami (3, Lake Irving, Bemidji) DPJ, 12/19 Clay (4, American Crystal Sugar lagoons, Moorhead) PBB, 1/7 Clay (Moorhead) REn, RLF. December south reports from 16 counties, with high count 12/1 Wabasha (500, Pool 5) PEJ. December high count away from Wabasha: 12/2 Meeker (28) PKF. Midwinter reports from four counties, including 1/17 Wabasha (18, Pool 5) PEJ, and overwintering Scott (up to 5, Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob. Late February (2/27) reports from Freeborn, Jackson, Goodhue PEJ, and 2/27–28 Hennepin m.ob. were probably early migrants. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (34), 12/19 Fargo-Moorhead (4).

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*) — [1 North] Female, 12/19 – 1/23 Cook (Grand Marais) HSo, JRi, ph. †JGW, ph. LWd, m.ob. Discovered in Good Harbor Bay west of Grand Marais and seen there until 12/24, then relocated in Grand Marais harbor and vicinity 1/1–23. Reported to MOU or eBird by over 50 different observers, and photographed by many.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) — [2 North] All reports: 12/4 – 2/4 Lake (immature male, Two Harbors, Agate Bay) BxP, m.ob., 1/2 – 2/27 Cook (1–2 males, female, Grand Marais, East Bay) m.ob.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [2 South] Two reports: 12/7–8 Winona (3, near Minneiska) PEJ, 12/9 Kandiyohi (Green Lake, Spicer) RAE.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) — [3 North, 1 South] Reported from all three Lake Superior counties: 12/4 Lake (Two Harbors, Agate Bay) BxP, 12/11–25 St. Louis (1–2, Duluth) PHS, m.ob., 12/19 Grand Marais CBC, 12/22 Cook (Good Harbor Bay, Grand Marais) JGW, DFe, KvM, 1/2 Cook (Paradise Beach) ASu, 2/19 Cook (Good Harbor Bay, possibly overwintering) PEJ. One south report 12/8–9 Kandiyohi (2, Green Lake, Spicer) RAE.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*) — [1 North] One record: 12/11–14 St. Louis (3, Duluth, Leif Erikson Park) PHS, BEA, ToM.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [3 North, 6 South] North reports from the three Lake Superior counties, with high counts by county: 2/19 Cook (60, Good Harbor Bay) PEJ, 12/1 Lake (5) ANy, 12/19 St. Louis (4, Stony Point) TRK, StK. South reports from six counties: 12/1–24 Hennepin (5, Bde Maka Ska) CMB, m.ob., 12/5 Big Stone (Big Stone Lake) GWe, 12/11–13 Meeker (Lake Stella) PKF, m.ob., 12/18 Lyon (Cottonwood Lake) GWe, m.ob., 12/22–23 Sherburne (Big Lake) PLJ, m.ob. Numerous reports from Wabasha 12/2 – 2/9, involving at least 3 individuals: 12/2 (Lake Pepin) PEJ, 12/28–31 (1–2, Pool 5) PEJ, 1/1–13 (1–3, near Minneiska) BAB, ANy, m.ob., 2/9 (Camp Lacupolis) PEJ. CBC high counts 12/19 Grand Marais (62), 12/19 Two Harbors (4).

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [5 North, 21 South] North reports after December from Cook, Itasca, Lake, Otter Tail, St. Louis, all with counts 5 or fewer. Season high count south 12/7 Wabasha (**500**, Pools 4 and 5) PEJ. Away from Wabasha, high count 12/5 Hennepin (22, Bde Maka Ska) CRa. South reports after December from six counties, with high counts 7 or fewer, including 2/26 **Nicollet** (4, Traverse Des Sioux Park, St. Peter) ebd. CBC high count 12/19 Excelsior (8).

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [13 North, 34 South] Generally widespread, although no reports Northwest (except Clay). North high counts 12/8 Otter Tail (150, Fergus Falls) JsS, 2/6 St. Louis (150, Duluth) ebd. South high counts 12/28 Wabasha (1,000, Pool 5) PEJ, 12/12 Hennepin (910, Lake Minnetonka) JCa, 12/27 Washington (800, Point Douglas) RNe. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (820), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (225), 12/27 Red Wing (207).

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [9 North, 24 South] Reported from nine north counties in December, with high count 12/19 Clay (6) PBB. After December, reported from six counties (Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Otter Tail, St. Louis), with high count 1/13 Otter Tail (4, Fergus Falls) WPL. Unusual winter record 12/2 **Clearwater** (Red Lake River) AxB; also reported 2/11 Clearwater (Red Lake River dam) REN, RLF. December reports from 22 south counties, with high count 12/6 Ramsey (175, Vadnais - Snail Lakes R.P.) KEM. After December, reported from 14 south counties, all of 3 or fewer individuals except many overwintered Scott (up to 45, Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob., and Hennepin, with high count 2/19 (11, Hyland Lake P.R.) RCo. Unusual winter record 1/31 **Nicollet** ebd. CBC high counts 12/19 Bloomington (24), 12/17 Fairmont (13), 12/19 Excelsior (12).

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser (*Bucephala clangula* X *Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [1 South] One report of this hybrid: 12/8 Winona ph. †PEJ.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [13 North, 30 South] No reports Northwest (except Clay). North high count 12/7 Cass (100, Gull Lake) DMz. Away from Cass, high count 2/2 St. Louis (30, Canal Park) LSh, 12/21 Douglas (27, Lake Carlos S.P.) ebd. After December, reported from nine north counties. Reported from 27 south counties in December, with high counts 12/21 Wabasha (28,000, Lake Pepin, Lake City; estimated by hundreds) KJB, 12/6 Wabasha (25,000, Lake Pepin; estimated) PEJ. Away from Lake Pepin, high count 12/12 Hennepin (8,080, Lake Minnetonka; counted by tens) JCa. After December, high count 1/24 Goodhue (5,500, Lake Pepin) PEJ. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (2,810), 12/27 Red Wing (798), 12/14 Afton (133).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

— [3 North, 5 South] All north reports from Lake Superior, with high counts by county: 1/2 Cook (30, Grand Marais) ASu, JSu, 1/27 Lake (25, Two Harbors) EBr, 12/13, 1/27 St. Louis (20, Duluth) JLA. December south reports from five counties, with high counts 7 or fewer. All south reports after December: overwintered Goodhue PEJ, ebd, 2/9 Wabasha PEJ. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (6), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (3).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [2 North,

19 South] Reported from 21 counties statewide, the most in at least the past 20 winters (average is 10). All north: 12/2 **Douglas** (6, Lake Cowdry) ToR, 12/19 Clay (2, Moorhead, American Crystal Sugar lagoons) PBB. December reports from 17 south counties, with high counts 12/2, 12/8 Wabasha (10) PEJ, 12/18 Lyon (7, Lady Slipper Lake) GWe. After December, reported from five south counties. Overwintered Scott (up to 4, Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob., and possibly Goodhue PEJ. CBC high counts 12/19 Mankato (**15**), 12/18 Cottonwood (**11**).

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [26 North,

43 South] Reported from 69 counties statewide, the fourth highest total for the season. No reports from counties bordering Canada except St. Louis and Lake. North high counts 12/22 Aitkin (100) KEm, SEm, MEm, 1/9 Becker (95) TKa, 1/1 Todd (91) DOr. South high counts 1/2 Sherburne (**179**, near Elk River) PLJ, 12/25 Stearns (**160**) DRL, 12/28 Washington (100) CJE. CBC high counts 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (389), 12/17 Glacial Ridge (313), 12/19 Henderson (308).

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [23 North,

13 South] Reported from 23 north counties, slightly above the ten-year average (21). High counts included 2/21 Lake (14) RyS, 1/10 St. Louis (10, Sax-Zim Bog) ebd. South reports from 13 counties, tying the high for the past ten years and including all but two Southeast counties. High counts south include 12/27 Wabasha (7, Zumbro Bottoms) JLn, 2/26 Winona (5, Great River Bluffs S.P.) TWe, BWe. CBC high counts 12/19 Grand Marais (25), 12/26 Fredenberg (19), 12/26 Cook Area (16),

Spruce Grouse (*Canachites canadensis*) — [6

North] Reported from all counties bordering Canada except Kittson. Most records from Lake, as usual. High counts 12/1 Cook (8)

ANy, 1/3 Lake (8) ebd. Also reported from Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, St. Louis, with counts of 3 or fewer. CBC high count 1/2 Isabella (10).

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [12 North] North reports only, with the

great majority from St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog), followed by Polk. Unusual winter record 1/1, 1/6 **Becker** NaH. High counts 1/8 Beltrami (72, Fourtown) REn, RLF, 1/24 Marshall (70, west of Holt) TWe, BWe, 1/12 Polk (45) JGW. CBC high counts 12/27 Roseau (**152**), 12/18 Newfolden (105), 12/19 Crookston (35).

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [6 North] Most records from Clay and

Polk; also reported from Becker, Mahnomen, Otter Tail, Wilkin. High counts 12/5 Wilkin (75, Rothsay W.M.A.) GWe, 1/2 Polk (60, Mentor Prairie) ebd, 12/30 Clay (57) JWZ. CBC high count 12/28 Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP (122).

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [6 North, 11

South] All north reports from five Northwest counties, with high counts 1/19 Becker (37, Spring Creek Twp.) TKa, 1/16 Becker (25) NaH, 1/7 Polk (17) REn, RLF. Most south reports were from Olmsted and Rice. South high count 2/24 Olmsted (14) LAV. CBC high counts 12/20 Murray County (16), 12/19 Henderson (8), 12/19 Owatonna (5).

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [17 North, 52 South] Reported from

as far north as Polk and **Clearwater** (1/10, ASu) in the west, and Pine in the east. North high count 1/22 Otter Tail (87) REn, RLF. Reported from all south counties except Waseca, with high counts 1/30 Jackson (150) KEm, 12/27 Renville (61) ASu. CBC high counts 12/27 Redwood Falls (149), 1/1 Long Prairie (120), 12/28 Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP (82).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [3

North, 4 South] Three north reports: 12/2 Beltrami (Lake Irving) AxB, 12/19, 1/2 Clay (American Crystal Sugar lagoons, Moorhead) PBB, 1/13 Otter Tail (Riverside Park, Fergus Falls) WPL. All south: 12/15 Wabasha PEJ, 12/18–22 Hennepin (Bde Maka Ska) CMB, m.ob., 12/19 Rice (Faribault CBC).

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — No reports for the first winter since 2008.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) — No reports for the third consecutive winter.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 24 December 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County (originally picked up in Scott County). Photo from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota.

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [34 North, 53 South] Recorded from all 87 counties. North high count 1/3 St. Louis (450, Duluth Port Terminal) JLK. Away from Duluth, north high counts 12/3 Hubbard (220) REn, RLF, 12/20 Polk (200, East Grand Forks) DaL. High counts south 12/19 Ramsey (**860**, Pig's Eye area) JDS; south counts elsewhere were 250 or fewer. CBC high counts 12/14 St. Paul (North) (1,802), 12/20 Duluth (1,156), 12/19 Winona (683), 12/14 Virginia (647).

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [15 North, 48 South] Reported from a season-record 63 counties statewide, exceeding the previous high of 55 counties (2018, 2019). Reported from as far northwest as Kittson and Roseau, but no reports from Northeast or North-central. Unusual winter records 12/2 **Anoka** ebd, 1/3 **Kanabec** SPS, 1/16 **Washington** BDo. North high counts 1/10 Norman (12) TCL, 1/29 Becker (11) NaH, 12/8 Clay (10) DPW. South reports from all but five counties, with high counts 12/30 Lyon (**115**, Cottonwood elevator) GWe, 1/18 Redwood (50, Wabasso elevator) BTS, 1/29 Dakota (45, Miesville) KDS. CBC high counts

12/26 Hastings-Etter (70), 12/18 Cottonwood (55), 12/15 Morris (50), 12/19 Jackson County (50).

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — [19 North, 44 South] Reported from 15 north counties after December, from as far north as Roseau. Season high counts north 2/20 Todd (13) SDi, 1/14–15 Morrison (10) KEm. Widespread south, although few to no reports from the western-most border counties. South high counts 1/9 Olmsted (75, Silver Creek Rd.) SHo, 12/13 Olmsted (45, Silver Creek Rd.) LAV, 2/27 Houston (44, C.R. 25) SHo, 12/25 Washington (41, Oakdale) ebd. CBC high counts 12/19 Rochester (212), 12/19 Faribault (118), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (108), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (81).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — [1 South] Record late date **12/24** Scott ph. W.R.C. Picked up in a weakened condition in Prior Lake, *vide* AXH.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [13 South] December reports from 12 south counties, with high counts 12/1 Wabasha (29, Pool 5) PEJ, 12/5 Wabasha (25, Wabasha, Pioneer Club) SDz, 12/2 Meeker (20, Lake Ripley) BNn. After December, reported from eight south counties, with high count 1/5 Washington (15, Grey Cloud Island gravel pit) GJa. Multiple individuals overwintered Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob., with peak count 1/18 (14) BDo. CBC high count 12/19 Excelsior (6).

Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*) — [1 North, 3 South] All reports: 12/3 Scott (heard, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) AHr, 12/5 Scott (30, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) ABL, Carver (33, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake; probably the same flock reported from Scott) JCy, **1/12–14** Mille Lacs (near Princeton) JTo, REn, RLF, 2/26 Houston (Reno Bottoms, probable early migrant) SHo.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [2 South] Two reports: **12/6–13** Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) ph. †LSy, m.ob., **12/9–10** Watonwan (south of Madelia) ph. JCF, RAm, ph. †KEm, m.ob. There is only one prior winter season record (7–8 December 2012, Dakota County).

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [5 South] Overwintered Olmsted (2, traditional overwintering site near Dover) m.ob. Also reported 12/2 Houston (**8**, Wildcat Creek

delta) SHO, 12/4 Ramsey JbS, 12/5 Scott (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) ABL, 12/10–12 **Watonwan** (south of Madelia) KEm, MiO, JWH, 2/27 Houston (5, Cork Hollow Dr.) SHO.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [1 North, 11 South] One north report 12/11–26 St. Louis (Manganika Creek south of Virginia) SLF; also recorded at this location in December in four of the previous ten years. Reported from 11 south counties, the most in at least the past ten years, with high counts 12/2 Houston (**23**, Wildcat Creek delta) SHO, 12/13 Olmsted (7, near Dover) LAV. Reported from eight south counties after December. Overwintered Olmsted (up to 6, traditional site near Dover) m.ob., Dakota (up to 3, Miesville Ravine; up to 4, Etter Bottoms) KDS, m.ob., Hennepin (Bass Ponds; up to 3, Mound Springs Park) m.ob., Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob. Other reports after December from Fillmore, 2/6–10 Sherburne (Babcock Park) HHD, m.ob., 2/20 Kandiyohi RAE, Washington (singles at three locations) BDO, JEC, ebd. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (5), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (3).

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [1 North] Only the third winter season and second December record **12/1** Beltrami (Lake Bemidji; continuing from November) JTx *vide* DPJ.

ANCIENT MURRELET (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) — [1 North] One record 1/17 St. Louis (Stony Point) †StK, ph. †PHS, ph. TBU, †EzH, ph. IsH, ph. †LBA, ph. †AXH, ph. †KRE, ph. †KEm, ph. †REn, m.ob. Recorded only one day; reported to MOU or eBird by about 100 different observers, with many photos. This is the eighth state record (first since 1999) and second winter record. This is only the second sight record; the first six were specimens that were found dead or weakened, or shot by hunters (*The Loon* 72:43–45).

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — No reports. Reported four of the previous ten years.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — No reports. Reported four of the previous ten years.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [4 North, 26 South] Reported from 30 counties statewide, well above the ten-year average



Ancient Murrelet, 17 January 2021, Stony Point, St. Louis County. Photo by Thomas Burns.

(18). Reported from four north counties in December. A few (up to 3) reported in January St. Louis (Duluth) m.ob., but no reports after 1/25. Two were reported from Lake (Two Harbors, Agate Bay) in January m.ob. and one into February; last reported 2/25 REEn, RLF. Reported from 26 south counties, the second most in the past ten years. High count 12/20 Wabasha (800, Lake Pepin) DWK. Away from Lake Pepin, high counts 12/6 Dakota (500, SET-Empire mulch site) MWT, 12/4 Hennepin (300, Lake Harriet) JCa. Reported in small numbers from four south counties in January including 1/25 Goodhue (5, near Red Wing) PEJ, and from two in February: 2/3 Goodhue, 2/28 Wabasha (probable early migrant) PEJ. CBC high counts 12/19 Minneapolis (North) (97), Excelsior (92), Bloomington (54), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (44).

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) — [1 North] One report: 1/10 St. Louis (second-cycle, Duluth Harbor) †REn, RLF. This is the sixth winter season record (all but one have been from Duluth), and the only winter record after December. An adult was reported 12/20 St. Louis (Duluth Harbor); this record has not yet been reviewed by MOURC.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [4 North, 14 South] North reports from the three Lake Superior counties plus 12/2 **Hubbard** (Ka-

- bekona Lake) REn, RLF. December north high counts 12/11 St. Louis (1,001, Duluth Port Terminal) PHS, 12/20 St. Louis (550, Duluth Port Terminal) JLK. Overwintered along Lake Superior with high counts after December by county: 2/28 Cook (200, Grand Marais) ALX, 2/27 Lake (260, Knife Island) JLK, St. Louis (450, Duluth harbor) REn, RLF. South high counts 12/22 Wabasha (400, Lake City, counted by 10s) SDz, 12/3 Sherburne (312, Elk River landfill) PLJ. There were only four south reports after December (of 1–3 birds); the latest was 1/17 Hennepin KMS. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (379), 12/19 Bloomington (155), Grand Marais (102).
- Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucooides*) — [3 North, 5 South] North reports from the three Lake Superior counties, with high counts from St. Louis (4, Duluth): 12/6 PHS, 12/20 CIN, 1/17 ASu, LBa. Singles also reported Lake, Cook. South reports from five counties: 12/1–17 Dakota (up to 3, SET-Empire mulch site; continuing from November) MWT, m.ob., 12/4–11 Hennepin (Bde Maka Ska) MZA, CMB, m.ob., 12/13 Washington (2, Grey Cloud Island gravel pit) PNl, BDo, 12/15 Goodhue (Lake Pepin) PEJ, 12/17 Washington (Afton Marina) ELi. CBC high count 12/20 Duluth (5). Nearly all reports statewide were identified as or presumed to be the Thayer's subspecies (*L. g. thayeri*). Kumlien's subspecies (*L. g. kumlieni*) north reports were from St. Louis (Duluth): 12/7 (first-cycle, Canal Park) PHS, 12/20 (second-cycle, mouth of Miller Creek) CIN, 1/18 DOr, DGu. South reports of Kumlien's included 12/1 Goodhue (adult, Lake Pepin) PEJ, 12/13 Washington (adult, Grey Cloud Island gravel pit) PNl, BDo.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) — [1 South] One report: 12/6–13 Dakota (first-cycle, SET-Empire compost site) ph. MWT, m.ob. This is the thirteenth consecutive winter that this species has been reported in the state.
- Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [3 North, 3 South] Reported throughout the season St. Louis (Duluth), with peak counts 1/24 (10, mouth of Miller Creek) MWT, 1/10 (7, Canal Park, Harbor Drive) FJN, EBr, REn, RLF. Also reported from Lake (1–2, Two Harbors) m.ob., 1/31 Cook (Grand Marais) m.ob. South reports include 12/6 Sherburne MAJ, 12/13–21 Dakota (1–2, SET-Empire and vicinity) m.ob., 12/21 Wabasha (first-cycle, Lake Pepin) KJB.
- Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North] Many reports from St. Louis (Duluth) of a first-cycle (starting mid December), joined later by an adult mid January. Apparently only 2 birds for the season, in contrast to 11 or more a decade earlier.
- Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) — No reports; reported in four of the previous ten years.
- Common Loon** (*Gavia immer*) — [2 North, 3 South] North reports: 12/1 St. Louis (Canal Park) PHS, 1/16 – 2/2 Beltrami (Cass Lake) AxB, m.ob. South reports 12/1 Washington (Point Douglas Park) AJF, 12/3 Hennepin (Bde Maka Ska) ebd, 12/12 Meeker (Lake Stella) BNn.
- Double-crested Cormorant** (*Nannopterum auritum*) — [2 South] All reports: 12/7–9 Winona DBz, 12/16 Rice TFB.
- American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [14 South] Reported from a season-record 14 counties (all south), primarily in the Minnesota and Mississippi river valleys; previous high was 7 (2017) and the average is 4. All were of 1–4 individuals. Unusual winter records: 12/8 **Big Stone** (Ortonville) DLP, 12/1 **Le Sueur** (3, Waterville) RBW, 12/9 **Meeker** (Pigeon Lake) PKF, 12/11 **Wright** (Albertville) HHD. Only one report after December: 12/3 – 1/1 Chippewa HHD, RAE, m.ob.
- Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) — [11 South] Reported from 11 south counties, including 12/4 **Big Stone** DLP, 12/18 **Swift** DLP. Reports after December from five counties. Overwintered Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) m.ob., Rice (up to 4) TFB, Winona m.ob. Again no reports from the formerly reliable Ramsey (Kaposia/Pig's Eye) overwintering site, and only one from Hennepin. CBC high count: 12/19 Henderson (2).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [1 South] Overwintered Winona (2 immatures, Winona, Gilmore Creek) m.ob. One was found dead 2/20 DnS but the other was reported through 2/28 and into March. Two successfully overwintered at this location in winter 2012.
- Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) — [3 South] Reported from three counties in December: 12/3 **Chippewa** (Clara City) †HHD, 12/17 **Martin** (Fairmont) CBC, 12/19–21 Rice (near

Faribault) ph. GHo, KDS. There is only one other December record since 2007 (15 December 2018, Ramsey).

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [2 North, 7 South] All north reports: 12/8 St. Louis (Duluth) ebd, 12/20 St. Louis (Duluth) Cln, 1/31 Crow Wing PSP, 2/27 St. Louis (Duluth, Enger Tower, early migrant) FJN. Numerous reports from the traditional Southeast wintering areas in Fillmore, Houston, Winona, and a few from Goodhue, Wabasha. Also reported 1/31 Chisago LiH, 2/9 Rice MZa. All counts were 3 or fewer. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (2), 12/27 Red Wing (2).

Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) — [1 North, 19 South] One north report: 12/18 Marshall (Newfolden CBC). After December, reported from seven counties, all of 1–2 individuals. CBC high counts 12/20 Murray County (3), 12/18 Newfolden (2), 12/27 Redwood Falls (2).

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [14 North, 35 South] Reported from 12 north counties after December, from as far north as Pennington; all but one were singles. Widespread south except no reports from western-most border counties. Reported from 30 south counties after December; all but two reports were singles. CBC high counts 12/19 Henderson (4), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (3),

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [6 North, 41 South] Reported from a season-record 47 counties statewide (previous high was 45 in 2017), well above the ten-year average (37). North reports after December from four counties (Otter Tail, Pine, St. Louis, Todd), all singles. Widely reported south from a record 41 counties, including 30 after December. All counts were of 1–2 birds. Unusual winter records: 1/1 **Rock** (Blue Mounds S.P.) KEm, 1/9 **Yellow Medicine** (Blue Devil Valley S.N.A.) GWe. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (3), Owatonna (3).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [16 North, 12 South] Reported from 28 counties, one fewer than last year and well above the ten-year average (17). Most reports by far were from St. Louis (especially Sax-Zim Bog), followed by Lake. Nearly all reports were singles, with only a few of 2. Unusual winter record 12/5 **Wilkin** (west of Rothsay) ph. GWe. South reports (all singles) from 12 counties, well above the ten-year average (6).

A very cooperative juvenile in Hennepin (Pamela Park) was seen by many over a two-week period. CBC high counts 12/26 Fredenberg (5), Sax-Zim (3).

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [34 North, 52 South] Reported from every county but Faribault (found in all 87 in three of the previous four years). North high counts were from St. Louis (Enger Tower, mostly migrants), 2/27 (83), 2/26 (25), 2/22 (24) FJN. South high counts 1/16 Wabasha (200, north of Minneiska) ebd, 1/28 Winona (195, Lock and Dam 5) PEJ, 1/27 Isanti (151, central Stanford Twp.) RCL. CBC high counts 12/19 Bloomington (194), 12/20 Duluth (112), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (110), 12/27 Wabasha (102).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [2 North, 19 South] Reported from a season-record 21 counties statewide (prior high was 20; ten-year average 16). North reports from throughout the season Morrison (near Little Falls) SEM, KEm, MEm, 12/16 Becker (Stilke Lake) NaH, ebd. South reports after December (all singles) from 17 counties; most were from Hennepin, then Washington. Unusual winter records: 1/3 **Mower** (Austin) CBC, 12/27 **Redwood** (Redwood Falls) GWe. CBC high counts 12/20 Cedar Creek Bog (4), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (2).

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — [1 South] One report: **12/19** Scott (adult, Vernon Ave., Savage) †BKA, ph. GrN. Found on the Bloomington CBC, this is only the state's second winter season record, and the latest date. (The previous winter record was 2 December 2017, Duluth, **The Loon** 90:100.)

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [18 North, 52 South] Reported from 70 counties statewide, slightly above the ten-year average (67). Absent Northwest except for a few reports from Clay, Becker. North reports after December from 14 counties, with high counts from St. Louis (Duluth): 1/10 (5, mouth of Miller Creek) JLK, 1/14 (4, Enger Tower) JLK. Reported from all south counties except Nobles. South high count 1/7 Hennepin (8) TAT, four others of 7. CBC high counts 12/19 Bloomington (55), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (39), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (33). Harlan's subspecies (*B. j. harlani*) reported from Dakota, Jackson, Olmsted, Scott. Krider's subspecies (*B. j. kriderii*) reported from Chippewa, Hennepin. Northern subspecies (*B. j. abieticola*), includ-

ing dark phase) reported from Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Fillmore, Hennepin, Redwood, Olmsted, Scott, St. Louis.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [30 North, 52 South] Reported from a season-record 82 counties statewide (all but four north and one south). The previous high was 80 in 2017; ten-year average is 66. North high counts were from St. Louis (H.R.N.R., Duluth): 12/2 (8) FJN, 12/20 (4) EBr. North counts after December were all 3 or fewer. South high counts 2/25 Lac qui Parle (11, along Minnesota River) WCM, 2/28 Big Stone (5) JWH. Of those (relatively few) individuals for which color phase was noted (known or suspected duplicates excluded), 23 were light, 20 dark (north), and 39 light, 32 dark (south), for a statewide total of 62 light, 52 dark. CBC high counts 12/18 Newfolden (12), 1/1 Philbrook (12), 12/20 Duluth (11), 12/26 Northern Meeker County (9).

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [3 North, 25 South] All north: 12/19 Clay (2, Fargo-Moorhead CBC), 12/20 St. Louis (gray phase, Duluth, H.R.N.R.; banded by staff about three years earlier) CLN, 1/13 Crow Wing DVe. Reported from 25 south counties (all reports of 1–2 individuals), the most in at least the past ten years (average is 13). Statewide, three red and two gray phase were reported. Unusual winter record 12/3 **Pipestone** VKI, 12/20. CBC high counts 12/27 Redwood Falls (4), 12/19 Rochester (3).

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [18 North, 48 South] Reported from 66 counties statewide, well above the ten-year average (57). North reports were all of 1–2 individuals, and south reports of 1–4. Reports of the pale subspecies *B. v. subarcticus* from Blue Earth, Clay, Dakota, Hennepin, Rice. CBC high counts 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (13), 12/19 Rochester (9), 12/20 Cedar Creek Bog (8), 12/27 Redwood Falls (8).

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [14 North, 23 South] Reported from 37 counties statewide, which is close to the ten-year average (36.5; range 9–66) and the most since 2017 (the last invasion winter). Most north reports were from St. Louis (Saz-Zim Bog), all of 1–2 individuals. South high counts were from Hennepin in late December (3, MSP International Airport) m.ob. All others were of 1–2 individuals.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [4 North] Reported from four north counties (Cook, Lake, Roseau, St. Louis), below the ten-year average (6). All reports were of singles. (This is considered a Sensitive Species in eBird and records are not public. This summary includes eBird records although they are not in the M.O.U. database.)

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [21 North, 38 South] Reported from 59 counties, well above the ten-year average (44), although only two Southwest reports. All counts were of 1–2 individuals. Unusual winter records 2/27 **Big Stone** JWH, KEm, 2/15 **Chippewa** (Lac qui Parle S.P.) JQn. CBC high counts 12/19 Excelsior (7), Minneapolis (North) (5), 12/14 St. Cloud-Collegeville (4), 12/19 Rochester (4).

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [13 North, 3 South] Reported from 13 north counties east of a line from Marshall to Carlton. Most reports were from St. Louis (especially Sax-Zim Bog) followed by Lake. High count 1/2 Lake (6, C.R. 2) FFA, but nearly all reports were of 1–2 individuals. Reported from three south counties: 12/18 – 1/10 **Sherburne** (southwest of Zimmerman) ph. EmN, m.ob., 12/26 Washington (St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) CBC), 2/13 **Nobles** (date approximate, within 1–2 days; undisclosed location) ph. LyB (first county record and first Southwest record). CBC high counts 12/19 Two Harbors (7), 1/2 Isabella (3), 12/26 Fredenberg (2). (This is considered a Sensitive Species in eBird and records are not public. This summary includes eBird records although they are not in the M.O.U. database.)

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [1 North, 10 South] One north report 1/30 **Itasca** (west of Sugar Lake) AxB. South reports from ten counties (Blue Earth, Dakota, Hennepin, Lac qui Parle, Lyon Mower, Pipestone, Ramsey, Washington, Yellow Medicine), all of 1–2 individuals.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [4 North, 12 South] North reports from three Northwest counties (Clay, Marshall, Polk) and Otter Tail. Reported from several Polk locations, with high counts in January at Pankratz Memorial Prairie (6) SAU, m.ob., 1/16 Glacial Ridge N.W.R. (5) REn, RLF. South reports (all of 1–2 individuals) were from 12 counties, including 12/4 **Nobles** (southwest of Worthington) ebd, 12/26 **Pipestone** (Rock Twp.) ebd, 12/19

- Redwood** (Two Rivers W.M.A.) MJM.
- Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*) — [2 North] Four reports of five individuals: 2/3 Cook (near Tofte) *vide* JWL, 2/8 Cook (near Taco-nite Harbor) ASu, m.ob. (a second owl was reported later at this location JGW, REn, RLF), 2/9 Lake (Silver Bay) *vide* JWL, 2/13 Lake (Two Harbors) JWL, SLL. Except for 2012 and 2017, this species has been either unreported or very scarce in the winter season over the past decade.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [7 North, 10 South] Reported in seven north counties: single locations in Cook, Kanabec, Otter Tail, St. Louis, Todd, and two locations in Clay, Lake. South reports (nearly all singles) were all in the eastern half of the region, and mostly in and near the Twin Cities. High count 12/15 Rice (3) TFB. CBC high counts 12/16 Sherburne NWR (3).
- Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [8 North, 35 South] Reported from a season high 43 counties, surpassing the previous season high of 38 in 2018, including all counties along the Mississippi River corridor as far north as Morrison (ten-year average 31). Reports after December from St. Louis, Morrison and Otter Tail in the north and numerous south counties. Notable winter north records: 12/2 Itasca (Grand Rapids) ebd, 12/6–7 Cook (Grand Marais RV Park) CLB, LWd. CBC high counts 1/3 Austin (9), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (4).
- LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes lewis*) — [1 North] Third winter record for this western species: 12/31 – 2/24+ **Morrison** (Lake Alexander) WmF, PSP, ph. †LBa, ph. †MSS, †Any, ph. GrS, ph. JDB, ph. †KEm, m.ob.
- Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [1 North, 11 South] Only north report 1/14 Mille Lacs (Pease) REn, RLF. Notable south winter records: 12/6 Wright (St. Michael) ebd, 12/8 – 1/18 Scott (Johnson Slough) CCo, 12/9 Nicollet ebd, 2/5, 2/27 Carver (Carver P.R.) ebd. No counts of more than two birds.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [28 North, 53 South] Found in a season-high 81 counties, including all south and all but 6 north counties (ten-year average 74). High counts 12/13 Hennepin (12, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge trails) ebd, 12/27 Redwood (10) BTS. CBC high counts 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (110), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (96), 12/19 Bloomington (94).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [2 North, 5 South] All north reports: 12/16 Detroit Lakes CBC, 12/20 Duluth CBC. Unusual south report 2/4–17 Isanti ebd. A single bird overwintered 12/29 – 2/21 Hennepin (Minnetonka) ph. TBu, KBu.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [5 North] All reports: 12/14 Rice Lake NWR CBC, 12/27 Cook (Gunflint Trail) JGW, 1/1 Cook (Grand Marais Campground) FJN, 1/9, 2/11 Lake of the Woods ph. REn, RLF, 1/13 St. Louis (Cook) JuG, 1/16 Koochiching (Toomey Williams Rd.) JGW, 1/31 Koochiching (Pine Island S.F.) ASu. All reports of one or two birds.
- Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*) — [7 North] Observed in all north counties bordering Canada except Kittson, plus Itasca. High counts 1/1 Cook (5, Grand Marais Campground) FJN, 1/12 St. Louis (4, Sax-Zim Bog) JaE, 1/22 Koochiching (4, Toomey Williams Rd.) Lsf. CBC high counts 1/2 Isabella (11), 12/4 Sax-Zim (4), 12/26 Fredenberg (4).
- Downy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates pubescens*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported from all 87 counties throughout the season. High counts 12/26 St. Louis (31) AVa, DAL, 12/27 Redwood (26) BTS, 1/2 Lake (22, Stony River F.R.) JWL. CBC high counts 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (220), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (216), 12/19 Excelsior (216).
- Hairy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates villosus*) — [33 North, 53 South] Found in a season-high 86 counties, all but Wilkin (ten-year average 77). High count 1/29 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) (23) EBr, ECl. CBC high counts 12/19 Henderson (123), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (98), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (97).
- Northern Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*) — [11 North, 44 South] Observed in a season-high 55 counties, well above the ten-year average of 42. Apparent red-shafted/yellow-shafted intergrade seen 1/3–6 Nicollet ChH, BHW. High counts 12/9 Ramsey (10, Lake Como) DCZ, 12/17 Hennepin (10, T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) ebd, 12/6 Hennepin (9, Minneapolis, Lake Hiawatha Park) ebd. CBC high counts 12/14 Granite Falls (17), 12/19 Henderson (16), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (15).
- Pileated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [32 North, 45 South] Reported from a sea-

- son-high 77 counties, although few reports from Southwest and other counties in prairie biome, as expected. High counts of five individuals observed in Pope, Scott, Morrison, Wabasha, Clay and Washington. CBC high counts 12/16 Detroit Lakes (**55**), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (**55**), 12/20 Duluth (36).
- American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) — [9 North, 44 South] Reported from all regions except the Northwest in an identical number of counties (53) as last year. Unusual north reports 12/5 Cook ebd, 12/11 Koochiching ebd. High count 1/1 Olmsted (3) JmP. CBC high counts 12/19 Winona (12), 12/27 Red Wing (5).
- Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*) — [9 North, 30 South] Observed in 39 counties, well above the ten-year average of 29, from all regions of the state except the North-central. No reports of more than two birds.
- GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*) — [1 North] One documented report of this uncommon visitor, which has been seen in only three out of the last ten winters: 2/14 Clay (juvenile gray phase along I-94) †LHL.
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) — [1 North, 12 South] Observed in 13 counties in a typical winter distribution of St. Louis and south counties on or near the Mississippi River. All reports of one or two birds except 12/14 St. Paul (North) CBC (3).
- Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) — No reports for second consecutive winter after three years with single observations.
- Northern Shrike** (*Lanius borealis*) — [31 North, 40 South] Observed in 71 counties in all regions, although fewer reports from Southwest. High count 1/6 St. Louis (6, Sax-Zim Bog) FJN, HTo. CBC high counts 12/18 Newfolden (9), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (6), 12/14 Sax-Zim (6).
- Canada Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [12 North] Found in 12 north counties in the boreal region north and east of a line from Carlton to Hubbard to Roseau. High counts 12/1 St. Louis (18, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr, 12/20 Cook (15, Carlton Peak Trailhead) ODa. CBC high counts 1/2 Isabella (69), 12/14 Sax-Zim (31), 12/26 Ely (25).
- Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide throughout the season. High counts 12/19 St. Louis (78) FJN, 12/20 Morrison (51) SEM, 2/13 Clay (46) PBB. CBC high counts 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (379), 12/19 Excelsior (341), 12/19 Henderson (323).
- Black-billed Magpie** (*Pica hudsonia*) — [22 North] Observed in 22 north counties, equaling the season-high first set in 2014. High counts 12/27 Roseau (14, Lost River S.F.) ebd, 12/11 Roseau (11) JBu, 1/26 St. Louis (10, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr. CBC high counts 12/19 Bemidji (**72**), 12/18 Newfolden (**51**), 12/27 Roseau (42).
- American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High count 1/27 Hennepin (**10,000**, counted by 500s, Minneapolis) AKz. CBC high counts 12/19 Rochester (2,281), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (1,285), 12/19 Minneapolis (North) (771).
- Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) — [31 North, 14 South] Reported from 45 counties north of a line from Goodhue to Clay. Most southerly reports: 1/22 Dakota (Miesville Ravine P.R.) MwT, 1/31 Scott (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) WCM, 2/26 Goodhue (Miesville Ravine P.R.) KDS. High counts 12/20 St. Louis (49, Hawk Ridge) EBr, 2/11 St. Louis (45, Meadowlands) ebd. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (190), 12/26 Cook Area (185), 12/26 Fredenberg (156).
- Black-capped Chickadee** (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide. High counts 12/26 St. Louis (**368**) DAL, AVA, 12/20 St. Louis (196) ClN, 12/19 St. Louis (188) FJN. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (2,686), 12/26 Fredenberg (1,464).
- Boreal Chickadee** (*Poecile hudsonicus*) — [7 North] Observed in all north counties bordering Canada except Kittson, and in Itasca. All reports away from North Shore counties: 1/6 Roseau (Sprague Creek) BoA, 1/9, 2/11 Lake of the Woods (Beltrami S.F.) REh, RLF, 1/10, 1/16 Koochiching ASu, JGW, 2/13 Itasca ebd. High count 1/1 Cook (8, Grand Marais Campground) FJN. CBC high counts 1/2 Isabella (7), 12/14 Sax-Zim (6).
- Tufted Titmouse** (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [15 South] Reported from a season-high 15 south counties mostly near the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers (ten-year average 10). New county record 1/31 **Blue Earth** (Mankato) VBb. High counts 2/13 Winona (5) ebd, 12/5 Goodhue (4) AJF, 1/12 Olmsted (4) EmR. CBC

- high counts 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (28), 12/19 Winona (27), 12/19 Rochester (14).
- Horned Lark** (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [18 North, 51 South] Found in most counties south of a line from Polk to Pine, with no reports from Northeast and few from North-central. High counts 1/31 Lyon (375, Lyons Twp.) GWe, 1/19 Renville (300, Osceola Twp.) MGi. CBC high counts 1/2 Mountain Lake-Windom (505), 12/18 Cottonwood (96), 12/27 Redwood Falls (95).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Corthylio calendula*) — [2 South] Two reports of this species seen in eight of past ten winters: 12/12–13 Anoka (Mississippi West R.P.) †ebd, m.ob., 12/20 Houston †DBz.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*) — [8 North, 19 South] Seen in 27 widely scattered counties, the highest total since 2015 when seen in 29 counties and well above the ten-year average of 21. High counts 1/2 Goodhue (5, Frontenac S.P.) NiR, EmR, 12/3 Lyon (4, Southwest Minnesota State University) GWe. CBC high counts 12/17 Lac qui Parle (4), 12/19 Marshall (4).
- Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [21 North, 2 South] Reported from 23 counties, mostly in north, as expected. All south reports: 12/19 Lyon (Southwest Minnesota State University) GWe, 1/1 – 2/26 Blue Earth (Mankato, Calvary Cemetery) ChH, ph. ANy, m.ob. High counts 12/16 Carlton (500) HTy, 1/21 St. Louis (420) DBF. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (512), 12/16 Carlton-Cloquet (500), 1/1 Hibbing (206).
- Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [20 North, 43 South] Observed in a season-high 63 counties in all regions (ten-year average 51). High count 1/1 Blue Earth (250) ChH. CBC high counts 12/14 Granite Falls (168), 12/16 Detroit Lakes (133), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (108).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*) — [28 North, 46 South] Found statewide, with fewest reports from westernmost border counties. High counts 12/19 St. Louis (33) FJN, 1/2 Hubbard (20) ebd, 1/17 Cook (20) FJN. CBC high counts 12/20 Duluth (204), 12/19 Grand Marais (194), 12/26 Fredenberg (156).
- White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [34 North, 53 South] Reported statewide throughout the season. High counts 12/19 Brown (40) BTS, 12/26 Washington (33) RMa, 12/19 Redwood (28) MJM. CBC high counts 12/14 St. Paul (North) (308), 12/19 Excelsior (282), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (263).
- Brown Creeper** (*Certhia americana*) — [23 North, 47 South] Reported statewide from a season-high 70 counties, well above the ten-year average 56. Unusual north record 12/27 Roseau CBC. High counts 12/14 Yellow Medicine (20) WCM, 12/4 Redwood (11, Alexander Ramsey C.P.) GWe. CBC high counts 12/14 Granite Falls (33), 12/18 Cottonwood (32), 12/19 Bloomington (23).
- Winter Wren** (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) — [1 North, 12 South] Observed in a season-high 13 counties, exceeding the previous high of 11 in 2018 and well above the ten-year average of four. All north: 12/20 Morrison (Charles Lindbergh S.P.) MJB. Unusual south reports: 12/1 Wright ABL, 12/5 Lyon (Blue Devil S.N.A.) GWe, 12/8 Lyon (Camden S.P.) RJS, 12/11 Pope CRM. Numerous January reports from Hennepin, Lyon, Rice, Washington, Winona and Yellow Medicine indicate multiple overwintering birds. All reports of one or two individuals.
- Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [2 South] First reports since 2016 and only the 15th and 16th winter records: 12/20 Olmsted (Cascade Meadows Wetlands) †JWH, 1/11–2/2 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) ph. BeH, m.ob.
- Carolina Wren** (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [4 North, 17 South] Found in a remarkable 21 counties, a season-high and well above the ten-year average of 6. All north reports: 12/1 – 1/13 **Douglas** (Miltona) ph. LGL, 1/5, 1/19 **Beltrami** (near Solway) ph. †BMt, DPJ, AxB, 12/20 Mille Lacs South CBC, 12/20–25 Pine (River Wood Trail) TJo. First county record 12/19 – 1/9 **Nicollet** (Belgrade Twp.) Mankato CBC, ChH, APi. CBC high counts 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (5), 12/19 Mankato (3).
- Gray Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [7 South] Observed in 7 counties, equaling the season-high of 2018 (ten-year average 3). All reports from counties along the Mississippi River except 12/26 Meeker (Thoen Lake W.M.A.) HCT. Several early to mid-January reports from Dakota, Hennepin, Winona, Wabasha with latest being 1/22 Wabasha (Lake City) MNB.

- Brown Thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [5 North, 11 South] Reports from 16 counties represents a new season-high, being more than triple the ten-year average of five. CBC high count 12/26 Washington (2) St. Paul (Northeast Suburban). Still reported in the first half of February from Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, plus overwintering individuals in Dakota, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Rice.
- Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [1 South] First report of a winter bird since 2017 for this species seen in three out of past ten winters: 12/25–31 Washington (Afton) ph. NLk.
- European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [33 North, 53 South] Reported from all counties except Clearwater. High counts 12/5–6 Dakota (2,000, SET - Empire) ebd, JWZ, MwT. CBC high counts 12/19 Faribault (2,391), 12/20 Duluth (1,453), 1/3 Austin (1,430).
- Eastern Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*) — [4 North, 21 South] All north 12/1 Becker (Detroit Lakes) TKa, 12/8 Kittson (Hallock) TCL, 1/17 St. Louis (Duluth) JDx, 1/28 Todd SDi. High count 1/2 Ramsey (25, Como R.P.) CBt. CBC high counts 12/14 Granite Falls (22), 12/14 St. Paul (North) (12), 12/27 Red Wing (8).
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*) — [1 South] One discovered in late November was seen 12/4 Ramsey (Les Bolstad Golf Course, University of Minnesota) PRH, m.ob. and then relocated at a nearby park 12/11 – 2/28+ Ramsey (Como Regional P.R.) JbS, †EzH, ph. †GHo, m.ob. There are 330 images and one audio recording of this long-staying individual in the eBird database.
- Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [4 North, 9 South] Scattered reports throughout the season from 13 counties, although no observations in Northwest, North-central or Southeast. Only north report after mid January 2/25 St. Louis (Enger Tower) FJN. High count 12/7 Carver (4, Carver P.R.) KOC.
- Hermit Thrush** (*Catharus guttatus*) — [4 North, 16 South] Observed in 20 counties, topping last year's season-high of 17 counties and well above the ten-year average of eight. Mid-winter reports from seven south counties, but only Cass in north. Unusual north reports: 12/1–31 Grant CNn, 12/6 – 2/2 Cass BEc, 12/16 Lake LWd. February records south from Dakota (2 locations), Hennepin (2 loc.), Ramsey (3 loc.), Olmsted (1 loc.), Washington (2 loc.). All reports of one or two birds.
- Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [1 South] First winter record visiting yard: **12/12–24** Hennepin ph. SOa. Interestingly, a Wood Thrush was record late on 11/13/2020 just four miles due east of this location. Same bird?
- American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) — [25 North, 46 South] Observed in 71 counties in all regions of the state. High counts 1/8 Ramsey (300, Como Park Golf Course) BBr, 2/22 Hennepin (234, Westwood Hills N.C.) RMS. CBC high counts 12/14 St. Paul (North) (850), 12/19 Bloomington (578), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (305).
- Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [7 North, 5 South] Reported from 12 widely scattered counties, although no reports from North-central or Southwest. Late season individuals 2/6–10 Washington ebd, EzH, IsH, and throughout February in Olmsted, Wright, Rice. All reports of single birds.
- House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) — [32 North, 52 South] Reported statewide from all but Clearwater, Dodge and Mahanomen counties. High counts 12/6 Ramsey (225) KvM, 1/2 Cottonwood (200) JWH, 1/14 Houston (200) DSt, 1/31 Kittson (200) HHu. CBC high counts 12/14 St. Paul (North) (872), 12/26 Hastings-Etter (804), 1/2 Mountain Lake-Windom (799).
- EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) — [3 South] Observed in a season-high three south counties at four locations. One found in early October lingered until 1/2 Cottonwood KEm. Additional reports: 12/12, 2/21–28 Dakota (Marshan Twp.) KDS, 1/2–4 Dakota (Hampton feed lot) †DBz, m.ob., 1/18 – 2/17 McLeod (Silver Lake) FFA, m.ob.
- American Pipit** (*Antibus rubescens*) — [1 South] First winter report since 2016: **12/4–21** Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) †BAb, ANy.
- Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [18 North, 3 South] Observed in 21 counties, representing the highest total in over 15 years and a strong rebound from last winter's count of only two counties (ten-year average of 10). Unusual reports: 12/23 Mahanomen (Tulaby Lake) ebd, 12/27 Red Wing CBC. High counts 12/29, 1/3, 1/23 St. Louis (150, Sax-Zim Bog) GWe, ebd. CBC high counts 12/26 Ely (177), 12/14 Itasca State

- Park (173), 12/26 Fredenberg (134).
- Pine Grosbeak** (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [21 North] Observed in 21 counties, similar to the ten-year average of 20 and rebounding from last year's low of nine counties. High counts 1/17 Aitkin SKS, 1/22 St. Louis (70, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr, ebd. CBC high counts 1/1 Hibbing (225), 12/14 Virginia (214), 12/30 Aurora (205).
- GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) — [1 North] First report since 2015 winter season: 1/11–18 **Koochiching** (Loman) ph. GVP, ph. †EzH, ph. †LBa, m.ob. An adult male of the interior, brown-cheeked form.
- House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) — [14 North, 52 South] Reported from 66 counties, including all south counties except Nobles. High counts 12/19 Clay (80) ebd, 12/29 Ramsey (80) JbS, 12/24 Fillmore (58) ebd. CBC high counts 12/19 Faribault (293), 12/19 Owatonna (247), 12/19 Rochester (241).
- Purple Finch** (*Haemorhous purpureus*) — [25 North, 48 South] Seen in all regions of the state from a season-high 73 counties; ten-year average 55. High counts 2/15 Otter Tail (35) ebd, 2/16 Becker (32) ebd, 1/22 Todd (31) RLF. CBC high counts 12/16 Detroit Lakes (118), 12/19 Faribault (73), 12/21 Tamarac NWR (68).
- Common Redpoll** (*Acanthis flammea*) — [31 North, 38 South] Observed in 69 counties, strongly rebounding from last year's low of 17, although few reports from the Southwest. High counts 12/31 Isanti (630, in three flocks of 450, 100 and 80 birds) MHe, 1/7 Clay (300) REn, RLF, 1/21 Sherburne (270) PLJ. CBC high counts 12/28 Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP (398), 1/1 Pillager (324), 1/2 Alexandria (293).
- Hoary Redpoll** (*Acanthis hornemanni*) — [15 North, 8 South] Following a winter season with no observations, found in a near-average 23 counties. Fewest reports from the southern and western regions. High counts 1/4 St. Louis (3, Sax-Zim Bog) ebd, 2/25 St. Louis (3, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr.
- Red Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [16 North, 10 South] Reported from 26 counties, well above the ten-year average of 16. South reports from Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine and Lyon in the west, and from seven eastern counties between Hennepin and Wabasha. High counts 2/22 St. Louis (25, Duluth, Chester Creek neighborhood) JDx, 12/1 Washington (15, Afton S.P.) AJF. CBC high counts 12/20 Grand Rapids (14), 12/16 Detroit Lakes (13), 12/19 Bemidji (13).
- White-winged Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [20 North, 35 South] An irruption year with reports from 55 counties in all regions of the state, the most since 2008 when reported from 63 (ten-year average 17). Rare winter record 12/1 Pipestone LVD. High count 1/2 Cook (150, Grand Marais RV Park and Campground) REn, RLF, StK. CBC high counts 12/19 Grand Marais (123), 12/20 Duluth (99), 12/16 Sherburne NWR (91).
- Pine Siskin** (*Spinus pinus*) — [26 North, 41 South] Reported statewide from 67 counties, although fewer reports from Southwest. High counts 12/20 Polk (100) DaL, 12/13 Polk (60) SAu, 2/24 Hubbard (50, Kabekona Lake) RLF, REn. CBC high counts 12/20 Grand Forks-East Grand Forks (153), 12/19 Faribault (144), 12/19 Fargo-Moorhead (68).
- American Goldfinch** (*Spinus tristis*) — [22 North, 47 South] Reported statewide throughout the season. High counts 12/29 Ramsey (100, St. Paul) JbS, 12/15 Ramsey (80, Lake Como) ebd, 1/10 Ramsey (80, Lake Como) SHo. CBC high counts 12/14 St. Paul (North) (339), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (336), 12/19 Excelsior (251).
- Lapland Longspur** (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [13 North, 43 South] Reports from 56 counties, typical of most winters with no reports from Northeast and few from North-central. Unusual winter records: 1/10 Clearwater (Gonvick) ASu, 2/3 Chisago JSa. High counts 1/30 Sibley (250) DWK, 12/8 Murray (200) TAT, 12/19 Brown (200) BTS. CBC high counts 1/2 Mountain Lake-Windom (240), 12/19 Greenwald (230), 12/19 New Ulm (208).
- Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [31 North, 47 South] Observed statewide from 78 counties, nearly identical to past several years (ten-year average 74). High counts 2/20 Kittson (600) SAu, 12/26 Polk (500) SAu, 12/11 Roseau (400) ebd, 2/24 Polk (400) ebd. CBC high counts 12/19 Crookston (660), 1/1 Pillager (188), 12/14 Rice Lake NWR (155).
- Chipping Sparrow** (*Spizella passerina*) — [1 North, 1 South] Two reports of feeder visitors with details: 12/1 – 1/9 Hennepin ph. MZA,

1/10 St. Louis (Duluth) JDx.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [6 South] Observed in six counties, the second highest total for the winter season (high count seven in 2018). All reports: 12/13 Wright ph. ToL, 12/19 Mankato CBC, 12/31 Scott ph. BAB, 1/1 Whitewater River CBC, 1/1–2/21 Wabasha JGW, LHL, ph. JPr, m.ob., 1/9 Houston DBz.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [1 North, 15 South] Observed in 16 counties, only slightly above the ten-year average of 14. Only north report: 12/19 Grand Marais CBC. Unusual reports: 12/5 Yellow Medicine GWe, 12/6 Wright ebd, 12/14 Granite Falls CBC, 1/1, 1/16 Scott RiC. Numerous January and February reports indicate many overwintering birds. No counts of over two individuals.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) — [14 North, 52 South] Observed in 66 counties, including all south counties except Pope (ten-year average county count is 64). Reports from 14 north counties is the lowest total since 2014, when only 11 north counties recorded observations. High counts 1/29 Hennepin (125, Maple Grove) DEL, 12/26 Washington (100, Lake Elmo R.P.) ebd, 1/16 Houston (100, Caledonia) JPr. CBC high counts 12/26 Hastings-Etter (243), 1/2 Northern Wright County (204), 1/1 Whitewater River (184).

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [27 North, 51 South] High counts 2/7 Winona (200, Fremont Twp) REn, RLF, 12/26 Dakota (160) ADS, 1/1 Wabasha (151) SHk. CBC high counts 12/26 Hastings-Etter (647), 1/1 Whitewater River (568), 12/19 Henderson (515). North reports of “Oregon” juncos included single reports from Otter Tail and St. Louis, and one that lingered in Todd until mid January. South reports were from 21 counties through the end of the season.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [4 North, 8 South] Observed in a season-high 12 counties, well above the ten-year average of six. All north 12/17 Clay DPW, 12/19 Fargo-Moorhead CBC, Grand Marais CBC, 12/20 Grand Forks-East Grand Forks CBC, 2/2 St. Louis JDx. Midwinter reports from Dakota, Lyon, Ramsey, St. Louis, and Wabasha indicate several overwintering birds. High count 1/25 Dakota (5, 140th St. Marsh) MwT.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [4

North, 16 South] Observed in a season-high 20 counties in all regions except the North-central (ten-year average 12). All north: 12/2 – 2/28+ Clay PBB, 12/16 Detroit Lakes CBC, 12/26 St. Louis DEd, 2/13 Grant FFa, ebd. February reports south suggesting overwintering from Blue Earth, Lyon, Murray, Nicollet, Pipestone, Wright. High counts 12/5 Yellow Medicine (7, Blue Devil Valley S.N.A.) GWe, 12/17 Martin (7) BTS. CBC high counts 12/17 Fairmont (15), 12/14 Granite Falls (5).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [10 North, 32 South] Reported from 42 counties in all regions of the state, the highest count since 2016 when recorded in 52 counties (ten-year average 29). Widely reported south throughout the season. High count 12/19 Ramsey (5, Sarita Wetland) AHn. CBC high counts 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (19), 12/19 Faribault (6).

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [2 South] Observed for the third consecutive winter: 12/13 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) †DWK, 12/25 Olmsted (Byron) †MiD, 1/31 – 2/20 Olmsted ph. Lsf, m.ob.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [5 North, 27 South] Seen in 32 counties in all regions except North-central (ten-year average 19). High counts 12/10 Anoka (4) ebd, 12/20 Olmsted (4) KEm, 12/27 Ramsey (4) ebd, 1/2 Ramsey (4) LiH. CBC high counts 12/14 Granite Falls (4), 12/19 Excelsior (4).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [2 North, 15 South] Found in a season-high 17 counties, surpassing previous high of 14 in 2018–19 and nearly three times the ten-year average of 6. All north: 12/2–3 St. Louis PHS, SCB, 12/14 Cook LWd. February south reports from Dakota and Hennepin (two locations). CBC high count 12/17 Fairmont (4).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) — [6 South] Observed for fifth consecutive winter in an unprecedented six counties (previous season-high two). All reports: 12/28, 1/11 Jackson (Christiania Twp.) ph. †KEm, JWH, 12/3 Ramsey (Maplewood) JGI, 12/26 – 2/17 Dakota (Marshan Twp.) MwT, ph. DWK, ph. TGI, m.ob., 1/2 Mountain Lake-Window CBC, 1/15 Anoka (Blaine) ph. JoW, 2/23 Hennepin (Bloomington) ph. †RBW, ph. RDv. All reports of single individuals.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [2 South] Reported for fifth consecutive winter:

- 1/24 – 2/27 Anoka (Golden Lake Park) SRO, m.ob., 1/28 Wabasha (Riley Coulee) PEJ.
- Pipilo towhee** (*Pipilo sp.*) — [2 South] Two reports of *Pipilo* towhees were unidentified at species level or possibly hybrids: 2/23 Martin ebd, 2/23 Hennepin JST.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — No reports of this species that has been observed in seven of the last ten winter seasons.
- Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna*) — [3 South] One report with sufficient detail 1/4 Olmsted ASu. **Note:** Meadowlarks observed in winter season should include information detailing how identification was established, especially descriptions of any vocalizations. Without details, winter meadowlarks are best left at the genus level.
- Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [2 North, 5 South] Reported with sufficient detail from seven counties, well above the ten-year average of two. All north reports: 12/4–20 St. Louis (McQuade Small Craft Harbor) PHS, m.ob., 1/6, 1/11 Becker (Pednor State W.M.A.) TKa, REn, RLF. South reports from Cottonwood, Dakota, McLeod, Rice, Rock.
- Sturnella meadowlark** (*Sturnella sp.*) — [2 North, 7 South] Nine reports of silent meadowlarks, far above previous winter season totals.
- BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** (*Icterus bullockii*) — [1 North] Minnesota's sixth sighting and first winter record was last seen 12/18–19 Itasca (Colaraine) SC, EEO.
- Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*) — [1 North, 1 South] Observed for the third consecutive winter, including first winter report from a north county in 20 years. All reports: 12/1–17 Brown MTW, 12/25 – 1/30 Mille Lacs ph. †REn, RLF.
- Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [13 North, 38 South] Reported from 51 counties, well above the ten-year average of 41. North reports after mid January: 1/15–18, 2/27–28 Otter Tail (same location) ebd, 1/18 Roseau BSI, 1/30 – 2/1 Todd MJB, REn, RLF. High counts 12/27 Renville (142) KEm, JWH, 12/19 Redwood (125) JSc, 12/11 Pope (105) DFe. CBC high counts 12/19 Lamberton (146), 12/27 Redwood Falls (142), 1/2 Mountain Lake-Windom (50).
- Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*) — [5 South] Observed in five south counties, the lowest total since 2013 when reported from only three (ten-year average nine). Unusual report: 12/10 Pipestone LVD. High counts 1/3 Dakota (46) BHe, 12/27 Goodhue (34) KDS. CBC high counts 12/26 Hastings-Etter (13).
- Rusty Blackbird** (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [7 North, 19 South] Observed in 26 counties, the highest since 2016 when seen in 28 counties and nearly double the ten-year average of 14. Overwintered north in Clay and south in Hennepin and Wright. High counts 1/9 Nicollet (48) ChH, APi, 1/1 Rock (33) JWH, KEm. CBC high counts 12/19 La Crosse-La Crescent (50), 1/1 Long Prairie (10), 1/2 Northern Wright County (8).
- Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [1 South] Reported for third consecutive winter: 12/12 McLeod (Hutchinson Twp.) HHD.
- Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [8 North, 32 South] Only north report after mid January was one overwintering in Carlton (Esco) ebd. Found south widely in February; early migrants 2/27 Lyon (7) GWe. High counts 2/27 Lyon (7) GWe, 2/14 Blue Earth (5) ebd. CBC high counts 12/19 Crookston (20), 12/17 Lac qui Parle (5).
- Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [2 South] First winter reports since 2009: **12/14** (date approximate) Stearns (Collegeville Twp., fresh-appearing specimen found 12/15) ph. KLR, **12/19** Olmsted (Rochester) †Mid.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Setophaga caerulea*) — [1 South] Third winter record for this species: **12/5–11** Ramsey (hatch-year female, Vadnais-Snail Lakes R.P.) ph. †JGW, ph. TBu, m.ob.
- Pine Warbler** (*Setophaga pinus*) — [1 North] Second winter report of this species in past ten years: 12/14–19 Cook ph. JGW.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*) — [1 North, 10 South] Found in 11 counties, well above the ten-year average of six, but less than last year's total of 13. Only north report 12/11 St. Louis (McQuade Small Craft Harbor) JLK. Overwintered south in Hennepin (Bass Ponds) and Rice, and possibly in Sherburne where two were only reported 2/27 MJB. High count 12/27 Redwood (6, Cedar Rock W.M.A., Redwood Falls CBC) GWe.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) — [1 South] First winter record **12/5–13** Olmsted (Rochester) ph. CSn, ph. GHo, ph. JPr, m.ob.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [1 South] One report of this species that has been seen in three out of the last ten winters: record-late **12/24** (date approximate) Hennepin (Kenwood Park, fresh-appearing specimen discovered 12/25) ph. ELD.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [25 North, 52 South] Observed in all regions of the state, although less frequently in Northwest and North-central, as expected. High counts 12/19 Olmsted (78) KEm, 12/27 Renville (39) KEm, JWH, 1/5 Washington (37) PNi. CBC high counts 12/19 Faribault (331), 12/26 St. Paul (Northeast Suburban) (309), 12/19 Excelsior (273).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [1 North] Observed for third consecutive winter: 12/16 Carlton-Cloquet CBC, 12/14 – 1/15 Chisago (Rush City) JAK.



Black-throated Green Warbler, 6 December 2020, Rochester, Olmsted County. Photo by Jerry Pruett.

Contributors

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The 2020 Winter Season

HCT	Howard Towle	LAV	Lance A. Vrieze	SAM	Scott A. Mehus
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HHu	Heidi Hughes	LGI	Lynn Glesne	SAu	Sandy Aubol
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HTo	Hannah Toutonghi	LIH	Liz Harper	SC	Shawn Conrad
HTy	Harmony Tracy	LMS	Larry Sirvio	SCB	Susan C. Barton
IsH	Isaac Hosch	LS	Linda Sparling	SDi	Scott Dirks
JAB	Avery and Jon Blumenthal	LSf	Laura Seifert	SDz	Steve Dietz
JaE	James Eller	LSh	Lynne Schoenborn	SEm	Steve Emerson
JAK	John A. Kay	LSy	Liz Stanley	SES	Steven E. Schon
JBr	Julie Brophy	LVD	Lois Van Dyke	SGW	Steve G. Wilson
JBs	Jean Brisance	LWd	Larry Waddell	SHK	Sandy Hokanson
JbS	Jacob Socolar	LyB	Lindsey Busch	SHO	Steven C. Houdek
JBu	Jackie Bussjaeger	MaH	Marshall Howe	SKS	Sharon Koval Stiteler
JCa	Jason Caddy	MAJ	Mark Junghans	SLF	Steve L. Falkowski
JCC	Joel C. Claus	MaT	Madelynn Thompson	SLL	Sharon L. Lind
JCF	John Frentz	MEm	Marilyn Emerson	SMC	Scott M. Clark
JCy	John Cyrus	MGI	Michael Gilbertson	SOa	Steve Oakley
JDB	Judd Brink	MHe	Melissa Hein	SPS	Steve Stucker
JDS	Jill D. Sadler	MiD	Michael Degerstrom	SRO	Stephen Rossiter
JDX	Jessica Dexter	MiO	Michael Oetken	SSc	Susan Schumacher
JEc	Joanna Eckles	MJB	Milton J. Blomberg	StK	Steve Kolbe
JF	Jason Frank	MJM	Michael J. Majeski	TAT	Tom A. Tustison
JGI	Jennifer Gleason	MNB	Mark Noble	TBo	Travis Bonovsky
JGW	Josh Watson	MSS	Mark Sparky Stensaas	TBU	Thomas Burns
JJS	Jeff J. Stephenson	MTW	Mark Tacke	TCL	Tim Lamey
JLA	John Lawrey	MwT	Matthew Thompson	TFB	Tom F. Boevers
JLK	Larry and Jan Kraemer	MZA	Mathew Zappa	TGi	Tom Gilde
JLn	Jake Langeslag	NaH	Nancy Henke	ThS	Thomas Spence
JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru	NiR	Nick Rosen	TJo	Tim Johnson
JmP	Jim Peterson	NLk	Nan Leekley	TKA	Tyson Kahler
JMs	Janet Majerus	ODa	Olaf Danielson	ToL	Tony Lau
JoW	Joe Whalen	PBB	Patrick B. Beauzay	ToM	Todd Mitchell
JPE	John P. Ellis	PCC	Philip C. Chu	ToR	Tom Ries
JPr	Jerry Pruet	PEJ	Paul E. Jantscher	TRK	Ted Keyel
JQn	John Quinn	PHS	Peder H. Svingen	TWe	Trey Weaver
JRi	Jeremy Ridlbauer	PJB	Paul J. Binek	VBb	Valerie Banschbach
JSa	Joe Sausen	PKF	Paul and Koni Fank	VKI	Valerie Klumper
JSc	John Schladweiler	PLJ	Paul L. Johnson	WAF	Wayne Feder
JSP	Jen Sobiech-Pariseau	PNi	Peter Nichols	WCM	William C. Marengo
JsS	Jason Swelstad	PRH	Pete Hoeger	WmF	William Faber
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JSu	Joey Sundvall	RAE	Ronald A. Erpelding		
JTo	John Toren	RAm	Ruth Amundson		
JTx	Jaimie Thibodeaux	RBJ	Robert B. Janssen		
JuG	Juliann Grah	RBW	Bob Williams	C.P.	County Park
JuW	Justin Watts	RCI	Richard Clearman	C.R.	County Road
JWH	John W. Hockema	RCo	Ronald Cordes	F.R.	Forest Road
JWL	James W. Lind	RDa	Rob Daves	H.R.N.R.	Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
JWZ	Julie Zempel	REH	Robert E. Holtz	N.C.	Nature Center
KaB	Katherine Brown	REn	Becca Engdahl	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
KBu	Kathy Burns	RiC	Richie Cutts	P.R.	Park Reserve
KCR	Kim and Cindy Risen	RJS	Roger J. Schroeder	R.P.	Regional Park
KDS	Kevin D. Smith	RJW	Robert Watson	S.F.	State Forest
KEI	Kris Eichers	RKQ	Robert Kirchberg	S.N.A.	Scientific and Natural Area
KEm	Kimberly A. Emerson	RLF	Robert L. Freeman	S.P.	State Park
KHg	Kevin Halling	RLR	Ronald L. Refsnider	Twp.	Township
KJB	Karl J. Bardon	RMA	Rene Martin	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
KkO	Kirk Olson	RMD	Robert M. Dunlap	W.R.C.	Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
KIR	Kyle D. Rausch	RMS	Rose M. Shea	W.T.P.	Wastewater Treatment Ponds
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Abbreviations

C.P.	County Park
C.R.	County Road
F.R.	Forest Road
H.R.N.R.	Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
N.C.	Nature Center
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.R.	Park Reserve
R.P.	Regional Park
S.F.	State Forest
S.N.A.	Scientific and Natural Area
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.R.C.	Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
W.T.P.	Wastewater Treatment Ponds

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

Steve Weston

The 121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count (2020–2021 season) was a good one. The weather was excellent for winter birding. Many lakes were still open and hosting waterfowl. The birders came out in record numbers — and they found birds. It was the third highest count of total birds in the last decade. Eight species were found on at least 78 of the 80 counts. Of the 141 species (2nd highest ever) found, a remarkable 21 had record count numbers, including two species never reported before. There were 29 first county winter records. Unusual reports included two Turkey Vultures, a Broad-winged Hawk, an American Pipit, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Eurasian Tree Sparrow, and a Common Yellowthroat. Data in this summary is only for Minnesota and does not include participation and birds from outside the state in border counts (Table 1).

Eighty of eighty-five counts collected and reported data, a slight decrease from last year. Five counts were canceled because of the Covid pandemic. A new count at Redwood Falls, centered in Renville County, only reported data to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and not to the National Audubon Society (not uncommon for start-up counts). That count is included in this summary. While the number of counts was the lowest in four years, participation of 2,112 birders was the highest ever, due in large part to a nearly 29% increase in feeder watchers (704) over the five-year average. Average participation per count was 26.4, a 16% increase from last year. Thirteen counts had more than 40 participants, compared to 12 last year. Owatonna again had the most feeder watchers (108; 90 last year) and the most total participants with 118 (97 last year). Detroit Lakes doubled its feeder watchers, reaching 54 with excellent community promotion. Duluth and three Metro counts had more than

60 field surveyors (Excelsior 68, Bloomington 62, Duluth 61, St. Paul North 60). While all but four counts had surveyors out on foot, six sent surveyors out on skis and/or snowshoes. The Isabella count had surveyors on foot, skis, snowshoes, kick-sleds, snowmobiles, and bicycles, and the Wabasha count deployed counters on horseback. The average number of field surveyors was 17.6, compared to 16.9 last year. The average number of feeder watchers was 9.0 compared to 5.9 last year.

Record participation is easy to explain: the weather was good for winter birding. Not that it was unseasonably warm (only 20% of the counts had highs above freezing), but it wasn't cold, as only three counts started at below zero temps. Last year five times as many counts had lows below zero. This year a higher percentage of the counts reported that lakes were open (about a third vs. less than a fifth in both of the last two years) and there was less snow on the ground. Thirty percent of the counts had no snow versus last year's 7%. This was the lowest percentage in at least the last five years.

With more open water, there were more waterfowl counted. As Canada Goose numbers account for over 97% of the variability in the total number of birds, high numbers of Canada Geese (100,020) resulted in the third highest cumulative total of all birds in the last ten years (336,948). Canada Goose and Mallard numbers represented almost 40% of the total count this year versus 14.8% of last year's count (second lowest total in the past ten years). The species count (141) tied for the second highest total.

There were 180 reports which required additional documentation (vs. 82 and 147 in the last two years). Fifteen of these were not accepted, as a result of inadequate (9) or lacking documentation (6). Four were withdrawn on one count as data entry errors.

The majority of the 29 species of waterfowl

reported this year (compared to 25 and 27 species for the last two years) were reported at numbers above the ten-year average for that species, a significant reversal of last year when more lakes were frozen and almost all were below average. The 100,020 Canada Geese, our most common count bird, were 25.6% above the ten-year average, while the 30,931 Mallards, the second most common count bird this year (fourth last year), were 20.7% above the ten-year average. Trumpeter Swans, averaging fourth in the last ten years, were the third most common waterfowl this year with its second highest count. While almost three-quarters of the counts reported Canada Goose, more than half were found at six counts: Fargo in the northwest and five counts in the south-central. Mallards were not as widespread; over half were found in just four central Metro counts. Tundra Swans were below average despite being the third highest count in the last ten years. The 67 Long-tailed Ducks, almost all found on Lake Superior, represent the highest number counted since 2001. The 33 Ruddy Ducks found on six counts was a record high. First winter records included four Trumpeter Swans on the Hendricks count in Lincoln County, a Ring-necked Duck at Two Harbors, a count week Greater Scaup at Willmar, and a Pied-billed Grebe at Moorhead.

Four species of other water-dependent birds were found (cormorants, pelicans, herons, and kingfishers). A Black-crowned Night-Heron reported in Winona was only the seventh on Minnesota counts in 30 years. For the fifth consecutive year, no cormorants were reported. The 12 Wilson's Snipe was above expected numbers, but below some historical numbers.

The most common upland game birds, Wild Turkey and Ring-necked Pheasant, were found on 77.5% and 59% of the counts — similar to last year. Wild Turkeys were reported in record numbers (5,266) while pheasants were in average numbers. Sharp-tailed Grouse had above average numbers, Ruffed Grouse about average, and Greater Prairie-Chickens were below average.

Bald Eagles were reported in record numbers (1,974), continuing a population growth that is most easily noticed in the winter when they concentrate near open water. They were found on all but two far north counts, demonstrating their remarkable recovery. Over 50%

on their numbers were on 13 counts. The second most common diurnal raptor, the Red-tailed Hawk was found in over 66% of the counts, but over 60% were in the southeast. Rough-legged Hawks were higher than average and found in 62.5% of the counts. While both Northern Goshawks and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported at their highest numbers in over 10 years, both were below the average for 15 to 20 years ago at a time when participation was lower. Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Coopers Hawks were below the ten-year average, with Sharp-shinneds at their lowest number in almost 30 years. Notable finds included first county winter record for Turkey Vultures at Faribault and Fairmont, Red-shouldered Hawks at Austin and Redwood Falls, and Broad-winged Hawk in Bloomington (also only the second CBC accepted report). American Kestrels were found in above average numbers. Peregrine Falcons and Merlins were reported in small numbers, including a Merlin in Pipestone, outside its expected range.

It was a good year for our state's breeding owls, but not as good for irruption owls. Great Horned Owls set a record high with 148. Barred Owl had its fourth highest total (72) and Eastern Screech-Owls recorded their highest number in almost 30 years (23). Long-eared, Short-eared, and Great Gray owls breed in the state, but they are elusive and rarely encountered except in irruption years. The 20 Great Gray Owls reported is the highest since the last large irruption of 2004–2005. Three-quarters of the Great Grays were found on just six counts in the northeastern Arrowhead area of the state. Of the nine species of owls found, the five rarer owls had a total of 15 reports. Notable was the first county winter record of an Eastern Screech-Owl in Duluth.

Four species of gulls were found on count day and two more were found count week in Duluth. Eight other counts along Lake Superior and the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers had one or both of the common species, Ring-billed and Herring. Both gulls were found in much better numbers than last year, but still below the ten-year average. The other two count day gulls in Duluth were California and Iceland.

In contrast with last year, all three species of doves were found in high numbers.

Eurasian Collared-Doves (690) set a record. Rock Pigeons (18,709) hit their second highest peak, their highest total since 2006–2007, and 1,384 Mourning Doves were also reported. The five common species of woodpeckers were also found in high numbers. Four of them — Downy (4,637), Hairy (2,263), Red-bellied (1,822), and Pileated (888) — set records, and the number of Northern Flickers was its third highest. Hairy Woodpeckers were found on all counts, while Downys were found on all but one; Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found on all but 11 counts (mostly northern), and Pileateds on all but 8 (mostly southwestern). The other four woodpecker species were found in small numbers. Whereas in most years nearly all Red-headed Woodpeckers are found on the Cedar Creek Bog count, this year they had a bad acorn crop, and none overwintered there. Notable was the first winter county record of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Duluth.

It was an off year for winter field birds, which are some of the most variable Count species. Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were all well below average. More than two-thirds of the Horned Larks were reported on just four southwestern counts, and more than two-thirds of the Lapland Longspurs were found on just four counts in the central and west central part of the state. Almost two-thirds of the Snow Buntings were reported on six northwestern counts.

Corvid numbers were up. After two off years, American Crows were found in above average numbers. Blue Jays were down from last year's record but still the second highest number recorded. Common Ravens (2,163) and Black-billed Magpies (311) set records, while Canada Jays were at average, rebounding from a nadir three years ago on their four-to-five-year boom to bust cycle. Blue Jays again were found on every count, whereas American Crows were missed on only one. Like last year, magpies were found on 20% of the counts and ravens on 50%. Ravens were found as far south as Sherburne, Anoka, and Washington counties. With a bad acorn mast crop, Blue Jay numbers dropped by almost 80% from last year on the Cedar Creek Bog count, supporting a hypothesis tying their numbers to acorn production.

Northern Shrike numbers were down from last year, but totals tend to be too variable to note any trends. Black-capped Chickadees

(28,065), White-breasted Nuthatches (5,852), and Brown Creepers (307) all exceeded records two years ago by approximately 10%. Tufted Titmouse (90) also reached a record. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were down from two years ago, but still had the fifth highest total on record. Black-capped Chickadees were found on all counts, whereas White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches were found on all but one and two counts respectively. Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers were below average, down from last year. Both Carolina (16) and Winter (5) wrens were found in record numbers. First winter county records for wrens included a Winter Wren on the Little Falls count, Carolina Wrens on the Alexandria and Mille Lacs South counts, and a Marsh Wren seen count week on the Rochester count.

American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds rebounded from last year. Robins were close to the ten-year average, while bluebirds were still significantly below the average. Seventy percent of the robins were found in six Metro counts. A total of nine species of thrush were recorded compared to six and eight for the last two years. A Mountain Bluebird on the St. Paul North count, a Hermit Thrush on the Redwood Falls count, a Gray Catbird on the Northern Meeker County count, and a Brown Thrasher on the Alexandria count were all first county winter records.

Bohemian Waxwing numbers rebounded from last year's nadir to the highest in ten years, while Cedar Waxwing numbers dropped, staying below the average for another year. Whereas last year 85% of the Bohemian Waxwings were found on one count in the northwest, this year 83% were found on six counts in the northeast of the state. Cedar Waxwings were widespread but in small numbers. While 23 counts (mostly in the southwest and far north) had no waxwings, six counts had both species. European Starlings, found on all but four counts in the state, evened out to slightly above average after last year's low and the previous year's record. House Sparrows, found on all but six counts, were above the ten-year average. Interestingly, the only count that did not record crows — Beltrami Island in the far north — was also the only count that did not have White-breasted Nuthatches. It was also one of only two counts that did not have starlings or House Sparrows. The other count that missed

both starlings and House Sparrows, Isabella, had only four crows and one White-breasted Nuthatch. For the fourth time in seven years, a Eurasian Tree Sparrow was found, this time as a first county winter record for the Mountain Lake/Window count.

Dark-eyed Junco and American Tree Sparrow numbers were below average for the fourth year in a row. They accounted for almost 99% of the ten species of sparrow reported (down from 11 last year). First winter county records included a count week Harris's Sparrow at Detroit Lakes, a Field Sparrow at Mankato, and Swamp Sparrows on the Lambert and Northern Wright County counts.

Overall, blackbirds — with the exception of Rusty Blackbirds — were significantly below the ten-year average. Rusty Blackbirds were about twice the expected average. Seventy percent of the Red-winged Blackbirds were on just four counts in the southwest. Sixty percent of the Rusty Blackbirds were found on the La Crosse/La Crescent count in the southeast. The other blackbird species included Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Meadowlark, and a count week Baltimore Oriole (which was a first winter county record for the New Ulm count).

The 4,360 Northern Cardinal total was a record. Eleven counts with urban/suburban habitat and high numbers of participants in the southern half of the state accounted for almost 60% of the cardinals. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was also a first winter county record on the Carlton count. While all finches did better than last year, four of the ten species still were below the ten-year average. While American Goldfinches were found with some of the lowest numbers of the decade, House Finches had the highest numbers in 15 years. Purple Finch and White-winged Crossbill numbers were peaking, while Red Crossbills were bottoming out. Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Common Redpoll numbers were up, although well below historical peaks. Evening Grosbeak numbers have been in marked decline for the last 25 years, but this year had the highest numbers during that time period, being found in a quarter of the counts — all in the north plus Red Wing in the south. Pine Grosbeaks were found in nearly all the same counts in the north. In general, where those two species

were not found, House Finches and/or Purple Finches were. Only three counts had none of the four, and three counts had three or even four. Goldfinch distribution generally fit with the southern House and Purple finches. As expected, Pine Siskins were generally found on the same counts as goldfinches. The seven counts that had Pine Siskins and no goldfinches were all in the north. An equal number of counts that had goldfinches and no Pine Siskins were in the south.

Three species of warbler were found. A record nine Yellow-rumpeds were found on four counts including six on the Redwood Falls count and a first winter county record on the Willmar count. The second most common warbler for Minnesota counts, the Pine Warbler, was found for the fifth time, and was a first winter county record on the Grand Marais count and the eighth accepted state winter record for the state. A Common Yellowthroat found on the Rochester count was an Olmsted County first winter record, the sixth accepted winter record for the state, and just the second for a CBC, (the first CBC report had been at Ft. Snelling in 1934). An American Pipit, a count week report on the Excelsior CBC, was the first winter county record for Scott County, only the second accepted winter record for the state, and the first Christmas Bird Count report.

A complete table of the results of the 121st Christmas Bird Count in Minnesota (includes data from outside of Minnesota from border counts) is available at:

https://moumn.org/CBC/coordinator_year_end_table.php?year=2020&main

For Minnesota data only, which was used in this summary:

https://moumn.org/CBC/coordinator_year_end_table.php?year=2020&main&mn

A table showing what sightings were reviewed, what documentation was received, eBird postings, and whether reports were accepted is available for download at:

https://moumn.org/CBC/documents/121_Bird_Review.html

Images of birds submitted for documentation (and not on eBird) are available at:

http://moumn.org/CBC/recent.php?count_year=121

— **Eagan, MN.**

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	AFTON	ALBLEA	ALEX	AUROR	AUSTN	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	BLUE	CEDRC	COOK	COTTNW	CRLCL	CROOK	DLAKE
Snow Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poss's Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater White-fronted Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cackling Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Canada Goose	2504	628	2030	—	1646	—	16	3597	—	—	161	—	478	—	2	4
Cackling/Canada Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trumpeter Swan	189	8	349	—	—	—	58	463	—	—	8	—	13	—	—	30
Tundra Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
swan sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gadwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Wigeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	35	243	839	—	1390	—	31	2132	—	—	7	—	7	—	—	173
American Black Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Pintail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Canvasback	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redhead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lesser Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
scaup sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
King Eider	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlequin Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-tailed Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bufflehead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Goldeneye	107	—	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Hooded Merganser	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Merganser	133	—	2	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
merganser sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
duck sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wild Turkey	101	38	212	cw(1)	191	—	23	96	—	151	167	4	—	44	3	71
grouse sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	—	1	—	5	7	—	1	—	—	16	—	14	—	1
Spruce Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-tailed Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Prairie-Chicken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	1	70	—	7	—	—	—	—	82	9	—	12	—	—	3
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Pigeon	257	174	190	131	183	62	189	372	—	141	38	155	135	287	185	178
Eurasian Collared-Dove	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mourning Dove	37	1	2	—	19	—	—	—	—	7	74	—	55	—	—	11
American Coot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	55	—	—
Killdeer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilson's Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
gull sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	155	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glaucous Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American White Pelican	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Blue Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey Vulture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Harrier	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Goshawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
accipiter sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bald Eagle	31	6	12	7	16	8	18	194	—	13	47	18	9	9	4	18
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1
Broad-winged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	13	6	2	—	10	—	1	55	—	1	14	—	7	—	—	—
Rough-legged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	—	1	—	—	3	5	1
buteo sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
hawk sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Horned Owl	2	cw(1)	1	—	4	1	—	2	—	2	8	—	5	1	1	2
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Hawk Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barred Owl	—	1	cw(1)	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Great Gray Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Saw-whet Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
owl sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	—	—	—	—	9	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1, CBC totals for Afton, Albert Lea, Alexandria, Aurora, Austin, Baudette, Bemidji, Bloomington, Beltrami Island, Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP, Cedar Creek Bog, Cook Area, Cottonwood, Carlton-Cloquet, Crookston, and Detroit Lakes.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	AFTON	ALBLEA	ALEX	AUROR	AUSTN	BAUDT	BEMID	BLOOM	BLTRM	BLUE	CEDRC	COOK	COTTNW	CRLCL	CROOK	DLAKE
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	52	10	38	—	20	—	9	94	—	3	39	—	20	9	3	32
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
American Three-toed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-backed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downy Woodpecker	44	33	90	8	64	13	24	190	4	22	75	25	35	32	18	101
Hairy Woodpecker	17	7	23	16	13	13	17	70	10	16	38	52	15	23	15	46
Northern Flicker	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	8	—	1	3	—	8	—	—	1
Norther Flicker (intergrade)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pileated Woodpecker	13	2	11	3	3	2	21	15	5	5	28	10	2	19	4	55
woodpecker sp.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
American Kestrel	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Merlin	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
falcon sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Northern Shrike	—	cw(1)	3	—	cw(1)	3	—	3	—	4	—	4	1	2	—	3
Canada Jay	—	—	9	—	—	10	—	—	17	—	—	24	—	—	—	—
Blue Jay	100	50	131	61	50	45	141	179	7	78	124	175	40	134	18	186
Black-billed Magpie	—	—	—	—	—	22	72	—	1	19	—	13	—	—	7	2
American Crow	269	125	163	60	760	98	106	497	—	30	275	41	13	123	62	87
Common Raven	—	—	1	2	48	151	70	—	17	18	9	185	—	66	3	34
Horned Lark	—	—	—	—	89	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	96	—	15	—
Black-capped Chickadee	321	134	689	437	105	209	575	730	47	58	395	594	71	614	147	639
Boreal Chickadee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Tufted Titmouse	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	1	7	18	10	7	60	7	16	2	22	87	6	45	5	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	84	30	175	10	70	17	67	216	—	26	115	51	49	35	20	218
Brown Creeper	1	1	3	—	—	—	3	23	1	1	1	1	32	—	—	6
Winter Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marsh Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina Wren	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mountain Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Townsend's Solitaire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hermit Thrush	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
catharus sp.	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Robin	304	—	4	—	5	—	5	578	—	43	20	—	—	1	3	9
Varied Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Thrasher	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
European Starling	695	162	194	55	1430	111	60	1160	—	42	36	38	101	118	130	130
Bohemian Waxwing	—	—	—	—	—	9	18	—	—	1	—	—	—	500	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	4	—	32	—	—	—	—	12	—	10	67	—	—	1	—	133
House Sparrow	135	370	506	28	368	11	48	426	—	203	63	45	680	—	171	179
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	95	—	120	17	—	—	—	—	63	—	8	—	—
Pine Grosbeak	—	—	—	205	—	23	36	—	5	—	—	168	—	72	—	cw(1)
House Finch	14	43	69	—	—	—	—	52	—	11	6	—	21	—	30	141
finch sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—
Purple Finch	—	10	26	—	1	—	—	8	—	24	24	—	—	—	—	118
Common Redpoll	—	—	293	93	—	39	190	—	2	398	—	76	37	11	202	51
Hairy Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Crossbill	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	2	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	13
White-winged Crossbill	4	—	18	5	—	1	20	8	4	—	3	14	6	49	1	—
crossbill sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	3	34	20	—	—	18	—	12	—	34	11	—	3	14	56	41
American Goldfinch	56	19	59	—	38	—	—	247	—	15	64	—	4	21	—	34
acanthis/spinus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lapland Longspur	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	25	—	26	—
Snow Bunting	—	—	—	12	7	—	—	—	—	150	—	—	7	—	660	10
Field Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Tree Sparrow	67	25	66	—	168	—	—	72	—	36	73	4	12	—	cw(1)	—
Spizella sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco	191	94	60	1	290	—	2	152	—	33	48	2	56	—	22	43
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)
White-throated Sparrow	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Song Sparrow	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Towhee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Meadowlark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore Oriole	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-winged Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
blackbird sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	20	1
Common Yellowthroat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-rumped Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Cardinal	93	62	43	—	68	—	—	199	—	3	63	—	12	5	—	13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total Count	37	33	45	22	40	27	33	60	16	45	41	30	45	34	32	46
Individual Count	5894	2325	6458	1293	7085	1033	1926	12202	140	1848	2147	1879	2121	2323	1876	2840

Table 1, continued.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	DULUTH	ELY	EXCEL	FARIB	FREDN	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GLACR	GREEN	GRFAL	GRMAR	GRRAP	HASTE	HENDR	HIBBG
Snow Goose	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ross's Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater White-fronted Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cackling Goose	—	—	—	6	—	4	50	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Canada Goose	31	—	2012	11726	1	13100	14026	675	—	116	1427	1	45	1055	3262	—
Cackling/Canada Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trumpeter Swan	—	—	122	cw(1)	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	5	6	—	50	47	7	—
Tundra Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
swan sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood Duck	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shoveler	—	—	18	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gadwall	—	—	115	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Wigeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	678	—	4495	1214	—	900	936	—	—	27	523	—	103	158	8	—
American Black Duck	37	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Pintail	—	—	1	—	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canvasback	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redhead	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	48	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lesser Scaup	—	—	34	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
scaup sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
King Eider	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Harlequin Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	—
Long-tailed Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	—	—	—	—
Bufflehead	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—
Common Goldeneye	137	3	820	—	40	3	9	—	—	—	cw(1)	27	17	225	—	—
Hooded Merganser	—	—	12	1	—	6	13	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Common Merganser	2	—	2810	—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	—	9	—
Red-breasted Merganser	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
merganser sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
duck sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Wild Turkey	—	—	109	34	5	75	—	—	313	cw(1)	17	—	cw(1)	196	308	19
grouse sp.	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	10	5	—	—	19	—	—	—	1	—	—	25	1	—	—	2
Spruce Grouse	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-tailed Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Prairie-Chicken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Gray Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Pheasant	—	—	1	38	—	—	8	—	—	10	12	—	—	3	25	—
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Pigeon	1156	243	180	514	50	106	65	226	192	305	137	38	71	561	362	425
Eurasian Collared-Dove	—	—	—	5	—	7	12	—	—	19	46	—	—	70	43	—
Mourning Dove	5	—	66	118	—	—	6	—	4	—	—	1	—	81	50	—
American Coot	—	—	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killdeer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilson's Snipe	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
gull sp.	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	4	—	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California Gull	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	379	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	102	—	—	—	—
Island Gull	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glaucous Gull	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Black-backed Gull	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American White Pelican	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Blue Heron	—	—	cw(1)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey Vulture	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden Eagle	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Harrier	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	—	2	1	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—
Cooper's Hawk	—	—	3	2	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Goshawk	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
accipiter sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bald Eagle	112	7	68	44	12	18	14	3	9	6	24	12	31	58	60	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	4	—	27	31	—	—	8	—	—	8	10	—	—	33	20	—
Rough-legged Hawk	11	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	5	—	2	1	1	4	3	—
buteo sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
hawk sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	—	—	—	—	2	cw(1)	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—
Great Horned Owl	2	—	7	2	2	5	cw(1)	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	6	—
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Hawk Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barred Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Gray Owl	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Saw-whet Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
owl sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1, continued, CBC totals for Duluth, Ely, Excelsior, Faribault, Fredenberg, Fargo-Moorhead, Fairmont, Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, Glacial Ridge, Greenwald, Granite Falls, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Hastings-Etter, Henderson, and Hibbing.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	DULUT	ELY	EXCEL	FARIB	FREDN	FRGMH	FRMNT	GFEGF	GLACR	GREEN	GRFAL	GRMAR	GRRAP	HASTE	HENDR	HIBBG
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	—	89	63	—	16	26	1	3	5	28	—	16	54	65	—
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Three-toed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-backed Woodpecker	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Downy Woodpecker	111	20	216	212	113	46	89	6	18	26	58	83	24	105	186	35
Hairy Woodpecker	86	35	84	66	57	33	19	8	18	5	19	36	23	29	123	34
Northern Flicker	2	—	9	12	—	4	2	1	—	—	17	—	1	3	16	—
Norther Flicker (intergrade)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pileated Woodpecker	36	3	33	19	18	5	1	2	15	1	9	15	22	16	33	3
woodpecker sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Kestrel	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	4	—
Merlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
falcon sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shrike	2	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	4	3	—	3	1	3	—	3
Canada Jay	—	25	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	6
Blue Jay	89	34	341	227	99	34	114	24	38	44	67	136	120	221	323	51
Black-billed Magpie	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	17	—	—	—
American Crow	764	8	502	659	99	89	232	152	12	128	248	82	101	331	238	82
Common Raven	190	129	—	—	156	1	—	—	6	—	—	139	60	—	—	60
Horned Lark	—	—	—	3	—	—	20	—	—	1	3	—	—	30	—	—
Black-capped Chickadee	2686	439	1156	508	1464	189	182	59	150	58	153	636	455	391	439	625
Boreal Chickadee	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tufted Titmouse	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Red-breasted Nuthatch	204	49	21	19	156	5	10	9	2	3	4	194	46	7	11	43
White-breasted Nuthatch	149	18	282	188	69	79	104	19	48	23	61	18	89	101	183	22
Brown Creeper	2	—	16	7	—	5	17	—	—	1	33	—	—	2	3	2
Winter Wren	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Marsh Wren	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina Wren	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—
Mountain Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Townsend's Solitaire	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hermit Thrush	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
catharus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Robin	9	—	182	27	—	3	2	34	6	—	42	4	1	114	50	—
Varied Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Thrasher	1	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
European Starling	1453	24	620	2391	7	180	409	62	180	104	480	16	98	700	569	154
Bohemian Waxwing	512	106	—	—	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	148	—	—	—	206
Cedar Waxwing	21	—	33	79	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	168	—	108	60	—
House Sparrow	61	22	213	586	50	203	678	61	102	260	276	22	57	804	770	18
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evening Grosbeak	10	177	—	—	134	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	63	—	—	39
Pine Grosbeak	80	117	—	—	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	29	—	—	225
House Finch	79	—	201	293	—	154	75	35	—	11	20	—	6	117	122	—
finch sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purple Finch	20	—	10	73	2	14	13	10	—	2	24	1	4	1	65	—
Common Redpoll	77	53	49	7	148	12	2	31	161	136	1	83	55	3	—	120
Hairy Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Crossbill	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—
White-winged Crossbill	99	—	44	5	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	123	11	—	—	7
crossbill sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	3	—	3	144	20	68	2	153	—	—	11	2	12	—	—	—
American Goldfinch	49	—	251	210	2	2	56	—	—	12	11	—	17	84	164	5
acanthis/spinus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lapland Longspur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	230	—	—	—	—	—	—
Snow Bunting	—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	20	47	32	—
Field Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
American Tree Sparrow	1	—	50	58	—	—	12	—	6	6	27	—	4	243	54	—
Spizella sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco	22	3	193	240	—	49	132	80	28	40	114	18	1	647	515	—
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
White-throated Sparrow	1	—	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	1
Song Sparrow	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Towhee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Western Meadowlark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore Oriole	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-winged Blackbird	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	—	14	5	—
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
blackbird sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Common Yellowthroat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Yellow-rumped Warbler	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Cardinal	21	—	273	331	1	17	72	3	—	5	29	12	—	242	250	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Count	59	23	68	57	35	45	52	28	27	36	51	39	39	50	42	28
Individual Count	9455	1522	15974	20229	2923	15474	17528	1710	1361	1613	4160	2115	1687	6951	8451	2194

Table 1, continued.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	HNRK	HUTCH	ISBEL	ITSCA	JACK	KENS	LAMBR	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPRL	MARSH	MEEK	MILAC	MNKTO	MORIS
Snow Goose	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poss's Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater White-fronted Goose	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cackling Goose	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	10	25	—	—	—	5
Canada Goose	100	5273	—	—	2974	9	—	14336	394	cw(1)	2000	960	1	48	3454	1181
Cackling/Canada Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—
Trumpeter Swan	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	149	cw(1)	—	—	101	56	—	—
Tundra Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
swan sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gadwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Wigeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	—	394	—	—	—	—	—	313	261	cw(1)	95	125	65	—	619	89
American Black Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Pintail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canvasback	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redhead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lesser Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
scaup sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
King Eider	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlequin Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-tailed Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bufflehead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Goldeneye	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	13
Hooded Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
merganser sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	15
duck sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wild Turkey	10	73	—	—	23	8	—	106	214	95	—	—	68	6	66	2
grouse sp.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	13	8	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spruce Grouse	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-tailed Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Prairie-Chicken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	21	—	—	13	62	12	—	13	120	51	9	36	3	cw(1)	42
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Pigeon	103	462	—	31	171	248	45	210	347	253	77	47	202	39	407	245
Eurasian Collared-Dove	12	39	—	—	50	13	21	—	1	3	13	19	8	—	9	50
Mourning Dove	—	11	—	—	1	2	—	58	4	14	—	—	18	—	17	29
American Coot	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killdeer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilson's Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
gull sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iceland Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glaucous Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American White Pelican	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Great Blue Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey Vulture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Harrier	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cooper's Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Northern Goshawk	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)
accipiter sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bald Eagle	—	23	—	5	10	4	3	49	47	10	15	7	18	12	32	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	cw(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	4	20	—	—	8	6	5	23	14	17	2	4	20	—	20	2
Rough-legged Hawk	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	8	6	2	1	3	9	1	2	1
buteo sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
hawk sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1
Great Horned Owl	1	2	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	5	2	1	—	6	3
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Hawk Owl	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barred Owl	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	cw(1)	1	—	1	1	1	—
Great Gray Owl	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Saw-whet Owl	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
owl sp.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1

Table 1, continued, CBC totals for Hendricks, Northwest McLeod (Hutchinson), Isabella, Itasca State Park, Jackson County, Kensington, Lamberton, La Crosse – La Crescent, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Lac qui Parle, Marshall, Northern Meeker County, Mille Lacs South, Mankato, and Morris.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	HNRK	HUTCH	ISBEL	ITSCA	JACK	KENS	LAMBR	LCRLC	LFALL	LNGPR	LQPR	MARSH	MEEK	MILAC	MNKTO	MORIS
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	34	—	9	13	4	11	31	16	25	11	17	33	6	52	9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Three-toed Woodpecker	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-backed Woodpecker	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downy Woodpecker	19	85	86	14	33	22	11	40	32	43	32	16	75	8	89	25
Hairy Woodpecker	9	21	29	19	18	9	13	20	10	30	24	23	27	9	27	19
Northern Flicker	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	5	2	1	—	—	1	—
Norther Flicker (intergrade)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pileated Woodpecker	—	8	7	11	cw(1)	1	—	5	18	19	4	—	10	4	6	3
woodpecker sp.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Kestrel	—	4	—	—	4	—	1	3	2	3	—	2	1	—	3	1
Merlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	—
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
falcon sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shrike	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	3	—
Canada Jay	—	—	69	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blue Jay	22	140	56	154	49	44	59	76	161	140	102	48	153	38	127	45
Black-billed Magpie	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Crow	4	79	4	30	36	58	29	109	347	123	67	61	176	83	259	44
Common Raven	—	—	87	68	—	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	12	—	—
Horned Lark	2	12	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	9	34	12	12	—	20	65
Black-capped Chickadee	21	196	300	324	48	58	33	195	166	144	124	155	298	105	263	83
Boreal Chickadee	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tufted Titmouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	3	148	54	7	—	3	1	10	10	17	17	10	5	6	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	78	1	47	23	25	36	89	90	77	72	33	126	34	70	24
Brown Creeper	—	16	1	—	cw(1)	—	6	1	3	—	6	11	4	1	6	—
Winter Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marsh Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	4	—	—	—	—
Eastern Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountain Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Townsend's Solitaire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hermit Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
catharus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Robin	cw(1)	—	—	3	—	1	—	11	3	5	7	—	60	—	20	—
Varied Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Brown Thrasher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
European Starling	67	897	—	17	587	68	29	182	409	197	166	258	344	87	295	487
Bohemian Waxwing	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	14	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	26	64	—	38	—	6	21
House Sparrow	261	768	—	10	466	241	177	325	130	243	214	714	346	12	621	656
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Grosbeak	—	—	71	42	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Finch	3	98	—	—	5	5	28	64	5	6	—	219	74	—	83	49
finch sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purple Finch	3	1	—	9	11	—	1	14	1	33	14	5	17	—	—	3
Common Redpoll	—	—	6	92	3	124	7	—	32	133	35	3	79	—	—	32
Hairy Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Crossbill	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	—
White-winged Crossbill	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	12	—	1	3	8	6	—	—
crossbill sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	2	17	2	9	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	11	—	8	4
American Goldfinch	6	34	—	3	28	2	3	61	21	32	23	—	73	—	53	4
acanthis/spinus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lapland Longspur	—	20	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	143	—	5	20
Snow Bunting	4	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	17	81	—	—	1	—	—	20
Field Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Tree Sparrow	—	117	—	—	22	—	103	99	—	38	176	34	171	—	11	23
Spizella sparrow sp.	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco	—	199	—	9	55	2	13	110	17	149	111	20	193	—	236	30
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	2	—
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
White-throated Sparrow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
Song Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Towhee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Meadowlark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore Oriole	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-winged Blackbird	—	—	—	—	cw(1)	18	146	2	—	1	36	—	8	—	—	8
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	10	—	—	2	—	—	—
blackbird sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	—	1	5	—	—	—	2	—
Common Yellowthroat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-rumped Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Cardinal	3	59	—	1	30	2	9	76	28	33	18	4	80	—	195	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Count	26	40	23	30	33	28	34	53	43	38	49	38	52	24	49	38
Individual Count	700	9236	918	1208	4733	1039	829	2779	3001	2130	3664	2872	3133	578	7168	3348

Table 1, continued.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	MPLSN	MTLKW	MURRY	NEWUL	NWFOLD	NWRCO	OWATN	PELRAP	PHILB	PILGR	PINECO	PIPES	RCHST	RLNWR	ROSEU	RWFAL
Snow Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poss's Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater White-fronted Goose	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cackling Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada Goose	2266	—	493	28	—	17	4658	32	—	420	—	388	5405	—	—	—
Cackling/Canada Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trumpeter Swan	123	—	—	48	—	311	—	255	—	485	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tundra Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
swan sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gadwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Wigeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	5665	—	—	—	—	512	282	13	—	—	—	—	1354	—	—	—
American Black Duck	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Pintail	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canvasback	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redhead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lesser Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
scaup sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
King Eider	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlequin Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-tailed Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bufflehead	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Goldeneye	68	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Hooded Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Merganser	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	6	—	—
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
merganser sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
duck sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wild Turkey	125	23	—	—	155	110	50	43	265	126	128	5	187	14	—	172
grouse sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Spruce Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-tailed Grouse	—	—	—	—	105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	152	—
Greater Prairie-Chicken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	36	41	3	—	20	26	—	27	—	—	14	14	—	—	149
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Pigeon	239	178	24	374	43	368	73	255	120	55	93	307	313	12	148	107
Eurasian Collared-Dove	—	14	23	17	—	3	—	29	—	—	—	17	4	—	1	12
Mourning Dove	10	2	1	3	2	52	16	—	3	—	—	4	212	—	9	13
American Coot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killdeer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilson's Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
gull sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iceland Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glaucous Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American White Pelican	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Blue Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey Vulture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Harrier	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1
Northern Goshawk	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
accipiter sp.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bald Eagle	43	5	6	33	14	14	4	7	11	18	5	4	21	6	8	27
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Broad-winged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	28	12	—	10	—	14	10	—	7	3	—	4	31	—	—	18
Rough-legged Hawk	—	1	—	1	12	—	—	—	12	—	—	2	1	—	1	8
buteo sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
hawk sp.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Great Horned Owl	4	2	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	9	—	8
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Hawk Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barred Owl	5	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	4	1	—	2
Great Gray Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-eared Owl	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Saw-whet Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
owl sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2

Table 1, continued, CBC totals for Minneapolis (North), Mountain Lake-Windom, Murray County, New Ulm, Newfolden, Northern Wright County, Owatonna, Pelican Rapids, Philbrook, Pillager, Pine County, Pipestone, Rochester, Rice Lake NWR, Roseau, and Redwood Falls.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	MPLSN	MTLKW	MURRY	NEWUL	NWFOLD	NWRCO	OWTAN	PELRAP	PHILB	PILGR	PINECO	PIPES	RCHST	RLNWR	ROUSEJ	RWFAL
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	53	11	8	25	—	33	45	21	19	11	6	3	63	3	1	38
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Three-toed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Black-backed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downy Woodpecker	148	35	25	82	—	58	110	27	18	26	13	15	148	3	3	79
Hairy Woodpecker	47	12	9	17	13	26	42	19	15	11	22	5	55	6	10	39
Northern Flicker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	5
Norther Flicker (intergrade)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pileated Woodpecker	14	—	—	—	3	11	12	12	13	20	10	—	13	—	1	13
woodpecker sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Kestrel	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	2
Merlin	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
falcon sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shrike	3	—	—	—	9	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	1	1	2	3
Canada Jay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blue Jay	145	70	94	78	39	119	117	123	116	239	117	51	182	66	10	110
Black-billed Magpie	—	—	—	—	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
American Crow	771	51	9	137	27	161	575	79	75	161	60	71	2281	28	43	210
Common Raven	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	4	9	25	41	—	—	14	111	—
Horned Lark	—	—	505	3	2	—	40	—	16	—	—	21	—	—	—	95
Black-capped Chickadee	774	62	20	221	88	231	282	260	133	391	145	17	435	153	98	316
Boreal Chickadee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—
Tufted Titmouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	4	10	9	2	9	20	5	19	28	7	12	14	4	3	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	204	19	24	90	30	58	84	114	54	71	13	11	141	7	21	70
Brown Creeper	4	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	—	14
Winter Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marsh Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Eastern Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Mountain Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Townsend's Solitaire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hermit Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
catharus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Robin	194	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Varied Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Thrasher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
European Starling	93	118	47	417	27	410	334	132	320	17	30	107	318	24	10	155
Bohemian Waxwing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	22	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	—	28	—	14	—	—	—	51
House Sparrow	156	799	321	480	125	307	393	127	37	20	18	470	606	—	24	304
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	10	—	—
House Finch	93	42	22	51	—	55	247	81	—	—	—	33	241	—	5	20
finch sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purple Finch	—	1	—	9	7	25	23	29	1	—	1	4	11	—	—	53
Common Redpoll	90	—	—	—	190	4	3	216	104	324	—	9	6	20	18	—
Hairy Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Crossbill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-winged Crossbill	—	—	—	3	—	6	—	—	5	—	—	—	10	2	8	—
crossbill sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	—	4	—	1	25	—	51	—	14	17	—	5	13	—	—	—
American Goldfinch	204	22	21	35	—	37	84	31	54	20	—	8	103	—	—	13
acanthis/spinus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lapland Longspur	—	240	50	208	1	—	—	—	50	—	—	23	—	2	—	62
Snow Bunting	—	137	13	—	—	12	—	61	101	188	—	—	—	155	5	7
Field Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Tree Sparrow	14	24	12	16	—	204	21	18	22	4	—	13	73	—	—	131
Spizella sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco	100	30	15	156	4	132	164	94	55	2	—	28	229	—	—	226
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
White-throated Sparrow	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Song Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Towhee	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Meadowlark	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore Oriole	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-winged Blackbird	1	50	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	3	—	—	142
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
blackbird sp.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Common Yellowthroat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pine Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-rumped Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Northern Cardinal	124	9	1	36	2	88	204	7	12	2	1	2	243	1	—	113
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Count	46	38	31	36	27	42	38	37	34	29	23	38	54	23	28	54
Individual Count	11981	2529	1325	2645	998	3522	7960	2138	1701	2730	765	1695	12969	560	861	2954

Table 1, continued.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	RWING3	SAXZIM	SCCLG	SHRNWR	SPNES	SPNOR	THRBR	TMNWR	UPPG	VIRGN	WABAS	WALKR	WILDR	WILMR	WINON	WWATR	TOTAL
Snow Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Poss's Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Greater White-fronted Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Cackling Goose	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	118
Canada Goose	386	—	1935	17	255	1805	—	—	1	1	357	35	569	4208	1649	15	100020
Cackling/Canada Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Trumpeter Swan	22	—	233	290	53	187	—	10	146	—	73	17	194	29	—	36	4183
Tundra Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	—	1413
swan sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	25
Wood Duck	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	22
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
Gadwall	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	251
American Wigeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	17
Mallard	247	—	1988	—	135	4081	1	—	18	59	51	—	2	446	203	14	30931
American Black Duck	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	53
Northern Pintail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Canvasback	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Redhead	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Greater Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Lesser Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41
scaup sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
King Eider	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Harlequin Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Long-tailed Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67
Buffhead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Common Goldeneye	207	—	—	—	—	14	13	—	6	5	—	1	—	16	—	—	1759
Hooded Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
Common Merganser	798	—	8	—	—	5	1	—	10	1	93	16	1	3	—	—	4041
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
merganser sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
duck sp.	3500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	3613
Wild Turkey	100	16	106	121	389	69	—	—	28	18	2	67	45	3	—	51	5266
grouse sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ruffed Grouse	1	8	—	9	11	—	10	6	2	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	195
Spruce Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Sharp-tailed Grouse	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	333
Greater Prairie-Chicken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	124
Gray Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	—	1	7	38	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	20	30	—	7	1110
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Rock Pigeon	547	41	310	162	409	1802	250	3	16	647	230	30	311	237	683	127	18709
Eurasian Collared-Dove	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	24	11	—	690
Mourning Dove	23	—	1	29	108	45	6	—	—	1	62	—	53	2	14	23	1384
American Coot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Killdeer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Wilson's Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
gull sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57
Ring-billed Gull	3	—	22	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	316
California Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	1	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	719
Iceland Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Glaucous Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
American White Pelican	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Great Blue Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Turkey Vulture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Golden Eagle	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Northern Harrier	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	23
Cooper's Hawk	1	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	34
Northern Goshawk	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
accipiter sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bald Eagle	83	11	14	32	47	110	17	15	17	25	102	17	28	19	51	21	1974
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Broad-winged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Red-tailed Hawk	29	—	11	16	32	39	1	—	—	—	14	1	19	21	11	21	747
Rough-legged Hawk	5	4	—	2	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	169
buteo sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
hawk sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	7
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Great Horned Owl	—	—	5	2	13	4	—	3	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	148
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Northern Hawk Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barred Owl	—	—	4	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	72
Great Gray Owl	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Long-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7
owl sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Belted Kingfisher	3	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	52

Table 1, continued, CBC totals for Red Wing, Sax-Zim, St. Cloud-Collegeville, Sherburne NWR, St. Paul (Northeast Suburban), St. Paul (North), Two Harbors, Tamarac NWR, Uppgaard WMA, Virginia, Wabasha, Walker, Wild River, Willmar, Winona, and Whitewater River, plus totals.

The 2020–2021 Minnesota Christmas Bird Count

	RWING3	SAXZIM	SCCLG	SHRNWR	SPNES	SPNOR	THRBR	TMNWR	UPPG	VIRGN	WABAS	WALKR	WILDR	WILMR	WINON	WWATR	TOTAL
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	42	1	32	29	110	96	2	16	17	—	37	15	38	34	17	8	1822
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
American Three-toed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Black-backed Woodpecker	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Downy Woodpecker	62	16	55	33	220	216	71	33	23	5	59	23	83	102	66	24	4637
Hairy Woodpecker	18	21	23	26	98	87	44	33	18	5	25	13	46	35	33	17	2263
Northern Flicker	2	—	3	4	6	15	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	9	3	2	175
Norther Flicker (intergrade)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pileated Woodpecker	20	4	8	12	55	24	8	22	19	1	13	18	11	17	7	2	888
woodpecker sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
American Kestrel	5	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	12	2	76
Merlin	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	16
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
falcon sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Northern Shrike	2	6	5	2	3	6	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	128
Canada Jay	—	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	208
Blue Jay	78	61	109	243	379	234	160	117	171	53	106	155	148	125	106	65	8881
Black-billed Magpie	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	311
American Crow	253	36	238	279	567	1285	105	29	58	53	218	21	340	255	213	125	16759
Common Raven	—	50	1	7	5	—	104	31	56	115	—	20	30	—	—	—	2163
Horned Lark	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1137
Black-capped Chickadee	182	564	329	308	1163	1074	722	251	346	317	141	229	321	393	172	59	28065
Boreal Chickadee	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	19
Tufted Titmouse	10	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	1	90
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	29	9	8	21	14	74	19	19	10	—	23	7	14	12	2	1813
White-breasted Nuthatch	55	13	111	71	263	308	15	62	64	3	59	33	103	127	46	30	5852
Brown Creeper	—	2	2	1	4	9	—	—	2	—	9	1	2	4	—	—	306
Winter Wren	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Marsh Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Carolina Wren	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	24
Eastern Bluebird	8	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	56
Mountain Bluebird	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Townsend's Solitaire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Hermit Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
catharus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
American Robin	24	2	2	111	305	850	3	6	—	4	77	—	11	15	58	12	3601
Varied Thrush	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brown Thrasher	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
European Starling	299	59	243	69	279	1042	25	—	—	88	88	1	539	338	979	220	22827
Bohemian Waxwing	—	3	—	—	—	—	205	8	32	80	—	46	—	—	—	—	2111
Cedar Waxwing	52	—	37	20	16	4	—	28	28	—	107	44	6	45	46	85	1658
House Sparrow	366	10	106	79	137	872	93	10	27	—	433	—	178	336	614	241	20289
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Evening Grosbeak	3	112	—	—	—	—	33	1	—	27	—	9	—	—	—	—	1123
Pine Grosbeak	—	67	—	—	—	—	83	14	1	214	—	—	—	110	158	30	1644
House Finch	20	—	48	—	152	133	—	—	—	—	57	—	110	158	30	18	3750
finch sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Purple Finch	8	1	1	6	32	6	—	68	—	—	32	—	14	42	6	11	952
Common Redpoll	42	96	43	6	48	8	42	105	—	38	1	1	26	75	2	80	4473
Hoary Redpoll	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Red Crossbill	—	10	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89
White-winged Crossbill	—	49	1	91	2	26	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	685
crossbill sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pine Siskin	16	6	3	20	42	16	9	16	—	—	1	14	7	—	—	—	1002
American Goldfinch	63	—	23	58	336	339	—	39	—	—	50	14	150	52	23	15	3557
acanthis/spinus sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
Lapland Longspur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1159
Snow Bunting	8	4	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	2	—	28	1902
Field Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	6
American Tree Sparrow	61	—	20	60	62	40	—	2	—	—	113	—	126	45	55	184	3098
Spizella sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Dark-eyed Junco	430	—	88	72	314	180	4	6	6	—	374	—	155	68	111	568	7831
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67	—	75
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
White-throated Sparrow	1	—	—	1	19	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	73
Song Sparrow	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	34
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	11
Spotted Towhee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Western Meadowlark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Baltimore Oriole	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Red-winged Blackbird	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	14	—	—	526
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81
blackbird sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Common Grackle	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	55
Common Yellowthroat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pine Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	9
Northern Cardinal	103	1	44	33	309	233	13	2	6	—	76	—	156	37	73	68	4360
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total Count	49	39	43	43	52	59	42	33	28	30	47	27	43	52	44	40	—
Individual Count	4709	1359	6226	2349	6492	15407	2234	971	1139	1794	3132	865	3860	7408	5386	2209	336946

Table 1, concluded.



The Owl in the Attic

Notes on some Minnesota Birds

Thomas S. Roberts

Selected sections reprinted from
Roberts, Thomas S. 1890. Notes on some Minnesota Birds. *The Auk* 7:213–214

It is thought that sufficient interest attaches to the occurrence in Minnesota of the five species of birds mentioned below to justify the publication at this time of the following notes in regard to them. Two of the five — the Burrowing Owl and Henslow's Sparrow — are here reported from the State for the first time, so far as the writer can discover. The published statements in regard to the others have been in such general terms as to give no very definite idea of the real manner of their occurrence.

Columbus holboellii. **HOLBCELL'S GREBE.** — This bird is found in limited numbers during the summer season in the west-central part of the State. It may, and doubtless does, occur in other portions of the prairie region of the State, but as yet no positive evidence of its presence has been obtained. Birds supposed to be of this species were seen in Elbow Lake, Grant Co., in June, 1879, by Mr. Franklin Benner and the writer, but no positive identification could be then made. Its eggs, taken in the vicinity, were seen at that time in the collection of Mr. Jasper N. Sanford of the town of Elbow Lake. Subsequently, in the fall of 1851, in response to numerous inquiries, Mr. Sanford kindly sent to me the skin of a male of this species together with several eggs taken early in the preceding summer near Elbow Lake. These specimens are now in my collection. This affords satisfactory assurance of the breeding of this Grebe in Minnesota.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa. **BURROWING OWL.** — On July 19, 1881, while passing through the southwestern part of Swift County, which lies in the western part of Minnesota, I came upon a small colony of these Owls living in fox or badger dens in a prairie hillside.

There were apparently not more than two pairs of old birds with the young of the year. One of the young birds was shot, and the skin preserved. Many weeks spent in travelling through the prairie portions of the State failed to disclose the presence of this bird in any other locality.

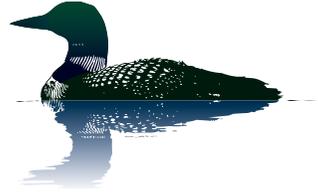
Ammodramus henslowii. — **HENSLOW'S SPARROW.** — A male bird in full song was taken by the writer on June 16, 1880, near Minneapolis, and the species was evidently breeding in the wet marsh where it was shot. In February, 1881, I was shown a specimen by Mr. W. W. Eager which he had shot June 25, 1880, in Grant County in the west-central part of Minnesota. Mr. Eager regarded the bird as not uncommon in that locality, but Mr. Benner and myself failed to find it during two weeks collecting in the same County in 1879. Dr. Wm. L. Abbott includes this species without comment in a list of birds (*Forest and Stream*, Jan. 15, 1880) taken in July, 1879, at Pembina, N. D., which is in the Red River Valley close to the extreme northwestern corner of Minnesota.

Spizella pusilla. **FIELD SPARROW.**

Helminthophila pinus. — **BLUE-WINGED YELLOW WARBLER.** — May 17, 1880, I shot a male bird at Minnehaha Falls near Minneapolis. The skin is now in my collection. This Warbler is undoubtedly rare here, and this is probably very near the limit of its northward migration. Dr. Hvoslef speaks of it as a rare migrant at Lanesboro, Fillmore Co., and records its occurrence in August. "Aug. 28, '87, shot 2." — Hvoslef.

— **Thos. L. [sic] Roberts, Minneapolis, Minn.**

Notes of Interest



FIRST NESTING RECORD OF PEREGRINE FALCONS IN CROOKSTON, POLK COUNTY

— On 6 April 2017, John Loegering received a notice from Scott Erdman that two Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) were using the nest box on the Mid-Valley Grain Elevator at 1220 South Main Street, Crookston, Polk County. Loegering notified Tim Driscoll, who identified a banded adult male perched on a nearby radio tower and an unbanded adult female in the nest box on 7 April. The female flew to the radio tower (~135 meters south of the nest box) and perched near the male. The male made a short courtship display flight and then flew to the female and copulated with her.

Using a telescope, Driscoll was able to read the color band on the male and identify him as Jack, a three-year-old that he had banded as a nestling in Fargo, North Dakota, in 2014. (Jack had been named in honor of longtime Fargo radio personality Jack Sunday.) Since the after-second-year female (hatched in 2015 or earlier) was unbanded, her hatch location was unknown. Although Peregrine Falcons have historically nested on cliffs, in recent times they will also nest on human-made structures in urban settings (Tordoff and Redig 1988).

Chris Anderson, a University of Minnesota Crookston student, had built the nest box as part of an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program that Jack and his mate were now using. Loegering had been his faculty advisor. They had donated the nest box in 2011 to the Mid-Valley Grain Elevator; employees there had placed it high up in an elevator window. The nest box is located ~400 meters west of the Red Lake River in the southern outskirts of Crookston, Minnesota.

On 10 April, Driscoll observed the female feeding on avian prey while Jack perched next to her on the nest box ledge (Figure 1). Bruce Meyer, the Wheat House Manager of the Mid-Valley Grain Elevator, escorted Driscoll to the nest box; there were no eggs.

Driscoll watched on 21 April as Jack flew to the nest box and waited on the ledge. The female left the nest box and Jack then entered, presumably to take over incubating the eggs. Another likely incubation exchange was observed by Driscoll on 1 May, when the female replaced Jack in the nest box.

Meyer escorted Driscoll to the nest box on 26 May, and in the nest scrape they observed one nestling about three days old and three unhatched eggs (Figure 2). Assuming an incubation period of 34 days, backdating would indicate that incubation began around 19 April and the first chick hatched around 23 May. On 5 June, Driscoll observed Jack delivering avian prey to the female at the nest box; she took the prey inside, most likely to feed a nestling.

On 12 June, Driscoll, Loegering, and Meyer climbed the elevator to the nest box to retrieve any nestlings for banding. We saw that only one of the four eggs had hatched. When Driscoll tried to remove the nestling, he noticed that its right leg was wrapped in a strand of chicken wire. The nestling's mobility was limited to a few inches in all directions. Several people had been given



Figure 1. The larger female Peregrine (left) and Jack, the male, perched on the nest box ledge, 10 April 2017, Crookston, Polk County. Photo by Timothy G. Driscoll.

access to the nest box after its placement in 2011, and we had not previously been aware that a sheet of chicken wire had been installed in the nest box under the pea gravel. Driscoll unwrapped the wire from the nestling's leg and carried the nestling to the ground for inspection. Loegering tucked the exposed chicken wire under the pea gravel so it would not pose an additional danger to the falcons.

We examined the nestling's right leg (Figure 3). Although the soft tissue was swollen, the leg was not broken and there were no open wounds. The ankle was flexible, the toes were able to grip, and the nestling had the ability to stand upright. We applied some antibacterial ointment to the inflamed area. Based on plumage characteristics and backdating to 23 May, this nestling was estimated to be about 20 days old; it weighed 538 grams and appeared to be a male. Since the right leg was swollen, we did not place a color band on it, but we did place a United States Geological Survey federal band on the left leg. Loegering named him Rand, in honor of preeminent wildlife ecologist Rand Aldo Leopold. We returned Rand to the nest box.

Driscoll observed Rand resting on the nest box ledge on 24 June. The female was perched on an elevator silo nearby. Rand stood up and ran into the nest box; he appeared to be in good condition. Jack showed up and joined the female on the elevator silo.

On 3 July, a concerned neighbor called Loegering and reported a raptor on the ground. Loegering and Lisa Loegering drove to the neighborhood and found Rand grounded about 225 meters south of the nest. They contacted Driscoll and monitored Rand until Driscoll arrived several minutes later. At this point, Rand was perched on a chain-link fence, and we were able to capture him with a dip net. He was about 41 days old, likely recently fledged, and not capable of full flight. We inspected his injured right leg and noted that the swelling had subsided. However, he did have a fault bar on RP10 which was about 80% grown. RP7–RP9 were about 50% grown (Figure 4). He was also missing two rectrices. Earlier, when Rand's right leg was still wrapped in chicken wire, he had been confined to the back corner of the nest box with his right side adjacent to the nest box wall. It is very likely that his right wing and tail contacted the wall when he tried to move. Physical stress episodes can cause fault bars, feather damage, and possible feather loss (Bortolotti et al. 2002). Fault bars, also known as stress marks, are noticeable aberrations in growing feathers that can result from a variety of stressors, including restraint (Ritchie et al. 1994). The shorter RP7–RP9 are perhaps replacements for feathers that were lost due to the trauma caused by the chicken wire.

Rand showed no signs of injury and appeared capable of flight, just unwilling to fly from the ground. Driscoll has observed this grounded behavior in other recently fledged Peregrine Falcons. The best course of action is to get the fledgling back into the nest or to a nearby secure location. Since his leg was no longer swollen, we placed a color band on it. Driscoll climbed an extension ladder and placed Rand on the flat roof of a nearby building where the adults could care for him.

Driscoll observed both adults and Rand perched on the radio tower on 10 July. Rand, who was about 48 days old, flew to the roof of the elevator. The four shorter primary feathers (RP7–RP10) were nearly fully grown. Both adults landed near Rand on the roof of the elevator. This was our



Figure 2. Peregrine Falcon nestling (about three days old) and three unhatched eggs in the nest box, 26 May 2017, Crookston, Polk County. Photo by Timothy G. Driscoll.



Figure 3. The nestling's right leg being examined by Driscoll and Loegering, 12 June 2017, Crookston, Polk County. Photo by Maddie Everett.



Figure 4. Rand displaying a fault bar on RP10 and shorter RP7–RP9 feathers (gap indicated by white arrow), 3 July 2017, Crookston, Polk County. Photo by Lisa L. Loegering.

last observation of Rand.

On 30 July, Driscoll observed the female perched on the radio tower while Jack was inside the nest box. This was our last observation of Jack. The female was last seen perched near the nest box on 23 August. Driscoll and Loegering replaced the pea gravel and removed the chicken wire from the nest box on 20 March 2018.

To our knowledge, this is the first documented Peregrine Falcon nesting in Crookston, Minnesota.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Bruce Meyer and the management team of the Mid-Valley Grain Elevator for allowing installation of and access to the nest box. Thank you to Lisa L. Loegering and Erika L. Kolbow for their assistance in the field. We wish to acknowledge Scott Erdman as the person who initiated the nest box project. Our appreciation is extended to an anonymous reviewer and to Anthony Hertzell for their contributions in improving this article.

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— **Timothy G. Driscoll, Director, Urban Raptor Research Project, Grand Forks, ND; John P. Loegering, Professor, University of Minnesota, Crookston; and Amy L. Gillett, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin–Stout, Menomonie, WI.**

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Minnesota's Second Painted Redstart

Anthony X. Hertzell

Early on the morning of 21 October 2020, Sally Reynolds noticed an unusual bird in her yard in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul, Ramsey County. This was a small passerine typical in size, shape, and behavior of a North American warbler. Based on its overall blackish color, cardinal red breast, and bold white wing patches, she identified it as a Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*).

Ms. Reynolds quickly got the word out to the birding community via social media, and by the afternoon dozens of local birders had descended on the area hoping to see this potential second state record. At about 2:00 P.M., Thomas Hertzell and I briefly caught sight of it picking at insects along the eaves of a garage roof about two blocks north of the original Reynolds location, but it quickly disappeared before we could document it. We started in the direction that the bird had flown, and promptly came upon a group of birders who had just rediscovered it themselves. For the next four hours, crowds of birders were treated to excellent views of the redstart as it meandered through the neighborhood, searching for insects in the crevices of porch roofs, window screens, door frames, and brick chimneys. The bird was also briefly observed and photographed on the morning of the 22nd, but was not seen thereafter.

This was a Painted Redstart (or "Painted Whitestart," according to some authors) apparently late into its first year. Its head, face, and upper parts were a very dark bluish-black. Directly beneath each eye was a series of four white spots positioned closely together and forming a small inferior eye arc. Wings were deep blackish-brown and only slightly paler than the upper parts. The primaries and secondaries were subtly edged with white, and more obviously so on the tertials. Each wing held one wide, bold, white wing patch at the greater coverts. The upper tail was generally the same bluish-black as the upper parts but



Painted Redstart, 21 October 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Lon Baumgardt.

subtly browner, and when slightly flared, R6 was obviously edged white. When the tail was well-flared, R6–R4 also showed much white.

Similar to the upper parts, the upper throat and flanks were dark blue-black, though the flanks were slightly lighter and appeared to grade somewhat into grayish-black toward the vent. The lower breast and belly were bright red, while the lower belly was white mottled with dark gray. The under tail was mostly brownish gray — at least distally — with the outer three rectrices on both sides boldly white. Bill, legs, and feet appeared black.

The lower belly, legs, and feet were wet, and because of this, the feet eventually became caked with debris, though this did not seem to impede the bird's mobility. It flew well and foraged nearly constantly, actively searching for insects on the ground, the sides of buildings, and high on rooftops. Most often it fed by gleaning insects from cracks and crevices, but occasionally by flycatching.

Multiple observers documented this bird with photographs and a few with written descriptions. The MOU Records Committee unani-



Painted Redstart, 21 October 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Thomas Burns.

mously accepted it as a second state record (Tustison, 2021).

Earlier in the month, the daytime temperatures in St. Paul had been as high as 80°F on the 6th and 79°F on the 9th. But by the 18th, the high had dropped to just 35°F and on the day of discovery, it was 33°F with a low the previous night of 28°F. Strong southerly winds from 20–30 mph prevailed from the 11th through the 17th and may have contributed to the bird's arrival.

Painted Redstart is not a rare species within its North American range. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) "Red List of Threatened Species" lists it as a species of "Least Concern," though it also reports it to be in decline (IUCN, 2021). Despite this, it is exceptionally unusual to find this species away from its breeding range, with perhaps only a dozen or so extralimital records east to Massachusetts and north to Manitoba (eBird 2021). Interestingly, there were at least three other easterly sightings of Painted Redstart in 2020: 18 October, Kings County, NY, second state record (eBird, 2021); 5–6 October, Pea Island NWR, NC, first state record (eBird, 2021); and 21 September, Stanley County, SD, first state

record (Anderson, 2021).

This was Minnesota's second Painted Redstart and the first to be photographed. The only previous record was of a bird found by Maurita Geerts on 30 September 1992 near Wealthwood in Aitkin County (Geerts, 1993; Eckert 1993).

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— Mounds View, MN.

Great Lakes Piping Plovers Dispersal to Lake of the Woods, Minnesota: Recent Records

Francesca Cuthbert¹, Jeff Birchem², Christine Herwig²,
Stephanie Schubel¹, Alice Van Zoeren¹, and Amy Westmark²

Three populations of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are recognized in North America: Northern Great Plains, Great Lakes, and Atlantic Coast (USFWS 2003). Boundaries place plovers nesting in Minnesota in two different populations (Great Plains; Great Lakes). Near the time of listing, the primary nesting site in the state was on Pine and Curry's Island, Lake of the Woods (LOTW), Lake of the Woods County, but nesting by a few pairs was also recorded in the Duluth/Superior Harbor (DSH) area (Pfannmuller et al. 2017)). The DSH location is within the Great Lakes population boundary; the LOTW site is within the Great Plains population.

Banding studies (Wiens and Cuthbert 1984, 1988; Haig and Oring 1988) demonstrated that LOTW plovers dispersed to Manitoba, thus confirming a biological link of these plovers to the Great Plains population. Until recently, no evidence existed to demonstrate LOTW plovers dispersed to or from the Great Lakes although Great Lakes birds are genetically allied with Great Plains plovers placing them in the same subspecies, *C.m.circumcinctus* (Miller et al. 2010). Atlantic Coast plovers are genetically distinct enough from the Interior plovers to be assigned to subspecies *C.m.melodus*. The Great Plains and Atlantic populations have federal Threatened status; plovers nesting in the Great Lakes population boundaries are Endangered (USFWS 2003).

As the once localized and small Great Lakes population (12–17 pairs at listing) began to slowly increase and expand nesting from one state (Michigan) and two Great Lakes (Michigan and Superior), we confirmed several records (e.g., South Dakota; Manitoba) of Great Plains banded plovers breeding within the boundaries of the Great Lakes population. Previously, no records existed for the reverse dispersal direction. However, recently we photographed bands on two Piping Plover females that origi-

nally hatched within the Great Lakes population boundary and subsequently nested in Lake of the Woods, MN. Both females were paired with an unbanded male; we believe it is likely that the male was the same individual because males have high fidelity to previous nest locations. This short article provides additional details on these birds; information on their movements is important because connectivity of populations potentially increases genetic diversity and current linkages may indicate historical dispersal routes when the Great Lakes population was larger (Russell 1983) and occupied a broader breeding range. Finally, dispersal to the western edge of the Great Lakes population boundary provides encouraging evidence for recovery of the Endangered Great Lakes population.

Nest Record #1: On 12 June 2017, Jeff Birchem, retired conservation officer, MN DNR, contacted Christine Herwig, MN DNR Non-game Biologist, MN DNR, Bemidji Office, to report finding a pair of Piping Plovers on Morris Point, LOTW, MN; Herwig was contacted again on 2 July with photos of a nest and a female banded plover; by this date, the nest had been destroyed. Birchem reported that he found feathers and broken eggshells but no sign of adult or juvenile plovers. He believed one or both adults were killed by a mink (*Mustela vison*) despite the presence of a predator enclosure (Anteau et al. 2021). Because we received no additional reports after Birchem's observations, we assume the female died near the nest site.

We were able to trace the following about its history. This plover, a female, hatched on North Manitou Island (Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore), Michigan, in 2015. It was banded with a USGS aluminum leg band and color bands to indicate its natal site prior to fledging. On 18 January 2016, a research team from Virginia Tech University recaptured the bird on Little St. Simons Island, GA, and replaced the

chick bands with an adult unique combination. She was reported in the general area of her winter recapture site twice more through March 2017. This female was not observed in summer 2016; the first and only report after her January-March records was the observation by Birchem. It is possible that she nested in LOTW in 2016 but was not observed as essentially all one-year-old females breed unless circumstances are unusual.

Nest Record #2: In summer 2020, Amy Westmark, MN DNR Non-game Wildlife Specialist, Bemidji Office, reported that Jeff Birchem found a new color-banded plover on Morris Point, LOTW, MN, on 19 June. This female was also paired with an unbanded male and their nest was photographed containing four eggs. Derek Klostermeier and Jeff Birchem returned to the site on 7 July and observed three chicks; Birchem believes all three unbanded chicks ultimately fledged. Based on photos we were able to identify the female's band combination. It hatched on Cat Island, near Green Bay, WI, in 2019. Therefore, its natal origin was the Great Lakes population. After it fledged in WI, this bird spent its first winter on Harbor Island, SC, from mid-August 2019 to mid-January 2020 before migrating to LOTW. After its first breeding season, it again returned to Harbor Island where it was reported from late December until early April 2021.

Nest Record #3: On 18 May 2021, Jeff Birchem and Steve Maxson discovered the same female Birchem reported in 2020. She was on Morris Point again and appeared paired with an unbanded male, but no nesting behavior was noted. Subsequently, a full clutch of four eggs was found on 25 May and a wire enclosure (Anteau et al. 2021) was placed around the nest on the 26th to deter predators. On 10 June, Birchem reported that a predator, likely a red fox dug under the enclosure and ate the eggs. On 19 June a second nest with four eggs was discovered and a reinforced enclosure was added. By 17 July, three eggs had hatched and by the end of July one chick and the male were still observed. Birchem reported one chick fledged. In late 2021, the banded female returned to South Carolina where she was reported on Harbor and Kiawah islands on three dates in December 2021. Birchem will be monitoring for one or both members of this pair in spring/

summer 2022.

These dispersal records are significant for several reasons. First, they represent the only documented cases of Piping Plovers from the Great Lakes population nesting within the boundaries of the Northern Great Plains population. They are also the first nesting records for the species in Minnesota since 2013 (Westmark pers. comm.). These recent transboundary records were not unexpected, however, as plovers have been dispersing outside the core area (Michigan) in recent years, likely in response to higher-than-average Great Lakes water levels, an increase in number of nesting plovers in the population, and limited habitat.

In addition to the Northern Great Plains records, four Great Lakes origin plovers have been confirmed nesting within the Atlantic Coast population boundaries in Massachusetts, and North Carolina (Hillman et al. 2012; Cuthbert unpublished data). In summary, recent dispersal movements recorded into and out of the Great Lakes population suggest that historically, when the Great Lakes population was larger (Russell 1983), the three populations may have exchanged individuals and genetic material. Given that the Great Lakes population likely underwent a bottleneck in the 1900s (Miller et al. 2010), and remains small (~70 pairs), gene flow at population boundaries may be important to maintain genetic diversity and resilience of this small population. Miller et al. (2010) reported the Great Lakes population has the lowest genetic diversity of the three populations. The situation in Lake of the Woods should be followed in future years with a focus on locating nesting plovers as well as banding and obtaining genetic samples from unbanded individuals to confirm population origins and connections.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to many people who have maintained careful records and undertaken actions to protect the Lake of the Woods birds at all stages in their annual cycle. We especially note colleagues in Minnesota: Johanna Birchem (took the original photo of the Nest #1 banded female); Bruce Lenning, Beth Siverhus, Scott Laudenslager, and Steve Maxson. In the wintering area we received regular reports from Peggy Lucas, who verified the non-breeding location for the female at nests #2 and #3 in South



Piping Plover, Morris Point, Lake of the Woods County, 28 May 2021. Photo by Steve Maxson.

Carolina. We also recognize the Piping Plover field crew from Virginia Tech University who rebanded the female from Nest #1 during the winter, thus confirming her permanent identity. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative provided funds to promote recovery of the Great Lakes Piping Plover population.

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The 2021 Spring Season

1 March through 31 May 2021

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The state's first Limpkin, fourth Black Rail and Wilson's Plover, and a Neotropical Cormorant returning to a small park south of Minneapolis for the third consecutive year highlighted this spring season in which 324 species were recorded. In addition to these Accidentals, 14 Casual species were discovered, some of these represented by multiple records: Eurasian Wigeon (2), Black-necked Stilt (14), Red Knot (2), Red Phalarope, Glossy Ibis (2), Mississippi Kite, Lewis's Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Mountain Bluebird, Eurasian Tree Sparrow (4), Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Yellow-throated Warbler (4), and Painted Bunting. Twenty-seven of these records were the firsts for their respective counties.

Snow and Cackling geese migrated into the state in late February, while Ross's and Greater White-fronteds first appeared in early March. For the first time ever, Trumpeter Swans were reported from all 87 counties. Drake Cinnamon Teal were found in Big Stone, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Stearns, and Stevens counties, while Freeborn and Winona hosted apparent hybrids with Blue-winged Teal. Eurasian Teal were discovered in Lincoln and Stearns counties. A pair of Harlequin Ducks lingered from the winter in Grand Marais until late April, while others were seen in Two Harbors and at multiple locations on or near Lake Superior in St. Louis County. A Surf Scoter in Steele County and a White-winged in Chisago were the only scoters found away from St. Louis County.

Wild Turkeys were observed in 85 counties and Eurasian Collared Doves in 75; both tallies were all-time records for any season. The season's only White-winged Dove was found in Winnebago, Faribault County. The ten counties where Common Gallinules were seen was the highest spring total ever for this species. Migrant Yellow Rails were discovered in Blue Earth and Hennepin counties; the former was

a first for that county. A Black Rail found in Anoka County was also the fourth record for the state. At the very end of the season, Minnesota's first Limpkin was discovered at the Paul Hugo Farms W.M.A. in Washington County. This location is about 185 miles farther north than any other Limpkin in the eBird database (through April 2022).

An incredible 20 Black-necked Stilts were seen in ten counties, including firsts for Carver, Sherburne, Sibley, and Washington. Six Piping Plovers was an excellent tally for this species, and also produced a first county record for Steele. The state's fourth Wilson's Plover was discovered in Duluth in mid-May; remarkably, all prior records of this species have also been from Duluth.

Several shorebirds were record-early or near record-early migrants south, including Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpiper, and White-rumped Sandpiper were near record-early north. First county records among the shorebirds were a Whimbrel in Yellow Medicine and a Willet in Hubbard. With the first sighting in Pennington County in over 30 years, Red Knots — a borderline Casual species — have now been seen in eight of the last nine spring seasons. A Red Phalarope in Todd County was this species' fourth spring record.

Several Parasitic Jaegers were identified in St. Louis County between mid-May and the end of the season. Iceland Gulls seen were predominantly the Thayer's subspecies; the only Kumlien's was reported from Duluth in mid April. Spring Lesser Black-backed Gull records have been steadily increasing since around 2015; this season saw reports of about 17 individuals. There were scattered reports of Great Black-backed Gulls in March and April, all from Duluth.

In late April, Red-throated Loons were dis-

covered in Benton and along the Dakota/Goodhue county border; subsequent reports were all from St. Louis County and continued into the summer season. The only Pacific Loon reports were from Park Point, for a week in mid May.

In 2019, a Neotropical Cormorant was found at a small park in Richfield, just south of Minneapolis, in late July. In 2020 two Neotropics were seen in the same park, the first one having arrived in early June. This season presumably one of the same Neotropics was first seen in late April. Many of the state's long-legged waders provided first county records, including Snowy Egret (Cass, Pennington), Cattle Egret (Pennington), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Freeborn), Glossy Ibis (Steele, Stearns), and White-faced Ibis (Pipestone, Pine). Additionally, a *Plegadis* unidentified to species was the first of its genus to be found in Morrison County.

Another first county record was a Mississippi Kite seen in Lyon County. The only Northern Hawk Owl and Boreal Owl of the season were found in the Sax-Zim Bog in early March. In early April, a Great Gray Owl was discovered a few miles northeast of Stillwater; it lingered in the area for three weeks and was enjoyed by many.

The Lewis's Woodpecker first noticed in Morrison County on New Year's Eve was sporadically seen at the same location through the end of April. American Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in St. Louis and Lake of the Woods counties, while Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from six northern counties.

A Prairie Falcon in Mankato was only the second record for Blue Earth County. Another second county record was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Aitkin in early May. Though not reported as frequently as during the prior spring when individuals were found in six counties, Say's Phoebes still made an impressive showing this season in four counties, especially in the West-central region. A White-eyed Vireo in Scott was the second record for that county, while Tufted Titmice provided first records for Renville and Watonwan counties.

A Bohemian Waxwing in McLeod County in early March was the only south report of this species. Carolina Wrens, in contrast, produced their best spring ever with records from 11 south counties. An adult male Mountain Blue-

bird that entertained many in St. Paul during the winter lingered through the first week of March. The North-central region had only its second Eurasian Tree Sparrow when one was photographed in April in Leonard, Clearwater County; this, along with three south records of four individuals made this a good season for this slowly increasing species.

Evening Grosbeaks were more widespread in the north than usual, but none was found south. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in early March was a first for Le Sueur County and the 22nd for the state. Hoary Redpolls were limited to the northern half of the state. White-winged Crossbills were more widespread than in any spring since 2009. This was probably the best season ever for Lapland Longspurs, which were found in 71 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Smith's Longspurs were limited to five counties in the southwestern quarter of the state.

Two Spotted Towhees noted during the previous winter lingered until mid March. A third individual was found in Spicer in early May. Additionally, two apparent hybrids with Eastern Towhee were documented, also in early May. In one of the more remarkable discoveries of the season, researchers from the University of Minnesota mist-netted a Yellow-breasted Chat at Itasca State Park, providing a first record for Clearwater County.

Prothonotary Warblers ventured farther north than usual and produced a first record for Douglas County, and the third and fourth records, respectively, for Otter Tail and Pine. Also found farther north than usual were Yellow-throated Warblers, which provided second county records for Crow Wing and Chisago.

Summer Tanager numbers were slightly below the totals for the spring seasons of 2018 through 2020, but those had been exceptional years; first-year males were by far the most frequent plumage encountered. Western Tanagers were seen south in Stearns, Kandiyohi, and Olmsted counties; the only north report was from East Grand Forks. For the fifth year in a row, a pair of Blue Grosbeaks established their territory at an athletic field in Eden Prairie. A male Painted Bunting at Carleton College was the 33rd record of this species in the state, all but one were males.

Weather: High temperatures in the 50s and 60s (°F) in early March presaged a very warm month that averaged 7.4° above normal. By

the end of the month it was in the low 80s in some West-central areas. The unseasonal warmth lasted into April, though a cold mid-April brought the average temperatures for April to near-normal. May also saw a series of warm and cold spells with temperatures hitting 95° early in the month in Granite Falls and Sherburn (Martin County). The last night of below-freezing weather was 11 May.

An early spring storm produced lightning and large hail in southern Minnesota and 6–12 inches of snow to the Northeast on 10–11 March. Another event 23–24 March brought significant rain to the Southwest through East-central regions, while the Northwest remained quite dry throughout the month. An unsettled ten-day period 5–15 April brought rain and warmth to much of the state, including 4–6 inches of precipitation around St. Cloud. In general, May was much quieter, though a moist air mass crossing the state on 19–20 May caused seven small tornados in the south and generated heavy rain in the Northwest — that region’s first significant rainfall of 2022.

Insufficiently documented records of Regular species: Short-billed Dowitcher 4/22 Blue Earth, 4/25–26 Watonwan, 4/30 Jackson (all reports prior to 5/1 require details); Red-eyed Vireo 3/28 Ramsey; Gray Catbird 3/17 Ramsey; Bal-

timore Oriole 3/28 Ramsey; concerns about all of these reports were the early dates.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dave Cahlander for building and maintaining the *Seasonal Reports* submission and production web pages (<http://moumn.org/moureports/season.php>) through which most of this data was collected and organized. We are also grateful for the additional data provided for the creation of this report by eBird (<http://www.ebird.org>, accessed June 2021). Medians of recent arrivals and departures are based on published and unpublished seasonal report data from the 25-year period 1995 through 2019. Weather data is from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource’s *HydroClim Minnesota* newsletter (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hydroclim/index.html>). Finally and most importantly, our appreciation goes out to all those who contribute their sightings data to the MOU. We are especially grateful to those who respond to our requests for details and who submit observations online.

- ¹ **Washington, DC;**
- ² **Golden Valley, MN;**
- ³ **Mahtomedi, MN;**
- ⁴ **Minneapolis, MN;**
- ⁵ **Sleepy Eye, MN.**

KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species listed in brackets [**Smew**] indicate a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species’ name [2 North, 3 South] indicates the total number of north – and south counties with reports.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties listed in bold and with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Totals in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Totals in bold-italic (***55***) indicate a CBC total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
10. Dagger “†” preceding observer’s initials denotes documentation was submitted.
11. “ph.” denotes a species documented with a photograph.
12. “v.t.” denotes a species documented by video.
13. “a.t.” denotes a species documented by audio.
14. High counts that are multiples of 100 are assumed or known to be estimates unless otherwise noted.

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, seasons@moumn.org.

- Snow Goose** (*Anser caerulescens*) — [46 South, 15 North] Earliest south migrants at the end of February followed by 3/4 Hennepin ebd, 3/5 Cottonwood and Nobles BTS, MiO. Early north (median 3/19) 3/7–9 Grant AaL, CLu, ebd, Traverse (500) DLP, AaL, ANy, ebd, 3/11 Otter Tail JsS, ebd. High count 3/7 Traverse (21,870, estimated; see full record for description of count technique) ebd. Late south 5/8 Rice TFB, 5/8–11 Lac qui Parle (3, Salt Lake) GWe, m.ob., 5/11 Murray SC, ANy, 5/15 Murray (2, Iona Twp.) KeM, JWH, LHL (median 6/9). Late north 4/22 Wilkin ebd, 4/23 Carlton SC, 5/8 Beltrami DPJ (median 5/30).
- Ross's Goose** (*Anser rossii*) — [27 South, 6 North] Early south (median 3/11) 3/5 Nobles (2) BTS, MiO, 3/6 Big Stone DLP, (4) WCM, 3/7 Faribault (2) RLF, REn, Lyon (3) ASu, Nobles (5) ASu, Yellow Medicine (2) ASu. Early north (median 3/25) 3/4 Otter Tail WPL, 3/7 Traverse (3) ebd, 3/9 Grant (2) ebd. High counts 3/28 Big Stone (170, near Graceville) WCM, 3/19 Yellow Medicine (82, Lanners W.M.A.) WCM. Late south 4/26 Kandiyohi SGa, JwD, 5/9–11 Nicollet ARh (median 5/14). Late north 4/17 Aitkin KCR, NSg, SKS, ebd, 5/26 St. Louis (Meadowlands W.T.P.) JHn.
- Greater White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*) — [51 South, 18 North] Early south (median 2/28) 3/2 Cottonwood (50, Wolf Lake W.P.A.) KEm, 3/3 Meeker (20) BNn, 3/4 Lac qui Parle DLP, Watonwan (40) KEm. Early north 3/7 Clay (5) PBB, Otter Tail ANy, Grant CnN, Traverse (360) ebd, DLP, AaL, CLu. High counts 3/13 Big Stone (12,000, Correll Access) FFa, ebd, 3/12 Redwood/Yellow Medicine (10,000, Timm Lake) MiO, BTS. Late south 5/22 Lyon GWe, 5/23 Sibley KEm, JWH, ASu, 5/28 Jackson KEm, JWH (median 5/30). Late north 5/23 Mahnomen (2) BAb, RLF, REn, 5/26 Clearwater ANy, DBz, 5/29 Otter Tail ebd (median 5/17).
- Cackling Goose** (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [49 South, 18 North] See winter report for early south migrants. Early north (median 3/18) 3/5–9 Grant (max. 17, North Ottawa Impoundment) CNn, ebd, 3/7 Traverse DLP, 3/9 Polk (4) HHu. Descriptions provided in varying detail from 27 counties. High counts 3/13 Stevens (300, near Morris) ebd, 3/7 Yellow Medicine (200, Timm Lake) ASu. Late south 5/9 Steele (6) PSu, 5/10 Mower LHL, DAB, Olmsted ebd, 5/17 WCM (median 5/13). Late north 4/25 Lake ebd, 4/30 Aitkin SC, 5/9 Otter Tail (6) ebd (median 5/21).
- Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties.
- Mute Swan** (*Cygnus olor*) — [6 South] All reports: 3/3–8 Scott (1, several locations) BAb, m.ob., 3/13 – 5/31 Hennepin (1, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) CMB, m.ob., 3/9–14 Rice (1, Cannon River) DAB, TFB, m.ob., 3/26 Washington (1, Big Marine P.R.) GrN, 4/1 Dakota (1, Dodge N.C.) ebd, 5/4–7 Watonwan (1, Fedje Lake) ebd, m.ob.
- Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported, for the first time, from all 87 counties, including 3/12 Pipestone (2, near Woodstock) RAE and 3/6 Rock (5, Schoeman Park) VKI. There were several high counts of 200+ birds reported in March, but none explicitly identified why the swans were this species.
- Tundra Swan** (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [43 South, 32 North] Early south away from overwintering individuals (median 3/6) 3/6 Dakota ebd, 3/7 Goodhue (45, near Cannon Falls) ebd, Winona (45) RLF, REn. Early north (median 3/17) 3/14 Norman (40, Sandpiper Prairie S.N.A.) ebd, 3/15 Beltrami (6) ebd, Grant (30) CNn. High counts 3/17 Houston (2,500, Blue Lake) SHo, 3/25 Grant (1,525, North Ottawa Impoundment) LBa. Late south 5/13 Winona (Whitewater S.P.) ebd, 5/21 Isanti (Dalbo W.T.P.) JWH, ELC, KEm, MJB (median 5/5). Late north 5/29 Clearwater (4, Itasca S.P.) ebd, Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) ebd, 5/30 Clay (2) (median 5/28).
- Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/19) 3/4–10 Otter Tail (max. 3) WPL, ebd, 3/9 Becker ebd. High count 4/2 Lyon (135, School Grove Lake) GWe.
- Blue-winged Teal** (*Spatula discors*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties. Early south (median 3/12) 3/6–8 Hennepin (max. 3, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) ebd, 3/7 Faribault RLF, REn, Jackson ASu, Lyon ASu, Ramsey NME. Early north 3/14 Polk TJJ, 3/14–28 Grant (max. 9, North Ottawa Impoundment) ABi, m.ob., 3/28 Becker NaH. High count 4/24 Steele (400, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) DnS.

Cinnamon Teal (*Spatula cyanoptera*) — [5 South] All reports: 4/5–10 Big Stone (drake, near Correll) ph. ASu, ph. DLP, ebd, m.ob., 4/5 Stevens (drake, Everglades State W.M.A.) ph. REn, RLF, 4/17 Lac Qui Parle (drake, near Bellingham) DOr, 4/24 Stearns (drake, Getchell Lake) REL, †PCC, ph. DOr, m.ob., 4/25–26 Jackson (drake, near Lakefield) ph. FFa, m.ob.

Blue-winged Teal X Cinnamon Teal (*Spatula discors* X *S. cyanoptera*) — [2 South] Two south reports: 4/9 Winona (Glendale Hollow Pools) ph. †LHL, 4/20 Freeborn (Myre-Big Island S.P.) †NiR.

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported in all 87 counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/24) 3/8–20 Grant (max. 2) TCL, TLu, AaL, ebd, 3/11 Otter Tail (2, Riverside Waterfowl Sanctuary) JsS, ebd, 3/21 Polk SAU, ebd.

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) — [52 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/16) 3/4 Otter Tail (3, Fergus Falls) WPI, 3/7 Morrison (2, Little Falls) HHD, 3/8 Grant (11, North Ottawa Impoundment) TCL.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Mareca penelope*) — [2 South] All documented reports: 3/25 Lincoln (drake, Anderson Lake W.M.A.) †DFN, †PEJ, 4/10–30 Stearns (drake, Albany W.T.P.) ph. DOr, †DWK, †PCC, †RJS, m.ob.

American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*) — [53 South, 33 North] Reported statewide. A female overwintered in Winona (Shives Road). Early south (median 3/1) 3/2 Dakota MwT, 3/5 Chippewa DLP, Lac qui Parle DLP, 3/5–7 Nobles BTS, MiO, PEJ, VKI, 3/6 Chippewa (2) WCM, Jackson DFN. Early north (median 3/26) 3/8–13 Grant (max. 6, North Ottawa Impoundment) TCL, REn, RLF, ebd, 3/11 Otter Tail JsS. High count 3/28 Houston (550, Blue Lake) REn, RLF, 4/18 Clearwater (400, Clearwater Rice Paddies) AxB.

Gadwall X American Wigeon (*Mareca strepera* X *M. americana*) — [1 South] One drake found 4/20 Lac qui Parle (Salt Lake) †PEJ.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [23 South, 14 North] High count 3/2 St. Louis (20, Canal Park) ebd. Late south 5/3 Wabasha (2) PEJ, 5/8 Dakota (max. 2) ebd, JaD, 5/16 Rice



Cinnamon Teal, 25 April 2021, Lakefield, Jackson County. Photo by Kimberly Emerson.

ebd (median 5/21).

Mallard X American Black Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos* X *A. rubripes*) — [8 South, 3 North] Three north reports: 3/6 – 5/5 St. Louis (max. 2) BEA, m.ob., 4/11 Kanabec ph. SPS, 4/18 Clearwater AxB. Eight south reports: 3/2 – 5/6 Dakota PEJ, ebd, 3/3–24 Scott AxK, m.ob., 3/9 Houston ASu, 3/13 Rice NiR, 3/21 – 4/4 Hennepin ClB, 4/3 Ramsey ebd, 4/10 Anoka DnS, PNi, 4/30 Steele PEJ.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [51 South, 28 North] See winter report for overwintering birds. Possible early south migrant (median 2/27) in Scott in late February, then 3/4 Big Stone DLP, 3/5 Chippewa DLP, Nobles BTS, MiO, Swift DLP. Early north (median 3/15) 3/6–8 Otter Tail ebd, ANY, (2) JsS, 3/7 Morrison (2) HHD, Traverse (4) ebd, DLP, 3/8 Grant (40, North Ottawa Impoundment) TCL, ANY, Norman (8) ANY. High counts 3/27 and 4/5 Grant (1,000, North Ottawa Impoundment) MaS, ECL.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [53 South, 32 North] Reported statewide. See winter report for overwintering birds. Early south (median 3/5) 3/5 Goodhue PEJ, Jackson BTS, MiO, Nobles BTS, MiO, Scott ASu, Swift DLP. Early north (median 3/25) 3/8 Douglas (2) SDi, 3/9 Grant (11, North Ottawa Impound-

- ment) ebd. High counts 4/23 St. Louis (588, Park Point, counted by tens) JLK, 4/9 Lyon (500, Wood Lake Area, Russell) RLF, REn.
- Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*) — [52 South, 31 North] First migrants reported at end of February, followed by 3/5 Hennepin JWJ, Jackson MiO, BTS, Kandiyohi RAE, Nobles, MiO, BTS, Scott MwT, ebd. Early north (median 3/27) 3/7, 3/19 Traverse DLP, ebd, 3/20 Grant (10, North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd. High count 3/29 Winona (4,100, Pool #5, counted by hundreds) EzH, ASu.
- Redhead** (*Aythya americana*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported in all 87 counties. Probable early south migrants reported in late February in Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles. Early north (median 3/20) 3/4 Otter Tail (3, Fergus Falls) WPI, 3/7 Traverse DLP, 3/8 Otter Tail (6, Dalton) JsS. High counts 3/22 Jackson (500) ASu, 4/3 Benton (410, Little Rock Lake) RLF, REn.
- Canvasback X Redhead** (*Aythya valisineria* X *A. americana*) — [1 North] One report 3/15 Marshall (Agassiz Valley) ph. HHu.
- Ring-necked Duck** (*Aythya collaris*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported in all 87 counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/16) 3/7 Morrison HHD, Traverse DLP, (4, Reservation Dam W.M.A.) AaL, CLu, (Mud Lake, White Rock Dam) ebd, 3/11 Grant (12) RLF, REn. High counts 4/10 Aitkin (2,000, Rice Lake N.W.R.) JBu, 3/25 Goodhue (1,600, Lake Byllesby) KTP.
- Greater Scaup** (*Aythya marila*) — [52 South, 29 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 3/4) 3/5–7 Hennepin (max. 2) MwT, m.ob., Scott (1, Blue Lake W.T.P.) MwT, m.ob., 3/6 Dakota MwT, 3/7 Lyon (2, Lone Tree Lake) ASu. Early north (median 3/29) 3/7 Traverse (4, Mud Lake) ebd, 3/12 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd, 3/22 Beltrami (4) AxB. High count 4/27 St. Louis (9,890, Duluth harbor, carefully counted) PHS.
- Lesser Scaup** (*Aythya affinis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/13) 3/7 Morrison HHD, Traverse DLP, 3/11 Crow Wing DMz. Highest counts of 3,000 in Goodhue at Lake Byllesby on 3/31 (SBE), 4/11 (SWe).
- Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) — [3 North] Northeast reports spanned the season with at least 3 males involved: 3/1 – 4/29 Cook (male and female continuing from January, Grand Marais) m.ob., 3/16 Lake (male, Two Harbors) JWJ, 4/21, 4/23–24 St. Louis (male, McQuade Small Craft Harbor) ebd, MWS, 4/22 St. Louis (male, Western Waterfront Trail, same as McQuade?) JLK, 5/13–31 St. Louis (male, Park Point R.A.) JLK, m.ob., 5/22–31 Lake (male, Two Harbors) JWJ, m.ob.
- Surf Scoter** (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [1 South, 1 North] All reports 5/11–15 **Steele** (Armstrong Wetland Restoration) †NiR, LiH, 5/20–31 St. Louis (max. 2, Duluth) BWF, m.ob.
- White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta deglandi*) — [1 South, 2 North] One south report 4/18 Chisago (1, South Lindstrom Lake) ELC, JWH, KEm. All north 4/3 St. Louis JLK, BEA, ebd, 4/24 St. Louis PHS, RLF, REn, 5/10–30 St. Louis (max. 4, Duluth) RyS, StK, m.ob., 5/26 Cook (2) DFN.
- Black Scoter** (*Melanitta americana*) — No reports.
- Long-tailed Duck** (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [2 South, 4 North] All south reports: 3/22–29 Goodhue (2, female/immature, Lake Byllesby) †PEJ, ph. GHo, m.ob., 3/27–29 Dakota (max. 2, Lake Byllesby; same birds reported from both Dakota and Goodhue sides.) GHo, KDS, m.ob. High count 4/29 Cook (65, Grand Marais Harbor) LWD. Reported from Lake Superior through 5/13 in Lake, 5/26 in Cook and 5/31 in St. Louis. One additional north report 5/28 **Koochiching** (1, International Falls W.T.P.) ANy, DBz.
- Bufflehead** (*Bucephala albeola*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/23) 3/1–5 Cook (Grand Marais) ebd, 3/4 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) WPI. High count 4/4 Houston (200, Reno Skywatch) ASu.
- Common Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*) — [48 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. High count 3/9 Houston (1,000, Reno Bottoms) ASu. Late south 5/23–30 Sibley (Gaylord W.T.P.) KEm, JWH, ebd, 5/25–31 Scott BAB (median 5/13), but also see summer report.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*) — No reports.

- Hooded Merganser** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties. See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/9) 3/2 Cass BEc, 3/7 Traverse (2, Reservation Dam W.M.A.) AaL, CLu, 3/8 Polk (2) ebd. High counts 3/23 Hennepin (100, Flying Cloud Drive overlook) BHw, 4/29 Hennepin (100, Baker P.R.) KMo.
- Common Merganser** (*Mergus merganser*) — [53 South, 30 North] High count 3/7 Dakota (450, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Black Dog Lake) ebd. Late south 5/17 Dakota NiR, Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) ebd, 5/18 Winona ebd, 5/20 Hennepin (2, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) BLz (median 5/23).
- Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*) — [50 South, 27 North] Overwintered in Goodhue and Wabasha. Early south (median 3/4) 3/7 Houston (2) LHL, LeSueur ABL, 3/8 Freeborn KEm. Early north (median 3/30) reports from counties away from Lake Superior 3/21 Aitkin SC, 3/24 Morrison HHD, 3/27 Traverse (2, Geyer W.P.A.) KEm, JWH. High count 4/23 St. Louis (142, W.S.H.C.) EBr, FJN.
- Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [52 South, 24 North] Overwintered in Scott. Early south (median 3/7) 3/2 Wabasha ebd, 3/5–7 Hennepin CMB, m.ob., 3/7 Chippewa JWZ, Kandiyohi RAE. Early north (median 3/30) 3/25 Itasca (2) ebd, 4/5 Traverse (2) RLF, REn, 4/10 Pine (2) LEv. High count 4/17 Yellow Medicine (1,463, Timm Lake, careful count over 20 minutes) GWe.
- Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [52 South, 33 North] Reported from 85 counties, the highest number ever for the spring season. High counts 3/8 St. Louis (60, Meadowlands) ebd, 3/14 Polk (59, Maple Lake Area) ebd.
- Ruffed Grouse** (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [14 South, 30 North] Found throughout normal range, essentially northeast of line segments from Norman to Stearns to Fillmore. As expected, spring drumming counts were down in 2021 during the declining phase of the breeding cycle (MN DNR).
- Spruce Grouse** (*Canachites canadensis*) — [5 North] High count 3/10 Lake (16, C.R. 2) RLF, REn. Also reported in Cook, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, St. Louis.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [3 South, 18 North] Three south reports: 3/13 Swift (9, Swift Lake Dam) ebd, 4/5 Lac qui Parle (Salt Lake) ASu, 4/10 Pipestone (2, near Woodstock) DGu, ebd. Higher number of north reports than usual from Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Grant, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Pine, Red Lake, Roseau, St. Louis, and high count 4/10 Polk (40, Tympanuchus Prairie) ebd.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken** (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [10 North] All reports were from counties in the Northwest and West-central regions: Becker, Clay, Kittson, Mahnomon, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Wilkin. High count 4/17 Clay (**128**, Spring Prairie S.N.A.; males and females on multiple booming grounds) PBB.
- Gray Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*) — [18 South, 7 North] Higher number of reports than usual. Most reports from the southern third or the West-central and Northwest regions of the state. High count only 3.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [53 South, 23 North] Reported south of a line from Pennington to Itasca to Carlton, plus 4/28 Lake of the Woods ebd. High counts 4/4 Grant (**50**, North Ottawa Impoundment) JEc, 4/4 Otter Tail (**45**, Otter Tail Prairie S.N.A.) AAZ.
- Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [53 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/7) 3/8 Scott (2) ebd, 3/9 Houston ASu, Olmsted ebd, Sherburne JOs. Early north (median 3/23) 3/24 Morrison (2) MJB, 3/25 Cass SC, 3/27 Pine (2) ebd, Traverse (2) SHo, KEm, JWH, Wadena PJB. High counts 4/25 Lyon (114, near Tyler) GWe, 4/13 Hennepin (70) CMB.
- Horned Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*) — [47 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/23) 3/22 Nobles ASu, 3/22–23 Hennepin MZa, m.ob., 3/25 Goodhue ebd. Early north (median 4/5) 3/23 Crow Wing ebd, 4/6 Grant ebd, 4/7 Douglas (4) RLF, REn. High count 4/23 St. Louis (**3,519**, counted individually except in flocks, then by tens; Park Point) PHS, SCB. Late south 5/9 Dakota ebd, 5/11 Faribault BTS, MiO, 5/15 Hennepin ebd (median 5/25). Late north 5/22–26 St. Louis (Duluth) HTo, FJN, m.ob. (median 6/8).
- Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [40 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/2)

- 4/1 Scott BHE, 4/2–4 Hennepin (Lake Harriet) CMB, m.ob., 4/4 Chisago ebd, Nicollet JWH, KEm, Sibley JWZ. Early north (median 4/8) 4/4–7 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS, SCB, FJN, 4/5 Traverse RLF, REN, 4/8 Crow Wing, Douglas, Todd. High count 4/21 St. Louis (443, Park Point) JLK.
- Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [23 South, 17 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/3 Steele BAB, 4/5 Lac qui Parle (2) ASu, 4/6 Lyon RLF, REN, 4/10 Blue Earth ebd. Early north (median 4/19) 4/10 Todd SDi, 4/18 Morrison HHD, 4/22 Marshall (4) HHu. High count 5/26 Marshall (42, Warren W.T.P.) HHu.
- Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [19 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/5 Lac qui Parle ASu, 4/10 Hennepin ebd, 4/11 Faribault PEJ, LiH. Early north (median 4/20) 4/7 Douglas (2, Lake Osakis) RLF, REN. Early north away from Lake Osakis 4/24 Traverse ABL, 5/1 Polk SAU, JCJ. High count 5/17 Todd (82, Lake Osakis) ebd.
- Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — No reports.
- Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from every county. High count 3/3 Ramsey (**1,000**, counted by 100s at the railroad yard off Fish Hatchery Road) JLv.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [52 South, 23 North] Reports continue to increase in the north. Reported from almost all counties west or south of line segments from Roseau to Wadena to Pine; also reported 5/15 St. Louis (Park Point) FKB, TWe, BWe. High count 3/20 Dakota (21, Vermillion Twp.) DVe.
- White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) — [1 South] Second county record: 4/11 **Faribault** (1, Winnebago) LiH.
- Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from every county. High counts 3/1 Olmsted (29) ebd, 3/4 Hennepin (26) ebd.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [33 South, 7 North] Early south (median 5/14) 5/11 Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.) ebd, 5/14 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) NMe, TDv, 5/14 Houston FFa. Early north 5/19–25 Otter Tail (Maplewood S.P.) ebd, 5/21 Aitkin ebd, 5/22 Todd RLF, REN. Highest tally 3 on 5/22 Fillmore (Spring Valley W.M.A.) KHg and 5/23 Freeborn (Myre-Big Island S.P.) DAB.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [24 South, 22 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/11 Carver RuS, Washington PNi, 5/14 Steele DAB. Early north (median 5/16) 5/15 Becker ebd, Beltrami ebd, 5/17 Clay CMk, Pine DWK, HCT. High count of 3 in Aitkin, Becker.
- Common Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles minor*) — [40 South, 28 North] Early south (median 5/3) 4/29 Wright ToL, 5/5 Stearns AaL, CLu, 5/7 Anoka LBi. Early north (median 5/11) 5/12 Otter Tail (2) JsS, 5/16 Pine (2) ebd, 5/17 Morrison ANy, RMD, St. Louis ClN, JDx. High counts 5/22 St. Louis (**350**, Duluth, Holy Rosary Cathedral, estimated) PHS, 5/28 Aitkin (**250**, Rice Lake N.W.R., estimated) FFa.
- Eastern Whip-poor-will** (*Antrostomus vociferus*) — [16 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/29) 4/24 Houston (Money Creek Twp.) KAB, 4/28 Houston (C.R. 18) SHo, 5/1 Carver JCy, Dakota MAK, Washington (3) AKz, Winona ebd. Early north (median 5/7) 5/1 Hubbard (near Nevis) ebd, 5/4 Becker NaH, ebd, Hubbard (Paul Bunyan S.F.) REN, RLF, 5/5 Polk (2, near Beltrami) ebd. High count 5/7, 5/16 Dakota (6, Hastings Sand Coulee S.N.A.) ebd, JCa.
- Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [50 South, 31 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/26 Cottonwood KEm, 4/27 Blue Earth ChH, Dakota PRH, m.ob., Hennepin (5, Richfield Lake Park) JCa, (170, Oak Grove St.) ebd, Washington EzH. Early north (median 5/1) 4/29 and 5/1 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBv, 5/1 Beltrami JCJ, Clay (5) CMk. High count 5/30 Lake (310, Mary MacDonald Center) Pgr.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) — [51 South, 31 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/27 Hennepin ebd, 4/30 Carver ebd, Fillmore ebd, Goodhue LHL, Olmsted ebd, 5/1 also in Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Rice, Wright. Early north (median 5/5) 5/2–4 Todd (Long Prairie) SDi, 5/3 Morrison SEm, Todd (Birch Lake area) RLF, REN. High counts 5/26 Goodhue (**25**, at reporter's eight feeders near Red Wing) PEJ, 5/20 St. Louis (15, Park Point) StK, TRK, HTo, IDv, 5/27 Wabasha (15, reporter's yard, Lake City) MNb.
- Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*) — [39 South, 22 North] All March reports south (median 4/14) **3/17**–30 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge)

- RDa, GUn, m.ob., 3/23 Steele (Armstrong Wetland Restoration) LHI, 3/25 Renville MiO, BTS. Early north (median 5/1) 4/29 Hubbard (C.R. 109) RLF, REEn, 5/5 Todd (3, Hartford W.M.A.) RLF, REEn, 5/6 Becker (Becker State W.M.A.) TKa. High count 5/29 Washington (5, William O'Brien S.P.) ebd.
- Sora** (*Porzana carolina*) — [46 South, 27 North] All March reports south (median 4/12) 3/20, 3/26 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) SBE, LiH, 3/22 Dakota (180th St. Marsh) MwT, ebd, 3/28 Houston (Wildcat Park & Landing) REEn, ebd. Early north (median 4/23) 4/26 Traverse ANy, DBz, 5/1 Becker LSI, St. Louis (2, Mud Lake) BEA, JLK 5/2 Otter Tail JsS. High counts 5/5 Todd (7, Hartford W.M.A.) RLF, REEn, 5/15 Washington (6, William O'Brien S.P.) BDO, GWe.
- Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula galeata*) — [9 South, 1 North] All south 5/1 Nicollet (Swan Lake W.M.A.) KEm, JWH, 5/5 Kandiyohi (Leif Mountain Preserve) RLF, REEn, 5/8–17 Hennepin (Mother Lake) CMB, m.ob., 5/10 Freeborn (Freeborn Lake) EzH, LiH, 5/22–25 Olmsted (Eastside W.M.A.) SHO, m.ob., 5/23–26 Sibley (High Island W.P.A.) KEm, JWH, m.ob., 5/24 Stevens (Black Tern Marsh) KvM, LiH, TEg, 5/24–29 Washington (Paul Hugo Farms W.M.A.) GWe, m.ob. One north report 5/19–23 Becker (Bisson Lake W.M.A.) DBz, ANy, RMD, TWe, m.ob.
- American Coot** (*Fulica americana*) — [53 South, 30 North] Overwintered in Scott. Early south (median 3/3) 3/1 Wright HHD, 3/5 Hennepin CMB, MwT, ebd, Kandiyohi RAE. Early north (median 3/21) 3/9–20 Grant (max. 3, North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd, 3/22–27 Becker (Hamden Slough N.W.R.) NaH, TKa, 3/27 Traverse (6) SHO, JWH, KEm. High counts 4/3 Houston (3,000, Wagon Wheel Trail) TWe, BWe, 4/3 Steele (3,000, Oak Glen Lake) Bab, 4/19 Waseca (3,000, Clear Lake) GHo, KDS.
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [2 South, 3 North] Two south: 4/26 **Blue Earth** (1, near Good Thunder) ph. *vide* KEm, 5/13 Hennepin (1, found distressed in Minneapolis and brought to a wildlife rehab center) ph. *vide* AXH. All north 5/7–22 Aitkin (McGregor Marsh) RLF, REEn, SC, 5/30 Kittson (2, also the season high count, along C.R. 7) ANy, DBz, 5/31 Hubbard (Akeley Twp.) *vide* MAW.
- BLACK RAIL** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) — [1 South] First record since 1979, 5/29–31 **Anoka** (heard and briefly seen at Rice Creek marsh near Rice Lake) †AMH, †AXH, †EzH, †IsH, †TAT.
- LIMPKIN** (*Aramus guarauna*) — [1 South] First state record: 5/30–31 **Washington** (Paul Hugo Farms W.M.A.) a.t. †EzH, †IsH, †LiH, †PRH, a.t. †AXH, m.ob. Multiple a.t. in ebd. Reports continued into the summer.
- Sandhill Crane** (*Antigone canadensis*) — [49 South, 34 North] First south migrants appeared in late February in Houston. Early north (median 3/17) 3/6 Clearwater BAB, 3/9 Carlton ebd, 3/11 Todd (3) BEc. High counts 4/17 Polk (1,000, Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) SAU, JCJ, 4/11 Clay (838) PBB.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) — [10 South] Fourteen south reports of 20 individuals are the most in any season. All south: **4/10 Sibley** (2, High Island Lake) RBW, ph. †WCM, 4/30 Steele (1, Armstrong Wetland Restoration & Straight River marsh) ph. †PEJ, 5/1–2 **Carver**/Hennepin (1, Rice Lake) ph. †FFa, ph. †EzH, †VRL, †CIB, 5/2 Lyon (1, Lyon/Yellow Medicine Conservation Easement) †RJS, ph. †REn, 5/3 Steele (1, Straight River Marsh) ph. †DBz, LHI, 5/5–15 Steele (up to 3, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) ph. DeW, ph. †PEJ, †PSu, †CIB, 5/6–12 Lyon (1, Lone Tree Lake) ph. †RJS, ph. GWe, 5/12 Stearns (1, near Lake Maria) ph. ALu, 5/21 Yellow Medicine (1, Curtis Lake) ph. GWe, VKI, 5/22 **Sherburne** (2, Sherburne N.W.R.) ph. †FFa, MwT, 5/22–24 Lyon (1 male, Lone Tree Lake) ph. GWe, 5/23–25 Sibley (1, High Island Lake) †DWK, 5/24 Stevens (2, Black Tern Marsh) ph. †DBz, ANy, LiH, 5/26 **Washington** (2, Paul Hugo Farms W.M.A.) †EzH, ph. †ASu. Most of these sightings were also supported by many other observers with brief, descriptive notes or images placed on ebird.
- American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [34 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/14) **4/4** Big Stone (Correll Public Access) WCM, ebd, 4/17 Lincoln (6) RCI, Stevens ebd. Early north (median 4/29) 4/20 Traverse PEJ, DFN, 4/27 Wilkin ANy, DBz, ebd, 4/28 Grant (max. 4, North Ottawa Impoundment) WPI, BLz. High counts 4/23 Rice (39, Faribault) JBu, BHe, 5/13 Swift (29) DLP.
- Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) —



American Avocet, 17 May 2021, Browerville, Todd County. Photo by Craig R. Mandel.

[18 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/30) 4/25 Yellow Medicine (Posen Twp.) GWe, 5/1 Yellow Medicine (40, by 10s, season high count, Clarkfield W.T.P.) LiH, SBE, 5/1 Lyon (8, Lone Tree Lake) LiH, SBE, RLF, REn, 5/2 Cottonwood DHr. Early north (median 5/16) 5/12 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) ebd, 5/13 Marshall (2, Warren W.T.P.) HHu, 5/14 Hubbard ebd. Late south 5/28 Cottonwood KEm, JWH, 5/30 Sibley DWK (median 6/7). Late north 5/31 Crow Wing NSg, PSP, Lake of the Woods (2) ANy, DBz, Polk (2) HHu; also see summer report (median 6/6).

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [28 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/5) 4/2 Lyon GWe, 4/4 Nobles RLF, REn, 4/5 Jackson ASu. Early north (median 4/29) 4/27 Wilkin (12) ANy, DBz, 5/1–2 Grant (max. 4, North Ottawa Impoundment) CNn, AAZ, ebd. High counts 5/1 Lyon (117, Lone Tree Lake) LiH, SBE, 5/30 Wilkin (78) RAE. Late south 5/20 Watonwan ChH, 5/22 Lyon (4) NMe, 5/24 Stevens ANy, DBz (median 6/7). Late north 5/31 Clay (8, Felton Prairie) ebd, Polk (2, Brandt-Angus Impoundment) HHu (median 6/2); also see summer report.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all 87 counties. First migrants in Houston in late February, then 3/3–4 Winona ToM, 3/5 Jackson (4) BTS, MiO, Rice MZa, ebd. Early north (median 3/15) 3/8 Todd TLu, 3/11 Morrison HHD, 3/13 Grant CNn, Kanabec SPS, Pine (2) KrM. High count 3/12 Freeborn (200) PEJ.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [40 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/23 Dakota/Goodhue (4, Lake Byllesby) DBz, m.ob., 4/24 from six additional counties. Early north (median 5/7) 5/1–2 Grant (max. 6, North Ottawa Impoundment) PLJ, TWe, BWe, 5/2 Aitkin SC, Clay TKa. High count 5/12 Marshall (100, Agassiz N.W.R., Headquarters Trail) ebd, 5/16 Big Stone (56, actual count, Correll) JCC. See summer report for late migrants statewide.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) — [5 South, 1 North] All south 4/24–25 Dakota/Goodhue (2, Lake Byllesby) †DAB, m.ob., 5/1 Renville (1, Bird Island W.T.P.) ph. DWK, m.ob., 5/15 Steele (Armstrong Wetland Restoration) LiH, 5/16 Big Stone (1, near Correll) JCC. One north report 5/14–16 St. Louis (1,

- banded female at Park Point) JLK, PHS, m.ob.
- WILSON'S PLOVER** (*Charadrius wilsonia*) — [1 North] Fourth state record, all found in Duluth: 5/14–16 St. Louis (1, Park Point) TRK, †PHS, ph. †LBa, ph. †EzH, ph. †IsH, ph. AxB, m.ob.
- Upland Sandpiper** (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [15 South, 8 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/25 Cottonwood JuW, 5/1 Lyon (5) REN, RLF, m.ob., Renville LiH, Yellow Medicine (3) REN, RLF. Early north (median 5/3) 5/3, 5/11 Clay (max. 7, Bluestem Prairie S.N.A.) ebd, MGi, 5/15 Norman (4, Sandpiper Prairie W.M.M.) AnA, (3, Twin Valley Airport) SuR, KBa. High count 5/19 Clay (8, Bluestem Prairie S.N.A.) ebd.
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) — [5 South, 6 North] All south 5/14–15 **Carver/Hennepin** (Rice Lake) OvD, m.ob., 5/24 Lyon (3, Cottonwood W.T.P.) ph. †NMe, ph. †RJS, 5/25 Watonwan (max. 96, 320th St. Marsh) AnK, m.ob., 5/28 **Yellow Medicine** (Curtis Lake) KJB, but also see summer report. Reported north in St. Louis from 5/17 (7, Park Point R.A.) JWH, m.ob., peaking 5/29 (70, Park Point R.A.) IDv, HTo, through 5/31 (Stony Point) TLz, m.ob., but also see summer report. Also found north 5/26 Clearwater (Clearwater Rice Paddies) ANy, DBz, m.ob., Lake (Knife River Marina) TLz, Polk (5, Johnson Twp.) ANy, DBz, 5/26–27 Marshall (max. 34, Agassiz N.W.R.) VRL, m.ob., 5/28 Cook (44, Grand Marais Harbor) DAB, 5/29 Cook (40, Father Baraga's Cross) DAB.
- Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa baemastica*) — [30 South, 16 North] Early south (median 4/19) **4/3** Yellow Medicine (Curtis Lake) GWe, m.ob., **4/4** Lyon (Lines W.M.A.) GWe, m.ob., 4/15 Faribault WAF. Early north (median 5/11) 4/18 Polk HHu, 4/27 Douglas LGI, m.ob., 5/1 Grant CNn. High counts 5/14 Swift (68) DLP, 5/19 Clearwater (25, Clearwater Rice Paddies) AxB. Late south 5/28 Rice NiR, 5/29 Stearns HHD, 5/30 Kandiyohi (2) JWd (median 6/1). Late north 5/30 Clay PBB, 5/31 Grant PLJ, JSf, Polk HHu, m.ob. (median 5/31).
- Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*) — [22 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/13) **4/7** Lac qui Parle DLP, 4/10 Stearns MJB, m.ob., 4/11 Pope AaL, CLu. Early north (median 4/13) 4/7–8 Polk SAu, m.ob., 4/17 Clay (2, Felton Prairie) LSL, (2, Spring Prairie S.N.A.) PBB, Marshall RAE, Red Lake SAu, JJC. High counts 4/26 Polk (52, Brandt-Angus Impoundment) HHu, 5/12, 5/19 Clearwater (40, Clearwater Rice Paddies) AxB.
- Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) — [14 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/11) **4/27** Yellow Medicine (Curtis Lake, record early) DgM, 5/11 Steele LiH, 5/12 Rock (max. 2) ANy, m.ob. Early north (median 5/14) **5/1** Grant (3, North Ottawa Impoundment, record early north) CNn, 5/11–12 Marshall HHu, m.ob., 5/12 Clearwater AxB. High counts 5/24 Yellow Medicine (60, Curtis Lake) WCM, 5/25 St. Louis (35, Park Point R.A.) TLz. Late south 5/29 Meeker MJB, m.ob., 5/30–31 Isanti (max. 3) ELC, m.ob., 5/31 Sibley (2) KEm, JWH (median 6/1). Late north 5/31 Crow Wing (11) NSg, Marshall (11) HHu, St. Louis ebd (median 6/3), but also see summer report for additional late migrants north and south.
- RED KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*) — [2 North] All north 5/22 Pennington (Hickory Twp.) ph. †AxB, m.ob., 5/27 Lake (2, Knife River Marina) MAJ, ph. †TRK.
- Stilt Sandpiper** (*Calidris himantopus*) — [21 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/1 Hennepin (5) TAT, RTu, Lyon (2) REN, RLF, ebd, Renville REN, RLF, ebd, Sibley (4) JCC, Yellow Medicine LiH, SBE. Early north (median 5/13) **5/1** Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) PLJ, 5/15 Marshall HHu, 5/16 Carlton RBW. High count 5/21 Yellow Medicine (87, Curtis Lake) GWe. Late south 5/29 Stearns (2) DOr, HHD, Watonwan ebd, 5/31 Stevens DLP (median 6/3). Late north 5/31 Lake of the Woods ANy, DBz, Polk (5) TWe, HHu, BWe, St. Louis (3) TLz (median 6/1), but also see summer report for additional late migrants north and south.
- Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) — [19 South, 15 North] Early south (median 5/4) 4/24 Houston JBU, 5/1 Goodhue KDS, m.ob., Lyon (30) LiH, SBE, Yellow Medicine SOa, RLF, REN, ebd. Early north (median 5/9) 5/2–8 Grant (max. 36) AAZ, m.ob., 5/8 St. Louis ebd. High count 5/25 St. Louis (150, Park Point R.A.) TLz. Late south 5/29 Watonwan ebd, 5/30 Big Stone DLP, Stevens DLP (median 6/6). Late north 5/31 Grant (3) PLJ, Marshall (10) HHu, St. Louis (50, Stony Point) TLz, (3, Park Point R.A.) JLK (median 6/10), but also see summer report for additional late migrants north and south.
- Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*) — [37 South, 25 North]



Wilson's Plover, 15 May 2021, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Isaac Hosch.

Early south (median 4/15) **3/26** – 4/4 Meeker ph. PKF, m.ob., 4/6 Stevens REEn, m.ob., 4/7 Dakota (3) TWe, BLz. Early north (median 5/7) 4/28 – 5/5 Grant (max. 15) WPL, m.ob., 5/2 Clay ebd, 5/5 Aitkin KCR, LBa. High counts 5/20 Yellow Medicine (165, Curtis Lake) RJS, 5/20 Sibley (120, High Island Lake) DWK. See summer report for late migrants statewide.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [31 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/4) 4/2 Lyon (12, Lines W.M.A.) GWe, (Lone Tree Lake) GWe, (8, 375th St. Marsh) GWe, 4/3 Lyon (3, C.R. 15) NMe, Pipestone (max. 8) VVD, LVD, HVD, Yellow Medicine (4) ASu. Early north (median 4/23) 4/9, 4/18 Polk (max. 2) HHu, 4/25 Wilkin (2) ebd, 4/26 Clay (2) TKa. High counts 4/30 Yellow Medicine (250, Curtis Lake) NMe, m.ob. Late south 5/27 Pipestone (4) VKl, 5/27–28 Watonwan JWH, KEm, APi, BHe, 5/30 Stevens (2) DLP (median 6/7). Late north 5/31 Lake JWL, Polk (4) TWe, BWe, HHu (median 6/4), but see summer report for additional late migrants north and south.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [50

South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/11) 3/26 Meeker PKF, 4/6 Watonwan ChH, SyH, 4/7 Houston (2) SHo, DSt. Early north (median 5/3) 4/25 Douglas (2) ToR, 5/1–4 Grant (max. 100) BAr, WPL, m.ob., 5/4 St. Louis (2) ebd. High counts 5/12 Marshall (300, Agassiz N.W.R. Headquarters Trail) ebd, 5/23 Sibley (300, High Island Lake) ASu. See summer report for late migrants statewide.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [36 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/29) 4/28 Jackson KEm, 4/29 Lac qui Parle (4) ebd. Early north (median 5/13) **4/29** Marshall (2, McCrea Twp.) HHu, 5/5 Todd (2) REN, RLF, 5/12 Marshall (3, Warren W.T.P.) MGi, HHu, RLF, REN. Highest counts from Curtis Lake in Yellow Medicine where GWe tallied 1,050 on 5/21 and KJB **1,200** on 5/28. See summer report for late migrants statewide.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*) — No reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [51 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/30) **3/12** Freeborn †PEJ, **3/13**–14 Olmsted (South Landfill Reservoir) ebd, RLF, REN, 3/20 Olm-

sted (East Landfill Kalmar Reservoir) ebd, Rock REN, RLF. Early north (median 4/14) 4/7–9 Polk (max. 4) SAu, 4/12 Pine (2) KrM. High counts 5/2 Yellow Medicine (500, Curtis Lake) BAb, 5/2 Hennepin (440, Rice Lake) WCM. See summer report for late migrants statewide.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [45 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/14) 4/6 Lyon REN, RLF, 4/7 Brown BTS, MiO, Nobles BTS. Early north (median 5/4) 5/1 Grant (2, Mud Lake W.P.A.) ebd, (max. 24, North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd, PLJ, 5/2 Aitkin SC, 5/5 Todd (6) REN, RLF. High counts 5/28 Yellow Medicine (**1,800**, Curtis Lake) KJB, 5/24 Yellow Medicine (630, Curtis Lake) WCM. See summer report for late migrants north and south.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [31 South, 17 North] Early south (median 4/29) 4/29 Lac qui Parle †KTP, 5/1 Hennepin RBJ, Kandiyohi JWD, Lyon (max. 4) LiH, SBE, m.ob., Renville (max. 3) LiH, SBE, m.ob., Sibley (5) JCC, Yellow Medicine (10) SOa. Early north (median 5/11) 5/11 Pine (8) KrM, St. Louis (2) CLN, 5/12 Marshall (4) ebd, Polk HHu. High count 5/2 Steele (50, Armstrong Wetland Restoration) DAB. Late south 5/25 Kandiyohi SGA, 5/26 Freeborn PEJ (median 6/1). Late north 5/28, 5/31 Polk (max. 10) HHu, m.ob., 5/28 St. Louis JuG (median 5/27), but also see summer report for additional late migrants statewide. **Note:** Reports of Short-billed Dowitchers prior to 1 May without details are not published in these Seasonal Reports. (See *The Loon* 89:160–161.)

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [30 South, 7 North] Early south (median 4/17) **3/22**–25 Ramsey ebd, †EzH, m.ob., 4/7 Hennepin ABL, 4/17 Yellow Medicine GWe. Early north (median 5/6) 5/1–2, 5/8 Grant (max. 11) PLJ, AAz, ebd, 5/1 Marshall HHu, 5/8 St. Louis ebd, m.ob. High count 5/1 Lyon (45, Lone Tree Lake) REN, RLF, ebd. Late south 5/15 Hennepin (2) ebd, Steele (20) LiH, Watonwan BTS, m.ob., 5/16 Wright RCI (median 5/19). Late north 5/20 Polk (2) HHu, 5/21–22 Grant (max. 10) WPI, 5/22 St. Louis FJN, HTTo, IDv (median 5/19).

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [46 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/13) 3/7–8 Rice TFB, 3/9 Dakota MwT, ebd, Hous-

ton ASu, Ramsey AnA. Early north (median 3/26) 3/15 Todd ebd, 3/19 Mille Lacs HHd, 3/20 Crow Wing ebd, Marshall TJJ, Otter Tail JSS. High counts 4/10 Polk (10, Tympanuchus Prairie) ebd, 3/28 Washington (9, Afton S.P.) EzH.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [50 South, 33 North] Likely overwintering individuals were reported 3/4 Dakota KDS, 3/7–14 Olmsted (3) JPr, m.ob. First apparent south migrant (median 3/23) 3/14 Meeker MJB. Early north (median 4/1) 3/27 Douglas JPE, Hubbard (2) ebd, Traverse SHo. High counts 4/19 Stearns (**93**, Getchell Lake) MJB, 4/5 Houston (75, C.R. 21) SHo.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [52 South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/19) 4/23 Goodhue EBy, Hennepin ebd, Mower ANy. Early north (median 4/29) 4/27 Traverse ANy, DBz, 4/29 St. Louis PHS, JLK. High counts 5/2 Dakota (50, Lake Byllesby) AFO, 5/22 Red Lake (46, Red Lake Falls W.T.P.) AxB.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [47 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/19) 4/10 Scott BAb, 4/11 Lyon (2) GWe, 4/17 Goodhue FFa. Early north (median 4/29) 4/24–29 Polk HHu, 4/28 Grant (2) BLz, 4/30 Crow Wing SC. High count 5/2 Hennepin (15, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) MwT. Late south 5/31 Hennepin WFe, Sibley ebd, Wabasha GRE (median 5/31). Late north 5/27 Clearwater AxB, 5/28 St. Louis ebd, 5/29–31 Marshall HHu (median 6/3), but also see summer report for additional late migrants statewide.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [52 South, 33 North] Early south (median 3/29) 3/20 Lyon REN, RLF, 3/21 Dakota VRL, ebd, Yellow Medicine GWe. Early north (median 4/6) 4/5 Grant (Niemackl Lake Park) JEC, ECL, (North Ottawa Impoundment) JEC, ECL, 4/7 Polk (5) SAu. High count 5/2 Hennepin (**1,460**, Rice Lake, counted by tens.) EzH, IsH. Late south 5/31 Benton DOr, Sherburne (2) ebd, Sibley (3) ebd (median 6/7). Late north 5/31 Lake of the Woods ANy, Marshall HHu, Polk HHu (median 6/8). Also see summer report for additional late migrants statewide.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [38 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/18 Olmsted (2) JPr, m.ob., 4/22 Lac qui Parle KeL.

- Early north (median 4/29) 4/28 Grant ebd, 4/30 Marshall HHu. High count 4/28 Steele (32, Straight River Marsh) PSu. First county record: 5/8 **Hubbard** (Lakeport Twp.) DoH, JCu, ebd. Late south 5/22 Steele JuW, 5/24 Yellow Medicine BTS, MiO, 5/26 Olmsted (2) LAV (median 5/29). Late north 5/30 Lake TLz, ebd, St. Louis TLz, m.ob., 5/31 Polk (max. 6) TWe, BWe, HHu. (median 6/2).
- Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [53 South, 34 North] Early south (median 3/23) 3/14, 3/20 Yellow Medicine GWe, RAE 3/20 Houston ASu, 3/21 Dakota AFo, m.ob. Early north (median 4/6) 3/25 Polk JCJ, SAU, HHu, 3/27 Marshall HHu, 4/1 Traverse AxB. High count 5/5 Aitkin (194, Osprey Ave., Aitkin Twp.) KCR, LBa. Late south 5/28 Hennepin (2) ebd, 5/29 Watonwan KEm, JWH, 5/31 Wright DWK (median 6/5). Late north 5/29 St. Louis (Mud Lake) TLz, ebd, 5/30 Marshall JMj, St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) TLz, FJN, IDv, ebd (median 6/4).
- Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [46 South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/22) 4/23 Dakota MwT, Hennepin VRL, KOC, Olmsted (max. 3, several locations) LHL, m.ob., Renville RAE. Early north (median 4/27) 4/30 Roseau ebd, 5/1 Grant (max. 5) PLJ, BAR, CNn, Marshall (16, Stephen W.T.P.) ebd, (22, Warren W.T.P.) HHu, Pine RBj, Polk (6) SAU, JCJ. High count 5/26 Marshall (250, Warren W.T.P.) HHu.
- Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [13 South, 21 North] Early south (median 5/11) 5/9 Yellow Medicine (2) GWe, 5/11 Watonwan MiO, 5/12 Lyon (3) GWe, Sibley (2) RBW. Early north (median 5/17) 5/8 St. Louis (2) DgM, 5/11 Traverse (2) DFN, PEJ, 5/12 Marshall (2) MiG, HHu, REN, RLF. High count 5/23 Marshall (50, Warren W.T.P.) HHu. Late south 5/28–5/31 Stearns (max. 2) PCC, m.ob., 5/28 Yellow Medicine KJB, 5/31 Stevens (3) DLP (median 6/3). Late north 5/30 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) TLz, FJN, IDv, (Meadowlands W.T.P.) ebd, Wilkin RAE, 5/31 Marshall (30, Warren W.T.P.) HHu, Polk (2) TWe, BWe (median 6/2). See summer report for additional late migrants north and south.
- RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) — [1 North] Just the fourth spring record for this Casual species was an apparent adult male in active pre-alternate molt found 5/27 Todd (Browerville W.T.P.) BWF, †EzH, ph. †REN, ph. IsH, m.ob.
- Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — [1 North] Up to three light-morph adults were reported this season, all from St. Louis at Park Point, except where noted: 5/15–16 (max. 2) StK, m.ob., 5/19–22 (max. 3) PHS, MLH, m.ob., 5/23 (Stony Point) StK, IDv, 5/26 JLK, m.ob., 5/28 St. Louis (2, Superior Entry) PHS, 5/29–30 (max. 2) IDv, m.ob.
- Stercorarius jaeger** (*Stercorarius sp.*) — [1 North] All north 5/15–16 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) StK, m.ob.
- Bonaparte's Gull** (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [50 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/1) 3/21 Dakota (140th St. Marsh, record early) KDS, AFo, MwT, 3/25 Blue Earth (2) BSa, Jackson KEm, Rice NiR. Early north (median 4/12) 4/6 Grant SC, 4/9 Douglas SC, 4/11 Traverse (max. 16) JWH, KEm. High count 5/8 St. Louis (1,025, Park Point R.A.) HTo. Late south 5/24 Winona ebd, 5/26 Pipestone (4) ebd, Sibley BHe (median 6/1). Late north 5/31 Crow Wing (13) NSg, Lake of the Woods ANy, St. Louis (4) TLz, ebd (median 6/12), but also see summer report.
- Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) — No reports for the second consecutive spring.
- Franklin's Gull** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [35 South, 21 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/20 Wabasha ASu, 3/22 Nobles ASu, 3/26 Dakota MwT. Early north (median 4/9) 4/5 Grant (5) JEc, ECl, 4/10 Todd MJB, 4/13 Carlton SC. High counts 5/21 Pennington (1,000, Thief River Falls W.T.P.) ebd, 5/29 Polk (1,000, Oak Lake) ebd.
- Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*) — [52 South, 34 North] See winter report for earliest south migrants (median 2/27), but with subsequent reports 3/4 Hennepin (2) DEL, 3/5 Dakota (6) MwT, Goodhue PEJ, Scott (3) ebd, ASu. Early north migrants (median 3/9) found in St. Louis beginning 3/4 (max. 2) DAh, m.ob.; first reports away from the North Shore 3/7 Traverse DLP, 3/13 Otter Tail (max. 4) NaH, BAR. High count 5/10 St. Louis (22,500, Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS.
- Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*) — [43 South, 27 North] Overwintered north. Early south (median 2/26) 3/4 Anoka (2) SRo, 3/6 Houston ebd. High counts 4/17 Lake (750, Knife River Marina) JWL, 5/30 Lake (750, Knife River Marina) TLz, ebd. Last reported south 5/30 Goodhue ebd, 5/31 Sibley KEm, but also see

summer report.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) — [5 South, 1 North] All south 3/21 Hennepin (*L. g. thayeri*, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) JKu, ebd, 3/22–23 Jackson (2 *thayeri*, one first-cycle and one second-cycle, South Heron Lake) ASu, KEm, 3/25 Ramsey (*thayeri*, Vadnais Lake) LiH, 3/26 Dakota (adult *thayeri*, Lake Byllesby) NiR, (Spring Lake P.R.) MwT, 3/26–27, 4/11–12 Lyon (first-cycle *thayeri*, reported from both Black Rush Lake W.P.A. and Lake Yankton) REn, RLF, NMe, GWe, 4/15 Wright (Pelican Lake) ToL, m.ob. Overwintered north in St. Louis, but with no reports of more than one individual during the spring season; reports of first-cycle *thayeri* from various locations through 5/29 (St. Louis Bay) PHS, m.ob. Only one report of *L. g. kumlieni*: 4/12 (St. Louis Bay) PHS.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [9 South, 2 North] All south 3/7 **Houston** (Brownsville Overlook) †LHL, 3/21 Dakota (2, adult and first- or second-cycle, 180th St. Marsh) ebd, RLF, REn, m.ob., 3/22 **Nobles** (Ocheda Lake) ASu, KEm, Ramsey (adult, Snail Lake) REn, RLF, m.ob., 3/23–25 Ramsey (first-cycle, Vadnais Lake) EzH, IsH, 3/26 Dakota (possible second-cycle, Spring Lake P.R.) MwT, Scott (adult, Spring Lake) BAB, 3/26 – 4/29 Sherburne (adult, Elk River Landfill) MAJ, m.ob., 4/10–11 Anoka (adult and second-cycle reported separately, Lake George) DWK, RMD, RBJ, 4/24 Scott (adult, Spring Lake) BAB, 4/25, 5/11 Lyon (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) VKL, ANy, DBz, SC, 5/27–28 **Watowan** (first-cycle, 320th St Marsh) GRE, †KEm, JWH, BAB. All north 3/22 St. Louis (second-cycle, Silver Lake) BEA, 4/11 Kanabec (2, adult and second-cycle, Arthur Twp.) SPS, 5/22 St. Louis (second-cycle, St. Louis Bay) ph. PHS.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [1 South, 1 North] All south 3/14 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) ebd, 3/26 Dakota (first-cycle, Spring Lake P.R.) MwT. Overwintered north along the North Shore. High count 4/13 St. Louis (6, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr. Late north 5/8 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) HTo, 5/11 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) FJN, 5/29 St. Louis (first- or second-cycle, St. Louis Bay) PHS, REn, RLF (median 4/29).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North] Only reported from St. Louis

County: 3/2 (E 1st St.) RyS, 3/12 (adult, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 3/14 (E 1st St.) RyS, 3/27 (first-cycle, St. Louis Bay) PHS, 3/28 (Duluth Port Terminal) BEA, 4/1 (Interstate Island W.M.A.) AAz, 4/10 (Park Point R.A.) HTo, StK, 4/11 (2, Park Point R.A.) TRK, StK, 4/22–23 (Park Point R.A.) TRK, StK.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [29 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/26–28 Goodhue (4) KIs, m.ob., 4/26–27 Rice TFB, 4/28 Dakota BxP, Hennepin EmR. Early north (median 4/30) 4/18 Douglas PNi, DnS, 4/24–28 Cass (max. 2) ebd, 4/28 Hubbard (7) REn, RLF. High count 5/4 Hennepin (125, Rice Lake) RHe. See summer report for late south migrants.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) — [44 South, 28 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/1 Cottonwood (11) DHr, Lac qui Parle (5) DMz, Lyon (2) LiH, SBE, Pipestone (3) VKL, LVD, HVD. Early north (median 5/8) 5/1 Grant (2, North Ottawa Impoundment) CNn, 5/8–9 Crow Wing (max. 4) ebd, 5/11 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) MGi, Marshall REn, RLF. High counts 5/22 Becker (80, Hamden Slough N.W.R.) TKa, 5/22 Pennington (80, Thief River Falls W.T.P.) AxB.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [22 South, 16 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/26 Carver TWE, 4/29 Dakota LHL, MwT, ebd, Goodhue LHL, GRe. Early north (median 5/4) 5/5 Polk CRM, 5/7 Otter Tail (4) BEc, 5/8 Cass (50) ebd, St. Louis (max. 20) HTo, m.ob. High count 5/18 St. Louis (280, Park Point R.A.) IDv, TRK. Late south 5/27 Pipestone (8) VKL, ebd, 5/28 Olmsted LAV, 5/30–31 Sibley DWK, KEm, JWH (median 6/1).

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) — [47 South, 21 North] Early south (median 4/10) 4/8 Wright (2) ebd, 4/10 Watowan BWF, DAB, SC, 4/16 Dakota ebd. Early north (median 4/18) 4/23 Douglas REn, RLF, 4/25 Marshall HHu, 4/27 Becker (max. 2) NaH, TKa, ebd. High counts 5/1 Dakota (50, Lake Byllesby) NiR, 5/12 Todd (50, Lake Osakis) ebd.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) — [3 South, 1 North] All south 4/23, 4/27–28 Benton (Little Rock Lake) HHD, m.ob., 4/28–30 Dakota/Goodhue (Lake Byllesby) AFo, ph. FFa, m.ob. All north reports were from St. Louis County where first found (median 5/5) 4/23 (2, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr, (max. 3, Park Point R.A.) PHS, SCB, StK, 4/28 (5, Park Point R.A.) JLK.



Snowy Egret, 19 May 2021, Hackensack, Cass County. Photo by Don Hoppe.

High counts 5/10 St. Louis (77, Park Point R.A.) StK, 5/25 St. Louis (48, Park Point R.A.) IDv, m.ob. Last north reports 5/31 St. Louis (Stony Point) TLz, (13, Park Point R.A.) JLK, but also see summer report (median 6/11).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) — [1 North] All north 5/15–16, 5/22 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) StK, m.ob.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [50 South, 33 North] Early south (median 3/23) 3/12 Meeker PKF, 3/20 Wabasha ASu, Washington ebd. Early north (median 3/28) 3/21 Wadena PJB, 3/26 Pine JuG, ebd, 3/27 Mille Lacs CRM, m.ob., St. Louis JLK. High count 4/27 St. Louis (60, W.S.H.C.) FJN.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Nannopterum auritum*) — [53 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/14) 3/9 Houston (4) ASu, 3/10 Rice TFB, 3/13 Goodhue PEJ, Rice (max. 9) RMS, m.ob. Early north (median 3/29) 3/30 Otter Tail (16) ebd, 4/1 Marshall HHu, 4/3 Lake of the Woods (2) ebd, Mille Lacs HHD, St. Louis (5, W.S.H.C.) FJN, (Park Point R.A.) StK. High counts 5/16 Rice (1,000, Sakatah Lake S.P.) ebd, 4/24 Freeborn (690, Myre-Big Island S.P.) ebd.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) — [1 South] A likely returning bird from the past two years was found 4/24 – 5/28 Hennepin (Richfield Lake Park) †BAF, ph. FFa, m.ob., but also see summer report.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [52 South, 31 North] Early south (median 3/19) 3/7 Winona (12, Dresbach Twp.) DGd, 3/8 Goodhue (9) PEJ, Wabasha (95) PEJ, Winona (4) PEJ. Early north (median 4/4) 3/27 Traverse (4) KEm, JWH, 3/29 Crow Wing (10) CRM, Grant (12) ebd. High counts 4/7 Chippewa (1,000, Lac Qui Parle) ebd, 5/8 Swift (1,000, Marsh Lake) JPr.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [25 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/13) 4/10 Kandiyohi REn, RLF, 4/16 Steele ebd, 4/18 Anoka ebd, Hennepin ebd. Early north (median 4/17) 4/6 Cass ABi, 4/16 Pine ebd, 4/18 Beltrami ebd. High counts 5/30 Marshall (6, Agassiz N.W.R.) TWe, BWe, 5/18 St. Louis (4, Mud Lake) JLK.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [10 South, 5 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/11 Steele (Rice Lake S.P.) DAB, (Armstrong Wetland Restoration) LiH, 5/13 Ramsey LiH, Washington SLP. All north 5/16–31 St. Louis (Mud Lake) HTo, StK, m.ob., 5/21 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) ebd, 5/23 Cook (Upper Rd., Grand Portage) BWF, m.ob., 5/24 Douglas JPE, 5/31 Otter Tail (Orwell Twp.) TWe, BWe, (Glendalough S.P.) MO. Highest tallies only 2.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [53 South, 33 North] Early south (median 3/6) 3/1 Dakota ADS, 3/5 Winona DBz, m.ob., 3/6 Hennepin ebd, m.ob. Early north (median 3/20) 3/18–22 Pine (max. 2) ebd, m.ob., 3/23 Becker (2, Dunton Locks C.P.) TKa, 3/24 Becker (Detroit Lake) NaH. High count 4/7 Hennepin (200, Marshall Terrace Park) ebd.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) — [50 South, 16 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/20–23 Washington ebd, m.ob., 3/24 Houston SHO, 3/25 Olmsted LAV, m.ob. Early north (median 4/1) 4/3 Clay (2) PBB, 4/6 Douglas SC, Grant SC, Otter Tail (4) NaH, TKa. High counts all from Grotto Lake in Otter Tail, peaking at **218** on 5/21 WPl.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [7 South, 4 North] All south 4/25–26 Renville (Preston Lake) ANy, DBz, m.ob., 4/26 Watonwan (2, 320th St. Marsh) JCC, m.ob., 5/2–8 Yellow



Glossy Ibis, 14 May 2021, Lake Maria, Stearns County. Photo by Demelza Larson.

Medicine (2, Tyson Lake) BAB, m.ob., 5/5–7 Faribault WAF, ph. †PEJ, 5/8–11 Rice (max. 2, 255th St. W, Morristown) TFB, m.ob., 5/15 Sibley (High Island Lake) DWK, 5/22 Olmsted (Eastside W.M.A.) JPr, m.ob., 5/23 Watonwan (Case Lake W.M.A.) ChH, m.ob. All north 5/12 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) HTO, m.ob., 5/13 Otter Tail (Lake Blanche) TFu, 5/14 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) FJN, 5/19 **Cass** (Hackensack W.T.P.) DoH, m.ob., 5/20 **Pennington** (Thief River Falls W.T.P.) SC, JMJ, JCJ.

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

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [4 South, 3 North] All south 4/26 Watonwan (max. 2, 320th St. Marsh) JCC, m.ob., 5/18 Rice (5) TFB, 5/25–28 Blue Earth (among the Bison at Minneopa S.P.) ARW, m.ob., 5/31 Nicollet (among a group of cattle at C.R. 41 and 461st Ave.) SLH. All north 5/1 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd, 5/13–14 Otter Tail (Lake Blanche) TFu, 5/17 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) WPL, 5/20 **Pennington** (Thief River Falls W.T.P.) SC, JMJ, JCJ, 5/21, 5/29 Otter Tail (max. 4, Grotto Lake) WPL.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [48 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/23 Hennepin LSY, 4/24 Carver RuS, Olmsted KHg, m.ob. Early north (median 5/2) 4/24 Otter Tail ebd, 4/28 Douglas ToR, 4/30 Carlton (2) ebd. High counts 5/11 Hennepin (9, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) DGu, 5/23 Hennepin (7) TAT.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [21 South, 4 North] Early south (median 4/2) 3/1 – 4/3 Winona (continuing bird from winter season) DBz, m.ob., 4/8 Hennepin (Lake Hiawatha) CLB, 4/9 (Veterans Memorial Park) DWK, CMB, JaE. Early north (median 4/17) 4/8–30 Otter Tail (max. 4) WPL, m.ob., 5/1 Aitkin CLR, 5/2 Grant (2) ebd. High counts 5/21 Otter Tail (12, Grotto Lake) WPL, 4/28 Hennepin (10, Veterans Memorial Park) CMB.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — [1 South] Early south (median 5/8) 4/17 – 5/19 **Freeborn** (max. 2, Brookside Park) ph. AEB, ph. †KEM, ph. †RJS, ph. DWK, ph. ANy, ph. RZi.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) — [2 South] Two reports of this Casual species: 5/7 **Steele** (Armstrong Wetland Restoration) ph. †PEJ, 5/14 **Stearns** (Lake Maria) JH, †PCC, ph. †DRL, m.ob.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*) — [20 South, 3 North] For the second consecutive spring season, there was a large influx of this species, mainly southwest of a line from Traverse to Olmsted. Early south (median 4/24) 4/23 Big Stone (3) DLP, 4/24 Freeborn MGI, Lac qui Parle (9) ebd, Mower (15) SHo, m.ob., **Pipestone** (Woodstock State W.M.A.) VKI, Sibley DBz, Watonwan (max. 100, 320th St. Marsh, 5 groups of roughly 25 birds each) ChH, m.ob. All north 4/30 Grant (North Ottawa Impoundment) ebd, 5/2 **Pine** (Falcon Ave.) KrM, m.ob., 5/11 Traverse DFN, PEJ. Late south 5/26 Steele (Armstrong Restoration) RBW, 5/26–28 Watonwan (max. 2) ChH, m.ob. See summer report for additional records both north and south.

Plegadis ibis (*Plegadis sp.*) — [7 South, 1 North] All south 4/24 Winona (74, second highest tally of any *Plegadis* in Minnesota, Prairie Island Rd.) DBz, 4/28 Jackson (7, North Heron Lake) MiO, BTS, 5/17 Big Stone (Graceville Twp.) WCM. All north 5/10 Morrison (2, Hwy 238, first record of any ibis



Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle, 7 March 2021, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest, Winona County. Photo by Todd Mitchell.

from this county) FGo. (Birds identified in other reports at the species level not included here.)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [53 South, 34 North] Early south (median 3/7) 3/6 Goodhue EBy, 3/8 Ramsey NSg, 3/9 Fillmore, Goodhue, Hennepin (two locations), Houston. Early north (median 3/23) 3/11 Aitkin LBa, 3/15 Becker ShG, HeH, 3/21 Otter Tail KTe, Pine PAL. High counts 4/16 St. Louis (302, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr, 4/17 St. Louis (254, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [42 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/25) 3/21 Olmsted LBa, 3/22 Dakota DEv, Ramsey LiH, Scott ebd. Early north (median 4/2) 4/6 Carlton ebd, Otter Tail (2) NaH, TKa, Todd TLu. High count 4/28 St. Louis (18, W.S.H.C.) EBr, FJN.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [8 South, 4 North] South reports in March from seven counties, last reports 3/20 Houston ASu, 3/24 Fillmore ToM, 4/24 Ramsey JZ], ebd. (median 4/20). Frequent north reports throughout March and April with peak northbound movement in mid to late March and last re-

ports 5/6 Pennington JMJ, St. Louis (2) FJN (median 5/6). High counts 3/22 St. Louis (26, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 3/12 St. Louis (13, W.S.H.C.) FJN.

Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from every county. Overwintered south in multiple locations. Early north (median 3/10) 3/5 Otter Tail JsS, 3/6 Becker ebd, Roseau ebd. High counts 4/10 Lac qui Parle (12, Plover Prairie) ebd, 4/6 Grant (9, North Ottawa Impoundment) NaH, TKa.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [52 South, 32 North] Reported south and north from the beginning of the season. High counts 4/25 St. Louis (137, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 5/1 St. Louis (135, W.S.H.C.) EBr, FJN. Late south 5/31 Ramsey (no details) ebd, Scott BAB, (median 5/30), but also see summer report.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [52 South, 30 North] Early north reports (median 3/11) all from St. Louis, starting 3/1 (E 6th St.) CLN, 3/3 (W.S.H.C.) FJN, (2, Hartley N.C.) RyS. High count 4/16 St. Louis (8, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [7 South, 7 North] All south 3/13 Olmsted (Rochester) LHL, 3/27 Pope (Hagstrom W.P.A.) KEM, JWH, 4/5 Blue Earth BHW, 4/10 Carver (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy, 4/26 Watonwan (Kansas Lake) BTS, MiO, 5/3 Hennepin (Richardson N.C.) ebd, 5/5 Ramsey (Chatham Open Space) LiH. North reports from Clay, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass, St. Louis, Lake.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from every county. High counts 3/22 St. Louis (573, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 3/21 St. Louis (312, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) — [1 South] Just the third spring record in the last decade was found 5/22 **Lyon** (Garvin C.P.) ph. †NMe.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [31 South, 14 North] Reported throughout the winter season from Morrison, with first apparent north migrants arriving (median 3/14) 3/7 Becker ShG, HeH, Otter Tail ebd, m.ob. High counts 3/30 Scott (4, Credit River Twp.) TZt, 4/8 Scott (4, Shakopee) ebd, 4/30 Sherburne (4, Grams R.P.) RSK. Notable record 5/25 **Brown** (Flandrau S.P.) ebd.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) —

[49 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/7) 4/4 Dakota ebd, Ramsey LiH, 4/5 Blue Earth BHW. Early north (median 4/13) 4/10 Otter Tail TJJ, 4/14 Cass DoH, ebd, Cook ebd. High counts 5/1 St. Louis (938, W.S.H.C.) FJN, EBr, 5/5 St. Louis (904, W.S.H.C.) FJN.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [25 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/5) 4/4 Pipestone (Osborne Twp.) HVD, VVD, 4/4–5 Pipestone (Rock Twp.) REn, RLF, ASu, 4/5 Rice ebd. Early north (median 4/17) 4/14 Clay ebd, 4/23 Grant ABL, 4/28 St. Louis EBr, FJN. High counts 5/25 Otter Tail (7, Eagle Lake Twp.) JsS, 5/25 Marshall (4, Foldahl Twp.) HHu.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. High counts 4/6 St. Louis (511, W.S.H.C., including 5 adult dark/rufous and an adult light Harlan's) FJN, 4/10 St. Louis (368, W.S.H.C., including 2 adult dark/rufous) FJN, HTo, EBr. Documented reports of *B.j. barlani* until mid-April from Blue Earth, Dakota, Houston, McLeod, Meeker, Olmsted, with additional undocumented reports from six more counties through early May. "Kriider's" race reported from six counties, but none were supported by documentation.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [51 South, 32 North] High counts 4/6 St. Louis (62, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 4/10 St. Louis (38, W.S.H.C.) FJN, m.ob. Late south 5/10 Freeborn EzH, LiH, Wabasha RAE, 5/11 Big Stone DFN, 5/11–13 Steele LiH, PEJ (median 5/10). Late north 5/16 Todd ebd, 5/17 St. Louis (2) FJN, m.ob., 5/30 Marshall BWe, TWe (median 5/27).

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [17 South] No north reports. South reports widespread, though absent in the southwest. High count 3/14 Hennepin (4, East Mississippi River Flats) ebd. Three individuals noted as gray morphs, two as red morphs.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [48 South, 24 North] Reported throughout the season and state. Adults on nests or with newly fledged young in 5 north and 18 south counties.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [5 South, 8 North] High counts of two in Rice and Hennepin in early March and mid-April, respectively. Late south 3/13 Steele DFe, CBt, 3/16 Dakota MaJ, 4/16–18 Hennepin (max.

2) ebd, SHF, BAF (median 4/2). Late north 3/18 Clay PBB, 4/30 Cook (Grand Marais Harbor) LWd, 5/25 Grant/Otter Tail (C.R. 26) WPL, m.ob (median 4/19).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [1 North] Reported north in St. Louis from Sax-Zim Bog through 3/8 m.ob. (This is considered a Sensitive Species in eBird and records are not public. This summary includes eBird records although they are not in the M.O.U. database.)

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [42 South, 26 North] Found in almost every county easy of a line from Jackson to Kittson. High counts 5/4 St. Louis (10, C.R. 49) GJN, 4/3 Pine (8, Gandy Dancer Trail) JuW.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [1 South, 7 North] Found north in Roseau, Beltrami, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. One exceptional south report was found 4/4 – **4/25 Washington** (Manning Trail) ph. AXH, m. ob., before being struck by a vehicle, transported to rehab, making a successful recovery, and then released in the northern half of the state. (This is considered a Sensitive Species in eBird and records are not public. This summary includes eBird records although they are not in the M.O.U. database.)

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [8 South, 2 North] Late south migrants 4/18 Cottonwood ANy, 4/25 Washington BDO, m.ob. Pair with three young seen through 5/31 Hennepin (5, Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area) ebd, m.ob. Additional south reports from Dakota, Dodge, Sibley, Ramsey, Yellow Medicine. All north 4/20 Polk JCJ, SAu, TJJ, 4/23 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, 4/24 Lake (Silver Bay) ebd.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [19 South, 10 North] Found south in 19 counties; last reports 4/29 Lac qui Parle ebd, 4/30 Dodge PEJ. Found north in Aitkin, Clay, Grant, Kittson, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pine, Polk, Traverse, Wilkin. High counts 3/11 Lac qui Parle (11, Marsh Lake) REn, RLF, 4/8 Big Stone (8, Marsh Lake) REn, RLF.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [1 North] Only north report 3/6 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) EBr, AKz.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [8 South, 9 North] Regularly reported south early in the season, with last reports 3/29 Rice TFB, 4/7 Dakota ABL, 5/2 Washington

TAr. North reports from Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Cass, Koochiching, Aitkin, Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, Cook.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megasceryle alcyon*) — [53 South, 34 North] Overwintered north in St. Louis; first migrants appeared north (median 3/24) 3/22 Todd (2) REn, RLF, 3/27 Douglas JPE, Grant SHO. High counts 5/1 Hennepin (6, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) ebd, 5/2 Itasca (5, Harris Twp.) ebd.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes lewis*) — [1 North] A continuing individual first reported during the prior winter was observed sporadically until 4/30 in Morrison (Lake Alexander) REn, RLF, RBJ.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [50 South, 27 North] Early south reports (median 4/12) mostly pertain to overwintering individuals 3/1 Stearns REn, m.ob., 3/2 Benton ebd, Rice GHo. Early north (median 4/19) 3/7 Wadena PJB, 3/8 Cass PRH, 4/16 Aitkin SKS, Itasca (2) ebd. High counts 5/17 Blue Earth (6) MiO, 5/24 Anoka (6, Fish Lake Nature Trails) DAs.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [53 South, 31 North] Found in every county except Mahanomen, Roseau, Lake of the Woods. High counts 4/10 Scott (19, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) MAK, 4/11 Sherburne (12, River Oaks Park) ToL, 5/2 Ramsey (12, Crosby Farm R.P.) DAd, 5/10 Dakota (12, Rogers Lake) JBU.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [53 South, 34 North] Early south (median 3/25) 3/10 Hennepin HPe, 3/13 Wabasha PAL, 3/20 Houston ASu, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/2) 4/2 Lake SLL, JWJ, 4/3 Itasca SC, 4/4 Cass BEc, Morrison KEm, St. Louis PHS, SCB. High counts 5/1 Winona (10, Prairie Island) ebd, 5/3 Goodhue (10, Frontenac S.P.) ebd.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [2 North] All reports: 3/9 Lake of the Woods (Beltrami Island S.F.) REn, RLF, 3/12, 5/8–9 St. Louis (max. 4, Owens Twp.) JuG, ebd.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [6 North] Reported from Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. High count 5/8 St. Louis (4, Cook Twp.) JuG.

Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) — [53 South, 32 North] Observed statewide.



Great Gray Owl, 4 April 2021, Stillwater, Washington County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

High counts 5/11 Hennepin (21, Thomas Rd.) RDa, 3/6 Hennepin (18, East Mississippi River Flats) ASo.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. High counts 3/1–6 St. Louis (12, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr, ebd.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Earliest north reports 3/1 Todd REn, RLF, 3/2–6 Grant CNn pertained to overwintering individuals; 3/6 St. Louis JDx may have been an early migrant (median 3/25). High count 4/18 St. Louis (146, Park Point R.A.) StK. One report of the “Red-shafted” subspecies or an intergrade 3/11 Blue Earth (Mankato Twp.) ChH.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [49 South, 34 North] Reported statewide, but fewest reports from the Southwest region. High count 5/6 Washington (7, William O'Brien S.P.) KTP.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [53 South, 34 North] Early north (median 3/8) 3/2 Becker NaH, DFe, 3/3 Traverse DLP, 3/6 Mille Lacs HHD, Morrison DRL, Polk JCJ. High counts 4/23 Renville (13) RAE, 4/29 Jackson (12) RAE.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [42 South, 31 North] Scarce in the Southwest. Early north (median 3/11) 3/2 St. Louis NPo, 3/3 Polk TJJ, 3/5 Pennington SAu. High count 4/23 St. Louis (8, W.S.H.C.) EBr, FJN. Late south mi-

- grants 5/17 Kandiyohi AAZ, Wright ToL, 5/18 Sherburne HHD, 5/21 Goodhue EPa (median 5/18).
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) — [37 South, 19 North] Overwintered Southeast and in Duluth. Early south migrants (median 3/13) 3/4 Stearns HHD, 3/7 Blue Earth ChH, 3/9 Houston ASu, Wright ToL. Early north (median 3/23) 3/21 Lake (Agate Bay) JWl, 3/22 Lake (Shovel Point, near Illgen City) ebd, 3/26 Clay TKa. High counts 3/22 St. Louis (5, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 5/12, 5/19 Olmsted (5, one adult with four chicks, Mayo Clinic) ebd.
- Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) — [1 South] Only report, a second county record: 4/16 **Blue Earth** (Mankato) †BHW.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [49 South, 32 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/27 Blue Earth ChH, Faribault SaR, Olmsted LHL, 4/30 Goodhue ebd. Early north (median 5/7) 5/5 Crow Wing DLP, 5/7 Todd RLF, REN, 5/9 Otter Tail ebd. High counts 5/24 Carver (15, Carver P.R.) BCL, 5/29 Hennepin (15, Mississippi Gateway R.P.) TLO.
- Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [20 South, 13 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/4 Big Stone BTS, MiO, JSc, 5/8 Anoka ebd, 5/10 Pipestone LVD. Early north (median 5/12) 5/3 Cass (Ten Mile Lake) ebd, 5/11 Clay MGi, Otter Tail ebd, 5/15 Becker TKa, Otter Tail TKa. High counts 5/22 Clay (4, Moorhead) PBB, 5/31 Clay (4, Felton Prairie) TWe, BWe.
- Eastern Kingbird** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [53 South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/28 Washington ebd, 4/30 Anoka GWe, Goodhue PEJ, Lyon NMe. Early north (median 5/8) 5/8 Itasca ebd, Kanabec MGi, Otter Tail TFu, St. Louis ALu. High count 5/17 St. Louis (34, Park Point R.A.) HTo, RyS, TRK, FJN.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) — [1 North] Only report, second county record 5/7–11 **Aitkin** (Cornish Twp.) ph. SC, ph. †LBA, †EzH, ph. IsH, m.ob.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** (*Contopus cooperi*) — [31 South, 19 North] Early south (median 5/8) 5/5 Rice EmR, 5/10 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R. Headquarters) BBr, ebd, 5/12 Hennepin (Westwood Hills N.C.) DAH. Early north (median 5/13) 5/14 Pine RLF, REN, 5/17 Itasca LMc, 5/18 Koochiching CRM, m.ob. High counts 5/29 Hennepin (3, Mississippi Gateway R.P.) TLO, 5/31 Blue Earth (3, Bray C.P.) DHr. See summer report for late south migrants.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** (*Contopus virens*) — [51 South, 31 North] Early south (median 5/6) 5/6–7 Hennepin RHe, 5/7 Winona ebd, 5/8 Ramsey EHi, Scott CBt, DFe. Early north (median 5/12) 5/13 Otter Tail TFu, 5/15 Becker ebd, 5/16 Cass ebd, Todd RLF, REN. High counts 5/23 Anoka (16, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS, 5/23 Carver (13, Carver P.R.) JCy, 5/29 Washington (13, William O'Brien S.P.) JdC, CJE.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [21 South, 19 North] Reported with identification details from 16 south and 7 north counties. Early south (median 5/13) 5/11 Washington EzH, IsH, 5/15–16 Carver (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy. Early north (median 5/20) Todd RLF, REN, 5/15 Lake Pgr, 5/17 St. Louis BHo. High count 5/28 Steele (5) PSu. Late south 5/31 Carver NWi, Ramsey DnS, PNi, Steele PSu, but see summer report (median 6/6). **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not included in this report. Observers are encouraged to include identification details in their reports.
- Acadian Flycatcher** (*Empidonax virescens*) — [13 South] Reported with details from 10 south counties. Early south (median 5/16) 5/15 Washington SLP, 5/16 Rice JCa, 5/17 Houston DFN. Unusual records: 5/19 **Ramsey** (Chatham Open Space) LiH, EzH, APi, 5/22 **Lyon** (Camden S.P.) NMe, **Anoka** (Kelling Woods) DWK, m.ob., 5/25 **Steele** (Rice Lake S.P.) NiR, 5/29 **Brown** (C.R. 10) KEm, JWH.
- Alder Flycatcher** (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [39 South, 28 North] Reported with identification notes from 24 south and 5 north counties. Early south (median 5/16) 5/9 Murray GWe, 5/10 Freeborn EzH, 5/15 Washington BDO, ELC, EzH, GWe. Early north (median 5/21) 5/22 St. Louis DRL, 5/25 Cook DFN, BBr. High counts 5/26 Steele (7) PSu, 5/30 Rock (5) JWH, KEm.
- Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*) — [33 South, 12 North] Reported with identification notes from 18 south and 6 north counties. Early south (median 5/11) 5/7 Dakota DVe, 5/11–12 Hennepin (Lake Hiawatha) JHv, PSt, 5/14 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) LAi. Early

north (median 5/27) 5/14 Polk ebd, 5/23 Clay PBB, 5/27 Marshall VRL, KOC. High counts 5/23 Hennepin (6, Hyland Lake P.R.) MHu, 5/24 Hennepin (4, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) VRL, 5/31 Anoka (4, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS, PNI.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported with identification details from 24 south and 15 north counties. Early south (median 5/2) 4/27 Pipestone KBg, 5/1 Carver JCy, Hennepin ebd, Washington EzH. Early north (median 5/10) 5/3–4 Becker HeH, ShG, 5/5 Crow Wing DLP. High count 5/18 Chisago (30, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) KTP.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [52 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/19 Hennepin ebd, Washington ebd, 3/20 Fillmore ASu, Houston ASu, Wright ebd. Early north (median 3/30) 4/1 Cass (Staples) ebd, 4/3 Aitkin HBr, JIB, ABm, 4/4 also in Crow Wing, Itasca, Morrison, Pine, St. Louis. High counts 5/5 Dakota (12, Lebanon Hills R.P.) ebd, 4/18 Lyon (9, Garvin Park) GWe, 4/26 Scott (9) TZt.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) — [2 South, 2 North] Another good spring for this species with reports from four counties, all along the western border of the state. All south (median 5/3) 5/2 Lac qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) ph. TWe, BWe, 5/8–12 Big Stone (2, gravel pits north of Odessa) RLF, REn, FFa, GWe, GRe. All north (median 5/8) 4/30 **Wilkin** (Rothsay W.M.A.) PLJ, 5/24 Clay (Felton Prairie) LiH, SBE, KvM.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) — [1 South] Only report 5/6 Scott (Spring Lake Park) ph. †BAb, †DwK, m.ob.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) — [7 South] Early south (median 5/16) 5/3 Wabasha PEJ, 5/13 Olmsted JPr, JmP, 5/17 Goodhue RBW. High counts 5/24 Wabasha (5, Kellogg/Weaver) PEJ, 5/31 Dakota (3, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Cliff Fen) DgM.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [52 South, 30 North] Early south (median 5/2) 4/30 Sherburne HCT, 5/1 Hennepin CMB, SSc, FFa, DGu, MaJ, VRL, Olmsted LAV, Rice MZA, Washington ebd, Winona AaL. Early north (median 5/9) 5/5 Mille Lacs SC, 5/8 Pine LEV, 5/8–9 Morrison SEM. High counts 5/16 Anoka (11, Lino Lakes) ebd, 5/17 Ramsey (11, Crosby Farm R.P.) LiH, SBE. Unusual report 5/22 **Lake** (Caribou Falls State



White-eyed Vireo, 6 May 2021, Spring Lake, Scott County. Photo by Bonnie Heinecke.

Wayside) BWF, ANy, DBz.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) — [46 South, 26 North] Early south (median 4/29) 4/26 Kandiyohi ebd, Mower SWm, Ramsey GWe, 4/27 Ramsey LiH. Early north (median 5/3) 4/29 Clay ebd, 5/1 Otter Tail ebd, 5/2 Aitkin CLR. High count 5/15 McLeod (7) ANy. Late south 5/28 Hennepin CJE, Sherburne SKE, Washington ebd, 5/29 Olmsted ToM, 5/31 Carver SML (median 6/1).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [35 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/3 Meeker PKF, 5/4 Hennepin CMB, 5/8 in Anoka, Blue Earth, Goodhue, Hennepin (three locations), Olmsted. Early north (median 5/14) 5/15 St. Louis LME, 5/16 Cass ebd, Cook LWd, Marshall ebd, Traverse ANy, DBz. No counts of more than three individuals. Late south 5/30 Dakota ebd, Stearns DRL, 5/31 Anoka RCl, but see summer report (median 6/1).

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) — [53 South, 33 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/29 Dakota ebd, 5/1 Anoka DGu, Dakota ANy, Goodhue PEJ, Hennepin (six locations) m.ob., Olmsted LAV, Ramsey DnS, CHi, Scott BAb, Winona ToM. Early north (median 5/8)

- 5/8 Otter Tail JsS, 5/9 Clay ebd, 5/12 Beltrami AxB. High counts 5/16 Hennepin (15) CLB, 5/20 Hennepin (15, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) MaS, 5/22 Ramsey (15, Lake Phalen) KSi, 5/23 Goodhue (15, Frontenac S.P.) BLz.
- Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [52 South, 33 North] Early south (median 5/6) 5/3 Carver JSt, Dakota JHa, MaJ, Hennepin SKe, Ramsey LiH. Early north (median 5/10) 5/8 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) ebd, 5/10 Carlton ebd, 5/11 St. Louis (Kabetogama Lake) ebd. High counts 5/23 Wright (36, Stanley Eddy Memorial Park) ToL, 5/23 Carver (24, Carver P.R.) JCy.
- Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [18 South, 8 North] Very good spring for this species, although most reports were single-day sightings, and all reports were of single birds. Early south (median 3/26) 3/21 Wabasha DBz, 3/23 Blue Earth RLF, REN, 4/9 Lyon RLF, REN, RAE. Early north (median 4/16) 4/30 Grant HeH, 4/30 – 5/2 Otter Tail (Otter Tail S.N.A.) HeH, ShG, AAz, 5/7 St. Louis HT0, PHS, RyS, TRK. New spring record: 5/15 **Norman** (Sandpiper Prairie S.N.A.) AnA. Rare spring records: 5/24 **Cass** (C.R. 135) DAY, 5/22 **Cook** (Croftville Rd.) BWF.
- Northern Shrike** (*Lanius borealis*) — [26 South, 23 North] High counts 3/29 Aitkin (4) LBa, CLR, 3/4 St. Louis (3, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr. Late south 4/10 Hennepin (Edenbrook Conservation Area) AFo, 4/11 Scott DBz, 4/13 Hennepin (Purgatory Creek Wetlands) BHw (median 4/10). Late north 4/22 St. Louis (Cotton) ebd, 4/24 St. Louis (Darwin Meyer W.M.A.) JuG, (40th Ave. W, Duluth) MLH, 5/1 Beltrami (Bemidji) TPW (median 4/19).
- Canada Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [10 North] Reported from traditional Northeast and North-central range, plus Roseau. High count 3/3 St. Louis (16, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr.
- Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [53 South, 34 North] Observed statewide. Record-high count 5/12 St. Louis (6,125, Park Point R.A.) HT0, SNe; many other high counts from the Duluth area also on 5/12 including 4,870 observed at the Park Point airport dune bridge (TRK) and 2,641 at the Enger Tower W.S.H.C. (FJN, EBr). Another notable tally 5/13 (4,390, Park Point R.A.) HT0, TRK, SNe, RyS, StK.
- Black-billed Magpie** (*Pica hudsonia*) — [20 North] Reported from usual range south to Otter Tail. High counts 3/14 St. Louis (14) JPr, 3/9 Lake of the Woods (12) RLF, REN, 4/23 Clay (12) ebd.
- American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. High counts 3/1 Hennepin (300, Minneapolis) JDB, 3/6 Olmsted (220, Rochester) LHI.
- Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) — [14 South, 32 North] Reported in all counties north of a line from Goodhue to Wilkin. Interesting records from the southern edge of this range: 3/3 – 5/31 Meeker PKF, m.ob., 3/4 – 4/30 Ramsey ebd, m.ob., 3/12 – 4/30 Goodhue LHI, RMD, KDS, 3/26 – 5/29 Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.) m.ob., 3/30, 4/18 Scott (Prior Lake) TZt, BHe, 4/27 Wilkin (Rothsay W.M.A.) LSI, 4/29 – 5/31 Dakota (Miesville Ravine P.R.) KDS, m.ob. High counts 3/1 Cook (25, Tofte Solid Waste Disposal Site) ebd, 3/3 St. Louis (25, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr, 3/12 St. Louis (25, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 3/29 Aitkin (25) LBa.
- Black-capped Chickadee** (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. High counts 4/10 Scott (102, 6.8 mile hike through Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) MAK, 3/2 St. Louis (80, Sax-Zim Bog) EBr.
- Boreal Chickadee** (*Poecile hudsonicus*) — [7 North] Reported Beltrami and Lake of the Woods east to Cook. Numerous high counts of 5 birds.
- Tufted Titmouse** (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [15 South] New county records: 3/29 **Renville** (Morton Outcrops S.N.A.) KTP, 5/24 **Watsonwan** (Madelia) AnK. All other reports from normal Southeast range north to Anoka. High counts 3/3 Goodhue (5, Red Wing) SMu, 4/4 Houston (5, Reno Skywatch) ASu.
- Horned Lark** (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [53 South, 29 North] Few reports from the Northeast; east of a line from Lake of the Woods to Pine only reported from St. Louis. High counts 3/30 Blue Earth (400, Lincoln Twp.) BSa, 5/4 Norman (80, Ada) LSI.
- Bank Swallow** (*Riparia riparia*) — [45 South, 32 North] Early south (median 4/16) 4/11 Anoka ebd, 4/14 Ramsey LiH, 4/17 Sherburne RSk. Early north 5/1 Beltrami JcJ, SAU, 5/2 Becker TKa, 5/3 Itasca SC. High counts 5/15 Hennepin (200, Rice Lake) RHe, 5/31 Hennepin (150, Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area) GUn.
- Tree Swallow** (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [53 South, 34 North] Early south (median 3/19)

- 3/9 Houston ASu, 3/13 Hennepin (Elm Creek P.R.) TLo, 3/20 Hennepin (Lake Smetana Park) BHw, Meeker PKF. Early north (median 4/3) 3/29 Wilkin ebd, 4/4 Kanabec KrM, Morrison ebd, St. Louis StK, Todd TLu. High count 3/28 Houston (1,100, Reno Bottoms) RLF, REN.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [49 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/9 Winona LHI, 4/9–10 Scott BA**b**, 4/10 Blue Earth RLF, REN, Dakota MwT, Goodhue PEJ. Early north (median 4/21) 4/23 Pine (Pine City W.T.P.) KPJ, 4/26 Otter Tail (50) ebd, 4/28 Pine (Pine City) KrM. High counts 5/2 Rice (90, Circle Lake) NiR, 5/18 Winona (55, Bollers Lake) ebd.
- Purple Martin** (*Progne subis*) — [48 South, 28 North] Early south (median 4/6) 3/28 Houston RLF, REN, 3/29, 4/3 Meeker PKF, 4/4 Carver JCy. Early north (median 4/12) 4/12 Pine KrM, 4/17 Aitkin ebd, 4/18 Douglas PNi. High counts 5/17 Wright (60) ToL.
- Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*) — [53 South, 34 North] Early south (median 4/7) 4/5 Anoka ebd, 4/6 Hennepin ebd, Lyon RLF, REN, 4/8 Carver ebd, Chippewa MiO. Early north (median 4/17) 4/19 Itasca StK, 4/23, 4/26 Pine (Pine City W.T.P.) KPJ, KrM. 4/27 Becker TKA, NaH. High counts 5/5 Hennepin (200, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) NSa, 5/27 Todd (150, Browerville W.T.P.) ISH, EzH, ASu.
- Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [52 South, 32 North] Early south (median 4/16) **4/6** Isanti SDz, 4/14 Ramsey (Vadnais Lake) LiH, 4/19 Ramsey (6, Silverwood Park) ebd. Early north (median 4/25) 4/27 Wilkin ANy, DBz, 4/30 Aitkin SC, Grant WPL, St. Louis PHS, Todd RLF, REN, Record-high count 5/29 Polk (**3,000**, rough estimate, Oak Lake) ebd, also 5/15 Lac qui Parle (500, Yellow Bank River) ebd, 5/27 Pipestone (500, Pipestone W.T.P.) VKL.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Corthylio calendula*) — [53 South, 33 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/21 Hennepin (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) ebd, 3/22 Nobles ASu, 3/26 Hennepin (Richfield and Old Cedar Ave Bridge) CoM, MwT, LiH. Early north (median 4/4) 4/3 St. Louis (Piedmont Heights, Duluth) ebd, 4/4 Itasca ebd, Pine LEv, St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) StK. High counts 4/27 Anoka (60, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes P.R.) GWe, 4/27 Rice (45, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) MZa. Late south 5/24 Watonwan AnK, 5/27–28 Ramsey RMD, DnS, 5/28 Jackson BTS (median 5/27).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*) — [48 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/9 Houston ASu, 3/11 Hennepin GWe, 3/20 Brown ebd, Hennepin SMC, Rice NiR, Scott BxP, Steele LiH, ClB. Possibly overwintering bird north 3/9 Lake of the Woods RLF, REN. Early migrants north (median 3/27) 3/24 Pine SBE, 3/27 St. Louis StK. High count 4/10 St. Louis (**50**, Park Point R.A.) HTo, StK. Late south 5/9 Hennepin MkC, Pipestone LVD, 5/10 Freeborn LiH, EzH, 5/13 Sherburne ToL (median 5/10).
- Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [1 South, 16 North] Only south report 3/7 **McLeod** (Swan Lake C.P.) ebd. High counts 4/27 St. Louis (1,750, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth) HTo, 4/6 St. Louis (1,360, W.S.H.C.) FJN, 4/8 St. Louis (1,200, Virginia.) SLF. Many reports of birds lingering into May, last reports 5/10 St. Louis FJN, JLK, 5/16, 5/18 St. Louis JPR (median 4/20).
- Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [50 South, 28 North] Present north and south as the period commenced. High counts 5/26 St. Louis (199, Stony Point) IDv, 5/25 Clay (70, Gooseberry Park) ebd.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*) — [47 South, 30 North] Found in 77 counties, the second highest total for any spring season, only surpassed by 84 in 2019. High count 5/13 St. Louis (23, Park Point R.A.) StK, m.ob.
- White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. High counts 4/10 Scott (**33**, 6.8 mile hike through Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) MAK, 3/8 Otter Tail (**28**, Glendalough S.P.) ebd, 4/15 Hennepin (27, Bredesen Park) BHw.
- Brown Creeper** (*Certhia americana*) — [50 South, 32 North] High counts 4/16 Hennepin (24, Lake Harriet) CWB, 4/9 St. Louis (22, Park Point R.A.) HTo. Late south 5/19 Winona ThN, 5/20 Dakota ebd, 5/22 Ramsey APi (median 5/16).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Poliophtila caerulea*) — [53 South, 12 North] Early south (median 4/20) **4/8** Chippewa MiO, 4/23 Washington DFN, Winona ebd, 4/24 Olmsted MiD. Early north (median 5/5) 5/9 Otter Tail WPL, 5/13 Cass SC, 5/15 Grant JSP, Todd AaL, TLu, CLu. High counts 5/9 Fillmore (15, Forestville S.P.)

- ToM, 5/15 Dakota (15, Lebanon Hills R.P.) LMo, 5/17 Houston (15, Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) ToM.
- House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [53 South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/16 Blue Earth ebd, 4/17 Anoka ebd, Blue Earth SaR, 4/18 Hennepin BBr. Early north **4/3** St. Louis (Park Point) †JLK, 5/1 Crow Wing ebd, Pine TJo, Polk HHu, St. Louis JLK. High counts 5/17 Olmsted (**31**, Quarry Hill N.C.) ebd, 5/26 Lyon (21, Camden S.P.) ebd.
- Winter Wren** (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) — [30 South, 21 North] Early south (median 3/25) **3/9–20** Houston DSt, RLF, REh, DRL, 3/25 Olmsted JPr, JmP, 3/28 Dakota LHL, Goodhue LHL. Early north (median 4/7) 4/3 Itasca ebd, St. Louis MPI, 4/4 St. Louis PHS, SCB, 4/5 Grant CNn, St. Louis (three locations) MTh, BHo, MPi. High counts 5/13 Cook (4, Grand Portage S.P.) ebd, 5/16 Lake (4, Parent Lake) SSp. Late south 5/14 Scott TzT, 5/23 Chisago ELC, 5/13–29 Washington BDo, EzH, m.ob. (median 5/15).
- Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus stellaris*) — [42 South, 32 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/24 Pipestone VKL, 4/27 Houston DSt, 4/28 Anoka GWe. Early north (median 5/1) 5/2 Otter Tail TFu, 5/4 Clay BxP, Mahnomen ebd. High counts 5/24 Anoka (27, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) IsH, EzH, 5/21 Marshall (22, Agassiz N.W.R.) BEA.
- Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [47 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/8 Chippewa MiO, 4/23 Cottonwood SEm, KEh, MEm, Scott BHe, 4/24 Hennepin MaS. Early north (median 5/5) 5/1 Aitkin ABL, Clearwater JCJ, SAu, Marshall JMJ, 5/2 Grant AAz, St. Louis JLK. High counts 5/22 St. Louis (22, Mud Lake) JLK, 5/23 Anoka (22, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS.
- Carolina Wren** (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [11 South] Eleven counties represents a new spring season high. Unusual records: 3/11 **Kandiyohi** (Spicer) DOR, 4/7 **Lac qui Parle** (Big Stone N.W.R.) DLP. Also reported from Blue Earth, Hennepin, Houston, Nicollet, Olmsted, Ramsey, Wabasha, Washington (three locations), Winona.
- Gray Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [53 South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/25) 4/24 Goodhue ebd, 4/25 Olmsted RLF, REh, Washington ebd, 4/26 Ramsey LiH, Rice JHL. Early north (median 5/2) **4/15** Carlton (Wren-
- shall) ebd, 5/2 Douglas ToR, 5/4 Todd SDi. High counts 5/15 Carver (25, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy, 5/16 Houston (25, Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) ebd, 5/19 Scott (25, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) ebd.
- Brown Thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [52 South, 31 North] Overwintering birds continued into the spring season in Kandiyohi (RAE), Meeker (PFK), Rice (TFB) Dakota (KEh, JWH), Morrison MJB. Early south migrants (median 4/9) 3/24 Houston ASu, 4/5 Washington EzH, 4/7 Hennepin DCZ. Early north (median 4/20) 4/24 Todd ebd, 4/27 Wilkin LSL, 4/28 Todd (two locations) SDi, TLu. High counts 5/31 Washington (10, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) JH, 5/9 Washington (9, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) JCa.
- Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [9 South, 4 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/17 **Lyon** (Camden S.P.) GWe, m.ob., 4/27 Wabasha †PEJ, 5/2 **Renville** (Bird Island) ANy. All north (median 5/4) 5/11 Aitkin JWJ, 5/12 St. Louis PHS, 5/14 Cook LWd, 5/28 Clay CMk, ebd.
- European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. High counts of 1,000 on numerous dates in Dakota (SET-Empire) MwT.
- Eastern Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*) — [48 South, 27 North] Present south as the season commenced. Early north (median 3/16) 3/9 Becker NaH, 3/12 Otter Tail JsS, 3/13 Mille Lacs ABL, Morrison ebd, Otter Tail JsS. High count 5/26 St. Louis (**40**, Stony Point) IDv.
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*) — [1 South] Two Ramsey reports, both likely the same individual that wintered at Lake Como, 3/4 Ramsey (Lake Como) BHw, 3/6 Ramsey (Silverwood Park) NSg.
- Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [6 South, 2 North] All south 3/7, 3/9 Hennepin (Kingswood Park) TWe, ebd, 3/8–13 Lincoln BTS, MiO, m.ob., 3/16 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) HHD, 4/4 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy, 4/9–15 Hennepin (Hyland P.R.) SLC, ph. DWK, ph. TGi, 4/18 Lyon (Garvin Park) GWe, 4/28 Renville KTP (median 4/1). All north 3/1 St. Louis (W.S.H.C.) FJN, 3/3 Cook (Grand Marais) JHn (median 4/15).
- Veery** (*Catbarus fuscescens*) — [36 South, 31 North] Early south (median 5/2) 5/4 Cottonwood DHR, Pipestone LVD, 5/5 Hennepin

- CoM, 5/6 Nicollet StK, Ramsey LiH, RMD. Early north (median 5/7) 5/6 St. Louis MPi, 5/7 Morrison MhJ, 5/8 Pine ebd. High counts 5/23 Anoka (23, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS, 5/23 St. Louis (20, Hartley N.C.) HTo.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush** (*Catharus minimus*) — [40 South, 17 North] Early south (median 5/3) 5/1 Hennepin (Grass Lake) KBg, (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) ebd, 5/2 Lyon RLF, REn, Rice NiR. Early north (median 5/7) 5/7 Clay ebd, 5/8–12 Cass (Deep Portage Learning Center) ebd, DAY, 5/12 Polk SAu. High counts 5/12 Steele (5) DAB, 5/14 Hennepin (4) CMB, SBM, 5/15 Mower (4) CMi, BLa. Late south 5/23 Anoka DnS, Faribault WAF, Wright ToL, 5/24 Hennepin (T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) ebd, 5/26 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) KBu, TBu, TWe (median 5/27). Late north 5/24 Itasca SC, St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, 5/29 Kittson, 5/30 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) ebd (median 5/28).
- Swainson's Thrush** (*Catharus ustulatus*) — [53 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/26 Mower SWm, 4/27 Dakota RBW, Faribault SLH, Hennepin GrS, EMf, AKz, JaE, Lyon KBg, McLeod BHa. Early north (median 5/2) 4/30 Becker ebd, 5/1 Beltrami TPW, 5/2 Crow Wing ebd. High counts 5/12 Steele (26) DAB, 5/15 Murray (25, Lake Shetek S.P.) LHL. Late south 5/31 Benton HHD, Hennepin KBg, also see summer report (median 6/2).
- Hermit Thrush** (*Catharus guttatus*) — [47 South, 31 North] Several overwintering birds continued into the spring season. Early south migrants (median 3/28) 3/18 Mower CRM, JcJ, LMc, NaH, 3/22 Washington ebd, 3/25 Renville BTS, MiO, Scott TZt. Early north (median 4/4) 4/4 Todd TLu, 4/5 Morrison HHD, 4/6 Grant ebd, Lake of the Woods DaL. High counts 4/26 Scott (13) TZt, 4/28 Ramsey (11) LiH.
- Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [42 South, 22 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/1 Rice ebd, 5/1–2 Isanti MHe, 5/2 Blue Earth ebd, Hennepin DCZ, Washington JEc. Early north (median 5/9) 5/6 Morrison DLP, 5/9 Pine KrM, 5/10 Carlton ebd. High counts 5/16 Washington (14) DFN, 5/16 Nicollet (6, Seven Mile Creek C.P.) AHk, 5/17 Anoka (6, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes P.R.) APi.
- American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported statewide. Record high count 4/23 St. Louis (5,520, Park Point R.A.) StK; another notable count 4/10 St. Louis (2,584, W.S.H.C.) EBr, FJN.
- Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [1 South, 1 North] Single overwintering birds continued both north and south. Only south report 3/4 Wright (Cokato) RLF, REn (median departure 3/9). One north 3/4, 3/11 Cook (Tofte) JaJ (median 4/5).
- House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from all counties. High counts 3/22 Ramsey (100, Red Rock Road) ebd, 5/10 Hennepin (100, Loring Park) ebd.
- EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) — [3 South, 1 North] This species continues to increase in the state. All south 3/1–16 Dakota (continuing from winter at a rural Hastings residence) ph. †NMe, KDS, m.ob., 4/27, 4/28 Cottonwood (2, continuing at Windom residence, 2 only present on 4/27) ph. †KEm, SC, MiO, 5/2 Hennepin (Minneapolis) ph. †DvN. All north 4/20 **Clearwater** (Leonard) ph. SSV.
- American Pipit** (*Anthus rubescens*) — [31 South, 14 North] Early south (median 3/29) **3/12–13** Rock (3, Ash Creek Farm) RLF, REn, m.ob., 3/17–22 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) PEJ, m.ob., 3/22 Blue Earth (3) MiO, BTS. Early north (median 4/24) 4/23 St. Louis StK, 4/27 Wilkin ANy, 5/1 Grant PLJ. High counts 5/10 Mower (28, Lake Louise S.P.) ebd, 5/15 Washington (22, Summerlin Reservoir) BDo, EzH, GWe, ELC. Late south 5/16 Olmsted ebd, 5/20 Hennepin ebd, 5/21 Renville HCT (median 5/21). Late north 5/25 St. Louis TRK, IDv, FJN, TLz, 5/27 Clearwater AxB (median 5/25).
- Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [15 North] Following an irruptive fall and winter, best spring since at least 2000 with nearly twice the average number of northern reporting counties. Found northeast of a line from Pennington to Pine. Highest tallies were from St. Louis: 4/27 (250, Duluth) LME, 3/30 (112, Eveleth) ebd, 3/6 (105, Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center) MaS.
- Pine Grosbeak** (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [11 North] Reported from the Northeast and North-central regions, plus Roseau and Becker. High counts all from St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog): 3/3 (17) EBr, ebd, 3/1 (14) ebd, 3/6 (14) EBr. Late north 3/18 Cook ebd, 4/8 Aitkin KCR, and latest spring date on record **5/7** Itasca (2, Grand Rapids) ebd (median 3/31).

- GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) — [1 South] Only the fourth south record of this Casual visitor: 3/10 **Le Sueur** (interior form, Kasota) ph. PSH.
- House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) — [53 South, 29 North] Reported in all but 5 northern counties.
- Purple Finch** (*Haemorhous purpureus*) — [44 South, 33 North] Found statewide, with few reports from the southwest quarter. High counts 4/26 Renville (**100**, Franklin) LHe, 5/19 St. Louis (60, Meadowlands Twp.) IaG. Late south 5/19 Mower RZi, 5/20 Dakota ebd, 5/21 Isanti ELC, m.ob (median 5/22), but also see summer report.
- Common Redpoll** (*Acanthis flammea*) — [23 South, 26 North] Detected in all regions except South-central; scant reports from Southeast and Southwest. High counts 3/15 Morrison (300, Converse Park) HHD, ebd, 3/23 Becker (200, Detroit Lakes) NaH, 3/7 Ottertail (110, Eagle Lake Twp.) JsS. Late south 4/1 Anoka (Linwood Twp.) LBi, 4/2 Anoka (Blaine) ebd, 4/1–5 Chisago JSa, m.ob (median 4/9). Late north 5/2 Becker NaH, 5/3 St. Louis FJN, 5/5 Koochiching ebd (median 5/2).
- Hoary Redpoll** (*Acanthis hornemanni*) — [9 North] Only reported north this spring. Late north 4/2 St. Louis (Hibbing) ebd, (Tower) SGW, 4/26 Lake PgR (median 4/9).
- Red Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [7 South, 5 North] Reports scattered across the north. South reports included 3/12 **Isanti** (Cambridge) ebd; also found from Hennepin southeast to Olmsted. South reports waned by early April, although up to seven birds lingered 5/8–11 in Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.) DBz, m.ob. (median 5/12).
- White-winged Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [15 South, 9 North] Highest number of reporting spring counties since 2009. Found in all regions except West-central, though mostly absent from southern third. High counts 3/5 Olmsted (18, Rochester) LHL, 3/19 St. Louis (16, Chester Creek) JDx, 3/2 St. Louis (15, Duluth) SCB, PHS. Late south 4/29 – 5/3 Kandiyohi ebd, 4/29 – 5/10 Washington BDO, JDS (median 3/20). Late north 5/14 Becker HeH, 5/30 St. Louis ebd, 5/31 Lake of the Woods DBz, ANy (median 4/28), but also see summer report. Unusual spring records 3/4 **Benton** (Bend in the River R.P.)
- MJB, 3/10 **Chisago** (North Branch) JSa, 3/11 **Isanti** (Spencer Brook W.M.A.) ELC.
- Pine Siskin** (*Spinus pinus*) — [47 South, 32 North] Found in all but eight counties, with a 48% increase from the southern 10-year average number of reporting counties. Record high spring count 5/17 St. Louis (**378**, Park Point R.A.) FJN, m.ob. See summer report for birds lingering south.
- American Goldfinch** (*Spinus tristis*) — [53 South, 33 North] Reported from every county except Lake of the Woods. High counts 3/10 Rice (150, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) NiR, 3/20 Houston (100, Yucatan Twp.) ASu, 5/16 Hennepin (100, Minnesota Valley N.W.R. Visitor Center) BBr, ebd.
- Lapland Longspur** (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [50 South, 21 North] Perhaps the best spring season for this species ever; increases over the 10-year average number of reporting counties of 59% north and 33% south. Scarcest in the North-central region. See winter report for northern reports, possibly including northbound migrants. High counts 3/8 Becker (2,500, Riparia State W.M.A.) REn, RLF, 4/5 Grant (700, North Ottawa Impoundment) ECL, JEC, 3/21 Dakota (500, Great Western Industrial Park) TWe. Late south 5/8 Dakota ebd, 5/11 Stearns MJB, Steele LiH (median 5/8). Late north 5/17 St. Louis FJN, m.ob., 5/19 Kittson SAu, SC, 5/26–27 Lake KeL (median 5/20).
- Chestnut-collared Longspur** (*Calcarius ornatus*) — After reports in 40+ consecutive spring seasons, no reports in 2020 or 2021.
- Smith's Longspur** (*Calcarius pictus*) — [5 South] All reports came from the southwest quarter of the state: 4/6 Lyon (Island Lake) REn, RLF, 4/11 Watonwan (3, 320th St. south of Madelia) LiH, 4/25 Yellow Medicine (3, Lyon/Yellow Medicine Conservation Easement) GWe, 5/9 Yellow Medicine (7, Curtis Lake) †GWe, 5/12 Redwood (12, Clements W.T.P.) WCM, 5/13 Pope (15, Glenwood W.T.P.) ANy, DBz.
- Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [21 South, 18 North] Distributed evenly across regions except the Southwest, where there were no reports. High count 3/13 Otter Tail (100, Glendalough S.P.) ebd, 3/4 Benton (50, Sauk Rapids Twp.) DOR, 3/17 Hubbard (50, S.R. 64) ebd, 5/1 Marshall (50, Stephen W.T.P.) ebd. Late south 3/30 Blue Earth BSA, 4/3 Ol-

msted ebd, 4/7–10 McLeod BHa (median 4/11). Late north 5/1 Marshall ebd, 5/5 St. Louis BMu, 5/8 St. Louis ebd (median 5/3).

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus sava-narum*) — [33 South, 11 North] Found statewide except Northeast. Sparse in North-central and West-central regions. Early south (median 4/23) 5/1 Ramsey DnS, 5/1–3 Washington PNi, m.ob., 5/3 Dakota ebd, Fillmore ebd. Early north (median 5/3) 5/1 Clay (Felton Prairie) WPL, 5/7 Clay (Maria Lake) ebd, 5/14 Otter Tail TFu. High counts 5/22 Clay (20, Felton Prairie) ebd, 5/26 Rice (14, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) MZa, 5/30 Washington (12, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) ebd. New spring record 5/24 **Itasca** (Grand Rapids) KMa.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [39 South, 15 North] Reported in all regions, with fewest reports from North-central. The number of northern reporting counties was likely the second highest ever for this season, only exceeded in 2018 (18). Early south (median 4/18) 4/17 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) ebd, 4/22 Rice SWe, 4/28 Dakota (Lakeville) MwT, ebd, Steele PSu. Early north (median 5/2) 5/1 Polk HHu, 5/2 Clay PBB, Otter Tail TFu, Red Lake ebd. High counts 5/18 Sherburne (20, Sherburne N.W.R.) AFo, 5/14 Ramsey (8, Tam-arack N.C.) ebd.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. Away from potential overwintering birds (see winter report), early south (median 3/22) 3/1 Dakota ADS, 3/21 Lyon GWe, Ramsey (two locations) KSz, ebd. Early north (median 4/9) 4/3 Itasca ebd, 4/5 Clay DPW, 4/8 Carlton JH, St. Louis MLH. High count 5/14 St. Louis (64, Park Point R.A.) EFC, m.ob.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [51 South, 34 North] Detected in all counties except Dodge and Wabasha. Early south (median 4/20) 4/22 Dakota DVe, 4/26 Dakota ebd, Renville MiO, BTS. Early north (median 4/27) 4/18–29 Lake ABm, JIB, 4/28 Grant CNn, 4/30 Todd (two locations) SDi, TLu. High counts 5/14 Polk (36, Agassiz Audubon Sanctuary) ebd, 5/9 Carver (31, Carver P.R.) JCy, 5/16 Clay (23, Buffalo River S.P.) LSL.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [52 South, 14 North] Found statewide. Scarcest in the northern third of the state. Excluding over-

wintering individuals (see winter report), early south (median 4/2) 3/17 Goodhue PEJ, 3/22 Hennepin GLa, ebd, 4/1 Winona ThN. Early north (median 4/16) 4/17–27 Todd REN, RLF, 4/18 Pine ebd, 4/28 Mille Lacs MAJ. High counts 5/8 Goodhue (30, Frontenac S.P.) ebd, 5/2 Blue Earth (25, Minneopa S.P.) ChA, 5/3 Dakota (21, Harmon Park) ebd. Interesting reports 5/31 **Lake of the Woods** (Norris Camp) ANy, 5/16 **Polk** (Brislet Twp.) †HHu.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [47 South, 32 North] Reported in all but eight counties. See winter report for numerous overwintering birds south. Early north (median 3/28) 3/13–20 Cass ebd, 3/15 Todd REN, RLF, 3/21 Otter Tail TFu. High counts 4/6 Hennepin (30, Bass Ponds) RTu, 4/8 Hennepin (26, Lake Harriet) AKz, 4/2 Wabasha (25, Snake Creek Trailhead) CAS.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) — [52 South, 32 North] Reported in all but three counties. High counts 4/9 St. Louis (137, Park Point R.A.) JLK, 3/25 Washington (65, Big Marine P.R.) GWe. Late south 5/6 Hennepin ebd, Washington ebd, 5/7 Rice ebd (median 5/8). Late north 5/10–12 St. Louis (three locations) FJN, NPo, ebd (median 5/12).

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. High counts 4/10 St. Louis (450, Park Point R.A.) StK, HTo, 4/16 Aitkin (450, counted by 25s, Rice Lake N.W.R.) ebd. Late south 5/15 Dakota ebd, 5/12–16 Washington BDo, ebd, TFe, 5/24 Sherburne ebd (median 5/24). Oregon subspecies detected in 21 southern and four northern counties, spanning all regions except the Northwest; no tally exceeded three individuals. Latest departing Oregon birds 4/28 Scott BHe, Stearns MSK.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophris*) — [47 South, 23 North] Found statewide. One reported 3/5 Dakota (Apple Valley) ebd may have been an undetected overwintering bird. Possible early south migrants (median 4/20) **3/19** Houston ToM, 4/6 Lac qui Parle FAE, 4/15 Hennepin KEi, ebd. Early north (median 4/26) 4/18 Douglas LGL, 4/27 Traverse ANy, Wilkin LSL. High counts 5/12 Ramsey (15, Battle Creek Park) ebd, 5/1 Polk (12, NW Minnesota Pollinator Garden) HHu, 5/2 Lyon (12, 150th Ave. Ponds) REN, RLF. Late south 5/21 Hennepin (two loca-

- tions) TFi, ebd, Ramsey ebd, JHe, 5/23 McLeod BHa, 5/26 Olmsted ebd (median 5/22). Late north 5/31 Cook ebd, St. Louis (two locations) ebd (median 5/27). Gambel's subspecies seen south 5/4 Washington EzH, 5/9 Murray GWe, 5/13 Steele PSu, 5/13–16 Hennepin (two locations) †CLB, ebd. One northern Gambel's report: 5/6–8 Clay PBB.
- Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [48 South, 21 North] Observed across the state. See winter report for confirmed overwintering birds both north and south. Possible early south migrants (median 4/4) 3/7 Nobles ASu, Pipestone KTe, 3/10 Dakota AFo, McLeod ph. BDC. Possible early migrants north (median 4/28) 3/27 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) MaJ, 4/3 Norman (Twin Valley) SAu, JCJ, 5/1 Mahanomen ebd. High counts 5/6 Rock (35) PRH, 5/2 Blue Earth (30, Minneopa S.P.) ChA, 5/12 Lac qui Parle (16, Prairie Marsh Farm) KeL. Late south 5/24 Yellow Medicine BTS, MiO, 5/25 Redwood ebd (median 5/27). Late north 5/27 Cook DAB, 5/30 Marshall ANy (median 5/24).
- White-throated Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. See winter report for widespread overwintering birds. High counts 4/26 Goodhue (150, Pioneer State Trail) LHL, 4/26–27 Hennepin (100, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) ebd, RTu, 5/6 Hennepin (100, University of Minnesota, East Bank campus) EHi. Late south 5/26 Meeker PKF, 5/28 Isanti DPG, 5/30 Sherburne ebd (median 5/28), but also see summer report.
- Vesper Sparrow** (*Pooecetes gramineus*) — [48 South, 28 North] Recorded statewide, although few reports from North-central. Early south (median 3/28) 3/28 Lyon GWe, 3/29 Olmsted REn, RLF, 3/30 Yellow Medicine REn, RLF. Early north (median 4/12) 4/4 Morrison ebd, 4/5 Douglas REn, RLF, 4/11 in four additional counties. High counts 4/25 Cottonwood (10, Red Rock Prairie) JuW, and counts of five birds from an additional four counties.
- LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza leconteii*) — [7 South, 14 North] Reported across the northern third, plus sparse reports from Central, East-central, and Southwest. Poorest showing in south since 2016. All south 5/1 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) JMn, 5/2 Carver MaJ, Hennepin (Crow-Hassan P.R.) JCC, Lyon REn, RLF, 5/7 Jackson KEM, 5/8 Washington (William O'Brien S.P.) ebd, 5/13 Ramsey RaF, 5/23–31 Sherburne (2) BKa, GrN, CJE. Early north (median 5/1) 5/10–12 Cass (two locations) AnA, 5/14 Polk ebd. High counts 5/22 Clay (5, Bluestem Prairie S.N.A.) PBB, 5/19 St. Louis (3, Andrews Junction Rd.) CLN, m.ob.
- Nelson's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza nelsoni*) — [3 North] No spring south reports for the first time since 2017. All north 5/26 Mahanomen ANy, DBz, 5/30 Kittson ANy, 5/31 Roseau ANy, DBz.
- Henslow's Sparrow** (*Centronyx henslowii*) — [19 South] All reports southeast of a line from Lyon to Sherburne counties; no north reports. Early south (median 4/30) 5/2 Hennepin JCC, Washington (Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) BDO, MwT, m.ob., (Belwin Trailhead) ebd. High counts 5/26 Rice (9, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) MZa, 5/25 Ramsey (6, Ramsey County Correctional Facility Fields) OGO, 5/26 Washington (6, Grey Cloud Dunes S.N.A.) LiH, SBE, 5/29 Hennepin (6, Crow-Hassan P.R.) JBs.
- Savannah Sparrow** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [51 South, 34 North] Found in all counties except Le Sueur and Martin. Excluding an overwintering bird in Olmsted, early south (median 3/30) 3/15 Hennepin KEi, 3/20 Fillmore ASu, Lyon REn, RLF. Early north (median 4/14) 4/14 St. Louis PHS, SCB, 4/18–22 Aitkin (two locations) SKS, KCR. High counts 5/14 Polk (41, Brislet Twp.) ebd, 5/8 St. Louis (26, Sax-Zim Bog) ebd, 5/12 Marshall (25, Warren W.T.P.) REn, RLF.
- Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. Widespread overwintering south makes identifying migrants difficult. Aside from the relatively few northern overwintering individuals, early north (median 3/25) 3/20 Todd SDI, 3/21 Wadena PJB, 3/22 Todd REn, RLF. High count 4/18 St. Louis (73, Western Waterfront Trail) JLK.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [49 South, 21 North] Found across the state. Early south (median 4/11) 3/22–23 Rice †NiR, REn, RLF, 3/27 Lyon RAE, 3/28–30 Dakota JHa, MwT. Early north (median 4/21) 4/10 Otter Tail NKu, ebd, 4/26–28 Clay (two locations) DPW, LSL, Itasca ebd. High counts 5/7 Anoka (11, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes P.R.)



Yellow-breasted Chat, 16 May 2021, Clearwater County. Photo by Keith Barker.

GWe, 5/10 Hennepin (10, T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) JCa, 5/6 Blue Earth (7, Rasmussen Woods Park) StK, 5/20 St. Louis (7, Park Point R.A.) IDv, TRK. Late south 5/23 Washington TFe, 5/24 Sherburne ebd, 5/25–26 Hennepin PRH, ebd (median 5/27).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [53 South, 32 North] Found in every county except Lake of the Woods and Red Lake. Early south (median 3/20) excluding birds probably overwintering: 3/21 Carver JCy, Dakota JHa, Yellow Medicine GWe. Early north (median 4/14) 4/6 Grant TKa, 4/11 Aitkin JuG, Mille Lacs HHD. High counts 4/26 Rice (45, Circle Lake) NiR, 5/23 Anoka (34, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS, 5/12 St. Louis (26, Mud Lake) JLK.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) — [3 South] Two overwintering individuals still present south: 3/12–17 Hennepin (East Marsh Lake) RDa, MZa, 3/17–18 Dakota (180th St.) JHa, REn, RLF. Only spring migrant was 5/5 Kandiyohi (Spicer) ph. JiA, ebd.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [41 South, 18 North] Reports came from all regions. See winter report for overwintering birds. Presumed early migrants south (median 4/12) 3/22 Meeker PKF, 3/25 Ramsey ebd, 4/4 Dakota ebd, Houston ASu, Winona ebd, KHg. Early north (median 5/3) 5/1–2

Pine (two locations) KrM, DnS, 5/3 Mille Lacs LMc. High counts 5/9 Sherburne (24, Sherburne N.W.R., Wildlife Drive) RCl, 5/6 Washington (20, William O'Brien S.P.) KTP, 5/13 Sherburne (20, Sherburne N.W.R., Blue Hill Trail) ToL.

Spotted Towhee X Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus X P. erythrophthalmus*) — [2 South] Two reports: 5/2 Dakota (Alimagnet Lake Park) †DEv, 5/5 Renville (Franklin) ph. ebd.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) — [1 North] Only report was 5/16 **Clearwater** (Itasca S.P.) ph. KBa, AnA, SuR. This intriguing encounter entailed a mist-netted bird in a northern hardwood forest, atypical habitat for this southerly species.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [52 South, 33 North] Found in all counties except Dodge and Kanabec. Early south (median 3/27) 3/14 Faribault BAB, 3/22 Jackson ASu, Rock ASu. Early north (median 4/10) 3/27 Traverse (C.R. 50) KEM, JWH, SHo, 4/5–11 Traverse REn, RLF, m.ob., 4/15 Itasca SC. High counts 5/12 Lyon (200, wetland 2.5 miles southeast of center of Marshall) GWe, 4/30 – 5/2 Lyon (150, Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) NMe, ebd, m.ob.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [49 South, 33 North] Found in all but five counties. Early south (median 5/3) 5/2 in Carver, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Pipestone, Steele, Yellow Medicine. Early north (median 5/6) 5/1 Pine RBJ, KrM, 5/5 Mille Lacs KrM, 5/8 in four additional counties. High counts 5/19 Kittson (100, Joe River W.M.A.) ebd, 5/12 Lyon (85, Lone Tree Lake) GWe, 5/31 Wilkin (50, Rothsay W.M.A.) ebd.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [41 South, 18 North] Found across all regions, and in most counties in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Early south (median 3/16) 3/9 Mower SWm, 3/10 Steele LHL, 3/12 Fillmore DBz. Early north (median 3/27) 3/23 Mille Lacs SC, 3/24 Morrison HHD, Pine KrM. High counts 4/10 Freeborn (15, Myre-Big Island S.P.) REn, RLF, 4/5, 4/11 Hennepin (12, Crow-Hassan P.R.) SOa, TPP. Unusual spring records: 3/22 Rock (Ash Creek Farm Pond) ASu, 5/20 Wilkin (Town Hall Prairie) ebd, 5/30 Rock (Rose Dell Twp.) KEM, JWH.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [42 South, 26 North] Found statewide, with

fewest reports northeast of a line from Lake of the Woods to Washington. See winter report for possible overwintering individuals. Presumed early south migrants (median 3/13) 3/7 Rock ASu, Yellow Medicine ASu, 3/8 Pipestone LVD. Early north (median 3/18) 3/13 Grant ebd, 3/14–16 Wilkin HPe, MyP, 3/17 Otter Tail NaH, Todd TLu, Wilkin KCR. High counts 5/10 Clay (20, Felton Prairie) NaH, 3/30 Lyon (13, 150th Ave. ponds) REEn, RLF, NMe. Notable spring record 5/9 **Carlton** (2, C.R. 6, Kalevala Twp.) ebd.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [50 South, 18 North] Reported statewide, although few reports from the North-central and Northeast regions. Northern counties experienced a 55% uptick from the 10-year average number of reporting counties. Early south (median 5/5) 5/1 Dakota ebd, 5/1–2 Wabasha MNb, 5/2 Lyon RAE, REEn, RLF, Mower SWm, Washington (two locations) ECL, RNe. Early north (median 5/12) 5/10 Todd TLu, 5/12 Grant CNn, 5/13 Clay PBB, Pine KrM. High counts 5/18–22 Wabasha (6, Lake City) MNb, 5/24 Lac qui Parle (6, Lac Qui Parle C.P.) WCM, 5/28 Ramsey (6, Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant) LiH.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [53 South, 34 North] Observed in every county. Early south (median 4/28) 4/26 McLeod BDC, 4/27 Ramsey KTP, Wabasha ebd. Early north (median 5/4) 5/1 Pine (two locations) RBJ, NSn, Todd SDi. High counts 5/14 Ramsey (28, Lake Como) ebd, 5/17 Ramsey (27, Crosby Farm R.P.) LiH, 5/16 Carver (25, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) RHe.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. Difficult to confidently separate overwintering birds from new spring arrivals given the 51-county distribution of this species this winter. High counts 4/2 Mahnomen (4,000, 200th Ave., Waubun) CRM, m.ob., 4/6 Becker (3,000, Hamden Slough N.W.R.) LEV.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [53 South, 34 North] Observed in each county. See winter report for overwintering southern birds. Excluding known overwintering birds, early south (median 3/12) 3/5 Hennepin RuS, Rock ASu, 3/8 Carver JCy. Early north (median 4/2) 3/21 Pine KrM, 3/22 Todd SDi, 3/26 Becker TKa. High counts 4/8 Wright (200, St. Michael) ToL, 4/10 Washing-

ton (200, 155th St. N.) PNi, DnS, 3/13 Dakota (150, Hampton Feed Lot) ADS.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [50 South, 30 North] Found in all but seven counties. North reports up by 42% from the 10-year average number of reporting counties. Early migrants are indistinguishable from overwintering birds (see winter report). High counts 4/18 Yellow Medicine (200, Curtis Lake) ebd, 4/23 St. Louis (102, Park Point R.A.) StK, 3/14 Sibley (100, High Island Lake) KEm, 4/9 Stearns (100, Albany) MtS. Late south 5/8 Blue Earth ebd, Wright ToL, 5/10 Hennepin JCa (median 5/5). Late north 5/10 St. Louis (Meadowlands Twp.) IaG, 5/12–13 St. Louis (Park Point R.A.) HTo, m.ob. 5/26 Polk JMJ (median 5/13).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [47 South, 30 North] Found in all but 10 counties. Early south (median 3/19) 3/6 Jackson DFN, PEJ, 3/12 Meeker PKF, 3/16 Le Sueur DOR. Early north (median 4/3) **3/15** Todd (Osakis) REEn, RLF, 3/21 Pine KrM, 3/22 Becker TKa. High counts 4/9 Stearns (100, Albany) MtS, 4/9 Pine (90, C.R. 103) LEV, 4/20 Benton (65, Sauk Rapids Twp.) DOR.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. Early south migrants not distinguishable from the many overwintering birds. Presumed early north migrants (median 3/11) 3/7 Traverse ebd, 3/12 Pine (two locations) NSn, LEV, St. Louis FJN. Tied for highest spring count 3/22 Jackson (**4,000**, Sioux Valley Twp.) ASu. Other high counts 4/10 Cottonwood (1,000, Jeffers) TWE, 4/2 Mahnomen (800, 200th Ave., Waubun) CRM, m.ob.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — [3 South] All reports: record-early **3/7** Jackson (South Heron Lake) ph. REEn, RLF, **3/19** Nicollet (Nicollet W.T.P.) †KEm, JWH, 3/22, 5/28 Jackson (S.R. 86 & 730th St.) ASu, KEm, JWH, 4/3 – 5/15 Lyon (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) NMe, GWe, m.ob. No count exceeded two individuals.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [50 South, 32 North] Found in all but five counties. Early south (median 4/27) 4/27 Olmsted EmR, NiR, 4/28 Hennepin AKz, ebd, Scott RDE. Early north (median 5/3) 5/1 Mille Lacs ebd, 5/2 Lake ebd, Otter Tail (two locations) ebd, TFu. High counts 5/22 St. Louis (64, Fox Farm Rd.) MLH, 5/30 Lake (25, Superior Hiking

Trail) ebd, 5/16 Wright (21, Lake Maria S.P.) ebd, 5/31 Anoka (21, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) PNi, DnS.

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*)

— [11 South] Confined to southeastern quarter; more than half of counties bordered Iowa or Wisconsin. Early south (median 4/16) 4/10 Houston REn, RLF, 4/11 Olmsted JmP, JPr, 4/17 Fillmore LHL, Olmsted MiD. Maximum tally was two birds.

Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)

— [50 South, 30 North] Found in all but seven counties. Early south (median 4/24) 4/24 Hennepin ebd, then 4/26 in 11 locations within six counties. Early north (median 5/2) 4/30 Douglas LGL, Todd TLu, 5/1 Pine RBj. High counts 5/11 Anoka (17, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes P.R.) GWe, 5/3 Houston (12, Wagon Wheel Trail ToM, 5/15 Carver (12, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy, 5/15 Hennepin (12, Wood Lake N.C.) JEC, ECL. Late south 5/26–31 Hennepin ebd, 5/29–31 Anoka (two locations) BCL, PNi, DnS, 5/31 Chisago ebd, Rice TZt (median 5/31), but also see summer report for a few potential breeding birds south.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

— [41 South, 29 North] Reported from more counties (70) than in any other season except spring 2018 (72). Early south (median 5/4) 5/1 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) ebd, 5/2 in Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin (two additional locations), Scott, Winona. Early north (median 5/9) 5/8 Mille Lacs ABL, 5/12 Carlton ebd, Cass ebd, Grant CNn, St. Louis (two locations) ebd, SNe, HTo, TRK. High counts 5/23 Aitkin (14, Hedbom Logging Trail Rd.) KWR, 5/15 Cass (11, Blackwater Cabins) ABi, 5/21–22 Aitkin (11, Rice Lake N.W.R.) KWR, ebd. Late south (omitting potential breeders) 5/28 Dakota ebd, 5/30 Isanti JCC, 5/31 Kandiyohi BNn (median 5/28).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*)

— [28 South, 4 North] Found mostly within Central, East-central, South-central, and Southeast regions. Best northern showing since 2017. Early south (median 5/2) 4/29 – 5/1 Anoka (two locations) ebd, GWe, 5/1 Ramsey MJM. All north reports: 5/13 Clay (Hawley) †PBB, 5/14 Pine (Pine City) KrM, 5/17 Mille Lacs (Princeton) ebd, 5/22 Todd (Kandota Twp.) REn, RLF, 5/24 Pine (Snake

River Campground) ebd, 5/29–5/30 Pine (St. Croix S.P.) TKa, Todd (Hewitt) JBu. Record high spring counts 5/17 Carver (17, Carver P.R., Grimm Rd.) JCy, 5/16 Washington (16) DFN. Other high counts 5/12 Washington (12, Afton S.P.) ebd, 5/16 Olmsted (12, Chester Woods) BLA. Unusual Southwest report 5/22 Lyon (Camden S.P.) CRM.

Golden-winged Warbler X Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* X *V. cyanoptera*)

— [5 South] Two “Lawrence’s”: 5/11 Washington (near Stillwater) ph. CWg, 5/29–31 Olmsted (Chester Woods) ph. BLA, JPr, ebd. “Brewster’s” reported 5/12 Rice TFB, 5/14 Carver (Carver P.R., Grimm Rd.) JCy, 5/15 Rice (Cannon River Wilderness Park) NiR, 5/28–30 Wright (Stanley Eddy Memorial Park) ph. DRL.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)

— [53 South, 33 North] Reported in every county except Norman. Early south (median 4/22) 4/22–24 Wabasha MNB, 4/23 Dakota ebd, 4/24 Washington ebd. Early north (median 5/1) 5/1 from nine locations in seven counties. High counts 5/22 St. Louis (29, Fox Farm Rd.) MLH, 5/8 St. Louis (21, Park Point R.A.) HTo, 5/22 Clearwater (20, Itasca S.P.) Bab.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)

— [21 South, 3 North] Highest number of reporting counties both north and south in state’s history. Most counties were along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers in the Southeast, although also detected in Southwest and West-central regions. Early south (median 5/4) 5/1 Carver JCy, Houston EHi, Winona ebd. All north (median 5/17) **5/12–14 Otter Tail** (New York Mills) ebd, m.ob., **5/15 Douglas** (Miltona) ph. †LGL, 5/25 Pine (2, Bears Ear W.M.A.) KrM. Record-high spring count 5/22 Carver (9, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy; another notable tally 5/11 Houston (6, Millstone Landing) EHi.

Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*)

— [53 South, 29 North] Found in all but five counties. Early south (median 4/29) 4/26 Le Sueur BHe, Ramsey (two locations) LiH, ebd, Wright ebd. Early north (median 5/7) 5/1 Pine RBj, Todd REn, RLF, 5/2 Cook JIB, Grant CNn. High counts 5/16 Le Sueur (80, Sakatah Lake S.P.) SHo, 5/15 Hennepin (39, Minneapolis) JCa, 5/23 Polk (30, Red Lake River Greenway) SAu. See summer report for late south mi-

grants (median 6/7).

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*)

— [52 South, 26 North] Found in all but nine counties. Early south (median 4/19) 4/22 Hennepin (East River Flats Park) EHi, 4/23 Rice TFB, 4/24 Hennepin (Wirth Park) ebd, Lyon KRE, m.ob., Olmsted KHg, ToM. Early north (median 4/23) 4/25–26 Grant CNn, 4/26 Douglas ToR, Polk JCJ, TJJ. High counts 5/2 Carver (18, Carver P.R., Grimm Rd.) JCy, 4/26 Hennepin (12, Winchell Trail) JHv, 5/8 Lyon (12, Southwest Minnesota State University) NMe. Late south 5/22 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) KBg, Pipestone HVD, LVD, 5/26 Hennepin (Dayton) ebd (median 5/25). Late north 5/30 Cook AaL, CLu, St. Louis LME, 5/31 Marshall ebd (median 5/28).

Nashville Warbler (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*) —

[53 South, 32 North] Found in all counties but Norman and Kanabec. Early south (median 4/26) 4/24 Freeborn ebd, 4/27 in four counties. Early north (median 5/3) **4/28** Grant (Delaware Twp.) CNn, 5/1 Carlton BEA, Cass (two locations) DoH, ebd, Todd REn, RLF. High counts 5/22 St. Louis (39, Fox Farm Rd.) MLH, 5/20 St. Louis (35, Park Point R.A.) FJN, m.ob., 5/15 Dakota (25, Terrace Oaks Park) AFo. Late south 5/31 Anoka (two locations) PNi, DnS, Hennepin ebd, Ramsey DSh, but also see summer report (median 6/1).

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — [12

South, 7 North] Relatively few detections this spring; number of reporting southern counties was down 25% from the 10-year average. Found in all regions except West-central. Early south (median 5/11) 5/11 Hennepin (Veterans Memorial Park) SBM, **Murray** (Lake Shetek S.P.) ANy, 5/13 Hennepin (T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) CMB, ebd. Early north (median 5/17) 5/18 Koochiching CRM, m.ob., 5/20 St. Louis (Western Waterfront Trail) JLK, (Chester Creek neighborhood) JDx. All reports of more than one bird were from Sax-Zim Bog and included record high spring count 5/31 St. Louis (**7**, Sax-Zim Bog) ebd. Late south 5/24 Hennepin TAT, 5/26 Nicollet EzH, ASu, 5/28 Hennepin CMB, ebd, LSy, Rice TFB (median 5/30). Another unusual record 5/23 **Kittson** (Lake Bronson S.P.) ebd.

Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*)

— [26 South, 21 North] Found in all regions, with most reports coming from the Twin Cit-

ies and the Northeast and North-central regions. Poorest southern showing since 2016. Early south (median 5/8) 5/8 Anoka RCl, 5/9 Carver TWe, BWe, Olmsted BLA. Early north (median 5/15) 5/15 Pine SBE, 5/15–5/16 St. Louis CLN, LiH, 5/16 Itasca SC, Lake JIB. High counts 5/26 Carlton (12, Nemadji River) MJM, 5/22 St. Louis (7, Fox Farm Rd.) MLH, 5/31 St. Louis (6, Sax-Zim Bog) ASu. Late south 5/31 Ramsey ebd, Scott RDE (median 6/10), but see summer report for late migrants and presumed breeding birds.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) —

[53 South, 34 North] Found in all counties. Early south (median 5/1) 4/26 Ramsey LiH, 4/27 Fillmore ToM, 4/28 Anoka GWe, Jackson KEm. Early north (median 5/6) 5/1 Pine RBJ, 5/2 Crow Wing ebd, 5/5 Todd REn, RLF, Wilkin BxP. High count 5/23 Anoka (87, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS.

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) — [7

South] As expected, all reports came from the southeastern quarter of the state. Early south (median 5/8) 5/13 **Carver** (Carver P.R.) †ebd, Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) REn, RLF, Washington (William O'Brien S.P.) BDo, EzH. Also found in Dakota (two locations) Hennepin (three locations), Sherburne (Sand Dunes S.F.) LMc, and again in Washington (Oakdale Nature Preserve). More unusual was 5/25 **Steele** (Rice Lake S.P.) †NiR. All counts of more than one individual were from the state's stronghold for this species in Scott/Dakota (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) where the highest tally was five on 5/29 (MaJ).

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [53

South, 34 North] Found in every county. Early south (median 5/3) 4/28 Ramsey LiH, 5/1 in Anoka, Dakota, Meeker, Ramsey (different location), Rice. Early north (median 5/7) 5/1 Pine RBJ, 5/5–7 Hubbard REn, RLF, 5/7 Cass ebd, Otter Tail BEC. High counts 5/17 St. Louis (78, Park Point R.A.) FJN, m.ob., 5/17 Carver (63, Carver P.R., Grimm Rd.) JCy, Ramsey (50, Crosby Farm R.P.) LiH.

Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) — [25

South, 16 North] Found in all regions, although few counties reporting from West-central. Number of northern counties with reports lowest since 2016. Early south (median 5/5) 5/6 Hennepin EHi, Washington (William O'Brien S.P.) KTP, 5/7 Washington (Oakdale Nature Preserve) JDS. Early north

(median 5/8) 5/8 Lake ABm, JIB, St. Louis BEA, 5/9 Aitkin JuG, Morrison (two locations) SEm. High count 5/31 Lake (25, Whyte Rd./Stony River F.R.). Late south 5/21 Olmsted ebd, Ramsey ebd, Steele PSu, 5/24 Anoka IHu (median 5/25).

Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) — [15 South] Reports restricted to the southeastern quarter of the state, ranging from Houston to Stearns. Early south (median 5/5) 5/2–6 Nicollet DWK, StK, 5/3–4 Houston ToM, DSt, 5/6 Dakota MwT. High count 5/17 Houston (13, Hillside Rd., Reno) KWR, CLR.

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) — [36 South, 20 North] While reports came from all regions, most counties were in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Early south (median 5/1) 5/1 from 10 locations in 7 counties. Early north (median 5/5) 5/1 Pine NPo, 5/2 Lake ebd, 5/6 St. Louis ebd. High counts 5/13 Lake (12, Fall Lake Campground) ebd, 5/16 St. Louis (10, Bear Head Lake S.P.) ebd, 5/9 Clearwater (8, Itasca S.P., Schoolcraft Trail) TJJ, ebd. Late south 5/22 Chisago ebd, Steele DAB, Washington DnS, EzH, 5/23 Wright ToL, 5/25 Brown ebd (median 5/27).

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) — [50 South, 27 North] Found in all but ten counties. Early south (median 5/5) 5/1 Hennepin SKS, 5/3 Ramsey ebd, Winona ebd. Early north (median 5/8) 5/8 Itasca ebd, St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) ebd, 5/10 St. Louis (Canosia State W.M.A.) SNe. High count 5/17 St. Louis (54, Park Point R.A.) FJN, m.ob. High count south 5/15 Rice (15, Cannon River Wilderness) NiR. Late south 5/30 Hennepin ebd, 5/31 Ramsey DSh, but also see summer report (median 6/2).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) — [22 South, 11 North] Fewest southern reporting counties since 2012 and worst spring north since 2016 for this budworm specialist. Detected across all regions, although scarcest in the western half. Early south (median 5/7) 5/3 Chisago ebd, 5/7 Scott BHw, 5/10 Freeborn LiH, EzH. Early north (median 5/12) 5/13–14 Clearwater ebd, SuR, KBa, 5/14–15 Cass ebd, 5/15 St. Louis BLz. Maximum count was four birds. Late south 5/22 Carver (2) JCy, Hennepin (Tower Hill Park) JbS, 5/25 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) PRH (median 5/27).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) —

[43 South, 24 North] Found in all regions. Early south (median 5/3) 5/3–4 Anoka (two locations) KTP, ebd, 5/3–4 Hennepin (three locations) SSs, JJo, ebd. Early north (median 5/7) 5/8 St. Louis ebd, SNe, 5/9 Cass JCu, 5/10 in Clearwater, Hubbard, Otter Tail, St. Louis (different location). High count 5/20 St. Louis (25, Park Point R.A.) HTO, StK, TRK, IDv. Late south 5/30 Hennepin ebd, Washington REn, RLF, 5/31 Anoka ebd, Kandiyohi BNn (median 6/2).

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) — [53 South, 34 North] Found in every county. Early south (median 4/25) 4/24 Sherburne SC, 4/25 Ramsey BNW, 4/26 Le Sueur BHe, Pipestone VKL. Early north (median 5/4) 5/1 Pine (two locations) RBJ, NPo, St. Louis BEA. High counts 5/23 Anoka (79, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DnS, 5/19 Scott (75, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) ebd, 5/15 Carver (60, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) — [50 South, 32 North] Found in all but five counties. Early south (median 5/3) 5/1 Goodhue PEJ, 5/2 Carver JCy, Hennepin RBW. Early north (median 5/8) 5/1 Pine RBJ, 5/5 St. Louis ebd, 5/7 Hubbard REn, RLF. High counts 5/22 St. Louis (52, Fox Farm Rd.) MLH, 5/29 Lake (40, Gooseberry Falls S.P.) ebd, 5/17 St. Louis (32, Park Point R.A.) TRK, HTO, RyS.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) — [47 South, 28 North] Found in all regions. Early south (median 5/4) 5/3 Anoka KTP, Olmsted JHD, BLA, ebd, Stearns DRL, Winona DBz. Early north (median 5/8) 5/4–8 Otter Tail (two locations) TFu, JSs, 5/10 Cass ebd, 5/12 in five counties. High counts 5/15 Hubbard (12, Park Rapids) PBB, 5/15 Hennepin (10, T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) ebd, 5/15 Murray (10, Lake Shetek S.P.) LHL. Late south 5/26 Watonwan AnK, 5/28 Anoka ebd, 5/29 Wright RCI (median 6/1). Late north 5/31 Cook CLU, AaL, Roseau ANy, St. Louis ebd; also see summer report for lingering birds north (median 6/3).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulea*) — [5 South, 4 North] Found south mainly in the Twin Cities Metro area and in the Northeast. All south 5/14 Scott (Prior Lake) TZt, 5/19 Anoka (Rice Creek Chain of Lakes P.R.) GWe, 5/22 Ramsey (Crosby Farm R.P.) ebd, 5/23–25 Rice TEg, SSs, KMS, TFB,

- 5/29 Washington (Crystal Spring S.N.A.) LiH. Early north (median 5/15) 5/16 Lake ebd, 5/17 Cook (4, Oberg Mountain) JBs, 5/18 Cook (near South Lake on Canadian border) DTr, JEd. No count exceeded six individuals. Unusual spring record 5/29 **Koochiching** (Voyageurs N.P.) ebd.
- Palm Warbler** (*Setophaga palmarum*) — [52 South, 31 North] Detected in all but four counties. Early south (median 4/18) 4/8 Dakota †ADS, 4/17 Hennepin SML, 4/21 Ramsey ebd. Early north (median 4/23) 4/20 Pine (Snake River) KPJ, 4/23 St. Louis StK, 4/26 Pine (Pine City W.T.P.) KrM. High counts 5/11 Hennepin (55, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) ebd, 5/1 Hennepin (50, Wood Lake N.C.) DGu, 5/1 Winona (50, Prairie Island) ebd, 5/5 Hennepin (50, Fort Snelling S.P.) CoM. Late south 5/24 Sherburne ebd, 5/26 Stearns ebd, Yellow Medicine NMe (median 5/24).
- Pine Warbler** (*Setophaga pinus*) — [22 South, 24 North] Reported statewide with fewest reports from southwestern quarter. Early south (median 4/17) 4/7 Scott †BAB, 4/17 Fillmore LHL, 4/24 Anoka ebd. Early north (median 4/22) 4/26 Cass (Ten Mile Lake) JCu, 4/27 Cass (Deep Portage Learning Center) ebd, 4/28 Carlton HGe. High counts 5/5 Isanti (7, Twin Lakes S.N.A.) APi, 5/11 Itasca (7, Chipewewa N.F.) ebd, 5/22 Clearwater (6, Itasca S.P.) BAB, 5/23 Isanti (6, Hoffman Lake W.M.A.) ELC.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*) — [53 South, 34 North] Reported from every county. Excluding known overwintering birds, early south (median 3/28) **3/9** Houston ASu, 3/21 Stearns MtS, 3/29 Cottonwood KEm. Early north (median 4/2) 4/2–4 Itasca (three locations) SC, ebd, 4/3 Pine KrM. High counts 4/23 St. Louis (895, Park Point R.A.) StK, (274, W.S.H.C.) EBr, FJN, 4/28 Hennepin (250, Fort Snelling S.P.) BBr. Late south 5/29 Hennepin (6) TLo, 5/30 Rice ebd; also see summer report (median 5/30).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** (*Setophaga dominica*) — [4 South, 1 North] All reports south: 5/3–19+ Goodhue (Frontenac S.P.) ph. †TAE, m.ob. 5/6–8 Ramsey (Reservoir Woods) ph. †RMD, m.ob., 5/16 Chisago (Carlos Avery W.M.A., second county record) a.t. †RMD, 5/3–23 Houston (Reno Road) ToM, ph. †FFa, m.ob. One north report: 5/18 Crow Wing (Pike Point, second county record) ph. †KEm, JWH.
- Black-throated Green Warbler** (*Setophaga virens*) — [36 South, 25 North] Found in all regions; scarcest in the Southwest and West-central. Early south (median 4/30) 4/26 Washington PNi, 4/27 in Carver, Dakota, Faribault, Hennepin, Washington. Early north (median 5/4) 5/2 Cook JJB, 5/3 Itasca SC, Morrison SEm, Polk TJJ. High counts 5/30 Cook (**30**, Temperance River S.P.) ebd, 5/17 Cook (20, Pincushion Mountain Trail System) JZj, 5/31 Cook (20, Oberg Mountain) MaJ. Late south 5/22 Sherburne ebd, Steele DAB, 5/25 Anoka ELC, 5/26 Stearns STW (median 5/29).
- Canada Warbler** (*Cardellina canadensis*) — [30 South, 20 North] Reported statewide, though with few reports from the Southwest. Early south (median 5/8) **5/2** Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) †KBg, 5/7 Scott BHW, BKa, 5/9 Hennepin (T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary) ebd. Early north (median 5/14) 5/13 Cass ebd, 5/14 St. Louis GJN, 5/15 Beltrami ebd, Lake PgR, St. Louis BLz. High counts 5/20 St. Louis (14, Park Point R.A.) HTo, IDv, TRK, StK, 5/19 Cook (8, Centennial Trail) JEd, DTr. Late south 5/28 Anoka Tpp, Hennepin ebd, Ramsey Ana, Scott MSw, Washington JDS; see summer report for even later migrants (median 6/1).
- Wilson's Warbler** (*Cardellina pusilla*) — [39 South, 21 North] Found statewide. Early south (median 5/4) 4/28 Rice TFB, 4/30 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Bass Ponds) REN, RLF, 5/2 Hennepin (Coldwater Spring) PRH, Olmsted JJS. Early north (median 5/10) 5/11 Otter Tail WPL, 5/12 Cass DPJ, ebd, Marshall JMj, Polk SAu. High count 5/20 St. Louis (15, Park Point R.A.) HTo, TRK, IDv, StK, 5/19 Ramsey (8, Vadnais Snail Lakes R.P.) ebd. Late south 5/30 Hennepin (two locations) JQn, DSh, Ramsey (Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant trails) AHn, Washington ebd, 5/31 Ramsey (Crosby Farm R.P.) DSh (median 5/30). Late north 5/31 Cook MaJ, Lake JWL, St. Louis PHS, but also see summer report for late north migrants and possible nesters (median 6/11).
- Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) — [8 South, 1 North] Sixteen or 17 individuals reported, most as first-spring males; only two were seen more than one day. All south 5/3

Hennepin (Eden Prairie) ebd, Meeker (Jennie) ph. PKF, 5/10 Anoka (Locke Park/Rice Creek West Regional Trail) DCZ, m.ob., Hennepin (Minneapolis) ebd, 5/13 Kandiyohi (Willmar) †SGa, 5/14 Waseca (Reeds Lake) ph. LTA, 5/15 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) ECl, JEc, ebd, Kandiyohi (Colfax Twp.) JoS, Kandiyohi (Raymond) JWd, 5/16 Cottonwood (Pat's Grove C.P.) JWH, KEm, RAE, 5/18 Faribault (Bricelyn) ebd, 5/19 Ramsey (St. Paul) ebd, 5/23 Faribault WAF, 5/24–25 Hennepin (Richardson N.C.) LSy. In the north, three birds all in St. Louis: 5/3–8 (Cook) ph. JuG, 5/15 (Sax-Zim Bog, Stone Lake Rd.) JHn, ebd, 5/20 (Park Point R.A.) †MLH.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [42 South, 29 North] Found statewide, but slightly scarcer in the western third. Early south (median 5/4) 5/5 Scott TSk, BrT, 5/6 Hennepin ebd, 5/7 Washington JDS. Early north (median 5/10) 5/11–12 Morrison SEm, 5/12 Pine ebd, 5/13 Todd REN, RLF, Wadena PJB. High counts 5/23 Carver (11, Carver P.R., Grimm Rd.) JCy, 5/26 Dakota (11, Miesville Ravine P.R.) KTP, 5/18 Chisago (10, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) KTP.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) — [3 South, 1 North] All south: **4/24 Stearns** (Lake Koronis) ph. DSy, 5/4–6 **Kandiyohi** (Willmar) ph. †JWd, 5/12 Olmsted (Stewartville) ph. JGf. Sole north report 5/17 Polk (East Grand Forks) ph. SAu.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [53 South, 27 North] Found in all but seven counties. Fewest reports from the Northwest and North-central regions. High counts 4/26 Scott (33, Prior Lake) TZt, 4/28 Hennepin (30, General Mills Research Nature Area) ebd, 3/14 Hennepin (29, Medicine Lake) RCl.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [53 South, 33 North] Detected in every county except Wilkin. Early south (median 4/28) 4/25–26 Dakota (two locations in Marshan Twp.) ebd, CTS, KDS, 4/26 Mower SWm, Wabasha ebd. Early north (median 5/3) 5/1 Pine (Pine City W.T.P.) RBJ, 5/3 Morrison SEm, Pine (Pine City Twp.) KrM, Todd SDi, Wadena PJB. High counts 5/15 Winona (31, Great River Bluffs S.P.) JMr, 5/15–16 Carver (30, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Rapids Lake) JCy, 5/20 Scott (27, Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) JCa.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [5



Western Tanager, 5 May 2021, Willmar, Kandiyohi County. Photo by Josh Wallestad.

South] All reports: **5/11+** Hennepin (fifth year in a row at Flying Cloud Fields) HPe, MyP, m.ob., 5/21–31 Rock (multiple locations) ebd, m.ob., 5/23 Big Stone (Bituminous Paving gravel pit) DLP, 5/31 Brown (2, North Star Twp.) BTS, 5/31 Redwood (Sanborn) ph. BTS.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [51 South, 27 North] Found in all but nine counties. Early south (median 5/2) 4/28 Rice DAs, 5/1 Fillmore ebd, 5/2 in four additional counties. Early north (median 5/9) 5/12 St. Louis FJN, EBr, 5/12–13 Todd ebd, 5/13 Wadena ebd. High counts 5/23 Carver (13, Carver P.R., Grimm Rd.) JCy, 5/16 Rice (10, Cannon River Wilderness Park) JCa, 5/17, 5/19 Ramsey (10, Crosby Farm R.P.) LiH, SBE, NME.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) — [1 South] A silent adult male was foraging in black walnut trees 5/22 Rice (Carleton College Cowling Arboretum) †TiG, ph. †ASu, m.ob.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [35 South, 6 North] Reported in a similar number of counties as during the 2012 and 2018 irruptions. By season's end, reported from most counties south of a line from Clay to Houston County, plus Polk and Cass. Early south (median 5/9) 5/11 Rock KEm, 5/13–17 Rice NiR, REN, RLF, m.ob., 5/17 Blue Earth MiO, BTS. Early north 5/19 Clay ebd, 5/22 Grant (2) WPI, 5/23 Polk REN, RLF.

Contributors

AaL	Aaron Ludwig	DAB	Dave Bartkey	IHu	Ian Hunter
AAz	Adrian Azar	DAd	David Adair	ISh	Isaac Hosch
ABi	Anne Bier	DAH	Dan Ahlman	JaD	Jacalyn Dicello
ABl	Amy Blake	DaL	David Lambeth	JaE	James Eller
ABL	Andrew B. Longtin	DAS	David Astin	JaJ	Jane Johnson
ABm	Andy Beim	DAY	Dale A. Yerger	JBr	Julie Brophy
AdJ	Adam Johnson	DBF	Deborah Buria-Falkowski	JBs	Jean Brisance
ADS	Andrew D. Smith	DBz	Dedrick Benz	JbS	Jacob Socolar
AEB	Al E. Batt	DCK	David C. Keyes	JBu	James Buckingham
AFo	Andy Forbes	DCZ	David Zumeta	JCa	Jason Caddy
AHk	Ann Hokanson	DEI	Dave Elwood	JCC	Joel C. Claus
AHn	Adam Herman	DEv	Devin Everaert	JCG	Janet C. Green
AKz	Alec Karcz	DeW	Dean Wattermann	JCJ	Judy Johnson
ALu	Adam Ludwig	DfE	Deborah Fellows	JCy	John Cyrus
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AMH	Ann M. Hertzell	DGD	Denise Grundler	JDS	Jill D. Sadler
AnA	Anya Auerbach	DgM	Douglas Mayo	JDx	Jessica Dexter
AnK	Andrew Krenz	DGu	Daniel Guerin	JEB	Jerry E. Bonkoski
ANy	Andrew Nyhus	DHr	Daryl Hrdlicka	JEc	Joanna Eckles
APi	Aaron Pietsch	DLP	Douglas L. Pierzina	JEd	Jeffery Eddy
ARh	Adam Roesch	DMK	Dee Kuder	JGf	Junell Gustafson
ARW	Alexander Watson	DMz	Deborah Muzzy	JHa	Joel Halbritter
ASo	Annie Shao	DnS	Dana Sterner	JHD	Joel Dunnette
ASu	Alex Sundvall	DoH	Don Hoppe	JHe	Jason Hedlund
AxB	Alex Burchard	DOr	Dan Orr	JHl	John Holden
AXH	Anthony X. Hertzell	DPG	Dan and Pam Guynn	JHn	Jason Heinen
BAb	Brad Abendroth	DPJ	Douglas P. Johnson	JHv	James Hovey
BAF	Bruce A. Fall	DPW	Dennis P. Wiesenborn	JiA	Jani Anderson
BAr	Brad Argue	DRL	Demelza Larson	JJo	Jonathon Jongmsa
BBr	Beth Brueggen	DSh	Douglas Shaw	JJS	Jeff J. Stephenson
BCI	Bill Clausen	DSt	Delores Steinlicht	JKu	Jocelyn Kuo
BDC	Britt Dalbec	DSy	David Schmiginsky	JIB	Jill Beim
BDO	Ben Douglas	DTr	Dale Trexel	JLK	Larry and Jan Kraemer
BEA	Ben E. Anderson	DVe	Dan Versaw	JMJ	Jeanie M. Joppru
BEC	Ben Eckhoff	DvN	Devon Novy	JMn	Joshua McMahon
BHa	Bernice Hall	DWK	Douglas W. Kieser	JmP	Jim Peterson
BHe	Bonnie Heinecke	EBR	Erik Bruhnke	JMR	Jon Marifke
BHo	Bill Hohengarten	EBy	Earl Bye	JMs	Janet Majerus
BHW	Bethany Hawkwatch	ECl	Elizabeth Closhore	JOs	Jason Osowski
BHw	Brian Hawkins	EFC	Eliana Fierro-Calderón	JoS	Joel Schmidt
BKa	Bill Kass	EHi	Edward Hicks	JPE	John P. Ellis
BLa	Brendan Lanpher	ELC	Erik Collins	JPR	John P. Richardson
BLz	Brandon Lentz	EMf	Edward McFadden	JPr	Jerry Pruett
BMu	Bruce Munson	EMH	Beth Hamel	JQn	John Quinn
BNn	Brad Nelson II	EmR	Emma Rosen	JSA	Joe Sausen
BNW	Ben Wilson	Epa	Elijah Parker	JSc	John Schladweiler
BRB	Brad R. Bolduan	EzH	Ezra Hosch	JSf	Jeffrey Saffie
BrT	Bryan Tucker	FAE	Fred A. Eckhardt	JSI	Jenni and Sam Ives
BSa	Brian Sandstrom	FFa	Frank Fabbro	JSP	Jen Sobiech-Pariseau
BTS	Brian T. Smith	FGO	Frank Gosiak	JSs	Jason Swelstad
BWF	Ben W. Fritchman	FJN	Frank J. Nicoletti	JSt	Josh Sweet
BxP	Beatrix Pond	FKB	Frank Berdan	JuG	Juliann Grah
CAs	Caleb Ashling	FOs	Fabiana Osburnsen	JuW	Justin Watts
CBt	Carla Bates	GHO	Gerald Hoekstra	JWd	Josh Wallestad
ChA	Chris Anderson	GJN	Gerald J. Niemi	JWg	John Wagner
CHh	Chad Heins	GLA	George Lahr	JWH	John W. Hockema
Chi	Charles Hibbard	GRe	Gary Reitan	JWl	Jeffrey Wells
CJE	Claudia J. Egelhoff	GrN	Gregory Nelson	JWL	James W. Lind
CIB	Cole Bauer	GrS	Gregg Severson	JWZ	Julie Zempel
CIN	Clinton Nienhaus	GUn	Glen Unruh	JZJ	John Zakej
CLR	Cindy Risen	GWe	Garrett Wee	KAB	Karla A. Bloem
CLu	Cooper Ludwig	HBR	H. Bradford	KBA	Keith Barker
CMB	Conny M. Brunell	HCT	Howard Towle	KBg	A. Kathrynne Baumtrog
CMi	Cody Miller	HeH	Heather Hundt	KBU	Kathy Burns
CMk	Chris Merkord	HGe	Heather Gerth	KCR	Kim and Cindy Risen
CNn	Charlene Nelson	HHd	Herb H. Dingmann	KDS	Kevin D. Smith
CoM	Connor Maloney	HHu	Heidi Hughes	KEI	Kris Eichers
CRM	Craig R. Mandel	HPe	Holly Peterson	KeL	Ken Larson
CTS	Cindy Thury Smith	HTo	Hannah Toutonghi	KeM	Kevin Mortensen
CWB	Carol and William Beste	laG	Ian Galeski	KEm	Kimberly A. Emerson
CWg	Carl Wegener	IDv	Ian Davies	KeM	Kevin Mortensen

How I Found a Ross's Gull in Washington County

Benjamin Douglas

The Ross's Gull almost didn't happen. That's not because this bird was a diamond hidden amongst fall congregated masses. Nope, it almost didn't happen because on 27 November 2021, I was day listing Mourning Dove and Rock Dove. "Day listing" is a form of birdwatching that is focused on trying to see a bird species on every day of the year. After a three-mile sunrise hike at Lake Elmo Regional Park, I went out for breakfast with my wife. On the way home, I noted my day listing needs and took a frontage road to ensure we drove by a nearby farm to try to find the birds I wanted for my November 27th list.

As soon as I turned on the frontage road, I spotted three Mourning Doves perched in a tree sunning themselves out of the wind. A few minutes later and the pigeons were listed as well and by 10:15 A.M. I was "done" birding for the day. I soon decided that with plenty of time on the clock, I may as well head to the southern portion of Washington County instead of slacking off the remainder of the day.

My winter southern Washington County route usually consists of a few St. Croix River locations terminating with Point Douglas Park at the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers before wrapping around and checking other open water on the Mississippi and related backwaters around Grey Cloud Island.

After a fruitless short stop at the Afton Marina, I pulled into Point Douglas Park at 11:15 A.M. with no ice present in the waters. This pinch point in the river held very little for congregated birds, with even Common Merganser and Common Goldeneye yet to be pushed this far south. In fact, as I was parking, I noticed just a smattering of the likely Ring-billed Gulls out about 100 yards into the river. The usual routine at this stop is scan for ducks and then check the gulls hoping for an annual lottery ticket bird.

Point Douglas is literally just a spit of land dividing the St. Croix River from the Missis-

sippi River, but this location has continued to produce significant birds in Washington County for many decades.

These include all three scoter species, Harlequin Duck, Pomarine Jaeger, California Gull, Barrow's Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Slaty-backed Gull.

I set up my scope after a quick binocular scan showed a smaller odd-looking gull on the edge of a sleepy group of ten Ring-billed Gulls roughly 300 feet offshore. I immediately recognized this bird as small compared to the others present. My limited gull experience had my brain only bother to offer Bonaparte's as an option upon seeing dark ear marks on the bird and its relative smaller size next to the Ring-billed Gulls. In the scope, the bird was preening and paddling away from me, increasing the range, but brief looks at the short bill had me knowing something was up and that Bonaparte's was not likely. The bill was much shorter than I'd expect, and I only knew for certain at this point that I had something that would likely get my local birding friends to come and look with me.

The best investment I have ever made in my birdwatching gear is buying the Nikon CoolPix P900 and now P1000 cameras. With 3000 mm of reach on the current model, I easily hauled in several groups of photos of this bird to review before sending something out to anyone, or trying to make an identification.

I got into my car at 11:30 A.M. to review photos and consult the *Sibley* 2nd Edition that always rides in the back seat pocket. The photos were solid and clean, and that bill was plain as day not something that belonged to a bird I had ever seen in Minnesota. I quickly homed in on 1st winter birds due to the dark coverts present and then looked for anything with ear marks. I hit the dark-headed gull section in reverse order as I paged into Black-headed and Little gull territory, ruling them out quickly



Ross's Gull, 29 November 2021, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Photo by Benjamin Douglas.

based on bills and head/crown look. I flipped another page and looked over both kittiwakes. Though my experience is limited, we had a Black-legged Kittiwake in Washington County in the Mississippi backwaters (Hazen Lake) found by Karl Isley in November of 2017. I knew I'd need a strong neck collar for either species and moved off them relatively quickly. I had just a single page left and was staring at Sabine's Gull. Again, my limited experience was bolstered by a Ramsey County bird found by Peter Nichols and Dana Sterner just back in October of this year. It was easy to see this bird was also not a Sabine's.

I froze on the last bird, then turned the page finding the beginning of the section for gulls on page 196. I turned back staring at Ross's and looked at the range map zoomed to Alaska and didn't dare utter the words. With my cell phone, I snapped a back-of-camera shot and fired off my first inquiry to a Messenger Group for Washington County birders that was started by Peter Nichols.

11:37 A.M.: "Can someone keep me honest on this gull at Pt. Douglas. My brain wants this to not be a Bonaparte's."

My friends Larry Sirvio and Jen Vieth responded that they were on the way. (No identification was offered at that moment; I think the photo coupled with it coming from my own confusion was enough to get them into action as a potentially good Washington County bird.) I got back out of the car and set up again to look more closely at the bird and hope to learn something. Problem was... it was gone. I had committed a sin of rare bird finds and taken my eyes off it for several minutes and it was gone. Jen arrived just then, asking if we knew what it was. (No responses yet from the group.) Larry arrived a few minutes later at about 11:45 A.M. and still no bird.

Jen got in the car to drive into Wisconsin to hit a few stops south of this location to look for the bird. Larry got back in his car out of the chilly wind, and I stayed focused on the river. A message pinged on my phone...

12:06 P.M.: Garrett Wee — “I may be wrong but that indeed looks like a Ross's Gull.”

Goose bumps ran up my arm and my heart stopped as I read that message. Oh no, am I going to be the only person to see a Ross's Gull? Please come back, I silently begged of the bird. I sent a quick reply on the thread and Garrett came back with, “you'll want to post this ASAP”. I was still worried with just one picture in the wild and never want to be the guy that posts something and strings people along. My message to the Facebook group Minnesota County Listers was, “Possible special gull at Point Douglas in Washington County. Ross's Gull?” I posted that and my back-of-camera photo, then sent it directly to Alex Sundvall and Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, both good friends and trusted birders. The near immediate response from Alex was nothing more than the F word. I would soon learn he and Drew Smith were south of Eau Claire, WI, driving to try for the *Elaenia* species found in Waukegan, IL, the day before. (They turned around almost immediately.) Alex's response was enough for me to believe what was happening and what had been found.

I begged the bird to reappear, wanting so badly for others to experience this bird as well. By 12:35 P.M. the bird was suddenly back on the river sitting just outside the group of Ring-billed Gulls as if it had never left. I yelled for Larry to come take a look and ensure I wasn't the only one that saw this once-in-a-lifetime bird. I called Jen to return immediately and that it looked like Ross's was the correct identification.

The gears of the birding machine had already begun in earnest at this point with requests to email to the Minnesota listing service. Another person asked if it had been posted to the ABA rare bird alert and it had been by Alex Eberts. I started calling anyone I could think of that would not be checking Facebook, email, or related social media. By 12:42 P.M. birders and friends started showing up in rapid succession. It became a blur and whirlwind of birders and a single Ross's Gull.

By the end of day one, I had 4.5 hours logged on site and saw at least 50 birders reporting via eBird or the MOU database. I got amazing and outlandish stories of pots being taken off the stove and left on the counter, a camera left in the driveway on the garbage can in haste, Duluth friends making the 2.5-hour

drive south just as sunset was coming along, and another friend and her husband cutting it even closer after leaving family festivities in Milwaukee, WI, some five hours away.

Later that evening, I started to see posts of friends who turned off their internet for the day to get some work done only to find the birding world had exploded while they focused on family or work-related efforts. Fortune, of course, smiled and this amazing little gem from the Arctic gave us three good days of world-class views and memories for a lifetime.

Sadly, these elated feelings would begin to ebb a bit by day three. I visited the bird a total of ten hours over three days and focused on all the things that made it a Ross's Gull. Though it was out of its element a bit, I watched how it flew, how it fed on the wing, and its habits when moving between locations on the river and under the railroad and street bridges between the rivers.

The elements that stick in my mind most vividly are on day one, we had a bird that was extremely active, often taking flight high enough to crest the U.S. Highway 10 bridge and then going over to forage in the river channel beyond. The bird delicately stabbed at the river's surface when a minnow would come into view and bounce back into the air on buoyant wings, reminiscent of the Bonaparte's Gulls I first thought it looked most like.

My visit around noon on day two showed changes in behavior, but they were subtle enough that it was challenging to know what they meant. With almost nobody having experience with this species and its expected habits, it seemed to just show a modified set of habits that would be easy to chalk up to a bird settling into a new feeding pattern for the location it has found itself in at the time. Flights up and over the bridge were rare, but not gone completely. The bird seemed to spend much more time now low on the water in a channel of space between both bridges and the Washington County shoreline. On occasion, birders photographed the gull walking along the sandy shoreline presumably picking at small bits of food. As I left it on this second day, the bird flew over to the Wisconsin shoreline and nestled into some rocks to sleep/rest. This was the first I'd seen of this behavior but thought little of it beyond knowing a throng of birders was still arriving to catch a glimpse of



Ross's Gull, 29 November 2021, Point Douglas Park, Washington County. Photo by Benjamin Douglas.

this Arctic rarity and perhaps it just didn't want to be near the crowd.

On the third day (29 November 2021), I worked a full day and decided to visit once again, this time arriving at around 2:30 P.M. After walking the paved path up to the bridge, I found a small contingent of birders observing the bird as it patrolled the shoreline just past the railroad bridge. I immediately started to notice the bird was much less active, walking slowly, and picking weakly at the ground. Intermittently it would climb up on some of the large rocks reinforcing the embankment and settle in to rest for a few minutes. Gone were the whirling flights up and over the bridge and even the channel forays to pull minnows from the surface. In place were these more calculated walking efforts with some plodding walks back into open water as it paddled about just 20 feet or so into the water. A passing train was enough to rouse it off the water for a short flight of perhaps 100 feet in length, but never really above 10 feet in elevation. It was about this time I noticed in my own photographs a tendency to allow one wing to droop lower, letting primaries touch the water or ground as it moved about. The bird seemed alert and active in feeding attempts, but something was amiss.

My last views of this bird were with rapidly

declining sunlight as it moved from walking efforts around the nearest highway 10 bridge pylon to attempt a flight out to open water in the river. It flew a short way, having to veer hard as it nearly crashed into the bridge prior to entering open water. It actually landed shortly after and I moved my position to see the bird again as it summoned up the strength for a longer flight out to about 200 feet offshore and up the river.

The next morning, while working in my home office, I received word that the bird had been found on the shoreline under the bridges with dew accumulated on its back and not moving. Calls were made to wildlife rehabilitation center and the bird was retrieved, but it was too late to do anything for its survival.

A very sad ending that I can say I felt somehow responsible for, though I'm not sure I or anyone else could have done anything for a wild and free moving bird on that third night. I've since been bolstered by the incredible reception this bird received from the birding community and how many people lit up in joy at its presence. Anthony Hertzell contacted me regarding this write-up and provided some incredible numbers I think bear repeating on the rarity of this species and it being available now for entry into the Bell Museum collection.

Anthony was able to find 737 specimen records of Ross's Gull, a total that can be whittled down to 658 birds in the Western Hemisphere. Looking deeper into the data, he was able to find just four birds collected from below the 49th parallel (think U.S. and Canada border). The Minnesota bird in particular ends up as the third furthest south specimen. As Anthony indicated, we don't know that this data means anything, really, but I wanted to include it here because it provides some context to the rarity of the event of having both a Ross's Gull visit (this is the fourth state for Minnesota) and that it results in a specimen record for the state. Though it is sad such a long-range vagrant was not able to survive a trip to our fresh waters from its typical winter home in the Arctic, it will at least provide opportunity for study in the future. In the meantime, hundreds of birders from far and wide came to see this celebrity at Point Douglas Park over three days and that's at least something to smile about.

— **Lake Elmo, MN.**

The 2021 M.O.U. 300 Club

David A. Cahlander and Anthony X. Hertzell

The Roberts Club

Birders who have seen 85% of the state's 447 bird species as of 31 December 2021

420 Anthony X. Hertzell	398 Don O. Kienholz	390 Richard Ruhme	386 Bob Williams
417 Kim R. Eckert	398 Andrew D. Smith	390 Richard Wachtler	385 Randy S. Frederickson
416 Peder H. Svingen	397 Dedrick Benz	389 Bill George	385 Ronald L. Huber
413 Robert B. Janssen	396 Ronald A. Erpelding	389 Douglas W. Kieser	385 Douglas P. Johnson
409 Bill R. Litkey	396 Susan Schumacher	389 Craig R. Mandel	385 Kenneth M. Schumacher
407 Barbara Martin	394 John P. Ellis	389 Kim W. Risen	385 Linda Spurling
407 Dennis D. Martin	393 Robert M. Dunlap	388 Mark S. Citsay	384 Philip C. Chu
405 Paul M. Egeland	393 Howard Towle	388 William C. Marengo	384 Warren E. Nelson
402 Kim W. Risen	391 Jo Blaunch	388 Gloria Wachtler	382 Steve Millard
401 John W. Hockema	391 Steve Blaunch	387 David A. Cahlander	380 Jim Egge
401 Tom A. Tustison	391 Herb H. Dingmann	387 Mark Junghans	380 Karol Gresser
400 Robert L. Ekblad	391 Jerry Pruett	387 Connie Osbeck	380 Charles Krulas
400 Jeff J. Stephenson	391 David P. Sovereign	386 Don A. Bolduc	
398 Ray Glassel	390 Jerry E. Bonkoski	386 Hap Huber	

The 300 Club

Birders who have seen a minimum of 300 species in Minnesota as of 31 December 2021

379 Milton J. Blomberg	357 Larry Sirvio	333 Robert E. Holtz	315 Steven E. Schon
378 Joel C. Claus	356 Janet C. Green	333 Cindy Risen	314 Clay Christensen
378 Ben W. Fritchman	356 Tony Lau	332 Ben Douglas	314 Aaron Ludwig
375 David R. Benson	356 Kevin D. Smith	332 Edward Hicks	314 Michael Oetken
375 Erik Collins	356 Sparky Stensaaas	332 Richard L. Miller	314 Aaron Pietsch
375 Jim Egge	355 Garrett Wee	331 Robert H. O'Connor	314 Michael Steffes
374 Conny M. Brunell	354 George Lahr	330 Steve Emerson	313 Bob Heise
374 Bill Stjern	352 Dave Baden	330 Alice Hennessey	313 Tom A. Nelson
374 Alex Sundvall	352 Terry P. Brashear	330 Nathan Schirmacher	313 James F. Ryan
373 Paul E. Budde	352 Shawn Conrad	330 Julie Zempel	313 Shelley A. Steva
373 Rick Hoyme	352 Douglas Mayo	329 Elizabeth Bell	313 Dan T. Thimgan
372 Al A. Bolduc	352 Peter Neubeck	329 Tom Bell	312 Tom F. Boevers
372 Pete Hoeger	352 Dan Orr	329 David Johnson	312 Nelvina E. De Kam
372 Oscar L. Johnson	351 Michael W. Sack	329 Jeanie M. Joppru	312 Diana Doyle
371 Brad Abendroth	350 Betsy Beneke	328 Thomas B. Hertzell	311 Chris Fagyal
371 Terry Savaloja	350 Dana Sterner	326 Andy Forbes	311 Richard Gotz
370 Dave Bartkey	349 Alex Burchard	326 Alexander R. Watson	311 Melissa Hein
370 Dick Rengstorf	349 Nancy A. Jackson	325 Jason Caddy	311 Pam S Perry
370 Roy Zimmerman	349 James W. Lind	325 Gary Simonson	310 K. Scott Foster
369 Elizabeth Campbell	349 Blaine Seeliger	325 Dale A. Yerger	310 Fred Z. Leshar
369 J. S. Fletcher	348 Joel Schmidt	324 Alex Franzen	310 Connie M. Norheim
369 Ezra Hosch	348 Joey Sundvall	324 Bruce Munson	310 Theodore Voelker
369 Leslie Marcus	347 Lon Baumgardt	323 Kathi Berdan	309 Clara Dahle
368 Frank Gosiak	347 Kimberly A. Emerson	323 Linda B. Felker	309 Sandy M. Thimgan
368 Liz Harper	346 Gerald Hoekstra	323 Nolan Meyer	307 Angela Gerend
368 John Richardson	346 Peter Nichols	323 Karl Roe	307 Anthony M. Smith
368 Forest V. Strnad	345 Robert L. Freeman	322 Lars Benson	306 Sandy Aubol
366 Diane M. Anderson	345 Craig A. Menze	322 Kathy A. Heidel	306 John Schladweiler
366 Cindy Risen	345 Warren Woessner	322 Lance A. Vrieze	306 Gregg Severson
365 Mike L. Hendrickson	343 Frank Fabbro	321 Dan Ahlman	305 Burnett Hojnacki
365 Isaac Hosch	343 Chet A. Meyers	321 Dick Hartman	305 Jim Hughes
365 David W. Thurston	342 Chad Heins	321 Ise Varghese	305 Heather Hundt
364 Bruce B. Baer	341 Warren Wegener	320 Renner S. Anderson	304 Shawn Goodchild
364 Bruce Baer	340 Janet Majerus	320 Paul E. Jantscher	304 Cooper Ludwig
364 James L. Otto	339 Paul L. Johnson	320 Steven Midthune	304 Thomas Malone
364 Dick Sandve	339 Josh Wallestad	319 Jonas Benson	304 Steve Oakley
364 Jim Williams	338 Bonnie J. Mulligan	319 Deanne Endrizzi	303 Cole Bauer
363 Jim R. Eikenberry	337 Ken LaFond	319 Fr. Tom Margevicius	303 Bill Kass
362 Jerry Gresser	337 Judith Sparrow	319 Roger J. Schroeder	303 Tim Lamey
361 Brian T. Smith	337 Raymond Tervo	318 Nancy Henke	303 Demelza Larson
360 Kenneth Oulman	336 Mark C. Alt	318 Judy Johnson	302 Molly Malecek
360 Jim Peterson	336 Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus	317 Dee Kuder	302 Wendy Pepin
360 Bill Pieper	336 Earl E. Oxf	316 Alyssa L. DeRubeis	302 Keith T. Pulles
359 William R Bronn	336 Justin Watts	316 Joel Dunnette	302 Jen Vieth
359 Becca Engdahl	335 Deborah Fellows	316 Stephen Gardner	301 Mathew Zappa
359 Mike Mulligan	335 Colin R. Gjervold	316 Michael J. Majeski	300 Lynn Glesne
359 Andrew Nyhus	334 Al Schirmacher	316 Ben A. Wieland	300 Todd Murawski
359 Steve J. Roman	333 Frank Berdan	315 Bill Brown	300 Don Starkweather
357 Marjorie Cahlander	333 Luke Hollander	315 Mark Otnes	



The Owl in the Attic

Systematic Catalogue of Birds Observed in Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota

Henry Pratten

Reprinted from

Owen, David Dale. 1852. Report of a Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota; and Incidentally of a Portion of Nebraska Territory. Lippincott, Grambo & Co. Philadelphia PA.

In 1848 and 1849, Henry Pratten was a member of David Dale Owen's research expedition into the Minnesota territory. He was primarily engaged to collect fossils, but also was responsible for recording the birds seen on the trip because, according to Owen, he was "conversant with the subject of ornithology." Being a geologist, Owen himself seemed disinterested in the birds, and in his final report on the expedition, only included Pratten's list of 95 species as the last of six appendices.

During his short career, Pratten worked as a geologist, a paleontologist, a chemist, and an ornithologist for several government-sponsored expeditions. In addition to Minnesota, this work took him to California, Nevada, and Illinois. But these were temporary vocations subject to the whims of the U.S. government, and in his day-to-day life, he supported himself as a shoemaker. Some biographies also report that he also mounted bird specimens for John James Audubon.

Pratten married Laura Virginia Dougherty (b. 1831) in February 1856, but died suddenly in May of 1857. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Springfield, Illinois. Benjamin Franklin Shumard, a geologist on Owen's Minnesota expedition, reported this in a letter to a fellow geologist, saying, "I write now to inform you of the sad news of the death of our old friend Mr. Pratten. He died on the 5th of erysipelas.... He leaves an interesting young wife and child."

It could be argued that Henry Pratten's compilation was the first list of the birds of Minnesota. Owen wrote that the data was, for the most part, collected from "the St. Peter's [Minnesota River] and its tributaries." Pratten's inclusion of Wilson's Plover on his list is somewhat of a mystery.

ORDER I. ACCIPITRES

FALCONIDÆ — The Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, Giraud. The Brown or Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Wilson. Red-tailed Hawk or Buzzard, *Buteo borealis*, Gmelin. Swallow-tailed Hawk, *Naclerus furcatus*, Wilson. American Sparrow-hawk, *Falco sparverius*, Bonaparte. Marsh Harrier, *Circus uliginosus*, Wilson.

STRIGIDÆ — The Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*, Gmelin. The Little Screech Owl, *Bubo asio*, Wilson. The Barred Owl, *Uhlula nebulosa*, Linnæus.

ORDER II. PASSERES

CAPRIMULGIDÆ — The Whippoorwill, *Caprimulgus vociferus*, Wilson. Night Hawk, *Chordeiles americanus*, Wilson.

HIRUNDINIDÆ — The Purple Martin, *Hir-*

undo purpurea, Linnæus, Gmelin. The White-bellied Swallow, *Hirundo bicolor*, Vieillot. The Bank Swallow, *Hirundo riparia*, Wilson, Bonap. The Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo fulva*, Vieillot, Clinton, Bonaparte. On the Blue Earth River in great numbers.

AMPELIDÆ — The Cedar Bird, *Bombycilla carolinensis*, Bonaparte.

ALCEDINIDÆ — The Belted Kingfisher, *Alcedo alcyon*, Linnæus. The Red-throated Hummingbird, *Trochilus colubris*, Linn.

CERTHIDÆ — The White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*, Brisson. The Wood Wren, *Troglodytes americanus*, Audubon. The Mocking Wren, *Troglodytes ludovicianus*, Bonaparte. Above Little Rock, on St. Peter's. The Short-billed Wren, *Troglodytes brevirostris* Nuttall.

PARIDÆ — The Black Cap Tit, *Parus atri-*

capillus, Linnæus.

SYLVIADÆ — The Blue-bird, *Sialia wilsoni*, Swainson.

MERULIDÆ — The Brown Thrush, *Orpheus rufus*, Bonaparte. The Cat Bird, *Orpheus carolinensis*, Linnæus, Giraud. American Robin, *Merula migratoria*, Linnæus, Richardson. The Wood Thrush, *Merula mustelina*, Gmelin, Bonaparte. The Hermit Thrush, *Merula solitaria*, Wilson, Richardson. The Oven Bird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, Linnæus.

SYLVICOLIDÆ — The Yellow Throat, *Trichas marilandica*, Wilson, Audubon. The Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Linnæus. The Spotted Warbler, *Sylvicola maculosa*, Gmelin. The Spotted Canada Warbler, *Sylvicola pardalina*, Bonaparte. The Blackburnian Warbler, *Sylvicola blackburniæ*, Latham. The Summer Yellow Bird, *Sylvicola æstiva*, Gmelin. The Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Sylvicola icterocephala*, Linnæus.

MUSCICAPIDÆ — The American Redstart, *Muscicapa ruticilla*, Linnæus. The Wood Pewee, *Muscicapa virens*, Linnæus. The Kingbird, *Tyrannus intrepidus*, Vieillot. The Great Crested Kingbird, *Tyrannus crinitus*, Linnæus.

VIREONIDÆ — The Red-eyed Greenlet, *Vireo olivaceus*, Vieillot. The Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria viridis*, Gmelin, Bonaparte.

LANADÆ — The Northern Butcher Bird, *Lanius septentrionalis*, Gmelin.

CORVIDÆ — The Blue Jay, *Garrulus cristatus* Linnæus, Giraud. The Common Crow, *Corvus americanus*, Audubon. Common Crow Blackbird, *Quiscalus versicolor*, Vieillot. The Golden Oriole, *Icterus baltimore*, Linnæus. The Red-winged Oriole, *Icterus phoeniceus*, Linnæus. The Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Icterus xanthocephalus*, Bonaparte, Fort Snelling. The Cow Bunting, *Molothrus pecoris*, Gmelin. The Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Linnæus.

FRINGILLIDÆ — The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Coccyborus ludovicianus*, Linnæus. The Song Sparrow, *Fringilla melodia*, Wilson. The White-throated Sparrow, *Fringilla pennsylvanica*, Brisson. The Clay-colored Sparrow, *Emberiza pallida*, Audubon. The Yellow-bird or American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*, Linnæus. The Chewink or Ground Robin, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, Linnæus. The Indigo Bird, *Spiza cyanea*, Linnæus. The Black-winged Red Bird, *Pyrranga rubra*, Linnæus.

PICIDÆ — Red-headed Woodpecker, *Picus*

erythrocephalus, Linnæus. The Hairy Woodpecker, *Picus villosus*, Linnæus. The Downy Woodpecker, *Picus pubescens*, Linnæus. The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, *Picus varius*, Linnæus. The Golden-winged Woodpecker, *Picus auratus*, Linnæus.

CUCULIDÆ — The Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Wilson.

COLUMBIDÆ — The Wild Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratoria*, Linnæus. The Carolina Turtle-Dove, *Ectopistes carolinensis*, Linnæus.

ORDER III. GALLINÆ

PHASIANIDÆ — The Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*, Linnæus.

TETRAONIDÆ — The American Quail, *Oryz virginiana*, Linnæus. The Common Partridge or Ruffed Grouse, *Tetrao umbellus*, Linnæus. The Pinnated Grouse or Prairie Hen, *Tetrao cupido*, Linnæus.

ORDER IV. GRALLÆ

CHARADRIDÆ — American King Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Bonaparte. Wilson's Plover, *Charadrius wilsonius*, Ord, Bonaparte. The Killdeer Plover, *Charadrius vociferus*, Linnæus. The Golden Plover, *Charadrius virginianus*, Borkheim. The Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, Linnæus.

SCOLOPACIDÆ — The Spotted Sand Lark, *Totanus macularius*, Linnæus. The Solitary Tattler, *Totanus chloropygius*, Vieillot. The Gray Plover, *Totanus bartramius*, Wilson. The Varied Tattler or Tell-tale, *Totanus melanoleucus*, Vieillot. The Marlin, *Limosa fedoa*, Gmelin. The Sora Rail, *Ortygometra carolina*, Linnæus. The American Coot, *Fulica americana*, Gmelin.

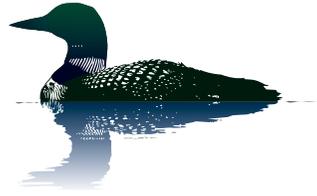
ORDER V. NATATORES

PELICANIDÆ — The White Pelican, *Pelicanus trachyrhynchus*, Latham. The Black Tern, *Sterna nigra*, Linnæus

ANATIDÆ — Hooded Sheldrake, *Mergus cucullatus*, Linnæus. The Bastard Broadbill, *Fuligula rufitorques*, Bonaparte. The Ruffle-headed Duck, *Fuligula albeola*, Linnæus. The Wood Duck, *Anas sponsa*, Linnæus. The Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*, Linnæus. The Green-winged Teal, *Anas carolinensis*, Gmelin. The Mallard, *Anas boschas*, Linnæus. The Wild Goose, *Anser Canadensis*, Willoughby.

COLYMBIDÆ — The Great Loon or Diver, *Colymbus glacialis*, Linnæus.

Notes of Interest



LEAST TERN IN MARTIN COUNTY — On 8 August 2021, I was scanning Turtle Lake from road along the southeastern shoreline (barely in Iowa) when I spotted an adult Least Tern foraging widely over the center of the lake. Specifically, the bird was feeding low over the water amongst hundreds of swallows, making a wide circuit from due west of me (clearly in Iowa) north and east almost up to the narrow section of the lake east of 17th Street (and thus clearly in Martin County, Minnesota). The winds were southwest and the bird would feed into the wind before eventually circling north to repeat the process.

■ The tern was perhaps 50% larger than the swallows and was not associating with any other terns. The flight was tern-like, a slow bobbing flight style, frequent drops to the water surface for food, and then swift, direct flight when moving a large distance. The body was pale gray above and white below with a white shallowly-forked tail. The upper wings were pale gray with a distinct black outer primary (or two, hard to tell at a distance). The underwings were white except for the black outer primary. The wings were longer than the body length, narrow, and pointed at the tips. The head pattern was distinctive — a white forecrown contrasting with a black crown, auriculars, and lores and a white chin and throat. The bill was bright yellow and I could not clearly see a dark tip at my distance. The legs were not seen. I did not hear the bird vocalize.

Based on bill color and head pattern I concluded that it was an adult Least Tern in alternate plumage. What is interesting is that on this day I photographed three adult Least Terns at Union Slough NWR in Kossuth County, IA (45 km to the southeast), just prior to this sighting, and then photographed another adult at Mud Lake in Clay County, IA (45 km to the southwest) several hours after this sighting. Multiple Least Terns were also reported in central Iowa on 8–10 August, indicating there was a significant movement of this species eastward at this time. **Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.**

KING EIDER IN WABASHA COUNTY — On 8 December 2021 at 2:45 P.M., I discovered an immature female King Eider on Lake Pepin at Lake City, located in Wabasha County. The eider was found among several hundred Common Mergansers, swimming in an ice hole situated approximately 200–250 meters straight out from the mobile home park, near the Lake City Marina. I studied the bird for a few minutes before returning to my truck to retrieve my digiscoping bracket. I watched and filmed the King Eider with my iPhone as it preened and swam around. My phone battery quickly died, but I continued watching the bird till 3:45 P.M. Although there was good light from behind, the fairly long-distance over ice created some atmospheric aberrations which can be seen on my videos.

■ This was a fairly diminutive eider, appearing to be slightly smaller than a nearby drake Canvasback. The small size (for an eider) combined with a plain brownish-gray coloration, suggest this was an immature female. Adult female King Eiders are typically larger and show a richer, rufous-brown plumage. At this point in the year, immature male King Eiders should have darker plumage on the back and sides, whitish feathers in the breast region and the beginnings of basal swellings on the upper regions of its lighter-colored bill. This individual showed none of those characteristics. Adult eiders and to a lesser degree adult scoters, are extremely rare in Minnesota.

The vast majority of these visiting sea ducks involve immatures (hatch-year birds).

This bird's head and bill-shape, plumage coloration and smaller size identify it as a King Eider, and not the far-less "common" Common Eider. This duck possessed a relatively short-lobed, black-colored bill. Common Eiders, which are much larger, have elongated grayish bills creating a distinctive wedge-shaped head. On Common Eiders, the combination of longer frontal lobes and a longer, lower gape, produces an extended feathered wedge in the front of the face. Consistent with female King Eiders, this individual showed a very shallow, curved lobe above the gape. The Eider had a short, thick neck and a head profile reminiscent of a German soldier's helmet. A prominent light silvery-gray mark above the eyes flowed down along each cheek-line, forming a boundary between the darker crown/nape, and her lighter face. Because of the distance involved, I could barely make out the dark flank spots, let alone determine whether they were chevron shaped or vertical. A faint light bar defining the edge of the greater-secondary coverts could be seen along the folded wings of the swimming eider. On a couple occasions, she reared up and flapped her wings, which were solid brown.



King Eider, 31 December 2021, Lake Pepin, Wabasha County. Photo by Todd Mitchell.

This has always been at the top of my Minnesota most wanted list for personally-found birds. After several years of making multiple fall/winter trips to the North Shore, I end up finding a King Eider 15 minutes from my house! The above text was written 12 December, shortly after my initial discovery. I subsequently found the King Eider several more times in Goodhue County, and then once again in Wabasha County — 28 December, near the outlet of Pepin at Camp Lacupolis.
Paul E. Jantscher, Red Wing MN.

Corrections to *The Loon*

Compiled by the Editors

Volume 66: Page 187. Golden-winged Warbler. Remove 4/30 Goodhue BL.

Volume 74: Page 71. Change date for mid-summer White-rumped Sandpiper from 7 July 1998 to 8 July 1998.

Volume 74: Pages 99–100. Warbling Vireo. Change "(10/21 BRL, 10/26 CRG, same bird?)" to "(10/26 CRG)".

Volume 91: Page 97. Lesser Scaup. Change date of 2/15 (3) Fergus Falls CBC to 12/15 (3) Fergus Falls CBC.

Volume 91: Page 108. White-winged Crossbill. Change county for 1/4 and 1/13 observations to Chisago.

Volume 93: Page 20. Semipalmated Sandpiper. Add count of 1,960 to 7/21 Big Stone KJB record.

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Compiled by the Editors

Index to Species

A Taxonomic Checklist of Minnesota Birds

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Purple Gallinule	Magnificent Frigatebird	Yellow-throated Vireo	Brewer's Sparrow
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Yellow Rail	Double-crested Cormorant	Blue-headed Vireo	Fox Sparrow
Snow Goose	Black Rail	Neotropic Cormorant	Philadelphia Vireo	American Tree Sparrow
Poss's Goose	Limpkin	American White Pelican	Whirling Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco
Greater White-fronted Goose	Sandhill Crane	Brown Pelican	Red-eyed Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Brant	Whooping Crane	American Bittern	Loggerhead Shrike	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Cackling Goose	Black-necked Stilt	Least Bittern	Northern Shrike	Harris's Sparrow
Canada Goose	American Avocet	Great Blue Heron	Canada Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Mute Swan	Black-bellied Plover	Great Egret	Blue Jay	Vesper Sparrow
Trumpeter Swan	American Golden-Plover	Snowy Egret	Clark's Nutcracker	LeConte's Sparrow
Tundra Swan	Killdeer	Little Blue Heron	Black-billed Magpie	Nelson's Sparrow
Wood Duck	Semipalmated Plover	Tricolored Heron	American Crow	Baird's Sparrow
Garganey	Piping Plover	Cattle Egret	Common Raven	Henslow's Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Wilson's Plover	Green Heron	Black-capped Chickadee	Savannah Sparrow
Cinnamon Teal	Snowy Plover	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Boreal Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Upland Sandpiper	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Tufted Titmouse	Lincoln's Sparrow
Gadwall	Whimbrel	White Ibis	Horned Lark	Swamp Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Eskimo Curlew	Glossy Ibis	Bank Swallow	Green-tailed Towhee
American Wigeon	Long-billed Curlew	White-faced Ibis	Tree Swallow	Spotted Towhee
Mallard	Hudsonian Godwit	Roseate Spoonbill	Violet-green Swallow	Eastern Towhee
American Black Duck	Marbled Godwit	Black Vulture	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Yellow-breasted Chat
Mottled Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Turkey Vulture	Purple Martin	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Northern Pintail	Red Knot	Osprey	Barn Swallow	Bobolink
Green-winged Teal	Ruf	White-tailed Kite	Cliff Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Canvasback	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Swallow-tailed Kite	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Western Meadowlark
Redhead	Stilt Sandpiper	Golden Eagle	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Orchard Oriole
Ring-necked Duck	Curlew Sandpiper	Northern Harrier	Bohemian Waxwing	Bullock's Oriole
Tufted Duck	Sanderling	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cedar Waxwing	Baltimore Oriole
Greater Scaup	Dunlin	Cooper's Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Scott's Oriole
Lesser Scaup	Purple Sandpiper	Northern Goshawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
King Eider	Baird's Sandpiper	Bald Eagle	Pygmy Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Eider	Least Sandpiper	Mississippi Kite	Brown Creeper	Rusty Blackbird
Harlequin Duck	White-rumped Sandpiper	Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Brewer's Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Broad-winged Hawk	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper	Swainson's Hawk	Rock Wren	Great-tailed Grackle
Black Scoter	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Red-tailed Hawk	House Wren	Ovenbird
Long-tailed Duck	Western Sandpiper	Rough-legged Hawk	Winter Wren	Worm-eating Warbler
Bufflehead	Short-billed Dowitcher	Ferruginous Hawk	Sedge Wren	Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Goldeneye	Long-billed Dowitcher	Barn Owl	Marsh Wren	Northern Waterthrush
Barrow's Goldeneye	American Woodcock	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bewick's Wren	Golden-winged Warbler
Smew	Wilson's Snipe	Great Horned Owl	Gray Catbird	Blue-winged Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Spotted Sandpiper	Snowy Owl	Curve-billed Thrasher	Black-and-white Warbler
Common Merganser	Solitary Sandpiper	Northern Hawk Owl	Brown Thrasher	Prothonotary Warbler
Red-breasted Merganser	Lesser Yellowlegs	Burrowing Owl	Sage Thrasher	Tennessee Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Willet	Barred Owl	Northern Mockingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Greater Yellowlegs	Great Gray Owl	European Starling	Nashville Warbler
Wild Turkey	Wilson's Phalarope	Long-eared Owl	American Dipper	Connecticut Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Red-necked Phalarope	Short-eared Owl	Eastern Bluebird	MacGillivray's Warbler
Spruce Grouse	Red Phalarope	Boreal Owl	Mountain Bluebird	Mourning Warbler
Willow Ptarmigan	Pomarine Jaeger	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Townsend's Solitaire	Kentucky Warbler
Rock Ptarmigan	Parasitic Jaeger	Belted Kingfisher	Veery	Common Yellowthroat
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Long-tailed Jaeger	Lewis's Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Hooded Warbler
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Dovekie	Red-headed Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	American Redstart
Gray Partridge	Black Gullinule	Acorn Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Kirtland's Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Long-billed Murrelet	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Cape May Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Ancient Murrelet	Williamson's Sapsucker	Fieldfare	Carolinian Warbler
Horned Grebe	Black-legged Kittiwake	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin	Northern Parula
Red-necked Grebe	Ivory Gull	American Three-toed Woodpecker	Varied Thrush	Magnolia Warbler
Eared Grebe	Sabine's Gull	Black-backed Woodpecker	Northern Wheatear	Bay-breasted Warbler
Western Grebe	Bonaparte's Gull	Downy Woodpecker	House Sparrow	Blackburnian Warbler
Clark's Grebe	Black-headed Gull	Hairy Woodpecker	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Yellow Warbler
Rock Pigeon	Little Gull	Northern Flicker	American Pipit	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Band-tailed Pigeon	Ross's Gull	Pileated Woodpecker	Sprague's Pipit	Blackpoll Warbler
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Laughing Gull	Crested Caracara	Brambling	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Passenger Pigeon	Franklin's Gull	American Kestrel	Evening Grosbeak	Palm Warbler
Inca Dove	Short-billed Gull	Merlin	Pine Grosbeak	Pine Warbler
Common Ground Dove	Ring-billed Gull	Gyr Falcon	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	Yellow-rumped Warbler
White-winged Dove	California Gull	Peregrine Falcon	House Finch	Yellow-throated Warbler
Mourning Dove	Herring Gull	Prairie Falcon	Purple Finch	Prairie Warbler
Groove-billed Ani	Iceland Gull	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Cassin's Finch	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Redpoll	Townsend's Warbler
Black-billed Cuckoo	Slaty-backed Gull	Tropical Kingbird	Hoary Redpoll	Hermit Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Glaucous-winged Gull	Cassin's Kingbird	Red Crossbill	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Poorwill	Glaucous Gull	Western Kingbird	White-winged Crossbill	Canada Warbler
Chuck-will's-widow	Great Black-backed Gull	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Siskin	Wilson's Warbler
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Least Tern	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Lesser Goldfinch	Painted Redstart
Chimney Swift	Gull-billed Tern	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	American Goldfinch	Summer Tanager
White-throated Swift	Caspian Tern	Oliver-sided Flycatcher	Lapland Longspur	Scarlet Tanager
Mexican Violetear	Black Tern	Western Wood-Pewee	Chestnut-collared Longspur	Western Tanager
Rivoli's Hummingbird	Common Tern	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Smith's Longspur	Northern Cardinal
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Arctic Tern	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Thick-billed Longspur	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Anna's Hummingbird	Forster's Tern	Acadian Flycatcher	Snow Bunting	Black-headed Grosbeak
Costa's Hummingbird	Sandwich Tern	Alder Flycatcher	Cassin's Sparrow	Blue Grosbeak
Calliope Hummingbird	Elegant Tern	Willow Flycatcher	Grasshopper Sparrow	Lazuli Bunting
Rufous Hummingbird	Red-throated Loon	Least Flycatcher	Black-throated Sparrow	Indigo Bunting
King Rail	Pacific Loon	Eastern Phoebe	Lark Sparrow	Painted Bunting
Virginia Rail	Common Loon	Say's Phoebe	Lark Bunting	Dickcissel
Sora	Yellow-billed Loon	Vermilion Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow	
Common Gallinule	Northern Fulmar	White-eyed Vireo	Clay-colored Sparrow	
American Coot	Wood Stork	Bell's Vireo	Field Sparrow	

December 2021

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Purpose of the M.O.U.

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

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



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

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

Suggestions to Authors

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



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