

SEASONAL REPORT - BIRDS

Report dates - August 1 through November 30, 1986

Compiler - Name Chip Francke

Address Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Rd
City Midland State MI Zip 48640

COMMON NAME	DATE(S)	# SEEN	LOCATION/COUNTY	OBSERVER
Common Loon	10/19	1	HU	RW
Pied-billed Grebe	TP		TRI	MO
Horned Grebe	10/6	1	DP	MI
	11/7	50	SB	TU
Eared Grebe	10/13-19	1	DP	MI
Dbl-cr Cormorant	9/23	90	FP	TU
	10/9	250		BY
	10/11	60	KP	BY
Am. White Pelican	8/23-24	1 imm	CNP	MI
Great Blue Heron	COMMON TP			TRI
Great Egret	10/1	90	SNWR	SA
	10/18	7		SA
	10/31	1	FP	TU
Cattle Egret	8/19	4	SRDI	BY
(3 ADULTS AND 1 IMMATURE-NO NEST FOUND THIS SUMMER)				
Green Heron	10/15	2 imm	KP	BY
Bl-cr Night Heron	8/19	30	SRDI	BY
(NONE IN ADULT PLUMAGE)				
Least Bittern	8/14	1	TP	IO
American Bittern	8/19	1	NP	BY
	8/23	1	NP	BY
Tundra Swan	11/12-17	2500	SNWR	SA
Mute Swan	late Nov.	1	CNC	MI
Snow Goose	10/31	25	SNWR	SA
	11/16	3	DP	MI
(NOT AS MANY THIS FALL)				
Canada Goose	TP			
	10/31	30,000	SNWR	SA
(6 very healthy Egyptian Geese were seen at SRDI on 11/22 by TW, CF)				
Wood Duck	11/29	2	KP	BY
Green-winged Teal	TP			MI
	10/20	100	CNP	MI
Am. Black Duck	TP			TRI
	10/31	5-7000	SNWR	SA
Mallard	TP			TRI
	10/31	40,000	SNWR	SA
N. Pintail	8/24-11/30			MI
Blue-winged Teal	8/1-11/12			TRI
	9/5	200	FSL	SA
N. Shoveler	11/15	1	NP	BY
Gadwall	11/9	2		TU
Am. Wigeon	TP			BY

SCAUP SP.	10/31	2500	SNWR	SA	SS
Canvasback	10/10-11/15			TRI	MO
(SEEMED UNCOMMON IN OTHER AREAS IN OUR REGION)	10/31	1000	SNWR	SA	SS
Redhead	TP			MI, BY	MO
Ring-necked Duck	10/4-10/22			TRI	MO
Greater Scaup	11/10	3		TU	MW
	11/22-11/29	1	KP	BY	RW, JS
Lesser Scaup	10/6	50	DP	MI	RW
	OCT PEAK	150		MI	TW
Eider SP.	11/1	1	KP	BY	RW
Oldsquaw	10/22-11/30			BY, MI	RW, TW
White-wg Scoter	11/23	1		BY	JZ
scoter sp.	10/22	2	KP	BY	RW
Common Goldeneye	10/11-11/30			TRI	MO
Bufflehead	10/11-11/30			TRI	MO
Hooded Merganser	11/1	22	KP	BY	RW
Common Merganser	8/14	3	TP	IO	JS
	10/31-11/30			BY	MO
	10/31	500	SNWR	SA	SS
Red-br Merganser	11/9	15,000	KP	BY	TW
Ruddy Duck	10/11-11/30		KP	BY	RW
	10/6	50	DP	MI	RW
	10/31	1000	SNWR	SA	SS
	11/16			MI	RW
Turkey Vulture	10/15	1	CNC	MI	CF
Osprey	11/1	1	FP	TU	JZ
Bald Eagle	10/15	9	SNWR	SA	SS
	11/8	1	SNWR	SA	JH
N. Harrier	TP			TRI	MO
Sharp-sh Hawk	8/31	1	TP	IO	RW
Cooper's Hawk	TP			TRI	MO
Br-winged Hawk	EARLY SEPT	1		TU	MW
Red-tailed Hawk	TP			TRI	MO
Rough-leg Hawk	10/31	1	FP	TU	MH
	11/27	1	CNP	MI	RW
Am. Kestrel	TP			TRI	MC
King-br. Pheasant	TP			TRI	MO
(#S DOWN)					
Puffed Grouse	TP			TU, MI	MO
N. Bobwhite	11/26	1		TU	MW
	AUGUST	1		SA	MH
	(#S UP IN TUSCOLA COUNTY DURING THE SUMMER)			BY	JZ
Yellow Rail	9/23	1	NP		
(DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING ENCLOSED)					
King Rail	8/19	1	NP	BY	TW
Sora	9/13	5		BY	GP
Common Moorhen	10/11	1	KP	BY	RW
Am. Coot	10/3	500	SNWR	SA	SS
	11/12	50	SB	TU	MW
Sandhill Crane	9/16	12	CNC	MI	PS
	10/2	3		MI	RA

Blk-bellied Plover	8/1-9/6			MI	TW, CF, RW
Lesser Gold-Plover	8/1-11/13			TU	MW
	8/30	15	CNP	MI	TW
Semipalmated Plover	8/1-9/21			MI	MO
Killdeer	8/1-11/10			TRI	MO
Greater Yellowlegs	8/1-11/10			MI	MO
	8/29	12	CNP	MI	CF
Lesser Yellowlegs	8/1-10/20			MI	MO
	8/22	50	FSL	SA	CF
Solitary Sandpiper	9/1	1	FSL	SA	CF
(ONLY SIGHTING ALL FALL)					
Willet	8/19	1	NP	BY	TW
	9/12-15	1		BY	JS
Spotted Sandpiper	8/1-9/15			MI	CF
(#S LOW THIS FALL)					
Whimbrel	9/13	1	KP	BY	JS, RW
Hudsonian Godwit	9/3	1	CNP	MI	RW, TW, CF
Ruddy Turnstone	9/13	15	KP	BY	RW, JS
Red Knot	8/23	2	CNP	MI	TW, CF
	9/13	1	KP	BY	RW, JS
Sanderling	11/16	1		BY	TW
Semipalm Sandpiper	8/23-9/9			MI	MO
	8/23	150	CNP	MI	TW
	10/31	1	FP	TU	MH
Least Sandpiper	8/23	70	CNP	MI	TW
	10/20	1	CNP	MI	CF
White-rmp Sandpiper	10/18	5	CNP	MI	RW
	11/2	1	CNP	MI	TW
Baird's Sandpiper	9/9	9	CNP	MI	CF, RW
	9/21	2	CNP	MI	RW, TW
Pectoral Sandpiper	11/2	2	CNP	MI	TW
Dunlin	11/2	130	CNP	MI	TW
	11/15	1	CNP	MI	RW
Stilt Sandpiper	8/2	5	CNP	MI	TW
	9/31	6	FP	TU	MH
Sh-billed Dowitcher	8/2	15	KARN	BY	JS
	9/31	1	FP	BY	MH
Common Snipe	10/18	5	CNP	MI	RW
Am. Woodcock	11/7	1		TU	MW
Wilson's Phalarope	8/23	1	CNP	MI	TW, CF
Red-nkd Phalarope	8/29-30	1	CNP	MI	TW, RW, CF
	9/5	1	FSL	SA	TW, RW, CF
Bonaparte's Gull	TP			BY	MO
Ring-billed Gull	TP			TRI	MO
Herring Gull	TP			TRI	MO
	9/9	300	CNP	MI	CF
Gr Blk-backed Gull	8/23	1	NP	BY	RW
	11/22-11/29	1	KARN	BY	JS
Caspian Tern	9/13	1	KARN	BY	RW
	8/19	40	SRDI	BY	CF
Common Tern	8/1-8/20		KARN	BY	MO
	(1500 MAXIMUM DURING PERIOD)				
Black Tern	8/30	25	KARN	BY	RW

Rock Dove	TP			TRI	MO
Mourning Dove	TP			TRI	MO
Great Horned Owl	TP			TRI	MO
(REPORT OF GH OWL PREDATION ON RING-BILLED GULLS IN BAY CO.--RA)					
Snowy Owl	11/17	1	FP	TU	MH
	11/22	3	SRDI	BY	CF, TW
Common Nighthawk	8/1-9/20			MI	MO
Chimney Swift	9/16	211		BY	JS
	9/29	1		BY	JS
R-thr Hummingbird	8/27	1	CNC	MI	CF
Belted Kingfisher	TP			TRI	MO
Red-bel Woodpecker	TP		CNC	MI	CF
Yel-bel Sapsucker	9/28	1		MI	CF
Downy Woodpecker	TP			TRI	MO
Hairy Woodpecker	TP			TRI	MO
N. Flicker	8/1-11/19			MI	CF
(GLENN PETERSON HAD A DEAD FLICKER GIVEN TO HIM BY ONE OF HIS STUDENTS IN MID-AUGUST 1986. UPON CLOSE EXAMINATION, GLENN NOTICED THAT AT LEAST 2 PRIMARY FEATHERS ON EACH WING WERE RED-SHAFTED AND THE REST OF THE FLIGHT FEATHERS WERE YELLOW-SHAFTED. THE MUSTACHE MARK WAS BLACK WITH NO RED FEATHERS. NO OTHER OBVIOUS RED-SHAFTED TRAITS WERE VISIBLE. THE SPECIMEN IS NOW AT THE CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER AND WILL BE USED IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS)					
Pileated Woodpecker	10/18			GL	JS
	10/28	1	CNC	MI	CF
	11/29	1		MI	-
E. Wood Pewee	8/1-9/20			MI	RW, CF
E. Phoebe	8/1-10/12			MI	RW, CF
Gr Cr Flycatcher	8/1-8/20			MI	CF
E. Kingbird	8/1-8/31			MI	CF
Horned Lark	TP			TRI	MO
Purple Martin	8/14		TP	IO	JS
Tree Swallow	8/1-11/14			MI	CF, GK
	9/6	1000	FSL	SA	CF
Cliff Swallow	9/6	1	FSL	SA	CF
Barn Swallow	11/14	1		MI	GK
Blue Jay	TP			TRI	MO
Am. Crow	TP			TRI	MO
Bl-cap Chickadee	TP			TRI	MO
Tufted Titmouse	TP			TRI	MO
Red-br Nuthatch	9/3-11/30			TRI	MO
White-br Nuthatch	TP			TRI	MO
Brown Creeper	TP			TRI	MO
(FEW SIGHTINGS)					
House Wren	9/3	3	CNC	MI	CF
Winter Wren	8/20	1	CNC	MI	-
Marsh Wren	10/12	1		TU	MW
Golden-cr Kinglet	9/24-11/16			MI, TU	CF, MW
Ruby-cr Kinglet	10/9			BY	JS
Bl-gr Gnatcatcher	8/30	1	TB	BY	JR

E. Bluebird	10/19	6		MI	RA
	10/19	19		OG	RA
Swainson's Thrush	10/4			BY	JS
Hermit Thrush	10/17	1		MI	CF
Am. Robin	8/1-11/15			TRI	MO
Gray Catbird	8/1-9/20			TRI	MO
Brown Thrasher	9/26	1		MI	RW
Water Pipit	10/18	16		MI	RW, GK
	10/25		CNP	MI	RW
Cedar Waxwing	TP			TRI	MO
N. Shrike	11/11	1	CNC	MI	CF
European Starling	TP			TRI	MO
Solitary Vireo	9/28	1		MI	RW
Yellow-thr Vireo	8/19	1		MI	CF
Warbling Vireo	8/1-9/3		CNC	MI	CF
Philadelphia Vireo	8/29	1	CNC	MI	CF
Red-eyed Vireo	8/1-9/24			MI	CF, RW
Golden-wing Warbler	9/3	1	CNC	MI	CF
Tennessee Warbler	10/4			MI	RW
Orange-cr Warbler	10/7	1		MI	CF
Nashville Warbler	10/4			MI	RW
Yellow Warbler	9/27	1	KP	BY	RW
Chest-sid Warbler	10/2			MI	RW
Magnolia Warbler	9/28			MI	RW
Cape May Warbler	8/19	30	NP	BY	TW
	8/31			MI	RW
Yel-rumped Warbler	10/17			MI	RW
Bl-thr Gr Warbler	10/2	2		MI	RW
Blackburn Warbler	9/28	2		MI	RW
Palm Warbler	9/21	2		MI	RW
Bay-breast Warbler	9/26	7		MI	RW
Blackpoll Warbler	8/30	1		BY	JH
Bl-and-wh Warbler	9/28			MI	RW
Am. Redstart	10/8	1	CNC	MI	CF
Ovenbird	9/20			MI	RW
N. Waterthrush	8/14	1	TP	IO	JS
Common Yellowthroat	8/1-9/22			MI	RW, CF
Canada Warbler	9/14			MI	RW
Scarlet Tanager	10/10	1		MI	TW
N. Cardinal	TP			TRI	MO
Rose-br Grosbeak	8/1-9/28			MI	RW, CF
Ruf-sided Towhee	10/6		CNC	MI	CF
Am. Tree Sparrow	10/25-11/30			MI, BY	MO
Chipping Sparrow	10/25	1		BY	GP
Field Sparrow	8/1-8/27		CNC	MI	CF
Vesper Sparrow	10/6	1		MI	RW

Savannah Sparrow	10/10	1		MI	RW
Fox Sparrow	10/15-11/11			MI	GK
	10/31	2	FP	TU	JH
Song Sparrow	8/1-10/25			MI, BY	MO
Swamp Sparrow	10/22	1		BY	JS
White-thr Sparrow	9/17-11/17			MI	MO
White-cr Sparrow	9/23-10-31			MI	GK, CF
Dark-eyed Junco	9/21-11/30			MI	MO
Lapland Longspur	11/2	3		MI	TW
	11/27	100		MI	RW
Snow Bunting	10/13	50	TP	IO	JZ
Bobolink	8/1-8/31			BY, MI	RW, CF
Red-wing Blackbird	TP			TRI	MO
E. Meadowlark	10/17			MI	RW
Yel-hd Blackbird	9/13	1	KP	BY	JS
Rusty Blackbird	10/26	10		BY	RW
	11/11	4		BY	JS
Common Grackle	TP			TRI	MO
Brown-head Cowbird	TP			TRI	MO
N. Oriole	8/27	1	CNC	MI	CF
Purple Finch	TP			TRI	MO
House Finch	TP			MI	CF, TW
	11/23	40		MI	TW
Pine Siskin	8/30	1		BY	GP
	10/10-11/30			TRI	MO
Am. Goldfinch	TP			TRI	MO
Evening Grosbeak	10/19-11/30			TRI	MO
House Sparrow	TP			TRI	MO

TOTAL SPECIES - ~~193~~ 194

ABBREVIATION CODES -

LOCATIONS

SB SAGINAW BAY
KP KARN PLANT
CNC CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER
NP NAYANQUING POINT
SNWR SHIAWASSEE NATIONAL W.R.
TB TOBICO MARSH
CNP CONSUMERS NUCLEAR POND
FSL FREELAND SEWAGE LAGOONS
SRDI SAGINAW RIVER DIKED DISPOSAL ISLAND
DP DOW PONDS
FP FISH POINT
TP TAWAS POINT

COUNTIES

OG Ogemaw
BY BAY
SA SAGINAW
MI MIDLAND
TU TUSCOLA
HU HURON
IO IOSCO
GL GLADWIN
TRI TRI-COUNTY AREA(SA,BY,MI)

OBSERVERS

RA RON ANNELIN
TW TERRY WALSH
PD PHIL DAVIS
RW RON WEEKS
JH JEANNE HENDERSON
SS STAN SKUTEK
CF CHIP FRANCKE
GK GENE KENAGA
JS JOE SOEHNEL
MW MYLES WILLARD
MH MARK HUBINGER
GP GLENN PETERSON
JZ JERRY ZIARNO
PS PHIL STEPHENS
MO MANY OBSERVERS

TP THROUGH PERIOD

SITING OF YELLOW RAIL IN TUSCOLA COUNTY

On September 23, 1986 at about 4:30 P.M., Don Hartz and I were driving east on Ringle Road near the end of the road at Fish Point in Tuscola County, Michigan. The habitat at this location, on both sides of the road, was wet with thick grass and brush. Nearby Saginaw Bay was at record high levels. While proceeding at a slow rate of speed, we noticed what appeared to be a very small "baby bird" clearly visible in the unpaved road. We stopped the vehicle within 3 meters of the bird and observed with naked eye and the use of 10x35 binoculars. The bird appeared to be very small, 5-6" in length, with a plain buffy appearance below and a brown patterned back. It was crouched in a "head-lower-than-body" attitude and sat "frozen" for 2-3 minutes. I exited the car for a better view and, after several more seconds, the bird scurried into the wet, brushy area at the side of the road. Attempts to flush the bird were futile.

The pattern on the back was quite apparent resembling that of a Bob-White. The bill was small and a dull yellowish-green. No outstanding facial or neck pattern was apparent. The feet, briefly viewed as the bird scurried off, were large in relation to the body and yellowish-green in color. The undersides were a dull, buff color. Some faint barring was visible on the flanks and undertail but no white areas were visible. As the bird did not fly, the wing pattern was not observed. We spent a few minutes in the general area, but no vocalizations were heard. No photographs were taken.

Because of the coloration, size, and short bill, the bird was most likely a Yellow Rail or an immature Sora. At this late date in the season, an immature Sora is unlikely. The small size, the light buff coloration on the undersides, lack of black on face or neck and lack of white under the tail further confirms a Yellow Rail. This observer has closely observed

Soras previously during the month of september. This bird was definitely smaller and was missing the black on the face and neck present on the Soras. It was also missing the distinctive white area under the tail.

In reviewing the appropriate literature, while Kenaga¹ reported only two sitings of Yellow Rail in the Saginaw Bay Area, one of these in 1927 was at Fish Point. Zimmerman² also reports that the Yellow Rail is an "uncommon but regular migrant in the Lower Peninsula" of Michigan and that it has been recorded in Tuscola County. Payne³ simply acknowledges that the Yellow Rail is an "uncommon transient and summer resident" in the U.P. and that "field observations are needed to determine its local numbers and distribution."

1. Kenaga, E.E. 1983. BIRDS, BIRDERS AND BIRDING IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA.
2. Zimmerman, D.A. and Van Tyne, J. 1959. A DISTRIBUTIONAL CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF MICHIGAN.
3. Payne, R.B. 1983. A DISTRIBUTIONAL CHECKLEST OF THE BIRDS OF MICHIGAN.

Gerald J. Ziarno
6208 Sturgeon Creek Pkwy
Midland, MI 48640
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