

BIRDS IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA

August 1- November 30, 1994

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Summary: Water birds were once again the highlight of the season. The most incredible of the good birds was Shiawassee's (and the state's!) second **White Ibis** in the last eleven years. Also impressive was a male **Harlequin Duck** found at the Au Sable River mouth on November 1st. The bird stayed until December 5th molting from nearly full eclipse to full breeding plumage during its stay! Another good lingering rarity was a **Ross' Goose** from Shiawassee seen sporadically from November 10th until December 2nd. Other water birds of note included four **Red-throated Loon** sightings, at least four **Eared Grebes** from the Dow Ponds, and **Cattle Egrets** from the Karn Plant and Shiawassee. Early birds included **Red-necked Grebe** (9/18), **Greater Scaup** (9/17), **Oldsquaw** (9/19), and **White-winged Scoter** (9/17) from Tawas. Record counts included 325 **Pied-billed Grebes** (in two large rafts) from Nayanquing, 205 **Great Egrets** and 20 **Green Herons** from Shiawassee, 200 **Gadwalls** from Fish Point, and 8 **Surf Scoters** from Tawas. Numbers in general seemed to be quite good with collections of 10,000 to 20,000 waterfowl building up at both Nayanquing and Tobico.

Raptors were less than eventful, but new fall highs were recorded for **Northern Harrier** (8) from Tawas, **Bald Eagle** (11) from Shiawassee, **Rough-legged Hawk** (7) from the Karn Plant, and **Kestrel** (8) from the Dow Ponds. Also noteworthy were 6 **Merlin** and 6 **Peregrine** sightings. Few game birds were reported, but this may be due to little coverage. **Coots** were quite common this fall with several groups of around 500 birds reported.

Shorebirds were hard to find anywhere but the Dow Ponds where over twenty species were recorded during the period including new SBA highs for **Baird's Sandpiper** (32) and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (8). Interestingly, the shorebirds peaked in mid-August as can be seen from a collection of enclosed graphs. Shiawassee shorebirds were highlighted by two **Hudsonian Godwits**, a **Wilson's Phalarope**, and a group of seven (probable) **Long-billed Dowitchers**. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** from the Bay Port Quarry on October 2nd represents both a first Huron County Record and a new SBA late date. However, the best shorebird of the fall was the SBA's third **Purple Sandpiper** seen and photographed at the Au Sable River mouth on November 25th and 26th. Good gull sightings included a first-year **Franklin's Gull** from Tawas, the annual fall visit from **Lester**, the Bay City State Park **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, and a very early **Glaucous Gull** (October 10th) from the Bay Port.

Owls were mixed with good numbers of **Screechs** and **Great Horneds** reported, while **Snowy Owl** went unreported. Passerines numbers were definitely down this fall. The only real movement reported was at Tawas on September 17th when a modest mix of warblers and sparrows were tallied. Flycatchers, thrushes (very low), warblers, and sparrows were reported in very small numbers. No major rarities were reported, but two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** from the Wilderness Arboretum, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** from Shiawassee, and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** from Port Crescent all fit the *good bird* category. Passerines that were seen in good numbers included 30 **Eastern Bluebirds** from Mayville, 108 **Savannah Sparrows** from Shiawassee, 55,000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 50,000 **Common Grackles** from the Karn Plant. Tardy migrants included an **American Pipit** (11/23) from Shiawassee, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** (10/31) from the Harbor Beach area, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** (10/31) from Verona SGA. Winter passerines were nearly nonexistent. Notable were a **Bohemian Waxwing** (11/12-19) from Tawas and a **Red Crossbill** (11/20) from Tuscola County.

REPORTS

RED-THROATED LOON:

1	10/14	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10/23	Grindstone City, Hu	ME	Lifer!
1	11/11	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	11/19	Tawas Pt, Io	RW, SR	Last report.

COMMON LOON:

5	9/3	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	
150	10/10	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
163	10/30	Grindstone City, Hu	SR	Peak.

Noted through end of period.

PIED-BILLED GREBE:

3 2 5	9/25	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	SR, RW	New SBA high!
4	11/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Last report.

HORNED GREBE:

5	9/25	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, SR	First.
24	10/29	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, J&GS	

RED-NECKED GREBE:

3	9/18	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	New SBA early!
6	10/23	Grindstone City, Hu	ME	Lifers again!

Noted twice at Oscoda, Io; ten times at Tawas Pt SP, Io (including above); and three times from Hu for record fall total of 15 sightings. Noted through period.

EARED GREBE:

2	8/26	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, SR	
3	10/28	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	Peak.
1	11/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	Last report.

At least four different individuals were involved in these sightings as determined by plumage differences.

WHITE PELICAN:

[No reports.]

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:

1000	9/17	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	New fall peak!
585	9/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	

Noted through period. Now being seen on Pine and Chippewa Rivers in Mi (EK).

AMERICAN BITTERN:

2	8/7	Tuttle Marsh, Io	BB	Peak.
1	11/1	Cotter Road, Ba	SM	Last report.

LEAST BITTERN:

[No reports.]

GREAT BLUE HERON:

127	8/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
32	11/26	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	

Noted through period.

GREAT EGRET:

205	8/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	New SBA high!
24	10/9	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	
1	11/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
7	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Quite late.

SNOWY EGRET:

[No reports.]

CATTLE EGRET:

1 im	8/24-25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP	
3 ad, 1 im	8/30	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	

GREEN HERON:



20	8/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	New SBA high!
1	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG	Last date.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:

33	9/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
3	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last date.

WHITE IBIS:

1	9/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP	
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This bird was only present a few hours. The only other SBA sighting was also from Shiawassee during September of 1983. I am not aware of any other sightings from the entire state during this time period.

TUNDRA SWAN:

1	8/12	Freeland SL, Sa	J&GS	
8	9/14	Bay Port, Hu	TB	Few Sept. records.
2	10/16	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
heard	10/26	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	RW, SR	
3000	11/25	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SR, RW	Peak.

Noted through period.

MUTE SWAN:

6	10/26	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	SR, RW	
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GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:

[No reports.]

SNOW GOOSE:

2	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First date.
227	10/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
53	10/29	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB, RW	

Noted through end of period.

ROSS' GOOSE:

1	11/10-13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG, MP	
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What was believed to be the same bird was seen again on December 2nd. This record represents only the fourth SBA record (second for the fall).

Another possible/probable Ross' Goose was seen flying by Tawas Pt SP, Io with Snow Geese on 10/29 (RW, BB, J&GS). It was obviously smaller than the Snows and had a noticeably shorter bill.

CANADA GOOSE:

17179	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
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WOOD DUCK:

102	8/18	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	11/25	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, SR	Late flyby migrant.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL:

622	10/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
500+	10/23	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	SR, RW	

Noted through period.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:

1528	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
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MALLARD:

15445	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
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NORTHERN PINTAIL:

750	10/23	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	SR, RW	
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Noted through period.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL:

127	9/15	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	10/29	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	RW, JS	A bit late.
1	11/2	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Injured bird.

NORTHERN SHOVELER:

63	11/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
172	11/7	Bay Port, Hu	TB	In sewage lagoons.



Noted through period.

GADWALL:

200	11/8	Fish Pt WA, Tu	MW	New SBA peak count!
100	11/21	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	EK	

Noted through period.

AMERICAN WIGEON:

2500	10/23	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	SR, RW	New fall high.
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Noted through period.

CANVASBACK:

2000+	11/25	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SR, RW	
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Noted through end of period.

REDHEAD:

100	11/25	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	
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Noted through end of period.

RING-NECKED DUCK:

2000+	10/23	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	RW, SR	New fall high.
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Noted through end of period.

GREATER SCAUP:

6	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, lo	BB	New SBA fall early!
1	9/25	Tawas Pt SP, lo	SR, RW	Also early.
8	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, lo	SR, RW	
500+	11/25	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SR, RW	

LESSER SCAUP:

1	9/4	Tawas Pt SP, lo	First return.	
47	10/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	

Noted through end of period.

SCAUP SP.:

100+	10/29	Tawas Pt SP, lo	RW, BB	
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HARLEQUIN DUCK:

1 ad male	11/1-12/5	Au Sable R. mouth, lo	MW, RW, SR, et al	
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This bird was found in a nasty nor'easter feeding in the surf nest to the breakwall. It was barely discernible as a male (a slight white vertical mark-like a Ring-necked Duck-was visible at very close range). It was rediscovered on 11/19 in the same spot after nearly molting into breeding plumage. It was then seen by many from around the state until early December by which time it was in full breeding plumage. This makes one wonder how many of the female/im birds identified in October on the Great Lakes are actually eclipse males.

OLDSQUAW:

2	9/19	Tawas Pt SP, lo	BB	New fall early!
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This record even eclipses the Whitefish Pt early record (before this fall anyway)! The characteristic shape and flight pattern, dark wings, and white on the sides of the tail were all noted on these birds.

BLACK SCOTER:

3	10/29	Tawas Pt SP, lo	J&GS, RW	
3	10/30	Tawas Pt SP, lo	RW, BB	
1	11/13	Grindstone City, Hu	SR	

SURF SCOTER:

2	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, lo	RH, RW	
8	10/10	Tawas Pt SP, lo	BB	New SBA peak count.
2	10/27	MCV, Mi	RW	Rare inland.
1	10/23	Grindstone City, Hu	ME	Another lifer?
2	10/29	Tawas Pt SP, lo	RW, JS	
1	11/1	Three Mile Park, lo	SR	

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:

2	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, lo	BB	New SBA early!
200+	11/1	Three Mile Park, lo	RW, SR, MW	



A very conservative tally. This number was seen in one string and later they were swirling everywhere.
Seen on virtually every trip to Tawas Pt, Io in October and November. Noted through end of period.

COMMON GOLDENEYE:

1	10/14	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	First report.
500+	11/29	Three Mile Park, Io	MW, BG	Ties fall high.

Noted through end of period.

BUFFLEHEAD:

1	8/20-21	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR, RW	First return.
100	11/22	Tawas area, Io	MW	
101	11/25	Pinconning Park, Ba	SR, RW	Peak count.

Noted through end of period.

HOODED MERGANSER:

1	9/13-14	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR, RW
50+	11/29	Tawas Lake, Io	MW

Noted through end of period. Only one flyby noted at Tawas Pt SP, Io this fall!

COMMON MERGANSER:

1	9/4	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	Summer straggler?
1	9/25	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, SR	First migrant?
1767	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak there.
thousands	late Nov	MCV, Mi	RW, SR	

An estimate of 6000 was reported on 12/1 from MCV, Mi (EK, RW, SR).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:

1	8/25	Eagle Bay, Hu	ME, TH	First report.
2	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
7500+	10/29	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, J&GS	

Noted through end of period.

RUDDY DUCK:

256	10/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
220	10/22-11/4	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR, RW

Noted through end of period.

TURKEY VULTURE:

34	~9/1	Bay Port, Hu	ME	
1	10/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	
1	11/6	n. Bay County	J&GS	1st for Nov. in SBA!

One December and two January records do exist for this species.

OSPREY:

1	8/15	Beaver & 2 Mile, Ba	JGi	
2	8/24	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB, SR, RW	Last date.

At least seven records for this species this fall.

BALD EAGLE:

11	11/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	New fall high.
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Also noted from Tawas Lake, Io; Wigwam Bay, Ar; Nayanquing Pt, Ba; Knight Road, Ba; and Caseville, Hu.

NORTHERN HARRIER:

8	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	SR, BB, RW	New fall high.
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Noted through period from numerous locations.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:

1	9/13	Midland, Mi	ME	First report.
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Noted through end of period at Shiawassee NWR, Sa.

COOPER'S HAWK:

Common through period.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK:

1	10/15	Bradleyville Rd, Tu	ME
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RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:



1	10/24	US-10 & Stark Rd, Mi	ME	Only report.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK:				
1	8/24	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	
1	9/5	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	
RED-TAILED HAWK:				
13	11/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
Regular sightings through period.				
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:				
1	10/16	Midland, Mi	RA	First report.
7	11/26	Saginaw River DDI, Sa	J&GS	New fall high.
GOLDEN EAGLE:				
[No reports.]				
AMERICAN KESTREL:				
8	8/20	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	New fall high.
Noted through period.				
MERLIN:				
1	9/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1 fem/im	9/14	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
1	9/16	Tawas City, Io	BB	
1	9/17-18	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	SR, RW, BB	
2	10/22	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	
PEREGRINE FALCON:				
1	8/15	Saginaw River, Ba	JS	4th Aug. record.
1 im	9/15	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	With leg bands.
1 ad	9/18	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	
1 im	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Tundra race.
1	10/10	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10/19	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP	
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:				
Noted through period. Flock of 50-60 noted from Elkton, Hu (DE).				
RUFFED GROUSE:				
Only reported from Tuscola County.				
WILD TURKEY:				
Noted through period.				
NORTHERN BOBWHITE:				
[No reports.]				
VIRGINIA RAIL:				
[No reports.]				
SORA:				
1	9/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	9/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG	Only reports.
COMMON MOORHEN:				
13	8/7	Tuttle Marsh, Io	BB	Peak.
1	10/1	Sumac Island, Hu	ME	Last.
AMERICAN COOT:				
500+	10/23	Tobico Marsh, Ba	RW, SR	Peak.
500	11/19	Tawas Lake, Io	RW, SR	
Noted through period. Seen in large numbers at a variety of locations.				
SANDHILL CRANE:				
1	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, RH	
2	10/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
15	10/30	Elkton, Hu	DE	
WHOOPING CRANE ???:				



A bird flying with the 15 Elkton Sandhill Cranes was described as being white with black wingtips. Duane knows geese well-the most likely other white bird with black wingtips would be a Snow Goose-and had this group fly right over his head. He was unaware that a white crane with black wing tips would suggest it was a Whooping Crane. He simply remarked about the white crane with black wing tips among the Sandhills.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:

2	8/7	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
34	10/2	Bay Port Quarry, Hu	ME	Peak.
4	11/4	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER:

2	8/7	May Road, Io	BB	First report.
5	10/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last report.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER:

28	8/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
1	10/19	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	Few Oct. records.

PIPING PLOVER:

[No reports.]

KILLDEER:

107	9/6	May Road, Io	BB	
150	9/11	Bay Port Quarry, Hu	TB	
165	9/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
10	11/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	Last report.

AMERICAN AVOCET:

[No reports.]

GREATER YELLOWLEGS:

43	8/5	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
2	11/10-11	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP	Last report.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS:

65	8/3	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
76	9/15	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
1	11/4	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Last report.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER:

5	8/25	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME, TH	Peak.
1	9/17	Bay Port, Hu	TB	Last report

WILLET:

[No reports.]

SPOTTED SANDPIPER:

23	8/7	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	Peak.
1	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last.

UPLAND SANDPIPER:

[No reports.]

WHIMBREL:

[No reports.]

HUDSONIAN GODWIT:

2	9/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Only report.
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MARbled GODWIT:

[No reports.]

RUDDY TURNSTONE:

1-3	8/20-31	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR, RW	Peak
2	8/31	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Last report.

RED KNOT:

2 im	8/18-28	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, SR et al	
4	8/31	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Peak
1	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Last report.

SANDERLING:



1	8/3	Big Charity Is, Ar	DP	
23	8/8	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
40	8/19	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Peak.
3	10/23	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, SR	Last report.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:

72	8/18	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
1	10/19	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	Last report.

LEAST SANDPIPER:

55	8/7	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	Peak.
1	10/19	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	Last report.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:

1 ad	8/5-7	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	First report.
1 ad	8/21-26	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, SR	
1	9/5	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1-3 juv	10/16-22	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR, RW	3 on 10/22.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:

3 2	8/16	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, SR	New SBA peak count!
1 ad	8/24	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	Late for an adult.

Two adults were seen into mid-August with juveniles already present on the first of the month! Typically juveniles don't show up in force until late August and September. Birders elsewhere in the state remarked about the early shorebird migration this fall.

2	10/9	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	Last report.
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PECTORAL SANDPIPER:

115	8/3	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
153	8/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
10	10/28	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	Last report.

PURPLE SANDPIPER:

1	11/25-26	Au Sable R. mouth, Io	RW, SR, BB et al	
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Only the 3rd SBA record! Found while trying to refind the Harlequin Duck. Clearly a function of the *Au Sable River mouth picnic table effect*. I suspect this bird was a juvenile; it had well-defined white edges on the coverts and neat light gray edges on the scapulars and mantle.

DUNLIN:

1	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
3	9/17	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	
52	10/8	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	Peak.
8	11/7	Bay Port, Hu	TB	Last report.

STILT SANDPIPER:

21	9/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak and last.
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Few reports this fall due to lack of habitat.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:

1 - 8	8/16-22	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, SR et al	
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This record breaking batch of Buff-breasteds started as a single bird on 8/16 and peaked with a new SBA record of 8 on the evening of 8/19 (RW). Two birds were present on the following two days and were joined by a third on 8/22. A biomass built up on the west end of the southernmost pond provided perfect shorebird habitat through August and much of September.

1	10/2	Bay Port Quarry, Hu	ME	New SBA late date! (Lifer again.)
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SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:

90	8/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	9/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	Last report.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:

[No definite reports.]

DOWITCHER SP.:

1	8/28	Karn Plant, Ba	J&GS	
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Joe writes "This dowitcher was observed at close range with excellent light. It had uniform gray on neck extending well below breast before giving way to white on lower belly. It was subsequently observed on another occasion in September and continued to exhibit the same features". Unfortunately the bird was not aged-a must with dowitcher ID unless you happen to hear them call. Adult dowitchers molt into winter (basic) plumage around this time meaning that both can appear gray. Some Short-billeds stay gray all year long (Kaufman 1990). If the bird had been identified as a juvenile, the grayish plumage indicates Long-billed; however, as of 1983 there were no documented juvenile Long-billeds south of Alaska or the Yukon before September 1st, or south and east of Oregon and Idaho before September 15 (Wilds and Newlon 1983).

7 10/27 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

These were almost certainly Long-billeds because of the late date. Unfortunately, call notes are the only reliable method for those without doctorates relating to dowitchers.

COMMON SNIBE:

17	9/11	Bay Port, Hu	TB	
1	11/25	Cotter Road, Ba	SM	Last report.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK:

Reported from Tuscola (MW) and Huron Counties (ME).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE:

1	8/17-25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP	Only report.
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RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:

2 juv	8/16	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, SR	Only report.
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FRANKLIN'S GULL:

1 juv	9/4	Tawas Pt, Io	BB	First Sept. record for SBA.
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BONAPARTE'S GULL:

300	8/27	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, GS	Peak.
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RING-BILLED GULL:

966	11/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
2500	11/21	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	EK	

HERRING GULL:

Common tp.

GLAUCOUS GULL:

1	10/10	Bay Port, Hu	TB	New SBA early!
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This 1st or 2nd year bird, picked out by its large size and all white wings, was seen flying along the lake just south of Oak Beach. The Thumb area is probably the best in the LP for this species and this early record does not come as a major surprise.

1 ad.	10/29-30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB, RW, JS, GS	3rd Oct. Record!
1	11/14	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	11/14	Eagle Bay, Hu	MW	

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:

1 ad	9/5	Bay City SP, Ba	JGi	Seen tp.
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GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:

1	9/5	Bay City SP, Ba	JGi	
9	10/30	Eagle Bay, Hu	ME	
9 ad	11/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, GS	

COMMON TERN:

300	9/10	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Peak and late.
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CASPIAN TERN:

122	8/4	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, GS	Peak.
1	10/28	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Last report.

FORSTER'S TERN:

7	8/25	Eagle Bay, Hu	ME	Only report.
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BLACK TERN:

2	8/8	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Only report.
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ROCK DOVE:

Common tp.



MOURNING DOVE:

Common tp.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:

1	8/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
1	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:

1	8/31	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Only report.
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EASTERN SCREECH OWL:

23	8/17	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG	Peak.
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Also noted from Fostoria and Fremont Twp, Tu (MW); Midland, Mi (RA), and Oak Grove, Ba (JS).

GREAT HORNED OWL:

Noted from Fostoria and Fremont Twp, Tu (MW); Bay City SP, Ba (G&EP); Kam Plant, Ba (JS, GS); SNWR, Sa (DP); and Bay Port, Hu (TB).

SNOWY OWL:

[No reports.]

BARRED OWL:

1	8/18	Dow High, Mi	RA
1	8/17, 23	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP

LONG-EARED OWL:

1	11/6	Tomlinson/M-25, Hu	ME	Found dead.
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SHORT-EARED OWL:

1	11/11	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Flying over lake.
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COMMON NIGHTHAWK:

27	8/19	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Low peak.
1	9/11	Chippewa NC, Mi	JS, GS	Last report.

WHIP-POOR-WILL:

[No reports.]

CHIMNEY SWIFT:

50	9/11	Chippewa NC, Mi	JS, GS	Peak.
5	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last report.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:

1	8/31	Hampton Twp, Ba	JS, GS	
1	8/31	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last reports.

BELTED KINGFISHER:

Scattered sightings tp. Peak of 7 on 8/3 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BG).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:

1	11/7	Bay Port, Hu	TB	Last report.
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Also noted from Sa, Ba, Hu and Io.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:

Noted from Ba, Hu, Mi, and Sa.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:

4	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Peak.
1	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	

DOWNY WOODPECKER:

Common tp. New SBA peak of 15 on 8/3 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BG).

HAIRY WOODPECKER:

Fairly common tp.

NORTHERN FLICKER:

11	9/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Peak.
1	10/21	Bay Port, Hu	TB	Last report.

Also noted from Io and Hu.

PILEATED WOODPECKER:

Reported from Tawas Pt, Io (BB), Midland, Mi (EK); and SNWR, Sa (DP, BG).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:

2 8/24 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME, TH Only report.
 Now an annual during the last week of August. Once again, Wilderness Arb. is the fall flycatcher hotspot.
 Monica notes, however, that flycatcher numbers in general were low this year in Hu.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:

9 8/15 Weaver Rd, Hu ME Peak.
 1 9/17 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB Last report.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:

1 8/24 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:

[No reports.]

WILLOW FLYCATCHER:

2 8/5 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP Only report.

ALDER FLYCATCHER:

1 8/10,20 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Only reports.

LEAST FLYCATCHER:

4 8/27 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Peak
 1 9/18 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Last report.

EASTERN PHOEBE:

1 10/16 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB Last report.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER:

4 8/12 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Peak.
 1 8/21 Bay City SP, Ba G&EP Last report.

EASTERN KINGBIRD:

9 8/10 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Peak.
 1 9/16 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB Last report.

HORNED LARK:

Fairly common tp.

PURPLE MARTIN:

45 8/7 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB Peak.
 1 8/27 Tawas Pt SP, Io JS, GS Last Report.

TREE SWALLOW:

353 9/27 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG Peak.
 "100s" 10/5 Bay Port, Hu TB
 2 10/9 Karn Plant, Ba GS, JS Last report.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:

2 8/8 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB
 125 9/11 Bay Port, Hu TB

Also noted from Hu (ME).

BANK SWALLOW:

100 8/14 Karn Plant, Ba JS, GS Peak.
 1 8/19 Chippewa NC, Mi PK
 1 8/24 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG

CLIFF SWALLOW:

7 9/3 Port Crescent SP, Hu ME Peak and last.

BARN SWALLOW:

3 9/3 Oak Grove, Ba JS, GS Last report.

BLUE JAY:

Common through period. Peak of 125 noted from Tawas Pt SP, Io (BB).

AMERICAN CROW:

Common tp.

COMMON RAVEN:

2 11/29 River Road, Io MW, BG

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:

Common tp. Peak of 68 on 9/2 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BG).



TUFTED TITMOUSE:

Noted tp. Peak of 8 on 8/3 from Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BG). New SBA high!

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:

Noted from Io and Hu.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:

Common tp. Peak of 9 on 8/3 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BG). New SBA high!

BROWN CREEPER:

Scattered sightings through period.

CAROLINA WREN:

[No reports.]

HOUSE WREN:

8	8 / 3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Peak.
1	10 / 5	Midland, Mi	SR	Last.

WINTER WREN:

2	9 / 30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Also at SNWR (DP).
4	10 / 16	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Peak.
1	11 / 8	Fremont Twp, Tu	MW	A bit late.

SEDGE WREN:

1	8 / 7	May Road, Io	BB	
3	9 / 2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Few Sept. records.

MARSH WREN:

Scattered sightings in early August.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:

5	9 / 30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	First report.
15	10 / 2	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:

1	9 / 16	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	First.
22	9 / 30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10 / 23	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:

12	9 / 3	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	
1	9 / 18	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	

EASTERN BLUEBIRD:

30	10 / 16	Mayville, Tu	MW	New fall high.
3	11 / 3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Last report.

VEERY:

4	8 / 27	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	Only report.
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GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:

1	9 / 3	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	Only report.
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SWAINSON'S THRUSH:

1	9 / 17 - 18	Midland, Mi	RA	
1	10 / 1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	Only reports.

HERMIT THRUSH:

2	9 / 30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	11 / 1	Au Gres R. mouth, Ar	MW, RW	Last.

WOOD THRUSH:

1	8 / 19	Oak Grove, Ba	JS	
1	8 / 29	Bay City SP, Ba	G&EP	

AMERICAN ROBIN:

1	11 / 15	Midland, Mi	EK	
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GRAY CATBIRD:

8	8 / 8	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
3	10 / 3	Oak Grove, Ba	J&GS	Last report.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:

[No reports.]

BROWN THRASHER:
 4 8/8 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB
 1 9/19 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB

AMERICAN PIPIT:
 2 9/16 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB
 30 9/25 Tawas Pt SP, Io RW
 15 11/1 Tawas Pt SP, Io RW, MW
 1 11/23 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP New SBA late!

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:
 1 11/12-19 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB, RW, SR 3rd Nov. SBA record.

CEDAR WAXWING:
 150 9/24 Oak Grove, Ba J&GS Noted tp.

NORTHERN SHRIKE:
 2 10/30 Tomlinson Rd, Hu ME First and peak.

EUROPEAN STARLING:
 Common through period. Peak of 2200 (one flock) on 10 November at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BG). New SBA high!

SOLITARY VIREO:
 1 9/30 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB
 2 10/10 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:
 4;2 8/12;8/25 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME
 1 9/5 Fremont Twp, Tu MW

WARBLING VIREO:
 4 8/8 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB
 1 9/12 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 1 9/18 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Singing! Late.
 1 9/21 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG Also late.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO:
 1 9/1 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 2 9/3 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME
 1 9/19 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB

RED-EYED VIREO:
 16 8/20 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME Peak.
 1 10/1 Tawas Pt SP, Io RH, RW
 1 10/11 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB A bit late.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:
 1 8/17 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG
 1 9/9 Fremont Twp, Tu MW

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:
 [No reports.] Poor warbler year.

TENNESSEE WARBLER:
 1 8/17 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG First report.
 4 8/25 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME
 1 9/30 Fremont Twp, Tu MW

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:
 1 10/31 Helena Road, Hu DM New SBA late!

NASHVILLE WARBLER:
 3 9/30 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB

NORTHERN PARULA:
 1 9/17 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB
 1 9/25 Fremont Twp, Tu MW

YELLOW WARBLER:



50	10/8	Bay Port, Hu	TB	
1	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Last.
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:				
6	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Peak and last.
MAGNOLIA WARBLER:				
2	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
14	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10/1	Oak Grove, Ba	JS	
CAPE MAY WARBLER:				
6	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	9/28	Fremont Twp, Tu	MW	
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:				
1	9/2	Oak Grove, Ba	JS	
1	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:				
2	8/19	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
12	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Wimpy peak.
1	11/4	Midland, Mi	RW	
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:				
1	8/28	Midland, Mi	RA	
2	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Also at SNWR (BG).
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:				
2	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
PINE WARBLER:				
2	9/3	Lumberman's Mon, Io	J&GS	
1	9/5	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	
1	9/25	Fremont Twp, Tu	MW	
PALM WARBLER:				
1	9/14	Bay Port, Hu	TB	
20	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	
1	10/23	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	New fall late.
I did find a winter record for the SBA in the research for my book.				
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:				
1	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
3	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
BLACKPOLL WARBLER:				
1	8/25	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME, TH	
1	9/26	Fremont Twp, Tu	MW	
CERULEAN WARBLER:				
[No reports.]				
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:				
1	8/8	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
4	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
AMERICAN REDSTART:				
17	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
2	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:				
1	8/17, 24	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Few fall records.
OVENBIRD:				
1	10/27	Bay City SP, Ba	G&EP	Freshly dead.
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:				
2	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	



1	10/14	Green Point NC, Sa	DP	3rd Oct. record.
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:				
[No reports.]				
CONNECTICUT WARBLER:				
[No reports.]				
MOURNING WARBLER:				
1	9/23	Fremont Twp, Tu	MW	One day off SBA late.
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:				
6	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW	Also at Oak Gr. (JS).
WILSON'S WARBLER:				
2	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
5	8/28	Midland, Mi	RA	New fall high.
5	9/17	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	New fall high.
1	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
CANADA WARBLER:				
1	8/17	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
1	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	9/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
SCARLET TANAGER:				
1	8/27	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	Only reports.
1	9/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
NORTHERN CARDINAL:				
Common through period.				
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:				
1	9/18	Fremont Twp, Tu	MW	Last report.
INDIGO BUNTING:				
1	9/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last.
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE:				
1	10/2	Hartley NC, Sa	J&GS	
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:				
2	10/16	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	First.
70	11/5	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Peak.
CHIPPING SPARROW:				
4	10/11	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Last report.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:				
1	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Rare in fall.
FIELD SPARROW:				
1	10/2	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Last.
VESPER SPARROW:				
1	9/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Only report.
SAVANNAH SPARROW:				
108	10/5	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	New SBA high!
6	10/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:				
[No reports.]				
HENSLOW'S SPARROW:				
[No reports.]				
FOX SPARROW:				
1	10/17	Murphy Lake SGA, Tu	MW	
1	10/23	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	
1	10/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
2	11/9	Fostoria, Tu	MW	Last.
SONG SPARROW:				



12	8/21	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Only count.
LINCOLN'S SPARROW:				
1	9/17, 31	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
1	10/31	Verona SGA, Tu	DM	New SBA late date!

SWAMP SPARROW:

2	11/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last.
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WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:

25	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	Low peak.
1	11/7	Bay Port, Hu	TB	Last report.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:

4	9/19	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB
12	10/2	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB
2	10/14	Midland, Mi	EK

DARK-EYED JUNCO:

1	9/15	Bay Port, Hu	TB	First date.
2	9/19	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
40	10/23	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	

LAPLAND LONGSPUR:

2	9/30	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB
2	10/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW
5	11/1	Tawas Pt SP, Io	RW, MW

SNOW BUNTING:

3	10/14	Bay Port, Hu	TB	First report.
800	11/9	Fish Pt, Tu	MW	
1500+	11/17	Bay Port, Hu	TB	

BOBOLINK:

8	9/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak and last!
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Very few reported at all this late summer and fall.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:

55,000	11/4	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	New SBA high count.
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This was a complete count of a morning flight out of the Karn Plant. These birds were moving southeast in a steady stream. Joe measured the time for a single bird to go between two towers and then estimated the number in between the towers at a given time. He then multiplied times the time it took the stream to go by.

1	11/25	Tawas Pt SP, Io	SR, BB, RW	Last.
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EASTERN MEADOWLARK:

24	9/6	Dow Corning, Ba	RA
1	11/10	MCV, Mi	EK

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

[No reports.]

RUSTY BLACKBIRD:

93	9/19	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
110	10/2	Tawas Pt SP, Io	BB	
2	11/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:

11	10/19	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG
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These were *all black* birds (mixed in with a large flock of obvious Rustys) with no apparent glossiness. All had yellow eyes indicating that if they were Brewer's, they were all males. The reason I say if, is that Rusty Blackbirds rusty look is created entirely by feather edges. This means that as the feather wears, the rusty appearance slowly disappears. However, I would consider worn feathers this soon after prebasic molt (a complete molt in adults occurring from July through September-Pyle et al. 1987) to be quite remarkable. The only other way Rusty's would look all black at this time of year is if they somehow had not yet molted. I consider this even less likely. All that said, from what I know today (certainly not everything about blackbird molts) I would consider these *all black* (if indeed they were all black and not just less rusty-females Rustys are rustier than males) blackbirds were Brewer's Blackbirds. For future reference...other



ifferences that may be helpful when separating these species in fall include bill shape, whether or not the bill has dusky edges to the tertials and wing coverts, and in situations where one can make direct comparisons tail length. Calls, if not in a mixed flock, are also helpful. Enough already!

COMMON GRACKLE:

50000 11/4 Karn Plant, Ba JS New SBA high!

These birds were headed in a different direction than the Red-wings.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:

Scattered sightings through most of period. No reports past October.

NORTHERN ORIOLE:

3 8/8, 21 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB

8/27 Wilderness Arb, Hu ME

PINE GROSBEAK:

[No reports.]

PURPLE FINCH:

Scattered sightings through period.

HOUSE FINCH:

Common through period.

RED CROSSBILL:

1 11/20 Fremont Twp, Tu MW Only report.

COMMON REDPOLL:

[No reports.]

PINE SISKIN:

1 10/23 Tawas Pt SP, Io RW Heard only.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:

124 9/19 Tawas Pt SP, Io BB

EVENING GROSBEAK:

[No reports.]

HOUSE SPARROW:

Common through period.

TOTAL: 232 species Whooping Crane and L-B Dowitcher not counted in total.

RECORDS FROM OUTSIDE THE SBA

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:

621 10/1 Sturgeon Pt, Alcona BB

SURF SCOTER:

7 10/1 Sturgeon Pt, Alcona BB

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:

15+ 10/21 WPBO, Chippewa JL

AMERICAN REDSTART:

1 im 10/19 Ontonagon County JL

LAPLAND LONGSPUR:

1 10/19 Porcupine Mtns, Ontonagon JL

HOUSE SPARROW:

20 10/21 WPBO, Chippewa JL

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS REPORTS

-B&N should have been listed in the key as Ben & Nathan Blazer (see Dunlin and Hudsonian Godwit).

-There were two JGs listed. The Bay County sightings are Jack Gillespie. The Huron County sightings are Josh Green.



OBSERVERS:

LA	Larry Abrahams	JLo	Jim Lockwood
MA	Margaret Alyea	JM	Jean Madziar
RA	Ron Annelin	SM	Stan Madziar
MB	Marianne Barrowman	DM	Doug McWhirter
TB	Tom Beachy	SMi	Sandy Miner
BB	Bob Bell	mo	many observers
J&JB	Jack & Joanne Bouck	KO	Karl Overman
M&LB	Mary & Lloyd Buzzard	DP	David Peters
AB	Adam Byrne	G&EP	Glenn & Ellen Peterson
H&BC	Hugh & Bonnie Campbell	MP	Mike Petruchia
KC	Katherine Carothers	JR	Jack Reinoehl
PC	Phil Chu	RR	Ray Roach
DE	Duane Essenmacher	KQ	Ken Quackenbush
ME	Monica Essenmacher	SR	Steve Rosenberg
CG	Chuck Gartner	SS	Steve Santler
JGi	Jack Gillespie	MS	Mary Shorkey
BG	Bob Grefe	WS	Wendy Skory
TH	Tom Heatley	JS	Joe Soehnel
JHe	Jeanne Henderson	GS	Grant Soehnel
RH	Roger Hill	PS	Phil Stephens
M&JH	Mark & Joanne Hubinger	DS	Dave Stimac
KK	Kevin Kane	KT	Kevin Thomas
PK	Pat Keeler	VT	Val Trabucchi
BK	Bob Kemp	RW	Ron Weeks
EK	Eugene Kenaga	MW	Myles Willard
CL	Chuck Lentz	M&MW	Myles & Marilyn Willard
JL	Janea Little	BW	Bruce Winchell

ABBREVIATIONS

Ba	Bay County
DDI	Diked Disposal Island
Hu	Huron County
Io	Iosco County
MCV Pond	Midland Cogeneration Venture Pond (formerly Consumer's Pond)
Mi	Midland County
NC	Nature Center
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
Sa	Saginaw County
SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
SL	Sewage Lagoons
SP	State Park
tp	through period
Tu	Tuscola County

WINTER 1994-95 FEATURE BIRD:

The fall 1994 winners are Dave Peters and Steve Rosenberg. Dave had the highest Killdeer count for the period with 165 on September 21st at Shiawassee, while Steve had the latest sighting with 10 on November 5th at the Dow Ponds. The winter feature bird this time around is Bonaparte's Gull. The peak and latest sighting will both be given special recognition. Below are the five previous years standards.

LATEST WINTER DATE: (7) 5 January 1992 Saginaw River, Ba (Willard)

WINTER HIGH COUNT: (1000) 4 December 1991 Middle Grounds, Ba (Weeks)

1993 DEPARTURE:	18 December	Crow Island, Sa (Weeks)
1992 DEPARTURE:	23 December	Karn Plant, Ba (Soehnel)
1991 DEPARTURE:	5 January	Saginaw River, Ba (Willard)
1990 DEPARTURE:	25 December	Saginaw River, Ba (R&M Planck)
1989 DEPARTURE:	20 December	Saginaw River, Ba (Willard)



WEATHER FEATURE:

Once again we include the weather for the period. One can find daily highs and lows along with the wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, and precipitation in the last 24 hours. The data was provided by Dave Glesner, assistant manager of Midland's Sarnow Airport. The barometric pressure, wind speed and direction were taken at 5:45 PM each day with the exception of a few days during the period when conditions were taken from earlier in the afternoon.

MISCELLANEOUS:

DNR Planning

I have recently learned that the DNR is looking for input on the Master Plans for our local wildlife and state game areas. Actually they have been hoping to get input for some time now. Some of you may recall a meeting a few years ago asking for input on shorebird management in this area. Part of Doug's reasoning for that meeting was start a dialogue between local orders and the DNR on management plans. I guess we dropped the ball. Our chance to pick it up is now as the planning process is an ongoing one.

New plans are done for these areas every five to ten years. Here is a rough order of the local areas. At the end of the DNR's planning process is a meeting where all interested folks are welcomed to comment. That is where you may participate. Actually I have already started sending in some proposals some of which are small enough that they may be enacted without altering the master plan. Call me, Doug Reeves in Bay City, or Arnie Karr in St. Charles if you are interested in having an impact. RJW

Crow Island	in progress	Quanicassee	after Nayanquing
Shiawassee River	'95	Wildfowl Bay	later
Fish Point	'95	Wigwam Bay	later
Nayanquing Point	'96		

Shorebird Graphs

Steve has put together some graphs of shorebirds seen this summer at the Dow Ponds. Steven and I collected sightings on a great number of days this fall and thought it might be interesting for others to see what we saw and how other data may be displayed. Hawks will likely be featured in this way this spring. The data is the best when it is taken on a regular basis. Perhaps we can get a more consistent coverage of Port Crescent this spring (say every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday) for a given part of the day. Waterfowl is another group we may be able to feature in this way. RJW

Migration Studies

Another area Steve and I have started working on are migrations studies. I have defined this as determining where the birds that migrate past a given spot actually go. The fall Red-necked Grebe migration (involving thousands of birds every year) at Whitfish Point has recently been studied in an effort to determine their migration path (obviously they don't go through Saginaw Bay on the days I'm out). I have heard they believe that these birds migrate overland at night as opposed to their daytime Lake Superior migration.

We could do much the same here in Saginaw Bay with hawks and waterfowl. Steve and I tried one day this fall where I counted waterfowl at Tawas, while he counted at Grindstone City at the same time. I had a different group of birds than he did. I would like to try and set up one person at Oscoda, one at Tawas and maybe a third person somewhere else on the bay. This might help answer where our spring Oldsquaw at Tawas come from every morning or where scoters leave the lake edge and cut across the bay (or do they?). Hawk examples might be to set up people at Harbor Beach, Port Crescent, Sand Point, Fish Point and Quanicassee. Do they fly off the end of Sand Point after kettling way up? Where do they go once they get to the other side of the bay? I think it would be fun to organize and try and answer these questions. RJW

Databasing

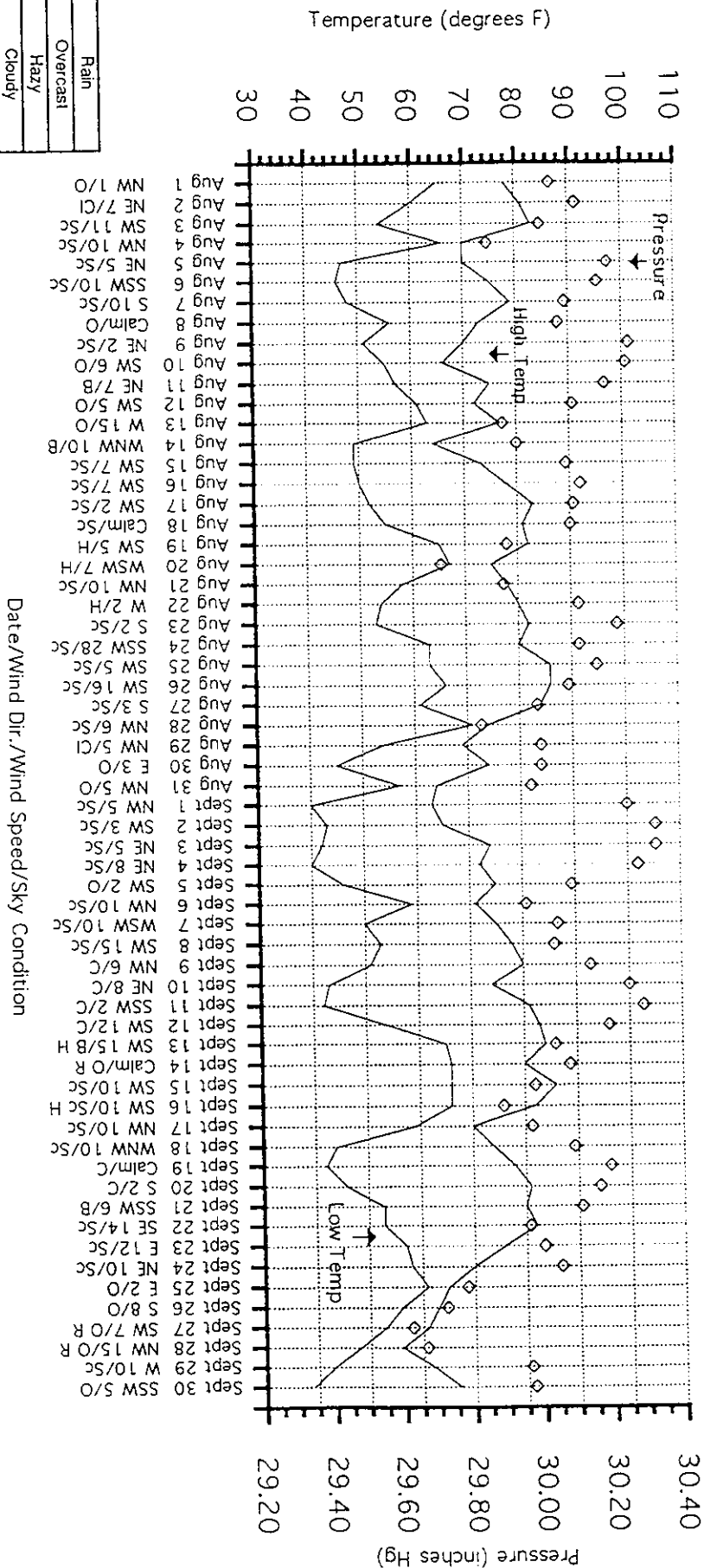
Steve and I are also attempting another massive project, databasing all SBA records. And I mean all SBA records. You send in your form (expect a standardized form for all of you heavy birders (you know who you are) and we input every sighting off of that list. A computer then generates a seasonal survey including early, late and peak. We merely edit to include any other interesting records. It will actually save us time if it works. Steve already has a program to generate his personal report. This also means that all SBA records will be databased. At the punch of a few buttons one can look up all of the May Broad-winged hawk data for a given range of years and on and on. RJW

February, 1994: 25 person-hours over a one-week period



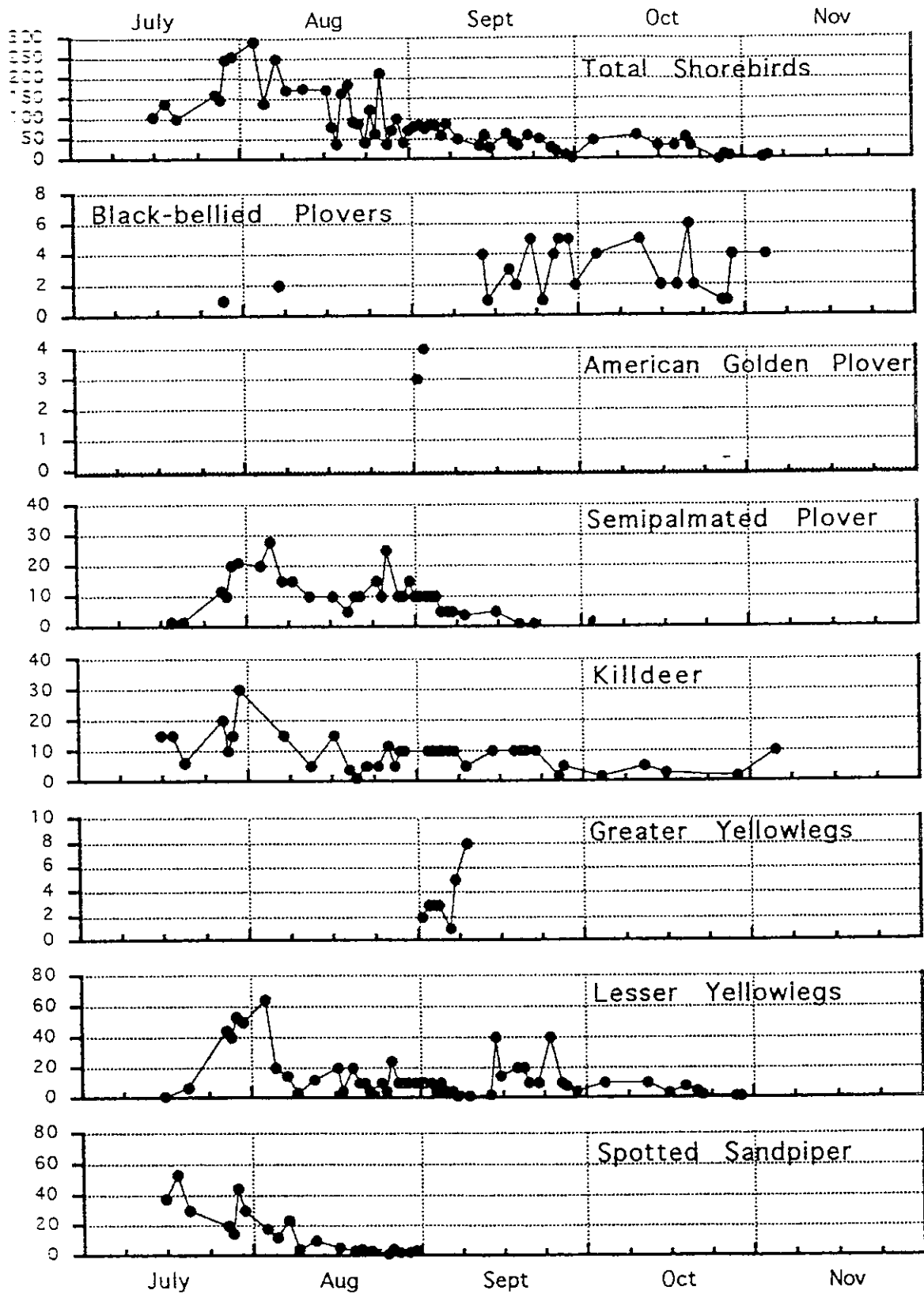
Feb. 1994

Weather Fall 1994

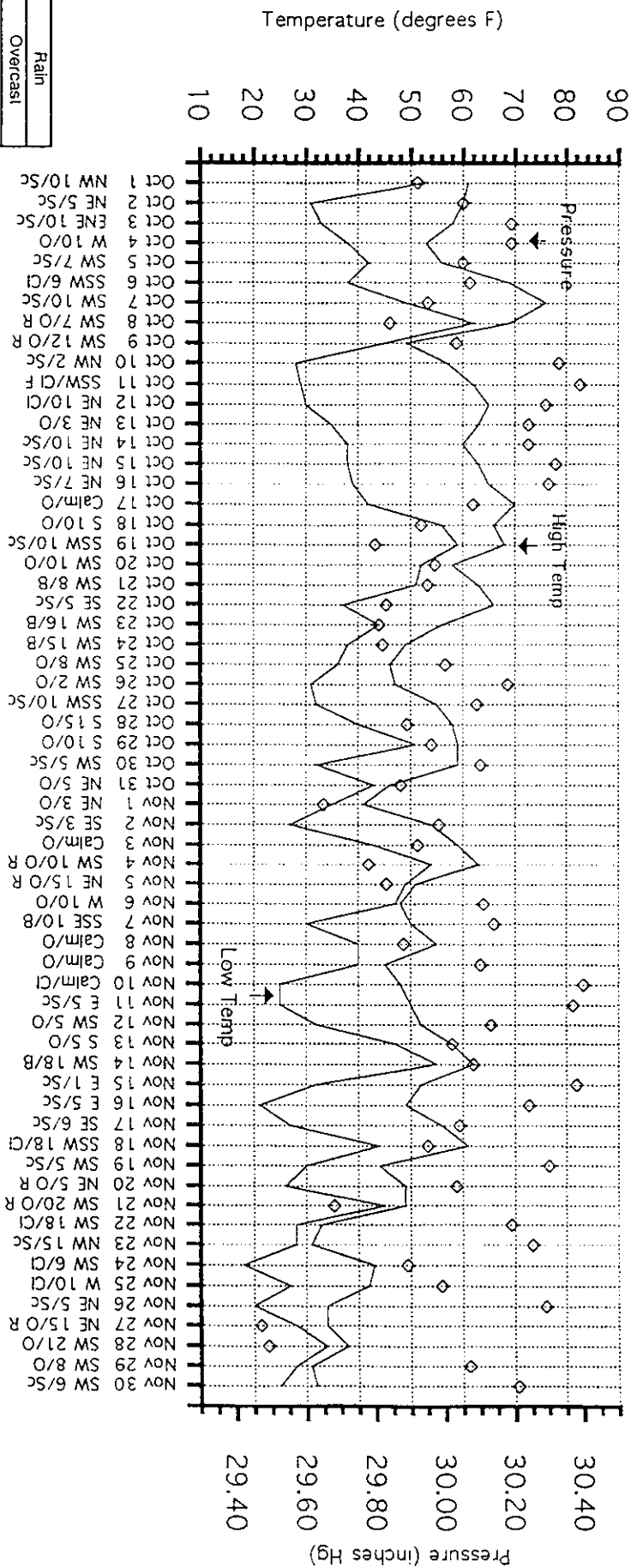


R	Rain
O	Overcast
H	Hazy
C	Cloudy
B	Broken Clouds
Sc	Scattered Clouds
CI	Clear

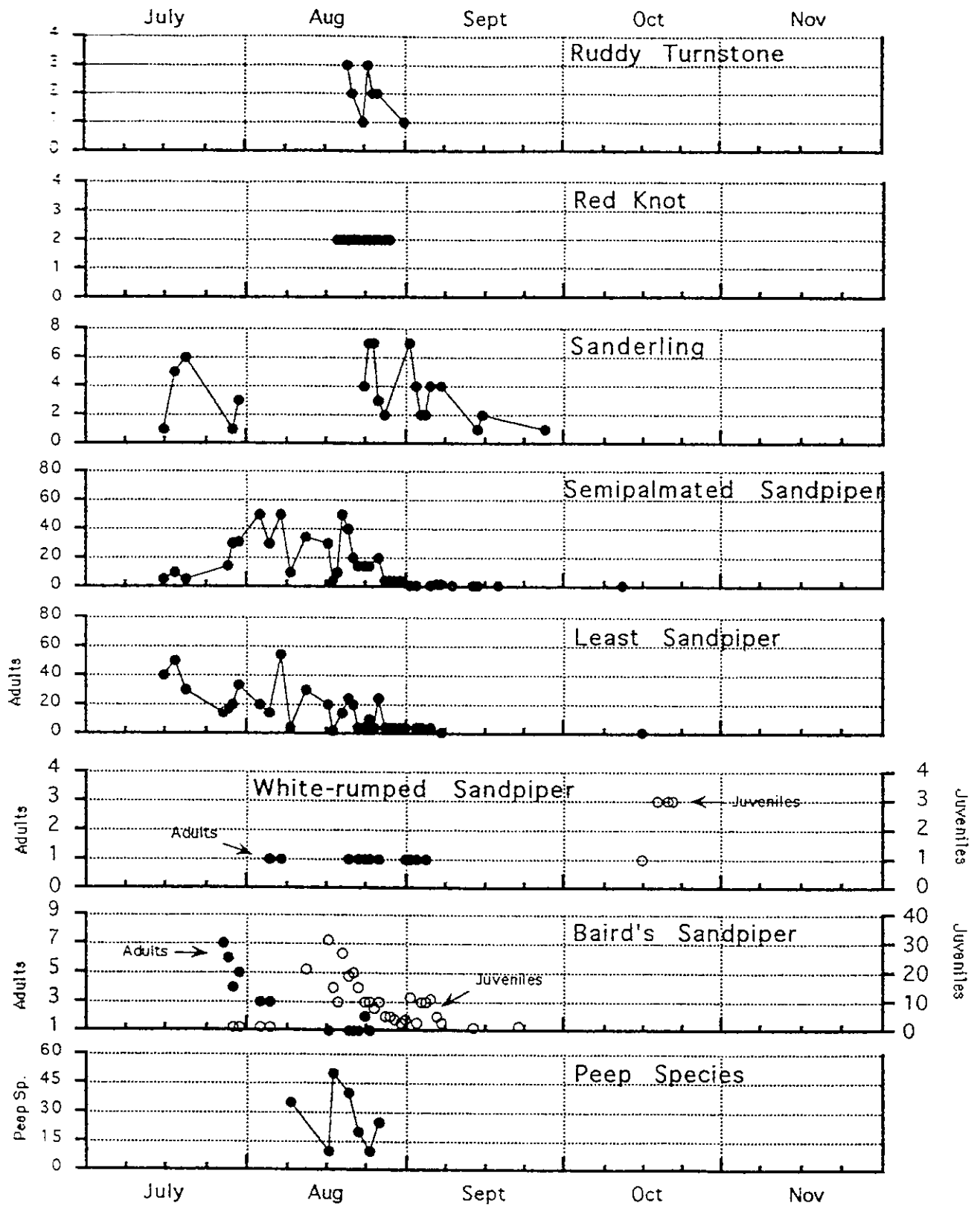
Dow Ponds Shorebird Summary



Weather Fall 1994



Dow Ponds Shorebird Summary



Dow Ponds Shorebird Summary

