

# BIRDS IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA

June 1 through July 31, 1988

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## Summary:

This is traditionally a fairly quiet period but this year had a few surprises. The highlight must be the astonishing influx of Dickcissels throughout the SBA. It seemed that any suitable habitat had a few birds. Also, a good diversity of shorebirds were recorded for this time of year, 23 species in all. A Willet and a Lesser Golden Plover in late June and a Marbled Godwit in early July were rather odd, and 5 Red-necked Phalaropes in early June was a high number. Other species that appeared up in numbers were Sedge Wrens (often in the same fields as Dickcissels) and cuckoos.

A number of species were noted that are quite unusual in the SBA at this time of year. These included a Nashville Warbler in Tuscola Co, a Magnolia Warbler in Iosco Co. (possible nesters) and a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Tawas in July. Also a Common Loon, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and 2 White-throated Sparrows added to this northern flavor.

In closing, please don't forget to send me all the details necessary to document your sightings. This includes the *number seen, date and location*. It would be nice to get more specific locations for some records (eg. the nearest town or crossroads) for future reference.

## SIGHTINGS

### COMMON LOON:

1	7/2	Jose Lake, Io	RW	Nesting?
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### PIED-BILLED GREBE:

4 inland breeding sites in Tuscola Co.	MW
Nesting at Bentley Marsh, Gl	CF

### EARED GREBE:

1	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	First seen 5/29.
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### DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:

1	6/5	Consumer's Pond, Mi	TW	No other reports.
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[AMERICAN BITTERN: no reports]

### LEAST BITTERN:

At least 3 nesting in Tuscola Co.	MW
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### GREAT BLUE HERON:

Common through period.

### GREAT EGRET:

7	6/13	Karn Plant, Ba	JS
20	7/29	Fish Point, Tu	MW

10 7/31 Nayanquing, Ba TW Usual late July influx.  
**GREEN-BACKED HERON:**  
 Common through period.  
**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:**  
 Recorded through period.  
 12 7/31 Dow Plant, Mi TW  
**MUTE SWAN:**  
 1 June Midland TW  
 1 6/14 Fish Point MW  
**CANADA GOOSE:**  
 Common through period.  
 135 young produced at Shiawassee NWR JH  
**WOOD DUCK:**  
 Many young birds at Nayanquing and other spots in late July.  
 202 young produced at Shiawassee NWR JH  
**GREEN-WINGED TEAL:**  
 1 male 6/2 nr. Caro, Tu MW  
 12 6/23 Karn Plant, Ba JS 2 adults with 10 juveniles  
 6/18 Nayanquing, Ba CF  
**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:**  
 Pairs at Fish Pt and Quanicassee, Tu MW  
**MALLARD:**  
 Common through period  
**NORTHERN PINTAIL:**  
 6/18 Nayanquing, Ba CF  
 1 7/7 Shiawassee NWR, Sa JS  
 Nesting at Fish Pt and Quanicassee, Tu MW  
**BLUE-WINGED TEAL:**  
 Noted through period.  
**NORTHERN SHOVELER:**  
 Nesting at Fish Point, Tu MW  
**GADWALL:**  
 Nesting at Fish Point, Tu MW  
**AMERICAN WIGEON:**  
 Nesting at Fish Point, Tu MW  
**CANVASBACK:**  
 1 female 6/1-12 Dow Ponds, Mi TW  
**REDHEAD:**  
 Nesting at Fish Point, Tu MW  
 Noted through period at Dow Ponds, Mi; 3 juveniles there on 7/31(TW).  
**LESSER SCAUP:**  
 3 6/1-5 Dow Ponds, Mi RW, TW  
**HOODED Merganser:**  
 1 female 6/2 nr. Caro, Tu MW  
**RUDDY DUCK:**  
 2 pairs 6/9 Shiawassee NWR, Sa RW  
**TURKEY VULTURE:**  
 Common through period.  
**OSPREY:**  
 Pair on Cass River near Cass City, Tu through period (MW).  
 1 6/19 Sanford, Mi JD  
 1 7/30 Sanford, Mi TW Are they nesting here?  
**BALD EAGLE:**  
 Up to 4 at Shiawassee NWR through period. One with an orange wing band (#15 or 75) (RW, BG)  
 1 imm 6/9 Bentley Marsh, Gl CF  
**NORTHERN HARRIER:**  
 1 female 6/5 SE Midland Co TW  
 1 male 7/10 S of Sanford, Mi TW



1	6/22	Gladwin Co	CF	
[SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: no reports]				
COOPER'S HAWK:				
Nesting at Murphy Lake, Tu			MW	
NORTHERN GOSHAWK:				
1	6/16	nr. Caro, Tu	MW	
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:				
5 in Tuscola and N. Lapeer Co.'s			MW	
On nest	6/22	Gladwin Co	CF	
BROAD-WINGED HAWK:				
3 on territory in Tuscola Co			MW	
1	6/10	Gladwin Co	CF	
2	July	Midland, Mi	TW	
RED-TAILED HAWK:				
Noted through period.				
AMERICAN KESTREL:				
Noted through period.				
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:				
Fairly common in N. Lapeer Co.			MW	
Reported from Gladwin and Bay Co.'s			CF, JS	
RUFFED GROUSE:				
Numbers still down in Tuscola Co.			MW	
Reported from Gladwin Co			CF	
WILD TURKEY:				
Ad.+6y	7/10	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF	
NORTHERN BOBWHITE:				
Very common in N Lapeer Co.			MW	
Heard	6/18	Arenac Co	RW	
[KING RAIL: none reported, although heard at traditional sites in May]				
[VIRGINIA RAIL: no reports]				
[SORA: no reports]				
COMMON MOORHEN:				
On territory near Caro and Quanicassee, Tu			MW	
6	6/17	Hampton Twp, Ba	JS	
AMERICAN COOT:				
1	6/1-5	Dow Ponds, Mi	TW	The only report!
SANDHILL CRANE:				
Pair with 2 chicks in S Tuscola Co.			MW	
On territory at Bentley Marsh, Gl			CF	
2	6/21	Nayanquing, Ba	G&EP	An unusual record!
LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER:				
1	6/23	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	RW	An unusual record.
1 injured	6/18	Nayanquing, Ba	CF	
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:				
2	7/31	Kam Plant, Ba	JS	
2	7/31	Quanicassee, Tu	TW	
KILLDEER:				
Common through period.				
GREATER YELLOWLEGS:				
1	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	RW, JS	
1	7/12	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF	
LESSER YELLOWLEGS:				
50	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	RW, JS	
SOLITARY SANDPIPER:				
2	7/12	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF	First return.
WILLET:				
1	6/20	Fish Pt, Tu	RW	An odd time of year.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:**

Common through period.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:**

3	6/22	Gladwin Co	CF
1	7/6	Tricity Airport, Sa	TW
2 pr		Central Tuscola Co	MW

**MARbled GODWIT:**

1	7/7	Karn Plant, Ba	JS
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**RUDDY TURNSTONE:**

1	6/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	TW
1	6/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	RW
1	7/31	Karn Plant, Ba	JS

Early.

**SANDERLING:**

5	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
6	7/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JS

First return.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:**

100	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	(30 on 6/5; TW)
1	7/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	First return.

**LEAST SANDPIPER:**

4	7/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	First return.
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**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:**

6	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
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**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:**

Noted in mid-July in Tuscola Co.

MW

**DUNLIN:**

5	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
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**STILT SANDPIPER:**

3	7/31	Nayanquing, Ba	TW
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First return.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:**

13	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	JS
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Early return.

**COMMON SNIPE:**

2	6/18	Bentley Marsh, Gl	CF
		Nesting at Fish Pt, Quanicassee and Caro, Tu	MW

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK:**

1	7/6	Hampton Twp, Ba	JS
1	7/10	S of Sanford, Mi	TW

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:**

2	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
5	6/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	TW

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:**

2	6/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
3	6/18	Nayanquing, Ba	CF

**BO NAPARTE'S GULL:**

	6/18	Tawas Pt, Io	CF
12	7/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JS
3 ad	7/31	Nayanquing, Ba	TW

**RING-BILLED GULL:**

Common through period.

**HERRING GULL:**

Noted through period.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**

1 imm	6/26	Port Austin, Hu	RW, MW	Unusual at this time of year.
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**CASPIAN TERN:**

Common by the Bay through period.

**COMMON TERN:**

Common through period.

Up to 35 at Dow Ponds, Mi; J. Ludwig banded 62 chicks on cement piers in Bay City (per JS)



**FORSTER'S TERN:**

Common at Fish Pt and Quanicassee, Tu and Nayanquing, Ba

**BLACK TERN:**

As Forster's Tern.

Nesting at Bentley Marsh, Gl again this year. CF

**ROCK DOVE:**

Common through period.

**MOURNING DOVE:**

Common through period.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:**

Noted in Midland (juvenile at CNC), Gladwin and Tuscola Co.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:**

As Black-billed Cuckoo, also Bay Co. Cuckoos seemed commoner this year.

**SCREECH OWL:**

Heard in Tuscola and N Lapeer Co.'s.

**GREAT HORNED OWL:**

Noted through period.

[BARRED OWL: no reports]

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK:**

Few in Midland again this year.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:**

Noted in Tuscola Co. (MW)

**CHIMNEY SWIFT:**

Common through period.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:**

Noted through period.

**BELTED KINGFISHER:**

Common through period.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:**

Fewer in Tuscola Co. this year (MW). Noted in Gladwin and Shiawassee Co's.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:**

Present through period, but none at Chippewa NC, Mi (unusual).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:**

1	6/17	Midland Co.	CF	Few summer records.
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**DOWNY WOODPECKER:**

Common through period.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER:**

Common through period.

**NORTHERN FLICKER:**

Common through period.

[PILEATED WOODPECKER: no reports]

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:**

Common through period.

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:**

10 within one mile in S Tuscola Co. (MW). Surprisingly common at this location.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:**

Common through period.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER:**

Less common in Tuscola Co.

	6/15	Midland Co	MW
			CF
1	6/17	Hampton Twp, Ba	JS
	thru June	Gladwin Co	CF

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:**

Fairly common through period, but less so in Tuscola Co. (MW).

**EASTERN PHOEBE:**

Fairly common through period.

**GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER:**

Common through period.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD:**

Common through period.

**HORNED LARK:**

Common through period.

**PURPLE MARTIN:**

Usual numbers.

**TREE SWALLOW:**

Common through period.

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:**

Common through period.

**BANK SWALLOW:**

Fairly common through period.

**CLIFF SWALLOW:**

Several sites in Tuscola and Gladwin Co.'s.

MW, CF

Colony under Liberty Bridge in Bay City.

JS

**BARN SWALLOW:**

Common through period.

**BLUE JAY:**

Common through period.

**AMERICAN CROW:**

Common through period.

**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:**

Common through period.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE:**

Common through period.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:**

3 breeding sites in Tuscola Co.

MW

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:**

Common through period.

**BROWN CREEPER:**

Noted through period.

**HOUSE WREN:**

Common through period.

**WINTER WREN:**

3 on territory in Murphy Lk/Cass R. area of Tuscola Co. (MW)

**SEDGE WREN:**

Fairly common in Tuscola Co.

MW

1 7/25

Arenac Co.

RW

2 7/7

Shiawassee NWR, Sa

RW

Numbers up this year.

1 7/5

Beaver, Ba

RW

**MARSH WREN:**

Common in suitable locations. Noted in Gladwin Co. on 6/10 (CF)

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:**

A few in Tuscola Co. MW

No other reports.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD:**

Nesting at Chippewa NC (CF) and S of Sanford, Mi (TW)

Common in central Tuscola Co.

MW

**VEERY:**

Common through period.

**HERMIT THRUSH:**

6/10

Gladwin Co.

CF

5

7/2

Jose Lk, Io

RW

**WOOD THRUSH:**

Fairly common through period.

**AMERICAN ROBIN:**

Common through period.

**GRAY CATBIRD:**

Common through period.



**BROWN THRASHER:**

Noted through period.

**CEDAR WAXWING:**

Common through period.

**STARLING:**

Common through period.

**SOLITARY VIREO:**

2 7/2 Jose Lk, lo RW

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:**

Noted in Midland, Gladwin, Iosco and Tuscola Co.'s.

**WARBLING VIREO:**

Common through period.

**RED-EYED VIREO:**

Common through period.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:**

Noted in Midland and Tuscola Co.'s.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:**

Fewer in Tuscola Co. (MW), noted in Midland and Gladwin Co.'s.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:**

1 male 6/15 near Caro, Tu MW Rare in summer.

**YELLOW WARBLER:**

Common through period.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:**

Noted in Gladwin, Midland and Tuscola Co.'s.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:**

1 7/2 Jose Lk, lo RW First indication of nesting in SBA.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:**

1 7/10 Tawas Pt, lo GK First SBA July record.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:**

A few nesting in Murphy Lake area, Tu (MW).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:**

4 nesting in Murphy Lake area, Tu (MW)

**PINE WARBLER:**

2 7/2 Jose Lake, lo RW

**CERULEAN WARBLER:**6/22 Gladwin Co CF First county record?  
7/14 Pine Haven, Mi CF "Traditional" site.**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:**

4 pairs in Tuscola Co.

1 6/4 Hampton Twp. JS No other reports.

**AMERICAN REDSTART:**

Common along Cass R., Tu MW

Noted in Gladwin, Saginaw and Midland Co.'s.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:**

2 6/4 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG

**OVENBIRD:**

Common through period.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:**

2 6/17 Midland Co. CF

1 7/31 Nayanquing, Ba G&amp;EP

A few pairs on Cass R. and Murphy Lake area (MW).

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:**

Fewer in Murphy Lake area, Tu MW

**MOURNING WARBLER:**

Common in central Tuscola Co.

Noted in Bay (JS) and Gladwin (CF) Co.'s.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:**

Common through period.

**CANADA WARBLER:**

Several in central Tuscola Co.

MW

**SCARLET TANAGER:**

Fairly common through period.

**NORTHERN CARDINAL:**

Common through period.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:**

Common through period.

**INDIGO BUNTING:**

Fairly common through period.

**DICKCISSEL:**

up to 14	6/17 on	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	RW, BG
8	6/25	Arenac Co.	RW
3	July	Midland, Mi	RW, TW
2 sites	6/22	Gladwin Co.	CF
30	6/23 on	Tuscola Co.	MW
2	7/5	Beaver, Ba	RW

**RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE:**

Fairly common through period.

**CHIPPING SPARROW:**

Common through period.

**FIELD SPARROW:**

Common through period.

**VESPER SPARROW:**

Common through period.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW:**

Common through period.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:**

Fairly common in central Tuscola Co. (MW)

1	6/2&29	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF
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**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:**

4 sites in S Tuscola/N. Lapeer Co.

**SONG SPARROW:**

Common through period.

**SWAMP SPARROW:**

Common through period.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:**

1 singing	6/17	Midland Co.	CF
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1 singing	6/9	Gladwin Co.	CF
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Same site as last year.

**BOBOLINK:**

Common through period.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:**

Common through period.

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK:**

Common through period.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:**

Seen at all the usual locations.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:**

2 seen through period at the Karn Plant, Ba (JS). Did they nest?
6/10&22 Gladwin Co.

CF

**COMMON GRACKLE:**

Common through period.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:**

Common through period.

**NORTHERN ORIOLE:**

Common through period.

**PURPLE FINCH:**

Noted in Gladwin, Midland and Tuscola Co.'s.



## HOUSE FINCH:

Common through period.

## PINE SISKIN:

1 6/2 S Tuscola Co.

MW

Only report.

## AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:

Common through period.

## HOUSE SPARROW:

Common through period.

**TOTAL: 178 SPECIES****OTHER RECORDS OUTSIDE SBA**

## HOODED MERGANSER:

4 7/24 AuSable R, Oscoda JS

## PILEATED WOODPECKER:

Family of 3 S Ogemaw Co. MW

## OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:

2 singing Luce Co. MW

## WESTERN KINGBIRD:

1 at nest 7/10 SW Isabella Co. RW, TW

Feeding 2 young of "uncertain"  
parentage in a nest on a farm derrick.

## SEDGE WREN:

2 singing 7/10 SW of Winn, Isabella TW, RW

## PRAIRIE WARBLER:

1 singing NE Lapeer Co. MW

## DICKCISSEL:

1 7/10 SW of Winn, Isabella TW, RW

7 6/18 Alcona Co. CF

**OBSERVERS**

JD	Jan Dennett
CF	Chip Francke
BG	Bob Grefe
JH	John Hart
GK	Gene Kenaga
G&EP	Glenn & Ellen Peterson
JS	Joe Soehnel
TW	Terry Walsh
RW	Ron Weeks
MW	Myles Willard

**ABBREVIATIONS**

Ba	Bay County
Gl	Gladwin County
Hu	Huron County
Io.	Iosco County
Mi	Midland County
Sa	Saginaw County
SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
Tu	Tuscola County