

BIRDS IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA

June 1 through July 31, 1990

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Summary: This summer period was probably one of the best we have had in the SBA with a record 191 species being recorded. The Nayanquing Point **White-faced Ibis** was undoubtedly the highlight (and probably the bird of the year) but was well supported by a **Tricolored Heron**, a **White Pelican**, **Eared Grebes** lingering from May, a **Marbled Godwit** and a record number of **Avocets**. The list was padded with a good range of ducks in the area and a nice selection of shorebirds, particularly at the Dow Ponds and Shiawassee where shorebirds returned "early and often".

The list of regular breeding birds was expanded with one or two species from Iosco County that undoubtedly nest every year but are not often recorded in this report eg. **Lincoln's Sparrow**. Several species of unusual warblers were also found in Huron County including **Black-throated Blue** on territory, **Nashville**, **Cape May** and **Blackpoll**. Other good breeding birds were **Orchard Orioles** and **Least Bitterns** in Bay County and a **Western Meadowlark** in Tuscola County. Numbers of **Bluebirds**, **Cuckoos** in some areas and **Indigo Buntings** were up but **Ovenbirds** were almost rare, and there were no **Winter Wrens**! A **Carolina Wren** finally put in a summer appearance, in addition to the recent mid-winter records.

REPORTS

COMMON LOON:

2-3 6/9, 17 East Tawas, Io DP
3 6/23 Pt Crescent St Pk, Hu DE

PIED-BILLED GREBE:

Nesting at usual sites; 1 on 6/23 at Largo Springs, Io (RW)

EARED GREBE:

2 thru 6/25 Dow Ponds, Mi RW, MW From 5/29, same time and place as 1988

WHITE PELICAN:

1 6/13-15 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP, BW Almost annual in SBA now!

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:

A few through period at Consumer's Pond, MI (RW, TW)

30 6/17 East Tawas, Io DP

AMERICAN BITTERN:

1 6/9 Nayanquing Point, Ba CF

1 7/31 Fish Point, Tu MW Not many after a good spring.

LEAST BITTERN:

1 7/20, 31 Fish Point, Tu MW Same bird on territory

6/20 tp up to 4 Nayanquing Point, Ba EK, JS, TW

2 7/18 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

GRÉAT BLUE HERON:

Common through period.

TRICOLORED HERON:

1 7/22 Nayanquing Point, Ba MW, RW

Only the 4th record for the SBA, the others occurring at the same time of year..

GREAT EGRET:

23 7/28 Karn Plant, Ba RW

1 on a nest at SRDDI, Ba on 6/24 (CF); uncommon breeder in SBA.

[CATTLE EGRET: none on the SRDDI, Ba (CF)]

GREEN-BACKED HERON:

Common through period.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:

Recorded through period; colony on SRDDI, Ba appears to be thriving (CF).

WHITE-FACED IBIS*:

1 6/19-21 Nayanquing Point, Ba DY, CF, JL, RW et al.

This outstanding record is only the second documented record for Michigan.

MUTE SWAN:

1-2 tp Nayanquing Point, Ba MO

CANADA GOOSE:

Common through period.

332 max 7/27 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

WOOD DUCK:

Nested at Dow Ponds, Mi, Nayanquing Pt, Ba etc.

50 max 7/13 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

100 max 7/23 Nayanquing Point, Ba JS

GREEN-WINGED TEAL:

Seen regularly at Nayanquing Point, Ba and at Dow Ponds, Mi (unusual)

55 max 7/5 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:

1 tp Dow Ponds, Mi RW

6 max 7/6 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

MALLARD:

Common through period

NORTHERN PINTAIL:

1,3 6/6, 7/22 Dow Ponds, Mi RW

2 7/23 Freeland SL, Sa RW

2 6/7 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

Pair with young at Nayanquing Point, Ba on 6/20 (EK)

BLUE-WINGED TEAL:

Noted in small numbers through period.

NORTHERN SHOVELER:

1 6/8, 7/1 Dow Ponds, Mi RW

1-3 tp Nayanquing Point, Ba RW, CF

GADWALL:				
10 max	tp	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW	
2	tp	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
AMERICAN WIGEON:				
1	6/25	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
2	June	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW	
CANVASBACK:				
1 male	7/20-22	Dow Ponds, Mi	EK, RW	
REDHEAD:				
36 max	7/22	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, EK	
LESSER SCAUP:				
1	tp to 7/13	Dow Ponds, Mi	EK, RW	
HOODED MERGANSER:				
1	6/4	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	7/13	Dow Ponds, Mi	EK	
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:				
4	6/17	East Tawas, Tu	DP	
1	7/1	Tawas Point, Io	JS	
6 max	6/1-9	N Huron Co.	ME	
COMMON MERGANSER:				
1	6/22	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	7/22 tp	N Huron Co.	ME	
RUDDY DUCK:				
4 max	6/12	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
Noted at Freeland SL, Sa (RW)				
TURKEY VULTURE:				
Regular through period.				
OSPREY:				
1-2	7/12-31	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF	Nesting in Midland Co. somewhere?
Pair	tp	N Huron Co.	ME	
BALD EAGLE:				
5 max	tp	Shiawassee NWR	DP	
1	7/22,28	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW, MW	
NORTHERN HARRIER:				
1	7/4,28	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW	
2	6/11	Mayville, Tu	MW	
2	tp	N Huron Co.	ME	
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:				
1	6/2	Ringwood Forest, Sa	RW	
COOPER'S HAWK:				
Noted in Mi, Ba, Ar, Tu, Sa.				
NORTHERN GOSHAWK:				
1	6/2	Mayville, Tu	MW	
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:				
3 max	June	Point Crescent St Pk, Hu	ME	
BROAD-WINGED HAWK:				
Noted in Mi, Tu, Hu.				
RED-TAILED HAWK:				
Noted through period.				
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:				
1	6/1	Pt. Crescent St Pk, Hu	ME	Very late date.
AMERICAN KESTREL:				
Noted through period.				
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:				
Noted in Ba, Hu, Tu				
64	6/11	Mayville area	MW	
RUFFED GROUSE:				
Noted in Tu.				
WILD TURKEY:				
Noted in Ar and Mi.				
NORTHERN BOBWHITE:				
51	6/11	Mayville area	MW	Impressive total.
VIRGINIA RAIL:				
Noted at Quanicassee, Tu and S Tuscola Co (MW)				

SORA:

2	7/7	Quanicassee, Tu	MW
1 + 5 yng	7/15	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG

COMMON MOORHEN:

Adult with 2 young at Nayanquing Point, Ba on 7/28 (RW) and also at Quanicassee, Tu on 7/20.

1	7/19	Karn Plant, Ba	JS
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AMERICAN COOT:

Noted at Fish Point, Tu, Shiawassee NWR, Sa and Nayanquing Pt, Ba.

SANDHILL CRANE:

Pair with 2 young in S Tuscola Co. MW Usual location.

Pair with 3 young at Rush Lake SGA, Hu (ME)

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:

1-2	6/6-8	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
2	6/7	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW
1	7/14	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW

KILLDEER:

Common through period.

AMERICAN AVOCET:

3	6/15	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW	
3	6/21	SRDDI, Ba	CF	Presumably same birds as above.
1	7/1-4	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, MW, EK	
2	7/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	

GREATER YELLOWLEGS:

5	6/10	Quanicassee, Tu	MW
2	6/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
1	7/4	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW, JS
5	7/22	Dow Ponds, MI	RW
11	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP

LESSER YELLOWLEGS:

Through June at Dow Ponds, Mi		RW
300 max	7/20	Dow Ponds, Mi
320	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa
		DP

SOLITARY SANDPIPER:

1	7/5	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First return, 5 on 7/20
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SPOTTED SANDPIPER:

Common through period.

UPLAND SANDPIPER:

1	6/2	Tri-City Airport, Sa	BW	Nesting here?
8	6/9	Bad Axe Airport, Hu	RW, MW, KO	
1	7/23	Freeland SP, Sa	RW	

MARBLED GODWIT:

1	6/19-21	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW, CF et al.
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RUDDY TURNSTONE:

1-2	6/6-8	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
2	6/2	Eagle Bay, Hu	per ME
2	6/15	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW

SANDERLING:

1	6/6	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
8	7/20	Quanicassee	MW

First return.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:

40	6/7	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW
2	thru 6/21	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
2	7/13	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW

Lingering unusually late
First "returns".

LEAST SANDPIPER:

57	7/1	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
219	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP

Large flock for early first return.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:

5	6/6	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
1	6/20	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:

2	7/12	Dow Ponds, Mi	EK
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Early return.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER:

1	7/3	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
10	7/16	Monitor Ponds, Ba	JS

7	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
4	7/28	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW

DUNLIN:

10	6/7	Nayanquing Point, Ba	RW
1	6/1	Oak Beach, Hu	ME
17	7/30	Oak Beach, Hu	ME

STILT SANDPIPER:

8	7/6	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
54	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:

1	6/28	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Early return
29	7/7	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
40	7/20	Quanicassee, Tu	MW	
279	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	

COMMON SNIBE:

Scattered sightings at Nayanquing Point, Ba.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK:

Noted tp in Hu (ME).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:

1	7/22	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW
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WILSON'S PHALAROPE:

1 juv	7/2	Freeland SP, Sa	RW	Had traces of down on nape.
5	7/20-27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	

Noted periodically tp at Dow Ponds, Mi and Nayanquing Point, Ba (RW)

BONAPARTE'S GULL:

Scattered sightings tp at Dow Ponds, Mi (13 max on 7/22). Juvenile noted on 7/28, early (TW).

120	6/23	Tawas Point, Io	RW
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RING-BILLED GULL:

Common through period.

HERRING GULL:

Noted through period.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:

1	6/23	Tawas Point, Io	RW	
1	6/24	Caseville, Hu	RW	
3	7/22	Tawas Point, Io	RW	All first year birds.
1	7/30	Eagle Bay, Hu	ME	

CASPIAN TERN:

103	7/28	Karn Plant, Ba	RW	Mostly adults.
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Up to 7 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa in July (DP), also at Dow Ponds, Mi in July.

COMMON TERN:

Common through period.

Nested at Dow Ponds, Mi and near Karn Plant, Ba

FORSTER'S TERN:

Nested at Nayanquing Point, Ba and Quanicassee, Tu.

BLACK TERN:

Nested at Nayanquing Point, Ba and Quanicassee, Tu.

ROCK DOVE:

Common through period.

MOURNING DOVE:

Common through period.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:

Noted in Mi, Tu, Ba, Io, Sa.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:

Noted in Mi, Sa and Tu. Good numbers noted in Hu with heavy caterpillar infestations (ME).

SCREECH OWL:

7/12	Caro, Tu	MW
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GREAT HORNED OWL:

Noted through period.

BARRED OWL:

Noted in Mi and Hu.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK:

2	6/30	Sand lake, Io	RW, KK
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Noted in Mi and Ba.

WHIP-POOR-WILL:

Noted regularly in Mi and Hu.

CHIMNEY SWIFT:

Common through period.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:

Noted through period.

BELTED KINGFISHER:

Common through period.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:

Nested in Mi (TW), none in Tu (MW), noted in Ba (JS)

5 pairs in Hume Twp, Hu (ME).

1	6/21	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF	At feeder, unusual.
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RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:

Present through period, but none at Chippewa NC, Mi (where do they go in the summer at CNC?).

DOWNY WOODPECKER:

Common through period.

HAIRY WOODPECKER:

Common through period.

NORTHERN FLICKER:

Common through period.

PILEATED WOODPECKER:

1	6/6	Chippewa NC, Mi	CF
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1	6/17	East Tawas, Io	DP
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EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:

Common through period.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:

8+ at usual Murphy Lake, Tu location (MW).

1	6/2	Gratiot-Saginaw SGA, Sa	RW	A new SBA location
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WILLOW FLYCATCHER:

Common through period.

ALDER FLYCATCHER:

Noted at Wilderness Arboretum, Hu (ME), Loosemore Rd, Hu (RW), Mi (CF), Tu (MW).

LEAST FLYCATCHER:

Fairly common through period, but scarcer than usual.

EASTERN PHOEBE:

Common through period.

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER:

Common through period.

EASTERN KINGBIRD:

Common through period.

HORNED LARK:

Common through period.

PURPLE MARTIN:

Fewer in Ba (CF).

TREE SWALLOW:

Common through period.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:

Common through period.

BANK SWALLOW:

Fairly common through period.

CLIFF SWALLOW:

Colony as usual 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:

Only noted in Hu (ME).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:

Common through period.

BROWN CREEPER:

Noted through period.

CAROLINA WREN:

1 7/12 Caro, Tu

MW

HOUSE WREN:

Common through period.

[WINTER WREN: no reports]

SEDGE WREN:

Common at Nayanquing Point, Ba (MO), 3 in Mayville, Tu (MW), noted at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (BW).

MARSH WREN:

Common in suitable locations by the Bay.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:

Noted through period.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD:

Becoming quite common through the SBA.

VEERY:

Common through period.

HERMIT THRUSH:

Noted in lo (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: no reports from lo]

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:

Noted in Mi, Sa and Hu.

WARBLING VIREO:

Common through period.

RED-EYED VIREO:

Common through period.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:

Noted in Mi, Sa, Tu

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:

Noted in Sa, Tu, Mi.

NASHVILLE WARBLER:

Nesting in jack-pine areas of lo (RW).

6/2

Murphy Lake, Tu

MW

S of usual.

YELLOW WARBLER:

Common through period.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:

Noted in Mi, Tu and Hu.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER:

1 6/12 Wilderness Arb, Hu

ME

Unusual date and location.

CAPE MAY WARBLER

1 6/1 Huron Co.

ME

Late.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:

2 territorial birds in N Huron County (ME)

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:

3 in Murphy Lake area, Tu (MW), noted in lo (RW, DP).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER:

1 6/11 Port Austin, Hu

ME

Late date.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:

3 in Murphy Lake area, Tu (MW), 1 at Wilderness Arb, Hu (ME).

PINE WARLER:

Noted at usual locations in lo and a new one at Alabaster Rd, lo (RW).

[CERULEAN WARBLER: none at Pine Haven, Mi]

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:

Noted in lo and Hu.

AMERICAN REDSTART:

Noted in Tu, Hu, Mi, lo, Sa, Ba.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:

Up to 3 singing birds tp at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (RW, DP)

OVENBIRD:

Noted through period, but numbers way down.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:

3 singing N Hu (ME), noted at Murphy Lake, Tu (MW), 4 pairs at Wilderness Arb, Hu (ME).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:

Nested at largo Springs, lo (RW); noted in Murphy Lake area, Tu (MW).

MOURNING WARBLER:

Noted in Sa, lo, Mi, Tu, Hu.

8 singing birds at Pine Haven, Mi on 6/17 (RW)

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:

Common through period.

CANADA WARBLER:

2 in June at Wilderness Arb, Hu (ME).

SCARLET TANAGER:

Fairly common through period.

NORTHERN CARDINAL:

Common through period.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:

Common through period.

INDIGO BUNTING:

Fairly common through period, numbers up?

RUFIOUS-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:

Numbers down in Tu (MW).

1	tp	Chippewna NC, Mi	CF
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HENSLOW'S SPARROW:

1-2	tp	Alabaster Rd, lo	RW, KK, MW
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Could be many more at this "re-discovered" location.

3	6/2	Mayville, Tu	MW
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SONG SPARROW:

Common through period.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW:

1	6/30	Sand Lake area, lo	RW	Good habitat, probably regular.
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SWAMP SPARROW:

Common through period.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:

Singing in Alabaster Road and Sand Lake area, lo (RW)

BOBOLINK:

Common through period.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:

Common through period.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK:

Common through period.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK:

1	mid-June	near Mayville, Tu	MW
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YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

Seen at usual locations; 3 pairs apparently nesting at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (per DP).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:

4	6/23,30	Noble Road, Ar	RW, KK
3	7/7	Karn Plant, Ba	RW, MW

COMMON GRACKLE:

Common through period.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:

Common through period.

NORTHERN ORIOLE:

Common through period.

ORCHARD ORIOLE:

Pair nested in a weeping willow in Linwood, Ba in mid-June; nest later abandoned (CF, RW).

PURPLE FINCH:

Noted in Tu and Hu.

HOUSE FINCH:

Common through period.

PINE SISKIN:

Noted in Hu (ME).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:

Common through period.

HOUSE SPARROW:

Common through period.

TOTAL: 191 SPECIES

OTHER RECORDS OUTSIDE SBA**LITTLE BLUE HERON:**

2	7/26	Pte. Mouillee SGA, Monroe	MW
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SNOWY EGRET:

2	7/26	Pte. Mouillee SGA, Monroe	MW
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CATTLE EGRET:

1	7/26	Pte. Mouillee SGA, Monroe	MW
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RING-NECKED DUCK:

Pair at Bentley Marsh, Gladwin, nesting? (CF)

KING RAIL:

1ad + 2 downy young on 7/26 at Pte. Mouillee SGA, Monroe (MW)

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:

1	6/10	Bentley Marsh, Gladwin	CF
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3	6/28	Clare Co.	CF
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PILEATED WOODPECKER:

1	6/28	Clare Co.	CF
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WESTERN KINGBIRD:

1	June	Isabella Co.	CF, JS	Same site as usual.
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RAVEN:

5	6/28	Clare Co.	CF	South of normal.
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HERMIT THRUSH:

10	6/28	Clare Co.	CF
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Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Pine Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Grasshopper Sparrow all noted in Clare County on 6/28 (CF).

RED CROSSBILL:

20	6/10	Oscoda Co.	CF
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OBSERVERS

ME	Monica Essenmacher
CF	Chip Francke
BG	Bob Grefe
KK	Kevin Kane
EK	Eugene Kenaga
JL	Janea Little
KO	Karl Overman
DP	Dave Peters
G&EP	Glenn & Ellen Peterson
JS	Joe Soehnel
TW	Terry Walsh
RW	Ron Weeks
MW	Myles Willard
BW	Bruce Winchell
DY	Dave Young

(Observers names inadvertently missing in the spring report were included in the copy of the report sent to Jack Pine Warbler and American Birds.)

ABBREVIATIONS

Ar	Arenac County
Ba	Bay County
Hu	Huron County
Io	Iosco County
Mi	Midland County
Sa	Saginaw County
SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
SGA	State Game Area
St Pk	State Park
SP	Sewage Ponds
SRDDI	Saginaw River Diked Disposal Island
Tu	Tuscola County