



## BIRDS IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA

June 1, 1995 - July 31, 1995

**Compiled by:**

Steve Rosenberg  
25 Rosemary Ct.  
Midland, MI 48640  
(517) 631-7666  
srosenberg@dow.com

Ron Weeks  
4111 Robinhood Terrace  
Midland, MI 48642  
(517) 835-1939  
weeksrl@dow.com

**Summary:**

Despite the heat, the summer of 1995 had outstanding coverage from area birders. I was overwhelmed by the number of submissions and the size of the lists reported for what has been traditionally a slow period as most birders take time for vacation and family matters. Thanks to everyone.

Water birds provided some of the hottest birds. A **Little Blue Heron** was reported on the state hotline (with few details available), two **Tricolored Herons** were noted from Nayanquing and an **Oldsquaw** from Shiawassee. Shorebirds were plentiful where habitat was available with an especially good variety present at Nayanquing where the south pool was drawn down well into August. The Nayanquing highlights were three **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**, two **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and one **Marbled Godwit**. An **American Golden Plover** was seen at Shiawassee and an **Upland Sandpiper** from Tri-City Airport. A **Laughing Gull** was reported on two occasions from Shiawassee and there were two reports of **Sandhill Cranes**, with juveniles present in Midland. 29 **Virginia rails** were reported from the Shiawassee marsh census.

Notable hawk sightings included **Red-shouldered** hawks from Midland and Shiawassee and a summer record 11 **Bald Eagles** from Shiawassee. Also exceptional was a report of a **Short-eared Owl** from Huron. Passerines were not to be outdone with reports of **Yellow-bellied** and **Olive-sided Flycatchers** from Huron, A singing male **Northern Parula Warbler** through the period from Huron, a **Blackburnian Warbler** from Iosco, a **Dickcissel** from Saginaw, a **Western Meadowlark** from Tri-City Airport, two pairs of **Orchard Orioles** from Bay County and a **Henslow's Sparrow** from Huron. All in all a very exciting period!

The list of "missed" species was large (see if you can guess which ones), nevertheless, 192 species were reported. A very good number for the summer period!

## REPORTS

Common Loon				
1	7/7	Jose Lake, Io	RA	
Pied-billed Grebe				
Common through period.				
Double-crested Cormorant				
1	tp	Karn Plant, Ba	JS,GS	
28	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
18	7/22	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW	
1	7/31	Oak Beach, Ba	ME	
American Bittern				
1	6/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
2	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
1	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RA	
Noted through period from Hu (ME)				
Least Bittern				
1	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
2	6/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Great Blue Heron				
109	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period				
Great Egret				
33		Karn Plant, Ba	JS,GS	Good count for location
100	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period				
Little Blue Heron				
1	??	??	per MW	Noted during first week of June (on hotline).
Tricolored Heron				
1	6/20	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	LH	
2	7/22-23	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	AB, RH et. al.	
One through period at Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba.				
Green Heron				
Common through period, no notable high counts.				
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
Common through period from several locations.				
Mute Swan				
5		Tobico Marsh SGA, Ba	JS,GS	juv
5	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRO, GV	
Through period at the Dow Ponds, Mi.				
Canada Goose				
492	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Wood Duck				
106	7/26	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Comon through period.				
Green-winged Teal				
66	6/29	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
28	7/19	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, KK	Minimum.
Through period.				
American Black Duck				
13	6/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Through period.				
Mallard				
1128	6/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Northern Pintail				
1	early june	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RA	
1	6/1-21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	male
1	6/20	Finn Road, Ba	JS,GS	
Blue-winged Teal				
16	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Low peak
Common through period.				



Northern Shoveler				
1	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
2	6/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
Gadwall				
Noted through period at Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba (SR)				
American Wigeon				
6	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
3	6/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Canvasback				
3	6/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
5	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Noted tp
Redhead				
2	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	BB	
Lesser Scaup				
3	7/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Oldsquaw				
1	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	A late spring bird
Hooded Merganser				
13	7/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Peak
Noted through period.				
Ruddy Duck				
3	6/29	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	BB	
1	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RA	
Turkey Vulture				
Common through period.				
Osprey				
2	6/23	Tobico Marsh SGA, Ba	BB	
1	7/19	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
Bald Eagle				
11	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	New summer peak!
Reports were so numerous that in combination with removal from the endangered list I will only note high counts and confirmed breeding reports in the future.				
Northern Harrier				
Common through period.				
Cooper's Hawk				
Scattered sightings through period.				
Red-shouldered Hawk				
1	6/17	Midland, Mi	RA	
1	6/30	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG	
Brood-winged Hawk				
1	6/15	Weaver Rd, Hu	ME	
1	6/17	Alabaster Twp, Io	JS,GS	
Red-tailed Hawk				
8	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
American Kestrel				
4	6/24	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Ring-necked Pheasant				
Common through period.				
Wild Turkey				
Through period.				
Northern Bobwhite				
1	6/20	Oak Beach, Ba	ME	
Virginia Rail				
29	6/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
May be the true SBA high as last year's count of 35 was from a 2 day census.				
1	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	Ron and I had 54 species in 3 hours
here. Anyone looking to increase their Midland County list is bound to add several here.				
Several scattered reports from other locations.				
Sora				
2	6/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
2	7/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	





Common Moorhen				
39	6/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
38	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, PC	
Through period.				
American Coot				
20	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRo, GV	Peak, Estimated count.
Through period.				
Sandhill Crane				
4	6/11	Jasper Twp, Mi	JH, et.al.	2 juv, 2cd Highest Summer Record
2	6/28	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Black-bellied Plover				
1	6/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
1	7/22	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW	
American Golden-Plover				
1	6/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Rare mid-June record.
Semipalmated Plover				
4	6/12	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	Last spring migrant.
2	7/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	First fall migrant
10	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRo, GV	Peak, Estimated count.
Through period.				
Killdeer				
114	7/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Greater Yellowlegs				
1	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First returns.
17	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Through period.				
Lesser Yellowlegs				
1	6/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last spring migrant.
132	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First returns.
136	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Through period.				
Solitary Sandpiper				
2	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First return
11	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Spotted Sandpiper				
21	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Upland Sandpiper				
2	6/9-7/10	Tri-City Airport, Sa	DP	Only report
Surely present in Iosco?				
Marbled Godwit				
1	7/19	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, KK	
Through period at Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba These are becoming pretty regular lately.				
Ruddy Turnstone				
1	7/25-29	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
Sanderling				
1	7/21	Hat Point, Hu	ME	
5	7/22	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW	
1	7/25	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
1	7/27	Hat Point, Hu	ME	tp
1	7/28	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
4	7/29	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, PC, BB	
Through period at the Dow Ponds, Mi (SR)				
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
6	6/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Last spring migrants
1	7/7	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW	First fall returns.
178	7/27	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Through period with numerous sightings.				
Least Sandpiper				
1	6/25	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, GS	First returns.
101	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
100	7/29	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, PC, BB	
150	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRo, GV	Estimated count.
Through period.				





White-rumped Sandpiper				
5	6/3	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR	
5	6/12	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
8	6/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Baird's Sandpiper				
1	7/28	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	First return
7	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	KT	Peak
Through period.				
Pectoral Sandpiper				
1	7/7	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW	First return
25	7/29	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, PC, BB	
25	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRo, GV	Low peaks
Through period.				
Dunlin				
28	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	6/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	7/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Late last
Stilt Sandpiper				
4	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First returns
8	7/22	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	AB et al	Peak
Through period.				
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
3	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SS	New SBA Early!
Short-billed Dowitcher				
46	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First returns
112	7/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Through period.				
Common Snipe				
2	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
1	6/23	Tobico Marsh SGA, Ba	BB	
5	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, PC	
Scattered sightings through period.				
Wilson's Phalarope				
1	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, PC	
1	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRo, GV	
Red-necked Phalarope				
2	7/23	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RH	First July Records!
mail/female pair with the female in near full breeding plumage.				
1	7/27	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RH	female
2	7/29	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	BB	
Laughing Gull				
1	6/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	5th SBA record!
1	6/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
Bonaparte's Gull				
3	6/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
14	7/22	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW	
Noted through period.				
Ring-billed Gull				
314	6/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Common through period.				
Herring Gull				
Common through period.				
Caspian Tern				
32	7/31	Karn Plant, Ba	JS,GS	peak
Common through period.				
Common Tern				
65	7/25	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	peak
Noted through period from several locations. The Midland colony hangs on to life as the future of their island in the Dow ponds is uncertain.				
Forster's Tern				
4	6/25	Karn Plant, Ba	JS,GS	low peak
Common through period.				
Black Tern				
31	7/22	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW	peak
Noted through period from the usual locations.				



Rock Dove				
Common through period.				
Mourning Dove				
63	7/20	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Black-billed Cuckoo				
5	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
5	6/6	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
1	7/1	Pine Haven RA, Mi	JS,GS	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
9	6/23	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, DP	Peak
Barred Owl				
1	7/8	Midland, Mi	RA	
Short-eared Owl				
1	7/3	Hu	ME	
Common Nighthawk				
Scattered sightings through period.				
Whip-poor-will				
5	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	Only report
Chimney Swift				
12	7/9	Midland, Mi	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
Noted through period.				
Belted Kingfisher				
Noted through period.				
Red-headed Woodpecker				
3	6/17	Alabaster Twp, lo	JS,GS	
7	7/15	Port Austin, Hu	ME	confirmed breeding
Noted through period.				
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
Noted through period.				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
1	6/17	Alabaster Twp, lo	JS,GS	Only report
Downy Woodpecker				
Common through period.				
Hairy Woodpecker				
Common through period.				
Northern Flicker				
Common through period.				
Pileated Woodpecker				
4	6/4	CNC, Mi	KC	Confirmed breeding
Eastern Wood Pewee				
18	6/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period. numbers down in Hu (ME)				
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
1	6/3	Hu	ME	
Acadian Flycatcher				
1	7/26	Loosemore Rd, Hu	ME	
Alder Flycatcher				
1	6/11	Tobico Marsh SGA, Ba	JS,GS	
Noted through period in Hu (ME)				
Willow Flycatcher				
5	6/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period from several locations.				
Least Flycatcher				
Scattered sightings through period.				
Eastern Phoebe				
Common through period.				
Great-crested Flycatcher				
10	6/5	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
1	6/2-3	Port Crescent SP, Hu	TH, ME	



Eastern Kingbird				
5	7/30	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	SRo, GV	Low peak.
Common through period.				
Horned Lark				
Common through period.				
Purple Martin				
52	7/5	Linwood, Ba	P&LRa	Peak
The Rassettes have their own breeding colony.				
Tree Swallow				
415	7/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Peak
Common through period.				
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
22		Dow Corning, Mi	RA	Peak
Noted through period.				
Bank Swallow				
Noted through period, no peak counts reported.				
Cliff Swallow				
6	6/7	Liberty Bridge, Ba	RW	Low peak
Noted through period.				
Barn Swallow				
80	7/26	Ba	RA	Peak
Common through period.				
Blue Jay				
Common through period.				
American Crow				
Common through period.				
Common Raven				
3	7/22	Meade Rd., Io	BB	
Black-capped Chickadee				
Common through period.				
Tufted Titmouse				
Common through period.				
White-breasted Nuthatch				
Common through period.				
Brown Creeper				
6	6/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Noted through period				
Carolina Wren				
1	7/23	Baldwin Twp, Io	RW	
House Wren				
16	7/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	Peak
Common through period.				
Winter Wren				
1	7/22	Foots Swamp	BB	
Sedge Wren				
16	7/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Reduced numbers at some locations.				
Marsh Wren				
52	6/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Common through period.				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
9	6/29	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Noted through period				
Eastern Bluebird				
Common through period.				
Veery				
12	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	Peak
Common through period.				
Wood Thrush				
8	6/2	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak
Noted through period.				
American Robin				
Common through period.				
Gray Catbird				
Common through period.				





Brown Thrasher				
Common through period.				
Cedar Waxwing				
Common through period.				
European Starling				
Common through period.				
Solitary Vireo				
1	6/6	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	6/15	Wilderness Arb, Hu	ME	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
2	6/10	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	SR	
2	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
3	7/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
Warbling Vireo				
Common through period.				
Red-eyed Vireo				
Common through period.				
Blue-winged Warbler				
Only report was from Hu (ME), but this species was surely present a several locations.				
Golden-winged Warbler				
1	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	SR, RW	
Only report but surely present at several locations in the SBA				
Nashville Warbler				
1	6/17-tp	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	only report
Where are the losco reports?				
Northern Parula Warbler				
1	6/2-tp	Kennedy Rd, Hu	ME	First full summer record and only
known July report!				
Yellow Warbler				
Common through period.				
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
1	6/23	Fountain Creek, Io	BB	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1	6/15-tp	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	
1	7/22	Foots Swamp	BB	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
2	7/21	Iargo Springs, Io	BB	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1	7/21	Powerline Rd, Io	BB	
Pine Warbler				
Common through period in Io (BB, RW) and Hu (ME).				
Cerulean Warbler				
2	6/10	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	SR	
2	6/10	Pine Haven RA, Mi	SR	
Looks like the Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi is another reliable spot. Surely the Sag-Grat. SGA population was also present this summer.				
Black-and-white Warbler				
1	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
1	6/23	Fountain Creek, Io	BB	
American Redstart				
12	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	Peak
Common through period.				
Prothonotary Warbler				
3	7/7	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	RH	
Ovenbird				
2	6/14	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	RW, SR	
4	7/1	Pine Haven RA, Mi	JS,GS	
Reported through period from Hu (ME)				
Northern Waterthrush				
1	6/10	Kawkawlin R Flooding, Mi	SR	
Reported through period from Hu (ME)				
Louisiana Waterthrush				
1	6/10	Pine Haven RA, Mi	SR	
Mourning Warbler				
Through period in Hu (ME)				
Common Yellowthroat				



Common through period.

Scarlet Tanager

Through period from several locations.

Northern Cardinal

Common through period.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Common through period.

Indigo Bunting

11 6/29

Shiawassee NWR, Sa

DP

Common through period.

Dickcissel

1 ?

Sa

DR

**Very Rare Summer Visitor!**

Date not provided and required for the permanent record. Reported at 1/2 mile west of the Swan Creek and Center Rd.

Intersection southwest of Saginaw.

Rufous-sided Towhee

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

1 7/1

Tomlinson Rd, Hu

KO

Henslow's Sparrow

1 6/11

Kennedy Rd, Hu

ME

LeConte's Sparrow

28 7/5

Dow Ponds, Mi

RW

Song Sparrow

Common through period.

Lincoln's Sparrow

1 6/23

Curtis Road, Io

BB

Swamp Sparrow

20 7/30

Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba

SRo, GV

Estimated count.

Common through period.

White-throated Sparrow

1 7/22

Tobico Marsh SGA, Ba

BB

Only report.

Bobolink

Common through period.

Red-winged Blackbird

Common through period.

Eastern Meadowlark

Common through period.

Western Meadowlark

1 7/1-7

Tomlinson Rd, Hu

KO et. al.

**Rare Summer Resident!**

Yellow-headed Blackbird

20 7/30

Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba

SRo, GV

Estimated count.

All the usual populations were present.

Common Grackle

Common through period.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Common through period.

Orchard Oriole

1 6/7

Bay City SP, Ba

RW

2 6/9

Bay City SP, Ba

JS,GS

4 7/5

Linwood, Ba

Paul & Lisa Rasmette

What could you ask for? Their own Orchard Oriole and Purple Martin breeding programs. Not to mention a 50 yard walk to the south pool at Nayanquing. Is their house for sale?

Northern Oriole

Common through period.

House Finch

95 7/21

Shiawassee NWR, Sa

BG

peak

Common through period.

American Goldfinch



Summer 95

American Goldfinch  
Common through period.  
House Sparrow  
Common through period.

Total : 192 Species.

## RECORDS FROM OUTSIDE THE SBA

Great Blue Heron 289 7/30	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	265 along US-27.
Great Egret 3 7/30	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	
Common Merganser 1 fem 6/17	Grass River NA, Antrim	RW	
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 7/8	Thompson Harbor SP, P. Isle	RW	Pair.
Sandhill Crane 5 7/29-30	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	BB, RW	
Black-bellied Plover 1 6/2	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	
Semipalmated Plover 3 6/2	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	
Killdeer 100 est 7/29	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW, BB	
Lesser Yellowlegs 200 est 7/30	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	
Upland Sandpiper 1 6/17	US-131 & Doore Rd, Antrim	RW	
1 6/18	Wolverine Rd, Cheboygan	RW	
1 7/9	M-33, Oscoda	RW	
1 7/29	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW, BB	
Pectoral Sandpiper 50 est 7/30	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	
Herring gull 2 7/9	Atlanta, Montmorency	RW	
Common Tern 2 7/8	Besser NA, Alpena	RW	
2 7/8	Alpena, Alpena	RW	
Willow Flycatcher 5 6/2	Maple River SGA, Gratiot	RW	Calling at 10 PM!
Marsh Wren 1 7/9	Cruzen Rd, Alcona	RW	
Yellow-throated Vireo 1 7/8	M-32 @ T. Bay River, Alpena	RW	
1 7/9	F-30, Alcona	RW	
Northern Parula Warbler 1 6/17	C-81, Charlevoix	RW	
Magnolia Warbler 4 7/8	Thompson Harbor SP, P. Isle	RW	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 1 6/17	Wildwood Rd, Cheboygan	RW	
1 6/18	Thumb Lake Rd, Charlevoix	RW	
Blackburnian Warbler 1 7/8	Spruce Rd, Alpena	RW	
Canada Warbler 1 6/17	Grass Lake NA, Antrim	RW	
1 7/9	Greasy Cr Rd, Montmorency	RW	
Grasshopper Sparrow 1 6/17	Cedar Alley Rd, Emmet	RW	
1 6/17	Dead Man's Hill Rs, Antrim	RW	
2 6/18	near Camp Petosky, Emmet	RW	
1 6/18	Remus Rd, Cheboygan	RW	
Lincoln's Sparrow 2 7/9	Kings Corner Rd, Alcona	RW	





Western Meadowlark			
1	6/17	Bates Rd & US-131, Antrim	RW
Brewer's Blackbird			
3	7/8	Merritt & Spruce Rds, Alpena	RW
2	7/8	Miller Rd, Presque Isle	RW

# **OBSERVERS:**

LA	Larry Abrahams	DM	Doug McWhirter
MA	Margaret Alyea	KM	Kip Miller
RA	Ron Annelin	MEM	Mary Ellen Miller
DB	Dennis Brooks	SMi	Sandy Miner
MB	Marianne Barrowman	JN	Joe Natzik
TB	Tom Beachy	mo	many observers
EJB	Emma Jean Beattie	KO	Karl Overman
BB	Bob Bell	DP	David Peters
J&JB	Jack & Joanne Bouck	G&EP	Glenn & Ellen Peterson
KB	Karen Burroughs	MPe	Mike Petruchia
RB	Russ Bussick	R&MP	Rod & Marlene Planck
M&LB	Mary & Lloyd Buzzard	JR	Jack Reinoehl
AB	Adam Byrne	P&LRa	Paul & Lisa Rasette
H&BC	Hugh & Bonnie Campbell	LR	Lyn Rosenberg
KC	Katherine Carothers	RR	Ray Roach
PC	Phil Chu	SR	Steve Rosenberg
SD	Steve Dushane	SRo	Stephen Ross
DD	Dan Duso	SS	Steve Santner
DE	Duane Essenmacher	MS	Mary Shorkey
ME	Monica Essenmacher	WS	Wendy Skory
CG	Chuck Gartner	JSm	Janeen Smith
JG	Jack Gillespie	JS	Joe Soehnel
BG	Bob Grefe	GS	Grant Soehnel
TH	Tom Heatley	PS	Phil Stephens
JHe	Jeanne Henderson	DS	Dave Stimac
RH	Roger Hill	KT	Kevin Thomas
DJ	Don Jenette	VT	Val Trabucchi
M&JH	Mark & Joanne Hubinger	GV	George Vogel
KK	Kevin Kane	LW	Larry Weeks
PK	Pat Keeler	RW	Ron Weeks
BK	Bob Kemp	EW	Edith Woods
EK	Eugene Kenaga	MW	Myles Willard
JLe	Jim Lesser	M&MW	Myles & Marilyn Willard
JLi	Janea Little	BW	Bruce Winchell
JM	Jean Madziar	GZ	Gerald Ziarno
SM	Stan Madziar		



## ABBREVIATIONS

Ar	Arenac County
Ba	Bay County
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
CNC	Chippewa Nature Center
CP	County Park
DASRBA	Detroit Audubon Society Rare Bird Alert
DDI	Diked Disposal Island
HCHW	Huron County Hawk Watch
Hu	Huron County
Io	Iosco County
MCV Pond	Midland Cogeneration Venture Pond
Mi	Midland County
NAMC	North American Migration count
NC	Nature Center
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
Sa	Saginaw County
SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
SGA	State Game Area
SL	Sewage Lagoons
SP	State Park
tp	through period
Tu	Tuscola County
Twp	Township
WA	Wildlife Area

## VERIFICATION OF RARE OR RECORD SIGHTINGS:

In order to fulfill the needs for accurate reporting of sightings as well as minimize controversy over questioning people's sightings a new policy is being adopted. **All reported sightings will be published in this newsletter.** I will not call anyone or make anyone feel uncomfortable about sending in their seasonal sightings. However, rare or record sightings will continue to require documentation in order to guarantee inclusion in the SBA permanent record or for acceptance at the state level. Undocumented sightings may be noted as such in the newsletter, but without stinging commentary. It is in your hands to know when a sighting requires documentation and to provide it. In addition birds that are not unusual but provide an extreme identification challenge (especially when not vocalizing) may be culled from the permanent record on a case by case basis if not documented. I have no control over the state compiler or other users of these records but can predict that failure to include documentation for a rare or record sightings will almost guarantee it's omission from Michigan Birds and most other publications. To help you decide whether a sighting requires documentation please refer to the accepted standard reference "**Birds and Bird Finding in the Saginaw Bay Area**" by Ron Weeks. This is available at the Chippewa Nature Center, ABA sales or directly from Ron. A rare or record sighting is defined as any occurrence outside of the dashed or solid lines in Ron's book. In addition any new peak counts will require documentation. For birds with <20 known sightings all occurrences should be documented. I always highlight exceptional sightings in the newsletter with a remark such as, **New Peak Count!** or **New Spring Early!**, so if you haven't already provided information on the sighting please do so once you receive the newsletter. For information on how to provide proper documentation please contact me (often a phone conversation is sufficient).

Why do sightings need documentation? Many reasons, but for me there are three: Reputation, Reputation, Reputation!!! I want to maintain a body of records useful for bird finding guides, publication at the state level, etc. without having the whole database considered suspect because of careless scrutiny of a few records. **SR**





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## FALL 1994-95 FEATURE BIRD (American Redstart):

This season's feature bird is the American Redstart. This species is typically seen into the first few days of October. Who can find the latest one this year? Below are the all-time late and the late dates for the previous five years. **RJW**

<b>Latest Fall Date:</b>	10 October 1958 Midland, Mi (Kenaga)	
	10 October 1977 Green Pt NC, Sa (Francke)	
<b>1994 Departure:</b>	30 September	Tawas Pt, Io (Bell)
<b>1993 Departure:</b>	3 October	Tawas Pt, Io (Weeks)
<b>1992 Departure:</b>	2 October	Tawas Pt, Io (Bell)
<b>1991 Departure:</b>	6 October	Midland, Mi (Annelin)
<b>1990 Departure:</b>	8 October	Shiawassee NWR, Sa (Peters)

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## 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 Barstow 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.

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## MISCELLANEOUS:

### Database

With the perfection of the SBA newsletter database, compilation and editing of all the sightings is a cinch. But those of you with PC's (Macs or IBM compatibles) can make life even easier by providing me with your sightings on a spreadsheet. Your 3.5" floppy disk will save countless hours of data entry. This is especially critical for the spring and fall surveys in which 20+ hours of data entry is required. If this is a possibility please contact me at 631-7666 and I'll send a diskette with the preferred format. I can even database your sightings from an e-mail if it is in the proper format. For those of you on-line e-mail me at [srosenberg@dow.com](mailto:srosenberg@dow.com) and I'll send you an example of the correct format. **SR**

### Crow Island Public Hearing

On July 20th in the James Township Hall, Doug Reeves and Arnie Karr of the DNR presented their proposed master plan for Crow Island SGA. Master plans set the management policies for a given area for the next ten years. Three major changes from the current master plan were outlined. The cropland in the Baldpate Unit would be converted into three habitats: a grassland area, a moist soil unit, and a cattail marsh. The cropland in the Panco Unit would be converted into wetlands and grasses. And probably the most controversial was the proposed opening of the majority of the area for general public use - just like any other state game area.

A variety of interest groups were present at the meeting. By far the most organized and well-represented interest was duck hunting. Several area groups were represented. Others present included a representative from MUCC, an avid trapper, the current farmer in the Panco Unit, and I - the lone birder. Despite much discussion of opposing views among the attendees, the plan will likely be proposed to the Natural Resources Commission pretty much as presented at the hearing; most of the views expressed were in support of the plan.

If you would like to be notified of such meetings in the future, please let me know. I have been building a relationship with the local DNR wildlife folks and will hear about any future meetings on other upcoming master plans. They cannot read our minds; we must be active if we want our interests considered. The current crew in this area is very sensitive to non-game concerns. Since this may not be the case in years to come, I encourage those interested to become involved now. **RJW**

### Juvenile Shorebirds

One of my favorite pastimes in late summer and fall is chronicling the passage of migrant shorebirds. During the last week of June and the first week of July, the earliest of the fall shorebirds hit our area. This early pulse is generally dominated by adult Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Least Sandpipers. Adults leave the breeding grounds well before the juveniles of the same species. The first juveniles are often noted in the last week of July and the first week of August. What makes it nice is at this time of year is that if seen well, the juveniles and the adults are easily separated. Many adults are molting from their breeding plumage into their duller winter plumage. The feathers have worn edges and retained scapulars often create a patchy look among the new and typically duller winter scapulars. Adults at this time of year are often described as patchy or scruffy. Juveniles on the other hand have neatly aligned rows of feathers that have well-defined light edges. They are often brightly colored. Juvenile Least in August are strongly accented with red.





Recently, I have been noting the dates of juvenile shorebirds. Not much information exists for this area on the arrival of these youngsters. I invite those who enjoy shorebirds to work on separation by age. Below are some of the dates I (and others flocking to Nayanquing Point) have noted of the first juveniles for some of our commoner species. **RJW**

Marbled Godwit	7/19	Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/5
Least Sandpiper	7/28	Short-billed Dowitcher	8/5
Lesser Yellowlegs	7/29	Stilt Sandpiper	8/7
Baird's Sandpiper	7/31		

### Birding On The Internet

No doubt everyone is now at least somewhat familiar with what the Internet is all about. It makes almost endless amounts of information on any topic available in your own home or place of business. Many birders have found out what simple Internet electronic mail can do for reducing phone bills. Granted the on-line services do cost money, but with efficient use it is much more cost efficient. I find looking at the bird hotlines transcribed for the middle and eastern sections of the country very interesting. The invasion of Buff-breasted Sandpipers into the Upper Midwest (counts of 40 or more birds in MN, IL, IN, and WI) during the last two days of July and the first few days of August this summer was apparent while it was still happening as opposed to waiting for months for *Audubon Field Notes* to make this observation.

Several SBA birders are already on-line. I am trying to find out which of the SBA birders have E-mail addresses (*Me too!!-SR*). I would like to start up information sharing on a more formal basis soon. The addresses I know of are:

Ron Weeks	weeksrj@dow.com
Steve Rosenberg	srosenberg@dow.com
Bob Bell	bell.robert@ann-arbor.va.gov
Kevin Kane	kmkane@aol.com

Let Steve or I know if you want some help getting started. **RJW**

Ron and I must be linked telepathically as we both wrote articles on the Internet. For those of you with PC's the Internet provides an array of valuable birding resources. Periodically I will update everyone with some of the latest available resources. With price wars raging among on-line service providers there has never been a better time to surf the net! For example, Prodigy offers 30 hours of access for \$9.95/month. There are three basic ways to interact with the Internet: Electronic mail (E-mail), Newsgroups (or UseNet News) and the World Wide Web (WWW). All of these are included with a subscription to an on-line service.

E-mail - The most basic and by far the most powerful and useful Internet resource. With an e-mail address you can communicate with anyone anywhere for the cost of a local phone call (free!!!). For birders, e-mail offers some powerful resources: Bird Hotlines and BirdChat. Both of these resources are the result of e-mail mailing lists, called **lltservs**. By sending a request for a subscription (free of course) by e-mail you will be added to the e-mailing list of any of the groups you wish to subscribe to. For the hotlines these are the same updates that available by phone but are much more detailed as space is not limited. The available hotline groups are BirdEast, BirdWest and BirdCntr (that's us). The hotlines are one way communications, you just receive the hotline updates. BirdChat, however, is an e-mail discussion group. You will receive every message sent to the group and any message you send will be "mirrored" to everyone else. For subscription info to these groups send an e-mail message to [lltserv@lltserv.arizona.edu](mailto:lltserv@lltserv.arizona.edu) with the message:

subscribe GroupName yourFirstName yourLastName

Do not include anything else in your message and do not enter anything in the subject line of your e-mail memo. You must include your name. The GroupName should be **BirdChat**, **BirdEast**, **BirdWest** or **BirdCntr**. Beware, if you subscribe to BirdChat you will receive from 10-80 e-mails a day! One option is to receive your subscription as a digest. A digest is a once a day compilation of the previous day's discussions. For BirdChat your digest will contain a table contents of the messages from the preceding day from which you can scroll down to those of interest. The digest mode is a great time saver!!! To obtain any of the above Bird groups in digest mode send an e-mail to that group with the command Set Group Digest. For BirdChat:

e-mail to: [BirdChat@lltserv.arizona.edu](mailto:BirdChat@lltserv.arizona.edu)  
message: set BirdChat digest

Each of these groups maintains a searchable archive. For BirdChat you might want to find out how people cope with seasickness on pelagic trips. Yes, you can look this info up by e-mail! Once you subscribe to a group your confirmation memo (usually received within minutes) will have detailed instructions of how to get the most value out of the group. There are thousands of lltservs on all sorts of topics. Owing to the way they are maintained they all tend to be serious information forums on specialized topics.



NewsGroups - The hallmark of the Internet is it's discussion groups. From the 4000+ groups you can have discussions on anything. And I mean anything! For birds the chat group is called **rec.birds**. The name will be changing in the next few months so I will keep you posted. Rec.birds is a very informal group in which you can "Post" questions on any birding topic or participate in any "Thread" already in progress. In contrast, the e-mail group BirdChat tends to be dominated by serious listers, ornithologists and conservationists but does have it's lighter side. The way one accesses a newsgroup is completely different (and friendlier) than a listserv where BirdChat resides. Your Internet access service will provide an effortless way to access the Newsgroups.

WWW - The World Wide Web, or just the Web, is the newest and most exciting way to link up with the millions of other computers on-line throughout the world. A friendly graphical-user interface makes surfing just plain fun. One can search the world for just about anything or just surf for the fun of it. I regularly check out the weather, tourist info (from anywhere!), museum schedules and upcoming events, etc. For birds set your web browser to

<http://www.zender.com/birder/>

This will lead you to Birding On The Web. A complete compilation of all known birding resources on the Internet. It is constantly being updated with the latest resources. Just click on the item of interest and you'll be there! One can access the hotlines, BirdChat, the National Breeding Bird Surveys and dozens of other resources.

Unfortunately space is limited, so if you have any questions relating to the Internet just give me a buzz at 631-7666 or send an e-mail to **srosenberg@dow.com**. SR





