

Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area

Dec 1st, 2014 thru Feb 28th, 2015

Compiled by: David J. Peters
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6975 Mower Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601
david_peters@fws.gov

Summary: 115 species from the Michigan Bird List were reported in the Saginaw Bay Area this season. This figure is well above the 26 year average of 107, and represents the twelfth consecutive winter of an above average total. This report lists all of the species reported, plus one hybrid, along with the highest reported individual count for each, and a list of the SBA counties in which each was noted. Per the state compiler's request, all Trumpeter Swan records are listed. The temperature this winter started out low to average, then it moved into the above average for much of December, the pitched backed down at the end of the month. And down is where it stayed, as the first two months of 2105 in Saginaw saw above freezing temperatures on just two days, both in January. February highs and lows were persistently below average. Overall, Christmas Bird Counts in the SBA were well attended, and resulted in several records that likely would have otherwise gone unreported. There were two new fall late dates set, and an equal number of new peak counts. For the second straight winter gulls were more or less absent from the Saginaw River. Also in the more or less absent category were Eastern Bluebirds. Similar to last winter, Snowy Owls were once again widespread and even abundant in select locations. So too were Rough-legged Hawks. There was no lack of hanging fruit going into the winter, and in the end, supply exceeded the demand. Presumably due to the below average temperatures, there was no widespread atypical overwintering on a species-wide basis, but one or two hardy individuals from numerous species did remain through the entire period. While glaringly low in peak numbers this winter, Bald Eagles are now routinely widespread throughout the SBA in the season, presumably due to sufficient supply of white-tailed deer carcasses.

This report, as well as previous seasonal reports from 2000-2014, can be found at <http://www.saginawbaybirding.org>., along with updates on spring 2015 migration in the Saginaw Bay Area, as reported to Joe Soehnel at saginawbaybirding@gmail.com or at 989-892-3687.

Many thanks to all observers who contributed their sightings directly to this compilation. Your extra efforts result in a significantly more accurate and thorough report. Additional thanks to Joe Soehnel for his ongoing support and input .

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observers / Comment
SNOW GOOSE:	2	12/4	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Hu
	1	12/19	Linwood area, Ba	RAE - last date
ROSS'S GOOSE:	1	12/16	Port Hope, Hu	JZ,MM,SL
	1	12/29	Dow Ponds, Mi	JZ
SNOW X ROSS'S GOOSE:	1	12/29	Dow Ponds, Mi	JZ
ACKLING GOOSE:	4	12/9	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Hu
	1	12/22	SNWR, Sa	JMS - last date
CANADA GOOSE:	9720	12/11	SNWR, Sa	JMS,RAE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
MUTE SWAN:	69	12/19	Pinconning Park, Ba	RAE - also noted in Ar,Mi,Sa
TRUMPETER SWAN:	52	12/4	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	46	12/26	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,TS
	118	12/30	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,RAE
	119	1/8	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,TS
	136	1/15	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	79	1/19	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,JMS,DJP
	3	2/5	Iargo Springs, Io	SB
	25	2/15	Cooke Dam, Io	DLJ
	38	2/25	Cooke Dam, Io	RAE
	52	2/26	Cooke Dam, Io	WWS
TUNDRA SWAN:	168	12/22	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Hu,Tu
	4	1/8	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,TS - last date
GADWALL:	5	12/30	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Mi
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:	353	12/11	SNWR, Sa	JMS,RAE - also noted in Ba,Io,Mi,Tu
MALLARD:	10059	12/11	SNWR, Sa	JMS,RAE - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
NORTHERN PINTAIL:	4	12/11	SNWR, Sa	JMS,RAE - also noted in Tu
	1	1/6	SNWR, Sa	JMS - last date
GREEN-WINGED TEAL:	1	1/1	Middlegrounds, Ba	LD - also noted in Mi
CANVASBACK:	7	12/7	Tawas Bay, Io	WWS,TS - also noted in Ar,Ba
REDHEAD:	6740	12/12	Alabaster Twp., Io	RAE - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi
RING-NECKED DUCK:	4	2/21	Sanford Lake, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba
GREATER SCAUP:	124	2/7	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS - also noted in Io,Mi
LESSER SCAUP:	3	1/23	Dow Ponds, Mi	JZ - also noted in Ba,Io
SCAUP SP:	125	12/6	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS - also noted in Mi
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:	1	12/9	Alabaster Twp., Io	WWS,TS
BLACK SCOTER:	2	12/7	Tawas Bay, Io	WWS,TS

LONG-TAILED DUCK:	189	1/19	Baldwin Twp., Io	JMS,DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu
BUFFLEHEAD:	7	12/4	Dow Ponds, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io
COMMON GOLDENEYE:	4056	1/3	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DJP - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa



The prolonged period of sub-freezing temperatures in the last two-thirds of the season resulted in freeze-up of all waters not influenced by dams or warm water outflows. Waterfowl remaining throughout the winter were concentrated at these locations, such as these Common Goldeneye imaged at the AuSable River by Doug Jackson.

HOODED MERGANSER:	39	1/3	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DJP - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
COMMON MERGANSER:	427	12/29	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,TS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Sa,Tu
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:	76	12/7	Tawas Bay, Io	WWS,TS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi
RUDDY DUCK:	4	12/2	Dow Ponds, Mi	RMD
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:	32	1/17	Portsmouth Twp., Ba	RAE - also noted in Ar,Mi,Sa,Tu
RUFFED GROUSE:	6	1/16	AuSable State Forest, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ar,Io,Tu
WILD TURKEY:	69	2/27	Jasper Twp., Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba,Hu,Sa,Tu
RED-THROATED LOON:	1	2/21 tp	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,RAE

COMMON LOON:	2	12/7	Tawas Bay, Io	WWS,TS
PIED-BILLED GREBE:	1	1/19	Cooke Dam area, Io	DJP,JMS,WWS
HORNED GREBE:	1	12/1	Alabaster Twp., Io	RAE - also noted in Hu
	1	1/24 tp	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS
DOUBLE-CRSTD CORMORANT:	12	1/3	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DJP - 3 remaining tp
GREAT BLUE HERON:	8	12/2	Dow Ponds, Mi	RMD
GREAT EGRET:	2	12/6	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS - last date
BLK-CROWND NIGHT-HERON:	1	thru 1/24	Middlegrounds, Ba	LD - immature age
BALD EAGLE:	18	12/11	SNWR, SA	JMS,RAE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Tu
NORTHERN HARRIER:	18	12/11	SNWR, Sa	JMS,RAE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Tu
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:	1	12/6 - 1/10	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Ar,Ba
COOPER'S HAWK:	1	1/10	Jasper Twp., Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Sa,Tu
NORTHERN GOSHAWK:	1	2/1	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,TS
	1	2/6	AuSable State Forest, Mi	RMD
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:	1	1/26	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP - also noted in Ar,Io,Mi,Sa,Tu
RED-TAILED HAWK:	9	12/4	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:	22	1/14	SNWR, Sa	JMS - new SBA winter high count - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
GOLDEN EAGLE:	1	12/20	Tawas Lake area, Io	WWS,TS
AMERICAN COOT:	1	12/15	FPSWA, Tu	RMD
BONAPARTE'S GULL:	59	12/1	Linwood, Ba	RAE
	1	12/26	Tawas Bay, Io	RAE - last date
RING-BILLED GULL:	321	12/22	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Tu
HERRING GULL:	609	12/22	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Tu
ICELAND GULL:	1	12/20	Taymouth Twp., Sa	TP (eBird per JMS)
GLAUCOUS GULL:	4	12/15	Pinconning Twp., Ba	DLJ - also noted in Hu,Io,Sa
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:	14	12/15	Pinconning Park, Ba	RAE - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Sa
ROCK PIGEON:	89	1/6	Spaulding Twp., Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
MOURNING DOVE:	113	1/28	Prairie Farm, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu

EASTERN SCREECH OWL:	10	12/22	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi,Tu
GREAT HORNED OWL:	4	12/4	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Hu,Mi,Tu
SNOWY OWL:	10	12/15	Bradleyville Rd area, Tu	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa



***Snowy Owls were reported from all SBA counties this winter.
Doug Jackson's talent for capturing images of birds in-flight affords us an opportunity to study feathered attributes of the species not visible when perched.***

BARRED OWL:	1	12/31	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	LMA - also noted in Hu,Mi,Tu
LONG-EARED OWL:	12	1/6 - 1/11	SNWR, Sa	JMS,JEV
SHORT-EARED OWL:	15	1/6	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Tu
BELTED KINGFISHER:	1	thru 2/7	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS - also noted in Io,Mi
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:	54	2/15	Sand Lake area, Io	LV,SV - new SBA peak count - also noted in Sa
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:	5	12/2	SNWR, Sa	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
YLLW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:	1	1/17 - 2/20	Koylton Twp, Tu	JEV
DOWNY WOODPECKER:	6	12/2	SNWR, Sa	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
HAIRY WOODPECKER:	4	12/2	SNWR, Sa	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu

NORTHERN FLICKER:	2	12/16	Grindstone City area, Hu	JMS,RMD - also noted in Ba,Mi,Sa,Tu
PILEATED WOODPECKER:	3	1/18	Ringwood Forest, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
AMERICAN KESTREL:	2	1/11	FPSWA, Tu	MW - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Sa,Tu
MERLIN:	1	1/11 tp	SNWR, Sa	JEV,DJP,RMD - also noted in Ba
PEREGRINE FALCON:	2	12/8	Dow Ponds, Mi	JZ
	2	1/17	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS
EASTERN PHOEBE:	1	1/5	Homer Twp., Mi	MKE - photographed - new SBA fall late date, first SBA record for January
NORTHERN SHRIKE:	1	1/16	Geneva Twp., Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Tu
BLUE JAY:	52	1/19	Sidtown, Io	DJP,JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Sa,Tu



Large flocks of Blue Jays roamed the northern woodlands of the SBA this season. Doug Jackson captured their spectacular plumage from all angles in this image from Forest Lake, Arenac.

AMERICAN CROW:	2338	12/18	Saginaw, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
COMMON RAVEN:	21	12/20	Monument Rd., Io	WWS,TS - also noted in Ar,Mi
HORNED LARK:	231	2/27	Jasper Twp., Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Sa,Tu
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:	53	2/6	AuSable State Forest, Mi	RMD -also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Sa,Tu
TUFTED TITMOUSE:	5	12/27	Tobico Marsh, Ba	CS - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa,Tu
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	21	2/6	AuSable State Forest, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Sa,Tu

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	13	2/6	AuSable State Forest, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Sa,Tu
BROWN CREEPER:	5	1/16	Sanford, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ba,Hu,Sa,Tu
CAROLINA WREN:	1	2/7	Midland, Mi	KK
WINTER WREN:	1	12/16	Grindstone City area, Hu	JMS,RMD,JZ,MM,SL
	1	12/18	Eagle Bay, Hu	JEV
	1	2/5	Iargo Springs, Io	SB
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:	4	12/16	Grindstone City area, Hu	JMS,RMD - also noted in Mi
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:	1	12/16	PCSP, Hu	TH
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:	1	2/6	Jasper Twp., Mi	RMD - also noted in Ar
HERMIT THRUSH:	1	12/18	Eagle Bay, Hu	JEV
AMERICAN ROBIN:	72	1/31	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa
EUROPEAN STARLING:	1000	1/17	Jasper Twp., Mi	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Sa,Tu
BOHEMIAN WAXWING:	18	12/18	Port Austin, Hu	JEV - also noted in Io
CEDAR WAXWING:	225	12/7	East Tawas, Io	WWS,TS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi
LAPLAND LONGSPUR:	50+	12/17	Prairie Farm, Sa	LMA,CSz - also noted in Ba,Tu
SNOW BUNTING:	775	2/16	Akron Twp., Tu	LMA - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:	1	12/16	PCSP, Hu	TH - new SBA fall late date
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:	12	12/16	Grindstone City area, Hu	JMS,RMD
EASTERN TOWHEE:	1	2/7 - 2/21	Jerome Twp., Mi	ME,AB,RMD
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:	151	1/14	SNWR, Sa	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
SONG SPARROW:	2	12/16	Grindstone City area, Hu	RMD,JMS - also noted in Sa
	2	1/14	Geneva Twp., Mi	RMD
	2	2/28	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,RAE
SWAMP SPARROW:	1	12/2	SNWR, Sa	RMD
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:	1	12/19 - 1/8	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP
	1	1/18	East Tawas, Io	RAE
	1	2/3	CNC, Mi	JMS

HARRIS'S SPARROW:	1	2/6 - tp	Harbor Beach, Hu	JM per MKE - 1st Hu Record
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:	1	1/18	East Tawas, lo	RAE
	1	2/5	Akron area, Tu	JMS
DARK-EYED JUNCO:	39	1/10	Greendale, Mi	RMD - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,lo,Sa,Tu
NORTHERN CARDINAL:	30	1/3	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP - also noted in Hu,lo,Mi,Sa,Tu
EASTERN MEADOWLARK:	1	12/4	SNWR, Sa	JMS
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:	2	2/13	Quanicassee, Tu	JMS
PURPLE FINCH:	1	2/2	Forest Lake, Ar	DLJ
	1	2/16	Midland, Mi	JZ
HOUSE FINCH:	32	12/31	Bay City, Ba	CS - also noted in Hu,lo,Mi,Sa,Tu
COMMON REDPOLL:	60	1/14	Geneva Twp., Mi	DLJ - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,lo
HOARY REDPOLL:	1	1/20	Port Hope area, Hu	CM (eBird per JMS
	1	2/23	Quanicassee area, Tu	



***One of two Hoary Redpolls reported in the SBA this winter.
This individual was observed and imaged by Dan Duso, along Dutcher Rd in Tuscola Co.***

PINE SISKIN:	42	1/4	Forest Lake, Ar	DLJ - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:	64	1/8	Bay City, Ba	JMS - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa,Tu
HOUSE SPARROW:	82	2/13	Akron area, Tu	JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa

TOTAL: 115 Species

Others:

GRAYLAG GOOSE:	1	2/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS
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Peak/high counts and early/late dates are designated based upon records established in the publication *Birds and Bird Finding in the Saginaw Bay Area* by Ron Weeks, published in 1995, and subsequent updates to the data by the compilers of the Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area report. Comments on seasonal occurrences also relate to information found in this exhaustively researched book, as well as species notations on the Michigan Bird Survey Form.

* MBRC Review List species. Inclusion of this record does not signify that it has been verified, only that an encounter was reported. The observation will not be considered an official SBA record until it has been reviewed and accepted by the MBRC.

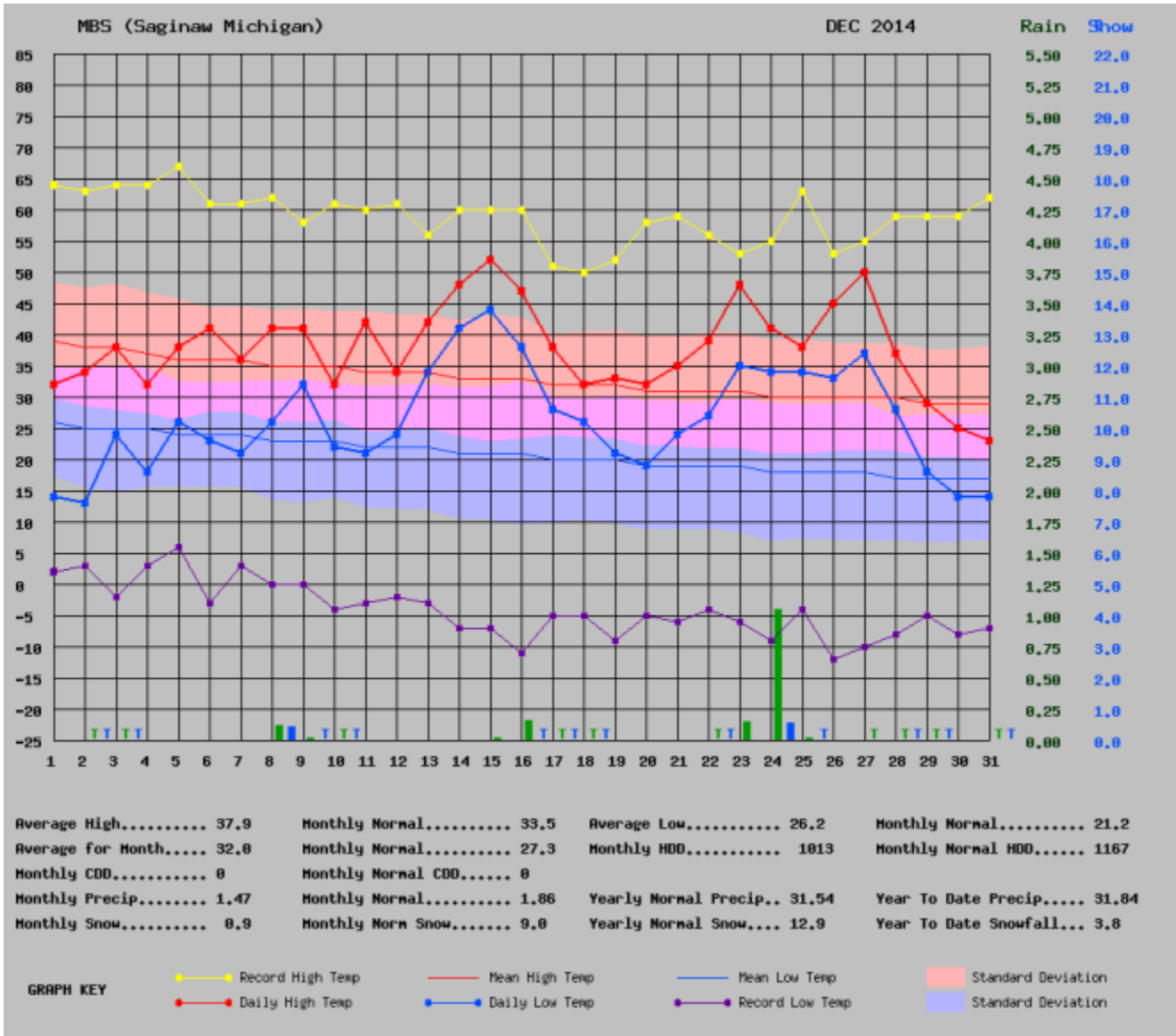
Observer Key:

LMA	Larry M. Abraham	MM	Myles McNally
SB	Sam Burkhardt	TP	Tom Pavlik
AB	Ana Butkiewicz	DJP	David J. Peters
LD	Louie Dombroski	GSP	Glenn S. Peterson
DD	Dan Duso	EMP	Ellen M. Peterson
RMD	Ryan M. Dziedzic	CS	Craig Schafer
ME	Melissa Eddy	TS	Toni Shawl
RAE	Roger A. Eriksson	WWS	Wayne W. Shawl
MKE	Monica K. Essenmacher	JMS	Joseph M. Soehnel
TH	Tom Hince	CSz	Carolyn Szaroletta
DLJ	Doug L. Jackson	JEV	Jim E. VanAllen
KK	Kevin Kane	LV	Larry VanWagoner
SL	Stan Lilley	SV	Sue VanWagoner
JM	John McCoy	JZ	Jerry Ziarno
CM	Chris McCreedy		

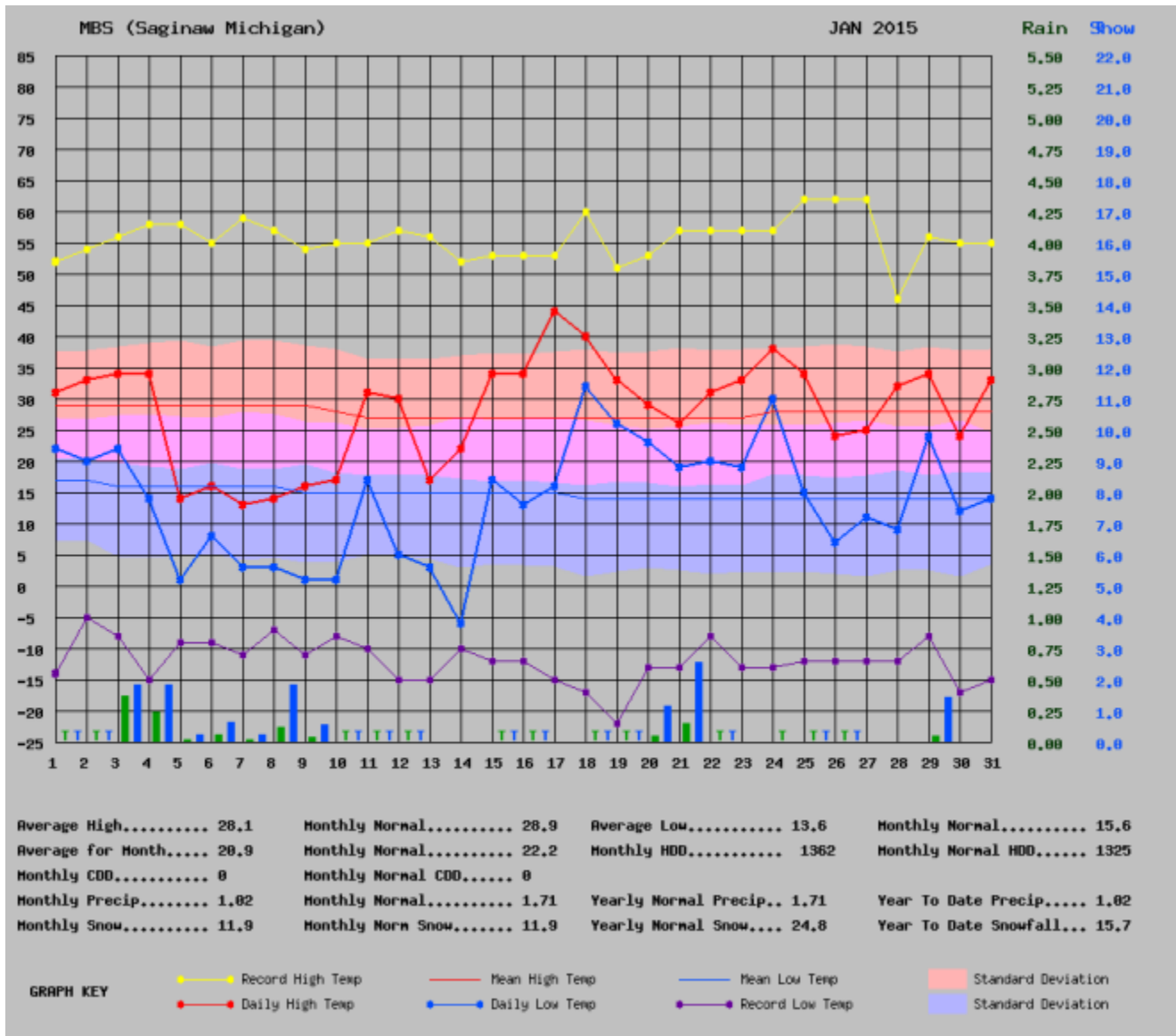
Abbreviations:

Ar	Arenac County	PCSP	Port Crescent State Park
Ba	Bay County	Sa	Saginaw County
CNC	Chippewa Nature Center	SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	SBB.org	SaginawBayBirding.org
FPSWA	Fish Point State Wildlife Area	SNWR	Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
Hu	Huron County	TPSP	Tawas Point State Park
Io	Iosco County	tp	throughout the entire, or entire remainder, of the period
MBRC	Michigan Bird Records Committee	Tu	Tuscola County
Mi	Midland County		

December, 2014 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



January, 2015 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



February, 2015 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)

