



BIRDS IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA

Dec 1, 1993 through Feb 28, 1994

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Summary:

The winter of 1993-94 was marked by extremes in weather. December was so mild that virtually all still water was open for the Christmas Bird counts held December 18th and 19th. January and February were among the coldest in recorded history with arctic front after arctic front blasting the SBA. This combination provided for many late fall stragglers, seldom-seen arctic visitors, and many water birds mistaking roadways for long narrow strips of open water.

The mild December weather along with the ever increasing observer coverage yielded first SBA winter records for **Great Egret** (Dec 23rd at Shiawassee), **Turkey Vulture** (Dec 18th from the Thumb and Jan from Pinconning), **Virginia Rail** (Dec 7th from Shiawassee), **Marsh Wren** (Dec 9th & 18th from the Bay City area), and **Common Yellowthroat** (Dec 18th from the Thumb and Tobico). Other rare winter stragglers usually gone by late fall included **Black and Surf Scoter** (Dec 4th at Nayanquing Pt), **White-winged Scoter** (285 on Dec 24th at Tawas Pt), **Merlin** (Dec 4th & 28th from Huron County), **Mockingbird** (Dec 5th at Watrousville and Dec 30th in Huron County), **White-crowned Sparrow** (Dec 27-28th from Bay County), and **Rusty Blackbird** (Dec 18th from Huron County).

The cold fronts of January and February along with the impressive fall invasion of winter finches provided for a wide variety of northern residents. The most impressive of these was a gray phase adult **Gyr Falcon** seen ever so briefly at the Karn Plant on December 27th. Another probable Gyr Falcon was reported from Tawas on December 11th (see details in report section). Other winter goodies included four sightings of **Bohemian Waxwings**, four sightings of **Pine Grosbeaks**, two **White-winged Crossbills** (one from Bay County in late Dec and one from Midland on Jan 2), lots of **Common Redpolls**, an in-flight **Hoary Redpoll** from the Huron CBC, and several **Evening Grosbeak** reports. Among the more normal winter finches only **Pine Siskins** were down.

But perhaps the most interesting occurrence was the mass fallout of grebes following subzero cold in mid-January. In all, an estimated nine **Horned Grebes**, five **Red-necked Grebes**, and one **Western Grebe** (the first SBA record assigned specifically to Western) landed in the SBA. Most of these touched down on roadways mistaking asphalt for open water and ending up in Sandy Miner's rehabilitation center. The grounded birds were later released at the Karn Plant attracting many grebe searchers from around the state regardless of the fact that transported birds are not ABA-countable. Similar grebe fallouts were also recorded from the Detroit area and from Berrien County.

Early migrants were noted as early as mid February when a brief moderation in the cold temperatures sent many birds north prematurely. Most notable among the earlies were **Wood Ducks**, **Robins**, and **Red-winged Blackbirds** noted in Bay Port on February 16 and **Sandhill Cranes** from Saginaw County on February 19th & 20th. The cranes were part of an influx that was witnessed over much of southern Michigan. A Sandhill seen near Brant on Feb 4th may have been an extremely early migrant or one that never left.

All of the above resulted in a record smashing 119 species from the winter period. One will find a couple of new features in this report. The Feature Bird for the spring and the Birders Calendar for the coming spring season.

REPORTS

COMMON LOON:

1	12/12	Karn Plant, Ba	MW
1	12/28	Bay City CBC	M&JB, VT

PIED-BILLED GREBE:

1	12/4	Karn Plant, Ba	SR, RW
1	12/18	Bay City CBC	MB, VT

Likely same bird.

HORNED GREBE:

See grebe fallout summary on page 11.

RED-NECKED GREBE:

See grebe fallout summary on page 11.

WESTERN GREBE:

1	1/22	I-75 at I-675, Sa	via SM
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First SBA record for a definite Western Grebe in the SBA! Released at Karn Plant, Ba on 1/24. It was seen again on 1/25 but not after that time. Because this bird was transported it was not countable by ABA rules even if it had been months later at the Karn Plant (See full explanation on page 11).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:

1	12/11	Fish Point, Tu	MW
2	12/17	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
6	12/18	Bay City CBC	
5	tp	Karn Plant, Ba	JS et al

GREAT BLUE HERON:

10	12/4-5	Karn Plant, Ba	SR, RW, MW
2	12/31	Tawas Pt, Io	BB
1	tp	Karn Plant, Ba	JS

Noted on Bay City and Huron CBCs.

GREAT EGRET:

1	12/23	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
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This is the first winter record for this species! Reportedly a healthy bird. I had another second hand report of a white heron or egret seen by Randy Kursinsky's mother (or some relative) near Pinconning.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:

1	12/5,28	Karn Plant, Ba	MW, JS
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TUNDRA SWAN:

750	12/4	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	SR, RW	250 nearby on 12/17 (RA).
225	12/13	Bay Port, Tu	TB	
2	2/15	MCV, Mi	MW	

No swans reported from Shiawassee NWR, Sa!

MUTE SWAN:

14	2/11-17	MCV/Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, EK	New SBA high.
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Also reported from the Karn Plant, Ba (MO); Tawas Lake, Io (BK); and Pigeon, Hu (TB).

SNOW GOOSE:

13	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	One seen until 1/5.
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CANADA GOOSE:

18366	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Only four left on 1/21.
1500	12/4	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	SR, RW	

Around 1000-2000 at MCV, Mi this winter (EK et al). 300 had returned to Fish Pt, Tu on 2/19 (AK).

WOOD DUCK:

2	2/16	Bay Port, Hu	TB	
1	2/19	Quanicassee, Tu	AK	Rare Feb records!

GREEN-WINGED TEAL:

6	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Two left on 12/23.
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AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:

259	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	18 left on 1/12.
~200	12/19	MCV, Mi (CBC)	RW, MW	

MALLARD:

3382	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	None on 1/21, back on 2/24
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NORTHERN PINTAIL:

1	12/2-2/17	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW et al
1	12/4	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	RW, SR

NORTHERN SHOVELER:

1	12/8	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	MW
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GADWALL:

40	12/9	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	MW
42	12/19	MCV, Mi (CBC)	MW, RW
3	2/19	Dow Ponds, Mi	SR
1	tp	Karn Plant, Ba	JS



AMERICAN WIGEON: 7 12/4	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	SR, RW	Six left on 12/9 (MW).
CANVASBACK: 1500 12/2 1 fem 2/17	Nayanquing Pt, Ba Dow Ponds, Mi	MW RW, EK	12000 on 12/9 (MW).
Only second February record for SBA. Apparently same bird seen again on 3/3 (RW).			
REDHEAD: 1000 12/9 1 1/8 1 2/17 tp	Nayanquing Pt, Ba Au Sable River mouth, lo Dow Ponds, Mi	MW RW et al	BK First late Feb SBA record.
RING-NECKED DUCK: 7 12/4	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	RW, SR	
GREATER SCAUP: 4000 12/4 1 12/18	Nayanquing Pt, Ba Karn Plant, Ba	SR, RW RW	
LESSER SCAUP: 2 12/18 7 2/17	Karn Plant, Ba (CBC) MCV, Mi	RA, EK RW, EK	Early returnees.
SCAUP SP.: 35 12/4	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	RW, SR	
OLDSQUAW: 1 male 12/2,4 1 fem early Feb This bird was injured and later was released at Karn Plant, Ba (SM) and seen tp. 2 2/10 1 fem 2/17	Nayanquing Pt, Ba Sumac Is, Hu Filion Road, Hu MCV, Mi	MW, RW, SR SM TB EK, RW	Landed on the road!
BLACK SCOTER: 1 im male 12/4-8	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	RW, SR, MW	
SURF SCOTER: 1 male 12/4 Adult males are extremely rare in fall.	Nayanquing Pt, Ba	RW, SR	
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 2 12/7 285 12/24 New SBA high count! In two strings, one with 200 birds.	Bay Port, Hu Tawas Pt, lo	TB BB	
COMMON GOLDENEYE: 250 2/15	Karn Plant, Ba	MW	Peak count.
BUFFLEHEAD: 20 12/4 1 12/6-7 1,4 1/8,30 2 2/1 tp 2 2/11 Numbers built up from 2/17 on in Midland.	Nayanquing Pt, Ba Bay Port, Hu Au Sable River mouth, lo Karn Plant, Ba Sanford Dam, Mi	SR, RW TB JS RA	BK
HOODED MERGANSER: 40 12/4 3 12/17 3-5 tp	Anderson Road, Ba Shiawassee NWR, Sa MCV, Mi	RW, SR DP SR, RW et al	16 on 12/12 (SR).
COMMON MERGANSER: 2788 12/3 1000 12/4 Smaller than usual numbers noted at typical locations.	Shiawassee NWR, Sa Nayanquing Pt, Ba	DP SR, RW	
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: 12 12/3 4 1/30 8 2/19 Noted tp at Karn Plant, Ba (JS).	MCV, Mi Au Sable River mouth, lo MCV, Mi	RW SR	BK Early returnees.
RUDDY DUCK: [No reports.]			
TURKEY VULTURE: 1 12/20 A brief, but good description of an apparently healthy bird! 1 Jan A first year bird grounded in a yard. It even chased the family dog around!	Eagle Bay, Hu Pinconning, Ba	GI via SM	
BALD EAGLE: 10 12/30 & 1/12 9 2/15	Shiawassee NWR, Sa Karn Plant, Ba	DP MW	



At least four birds wintered in the MCV area, Mi (RW, JS et al). Also reported from Io (BB, BK); other areas of Sa (DR, ME, EKO).

NORTHERN HARRIER:

Scattered sightings through period.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:

1 mid Feb
1 12/3

Midland, Mi RA
Saginaw River mouth, Ba

Also reported on Midland and Bay City CBCs. Seen tp in Bay Port, Hu (TB) JS

COOPER'S HAWK:

Common through period.

GOSHAWK:

1 1/30
2 2/18

Iosco County BK
sw of Brant, Sa DR

One seen here chasing a Mourning Dove on 2/5.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:

1 1/11
1 2/11

Fish Pt, Tu MW
Meadow Road, Io BB

RED-TAILED HAWK:

15 12/23
12 1/1

Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
Mayville area, Tu MW

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:

1 12/18
1 12/29

Port Crescent SP, Hu JGr
near Coleman, Mi RA

4 1/2

Iosco County BK

2-3 1/5 tp

Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

4 2/4

Grat-Sag SGA, Grat&Sag MW

4 2/28

Port Crescent SP, Hu ME

Also reported from Ar,

GOLDEN EAGLE:

[No reports.]

AMERICAN KESTREL:

Noted through period. Numbers generally down this winter. Highest count was 22 from Midland CBC on 12/19. Dave Peters reported greatly reduced numbers in mid-January. Numbers returned to normal in mid-February. One was also found dead in Sanford, Mi and reported to turned in to the Chippewa NC (JL).

MERLIN:

1 12/4
1 12/28

Port Crescent SP, Hu ME
Pinnebog River, Hu ME

GYRFALCON:

1 12/27

Karn Plant, Ba M&MW

Reported to be an adult gray phase female. Seen sitting on pole, chasing pigeons, and eventually landing on a stack. Short wings with respect to tail, primary translucence, and broad wings all noted. Not found later in the day or on any subsequent days. Second SBA record! Or is it?

Another probable Gyrfalcon was seen by Bob Bell on 12/11 at Tawas Pt, Io. However, even though broad-based and pointed wings along with heavy vertical streaking were noted, the described face pattern was more like that of an immature tundra race Peregrine. Unfortunately, no wing tip to tail tip notes (sitting bird) were taken. Bob was 90% sure it was a Gyrfalcon.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT:

17 1/17

Mayville, Tu MW

Common through period.

RUFFED GROUSE:

1 12/18

Wilderness Arb, Hu MW
Iosco County BK

WILD TURKEY:

3 1/5

Reported from Io, Mi, Sa, and Hu. Peak of 9 on 2/5 on Old US-23 (BB).

BOBWHITE:

1 1/23

Kinde vicinity, Hu DE

VIRGINIA RAIL:

1 12/7

Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

First SBA winter record! Caught in muskrat trap.

AMERICAN COOT:

50 12/15-19

MCV, Mi RW, EK
Karn Plant, Ba JS

SANDHILL CRANE:

1 2/4

Brant area, Sa MW

Called into Shiawassee NWR. Myles found it pecking in the snow. Was this one coming or going or wintering?

1 2/19

Brant, Sa DR

4 2/20

Chesaning area, Sa DR



Winter 1993-94

These birds were part of a massive influx into southern Michigan during a brief warming spell. The three crane sightings are the first winter records for the SBA!

COMMON SNIPE:

[No reports.]

BONAPARTE'S GULL:

70	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
2	12/18	Crow Island, Sa (CBC)	RW	Last.

RING-BILLED GULL:

57	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
9	12/19	Midland CBC		
25	2/18	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	First returnees.

HERRING GULL:

December numbers much lower than usual. First probable returnees noted on 2/11 with 100 adults at MCV, Mi (RW, EK). Small numbers in Bay City area through most of the period except for the coldest arctic fronts

GLAUCOUS GULL:

1	12/18	Port Crescent SP, Hu	MW
1 ad	12/19	MCV, Mi (CBC)	MW, RW
1	2/21	Karn Plant, Ba	MW

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:

1	thru 12/18	Bay City SP, Ba	RW, KK, BH et al
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GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:

25	12/12	Bay City area, Ba	MW	
1	12/15-19	MCV, Mi	EK, RW et al	First Midland Co. record.
1	12/13	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	First for refuge & Sag Co.
1	12/18	Crow Island, Sa	KK, RW et al	Second for Saginaw Co.
2	12/28	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	Last report.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:

[No reports.]

ROCK DOVE:

Common through period. Peak of 50 through period at Bay City, Ba (JS).

MOURNING DOVE:

Common through period. Peak of 113 on 12/21 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (DP).

EASTERN SCREECH OWL:

Scattered sightings through period. Reported from Mi, Ba, Sa, Tu, and Hu. One found dead on 2/22 at Chippewa NC, Mi (JB).

GREAT HORNED OWL:

Scattered sightings through period. Reported from Mi, Ba, Sa, Tu, and Hu. On nest on 2/11 at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (DP). Also heard hooting in midday on 2/20 at Coggins Road, Ba (RW).

SNOWY OWL:

3	12/12-31	Karn Plant, Ba	SR et al
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Also noted from Tawas area, Io (Iosco CBC); Nayanquing Pt, Ba (MW); Shiawassee NWR, Sa (DP); Fish Pt, Tu (MW, AK); and Sebawaing & Hume Twp, Hu (MW, ME). Fewer reported in January and February.

BARRED OWL:

Noted from Midland CBC on 12/19. Only report for period.

LONG-EARED OWL:

1	early Feb	Salzburg Road, Ba	via SM	Bird covered w/ truck grease!
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SHORT-EARED OWL:

[No reports.]

SAW-WHET OWL:

1	12/18	Port Crescent SP, Hu	MW, BG, DP	
1	2/12	Thomas Twp, Sa	DS	Heard and seen!
1 dead	2/12	Midland, Mi	CNC visitor (fide JL)	

BELTED KINGFISHER:

Scattered sightings through period.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:

1	1/3	Iosco County	BK	
1	12/2	Tawas Pt, Io	BB	Gray-headed bird.
1	2/4	Tawas Pt, Io	BB	Molting.
1	2/6	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	Molting im male.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:

Scattered sightings through period. Reported north to Iosco County.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:

[No reports.]

DOWNY WOODPECKER:

Common through period.

HAIRY WOODPECKER:

Scattered sightings through period.

NORTHERN FLICKER:



1	1/12	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Noted to this date.
1	2/20	Midland, Mi	RA	

Five reported by Myles Willard during 1/2-2/4 in Lapeer and Tuscola Counties.

PILEATED WOODPECKER:

pair	1/11	Dow Gardens, Mi	RG	
1	2/6	Five Channels Dam, Io	BB	Noted here tp.

HORNED LARK:
As usual very few in December, a few more in January, and oodles in February. Monica reported an average of 78 larks per mile on a 25 mile stretch in northern Huron County on February 28th. She also counted 770 on a ten mile stretch along Bradleyville Road, Tu on the same date.

BLUE JAY:
Common through period.

AMERICAN CROW:
Common through period. Peak of 230 on one flock in December near Watrousville (MW).

COMMON RAVEN:
Noted from Iargo Springs and Wells Road in Iosco County (BB, BK, MW). Five noted in n. Iosco on 2/5 (MW).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:
Common through period.

TUFTED TITMOUSE:
Common through period.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:
Scattered sightings through period. Ten reported all in one yard in the Port Crescent area, Hu on 12/18 (CBC).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:
Common through period. Twelve in same yard as above Red-breasteds!

BROWN CREEPER:
Noted tp at Shiawassee NWR, Sa (DP). Singing there on 2/27. Also seen on Midland and Bay City CBCs.

CAROLINA WREN:

1	12/25	Freeland, Sa	MK	
1	1/6-24	near Green Point NC, Sa		DP
1	1/10,14	Olson Road, Mi	EM	
2	2/3	Midland, Mi	DF	Nested here along Wheeler Rd.
1	2/6,11	Midland County	CNC visitor (Fide JL)	
1	op	Oak Beach, Hu	ME	

Several reported from after the severe weather. This is a good sign because hard winters tend to move this species range southward. It has only become regular here during the last few years.

MARSH WREN:

1	12/9	Bay County	SM	
1	12/18	Tobico Lagoon, Ba	RW, JS, RH	

First winter records for the SBA!

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:

3	1/5	Iosco County	BK	
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Also noted on Midland CBC on 12/18.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD:

1	12/12	Tawas Pt, Io	Iosco CBC	
1	2/22	Midland, Mi	CNC visitor (fide JL)	
1	2/27	sw Midland County	RA	

AMERICAN ROBIN:
Three reported from Midland CBC on 12/19.

1	12/29	Green Point NC, Sa	DP	
1	1/19	Saginaw County, Sa	AK	At an orchard.
1	1/22	Homer Twp, Mi	EK	
4	2/16	Bay Port, Hu	TB	First returns?.
1	2/19	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:

1	12/5	Watrousville, Tu	MW	
1	12/30	Copeland Road, Hu	MA, ME	A lingering local?

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:

1	12/18	Huron CBC		
20	1/22	Chippewa NC, Mi	WPBO Board	
40	2/8	Chippewa NC, Mi	PS	
4	2/20	Erickson Road, Ba	RW	

CEDAR WAXWING:
Noted through period.

NORTHERN SHRIKE:
Scattered sightings through period. Fewer reports than usual this winter.

2	2/6	Port Crescent SP, Hu	ME	
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EUROPEAN STARLING:
Trash bird through period. 1000+ reported from Veteran's Bridge in Bay City, Ba on 1/4 (JS).



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:

[No reports.]

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:

1	12/18	Tobico, Ba (CBC)	RW, RH, JS
1	12/18	Hume Twp, Hu (CBC)	ME

First SBA winter records!

NORTHERN CARDINAL:

Common through period.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:

90	12/18	Hume Twp, Hu	ME
145	1/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP

SONG SPARROW:

Noted from Midland and Bay City CBCs.

SWAMP SPARROW:

A few early December reports.

10	12/23	Crow Island, Sa	MW	Last and peak.
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WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:

1	tp	Homer Twp, Mi	EK	At Gene's feeder.
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WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:

1	12/27-28	Salzburg Road, Ba	S&LB et al	May have stayed longer.
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DARK-EYED JUNCO:

Common through period.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR:

1	12/18	Hume Twp, Hu (CBC)	ME
4	2/20	Bay Port, Hu	TB
6	2/26	Dow Corning, Ba	RA
5	2/28	Pinnebog area, Hu	MW

SNOW BUNTING:

~2500	1/4	Unionville, Tu	MW
620	2/22	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
500	2/27	sw Midland County	RA

Noted through period.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK:

1	1/11	Homer Twp, Mi	JSm	Likely a wintering bird.
2	2/27	Dow Corning, Ba	RA	First migrants.
1	2/28	Cass City, Tu	MW	

There was another bird rumored in the Auburn area in mid-winter (via MW).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD:

1	12/18	Oak Beach, Hu (CBC)	MW	Few recent winter records.
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RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:

1	12/12	Tawas Pt, Io	BB
100	12/20	Essexville, Ba	JS
40	2/16	Bay Port, Hu	TB
150	2/24	Essexville, Ba	JS

Early bunch.
New "winter" high!

COMMON GRACKLE:

2	12/31	Essexville, Ba	JS
2	2/19	Essexville, Ba	JS
200	2/24	Essexville, Ba	JS

Last winter stragglers.
First returns.
New "winter" high!

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:

12	12/2	Essexville, Ba	JS	Only report.
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PINE GROSBEAK:

4	12/5	Price NC, Sa	M&JH, LA
1	12/9-10	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP
1	12/30	Iosco County	BK
10	1/3	Bay Port, Hu	TB
3	2/4	Tawas Pt, Io	BB

At headqtrs feeder.

PURPLE FINCH:

Reported from Midland, Mi (RA) and Bay Port, Hu (TB).

HOUSE FINCH:

Common through period. Peak of 100+ at Crow Island, Sa (RW, KK, BH)

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:

1	mid-late Dec	Salzburg Road, Ba	S&LB
1	1/2	Midland, Mi	VT

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:

Common through period. Peak of 35 on 1/17 in Fremont Twp, Tu (MW). A flock of 50 in Bay City were noted harassing a Sharp-shinned Hawk!

COMMON REDPOLL:

Common through period. Reported from Io, Ar, Ba, Mi, Sa, Tu, and Hu. More widespread in February. Flock of near 600+ (763 total) seen near Kinde, Hu on Huron CBC on 12/18 (ME). A tally of 450 came from Hume Twp, Hu the next day (ME). Large numbers (~200) also reported from Ar and Ba on 1/25 (MW).

HOARY REDPOLL:

1 12/18 Huron CBC MW, BG, DP

This one was reported to be a bright white individual in a flock of dark ones. However, no bill or streaking details could be seen. I hope they lump these soon! Hoary records are truly a compiler's nightmare.

PINE SISKIN:

Noted only from Huron County with 5 on the CBC (ME).

EVENING GROSBEAK:

40 12/28 Sleeper State Park, Hu ME Peak.

A total of 38 were reported from the Huron CBC on 12/18. Noted from several locations in Iosco by BK and BB with a peak of 11 at Five Channels Dam on 1/17 (BB).

HOUSE SPARROW:

Common through period.

TOTAL: 119 species

EXOTICS

BAR-HEADED GOOSE:

1 12/4 Anderson Road, Ba SR, RW et al Seen earlier by locals.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:

1 Dec-Jan James Twp, Sa VG
One has been seen in the Midland area sat times during the last year.

RECORDS FROM OUTSIDE THE SBA

NORTHERN GOSHAWK:

1 1/12 Deerfield, Lapeer MW

HERRING GULL:

2000 12/20 Holloway Res., Genessee MW et al

RING-NECKED PHEASANT:

40 2/28 Sandusky area, Sanilac MW

NORTHERN BOBWHITE:

1 1/12 Deerfield, Lapeer MW

SHORT-EARED OWL:

1 1/1 Mayville area, Lapeer MW

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:

8 1/12 Deerfield, Lapeer MW

CEDAR WAXWING:

200 1/12 Deerfield, Lapeer MW

PINE GROSBEAK:

~130 1/12 Lapeer County MW

ADDENDUM/CORRECTIONS

Fall 1993 The 30,000 birds referred to on the summary were Common Grackles.

OBSERVERS:

LA Larry Abrahams
MA Margaret Alyea
RA Ron Annelin
TB Tom Beachy
JB Jeff Bowen
AB Adam Byrne

DE Duane Essenmacher
ME Monica Essenmacher
DF Dorothy Fauver
VG Val Geidans
JG Jack Gillespie
RG Rick Gillis



Winter 1993-94

JGr	J. Green	KO	Karl Overman
BG	Bob Grete	DP	David Peters
JH	Jeannie Henderson	G&EP	Glenn & Ellen Peterson
RH	Roger Hill	MP	Mike Petrucha
M&JH	Mark & Joanne Hubinger	R&MP	Rod & Marlene Planck
GI	Gerald Ives	DR	Doug Reeves
KK	Kevin Kane	SR	Steve Rosenberg
AK	Arnold Karr	NS	Napier Shelton
BK	Bob Kemp	JSm	Janeen Smith
EK	Eugene Kenaga	JS	Joe Soehnel
DK	Deana Klingensmith	PS	Phil Stephens
EKo	E. Kornacki	KT	Kevin Thomas
ZK	Z. Kornacki	VT	Val Trabucchi
MK	Marjorie Krueger	DV	Derk Vokal
RK	Randy Kursinsky	TW	Terry Walsh
JLe	Jim Lesser	RW	Ron Weeks
JL	Janea Little	MW	Myrtle Wilke
EL	Elaine McLaren	MW	Myles Willard
SM	Stan Madziar	BW	Bruce Winchell
MO	Many Observers		

ABBREVIATIONS

*	Pending acceptance by the Michigan Bird Records Committee.
Ba	Bay County
fem	female
Hu	Huron County
im	immature
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

BIRDER'S CALENDAR

APRIL & MAY HURON COUNTY HAWK WATCH

The Huron County Hawk Watch has already begun. A pair of immature Golden Eagles have already been tallied along with a slug of Red-shoulders and Rough-leggeds on the weekend of March 12-13th. The hawk watch is typically conducted in east parking lot of the day use area of Port Crescent SP, Hu. I understand that Kennedy Road is now the spot on north wind days. Additional counters are more than welcome. If you would like to help out or just want to know what's been flying by, call Monica Essenmacher on 792-1129. She is especially interested in persons who can count on weekdays.

APRIL (LAST WEEKEND) HAWKFEST

Call Monica Essenmacher at above number for details.

May 14TH NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

The North American Migration Count is a nationwide study of the spring migration held each year on the second Saturday in May. It is used to get a snapshot of the migration at that time much like the Christmas Bird Counts do for wintering bird populations. Results are tallied by county. We have two county compiler's, Joe Soehnel (892-3687) for Bay County and Monica Essenmacher (792-1129) for Huron County that are looking for participants for their counties. Last year Isabella County turned out an amazing 162 observers that sighted the 1993 NAMC state high of 152 species. Let's see what we can do this year.



SPRING 1994 FEATURE BIRD

The new SBA Feature Bird section is designed to highlight a particular species. That highlight will include the spring migration data about that species and issue a challenge to SBA birders to try and best the early date, the highest count for that season etc. The most exceptional sightings of that bird will be recapped in the summer edition.

This seasons Feature Bird is a well-known SBA specialty, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

EARLIEST SPRING DATE: 2 April 1979
SPRING HIGH COUNT: 25 on 7 May 1978

Fish Pt, Tu (Willard, Woodard)
Tobico, Ba (Mott)

1989 ARRIVAL: 4 April
1990 ARRIVAL: 21 April
1991 ARRIVAL: 17 April
1992 ARRIVAL: 12 April
1993 ARRIVAL: 21 April

Nayanquing Pt, Ba (Weeks)
Fish Pt, Tu (Willard)
Nayanquing Pt, Ba (Weeks, Bissonette)
Nayanquing Pt, Ba (Weeks, Willard)
Fish Pt, Tu (Soehnel)



1994 GREBE FALLOUT SUMMARY

The winter of 1993-94 brought about what might be an unprecedented (the winter of 57-58 also had a fallout including loons and grebes) fallout of grebes. The severe winter cold of January and early February froze much of the Great Lakes including all of Lake Superior for the first time since 1979 and only the fourth time ever. This lack of open water sent many grebes hunting for new swimming holes. Unfortunately, the black asphalt roadways with ice on them can look too close to the real thing. Although all water birds were likely fooled (Tom Beachy saw two Oldsquaw come down on a road), the grebes have no way of regaining flight and are left to die or be picked up. The summary below lists the times of recovery and release of grounded birds along with the winter sightings from the MCV, Mi and the Karn Plant, Ba. The Karn Plant sightings are difficult to sort as that is where Sandy Miner released all of her grebes. These released grebes caused quite a stir among listers. But in fact, they are not countable by ABA rules because they do not meet the definition of "wild". The February 1994 issue of Birding Magazine had a letter to the editor response from Robert Pyle, chairman of the ABA Rules Committee. In that response he states "ABA Listing Rule 3 (Winging It 1989, 1(8):7) states, under B: "Wild means that the bird's occurrence at time and place of observation is not because it, or its recent ancestors, has ever been transported by or otherwise assisted by man." Since Sandy Miner drove these birds to the Karn Plant, they are not countable as long as they stay there. The time from release rulings do not even come into play.

HORNED GREBE:

HORNED GREBE:			Release	
<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
1 recovered	1/20	s. of Midland, Mi	1/21	Karn Plant, Ba (SM)
1 recovered	~1/20-22	Midland area, Mi	died	
1 recovered	1/22	s. of Midland, Mi	1/22	Karn Plant, Ba (SM)
1 recovered			2/14	Karn Plant, Ba (SM)
1 recovered			2/14	Karn Plant, Ba (SM)
1 recovered				
5 sighted	2/17	Karn Plant, Ba	Free flying birds (MW).	
The January Horned releases were not seen for several days and were thought to have left. This implies that three of these birds were of natural occurrence.				
1 sighted	2/17	MCV, Mi	Free flying birds (RW, EK).	

RED-NECKED GREBE:

RED-NECKED GREBE:

1 im recovered	1/20	Sandusky,	1/21	Karn Plant, Ba (SM)
1 recovered	2/11	Fremont Twp, Tu	died	
3 sighted	2/13	Karn Plant, Ba	Free flying birds (JS).	
Two of these were adults of these were adults. Since the January Red-necked was thought to have left, this all three of these were thought to be wild.				
3 sighted	2/16	Karn Plant, Ba	Free flying birds (JS).	
Two immatures were seen on this date implying a fifth Red-necked for the tally. What was likely the same adult was seen on 2/18 and what were likely the two immatures were seen on 2/21(JS).				

WESTERN GREBE:

1 recovered	1/22	I-75 at I-675, Sa	1/24	Karn Plant, Ba (SM)
This bird was banded by Grefe & Peters. Seen briefly the following morning (1/25-AB).				
NOTE: Three Red-necked were seen on MCV, Mi (RW) on 3/3 and a Horned on 3/7 also at MCV, Mi (RW).				

