

BIRDS IN THE SAGINAW BAY AREA

December 1, 1994 - February 28, 1995

Compiled by:

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Summary: This winter season was highlighted by relatively mild weather with the exception of a few cold snaps in January and February. The mild weather in December accounted for an abnormal number of lingering water birds. The most sensational report was of a **Thick-billed Murre** seen January 27th & 28th from the end of Knight Road just east of Bay City. The only previous state records were part of invasions of this species which occurred in 1896, 1907, and 1950. Less astounding-but still qualifying as major winter rarities-were a **Red-throated Loon** (12/31) from Tawas Pt, a **Ross' Goose** (thru 12/8) from Shiawassee, **Harlequin Ducks** from Oscoda (thru 1/1) and Huron County (12/17), a **Gyr Falcon** (1/9-10) from Shiawassee, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** (12/17) from Midland County.

In general, waterfowl numbers were excellent through December with impressive totals including SBA records for **Greater Scaup** (8000 from Nayanquing on 12/3) and **White-winged Scoter** (700 from north of Oscoda on 12/31). New winter high tallies were also recorded for **Tundra Swan** (3400), **Gadwall** (54), **Oldsquaw** (555), and **Ruddy Duck** (38). Other notable numbers included 7500 **Common Mergansers** inland at Midland and 1600 **Common Goldeneye** that overwintered at the Karn Plant. "Good" water birds included a **Red-necked Grebe** from Tawas and two **Common Snipe** from Nayanquing.

Raptors numbers were generally good but not outstanding. The best sighting outside of the Gyr Falcon was a **Merlin** (1/21) seen at Port Crescent SP in the Thumb. Only **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen in above average numbers. Gamebirds went reported in sparse numbers with the possible exception of **Wild Turkeys**. No Northern Bobwhites were reported again this winter. Gull numbers were again short of the impressive numbers a few years ago. Lester, the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** remained at his Bay City SP outpost until ice forced him away on the first of the year. The biggest excitement in mid-January when for some reason good numbers of gulls reappeared on the Saginaw River. The best of the bunch were two adult **Iceland Gulls** (1/21).

Snowy Owls were far and few between, while **Short-eared Owls** were seen twice-part of a statewide invasion of this species this winter. Other notables included a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (12/3) from Tobico, three **Pileated Woodpeckers** seen at Green Point in Saginaw, several **Carolina Wrens** from Midland and Saginaw, a **Northern Mockingbird** (2/28) from Bay City, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** Ron Tawas and Midland, **White-crowned Sparrows** from Bay County, and a number of **Lapland Longspurs** that overwintered at Shiawassee.

It was also a banner winter for **Eastern Bluebirds** and **American Robins** with sightings of these two species coming in almost weekly. Noticeably absent were the winter finches with only a couple of **Pine Siskins** and a single **Evening Grosbeak** report received. The only exception to this was a group of up to 40 **Red Crossbills** that spent the latter half of December and the first part of January near Largo Springs.

Unreported for the period were **Green-winged Teal**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Northern Bobwhite**, **Saw-whet Owl**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **Eastern Meadowlark**, and **Common Redpoll**.

RED-THROATED LOON:

1 12/31 Tawas Point SP, lo RW, SR
 Flew by us twice allowing a good view. Only the 2nd SBA winter record!

COMMON LOON:

1 12/1 MCV Pond, Mi RW, EK, SR
 1 12/17 Midland CBC
 1 12/23, 30 Tawas Point SP, lo BB

New for count!
 Quite late.

PIED-BILLED GREBE:

1 12/17 Midland CBC

HORNED GREBE:

1 12/1 MCV Pond, Mi RW, EK, SR
 1 12/10 Three Mile Park, lo RW, SR
 1 12/17 Midland CBC

New for count!

RED-NECKED GREBE:

1 12/4 Tawas Point SP, lo JS, GS

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:

2 12/1 MCV Pond, Mi RW, EK, SR
 1 12/17 Midland CBC
 3 tp Karn Plant, Ba JS, GS

New for count!
 Noted on Bay City CBC.

GREAT BLUE HERON:

28 12/1 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 25 12/29 Shiawassee NWR, Sa BG
 1 2/14 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 1 tp Karn Plant, Ba JS, GS

Late for numbers.

TUNDRA SWAN:

3400 12/3 Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba RW, SR
 6 12/18 Bay City CBC
 98 12/28 Callahan Rd, Ba RW
 23 1/8 Karn Plant, Ba RW, JS, GS
 15 1/9 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 2 1/28 Au Gres RM, Ar GZ
 5 2/15 Karn Plant, Ba JS
 5 2/22 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

New winter peak!
 New count high!
 High total for so late.

MUTE SWAN:

10 2/15 Karn Plant, Ba JS
 4 2/28 MCV Pond, Mi RW, EK

Noted on Midland CBC.

SNOW GOOSE:

2 12/18 Bay City CBC
 4 12/21 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 2 2/19 MCV Pond, Mi RW

New count high!
 At least one tp at SNWR.
 Overwintering?

ROSS' GOOSE:

1 12/8 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

This fall holdover represent the first winter record for the SBA!

CANADA GOOSE:

Noted through period at many SBA locations.

14969 12/2 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 3022 12/17 Midland CBC
 1050 12/18 Bay City CBC
 2500 2/19 MCV Pond, Mi RW

Only 7592 on 2/28.
 ~3000-4000 overwintered.
 New count high!

WOOD DUCK:

1 12/3 Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba RW, SR
 4 12/18 Bay City CBC
 2 2/20 Saginaw R, Ba JS

New count high!
 Few Feb. records.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:

434 12/21 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 200 1/8 Karn Plant, Ba RW, JS, GS

Peak.

MALLARD:

3500 12/1 MCV Pond, Mi RW, EK, SR
 11548 12/2 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP
 9000 12/8 Bay Port-Seb., Hu ME
 1737 12/17 Midland CBC
 1400 1/8 Karn Plant, Ba RW, JS, GS

A flock of 2000 flew in.
 Peak.

New count high!

NORTHERN PINTAIL:

55 12/3 Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba RW, SR
 1 12/19 MCV. Mi
 5 1/25 Shiawassee NWR, Sa DP

Peak.
 Count week bird.

NORTHERN SHOVELER:

31	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	
7	12/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	1/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Rare in Jan.
GADWALL:				
42,37	12/1,17	MCV Pond, Mi	RW, EK, SR	Seven there on 2/28.
54	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	New winter peak!
1	12/28	Hampton Twp, Ba	JS, GS	
AMERICAN WIGEON:				
162	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	Peak.
1	1/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Only 4th Jan. record.
CANVASBACK:				
25	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	
1	12/30	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	
REDHEAD:				
400	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	Peak.
2	12/18	Bay City CBC		Ties count high.
10	1/7	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, RW, GS	High Jan. count.
1	1/22	Saginaw R, Ba	RW, SR	
1	1/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
RING-NECKED DUCK:				
1	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	
4	12/8	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	1/8-9	Oscoda, Io	JG, MW	Rare after December.
GREATER SCAUP:				
8000	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	New SBA peak count!
1	12/9	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	Inland bird.
1	12/10	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW, SR, BB	
80	12/10	Three Mile Park, Io	RW, SR	
2	12/18	Bay City CBC		New count high.
LESSER SCAUP:				
1	12/9	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	
6	12/26	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	
1	1/7	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, RW, GS	
4	2/22	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
HARLEQUIN DUCK:				
1	thru 1/1	Au Sable RM, Io	JG et. al.	Fall holdover.
Another of this species was reported from the Huron CBC by MW. This bird was called in flight at a good distance because of its Harlequin-like shape and all dark wings and belly. No facial spots or other white markings were seen on this bird. No written documentation was available for this sighting as the Huron CBC information was not submitted to this compiler.				
OLDSQUAW:				
60	12/10	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW, SR, BB	
1	12/17	Midland CBC	JS, RW, GS	New bird for count!
300	12/26	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	
555	12/31	Tawas Point SP, Io	SR, RW	New winter high!
12	1/15	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	Last report.
These birds apparently winter in this area (likewise White-winged Scoter), but they are not visible once the ice forces them out into the lake. Moving by in small groups during the first hours of daylight.				
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:				
192	12/24	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	
300	12/28	Three Mile Park, Io	AB, PC	
700	12/31	Three Mile Park, Io	SR, RW	Likely wintering birds.
9	1/15	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	Last report.
COMMON GOLDENEYE:				
1100	12/10	Three Mile Park, Io	RW, SR	
1514	12/18	Bay City CBC		New count high!
1600	1/7	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, RW, GS	Ties SBA high.
BUFFLEHEAD:				
50	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	Peak.
19	12/31	Jerry's Marina, Io	RW, SR	
2	1/8	Oscoda, Io	JG	
1,3	2/19,21	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW	Early arrivals?
HOODED MERGANSER:				
8	12/1	MCV Pond, Mi	RW, EK, SR	
13	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	
10	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high.
1	1/8	Oscoda, Io	JG	
1	2/12	Karn Plant, Ba	JS	



COMMON MERGANSER:

6000	12/1	MCV Pond, Mi	RW, EK, SR	Later 7500 (inland!).
1663	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
7500	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high!

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:

Scattered sightings through period.

4	12/3	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	RW, SR	Peak.
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RUDDY DUCK:

38	12/2-3	Dow Ponds, Mi	RW, MW	New winter peak!
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BALD EAGLE:

5	12/18	Bay City CBC		New count high!
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1ad, 1im	12/19, 1/18	Chippewa NC, Mi	JSm, PS	
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2	1/8	Karn Plant, Ba	RW, JS, GS	
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10	1/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	8 there on 12/3.
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1	2/9	Salzburg Rd, Mi	DB	Several other reports.
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NORTHERN HARRIER:

2	12/8, 2/9	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
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2	2/24	Bay City Rd, Mi	DB	Other scattered reports.
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SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:

1	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
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2	12/17	Midland CBC		Ties count high.
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1	1/8	Chippewa NC, Mi	JL	
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One also wintered near Mary Buzzard's feeder in Bay County.

COOPER'S HAWK:

Scattered sightings of single birds through period.

RED-TAILED HAWK:

Scattered sightings through period.

26	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high!
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22	12/18	Bay City CBC		
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19	1/11	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Peak.
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ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:

Scattered sightings through period.

7	1/11	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG	Peak.
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5	1/28	Lake Twp, Hu	ME, TH	
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AMERICAN KESTREL:

Scattered sightings through period.

17	12/17	Midland CBC		
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26	12/18	Bay City CBC		
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MERLIN:

1	1/21	Port Crescent SP, Hu	TH	First Jan. record!
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GYRFALCON:

1	1/9-10	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, RW, EK	
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Only the fourth SBA record-three of these have come in the last two winters! Dave found this gray-phase "brown" immature bird feeding in one of the farm units. Interestingly, it had facial markings very similar to the bird seen last winter by Bob Bell at Tawas Point SP, Io.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT:

Scattered sightings through period. Reported from Saginaw and Shiawassee NWR, Sa and both reported CBCs.

RUFFED GROUSE:

1	12/17	Midland CBC		
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1	12/28	Tawas Point SP, Io	GZ	Numbers still seem low.
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WILD TURKEY:

50	12/11	Old-23, Io	BB	Peak.
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20	12/17	Midland CBC		
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AMERICAN COOT:

50	12/1	MCV Pond, Mi	RW, EK, SR	29 left on 2/28.
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2	12/10	Tawas Lake, Io	RW, SR	
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2	12/18	Bay City CBC		
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COMMON SNIBE:

2	12/5	Nayanquing Pt WA, Ba	KM	Rare in winter.
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BONAPARTE'S GULL:

250	12/1	MCV Pond, Mi	RW, EK, SR	
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150	12/6	Saginaw, Sa	JS	
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1	12/17	Midland CBC		New for count!
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1	12/31	Tawas Point SP, Io	RW	Last report.
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RING-BILLED GULL:

Good numbers were reported from MCV, Mi in early December (EK).

424	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
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35	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high!
20	12/29	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
HERRING GULL:				
1000	12/3	Bay City SP, Ba	RW, SR	
1007	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high!
637	12/21	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
725	1/17	Saginaw R, Ba	JS	A new batch appeared.
14	1/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
GLAUCOUS GULL:				
1	12/5	Au Sable RM, Io	KM	
2	12/8	Eagle Bay, Hu	ME	
1	12/17	Midland CBC		Only 2nd time for count.
2	1/1	Au Sable RM, Io	JG	
4	1/17	Saginaw R, Ba	JS	
ICELAND GULL:				
2 ad	1/21	Saginaw R, Ba	R&MP	First in a couple years.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:				
1	thru 1/1	Bay City SP, Ba	RW, JG, et. al.	Noted on Bay City CBC.
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:				
7	12/8	Eagle Bay, Hu	ME	
11	12/28	Knight Rd, Ba	JS	
2	12/29	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP, BG	Still rare at SNWR.
5	1/1	Au Sable RM, Io	JG	
THICK-BILLED MURRE:				
1	12/27-28	Knight Road, Ba	DD, MW	
<p>This bird was found by Dan Duso of Bay City and was seen at a distance of "400 to 500 yards" with 10x binoculars. He said that it flew in close to a group of Common Mergansers and Black Ducks. He stated that it looked most like the Thick-billed Murre in his field guide and he believes that what it was. He saw a thick bill (non-duck-like bill) and did not see the bird dive. Myles Willard saw the bird at about "100-150 yards" and got a good side view for about five seconds. He said the bird was diving about 80% of the time. He described a bird that was black on the back and top of the head with a mottled along the side of the neck. It had a heavy body and a rounded head that was thick as was the neck. Both mandibles were thick and parallel "like that of a Tufted Titmouse". The lower mandible joined the face in a white area. The size of the bird was described as just over half the size of a nearby Common Merganser. Myles also felt the bird was a Thick-billed Murre. No details of how the bird was eliminated from certain similar species (including other seabirds) were discussed. Written documentation was requested from each observer but neither wished to do so. Any inquiries should be directed to the actual observers and not this regional compiler.</p> <p>Another bird (a domestic duck) was seen shortly after these sightings in the same area. However, both observers saw a thick bill that did not match that of the domestic bird. The bird Myles saw was also diving frequently.</p>				
ROCK DOVE:				
Common through period. Peak of 75 on 12/10 at the Au Sable River mouth, Io (RW, SR).				
MOURNING DOVE:				
95	12/28	Midland, Mi	GZ	
145	1/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL:				
1	12/16	Hampton Twp	JS	
1	12/17	Midland CBC		
3	12/18	Bay City CBC		
2	2/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	via DP	
1	2/20	Hampton Twp	JS, GS	
GREAT HORNED OWL:				
1	12/18	Bay City CBC		
1	1/20	Midland, Mi	GZ	
1	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
SNOWY OWL:				
2	12/1	Owendale, Hu	MEM	
1	12/6	Saginaw Twp, Sa	ME	Very few this winter.
1	2/4	Homer Twp, Mi	AL	
BARRED OWL:				
1	12/17	Midland CBC		Only report.
SHORT-EARED OWL:				
1	1/7	Hampton Twp	JS, GS, RW	
1	1/25	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
It was an excellent winter (statewide) to see this species.				
BELTED KINGFISHER:				
1	12/17	Midland CBC		Very few this winter.
1	1/16	largo Springs, Io	BB	Odd winter location.
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:				



3	12/3	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG	
15	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high.
4	12/18	Bay City CBC		
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:				
1	12/3	Tobico Marsh SGA, Ba	JG	Rare winter sighting!
DOWNY WOODPECKER:				
Common through period.				
HAIRY WOODPECKER:				
Fairly common through period.				
NORTHERN FLICKER:				
2	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	~12/17	Midland CBC		Count week bird.
1	12/18	Bay City CBC		
1	1/28	Lake Twp, Hu	TH, ME	
1	2/5	Green Pt NC, Sa	M&JH	
PILEATED WOODPECKER:				
1	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
1	Feb	Homer Twp, Mi	RB	
1	2/5	Green Pt NC, Sa	M&JH	
3	2/22	Green Pt NC, Sa	via DP	New SBA peak count.
HORNED LARK:				
Scattered sightings through period.				
BLUE JAY:				
Common through period.				
AMERICAN CROW:				
692	12/17	Midland CBC		
150	1/7	Saginaw, Sa	DP	
The usual hundreds making daily movements to and from the roosting sites in Midland, Mi.				
COMMON RAVEN:				
8	12/25	Iosco County	BB	
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:				
Common through period.				
TUFTED TITMOUSE:				
Common through period.				
57	12/17	Midland CBC		New count high!
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:				
1	12/17	Midland CBC		
6	12/25	Rollways Rd, Io	BB	Few this winter.
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:				
Common through period.				
BROWN CREEPER:				
Scattered sightings through period.				
CAROLINA WREN:				
1	into Jan.	Lee Twp, Mi	EW	Present since October.
1	12/13	Midland, Mi	ML	
1	12/13	Midland, Mi	EJB via JL	Also present since October.
1	12/17	Midland CBC		
1	2/7	Green Point, Sa	via DP	
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:				
1	12/25	Rollways Rd, Io	BB	Only report.
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:				
5	12/17	Midland CBC		First count record.
4	1/7-9	Midland, Mi	JN	
21	~1/21	Home Twp, Mi	A&HL	6 on Feb. 9, still some on 12th.
2	2/8	Chippewa NC, Mi	JL	
There were many reports of bluebirds this winter. Myles Willard from the Thumb had reports almost weekly.				
AMERICAN ROBIN:				
Scattered sightings through period. More common than usual this winter.				
7	12/15	Saginaw Twp, Sa	ME	
3	12/28	Tawas Point SP, Io	GZ	
4	1/10	Chippewa NC, Mi	JSm	
10	2/4	Chippewa NC, Mi	KB	
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:				
1	2/28	Euclid & Salzburg, Ba	MB	Wintering bird?
CEDAR WAXWING:				
Fairly common through period.				
70	12/11	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	



54	2/15	Bay County	RA	
NORTHERN SHRIKE:				
Scattered sightings through period.				
2	12/1	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
5	2/18	n. Huron County	TH	
2	2/28	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	Reappeared on this date.
EUROPEAN STARLING:				
Common through period.				
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:				
1	12/24	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	
1	2/4	Midland, Mi	ML via JL	
NORTHERN CARDINAL:				
Common through period.				
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:				
Fairly common through period. Not as common as in some years.				
115	2/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
SONG SPARROW:				
Scattered sightings through December, but only one report after the first of the year.				
1	2/14	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
LINCOLN'S SPARROW:				
1	12/17	Midland CBC		First SBA winter record!
This bird was seen and documented by Janea Little and Michael and Sara Ladenburger. The gray face and buffy breast were noted on this bird found in Midland County's Ingersoll Twp. Write-up enclosed for state compiler.				
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:				
5	12/18	Bay City CBC		At Mary Buzzard's feeder.
Five to six of these sparrows spent the entire period at the Buzzard's feeder.				
1	2/20	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, GS	Odd date & location.
DARK-EYED JUNCO:				
Fairly common through period.				
LAPLAND LONGSPUR:				
16	12/8 tp	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	3 left on 2/28.
225	12/23	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	BG, MW	Peak.
A group apparently overwintered at Shiawassee as DP reported varying numbers throughout the entire period.				
3	1/28	Lake Twp, Hu	TH, ME	
SNOW BUNTING:				
Less common than usual this winter.				
280	1/11	Shiawassee NWR, Sa	DP	
BLACKBIRD SP.:				
30	12/28	Tawas Point SP, Io	GZ	
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:				
1	12/11	Karn Plant, Ba	JS, GS	
1	1/15	Hampton Twp, Ba	JS	Only third or fourth Jan. record!
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:				
Reported from Mary Buzzard's feeder in Bay County through period.				
30	1/22	Essexville, Ba	JS, GS	
105	1/27	Essexville, Ba	JS	
PURPLE FINCH:				
6	12/4	Iargo Springs, Io	RA	
11	12/26	Tawas Point SP, Io	BB	
1	2/14	Beaver & Two Mi, Ba	JG	Again only a few reports.
HOUSE FINCH:				
Very common through period.				
605	12/17	Midland CBC		
496	12/18	Bay City CBC		
50	12/25	Bangor Twp	JS	
RED CROSSBILL:				
up to 40	12/25-1/16	Iargo Springs area, Io	BB	
This species was seen four times along Rollways Road and at Iargo Springs over the date range listed.				
PINE SISKIN:				
Very rare this winter.				
4	12/17	Midland CBC		
1	2/28	River & Dice, Sa	via DP	
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:				
Much less common than usual this winter.				
EVENING GROSBEAK:				
3	1/16	Loud Dam, Io	BB	Only report.
HOUSE SPARROW:				



Common through period.

TOTAL: 104 species

RECORDS FROM OUTSIDE THE SBA

None reported this period.

ADDENDUM/CORRECTIONS:

None remembered. I know there were mistakes.

OBSERVERS:

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

ABBREVIATIONS

Ba	Bay County
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
DDI	Diked Disposal Island
Hu	Huron County
Io	Iosco County
MCV Pond	Midland Cogeneration Venture Pond
Mi	Midland County
NC	Nature Center
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
Sa	Saginaw County



Winter 94-95

SBA Saginaw Bay Area
 SL Sewage Lagoons
 SP State Park
 tp through period
 Tu Tuscola County

SPRING 1995 FEATURE BIRD (PURPLE MARTIN):

The winter 1994-95 winners are . The spring feature bird this time around is Purple Martin. The peak and first spring sighting will both be given special recognition. Below are the all-time and five previous year standards.

EARLIEST SPRING DATE: (4) 5 April 1955 Midland, Mi (Kenaga) A young Gene Kenaga!
 SPRING HIGH COUNT: (20) 27 May 1971 Chippewa NC, Mi (Hayes, Annelin) A very young Ron Annelin!

1993 ARRIVAL:	April 14	Fish Pt, Tu (M&J Hubinger)
1992 ARRIVAL:	April 22	Lake Twp, Hu (Essenmacher)
1991 ARRIVAL:	April 10	Saginaw R, Ba (J Soehnel)
1990 ARRIVAL:	April 24	Caro, Tu (Willard)
1989 ARRIVAL:	April 20	Bay City SP, Ba (Weeks)

WEATHER EXPLANATION:

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.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Book

The long-awaited *Birds and Bird Finding in the Saginaw Bay Area* book is finally finished. It includes species accounts covering every bird ever reported from the Saginaw Bay Area, bar graphs, comprehensive early and late dates, peak counts for each of the *Audubon Field Notes* quarters and a 46-page bird finding guide. It has limited distribution at this point, but is available from Ron Weeks (the author), the Chippewa Nature Center, and Cherri's Seed-n-Feed. RJW

Databasing

With this issue of the quarterly survey, we have initiated the databasing process for all records sent in. Virtually all of the records sent in are entered (many more than appear in the preceding spring survey). In the next few years, we will be going back and entering all of the historic records for the SBA. After that is completed one will be able to do searches. One could choose to see all Lapland Longspur records for the winter period in the history of Saginaw Bay (or as far back as we have entered) and have all sightings fitting that criteria listed on a printout or screen display.

As part of this project, Steve will be approaching those with spreadsheets to educate them on how they may configure their records for immediate entry at the end of the period. In the end it will save us hours of inputting records. Give Steve or I a call if you are interested. RJW

HAWKS '95

It's that time of year again and the hawks are already flying at Port Crescent State Park (PCSP). The hawk watch has gained considerable momentum after 10,573 hawks were counted at PCSP last year exceeding the Whitefish Point total of 8,438 hawks. Funds have been raised to construct an observation platform and construction will begin soon. Tom Heatley a well-known hawk bander in the region will spend the entire month of April at the park. Tom's setup alone is worth the visit to PCSP and on a good flight day close-up views of the netted birds are possible before Tom releases them. Huron Audubon's Hawkfest '95 program will occur at the park on **Saturday April 29th**. Best viewing time is from 9am-4pm. Plan to spend the entire day as the timing of the hawk flight can vary. Special guest speaker Dave Stimac, co-author of the *Hawks of Holiday Beach*, will be giving a slide presentation at the ranger station highlighting photographs from his years of hawk watching. Dave will be on hand all day to help everyone with their raptor identification skills. This is the best place in Michigan in spring to see numbers of Cooper's Hawks and learn to separate them from Sharp-shinned Hawks. Also Huron Audubon will be having a pot luck luncheon at the Hawkfest, so if you are bringing a large group let us know so we can plan the food accordingly. For more information call Monica Essenmacher at 792-1129. Just to whet your appetite we have included graphs of last year's hawk sightings. SR

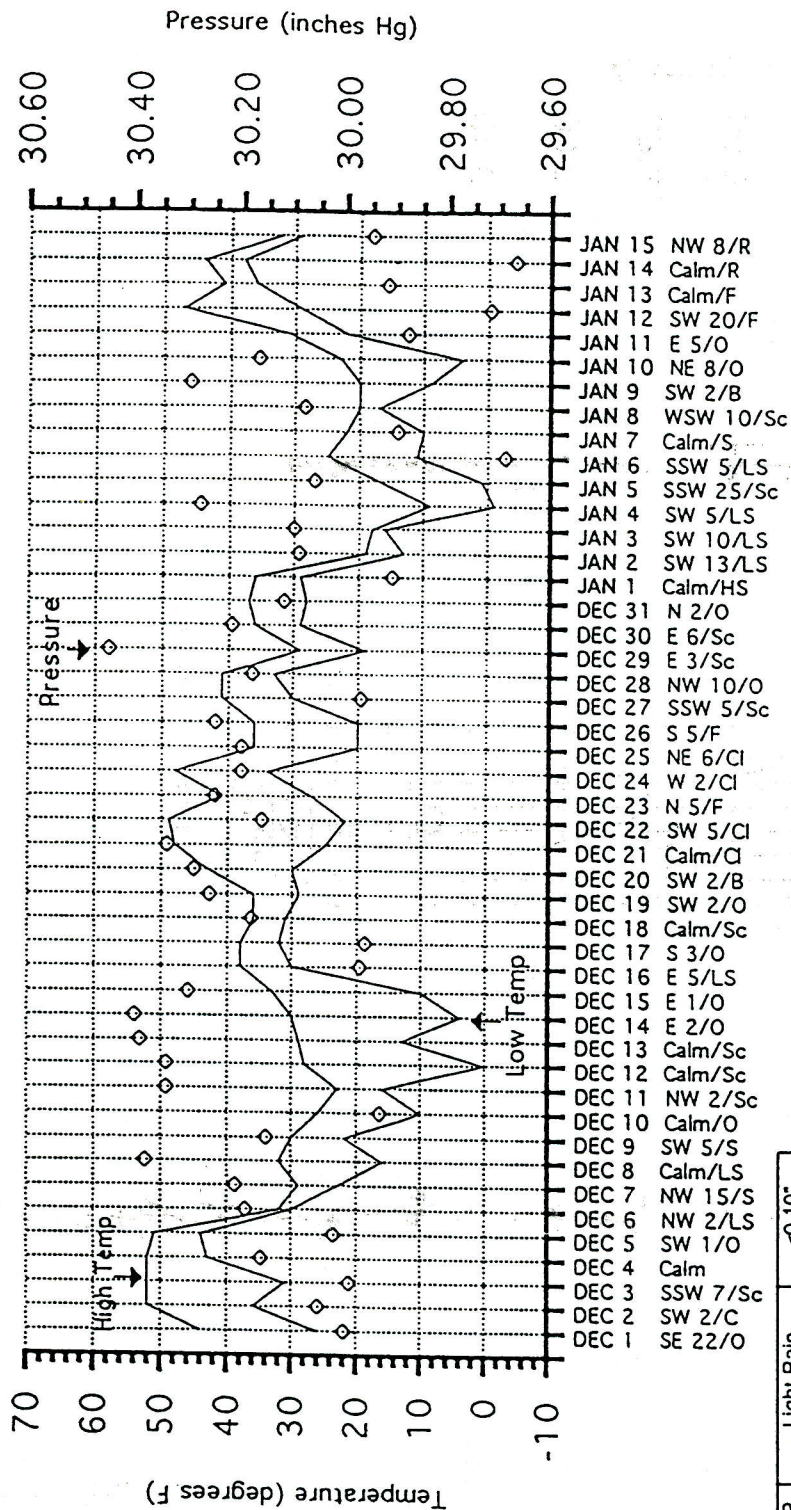




Winter 94-95

10

Weather Winter '94-95

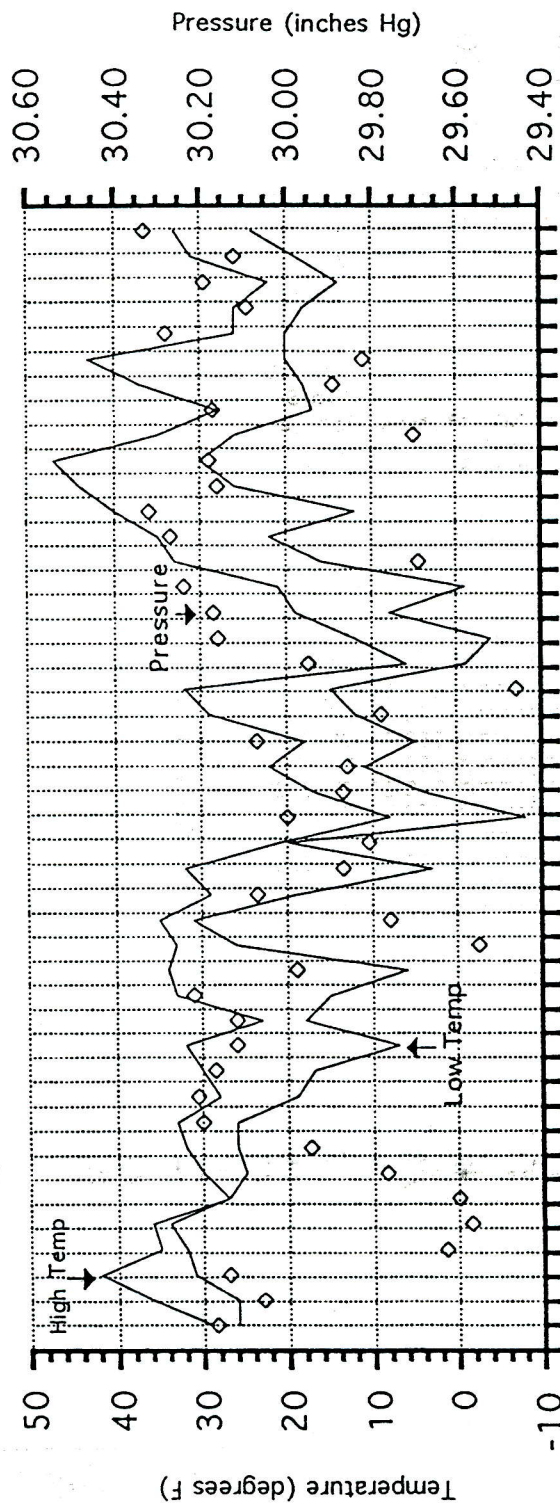


Date/Wind Dir./Wind Speed/Sky Condition

LR	Light Rain	<0.10"
R	Rain	0.10"-0.50"
LS	Light Snow	<0.50"
S	Snow	0.5-3"
HS	Heavy Snow	>3"
Sc	Scattered Clouds	
B	Broken Clouds	
CI	Clear	
F	Fog	



Weather Winter '94-95

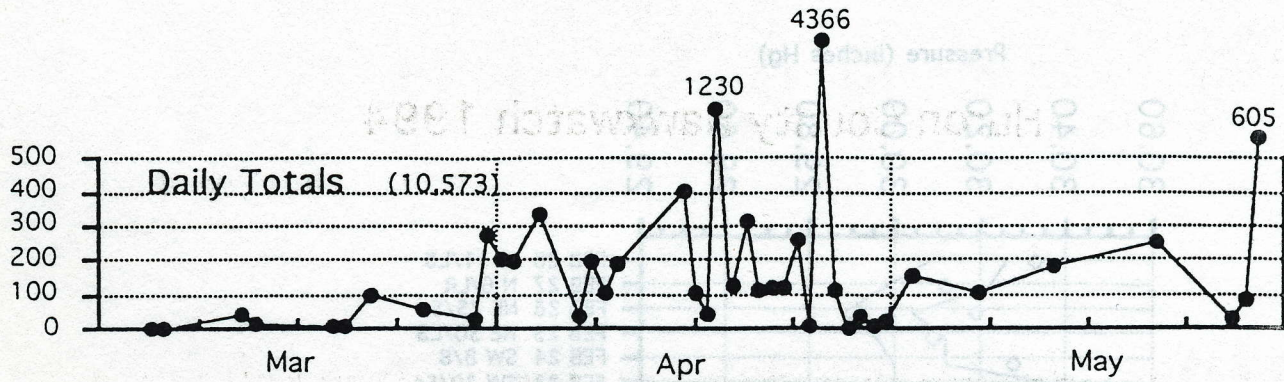


FEB 28 W 11/LS
FEB 27 N 6/LR
FEB 26 NE 25/S
FEB 25 NE 30/LS
FEB 24 SW 8/B
FEB 23 SW 20/Sc
FEB 22 Calm/O
FEB 21 NW 3/CI
FEB 20 W 5/O
FEB 19 NE 2/CI
FEB 18 S 15/Sc
FEB 17 SSW 15/Sc
FEB 16 W 2/CI
FEB 15 SW 17/R
FEB 14 SW 5/Sc
FEB 13 SW 25/Sc
FEB 12 WSW 20/Sc
FEB 11 SW 25/LS
FEB 10 SW 35/LS
FEB 9 SW 8/B
FEB 8 SW 10/B
FEB 7 WNW/11/Sc
FEB 7 WNW/11/Sc
FEB 6 NW 11/Sc
FEB 5 NW 15/Sc
FEB 4 NW 30/Sc
FEB 3 Calm/O
FEB 2 NE 5/Sc
FEB 1 NW 5/O
JAN 31 SW 25/O
JAN 30 SSW 9/B
JAN 29 Calm/Sc
JAN 28 NE 25/Sc
JAN 27 NE 3/Sc
JAN 26 SW 8/CI
JAN 25 NW 7/LS
JAN 24 SW 7/LS
JAN 23 Calm/S
JAN 22 W 2/S
JAN 21 W 2/HS
JAN 20 NW 10/S
JAN 19 NE 15/F
JAN 18 SW 2/Sc
JAN 17 SE 3/CI
JAN 16 Calm/O
JAN 16 Calm/O

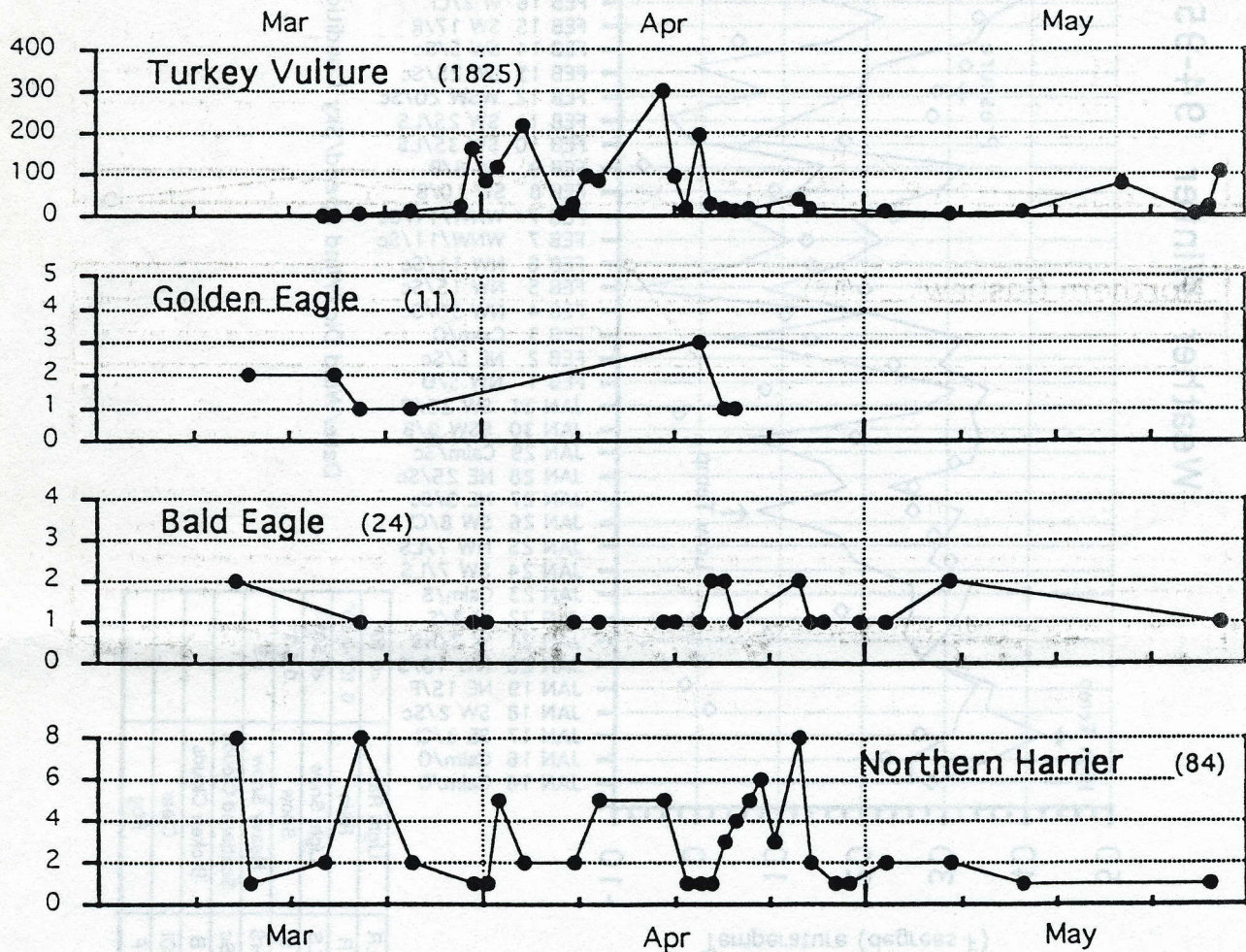
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Huron County Hawkwatch 1994

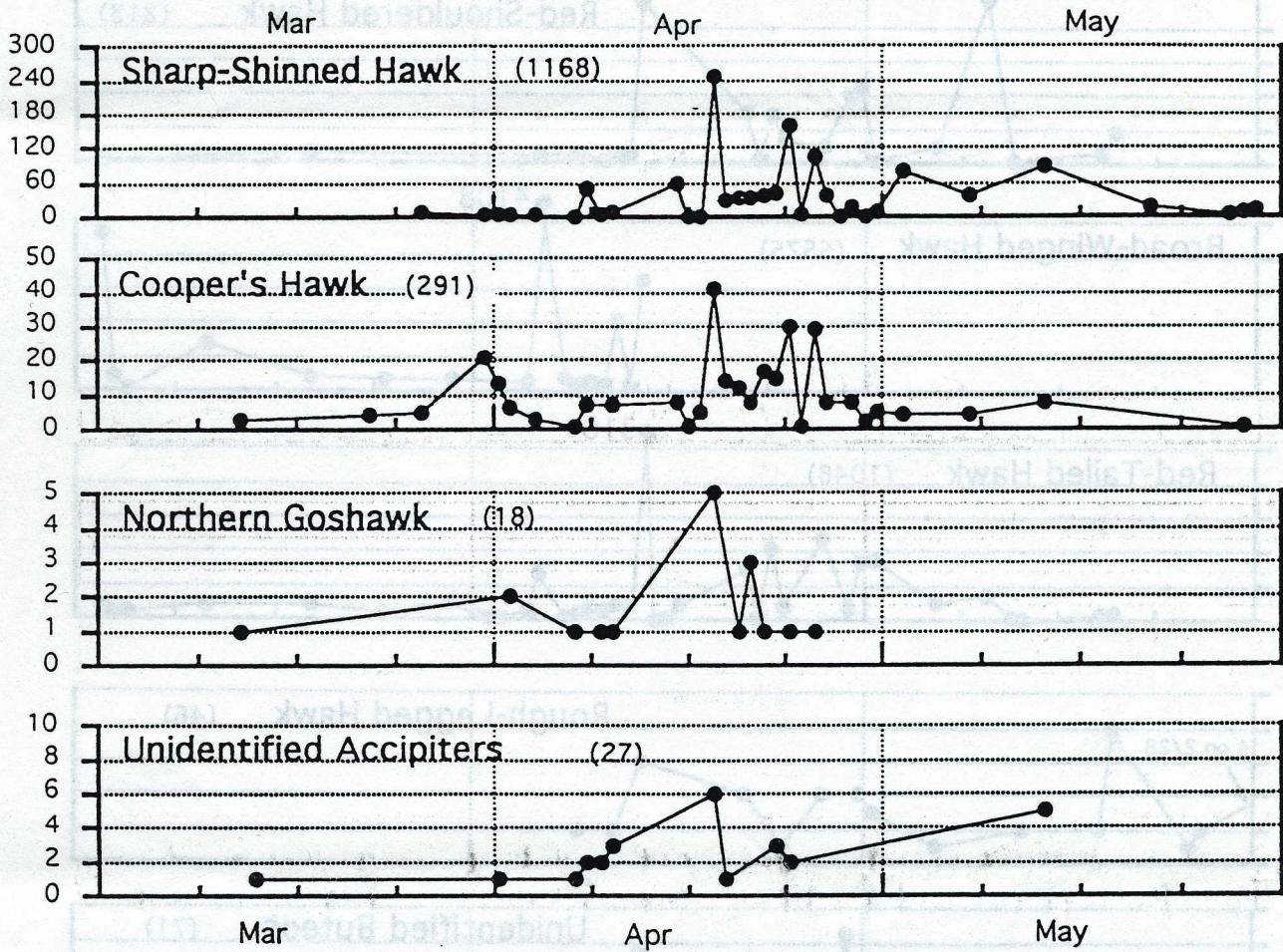


Vultures, Eagles, Harriers



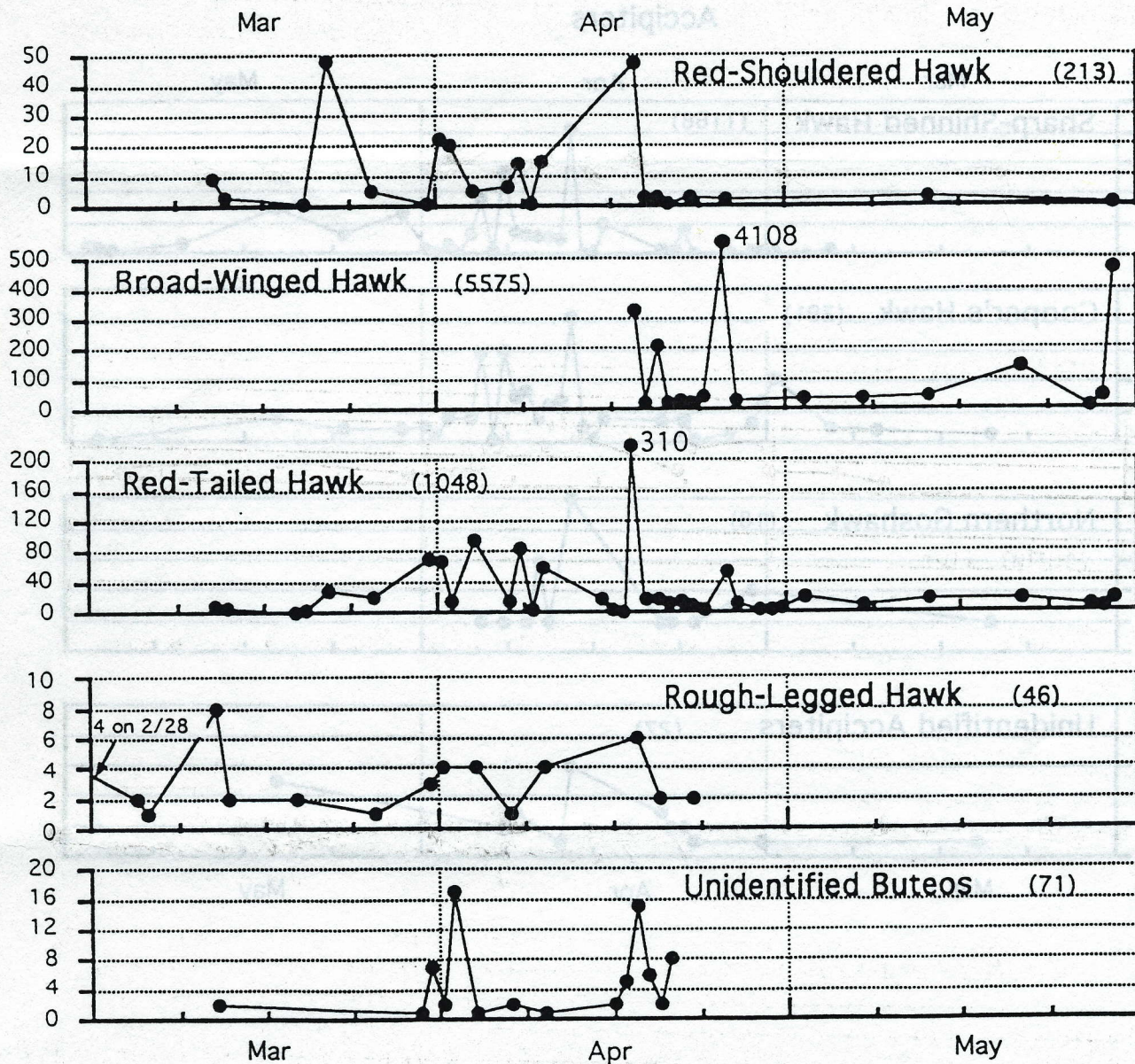
Huron County Hawkwatch 1994

Accipiters

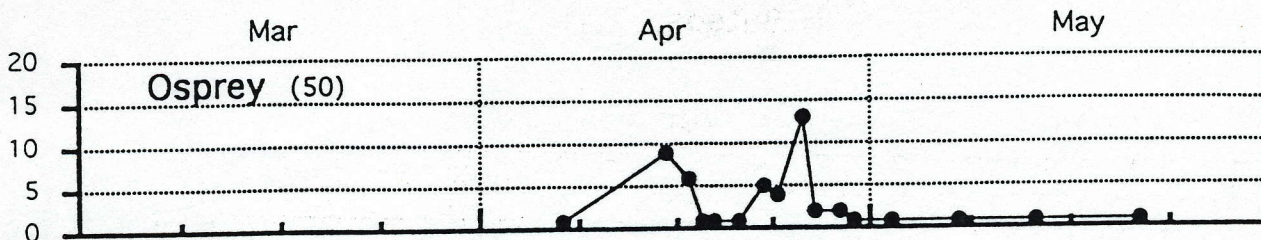


Huron County Hawkwatch 1994

Buteos



Huron County Hawkwatch 1994



Falcons

