

Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area

June 1 through July 31, 2004

Compiled by: Jerry Ziarno
6208 Sturgeon Creek Pkwy
Midland, MI 48640
(989) 832-5936
gziarno@aol.com

Weather: This summer was rather unremarkable from a weather standpoint with no major fronts moving through the area. The temperatures remained rather cool and we had more precipitation than in the past several summers. Water levels in Saginaw Bay continued to rise somewhat and as did the levels in the pools at places like Nayanquing Pt. and Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

Summary: In spite of the lack of any major weather fronts and also the reduced number of reports being submitted, the total number of species reported was a reasonable **166**. The season reflected some lingering spring migrants and the return of some early fall migrants. Some of the highlights included an increasing number of **Cattle Egrets** in Bay County, both **Scaup** species, somewhat unusual in summer, a breeding pair of Northern Mockingbirds at Tawas Point SP, a late Tennessee Warbler at Shiawassee NWR. Vast numbers of Tree Swallows were reported from SNWR as well as from Nayanquing Pt. WA in mid-to-late July. Also at SNWR, a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes produced a brood of three chicks, which were photographed.

Thanks to all for your participation.

Species	Num.	Date	Location	Co.	Observer	Comments
COMMON LOON:	5	30-Jun	Cooke Pond	Io	WS	
PIED-BILLED GREBE:	8	28-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	7 downy chicks
	12	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Also in Ba.
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:	CTP			Ba	JS	Denuding foliage on CDF.
AMERICAN BITTERN:	7	9-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Also in Ba.
	3	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
LEAST BITTERN:	4	27-Jun	Nay. Pt.	Ba	M&JH	
GREAT BLUE HERON:	CTP		Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in Mi, Io.
	12		Kaw kaw lin Flooding	Mi	JZ	
GREAT EGRET:	128	17-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Also in Ba.
	117	29-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	90 there on 7/14.
CATTLE EGRET:	2	29-Jun	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	
	9	14-Jul	Bangor Tw p.	Ba	MG	

GREEN HERON:	21	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Also in Ba, Io, Mi
BLACK-CRN NIGHT HERON:	7	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Also in Ba
TURKEY VULTURE:	22	22-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	Io	JS	CTP in Ba, Sa, Mi, Io.
CANADA GOOSE:	CTP					All counties.
MUTE SWAN:						Noted in Ba, Sa
TRUMPETER SWAN:	1	10-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Then TP.
WOOD DUCK:	10	29-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	Brood. Also in Ba
	16	24-Jul	BCSRA	Ba	DH	
GADWALL:	3	18-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	
AMERICAN WIGEON:	2	4-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Also on 6/18.
MALLARD:	455	18-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	TP in all counties.
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:	8	10-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Last sighting.
	1	28-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First fall sighting.
BLUE-WINGED TEAL:	40	4-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Nesting w /sev. Broods. Also in Ba.
NORTHERN SHOVELER:	3	23-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Noted in Ba.
	6	16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Brood.
NORTHERN PINTAIL:	4	12-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DH	
GREEN-WINGED TEAL:	48	8-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak. TP. Also in Ba.
REDHEAD:	2	18-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	Also in Ba.
GREATER SCAUP:	1	12-Jun	Nay. Pt.	Ba	KO, PK, ER	Rare in summer. fide SBB.
LESSER SCAUP:	1	9-Jul	Tuttle Marsh	Io	BB	Rare in summer.
HOODED MERGANSER:	7		SNWR	Sa	BG, LA	
RUDDY DUCK:	15	23-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak. TP
	14		SNWR	Sa	DP, BG	Peak
OSPREY:	1	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area	Io	WS	Also at Tuttle Marsh (BB) and Mi.
BALD EAGLE:	2	TP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in Io,

	2	12-Jun	Wahl Rd., SSGA	Sa	DH	I ad, 1 juv. In nest.
NORTHERN HARRIER:	1	1-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JZ	
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:	1	12-Jun	Wahl Rd., SSGA	Sa	DH	
COOPER'S HAWK:	1	TP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in lo
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:	1	12-Jun	CNC	Mi	KO, PK, ER	Fide SBB
	1	17-Jul	W. of Merrill	Sa	BW	Not sure if this is in Sa.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK:	1	12-Jun	CNC	Mi	KO, PK, ER	fide SBB
RED-TAILED HAWK:	2	TP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in Mi,
AMERICAN KESTREL:	2	TP	Bangor Tw p	Ba	JS	
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:	2	CTP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in Sa.
RUFFED GROUSE:	1	16-Jun	Kaw kaw lin Flooding	Mi	JZ	Also in lo.
WILD TURKEY:				lo	JS	Also in Mi, Sa.
VIRGINIA RAIL:	1	25-Jul	Tobico Marsh	Ba	DH	Juvenile
SORA:	1	20-Jun	TPSP	lo	JS	Heard all week.
COMMON MOORHEN:	1	11-Jun	Nay. Pt.	Ba	JZ	
	13	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
AMERICAN COOT:	16	27-Jun	Nay. Pt.	Ba	M&JH	
	8	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
SANDHILL CRANE:	2	25-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, LA	
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:	2	8-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First fall arrivals.
	1	21-Jul	TPSP	lo	JS	
KILLDEER:	116	20-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Nesting observed. Also noted in Ba, lo
GREATER YELLOWLEGS:	4	16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First fall arrivals.
	13	20-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	
LESSER YELLOWLEGS:	7	1-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First fall arrival.
	35	16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Also in Ba
SOLITARY SANDPIPER:	1	16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First arrival.
	2	28-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	

SPOTTED SANDPIPER:	13	4-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak. Also noted in Ba, lo 2 downy chicks.
		16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	
	3	22-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
SANDERLING:	6	21-Jul	TPSP	lo	JS	
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:	15	4-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak
	1	23-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Last spring migrant.
	1	16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	1st fall migrant.
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:	1	21-Jul	TPSP	lo	JS	
LEAST SANDPIPER:	4	1-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First fall migrants.
	29	16-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak. Also in Ba.
PECTORAL SANDPIPER:	6	20-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First fall arrivals.
DUNLIN:	48	3-Jun	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Peak
	1	23-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Last spring migrants.
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:	11	8-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First arrivals.
	44	22-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Peak.
WILSON'S SNIPE:	1	20-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First arrival.
	22	22-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Peak. Also in Ba.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE:	2	17-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	2 females.
	4	18-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	3 chicks, photos.
BONAPARTE'S GULL:	1	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
RING-BILLED GULL:	100	TP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	All counties
HERRING GULL:	24	TP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:	1	23-Jun	TPSP	lo	JS, GS	
CASPIAN TERN:	26	20-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak. TP. Also in Ba, lo.
	2	28-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	First juveniles.
COMMON TERN:	12	3-Jul	TPSP	lo	JS	Extremely territorial, diving.
	3	20-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Also in Mi.
BLACK TERN:	6	15-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Nesting on Pool 2.
	20	27-Jun	May. Pt.	Ba	M&JH	
	2	27-Jun	Tawas Bay Area	lo	JS	Also at Tuttle Marsh, BB.
ROCK PIGEON:	50	CTP	Bay City	Ba	JS	All counties.

MOURNING DOVE:			CTP			All counties
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:	1	6-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	Also on 7/22.
	2	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:	2	7-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	
GREAT HORNED OWL:	1	14-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS, LA	
BARRED OWL:	1	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area.	lo	WS	
COMMON NIGHTHAWK:	1	12-Jun	Saginaw	Sa	DP	Then TP.
CHIMNEY SWIFT:	15	22-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	Peak. Also in Ba.
	5	CTP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in lo.
RUBY-THR. HUMMINGBIRD:	2	TP	TPSP	lo	JS	Also in Mi, Ba.
BELTED KINGFISHER:	4	29-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DP	Also in Ba, lo
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:	2	1-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JZ	Attending nest in tree. Also in lo.
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:	2	TP	Midland	Mi	JZ	Also in Ba, lo
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:	1	22-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	Probable nesting.
	1	9-Jul	Highbanks Trail	lo	BB	
DOWNY WOODPECKER:	4	TP	Feeder, Midland	Mi	JZ	Also in Ba, Sa
	9	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	
HAIRY WOODPECKER:	2	TP	Feeder. Midland	Mi	JZ	Also in Ba.
NORTHERN FLICKER:	10	15-Jul	SMWR	Sa	BG	Also in Ba, lo, Mi,
PILEATED WOODPECKER:	2	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area.	lo	WS	
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:	2	25-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, LA	Noted in Ba, Mi,
ALDER FLYCATCHER:	2	3-Jun	Hampton Tw p	Ba	JS	
WILLOW FLYCATCHER:	4	6-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	TP
	9	17-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	
LEAST FLYCATCHER:	1	16-Jun	Kaw kaw lin Flooding	Mi	JZ	Also on 6/27.
	2	18-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
EASTERN PHOEBE:						Noted in Ba, lo.

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER:	2	25-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Also noted in Ba, Mi, lo.
EASTERN KINGBIRD:	12	6-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JZ	Also in lo, Sa
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:	1	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	
WARBLING VIREO:	5	22-Jun	TPSP	lo	JS, GS	2 ad., 3 juv. Adult on nest on 6/20
	11	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	Also noted in Ba, Mi
RED-EYED VIREO:	4	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	Also noted in Ba, lo
BLUE JAY:		CTP				All counties
AMERICAN CROW:		CTP				All counties
COMMON RAVEN:	4	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	
	5	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area	lo	WS	
HORNED LARK:	5	12-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DH	
PURPLE MARTIN:	35	21-Jul	Tawas Bay	lo	JS	2 active martin houses.
TREE SWALLOW:	18,000-20,000	14-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS, LA	Late evening into dark, feeding on insect hatch. "Most swallows we ever saw in our lives". Also noted in Ba, lo, Mi Swarming.
	1200	24-Jul	Nay. Pt.	Ba	DH	
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:	10	25-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, LA	Also noted in Ba
BANK SWALLOW:						
CLIFF SWALLOW:	20	6-Jul	Foot Dam	lo	JZ	
	12	29-Jul	Bay City	Ba	JS	Under all bridges.
BARN SWALLOW:	10	CTP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	Also in lo, Mi
	12	23-Jul	SNWR	Sa	DH	
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:	6	CTP	Midland	Mi	JZ	Noted in all counties.
TUFTED TITMOUSE:	4	CTP	Midland	Mi	JZ	
RED-BREADED NUTHATCH:	5	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area.	lo	WS	Also in Ba
WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH:	4		Midland	Mi	JZ	Also in Ba
BROWN CREEPER:	1	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area.	lo	WS	

HOUSE WREN:	5	28-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	2 ad, 3 juv. In yard. Also in lo, Mi, Sa
WINTER WREN:	?	?	Highbanks	lo	BB	Seen & heard sev. times.
SEDGE WREN:	4	3-Jun	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	
	4	6-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, LA, CS	Also on 6/23, 7/30.
MARSH WREN:		CTP	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JS	
	7	29-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	
	10	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:	12	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:	2	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	Also in Ba
VEERY:	1	16-Jun	Kaw kaw lin Flooding	Mi	JZ	
	8	27-Jun	Kaw kaw lin Flooding	Mi	JZ	Also in Ba.
SWAINSON'S THRUSH:	1	12-Jun	Wahl Rd., SSGA	Sa	DH	Late migrant?
HERMIT THRUSH:	4	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	
WOOD THRUSH:		TP	SNWR	Sa	DP	
	2	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	Also in Mi, Ba
AMERICAN ROBIN:		CTP				In all counties
GRAY CATBIRD:	8	CTP	Knight Rd.	Ba	JZ	Also in lo, Mi
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:	1	20-Jun	TPSP	lo	JS	Consistently observed for 6 days. Camp host had seen two birds, probable nesting est.
BROWN THRASHER:		TP				Noted in Ba, lo, Mi,
EUROPEAN STARLING:		CTP				Noted in all counties.
CEDAR WAXWING:	10	1-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JZ	Also noted in lo, Mi, Sa
	14	24-Jul	BSCRA	Ba	DH	
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:	1	2-Jun	CNC	Mi	RD	
	1	27-Jun	Flajole Rd.	Ba	M&JH	
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:	1	12-Jun	M-30 & US-10	Mi	KO, PK, ER	fide SBB.
TENNESSEE WARBLER:	1	25-Jun	SNWR	BG, LA		Late migrant?

NASHVILLE WARBLER:	2	22-Jun	Monument Rd.	lo	JS	
YELLOW WARBLER:	14	6-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	TP. Also noted in Ba, lo, Mi
BLACK-THR. BLUE WARBLER:	1	July	Pow erline Rd.	lo	BB	
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:	3	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	one carrying food.
BLACK-THR. GREEN WARBLER:	2	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	
PINE WARBLER:	1	22-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	
	1	6-Jul	Wilbur Tw p.	lo	JZ	
AMERICAN REDSTART:	2	20-Jun	TPSP	lo	JS	Nest building Also in Ba, Mi.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:	3	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	Nested.
OVENBIRD:	3	27-Jun	Kaw kaw lin Flooding	Mi	Mi	Also in lo,
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:	14	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Also in Ba, lo, Mi
SCARLET TANAGER:	1	14-Jun	SNWR	Sa	DP	
	2	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area	lo	WS	
EASTERN TOWHEE:	1	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	Also in Mi.
CHIPPING SPARROW:	2	1-Jul	Hampton Tw p	Ba	JZ	Also in lo
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:	5	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	Also in Mi.
FIELD SPARROW:	5	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	Also in Mi.
VESPER SPARROW:	3	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	
SAVANNAH SPARROW:	4	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	Also in Ba, Mi
HENSLOW'S SPARROW:	2	2-Jun	CNC	Mi	RD	New site for this sp?
SONG SPARROW:	8	1-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JZ	Also in lo, Mi, Sa
	25		SNWR	Sa	BG	
SWAMP SPARROW:	5	30-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG, CS	TP. Also in Ba, lo, Mi.
WHITE-THR. SPARROW:	1	16-Jun	CNC	Mi	JZ	Also in Ba.
	1	6-Jul	Wilbur Tw p.	lo	JZ	
NORTHERN CARDINAL:			CTP			All counties.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK:		CTP	Adams Tw p.	Ar	JZ	Noted in Ba, lo, Mi
INDIGO BUNTING:	8	25-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG, LA	
	4	1-Jul	Hampton Tw p.	Ba	JZ	Pair w /young.
BOBOLINK:	5	6-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	Also on 7/30. Also noted in Ba.
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:		CTP				All counties.
EASTERN MEADOWLARK:		TP				Noted in Mi, Ba, lo.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:	1	11-Jun	Nay. Pt.	Ba	JZ	
	20	27-Jun	Nay. Pt.	Ba	M&JH	
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:	5	26-Jun	Baldw in Tw p.	lo	JS	One w as territorial w ith others in its area.
COMMON GRACKLE:		CTP				All counties.
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:		CTP				Noted in Ba, lo,
ORCHARD ORIOLE:	2	21-Jun	TPSP	lo	JS	Nest found 12' up hanging below horizontal branch of a Black Spruce. Male incessantly harassed the RB Gulls that sat atop the bath house for entire time w e camped there. TP. Photos available. Also in Mi.
	2	21-Jul	Webster Rd.	Ba	BW	
BALTIMORE ORIOLE:	6	6-Jun	SNWR	Sa	BG	Also noted in Ba, lo.
PURPLE FINCH:	6	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area.	lo	WS	
HOUSE FINCH:		CTP				All counties
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:	25	15-Jul	SNWR	Sa	BG	Noted in all counties.
EVENING GROSBEAK:	4	30-Jun	Cooke Dam area.	lo	WS	
HOUSE SPARROW:		CTP				All counties
Total Species:	166					

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE SBA AREA:

A.M. WHITE PELICAN:	1	5-Jul	Rockford	Kent	PD	Interesting inland sighting.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK:	1	10-Jul	Paris	Mecosta	JS	

ABBREVIATIONS:

Ar	Arenac
Ba	Bay
Hu	Huron
Io	Iosco
Mi	Midland
Sa	Saginaw
Tu	Tuscola

BCSRA	Bay City State Recreational Area
CNC	Chippewa Nature Center
GPNC	Green Point Nature Center
Nay. Pt.	Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area
NMB	NorthMichiganBirding Website
SBB	Saginaw BayBirding Website
SNWR	Shiawasee National Wildlife Refuge
SSGA	Shiawasee State Game Area
TSPS	Tawas Point State Park
TWP	Township

CONTRIBUTORS

LA	Larry Abraham	PK	Peter Kaestner
BB	Bob Bell	JLi	Janea Little
DB	Denny Brooks	KO	Karl Overman
PD	Phil Davis	DP	David Peters
RD	Ryan Dziedzic	ER	Emelia Raukis
BG	Bob Grefe	CS	Carol Szaroletta
BG	Bob Grefe	GS	Grant Soehnel
MG	Maxin Gunthrie	JS	Joe Soehnel
DH	Daniel Hansz	WS	Wayne Shaw I
JH	Joan Hubinger	GV	George Vogel
MH	Mark Hubinger	BW	Bruce Winchell
		JZ	Jerry Ziarno