

Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area

June 1st thru July 31, 2005

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Weather: The two-month, summer reporting period was very warm, particularly compared to the same period of 2004. June '05 reported a remarkable seven days where the mercury hit ninety degrees (F) or above compared to just one day that hit ninety the previous June. An impressive twenty days in June/July recorded temps above eighty-five degrees; whereas, only four days got above eighty-five the previous year's period. The heat was clearly "turned up" for the summer of '05 in the SBA. (See attached weather chart for details.)

Precipitation for the two-month period saw just shy of two inches above average rainfall. This varied greatly as the thumb area and other areas of the SBA received higher rain totals with the many isolated showers that rumbled through the SBA. This was definitely a good summer for growing crops with the warmer temps and above-average rainfall!

Summary: This was a summer of missed species that normally occur in the SBA as there seemed to be fewer birders in the area and fewer reporting. Interestingly, the SBA total of 166 species matched the same total for last year's summer count. Shorebird habitat is lacking in the SBA as the lake levels have risen, taking out much of the nice shoreline from previous years. David Peters indicated that shorebird habitat at SNWR, SA was even lacking this summer period. On the up-side, Janea Little has reported that one of the CNC Wetlands Ponds has been drawn down so that may be worth checking. Tawas Point still does have good shorebird habitat as of the end of July.

Birds of impressive note for the summer period included: two **American White Pelican** at SNWR, SA on 06/02; **Cattle Egret** in Hampton Twp, BA on 06/19 & 07/30; the almost now regularly occurring **Piping Plover** at Tawas Point State Park, IO throughout the summer; **Acadian Flycatcher** at M-46 & the Cass River, TU through period; two **Carolina Wrens** in Saginaw Twp, SA on 07/11; **Brewster's Warbler** in western Saginaw County on 06/28; and three **Cerulean Warblers** on Fenmore Rd, SA in western Saginaw County. **Evening Grosbeaks**, both adult and fledglings, frequented Wayne Shawl's feeders. There are very few summer records for this species in the SBA, much less with young.

Last but not least, six **Dickcissels** were found on Fenmore Rd, SA on 06/25 with a very nice total of **twelve** counted in the same area on 06/28. Dickcissel populations invaded many areas of the southern lower peninsula this year. The last invasion occurred (as I can recall) in 1988 when the summer-time temps were much above normal as was the case with this summer's weather and invasion. Hmmm . . . Dickcissels – Get 'em in MI while it's hot!

Look for this report (graphs/photos in color) at <http://www.saginawbaybirding.org> along with a "heads up" on autumn records in the Saginaw Bay Area as they are reported to me at soehnelj@hotmail.com or by calling at 517-892-3687.

Good birding and, as always, thanks for sending in your seasonal reports!!!

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observers / Comment
CANADA GOOSE:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
MUTE SWAN:	8	07/05	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ
TRUMPETER SWAN:	1	06/01	SNWR, SA	DP – Stayed till 06/24
	7	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
WOOD DUCK:	67	07/27	Tuttle Marsh, IO	JS - Peak count. Also noted in BA, MI
GADWALL:	8	06/10	SNWR, SA	DP – Last on 06/16
AMERICAN WIGEON:	1	06/10	SNWR, SA	DP
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:	2	06/10	SNWR, SA	DP
MALLARD:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA - Peak of 1747 on 06/10 @ SNWR, SA - DP			
BLUE-WINGED TEAL:	2	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP – Also noted in BA, IO
NORTHERN SHOVELER:	1	06/10	SNWR, SA	DP
GREEN-WINGED TEAL:	2	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP – Peak of 19 on 06/30 there.
CANVASBACK:	1	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP
REDHEAD:	1	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP
	3	06/21	Crow Island, SA	MH
RING-NECKED DUCK:	1	07/05	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ – Also noted in SA
LESSER SCAUP:	2	06/02	SNWR, SA	DP
	1	06/21	Crow Island, SA	MH
HOODED MERGANSER:	2	07/27	Tuttle Marsh, IO	JS
COMMON MERGANSER:	12	07/24	Tawas Bay, IO	JS
RUDDY DUCK:	2	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:	Noted in BA			
RUFFED GROUSE:	1	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
WILD TURKEY:	Noted in IO, MI			
NORTHERN BOBWHITE:	1	07/29	Richville, SA	MW
COMMON LOON:	3	07/29	Highbanks Trail, IO	JS
PIED-BILLED GREBE:	77	07/22	SNWR, SA	DP - Peak count. Also noted in BA, IO, MI (See <i>Iosco sighting photo on pg 9.</i>)
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	2	06/02	SNWR, SA	DP
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:	130	07/30	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ

AMERICAN BITTERN:	2	06/03	SNWR, SA	BG, CS - Also noted in IO, TU
LEAST BITTERN:	1	06/23	Nayanquing Pt, BA	GW
	1	07/19	SNWR, SA	BG, CS
	1	07/30	Fish Pt, TU	SJ
GREAT BLUE HERON:	Noted in BA, IO			
GREAT EGRET:	Noted in BA, MI			
CATTLE EGRET:	1	07/30	Hampton Twp, BA	SJ
	1	06/19	Hampton Twp, BA	NM
GREEN HERON:	4	06/23	SNWR, SA	DP - Also noted in BA, MI
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:	Noted in BA, SA			
TURKEY VULTURE:	Noted in AR, BA, IO			
OSPREY:	1	07/14	SNWR, SA	JSo
	5	07/27	Tuttle Marsh, IO	JS – one adult was still tending to a juv. on nest.
BALD EAGLE:	Noted in BA, SA - Peak of 4 on 07/29 @ Lake Huron shoreline, IO - RE			
NORTHERN HARRIER:	1	06/30	Southern Bay Co.	JS
COOPER'S HAWK:	Noted in BA			
NORTHERN GOSHAWK:	2	07/24	Sidtown, IO	WS – Perched on the Sidtown sign off River Rd.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK:	2+	CTP	Mayville, TU	MW – Nested on Myles' property!
	1	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
RED-TAILED HAWK:	Noted in BA			
AMERICAN KESTREL:	Noted in AR, BA, SA			
VIRGINIA RAIL:	5	06/23	Nayanquing Pt, BA	GW – Also noted in SA
SORA:	Noted in BA			
COMMON MOORHEN:	5	07/13	Hampton Twp, BA	JS – 1 ad and 4 juv
	3	07/19	SNWR, SA	BG, CS
AMERICAN COOT:	1	07/05	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ
SANDHILL CRANE:	2	06/03	SNWR, SA	BG, CS
	2	07/27	Tuttle Marsh Area, IO	JS
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:	1	06/02	SNWR, SA	DP – Last
	1	07/22	SNWR, SA	DP – First return
	8	07/24	Tawas Area, IO	JS
PIPING PLOVER:	3	07/23	Tawas Area, IO	RE – at least 2 were banded
KILLDEER:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA – Peak of 18 on 06/24 @ SNWR, SA - DP			

GREATER YELLOWLEGS:	2	07/08	SNWR, SA	DP - Also noted in BA, IO
LESSER YELLOWLEGS:	1 70	06/02 07/15	SNWR, SA SNWR, SA	DP – Last date. First (5) there on 06/24 SK Also noted in BA, IO
SOLITARY SANDPIPER:	2	07/23	Tawas Area, IO	RE
SPOTTED SANDPIPER:	16	06/16	SNWR, SA	DP – Peak count - Also noted in BA, IO
SANDERLING:	15+	07/29	Tawas Area, IO	JS
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:	28 8	06/02 07/29	SNWR, SA Tawas Area, IO	DP – Last date RE – along the Lake Huron shoreline.
LEAST SANDPIPER:	15 60	06/30 07/15	SNWR, SA SNWR, SA	DP – First returns SK – Peak count - Also noted in IO
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:	3	06/16	SNWR, SA	DP – Last date
PECTORAL SANDPIPER:	2	07/23	Tawas Area, IO	RE
DUNLIN:	1	06/02	SNWR, SA	DP – Last one.
STILT SANDPIPER:	1	07/23	Tawas Area, IO	RE
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:	2	07/08	SNWR, SA	DP – First returns
WILSON' S SNIPE:	1 1	07/23 07/23	Pinconning Pk, BA Tawas Area, IO	JZ RE (See photo on pg 9.)
AMERICAN WOODCOCK:	1	07/23	Pinconning Pk, BA	JZ
BONAPARTE'S GULL:	1 6	07/19 07/24	SNWR, SA Tawas Point SP, IO	BG, CS JS
RING-BILLED GULL:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA - Peak of 850+ on Tawas Bay, IO on 07/15 - RE			
HERRING GULL:	Noted in BA, IO			
CASPIAN TERN:	22	07/28	SNWR, SA	DP – included 3 juv. – Also noted in BA, IO, MI
COMMON TERN:	7 10	06/02 07/03	SNWR, SA Tawas Point SP, IO	DP JS, GS
FORSTER'S TERN:	Noted in BA			
BLACK TERN:	2 16	06/04 07/16	Kawk Flooding, MI Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ JS - Also noted in BA, SA
ROCK PIGEON:	Noted in BA, MI			
MOURNING DOVE:	Noted in BA, MI			
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:	1 1	06/09 07/30	Tuttle Marsh, IO Erickson Rd, BA	WM JZ

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:	1	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP - Also noted in MI
BARRED OWL:	1	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
COMMON NIGHTHAWK:	1	CTP	Saginaw, SA	DP – David wrote, “ The highlight of the period for me was this bird performing dive displays in the evening over my neighborhood in the city from 6/8 through 6/20. I also observed it perched in the Silver Maple behind my garage.”
WHIP-POOR-WILL:	None to report.			
CHIMNEY SWIFT:	Noted in BA, IO, SA			
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:	2 4	CTP 06/28	Midland, MI Cooke Dam, IO	JZ WS
BELTED KINGFISHER:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:	1	07/27	Monument Rd, IO	JS
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:	Noted in BA, MI			
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:	4 2	06/04 06/28	Kawk Flooding, MI Cooke Dam, IO	JZ – Family group WS
DOWNY WOODPECKER:	Noted in BA, MI			
HAIRY WOODPECKER:	Noted in MI			
NORTHERN FLICKER:	11	07/28	SNWR, SA	DP – Peak count. Also noted in BA, IO, MI
PILEATED WOODPECKER:	2	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:	2	06/04	Kawk Flooding, MI	JZ - Also noted in IO
WILLOW FLYCATCHER:	4	07/13	Hampton Twp, BA	JS - Also noted in SA
LEAST FLYCATCHER:	1	CTP	SNWR, SA	DP – Also noted in BA, MI
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:	1	CTP	Cass River, SA	MW – On M-46 and the Cass River
EASTERN PHOEBE:	1	07/30	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER:	1	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ
EASTERN KINGBIRD:	8+	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ – Also noted in BA, MI, SA
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:	1 1	CTP 06/28	SNWR, SA Western SA Co.	DP M&JH, SJ
WARBLING VIREO:	4	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ
RED-EYED VIREO:	4	06/04	Kawk Flooding, MI	JZ - Also noted in IO
BLUE JAY:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			
AMERICAN CROW:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			

COMMON RAVEN:	2	07/29	Highbanks Trail, IO	JS
HORNED LARK:	Noted in BA, MI, SA			
PURPLE MARTIN:	1	06/24	SNWR, SA	DH
	36	07/24	Tawas Bay Area, IO	JS
TREE SWALLOW:	250+	07/16	Tawas Area, IO	RE – Also noted in BA
NO. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:	Noted in BA			
BANK SWALLOW:	Noted in BA			
CLIFF SWALLOW:	Noted in BA, IO, SA - Peak of 50+ @ Tawas Point SP, IO on 06/15 – JZ 37 nests on one barn near Mayville per MW!			
BARN SWALLOW:	125	07/24	Gateway Park, IO	JS – Also noted in BA, IO, MI, SA
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			
TUFTED TITMOUSE:	Noted in BA, HU, IO, MI, SA			
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			
BROWN CREEPER:	Noted through period @ SNWR, SA - DP			
CAROLINA WREN:	2	07/11	Saginaw Twp, SA	MH
HOUSE WREN:	~10	07/27	CNC, MI	JZ – 2 fam groups – Also noted in BA, IO
SEDGE WREN:	Noted through period @ SNWR, SA – DP - Also noted in BA			
MARSH WREN:	Noted through period @ SNWR, SA – DP - Also noted in BA, IO			
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:	1	07/27	Tuttle Marsh, IO	JS - Also noted in SA
VEERY:	1	06/28	Western SA Co	M&JH, SJ
HERMIT THRUSH:	1	07/27	Monument Rd, IO	JS
WOOD THRUSH:	1	07/05	SNWR, SA	DP - Also noted in IO, MI
AMERICAN ROBIN:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			
GRAY CATBIRD:	Noted in BA, IO, SA - Peak of 12 @ CNC, MI on 07/27 - JZ			
BROWN THRASHER:	4	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ – Also noted in BA
EUROPEAN STARLING:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			
CEDAR WAXWING:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:	1	06/27	Western SA Co.	MH
	2	07/27	CNC, MI	JZ
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:	1	06/09	Tuttle Marsh, IO	WM

BREWSTER' S WARBLER:	1	06/28	Western SA Co.	M&JH, SJ
YELLOW WARBLER:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:	15+	07/29	Lake Huron, IO	RE – In one feeding flock along the Lake Huron shoreline.
	1	07/30	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ
PINE WARBLER:	1	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
CERULEAN WARBLER:	3	06/25	Fenmore Rd, SA	LA & JSo
AMERICAN REDSTART:	6	06/04	Kawk Flooding, MI	JZ - Also noted in IO
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:	7	07/08	SNWR, SA	LA – 7 singing males near the tower.
OVENBIRD:	Noted in MI, SA			
MOURNING WARBLER:	1	06/04	Bridgeport Twp, SA	DP – One also singing in Taymouth Twp, SA.
	1	06/05	SNWR, SA	BG, CS, LA, JSo - Banded
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:	12	07/05	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ – Peak count – Also noted in IO, MI
CANADA WARBLER:	2+	CTP	Muskrat Farm, TU	MW – near Caro.
SCARLET Tanager:	CTP @ SNWR, SA - DP			
EASTERN TOWHEE:	4	06/28	Western SA Co	M&JH, SJ
	1	07/20	CNC, MI	JZ - Also noted in IO
CHIPPING SPARROW:	Noted in BA, IO, MI - Peak of 15 on 07/23 near Tawas, IO - RE			
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:	2	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ
FIELD SPARROW:	3	06/22	Bay Valley GC, BA	JZ
VESPER SPARROW:	CTP @ SNWR, SA – DP - Also noted in BA, IO			
SAVANNAH SPARROW:	Noted in BA			
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:	2	06/25	Fenmore Rd, SA	LA & JSo
HENSLOW'S SPARROW:	None to report.			
SONG SPARROW:	CTP @ SNWR, SA – DP - Also noted in BA, IO, MI			
SWAMP SPARROW:	CTP @ SNWR, SA – DP - Also noted in BA, IO, MI			
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:	4	07/17	Tuttle Marsh, IO	RE
NORTHERN CARDINAL:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:	4	07/30	CNC, MI	JZ - Also noted in IO
INDIGO BUNTING:	2	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ - Also noted in SA
DICKCISSEL:	6	06/25	Fenmore Rd, SA	LA & JSo

	12	06/28	Western SA Co.	M&JH, SJ
BOBOLINK:	3	06/28	Western SA Co	JZ
	1	06/30	Southern Bay Co	JS
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:	Noted in BA, MI, IO, SA			
EASTERN MEADOWLARK:	1	06/15	State Rd, AR	JZ
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:	2	07/05	Nayanquing Pt, BA	JZ – adult feeding young
COMMON GRACKLE:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
BALTIMORE ORIOLE:	8	06/15	Tawas Point SP, IO	JZ – Peak count – Also noted in BA, MI
ORCHARD ORIOLE:	1	06/03	SNWR, SA	DP – Presumably a FY male w/ yellow underparts but a notably dark head and back.
PURPLE FINCH:	4	06/28	Cooke Dam, IO	WS
HOUSE FINCH:	Noted in BA, MI			
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:	Noted in BA, IO, MI, SA			
EVENING GROSBEAK:	8	07/13	Cooke Dam, IO	WS – 5 ad and 3 juv
	1	07/17	Cooke Dam, IO	WS, RE - (See <i>Iosco sighting photo on pg 9.</i>)
HOUSE SPARROW:	Noted in BA, IO, MI			

TOTAL: 166 Species

OBSERVATIONS OUTSIDE THE SAGINAW BAY AREA:

NONE REPORTED

Observer Key:

LA	Larry Abraham	NM	Nancy Mayhew
TB	Tom Beachy	WM	William McKenzie
BB	Bob Bell	G&TN	Gary & Tess Nelkie
RE	Roger Eriksson	KO	Karl Overman
G&DG	Gus & Delores Gavit	DP	David Peters
JG	Jack Gillespie	G&EP	Glen & Ellen Peterson
BG	Bob Grefe	BR	Betty Rainwater
DH	Dan Hansz	GS	Grant Soehnel
JH	Jeanne Henderson	JS	Joe Soehnel
M&JH	Mark & Joanie Hubinger	JSo	Jeff Sommer
SJ	Scott Jennex	CS	Carolyn Szaroletta
SK	Steve Kahl	M&MW	Myles & Marilyn Willard
CM	Chris Madziar	GW	Grant Winchell
SM	Stan Madziar	JZ	Jerry Ziarno

Abbreviations:

AR	Arenac County	MI	Midland County
BA	Bay County	NMB	Northern Michigan Message Board
BCSRA	Bay City State Recreation Area	PTP	Present through period
CNC	Chippewa Nature Center	SA	Saginaw County
FSL	Freeland Sewage Lagoon	SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
GPNC	Green Point Nature Center	SNWR	Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
HU	Huron County	SSGA	Shiawassee State Game Area
IO	Iosco County	TU	Tuscola County
MCV	Midland Cogeneration Venture (Pond)		



Pied-billed Grebes @ Tuttle Marsh on 7/17/05
Photo taken by: Roger Eriksson



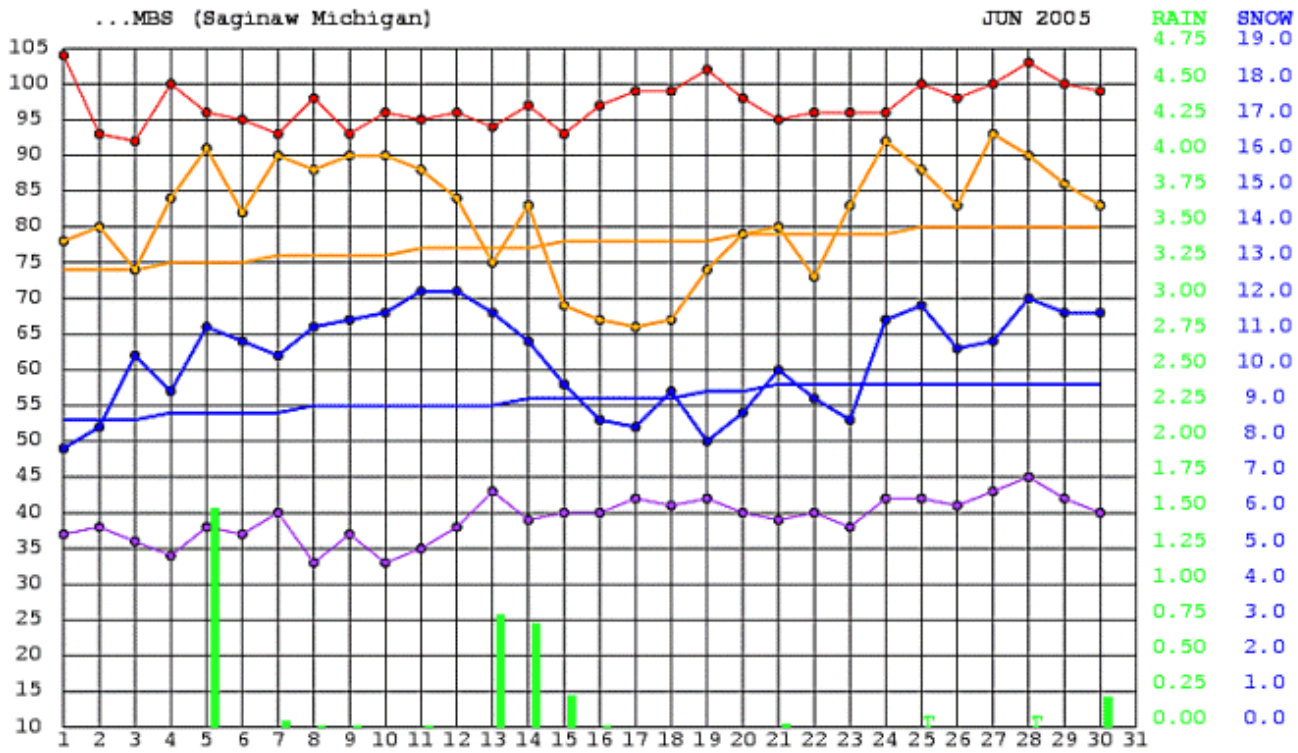
Wilson's Snipe in Tawas Area on 7/16/05
Photo taken by: Roger Eriksson



Juvenile Evening Grosbeak @ Wayne Shawl's feeder near Cooke Dam
Photo taken by: Roger Eriksson

***Go to Saginaw Bay Birding's Website (<http://www.saginawbaybirding.org>)
To view the entire SBA photo gallery!***

June 2005 Weather Graph – Saginaw, MI (MBS)

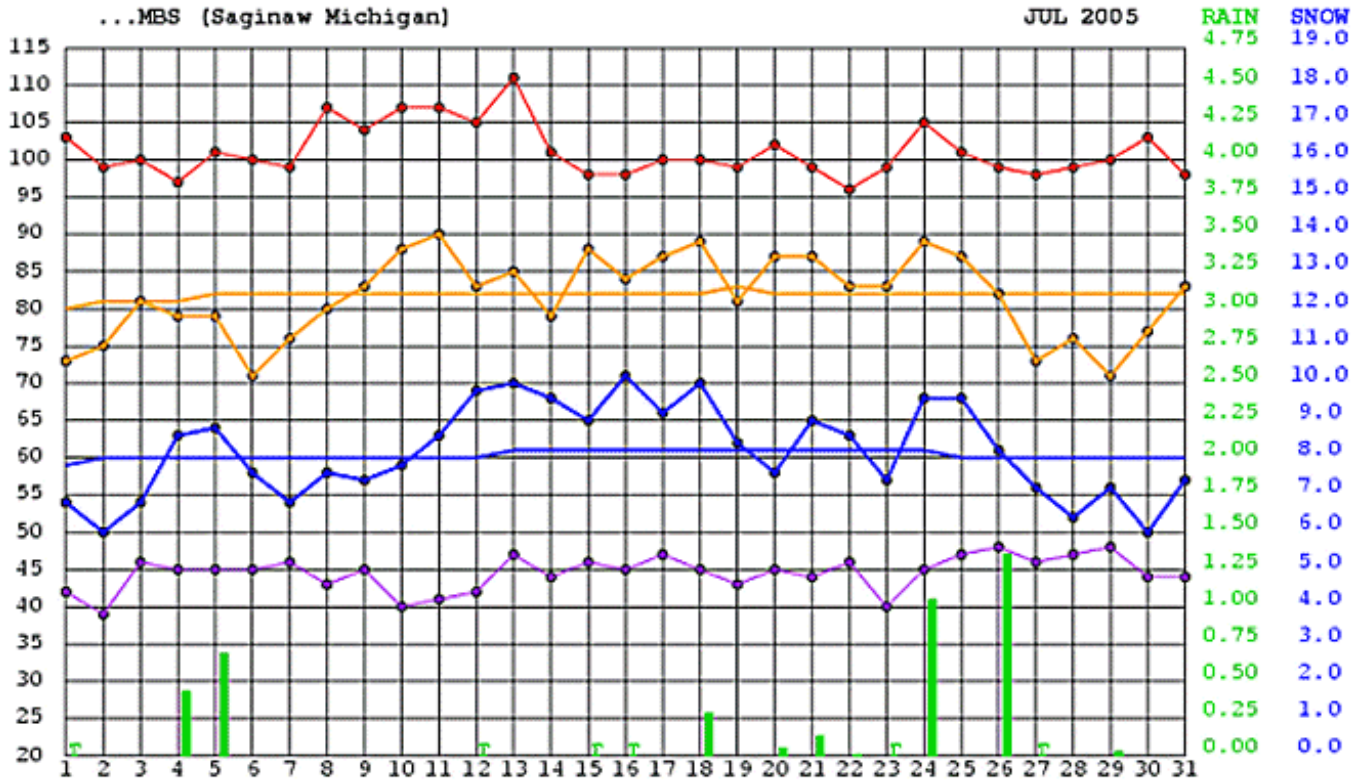


TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Average High.....81.7	Monthly Normal.....77.5	Average Low.....61.6	Monthly Normal.....56.0
Average for Month...71.7	Monthly Normal.....66.8	Monthly HDD.....19	Monthly Normal HDD..69
Monthly CDD.....226	Monthly Normal CDD..122	Yearly Norm Precip..14.53	
Monthly Precip.....3.56	Monthly Normal.....3.06	Yearly Norm Snow....	
Monthly Snow.....0.0	Monthly Norm Snow...		

GRAPH KEY	● Record High Temp	— Mean High Temp	— Mean Low Temp
	● Daily High Temp	● Daily Low Temp	● Record Low Temp

July 2005 Weather Graph – Saginaw, MI (MBS)



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Average High.....81.6	Monthly Normal.....81.9	Average Low.....60.8	Monthly Normal.....60.4
Average for Month...71.2	Monthly Normal.....71.2	Monthly HDD.....6	Monthly Normal HDD..9
Monthly CDD.....209	Monthly Normal CDD..200		
Monthly Precip.....4.03	Monthly Normal.....2.50	Yearly Norm Precip..17.03	
Monthly Snow.....0.0	Monthly Norm Snow...	Yearly Norm Snow....	

GRAPH KEY	●	●	●	●	●	●
Record High Temp	●	●	●	●	●	●
Daily High Temp	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mean High Temp	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mean Low Temp	●	●	●	●	●	●
Daily Low Temp	●	●	●	●	●	●
Record Low Temp	●	●	●	●	●	●