

Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area

Dec 1st, 2007 thru Feb 29th, 2008

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Weather: December temperatures were normal, but the month had a more than average number of storms, which was a portent of things to come. Temperatures in January were very up-and-down, and the January thaw was exceptional, with record high temperatures on the 7th. Storms were again more frequent than normal. February topped them all in terms of both snowfall and cold temperatures. Snow events occurred like clockwork, including a major storm on the 6th/7th. February was one of the snowiest on record, and it was the overall coldest month of the period, with the temperatures remaining below normal as the period ended.

Summary: The widespread presence of two sporadic winter visitors highlighted the season. **Bohemian Waxwings** were recorded in numbers not seen since the winter of '95-'96, and **Pine Grosbeaks**, although naturally far fewer in total, were equally impressive relative to their SBA history. It was in fact, a very frugivorous season, with two **Varied Thrush** records, as well as over-wintering **American Robins** and **Eastern Bluebirds**. Other winter visitors of note were **Common Redpolls**, which were present in larger than average year flocks, and **Evening Grosbeaks**, with very notable totals but a strictly limited distribution. The rarest species reported were a **Great Gray Owl**, in an unexpected manner typical of the species' other known SBA records, and a **Purple Sandpiper**. A full complement of waterfowl, gulls, and hawks were present, including all three **Scoters**, two **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, and a number of **Sharp-shinned Hawks**. Reports of other species unusual for their occurrence during the period were **Northern Mockingbird**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Eastern Towhee**, **Fox Sparrow**, **Brewer's Blackbird**, and **Hoary Redpoll**. The mild temperatures leading into the period contributed to a few otherwise departed species lingering into December, but the persistent February cold certainly wasn't conducive to early arrivals. In the end, a total of **118** species were reported; just one shy of tying the record winters of '93-'94 / '97-'98.

New SBA peak counts: 17 Cackling Geese on 12/6 @ SNWR, Sa
91 Bald Eagles on 12/6 @ SNWR, Sa
7 Lesser Black-Backed Gulls on 12/22 @ Saginaw River, Ba
300 Bohemian Waxwings on 2/16 @ East Tawas, Io
30 Northern Cardinals on 2/12 @ Bangor Twp., Ba

New SBA fall late dates: 1 Cackling Goose on 1/16 @ SNWR, Sa
1 Great Egret on 1/4 @ Karn Plant, Ba

New SBA winter high counts: 225 Northern Shovelers On 12/8 @ Dow Ponds, Mi
55 Common Ravens on 2/10 @ Monument Rd., IO
11 Brown Creepers on 1/19 @ SNWR, Sa

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.

This report, as well as previous seasonal reports from 2000-2007, can be found at <http://www.saginawbaybirding.org>, along with updates on spring 2008 migration in the Saginaw Bay Area as reported to Joe Soehnel at soehnelj@hotmail.com or by calling at 989-892-3687.

My sincerest thanks to Janea Little and CNC for your ongoing support of these reports.



**Common Redpolls by: Roger Eriksson
12/13/07 at Hampton Twp., Ba**



**Black-legged Kittiwake by: Joe Soehnel
Taken 01/21/08 at Saginaw Bay, Ba**



**Varied Thrush by: Allen Barlow
Taken 02/04/07 at Midland, Mi**



**Pine Grosbeak by: Doug Jackson
Taken 02/09/08 at AuGres, Ar**



**Bohemian Waxwing by: Roger Eriksson
Taken 02/11/08 at AuGres, Ar**



**Snowy Owl by: Doug Jackson
Taken 02/15/08 at Dutcher Rd., Tu**

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observers / Comment
SNOW GOOSE:	1	1/16	SNWR, Sa	DJP - adult age white morph
	1	2/22	SNWR, Sa	DJP - adult age blue morph
CAKCLING GOOSE:	17	12/6	SNWR, Sa	DJP - new SBA peak count - in a single flock, flying directly over in a v-pattern
	1	1/2	Middlegrounds, Ba	DJ
	1	1/16	SNWR, Sa	DJP - new SBA fall late
CANADA GOOSE:	5501	1/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi
	4212	2/22	SNWR, Sa	DJP
MUTE SWAN:	45	1/15	BCSRA, Ba	DJ - also noted in Hu,Io,Sa
	30	2/23	Midland, Mi	ME
TRUMPETER SWAN:	8	12/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS (per state compilers request, all winter '07-'08 records are listed below)
	65	12/14	Westgate, Io	WWS,BB
	14	12/15	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,RE
	27	12/15	Iargo Springs, Io	WWS,RE
	~10	1/5	Iargo Springs, Io	VS
	30	1/5	Westgate, Io	VS
	56	1/26	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,RE
	30	2/8	AuSable River, Io	MW
	4	2/23	Harbor Beach, Hu	JCD
	3	2/24	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	TUNDRA SWAN:	25	12/4	Hampton Twp., Ba
2		1/5	Iargo Springs, Io	VS - in loose association w/ TRSW
1		1/27	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	DD
WOOD DUCK:	2	1/2	Tawas River, Io	RE
	2	1/10-1/21	Karn Plant, Ba	SM,JS,MW
GADWALL:	40	12/8	Dow Ponds, Mi	RD
	1	1/2	Tawas River, Io	RE - also a hen noted in Ba on 1/27(RE)
	30	2/2	Dow Ponds, Mi	JZ - also noted in Hu on 2/23(JCD)
AMERICAN WIGEON:	2	12/8	Dow Ponds, Mi	RD
	1	1/13	Karn Plant, Ba	SM
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:	166	12/6	SNWR, Sa	JJD - peak count
	26	1/26	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,RE
	32	2/22	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Mi
MALLARD:	80	12/5	Middlegrounds, Ba	GP,EP
	4348	12/6	SNWR, Sa	JJD - peak count
	100+	2/2	Dow & MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ - also noted in Hu
NORTHERN SHOVELER:	225	12/8	Dow Ponds, Mi	RD - new SBA winter high count
	1	2/24	Dow Ponds, Mi	ME
NORTHERN PINTAIL:	2	1/16	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	12	2/5	SNWR, Sa	DJP
GREEN-WINGED TEAL:	1	12/3-1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	JS,MW - a drake
CANVASBACK:	1	12/8	Saginaw River, Ba	RD - also noted in Sa on 1/9(DJP)
	3	2/2	Harbor Beach, Hu	SG - also noted here on 2/23(JCD)

REDHEAD:	1 250+	1/2 1/10	Tawas River, Io Karn Plant, Ba	RE - also noted in Sa on 12/21(DJP) SM,JS - also noted in Hu on 2/23(JCD)
RING-NECKED DUCK:	1 1 1	1/3 1/9-tp 1/21	AuSable River mouth, Io SNWR, Sa Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	RE DJP - a drake JS,MW - a drake
GREATER SCAUP:	6	2/2	MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ
LESSER SCAUP:	1	12/4	Middlegrounds, Ba	DJ
SCAUP SP:	10	1/10	Karn Plant, Ba	SM,JS
SURF SCOTER:	2	12/2	Finn Rd., Hamptn Twp., Ba	DD
BLACK SCOTER:	3 1 10	12/1 12/8 12/27	TPSP, Io Grindstone City, Hu Saginaw Bay, Ba	RE SG DD,MW
LONG-TAILED DUCK:	1 1 12	1/3 1/28 2/23	AuSable River mouth, Io Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba Harbor Beach, Hu	RE MW JCD - peak count
BUFFLEHEAD:	6 2 1	1/23 2/2 2/4	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba Dow Ponds, Mi Middlegrounds, Ba	JS,MW - also noted in Hu,Sa JZ GP,EP
COMMON GOLDENEYE:	~250 1200 131	1/12 1/21 2/24	LeBourdais Rd, Ba Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba Cooke Dam area, Io	JZ - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa JS,MW WWS
HOODED MERGANSER:	6 19 1	12/15 1/10 2/15	Cooke Dam area, Io Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba Middlegrounds, Ba	WWS,RE SM,JS DJ
COMMON MERGANSER:	663 15000+ 24	12/6 1/21 2/2	SNWR, Sa Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba MCV Pond, Ba	JJD - also noted in Hu,Io,Mi JS,MW JZ
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:	1 4 6	12/2 1/21 2/2	Essexville, Ba Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba Harbor Beach, Hu	JS JS,MW SG
RUDDY DUCK:	1	1/2	Tawas River, Io	RE
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:	3	2/8	northern Ba	MW - also noted in Sa
RUFFED GROUSE:	5 1	1/2- 2/24 1/9	Cooke Dam area, Io Mayville, Tu	WWS MW
WILD TURKEY:	100 3 up to 30	12/30 tp tp	Tu Midland, Mi Mayville, Tu	DJ - peak count JZ - obs. notes "here daily, chasing cars" MW - also noted in Ba,Sa
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:	1 1	12/6 1/3	Saginaw River, Ba AuSable River mouth, Io	JS RE
GREAT BLUE HERON:	49 1 2	12/11 12/31 1/4	SNWR, Sa Tawas River, Io Karn Plant, Ba	JJD - peak count RE SM

GREAT EGRET:	1	12/6	SNWR, Sa	JJD
	1	1/4	Karn Plant, Ba	SM - new SBA fall late
TURKEY VULTURE:	1	2/15- 2/16	Kochville Twp., Sa	BG
BALD EAGLE:	91	12/6	SNWR, Sa	JJD - new SBA peak count - perched in the trees and on the ice along a 3 mile stretch of the Shiawassee River
	5	12/8	Cooke Dam, Io	WWS
	15	1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	JS,MW - also noted in Ar,Mi,Tu
NORTHERN HARRIER:	7	1/23	SNWR, Sa	CS,BG - also noted in Ba,Hu,Tu
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:	1	12/29	Hampton Twp., Ba	JS
	1	12/6- 1/29	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	1	2/12	AuGres, Ar	JZ
	1	2/17	Dow Gardens, Mi	ME
	1	2/24	Cook Dam area, Io	WWS
COOPER'S HAWK:	1	2/20	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in Hu,Sa,Tu
	1	2/21	Midland, Mi	JZ - the observer notes "took dove at feeders"
NORTHERN GOSHAWK:	1	12/21	Hampton Twp., Ba	JS - immature age
	1	12/29	Quanicassee, Tu	MW
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:	1	1/12	LeBourdais Rd., Ba	JZ - also noted in Io
	1	1/31	Vassar, Tu	MW
	1	2/1	Meridian Rd., Mi	ME
	2	2/22	Mayville, Tu	MW
RED-TAILED HAWK:	14	2/22	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count - includes the perennial wintering dark western bird of intermediate (rufous) morph, returning very late for this, it's 21 st season
	2	2/23	Frankenlust Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in Hu,Mi,Tu
	2	2/25	SNWR	DJP - dark western intermediate (rufous) morph birds, one being the perennial visitor and the other a darker plumaged bird
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:	1	12/29	Quanicassee, Tu	MW - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io
	1	1/10	BSCRA, Ba	GP
	11	2/25	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count - included one adult male light morph, of which the observer notes "to me at least, this age/sex RLHA is the most beautiful raptor in eastern N.A."
GOLDEN EAGLE:	1	1/23	SNWR, Sa	CS,BG
	1	2/25	SNWR, Sa	DJP - immature age
AMERICAN KESTREL:	3	1/16	Spaulding Twp., Sa	DJP - also noted in Hu,Mi
	1	2/9	SW Tu	JZ - the observer notes "eating small rodent"
	2	2/18	Monitor twp, Ba	GP
MERLIN:	1	12/29	Quanicassee, Tu	MW - also noted in Dec. in Ba,Hu
	1	1/28	St Charles, Sa	DH
	1	2/2	Caro, Tu	SG
	1	2/15	Bay City, Ba	KL - photographed
PEREGRINE FALCON:	1	2/24	Grindstone City, Hu	JCD

AMERICAN COOT:	2	1/13	Karn Plant, Ba	SM
	1	1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	MW
SANDHILL CRANE:	25	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - last date
KILLDEER:	1	1/4	Karn Plant, Ba	SM
PURPLE SANDPIPER:	1	12/12	AuSable River mouth, Io	BBo fide Mich-Listers - 8 th SBA record
BONAPARTE'S GULL:	750+	12/2	Essexville, Ba	JS - also noted in Sa
	2	1/21	Saginaw Bay@ Karn, Ba	JS,MW - last date
RING-BILLED GULL:	500	12/8	Saginaw River, Ba	JS - also noted in Sa on 12/6(DJP)
	200+	1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	MW,JS - also noted in Hu on 2/23(JCD)
HERRING GULL:	2944	12/6	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count
	1500	12/8	Saginaw River, Ba	JS - also noted in Hu,Mi
	2	1/27	BCSRA, Ba	GP
THAYER'S GULL:	1	12/21	Saginaw River, Ba	JS - 1 st winter age
ICELAND (KUMLIEN'S) GULL:	1	12/23	Saginaw River, Ba	DD,MW
	1	1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	JS,MW
	2	1/27	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	DD - both 1 st winter age
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:	1	12/6	SNWR, Sa	DJP - adult age
	1	12/6	Saginaw River, Ba	JS - adult age
	7	12/22	Saginaw River, Ba	DD,MW - new SBA peak count
	1	1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	JS,MW
	1	2/23	Saginaw River mouth, Ba	JCD
GLAUCOUS GULL:	25+	12/22	Saginaw River, Ba	DD,MW - also noted in Sa on 12/6
	2	1/21	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	MW,JS
	3	2/23	Harbor Beach, Hu	JCD
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:	30+	12/22	Saginaw River, Ba	DD,MW - also noted in Hu,Sa
	28	1/13	Finn Rd., Ba	DD
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:	1	12/9	Harbor Beach, Hu	SG,LA,JSo,CS - immature age - compiler is going to classify as the same bird that was reported from this location on 11/17/07
	1	1/21-1/23	Saginaw Bay @ Karn, Ba	JS,MW,DD - adult age - 13 th SBA record (see photo on page 2)
ROCK PIGEON:	125	1/2	Bay City, Ba	GP,EP
	28	1/5	SNWR, Sa	SFK - also noted tp in Mi
MOURNING DOVE:	17	12/15	BCSRA, Ba	GP
	31	1/28	SNWR, Sa	SFK - also noted tp in Ba,Mi,Tu
EASTERN SCREECH OWL:	2	1/4	Loosemore Rd., Hu	KO,JLe,REp
	1	1/26-2/14	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - roosting in a tree cavity
GREAT HORNED OWL:	2	12/30	Oak Beach, Hu	MW - also noted in Sa,Tu
	2	2/10	Monitor Twp., Ba	DJ
SNOWY OWL:	1	1/15 tp	Kilmanagh, Hu	JH,MW
	1	1/31	Fairgrove area, Tu	MW
	1	2/13-2/24	Akron Rd., Tu	MW,DJ,DM,KL - immature age
	1	2/15-2/24	Dutcher Rd., Tu	MW,DJ,LA,DM,KL - adult age - MW noted "at least three different birds (in Tu)"

BARRED OWL:	1	12/14	AuSable Pt. Rd., Io	RE - also noted in Mi
	1	1/26	SNWR, Sa	SFK - encountered in the morning, but the observer noted "did not appear to be in roosting mode, but actively hunting"
	1	2/12	BCSRA, Ba	GP
GREAT GRAY OWL:	1	2/27	Tawas City, Io	BF fide GN - 4 th SBA record, 1 st Io record,
		2/28	Singing Bridge area, Ar (more likely than not this would be the same bird)	1 st Ar record - details provided to GN by the observer included large size owl (larger than GHOW), lack of ear tufts, dark gray overall plumage w/ a very dark gray breast, and relatively long tail.
SHORT-EARED OWL:	1	12/17	Hampton Twp., Ba	SM
	2	1/21	Bradford Rd., Tu	MW
	2	1/23	SNWR, Sa	CS,BG
	3	2/17	Albee Twp., Sa	SG
BELTED KINGFISHER:	1	1/12	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	SG
	1	1/13-1/21	Karn Plant, Ba	SM,JS,MW
	1	2/13	SNWR, Sa	DJP
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:	2	1/31	Caseville, Hu	MW,MWi - 1 adult age & 1 immature age
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:	7	2/9	SNWR, Sa	SFK
	2	tp	Midland, Mi	JZ - also noted in Ba
DOWNY WOODPECKER:	5	1/12	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in Mi,Tu
	10	2/2	SNWR, Sa	SFK
HAIRY WOODPECKER:	5	2/10	Bangor twp., Ba	GP,EP
	6	2/16	SNWR, Sa	SFK
	2	tp	Midland, Mi	JZ
NORTHERN FLICKER:	1	12/21	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	1/12	Old State Rd., Ba	JZ
	1	2/21	SNWR, Sa	DJP
PILEATED WOODPECKER:	3	12/1	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar
	1	12/26	Midland, Mi	JZ - visited the observer's feeders on this date and again on 1/27
	1	2/21	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
NORTHERN SHRIKE:	2	12/13	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar
	3	12/30	Port Austin, Hu	MW
	1	1/1-1/19	BCSRA, Ba	GP
	1	2/2	Tittabawassee R. Rd., Mi	JZ
	2	2/24	Fish Point, Tu	JCD
BLUE JAY:	9	12/15	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted tp in Mi
	20	2/7	Prior Rd., Sa	KL
AMERICAN CROW:	255	12/14	Ojibwa Island, Saginaw, Sa	DJP - peak count - also noted in Ba
	60	tp	Midland, Mi	JZ
COMMON RAVEN:	21	12/8	Monument Rd., Io	WWS
	12	1/2	Monument Rd., Io	WWS - the observer noted: "...picking up marble to golf ball sized ice balls made by the snowplow and playing with them and carrying them up in the trees."
	55	2/10	Monument Rd., Io	RE - new SBA winter high count

HORNED LARK:	49 25	1/2 2/2	Spaulding Twp., Sa Bradleyville Rd., Tu	DJP - also noted in Ba SG
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:	12 28	tp 2/9	Midland, Mi SNWR, Sa	JZ - also noted tp in Ba SFK
TUFTED TITMOUSE:	4 11	1/19 2/9	Bangor Twp., Ba SNWR, Sa	GP,EP SFK - also noted tp in Mi
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	5 4 1	12/3 1/20 1/15	Cooke Dam area, lo Bangor Twp., Ba Midland, Mi	WWS - also noted tp in Sa GE,EP JZ - the observer notes " simultaneous w/brown creeper at same suet feeder"
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	14 up to 4	1/12 tp	SNWR, Sa Midland, Mi	SFK - also noted tp in Ba JZ
BROWN CREEPER:	2 11 1	12/26 1/19 2/11	Bangor Twp., Ba SNWR, Sa Hampton Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in lo,Mi SFK - new SBA winter high count JS - present tp, engaged in a most atypical BRCR behavior of scratching for seed on the ground under bird feeders
CAROLINA WREN:	1 1 1 1	12/1- 2/13 12/13 12/18- 2/10 1/30	Bridgeport Twp., Sa Oakley, Sa Mt. Haley Twp., Mi Midland, Mi	LA MK JL JZ - noted as it made a brief visit to the feeder
MARSH WREN:	1	12/10	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	DJP - adept at keeping hidden from sight, but given away by its excited chattering
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:	1 1 3	1/15 1/26 2/16	Midland, Mi Cooke Dam area, lo SNWR, Sa	JZ WWS,RE SFK
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:	4 12 5 6	1/3 2/2 2/9 2/28	BCSRA, Ba SNWR, Sa Dow Gardens, Mi Millington, Tu	GP SFK - 4 @ this location on 2/16 (SFK) ME - 2 @ this location on 2/17 (ME) MW
AMERICAN ROBIN:	42 340 12 6	12/29 1/19 2/9 2/28	Quanicassee, Tu SNWR, Sa Dow Gardens, Mi Dow Public Library, Mi (adjacent to Dow Gardens)	MW - also noted in lo on 12/1(RE) SFK - peak count, eating buckthorn fruit, 72 remaining on 2/2, 1 on 2/23(SFK) ME JZ - the observer notes "all in one fruiting tree"
VARIED THRUSH:	1 1	1/19- 2/10 2/9	Midland Twp., Mi Homer Twp., Mi	AB fide JL,JZ,ME,GB fide JL - a male 13 th SBA record, 6 th Mi record JP fide JL - a male 14 th SBA record, 7 th Mi record
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:	1	12/4	Hampton Twp., Ba	DJ
EUROPEAN STARLING:	200 216	1/12 1/19	Monitor Twp., Ba SNWR, Sa	GP,EP - also noted in Mi SFK

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:	40	12/30	Loosemore Rd, Hu	MW
	113	1/28	Gibson Twp., Ba	MW
	75	2/8	Alabaster, lo	MW
	38	2/10	Albee Twp., Sa	JSO
	215	2/11	Au Gres, Ar	RE - 100+ remaining thru 2/22 (DM,DJ)
	300	2/16	East Tawas, lo	GN,TN - new SBA peak count
50+	2/18	Midland, Mi	RM	
CEDAR WAXWING:	~150	2/2	MCV Pond, Mi	JZ - also noted in Ar,Hu
	35	2/8	Hampton Twp., Ba	JS
	68	2/9	SNWR, Sa	SFK
	100+	2/24	Grindstone City, Hu	JCD
EASTERN TOWHEE:	1	1/17-tp	Hartley Nature Center, Sa	PR - 4 th SBA record of overwintering
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:	11	12/9	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in lo,Tu
	128	12/27	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count
	~40	1/23	Ashby Rd., Mi	JZ
FOX SPARROW:	1	12/1	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	12/1	Lake Huron shoreline, lo	RE
SONG SPARROW:	3	12/8	BCSRA, Ba	RD
	1	1/1	BCSRA, Ba	GP - last date
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:	1	12/1- 1/12	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	1	2/20	Kochville Twp., Sa	BG
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:	1	12/9	Hampton Twp., Ba	SG,LA,JSO,CS
DARK-EYED JUNCO:	48	12/3	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in Ar
	24	12/11	Midland, Mi	JZ
	30	12/13	SNWR, Sa	DJP
LAPLAND LONGSPUR:	1	12/8	Bradleyville Rd, Tu	SG - on the ground with a flock of HOLA
SNOW BUNTING	~1000	12/5	Spaulding Twp., Sa	DJP - a single flock
	275+	1/10	Karn Plant, Ba	SM,JS - also noted in Mi,Tu
	300+	1/12	Pinconning Park, Ba	JZ
NORTHERN CARDINAL:	22	12/1	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Mi
	30	2/12	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - new SBA peak count
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:	1	12/5- 12/8	BCSRA, Ba	DJ,RD
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:	1	12/29	Quanicassee, Tu	MW
	6	1/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP - last date
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:	2	12/29	Quanicassee, Tu	MW - no details provided w/obs. report, but SBB.org entry for this record notes that details were obtained, including eye color
COMMON GRACKLE:	1	12/29	Hampton Twp., Ba	JS
	1	1/28	SNWR, Sa	SFK
	1	2/28	Kochville Twp., Sa	BG

PINE GROSBEAK:	8	12/30	Loosemore Rd, Hu	MW - 3 noted at this location on 2/2(SG)
	2	1/23	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - the first observation of PIGR at the observer's feeders in 25 years
	15	2/11-2/12	AuGres, Ar	RE,JZ - 6 remaining thru 2/22 (DM,MW,DJ)
	20	2/24	Tawas, Io	GN,TN,RE
	2	2/28	Dow Public Library, Mi	JZ - also noted in Ba,Tu
PURPLE FINCH:	28	2/29	Tawas, Io	DJ - peak count
	1	12/1	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	8	2/14	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
HOUSE FINCH:	26	12/8	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar, and tp in Mi
	13	12/15	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
COMMON REDPOLL:	700	12/9-12/13	Warner Rd., Ba	MW,RE - a single flock foraging in a field of mixed weeds
	150+	12/21	Hampton Twp., Ba	JS - also noted in Ar,Io,Mi
	200	12/30	Port Austin, Hu	MW
	300	1/18	Mayville, Tu	MW - up to 10 remaining here tp
	52	1/29	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	37	2/16	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
HOARY REDPOLL:	1	12/30	Port Austin, Hu	MW - no details provided
PINE SISKIN:	1	12/7	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	4	12/30	Midland, Mi	RM
	2	2/24	Grindstone City, Hu	JCD
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	27	12/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - also noted in Mi,Sa
	48	12/7	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
EVENING GROSBEAK:	100+	12/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - this represents the highest SBA count since sometime prior to 1987
	36	1/2	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	28	2/24	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
HOUSE SPARROW:	58	12/25	Saginaw, Sa	DJP- peak count
	47	12/28	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in Ar,Mi,Tu

TOTAL: 118 Species

EXOTICS and OTHERS:

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH: 1 12/13 SNWR, Sa SFK - an adult male observed briefly in the bird feeding area at the NWR headquarters. The initial assumption might be that this was a bird that escaped or was released from a nearby cage. However, SFK and DJP found there have been hundreds of records for European goldfinch and other Old World species in the Midwest recently (Dinsmore and Silcock 2004). These birds appear to move considerable distances as migrants, and significantly in the case of European goldfinch and great tit, have been confirmed as breeding. It is far more likely then, that this greenfinch was not of local origin. So just what is its history? To where and for how long has it traveled? Is there even a possibility that this greenfinch could have hatched somewhere in the Midwest as a wild bird? Whatever the answers, this constitutes the first SBA record of an Old World species that may or may not someday become an established member of Michigan's avifauna.

Literature Cited

Dinsmore, S. J. and W. R. Silcock. 2004. The Changing Seasons: Expansions. *North American Birds* 58:324-330.

Observer Key:

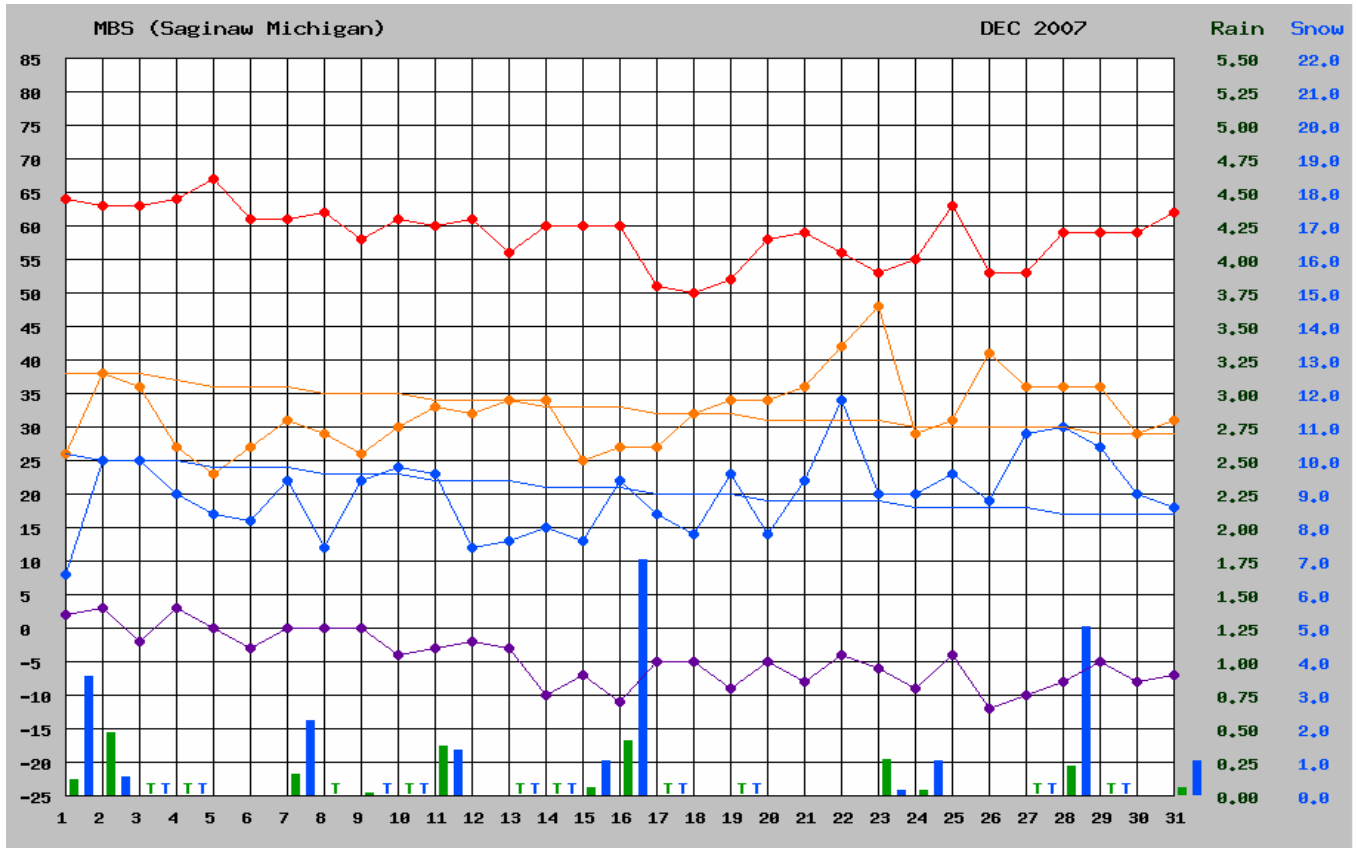
LA	Larry Abraham	JLe	Jim Lesser
AB	Allen Barlow	JL	Janea Little
GB	Gene Beckham	SM	Stan Madziar
BB	Bob Bell	RM	Rob Maxwell
BBo	Bruce Bowman	DM	Doug McWhirter
JJD	Jim J. Dastyck	GN	Gary Nelkie
JCD	Jim C. Dawe	TN	Tess Nelkie
DD	Dan Duso	KO	Karl Overman
RD	Ryan Dziedzic	DJP	David J. Peters
REp	Robert Epstein	GP	Glenn Peterson
RE	Roger Eriksson	EP	Ellen Peterson
ME	Monica Essenmacher	JP	Jean Preston
BF	Brad Fox	PR	Paul Roose
SG	Steve Gasser	WWS	Wayne W. Shawl
BG	Bob Grefe	JS	Joe Soehnel
JH	Jerry Hall	Jso	Jeff Sommer
DH	Dan Hansz	VS	Vince Ste-Marie
DJ	Doug Jackson	CS	Carolyn Szaroletta
SFK	Steve F. Kahl	MWi	Marilyn Willard
MK	Mike Kruske	MW	Myles Willard
KL	Kim LeBlanc	JZ	Jerry Ziarno

Six individuals generously submitted reports specifically for this compilation, the balance of sightings were obtained from postings on the saginawbaybirding.org winter migration update. In either case, thanks to everyone who contributed.

Abbreviations:

Ar	Arenac County	Mi	Midland County
Ba	Bay County	Sa	Saginaw County
BCSRA	Bay City State Recreation Area	SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
CNC	Chippewa Nature Center	SBB.org	SaginawBayBirding.org winter migration update webpage
Hu	Huron County	SNWR	Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
Io	Iosco County	tp	throughout entire period
MCV	Midland Cogeneration Venture (Pond)	Tu	Tuscola County

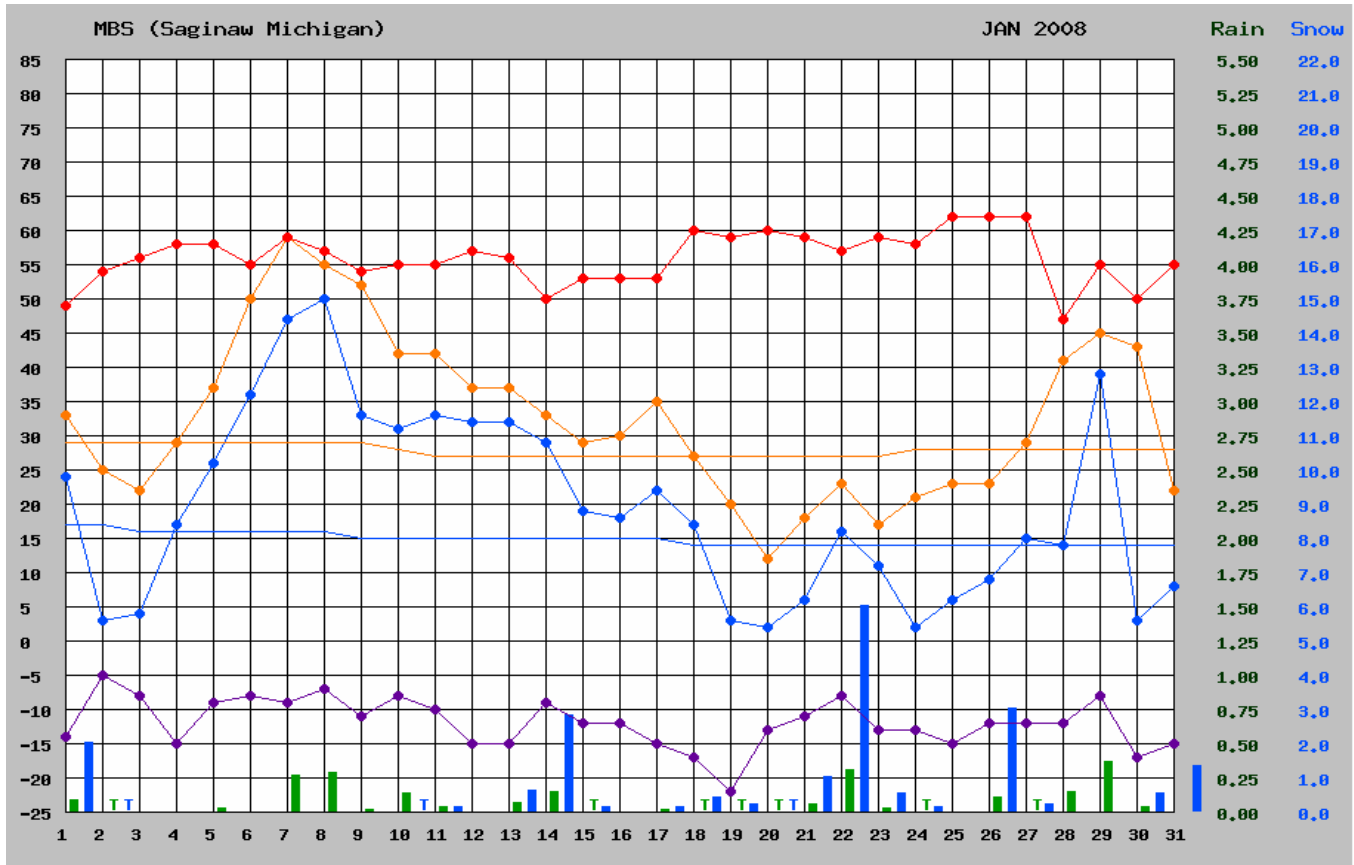
December, 2007 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



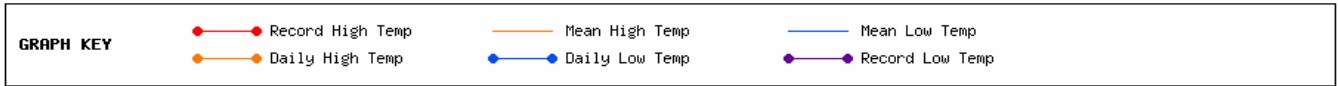
Average High..... 32.3	Monthly Normal..... 33.0	Average Low..... 20.0	Monthly Normal..... 20.9
Average for Month..... 26.1	Monthly Normal..... 27.0	Monthly HDD..... 1198	Monthly Normal HDD..... 1179
Monthly CDD..... 0	Monthly Normal CDD..... 0		
Monthly Precip..... 2.09	Monthly Normal..... 2.11	Yearly Normal Precip.. 31.61	Year To Date Precip..... 28.63
Monthly Snow..... 22.6	Monthly Norm Snow..... 10.2	Yearly Normal Snow.... 14.2	Year To Date Snowfall... 25.4

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

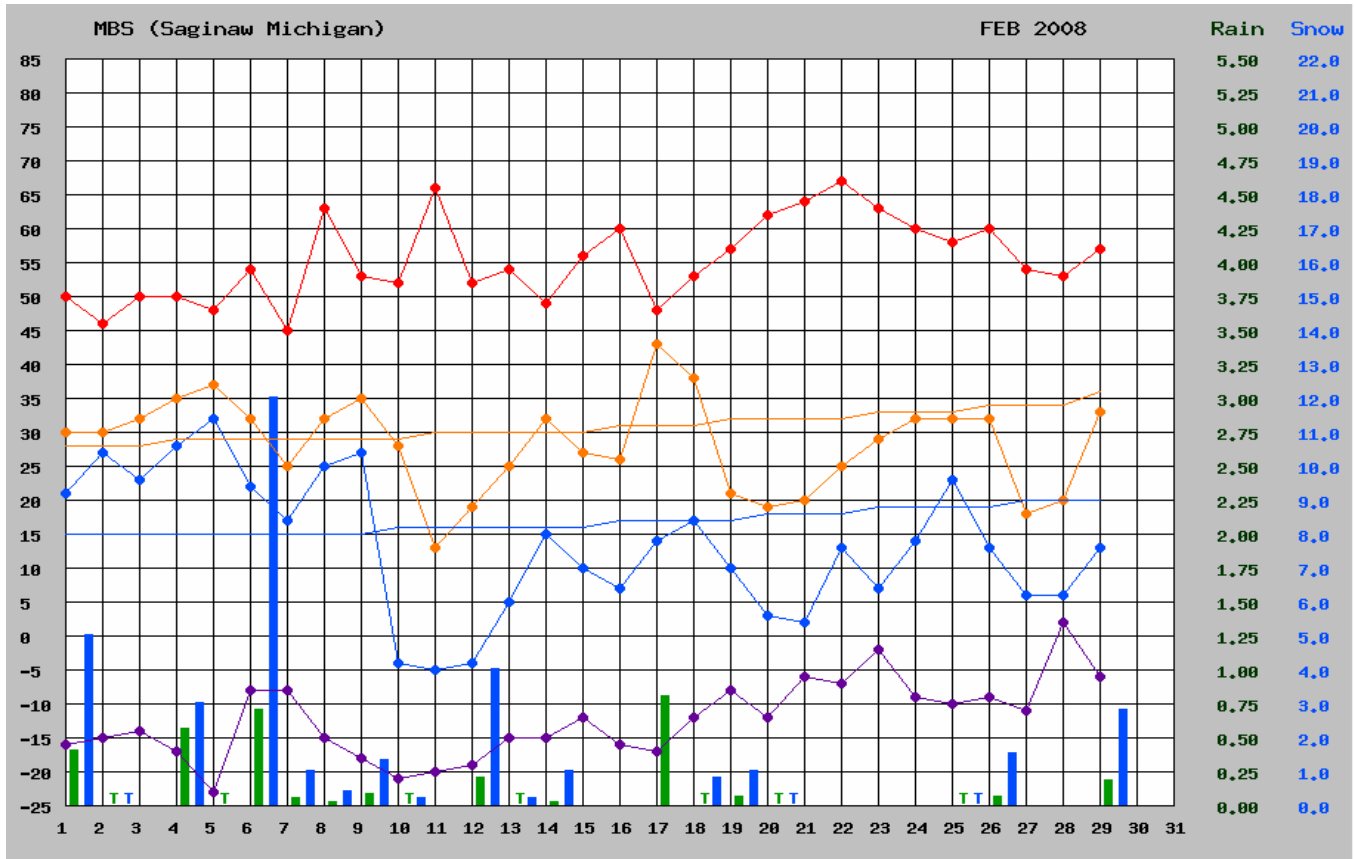
January, 2008 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



Average High.....	32.6	Monthly Normal.....	27.9	Average Low.....	19.6	Monthly Normal.....	14.9
Average for Month.....	26.1	Monthly Normal.....	21.4	Monthly HDD.....	1199	Monthly Normal HDD.....	1352
Monthly CDD.....	0	Monthly Normal CDD.....	0				
Monthly Precip.....	2.02	Monthly Normal.....	1.77	Yearly Normal Precip..	1.77	Year To Date Precip.....	2.02
Monthly Snow.....	18.9	Monthly Norm Snow.....	11.8	Yearly Normal Snow....	26.0	Year To Date Snowfall...	44.3



February, 2008 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



Average High..... 28.3	Monthly Normal..... 30.7	Average Low..... 13.3	Monthly Normal..... 16.8
Average for Month..... 20.8	Monthly Normal..... 23.8	Monthly HDD..... 1274	Monthly Normal HDD..... 1155
Monthly CDD..... 0	Monthly Normal CDD..... 0	Yearly Normal Precip.. 3.34	Year To Date Precip..... 5.15
Monthly Precip..... 3.13	Monthly Normal..... 1.57	Yearly Normal Snow.... 34.3	Year To Date Snowfall... 78.5
Monthly Snow..... 34.2	Monthly Norm Snow..... 8.3		

