

Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area

Dec 1st, 2008 thru Feb 28th, 2009

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Summary: A total of 113 species from the Michigan Bird List were reported from the Saginaw Bay Area this winter, well above the 105 that is the average for the previous twenty years. Overall observer contribution was quite good, both in terms of number of reports and coverage of the area. The primary focus of observations was, as in most winters, areas of open water and at bird feeders. There were however, a far greater than normal number of observer visits to cemeteries this winter. Without a doubt, the most notable species of the period was the **White-winged Crossbill**, which was recorded in numbers unprecedented in modern SBA bird history. They were recorded in all seven counties of the SBA, and their occurrence was made all the more unique by the fact that they could potentially be encountered anywhere there were spruces trees, including at one's own house or office. Another sporadically occurring finch, the **Pine Siskin**, was present in significant numbers, and for that matter, so too were its fellow *Carduelis*, the **American Goldfinch**. An average number of stragglers were reported, the most notable among them being **Common Loon**, **Little Gull**, **Rufous Hummingbird***, and **Pine Warbler**. There were a fair number of otherwise non-wintering species that had individuals hold over through the entire period, including an atypically high number of **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, and **Northern Flickers** that were reported from more than usual number of locations. **Northern Cardinals** seemed particularly abundant this winter, with many individual counts of near 20 or more.

*Pending acceptance by the Michigan Bird Records Committee.

Weather:** You didn't need to consult a calendar this year to know that it was winter. Snow began falling on the first day of December, and it would do this, more or less, on twenty-six days of the month, with a total accumulation far exceeding the normal. Temperatures were slightly below normal as well. January snowfall, though less in total accumulation than the preceding month, remained well above normal. Below normal temperatures persisted strongly throughout this month as well, with just one day above freezing. February, though more moderate overall, was not without extremes. The morning of the fifth saw bitterly cold -10 to -20 degrees F, but by the tenth it was in the 50's, an extraordinary range in temperature for sure. The remainder of the month was equally varied, as Arctic surges and milder southern air traded influence over the region.

**Weather is based upon the best available data from NOAA, which is for Saginaw MBS. While generally applicable to the greater SBA, conditions in the northern and thumb portions of the area may have varied to some extent.

This report, as well as those from 2000-2008, along with updates on spring 2009 migration in the Saginaw Bay Area, can be found at <http://www.saginawbaybirding.org>.

A special thanks to the talented photographers of birds in the SBA, who generously shared their images from this past winter. The two photos on the following page are only a sample; many more can be viewed at <http://www.saginawbaybirding.org>.

Sincere thanks to Janea Little and Chippewa Nature Center for ongoing support of these reports.



***Snowy Owl by: Doug Jackson
01/09/09 at Dutcher Rd., Tu***



***White-winged Crossbill by: Roger Eriksson
1/15/09 at New St. Patrick's Cemetery, Bay City, Ba***

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observers / Comment
SNOW GOOSE:	10	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP
CANADA GOOSE:	770 2570	12/4 2/2	AuGres, Ar SNWR, Sa	RE - also noted in Ba,lo,Mi DJP
MUTE SWAN:	63 87	12/15 2/9	Dow Ponds, Mi Dow Ponds, Mi	MKE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,lo,Sa MKE
TRUMPETER SWAN:	48 45 34 1 13 18	12/6 12/6 12/28 1/11 1/19 1/19	Westgate, lo Iargo Springs, lo Cooke Dam area, lo Iargo Springs, lo Cooke Dam area, lo Five Channels Dam, lo	WWS,RE WWS,RE WWS - flying over DJ WWS,JS JS
TUNDRA SWAN:	300 7 4	12/4 1/8 1/30	Pinconning Park, Ba Harbor Beach, Hu Saginaw River mouth, Ba	DJ - also noted in Ar per SE MI Birders Digest JEV
WOOD DUCK:	1	12/22	Middlegrounds, Ba	JS - a drake - also noted in lo
GADWALL:	1 4	12/18 2/9	Middlegrounds, Ba Dow Ponds, Mi	JS - a hen MKE
AMERICAN WIGEON:	1	12/8	Middlegrounds, Ba	DJ
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:	42 6 30	12/6 2/15- 2/28 2/21	Cooke Dam area, lo AuSable River mouth, lo Dow Ponds, Mi	WWS,RE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Sa RE,DJ JZ
MALLARD:	200 250	12/18 1/27	Middlegrounds, Ba Sanford Dam, Mi	GP,EP - also noted in Ar,lo,Sa JZ
NORTHERN SHOVELER:	1	1/3	Ba	per SBB.org - a drake
NORTHERN PINTAIL:	2 4	1/6 2/5-2/6	Middlegrounds, Ba Middlegrounds, Ba	DJ - also noted in Ar LD,GP,MW
CANVASBACK:	2 100+	2/6 2/18	Middlegrounds, Ba Harbor Beach, Hu	SG - also noted in Mi AR,MR
REDHEAD:	1 1600+	12/4 2/15	Tawas Bay, lo Tawas Bay, lo	RE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi RE
RING-NECKED DUCK:	2 2 20	12/1 1/19 2/21	Bangor Twp., Ba Cooke Dam area, lo Dow Ponds, Mi	JS WWS,JS JZ
GREATER SCAUP:	12 7 5	12/30 1/3 1/14	MCV Pond, Mi Grindstone City, Hu Karn Plant, Ba	JZ KO,SS,SJ JS,RW
LESSER SCAUP:	8 2 40	12/30 1/14 2/9	MCV Pond, Mi Karn Plant, Ba Dow Ponds, Mi	JZ JS,RW MKE
SCAUP SP:	1	2/28	AuGres River mouth, Ar	DJ
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:	2 4	2/13 2/28	Harbor Beach, Hu AuSable River mouth, lo	SG,RN DJ,RE

LONG-TAILED DUCK:	5 14	1/3 2/28	Grindstone City, Hu AuSable River mouth, Io	KO,SS,SJ - also noted in Ar DJ,RE
BUFFLEHEAD:	5 20	1/19 2/9	AuSable River mouth, Io Dow Ponds, Mi	JS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu MKE
COMMON GOLDENEYE:	53 50	12/6 1/10- 2/9	Cooke Dam area, Io Dow Ponds, Mi	WWS,RE - also noted in Ar,Hu,Sa MKE
COMMON GOLDENEYE X HOODED MERGANSER:	1	2/14- 2/22	AuSable River mouth, Io	WWS,RE
HOODED MERGANSER:	12 2	1/14- 2/6 2/23	Karn Plant, Ba AuSable River mouth, Io	JS,RW - also noted in Mi DD,LW
COMMON MERGANSER:	125 50	1/9 1/27	Saginaw River, Ba Sanford, Mi	JS - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Sa JZ
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:	2 18	2/6 2/28	Karn Plant, Ba AuGres River mouth, Ar	JS - also noted in Hu,Io DJ
RUDDY DUCK:	1	12/7	Saginaw River, Ba	LD - a hen
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:	12 11	1/21 1/22	M-81& Cedar Run Rd., Tu Bridgeport Twp., Sa	JEV - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu LA - roosters
RUFFED GROUSE:	2 1	12/28 2/8	Cooke Dam area, Io Koylton Twp., Tu	WWS JEV
WILD TURKEY:	150 56 77	1/1 1/6 2/6	Tittabawassee River Rd, Mi Koylton Twp., Tu Garfield Twp., Ba	JZ - peak count JEV - also noted in Io,Sa GP,MW
COMMON LOON:	1	1/9	Tawas Bay, Io	WWS - only the 3 rd SBA January record
PIED-BILLED GREBE:	1	12/11	Saginaw River, Ba	JS
HORNED GREBE:	6	2/6	Karn Plant, Ba	JS
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:	1	12/9	Saginaw River, Ba	JS
GREAT BLUE HERON:	1 1 1 2	12/16- 12/18 12/30 1/3 2/28	Middlegrounds, Ba SNWR, Sa Port Austin, Hu Karn Plant, Ba	DJ,GP,EP DJP KO,SS,SJ SM
TURKEY VULTURE:	1	2/25	S of Cass City, Tu	JEV - first date
BALD EAGLE:	71 41	12/3 2/25	SNWR, Sa SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Io,Mi,Tu
NORTHERN HARRIER:	3 2	12/3 1/14	SNWR, Sa Karn Plant, Ba	DJP- also noted in Io,Tu JS,RW

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:	1	12/19	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	1	1/6	New St.Patrick's Cemetery, Ba	JS
	1	1/8	SNWR, Sa	SFK - 1 st year male
	1	1/22	Forest Lawn Cemetery, Sa	JZ
	1	1/25	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
	1	2/15	Noggle Rd., Ar	RE
For the second winter in a row, SSHA reports in the SBA were more or less double of what they historically are.				
COOPER'S HAWK:	2	1/27	Midland, Mi	JZ - an adult and an immature
	2	1/28	Pinconning Twp., Ba	DJ - also noted in Ar,lo,Sa,Tu
NORTHERN GOSHAWK:	2	12/13	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
	1	2/7	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - immature age, chasing a RSHA
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:	1	12/24- 12/31	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
	1	1/10- 2/26	Wickes Park, Sa	SG,DJP - not your typical RSHA location
	1	2/1	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	1	2/7	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
RED-TAILED HAWK:	3	1/27	Akron Rd., Tu	JS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,lo,Mi
	7	2/25	SNWR, Sa	DJP - includes two dark western intermediate morph birds
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:	9	2/9	Tomlinson & Hunter Rd, Hu	MKE - peak count
	7	2/25	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Tu
GOLDEN EAGLE:	1	1/5	SNWR, Sa	SFK - immature age
	1	2/15	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo - immature age
AMERICAN KESTREL:	2	12/30	Salzburg & Flajole Rds., Ba	JZ - also noted in Hu,lo,Sa,Tu
	2	2/1	Noggle Rd., Ar	RE
MERLIN:	1	1/24	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
	1	1/30- 1/31	Middlegrounds, Ba	LD
PEREGRINE FALCON:	1	12/17	Saginaw River mouth, Ba	LD
	1	12/30	SNWR, Sa	DEP - harassing a mallard
	1	1/9	Bay City, Ba	MKE
	1	2/6	Karn Plant, Ba	JS - adult age
AMERICAN COOT:	1	1/11	AuSable River mouth, lo	DJ
	1	1/14	Karn Plant, Ba	JS,RW
SANDHILL CRANE:	41	12/2	SNWR, Sa	JJD - peak count
	4	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - last date
	5	2/18	Birch Run, Sa	LA - first date
LITTLE GULL:	1	12/2- 12/4	Saginaw River mouth, Ba	LD - 1 st winter age, present from the end of the fall period
BONAPARTE'S GULL:	99	12/4	Gateway Park, lo	RE - also noted in Ar
	800	12/4	Saginaw River mouth, Ba	LD - peak count and last date
RING-BILLED GULL:	9031	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count - also noted in Ar,Hu,lo
	800	12/3	Saginaw River mouth, Ba	LD - the observer noted "numbers dropped significantly after 12/7"
	2	1/14	Karn Plant, Ba	JS,RW

HERRING GULL:	15902 35	12/3 12/30	SNWR, Sa Saginaw River, Ba	DJP - peak count JZ - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi
ICELAND (KUMLIEN'S) GULL:	1 2 1 1 1	12/5 12/7 12/8- 12/18 12/8- 12/30 2/13	Ojibwa Island, Saginaw, Sa Saginaw River, Ba Saginaw River, Ba Saginaw River, Ba Harbor Beach, Hu	JDS LD LD - 2 nd winter age JS,DJ,JZ - 1 st winter age SG,RN
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:	4 2 1 1	12/5 12/8- 12/17 12/14 2/19	SNWR, Sa Saginaw River, Ba Saginaw River, Ba Harbor Beach, Hu	DJP - all adult age LD,JS - adult age LD - 2 nd winter age per SE MI Birders Digest
GLAUCOUS GULL:	4 8 4	12/5 12/16 2/17	Ojibwa Island, Saginaw, Sa Saginaw River, Ba SNWR, Sa	JDS - also noted in Hu LD - peak count DJP - all 1 st winter age
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:	3 1 2 2	12/9 1/1 1/10 2/17	Saginaw River, Ba Grindstone City, Hu Karn Plant, Ba SNWR, Sa	JS - also noted in Io MKE SM,JM DJP - 1 st winter age
HERRING GULL X GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:	1	12/7	Saginaw River, Ba	LD - the observer noted "probable...very large, dark-backed adult gull appeared to be size and shape of Great Black-backed, but with paler mantle, closer to Lesser Black-backed Gull.... this (hybrid) was the most likely possibility, as opposed to Slaty-backed or Western Gull."
ROCK PIGEON:	69 75	12/4 12/18	SNWR, Sa Bay City, Ba	DJP - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu GP,EP
MOURNING DOVE:	53 74	2/6 1/17	Garfield Twp., Ba SNWR, Sa	GP,MW - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu DJP
EASTERN SCREECH OWL:	1 1	12/22- 1/14 1/3	Bridgeport Twp., Sa Wilderness Arboretum, Hu	LA MKE
GREAT HORNED OWL:	2 2 3	12/3 12/16 1/2	Bangor Twp., Ba SNWR, Sa Koylton Twp., Tu	GP,EP - a pair, calling at dusk DJP - calling during the pre-dawn hour on many mornings until late February JEV - also noted in Hu,Mi
SNOWY OWL:	1 2 1 2 2 1	12/18- 1/6 1/6- 1/19 1/10 1/12 1/14- 2/13 1/27	Akron Rd., Tu Prairie Farm, Sa Rockwell / Ashman Rds, Mi N of Elkton, Hu Bradleyville Rd. Area I-75 NW of Wilder Rd., Ba	LZ,DJ - 2 here on 2/4(LZ) KL,SG,DJP - 1 or both of these birds remained here thru 1/28 (LA,SG,KL,JZ) JF JEV - one immature age and one adult JS,RW,GP,MW,SG,RN,JEV - immature age WWS,TS
BARRED OWL:	1 1 1	1/3 1/19 2/6	Hume Twp., Hu Omer area, Ar Flajole Rd., Ba	MKE JS GP,MW

LONG-EARED OWL:	1	12/5	SNWR, Sa	DJP
SHORT-EARED OWL:	5	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	12/13-12/16	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:	1	12/2	CNC, Mi	BB per KB
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD:	1	thru 12/5	Shields, Sa	per AC - a female, present from the fall period *. As AC noted, typically this bird would remain until late December, but she departed earlier for any number of reasons. He is reasonably certain that this species has been migrating thru the Great Lakes in the fall on their way to the Gulf of Mexico for quite some time. Recent efforts to band these birds, and then monitor their return in subsequent years, have shown that they are following this route specifically, and are not lost, or off-course.
BELTED KINGFISHER:	1	1/6	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	2/10-2/13	Poseyville Rd. N of Brooks Rd., Mi	DB
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:	2	1/3	Port Austin, Hu	KO,SS,SJ
	1	1/27-1/30	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo - immature age
	1	2/4	Cass City, Tu	JEV
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:	4	12/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi,Tu
	3	12/28	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
DOWNY WOODPECKER:	5	12/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Io,Mi,Tu
	7	1/14	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	LA
HAIRY WOODPECKER:	2	tp	Midland, Mi	JZ - also noted in Sa,Tu
	2	12/4	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
	3	12/28	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
NORTHERN FLICKER:	1	12/4	BCSRA, Ba	LD
	4	12/16	SNWR, Sa	DJP - noted here tp
	5	12/30	Phillips & Marlette Rd., Tu	JEV
	1	1/3	Hume Twp., Hu	MKE
	3	1/9	St. Charles Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo
	2	2/16	Pinconning Twp., Ba	DJ
	1	2/19	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
PILEATED WOODPECKER:	2	12/28	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - also noted in Hu,Sa
	2	2/2	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - females
NORTHERN SHRIKE:	1	12/6	Hampton Twp., Ba	JS - also noted in Ar,Mi
	1	1/1	PCSP, Hu	MKE
	1	1/2	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo
BLUE JAY:	26	1/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - peak count
	19	1/25	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi,Sa

AMERICAN CROW:	1200+	12/13	Central Middle School, Mi	MKE - peak count - the observer noted "swirling down from the skies...into the treetops". A relatively high count for recent years, though still small compared to the magnificent flocks of 8,000-10,000 recorded in Midland by Kenega in 1958-1960.
	57	2/17	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Tu
COMMON RAVEN:	34	12/4	River Rd., Io	WWS - similar to last winter, the observer noted the birds "playing" with ice balls found along the roadside
	1	12/13	M-20, Mi	MKE
	1	1/19	Hale area, Io	JS
	1	2/9	N of Sebewaing, Hu	MKE - the observed noted "descending at an impressive plummet from the skies, heading for a conifer stand...big bodied...burly in front and long tailed...long wings with spread fingers (primaries)...free falling at an incredible rate of speed, exhibiting amazing agility and strength as it performed its amazing acrobatic contortions on the way down."
HORNED LARK:	24	2/16	Owendale, Hu	JEV - also noted in Ba,Io,Tu
	48	2/24	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:	20	1/24	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Io,Mi,Sa
	21	2/14	BCSRA, Ba	BG,CS,LA,DJP
TUFTED TITMOUSE:	5	12/10	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP - also noted in Ar,Mi
	5	12/22	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	LA
	5	12/28	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	6	1/3	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	9	1/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - also noted in Ba,Hu,Tu
	2	1/10	Midland, Mi	MKE
	2	2/6	Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Saginaw, Sa	DJP
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	6	12/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Io,Tu
	4	tp	Midland, Mi	JZ
BROWN CREEPER:	4	12/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Hu,Io,Mi
	2	1/23	New St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ba	JS
CAROLINA WREN:	2	12/1	Bridgeport Township, Sa	CS
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:	3	1/3	Port Austin, Hu	KO,SS,SJ
	2	1/2	St. Charles, Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:	12	12/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP - peak count
	3	12/15	Gordonville Rd., Mi	MKE
	6	12/25	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
	3	1/11	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo
	4	1/29	New St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ba	RE
	2	2/2	Midland, Mi	BR - also 2 this date @ MCV, Mi (JZ)
AMERICAN ROBIN:	20+	12/7	SB I-75 Rest Area, Ba	RE
	11	1/7	SNWR (GPELC), Sa	DJP
	6	1/23	New St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ba	JS

EUROPEAN STARLING:	200 1500	12/18 2/16	Bay City, Ba Limerick Rd E of Elkton, Hu	GP,EP - also noted in Ar,lo,Mi,Sa,Tu JEV - peak count
CEDAR WAXWING:	35 75	2/4 2/23	Koylton Twp., Tu Middlegrounds, Ba	JEV - also noted in lo,Mi,Sa DJ
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:	3	12/11	SNWR, Sa	DJP
PINE WARBLER:	1	early Dec. - 1/15	Spaulding Township, Sa	DJP - a male, frequenting a peanut feeder. The first January SBA record. Interestingly, the only other SBA December record was three years previous, just 3 miles from this location. Full details submitted to the state compiler.
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:	53 15	12/3 1/1	SNWR, Sa PCSP, Hu	DJP - peak count MKE - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Mi,Tu
FOX SPARROW:	1	12/13	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	LA
SONG SPARROW:	1 1 1 1 1	tp 12/15 12/30 1/5 2/7 tp	Albee Twp., Sa Orr Rd., Mi BCSRA, Ba SNWR, Sa Koylton Twp., Tu	JDS,JSo MKE GP DJP JEV
SWAMP SPARROW:	1	1/17- 1/18	Pinconning Twp., Ba	DJ
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:	1 1 1	12/6- 1/10 12/13 2/3- 2/14	Midland, Mi Bridgeport Twp., Sa BCSRA, Ba	MKE - also noted in lo LA GP,BG,CS,LA,DJP
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:	1	1/5-1/9	Bangor Twp., Ba	GP,EP
DARK-EYED JUNCO:	25 21	12/16 12/20	SNWR, Sa Bangor Twp., Ba	DJP - peak count GP,EP - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Mi,Tu
LAPLAND LONGSPUR:	4 1 20	1/1 1/14- 1/21 2/15	Albee Twp., Sa Bradleyville Rd., Tu Albee Twp., Sa	JDS,JSo - first date JS,RW,JEV JDS,JSo - peak count
SNOW BUNTING	141 175 275	1/3 1/14 1/22	Kinde, Hu Bradleyville Rd., Tu Prairie Farm, Sa	KO,SS,SJ - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo JS,RW LA
NORTHERN CARDINAL:	41 23 30	1/15 1/27 2/13	Bangor Twp., Ba Albee Twp., Sa Frankenmuth, Sa	GP,EP - new SBA peak count JDS,JSo - also noted in Hu,lo,Mi,Tu CS
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD:	1 8	12/7 2/12	Pinconning, Ba SNWR, Sa	DJ - last date DJP - first date
RUSTY BLACKBIRD:	1	12/2	Sanford, Mi	GL per KB
COMMON GRACKLE:	2 2 2	1/10 2/13 2/15	Karn Plant, Ba Kingston Rd near M-46, Tu SNWR, Sa	SM,JM JEV SFK

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:	12 32 2	12/28 1/3 2/12	AuGres, Ar Kochville Twp., Sa SNWR, Sa	RE - all males CS,BG,LA - a single flock DJP
PURPLE FINCH:	8 7 14	1/3 1/15 2/26	Cooke Dam area, Io Bridgeport, Sa Bangor Twp., Ba	WWS - also noted in Mi CS GP,EP - peak count - the observer noted “(February) purple finch counts (at home) greatly exceed house finch for the first time since the (house finch) invasion began”
HOUSE FINCH:	36 30	12/2 2/15	Bangor Twp., Ba Mayville, Tu	GP,EP - peak count JEV - also noted in Hu,Io,Mi,Sa
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:	20 9 15 70+ 4 20 27	12/21 1/3 1/4 1/9 1/19 2/6 2/16	Monroe Rd., Mi Hume Twp., Hu Fairgrove, Tu New St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Ba Standish, Ar Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Saginaw, Sa Cooke Dam area, Io	JF MKE RN,BP - first Tu record RE,DJ - new SBA peak count - present at this location from 1/3 tp (JS et.al.) JS - first Ar record DJP - the observer noted “feeding on blue spruce and white spruce seeds. WWS - this and the preceding six records represent the peak WWCR count in each of the SBA counties.
COMMON REDPOLL:	6 14	2/21 2/27	Koylton Twp., Tu Cooke Dam area, Io	JEV - also noted in Ba,Sa WWS - peak count
PINE SISKIN:	100+ 125 92	tp 1/9 2/18	Midland, Mi Corsair, Io Bangor Twp., Ba	MKE - also noted in Ar,Hu,Tu and tp in Sa where DP noted “extracting seeds from white cedar cones in Dec., giving their wonderful zweeeet call in Feb.” WWS - peak count GP,EP - the observer noted “the most regular, and highest totals, since ...an invasion year maybe 30 years ago”
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:	100 63 100	12/13 12/28 1/13	Koylton Twp., Tu Cooke Dam area, Io Bangor Twp., Ba	JEV - also noted in Ar,Mi,Sa WWS GP,EP
EVENING GROSBEAK:	3	12/28	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
HOUSE SPARROW:	35 51	12/4 1/18	Bangor Twp., Ba Saginaw, Sa	GP,EP - also noted in Ar,Io,Mi,Tu DJP

TOTAL: 113 Species

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.

Observer Key:

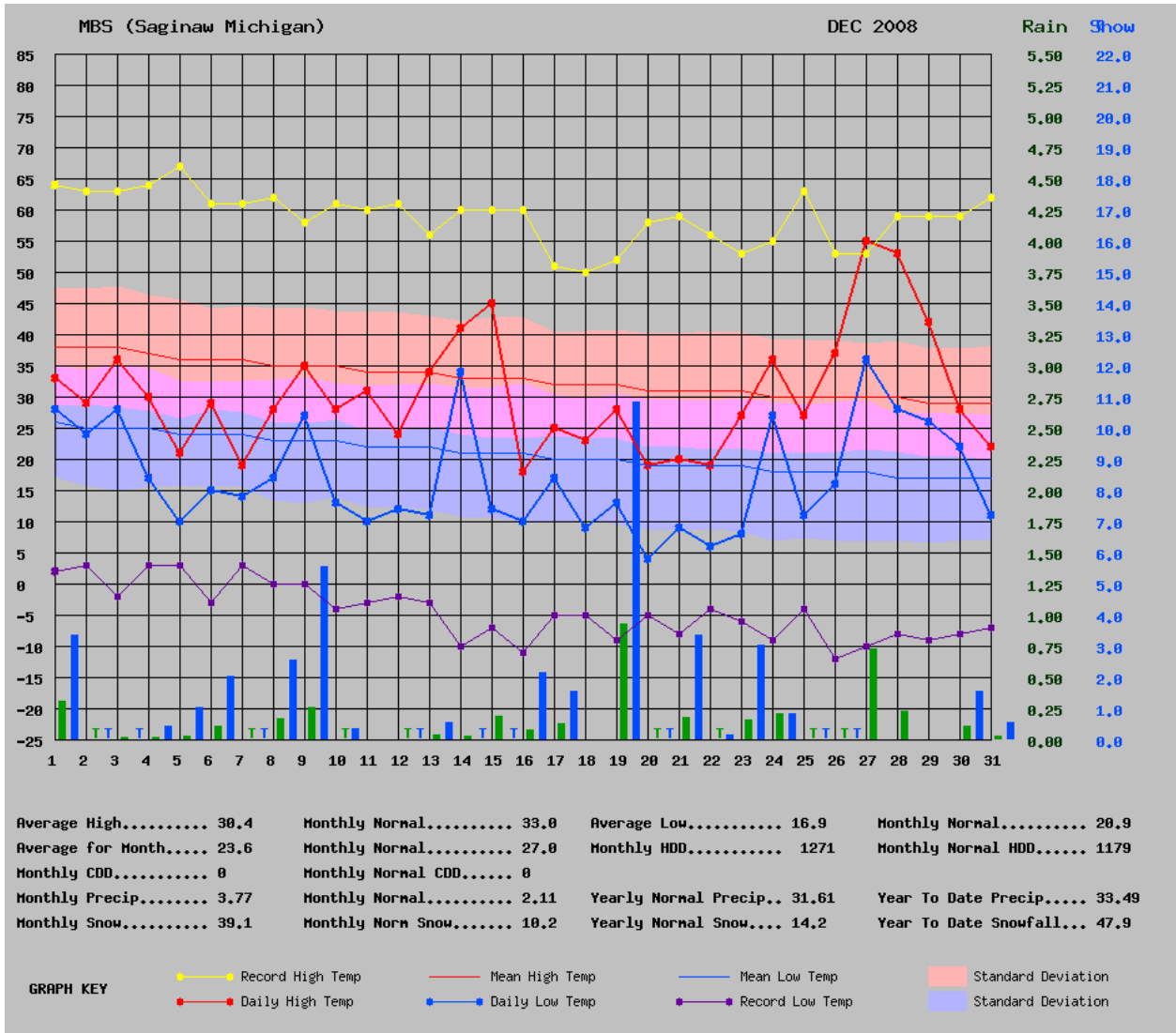
LA	Larry Abraham	BP	Bill Patterson
KB	Kyle Bagnell	DJP	David J. Peters
BB	Barb Blackhurst	GP	Glenn Peterson
DB	Denny Brooks	EP	Ellen Peterson
AC	Allen Chartier	DEP	Don E. Poppe
JJD	Jim J. Dastyck	BR	Betty Rainwater
LD	Louie Dombroski	AR	Al Roberts
DD	Danielle Durham	MR	Margaret Roberts
RE	Roger Eriksson	SS	Steve Santer
MKE	Monica Essenmacher	TS	Toni Shawl
JF	Jed Fulkerson	WWS	Wayne W. Shawl
SG	Steve Gasser	JS	Joe Soehnel
BG	Bob Grefe	JDS	Jeff D. Sommer
DJ	Doug Jackson	JSo	Jenn Sommer
SJ	Scott Jennex	CS	Carolyn Szaroletta
SFK	Steve F. Kahl	JEV	Jim E. VanAllen
KL	Kim LeBlanc	RW	Ron Weeks
GL	Gary Loeblich	LW	Leo Western
JM	Jean Madziar	MW	Myles Willard
SM	Stan Madziar	LZ	Lori Zaverucha
RN	Richard Naber	JZ	Jerry Ziarno
KO	Karl Overman		

Eight individuals generously submitted reports specifically for this compilation. Sightings were also obtained from postings on the saginawbaybirding.org winter migration update, or from personal communication. In each case, thanks to everyone who contributed.

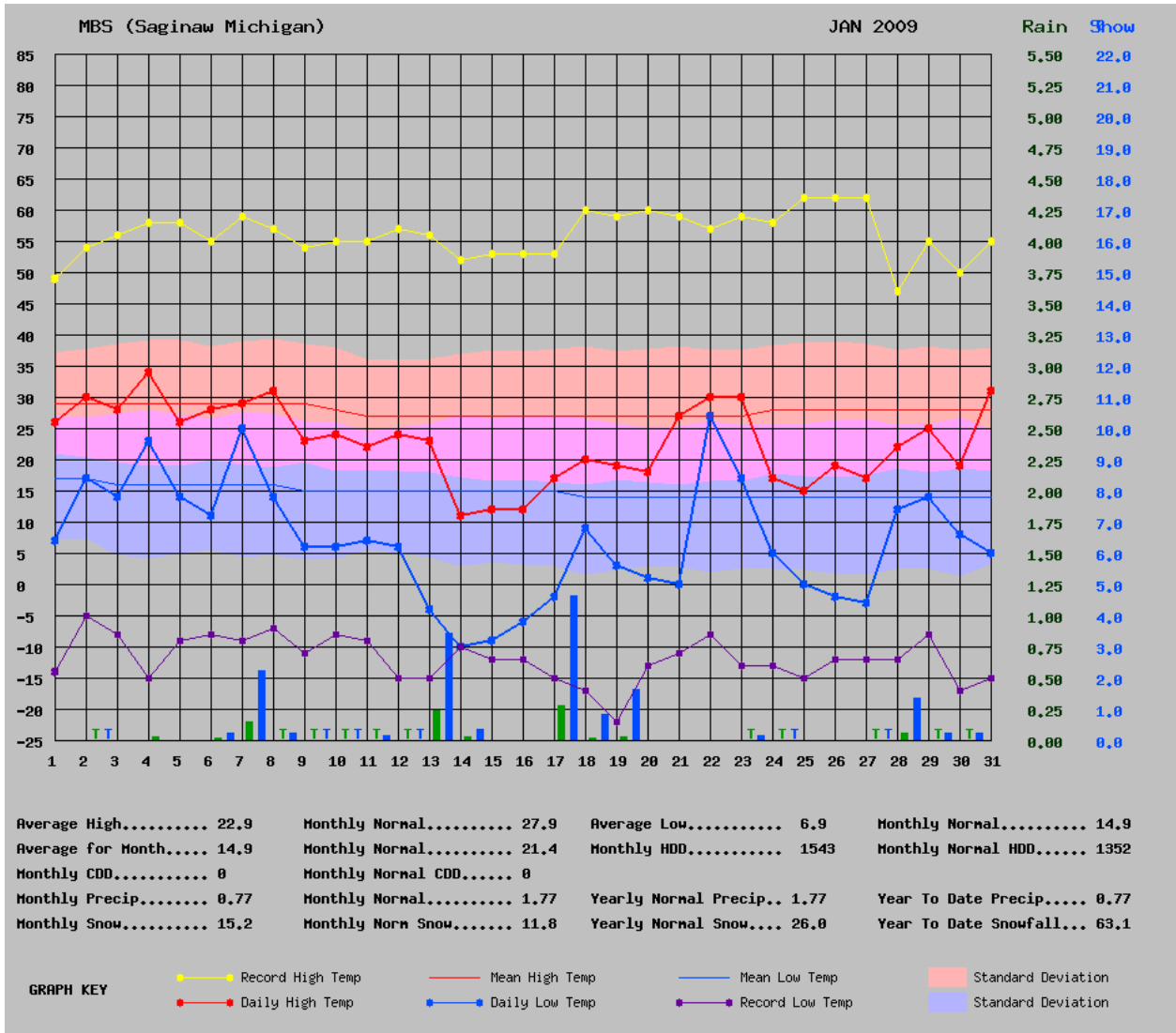
Abbreviations:

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
GPELC	Green Point Environmental Learning Center	SNWR	Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
Hu	Huron County	tp	throughout entire period
Io	Iosco County	Tu	Tuscola County
MCV	Midland Cogeneration Venture (Pond)		

December, 2008 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



January, 2009 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



February, 2009 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)

