

Birds in the Saginaw Bay Area

Dec 1st, 2010 thru Feb 28th, 2011

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Summary: A total of 114 species from the Michigan Bird List were reported in the Saginaw Bay Area this winter, exactly the same as 2009-2010. The average for the season is 106. This report lists each of these species, along with the highest reported individual count for each, and a list of the SBA counties in which each was noted. Observer effort was adequate. The total number of field trips seemed below normal, even for the winter season. Coverage within each county was not always widespread, in some cases limited to two or three locations. Overall bird-wise, there was no lack of stragglers or sporadic / periodic winter visitors, but they occurred in very limited numbers, and in some cases, for a very brief duration. There were three new SBA winter high counts established, as well as one new fall (winter) late date, and a new SBA peak count for Trumpeter Swan.

Weather: Below to well below normal temperatures prevailed throughout the first three-quarters of December. Snowfall was near average, with only one storm of significant accumulation. A brief warm spell at the tail end of the calendar year ended abruptly on New Years Day, as temperatures dropped steeply. This set the dominate trend for January, with declining temperatures as the month progressed, from normal and then on into below normal, easing only slightly at month's end. Although no significant storms occurred, January snow fall was consistent, with Saginaw recording new snow on all but three days, and the total snowfall for the month was above average. The winter's below normal temperatures pattern persisted in February, broken only once by a brief mid-month warm-up. The recent pattern of February being the snowiest month of the season held true once again, with above normal total accumulations.

(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 lakeshore portions of the area may have varied to some extent.)

This report, as well as previous seasonal reports from 2000-2010, can be found at <http://www.saginawbaybirding.org>, along with updates on spring 2011 migration in the Saginaw Bay Area, as reported to Joe Soehnel at soehnelj@gmail.com or at 989-892-3687.

Many thanks to all observers who contributed their sightings directly to this compilation. Your extra efforts result in a significantly more accurate and thorough report. Additional thanks to Joe Soehnel for his ongoing input .



Pinconning, Bay County, on February 27, 2011, by Roger Eriksson

Imagine how bleak winter in the Saginaw Bay Area would be without birds. Their presence in the woods, bushes, open areas of water, and of course at birds feeders; help make the cold, gray days more tolerable for humans.

Horned Larks are extra special when it comes to this, bringing life to the most dismal of all Saginaw Bay Area winter landscapes - croplands.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observers / Comment
GRTR WHITE-FRNTED GOOSE:	1	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	2	1/1	SNWR, Sa	JDS - new SBA fall late date
SNOW GOOSE:	500+	12/1	AuGres, Ar	WWS - in five flocks passing overhead - the observer also encountered 300+ at Tawas City, Io, on this same date, also passing overhead.
	1	12/7	Harbor Beach, Hu	KO - also noted in Ba,Mi
CACKLING GOOSE:	8	12/9	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	12/18	Hu	LD
CANADA GOOSE:	9008	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Io,Mi
MUTE SWAN:	67	1/14	Tawas Bay, Io	WWS - also noted in Ba,Mi
TRUMPETER SWAN:	14	12/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	60	12/7	Iargo Springs, Io	PR
	75	12/7	Westgate, Io	PR
	79	12/8	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	150+	12/9	Cooke Dam area, Io	PR - new SBA peak count
	110+	12/9	Pine Acres, Io	PR
	14	12/9	Westgate, Io	PR
	96	12/13	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	67	12/31	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	62	1/12	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
	44	1/17	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,JMS,DJP
31	2/19	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS	
TUNDRA SWAN:	268	12/5	Pinconning Park, Ba	RAE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Sa
	1	2/26	AuSable River mouth, Io	RAE,DLJ
WOOD DUCK:	1	12/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW
GADWALL:	28	1/2	MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ,JMS
	3	2/13	Dow Ponds, Mi	RD
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:	72	12/13	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi,Sa
MALLARD:	750	1/2	MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ,JMS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Io,Sa
	383	1/12	Sanford, Mi	MKE
NORTHERN PINTAIL:	143	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Io
	1	2/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	JEV
GREEN-WINGED TEAL:	382	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - new SBA winter high count
	2	2/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	JEV
CANVASBACK:	1	12/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW
	2	1/2	MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ,JMS
REDHEAD:	20,000+	12/2	Tawas Bay, Io	RAE - new SBA winter high count - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi
RING-NECKED DUCK:	30	2/13	Dow Ponds, Mi	RD - new SBA winter high count - also noted in Ba
GREATER SCAUP:	20	2/13	Dow Ponds, Mi	RD - also noted in Ba
LESSER SCAUP:	17	1/2	Dow & MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ,JMS - also noted in Ba
SCAUP SP.:	300+	12/11	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,TP

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:	3	2/25	AuSable River mouth, Io	RAE - adult age, two male and one female
LONG-TAILED DUCK:	118	12/19	TPSP, Io	RAE - also noted in Ba,Hu
BUFFLEHEAD:	32	12/22	Tawas Bay, Io	JMS,DLJ,MW - also noted in Ba,Mi
COMMON GOLDENEYE:	2580	12/11	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,TP - also noted in Ar,Io,Mi
HOODED MERGANSER:	43	12/4	Dow Ponds, Mi	MKE -also noted in Ba
COMMON MERGANSER:	7800	12/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW - also noted in Ar,Io,Hu,Mi,Sa
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:	85	12/11	Tawas Bay, Io	RAE - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi
RUDDY DUCK:	100+ 2	12/1 1/14	Dow Ponds, Mi Dow Ponds, Mi	MKE - new SBA winter high count RD - also noted in Ba,Sa
RING-NECKED PHEASANT:	17	12/22	near Elmwood, Tu	JEV - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa
RUFFED GROUSE:	5	2/17	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS,TS - also noted in Ba,Mi,Tu
WILD TURKEY:	63	1/14	Jerome Twp., Mi	RD - also noted in Ba,Sa,Tu
PIED-BILLED GREBE:	2	12/2	Crow Island SGA, Sa	RAE
HORNED GREBE:	2 1	12/3 1/4 - 1/6	Dow Ponds, Mi Tittabawassee River, Midland Twp., Mi	JZ MKE
RED-NECKED GREBE:	1	12/11	Tawas Bay, Io	RAE
DOUBLE-CRSTD CORMORANT:	16 3	12/21 2/17	Karn Plant, Ba Middlegrounds, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW - also noted in Mi,Sa LD
GREAT BLUE HERON:	14 1 1	12/3 1/13 2/12	SNWR, Sa Tittabawassee Trail, Mi Hampton Twp., Ba	DJP MKE GSP,EMP
TURKEY VULTURE:	3 1	2/18 2/18	near Kingston, Tu Oil City area, Mi	JEV RD
BALD EAGLE:	48	1/15	Karn Plant, Ba	SM - also noted in Ar,Io,Sa,Tu
NORTHERN HARRIER:	3	1/28	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Tu
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:	1	2/26	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP - also noted in Hu,Sa,Tu
COOPER'S HAWK:	2	12/17	Bay City area, Ba	DLJ,RAE - also noted in Ar,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:	1 1 1	1/5 2/6 2/7 - 2/27	Lincoln Twp., Ar Koylton Twp, Tu Albee Twp., Sa	DLJ - also noted in Ba,Io,Mi JEV JDS
RED-TAILED HAWK:	11	1/14	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Tu
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:	5	12/17	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu

GOLDEN EAGLE:	1	12/4	Ba	DD - adult age
	1	1/7	Tittabawassee River Rd., Mi	MKE - immature age
	1	12/17 - 1/10	SNWR, Sa	DJP - immature age
	1	2/15	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS
AMERICAN KESTREL:	3	1/14	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
MERLIN:	1	12/1	Linwood area, Ba	GSP
	1	12/22	Deford SGA, Tu	JEV
	1	1/17	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	2/13	Middlegrounds, Ba	LD
PEREGRINE FALCON:	1	12/16	Karn Plant, Ba	DD
	1	1/12	Saginaw, Sa	JDS
	1	2/5	Dow Ponds, Mi	JEV
AMERICAN COOT:	38	1/2	MCV Ponds, Mi	JZ,JMS
SANDHILL CRANE:	81	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - new SBA winter high count
DUNLIN:	4	12/7	Harbor Beach, Hu	KO
WILSON'S SNIPE:	1	12/20	Harbor Beach, Hu	KO
BONAPARTE'S GULL:	350	12/4	Tawas Bay, Io	RAE - also noted in Mi,Sa
	46	12/11	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,TP
RING-BILLED GULL:	1518	12/9	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Hu,Mi
	1	2/11	Saginaw River, Ba	LD
HERRING GULL:	4000	12/16	Saginaw River, Ba	DLJ - also noted in Hu,Io,Mi,Sa
	700	2/21	Saginaw River, Ba	LD
THAYER'S GULL:	1	12/19	Middlegrounds, Ba	LD - adult age
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:	2	12/9	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	12/11	Saginaw River, Ba	DD
GLAUCOUS GULL:	7	12/21	Saginaw River, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW - also noted in Ar
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:	25	12/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW - also noted in Hu
ROCK PIGEON:	350	12/24	Bay City, Ba	GSP - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa
MOURNING DOVE:	185	12/30	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Tu
EASTERN SCREECH OWL:	1	12/20 tp	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - the observer noted that after 17 years of provided EASO nestboxes at his home, he finally had one occupied - also noted in Ba,Hu,Sa
GREAT HORNED OWL:	3	1/16	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa
SNOWY OWL:	1	2/11	Gilford Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Hu
BARRED OWL:	1	2/10	Whitney Twp., Ar	RAE - also noted in Hu,Io
LONG-EARED OWL:	4	12/20	SNWR, Sa	JDS
	2	1/8	SNWR, Sa	JDS

SHORT-EARED OWL:	2	12/17	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	6	1/8	SNWR, Sa	DJP
BELTED KINGFISHER:	1	12/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW
	1	1/18	Sanford, Sa	MKE
	3	2/28	Tittabawassee Trail, Mi	MKE
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:	3	1/10	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi,Tu
DOWNY WOODPECKER:	8	1/10	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Mi,Tu
HAIRY WOODPECKER:	4	1/10	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Mi,Tu
NORTHERN FLICKER:	1	tp	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Ba,Mi,Sa
PILEATED WOODPECKER:	3	1/16	St. Charles Twp., Sa	JDS - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Hu,Tu
	3	2/28	Tittabawassee Trail, Mi	MKE
NORTHERN SHRIKE:	2	12/17	Crow Island SGA, Sa	RAE - also noted in Ba,Hu,lo,Mi,Tu
BLUE JAY:	40+	12/20	Cooke Dam area, lo	WWS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi,Sa,Tu
AMERICAN CROW:	346	12/29	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,lo,Mi,Tu
COMMON RAVEN:	2	1/14	Laur Big Salt River Park, Mi	RD - also noted in Ar
	2	1/17	Loud Dam area, lo	JMS,DJP
	1	2/24	NPSWA, Ba	RAE
HORNED LARK:	258	2/26	Ingersoll Twp., Mi	MKE - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Sa,Tu
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:	26	1/9	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Ba,Hu,lo,Mi,Sa
TUFTED TITMOUSE:	8	1/14	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ar,Ba,lo,Mi,Tu
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	6	2/17	Cooke Dam area, lo	WWS,TS - also noted in Ba,Mi,Sa,Tu
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:	4	1/10	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,lo,Tu
BROWN CREEPER:	3	2/12	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Ba,Mi,Sa
CAROLINA WREN:	1	12/31 -	Midland, Mi	MKE
		1/3		
	1	1/7 tp	SNWR, Sa	DJP
WINTER WREN:	1	12/19	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:	4	1/9	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in lo,Mi
EASTERN BLUEBIRD:	11	12/24	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi,Sa
HERMIT THRUSH:	2	12/24	Koylton Twp., TU	JEV
	1	1/30	Koylton Twp., TU	JEV
	1	2/4	Port Hope, Hu	JEV
AMERICAN ROBIN:	1	1/31	Bay City, Ba	LD - also noted in Hu,Mi,Tu
	3	2/16	Hampton Twp., Ba	JMS
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:	1	12/21	Karn Plant, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW
	1	1/16	Akron - Fairgrove area, Tu	JEV
EUROPEAN STARLING:	500	2/4	Port Hope, Hu	JEV - also noted in Ba,Sa

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:	155	12/24	East Tawas, Io	RAE - also noted in Hu,Mi
CEDAR WAXWING:	128	12/28	East Tawas, Io	JZ - also noted in Ba,Hu,Mi,Tu
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:	1	1/3 tp	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP, EMP - visiting suet cakes daily
EASTERN TOWHEE:	1	2/4	Porter Twp., Mi	RK - the observer noted this bird had been visiting bird feeders sporadically all winter
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:	121	12/17	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Mi,Tu
CHIPPING SPARROW:	1	1/2	Midland, Mi	RD,MH
SONG SPARROW:	1	12/19	Saginaw River, Ba	LD
	2	1/28	SNWR, Sa	DJP
	1	1/30 - 2/19	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
	1	2/19	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS
SWAMP SPARROW:	2	12/21	Saginaw River, Ba	JMS,DLJ,MW
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:	1	12/7	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP - also noted in Mi
	1	12/9	Baldwin Twp., Io	RAE
	1	1/16 - 2/20	Koylton Twp., Tu	JEV
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:	1	1/6	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP
DARK-EYED JUNCO:	27	1/14	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Ba,Mi,Tu
LAPLAND LONGSPUR:	170+	1/14	Jasper Twp., Mi	RD - also noted in Hu,Sa,Tu
SNOW BUNTING	125	1/17	Standish Twp., Ar	JMS,DJP - also noted in Ba,Hu,Io,Mi,Sa,Tu
NORTHERN CARDINAL:	33	12/12	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP - also noted in Io,Mi,Sa,Tu
COMMON GRACKLE:	6	12/3	SNWR, Sa	DJP - also noted in Mi
	1	2/19	Albee Twp., Sa	JDS
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:	1	12/30	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP
	1	2/17	SNWR, Sa	DJP
PINE GROSBEAK:	1	12/16	Hampton Twp., Ba	JMS - a female
PURPLE FINCH:	2	1/12	Midland, Mi	JZ
HOUSE FINCH:	47	1/3	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa,Tu
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:	1	2/24	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	LMA - a female
COMMON REDPOLL:	26	2/27	Bridgeport Twp., Sa	LMA - also noted in Ba,Io,Mi,Tu
PINE SISKIN:	9	12/3	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Mi
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:	100+	12/13	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS - also noted in Ar,Ba,Hu,Mi,Sa,Tu
EVENING GROSBEAK:	6	12/20	Cooke Dam area, Io	WWS
HOUSE SPARROW:	55	12/8	Bangor Twp., Ba	GSP,EMP - also noted in Hu,Mi,Sa,Tu

TOTAL: 114 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:

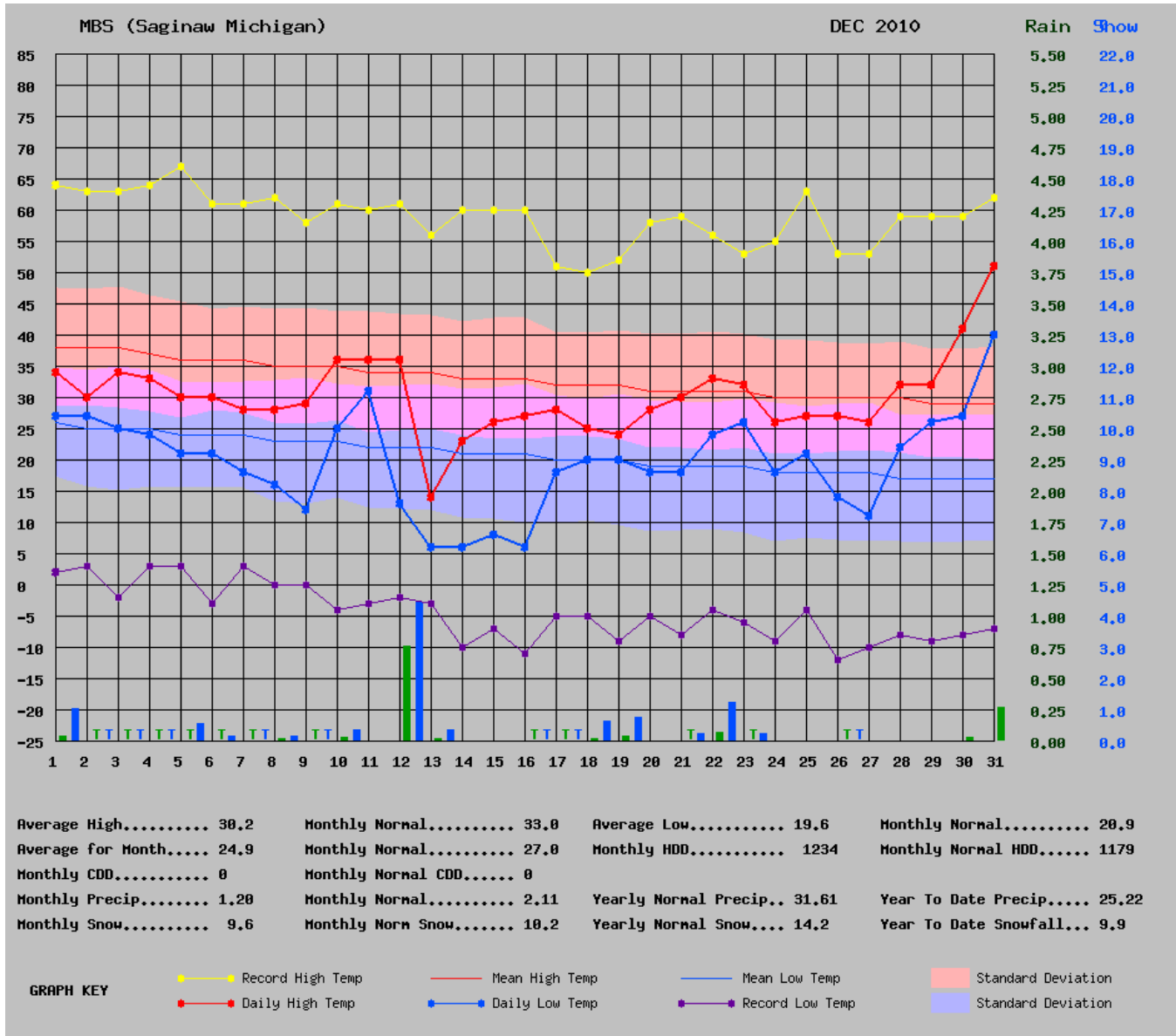
LMA	Larry M. Abraham	DJP	David J. Peters
LD	Louie Dombroski	GSP	Glenn S. Peterson
DD	Dan Duso	EMP	Ellen M. Peterson
RD	Ryan Dziedzic	PRe	Paul Revard
RAE	Roger A. Eriksson	PR	Peggy Ridgeway
MKE	Monica K. Essenmacher	TS	Toni Shawl
MH	Mic Hamas	WWS	Wayne W. Shawl
DLJ	Doug L. Jackson	JMS	Joe M. Soehnel
RK	Randy Kursinsky	JDS	Jeff D. Sommer
SM	Stan Madziar	JEV	Jim E. VanAllen
KO	Karl Overman	MW	Myles Willard
TP	Tom Pavlik	JZ	Jerry Ziarno

Nine 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.

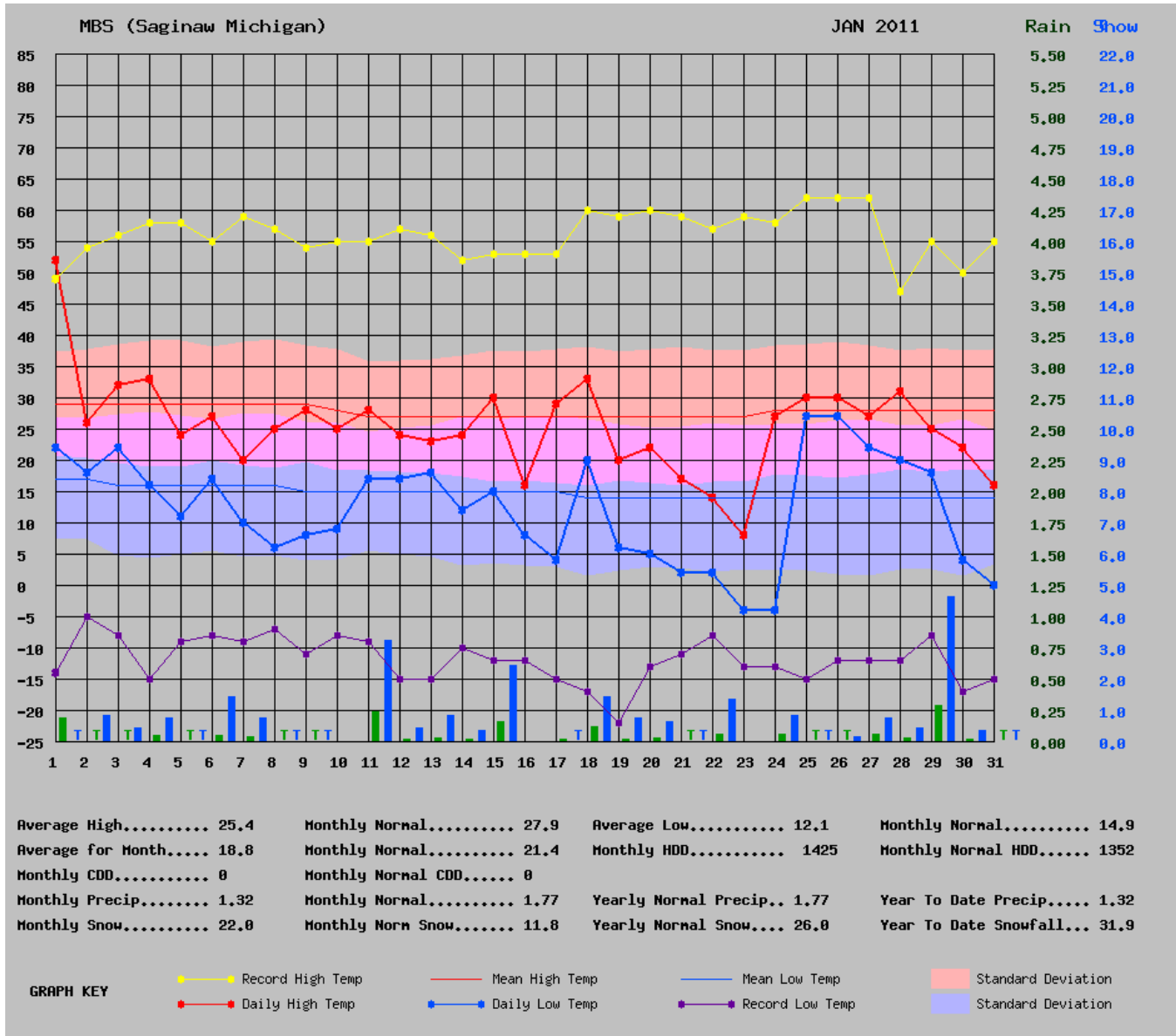
Abbreviations:

Ar	Arenac County	Sa	Saginaw County
Ba	Bay County	SBA	Saginaw Bay Area
Hu	Huron County	SBB.org	SaginawBayBirding.org
Io	Iosco County	SNWR	Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
MCV	Midland Cogeneration Venture	TPSP	Tawas Point State Park
Mi	Midland County	tp	throughout the entire, or entire remainder, of the period
NPSWA	Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area	Tu	Tuscola County

December, 2010 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



January, 2011 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)



February, 2011 Weather Graph – Saginaw (MBS)

