

Michigan 21-28 May 2011 or Kirtland's Warbler twitch tour

by Håkan Thorstensson ©



Jack Pines, habitat for Kirtland's Warbler.

Introduction

A few years ago the thought hit me: why not go to Michigan to see Kirtland's Warbler? For whatever reasons it did not happen at the time, but this year, having returned home from a nice trip to Peru, I happened to mention it to my wife, who replied "so why don't you go then". That very same day I bought the air ticket to Detroit.

I opted to go the last week in May, because by then the warblers would have returned to their breeding grounds, however much of other migration would have slowed down considerably. I also realized that with the least of bad luck, I would end up spending the whole week in, basically, a quite limited area with Jack Pines, which is the preferred habitat to Kirtland's Warbler. On the other hand, I felt pretty sure that getting the bird would not prove that difficult, and therefore enabling me to travel the state more widely.

As the trip was to start on a Saturday morning, my aim was to reach prime Kirtland territory by Sunday afternoon, and immediately start searching for it. Should I fail to locate one then, the plan was to join an organized tour the following morning and hoping this would pay off successfully. If this would work out, I would continue north to the Upper Peninsula for a few days, and then work my way south again. Luckily, this was exactly how things turned out.

Getting there and around, and accommodation

I flew Air France from Gothenburg to Detroit, the ticket being SEK 6000 return, and on arrival in Detroit I picked up my car from Avis at SEK 4700 for the week (including GPS). This was for a standard sedan, however earlier in the season a 4WD is probably necessary in the Upper Peninsula as some roads there may be impassable with a standard vehicle well into the month of May.

In the Lower Peninsula, accommodation is plentiful, but in the Upper it is far more difficult, especially during low season. In Paradise, there appeared to be only two hotels available, but there are camp sites in the neighborhood, and I guess also cabins could be rented. I recommend some research prior to your travelling here.

In Mio, as mentioned below, I stayed at Mio Motel, USD 60. Neighboring it is a supermarket and a well-known hamburger brand. Daily rates for the other hotels I stayed in are USD 100 to 175.

Literature and recordings

The ABA site guide, by Allen T. Chartier and Jerry Ziarno, *A Birder's Guide to Michigan* is indispensable – extremely well produced, it is packed with useful information on what you can see and when. Do not even consider going birding in Michigan without this gem of a book! My choice of field guide fell on David Sibley's *Birds of Eastern North America* as it covers all the birds I could expect to come across, and the choice was also aided by its handy format. For bird sounds, I loaded my ipod with the Stokes's *Field Guide to Bird Songs, Eastern Region* (comes as three audio CD's and one MP3 CD). Finally, I also brought the *Kaufman Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (by Bowers, Bowers & Kaufman).

Itinerary

In the day-by-day listing below, I mention all sites visited (regardless if they were productive or not) with interesting observations or key species indicated where relevant, and within brackets are given the page where the sites can be found in the ABA site guide.

May 21

Morning flight from Gothenburg, arriving Detroit 16.15 local time, immediately heading for the Avis office to collect my rental car (getting there from the terminal on Avis's shuttle bus). Drove north directly to Birch Run where I had pre-booked myself into the local Best Western hotel. Birch Run is close to the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

May 22

Early morning arrival at Shiawassee NWR (page 194), a reliable site for Prothonotary Warbler. Lots of birds, and loads of mosquitoes!!

By noon Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area (page 205) for its Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and also a good site for Swamp Sparrow. Headed on to the city of Mio (page 241), from where organized tours for Kirtland's Warbler depart in the mornings from May 15th onwards. Birded Wagner Lake Area (page 242) in late afternoon, by this time of day only very remote hopes of finding any singing Kirtland's. Evening excursion to Houghton Lake Wildlife Research Area (page 262) for rails and cranes but none heard. Night spent in Mio Motel, only a two-minute drive from the US Forest Service ranger station from where Kirtland's Warbler tours depart (pages 248-252 devoted to the species alone).



Habitat for Prothonotary Warbler in Shiawassee NWR.

May 23

The tour (USD 10) started at 7.00 at the abovementioned Ranger Station. First, a 15-minute video is shown to the participants, to highlight what work is being done to protect Kirtland's Warblers and to maintain the very special habitat they require. About half an hour later, the small group of birders found themselves in prime Kirtland's country in Mack Lake Area (page 252), and a bird was heard singing almost instantly. All in all, five males were recorded, one of them heard only, but the others showed quite well in the dark and cloudy morning. Mission completed!!

Birded Wagner Lake Area again, scoring Vesper and Field Sparrows, before heading off north. Made a brief visit to Waugoshance Point in Wilderness State Park (page 272) where Piping Plover breeds, but none was seen in the very limited area of visible Lake Michigan shoreline. Continuing north, the weather became worse, so after checking in to the Best Western Lakefront Inn & Suites, Paradise, Chippewa County, I decided to call it a day.

At this time of year, it is off-season in Paradise and its surroundings (the area would live up again about two weeks later when holiday season was expected to commence). This meant that the choice of restaurants in the evening was extremely limited – or, rather, there was no choice at all as none were open!! The only option was a 20-mile drive (more on that below), which I chose not to do this evening.



Lake Superior as seen from the hotel in Paradise.

May 24

The main purpose of going to Paradise, was to watch the bird migration at Whitefish Point (page 488), an 11-mile drive from town. Here, the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory organizes counting of migrating birds. Migration along the shore and “at sea” in Lake Superior is done from a small shack to the east of the parking area, and this is where I positioned myself this morning. Strong northerly winds had a positive impact on bird activity, with, for late May, good numbers of White-winged and Surf Scoters.

Late morning at Shelldrake Dam (or Shelldrake Campground as it is named in the ABA guide, page 497) and along Vermilion Road (page 497). Mid day along Farm Truck Road (page 498), and in the afternoon Clark Lake Trail (page 500). Evening birding at Upper Fall in Tahquamenon Falls State Park (page 500). Here was the restaurant referred to above, and the food there was great. Bird feeders outside the restaurant gave some nice close-up views of Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Purple Finch.

Late evening to dusk along Lone Pine road south of Tahquamenon River Mouth (page 487) for American Woodcock. Returned to The Point after dark to check whether any owl banding would be done this night, and got positive information from the staff. After about 45 minutes of waiting in the car, the staff alerted me they had caught two Northern Saw-whets.

May 25

Frost! And no wind at all, which meant virtually no waterfowl or shorebird migration at all at The Point. I therefore soon decided to go trying for Connecticut Warbler in Hiawatha National Forest (page 482). I spent several hours working hard for the bird in the area but was unsuccessful, but at least was rewarded with a Ruffed Grouse. Late afternoon and evening spent at Upper and Lower Tahquamenon Falls.



Tahquamenon Lower Falls

May 26

Close to Farm Truck Road, there had been recent sightings of Spruce Grouse and also singing Connecticut Warbler, so I decided to try the area. Neither species was located. A short drive on Farm Truck Road itself paid off, though, as I found a LeConte's Sparrow there.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge (page 531) was where I was to spend the rest of the day, and I arrived there in late morning. I began at the Diversion Ditch area (map on page 533), with Sharp-tailed Grouse as the main target and I eventually had an extremely short glimpse of one being flushed but soon lost.

Heading for the Visitor Center I saw the first Trumpeter Swans, with many more seen while driving the loops in the lake area, also notable here were nesting Ospreys and Bald Eagles. Returning to the Diversion Ditch, I had nice looks on a flock of Sharp-tailed Grouse, and, somewhat surprising, three Upland Sandpipers.

At 9 o'clock in the evening there was a nighttime excursion departing from the Visitor Center (runs on Thursdays only, and one must register beforehand, but is free of charge). My purpose for participating was the chance of hearing, and possibly even seeing, Yellow Rail. The weather conditions were not very favourable for any activity from rails or crakes at all, and it soon became evident that the strong winds in bitterly cold temperature did indeed have negative impact – the best birds were a booming American Bittern and a confiding American Woodcock.

May 27

Nighttime driving from Seney NWR straight to Tuttle Marsh (page 216). Late morning at Tawas Point State Park (page 214). Afternoon at Tobico Marsh in Bay City State Recreation Area (page 203) where Redhead is supposed to breed, but none was found. Night spent in the Best Western Valley Plaza Inn, in Midland.

May 28

Early morning at Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area (page 42) for Blue-winged Warbler. Sharonville State Game Area (page 60), a good spot for Henslow's Sparrow, and rounding off at mid-day in Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow (page 59) and Thorn Lake (page 61). Evening flight from Detroit and arriving Gothenburg in the afternoon the following day.

Acknowledgements

A warm thank you to Dan Combs, Tennessee, for birding with me during the time spent in Mio. Thanks also to the waterbird counters and owl banders at Whitefish Point, the former for useful information on where to find certain species and also for, although in vain, working so hard trying to find the Piping Plover for me at The Point, and the latter for showing the owls caught.

Finally, I am very grateful to Bengt-Eric Sjölander for kindly allowing me to use his photo of Kirtland's Warbler - without it, this report would not have been made public!

Håkan Thorstensson
hakan.camilla@telia.com

Species list

A total of 170 species of birds were recorded, including introduced and domesticated ones. The reader may be a bit surprised to the lack of some shorebird species, in part this is due to the wader migration period was at its end. Personally, I still find it hard believe I did not see one single Broad-winged Hawk...

Bird names used are primarily the American versions, except for *Gavia* and *Stercorarius* species, which I would never label Loon or Jaeger.

Abbreviations: LP=Lower Peninsula, UP=Upper Peninsula, NWR=National Wildlife Refuge, SGA=State Game Area, WRA=Wildlife Research Area

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Scattered records in LP.

Introduced.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*



~30 Seney NWR 26/5. Introduced in the area, but regarded “countable” by Michigan Bird Records Committee from 2001.

Monotypic.

Canada Goose *Branta Canadensis*

Seen in various numbers all days except day of arrival.

Ssp: probably *interior*

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

2 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

American Wigeon *Anas Americana*

1 Whitefish Point 25/5 was the only record.

Monotypic.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Scattered records, highest number ~15 Shiawassee NWR 22/5.

Ssp: *platyrhynchos*

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

5 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 2 Diversion Ditch 26/5, and 1 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5.

Monotypic.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

7-8 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

2 Seney NWR 26/5, and 9 Tobico Marsh 27/5.

Monotypic.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

4 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Fairly common Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi*

Common Whitefish Point 24/5, but only 2-3 there in the calm conditions 25/5.

Ssp: *deglandi*. Recently split from *M.fusca*, Velvet Scoter.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*

2 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

1 Whitefish Point 25/5.

Ssp: *americana*

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Common Whitefish Point 24-25/5.

Monotypic.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

3 Waugoshance Point 23/5 and 3 Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5.

Ssp: *americanus*

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*

3 Shiawassee NWR 22/5 and 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Ssp: *silvestris*

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*

1 along road FR3344 in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, 1 just west of Paradise 24/5, and 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.
Remarkable drumming sound.

Ssp: UP birds probably *umbelloides*, LP bird *togata*.

Sharp-tailed Grouse *Tympanuchus phasaniellus*

11 or 12 Diversion Ditch 26/5.

Ssp: *campestris*

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Introduced.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*



Pleasantly common Whitefish Point 24/5 but only 1 there 25/5, a few seen from my hotel room in Paradise, and about 10 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

2-3 Nayanquing Point 22/5, 1 in a lake close to Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Ssp: *podiceps*

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

2 Whitefish Point 25/5.

Ssp: *holboellii*

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Recorded on three occasions in the LP.

Ssp: *herodias*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Common Shiawassee NWR 22/5.

Ssp: *egretta*, which is considered by some to be a species separate from Old World populations.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, and 1 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

~20 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 4 Tobico Marsh 27/5 and 3 Thorn Lake 28/5.

Ssp: *auritus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Recorded six days.

Ssp: *septentrionalis*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

2 Seney NWR 26/5.

Ssp: *carolinensis*

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

5 Whitefish Point 24/5, 1 Tawas Point 27/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Ssp: *velox*

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Singles seen in the UP.

Ssp: *hudsonicus*, which is sometimes regarded a separate species.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



7-8 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 3 Whitefish Point 24/5, 3 (incl one downy young in nest) Seney NWR 26/5, and 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Ssp: *washingtoniensis*, however it is questionable as to whether racial differentiation is justified, and many authors treat the species as monotypic.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

1 Mack Lake Area 23/5, 1 Wagner Lake Area 23/5, 1 Whitefish Point 24/5, 1 Seney town 26/5.

Ssp: *borealis*

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Ssp: *santojohannis*

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Surprisingly only one seen.

Ssp: *sparverius*

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Ssp: *columbarius*

Peregrine *Falco peregrines*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Ssp: *anatum*

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*



Seen five days, always a welcome sight.

Ssp: probably all *tabida*

American Coot *Fulica americana*

1 Nayanquing Point 22/5.

Ssp: nominate *americana*

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5, 1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Monotypic.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

3 Big Stone Bay close to Waugoshance Point 23/5, 1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*

Observed four days, all in LP.

Ssp: *vociferous*

American Woodcock *Scolopax minor*

1 Lone Pine Road 24/5, 1 Seney NWR 26/5, 1 close to Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Monotypic.

Wilson's Snipe *Galinago delicata*

1 Nayanquing Point 22/5, 1 Houghton Lake WRA 22/5, and several heard calling and displaying in Seney NWR 26/5. The winnowing sound is similar to that of *G.gallinago*, but clearly higher in tone.

Monotypic.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Fairly common Whitefish Point 24-25/5.

Ssp: *hudsonicus*

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

3 Diversion Ditch area 26/5 were unexpected.

Monotypic.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

2 Big Stone Bay close to Waugoshance Point 23/5 were the only ones seen.

Monotypic.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

1 Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5.

Ssp: *solitaria*

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A few Whitefish Point 24-25/5.

Monotypic.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

1 Big Stone Bay close to Waugoshance Point 23/5, and about a dozen Whitefish Point 24-25/5.

Ssp: *hudsonia*

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Monotypic.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

1 Waugoshance Point 23/5, 3 Big Stone Bay close to Waugoshance Point 23/5, 1 Seney NWR 26/5, 2 Tawas Point 27/5.

Monotypic.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

5-6 in a marsh near Houghton Lake WRA 22/5, 22 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Ssp: *surinamensis*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

2 Seney NWR 26/5.

Ssp: *hirundo*

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*



Fairly common.

Monotypic.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*

Recorded five days.

Monotypic. Recently split from *L. argentatus*.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Pleasantly few seen.

Domesticated.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Easily recorded in LP, none seen in UP.

Ssp: *carolinensis*

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Houghton Lake WRA 22/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Monotypic.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5.

Ssp: *virginianus*

Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus*



2 caught for banding Whitefish Point 24/5. Aren't they cute?

Ssp: *acadicus*

Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferous*

1 heard roughly 15 miles west of Mio 22/5.

Monotypic.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagic*

4 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 24/5 and 1 close to Detroit airport on the last day.

Monotypic.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

Recorded five days.

Monotypic.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

1 Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Monotypic.

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

1 Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow 28/5.

Monotypic.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*

1 Tobico Marsh 27/5.

Monotypic.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Vermilion Road 24/5, 1 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 25/5.
Monotypic.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*

2 Tobico Marsh 27/5.
Ssp: *medianus*

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

Singles seen almost daily.
Ssp: *luteus*

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*

1 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 25/5, 1 Seney NWR 26/5, 1 Tobico Msrsh 27/5.
Ssp: *abieticola*

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens*



1 Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow 28/5.
Monotypic.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*

~10 Shiawassee NWR 22/5 and 1 Nayanquing Point 22/5.
Ssp: *traillii*

Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*

4 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.
Monotypic.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*

1 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 25/5, 1 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens*

4-5 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Tobico Marsh 27/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5, 1 Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow 28/5.

Monotypic.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*

1 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 24-25/5, 1 Seney NWR 26/5.

Monotypic.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Recorded daily in LP, none seen in UP.

Monotypic.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Nayanquing Point 22/5, 1 Wagner Lake Area 23/5.

Monotypic.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitaries*

2 Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, one Lone Pine Road, the other along FR 3343.

Monotypic.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

3-4 Shiawassee NWR 22/5.

Ssp: *gilvus*. Eastern and western populations are sometimes split into two species, however this treatment is not widely accepted. If split, birds in Michigan would belong to the monotypic Eastern Warbling Vireo.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 2-3 Pine Creek in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, 1 Seney NWR 26/5.

Ssp: *olivaceus*

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Recorded daily.

Ssp: *brachyrhynchos*

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Seen in small numbers most days.

Ssp: *principalis*

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*



A can't miss bird, especially common in Whitefish Point area.
Ssp: *bromia*

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*

2 just north of Birch Run 22/5.
Monotypic.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5 was the only record.
Monotypic.

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*



Quite common, very responsive to pishing.

Ssp: *atricapillus*

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Ssp: *riparia*

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

Recorded most days in various numbers.

Monotypic.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5 was the only record.

Ssp: *subis*

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

~10 Seney NWR 26/5.

Ssp: *serripennis*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Easily recorded.

Ssp: *erythrgaster*

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 5-6 Tawas Point 27/5.

Ssp: *pyrrhonota*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

1 Clark Lake Trail 24/5.

Ssp: *calendula*

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*

2 Clark Lake Trail 24/5, 1 Basnau Road in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, 1 close to Farm Truck Road 26/5.
Ssp: *satrapa*

Northern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 1 Tawas Point 27/5.
Ssp: *aedon*

Winter Wren *Troglodytes hiemalis*

1 close to Farm Truck Road 26/5. Song reminiscent of our own birds, but higher-pitched and more rapid.
Ssp: *hiemalis*. New World populations recently split from *T.troglodytes*, forming two separate species, the eastern *T.hiemalis* and the western *T.pacificus*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*

Scattered records in UP.
Monotypic.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

2 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 near Clark Lake Trail 24/5, 1 Tobico Marsh 27/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.
Ssp: *carolinensis*

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*

1 Clark Lake Trail 24/5.
Ssp: *americana*

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

3 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Shelldrake Dam 24/5, 5 Tawas Point 27/5, 1 Tobico Marsh 27/5.
Monotypic.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*

2 Wagner Lake Area 22-23/5, 1 Diversion Ditch 26/5, 2 Tuttle Marsh 27/5 and 1 Tawas Point 27/5.
Ssp: *rufum*

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Recorded six days.
Introduced.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*



3 Wagner Lake Area 23/5, 1 Shelldrake Dam 24/5, 2 along FR3344 in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5.
Ssp: *sialis*

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Fairly common to common throughout.
Ssp: *migratorius*

Veery *Catharus fuscescens*

Recorded five days. Wonderful song!
Ssp: *fuscescens*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Clark Lake Trail 24/5.
Ssp: *swainsonii*

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*

2 Wagner Lake Area 22/5, 1 Mack Lake Area 23/5, 1 road FR3344 in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, 1 close to Farm Truck Road 25-26/5. Beautiful song!
Ssp: *faxoni*

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

~20 Whitefish Point 24/5.
Ssp: *rubescens*

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus*

1 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 25/5.
Ssp: *pinus*

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis*



Easily seen.

Ssp: *tristis*

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*

2 Birch Run 21/5.

Ssp: *frontalis*

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus*

6-7 Tahquamenon Upper Falls 24/5.

Ssp: *purpureus*

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

1 Shelldrake Dam 24/5, 8 five miles west of Paradise 24/5.

Ssp: probably *minor*. North American populations possibly consists of several species.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Few records in LP.

Introduced.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Monotypic.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera*

1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Monotypic.

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrine*

1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Monotypic.

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*

Readily seen.

Ssp: *ruficapilla*

Northern Parula *Parula americana*

1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Ssp: probably *ludoviciana* if at all considered polytypic.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*

2 in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 1 Tawas Point 27/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Monotypic.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Recorded four days.

Ssp: *aestiva*

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5.

Monotypic.

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*

2 Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5, 1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Monotypic.

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*

1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Monotypic.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*



2 Waugoshance Point 23/5, 1 Clark Lake Trail 24/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.
Monotypic.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

Recorded five days.

Ssp: *coronata*, this ssp is called Myrtle Warbler, and has been regarded a species separate from western ssp *auduboni* (Audubon's Warbler).

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

1 Whitefish Point 24/5, several seen and heard along the roads in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5.

Ssp: *virens*

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus*

1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 1 Tawas Point 27/5.

Ssp: *pinus*



5 Mack Lake Area 23/5.
Monotypic.

Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum*

2 Shelldrake Dam 24/5, 1 Farm Truck Road 24/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.
Ssp: all probably *palmarum*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

1 Basnau Road in Hiawatha National Forest 25/5, 1 Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5.
Monotypic.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Singles seen throughout.
Monotypic.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*



2 Shiawassee NWR 22/5.
Monotypic.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Recorded six days, most of them heard only.
Ssp: *aurocapilla*

Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia*

1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.
Monotypic.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

Readily found by voice, but what a skulker.
Ssp: *trichas*

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

1 Nayanquing Point 22/5, 1 Tahquamenon Lower Falls 25/5.
Ssp: *pusilla*

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

~10 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 3 Tawas Point 27/5.
Monotypic.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

1 Tawas Point 27/5.
Ssp: *spurius*

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

5 Nayanquing Point 22/5.
Monotypic.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Common in LP, very few seen in UP.

Ssp: probably all *phoeniceus*

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

4 Sharonville SGA 28/5.

Ssp: *magna*

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*



Can't miss 'em.

Ssp: *versicolor*

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

12 Diversion Ditch 26/5.

Ssp: *cianocephalus*

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*

Fairly common throughout.

Ssp: *ater*

Bobolink *Dolichonyx orizyvorus*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Diversion Ditch 26/5, 1 in a field outside Tawas City 27/5.

Monotypic.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

Recorded five days in various numbers. Sometimes puzzling due to variable song.

Ssp: *melodia*

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*

2 Shiawassee NWR 22/5.

Ssp: *lincolnii*

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*



2 Nayanquing Point 22/5, 4-5 Houghton Lake WRA 22/5.

Ssp: *georgiana*

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

~10 Whitefish Point 24/5, 1 Shelldrake Dam 24/5.

Ssp: *leucophrys*

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Daily in UP, only record in LP was 2 Wagner Lake Area 23/5.

Monotypic.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*

1 Vermilion Road 24/5.

Ssp: *hyemalis*

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*

1 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Wagner Lake Area 23/5, 2-3 Diversion Ditch 26/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 1 in a field outside Tawas City 27/5.

Ssp: *oblitus*

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii*

1 Farm Truck Road 26/5.

Monotypic.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii*

1 Sharonville SGA 28/5.

Ssp: *henslowii*

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*

1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5, 1 State Road north of Bay City 27/5.

Ssp: *perpallidus*

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*



Seen almost daily.

Ssp: *passerina*

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*

1 Wagner Lake Area 23/5, 2 Sharonville SGA 28/5.

Ssp: *pusilla*

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*

1 Mack Lake Area 23/5, 1 Diversion Ditch 26/5.

Monotypic.

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*

1 Wagner Lake Area 23/5, 1 Shelldrake Dam 24/5, 2-3 Diversion Ditch 26/5.

Ssp: *gramineus*

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

1 Mack Lake Area 23/5, 1 Tuttle Marsh 27/5.

Ssp: *erythrophthalmus*

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

1 Wagner Lake Area 23/5, 1 Tobico Marsh 27/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Monotypic.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Recorded four days.

Monotypic.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Scattered records in LP.

Ssp: *cardinalis*

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

~10 Shiawassee NWR 22/5, 1 Gratiot-Saginaw SGA 28/5.

Monotypic.

Mammals

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*

Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

Eastern Chipmunk *Tamias striatus*



Least Chipmunk *Tamias minimus*

American Beaver *Castor canadensis*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

