The 126th Christmas Bird Count in Michigan

By John L. Trapp, CBC Regional Editor – Michigan

Seventy-six (76) counts were conducted in Michigan during the 126th (2025-26) Christmas Bird Count (CBC) period, including 16 in the Upper Peninsula (UP), 25 in the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP), and 35 in the Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP). A total of 458,726 individuals of 148 species were reported. The breakdown by region was 26,541 individuals of 76 species in the UP (an average of 1446 individuals of 31 species/circle), 107,885 individuals of 121 species in the NLP (an average of 3650 individuals of 46 species/circle), and 324,400 individuals of 134 species in the SLP (an average of 7873 individuals of 62 species/circle).

In the previous five years, Michigan birders had become accustomed to mild-moderate winter weather conditions during the CBC period—as documented by the Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index (mrcc.purdue.edu/research/awssi)—a situation that extended throughout the state from the Great Lakes marshes of Monroe County in the southeast to the rocky shorelines of Keweenaw County in the northwest, and from the coastal dunes of Berrien County in the southwest to the forested borderlands of Chippewa County in the far northeast. This year, freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall arrived early and never left. Severe-extreme weather conditions prevailed throughout the state. Illustrative of conditions, the daily expectation (%) of severe or extreme weather conditions during the first 10 days of the CBC period was in the 80s and 90s. Birds responded accordingly to the marked downturn in weather conditions. Fifty-two (52) core species were present in numbers above the previous 10-year median, while 87 were recorded in numbers at or below the previous 10-year median. This distribution is significantly ($p<0.05$) skewed toward smaller numbers this year.

Two sets of data illustrate the asymmetry of bird populations in Michigan during the CBC period. More than a third of species (56 of 148) were narrowly distributed, being found in 10 or fewer of the 76 circles and accounting for just 1% of individuals. Meanwhile, the 13 most widely distributed species (representing just 9% of total species) accounted for 35% of individuals. These are presumably universal patterns within the CBC data, perhaps being more prevalent at more northerly latitudes.

Highlights discussed in detail in the following pages include: (a) **1** new species (reported on a Michigan CBC for the 1st time), (b) **8** rarely seen species (reported in <5 of the previous 10 years), (c) **1** borderline species (reported in 5 or 6 of the previous 10 years), (d) **139** core species (reported in 7 or more of the previous 10 years), (e) **5** count-week only species, (f) **4** core species missed, (g) **39** core species with geographically limited ranges (reported at <8 of 76 circles), (h) **84** core species with numerical outliers, (i) **9** core species with record-high counts, (j) **7** core species in high numbers relative to the previous 10 years (but failing to set new records), (k) **14** core species in low numbers relative to the previous 10 years, (l) **23** dominant core species widely distributed (>90% frequency of occurrence) and/or maximally abundant (>10,000 individuals), (m) **18** species were numerically dominant in at least one circle, (n) **65** species displayed regional affinities, (o) **15** species (10% of the total) represented by single individuals statewide—the phenomenon of singletons, (p) **71** established circles—the incidence of rarities, misses, highs, and lows within circles, (q) **29** established circles recorded new species, (r) **21** top-ranked circles by number of species, (s) **20** top-ranked circles by number of individuals.

One (1) New Species (reported on a Michigan CBC for the first time):

- Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza nelsoni*)—an individual seen by multiple participants at Rockwood (*SLP*) on 12/27 had been photographed two days prior and was subsequently seen by multitudes through 1/7/2026, becoming Michigan's first CBC record and the sole December and January records of the species in the eBird database for Michigan; the only previous Michigan CBC record of the genus *Ammospiza* is one of the taxa formerly known as Sharp-tailed Sparrow (=Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow).

Eight (8) Rarely Seen Species (reported in fewer than 5 of the previous 10 years):

- Brant—1 at Anchor Bay (SLP) on 12/14 was described in immaculate detail by a veteran observer; most Brant sightings in Michigan occur in October and November, the latest being 11/25/2023 (per eBird) – yearly CBC reports in the previous 10, 25, and 50 years: 0, 0, 3
- American White Pelican—79 at Monroe (*SLP*) – 4, 5, 5
- Spruce Grouse—1 at Whitefish Point (*UP*) – 3, 5, 6
- Tree Swallow—4 at Rockwood (*SLP*) – 3, 7, 7
- Varied Thrush—1 at Ludington (*NLP*) – 1, 4, 11
- Lincoln's Sparrow—1 at Waterloo State Recreation Area (*SLP*) – 1, 6, 12
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak—1 at Port Huron (*SLP*) – 2, 7, 17
- European Goldfinch—1 at Tittabawassee Valley (*NLP*) is the 2nd Michigan CBC sighting in the last 3 years of a species deemed an "uncountable" Escapee by eBird; of 32 Michigan sightings in the eBird database since 2006, 6 are from within the CBC period – 1, 1, 1

One (1) Borderline Species (reported in 5 or 6 of the previous 10 years):

- Savannah Sparrow—1 photographed at Berrien Springs (*SLP*) – yearly reports in the previous 10, 25, and 50 years: 6, 12, 20

One hundred thirty-nine (139) Core Species (reported in 7 or more of the previous 10 years, including):

- 73 in the *UP*, 24 (33%) of them widespread (reported in >50% of circles)
- 118 in the *NLP*, 45 (38%) of them widespread
- 129 in the *SLP*, 55 (43%) of them widespread

Five (5) Count Week Species (seen only during count week):

- Harlequin Duck—at Ludington (*NLP*) – yearly count-day reports in the previous 10, 25, and 50 years: 6, 14, 26
- Common Yellowthroat—at Rockwood (*SLP*) – 9, 18, 35
- Western Meadowlark—at Rockwood (*SLP*) – 1, 1, 2
- Yellow-headed Blackbird—at Rockwood (*SLP*) – 2, 3, 11

Four (4) Core Species Missed (reported in 7 or more of the previous 10 years but not this year):

- Greater White-fronted Goose—yearly reports in the previous 10, 25, and 50 years: 7, 15, 29
- Blue-winged Teal—7, 12, 29
- Brown Thrasher—9, 21, 42
- Eastern Meadowlark—7, 20, 45

Thirty-nine (39) Core Species Had Geographically Limited Ranges (reported at 7 or fewer of the 76 circles, these 39 species averaged 18 birds at 3 circles):

- Snow Goose—3 at three circles (*SLP*: Albion, Clinton, Waterloo State Recreation Area) – yearly reports in the previous 10, 25, and 50 years: 10, 25, 50

- Cackling Goose—4 at four circles (*NLP*: Petoskey; SLP: Battle Creek, Coloma, Monroe) – 10, 20, 21
- American Wigeon—14 at four circles (*NLP*: Traverse City 10; *SLP*: Coloma 2, Barry County 1, Port Huron 1, plus cw at Anchor Bay) – 10, 25, 50
- Northern Shoveler—11 at three circles (*NLP*: Midland 7; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 2, Monroe 2, plus cw at Holland) – 10, 25, 48
- Surf Scoter—3 at three circles (*NLP*: Traverse City; *SLP*: Anchor Bay, New Buffalo) – 8, 20, 32
- White-winged Scoter—21 at five circles (*NLP*: Tawas 5, Petoskey 2, plus cw at Ludington and Manistee; *SLP*: Port Huron 9, Battle Creek 3, Hudsonville 2) – 10, 24, 49
- Black Scoter—2 at one circle (*NLP*: Ludington) – 10, 24, 35
- Ruddy Duck—56 at five circles (*NLP*: Midland 47; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 6, Barry County 1, Coloma 1, Muskegon Wastewater 1, plus cw at Detroit & Rockwood) – 10, 25, 50
- Sharp-tailed Grouse—170 at three circles (*UP*: Les Cheneaux 72, Neebish Island-Dunbar 71, Rudyard 27) – 10, 19, 24
- Red-throated Loon—4 at three circles (*UP*: Marquette 1; *NLP*: Traverse City 1; *SLP*: Berrien Springs 2) – 10, 23, 31
- Common Loon—3 at three circles (*NLP*: Lake Leelanau, plus cw at Traverse City; *SLP*: Berrien Springs, New Buffalo, plus cw at Coloma) – 10, 25, 49
- Pied-billed Grebe—9 at six circles (*NLP*: Petoskey 1, Tawas 1, Traverse City 1; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 4, Battle Creek 1, Kalamazoo 1) – 10, 25, 50
- Red-necked Grebe—4 at two circles (*UP*: Keweenaw Bay 1; *NLP*: Lake Leelanau 3) – 10, 25, 37
- Great Egret—3 at one circle (*SLP*: Monroe) – 10, 18, 21
- Black-crowned Night-Heron—22 at four circles (*NLP*: Bay City 5; *SLP*: Detroit River 10, Monroe 6, Albion 1) – 9, 22, 35
- Turkey Vulture—23 at five circles (*SLP*: Pontiac 15, Anchor Bay 3, Battle Creek 3, Clinton 1, Western Macomb County 1) – 10, 25, 36
- Northern Goshawk—1 at one circle (*NLP*: Manistee) – 10, 25, 50
- Virginia Rail—1 at one circle (*SLP*: Detroit) – 9, 13, 28
- Killdeer—9 at six circles (*NLP*: Petoskey 2; *SLP*: Grand Rapids 3, Anchor Bay 1, Detroit River 1, Kalamazoo 1, Monroe 1, plus cw at Rockwood) – 9, 22, 47
- Wilson's Snipe—1 at one circle (*NLP*: Traverse City) – 7, 21, 45
- Bonaparte's Gull—142 at 4 circles (*NLP*: Beulah 4; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 86, Monroe 50, Rockwood 2) – 10, 25, 50
- Iceland Gull—3 at three circles (*NLP*: Midland, Petoskey; *SLP*: Port Huron, plus cw at Anchor Bay) – 10, 21, 42
- Lesser Black-backed Gull—5 of four circles (*SLP*: Rockwood 2, Battle Creek 1, Holland 1, Monroe 1, plus cw at Anchor Bay) – 10, 25, 37
- Glaucous Gull—5 at four circles (*UP*: Rudyard 2; *NLP*: Bay City 1; *SLP*: Port Huron 1, Rockwood 1, plus cw at Holland) – 10, 25, 50
- Snowy Owl—7 at five circles (*UP*: Rudyard 3, Au Train 1, Drummond Island 1; *NLP*: cw at Traverse City; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 1, Port Huron 1) – 10, 23, 47
- Long-eared Owl—5 at two circles (*SLP*: Detroit River 4, Anchor Bay 1) – 9, 22, 46
- Short-eared Owl—5 at four circles (*SLP*: Huron County 2, Hartland 1, Monroe 1, Rockwood 1) – 10, 23, 47
- Eastern Phoebe—1 at one circle (*SLP*: Detroit River) – 8, 13, 21

- Marsh Wren—1 at one circle (*SLP*: East Lansing) – 7, 13, 35
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet—3 at two circles (*SLP*: Kalamazoo 2, Ann Arbor 1) – 10, 23, 48
- Gray Catbird—11 at seven circles (*NLP*: Beulah 2, plus cw at Manistee; *SLP*: Detroit River 3, Anchor Bay 2, Allegan State Game Area 1, Barry County 1, East Lansing 1, Rockwood 1) – 10, 24, 45
- Northern Mockingbird—8 at five circles (*NLP*: Traverse City 1; *SLP*: Clinton 3, Rockwood 2, Hudsonville 1, Tuscola U.F.A. 1) – 10, 25, 50
- American Pipit—4 at three circles (*NLP*: Oscoda 1; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 2, New Buffalo 1, plus cw at Rockwood) – 8, 13, 20
- Lapland Longspur—21 at three circles (*NLP*: Mount Pleasant 2; *SLP*: Muskegon Wastewater 16, Berrien Springs 3) – 10, 24, 48
- Chipping Sparrow—1 at one circle (*NLP*: Midland) – 10, 19, 34
- Field Sparrow—6 at six circles (*NLP*: Midland; SLP: Anchor Bay, Clinton, Hudsonville, Monroe, Western Macomb County) – 10, 25, 50
- Rusty Blackbird—5 at one circle (*SLP*: Rockwood) – 10, 25, 49
- Red Crossbill—13 at three circles (*UP*: Houghton County 9, Little Bay de Noc 3; *NLP*: Tawas 1) – 9, 22, 43
- White-winged Crossbill—84 at two circles (*UP*: Keweenaw Bay 59, Eagle Harbor 25) – 9, 23, 44

Eighty-four (84) Core Species Had Numerical Outliers (minimum of 11 circles—outliers are counts that are statistically larger than other observations of a species, meaning that a relatively small number of outliers can contribute an outsized proportion of the total number of individuals; for example, 8% of the 3,441 counts of these 84 species were outliers, and as such accounted for 38% of total birds):

- Canada Goose (54,555 birds at 54 circles, *median=424*) – 2 outliers (4%): Monroe 8382 & Rockwood 6250 (in other words, just 4% of 54 circles accounted for 27% of all birds)
- Mute Swan (1937 birds at 38 circles, *m=31*) – 5 outliers (13%): Detroit River 263, Muskegon 234, Manistee 178, Rockwood 160, & Anchor Bay 150 (= 51% of all birds)
- Trumpeter Swan (902 birds at 38 circles, *m=13*) – 3 outliers (8%): Battle Creek 104, Kalamazoo 100, & Oscoda 84 (=32% of birds)
- Tundra Swan (1799 birds at 21 circles, *m=6*) – 4 outliers (19%): Rockwood 784, Anchor Bay 744, Berrien Springs 68, & Detroit River 56 (=92% of birds)
- Wood Duck (32 birds at 12 circles, *m=2*) – 2 outliers (17%): Detroit River 8 & Rockwood 7 (=47% of birds)
- Gadwall (421 birds at 18 circles, *m=14.5*) – 1 outlier (6%): Muskegon Wastewater 89 (=21% of birds)
- American Black Duck (776 birds at 47 circles, *m=7*) – 4 outliers (8%): Anchor Bay 247, Rockwood 129, Monroe 47, & Midland 34 (=59% of birds)
- Mallard (29,548 birds at 64 circles, *m=226*) – 6 outliers (9%): Anchor Bay 4193, Marquette 2284, Traverse City 1530, Rockwood 1517, Ann Arbor 1478, & East Lansing 1472 (=42% of birds)
- Green-winged Teal (28 birds at 12 circles, *m=1*) – 2 outliers (17%): Anchor Bay 7 & Hudsonville 6 (=46% of birds)
- Redhead (21,144 birds at 23 circles, *m=28*) – 4 outliers (17%): Mackinac Straits 15,000, Traverse City 3523, Detroit River 1138, & Beulah 706 (=96% of birds)

- Ring-necked Duck (69 birds at 13 circles, *m=2*) – 3 outliers (23%): Cass County 23, Coloma 21, & Midland 8 (=56% of birds)
- Greater Scaup (3258 birds at 20 circles, *m=18*) – 2 outliers (10%): Traverse City 1422 & Beulah 549 (=60% of birds)
- Lesser Scaup (1376 birds at 19 circles, *m=15*) - 3 outliers (16%): Anchor Bay 501, Muskegon 405, & Monroe 260 (=85% of birds)
- Long-tailed Duck (24,283 birds at 25 circles, *m=13*) – 4 outliers (16%): Port Huron 23,369, Hudsonville 208, Mackinac Straits 144, & Holland 128 (=98% of birds)
- Bufflehead (934 birds at 34 circles, *m=12*) – 2 outliers (6%): Traverse City 150 & Battle Creek 108 (=28% of birds)
- Common Goldeneye (16,411 birds at 53 circles, *m=101*) – 6 outliers (11%): Holland 4592, Beulah 3104, Antrim-Old Mission 920, Hudsonville 837, Ludington 773, & Manistee 604 (=66% of birds)
- Hooded Merganser (852 birds at 35 circles, *m=4*) – 3 outliers (9%): Detroit River 143, Antrim-Old Mission 142, & Monroe 114 (=47% of birds)
- Common Merganser (2705 birds at 50 circles, *m=22*) – 6 outliers (12%): Detroit River 657, Anchor Bay 425, Beulah 234, Manistee 135, Antrim-Old Mission 102, & Oceana 102 (=61% of birds)
- Red-breasted Merganser (2097 birds at 35 circles, *m=13*) – 5 outliers (14%): Holland 1012, Port Huron 218, Berrien Springs 175, New Buffalo 141, & Lake Leelanau 64 (=77% of birds)
- Ruffed Grouse (67 birds at 23 circles, *m=2*) – 1 outlier (4%): Rudyard 17 (=9% of birds)
- Wild Turkey (5586 birds at 66 circles, *m=63*) – 2 outliers (3%): Tittabawassee Valley 334 & Ann Arbor 299 (=11% of birds)
- Horned Grebe (51 birds at 11 circles, *m=2*) – 2 outliers (18%): Keweenaw Bay 16 & Lake Leelanau 15 (=61% of birds)
- Great Blue Heron (321 birds at 37 circles, *m=3*) – 6 outliers (16%): Monroe 124, Detroit River 33, Rockwood 31, Bay City 18, Kalamazoo 17, & Ann Arbor 13 (=74% of birds)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (50 birds at 32 circles, *m=1*) - 1 outlier (3%): Ann Arbor 6 (=12% of birds)
- Cooper's Hawk (286 birds at 52 circles, *m=4*) – 3 outliers (6%): Ann Arbor 28, Rockwood 18, & Pontiac 14 (=21% of birds)
- Bald Eagle (1233 birds at 74 circles, *m=10*) – 4 outliers (5%): Monroe 283, Rudyard 69, Grayling 36, & Midland 35 (=34% of birds)
- Red-shouldered Hawk (136 birds at 42 circles, *m=2*) – 3 outliers (7%): Gobles 20, New Buffalo 12, & Niles 10 (=31% of birds)
- Red-tailed Hawk (1185 birds at 65 circles, *m=14*) – 2 outliers (3%): Ann Arbor 88 & Western Macomb County 63 (=13% of birds)
- Rough-legged Hawk (128 birds at 40 circles, *m=2*) – 2 outliers (5%): Rudyard 22 & Ludington 9 (=24% of birds)
- Sandhill Crane (3591 birds at 19 circles, *m=25*) – 3 outliers (16%): Dowagiac 1050, Holland 922, & Waterloo State Recreation Area 494 (=69% of birds)
- Ring-billed Gull (5097 birds at 44 circles, *m=27*) – 7 outliers (16%): Monroe 821, Bay City 501, Rockwood 445, Berrien Springs 418, Coloma 405, Anchor Bay 338, & Hudsonville 334 (=64% of birds)
- Herring Gull 790 (11,498 birds at 51 circles, *m=26*) – 3 outliers (6%): Muskegon Wastewater 2500, Coloma 1672, & Bay City 1074 (=46% of birds)

- Great Black-backed Gull (168 birds at 12 circles, *m=2*) – 2 outliers (17%): Monroe 136 & Anchor Bay 10 (=87% of birds)
- Rock Pigeon (7347 birds at 34 circles, *m=121*) – 3 outliers (9%): Detroit River 742, Port Huron 661, & East Lansing 590 (=27% of birds)
- Mourning Dove (14,061 birds at 75 circles, *m=160*) – 4 outliers (5%): Rockwood 754, Hudsonville 562, Western Macomb County 548, & Mount Pleasant 511 (=17% of birds)
- Eastern Screech-Owl (208 birds at 34 circles, *m=4*) – 1 outlier (3%): Rockwood 31 (=15% of birds)
- Great Horned Owl (68 birds at 21 circles, *m=7*) – 2 outliers (10%): Rockwood 10 & Western Macomb County 9 (=28% of birds)
- Barred Owl (41 birds at 28 circles, *m=1*) – 1 outlier (4%): Lake County 4 (=10% of birds)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (20 birds at 12 circles, *m=1.5*) – 1 outlier (8%): Detroit River 4 (=20% of birds)
- Belted Kingfisher (116 birds at 39 circles, *m=2*) – 3 outliers (8%): Kalamazoo 13, Rockwood 9, & Grand Rapids 8 (=26% of birds)
- Red-headed Woodpecker (196 birds at 31 circles, *m=3*) – 5 outliers (15%): Kalamazoo 40, Lake County 22, Gobles 17, New Buffalo 15, & Oscoda 15 (=48% of birds)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker (2437 birds at 75 circles, *m=25*) – 3 outliers (4%): Ann Arbor 242, Kalamazoo 113, & Grand Rapids 104 (=19% of birds)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (108 birds at 25 circles, *m=3*) – 1 outlier (4%): Ann Arbor 17 (=16% of birds)
- Downy Woodpecker (3223 birds at 75 circles, *m=29*) – 2 outliers (3%): Ann Arbor 253 & Grand Rapids 178 (=13% of birds)
- Hairy Woodpecker (1079 birds at 76 circles, *m=11.5*) – 6 outliers (8%): Grand Rapids 51, Ann Arbor 49, Traverse City 39, Battle Creek 36, Kalamazoo 36, & East Lansing 35 (=23% of birds)
- Northern Flicker (755 birds at 46 circles, *m=13*) – 1 outlier (2%): Kalamazoo 62 (=8% of birds)
- Pileated Woodpecker (494 birds at 69 circles, *m=6*) – 3 outliers (4%): Kalamazoo 23, Grand Rapids 22, & Keweenaw Bay 17 (=13% of birds)
- Northern Shrike (61 birds at 36 circles, *m=1*) – 3 outliers (8%): Cheboygan 5, Hayward Lakes 5, & Neebish Island-Dunbar 4 (=23% of birds)
- Blue Jay (11,493 birds at 76 circles, *m=123.5*) – 3 outliers (4%): Ann Arbor 667, Grand Rapids 513, & Kalamazoo 477 (=14% of birds)
- American Crow (20,605 birds at 76 circles, *m=137.5*) – 3 outliers (4%): Ann Arbor 7992, East Lansing 644, & Grand Rapids 490 (=44% of birds)
- Common Raven (1059 birds at 42 circles, *m=18*) – 3 outliers (7%): Rudyard 137, Les Cheneaux 108, & Beulah 76 (=30% of birds)
- Horned Lark (331 birds at 20 circles, *m=2*) – 1 outlier (5%): Mount Pleasant 129 (=39% of birds)
- Black-capped Chickadee (15,099 birds at 76 circles, *m=159.5*) – 2 outliers (3%): Traverse City 815 & Ann Arbor 659 (=10% of birds)
- Tufted Titmouse (3344 birds at 60 circles, *m=42.5*) – 6 outliers (10%): Ann Arbor 284, Grand Rapids 178, Kalamazoo 173, Pontiac 158, Detroit 156, & Midland 137 (=32% of birds)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch (1234 birds at 75 circles, *m=10*) – 7 outliers (9%): Keweenaw Bay 156, Traverse City 89, Houghton County 66, Hudsonville 58, Hubbard Lake 51, Lake Leelanau 43, & Antrim-Old Mission 39 (=41% of birds)

- White-breasted Nuthatch (3671 birds at 75 circles, *m=32*) – 6 outliers (8%): Ann Arbor 394, Grand Rapids 213, Kalamazoo 152, East Lansing 145, Pontiac 135, & Waterloo State Recreation Area 127 (=32% of birds)
- Brown Creeper (383 birds at 58 circles, *m=4*) – 3 outliers (5%): Kalamazoo 27, Rockwood 27, & Ann Arbor 23 (=20% of birds)
- Winter Wren (82 birds at 31 circles, *m=2*) – 4 outliers (13%): Kalamazoo 11, Battle Creek 7, & Detroit River 7, Rockford 6 (=38% of birds)
- Carolina Wren (416 birds at 31 circles, *m=9*) – 2 outliers (6%): Ann Arbor 72 & Rockwood 58 (=31% of birds)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (349 birds at 49 circles, *m=4*) – 5 outliers (5%): Hubbard Lake 34, Kalamazoo 22, Alpena 20, Ann Arbor 20, Rockwood 20 (=33% of birds)
- Eastern Bluebird (2168 birds at 46 circles, *m=34*) – 3 outliers (6%): Grand Rapids 169, Detroit 153, & Ann Arbor 140 (=21% of birds)
- American Robin (8853 birds at 54 circles, *m=43.5*) – 6 outliers (11%): Ann Arbor 2396, Western Macomb County 853, Rockwood 697, Kalamazoo 681, Detroit River 480, & East Lansing 400 (=62% of birds)
- European Starling (68,482 birds at 73 circles, *m=452*) – 6 outliers (8%): Monroe 7137, Grand Rapids 4224, Western Macomb County 4005, Hudsonville 3740, Coloma 3449, & Ann Arbor 3009 (=37% of birds)
- Bohemian Waxwing (667 birds at 13 circles, *m=26*) – 1 outlier (7%): Marquette 295 (=44% of birds)
- Cedar Waxwing (3131 birds at 45 circles, *m=38*) – 1 outlier (2%): Grand Rapids 774 (=25%)
- Snow Bunting (1918 birds at 27 circles, *m=31*) – 4 outliers (15%): Tuscola U.F.A. 750, Huron County 295, Petoskey 128, & Bay City 125 (=68% of birds)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (73 birds at 20 circles, *m=2*) – 2 outliers (10%): Allegan State Game Area 24 & Ann Arbor 11 (=48% of birds)
- American Tree Sparrow (7810 birds of 66 circles, *m=72.5*) – 3 outliers (4%): Detroit 475, Mount Pleasant 456, & Albion 436 (=18% of birds)
- Dark-eyed Junco (18,447 birds at 66 circles, *m=225*) – 2 outliers (3%): Albion 1483 & Ann Arbor 1112 (=14% of birds)
- White-crowned Sparrow (264 birds of 17 circles, *m=11*) – 1 outlier (6%): Berrien Springs 54 (=20% of birds)
- White-throated Sparrow (1279 birds of 36 circles, *m=10.5*) – 5 outliers (14%): Ann Arbor 322, Rockwood 164, Detroit River 152, Anchor Bay 104, & Monroe 71 (=64% of birds)
- Swamp Sparrow (51 birds at 13 circles, *m=2*) – 1 outlier (8%): Rockwood 19 (=37% of birds)
- Eastern Towhee (32 birds at 14 circles, *m=1.5*) – 1 outlier (7%): Lake County 7 (=22% of birds)
- Northern Cardinal (7325 birds at 73 circles, *m=78*) – 1 outlier (1%): Ann Arbor 432 (=6% of birds)
- Red-winged Blackbird 4 (150 birds in 18 circles, *m=1*) – 2 outliers (11%): Anchor Bay 102 & Rockwood 27 (=86% of birds)
- Common Grackle (37 birds at 13 circles, *m=2*) – 1 outlier (8%): Monroe 10 (=27% of birds)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (281 birds at 12 circles, *m=13*) – 1 outlier (8%): Anchor Bay 123 (=44% of birds)
- Pine Grosbeak (1077 birds at 26 circles, *m=19*) – 4 outliers (15%): Keweenaw Bay 212, Houghton County 195, Rudyard 148, & Seney N.W.R. 95 (=60% of birds)

- House Finch (5400 birds at 60 circles, *m=68.5*) – 3 outliers (5%): Grand Rapids 361, Ann Arbor 329, & East Lansing 306 (=18% of birds)
- Purple Finch (136 birds at 31 circles, *m=3*) – 3 outliers (10%): Hayward Lakes 19, Allegan State Game Area 12, & Waterloo State Recreation Area 10 (=30% of birds)
- Common Redpoll (1421 birds at 18 circles, *m=26*) – 2 outliers (11%): Houghton County 636 & Carney 215 (=60% of birds)
- Pine Siskin (683 birds at 33 circles, *m=8*) – 2 outliers (6%): Keweenaw Bay 157 & Houghton County 106 (=38% of birds)
- American Goldfinch (10,284 birds at 75 circles, *m=106*) – 1 outlier (1%): Ann Arbor 872 (=8% of birds)
- House Sparrow 861 (13,356 birds at 68 circles, *m=87.5*) – 1 outlier (1%): Anchor Bay 945 (=7% of birds)

Nine (9) Core Species Had Record-High Counts (with comparisons to the previous high and the average of the previous 10 years):

- Double-crested Cormorant – 1665 individuals (vs 1498 on 124th CBC and 10-year average of 681; 2.4x the 10-year average)
- Bald Eagle – 1233 (vs 1200 on 125th CBC and average of 934; 1.3x)
- Red-shouldered Hawk – 136 (vs 122 on 125th CBC and average of 83; 1.6x)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 108 (vs 61 on 124th CBC and average of 22; 4.9x)
- Common Raven – 1059 (vs 984 on 122nd CBC and average of 853; 1.2x)
- Hermit Thrush – 88 (vs 84 on 106th CBC and average of 43; 2.0x)
- Gray Catbird – 11 (vs 10 on 122nd & 124th CBCs and average of 6; 1.8x)
- White-crowned Sparrow – 264 (vs 230 on 95th CBC and average of 96; 2.8x)
- White-throated Sparrow – 1279 (vs 1086 on 106th CBC and average of 440; 2.9x)

Seven (7) Core Species Were Present in High Numbers Relative to the Previous 10 Years (but failed to set new highs—at least 1.5x the 10-year average; listed below in decreasing relative historical abundance):

- Eastern Towhee – 4.6x the 10-year average—32 individuals (vs high and average counts of 17 & 7 in the previous 10 years)
- Long-tailed Duck – 4.5x—24,283 (vs 13,801 & 5,402)
- Pine Grosbeak – 4.2x—1,077 (vs 767 & 259)
- Ring-necked Duck – 2.5x—3,258 (2,985 & 1,285)
- Fox Sparrow – 2.5x—33 (vs 22 & 13)
- Red-headed Woodpecker – 2.4x—196 (vs 182 & 82)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch 1.5x—1,234 (vs 1,230 & 813)

Fourteen (14) Core Species Were Present in Low Numbers Relative to the Previous 10 Years (no more than 50% of the 10-year average; listed below in increasing relative historical abundance):

- Ruddy Duck – 7% of the 10-year average—56 individuals (vs average and low counts of 804 & 64 in the previous 10 years)
- Canvasback – 8%--1984 (vs 23,427 & 4,223)
- Glaucous Gull – 15%; 5 (vs 33 & 13)
- Common Loon – 19%; 3 (vs 16 & 3)
- Pied-billed Grebe – 25%; 9 (vs 36 & 9)
- Lesser Black-backed Gull – 25%; 5 (vs 20 & 14)

- Red-throated Loon – 31%; 4 (vs 13 & 4)
- Ring-billed Gull – 31%; 5,097 (vs 16,384 & 7,342)
- Gadwall – 33%; 421 (vs 1,358 & 800)
- Bufflehead – 33%; 934 (vs 2,804 & 1,262)
- Common Merganser – 33%; 2,705 (vs 8,303 & 5,083)
- Northern Goshawk – 33%; 1 (3 & vs 1)
- Great Egret – 43%; 3 (vs 7 & 3)
- Chipping Sparrow – 50%; 1 (vs 2 & 1)

Twenty-three (23) Dominant Core Species Were Widely Distributed and/or Maximally Abundant (>90% frequency of occurrence and/or >10,000 individuals; listed below in decreasing order of frequency & abundance):

- American Crow (100%) – 20,605 individuals at 76 circles (max of 7992 at Ann Arbor)
- Black-capped Chickadee (100%) – 15,099 at 76 circles (max of 815 at Traverse City)
- Blue Jay (100%) – 11,943 at 76 circles (max of 667 at Ann Arbor)
- Hairy Woodpecker (100%) – 1079 at 76 circles (max of 51 at Grand Rapids)
- Mourning Dove (99%) – 14,061 at 75 circles (max of 754 at Rockwood)
- American Goldfinch (99%) – 10,284 at 75 circles (max of 872 at Ann Arbor)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (99%) – 3671 at 75 circles (max of 394 at Ann Arbor)
- Downy Woodpecker (99%) – 3223 at 75 circles (max of 253 at Ann Arbor)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker (99%) – 2437 at 75 circles (max of 242 at Ann Arbor)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch (99%) – 1234 at 75 circles (max of 156 at Keweenaw Bay)
- Bald Eagle (97%) – 1233 at 74 circles (max of 283 at Monroe)
- European Starling (96%) – 68,482 at 73 circles (max of 3137 at Monroe)
- Northern Cardinal (96%) – 7325 at 73 circles (max of 432 at Ann Arbor)
- Rock Pigeon (92%) – 13,143 at 70 circles (max of 742 at Detroit River)
- Pileated Woodpecker (91%) – 494 at 69 circles (max of 23 at Kalamazoo)
- House Sparrow (89%) – 13,356 at 68 circles (max of 945 at Anchor Bay)
- Dark-eyed Junco (87%) – 18,447 at 66 circles (max of 1483 at Albion)
- Mallard (84%) – 29,548 at 64 circles (max of 4193 at Anchor Bay)
- Canada Goose (71%) – 54,555 at 54 circles (max of 8382 at Monroe)
- Common Goldeneye (70%) – 16,411 at 53 circles (max of 4952 at Holland)
- Herring Gull (67%) – 11,498 at 51 circles (max of 2500 at Muskegon Wastewater)
- Long-tailed Duck (33%) – 24,283 at 25 circles (max of 23,369 at Port Huron)
- Redhead (30%) – 21,144 at 23 circles (max of 15,000 at Mackinac Straits)

Eighteen (18) Species Were Numerically Dominant in at Least One Circle (as a percentage of total individuals; for context, the median for the 76 circles was 22.9%):

- European Starling—27 circles (*UP*: Rudyard 20.7%, Little Bay de Noc 18.9%; *NLP*: Hubbard Lake 29.8%, Grayling 23.6%, Alpena 20.4%, Bay City 19.9%, Tawas 18.9%, Antrim-Old Mission 18.8%, Lake Leelanau 16.8%, Mount Pleasant 14.5%, Mecosta County 14.0%; *SLP*: Western Macomb County 42.5%, Grand Rapids 33.9%, Niles 33.9%, Genesee County 33.6%, Monroe 33.0%, Coloma 31.9%, Hudsonville 30.6%, Cass County 28.9%, Pontiac 28.2%, Clinton 27.9%, Lapeer County 26.0%, New Buffalo 23.0%, Hartland 22.8%, Gobles 20.0%, Kalamazoo 18.0%, Waterloo State Recreation Area 16.2%).

- Canada Goose—11 circles (*NLP*: Oceana 34.6%, Midland 23.5%, Petoskey 21.2%; *SLP*: Allegan State Game Area 44.4%, East Lansing 27.6%, Rockwood 27.5%, Detroit River 27.1%, Albion 20.9%, Battle Creek 20.8%, Berrien Springs 19.2%, Huron County 16.0%).
- Black-capped Chickadee—9 circles (*UP*: Drummond Island 59.4%, Neebish Island-Dunbar 33.5%, Eagle Harbor 23.6%, Les Cheneaux 22.6%, Seney N.W.R. 19.2%, Au Train 18.9%, Keweenaw Peninsula 11.1%; *NLP*: Higgins Lake-Houghton Lake 27.8%, Mio 19.7%).
- Mallard—4 circles (*UP*: Marquette 54.9%; *NLP*: Cheboygan 14.8%; *SLP*: Anchor Bay 22.6%, Detroit 17.1%).
- Common Goldeneye—4 circles (*NLP*: Beulah 36.6%, Ludington 19.0%, Manistee 14.0%; *SLP*: Holland 42.9%).
- Herring Gull—3 circles (*UP*: Whitefish Point 36.6%; *SLP*: Muskegon Wastewater 55.5%, Muskegon 18.1%).
- Rock Pigeon—3 circles (*UP*: Manistique 39.0%, Bessemer 35.0%; *NLP*: Oscoda 19.7%).
- Mourning Dove—2 circles (*UP*: Hayward Lakes 18.0%; *NLP*: Tittabawassee Valley 13.5%).
- American Crow—2 circles (*NLP*: Cadillac Area 20.8%; *SLP*: Ann Arbor 30.0%).
- Dark-eyed Junco—2 circles (*SLP*: Olivet 15.6%, Barry County 12.8%).
- Common Redpoll—2 circles (*UP*: Houghton County 28.5%, Carney 17.8%).
- Redhead—1 circle (*NLP*: Mackinac Straits 92.2%).
- Ring-necked Duck—1 circle (*NLP*: Traverse City 30.9%).
- Long-tailed Duck—1 circle (*SLP*: Port Huron 69.4%).
- Sandhill Crane—1 circle (*SLP*: Dowagiac 26.8%).
- Snow Bunting—1 circle (*SLP*: Tuscola U.F.A. 26.6%).
- Blue Jay—1 circle (*NLP*: Lake County 17.4%).
- American Goldfinch—1 circle (*NLP*: Ogemaw County 14.1%).

Sixty-five (65) Species Displayed Regional Affinities (a species is deemed to have an "affinity" for a region if reported on at least 51% of the circles in the region; for each species, median abundance [birds/circle] is shown for the region in which peak abundance occurred):

- Far North (*UP* only = 3 species)—Ruffed Grouse **3**, Bohemian Waxwing **38**, Pine Grosbeak **31**
- Northerly (*UP* + *NLP* = 2 species)—Northern Shrike **2** (*UP*), Common Raven **34** (*UP*)
- Mid-latitudes (*NLP* only = 5 species)—Trumpeter Swan **13**, Long-tailed Duck **13**, Red-breasted Merganser **20**, Rough-legged Hawk **2**, Snow Bunting **31**
- Southerly (*NLP* + *SLP* = 18 species)—Canada Goose **858** (*SLP*), American Black Duck **8** (*SLP*), Mallard **255** (*SLP*), Hooded Merganser **7** (*SLP*), Common Merganser **26** (*NLP*), Cooper's Hawk **5** (*SLP*), Red-shouldered Hawk **2** (*SLP*), Ring-billed Gull **62** (*SLP*), Northern Flicker **17** (*SLP*), Tufted Titmouse **48** (*SLP*), Brown Creeper **6** (*SLP*), Golden-crowned Kinglet **6** (*NLP*), Eastern Bluebird **45** (*SLP*), American Robin **74** (*SLP*), Cedar Waxwing **49** (*SLP*), American Tree Sparrow **123** (*SLP*), Dark-eyed Junco **417** (*SLP*), House Finch **96** (*SLP*)
- Far South (*SLP* only = 17 species)—Mute Swan **31.5**, Bufflehead **13**, Great Blue Heron **3**, Sharp-shinned Hawk **1**, Sandhill Crane **29**, Eastern Screech-Owl **4.5**, Great Horned Owl **2**, Belted Kingfisher **2**, Red-headed Woodpecker **3**, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker **3**, American Kestrel **5**, Winter Wren **2**, Carolina Wren **9**, Hermit Thrush **2**, Yellow-rumped Warbler **2**, White-crowned Sparrow **17**, Song Sparrow **9.5**
- Statewide (*UP* + *NLP* + *SLP* = 20 species)—Common Goldeneye **152** (*NLP*), Wild Turkey **112** (*UP*), Bald Eagle **12.5** (*NLP*), Red-tailed Hawk **25** (*SLP*), Herring Gull **94** (*SLP*), Rock Pigeon **152** (*SLP*), Mourning Dove **205** (*SLP*), Red-bellied Woodpecker **47** (*SLP*), Downy Woodpecker **54** (*SLP*), Hairy Woodpecker **15** (*NLP*), Pileated Woodpecker **7.5** (*NLP*), Blue Jay **184** (*SLP*),

American Crow **199** (*SLP*), Black-capped Chickadee **220** (*NLP*), Red-breasted Nuthatch **13** (*NLP*), White-breasted Nuthatch **54** (*SLP*), European Starling **1142** (*SLP*), Northern Cardinal **167** (*SLP*), American Goldfinch **153** (*NLP*), House Sparrow **300** (*SLP*)

Fifteen (15) Species Represented by a Single Individual Statewide—The Phenomenon of Singletons: Single birds are indeed alone if not always lonely, but at the level of individual circles, reports of single individuals of a species were decidedly not uncommon events. Species represented by single individuals were reported on a whopping 97% of circles, accounting for 15% of all species occurrences at the circle level (582 of 3857); Marquette led the way at 34% (12 of 35), followed closely by Drummond Island at 32% (7 of 22). At the State level, 10% of species (15 of 148) were represented by a single and in almost all cases, a lingering, wandering, lost, injured, and possibly lonely—if birds are capable of such emotion—individual, to wit: Brant (Anchor Bay), Spruce Grouse (Whitefish Bay), Northern Goshawk (Manistee), Virginia Rail (Detroit), Wilson's Snipe (Traverse City), Eastern Phoebe (Detroit River), Marsh Wren (East Lansing), Townsend's Solitaire (Marquette), Varied Thrush (Ludington), Nelson's Sparrow (Rockwood), Chipping Sparrow (Midland), Savannah Sparrow (Berrien Springs), Lincoln's Sparrow (Waterloo State Recreation Area), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Port Huron), and European Goldfinch (Tittabawassee Valley)
Seventy-one (71) Established Circles—the Incidence of Rarities, Misses, Highs, and Lows Within Circles (an "established" circle is one with a history of 10 or more count years):

- Rarities—68% of counts (48 of 71) reported rare, uncommon, or unexpected species (i.e., those having been reported on 10% or less of count years), with 2.9% of a cumulative 3633 species designated as such statewide
- Misses—70% of counts (50 of 71) reported missing one or more core species, with 4.6% of anticipate core species (115 of a cumulative 2455) being missed; the 11 most frequently missed species (of 47 total)—American Black Duck (missed at 7 circles – median historic frequency of 88% & abundance of 28), Ring-necked Pheasant (6 – 89% & 53), Horned Lark (6 – 86% & 174), Ruffed Grouse (5 – 79% & 6), Sharp-shinned Hawk (5 – 85% & 6), Rough-legged Hawk (5 – 89% & 6), Great Horned Owl (5 – 86% & 4), Golden-crowned Kinglet (5 – 90% & 29), Northern Shrike (4 – 81% & 4), Snow Bunting (4 – 81% & 198), Purple Finch (4 – 78% & 49)
- Highs—52% of counts (37 of 71) reported high counts of one or more core species, with those 37 circles reporting an average of 2.5 high counts
- Lows—63% of counts (45 of 71) reported low counts of one or more core species, with those 45 circles reporting an average of 3.2 low counts

Twenty-nine (29) Established Circles Recorded New Species (41% of 71 circles with a history of at least 10 counts recorded at least one new species; stated another way, 29 circles with a combined 1107 years of effort tallied a cumulative 33 new species—Trumpeter Swan, Double-crested Cormorant, Golden Eagle, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, and Fox Sparrow were each reported for the first time at two different circles):

- 4 species at one circle: *NLP*—Oscoda (*n*=17 years, Belted Kingfisher, American Pipit, White-throated Sparrow & Red-winged Blackbird)
- 3 species at each of two circles: *SLP*—Barry County (*n*=11, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant & Gray Catbird), Olivet (n=14, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Merlin & Winter Wren)
- 2 species at each of four circles: *UP*—Keweenaw Bay (*n*=13, Green-winged Teal & Red-tailed Hawk); *NLP*—Tawas (*n*=19, Eastern Screech-Owl & Red Crossbill); *SLP*—Gobles (*n*=30, Double-crested Cormorant & Fox Sparrow), Muskegon Wastewater (*n*=21, Hermit Thrush & Eastern Towhee)

- 1 species at each of 22 circles: *UP*—Au Train (*n*=29, Snowy Owl), Houghton County (*n*=50, Trumpeter Swan), Marquette (*n*=68, Trumpeter Swan); *NLP*—Bay City (*n*=36, Winter Wren), Cheboygan (*n*=12, Gadwall), Mackinac Straits (*n*=13, Great Black-backed Gull), Midland (*n*=71, Sandhill Crane), Mount Pleasant (*n*=69, Double-crested Cormorant), Petoskey (*n*=59, Cackling Goose), Tittabawassee Valley (*n*=13, European Goldfinch), Traverse City (*n*=65, Red-throated Loon); *SLP*—Albion (*n*=37, Golden Eagle), Allegan State Game Area (*n*=52, Gray Catbird), Anchor Bay (*n*=49, Brant), Detroit (*n*=75+, Long-tailed Duck), Hartland (*n*=51, Fox Sparrow), Holland (*n*=30, Hermit Thrush), Huron County (*n*=26, Golden Eagle), Monroe (*n*=36, Short-eared Owl), Port Huron (*n*=62, Rose-breasted Grosbeak), Rockwood (*n*=51, Nelson's Sparrow), Tuscola U.F.A. (*n*=28, Northern Mockingbird)

Twenty-one (21) Top-Ranked Circles by Number of Species (numbers of species in the upper quartile in each region are listed in decreasing order):

- *UP* (4 circles)—Keweenaw Bay **49**, Little Bay de Noc **42**, Hayward Lakes **41**, Rudyard **36**—for context, the median number of species at the 17 circles in the *UP* is 30.5
- *NLP* (7 circles)—Traverse City **72**, Midland **71**, Beulah **62**, Mount Pleasant **61**, Ludington **60**, Lake Leelanau **57**, Petoskey **57**—for context, the median number of species at the 25 circles in the *NLP* is 43
- *SLP* (10 circles)—Anchor Bay **95** species, Rockwood **86**, Battle Creek **78**, Ann Arbor **75**, Detroit River **75**, Port Huron **74**, Berrien Springs **73**, Kalamazoo **72**, Hudsonville **70**, Monroe **70**—for context, the median number of species at the 35 circles in the *SLP* is 62

Twenty (20) Top-Ranked Circles by Number of Individuals (counts of individuals in the upper quartile in each region are listed in decreasing order):

- *UP* (4 circles)—Marquette **4161**, Little Bay de Noc **3176**, Keweenaw Bay **2674**, Hayward Lakes **2513**—for context, the median number of individuals at the 17 circles in the *UP* is 1376
- *NLP* (7 circles)—Mackinac Straits **16,264**, Traverse City **11,389**, Midland **8975**, Beulah **8492**, Bay City **6658**, Mount Pleasant **6118**, Oceana **5260**—for context, the median number of individuals at the 25 circles in the *NLP* is 2984
- *SLP* (9 circles)—Port Huron **33,665** individuals, Ann Arbor **26,627**, Monroe **25,390**, Rockwood **22,741**, Anchor Bay **18,570**, East Lansing **12,690**, Grand Rapids **12,474**, Detroit River **12,360**, Hudsonville **12,224**—for context, the median number of individuals at the 35 circles in the *SLP* is 6792

Acknowledgements: Special thanks are extended to the 69 compilers and co-compilers, 1479 field observers, and 258 feeder watchers whose efforts made this summary possible.