



14 March 2007.
Photo by Steve Spitzer.



12 March 2007.
Photo by Steve Spitzer.



22 March 2007.
Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.



22 March 2007.
Photo by Steve Spitzer.

and I were lucky enough to see the bird in early March before giving a presentation for a birding conference at Northeastern Illinois University. We observed the bird sitting on an ice floe, raising its wings periodically and showing some of its telltale plumage markings. Other birders watched the bird in its buoyant flight, slightly heavier than that of the Bonaparte's.

Illinois photographers took advantage of this great opportunity – documenting the bird as it changed from winter (basic) plumage to pre-alternate plumage, its head gaining more and more of the distinct blackish coloration and its bill turning from dark to reddish (in photos, it appears as if the bill is two-toned red and dark)

Here we present a gallery of photos showing the bird in various poses as it changes its plumage.

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