

described **Nashville Warbler**. An excellent tally of 1,062 Yellow-rumped Warblers was noted on 35 counts. Rend Lake had the only other Pine Warbler besides Crab Orchard's five. Evanston recorded its first ever Palm Warbler as did Middlefork River Valley and Baldwin Lake/Kaskaskia River Valley. Rockford and Decatur recorded their first ever Common Yellowthroats and other singles were at Calumet/Sand Ridge, Crane Lake/Sangamon and Baldwin Lake. A count-week **Wilson's Warbler** was at Springfield.

Other unusual birds included 21 American White Pelicans on five counts along the Mississippi River with Pere Marquette recording the highest number, 16. An **American Bittern** was recorded at Carlyle Lake, and a Great Egret was recorded at Jackson. Four and six Ross's Geese appeared at Rend Lake and Union County, respectively. Also, most unusual was the apparent Ross's X Snow Goose hybrid at Rockford. Twenty Blue-winged Teal (on six counts), a bird normally in Central

America by this time, put in a good showing. The only scoters were a count-week Black Scoter at Waukegan, two White-wingeds at Evanston, and a count-first Surf for Decatur. A female **Harlequin Duck** was at a jetty intake, feeding on zebra mussels in Lake Michigan at Waukegan. Solitary Merlins were noted at Thorn Creek/Park Forest, Kishwaukee, Clinton/Iowa, Meredosia Island, and Cypress Creek.

Four Northern Goshawks were reported on four counts. This species has long been absent from Illinois in winter. Two Sandhill Cranes at Chillicothe were noteworthy, and count-week birds were detected at Waukegan and Lisle Arboretum. Middle Fork River Valley had the only **Sora**. The only uncommon gulls were Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Chicago Lakefront and Calumet/Sand Ridge plus a count week bird at Springfield. Only four Glaucous Gulls were recorded on four counts with the southernmost at Elsau. A noteworthy **jaeger** species was recorded at Rend Lake. The state's

only Barn Owls were three at Cypress Creek. Waukegan and Illini reported the only two Snowy Owls (Chicago Lakefront also had a count-week bird). An apparent **Barn Swallow** was at Carlyle, but no details were reported.

The lone northern Illinois **American Pipit** was Evanston's first and perhaps a first wintering record for northern Illinois. Well-documented Spotted Towhees were tallied at Barrington and Chautauqua. Four immature female Indigo Buntings were at Rend/Carlyle (2) and Horseshoe Lake. The only Le Conte's Sparrows were two each at Cypress Creek and Carlyle Lake. The only Vesper Sparrow was at Crane Lake/Sangamon plus a count-week bird was at Champaign. Solitary Harris's Sparrows were at Van Patten, Davenport, and Cypress Creek. A remarkable 11 Harris's Sparrows were reported at Elsau and 25 at Humiston Woods, but no details accompanied the reports, so the data were deemed inaccurate. Well-described solitary Chipping Sparrows were at Horseshoe

## Histograms

