



Swainson's Thrush with American Robins. Drawing by Denis Kania.

an obvious smaller thrush with a distinct complete buffy (yellowish-tan) eye ring. We exclaimed together, "It's a Swainson's Thrush!"

The Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) was a bird to be expected during spring and fall migration in the Lagoons, but not during winter. We could not find the bird listed on my son's 29-year compilation checklist of birds recorded on the Evanston North Shore Christmas Bird Count. We watched the bird for at least 10 minutes additionally recording the olive-brown forehead, crown, nape, scapulars, back, rump, and tail (the tail appearing very short in relation to a body length unlike a Hermit Thrush). The bird had a buffy auricular area, throat with long black whiskers, chin, and face. It also sported a peculiar buffy line at the bottom of its face. Flesh-colored legs were noted as well as the dark thrush-like bill with a flesh-colored base to the lower mandible. Coverts and wings were brownish-olive with no obvious wing bars or markings except a slightly lighter and faint line on the median coverts. The bird showed a whitish breast with large blurry dark spots on the top. The bill and undertail coverts were whitish. The flanks were grayish-olive.

The next day my son photographed the bird, and ornithologist, Dr. Laurence Binford, and Larry Fink of Glenview recorded details about this species. Binford suggested that the bird was in basic (winter) plumage

based on the rather bright color of the face, throat, and breast. The multiple observer sight documentations and photographs are on file with the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

— Wib Johnson, 180 Lake St., Glencoe, IL 60022

*Editor's note: Swainson's Thrush was not recorded in North America on the previous (1991-1992) 92nd Christmas Bird Count. (American Birds 46:1054-1053). The Swainson's Thrush is of accidental occurrence anywhere in North America during the Christmas Count period. According to Bohlen (1989 *The Birds of Illinois*) the species normally winters from Mexico south to Argentina and Paraguay.*

Bohemian Waxwing in Winnebago County

On 20 February 1993 I led a field trip for the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society to the Klehm Forest Preserve on the south edge of