

12 Feb (SB); 7, Pr.Rdg, 13 Jan (JW); 6, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, RS, m.ob.); 5, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 27 Feb (JW, TE). **Others:** 5, Johnson Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 21 Feb (EW); 4 (2 light morphs, 2 dark morphs), Putnam Co, 3 Dec (DFS). This species was far more abundant and widely distributed throughout the state this winter.

Golden Eagle

ad., West Branch FP (Du Page Co), 20 Dec (*UG); ad., UCCA, 30 Dec (KJM, *SDi); ad., Oakwd Btms, 1 Jan (*VL, SJ, m.ob.).

American Kestrel

MC: 36, Jasper, Clay & Wayne Cos, 29 Dec (DFS); 26, QC, 14 Dec (L&CB, m.ob.); 21, Libertyville to Champaign (via I294 & I57), 20 Jan (SB); 20, Vermilion Co, 17 Dec (SB, m.ob.); 18, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KM, DK); 16, Adams Co, 9 Jan (AD); 11, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, RS, m.ob.). **Others:** 14, Mercer Co, 19 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 13, Carl.L., 15 Dec (KM, CL); 11, Bond Co, 22 Feb (KM); 10, Marshall Co, 17 Dec (DFS); 8, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.). Slightly more numerous and widespread this winter.

Merlin

female, L Storey (Knox Co), 7 Dec (DJM, PR); ad. male, Clin.L., 14 Dec (RJ); M.Arb., 14 & 28 Dec, 7 Feb (ES); "richardsonii," ad. male, Orland Park (Cook Co), 25 Dec (LI, AD); IBSP, 1 Jan (*GW); Ottawa (La Salle Co), 31 Jan (ES); Meadowbrook (Champaign Co), 8 Feb (GL); HL, 15 Feb> (FH). Notably widespread this winter.



Purple Sandpiper at Waukegan Beach, Lake County. 18-25 December 2003. Photos by Travis A. Mahan.

GYRFALCON

Gray morph (legally caught by licensed falconer), Pekin (Tazewell Co), 31 Dec (USF&WS, fide SB). Bird was seen chasing waterfowl and a Red-tailed Hawk at Powerton L.

Peregrine Falcon

4 (3 ad., 1 imm.), LCal, 27 Dec (WM, KW, JA); 2 (pr), Hyde Park, Chi, all winter (PC); Shorewood (Will Co), 14 Dec (CA); Vermilion Co, 27 Dec (EC); East St. Louis (St. Clair Co), 5 Feb (KM); ad. "anatum", McLean Co, 7 Feb (*MF). Occurred in fairly typical numbers.

American Coot

MC: 3400, Putnam Co, 3 Dec (DFS); 500, Mermet L, 2 Jan (KM, CL); 400-500, East Fork L, 28 Jan (LHn). **Others:** 350, HL, 27 Dec (FH); 272, Rend L, 20 Dec (KM, CL); 50, Carl.L., 15 Dec (TAM, DK); 16, Chi, 25 Dec (JG, KJM, m.ob.). Less numerous this winter.

Sandhill Crane

MC: 115, M.Arb., 14 Dec< (JC, ES); 70, Woodridge (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (MBC). **Others:** 23, Boone Co, 8 Dec (AB); 14, JP, 23 Dec< (TC); 13, Urbana, 24 Feb> (GL); Carl.L., 22 Feb (DK). This species was somewhat more numerous, but was found almost exclusively in the northeast.

Killdeer

MC: 40, Carl.L., 13 Dec (DK); 40, Clay City (Clay Co), 29 Dec (DFS); 20, Panther Creek WA (Cass Co), 29 Feb (RJ); 6, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 7 Dec (LLH); 6, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 28 Feb (KJM, AF); 6, JP, 29 Feb> (PC). **Others:** 24, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KJM, CB); 18, UCCA, 6 Dec (KM, m.ob.); 17, Rend L, 20 Dec (TAM, DK); 10, Alexander Co, 29 Dec (KJM, CB); 2, St. Clair Co, 10 Feb> (KM). Found in rather typical numbers.

LEAST SANDPIPER

4, Rend L, **20 Dec** (*FB, DK, TAM); Spoon L (Knox Co), 7 Dec (DJM, PR).

PURPLE SANDPIPER

ad., Waukegan (Lake Co), 18 & 23 Dec] See photograph.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Mermet L, **19 & 24 Jan** (*FB).

DUNLIN

40, Rend L, 6 Dec (KM, m.ob.); 8, Mermet L, **31 Dec** (FB).

Wilson's Snipe

MC: 10, Mercer Co, 19 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 10, Winnebago Co, 20 Dec (DW); 8, Mermet L, 18-19 & 24 Jan (FB); 7, Pulaski Co, 28 Feb (KM, TAM). **Others:** 6, Chau, 6 Feb (R&SBj); 6, Henderson Co, 8 Feb (PR); 5, Rend L, 6 Dec< (KM, m.ob.). Fairly typical numbers, but more widespread.

American Woodcock

3, Johnson Co, 28 Feb> (KM, TAM); 1-3, Massac Co, 1-24 Jan (FB); Vermilion Co, 27 Dec (EC); Jackson Co, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.); Lebanon (St. Clair Co), 2 Jan (DK); Panther Creek WA (Cass Co), 29 Feb (RJ).

LITTLE GULL

ad., **Mermet L**, 27 Feb.]

Bonaparte's Gull

MC: 5000, Rend L, 20 Dec (TAM, DK); 437, Carl.L., 1 Jan (DK). **Others:** 100, HL, 3 Dec (JZ); 28, Chau, 5 Dec (R&SBj). Considerably less numerous and found almost exclusively in the south.

Ring-billed Gull

MC: 30,000, Carl.L., 10 Jan (DK); 8000, L Spfld, 11 Jan (RJ); 6000, Rend L, 20 Dec (TAM, DK); 5888, QC, 14 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 4857, Chau, 27 Feb (R&SBj); 1230, Chi, 25 Dec (JG, KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 5000, HL, 5 Dec (KM); 4000, East Alton (Madison Co), 7 Feb (KM); 1200, L Vermilion (Vermilion Co), 14 Dec (SB); 800, L&D 21 (Adams Co), 24 Jan (AD). Overall numbers were down, with no large concentrations except at Carl.L.

Herring Gull

MC: 3200, East Alton (Madison Co), 9 Feb (KM); 3000, SRock, 7 Feb (MR, HT); 1857, LCal, 27 Dec (WM). **Others:** 721, QC, 14 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 481, Rock R (Whiteside & Lee Cos), 24 Dec (KJM, SH); 200, Winthrop H, 21 Feb (RJ, m.ob.); 65, Rend L, 12 Jan (KM); 60, Carl.L., 24 Jan (TAM, DK); **hybrid Herring x Glaucous Gull** ("Nelson's Gull"), 3rd, SRock, 31 Jan (GW, m.ob.).

Thayer's Gull

MC: 12 (11 ad., 1 1st), SRock, 7 Feb (MR, HT); 8 (3 ad., 3 1st, 1 2nd, 1 3rd), L&D 15 (Rock Island Co), 16 Feb (SF). **Others:** 7 (2 ad., 1 1st, 2 2nd, 2 3rd), Chi, 12 Feb (GW); 7 (4 ad., 2 1st, 1 2nd), Winthrop H, 21 Feb (GW, m.ob.); 3 (2 ad., 1 1st), Miss.R (Madison Co), 1 Feb (WR); 1st, New Milford (Winnebago Co), 6 Dec (DW); 1st, Lost Mound NWR (Jo Daviess Co), 17 Dec (DW); ad., Kane Co,