

Daily high counts in Illinois do not even come close to rivaling some of the better daily high counts made on the eastern Great Lakes, even counts as close as Miller Beach in Gary Indiana (see Landing 1966, Sherony and Brock 1997). However, all substantial high counts have come from the Lake Michigan shoreline, although it is not clear if counts made in the fall of 1951 were single-day. Nolan (1952) says high counts were 12 and 13 in early October and early November. The exceptional count of 9 birds on 25 October 1986 at Gillson Park in Wilmette by Landing included the all-time high of four adult birds. The only other counts of note were 5 Parasitic at Evanston 14 October 1974 and 4 Parasitic at Illinois Beach State Park/Waukegan Beach 31 October 1991. Downstate "high" counts are best represented over the course of a fall season. Lake Carlyle has attracted three birds in one fall three times; 1985 (2 Pomarine, 1 Parasitic), 1988 (1 Pomarine, 1 Parasitic, 1 jaeger sp.); and 1999 (1 Long-tailed and 2 jaeger sp.). Lake Springfield was home to three birds in 1996 (2 Pomarine and 1 jaeger sp.). Interestingly, there are numerous instances downstate of more than one species appearing at the same location at the same time, suggesting jaegers may migrate together in small, loose, mixed-species groups, possibly after the passage of a strong cold front. Other similar instances have been noted by Monson and Phillips (1981) in Arizona (Parasitic/ Long-tailed), by Robinson (1990) in Ten-

nessee (Pomarine/Parasitic), by Monroe (1994) in Kentucky (Pomarine/non-Pomarine jaeger sp.), and by Kent and Dinsmore (1996) in Iowa (Pomarine/Parasitic). This is all the more interesting in that ANY jaeger noted at any of these locations was an exceptional event. This "flocking" has been regularly noted following fronts on the Indiana portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline and included Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers sometimes noted side by side (K. Brock, pers. comm.).

Downstate Jaegers

Going through all the fall field notes in North American Birds (and its predecessors, Field Notes and American Birds), from 1990-2000, I found far more "inland" records of jaegers in Illinois than in any other of the lower 48 states, with the possible exception of Colorado. Inland records are rare even in most, if not all, of the coastal states, and details are usually noted for these records. Part of the reason more inland records exist for Illinois is undoubtedly a larger base of birders throughout the state compared with most if not all of the inland states, especially on the migratory pathway that jaegers likely take between the western Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Undoubtedly, many other jaegers are going undetected in the states within this migratory pathway. Birds moving through the eastern Great Lakes most likely use the short, overland crossing between Lake Ontario and the East Coast,

Table 2.. Known arrival dates of 225 fall Illinois jaegers, 1876-2000.

PARASITIC

AUG. 15-31	SEPT. 1-7	SEPT. 8-14	SEPT. 15-21	SEPT. 22-30	OCT. 1-7	OCT. 8-14	OCT. 15-21	OCT. 22-31	NOV. 1-7	NOV. 8-14	NOV. 15-21	NOV. 22-30	DEC. 1-7
ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u
1		3 1 2 1	2 2	3	3 1 5		6 6 2 3 7 7 12 2		9 1	3 1	1 1 1 4		

POMARINE

AUG. 15-31	SEPT. 1-7	SEPT. 8-14	SEPT. 15-21	SEPT. 22-30	OCT. 1-7	OCT. 8-14	OCT. 15-21	OCT. 22-31	NOV. 1-7	NOV. 8-14	NOV. 15-21	NOV. 22-30	DEC. 1-7
ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u
1					1 1 3	2 3		1	1 1	1 2	3	3	1

JAEGER SP.

AUG. 15-31	SEPT. 1-7	SEPT. 8-14	SEPT. 15-21	SEPT. 22-30	OCT. 1-7	OCT. 8-14	OCT. 15-21	OCT. 22-31	NOV. 1-7	NOV. 8-14	NOV. 15-21	NOV. 22-30	DEC. 1-7
ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u	ad juv u
1	2	8 7	2 4	4	1 7	7	6 3	4 13 2	9	5 8	1 3	2 1 3	6 1

SUBTOTALS

AUG. 15-31			SEPT. 1-7			SEPT. 8-14			SEPT. 15-21			SEPT. 22-30			OCT. 1-7			OCT. 8-14			OCT. 15-21			OCT. 22-31			NOV. 1-7			NOV. 8-14			NOV. 15-21			NOV. 22-30			DEC. 1-7		
ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u			
2	1	2		8	10	1	4	5		2	6		4	7	4	2	15		8	12	6	6	17	9	7	22	2	6	18	1	2	8	1	5	2	4	4	10			2

TOTALS (all jaegers of all ages)

AUG. 15-31	SEPT. 1-7	SEPT. 8-14	SEPT. 15-21	SEPT. 22-30	OCT. 1-7	OCT. 8-14	OCT. 15-21	OCT. 22-31	NOV. 1-7	NOV. 8-14	NOV. 15-21	NOV. 22-30	DEC. 1-7
5	18	10	8	11	21	20	29	38	26	11	8	18	2

Key: ad = adult, juv = juvenile, u = unknown age