

perate and feed. Clyne's Jackson Park records show an amazing record 222 species recorded by 19 June, only three of which were confined to the period between January and February. Record high spring totals over 17 years of observations for 49 species were recorded. About one-third



Swainson's Warbler, Jackson Park, Cook Co. 27 April 1996. This bird was seen 27, 28, and 29 April by many birders.
Photo by Thomas Jackman.

of the new high counts were significant, up six times over previous spring totals, said Clyne. No species recorded from Jackson Park sightings showed significant declines.

But many species were very late arriving in Chicago and other Illinois regions, and were also slow to leave for their breeding grounds. For example, on 8 June, Michael Hogg and David Brenner counted over 200 corpses on a half-mile stretch of beach at Illinois Beach State Park, including an American Bittern, a Northern Mockingbird, seven Yellow-breasted Chats, and eight species of warblers.

Clyne's detailed records for Chicago show that 57 species set record late departure dates - approximately 25% of all migrant species observed. Based on average departure dates calculated over 16 years, the average departure date for 139 species was eight days later than normal. Migration of several species which are typi-

cally gone from the Chicago area by mid-June was still steadily viewed into July in Jackson Park, including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blue Jay, Cedar Waxwing, and Red-eyed Vireo. Other surprisingly late sightings in the Jackson Park area included Greater White-fronted Goose (12 May), Great Black-backed Gull (3 on 30 May), Veery (20 June), Northern Mockingbird (16 June), and White-crowned Sparrow (25 June). A Greater White-fronted Goose was reported at McKee Marsh in DuPage County 17 May, according to the Chicago Audubon Society's Rare Bird Alert.



Remarkable Rarities

The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee has its hands full reviewing an incredible 35 documentable birds. In addition, large numbers of some uncommon species made the season very exciting for birders. Tricolored Herons (*Egretta tricolor*) made a grand appearance all around the state, with seven sightings recorded, representing Illinois' 14th through 21st spring records (Bohlen 1989). Most Tricoloreds are recorded in spring, but there is usually just one bird per season and usually in the Lake Calumet region of Chicago or in East St. Louis (Bohlen 1989, Mlodinow 1984). There hasn't been a spring Tricolored sighting in the state since 1990 (American Birds 1990-1995). Two individuals flew over Montrose Harbor in

Chicago within two days of each other, one stayed for 10 days at Crabtree Nature Center in Cook County, and the remaining birds were single sightings in St. Clair, Piatt, and Williamson counties downstate.

Other marsh stalkers included the very rare vagrant Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and rare vagrant White-faced Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) in St. Clair County; several of the latter remained beyond the spring period near East St. Louis. There were at least 15 records this spring of Glossy Ibis, the first since 1993. Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) were unusually common in the Chicago area. Six were seen the last week of April and individuals were seen on 3 May and 19 May, according to the Chicago Audubon Society's Rare Bird Alert. The shorebird flight brought unusually high numbers of American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) to the Chicago area in the spring period and in new places. Sixteen Avocets, considered rare migrants in Illinois, were seen at 131st and Will-Cook Road in the Palos area, 12 were in Hyde Park in Chicago on the 55th Street Promontory, and singles were seen on north side beaches. A Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) was seen in Jackson County 27 May, only the fourth record for the southern part of the state (Robinson 1996).

Swainson's Warbler

Among many exciting spring warbler sightings, one Chicago visitor really stands out. A Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) was a much-observed wonder on Jackson Park's Wooded Island 27 April. The bird was discovered by William Moskoff and Jeffrey and Kristin Sundberg and provided many birders with an unexpected lifer. This very rare vagrant in the northern part of the state was probably an overmigrant (Bohlen 1989). The find was made even more exciting by the fact that IOS members at the Annual Meeting