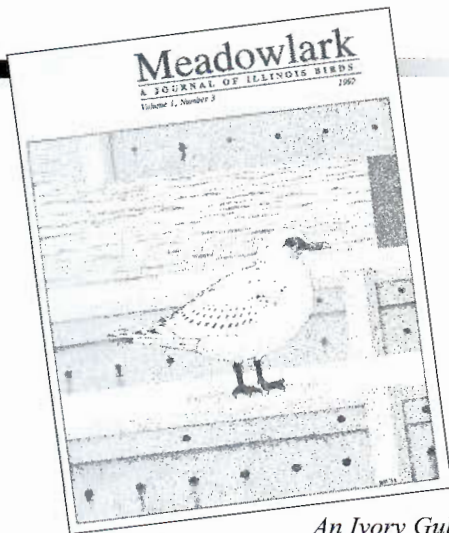


Twenty years ago in *Meadowlark*

By Sheryl DeVore



An Ivory Gull graces the cover of *Meadowlark*: Volume 1, Number 3. Walter Marcisz created the drawing of this bird that appeared in *Chicago* on 25 December 1991.

In the first volume of *Meadowlark*, Eric Walters wrote a column called Avian Annals in which he reported what happened in the birding world of Illinois 10, 30, and more years ago. This issue's Avian Annals includes what was published about birds in Illinois 20 years ago in *Meadowlark*.

- David Johnson reports on the second largest Snowy Owl invasion in Illinois in 1991-92. He's now working on another report of the Snowy Owl invasion the winter of 2011/2012.
- Al Stokie reports on his Christmas Day surprise, an Ivory Gull discovered 25 December 1991 during a Christmas Bird Count in Chicago.
- The winter of 1991/92 is one of the warmest on record for northeastern Illinois. Interestingly, the winter of 2011/2012 will likely go down as the warmest on record for northeastern Illinois.
- Robert Hughes sees Mew Gulls four different times at the lakefront during the winter of 1991/92.
- A Slaty-backed Gull is reported by Peter Peterson near the Rock Island arsenal in Illinois on 6 February 1992.
- The Illinois Statewide 1992 Spring Bird Count, written by Michael J. Baum, reports the following as the most numerous birds seen in order of commonality: Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, European Starling, American Robin, House Sparrow, Ring-billed Gull, American Goldfinch, Brown-headed Cowbird, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, Mourning Dove, Canada Goose, American Crow, Chimney Swift, Eastern Meadowlark, Barn Swallow, Mallard, Song Sparrow, Rock Dove, and House Wren.
- Lake County, Illinois, witnesses its first Black-necked Stilt on 22 April 1992, as reported by David B. Johnson.
- A Violet-green Swallow visits the state 18 July 1991 as reported by Eric Walters.
- The state's first confirmed breeding Red-breasted Merganser is discovered on 4 August 1991 by Ralph Herbst.
- Illinois birders complete the avian atlas and confirm the nesting success of 176 species, according to an article written by Peter Friederici. Mary Jane Easterday confirms the highest number—121—during the 10-year long breeding season study. Her proudest moment is when she confirms the nesting of Henslow's Sparrow after she sat for 20 hours in the 90-degree heat. "I got stung by seven bees while I was waiting," she said.
- The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is moving farther south during the breeding season, while the Blue Grosbeak is expanding northward, according to Robert Montgomery who helped compile the breeding bird atlas.
- The state's only colony of nesting Forster's Tern is discovered in June 1991 at the Chain O' Lakes State Park by Randy Heidorn. He writes that it far exceeds any other reported colony sizes in Illinois history.
- Red Crossbills are confirmed building a nest in an 80-year-old Austrian and Scotch pine plantation at Illinois Beach State Park on 7 April 1991, by Andrew Sigler.
- Thirty-five species of shorebirds have been seen at Rend Lake since Todd Fink and Judy DeNeal began birding there. Todd Fink has seen 25 shorebird species in one day in late summer at Rend Lake.

— Sheryl DeVore
967 Braeburn Road
Mundelein, IL 60060
sheryl.devore@comcast.net