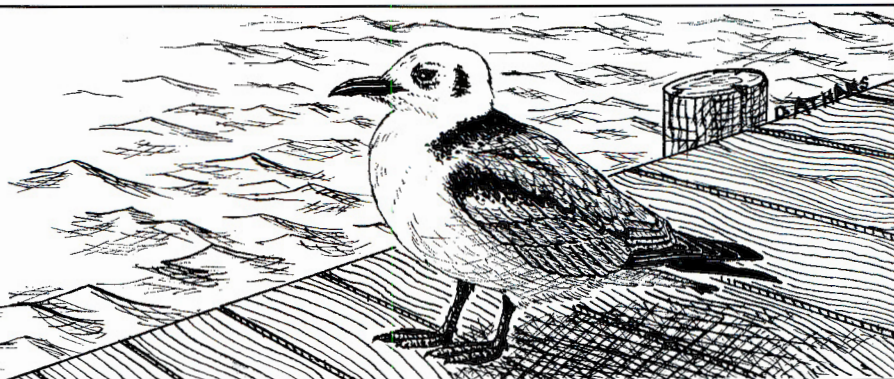


Field Notes



Black-legged Kittiwake. Drawing by David Athans.

1993 Spring Migration

by Eric Walters

Because the last three years have been earlier than normal springs, observers were lulled into thinking the 1993 spring migration was late. However, when compared to decades of data, this one was right on time. The most unusual thing about spring 1993 was the prevailing southeasterly winds in late March, 15-20 April, and 6-15 May. Most of the unusual records for this spring occurred during those times. Noteworthy occurrences included the following species: Cinnamon Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Mew Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Western Kingbird, Townsend's Warbler, Painted Bunting (a first confirmed state record), and Chestnut-collared Longspur. In addition, Robert Chapel submitted an interesting analysis of the Sandhill Crane migration this spring. He noted that the cranes abandoned their normal migration corridor and instead migrated over east-central Illinois.

Don't let the newspaper accounts or the Chicago birding hotline fool you; spring 1993 was not exceptional in northeastern Illinois or elsewhere in the state. For downstate observers, this was a below average to average migration. What was spectacular (truly the best ever there) was the migration at Skokie Lagoons and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Also, inland, the Des Plaines River valley in N. Cook and parts of Lake County were quite excellent. These areas dominated the hotlines and gave the erroneous impression that Chicagoland was exceptional for migration. However, the lakefront areas like Montrose Harbor, the Bird Sanctuary, Olive and Grant Parks, Evanston, Wilmette, and even Waukegan were rather dull compared to recent years. The only

lakefront area that was exceptionally good was Jackson Park's Wooded Island. It is possible that the southeasterly winds took most of the birds beyond the lakefront and into the nearby inland areas previously mentioned. For those observers fortunate to bird in those "prime" locations — it was a spring to remember!

Illinois' average precipitation for the months of March, April, and May were 1.14 below, 1.04 above and .74 below normal respectively. The state's average temperature was 1.9 below, 2.8 below and 1.0 above normal respectively.

A special thanks is extended to all contributors to this report. Those records that were most significant have been included in this report and the birders responsible for the sightings are listed below. The first initials of their names were used except as indicated below by three initials: Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Doug Anderson, Arlene Brei, Alan Branhagan (ABr), David Bohlen, David Brenner (DBr), Eileen Bunker (EBu), Laurence Binford, Michael Baum, Richard Biss, Renee Baade (RBa), Tadas Birutis (TBi), Elizabeth Chato, Hal Cohen, John Csoka (JCs), Karin Cassel, Robert Chapel, Richard Carhart (RCa), Roger Coons (RCo), Aura Duke, Bob Danley, Danny Diaz, Dennis DeCoursey (DDe), Donald Dann (DDn), Glen Dawson, Judy DeNeal, Jeff Donaldson (JDo), Sylvia Dawson (SDa), Bob Erickson, Betsy Fikejs, Susan Friscia, Todd Fink, Joel Greenberg, Jerry Garden (JGa), Rob Gough (RGo), Barrie Hunt, Dave Habisohn (DHa), Jeff Hoover (JHo), Kanae Hirabayashi, Marianne Hahn (MHa), Robert Hughes, Ralph Herbst (RHe), Scott Hickman, David Johnson, Larry Jones (LJ), John Koch, Peter Kasper,

Meadowlark