

and wind-chills in the teens, followed by an unseasonably early snowfall the morning of 12 October accumulating to nearly half an inch and with a high of only 39°F. On 11 October, I tallied 256 Chimney Swifts in Chicago's Jackson Park and adjacent residential Hyde Park flying into a west wind, and I commented in my field log for the day, "...likely last of season based on forecast." Much to my surprise, I found 103 Chimney Swifts the morning of 12 October. The next day, wind-chills plummeted into the single digits, even at mid-afternoon, so the continued presence of Chimney Swifts on 14 October jarred my confidence in predicting departure dates for this species.



Temperatures for the rest of the month remained sub-normal, resulting in the coldest October in a decade at Chicago. On 31 October, swifts were not circling about foraging,

but rather were moving directly south (or north!) in migration. I counted 182 swifts leaving Jackson Park and Hyde Park that morning, and I dared to remark in a post to IBET, the Illinois birding list-serve, "I don't expect to see this species here again until April, since today's birds were obviously on the move and weather is right for their final evacuation." The same date, Douglas F. Stotz of the Field Museum of Natural History noted in an IBET post, "I think this may be the cold snap that finally drives them away."

The swifts proved us wrong. I found three Chimney Swifts the morning of 1 November, and a few additional were observed elsewhere in Cook County and in Du Page County the same day.

The Chicago forecast for 2 November called for a high of 39°F and overnight lows in the low 20's — the coldest temperatures since February. Chicago's celebrated meteorologist Tom Skilling remarked that only six times in 135 years of weather data had it been this cold so early in the season. I was relieved to find no swifts in a quick walk through Jackson Park that morning. Then, on 4 November, there were Internet posts of swifts at two sites, including one at Jackson Park. My survey there the next morning yielded 21 Chimney Swifts, and a few score were reported at other north-eastern Illinois sites that day.

Weather the next few days was uneventful, with highs in the mid-50s (warming to the mid-60s on 8-9 November), and lows in the mid-40s. The afternoon of 9 November, winds shifted to the northeast, and by late afternoon of 10 November winds were gusting upwards of 40 mph, accompanied by steady rain. Even with the strong winds, however, my home weather station showed maximum wind-chills on 10 November a few degrees warmer than on 12 October, and it was not until 30 November that wind-chills finally dove again into the single digits.

TABLE 1: Fall 2006 Chimney Swift reports, *continued*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>CO.</u>	<u>SITE (OBSERVER(S))</u>
31 Oct	74	Cook	southbound from 07:00-07:30, Lincoln Park, Chicago (Steven J. Huggins)
	23-25	Cook	Northerly Island, Chicago, to Glenview (Jeffrey R. Sanders et al.)
	14	Cook	Northerly Island, Chicago (Douglas F. Stotz)
	182	Cook	120 northbound in 2 flocks, 62 others, Jackson Park, Chicago (Paul R. Clyne)
	11	Du Page	southbound at Greene Valley Forest Preserve hawk watch (Robert E. Fisher et al.)
1 Nov	1	Cook	James Park, Evanston (Matthew Cvetas)
	2	Cook	Lincoln Park, Chicago (Kanae Hirabayashi)
	3	Cook	Jackson Park, Chicago (Paul R. Clyne)
	sm. groups	Du Page	a few locations (Peter A. Moxon)
2 Nov	no reports		
3 Nov	4	Cook	north side of Chicago and Evanston (Alex Bloss)
	5	Du Page	Blackwell Forest Preserve (Peter A. Moxon)
4 Nov	8	Cook	Evanston (Fran Morel)
	1	Cook	Jackson Park (Eric J. Ginsburg)
5 Nov	66	Cook/Lake	mostly at Glencoe (Cook Co) and Highland Park (Lake Co) (Geoffrey A. Williamson et al.)
	4	Cook	Evanston (Fran Morel)
	21	Cook	Jackson Park, Chicago (Paul R. Clyne)
	1	Cook	Lake Calumet, Chicago (Walter J. Marcisz)
	4	Du Page	Route 56 & Leask Lane (Peter A. Moxon)
6 Nov	1	Cook	Hyde Park, Chicago (Julia M. Putman)
	12	Cook	Jackson Park, Chicago (Paul R. Clyne)
7 Nov	12	Cook	Jackson Park, Chicago (Paul R. Clyne)
	6	Du Page	Fermilab (Peter A. Moxon)
8 Nov	1	Cook	Lincoln Park, Chicago (Geoffrey A. Williamson)
	1	Cook	Northerly Island, Chicago (Thomas S. Schulenberg)
	1	Cook	Jackson Park, Chicago (Paul R. Clyne)
	3	Du Page	Greene Valley Forest Preserve (Robert E. & Karen D. Fisher)
9 Nov	2	Cook	Montrose Harbor, Chicago (Robert D. Hughes)
	9	Cook	Lincoln Park, Chicago (Steven J. Huggins)
	1	Du Page	Downers Grove (Robert E. & Karen D. Fisher)
10 Nov	2	Cook	Northerly Island, Chicago (Douglas F. Stotz)