

This made alerting birders of the sighting a bit difficult. Also, it was now late Sunday evening. I knew that many birders would not have an opportunity to chase this bird, especially during the beginning of the week. I had hoped that others could share in the sighting but feared the bird might leave before that was possible.

Despite my concerns, on Monday, 29 September, I e-mailed a description of the bird to Eric Secker and asked if he could please post it to the IBET site. He was kind enough to forward it on, and on Tuesday, 30 September, several local birders found the bird. The sandpiper was present through the next weekend, allowing many birders from miles around a chance to view the bird. To the best of my knowledge, the last sighting of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was on 6 October 2003.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is normally found in northern Siberia, where it breeds primarily between the Lena and Kolyma Rivers. It migrates to Australia in the winter.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is listed as accidental on the Illinois Bird Checklist (IOS Website 2003). If accepted, this will be the fifth confirmed record for Illinois.

The first recorded and photographed Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in the state was at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, 1974 September 28 and 29 (Bohlen and Sandburg 1975). The second sighting and only other northern Illinois record was a bird found by Jim Landing in Cook County 6 October 1985 (Retter 2001).

Kevin Richmond and Louise Augustine reported a juvenile 25 September 1990 at Big Lake and Rice Lake in Fulton County, which was accepted as the state's second record. On 23 September 2001, Kevin Richmond discovered a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Mason County. It remained at the site until at least 30 September, and represents the state's fourth record. (Retter 2001). Several other sharp-tails have been reported but not accepted; for a list of these and

the accepted sightings, see Dan Kassebaum's Website: [www.monroe.k12.il.us/websites/dkassebaum/sharptail.htm](http://www.monroe.k12.il.us/websites/dkassebaum/sharptail.htm).

### Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Eric Secker for forwarding my description to IBET alerting others of the bird. Also, I would like to thank Jon Duerr, who was one of the first to relocate the sandpiper and whose work, along with the entire staff of the Kane County Forest Preserve, helped give us such a great site to bird.

### Literature Cited

- Bohlen, H.D. and R. Sandburg. 1975. Sight record of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Illinois. *Illinois Audubon Bulletin* 172:4-5.
- Retter, M. 2001. A juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. *Meadowlark* 10:59.

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**Figure 1:** Number of October and November records of Northern Parula in Illinois and in northern Illinois from 1980 to 2002.

