



*Chumming for gulls. Drawing by David Athans.*

species covered in this article.

The plates in Robbins (1983) contain many errors, covered by Stallcup (1985). The best solution is to avoid the Robbins guide for gulls. For more detailed information on the Lesser Black-backed Gull problem involving the less likely European races, consult Kaufman (1990).

Should you discover any dark-mantled gulls late fall, winter, or early spring in Illinois, document the coloration patterns and take photographs, especially showing the species in relationship to other gulls such as the herring. Send your notes to the appropriate Field Notes editors. The information is valuable data which will improve our knowledge about the four dark-mantled gulls that visit Illinois.

Peter C. Petersen  
235 McClellan Blvd.  
Davenport, Iowa 52803



## BIRD FINDING GUIDE

# Gull Birding in Illinois

by James E. Landing

The unofficial temperature in Chicago the morning of 17 January 1982 was 28 degrees below zero! With winds gusting to 30 miles, the wind-chill factor was 60 degrees below zero. Fortunately, my car started since I was curious as to how birds in the area were adjusting to such extreme conditions. On the way to the lakefront I saw Rock Doves and House Sparrows sitting on city light poles, attempting to find warmth from the bulbs. Starlings, for the most part, were sitting next to building chimneys. No birds were flying or feeding. I drove Lake Shore Drive from the Loop to Montrose Harbor and did

not pass a single car or person. At Montrose Harbor I could see the temperature contrast between air and water was so great that the area within 20 feet of the surface of Lake Michigan was saturated with radiation fog, obscuring all visibility. No birds could be seen or heard. As I was throwing bread on the water in hopes of attracting something, a photographer from the *Chicago Sun-Times* approached. He had been given the assignment of photographing some activity in the cold, but he had been unable to find any sign of living things except for me and a half dozen Ring-billed Gulls attracted to the bread. No other gulls