

spring, late summer, and fall can be a good times for shorebirds and pipits. Rarities found in recent years include an avocet on Lake Law in 1991 and the Sea of Evanescence in 1992; Ruddy Turnstone and White-rumped Sandpiper on the Sea of Evanescence in the spring of 1988; a Piping Plover on Lake Law in 1988; Sanderling on DUSAF Pond and A.E.Sea in 1988 and Lake Law in 1991; Buff-breasted and Baird's Sandpipers on Lake Law in 1988 and 1991; Western Sandpiper on Lake Law in 1988; and a Red Phalarope on Lake Law in October of 1981.

The lakes are less productive in the summer, but the surrounding cattails and grasslands are good for Marsh Wren, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and sometimes Dickcissel. The thicker scrubby areas near the Sea of Evanescence provide nesting habitat for Bell's Vireo and sometimes Yellow-breasted Chat.

Continue west on Batavia Road to the intersection with Eola Road. Just beyond this intersection the road forks; the right fork is the continuation of Batavia Road and the left fork is Road D. Between these roads is a large field [19] containing a herd of buffalo, a popular attraction for non-birders. In late fall and early spring this field will often contain an impressive flock of geese. Thousands of Canada Geese have to be scanned for the reward of finding some Greater White-fronted Geese or even a Ross' Goose. Sightings of both species have increased over the past few years with as many as three Ross' Geese seen at one time in the fall of 1993. Care should be taken when identifying Ross' Geese because Snow Geese, both white and blue morph, are usually found in reasonable numbers here. In some years they have numbered in the hundreds. This field should also be checked in late spring and early fall for Lesser Golden-Plover and Black-bellied Plover.

The savanna on the north-west edge of the buffalo field provides nesting areas for Red-tailed Hawk and Great-horned Owl. You can view the savanna from Road C which forms a T-junction at the west end of Batavia Road.

Along Batavia Road are some buffalo feeders [18] which should also be checked in fall and winter. Scan the starlings, House Sparrows, and buffalo hooves for Horned Larks, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and Brewer's Blackbird. The grasslands along Eola Road, both north and south of the Batavia Road intersection are worth checking in winter for hawks. Red-tailed Hawks are always common and in some years so are Rough-legged Hawks. Also be on the lookout for Northern Harriers and Cooper's Hawks. If

Fermilab study is model bird survey

by Denis Kania

Peter Kasper has been collecting data on the birds of Fermilab since 1987. His approach to this task has given him such intimate knowledge of the site that he can easily determine the best time and place to look for any particular species.

His data has proven the value of the Fermilab site to breeding and migratory species. His research during two survey periods has also been acknowledged as a creditable resource. In 1989, Victoria Byre issued a Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Vol. 14 No. 4, titled, "The Birds of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory: Their Seasonal Occurrence and Breeding Activity," based on Kasper's research. Byre and Kasper worked closely together for several years and complemented each other's projects.

In 1987, Fermilab was designated as a National Environmental Research Park by the U.S. Department of Energy. Rod Walton, research park coordinator, requests periodic updates on Kasper's research.

Prior to 1987 Kasper had virtually no birding knowledge of North America let alone DuPage County. An Australia native, Kasper has birded for 20 years several regions of the world including Australia, Kenya, Western Europe, Israel, and Costa Rica. With this worldwide exposure, it is ironic that when it comes to Illinois, he has confined his birding almost exclusively to Fermilab.

His simple approach requires a high motivation level. He conducts five-year period surveys with each month divided into four equal quarters. Kasper has created what he calls double days. Sightings made on double days count in the two quarters that share that day. This allows each quarter to consist