

found in parking lots, golf courses, large playgrounds and, especially, in garbage dumps. In rural areas they can be seen following plows, in farm ponds, and, like Cattle Egrets, milling among the horses and cows. Gull activity attracts other gulls, and throwing old bread on the water or ground will lure them in good numbers. In the winter look for ice where gulls loaf. Also look along the waterways and check the roofs of warehouses and factories.

Gulls are attracted to water and trash, so check wherever quantities of either are found. Some of the better gull areas in Illinois are described below (See map).

### **Gull Area 1: Alton-Belleville**

Along the Mississippi River, the major concentration points are near the locks and dams. At Alton check Lock and Dam No. 26 by using IL-100 and IL-143. Also, cross the Mississippi River via route US 67. These are major winter gull concentration points.

In the East St. Louis area look near the bridges of IL-270, IL-55, and IL-255. For river checking, follow IL-3. Near Granite City, check Lock and Dam No. 27. The first Slaty-backed Gull for the state was seen in this area (Bohlen 1989).

If time permits, check Horseshoe Lake State Park near Fairmont City. The entrance is along the east side of the park on IL-111.

### **Gull Area 2: Quad Cities**

Also on the Mississippi, the Quad Cities area (Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Davenport) should be checked by crossing the bridges on IL-80, IL-74, and IL-280. For

riverfront checking, use IL-84 and IL-92, the first for Lock and Dam No. 14, the latter for Lock and Dam No. 15. The second Slaty-backed Gull record for Illinois was reported here (American Birds Summer 1989).

### **Gull Area 3: Lake County**

The Lake Michigan shoreline in Lake County is a major winter con-

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Gulls have increased in Illinois the last 50 years both in numbers and the reports of unusual species. Records of Ivory, Glaucous-winged, Ross', Mew, California, Common Black-headed, and Slaty-backed have all been added the past two decades to the Illinois list.

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centration area for gulls. Check all the boat marinas from the Wisconsin state line southward including Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina, and Waukegan Harbor, where the first Ivory Gull sighting in Illinois was reported during a Christmas Bird Count on 1 January 1949 (Mayfield 1949).

The waters off shore from the nuclear power plant at Zion may be checked from the north end of the Illinois Beach State Park at Wadsworth Road. In the summer, gulls, terns, and shorebirds congregate near the north end of the public beach area at Waukegan. This is an excellent walk, but expect wet feet since there are a number of water outlets along the way. All the areas in Lake County may be accessed from

Sheridan Road which lies several miles east of US 41. In early winter this is one of the best areas in Illinois for Little Gull (Bohlen 1989).

An excellent example of lake shore disruption and gull attraction can be found in Highland Park at the east end of Deerpath Road, but the city assiduously provides no parking space for those without village stickers, although you are welcome at their stores.

### **Gull Area 4: Cook County**

Not only does Cook County have an extensive Lake Michigan shoreline, extending from Lake County southward to Indiana, but there also are rivers, sloughs, and marshes throughout the county. Only major gull concentration areas will be described. For lakefront gull watching, the sheltered boat harbors should be checked, especially October through March. From north to south, the major ones are Gillson Park in Wilmette on Sheridan Road, the observatory at Northwestern University, which is a lakefront landfill reached from Sheridan Road at Lincoln Avenue in Evanston, and Chicago's many harbors, all reached from Lake Shore Drive (US 41): Montrose, Belmont, Diversey, Monroe, Burnham, Jackson Park, and Calumet. Consistently productive are Montrose, Burnham (at Meigs Airport near the Loop), and Calumet which is at 95th Street. These are very good areas for all winter gulls including Tayer's, Iceland, Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls.

The premier gull spot of Chicago surrounds the Lake Calumet area in the southeastern section of the city. Gulls abound at this waste industry, pollution, and garbage dump capital of the United States. Ring-billed and Herring Gulls nest on Lake Calumet finger slips. The summer population

**Meadowlark**