

and another at Carlyle Lake were excellent finds. The fall hawk migration at IBHW and GVHW was rather mediocre, however, there were some very interesting observations including Greene Valley's first (imm.) FERRUGINOUS Hawk plus a Swainson's Hawk at GVHW and IBHW plus four other locations. IBHW noted its first SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, another SWALLOW-TAILED KITE was noted at Middlefork Savanna, and still another at Homer Lake in Champaign Co. Up to four Mississippi Kites were noted at IBHW early in the season. Thirty-three Bald Eagles noted at HennepinL was an excellent number for August. The 2,564 Broad-winged Hawks at GVHW was the maximum. Six Golden Eagles were reported state-wide with the southernmost being at Carlyle Lake.

Rails through Woodpeckers

There were only two Yellow Rail reports both at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co).

A remarkable Sandhill Crane flight occurred when over 20,000+ cranes passed through northeastern Illinois on 23 Nov. Five sightings of Whooping Cranes presumed to be from the "flight schools" and the re-introduction program were noteworthy as mostly fly-overs.

Shorebirds were noted in good to excellent numbers this season perhaps largely due to the extensive drought and draw-downs of lakes and shorelines. Emiquon now appears to be the center for Black-necked Stilts with a maximum of 15 there in early August. A maximum count of 36 American Avocets at Turtle Lake Adams Co were noteworthy as well as the late departing date of two at Emiquon on 25 Nov. Three Piping Plovers were noted this fall. It bares repeating but the WANDERING TATTLER at Montrose on 9 August was the standout rarity report of this fall season. The 29 Willets at Montrose was the maximum count. A shorebird species of special concern is the Upland Sandpiper; thus the six at Rockford Intl Airport was noteworthy this fall. Inland Whimbrels were at Lake Decatur and LaSalle Lake FWA. A RUFF at Rice Lake CA was a rarity for the Illinois River Valley. Both godwits were noted throughout the state but the 50 Hudsonian Godwits at Carlyle Lake, Fayette Co on 13 Aug must have flabbergasted the observers! Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot fall counts seem to be on the decline—the max count for turnstones was 14 at Montrose and there were only two knot reports. The 150 Stilt Sandpipers certainly was an outstanding number tallied for early October. The maximum count of Sanderlings was 44 at Montrose. Buff-breasted Sandpiper certainly made an outstanding showing this season with at least 22 county reports with a maximum count of 33 at Rend Lake. Least Sandpipers and Pectoral Sandpipers were in excellent numbers along the Illinois River Valleys. The 25 Western Sandpipers at Carlyle Lake on 22 Jul was an excellent tally for a difficult to detect fall migratory shorebird in Illinois. The 300 Long-billed Dowitchers at Chautauqua NWR was a very good tally. American Woodcocks were stressed by the drought conditions and many birds were seen in unusual locations including backyard sprinkling systems.

All three phalaropes put on a good showing this fall with Red-necked Phalaropes being reported in 18 counties with a maximum of 31 at Sawmill Lake (Putnam Co) along the Illinois River Valley.

Only one identifiable jaeger was noted: an apparent

Parasitic Jaeger at GillsonP. The only kittiwake report was an individual at Montrose in early November. There were five Sabine's Gull reports from the Mississippi River, Illinois River and Lake Springfield. The 10,000 Bonapartes Gulls at Lake Carlyle must have been a spectacular sight. The only LITTLE GULL sighting was of an adult at Lake Springfield in late Nov. Seven Laughing Gulls were reported and Franklin's Gulls were noted in 19 counties with a maximum of 100 at Carlyle Lake. An adult California Gull was noted at Carlyle Lake. Lesser Black-backed Gulls certainly are on the rise with eight reported at the Lake County Fairgrounds. The only Glaucous Gull report was of an adult at Loyola Park on the Chicago lakefront. The first cycle Great Black-backed Gull at Carlyle Lake was noteworthy. A Least Tern was in Madison Co. A widespread Black Tern movement was noted this fall with reports in 21 counties with a maximum count of 200 at Carlyle Lake. Eurasian Collared-Doves are still on the rise with reports in 43 counties. A WHITE-WINGED DOVE was at IBSP. Cuckoos exited the state barely being noticed. There was only one report of a Snowy Owl that of an injured imm. male in DeKalb Co. A BURROWING OWL made a two day appearance at Montrose remarkably widely separated by more than a week. Northern Saw-whet Owls staged an excellent movement into our state with a maximum total of 28 at Sand Bluff Observatory. Common Nighthawks were not so common this fall. 2,500 Chimney Swifts staging at Bloomington must have been a swirling sight to behold! Staging numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in southern Illinois can be staggering; so, 158 in Monroe County was remarkable. There were two confirmed RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS in Illinois both of which were banded by Vernon M. Kleen with an additional *Selasphorus sp.* being reported. A welcoming note were that Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported in 66 counties.. Noteworthy also were Pileated Woodpecker observations in 55 counties. A PRAIRIE FALCON was a rare falcon noted in Douglas Co. Forty-four Merlins was the maximum count this fall for the IBHW and a very early Merlin was noted on 12 Aug in Sangamon Co. DuPage and Cook Co are the hold out counties for Monk Parakeet with a maximum count of 50 parakeets at JacksonP, a major population center for this introduced species.

Passerines

Flycatchers are difficult to detect during fall migration; so the 21 Eastern Wood-Pewees at HennepinL were noteworthy as well as the Olive-sided Flycatchers noted in 19 counties this fall. This was a season of unusual flycatchers, too, with a SAY'S PHOEBE noted at IBSP, two ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS, two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and two Western Kingbirds. There were just six reports of Loggerhead Shrike. An early 23 Aug Blue-headed Vireo was noted in Carroll Co and a straggler on 1 Nov in Kane County was late. Crow and Blue Jay numbers seemed low this season. Purple Martin's numbers seem low with just 412 reported at Lake Springfield. Tree Swallow numbers in contrast were staggering with 20, 000 – 25,000 at Carlyle Lake. There were three CAVE SWALLOW reports along Lake Michigan with one diagnostic photo at IBSP-N Unit during the IBHW. A very tardy Northern Rough-winged Swallow was still in Kankakee Co till the end of the period. While many passerine numbers seemed to be low due to drought conditions or an early migration the 27 Sedge Wrens at Northerly Island was a remarkable number