

in late August when observers had 25 species of shorebirds in one day. Black-necked Stilts had a great season with high counts from the Illinois Valley and the Mississippi River floodplain. Small numbers occurred east to Wabash County and north to Grundy and Henry Counties. Avocets were also well-represented with small numbers scattered across the state. Godwits and Whimbrels were in small numbers, but with no Hudsonian Godwit reports. Red Knots were poorly represented with a few along the Illinois River during a brief period at the end of August. Peep (*Calidris* sp.) counts were generally pretty ordinary. The only Purple Sandpiper was at Waukegan at the end of October. Dowitchers were relatively scarce this fall. Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes were in reasonable numbers, but only one Red Phalarope was reported. Rare gulls were pretty typical this fall. The only kittiwake was at Gillson Park in late November. Sabine's Gulls were at Carlyle Lake and along the middle Illinois River, mainly in the last half of September. There were impressive numbers of Franklin's Gulls in late October from Carlyle Lake, Lake Michigan and Lake Springfield. Four California Gulls were reported from scattered locations. Large winter gulls appeared in reasonable numbers by late November, with Winthrop Harbor as usual the best spot for rarities. Tern migration was pretty ordinary, but Forster's Terns remained at Rend Lake into December. Short-eared Owls were in reasonable numbers along Lake Michigan and at inland grasslands. A few Long-eared Owls had been reported by the end of the season, and the Northern Saw-whet Owl migration was pretty good. Common Nighthawks were late arriving in good numbers, but there was a spectacular movement in northeastern Illinois on 2 September, when more than 16,000 were seen in Lincoln Park, and counts of over 1,000 were obtained in Palos and Kankakee. Woodpecker migrations were unimpressive. No significant counts of Red-headed Woodpeckers away from breeding sites were obtained.

Passerines

Landbird migration was generally slow this fall. Empidonax flycatchers were not very noticeable; even along the Lake Michigan lakefront there were only small numbers. There were some good Eastern Kingbird concentrations in late August, but a Western Kingbird in inland Cook County was the only report of that species. Vireo migration was strong with good counts of migrant Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Blue-headed Vireos. Bell's Vireos were more widespread and common into late August and early September than normal. Swallow concentrations were pretty typical other than an impressive 4,100 Cliff Swallows at El Paso in August. Winter Wrens were below average with no good concentrations. In contrast, there were good numbers of both kinglets. There was a stunning count of 150 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Carlyle Lake in August. Although there were several good pre-dawn counts of migrating Swainson's Thrushes, thrush counts on the ground were not notable. A huge roost of more than 20,00 American Robins in Palos was carefully counted in September; elsewhere there were smaller, but good counts of robins. Gray Catbirds were not dazzling this fall with no good counts or birds lingering into December. American Pipits had a strong migration and as has been the case recently, there were a number of December records even in northern Illinois.

Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs were represented by reasonable numbers, and arrived on time. There were few significant high counts of warblers, but good numbers and diversity were present at many sites through much of September. Warbler migration started in earnest in mid-August and most migrant species were recorded by the 20th. Although November was warmer than average, only eight species made it to that month. Yellow and Black-throated Blue was the only unexpected species that lingered that late. Other significant warbler records included a Worm-eating photographed after being found stunned in downtown Chicago on the very late date of 24 October, and two Kentucky Warblers away from breeding sites in Cook County including one found dead on 10 October. Most of the notable high counts of warblers came from Carlyle Lake including 80 Chestnut-sideds and 60 Magnolias on 11 September, 60 Black-throated Green and 700 Yellow-rumps on 9 October, and 20 Orange-crowned Warblers on 17 October. A Spotted Towhee in Iroquois County in late October was the only one reported. American Tree Sparrows arrived in good numbers by mid-November. Clay-colored Sparrows were found in below average numbers with only a few singles reported. A late Lark Sparrow was in Chicago in mid-November, but Vesper Sparrows were in small numbers and none were reported in November. Several good counts of Savannah Sparrows were received, and Nelson's and LeConte's Sparrows were reported in above average numbers. At least ten Harris's Sparrows were reported, with most records in the first half of October. There were several counts of 300+ White-crowned Sparrows on 10 and 11 October in the northern and central part of the state. Late Western Meadowlarks were found at Carlyle Lake and in Henry County in November. Flocks of 1,000+ Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were widely reported, with the biggest flocks coming from Clinton County in late November.

Irruptive Species

Neither Rough-legged Hawks nor Northern Goshawks put in a particularly good showing this fall. Numbers at the hawkwatches were unimpressive and few were found at other sites. For a second straight year, Northern Shrikes were poorly reported this fall, with only seven reports received, all singles. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread in small numbers during migration beginning in late August. Standard wintering sites had below average numbers by the end of November. For a second year winter finches were no-shows. Pine Siskins had a generally mediocre flight. Common Redpolls and both Crossbills were represented by only a handful of reports. Purple Finches did not have a good flight, with few good counts received.

Organizations and Institutions:

- CAS Chicago Audubon Society (field trips)
- CBCM Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (data largely involving window-strikes at high rises in downtown Chicago)
- COS Chicago Ornithological Society (field trips)
- DBC DuPage Birding Club (field trips)