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## SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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### Pacific Loon Visits Mercer County

On 19 November 1991, a casual birder, while fishing, discovered an unusual-looking loon on Fyre Lake in Mercer County about 15 miles south of the Quad Cities. He said he had seen many Common Loons on the lake, but that this loon looked different.

The next day, a birding friend and I went looking for the loon. We immediately found it on the lake. We noticed that it was smaller than a Common Loon and that, although it held its bill like a Common Loon would, the proportion of the bill to the head was different. The bird also had a clean edge between the white cheek and grey back. The Pacific Loon remained in the area for a few more days.

- Peter Petersen, 235 McClellan Boulevard, Davenport, Iowa 52803.

### Immature Ross' Goose Seen With Flock of Tundra Swans

On a gray, misty, and windy day on 31 October 1991, a flock of 21 adult and immature Tundra Swans and a small lone whitish goose flew and called "yapping" through the fog at the Fermilab inner ring lake in Du Page County. The flock circled and then landed on the lake.

The small white goose was dwarfed by the swans's larger size. That, the tiny shape of the head, and the small bill made me think of a Ross' Goose. When Muriel Smith, Betsy Fikejs, and others arrived at the lake, we looked at the goose through spotting scopes and observed more details. The bird was pure white with black primary flight feathers. The crown and back of the neck sported pale gray markings. The small, solid black bill was triangular with a pink culmen.

While we were watching the Ross's Goose and Tundra Swans, a flight of 13 Common Loons flew over the lake. An hour later, the swans and Ross's Goose flew away. There are two previously documented Ross' Goose records in northeast

Illinois, one of which occurred at Fermilab November of 1989.

- Peter Kasper, 1426 Surrey Road, Batavia, IL 60510.

### Western Sandpiper Seen In Late November

On 24 November 1991, Andy Sigler and I discovered a basic (winter) plumaged Western Sandpiper at Calumet Beach Park associating with four basic plumaged Dunlins.

This bird had no white rump, no pale lower mandible, and no long down-curved bill like the Dunlins had. Instead, the Western Sandpiper had a smaller bill with a distinctly drooping tip. We also noted the bright red spot of two to four scapular feathers in the upper part of the bird's grayish mantle. The bird also had black legs.

Eric Walters and Wes Serafin saw this bird as late as 29 November. This date is nearly three weeks later than the latest fall departure record for this species in northern Illinois (Bohlen, 1989).

- Robert Hughes, 696 Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60613.

### Pomarine Jaeger Seen in Clinton County

On 2 November 1991, I noticed at Carlyle Lake in Clinton County a dark bird among a raft of gulls. Noting its Ring-bill Gull size, chunky appearance, brown coloration and thick, short-neck, I knew it was a jaeger.

To identify which species, I looked through the scope and poured over birding identification material including *British Birds*, Volume 82, No. 4, April 1989. I noted the central tail feathers protruding as nubs not as spikes. They were most apparent when the tail was flared in flight. An obvious white crescent was visible on the underwings and consisted of more than six primaries. Above that was the diagnostic second crescent.