

Chicago, that of a first year bird sighted 27 October 1974. Recently birders are finding more fall records for the species. Based on this sighting and the individuals found last year at this time in Wisconsin on 29 Nov.- 8 Dec. 1991, Sheboygan Co. (*Passenger Pigeon*, 54:227, 232, 240) and Chicago on 2 - 3 December 1991 (*American Birds*, 46: 272), late November early December could prove to be the most opportune time to see this species in our area. Interestingly, another adult California Gull was present during this period in Michigan City, Indiana (pers. comm. Ken Brock). 🐦

— Robert Hughes, 696 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60613.

Vermilion Flycatcher at Sangchris State Park

As I was leaving Sangchris State Park in Sangamon County on 18 September 1992, I noted a small flycatcher in the road. It flipped its tail, flew from the road, then landed again. The brown coloration and tail action made me think it was an Eastern Phoebe, but the tail had white outer edges, and the light-colored breast had some thin streaking. After viewing it for a short period I knew it was a female Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus*

rubinus). It was using the pounce method to capture insects. As it flew between the low branches of nearby trees it would not only wag but also open and close its tail. The upperparts were dull brown with two thin whitish wing bars and broadly white tertial tips. The superciliary was dull whitish, with a darker line beneath. The cheek patch was dull brown and the throat was unmarked whitish. Fairly long rectal bristles were obvious around the dark bill. The eyes and tarsi also were dark. The few yellowish-orange, rather than salmon-pink, feathers in the vent area indicate this was an immature female.

I called several local birders and Dennis Oehmke photographed the flycatcher atop an outhouse (see photo below). It continued to fly about in the open area near the ranger's office until about 10:30 a.m. when it flew over a hedgerow and was never seen again.

This is the fifth record for the state and first for fall, all others being in April and May. It is the first record for Sangamon County. 🐦

— H. David Bohlen, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois 62706

Kirtland's Warbler at Chautauqua NWR, Mason County

At 8:30 a.m. on 9 October 1992 while walking alongside a narrow band of willows and maples bordering the north side of Lake Chautauqua in Mason County I heard some chickadees fussing. I stepped into the willows and started "spishing." A flock of Black-capped Chickadees, kinglets, and warblers responded. I put my binoculars on a warbler that popped up about 10-feet away. At first glance I thought it was a Magnolia Warbler and almost passed it by, but I noticed it was bobbing its tail constantly.

Then I noticed the bird lacked the yellow rump and white tail markings of a Magnolia. The entire throat and breast were dull yellow, with faint black streaking along the sides of the breast. The undertail coverts were white. The face, head, and nape were gray except for two white eye crescents. The back was gray with small black blotches. The wings were gray with two very faint white wing bars. The rump and tail were gray. The eyes, bill, and legs appeared dark. I was not able to get a



Vermilion Flycatcher at Lake Sangchris, Sangamon Co., 18 September 1992. See Seasonal Highlights for details. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.