



Pine Grosbeak drawing by Denis Kania.

Early Bohemian Waxwing in Cook County

I observed a Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) 1 November 1993 by the lagoon south of the Museum of Science and Industry at about 5800 south in Jackson Park in Chicago. The bird was studied at an estimated distance of 30 feet for up to 2 minutes beginning at 4:20 p.m., using Bausch and Lomb 10x40 binoculars under clear skies with light at my back. Some 34 American Robins were on the ground and in the trees near the waxwing, but no signs of associative behavior were noted; the waxwing was effectively an isolated bird.

The bird showed some signs of restlessness, but provided unobstructed views both above and below as it perched in a largely defoliated willow. It subsequently flew into a foliated weeping willow, where it disappeared from view and was not pursued.

While I have no previous field experience with this species, I have seen thousands of Cedar Waxwings. Several features on this bird, most notably the chestnut crissum and white wing patches, made identification instantaneous. My additional notes and a detailed description are on file with the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. This is the earliest fall date recorded for the Chicago area which precedes an earlier published date of 2 November (*Meadowlark* 1:2) by one day.

— Paul Clyne 5538 S. Blackstone Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Black-headed Grosbeak in DeWitt County

During the morning of 16 September 1993 Myrna Deaton and I observed a male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) near Lake Clinton in DeWitt County at the Illinois Power Company Employee Recreational Area. The bird, which was the same size as nearby Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, came out of some heavy woods and sat at the top of an almost leafless walnut tree. We also observed it feeding in the mulberries.

The thick stubby gray to black bill, and the black wings with two white wing stripes and patch were seen well but perhaps the most diagnostic feature on the bird was its bright unstreaked orange-brown breast and flanks.

The next day I relocated the grosbeak and observed, using a telescope, an additional field mark, the yellow patch and central yellow stripe which runs from the lower white belly to the central part of the breast. While I could not observe the yellow wing linings of this species, I did not see any rose-red wing linings which were easily noticed on nearby Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. I also heard the bird give a lower single call note when compared to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Robert Chapel was the last to see the bird on 18 September.

— Richard Palmer 3424 Spring Creek Road,
Decatur, IL 62526.