

Michigan. It was a poor fall for rare grebes with no Western or Red-necked Grebes, and a weak movement of Eared Grebes. Impressive flocks of American White Pelicans have become the norm, and this year was no exception, with reports of 1000+ birds from at least five sites. A bird that lingered in the Chicago region excited birders there, despite the huge numbers downstate. Among herons, impressive counts of Little Blue Heron and Great Egret at Horseshoe Lake stand out. Dark ibises were represented by one each of Glossy and White-faced. Hawk migration at Illinois Beach was strong. Broad-winged Hawks were particularly well-represented, but every species had peak counts above last year's maxima.

Rails through Woodpeckers

Soras seemed plentiful this fall, but less common rails were under-reported this fall. Our knowledge of the fall migration of this group remains weak. Shorebirds had a fairly typical migration with somewhat below average numbers of scarcer migrants like Red Knot, Western Sandpiper and phalaropes. A total of three jaegers (one Parasitic, one Pomarine and one unidentified) that appeared on the Lake Michigan lakefront were the only ones reported. The Parasitic died after four days on the beach at Montrose and became one of the few specimens for the upper Midwest. In a reversal of last year, Franklin's Gulls made an impressive appearance in the state, especially downstate, while observers found only small numbers of Laughing Gulls. Rarer species of wintering gulls started appearing along the Lake Michigan lakefront at the very end of the period. Tern migration was below average with concentrations poorly reported and smaller than in recent years. Cuckoos continue to be unimpressive in both size of concentrations, as well as sheer numbers of observations. Concentrations of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds down state were noted by banders at feeders. In the Chicago region, jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida* and *capensis*) patches attracted good numbers of hummingbirds. Rufous Hummingbirds (and unidentified *Selasphorus*, almost all likely Rufous) have become an annual event now at Illinois feeders in the fall and early winter. One photographed at Springfield in July was much earlier than most of these records which tend to be concentrated in the late fall after the bulk of the Ruby-throated population has left the state. Woodpecker numbers were generally good, with a better than average migration of sapsuckers, following on the heels of several poor migrations.

Passerines

All groups of passerines had poor seasons. The lack of significant weather systems produced no fallouts, so high counts were generally unimpressive. Early and late migrations were notably unimpressive, so the extreme dates reported were not notable. As poor as migration was in the Chicago region, it seemed much worse downstate. The poor landbird migration in August may have reduced birding at that time causing the migration of flycatchers to appear even poorer than it was. Swallow concentrations were impressive only at Lake Carlyle and at Chautauqua. No observers reported large concentrations of Purple Martins for the second consecutive year. Other than one impressive night-time flight of Swainson's Thrush (with fewer numbers of Grey-cheeked and Veery), Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes had solid, if unspectacular migrations, but the other spotted thrushes were poorly reported—Veery especially

so (although a 16 October bird at Lincoln Park was very late). Warbler counts and diversity were generally weak. Peaks for most species came from late September, as is typical, but peak counts were generally average to below average. Sparrow numbers were even less impressive than warblers, and the Chicago lakefront had no fallouts of birds all season.

Irruptive species

After last year's near total failure of irruptives, Illinois observers looked forward to a better season. Rough-legged Hawks were reported in somewhat above-average numbers, but Northern Goshawks showed no signs of an irruption. Northern Shrikes were well-reported from northern Illinois, especially early in the season. Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared widely through the state, but impressive counts came only from Morton Arboretum. Winter finches made a better showing than fall 2002, but dreams of a good season were not realized. There were no crossbills at all and few redpolls. Purple Finch numbers recovered from last year's dreary season, and Pine Siskins invaded, but not in stunning numbers. Finally, Evening Grosbeaks were again unreported for the fourth straight fall. Irruptions of this species into Illinois seem to be a thing of the past, part of a general decline of its irruptions in the eastern United States.

Our sincere thanks to the following observers, who supplied all the data included in this summary. These observers are credited by their initials following each record; disambiguating citation forms are indicated where needed. As in previous reports, the sequencing of observers below is based on alphabetization of last and first initials or citation forms rather than on alphabetization of last names: Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Douglas Anderson, Jill Anderson, Louise Augustine, Mike Ahern, Arlene Brei, Denis Bohm, Frank Bennett, Dave Bohlen, Leslie Born, Robert Bradley, Steven D. Bailey, Vic Berardi, Richard and Sigurd Bjorklund (R&SBj), Richard Biss (RBs), Chicago Ornithological Society (COS), Clara Coen, David Currie, Elizabeth Chato, Jeff Chapman, Karin Cassel, Melinda Born Chapman, Paul Clyne, Scott Carpenter, Scott Cohrs (SCs), Don Darnell, Donald R. Dann, Glyn & Sylvia Dawson, Jon Duerr, Myrna Deaton, Roger Digges, Sheryl DeVore, Joe Eades, Robert Erickson, Robert & Karen Fisher, Sue Friscia, Steve Freed (SFd), Chet Gresham, Urs Geiser, Brian Herriot, Caroline Herzenberg, Frank Holmes, Jed Hertz, Kanae Hirabayashi, Leroy Harrison, L. Barrie Hunt, Larry L. Hood, Ralph Herbst, Robert D. Hughes, Illinois Ornithological Society (field trips) (IOS), Doris Johanssen, Rhetta Jack, Dan Kassebaum, Tim Kuessel, Craig Litteken, Greg Lambeth, Joe Lill, John Leonard (JLd), Charlene Malone, Carolyn A. Marsh, D. James Mountjoy, Keith McMullen, Luis Munoz, Robert and Anita Morgan (R&AM), Travis Mahan, Walter Marcisz, Chris McDonald (CMd), Cindy and John McKee (C&JMk), Helen Parker, Judy Pollock, John H. Purcell, Sharon Parmet, Paul Quintas, Bill Reddinger, Kevin Richmond, Michael Rowe, William Rowe, Al Seppi, Alan F. Stokie, Andy Sigler (AnS), Bob Shelby, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Eric Secker, Jeff Sundberg, Joseph L. Suchecki, Leonard Stanley, Mark Seiffert, Thomas S. Schulenberg, Wes Serafin, Jim Solum (Jsm), Paul Sweet, Craig Taylor, Craig A. Thayer, Rita Torrado, Peter Weber, Dan Williams, Geoff Williamson, Ken Wysocki, and Jim Ziebol.