



*Twelve Willets in flight
at Montrose Beach,
Cook County.
13 August 2006.
Photo by Steve Huggins.*

at Zion, Lake County. Nighthawks remained until the end of October and early November at several sites. One of the most notable characteristics of the fall, at least in northeastern Illinois, was Chimney Swifts staying well past their normal mid-October departure, with multiple reports into the first ten days of November. A high count of 159 at Jackson Park on 31 Oct was extraordinary for a bird, usually long gone by that date (see article in this issue). Elsewhere in the state, last dates were a bit later than average, but were not as extreme as the Chicago area. Migrations of both Yellow-shafted Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were solid with slightly above average numbers.

Passerines

Empidonax flycatchers had a poor migration, but two Say's Phoebes in the Chicago area, one in Lake County and the other in DuPage County in late September enlivened the birding scene. Eastern Kingbird had impressive concentrations well downstate in August and early September. Vireo migration was fairly weak, with no impressive counts. Swallows had a fairly typical migration, although there were several November Barn Swallows reported. No large concentrations of Purple Martins were reported again this fall. Other than an impressive all-time record count of nocturnal migrant Swainson's Thrush, the thrush migration was generally mediocre, as was the warbler migration. Window casualties in Chicago provided early and late records as well as some high counts. Most notable was the 32 Connecticut Warblers found dead during the season, and 37 Brown Creepers found on 1 October.

Special thanks go to all the contributors whose names are listed below. Without these reports, we would have a much less complete picture of the fall migration season in Illinois.

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There were no significant fallout days along the Lake Michigan lakefront, so high counts of passerines were generally unimpressive. Sparrows, in particular had poor counts. Inland, however, there were good counts of Vesper Sparrows in October.

Warbler migration got an early start with numerous species already present in mid-August, and there were a fair number of reports of species lingering later than usual in the fall, including House Wren, Sedge Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, American Redstart, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Palm, Bay-breasted and Connecticut Warblers, and Scarlet Tanager. A Yellow Palm Warbler in November at Northerly Island was one of the few documented records of this subspecies in Illinois.

Irruptive Species

Irruptive species had a general poor showing in fall 2006. Rough-legged Hawks were a bit below average, but Northern Goshawks were well-represented at the hawk watches, although few were seen away from these sites. Northern Shrike numbers were good, but not extraordinary, and records were almost all from northeastern Illinois. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins arrived late and had a poor migration away from some conifer-rich sites. Other than a good count from Illinois Beach State Park, Purple Finches were hard to come by. A few crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks in northeastern Illinois raised birders' hopes, but few other than those were counted. Despite a Hoary Redpoll at Illinois Beach State Park, redpolls were scarce and mostly restricted to the lakefront.

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