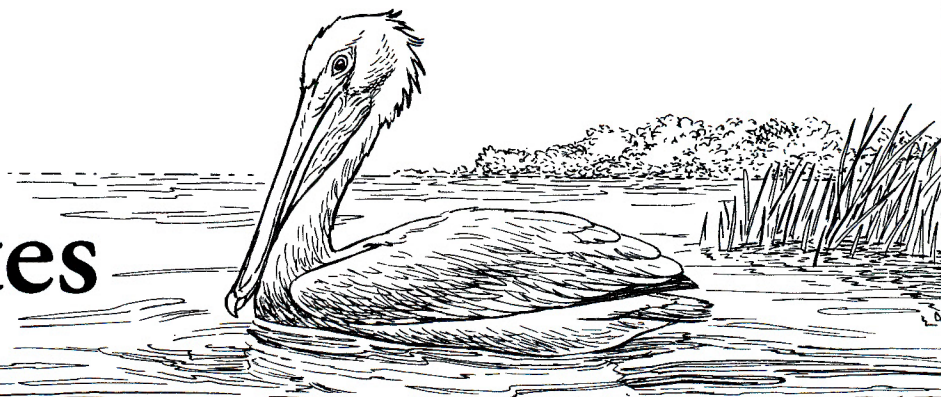


Field Notes



1992 Fall Migration

by Robert Chapel

Abundant rain (in some places, record-breaking) in July in the northern two-thirds of the state, wiped out most shorebird habitat by early August. A cooler than average fall followed. Below normal precipitation in August and October was balanced by slightly above normal rainfall in September. November was slightly cooler than average, quite rainy with few sunny days.

A good variety of gulls continues to appear throughout the state, with Franklin's Gulls occurring in excellent numbers. Shorebirds made a good showing early and late. The highlight of the hawk flights in Illinois was the spectacular Broad-winged Hawk migration, including an unprecedented flock of 14,000 in Lake County (See Seasonal Highlights). Also appearing in spectacular numbers were Sandhill Cranes. Loons and grebes appeared in good numbers and variety and lingered late. A flock of more than 400 American White Pelicans put on a spectacular show at Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, while 100 were seen near Quincy in September. Neo-tropical migrants, however, did not show up well anywhere. Populations of such as Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Yellow Warbler seem to be crashing. Waterfowl numbers also remain a big concern, although 25,000 Snow Geese at Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge is a new fall high count.

The most cooperative rarities were the Wood Stork (See Seasonal Highlight) and the first state record of Glaucous-winged Gull (article to come in future issue). Each was present for a number of days, allowing numerous birders the opportunity to observe them. The least cooperative were the Kirtland's and Townsend's Warblers and the Dovekie. The Dovekie is a first state record pending approval by the Illinois State Ornithological Records Committee (See article in this issue).

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Field Notes heading drawing of American White Pelican by Leslie A. DeCoursey.