

breeder, and no nests have been found in the area since 1979 (Bohlen 1989). Russell (1983) gives a good history of this bird as a breeder in the area and in the Midwest.

Sanborn (1922a) relates that Pine Warblers (*Dendroica pinus*) "used to breed at Beach a good many years ago." Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) have bred in the marshes and marshy swales in the Beach area since at least 1876, when some were found breeding by T.H. Douglas (Coale 1912), and it is still one of the more dependable locations to find them in Illinois during the breeding season today. Interestingly, Nelson (1876) also mentions the nesting of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) at Beach, noted by a Mr. Rice in the summer of 1875 and spring of 1876, breeding "in considerable numbers among the sand hills on the Lake shore." To my knowledge, this species rarely if ever breeds here now.

Per Coale (1912) the only record of Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) for Lake County at the time was a mounted specimen in the collection of the Douglas brothers, taken in 1876 at Waukegan. This species was rarely if ever reported again at Beach until 2006, when Eric Walters discovered five males and three females attempting to breed in plantings of large white pines near the lodge at Illinois Beach State Park (Kleen 2007). T.H. Douglas also found a nest with two eggs of a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) possibly from the Beach area at Waukegan 13 May 1874 (Coale 1912).

Andy Sigler (1992) documented breeding Red Crossbills in the area south of the Dead River on 7 April 1991. This species was building a nest in the crotch of an Austrian pine. Sigler mentions the crossbills nesting at the same location in 1973, when adults and immatures were noted there.

A few significant old breeding records include a Northern Harrier with a nest with 4 eggs on 12 June 1930, a Short-eared Owl with a nest with 6 eggs on 10 May 1925 and a Greater Prairie-Chicken nest with 14 eggs also on 10 May 1925, all found at Beach (Ford et al 1934).

Recent rarities

The latest string of rare sightings at Beach include Brown-headed Nuthatch and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (mentioned earlier) and interestingly, four species of rare corvids, including the latest, Clark's Nutcracker on 3-7 November 2007, found and photographed by Eric Walters. The other corvids include a Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) found 5 October 1963 by A. L. Campbell at Waukegan (Mlodinow 1984); and another found by Joel Greenberg and Jerry Rosenband in the now "famous" Beach pines on 11 October 1980 (Mlodinow 1984, J. Greenberg pers. com.). Beth Chato and Bob Chapel found Illinois' only Scrub-Jay, likely Florida Scrub-Jay, interior race (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) perched atop a pine on 29 September 1984, remaining through 30 October (Chapel and Chato 1986), also in the southern portion of Illinois Beach State Park. Steve Huggins photographed the recently accepted record of a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), which occurred 54 years to the day from the last record at Chicago (Bohlen 1989), on 13 October 2007, at the Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch site (see Stotz 2008). The nutcracker spent most of its time feeding on Austrian pine cone seeds (pers. ob.), as may have the other corvids, save for the raven (only viewed flying over), which may have been feeding on the non-native seeds of cones from Austrian pines, or utilizing the acorns of the numerous native, stunted black oaks (*Quercus velutina*).

Records from various sources, especially from the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee reports and Field Notes sections of the *Meadowlark*, as well as Bohlen (1989), and other sources reveal the following uncommon to rare migrants and wintering species that have been found in the Beach area (or just offshore) with some regularity: Red-throated Loon, Long-tailed Duck, all three scoters, Northern Goshawk, Franklin's Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Red Knot,

Northern Saw-whet Owl, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, Clay-colored Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. The Lake Michigan shoreline, as well as the sand dunes and marshy swales just back from the lake between Waukegan and Illinois Beach State Park, may be the best place in the state to view another rare, but regular species, the Whimbrel (often in September). The piers and jetties that stick out from the sandy beaches (and former sand beaches and mouth of the Little Dead River) are likely the easiest place in Illinois to find another rare species, the Purple Sandpiper (especially in November and December), as well as being one of the easier places to find and view Long-tailed Duck and Harlequin Duck in fall and winter.

Other even scarcer vagrants which have been observed and documented at "Beach" include Brant, Ross's Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Reddish Egret, Tricolored Heron, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Mississippi Kite, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon, Black Vulture, Whooping Crane, Parasitic Jaeger, Laughing Gull, California Gull, Mew Gull, Little Gull, "Nelson's" Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ivory Gull (Ford 1956, Bohlen 1989), Gull-billed Tern, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Least Tern (Ford 1956), King Rail, Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Red Phalarope, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Townsend's Solitaire (Nelson 1876), Northern Mockingbird, Lark Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, and Hoary Redpoll. A Say's Phoebe appeared for two days (22-23 September 2006) (see DeVore 2007), at the north end of the "Beach" area, and spent much of its time feeding low to the ground in the grasses and forbs of the sand prairie (pers. ob.). The exotic European Goldfinch has shown up recently at Illinois Beach State Park. A Grasshopper Sparrow collected on 12 November 1927 would also qualify as a rare, late sighting (Ford et. al 1934). Cave