

was killed by a Cooper's Hawk later in the day.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) One photographed at Montrose, Chicago, Cook Co. on 31 Oct-1 Nov (2008.046; RDH; KH\*, NAL\*).

**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) One photographed in an Evanston yard on 25 Mar (2009.027; MMC\*).



Matthew Cvetas took this photo of a Varied Thrush in an Evanston, Cook County yard on 25 March 2009.



Alex Bloss took this photo of a Hoary Redpoll at Chicago Botanic Garden, Cook County on 24 January 2009.

Todd Bugg took this photo of a Hoary Redpoll at Merwin Nature Preserve, McLean County on 25 January 2009.

**Two Swainson's Warblers** were found in Alexander County on 2 July-28 August 2008. Dan Kassebaum photographed this bird in early August 2008.

**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) A male was photographed in Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook Co. on 21 May (2008.011; TA\*).

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnolophus swainsoni*) Two were in Alexander Co. on 2 July-28 August (2008.036; RE, APS; DMK\*). Birds were seen and/or heard by a number of observers before one bird was photographed in early August.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) One adult male was seen and heard singing along the Jane Addams Trail at Scioto Mills, Stephenson Co. on 16-24 Apr (2009.021; AS; ESS\*, DP\*, SM\*).

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) An adult male was photographed at Mahomet, Champaign Co. on 27-28 May (2008.017; D&MA\*; EJC, HP).

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) An adult male was photographed at a feeder in Harrisburg, Saline Co. on 13 May (2008.016; KS\*).

**Hoary Redpoll** (*Acanthis hormemanni*) One, apparently a female, was seen and photographed irregularly at Chicago Botanic Garden, Cook Co. between 24 Jan and 3 Mar (2009.023; AFS, RE, AHR; ABB\*, NAL\*). One adult male was seen regularly and photographed at Merwin Nature Preserve, McLean Co. on 25-30 Jan (2009.003;



TB\*; MEF). There were later undocumented reports of presumably the same bird at this site until 5 Mar 2009. One adult male was photographed at a feeder in Wheaton, DuPage Co. on 21 February (2009.026; VM\*). Other records from winter 2007-8 and 2008-9 remain in review. The number of Hoary Redpolls reported in Illinois during these winters is unprecedented. The Hoary Redpolls did accompany two of the largest Common Redpoll invasions of the past two decades. However, more knowledge of identification criteria, and increasing photographic documentation because of digital cameras have played an important role in improving our knowledge of this species in Illinois.



Vince Moxon took this photo of a Hoary Redpoll at his backyard feeder in Wheaton, DuPage County on 21 February 2009.