

place north of us, talking to Larry on the radio. Gerry said something, and Larry pulled a U-turn in the middle of Lakeshore Drive at Division, in a blizzard, with a traffic cop furiously blowing his whistle at us. We raced back north.... I never saw the bird...at least not a bird that I will count as a Ross's Gull.

### Tom de Boor

I was one of the many birders who came down from Wisconsin the day after the last sighting. I heard

about the bird from a friend, the great Wisconsin birder Randy Hoffman, who offered me a ride down to look for it. I was too young to drive yet. I remember calling the Chicago hotline a lot both before and after we went down. Got my life Brant and life Harlequin Duck that day, but was pretty much inconsolable. I was a kid and I'd read all the stories about the Newburyport bird that Roger Tory Peterson chased.

### Eric Walters

I had just started birding and was 15 at the time, not old enough for me and my friends to drive, but incredibly excited about what was so tantalizingly near us. I do remember listening about the Ross's Gull on the hotline, the precursor to what IBET is now. Larry Balch founded the Chicago Rare Bird Alert and he was able to talk about the incredibly rare bird as nobody knew anything about them.



*A group of birders enjoy views of the Ross's Gull at North Avenue Beach, Chicago, 2 December 1978. Pictured from left to right, Gerry Rosenband, Tom Pucelik, Penny Pucelik, Larry Balch, Richard Biss, Barbara Hickey (Balch), and second from right, Jeff Sanders. Photo by Dale Pontius.*

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**Editor's Note:** Ross's Gull is considered a species at risk by the Canadian government. Officials are working on a recovery strategy for this species, which should be completed in 2009. This species is a victim of predation by polar bears as well as collection of eggs by humans. A black market exists for the eggs.

For more information on this species in Canada, visit this Web site:  
[http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/search/speciesDetails\\_e.cfm?SpeciesID=59](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/search/speciesDetails_e.cfm?SpeciesID=59)