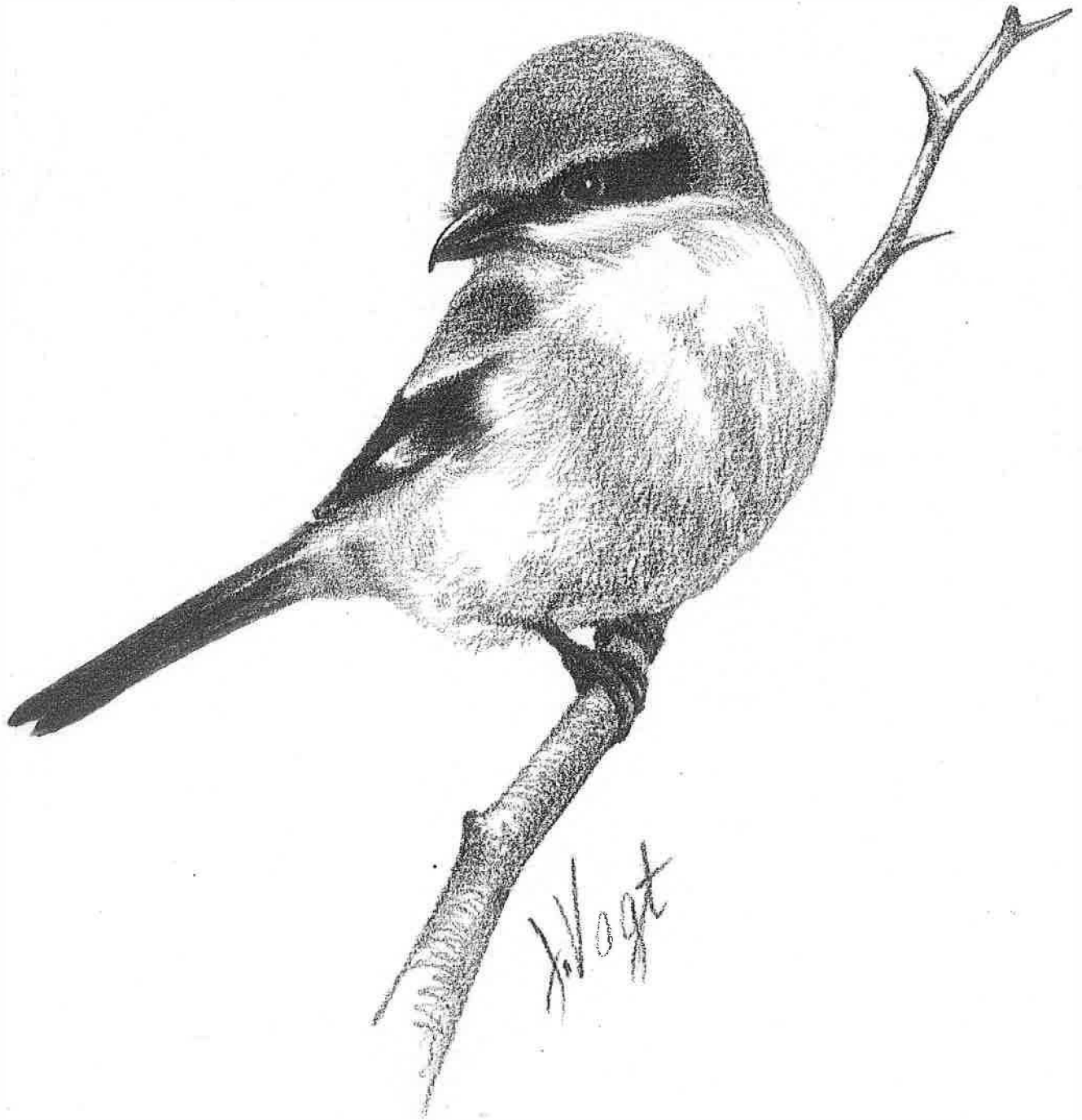


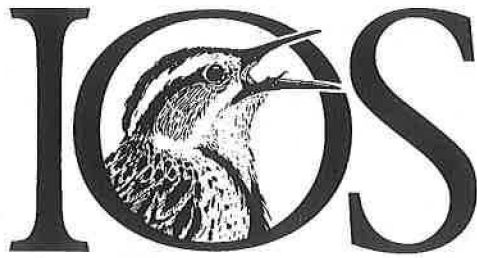
# Meadowlark

*A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS*

Volume 18, Number 2

2009





**Publisher**  
Illinois Ornithological Society

**Jenny Vogt**, President  
**Sheryl DeVore**, Chief Editor  
**Marj Lundy**, Vice-President

**Alex Meloy**, Treasurer  
**Barbara Williams**,  
Membership Secretary

**Board of Directors**

Steven D. Bailey  
Joan Bruchman  
Scott Cohrs  
Brian Herriott  
Marj Lundy  
Jenny Vogt  
Jeffery Walk  
Barbara Williams

**Associate Editors**

Steven D. Bailey  
Paul R. Clyne  
Jeffery Walk

**Staff Illustrators**

Peter Olson  
Michael L. P. Retter  
Jenny Vogt  
Barbara Williams

**Pre-Press Production**

Kathy Ade  
TKAde@aol.com

**Printing**

CityWide Printing  
Des Plaines, Illinois

**Editorial Advisory Board**

Steven D. Bailey  
Paul R. Clyne  
Vernon M. Kleen  
Robert Montgomery  
Douglas F. Stotz  
Robert Szafoni  
Jeffery Walk

**President's Message**

**Dear Members:**

Are we straddling two worlds? The real one, with birds, trees and grass; and the virtual one made up of digital images, email conversations and IBET postings.

Last week, I worked in the real world, painting *plein air*. I was outside at a natural area, painting with pastels, like the impressionist painters. No computer. No Photoshop. No unlimited undos. I worked with my hands, using skill and craftsmanship like the old masters.

I was at the Print'09 trade show to see what's new in the print industry. To my surprise, the most interesting and inspiring presentation I attended was on email marketing. Not printing. What does this tell me? The digital world has become an important part of our lives.

I just received the IOS membership directory in my email. It's the first digital membership directory I've received from any birding organization. I have a stack of printed membership directories from other bird clubs. This digital directory, takes up "virtually" no space. It will be a convenient resource. I hope those of you who have opted-in will find it helpful when traveling to another part of the state or looking to keep in touch with new friends from a field trip or the Spring Birding Weekend. Yes, the IOS membership directory has been a long time coming. Our outgoing Membership Secretary, Geoff Williamson, and Barbara Williams, our new Membership Secretary put it together. IOS will publish it annually.

Thanks to Geoff Williamson, who has managed the IOS membership database for six years (from which the directory is generated). Geoff has meticulously maintained our records, generated quarterly reports, corresponded with members and produced email lists and mailing labels. Barbara Williams has taken over these responsibilities with Geoff's guidance. Now we are working on ways to speed up the membership renewal process. We are looking for solutions to bridge the gap between receiving your check in the mail, with the virtual world of online renewal with pay pal. (More to come on that as we make progress.)

Please, be sure to keep your contact information up to date with Barbara (membership@illinoisbirds.org). By keeping your email up to date, you'll be sure to receive the membership directory (we only produce it digitally), get your newsletters on time and in color and avoid delays in receiving your *Meadowlark*. Some members have made special requests as to how they are listed in the directory. Be sure to let us know what contact information you do and do not want published in future editions of the annual IOS Membership Directory.

Speaking of staying in touch, IOS has now joined facebook. If you are already on facebook, be sure to "be friends" with IOS. You can see what field trips are coming up, start a discussion with friends, post and view photos. If all IOS members were on facebook, we certainly would add another dimension to our birding experience. Virtually!

There are so many services, tools and toys IOS would like to offer our membership. All these things involving new technology take time and expertise to accomplish. If you are experienced in any of the new technologies or have computer skills that could benefit our 21st century re-invention of this birding organization, please contact me at president@Illinoisbirds.org.

Good birding,

*Jenny Vogt,*  
President

## Letter from the Editor

While proofing *Meadowlark*, I realized this particular issue reflects nearly all of what IOS is about. Our lead story, "IOS awards seven research grants," prepared by Bob Fisher, shows how this society has reached one of its longtime goals—to support scientific endeavors that will help us know more about the state's avian life. Having several other organizations supporting IOS with the grants is a sign that the society's desire to work as a team to educate others about birds and support researchers is coming to fruition. And speaking of education, take a look at Robert Fisher's backyard birding column. Not only does this piece offer tips to birders on how to watch hawks from their own yards, it also shows how IOS is reaching out to birders of all skill levels and interests.

IOS also has the goal to publish scientific papers that further our knowledge of Illinois bird species. We are now able to publish more of these important and interesting articles, thanks to the growth of the IOS grants program. I think you'll agree that Mark Alessi, Tom Benson and Mike Ward's piece on Yellow-breasted Chats is fascinating.

And of course, IOS is also about birding, birding and birding. IOS offers many field trips that give some birders new lifers and others a chance to hone their identification skills. Greg Neise's photo story discusses one of the most popular field trips IOS has offered for many years—the boat trip on Carlyle Lake in September. Greg not only got his lifer Sabine's Gull, but also a Red Phalarope, which I'm still waiting to add to my Illinois list. Does seeing it in this magazine count?

And finally, the fall field notes, created from data you send our field note compilers, is a long-standing tradition in Illinois. With seven years of *Illinois Birds & Birding* and 18 years of *Meadowlark*, we now have 25 years of data from each season in the state that scientists can use as comparisons for years to come.

This was one of the most difficult issues I've had to produce in a long time. I won't bore you with the details about deadline and space issues, but I will say that now that it's done, it makes me feel good to know how far we've come. I look forward to where IOS is headed in the future.

*Sheryl DeVore*

# MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 18, Number 2 - 2009

ISSN 1065-2043

Visit Our Website at: [www.illinoisbirds.org](http://www.illinoisbirds.org)

## Articles

- 
- IOS awards seven research grants** 42
- Changes in 2009 to the list of threatened and endangered birds of Illinois** 46  
— Jeffery Walk
- An innovative approach to understanding the Yellow-breasted Chat, a declining neotropical migratory bird** 50  
— Mark G. Alessi, Thomas J. Benson, and Michael P. Ward

## Departments

- 
- Yard Birds:** 54
- Reflections on backyard birding throughout Illinois**  
**Watching hawks from a lawn chair in your yard**  
— Robert Fisher
- IOS field trip produces another lifer for another member** 56  
— Greg Neise
- Field Notes: The 2008 fall migration** 57  
— Douglas F. Stotz

### About Our Cover:

Jenny Vogt created this issue's cover of a Loggerhead Shrike. This species' status has changed from threatened to endangered. See story on page 46.

Copyright© by the Illinois Ornithological Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of IOS and the chief editor, except brief passages of a paragraph or less in which attribution is made to the journal and author.

# IOS awards seven research grants

One of IOS's primary objectives is "To promote scientific research and education in order to improve knowledge and awareness of birds in Illinois." For 2009, IOS, with the support of the Chicago Ornithological Society,

the DuPage Birding Club, Southern Illinois Audubon and a group of private donors, is proud to award a total of seven- \$500 research grants to (in alphabetical order) the following recipients:

**Nicole Davros**



Nicole Davros, a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Program in Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology (PEEC), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is evaluating an integrative approach to testing density effects in Prothonotary Warblers. The DuPage Birding Club provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to Nicole's project work during 2009.

Ornithologists historically observed many bird populations fluctuating around some long-term average abundance. This average is assumed to be regulated through density-dependent factors like competition, predation, and disease. But the importance of density-dependent population regulation processes has often been debated; clear evidence of the (usually adverse) effects of density-dependence remains elusive for many taxa, especially birds.

Davros's research aims to assess the importance of such density-dependent processes in a population of the Prothonotary Warbler, a territorial cavity-nesting warbler breeding in the eastern and central U.S. and wintering in the neotropics. This species is an ideal subject for testing ideas about density-dependence. Densities can be easily manipulated through the Prothonotary's ready acceptance of nest boxes, allowing spacing to create areas of high and low warbler density. During the summer of 2008, Davros began the experimental manipulation of Prothonotary densities at three study sites within an existing project area of the Cache River watershed in southern Illinois, establishing high and low density treatment plots at each site, collecting baseline information on reproduction, adult behavior, Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism rates, immunity, and stress levels. Her research will span four summers, with the last year of data being collected during the 2011 breeding season.

**Keriann Dubina**



Keriann Dubina, a graduate student at Western Illinois University in Macomb, is investigating how frequently Brown-headed Cowbirds depredate host nests and whether they discriminate between host and parasitic eggs. She is continuing research begun in 2008. The DuPage Birding Club provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to Dubina's project work during 2009.

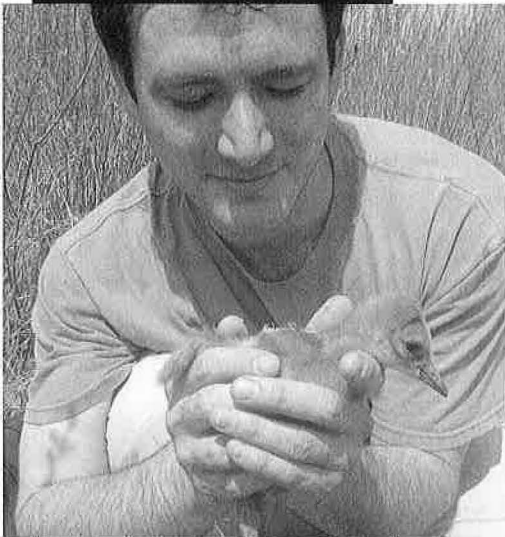
Dubina's research focuses on Brown-headed Cowbird egg destruction behavior. Cowbirds have many adaptations that work to increase their reproductive success. One of these adaptations is egg pecking. This behavior seems to function to compel the host to renest, giving the cowbird another opportunity at parasitism. If a female cowbird finds a host nest too advanced into incubation, she cannot successfully parasitize it, because her embryo will not have time to develop. By destroying the nest contents, she forces the host to renest, providing the cowbird with a second opportunity at parasitism.

Dubina investigates male and female Brown-headed Cowbird egg destruction behavior with the following objectives: Do female Brown-headed Cowbirds regularly depredate host nests? Are males participating as well? Do male and female cowbirds use egg discrimination when depredating host nests? Does a non-parasitic control species peck eggs? The latter would suggest egg pecking is simply a consequence of being caged.

## Daniel Elbert



## Jeffrey M. Fox



Daniel Elbert, a Graduate Research Assistant at the Illinois Natural History Survey, is researching habitat use, nest success and natal philopatry of Loggerhead Shrikes in Northwest Illinois. A group of private donors provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to Elbert's project work during 2009.

The Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge, located in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties, Illinois, contains the largest remnant sand prairie in the state. Long-term grazing and fire suppression led to considerable woody plant invasion of the sand prairie; nonetheless, the ecological integrity of the site remains high. In addition to seventeen non-game conservation priority bird species, Lost Mound also hosts one of the few breeding populations of the state-endangered Loggerhead Shrike, a shrubby, grassland species. Long range management plans at the site include restoration of the sand prairie using techniques such as prescribed burning and brush cutting.

Elbert's study aims to understand the habitat features associated with successful nesting of shrikes, and the degree of natal philopatry they exhibit (a biological term used to describe species returning to their birthplace to breed), so site management activities aimed at benefiting grassland species do not detract from shrike habitat. To accomplish this, Elbert intends to:

- Locate and monitor all shrike nests at Lost Mound
- Characterize the habitat around each nest, including characteristics of the nest tree, proximity to other trees, structure of the surrounding prairie vegetation and percent coverage (and identity) of non-prairie woody vegetation
- Describe shrike diet composition by locating larders and recording their characteristics
- Trap and band adults and nestlings
- Map the territories of all shrikes present at Lost Mound.

Jeffrey M. Fox, of U of I's Graduate College in Urbana, is studying the reproductive success of Sandhill Cranes in Northeastern Illinois. Sandhill Cranes have been successful in increasing their reproductive rates in Northeastern Illinois. This study is intended to determine the factors contributing to their success. IOS directly provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to Jeffrey's project work during 2009. This species was recently removed from the state-threatened list.

Fox is capturing and radio-tagging young Sandhill Cranes, called colts, throughout Lake and Mchenry Counties in Illinois. These colts are then recaptured periodically to get updated growth measurements. At the end of the season, the survival rates and growth curves of colts raised in different environments – urban, suburban, agricultural (or proximity to such kinds of development) – will be determined. These data will help reveal the effects of varying types of development on the cranes that have repopulated this area as breeders. Is this region a population sink for the cranes, or is this population viable? How does manmade development affect the growth curves of birds raised within it?

The final recapture will include attaching permanent leg bands so that the birds may be identified in the future and to determine where juvenile cranes disperse once they're driven from their parent's territories.

Matt McKim-Louder, a Graduate Student at the U of I in Urbana, is working for the Illinois Natural History Survey to conduct a Swainson's Warbler census in Southern Illinois. Data from this census will be used to help determine management and conservation needs and strategies for this state-endangered species. Southern Illinois Audubon provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to McKim-Louder's project work during 2009.

Southeastern populations of Swainson's Warblers require dense shaded thickets within bottomland forests for breeding. Although this species generally uses stands of giant cane around swamp or stream edges as nesting locations, some individuals use other dense vegetation. Populations have declined in many of the warbler's historic breeding locations throughout the southeastern United States over

the past three decades. Declines in their northern breeding range (e.g. Southern Illinois) are likely associated with decreases in both canebrakes and dense undergrowth within bottomland forests.

McKim-Louder, along with Jeff Hoover (Illinois Natural History Survey) and volunteers from the Southern Illinois Audubon Society conducted Swainson's Warbler surveys throughout the 2009 breeding season, using playback calls and point counts within canebrakes and dense undergrowth throughout the region, to detect the presence of bird species using this unique habitat. Appropriate habitats within the Shawnee National Forest, Cache River State Natural Area, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge and other historical locations are being surveyed. If possible, the breeding status will be determined of any individuals located.

**Matt  
McKim-Louder**



**Kimberly  
Meyer Ramirez**

Kimberly Meyer Ramirez, of Governors State University in Frankfort, IL is using the IOS Grant to measure nest predation rates, and identify nest predators, using artificial nests along a restoration gradient at Bartel Grasslands. The purpose is to determine the best management techniques to optimize nesting success. The Chicago Ornithological Society provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to Meyer Ramirez's project work during 2009.

This nest predation study is just one part of the Bobolinking Project, which is designed to engage both young adults from local high schools, and community-based organizations, in stewardship and biological monitoring projects at Bartel Grasslands in Matteson, Illinois and at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington, Illinois. Bobolinking will accomplish this through a series of workshops, field experiments and restoration workdays, ensuring that everyone in the community learns about the unique habitat at Bartel and Midewin. Meyer Ramirez aims to mentor community members in ecological monitoring projects, equipping them with new skills and opening their eyes to the nature and wildlife that exist in their own backyard. By encouraging community members to become environmental stewards, projects like this help protect Midewin and Bartel and the wildlife that depends on these places – now and for the future.



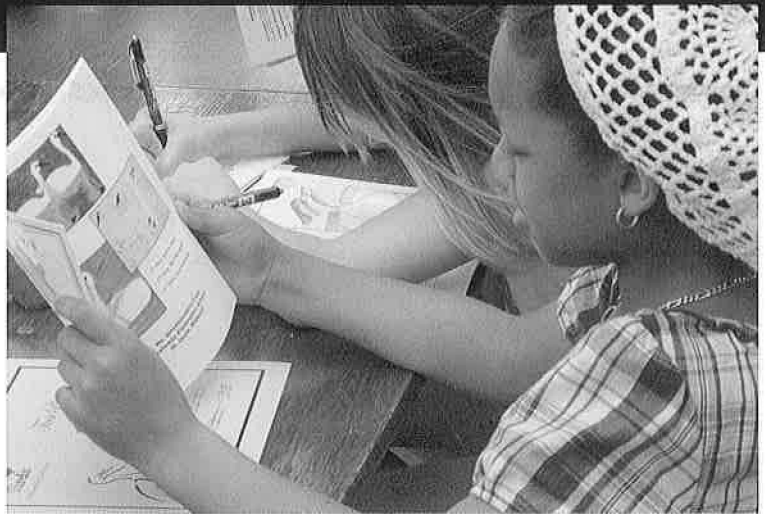
## Jessica Pascoe

Jessica Pascoe, on behalf of the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation in Alton, IL, applied for an IOS Grant to pay for prizes for the Foundation's Bonkers for Birds Coloring Contest. This contest introduces children to birding, aspects of scientific research and the concept of biodiversity. IOS directly provided the funds for the \$500 IOS Grant to the 2009 Bonkers for Birds contest.

This 3rd annual Bonkers for Birds Coloring Contest in 2009 proved to be a great success. St. Louis area fourth-graders were asked to research, draw and color a native bird species. Winning entries were then compiled in a field guide. Every participant received a copy of the guide. The 2009 Contest reached more than 350 students from 17 different schools in the St. Louis bi-state area. Participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds, from inner city St. Louis to rural farm communities.

Students were excited to do the work necessary for the contest and the majority of participants—not just the winners—were excited about producing the field guides, about learning about the environment and about birding.

All 350 participants and families were invited to the Wings of Spring Birding Festival in the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West



Alton, Missouri. Winners were recognized on stage where they received their prizes and certificates, then autographed copies of the field guide afterward. Pictured above are two student drawings used in the field guide.

All of the grant recipients will prepare a summary article for *Meadowlark* when their respective projects are completed.

Eleven grant requests were received this year. All were worthwhile and the selection of the seven finally chosen was difficult. Thanks to Steve Bailey and Jeff Walk for their work analyzing the requests and for their recommendations.

Funds for these grants are raised from IOS activities such as the Gull Frolic, Big Day pledges and

the Silent Auction. This year IOS was able to partner with the Chicago Ornithological Society, the DuPage Birding Club, Southern Illinois Audubon, and several individuals, to increase the amount of funds available for grants. Your Board would like to raise additional sums to fund more requests in the years to come, and hopes that both individuals and other birding and bird conservation groups around Illinois will support this effort as the above organizations and individuals did in 2009. To this end the

Board has established an IOS Grant Fund Donation Program to accept contributions during the year to add to the funding provided by other IOS activities.

Contributions should be mailed to IOS, Grant Program, P. O. Box 931, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Individuals or groups desiring to provide funds to endow an individual grant in 2010, contact Denis Bohm, IOS Grants Coordinator at (847) 235-2738 or e-mail [denismb@comcast.net](mailto:denismb@comcast.net).

—Compiled by Robert Fisher

# Changes in 2009 to the list of threatened and endangered birds of Illinois

by Jeffery Walk

The most recent changes to the list of threatened or endangered birds in Illinois generated far more response from the ornithological community than any previous list change. The level of interest in these changes is encouraging for conservation, and is also an opportunity to clarify how changes to the list are proposed, discussed, and decided upon. When considering the consequences of these changes, there are two important facts to remember. First, species that recover and are removed from the Illinois list of threatened and endangered species are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and killing them or intentionally destroying their nests is a violation of state and federal law. Second, the protections afforded to threatened species under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act are identical to the protections for endangered species.

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board is required by law to review and revise the state list at least once every five years. In reviewing the list, the Board relies on six Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) – one each for plants, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians and invertebrates. These committees review data and make recommendations for potential list changes. Each ESTAC is comprised of experts statewide, who serve voluntarily and are not compensated for their time or expenses.

ESTAC's review information for each species including its range in the state (including changes in its occupied range), abundance in Illinois (total numbers), number of known populations or locations where the species occurs, number of these locations known to be protected, popula-



*Immature Peregrine Falcon photo taken by Frank Holmes on 27 July 2009 at Horseshoe Lake, Madison County.*

tion trends (changes in total numbers or numbers of populations over time), and threats to the species and/or its habitat. Recommendations to list or delist a species take into account the individual requirements of each species. In some circumstances, species which are low in number, but have always been rare or uncommon in the state, are not considered endangered or threatened if their numbers are stable or they are under no specific threat.

The Bird ESTAC considers data from a variety of sources for making any recommended changes to the list of threatened or endangered species. As a legal protection tool, the most important data are from the Illinois

Natural Heritage Database. This database includes records of endangered and threatened species (including data from the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Bird Survey) and is housed at and maintained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Whenever the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is consulted for a project that may affect a threatened or endangered species — such as a road construction project or a wind energy development — this is the database used to judge if an endangered or threatened species is in a particular area.

Information gleaned from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (accessible online at [www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/](http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/)), the Bird Conservation Network (accessible online at [www.bcnbirds.org/](http://www.bcnbirds.org/)), Breeding Season Records published in *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds*, the Spring Bird Count (published in the *Audubon Bulletin* and *Meadowlark*), and the research and field notes of scientists and conservationists are all considered as well. Recovery plans have been completed for some species, and the Bird ESTAC is striving to complete “recovery outlines” for all listed birds. These documents provide quantitative metrics of distribution, abundance and survival or recruitment to help inform our decision-making process on whether a particular species should be added to the list, removed from the list, or have its status changed on the list.

In addition to recommending any changes to the list of threatened and endangered species, the ESTACs identify information gaps so that the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board can solicit surveys to determine a species' status or research into the causes of a popula-



tion decline. For example, the Bird ESTAC will welcome new information that helps describe the status and trends of nightjars in Illinois, such as being generated by the new Monitoring of Owls and Nightjars (MOON) project led by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

The proposals to delist the Bald Eagle, Henslow's Sparrow, and Sandhill Crane generated substantial media attention and a number of formal comments. However, of the 97 comments submitted to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board regarding birds, 88 were in opposition to the recommendation to not change the status of the Peregrine Falcon.

After considering public comments, the Board makes final approval to changes and starts a procedural chain to make the revised list official. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources conducts an internal review of the List, and submits Administrative Rule changes to the Secretary of State for publication in the Illinois Register and review by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). This first notice for Administrative Rule changes to the List published in the Illinois Register includes a 45-day comment period. If substantive comments are received during the 45-day comment period, the IDNR provides a response to JCAR.

JCAR approves the List at regularly scheduled meetings of its committee. Upon approval by JCAR, the IDNR will submit the final Administrative Rule changes to the List to the Secretary of State for publication in the Illinois Register. Changes become official on the date of publication in the Illinois Register.

The 2009, changes approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board to the birds listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois were:



### Common Moorhen

– change status from *Threatened* to *Endangered*.

Recent analyses of data of the Common Moorhen from the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Bird Survey indicate a significantly declining population in the northeastern portion of the state. Similarly there has been a decline in the number of

Natural Heritage Database records and also a decline in the number of counties with recent records.

*Common Moorhen photo taken by Frank Holmes in Madison County on 18 May 2008.*

### Henslow's Sparrow

– remove from *Threatened*.

The number of locations in the Natural Heritage Database for Henslow's Sparrows continues to increase and data from the Illinois Spring Bird Count continue to show a significantly increasing population. The recently completed recovery outline for this species recommends consideration for removal from the state list when, within the last five years, there are records in the Natural Heritage Database from 40 or more Illinois counties, and 10 or more populations numbering 20 or more breeding pairs within protected habitats. Both criteria have been met, with records in the Natural Heritage Database from 46 counties between 2002-2006, and at least 15 populations in protected areas known to exceed 20 pairs.

A concern that has been raised by several individuals is the potential loss of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) within the state. Analyses of the potential impact of loss of CRP on Henslow's Sparrows within



Illinois have also been conducted. Farm Service Agency projections for Illinois indicate that nearly 172,000 acres of grassland CRP contracts will expire in the next five years. If no new grassland CRP contracts are established during this period, it would result in a 28% reduction of existing grassland CRP in the state, leaving more than 435,000 acres of CRP grassland intact.

*Photo of Henslow's Sparrow on a native rattlesnake master plant at Goose Lake Prairie taken 27 July 2009 by Brian Tang.*

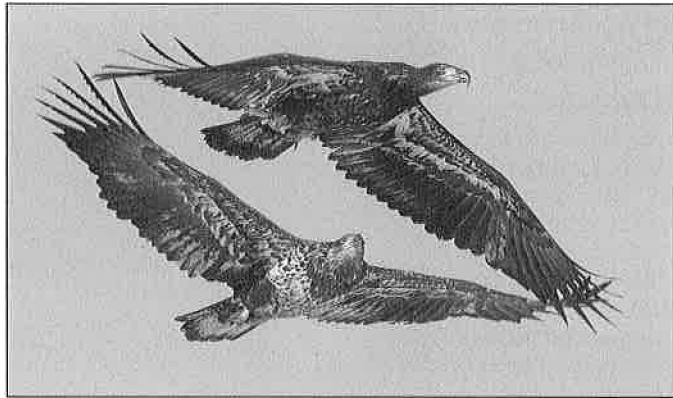


## Sandhill Crane

– *remove from Threatened.*

The population within the state continues to increase and is also establishing occurrences outside of northeastern Illinois (e.g., Calhoun, Carroll, Champaign, Grundy, Henry, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties; Nyboer et al. 2006, IDNR records). Recent analyses of data from the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Bird Survey and Spring Bird Count both indicate a significantly increasing population in the state (Ward et al. 2008). Recent research also has documented that successful reproduction is occurring in Illinois and that reproduction appears similar to other populations.

*Claire Dassy took this photo of Sandhill Cranes and young on 9 July 2008 in Volo, Lake County.*



## Bald Eagle

– *remove from Threatened.*

This species is doing very well in Illinois. The number of breeding records in the Natural Heritage Database continues to increase as does the number of counties from which the species is known to nest. The federal recovery goal for Illinois was 20 pairs by the year 2000 (Grier et al. 1983). That threshold was met in 1996, with 24 pairs. The USFWS reports that the number of nests in the state has continued to increase, with 100 nests recorded in Illinois in 2006 ([http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/population/nos\\_state\\_tbl.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/population/nos_state_tbl.html)). Spring Bird Count data also show a substantial breeding-season population increase over the last 10-15 years. Winter surveys are showing good numbers of immatures, indicating a healthy age structure (~32% immatures based on 2003-2005 Midwinter Bald Eagle Count Data from Illinois; data are available at <http://ocid.nacse.org/nbii/eagles/>). Bald Eagles will continue to be afforded additional protection under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

*Emil Martinec photographed these immature Bald Eagles on 21 February 2007 at a lock and dam in northern Illinois.*



## Black-billed Cuckoo

– *add as Threatened.*

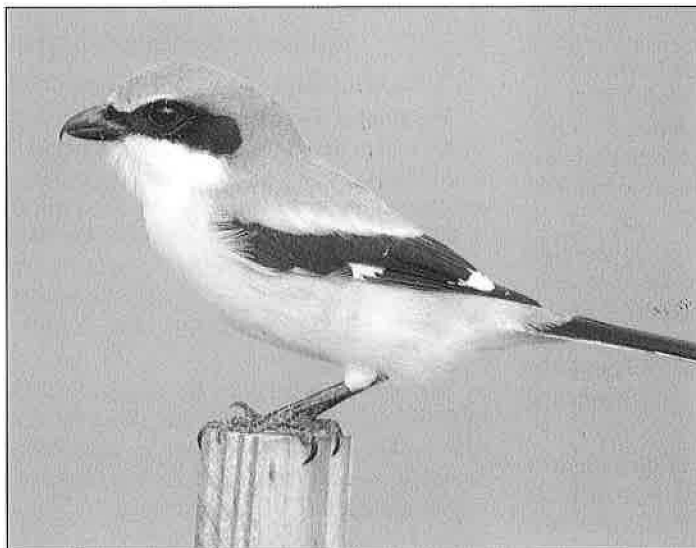
During the state's Breeding Bird Atlas project (1986-1991), Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from 277 atlas blocks in 63 counties, including 121 blocks with probable or confirmed nesting evidence. The species appears to have experienced a substantial decline with relatively few recent records for the species in the state. Review of recent information for the species, shows 3-15 reports of the species per year between 2001-2006, with very few reports indicating probable or confirmed nesting.

*Photo of a juvenile Black-billed Cuckoo at Jarvis Sanctuary, Cook County taken 21 July 2009 by Kanae Hirabayashi.*

**Mississippi Kite**  
- *change status from*  
*Endangered to*  
*Threatened.*

This species appears to be increasing and expanding its range slightly within the state. The population appears to be too secure to be considered Endangered.

*Nolan Lameka took this photo of a Mississippi Kite in Rockford in August 2009.*



**Loggerhead Shrike**  
- *change status from*  
*Threatened to Endangered.*

Populations of this species are in serious decline within Illinois. The number of recent Natural Heritage Database records for this species is less than half the number of records reported during the last list review (2004). The number of counties with breeding records is showing continued declines.

*Loggerhead Shrike photo taken by Travis A. Mahan at Pyramid State Recreation Area, Perry County, on 12 February 2005.*

**Other Approved Changes**

Other approved changes were name changes to conform with the common or scientific names recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union for the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Least Tern, and Greater Prairie-Chicken.

**Literature cited**

Grier, J.W. et al. 1983. Northern states bald eagle recovery plan. USFWS, Denver, CO. 131pp.

Herkert, J.R. 2008. Status and trends of Henslow's sparrows in Illinois. Illinois Audubon 305:14-16.

Herkert, J.R. 2007. Evidence for a recent Henslow's sparrow population increase in Illinois. Journal of Wildlife Management 71(4):1229-1233.

Nyboer, R.L., J.R. Herkert, and J.E. Ebinger, editors. 2006. Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution, Volume 2 - Animals. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois.

Ward, MP; Semel, B; Herkert, JR. 2008. The Future of Wetland Birds in Northeastern Illinois. Illinois Steward 17(1):23-25.

**The Bird Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee**

Dr. Jim Herkert, Chair, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois

Marilyn Campbell, Illinois Audubon Society

Dr. Jeff Hoover, Illinois Natural History Survey

Vern Kleen, retired, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Brad Semel, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Doug Stotz, The Field Museum of Natural History

Dr. Mike Ward, Illinois Natural History Survey

Dr. Jeffery Walk, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois

Dr. Dan Wenny, Illinois Natural History Survey

# An innovative approach to understanding the Yellow-breasted Chat, a declining neotropical migratory bird

By Mark G. Alessi, Thomas J. Benson, and Michael P. Ward

## Introduction

Any birder can tell you that attempting to get good looks of shrubland birds can be a challenge. In many species, males sing from an elevated perch, but male shrubland birds commonly sing from dense shrubs making it difficult with even the more conspicuous of the two sexes. Consequently, one can imagine the difficulty associated with researching shrubland birds. Fortunately, we used new technology to help overcome these hurdles.

Shrubland birds are declining throughout eastern North America (Dettmers 2003). Habitat-related factors are contributing to these declines, including the amount of 'hard' edges or abrupt transitions between shrublands and surrounding forests or agricultural land (Woodward et al. 2001), smaller average patch size (Annand & Thompson 1997, Rodewald & Vitz 2005), and an overall reduction in the amount of available habitat (Burhans and Thompson 1999). Although we often think of shrub habitats as 'edge' habitats, the majority of shrubland birds avoid edges if possible when larger patches are available (Rodewald & Vitz 2005, Schlossberg & King 2008).

A phenomenon we don't fully understand is why nest success varies among species in the same study system. Are shrubland birds that tend to be most vulnerable to nest predation the species with the most concerning population trends? Specifically, we were interested in examining species-level traits that cause the nests of some shrubland species to fail at higher rates than others.

We were also interested in studying Yellow-breasted Chats (*Icteria virens*) in more detail. Most diurnal birds engage in both a dawn and a dusk chorus, but chats also do something that most birds don't—they sing at night. This behavior is most pronounced soon after arrival on the breeding grounds (Canterbury 2007). Another well-studied nocturnal singer is the Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) (Amrhein et al. 2002, 2004). Roth et al. (2009) translocated female nightingales and found they moved small distances during the day, but moved much farther at night, often visiting the territories of several males. Do female chats also move at night, and if so, why?

We investigated three hypotheses for why chats may move at night:

- Chats may forage at night to reduce the risk of predation while foraging. If this were true, we predicted move-

ments would occur most often or increase in frequency with increased moon illumination that allowed greater visibility for feeding.

- Chats may increase nocturnal activity shortly before leaving the site due to the inability to find a mate or nest failure. If this is the case, we predicted that nocturnal activity would occur in close proximity to a bird's departure.

- Chats may be most active at night when females are receptive to mating and are assessing the quality of competing males or other territories. If this is the driving cause behind nocturnal activity, we predicted that nocturnal movements would be more frequent during the fertile period and less frequent at other times.

## Factors contributing to shrubland bird nest survival

We studied shrubland bird nest success at Kennekuk Cove County Park in Vermilion County, Illinois. Kennekuk is an oak-hickory forest with remnant prairie and shrubland patches scattered throughout the park. Typical birds found in these shrublands included Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica discolor*), Yellow-breasted Chats, Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*), Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*), and Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).

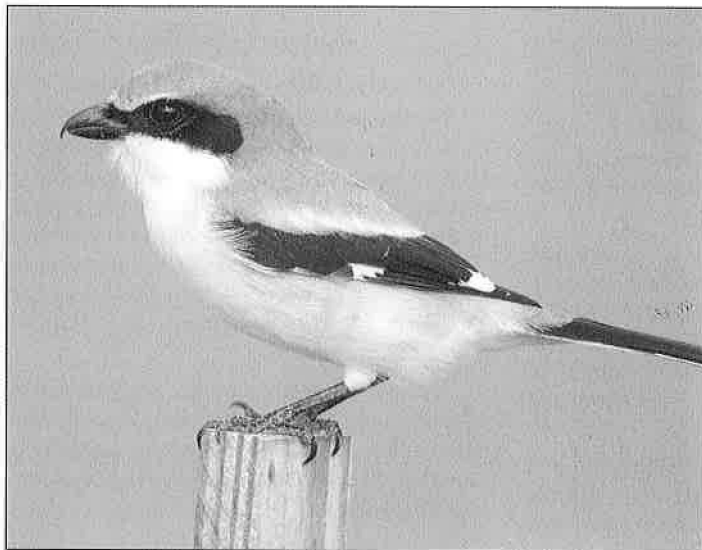
We located a total of 82 nests of ten species from May through July in 2007 and 2008 by searching areas and flushing birds, or observing parental behavior. We recorded the date of nest discovery, location, the type of vegetation the nest was in, the height of the nest, distance to the nearest edge, and the number of host and cowbird eggs. We returned to nests every two to three days until the young fledged or the nest failed. We used a modeling approach to examine which variables were most important for influencing nest survival (Shaffer 2004) of four species: chats, thrashers, Field Sparrows, and cardinals.

Out of the 82 nests we found, 32% of them fledged at least one young. However, chats were less likely to fledge young (13%) than other bird species (48%). None of the variables we measured adequately explained why chat nests failed, suggesting that chat nests at Kennekuk are failing at random or that a combination of variables are responsible for nest survival. The best predictor of daily nest survival for Field Sparrows, thrashers, and cardinals was the nest

**Mississippi Kite**  
- *change status from  
Endangered to  
Threatened.*

This species appears to be increasing and expanding its range slightly within the state. The population appears to be too secure to be considered Endangered.

*Nolan Lameka took this photo of a Mississippi Kite in Rockford in August 2009.*



**Loggerhead Shrike**  
- *change status from  
Threatened to Endangered.*

Populations of this species are in serious decline within Illinois. The number of recent Natural Heritage Database records for this species is less than half the number of records reported during the last list review (2004). The number of counties with breeding records is showing continued declines.

*Loggerhead Shrike photo taken by Travis A. Mahan at Pyramid State Recreation Area, Perry County, on 12 February 2005.*

**Other Approved Changes**

Other approved changes were name changes to conform with the common or scientific names recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union for the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Least Tern, and Greater Prairie-Chicken.

**Literature cited**

Grier, J.W. et al. 1983. Northern states bald eagle recovery plan. USFWS, Denver, CO. 131pp.

Herkert, J.R. 2008. Status and trends of Henslow's sparrows in Illinois. Illinois Audubon 305:14-16.

Herkert, J.R. 2007. Evidence for a recent Henslow's sparrow population increase in Illinois. Journal of Wildlife Management 71(4):1229-1233.

Nyboer, R.L., J.R. Herkert, and J.E. Ebinger, editors. 2006. Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution, Volume 2 - Animals. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois.

Ward, MP; Semel, B; Herkert, JR. 2008. The Future of Wetland Birds in Northeastern Illinois. Illinois Steward 17(1):23-25.

**The Bird Endangered Species  
Technical Advisory Committee**

Dr. Jim Herkert, Chair, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois  
Marilyn Campbell, Illinois Audubon Society

Dr. Jeff Hoover, Illinois Natural History Survey

Vern Kleen, retired, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Brad Semel, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Doug Stotz, The Field Museum of Natural History

Dr. Mike Ward, Illinois Natural History Survey

Dr. Jeffery Walk, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois

Dr. Dan Wenny, Illinois Natural History Survey

# An innovative approach to understanding the Yellow-breasted Chat, a declining neotropical migratory bird

By Mark G. Alessi, Thomas J. Benson, and Michael P. Ward

## Introduction

Any birder can tell you that attempting to get good looks of shrubland birds can be a challenge. In many species, males sing from an elevated perch, but male shrubland birds commonly sing from dense shrubs making it difficult with even the more conspicuous of the two sexes. Consequently, one can imagine the difficulty associated with researching shrubland birds. Fortunately, we used new technology to help overcome these hurdles.

Shrubland birds are declining throughout eastern North America (Dettmers 2003). Habitat-related factors are contributing to these declines, including the amount of 'hard' edges or abrupt transitions between shrublands and surrounding forests or agricultural land (Woodward et al. 2001), smaller average patch size (Annand & Thompson 1997, Rodewald & Vitz 2005), and an overall reduction in the amount of available habitat (Burhans and Thompson 1999). Although we often think of shrub habitats as 'edge' habitats, the majority of shrubland birds avoid edges if possible when larger patches are available (Rodewald & Vitz 2005, Schlossberg & King 2008).

A phenomenon we don't fully understand is why nest success varies among species in the same study system. Are shrubland birds that tend to be most vulnerable to nest predation the species with the most concerning population trends? Specifically, we were interested in examining species-level traits that cause the nests of some shrubland species to fail at higher rates than others.

We were also interested in studying Yellow-breasted Chats (*Icteria virens*) in more detail. Most diurnal birds engage in both a dawn and a dusk chorus, but chats also do something that most birds don't—they sing at night. This behavior is most pronounced soon after arrival on the breeding grounds (Canterbury 2007). Another well-studied nocturnal singer is the Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) (Amrhein et al. 2002, 2004). Roth et al. (2009) translocated female nightingales and found they moved small distances during the day, but moved much farther at night, often visiting the territories of several males. Do female chats also move at night, and if so, why?

We investigated three hypotheses for why chats may move at night:

- Chats may forage at night to reduce the risk of predation while foraging. If this were true, we predicted move-

ments would occur most often or increase in frequency with increased moon illumination that allowed greater visibility for feeding.

- Chats may increase nocturnal activity shortly before leaving the site due to the inability to find a mate or nest failure. If this is the case, we predicted that nocturnal activity would occur in close proximity to a bird's departure.

- Chats may be most active at night when females are receptive to mating and are assessing the quality of competing males or other territories. If this is the driving cause behind nocturnal activity, we predicted that nocturnal movements would be more frequent during the fertile period and less frequent at other times.

## Factors contributing to shrubland bird nest survival

We studied shrubland bird nest success at Kennekuk Cove County Park in Vermilion County, Illinois. Kennekuk is an oak-hickory forest with remnant prairie and shrubland patches scattered throughout the park. Typical birds found in these shrublands included Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica discolor*), Yellow-breasted Chats, Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*), Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*), and Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).

We located a total of 82 nests of ten species from May through July in 2007 and 2008 by searching areas and flushing birds, or observing parental behavior. We recorded the date of nest discovery, location, the type of vegetation the nest was in, the height of the nest, distance to the nearest edge, and the number of host and cowbird eggs. We returned to nests every two to three days until the young fledged or the nest failed. We used a modeling approach to examine which variables were most important for influencing nest survival (Shaffer 2004) of four species: chats, thrashers, Field Sparrows, and cardinals.

Out of the 82 nests we found, 32% of them fledged at least one young. However, chats were less likely to fledge young (13%) than other bird species (48%). None of the variables we measured adequately explained why chat nests failed, suggesting that chat nests at Kennekuk are failing at random or that a combination of variables are responsible for nest survival. The best predictor of daily nest survival for Field Sparrows, thrashers, and cardinals was the nest

stage, with much higher mortality rates observed during the incubation stage than the nestling stage; chats had high mortality throughout the entire nest cycle (Fig. 1). The majority of chat, thrasher, Field Sparrow, and cardinal nests failed before hatching (69%).

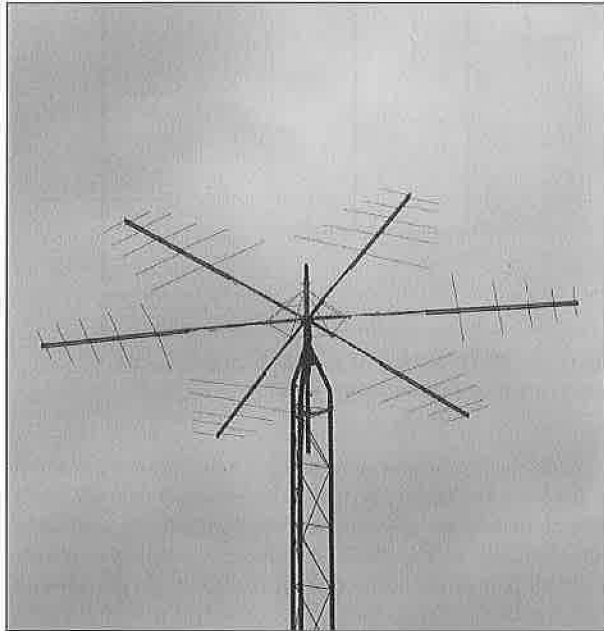
The 13% success rate of chat nests at Kennekuk was similar to results from other studies (Nolan 1963, Thompson & Nolan 1973). One possible problem for shrubland birds at Kennekuk is that the primary nesting substrate is Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), which is an

invasive species, grows in more open, less thorny thickets compared with other species such as blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*). In areas that lack large vegetation patches, chats may nest in autumn olive only because it's abundant. Other shrubland plant species that form dense thickets may be better at hindering some nest predators, such as raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), but may not deter snakes (Ricketts & Ritchison 2000).

Differences in nest-defense behavior among species may explain differences in nest survival rates. Chats lack a distraction display, whereas Field Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and Northern Cardinals all show some sort of distraction display (Sutton 1960, Ficken & Ficken 1962, Taylor 1984, Nealen & Breitwisch 1997). Another possibility, since male Yellow-breasted Chats sing at night, is that nocturnal predators may use nocturnal song as a cue to find chat nests.

### Nocturnal movements of Yellow-breasted Chats

We used an Automated Radio Telemetry System to track the movements of chats at night during the summer of 2008. These systems consisted of a steel tower with an array of six antennas placed on the top (Fig. 2) and a computer at the bottom that collected the data from the antennas. After capturing a bird, we attached a radio transmitter to their central rectrices with heat-shrink tubing (Fig. 3, Alessi et al. 2009). This transmitter then communicated with a computer that was programmed to record the signal strength of each transmitter from each antenna every three minutes. Based on the signal strength at each antenna, we were able to create algorithms to determine the direction



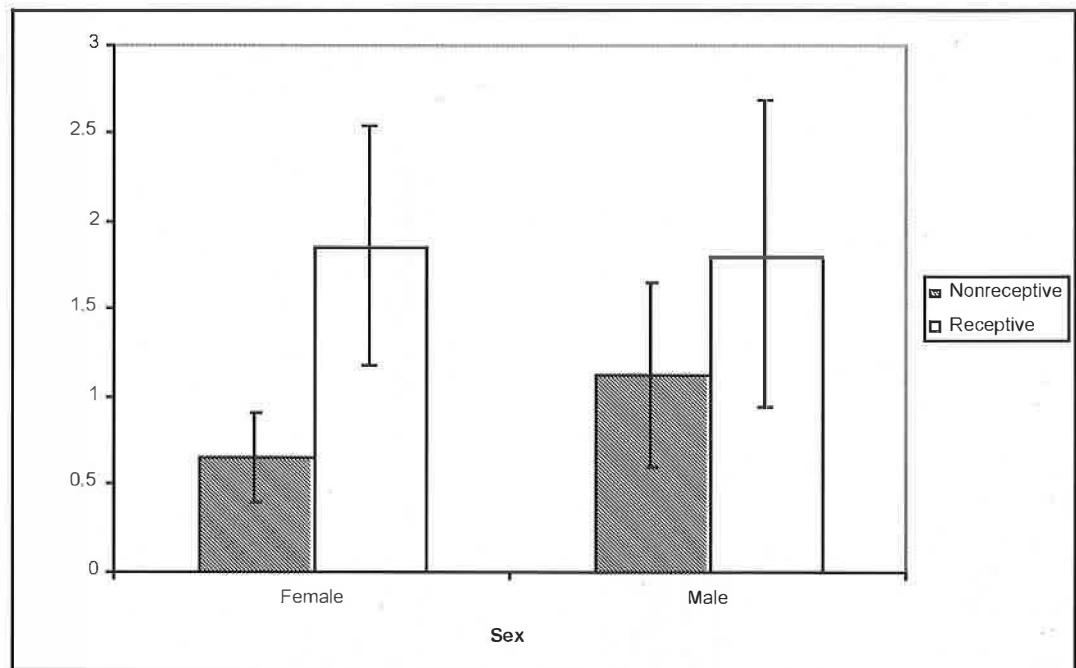
**Figure 2.**

Arrangement of the six antennas on top of the radio tower. Antenna 1 begins at 0 degrees, #2 at 60 degrees, #3 at 120 degrees, etc. A coaxial cable runs from each antenna down to the automatic receiving unit (ARU) located at the base of the tower.



**Figure 3.**

Electrical heat-shrink tubing was used to attach transmitters to the tail feathers of Yellow-breasted Chats.



**Figure 4.** Frequency of nocturnal movements by female (n=6) and male (n=6) Yellow-breasted Chats. Both sexes move significantly more often during the receptive phase of nesting.

and distance of the transmitter from the tower, and thus assess the activity levels of male and female chats at night. A bird was considered active if the signal strength and bearing changed a significant amount, which we determined by using live birds as our control. Therefore, birds were not just active from a single spot (rotating in one spot) - they were actively moving among locations.

Six male and six female chats moved on 142 of the 276 nights (51%) we collected data. All 12 chats moved at night, with 9 of the 12 birds (75%) remaining in the study area throughout the season. This suggests that nocturnal movements are not simply a type of pre-migratory behavior. Birds moved significantly less on moonlit nights than on dark nights, suggesting that foraging is not the main purpose of this behavior, and that birds may be moving less when it is brighter. Nocturnal movement rates did not differ between males and females.

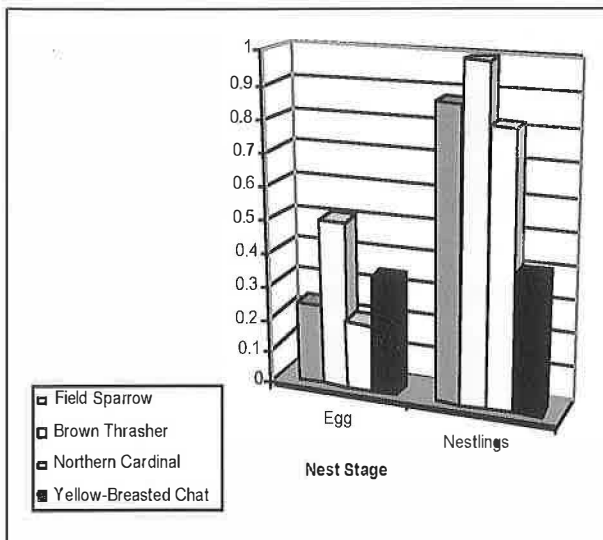
To explore the role of reproductive state on nocturnal movements, we grouped birds into two categories, receptive or non-receptive, based on whether females were fertile and whether a male's mate was fertile. We considered females receptive from their arrival in the nesting area, through nest construction and egg-laying, and again after nest failure. Females were classified as non-receptive when they were incubating eggs, tending nestlings, or caring for recently fledged young. Both sexes moved significantly more often during the receptive period than the non-receptive period (Fig 4). Although not statistically different, males moved more (1.1 movements/night) than females (0.7 movement/night) during the non-receptive time.

Our results suggest that female chats are active at night to evaluate the quality of males. Movements of male chats during the nonreceptive period may be related to switching song perches during the night hours, attempting to attract an extra-pair female, or a mate guarding behavior. Similar nocturnal movements have been observed in nightingales (Roth et al. 2009) and in Reed Warblers (Muhkin et al. 2009), and there is good evidence that these movements are largely related to mate assessment. Our results suggest nocturnal movements are not for foraging, and are not simply a pre-migratory behavior.

## Conclusions

Chats nesting at Kennekuk had low success relative to nesting Northern Cardinals, Brown Thrashers, and Field Sparrows. Because these four species nest in similar locations, we expected similar nest survival among species. Nest defense behavior may play an important role in nest survival. For example, Brown Thrashers are large, vocal birds and may be able to successfully deter predators, while chats, which had low nest survival, lack a distraction display and tend to slip quietly away from a nest when an intruder approaches (Ficken & Ficken 1962; Alessi, unpubl. data). It's possible that adult chats lower their own risk of being killed during a nest predation event by flushing quietly, as a trade-off to aggressively defending their nests. Nocturnal activities of chats appeared to be related to mating, with females and their mates moving more frequently when the female is fertile.





**Figure 1.** Nest success (%) during the incubation and nestling stages for four shrubland bird species. Yellow-breasted Chats experienced especially high failure rates.

### Acknowledgments

We are indebted to the Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS) for funding, and to the IOS members who contributed to this research: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fisher, Vicky Sroczynski, and John Burke. This research was also funded through the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund. We'd like to thank Kim Hazelwood and Kevin Sierzega for their dedicated help in the field. Also, we'd like to thank Ben O'Neal and Jeff Walk for providing helpful comments throughout this research and on this manuscript. Without Arlo Raim's and Tony Borries' knowledge and Bill and Jim Cochran's technology, this research would not have been possible. We are grateful to all of the Vermilion County Conservation District staff, particularly Mark Pittman and Ken Konsis, and to private landowner Victor Ulaska for allowing us the freedom to navigate all areas of the park.

— Alessi, Benson & Ward,  
*Illinois Natural History Survey*  
 1816 South Oak St.  
 Champaign, IL 61820  
 mpward@illinois.edu

### Literature Cited

Alessi, M. G., A. Raim, T. A. Beveroth, M. N. Barron, and M. P. Ward. 2009. Use of heat-shrink tubing to attach radio transmitters to bird rectrices. *North American Bird Bander*, 34, 1-6.

Amrhein, V., H. P. Kunc, and M. Naguib. 2004. Non-territorial Nightingales prospect territories during the dawn chorus. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series B*, 271, S167-S169.

Amrhein, V., P. Korner, and M. Naguib. 2002. Nocturnal and diurnal singing activity in the Nightingale: correlations with mating status and breeding cycle. *Animal Behaviour*, 64, 939-944.

Annand, E. M., and F. R. Thompson, III. 1997. Forest bird response to regeneration practices in central hardwood forests. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 61, 159-171.

Burhans, D. E., and F. R. Thompson, III. 1999. Habitat patch size and nesting success of Yellow-Breasted Chats. *Wilson Bulletin*, 111, 210-215.

Canterbury, J. L. 2007. Songs of the wild: temporal and geographical distinctions in the acoustic properties of the songs of the yellow-breasted chat. PhD dissertation, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dettmers, R. 2003. Status and conservation of shrublands bird in the northeastern U.S. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 185, 81-93.

Ficken, M. S., and R. W. Ficken. 1962. Some aberrant characters of the Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*. *Auk*, 79, 718-719.

Muhkin, A., V. Grinkevich, and B. Helm. 2009. Under cover of darkness: nocturnal life of diurnal birds. *Journal of Biological Rhythms*, 24, 225-231.

Nealen, P. M., and R. Breitwisch. 1997. Northern Cardinal sexes defend nests equally. *Wilson Bulletin*, 109, 269-278.

Nolan, V., Jr. 1963. Reproductive success of birds in a deciduous scrub habitat. *Ecology* 44, 305-313.

Ricketts, M. S., and G. Ritchison. 2000. Nesting success of Yellow-breasted Chats: effects of nest site and territory vegetation structure. *Wilson Bulletin*, 112, 510-516.

Rodewald, A. D., and A.C. Vitz. 2005. Edge- and area-sensitivity of shrubland birds. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 69, 581-588.

Roth, T., P. Sprau, R. Schmidt, M. Naguib, V. Amrhein. 2009. Sex-specific timing of mate searching and territory prospecting in the Nightingale: nocturnal life of females. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series B*, 276:1664, 2045-2050.

Shaffer, T. L. 2004. A unified approach to analyzing nest success. *Auk*, 121, 524-540.

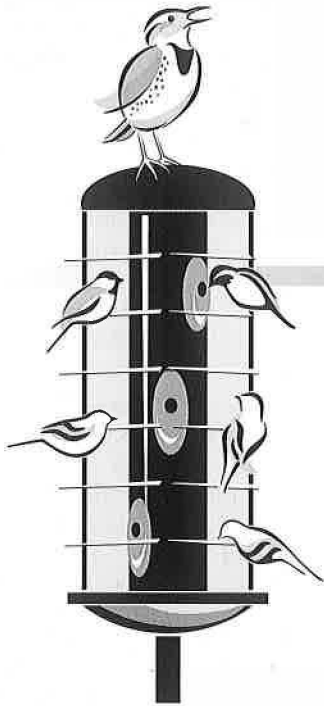
Schlossberg, S., and D. I. King. 2008. Are shrubland birds edge specialists? *Ecological Applications*, 18, 1325-1330.

Sutton, G. M. 1960. The nesting Fringillids of the Edwin S. George Reserve, southeastern Michigan (Part VI). *Jack-Pine Warbler*, 38, 46-65.

Taylor, W. K. 1984. Vigorous digging by a Brown Thrasher after disturbance at the nest and comments on the species' behavior. *Florida Field Naturalist*, 12, 13-15.

Thompson, C. F., and V. Nolan, Jr. 1973. Population biology of the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens* L.) in southern Indiana. *Ecological Monographs*, 43, 145-171.

Woodward, A. A., A. D. Fink, and F. R. Thompson, III. 2001. Edge effects and ecological traps: effects on shrubland birds in Missouri. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 65, 668-675.



# Yard Birds

## Reflections on backyard birding throughout Illinois

by Robert Fisher



Rough-legged Hawk photo by Vicky Sroczynski.

### Watching hawks from a lawn chair in your yard

As autumn begins, groups of dedicated raptorphiles (aka hawk watchers) are trooping up to the tops of mountains (or maybe just up to the tops of closed and capped landfill hills), setting up lawn chairs, unfolding blankets, positioning scopes and tripods for easy viewing – beginning their vigil – scanning the skies to the north for those distant specks, which resolve themselves into one of North America's greatest birding spectacles – migrating raptors. This annual pilgrimage takes place at hundreds of sites all across North America. For many birders it's the highpoint of their birding year; seeing a Northern Goshawk, or a Golden Eagle drifting majestically overhead, or a Merlin zipping past your lawn chair at eye level, surely going at least 100 mph!

My wife, Karen, and I know that feeling. We're now dedicated hawk watchers at the Greene Valley Forest Preserve (a closed landfill site in DuPage County), only 15 minutes from our house. We've also learned to shrug off those remarks we hear: Don't most hawk watches take place on a mountaintop, not on top of a pile

of garbage?! OK, so we're not Hawk Mountain, nor Hawk Ridge, but the view is pretty spectacular (like a kettle of distant Turkey Vultures drifting above the even more distant Chicago skyline). We've even learned to ignore that lovely methane aroma wafting over us from the nearby standpipes.

After all, Illinois is not exactly famous for its mountainous terrain.

Before we began formally hawk watching at Greene Valley, we were, and still are, avid back yard hawk watchers – like many IOS members who don't live close to one of the state's two active hawk watch locations in far northeastern Illinois, at Greene Valley and Illinois Beach State Park. Many of us keep daily records of the birds seen in (or above) our yard throughout the year, with an emphasis on the phenology of those observations – the date on which we first, or last see a particular species. And raptor migration is very much a phenological phenomenon.

We can't see the Chicago skyline from our front porch, but we do have a clear and unobstructed view of the sky to the north and west. Even in

our back yard, which faces south, we watch for raptors sailing overhead as we work to prepare our garden for the approaching winter. What better excuse can you ask for to stop working, than an Osprey sailing by as he heads south in mid September. Or a small kettle of Broad-winged Hawks corkscrewing slowly higher, silhouetted against one of those puffy cotton candy cumulus clouds that dot the sky during an early autumn cold front. Binoculars are always close at hand as we deadhead our perennials, or pull weeds (especially that super pest, creeping Charlie), or just sit on the front stoop watching the sky to the north, waiting and hoping for that first ever yard Golden Eagle to pass overhead.

Should you be reluctant to try and identify distant raptors soaring above your yard – sometimes they're nothing more than specks in the great blue dome overhead – the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) has a terrific website <http://hmana.org>, where you can download and print out a two-page guide to the silhouettes of the raptors

we are most likely to see in Illinois. Published by the NorthEast Hawk Watch (NEHW), a regional chapter of HMANA, the art and text are by Paul Carrier, the same artist who created that widely used hawk silhouette guide of similar content 30+ years ago. The guide shows soaring silhouettes and key field marks for adults of all of the migratory hawks regularly seen east of the Mississippi, as well as Gyrfalcon and Swainson's Hawk.

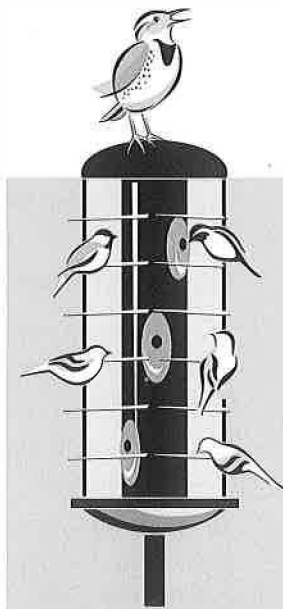
Not so coincidentally, HMANA's home page features a beautiful photo of a soaring Rough-legged Hawk, taken by IOS member and raptor-phile extraordinaire, Vic Berardi. We see migrating Rough-legged Hawks fairly regularly over our yard beginning in late October, as this Arctic breeder and very late migrant (which also winters in northern and central Illinois) moves south. IOSers living south of Effingham know it's a rare event to see a Roughleg in the southern third of the state. But you never know...unless you're looking...

Several other excellent references exist in aid of migrating raptor identification. *Hawks of North America*, by Clark and Wheeler (part of the Peterson Field Guide series) is an excellent pocket-sized reference to tote along when you're hawk watching in the field. But one of the great things about backyard hawk watching is the ability to have a whole bunch of references handy, without having to worry about weight, or whether they fit in a pocket. *Hawks in Flight* (now more than 20 years old) by Dunne and Sutton, with illustrations by Sibley, is considered by many hawk watchers to be the essential reference for field ID of hawks in flight. More recently, Liguori authored *Hawks From Every Angle*, an excellent large format photo guide intended to aid in those difficult flying raptor IDs. It has become a well used addition to our raptor ID library.

Put your eyes on the sky this autumn. When a cold front passes by, with the wind from the west/northwest, drag out that lawn chair (an

adjustable chaise lounge is preferred by many experienced hawk watchers), sit back, and watch the sky. It's a timeless, relaxing feeling to watch the clouds drift overhead, but you'll feel a sudden adrenaline rush when you spot a distant speck, wondering will it be a Red-shouldered Hawk or just a local resident Redtail? As the fall season advances relentlessly toward winter, you can almost sense the urgency in the raptor migration; even the Red-tailed Hawks spend less time soaring and looking down for prey. They seem to be on a mission: To get to their wintering grounds as quickly as possible.

Around Thanksgiving, I'll sit outside (Karen wisely saying "Too cold!") hoping to spot a very late Redtail or eagle, sometimes skywatching through snowflakes. Surrendering to the elements, folding up the lawn chair for the last time, my momentary feeling of loss quickly subsides. In only four or five months, they'll be coming back. All we'll have to do is rotate our chairs by 180 degrees.



Artwork by Jenny Vogt.

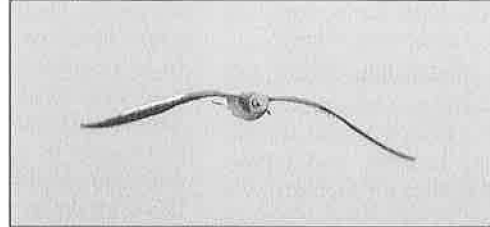
## Yard Birds

I'd welcome your feedback on this column, as it may become a regular feature in the *Meadowlark*. I'd especially like your yard and feeder bird stories and observations, which we can build into future columns. The editor and I both hope we can make this column a place where IOS members who enjoy backyard birding can share their experiences. Send me your observations, interesting visitors and the like. That's why the column subtitle is: Reflections on backyard birding throughout Illinois.

You can reach me at: [bfisher928@aol.com](mailto:bfisher928@aol.com) or by phone at 630-985-2956. Tell me your story and I'll write it down. I look forward to hearing from you.

# IOS field trip produces another lifer for another member

Story and photos by Greg Neise



The day dawned bright and calm. Lake Carlyle was like glass, and already fishermen and pleasure boaters were out in force. A Willet and Laughing Gull had made an early appearance, and many hundreds of American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants were flying to and fro. While it was a beautiful day, it was not what I would have thought conducive to finding my #1 nemesis bird in Illinois (at the time): Sabine's Gull.

This species had vexed me for 35 years, and in my mind I thought the only way to see one in the state was to bare my teeth into a howling October northeast gale at Gilson Park in Wilmette. Certainly not on a fair-weather pontoon-boat pleasure cruise across Illinois' largest lake (not counting Lake Michigan). Thankfully, I was to be very wrong about that.

Our captain, Keith McMullen, told us to look for a "loaf of bread floating on the water." Sabine's Gull, he said, is considerably smaller than a Ring-billed and can be easily overlooked if it's not flying. Well, sure enough, about an hour into our expedition, we came across a loaf of bread floating on the water that turned out to be my lifer Sabine's Gull (and state bird # 338).

Just to make sure that we got our money's worth, Keith conjured up a Red Phalarope, too. This is definitely a trip that I will do again, and is one of IOS' most popular for good reason.

— Greg Neise  
1225 Oak Park Ave.  
Berwyn, IL 60402  
gregneise@illinoisbirds.com

*Clockwise from top left:*

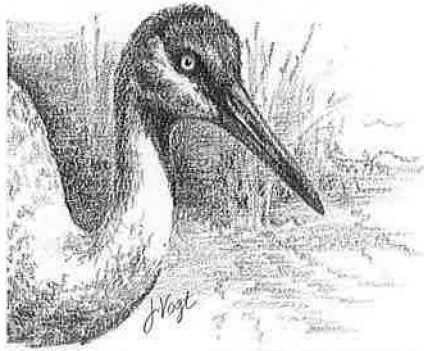
*Sabine's Gull resting on the water and looking like a "loaf of bread."*

*Sabine's Gull in flight.*

*American White Pelicans were plentiful at the Carlyle Lake field trip.*

*Red Phalarope, a rare find in Illinois any time.*

*All photos taken during the IOS Carlyle Lake field trip in September 2008.*



# Field Notes

## The 2008 fall migration

by Douglas F. Stotz

*Drawing of a Sandhill Crane by Jenny Vogt.*

Fallouts of migrants were unimpressive in fall of 2008, as has been the case over the last few years. As a result, numbers of migrants were not particularly notable, but rarities kept Illinois birders entertained throughout the state and throughout the season. Most notably, two species were added to the official state list this fall. For the second year in a row, this included a plover, this time a MOUNTAIN PLOVER, photographed at the Momence sod farms in mid-September, playing hide and seek with the scores of observers that went to look for it. CAVE SWALLOW, which has been reported several times via sight reports over the last few years, was definitively added to the state avifauna, with birds photographed at Carlyle Lake in September and in Richland County in November, and a window-kill in Chicago in November. BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS continued into the fall with 5 birds collected out of a flock of 15 in Mason County in November. A BRANT moved around the Chicago lakefront from late October into December. A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD was photographed flying over I-74 in Vermilion County in early September, presumably accompanying the remnants of Hurricane Gustav into Illinois. Two WHITE IBISES--one at Horseshoe Lake in August and one at East Cape Girardeau in September--were eclipsed by up to 4 ROSEATE SPOONBILLS that wandered between southeastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois for much of September. A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE was in Jackson County in late August. The Illinois Beach Hawk Watch had reports of both GYRFALCON and PRAIRIE FALCON, and another Prairie Falcon was at Prairie Ridge. A CURLEW SANDPIPER was a half-day wonder at Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Du Page County in late August. Chicago's Montrose Harbor was the place to be for a brief period at the end of October, when the wandering Brant was joined by a BURROWING OWL (killed by a Cooper's Hawk), and a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE. Carlyle Lake produced a second rare swallow with a mid-September VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW. A SPRAGUE'S PIPIT was documented in Kane County in early October, and a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER was found in Will County in late November. A SWAINSON'S WARBLER that hung around until late August rounded out this fall's rarities.

### Ducks through Hawks

Waterfowl migration was fairly typical, although high counts were not very impressive. Scoters made a good showing on Lake Michigan, but there were few downstate reports. Pacific Loons appeared at Carlyle Lake and Clinton Lake,

and Red-throated Loons made a good showing at the end of the season along Lake County's lakefront, but otherwise loons and grebes did not produce headlines. There were no Western Grebe reports, and only one Red-necked Grebe and two Eared Grebes were noted.

As usual, American White Pelicans were in large flocks on downstate reservoirs and along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, but several records into December were unusual. Heron numbers were generally good, especially in the Mississippi River bottomlands in southern Illinois, where there were impressive counts of Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons. Plegadis ibises appeared at 3 sites, totalling at least six birds. The Illinois Beach and Greene Valley hawk watches were a little below average this season. Highlights were a single day count of 1,695 Broad-winged Hawks at Greene Valley in mid-September and record (although still small) numbers of Golden Eagles at both sites. Mississippi Kites, usually gone by the end of August, were very much in evidence into mid-September and were found even later in northern Illinois at Rockford and Greene Valley.

### Rails through Woodpeckers

Rail migration was good, with big numbers of Soras at several sites throughout the season. Several Yellow Rails were seen at Prairie Ridge, but a bird at Sauer Family Prairie in Kane County was unexpected. Common Moorhens at two sites in Chicago in November were unexpectedly late. A huge count of Sandhill Cranes at Greene Valley in early November was the only significant count of the season. Whooping Cranes from the Wisconsin reintroduced population migrated in small numbers with Sandhills. Shorebird migration was generally poor because of high water levels along the Illinois River. The season provided only two Piping Plovers. Huge numbers of Black-necked Stilts were in southwestern Illinois, especially at East Cape Girardeau. There were three Whimbrels reported. Godwits were well reported this season with six Marbled Godwits and two reports of Hudsonian, including seven at Momence in mid-September. Western Sandpipers were scattered throughout, with a November bird at Carlyle Lake. Several peeps remained into late November-early December. There were good numbers of phalaropes including two Red. There was an enormous movement of American Woodcocks through Chicago in mid-November, but unfortunately this was detected primarily via window kills. Four jaegers were reported--two Parasitics at Carlyle Lake, and two unidentified

juveniles. There were good Franklin's Gull counts mostly at downstate reservoirs and on the Lake Michigan lakefront, concentrated on 26 October and 8-9 November. Winter gulls arrived in numbers by the end of the period, especially at Winthrop Harbor. Three California Gulls were Lake County, and another was at Carlyle Lake. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes in early November at Gillson Park provided the only report. Least Terns were in good numbers in southwestern Illinois, and one put in an appearance at Winthrop Harbor. Forster's Tern remained at Rend Lake until late November. Owls were reported in near normal numbers. Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls arrived in November at several sites. Chimney Swifts had several good high counts in early October, and disappeared more or less on schedule in mid-October. A Rufous Hummingbird was at Glenview in November. Sapsucker and flicker migrations were not very impressive.

### Passerines

Landbird migration was fairly ordinary, with few high counts or significant early or late dates. Migration was a little slow to get going, with few migrants before mid-August. Migration ended a bit early as cold weather in November brought a premature close to the season. Empidonax flycatchers had a poor passage, but a mid-October Yellow-bellied at Montrose Harbor was notable. There were some excellent counts of Eastern Kingbirds in the latter half of August. Vireo counts and timing were pretty typical. There were high swallow counts for all the regular species, although nothing extraordinary. Although these concentrations mainly came from late July and August, there were good counts of Tree Swallows (as is typical) and Northern Rough-winged Swallows (much less typical) from October. It was a poor thrush migration, although American Robin produced several impressive counts. Gray Catbirds again lingered into December along the Chicago lakefront. The warbler migration was generally unexciting, with few high counts and few early dates. At least 11 species of warblers lingered into November, including multiple Black-throated Blues, two Bay-breasts, and a Kentucky. A Northern Waterthrush remained in Chicago's Lincoln Park into December. High counts of the common sparrows were not very noteworthy this fall, but there were some interesting sparrow reports. Savannah Sparrows showed several good high counts. Nelson's Sparrow was widespread in small numbers, and an impressive 15 Le Conte's Sparrows were at Horseshoe Lake in mid-October. A number of Chipping Sparrows remained into mid-November--a growing trend with this species. There were good counts for the fall of both Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting. High tallies of blackbirds were received for all of the common species. Three September reports of Orchard Oriole were unusual; often this species goes unrecorded after mid-August.

### Irruptive Species

The hawk watches had good counts of Rough-legged Hawks, but elsewhere they were scarce. There were few goshawks, even at the hawk watches. A handful of Snowy Owls had appeared by the end of the period; although not a strong invasion, this was easily the best season in several years. Northern Shrikes had a pretty ordinary season, arriving in late October, but records extended south to Sangamon, Woodford and Tazewell Counties. Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived late,

with no records until September, but were in reasonable numbers at the usual sites. Winter finches made a good showing. Pine Siskins were widespread with impressive numbers at the Morton Arboretum. Purple Finches arrived late in the season, and counts were concentrated in the northern part of the state. White-winged Crossbills staged a major invasion with good counts at a number of sites in northeastern Illinois. In contrast, Red Crossbills occurred as scattered individuals and small flocks. By the end of the period, only small numbers of redpolls had been reported, mostly in northeastern Illinois. Redpolls began arriving at the end of October for what turned into a strong invasion, at least in northeastern Illinois. As usual over the last decade, there was little in the way of Evening Grosbeaks, with only a single report.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following organizations and observers, who supplied the data included in this summary. Observers are credited by their initials following each record. As in previous reports, the sequencing of individual observers below is based on alphabetization of last and first/middle initials rather than on alphabetization of last names:

### Organizations and Institutions:

CAS	Chicago Audubon Society (field trips)
CBCM	Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (data largely involving window-strikes at high rises in downtown Chicago)
CCAS	Champaign County Audubon Society (field trips)
ENSBC	Evanston (Cook Co)-North Shore Bird Club (field trips)
FMNH	Field Museum of Natural History
IBHW	Illinois Beach Hawk Watch (data from IBSP, compiled by Vic Berardi)
IORC	Illinois Ornithological Records Committee
IOS	Illinois Ornithological Society (field trips).
NPBW	North Pond Bird Walk (weekly surveys at North Pond in Linc.P, led and compiled by Geoffrey A. Williamson)

### Individuals:

Amar A. Ayyash, Alan B. Anderson, Charles B. Anderson, David K. Anteau, Jill S. Anderson, Les Allen, Mike Avera, Alex B. Bloss, Dale E. Birkenholz, Michael J. Baum, Richard Biss, Richard G. Bjorklund, Samuel B. Burckhardt, Steven D. Bailey, Sigurd N. Bjorklund, H. David Bohlen, Doug Crane, Elizabeth J. Chato, Jeff D. Chapman, Karin M. Cassel, Marilyn F. Campbell, Matthew M. Cvetas, Paul R. Clyne, Scott A. Cohrs, Carl C. DauBach, Donald R. Dann, John Duran, Paul K. Doughty, Pen P. DauBach, Tim J. Dever, Robert Erickson, Thad R. Edmonds, Carolyn S. Fields, Karen D. Fisher, Mike Furmanek, Matthew E. Fraker, Richard C. Funk, Robert E. Fisher, Sue Friscia, Tyler D. Funk, Joel R. Greenberg, Michael G. Green, Urs W. Geiser, Ethan Gyllenhall, Eric D. Gyllenhaal, Bruce A. Heimer, C. Leroy Harrison, Frank R. Holmes, Jed B. Hertz, Kanae Hiribayashi, L. Barrie Hunt, Larry L. Hood, Mary Hennen, Michael J. Hogg, Robert D. Hughes, Steven J. Huggins, Jerry Ingles, David B. Johnson, David Kvernes, Dan M. Kassebaum, Sonia Kassel, Thomas F. Kelly, Tim L. Kuesel, Cindy Lubecke, Demetri

Lafkas, George LaClaire, Gregory S. Lambeth, John P. Leonard, Joseph W. Lill, Karen M. Lund, Nolan A. Lameka, Brendan J. McCooey, Cynthia K. McKee, Don Mullison (DMn), David Mott (DMt), D. James Mountjoy, John D. McKee, Keith A. McMullen, Karen K. Mansfield, Luis G. Muñoz, Michael A. Madsen, Peter A. Moxon, Robert A. Montgomery, Travis A. Mahan, Walter J. Marcisz, Greg Neise, John Novembre, Judith Perry, John H. Purcell, Victor Piacentini, Ari Rice, Brandi Read, Kevin B. Richmond, Michael L. Retter, Rhonda M. Rothrock, William C. Rowe, William M. Rudden, Anne Straight, Alan F. Stokie, Andrew P. Sigler, Beau J. Schafer, Douglas F. Stotz,

Darrell J. Shambaugh, Gail L. Sadock, Josh Stafford, Jeff A. Smith, Jeff O. Sundberg, Jim S. Solum, Leonard Stanley, Mark S. Seiffert, Robert E. Shelby, Randy L. Shonkwiler, Stephen G. Spitzer, Wesley S. Serafin, Janice Sweet, Paul Sweet, Brian E. Tang, Craig A. Taylor, Craig B. Thayer, Dave L. Thomas, Michael S. Thelen, Rita M. Torrado, Robert Vaiden, Bob Vogelzang, Barbara C. Williams, Christine L. Williamson, Dave Weichers, David E. Willard, Daniel T. Williams, Eric W. Walters, Geoffrey A. Williamson, Jason D. Weckstein, Matthew J. Winks, and James P. Ziebol.

**As a printing aid the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report**

EA	earliest arrival(s)	juv.	juvenal(s) / juvenile(s)	NC	Nature Center
MC	maximum count(s)	1st yr/2nd yr/...	first plumage year/ second plumage year/...	NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
LD	latest departure(s)			P	Park
*	documented record	CA	Conservation Area	Pr	Prairie
m.ob.	many observers	Co(s)	County (Counties)	R	River
:ph	photographed	Crk	Creek	SNA	State Natural Area
spec(s).	specimen(s)	FP	Forest Preserve	SP	State Park
(sub)ad.	(sub)adult(s)	L	Lake	Wds	Woods
imm.	immature(s)	LWR	Land & Water Reserve		

(L) Bloomington	(Lake) Bloomington (McLean Co)	Kankakee	Kankakee (Kankakee Co)
Braidwd	Braidwood (Will Co)	Kidd L M	Kidd Lake Marsh State Natural Area (Monroe Co)
Carl.B/C/F	Carlyle Lake (Bond Co/Clinton Co/ Fayette Co)	LCal	Lake Calumet area (s. Cook Co)
Carl.L	Carlyle Lake, as above (county unspecified)	Ldn-Mlr	Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co)
Chau	Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)	Linc. P	Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Chi	Chicago (Cook Co); see also Chi Loop, Grant P, JP, Linc. P, Montrose H, Northerly I	Mackinaw Bluffs	Mackinaw Bluffs Corridor (Woodford Co)
Chi Loop	central business district, downtown Chicago (Cook Co)	M.Arb.	Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co)
Clin.L	Clinton Lake (DeWitt Co)	Momence	Momence (Kankakee Co)
(L) Decatur	(Lake) Decatur (Macon Co)	Montrose H	Montrose Harbor, Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
ECape Gir.	East Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co)	Northerly I	Northerly Island, Burnham Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Grant P	Grant Park, Chicago (Cook Co)	Palos	Palos area (sw. Cook Co)
Greene Vly FP	Greene Valley Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)	PrRdg	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co unless specified)
Guzy Pr	"Guzy Prairie" = Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands Land & Water Reserve (Shelby Co)	Rend L	Rend L (Franklin/Jefferson Cos)
Hennepin L	Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)	Salt Crk Wds	Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve (w. Cook Co)
HL	Horseshoe Lake State Park (Madison Co)	Sauer Pr	Sauer Family Prairie Kame Forest Preserve (Kane Co)
IBSP	Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)	Two Rivers NWR	Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co unless specified)
IL	Illinois	Urb.	Urbana (Champaign Co)
JP	Jackson Park and vicinity, Chicago (Cook Co)	Wauk.	Waukegan (Lake Co)
		Winthrop H	Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co)

Transparent directionals (n. = north(ern), ne. = northeast(ern), etc.) are used where applicable. Headings for species requiring IORC (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee) review in parts of Illinois or in some plumages are underlined, while those for species requiring review of all records are **CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED**. Records pending completion of IORC review are enclosed in square brackets [ ]. The IORC review list can be viewed at the IOS/IORC website, <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html>. Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are underlined and boldfaced, and some further editorial remarks are boldfaced.

Remarks on the historical significance of records aim to be valid for the corpus of data published in Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and in the seasonal summaries in the *Illinois journals Illinois Birds and Birding* (summer 1984 - spring 1991) and *Meadowlark* (summer 1991 - present). Most of these remarks were supplied by Paul R. Clyne.

The 2003 DeLorme Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer has been used as a standard for spelling of place names for sites included therein. Species names and sequencing follow the current American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds and its annual supplements, last revised July 2009.

## The 2008 fall migration report

### BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

9 Nov (15), Mason Co (JS:ph of 5 specimens, 3 specs. to FMNH).

### **Greater White-fronted Goose**

EA: 10 Oct, Troy (Madison Co) (KAM). MC: **800**, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 25 Oct (DMK, IOS).

### **Snow Goose**

EA: **9 Sep**, Montrose H (KH); 21 Sep (2), s. Bond Co (DFS). MC: **80,000**, Carl.C, 30 Nov (DMK, MSS) – **record fall high count**.

### **Ross's Goose**

EA: 18 Oct (2), Knox Co (MJB, DJM); 31 Oct (2), Carl.C (DMK, MSS). MC: 15, Baldwin L (Randolph/St. Clair Cos), 15 Nov (EWW); 6, Rochelle (Ogle Co), 26 Nov (DFS).

### BRANT

26 Oct, Calumet P, LCal (\*WJM); 29 Oct - 2 Nov, Montrose H (RDH, ABB, \*GAW, SGS:ph, CSF:ph, m.ob.); 11-19 Nov, Grant P (GN:ph, \*CBT, \*DFS); 8-14 Dec, JP (\*PRC). All reports likely refer to the same individual moving around the Chi lakefront.

### **Cackling Goose**

EA: 15 Sep (5), Greene Vly FP (MAM); 22 Sep (2), Bloomington (MJW); 1 Oct (40), Freeport (AS). MC: **7500**, Rochelle (Ogle Co) (and 1500 additional in De Kalb, Lee and Whiteside Cos), 26 Nov (DFS)--**record IL high count**; 1225, Sheffield (Bureau Co), 20 Nov (DFS).

### **Canada Goose**

MC: 3250, Kane Co, 26 Nov (DFS).

### **Mute Swan**

MC: 23, Des Plaines R widewaters (Will Co), 28 Nov (JAS); 13, Bangs L, Wauconda (Lake Co), 24 Nov (SDB).

### **Trumpeter Swan**

MC: 10, Carroll Co, 1 Nov (CAT, TLK). Others: 22-23 Nov, Gaskin L (Clay Co) (CLH).

### **Tundra Swan**

EA: 27 Oct (15), IBSP (AFS); 2 Nov (2), Chau (KBR) MC: 137, Greene Vly FP, 15 Nov (REF, KDF); 62 (flyovers), Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co), 16 Nov (CAT, TLK); 48, Spring L (Carroll Co), 9 Nov (EWW, WSS). Others: 22-23 Nov, Gaskin L (Clay Co) (CLH).

*A Brant was at the Chicago lakefront from 26 October through 2 November 2008.*

*Note the much smaller size of the Brant compared with the giant Canada Geese. Photo taken 29 October 2008 by Greg Neise.*

### **Wood Duck**

MC: 165, HL, 4 Aug (KAM); 150, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 12 Aug (WSS); 112, Hennepin L, 23 Aug (DFS); 80, Santa Fe Bottoms (Clinton Co), 3 Aug (DMK, KAM, MSS).

### **Gadwall**

EA: 2 Aug, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). MC: 3000, HL, 18 Oct (DMK, KAM, MSS).

### **American Wigeon**

EA: 16 Aug, Garden Prairie (Boone Co) (DFS). MC: 1245, Carroll Co, 1 Nov (CAT, TLK).

### **American Black Duck**

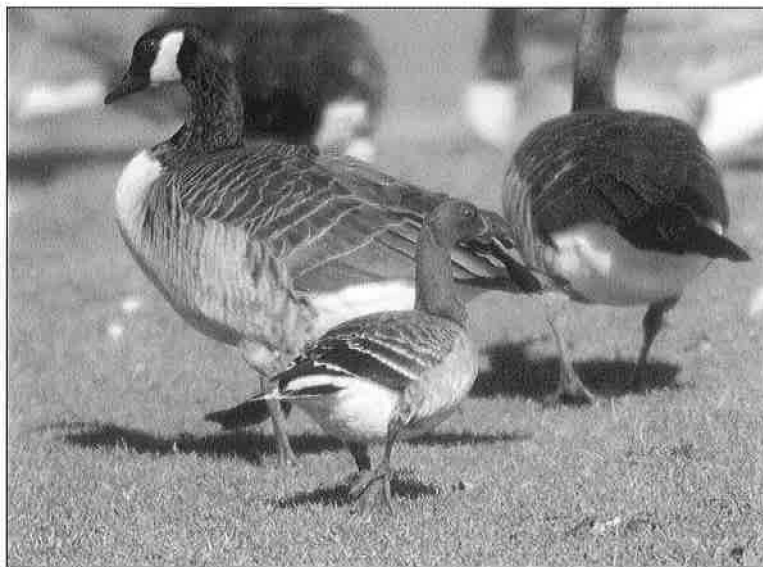
EA: 30 Aug, ECape Gir. (DMK, TAM).

### **Mallard**

MC: 3771, Chau, 26 Nov (RGB, SNB); 2200, Pontiac (Livingston Co), 22 Nov (DMK, MSS).



*This Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was one of five observed in Mason County the fall of 2008. Three specimens collected by hunters are now housed at the Field Museum of Natural History. Photo taken 9 November 2008 by Josh Stafford.*





**Blue-winged Teal**

**MC:** 500, Carl.C, 24 Aug (DMK). **LD:** 26 Nov, Chau (RGB, SNB); 26 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Northern Shoveler**

**EA:** 8 Aug, Braidwd (JBH); 9 Aug (14), ECape Gir. (KAM, DMK, MSS); 23 Aug, Hennepin L (DFS). **MC:** 600, Carl.C, 15 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Northern Pintail**

**EA:** 9 Aug, ECape Gir. (KAM); 10 Aug, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 15 Aug, Hennepin L (DFS). **MC:** 785, Hennepin L, 9 Oct (DFS); 500, Two Rivers NWR, 5 Oct (DMK, MSS); 400, Carl.C, 18 Oct (DMK).

**Green-winged Teal**

**EA:** 16 Aug, LCal (WJM); 19 Aug, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 1600, Pike Co, 18 Oct (EWW); 400, Carl. C, 18 Oct (DMK).

**Canvasback**

**EA:** 30 Sep, Braidwd (JBH). **MC:** 3000, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co), 26 Nov (DFS); 200, Carl.C, 28 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Redhead**

**EA:** 10 Sep, L Rawson (Bureau Co) (DFS). **MC:** 424, Lake Co, 22 Nov (GAW); 40, IBSP, 1 Nov (DMK, KAM, MSS); 30, Carl.C, 11 Nov, (DMK, MSS).

**Ring-necked Duck**

**EA:** 3 Aug, HL (KAM). **MC:** 1200, Hennepin L, 20 Nov (DFS).

**Greater Scaup**

**EA/MC:** 1980, IBSP, 24 Oct (EWW).

**Lesser Scaup**

**EA:** 20 Sep, Montrose H (JHP); 30 Sep (2), Northerly I (DFS). **MC:** 8000, Carl.C, 15 Nov (DMK, MSS); 5020, Mississippi R (Whiteside Co), 26 Nov (DFS).

**Harlequin Duck**

**EA:** 25 Oct - 16 Nov, Wauk. (DW, AFS, RE, JSS, m.ob.). **MC:** 4, Gillson P, Wilmette (Lake Co), 30 Nov (RDH, m.ob.); 2, IBSP, 2 Nov (JSS). **Others:** 13 Nov into Dec, JP (CBA et al.).

**Surf Scoter**

**EA:** 28 Sep, Evanston (Cook Co) (MJH); 17 Oct, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (JP fide DTW), 24 Oct, Carl.C (REF, MAM, MSS, JAS). **MC:** 11, IBSP, 8 Nov (RDH); 8, Montrose H, 17 Oct (GAW); 5, Carl.C, 15 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**White-winged Scoter**

**EA/MC:** 4, Gillson P, Wilmette (Lake Co), 1 Nov (RDH); 4, IBSP, 1 Nov (DMK, KAM, MSS); 3, Winthrop H, 29 Nov (MJH).

**Black Scoter**

**EA:** 4 Oct, IBSP (AS). **MC:** 15, IBSP, 8 Nov (RDH); 10, Gillson P, Wilmette (Lake Co), 1 Nov (RDH); 8, Montrose H, 2 Nov (GAW, RDH).

**Long-tailed Duck**

**EA:** 1 Nov (3), IBSP (RDH); 2 Nov, Montrose H (GAW, RDH); 10 Nov, Carroll Co (AS); 27 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Bufflehead**

**EA:** 27 Oct (3), Montrose H (GAW); 2 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 69, Lake Co lakefront, 27 Nov (DFS); 66, JP, 19 Nov (PRC); 60, Carl.C, 23 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Common Goldeneye**

**EA:** 27 Oct, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 462, Montrose H, 29 Nov (GAW); 120, Carl.C, 28 & 30 Nov (DMK, MSS); 103, Chau, 26 Nov (RGB, SNB).

**Hooded Merganser**

**EA:** 23 Aug, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 300, Carl.C, 30 Nov (DMK, MSS); 117, Chau, 26 Nov (RGB, SNB).

**Common Merganser**

**EA:** 17 Nov, Heidecke L (Grundy Co) (JBH); 18 Nov (7), Montrose H (GAW); 22 Nov, IBSP (DMK, MSS); 27 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 16, JP, 27 Nov (PRC).

**Red-breasted Merganser**

**EA:** 6 Sep (male--summered locally?), Calumet P, LCal (WJM); 25 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 3893, Montrose H, 29 Nov (GAW)--**record fall high count** (including Dec data); 1040, Burnham P, Chi, 24 Nov (DFS); 120, Carl.C, 16 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Ruddy Duck**

**EA:** 16 Aug, Monroe Co (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 845, Chau, 14 Nov (RGB, SNB); 500, Carl.C, 11 Nov (DMK); 480, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co), 26 Nov (DFS); 410, Two Rivers NWR, 29 Nov (EWW).

**Northern Bobwhite**

**MC:** 18, Jasper Co, 21 Oct (RES); 12, Karl Bartel LWR (Marion Co), 12 Oct (DMK, MSS).

**Gray Partridge**

**None reported.** None mentioned on the IL birders' listserve, IBET, over the last two years.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

**MC:** 4, Kankakee, 15 Nov (JBH).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**

**MC:** 55, PrRdg, 20 Nov (RES); 16, Karl Bartel LWR (Marion Co), 12 Oct (DMK, MSS).

**Wild Turkey**

**MC:** 40, Edwards Co, 30 Nov (RES); 24, Stephenson Co, 26 Aug (DFS); 20, Carl.C, 9 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Red-throated Loon**

**EA:** 1 Nov (2), IBSP (RDH); 11 Nov, Carl.C, (DMK). **MC:** 8, Winthrop H to IBSP, 27 Nov (AFS, DFS); 7, IBSP, 22 Nov (KH, MAM, DBJ). **LD:** Into Dec, Lake Co lakefront.

**Pacific Loon**

**EA:** 24-31 Oct, Carl.C (REF, MSS, KAM, DMK:ph, m.ob.). **LD:** 13-15 Nov, Clin.L (KBR, GSL, EJC, m.ob.).

**Common Loon**

**EA:** 2 Aug (apparently summered), Plainfield (Will Co) (JAS, MAM, JDC); 16 Oct, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 79, Rend L, 13 Nov (LS); 70, Carl.C, 11 Nov (DMK, MSS); 30, Clin.L, 14 Nov (CAT, TLK).

**Pied-billed Grebe**

EA: 3 Sep, Montrose H (RDH, GAW). MC: 120, HL (DMK, MSS, KAM); 110, East Fork L (Richland Co), 16 Oct (CLH); 74, L Decatur dredge ponds, 10 Sep (TAM); 67, HL, 3 Aug (EWW); 48, Palos, 26 Oct (GAW); 40, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co), 3 Nov (CAT, TLK).

**Horned Grebe**

MC: 300, Carl.C, 11 Nov (DMK, MSS); 78, HL, 11 Nov (FRH); 45, L Decatur, 16 Nov (TAM); 45, Clin.L, 14 Nov (CAT, TLK).

**Red-necked Grebe**

EA: 16 Sep, Chau (KBR).

**Eared Grebe**

EA: 6 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). LD: 18 Oct, O'Fallon sewage plant (St. Clair Co) (DMK, KAM, MSS).

**American White Pelican**

MC: 4000, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS); 2000, Two Rivers NWR, 11 Oct (MST). LD: 9 Dec (2), Braidwd (JBH); 4 Dec (4), Chau (RGB, SNB); 30 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 26 Nov, Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co) (DFS).

**Double-crested Cormorant**

EA: 15 Jul (25), IBSP (EWW). MC: 12,800, Carl.C, 25 Oct (KAM)--record fall high count; 5000, Carl.C, 9-18 Oct (DMK, MSS); 1903, Chau, 14 Oct (RGB, SNB); 1050, Rend L, 1 Nov (EWW); 830, Hennepin L, 9 Oct (DFS); 525, Braidwd, 2 Sep (JBH).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD**

4 Sep, Vermilion Co (MFC:ph).

**American Bittern**

EA: 17 Sep, Kankakee (JBH); 20 Sep, Montrose H (NAL). MC: 4, Guzy Pr, 11 Oct (TAM, TDF, RCF); 3, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 5 Oct (CCD, PPD); 3, Montrose H, 26 Oct (JDW). LD: 3 Nov, Whalon L FP (Will Co) (JAS); 26 Oct, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co) (CCD, PPD).

**Least Bittern**

LD: 18 Oct, Pike Co (EWW).

**Great Blue Heron**

MC: 300, HL, 3 Aug; 300, ECape Gir. (DMK, KAM, MSS); 226, American Bottoms (Monroe Co), 16 Aug (CCD, PPD).



*Cattle Egret at Lock and Dam No. 13, Whiteside County. Photo taken 9 November 2008 by Wes Serafin.*

*This is a late date for this species.*

*Four Roseate Spoonbills were documented in Union County 28 September 2009.*

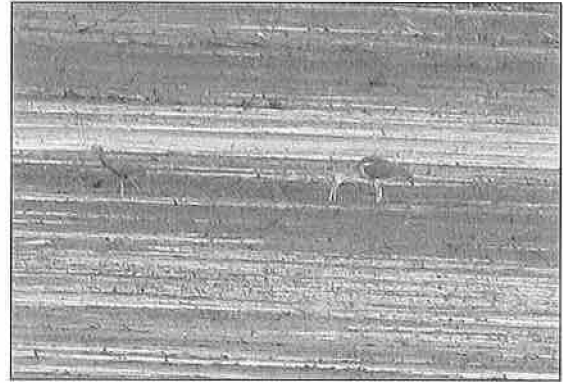
*Dan Kassebaum took this photo on 8 September 2008, when only one was reported.*





*Immature White Ibis at Horseshoe Lake, Madison County. 4 August 2008. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.*

*Swallow-tailed Kite, south of Carbondale in Jackson County was seen 23-25 August 2008. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.*



### Great Egret

**MC:** 5500, s. Jackson Co, 20 Sep (CAT, TLK)--**second highest fall count**. **LD:** 20 Nov, HL (FRH); 13 Nov (2) McGinniss Slough, Palos (CBT); 3 Nov (12), Spring L (Carroll Co) (CAT, TLK).

### Snowy Egret

**MC:** 275, ECape Gir., 20 Sep (TAM)--**record fall count**; 80, HL, 3 Aug (DMK, KAM, MSS); 16, Stump L (Calhoun Co), 3 Aug (EWW). **LD:** 26 Oct, Montrose H (JDW, VP)--**record late date for n. IL**; 13 Oct, Stump L (Calhoun Co) (KAM). **Others:** LCal, 24 Jul - 6 Sep (WJM, m.ob.).

### Little Blue Heron

**MC:** 850, HL, 3 Aug (FRH); 187 (111 ad.), wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 16 Aug (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 23 Oct, HL (FRH); 5 Oct, Kidd L M (CCD, PPD); 5 Oct (2), Two Rivers NWR (DMK, MSS).

### Cattle Egret

**MC:** 1480, Moredock L (Monroe Co), 17 Aug (EWW, WSS)--**record IL high count**; 400, Ware (Union Co), 5 Sep (DMK); 150, Madison Co, 7 Sep (FRH); 24, Chau, 12 Aug (RGB, SNB). **LD:** 9 Nov, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co) (EWW, WSS:ph); 23 Sep (5), St. Clair Co (TJD).

### Green Heron

**MC:** 23, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 10 Aug (CCD, PPD); 10, Braidwd, 27 Aug (JBH). **LD:** 16 Oct, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (St. Clair Co) (KAM); 15 Oct, Northerly I (CBT); 14 Oct, HL (FRH).

### Black-crowned Night-Heron

**MC:** 60, HL, 4 Aug (DMK, KAM, MSS).

### Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

**MC:** 4, Kidd L M, 9 Aug (TAM, DMK); 3, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 17 Aug (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 20 Sep, sw. Jackson Co (DFS); 17 Aug, LCal (UWG).

### WHITE IBIS

3-10 Aug (imm.), HL (FRH, JPZ, WMR:ph, DMK:ph, m.ob.); 6 Sep (imm.), ECape Gir. (KAM, MSS:ph, BAH, APS).

### Plegadis, sp?

31 Oct - 4 Nov, Spring L (Carroll Co) (AS, CAT:ph, TLK, JDC, DBJ, m.ob.)--reported as a White-faced Ibis; **16-22 Nov**, Thompson L (Fulton Co) (KBR, MJB, DJM, TRE).

### White-faced Ibis

**LD:** 30 Sep - 18 Oct (2+; 4 on 11 Oct), Two Rivers NWR (DMK:ph, MSS, JI, EWW). See also Plegadis, sp?

### ROSEATE SPOONBILL

5-28 Sep (1-4), Ware (Union Co) to s. Jackson Co and adjacent Missouri (DK, DMK:ph, RMR, KAM et al.).

### Black Vulture

**MC:** 6-10, s. Jackson Co, 26 Aug (SDB); 3, Kidd L M, 25 Aug (CCD, PPD).

### Turkey Vulture

**MC:** 111, Greene Vly FP, 10 Nov (REF, KDF); 70, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK); 40, s. Jackson Co, 29 Oct (KAM); 38, Alexander Co, 20 Sep (DFS).

### Osprey

**MC:** 12, IBSP, 5 Sep (IBHW); 7, Greene Vly FP, 9 Sep (REF); 5, Carl.C, 13 Sep (DMK); 4, Braidwd, 6 Sep (EWW). **LD:** 4 Nov, Whalon L FP (Will Co) (JAS); 30 Oct, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

### SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

23-25 Aug (2), s. of Carbondale (Jackson Co) (RMR, TAM:ph, m.ob.).

### Mississippi Kite

**MC:** 12, Union, Pulaski & Alexander Cos, 17 Aug (EWW, WSS); 7, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 24 Aug (TAM); 4 (breeding birds, 3 ad., 1 juv.), Rockford (Winnebago Co), through 1 Sep (DTW). **LD:** 3 Oct, **Greene Vly FP** (REF, KDF); 29 Sep (juv.), Rockford (**Winnebago Co**) (DTW); 17 Sep, Lake Forest (**Lake Co**) (JOS); 16 Sep, s. Jackson Co (JI); 15 Sep, Madison Co (FRH).



*Albino Red-tailed Hawk in Will County. 10 November 2008. Photo by Wes Serafin.*

*Peregrine Falcon at Montrose, Cook County. Photo taken 3 September 2008 by Steve Spitzer.*



### **Bald Eagle**

**MC:** 19, Chau, 26 Nov (RGB, SNB); 17, Port Byron (Rock Island Co), 9 Nov (EWW, WSS); 12, IBSP, 9 Nov (IBHW).

### **Northern Harrier**

**EA:** 4 Aug, Marion Co (RES); 17 Aug, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co) (CCD, PPD); 23 Aug, LCal (WJM). **MC:** 49, IBSP, 9 Nov (IBHW).

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

**EA:** 15 Aug, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (REF, KDF); 20 Aug, Momence (CAT, TLK); 22 Aug, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KAM). **MC:** 106, IBSP, 27 Oct (IBHW); 37, Greene Vly FP, 9 Oct (REF, KDF).

### **Cooper's Hawk**

**MC:** 13, IBSP, 9 Oct (IBHW).

### **Northern Goshawk**

**EA:** 25 Sep, Big R State Forest (Henderson Co) (MJB); 8 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 3, IBSP, 9 Oct (IBHW).

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

**MC:** 6, IBSP, 27 Oct (IBHW).

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

**EA:** 8 Aug, Braidwd (JBH). **MC:** 1695, Greene Vly FP, 17 Sep (REF, KDF). **LD:** 14 Nov, IBSP (IBHW). Very poor year at IBSP with only 24 for season (IBHW).

### **Swainson's Hawk**

**LD:** 25 Oct, Carl.C (\*CLH, \*DMK et al.); [20 Sep, Lake Co (no IORC documentation)].

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

**MC:** 275, IBSP, 27 Oct (IBHW); 80, Carl.C, 31 Oct (DMK, MSS)--record fall high count outside n. IL; 64, Greene Vly FP, 27 Oct (REF, KDF); 35 (in 30 minutes), Port Byron (Rock Island Co), 9 Nov (EWW, WSS).

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

**EA:** 9 Oct (2), IBSP (IBHW). **MC:** 40, IBSP, 9 Nov (IBHW)--second highest fall count.

### **Golden Eagle**

**EA:** 19 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 26 Oct, Calumet P, LCal (CAT, TLK); 26 Oct, IBSP (IBHW). **MC:** 5, IBSP, 9 Nov (IBHW); 3, IBSP, 27 Oct (IBHW); 3, Greene Vly FP, 15 Nov (REF, KDF); 2, Kidd L M, 25 Nov (CCD, PPD). **Others:** 8 Nov (juv.), Braidwd (JBH); 9 Nov, Port Byron (Rock Island Co) (EWW, WSS); 10 Nov, Kankakee (JBH); 13 Nov, Mackinaw Bluffs (MEF). Total of 10 for season (27 Oct - 19 Nov) at Greene Vly FP hawk watch and 11 (26 Oct - 9 Nov) at IBSP hawk watch.

### **American Kestrel**

**MC:** 16, Carl.C, 30 Nov (DMK, MSS).

### **Merlin**

**EA:** 18 Aug, Schuyler Co (LLH); 19 Aug, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 30, IBSP, 30 Sep (IBHW).

### **[GYRFALCON**

10 Nov, Lake Co.]

### **Peregrine Falcon**

**EA:** 16 Aug, Kidd L M (CCD, PPD). **MC:** 6, IBSP, 2 & 9 Oct (IBHW).

### **PRAIRIE FALCON**

**EA:** 9 Oct, PrRdg (\*RES); [9 Oct, Lake Co (no IORC documentation)].

### **Yellow Rail**

**EA/MC:** 10 Sep (2), PrRdg (Marion Co) (RES, CLH). **LD:** 27 Oct, PrRdg (RES); 7-12 Oct, Sauer Pr (MAM, APS, m.ob.).

### **[BLACK RAIL**

16 Aug, Fulton Co; 5 Oct, Monroe Co; 15-16 Oct, St. Clair Co.]

### **Virginia Rail**

**MC:** 3, Green R CA (Lee Co), 3 Sep (EWW). **LD:** 9 Nov, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH).



*American Avocet at Montrose,  
Cook County. 8 November 2008.  
Photo by Craig Thayer.*

*Illinois' first record of Mountain Plover  
occurred 13-18 September 2008  
at Momence Sod Farms in Kankakee County.  
Photo of Mountain Plover with Killdeer  
taken by Greg Neise on 18 September 2008.*



### **Sora**

**EA:** 4 Jul (summering?), Douglas-Hart NC (Coles Co) (DMt); 9 Aug, ECape Gir. (KAM, DMK, MSS). **MC:** 24, Green R CA (Lee Co), 3 Sep (EWW); 18, Whalon L (Will Co), 11 Oct (EWW); 8, Guzy Pr, 11 Oct (TAM, TDF, RCF); 7, Carson Slough (Whiteside Co), 28 Aug (DFS); 6, Spring L (Pike Co), 3 Sep (EWW). **LD:** 27 Oct, Grant P (DBJ); 26 Oct (2), wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co) (CCD, PPD); 23 Oct, Whalon L FP (Will Co) (JAS); 19 Oct, Oxville (Scott Co) (EWW).

### **Common Moorhen**

**MC:** 8, HL, 28 Aug - 1 Sep (FRH); 5 (family group), McGinnis Slough, Palos, 12 Aug (WSS). **LD:** 11 Nov (juv.), Linc.P (GN:ph); 7 Nov, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH)-first post-October records since 1995; 12 Oct (2), LCal (WJM); 5 Oct, L Decatur dredge ponds (TAM).

### **American Coot**

**MC:** 14,500, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co), 8 Nov (GAW); 3000, Carl.C, 23 Oct (DMK, MSS).

### **Sandhill Crane**

**EA:** 9 Sep (3), Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF). **MC:** 12,413, Greene Vly FP, 17 Nov (REF, KDF)--third highest IL count; 43, Edwards Co, 27 Nov (RES).

### **[WHOOPIING CRANE]**

21 Oct (3) Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF et al.); 16 Nov, Linc.P (SJH); 18 Nov (3), M.Arb. (CAT, TLK). These are all birds seen with migrating flocks of Sandhill Cranes. They are part of the still-unestablished reintroduction attempt in Wisconsin.]

### **Black-bellied Plover**

**EA:** 20 Jul (2), Montrose H (AAA). **MC:** 22, Momence, 19 Sep (JBH); 7 Rend L (Jefferson Co), 11 Oct (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 8 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

### **American Golden-Plover**

**EA:** 3 Jul, Sauer Pr (RAM); 12 Jul, Farina (Fayette Co) (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 250, Momence, 28 Sep (JBH). **LD:** 8 Oct, Montrose H (SGS); 5 Oct, Kidd L M (CCD, PPD); 2 Oct, Two Rivers NWR (DMK).

### **Semipalmated Plover**

**EA:** 19 Jul, LCal (WSS, WJM); 19 Jul, Dunham Township (McHenry Co) (EWW). **MC:** 20, Whitetail access, Carl.C, 22 Aug (KAM); 12, Kidd L M, 1 Sep (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 25 Oct, Ward Branch, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (KAM).

### **Piping Plover**

**EA:** 6-7 Sep, Carl.C (DMK:ph, KAM). **LD:** 19-26 Oct, Carl.C (DMK:ph, TAM:ph, m.ob.).

### **Killdeer**

**MC:** 1032, Momence, 30 Aug (JBH); 600, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (DMK, TAM); 420, McLean Co sod farms, 13 Aug (DEB); 385, Cooling Sod Farm (sw. Boone Co), 16 Aug (DFS).

### **MOUNTAIN PLOVER**

13-18 Sep, Momence (JBH:ph, DTW, \*GN, RLS)--**first IL record.**

### **Black-necked Stilt**

**MC:** 147 (including 112 at ECape Gir.), sw. IL, 17 Aug (EWW, WSS); 120, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (TAM, DMK)-**record IL high counts**; 24, Kidd L M, 1 Sep (CCD, PPD); 24, Emiquon Preserve (Fulton Co), 7 Aug (LLH). Unprecedented numbers this year from spring through fall. **LD:** 20 Sep (2), ECape Gir. (TAM); 15 Sep (3), Kidd L M (CCD, PPD)--second and third latest IL dates. **Others:** 1 Aug (2), Farina (Fayette Co) (EWW).

### **American Avocet**

**EA:** 29 Jul, Saganashkee Slough (CAT, m.ob.); 31 Jul, Braidwd (JBH). **MC:** 26, L Shelbyville (Shelby Co), 8 Nov (TAM); 23, Carl.C, 7 Sep (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 9 Nov, Montrose H (ABB, CAT, TLK); 8 Nov (2), Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

**MC:** 29, Chau, 1 Aug (RGB, SNB); 20, LCal, 16 Aug (WJM). **LD:** 24 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 4 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

**EA:** 3 Jul, Sauer Pr (RAM); 8 Jul, LCal (WJM). **MC:** 20, Carl.C, 2 Aug (DMK, MSS); 15, Putnam Co, 23 Aug (DFS); 15, Kane Co, 27 Jul (GAW). **LD:** 27 Sep, Momence (JBH).

**Greater Yellowlegs**

EA: 1 Jul, Monroe Co (KAM); 3 Jul, Braidwd (JBH). MC: 37, Kidd L M, 9 Sep (CCD, PPD). LD: 14 Nov (5), Chau (RGB, SNB).

**Willet**

EA: 27 Jun, Sangamon Co (HDB); 7 Jul (18), Alexander Co (KAM). MC: 20, Monroe Co, 22 Jul (WMR); 9, Montrose H, 23 Aug (RDH). LD: 20 Sep, Carl.L (KAM).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

EA: 27 Jun, Sangamon Co (HDB); 1 Jul, Wabash Co (CLH). MC: 100, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (KAM). LD: 29 Nov, Rend L (LS).

**Upland Sandpiper**

MC: 3, McLean Co sod farms, 13 Aug (DEB); 3, Momence, 5 Aug (JBH). LD: 18 Sep, PrRdg (Marion Co) (CLH).

**Whimbrel**

EA: 5 Aug, Montrose H (SBB). LD: 5 Sep, IBSP (CSF); 5 Sep, Montrose H (AAA).

**Hudsonian Godwit**

EA: 3 Sep, L Decatur dredge ponds (TAM). MC: 7, Momence, 19 Sep (JBH, MLR, APS, DBJ, m.ob.).

**Marbled Godwit**

EA: 17 Aug, Bakers L, Barrington (Cook Co) (KML, RE, AFS); 17-19 Aug, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). LD: 14 Sep, Momence (APS, m.ob.); 6-13 Sep, Union Co (BAH, EWW, KAM, m.ob.). **Others:** 23 Aug, Montrose H (RDH, KH:ph); 27 Aug - 5 Sep, ECape Gir. (REF, AAA, DJS, m.ob.)--possibly same as the Union Co bird.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

EA: 20 Jul, Montrose H (AAA). MC: 4, Rend L, 13 Sep (EWW); 3, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 10 Aug (CCD, PPD). LD: 30 Sep (3), Montrose H (MGG:ph).

**Red Knot**

EA: 6 Sep, Winthrop H (SJH:ph). LD: 7 Sep, Wauk. (JSS).

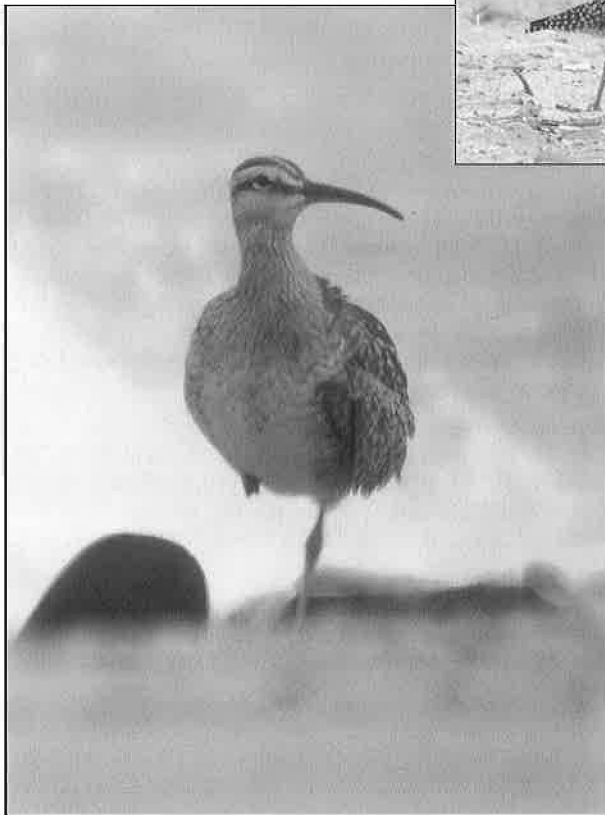
**Sanderling**

EA: 22 Jul (6), Wauk. (BJS). MC: 60, Montrose H, 5 Sep (RDH); 54, Winthrop H, 5 Sep (EWW). LD: 8 Nov (8), Bailey Wetland (Wayne Co) (CLH); 8 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

*Whimbrel in Lake County.  
5 September 2008.  
Photos by Carolyn Fields.*



*Marbled Godwit at Montrose,  
Cook County. 23 August 2008.  
Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.*



*A flock of Sanderlings at Montrose,  
Cook County. Photo taken 9 September  
2008 by Steve Spitzer.*

### Semipalmated Sandpiper

**EA:** 13 Jul, HL (FRH). **MC:** 68, Carl.L., 22 Aug (KAM). **LD:** 22-26 Nov, Rend L (LS, DMn)--record late date by nine days; of the seven November dates for this species published in the IL journals (first in 1987), evidently none have been documented.

### Western Sandpiper

**EA:** 9 Aug, Heidecke L (Grundy Co) (DFS); 9 Aug, ECape Gir. (DMK, KAM, TAM). **MC:** 10, Carl.C., 19 & 23 Aug (DMK, MSS); 2, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (DMK, KAM, TAM); 2, L Decatur dredge ponds, 23 & 28 Aug (TAM). **LD:** 8 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 13 Sep, Union Co CA (EWW); 13 Sep, ECape Gir. (EWW).

### Least Sandpiper

**EA:** 1 Jul, Montrose H (GAW); 2 Jul, Wabash Co (CLH). **MC:** 65, Carl.L., 1 Sep (KAM); 46, Kidd L M, 1 Sep (CCD, PPD); 45, LCal sewage plant, 23 Aug (WJM, CAS). **LD:** 3 Dec, Rend L (LS).

### White-rumped Sandpiper

**MC:** 9, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 4 Aug (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 28 Nov, Rend L (EWW)--record IL late date by two days.

### Baird's Sandpiper

**EA:** 28 Jul, La Salle L (La Salle Co) (MAM); 28 Jul (2), Montrose H (SGS). **MC:** 11, Kidd L M, 28 Aug (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 3-4 Dec, Montrose H (RDH, KH:ph et al.)--record IL late date by two days.

### Pectoral Sandpiper

**EA:** 27 Jun, Keensburg (Wabash Co) (CLH); 12 Jul, Farina (Fayette Co) (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 1200, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (KAM); 800, Carl.C., 17 Aug (DMK, MSS); 258, Kidd L M, 1 Sep (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 20 Nov, Stark Co (DFS); 15 Nov, Rend L (LS).

### Purple Sandpiper

6-20 Nov, Wauk. (MJB, CAT, BJM, JWL, m.ob.).

### Dunlin

**EA:** 22 Aug, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co) (CCD, PPD); 15 Sep, Momence (CAT, TLK); 25 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 40, Ward Branch, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 25 Oct (KAM); 25, Carl.C., 18 Oct (DMK).

### CURLEW SANDPIPER

23 Aug, Greene Vly FP (MAM, NAL:ph, m.ob.).

### Stilt Sandpiper

**EA:** 6 Jul, Wabash Co (CLH); 12 Jul, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 12 Jul (3), Farina (Fayette Co) (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 60, Carl.C., 19 Aug (DMK, MSS); 40, ECape Gir., 20 Sep (DFS); 21, Momence, 5 Aug (JBH). **LD:** 4 Nov, L Decatur dredge ponds (TAM); 31 Oct (3), Kidd L M (CCD, PPD).

### Buff-breasted Sandpiper

**EA:** 1 Aug, Santa Fe Bottoms (Clinton Co) (DMK, MSS); 16 Aug (7), HL (EWW, WSS). **MC:** 14, McLean Co sod farms, 13 Aug (DEB); 14, Momence, 8 Sep (JBH); 9, Cooling Sod Farm (sw. Boone Co), 23 Aug (DBJ, CL). **LD:** 27 Sep, Urb. (GSL); 21 Sep (3), Rend L (LS).

### Short-billed Dowitcher

**EA:** 4 Jul, Wabash Co (CLH); 7 Jul, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (JSS); 8 Jul (3), LCal (WJM). **MC:** 9, Greene Vly FP, 9 Jul (MAM). **LD:** 14 Sep (5), Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 11 Sep, Wauk. (JSS).

### Long-billed Dowitcher

**EA:** 24 Jul (2), Carl.C (DMK:ph); 27 Aug, Alexander Co (REF, KDF). **MC:** 32, Chau, 31 Oct (RGB, SNB); 28, L Decatur dredge ponds, 21 Oct (TAM); 16, Kidd L M, 31 Oct (CCD, PPD). **LD:** 14 Nov (3), Chau (RGB, SNB).



*Baird's Sandpiper at Montrose, Cook County. Photo taken 9 September 2008 by Steve Spitzer.*

*Photo at left, Curlew Sandpiper; right, at Greene Valley Forest Preserve, DuPage County. 23 August 2008. Photo by Nolan Lameka.*



**Wilson's Snipe**

**EA:** 1 Aug, Chau (RGB, SNB). **MC:** 86, Two Rivers NWR, 18 Oct (EWW).

**American Woodcock**

**EA:** 16 Oct, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 43 (found dead), Chi Loop, 9 Nov (CBCM, specs. to FMNH); 32 (found dead), Chi Loop, 10 Nov (CBCM, specs. to FMNH)--see Note. **LD:** 22 Nov, Edwards Co (RES); 21 Nov, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH). **Note:** Previous fall high counts of this species published in the seasonal summaries of the recent IL journals are largely based on sight records and peak at 8 birds (in 2004), except for a count of 20 at Urb. on 31 Oct 1992; these were flushed from a streambed in Meadowbrook P (James B. Nardi, pers. comm.). The account queried by Bohlen in his 1989 Birds of Illinois regarding a congregation of 200-300 Woodcocks "having a great time feeding" in November of 1944 is misleading, as the identification and quotations are not those of the author of the article (T.E. Musselman), but rather are contained in a letter written to him by "J.W. Summers, science teacher at the Griggsville High School."

**Wilson's Phalarope**

**EA:** 6 July, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (DRD et al.). **MC:** 4, Two Rivers NWR, 16 Aug (EWW, WSS); 4, Sauer Pr, 19 Jul (AAA). **LD:** 19 Sep, Momence (MLR).

**Red-necked Phalarope**

**EA:** 16 Aug, Two Rivers NWR (EWW, WSS); 22-23 Aug, Greene Vly FP (JAS, m.ob.). **MC:** 4, wetlands e. of Kidd (Monroe Co), 22 Aug (CCD, PPD); 3, s. Clinton Co, 20 Sep (KAM, IOS).

**Red Phalarope**

**EA:** 20 Sep, Carl.C (IOS, TAM:ph). **LD:** 12 Nov, Rend L (LS).

**Black-legged Kittiwake**

**MC:** 2, Gillson P, Wilmette (Lake Co), 30 Nov (AFS).

**Sabine's Gull**

**EA:** 9 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). **MC:** 3, Carl.C, 16 Sep (DMK, MSS).

**Bonaparte's Gull**

**EA:** 29 Jul (2), LCal (GAW). **MC:** 4000, Carl.C, 9-15 Nov (DMK, MSS); 2000, Rend L, 29 Nov (LS); 1700, L Shelbyville (Shelby/Moultrie Cos), 8 Nov (TAM).

**Laughing Gull**

**EA:** 4 Jul, Carl.C (DMK); 24 Jul, Linc.P (GAW). **MC:** 2, Carl.C, various dates, 8 Aug - 31 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS, et al.)--at least four individuals during season. **LD:** 23 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Franklin's Gull**

**EA:** 7 Sep, HL (FRH). **MC:** 156, L Decatur, 8 Nov (TAM); 110, Kankakee, 9 Nov (JBH); 50, L Shelbyville (Shelby/Moultrie Cos), 8 Nov (TAM); 45, n. Cook Co lakefront, 8 Nov (AFS); 40, Carl.C, 26 Oct (DMK, MSS); 36, Montrose H, 26 Oct (CBT). **LD:** 20 Nov, Montrose H (ABB).

**Ring-billed Gull**

**MC:** 4000, L Decatur (TAM); 3315, Linc.P, 13 Sep (GAW); 3000, Carl.C, 27-30 Nov (DMK, MSS); 2250, Winthrop H, 9 Aug (EWW).

**California Gull**

1-4 Nov (2<sup>nd</sup> yr), Wauk. (DMK, KAM, MSS); 8-22 Nov (ad.), Winthrop H (RDH, m.ob.); 16 Nov, IBSP (MF); 23-28 Nov (1<sup>st</sup> yr), Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Herring Gull**

**MC:** 3400, Winthrop H, 27 Nov (DFS).

**Thayer's Gull**

**EA:** 19 Sep (ad.), Winthrop H (CSF). **MC:** 5, Winthrop H, 8 Nov (RDH).

**Iceland Gull**

**EA:** 15 Nov (ad.), Winthrop H (AFS).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

**EA:** 5 Sep (ad.), Winthrop H (CSF); 12 Sep (1<sup>st</sup> yr), East Fork L (Richland Co) (CLH); 14 Sep (2<sup>nd</sup> yr), Carl.C (WCR); 11 Oct, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (TAM, TDF, RCF). **MC:** 5, Winthrop H, 22 Nov (DMK, MSS, APS); 2, Rend L, 22 Nov (LS, DMn).

**Glaucous Gull**

**EA:** 15 Nov (ad.), Winthrop H (DBJ, APS); 15-28 Nov (1<sup>st</sup> yr), Carl.C (DMK, MSS et al.); 20 Nov, Montrose H (GAW); 21 Nov (1<sup>st</sup> yr), Wauk. (EWW). **Others:** 30 Nov, Gillson P, Wilmette (Lake Co) (CAT); 30 Nov, Winthrop H (CAT).

**Great Black-backed Gull**

**EA:** 19 Sep, Winthrop H (CSF); 28 Sep, Wauk. (AFS); 30 Sep, Braidwd (JBH).

**Least Tern**

**MC:** 20, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (KAM, TAM, DMK); 15, Cowlin (Wabash Co), 10 Aug (CLH). **LD:** 7 Sep (2), Winthrop H (EWW); 7 Sep, s. Jackson Co (JAS, PAM).

**Caspian Tern**

**MC:** 94, Braidwd, 31 Jul (JBH); 44, Carl.C, 8 Aug (DMK, MSS); 25, L Decatur dredge ponds, 25 Aug (TAM); 25, Montrose H, 24 Jul (GAW). **LD:** 11 Oct, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (DMK, MSS).

**Black Tern**

**MC:** 200, Carl.C, 10 Sep (DMK, MSS); 86, Rend L, 14 Sep (MST). **LD:** 14 Sep (20), Momence (JBH); 14 Sep (60), Carl.C (DMK).

**Common Tern**

**EA:** 25 Jun, Sangamon Co (HDB); 25 Jul, LCal (WJM); 26 Jul, Winnebago Co (EWW, DTW, BCW). **MC:** 45, Northerly I, 30 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 26 Oct, Montrose H (JWL); 11 Oct (15), Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Forster's Tern**

**EA:** 28 Jun, Sangamon Co (HDB); 13 Jul (2), La Salle L (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC:** 80, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 11 Oct (DMK, MSS), and 29 still present, 15 Nov (LS). **LD:** 29 Nov, Rend L (LS).

**Jaeger, sp?**

30 Sep, Northerly I (DFS); 8 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**PARASITIC JAEGER**

7 Sep, Carl.C (\*KAM); 2 Nov, Carl.C (\*DMK, MSS, EWW).

**Rock Dove**

**MC:** 1320, w. Cook Co, 27 Nov (DFS)--record fall high count; 1000, Belleville (St. Clair Co), 2 Oct (TJD).



**Eurasian Collared-Dove**

MC: 23, Cerro Gordo (Piatt Co) (EWW); 22, New Athens (St. Clair Co), 20 Oct (TJD).

**Mourning Dove**

MC: 945, Joliet (Will Co) to Morris (Grundy Co), 15 Sep (DFS)--**record fall high count**; 400, Carl.C, 23 Aug (DMK, MSS).

**Monk Parakeet**

MC: 89, Burnham, LCal, 20 Nov (WJM); 71, JP, 27 Nov (PRC).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

MC: 6, Carl.C, 10 Aug (DMK, MSS); 4, Ldn-Mlr State Forest (Ogle Co), 2 Aug (DFS). LD: 24 Oct, Chi Loop (CBCM); 14 Oct, HL (FRH).

**Black-billed Cuckoo**

EA: 9 Jul (singing), JP (PRC); 15 Jul, Montrose H (RDH). MC: 5, Thatcher Wds FP (Cook Co), 1 Sep (JSA); 2, Les Arends FP (Kane Co), 29 Aug (DJS). LD: 4 Oct, Spoon R w. of Bradford (Stark Co) (DJM).

**Barn Owl**

6 Sep, Edwards Co (RES); 24 Sep, Edwards Co (RES); 23 Nov (found dead), Trenton (Clinton Co) (DMK, MSS).

**Eastern Screech-Owl**

MC: 4, Iroquois Co CA, 16 Sep (GAW); 2, Carroll Co, 1 Nov (CAT, TLK); 2, Edwards Co, 2 Aug (RES); 2, Ware (Union Co), 6 Sep (KAM); 2, various dates, 16 Aug - 26 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, KAM et al.).

**Great Horned Owl**

MC: 5, Braidwd, 4 Oct (JBH).

**Snowy Owl**

EA: 8 Nov, Gillson P, Wilmette (Lake Co) (BJS, AFS, DBJ, m.ob.); 9 Nov, Wauk. (AFS, DW, RE); MC: 2, De Kalb Co, 27-29 Nov (at least one remaining into December) (DJS, KML, m.ob.). Others: 14 Nov, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 16 Nov, Montrose H (ABB, KH:ph); 22 Nov (found dead), Jo Daviess Co (MF); 23 Nov into winter, La Salle Co (CKM, JDM, m.ob.); 30 Nov, Montrose H (ABB, m.ob.).

**BURROWING OWL**

29 Oct, Montrose H (RDH, BV:ph, m.ob.), killed by Cooper's Hawk.

**Barred Owl**

MC: 6, Clin.L, 26 Nov (EWW); 4, Iroquois Co CA, 16 Sep (GAW); 3, Crawford Co, 22 Aug (CAT, TLK).

**Long-eared Owl**

EA: 13 Nov, Mackinaw Bluffs (MEF); 20 Nov, Urb. (GSL).

**Short-eared Owl**

EA: 2 Oct, Montrose H (WSS); 10 Oct, JP (PRC, JN); 29 Oct, s. Jackson Co (KAM).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**

MC: 2, w. Franklin Co, 8 Nov (LS); 2, e. Franklin Co, 9 Nov (LS).

**Common Nighthawk**

MC: 1376, Kankakee, 6 Sep (JBH); "several hundred," Coles Co, 6 Sep (fide LBH); 200, Meadowbrook P, Urb., 12 Aug (RV); 185, Westchester (Cook Co), 2 Sep (DFS). LD: 23 Oct, Busey Wds, Urb. (CCAS, EJC).

Volume 18, Number 2

**Whip-poor-will**

LD: 28 Oct, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH)--second latest IL date.

**Chimney Swift**

MC: 600, L Decatur dredge ponds, 5 Oct (TAM); 535, LCal, 8 Oct (WJM); 311, Centralia (Marion Co), 4 Oct (RES). LD: 24 Oct (20), Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

MC: 60-90, West Frankfort (Franklin Co), 15-22 Sep (LS). LD: 29 Oct, Rockford (Winnebago Co) (DTW).

**Rufous Hummingbird**

3 Nov (imm. male), Glenview (Cook Co) (GL:ph).

**Belted Kingfisher**

EA: 12 Aug, JP (fide KMC); 17 Sep, Linc.P (NPBW). MC: 4, Kankakee, 26 Aug (JBH); 3, Alexander Co, 9 Aug (KAM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

EA: 1 Sep, Montrose H (MMC). MC: 8, Kankakee, 29 Aug (JBH). LD: 1 Nov, Montrose H (SJH).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

EA: 27 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). MC: 17, Kankakee SP, 23 Nov (JBH); 16, Carl.L, 1 Oct (KAM); 15, Sangchris L SP (Sangamon/Christian Cos), 1 Sep (CAT, TLK). LD: into Dec, Linc.P (m.ob.).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

EA: 16 Sep, Grant P (DBJ); 16 Sep, Montrose H (RDH); 20 Sep, IBSP (EWW); 27 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS). MC: 12, Grant P, 27 Sep (WSS); 12, Linc.P, 1 Oct (NPBW); 10, Chi Loop, 1 Oct (CBCM, specs. to FMNH).

**Downy Woodpecker**

MC: 21, Kankakee, 3 Sep (JBH); 18, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 12, Sangchris L SP (Sangamon/Christian Cos), 1 Sep (CAT, TLK).

**Hairy Woodpecker**

MC: 6, Salt Crk Wds, 28 Sep (DFS); 5, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS); 5, Mackinaw Bluffs, 15 Oct (MEF).

**Northern Flicker**

EA: 10 Aug, Linc.P (NPBW). MC: 26, Linc.P, 15 Oct (NPBW); 24, Kankakee, 24 Oct (JBH).

**Pileated Woodpecker**

MC: 5+, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 24 Aug (TAM).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

EA: 10 Aug, Salt Crk Wds (DFS). MC: 4, Marshall/Bureau Cos, 10 Sep (DFS). LD: 28 Sep, Montrose H (JHP); 25 Sep, Champaign (Champaign Co) (DLT); 20 Sep, Gallatin Co (DFS).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

MC: 34, Carl.C, 15 Sep (KAM); 20, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS). LD: 26 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 15 Oct, Linc.P (NPBW); 9 Oct, Wauk. (EWW); 9 Oct, Hennepin L (DFS).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

EA: 12 Aug, Grant P (DFS). MC: 2, Carl.L, 1 Sep (KAM). LD: 18-19 Oct, Montrose H (GAW, PKD, NAL:ph); 1 Oct, Carl.L (KAM); 24 Sep, Salt Crk Wds (DFS); 15 Sep, Chauncy Marsh (Lawrence Co) (CLH); 15 Sep, Bloomington (MJW).

**Acadian Flycatcher**

**MC:** 4, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS); 4, Alexander Co, 9 Aug (DMK, KAM, TAM). **LD:** 7 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 23 Aug, RedHills SP (Lawrence Co) (CAT, TLK).

**Alder Flycatcher**

**EA:** 18 Aug, Grant P (DFS). **LD:** 6 Sep, Carl.C (DMK).

**Willow Flycatcher**

**EA:** 10 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). **LD:** 1 Sep, Carl.C (KAM).

**Least Flycatcher**

**MC:** 4, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 4, Montrose H, 7, 9 Sep (GAW). **LD:** 1 Oct, Kankakee (JBH).

**Eastern Phoebe**

**EA:** 9 Sep, LCal (WJM); 17 Sep, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 6, Clay Co, 20 Sep (DFS); 6, Carl.C, 22 Aug & 15 Sep (KAM). **LD:** 14 Nov, Stark Co (TRE); 4 Nov, Kankakee (JBH); 28 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 27 Oct, Linc.P (NPBW).

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

**MC:** 6, Carl.C, 30 Aug (DMK, MSS); 3, Stephenson Co, 26 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 27 Sep, Douglas-Hart NC (Coles Co) (LBH, DMt).

**Western Kingbird**

30-31 Aug, IBSP (JS:ph,PS et. al), 5 Sep, Montrose H (GAW, DBJ, m.ob.).

**Eastern Kingbird**

**MC:** **80**, Carl.L, 22 Aug (KAM); 40, Carl.C, 8 Aug (DMK); 40, Bureau Co, 23 Aug (MJW); 33, Stark Co, 15 Aug (DFS). **LD:** **16 Oct**, Montrose H (KH)--other than an anomalous record from 9 Dec 1979, ties for record late date; 27 Sep, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

**Loggerhead Shrike**

**MC:** 4, Wayne/Hamilton Cos, 20 Sep (DFS); 4, Jasper Co, 27 Oct (RES).

**Northern Shrike**

**EA:** 21 Oct, IBSP (IBHW); 24 Oct, Glacial P (McHenry Co) (DC). **Others:** 30 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 5 Nov, Braidwd (JBH); 8 Nov, Afton FP (De Kalb Co) (EWW, WSS); 9 Nov, Evergreen L (Woodford Co) (MJW, BR); 9 Nov, **Sangamon Co** (HDB); 10 Nov, Sugar R FP (Winnebago Co) (EWW); 22 Nov, Spring L (Tazewell Co) (MJB, DJM); 15-30 Nov, Winthrop H (AFS, m.ob.).

**White-eyed Vireo**

**MC:** 12, Pomona Twp (Jackson Co), 9 Aug (KAM); 8, Carl.C, 15 Sep (KAM). **LD:** **24 Nov**, JP (\*PRC); 1 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

**Bell's Vireo**

**MC:** 4, Braidwd, 17 Aug & 2 Sep (JBH). **LD:** 7 Sep, Chicago Portage National Historic Site, Lyons (Cook Co) (JD).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

**EA:** 7 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 4, Salt Crk Wds, 10 Aug (DFS); 4, Carl.C, 31 Aug & 1 & 28 Sep (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 12 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 4 Oct, Mackinaw Bluffs (MEF).

**Blue-headed Vireo**

**EA:** 7 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 8, Carl.C, 11 Oct (DMK, MSS); 3, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 12 Oct (TJD). **LD:** 16 Nov, Kankakee (JBH).

**Warbling Vireo**

**MC:** 10, Carl.C, 6 Sep (DMK, MSS); 6, Stephenson Co, 26 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 27 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Philadelphia Vireo**

**EA:** 23 Aug, Hennepin L (DFS). **MC:** 5, Salt Crk Wds, 23 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 5 Oct (3), Salt Crk Wds (DFS).

**Red-eyed Vireo**

**MC:** 27, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 18 Oct, Kankakee (JBH).

**Blue Jay**

**MC:** 300, Carl.C, 27 Sep (DMK, MSS); 38, Grundy Co, 15 Sep (DFS).

**American Crow**

**MC:** 1190, Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co), 8 Nov (GAW).

**Fish Crow**

**MC:** 8, s. Clinton Co, 1 Sep (KAM); 6, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (DMK, TAM). **LD:** 13 Sep (many), Union Co CA (LLH); 13 Sep (9) Horseshoe L CA (Alexander Co) (EWW).

**Horned Lark**

**MC:** **600**, Carl.C, 30 Nov (DMK, MSS); 180, Momence, 16 Sep (JBH).

**Purple Martin**

**MC:** 670, Grundy Co, 9 Aug (DFS); 450, Braidwd, 2 Sep (JBH); 217, Alexander Co, 9 Aug (KAM). **LD:** 6 Sep (22), Grundy Co (DFS).

**Tree Swallow**

**MC:** 7000+, Two Rivers NWR, 13 Oct (KAM); 7000, Emiquon Preserve (Fulton Co), 16 Aug (EWW, WSS); 4000, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 22 Nov (2), Richland Co (RES).

**VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW**

14 Sep, Carl.C (\*DMK).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

**MC:** 776, Kankakee, 26 Aug (JBH); 485, Illinois R, Bureau (Bureau Co) to Lacon (Marshall Co), 10 Sep (DFS); 475, Randolph Co, 18 Aug (KAM); 470, Willard (Alexander Co), 2 Aug (EWW); 400, Two Rivers NWR, 11 Oct (MST); 232, Grundy Co, 6 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 24 Oct (2), Kankakee (JBH).

**Bank Swallow**

**MC:** 1615, Whiteside Co, 25 Jul (DFS); 570, ECape Gir., 9 Aug (KAM); 400, Carl.C, 14 Aug (DMK, MSS); 400, Two Rivers NWR, 16 Aug (EWW, WSS). **LD:** **22 Oct** (8), O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KAM); 16 Sep, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 15 Sep, HL (FRH); 14 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, TAM, MSS).

**Cliff Swallow**

**MC:** **2000**, Randolph Co, 18 Aug (KAM)--**record fall high count**; 200, Carl.C, 13 Sep (DMK, MSS); 47, Hennepin L, 23 Aug (DFS). **LD:** **16 Oct** (4), Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 11 Oct (6), Fulton (KAM).

**CAVE SWALLOW**

13 Sep (2+), Carl.C (DMK:ph, MSS:ph); 10 Nov, McCormick Place, Chi (DEW, MH, spec. to FMNH; specimen referable to subspecies pallida of American southwest); [11 Nov, IBSP (no IORC documentation)]; 15-16 Nov, East Fork L (Richland Co) (\*CLH, RES:ph). **First confirmed IL records.**

*Cave Swallow at East Fork Lake in Richland County. Photo taken by Bob Shelby on 16 November 2008.*

*This is the first photo of Cave Swallow taken in Illinois, and represents one of the first documented records for the state.*



#### **Barn Swallow**

**MC:** 800, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS); 160, Monroe Co, 18 Aug (KAM); 151, Boone Co, 16 Aug (DFS); 142, Mackinaw Bluffs, 15 Sep (MEF). **LD:** 2 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

#### **Carolina Chickadee**

**MC:** 30, Carl.C, 21 Sep (DMK, MSS).

#### **Black-capped Chickadee**

**MC:** 68, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 67, McHenry Co, 29 Nov (DFS); 46, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS).

#### **Tufted Titmouse**

**MC:** 30, Carl.C, 21 Sep (DMK, MSS); 17, Clay Co, 20 Sep (DFS); 14, Petersburg (Menard Co), 19 Oct (EWW).

#### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

**EA:** 7 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 29, M.Arb., 23 Nov (DFS).

#### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

**MC:** 20, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 18, Marshall Co, 10 Sep (DFS); 13, Carl.L, 15 Sep (KAM).

#### **Brown Creeper**

**EA:** 24 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 24, Chi Loop, 17 Oct (CBCM, specs. to FMNH); 15, Linc.P, 15 Oct (NPBW).

#### **Carolina Wren**

**MC:** 21, Rend L, 1 Nov (EWW)--record fall high count; 15, Carl.C, 15 Sep (KAM).

#### **[BEWICK'S WREN**

24 Aug, McLean Co.]

#### **House Wren**

**MC:** 23, Du Page Co, 13 Aug (DFS); 21, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 20 Oct (3), Kankakee (JBH); 18 Oct (2), Montrose H (GAW); 16 Oct, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH).

#### **Winter Wren**

**EA:** 20 Sep, Montrose H (LGM); 26 Sep, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 21, Linc.P, 18 Oct (GAW); 10, Chi Loop, 4 Oct (CBCM, specs. to FMNH); 9, Salt Crk Wds, 5 Oct (DFS).

#### **Sedge Wren**

**EA:** 21 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). **LD:** 12 Nov, Bloomington (MJW).

#### **Marsh Wren**

**EA:** 17 Sep, Montrose H (RMT).

#### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

**EA:** 16 Sep, Montrose H (RDH); 26 Sep, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 41, Grant P, 6 Oct (DFS).

#### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

**EA:** 11 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 40, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK, MSS); 27, Petersburg (Menard Co), 19 Oct (EWW).

#### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

**EA:** 6 Aug, Montrose H (RDH, ABB). **MC:** 12, Carl.C, 8 Aug (DMK, MSS); 10, Pomona Twp (Jackson Co), 9 Aug (KAM); 7, Salt Crk Wds, 31 Aug (DFS); 6, JP, 10 Aug (PRC).

#### **Eastern Bluebird**

**MC:** 26, Crabtree NC, Barrington (Cook Co), 24 Nov (CSF); 25, Hamilton Co, 20 Sep (DFS); 24, Pomona Twp (Jackson Co), 9 Aug (KAM).

#### **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**

31 Oct - 1 Nov, Montrose H (RDH, KH:ph, GAW:ph, GN:ph, m.ob.).

#### **Veery**

**MC:** 9, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS); 7, Bloomington, 14 Sep (MEF); 4, Chi Loop, 30 Aug (CBCM, specs. to FMNH). **LD:** 21 Sep, Montrose H (GAW); 17 Sep, Grant P (DFS).

#### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

**MC:** 7, Chi Loop, 21 Sep (CBCM, specs. to FMNH). **LD:** 5 Oct (2), Salt Crk Wds (DFS).

#### **Swainson's Thrush**

**MC:** 68, Grant P, 17 Sep (DFS); 58, Kankakee, 9 Sep (JBH); 54, LCal, 9 Sep (WJM); 46, Bloomington, 14 Sep (MEF).

#### **Hermit Thrush**

**EA:** 27 Sep, Boone Co (DFS); 30 Sep (4), Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 17, Linc.P, 15 Oct (NPBW); 13, Grant P, 2 Oct (DFS).

#### **Wood Thrush**

**EA:** 27 Jul, Montrose H (LGM)--record early (if true migrant) among scant published arrival data. **MC:** 4, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS). **LD:** 15 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 5 Oct, Salt Crk Wds (DFS).

**American Robin**

MC: 10,645 (roost), Palos, 4 Nov (WSS); 3955, Mackinaw Bluffs, 15 Nov (MEF); 2100, Kankakee, 9 Nov (JBH).

**Gray Catbird**

MC: 22, Will Co, 12 Sep (DFS). LD: 19 Dec, Grant P (JDW).

**Northern Mockingbird**

MC: 6, Wayne Co, 20 Sep (DFS); 4, Carl.C, 1-2 Aug (DMK, MSS).

**Brown Thrasher**

EA: 11 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). LD: 8 Dec, JP (PRC); 21 Nov, Grant P (DFS).

**European Starling**

MC: 1980, McLean Co, 21 Sep (DFS); 1720, Grant P, 24 Nov (DFS); 1200, Carl.C, 28 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**American Pipit**

EA: 5 Sep, Montrose H (GAW, DKA); 16 Sep, Momence (JBH). MC: 26, Momence, 21 Sep (JBH). LD: 7 Dec, Wauk. (EWW, m.ob.); 5 Dec, Momence (JBH); 4 Dec, Rend L (LS); 1 Dec, Linc.P (GN).

**[SPRAGUE'S PIPIT**

6 Oct, Kane Co.]

**Cedar Waxwing**

MC: 470, Kankakee, 24 Oct (JBH); 340, Shabbona L SP, 29 Sep (DFS).

**Blue-winged Warbler**

MC: 4, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS). LD: 25 Sep, Bloomington (MJW); 20 Sep, Douglas-Hart NC (Coles Co) (DMT). "Brewster's Warbler": 25 Sep (3), Parish (Franklin Co) (LS)--see Note; 21 Sep, Captain Daniel Wright FP (Lake Co) (AR). Note: The tally of 3 "Brewster's Warblers" (the genetically dominant Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid) in Franklin Co is remarkable, as this form is virtually unknown in s. IL (only one record in the seasonal summaries in the IL journals, 6 May 2006), and there are no previous counts statewide greater than one.

**Golden-winged Warbler**

EA: 2 Sep, McLaughrey Springs Wds FP (Cook Co) (BET). MC: 7, Bureau (Bureau Co) to Lacon (Marshall Co), 10 Sep (DFS); 4, Carl.C, 15 Sep (KAM). LD: 1 Oct, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (DMK); 25 Sep, Stark Co (DFS); 20 Sep, Mackinaw Bluffs (MJW).

**Tennessee Warbler**

EA: 31 Jul, Montrose H (RDH); 5 Aug, Hinsdale (Du Page Co) (DFS). MC: 40, Busey Wds, Urb., 21 Sep (GSL); 35, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS). LD: 19 Oct (2), Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 11 Oct, Goose L Pr SNA (Grundy Co) (EWW).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

EA: 24 Sep, Linc.P (NPBW); 28 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 28 Sep (2), Salt Crk Wds (DFS); 29 Sep, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH). MC: 6, Salt Crk Wds, 5 Oct (DFS). LD: 3 Dec, Grant P (DBJ).

**Nashville Warbler**

EA: 24 Aug, Salt Crk Wds (DFS). MC: 19, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 18, Chi Loop, 6 Sep (CBCM, specs. to FMNH);

15, Grant P, 16 Sep (DFS). LD: 11 Nov, Linc.P (GN:ph); 10 Nov, Kankakee (JBH); 30 Oct, Bird Haven (Richland Co) (CLH).

**Northern Parula**

EA: 31 Aug, Wadsworth FP, Wadsworth (Lake Co) (BJS). MC: 10, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS). LD: 13 Oct, Two Rivers NWR (KAM); 12 Oct (3), Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Yellow Warbler**

MC: 3, Carl.C, 16 Aug (DMK, MSS). LD: 16 Sep, Grant P (DFS).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

EA: 21 Aug, Kankakee (JBH); 25 Aug, Grant P (DFS); 26 Aug (2), Montrose H (KH). MC: 16, Carl.C, 7 Sep (DMK, MSS); 12, Busey Wds, Urb., 21 Sep (EJC); 11, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS). LD: 5 Oct, Salt Crk Wds (DFS).

**Magnolia Warbler**

EA: 8 Aug, Grant P (DFS)--second earliest IL arrival date; 24 Aug, Urb. (EJC). MC: 80, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS)--record fall count outside central IL; 55, Crystal L (Champaign Co), 21 Sep (GSL); 47, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 27, Mackinaw Bluffs, 20 Sep (MJW). LD: 15 Oct, Linc.P (NPBW); 5 Oct, Salt Crk Wds (DFS).

**Cape May Warbler**

EA: 23 Aug, Urb. (EJC); 24 Aug, Salt Crk Wds (DFS). MC: 20, Grant P, 17 Sep (DFS). LD: 2 Nov, Grant P (CBT).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

EA: 6 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). MC: 6, Chi Loop, 25 Sep (CBCM, specs. to FMNH). LD: 27 Nov (male), Grant P (GLS:ph)--record late departure by one day; 24 Nov (female), JP (\*PRC); 1 Nov (male), Bloomington (LA fide MEF); 12 Oct, Crystal L (Champaign Co) (EJC).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

EA: 16 Sep, Grant P (DFS); 21 Sep, Momence (JBH). MC: 386, Salt Crk Wds, 5 Oct (DFS); 225, Wauk., 9 Oct (EWW); 189, Kankakee, 5 Oct (JBH).

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

EA: 31 Aug, Salt Crk Wds (DFS). MC: 60, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS)--record high count for s. IL.

**[TOWNSEND'S WARBLER**

24 Nov, Will Co.]

**Blackburnian Warbler**

EA: 17 Aug, Montrose H (GN); 22 Aug, Kankakee (JBH); 24 Aug (3), Salt Crk Wds (DFS). MC: 7, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 4, Evergreen L (Woodford/McLean Cos), 17 Sep (MJW). LD: 13 Oct, Two Rivers NWR (KAM); 11 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 1 Oct, Rockford (Winnebago Co) (BCW).

**Yellow-throated Warbler**

MC: 8, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS); 3, Carl.C, 20 Sep (KAM). LD: 12 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MSS)--record late date for routine records (but note extralimital yellow-lored form on 11 Nov 1975 and a wholly anomalous Chi winter record, 11-16 Dec 1982); 17 Sep, Evergreen L (Woodford/McLean Cos) (MJW).

**Prairie Warbler**

**LD:** 13 Sep, Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (EWW); 27 Aug, Grant P (DBJ).

**Palm Warbler**

**EA:** 10 Aug, Highland Park (Lake Co) (DRD)--record early arrival by seven days; 30 Aug, Columbus P, Chi (EDG, EG). **MC:** 49, Grant P, 30 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 10 Nov, Garfield P, Chi (LGM).

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

**EA:** 16 Aug, Chicago Portage National Historic Site, Lyons (Cook Co) (JD). **MC:** 8, Carl.C, 21 Sep (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 6 Nov, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH); 6 Nov, Sangamon Co (HDB).

**Blackpoll Warbler**

**EA:** 27 Aug, Grant P (DFS); 30 Aug, Montrose H (SF). **MC:** 23, Grant P, 16 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 12 Oct, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH); 11 Oct, Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (ABA).

**Cerulean Warbler**

**LD:** 27 Sep, Parish (Franklin Co) (LS).

**Black-and-white Warbler**

**EA:** 1 Aug, Carl.C (DMK)--record early arrival outside ne. IL; 17 Aug, Lyman Wds FP (Du Page Co) (DFS). **MC:** 17, Chi Loop, 25 Sep (CBCM, specs. to FMNH); 16, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 25 Oct, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH).

**American Redstart**

**EA:** 7 Aug, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 150, Carl.C, 20 Sep (DMK, IOS)--ties for record fall high count; 68, Salt Crk Wds, 7 Sep (DFS); 35, Busey Wds, Urb., 21 Sep (GSL). **LD:** 12 Oct, Linc.P (GAW, CLW).

**Prothonotary Warbler**

**LD:** 15 Sep, Carl.C (KAM); 3 Sep, Linc.P (NPBW); 3 Sep, Two Rivers NWR (EWW, WSS).

**Worm-eating Warbler**

**MC:** 2, Pomona Twp (Jackson Co), 9 Aug (KAM)--first fall count greater than one. **LD:** 11 Oct, Gilbert Division, Two Rivers NWR (Jersey Co) (\*MST)--second latest IL date; 31 Aug, Alexander Co (AAA); 26 Aug, Carbondale (Jackson Co) (CLH).

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER**

**LD:** 27 Aug, near Thebes (Alexander Co) (REF, KDF, MAM, JAS)--present for weeks and photographed by DMK on 9 Aug.

**Ovenbird**

**EA:** 29 Aug, Montrose H (TFK). **MC:** 28, Chi Loop, 25 Sep (CBCM, specs. to FMNH); 12, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 19 Oct, McCormick Place, Chi (CAT, TLK).

**Northern Waterthrush**

**EA:** 29 Jul, NorthPark Village, Chi (MGG:ph). **MC:** 4, IBSP, 20 Sep (EWW). **LD:** 2 Dec, Linc.P (GN:ph).

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

**MC:** 2, Larue-Pine Hills Research Natural Area (Union Co), 9 Aug (KAM). **LD:** 20 Aug, Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (LBH).

**Kentucky Warbler**

**MC:** 2, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 8 Nov, Sangamon Co (HDB)--record late date by over a month (previously 6 Oct 1967).

**Connecticut Warbler**

**EA:** 24 Aug, IBSP (EWW); 30 Aug, Montrose H (SF); 1 Sep, Ewing P, Bloomington (TRE). **MC:** 5, Chi Loop (CBCM, specs. to FMNH). **LD:** 2 Oct, Chi Loop (CBCM, spec. to FMNH).

**Mourning Warbler**

**EA:** 26 Aug, Montrose H (KH). **MC:** 2, Grant P, 28 Aug (DBJ) & 16 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 30 Sep, Grant P (DFS); 27 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Common Yellowthroat**

**MC:** 14, Mackinaw Bluffs, 20 Sep (MJW); 11, Montrose H, 21 Sep (GAW). **LD:** 27 Nov, Clin.L (EWW).

**Hooded Warbler**

**LD:** 4 Oct (female), Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Wilson's Warbler**

**EA:** 24 Aug, Salt Crk Wds (DFS); 27 Aug (3), Linc.P (NPBW). **MC:** 9, Grant P, 11 Sep (DFS); 6, Mackinaw Bluffs, 20 Sep (MJW); 6, Carl.C, 7 Sep (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 6 Oct, HL (FRH); 27 Sep, Busey Wds, Urb. (EJC), 26 Sep, Grant P (DFS).

**Canada Warbler**

**EA:** 25 Aug, Grant P (DFS). **LD:** 25 Sep, Kankakee (JBH).

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

**LD:** 2-9 Oct, Grant P (DBJ); 27 Sep, Edwards Co (RES).

**Eastern Towhee**

**MC:** 25, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS); 19, Carl.C, 22 Aug (KAM). **Spotted x Eastern Towhee:** 27 Nov (male), Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**American Tree Sparrow**

**EA:** 19 Oct, Linc.P (GAW). **MC:** 57, McHenry Co, 29 Nov (DFS).

**Chipping Sparrow**

**MC:** 56, Ldn-Mlr, 2 Aug (DFS); 40, Carl.C, 11 Oct (DMK, MSS); 37, Clay Co, 20 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 18 Nov (4), Kankakee (JBH); 16 Nov, Decatur (TAM); 14 Nov (2), Grundy Co (DFS); 12 Nov, Beck L FP (Cook Co) (ABA); 11 Nov, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KAM); 5 Nov (4), Linc.P (NPBW).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

**MC:** 2, Montrose H, 20 Sep (GAW). **LD:** 8 Oct, Grant P (DBJ).

**Field Sparrow**

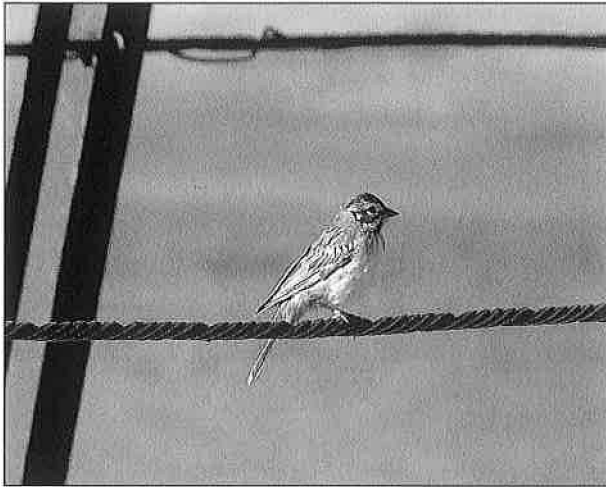
**MC:** 16, Grundy Co, 9 Aug (DFS); 11, Carl.C, 22 Aug (KAM).

**Vesper Sparrow**

**EA:** 5 Sep, Montrose H (DKA). **MC:** 24, Montgomery (Kane Co), 4 Oct (DFS). **LD:** 23 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**Lark Sparrow**

**LD:** 15 Aug, Stark Co (DFS).



*Lark Sparrow at Loyola Park,  
Cook County. 16 September 2008.  
Photo by Steve Spitzer.*

**Savannah Sparrow**

**MC:** hundreds, PrRdg, 14 Oct (CLH); 96, Montgomery (Kane Co), 4 Oct (DFS); 50, Big Sky Pr (private land, McLean Co), 12 Oct (MJW).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

**MC:** 8, Carl.C, 1 Aug (DMK)--record fall high count for s. IL; 4, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 25 Oct (DMK, IOS). **LD:** 26 Oct, HL (FRH).

**Henslow's Sparrow**

**EA:** 20 Sep, Montrose H (SF). **LD:** 26 Oct, Big Sky Pr (private land, McLean Co) (MJW); through Oct, PrRdg (CLH).

**Le Conte's Sparrow**

**EA:** 14 Sep, Carl.L (EWW); 27 Sep, Montrose H (AFS). **MC:** 15, HL, 19 Oct (FRH)--ties for fall high count.

**Nelson's Sparrow**

**EA:** 15 Sep, PrRdg (Marion Co) (CLH); 20 Sep, Montrose H (SF). **MC:** 5, Northerly I, 30 Sep (KKM); 4, Big Sky Pr (private land, McLean Co), 12 Oct (MJW); 3, Yorkville (Kendall Co), 11 Oct (EWW). **LD:** 18 Oct (2), near Victoria (Knox Co) (MJB, DJM); 15 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 13 Oct (2), PrRdg (CLH); 11 Oct, Guzy Pr (TAM, TDF, RCF).

**Fox Sparrow**

**EA:** 1 Oct, Linc.P (NPBW); 2 Oct, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 14, Chi Loop, 9 Nov (CBCM, specs. to FMNH).

**Song Sparrow**

**MC:** 34, Montgomery (Kane Co), 4 Oct (DFS); 30, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

**EA:** 16 Sep (3), Grant P (DFS); 20 Sep, Douglas-Hart NC (Coles Co) (DMT). **MC:** 16, Chi Loop, 21 Sep (CBCM, specs. to FMNH); 12, Grant P, 2 Oct (DFS). **LD:** 25 Nov, Grant P (DBJ).

**Swamp Sparrow**

**EA:** 20 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 80, Whalon L FP (Will Co), 11 Oct (EWW); 60, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK).

**White-throated Sparrow**

**EA:** 2 Sep (summering?), Olive P, Chi (DFS); 9 Sep, Grant P (DFS); 10 Sep, Linc.P (JHP); 28 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

**MC:** 334, Grant P, 7 Oct (DFS); 100, John M. Olin Nature Preserve, Godfrey (Madison Co), 19 Oct (MST).

**Harris's Sparrow**

**EA:** 16 Oct, McCormick Place, Chi (DEW, spec. to FMNH). **Others:** 14 Nov, McDonough Co (LLH).

**White-crowned Sparrow**

**EA:** 17 Sep, Grant P (DBJ); 19 Sep, Montrose H (RMT); 28 Sep, Fulton Co (LLH). **MC:** 200, Grant P, 2 Oct (WSS); 76, Montgomery (Kane Co), 4 Oct (DFS); 30, L Pittsfield (Pike Co), 19 Oct (EWW); 30, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK).

**Dark-eyed Junco**

**EA:** 25 Sep, Montrose H (SGS); 26 Sep, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 121, Whiteside Co, 26 Nov (DFS); 91, Kankakee, 9 Nov (JBH).

**Lapland Longspur**

**EA:** 28 Sep, Momence (JBH); 29 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 590, Greene Vly FP, 19 Oct (REF, KDF); 400, Carl.C, 28 & 30 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Snow Bunting**

**EA:** 17 Oct, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 150, Winthrop H, 10 Nov (DBJ, APS, MJB); 40, Montrose H, 28-29 Oct (RDH); 29, IBSP, 15 Nov (AFS).

**Summer Tanager**

**MC:** 6, Fults Hill Pr SNA (Monroe Co), 9 Aug (TAM, DMK); 4, Carl.C, 7 Sep (KAM). **LD:** 4 Oct, Crystal L (Champaign Co) (SK).

**Scarlet Tanager**

**MC:** 9, Bloomington, 14 Sep (MEF)--fall high count outside s. IL. **LD:** 1 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

**Northern Cardinal**

**MC:** 80, Carl.C, 27 Sep (DMK, MSS); 45, Whiteside Co, 29 Sep (DFS).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

**MC:** 22, Bloomington, 14 Sep (MEF). **LD:** 12 Nov, Linc.P (NPBW); 1 Nov, Fox Crk (Richland Co) (CLH).

**Blue Grosbeak**

**MC:** 6, Carl.C, 10 Aug (DMK, MSS); 6, Monroe Co, 22 Aug (DMK); 3, s. Jackson Co, 20 Sep (TAM); 3, Clay Co, 20 Sep (DFS).

**Indigo Bunting**

**MC:** 80, Carl.C, 2 Aug (DMK); 65, Mackinaw Bluffs, 20 Sep (MJW)--record fall high count outside s. IL; 53, Monroe Co, 18 Aug (KAM); 51, Hamilton Co, 20 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 26 Oct, Carl.C (DMK).

**Dickcissel**

**MC:** 40, Carl.C, 2 Aug (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 27 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 15 Oct, Knox Co (MJB); 10 Oct, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

**Bobolink**

**EA:** 31 Jul, Braidwd (JBH). **MC:** 26, Momence, 5 Sep

(JBH). **LD:** 15 Oct, Knox Co (MJB); 13 Oct, Two Rivers NWR (KAM); 8 Oct, Sauer Pr (REF, KDF).

**Red-winged Blackbird**

**MC:** 8000, Carl.C, 28 Nov (DMK, MSS); 6115, Grundy Co, 15 Nov (DFS); 1350, Braidwd, 17 Nov (JBH).

**Eastern Meadowlark**

**MC:** 35, Big Sky Pr (private land, McLean Co), 12 Oct (MJW); 30, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DMK); 18, L Pittsfield (Pike Co), 19 Oct (EWW).

**Western Meadowlark**

**LD:** 16 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 1 Nov, Homer L (Champaign Co) (MA); 19 Oct (singing), L Pittsfield (Pike Co) (EWW); 18 Oct, Knox Co (MJB, DJM).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

**LD:** 16 Oct (female), Knox Co (MJB); 16 Sep, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (RB); 15 Sep, Stark Co (TRE).

**Rusty Blackbird**

**EA:** 25 Sep (3), Montrose H (GAW); 28 Sep (11), Rockford (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 29 Sep (2), Rock Island Co (DFS). **MC:** 315, Grundy Co, 15 Nov (DFS).

**Brewer's Blackbird**

**EA:** 16 Sep (2), Momence (JBH). **MC:** 75, Carl.C, 9 Nov (DMK, MSS). **LD:** 15 Nov (3), Grundy Co (DFS).

**Common Grackle**

**MC:** 9850, Grundy Co, 15 Nov (DFS); 6250, Braidwd, 11 Sep (JBH); 3000, Carl.C, 9 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

**MC:** 1390, Jasper Co, 20 Sep (DFS); 975, Momence, 30 Aug (JBH); 680, Grundy Co, 15 Nov (DFS); 600, Clinton Co, 1 Oct (DMK, MSS).

**blackbird sp.**

**MC:** 33,000, Lebanon (St. Clair Co), 28 Nov (EWW).

**Orchard Oriole**

**MC:** 4, Emiquon Preserve (Fulton Co), 16 Aug (EWW, WSS). **LD:** 7 Sep, Kankakee (JBH); 7 Sep, Chicago Portage National Historic Site, Lyons (Cook Co) (JD); 6 Sep, Goose L Pr SNA (Grundy Co) (EWW).

**Baltimore Oriole**

**MC:** 18, Carl.C, 30 Aug (DMK, MSS); 13, Hennepin L, 23 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 21 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 15 Sep, Ewing P, Bloomington (MJW); 11 Sep, Kankakee (JBH).

**Purple Finch**

**MC:** 16, Kankakee, 12 Nov (JBH); 16, Carl.C, 30 Nov (DMK, MSS).

**House Finch**

**MC:** 54, Kankakee, 23 Nov (JBH); 50+, LCal sewage plant (WJM, JRG, ENSBC).



*Nelson's Sparrow at Sauer Family Prairie,  
Kane County. 12 October 2008.  
Photos by Wes Serafin.*



### Red Crossbill

EA: 16 Oct, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co) (MJH). MC: 12, Spoon L (Knox Co) (MJB); 6, IBSP, 9 Nov (AFS). Others: 9 Nov (3), Geneseo (Henry Co) (EWW, WSS); 28 Nov, Lake of the Wds FP (Champaign Co) (GSL).

### White-winged Crossbill

EA: 15 Nov (5), Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (DBJ, m.ob.); 17 Nov (5+), M.Arb. (DL). MC: "hundreds", Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co), 17 Nov (SDB, m.ob.); 102, IBSP, 22 Nov (DBJ, JSS, m.ob.)—see Note; 30, M.Arb., 23 Nov (DFS). Note: The IBSP tally of 102 is the highest concrete IL count for this species (previously 61 at Mundelein (Lake Co), 24 Nov 1989); the reference cited by Bohlen in his 1989 Birds of Illinois regarding an invasion in 1904 mentions "enormous flocks" but provides no figures.

### Common Redpoll

EA: 22 Oct, Linc.P (NPBW); 26 Oct, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 2 Nov, Chau (KBR). MC: 4+, Caldwell Wds FP (Cook Co), 14 Nov (ABA); 4, Northerly I, 22 Nov (PWD).

### Pine Siskin

EA: 4 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 25 Oct (10), Pyramid SP (Perry Co) (DMK, IOS). MC: 180, M.Arb., 23 Nov (DFS)—highest fall count since 1999; 37, Braidwd, 21 Oct (JBH).

### American Goldfinch

MC: 150, Grundy Co, 15 Sep (DFS); 125, Montrose H, 14 Sep (GAW); 110, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 25 Oct (KAM).

### Evening Grosbeak

MC: 7, Wauk., 17 Nov (AAA).

### House Sparrow

MC: 500, Carl.C, 16 Nov (DMK, MSS); 360, Grant P, 26 Sep (DFS); 292, Linc.P; 28 Aug (NPBW).

### Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: 30, Two Rivers NWR, 5 Oct (DMK, MSS).

—Douglas F. Stotz,  
Field Museum of Natural History  
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60605  
dstotz@fieldmuseum.org

**ABOUT OUR ADS AND AD RATES.**... The Illinois Ornithological Society accepts pertinent ads for publishing in *Meadowlark*. The rates and rules are as follows:

**Required materials:** Camera-ready copy and check payable to IOS should be sent to: Sheryl De Vore, 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060.

**Due dates:** No. 1 - Summer: February 1; No. 2 - Fall: May 1; No. 3 - Winter: August 1; No. 4 - Spring: November 1

**Rates PER ISSUE:** \$15 one-eighth page or equivalent of one business size card; \$30 one quarter page or equivalent of two business size cards; \$60 half page.

We reserve the right to accept or deny any ad, and to limit the space set aside for ads, which will be placed at the back of the journal.

The Illinois Ornithological Society gratefully acknowledges the following for their generous support, which helps us accomplish our mission of science, education and birding.

**Patron (\$2000)**  
Mary Ann Mahoney

**Sponsor (\$500+)**  
Ann Haverstock  
Sebastian T. Patti  
Marsha Steffen

**Supporting (\$100+):** Frank Bennett • Dale Birkenholz • Denis M. Bohm • David Brenner  
John Burke & Vicky Sroczyński • Marilyn F. Campbell • Paul R. Clyne • Robin N. Cronin  
Donald & Jackie Dann • Philip D. Doncheck • Bob & Karen Fisher • Ken Flesch  
Rick & Tracy Fox • Steven M. Freed, MD • Michael J. Hogg • Roger E. Hotham  
Rhetta Jack • R. David Johnson • Warren Jones • Dan Kassebaum • Anne Kotowski  
Marj Lundy & Jamie Godshalk • Travis Mahan • Brendan J. McCooey and family  
Keith A. McMullen • Alex & Marilyn Meloy • Patricia Miller • Wilbur & Baiba Rosenkranz  
Harriet W. Rylaarsdam • Bob & Marcia Shelby • Connie Smith • Douglas F. Stotz  
& Francie Muraski-Stotz • Peter S. Weber • Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Westcott  
Daniel & Barbara Williams • Geoffrey & Christine Williamson • John Wisnewski

**Contributing (\$50-\$99):** Jill Anderson • Steven D. Bailey • Richard Bjorklund • Joan Bruchman • Todd Bugg  
Florence Burek • Chicago Ornithological Society • David Cugier • Bill and Mary Kay De Baets • Rich DeCoster  
Tammy Devine • Sheryl DeVore • Al Dierkes • Jon J. Duerr • Thad R. Edmonds • Barbara C. Elftman  
Carolyn & Chuck Fields • Glenn Gabanski • Urs Geiser • Rob Gough • J. Patrick Graham • Willard A. Hartman  
Brian Herriot • Steve Hossler • L. Barrie Hunt • Glenn & Cindy Johnson • Janet Jokela • Anthony and Amy Jones  
Robert Karraker • Tom & Katie (Wolfley) Kelly • Arlene Koziol • Marcia Lonergan • Julie Long • Peter Lowther  
Karen Lund • Robert A. Montgomery • North Central Illinois Ornithological Society • Randy Nyboer • Helen M. Parker  
JoAnne Rittenberg • R. Sue Robert • Rev. Gregory S. Sakowicz • Rick Sanders • Darrell Shambaugh • Muriel Smith  
Anne Straight • Bill M. Strausberger • Wayne Svoboda • M. A. & M. S. Traylor • Tony Ward & family  
Ted Wolff • Ann B. Maine & Gordon C. Wood • John T. and Lynda L. Woodson • Ken Wysocki



## Send Seasonal Reports to:

### Winter Field Notes

Due by 7 March (1 Dec through 28 Feb)

Send to: Kelly McKay

420 First Ave., PO Box 452, Hampton, IL 61256-0452

E-mail: KellyJMcKay@aol.com

### Spring Field Notes

Due by 7 June (1 Mar through 31 May)

Send to: Geoffrey Williamson

4046 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60613

E-mail: geoffrey.williamson@comcast.net

### Breeding Season Field Notes

Due by 7 August (1 June through 31 July)

Send to: Steven D. Bailey

Illinois Natural History Survey

1816 South Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820

E-mail: sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu

### Fall Season Field Notes

Due by 7 December (1 Aug through 30 Nov)

Send to: Douglas Stotz

Conservation Ecologist/Ornithologist

Environmental and Conservation Programs

Field Museum of Natural History

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605

Email address: dstotz@fieldmuseum.org

## Submission Information

✔ We welcome manuscripts, photographs, and illustrations for possible publication in *Meadowlark*.

✔ Article topics include unusual bird sightings and nesting accounts, technical papers on bird research, and other articles such as bird finding guides and field identification tips. Joy of birding articles will be considered.

✔ Manuscripts should be typewritten or computer-generated, double spaced and on only one side of numbered pages. Please send two copies of your manuscript and make sure you keep another for yourself.

✔ We require a computer disc in Word or Word Perfect or an electronic file.

✔ We prefer clear black and white or color print photographs. Digital or electronic files (200-300 dpi.) are also acceptable.

✔ Include name, address, and day and night time phone numbers. Other pertinent information about your qualifications and background is also helpful.

✔ We reserve the right to review and edit articles according to style, grammar, accuracy, and readability.

Send articles, photographs, illustrations & inquiries to:

Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor

967 Braeburn, Mundelein, IL 60060

e-mail address: sheryl.devore@comcast.net



(1934-2008)

### • Duck Stamps •

plus sheetlets of special issue, U.S. flora and fauna stamps and most U.S. souvenir sheets

Vernon Kleen 1825 Clearview Drive  
217-787-3515 Springfield, IL 62704

Email: vkleen@comcast.net

The Best Prices – The Best Quality

## Support Meadowlark

Advertise Here!!

~ business card size ads ~  
only \$15 per issue



The Illinois Ornithological Society accepts pertinent ads for publishing in *Meadowlark*.

See advertising information on page 76.

## Outdoor Illinois

The magazine for every outdoor enthusiast!

Get the latest information on birding, hunting, fishing, camping and hiking, plus learn more about people and places of interest around the state and DNR's programs that protect and preserve the natural resources of Illinois.



1 Year - \$15 (12 issues)

2 Years - \$28  
(24 issues)

• 3 Years - \$41  
(36 issues)

Subscribe online at

[www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)

or by calling 1-800-720-3249 within Illinois,  
or (217) 782-7454 outside Illinois.

TTY (217) 782-9175





Townsend's Solitaire at Montrose,  
Cook County.  
31 October 2008.  
Photo by Greg Neise.