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Overall the Region's precipitation was 13 cm above average, making for the wettest fall since 1993. Aside from September's normal rainfall levels in Illinois, these rainy conditions persisted uniformly through the season. Shorebird concentrations did not occur, as lake levels were high and mudflats were scarce or absent altogether. Temperatures were slightly lower than typical during September and October, but November continued a pattern set over the past five years, with temperatures 3° F above normal, with many species lingering late into the season.

The fall migration had noteworthy passages, particularly inland, of loons and grebes, sea ducks, and several rare-but-regular gulls. A diverse selection of rarities was discovered, most notably the Region's first Black-chinned Hummingbird.

Abbreviations: Bev. Sh. (Beverly Shores, Porter, IN); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. IL); C.B.C.M. (Chicago Bird Collision Monitors); Chau. (Chautauqua N.W.R., IL); EP (Forest Preserve); G.P.F.W.A. (Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, Greene, IN); Horseshoe L. (Madison, IL); I.B.S.P. (Illinois Beach S.P., Lake, IL); L. Lemon (Monroe and Brown, IN); Mich. City (Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, IN); Miller (Miller Beach, Lake, IN); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago). Specimen material (*) deposited at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

WATERFOWL THROUGH QUAIL

A single Ross's Goose at Potato Creek S.P. 16 Sep and presumably the same bird at another St. Joseph location 24 Sep (RH) furnished Indiana's first Sep record ever. A nice showing of Tundra Swans occurred, with tallies of 63 in W. Lafayette, IN (EMH) and 50 at Herrick Lake EP, DuPage, IL (UWG), both 19 Nov. A strong showing of 6500 Gadwalls was at Horseshoe L. 5 Nov (FRH). Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal also passed through the Region in good numbers, the latter exemplified by a total of 9269 at Chau. 10 Nov (R&SB). A record-high fall total of 740 Northern Pintails was recorded on the Indiana lakefront, bolstered by a peak tally of 349 at Miller 4 Oct (KJB, PBG et al.). Impressively large totals of bay ducks included 24,000 Canvasbacks 19 Nov and 20,000 Lesser Scaup 15 Nov in Hancock, IL (AGD). Greater Scaup, on the other hand, did not arrive in numbers prior to the end of the period, with the season's peak just 11 at Saganashkee Slough, Cook, IL 29 Oct (WSS).

One of the highlights of the season occurred 10 Nov, when a first-year male King Eider was seen flying eastward past Miller (JM, TA, BB et al.). An ad. male Harlequin Duck

was in Chicago 14 Nov+ (DFS, m.ob.), and a female or imm. male was at Mich. City 18 Nov (PBG). As a group, scoters made a good showing this season, especially at inland locations. Nine Surf Scoters at Eagle Creek Park, Marion, IN 20 Oct (LP), 8 White-winged Scoters at Saganashkee Slough, Cook, IL 22 Oct (WJM et al.), and 7 Black Scoters on L. Lemon 11 Nov (DRW, J&SH) provided the top counts among numerous sightings away from L. Michigan. Nine inland Long-tailed Ducks were reported, including 3 on L. Lemon on the early date of 24 Oct (J&SH). Record fall congregations of Ruddy Ducks included 4103 at Clear L. and vicinity 22 Nov (R&SB) and 4000 in Hancock, IL 19 Nov (AGD).

A nice fall count of 71 Greater Prairie-Chickens 22 Nov at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Jasper, IL was encouraging for this local and threatened species (RES). Northern Bobwhites were reported in poor numbers except for refreshing counts of 38 at G.P.F.W.A. 27 Sep (LWS, BF), 37 in Jasper, IL 25 Sep (RES), and 29 in Edwards, IL 29 Nov (RES).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

It was an amazing fall for loons and grebes, as all of the regularly occurring species were recorded in exceptional numbers. An impressive total of 116 Red-throated Loons included 10 at Highland Park, IL 25 Nov (RDH) and at least 15 inland birds. The Region hosted 4 Pacific Loons, one at Carl. L. 29 Oct–12 Nov (DMK, KAM, m.ob.) and 3 from Indiana, all on L. Lemon. A massive flight of Common Loons occurred on 19 Nov: in the morning, 1038 were counted heading southward from Miller (TA), and in late afternoon, an Indiana record-high count of 5500 (more than doubling the previous high count) was made at L. Lemon (DRW).

Indiana's high count for Horned Grebe was also established this fall, with a phenomenal 1456 birds at various lakefront sites 9 Oct (JJM) forming part of the all-time lakefront high of 3326 birds for the season. Among 26 Red-necked Grebes were Indiana's earliest ever 3 Sep at Cane Ridge W.M.A. (G&LB), 3 or 4 at Saganashkee Slough, Cook, IL 22 Oct (REF et al.), and 3 on L. Michigan at Highland Park, IL 25 Nov (RDH). Six Eared Grebes at Hurshtown Res., Allen (JAH) represented Indiana's highest tally of the species in 50 years. An early Eared Grebe was detected 20 Sep at Horseshoe L. (KAM), while a lingering individual 4 Nov at Carl. L. was noteworthy (KAM, DMK, RDH et al.). Among 10 Western Grebes reported, 7 occurred inland, with one at Horseshoe L. lingering 28 Oct–29 Nov for many to enjoy (JPZ, FRH, m.ob.).

Numbers of American White Pelicans continue to grow in Illinois; 10,000 at Carl. L. 1 Oct (DMK) was a representative number. An Indiana Department of Natural Resources survey at Hovey L., Posey 5 Oct yielded a state record count of 4400 Double-crested Cormorants. Almost all wading birds were reported in above-average numbers in Indiana, including more than three times the average number of American Bitterns (21) and more than five times the average number of Least Bitterns (16). An exciting find was an imm. **Reddish Egret**, Indiana's 2nd, on the lakefront in Gary 9 Sep (ph. JKC). Remarkably, after not being seen for eight consecutive days, the bird appeared again at Miller 18 Sep (KJB, JK et al.). A Snowy Egret at L. Lemon 14 Oct (J&SH) furnished the first Oct record for Indiana in 50 years, and a Green Heron seen 14 Nov in Kankakee, IL (JBH) had also lingered quite late. An excellent tally of 49 Green Herons 25 Aug was made in Mason, IL (R&SB), while a notable concentration of 6 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was at L. Calumet 20 & 26 Aug (WJM).

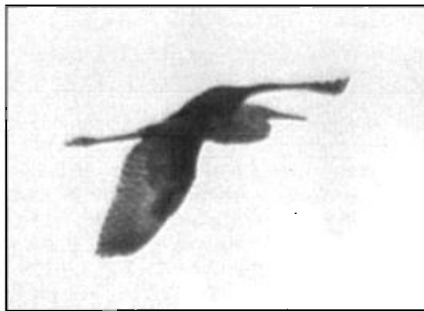
Good numbers of ibis were present in the Region. Up to 3 Glossy/White-faced were noted 20 Aug–3 Sep at Chau. (SDB, m.ob.), and 2 were there 8 Sep (R&SB). An ad. Glossy and an imm. White-faced Ibis were noted at Banner Marsh, Fulton, IL 28 Nov (JV, LM). Two White-faced were studied 19–22 Oct at Carl. L. (BH, DMK), where one remained through 23 Oct (KAM). Of 3 *Plegadis* seen at G.P.F.W.A. 5 Oct (LWS), one was still present 27 Nov (LWS), providing Indiana's first Nov record.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

A Mississippi Kite at Crab Orchard N.W.R. 18 Sep (LW) was notable, as this species is rarely observed past the end of Aug in the Region. The 54 Northern Harriers seen in Greene and

Sullivan, IN 18 Nov (LWS) were indicative of the Region's excellent fall flight for this species. The I.B.S.P. hawkwatch tallied 11 Northern Goshawks for the season, 7 of those on 28 Oct (VB). Some 1500 Broad-winged Hawks in Bloomington, IL 24 Sep was the only notable count reported (WH). Swainson's Hawk reports away from n. Illinois breeding territories included single birds 24 Sep (VB) and 22 Oct (DBJ, PWS) at I.B.S.P. and a juv. 15 Oct at Carl. L. (DMK, DJ, m.ob.).

A Yellow Rail found 15 Aug in Chicago (JN, ph. AP) provided just the 3rd Aug record for the Region—Illinois's earliest ever for fall and tying the Region's record-early date from 1885. Other Yellow Rails included 4 at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 10 Oct (RES) and single birds 1 Oct at I.B.S.P. (EWW) and 5 Oct in Chicago (C.B.C.M.). The season's 8th Yellow Rail was at G.P.F.W.A. 5 Oct (DW). The 17 Common Moorhens at G.P.F.W.A. 8 Sep (LWS) was a fine total for s. Indiana, and 3 near the Mississippi R. in Whiteside, IL 30 Oct (JDC) were rather late.



Furnishing a second state record was this immature Reddish Egret at Miller Beach, Lake County, Indiana 9 September 2006, discovered by the photographer. Photograph by John Cassidy.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

The nice Piping Plover flight that began in Jul continued, with 13 reports highlighted by 3 birds at Miller 3 Aug (JKC, KJB et al.). Standing out from scattered reports of mostly single birds were 9 American Avocets 15 Sep at Clear L. (R&SB) and 4 at Rend L. 1 Oct (LS). A late American Avocet was found at Cane Ridge W.M.A. 30 Oct (G&LB). A flock of 95 Willets seen at Mich. City 6 Aug (BJG, JG) highlighted a fine flight and provided Indiana's 5th highest single day count. Two Upland Sandpipers in Decatur, IL 11 Aug (KAM) were among just 3 reported. Similarly, observers noted only 3 Whimbrels, and godwits had a poor flight, with one report of Hudsonian and none for Marbled. That Regionwide reports included only 11 Ruddy Turnstones was disturbing.

This fall's sandpiper migration was generally poorer than usual. However, one bright spot was an all-time high fall count of 31

White-rumped Sandpipers for Indiana, including 19 at the "tomato patch" in s. Porter, IN 2 Sep (KJB, JKC, RJP et al.). Purple Sandpipers were sighted 2 (MAM, AFS), 8 (ph NL), & 12 Nov (RDH, ph. WSS) in Waukegan, IL, and another was at I.B.S.P. 26 Nov (JV). A Ruff at Chau. 8 Aug (SAC) was the season's only shorebird rarity. An excellent count of 15 Red-necked Phalaropes 25 Aug in Mason, IL (SDB) deserves mention while the Region's sole Red Phalarope was photographed at Miller 14 Oct (TA).

For the first time since 1999, more jaegers were reported in Nov than in either Sep or Oct. On 11 Nov, 2 juv. Pomarines were at Miller (EMH, JJM, KJB et al.), and another was at Mich. City (JBD et al.). Among 17 Parasitics reported, 3 were at Miller 9 Sep (MT, B&MB), and one that settled in at Heidecke L., Grundy, IL 19–25 Sep (SAC, CMA) was the Region's only inland jaeger. For the 8th straight fall, at least one Long-tailed Jaeger was recorded at the lakefront: Miller had an ad. 24 Sep (TA) and a very late juv. 28 Oct (JKC, KJB, JJM et al.). An excellent total of 6 Little Gulls was reported for the season, including 2 at Miller on both 11 (JKC et al.) & 17 Nov (JJM, AS et al.). Illinois hosted 2 California Gulls: a first-year bird at L. Decatur 29 Oct–11 Nov (ph. TAM) and an ad. at I.B.S.P. 18 Nov (DFS). Sizeable counts of 8 Thayer's Gulls 18 Nov at Winthrop Harbor, IL (RDH) and 3 Iceland Gulls 11 Nov near the Cook/Lake, IL line (GAW) were notable for being so early, and the 9 Lesser Black-backed Gulls 18 Nov at Winthrop Harbor (RDH) formed Illinois's largest fall concentration ever. Late Sabine's Gulls were recorded 10 Nov at Montrose (RDH) and the next day at Miller (DG). The Region was inundated with Black-legged Kittiwakes: the Indiana lakefront experienced a record fall migration, with an amazing 41 birds—nearly double the previous high of 22 from 1995. The best day occurred 16 Nov, when a state-record 16 were observed at Miller (KJB, JJM et al.). Three Black-legged Kittiwakes were found inland: 29 Oct in Allen, IN (JAH et al.), 11–12 Nov at Carl. L. (DMK, TAM), and 25 Nov at L. Shelbyville, IL (TAM). The Indiana lakefront's 6th ever Least Tern was recorded at Miller 3 Aug when an ad. flew past (ph. LH, KJB et al.). A Forster's Tern was tardy at Rend L., IL 25 Nov (LW).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove 1 Oct at I.B.S.P. (EWW) furnished the 2nd latest record for Illinois. The count of 21 Yellow-billed Cuckoos tallied 30 Aug in Hoosier N.F. (MC) was Indiana's 3rd highest. Among 5 Barn Owls reported were 2 road-killed birds 28 Oct and 17 Nov in Clinton, IL (BR). The season's only Snowy Owl was

at the East Chicago, IN lakefront 26 Nov (MO, PK). Short-eared Owls enjoyed an above-average fall season marked by 69 in *Greene* and *Sullivan* 18 Nov (LWS)—Indiana's 4th highest count ever—and a nice total of 35 at Carl. L. 25 Nov (DMK, CPA). A recently deceased Northern Saw-whet Owl found at Miller 28 Sep provided Indiana's first Sep record (PBG et al.). Two Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from s. Illinois: 24 Nov at Rend L. (LS) and 25 Nov at Carl. L. (DMK et al.).

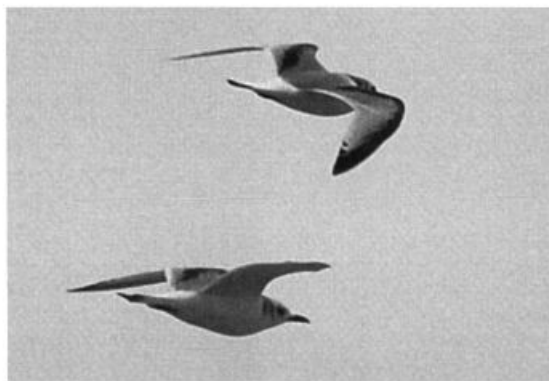
Common Nighthawks rebounded from their very poor 2005 migration, exemplified by 2000 at the Chicago Botanic Gardens 26 Aug (DRD). An excellent count of 2000 Chimney Swifts was made 20 Sep at Horse-shoe L., *Madison*, IL (KAM); the species was recorded extraordinarily late, with a single bird 9 Nov in Highland, IN (MT), and had a continuous presence in ne. Illinois until 10 Nov, when the last 2 were seen in Chicago (DFS). A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird in W. Lafayette 25 Nov (R&JN) established a new late date for the species in Indiana. A female *Archilochus* hummingbird that was mist-netted and initially identified as a Ruby-throated in *Gibson*, IN 29 Oct (F&FE) aroused suspicion, prompting its subsequent recapture and correct identification as the Region's first Black-chinned Hummingbird (DG, CH, m.ob.). At least 5 Rufous Hummingbirds graced the Region. Remaining the longest were a cooperative ad. male in W. Lafayette, IN 24 Sep+ (MA, m.ob.), an ad. male in Woodstock, IL 10 Oct+ (DWD, VMK), and an ad. female in w. *Monroe*, IN late Oct+ (C&NB, CH, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Five Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in Illinois, the latest 18 Sep from Jax. P. (PRC). An impressive showing of Eastern Wood-Pewees included 33 seen 11 Sep at Carl. L. (KAM). A very late, non-calling wood-pewee, presumably an Eastern, was found 2 Nov at the Marian College Ecolab, *Marion* (JC, GC et al.), providing Indiana's 2nd Nov record of the genus and the first since 1948. *Say's Phoebes* 22-23 Sep at I.B.S.P. (ph. MF, ph. SJH) and 24 Sep at Greene Valley EP, *DuPage* (REF, KDF) added to more than a dozen records for Illinois. Only one Western Kingbird was reported, a bird at Montrose 18 Sep (RDH). Eastern Kingbirds were seen in excellent numbers throughout the Region, with 155 the largest count, 25 Aug at Carl. L. (KAM).

A window-killed Northern Shrike 16 Oct in Chicago (*DEW) was the first of at least 23 to reach the Region. A Blue-headed Vireo

found in *Porter* 25 Nov (KJB, SRB, DS et al.) was the latest-ever fall bird for Indiana, and a Red-eyed Vireo in Bev. Sh. 7 Nov (KJB) was Indiana's 5th latest ever. A noteworthy count of 32 Red-breasted Nuthatches was made at the Morton Arboretum, *DuPage*, IL 12 Nov (DFS). In Chicago, the unfortunate demise of 37 window-killed Brown Creepers, coupled with an additional 54 stunned birds 5 Oct (*C.B.C.M.), provided a record-high fall count (91) for Illinois. Wren totals across the Region were above average. Nice counts included 21 Winter Wrens at Salt Creek EP, *Cook*, IL (DFS), 9 Marsh Wrens 22 Oct in *Franklin*, IL (LS), and Indiana's 2nd highest tally of 45 Marsh Wrens (the highest since



Two juvenile Black-legged Kittiwakes flying along Miller Beach, Lake County, Indiana 16 November 2006 (here) were part of a large kittiwake flight that included the state's first confirmed record of a bird in second-winter plumage on the same date; almost all state records are of "tarrocks" (juvenile/first-winter birds). Photograph by John Cassidy.

1916) at G.P.E.W.A. 3 Aug (LWS). A strong kinglet migration included the Indiana lakefront's first Aug record of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, established 25 Aug in Dune Acres (DN). *Catharus* thrushes were reported in fairly low numbers; however, 192 Swainson's Thrushes 18 Sep in *Kankakee*, IL (JBH) and 61 Hermit Thrushes at I.B.S.P. 1 Oct (EWW) were encouraging. A Wood Thrush 21 Oct in Chicago (SJH) was rather late for n. Illinois.

WARBLERS

For the most part, warblers were reported in above-average numbers, and individuals of many species lingered notably late. A new high Illinois fall count of 16 Golden-winged Warblers was set 9 Sep at Carl. L. (DMK), possibly the highest autumn count for any site. Indiana experienced record numbers of Northern Parulas (55) and double the fall average numbers of Yellow Warblers. Significant counts of 53 Magnolia Warblers 24 Sep and 51 Cape May Warblers 18 Sep occurred at Jax. P. (PRC). Indiana's all-time high daily count of Blackpoll Warblers was set 12 Sep, with 59 tallied in the *Lake* migrant traps (JKC, KJB).

Double the average fall numbers of Black-and-white Warblers in Indiana indicated their strong presence. Window casualties provided grim evidence of the movement of warblers through Chicago: 29 Ovenbirds 14 Sep were among 90 found there 14-21 Sep (*C.B.C.M.), and Chicago's season total of 32 window-killed Connecticut Warblers (*C.B.C.M., *DEW) included 6 on 30 Aug alone (*C.B.C.M.). Indiana's 36 Hooded Warblers was another all-time maximum for fall.

Notably late warblers included 2 Northern Parulas 15 Oct at Carl. L. (DMK); a Magnolia Warbler 6 Nov in *Cook* (DFS) that was record-late for n. Illinois; Cape May Warblers 13 Nov in Chicago (DBJ) and 4 Nov in e.

Monroe, IN (DRW); a Yellow-throated Warbler 31 Oct in *Warrick*, IN (JKi); and a Palm Warbler 22 Nov at Montrose (RDH). An imm. Bay-breasted Warbler 11-12 Nov in *Kankakee* (ph. JBH) was the latest for Illinois since 1987, while a Blackpoll Warbler in Chicago 15 Nov (†JV, LM) was Illinois's 3rd latest on record. An American Redstart noted 11 Nov in Crest Hill, IL (CMA) was the 3rd latest for Illinois, excluding winter records. A window-casualty Worm-eating Warbler in Chicago 29 Sep (*C.B.C.M.) provided the 2nd latest record for Illinois. An Ovenbird 21 Nov in Chicago (ph. ET) was Illinois's latest since 1996. A female Common Yellowthroat in Bev. Sh. 21 Nov (JJM) furnished the Indiana lakefront's latest fall

record. Late Canada Warblers included one 8 Oct at Eagle Creek Park, *Marion*, IN (TA) and another 7 Oct in Jax. P. (CMA). Aside from a handful of winter records, the Yellow-breasted Chat 20 Nov in Chicago (MLR, NLB) was the latest ever for Illinois.

Unusual warblers deserving mention were a male Lawrence's Warbler seen at Chain O' Lakes S.P., IN 29 Aug (JAH), a banded Kirtland's Warbler in e. *Benton* (JVw) that was the 2nd ever fall bird seen in Indiana, and a Yellow Palm Warbler observed 7 Nov in Chicago (DFS, TSS) that provided Illinois's 4th record of this subspecies.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The 3 Summer Tanagers seen on the Indiana lakefront marked the first fall ever that more than one was recorded there. A Western Tanager 22 Oct at Carl. L. (p.a., DMK) was quite a find; there is only one acceptably documented fall record for Illinois.

Overall, sparrow-watchers enjoyed a good fall season. The only Spotted Towhee was noted 23 Oct in *Cook* (DFS). A tardy Clay-colored Sparrow was reported 22-23 Oct at Carl. L.

(DMK, KAM). In *Kankakee*, IL, an exceptional count of 58 Vesper Sparrows was made 7 Oct (DFS). Seven Lark Sparrows at the Prairie Chicken Refuge, *Newton*, IN 5 Aug (BB) and 5 in *Adams*, IL 18 Aug (AGD) provided notable totals, and one 4 Sep at G.P.F.W.A. provided Indiana's first Sep record in 17 years. The best among several nice tallies of Savannah Sparrows consisted of 125 birds at G.P.F.W.A. 13 Oct (DRW). A lingering Grasshopper Sparrow was also at G.P.F.W.A. 26 Oct (LWS), providing Indiana's 8th latest fall record. It was a good fall in the Region for Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The impressive total of 26 Le Conte's Sparrows reported in Indiana was more than three times the seasonal average. A peak count of 3 Le Conte's occurred 15 Oct at Chicago's Northerly Island (RDH). Indiana's earliest-ever Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were 2 birds in *Hamilton* 31 Aug (LAB). At Lebanon Business Park, *Boone*, IN, up to 6 birds were seen 28 Sep-7 Oct (RLH, TA et al.), and 3 were found 15 Oct in *Winnebago*, IL (DTW). Further indicating a strong sparrow flight were counts of 115 Song Sparrows 7 Nov at G.P.F.W.A. (LWS, MC), 200 Swamp Sparrows 9 Oct in *Franklin*, IL (LS), 240 White-throated Sparrows 16 Oct in Chicago's Grant Park (DFS), and 166 White-crowned Sparrows 26 Oct, again at G.P.F.W.A. (LWS). Four reports of Harris's Sparrow were received from Illinois. The 750 Lapland Longspurs tallied 14 Nov in *DeKalb*, IL (DFS) were notable, as many reported the species as absent this season.

A Blue Grosbeak in *Kankakee* 1 Oct (JBH) was unusually late for a location in the n. third of Illinois. Also lingering were an Indigo Bunting 12 Nov at *Jax. P.* (PRC) and single Dickcissels 20 Oct at *Montrose* (GAW) and the next day at G.P.F.W.A. (J&SH). A high count of 209 Bobolinks was logged at G.P.F.W.A. 21 Sep (LWS, BF). Six Western Meadowlarks 24 Nov at *Carl. L.* were noteworthy (DMK, JWE). Indiana's 6th Nov Baltimore Oriole was an ad. male in *Elkhart* 12 Nov (TAr). Of the winter finches, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were in short supply, but there were good numbers of both Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls. The 13 Red Crossbills at *West Beach, Porter*, IN 2 Nov (AS, JJM, LP et al.) represented the 5th highest lakefront count and the highest daily count in the state in 26 years. Other crossbill reports included 13 Reds in *Waukegan*, IL 28 Oct (DFS) and single White-winged Crossbills seen 12 Nov at the Morton Arboretum, *DuPage*, IL (DFS) and at I.B.S.P. (EWW). A Regionwide total of 45 Common Redpolls was reported; the flight peaked 31 Oct, with 6 at *West Beach, Porter*, IN (JJM, PBG, BB) and

7 at Chicago's Northerly Island (DFS). A Hoary Redpoll (p.a., MAM, ph. RDH) was discovered at I.B.S.P. 25 Nov. There are only three accepted records of this species in Illinois. The report of 17 Pine Siskins 29 Oct (EWW), also at I.B.S.P., stood out in a season when they were quite scarce. The one report of Evening Grosbeaks this fall was of 4 at I.B.S.P. 26 Nov (EWW, m.ob.).

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