



Ross's Goose, an immature bird, at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, from November 19 to 29. Along with the great increase in Greater Snow Geese in recent decades has come an increase in Ross's Geese, at least in the middlewestern and eastern states. Photograph/David B. Johnson

Plains W.M.A., OH, Nov. 19–29 (BPj, JHa), one in Warren, KY, Nov. 27–29 (DR), and one at Hurshtown Res., IN, Nov. 29–Dec. 1 (Haw, †JMc, BE et al.). The Region's only Brant reports came from Ohio, where singles were seen Oct. 30 at Fairport Harbor (TKI) and in Geneva S.P. Nov. 8 (JPg).

The puddle and bay duck flight paralleled that of recent years; selected peak counts included: 11,763 Green-winged Teal at L. Chau. Nov. 12 (RBj, SBj), 86,500 N. Pintail at Swan L. N.W.R., MO, Oct. 29 (BO), and 4500 Ring-necked Ducks at S.C.R. Nov. 27 (MR). A highlight of the duck flight occurred on L. Michigan where an imm. male King Eider flew past Evanston, IL, with scaup Nov. 1 (†JE). An early Harlequin Duck arrived at Waukegan, IL, Oct. 8 (DJ, m. ob.); other reports included two on Indiana's Lakefront and two on L. Erie in Ohio. The remaining sea ducks staged a typical fall flight, with normal to above-average numbers on the Great Lakes and small to modest counts at various inland sites across the Region. Peak inland counts included four Surf Scoters at O'Fallon, IL, Oct. 9–13 (DKa, KMc), three ad. male White-winged Scoters at Rend L., IL, Nov. 13 (FBe), five Black Scoters at Charleston, IL, Nov. 19 (RBr), and nine Oldsquaw at Hurshtown Res., IN, Nov. 1 (Sockbridge Aud. Soc.). Ruddy Ducks were plentiful, with peak counts of 2300 at L. Chau. Oct. 22 (RBj, SBj), 1000 at L. Manawa, IA, Nov. 14 (BH), and 750 at Mogadore Res., OH, Nov. 2 (LRo).

It was a good fall for Osprey, with peak counts of 15 at Keokuk, IA, Sep. 1 (RCe) and seven at L. Villa, IL, Sep. 21 (RBi). Lingering Mississippi Kites were seen as follows: one at Rock Cut S.P., IL, Jul. 26–Aug.



Whooping Crane, an adult in flight over Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County, November 11: a lucky shot and the first Illinois record in 40 years! The Great Storm that swept so many Franklin's Gulls east of their normal routes also moved cranes and waterfowl. Photograph/Robert Hughes

16 (†DW, ph., m.ob.), two at Independence, MO, Aug. 29 (BF), an adult at Miller City, IL, Aug. 30 (FBe), and one in the Des Moines, IA breeding area until Sep. 9 (PW). A fine movement of 34 N. Harriers was logged at Chicago's Lincoln Park Nov. 12 (JL). N. Goshawks were scarce, with only nine reported across the entire Region. Migrating Broad-winged Hawks apparently circumnavigated the Region, as the peak daily count consisted of 140 at Harmon Reserve, IA, Sep. 15 (TS). A tardy Swainson's Hawk was still in Kane, IL, Sep. 7 (RM). A hefty 64 Merlins were scattered across all 6 states; the peak daily count consisted of 13 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Oct. 18 (DJ).

It was an unusually good fall for rails. Highlights included eight Yellow Rail reports from Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio, plus single Black Rails at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL, Oct. 9 (†DOI) and in Vermilion, IL (near last year's multiple sightings) Oct. 26 (†JSm). An ad. Purple Gallinule and one young were at the Mermet L. W.M.A., IL Illinois breeding site Aug. 9–14 (†FBe m. ob.), and a single Purple Gallinule was found in Springfield, MO, Nov. 8 (KJ). At the Jasper Pulaski W.M.A., IN, staging area, Sandhill Cranes peaked Nov. 25 with 15,800 (*vide* JCs). The mid-Nov. storm displaced unprecedented numbers of cranes into w. portions of the region. On Nov. 11 (day 2 of the storm), 540 Sandhills were counted at Hitchcock W.M.A., IA (B & LP), 340 were found in O'Brien, IA (DKe), 100 were observed in Clay, MO (JHo), and 54 were seen at S.C.R. (MRo). Even more remarkable was the appearance of **Whooping Cranes** among the teeming Sandhills. On Nov. 11 a single Whooper flew over Illinois

Beach S.P. (†RHu, †RE, ph.), providing Illinois first confirmed record since 1958. In addition, Iowa hunters provided two Whooping Crane reports on Nov. 11. In Brenner Co. †D. Dinnes and L. Brown observed the close flyby (40–50 ft overhead) of a flock of seven to eight Whoopers, and in Polk Co. (†J. Keys and C. Loreth) had a single bird land among their Snow Goose decoys.

SHOREBIRDS

Late-departing plovers included an Am. Golden-Plover at Rathbun Res., IA, until Nov. 29 (RCe) and a Semipalmated at Lost Island L., IL, Nov. 11 (MK). Piping Plovers were restricted to Illinois (7 reports) and Iowa (2 reports). **Black-necked Stilts** lingered into late Aug. in Illinois, with two adults and an immature in Jackson Aug. 21 (KMc), and two adults in Union Aug. 23 (FBe). A displaced Black-necked Stilt was seen periodically at the Big Pine Creek W.M.A., IN, during the period Aug. 8–18 (†FS, CS, TBr), where it provided that state's first fall record. Typical Am. Avocet numbers were reported, but several lingered well into Nov. Late departures included: a single bird at Ten Mile Pond, MO, until Nov. 23 (BA, m. ob.), five at L. Chau. Nov. 19 (RBj, SBj), and one at Runnells W.M.A., IA, until Nov. 14 (MP). Noteworthy large shorebird reports included an inland Whimbrel at Carl. L. Sep. 12 (†MD, †DBo, BDy, DKa), a Hudsonian Godwit at Big Pine Creek W.M.A., IN, Sep. 1 (BDu, TBr), and a Marbled Godwit at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Sep. 13–15 (MK, ABe, DP, JSi). The Red Knot flight was below average on the Great Lakes but better than normal at inland sites. The latter included singletons in Atchison, MO (DE, JHi), at St. Mary's Fish hatcheries, OH, Aug. 30 (DD), L. Chau. Sep. 24 (RBj, SBj), and two s.w. of Howard, IN, Aug. 22 (†RHe, CHe, BB, LC).

The peak Sanderling counts on the Great Lakes consisted of only 69 on L. Michigan and 38 on L. Erie; these numbers are disturbingly low. Other small shorebirds fared better, with 4994 Semipalmateds at L. Chau. Aug. 13 (RBj, SBj), 1060 Least at L. Chau. Sep. 3 (RBj, SBj), 4760 Pectorals at L. Chau. Aug. 27 (RBj, SBj), and 725 Dunlin at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, Nov. 1 (EPi et al.). Purple Sandpipers were reported at Waukegan, IL, Nov. 28 (ASt) and at Fairport Harbor, OH, Nov. 25 & 30 (PL). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were plentiful, with reports from all 6 states; peak counts included 135 at Red Rock Res., IA, Sep. 1 (ABe) and 30+ at L. Chau. Aug. 23 (RCh, m.

ob.). A juv. Ruff was identified at the Schneider Sod Farm, L., IN, Aug. 23 (†J. Philips, R. Rzepka), and a very late juvenile was detected at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Oct. 23 (†SDi). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported only in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, where the peak tally consisted of six at L. Cal. Aug. 17 (DSt). Red-necked Phalaropes were more plentiful than in recent years, with reports from every state except Kentucky. The peak count consisted of 16 at L. Chau Sep. 7 (MD, et al.). Single Red Phalaropes were scattered widely across the Region. Noteworthy records included an early arrival at H.B.S.P. Sep. 9 (LRO, KMt), one at Rend L., IL, Sep. 14 (FBe), one at Coralville Res., IA, Oct. 7 (†TK), and one Oct. 17–18 at Jonathan Creek, KY (R & BD, †HCh, MM, DR).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER

Parasitic Jaegers were identified only on the Great Lakes. Nine, including two adults at Michigan City Harbor on the late date of Nov. 7 (†JCD, JS), appeared along the Indiana Lakefront and two on the Ohio Lakefront. An imm. Long-tailed Jaeger, believed to have been in 2nd-basic plumage, was seen at H.B.S.P. Sep. 9 (†KMt, LRO). Unidentified jaeger reports included 17 along the Indiana Lakefront (mostly at Miller Beach), one on the Illinois Lakefront, plus an undocumented bird at Carl. L. Sep. 26 (DKa, I.O.S. field trip).

Little Gulls were unusually numerous on the Great Lakes, with six in Ohio, three in Indiana, and two in Illinois. Circumstantial evidence suggesting that Black-headed Gulls breed in Dickinson, IA, was garnered this fall when single birds were

reported at Spirit L., Oct. 11 & 15, plus two at that location Nov. 8 (†ET). The mild autumn apparently allowed many of the large gulls to remain n. of the Region, as only 14 Thayer's, one Iceland, and two Glaucous Gulls were reported. In contrast Lesser Black-backed Gulls were widespread, with reports from all 6 states, including one at Barkley Dam, KY, Sep. 25–Oct. 26 (HCh, DOB) and an adult at R.E.D.A. Nov. 8–13 (JMa, m. ob.). Fewer Sabine's Gulls were reported than in recent autumn flights; the final tally included seven in Illinois, three in Indiana, one in Iowa, and one in Ohio. The peak count was five at Carl. L. Sep. 19–20 (KMc, DKa, MD). Black-legged Kittiwakes were well represented this fall, with 16 birds reported across the 4 n. states. The peak count consisted of four juveniles at Miller Beach, IN, Nov. 17 (JMc, KB, EPo); inland reports included single juveniles at Port Neal, IA, Nov. 22 (BH) and Ottumwa, IA (ABe). Clearly the season's best gull was a 2nd-year/winter ad. **Ross's Gull** that appeared at H.B.S.P. Nov. 15, to provide Ohio's first record (†LRO, RHn, NB, †JPg, m. ob.).

It was a poor fall for the regularly occurring terns, with peak counts that were uniformly below normal. A **Black Skimmer** made a brief appearance at Decatur, IL, Sep. 4 (MD, †DBo, ph. m. ob.) to provide that state's first record.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Nesting Eurasian Collared-Doves successfully fledged two young Sep. 16 in Chicago's Montrose Point (JL), though concerns were expressed about purity of the parent's pedigrees (GW). Elsewhere, four were reported

SA About Sep. 2 a strange hummingbird appeared at the Des Moines, IA, feeder of Carole and Donald Stolz. Initially the bird was identified as a Buff-bellied Hummingbird and, after being placed on the rare bird alert, was observed by scores of birders (†TK, ph. m. ob.). Upon closer scrutiny it was noted that several characters did not fit Buff-bellied, raising the possibility that the bird might in fact be an exotic neotropical species. However, no one could locate any illustration that matched the bird until Mike Overton examined the photo of the Madera Canyon *Amazilia* Hummingbird published in *Field Notes* (52: 144). This photo was a perfect match for the Des Moines bird. Louis Bevier also examined the Iowa photos, concluding it was "probably nominate *Amazilia a. amazilia*, which is resident just to the north and south of Lima, Peru." Interestingly, Michael Patton (*FN* 52: 15) notes that *Amazilia* Hummingbird may be the most common hummingbird in captivity. Sure enough, a check of local aviaries revealed that an *Amazilia* Hummingbird had indeed escaped from the Des Moines Botanical Center in late summer. Mystery solved.

in Illinois, and the species was found at two locations in Iowa. A **White-winged Dove** visited a *Vermilion*, IL, feeding station Jul. 22 (JSm), continuing this species-expansion into the Region. Late breeding Barn Owls were reported as follows: five young were banded in Wayne, IA, in early Sep. (*vide* JD), two adults and two young were at Cypress Creek W.M.A. Oct. 19 & Nov. 1 (FBe), and a 2nd brood in Vigo, IN, Nov. 9 resulted in two dead chicks and one fledgling (*vide* JCs). For the first fall in more than 13 years Snowy Owls were not reported in the Region. The Region's only Burrowing Owl report consisted of an adult seen in Lyon, IA, Aug. 30 (D. Harr, *vide* JD).

Several correspondents commented about the scarcity of Com. Nighthawks; this fall the only significant movements reported consisted of 1000 in Urbana, IL, Sep. 21 (RCh), 639 in Evanston, IL, Aug. 20 (JE), and 200+ in one flock over St. Louis, MO, Sep. 20 (TBe). In keeping with the pattern established in recent years, the Region was peppered with *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, which were reported in every state except Iowa. Among these, the following were

SA The most widespread impact of the infamous mid-Nov. storm was a major eastward displacement of Franklin's Gulls. The stage was set in Oct. when migrant flocks began accumulating in Iowa as evidenced by the 60,000 reported at Rathbun Res. Oct. 11 (TJ). Westerly gale-force winds associated with the intense low-pressure center swept thousands of these prairie migrants well east of their normal flight corridor. Large numbers were deposited on L. Michigan where, as the winds abated, they funneled southward into Indiana. The encroachment began Nov. 11, when a record 66 Franklin's Gulls were counted on the Indiana Lakefront (CS et al.) plus an additional 42 scattered across downstate Indiana and another 35 at Horseshoe L., IL (FH). Also on Nov. 11 several hundred were reported migrating southward along L. Michigan's western shoreline in Berrien, MI. The following morning a watch on the Indiana Lakefront yielded 477 birds migrating westward past Miller Beach in 1.5 hours (KB). This total more than doubled the maximum daily count ever recorded in the Greater Chicago area. Numbers in Illinois peaked a few days later; 300 were seen on Clin. L. Nov. 14 (MRe), and 1000+ (perhaps double that) were in Kankakee Co. Nov. 16 (MH). These are phenomenal totals, as the previous Illinois maximum daily count was only 150 birds. Flight intensity decreased eastward; peak counts in Ohio included 28 at Grand L. (DD) and 15 at Carey (JHa), both on Nov. 14. Kentucky's largest tally consisted of 15 seen at Meldahl Dam Nov. 14 (LMc).

identified as Rufous: a male in Spfld. Nov. 7 through the period (DOh, DBo, ph.), an ad. female that appeared in Spfld. Nov. 23 but died (DBo, ph. *), a first-year male banded Nov. 24 near Cunningham, KY (†C. Slone & P. MacMillan), an ad. female Nov. 23 through the period, N. Perry, OH (†JPg, captured and measured). The remaining *Selasphorus* reports included birds near Denver, IN, in early Oct. (*vide* D. Muselman) and in Kirkwood, MO, Nov. 14–27 (AMc, JZ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Extralimital flycatcher reports included a Say's Phoebe at Fermilab, DuPage, IL, Nov. 28–29 (†RF, PK, m. ob.), an ad. male Vermillion Flycatcher at McKee Marsh, DuPage, IL (†HCo, †JSu, DBh, m. ob.), plus Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Batavia, IL, Aug. 4–16 (†AH, m. ob.) and in Monroe, IL, Aug. 3–9 (†DKa, †FBe, m. ob.). Nineteen N. Shrikes reported across the 4 n. states is typical for the Region. An estimated 20,000 Purple Martins at Chicago's Lincoln Park Aug. 1–16 (JL) is unprecedented; it exceeds the state's previous maximum by a factor of 2. The Region's peak swallow concentration occurred near Pershing S.P., MO, where about 800,000 birds, estimated to consist of 45% Tree, 40% Barn, 10% Rough-winged, 5% Cliff, and 5% Bank, were present Sep. 18–23 (D. Fitchett, T. Barksdale). Red-breasted Nuthatches were uniformly scarce across the Region. It was a banner fall for Golden-crowned Kinglets; daily counts near or above 100 were logged in all 4 n. states. A female **Mountain Bluebird** in Sangamon, IL, Nov. 4 (†DBo), provided one of few records for that state. Am. Pipits were unusually widespread and abundant, with good numbers reported in all 6 states. Once again diligent birders found Sprague's Pipits at Rosecrans Airport in n.w. MO; this year seven were located Oct. 9 (MRo, PD, CH). The Region's only Bohemian Waxwing was at Spirit L., IA, Nov. 21 (LS).

The warbler migration was remarkably early this fall. In Iowa 12 species registered their earliest arrival dates in the past 5 years (*vide* TK), in Indiana 9 species arrived on Aug. 19 (*vide* AB), an astonishingly early Nashville was logged in Chicago's Grant Park Aug. 5 (DSt), and an impressive 25 species were recorded in Chicago's Jackson Park Aug. 25 (PC). A Blue-winged Warbler was found at Bluff Woods W.M.A. Aug. 25 (JH₁), to provide n.w. Missouri's first fall record. Other noteworthy reports of the regular warblers included a late Black-

throated Blue at Mason City, IA, Nov. 11 (†E. Montgomery), 460 Palms in Chicago's Grant Park Sep. 16 (DSt), and a very tardy female Cerulean at H.B.S.P. Sep. 24 (LRo, RHn).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

The easternmost Spotted Towhee report was at Lakewood, OH, where it was observed Oct. 22–29 (LRo, †D & JH, ph.). A wayward Clay-colored Sparrow stopped by Warren, KY, Oct. 24 (DR), to provide one of few records for that state and a Lark Sparrow in Chicago's Lincoln Park Oct. 25–26 (JL, m. ob.) was unexpected. Le Conte's Sparrows were recorded in every state, including Ohio, where one was seen in *Cuyahoga* Oct. 30 (DKr, SZ). Similarly, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also plentiful, with multiple reports from every state except Kentucky. East of the Mississippi R. nine Harris's Sparrows were reported in Illinois, and two wandered e. to Ohio, where singles were in Greenville Oct. 17 (†J. MacKinzie) and Akron Oct. 4–29 (W. Stover). In Missouri, single Chestnut-collared Longspurs were reported at the Rosecrans Airport Oct. 9 (MRo, PD, CH) and near St. Joseph Oct. 31 (LL). Smith's Longspurs were exceptionally abundant this fall, with 100 in Kossuth, IA, Oct. 25 (†MK), 25 at the Rosecrans Airport, MO, Oct. 22 (MRo, LRI), and three at Sangamon L., IL, Nov. 24 (DBo).

Noteworthy blackbird reports included a Yellow-headed at Mentor, OH, Oct. 7 (JPg) and 200+ Brewer's in McHenry, IL, Nov. 11 (BG). The winter finch flight was nil; peak counts of normally common species included 15 Purple Finch and three Pine Siskins. Red Crossbills were reported in only 2 states, and a single White-winged was reported in the Region. Redpolls were restricted to single reports from Ohio and Illinois.

CORRIGENDUM

The imm. Golden Eagle at Leach W.M.A., MO, Feb. 21 (*FN* 52: 205) was seen Mar. 21.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): The following 124 individuals are cited in this report. An additional 100 observers contributed information to the various state lists but could not be personally acknowledged.

B. Allen, Susan Bagby, Bob Ballard, Nick Barber, Frank Bennett (FBe), Lisa Berger, Tory Berger (TBe), Rich Biss (RBI), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Sigurd Bjorklund (SBj), David Bohlen (DBo), Denis Bohm (DBh),

Ron Bradley (RBr), Tom Braille (TBr), Aaron Brees (ABe), Ken Brock, **Alan Bruner** (AB) (Indiana), **Fred Busroe** (FBU) (Kentucky), Lee Casebere, John Cassady (JCd), John Castrale (JCs), Robert Cecil (RCe), **Robert Chapel** (RCh) (Illinois), Hap Chambers (HCh), Paul Clynne, Hal Cohen (HCo), Myrna Deaton, Robert & Bonnie Dever (R & BD), James Dinsmore, Stephen Dinsmore (SDi), David Dister, Barney Dunning (BDu), Pete Dunne, Beckie Dyer (BDy), Dave Easterla, Josh Engel, Robert Erickson, Brad Etter, Bob Fisher (MO), Robert Fisher (IL), Brad Grover, Marianne Hahn, Joe Hammond (JHa), Ray Hannikman (RHn), Ann Haverstock, Jim Haw (Haw), Cloyce Hedge (CHe), Roger Hedge (RHe), Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), **Chris Hobbs** (CH) (Missouri), Dick & Jean Hoffman (D & JH), Joanne Holman (JHo), Frank Holmes, Robert Hughes (RHu), Bill Huser, Brad Jacobs, David Johnson, Kay Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Peter Kasper, Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Tom Kellerman (TKl), **Thomas H. Kent** (TK) (Iowa), Matthew Kenne, Darwin Koeng (DKo), David Kriska (DKr), Larry Lade, James Landing, Paula Lozano, Walter Marcisz, Jim Malone (JMa), Anne McCormack (AMc), Jeff McCoy (JMc), Paul McKenzie (PMc), Keith McMullen (KMc), Lee McNeely (LMc), Kevin Metcalf (KMt), Mike Miller, Robert Montgomery, V. Neill, Darrin O'Brien (DOb), Bridget Olson, Clark Olson, Daniel Olson (DOI), Dennis Oehmke (DOh), Doug Overacker (DOv), Babs and Loren Padelford (B & LP), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Lester Pannell, Bruce Peterjohn (BPj), Clell Peterson, Ed Pierce (EPi), John Pogacnik (JPg), Diane Porter, Ed Powers (EPo), Mark Proescholdt, Frank Renfrow, Michael Retter (MRe), Larry Rizzo (LRI), Mark Robbins (MRo), David Roemer, **Larry Rosche** (LRo) (Ohio), Florence Sanchez, Lee Schoenewe, Craig Seward, Jim Sinclair (JSi), Ed Schlabach, James Smith (JSm), Alan Stokie (ASt), Douglas Stotz (DSt), Tom Stone, Joe Suchecki (JSu), Ed Thelen, David Van Nest (DV), Phil Walsh, Dan Williams, Geoffrey Williamson, Helen Wuestenfield, Sean Zadar, Jim Ziebol.

Kenneth J. Brock, Dept. of Geosciences, Indiana University Northwest, 3400 Broadway, Gary, IN 46408, (e-mail: kebrock@ucs.indiana.edu)

