

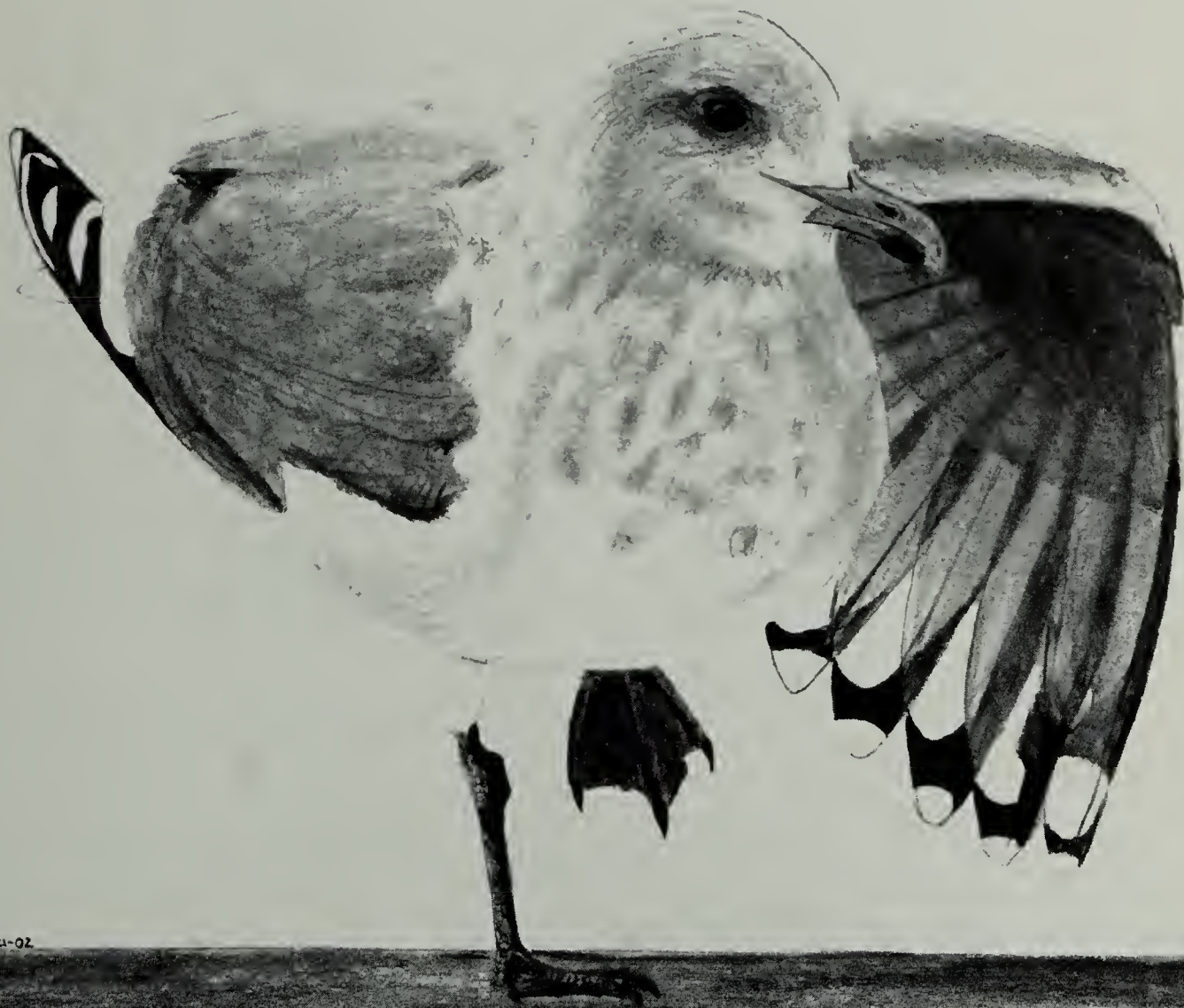
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Taking Time to Remember Bob Chapel

To our readers: We dedicate this issue of Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds to the memory of Robert Chapel, a birder we loved, respected, and enjoyed, and who gave so much to the Illinois birding community. Bob was the Field Notes Compiler for the Fall Season for the Illinois Ornithological Society since its inception 10 years ago. He wrote many fine articles for Meadowlark, served on the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, and appeared at nearly all the Society's field trips. The following article, which was published Nov. 6, 2002, is reproduced by permission of The Champaign-Urbana News Gazette. Permission does not imply endorsement of the paper.

by Tom Kacich



Everyone's life can be seen as a sort of jigsaw puzzle with different people, places and interests providing the pieces that make up the picture. The picture that was Bob Chapel's life was filled in unexpectedly, yet appropriately, on Monday evening (Nov. 4, 2002).

Unexpectedly because about 54 hours earlier Bob had been alive and vibrant, on his way to Clinton Lake to scout for a bird-watching field trip he was leading for the Illinois Ornithological Society and the Champaign County Audubon Society on Nov. 16.

Appropriately because, in a hasty memorial to Bob and his life, the bird-watchers met the archivists. The people who make up the two passions of Bob's life gathered in the cramped corridor of a building full of the dusty history of the University of Illinois, with the recorded sounds of birds filling the air.

There must have been 100 people at the UI's Archives Research Center and they all served to complete Bob's picture. For someone whose life ended so suddenly, so violently, so horribly, it was not so sad an occasion. It was the kind of farewell most of us say we want, with reflection and stories and laughter. There were tight throats and heavy hearts and unimpeded tears, but there also were poignant stories about Bob's childhood, funny tales about his love for birds and his zeal for identifying them, and kind-hearted tributes about his dedication to his job.

No one broached the awfulness of Bob's death, how he had pulled off to the side of westbound Interstate 74 near Farmer City on Saturday afternoon.

— continued on page 81

— continued from inside front cover

He was doing what many other area birders have done, said Beth Chato of Urbana. He was looking out over a borrow pit, a man-made lake, watching the birds.

According to police, another motorist, drunk and sleepy, slammed into the back of Bob's car. Machines kept Bob alive for more than 24 hours until his Aunt Nancy and Uncle Byron Chapel arrived from Michigan. Then it ended, Byron said, and doctors harvested the valuable tissue and life-saving organs from Bob's 55-year-old body.

The 46-year-old Peoria man implicated in Bob Chapel's death was charged Tuesday with two counts of reckless homicide and two counts of aggravated driving under the influence. He was being held in the DeWitt County Jail on \$30,000 bond. None of that was mentioned at the memorial service in the crowded hallway at the research center, the place where Bob spent his time when he wasn't above ground looking and listening for his beloved birds. Instead, Bob's friends and colleagues put the jigsaw puzzle pieces in place, and we all learned who the real Bob Chapel was.

I knew Bob as a library technical assistant at the UI archives. To me, he was the harried yet friendly man who could always answer a question about the university's history, or at least point me to a place where I could find it myself. Bob was the man who helped me discover the most compelling piece of UI history I know: that it was UI President Andrew Draper who brought squirrels to the campus about 100 years ago. More importantly, Bob was invaluable to Winton Solberg, the professor emeritus of history at the UI who has written two fine books on the early history of the university. At the service, Solberg told how Bob was such a purist about the archive's rules against eating and drinking that he would get a cup of coffee and leave it on a cabinet outside the room, striding 25 steps every so often for a sip.

But the best stories about Bob were the ones involving birds. His aunt told how when Bob was 4 or 5 years old she gave him a coloring book of birds. "Believe it or not, from then on he loved birds," she said. He was not a good cook and apparently not much of a homemaker. Touring his Urbana apartment, she said she found eight glasses, a plate, a toaster, a coffee pot and a pantry full of ... books about birds. Friends told about sloshing through lakes and streams with Bob, or taking long road trips all over the Midwest, some in sub-zero conditions, all in search of birds. Once he and a bird-watching friend spent the night in a broken-down car after a day of bird-watching, which only meant a morning of bird-watching awaited. And there were few who could beat Bob when it came to the annual bird count.

Bob died, binoculars in hand, looking over his birds. As a friend said, there are worse ways to go.

Tom Kacich is a News-Gazette editor and columnist. He can be reached at 217-351-5221 or at kacich@news-gazette.com.

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Articles

- More Than Just Birders: Illinois Volunteers Work to Save Habitat and Document Avian Population Trends 82
— Christine Williamson
- Regional Trends and Annual Variations in the Fall Migrations of Midwestern Birds 88
— L. Barrie Hunt and James B. Cope
- Gull Frolic — Photo Quiz 93
- American Robin Nests in Chicago Yard in December 94
— Jane C. Pedersen
- A Woodland Shorebird Winters in Southern Illinois 96
— Frank Bennett
- The Illinois 2001 Annual Christmas Bird Count 98
— David B. Johnson

Departments

- Field Notes: The 2001/2002 Winter Season 108
— Kelly McKay

About our cover

Michael L. P. Retter created the cover drawing of Thayer's Gull for this issue of *Meadowlark*. Michael is a frequent contributing artist and author for IOS. A longtime Illinois birder and field trip leader, Michael worked as an interpretive naturalist at Cape May Bird Observatory in Fall 2002.

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More Than Birders: Illinois Volunteers Work to Save Habitat and Document Avian Population Trends

by Christine Williamson

One man fits 90 hours of hawk watching at Concordia College and 150 hours at Illinois Beach State Park into one autumn while working full time and spending time with his wife and children. Another worked diligently to defeat the DuPage County Board's plan to create a boating lake on the last large grassland in the western suburbs. An executive sold the interest in his family company to work as hard on conservation issues as he ever did for money, spending time in board rooms, swapping corporate issues for non-profit concerns. A suburban woman has removed two-thirds of the turf in her garden and replaced it with native plants, while a Chicago man works to enhance the natural areas along the shores of Lake Michigan.

These are birders and they are volunteers, each enthusiastically sharing their knowledge and expertise with others.

Bird volunteerism is alive and well in every corner of Illinois. Christmas and Spring Bird Counts, the most popular of birder volunteer activities, are flourishing in the state, as are breeding bird surveys sponsored by the Bird Conservation Network, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and various counties, universities and research institutions.

But there's more.

Illinois birders are volunteering to:

- record the feeding behavior of Black-crowned Night-Herons that nest in the Lake Calumet region
- chart the nesting habits of Eastern Bluebirds
- observe bird-tree interaction during migration in Chicago
- collect ground truth for cutting edge Doppler radar studies of bird migration
- monitor birds at a natural area in a local forest preserve
- pull garlic mustard on habitat work days
- adopt a local classroom and help children learn to love birds
- advocate for the Lights Out! Campaign in Chicago and convince Chicago skyscraper landlords to turn off the lights at night during migration
- organize southern Illinois birding appreciation days to raise awareness
- help purchase habitat for birds.

Beyond the worthy volunteers who record every House Sparrow on Christmas Counts, staff bird seed sales, conduct excruciatingly early morning breeding bird surveys and go mad on Big Day Bird-a-thons, a class of birder

volunteer exists that has charged out the garden gate and into the jungle. Their passion is inspiring, and they are making or will make a big difference for birds that inhabit Illinois. In this article, we feature profiles of just a few of the volunteer birders making a difference in Illinois.

The Plant Manager

Terry Schilling is

known as the plant manager around Lincoln Park's Jarvis Bird Sanctuary, on Lake Michigan where Addison Street ends. Schilling has been birding at the fenced-in, Sanctuary wood lot since the 1970s. The Sanctuary is justifiably famous as a migration hot spot. Once a mini-arboretum maintained by Lincoln Park Zoo, the area was fenced when its caretakers went off to World War II and then became largely forgotten as far as maintenance went. Still, the combination of 70-year old trees and a variety of non-native spring bulbs and low bushes made the Sanctuary a favorite of neighborhood residents and migrant birds.

The lack of maintenance finally caught up with the Sanctuary. In 1998, the spring invasion of garlic mustard was so horrific that Schilling obtained a key to the gate from a person who shall remain nameless. He snuck in and by himself, pulled three bags-worth of the noxious weed from between the two ponds on the east side of the fenced area. "I thought I'd made pretty good progress," Schilling said. "And then I looked up. I saw an unbroken sea of gar-



Terry Schilling pauses during a work day at Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary in Chicago, where he volunteers managing the land to create a healthy habitat for neotropical migrants.

lic mustard all around me.”

Garlic mustard, a non-native plant, chokes native plants and reduces the diversity of the understory, making it more difficult for birds to successfully nest there.

But that was only the beginning of the story. When Charlotte Newfeld of the Lakeview Citizens Council began to contact birders about a problem with the water source for the two Sanctuary ponds, Schilling jumped aboard.

“At first, I was just another volunteer,” he said. The water source was repaired, but the citizens council group realized that base-line data was essential. Schilling, who had done a fair amount of habitat restoration work by this time, was asked to write a report about the general health of the Sanctuary and to make recommendations for improvements. A 10-year plan was created, along with one of the first community stewardship projects in a park on Chicago’s north side.

Schilling’s involvement from that time really blossomed. His 1998 report struck a cord with other volunteers and with the Chicago Park District, the Sanctuary’s owner. The modest proposal to remove buckthorn and other invasive plants, “things we could do with little to no money,” Schilling said, soon was expanded. The park district paid for many of the larger ticket projects recommended in the management plan, freeing up a grant from State Representative Sarah Feigenholtz to buy \$14,000 to purchase new plants. The fence around the Sanctuary was extended to include a small swale on the south that was forever muddy and a maintenance nightmare. A second grant of \$7,000 from the Park District and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will pay for more plantings that will be extended beyond the fence, blurring the line between Park and Sanctuary creating a buffer.

Volunteers staff the work days, planting, clearing brush, monitoring insects and birds, and anxiously watching the burgeoning project.

“What was interesting to me was the idea of doing something that would be a habitat enhancement specifically for birds,” said Schilling. The challenge, he said, is to know what habitat enhancements will work, because so much is still unknown in this field. “I knew what to do about a restoration, but this wasn’t that kind of project. I was presented with management issues of land that should be natural, but because of history or use, could not be restored. What do you do with land that has been so changed that it can’t be restored to its original condition?” he said. For example, the Sanctuary, now resting on a landfill historically was probably a sandy beach, he said.

Schilling is a purist when it comes to native plant restoration. He can trade Latin names and swap cultivation methods with the best, but in this case, “I was working with something that looked natural, but wasn’t really a functioning system. The goal is to make it more self-sustaining and to do things that would be good for birds. Or at least not bad.”

Because many flowering bulbs are popular with neighbors, they will remain part of the Sanctuary’s new mix of plants. Ditto: Trees not native to the Chicago

region. Schilling has compromised on a strict native plant model for the Sanctuary for political reasons, but the compromise won’t be bad for birds, since many avian species utilize the structure of some of the plants. “My basic philosophy is that if you have a healthy habitat, it will meet the needs of neotropical migrants,” Schilling said. “A woodland habitat benefits such birds, but you can’t ever really tell if it will attract more migrants. It’s a very small space, statistically insignificant, in terms of migrant bird habitat. All we can know is that it will offer food and shelter to the migrants that are in the area,” he said.

Hawk Watching: The Disease

Vic Berardi recognizes the classic symptoms of hawk watch fatigue. When few birds are in the air, the average birder starts talking, then starts fidgeting, then walks away for a while, and finally, drives off in her car. And just as she is leaving, raptors typically start flying, something Berardi has noted more than once.

Hawk watching takes patience above all else. And dedication.

“There’s a neat camaraderie at our hawk watch. Sure, people talk and joke around, but someone always has their eye on the sky. And at Illinois Beach, there is often a lot of idle time, waiting for hawks to start flying,” Berardi said. “I’m happy if I see one bird every five minutes.”

In the year 2000 alone, Berardi logged 90 hours of hawk watching at Concordia College, north of Milwaukee, and 150 hours at Illinois Beach State Park.

He got hooked on hawks after a fall trip to Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minn. He loved Hawk Ridge so much that he went straight to Concordia College the next weekend and then on to Lake Erie Metro Park near Detroit and Whitefish Point in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan that first fall season of hawk watching. He scouted out Illinois Beach State Park and Concordia for a couple of years, watching the weather, noting how and when hawks rode the wind before he posted a message on IBET in 2000 and asked for hawk watch volunteers at IBSP.

“I got tons of responses, but it really came down to about four regular hawk counters. Most of the hawk watches in the U.S. — 75% — are staffed by just two or three volunteers,” he said. That said, Janice and Paul Sweet, Berardi and Bill Wengelewski were often joined at the park by other hawk watchers to help when flights were heavy.

“People seem intimidated by hawk counting, like they’re afraid they’ll get identification wrong. But I just ask them to tell me when they see a bird and I’ll get on it,” Berardi said. “Everyone can make a contribution to the count.”

In 2000 at Illinois Beach State Park, hawks were counted on 67 days, for 309 hours and totaled 2,831 raptors. At Concordia in 2000, observers counted on 43 days for 202 hours for a total of 7,238 raptors. In 2001, volunteers counted 3,967 hawks at Illinois Beach State Park on 62 days for 319 hours. At Concordia, 3,017 birds were counted on 41 days during 177 hours in 2001. The Concordia count is staffed principally by Bill Coward, although

Berardi submits hawk watch data from both sites to the Hawk Migration Association of North America. While Berardi insists none of his data will have real validity until there is a 10-year record, he has been able to make some observations and adjustments to technique after just two seasons. For example, the count was conducted quite close to Lake Michigan in 2000 at Concordia College, and counters suspected that they were missing many fly-bys. The count site was moved slightly westward and counters discovered many more Merlins and Sharp-shinned Hawks flying just inland. The Merlin count in 2000 was 83. The Merlin count in 2001 rose to 195 individuals with just a slight shift in the position of the counters.

"The thing that's very significant about hawk watches on the western shore of Lake Michigan is that we see more Peregrines and Merlins than they do at Hawk Ridge, more than most sites away from the East Coast," Berardi said. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania counts more kestrels than IBSP or Concordia does, but no other inland site has as many large falcons, according to the first two years of data.

The IBSP hawk watch is conducted from about 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m., depending on day light and the day's flight. Despite staffing crunches here and there, Berardi said hawks were counted every single day at IBSP last fall except Sept. 11 and Illinois Beach State Park naturalist Bill Wengelewski was counting that fateful morning, until he was called back into his office for security reasons.

"The thing about hawk watching is the challenge," said Berardi. "We have a fun time trying to call birds that are really, really far out there. We were watching what we thought was an Osprey for the longest time. Paul Sweet kept insisting it was an Osprey and I agreed as it gradually came nearer. We watched and watched until finally Paul said, 'Well, your Osprey just turned into an immature Bald Eagle' as it flew over our heads. You just never know what's coming. You never know what's going to happen."

For more on the hawk watch at Illinois Beach State Park, see *Meadowlark* 11:56-58.

Renaissance Bird Conservationist Cuts a Deal With the Navy

It's possible to take a good thing to extremes and still do good work. That's exactly what Donald Dann has done. He retired five and a half years ago from a very successful family insurance company to concentrate on conservation, particularly, bird conservation. Dann serves on the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy in Illinois, chairing several committees. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of The American Bird Conservancy, serves as the treasurer of this national organization and is active in its campaign to reduce bird predation by domestic cats. He is a member of the Birder's Exchange Advisory Board for Manomet Center for Envi-

ronmental Studies. He is a Director of Chicago Audubon Society, serves as an advisor on environmental committees for Congressman Mark Kirk and State Representative Karen May, and is vice president and a founding light of Illinois' Bird Conservation Network. Educating children also is a priority for Dann and he is a volunteer naturalist at Ryerson Conservation Area in Lake County, where he teaches vast numbers of school children who visit the nature center and woods along the Des Plaines River.

While Dann admits to spending as much time in boardrooms as a volunteer as he did as a businessman, "only now I do it for psychic pay," he does not spend all of his time indoors. Dann is a bird monitor on several breeding bird survey routes in northwest Indiana and north central Illinois. He conducts breeding bird censuses at two sites in Lake County and one habitat analysis site for the BCN, and has been a marsh monitor at the Des Plaines River Wadsworth Wetlands Demonstration Project.

But the one project of many that really lights up Dann from within is his shorebird survey work for Manomet Bird Observatory. The shorebird survey is conducted all over the U.S. from 1 April to 10 June and from 1 July to 31 October. Sites are surveyed at least every 10 days. Dann had been monitoring the U.S. Post Office Ponds near O'Hare Airport until high water and hydrology problems deterred shorebirds from using the site.

But a new shore birding site has completely captured Dann's attention: Great Lakes Naval Air Base in Lake County. With American Avocets, Curlew Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, and summering Arctic Terns, the attraction is hardly surprising. Dann is focusing his atten-



Donald Dann has started a new "volunteer" career in birds and conservation. Here he holds an immature Common Tern at Great Lakes Naval Training Base where he volunteers to help protect the habitat for this state-endangered species.

tion, however, on the need to protect the Illinois-endangered breeding Common Terns, which use a sandbar in the harbor of the Naval Base. The site is the only last nesting spot left for this species in Illinois. The summer of 2001, some 20 pairs of Common Terns nested at Great Lakes, but not one fledgling survived due to predation. An electric fence and other measures added by the Navy and approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources were not enough to deter marauding rodents, fox, and raccoons.

In 2002, Dann worked closely with the Navy and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to better protect the nesting terns and to remove invasive non-native species from their nesting area. The Navy is extremely eager to protect these birds and to improve the habitat. They want to be able to share the data and show off their good stewardship, Dann said. He has received special permission to conduct his shorebird survey for Manomet at Great Lakes, despite extremely limited public access to the base because of security concerns. "I love doing this. It's really fun and I get to further conservation at the same time. What could be better?" he said.

One thing, perhaps. Dann's conservation mantra is to raise public consciousness, over and over and over again. "People don't care about wildlife, about conservation. We need to make them care, to understand the consequences of their actions," he said.

Dann's recommendation for a birding volunteer who wants to make the most use of their conservation time bank is direct activism. Get involved with the politicians who control so much of what impacts the environment, impact their votes and elect responsible candidates, he said. See a future issue of *Meadowlark* for an article by Donald Dann and Brad Semel on the progress of the Common Terns at Great Lakes Naval Base.

Land Becomes a Mission: Isolation in the Center of Naperville

Illinois Ornithological Society Board member Joe Suhecki was just a birder when he got the first call from a local activist about a local grassland in Naperville that was slated to become a lake. One of the last high-quality streams in DuPage County was to be dammed to create a boater's paradise.

"Vicki Shinn told me about all the great birds at this site — Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers — which I didn't even know were present at what is now Springbrook Prairie," said Suhecki. "I went to visit the place and it was amazing! I got curious about the site and started to get interested in its preservation as a grassland. It becomes a mission for you to do something about a site, to make sure it's protected and that the habitat is appropriate for birds," he said.

Suhecki started to conduct breeding bird surveys and found good numbers of Bobolinks, rare nesters in Illinois, and fair numbers of other grassland birds. His survey data was used to help convince the DuPage County Board to change its mind about creating Dragon Lake and instead, develop a management plan for an 1,800-acre grassland known today as Springbrook Prairie.

"Though most of the fields had been farmed, as you moved through them, you saw different birds and habitat variance. Your interest in the site is also helped along when you find really rare birds — Cinnamon Teal, Lark Sparrow, Peregrine Falcons, and most recently, Black Rail," said Suhecki.

Once he witnessed the grassland bird activity at Springbrook Prairie, it became obvious to Suhecki that restoration work and habitat management were really necessary to remove invasive species and to plant native species. Results were swift: Brush clearing on a few hundred acres brought back grassland birds such as Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrow and Bobolinks the very next year.

"It's very gratifying to see that what you're doing is really working. Land — it just becomes a passion. You want to be out there all the time and just want to do more and more," Suhecki said. Living five minutes away makes breeding bird censuses very easy for Suhecki. It ties him even more closely to this parcel and has made him an advocate for what was once a very little-used forest preserve. Back in 1993 and 1994 when Suhecki first visited Springbrook, he hardly saw anyone else. Northern Harriers still nested there in 1996, but have not been present during the breeding season since then due to increased recreational use.

"You can destroy a site by loving it too much," Suhecki said. "My goal is to maintain Springbrook as great habitat for birds. But it's extremely vulnerable. Demand for recreation space in a place like Naperville is very high. We did a great job getting the master plan for the site changed, but all it takes is a majority vote of



Among his many volunteer activities to help birds, Joe Suhecki has served on the Illinois Ornithological Society Board and has chaired the Board's Annual Meeting Committee.

the Forest Preserve District Board to change that," Suhecki said.

Springbrook Prairie has natural rolling hills with a stream flowing through it. "When you are down in the stream valley, you cannot see any human interference," he said. "You can imagine what the prairie really looked like.

It's like you're in wilderness, right in the middle of Naperville."

That feeling of isolation and a passion for bird conservation has kept Suchecki hard at work for nearly a decade, protecting Springbrook Prairie.

Habitat Host Trains Others to Plant for Wildlife

Leslie Cummings discovered wildlife gardening completely by accident. She is an editor of a trade publication, and a National Wildlife Federation folder addressed to a long-gone editor happened to land on her desk. The folder was filled with information about National Wildlife Federation's habitat steward program and focused on the use of native plants in gardens. Her curiosity piqued, Cummings read everything she could about native plant gardening. She took out two-thirds of the turf in her one-quarter acre Berwyn garden and began to plant native grasses and flowering forbs. She added a bird bath and later, several smaller water sources at different heights for birds. The water sources attracted a lot more migrant birds — warblers, vireos

and sparrows — than she had seen prior to converting her garden. So far, she's seen 35 bird species in her tiny Berwyn garden and 10 species of butterflies, not to mention countless spiders, beetles, and other microfauna.

"I got an immediate return on my investment in terms of helping birds get through the winter and in terms of less maintenance on my garden. You just can't compare native plants to cultivated plants when it comes to attracting wildlife. When I see a bird sipping from a cup plant or winter juncos on my hyssop or finches on the prairie coneflower, it's just great," Cummings said.

The positive reaction of neighbors who stopped to admire her garden over the fence was a catalyst. Its low maintenance and wildlife attraction qualities were popular with her local audience and Cummings soon realized she wanted to share her enthusiasm and educate even more people. She studied native plants and landscaping as part of National Wildlife Federation's six-month distance learning program that trains volunteers to become Habitat Steward Hosts. The program trains the trainer



In autumn, seeds from purple coneflowers and other native plants in Leslie Cummings' backyard attract goldfinches and other birds.



Leslie Cummings stands in front of her backyard habitat for birds.

who then becomes a teacher of local habitat stewards around the U.S. The goal is to widen the knowledge base about native plant gardening.

Cummings trained six eager volunteers in her first seminar who are now certified habitat stewards. Cummings herself assisted the Berwyn YMCA in planning and planting a native garden and each of her steward trainees also adopted a public garden project. The National Wildlife Federation encourages stewards to plant their gardens in public places, like schools, parks and around municipal buildings, to further public education about native plants.

"My real goal in training habitat stewards is education. I want to share the beauty and ease of my native garden with others and show them how they can benefit wildlife, too. I've affected a lot of people already," she said.

Cummings is about to embark on an even more ambitious native garden at her new home in Wheaton. The yard is huge and borders on the Illinois Prairie Path and she is raring to yank all the bluegrass and get started on a native garden that will better serve even more wildlife than she hosted in Berwyn and please passers-by on the Prairie Path.

Buying Land for Birds

The Illinois Audubon Society has an impressive record of buying bird habitat in all corners of the state. Volunteers in 2,400 households from 19 chapters and a small staff write grants, conduct fund-raising campaigns, and identify natural areas that need to be protected. Illinois Audubon will often buy the land and manage it as a bird sanctuary until a public agency has assembled enough money to purchase the property.



Marilyn Campbell, Executive Director of Illinois Audubon Society, poses here with Robert Montgomery, past president of Illinois Ornithological Society at a joint annual meeting with both organizations held several years ago.

"It's really a revolving land acquisition program," said Marilyn Campbell, Illinois Audubon's Executive Director. "We buy and hold the land until the state can buy it from us, then we recycle the money gained from the sale into another property," she said.

One of Illinois Audubon's most important, recent land acquisition campaigns has been to add more land around Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Jasper and Marion counties. The Nature Conservancy began to purchase land for a prairie-chicken refuge in 1961, and 12 tracts were added between 1961 and 1998, said Campbell. The Nature Conservancy sold the lands it purchased to the state and moved on to other projects.

Illinois Audubon volunteers and staff took a close look at Prairie Ridge in 1998 and realized that the current 2,000 acres did not form a preserve large enough to sustain populations of the endangered Greater Prairie-Chicken and other grassland nesters, such as Short-eared Owl and Upland Sandpiper. The original refuge plan called for 5,000 acres in each county to be set aside and protected, so Illinois Audubon started writing grants and raising funds to expand the acreage. The Society now maintains the Robert Ridgway Grasslands, adjacent to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, and just received a C2000 grant from the state to help purchase an additional 40 acres at Robert Ridgway.

In the last two years, Illinois Audubon has purchased about 300 acres for grassland birds in Marion and Jasper counties. As a non-governmental body, Illinois Audubon can be more nimble than a state agency, Campbell said. "We got a desperate call last year. An important piece of property was coming up at auction, and the state would never have been able to pull the money together so fast. We were able to step in and buy the land."

Illinois Audubon has a good relationship with local farmers who contact the Society as they think about retiring or down-sizing their acreage. Since there is little threat of sprawl in the Prairie Ridge area, Illinois Audubon can work cordially with local land owners and pay reasonable prices for the land. Volunteers who live in the area have helped with trail construction and stewardship at the grasslands IAS has purchased, Campbell said.

Sometimes, Illinois Audubon is the beneficiary of a gift that's worth more than the money it would take to buy it. The Society was especially fortunate to receive a gift of more than \$4,000 worth of native Illinois ecotype prairie forb seed for planting at Robert Ridgway Grassland from Lou Nelms, owner of Earthskin Nursery in Mason City. That's a lot of high-quality seed material that's already in the ground that will enhance bird habitat at this central Illinois prairie restoration project.

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Regional Trends and Annual Variations in the Fall Migrations of Midwestern Birds

by L. Barrie Hunt and James B. Cope

In our previous paper on regional trends and annual variations in midwestern migrants (Hunt and Cope 1996) we reported average spring arrival dates at four study sites in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin based on long-term yearly data. In this sequel we present comparable trends and variations in median fall arrivals and/or departures at these same four sites and over the same spans of years. Except for the two published reports included in this paper we found no other long-term studies of fall migration by North American land birds with comparable data. F. M. Chapman (1910) presented tables of fall migrant arrivals and departures by 10-day intervals in New Jersey and adjacent New York, but he published neither exact dates nor years of study. For clarity and continuity we have repeated partial descriptions of our study areas, methods, and statistical information from our earlier paper.

Study Areas and Methods

Our primary migration data were recorded from 1965 to 1987 in eastern Illinois near (A) Charleston (39°30'N, 88°11'W) and from 1946 to 1987 in eastern Indiana near (B) Richmond (39°50'N, 84°51'W). Comparable data were gathered in 1969-1983 by Craig and Franks (1987) in western Illinois near (C) Macomb (40°29'N, 90°40'W) and in 1966-1985 by Lange (1986) in southern Wisconsin near (D) Baraboo (43°27'N, 89°45'W). These four locations are shown in Figure 1, and because fall data were sometimes lacking, for a species to appear in our tables the minimum number of sample years were (A) 12, (B) 10, (C) 8 and (D) 11.

From our own observations of yearly first arrivals and last departures at sites A and B together with reports to us from competent observers we calculated median dates as average arrivals and departures to minimize the skewing effect of extreme records and to match the two published sources at C and D. We adopted Craig and Franks' (1987) procedure of using the earlier arrival and later departure date of the central pair when a calculated median fell between two consecutive dates for samples involving an even number of years. From our own arrival and departure records we also computed means and standard errors as measures of annual variability involving unequal sample sizes.

Regional Trends

As year-round birders have experienced, detecting the first arrivals and last departures of fall migrants is far more challenging than recording the first appearance of each species in spring. Alexander Wetmore (1926) aptly stated that "arrival in spring is particularly punctual ..." but "definite data for the rate at which birds travel south in autumn are lacking, as at that season birds are quieter than in spring and more difficult to observe. The journey in many cases also is



The Brown Thrasher is one of a group of Illinois summer residents studied by the authors. Photo taken 17 December 2000 by Dennis Oehmke.

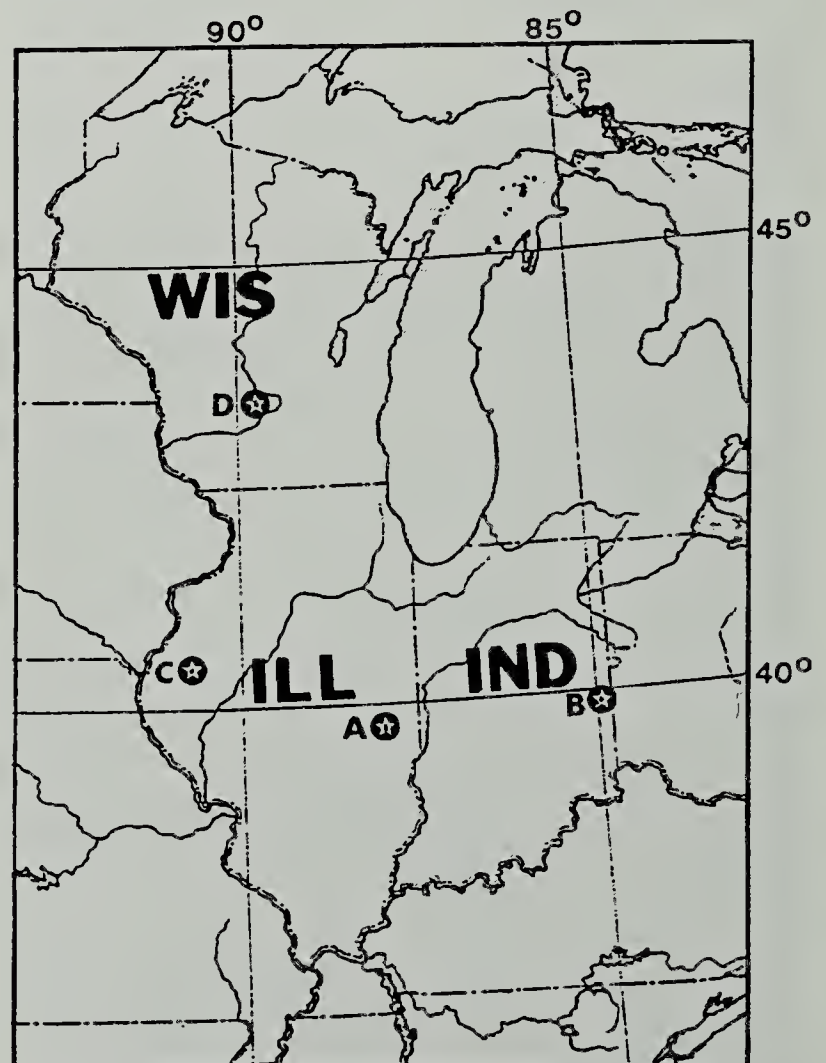


Figure 1. Migration data centers for *E Illinois* at (A) Charleston, *E Indiana* at (B) Richmond, *W Illinois* at (C) Macomb and *S Wisconsin* at (D) Baraboo.

Table 1. Median Fall Arrival Dates of 24 Transients and Winter Residents at Four Midwestern Sites (n = sample years SR = summer resident)

Species	<u>S Wisconsin</u>		<u>W Illinois</u>		<u>E Illinois</u>		<u>E Indiana</u>	
	Median	n	Median	n	Median	n	Median	n
Red-breasted Nuthatch	SR*		9/14	10	9/17	14	9/29	14
Brown Creeper	SR		9/29	10	10/06	21	10/08	14
Winter Wren	SR		9/30	8	10/08	12	10/01	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9/24	18	10/02	11	10/05	23	10/02	17
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/17	20	9/12	10	9/27	23	9/27	17
Swainson's Thrush	9/03	18	9/08	10	9/02	20	9/03	23
Hermit Thrush	10/02	17	10/06	11	10/08	22	10/02	17
Tennessee Warbler	8/24	17	9/02	10	8/29	23	9/11	19
Nashville Warbler	SR		9/02	11	9/11	22	9/12	15
Chestnut-sided Warbler	SR		8/31	11	8/25	20	8/30	10
Magnolia Warbler	SR		9/02	12	8/30	23	9/02	17
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9/18	19	9/16	11	9/29	23	10/01	19
Black-thr. Green Warbler	SR		9/04	13	9/04	22	9/13	15
Blackburnian Warbler	SR		8/30	10	8/29	21	8/24	10
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/14	19	9/05	10	9/01	22	9/06	16
Blackpoll Warbler	9/13	14	9/11	8	9/11	12	9/23	10
Black-and-white Warbler	SR		8/28	10	8/24	23	9/01	16
American Redstart	SR		8/31	10	8/25	21	8/31	15
Canada Warbler	SR		9/01	9	8/26	18	8/28	12
American Tree Sparrow	10/25	11	10/30	8	11/15	20	11/13	10
Fox Sparrow	10/06	14	10/08	11	10/09	19	10/22	12
Swamp Sparrow	SR		10/04	9	10/07	23	9/29	10
White-throated Sparrow	9/14	18	9/19	11	9/29	23	9/29	20
Dark-eyed Junco	9/23	20	10/06	15	10/07	23	10/01	21

* SR = summer resident.

Table 2. Median Fall Departure Dates of 27 Transients and Summer Residents at Four Midwestern Sites

Species	<u>S Wisconsin</u>		<u>W Illinois</u>		<u>E Illinois</u>		<u>E Indiana</u>	
	Median	n	Median	n	Median	n	Median	n
Chimney Swift	9/30	18	10/18	9	10/12	23	10/09	15
Eastern Wood-Pewee	9/25	20	9/29	10	10/03	22	10/03	15
Eastern Phoebe	10/10	20	10/20	11	10/15	15	10/06	13
Red-eyed Vireo	9/29	19	10/03	11	10/05	23	9/30	15
Barn Swallow	9/08	14	10/18	10	9/20	20	9/03	15
House Wren	9/28	18	10/13	10	10/11	22	10/03	15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10/29	20	11/28	10	10/31	23	10/30	11
Swainson's Thrush	9/30	18	10/02	10	9/29	22	10/02	20
Hermit Thrush	10/20	17	10/25	11	10/23	20	10/28	14
Gray Catbird	10/04	19	10/13	10	10/07	23	10/09	19
Brown Thrasher	10/04	15	10/29	10	10/01	21	10/02	21
Tennessee Warbler	10/06	17	10/08	10	10/15	23	10/10	15
Nashville Warbler	10/02	20	10/13	11	10/17	23	10/12	10
Magnolia Warbler	9/30	19	10/01	12	10/07	23	10/09	16
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10/27	19	11/09	11	11/08	23	11/14	14
Black-thr. Green Warbler	9/30	19	10/09	13	10/14	22	10/15	11
Blackburnian Warbler	9/18	16	9/24	10	9/27	18	9/29	10
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/28	19	9/25	10	10/06	23	10/17	14
Black-and-white Warbler	9/28	16	10/01	10	10/01	22	9/29	12
American Redstart	9/30	18	9/30	10	10/02	23	10/01	17
Ovenbird	9/22	13	9/23	9	10/05	23	10/03	19
Canada Warbler	9/04	11	9/18	9	9/16	17	9/17	12
Eastern Towhee	10/13	20	10/30	10	10/26	16	10/24	14
Field Sparrow	10/13	13	11/07	10	11/01	21	11/07	10
Fox Sparrow	11/09	14	11/27	11	11/05	21	11/17	10
White-throated Sparrow	10/29	18	11/18	11	11/13	21	11/16	13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/29	18	10/03	11	10/02	21	10/01	11

irregular and prolonged.” Couple those problems with our awareness that in fall there are fewer observers afield making fewer notes and we are not surprised by the greater variability in fall dates between sites and between years than those we reported in spring. Given the total years of fall data at the four sites ranging from 44 for the Blackpoll Warbler to 79 for the Dark-eyed Junco, it is tempting to regard relatively small differences in median dates among the sites as representing actual trends but with the above limitations in mind we have tried to single out a few major patterns and to ignore anomalous data. Why, for instance, should average fall arrival dates for four species be earlier in W Illinois than in S Wisconsin nearly 220 miles farther north (Table 1) or why should Barn Swallows stay later in S Wisconsin than in E Indiana about 330 miles farther to the southeast (Table 2)?

In our 1996 report on 91 spring migrants in the midwest, we found that 25 kinds (27%) had medial arrival dates at the Illinois and Indiana sites with the same four-day spans for their species. Among our 24 fall arrivals (Table 1), only Golden-crowned Kinglets and Magnolia Warblers demonstrated this degree of uniformity at the same three sites. Long-term average arrivals of Swainson’s Thrushes in S Wisconsin nearly equaled those in E Illinois and E Indiana but typically occurred five days later in W Illinois.

Surprisingly, among the median fall departure dates of 27 species (Table 2), Swainson’s Thrushes, Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were last seen at all four sites within the five-day intervals as were Eastern Wood-Pewees and Canada Warblers across Illinois and Indiana. Site departure dates were also nearly identical for Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Brown Thrashers except in W Illinois. There Craig and Franks (1987) reported their earliest annual departure of kinglets on 29 October and thrashers on 29 September, both nearly the same as our median departures in E Illinois and E Indiana. Their median departures for these two species were a month later than ours. Such differences create more questions than answers.

In Richard Graber’s (1968) study of directional orientation by migrants in central Illinois he reported most radar

images in spring were heading toward the northeast, and the majority of fall migrants were tracking southeastward. Our comparisons of spring arrival dates across Illinois and Indiana (Hunt and Cope 1996) suggested the opposite orientation but without statistical standing. Although five land bird species in spring usually arrived first in W Illinois followed by E Illinois and E Indiana, 14 species were found first in E Indiana and last in W Illinois. In our combined fall arrival (Table 1) and fall departures (Table 2) nine species were recorded from west to east and six from east to west. The only species we detected with the same arrival direction both spring and fall were Fox Sparrows traveling eastward and Black-throated Green and Bay-breasted Warblers with westward trends.

Annual Variations

In our previous paper on the arrivals of spring migrants we identified 10 species as valid harbingers of spring with their limited variability in E Illinois and E Indiana arrival dates. Considering the wide range of median fall dates regionally we wondered whether annual differences over many fall migrations at



The Hermit Thrush had the least annual variability in recorded arrival dates in southern Wisconsin, western Illinois, Eastern Illinois and eastern Indiana, based on the authors’ research. Photo taken in Springfield, Sangamon County, 21 December 2000 by Dennis Oehmke.

Table 3. Five Fall Migrants With the Least Annual Variability in Recorded Arrival Dates Listed by Pooled Standard Error Increases and Range in Days

Species	Site	Years	Mean	SE	Range
White-throated Sparrow	E ILL	23	9/30	0.96	18
	E IND	20	9/28	1.09	19
Golden-crowned Kinglet	E ILL	23	10/05	0.85	18
	E IND	17	10/02	1.26	21
Magnolia Warbler	E ILL	23	8/30	1.00	24
	E IND	17	9/03	1.61	26
Hermit Thrush	E ILL	22	10/07	1.00	22
	E IND	17	10/03	1.69	30
Swainson’s Thrush	E ILL	20	9/04	1.04	15
	E IND	23	9/04	1.87	37

our two sites would be considerable. Although there was less consistency than in spring, five species had relatively small standard errors around their mean arrival dates (Table 3) with Magnolia Warbler also included in the spring list.

The Chimney Swift ranked first in the group of five most predictable departing species (Table 4) with the smallest combined standard errors and narrowest range of dates just as it did in our 91 spring arrivals. The third-ranked Rose-breasted Grosbeak was tenth in that select spring group and the Baltimore Oriole, fourth in the spring list, actually ranked second in the least variable E Illinois fall departures with a mean date of 7 September (n=21) and an SE of 1.24 but the E Indiana sample size was inadequate for consideration.

Just as we concluded in our spring report, the recording of annual migration dates admittedly lacks precision. Each year the exact day a species first arrives or last leaves an area and the times it is recording doing so is likely a rare event. We

still believe that long-term-median dates provide useful information for comparing regional and temporal trends and variations among midwestern migrants. In E Indiana, the median departures we have reported here were based largely on yearly records before 1970. In recent years, White-throated Sparrows have become regular winter residents there, Hermit Thrushes and Yellow-rumped Warblers linger more frequently, and Eastern Towhees, Field Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows have also wintered. How many other species will extend their stay if a gradual warming trend extends throughout our region? Verification with long-term data becomes essential.

Statistical Information

In Tables 1 and 2 each median arrival or departure represents the middle recorded date in a chronological sequence and is less affected by occasional extreme dates or chance clusters than either an arithmetic mean or mode. In Tables 3 and 4 the standard error (SE) is an estimate of the variability around each mean where sample sizes are unequal. For each mean date plus or minus 1 standard error the probability is 68% that this interval includes the true population mean for that species at the site and doubling the SE would increase to 95% the likelihood that the true mean falls within this expanded interval. We emphasize that the SE indicates nothing about the expected arrival or departure date in any single year. Each range represents the actual number of days between the earliest and latest arrival or departure dates for which we have records.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to countless former students and colleagues for sharing their field notes with us and a special thanks to W. H. Buskirk for his extensive observations and his helpful comments on our earlier draft. Published reports provided by D. R. Craig, E. C. Franks and K. I. Lange have been invaluable. K. K. Brown and H. A. Cope assisted with data compilation, K. Kruse provided statistical advice and B. McGrew helped with manuscript preparation.



The median fall departure date Fox Sparrow in western Illinois is 27 November, based on research done by the authors. Photo taken 9 March 1996 northwest of Springfield, Sangamon County, by Dennis Oehmke.

Table 4. Five Fall Migrants With the Least Annual Variability in Recorded Departure Dates Listed by Pooled Standard Error Increases and Range in Days

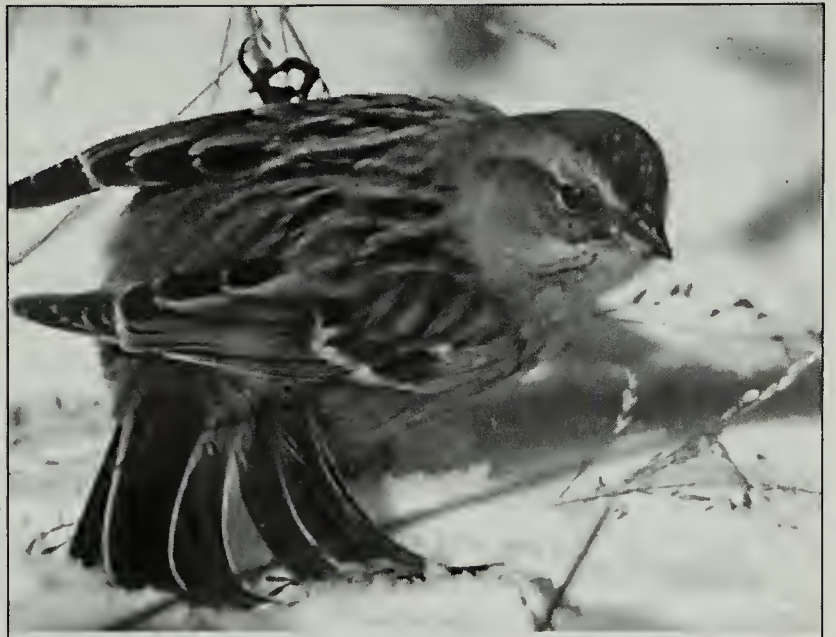
Species	Site	Years	Mean	SE	Range
Chimney Swift	E ILL	23	10/10	1.01	25
	E IND	15	10/09	0.64	9
Common Nighthawk	E ILL	18	10/03	1.44	23
	E IND	20	10/09	1.45	29
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	E ILL	21	10/03	1.54	27
	E IND	11	10/01	1.79	18
Swainson's Thrush	E ILL	21	9/29	1.89	34
	E IND	20	10/04	1.53	27
Black-throated Green Warbler	E ILL	22	10/13	1.42	27
	E IND	11	10/16	2.01	25

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James B. Cope, deceased. See page 97.

L. Barrie Hunt, Professor Emeritus, Biology Department, Eastern Illinois University; 51 Heather Drive, Charleston, IL 61920.



The American Tree Sparrow's median arrival date in eastern Illinois is 15 November, based on studies by the authors. Dennis Oehmke photographed this bird in Springfield, Sangamon County 17 December 2000.

Gull Frolic Photo Quiz

To honor the second annual Gull Frolic being sponsored by the Illinois Ornithological Society and other groups 15 February 2003 at Winthrop Harbor, we present this quiz of photos taken there last winter season.

Photo A was taken by Kanae Hirabayashi 20 January 2002. Identify both species.



Photo B was taken by Kanae Hirabayashi 20 January 2002. Hint: This is the same species as one shown in Photo A, but a different subspecies.



Photo C was taken by Eric Walters during the Gull Frolic at North Point Marina in Lake County, in February 2002. Can you identify it?



Photo D was taken by Eric Walters during the Gull Frolic at North Point Marina in Lake County, February 2002. Can you identify it? Hint: It's the same bird as Photo C, but a different age.



Answers will appear in a future issue of *Meadowlark*.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for 15 February 2003, Gull Frolic at the North Point Marina Yacht Club, Winthrop Harbor, Lake County, Illinois, where you can learn how to identify these and other winter gulls.

American Robin Nests in Chicago Yard in December

by Jane C. Pedersen

American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) in my Chicago yard in December are not that unusual, but 13 December 2001, a robin flying into the white spruce tree (*Picea glauca*), which was transplanted from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to my yard in 1977, caught my eye. Already late for work, I watched the tree while finishing my preparations, and what I saw piqued my curiosity. The robin was flying in and out of the tree repeatedly and a pile of grasses was placed near the tree's trunk about 15 feet from the ground. Totally absorbed, I watched as the robin arrived each time with what incredulously appeared to be nesting material. Later that evening, alongside the bright, glowing Christmas tree lights, I saw a fairly significant clump of grasses on the limb. The next morning, two robins were involved in the building, and by late afternoon what eventually materialized was a complete and typical American Robin's nest.

What exactly would trigger a nesting attempt in December? Some consider the winter of 2001/2002 as the winter that did not happen. At the end of February 2002, only 3 percent of the money budgeted for snow removal by Chicago had been utilized. This was only the second winter season in 129 years with the fewest sub-32 degree days; just 44 percent of Chicago's normal winter precipitation had fallen; above-50 degree temperature days were more than two times the normal; only nine other winters in 129 years had no zero degree recordings; only 3 percent of the temperature highs in 2001/2002 had been in the teens, 10 to 20 degrees F (Skilling 2002). In addition, three goslings with two watchful parents were reported by two Chicago Police detectives 22 January near 26th and California Avenue in Chicago. Fortunately, one of the detectives is a local birder, and when others in the birding community told him it could not be true, he and his partner returned 29 January and confirmed that a family of five Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) were residing in the retention pond behind the women's prison on the west side of the complex (pers. comm. Munoz and Whalen). Lastly, several American Woodcocks had been reported displaying in the southern part of the state (Bennett 2002).

In spite of the unusual climate patterns, I thought that nesting birds were probably more attuned to the cycle of light and dark than to weather and temperature. Even though some owls, occasionally Mourning Doves, and



The American Robin remains in Illinois during winter when food supply is plentiful. Eric Walters took this photo of a robin at Evanston's Northwestern University, Cook County 14 November 1998.

some species of finches will begin nesting in winter, an American Robin breeding in Illinois in December seemed quite rare. The Peterson Field Guide to Birds' Nests (Harrison 1975) reports two records of winter nesting attempts by American Robin: Ellwood City, Pennsylvania in January 1965 in which there were eggs; and Columbus, Ohio in December 1965, in which there were young. Neither attempts produced young that grew to adulthood.

Quickly sharing this odd avian behavior over IBET (Illinois birders' Internet listserve), Leslie Borns, a Chicago birder, offered helpful counsel and predicted that if indeed the robins were serious about nesting, they would probably disappear for a while following the nest completion. This turned out to be the case, as the robins appeared to even abandon their daily visit to the backyard bird bath. Then, to the delight of my family, the female arrived on Christmas Day to commence her "big sit."

For the next nine days, we never observed the female leaving the nest, nor did we observe the male feeding her. We kept a careful eye on the female robin from the warmth of our living room, because the nest was about five feet from the picture window. The male robin, however, could generally be found somewhere nearby, acting as sentinel. Could she really be sitting on eggs? It seemed impossible but by day 10, when the female began to leave the nest for brief periods, we felt

comfortable checking further. Rigging up a contraption consisting of a kitchen mop, vanity mirror, and lots of duct tape, we were able to determine the presence of what appeared to be three blue eggs. A few days later, when our homemade egg-viewing device became a bit more sophisticated, and we were able to have longer looks, there were actually only two eggs in the nest, so we were not sure if one egg was taken during that time.

As we watched this event unfold, I began to research what food would be helpful to provide for the robins if there were to be any chance this would be a successful nesting attempt. Starting with plumped raisins and bits of fruit, I finally visited Ed Shirley Sports in Morton Grove, where I purchased wax worms, red worms, and, eventually, carefully filleted night crawlers to feed the robins, who slowly became accustomed to their daily feast. The temperatures continued to remain above freezing most days, and I surmised the robins were also getting food from the environment. One day, while preparing for out-of-town guests, I tidied the front yard and observed one of the robins picking at the leaf litter where I had disturbed it.

A *Chicago Tribune* reporter and photographer visited 9 January, and 10 January, an article with a color photograph of the male robin on the nest appeared on the front page of the Metro section (Madhani 2002). Doug Stotz, conservation ecologist at the Field Museum in Chicago, gave helpful scientific data about what triggers nesting in birds. Stotz said the winter robin nesting is perplexing because a bird's biological clock is triggered by the pattern of sunlight that notifies it to breed in spring and summer. "I've never heard of a robin nesting at this time of year," Stotz said. The most likely explanation is that the warm weather made them think they could nest in the winter (Madhani 2002).

Each evening at bedtime, shining my flashlight beacon through the window, I confirmed the female robin's presence on the nest. She always sat on the nest facing the street, and although I could not see her body after dark, I could make out the spike of her tail, with her feathers edged in white sticking up out of the nest. The male was visible nearby all day, but disappeared around dusk.

Thursday, 10 January 2002, much to my disappointment, the female was not on the nest in the evening. This was Day 17 of her incubation, and since the average incubation period for American Robin is 12 to 14 days, she may have realized the eggs would not be viable. For the next two mornings, she was back on the nest where she remained throughout the day, but, again, each night she was gone. On her last day of interest in the nest (Day 20), the female was in the tree, occasionally standing on the edge of the nest, a few times leaning into the nest appearing to nudge the eggs. She did not again sit on the nest.

The first significant snow fall since this nesting phenomenon began came 16 January 2002, which was Day 23 since the female had begun incubation. The female robin sat quietly inside the tree most of the day, but did not show interest in the nest. Three robins appeared in the backyard 19 January, and from that date, at least two birds came to the yard for daily visits the remainder of the winter. I continued to feed them rations of raisins, especially on the coldest days and the few days when there was snow cover.

American Robins have nested in our 25 by 125 foot city lot several times in the 26 years we have lived here, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. The robins have used the rafters on the back porch several times, which seemed a good choice considering I once observed an American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) steal a fledgling from a nest in the same spruce tree where the pair of American Robins built a nest the winter of 2001/2002.

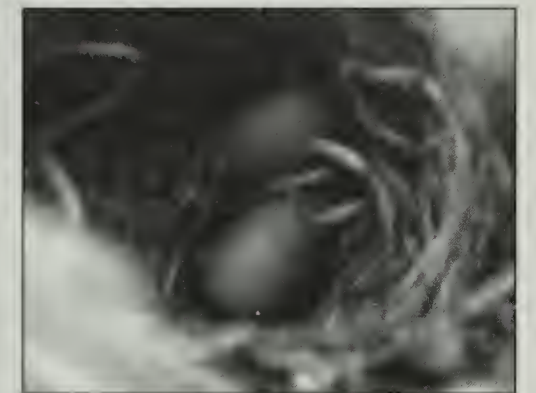
David Willard, Curator of Birds for the Field Museum, has accepted the two robin eggs and the nest as part of the museum's renowned collection.

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An American Robin pair built a nest in a white spruce tree in Chicago the winter of 2001/2002. Photo by A. Stephen Somora, Jr.



Two blue eggs were laid in the nest built by American Robins in a white spruce tree in Chicago the winter of 2001/2002. Photo by A. Stephen Somora, Jr.

Jane C. Pedersen, 841 W. Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60614; JaneLCSW@aol.com.

A Woodland Shorebird Winters in Southern Illinois

by Frank Bennett

The start of the annual October and November rainy season signals the patiently waiting American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) to begin migrating south. The heavy rains also push the woodcock's favorite food, earthworms, very close to the surface, if not above the surface, supplying woodcocks and other species' nourishment during their long journeys south. In southern Illinois, a few American Woodcocks linger, which prolongs migration, but only an exceptional few stay throughout the winter.

It came as no surprise then that in late November 2001, American Woodcocks were still in southern Illinois. The surprise came one evening when the woodcocks began doing breeding displays, usually reserved for spring in Illinois, right near my home in New Columbia (Massac County). The displays were brief, but the woodcocks performed nightly through the end of November. Surely these birds would migrate soon.

The first half of December remained unseasonably warm, and the woodcocks continued to perform every night the first eight days of the month. They began at 5:05 p.m. and ended at 5:20 p.m. Most evenings, three males competed fiercely and sometimes could be seen side by side in an aerial duel. Their wings appeared at times to be touching as they circled higher and higher, sometimes disappearing when they flew so high up. Soon they would flutter back to earth like a fallen leaf, twittering and twisting the whole time. Moments after landing, they would resume their peenting. Each evening's performance was a little different. Some evenings one male would peent and do his flight displays; other evenings, three peented and did their aerial dances.

The woodcocks did not make an appearance 9, 10, or 11 December — two of those evenings it was raining. A single male was back in action 12 December. He began at 5:00 p.m. and ended at 5:12 p.m. I was not home 13 December. One male showed off again 14 December between 5:05 and 5:15 p.m. The temperature was in the 30s in the morning and the 40s during the day.

I did the Rend Lake Christmas Bird Count 15 December. Back at home on 16 December, the woodcock performance started again at 5:05 p.m. Two males began peenting and soon were into an aerial duel. They



The American Woodcock is a rare winter resident in southern Illinois. This photo was taken in Lincoln Park, Chicago, 28 March 1993 by Kanae Hirabayashi.

flew out of sight side by side. After they re-landed, another male entered the display field. Soon all three males were peenting, and before long, one after the other launched into an aerial dance. The birds performed until 5:25 p.m. and then came abrupt silence.

Only one bird made an appearance 18 December, but he put on a long performance of peenting with one aerial dance. He quit by 5:30 p.m. Two males dueled as usual at 5:05 p.m. 19 December, and 20 December, the third woodcock once again entered the field. The temperature remained above normal for this time of year.

Four birds were observed 22 December flying separately into the display field; three birds constantly peented and performed aerial flights repeatedly. This was by far the most active evening. The festivities began at 5:05 p.m., and ended at 5:22 p.m. Again, at 5:05 p.m. 23 December, two males peented and danced until 5:18 p.m. The next day, I heard two males peenting at 6:30 a.m.

I was unable to watch for another performance until 28 December, and no woodcocks were out that night. However, while walking the property during the day, I flushed three woodcocks. That would be my last sighting for woodcocks in December. Naturally, I could

not relocate any of the birds for my Mermet Lake Christmas Bird Count 31 December.

Then on 10 January 2002, the woodcocks began to perform again, and they did so nearly all month, with just a few exceptions. They continued into February, and one evening six males were displaying in the field. My wife, Myra, and I enjoyed the evening performances, especially one night in February when the birds seemed to be in the air constantly twittering, and peenting everywhere.

The American Woodcock typically begins migrating to its breeding grounds in the northern two-thirds of the United States, including Illinois, and southern Canada in late January through early March. The species is triggered to migrate by the amount of day length, the moon phase, and the passage of weather fronts. They leave just after sunset and migrate alone or in small flocks at low altitudes flying at about 30 to 40 miles per hour (Krementz and Jackson 1999). Birds nesting in the South begin breeding as early as late January; most nesting on the northern breeding grounds begins from March to early May.

In the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, male woodcock carry on their courtship activities in open fields throughout most of the year, although most performances are from late winter through early summer (Krementz and Jackson 1999). In their most northerly breeding locations, woodcocks may begin migrating back south in late September, but most migrate in October (Krementz and Jackson 1999). By Thanksgiving, most woodcocks have left their summer breeding grounds and are either headed toward or arrived at their southern winter homes including the states of Louisiana, Georgia, the Carolinas and Florida. By mid-December, most birds are on their wintering grounds, where they "follow a daily cycle of roosting, feeding and courtship," according to Krementz and Jackson (1999).

The American Woodcock needs to find worms

within an inch or two of the surface nearly every day of its life (Krementz and Jackson 1999). Some of the woodcock's favorite worms in the northern states are introduced European species (Reynolds 1977). Weather affects worm action — if the surface soil is too cold or too hot, the worms will go deeper. Edwards and Bohlen (1996) say "a soil temperature of 50° to 68°F is about right for most of the woodcock's favorite worms." A woodcock also needs proper surface soil moisture in which to feed. "Surface soil moisture of about 20 percent to 50 percent is best for woodcock and worms," say Edwards and Bohlen (1996).

The combination of forest succession, land loss to urbanization, large-scale conversion to monoculture habitats, and unknown factors have contributed to the decline of woodcock. Since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began monitoring woodcock populations in 1968, woodcock in the eastern United States have experienced an average annual decline of 2.6 percent (Bruggink 1998).

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In Memoriam

Two fine ornithologists who contributed to *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds* and the Illinois Ornithological Society recently passed away: James B. Cope, who died in March 2002 and Victoria Byre, who died in November 2002.

Cope was a biology professor and longtime curator of Earlham College's natural history museum. He and L. Barrie Hunt, who also serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Meadowlark*, published their data on mean arrival dates of spring migrants in a past issue as well as mean arrival and departure dates for fall migrants in this issue (page 88). Cope and his wife, Helen, founded the 102-acre Cope Environmental Center in Centerville, Indiana in 1992.

Byre served on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Meadowlark* and wrote an article with Mary Hennen on her research with Eastern Bluebirds in DuPage County for this publication. She was well-known in the Illinois birding and scientific community for spearheading the Chicago Peregrine release project before she moved to Oklahoma to work at the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Byre and Cope provided valuable information to the Illinois birding community. We extend sincere condolences to their family and friends. They will be missed.

The 2001/2002 Illinois Christmas Bird Count

by David B. Johnson

Overall the CBC season fluctuated from warm to cold, then back to warm the last few days of the period. The cold temperatures, in most cases, were not cold long enough to freeze open water throughout the state, and snowfall was almost nil. The average low temperature was 27.5° F and the average high temperature was 38.6° F — a 17 degree difference from the previous cold and snowy CBC season of 2000/2001 (Johnson 2001) when the temperatures were an average low of 10.5° F and an average high of 21.7° F. What a difference a year can make for tallying some excellent water and land-bird numbers — this all due to the lack of a prolonged cold and hard freeze. Nearly all counts recorded some very high counts for many species that lingered longer farther north. There were the misses and low counts of species, too — and when are we going to get a major winter finch invasion? Some compilers and field observers often state that cold weather serves to concentrate the birds for counting purposes — maybe so — but this season the warm weather did work to produce some very high aggregate numbers of bird data. Several counts — for the first time ever — hit the magic century mark or above! Here, then, is the count.

Results from 60 counts included 169 species and one unrecognized form. Several counts joined the elite 100 species mark or above. These included: Union County (100), Mermet Lake (102), Carlyle Lake (103), and Rend Lake (104). Congratulations on this challenging achievement. Fermilab-Batavia made the “century club” by tallying the highest number of field observers, 102. Waukegan had the highest number of feeder observers, 65.

Twenty-one all-time state high counts were set for an individual species

total recorded within a count circle. **17** Common Loons lingered at Clinton Lake, **74** Horned Grebes were tallied at Carlyle Lake. **8,965** Double-crested Cormorants, **2,751** Bonaparte’s Gulls and **8,203** American Robins were recorded at Rend Lake. **965** Tundra Swans and **5,075** Lesser Scaup were at Clinton, IA along the Mississippi River. **Five** Great Egrets were at Collinsville. **3,000** Greater White-fronted Geese were at Union; in addition, this count had a record **four** Marsh Wrens. Cypress Creek tallied a record **178** Northern Harriers and **106** Wilson’s Snipe. Newton had a record **305** Bufflehead and **21** Eurasian Collared-Doves. Princeton tallied **3,390** American Coots, a record due to a wetland initiative and habitat restoration at Lake Hennepin. Fermilab-Batavia tallied **18** Cooper’s Hawks and **1,065** Black-capped Chickadees. Shapville recorded **334** Wild Turkeys. Calumet City-Sand Ridge noted **six** Great Black-backed Gulls. Waukegan tied a record **three** Lesser Black-backed Gulls with Calumet City-Sand Ridge (in 1991). Finally, the **three** Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Princeton-Commanche, IA was a record count.

The top ten total numbers of individuals (in order of abundance) were: Red-winged Blackbird (527,582), Mallard (331,023), Common Grackle (254,807), European Starling (176,382), American Crow (176,152), Canada Goose (161,401), Snow Goose (106,626), blackbird sp. (88,757), Ring-billed Gull (52,919), and House Sparrow (41,201).

Regularly Occurring Species

Many of the large data aggregates of certain species may note trends of greater population successes to the north. Three good examples of this are Double-crested Cormorant

(9,732 in 23 circles), American White Pelican (251 in 9 circles), and Eastern Bluebird (1,928 in 48 circles). Other species including Killdeer (1,925 in 32 circles) simply lingered longer. Then, there were the early wintering population shifts. Certainly the large numbers of Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, (6,164 in 22 circles), and to a smaller extent, Ross’s Geese (39 in 9 circles, 20 years ago this goose was a rare vagrant visitor to Illinois) are indicative of a west to east movement of geese that historically wintered farther west than Illinois. Within the state the larger numbers of Cooper’s Hawks (175 in 46 circles) certainly suggests a larger population success (at least this is an average of three per circle when 20 years ago this used to be a rare accipiter to find on a CBC). What about the re-introduced Wild Turkeys (1,390 in 36 circles)? They are increasing in numbers while Ring-necked Pheasants (206 in 27 circles) and Gray Partridge (none) seem to be on a downward slide. This was a good mast year particularly for white oaks. Accordingly good numbers of Blue Jays (10,459 in 58 circles) and Red-headed Woodpeckers (1,287 in 52 circles) were recorded. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (3,911 in 60 circles) perhaps overshadow the Red-headed Woodpecker’s increased numbers. 437 Pileated Woodpeckers (in 33 circles) were found particularly in river-bottom woods. Several field observers and compilers mentioned that White-breasted Nuthatches seemed to be everywhere; 3,924 (in 59 circles) was a good count. Fruit eaters such as the aforementioned Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins (24,790 in 57 circles), and Cedar Waxwings (5,877 in 50 circles) were widespread this season by increased numbers. Robins were

also observed eating worms! Dark-eyed Juncos were the commonest sparrow (23,148 in 60 circles) plus 10 "Oregons" were noted. The next most common sparrow was the American Tree Sparrow (11,236 in 56 circles) followed by another widespread sparrow, the White-throated Sparrow (4,607 in 57 circles). Finally, Northern Cardinal continues to be our ubiquitous state bird (14,430 in 60 circles).

CBC Firsts and Rarities

After the Waukegan CBC counters last year missed the almost wintering ultra vagrant Red-cockaded Woodpecker, they did not come up short this year, recording a state-first CBC record and wintering pine-barren **Brown-headed Nuthatch**, an amazing CBC record. Also, new to the state CBC list was a *Sterna tern* recorded at Rend Lake. Other unusual lingering or rarities included several Red-throated Loons, one at Evanston (North Shore), one at Rend Lake, and a count week bird at Carlyle Lake. Crab Orchard had the only Red-necked Grebe. The aforementioned increase in American White Pelican numbers certainly was unusual. Most noteworthy were the two northernmost singletons at Joliet and Lisle Arboretum; these are the first CBC records for the Chicago Area. The only lingering American Bittern was noted at Rend Lake; there was a count week bird at Newton. Pere Marquette had a Great Egret in addition to the aforementioned



Brown-headed Nuthatch made it on Illinois' Christmas Bird Count. This is the state's first record. David B. Johnson took this photo at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County, 13 July 2001.

high of five at Collinsville. Twenty-four Blue-winged Teal (in six circles) noted that species lingering status. Two Harlequin Ducks were noted, one at Evanston and an always rare inland bird at Morris-Wilmington. Black Scoters (2) were noted at Evanston, and one was at Waukegan. Twenty-three Long-tailed Ducks (in 5 circles) was a bit better than last year's singleton with Evanston having the highest count of seventeen. The only Northern Goshawk was an individual at Bloomington. Only Two Golden Eagles were noted, one at Crab Orchard and one at Union. Six Merlins (in 5 circles) were noted; Lisle Arboretum had a noteworthy two individuals. Rend Lake and Waukegan had the only Virginia Rails, one and two respectively. Sandhill Cranes were noted on only three counts: Evanston (5), McHenry (84) and Clinton, IA (2). Most amazing was Lisle Arboretum's two Greater Yellowlegs — a rare northerly record. Five Least Sandpipers were noteworthy at Rend Lake, but even more noteworthy was the solitary individual at Starved Rock (by the way, it was refreshing to obtain in the field notes and a sketch, taken at the time of observation, on the latter record). Six American Woodcocks (in 4 circles) were all recorded in southern Illinois: Bird Haven (1), Cypress Creek (2), Crab Orchard (2) and Rend Lake (1).

Unusual gulls were six Great Black-backed Gulls at Calumet City-Sandridge, and one was at Morris-Wilmington. Iceland Gulls were noted at Starved Rock (1) and Waukegan (1). Nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were recorded in 4 circles with the southernmost being at Carlyle and Rend Lake. Glaucous Gulls were at Waukegan (2) and Calumet City-Sandridge (1). The increase in Eurasian Collared-Doves (77 in 7 circles) suggests a colonizing successful species. A Barn Owl was noteworthy at Union County and the three at Cypress Creek were at a known location. Eight Northern Saw-whet Owls

(in 5 circles) is reflective of observers persistence to find this unusual wintering owl; the same can be said for Long-eared Owl with sixteen individuals recorded in seven circles. 12 Eastern Phoebes were tallied in three circles with Union County noting ten individuals: Lisle Arboretum had the northernmost bird. Only eight Northern Shrikes were noted; Barrington had a high count of five. Collinsville noted a Fish Crow. Jackson County and Union had the only solitary House Wrens; Jackson also had a well-described Sedge Wren. Eight Marsh Wrens statewide is perhaps more indicative of field observers effort to tromp through cattail marshes; those who make the effort find the wrens. A rare **Townsend's Solitaire** was noted at Barrington. One Gray Catbird was noted at Chillicothe. Twenty-one American Pipits in six circles was noteworthy with the northernmost two individuals at Champaign.

Four unusual warbler species were noted: Union had the only Orange-crowned Warbler, Rend Lake tallied the only Pine Warbler, Champaign had two Palm Warblers, and Fermilab-Batavia recorded the northernmost Common Yellowthroat and Union County the southernmost. Two well-described Chipping Sparrows were noted, one at Rockford and one at Bloomington. Only four Le Conte's Sparrows were noted this year, three at Mermet Lake-Massac County and one at Newton. A solitary Western Meadowlark was at Union County. Twenty-seven Brewer's Blackbirds (in seven circles), all for the most part well-described, were a noteworthy data aggregate. Finally, Shapville's photographed **Baltimore Oriole**, coming to a raisin feeder, was perhaps the rarest lingerer of the season.

Low Counts

Low counts — or no counts? Both Long-tailed Ducks and Ring-necked Pheasants seem to be on the wintering population slide, and as of late, Rough-legged Hawk (72 in 31 circles) numbers seem to be down. And as

every birder laments — where are the Gray Partridge in Illinois? Fifty-three Loggerhead Shrikes (in nine circles, all in southern Illinois) seems like a low count, but more continual data is needed to be sure. I don't know what to make of a solitary Western Meadowlark on the Union County count. It's my guess, and it's just a guess, that there are more Western Meadowlarks in winter in Illinois than perhaps we can identify. We should not assume that all winter meadowlarks are Easterns. What ever happened to Evening Grosbeaks? This species as well as Pine Grosbeak are fast becoming birds that stay to the north of us in winter, perhaps due to more bird feeding stations. Overall much more work needs to be done with low counts perhaps with histograms and "best fit lines" on a twenty-year line of data, looking at effort along with the affect of habitat and weather variables.

Irruptive Species

The only inland Snowy Owls were individuals noted at Illini and a count week bird at Schapville. More easily detected were singletons along Lake Michigan at Chicago Lakefront and Waukegan. Red-breasted Nuthatches (444 in 50 circles) were scarce but still widespread. Eight Northern Shrikes (in four circles) was a reflection of that species staying farther north. Purple Finch (497 in 35 circles) were tough to find whereas House Finch (6,984 in 59 circles) were everywhere. Pine Siskin were recorded in small numbers with 572 individuals in 25 circles. In the rarer finch department Chautauqua had the only Red Crossbills — two. White-winged Crossbills were about as rare with thirty-three in three circles: Evanston (1), Springfield (7) and Crane Lake — Sangamon County (25). Clinton Lake recorded the only not-so-common Common Redpolls (4).

No Counts

Finally, two birds that didn't count were Fermilab-Batavia's reported Yellow Grosbeak and Waukegan's Common Raven. Both were suspects of escapee, origin, and identification questions.

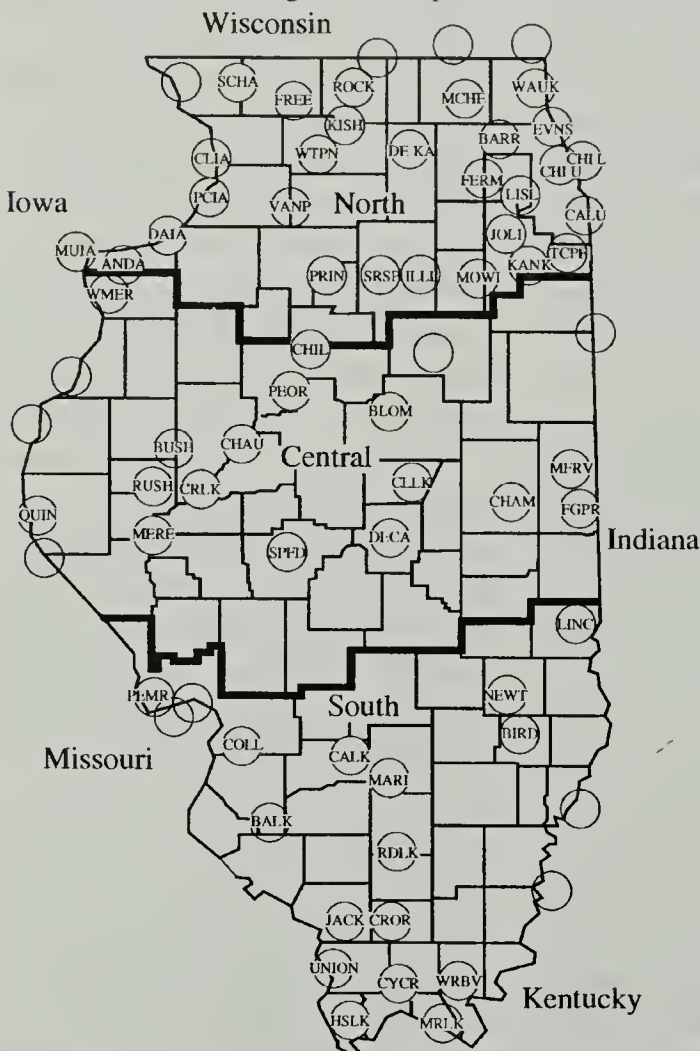
Acknowledgments

Thanks to all compilers for their consistent effort getting field and feeder observers out and counting on this grand birding tradition! A special thank must go to the Illinois Ornithological Society and Illinois Audubon for publishing the data for the state count in its entirety in a tabular format. Researchers and biologists can contact me for this data in Microsoft EXCEL spreadsheet format. This has particular significance since the National Audubon Society now only has its CBC data available on-line through Bird Source and for the first time published its Christmas Bird Count with only summation narratives and other

articles (LeBaron 2002).

2001 CBC Count Circles

The empty circles did not report to the Illinois CBC. Some circles bordering Illinois report to other states.



Key to Tables

Code	Description
cw	<u>count week</u> only (3 days before or after)
dd	<u>details desired</u>
ed	<u>excellent details</u>
gd	<u>good details</u>
hc	<u>high count</u> for that circle
HC	All-time <u>High Count</u> for the state
in IA	indicates bird(s) actually <u>in Iowa</u>
lc	<u>low count</u>
nc	<u>new species</u> to that circle's count
NC	<u>New to state's Count</u> species list
nd	<u>no details</u>
ps	<u>present for some time</u>
ph	<u>photographed</u>
qd	<u>questionable details</u>
rn	<u>remarkable number</u>
rr	<u>remarkable record</u>
ud	<u>unconvincing details</u>
*	<u>documented species</u>
boldface	species/number/item of note

Corrigenda

Kankakee's ('00) 6 Greater White-fronted Geese were mis-identified Greylag Geese, an occasional identification mistake. The 1999 Collinsville count recorded a state CBC first California Gull. The 1994 Cypress Creek CBC count for LeConte's Sparrow should be 12, and the 1995 count for Common Grackle should be 6,895.

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Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHLU	CHIL	CAJU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPP	JOLI	KANK	DEKA	MOWI	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	SRSP	FREE	WITN	PRIN	TOTALS
Red-breasted Loon	1	1	4	1	2	2			2		2											10
Common Loon		1	3						3												2	32
Pied-billed Grebe		1	4						7								ew					2
Horned Grebe		1																				2
American White Pelican																						2
Double-crested Cormorant	2																					202
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	7	15	3	3	9	9	15	20	32	3	14	5	2	11	10	24	4	34	1	14	226	
Black-crowned Night-Heron		1	6							1												10
Greater White-fronted Goose		1	1																			110
Snow Goose		1	1																			34
Snow Goose (Blue form)																						17
Snow Goose (White form)																						21
Road's Goose																						3
Canada Goose	24725	8857	2375	890	1910	5092	11727	27538	4253	1321	5510	5372	998	3052	2207	10869	7052	376	580	551	317	119027
Mute Swan	25	2	2		121		9		1	5		15		1			1					181
Tundra Swan	1	2			8																	12
Swan sp.					5																	6
Wood Duck	1	4	3			2																25
Goshawk	14	20	31	64	4	4	16	25	518		178	ew	1	269	40	10	8		2		1374	
American Osprey	1	1	2		5	5	30	11	150	2	5			5	12	3					7	234
American Black Duck	55	28	9	17	6	6	21	13	20		30	24		33	545	4	43				3	846
Mallard	2876	2788	1014	125	2069	1543	1735	4710	1525	633	751	919	416	5928	30143	1172	4846	758	64	84	1007	65106
Blue-winged Teal																						1
Northern Shoveler	6	3	23	1	10	10	28	97	22	5	6			1	2	2	1	1			40	246
Northern Pintail	1		1		19	19	6	29	31					6	9	ew					73	176
Green-winged Teal	2	5	15		33	33	54	111	12		14			1	68						35	350
duck sp.	168									32												201
Canvasback	8	6	ow	1	3	2	7	22		1				15	2						1	68
Redhead	66	73	bc	22	22	5	5	5	5												1	172
Ring-necked Duck	1		12		31	50	54	35	7	20	5	1		75	4	27	9				381	712
Greater Scaup	2398	1969	213	14																		4594
Lesser Scaup	501	29	1	170	22	22	3	6	6					20	6		1				2	762
scaup sp.				290																		290
Harpin Duck	1	1																				2
Black Scaup	1	17												1								3
Long-tailed Duck	1																					21
Bufflehead	71	30	2	11	18		3	5	5		5	2		20	4						9	180
Common Goldeneye	730	583	3	61	336	1	6	5	5		6	18		527	146		10	250			9	2696
Hooded Merganser	16	3	6	1	27	8	25	4	163		66	5		91	32	2	1				60	510
Common Merganser	254	120	4	131	112	1	2	2	2					2550	1562		7	34			1	4581
Red-breasted Merganser	104	577	4						91					2								1022
Ruddy Duck			1	5	1			2	22		1			3	1						3	38
Bald Eagle	ew	7	bc					2	1			4		8	2	2	14	50			19	112
Adults		4												2	1	2	5	31			13	61
Immatures		3												6	1		9	19			6	51
Northern Harrier	1	4				2	2	2	1	6	2	4		9	6	2	5	7			1	57
Sharp-shinned Hawk		6	1		5	5	1	3	2	2	2	2		1	5	5	1				1	34
Cooper's Hawk	5	5	4	4	2	2	8	18	7	5	6	4		2	2	5	3				1	82
Accipiter sp.																						3
Red-shouldered Hawk		1																				1
Red-tailed Hawk	60	45	15	1	47	46	61	73	81	51	37	56	16	45	29	83	79	62	40	29	31	987
Rough-legged Hawk	1	2	1			1	1		1	1		2		2	1	2	8				24	24
American Kestrel	7	5	7	20	17	17	8	25	23	33	21	37	16	9	9	34	8	22	6	7	13	327
Merlin	1	1	2											1								4
Peregrine Falcon																						6
Ring-necked Pheasant	1					2	6	8		10	3	7	2	10	4	15	2	4			1	76
Wild Turkey					10	10		11				14		17	155	36	108		1	10		362
Northern Bobwhite																						3
Virginia Rail																						2
American Coot	2	ps																				2
Sandhill Crane	126		10	67	1062	168	193	66	40	1	7	52		94	19	22	14	1			3390	5332
Killdeer		5	bc			84			ew													89
Greater Yellowlegs																						2
Least Sandpiper																						2
Wilson's Snipe	1	2	1					4														1
Bonaparte's Gull		4	5																			31
Ring-billed Gull	861	1562	963	910	3304	257	285	556	606	724	386	27	ew	438	469	63	21	36			662	12132
Herring Gull	1724	180	86	23	1744	10	43	288	14		10	30		866	273	37	229	1456			1	7028
Taylor's Gull	2	2	2		4			1						1	1		ew					13
Iceland Gull	1																					2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	HC																				7
Glaucous Gull	2																					3
Great Black-backed Gull					6	HC																1
gull sp.	692		55		100		124	75	10					1		39	6					1101
Rock Dove	440	622	1200	92	389	267	247	663	933	685	245	290	25	116	62	671	738	134	342	402	113	8676
Ringed Turtle-Dove											70											70



Field Notes

The 2001/2002 Winter Season

by Kelly J. McKay

The winter season of 2001-2002 was one of the warmest and driest on record in Illinois. In fact, new or near-record high temperatures occurred throughout the season statewide. Unlike last year when Illinois endured a succession of substantial winter storms, this year produced very few storms which resulted in an extremely dry and uneventful winter. The total number of species recorded within the state this year (166) was similar to last year (162).

The mild winter followed an unusually warm fall season. Temperatures during the first two-thirds of December were exceedingly mild statewide. Normal to slightly below normal temperatures characterized the last third of the month. A major storm front passing through southern Illinois at mid-month produced 2-3 inches of rain. Otherwise, no winter storms and very little precipitation occurred during December.

December's relatively mild conditions were followed by one of the warmest Januarys in Illinois. New or near-record high temperatures occurred statewide, especially near the end of January when high temperatures were seldom lower than the 50s or 60s. During the first two-thirds of January, no winter storms and little or no precipitation occurred. The first major winter storm occurred 30-31 January, as temperatures statewide dropped into the 20s and 30s. The storm produced 4 to 12 inches of snow across the northern one-third of Illinois, with locally heavier amounts near the Chicago lakefront. Throughout the central and southern sections of the state, temperatures remained high enough to result in heavy rainfall instead of snow.

During February, temperatures statewide ranged from normal to substantially above normal readings, until the last few days of the month when they dropped to slightly below normal. Two major storm fronts passed through Illinois in February, producing the only substantial precipitation for the month. The first storm, which dropped 1 to 2 inches of snow over most of the state, and locally more, occurred 19-20 February. The second storm resulted in a 1 to 2-inch snowfall over northern portion of Illinois 25-26 February.

The extraordinarily mild fall and winter of 2001-2002 permitted many migrants to linger throughout Illinois. For example, a large number of waterfowl and other waterbird species wintered in relative abundance. Most of the "semi-hardy" passerine species were present. Some species were relatively abundant; others inexplicably rare. A few species typically encountered, mostly in the south, went unreported (e.g. Eastern Phoebe, Vesper Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow). However, I believe this was due pri-

marily to the extremely low number of reports submitted from the central and southern portions of the state. The typical wintering avian community was present this year, but in many cases fewer numbers were observed. Additionally, several uncommon and accidental species were reported. During the 2001-2002 winter, Illinois experienced a minor invasion of "winter finches." With mild weather dominating the past winter, spring migration began very early; many migrants appeared in late January and early February. The number of observers submitting seasonal field notes was surprisingly low (102), particularly from the central and southern regions.

The winter avifauna included five species requiring review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC): Prairie Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, California Gull, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Townsend's Solitaire; see *Meadowlark* 11:65 for published acceptance of the last two species. (See the current review list at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html>.) Many additional species meriting documentation were observed in Illinois during the 2001-2002 winter. Some of the more interesting species included Red-throated Loon, American Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Caspian Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Barn Swallow, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole. The only other exotic/released species identified this winter was Trumpeter Swan.

Loons - Waterfowl: As with last year, a good diversity of waterfowl and other waterbird species was present in Illinois during the 2001-2002 winter season. **Three Red-throated Loons** were recorded in the state (1 in the north, 2 in the south), while relatively abundant and widespread populations of Common Loons, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes, American White Pelicans, and Double-crested Cormorants were detected, especially in December. Noteworthy concentrations included: **20 and 17 Common Loons** at Carlyle and Clinton Lakes, respectively; **74 Horned Grebes** at Carlyle Lake; and an incredible **7000 Double-crested Cormorants** at Rend Lake. The Great Blue Heron was abundant and widespread statewide, along with relatively small numbers of Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and both vulture species. Additionally, **2 American Bitterns** were encountered in the south.

Once again, Illinois maintained a diverse waterfowl community: **4 species of geese, 3 swans, 9 "puddle ducks,"** and **16 "div-**

ing ducks" were recorded in the state. The Greater White-fronted Goose continues to winter in increasing numbers statewide, with the number of reports this year nearly doubling those of 2000-2001. Small numbers of Ross's Geese occurred statewide, while Snow Geese were present at their normal wintering locations in the southern and central regions, but in somewhat reduced numbers compared with the past. Of special note were the **100,000** and **50,000 Snow Geese** at Carlyle and Rend Lakes, respectively. The wintering population of Canada Geese was greatly reduced throughout Illinois, particularly within the traditional strongholds of the southern and central regions. Mute and Trumpeter Swans occurred in fairly normal numbers, primarily in the north. By contrast, Tundra Swans were much more abundant and widespread throughout the northern section this winter. For instance, **965 Tundra Swans** were observed on Pool 13 of the Mississippi River on 20 December. **Most species of ducks appeared to be much more abundant in 2001-2002**, with the exception of common "divers" such as the Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser, which were less abundant than usual. Exceptionally large concentrations were found at typical central and southern locations including: **150,000 Mallards** at Carlyle Lake, **135,960** at Lake Chautauqua, **100,000** in Fulton County, and **42,500** at Rend Lake; along with **18,000** and **10,000 Northern Pintails** in Franklin and Fulton Counties, respectively. Other noteworthy accounts included **3 Blue-winged Teal** in the south, several individuals of all 3 scoters, **5 Harlequin Ducks** in Cook and Lake Counties, and a slight increase in reports of Long-tailed Ducks.

Raptors - Terns: Thirteen species of diurnal raptors were encountered during the season. Unlike last year, the mild winter conditions resulted in very little ice cover. Consequently, **Bald Eagles were much more widespread than usual** throughout the state, and therefore not concentrated on the Mississippi River. **Most of the other diurnal raptors occurred in fairly normal abundances.**

However, there were somewhat smaller numbers of Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks reported statewide. Although relatively abundant and widespread throughout the state, Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels are undoubtedly under-reported. The most extraordinary raptor was a **Prairie Falcon** reported from Sand Ridge S.F.

Among the upland gamebirds, relatively low numbers were recorded for all species. Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Gray Partridge were scattered primarily in the northern section of the state, while Northern Bobwhite was for the most part distributed sparsely throughout the southern 2/3 of Illinois. The mild winter may help the populations of these species recover somewhat. The American Coot and Sandhill Crane were much more abundant this year. Especially noteworthy were the **15,100 American Coots** recorded at Hennepin Lake, as well as the **150 and 90 Sandhill Cranes** in Du Page and Boone Counties on 24 and 19 December, respectively.

During the 2001-2002 winter season, an impressive **8 shore-bird species were observed**. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe were fairly abundant, while American Woodcock occurred in lower numbers. (See an article in this issue for displaying woodcock in southern Illinois throughout the winter.) Exceptional shorebird accounts included: **2 Greater Yellowlegs** in Will County on 16 December, **6 Least Sandpipers** (1 in the north and 5 in the south), **5 Dunlins** in Massac County on 28 December, and **1 Red Phalarope** in Lake County on 22 December. Additionally, single **Purple Sandpipers** were identified at Waukegan on 8 December and on 23 February.

Eleven species of gulls were encountered in Illinois. Among the typical winter gulls, Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls were present in large concentrations at various central and southern locations. By contrast, relatively small populations of Herring, Glaucous, and Great Black-backed Gulls were reported. Noteworthy gull accounts included: **5000, 2500, and 1100 Bonaparte's Gulls** at Carlyle, Rend, and Shelbyville Lakes, respectively; **50,000,**

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

Co(s) = County (Counties)	1st/ = first-/second-/third-	R = River	CA = Conservation Area	** = specimen
m.ob. = many observers	2nd/3rd winter plumage	L = Lake	SP = State Park	collected
< = reported as fall departure	pr = pair	Sl. = Slough	NWR = National Wildlife	MC = Maximum
> = reported as spring arrival	CBC = Christmas Bird Count	P = Park	Refuge	Counts from
ad. = adult	L&D = Lock and Dam	FP = Forest Preserve	* = observation	various sections
imm. = immature	Rd = Road	FWA = Fish & Wildlife Area	documented	of the state

Observation Sites:

Anda.Sl. = Andalusia Slough (Rock Island Co)	M.Arb = Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
Bald.L = Baldwin Lake (St. Clair and Randolph Cos)	Mermet L = Mermet Lake (Massac Co)
Carl.L = Carlyle Lake (Clinton and Fayette Cos)	MidFk FWA = Middle Fork Fish and Wildlife Area (Vermilion Co)
Chi = Chicago and vicinity (Cook Co)	MS R = Mississippi River (various Cos)
Clin.L = Clinton Lake (DeWitt Co)	MTwain = Mark Twain NWR (Mercer Co)
Goose L = Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (Grundy Co)	Pomona = Pomona (Jackson Co)
Heid.L = Heidecke Lake (Grundy Co)	Pr.Rdg = Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
Henn.L = Hennepin Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)	QC = Quad Cities (Rock Island Co)
HL = Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)	Rend L = Rend Lake (Franklin and Jefferson Cos)
IBSP = Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)	Rockford = Rockford and vicinity (Winnebago Co)
I&M = I&M Canal (La Salle Co)	Sand Rdg = Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
JP = Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)	SRock SP = Starved Rock State Park and L&D (La Salle Co)
LCal = Lake Calumet and vicinity (Cook Co)	UCCA = Union Co CA (Union Co)
LtlCal R = Little Calumet River (Cook Co)	Urbana = Champaign-Urbana (Champaign Co)
Chau = Chautauqua NWR (Mason Co)	Wauk. = Waukegan and vicinity (Lake Co)
LShel = Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie and Shelby Cos)	Winthrop H = Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co)
LSpfld = Lake Springfield (Sangamon Co)	

When information on counts greater than one individual, sexes, and/or ages of observed birds is available, it is included in parentheses at the head of the observation account. This information is followed by the location of the observation, date(s) of observation, and the observer(s) who made the report. Noteworthy dates of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole, or for particular regions of the state, are underlined and boldfaced. Species of extremely unusual occurrence in Illinois during the winter appear in **CAPITALIZED, BOLD FACED** fonts. Headings for species requiring review by the IORC appear in **CAPITALIZED, UNDERLINED, AND BOLD FACED** fonts. Records pending IORC review are found at the end of the species accounts.

The 1996 DeLorme Illinois *Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of most place names. Remarks on the import of records are informed largely by Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and the subsequently published Illinois journals.

11,000, and 10,000 Ring-billed Gulls at Carlyle, Horseshoe, and Shelbyville Lakes, respectively; an adult **California Gull** in Lake County on 5 January; a **Little Gull** at Rend Lake on 10 February; and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Lake Shelbyville on 2 December.

Doves - Kinglets: The Eurasian Collared-Dove and Monk Parakeet, where established, seemed to increase slightly this past winter, while Mourning and Rock Doves were reported in fairly normal numbers. The latter two species are most likely overlooked and under-reported across the state. Likewise, the numbers of Eastern Screech, Great Horned, and Barred Owls reported this year increased slightly, however they are still undoubtedly under-reported. Among the “northern” owls, Snowy Owls were slightly more numerous while Northern Saw-whets were a little more scarce. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls occurred in their typical small numbers and were sporadically distributed across Illinois. Once again, only a single **Barn Owl** was reported, predictably from Union County.

In general, the Belted Kingfisher along with the expected woodpeckers were encountered in fairly good numbers. Nevertheless, the common woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy) are more than likely still under-reported. **Larger numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes** were observed almost exclusively in the southern 1/3 of the state, while **far fewer Northern Shrikes** were reported, mostly from northeastern Illinois. Surprisingly, **no Eastern Phoebes were reported** in Illinois during the 2001-2002 winter. (But see the Christmas Bird Count in this issue). This was most likely due to the limited amount of data submitted from the central and southern regions.

Despite the lack of snow cover, Horned Larks were still relatively abundant this year. Likewise, Carolina Wrens occurred in fairly good numbers throughout the state. Several migratory species (e.g., Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets) were widely distributed in good numbers. Exceptional species encountered included: a single migrant **Tree Swallow** at Mermet Lake (26 February); **2 Barn Swallows** (one each at Lake Chautauqua and Carlyle Lake) on 22 February and 22 December, respectively; as well as Illinois Beach State Park’s celebrated **Brown-headed Nuthatch**, present since July and seen throughout the winter.

Overall, the common permanent residents (corvids, Tufted Titmouse, chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, and House Sparrow) were all observed in fairly typical numbers. However, I once again suggest that these birds are substantially, if not greatly, overlooked and under-reported throughout Illinois during all seasons of the year.

Thrushes - Sparrows: The Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Cedar Waxwing occurred in greater numbers and were more widely distributed, while the Hermit Thrush was less numerous. Especially noteworthy were counts of **8000, 3000+, and 1000 American Robins** at Rend Lake, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park, and Lake Shelbyville, respectively. Amazingly, **a pair of robins attempted to nest from mid December through mid January** in Chicago. See article in this issue. A **Townsend’s Solitaire** in Cook County on 17 December was the rarest thrush reported. The Northern Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher were reported in relatively normal numbers. A tally of **150 American Pipits** at Carlyle Lake on 27 December and a wintering Pipit at Chicago were noteworthy.

Five warbler species were encountered in Illinois during the 2001-2002 winter. The Yellow-rumped Warbler was substantially more abundant, particularly in the south. An especially large concentration, **180 Yellow-rumped Warblers**, was reported from Jackson County on 24 February. The other exceptional warblers included: an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Union County, single **Pine Warblers** in Lake County and at Rend Lake, **2 Palm Warblers** in Urbana in the first half of December, and **3 Common Yellowthroats** (2 in the north and 1 in the south).

Most of the sparrow species were reported in relatively typi-

cal numbers for an Illinois winter. However, the American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Snow Bunting were substantially less numerous, as large populations of these species likely remained further north during the unusually mild winter. By contrast, Fox and Swamp Sparrows were more common than usual. Again, these “semi-hardy” species undoubtedly benefitted from the milder conditions. A couple of noteworthy accounts include a **Spotted Towhee** at Urbana (1-2 December), and **6 Chipping Sparrows** scattered throughout Illinois. **Four sparrow species (Vesper, Le Conte’s, Lincoln’s, and Harris’s) were not reported** in Illinois this winter. Again, this is most likely due to the limited amount of data from the central and southern regions.

Blackbirds - Finches: Overall, wintering populations of blackbird species appeared to be somewhat normal, with the exception of Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle concentrations. These two species typically congregated in enormous numbers at certain central and southern locations. However, in 2001-2002 these concentrations were substantially reduced. Perhaps the mild winter allowed more wide dispersal. Nevertheless, Rend and Carlyle Lakes in the south and Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area in the north still maintained large numbers of **Red-winged Blackbirds (38,500, 20,000, and 10,000, respectively)**, and Common Grackles (14,320, 50,000, and 10,000, respectively). By comparison, the Brewer’s Blackbird slightly increased in abundance. The most notable blackbird was a single **Baltimore Oriole** in Jo Daviess County on 12-29 December. Migration began so early this winter (late January to early February), it was difficult to determine if flocks of blackbirds were migrants or overwintering populations.

During the 2001-2002 winter, Illinois experienced a minor invasion of “winter finches.” Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were somewhat more common and widespread, while both species of crossbills and the Common Redpoll occurred in substantially greater numbers distributed through the north and central regions of the state. The American Goldfinch also appeared to be slightly more numerous this winter, however this species is almost certainly under-reported. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow was reported in fairly typical numbers.

Acknowledgments

The foundation of this summary is the detailed information regarding avian wintering populations as submitted directly to the compiler, or indirectly via the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, by field observers throughout the state. Maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three regions of Illinois (north, central, and south) as mapped out in Bohlen’s (1978) *Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois*. Additional data reflecting the progress of the season are noted, when available, for species and areas of special interest. The species accounts follow the taxonomy and nomenclature of the seventh (1998) edition of the American Ornithologists’ Union’s Check-list of North American Birds, along with recent revisions and supplements.

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Winter 2001-2002 Field Notes

Red-throated Loon

Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (DK, FB); Carl.L., 15 Dec (GB, TB); Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW, *JE).

Common Loon

MC: 20, Carl.L., 1 Dec (DK); 17, Clin.L., 14 Dec (RC, GL); 10, Carl.L., 16 Dec (DK); 8, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 5, Wauk., 1 Dec (JC). **Others:** 2, JP, 5 Dec (PC, BH); 2, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW); 2, Rend L, 7 Jan (FB); Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); Boone Co, 9 Dec (AB); Wonder L (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (DF); JP, 18 Dec< (BH); Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec< (KM, SB, CL); IBSP, 1 Jan (PSw).

Pied-billed Grebe

MC: 34, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 13, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 10, Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); 7, LShel, 6 Dec (KM, CL); 7, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM). **Others:** 6, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 2, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 12 Jan (UG); IBSP, 8 Dec (PSw); Nelson L (Kane Co), 15 Dec (AS); MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); Anda.Sl., 23 Dec (KJM); Saganashkee Sl. (Cook Co), 24 Dec (UG); Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW, JE); Lockport (Will Co), 1 Jan (CA). This species was fairly common, primarily in December.

Horned Grebe

MC: 74, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 5, Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co), 31 Dec (SD); 2, IBSP, 11 Dec (DJ, DD). **Others:** 3, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 3, Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co), 24 Feb (FB); 2, Rend L, 14 Feb> (KM); JP, 4 Dec< (SC, KC); Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); JP, 20 Feb> (PC, DC).

American White Pelican

MC: 150, Carl.L., 1 Dec (DK); 70, Chau, 20 Dec (R&SB); 60, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 15 Dec (WR); 39, Chau, 22 Feb (R&SB); 3, Carroll Co, 20 Dec (EA, DW). **Others:** 47, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 25, Jersey Co, 17 Feb> (KM); 7, Chau, 24 Jan (R&SB).

Double-crested Cormorant

MC: 7000, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (DK, m.ob.) — **unprecedented winter season high count**; 50, Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); 36, Chau, 13 Dec (R&SB); 26, MS R (Rock Island, Whiteside, and Carroll Cos), 1 Dec (KJM, AF). **Others:** 17, Clin.L., 3 Dec< (RC); 15, MS R Pool 15 (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 14, Carl.L., 28 Dec (DK); 14, LtlCal R, 26 Jan (WM); 9, LtlCal R, 1 Dec (WM); 3, Will Co, 27 Jan (PSw); 2, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 2, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 23 Dec (JD); 2, Wauk., 1 Jan (PSw); Clin.L., 6 Jan< (RC). Widespread, especially throughout the northern section.

AMERICAN BITTERN

Pr.Rdg, 1-7 Dec< (LH); Rend L, 15 Dec (*LS).

Great Blue Heron

MC: 181, Chau, 24 Jan (R&SB); 35, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS); 24, Winnebago Co, 15 Dec (DTW); 20, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 17, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 17, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 19, I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); 15, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 14, Anda.Sl., 23 Dec (KJM); 13, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 10, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 10, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); 10 (birds standing on nests), Will Co, 17 Feb (PSw); 8, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, TM); 5, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 3, Wonder L (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (DF); 2, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 23 Dec (JD); 2, Lockport (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); LCal, 22 Dec (WM); Boone Co, 4 Jan, 15 Feb (AB); Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 6 Jan (UG). Widespread and relatively abundant throughout the northern section.

Great Egret

Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co), 1 Dec (KJM, AF); HL, 8 Dec< (KM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

2 imm., JP, 5 Dec (PC, BH); imm., JP, 19 Dec< (PC); imm., Chi, 28 Jan-28 Feb (AS). Reported only from extreme northeastern IL.

Black Vulture

MC: 21, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 30 Dec (RSM). **Others:** 10, Johnson Co, 6 Jan (KM); 8, Massac Co, 1 Jan (KM).

Turkey Vulture

MC: 12, LSpfld, 19 Feb (KM); 8, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 2, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 24 Feb (UG). **Others:** Carl.L., 20 Jan (DK); ad., Cook Co, 27 Jan (*PSw); Downs (McLean Co), 9 Feb> (AC); Danville (Vermilion Co), 17 Feb> (RC).

Greater White-fronted Goose

MC: 3000+, Chau, 9 Feb (RC); 2000, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK) — **record winter-season high counts**; 156, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw). **Others:** 300, Clin.L., 14 Dec (RC, GL); 300, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 300, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); 300, IL R (Schuyler Co), 15 Feb (LLH); 200, Heyworth (McLean Co), 28 Jan (TEB); 140, Franklin Co, 9 Feb (LS); 90, Grundy Co, 17 Feb (PSw); 87, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 42, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (BBE); 40, Chau, 12 Jan (KM); 40, LSpfld, 28 Jan (KM); 35, Barstow Rd (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH); 35, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 14 Feb (LLH); 10, Cherry Valley (Winnebago Co), 20-21 Jan (DTW); 3, I&M, 1 Jan (*DJS). Species continues to winter in increasing numbers throughout Illinois.

Snow Goose

MC: 100,000, Carl.L., 16 Feb (DK); 75,000, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK); 50,000, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 25,000, Chau, 9 Feb (RC); 400, Clin.L., 14 Dec (RC, GL); 42, Boone Co, 9 Dec (AB); 12, Nelson L (Kane Co), 15 Dec (AS). **Others:** 25,000, Bald.L., 5 Jan (KM); 9000+, Pomona, 2 Feb (RSM); 500, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 4 (2 blue morph, 2 white morph), Long Grove (Lake Co), 20 Jan, 3 Feb (CF); 3, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (PSw); West Branch FP (Du Page Co), 31 Dec (UG).

Ross's Goose

MC: 8, Franklin Co, 25 Feb (LS); 5, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.), Durand (Winnebago Co), 15 Dec (DTW); 2, Chau, 3 Feb (RC). **Others:** 4, Calhoun Co, 15 Dec (WR); 2, Carl.L., 28 Jan (KM); Pr.Rdg, 4 Dec< (LH); ad. (white morph), Normal (McLean Co), 15 Dec (MR, WH); UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK, m.ob.); Rend L, 7 Jan (FB); Long Grove (Lake Co), 13 Jan (CF); Kankakee (Kank. Co), 9 Feb (DFS). Fairly widespread.

Canada Goose

MC: 21,500, Kendall Co, 3 Feb (DFS); 8497, Third L (Lake Co), 1 Jan (DJ, RMy); 8000, Chau, 12 Jan (KM); 8000, Livingston Co, 19 Feb (KM); 3000+, UCCA, 21 Dec (KM, VK); 500, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK). **Others:** 5000, Clin.L., 6 Jan (RC); 5000, Long Grove (Lake Co), 7 Feb (CF); 3252, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 3000+, Boone Co, 9 Dec (AB); 1400+, JP, all winter (PC); 885, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 500 ("Richardson's"), Chau, 3 Feb (RC); 490, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); 230 ("Richardson's"), Normal (McLean Co), 15 Dec (MR, WH); 13, Pomona, 5 Jan (RSM). Comparatively low numbers, especially in the central and southern regions, are due in large part to a lack of aerial waterfowl survey data.

Mute Swan

MC: 125, Wolf L (Cook Co), 4 Jan (DFS); 84, Chi, 26 Jan (WM). **Others:**

59, William Powers CA (Cook Co), 29 Dec (CM); 19, Channahon (Will Co), 21 Jan (DFS); 8, JP, 6 Jan> (SC); 5 ad., Third L (Lake Co), 3 Jan (PSw); 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.), Belmont Harbor, Chi, 12 Jan (GW); 3 (1 ad., 2 imm.), Fox R (Kane Co), 19 Jan-23 Feb (PSw). Reports confined to northeast IL.

Tundra Swan

MC: 965, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW) — **record Illinois high count** by 365 individuals; 38 (31 ad., 7 imm.), Chau, 1 Jan-28 Feb (R&SB). **Others:** 8, LCal, 29 Dec (WM); 8, Grundy Co, 19 Feb (KM); 4 (2 ad., 2 imm.), L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 27 Jan (UG); 3, Barstow Rd (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH); 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.), North Aurora (Kane Co), 26 Jan (UG); 2, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (JE, EW); 2, IBSP, 7 Jan (PSw); 2, Boone Co, 23 Jan (AB); 2, Shirland (Winnebago Co), 12-22 Feb (DTW); Rend L, 10 Feb (FB). Good numbers, largely restricted to the northern section.

Wood Duck

MC: 20, Arcola (Douglas Co), 2 Dec< (RC); 6, Boone Co, 7 Dec (AB); 6, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw); 6, Vermilion Co, 24 Feb (JOS); 2, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 4, MS R Pool 13 (Carroll Co), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 4, Putnam Co, 8 Jan (DFS); 3, Anda.Sl., 23 Dec (KJM); 3, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 2, QC, 16 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 2, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 24 Feb (UG); pr, JP, 25 Feb> (PC); 2, Chau, 28 Feb (R&SB); Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); Kendall Co, 29 Dec (DJS); male, Geneva (Kane Co), 19 Jan (AS).

Gadwall

MC: 1580, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 1200, HL, 8 Dec (KM); 730, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); 475, HL, 21 Jan (KM); 314, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 295, LCal, 13 Dec (DFS). **Others:** 215, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 200, Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); 162, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 72, LCal, 22 Dec (WM); 70, Lockport Prairie (Will Co), 16 Feb (CA); 12, Hillary (Vermilion Co), 5 Jan (RC); 11, Wauk., 1 Jan (PSw); 8, I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); 5, Albany (Whiteside Co), 19 Dec (RN, AM); 4, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS); 3, Blackhawk FP (Kane Co), 23 Dec (JD).

American Wigeon

MC: 580, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 312, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 269, Chau, 28 Feb (R&SB); 86, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 50, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 50, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH). **Others:** 33, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 22, Saganashkee Sl. (Cook Co), 16 Dec (WS); 4, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK); 2 (male & female), Wadsworth Wetlands FP (Lake Co), 13 Dec (PSw); pr, Anderson L CA (Fulton Co), 15 Feb (LLH); Winthrop H, 26 Jan (KM); male, LtlCal R, 26 Jan (WM); male, Kane Co, 23 Feb (PSw).

American Black Duck

MC: 642, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 20, Rockford, 29 Dec (DTW); 20, Lake Zurich (Lake Co), 20 Jan (DJ); 16, Kankakee (Kankakee Co), 22 Dec (DFS); 12, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 10, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK). **Others:** 10, LCal, 22 Dec (WM); 10, Chau, 12 Jan (KM); 7, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); 6, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 5, Anderson L CA (Fulton Co), 15 Feb (LLH); 3, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 3, Romeoville (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); 2, Anda.Sl., 23 Dec (KJM); 2, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 31 Dec (UG); 2, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK); UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); Heid.L., 12 Jan (UG).

Mallard

MC: 150,000, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK); 135,960, Chau, 13 Dec (R&SB); 100,000, Fulton Co, 3 Feb (RC); 42,500, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 9958, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 1000, Long Grove (Lake Co), 7 Feb (CF). **Others:** 30,000, Franklin Co, 8 Feb (LS); 15,000, Clin.L., 6 Jan (RC); 5455, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 3400, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); 694, LtlCal R, 29 Dec (WM, KW, MB); 692, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 567, MS R (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 330, Rock R (Whiteside and Lee Cos), 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 100, Winthrop H, 5 Jan (DJ, m.ob.); 72 (43 male, 29 female), JP, 1 Jan (PC).

Blue-winged Teal

2, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 1 Dec (DK); Mermet L, 9 Feb (*FB).

Northern Shoveler

MC: 1643, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 490, Henn.L., 20 Dec (DFS); 300, Carl.L., 1 Dec (DK); 300, HL, 27 Feb (KM); 230, MS R Pool 13 (Car-

roll Co), 20 Dec (EA, DW). **Others:** 80, Carl.L., 16 Dec (DK); 62, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 10, LCal, 22 Dec (WM); 8, Anda.Sl., 23 Dec (KJM); 6, Lake Zurich (Lake Co), 13 Jan (DJ); 3, Timber Ridge FP (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (UG); 2 females, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 1 Dec (LLH); 2, Kenyon FP (Kane Co), 19 Dec (JD); 2, Clin.L., 6 Jan (RC); 2, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 24 Feb (UG); I&M, 1 Jan (DJS).

Northern Pintail

MC: 18,000, Franklin Co, 8 Feb (LS); 10,000, Fulton Co, 3 Feb (RC); 2996, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 800, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 680, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 54, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 23 Feb (AS). **Others:** 104, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 10, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK); 8, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS); 7, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 20 Feb (JD); 5, Wadsworth Wetlands FP (Lake Co), 13 Dec (PSw); 4, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 4, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw); 3, JP, 19 Feb> (PC); 2, Heid.L., 28 Jan (KM); L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 1 Dec (KJM, AF); male, Lockport (Will Co), 1 Jan (CA).

Green-winged Teal

MC: 1339, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 1100, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 136, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 100, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 55, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 23 Dec (UG). **Others:** 24, MS R Pool 13 (Carroll Co), 20 Dec (EA, DW); 21, Kenyon FP (Kane Co), 19 Dec (JD); 20, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 10, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM, SH); 8, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 20 Jan (UG); male, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); male, Wauk., 4 Jan (CF); male, Will Co, 27 Jan (PSw).

Canvasback

MC: 5300, L&D 19 (Hancock Co), 29 Dec (SD); 1250, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 300, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 15 Jan (JC); 300, Anderson L CA (Fulton Co), 15 Feb (LLH); 150, Carl.L., 27 Dec (DK); 60, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK). **Others:** 147, Chau, 13 Dec (R&SB); 72, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 20, LSpfld, 19 Feb> (KM); 13, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 23 Dec (JD); 8, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 7, Wauk., 1 & 13 Jan (JE, RB, UG); 2, Seneca (La Salle Co), 30 Dec (DJS); 2, Chi, 9 Feb (CM); Crystal L (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (DF); female, JP, 1 Jan< (PC); female, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 23 Feb (UG).

Redhead

MC: 300, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 300, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 15 Jan (JC); 12, Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); 9, Chau, 28 Feb (R&SB). **Others:** 70, Winthrop H, 15 Jan (RC, m.ob.); 38, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 6, Carl.L. CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 6 (5 male, 1 female), JP, 9 Jan-19 Feb (PC, m.ob.); 4, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 3, Will Co, 24 Feb (UG); female, Fox R (Kane Co), 19 Jan (PSw).

Ring-necked Duck

MC: 4000, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM) — **record winter high count** excluding aerial surveys; 1175, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 800, Henn.L., 20 Dec (DFS); 506, Chau, 28 Feb (R&SB). **Others:** 400, Carl.L., 22 Dec (DK); 400, HL, 5 Feb (KM); 260, Clear L (Mason Co), 8 Dec (R&SB); 130, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 65, LtlCal R, 26 Jan (WM); 14, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 24 Feb (JD); 13, Anda.Sl., 23 Dec (KJM); 10, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH); 9, Long Grove (Lake Co), 3-28 Feb (CF); 5, Winthrop H, 28 Jan (DFS); 3, Crystal L (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (DF); 2, Timber Ridge FP (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (UG); 2, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw).

Greater Scaup

MC: 2000, IBSP, 1 & 21 Jan (PSw, DJ); 1700, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW, JE); 25, Carl.L., 28 Dec (DK); 3, Mermet L, 28 Feb (FB). **Others:** 725, Winthrop H, 23 Feb (KM, DK); 200, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (*KJM); 198, JP, 25 Dec< (PC); 26, Chi, 9 Feb (CM); 2, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 27 Jan (UG). Largely restricted to northern IL.

Lesser Scaup

MC: 5075, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM) — **record winter-season high count**; 2255, Chau, 28 Feb (R&SB); 1500, Carl.L., 1 Dec (DK); 500, IBSP, 1 Jan (PSw); 375, HL, 5 Feb (KM). **Others:** 425, LtlCal R, 17 Feb (WM); 150, Carl.L., 23 Dec (DK); 51, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH); 40, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS); 20, Grundy Co, 27 Jan (PSw); 12, Carl.L., 20 Jan (DK); 10, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw); 6, Will Co, 24 Feb (UG); male, JP, 20 Jan> (PC).

Surf Scoter

MC: 4, East Alton (Madison Co), 8 Dec (KM); 4, IBSP, 12 Jan (AS). **Others:** 2, Lake Co, 2 Feb (AS); female-plumage, Montrose H, Chi,

10, 12, 14, 27 Jan (DRD, GW).

White-winged Scoter

2, Cook Co, 30 Dec (PSw); 2, Rend L, 10 Feb (FB); female, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 22 Dec, 12 Jan, 26 Feb (SCH, GW, CF); Rend L, 30 Jan (LS).

Black Scoter

MC: 6, Winthrop H, 12 Jan (GW). **Others:** 2 females, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (*JE, EW); 2 (male & female), Lake Co, 26 Jan (AS); female, East Alton (Madison Co), 8 Dec (KM); female, Wauk., 1 Jan (*JE, RB, DJ); Clin.L, 20 Feb> (RC).

HARLEQUIN DUCK

2 females, Winthrop H, 1 Dec (AS, UG, m.ob.); 2, JP, 20 Feb (PC); female-plumage, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (*JE, EW); one male, Quincy, 12 Jan (KV).

Long-tailed Duck

MC: 12, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (JE, EW); 8, Wauk., 16 Feb (PSw); 2 (ad. & imm. females), L&D 19 (Hancock Co), 29 Dec (SD). **Others:** 5, Lake Co, 12 Jan (AS); female (appeared to be sick), Wauk., 1 Dec (UG); female, Normal (McLean Co), 15-16 Dec (MR, WH, RC); female, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH); Chau, 20 Dec (R&SB); ad. male, JP, 24 Dec & 1 Jan< (PC); Rend L, 7 Jan (FB).

Bufflehead

MC: 500, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM) — record winter-season high count; 70, Winthrop H, 26 Jan (KM); 40, Carl.L, 9 Dec (DK); 12, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB). **Others:** 23, JP, 24 Feb (SC, PC); 10, Chi, 29 Dec (CM); 10, JP, 7 Jan> (PC); 6, IBSP, 11 Dec (DJ, DD); 3, Will Co, 24 Feb (UG); female, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS).

Common Goldeneye

MC: 3000, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 15 Jan (JC); 1850, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 1000, Rend L, 27 Jan (LS); 900, L&D 19 (Hancock Co), 29 Dec (SD); 580, Carl.L, 5 Jan (DK); 500, Clin.L, 6 Jan (RC). **Others:** 440, Grant P, Chi, 7 Jan (DFS); 350, Heid.L, 27 Dec (JC); 178, Kane Co, 4 Jan (JD); 105, HL, 5 Feb (KM); 97, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 95, Rock R (Whiteside Co), 30 Dec (KJM); 57, Chau, 7 Feb (R&SB); 50, IBSP, 21 Jan (DJ); 41, JP, 7 Jan> (PC); 6, L&D 16 (Rock Island Co), 23 Dec (KJM); 2, Will Co, 24 Feb (UG); male, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 1 Dec (LLH). Relatively less abundant, especially in December.

Hooded Merganser

MC: 188, Chau, 24 Jan (R&SB); 150, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 125, Des Plaines R (Will Co), 28 Dec (JC); 75, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); 30, Saganashkee Sl. (Cook Co), 16 Dec (WS). **Others:** 23, LtCal R, 29 Dec (WM, KW, MB); 16, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 9, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 5, McHenry Co, 15 Dec (DF); 5, Grundy



Male Harlequin Duck in Quincy, Illinois, Adams County. 12 January 2002. Photo by Ken Vail.



Male Harlequin Duck with Mallards (a male and female) in Quincy, Illinois, Adams County. 12 January 2002. Photo by Ken Vail.

Co, 21 Jan (DFS); 3, Danada FP (Du Page Co), 23 Feb (UG); 2, South Elgin FP (Kane Co), 4 Jan (JD); 2, Wauk., 5 Jan (DJ); JP, 25 Dec< (PC); Rockford, 29 Dec (DTW).

Common Merganser

MC: 2000, Clin.L, 6 Jan (RC); 1141, Chau, 7 Feb (R&SB); 1100, Heid.L, 28 Jan (KM); 510, Carl.L, 5 Jan (DK); 480, Will Co, 11 Feb (DFS). **Others:** 250, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 15 Jan (JC); 200, SRock SP, 12 Jan (DJS); 160, JP, 20 Jan (PC); 98, LCal, 9 Feb (WM); 42, Wauk., 15 Jan (DJ); 4, Boone Co, 26 Feb (AB). Much less abundant this winter, especially in December. Largely confined to northern IL.

Red-breasted Merganser

MC: 1200, Grant P, Chi, 25 Jan (DFS); 200, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 190, JP, 9 Jan> (PC); 130, Rend L, 14 Feb> (KM). **Others:** 91, Saganashkee Sl. (Cook Co), 16 Dec (WS); 79, JP, 25 Dec< (PC); 50, Carl.L, 8 Dec (DK); 4 females, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 4, Wauk., 31 Jan (DJ); 3, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); Crystal L (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (DF); female, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM).

Ruddy Duck

MC: 3000, Carl.L, 8 Dec (DK); 1600, HL, 8 Dec (KM) — both winter-season high counts; 1052, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 900, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 750, HL, 5 Feb (KM); 500, Chau, 3 Feb (RC); 320, Henn.L, 6 Dec (DFS). **Others:** 300, Carl.L, 16 Feb (DK); 122, L&D 19 (Hancock Co), 29 Dec (SD); 120, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 45, Saganashkee Sl. (Cook Co), 8 Dec (CT); 3, Boone Co, 2 Dec (AB); 2 (male & female) Winthrop H, 5 & 26 Jan (PSw).

Bald Eagle

MC: 371 (208 ad., 163 imm.), MS R L&D 13-15 (Whiteside, Rock Island Cos), 15 Jan (KJM, PS); 355 (224 ad., 129 imm., 2 not aged), MS R Warsaw to L&D 18 (Hancock, Henderson Cos), 18 Jan (KJM); 206 (95 ad., 111 imm.), IL R, Havana to Beardstown (Mason, Cass Cos), 12 Jan (RC, EC, JJ); 141 (94 ad., 43 imm., 4 not aged), MS R L&D 15-16 (Rock Island Co), 17 Jan (KJM); 12, Carl.L, 5 Jan (DK); 11 (7 ad., 4 imm.), Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 154 (65 ad., 89 imm.), Chau, 24 Jan (R&SB); 137 (111 ad., 23 imm., 3 not aged), MS R Keithsburg to L&D 17 (Mercer Co), 17 Jan (KJM); 83 (44 ad., 33 imm., 6 not aged), MS R Cordova to Albany (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 71, L Depue (Bureau Co), 1 Feb (DJS); 50+, MS R Quincy (Adams Co), 13 Jan (LLH); 44 (36 ad., 8 not aged), Putnam Co, 8 Jan (DFS); 25, SRock SP, 12 Jan (DJS); 13 (3 ad., 10 imm.), Heid.L, 28 Jan (KM); 5 (3 ad., 2 imm.), Rockford, 29 Dec (DTW); 4 (1 ad., 3 imm.), Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 19 Dec (CF); 2 ad., Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2 imm., Kendall Co, 31 Dec (DJS); 2 imm., IBSP, 31 Dec (PSw); 2 (on nest), Massac Co, 9 Feb (FB); Bloomington (McLean Co), 3 Feb (MR, KK). More widespread than usual.

Northern Harrier

MC: 7, Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH); 7, Carl.L, 28 Jan (KM); 6, Carl.L, 8 Dec (DK); 3, Winnebago Co, all winter (DTW); 3 (1 male, 2 female), Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 6 Jan (UG). **Others:** 4, Fulton and Schuyler Cos, 9 Jan (LLH); 4, Edgar Co, 19 Feb (JOS); 2, Carroll Co, 20 Dec (EA, DW); 2, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 2, IBSP, 1 Jan (PSw); pr, Glacial P (McHenry Co), 4 Jan (DF); 2 (male & female), Goose L, 26 Jan (GW); ad. female, Boone Co, all winter (AB); Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); Whiteside Co, 30 Dec (AT, ET); I&M, 30 Dec (DJS); Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 26 Jan (GW); Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 3 Feb (JD); Afton FP (De Kalb Co), 10, 17 Feb (DJS). This species was relatively widespread.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

MC: 4, Carl.L, 13 Jan (DK). **Others:** 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 2, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 2, Lee Co, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); ad. female, Boone Co, all winter (AB); Carroll Co, 20 Dec (EA, DW); Vermilion Co, 26-27 Dec (JOS); I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); St. Clair Co, 11 Jan (KM); Vernon Hills (Lake Co), 16 Jan (DJ); Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 20 Jan (UG); ad. female, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 5 Feb (LLH); Grundy Co, 17 Feb (PSw). Widespread, especially in northern Illinois.

Cooper's Hawk

MC: 5, Carl.L, 8 Dec (DK); 4, Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH); 3, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (DK). **Others:** 2 (ad. & imm. females), JP, all winter (PC); 2, Timber Ridge FP (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (UG); 2, Carroll Co, 20 Dec (EA, DW); 2, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); 2,

Bald.L, 5 Jan (KM); ad. male, Boone Co, all winter (AB); Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); ad., Burnham (Cook Co), 22 Dec (WM); Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); Vermilion Co, 24 Dec (JOS); Carbondale (Jackson Co), 29 Dec (RSM); Joliet (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); Chau, 10 Jan (R&SB); Lake Zurich (Lake Co), 13 Jan (DJ); McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 23 Feb (UG). Widespread, especially throughout northern Illinois.

Northern Goshawk

Imm., HL, 8 Dec (KM); ad., Bloomington (McLean Co), 15 Dec (MH, CH); imm., Towanda (McLean Co), 26 Dec (MR, MA); imm., Carl.L, 5 Jan (DK); imm., Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 26 Feb (DTW).

Red-shouldered Hawk

MC: 7, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 2, Carl.L, 21 Jan (DK). **Others:** Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 1 Jan-28 Feb (R&SB); Johnson Co, 6 Jan (KM); Lake Co, 13 Jan (UG); imm., Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 20 Jan (CF); Cook Co, 13 Feb & 27-28 Feb (RE); MidFk FWA, 17 Feb (RC).

Red-tailed Hawk

MC: 60, Jackson and Franklin Cos, 1 Dec (LS); 49, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 24, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 23, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 22, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 13, Chau, 3 Jan (R&SB). **Others:** 22, Will Co, 27 Jan (PSw); 20, Carl.L, 5 Jan (DK); 15, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); 15, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 15, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS); 9, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 6, Vermilion and Champaign Cos, all winter (JOS); 6, La Salle and Kendall Cos, 19 Jan (DJS); 2, Boone Co, all winter (AB); 2 (ad. & imm.), JP, 1-2 Jan (PC); "Krider's Hawk", Franklin Co, 12 Dec (LS); dark morph, Hamilton Co, 5 Jan (LS); dark morph, Quincy (Adams Co), 13 Jan (LLH); ad. "Krider's Hawk", LCal, 17 Feb (WM).

Rough-legged Hawk

MC: 3, Whiteside Co, 20 Dec (KJM); 3, Fulton and Schuyler Cos, 9 Jan (LLH); 3, Carl.L, 13 Jan (DK); 3, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (PSw); 3 (2 light morph, 1 dark morph), McLean Co, 23 Feb (KM). **Others:** 2, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, SH); 2, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, BBe); 2, Douglas Co, 30 Dec (JOS); 2, Lee Co, 30 Dec (KJM); 2, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 30 Dec (UG); light morph, Cook Co, 9 Dec (DFS); light morph, Kendall Co, 31 Dec (DJS); IBSP, 1 Jan (GW); dark morph, Johnson Co, 6 Jan (FB); light morph, Putnam Co, 8 Jan (DFS); ad. female, L Argyle SP (McDonough Co), 13 Jan (LLH); dark morph, Will Co, 21 Jan (DFS); light morph, Henderson Co, 2 Feb (DJS); light morph, Iroquois Co, 9 Feb (DFS); LCal, 9 Feb (WM).

Golden Eagle

Ad., Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co), 12 Jan (RC, EC, JJ).

American Kestrel

MC: 19, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 16, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF, m.ob.); 14, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 13, Jackson & Franklin Cos, 1 Dec (LS); 13, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, BBe); 12, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 11, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 11, Carl.L, 5 Jan (DK); 10, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 10, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 7, LCal, 17 Feb (WM); 3, Chau, 20 Dec (R&SB); 3, Vermilion Co, 20 Feb (JOS); Hyde P, Chi, all winter (KC).

Merlin

QC, 15 & 19 Dec (SF); female or imm. male, Palos (Cook Co), 16 Dec (*WS); M.Arb, 16 Dec (JC); *richardsonii*, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); female *richardsonii*, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (*KJM) — sixth and seventh Illinois reports of this subspecies; female, Wauk., 29 Dec, 1 Jan (JC, *JE, EW); Kemp (Douglas Co), 21 Jan (RC); imm. female *columbarius*, Normal (McLean Co), 16 Feb (GH).

Peregrine Falcon

MC: 2 (pr, *anatum*), JP, all winter (PC); 2, Wauk., 28 Dec-5 Jan (PSw). **Others:** Champaign Co, 4 Dec (JOS); East Alton (Madison Co), 21 Jan (KM); ad., Northbrook (Cook Co), 27 Jan (DJ); ad., Will Co, 27 Jan (AS, PSw); East St. Louis (St. Clair Co), 6 Feb (KM).

Gray Partridge

MC: 7, Somonauk (De Kalb Co), 8 Feb (DJS). **Others:** 4, Plato Center (Kane Co), 23 Dec (DTW); 3, De Kalb Co, 17 Feb (UG). Restricted to northeast Illinois.

Ring-Necked Pheasant

MC: 29, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS). **Others:** 2, Lee Co, 30 Dec (KJM);

Dresden L (Will Co), 12 Jan (UG); male, Will Co, 27 Jan (PSw). Found only in the northern section, in extremely low numbers.

Wild Turkey

MC: 128, Will Co, 23 Dec (AW); 44, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 17, Carl.L, 27 Dec (DK); 14, Marietta (Fulton Co), 27 Dec (LLH). **Others:** 26, Wilmington (Will Co), 19 Jan (CA); 17, Boone Co, 10 Jan (AB); 9, Lincolnshire (Lake Co), 19 Feb (DJ); 8, Whiteside Co, 30 Dec (J&SB); 6, Bald.L, 5 Jan (KM); 6, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw); 4, HL, 5 Feb (KM).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 18, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 10, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 3, Winnebago Co, 15 Dec (DTW); 3, Carl.L, 2 Feb (DK). **Others:** Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (SF); HL, 5 Jan (KM). Found in extremely low numbers, primarily in the lower 2/3 of IL.

American Coot

MC: 15,100, Henn.L, 6 Dec (DFS) — unprecedented winter high count; 5000, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 1 Dec (KJM, AF); 1305, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 650, HL, 27 Feb (KM); 199, Chau, 8 Dec (R&SB); 141, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM). **Others:** 143, Chi, 29 Dec (CM); 100, Carl.L 1 Dec (DK); 80, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); 40, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 23 Dec (JD); 18, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH); 14, JP, 1 Jan< (PC); 10, IBSP, 1 Dec-16 Feb (PSw); 6, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 4, Boone Co, 2 Dec (AB); Du Page Co, 15 Dec (UG). Previous winter-season maxima come from aerial surveys past mid-Feb. (to 3790 birds) or from CBCs (to 2809 birds); highest previous single-observer count is of 2200 birds at Naperville, 16 Dec 1999.

Sandhill Crane

MC: 150, Woodridge (Du Page Co), 24 Dec< (UG); 90, Boone Co, 19 Dec (AB); 75, Glacial P (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (DF); 75, Palatine (Cook Co), 19 Dec (CF). **Others:** 30, Aurora West FP (Kane Co), 19 Dec (JD); 30, Buffalo Grove (Lake Co), 23 Feb (DJ); 20, Blue Island (Cook Co), 24 Feb> (RC); 10, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 24 Feb (UG); 5, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw); 3, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 23 Feb> (UG); 2, Carroll Co, 20 Dec (EA, DW); Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co), 24 Feb (FB). Good numbers into Dec.; restricted almost entirely to the north.

Killdeer

MC: 217, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS, KJM, VK); 53, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 30+, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 1 Dec (LLH); 18, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); 9, Anda.SI., 23 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 17, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 8, Carl.L, 2 Feb (DK); 8, Chau, 9 Feb (RC); 8, East Paris (Edgar Co), 19 Feb (JOS); 6, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 6, Winnebago Co, 24 Feb (PSw); 5, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 5, Henn.L, 20 Dec (DFS); 3, Rockford, all winter (DTW); 2, MS R Quincy (Adams Co), 13 Jan (LLH); Decatur (Macon Co), 29 Dec (JJ); I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); Joliet (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); LSpfld, 28 Jan> (KM); JP, 20 Feb> (PC, DC); McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 23 Feb> (UG). Widespread throughout the state this winter.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS

2, Bolingbrook (Will Co), 16 Dec< (*UG) — apparently only the fourth December record for Illinois.

LEAST SANDPIPER

5, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (*KM); I&M, 1 Jan (*DJS).

DUNLIN

5, Massac Co, 28 Dec (FB).

Wilson's Snipe

MC: 54, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS) — highest single-observer winter count (two higher counts of 65 and 67 birds have been obtained in CBCs); 6, Rockford, all winter (DTW); 6, Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co), 1 Dec (KJM, AF); 5, Mermet L, 7 Jan (FB). **Others:** 4, Anda.SI., 23 Dec (KJM); 3, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); 3, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (AS); Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 16 Dec (JC); Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec< (KM, SB, CL); Collison (Vermilion Co), 5 Jan (RC). Note: The North American and Old World populations of snipe are now considered specifically distinct, and the name Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* is resurrected for the North American birds; see *The Auk* 119.3, p. 899.

American Woodcock

MC: 4, HL, 5 Feb> (KM); 4, Christopher L (Franklin Co), 25 Feb (LS);

2, Urbana, 3 Feb> (RC). **Others:** 3, Massac Co, 10 Jan (FB); JP, 25 Feb> (PC, KC); Homer L (Champaign Co), 28 Feb (JOS). Relatively scarce this winter.

RED PHALAROPE

North Point Marina (Lake Co), **22 Dec**< (AS).

LITTLE GULL

Rend L, 10 Feb (*FB). Species subsequently reinstated on IORC review list.

Bonaparte's Gull

MC: **5000**, Carl.L, 8 Dec (DK) — **record winter-season high count; 2500**, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); **1200**, Carl.L, 16 Dec (DK); **1200**, Rend L, 14 Feb (KM); **1100**, LShel, 2 Dec (RC); 142, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 8 Dec (R&SB); 35, Senachwine L (Putnam Co), 16 Dec (DJS); 31, Boone Co, 2 Dec (AB). **Others:** 18, LtlCal R, 1 Dec (WM); 5, Iroquois Co, 22 Dec (DFS); 3, Lake Co, 8 Dec (AS); 3, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW, JE); Clin.L, 20 Feb> (RC). This species was exceptionally abundant and widespread.

Ring-billed Gull

MC: **50,000**, Carl.L, 28 Dec (DK) — **record December high count; 35,000**, Carl.L, 6 Jan (KM) — **record January high count; 11,000**, HL, 5 Feb (KM); **10,000**, LShel, 23 Feb (RC); 2900, LCal, 4 Jan (DFS); 2400, Clear L (Mason Co), 24 Jan (R&SB); 997, MS R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW). **Others:** 895, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW, JE); 777, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, TM, m.ob.); 523, MS R Pool 14 (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (RN, AM, KJM); 450, Boone Co, 2 Dec (AB); 137, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 20, Winthrop H, 5 Jan (DJ, m.ob.); 11, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 2 Dec (LLH). Various central and southern locations maintained exceptionally large wintering populations.

Herring Gull

MC: 2000, Winthrop H, 26 Jan (KM); 1200, LCal, 29 Dec (WM); 150, Carl.L, 20 Jan (DK); 100, East Alton (Madison Co), 21 Jan (KM); 40, Chau, 24 Jan (R&SB). **Others:** 700+, La Salle Co, 12 Jan (DJS); 110, Winnebago Co, 1 Dec-5 Jan (DTW); 81, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 76, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM); 54, JP, 23 Feb> (PC); 5, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 5, L&D 17 (Mercer Co), 18 Dec (TM, KJM); 3 imm., Boone Co, 2 Dec (AB). A report of a "**Vega Gull**" (subspecies *vegae*) at Winthrop H, 1 Dec, is pending IORC review of photos and documentation; this Siberian form is previously unknown in Illinois. Overall, Herring Gulls were relatively uncommon this winter.

Thayer's Gull

MC: 8 (4 ad., 3 1st, 1 2nd), Winthrop H, 16 Feb (DJ, m.ob.); 5 (4 ad., 1

1st), Grant P, Chi, 23 Jan (DFS). **Others:** 5 ad., Winthrop H, 12 Jan (GW); 4 (2 ad., 2 1st), LCal, 4 Jan (DFS); 4 (1 ad., 3 1st), QC, 19 Jan (SF); 4 (3 ad., 1 1st), Chi, 21 Jan (GW); 3, SRock SP, 19 Jan (DJS); 1st, Winnebago Co, 30 Dec-5 Jan (DTW); ad., Carl.L, 30 Dec (SD); ad., L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 17 Feb (PV); 3rd, L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 23 Feb (SF). Restricted almost exclusively to the northern section of the state.

Iceland Gull

MC: **5** (2 ad., 3 1st), Winthrop H, 16 Feb (PSw) — evidently a one-day winter-season high count for IL; 3 1st, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 16 Feb (AS); 2 ad., HL, 27 Feb (KM, CL). **Others:** 2 (1 ad., 1 1st), Winthrop H, 12 Jan (GW); ad., Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); ad., Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); ad., Chi, 12 Jan (GW); 1st, L&D 15 (Rock Island Co), 16 Jan, 10 Feb (KJM, SF); 1st, SRock SP, 19, 26-27 Jan (DJS); 2nd ("Kumlien's"), HL, 19 Jan (WR); 1st, LCal, 17 Feb (WM); 1st, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 17 Feb (PV).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

2 ad., Rockford, 29 Dec-5 Jan (DTW); 2 ad., SRock SP, 5 Jan (DJS); 2 ad., Winthrop H, 5 Jan (DJ, PSw, m.ob.); South Elgin (Kane Co), 5-8 Dec (JD); ad., Carl.L, 16 Dec (DK); ad., LCal, 22 Dec (WM); ad., Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (JE, EW); ad., L&D 14 (Rock Island Co), 1 Jan (SF); 1st, Carl.L, 6 Jan (DK); Rend L, 7 Jan (FB); 3rd, Grant P, Chi, 18 Jan (DFS); Chi, 21 Jan (GW). Restricted almost exclusively to northern IL.

Glaucous Gull

MC: 5 (2 ad., 2 1st, 1 2nd), Winthrop H, 26 Jan (PSw). **Others:** 2 (1 1st, 1 2nd), LCal, 17 Feb (WM); 2 (1 ad., 1 2nd), SRock SP, 26 Feb (DJS); ad., Fox R (Kane Co), 19 Jan (PSw); 3rd, JP, 20 & 22 Jan (PC); ad., L&D 15 (Rock Island Co), 17 Feb (SF). Reported only from northern Illinois.

Great Black-backed Gull

MC: 2, Chi, 27 Dec (CM). **Others:** 1st, LCal, 4 Jan (DFS); ad., Winthrop H, 5 Jan (DJ, m.ob.); 2nd, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 12 Jan (DJS); 1st, Wauk., 19 Jan (RC). Species scarce and restricted to northern Illinois.

Black-legged Kittiwake

Imm., LShel, 2 Dec> (RC).

Rock Dove

MC: 1607, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (J&SB, m.ob.); **1135**, Cook Co, 13 Jan (DFS) — apparently a single-observer high count for IL; 600+, Urbana, 15 Dec (RC); 400, Carl.L, 22 Dec (DK); 54, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (BB, m.ob.); 21, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 780, Cook Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 710, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 159, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 113, JP, 29 Jan (PC).

Eurasian Collared-Dove

MC: **17**, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 7, Metropolis (Massac Co), 23 Feb (FB); 4, Urbana, 13 Jan (RC); 3, Chi, 22 Dec (CT); 3, Lemont (Cook Co), 5 Feb (UG). **Others:** 3, Metropolis (Massac Co), 22 Jan (FB); 2, Hillsboro (Montgomery Co), 28 Jan (KM). This species is gradually increasing, but documentation is strongly encouraged for all first local records, especially in the northern half of the state. Documentors should take special care to include details ruling out the very similar Ringed Turtle-Dove of avicultural origin.

Mourning Dove

MC: 210, St. Clair Co, 14 Dec (KM); 200+, Urbana, 15 Dec (RC); 177, Kankakee (Kankakee Co), 5 Jan (DFS); 166, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 135, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 127, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 150, Carl.L, 23 Dec (DK); 110, Putnam Co, 8 Jan (DFS); 97, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 56, Hyde P, Chi, 29 Jan (PC); 54, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 46, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 35, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 21, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 5 Feb (LLH).

Monk Parakeet

MC: **103**, Burnham (Cook Co), 13 Dec (DFS); **82**, JP, 22 Jan (PC). **Others:** 30, LCal, 4 Jan (DFS); 6, Chi, 10 Jan (GW); 2, Richmond (McHenry Co), 10-14 Jan (DF). Restricted to extreme northeastern Illinois.

BARN OWL

Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS).

Eastern Screech-Owl

MC: 10, Carl.L, 18 Dec (DK); 10, Zion (Lake Co), 1 Jan (PSw); 8, Whiteside Co, 20 Dec (KJM); 5, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, BB); 3,



Eric Walters photographed this Merlin singing in Evanston, Cook County. February 2002.

Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 6, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 3, Green R CA (Lee Co), 30 Dec (KJM); 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); Boone Co, all winter (AB); McHenry Co, 15 Dec (DF); Vermilion Co, 3 Jan (JOS); gray morph, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (PSw); Wayne Fitzgerald SP (Franklin Co), 25 Jan (LS); Mettawa (Lake Co), 5 Feb (DJ**); Bushnell (McDonough Co), 28 Feb (LLH).

Great Horned Owl

MC: 22, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 15, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 7, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 7, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 6, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 4, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS). **Others:** 6, Boone Co, all winter (AB); 4, Putnam & Bureau Cos, 28 Jan (DJS); 3, McHenry Co, 15 Dec (DF); 3, Green R CA (Lee Co), 30 Dec (KJM); 2, Naperville (Du Page Co), 16 Dec (UG); 2, M.Arb, 16 Feb (UG).

Snowy Owl

MC: 2, La Salle Co, 15 Dec-23 Feb (DJS). **Others:** female, Montrose H. Chi, 12 Dec (GW); Urbana, 30 Dec-3 Jan (DT, SB, m.ob.); female, Mercer Co, 9 Jan (PL); Wauk., 12-13 Jan & 12 Feb (GW, DRD, SCH); female, JP, 23 Jan (SC). Slightly more widespread this winter.

Barred Owl

MC: 14, Franklin Co, 11, 14, 17 Jan, 15 Feb (LS); 9, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 8, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, TM); 4, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS); 4, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW). **Others:** 3, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 2, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 2, Carl.L., 22 Dec (DK); 2, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 2, McClaughry Springs FP (Cook Co), 9 Feb (GW); Pomona, 17 Feb (RSM).

Long-eared Owl

MC: 7, Christopher L (Franklin Co), 15-25 Feb (LS); 6, McHenry Co, 13-15 Dec (DF); 6, Carl.L., 21 & 25 Jan (DK, KM); 5, Goose L, 4 Dec & 4 Jan (JC); 5, Colchester (McDonough Co), 1-28 Feb (LLH). **Others:** 3, Afton FP (De Kalb Co), all winter (PO, DJS); 3, West Branch FP (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (UG); 3, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 9 Feb (GW); 2, Hamilton Co, 5 Jan (LS); Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 12, 15 Jan (GW, SCH); Homer L (Champaign Co), 13 Jan (RC); Wayne Fitzgerald SP (Franklin Co), 5 Feb (LS).

Short-eared Owl

MC: 6, Glacial P (McHenry Co), 1 Jan (DF); 4, Ewing (Franklin Co), 15 Dec (LS); 3, Flatbranch (Clinton Co), 8 Dec (DK). **Others:** 2, Shattuc (Clinton Co), 20 Jan (DK); Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 29 Dec (UG); Marseilles (La Salle Co), 30 Dec (DJS); Wauk., 20 Jan (CF); Boone Co, 31 Jan (AB); Edgar Co, 19 Feb (JOS); Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 23 Feb (CF).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

MC: 3, M.Arb, 25 Dec (MBC); 3, Carl.L., 20 Jan (DK). **Others:** Towanda (McLean Co), 15 Dec (MR, WH, CBu); Urbana, 27 Jan (RC); MidFk FWA, 4-5 Jan (SB); Danville yard (Vermilion Co), 5 Jan (MJE); Kennekuk CP (Vermilion Co), 5 Jan (MJE); near Danville (Vermilion Co), 29 Dec (SB).

Belted Kingfisher

MC: 4, Carl.L., 1 Dec (DK); 4, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 3, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, TM); 3, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (TM, KJM); 3, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 3, Bald.L., 5 Jan (KM). **Others:** 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); Whiteside Co, 20 Dec (KJM); LCal, 29 Dec (WM); female, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 31 Dec, 20 Jan, 23 Feb (UG); M.Arb, 1 Jan (UG); Chau, 4 Jan (LLH); Dresden L (Will Co), 12 Jan (UG); LtlCal R, 3 Feb (WM). Relatively low numbers reported from central and southern Illinois.

Red-headed Woodpecker

MC: 49, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 14, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 12, Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC); 11, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 9, Lee Co, 27 Jan (DFS); 9, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 7, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, BBe). **Others:** 5 imm., IBSP, 2 Dec-12 Jan (PSw); 5, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 5, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (J&SB, m.ob.); 4, Pecatonica FP (Winnebago Co), all winter (DTW); 4, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); 3, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

MC: 58, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 55, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 41, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 27,

Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 25, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 20, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 17, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 16, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 10, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); 6, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2 (male & female), JP, all winter (PC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

MC: 7, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2, Pomona, 4 Jan (RSM); 2, Christopher L (Franklin Co), 11 Jan (LS); Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH); M.Arb, 1 Jan (UG, MBC); Carl.L., 1 Jan (DK); QC, 1 Jan (SF); imm., Chi, 3-9 Jan (JP); Urbana, 3 Jan (RC); Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC); Ryerson CA (Lake Co), 17 Feb (SCH).

Downy Woodpecker

MC: 99, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 45, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 38, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW). **Others:** 28, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 22, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 21, Carl.L. CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 21, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 21, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 10 (5 pr), JP, all winter (PC).

Hairy Woodpecker

MC: 23, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 15, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM); 14, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 9, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 8, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC). **Others:** 8, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 6, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 6, Carl.L. CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 6, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS).

Northern Flicker

MC: 66, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK, DFS); 25, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); 17, Carl.L. CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 16, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 16, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 10, Chi, 16 Dec (WM); 10, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 6, JP, 1 Jan (PC); 5, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 5, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK); 4, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 4, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 3, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 15 Jan (DJ); 2, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 30 Dec (UG); Grundy Co, 12 Jan (UG); Blackhawk FP (Kane Co), 12 Feb (JD).

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 32, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK, DFS); 5, Winnebago Co, 15 Dec (DTW); 5, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, TM); 5, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 4, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 3, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM). **Others:** 2, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS); 2, Anda.SI., 23 Dec (KJM); 2, Chau, 3 Jan (R&SB); 2, Pomona, 17 Feb (RSM); Carl.L., 1 Jan (DK).

Loggerhead Shrike

MC: 4, Carl.L. CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 2, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS). **Others:** Hamilton Co, 2 Dec (LS); Shattuc (Clinton Co), 23 Dec (DK); Stollestown (Clinton Co), 5 Jan (DK); Mansfield (Piatt Co), 6 Jan (RC); Aviston (Clinton Co), 20 Jan (DK). Observed in very low numbers, and restricted almost exclusively to the southern section of the state.

Northern Shrike

Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 1 Dec-12 Feb (CF); Goose L, 18 Dec (JC); Durand (Winnebago Co), 20 Jan (BG); IBSP, 9 Feb (SCH). Very few reported, and restricted largely to the northeastern section.

Blue Jay

MMC: 159, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 131, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 122, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 80, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 75, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 56, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC). **Others:** 74, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 70, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 47, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 40, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 36, Boone Co, 21 Feb (AB); 25, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK); 18, Pomona, 16 Feb (RSM).

American Crow

MC: 4200, HL, 8 Dec (KM); 2300, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co), 4 Jan (KM); 1650, Champaign Co, 20 Dec (DFS); 1053, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 442, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 390, Cook Co, 13 Jan (DFS); 307, Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH). **Others:** 273, JP, 2 Dec (PC); 227, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 170, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 130,

Carl.L, 9 Dec (DK); 30, Carl.L, 21 Jan (DK); 16, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 6, IBSP, 5 Jan (DJ, m.ob.).

Fish Crow

4, HL, 21 Jan (KM); Carbondale (Jackson Co), 28 Feb (RSM).

Horned Lark

MC: 1175, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS); 500, Carl.L, 8 Dec (DK); 500, Carl.L, 20 Jan (DK); 453, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (J&SB, m.ob.); 300, De Kalb and La Salle Cos, 9 Feb (DJS); 260, Henderson and Mercer Cos, 2 Feb (DJS). **Others:** 208, La Salle and Kendall Cos, 19 Jan (DJS); 187, Bureau and Henry Cos, 1 Feb (DJS); 95, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 61, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (SF, KJM); 52, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 50, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (PSw); 26, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 15, Whiteside Co, 20 Dec (KJM); 5, JP, 20 Feb (PC); 2, Hainesville (Lake Co), 20 Jan (DJ); 2, IBSP, 9 Feb (PSw).

Tree Swallow

Mermet L, 26 Feb (FB).

BARN SWALLOW

Carl.L, **22 Dec** (*DK). One reported without details, Mason Co, **22 Feb**.

Barn Swallow

MC: 225, Cherry Hill (Boone Co), 18 Aug (DW); 200+, Arcola, 11 Aug (RC); 200, Carl.L, 18 Aug (DK). **LD:** 28 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 14 Oct, IBSP (UG); 14 Oct, JP (PC); 14 Oct, Putnam Co (DJS, C&JM); 14 Oct, Urbana (RC).

Carolina Chickadee

MC: 135, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS, KJM, VK); 57, Carl.L, 15 Dec (DK); 42, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC). **Others:** 38, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 15, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK);

Black-capped Chickadee

MC: 266, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 111, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 106, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 102, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 81, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 40, Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC). **Others:** 14, JP, all winter (PC); 12, IBSP, 5 Jan (DJ, m.ob.); 11, Chi, 29 Dec (CM).

Tufted Titmouse

MC: 66, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS, KJM, VK); 44, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 36, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 27, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 24, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 24, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM). **Others:** 23, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 18, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 13, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 10, Carl.L, 18 Dec (DK); 2, Cook Co, 24 Dec (UG); 2, Marseilles (La Salle Co), 12 Jan (UG); 2, IBSP, 30 Jan (DJ); Joliet (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 15, Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC); 11, IBSP, 1 Jan (PSw); 6, Sand Rdg, 12 Jan (KM, KR); 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK). **Others:** 7, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 7, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 4, Woodridge (Du Page Co), all winter (MBC); 3, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (BBe); 3, River Forest (Cook Co), 29 Dec (JA); 3, M.Arb, 1 Jan (UG); 3, Chau, 4 Jan (LLH); Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), all winter (DJS); Boone Co, all winter (AB); O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 1 Dec (KM); Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 13 Jan (UG); SRock SP, 19 Jan (DJS); Big R State Forest (Henderson Co), 2 Feb (DJS). Fairly common and widespread throughout the winter.

White-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 83, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 73, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 67, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 42, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 36, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 12, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM). **Others:** 31, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 21, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 4, Carl.L, 18 Dec (DK); 2 (pr), JP, all winter (PC).

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

IBSP, 1, 3, 5 Jan, 9 Feb (GW, SCH, DJ, m.ob.); **first Illinois record;** present since 11 Jul (see *Meadowlark* 10:122 and 11:65).

Brown Creeper

MC: 19, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 15, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 14, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 8, Rend L CBC, 15

Dec (KM); 7, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, TM); 2, Sand Rdg, 12 Jan (KM, KR). **Others:** 7, Rock Island Co, 19 Dec (KJM); 7, Distillery Rd CA (Boone Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 4, Kane Co, 15 Dec (PSw); 2, JP, 20 Jan (PC). This species was certainly under-reported, especially from the central and southern sections of the state.

Carolina Wren

MC: 15, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 12, Urbana, 15 Dec (RC); 11, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 7, QC, 16 Dec (GO, m.ob.); 3, Sinissippi Wildlife Area (Whiteside Co), 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 3, LSpfld, 28 Jan (KM). **Others:** 4, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 4, Carl.L, 18 Dec (DK); 2, I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); 2, New Millford (Winnebago Co), 24 Feb (RM, DTW); Joliet (Will Co), 15 Dec (CA); Distillery Rd CA (Boone Co), 1 Jan (DFS); Bushnell (McDonough Co), 3 Jan (LLH); Chi, 25 Feb (DRD).

Winter Wren

MC: 7, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, KJM); 3, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 2, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM). **Others:** Henn.L, 6 Dec & 8 Jan (DFS); Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM); Urbana, 13 Jan (RC). Slightly more common this winter.

MARSH WREN

4, near Wolf Lake (Union Co), 21 Dec (SB). (See CBC narrative this issue — also likely highest one-site and/or one day total for winter).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

MC: 19, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (DK); 12, Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC); 10, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 10, Kane Co, 12 Feb (JD); 2, Lake Co, 8 Jan (PSw); 2, Big R State Forest (Henderson Co), 2 Feb (DJS). **Others:** 6, Carl.L, 18 Dec (DK); 6, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); Joliet (Will Co), 15 Dec (CA); Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM); Loud Thunder FP (Rock Island Co), 22 Dec (KJM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

MC: 15, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS, KJM, VK); 3, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (*C&LB); 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK). **Others:** Will Co, 9 Jan (JC); Blackhawk FP (Kane Co), 29 Jan (JD).

Eastern Bluebird

MC: 54, Whiteside Co, 20 Dec (KJM); 35, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 30, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 25, Bureau Co, 16 Dec (DJS); 15, Carl.L, 13 Jan (DK); 14, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 14, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 14, Vermilion Co, 5 Jan (RC); 9, Mason Co, 22 Feb (R&SB); 7, Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH); 6, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 5, Chi, 30 Dec (CT); 5, Mercer and Henderson Cos, 2 Feb (DJS); 4, Du Page Co, 6 Jan (PSw); 3, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 3, Third L (Lake Co), 1 Jan (DJ, RMy); 3, Morris (Grundy Co), 12 Jan (UG); 2, McHenry Co, 29 Dec (DF); 2, Rockford, 6 Jan (DTW); 2, Heid.L, 23 Feb (KM). Fairly abundant and widespread throughout the winter.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

Barrington (Cook Co), 17 Dec (GBd).

Hermit Thrush

MC: 3, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 2, Urbana, 15 Dec (RC); 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2, Lake Co, 1 Jan (AS). **Others:** 2, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); JP, 6 Dec (BH); Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM); UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); Fullersberg FP (Du Page Co), 1 Jan (DFS); Urbana, 10 Jan (RC).

American Robin

MC: **8000**, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK) — **record winter-season high count;** **3000+**, Johnson Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 1 Feb (DJS); **1000**, LShel, 23 Feb (RC); 973, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (RSM); 265, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 200, Urbana, 15 Dec (RC). **Others:** 562, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 230, HL, 8 Dec (KM); 163, JP, 15 Jan (PC); 150, Carl.L, 27 Dec (DK); 85, Cook Co, 9 Jan (JA); 83, Burnidge FP (Kane Co), 10 Jan (JD); 40, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); 30, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 19 Jan (DJS); 30, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 20 Jan (KM); 28, Bureau Co, 16 Dec (DJS); 19, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, TM); 17, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); 11, Boone Co, 20 Feb (AB); 9, Rushville (Schuyler Co), 13 Jan (LLH); 2 (pr, **nesting**), Chi, 13 Dec-12 Jan (JP) (**female incubated 2 eggs for 19 days**; eggs and nest collected and deposited at Chicago's Field Museum — see separate article in this issue with photos). Widespread in remarkably large numbers.

Northern Mockingbird

MC: 17, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM). **Others:** Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); Shiloh (St.Clair Co), 23 Dec (DK); Pomona, 16 Feb (RSM). Restricted to the southern section of the state.

Brown Thrasher

MC: 8, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** McLean Co, 15 Dec (TEB, KK, MF); HL, 5 Jan (KM); Normal (McLean Co), 17 Feb (AC); Urbana, 17 Feb (*RC).

European Starling

MC: **10,000**, Carl.L., 1 Jan (DK); 8399, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 2750, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 2500+, LCal, 22 Dec (WM); 1248, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 1000, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS). **Others:** 1950, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 1822, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); 1100, Du Page Co, 21 Jan (DFS); 817, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 754, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 289, JP, 2 Jan (PC); 155, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK).

American Pipit

MC: **150**, Carl.L., 27 Dec (DK); 22, Mermet L, **19 Jan** (FB). **Others:** 2, Urbana, 15 Dec (*RC); near Meredosia (Morgan Co), 14 Dec. (SB, MW). Paul Douglas FP (**Cook Co**), **6 Jan** (CF); **JP, 28-29 Jan & 8-11 Feb** (*SC, PC, KC). Note: In *The Birds of Illinois*, Bohlen (1989:144) remarks, "...there are few if any true winter records. One flying south near Carlyle Dam, January 7, 1987,...is the latest winter record." Its wintering status in subsequently published Illinois journals remains vague, and Robinson's (1996:242f.) *Southern Illinois Birds* was unable to confirm overwintering in southern Illinois. This season's record from JP clearly involved a single individual found both before and after a major winter storm at precisely the same site (under the same tree) from 28 Jan-11 Feb; its disappearance correlated with mild temperatures under southwest winds. Data seem to provide a **first published overwintering record for Illinois**, from an unexpected site.

Cedar Waxwing

MC: 477, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 29 Dec (DTW); 300, Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); 100, Cook Co, 16 Dec (PSw); 100, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 50, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC). **Others:** 83, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 70, Blackhawk FP (Kane Co), 12 Feb (JD); 63, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 63, Burnidge FP (Kane Co), 10 Jan (JD); 58, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); 50, Lee Co, 30 Dec (KJM); 30, Carl.L., 20 Jan (DK); 25, Johnson Co, 6 Jan (KM); 24, Pomona, 24 Feb (RSM); 20, Vernon Hills (Lake Co), 10 Feb (DJ); 19, Kendall Co, 17 Feb (DFS); 13, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, TM); 9, JP, 28 Jan (PC); 5, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 19 Jan (DJS). Relatively widespread and abundant throughout the state.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

Union Co, **21 Dec** (DFS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

MC: **180**, Pomona, 24 Feb (RSM) — record winter high count excluding CBC data; 43, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, SB, CL); 7, Libertyville (Lake Co), 1 Jan (DJ); 5, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 14 Feb (R&SB); 3, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 25, Carl.L., 6 Jan (DK); 5, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 2, Urbana, 1-15 Dec (RC, GL); Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 25 Dec (AS); M.Arb, 1 Jan (MBC); Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 20 Jan (UG); Fabyan FP (Kane Co), 14 Feb (JD).

PINE WARBLER

Rend L, **15 Dec** (*DK); Lyons Woods FP (**Lake Co**), **20 Dec, 19 & 25-28 Jan** (*RC, SCH, DRD, m.ob.).

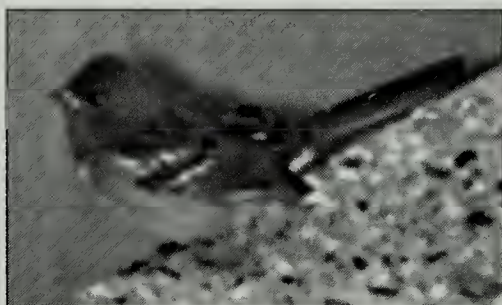
PALM WARBLER

2, Urbana, **1-15 Dec** (*RC, GL).

COMMON

YELLOWTHROAT

Female, LCal, **13 Dec** (DFS); imm. male, Fermilab CBC (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (*GW); male, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS).



Spotted Towhee. 28 November 2001. Champaign, IL Photo by Carie Nixon.

Spotted Towhee

Female, Urbana, 28 Nov-

2 Dec (SB, m.ob.). See photo.

Eastern Towhee

MC: 26, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM). **Others:** 3, Carl.L., 20 Jan (DK); 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 2, Kennekuk Cove P (Vermilion Co), 9 Feb (DFS). Restricted almost exclusively to the southern section of the state.

American Tree Sparrow

MC: 320, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 175, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS); 160, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 150, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 150, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (PSw); 141, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 31, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM). **Others:** 118, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 111, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (J&SB, m.ob.); 57, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 23, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 6 Jan (JD); 20, Carl.L., 28 Jan (KM); 18, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). Occurred in relatively low numbers throughout Illinois.

CHIPPING SPARROW

MC: **3**, Massac Co, **10 Feb** (*FB). **Others:** Durand (Winnebago Co), **15 Dec** (*BG, m.ob.), Carl.L., **1 Jan** (*DK). One undocumented at McLean Co, **15 Dec**.

Field Sparrow

MC: 18, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM). **Others:** 3, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 3, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 3, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); Clin.L., 14 Dec (GL, RC). This species occurred in relatively low numbers, and was restricted almost exclusively to southern Illinois.

VESPER SPARROW

1, near Meredosia (Morgan Co), 14 Dec (SB).

Savannah Sparrow

MC: 18, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS); 2, Towanda (McLean Co), 15 Dec (*MR, WH, CBu). **Others:** Ford Co, 22 Dec (DFS); Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); Rockford, 20 Jan (DTW).

Fox Sparrow

MC: 22, Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC); 13, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 6 Jan (JD); 10, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 8, McLean Co, 15 Dec (TEB, KK, MF); 6, HL, 5 Jan (KM); 4, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 31 Dec (UG). **Others:** 3, Afton FP (De Kalb Co), all winter (DJS); 3, Joliet (Will Co), 15 Dec (CA); 3, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (C&LB); 3, Cook Co, 24 Dec (JA); 3, I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); Rockford, all winter (DTW); Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM); Pomona, 23 Dec, 28 Feb (RSM); McHenry Co, 15 Feb (DF); Homer L (Champaign Co), 28 Feb (JOS). Widespread throughout IL.

Song Sparrow

MC: 119, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS); 110, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 62, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 51, Henn.L., 6 Dec (DFS); 40, Urbana, 9 Feb (RC); 36, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 59, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 23, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 20, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); 15, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 8, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 8, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 6, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 30 Dec (UG); 2, JP, 6 Dec (BH); 2, Boone Co, 22 Feb (AB); 2, JP, 25 Feb (PC).

Swamp Sparrow

MC: 85, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 62, Union Co, 21 Dec (DFS, KJM, VK); 8, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 7, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 19, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 16, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 10, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK); 6, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (C&LB); 6, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (EA, DW, KJM); 6, I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); 5, Timber Ridge FP (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (UG); 2, Cook Co, 13 Jan (PSw); Garden Prairie (Boone Co), 1 Jan (DFS); Lockport (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); Browning (Schuyler Co), 9 Jan (LLH); Afton FP (De Kalb Co), 19 Jan (UG). More widespread than usual in the north.

White-throated Sparrow

MC: 189, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 144, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 30, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 28, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), all winter (DTW); 5, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 40, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 20, Carl.L., 21 Jan (DK); 13, Pomona, 6 Jan (RSM); 10, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 9, I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); 8, Nelson L FP (Kane Co), 6 Jan (JD); 6, Green R CA (Lee Co), 30 Dec (KJM); 6, Afton FP (De Kalb Co), 13 Jan (DJS); 6, Cook Co, 23 Jan (PSw); 5, Du Page Co, 6 Jan (PSw); 3, Johnson Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 1 Feb

(DJS). More widespread than usual in the north.

White-crowned Sparrow

MC: 40, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 30, Henn.L., 8 Jan (DFS); 16, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 8, Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co), 19 Jan (RC); 4, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS). **Others:** 6, Afton FP (De Kalb Co), 13 Jan (DJS); 5, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK); 3, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 3, Green R CA (Lee Co), 30 Dec (KJM); 2 ad., Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH); Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (SF).

Dark-eyed Junco

MC: 340, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 290, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 210, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 150, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 127, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 100, Carl.L., 13 Jan (DK). **Others:** 274, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 210, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 153, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 71, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 70, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 42, Chi, 29 Dec (CM); 32, Pomona, 6 Jan (RSM); 26, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 26, Lake Co, 29 Dec (PSw); 21, JP, 26 Jan (PC). Considerably less abundant this winter.

Lapland Longspur

MC: 500+, Towanda (McLean Co), 16 Dec (MR, LW); 400, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 9 Feb (LLH); 350, Pontiac (Livingston Co), 26 Dec (MR, LW, MAN); 300, Carl.L., 8 Dec (DK); 300, Carl.L., 6 Jan (DK); 250, Rockford, 29 Dec (DTW); 241, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 100, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS); 55, Winnebago (Winnebago Co), 18 Jan (DTW); 20, La Salle Co, 23 Feb (KM, DK); 16, Browning (Schuyler Co), 9 Jan (LLH); 9, Newark (Kendall Co), 20 Jan (MBC); 2, Massac Co, 19 Jan (FB); Plato Center (Kane Co), 20 Jan (CA).



Snow Bunting. 1 December 2001. Montrose Harbor, Chicago. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Snow Bunting

MC: 60, IBSP, 1 Dec (PSw); 50, La Salle Co, 23 Feb (KM, DK); 42, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 1 Dec (AS); 30, Winnebago (Winnebago Co), 20 Jan (DTW); 4, Walnut Point State FWA (Douglas Co), 21 Jan (RC). **Others:** 4, IBSP, 5 Jan (PSw); 2, JP, 18 Dec (BH). Modest numbers, restricted almost exclusively to northern Illinois.

Northern Cardinal

MC: 400, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK) — highest non-CBC winter count for IL; 304, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 130, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 94, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 90, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 90, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (SF, m.ob.); 88, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 80, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS). **Others:** 70, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); 63, Grundy Co, 21 Jan (DFS); 57, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 51, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 42, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 36 (18 male, 18 female), JP, 23 Jan (PC); 23, Chi, 29 Dec (CM).

Red-winged Blackbird

MC: 38,500, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 20,000, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 10,000, Goose L, 4 Dec (JC); 6000, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK); 5000, Kankakee (Kankakee Co), 24 Feb (RC); 3153, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 500, Urbana, 27 Jan> (RC). **Others:** 2100, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 451, Albany (Whiteside Co), 19 Dec (RN, AM, KJM); 300 (1 leucistic), I&M, 1 Jan (DJS); 165, LCal, 29 Dec (WM); 79, IBSP, 1 Jan (PSw); 75, Heid.L., 28 Jan (KM); 33, JP, 25 Feb (PC); 30, Bolingbrook (Will Co), 16 Dec (UG); 23, MTwain, 18 Dec (KJM); 20, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 23 Dec (UG); 6, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 25 Feb (LLH); 4, Boone Co, 17 Feb (AB).

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: 81, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 21, Carl.L., 28 Jan (KM); 20, Carl.L., 9 Dec (DK); 12, Urbana, 6 Jan (JJ). **Others:** 3, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK); JP, 25 Feb> (PC).

Rusty Blackbird

MC: 1100, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 550, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM);

412, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 79, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); 55, Urbana, 27 Jan> (RC). **Others:** 50, Carl.L., 18 Dec (DK); 15, Carl.L., 20 Jan (DK); 8, Chi, 29 Dec (CM). Slightly less common this season.

Brewer's Blackbird

MC: 42, Carl.L., 28 Jan (KM); 40+, L Evergreen (McLean Co), 27 Jan (EM); 30, Carl.L., 16 Dec (DK); 4 (3 male, 1 female), Romeoville (Will Co), 6 Jan (CA). **Others:** 7, Massac Co, 19 Jan (FB); 3, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 3, LShel, 23 Feb> (RC); pr, Towanda (McLean Co), 15 Dec (*MR, WH, CBu). Restricted almost exclusively to central & southern IL.

Common Grackle

MC: 50,000, Carl.L., 1 Dec (DK); 14,320, Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM); 10,000, Goose L, 4 Dec (JC); 3000, Carl.L., 23 Dec (DK); 57, UCCA, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 50, Vermilion Co, 27 Feb (JOS); 43, Barstow (Rock Island Co), 16 Dec (KJM, SH). **Others:** 13, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 10, JP, 25 Feb (PC); 3, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (PSw); 3, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 23 Feb (UG); 2, Marseilles (La Salle Co), 12 Jan (UG); Bushnell (McDonough Co), 15 Jan (LLH); Urbana, 3 Feb> (RC).

Brown-headed Cowbird

MC: 3000, Carl.L., 23 Dec (DK); 2000, Urbana, 10 Feb (RC); 400, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 12 Jan (DJS); 300, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK); 274, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (SF, KJM); 240, Vermilion Co, 7 Jan (JOS). **Others:** 100, QC, 16 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 65, Durand (Winnebago Co), 13 Jan (DTW); 30, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM); 6, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 3, Boone Co, 16 Jan (AB); Romeoville (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); Pomona, 6 Jan (RSM); female, Somonauk (De Kalb Co), 17 Feb (UG).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Galena (Jo Daviess Co), 12-29 Dec (*RD).

Purple Finch

MC: 28, MidFk FWA, 5 Jan (RC); 26, Whiteside Co, 20 Dec (KJM); 18, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 15 (8 male, 7 female), Sand Rdg, 1-28 Feb (R&SB); 6, Carl.L CBC, 18 Dec (DK); 2, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK). **Others:** 13, Henn.L., 20 Dec (DFS); 6, Green R CA (Lee Co), 30 Dec (KJM); 6, Cook Co, 18 Jan (PSw); 5, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 13 Jan (KM); 3, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 9 Dec (JC); 2, Putnam Co, 28 Jan (DJS); Carl.L., 6 Jan (DK).

House Finch

MC: 112, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 96, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 45, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS); 27, Mermet L CBC, 31 Dec (KM); 22, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 74, Albany (Whiteside Co), 19 Dec (RN, AM); 55, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 20, Carl.L., 5 Jan (DK); 20, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 23 Jan (KM).

Red Crossbill

MC: 30, Sand Rdg, 12 Jan (KM, KR). **Others:** 2, Walnut Point State FWA (Douglas Co), 2 Dec (RC); Allerton P (Piatt Co), 2 Dec (GL); Clin.L., 3 Dec (RC). Reported only from central Illinois.

White-winged Crossbill

MC: 4, M.Arb, 1 Jan (MBC); 4, Normal (McLean Co), 9 Feb (J&NA); 3 (1 male, 2 female), Bushnell (McDonough Co), 18-28 Feb (LLH). **Others:** 2 (male & female), Du Page Co, 6 Jan (PSw); 2, JP, 8 Jan< (PC); 2, Sand Rdg, 12 Jan (KM, KR); ad. male, Evanston (Cook Co), 3-9 Jan (JE); Harvard (McHenry Co), 4-6 Jan (DF); male, Glenview (Cook Co), 5 & 12 Jan, 2 Feb (*BJM); Urbana, 13 Jan (RC); Allerton P (Piatt Co), 13 Jan (RC). Fairly widespread in north and central Illinois.

Common Redpoll

MC: 6, Long Grove (Lake Co), 12-13 Jan (CF, DJ). **Others:** Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co), 1 Jan (CA); Harvard (McHenry Co), 4-6 Jan (DF); female, JP, 24 Feb> (SC, PC); Normal (McLean Co), 26 Feb (WH).

Pine Siskin

MC: 50, M.Arb, 2 Dec (UG); 30, Carl.L., 12 Jan (DK); 20, Rockford, all winter (DTW); 12, Sand Rdg, 10 Dec, 19 Jan (R&SB). **Others:** 10, Downers Grove (Du Page Co), 24 Dec (UG); 8, La Salle Co, 17 Feb (PSw); 5, Libertyville (Lake Co), 1 Jan (DJ); 4, Joliet (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG); 2, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Dec (KJM); 2, Windfall L (Vermilion Co), 5 Jan (RC); Rend L CBC, 15 Dec (KM). Slightly more common this winter.

American Goldfinch

MC: 137, QC, 16 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 87, Palos (Cook Co), 16 Dec (WS); 80, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 64, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK); 49, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (BBE, m.ob.); 47, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS). **Others:** 62, Miller Meadows FP (Cook Co), 16 Dec (WM); 50, Carl.L, 23 Dec (DK); 42, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 33, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 33, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 21, JP, 16 Jan (PC, BH); 17, Pomona, 16 Feb (RSM); 7, William Powers CA (Cook Co), 29 Dec (CM); 6, Rend L, 15 Dec (DK).

House Sparrow

MC: 1443, QC, 16 Dec (C&LB, m.ob.); 460, Whiteside and Lee Cos, 30 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 310, Vermilion Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 201, Mercer Co, 18 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 200, Carl.L, 13 Jan (DK); 42, Union Co, 21 Dec (KJM, VK). **Others:** 343, Whiteside and Carroll Cos, 20 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 281, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 260, Boone Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 258, Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Dec (EW, JE); 29, JP, 22 Jan (PC); 20, William Powers CA (Cook Co), 29 Dec (CM).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: 244, Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 27 Dec (LLH); 40, Sand Rdg, 3 Feb (MR, TEB); 2, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM). **Others:**

20, Snicart (Mason Co), 13 Jan (RC); 2, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 13 Jan (KM); Mercer Co, 18 Dec (TM); Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM). Reported almost exclusively from the central portion of the state.

EXOTIC/RELEASED SPECIES

Trumpeter Swan

MC: 13, MS R Pool 13 (Carroll Co), 20 Dec (EA, DW); 8, Chau, 12 Jan (KM). **Others:** Third L (Lake Co), 2 Jan (SCH); ad., Chi, 12 & 27 Jan (GW). Slightly reduced numbers, confined to north and central IL.

IORC REVIEW PENDING

PRAIRIE FALCON: Sand Rdg, 16 Dec.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Wauk., 8 Dec; Wauk., 23 Feb.

CALIFORNIA GULL: Ad., North Point Marina (Lake Co), 5 Jan.

CORRIGENDA (Winter Report 2000-2001)

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 2, Metropolis (Massac Co), 30 Dec, 7 Jan (DK, KM, FB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2, Metropolis (Massac Co), 30 Dec (*DK, KM).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Male, Metropolis (Massac Co), 30 Dec (*DK, KM).

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*Eric Walters photographed this Merlin fanning its tail in
Evanston, Cook County, February 2002.*