

sparse with only 61 individuals (in 14 count circles) recorded for the entire state. Rockford and Van Patten recorded the only Evening Grosbeaks (4) plus 6 Red Crossbills were recorded on 2 counts.

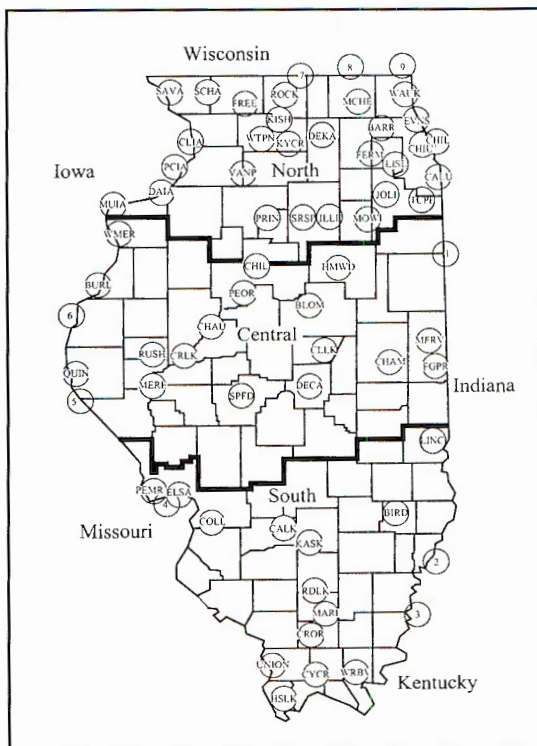
Many compilers submitted analyses of their counts. All compilers commented on the excellent waterfowl counts. In addition, several counts had the swoop of the swans or the swan hat-trick (3 species).

American Coots lingered longer this year. Richard Bjorklund's (Chautauqua) report of more immature Bald Eagles (41 versus 37 adults) indicates this species has had continued reproductive success (see histogram). Raptors were reported in strong numbers this year. Turkey Vultures lingered longer at Van Patten with 3 well-described birds reported there. Rend Lake's Sandhill Crane certainly was unusual for southern Illinois. Denis Kania (Fermilab) mentioned that gulls "are really exploding." Ring-billed Gulls, indeed, seem to be recorded in high numbers. Charles Wescott (Barrington) noted the continued expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker as a record high number was reported on that count (as well as Evanston [North Shore]). All compilers lamented the almost non-existent Red-breasted Nuthatches after last year's record numbers (see histogram). Additional compiler comments included the absence of berry-eating species such as Cedar Waxwings and American Robins. Evanston, however, had 1,763 American Robins due to an excellent buckthorn crop.

Due to the mild weather, unusual birds such as Savannah Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow were recorded in the northern circles with greater frequency and many compilers commented on the record

number of sparrows.

Nearly 12 percent of the party hours of this year's counts was spent feeder watching. What bias or effect



this has on the species that visit feeders and those found in the field is an interesting issue. In a recent article, Dunn (1995) suggested there is a potential problem if the analysis of Christmas Count data are used to validate population trends for species which visit feeders often, particularly in more southern latitudes. Dunn suggested that compilers should record birds seen by feeder-watchers separately from those reported by field participants. We strongly urge all Illinois CBC compilers to record data in this manner, even though there is no organized form to accomplish these data collections. In any event, the relatively low feeder watching effort in our state may inflate certain species totals in just a moderate level, an effort, however, which cannot be ignored.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Vernon Kleen and H. David Bohlen who provided valuable comments on this report. Also, we welcome the new southern Illinois count, Warbluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary this year. Burlington, Iowa reported its count to this publication, since a portion of its circle encompasses Illinois. Returning this year was the Savannah Army Depot count in northwestern Illinois and the Marion count in southern Illinois. Finally, congratulations to Fermilab-Batavia for fielding the highest number of observers in the state (82) and Peter C. Petersen of Davenport, Iowa who completed his 227th CBC and has served as compiler 164 times.

Addenda

Add to last year's 1993 CBC one count week **Pacific Loon** at Clinton Lake and a count week **Common Yellowthroat** at Chicago Urban. Finally, supporting details were submitted for the state's first winter and CBC count week **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** (2 at Carlyle Lake).

Editor's Note: This year's Christmas count period will run from 16 December 1995 - 2 January 1996. Please contact your compilers to find out how you can help participate in this nationally known scientific and social event.

Literature Cited

Dunn, E.H. 1995. Bias in Christmas Bird Counts for species that visit feeders. *Wilson Bull.* 107:122-130.

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