

birds, netted the bird, then pulled and measured the rectrices.

Illinois' first record and specimen of the Rufous Hummingbird occurred on 14 October 1993 when Ellen B. and Sherwin Strauss discovered the species at their feeders in Olympia Fields, Illinois in Cook County (Strauss 1994). The immature male bird remained until 12 November when they discovered it dead not far from the feeder. The second record was discovered the same year on 27 October by Robert F. Danley at his backyard feeder in Murphysboro, Illinois, in Jackson County. The bird was last seen 15 January 1994 (Danley 1994). Two immature female birds that may have been Rufous or Allen's Hummingbirds were reported on 24 November 1986 in Macoupin County and 29 to 31 August in McDonough County (Bohlen 1989).

This bird that visited Champaign County in December 2000 was fortunate my friend provided a feeder, because the flowers on which it was initially feeding were frost-killed the day after its arrival. Hopefully its week's stay in Urbana fueled it for the long trip south to winter quarters.

Literature cited

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The 1999/2000 Illinois Christmas Bird Count

by David B. Johnson

Another tantalizingly warm CBC season had Illinois counters enjoying the warmest winter on record in the state. Accordingly, the counters also recorded many species high counts. Cormorant numbers skyrocketed (5,267 at Rend Lake). Sandhill Cranes wintered and lingered longer. The McHenry Count had 2,190 Sandhill Cranes, and Fermilab-Batavia had 727 cranes. Other lingered-longer awards go to Waukegan's two Le Conte's Sparrows and Joliet's 15 American Pipits. Greater numbers of western waterfowl than usual moved eastward, including the Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Ross's Geese. A new species, Smith's Longspur, was added to the state's CBC list, and birders recorded some very unusual finds including a rare loon, dove, and hummingbird. CBC data

also reflected a modest winter finch invasion and a record Northern Shrike movement. See article in this issue for details. Two counts met or exceeded the 100 species mark, always an achievement in Illinois. The Illinois database of early winter bird distribution continues to change and grow, giving us information on bird population trends.

Count Results

Birders from 60 counts listed 158 species, including one of questionable identification, and one unrecognized form. Congratulations to the two counts with record 102 and 100 species, for the first time, Cypress Creek and Horseshoe Lake, respectively. Other counts under 100 species totals, but in the 90s, included: Baldwin Lake—Kaskaskia (90), a



Great Egret at Du Page County's Blackwell Forest Preserve. First time recorded on the Fermi-Lab Christmas Bird Count. 18 December 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.