

record count; Carlyle Lake (95); Clinton Lake (90); Chautauqua (91); Mermet Lake (94); Pere Marquette (90); Rend Lake (95); Springfield (94), a record count; and Union County (98). No count in northern Illinois reached the 90 species mark. However, all-time species high count totals for northern Illinois were: Barrington (66) and Fermilab—Batavia (87). Pere Marquette had the highest number of individuals: 928,023, owing to a 864,433 Common Grackle count. Fermilab—Batavia recorded the highest number of field observers, 103, a remarkable number and an all-time high for field participants.

### CBC Firsts and Rarities

At least three well-described **Smith's Longspurs** were at Newton, a first documented occurrence for Illinois's CBCs. The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee welcomes and encourages photographic documentation of any winter record of this species for the state. Always rare, a **Pacific Loon** was at Clinton Lake. A well-described 2nd state CBC record of **Common Ground-Dove** was at Crane Lake Sangamon; and a **Rufous Hummingbird**, probably an adult female, was videotaped at Peoria. Other unusual bird sightings included American White Pelicans, previously almost never reported on CBCs. They lingered longer with 377 birds (on 4 counts). Solitary Great Egrets at Chicago Urban, Fermilab—Batavia, and Horseshoe Lake were noteworthy. Twenty-seven Ross's Geese appeared on four counts, with Pere Marquette having the highest count (twenty). The only scoters recorded were 5 Blacks (on 2 counts) with Clinton Lake being the only interior count to record a scoter (Black) plus Evanston's eight dark-winged scoter species.

### Raptors to Gulls

Three Golden Eagles were seen at: Peoria, Meredosia Island, and

Union. Solitary Merlins with good details were recorded at Evanston, Fermilab—Batavia, Middle Fork River Valley and Horseshoe Lake. Waukegan's two Virginia Rails have become a tradition. Sandhill Crane numbers (2,926 on 5 counts) reflected a northerly late migration over two early count circles in northeast Illinois—though the eight cranes in southern Illinois (on 2 counts) was not the norm either. Least Sandpipers lingered at Baldwin Lake (1), Horseshoe Lake (8), Mermet Lake (6) and Pere Marquette Park (34). Pere Marquette had the only Lesser Yellowlegs. Cypress Creek and Mermet Lake recorded the only American Woodcock.

Unusual gulls were two Great Black-backed Gulls at Calumet City—Sandridge. One Iceland Gull was at Evanston and another was at Fermilab—Batavia. Lesser Black-backed Gulls while unusual are being recorded with greater frequency; singles were at Calumet City—Sandridge, Fermilab—Batavia, Rend Lake, Collinsville; others were at Starved Rock (2) and Princeton (2) and a count week bird was at Springfield. Single Glaucous Gulls were at Calumet City—Sand Ridge and Fermilab—Batavia. Chicago Lakefront reported the only Snowy Owl and a count week bird was at Schapville.

### Songbirds

Fifty-six American Pipits were recorded (on 6 counts), a good tally. Baldwin Lake (1), Cypress Creek (1), Union (1) and Mermet Lake (2) tallied only five Pine Warblers in the state. The only Common Yellowthroat recorded was a solitary bird at Union. Unusual sparrows included the aforementioned Le Conte's Sparrows (2) at Waukegan, one a Meredosia, and expected counts in southern Illinois: Baldwin Lake—Kaskaskia (1), Rend Lake (11), Cypress Creek (15), a high count for them, Carlyle Lake (4),

Union (6) and Mermet Lake (1). Outside of 4 Lincoln's Sparrows reported on 4 southern Illinois counts, one of which was questionable, a very well-described Lincoln's Sparrow was at Fermilab—Batavia and other adequately described singles were at Andalusia and Middlefork River Valley. Excellent descriptions were provided for Harris's Sparrows on four counts: Crane Lake—Sangamon (2), Meredosia Island (1), Horseshoe Lake (1) and Pere Marquette Park (1). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Peoria.

Count week had 3 Eared Grebes; one at Springfield and two at Clinton Lake; a Surf Scoter and a Sedge Wren both at Carlyle Lake.

### Regularly Occurring Species

Lingering loons were widespread with 23 Common Loons recorded on 8 counts. Double-crested Cormorants numbers are burgeoning with 6,345 individuals in 28 circles. Great Blue Herons numbers like cormorants continue to rise: 1,768 individuals in 53 count circles (see histogram). The 86 Bald Eagles at Princeton were noteworthy as well as the 153 at Chillicothe and 151 at Peoria indicating the species' stronghold on the Illinois River valley and not just the Mississippi River valley; 1388 were recorded statewide (see histogram); even with the warmer CBC season weather this species is enjoying an obvious population success.

A species of concern, Red-headed Woodpecker, was reported in higher numbers: 2,008 (in 39 circles) over three times last year's count of 612 (in 47 circles). This is an encouraging sign particularly in southern Illinois riverbottom woods where this species has a wintering stronghold. Loggerhead Shrikes were also recorded in good numbers (73 in 16 circles). Eastern Bluebirds lingered farther north, Starved Rock's 52 birds and Middlefork River Valley's count of

### Meadowlark