

week at Starved Rock. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported on 5 counts, with 5 at Carlyle particularly notable. The Glaucous-winged Gull at Carlyle had been present for some time, but the adult Slaty-backed Gull showed up two days before the count, and apparently left immediately after the count. Solo Glaucous Gulls were reported at Springfield and Calumet-Sand Ridge, and Calumet's 8 Great Black-backed Gulls represented a new state high. Waukegan and Meredosia also reported solo Great Black-backed Gulls. Finally, a 1st year Black-legged Kittiwake was photographed at Kishwaukee. A well-photographed Pomarine Jaeger was still present at Collinsville on count day.

### Doves through Woodpeckers

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from 25 counts, with Newton's 84 a new state high count. 125 Monk Parakeets were reported from 4 counts. 4 Barn Owls were reported - 3 from Carlyle and 1 from Union County. A Snowy Owl was photographed at Rockford - it had been in the area for some time. A total of 45 Long-eared Owls on 16 counts was the highest state total since 1995. Short-eared Owls appeared to be in typical numbers, with the exception of a state-record 74 at Arklands. A total of 19 Northern Saw-whet Owls was recorded on 12 counts, including a state record 5 at Thorn Creek - Park Forest.

A Rufous Hummingbird was at a feeder in Crab Orchard - the 4th CBC record for the state. Union County recorded an impressive 125 Pileated Woodpeckers.

### Flycatchers through Warblers

15 Eastern Phoebes were counted on 7 counts, with one at Kankakee Valley the farthest north. Northern Shrikes put on an impressive invasion, with 72 on 21 counts. Fermilab had a state record 15, while one in Union County (but in Missouri) was exceptionally far south. Blue Jays appeared to be in typical numbers, but 26,207 American Crows is the lowest count in over 20 years. The 2,767 Horned Larks at Carlyle represented a new state high. A lone Tree Swallow was at Crab Orchard. 653 Red-breasted Nuthatches state-wide were the most documented since the same number was recorded in 1993. Lone House Wrens were at Cypress Creek, Jackson County, and Mermet Lake, while Marsh Wrens were at Arklands (2) and Union County.

A Townsend's Solitaire was at Fermilab. This species was first documented on an Illinois CBC in 1958, while the second record occurred in 1983. This year's individual is the fourth since 1995. Hermit Thrush numbers were low this year - only 118 on 25 counts. The odd thing, though, is that they were in typical numbers in Northern Illinois, while many compilers in Southern Illinois reported that they were difficult to find.

Four Gray Catbirds were seen on 3 counts, including 2 on the Chicago Urban count. 432 American Pipits were seen, on 11 counts, with 202 at Cypress Creek a new state high. The 18 at Champaign County were the only ones not in Southern Illinois. Lone Orange-crowned Warblers were at Clinton Lake and Springfield. 248 Yellow-rumped Warblers were counted on 28 counts, while lone Pine Warblers were seen on 4 counts. Pere Marquette recorded a near-record 4 Common Yellowthroats. This species has been reported nearly annually over the last 28 years.

### Sparrows through Weaver Finches

Two Spotted Towhees were reported, one at Bloomington and one at Mermet Lake. Four Chipping Sparrows were reported on 3 counts. Lone Vesper Sparrows were at Bloomington and Hennepin. Five Lincoln's Sparrows were reported on 4 counts, while Carlyle had the only Harris's Sparrow. 6 counts reported 'Oregon' Dark-eyed Juncos. Lapland Longspurs appeared to be fairly typical, while 6 Snow Buntings reached Southern Illinois, on three counts. A Chestnut-collared Longspur at Crane Lake is still under review. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Quincy, while an Indigo Bunting was at Union County. Four Western Meadowlarks were reported on 3 counts.

This year, winter finches were finally noticeable again after being counted in low numbers in recent CBCs. 600 Purple Finches were counted on 44 counts, with an impressive 145 at Western Mercer County. 42 Red Crossbills were reported on 5 counts, while Kishwaukee had the only White-winged Crossbill. Common Redpolls were reported on 20 counts, with a total of 346. None of the Hoary Redpolls reported later in the winter were counted during the Christmas Count season. One Evening Grosbeak was at McHenry County. Finally, 16 count circles reported Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

### Acknowledgements

As always, I would like to thank all of the count compilers. Without their hard work the CBC would be nothing but a pile of useless numbers. Given the weather this year, however, it only seems appropriate to reserve the biggest acknowledgement to all of the intrepid counters who were willing and eager to challenge the elements to gather all of those numbers.

Data from this year's CBC, and indeed all CBC's ever undertaken, can be found online at the National Audubon Society's website, at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/). Information on this year's counts can also be found at this site.

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### About the Tables

The following nine pages include the tables corresponding to the 2007/2008 CBC season in Illinois. Page 94 includes a list of count names, the coding and the compiler along with weather, observations, party hours, and other statistics. Pages 95, 96, 97, and 98 include the count tallies from the northern section of the state, Pages 99 and 100 include the count tallies from the central section, and pages 101 and 102 include the count tallies from the southern part of the state.

The following abbreviations have been used:

- hc = high count for that circle;
- lc = unusually low count;
- HC = state record high count and
- nc = new species for the state