

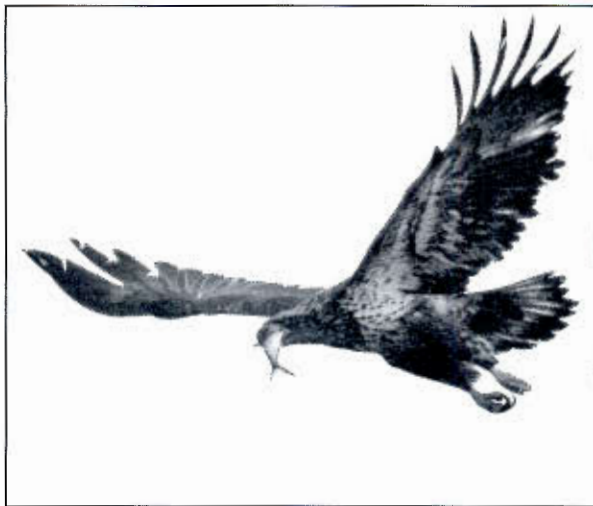
Evanston (2), and Waukegan (3). Five Gray Partridge found at Joliet were noteworthy. It's hard to miss the not-so-wild Wild Turkeys in the state with many compilers remarking on high counts for their respective circles (1,924 in 45 circles). The northernmost Common Loon was at Waukegan. Missed were a Red-throated Loon and Pacific Loon at Carlyle Lake both seen count week only. Arklands and Bird Haven recorded solitary Eared Grebes. Eight circles reported American White Pelicans (111) with the northernmost at Green Island/Lost Mound (2). Carlyle Lake recorded the only American Bittern. Lisle Arboretum noted a lingering, injured Green Heron. Great Blue Herons continue to be ubiquitous statewide (1,157 in 61 circles). Noteworthy were solitary Black-crowned Night-Herons at Baldwin and Carlyle lakes.

Diurnal raptors through gulls

Bald Eagles continue their success with many circles recording this species in increasing numbers (1,723 in 52 circles). Sixty-one Rough-legged Hawks were recorded statewide. Solitary Golden Eagles were at Forest Glen, Horseshoe, and Warbluff. Merlins were noted on four counts. McHenry noted 35 Sandhill Cranes, but two at Newton were especially noteworthy for that part of the state. The most remarkable shore-bird find was Pere Marquette's Spotted Sandpiper. Least Sandpipers lingered long enough to be noted at Hennepin (1), Pere Marquette (21), Newton (28), and Rend Lake (3). The only Dunlin were three at Newton. A solitary American Woodcock was at Bird Haven. Only two Iceland Gulls were noted, one at Collinsville and the other at Muscatine, Iowa. The big gull miss was a count week California Gull at Carlyle Lake. Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted statewide: Kishwaukee (2), Carlyle Lake (1), Collinsville (1), and Rend Lake (1). Nine Glaucous Gulls were noted statewide. The only Great Black-backed Gulls (4) were at Calumet-Sand Ridge.

Pigeons through kinglets

A remarkable Common Ground-Dove was at Crane Lake. Two Barn Owls were noted at Cypress Creek. Eight Northern Saw-whet Owls were recorded with Barrington's two being a high count. Twenty-eight Short-eared Owls was a remarkable count for Arklands.



Immature Bald Eagle with fish at Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. 28 November 2004. Photo by Eric Walters. Bald Eagle numbers, including the ratio of immature to adult, continue to be high as recorded during Christmas Bird Counts in Illinois.

the southernmost being at Muscatine, Iowa. The 72,800 American Crows at Middlefork is still the largest count circle roost in the state and the largest nationwide for the Christmas Bird Count. A lone Fish Crow was noted at Muscatine, Iowa. A noteworthy solitary Tree Swallow was at Clinton Lake. Marsh Wrens were tallied (in three circles) with the northernmost bird being at Kankakee. The northernmost Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Lisle Arboretum (2) and Hennepin (1).

Thrushes through buntings

Eastern Bluebird numbers continue to increase (2,182 in 51 circles) with many compilers reporting record high counts. A rare Varied Thrush was at Calumet-Sand Ridge (photographed) and another was noted at Bloomington. Remarkable was the solitary Bohemian Waxwing noted at Chillicothe. American Pipits (202 in 8 circles) continue to linger later and farther north each winter in the state, with remarkable high counts tallied at Champaign (88) and Rend Lake (64).

In the warbler department, only five Pine Warblers were noted in southern Illinois this season with four at Rend Lake and another at Mermet Lake. Rend Lake tallied the only Orange-crowned Warbler. A single Common Yellowthroat was at Evanston, and a count week bird was at Chicago Urban.

A Spotted Towhee was at Lake Mermet (but, in Kentucky). A well-documented Chipping Sparrow was at Kishwaukee and another count week bird was at Chicago Urban. Lone Vesper Sparrows were found at Arklands and Mermet Lake. Fourteen Le Conte's Sparrows were noted this year (in 6 circles). A good find, a Dickcissel, was at Union.

Fourteen Red-headed Woodpeckers (in seven circles) is a paltry total for northern Illinois. The Red-shafted form of the Northern Flicker was noted at Horseshoe Lake and Union (one each). As usual, Pileated Woodpecker numbers were highest along the Mississippi and Illinois River valleys (405 in 39 circles). Ten Eastern Phoebes (in six circles) were the only flycatchers noted, again, all in southern Illinois. Twenty-four Loggerhead Shrikes (in 13 circles) were noted—all in southern Illinois. Another strong invasion into the northern half of Illinois produced 23 Northern Shrikes in 12 circles, with