

noted a tardy Spotted Sandpiper, pending review. Least Sandpipers were detected at Mermet Lake (12), and Pere Marquette (8). Mermet Lake recorded the only Dunlin. Arklands (3) and Mermet Lake (2) detected the only American Woodcocks. A Parasitic Jaeger was a rare find at Chicago Lakefront. Bonaparte's Gulls (714 in 9 circles) were nearly out of the state during the season with the northernmost gulls at Clinton Lake (9), Peoria (24), and Springfield (135). Unusual gulls were hardly detected this season. Carlyle Lake (3), Chillicothe (1), Crab Orchard (1), Mermet Lake (1), Rend Lake (1) and Springfield (2) noted Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Calumet Sand-Ridge (1) and Evanston (2) noted the only Glaucous Gulls. Three Great Black-backed Gulls were at Calumet Sand-Ridge.

### Pigeons through kinglets

Eurasian Collared-Doves (246 in 21 circles) are on the move (apparently along railroad lines and grain elevators). The most remarkable owl find this season was in southern Illinois; a count week Burrowing Owl that was present for some time but not detected on count day at Arklands. Another owl that didn't count was a Snowy observed just before the Waukegan count. Short-eared Owls (91 in 13 circles) were rather wide spread this season whereas Long-eared Owls (22 in 10 circles) were hardly noted, and the only Northern Saw-whet Owls were detected at Barrington (1) and Middlefork (1). Red-headed Woodpecker (795 in 51 circles) numbers were low statewide. Sapsuckers (405 in 44 circles), Northern Flickers (2,146 in 64 circles), and Pileated Woodpeckers (512 in 38 circles) were reported in high count numbers for some circles. An amazing total of 60 Eastern Phoebes were in 9 extreme southern IL circles. A most outstanding flycatcher rarity was Crane Lake's solitary Say's Phoebe. Loggerhead Shrikes (25 in 8 southern Illinois circles) and Northern Shrikes (12 in 7 circles) were hardly detected this season. Middlefork

(1) tallied the southernmost Northern Shrike in central Illinois. A rare (for this season) Fish Crow was noted at Mermet Lake. Horned Larks (7,704 in 56 circles) were detected a bit easier along snow-swept roadsides. Horseshoe Lake noted tardy Tree (1) and Barn (1) Swallow. Union also noted 2 late Barn Swallows. Red-breasted Nuthatch (442 in 53 circles) numbers were supposed to fall this season—that did not happen—exactly. High counts of wrens and in some areas kinglets were noted. Carolina Wrens (2,022 in 58 circles) were often reported in high counts by some compilers. Winter Wrens (198 in 35 circles) seemed to be rather detectable. Solitary Marsh Wrens were tallied at Horseshoe Lake and McHenry. Union reported the only Sedge Wren. Golden-crowned Kinglets (1,151 in 43 circles) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (207 in 20 circles) were a mixed-bag of noteworthy numbers with northern Illinois and some central Illinois compilers complaining of low counts for particularly Golden-crowned Kinglets.

### Thrushes through buntings

Amazing numbers of Eastern Bluebirds (3,418 in 53 circles), Hermit Thrush (534 in 39 circles), and American Robins (32,244 in 54 circles) were tallied and reported by compilers statewide. The Gray Catbird (10 in 7 circles) and Brown Thrasher (56 in 12 circles; all but two confined to southern Illinois) numbers, though small, were noteworthy. The northernmost American Pipit (19 in 6 circles) was detected at Hennepin (1).

Arklands tallied an amazing aforementioned 38 Pine Warblers; others were noted at Cypress Creek (1), Horseshoe Lake (1), and Warbluff (6). Clinton Lake (1) and Marion (1) noted the only Common Yellowthroat.

Evanston (1) and Mermet Lake (1) noted Spotted Towhee. The only Vesper Sparrow was noted at White Pines (1) and Van Petten (1). Highly detected sparrows included: Savannah Sparrow (246 in 25 circles); Fox Sparrows (361 in 44 circles); White-throated Sparrows (7,353 in 62 circles); and White-crowned Sparrows (1,893 in 53 circles). Arklands (5), Cypress Creek (5), Horseshoe Lake (5), Rend Lake (2), and Union (1) noted Le Conte's Sparrows—all in southern Illinois. Lapland Longspurs (2,912 in 42 circles) and 752 Snow Buntings (in 25 circles)



*Say's Phoebe.  
Crane Lake, Mason County,  
during the Sanganois  
Christmas Bird Count.  
17 December 2005.  
Photo by Dennis Oehmke.*