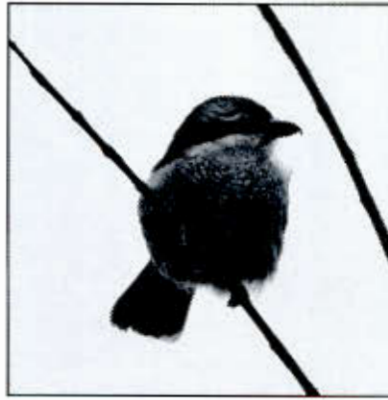


## Blackbirds through weaver finches

A lone Western Meadowlark was tallied at Horseshoe. The only Brewer's Blackbird noted was at Carlyle Lake. The highest Rusty Blackbird flock was 400 at Lincoln, otherwise there were 1,067 in 24 other circles. Winter finches were around this year—albeit not in big numbers. White-winged Crossbills were found as count week birds only. Eighty-nine Red Crossbills were noted (in four circles) with Chautauqua having the highest count of 60 individuals. Fourteen Common Redpolls (all in northeastern Illinois) were noted (in 3 circles); 612 Pine Siskins (in 37 circles) and 640 Purple Finches (in 55 circles) were the most numerous winter finches. Finally, after a 10-year hiatus 5 Evening Grosbeaks



*Northern Shrike at Aurora West, Forest Preserve, Kane County, 11 December 2004. This species staged an impressive invasion in the northern third of Illinois during the winter 2004/2005 season. Photo by Jerry Kumery.*

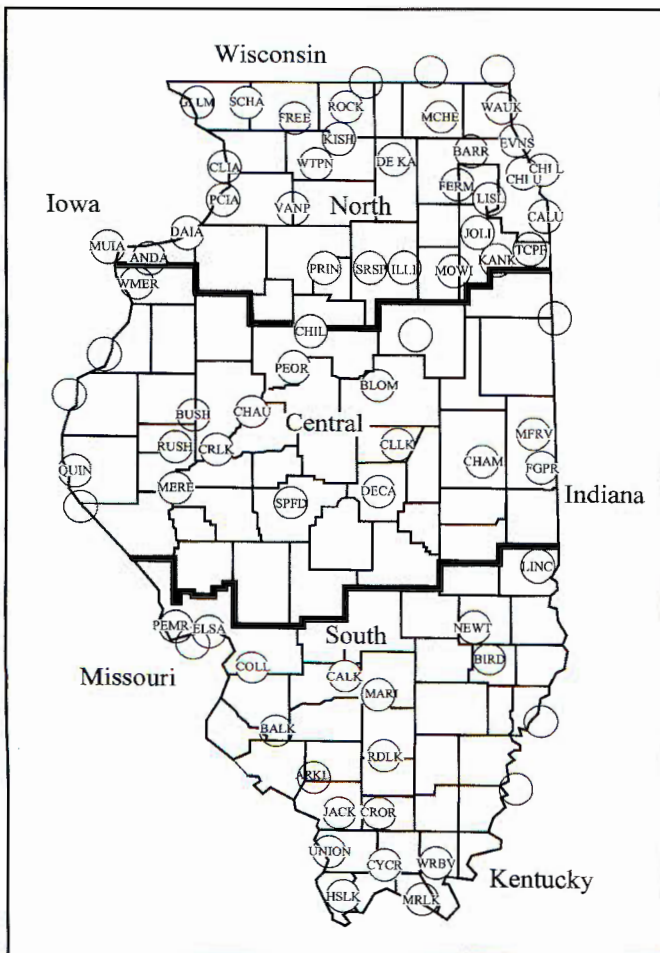
were tallied on the Forest Glen count. The central Mississippi and Illinois river valleys had very healthy populations of Eurasian Tree Sparrows (2,774 in 14 circles).

### Acknowledgements

A special thanks must go to the compilers statewide who continually field their troops of observers, feeder watchers, and owlers; then, hold their tabulations or count-down parties, compile their data sending it on to the editors who interpret the data points. We all enjoy this grand birding tradition of Christmas Bird Counting—thank you! See you out there!

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### Key to Tables

Code	Description
dd	<u>d</u> etails <u>d</u> esired
ed	<u>e</u> xcellent <u>d</u> etails
gd	<u>g</u> ood <u>d</u> etails
hc	<u>h</u> igh <u>c</u> ount for that circle
HC	all-time <u>H</u> igh <u>C</u> ount
nc	<u>n</u> ew species to that circle's <u>c</u> ount
NC	<u>N</u> ew to the state's <u>C</u> ount species list
nd	no details
ps	<u>p</u> resent for <u>s</u> ome time
ph	<u>p</u> hotographed
qd	<u>q</u> uestionable <u>d</u> etails
rn	remarkable number
rr	remarkable record
ud	unconvincing details
<b>boldface</b>	species/number/item of note.

### Note: 2004/2005 CBC count circles

The empty circles did not report to the Illinois CBC. Some circles bordering Illinois report to other states.