

Crow (151,728), Red-winged Blackbird (197,328), Common Grackle (193,749), and European Starling (91,236).

ROADSIDE AND REGULARLY OCCURRING SPECIES

Every Illinois count benefitted from “roadside birds.” Many observers remained as Dan Kassebaum did, mostly inside the car. “It was so cold and windy that I did not get out of my truck,” Kassebaum said. “I logged 0 miles walked. The snow plows exposed bare ground from the roadside edges. This is where I found most of the birds in my count area.” Nearly every compiler mentioned large numbers of Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Dark-eyed Juncos coming to the sides of the roads after snow storms and heavy snow covered the fields. The tally of 32,317 Horned Larks in 56 count circles showed just how widespread this species was. Lapland Longspurs (4,289 in 46 circles) outnumbered Snow Buntings (1,287 in 41 circles) by about 4 to 1 statewide. Several Snow Buntings made incursions far to the south in Illinois with individuals showing up at Collinsville, Carlyle Lake, Newton, Quincy, and Pere Marquette. Dark-eyed Juncos were also widespread often along road edges, the 33,575 individuals in all circles was a significant count. White-throated Sparrows certainly were recorded in good numbers and missed on only one count with 6,081 individuals in 59 circles. The winter resident American Tree Sparrow also was statewide in its distribution with 23,686 individuals in all circles.

The following is a list of roadside species reported during the blowing and drifting snows: Northern Bobwhite, Rock Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush,

American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Le Conte’s Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris’s Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark (“in flocks of 30+” at Carlyle Lake), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

CBC RARITIES AND UNUSUAL BIRDS

The most spectacular rare bird was the **King Eider** at Springfield. Other unusual lingering or rare birds in early winter included an Eared Grebe at Springfield. The 34 Horned Grebes at Baldwin Lake were noteworthy. Pere Marquette had a lone American White Pelican. Illini’s (2) and Kishwaukee’s (1) Turkey Vultures were unusual so far north; Springfield had its highest count of four vultures. Kankakee had an unusual 6 Greater White-fronted Geese. Singleton Ross’s Geese were on three counts: Fermilab-Batavia, Horseshoe Lake, and Rend Lake. Only seven Trumpeter Swans were reported with Springfield (5) having the highest count; the only Tundra Swan report was six at Peoria. Fermilab-Batavia had the only Long-tailed Duck—one bird. Calumet City-Sand Ridge recorded a lone Surf Scoter. Only two Northern Goshawks were tallied: one at Champaign and one at Chautauqua NWR. Three Golden Eagles were seen at Clinton, IA, Meredosia Island, and Union County. Merlins, formerly always unusual, seem to be on the increase with 11 individuals recorded in 11 circles. After a long CBC absence the 11 Gray Partridge noted at Davenport, IA were a welcome observation. Princeton-Com-

manche IA, recorded the only Virginia Rail (in Illinois). Clinton Lake tallied the only Sandhill Crane. Three Least Sandpipers were noteworthy at Horseshoe Lake. The unusual gull department was one Iceland Gull at Starved Rock. Seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were recorded in 5 circles with the southernmost being at Mermet Lake. Glaucous Gulls were at Morris-Wilmington (2), Starved Rock (1), Quincy (1) and a southernmost individual at Rend Lake. Two Great Black-backed Gulls were at Calumet City-Sand Ridge and one each at Peoria, Starved Rock, and Waukegan. Eurasian Collared-Doves are slowly colonizing the state with 15 individuals in 4 circles noted. Humiston Woods reported a Barn Owl with no details. Two Snowy Owls were noted both in northeastern Illinois at Calumet City-Sand Ridge and along the Chicago Lakefront. Lisle (1), Middlefork (1), and Clinton, IA (1) were the only counts to record Northern Saw-whet Owl. 16 Eastern Phoebes were tallied in seven circles with Cypress Creek noting six individuals. Only 9 Northern Shrikes were reported this year in eight circles — certainly a



Merlin. 12 Dec. 2000. Will County Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.