

also observed eating worms! Dark-eyed Juncos were the commonest sparrow (23,148 in 60 circles) plus 10 "Oregons" were noted. The next most common sparrow was the American Tree Sparrow (11,236 in 56 circles) followed by another widespread sparrow, the White-throated Sparrow (4,607 in 57 circles). Finally, Northern Cardinal continues to be our ubiquitous state bird (14,430 in 60 circles).

CBC Firsts and Rarities

After the Waukegan CBC counters last year missed the almost wintering ultra vagrant Red-cockaded Woodpecker, they did not come up short this year, recording a state-first CBC record and wintering pine-barren **Brown-headed Nuthatch**, an amazing CBC record. Also, new to the state CBC list was a *Sterna tern* recorded at Rend Lake. Other unusual lingering or rarities included several Red-throated Loons, one at Evanston (North Shore), one at Rend Lake, and a count week bird at Carlyle Lake. Crab Orchard had the only Red-necked Grebe. The aforementioned increase in American White Pelican numbers certainly was unusual. Most noteworthy were the two northernmost singletons at Joliet and Lisle Arboretum; these are the first CBC records for the Chicago Area. The only lingering American Bittern was noted at Rend Lake; there was a count week bird at Newton. Pere Marquette had a Great Egret in addition to the aforementioned

high of five at Collinsville. Twenty-four Blue-winged Teal (in six circles) noted that species lingering status. Two Harlequin Ducks were noted, one at Evanston and an always rare inland bird at Morris-Wilmington. Black Scoters (2) were noted at Evanston, and one was at Waukegan. Twenty-three Long-tailed Ducks (in 5 circles) was a bit better than last year's singleton with Evanston having the highest count of seventeen. The only Northern Goshawk was an individual at Bloomington. Only Two Golden Eagles were noted, one at Crab Orchard and one at Union. Six Merlins (in 5 circles) were noted; Lisle Arboretum had a noteworthy two individuals. Rend Lake and Waukegan had the only Virginia Rails, one and two respectively. Sandhill Cranes were noted on only three counts: Evanston (5), McHenry (84) and Clinton, IA (2). Most amazing was Lisle Arboretum's two Greater Yellowlegs — a rare northerly record. Five Least Sandpipers were noteworthy at Rend Lake, but even more noteworthy was the solitary individual at Starved Rock (by the way, it was refreshing to obtain in the field notes and a sketch, taken at the time of observation, on the latter record). Six American Woodcocks (in 4 circles) were all recorded in southern Illinois: Bird Haven (1), Cypress Creek (2), Crab Orchard (2) and Rend Lake (1).

Unusual gulls were six Great Black-backed Gulls at Calumet City-Sandridge, and one was at Morris-Wilmington. Iceland Gulls were noted at Starved Rock (1) and Waukegan (1). Nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were recorded in 4 circles with the southernmost being at Carlyle and Rend Lake. Glaucous Gulls were at Waukegan (2) and Calumet City-Sandridge (1). The increase in Eurasian Collared-Doves (77 in 7 circles) suggests a colonizing successful species. A Barn Owl was noteworthy at Union County and the three at Cypress Creek were at a known location. Eight Northern Saw-whet Owls

(in 5 circles) is reflective of observers persistence to find this unusual wintering owl; the same can be said for Long-eared Owl with sixteen individuals recorded in seven circles. 12 Eastern Phoebe were tallied in three circles with Union County noting ten individuals: Lisle Arboretum had the northernmost bird. Only eight Northern Shrikes were noted; Barrington had a high count of five. Collinsville noted a Fish Crow. Jackson County and Union had the only solitary House Wrens; Jackson also had a well-described Sedge Wren. Eight Marsh Wrens statewide is perhaps more indicative of field observers effort to tromp through cattail marshes; those who make the effort find the wrens. A rare **Townsend's Solitaire** was noted at Barrington. One Gray Catbird was noted at Chillicothe. Twenty-one American Pipits in six circles was noteworthy with the northernmost two individuals at Champaign.

Four unusual warbler species were noted: Union had the only Orange-crowned Warbler, Rend Lake tallied the only Pine Warbler, Champaign had two Palm Warblers, and Fermilab-Batavia recorded the northernmost Common Yellowthroat and Union County the southernmost. Two well-described Chipping Sparrows were noted, one at Rockford and one at Bloomington. Only four Le Conte's Sparrows were noted this year, three at Mermet Lake-Massac County and one at Newton. A solitary Western Meadowlark was at Union County. Twenty-seven Brewer's Blackbirds (in seven circles), all for the most part well-described, were a noteworthy data aggregate. Finally, Shapville's photographed **Baltimore Oriole**, coming to a raisin feeder, was perhaps the rarest lingerer of the season.

Low Counts

Low counts — or no counts? Both Long-tailed Ducks and Ring-necked Pheasants seem to be on the wintering population slide, and as of late, Rough-legged Hawk (72 in 31 circles) numbers seem to be down. And as



Brown-headed Nuthatch made it on Illinois' Christmas Bird Count. This is the state's first record. David B. Johnson took this photo at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County, 13 July 2001.