

briefly at various locations including Mew, Slaty-backed, and Glaucous-winged.

## Pigeons to Kinglets

Eurasian Collared-Doves were more abundant, while Mourning Doves were considerably less numerous statewide this winter. Few observations of Monk Parakeets were reported.

Eight species of owls were found in Illinois this season. Most owls were recorded in similar numbers as last winter, except Barn and Long-eared, which were less abundant. Only two Snowy Owls were observed, one by many, in the north-central part of Illinois. Illinois did play host to two rare hummingbird species this year in early December, including Illinois's first accepted Anna's Hummingbird and a beautiful, cooperative, male Rufous Hummingbird, both in central Illinois.

With the exception of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which was present in usual numbers, all woodpecker species were reported less abundantly statewide. Only two Eastern Phoebes were observed in the south. Loggerhead Shrikes were nearly absent from the state this winter, with only three reports, while Northern Shrikes were present in similar numbers to last winter.

Other than the American Crow, the common "permanent resident" species (i.e. corvids, chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, and nuthatches) were encountered in slightly to greatly reduced numbers this season. It was a "low" year in numbers of the cyclic Red-breasted Nuthatch. Horned Larks and Brown Creepers were considerably less numerous throughout Illinois during the 2010-2011 winter season. No late-lingering swallows were detected this winter within the state.

Only the two typical wintering species of wrens were found in Illinois this season, and both were reported in greatly reduced numbers statewide. Additionally, both kinglets were present in substantially lower numbers throughout the state.

## Thrushes to Buntings

A total of 4 thrush and 3 mimid species were observed this winter. All species were reported in substantially lower numbers, with the exception of the American Robin, which was much more abundant this year. European Starlings were considerably less numerous with no notable concentrations reported. American Pipits were present in typical numbers this year, while Cedar Waxwings were considerably more plentiful across the state.

Four species of warbler were recorded in Illinois this winter. Although more widely distributed, Yellow-rumped Warblers were less abundant statewide. The other three warbler species were all noteworthy in terms of wintering occurrences. Eastern Towhees were somewhat less abundant this winter, while three Spotted Towhees were located, and two photographed. Fifteen species of sparrow were observed this winter in Illinois, all in slightly-to-greatly reduced numbers. The exceptions included American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Le Conte's Sparrow, which were all more abundant this season. The Chipping Sparrow, which used to be a very unusual winter visitor, continues to be reported in greater wintering numbers, this year being found in all three regions of the state. Northern Cardinals and Lapland Longspurs were substantially less numerous throughout Illinois during the 2010-2011 winter, though the Snow Bunting was considerably more numerous and widespread throughout the state. A single Smith's Longspur was reported once again this winter.

## Blackbirds to Weaver Finches

During the winter 2010-2011 season, 7 species of blackbird were identified within the state. The majority of these species were encountered in decreased numbers, although Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds were more abundant statewide. Concentrations of these birds at traditional southern wintering locales were once again considerably reduced.

Eight species of finch were reported this winter. House Finches and Pine Siskins were more numerous, while the American Goldfinch decreased in abundance, with Purple Finches recorded in similar numbers to the previous winter. There was a relatively good movement of "winter finches" into Illinois this winter, with small numbers of redpolls regularly encountered throughout northeastern Illinois and a fairly large number of Pine Siskins in the northern half of the state. Few but both crossbill species were also observed this winter.

## Acknowledgments

The foundation of this summary was the detailed information regarding wintering avian populations as submitted directly to the compiler by field observers throughout the state. Maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three regions of Illinois (north, central, and south) as described by Bohlen (1978). Additional data reflecting the progress of the season are noted, when available, for species and areas of special interest. The species accounts which follow, utilize the taxonomy and nomenclature of the 52nd Supplement from the 7th Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (American Ornithologists' Union 2011) and the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (1999).

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