

by those that have been birding long and attentively enough or by those willing to scour through Illinois's ornithological history in the various Illinois ornithological journals or state and regional monographs concerned with Illinois's birds. Other interesting changes that are possibly on the horizon include: are Illinois's wintering numbers of Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers becoming fewer as warming temperatures allow many to winter farther north? And speaking of more northerly range changes, how much farther north and east will the Eurasian Tree Sparrow spread ...in or beyond Illinois's borders? Bohlen (1989) gives Sangamon and Christian Counties as this species easternmost range in the state, and lists Hampton as a vagrant location where today many dozens can regularly be tallied in a visit. The former northern extent was the Peoria area in the late 1980's but birds of this species can now regularly be found in numbers quite a distance north into Whiteside, Ogle, Stark, Putnam, Woodford and McLean Counties. This species has dramatically declined if anything in its former stronghold in the Greater St. Louis area, and has not expanded its range any farther south. Will Ring-necked Pheasants survive to occur in Illinois if a few more severe winter storms occur or grassland habitat loss continues? Will Turkey Vulture winter roosts spread from their mostly southern Illinois locations and begin appearing in northern Illinois as winter snows decline or change mainly to rain? Will birds as diverse as American Woodcock and Chipping Sparrow become regular Illinois winter residents throughout Illinois in the next decade? Stay tuned...

Acknowledgements

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; 2007).

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