

Rockford adjacent to Illinois Highway 2. The Klehm Forest Preserve is the former Rockford Nursery and harbors one of the largest collections of conifers and crabapples in Illinois. While scanning a large flock of 300 Cedar Waxwings, Lynda Johnson and I noticed that one bird just to the left of the highest branch of a black cherry tree was larger and grayer. We immediately recognized the bird as a lone Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). The bird was to our north in good light on this partly sunny day.

While everyone was gathering together to view the bird, it flew down to feed amongst the crabapples within 25-30 feet from me. At this distance, I noticed the rufous undertail coverts and the white, red, and yellow wing markings. The bird was among a feeding frenzy of waxwings but 11 observers including: Lee Johnson, Brad Grover, Roy Morris, Marian Doyle, Marjory Rand (et al.) managed to see the bird before a large accipiter flushed the skittish waxwings up into the canopy trees.

Despite attempts to flush the waxwings into a more viewable area, we could not relocate the species for others who wanted to see it. The next day local birders still could not find the Bohemian Waxwing among as many as 600 Cedar Waxwings in the preserve. Lee Johnson said this was the first county record in 30 years. The Klehm Forest Preserve is open by permit only while under development as the Klehm Arboretum and Northern Illinois Botanic Garden. It promises to be an Illinois birding hot spot with its unique blend of vegetation, shrubs, and trees and has already produced recent sightings of Pine Grosbeak (Dec. 1989/Jan. 1990) both crossbills, redpolls, and winter bluebirds.

— Alan Branhagen, 2222 Hancock St., Rockford, IL 61103

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## Solitary Vireo in Early Winter at Springfield

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Solitary Vireos (*Vireo solitarius*) occasionally linger late to early November in Illinois. My latest fall date for Sangamon County was 17 November 1991. On 10 December 1992 I was at Lincoln Memorial Gardens at the south end of Lake Springfield. It had snowed 2 inches during the night but the 35-degree temperature was melting the snow. I was surprised to see a Solitary Vireo at mid-height (8-10 feet) in brushy trees near a flock of Black-capped Chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

The chunky vireo-sized bird had a gray head with white spectacles, gray-green back, two white wingbars, yellow sides and flanks, and white throat and underparts. Actually the bill on this species of vireo is quite small, but I could see it was hooked. The legs were bluish-gray. Also, surprisingly, in the flock was an immature Orange-crowned Warbler feeding near the ground in brush. I watched both birds for a minute or two but the flock moved quickly and soon disappeared. The next day I found the Solitary Vireo in the same place, but it was alone this time. I believe these two birds were just late migrants since I did not see the vireo after 11 December 1992 and the warbler 14 December 1992.

Because of the coloration, the Solitary Vireo looked to be of the nominate eastern race. Although there are a few late November records for this vireo, apparently this is the first December record for Illinois. It could be expected to show up in southern Illinois in winter eventually.

— H. David Bohlen, Illinois State Museum, 1920 South 10 1/2 St., Springfield, IL 62703

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## Northern Parula Warbler: Second Winter Record for Illinois

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Early morning New Year's Day 1993 Myrna Deaton and I left Decatur to participate in the Middle Fork River Valley Christmas Count near Danville in Vermilion County. We often help Steve Bailey on this count, held on the first day of the year, as it gives us a chance to get a good start on a year list. Little did we know that we would see a bird most bird watchers would not see until much later in the year.

The temperature was 20 degrees. Most of the water was frozen with only the fast-flowing rivers left open. The wind was brisk. The morning's birding went quickly as we recorded the normal species seen on a Christmas count with nothing much out of the ordinary until we arrived at the Tom Prillaman farm near Henning in Vermilion County. Steve Bailey had requested we check the suet and seed feeders at the farm. However, not many birds were visiting the feeders except for a few Downy Woodpeckers and some American Goldfinches. We talked to Prillaman who informed us that we had seen most of what was around at the feeders.

The area, however, commanded a good view of the surrounding river bottom, planted fields, and a white pine