

decayed. It exhibited one unusual deformity. The lower mandible protruded 6 mm beyond the tip of the upper mandible. A slight notch in the lower mandible, as if formed by abrasion from the tip of the upper mandible, indicated that the protrusion was a long-time condition.

The specimen weighed 155 grams (5.5 ounces), had a total length of 275 mm, and a tail length of 94 mm. The sex was female, as indicated by a wing chord of 178 mm, versus 180-202 mm for males (Pyle et al. 1987). The age at death was approximately 8 months (i.e., hatched in the spring of 1996), as indicated by the lesser secondary wing coverts being a distinctly glossier black than the middle coverts which were dull black with brown tips, and also as indicated by the difference in length between the innermost and outermost rectrices. These were only 9 mm, versus 15-35 mm for older birds (Pyle et al. 1987).

The normal range of this non-migratory species comes as close to Illinois as the west edge of Nebraska (Sauer et al. 1996). The species is prone to wandering in winter (Bent 1946). There are acceptable records from Iowa and Wisconsin, and there are several encounters from Illinois which Bohlen (1989) says do not meet the requirements for a state record "... although two of them came during

irruption years and are probably correct. The specimen from Gross Point [Cook County] cannot be located." He thus classifies the Clark's Nutcracker as hypothetical on the Illinois list. The present specimen should warrant discussion on whether to change the status of the species to very rare vagrant.

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Brewer's Sparrow Winters at Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary in Chicago

On 27 November, 1996, while birding the Magic Hedge at Montrose Point along Chicago's Lake Michigan shore, I ran into fellow birder and Montrose habitue, Luis Munoz, who told me he had seen a small, grayish sparrow of unknown identity on the east side of the Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary the day before.

Intrigued, I went to the bird sanctuary, a fenced-in woodlot south of Montrose near Waveland Golf Course. After searching for a few minutes, I found the bird. To my stunned amazement, the bird turned out to be a Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), a species normally associated with sagebrush flats in the western United States.



Brewer's Sparrow, Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary, Chicago. 22 Feb. 1997. Photo by Robert Hughes.

In size, proportions and plumage, the bird was typical of the genus *Spizella* - small, with a relatively long emarginated tail, a small, conical bill and unstreaked underparts. The complete white eye-ring, finely-streaked nuchal collar and the absence of a pale median crown stripe were also apparent. Overall, the bird was pale and non-descript.

This sighting represents only the third record for Illinois, the first from Jackson Park in Chicago on 26 May 1982 and the second, a window casualty from McCormick Place in Chicago on 29 May 1986. The second bird is now a specimen in the Field Museum of Chicago (Bohlen 1989).

The Lincoln Park Brewer's Sparrow decided to make