

Northern Cardinal numbers were slightly higher than last year, although, as with other common resident species, available data are largely confined to Christmas Bird Count results. Single wintering **Indigo Buntings** were found at two sites in southern Illinois.

Blackbird numbers were lower for most species over much of the state, but huge concentrations occurred in the south, especially at the Arklands Reclamation Area in Perry County, at Massac County, and at Rend Lake. The most staggering high count was of **16,000 Rusty Blackbirds** at Arklands. A tally of **326 Eastern Meadowlarks** at Jasper County is among the highest ever recorded for this species in Illinois.

It was not a flight year for "winter finches," and both numbers and diversity among finches were unimpressive. House Sparrow populations appeared to be fairly typical, while Eurasian Tree Sparrow showed slight increases.

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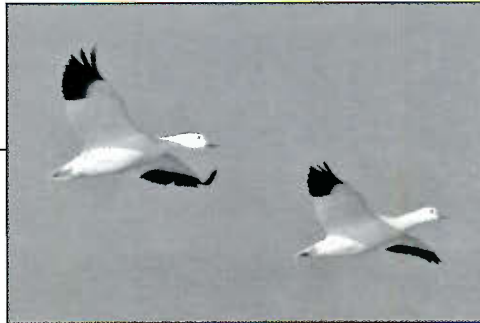
## Winter 2005-2006 Field Notes

### Greater White-fronted Goose

**MC:** **15,000**, Ark., 25 Dec (KJM); 7,500, UCCA, 30 Dec (KJM, HDB); 4,314, Chau, 20 Jan (RGB, SNB); 4,000, Carl.L., 20 Feb (DMK); 3,800, HLCA, 29 Dec (SDB, HDB); 425, Macon Co, 21 Jan (TAM); 54, River Bend FP (Champaign Co), 19 Feb (CA); **Others** (north & east): 38, Kennekuk CP (Vermilion Co), 23 Feb (BL); 25, Clin. L., 6 Feb (RD); 16, La Salle L (La Salle Co), 12 Feb (EWW); 9, Aroma P (Kankakee Co), 14 Jan (\*EWW); 3, Fairmount (Vermilion Co), 31 Jan (BP); New Milford (Winnebago Co), 1 Jan (DTW); Long Grove (Lake Co), 19 Feb (CSF). Widespread with continued increases, particularly in southern and west-central regions.

### Snow Goose

**MC:** **300,000**, Carl.L., 22 Jan (DMK); **90,000**, Ark., 25 Dec (KJM); 50,000, Rend L., 24 Feb (KAM); 37,714 (24,588 white



*Snow Goose, left,  
and Ross's Goose, right,  
flying over Montrose Point,  
Cook County. 18 February 2006.  
Photo by Emil Martinec.*

morph, 13,126 blue morph), Chau, 27 Jan (RGB, SNB); 20,000, Grand Chain (Pulaski Co), 19 Dec (SDB, MW); 10,000, Macon Co, 25 Feb (TAM); 7,700, HLCA, 29 Dec (SDB, HDB); 1,400, UCCA, 30 Dec (SDB); 28, Chi, 25 Feb (UWG); 27 (23 white morph, 4 blue morph), Burnham (Cook Co), 19 Feb (CAM, WJM, PAD). **Others** (central & north): 250, Clin.L., 6 Feb (RD); 200, Pontiac (Livingston Co), 18 Feb (DJS); 80, Fairmount (Vermilion Co), 31 Jan (BP); 24, La Salle L (La Salle Co), 12 Feb (EWW); 3 (white morph), Long Grove (Lake Co), 26 Feb (CSF).

### Ross's Goose

**MC:** **200**, Ark., 25 Dec (KJM); 23, UCCA, 18 Jan (KAM); 12, Clin. L., 25 Feb> (GSL et al., fide SDB); 6, Coles Co, 15-16 & 20 Jan (LBH, RCF); 5, Chi, 19 Feb (CAM, RDH, PM, PAD, m.ob.).