

Mockingbirds were notably healthy statewide, while those of Brown Thrashers were above normal within their limited distribution. American Pipits continued into December in typical small numbers, while the wintering population of Cedar Waxwings was rather weak.

WARBLERS TO WEAVER FINCHES.

Among five species of warblers detected this season, the most unusual by far was an Ovenbird overwintering (through 6 February) in a rural yard south of Charleston in Coles County. Yellow-rumped Warblers appeared in below-average numbers, while a total of eight Pine Warblers (all in southern Illinois) was fairly high. An Orange-crowned Warbler at Chicago beginning late January was unexpected, and 2 Common Yellowthroats were in Union County into late December.

Observers reported 17 species of sparrows. Records overall were fairly routine, although a noteworthy concentration of 965 individuals of 13 species of sparrows was tallied in Massac County on 31 December. Scarce winter sparrows elsewhere included two Spotted Towhees in central Illinois, 19 LeConte's Sparrows at scattered southern locales, and two Chipping Sparrows in central Illinois. Numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos were somewhat lower than last season. Lapland Longspurs appeared in comparatively small numbers, while Snow Bunting populations showed a slight increase, including six individuals reaching southern Illinois.

Northern Cardinal numbers were marginally higher than last winter. Three reports of Indigo Buntings were received, all from the south.

Major concentrations of wintering blackbirds were noted, in particular, at Rend Lake in mid-December – with

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

MC	= maximum counts from representative areas of the state	Ark.	= Arklands Reclamation Area (Perry Co)
*	= documented observation	Bald.L	= Baldwin Lake (Randolph Co)
m.ob.	= many observers	Carl.L	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton/Fayette Cos)
:ph	= photograph(s) submitted	Chi	= Chicago and vicinity (Cook Co)
<	= reported as fall departure	Clin.L	= Clinton Lake (De Witt Co)
>	= reported as spring arrival	Crab Or.	= Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co)
ad.	= adult	Hennepin L	= Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)
imm.	= immature	HL	= Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)
unk.	= unknown age/sex	HLCA	= Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area (Alexander Co)
1st/2nd/3rd	= first/second/third-year plumage	IBSP	= Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
pr.	= pair	JP	= Jackson Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Co(s)	= County (Counties)	LCal	= Lake Calumet and vicinity (Cook Co)
L&D	= Lock and Dam	Chau	= Chautauqua NWR (Mason Co)
R	= River	M.Arb.	= Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co)
L	= Lake	Milan Btms	= Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co)
P	= Park	Mermet L	= Mermet Lake (Massac Co)
CA	= Conservation Area	Miss. R	= Mississippi River (various counties)
Pr.	= Prairie	Keithsburg NWR	= Port Louisa NWR, Keithsburg Division (Mercer Co)
FP	= Forest Preserve	Pr.Rdg	= Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
SF&WA	= State Fish & Wildlife Area	QC	= Quad Cities and vicinity (Rock Island/Moline area, Rock Island Co)
SF	= State Forest	Rend L	= Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
SNA	= State Natural Area	Rockfd	= Rockford and vicinity (Winnebago Co)
SP	= State Park	SRock SP	= Starved Rock State Park (La Salle Co)
NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge	UCCA	= Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
WA	= Wildlife Area	Urbana	= Champaign-Urbana (Champaign Co)
		Wauk.	= Waukegan and vicinity (Lake Co)
		Winthrop H	= Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co)

Information on counts greater than one individual, sexes, and/or ages of observed birds is included when available; no number indicates single birds. This information is followed by the location of the observation, date(s) of observation, and the observer(s) who made the report. Noteworthy dates of occurrence, remarkably high counts, and/or locations for the state as a whole, or for particular regions of the state, are **underlined and boldfaced**. Headings for species of extremely unusual occurrence in Illinois during the winter are **CAPITALIZED**. Headings for species requiring review by the IORC are **CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED**. Records pending IORC review are enclosed in square brackets []; see forthcoming IORC reports in this journal for further details.

Maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three regions of Illinois (north, central, and south) as mapped out in H. David Bohlen's 1978 *Annotated check-list of the birds of Illinois*. Representative high counts from subsections within these regions are included for many species. Additional data reflecting the progress of the season are noted, when available, for species and areas of special interest. The species accounts below follow the taxonomy and nomenclature of the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds*, through its 47th (2006) Supplement.