

bers, particularly through the northern 2/3 of the state. As with Horned Larks, the heavy snow cover forced longspurs and Snow Buntings to the roadsides, making them much easier to observe. Overall, 8 species of blackbirds and 5 finches were recorded. The highlight was the four Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported from the south. Additionally, two Western Meadowlarks were observed in Winnebago County (16 December). In contrast to Eastern Meadowlarks which increased slightly, most blackbird species experienced substantial declines in numbers reported during the 2000-2001 winter. Notable exceptions included 125,150 Red-winged Blackbirds and 142,457 Common Grackles observed at Rend Lake (23 December). Furthermore, few reports of spring migrants occurred before the end of February. Among the "winter finches," Purples decreased slightly, while more substantial declines were noted for Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins compared to last year's minor invasion. Purple Finches were restricted to the northern 2/3 of Illinois, while Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were found almost exclusively in the north section. The American Goldfinch was recorded in fairly normal numbers. Fewer Eurasian Tree Sparrows were observed this year as compared to the previous winter.

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The foundation of this summary is the detailed information regarding avian wintering populations as submitted directly to the compiler, or indirectly via the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 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 mapped out in Bohlen's (1978) Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois. Additional data reflecting the progress of the season are noted, when available, for species and areas of special interest. The species accounts follow the taxonomy and nomenclature of the seventh (1998) edition of the American

Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds and its supplements.

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Winter 2000-2001 Field Notes

Common Loon

2, IBSP, 2 Dec (AS); Montrose, 7 Dec (GW).

Pied-billed Grebe

MC: 225, CrabOr, 2 Dec (KM, DK, FB) — record Dec high count for Illinois; **35**, L Spfld, **14 Jan** (KM). **Others:** Seneca (La Salle Co), 17 Dec (DJS); 6, Bald.L, 2 Jan (DK); St. Charles (Kane Co), 13 & 20 Jan (AS, AA, UG); Chi, 2 Feb (AA); La Salle L, 4 Feb (C&JMc); HL, 25 Feb> (FH).

Horned Grebe

MC : 15, CrabOr, 2 Dec (KM). **Others:** 3, Carl.L, 9 Dec< (KM); Rockford (Winnebago Co), 30 Dec (DTW); Bald.L, 2 Jan (DK); La Salle L, 20 Jan (C&JMc); HL, 26 Feb> (KM).

Red-necked Grebe

Mermet L, 8 Feb (*FB).

Eared Grebe

CrabOr, 2 Dec (KM, DK, FB); 3, Carl.L, 10 Dec (*DK).

American White Pelican

MC : 100, Alton (Madison Co), 13 Feb (LH); 27, Bald.L, 7 Feb> (KM). **Others:** 7, Alton (Madison Co), 2 Feb (JOS); 7, Sante Fe Bottoms (Clinton Co), 10 Feb (DK).

Double-crested Cormorant

MC : **400**, Rend L, 12 Feb> (KM); 21, La Salle L, **4 Feb** (C&JMc); **10**, Little Cal.R, **30 Dec** (WM, KW, MB); **10**, La Salle L, **20 Jan**

(C&JMc). **Others:** Gillson P (Cook Co), 3 Dec (AS); IBSP, 9 Dec (AS); 7, Carl.L, 14 Dec, (DK); 2, L&D #14 (Rock Island Co), 17 Dec (KJM); 2, SRock SP, 27 Dec - 31 Jan (DJS); Rock Falls, 30 Dec (KJM); 2, Bald.L, 2 Jan (DK); L Spfld, 14 Jan< (KM).

Great Blue Heron

MC : 124, Chau, 7 Dec (R&SBj); 35, Carl.L, 9 Dec (DK); 34, Clear L (Mason Co), 8 Dec (R&SBj); 33, HL, 22 Jan (JZ); 28, HLCA, 28 Dec (KM, DK, CT); 6, Yorkville (Kendall Co), 24 Dec (DJS); 6, SRock SP, 7 Jan (DJS). **Others** (northern half of state): 6, Seneca (La Salle Co), 17 Dec (DJS); near Keithsburg (Mercer Co), 20 Dec (KJM); Little Cal.R, 26 Dec (WM); Rock Falls, 30 Dec (KJM); Urbana, 1 Jan (RC); Evanston (Cook Co), 4 Jan (EW, m.ob.); 2, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 14 Jan (UG); Lake Co, 1 Feb (SH).

Great Egret

HL, 7 Dec< (FH); Rend L, 16 Dec (VL, RM); 2, Sand Prairie Lane (Madison Co), 20 Dec (TB — possibly including bird of 7 Dec).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

MC : 4, Chau, 7 Dec< (R&SBj). **Others:** Winnebago Co, 1 Dec (DTW); GrtLakes, 9 Dec (SH); imm., Lockport (Will Co), 7 Jan (UG); Lincoln P, Chi, 17 Jan (GW).

Black Vulture

14, Johnson Co, 2 Dec (KM, FB, DK); 13, Carbondale Reservoir (Jackson Co), 2 Jan (GH); Murphysboro (Jackson Co), 6 Jan (RL).