

Northern Cardinal

MC: 447, QC, 14 Dec (L&CB, m.ob.); 426, Winnebago Co, 20 Dec (DW); 413, Champaign Co, 20 Dec (EC, m.ob.); 136, Mercer Co, 19 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 59, Rend L, 20 Dec (TAM, DK); 57, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KM, DK). This species appeared to be more abundant in the north and central sections, and less numerous in the south.

INDIGO BUNTING

5 (3 male, 2 female), Mermet L, **31 Dec** (*KJM, CB); 4, UCCA, **30 Dec** (VK, et.al); 2, Mermet L, **20 Jan** (FB).

DICKCISSEL

O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), **26 Dec** (*KM).

Red-winged Blackbird

MC: **300,000**, Rend L, 6 Dec (FB, m.ob.); **26,682**, Oakwd Btms, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.); **11,950**, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM, CB); 3001, Barstow Marsh (Rock Island Co), 14 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 524, IBSP, 1 Jan (GW); 178, Panther Creek WA (Cass Co), 29 Feb (RJ); 150, MTwain, 19 Dec (KJM). Most southern concentrations were smaller than last year.

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: **89**, Jasper, Clay & Wayne Cos, 29 Dec (DFS); **82**, Alexander Co, 29 Dec (SB, TH); **81**, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM, CB); **30**, Carl.L., 15 Dec (KM, CL); 8, Panther Creek WA (Cass Co), 29 Feb (RJ); 5, New Boston (Mercer Co), 7 Feb (EW). Somewhat less abundant; restricted to the central and southern regions.

Western Meadowlark

New Boston (Mercer Co), 7 Feb (EW); HL, 22 Feb> (FH); Carl.L., 28 Feb (KM, TAM); Jasper Co, 29 Feb (ES).

Rusty Blackbird

MC: 260, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KJM, CB); 150, Carl.L., 10 Jan (DK); 100, Oakwd Btms, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.); 30, Panther Creek WA (Cass Co), 29 Feb (RJ); 15, Green R WA (Lee Co), 24 Dec (KJM, SH); 10, SRSF, 27 Dec (DM, KJM); 9, Barstow Marsh (Rock Island Co), 14 Dec (KJM); 9, Hebron (McHenry Co), 16 Feb (SB). Numbers were slightly higher.

Brewer's Blackbird

MC: 30, Carl.L., 22 Feb> (KM); 7-9, Massac Co, 19 & 24 Jan (FB).

Common Grackle

MC: **39,000**, Rend L, 20 Dec (KM, CL); **20,000**, Carl.L., 24 Jan (TAM, DK); **19,257**, Oakwd Btms, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.); **11,600**, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM, CB); 75, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 28 Feb (KJM, AF); 46, La Salle Co, 28 Dec (KW, JD, KJM). The number reported was substantially lower, especially at southern concentration sites.

Brown-headed Cowbird

MC: 1000, Oakwd Btms, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.); 609, La Salle Co, 28 Dec (KW, JD, KJM); 500, UCCA, 6 Dec (FB, m.ob.); 426, Kankakee (Kankakee Co), 3 Jan (GW); 351, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM, CB); 200, Champaign Co, 20 Dec (EC, m.ob.); 160, Kingdom (Lee Co), 20 Dec (EW); 141, Mazon (Grundy Co), 1 Feb (EW). This species occurred in smaller numbers.



Common Redpoll, East Alton, Madison County. 10 January 2004. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.

Purple Finch

MC: 32, SRSF, 27 Dec (DM, KJM); 27, Homer L (Champaign Co), 20 Dec (SB, JOS); 21, Vermilion Co, 17 Dec (SB); 20, White Pines SP (Ogle Co), 28 Feb (DW); 19, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, RS, m.ob.); 15, Carl.L., 15 Dec (TAM, DK). **Others:** 23, Schuyler Co, 21 Jan (LLH); 16, Putnam Co, 17 Dec (DFS); 14, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 23 Feb (KM); 12, Sam Parr WA (Jasper Co), 19 Dec (SB); 12, Rockfd, 18 Jan (DW); 10, Mercer Co, 19 Dec (KJM, SH, BC); 4, Rend L, 27 Feb (EW); 3, Grant Woods FP (Lake Co), 6 Dec (SB, SDe); 2, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM, CB). This species was considerably more abundant.

House Finch

MC: **720**, Winnebago Co, 20 Dec (DW); **189**, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); **188**, Vermilion Co, 17 Dec (EC, m.ob.); **120**, QC, 14 Dec (TM, SF, KJM); 54, Keithsburg (Mercer Co), 7 Feb (EW); 20, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (VL, SJ, m.ob.); 17, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM, CB). **Others:** 60, M.Arb., 14 Dec (ES); 45, La Salle Co, 28 Dec (KW, JD, KJM); 36, Adams Co, 4 Feb (AD); 35, Fishhook WA (Moultrie Co), 15 Feb (TAM); 15, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 7 Dec (KM). Considerably greater numbers reported.

Red Crossbill

2, Fabyan FP (Kane Co), 10 Jan (ES).

White-winged Crossbill

2, Vermilion Co, 27 Dec (MJE).

Common Redpoll

MC: **50**, Klehm Arboretum, Rockfd, 8-29 Feb (DW); 25, CBG, 6 Feb (DJ). **Others:** 4, Evanston (Cook Co), 27 Dec (LHI); 4, East Alton (Madison Co), 2 & 7-8 Jan (*FH, KM, CL, JF, TF); 4, Hennepin Canal Parkway SP (Bureau Co), 7 Feb (EW); 3, East Moline (Rock Island Co), 14 Dec (*KJM, m.ob.); 3, Loud Thunder FP (Rock Island Co), 5 Jan (*KJM, CB); SRSF, 27 Dec (DM, KJM); Wheaton (Du Page Co), 3 Feb (ES); female, Fishhook WA (Moultrie Co), 15 Feb (TAM). A modest invasion.



This Western Meadowlark was found near New Boston, Mercer County 7 February 2004. This paler meadowlark was present within a flock of Easterns. Note the middle of its back feathers are not all dark, as would be expected on an Eastern. Also, in the color photo the yellow started to spill into the sub-moustachial region, another Western feature. Photo by Eric Walters.