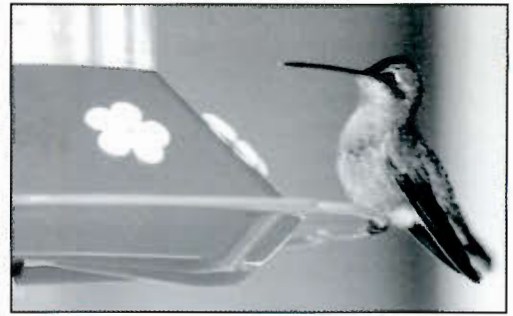




*A juvenile male Scott's Oriole visited a suet feeder at Toulon, Stark County, in middle January 2000 and remained through part of February. Photo by Pam Sprout.*

*A Broad-billed Hummingbird, one of the most unexpected rarities to be found in Illinois, appeared at a feeder in Trivoli, Peoria County, 14 November 1997. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.*

*Great Tit at a feeder in McHenry County. Darlene Fiske took this photo of an escapee in May 2003.*



Given the abundance of Mourning Doves as feeder birds, perhaps we shouldn't be too surprised when one of their rarer cousins put in an appearance. Illinois' one and only record of Band-tailed Pigeon was at a feeder in Springfield for a month in winter 1996/97 and the state's first and only Inca Dove used a backyard feeder in Carbondale for three months in late 2004 (last seen on Christmas Day). These two records give us incentive to check out our backyard doves carefully.

Like pigeons and doves, finches, sparrows and buntings comprise another group of bird species whose penchant for using feeders produced several spectacular state rarities, like the Black-throated Sparrow which used a feeder in Glencoe in suburban

Cook County for two months in early 1981; a Golden-crowned Sparrow who wintered for two consecutive years (February/ March 1989 then December 1989 through April 1990), using a feeder at the entrance to the Green River Conservation Area; a Hoary Redpoll at a Skokie feeder in 2000; the Lazuli Bunting at a feeder in Winchester in Scott County in June of 2002; the Painted Bunting

at a feeder in Gurnee, Lake County in April 2000; and a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch appearing for several days in a yard in University Park in Will County in November 1990. Who said feeder watching is dull! Hummingbirds, woodpeckers (the one and only Williamson's Sapsucker ever to appear in Illinois was present for several days in a Chicago backyard in April of 1985),



*This Band-tailed Pigeon was discovered at a bird-feeding station in Springfield, Sangamon County. Photo taken 28 December 1996 by Dennis Oehmke.*