

aware of the native white pine stands in what is now called White Pines State Park, more than seven miles north of Lowell Park. Large or small, the vicinity in which he made his recordings will never be known but nonetheless, its reveals a great diversity at the turn of the last century.

Comey's 1908 survey (*see below*) recorded 148 species and six probable species from numerous habitats, including second-growth oak woodlands, agricultural fields, pasture, dense hazel thickets, the Rock River, and adjacent wet areas. In addition to recording the individual species, Comey also made reference to their seasonal abundance, giving insight into not only what species inhabited the area but also the health of the population.

As reflected in other surveys at the time, Field Sparrows were considered abundant throughout the year, as

were Dickcissels during the summer. Comey also had migrant (Loggerhead) Shrike, to be a tolerably common summer resident. Unfortunately that is not the case today. Two other tolerably common birds for the times were the Northern Cardinal and Red-bellied Woodpecker, which did not have much of a presence in northern Illinois in the early 1900s (Walk 2010). Notably absent from the list was Great Horned Owl. The survey also listed 27 warbler species, 16 sparrow species, Ruffed Grouse, prairie hen and Whip-poor-will.

The 2010-2011 Survey

Since the time of the original survey, Lowell Park has undergone a few changes, however none has been drastic or detrimental to the park in its entirety. A small quarry was opened to provide stone for the historical structures in the park and permanent hard-surfaced roads were paved

for access and fire protection. In the 1980s, the lower terrace was clearcut for financial reasons and has filled in with mesophytic species, quite the opposite from the oak species that dominated prior to the logging. The lack of fire for the last century has also allowed typically non-dominant trees to enter the canopy, as a result lowering light levels in the understory and ground layer, preventing oak regeneration from the large, mature trees that remain. Exotic species exist in the park – bush honeysuckle, barberry, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard, but have yet to totally replace their native counterparts. Lowell Park maintains healthy populations of spring ephemeral wildflowers and native woodland shrubs. Due to its plant diversity, 49 acres were dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 2008, protecting Lowell Forest Nature Preserve for eternity.

Prior to starting any aggressive management techniques, it was deemed important to obtain an updated bird survey at the park throughout

List of Birds Recorded in the Vicinity of Lowell Park, Dixon, Illinois

February 10 to September 28, 1908
By ARTHUR COLEMAN COMEY

ABBREVIATIONS

A. Abundant.	P. Permanent Resident.
C. Common.	S. Summer Resident.
T. Tolerably Common.	W. Winter Resident.
U. Uncommon.	M. Spring and Fall Migrant.
R. Rare.	

1 Pied-billed Grebe, T.M.	33 American Osprey, R.M.
2 Loon, R.M.	34 Barred Owl, U.P.
3 Herring or Ring-billed Gull, R.M.	35 Screech Owl, C.P.
4 Bonaparte's Gull, R.M.	36 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, C.S.
5 Least Tern, R.M.	37 Belted Kingfisher, C.S.
6 Black Tern, T.M.	38 Hairy Woodpecker, C.P.
7 Mallard, T.S.	39 Downy Woodpecker, A.P.
8 Baldpate, R.M.	40 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, C.M.
9 Green-winged Teal, U.M.	41 Red-headed Woodpecker, A.S.
10 Blue-winged Teal, R.M.	42 Red-bellied Woodpecker, T.P.
11 Shoveller, R.M.	43 Northern Flicker, A.S.
12 Lesser Scaup, C.M.	44 Whip-poor-will, T.S.
13 Canada Goose, U.M.	45 Night-hawk, T.S.
14 Great Blue Heron, T.S.	46 Chimney Swift, A.S.
15 Green Heron, C.S.	47 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, T.S.
16 Black-crowned Night Heron, T.S.	48 Kingbird, C.S.
17 American Coot, R.M.	49 Crested Flycatcher, C.S.
18 Wilson's Snipe, U.M.	50 Phoebe, T.S.
19 Least or Semipalmated Sandpiper, T.M.	51 Olive-sided Flycatcher, U.M.
20 Solitary Sandpiper, T.M.	52 Wood Pewee, A.S.
21 Spotted Sandpiper, C.S.	53 Acadian Flycatcher, R.M.
22 Killdeer, T.M.	54 Traill's Flycatcher, T.M.
23 Bob-white, C.P.	55 Chebec, C.S.
24 Ruffed Grouse, U.P.	56 Prairie Horned Lark, C.P.
25 Prairie Hen, U.P.	57 Blue Jay, A.P.
26 Mourning Dove, T.S.	58 American Crow, C.P.
27 Marsh Hawk, T.S.	59 Bobolink, T.S.
28 Sharp-shinned Hawk, R.M.	60 Cowbird, A.S.
29 Cooper's Hawk, T.S.	61 Red-winged Blackbird, T.S.
30 Red-tailed Hawk, C.S.	62 Meadowlark, C.S.
31 Red-shouldered Hawk, U.M.	63 Orchard Oriole, T.S.
32 Sparrow Hawk, R.M.	64 Baltimore Oriole, C.S.
	65 Rusty Blackbird, C.M.
	66 Bronzed Grackle, C.S.

67 Purple Finch, T.W.	113 Myrtle Warbler, A.M.
68 American Goldfinch, A.P.	114 Magnolia Warbler, A.M.
69 Vesper Sparrow, A.S.	115 Chestnut-sided Warbler, A.M.
70 Savanna Sparrow, U.M.	116 Bay-breasted Warbler, A.M.
71 Grasshopper Sparrow, A.S.	117 Blackpoll Warbler, T.M.
72 Henslow's Sparrow, T.S.	118 Blackburnian Warbler, C.M.
73 Leconte's Sparrow, R.M.	119 Black-throated Green Warbler, A.M.
74 Lark Sparrow, T.S.	120 Palm Warbler, T.M.
75 White-throated Sparrow, A.M.	121 Ovenbird, C.S.
76 Tree Sparrow, A.W.	122 Western Waterthrush, T.M.
77 Chipping Sparrow, U.S.	123 Connecticut Warbler, T.M.
78 Field Sparrow, A.S.	124 Mourning Warbler, U.M.
79 Junco, A.W.	125 Maryland Yellowthroat, C.S.
80 Song Sparrow, C.S.	126 Yellow-breasted Chat, U.S.
81 Lincoln's Sparrow, U.M.	127 Wilson's Warbler, T.M.
82 Swamp Sparrow, T.S.	128 Canadian Warbler, T.M.
83 Fox Sparrow, A.M.	129 American Redstart, A.S.
84 Towhee, A.S.	130 Catbird, A.S.
85 Cardinal, T.P.	131 Brown Thrasher, A.S.
86 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, A.C.	132 Western House Wren, C.S.
87 Indigo Bird, C.S.	133 Winter Wren, C.M.
88 Dickcissel, A.S.	134 Long-billed Marsh Wren, R.M.
89 Scarlet Tanager, C.S.	135 Brown Creeper, T.M.
90 Purple Martin, T.S.	136 White-breasted Nuthatch, C.P.
91 Chiff Swallow, T.M.	137 Chickadee, A.P.
92 Barn Swallow, T.S.	138 Golden-crowned Kinglet, C.M.
93 Tree Swallow, U.M.	139 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, A.M.
94 Bank Swallow, C.M.	140 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, T.S.
95 Rough-winged Swallow, A.S.	141 Wood Thrush, C.S.
96 Cedar Waxwing, T.S.	142 Veery, C.M.
97 Migrant Shrike, T.S.	143 Gray-cheeked Thrush, A.M.
98 Warbling Vireo, A.S.	144 Olive-backed Thrush, T.M.
99 Yellow throated Vireo, T.S.	145 Hermit Thrush, C.M.
100 Solitary Vireo, T.M.	146 American Robin, C.S.
101 Bell's Vireo, T.S.	147 Bluebird, C.S.
102 Black-and-White Warbler, C.M.	148 English Sparrow, A.P.
103 Golden-winged Warbler, T.S.	
104 Blue-winged Warbler, T.M.	
105 Orange-crowned Warbler, U.M.	
106 Tennessee Warbler, C.M.	
107 Western Parula Warbler, C.M.	
108 Cape May Warbler, U.M.	
109 Yellow Warbler, C.S.	
110 Black-throated Blue Warbler, U.M.	

The following also probably occur:
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, M.
 Yellow-headed Blackbird, M.
 White-crowned Sparrow, M.
 American Pipit, M.
 Short-billed Marsh Wren, S.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch, M.