

the year. The landscape has changed greatly over the last century and that certainly would be reflected in the species found in the park. With a generous grant from the Illinois Ornithological Society, the services of Tara Beveroth from the Illinois Natural History Survey were obtained to create census points and conduct seasonal surveys throughout the year. The census was modeled after the Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP) and nine census points were created. Point counts lasted 10 minutes. Two visits were completed in each season with visit dates in 2010 on 23 May, 5 June, 20 September, and 1 November and 2011 visits on 30 January, 16 March, 12 April and 19 May.

Highlights of the Beveroth's census (Tables 1 and 2) included 14 warbler species and seven woodpecker species. The most numerous species observed was the American Robin, with White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, and Black-capped Chickadee in the top five most abundant species. European Starlings were the 11th most numerous species and House Sparrow was not recorded by the census. A total of 1,866 individuals from 75 species was observed during the census year.

Discussion

Although the goal of both surveys was to record the species inhabiting the park, it is difficult to compare the two due to the unknown protocol and vicinity of Comey's work. The survey completed by Comey gives us a glimpse of the diversity over 100 years ago but no information on the location of identified birds or how often he recorded individuals throughout the year. It is quite possible that Comey simply recorded birds as he fulfilled his park superintendent duties, jotting down his observations as he cut brush and drew plans while sitting along the river. In comparison, Beveroth's census was completed on eight selective mornings in all four seasons, observing birds at nine predetermined points for 10 minutes. The CTAP census reveals the occupancy and abundance in the park and when relating that informa-

Table 1: Individual species detected at census point in Lowell Park.

Sum of # Species	Census Pt.									Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
American Robin	48	29	16	8	14	12	39	14	7	187
White-breasted Nuthatch	21	16	16	24	22	15	7	13	11	145
Red-bellied Woodpecker	16	17	12	11	11	15	13	18	18	131
Northern Cardinal	31	16	13	10	11	7	24	13	3	128
Black-capped Chickadee	25	6	8	14	23	7	13	14	12	122
American Crow	11	13	6	17	16	21	8	13	14	119
Blue Jay	4	7	12	8	12	18	20	14	8	103
Downy Woodpecker	6	11	11	13	10	11	6	9	2	79
House Wren	11	10	14	10	8	4	9	8	4	78
Tufted Titmouse	14	14	8	11	5	5	1	3	8	69
European Starling	3	9	10	3		7	8	7	1	48
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	6	9	4	8	6	1	8		47
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	9	8	6	11	4	2	3	2	46
Canada Goose					3	37		4	2	46
Wood Thrush	7	7	10	6	2		2	1	2	37
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	6	2	6	7	4	1	6	2	36
Acadian Flycatcher	8	8	2	5	8		1	2	2	36
American Goldfinch	9	3	3	3	6	5	3		4	36
Indigo Bunting	2	2	6	7		2	5	9	1	34
Mourning Dove	3	4	2	3	3	2	4	1	1	23
Chipping Sparrow	8	1	2		2	3	4			20
Brown-headed Cowbird			1	4	3	4	6	1		19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6	2	6	2			1			17
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	1	4		1	2	4	2		16
Red-eyed Vireo	2		3	2	2	1	1	3	1	15
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1			2	2	1	4	3	15
Cedar Waxwing		5			1	2	5			13
Wood Duck						11			2	13
Northern Flicker		1	3	2	2	3	2			13
Nashville Warbler	3	1	2	3	1	1				11
Yellow-rumped Warbler		3	1	1	2			1	2	10
Dark-eyed Junco							8		2	10
Pine Siskin	7				1	1	1			10
Hairy Woodpecker			2	3	1	1		1		8
Gray Catbird	4				1	1	1			7
Scarlet Tanager		1	1	2			1	2		7
Baltimore Oriole				1			2	2	2	7
Common Grackle		1			1	2	2	1		7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1		2		3					6
Tennessee Warbler				1	1	2			2	6
Belted Kingfisher		1	1			3			1	6

tion with the habitat characteristics at each point, we can foresee what habitat modifications will affect certain species the most.

Census point five hosted the most Red-headed Woodpeckers over the course of the year. It happens to be the most open section of the woodland, with mature northern oaks in the canopy and relatively few understory trees like black cherry and hackberry. If adjacent areas were selectively cut to reduce competition on the oak species, it would be likely that more Red-headed Woodpeckers would use this larger open woodland setting.

Cedar Waxwings inhabited the area around census point two during the January 2011 visit. This area of the park has been overwhelmed by exotic burning bush. Its removal is imminent for the benefit of native plant species and Cedar Waxwings will be less likely to use the area.

Over the last 100 years, the composition of Lowell Park has changed greatly. The woods have certainly matured, growing from overstocked 50-year-old trees to dominant 150-year-old giants. Open fields have changed from agricultural and pasture land to picnic areas and ball fields.