

crows and jays to WNV (Chu et al. 2003). In the Chicago area the precipitous decline in crows, Blue Jays, and chickadees relative to their historical numbers offers some support for the idea that the virus may be the cause.

It must be noted that these findings apply only to the Chicago region and more analysis is required to determine if they have broader geographic applicability. Moreover, we know virtually nothing about how WNV might have affected the migratory species that breed here and winter elsewhere. The 2003 Breeding Bird Surveys may be able to offer insight into that important issue. The findings from this year's CBCs hardly end the need to evaluate the WNV question. It is essential that monitoring continue to determine if and when populations recover. Well-worked out protocols with detailed monitoring in-place before WNV hits others might give us a clearer picture of its impact on birds.

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