

of Snow Buntings were reported this season. Arrival timing for sparrows as a group was variable this year, but on average two days ahead of schedule. Skewing the average to the early side were Henslow's Sparrows, the first of which arrived 10 days in advance of the average date. A Harris's Sparrow noted in mid-February in St. Clair County was either a wintering bird or an exceptionally early migrant.

The season was blessed with an assortment of reports of rarities. In this report, square brackets are used to denote sightings for which documentation was received but whose review by IORC is still pending. Neotropical Cormorants were noted from both the north and the south ends of the state this season. Two separate sightings of Swainson's Hawks in the central part of the state were noteworthy since they were away from the established breeding territories. A report of a Prairie Falcon in Rockford has added significance since there are relatively few records of the species from the spring months. Details were submitted regarding an observation of a Black Rail. A Purple Gallinule was nicely photographed in Woodford County. A Mountain Plover photographed in Douglas County would be only the second record for the state, and the first for spring, given acceptance by IORC. Two Ruffs were noted, from

Henderson and Kane Counties, with the Kane County bird photographed by several observers. A Burrowing Owl was unfortunately just a one-day wonder, but it posed nicely for photos while present. A pair of Barn Owls was recorded in Iroquois County. Quite interesting was a bird thought to be a hybrid Black-capped Chickadee X Tufted Titmouse, photographed at Clinton Lake in March. A male Western Tanager was documented in Cook County at the very end of April, and a male Painted Bunting joined the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History after its untimely demise following a collision with a building in Chicago in early May.

This summary of the spring season would not be possible without the submission of sightings, field notes, and commentary by observers throughout the state. Those who supplied this information are listed below. The observers for individual records in the report are credited by including their initials immediately following mention of the record. The order of the list is alphabetic in relation to the observers' initials. In some cases, the cited observer is an organization or institution. Abbreviations for these are listed separately.

### List of Organizations and Institutions:

- CBCM Chicago Bird Collision Monitors  
(data largely involving building strikes in Chicago)
- FMNH Field Museum of Natural History
- IOS Illinois Ornithological Society: field trips
- NPBW North Pond Bird Walks: weekly surveys at North Pond in Lincoln, led and compiled by Geoffrey A. Williamson.

### List of Individual Observers:

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