

Overall, May was similar to April in that temperatures remained about average through the first half of the month; however, there were a couple systems that yielded some rain and shifting winds. In southern Illinois, specifically Jackson and Union Counties, a devastating, large-scale storm system called a derecho ripped through the area on 8 May that brought very heavy rain and winds in excess of 100 mph. The derecho also promoted a flurry of tornadic activity throughout the region. Large numbers of old trees were uprooted or broken as a result of this storm, which will be evident for many years to come. For the most part, weather cooperated for the statewide spring bird count held on 9 May; however, for those in the region impacted by the derecho, downed trees, limbs, and powerlines prevented safe travel for good count coverage. Another intense low pressure system on 12-14 May dumped more than two inches of rain upon central Illinois. More rain followed on a warm front that hit the state from 15-17 May, yielding a record late Red-throated Loon in Will Co. on 16 May. A warming trend persisted after 18 May that contributed south winds and above average temperatures for much of the state through 24 May. Northern Illinois saw heavy rains of over 1.5 inches on 26 May as a broad low pressure system slowly passed through the state. An additional minor warm front was the last weather disturbance of the month. A number of significant reports were collected at the end of May, including record late departures for Ross's Goose (31 May in Cook Co) and Red-necked Grebe (27 Apr-29 May in Knox Co) and record high counts for Snowy Egret (200 on 30 May in Alexander Co) and Canada Warbler (42 on 30 May in Cook Co).

More than 80 species were noted as June migrants, and a good number of species were record late, including an adult male Surf Scoter that remained along the Lake Michigan lakefront from 18 May through 5 June (Cook Co), a Yellow-throated Vireo on 20 June (Cook Co), a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 12 June (Cook Co), a male Northern Waterthrush on 10 June (Cook Co), a singing Mourning Warbler on 29 June (Cook Co), a male Hooded Warbler on 7 June (Lake Co), and a Dark-eyed Junco that lingered at a feeding station from 30 May through 9 June (Cook Co).

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