

high count for the species during the breeding season. One Swainson's Warbler was found after going unreported last summer, while Mourning and Blackburnian Warblers continue to hold territories at Lowden-Miller State Forest, but without confirmation of a nest. Interestingly, the highest counts of Prairie Warblers came from a central Illinois study, with only singles and pairs reported from southern Illinois locales.

Painted Buntings continue to appear at their lone Illinois breeding location, while Blue Grosbeaks are quickly becoming a relatively common species in central and even parts of northern Illinois in the summer. High numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds on a McHenry County sod farm certainly imply a good-sized breeding colony, likely in the several nearby pastures and hayfields, supplanting Illinois Beach State Park as the best place in Illinois to see this species during the breeding season.

Like the other unusual July appearances of boreal species including Hermit Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and White-throated Sparrow, the appearance of several Purple Finches in late July and on into the first few weeks of August represents a very unusual and possibly unprecedented occurrence for this and the other above species. Continued and seemingly increasing reports of European Goldfinches in the Chicago area at several locations, beg the question, when will breeding occur?

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Some records not printed here may still be under IORC (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee) review; when completed, they will appear in the published IORC report. As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. Easy to use documentation forms are available from IORC Secretary, Doug Stotz, Environment and Conservation Program, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60615. Completed documentation forms of "listed" species should be submitted to the IORC Secretary within one week of the observation.