

winter irruptions suggests likely undetected breeding attempts in northeastern Illinois. Pine Warblers continue their trend of showing up in new summering/breeding(?) areas, especially in northern Illinois, likely as a result of maturing pine plantations. A few Prairie Warblers were detected well outside their normal breeding range in the western and far northern areas of the state.

Increased sightings of Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Orchard Orioles are altering their "uncommon" to "rare" status in the central and northern portions of the state, while records of Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Vesper Sparrow are similarly increasing at the southern edge of their ranges in southern Illinois. Lark Sparrows were found breeding in several southern Illinois locations where they are rarely seen, especially during the breeding season.

Clay-colored Sparrows continue to investigate areas in their newly expanded breeding range in the Chicago area. Both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were once again present in Chicago's lakefront parks (and elsewhere in the state!) through much of June, and White-throated Sparrow was found even in early August. At least one male **Painted Bunting** returned to its usual East St. Louis breeding location.

One **Great-tailed Grackle** was located this summer, but with a large breeding population growing just to the west and even northwest of Illinois across the Mississippi River, can a nesting colony in some wetland in the far western or northwest corner of the state be very far away?

At the end of last year's introduction to the breeding season summary, I raised the question of when breeding would be confirmed for one of the state's most recent exotics, the

European Goldfinch. An article by J. A. Craves, "Current status of European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) in the western Great Lakes region," published in the journal *North American Birds* (62:498-501) in 2008 includes recent evidence of breeding in Illinois. Adults with nesting material were photographed at Chicago's Montrose Harbor in 2003; a juvenile was photographed at Harvard in McHenry County in 2005; and three instances of breeding occurred in three separate towns in McHenry County in 2006, with adults feeding young and with juveniles noted.

Sincere thanks go out to those observers who take the time to organize, type, and send me their sightings, which are the backbone of Illinois' historic bird record. Without them, future generations of birders and researchers would have little to compare their records with. Photographers who freely provide their increasingly excellent photos of both the common and rare birds included herein are also given my most sincere gratitude. Other important records in this report have been extracted from text within correspondence to an electronic mailing list entitled Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts (IBET), as well as from Birdnotes, a central Illinois birding listserv. Members of these groups are encouraged to send me compilations of their sightings. Weather summaries, including historical information, were found at the Illinois State Water Survey website at <http://www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/climate.asp>.

As in previous reports, the sequence of credited observers below is based on alphabetization of last and first/middle initials rather than on alphabetization of last names; hyphenated last names are treated as consisting of a middle and last name: Amar A. Ayyash, Alan B. Anderson, Bob Andrini, Charles B.

Printing aid abbreviations, continued

Pomona	= Pomona Township (primarily Cave Creek area) (Jackson Co)
Poplar Crk FP	= Poplar Creek Forest Preserve (Cook Co)
Pratts Wayne Wds	= Pratts Wayne Woods Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)
PrRdg	= Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co unless specified)
Pulaski β	= Pulaski BBS (Pulaski/Alexander Cos)
R Bend FP	= River Bend Forest Preserve (Champaign Co)
Rock Cut	= Rock Cut State Park (Winnebago Co)
Rockfd	= Rockford (Winnebago Co)
Rollins Sav	= Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve (Lake Co)
Salt Crk Wds	= Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve (Cook Co)
Sauer Pr	= Sauer Family Prairie Kame Forest Preserve (Kane Co)
Sgmn (Co)	= Sangamon (Co)
Songbird SI	= Songbird Slough Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)
Spfld	= Springfield (Sangamon Co)
Spg Crk FP	= Spring Creek Valley Forest Preserve (nw. Cook Co, including site so labelled in the 2003 DeLorme <i>Illinois Atlas</i> and newly expanded tracts south to Higgins Road)
Spg Crk Hdwaters FP	= Headwaters area, s. Spg Crk FP (see preceding) (Cook Co)

Transparent directionals (n. = north(ern), ne. = northeast(ern), etc.) are used where applicable. Words referring to natural areas are generally not abbreviated in names of residential communities (thus, Forest Park, Sugar Grove, Prairie du Rocher, etc.).

The 2003 DeLorme Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer has been used as a standard for spelling of place names for sites included therein.

Headings for species requiring IORC review in parts of Illinois or in some plumages are underlined, while those for spe-

Starved Rock	= Starved Rock State Park (La Salle County)
Stillwell β	= Stillwell BBS (Hancock Co)
St Morgan β	= St Morgan BBS (Madison Co)
Swallow Cliff Wds	= Swallow Cliff Woods Forest Preserve, Palos Township (Cook Co)
UCCA	= Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
Urb.	= Urbana (Champaign Co)
Vmln Co	= Vermilion Co
Walker Twp	= Walker Township (Hancock Co)
Waterfall Glen	= Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)
Wauk.	= Waukegan (Lake Co)
Waynesville β	= Waynesville BBS (McLean Co)
Wbgo (Co)	= Winnebago (Co)
Wood Dale Grv	= Wood Dale Grove Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)
Yghusband Pr	= Younghusband Prairie Forest Preserve, Barrington (Cook Co)

The sequence of records within species accounts, except for maximum counts, begins in northwest Illinois (Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties), proceeds to the east, then continues back and forth across the state in a systematic pattern with the southernmost records at the end. When no number of birds is indicated for specific records, read "1." Multiple counts from a given site joined by an ampersand (&) appear in the same sequence as the dates following the site (i.e., read counts and dates, "respectively").

*cies requiring review of all records are **CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED**. Records pending IORC review are enclosed in square brackets []; the status of these records will be published in a future issue of this journal.*

*Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are **underlined and boldfaced**, and some further editorial remarks are **boldfaced**.*