

Song Sparrow

EA: 15 Feb, Chi (EW); 21 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB). MC: **881**, Chi, 26 Mar—**445** at GrantP (DFS, KWY), **336** at JP (PC), 100 at LCal (DFS); **679**, Chi, 27 Mar—**510** at GrantP (DFS), **169** at JP (PC); **250**, Urbana, 27 Mar (RC); 76, JP, **26 Feb** (PC)—an early high count for ne. IL; 66, Carl.L., 9 May (DK). The previous spring high count for the state is 200 at Chi, 4 Apr 1981. LD: 19 May, JP (KC); 12 Apr (deceased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB). Other: 2 May, one being eaten alive by a bullfrog, JP (PC).

Lincoln's Sparrow

EA: **29 Mar** (2), GrantP (DFS); 21 Apr (2), Chi (JL); 24 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 11 May, Madison Co (FH). MC: 33, GrantP, 13 May (DFS); 20, JP, 6 May (PC); 4, Sangamon Co, 30 Apr (DB); 4, Urbana, 26 Apr (RC). LD: 2 Jun, GrantP (DFS); 24 May, SLSP (DB); 13 May, HL (KM). Only two singles reported from so. IL.

Swamp Sparrow

EA: 26 Feb, JP (PC); 1 Mar (4), SLSP (DB). MC: 150, Clin.L., 19 Apr (RC); 95, GrantP, 7 May (DFS); 25, OakwdBtm, 18 Apr (KM). LD: 24 May, JP (SC); 11 May, SLSP (DB); 9 May, Carl.L. (DK).

White-throated Sparrow

EA: 8 Apr, JP (KC); 25 Apr (4), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 443, JP, 6 May (PC); 400, Urbana, 26 Apr (RC); 60, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 60, so. Clinton Co, 2 May (KM). LD: 1 Jun, Evanston (JE); 20 May, Urbana (RC); 9 May (36), Carl.L. (DK).

White-crowned Sparrow

EA: 28 Mar (imm.)(locally wintering?), JP (PC, SC); 18 Apr (40), LShel (RC); 26 Apr (2), JP (PC, KC). MC: **710**, GrantP, 9 May (DEW et al.); **587**, JP, 6 May (PC)—**record IL high counts**; not included here are second-hand reports on 6 May of 700 at Linc.P and "many hundreds" at GrantP, suggesting **1600+** at Chi on 6 May, and hundreds remaining through 13 May; 53, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 28, Sangamon Co, 5 May (DB). LD: 27 May, Vermilion Co (JOS); 25 May (3), JP (PC, KC); 13 May, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM).

Dark-eyed Junco

EA: 26 Feb (13), JP (PC, KC). MC: 220, GrantP and LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 67, Sangamon Co, 26 Mar (DB); 10, Jackson Co, 4 Apr (KM). LD: **21 May**, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe (Cook Co)(*DJ); 9 May (7), GrantP (DEW et al.); 20 Apr, Lick Creek (Sangamon Co)(DB); 20 Apr (2), Colfax (MR); 18 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM). Others: "Oregon Junco": wintering male through 25 Mar, Colfax (MR); 4 Mar (male), Monticello (Piatt Co)(MD).

Lapland Longspur

MC: 350, DeWitt Co, 5 Mar (DFS); 150, Sangamon Co, 17 Mar (DB); 80+, McHenry Co, 24 Mar (RBA); 50, Henline Pit (McLean Co), 23 Mar (MR). LD: 2 May (2), Chi (JL); 23 Apr, Henline Pit (McLean Co)(MR); 22 Mar (2), Sangamon Co (DB). Poor numbers and early departure at Sangamon Co (DB).

Smith's Longspur

EA: 17 Mar, Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB); 21 Mar, Sta Fe Btm (DK). MC: 150, Pr.Rdg, 16 Apr (JW, EK); 100+, Henline Pit (McLean Co), 16-19 Apr (MR); 50, Savoy (Champaign Co), 19 Apr (RC); 30, Sangamon Co, 4 Apr (DB). LD: 3 May (12), near L Spfld (DB); 3 May, Savoy (Champaign Co)(RC). Poor numbers at Sangamon Co (DB).

Snow Bunting

MC: 121, La Salle L, 8 Mar (C&JMc). LD: 4 Apr (16), La Salle L (C&JMc). No reports away from La Salle L.

Northern Cardinal

MC: 125, SLSP and vicinity, 6 Mar (DFS); 89, Carl.L., 9 May (DK); 78, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

EA: 18 Apr, AtwdRdg (DK, MD); 25 Apr, Urbana (RC); 25 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 3 May (3), Boone Co (AB). MC: **150+**, Urbana, 13 May (AR)—**record high count for IL**; 18, Palos, 9 May (CT); 8, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 29 May, Holten SP (KM); 25 May (2), JP (PC, SC).

Blue Grosbeak

EA: 14 Apr, Pomona (KM); 13 May (female), MidewinPr (DFS); 15 May, Urbana (AR); 16 May (imm. male), Sav.Depot (EW). MC: 5 (males), Union Co, 1 May (C&JMc). LD: 25 May (male), Sangamon Co (DB); 20 May, Urbana (RC).

Indigo Bunting

EA: 13 Apr, Pomona (DK); 13 Apr, Mermert L (KM); 15 Apr, MidewinPr (DFS); 26 Apr (male), SLSP (DB). MC: 56, Union Co, 1 May (KM); 46 (mostly residents), Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 35, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS). LD: 4 Jun (2), JP (PC).

Dickcissel

EA: 22 Apr (3), Pr.Rdg (JW, EK); 4 May (male), we. of SLSP (DB); 16 May, Sav.Depot (EW). MC: 64, Carl.L., 9 May (DK); 53, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB). Very good numbers in Sangamon Co (DB).

Bobolink

EA: 30 Apr, Carbondale (Jackson Co)(C&JMc); 2 May (2), DeerG (CF) and (2), JP (PC); 3 May (male), Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB); 3 May, Savoy (Champaign Co)(RC). MC: 20, Saybrook (McLean Co), 14 May (MR); 16, Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co), 19 May (EW); 8, St. Clair Co, 4 May (TUM). LD: 13 Jun (2), Linc.P (EW); 25 May (5), Pleasant Plains (Sangamon Co)(DB).

Red-winged Blackbird

EA: 30 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 14 Feb (2 males), JP (PC). MC: **50,000** at roost, Sangamon Co, 19 Mar (DB)—apparently a spring high count; 900, MidewinPr, 2 Mar (DFS); 765, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW); 490, Carl.L., 9 May (DK). LD: 30 Apr (deceased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

Eastern Meadowlark

EA: 7 Feb, Colfax (MR); 7 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 16 Feb (3), MidewinPr (DFS). MC: 108, MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS); 58, Carl.L., 9 May (DK); 44, Union Co, 1 May (KM); 40, Sangamon Co, 17 May (DB). LD: 3 May, JP (PC).

Western Meadowlark

EA: 21 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 1 Mar (2), La Salle Co (C&JMc). MC: 26, Sav.Depot, 16 May (EW); 9, nw. Winnebago Co, 9 May (DW); 4, Colfax, 10 Mar (MR). LD: 1 Mar (male), Pleasant Plains (Sangamon Co)(DB).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

EA: **1 Mar** (male), La Salle Co (*C&JMc)—**record early arrival date for IL**; 12 Apr (male), LCal (WM). MC: 8 (5 males, 3 females), LCal, 26 Apr (WM). The extraordinarily early arrival date suggests a bird wintering out of its expected range, perhaps within IL. The previous earliest arrival was documented at DeWitt Co, 17 Mar 1995.

Rusty Blackbird

EA: 15 Feb, Urbana (RC); 27 Feb (4), LCal (DFS); 14 Mar (5), Hazlet SP (Clinton Co)(DK). MC: 175, Illinois R bottoms so. of Peru (La Salle Co), 5 Apr (C&JMc); 50, Sangamon Co, 1 Mar (DB); 8, Chain-of-Rocks Canal, L&D #27 (Madison Co), 6 Apr (KM). LD: 9 May, McHenry Co (*D&SBe); 9 May, Champaign Co (*RC); 11 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co)(KM).

Brewer's Blackbird

EA: 28 Feb (11), Pulaski Co (KM); 7 Mar, Urbana (RC); 26 Mar, Wolf L, LCal (DFS). MC: **300**, Sta Fe Btm, 4 Apr (DK)—**unprecedented high count for IL**; other totals from same site include 200, 15 Mar (MD), and 90, 10 Apr (DFS); 11, Pulaski Co, 28 Feb (KM). LD: 9 May, De Kalb Co (*JWm). **Corrigendum:** The previous high count of 100-150, 16 Mar 1996, was from Marion Co (not Jackson Co as published in *Meadowlark* 5.4) (DK, in litt.).

Common Grackle

EA: 9 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 20 Feb, JP (PC). MC: **50,000** at roost, Sangamon Co, 19 Mar (DB)—apparently a record spring high count for IL; 5000, Urbana, 22 Feb (RC); 665, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW); 226, Carl.L., 9 May (DK). LD: 7 May (deceased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB); 6 May (11 migrants), JP (PC).