

**Rusty Blackbird**

EA: **10 Feb** (2), **Chi** (JL)—second earliest spring arrival date for no. IL; 27 Feb (5), L. Bloomington (McLean Co) (MLR); 8 Mar (7), Freeport (Stephenson Co) (DW). MC: **500**, Urbana, 28 Feb (RC); **500**, Carl.L., 27 Mar (DK); 250, UCCA, 1 Mar (KM); 100+, Lockport Prairie (Will Co), 23 Mar (CMA); 36, JP, 9 Apr (PC). LD: 6 May, Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co) (SH); 14 Apr (10), Grassy L (Union Co) (KM).

**Brewer's Blackbird**

EA: 1 Mar (20), Pulaski Co (KM); 20 Mar, Humboldt (Coles Co) (RC); 28 Mar (pr), McLean Co (MLR); 9 Apr (female), JP (PC). MC: **500**, Carl.L., 27 Mar (DK)—**unprecedented IL high count**; 45, Pulaski Co, 28 Mar (KM). LD: 1 Apr (2), Pulaski Co (KM). Note that the 14,000+ blackbirds tallied at Carl.L. on 27 Mar were foraging in farm fields and showed little mixing of species within the flocks (DK). Record-breaking concentrations of Brewer's Blackbirds in so.-central counties beginning 1996 have significantly altered this species' status within IL.

**Common Grackle**

EA: 18 Feb, Buffalo Grove (Lake Co) (DJ). MC: **24,500**, IL R valley (La Salle Co), 26 Feb (DFS)—record high count for no. IL; 10,000, Urbana, 21 Feb (RC); 3000, Carl.L., 27 Mar (DK); 400, nw. IL (Carroll, Whiteside, Rock Island Cos), 19 May (KJM, BP); 350, Evanston, 17 Mar (EW).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

EA: 10 Feb (7), Chi (JL). MC: 5,000, La Salle Co, 14 Feb (DJS); 400, Carl.L., 27 Mar (DK); 102, JP, 31 Mar (PC); 60, nw. IL (Carroll, Whiteside, Rock Island Cos), 19 May (KJM, BP).

**Orchard Oriole**

EA: 23 Apr (3), UCCA (C&JMc); 3 May (1st year male), Evanston (EW); 8 May, Mahomet (Champaign Co) (RC). MC: 7, Union Co, 26 Apr (KM); 7, American Bottoms (Monroe Co), 30 May (DK); 5, GrantP, 8 May (DEW et al.); 5, Carl.L., 8 May (DK); 5, Hennepin Canal Feeder (Whiteside Co), 14 May (DJS); 4, GrantP, 13 May (DFS, TS); 4, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 30 May (DFS). LD: 19 May (1st year male), Wolf L, LCal (DFS).

**Baltimore Oriole**

EA: **14 Apr**, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 26 Apr (male), JP (PC); 3 May (2), Rockford (DW). MC: 34, eastern Bureau Co, 8 May (DFS); 33, Carl.L., 8 May (DK); 24, nw. IL (Carroll, Whiteside, Rock Island Cos), 15 May (KJM, BP); 20, Urbana, 5 May (RC); 17, Hennepin Canal Feeder (Whiteside Co), 14 May (DJS); 13, Monroe Co, 28 Apr (KM). LD: 9 Jun (3), Evanston (EW); 1 Jun, GrantP (DFS).

**Purple Finch**

EA: 30 Mar (3 ♂-plumaged), Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington (Cook Co) (CF); 4 Apr (2), Spfld (KM). LD: 27-28 Apr (female), Ottawa (La Salle Co)

(C&JMc); 19-20 Apr, Vermilion Co (JOS); 13 Apr, Ewing Park, Bloomington (McLean Co) (MLR); 9 Apr, Pomona (KM). Almost no reports; several observers commented on complete absence of data.

**House Finch**

EA: 31 Mar (10), JP (PC). MC: 31, eastern Bureau Co, 8 May (DFS); 13, Whiteside & Rock Island Cos, 15 May (KJM, BP).

**Red Crossbill**

One report: 13 Mar (6), IBSP (south unit) (AFS).

**Pine Siskin**

EA: 12 Apr, Rockford (DW). LD: 26 Apr, Vermilion Co (JOS). Only two singles reported statewide.

**American Goldfinch**

MC: **500**, Pr.Rdg, 24 Mar (JW)—largest non-SBC spring count for IL; **300+**, Arcola, 9 May (MD); 157, Evanston/Wilmette, 8 May (EW, JE, MSH); 145, eastern Bureau Co, 8 May (DFS); 100, Massac Co, 25 Apr (DFS); 81, LCal, 19 May (DFS); 60, Mermet L, 18 Apr (KM).

**House Sparrow**

MC: 350, nw. IL (Carroll, Whiteside, Rock Island Cos), 19 May (KJM, BP); 295, eastern Bureau Co, 8 May (DFS); 165, Evanston, 8 May (EW, JE, MSH); 150, Carl.L., 8 May (DK).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow**

MC: 15, Mercer Co, 11 May (KJM, VK); 8, Montgomery Co, 23 Apr (DFS); 7, Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co), 8 Apr (KM); 2, Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co), 30 Apr (SH).

**EXOTICS****Trumpeter Swan**

MC: 2, 15-19 May, no. Carroll Co (KJM, BP).

**RECORD PENDING IORC REVIEW:**

**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** 22 Apr, CypCrk.

**CORRIGENDA** to the 1998 Spring Report

1. Following four species seen at Grant Park on 10 Jun 1998 (DFS) supercede late dates previously published for 1998: Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia Warbler (female), Ovenbird (male), Lincoln's Sparrow.
2. Correct date for Thayer's Gull at De Kalb Co should be 22 Mar (not 22 May); the record qualifies as a significant inland record, but not as a late date.
3. Short-eared Owl datum from Carl.L. is an editor's error and should be deleted.

—Paul Clyne

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