

(38), PrRdg (CLH, RES); 1 Apr, Marion Co (RES); 2 Apr (8), Pembroke Twp (Kankakee Co) (JBH). **MC:** 50, Champaign Co, 19 Apr (SDB, IOS); 47+, PrRdg, 13 Apr (CLH); 40, De Kalb Co, 22 Mar, as above; 20, w. Iroquois Co, 12 Apr (DFS). **LD:** 3 May (4), near Victoria (Knox Co) (MJB, DJM); 20-21 Apr (10+), Sauer Pr (SAC, JJD); 20 Apr (3), Carl.C (DMK:ph, MSS); 8 Apr (3), Pembroke Twp (Kankakee Co) (JBH).

**Snow Bunting**

**EA:** 26 Feb, Aroma Park (Kankakee Co) (JBH). **MC:** 350, Pembroke Twp (Kankakee Co), 27 Feb (JBH); 8, Montrose H, 28 Feb (GAW). **LD:** 14 Mar, Northerly Island, Chi (DFS); 6 Mar, Montrose H (GAW); 1 Mar (2), Farm Ridge (La Salle Co) (EWW).

**Northern Cardinal**

**MC:** 74, Miss. R bluffslands, Monroe Co, 3 Mar (C&PD); 73, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 60, Carl. C, 8 & 24 Mar & 13 Apr (DMK, MSS); 15, JP, 6 Apr & 10 May (PRC, OSM).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

**EA:** 18 Apr (2), Larue-Pine Hills (KAM, MSS); 19 Apr (male), JP (KMC et al.) - record early arrival for n. IL by four days (and for site by six days); 22 Apr, Boone Co (AEB, MAR); 25 Apr, LeVasseur P (JBH); 25 Apr (several at feeder), Urb. (JD). **MC:** 65, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 30, Clinton Co, 10 May (DMK); 25, Busey Wds, 2 May (EJC); 17, w. Jo Daviess Co, 17 May (EWW); 11, Rockfd, 28 Apr (BCW); 4, JP, 10 & 13 May (PRC, OSM). **LD:** 29 May, JP (JBH); 25 May, Montrose H (GAW).

**Blue Grosbeak**

**EA:** 20 Apr, HL (FRH); 22 Apr, Massac Co (KAM); 3 May, ec. Edgar Co (EWW); 4 May (2), Crystal L P, Urb. (GSL); 6 May (female), LeVasseur P (JBH); 6 May (female), Loyola P, Cook Co (SGSph); 8-9 May, nw. Wbgo Co (MHK, LGB). **MC:** 8, Wildcat Bluff Access, Heron Pond NPSv, 24 May (DMK, MSS); 4, Carl.C, 10 & 30 May (KAM, DMK, MSS); 4, EstL, 31 May (DMK, MSS, IOS). **LD:** 17 May (female), Salt Crk Wds (DFS); 16 May (male), Annawan (Henry Co) (EWW); 12 May (at feeder), Rockton (Wbgo Co) (MHK); 10 May (2), Midewin Pr (CMA).

**Indigo Bunting**

**EA:** 13 Apr, Mermet L (KAM); 19 Apr, w. of New Athens (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 26 Apr (2 males), LeVasseur P (JBH); 26 Apr, Urb. (SR); 28 Apr, River Forest (Cook Co) (JSA); 28 Apr, Fall Creek (Adams Co) (AGD); 1 May (5), Rockfd (DTW); 10 May (4), JP (OSM). **MC:** 80, Levee Rd (Union Co), 24 May (DMK, MSS); 80, Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 31 May (DMK, MSS, IOS); 60, Salt Crk Wds, 17 May (DFS); 19, Nachusa Grs, 19 May (EWW); 12, Rockfd, 8 May (BCW); 5, JP, 25 May (PRC, CBA). **LD:** 9 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 28 May (8), Linc.P (GAW); 13 May (female at feeder), O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KAM).

**Painted Bunting**

**EA:** 9 & 25-31 May (male), EstL (KAM, DMK, MSS, IOS). **Others** (outside of EstL breeding site): 28 Apr-2 May (female at feeder), w. of Rockton (Wbgo Co) (RC, MK:ph); 13 May (ad. male at feeder), Harrisburg (Saline Co) (KS:ph).

**Dickcissel**

**EA:** 20 Apr (3), Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 23 Apr (2), Lyerla L (Union Co) (KAM); 27 Apr (2), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AGD); 27 Apr, n. of Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 10 May, Mackinaw Bluffs (MEF); 13 May, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (EWW); 18 May (3), Annawan (Henry Co) (EWW). **MC:** 60, Carl.C, 17 May (DMK, MSS, KAM); 60, Levee Rd (Union Co), 24 May (DMK, MSS); 30, Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 31 May (DMK, MSS, IOS); 22, Massac Co, 5 May (KAM); 10, Midewin Pr, 30 May (DRD). **Other:** 7 Jun, Pecatonica (Wbgo Co) (DTW).

**Bobolink**

**EA:** 19 Apr, w. of Somonauk (De Kalb Co) (DJS) - record early for n. IL by two days; 23 Apr (2), Union Co (KAM); 26 Apr, LeVasseur P (JBH); 27 Apr (10), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AGD); 27 Apr (2 males), HL (EWW); 3 May (male), JP (JSR, PAD); 4 May (3), Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (DRD); 4 May (2), Mackinaw Bluffs (MEF); 6 May (2), Montrose H (GAW); 7 May, Lake of the Wds FP (Champaign Co) (LC); 9 May (2), Shirland (Wbgo Co) (DTW). **MC:** 256+ (70% males), Kise Crossing (Monroe Co), 12 May (EWW); 100+, s. Clinton Co, 12 May (KAM); 56, American Btms, 10 May (C&PD); 36, Nachusa Grs,



*Smith's Longspur at IOS field trip, Champaign County. 19 April 2008. Photo by Mike Thelen.*



*Blue Grosbeak at Loyola Park, Chicago, Cook County. 6 May 2008. Photo by Steve Spitzer.*

19 May (EWW); 21, Union Co, 24 Apr (KAM, MSS); 10 (males), McDonough Co, 10 May (LLH). **LD:** 4 Jun (female), JP (PRC); 26 May (4), Rockfd (DTW); 24 May (8), Levee Rd (Monroe Co) (DMK, MSS); 23 May (2 female), Sandusky (Pulaski Co) (SDB).

**Red-winged Blackbird**

**EA:** 5 Mar (2 males), JP (PRC). **MC:** 8000, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK); 7000, LeVasseur P, 2 Mar (JBH); 5113, American Btms, 26 Mar (C&PD); 2240, Oglesby (La Salle Co), 22 Mar (DFS); 1100, New Philadelphia (McDonough Co), 2 Mar (LLH); 300, JP, 1 Apr (PRC).

**Eastern Meadowlark**

**EA:** 24 Feb (2), Marshall (Clark Co) (EWW); 2 Mar, JP (EJG); 2 Mar (4), McDonough Co (LLH); 5 Mar, Northerly Island, Chi (DFS); 9 Mar, Montrose H (GAW); 16 Mar (4), Durand (Wbgo Co) (DTW). **MC:** 110, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 21 Mar (DMK); 74, Ford & Iroquois Cos, 12 Apr (DFS); 22, Nachusa Grs, 19 May (EWW); 3, JP, various dates (PRC et al.). **LD:** 16 Apr (3), JP (PRC, KMC).

**Western Meadowlark**

**EA:** 1-8 Mar, Wringe Rd (Clinton Co) (DMK); 9 Mar, Santa Fe Btms (DMK, KAM); 16 Mar, nw. Whiteside Co (EWW); 21 Mar, s. of La Salle L (La Salle Co) (DJS); 2 Apr, Momence Sod Farms (Kankakee Co) (JBH); 12 Apr-17 May, Sand Ridge Rd (Clinton Co) (DMK, MSS, KAM). **MC:** 4, Kane Co, 26 May (DFS); 2, Santa Fe Btms, 15 Mar (DMK); 2, E Cape Girardeau, 23 Apr (KAM). **LD:** 17 May, Carl.C (DMK, MSS, KAM) - latest departure date outside n. IL; 23-26 Apr (male), Ditch Rd rice fields (Alexander Co) (KAM, TAM, DTW, IOS). **Others:** 1-8 Mar, Wringe Rd (Clinton Co) (DMK); 29 Mar, Pope Twp (Fayette Co) (DMK, MSS); 12 Apr, Lost Mound NWR (Jo Daviess Co) (DRD); 20 Apr, Dunham Rd Sod Farm (McHenry Co) (RMB); 19 May (male), Nachusa Grs (EWW).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

**EA:** 20 Apr (male), Garden Prairie Rd (Boone Co) (RMB); 20 Apr (male), Eggers Wds FP, LCal (WJM); 2 May (female), Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 5, Hennepin L, 10 May (DFS); 5 (males), Fulton (Whiteside Co), 16 May (EWW); 4, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co), 4 & 13 May (DRD, EWW); 3 (males), Eggers Wds FP, LCal, 4 May (WJM). **Others:** 15 May (southbound pair along lakefront), Winthrop H (EWW); 17 May (female-type), Upper Spring L (Carroll Co) (EWW); 19 May (female), Rochelle (Ogle Co) (EWW); 20 May, Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co) (KAM, CAT).

**Rusty Blackbird**

**EA:** 4 Mar (6), LeVasseur P (JBH); 11 Mar (300+), Chauncey Marsh NPSv (Lawrence Co) (CLH); 13 Mar (5-3 males, 2 females), JP (KMC); 16 Mar (24), Pecatonica (DTW); 20 Mar, Urb. (EJC). **MC:** 500+, Chauncey Marsh NPSv (Lawrence Co), 21 Mar (CLH); 400, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DMK, MSS); 250, e. Stephenson Co, 16 Mar (DTW); 235, Grundy Co, 23 Mar (DFS); 130, Lockport Pr NPSv (Will Co), 27 Mar (CMA); 100+, Massac Co, 31 Mar (KAM); 45+, Annawan (Henry Co), 16 Mar (EWW); 45+, Iroquois L (Iroquois Co), 4 Apr (EWW); 45, Funks Grove (McLean Co), 22 Mar (MJW). **LD:** 26 Apr, E Cape Girardeau (KAM, MSS, IOS); 15 Apr (male), JP (PRC, SF); 14 Apr, HL (FRH); 12-13 Apr (40), Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 2 Apr (5), Thatcher Wds FP (Cook Co) (JSA). **Remarks:** "This was easily my best spring for this species with 50+ birds on 7 occasions" (DFS).

**Brewer's Blackbird**

**EA:** 2 Mar (8), Carl.C (DMK); 9 Mar (20), PrRdg (Marion Co) (DMK); 18 Mar (male), Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH); 23 Mar (5), Grundy Co (DFS). **MC:** 800, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DMK, MSS); 150+, Marion Co, 8 Apr (CLH); 43 (35 males), Beaver Creek (Bond Co), 9 Apr (EWW); 8, IBSP, 1 May (EWW) & 10 May (RDH). **LD:** 24 Apr (male), Douglas-Hart NC (Coles Co) (LBH et al.); 22 Apr (4), Marion Co (CLH); 22 Apr (4 - 2 pairs), IBSP (JWL); 20 Apr (60), Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 20 Apr, HL (FRH); 13 Apr (25+), E Cape Girardeau (KAM); 13 Apr (2), nw. Henry Co (EWW).

**Common Grackle**

**EA:** 16 Feb, El Paso (McLean Co) (MJW); 2 Mar (10), New Philadelphia (McDonough Co) (LLH); 5 Mar (male), JP (PRC). **MC:** 12,000, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK); 4930, Oglesby (La Salle Co), 22 Mar (DFS); 200, JP, 1 Apr (PRC).