

No rails were reported this year, probably a reflection of the weather conditions. Only 8 Sandhill Cranes were reported on 2 counts, Evanston and Kankakee. Only two species of shorebirds were reported this year, with Killdeer being reported on 18 counts and Wilson's Snipe on 13. No American Woodcock were reported at all this year. Ten species of gulls were reported this year, with two as count week birds. This includes a count week California Gull at Waukegan and a count week Slaty-backed Gull at Calumet City. There were also 17 Thayer's Gulls on 8 counts, 10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 9 counts (with 2 at Carlyle), 2 Iceland Gulls on 2 counts, 9 Glaucous Gulls on 3 counts, and 12 Great Black-backed Gulls on 2 counts.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were only reported from 30 counts this year. However, the count week report from Kishwaukee indicates that they have reached the northern edge of the state. Monk Parakeets were only reported from two counts this year. Barn Owls went unreported this year, after several years of slowly increasing counts. Snowy Owl likewise went unreported. Only 19 Long-eared and 48 Short-eared Owls were reported. Six counts reported Northern Saw-whet Owls, with 2 individuals at Rend Lake.

Flycatchers through Warblers

Eastern Phoebes were only seen on 8 counts this year, all in southern Illinois. Only 17 Northern Shrikes were reported, on 13 counts. More worrisome, only 6 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported on 3 counts, including 3 at Mermet Lake. American Crow numbers were down somewhat from last year, with 198,101 recorded. Four counts reported House Wren, while Mermet Lake had the only Sedge Wren. Monroe County had 2 Marsh Wrens, with one more at Baldwin Lake. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported at Union County was on the Missouri side of the Mississippi.

Eastern Bluebirds were reported on 58 counts this year. Three counts reported solo Gray Catbirds this year, and 68 Brown Thrashers were reported on 16 counts. American

Pipits were down to 99 individuals on 5 counts; the count week bird at Calumet was the only one not in southern Illinois. Only 4 species of warblers were reported this year. Two counts reported lone Orange-crowned Warblers, 7 counts reported Pine Warblers, and Horseshoe Lake reported a lone Common Yellowthroat.



Vesper Sparrow.
Bloomington-Normal, McLean County.
9 December 2010.
Photo by Matthew Winks.

Sparrows through Weaver Finches

Rockford's Spotted Towhee was seen before and after the count, but not on count day. Nine counts reported 66 Chipping Sparrows, including 33 at Union County. Three Vesper Sparrows were reported, as was a Lark Sparrow and a photographed Henslow's Sparrow at Coles-Cumberland. LeConte's Sparrows were reported

from 5 counts, as were Lincoln's Sparrows. Cypress Creek and Lisle Arboretum both reported Harris's Sparrows.

Collinsville reported a count-week Western Meadowlark, with another at Clinton-Savanna and 4 at Princeton-Camanche. Illini S.P. reported 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from 3 counts.

Winter finch numbers were generally down, although 56 counts reported Purple Finches. Fermilab had the only Red Crossbill, and Clinton Lake had the only White-winged Crossbills. Pine Siskins were present in good numbers, with 1,007 reported from 37 counts. Three Evening Grosbeaks were reported – 2 at Andalusia and 1 at DeKalb. Eurasian Tree Sparrows were only reported from 19 counts this year, although the 10 from Thorn Creek were unusually far north and east.

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