

Table 1. "Common" passerines of Illinois.

Data are mid-point of 1907 and 1957 state-wide population estimates of Graber and Graber (1963).

Species are categorized as:

NIL = no cowbird parasitism expected (incidental or "freak" instances);

LOW = minor host, parasitism rate 1% or less;

REGULAR = "normal" host, perhaps 5 - 20% nests parasitized;

HIGH = more than 20% nests parasitized.

Species	Numbers	Type Host
Eastern Kingbird	328,000	LOW
Horned Lark	3,220,000	REGULAR
Barn Swallow	605,000	NIL
Blue Jay	885,000	NIL
American Crow	784,000	NIL
chickadees	300,000	NIL
Tufted Titmouse	752,000	NIL
Eastern Bluebird	810,000	LOW
American Robin	1,450,000	NIL
Northern Mockingbird	152,000	LOW
Gray Catbird	196,000	LOW
Brown Thrasher	994,000	LOW
European Starling	3,100,000	NIL
Common Yellowthroat	388,000	REGULAR
Northern Cardinal	1,200,000	REGULAR
Indigo Bunting	1,120,000	REGULAR
Dickcissel	2,420,000	REGULAR
Chipping Sparrow	150,000	REGULAR
Field Sparrow	1,550,000	REGULAR
Vesper Sparrow	320,000	REGULAR
Lark Sparrow	190,000	REGULAR
Grasshopper Sparrow	700,000	REGULAR
Savannah Sparrow	275,000	REGULAR
Song Sparrow	215,000	REGULAR
Bobolink	1,520,000	REGULAR
Red-winged Blackbird	6,700,000	REGULAR
meadowlarks	3,500,000	REGULAR
Common Grackle	3,850,000	NIL
Orchard Oriole	260,000	REGULAR
American Goldfinch	880,000	LOW
House Sparrow	5,700,000	NIL

variation in host preferences or lack of thorough studies in Illinois. REF: Friedmann 1963; Hess 1906; Poling 1889. SETS: 4 (WVZ, DMNH, FMNH, ChAS).

• **Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*** — Host. Common in thickets and woodland edges. BBS: 1.9. Nest with 1 + 8 eggs taken by Goelitz on 14 May 1914 (Barnes 1914b; Goelitz 1915a; possibly also Sanborn and Goelitz 1915). Two other nests with high egg counts contained 2 + 7 and 3 + 7 eggs (Blocher 1936). Both nests found by B. M. Strausberger (unpubl.) at Morton Arboretum were parasitized. REF: Day 1917; Ford 1956; Friedmann 1929, 1963; Poling 1889; Musselman 1918; Robinson 1992; Trine et al., in press. SETS: 14 (WVZ, FMNH, DMNH, UArk, ChAS).

• **Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*** — Host. Common in open areas. A total of 16 cowbird eggs were found in 12 of 24 nests at Morton Arboretum (B. M. Strausberger, unpubl.). BBS: 1.4. G&G: 250,000 — 50,000. REF: Barnes 1890; Eifrig 1937; Friedmann 1929, 1963; McKinney 1966, 1967; Musselman 1918; Nehrling 1880-85; Peer and Bollinger 1997; Poling 1889; Trine et al., in press. SETS: 7 (WVZ, FMNH).

• **Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*** — Host. Common in weedy and brushy areas. BBS: 11.4. G&G: 2,100,000 — 1,400,000. Nest found with 2 + 5 eggs (Barnes 1914a). In 240 acre field, Blocher (1936) found 11 of 14 nests parasitized, including one with 3 + 4 eggs. A total of 25 cowbird eggs were laid in 17 of 29 nests found at Morton Arboretum (B. M. Strausberger, unpubl.). Field Sparrows frequently abandon nests in response to cowbird parasitism (Friedmann 1963). REF: Barnes 1890; Blocher 1924; Du Bois 1918b; Ford 1956; Friedmann 1929, 1963; Goelitz 1915a; Musselman 1918; Poling 1889; Thompson 1958; Thompson and Robinson 1963, 1965. SETS: 18 (WVZ, FMNH, DMNH).