

direct size comparison because the bird was not close to any other species; however, I estimate that it was just slightly larger than a Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The bird moved about slowly and never stopped bobbing its tail. It stayed at a height of about 2- to 4-feet although I think it may have come up off the ground when I initially "spished" it. I saw it for about five minutes, although not continually. I did not see it eat anything. The Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) did not really seem to be interacting with the flock, but when the other birds dispersed, it seemed to have disappeared with them.

I eliminated Magnolia Warbler on the basis of the gray rump, the lack of white markings on the tail, a gray-and-black instead of olive back, and the tail-bobbing behavior. While Prairie Warbler displays tail-bobbing, it has greenish upperparts and yellow undertail coverts. The lack of black on the face of the bird I saw leads me to think it was either a female or an immature. A copy of my documentation is on file with the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee for review. 🐦

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Editor's note: The Kirtland's Warbler, a federally endangered species, breeds in north-central Michigan in young jack pine stands 5- to 15-feet high. Controlled plantings and burns of jack pine combined with a Brown-headed Cowbird control program have helped stabilize a population of about 500. The species has been recorded in northern Wisconsin (Passenger Pigeon, 51:392,392,414; 52:82;53:92,99;54:93) and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Payne, 1983, A Distributional Checklist of the Birds of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, No. 184.) occasionally during summer months as a vagrant. Few migratory reports of this species exist. Bohlen (1989, The Birds of Illinois) lists only 2 fall records for the state. This unusual Illinois fall record may have been a migrant from Wisconsin.

Lark Bunting in Cook County

For the last 15 years, Field Museum of Natural History personnel have been checking Chicago buildings during migration to see whether any birds have run into them, with the dual goal of monitoring migration and of making scientifically valuable specimens from the birds that die from these collisions.

On 31 August 1992, while checking the periphery of McCormick Place, a large exposition center on the Chi-

cago lakefront, I found a dead Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). The specimen is an immature male with a plumage nearly identical to that of adult females. It was prepared as a scientific study skin and is catalogued in the Field Museum bird collection as #357668. The bird weighed 34.7 grams; its skull was only 20 percent pneumatized, signifying that it was hatched in 1992. It had substantial molt of its body feathers in progress, but no molt of wing or tail feathers. Its testes measured 1 x 1 mm.

Because we check this building daily during migration, we can be sure that the bird hit sometime during the night of 30 - 31 August. Winds were out of the northwest that night and numerous other birds were moving as well. In addition to the bunting, on the morning of the 31st we found Sora and Veery, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May and Connecticut warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, and American Redstart.

Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) said at least 17 records of the Lark Bunting exist for Illinois through 1987. Mlodinow (1984, *Chicago Area Birds*) referred to the species as a "very rare vagrant" with 10 records for the Chicago area through 1982. Previously only three state records were from fall, all from the Chicago area. The previous earliest fall date was 4 September at Lake Calumet (Bohlen 1989), so the 1 August record predates this (and 3 September date published in this issue — see Field Notes) by a few days. The latest fall sighting was 19 November 1989 at Jackson Park, Cook Co. (IB&B, 6:47). Interestingly; however, observers recorded two additional sightings for fall 1992 in the Chicago area (see Field Notes).

Lark Buntings nest in the northern Great Plains and winter primarily from Texas west through the southwest and south to Mexico (1983, *A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds*, 6th edition). Scattered annual reports from the Midwest exist. From 1988 through mid 1992, observers reported 12 sightings of this species from Minnesota (where it has historically nested), two from Wisconsin, five from Michigan, and one each from Iowa and Ohio. 🐦

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