

best encounter of the day, by far, was 3 Short-eared Owls perched on fence posts and observed as the sun was setting on this beautiful Christmas Eve.

## 25 December

(Chicago Lakefront, Illinois)

I began the 3-hour, 368-mile round trip, drive at 3:30 a.m. on a clear, brisk Christmas morning. Seasonable temperatures (low 20s to low 30s) and lighter winds (5-10 mph) made for a very enjoyable count. I teamed with Joel Greenberg to participate in the only CBC I went on located entirely within a major city. This creates unique count conditions, such as the near total absence of natural habitat within the count circle, and the way birds hold tight to what little habitat they can find. For example, along Lakeshore Drive we found a couple small

landscape plantings of prairie grass (maybe 15 feet long by 3 feet wide). Within these scraps of habitat, there were 2 Song, 2 Swamp, and 6 White-throated Sparrows which simply would not leave the grass, despite the number of people disturbing them. My group had only 27 species and 4,047 birds. The day's highlights included a single Common Loon, 3 Thayer's Gulls, and 24 Monk Parakeets. By the way, for those of you wondering, the sleepless streak had now extended to 304 consecutive hours.

## 26 December

(Montello, Wisconsin)

I departed home at 1:30 a.m. to make the 4-hour, 499-mile round trip drive. I joined Bill Brooks for the day. We had very good weather conditions with temperatures ranging from the mid teens to the mid

30s and light winds (5-10 mph). We had 45 species and 1,918 individual birds. The day's notable birds included 4 Mute Swans, a single Merlin, 3 Belted Kingfishers, and 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

## 27 December

(Lake Chautauqua NWR, Illinois)

I left my house at 3:30 a.m. for the 275-mile round trip. I birded with Angella and Dan Moorehouse amid mild weather, with temperatures warming from the mid 30s to the mid 50s and light to moderate winds (5-20 mph). During the early morning I felt great, but by late morning I was beginning to feel sick. By early afternoon, I was very ill with a severe respiratory infection that left me with aching joints, a slight fever and an uncontrollable cough. Still, I kept going, to finish

Table 1. Continued

Species *	Total # (23) CBCs (# Ind.)	# IL (14) CBCs (# Ind.)	# IA (7) CBCs (# Ind.)	# WI (2) CBCs (# Ind.)
Northern Flicker	22 (354)	13 (233)	7 (116)	2 (5)
Pileated Woodpecker	14 (50)	9 (40)	4 (6)	1 (4)
Loggerhead Shrike	1 (3)	1 (3)	----	----
Northern Shrike	5 (5)	4 (4)	----	1 (1)
Blue Jay	22 (1,426)	13 (788)	7 (508)	2 (130)
American Crow	23 (3,011)	14 (1,581)	7 (1,247)	2 (183)
Common Raven	1 (6)	----	----	1 (6)
Horned Lark	16 (730)	12 (670)	4 (60)	----
Carolina Chickadee	4 (243)	4 (243)	----	----
Black-capped Chickadee	19 (1,139)	10 (501)	7 (499)	2 (139)
Tufted Titmouse	18 (335)	12 (247)	6 (88)	----
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4 (8)	----	2 (2)	2 (6)
White-breasted Nuthatch	22 (547)	13 (319)	7 (185)	2 (43)
Brown Creeper	20 (87)	13 (57)	6 (29)	1 (1)
Carolina Wren	13 (134)	9 (119)	4 (15)	----
Winter Wren	10 (19)	6 (12)	4 (7)	----
Marsh Wren	1 (1)	1 (1)	----	----
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10 (33)	9 (32)	1 (1)	----
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5 (27)	5 (27)	----	----
Eastern Bluebird	10 (188)	7 (156)	3 (32)	----
Hermit Thrush	10 (23)	8 (18)	2 (5)	----
American Robin	13 (2,382)	8 (2,248)	4 (128)	1 (6)
Gray Catbird	1 (1)	1 (1)	----	----
Northern Mockingbird	4 (17)	4 (17)	----	----
Brown Thrasher	3 (6)	3 (6)	----	----
European Starling	23 (12,658)	14 (8,795)	7 (3,739)	2 (124)