From the Editor

Lessons from the Geese

What follows is an inspiring lesson from Canada Geese on how we can work together to make IOS an even better organization. Next time you hear a flock of geese overhead, look to the sky and remember the lessons they teach.

FACT: As each Canada Goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in the "V" formation, the flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

FACT: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power or the bird immediately in front of it.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

FACT: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are inter-dependent on each other's skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, or resources.

FACT: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement is the quality of honking we seek.

FACT: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

"Transcribed from a speech by Angeles Arrien at a 1991 Organization Development Network seminar, which was based on the work of Milton Olson.

Sheryl DeVore
President's Message

Spring is one of the most anticipated seasons in the birder's year — a time to seek those coveted birds at your favorite spot and to share birding with someone new. This year, an entire week, May 3 - 10, is dedicated to a nationwide celebration to make the non-birding public aware of the wonders of bird migration and conservation. The week culminates on May 9th with Migratory Bird Day celebrations. In Illinois, this falls on Spring Bird Count Day, which prevents many of us from participating in special events scheduled that day. But we can find other ways to promote Migratory Bird Conservation.

One way is to volunteer to help with special activities planned at your neighborhood park, forest preserve nature center, or wildlife refuge celebrating bird migration. Another way you can help conserve migratory birds and other wildlife is to join the Teaming With Wildlife Initiative movement. Hopefully by the time you read this, a bill will be introduced in Congress to develop a funding source for non-game fish and wildlife. If you have ever birded a state or federal wildlife refuge you owe a debt to the men and women who hunt or fish. Money they pay in user taxes on the hunting and fishing equipment and licenses and special permits help preserve and maintain important birding areas.

Teaming With Wildlife hopes to generate similar user fees on equipment (field guide, bird feeders and other outdoor equipment) we and other outdoor enthusiasts use. These funds will be used to conserve and protect additional wildlife and fish habitat, provide additional recreational areas and fund continued conservation education. If you don’t know what Teaming With Wildlife is all about, drop me a note and I’ll be happy to discuss this issue.

The Society is a member of the “Teaming Coalition” but it is up to you to let your Congress-man or woman know how you feel. Until next time, good birding, and remember to spread the word about conserving our migratory birds today.

Articles

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— Eric Walters

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...With A Summary of Records from Illinois and Lower Lake Michigan
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About Our Cover:

Swainson's Hawk drawing by Brian K. Willis. This rare species was recorded on the 1997 Illinois Spring Bird Count.

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On 30 May 1997, I sauntered out to the south end of Waukegan Beach in Lake County to try my luck at finding an Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea). This was my fourth attempt here in May for this particular species, but I felt this day was my best chance due to the late spring date and east winds which could push any potential rarities onto the beach. While scanning the gull and Common Tern (S. hirundo) Rocks, my attention was quickly lost on a group of Forster’s Terns (S. forsteri) on the beach. “This is a large flock for such a late date,” I thought. So count them I did, focusing so strongly on the task at hand that when I came across a different looking tern, I passed it by, for fear of losing track of the count. About 15 seconds later, I thought, “Didn’t that tern have an all black bill?” and “Didn’t it seem really different?” I forgot my Forster’s count and quickly turned back to this mystery tern, immediately noticing its black head, nape, bill, and legs. The bill looked strange, as if it were two bills. The bird’s back was noticeably paler, at least a shade lighter than the nearby Common and Forster’s Terns. Among terns in breeding plumage, there is only one in the world with a very thick, all black bill, black legs, and a very pale back. I had discovered a Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica).

I raced back to my car, got my camera, and quickly shot a roll of film. After this, I noticed a few other details. The bird appeared stocky and this, along with its long legs, gave the impression of a much larger bird despite it being the same overall length as the other Sterninae terns present. Its underparts were white without any markings. The short, slightly forked tail was best seen when the bird was flying. While the bird sat on the beach, its tail was comparably shorter than the other terns nearby. In flight, the bird appeared heavier-looking, wider-winged, and with a slower wing beat. It called a few times, and while I’m not familiar with this species’ vocalizations, it did sound different than the calling Common and Forster’s Terns. This sighting represents Illinois’ first documented record of a Gull-billed Tern.

The Gull-billed Tern winters from the western coast of Mexico to Ecuador and from southern Texas south to the Caribbean coast of Central America. In North America, it nests along marine coasts in marshes and on beaches in Salton Sea, California, Sonora, Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida (Terres J. 1991).


Obviously, an inland report of this tern comes under much scrutiny. One spring sighting, by three independent observers from Lake Erie at Long Point, Ontario on 22 May 1985 (American Birds 39:266) did not appear in the “Annotated Checklist of Ontario Birds” (1991), and was probably rejected due to lack of precedence.

Bohlen (1989) considers the following three Illinois reports hypothetical. The first Illinois report was from Chicago’s Lake Calumet on 15 and 26 August 1959, but others who later saw the bird from a distance of 100 yards or greater could not confirm the bird’s identification (fide Robert Russell). The second report was from Wilmette’s Gillson Park (Cook County) on 10 and 15 August 1960. This is an intriguing report since the bird was seen flying overhead and came close to the pier many times for about five minutes (fide Robert Russell). Apparently, no notes were taken of this sighting, which leaves the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee wondering if similar species were eliminated. The last report, 13 August 1967, from Waukegan Beach was a brief flyby observation. One observer now discounts his personal observation as being valid (fide Kim Eckert).

The only documented inland North American records more than 200 miles from known Gull-billed Tern locations are three early fall reports from Indiana (fide Ken Brock) and now Illinois'
spring record. The first Indiana bird was photographed from the Falls of the Ohio (on the Indiana/Kentucky border) on 27 August 1994. The second record was seen among 1,500 Common Terns at Miller Beach on Lake Michigan on 31 August 1995. The third bird was photographed just weeks later at Lake Monroe (southwest Indiana) on 10 September 1995. (Note: to identify Gull-billed Terns in the fall, similar tern species need to be eliminated. First summer plumages of Black and Least Terns have dark bills and legs, and are pale above. Many adult Forster’s Terns have acquired winter plumage by mid-August and have a fairly thick, dark bill and look very pale in flight. The Forster’s legs might pass for being dark in weak lighting, but likely wouldn’t be noticed in flight.) The Illinois bird constitutes the fourth inland record.

The absence of other accepted North American records this far inland and the occurrence of four confirmed sightings within three years from fairly close locations suggest that all four observations involve the same individual. Gull-billed Terns can live many years; one was found to be nearly 14 years old (Parnell et al. 1995). Since the age at first breeding is at least 5 years old (Parnell 1995), this individual is probably a non-breeding adult with no reason to defend territory. Perhaps initially helped by a summer hurricane, this bird found its way to the Lake Michigan region where it has returned to the same general area for several years.

Indeed, when a Sandwich Tern visited this same Waukegan Beach in 1989, the observer suspected that all seven records of this species recorded throughout the Great Lakes region between 1986 and 1989 were the same individual (Binford 1993). The same scenario could be repeating itself with the Gull-billed Tern.

Photos by Eric Wolters.

Literature Cited


— Eric Walters
7744 N. Marshfield Ave. #2, Chicago, IL 60626
From 4 November 1996 through 15 April 1997 a record invasion of 73 Snowy Owls (Nyctea scandiaca) occurred in Illinois. They were recorded as far west as the Mississippi River (although in Iowa), as far east as Danville in Vermilion County, and as far south as Carlyle Lake in Bond and Clinton Counties.

Most Illinois’ owls (48) were recorded along the Lake Michigan shoreline. This was also typical of Snowies (34) reported in northern Indiana along its shores (Ken Brock in litt.; see appendix) and at least 11 more reported from Berrien County, Michigan along the shoreline (Kip Miller in litt.; see appendix).

While many Illinois observers lamented the lack of owls in the interior, the Snowies were there as well, though often in areas where access by birders was limited. One example is O’Hare International Airport in Cook County where as many as five Snowy Owls were present from December through February (Glenn Dunn pers. comm.).

Unlike the previous Illinois record of 59 Snowy Owls during the winter of 1980-81 (Kleen 1981), nearly all the owls reported in this documented invasion were from northeastern Illinois. The distribution of owls in this invasion (see appendix) was more like that of the winter of 1991-92 when 46 Snowy Owls were recorded mostly along Lake Michigan (Johnson 1992).

Methodology

Though the methodology for determining whether an owl sighting represented a new individual was fairly subjective in some cases, we tried to be conservative and consistent in the manner of recording new individuals. The decision to include an owl as a new individual depended on the number present during the sighting, the number of days certain individuals lingered, whether the observation was during, before, or after a heavy migration period, the maximum count during a single day at a particular location compared with the number at other locations nearby, the distance between observations, and how frequently an area was covered. Some owls stayed a single day while others remained throughout winter. Leapfrogging or moving off a wintering territory may have occurred but was often difficult to prove or detect.

We reviewed all daily winter Illinois Snowy records from Illinois bird alert hotlines during this period. John Purcell (in litt.) also provided daily records of owl observations at Montrose Harbor in Chicago. Glenn Dunn, a biologist at O’Hare Airport, also provided some of the data used in this report. We suggest that many owls went undetected.

This irruption or flight was clearly evident elsewhere in the Great Lakes region with Snowy Owls being reported on many statewide birding hotlines from November through April. To quote the Wisconsin hotline on 21 November 1996, there were “too many owls in some areas to count.” Iowa recorded Snowy Owls in at least 8 counties during the winter (Peter Peterson pers. comm.) the closest to Illinois was in Scott County. Great Lakes State’s Christmas Bird Count data (LeBaron 1997) revealed 59 owls in 39 count circles, and in Canada, an amazing 91 individuals were counted in 12 count circles in Manitoba with 40 in Winnipeg alone! Further afield, British Columbia and Washington State recorded Snowy Owl numbers “the likes of which haven’t been seen in 27 years!” Sixty-six owls in 10 count circles in Washington State were recorded, for example, and a new record was established, 62 Snowies in one count circle at Ladner, British Columbia-Washington. However, along the eastern coast of North America, Snowy Owls were noted in average numbers (LeBaron 1997).

The first report in Illinois came on 4 November 1996 with a singleton reported at Waukegan in Lake County and two individuals on the Navy Pier jetties in Chicago, Cook County. This arrival date was normal for most Illinois Snowy Owl irruptions. At the beginning of the fourth week in No
November, the Snowy Owl invasion picked up in earnest. On 23 November 1996, while 10 Snowy Owls were observed along Wisconsin’s lakeshore, of apparent returning migrants with one found dead at Montrose, Chicago, on 10 March, one along I-55 on 27 March 1997, and 4 birds along Lake Michigan in Illinois. The latest report coracoid recorded at O’Hare International Airport on 2 April 1997 (FMNH). In addition, another bird was electrocuted at O’Hare in December when the bird landed on a transformer (Glenn Dunn pers. comm.). At Montrose on 10 Mar 1997, a male owl was found dead, washed up to shore, along Lake Michigan (D. Willard pers comm.; FMNH).

An interesting account of a Snowy Owl encounter with a Peregrine Falcon occurred on 24 November and 4 December at Montrose, Chicago (Jeff Sanders pers comm.; John Purcell in litt.). These encounters generally consisted of repeated “stools” by the falcon and “hissing” by the owl. However, Sanders reported “no harm.”

**Prey**

The following owl prey were noted by observers either by prey in talons or from skeletal remains from examined owl pellets: Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, Rock Dove, Norway Rat, and “mice.” Purcell suggested that Snowies at Montrose might have taken Common Goldeneye as the winter population was ample, however, no direct proof could be provided. At Montrose, a Snowy Owl was observed on a light pole clutching a dead Mallard. Perhaps most interesting was the report to the Chicago rare bird alert on 7 January 1997 of an owl along Chicago’s lakefront that swooped down after an owner’s small pet dog.

**Historical Perspective**

## Illinois Snowy Owls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record</th>
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<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4-Nov-96</td>
<td>Waukegan Harbor, Lake Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>4-23 Nov-96</td>
<td>Navy Pier Jettyes, Cook Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8-Nov-96</td>
<td>Montrose, Cook Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*5</td>
<td>11-17 Nov-96</td>
<td>Lake Zurich, Lake Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>15-Nov-96</td>
<td>McCormick Place, Cook Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>16-24 Nov-96</td>
<td>Waukegan Harbor, Lake Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>17 Nov-96 - 1 Mar-97</td>
<td>La Salle Nuclear Power Plant Lake, La Salle Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>20-27 Nov-96</td>
<td>Du valve, Vermilion Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>23-Nov-96</td>
<td>La Rabida, Jackson Park, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>19-25 Nov-96</td>
<td>Belmont Harbor, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>15-17</td>
<td>18 Nov-5 Dec-96</td>
<td>Mqgs Airport, Cook Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-22</td>
<td>23-27 Nov-96</td>
<td>Montrose, Cook Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td>27-30 Nov-96</td>
<td>Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina, Lake Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*26</td>
<td>27-Nov-96</td>
<td>O'Hare International Airport, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28-Nov-96</td>
<td>Calumet Park, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>28-29</td>
<td>22-Nov - 2 Dec-96</td>
<td>Navy Pier Jettyes, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-32</td>
<td>28-29 Nov-96</td>
<td>Waukegan Harbor, Lake Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*33</td>
<td>28-Nov-96</td>
<td>Wilmette, Gillison Harbor, Cook Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*34</td>
<td>29-Nov-96</td>
<td>Cook Co. Interns. of Glenwood-Tyler Road &amp; I-394</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>30 Nov - 3 Dec-96</td>
<td>GLEN'TC marina, Lake Co.</td>
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<td>36-39</td>
<td>6-8 Dec-96</td>
<td>Navy Pier Jettyes, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>7-Dec-96</td>
<td>Hollywood beach, Chicago, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>7-8 Dec-96</td>
<td>Waukegan Harbor, Lake Co.</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>10-Dec-96</td>
<td>Du Page Co. Airport</td>
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<td>*43</td>
<td>11-13 Dec-96</td>
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<tr>
<td>*44</td>
<td>24 Dec-96 [exact date?]</td>
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<td>45-46</td>
<td>22-Dec-96</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>25-Dec-96</td>
<td>Belmont Harbor, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>14 Dec - 17 Jan-97</td>
<td>Keyesport Carlyle Lake, Bond and Clinton Cas.</td>
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<td>25-Dec-96</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>25 Dec-96 - 6 Jan-97</td>
<td>Meigs Airport, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>26-Dec-96</td>
<td>Fox Valley, fields S of Metlffe Bldg., Du Page Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>26 Dec-96 - mid Jan-97</td>
<td>Illinprowad, Sangamon Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>27-28 Dec-96</td>
<td>Wilmette and Evanston, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>1-Jan-97</td>
<td>Waukegan Harbor, Lake Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>9-Jan-97</td>
<td>Dickl Road west of Rte 59, Du Page Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>10-Jan-97</td>
<td>Aque Stom breakwater, Chicago, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>10-19 Jun-97</td>
<td>Waveiland Golf Course shed roof N of Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>58-62</td>
<td>&quot;All winter&quot; [exact dates unknown]</td>
<td>O'Hare Intemational Airport, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>26-Jan-97</td>
<td>Diversey Harbor, Cook Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*64</td>
<td>10-Mar-97</td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>27-Mar-97</td>
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<td>23-Mar-97</td>
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<td>67-68</td>
<td>23 Feb - 5 Apr-97</td>
<td>Navy Pier, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>9 Mar - 5 Apr-97</td>
<td>Mennis Field, Cook Co.</td>
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<td>2-Apr-97</td>
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<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>winter 96-97 [exact date unknown]</td>
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<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>15-17 April-97</td>
<td>Midway Airport, Chicago, Cook Co.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Comments**

- 2 owls, 4 on fishing pier hook, 1 on sturfflost, 23-24 Nov.
- Owl electrocuted on a transformer.
- Two new immature owls noted.
- Single day may indicate count was five owls.
Snowy Owl irruptions

Owls were reported in Minnesota in 1990-91, 1994-95, and 1996-97 seasons. The largest recent irruption was the winter of 1993-94 when 351 Snowy Owls were reported in Minnesota (Schladweiler 1994).

Scientists generally assume that Snowy Owl irruptions or invasions occur as a result of lemming population crashes in the Arctic forcing the owls to come farther south below the Canadian border in search of additional prey. Indications were that there was a crash of both bog lemmings and/or voles populations in Alaska and northwestern Canada. This in combination with an apparent heavy, early snow cover in the tundra and taiga areas of western and middle Canada (LeBaron 1997) may have led to the 1996-97 invasion of Snowy Owls in Illinois and elsewhere in the Great Lakes.

If observers are aware of other Snowy Owl records from the 1996-1997 season, the authors would appreciate hearing about them to make the account as complete as possible.

Acknowledgments

We would like to especially thank the following people who provided much information regarding the 1996-1997 Snowy Owl invasion in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan: H. David Bohlen, Kenneth Brock, Glenn Dunn, Lisa Gibson, Brad Harris, Cindi and John Mckee, Kip Miller, John Purcell, Bern Richter, Pete Stevenson, Eric Walters, and David Willard.

Northern Indiana Snowy Owls

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Record</th>
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<th>Comments</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Michigan City, La Porte Co.;</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jeff McCoy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>16-Nov-96</td>
<td>Michigan City, La Porte Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kenneth Brock</td>
<td>female, different bird</td>
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<td>16-Nov-96</td>
<td>West Beach, Porter Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>16-Nov-96</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>K. Brock</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>Miller Beach, Lake Co.</td>
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<td>K. Brock</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Whiting Park, Lake Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>28-30 Nov-96</td>
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<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>West Beach, Porter Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jeff McCoy</td>
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<td>Miller Beach, Lake Co.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>1-Dec-96</td>
<td>Port of Indiana, Lake Co.</td>
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<td>Clyde Fields</td>
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<td>7-Dec-96</td>
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<td>K. Brock</td>
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<td>Whihals Beach, Whiting Lakefront, Lake Co.</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>13-Dec-96</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>John White</td>
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<td>Miller Beach, Lake Co.</td>
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<td>John Cassady</td>
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<td>J. Cassady</td>
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<td>14-Dec-96</td>
<td>Port of Indiana, Lake Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>J. White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>22-Dec-96</td>
<td>Miller Beach, Lake Co.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Robert Hughes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>22-Dec-96</td>
<td>Port of Indiana, Lake Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clyde Fields</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1-Jan-97</td>
<td>Michigan City, La Porte Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>K. McCoy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>7-Jan-97</td>
<td>Port of Indiana, Lake Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>J. White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>14-Jan-97</td>
<td>Ogden Dunes, Porter Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>J. McCoy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>20-Jan-3 Feb-97</td>
<td>Port of Indiana, Lake Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>J. White, J. McCoy, K. Brock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>8-Feb-97</td>
<td>Michigan City, La Porte Co.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>K. Brock</td>
<td>immn female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Michigan Snowy Owls, Berrien County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Individuals</th>
<th>Observer(s)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7-Nov-96</td>
<td>Silver Beach</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kip Miller</td>
<td>owls at a Walmart parking lot and Orchard Hills lawn, both inland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>Nov-Dec-96</td>
<td>St. Joseph and New Buffalo</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ed K. Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>14-Jan-97</td>
<td>New Buffalo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ed K. Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16-19 Jan-97</td>
<td>Paw Paw Lake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ed K. Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>7-Feb-97</td>
<td>Berrien Springs, US-31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>John Rosenberg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literature Cited


— David B. Johnson 504 Crown Point Drive Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089
— Richard Biss 748 Meadowview Lake Villa, IL 60046
The Illinois 1997 Spring Bird Count

By Vernon M. Kleen and Peter C. Petersen

Saturday, 10 May 1997, was a gorgeous day for Illinois' 26th Statewide Spring Bird Count. The sky was clear (or nearly so), the wind was minimal, and the temperatures were accommodating. Everyone was out that day, including a record number of count participants. When such "picnic-like" weather occurs, birders do not expect peak birding opportunities; however, the 1997 count day was an exception. Anxious birds, whose migration had been retarded as a result of the cool, unseasonable weather of April and early May, were making up for down time and were en masse across the state. Had the count occurred a week earlier (when birders were still wondering if spring, and the birds, would ever arrive), the results, except perhaps in the extreme southern counties, would have been dismal. As it turned out, the 1997 Spring Bird Count was one of the best ever.

This year, count day fell on the latest possible date (which, incidentally, was also the same date for International Migratory Bird Day). Because of the late date, the northern counties were expected to have a greater number of species. True to expectations, 11 of the 17 counties with 150 or more species were in the northern half of Illinois; only 6 were in the southern half. On closer inspection, 5 of the top 6 counties were in the northern "quarter" of the state: Cook and Lake each with 194 species; then came Union (178), Will (177), Du Page (174) and La Salle (172). See Table 7 for details.

Early morning temperatures ranged from the mid-to-upper 30s in the north to the lower 40s in the south; by afternoon the temperatures had climbed to the mid-to-upper 60s or

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to Pete Petersen who was an established birder and compiler in Illinois for nearly four decades. Despite being aware of his deteriorating condition (he died on Saturday, 12 July 1997), Pete continued the challenge of compilership for the 1997 Spring Bird Count. On receipt of the county reports he promptly reviewed and edited them and made them ready for computer processing. All this was done by 10 June. Even though he was unable to complete the final report, the part he did do made this compilation much easier. Thank you Pete for all you have done for birding. We will remember you.

Northern Mockingbird drawing by David Athans.
low 70s statewide. There couldn't have been a balmyer day for the Spring Bird Count.

Illinois birders were out in record force. Table 1 compares the 1997 observer efforts with those of the past two years and identifies the current state records. New records (highlighted in boldface) were established for number of observers, number of party miles and hours, counties with 100 or more species, and counties with 20 or more observers. Counties with 20 or more observers appear in Table 2; Cook and Du Page both fielded more than 100. This year marked the second time, in the Count's 26-year history, that results were received from all 102 counties (the first time was in 1986). The 268 accepted species was only one short of last year's record high (269) and the 569,000+ birds was also second best (only 25,000 more were needed for the record).

A new procedure for recording party miles and party hours was put into effect this year; it provides a better guideline of and how to record party miles and party hours listed as "other". We now have a more meaningful and realistic standard on how to record the amount of birding effort done while boating, canoeing, bicycling, fishing, sitting, feeder watching, and other activities.

The miles and hours submitted as "other" on this year's count have been included in Table 1 as part of Total Party Miles and Total Party Hours.

Another comparison (Table 3) shows the amount of birding effort in each quarter of the state (the 4 quarters, identified as Areas, are delineated in Figure 1). The information presented for each area includes the number of participating counties (100% this year), the total number of party hours, and the average number of party hours per county (including the "other" party hours).

### Table 1 - Annual Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>Highest Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>269 (1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Birds</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>593,680 (1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating Counties</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>102 (2 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observers</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>1,521</td>
<td>1,548</td>
<td>1,611 (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Miles Walked</td>
<td>2,620</td>
<td>2,525</td>
<td>2,628</td>
<td>2,628 (1995)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Miles Driven</td>
<td>23,070</td>
<td>21,446</td>
<td>22,052</td>
<td>23,070 (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Party Miles</td>
<td>25,690</td>
<td>23,971</td>
<td>24,680</td>
<td>25,690 (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Hours Driven</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>2,042</td>
<td>2,050 (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Party Hours</td>
<td>5,565</td>
<td>5,325</td>
<td>5,420</td>
<td>5,565 (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species in 50% or more Counties</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>55 (1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties with 100 or more Species</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80 (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties with 20 or more observers</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 (1997)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(New Records in Bold)

### Table 2 - Counties with 20 or more participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du Page</td>
<td>Kendall</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonough</td>
<td>Crawford</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>LaSalle</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Edgar</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane</td>
<td>Ogle</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McHenry</td>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>Coles</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Daviess</td>
<td>Vermilion</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Most Common Species

This year 49 species (Table 4) were reported from 92 (90%) or more counties; 26 were reported from 100 or more counties and, perhaps, had more time and effort been possible in the counties where those species were "missing", more than just 10 species would have been recorded from all 102. Table 5 identifies the 20 "most common species". The first five have remained the same for several years; however, as a result of the delayed spring migration, the Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers, although not new to the list, were the 6th and 8th, respectively, most common birds reported this year. Except for the White-throated Sparrow (which made the list for the 10th time), all other species are among the top 20 at least half the time. It's interesting to note that the Canada Goose was the 7th most common species this year (less than 6,000 birds, making it as common as the House Sparrow and more than 3 times as common as the Rock Dove—which didn't make the list at all).
were only 2 American Tree Sparrows and both were reported from Fulton County in central Illinois.

As for other records, there are 148 new state records (marked with asterisks) and 44 ties with state record (#) in Table 6. The majority of records (68% and 30%) occur in Column 1, the greatest number of counties ever reporting the species in one year; this means that almost 1/3 of the current records for total number of counties reporting the species were set or tied in 1997. Species that recorded a 10% or more increase in the number of counties over the previous high were: Double-crested Cormorant, Mute Swan, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Solitary Vireo, Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Blue Grosbeak. So far only 12 species have reached the maximum (102) county total.

Another 58 records (54% and 4%) occur in Column 2, the highest count total ever reported for the species. Major species increases (+100 means an increase by 100 birds; -% denotes the percent of increase for selected species were: Great Blue Heron (+400), Canada Goose (+600), Turkey Vulture (+500), Bald Eagle (+15—54%), Swainson’s Hawk (+3—100%), Sandhill Crane (+26), American Avocet (+52—320%), Spotted Sandpiper (+400—45%), Sandhill Crane (+38—72%), Lesser Black-backed Gull (+7—700%), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (+470—86%), Cliff Swallow (+1600—67%), Marsh Wren (+90—60%), Veery (+380—72%), Solitary Vireo (+170—132%), Golden-winged Warbler (+40), Black-throated Blue Warbler (+30—50%), Yellow-rumped Warbler (+3200), Black-throated Green Warbler (+360), Palm Warbler (+360), Black-and-white Warbler (+900—87%), Ovenbird (+890—114%), Northern Waterthrush (+200), Clay-colored Sparrow (+7—85%), Lark Sparrow (+50) and Savannah Sparrow (+240).
TABLE 3 – Area Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>Possible No. Counties</th>
<th>No. Counties Participating</th>
<th>No. Party Hours</th>
<th>Average No. Party Hours Per County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23 (100%)</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>35.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28 (100%)</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>35.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27 (100%)</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>55.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24 (100%)</td>
<td>2,262</td>
<td>94.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102 (100%)</td>
<td>5,565</td>
<td>54.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 4 – Species Reported from 92 (90%) or more of the Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>House Wren</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Field Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killdeer</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Eastern Bluebird</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Song Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Dove</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Wood Thrush</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>White-throated Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>White-crowned Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Swift</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Gray Catbird</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Red-wing Blackbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-headed Woodpecker</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Brown Thrasher</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Eastern Meadowlark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-billed Woodpecker</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>European Starling</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Common Grackle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Yellow Warbler</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Brown-headed Cowbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Flicker</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Yellow-rumped Warbler</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Baltimore Oriole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Kingbird</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Palm Warbler</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>House Finch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horncapped Lark</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Common Yellowthroat</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>American Goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Swallow</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Northern Cardinal</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>House Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn Swallow</td>
<td>102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Finally, another 36 records (26% and 10#) occur in column three, the highest count of individuals for a species within one county. Major increases were: American White Pelican (+110—Hancock County), Sandhill Crane (+42—Lake County), American Avocet (+34—Mason County), Sanderling (+15—Lake County), Caspian Tern (+40—Cook County). Ruby-throated Hummingbird (+22—Calhoun County), Solitary Vireo (+24—Du Page County), Yellow-rumped Warbler (+700—Du Page County), Black-throated Green Warbler (+120—Du Page County), American Redstart (+60—Du Page County), Clay-colored Sparrow (+4—Lake County) and White-crowned Sparrow (+1300—Cook County).

New records were established in all three categories for 11 species. There were a couple other interesting records as well; the only Least Tern encountered (for just the 5th SBC. record) was found in Tazewell County; and, nearly half of the Black-
billed Cuckoos present on count day (15 of 31) were tallied in Jackson County.

As in the past, observers have been requested to include all reports of Monk Parakeets (none reported this year), Ringed Turtle-Doves (8 reported from Will County), and Eurasian Collared-Doves (1 present in Du Page County) observed so that if and when they are elevated from “exotic” to countable species there will be a documented record of their increasing occurrence and distribution.

Acknowledgments

Without the ongoing support of Illinois’ birders the Spring Bird Count would not be possible. We especially thank the county compilers who, year after year, take time to organize their county’s field efforts, gather, screen, and compile the many observations, and forward the completed data sheets and documentation forms on to the state compiler. Because of everyone’s collective efforts, 1997 was a banner year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

1998 SPRING BIRD COUNT
Saturday, 9 May 1998

—Vernon M. Kleen
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage Division
502 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62701

TABLE 6 – Species Accounts for the 1997 Spring Bird Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Birds</th>
<th>High County (Total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Loon</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40^</td>
<td>Lake (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied-billed Grebe</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>Lake (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horned Grebe</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Two counties (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Grebe</td>
<td>1^#</td>
<td>1^#</td>
<td>Vermilion (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eared Grebe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rock Island (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American White Pelican</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>Hancock (205)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double-crested Cormorant</td>
<td>61^</td>
<td>6029</td>
<td>Cook (337)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Bittern</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lake (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Bittern</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Massac (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
<td>100^</td>
<td>3850^</td>
<td>Mason (499)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Egret</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1195</td>
<td>Will (257)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy Egret</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>St. Clair (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Blue Heron</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>St. Clair (59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Egret</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>St. Clair (278)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Heron</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>Cook (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>Cook (674)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Two counties (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tundra Swan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brown (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mute Swan</td>
<td>21^</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Lake (39)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gt White-fronted Goose</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>McLean (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
<td>8^</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Fayette (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSS’ GOOSE</td>
<td>1^</td>
<td>1^</td>
<td>Cook (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>95^</td>
<td>1704^</td>
<td>Du Page (2665)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood Duck</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2920</td>
<td>Cook (1859)</td>
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<td>Green-winged Teal</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Cook (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Black Duck</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>95^</td>
<td>6644^</td>
<td>Du Page (1137)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Pintail</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>Blue-winged Teal</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3113</td>
<td>Cook (194)</td>
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<td>Cinnamon Teal</td>
<td>1^#</td>
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<td>Brown (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Shoveler</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>La Salle (49)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gadwall</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>Brown (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Wigeon</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Two counties (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canvasback</td>
<td>6^</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>McDonough (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Calhoun (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Duck</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Carroll (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Scap</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Two counties (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Scap</td>
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132 Meadowlark
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### TABLE 7 – County Data (continued)

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**TOTALS:** 268 species; 259,014 individual birds; 1,611 observers; 739 parties; 0000-2400 hours bided; 2,620 miles walked/23,070 miles driven; 3,4507 hours walked/2,050 hours driven

W = Walked; D = Driven

**Table 7 – Addendum**

+ The following “OTHER” party miles and party hours (reported according to prescribed standards for observations made while boating/canoeing, bicycling, feeder watching and other activities) are to be added on to those recorded above.

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**TOTALS**

- Party Miles Walked: 2,620
- Party Hours Walked: 3,457
- Party Miles Driven: 23,070
- Party Hours Driven: 2,050
- Total Party Miles: 25,770
- Total Party Hours: 5,565
After hearing about a Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica) seen at Waukegan Beach in Lake County, Beckie Dyer and I drove there the morning of 31 May 1997. Even though we looked all day for the Gull-billed Tern we did not find it. However, while maintaining the vigil, I spotted a short-legged gray-looking tern sitting somewhat apart from a flock of 40 to 50 Common Terns (Sterna turdun). I alerted Dan Kassebaum, who was standing next to me, and both of us saw that the bird had an all blood-red bill to the tip. This was an Arctic Tern (S. paradisaea).

A small group of birders and I noted the following field marks compared with the Common Tern. The gray tern was smaller and less robust. Its legs were shorter and darker red. The bill was shinner and upon close examination showed no black on the tip. Its head was more rounded and the neck was shorter. The round-headed look was also evident when it flew. There was a well-defined white area between the black cap and the gray of the lower cheek. The tern had a long tail extending well beyond the folded wings, perhaps as much as two inches. The outer vane of the outer tail feather was edged with gray. The underwing had a narrow but well-defined black edge on the primary tips. The upper wing surface lacked the black areas seen on a Common Tern. The folded wing of the Arctic Tern looked frosted while the Common Tern’s looked blackish.

It was cool at the beach. A brisk northeast wind blew and fog rolled in toward the shore. These conditions attract migrating terns into the beach from Lake Michigan.

A second Arctic Tern (sub-adult) was discovered at Waukegan Beach by Scott Hickman on 14 June 1997. It was seen through 16 June, and had a faint gray carpal bar and dark forehead, indicating it was a different bird from my 31 May sighting. Both individuals were documented with photographs. They represent the fourth and fifth state records of the Arctic Tern.

Illinois' first Arctic Tern, confirmed with photos, was seen on 28 June 1992 at Lake Springfield in Sangamon County. See Meadowlark 2:12, “First Illinois Record of the Arctic Tern”. Another record occurred on 27 May 1993 at Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Will County. See Meadowlark 2:140. The third record was recorded during the Spring Bird Count at Braidwood Lake in Will County on 6 May 1995. See Meadowlark 4:140.

The Arctic Tern might prove to be a regular Waukegan Beach visitor if observers check the area in late May or early June when winds are from the northeast.

— H. David Bohlen
Illinois State Museum
1011 E. Ash St., Springfield, IL 62703

The Arctic Tern, which we watched for about one hour through 40 x 60 power Kowa scopes, usually sat alone. It occasionally tried to sit with the Common Terns, but was harassed by Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns. Several times it flew and landed on the water. I never heard it call.

White-Tailed Kite in Urbana

After a long, dreary, and slow-to-arrive spring migration, 8 May 1997 finally held the promise of being a good day. The sky had been relatively clear the night before and a warm front was moving in. Sure enough, when I awoke, I could already hear new arrivals in the trees outside my house. Although I could not get any time off work, I did have the foresight to throw a pair of binoculars into my backpack and leave early to walk to work, arranging my itinerary to include a small park and other areas where landbird migrants congregated. As expected, there were lots of birds around. Even the main quadrangle of the University of Illinois (Champaign County) was loaded with birds.

On my walk home, I continued to observe birds everywhere. At one point, I occupied myself by trying to census orioles and grosbeaks that seemed to be in every tree, and were even making themselves known to the non-birders in the neighborhood.

While watching a Magnolia Warbler that landed in a tree in front of me, I noticed a large shadow passing on the ground. I immediately looked up to see what appeared to be a large whitish bird. “A gull?” I thought. No! It was short-billed, too slender, and long-tailed. Plus, its flight was buoyant and graceful.

“Kite-like,” I thought, as my heart began racing.

I quickly raised my binoculars. Despite my initial impression of whiteness, I was expecting the bird to turn out to be the very rare, but plausible, Mississippi Kite, which has been seen in east-central Illinois in nearby Vermilion, Piatt, and McLean Counties. But my initial impression of the bird’s whiteness was correct. The bird, which was gliding low overhead had an all-white tail and underparts, with white wing-linings, dusky primaries, and conspicuous black carpal patches, all of which identified it as an adult White-tailed Kite (Elanus caeruleus).

I watched the bird as it gracefully sailed north, then ran after it as it receded into the distance, where I lost sight of it behind the trees.

The White-tailed Kite nests in lowlands, grasslands, and open areas in California (Price et al., 1995), Washington State, Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as coastal California, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and south-central Florida. Though the bird seemed destined to extinction in the 1930s due to habitat destruction, it has recently been expanding its range and numbers due to new agriculture practices that created habitat for this species. The White-tailed Kite has been seen recently in Knox and Sangamon Counties, Illinois.

Literature Cited


— Robert T. Chapel
306 1/2 California Ave
Urbana, IL 61801

Early Stilt in Northern Illinois

On 21 March 1997, the only bird species on my mind was the Sandhill Crane. My youngest granddaughter, Emily, was celebrating her 7th birthday the next day. I’m the official family whatever-you-want-on-your-birthday-cake-I’ll-try maker. Emily wanted a Sandhill Crane in a pond, so that’s what I was trying to make. She had originally wanted Mickey Mouse, but when she got off the school bus on 5 March 1997, at least 1,000 Sandhill Cranes flew over our house. Mickey was out. The crane was in.

The phone rang while I was frosting the crane about 2:30 p.m., 21 March. It was Roger Ainsworth, one of the calmest laid-back birders I know. Detecting a rare level of excitement in his voice, I knew it was worth putting the cake on hold. He told me he had just driven past Garden Prairie Slough in Boone County on his way home from work and spotted a Black-necked Stilt. He walked his dog, gathered his camera equipment, and beat it back to the slough. He also called me. Bless him. I grabbed both Emmy’s and my binoculars, got the car, and waited the next few minutes at the top of the driveway for her school bus to arrive.

By 3:15, we were off to the slough, and sure enough, just where Roger had said it would be, stood the stilt. For the most part, the east side of slough is rich loam farmland that in early spring holds copious amounts of sheet water enjoyed by many migrating waterfowl. On this day, one of the few sunny balmy days we are privy to in northern Illinois in March, conditions were perfect. There was no wind, and the sun had moved enough to the west to be almost behind us. All we had to do was pull off the road, roll down the windows, and enjoy.

The only other birds present were many Killdeer. We easily heard the stilt’s vocalization, and very vocal it was. Emmy compared his sound to a small puppy.
We watched for about 10 minutes as the bird ambled along, dabbling in the water for food, yipping, ambling, and dabbling some more. Then came the moment! The bird stopped motionless in the water with the almost cloudless blue sky mirrored in it. Emily breathlessly whispered, "Oh look, Gram. There's two of them." It was magic.

A minute later, the bird waded to deeper water, walked onto dry land, preened, then slowly flew up over the road southwest, disappearing into an impenetrable part of the slough. Roger was too late with his camera.

I later learned that Rod Myers of Rockford had the privilege of seeing the bird in the same area that day. But Emily and I had, for a few moments, seen two.

— Arlene Brei
5601 Whiting Road
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Editor's Note: 21 March is the earliest arrival date for nearly one month for Red-necked Stilts in northern Illinois. Few records exist from this part of the state.

Black-necked Stilt drawing by Arlene Brei

### Purple Gallinule on Lake County Golf Course

A Purple Gallinule (Porphyrota martinica) was found dead on 10 April 1997 in Lake County. The discovery was made by a greenskeeper alongside a putting green at Steeplechase Golf Course in Mundelein, Illinois. The specimen was given to a Lake County Forest Preserve District employee who sent it to the Ryerson Woods Conservation Area, the environmental education headquarters for the Lake County Forest Preserves. At press time, the specimen was being held at the conservation area, with plans to present it to the Field Museum of Natural History's permanent bird collection in Chicago.

Cold conditions, lack of food and the long, strange trip to northern Illinois may have contributed to the bird's death.

Bohlen (1989) lists the Purple Gallinule as a rare vagrant in Illinois, and a very rare summer resident in southern Illinois. One of the last records closest to Lake County, Illinois, was a report of a bird in Evanston on 11 and 15 June 1977 (Bohlen 1989).

### Literature Cited


— Mark J. Hurley, Environmental Educator
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### Western Tanager Visits Arlington Heights Puddle

On 18 May 1997, after birding Crabtree Nature Center in Cook County all morning, it started to rain quite heavily. So I started home. I had told my husband I would be gone for a couple of hours, but since it had been gone all morning, I thought I would make him his favorite brunch - a ham and cheese omelet. We were out of eggs, so my husband offered to go to the store. While he was gone, the rain let up, so I decided to do a little birding on my front driveway. There was quite a fall-out. Warblers were everywhere. I was joined by my neighbor, Cindy Benchuck at about 12:15 p.m. She also noticed the abundance of warblers flying about. Just as Cindy walked up, I said: "Now what do we have here?" A bird, slightly larger than the warblers, flew out of the maple tree in my front yard down to a puddle of water at the end of the driveway. I watched this bird drinking at the curb, between 15 and 20 feet away. This beautiful yellow bird with a bright, orange-red head, black wings and white wing bar was a Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana). I had seen the species while birding in California.

Meadowlark
We were joined a few minutes later by Joe Fahey, one of the neighbor children, who is a budding birder. I was so happy that I was able to share this chance sighting with him. He declared it the most beautiful bird he had ever seen. The bird continued to drink at the puddle for a few minutes, then flew into the maple tree, where it remained for another ten minutes. He then flew across the street to Cindy’s yard, where she observed him for another 20 minutes.

Bohlen (1989) lists this species as a rare vagrant in Illinois, seen only 11 times in the state between 1916 and 1955. A Western Tanager was seen in Illinois in 1992, and then not again until 1996 (Meadowlark 5:155).

**Literature Cited**


— Joan Bruchman 2142 Cherry Hill Drive Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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**Kane County Kittiwake**

My phone rang at about 10 p.m. on Saturday, 3 May 1997. Mike Madsen called to say that two Marbled Godwits had been seen throughout the day in a flooded field in Kane County. We decided to skip the usual May weekend warbler search and try for the godwits, a species I had seen only once in northern Illinois during my 12 years of birding.

I next called Rick Seibert to tell him about the change in plans. By 7 a.m. on 4 May, the three of us were out looking for the godwits. After about an hour of trying to turn Greater Yellowlegs into godwits, a task made harder by the color of their legs, we were forced to admit the godwits had left the fields around the Dundee Middle School. We were about to leave after counting six Killdeer, nine Greater and 18 Lesser Yellowlegs, one Pectoral Sandpiper, and 15 Common Snipes. But then a small-to medium-sized gull flew over the wet field. Naturally, the gull was totally backlit by the sun, so no markings were visible. It then landed in a spot that necessitated us looking directly into the sun. Mike thought it might be a Bonaparte’s Gull, due to the wing pattern one could see, but Rick thought it was more Ring-billed Gull sized.

We managed to position ourselves so that the sun was no longer a problem, but then the gull decided to fly again. It circled twice and landed in approximately the same spot it had just left. We saw the “M” on the upper wings, but couldn’t be sure that it had a trailing edge on the wing, like a Bonaparte’s Gull would have while molting. I thought I could see part of a black collar, but decided a May Kittiwake in a farm field was asking too much. We tried to see leg color, but the gull was now standing in water up to its body, which made it hard to tell if it even had legs, let alone what color they were. While we tried to figure out how to convince the gull to stand on dry land, the gull did just that, although the land it was now standing on was behind a ridge. We still couldn’t see the leg color. This was proving to be a very difficult bird!

Finally, our problems were solved by four Ring-billed Gulls which landed nearby and caused the problem gull to move away from them to a place where we could see it much better. It had black legs! Now that the secret was out, the gull became much more cooperative. It flew around two or three times, giving us good looks at the “M” on the upper wings, which did not have a trailing edge, and the black collar, which was full-sized, although no longer solid black because new feathers were coming in.

The bird was roughly equivalent in size to the Ring-billed Gulls, clearly too large for a Little or Bonaparte’s Gull. Its bill had changed to mostly yellow, with a few black areas remaining. Because of the bill color, the new, non-black feathers in the “M” on the wings and the black collar, we felt that this Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) was changing from first winter to first summer plumage.

Bohlen (1989) lists the Black-legged Kittiwake as a rare migrant and winter resident in Illinois, noting that the immature plumage is more distinctive than the adult, and that practically all kittiwakes observed in Illinois are immatures. Spring records are much fewer than fall; recent records include one seen at Rend Lake in southern Illinois on 5 April 1987 (Bohlen 1989).

As a veteran November gull watcher at Gillson Park along Lake Michigan (Cook County), I’ve seen my share of Kittiwakes, but this was my first in spring and my first away from Lake Michigan. We did not find the Marbled Godwits, but as the Rolling Stones once sang, “You can’t always get what you want, but if you try real hard, you get what you need.”

**Literature Cited**


— Alan Stokie 174 E. Kathleen Drive Park Ridge, IL 60068
The 1997 Spring Migration

By Paul Clyne

Spring 1997 was unusually cold and wet in Illinois. It was accordingly an excellent season for hardy water birds, but uninspiring for the more fragile insectivores. Healthy passages of waterfowl, blackbirds, and other early migrants in March gave way to a gradual, mostly uneventful movement of passerines in April and early May. By mid-May, many observers had virtually written off the season entirely, but some remarkable tallies of songbirds were nonetheless obtained, mostly in the second half of May.

Unusually high water levels were initiated the third week of February, and by early March areas statewide suffered some of their most devastating floods. The most severe rainfall came early, but water levels remained extremely high throughout the season. Some traditional birding sites were effectively washed out, e.g., Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge in Mason County and Heyworth Lagoons in McLean County. At other sites, the wet weather increased the available habitat for water birds, so that statewide, water birds were well represented.

March temperatures showed the expected roller-coaster pattern of highs and lows, and although the northern tier of Illinois was buffeted by cold fronts not experienced downsate, April suffered persistent northerly fronts and lingering high pressure systems which had a strikingly negative impact on the progress of the passerine migration. The few warm fronts in April were too short-lived to initiate large-scale migration. At Chicago's Jackson Park, e.g., the number of species seen to date by the end of April was 22 species behind the average for the preceding three years, despite the fact that the month began with the highest number of species to date.

May continued the pattern of chilly weather. Unfortunately for Illinois birders, most of the state was blanketed by some of the coldest temperatures in the country at mid-May, while areas just east and west of Illinois were basking in southerly fronts. The nation's weather map seemed well-suited to migration, except through Illinois. All-time record lows were set on 16 May for Chicago, Springfield, and Rockford - the last being the coldest at 29°F. As late as 22 May, lows at Chicago were still in the 30's.

Avian fallout this spring were modest. At Chicago, the timing of front collisions was not conducive to dramatic numbers of nocturnal migrants, since most of the high and low pressure systems interfaced very late in the day and resulted in overnight rains. The most widespread heavy influx was reported as 8 May at both Chicago and Urbana. Additional good passages were reported 17-21 May, but movements over these dates were highly localized. The last major push was registered on 30 May at Grant Park, Chicago. The late onset to migration led to unusually high species diversity continuing into June.

Some trends among groups of birds may be noted. Waterfowl numbers were generally high, especially among geese and dabbling ducks, although deep-water diving ducks were poorly reported. Highlights include another record-breaking year for Greater White-fronted Geese, a Brant at Chicago, and two Cinnamon Teals.

As a group, shorebirds were perhaps the most successful migrants of the season, with exceptional diversity for spring and strong numbers from various sites, although some traditional haunts were too flooded to offer habitat. Perhaps the large amounts of water created new habitat in the form of flooded farm fields which the birds used. Gulls were most remarkable for the large number of "winter" species lingering in surprising numbers well into May. Note also the occurrence of two Kittiwakes this spring, both at inland locations (see seasonal highlights).

Terns stole the show in the last two days of May, when Illinois’ first confirmed Gull-billed Tern was followed by an Arctic Tern the next day at the same site. A different Arctic Tern was found on the same beach in June. (See separate stories and highlights for details on these terns.)
The passerine migration was generally slow and late, with few surprises other than a large number of late departure dates. Indeed, the near-absence of vagrant songbirds was among the most disappointing aspects of the spring. The most noteworthy among the few documentations of passerines received was an uncooperative Western Tanager.

Most observers reported warblers in normal to low numbers, although Doug Statz of Chicago’s Field Museum tallied an impressive passage at Thatcher Woods in River Forest on 17 May. Sparrow highlights included another strong showing by Clay-colored and record numbers of Lincoln’s Sparrows. It was not a flight-year for winter finches.

Other rarities include Illinois’ third White-tailed Kite (see seasonal highlight), the first Purple Gallinule (see seasonal highlight) in a decade, and an extremely early Black-necked Stilt in the north.

The foundation of this summary is the detailed information on migration limits and populations as submitted directly to the compiler (or indirectly through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources) by field observers statewide. Information not submitted is not included. For example, reports communicated to local coordinators of taped bird-alerts, reports posted on e-mail, and reports transmitted by word of mouth to another observer are generally lacking here.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

- **EA** = Earliest Arrival(s)
- **MC** = Maximum Count(s)
- **LD** = Latest Departure(s)
- **d** = documented record
- **ph.** = photographed
- **m.ob.** = many observers
- **ad.** = adult
- **subad.** = subadult
- **imn.** = immature
- **CA** = Conservation Area
- **FP** = Forest Preserve
- **FWA** = Fish and Wildlife Area
- **IL** = Illinois
- **INHS** = Illinois Natural History Survey
- **L** = Lake
- **L&D** = Lock & Dam
- **NC** = Nature Center
- **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge
- **SP** = State Park
- **SWA** = State Wildlife Area
- **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area
- **LCal** = Lake Calumet (Cook Co)
- **LCam** = Calumet NWR (Marin Co)
- **LMich** = Lake Michigan (Cook and Lake Co)
- **Mackinaw** = Mackinaw River WSP (Pulaski Co)
- **Clyde** = Clyde Nature Center (Tazewell Co)
- **MTNWR** = Middlefork Millstone River WSP (Champaign Co)
- **Miss** = Mississippi River
- **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge (St. Clair Co)
- **Oakwood** = Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co)
- **Palos** = Palos F.P. (southwest Cook Co)
- **Pucat** = Puxatawny (Winnebago Co)
- **RCA** = Rockford CA (Lake Co)
- **SA** = Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co)
- **MTW** = Tawas See (Clayton Co)
- **SRP** = Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co)
- **UCCA** = Union Co CA (Union Co)
- **UW** = Onalaska (Lake Co)
- **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area

Transparent directions such as, ea. = east(ern), ne. = northeast(ern), sq. = south(ern), etc., are used where relevant. When information on counts greater than one, on sex(es), and/or on ages of birds observed is available, it is generally included in parentheses after the date of the record. Headings for species requiring IORC review, and species of extremely unusual occurrence in IL in spring, appear in **CAPITALIZED**, **UNDERLINED**, and **BOLDFACED** fonts. Extremely early/late dates and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for the three particular regions of the state (no., co., so.) are **UNDERLINED** and **BOLDFACED**, and some further editorial remarks are **BOLDFACED**.

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Hickman, Dave Irons, Bessie Jones, David Johnson, Mike Jacob, Roger Jensen, Thomas Jackman, Dan Kashevaroff, Gretchen Knapp, Vernon Kleen, C. Leib, Dennis Lane, Greg Lambeth, James Landine, Cynthia & John McKee (C&JMc), David Mandell, Dan Miller, Igal Milchtaich, Keith A. McMullen, Kelly J. McKay (KMc), Mary Mendien, Richard Messenger (RMc), Rod Myers (RMy), Tom Morgensen, Walter Marcisz, Michael Narish, Edward O'Brien, John O'Brien, Brock Price, Helen Parker, James Phillips (JPh), Jack Pomatto (JPo), John Purcell (JPr), Peter Petersen, Ann Ronvik, Jennette Rader, Marjory Rand (MRa), Michael Retter (MRe), Robert Randall, Al Seppi (AS), Alan Stökke, Cody Smout, Darrell Shambaugh, Douglas Stotz (DS), Gerd Schmid, J. O. Smith, Janice Sweet (JSw), Malcolm Sargent (MS), Mary Sidney (MS), Paul Sweet (PSw), Thomas Scholz, Tom Smith (TSm), Wesley Serafin, Craig Thayer, Michael Teller, Rick Tietjen-Wright, Timothy Tiefjde, Janet Underwood, Jack Van Benthuysen, Ken Vail, Charles Westcott (Cw), Christine Williamson, Daniel Williams, Eric Walters, Geoffery Williamson, Kevin Wright, Larry Willis, Mike Ward, Pat Ward, Jody Zamirowski.

In addition to the above individuals, some results of the Illinois Natural History Survey’s aerial census of waterfowl are included as the last entry of maximum counts for applicable species. For some of these entries, large subtotals from specific sites are included in parentheses. A note of special thanks is due to David Johnson and Vernon Kleen for their valuable assistance in resolving particular questions.

Least Bittern: 1 May, Lake Co (KM); 1 May, Lake Co. MC: 1 May, Lake Co.

Great Blue Heron: 19 May (DK); 20 May, Lake Co. (Wms); 20 May, Lake Co. (Wms).

Great Egret: 1 May, Cook Co.

Snowy Egret: 7 May, Lake Co. (KMc).

Little Blue Heron: 26 May, Lake Co.

Cattle Egret: 27 May, Lake Co.

American White Pelican: 27 May, Lake Co. (KMc).
winter and early spring, primarily in ne. IL, probably due to local movement after melting of ice.

Greater White-fronted Goose
EA: 22 Feb (6), near Pecat (DW); 22 Feb (25), Heyworth (MF); 22 Feb (660), Clin.L (RC); MC: 1200, Clin.L, 1 Mar (MD); 251, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 212, Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 14 Mar (RBA); 84, Clinton Co, 20 Mar (KM); 25, Fermi, 2 Mar (JP); 24, Wildwood (Lake Co) (EW); 4 Mar (4), Kane Co (DS); MC: 3000, Caril.L, 19 Mar (DK); 2000, Adams Co, 27 Feb (KV); 68, near Pecat, 2 Mar (DW). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 3040 (5000, Swan Lake (St. Charles Co); 1400, HL). LD: 28 Apr - 28 May (10). Carl LFAY (DK, KM) - a lack of possibly injured birds.

Ross' Goose
EA: 13 Feb, Moline (Rock Island Co) (CL); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 2 Mar, near Pecat (DW). MC: 9, Santa Fe, 27 Mar (DK). LD: 2 Apr - 10 May (ind.). Schuyler (Cook Co, MW, 4 DB, mwb, ph.) - 2nd Cook Co record; 26 Mar, Rutland (BP, RC, F; 22 Mar, Clin.L (MD)). Others: 2 Mar, Urbana (RC) - 1st Champaign Co record; 9 Mar (2), La Salle (C&JMC); 11 Mar (ind.), Wm. Jennings Co (BG); 14 Mar, College of Lake Co (SH) - 2nd Lake Co record.

BRANT
One report: 5 Apr, JP (RMe, 5CA, mwb). Fifth ill. spring record, 2nd JP.

Canada Goose
EA: 18 Feb (104), JP (PC); 22 Feb (700), Heyworth (MF); MC: 900, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 700, Heyworth, 22 Feb (MF). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 8920, LD: 27 Apr (small race), JP (PC).

Wood Duck
EA: 19 Feb (2), Washington Co (KM); 22 Feb, M. View (RC); 23 Feb (5), DeKalb Co (DS); MC: 45, Monroe Co, 25 Mar (KM); 40, LC Chau, 10 Apr (RB, SB); 30, JP, 9 Apr and 25 Apr (PC). LD: 22 May, Evanston (EW).

Green-winged Teal
EA: 15 Feb, Carl L (KM); 22 Feb, M. View (RC); 12 Mar, LaSalle Co (JH). MC: 10000, Carl L, 29 Mar (DK) - record spring high count. 1500, Stump Lake (Calhoun Co), 25 Mar (DB, VK); 300, Miss. R (Rock Island Co), 23 Mar (PP). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 2220 (1500, Spoon River Bottoms/Eniquim (Fulton Co)). LD: 25 May, Carl L (DK); 20 May, Antioch (Lake Co) (DJ). Hybrid Green-winged Teal x Northern Pintail: 4-5 Apr, Carl L (DK, ph. - ASE).

American Black Duck
EA: 15 Feb (8), Carl L (KM); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 5 Mar (4), Lake Co (SH). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 10200 (10000, CCNWR), LD: 15-17 May (male), Fremont (EW, mwb); 14 Apr, Union Co (KM).

Mallard
EA: 18 Feb (32), JP (PC); MC: 11290, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 1400, Clinton Co, 20 Mar (KM). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 92470 (33000), Spoon River Bottoms/Eniquim (Fulton Co).

Northern Pintail
EA: 1 Feb (150), UCCA (KM); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 25 Feb, DeKalb Co (DS); MC: 1800, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 500, Carl L, 19 Mar (DK). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 8555 (2800), Sangamon SWA (Missou Co). LD: 10 May (pair), Middlefork (CL, RC et al.). Hybrid: See Green-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler.

Blue-winged Teal
EA: 10 Mar, Carl L (DK); 20 Mar, Adams Co (KV); 21 Mar (3), JP

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Cinnamon Teal
Two reports: EA, 29-30Mar (male), Carl L (*DK, photo - ASE); LD: 4 May (male), Swan Lake area (Calhoom Co) (*1). Hybrid Northern Shoveler x Cinnamon Teal: 23 Mar (male), Santa Fe (DK): "an adult drake 'shoveler' with a green head and all 'rust' colored body".

Northern Shoveler
EA: 7 Feb (24), HL (KM); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 12 Mar, LaSalle Co (JH). MC: 880, Palisades Co, 1 Apr (DK); 630, Miss R (Rock Island Co), 25 Mar (PP); 600, Massac Co, 22 Mar (KM). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 15400 (15000, CCNWR). LD: 24 May (male), sw. Jackson Co (O&JMC); 19 May, Waub (EW); 18 May (7), Carl L (KM). Hybrid Northern Pintail x Northern Shoveler: 19-28 Apr, Carlyle Sewage Pond (Clinton Co) (DK, ph. - ASE). See also Cinnamon Teal.

 Gadwall
EA: 15 May (4), Carl L (KM); 22 Feb, M. View (RC); 24 Feb (3), Cherry Valley (Winnemucca Co, BG); MC: 680, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 25 Mar (PP); 400, Carl L, 10 Mar (DK). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 2370 (1300, Spoon River Bottoms/Eniquim (Fulton Co)). LD: 23 May, Heyworth (MF); 18 May, Mendota (C&JMC). Others: 79, Palis/Orland Park (Cook Co), 29 Mar (WS).

American Wigeon
EA: 1 Feb (10), UCCA (KM); 22 Feb, M. View (RC); 6 Mar (2), Miss.R (Rock Island Co) (PP); 12 Mar (pair), JP (PC). MC: 385, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 25 Mar (PP); 100, Carl L, 19 Mar (DK). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 1025 (1000), Spoon River Bottoms/Eniquim (Fulton Co). LD: 11 May (male), Wildwood (Lake Co) (EW); 10 May, Heyworth (MF, TB); 10 May, Middlefork (GL, et al.); 5 May (2), CCNWR (KM, DK, JD).

Canvasback
EA: 7 Feb (100), L&D26 (Madison Co) (KM); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 28 Feb, L&D#14 (Rock Island Co) (CL): 5 Mar (3), Lake Co (SH, DJ). MC: 5066, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 300, Carl L, 16 Mar (DK); 230, HL, 28 Feb (KM); 200, La Salle, 16 Mar (VK, C&JMC, JH). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 3360 (290, 100, Miss.R (Hancock Co). LD: 27 May, L&D#14 (Rock Island Co) (CL); 11 May (male), MTNWR (VK); 19 Apr, Butler Lake (Lake Co) (DJ); 14 Apr, Union Co (KM).

Redhead
EA: 15 Feb (6), Carl L (KM); 23 Feb (5), JP (PC); 1 Mar (21), Clin.L (RC); 127, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 120, HL, 28 Feb (KM). LD: 16-20 May (pr), White Lake (Lake Co) (RHu, mwb, ob); 10 May, Middlefork (HP, RC et al.); 1 Apr (2), Union Co (KM).

Ring-necked Duck
EA: 19 Feb (9), JP (PC); 19 Feb (210), HL (KM); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 22 Feb (9), Heyworth (MF). MC: 2302, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 1092, LC Chau, 29 Mar (RB, SB); 1000, HL, 28 Feb (KM). INHS census, 3-4 Mar: 14395 (6800) (Hancock Co); 2800, Stump Lake (Calhoun Co); 2400, Ren L (3); 26-28 May (male), McElmin, Slough (EWS, WS); 26 May (female), Middlefork (RC); 12 May (5), HL (KM, DK). Others: warring female stayed thru spring, Wilmette (EW, mwb).

Greater Scaup

Lesser Scaup
EA: 24 Jan (15), HL (KM); 18 Feb (male), JP (PC); MC: 1000, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 1700, Clinton Co, 20 Mar (KM). LD: 27 May (3), Mendota (JH); 27 May, Heyworth (MF, TB); 8 May (8), Menard L (CA, VK, IDM).
Harlequin Duck
One report: 28 Apr-25 May (female), Wilmette-Evanston (EW, m.ob) - 2nd latest spring report for IL.

Oldsquaw
19 Mar (male), Lake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co) (RB); 2 Apr, Rainbow Beach, Chi (WS). 8 Mar, Georgian Lake (Zapar Co, DB, VK et al.). Almost no reports.

Black Scoter
One report: 1 Apr, Evanston (JE).

Surf Scoter
EA: 10, 19 Mar (subadult, male), Carl.L (DK, JV); LD: 22 Apr (pair), Evanston (EW); 18 Apr (2 males), Lake Petersburgh (Menard Co); 18 Apr (imm), Decatur (Macon Co) (MD).

Common Goldencye
EA: 24 Jan, HL (KM); 18 Feb (143), JP (PC); 22 Feb, M View (RC); 22 Feb (14), Heyworth (MF, TB). MC: 472, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 340, JP, 27 Feb-1 Mar (PC); 106, HL, 19 Feb (KM). LD: 20 May (male), ISBM (EW, RB, SD); 19 Apr, Carl.L (JV).

Buflfehead

Hooded Merganser
EA: 24 Jan, HL (KM); 22 Feb, M View (RC); 22 Feb (6), McLean Co (MF, TB); 5 Mar (2), JP (PC); MC: 59, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 16, Evanston, 16 Apr (IM). LD: 29 May, near Mattion (Coles Co) (RJ fide BH) - record late date for locale.

Common Merganser
EA: 18 Feb (5), JP (PC); 22 Feb, Clin.L (RC), MC: 856, Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMY); 770, HL, 31 Jan (KM). 1NHS census, 3-4 Mar: 750(1450), Duck Creek (Fulton Co), 1310, Anderson Lake (Fulton Co); 20 Mar, HL (KM). Others: 29 May (31), L Chau (RB, SJ), SCQ - summering?

Red-breasted Merganser
EA: 18 Feb (34), JP (PC); 22 Feb, Heyworth (MF); 6 Mar (9), HL (KM), MC: 3066, Carl.L, 19 Mar (DK), 1719, JP, 13 Apr (PC); 810, Evanston, 18 Mar (DK). LD: 1 Jun (2), WinI-DJ (10) there on 30 May (EW, RB); 25 May, Carl.L (DK); 22 May (2), Heyworth (MF); 9-10 May (pair), wr. Union Co (VK, DM).

Ruddy Duck
EA: 15 Feb (3), Carl.L (KM); 1 Mar, Clin.L (RC); 15 Mar, Loch Lomond (Lake Co) (DJ); 16 Mar, Miss.R (Rock Island Co) (KMY, PP); MC: 3066, Carl.L, 19 Mar (DK), 708, L Chau, 29 Mar (RB, SJ); 706, CONWR, 22 Mar (DK) (M, Diamond Lake, and 115, Butler Lake (Lake Co), 19 Apr (DJ). LD: 19 May (3), Arcola (RC, GL, EC); 10 May, LaSalle (CMJ); 9-10 May, UCWA (VK, DM); 5 May (3), CONWR (KM, DK, JD).

Black Vulture
Others: 5, Union Co, 1 Feb (KM); 2, Heron Pond, 27 Mar (DK, JD).

Turkey Vulture
EA: 1 Mar, Adams Co (KM); 2; Ls Sible and Kane Co (DS); MC: 40, Johnson Co, 12 Mar (KM); 33, nw. Sangamon Co, 18 Mar (VK); 21, Palos, 29 Mar (WS). LD: 4 Jun, Evanston (JE).

Osprey
EA: 6 Apr, Cook and Will Cos (CA); 12 Apr, Urbana (RC). LD: 21 May, Metvbyn Preserve (McLean Co) (DB). Others: nesting pair probably accounts for many local reports. IL records: 17 May, Eyal Road Marsh (Du Page Co) (JPs).

WHITE-TAILED KITE
8 May, Urbana (*RC) - bird state record (see seasonal highlights).

Mississippi Kite
EA: 3 May, Union Co (KM); 11-13 May (ad.), Stump Lake (Jersey Co) (VK et al.).

Bald Eagle
EA: 23 Feb (1st year), M View (RC); 1 Mar, Palos (WS); 1 Mar (2nd year), Clin.L (RC); MC: 5, L Chau, 20 Mar (RB, SJ); 4 (ad.), UCRA, 9 May (VK, DM) - nesting? LD: 6 Jun (1st year), Watk (EW), 19 Apr (4th year), KCP (SB et al.). Others: 9 Mar, ad, Evanston (fide EW).

Northern Harrier
EA: 16 Mar (4), Carl.L (DK); 30 Mar (4), McLean Co (MF); 8 Apr (2), Crabtree, N. Barrington (Cook Co) (CT), MC: 5, Evanston, 21 Mar (EW). LD: 23 May (female), SRSP (CJMC); 3 May, Union Co (KM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
EA: 2 Mar, Powderhorn Lake FP (Cook Co) (WM); 23 May (2), Carl.L (DK); 29 Mar, Urbana (RC, MC: 6, Palos, 6 May (DS)); 4, Orlando Park (Cook Co), 26 Apr (WS). LD: 23 May, Palos (DS); 17 May, Fishhook (GL, RC, EC); 13 May (in migration), Green Co (PW, VK et al.).

Cooper's Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk
EA: 5 Apr, Atwood (KM); 25 Apr, Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (MD). MC: 8, Palos, 6 May (DS); 4, Pomona, 20 Apr (DK). LD: 16 May, Sam R idle NC (Cook Co) (EW). Few reports.

Swainson's Hawk
EA: 13 Apr, Kane Co (GW, CW). MC: 4, one mile w. of Huntley (McHenry Co), 20 Apr (JL). Reported only from traditional sites.

Red-tailed Hawk
EA: 4 Mar, Skokie Lagoon FP (Cook Co) (EW). MC: 10, Jackson Co, 1 Apr (KM). Almost no reports on migrants.

Rough-legged Hawk
LD: 8 May (1st spring), Chi (McCook Place) (EW, WS); 21 Apr, Vermilion Co (JSm); 15-22 Mar (dark phase), Pullaski Co (KM).

Golden Eagle
LD: 24 Apr (imm), Pine Hills (Union Co) (*DK). No other reports.

American Kestrel

Merlin
EA: 19 Mar (ad.), Carl.L (DK); 5 Apr, Clin.L (RC); 6 Apr, McHenry Co (RB). LD: 2 May, Wilmette (EW).

Prairie Falcon
One report: 9 Mar, Arcula (*RC).

Peregrine Falcon
EA: 13 Apr, Urbana (GL, RC); 28 Apr, Carl.L (DK). LD: 14 May, ESL (DK); 12 May, Carl.L (DK). The status of this species in IL is confirmed by the presence of wide-ranging reintroduced birds.
Observers should note evidence for migrants where possible, especially when subspecific identification is possible. The expected migratory race is *tawny*, while introduced birds belong to the nominate race, *anisognathus*.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**

**MC:** 7 (males), Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary (Marion Co), 10 Mar (DK).

**Wild Turkey**

**MC:** 10, La Salle Co, 5 Apr (C&JMC); 8, Madison Co, 10 Mar (KM).

**Northern Bobwhite**

**MC:** 10, CarlL, 6 Apr (DK).

**Yellow Rail**

EA: 5 Apr, ClinL (RC), LD: 19 May, ro, of Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (USM); 5-6 May, Merwyn Preserve (McLean Co) (MF, TB).

**King Rail**

EA: 21 Apr, near Pecot (BGt), MC: 2, LaCal, 18 May (WM), 2, Winnebago Co, 10 May (DW). Others: 10 May, IBSP (fide EW); 5 May, SaugetM (DK, KM, JD).

**Virginia Rail**

EA: 11 Apr, Sallie Co (JS); 13 Apr, Arcola (RC, GL); 19 Apr, LaSalle Co (CF, &MC). MC: 8, ClinL, 20 Apr (RCetal.), 7, KCP, 19 Apr (RC et al.); 10 May (MD); 4, Powderton Marsh (Cook Co), 27 Apr (WM); 4, IBSP, 19 May (EW), LD: 22 May, SaugetM (DK).

**Sora**

EA: 28 Mar, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (DS); 7 Apr (2), Northtown Marsh, Normal (McLean Co) (MF). MC: 18, Ramout, 10 May (RC, GL); 9, Rockford, 5 May (DW). LD: 1-19 May, JP (JPC); 15 May, Urbana (RC), 12 May (2), SaugetM (KM).

**Purple Gallinule**

EA: 10 Apr, Mundelein’s Steeple Chase Golf Course (Lake Co) (TM, TSm, MH) - found dead; specimen to Chi’s Field Museum. Some 35 previous records but none since 1987 (see seasonal highlights).

**Common Moorhen**

EA: 3-5 May, Eagle Park (Madison Co) (DKaKAM); 10 May, Almond Lake (Lake Co) (fide EW); 10 May, Heyworth (MF). Others: 25 May, McHenry CA (KM).

**American Coot**

EA: 19 Feb (7), JP (PC); 8 Mar, Adams Co (Kv); 1600, Miss. B (Rock Island Co), 25 Mar (PP); 1500, CarL, 29 Mar (DK); 1999, LChat, 18 Apr (RBj, SBj); 360+, McGinty Slough (Cook Co), 10 May (WS); LD: 15 Jun, JP (PC, JR); 10 Jun, Evanston (EW); 5 Jun (2), HL/KM; 27 May, Heyworth (MF, TB).

**Sandhill Crane**

EA: 3 Mar (3), Rock Cut SP (DW); 3 Mar (2), DeJay Road Marsh (Kane Co) (DS), MC: 2110, Palos, 12 Mar (RB); 1200+; Orland Park (Cook Co), 13 Mar (WS); 1999, Crabtree NC, Barrington (Cook Co), 19 Mar (CF); 1000+, Boone Co, 5 Mar (AB); LD: 7 May (12), McKee Marsh (Du Page Co) (FW); 29-31 Mar, Willard Airport (Champaign Co) (MS, GS, mo).
Red Knot
EA: 19-20 May (1) and 23 May (3), east of
Pecat, “1st confirmed county record” (DW);
28-30 May (2), Fermi (Shorebird) - 1st Kane
Co record. MC: 8, ISP, 1 Jun (AS); 7,June;
LD: 7 Jun (2), Wauk (Shorebird).

Sanderling
EA: 3 May (2), Wilmette (EW); 17 May (2),
Clin.L (MD). MC: 40, Wauk, 30 May (CF);
22, east of Pecat, 19 May (DW); 21, Wauk,
Other inland records: 10 May, Adams Co (KV);
13 May (6), MNTWR, (DB, V K et al).

Western Sandpiper
EA: 3 May, CCNWR (KM); 10 May, Heyworth
(MF, TB); 18 May, Mendota (JI). MC: 3,
Clin.L, 17 May (MD). No others reported.

Least Sandpiper
EA: 28 Mar, we. Union Co (PSw); 26 Apr,
Heyworth (MF, TH); 26 Apr (2), Chi (Falc
Fishhook, 15 May (RC) - record spring high
count (previously 200); 200, Carl.L, 12 May
(DK, KM); 125+, Fremont, 17 May (EW); 100+
Deer, 17 May (CT); 115, Banner Marsh
(Peoria Co), 12 May (VK); 97, Clinton Co,
10 May (KM); 65, 1 Cal area, 17 May (WS).
LD: 29 May, Fremont (EW); 25 May, Carl.L,
22 May (4), Heyworth (MF, TB). Remarkable
high counts statewide.

White-rumped Sandpiper
EA: 3 May, Paliski Co (KM); 10 May, near
Pecat (DW); 13 May (6), Fishhook (RC); 16
May, we. Lake Co (RH). MC: 30+, Fishhook,
17 May (RC, GL, FC); 20, Carl.L, 22 May
(DK); 11, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 6,
east of Pecat, 23 May (DW). LD: 7 Jun (19) E.
Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (MD); 30
May (2), Wauk (EW); 24 May (2), Alexander
Co (KM et al). Others: 17 May, c. Lake Co
(EW).

 Baird’s Sandpiper
EA: 12 May (2), Banner Marsh (Fulton Co)
(VK). LD: 23 May (2), ca. of Pecat (DW); 18
May, Heyworth (MF, TH); 17 May (2),
Fishhook (RC, GL, EC).

Pectoral Sandpiper
EA: 22 Mar (15), Vermilion Co (JSn); 22
Mar, Massac Co (KM); 6 Apr (6), Palos
(WS). MC: 5,01, Paluski Co, 18 Apr (KM).
150, Carl.L, 19 Apr (DK); 13, O’Hare Airport;
26 Apr (WS). LD: 24 May, Paluski Co
(KM et al); 22 May, Heyworth (MF, TB).

Dunlin
EA: 20 Apr (2), Clin.L (MD et al); 20 Apr
(3), CCNWR (KM); 30 Apr, Deer (CF). MC:
400, Carl.L, 12 May (DK, KM); 100+,
Fishhook, 13 May (RC); 75, 1 Cal area, 17
May (WS); 20-28, east of Pecat, 16-
25 May (DW); 25, Wildwood (Lake Co).
17 May (EW). LD: 13 Jun, Chi (RH, EW.
JPU, KHI, ph); 1 Jun, La Salle Co (DS).
25 May (6), Carl.L (DK).

Stilt Sandpiper
EA: 5 May (2), Massac Co (KM, DK, JD). MC:
8, sw. Union Co. 19

Meadowlark
Short-billed Dowitcher
EA: 2 May, Mendota (IL); 3 May (5), Santa Fe (DK); 10 May, Middletown and Fisher (RC, GL); MC: 100, Carl L, 12 May (KM, DK, JD); 60, Chi (Grant Park), 28 May (DS); 37, Frankoni, 17 May (EW); 36, Fishhook, 17 May (RC, GL, EC); 28, Clin L, 17 May (MD). LD: 20 May, Lake Co (SD, RBa, DJ); 12 May (100), Carl L (KM, DK, JD).

Long-billed Dowitcher
EA: 23 Mar, Carl L (DK) - second earliest arrival date for IL; 7 Apr (2), Carl L (Hinsdale SP (JV)) - presumably this species, based on date (PC); 20 Apr (15), CCNWR (KM). MC: 15, CCNWR, 20 Apr (Kd). LD: 19 May, Chi (Montrose) (*EW, not); latest departure recorded; 5 May (?), Messic Co (KM, DK, JD); 3 May, Clin L (RC).

Common Snipe
EA: 20 Mar (6). Boone Co (AB); 22 Mar (2), Wadsworth Wetlands (Lake Co) (PSw); 23 Mar, Rantoul (RC). MC: 45, Lake Co (three sites), 12 Apr (DJ); 40, Clin L, 5 Apr (RC); 32, Union Co, 5 Apr (Km); 25, Stump Lake (Calhoun), 25 Mar (DK, VK); 18, rural La Salle Co, 30 Mar (C, Mc). 16, De Kalb Co, 13 Apr (DS). LD: 14 May, Lake Co, (Lafayette) (Fulton Co) (KW); 5 May, Massac Co (KM, DK, JD).

American Woodcock
EA: 17 Feb, Saugeen (KM); 20 Feb, Adams Co (KV); 1 Mar (2). Zander Woods SP (Cook Co) (WM); 10, Urbana, 28 Feb (RC); 10, IBSP, 20 Mar (Psw).

Wilson’s Phalarope
EA: 29 Apr (2), Carl L (DK); 30 Apr, Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (Rba); 1 May (5), Decatur (Macou Co) (MD); 1 May, Heyworth (MP).

Franklin’s Gull
EA: 5 Apr, Clin L, (RC); 7 Apr (1st year), Chi (JL); 10 Apr (3), Boone Co (Alt); MC: 4 (ad.), Carl L, 3 May (DK), 1D: 22 May (3 ad.), Carl L (DK); 10 May, Chi (Jp); 3 May, Oquawka (Henderson Co) (CL). Others: 1 May, Wilmette (RI), 3 May (2), LaSalle (C and Mc, ph), 7-8 May (1st year), Chi (EW).

Little Gull
One report: 13 Apr (ad.), JP (3P).

Bonaparte’s Gull
EA: 13 Mar (2), HL (KM); 27 Mar (14), Evanston (EW); 28 Mar (5), Boone Co (AB); 30 Mar (20), Heyworth (MF, TB); MC: 900, Clin L, 20 Apr (MD); 640, Evanston, 29 Apr (EW); 50, Kane Co, 25 Apr (Kd). LD: 12 May (RC); 28, Carlyle Sewage Pond (Clinton Co), 2 Apr (DK); 235, CCNWR, 15 Mar (KM); 184, JP, 3 May (1P). LD: 16 June (2-1a summer), Wauk (EW); 19 June (2-1a summer), Evanston (EW); 31 May (last ad), Wauk (EW, DJ); 18 May, Carl L, 1Km).

MEW Gull
One report: 26 Mar (ad.), Danville (*RC).

Ring-billed Gull
MC: 2900, Clinton Co, 20 Mar (KM); 150, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 1-4 Apr, 1, Clin L (PC); 125, Cook Co (Lakefront), 22 Mar (EW); 1050, Miss R (Rock Island Co), 20 Mar (PP, KMy).

Herring Gull
MC: 1100, Miss R (Rock Island Co), 6 Mar (PP); 300+, Evanston, 2 May (EW), 1D: 28 May, Carl L (DK); 12 May, HL (KM, DK).

Thayer’s Gull
MC: 9, LMc, (Cl, Cook Co, Lake Co), 10 May (RB, EW, IM); 5, Wilmette, 12 May (HJ). 1D: 22 May (ad.), Wilmette (EW), 34 May (ad.), Wauk, 13 May (ad.), Wilmette (EW), 20 May (ad.), Wilmette (EW), 19 May (ad.), Wilmette (EW). Reported several times from LMc, and LCal throughout season. As with other large gulls which winter at LMc, and the number of sightings increased in Mar, although reports of spring migrants and overwintering birds are vague. Intensive records: 16 Mar, Miss R (Rock Island Co) (KMy, PP), 20 Mar (1st year), Danville (RC).

Iceland Gull
EA: 14 Mar, 1, Cal (JL), MC: 5, LMc, (Cl, Cook Co, Lake Co), 10 May (RB, EW, IM), 3 (imm), Chi (Montrose). 2 May (GW), LD: 13-13 May (2nd year), Wilmette (EW, IM); 9 May (ad.), Wilmette (EW, IM). Reported several times from LMc and LCal. No reports from other areas.

Lesser Black-backed Gull
EA: 16 Mar (ad.), Chi (JL), MC: 9, LMc, (no, Cook Co, Lake Co), 10 May (RB, EW, IM) - record spring high count (previous spring high count = 2 birds); at least 5 different individuals, at Evanston/Wilmette, 30 Apr-10 May (EW), LD: 20 May (3rd year), JP (PC, SCA). Well represented along LMc, mostly 10 Apr-10 May, Others: 1 at inland quarry in Cook Co, 19 Apr (JF), Downstate reports: 12 Apr (3rd year), HI, (JF); 19 Apr (ad.), Sang J, (MD).

Glaucous Gull
MC: 4, LMc, (no, Cook Co, Lake Co), 10 May (RB, EW, IM), Reported as one and two throughout season, through 10 May. From LMc, and LCal. None reported elsewhere.
Great Black-backed Gull
EA: 14 Mar (1st year), JP (PC); LD: 10 May-6 Jun (1st year), Wauk (EW, R1, m.o.b., 8-10 May (1st year), Chi (K1, m.o.b.)
Scattered reports of singles in Apr and May from L. Mich. One inland record: 22 Mar, Boone Co (IA).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
LB: 4 May (1st summer), no. Kane Co (*) (AS) (see seasonal highlights); 8 May (1st summer), Clin.Jl (RC), 7th and 8th IL. spring records.

GULL-BILLED TERN
30 May, Wauk (EW, m.o.b.), FIRST ADEQUATELY DOCUMENTED IL. RECORD. See separate article in this issue.

Caspian Tern
EA: 3 Apr, JP (PC) - the previous early arrival date for IL.; 14 Apr, JP (PC); 19 Apr, Danville (RC); 5 May, Carll (KM, DK, JD), MC: 217, JP, 3 May (PC) - all-time record high count; 145, Evanston, 29-30 Apr (EW); 54, Evanston, 22 May (EW) - a late concentration. LD: 18 May, Carll (KM). Some L Mich. records into June may involve summering birds. The seasonal abundance of this species appears to be changing, and since 1993 the spring high counts along L. Mich. have exceeded those of fall.

Common Tern
EA: 27 Apr, Chn (MD); 27 Apr (2), MC: 375, Wauk, 14 May (EW); 70, Carll, 18 May (KM). LD: 5 Jun, Wauk (EW); 2 Jun, Heyworth (MF, TB); 28 May (8), Carll (DK).

ARCTIC TERN
EA: 31 May (ad), Wauk (DB, RC, MD, DK, m.o.b.); LD: 14-16 Jun (subadult), Wauk (new bird; had faint gray cap/pale head and dark lores) (SH, ph., m.o.b.). Fourth and 5th IL records. See seasonal highlights.

Forster's Tern
EA: 1 Apr (3), Sang (MD); 16 Apr (3), Evanston (IM); 16 Apr (2), Crystal Lake (RI); MC: 174, Evanston, 10 May (EW, JE, IM); 105, Chi, 7 May (EW); 60, Carll, 7 May (KM); 25, Merritt, CA, 8 May (VK, DM). LB: 5 Jun, Wauk (EW); 25 May (3), Merritt, CA (KM et al.).

Least Tern

Black Tern
EA: 3 May (2), Heyworth (MF, TB); 3 May, Mahomet (RC); 7 May (4), Nelson Lake Marsh (Kane Co) (EW); 9 May (2), M.Arb (EW). MC: 60, Carll, 18 May (KM); 35, Merritt, CA, 8 May (VK, DM); 15, Heyworth, 4 May (MF, TB); LD: 31 May (3), DelMonte Ponds, Mendota (C&JMC et al.); 26 May (7), Heyworth (MF, TB). Others: 13 May (5), Rock Cut SP (TW).

Mourning Dove
MC: 20, Carll, 10 May (DK); 18, JP. 29 Apr (PC).

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 8 May, JP (K1, PC et al.); 10 May, Adams Co (KV); 17 May, Monticello (Paint Co) (RC, GL, EC). LD: 18 Jun, JP (SR, DA); 25 May, Carll (DK). Both Cuckoos migrated late and in poor numbers. Some observers expressed concern over evident decline of both species in recent years.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
EA: 29 Apr (2), Mackinaw (MF); 12 May (2), Clinton Co (KM, DK); 17 May, Mahomet (RC, GL, EC); 20 May, Matteson SP (La Salle Co) (C&JMC). MC: 3, Carll, 23 May (KM); LD: 20 Jun, JP (RC); 2 Jun (2), Chi (KH); 28 May (2), Carll (DK).

Great Horned Owl

Snowy Owl
LD: up to 5 Apr, Chi (McGee Airport) (GW, CA); 1 Mar (2), LaSalle, IL (C&JMC).

Long-eared Owl
LD: 19 Apr, Chi (Montrose) (GW, JL); 10 May, Carll (DK).

Short-eared Owl
LD: 15 Apr, Chi (Montrose) (GW, JL); 26 Mar, L. Bloomington (McLean Co) (MF); 11 Mar, Middlefork (RC).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
LD: 29 Mar, JP (PC, m.o.b.); 8 Mar, Lake Murphyboro SP (Jackson Co) (2). MC: 8 (single party count), Union Co, 10 May (VK, MB).

Chuck-will's-widow

White-throated Sparrow
EA: 2 Apr (6), se. Saline Co (JD); 18 Apr, CONWR (KM); 3 May, Coles Co (VC Field BH); 4 May (male), JP (PC et al.). MC: 10, Marion Co, 12 May (KM); 7, near Durand (Winnebago Co), 10 May (DW); 6, ISBP, 19 May (EW); 6, se. Saline Co, 2 Apr (JD); 5, Mahomet and Urbana, 11 May (RC, GL); LD: 18 May (male), JP (PC).

Chimney Swift
EA: 3 Apr (5), Belleville (St. Clair Co) (DK); 24 Apr, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LH); 26 Apr (2), JP (PC et al.) - record late arrival for site. MC: 200, O’Fallon (St. Clair Co), 18 May (KM); 180, JP, 2 Jan (PC).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
EA: 19 Apr., Johnson Co (KM); 29 Apr., Mendota (JL); 3 May, Urbana (RC); 6 May (2), Boone Co (AB); MC: 2, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); 3, Champaign, 25 May (JE); 1 Jun (female), JP (PC); 25 May (2), Carlin (DK).

Belted Kingfisher
EA: 11 Mar (male), JP (PC); 23 Mar, Carlin (DK); 1 Jun (female); 26 May, JP (KC). Almost no observers offered even a mention of this species, making its status difficult to assess, but evidence from some areas suggests recent decline.

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: 12 Apr., Brainwood (CA); 21 Apr., Adams Co (KV); 2 May, JP (PC); MC: 18, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); LD: 18 May, JP (JL). Poorly represented along the Mich. and perhaps elsewhere, but few concrete data were received.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 25 Mar (male), JP (PC); 26 Mar (2), Normal (McLean Co (MF); 28 Mar (6), Urbana (RC). MC: 13, JP; 7 Apr (PC); 6, DeKalb Co, 13 Apr (DS). LD: 10 May, Champaign Co (BH); record late date for McLean Co; 10 May (3), Evanston (EW, IM, m.ob) and (2), JP (PC et al.); 21 Apr., Pike Hills (Union Co) (KM).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 18, Carlin (DK); 16 Mar (DK).

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker
EA: 1 Mar (influx), Champaign Co (RC); 8 Mar, Rock Island Co (CL); 16 Mar, Glenview (Cook Co) (JE); 23 Mar, JP (PC); MC: 26, JP, 25 Apr (PC); 12, Livingston Co, 20 Apr (KM); LD: 2 May (7), JP (PC).

Pileated Woodpecker
Others: 9 Apr & 20 May, RCA (SH & SD, DJ, RH); 24 Apr, Rockford (OW); 28 Apr, near Shirland (Winnebago Co) (BG): 6 May, Adams Co (KV); 31 May, Palos (Columbia Woods) (CT).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: 11 May, Urbana (RC); 12 May, Santa Fe (KM, DK); 18 May, JP (KM); 18 May, Green River CA (Lee Co) (C&JL); MC: 3, Urbana, 18 May (RC); 3, Du Page Co, 31 May (JL); LD: 10 Jun, Evanston (EW); 5 Jun, Pecaton (Champaign Co) (RC); 28 May, Carlin (DK).

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 2 May, Urbana (RC); 3 May (2), Menard L (CA) (KM); 3 May, Queen's Lake (Clinton Co) (DK); 3 May, SRSP (C&JL); 4 May, M'cRae Preserve (McLean Co) (MF); 11 May (2), JP (RH, PC); MC: 30, Palos, 30 May (DS). LD: 13 Jun, Chi (EW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: 16 May (2), Chi (JL); 18 May, Urbana (RC); 19 May, Carlin (DK). MC: 27, Chi (Grants Park), 30 May (DS) - record high count: 6, Urbana, 1 Jun and 8 Jun (RC). LD: 12 Jun, Evanston (EW); 8 Jun (6), Urbana (RC); 28 May (2), Carlin (DK).

Acadian Flycatcher
EA: 30 Apr., Queen's Lake (Clinton Co) (DK); 4 May, Urbana (RC).

Whip-poor-will, Deerfield Parkway, Lake County. 28 May 1997. Photo by Denis Bohm.

Alder Flycatcher
EA: 1 May (Fireshake (RC); 23 May (12), Carlin (KM); 30 May (2), JP (PC); 30 May (2), Deer Grove (CC). MC: 23, Urbana, 25 May (RC). 12, Carlin, 23 May (KM); 4, Chi, 5 Jun (EW). Scealsaw Willow Flycatcher: LD: 1 Jun, Chi (EW); 8 Jun (3), Urbana (RC); 28 May, EISL (KM).

Willow Flycatcher
EA: 7 May, Urbana (RC); 10 May, JP (PC); MC: 80 (combined tally of Willow and Alder Flycatchers), Chi (Grant Park), 30 May (DS) - unprecedented high count: 10, Urbana, 25 May (RC). LD: 21 Jun, Chi (JL).

Least Flycatcher
EA: 30 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 30 Apr (2), Atwood (KM); 2 May, Urbana (RC); 3 May, Deer Grove (CF). MC: 17, Chi, 19 May (EW); 12, Urbana, 11 May (RC). LD: 8 Jun (2), Urbana (RC); 11 Jun, Chi (JL); 4 Jun, Coles Co (BH).

Eastern Phoebe
EA: 8 May, Champaign Co (MD); 8 May (2), Union Co (KM); 10 May, Carlin (DK); 10 May, Coles Co (BH); 16 May, Rockford (BG); 18 May, Palos (Ribe). MC: 8, JP, 25 May (PC). LD: 8 May, JP (PC).

Great Crested Flycatcher
EA: 30 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 30 Apr (2), Atwood (KM); 4 May, Urbana (RC); 5 May (3), JP (WS, PC et al.); 5 May, Palatine (CF). MC: 15, Palos, 27 May (DS); 14, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 10, Carlin, 28 May (DK); 7, JP, 8 May (PC). LD: 18 Jun, Evanston (EW).

Western Kingbird
Four reports: 11 May (diet), Mi, Clair Co (VK); 25 May, EISL (DK); 30 May, Chi (Montrose) (RH, GB, JPs); 4 Jun, Chi (Rainbow Beach) (DM).

Eastern Kingbird
EA: 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 29 Apr, JP (PC); 30 Apr, Vermilion Co (JL); MC: 33, Union Co, 3 May (KM); 20, Forsyth, 29 May (EW); 17, Chi, 31 May (JL); LD: 11 Jun (2 migrants), Chi (EW).

Horned Lark
EA: 15 Mar, JP (PC); MC: 30, Carlin, 10 May (DK); LD: 27 Mar, Evanston (EW).

Purple Martin
EA: 22 Mar, Pulaski Co (KM); 23 Mar, Carlin (DK); 12 Apr (6), Boone Co (AB); 14 Apr, Evanston (EW); 19 Apr, Keeneuk Cove SP (SB et al.); MC: 70+, Wilmette, 7 Jun (JL); 10, Meteor L, 14 Apr (KM); LD: 7 Jun, as above, 6 Jun (25+), Chi (EW). Swallows and martins arrived significantly late at many sites, despite the occurrence of scattered early individuals across the state. Some observers noted depleted populations.

Tree Swallow
EA: 14 Mar (10), CONWR (KM); 16 Mar (11), Champaign Co (MD); 27 Mar, JP (PC); 28 Mar (3), DeKalb Co (DS); MC: 1500, CONWR, 12 Apr (KM); 250+; Brainwood, 12 Apr (CA); 250, Heyworth, 3 May (MF).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: 25 Mar, Decatur (Macou Co) (MD); 29 Mar (2), Carlin (DK); 5 Apr (2), Jackson Co (KM); 13 Apr, Arcola (RC, GL); 16 Apr (7), Dayton (LaSalle Co) (C&JL); 19 Apr (2), JP (TJ, PC); 19 Apr, Butler Lake (Lake Co) (DJ); MC: 130, Union Co, 3 May (KM); 37, JP, 25 May (PC). LD: 5 Jun, Wilmette (EW).

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Bank Swallow
EA: 2 Apr (3), Boone Co (AB); 6 Apr (3), Johnson Co (KM); 20 Apr, Clinton Co (M&D et al.). MC: 180, Centennial NWR, 3 May (KM); 130, Hi., 28 Apr (KM); 65, LC, 10 May (WM); 37, JP, 31 May (PC). LD: 18 Jun (6), Evanston (EW).

Cliff Swallow
EA: 12 Apr, Jackson Co (KM); 19 Apr, Danville (D, SB, RC); 5 May (4), Boone Co (AB); 6 May, Dearce (CF). MC: 2000, MTNWR, 13 May (DB, VK et al.). 312, Mendota (DelMonte Ponds), 29 May (C&M). LD: 4 Jun (7), Chi (KH).

Barn Swallow
EA: 29 Mar, SRSP (C&M); 31 Mar, Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co) (DK); 1 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 3 Apr, Decatur (Macon Co) (MD); 12 Apr, Joliet and Braidwood (CA). MC: 250, Heyworth, 3 May (MD); 33, JP, 31 May (PC). LD: 11 May, Clinton Co (CM).

Blue Jay

American Crow
Albinus ("completely white except for some dark speckles on its head"), 24 Mar, Deerfield (Lake Co) (JE).

Fish Crow
EA: 8 Mar, Union Co (KM). MC: 50, Oakwood, 19 Apr (KM). Expanding range no. along Kaskaskia River. 30 Apr, Kaskaskia River (Clinton Co) (DJ); 8 May (4), Union Co (KM).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 33, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM). Other: 21 Apr-7 May, M (ARB (EW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
LD: 25-27 May, JP (SCA, PC, KC): 15 Apr, Jackson Co (DS); 13 Apr, CONWR (KM); 12 May, M (AR (CA); 10 May (male), Lyon’s Woods FP (Lake Co) (DO); 29 Apr, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LH). Almost non-existent this season.

Brown Creeper

Carolina Wren
MC: 15, Carl L, 10 Mar (DK). Others: 24 May, Columbia Woods, and 26-29 May, Pfaus Park (Cook Co) (CT); 2 May, L. Salle Co (C&JMc). Numbers way down, Vermilion Co (JSM).

Bewick’s Wren
EA: 33 May, Carll (DK); 25 Apr, Addams Co (KV).

House Wren
EA: 14 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM); 16 Apr, Urbana (RC); 24 Apr, Chi (IL). MC: 8, Carl L, 7 May (KM); 8, JP, 8 May and 18 May (PC). LD: 12 Jun (2), Evanston and Wilmette (EW).

Winter Wren
EA: 9 Mar, Urbana (RC); 26 Mar (3), Boone Co (AB); 29 Mar, JP (PC). LD: 10 May, JP (PC, TJ); 25 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM). Few reports, with maxima to only 4 birds.

Sedge Wren
EA: 27 Apr, Paloski Co (KM); 5 May (3), Freeport (DW); 5 May, Chi (IL); 10 May (5), nw. Champain Co (RC, GL); 6, Freeport, 10 May (DW); 5, ec. Cook Co, 10 May (tide EW). LD: 16 May, JP (PC).

Marsh Wren
EA: 2 May, La Salle Co (C&M); 3 May, Clinton Co (RC); 3 May, Normal (MF); 4 May, JP (PC); 6, nw. Champain Co, 10 May (RC, Chi; 3, JP, 18 May (PC, KHU). LD: 30 May (2), Chi (Grand Park) (DS); 22 May, SaugetM (DK).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 28 Feb, Urbana (RC); 11 Mar, JP (PC). MC: 40, KCP, 26 Mar (RC); 11, JP, 21 Apr (PC). LD: 14-20 May (male), Lyon’s Woods FP (Lake Co) (EW, DJ, SB, RBa); 10 May, Boone Co (MRa); 27 Apr, Herron Pond (KM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: 11 Mar, Madison Co (KM); 26 Mar (2), KCP (RC); 2 Apr (2), Chi (IL). MC: 42, Chi (Grand Park), 10 May (DS); 21, JP, 27 Apr (PC); 12, CONWR, 13 Apr (KM). LD: 22 May, JP (PC); 17 May, White Heath (Pleasant Co) (GL, RC, E); 17 May, Clinton (De Witt Co) (MD); 10 May, Clinton Co (CM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
EA: 20 Mar, se. Saline Co (JD); 30 May, Urbana (RC et al.); 1 Apr (4), Pomona (KM); 7 Apr, Boone Co (AB); 18 Apr, JP (PC). MC: 89, Union Co, 20 Apr (KM); 22, JP, 6 May (PC). LD: 11 Jun, Chi (EW). Healthy numbers.

Eastern Bluebird
EA: 23 Feb, M. View (RC); 26 Feb, Adams Co (KV); 28 Feb (2), Boone Co (AB); 3 Mar, Rock Island Co (CL): 12 Mar (male), JP (PC). MC: 22, Union Co, 22 Mar (KM). No high counts reported from central or northern areas. LD: 5 Jun, Wilmette (EW); 25 May (2), Chi (IL).

Carrioncubed Thrush
EA: 30 Apr, Queen’s Lake (Clinton Co) (DK); 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); 1 May, CBG (DJ). MC: 13, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 11, Chi (Grant Park); 8 May (DS); 9, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 9, Urbana, 16 May (RC). LD: 1 Jun, Evanston (JE); 26 May, Urbana (RC); 12 May, Carl L (KM, DK).

Swainson’s Thrush
EA: 19 Apr, Atwood (KM); 26 Apr, White Pines SP (Ogle Co) (RC); 30 Apr (7), JP (PC, KHC). MC: 29, Mackinaw, 17 May (MF); 29, TFPP, 17 May (DS); 6, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 6, Urbana, 11 May (RC); 1 Jun, JP (PC, SC); 30 May, Evanston (EW); 24 May, Giant City SP (Jackson Co) (C&JMc).

Hermit Thrush
EA: 22 Mar, Urbana (RC); 25 Mar, JP (PC). MC: 54, JP, 16 Apr (PC); 15, Urbana, 15 Apr (RC et al.). LD: 3 Jun (tail damaged), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 19 May (2), Chi (EW); 17 May, Mackinaw (MF); 11 May, Urbana (RC); 27 Apr, Herron Pond (KM).

Wood Thrush
EA: 19 Apr, Atwood (KM); 30 Apr (4), Vermilion Co (JSM); 1 May, JP (tide PC); 2 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 7, JP, 8 May (PC); 5, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM). LD: 1 Jun, JP (SCA).

American Robin
EA: 18 Feb (mf lux), Urbana (RC); 23 Feb (4), Chi (IL). MC: 745, Evanston, 27 Mar (EW); 443, JP, 25 Mar (PC); 301, Carl L, 10 May (DK); 165, Jackson Co, 22 Mar (KM); 121, Sangamon Co, 15 Mar (VK). LD: 30 Apr (5 migrating), JP (PC).

Gray Catbird
EA: 30 Apr (5), Pomona (KM); 30 Apr (2), Queen’s Lake (Clinton Co) (DK); 2 May, JP (PC, SB); 2 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 10+, Urbana, 11 May (RC); 76, JP, 8 May (PC); 68, Chi (Grant Park); 8 May (DS); 25, Carl L, 17 May (KM). LD: 6 Jun (5), Chi (Grant Park) (DS).
Northern Mockingbird
EA: 23 Mar, Carll (DK); 23 Mar, ca. of Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LM); 26 Apr, Chi (WS); 5 May, Ottawa (La Salle Co) (C&MJ); MC: 5, Pulaski Co, 27 Apr (KM). LD: 30 May, Evanston (EW).

Brown Thrasher
EA: 8 Mar, Pulaski Co (KM); 11 Mar, Middlebush (RC); 19 Mar, Carll (DK); 29 Mar, Ottawa (La Salle Co) (C&MJ); 30 Mar, JP (PC); MC: 25, Chi (Grant Park), 10 May (DSI); 15, Urbana, 20 Apr (RC); 15, JP, 8 & 10 May (PC et al); 15, Chi, 8 May (E.W.S); 8, Carll, 17 May (KM). LD: 10 Jun (2), JP (PC).

American Pipit
EA (first wave): 28 Feb, Naperville (Will Co) (DSI) - only "first wave" migrant reported from north; record early arrival for no. Ill.; 8 Mar (14), so. Clinton Co (KM); 22 Mar, Arcola (RC); MC: 5, Carll, 19 Mar (DK). EA (second wave arrivals - reported only from no. Illinois): 14 Apr, so. central McHenry Co (WS); 29 Apr, JP (PC). MC: 24, CONWR, 26 Apr (KM); 3, DeerG, 30 Apr (FP); 8, LaSalle, 3 May (C&MJ); 7, Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 1 May (RBA). LD: 4 Jun, Chi (KH); 17 May, DeerG (CF); 13 May, Fishhook (RC); 11 May (6), Stump Lake (Jersey Co) (VK); 10 May, Colas Co (BH).

Cedar Waxwing

Northern Shrike
22 Mar, near Pecot (DW); 22 Mar, Wadsworth Wetlands (Lake Co) (PSW). No other reports.

Loggerhead Shrike
Crystal Lake Lippold Park, McHenry Co - well-studied under scope (RBA, ET al); MC: 4, Kinnmundy (Marion Co), 4 Apr (KM); 3, Carll, 23 Mar (DK). Others: 1, May, Stephensond Winnebago Co line (DW); 17 May (pair), Arthur (Moultrie/Douglas Co) (RC). GL, EC. Almost no reports.

European Starling

White-eyed Vireo
EA: 5 Apr, Pomona (KM); 11 Apr, m. of Saline Co (JD); 3 May, White Heath (Pitt Co) (RC); 3 May, Henderson Co (CL); 18-20 May, RCA (DJM, m.ob); 21 May, Chi (JL). MC: 10, Pomona, 3 May (KM); 3, Rock Co, 20 May (DW); LD: 31 May, TWFP (DSI); 28 May, Chi (JL).

Bell's Vireo
EA: 6 May (2), Saugeen (DK); 11 May (2), Urbana (RC); 21 May, Rock Co Spy (DW); 28 May, Peru (EW). MC: 3, Carll, 23 & 28 May (KMLS).

Solitary Vireo
EA: 27 Apr, JP (PC et al); 30 Apr (2), Evanston (EW); MC: 7, Palos, 16 May (DSI); 4, DeerG, 6 May (CF). LD: 29 May, Evanston (JF); 28 May (2), TWFP (DSI); 17 May, Carll (KM).

Yellow-throated Vireo
EA: 14 Apr (3), Union Co (KM); 26 Apr, Decatur (Macon Co) (MD); 28 Apr, White Heath (Pitt Co) (RC); 6 May, Rock Island (Rock Island Co) (CL); 8 May, JP (PC). MC: 16, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 7, Palos, 13 May (DSI); 12, 28 May, JP (PC); 28 May, Rock Island (Rock Island Co) (CL).

Warbling Vireo
EA: 14 Apr (3), Union Co (KM); 5 May (2), JP (IL, PC); MC: 19, Clinton Co, 17 May (KM); 10, nw, Champaign Co, 10 May (RC, GL); 7, JP, 31 May (PC).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 3 May, Pomona (KM); 3 May, Carll (DS); 5 May (2), Chi (JL); 13 May, Fishhook (RC); 9, TWFP, 26 May (DSI); 4, Mackinaw, 17 May (FM). LD: 1 Jun (5), TWFP (DSI); 29 May, Chi (EW); 28 May, Carll (DK); 25 May, Urbana (RC).

Red-eyed Vireo
EA: 18 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 26 Apr, Decatur (Macon Co) (MD); 30 Apr, JP (PC, GW). MC: 95, Palos, 30 May (DSI); 40, Urbana, 25 May (RC); 18, Carll, 23 May (KM); 14, Mackinaw, 17 May (FM). LD: 15 Jun, JP (PC); 13 Jun, Chi (EW). Arrived significantly late at many sites.

Blue-winged Warbler
EA: 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 30 Apr, Evanston (EW); 3 May, Mahomet (RC). MC: 12, TWFP, 17 May (DSI); 7, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); 5, Urbana, 8 May (RC). LD: 6 Jun, Chi (JPh); 31 May, IBSP (RC); 25 May, Urbana (RC). Hybrids ("Breweister's Warbler"): 8 May, Chi (Grant Park) (TS, DSI); 11 May (male), JP (RH, PC et al); 17 May, West DuPage Woods (FP (JPh); 26 May, Fermi (JPh); 30 May (male), Wilmette (EW).

Golden-winged Warbler
EA: 30 Apr, Pomona (KM); 7 May (male), Chi (Grant Park) (DSI); 7 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 21, TWFP, 17 May (DSI); 12, Palos, 20 May (WS); 10, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 10, Palat Co, 17 May (RC, GL, EC). LD: 3 Jun (female), Chi (Grant Park) (DSI); 17 May (3), Carll (KM). Widespread in healthy numbers. See Blue-winged Warbler for hybrids.

Tennessee Warbler
EA: 21 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM); 30 Apr, JP (SF); 30 Apr (2), Urbana (RC). MC: 75, Palos, 20 May (DSI); 40, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); LD: 19 Jun, Chg (JL); 15 Jun, Ottowa (LaSalle Co) (C&MJ); 8 Jun, Urbana (RC); 7 Jun (female), TWFP (DSI); 27 May, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KM).

Orange-crowned Warbler
EA: 16 Apr, Urbana (RC); 18 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM); 30 Apr (2), JP (KH). MC: 6, TWFP, 17 May (DSI); 5, RCA, 18 May (DJI; LD: 3 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DSI); 31 May, TWFP (DSI); 18 May (2), Urbana (RC); 5 May, Pomona (KM, DK, JD).

Nashville Warbler
EA: 19 Apr, Atwood (KM); 29 Apr, JP (PC); 30 Apr (12), Urbana (RC); MC: 88, TWFP, 17 May (DSI) - all-time high count, 26, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 23, nw, Champaign Co, 30 May (RC, GL); LD: 11 Jun, Chi (EW); 23 May (3), Carll (KM); 23 May, Urbana (RC).

Northern Parula
EA: 5 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 26 Apr, Henderson Co (C); 28 Apr, Lodge Park (Pitt Co) (RC); 5 May (2), Chg (JL); 13, Jackson Co, 21 Apr (KM); 12, Palos, 20 May (WS); 10, Carll, 28 Apr (DFK); 10, Urbana, 18 May (RC); 7, TWFP, 17 May (DSI); 10 Jun, Wilmette (EW).

Yellow Warbler
EA: 20 Apr, Atwood (KM); 10 Apr (male), JP (KH, PC); 30 Apr,
Chestnut-sided Warbler
EA: 5 May, Pomona (KM, DK, JD); 7 May, Urbana (RC); 8 May (3 males), JP (KHa, PC). MC: 43, TWFP, 17 May (DS); 13, Carl.L, 17 May (KM); 9, RCA, 20 May (EW). LD: 17 Jun, Chi (EW); 2 Jun, Urbana (RC); 23 May (3), Carl.L (KM).

Magnolia Warbler
EA: 1 May, Pomona (KM, DK, JD); 5 May (2), JP (KHa, G&S). LD: 17 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 9, RCA, 20 May (PC); 7, Clinton Co. 10 May (KM), LD: 11 Jun, Chi (JL); 8 Jun (3), Urbana (RC); 23 May (2), Carl.L (KM).

Cape May Warbler
EA: 3 May, JP (DL); 8 May, Clifton Co (KM); 8 May (3), Urbana (RC), LD: 2 Jun (female), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 10 May, Carl.L (DK). Poorly reported, with maxima to 5 birds. "Only warbler that seemed unusually low; had less than 15% of last year's numbers, despite more coverage in May." (DS). 

Black-throated Blue Warbler
EA: 5 May (male), JP (GS, PC et al.); 8 May (female), Urbana (RC; MC: 6, JP, 18 May (PC et al.); LD: 17 Jun, BSIP (MI), 3 Jun (female), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 31 May (female), JP (RC); 16 May (male), Urbana (RC, EC).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler
EA: 6 Apr, Merment LCA (KM); 30 Apr (male), JP (KHa, PC); 2 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 39, Palos, 20 May (DS); 14, RCA, 20 May (EW); 5, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); LD: 7 Jun (female), TWFP (DS); 3 Jun, Rockford (W); 2 Jun, Urbana (RC); 2 Jun, Heyworth (MF, TB); 17 May (4), Carl.L (KM).

Blackburnian Warbler
EA: 30 Apr, Atwood (KM); 4 May (male), JP (PC et al.); 7 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 25, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co); 21 May (RF); 24, Palos, 23 May (DS); LD: 8 Jun, Chi (JL); 25 May, Urbana (RC); 17 May (2), Carl.L (KM).

Yellow-throated Warbler
EA: 27 May, Big Muddy River LEO (Union Co) (DK); 29 May, Pine Hills (Jackson Co) (FDW); 12 Apr, Urbana (RC); 1 May, Sugar River FP (Winnebago Co) (DW). MC: 11, Pomona, 18 Apr (KM); 7, Carl.L; 26 Apr (DK); 1 Lodge Park, (Platt Co), 28 Apr (RC).

Pine Warbler
EA: 22 Mar (2), Pomona (KM); 2 Apr, se. Saline Co (JD); 13 Apr, Farm (fide EW); 15 Apr, Urbana (RC); 19 Apr (male), JP (PC, avab); MC: 4, Jackson Co, 12 Apr (KM); 4, JP, 5 May (PC, WS); LD: 28 May (female), Chi (EW); 25 May, Mundelein (SD); 18 May, Urbana (RC).

Prairie Warbler
EA: 13 Apr, CONWR (KM); 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); 1 May (male), JP (PC). MC: 8, Heron Pond, 27 Apr (KM); LD: 10 May, Mahomet (RC, GL).

Palm Warbler
EA: 29 Mar, Carl.L (DK) - record early arrival; 3 Apr, se. Saline Co (JD); 25 Apr, JP (PC); 26 Apr, Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co) (LH); 26 Apr, Henderson Co (CL). MC: 237, So. DeKalb Co, 10 May (DS) - record sprang high count; 95, Chi, 8 May (EW, WS); 91, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 81, nw. Champage Co, 10 May (RC, GL); 40, Union Co, 3 May (KM), LD: 31 May, JP (PC); 17 May, Monticello (Piatt Co) and Mahomet (RC, GL, RC); 10 May (3), Clinton Co (KM).

Bay-breasted Warbler
EA: 1 May, Mergus LCA (DK, MJ); 3 May, Kaskaskia River (Clinton Co) (DK); 8 May, CBG (DJ); 8 May, Urbana (RC); 11 May (2),


Worm-eating Warbler. Evanston's Pekin Woods, Cook County. 13 May 1997. This bird was here between 10 and 16 May. Photo by Eric Walters.

Blackpoll Warbler
EA: 27 Apr, CONWR (KM); 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); 2 May (male), JP (SF); MC: 16, Palos, 30 May (DS); 9, JP, 25 May (PC, SCa); 7, Carl.L. 17 May (KM). LD: 5 Jun, Chi (EW); 3 Jun, Urbana (RC); 25 May (3), Merment LCA (KM et al.).

Cerulean Warbler
EA: 20 Apr, Pomona (KM); 30 Apr (male), CBG (DJ); 3 May, SRSIP (C&M); 6 May (male), JP (RC); MC: 7, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); 3, Urbana, 18 May (RC); 3, JP, 7 May (KHa, lab). LD: 6 Jun (male), JP (PC); 3 May (female), TWFP (DS).

Black-and-white Warbler
EA: 5 Apr, Pomona (KM); 30 Apr (male), CBG (DJ); 3 May, SRSIP (C&M); 6 May (male), JP (RC); MC: 7, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); 3, Urbana, 18 May (RC); 3, JP, 7 May (KHa, lab). LD: 6 Jun (male), JP (PC); 3 May (female), TWFP (DS).

American Redstart
EA: 20 Apr (2). Union Co (KM); 6 May (2), JP (PC, SF); MC: 75, Carl.L, 28 May (DK); 50, Monticello (Piatt Co) and Mahomet, 17 May (GL, RC); LD: 18 Jun, JP (DA, JR); 13 Jun, Chi (EW); 3 Jun (3), Urbana (RC).

Prothonotary Warbler
EA: 14 Apr (2). Union Co (JD); 14 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 1 May (male), CBG (DJ); 3-9 May, Chi (fide EW); 4 May, Urbana (RT, RC). MC: 18, Union Co, 31 Apr (KM); LD: 2 Jun (male), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 30 May (male), Palos (Swallow Cliff FP) (DS); 23 May, Chi (KH); 20 May, DanWright Woods FP (Lake Co) (SH); 20 May, Pecat (DW); 11 May, Urbana (RC et al.).

Meadowlark
Worm-eating Warbler
EA: 19 Apr (2), Atwood (KM); 4 May, Urbana (RC); 10 May, Zorn (Lake Co) (SH); 18-16 May, Evanston (EW, m, ob); MC: 11, Atwood, 30 Apr (KM), LD: 30 May, Palos (DS, WS); 11 May, Urbana (RC).

Ovenbird
EA: 30 Apr, J.P. (GW); 30 Apr (3), Atwood (KM); 1 May, Urbana (RC); MC: 12, TP, 8 May (PC); 12, nw, Champaign Co, 10 May (GL, RC); LD: 16 Jun, Evanston (EW); 8 Jun, Urbana (RC).

Northern Waterthrush
EA: 27 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM); 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); MC: 26, J.P., May (PC); 20, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 14, Urbana, 3 May (RC); LD: 9 Jun, Grant South FP (CF); 2 Jun, JP (PC); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 25 May, Marmot L CA (KM et al.)

Louisiana Waterthrush
EA: 15 May, Pomona (KM); 5 Apr, SRSP (CW, MC); 16 Apr, Urbana (RC); LD: 13 May, Dan Wright Woods FP (Lake Co) (SH); 13 May, Rock Cut SP (DW). A poor season.

Kentucky Warbler
EA: 25 Apr (6), Pomona (KM); 30 Apr (2), Urbana (RC); 10 May, Wilmot (JE, EW, IM); LD: 11, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); LD: 28 May, TWFP (DS); 1 May, Urbana (RC). Others: 20 May, Rock Cau SP (DW); 17 May (female), SRSP (CW, MC); 17 May, TWFP (DS); 13 May, MArb (fide EW).

Connecticut Warbler
EA: 17 May, White Heath (Pitt Co) (RC, GL, EC); 19 May, Carl L (DK); 22 May, SRSP (CW, MC); 23 May (male), JP (PC et al.); MC: 3, Urbana, 25 May (RC); LD: 12 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 28 May, Carll.L (DK).

Mourning Warbler
EA: 7 May (2), Carll.L (KM); 8 May (male), JP (PC); 8 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 30, Chi (Grant Park), 30 May (DS) - all-time record high count; 10, Chi (Grant Park), 3 Jun (DS); 7, Carl.L, 28 May (DK); 6, Urbana, 25 May (RC); LD: 12 Jun, Carl.L (Grant Park) (DS); 1 Jun (2), Chi (EW); 1 Jun (3), Urbana (RC).

Common Yellowthroat
EA: 18 Apr, Pomona(KM); 21 Apr, Carl L (DK); 1 May, Urbana (RC); 2 May (2), JP (SF, KHa); MC: 51, Chi (Grant Park), 30 May (DS) - a late concentration; 26, JP, 8 May and 18 May (PC); 19, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM); 19, nw, Champaign Co, 10 May (RC, GL); LD: 13 Jun (2), Chi (EW).

Hooded Warbler
EA: 19 Apr, Atwood (KM); 29 Apr (male), JP (KHa, SF); 3 May, Mahomet (RC). MC: 3 (singing males), RCA, 18 May (DS); 2, TWFP, 17 May (DS); 2, JP, 18 May (PC, SF); LD: 3 Jun (female), Chi (UIC campus) (DS); 18 May, Urbana (RC). Poor numbers in so. IL (KM).

Wilson's Warbler
EA: 6 May (male), JP (PC); 8 May, Chi (EW, WS); 8 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 38, Chi (Grant Park), 30 May (DS); 15, Chi (Grant Park), 3 Jun (DS); 10, White Heath and Monticello (Pitt Co), 17 May (RC, GL, EC); 10, JP, 18 May (PC), LD: 18 Jun, Evanston (JE); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 23 May (7), Carl.L (KM).

Canada Warbler
EA: 11 May (male), JP (WS, PCE et al); 14 May, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co) (EW); MC: 22, Chi (Grant Park), 30 May (DS); 11, Palos, 20 May (WS). LD: 10 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 28 May (4), Carl.L (DK).

Yellow-breasted Chat
EA: 30 Apr (3), Pomona (KM); 30 Apr, Carl.L (DK); 6 May, JP (KHa); 8 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 6, Heron Pond, 25 May (KM et al); LD: 13 Jun, Evanston (JE); 2 Jun, Rock Cut SP (DS); 28 May (2), Carl.L (DK).

Summer Tanager, Washington Park, Springfield, IL Sangamon Co. 5 May 1997. Photo by Dennis Oehlme.

Summer Tanager
EA: 19 Apr (2), Atwood (KM); 1 May, MArb (m, ph. fide EW); 2 May, Urbana (RT); 5 May (1st year), Wilmot (EW, ph.); 5 May (1st year male), Ottawa (LaSalle Co) (CW, MC); 4, Atwood, 30 Apr (KM); 3, LChau, 29 May (RB); 2, MArb, 3 May (EO fide EW), LD: 12 Jun (1st year male), Chi (KHa, JPh); 29 May, Urbana (RC); 24-28 May (female), at s. feeder, Inverness (Cook Co) (ph.: TT, CWc); 26 May (male), TWFP (DS); 26 May (1st year), near McLaughlin Spring FP (Cook Co) (EW); 20 May (1st year), Wauk (fide EW). Unusually high number of singles from northern areas.

Scarlet Tanager
EA: 20 Apr, Atwood (KM); 1 May, CBG (DJ); MC: 20, Palos, 30 May (DS); 8, Mackinaw, 17 May (FM); 6, Conkey Woods FP (Cook Co), 26 May (CA). LD: 16 Jun, Evanston (EW); 29 May (2), Urbana (RC).

WESTERN TANGER
LD: 18 May, Arlington Heights (Lake Arlington) (*JB et al.) Fourteenth spring record for IL.

Northern Cardinal
MC: 75, Carll.L, 10 Mar (DK).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
EA: 30 Apr, statewide; Pomona (KM); Queen’s Lake (Clinton Co) (DK); Urbana (3) (RC); Adams Co (KV); JP (male) (KH); MC: 50+, 11 May (RC); 49, Evanston, 17 May (JE); 10, TWFP, 17 May (DS); 18, Chi, 8 May (EW, WS); 17 (at feeder), 6-19 May, Rockford (DW); 10, CarlL, 15 May (KM); LD: 20 Jun (male), JP (KC); 2 Jun (2), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 29 May, Urbana (RC).

Blue Grosbeak
EA: 9 Apr, se. Saline Co (JD); 12 Apr, Pomona (CS, KM); 10 May, Adams Co (KV), MC: 4, Union Co, 5 May (DK), LD: 28-30 May (at feeder); Holcomb, Ogle Co (DW), 25 May (male), EStL (DK).

Indigo Bunting
EA: LA 25 Apr, Boone Co (AB); 25 Apr, Pomona (KM); 28 Apr, CarlL (DK); 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); 3 May, SRSP (CA & MC). MC: 68, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM), 41, nw. Champaign Co, 10 May (RC, GL); 9 (at feeder), Holcomb (Ogle Co), 17 May (DW). LD: 14 Jun (2), Evanston and Wilmette (EW); 11 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC).

Dickcissel
EA: 30 Apr, Pomona (KM): 1 May (at feeder); Mendota (JH); 3 May, Santa Fe (DK); 5-9 May (at feeder); Downers Grove (RF). MC: 21, Union Co, 3 May (KM). LD: 24 May, Chi, EW. Other: 17 May, Henderson Co (GL).

Eastern Towhee
EA: 3 Mar (overwintering?), Lake Co (JS); 8 Mar, Union Co (KM); 26 Mar (male), JP (MT, MS). MC: 19, Chi, 8 May (EW, WS); 13, CarlL, 23 May (KM); 10, CarlL, 23 May (DK). LD: 5 Jun (female), Chi (EW).

American Tree Sparrow

Chipping Sparrow
EA: 22 Mar, Union Co (KM); 30 Mar, Adams Co (KV); 3 Apr (4), Boone Co (AB); 3 Apr, Swallow Cliff Woods (Cook Co) (CT). MC: 32, Union Co, 21 Apr (KM); 23, Brairdwood, 19 May (EW); 21, nw. Champaign Co, 10 May (RC, GL).

Clay-colored Sparrow
EA: 29 Apr, Urbana (RC); 30 Apr, JP (DM, PC). MC: 9, Chi, 18 May (JL); 8, Chi (Grant Park), 8 May (DS); 6 (likely distinct from preceding record), Chi (Grant Park), 10 May (DS); 6, Riverside (Des Plaines River, Cook Co), 3 May (RB); 4, Du Page Co, 17 May (JH), LD: 30 May (2), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 28 May, Chi (DS); 23 May, Chi (GW, IL); 10, Miam, Niac (Macou Co) (MD). Widely reported, with unusually large number of reports from the IL. For second consecutive year.

BREWER’S SPARROW
LD: 25 Apr (overwintered), Chi (Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary) (IL). This bird was found singing throughout the spring, beginning 22 Feb (KH fade RB).

Field Sparrow
EA: 8 Mar (4), Johnson Co (KM); 19 Mar (2), CarlL (DK); 22 Mar, Urbana (RC); 25 Mar, JP (PC). MC: 30, Heron Pond, 19 Apr (KM); 21, Brairdwood, 19 May (EW); 16, JP, 30 Apr (PC). LD: 4 Jun (male), JP (PC).

Vesper Sparrow
EA: 23 Mar (3), Saline Co (JD); 25 Mar, Monroe Co (KM); 26 Mar, Collison (Vermiton Co) (RC); 28 Mar, Rock Island Co (CL); 1 Apr, Chi (Monroese) (KH), LD: 10 May, Clinton Co (KM); 4 May, R/CA (SH). Decreasing numbers.

Lark Sparrow
EA: 19 Apr, Sang L (MD); 19 Apr, Middlefork (3), MC: 5, Green River CA area (Lee Co), 27 Apr (RC); 4, Winnebago Co, 10 May (DW). LD: 5 May (2), Union Co (KM, DK, JD). Others: 29 Apr, Mackinaw (MF); 3 May (2), Union Co (KM); 10 May, DeKalb Co (DS); 19 May, Braidwood (EW).

Savannah Sparrow
EA: 22 Mar, Winthrop Harbor (PSW); 26 Mar (4), CarlL (DK); 27 Mar, JP (PC); 29 Mar, Clin L (RC, MR). MC: 30, Evanston, 8 May (JE); 18, Chi, 8 May (EW, WS); 15, CCNWR, 27 Apr (KM); 12, JP, 8 May (PC). LD: 30 May (3), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 22 May (2), CarlL (DK).

Grasshopper Sparrow
EA: 19 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); 25 Apr, Maittines SP (LaSalle Co) (C&JMC); 26 Apr, Nachusa Grasslands (Lee Co) (RC, mo); 30 Apr, JP (PC), IC: 11, Braidwood, 19 May (EW); 6, CarlL, 28 May (DK). LD: 4 Jun (5), Chi (JU, mo), 18 May, Roscoe (Winnebago Co) (DW).

Henslow’s Sparrow
EA: 14 Apr (3), se. Saline Co (JD); 20 Apr (4), Longreach Road (Pulaski Co) (DK); 26 Apr (4), Nachusa Grasslands (Lee Co) (SB, mo). MC: 5, Plum Creek PF (Cook Co), 10 May (fide EW); Others: 10 May (5), Mahomet (RC, GL). A poor spring.

Le Conte’s Sparrow
EA: 3 Apr (4), Chi (KH); 5 Apr, Clin L (RC); 13 Apr, se. Saline Co (JD); 2 May, JP (KH, PC). LD: 10 May, Rockford (DW); 8 May, Chi (EW, WS). Few reports.

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow
EA: 17 May, Mahomet (GL, RC, FC); 18 May, Chi (Monroese) (AS). LD: 11 Jun, Chi (JP); 23 May, Chi (KH); 23 May, Wilmette (JE, ph.). Few reports.

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow
EA: 19 Feb, JP (PC); 28 Feb, Boone Co (AB). MC: 92, JP, 27 Mar (PC); 60, Wilmette, 28 Mar (JE, 50; CarlL, 10 Mar (DK).

Lincoln’s Sparrow
EA: 25 Mar, JP (PC); 19 Apr, near Utica (LaSalle Co) (CA-Mc); 29 Apr, JP (PC); 30 Apr, statewide. MC: 106, Chi, 18 May; 50 at Grant Park (DS); 31 at JP (PC); 25 at Lincoln Park (EW, WS); 6, Mackinaw, 17 May (MF). LD: 9 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 7 Jun, Heyworth (MF, TB); 6 Jun, JP (PC); 30 May (6), Chi (Grant Park) (DS); a late concentration, 29 May, Urbana (RC), 12 May, CarlL (MK, DK). Record numbers at Chicago.

Swamp Sparrow
EA: 27 Feb, Urbana (RC); 8 Mar (2), CCNWR (KM); 25 Mar (4), Boone Co (AB); 25 Mar (3), JP (PC). MC: 85, Chi (Grant Park), 8 May (DS); 111, De Kalb Co, 10 May (DS); 31, CarlL, 9 Apr (DK); 25, Oakwood, 15 Mar (KM). LD: 10 Jun, JP (PC); 6 Jun, Chi (Grant Park) (DS); 11 May, Urbana (RC); 10 May (4), Clinton Co (KM).

White-throated Sparrow
EA: 5 Apr, JP (PC). MC: 1275, Chi (Grant Park); 10 May (DS) - all-time record high count: 505+, Chi, 8 May (EW, WS); 400+, Urbana, 1-3 May (RC); 51, Jackson Co, 21 Apr (KM). LD: 8 Jun (singing), Urbana (RC); 1 Jun, JP (PC, SCa); 17 May (2), CarlL (KM).
White-crowned Sparrow
EA: 21 Apr, Adams Co (K.V); 26 Apr (6), Chi (IJL); 1 May, Urbana (RC), MC: 30, Chi (Great Park), 10 May (DS); 47, erw. Champlain Co, 10 May (RC, GL), 35, Union Co, 15 Mar (KM), LD: 13 Jun, Chi (RH); 10 May, Carl.L (KM), Other: <s>gouldi</s> form 18-21 May, Chi (JO).

Harris’ Sparrow
Four reports: 5 May, near Shirley (Winnebago Co) (RG); 10 May, near Durand (Winnebago Co) (DW); 10 May, Carl.L (DK, KM); 15-16 May, Wolf Lake (Cook Co) (mobs. IdE, EW).

Dark-eyed Junco
EA: 1 Mar (6), JP (PC): 154, JP, 28 Mar (PC): 100, Carl.L, 10 Mar (DK), LD: 22 May 4 Jun (‘female/region’), Chi (J.P.), EW m. oh., 1 Jun, se. Saline Co (JD), 23 May, more Hills SP (McHenry Co) (RTh).

Lapland Longspur
MC: 1000, Arcola, 22 Mar (RC): 1000, Philo (Champaign Co), 30 Mar (RC), LD: 13 Apr (20+), Ker. Kane Co (G.W, CW), 12 Apr, Campbell’s Airport (Lake Co) (DJ), 12 Apr, Normal (McLean Co) (MF).

Smith’s Longspur
EA: 11 Mar, Gifford (Champaign Co) (RC), MC: 200, Arcola, 22 Mar (RC), 40, Clin. L, 22 Mar (MD), LD: 19 Apr (50+), Bismarck (Vermillion Co) (SB et al.).

Snow Bunting
EA: 19 Feb, JP (PC): 400, near Shirley (Winnebago Co), 15 Mar (BG), 19, LaSalle, 9 Mar (C & IMc), LD: 21 Mar, Evansbn, EW.

Bobolink
EA: 29 Apr, Springbrook Prairie (DuPage Co) (RF), 30 Apr, Pomona (KM), 1 May (male), near Ottawa (La Salle Co) (C & IMc), 3 May, White Heath (Putt Co) (RC), 3 May, Normal (MD), 6 May (3), Boone Co (AB), MC: 41 (all males), near Fallon (St. Clair Co), 2 May (*TD), 22, Buffalo Creek FP (Lake Co), 2 May (DJ), 11, Chi, 19 May (EW), 8, near Durand (Winnebago Co), 10 May (DW), LD: 13 Jun (4), Chi (KHI, EW), Very poor numbers over most of IL.

Red-winged Blackbird

Eastern Meadowlark

Western Meadowlark
EA: 8 Mar, BelN aur (McLean Co) (RC), 20 Mar, so. Clinton Co (KM), MC: 4, near Durand (Winnebago Co), 10 May (DW), LD: 18 May, McHenry Co (Rba).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
EA: 19 Apr (male), L Cal (WM), 23 Apr, Crystal Lake (McHenry Co) (RBa), MC: 6, L Cal, 4-10 May (JL, WM), LD: 29 May (1st year male), Evansbn (EW), 24 May (different 1st year male), Evansbn (EW), Others: 10 May, near Rockton (Winnebago Co) (DW), 11 May (female), Chi (Montrose) (CA).

Rusty Blackbird

Brewer’s Blackbird
EA: 22 Feb, Chil.L (RC), 2 Apr (male), JP (PC), MC: 30, CONWR, 8 May (40), MC: only record of season at that site, 6, Fremont, 19-20 Apr (Dj et al.), LD: 20 Apr, Chi (JL).

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Orchard Oriole
EA: 21 Apr, Union Co (KM), 30 Apr (1st year male), JP (WS, SF), 2 May (male), Urbana (RC), MC: 10, Union Co, 5 May (KM, DK, JD), 7, Mahomet, 10 May (RC, GL), 3, JP, 8 May (KHa, PC), 3, Chi, 24 May (JL), 3, Roseco (Winnebago Co), 18 May (DW), LD: 13 Jun (1st year male), Chi (RH, KHI, EW), 6 Jun (male), Chi (EW), 29 May, Urbana (RB, RC).

Baltimore Oriole
EA: 25 Apr, Pomona (KM), 29 Apr, Carl.L (DK), 1 May (male), Ottawa (La Salle Co) (C & IMc), 2 May (male), Urbana (RC), 5 May (2), Rockford (DW), 5 May (6), Boon Co (AB), 6 May (+), ne. IL, (moh), MC: 39, Urbana, 8 May (RC), 21, Palos, 16 May (DS): 19, Chi, 8 May (EW, WS), LD: 12 Jun (male), JP (PC).

Purple Finch
EA: 1 Mar, Adams Co (KV), 2 Mar (3), Urbana (RC), 7 Mar, Carl.L (DK), 1 Apr, Palos (CtR), 3 Apr (5), JP (SF, PC), MC: 13 (at feeders), se. Saline Co, 30 Mar (JD), LD: 9 May, Chi (EW), 2 May (3), Rockford (DW), 13 Apr (8), Giant City SP (Jackson Co) (KM).

House Finch

Red Crossbill
EA: 22 Mar (3), HSP (AS, PSw), 1 Apr, LChau (RBj, SBj, SCo), MC: 10 (at feeders), LChau, Apr/May (RBj, SBj, SC0), LD: 25 May, LChau (RBj, SBj, SC0).

Pine Siskin
LD: 17 Apr, Urbana (RC), None reported from most sites.

American Goldfinch
EA: 10 Mar (5), Carl.L (DK), MC: 50, Wilmette, 10 May (EW, JE, IM), 44, Jackson Co, 12 Apr (KM).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
30 Mar, Table Grove (Fulton Co) (KM), 1 Apr, Henderson Co (CL),

EXOTICS:

Ringed Turtle-Dove
4 May (flyby, species unidentified), Bend Road (Madison Co) (DK), PH, 11 May, Urbana (RC). See also next entry.

Eurasian Collared-Dove
Documented at Urbana, 24-25 May (*RC, GL), with additional reports from Carl.L and Jacksonville. The IL status of this species vs. the very similar Ringed Turtle-Dove is unknown. Most such doves have been assumed to be feral Ringed Turtle-Doves, but few identifications are backed by details. Both forms may now be colonizing Illinois, and observers are encouraged to take care in identifying, monitoring, and reporting populations. All such data will be considered in a pending IORC review of the status of these forms in IL.

Monk Parakeet
MC: 14, JP, 12 Mar (PC) (but no tallies taken of colonies in adjacent residential areas). No other reports. Note that this species has been present in JP since 1979, and that IORC will re-review this species’ status, with possible addition to the list of accepted Illinois species, in 1999. Observers are encouraged to provide information on populations throughout IL, including long-term stability whenever possible.
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Compiled by Renee Baude

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**ABOUT OUR ADS AND AD RATES**

The rates and rules are as follows:

- **Required materials**: Camera-ready copy and check payable to IOS should be sent to: Sheryl De Vore, 967 Braeburn Road, Mundein, IL 60060.
- **Due dates**: No. 1 - Summer: February 1; No. 2 - Fall: May 1; No. 3 - Winter: August 1; No. 4 - Spring: November 1

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- We welcome manuscripts, photographs, and illustrations for possible publication in Meadowlark.
- Article topics include unusual bird sightings and nesting accounts, technical papers on bird research, and other articles such as bird finding guides and field identification tips. Joy of birding articles will be considered.
- Manuscripts should be typewritten or computer-generated, double spaced and on only one side of numbered pages. Please send two copies of your manuscript and make sure you keep another for yourself.
- If you are able, submit a computer disc in ascii file or for Word Perfect 5.1.
- We prefer clear black and white or color print photographs. Color slides may also be acceptable.

SEND SEASONAL REPORTS TO:

- **Fall Migration** - Due 7 December (1 August - 30 November)
  - Robert Chapel
  - 306 1/2 West Calumet, Urbana, IL 61801
- **Winter Season** - Due 7 March (1 December - 28 February)
  - Robert Danley
  - 2201 Clay Street, Murphysboro, IL 62966
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  - Vernon Kiken
  - Illinois Department of Conservation
  - Natural Heritage Division
  - 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701

- Include name, address, and day and night time phone numbers. Other pertinent information about your qualifications and background is also helpful.
- We reserve the right to review and edit articles according to style, grammar, accuracy, and readability.

Send articles, photographs, and inquiries to:

- Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor
  - 967 Braeburn, Mundelein, IL 60060.
- Pen and ink drawings are also accepted Contact:
  - Denis Kania, 1536 Preston Road Naperville, IL 60563.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Members of the Illinois Ornithological Society receive *Meadowlark*, the quarterly journal, plus *Wings Over The Prairie*, the IOS newsletter. Members are also invited to special field trips, the annual meeting, and other IOS functions.

To join or send a gift subscription, send your name or that of the gift recipient, address, and telephone number along with fee to:

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