

birds appeared on four other Michigan CBCs; 3 migrants in Monroe Co., Wis. on Mar. 3 were rather early (EL). **Mountain Bluebirds** were noted at Lutson, Cook Co., Minn., Jan. 20-24 (fide JCG). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was present Jan. 1-12 in Minneapolis (MH, ETS). Corvids of special interest seen during the CBC period were 3 Black-billed Magpies at International Falls, Minn. and a **Clark's Nutcracker** at Bloomington, Minn.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, WARBLERS—Ruby-crowned Kinglets lingered late in several locales: Sauk Co., Wis., Jan. 1 (TA), Monroe, Mich. and St. Paul, Minn. (CBC). The only Bohemian Waxwings reported were in Price Co., Wis. Dec. 19-20 (MHa) and on Minnesota CBCs at Duluth and International Falls. Some areas reported good numbers of N. Shrikes, but there certainly was no obvious widespread invasion. A **Loggerhead Shrike** in Dane Co., Wis. under observation throughout December was remarkable (TA). A Myrtle Warbler was present at a feeder Dec. 21–Feb. 10 in Midland, Mich. (EEK, RGM, NW), and 3 birds of this species were noted on the CBC at Kalamazoo.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—There were the usual reports of scattered wintering icterids; quite notable among them was an adult ♂ Baltimore Oriole near a feeder in Midland Co., Mich. from Dec. 21–Jan. 7; although one wing drooped slightly, the bird appeared healthy and strong in flight (EEK, NW). Three Cardinals in Forest County on Jan. 31 were somewhat n. of their normal range in n.e. Wisconsin (CR); this species appears still to be increasing slowly in numbers in the n.e. Lower Peninsula (AEV). In marked contrast to last year, winter finches generally were scarce, and a number of observers reported seeing few individuals of those species that did appear. Valentine noted that for the first time in ten years, there were no observations of Pine Grosbeak or of either crossbill from the n.e. Lower Peninsula, and Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins were noted there only three times each. Evening Grosbeaks were present in moderate numbers through most of the Region, except in s. counties, where observations were widely scattered; Am. Goldfinches also were present in good numbers in many areas. Rufous-sided Towhees were more in evidence than is the case some winters. Among the unusual sparrows noted were a Savannah in Waukesha Co., Wis. on Feb. 21 (DG) and a Harris' in Rock Co., Wis. on Jan. 24 (TE). There were quite a few observations of Field and White-throated Sparrows during the season, and among the Fox Sparrows reported was one very far n. in Wisconsin, in Vilas Co., during January and February (LT). Two White-crowned Sparrows near Detroit were unusual (RD, HH), as were 6 at a feeder in Manitowoc Co., Wis. (RC).

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

Boreal species were conspicuously absent this winter and several common winter sparrows were low in numbers except in the extreme n. part of the Region. The freezing rains of last winter,



which made food unavailable for several days in many areas, may have been partially responsible for this year's decline of common winter residents.

Sea ducks, gulls, birds of prey, shrikes, longspurs, and a few summer or fall holdovers made the season interesting. For example, Rough-legged Hawks may have been more common this year than ever before.

The period was marked by a warm, mild De-

ember which led to large numbers of unusual species on the Christmas Bird Counts, (infra "CBCs"). Iowa experienced some freezing rains in early December, but winter weather held back until early January in most of the Region. The n. parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois experienced temperatures averaging 3° to 7° below normal for January through March, and L. Erie was frozen about 60 percent of that time. In the s. areas, continuous winter weather ended about mid-February and was followed by several days of record-breaking warm temperatures. Precipitation for the winter period was low; some areas reported less than 50 percent of their normal amounts.

EXOTICS—An adult ♀ Ruddy Sheld-Duck was present in Louisville, Ky. from Nov. 25 to Dec. 13 (many observers) and again on Dec. 27. Local observers believe it is an escaped bird rather than a European stray. A ♂ Eur. Goldfinch was found with a flock of Am. Goldfinches at a feeder in Wilmette, Ill. on Jan. 31 (HDB et al.) and remained there through most of February (many observers). The bird showed no frayed feathers or signs of having been captive, but is thought to be an escape. (RR).

LOONS, GBEBES, CORMORANT—A single Com. Loon remained on an inland reservoir at St. Joseph, Mo. from mid-November to Dec. 27 (FL), and another at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, on Dec. 27 (CBC). An Arctic Loon was found on L. Taylorville, Christian Co., Ill. on Nov. 29 (HDB). At least 4 Red-necked Grebes were at Crab Orchard L., Ill. in late March; the first 2 appeared on Mar. 20 (GC) and another was photographed on Apr. 2 (VK). Migrant Eared Grebes stopped briefly at Busch Wildlife Refuge, St. Charles Co., Mo., March 18 (JEC et al), and at the Gilmore Ponds near Hamilton, Ohio, on March 28 (HH). Two Double-crested Cormorants remained along the Ohio lakefront long enough for local CBCs.

HERONS, EGRET, BITTERNS—A Green Heron was found on a small pond near Louisville, Ky. on Dec. 25 (BLM) but was gone the next day when the pond froze. A Com. Egret was reported from the Buckeye L., Ohio, CBC. At least 6 Black-crowned Night Herons survived the winter (first known survival for the Chicago area) at Skokie Lagoons (LGB, CC, RR); another bird spent most of the fall at Chautauqua L., Mason Co., Ill. and was still present on Dec. 23 (CBC); 2 were also found Jan. 7-12 at Loraine, Ohio (CEW fide WK). A very unusual sighting of the **Least Bittern** occurred on the Toledo, Ohio, CBC when a bird was flushed three times. On Dec. 30 a freshly killed Am. Bittern was picked up at Ashmore, Coles Co., Ill. and donated to the E. Ill. Univ. Zool. Mus. (CS fide LBH); a live bird was observed in St. Charles Co., Mo. on Jan. 28 (JEC et al).

SWANS, BRANT, GEESE—Several Whistling Swans were noted during the period; 1 was found at the Prairie Creek Reservoir near Muncie, Ind. on Dec. 13 (LC); 2 at Nine Eagles Park near

Lamoni, Ia. into early December (fide WB); 1 immature at Lake Decatur, Macon Co., Ill. from Dec. 29 through the end of the season (HDB); and 2 others at Beaver Creek Embayment near Glasgow, Ky. on Dec. 30 (RS fide ALS). The first migrant swan was seen on March 1 at Waite Hill (e. of Cleveland), and was joined by 48 more the following day (AFI fide WK). An imm. Brant stayed on Baldwin Reservoir (near Cleveland) Dec. 5-21 (PPE fide WK). White-fronted Geese lingered into early December at several places again this winter; 1 immature stayed into late January at the Union County Wildlife Refuge, Ill. (VK, DH). A few spring migrants were found in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. Snow and Blue Geese remained in large numbers at favorite stopping places in w. Iowa and Missouri. At least 50,000 Snow and 30,000 Blues were estimated at Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo. on Dec. 5 (FL), and about 11,000 and 9000, respectively, were still present for the Jan. 2 CBC. There were also 38,000 Snow and 37,000 Blues estimated on the Shenandoah, Ia. CBC; a lone Snow Goose at Holden Arboretum, n.e. of Cleveland, on Dec. 3 was unusual for that area (BB fide WK). One Ross' Goose was found in a large flock of other geese at Squaw Creek Refuge, Mo. on Dec. 5 & 6 (FL, MR).

DUCKS—There were no unusual reports of the dabblers and divers that winter or commonly migrate through the Region, but a ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was found on L. Calumet (Chicago) on Feb. 20 (LGB, CC et al.). Oldsquaws were seen at several inland locations this year, the earliest two at the Hampton Lock and at Dam 14 on the Illinois side of the Mississippi R. on Dec. 20; these two stayed through January (EF); other December and January records included 5 birds in Kentucky along the Ohio R., 4 in Ohio, 2 in Indiana, 3 in Missouri, and several at four different inland locations in Illinois; on Apr. 4, 1200 were present on L. Michigan near Glencoe, Ill. (RR). On Feb. 13 a King Eider (♀) was observed and photographed on Lake Decatur, Ill. (TNe, HDB); another ♀ was shot by a hunter along the Ohio R. near Cincinnati on Jan. 2 and donated to the Univ. of Cincinnati Mus. (JRu fide AW). White-winged Scoters were also found at several inland locations; besides the several found on CBC, 1 was observed at the Louisville, Ky., Boat Harbor on Jan. 9 & 23 (LCB et al.); 1 at Crab Orchard L. from late January (DH) to Feb. 16 (FR); and 2 at Alton Dam, St. Charles Co., Mo. on Jan. 25 (JEC et al); a total of 40 individuals were tallied at Meldahl Dam, Clermont Co., Ohio, on Jan. 10 (MMe fide AW); in L. Michigan, a peak of 200 was found at Glencoe, Ill. on Feb. 16 (RR). One ♀ Surf Scoter was found at the Squaw Creek Refuge, Mo. on Feb. 21 (MR) for the only inland report; 2 other birds were observed on the Cleveland CBC (WK). There were only three reports of Com. Scoters: 1 collected at L. Charleston, Coles Co., Ill. on Dec. 5 (JKI, AFe fide LBH);

another collected on Markley L. in w. Kentucky on Jan. 9 (CP, MMi fide ALS); and 2 reported, but only 1 seen regularly, through Jan. 10 at Cleveland (WK). Red-breasted Mergansers have been declining as wintering birds on L. Michigan (RR) with only 10 found all reason; however, 483 were found on L. Erie during the Cleveland C B C (WK); most of these departed by Jan. 4; on Mar. 4, the first spring migrants arrived at Crab Orchard L. and the total grew to at least 38 on Apr. 2 (VK); over 50 were seen at Sterling, Ill. on March 20 (HAS), and 18 were present at Squaw Creek Refuge the same day.

KITE, HAWKS, EAGLES—An early Mississippi Kite appeared over the Union County Refuge, Ill. on Mar. 1 (DK). Only one Goshawk was reported this year; it was found in n. Illinois (RR). Light phase, intermediate phase and dark phase Harlan's Hawks were reported frequently; 3 birds in different phases were found in Mason Co., Ill. between Nov. 28 and Mar. 13 (HDB); at least one bird was present in Hamilton Co., Ohio, between Dec. 20 and Feb. 6 (HH); 6 were counted during the season between St. Joseph and Squaw Creek Refuge (FL); another appeared at Attica, Ind. on March 30 (RR); and a dark phase individual was found in Alexander Co., Ill. on April 3 (VK et al). Four Broad-winged Hawks were quite unusual for one C B C, but that many were identified at Davenport, Ia.; another bird was seen on the Lexington, Ky. C B C, and there was one found at Westlake (near Cleveland), Ohio, during the period (DS fide WK). A Swainson's Hawk was identified on the Montrose Lake Wildlife Area, Mo. C B C. Rough-legged Hawks may be the success story of the season; record numbers of both light and dark phase individuals were found throughout the Region; this year, 109 were tallied on 29 Iowa C B Cs as compared to only 40 last year (Faaborg, *Iowa Birdlife*, Vol., 41:4); Indiana had 48 birds on 12 C B Cs, and there were 73 found on the DeKalb, Ill. C B C; 30 were seen in a single field in Nodaway Co., Mo. on Dec. 20 (MR); according to the many reporters, Rough-legged Hawks were "unusually common" or "too numerous to keep track of." A Ferruginous Hawk was discovered on the Shenandoah, Ia. C B C; another was observed in Adams Co., Ill. on Jan. 17 (HDB). Golden and Bald eagles continue to make headlines along the Mississippi R. and nearby reservoirs. The following table shows the results of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service January survey:

	Bald Eagle			Golden Eagle		
	Ad.	Imm.	Total	Ad.	Imm.	Total
Illinois	258	116	374	—	1	1
Indiana	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	98	33	131	—	—	—
Missouri	213	156	369	16	2	18
Ohio	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	570	305	875	16	3	19

(There were also 57 unidentified eagles in Mo.)

Another eagle survey, conducted by local ornithological societies on Feb. 20 or 21, showed:

Bald Eagle	Ad.	Imm.	Unk.	Total
Along the				
Mississippi R.	536	182	12	730
Kentucky	28	43	—	71
Squaw Creek				
Refuge, Mo.	27	19	13	59
Total	591	244	25	860
	(71%)	(29%)		

One imm. Golden Eagle was found dead on March 7 at Tiffin, Ohio (JKn). Two Peregrine Falcons were studied closely on C B Cs: one at Shenandoah, Ia. and the other at Princeton, Ill. There were 7 wintering Pigeon Hawks found, 5 in Illinois and 2 in Ohio.

SHOREBIRDS, JAEGER, GULLS—A Pectoral and a Least sandpiper were found as late as Dec. 19 at Prairie Creek Reservoir, Ind. (LC); seven Pectorals were found at Land Between the Lakes, Ky. on this Dec. 22 C B C. A Dunlin was seen at Prairie Creek Reservoir on Dec. 5 (LC); 1 stayed at L. Kincaid, Christian Co., Ill. until Dec. 12 (HDB); 3 were at Big L., Charleston, Mo. on Dec. 18 (Jha); and 40 were seen along the Scioto R. near Columbus, Ohio, on Jan. 30 (HWS). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was observed at Chautauqua L., Ill. on Nov. 28 (HDB). Several observers reported Glaucous Gulls: at least 10 (4 adults, 2 second-year, and 4 first-year) birds at L. Calumet, Chicago, during January (DE); at least 11 at Chautauqua L. from Nov. 28 to Mar. 13 (HDB); 1 or more around Peoria, Ill. from Dec. 27 ((CR) to March 13 (VH); 5 at dams along the Mississippi R. as far south as Alton Dam, Ill.; others at Lorain (CEW) and Cleveland (WK) on Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, respectively; and again later at Cleveland on Feb. 14 (WK). At least 3 imm. Iceland Gulls were at L. Calumet: the first noted on Jan. 3 (DE); an extreme southern record from St. Charles C., Mo. on Jan. 28 (JEC et al) is noteworthy; and another at Gordon Park (Cleveland) on Feb. 21 (WK). A Little Gull was discovered along the Chicago shorefront on Dec. 20 (DE, TNo), and another was identified in the Cleveland area during the C B C period. An unusual sighting of a Black-legged Kittiwake occurred at Hoover Reservoir, Columbus, Ohio, during the C B C period; it was present for a week (TT et al). Word comes from Chicago that the L. Calumet garbage dump was permanently closed on March 10; a new site for gull observations will have to be located.

DOVE, OWLS, FLICKER—A Mourning Dove successfully fledged two young in Cincinnati; the young hatched on Jan. 27 (HK fide AW). Snowy Owls made a slight invasion this year: as far ss. as Calhoun C., Ill. on Jan. 6 (SV); another (dead) at Springfield, Ill. on Jan. 7 (PPa); 1 on a golf course at L. Petersburg, Menard Co., Ill. Jan. 11–Feb. 25 (HDB); 1 along highway 61 near Syrene, Mo. on Nov. 24 (TM); and 1 at the Valparaiso, Ind. air-

port on Jan. 4 (GR fide DB). Long-eared Owls were more common than usual; at least 10 roosted in a pinery near Deerfield, Ill. (LGB, RR), and 9 were found on the Lafayette, Ind. CBC. There was a large influx of Short-eared Owls throughout the Region; 8 were found at L. Calumet on Jan. 16 (LGB, CC, JRo). Comments on Short-eared Owls included "good influx through the end of the period," and "more numerous than normally." Several observers found Saw-whet Owls fairly regularly this year. Two were present at the Sand Ridge Nature Center (Chicago) for several days (many observers); 1 was killed in Calhoun Co., Ill. on Jan. 21 (SV); at least 1 stayed at Squaw Creek Refuge from Jan. 2 through March (MR, FL); 2 were found in mid-March in Jersey Co. Ill. (MS fide SV); in Hamilton Co., Ohio, Ronald Austing banded 11 birds and put radio transmitters on three; unfortunately, all died later; cause of death not determined. Three Red-shafted Flickers were seen on Missouri and Iowa CBCs and 2 others were found at St. Joseph, Mo. on March 14 (FL, JHi).

NUTHATCHES, MIMIDS, THRUSHES—Red-breasted Nuthatches were hard to find this year, but a few were observed on each of 62 of the 131 CBCs in the Region. Mockingbirds appear to be increasing as winter residents in the northern parts of the Region, especially in Ohio. There were several reports of wintering Catbirds; they were found on at least 13 Regional CBCs. Brown Thrashers were also quite common this winter; they were reported from 35 CBCs. Several thrashers survived the entire period at feeders: in Murphysboro, Ill. (VK), Louisville, Ky. (GW), St. Joseph, Mo. (FL), and Columbia, Mo. (IA). A first record for the **Varied Thrush** in Cedar Rapids, Ia. occurred on Jan. 24; the bird remained at a local feeder through the period (LS). Eastern Bluebirds appeared to be slightly more numerous this year on CBCs; the 435 individuals found on Kentucky CBCs was a 35 percent gain over the 340 birds of last year. Two Townsend's Solitaires were found in the w. part of the Region; one was seen during the Shenandoah, Ia. CBC, and the other appeared in St. Joseph on Jan. 1 (FL).

WAXWING, SHRIKE, WARBLERS—On Dec. 13 a Bohemian Waxwing was spotted with a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Wadsworth, Ill. (LGB, JRo). Northern Shrikes appeared at several locations and a few stayed late into the period; besides those reported on 8 CBCs, single birds occurred at L. Calumet on Jan. 16 (LGB, CC, JRo); at Sand Ridge Nature Center, Ill. during the third week of February (fide LGB); at Willoughby, Ohio, on Jan. 25 and Feb. 21 (MS); and at Squaw Creek Refuge on Jan. 17 (FL) and Mar. 7 (MR). An Orange-crowned Warbler was found Dec. 10-22 at Lamoni, Ia. (GDeL); another was at Lexington, Ky. on Feb. 7 (TDC); and a third appeared at Maryville, Mo. on Mar. 1 (MR). A **Cape May Warbler** at Maryville on Oct. 31 remained there until Dec. 11 (MR). At Sanganois Refuge, Mason,

Co., Ill. an Audubon's Warbler was identified and movies were taken on Dec. 19 (HDB et al.). A N. Waterthrush found on the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge, Ohio, CBC was unusual for this time of year; another bird, probably an early migrant, appeared at L. Cumberland, Lexington, Ky. on March 28 (KM, DM).

WEAVERS, ICTERIDS—The Eur. Tree Sparrow seems to be expanding its range northward and eastward. Several individuals were found at L. Petersburg, Menard Co., Ill. during the period, and the Bath, Ill. CBC indicates the following trend during recent years: 1968, 0; 1969, 3; 1970, 21 (PW). An adult ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at Mansfield, Ohio, on Mar. 16 (ARS). Brewer's Blackbirds were found in small numbers on several CBCs; however, an estimate of 63,650 were seen by three different parties on the Montrose Lake Wildlife Area, Mo. CBC.

FINCHES, SPARROWS, LONGSPURS—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported on the Maple Park-Mooseheart, Ill. CBC, and a Dickcissel was observed at a feeder on the Sullivan, Mo. CBC. Evening Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls, and Pine Siskins were scarce this year, but some were found on CBCs as follows: Evening Grosbeak, 29 counts; Com. Redpoll, 8 counts; and Pine Siskin, 11 counts. Only a few additional reports came in for these species; the grosbeaks were seen primarily at feeders; no birds stayed very long. Am. Goldfinches continued their new behavior of visiting feeding trays in Indiana and Ohio; few reports of this have come from other parts of the Region. On Feb. 27 an imm. ♂ Lark Bunting was feeding in a cow lot with several House Sparrows near Flora, Clay Co., Ill. (VK, DH). Le Conte's Sparrows were seen as late as Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 in Mason and Christian Counties, Ill., respectively (HDB). Oregon Juncos were "identified" on 28 CBCs this year and many stayed through January; the latest was a single bird at Racine, Ill. on Feb. 7 (LGB et al). Observers from many of the s. parts of the Region reported that Slate-colored Juncos, White-crowned Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Field Sparrows, and Tree Sparrows were not as common as in previous winters. Chipping Sparrows were reported from a few CBCs this year. A Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Ill. on Dec. 13 (LGB, JRo), and another was found at Pomona, Jackson Co., Ill. on Feb. 5 (VK). One McCown's Longspur was identified in a flock of several Lapland Longspurs on the Lafayette, Ind. CBC. Lapland Longspurs were quite common this winter with several large flocks reported from all states in the Region. At least 6 were found in Fulton County, Ky. on Feb. 13 (TDC), which was the latest date they were reported this year. On Mar. 28 near New City, Sangamon Co., Ill. a flock of 200 Smith's Longspurs were observed (HDB). Snow Buntings were also quite numerous on the CBCs, but only in the n. part of the Region; none were reported for either Missouri or Kentucky.

CORRIGENDUM—The Brown Creeper record on June 13, 1970, for Kankakee, Ill. (*Audubon Field Notes* 24:690) should have been for Kankakee Fish & Game Area, Ind.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION / Robert B. Hamilton

Compared to last year, the winter of 1970-71 was dull. Except for a very few early storms, the weather through January was warmer than usual; in fact, it did not feel like winter at all until February when a series of cold fronts pushed their way to the Gulf. Like the winter weather, many of the northern birds apparently stayed away from our region. There were but few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills, or even Purple Finches. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Golden-crowned Kinglets were relatively difficult to find. On the other hand, some birds were

especially abundant, e.g., the Buteo hawks. More than the usual number of Oldsquaws, Green Herons, orioles, and tanagers were sighted. The relatively mild weather allowed extensive field work to be accomplished by some observers, especially in Louisiana. As a result, several unusual species of wintering birds were found, such as a Lesser Nighthawk, a Kiskadee Flycatcher, and a Golden-winged Warbler. Barnacle Geese were found at Wheeler Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ala., for the second consecutive year.



LOONS, GREBES—Common Loons were apparently not as abundant as last year, since only scattered individuals or small groups were reported. The maximum number reported was 12 at Wood's Reservoir, Tenn. (KD & LD). The second Arkansas record of the Red-necked Grebe was obtained at L. Maumelle, Pulaski Co., Dec. 1, when 1 bird was seen (EH & HH). Eared Grebes, which are regularly sighted in the w. part of our region, were found for the twelfth and thirteenth times in s. Alabama, when single birds were observed, on the Mobile (WG & EL) and Dauphin I. (MG & LM) Christmas Bird Counts (infra "C B Cs").

PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS—Brown Pelicans were reported only from Dauphin I. Ala., where 3-4 occurred daily with a maximum of 11 (6 imm.) present on Dec. 30 and Jan. 18 (LT). A Double-crested Cormorant was observed at the Duck River Unit, Tenn., on Dec. 6 (TOS); thousands were seen in Dauphin I. waters on Feb. 23 (LT). Green Herons seemed more common than usual, with single individuals at Nashville (KG, MM & MB) on Dec. 26 for the third winter record there and at Tuscaloosa (JT) for the second inland Alabama record. Little Blue Herons were reported wintering away from the coast at Wheeler Refuge (MLB & RH) where 4 individuals were seen on Jan. 23; and at Natchitoches, La., where up to 25 birds were seen throughout the winter at Black L. (RBH). Cattle