Lincoln Park’s migratory community has substantially changed over the last century. This community turnover is not likely related to Lincoln Park itself but instead to changes at larger spatial scales. We believe this for a few reasons. First, Lincoln Park is one of many stopover sites for migratory birds and therefore these results could arise from habitat alteration along a species migratory route over time. Second, save for recent native plantings along Lincoln Park’s south pond, the landscape design within Lincoln Park’s original boundaries is relatively unchanged. As a result, community turnover over the last 100 years likely had little to do with the park itself. Third, our results share many similarities to statewide bird population trends over the last 100 years (Walk et al. 2010, Ward et al. 2018). Thus, these data likely reflect how birds have responded to a changing Illinois landscape over the last century.

The landscape throughout Northern Illinois, where Chicago resides, has become more forested and urban in the last 100 years. This landscape benefits some bird species. For example, northern cardinal and red-bellied woodpeckers were rarely observed in northern Illinois in the early 1900s but have expanded their range northward due to increased forest cover (Walk et al. 2010). In their initial surveys, the Walter’s only observed the cardinal once in 1900. Now, both species nest in Lincoln Park and were commonly seen on our surveys (Figure 3). Black-capped chickadee, another species that benefitted from increased forest cover, was the 7th most common species during our survey (Table 2). While we attribute most of the chickadee’s success to increased forest cover, at least part of their increased presence may be because we placed bird houses in Lincoln park to study their nest success at the time of our survey (Bender et al. 2016). Other urban tolerant species such as the chimney swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), European starling, American robin, or common grackle have either increased in frequency throughout the park or remain common (Figure 3), which has also been observed statewide (Walk et al. 2010, Ward et al. 2018).

The red-winged blackbird had one of the greatest frequency increases throughout this 100-year survey. While the species has always been abundant throughout Illinois, red-winged blackbirds were not generally found in urban environments in the early 1900s (Walter 1904, Walk et al. 2010). Instead, the species was mostly found in the historically abundant wetlands and marshes throughout Illinois (Ridgway 1889). With the loss of over 90% of Illinois marsh and wetland habitat in the last century (CITATION), the red-winged blackbird fortunately adapted to a variety of new habitats and now nests around the numerous ponds in Lincoln Park. As a result, the blackbird was the most commonly observed species throughout our survey, though it was only observed a handful on times during the first survey period.

A change in attitudes towards species such as crows and hawks may be why their frequency has increased throughout Lincoln Park. Historically, these species were seen as vermin and frequently persecuted. Now, most Illinois residents indicate they would like to hawk numbers, for example, to increase or stay the same (Walk et al. 2010). While the data was excluded from our own analysis, the previous park surveyors did not detect Cooper’s hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) in Lincoln Park. In recent decades this species has become more urban adapted and is now one the most common hawk species throughout Chicago (McCable et al. 2018). On our survey we commonly detected Cooper’s hawks and observed multiple nesting pairs between 2012–2015. American crow, another historically persecuted species that was rarely seen in Lincoln Park, have greatly increased in frequency and were seen on 89% of days during our survey. Thus, the changes we observed not only reflect changes in the landscape over a century but may also be related to changes in attitudes towards birds as well.

Some species have become less common in Lincoln Park. Historically present year-round in Lincoln Park (Walter 1904), the blue jay has decreased in frequency even though Illinois blue jay populations are stable or increasing (Walk et al. 2010). As a common suburban bird throughout Illinois, we suggest that urbanization surrounding the park has pushed this blue jay to the less urban periphery of Chicago over the last century (Walk et al. 2010). Red-headed woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have also seen a marked decrease from when the first two surveys occurred, which reflects statewide population trends for this species (Walk et al. 2010). Other decreases may be the result of methodological differences between surveys. While we have observed common nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) at dusk throughout Lincoln Park when they are most active, we never detected them on our morning counts. As nighthawks were historically observed in the park, it could be that the historic surveyors conducted counts at varying times, which we did not do.

Recreating historical surveys provides a glimpse into community change over long time spans. The data that we generated, if combined with other sources, can likely be used to answer a variety questions about bird population trends over time. We hope that our efforts in standardizing and compiling these data across the three separate surveys will be useful for others in the future, and potentially may encourage someone to recreate the survey again in the future. If this survey is picked up again in 50 or 100 years, we suggest wearing a hat. Not only does it shield your eyes from the sun, it also protects your head from the bountiful male blackbirds that now defend their nesting territory throughout Lincoln Park.