New World Blackbirds or Icteridae are found in a diverse range of habitats, from open woodlands to marshes to grasslands. The species found in the Chicagoland area are mostly migratory where all species can be found from April to August. The Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brewer’s Blackbird and the Common Grackle are found almost year-round except for the coldest months (January-February). The Rusty Blackbird migrates north in the late winter/early spring and returns south in the fall.

The tree-covered plazas of Millennium Park and the museum campus are great places to look for these birds. Grassland-loving species, such as the Bobolink, can be found in the summer months at Northerly Island Preserve.