

Ridgway, R. 1889. The ornithology of Illinois. Vol. I. Illinois. State Laboratory of Natural History. 520 p.

Ridgway, R. 1895. The ornithology of Illinois. Vol. II. Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History. 202 p.

Ridgway, R. 1915. "Bird-life in southern Illinois." IV. Changes which have taken place in half a century. Bird-Lore 17:191-198.

Risser, P.G., E.C. Birney, H.D. Blocker, S.W. May, W.J. Parton, and J.A. Wiens. 1981. The true prairie ecosystem. US/IBPSynthesis Series, Vol. 16. Hutchinson Ross, Stroudsburg, PA. 557 p.

Schwegman, J. 1983. "Illinois prairie: then and now." Illinois Audubon Bulletin 205:2-14.

U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census. 1989. 1987 Census of Agriculture. Vol. 1 Geographic Area Series, Part 13, Illinois state and county data. 478 p.

Westemeier, R.L. 1986. "Problems in prairie grass management on prairie-chicken sanctuaries in Illinois." page 1. in R.D. Applegate, ed. Proceedings of the First Central Illinois Prairie Conference.

Westemeier, R.L., and W.R. Edwards. 1987. "Prairie-chickens: survival in the Midwest." pages 119-131 in H. Kallman, ed. Restoring America's wildlife 1937-1987. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Sup. Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. 394 p.

Zimmerman, J.L. 1971. "The territory and its density dependent effect in *Spiza americana*." Auk 88:591-612.

TABLE 1.
Relative abundance of prairie birds within Illinois 1850-1989.

SPECIES	Prior to 1900 ¹	1906-09 ² % (rank)	1956-58 ³ % (rank)	1987-89 ⁴ % (rank)	USFWS ⁵ % change
Eastern Meadowlark	abundant	25.5 (2) ⁶	20.0 (2) ⁶	11.8 (2)	-67.0
Dickcissel	abundant	13.1 (3)	8.7 (4)	7.7 (5)	-46.7
Grasshopper Sparrow	abundant	5.9 (5)	5.3 (6)	8.6 (4)	-56.0
Bobolink	abundant	25.8 (1)	9.7 (3)	11.4 (3)	-90.4
Henslow's Sparrow	abundant	<1.0 (15)	<1.0 (14)	1.6 (12)	?
Red-winged Blackbird	very common	9.9 (4)	36.2 (1)	26.8 (1)	-18.8
Greater Prairie-chicken	very common	<1.0 (13)	0.0 (16)	0.0 (16)	?
Upland Sandpiper	very common	2.3 (9)	<1.0 (12)	<1.0 (13)	-16.8
Vesper Sparrow	common	1.3 (11)	1.4 (10)	<1.0 (15)	+12.1
Horned Lark	common	4.9 (6)	4.8 (7)	<1.0 (14)	0.0
Field Sparrow	common	4.0 (7)	2.9 (9)	5.6 (7)	-52.6
Song Sparrow	common	2.6 (8)	1.0 (11)	3.3 (10)	-29.3
Savannah Sparrow	common	2.3 (10)	5.8 (5)	3.5 (9)	-58.9
American Goldfinch	common	1.2 (12)	3.1 (8)	4.7 (8)	-42.8
Common Yellowthroat	common	<1.0 (14)	<1.0 (15)	5.8 (6)	-8.8
Sedge Wren	common	<1.0 (16)	<1.0 (13)	2.8 (11)	-22.5

¹ based on the works of Nelson (1876) and Ridgway (1873, 1889, 1895).

² based on the censuses of Gross and Ray from approximately 940 acres of ungrazed grass, mixed-hay, and pasture, located in northern and central Illinois (Forbes 1913, Forbes and Gross 1922).

³ based on the censuses of Graber and Graber (1963) from approximately 715 acres of ungrazed grass, mixed-hay, and pasture, located in northern and central Illinois.

⁴ based on censuses from the current study of approximately 1,000 acres of ungrazed prairie and agricultural grasslands in north-eastern and east-central Illinois.

⁵ estimated population change within Illinois between 1967-1989 based on United States Fish and Wildlife Service's breeding bird survey (USFWS, unpublished data).

⁶ relative abundance estimates are for Eastern and Western Meadowlarks combined.

⁷ present on too few routes for accurate trend analysis.



Editor's Note: James Herkert wrote this article for Meadowlark based on a previous article he wrote titled, "Prairie Birds of Illinois: Population Response to Two Centuries of Habitat Change," which was published by the Illinois Natural History Survey. The article appeared as a chapter in "Our Living Heritage: The Biological Resources of Illinois."