

two of those species were known to breed on the site, including 7 endangered and 2 threatened (IESPB 1994).

The wetlands surveyed were created in 1994 and 1995, so the surrounding vegetation was poorly developed. Nevertheless, four state-listed species were recorded on them in 1995 during spring migration: one American Bittern, an adult and an immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron, and two Black Terns. At least four pairs of King Rails bred in Jasper County in 1995, based on brood observations.

In 1996, state-listed migrants included an immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, two Black Terns, two Great Egrets, an adult and a "calico" immature Little Blue Heron, and a Wilson's Phalarope. A vagrant Purple Sandpiper was observed in Marion County on 15 May 1996. One pair of American Bitterns and at least six pairs of King Rails nested in Jasper County in 1996. One pair of Least Bitterns was observed in Marion County in July, but no nest or juveniles were found. Nesting Mallards were common in both counties in both years and a young brood of Blue-winged Teal was observed in Marion County in 1996. Dozens of species of waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as Soras and Virginia Rails were observed as migrants on the wetlands.

Herkert et al. (1993) listed 10 Illinois prairie birds as highly or moderately sensitive to grassland fragmentation. This is the only site in Illinois where all 10 can be found, and 8 of the 10 have been documented as breeding species.

Throughout the grasslands during summer, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, American Goldfinches, Dickcissels, and Eastern Meadowlarks were common to abundant.

Sedge Wrens are quite abundant on the grassland areas once they arrive, typically in late June. Sedge Wrens breed on the site. Most nests found are "dummy nests," so it is unclear what proportion of these late-arriving birds actually breed.

The Western Meadowlark is a rare winter resident, and a single male was recorded throughout June and July of 1995, but breeding was not confirmed. The Bobolink is a common migrant, and territorial males remain until about 10 June each spring before leaving. A predated nest bowl, possibly a Bobolink's, was found in 1996. Jasper County is at the extreme of breeding range for both Western Meadowlarks (Applegate and Willms 1987) and Bobolinks (Bohlen 1989).

Besides the aforementioned and relatively common fragmentation-sensitive Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Sedge Wren, Savannah Sparrows are found in low numbers each year (3 to 6 pairs) in Jasper County, which again is at the extreme southern edge of the species' breeding range (Bohlen 1989). Eight and 10 pairs of Upland Sandpipers were recorded in 1995 and 1996, respectively. About 45 North-

ern Harrier nests have been located since 1990 at Prairie Ridge SNA. Eight nests were found in 1995 and 4 in 1996. Henslow's Sparrows have been present yearly since at least 1994. Thirty-three displaying males were documented in 1995, increasing to 41 males in 1996. The number of Greater Prairie-Chickens has increased following translocations since 1993 for genetic and demographic enhancement. The estimated fall 1996 population was about 200 birds (pers. obs.).

Two species of endangered grassland owls breed on the area. Short-eared Owls were not recorded nesting in 1995 or 1996, but 16 nests have been found since 1990. A pair of Barn Owls nested at one location in 1995 and 1996.

In the shrubby areas, three notable species were recorded. Seven pairs of Bell's Vireos and five pairs of Blue Grosbeaks were found in 1996 in Jasper County. Loggerhead Shrikes are fairly common in both Jasper County and Marion County and are frequently found nesting in yards. My roadside shrike survey in Jasper County yielded at least 12 pairs along the roadsides of 19 square miles encompassing the Jasper County grasslands from 1994-1996.

**Table 1. Estimated breeding populations (pairs) of some species at the Jasper County unit of Prairie Ridge State Natural Area.**

Species	1995	1996
Dickcissel	300*	350*
Eastern Meadowlark	200*	175*
Field Sparrow	100*	85*
Grasshopper Sparrow	120*	90*
Greater Prairie-Chicken, <i>endangered</i>	41	65
Henslow's Sparrow, <i>endangered</i>	33	41
King Rail, <i>threatened</i>	4	6
Loggerhead Shrike, <i>threatened</i>	13	12
Northern Harrier, <i>endangered</i>	7	3
Sedge Wren	150*	150*
Upland Sandpiper, <i>endangered</i>	5	7

\* represents estimates based on transect censuses—  
other species measured by direct censuses.