

1963). However, one of the most striking changes in the Illinois landscape over the last 100 years has been the loss of pasture, hay, and small grains (Ward et al. 2008a). In 1900, these three habitats accounted for 50% of the state's area, but by 2000 had been reduced to just 7% (Ward et al. 2008a). The loss of these secondary grasslands—mostly to row-crop agriculture—has undoubtedly displaced relatively large numbers of grassland birds within Illinois.

Wetland birds are not well sampled by the BBS's roadside survey methodology (Herkert 1995), and therefore the wetland bird guild trend included here may be somewhat misleading. BBS data suggest that the status of wetland birds in the state may be relatively good with a positive overall mean trend and more increasing than decreasing species (Table 2). However, this pattern is largely driven by a few species that are showing large estimated population increases such as Canada Goose and Great Egret (Table 1). Recent analyses of long-term data focused specifically on wetlands in northeastern Illinois, however, have shown that a majority of wetland bird species in this area are significantly declining with populations of Common Moorhen, American Coot, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-winged Teal, Black Tern, Sora, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Least Bittern all showing signs of significant population declines (Ward et al. 2008b). All seven of these species are too rarely detected on the BBS within Illinois for reliable trend estimation.

BBS data can be viewed as indicators of the overall health of regional bird communities (Peterjohn and Sauer 1994), and as such these data indicate that grassland birds are not doing well within Illinois. For other groups of birds, overall trends appear to be better but all of these groups include individual species that are showing signs of significant population declines within Illinois and therefore may need some conservation attention.

Table 1, continued

Species	Migratory Strategy ^a	Habitat Association ^b	Population Trend (%/year)	Number of BBS Routes in Illinois
Chimney Swift	LDM	Urban	-3.6**	100
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	LDM	Wood	8.4*	45
Belted Kingfisher	LDM	Wet/Open	1.2	57
Red-headed Woodpecker	SDM	Wood	-5.6**	95
Red-bellied Woodpecker	PR	Wood	1.9*	96
Downy Woodpecker	PR	Wood	-1.0	89
Hairy Woodpecker	PR	Wood	2.0	50
Northern Flicker	SDM	Wood	-2.7**	95
Pileated Woodpecker	PR	Wood	3.9*	26
Eastern Wood-Pewee	LDM	Wood	0.1	97
Acadian Flycatcher	LDM	Wood	-2.3	26
Willow Flycatcher	LDM	Shrub	-1.7	64
Eastern Phoebe	SDM	Wood	6.4**	89
Grt. Crested Flycatcher	LDM	Wood	-0.4	93
Eastern Kingbird	LDM	Shrub	-0.4	100
Loggerhead Shrike	SDM	Shrub	-4.3*	34
White-eyed Vireo	LDM	Shrub	-0.2	31
Bell's Vireo	LDM	Shrub	3.6	20
Yellow-throated Vireo	LDM	Wood	1.8	54
Warbling Vireo	LDM	Wood	2.6**	98
Red-eyed Vireo	LDM	Wood	0.8	78
Blue Jay	SDM	Urban	-2.3**	100
American Crow	SDM	Wood	-0.7	101
Horned Lark	SDM	Grass	-2.5**	96
Purple Martin	LDM	Urban	-0.9	76
Tree Swallow	SDM	-	6.3	56
N. Rough-winged Swallow	LDM	-	2.5*	89
Bank Swallow	LDM	-	-0.4	22
Cliff Swallow	LDM	-	11.7**	46
Barn Swallow	LDM	-	0.3	101
Carolina Chickadee	PR	Wood	-0.5	30
Black-capped Chickadee	PR	Wood	-1.1	58
Tufted Titmouse	PR	Wood	0.2	83
White-breasted Nuthatch	PR	Wood	1.8	85
Carolina Wren	PR	Shrub	5.7**	67
House Wren	LDM	Shrub	1.8*	96
Sedge Wren	SDM	Grass	19.5	22
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	LDM	Wood	-0.9	60
Eastern Bluebird	SDM	Shrub	6.1**	91
Wood Thrush	LDM	Wood	-1.0	76
American Robin	SDM	Urban	2.5**	101
Gray Catbird	LDM	Shrub	0.3	98
Northern Mockingbird	PR	Urban	1.0*	72
Brown Thrasher	SDM	Shrub	-1.2*	98
European Starling	SDM	Urban	0.5	101
Cedar Waxwing	SDM	Wood	8.7**	93
Northern Parula	LDM	Wood	4.4	34
Yellow Warbler	LDM	Shrub	4.4*	70
American Redstart	LDM	Wood	5.1	19
Prothonotary Warbler	LDM	Wood	4.1	20
Kentucky Warbler	LDM	Wood	-4.6	24
Common Yellowthroat	LDM	Shrub	-0.8	101
Yellow-breasted Chat	LDM	Shrub	-1.8	50
Summer Tanager	LDM	Wood	9.6**	26
Scarlet Tanager	LDM	Wood	1.8	48
Eastern Towhee	SDM	Shrub	0.6	80