Table 1, continued

Species	Migratory Strategy ^a	Habitat Association ^b	Population Trend (%/year)	Number of BBS Routes in Illinois
Chipping Sparrow	LDM	Urban	6.5**	101
Field Sparrow	SDM	Shrub	-2.2**	95
Vesper Sparrow	SDM	Grass	-0.5	70
Lark Sparrow	LDM	Shrub	4.0	26
Savannah Sparrow	SDM	Grass	-7.8*	41
Grasshopper Sparrow	LDM	Grass	-6.6**	86
Song Sparrow	SDM	Shrub	0.4	101
Northern Cardinal	PR	Shrub	0.1	101
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	LDM	Wood	-0.1	81
Blue Grosbeak	LDM	Shrub	6.2*	33
Indigo Bunting	LDM	Shrub	-0.1	101
Dickcissel	LDM	Grass	-1.6*	99
Bobolink	LDM	Grass	-9.5**	41
Red-winged Blackbird	SDM	Wet/Open	-0.1	101
Eastern Meadowlark	SDM	Grass	-0.9*	99
Western Meadowlark	SDM	Grass	-0.7	47
Common Grackle	SDM	Urban	1.5*	101
Brown-headed Cowbird	SDM	-	1.1	101
Orchard Oriole	LDM	Shrub	-0.7	78
Baltimore Oriole	LDM	Wood	-0.6	101
House Finch	SDM	Urban	11.7**	99
American Goldfinch	SDM	Shrub	1.1	101
House Sparrow	PR	Urban	-4.1**	101
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	PR	Urban	2.9	25

^aMigratory Strategies: LDM = long-distant migrant, SDM = short-distance migrant, PR = Permanent Resident.

^bHabitat Associations: Grass = grassland habitats, WET/OPEN = wetland and open water habitats, Shrub = shrubland and early successional habitats, Wood = woodland habitats, and Urban = urban habitats.

Table 2.

Recent (1980-2006) population trends for Illinois breeding birds summarized by habitat association and migratory guilds. Only breeding bird species that occurred on 14 or more Illinois BBS routes are included. Species guild assignments are shown in Table 1.

Guild	Number of breeding species on BBS (>14 routes)	Percentage of breeding species Increasing on BBS (%)	Mean annual BBS population trend 1980 – 2006 Mean (SE)		
HABITAT ^a					
Grassland	10	10.0	-1.24	(2.52)	
Shrubland/Successional	24	54.2	+1.15	(0.65)	
Urban	14	64.3	+11.30	(10.28)	
Wetland & open water	9	88.9	+4.63	(1.63)	
Woodland	38	60.5	+2.39	(0.87)	
MIGRATION					
Long-distance migrants	46	52.2	+1.10	(0.67)	
Permanent residents	20	65.0	+8.61	(7.23)	
Short-distance migrants	35	62.8	+2.66	(1.03)	

a Excludes the Brown-headed Cowbird (which is a nest parasite of birds in all habitats) and swallows.

From a broader view, the National Audubon Society's recent State of the Birds Report (Butcher and Niven 2007) found that 6 of the nation's top 10 declining common bird species have significant parts of their range within Illinois (Pollock 2008). Therefore stabilizing bird populations here in Illinois may provide broad population benefits for these declining species. Research is showing what it may take to stabilize bird numbers in Illinois (Pollock 2008). Resources, political will and concerned and observant management can reverse these declines, but as Pollock (2008) recently pointed out - it won't be easy.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to the U.S. Geological Survey for supplying the BBS trend data. Also deserving special recognition are the hundreds of BBS volunteer observers whose dedicated work over the years has provided the data necessary to estimate these trends.

Literature Cited

Butcher, G.S., and D.K. Niven. 2007. Combining data from the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey to determine the continental status and trends of North America birds. National Audubon Society, New York NY. http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/CBID/report.php.

Graber, R. R. and J. W. Graber. 1963. A comparative study of bird populations in Illinois, 1906-1909 and 1956-58. Ill. Nat. Hist. Bull., 28:383-519.

Herkert, J. R. 1991. Prairie birds of Illinois: population response to two centuries of habitat change. Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Bull., 34:393-399.

Herkert, J.R. 1995. An analysis of Midwestern breeding bird population trends: 1966-1993. American Midland Naturalist 134:41-50.

National Audubon Society. 2007. The 2007 Audubon Watchlist. (available at http://web1 audubon. org/science/species/watchlist/index. php).