

Distribution Patterns

Figures 4, 5, and 6 represent just one way we can use Spring Bird Count data to illustrate the distribution of species in the state. It is not too surprising that Blue Grosbeaks are more common in the southern portions of Illinois and there are many species whose north to south distribution would indicate they are more common either in the north or the south. However, a possibly more interesting illustration is that both Black-throated Blue and Cape May Warblers appear to be much more common in the eastern half of the state as opposed to the western half. Through time we can investigate how the migratory routes of many warblers and other species may respond to changes in both Illinois's landscapes and climate.

Figure 4. The relative distribution of Blue Grosbeak in Illinois over the last 35 years. The darker colors indicate that the species is more common (# of birds per 10 party hours) in these locations.

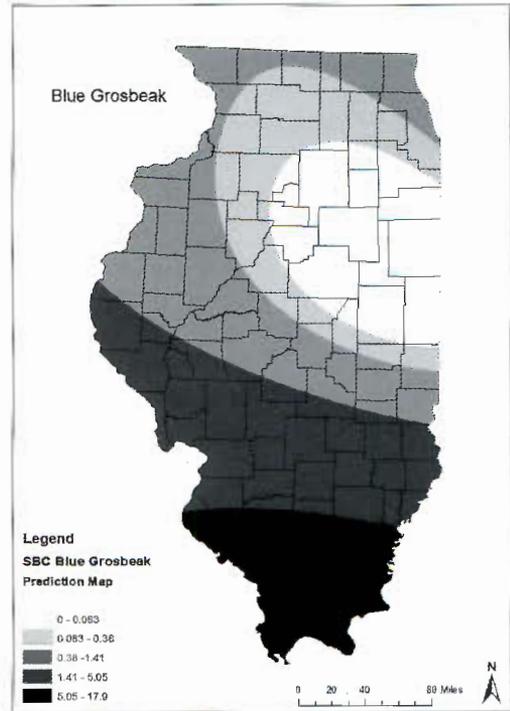


Figure 5. The relative distribution of Black-throated Blue Warblers in Illinois over the last 35 years based on Spring Bird Count data. The darker colors indicate that the species is more common (# of birds per 10 party hours) in these locations.

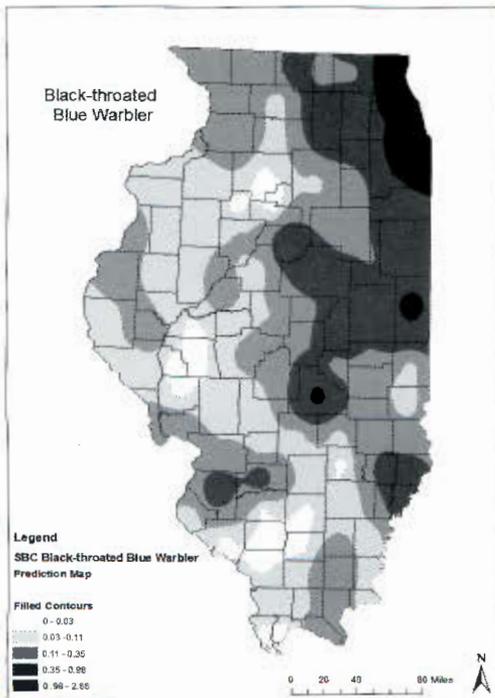


Figure 6. The relative distribution of Cape May Warblers in Illinois over the last 35 years based on Spring Bird Count data. The darker colors indicate that the species is more common (# of birds per 10 party hours) in these locations.

