

port wetland restoration along our rivers as a means of purifying our waters, controlling flooding and attracting wildlife including the state-endangered Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern and Pied-billed Grebe.

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*Editor's Note: Next issue, we'll look at how the wetlands project has affected migrating birds in the area in part 2 of Dr. Hickman's report.*

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## State First:

# Red-breasted Merganser Breeds for the First Time In Illinois

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by Sheryl De Vore

Ralph Herbst had been watching the female Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) all summer ever since he spotted her and a male the week of June 7 last year in Cook County. Herbst, president of the Evanston North Shore

Bird Club, was doing a breeding bird atlas near ponds behind a sewage treatment plant, of all places, on Pershing and Austin roads in Stickney.

The male merganser disappeared after June 14, but the female remained.

On August 4, Herbst saw the female merganser swimming, then walk off shore to preen. "And much to my amazement, a smaller, chocolate brown duck stumbled out of the water and stood beside her, also preening," recalled Herbst.