



Wild Turkey flock near southeast JoDaviess County. 6 March 2004. Photo by Eric Walters.

Hooded Merganser

EA: 2 Mar (2 males), JP (SC); 12 Mar (6), Nelson M (ES); 22 Mar (7), Candlewick I. (Boone Co) (AB). **MC:** 13, Chau, 12 Mar (R&SBj); 12, CrabOr., 3 Mar (KAM); 12, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington (Cook Co), 27 Mar (GW); 12, Palos West Elementary School slough, Palos, 3 Apr (WS). **LD:** 28 May (2 females), HL (FH); 18 May (female), JP (SC); 2 May, Carl.C (DK).

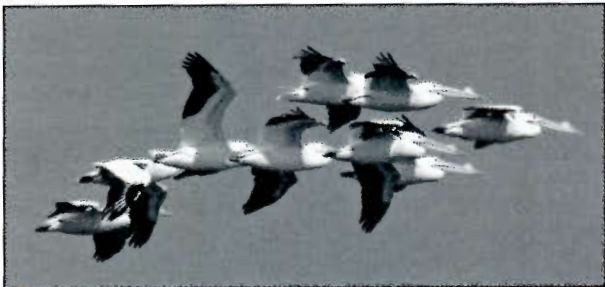
Common Merganser

EA: 20 Jan (442), Rainbow Beach & JP (SC); 6 Apr (23), Candlewick I. (Boone Co) (AB). **MC:** 442, as above; 400, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 1 Mar (JC); 350+, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 3 Mar (WS); 80, CrabOr., 28 Feb (KAM); 31, Marshall State FWA (Peoria Co), 21 Mar (AA). **LD:** 15 May (female), McGinnis Slough, Palos (WS, KW); 2 May, HL (FH). **Others:** 3 Jun (male, possibly summering, present at least three weeks), Widewaters of the Des Plaines R (Will Co) (DFS).

Red-breasted Merganser

EA: 28 Feb (20), CrabOr. (KAM); 29 Feb (138), JP (PC). **MC:** 707, JP, 14 Apr (PC); 590, Palos, 21 Mar (DFS); 102, Chau, 19 Mar (R&SBj)—record high for weekly census route 1996-2004 (R&SBj); 30, Carl.C, 27 Mar (DK); 20, CrabOr., 28 Feb (KAM). **LD:** 29 May (3 females), Rainbow Beach (DFS); 9 May, Carl.F (DK, MkS); 2 May (2), CrabOr. (KAM).

Ruddy Duck



Flock of American White Pelicans at Sanganois Conservation Area, Mason County. 19 March 2004. Photo by Eric Walters.

EA: 19 Feb (female), L Decatur (TAM); 22 Feb (male), JP (SC); 3 Mar (30), CrabOr. (KAM). **MC:** 10,166, Chau & Clear I. (Mason Co), 26 Mar (R&SBj)—**second highest IL count** (after a count of 20,000 at Chau on 16 Apr 1964); 2100, HL, 29 Mar (KAM); 1130, Hennepin L, 23 Mar (DFS). **LD:** 30 May (9), HL (FH); 22 May (2), Paul Douglas FP, Palatine Twp (Cook Co) (KAM); 21 May, Spoon L (Knox Co) (EW:ph).

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 18, Ford Co, 15 May (DFS); 15, DeKalb Co, 28 Mar (DFS); 9, e. Kankakee Co, 24 Apr (DFS); 2, Seminary Twp (Fayette Co), 16 May & 22 May (DK).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

MC: 18 (males), Pr.Rdg (Marion Co), 10 Apr (MAH); 17 (9 males, 8 females), Pr.Rdg, 4 Apr (MAH).

Wild Turkey

MC: 57 (two flocks in corn fields), se. Jo Daviess Co, 6 Mar (EW:ph); 50, Jefferson

Co, 25 Mar (KAM); 40, Chinquapin Psv, 13 Mar (MF); 22, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co), 8 May (CA).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 35, Union Co, 8 May (SB, AS); 17, Karl Bartel Sanctuary (Marion Co), 10 Apr (MAH); 12, McDonough Co, 8 May (LLH); 8, Pembroke Twp (Kankakee Co), 24 Apr (DFS). No reports from n. IL. **Remarks:** Best numbers in several years at McDonough and Fulton Cos (LLH).

Pacific Loon

EA: 18 Apr, Union Co (KAM)—only the second spring-season record for IL.

Common Loon

EA: 11 Mar (3), Rend L (KAM); 16 Mar, L Decatur (TAM); 24 Mar, Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co) (SB); 27 Mar (3), Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 30 Mar, Rock Cut (DTW). **MC:** 11, L Decatur, 25 Mar (TAM); 7, L Shel., 27 Mar (TAM); 6, CrabOr., 9 Apr (KAM); 3, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 27 Mar (DJS). **LD:** 5 Jun, L Springfield (Sangamon Co) (GW); 2 Jun (breeding plumage), GrantP (DFS); 21 May, Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co) (EW:ph); 5 May, CrabOr. (KAM, MkS, RH).

Pied-billed Grebe

EA: 28 Feb (3), Mermet L (TAM, KAM); 1 Mar, Wolf L, LCal (CM); 6 Mar, Montrose H (UG); 8 Mar, Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC:** 62, Hennepin L, 30 Apr (DFS); 55, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 13 Apr (WS); 25, Mermet L, 7 Apr (KAM); 20, Chau, 23 Apr (R&SBj). **LD:** 23 May, JP (PC); 8 May (2), Carl.C (DK).

Horned Grebe

EA: 2 Mar, L Shel. (TAM); 6 Mar, Moline (Rock Island Co) (EW); 11 Mar, Mermet L (KAM); 14 Mar (3), JP (PC). **MC:** 31, L Vermilion (Vermilion Co), 2 Apr (EW); 10, L Decatur, 16 Mar (TAM); 9, Rend L, 20 Mar (KAM); 5, JP, 24 Mar (PC, SC); 5, Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co), 24 Mar (SB). **LD:** 4 Jun (non-breeding plumage), Rainbow Beach (DFS); 16 Apr, JP (SC); 4 Apr (2), Grassy L (Union Co) (KAM).

Red-necked Grebe

EA: 1-2 Apr (adult), Busse Wds FP, Elk Grove Village (Cook Co) (AA, Robert E. Fisher, Karen Fisher). **LD:** 18 Apr, Carson Slough (Kane Co) (ES).

Eared Grebe

EA: 24 Mar, JP (SC); 1 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KAM); 7-11 Apr (near-breeding plumage), Tuscola (Douglas Co) (SB). **LD:** 19 May, Hennepin L (DFS); 16 May, Spunky Bottoms (Brown Co) (DTW); 5 May, Mermet L (KAM, MkS, RH).

Western Grebe

LD: 8 May, Boone Co (*AB).

American White Pelican

EA: 28 Feb, Grassy L (Union Co) (KAM, TAM); 2 Mar (13), L Shel. (TAM); 6 Mar (20), Albany (Whiteside Co) (EW). **MC:** 1750+, Lacon (Marshall Co), 21 Mar (AA); 650, Illinois R (Will & Grundy Cos), 28 Mar (DFS); 611, Chau, 16 Apr (R&SBj); 600, Mel Price L&D, Madison Co, 30 Mar (FH). **LD:** into Jun (3), LCal (WM); 3 Jun (15), Hennepin L (DFS); 16 May (6), Fishhk (TAM); 15 May (6), Carl.F (UG, TAM). A remarkable amount of data submitted as this species continues its expansion in IL.

Double-crested Cormorant

EA: 3 Mar (6), Rend L (KAM); 17 Mar, Charleston Reservoir (Coles Co) (RB); 20 Mar (30), LCal (SC). **MC:** 20,000, Rend L, 12 Apr (KAM)—**record IL high count**, exceeding by 3000 birds the record set at this site last spring; 1077, Chau, 16 Apr (R&SBj); 706, JP, 8 May (PC, SC); 700, Carl.C, 17 Apr (DK).

American Bittern

EA: 26 Mar, Pr.Rdg (MAH); 6 Apr, Decatur (TAM, MD); 17 Apr, Pecatonica (DTW); 18 Apr, Lockport Prairie (Will Co) (CA). **MC:** 15, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 24 Apr (TAM, SB et al.)—**IL high count**, with all previous highs (7-10 birds) also from Jackson Co; 2, Decatur, 10 Apr & 21 Apr (TAM, DK, MD); 2, Burnham Prairie, Burnham (s. Cook Co), 25 Apr (WM, CT, m.ob.); 2, GrantP, 6 May (DEW). **LD:** 20 May, Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 19 May, Montrose H (GW); 19 May, Goose L Pr. (JC); 15 May, Carl.C (DK, IOS).

Least Bittern

EA: 15 Apr, Mermet L (KAM); 24 Apr, Jackson Co (SB et al.); 19 May, Hennepin L (DFS); 20 May (female), Decatur (TAM). **LD:** 29 May (female), Carl.C (DK); 23 May, ChiBotGdn (JK). Singles only.

Great Blue Heron

EA: 3 Mar, McGinnis Slough, Palos (WS); 7 Mar (3), Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC:** 130, Will Co, 27 Mar (DFS); 127, Clear L (Mason Co), 16 Apr (R&SBj); 75, Carl.C, 4 Apr (DK).