

### Red-breasted Merganser

EA: 24 Feb (2), Carl.C (KAM); 29 Feb (4 males), LeVasseur P (JBH); 1 March, Montrose H (SSph). MC: 1400, Carl.C, 20 Mar (DMK, MSS); 500, Chi, 15 Mar (TAM); 188, Chau, 4 Apr (RG&SNB). LD: 27 May (2), Montrose H (GAW); 10 May (female), Clinton Co (KAM); 10 May (7), JP (OSM); 9 May (female), Rochelle (Ogle Co) (EWW); 29 Apr, Crab Or. (LW); 27 Apr (female), Grafton (Jersey Co) (EWW); 12 Apr (8), Baldwin L (TJD).

### Ruddy Duck

EA: 4 Mar, JP (PRC); 13 Mar (4), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AGD). MC: 5000, Carl.C, 20 Mar (DMK, MSS); 2159, Chau, 4 Apr (RG&SNB); 820, HL, 7 Apr (TJD); 320, Hennepin L, 22 Mar (DFS); 310, New Athens (St. Clair Co), 18 Mar (TJD); 18, McGinnis Slough (Cook Co), 10 May (WSS); 3 (males), JP, 9 Apr (PRC et al.). LD: 24 May (6), Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co) (EWW); 23 May (9), LCal (WJM); 21 May (10), E. Cape Girardeau (SDB); 19 May (4 - 2 pairs), L Decatur dredge ponds (TAM); 18 May (2), Santa Fe Btms (DMK, MSS); 23 Apr (pair), JP (KMC, PRC).

### Gray Partridge

None reported.

### Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 30, Nachusa Grs, 19 May (EWW); 15, Mackinaw Bluffs, 10 May (MJW); 7, Iroquois Co, 3 May (DFS); 6, Kankakee Co, 24 Apr (JBH).

### Greater Prairie-Chicken

MC: 44 & 39, PrRdg (Marion Co), 10 & 24 Mar resp. (RES).

### Wild Turkey

MC: 80, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 21 Mar (DMK); 68, Edwards Co, 6 Apr (RES); 40, Shoal Crk Btms (Clinton Co), 2 Mar (DMK); 33, Grundy Co, 23 Mar (DFS); 26, Belvidere (Boone Co), 7 Mar (DTW); 17, Monroe Center (Ogle Co), 6 Mar (DTW).

### Northern Bobwhite

MC: 12, Marion Co, 24 Apr (RES); 10, Clinton Co, 10 May (DMK); 4, w. of Canton (Fulton Co), 25 Mar (LLH). Others: 16 Mar, Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Lake Co) (EWW); 30 May, Afton FP (DTW).

### Red-throated Loon

EA: 23 Feb (3), N Pt Marina (DTW); 27 Mar, Chau (MJB); 29 Mar, Wauk. (RDH); 2 Apr (basic plumage), Montrose H (RDH). LD: 27 Apr (ad.), South Unit, IBSP (RDH); 21 Apr (2), IBSP (CSF); 19 Apr, Carl.C (DMK:ph, MSS); 19 Apr (3 - 1 in breeding plumage), South Unit, IBSP (RDH).

### Pacific Loon

LD: 8 May, Thompson L, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (MJB, KBR) - **fifth spring record for IL.**

### Common Loon

EA: 12 Mar (4), Rend L (Franklin/Jefferson Cos) (KAM); 21 Mar, Baldwin L (Randolph Co) (DMK); 22 Mar (18), Saganashkee Slough, Palos (CMA, SF); 22 Mar, River Bend FP (Champaign Co) (BGS); 28 Mar, JP (PRC); 30 Mar (3), Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 4 Apr (2), Candlewick L (Boone Co) (DTW). MC: 349, Lake & McHenry Cos, 4 Apr (DBJ) - **record spring high count** (previously 148, Lake & McHenry Cos, 3 Apr 1992) and **second highest count overall** (previously 400+, Clin.L and Decatur, 3 Nov 1998); 15, L Shelbyville (Moultrie/Shelby Cos), 6 Apr (EWW); 14, Ned Brown ("Busse Wds") FP (Cook Co), 28 Mar (SAC); 12, Rock Cut, 9 Apr (MK). LD: 21 May, HL (KAM); 14 May (2), Rock Cut (DTW); 10 May, Carl.C (MSS, DMK, TAM); 5 May, Mermet L (KAM); 17 Apr (2), JP (KMC).

### Pied-billed Grebe

EA: 2 Mar, Beckman P, Kankakee (JBH); 4 Mar (2), Evergreen L (McLean Co) (MJW); 15 Mar, Chi (TAM); 15 Mar (3), Wolf L, LCal (CAM); 20 Mar (2), w. of Havana (Fulton Co) (LLH). MC: 30, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 22 Mar (DMK); 20, Chau, 11 Apr (RG&SNB); 8, JP, 9 Apr (PRC); 6, IBSP, 20 Apr (EWW). LD: 29 May, L Decatur dredge ponds (TAM); 26 May, JP (PRC).

### Horned Grebe

EA: 21 Feb (5), L Springfield (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 23 Feb, bend of Little

Calumet R, LCal (B&FS, WJM); 29 Feb (13), Cobb P, Kankakee (JBH); 4 Mar, JP (PRC); 19 Mar (2), Edwards Co (RES); 22 Mar, River Bend FP (Champaign Co) (BGS). MC: 120, Baldwin L (Randolph Co), 21 Mar (DMK) - **second highest spring count**; 40+, East Fork L (Richland Co), 28 Mar (CLH); 30, Saganashkee Slough, Palos, 22 Mar (SF); 26, LCal, 3 Apr (WJM); 20, Chau, 21 Mar (RG&SNB); 12, JP, 13 Apr (PRC, CBA). LD: **8-13 Jun** (alternate plumage), Sgmn Co (HDB); 10 May (6), JP (OSM:ph); 8 May, Grant P (DFS); 24 Apr (transitional plumage), Mermet L (TAM); 24 Apr (basic plumage), Grassy Slough LWR (Johnson Co) (TAM); 20 Apr, Carl.C (DMK, MSS); 10 Apr, Downs (McLean Co) (MEF).

### Red-necked Grebe

LD: **18-21 May**, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (MAM, APS, KAM) - **record late spring date** (but note one June datum, 8 Jun 1967); 21 Apr-**12 May**, East Fork L (Richland Co) (CLH, RES) - **third latest spring date**; winter-30 Mar, Baldwin L (TJD).

### Eared Grebe

EA: 29 Mar, Mermet L (FKB); 11 Apr, Grant P (DFS). LD: 8 May, Chi (JDW *vide* DFS); 25 Apr (transitional plumage), Mermet L (TAM, SDB, CAT, DTW); 25 Apr, Whalon L (Will Co) (EWW et al., PDph); 18 Apr (2 in alternate plumage), AMAX Wabash Mine (CLH).

### American White Pelican

EA: 18 Feb (7), HL (KAM); 10 Mar (1083), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AGD); 12 Mar (90), Freeburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 26 Mar (85), American Btms (C&PD); 28 Mar (5), Newton L (Jasper Co) (CLH); 5 Apr (32), L Decatur dredge ponds (TAM, MFD); 6 Apr (72), Chau (LLH); 20 Apr (6), Ridott (Stephenson Co) (DTW). MC: 1083, Adams Co, as above; 1070, Bureau Co, 15 Apr (DFS); 800, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DMK); 528, Chau, 4 Apr (RG&SNB); 200, Baldwin L, 22 Mar (TJD); 45, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 25 May (DTW). LD: 8 Jun, Freeport (Stephenson Co) (EWW); 3 Jun, Hennepin L (DFS); 31 May (40), Levee Rd (Monroe Co) (DMK, MSS, IOS); 21 May, Mermet L (SDB); 20 May (47), Rock Island Co (DFS); 10 May (2), Bakers L, Barrington (Cook Co) (GAW); 2 May, Bailey Wetland (Wayne Co) (CLH).

### NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

[EA: 30 Mar (documented), Carl.C].

### Double-crested Cormorant

EA: 20 Mar (11), Chau (LLH); 2 Apr (8), JP (PRC). MC: 1405, Chau, 28 Mar (RG&SNB); 850+, Crab Or., 31 Mar (KAM); 640, L Renwick (Will Co), 23 Mar (DFS); 600+, Montrose H, 12 May (WSS); 600, Carl.C, multiple dates Mar-Apr (DMK, MSS); 389, Bakers L, Barrington (Cook Co), 10 May (GAW); 61, American Btms, 10 May (C&PD).

### American Bittern

EA: 28 Mar, PrRdg (CLH); 29 Mar, Mermet L (FKB); 12 Apr, Vermilion Co (JOS); 13 Apr (2), Oakwood Btms (Jackson Co) (KAM); 15 Apr, Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AGD); 24 Apr, JP (PRC, NLB); 2 May, Rockfd (S&PO). MC: 5, American Btms, 20 Apr (C&PD); 2, Afton FP, 7 May (DTW); 2, Afton FP, 9 May (EWW); 2, Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, LCal, 17 May (SBB, WJM); 2, Guzy Pr, 18 May (TDF, RDF). LD: 25 May, Goose L Pr (CMA); 19 & 21 May, PrRdg (Marion Co) (CLH); 10 May, Santa Fe Btms (DMK, MSS, TAM); 10 May, Bureau Co (DFS); 10 May, Pecatonica (DTW). Others: 15 Apr, Mermet L (KAM, MSS); 26 Apr, Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co) (EWW); 27 Apr, n. of Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 1 May, JP (OSM); 3 May, Carl.C (DMK, MSS).

### Least Bittern

EA: 22-26 Apr, Mermet L (KAM, TAM, DTW, IOS); 26 Apr (2), IBSP (JRS); 30 Apr, n. of Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 10 May, near Victoria (Knox Co) (MJB). MC: 5, American Btms, 10 May (C&PD); 2, Steward Habitat Area (Lee Co), 18 May (EWW); 2, Mermet L, 18 & 24 May (CLH, DMK, MSS); 2, PrRdg, 28 May (CLH, RES). LD: 5 Jun, Montrose H (SGS); 1 Jun (female), Linc.P (SJH).

### Great Blue Heron

EA: 28 Feb, LeVasseur P (JBH); 11 Mar, GrlLks (EWW); 19 Mar, JP (KMC). MC: 100+, L Renwick (Will Co), 14 Mar (EWW); 63, Chau, 4 Apr (RG&SNB); 40, Carl.C, 19 Apr (DMK, MSS); 4, JP, 17 Apr (PRC).



*Greater Prairie-Chicken at Newton Lake, Newton County. 12 April 2008. Photo by Alexandra Urgo.*



*Eared Grebe. Whalon Lake, Will County. 25 April 2008. Photo by Paul Dacko.*