

Common Merganser

MC: 795, Chau, 6 Mar (R&SBJ); 225, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCK); 165, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 1 Mar (GAW); 150, Carl.L., 2 Feb (KM). LD: 3 May (injured), Carl.C (DMK); 13 Apr (3), airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW); 12 Apr (10), Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co) (KM); 18 Mar, HL (FH); 16 Mar (female), Monmouth sewage lagoons (Warren Co) (DJM).

Red-breasted Merganser

EA: 8 Mar, Fabyan FP (Kane Co) (ES); 13 Mar, Urbana (EC); 14 Mar, HL (KM). MC: 1525, Evanston, 24 Apr (EW); 516, Montrose H, 3 Apr (GAW); 50, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); 21, Rock Cut, 23 Mar (DTW). LD: 18 May (2), Rainbow Beach, Chi (WS); 17 May, Lks Riverbend (EC); 4 May, Spring L (Carroll Co) (DTW); 18 Apr, airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW); 12 Apr (3), Carl.C (DMK); 11 Apr, HL (FH).

Ruddy Duck

EA: 16 Mar (5), widewaters of Des Plaines R, Channahon (Will Co) (UG); 16 Mar (2), Dallas City (Hancock Co) (DJM); 23 Mar (17), Rock Cut (DTW). MC: 3121, Chau, 3 Apr (R&SBJ); 3000, Carl.C, 15 Mar & 30 Mar (DMK); 500, HL, 7 Mar (FH); 485, Putnam Co, 15 Apr (DFS, PCK); 295+, McGinnis Slough, Palos area, 22 Apr (WS).

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 8, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 6, Springbrook Prairie FP, Naperville (Du Page Co), 3 May (AW); 2, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 1 Apr (ES). Some additional reports of singles in Cook & Du Page Cos.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

MC: 8, Pr.Rd, 21 Mar (KM, CL); 3, Stephen Forbes SP (Marion Co), 8 Mar (DMK).

Wild Turkey

MC: 30, Chiquapin Psv, 16 Apr—"expanding all along the Mackinaw River through Tazewell, Woodford and McLean Counties" (MF); 21, Vermont City reservoir (McDonough Co), 2 Apr (LLH); 16, Freeport (Stephenson Co), 10 Apr (DTW); 16, Crab Or., 17 Apr (KM); 3, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, Car, RM).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 26, Effingham Co, 7 May (MAH); 16, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 12, Carl.C, 31 May (DMK); 8, HL, 26 Mar (KM); 3, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW).

Red-throated Loon

EA: 29-31 Mar, Stephen Forbes SP (Marion Co) (TUM, KM); 3 Apr & 5 Apr, Montrose H (GAW). LD: 21 Apr, Highland Park (Lake Co) (DRD).

Common Loon

EA: 17 Mar (2), Rend L (KM); 22 Mar, Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (CAL); 23 Mar, Fox R (McHenry Co) (DF); 23 Mar, Evanston (EW); 30 Mar (2), Spoon L (DJM). MC: 30, Montrose H, 5 Apr (GAW)—evidently a spring high count away from Chain-O-Lakes SP (Lake Co); 12, Rend L, 26 Mar (KM, CL); 3, Spoon L, 2 May (DJM); 3, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). LD: 11 Jun, Lks Riverbend (EC); 26 May, Chau (R&SBJ); 15 May, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 10 May (3), Carl.C (DMK, KM).

Pied-billed Grebe

EA: 9 Mar, HL (FH); 14 Mar, Hennepin L (DFS); 15 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 21 Mar (2), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD). MC: 123, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS, PCK); 53, L Springfield (Sangamon Co), 18 Mar (GAW); 35, Mermet L, 9 Apr (KM); 24, Riverdale Quarry, Riverdale (Cook Co), 5 Apr (WM); 22, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 20 Mar (DJS). LD: 17 May, Putnam Co (KM); 10 May, Middle Fork R Co FP (Champaign Co) (EC).

Horned Grebe

EA: 3 Feb (4), Baldwin L (St. Clair & Randolph Cos) (KM); 8 Mar, Evanston (EW); 8 Mar, Blackhawk FP (Kane Co) (ES). MC: 20, HL, 23 Mar (FH); 19, Palos area and Orland Park (Cook Co), 23 Mar (WS); 6, Heyworth (McLean Co), 12 Apr (DTW). LD: 26 May, Hennepin L (JEH); 6 May (2), Hennepin L (DFS, PCK); 3 May, Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 17 Apr, Crab Or. (KM); 3 Apr, Chau (R&SBJ).

Red-necked Grebe

EA: 4 Mar (ad. molting into breeding plumage), Clin.L (TAM); 8 Mar, Ameren/CIPS L (Jasper Co) (MAH); 3 Apr, Montrose H (GAW). LD: 17 May (ad.), Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (*MS, RR & NB et al.)—latest May date for IL; in addition to one older summer record (8 Jun 1967), the IORC files include an unreviewed photo of a bird that appears to be this species at JP in early Jun of the mid 1990s.

Eared Grebe

EA: 23 Mar, Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (Cook Co) (ES, R&KF, UG); 30 Mar, HL (FH). MC: 2, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 25 Mar (RR & NB). LD: 6 May, Hennepin L (DFS, PCK); 30 Apr (present since 24 Mar), Linc.P (BH, EW:ph, GAW, m.ob.).

American White Pelican

EA: 1 Apr (10+), n. of Towanda (McLean Co) (MLR); 3 Apr (50), Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (ES); 6 Apr, Grundy Co (ES). MC: 1500, Carl.E, 2 Apr (KM); 1170, Putnam Co, 15 Apr (DFS); 500+ (in 3 groups), Palos area and Orland Park (Cook Co), 1 Apr (WS); 450-500, widewaters of Des Plaines R at Channahon (Will Co), 29 Mar (CAL); 400+, I. Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 24 Mar (TAM). LD: 7 Jun, Long L (Schuyler Co) (TAM); 17 May (11), Putnam Co (KM); 16 May (14), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD); 3 May, Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (TAM).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

EA: 19 May, Du Page Co—second earliest date reported for IL; twelve previously accepted records.]

Double-crested Cormorant

EA: 8 Mar (2), Rend L (KM); 14 Mar, Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD); 28 Mar, Evanston (EW); 29 Mar (6), airport at Rockfd (DTW). MC: 17,000, Rend L, 7 Apr (KM)—record IL high count by 5000 birds (and unprecedented number for spring, in which season previous high counts are to 5000 birds); 2500, Hennepin L, 26 Apr (DFS); 1250, LCal, 10 May (WM); 1000+, Chau, 5 Apr (TAM); 800+ (one northbound flock), JP, 22 Apr (PC).

American Bittern

EA: 4 Apr, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM, CT); 7 Apr, Urbana (EC); 21 Apr, GrtLakes (DRD). MC: 4, Orient Bottoms (Franklin Co), 15 Apr (LS); 3, Spunky Bottoms Marsh, Beardstown (Brown Co), 3 May (TAM); 2, Merritt's Prairie FP (De Kalb Co), 1 May (SDB); 2, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 3 May (*DEM:ph.). LD: 28 May, JP (PC, SLC); 10 May, Burnham Prairie, Burnham (Cook Co) (TB, WM); 8 May, Urbana (EC); 26 Apr (2), Pulaski Co (KM, DMK, FB).

Least Bittern

EA: 17 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 27 Apr, Old Ben 27 mine pond (Franklin Co) (LS); 10 May, Middle Fork R Co FP (Champaign Co) (EC); 15 May, Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (SDB); 17 May, Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co) (GAW). MC: 2, Mermet L, 27 Apr (DJM); 2, Old Ben 27 mine pond (Franklin Co), 6 May (LS)—one still present as of 11 Jun (LS); 2 ("may be pair"), Chau, 22 May (R&SBJ)—one still present 26 May (R&SBJ). LD: 6 Jun, JP (SLC).

Great Blue Heron

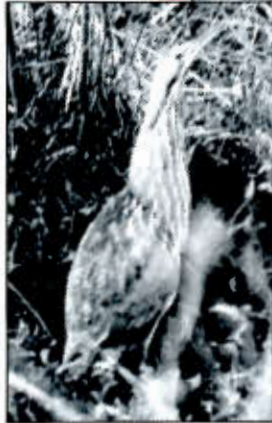
EA: 8 Mar, Fabyan FP (Kane Co) (ES); 8 Mar (4), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW); 14 Mar (2), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD). MC: 150, Carl.C, 12 Apr & 27 Apr (DMK); 136, Chau, 6 Mar & 13 Mar (R&SBJ); 96 (colony), Clear L (Mason Co), 27 Mar (R&SBJ); 46, Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co), 10 May (GAW).

Great Egret

EA: 14 Mar (21), St. Clair Co (KM); 23 Mar, Palos area (UG); 23 Mar (4), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 3 Apr, Rockfd (DTW). MC: 137, Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co), 10 May (GAW); 78, Indian Rdg N, LCal, 3 May (WM); 73, Johnson Co, 9 Apr (KM); 9, Chau, 26 May (R&SBJ). LD: 14 May, Linc.P (GAW); 10 May (2), JP (PC et al.). Remarks: Lowest numbers in 42 years of monitoring at Chau / Clear L (Mason Co) (R&SBJ).

Snowy Egret

EA: 1 Apr, Sauguet Marsh (St. Clair Co) (KM); 1 May, near De Kalb (De Kalb Co) (SDB)—the only report outside s. IL. MC: 27, St. Clair Co, 4 May (FH).



Top: Eared Grebe. Lincoln Park North Pond, Chicago, Cook County. 29 April 2003. Photo by Eric Walters.

Middle: American Bittern, Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson County. 3 May 2003. Photo by Dan Miller.

Bottom: Snowy Egret. Horseshoe Lake, Madison County. 28 April 2003. Photo by Frank Holmes.