

their first nests. I have also seen flocks of 20 or more mostly adult Bobolinks in a field in early June, seemingly already flocking up to head south after another failed breeding season nesting attempt.

Very likely, there's a causal relationship between increased mowing (and a dramatic loss of habitat) and the declining numbers of these species, which is documented in USGS Breeding Bird Survey data.

As you will see in the 2009 breeding season field notes, Yellow-throated Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Summer Tanagers continue to increase their breeding numbers farther north into Illinois and beyond. Many ornithologists have already made the fairly obvious correlation with global

climate change. Personally, I was very excited to add Blue Grosbeak to my Lake County list by finding the first nest for the species in Lake County, no less!

Birdwatching is a lot of fun at any season, though many take the summer season off to gear up for the more exciting spring and fall migrations. However, all of our birds, even the common ones, exhibit some of their most interesting behaviors while they build and defend nests, feed young and prepare for their return flight to their wintering areas. In so doing, nesting birds can reveal information that we can use to help conserve the habitats they need to successfully reproduce, ensuring we have a great diversity of birds to watch during migration.

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## 2009 Breeding Season Observers/Reporters

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Marcia Lonergan, Tom B. Lally, Valerie Loos, Anita L. Morgan, Bill Morgan, Charlene Malone, Cynthia K. McKee, Diane McCarthy, Fran Morel, D. James Mountjoy (DJM), Jeanie Morse (JMe), Matthew Myer, Matt McKim-Louder, Jeff Mikos, Jeffrey S. Maharry, John McKee (JMc), Jim Malone (JMe), Karen K. Mansfield, Keith A. McMullen, Lizz Morris, Luis G. Munoz, Michael A. Madsen, Peter A. Moxon, Robert Montgomery, Robert A. Morgan, Travis A. Mahan, Vince Moxon, Walter J. Marcisz, Greg Neise, Joan Norek, Marcia & Lee Nye, Augie Orlandi, Steph Olsen, Christian Prohaska, Dick Paulson, Ellen Powell, Ivan G. Petrov, Justin Pepper, John H. Purcell, Kay Preshlock, Linda Padera, Rex Pitchford, Steve Patterson, Sharon Parmet (SPt), Ari Rice, Arlo Raim (ARm), Barb Roberts, David Rogles, Dick Riner (DRr), Judy Reuschel, Jennette S. Rader, Jeanette Repp (JRp), Kevin B. Richmond, Lisa Rest, Linda B. Radtke, Michelle Riechers, Phil Reyburn, Rhonda M. Rothrock, Roger C. Reason, Tom Rollins, Tim & Leslie Rye, William M. Rudden, Ari Shavit, Adam Sell, (ASl), Alan F. Stokie, Andrew P. Sigler, Anne Straight (ASt), Bill Saylor, Beau J. Schaefer, Bob Schifo, Bernie G. Sloan, Bill & Paula Stairs, Brian Smith (BSH), Dawn Smith, Doug F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Eric E. Secker, Gary Soper, Jason Sturner, Joseph L. Suchecki, James O. Smith, Jeffrey R. Sanders, Johanna Shipley (JSy), Jeffrey R.R. Skrentny, Jeff A. Smith, Jim S. Solum, Jeff Sundberg (JSg), Keith & Sandra Slotter, Mark S. Seiffert, Michelle Schaefer, Paul Sweet, Robert E. Shelby, Randy L. Shonkwiler, Stanley W. Stec, Stephen G. Spitzer, Sandra Stearns, Vicky Sroczynski, Wes S. Serafin, Brian Tang, Craig A. Taylor, Craig B. Thayer, David L. Thomas, Jeff Thomas, Mike Trahan, Wendolyn Tetlow, Bob Vaiden, Cheryl Vergin, Jenny Vogt, Barbara C. Williams, Christine L. Williamson, Chris Van Wassenhove, Dave Weth, Dave Willard (DWd), Dan T. Williams, Emily Wheeler, Eric W. Walters, Geoffrey A. Williamson, Jane Ward, Jeff W. Walk, Madelyn Washburn, Matthew J. Winks, Michael P. Ward, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Emiko Yang, Jerry & Jody Zamirowski.

Some records not printed here may still be under IORC (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee) review; when completed, they will appear in the published IORC report. As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. Easy to use documentation forms are available from IORC Secretary, Doug Stotz, Environment and Conservation Program, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60615. Completed documentation forms of "listed" species should be submitted to the IORC Secretary within one week of the observation.