

# Sandhill Cranes attempt nesting in central Illinois



Top left, an adult examines its eggs. (21 March, David Weible ph.)

Top right, an adult sits on a nest. (19 March, Bob Schifo ph.)

Center, an adult looks at its young. (21 April, D. Weible ph.)

Bottom left, two adults with young (21 April, B. Schifo ph.)

Bottom right, an adult feeds a young on the nest (21 April, D. Weibel ph.)

Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) have attempted nesting at Heron County Park, Vermilion County, for the past two years. This is the southernmost known breeding attempt for this species in Illinois. The 2011 clutch of two eggs produced one young; however it apparently drowned due to local flooding or got eaten by a predator. Amazingly, the area where they placed their nests in both 2010 and 2011 has seen extensive flooding both years. The breeding pair remained in the area at least into early winter – they were found on the 2011/2012 Christmas Bird Count.

