



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.
Belleville, St. Clair County.
25 June 2010.
Photo by Amar Ayyash.



Bobolink.
FermiLab, DuPage County.
3 July 2010.
Photo by Mark Bowman.

Female Bobolink.
Goose Lake Prairie State Natural
Area, Grundy County. 23 August 2010.
Photo by Jerry Diederich.



The summer birding season affords an opportunity to observe Illinois' grassland/open habitat avifauna displaying rich colors and interesting behaviors. Note the rare photo of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird spreading its wings on the ground to stimulate ants to emit secretions on the bird's body. In another photo, a Prairie Warbler perches on a red cedar, one of its favored nesting substrates. Also notice the subtle but beautiful colors of the female Bobolink, whose hues mimic the grasslands, and the Henslow's Sparrow perched atop a native prairie forb, the pale purple coneflower.