

# Field Notes



## 1992 BREEDING SEASON

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 1992 Breeding Season was not the same without the Breeding Bird Atlas Project of the past six years. Still, some rare finds made for an exciting season. The only known intensive birding activities reported this year were Scott Robinson's continued project in western Union County (see lead article in this issue) and his new project in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, the annual U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (Route 64 in Illinois) to monitor short-term and long-term population changes, and the annual Cook County Nesting Bird Census in mid-June coordinated by Alan Anderson.

In addition to participating in these intensive projects, birders reported several unusual records such as: the Neotropical Cormorant(s), Illinois' first (confirmed) Arctic Tern (see separate article in this issue), a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest, several Alder Flycatchers, Illinois' first Fish Crow nest (see separate article in this issue), nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches, and nests for no fewer than 10 species of warblers. Further, many of the traditional southern Illinois species were present in good numbers in northwestern Illinois. The most significant details of most species appear in the following species accounts.

For the month of June, temperatures averaged about 3.0 degrees below normal (with Rockford recording 39 degrees on 21 June) and precipitation was about 2.55 inches below normal; for July, temperatures also averaged 3.0 degrees below normal (with the exception of the extreme south which was slightly above normal) and precipitation averaged 3.6 inches above normal (which included more than 9 inches above normal in central counties); there were no days above 100 degrees this summer (the maximum temperature was 97 degrees near St. Louis on 2 July).

As usual, this compilation is the result of the combined efforts of many observers and reporters and would not have been possible if they hadn't taken the time and effort to record and submit their personal observations for pub-

lication. I am extremely grateful to all of you who continue to gather this information, to those of you who reviewed and provided comments on the first draft of this report, and, especially to those listed below who submitted direct or indirect information for publication in this report. The persons responsible for the records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records; considerable effort has been made to be sure that all information is correct. Observers and contributors for this report include: Alan Anderson, Carl Becker, (DB) David Bohlen, Dale Birkenholz (DBi), Elaine Burstatte, Karl Bartel, Laurence Binford (LB), Michael Baum (MB), Maurice Brucker (MBR), Nancy Bent, Richard Biss (RB), Robb Brumfield (RBF), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Ron Bradley (RBR), Steve Byers (SBY), Anne Carroll, David Cederstrom (DC), Elizabeth Chato, Joseph Cath, Marilyn Campbell (MCA), Mike Carpenter (MCR), Robert Chapel, Aura Duke, Donald Dann (DDN), Didge Donovan (DDO), Danny Diaz (DD), Larry David, Peter Dring, Ralph Eiseman, Darlene Fiske, Todd Fink, Bill Glass (BGL), Karin Graeff, Scott Garrow, Ann Haverstock (AH), Barrie Hunt, Fran Harty, Jim Herkert (JHE), Kanac Hirabayashi, Robert Hughes, Ralph Herbst (RHE), Richard Hugel (RHU), Scott Hickman, Sam Hossin (SHO), David Johnson, Doris Johanson (DJH), Leslie Jette (LJE), Linda Kinkle, Peter Kasper, Rose Kirwan (RKI), Vernon Kleen, Alice Lindsley, Bob Lindsay (BLI), Eric Lattner, James Landing, Stephen Lee, Deck Major (DMJ), David Mandell, Ed Mockford, Joe Milosevich, Judy Mellin (JME), Keith McMullen, Lynn McKeown, Margaret Mechtenberg (MME), Margot Merrick (MMR), Margo Milde (MMI), Michael Morin (MMO), Patti Malmberg, Robert Montgomery, Tara McCartney (TM), Walter Marcisz, John O'Brien (JO), Christine Phillip, Mark Phipps (MPH), Peter Petersen, Sebastian Patti, Al Rothenbach, Doug Robinson, Gerald Rosenband, Harriet Rylaarsdam, Scott

*Field Notes Heading: Prairie Warbler drawing by Leslie A. DeCoursey.*