

state and provincial natural resource agencies indicates that this year's count (2002) recorded the second lowest index since 1974 (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2002. Waterfowl population status, 2002).

Typically when drought conditions exist in the northern prairie pothole region and the wetland index declines there is a dramatic change in the distribution of summering ducks. Ducks become more numerous in the boreal regions of Canada where wetlands and water levels are not subject to the annual wet and dry cycles prairies experience. While these wetlands have stable water levels, they are generally less productive, and the ducks either do not breed or breed in lower numbers. This year's status report reflects this situation. Waterfowl numbers increased in Northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. In Illinois we do not have a waterfowl survey except for breeding Canada Geese, so our data are limited to anecdotal observations. I do not have any data to support it, but it is my recollection that when droughts hit the prairies, duck numbers (Blue-winged Teal and perhaps Mallard) increase in the state. It appears, to me, that Blue-wings arrive in normal numbers then their numbers decline as if migration is continuing but then increase in late May and early June. It looks like they migrate to their natal areas, find unfavorable habitat conditions and then seek out favorable habitat to spend the summer to breed or just set out the season."

As has become traditional, the quantity and quality of notes submitted for the annual breeding season report is staggering. Had more of the traditionally regular contributors made their notes available as well, it would have been even more staggering. This continues to prove that Illinois' field observers desire to provide a more complete record of Illinois ornithological history. So, as always, MANY THANKS to all of you who took the time to prepare and submit notes for inclusion in this Report. I urge you to continue doing so every year. I also wish to thank and congratulate the dozens of you who completed your assigned Breeding Bird Survey routes again this year; please be sure to note your efforts in the soon-to-be published The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas. Finally, the following persons are responsible for the data in this compilation and

are individually acknowledged after the records they provided. As usual, considerable effort was made to be sure all printed information is correct, properly acknowledged and can be traced to the original source documents (now in the permanent record file) from which it was obtained. (Please accept my apologies if your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled). Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Jill Anderson, Arlene Brei, Frank Bennett, Steven Bailey, Richard (& Sigurd) Bjorklund (R(&S)Bj), David Currie, Elizabeth Chato, Jeff Chapman, Karin Cassel, Melinda Born Chapman, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Andrea Douglas, Donald Dann, Sheryl De Vore, Ed Franks, Jim Funk, Robert E. Fisher, Urs Geiser, Barrie Hunt, Cathie Hutcheson, Frank Holmes, James E. Hampson, Jed B. Hertz, Jim Heim, Jeff Hoover (JHo), Larry L. Hood, Leroy Harrison, Michelle Horath, Scott Hickman, Mary Hennen (MHn), David Johnson, Rhetta Jack, Charlene Knudsen, Dan M. Kassebaum, Dan Kirk, Vernon Kleen, Craig Litteken, Joe Lill, Tom Lerczak, Carolyn A. Marsh, Jim & Charlene Malone, Keith McMullen, Lynda & Tom Mills, Robert Montgomery, Tom May, Walter Marcisz, Peter Olson, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Roy Peterson, David Ramsden, Kevin Richmond, Marjory Rand, Phil Reyburn, Rhonda Rothrock, Al Stokie, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, James O. Smith, Leonard Stanley, Stan Stec, Wes Serafin, David Thomas, Dan Williams, Eric Walters, Ken Wysocki, Chris Young, Jim Ziebol. A plus-sign (+) after an observer citation indicates additional observers (et al.); the abbreviation m.ob. (many observers) has been trimmed to ++.

Records undergoing review by IORC are given abbreviated treatment at the end of this report; full details will be published pending approval of the details submitted. 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 Rd 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.

2002 Breeding Season Field Notes

Common Loon

NBSO: Clin.L (subad), 20 Jul (RC).

Pied-billed Grebe

Nesting: Glidden Rd (De Kalb Co) (pr & ad on nest), 29 Jun (DJS) to 6 Jul (UG); Almond M (11), 30 Apr, and (30+: ad & yg of varying ages), 18 Aug (SB); Chi (O'Hare Ponds) (ad & yg), 11 Aug (AA); Chi (Douglas P) (yg), 12 Jun (AA); LCal (4 broods, 2-10 yg/brood, 3 sites), 23 Jun-14 Jul (WM); McGinnis (brood), late Jun (WS); Palos (brood), late Jun (WS); Braidwd L (ad & juv), 19-20 Jul (AA+); Hennepin L (3 nests w/ eggs), 6 Jun and (3 broods, 2-6 yg/brood + 12 juvs), 15 Aug (DFS); Arlington (Bureau Co) (5), 27 Jul (DJS); Monmouth (Warren Co) (ad w/ 3 yg), 14 Jul (PR); Banner M (2 yg), 24 Jul (RC); Meredosia (Morgan Co) (6 incl. pr building nest), 13 Jun (JF); Arcola M (4 ad, 1 yg), 27 Jul (RC); Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (ad & large yg), 28 Jul (RC); HL (Eagle P) (imm), 4 Aug (FH); Fairmont Golf Course (St. Clair Co) (ad w/ 4 yg), 28 Jul (FH). **Others:** Lost Mound, 22 Jun (VK+); Island L (McHenry Co) (pr), 1 May-31 Jul (SB); PrattsWWds (2),

16 Jun & 14 Jul (UG); Aurora (Du Page Co) (2), 20 Jul (UG); Morgan (8), 12 Jun (KM, CL); Coles (ad), 5 Jul (BH); HL (Eagle P) (+), 1 Jun-14 Jul (FH); Santa Fe Btms, 7-22 Jun (DMK); Lawrence (calling), 12 Jun (LH); Olney (Richland Co), 8 Jun (LH); Carl.L (2-6), 6-25 Jul (DMK); Wabash (20+), 2 Jun, then (1), 9 & 14 Jun (LH); Big Muddy R levee (Jackson Co) (5), 18 Jun (DMK); Johnson (3), 23 Jun (KM+).

Eared Grebe

NBSO: Monmouth (Warren Co), 16 Jun (PR+).

American White Pelican

Spring L NWR (80), 21 Jun (VK+); Senachwine L (Putnam Co) (50), 27 Jul (DJS); Lacon (Marshall Co) (25+), 2 Jul (LH); Chau (max. = 9), 25 Jul, but (1 or more), Jun/Jul (R&SBj); MTwain (200), 27 Jul (KM); Pere Marq. (13), 27 Jul (KM); MelPrice (80), 21 Jun (FH); Carl.L, 6-30 Jul (DMK).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

Carl.L (ad), 27-31 Jul (ph, *DMK).