

Field Notes



1991 BREEDING SEASON

by Vernon M. Kleen

Illinois birders worked diligently during the 1991 Breeding Season covering nearly all of the 64 Breeding Bird Survey routes and completing the remainder of the Breeding Bird Atlas field work. Birders scouted fields, wetlands, and woods in seven block-busting weekends to gather data, making interesting discoveries along the way.

For the month of June, temperatures averaged about 3.5 degrees above normal and precipitation was about 2.4 inches below normal; for July, temperatures averaged only 1.1 degrees above normal and precipitation was 1.6 inches below normal. As in a number of recent years, this also was a very dry summer.

Highlights of the season include the following: Illinois' first Red-breasted Merganser breeding record; a Pacific Loon in Lake County; increasing numbers of nesting Double-crested Cormorants; the discovery of new (often small) nesting colonies of herons; broods of several unusual duck species; more than the usual number of young rails and cranes; an assortment of wrens, vireos, warblers, thrushes and sparrows; and a nesting Red Crossbill. The most significant details of most species appear in the following species accounts.

As usual, this compilation would not be possible without the continued dedication and support of so many Illinois birders. Information from the Breeding Bird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas

Project, various Nongame Checkoff Projects, and individual projects of several observers has added significantly to the increasing distributional knowledge of Illinois breeding species.

Many thanks to all persons who continue to gather this information, and, to the persons listed below who made direct or indirect contributions to this compilation. The persons responsible for the records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records. Considerable effort was made to be sure that all information is correct.

Contributing observers were: Cindy Alberico, Alan Anderson, Doug Anderson, Bill Bertrand, Carl Becker, Dave Bohlen, Elaine Burstatte, John Brandt (JBr), Richard Biss (RB), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), David Cederstrom (DCe), Elizabeth Chato, Karin Cassel, Marscha Chenoweth (MCh), Robert Chapel (RC), Roger Coons (RCo), Aura Duke, Danny Diaz (DDz), Judy DeNeal (JDe), Larry David, Myrna Deaton, Peter Dring, Sheryl De Vore (SD); Walt Dembos, Sue Elston, Phyllis Flattery, Sue Friscia, Todd Fink, Bill Glass, Ann Haverstock, Barrie Hunt, Fran Harty, Jim Herkert (JHe), Jim Hart (JHt), Kanae Hirabayashi (KHj), Robert Hughes (RH), Ralph Herbst (RHb), Randy Heidorn (RHe), Rich Hugel (RHu), Dave Johnson, Jack Keegan, Rose Kirwan (RK); Vernon Kleen, James Landing, David Mandell (DMA), Joe Milosevich, Walter Marcisz, Jim Neal, John Purcell (JPu), Norris Price, Richard Palmer, Sebastian

FIELD NOTES HEADING: Blue-winged Warbler at nest. Drawing by Leslie A. DeCoursey.