

bowl formed by surrounding small hills. A small stream flows out to the northwest, toward the Pecatonica River. Part of the marsh, along the road, has been used as a horse pasture for many years, but the grazing seems to have had no appreciable effect on the wildlife.

Beginning in the spring of 1994, Alan Branhagen added Winnebago County to the Midwest Sandhill Crane Count conducted by the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI. This count is typically conducted in early to mid-April. Interestingly, the Winnebago County cranes are usually not trumpeting or otherwise vocalizing during the count period, and consequently are not reported on count day, although we know that they are there because we see and hear them in the nest areas before and after the count. We suspect these birds, at the south edge of the major range of birds in Wisconsin, had already laid eggs, are incubating them, and thus kept a low profile count weekend.

By 1995, at least five pairs of Sandhill Cranes were known to be nesting in Winnebago County. On Father's Day that year, a calling pair was observed flying over Rock Cut State Park, on the county's eastern edge, and

circling to land in the undeveloped northeast section, but no nest was located. Three pairs, with two confirmed nests, described above, were known in 1996. Cranes have also been observed in Boone County, immediately east of Winnebago County, around the higher quality wetlands there, and Stephenson County, to the west, has reported cranes during the spring crane count.

Literature Cited:

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN.

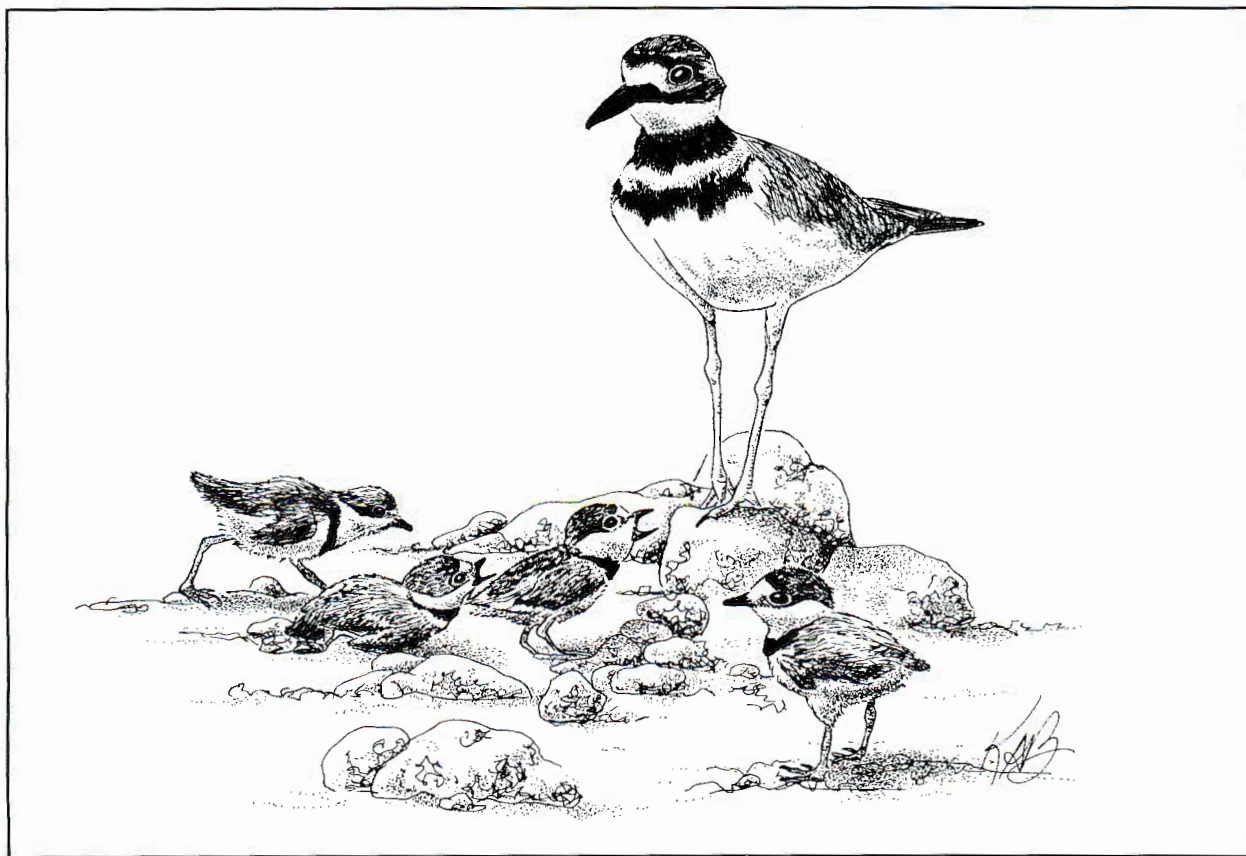
Harrison, Colin. 1978. *A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT.

Kleen, V. M. 1996. The 1995 breeding season. *Meadowlark* 5: 31.

Kleen, V. M. 1995. The 1994 breeding season. *Meadowlark* 4: 31.

Kleen, V. M. 1994. The 1993 breeding season. *Meadowlark* 3: 31.

—Dan Williams
6055 Safford Road
Rockford, IL 61101



Killdeer drawing by Karen A. Becker.