

1997 BREEDING SEASON REPORT

Red-throated Loon

N.B.S.O.: Tampier Slough (Cook Co) (subad.), mid May thru 22 June (EW, JM—photo, m.ob.) — 1st 'summer' occurrence for Illinois. See seasonal highlights.

Common Loon

MWF (subad.), 12–13 June (RM); Heyworth Lagoons (McLean Co) (subad.), 7 June (MF, Tbu.); Homer L (Champaign Co) (subad.), 2 June–6 July (*RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (2 subad.), 7–14 June then (3 subad.), 15 June and (1), 16 June–20 July (*RC).

Pied-billed Grebe

Nesting: GRCA(+), June (MW); c. Lee County (3 locations and 3 broods = 3, 2+ & 5 yg.), 9, 10 & 23 July (MW); Almond Marsh L (Lake Co) (on nest), 30 May (EW) and (broods: 3 & 4 yg.), 5 Aug. (MW); DPRWDP (8 — 2 ad., 6 yg.), 5 July (SH); LCal (1–2 nesting prs.), June/July (JL, WM); n.c. Bureau County (ad. w/ 2yg.), 19 & 26 Aug. (BP). **Others:** LCNP (imm.), 27 July (CMc, JMc); Lawrence County wetland (1–2), 15 June–14 July (LH); Wabash County wetland (2), 12 June (LH).

American White Pelican

N.B.S.O.: Nauvoo (97), 13 June (VK); LChau (39), 20–31 July+ (MD).

Double-crested Cormorant

Nesting: Baker's L (Cook Co) (61 nests); 4 Aug. (SBy); Wetfoot L (Cook Co) (28), 1 June (JPh); Riverdale (2 nests—success **), 29 June (KWy); Utica (La Salle Co) (12 nests), 30 May (DS); HL (2 nests), 8 July (VK et al.); Hat Island (Calhoun Co) (50), 30 May (VK); Carl.L (300 nests), 4 June (VK); Lren nesting with Great Egrets 2 July (JM) LRen. Probably nesting at several more sites not yet discovered. **M.C.:** 1000+, Riverdale (Cook Co), June/July (JL) and 625, 10 June (WM); 300+, MS, 24 July (WS); 200, Carl.L, 27 July (KM); 69, Wauk, 11 July (EW); 65, Utica (La Salle Co), 30 May (DS). **Others:** Rockford (2), 2 June (BG); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (subad.), 21 June (RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (ad.), 20 July (RC); HL (20), 17 July (MP); Wabash County wetland (1–12), 9 June–25 July (LH); s.w. Jackson County (20), 15 June (RhM).

American Bittern

Braeburn Marsh (Kane Co), 17 June (DS); GLPSP (2), 10 June (JH, BGI); Lawrence County wetland, 25 June & 30 July (LH).

Least Bittern

Grant South F.P. (Lake Co) (heard), 9 June (CF); LCal (1–2 at different locations), 20–24 July (WM, JPo); Arcola (Douglas Co), 4 July (RC); Lawrence County wetland (1–4), 15 June–31 July (LH); Marion County (ad.), 14 & 28 May (JW, EK).

Great Blue Heron

Nesting: Estimates from the aerial surveys of the Mississippi & Illinois rivers, Corps of Engineer Lakes and southern Illinois colonies indicate: 32 active colonies with 7300+ nests; this includes 4 newly discovered sites and the disappearance of 6 rather large colonies. Reports from other sites are: Winnebago County (4 colonies), June/July (DW); Ogle County (6 colonies, 50 nests total); April/May (JeH); Baker's L (Cook Co) (92 nests), 4 Aug. (SBy); Bartlett (Cook Co) (270 nests), 29 Apr. (BS); Wetfoot L (Cook Co) (22 nests), 1 June (JPh); Goose L/ DesPlaines R (Cook Co) (131 nests), 4 June (JPh); Busse Forest N.P. (Cook Co) (7 nests), 17 July (JPh); Wampum L.F.P. (Cook Co) (3 nests), 19 Apr. (WM); Somonauk Creek (De Kalb Co) (11 nests), 22 Apr. (JeH); Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (4 nests), 11 Aug. (EL et al.); Momence Wetlands (Kankakee Co)

(17 nests), 25 Apr. (SHo et al.); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (218 nests), 3 July (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (468 nests), 11 June (RBj); Vermilion County (4 sites, about 200 nests), June (RSz); Clark County (56 nests), June (RSz); s.e. Illinois (11 colonies in 7 counties, 300+ nests), June/July (TE). **M.C.:** 500, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 July (KM); 165, MS, 28 July (WS).

Great Egret

Nesting: Estimates from the aerial surveys of the Mississippi & Illinois rivers, Corps of Engineer Lakes and southern Illinois colonies indicate: 13 active colonies with nearly 1400 nests. Reports from other sites are: Baker's L (Cook Co) (81 nests), 4 Aug. (SBy); Wetfoot L (Cook Co) (81 nests), 1 June (JPh); Riverdale (Cook Co) (10–11 nests), 29 June (KWy); LCal (probably nested in 'Big Marsh'), April/June (WM, JL); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (58 nests), 3 July (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (39 nests), 11 June (RBj); Alorton (St. Clair) (est. 500+ nests, yg. mostly fledged), 8 July (VK et al.). **M.C.:** 1000, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 July (KM); 300+, MS, 24 July (WS); 200, E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co), 17 July (KM); 32, HL, 21 July (KM). **Others:** Pecatonica (Winnebago Co) (2), 7 June (DW); Braeburn Marsh (Kane Co) (9), 9 June (DS); Lawrence County wetland (up to 40), 17–31 July (LH); Wabash County wetland (up to 160), 9 June–25 July (LH).

Snowy Egret

Nesting: Alorton (St. Clair) (est. 10–20 nests, yg. in the process of fledging), 8 July (VK et al.). **M.C.:** 10+, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 July (KM); 7, Chain-of-Rocks (Madison Co), 18 July (KM). **Others:** LCal (2–3), 20 & 27 July (3 ad.), and 3 Aug. (2 ad.) (AS); Lawrence County wetland (1–2), 19 June–14 July (LH); Wabash County wetland (1–9), 9 June–25 July (LH); s.w. Jackson County (ad), 15 June (RhM).

Little Blue Heron

Nesting: Alorton (St. Clair) (est. 500+ nests, yg. in the process of fledging), 8 July (VK et al.). **M.C.:** 200, Saugat (St. Clair Co), 27 July (KM). **Others:** LCal (2–3), 20 July (2 imm.), 27 July (2 imm. 1 ad.), 3 Aug. (1 imm.) (AS); Lawrence County wetland (3–7), 17 June–31 July (LH); Wabash County wetland (3–14), 6 June–25 July, but (40), 21 July (LH); s.w. Jackson County (24), 15 June (RhM).

Cattle Egret

Nesting: Alorton (St. Clair) (est. 100 nests, yg. in the process of fledging), 8 July (VK et al.). **M.C.:** 100, Saugat (St. Clair Co), 27 July (KM). **Others:** Lawrence County wetland (up to 200), 15 June–31 July (LH); Wabash County wetland (up to 150), 26 May–25 July (LH).

Green Heron

Nesting: Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (3 fledglings), June (JS). **M.C.:** 5, Lawrence County wetland, 10 July (LH); 4, Columbia (St. Clair Co), 22 June (KM). **Others:** LCal (numbers down substantially) (JL).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nesting: Baker's L (Cook Co) (3 ad., but no nests), 4 Aug. (SBy); Wetfoot L (Cook Co) (21 nests), 1 June (JPh); only one LCal site this year (the others were abandoned) (estimated 300–600 nests — a population decline of 50–60%), April/June (WM, JL); Worley L (Tazewell Co) & Clear L (Mason Co) (1st time for **NO NESTS** in the Illinois rivercolonies since record-keeping began in 1962) (RBj); Alorton (St. Clair) (est. 500+ nests, yg. mostly fledged), 8 July (VK et al.). **M.C.:** 30+, Wauk, 11 July (EW); 15, HL, 22 June (KM). **Others:** Braeburn Marsh (Kane Co) (ad.), 20 June and (2–4 ad.), 15–17 July plus (1 imm.), 18 July (DS); Denny Road Marsh (Kane Co) (ad.), 18