

an area in the state undergoing the most rapid development.

In terms of the number of endangered and threatened species per county, Cook County has the highest number of state-listed breeding bird species with 17. Lake and Will counties are a close second with 15 endangered and threatened breeding bird species each. Other counties with relatively high numbers of endangered and threatened breeding bird species include Du Page (12), Vermilion (10), Carroll (10), McHenry (10), Johnson (9), Kane (9), Jasper (8), and Union (8).

The Loggerhead Shrike is currently the most widespread endangered or threatened bird species in Illinois with confirmed breeding in 40 counties since 1980. However, Loggerhead Shrike numbers remain very low in the northern portions of the state with nesting pairs generally widely scattered and unpredictable in occurrence. Five endangered and threatened bird species are known to breed in only one Illinois county, the Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, and Wilson's Phalarope. Breeding records for four of these five species are restricted to the Chicago Metropolitan region. The Common Tern is known to nest in only one location in Lake County, with a population that has fluctuated between 15 and 30 pairs in recent years. The Forster's Tern is also known to nest at only one location on an isolated island in a heavily used Lake County state park. Fewer than 50 pairs of Forster's Terns presently nest in Illinois. The Osprey is also a very rare breeding species in Illinois with only one documented nest in the state in the last 40 years, a 1986 nest in Adams County. The Wilson's Phalarope has not been known to nest in Illinois since a 1981 record from Cook County.

TABLE 1. Bird species composition of lists of endangered, threatened, and rare bird species in Illinois. INPC = Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, IESPB = Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. See text for an explanation of the various state lists.

	George <sup>1</sup> (1971)	INPC <sup>2</sup> (1971)	IESPB <sup>3</sup> (1978)	IESPB <sup>3</sup> (1988)	IESPB <sup>3</sup> (1994)
Pied-billed Grebe				E	T
Double-crested Cormorant	E	E	E	E	T
American Bittern		R	E	E	E
Least Bittern				E	E
Great Egret			E	E	T
Snowy Egret		R	E	E	E
Little Blue Heron		R	E	E	E
Black-crowned Night-heron		R	E	E	E
Yellow-crowned Night-heron					T
American Black Duck		R			
Northern Pintail	E	R			
Northern Shoveler	E	R			
Canvasback		R			
Hooded Merganser	E	R			
Ruddy Duck		R			
Osprey	E	E	E	E	E
Mississippi Kite	E		E	E	E
Bald Eagle	E	E	E	E	E
Northern Harrier		R	E	E	E
Sharp-shinned Hawk	E	R		E	E
Cooper's Hawk	E	E	E	E	E
Red-shouldered Hawk		E	E	E	E
Swainson's Hawk	X	X	E	E	E
Peregrine Falcon	X	E	E	E	E
Ruffed Grouse	E				
Greater Prairie-chicken	E	E	E	E	E
Yellow Rail	E	X	E	E	E
Black Rail	E	X	E	E	E
King Rail					T
Purple Gallinule	X		E	E	
Common Moorhen			T	T	T
Sandhill Crane	X			E	E
Piping Plover	X		E	E	E
Upland Sandpiper		E	E	E	E
Common Snipe		R			
Eskimo Curlew			E		
Wilson's Phalarope	E	X	E	E	E
Common Tern		R	E	E	E
Forster's Tern		R	E	E	E