

TABLE 1. (continued)

	George1 (1971)	INPC2 (1971)	IESPB3 (1978)	IESPB3 (1988)	IESPB3 (1994)
Least Tern	E	R	E	E	E
Black Tern			E	E	E
Common Barn-owl		R	E	E	E
Long-eared Owl		R	E	E	E
Short-eared Owl		R	E	E	E
Northern Saw-whet Owl		R			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		R			
Least Flycatcher	E				
Western Kingbird		R			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	E	R			
Brown Creeper	E	R	E	T	T
Bewick's Wren		R	T	E	E
Veery		R	T	T	T
Loggerhead Shrike		R	T	T	T
Solitary Vireo	E	R			
Golden-winged Warbler	E				
Nashville Warbler	E	R			
Pine Warbler		R			
Black-and-White Warbler	E				
Bachman's Warbler	X		E		
Swainson's Warbler	E	R	T	E	E
Bachman's Sparrow	E	E	E	E	E
Clay-colored Sparrow	E	X		E	
Henslow's Sparrow			T	T	E
LeConte's Sparrow	E	X			
Yellow-headed Blackbird	E		E	E	E
Brewer's Blackbird		R	T	T	

1 E = Endangered, very limited numbers of breeders; X = Extirpated, formerly reproducing species which have become extinct or have been extirpated as breeding Illinois populations. Source: George (1971).

2 R = Rare, very restricted range and/or numbers in Illinois; E = Endangered, in danger of extirpation from Illinois. Source: Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (1973).

3 E = Endangered, species in danger of extinction as breeding species in Illinois; T = Threatened, species likely to become state endangered within the foreseeable future in Illinois. Sources: Bowles and Thom (1981), Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (1989), Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (1994).

## HABITATS OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED BIRD SPECIES

A look at the distribution of endangered and threatened bird species among breeding habitats shows that a disproportionate number of wetland and grassland associated breeding birds are considered to be at risk of extirpation as breeding species in Illinois. There are 61 species of breeding birds associated with wetland and open water habitats in Illinois, of which 23 (38%) are currently listed as endangered or threatened (Table 2). Illinois grasslands, which contain only 19 species of breeding birds also have a high proportion of listed species with 32% of all grassland associated breeding bird species listed as either threatened or endangered (Table 2). In contrast woodlands, which contain the highest number of breeding bird species in Illinois (72), have only 9 (12%) species listed as endangered or threatened (Table 2). Shrublands and early successional habitats have 37 associated species of breeding birds of which only three (8%) are considered either threatened or endangered.

## THREATS TO ENDANGERED AND THREATENED BIRD SPECIES IN ILLINOIS

Historically, bird populations in Illinois have been significantly affected by loss and degradation of habitat, interactions with introduced non-native species, egg collecting, destruction of nests by feral cats and dogs, unregulated hunting, pesticides, pollution, and human disturbance in and around nesting areas (Woodruff 1907, Ridgway 1915, Bowles and Thom 1981). Today the loss and degradation of breeding habitat continues to be the single greatest threat to most endangered and threatened bird species.