

However, destruction of nests by feral cats and dogs may still be a serious problem for birds in some areas given the high degree of development and urbanization that surrounds many sites where endangered and threatened birds nest and the high density of feral cats in many rural areas (Warner 1985, Coleman and Temple 1993).

CONSERVATION NEEDS OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED BIRDS IN ILLINOIS

The protection of breeding habitat and increased protection for breeding adults from human disturbances during the breeding season are the primary conservation needs of endangered and threatened bird species in Illinois. Many breeding sites used by endangered and threatened bird species continue to be jeopardized by conversion, development, and degradation due to continued development. Several other sites where endangered and threatened bird species nest can be significantly influenced by high levels of human disturbances, occasionally even by people specifically seeking "rare" birds. Disturbances to areas that are known to possess breeding populations of endangered and threatened bird species should be kept to a mini-



Figure 1. Approximate locations of breeding records for endangered and threatened bird species in Illinois. Only records since 1980 are shown.

mum so that these birds are afforded the best possible opportunity to successfully raise their young.

Recent increases in Illinois populations of a number of endangered and threatened bird species such as, the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Great Egret, and Double-crested Cormorant and the recent reestablishment of a breeding population of Sandhill Cranes (Greenberg 1980) are encouraging signs and suggest that population declines of some endangered and threatened species can be successfully reversed. However, populations of many endangered birds in Illinois remain critically low indicating the need for increased measures to stem the decline of some of Illinois' rarest breeding bird species.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *If you see evidence of nesting by an endangered or threatened bird in Illinois, please notify the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board at 524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Please include the following information: Species seen, date(s) seen, breeding evidence, and precise location information.*



Literature Cited

Bowles, M.L. 1981. Introduction: the endangered species project. Pp. 1-2 in M.L. Bowles, V.E. Diersing, J.E. Ebinger, and H.C. Schultz (eds.), *Endangered and threatened species of Illinois: status and distribution*. Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield.

Bowles, M.L. and R.H. Thom. 1981. *Endangered and threatened birds*. Pp. 34-58 in M.L. Bowles, V.E. Diersing, J.E. Ebinger, and H.C. Schultz (eds.), *Endangered and threatened species of Illinois: status and distribution*. Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield.

Coleman, J.S. and S.A. Temple. 1993. Rural residents' free-ranging domestic cats: a survey. *Wildlife Soci-*

TABLE 2. Number of breeding and endangered and threatened bird species by habitat types in Illinois.

| Habitat | Number of Breeding Species | Number of Endangered/Threatened Species | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| Wetland/Open Water | 61 | 23 | (38%) |
| Grassland | 19 | 6 | (32%) |
| Woodland | 72 | 9 | (12%) |
| Shrubland/ Early Successional | 37 | 3 | (8%) |
| Urban | 12 | 1 | (8%) |