

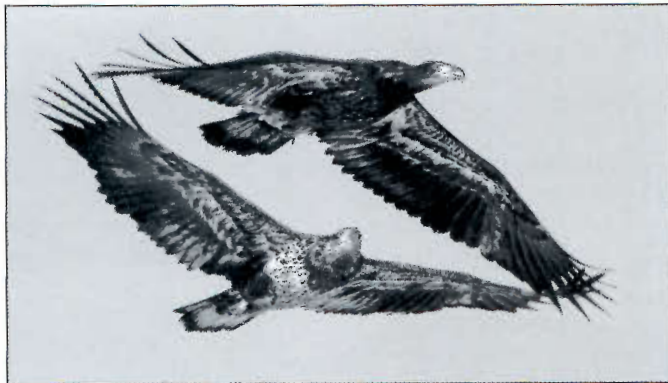


Sandhill Crane

– remove from *Threatened*.

The population within the state continues to increase and is also establishing occurrences outside of northeastern Illinois (e.g., Calhoun, Carroll, Champaign, Grundy, Henry, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties; Nyboer et al. 2006, IDNR records). Recent analyses of data from the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Bird Survey and Spring Bird Count both indicate a significantly increasing population in the state (Ward et al. 2008). Recent research also has documented that successful reproduction is occurring in Illinois and that reproduction appears similar to other populations.

Claire Dassy took this photo of Sandhill Cranes and young on 9 July 2008 in Volo, Lake County.



Bald Eagle

– remove from *Threatened*.

This species is doing very well in Illinois. The number of breeding records in the Natural Heritage Database continues to increase as does the number of counties from which the species is known to nest. The federal recovery goal for Illinois was 20 pairs by the year 2000 (Grier et al. 1983). That threshold was met in 1996, with 24 pairs. The USFWS reports that the number of nests in the state has continued to increase, with 100 nests recorded in Illinois in 2006 (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/population/nos_state_tbl.html). Spring Bird Count data also show a substantial breeding-season population increase over the last 10-15 years. Winter surveys are showing good numbers of immatures, indicating a healthy age structure (~32% immatures based on 2003-2005 Midwinter Bald Eagle Count Data from Illinois; data are available at <http://ocid.nacse.org/nbii/eagles/>). Bald Eagles will continue to be afforded additional protection under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Emil Martinec photographed these immature Bald Eagles on 21 February 2007 at a lock and dam in northern Illinois.



Black-billed Cuckoo

– add as *Threatened*.

During the state's Breeding Bird Atlas project (1986-1991), Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from 277 atlas blocks in 63 counties, including 121 blocks with probable or confirmed nesting evidence. The species appears to have experienced a substantial decline with relatively few recent records for the species in the state. Review of recent information for the species, shows 3-15 reports of the species per year between 2001-2006, with very few reports indicating probable or confirmed nesting.

Photo of a juvenile Black-billed Cuckoo at Jarvis Sanctuary, Cook County taken 21 July 2009 by Kanae Hirabayashi.